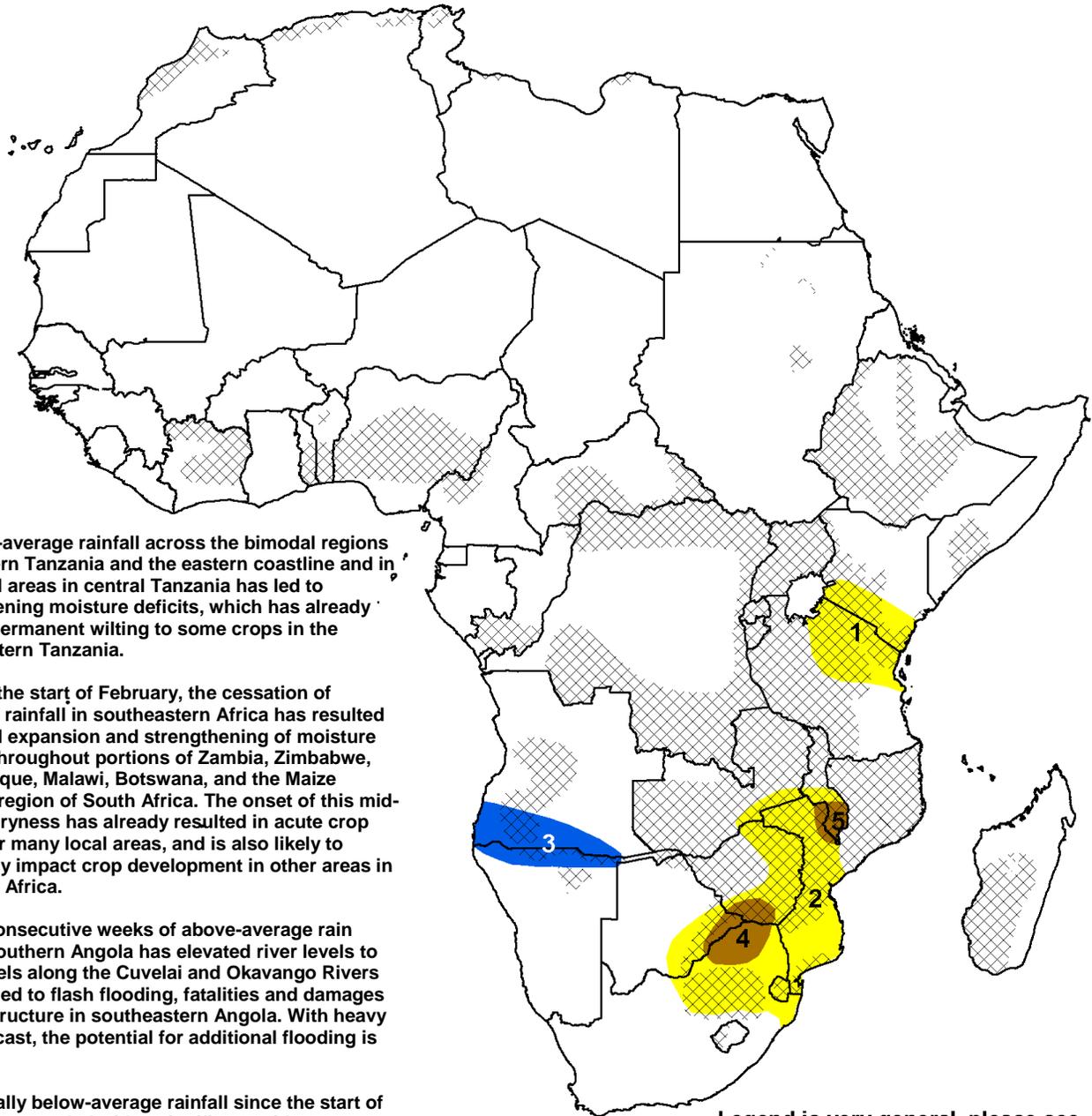


- Southeastern southern Africa continues to observe little to no rainfall while areas to the north and west receive heavy rainfall.
- Locally heavy rain returns to Ethiopia after a slow start to the Belg rainy season.



