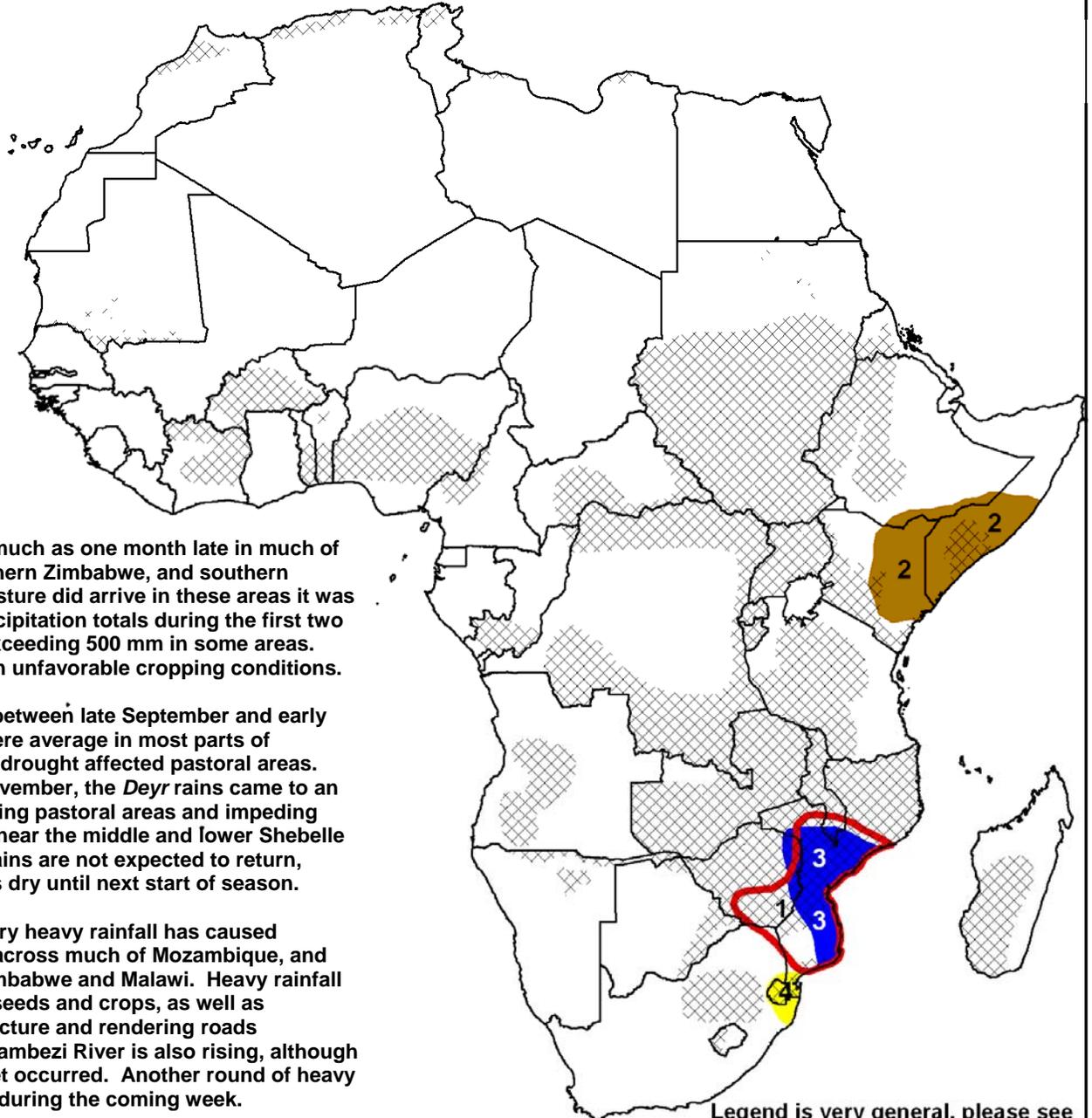


- Heavy rainfall in Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia, has caused fatalities and damage to infrastructure. In Mozambique the torrential precipitation threatens to negatively impact the growing season.
- Poor rainfall during November and December has exacerbated crop, pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions across southern Somalia and portions of eastern Kenya. There may be impending concerns of limited water availability as conditions are likely to persist.



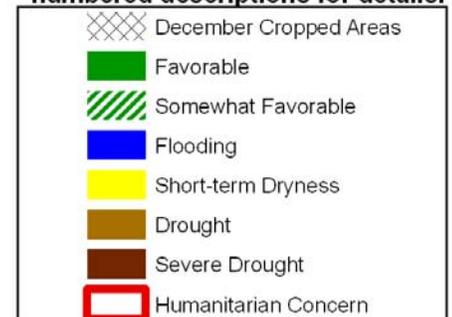
1) Rain arrived as much as one month late in much of Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Malawi. When moisture did arrive in these areas it was excessive with precipitation totals during the first two weeks of rainfall exceeding 500 mm in some areas. This has resulted in unfavorable cropping conditions.

