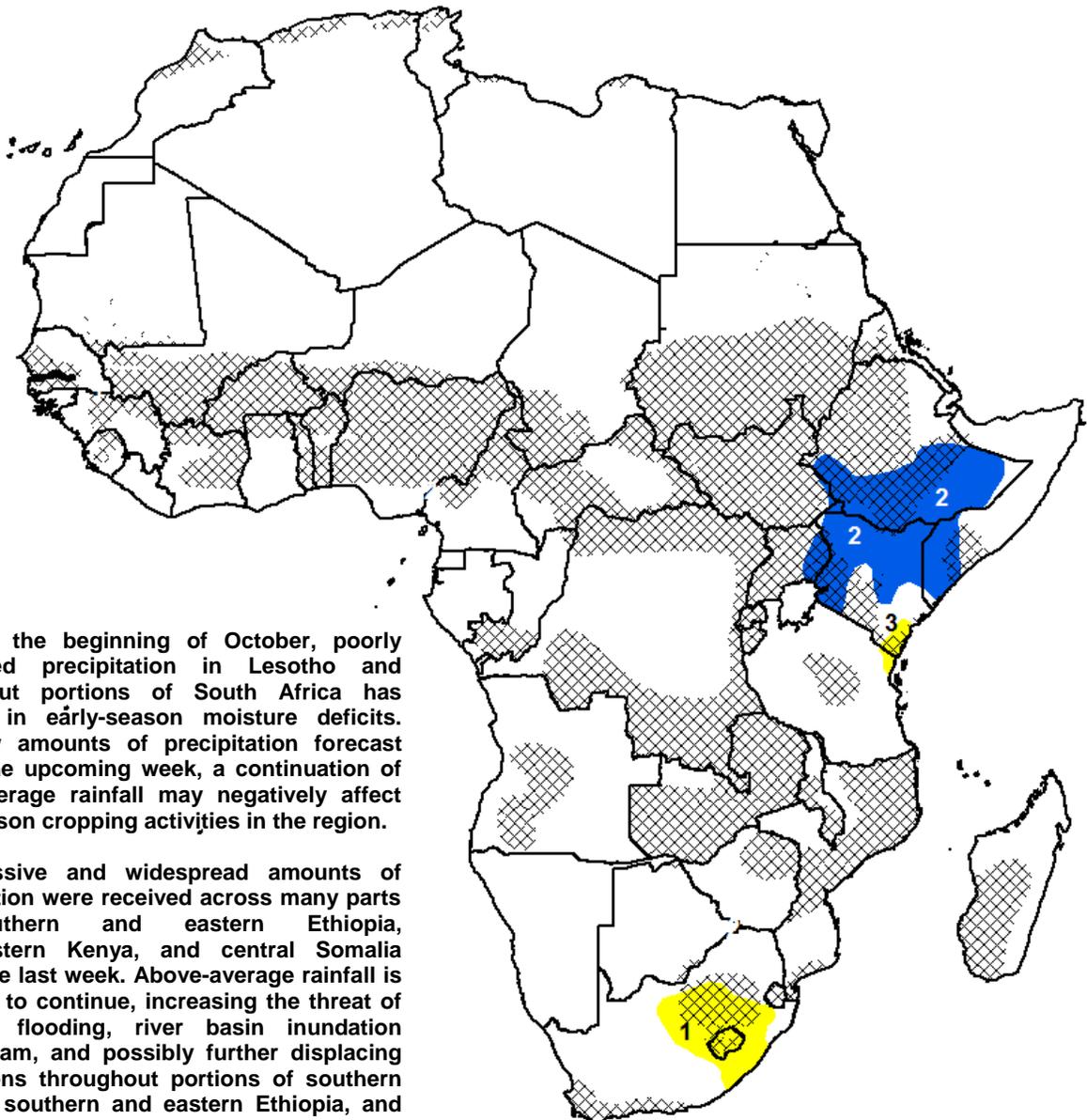


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET November 10 – November 16, 2011

- Significantly high rainfall during the last week heightens flooding threats throughout portions of Ethiopia and Somalia.
- Another week of below-average rainfall continues to strengthen early season moisture deficits across many local areas in Lesotho and portions of South Africa.



