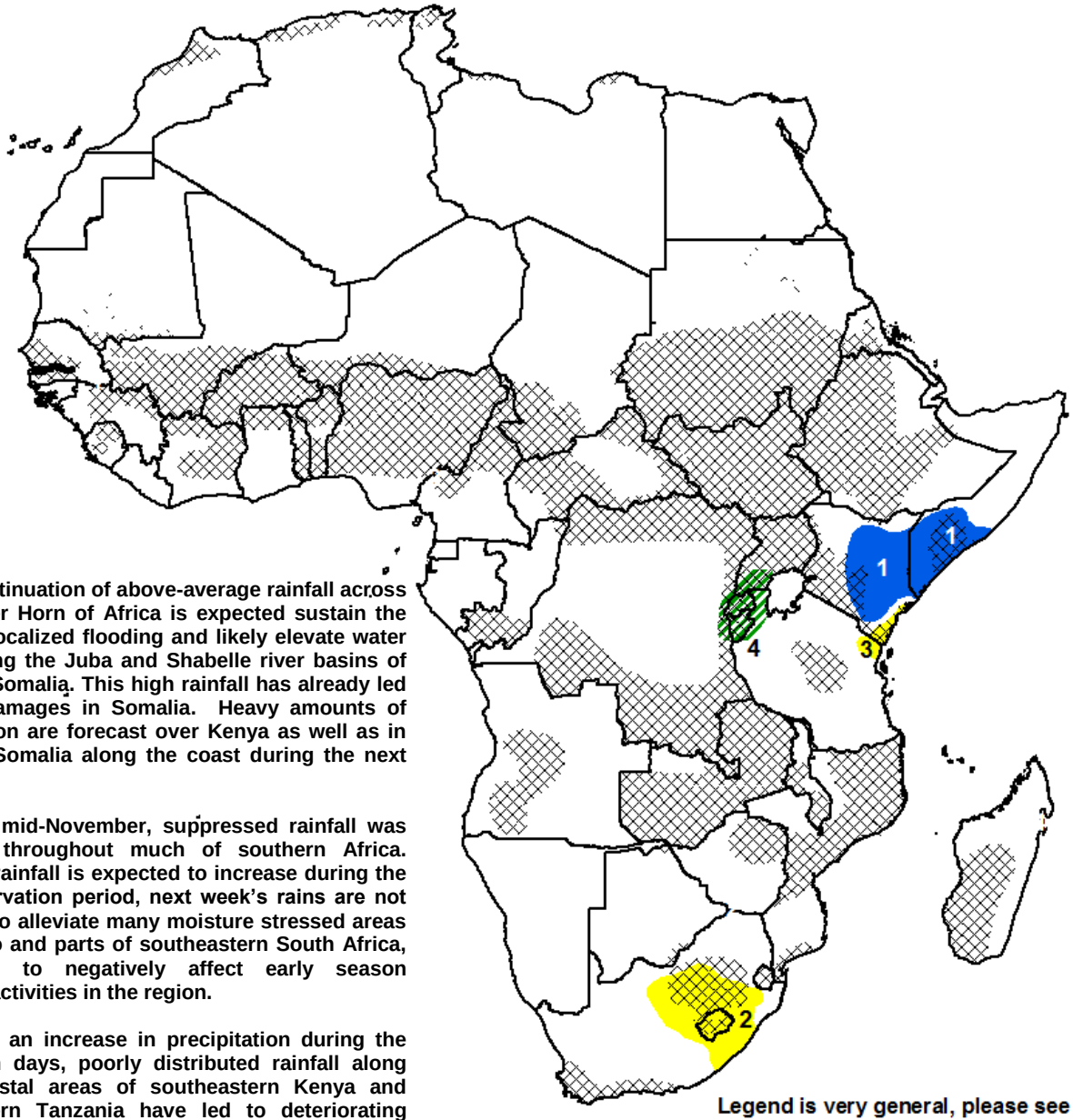
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
November 17 – November 23, 2011

- **A high potential for flooding remains over central and eastern Kenya, as well as over the Juba and Shabelle River basins of southern Somalia following several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall.**
- **Little to no precipitation received in the last week continues to strengthen early-season moisture deficits over portions of South Africa and Lesotho.**



1) The continuation of above-average rainfall across the Greater Horn of Africa is expected sustain the threat of localized flooding and likely elevate water levels along the Juba and Shabelle river basins of southern Somalia. This high rainfall has already led to crop damages in Somalia. Heavy amounts of precipitation are forecast over Kenya as well as in southern Somalia along the coast during the next week.

2) During mid-November, suppressed rainfall was observed throughout much of southern Africa. Although rainfall is expected to increase during the next observation period, next week's rains are not expected to alleviate many moisture stressed areas of Lesotho and parts of southeastern South Africa, continuing to negatively affect early season cropping activities in the region.

3) Despite an increase in precipitation during the last seven days, poorly distributed rainfall along many coastal areas of southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania have led to deteriorating ground moisture and unfavorable cropping conditions. However, enhanced rains during the next week are expected to help mitigate moisture deficits in the region.

4) During the last 30 days, well distributed and frequent rainfall over portions of southern Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and northern Tanzania is likely to benefit the development of crops. Favorable rains are expected to continue in the region during the next week.

