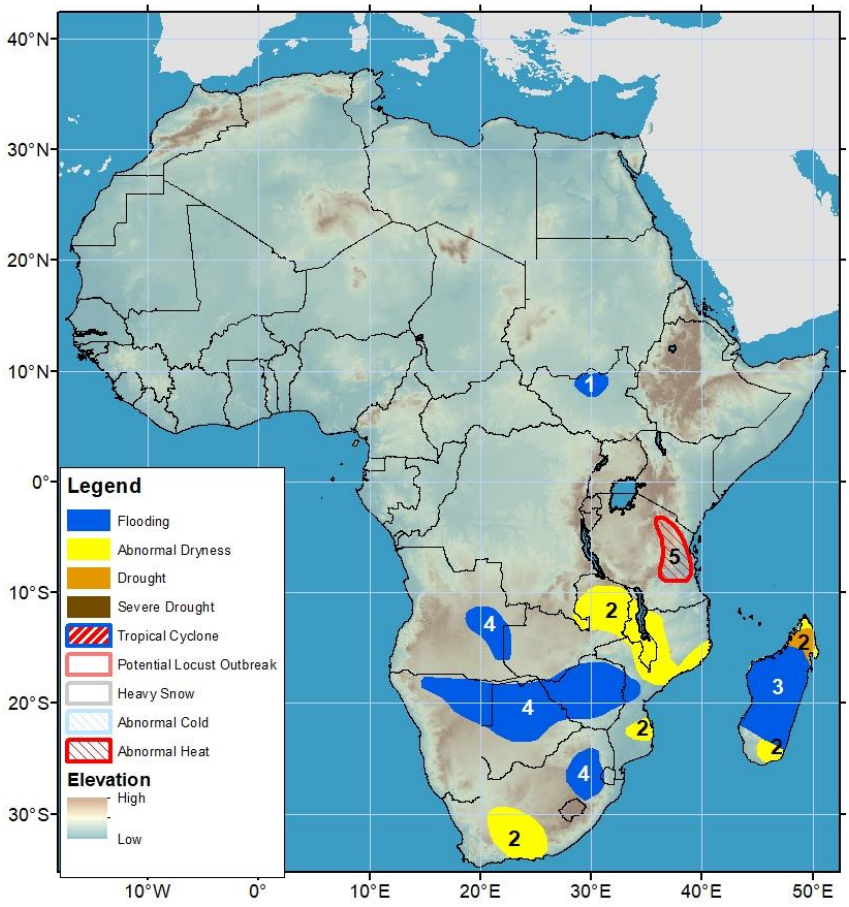
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
20 February – 26 February 2025

- **Weeks of heavy rain affecting central and southern Madagascar are causing flooding.**
- **Rainfall deficits have been curtailed in southern Africa with the spread of much heavier rains.**



1) Inundation remains in the Sudd wetlands of South Sudan.

2) In Southern Africa, a lack of rainfall since late October has led to abnormal dryness in eastern Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, southern South Africa, and northern and eastern Madagascar. Dry conditions have intensified in northern Madagascar, leading to drought over the northern region.

3) Heavy rain during recent weeks, including the passage of two tropical cyclones has led to flooding in and around Antananarivo. More rains may enhance floods across the country during the outlook period.

4) Very heavy rain during the past week has saturated soils and set the stage for flooding which may be exacerbated by continued heavy rains during the outlook period.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

A band of heavy rainfall moved over central portions of the southern Africa region.

During the last week, moderate to heavy rainfall was recorded over a large portion of Southern Africa. The heaviest rainfall, 100 – 300 mm, was recorded in northwestern Namibia, Botswana, central Zimbabwe, and parts of Mozambique. To the South, rainfall was lighter (less than 25 mm) in central and southern South Africa, and southern Namibia (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains have been persistent over central and southern portions of Madagascar during recent weeks bolstered by the passage of 2 tropical cyclones. This continued with 100 - 300 mm of rainfall of observed in central Madagascar during the last 7 days. Flooding was reported in the Antananarivo area as a result. Since 1 January, dry conditions are shrinking in magnitude and coverage after recent rainfall. Deficits have flipped to surpluses over a large portion of Angola, and now northern Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe (**Figure 2**). Deficits remain, however, in central and Southern South Africa, a few pockets of Zambia, and northern Zimbabwe, as well as west-central Angola. Rainfall deficits (100 to 300mm) are seen throughout northern Madagascar, while wetter than average conditions are present in in east-central and southern Madagascar. For the 90-day period, dryness continues over many parts of Southern Africa, while the southeastern sector remains wet. Long-term dryness has persisted in Madagascar, and according to the report, the prolonged dryness led to drought, which left thousands of hectares of rice fields in central and eastern Madagascar extremely dry, and hindered farmers from planting rice.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 12 February 2025 - 18 February 2025