1) Since the beginning of October, poorly distributed precipitation in Lesotho and throughout portions of South Africa has resulted in early-season moisture deficits. With low amounts of precipitation forecast during the upcoming week, a continuation of below-average rainfall may negatively affect early season cropping activities in the region.

2) Excessive and widespread amounts of precipitation were received across many parts of southern and eastern Ethiopia, southwestern Kenya, and central Somalia during the last week. Above-average rainfall is expected to continue, increasing the threat of localized flooding, river basin inundation downstream, and possibly further displacing populations throughout portions of southern Somalia, southern and eastern Ethiopia, and central and eastern Kenya. The heavy rains forecast may also negatively affect late season cropping activities in southwestern Kenya and eastern Uganda.

3) Poor rainfall totals since early October have resulted in rapidly developing moisture deficits and unfavorable cropping conditions along coastal southeastern Kenya, as well as in parts of northeastern Tanzania.

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



The return of heavy rainfall poses flooding concerns in other areas of East Africa

Many local areas in the Greater Horn experienced another consecutive week of significantly heavy rains. Seven day rainfall accumulations in excess of 100mm were observed throughout portions of southwestern and eastern Ethiopia, and central Somalia, with some local areas in the Sidamo region of southern Ethiopia receiving over 200mm of precipitation in the last seven days (Figure 1). For eastern Ethiopia and Somalia, most of the heavy seven day rainfall occurred over 24-hour period, which suggests a high likelihood for localized flooding for many local areas in this region. In northern Ethiopia, unseasonably high rainfall amounts (20-50mm) were also observed as far north as the Tigray and Amhara regions of Ethiopia during the last week. Meanwhile, a slight decrease in seasonal rainfall was observed (5-20mm) throughout some area in southern Somalia, with little to no rainfall received across many parts of eastern and coastal Kenya.

The above-average rainfall observed early November follows an anomalously wet October in the Greater Horn. Since the beginning of October, positive rainfall anomalies ranging between 50-100mm have been observed across a large area of East Africa, encompassing nearly all of Kenya, Somalia and southern Ethiopia (Figure 2) and marks one of the wettest starts to the Oct-Dec rains season in recent record. While more moderate rainfall surpluses are likely to benefit many crop and pastoral areas, both the strengthening and expansion of moisture surpluses is likely to negatively impact areas that have already experienced flooding, and elevate the potential for additional flooding throughout other areas in East Africa. These heavy rains and floods have already resulted in inaccessible roads, damages to infrastructure, and have displaced thousands of people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia.

For the upcoming observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of above-average rainfall in East Africa. Well distributed rainfall amounts ranging between 20-50mm are expected across many local areas in southern Ethiopia and Somalia, with the potential for considerably higher amounts (>50mm) in eastern Kenya for the next seven days. The continuation of above-average precipitation since October is expected to sustain the high potential for localized flooding, and trigger new flooding events for many local areas in East Africa.

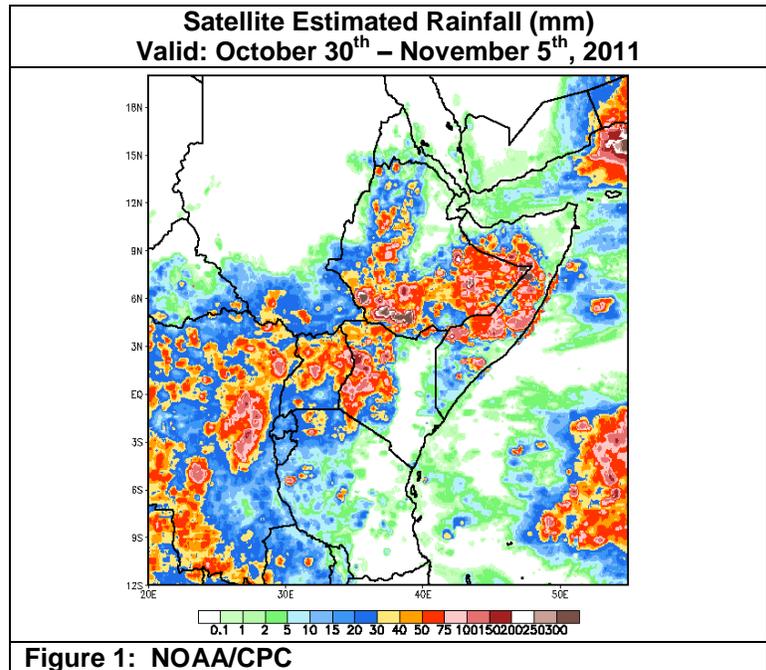


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

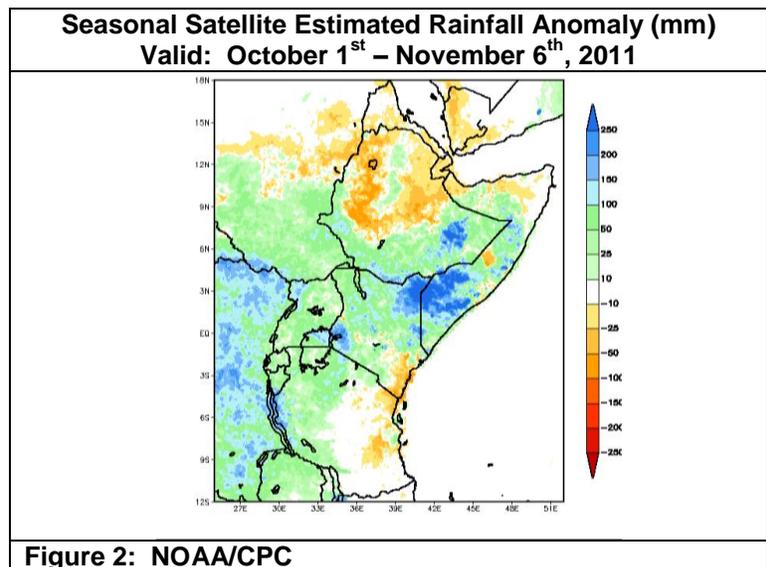


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Continued dryness in South Africa and Lesotho may affect early season cropping activities.

Another week of below average rainfall observed over portions of South Africa and Lesotho continues to strengthen early season moisture deficits. In Lesotho and the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa, little to no rainfall has been observed where seasonal rainfall normally begins to increase during this time of the year. Poor rainfall since early October has led to declining soil water conditions unfavorable for the development of crops (Figure 3). However, forecasts suggest a slight increase in rainfall over many moisture stressed areas during the next seven days.

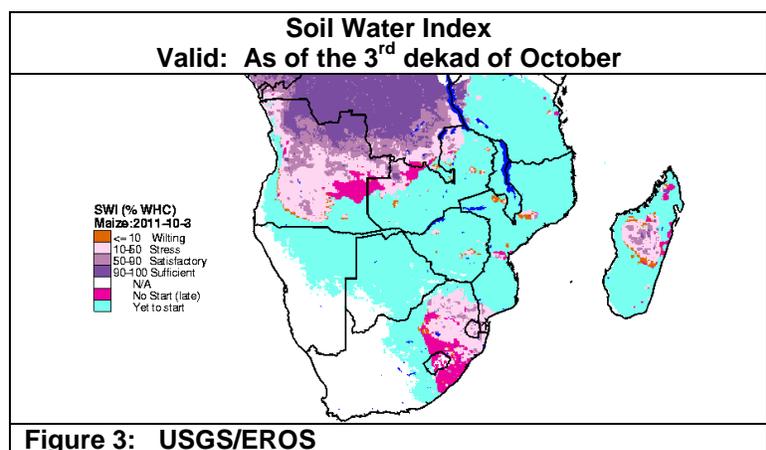


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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