Heavy rains continue across southern Somalia and Eastern Kenya

During the last observation period, excessive amounts of precipitation were received throughout many parts of East Africa. In Ethiopia, abundant, seven-day rainfall amounts in excess of 75mm were observed in the SNNP region, with locally higher amounts in the Gamu-Gofa and Kaffa provinces. Further east, more moderate rainfall (10-30mm) was received across the Ogaden region. In Somalia and eastern Kenya, locally high rainfall was again observed, with locally heavy totals exceeding 100mm in the Mandera region of Kenya, as well as along the Juba River Basin of southern Somalia (**Figure 1**). In western Kenya, widespread rains were received for many areas near Lake Victoria, while rainfall remained more isolated throughout the central parts of the country. Further south, heavy rains (>50mm) were also received across coastal Tanzania during the last week.

The continuation of heavy rainfall across East Africa has perpetuated a significantly wet Oct-Dec (Deyr) rains season. This past week's distribution of heavy weekly rainfall marks the fifth consecutive week where precipitation was above-average, with few areas observing below-average rainfall. Since the beginning of October, many local areas ranging from western Kenya to northern Somalia have observed seasonal precipitation accumulations near or over twice their normal amount, with some areas observing 300-400 percent (**Figure 2**). Both the torrential rainfall observed over short periods and high ground moisture surpluses have produced a number of localized flooding events and have sustained the potential for downstream river inundation. These heavy rains and floods have already resulted in inaccessible roads and damages to infrastructure and have displaced thousands of people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia.

During the next week, precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of above-average rainfall in East Africa. The heaviest seven day precipitation totals (>50mm) are expected across portions of central and eastern Kenya, as well as along many coastal areas of southern Somalia. These high rains are expected sustain the threat of localized flooding and likely elevate water levels along the Juba and Shabelle river basins of southern Somalia.

Little to no precipitation observed in early November worsens moisture deficits in Lesotho and nearby areas of South Africa.

Throughout many parts of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe, seven-day rainfall accumulations were minimal for the second consecutive week. The latest analyses of standardized rainfall indicate rains have been less than two standard deviations below normal (**Figure 3**), as many local areas have experienced less than half their normal rainfall amounts since October. The continuation of below-average rainfall is expected to negatively affect many cropping and pastoral areas across the Free State and Kwa-Zulu Natal regions of South Africa and throughout Lesotho.

For the upcoming observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest and increase in rainfall over portions of Botswana, Zimbabwe and northern South Africa. However, fair to moderate rainfall is expected further south and is not expected to relieve areas characterized by moisture stress.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 6th – November 12th, 2011

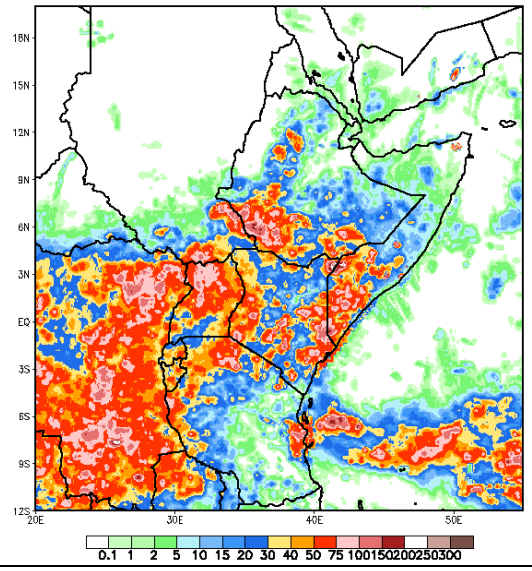


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: October 1st – November 12th, 2011

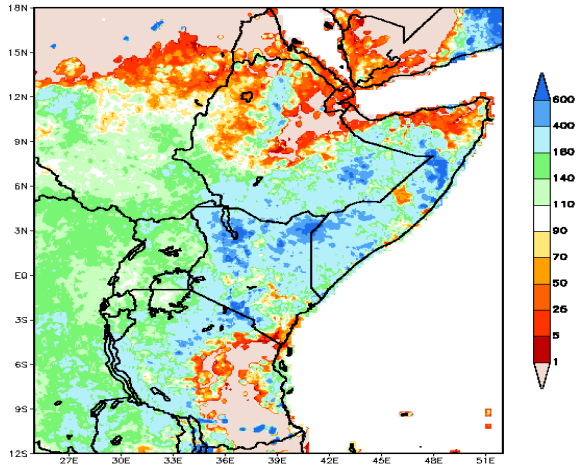


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
Valid: As of the November 10th, 2011

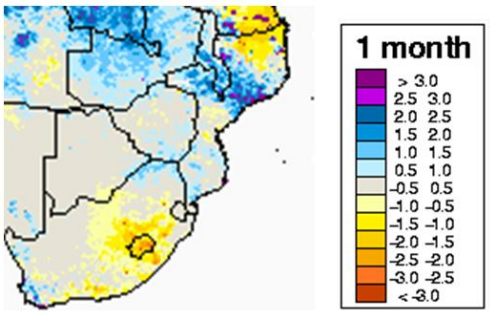


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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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