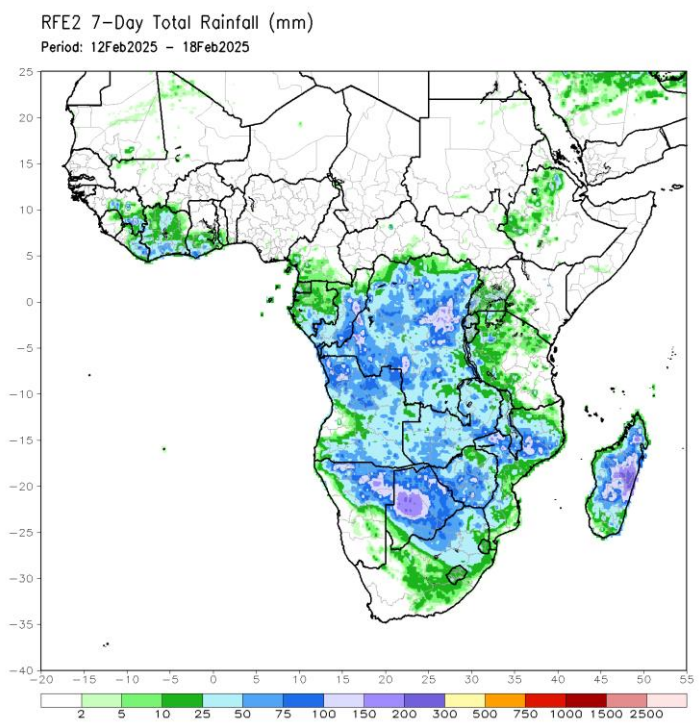


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

The heaviest monsoonal rainfall is forecasted to remain over Botswana, Zimbabwe and central Mozambique. Rainfall totals will likely be well above average in these areas, and could exceed 100 mm. This will continue to mitigate long-term deficits but will threaten the region with flash flooding and river flooding. Conversely, light and below-average rainfall is expected in southwestern Angola, western Namibia, northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania.

Much of Tanzania became dry during the past week.

Over the past 7-days, Tanzania became much drier, with many areas of the country not receiving any rain. Light shower activity occurred in northern Tanzania, western Kenya, and southern Angola. Moderate rains persisted in Rwanda and Burundi. The conditions were near to or drier than average for mid-February. For the past 30 days, cumulative rainfall has been below average, with 10-50 mm deficits in southwestern Ethiopia. The recent above-normal rainfall has led to 30-day surpluses in Tanzania as well as in southern and western Kenya and southern Uganda (**Figure 2**). For the past 90-days, large rainfall surpluses (25 – 200 mm) were recorded in Uganda, southern Kenya, and northern and central Tanzania. In contrast, due to insufficient rainfall, drier-than-average (50 – 100 mm deficits) conditions linger in southwestern Ethiopia, central Kenya, and southern Somalia.

Next week, below-average rainfall is expected in the region. Uganda, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania can expect mostly dry conditions. Western Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi are forecasted to receive light rain of up to around 25mm.

2-Month Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: 1 January 2025 – 18 February 2025

