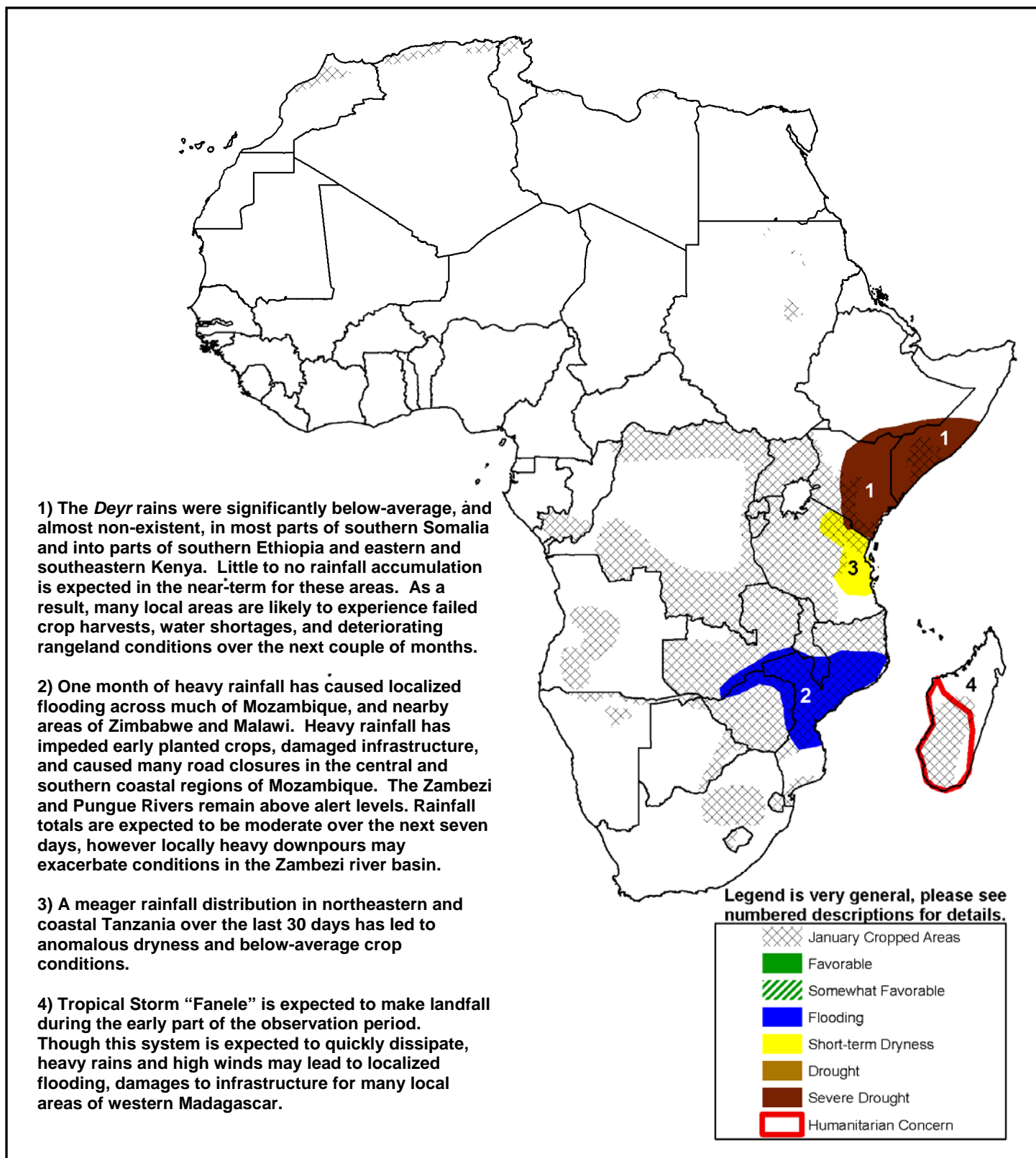


- Widespread and heavy rains have resulted in a number of floods in many regions of southern Africa. Many local areas across southern Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique still remain at risk for flooding along the Pungue, Zambezi and Licungo rivers.
- The development of Tropical Cyclone “Fanele” over the Mozambique Channel is expected to bring high winds and heavy rains across parts of western Madagascar. As Fanele’s makes landfall, localized flooding and damages to infrastructure are possible in the Toliara and Mahajanga provinces of the island.



