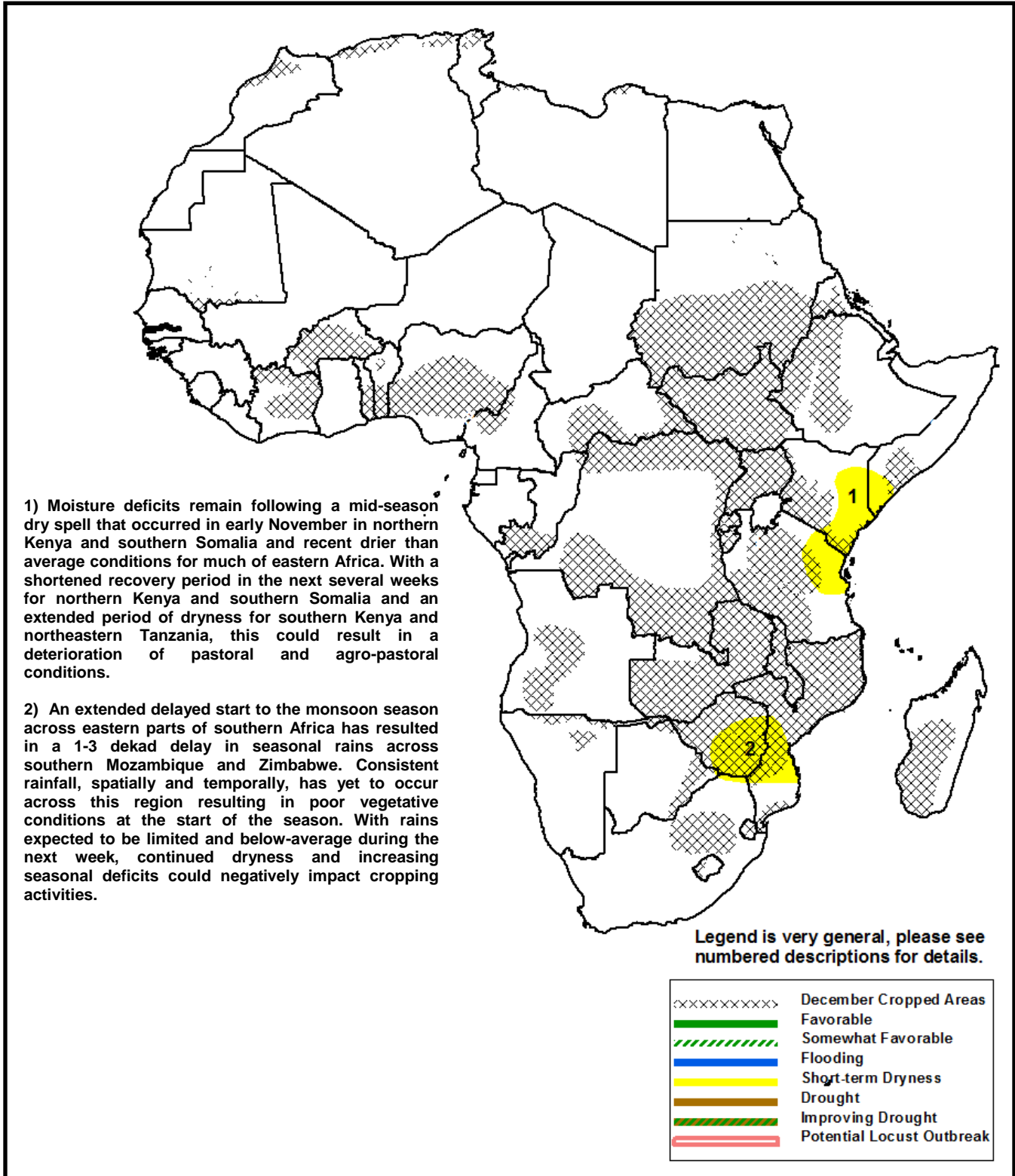


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 20 – December 26, 2012

- Torrential rains are observed across dry portions of northern Mozambique, Tanzania and Malawi.
- Below-average seasonal rains have delayed planting in portions of southeastern Kenya.



Heavy rains reduce deficits in northern Mozambique.

As opposed to the prior week across Zimbabwe and central Mozambique, where heavy rains were finally observed, heavy rains (>50mm) returned to dry portions of northern Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania. Many of these areas had observed a 2-3 dekad delay to the start of the current monsoon season. The above-average rains resulted in an elimination or reduction in thirty-day rainfall deficits (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains (>50mm) were also observed in South Africa and Zambia, increasing thirty-day surpluses. In contrast, a week after heavy rains had reduced many seasonal deficits in southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe, rains were light (<15mm) and below-average. Moderate to strong thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-100mm) remain in southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe, which is indicative of the poor start of season.

With a poor spatial and temporal distribution of seasonal rains across eastern southern Africa, it is not surprising that vegetative indices indicate poor ground conditions across much of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. Sustained seasonal rains have yet to materialize, resulting in poor NDVI values. The worst NDVI anomalies are located across central Mozambique and southern Zimbabwe (**Figure 2**). Moderate to heavy rains, though, have fallen for two consecutive weeks across central Mozambique. However, in Zimbabwe poor rains returned during the past seven days.

For the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for central southern Africa, including eastern Angola, Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique. The rains should provide additional moisture to drier grounds in northern Mozambique. In contrast, below-average and light rains (<20mm) are expected across southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and South Africa, increasing dryness concerns.

Little rain is observed across much of Kenya.

Localized thunderstorms (>40mm) were observed across central Kenya during the past week, while light to moderate rain (<300mm) was observed across Somalia, Kenya, coastal northern Tanzania and northern Uganda (**Figure 3**). The moderate rains helped to reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits across southeastern Kenya; though, previous poor rains have led to delayed planting and, in some instances, a below-average amount of planted areas. In contrast, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded across much of Tanzania, helping to reduce seasonal rainfall deficits. Moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) was observed across Rwanda, where poor rains during previous weeks had negatively impacted maize and bean crops in the Eastern livelihood zones. Farther east, below-average ground conditions persist across northern coastal Tanzania, where weekly rainfall was limited. For the next seven days, localized rain showers (>40mm) are forecast across Kenya, western Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. However, lighter rains (<25mm) are forecast for already drier than average areas in Kenya and northern Tanzania.

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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