





## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 6 March – 12 March 2025

- Flooding persists in many places of southern Africa due to the past month's above-average rainfall.
- Eastern Africa experiences below-average rainfall as the March-May rainfall season is about to start.



- 1) Inundation remains in the Sudd wetlands of northern South Sudan.
- 2) A lack of rainfall since late October has led to abnormal dryness in eastern Zambia, Malawi, parts of Mozambique, southern South Africa, and northern and eastern Madagascar. Dry conditions have intensified in northern Madagascar, leading to drought over the northern regions.
- 3) The past few weeks' heavy and above-average rainfall has led to flooding in local areas of northwestern and central Madagascar, including Antananarivo. Also, the recent passage of Tropical Cyclone HONDE over the southern Channel of Mozambique has resulted in flooding, leaving casualties and affected people in southwestern Madagascar.
- 4) The past month's widespread and increased rainfall has saturated the soil and triggered flooding over many local areas of southern Africa, including Angola, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, and Botswana, which reported deaths and displaced people, according to reports.
- 5) Abnormally-hot conditions are expected across Mali and Burkina Faso and over Tanzania as much above-average maximum temperatures are anticipated to persist for three or more consecutive days during the next week, potentially affecting vulnerable people.

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. Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, <u>wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov</u>. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, <u>jverdin@usaid.gov</u>

## Wetness dominated southern Africa during February.

During the past week, scattered heavy rainfall occurred over the central, eastern, and southern parts of southern Africa. For instance, local areas of northeastern Namibia, northern Botswana, northern Zimbabwe, southeastern Zambia, western and northern Mozambique, and central South Africa received rainfall amounts over 50 mm (Figure 1). Across the Channel of Mozambigue, western and southwestern Madagascar saw heavy downpours. In contrast, limited and reduced rainfall was observed in western Angola, southern Zimbabwe, northeastern South Africa, much of Tanzania, and northeastern Madagascar. During February, above-average rainfall dominated much of southern Africa, with cumulative 30-day rainfall surpluses of over 100 mm spreading across northeastern Namibia, northwestern Botswana, northwestern Angola, western and northern Mozambique, and the southern two-thirds of Madagascar. The resulting wetness could be attributed to ongoing La Niña conditions, which historically tend to enhance rainfall in southern Africa and the recent passage of Tropical cyclones, which brought excessive rainfall over southern Madagascar.

Next week, heavy rainfall is likely to continue across Angola, Zambia, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and eastern Madagascar, whereas light to moderate rainfall is forecast over Namibia, South Africa, and southern Madagascar, maintaining high risks for flooding over many local areas of the sub-region. Meanwhile, abnormally-hot conditions are likely over Tanzania, and portions of Mali and Burkina Faso as much above-average maximum temperatures are anticipated to persist for three or more consecutive days, potentially affecting vulnerable people.

## Below-average rainfall observed in Eastern Africa at an early stage of the March-May rainfall season

Since the beginning of February, many parts of Eastern Africa registered below-average rainfall, with 30-day moisture deficits ranging between 25-50 mm. These areas included southwestern Ethiopia, southernmost South Sudan, Uganda, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania (**Figure 2**). Although the sub-region is about to experience the onset to its March-May rainfall season, the observed lack of rainfall could already signal a shy and sluggish start to the growing season. In Somalia, drought, associated with the previous *short-rains*, October-December, season and ongoing conflicts have put 4.4 millions of people at high risk for food insecurity, according to media reports. During the past week, dry conditions prevailed over much of the sub-region, except for pocket areas of western and central Ethiopia, which saw light to locally moderate rainfall.

Next week, light to locally moderate rainfall is forecast in southwestern and central Ethiopia and southern Kenya. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania, while little to light rainfall is anticipated over Uganda. Over Ethiopia, the forecast near-average to slightly above-average rainfall amounts may announce the onset to the *Belg*, March-May rainfall season and should aid agricultural activities over many local areas.







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



Flooding intensified in eastern Angola and western Zambia. Flooding are marginal along upstream Rio Cuanza River of central Angola. Flooding continue over many local areas of southern Angola, northern Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, northern and central Madagascar. (Please note that the flood risk shape files are sourced from NOAA VIIRS).

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over Southern Africa