1) Below-average rainfall across the bimodal regions of northern Tanzania and the eastern coastline and in unimodal areas in central Tanzania has led to strengthening moisture deficits, which has already caused permanent wilting to some crops in the northeastern Tanzania.

2) Since the start of February, the cessation of seasonal rainfall in southeastern Africa has resulted in a rapid expansion and strengthening of moisture deficits throughout portions of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, and the Maize Triangle region of South Africa. The onset of this mid-season dryness has already resulted in acute crop failure for many local areas, and is also likely to negatively impact crop development in other areas in southern Africa.

3) Five consecutive weeks of above-average rain across southern Angola has elevated river levels to flood levels along the Cuvelai and Okavango Rivers and has led to flash flooding, fatalities and damages to infrastructure in southeastern Angola. With heavy rain forecast, the potential for additional flooding is high.

4) Generally below-average rainfall since the start of the season coupled with a significant mid-season dry-spell since the start of February has caused permanent crop wilting in southern Zimbabwe and drought conditions in many locations in South Africa, and southeastern Botswana. Due to the timing of the dryness, replanting may not be possible in some areas.

5) A sustained period of dry conditions since the start of February has caused permanent wilting of crops in southern Malawi and has negatively affected crops bordering western Mozambique. Because the dryness occurred later into the season, replanting might not occur and yields could be permanently reduced.

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



## Lack of rainfall over parts of southern Africa continues

During the past seven days, Southern Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, southeastern Botswana and parts of northern South Africa observed little rainfall (< 10mm) for a fifth consecutive week. The below-average precipitation continued the mid-season dryness observed in the region since February 1<sup>st</sup>. The heaviest precipitation (> 50mm) fell across central/northern Mozambique, western Zambia, eastern Angola, and central/northeastern Namibia. The rainfall totals across central/northern Mozambique were associated with a cyclonic system that moved through during the past week. The system caused an increase in rain across dry portions of central/western Mozambique. Meanwhile, ample rain in Angola and Namibia (> 50mm) increased water levels along the Okavango and Cuvelai Rivers. Flooding is expected to continue if heavy rain persists. Elsewhere, moderate rain (10-30mm) was observed across central Tanzania, northern Zimbabwe and southern Zambia (**Figure 1**) providing some relief to dry conditions that developed during February.

The mid-season dryness across southern Africa, which has negatively affected crops including permanent crop wilting in Malawi and southern Zimbabwe, has been worst across southern Mozambique, parts of northern South Africa, eastern Botswana and southern Zimbabwe. Rainfall during the past thirty days has been 5% of normal over these regions. In general, southeastern southern Africa has observed only 25% of its normal precipitation during the last thirty days further stressing crops. Meanwhile, across Angola and Namibia, rainfall has been highly above-average (> 180% of normal), including local areas in western Angola where rainfall has been greater than 400% of normal (**Figure 2**). This has led to flash and river flooding during the past several weeks.

In terms of soil conditions, the continued dry weather over central/southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, southern Zimbabwe, eastern Botswana and northern South Africa has caused stress to wilting conditions according to the Soil Water Index (**Figure 3**).

An increase in rainfall is expected next week when moderate rain (15-40 mm) falls across portions of South Africa while areas in southern Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe and Botswana are forecast to receive little rainfall (< 10mm).

## Locally heavy rain observed across Ethiopia.

Over the past week, locally heavy rain (> 50mm) was observed across areas expected to receive precipitation during the Belg rainy season. The recent rainfall was a good sign after a slow start to the season. Early season rainfall deficits between 10 and 25 mm have developed since March 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to the short time frame of the Belg rainy season, it is important that rains arrive on time and in sufficient quantity. Moderate to heavy precipitation is expected to continue during the next seven days across similar areas.

**Note: The hazards assessment 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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