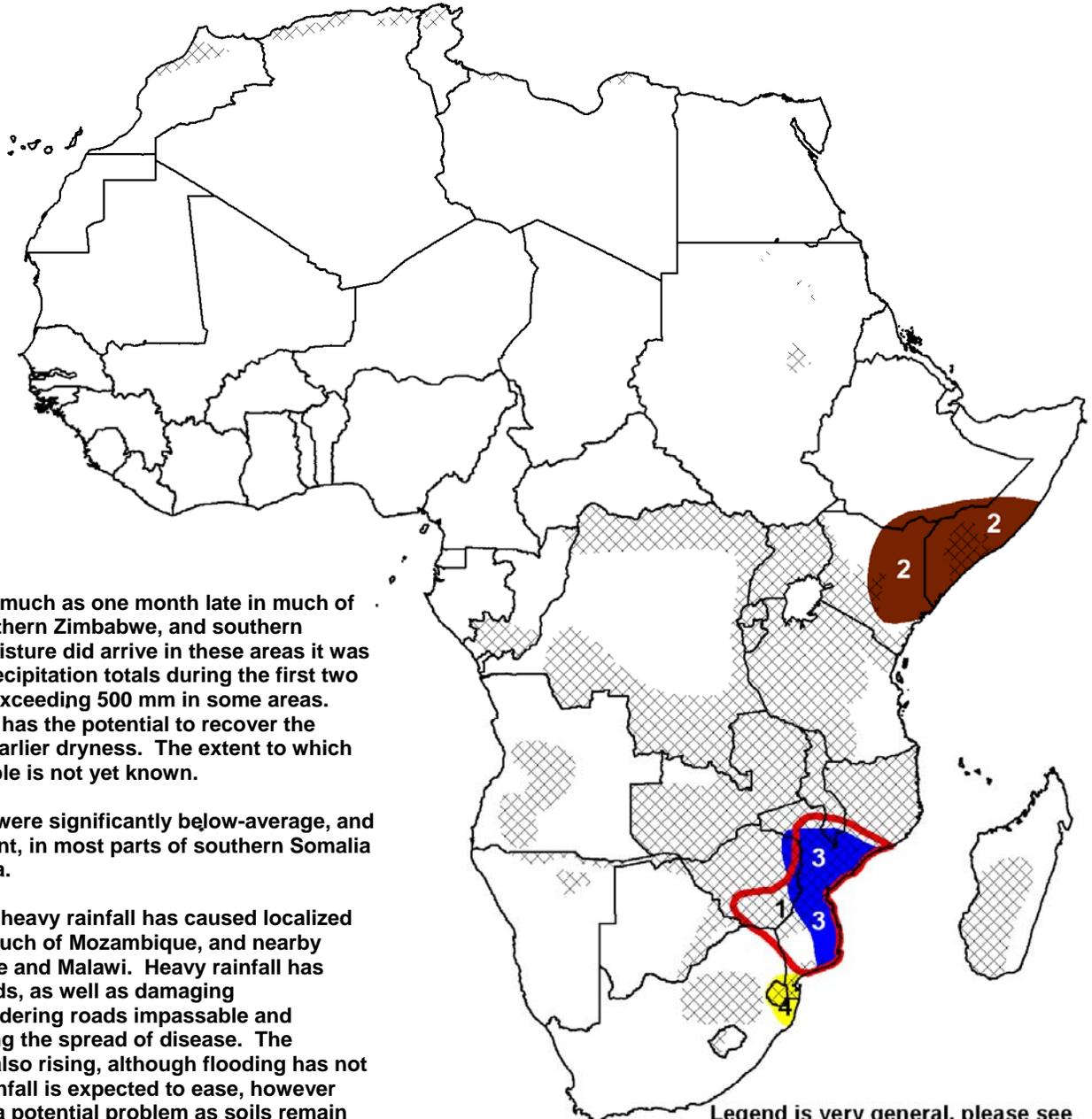


- Heavy rainfall in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi is expected eased, but has not stopped.
- Precipitation increases over the main growing regions of South Africa and Botswana.
- Poor rainfall during November and December has exacerbated poor crop, pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions across southern Somalia and portions of eastern Kenya.



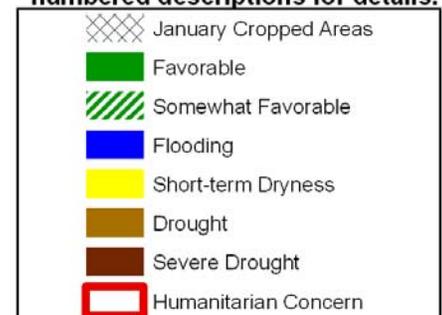
1) Rain arrived as much as one month late in much of Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Malawi. When moisture did arrive in these areas it was excessive with precipitation totals during the first two weeks of rainfall exceeding 500 mm in some areas. The heavy rainfall has the potential to recover the season from the earlier dryness. The extent to which recovery is possible is not yet known.