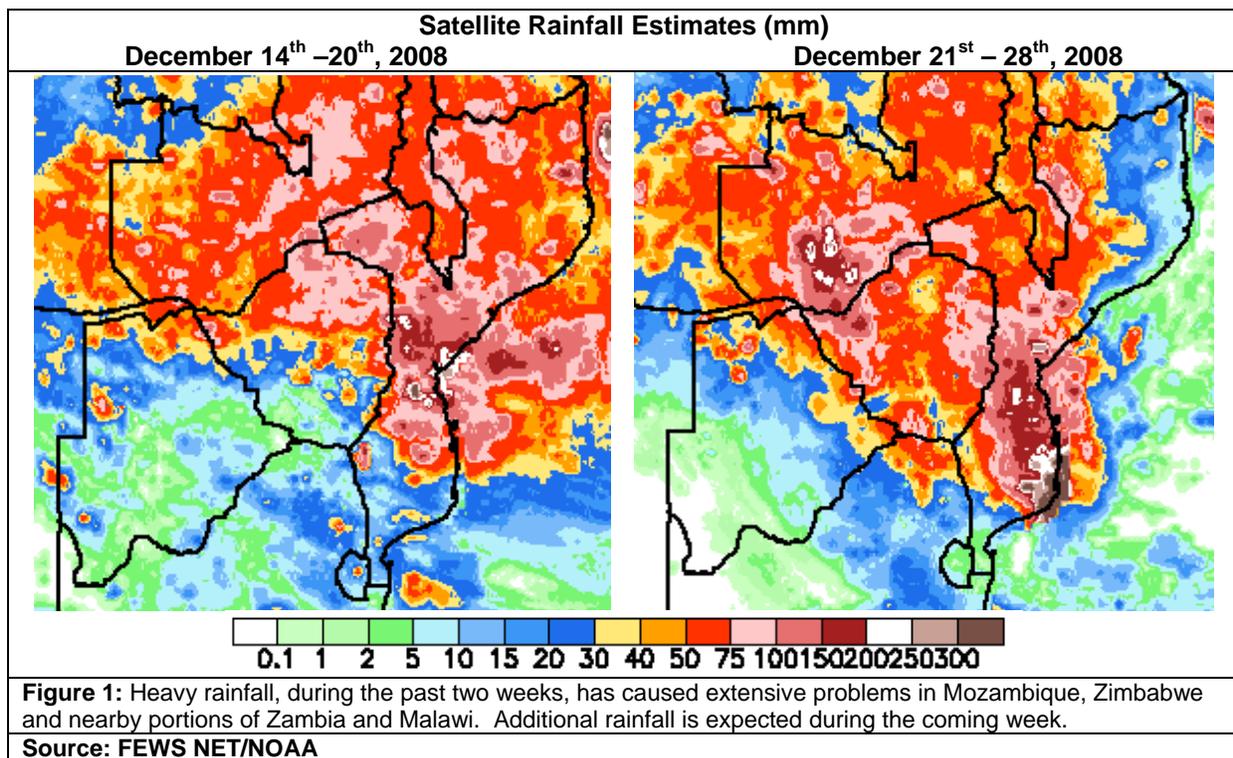
2) The *Deyr* rains, between late September and early November 2008, were average in most parts of Somalia, including drought affected pastoral areas. However in mid-November, the *Deyr* rains came to an abrupt stop, depleting pastoral areas and impeding crop development near the middle and lower Shebelle region. Seasonal rains are not expected to return, leaving many areas dry until next start of season.

3) Two weeks of very heavy rainfall has caused localized flooding across much of Mozambique, and nearby areas of Zimbabwe and Malawi. Heavy rainfall has washed away seeds and crops, as well as damaging infrastructure and rendering roads impassable. The Zambezi River is also rising, although flooding has not yet occurred. Another round of heavy rainfall is possible during the coming week.

4) The area around Maputo and Swaziland continues to experience poor rainfall totals. Although distribution remains reasonable, additional rainfall is needed to maintain sufficient water resources.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.





Two weeks of excessive rainfall in Mozambique beneficial and harmful

After a dry start to the season, central Mozambique received almost two months of rainfall during a period of seven days. Since then the heaviest of the rains has shifted southward towards Gaza and Imhambane. (See Figure 1) Most other areas of southern Africa remain near normal.

In much of Mozambique and nearby portions of Zimbabwe and Malawi, early season dryness was approaching a critical point. Significant rainfall had not made its way into the region a month after precipitation normally arrives. On the 15 of December moisture finally made its way into the region. The needed rainfall, however, became a torrential downpour that so far has lasted two weeks with accumulations exceeding 500 mm in some areas. The rains are expected to continue through the coming week. Flooding has been reported at many locations in the area, with damage to infrastructure and crops, and roads, especially in rural areas, rendered impassable. An additional concern is that seeds and crops will be washed away and farmers will not be able to replant. The Zambezi River has also been rising, partially due to heavy rainfall further upstream near the Caprivi Strip.

It is unlikely that rainfall will continue to fall at the rate it has across central Mozambique during the next few weeks. Another front is currently making its way towards the region and is expected to bring continued rainfall to the flood affected areas.

Rainfall below-average across Swaziland, Maputo

In sufficient rainfall has reduced water availability across Swaziland and in extreme southern Mozambique. Although light rains have been occurring in these areas since the start of the season, rainfall totals remain insufficient to meet agricultural and drinking water needs.

The coming week may bring an increase in rainfall to the, as a front moves through the area. Much of the heaviest rain, however, is likely to remain further north.