Heavy rains continue to impact many parts of Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe

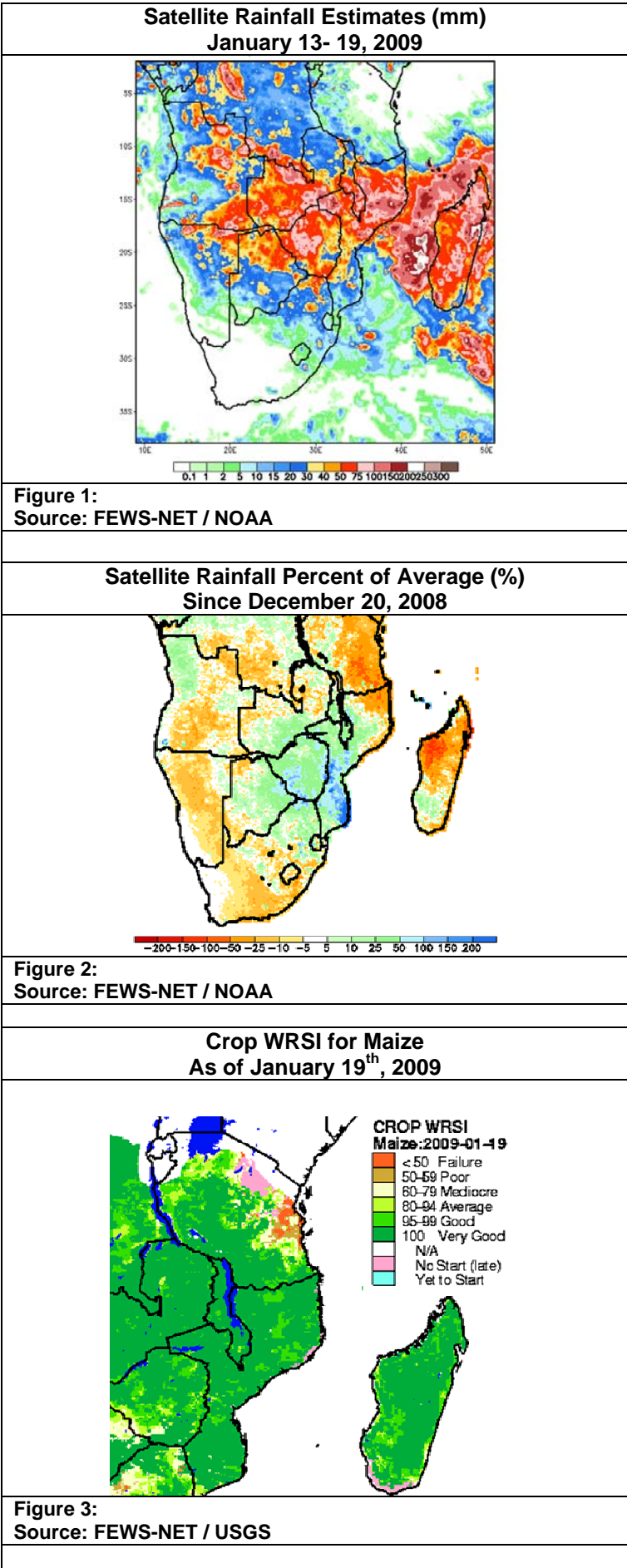
In the last seven days, seasonal rainfall has remained well above average for much of southern Africa. In northern Mozambique, many local areas in the Zambezi, Nampula and Niassa provinces observed rainfall totals in excess of 75 mm during the last observation period (**Figure 1**). This pattern of excess rainfall and moisture was extended throughout much of southern Africa, where local precipitation totals greater than 100mm were observed in the higher elevations of Zimbabwe, as well as lower terrain regions near Lake Nyasa of Malawi. Further south, many portions of the Maize Triangle experienced periods of isolated shower activity to help relieve marginal areas of short-term dryness.

This past week of heavy rains continues to render many local areas above-average for their seasonal totals. Despite a considerable reduction of rainfall in the last week, precipitation throughout parts of southern and central Mozambique remains 200 to 300 percent above average over the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). In northern Mozambique and parts of Malawi, heavy rains in the last two weeks have also shifted seasonal anomalies in many local areas from negative to positive. This recent trend of excessive rains leaves most of these areas near Lake Nyasa and the Licungo river basin at-risk for flooding in the near term. In the Zambezi river basin and along the Mozambique / Zimbabwe border, many local communities are still faced with floods, washed roadways and damaged infrastructure. Due to recent increases in water discharge from the Cahora Bassa Dam, other at-risk areas for further flooding are located downstream in the Zambezi River basin near Caia and Tete. Since December, the number of floods throughout southern Africa has washed away recently planted seeds, and continues to threaten crop development for many local areas.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a slight departure of rainfall over the next seven days in southern Africa. While the passage of tropical cyclone “Fanele” over the Mozambique Channel is not expected to make landfall over Mozambique, rain and wind swaths associated with system may bring locally heavy precipitation across parts of northern Mozambique. This may potentially exacerbate flooding conditions along the Zambezi and Licungo rivers.

Developing dryness in parts of eastern Tanzania.

Despite heavy rains in southern Africa, many parts of eastern Tanzania have experienced a poor distribution of rainfall since mid to late December. Both local gauge observations and satellite estimates indicate the provinces of Arusha, Tanga, Pwani, Morogoro and Lindi have experienced less than 40 percent of their seasonal precipitation totals. This has resulted in insufficient soil moisture conditions, and deteriorating crop development throughout many of the bimodal regions (**Figure 3**). Local reports indicate unimodal cropping areas are experiencing better crop growth, however additional moisture is needed for harvests at the end of the season.


Figure 2:
Source: FEWS-NET / NOAA

Crop WRSI for Maize
As of January 19th, 2009

Figure 3:
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS