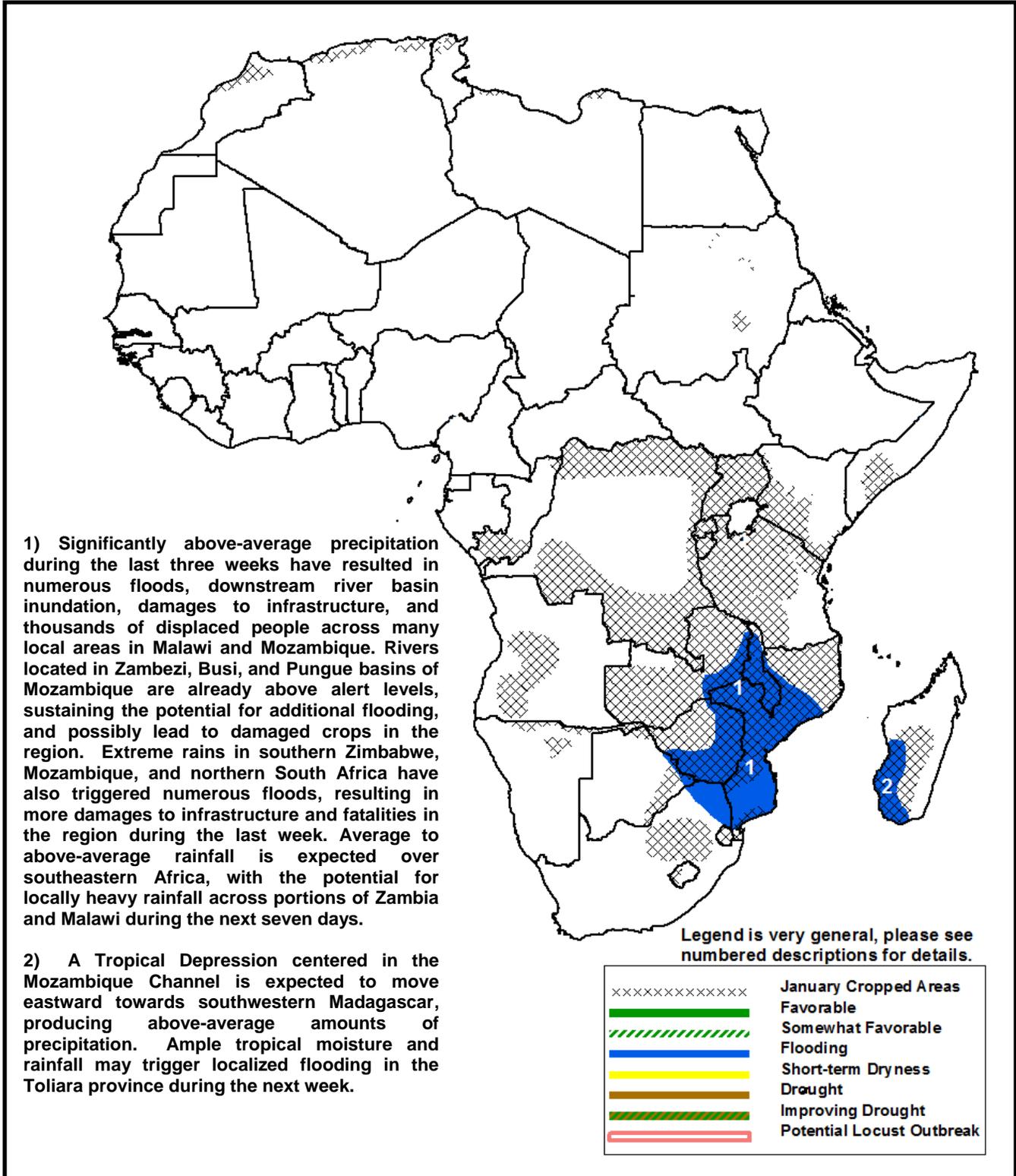


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 24 – January 30, 2013

- Extreme rainfall continues, expanding the threat of flooding across much of southeastern Africa.



Heavy rains continue in the south, increases flood risk.

During the last seven days, a continuation of robust and significantly heavy precipitation was observed throughout southeastern Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>150mm) were concentrated in the Matabeleland and Masvingo provinces of southern Zimbabwe, and the Limpopo province of northern South Africa (**Figure 1**). Many local areas in this region saw considerable daily amounts of rainfall (> 100mm) during the last seven days. Elsewhere, lesser but above-average amounts of precipitation were also received across much of southern Africa, with weekly accumulations (>75mm) extending from the Caprivi Strip region towards western Mozambique. The continuation of these rains during the last week marks the third consecutive week of heavy, widespread, above-average rainfall across much of southeastern Africa.

Following both poor and delayed starts of seasonal rainfall throughout many local parts of southern Africa since November, the onset of heavy rainfall during the last three weeks has markedly eliminated moisture deficits on both short and seasonal time scales. Since late December, a broad extent of southeastern Africa has experienced approximately twice their normal rainfall accumulation over the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). In parts of southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and northern South Africa, seasonal rainfall over the last 30 days has been at least four times the normal accumulation, which was mostly associated with the heavy distribution of rains during the last week.

The anomalously wet conditions have resulted in numerous floods, damages to infrastructure, displace populations, and continue to heighten the risk for additional flooding and river basin inundation throughout the region. The latest Basin Excess Rainfall Analyses for the 2nd dekad of January indicate moderate to high risk areas collocated with the highest precipitation anomalies in portions of Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique (**Figure 3**). The Busi, Pungue and Zambezi Rivers were reportedly already above alert levels in mid-January, and it remains probable that additional seasonal rainfall will exacerbate many areas that are overly-saturated.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest much relief over many areas that received the heaviest rainfall accumulation during the last week. Portions of northern South Africa, southern Zimbabwe and Mozambique are expected to receive less than 20mm of rainfall; however, high probabilities of heavy, flooding inducing rainfall are forecast across parts of southern Zambia, northern Mozambique and Malawi during the next seven days. In addition, a developing tropical circulation in the Mozambique Channel is expected to bring increased amounts of moisture to Madagascar and coastal Mozambique.

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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