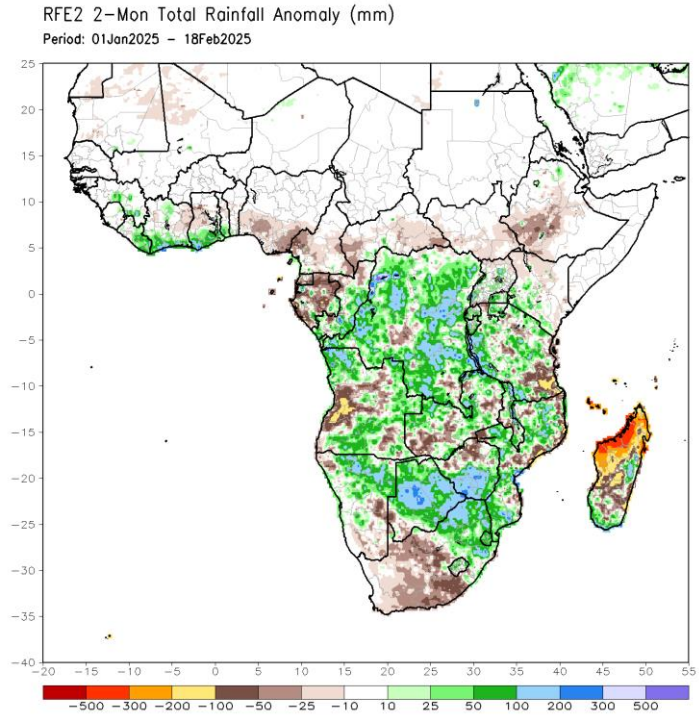
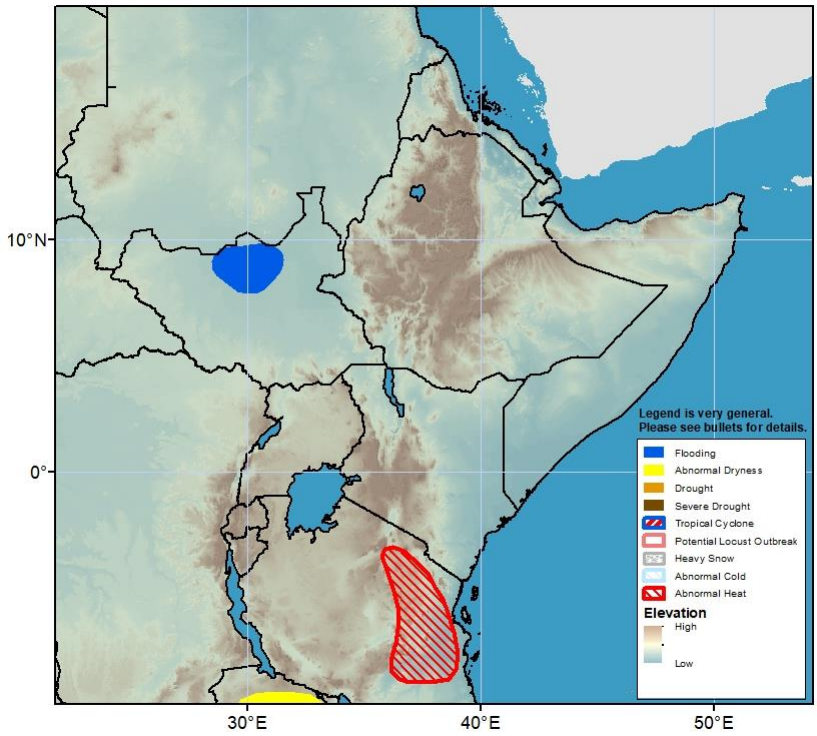
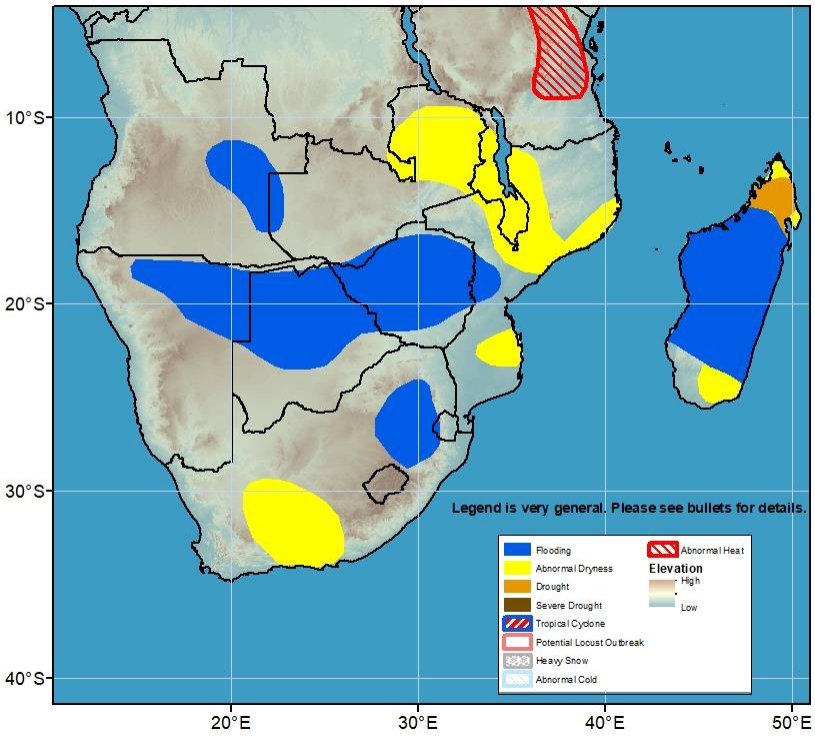


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC



Inundated areas have been persistent in the Sudd wetlands of South Sudan. There is a gradual improvement in inundation especially along the upstream White Nile.
(Please note that the flood risk shape files are sourced from NOAA VIIRS).

Figure 3: Hazards, focused over Eastern Africa



Heavy rain is expected to cause flash flooding and river flooding in many parts of southern Africa.

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over Southern Africa