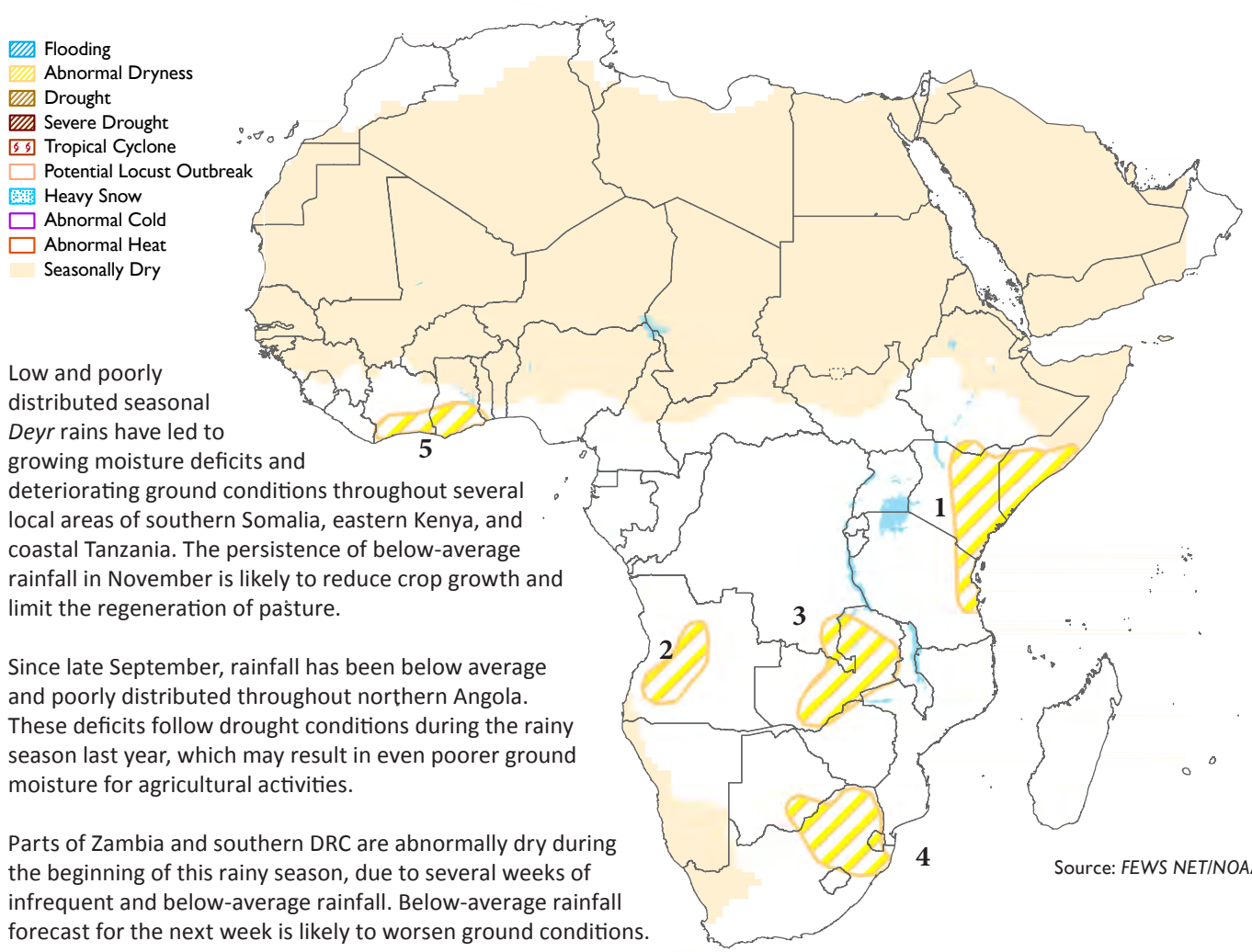
FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

Global Weather Hazards Summary

November 27-December 4, 2014

Abnormal dryness continues in Southern Africa during start of the rainy season

Africa Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Low and poorly distributed seasonal *Deyr* rains have led to growing moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions throughout several local areas of southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and coastal Tanzania. The persistence of below-average rainfall in November is likely to reduce crop growth and limit the regeneration of pasture.

2. Since late September, rainfall has been below average and poorly distributed throughout northern Angola. These deficits follow drought conditions during the rainy season last year, which may result in even poorer ground moisture for agricultural activities.

3. Parts of Zambia and southern DRC are abnormally dry during the beginning of this rainy season, due to several weeks of infrequent and below-average rainfall. Below-average rainfall forecast for the next week is likely to worsen ground conditions.

4. Since October, dry spells and poorly distributed rainfall has led to low soil moisture in parts of South Africa, southeastern Botswana, and Swaziland.

5. Below-average and erratic rainfall across parts of southern Côte d'Ivoire and southern Ghana during October have led to increasing dryness.

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Africa Overview

Favorable rains continued in Eastern Africa.

During the past week, rainfall was evenly distributed across East Africa. Moderate to locally heavy rain fell across southern Somalia and eastern Kenya (Figure 1), with the heaviest rains were recorded throughout eastern DRC, southern Uganda, and western Tanzania. Light rain fell elsewhere. In southern Somalia and eastern Kenya, continued improvements in rainfall over the past few weeks have helped replenish soil moisture over many dryness-affected areas.