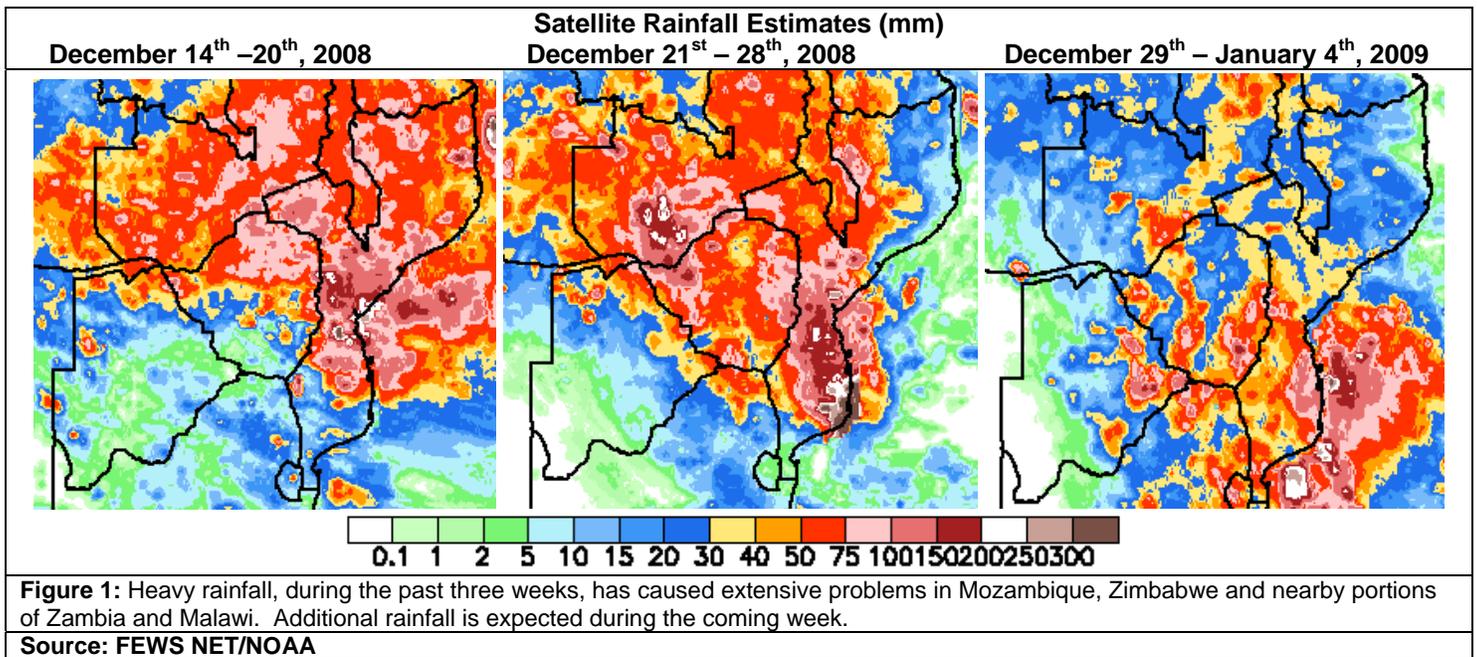
2) The *Deyr* rains were significantly below-average, and almost non-existent, in most parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya.

3) Three weeks of heavy rainfall has caused localized flooding across much of Mozambique, and nearby areas of Zimbabwe and Malawi. Heavy rainfall has washed away seeds, as well as damaging infrastructure, rendering roads impassable and possibly increasing the spread of disease. The Zambezi River is also rising, although flooding has not yet occurred. Rainfall is expected to ease, however flooding remains a potential problem as soils remain saturated.

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.





Three 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 three weeks with accumulations exceeding 600 mm in some areas. The rains are expected to continue through the coming week, although much less intense than they have been. Flooding has been reported at many locations in the area, with damage to infrastructure, the possible spread of disease, the washing away of seeds, and rendering roads, especially in rural areas, impassable. The Zambezi River has also been rising, partially due to heavy rainfall further upstream near the Caprivi Strip. This may complicate the issue along the river in Mozambique

Rainfall has eased during the past seven days, but rainfall rates were still above what is typically observed in southern Mozambique. The coming week will likely reduce the rainfall rate again, possibly concentrating rainfall in central Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Improvement in South Africa, Swaziland, Central Botswana remains dry

After a slightly dry start to the season, the area around Maputo, Swaziland and parts of the Maize Triangle have experienced increased moisture since the beginning of January. Far eastern Botswana has also benefited, but to the west in the central portions of the country, including some of the cropped area in the southeastern part of the country, has remained dry (Figure 2).

There is the possibility of increased moisture during the coming week making it into the drier areas of Botswana. Rainfall is also expected to remain in place across the other areas that have experienced below-average precipitation totals.