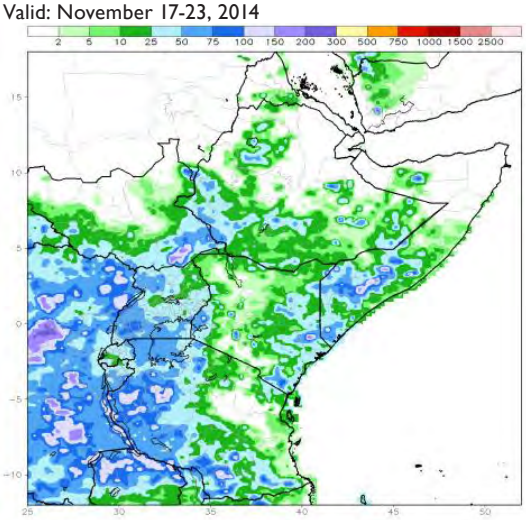
However, northern Kenya and localized areas of southern Somalia have received 50-200 mm below normal rainfall since the beginning of the October-December season (Figure 2). Recent vegetation health indicators suggest below-average conditions over southern Somalia and the eastern two-thirds of Kenya due to the delayed onset and poor distribution of rainfall. Additional well-distributed rainfall is needed to overcome moisture deficits in the region. During the next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected across southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya, northern Uganda, and the Lake Victoria region. In contrast, light rainfall is expected in southern Somalia and eastern Kenya.

Abnormal dryness observed over many parts of Southern Africa.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rainfall is observed in northwestern Angola, southern DRC, northern Zambia, and western Tanzania. Localized heavy showers also fell in central Namibia, central Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique. Light rains were observed elsewhere. Compared to climatology, this past week's rainfall was above average across the northern parts of Southern Africa, but it remained below average throughout much of the southern portions of the region, including parts of southern Angola, southern Zambia, western Zimbabwe, and the Maize Triangle Region of northern South Africa. Rainfall has been below average over the past 30 days in central Angola, the eastern and southern parts of Zambia, and the eastern-third of South Africa (Figure 3). The start of the season was delayed by 1-2 dekads (10-day period) over most of these dry portions of Southern Africa. However, the onset of the season was late by four dekads over the Maize Triangle Region and Kwazulu-Natal province of South Africa.

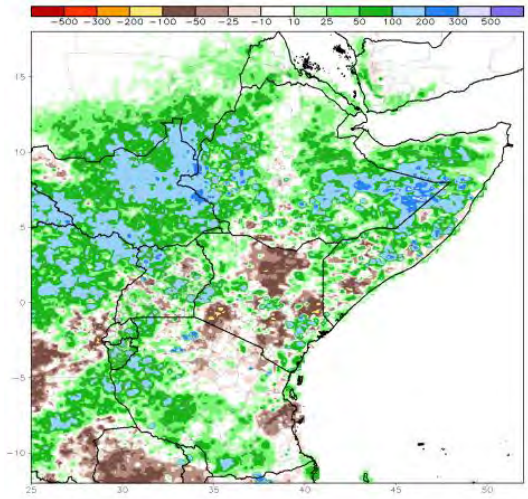
During the next week, forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rains is likely in western Angola, northern South Africa, and Madagascar. This is expected to reduce accumulated rainfall deficits and benefit cropping activities over many local areas. In contrast, below-average rainfall is expected across southern Zambia, parts of Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. This is likely to increase moisture deficits and worsen conditions on the ground.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: November 17-23, 2014



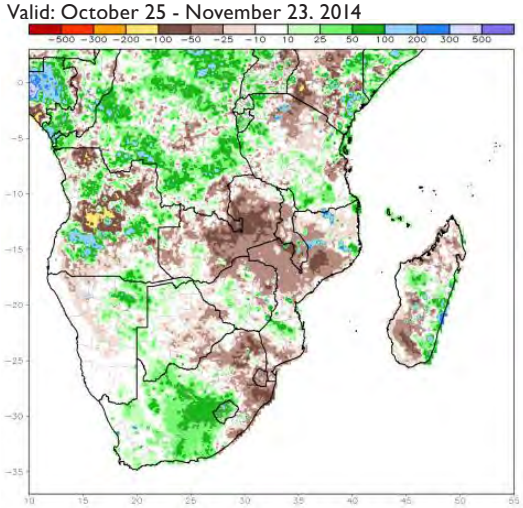
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: Satellite-Estimated Percent-of-Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: October 1-November 13, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

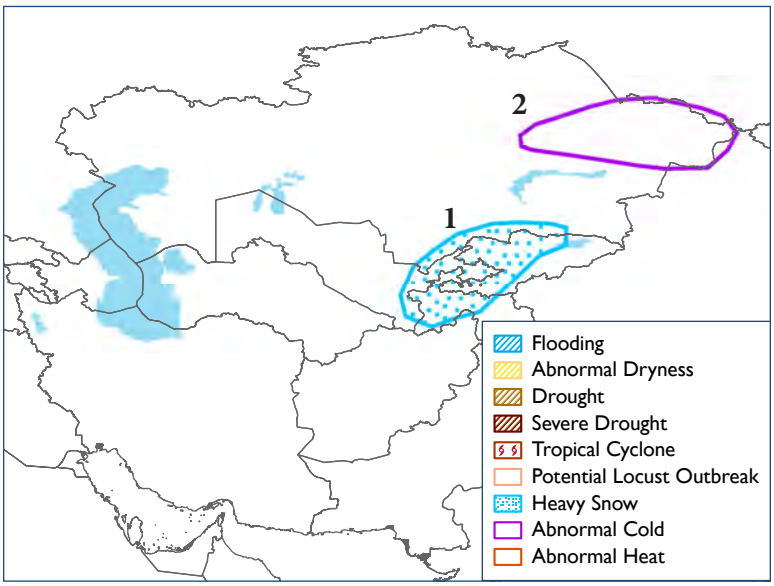
Figure 3. Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: October 25 - November 23, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

Heavy snow is forecast along the Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan border, in southern Uzbekistan, and in western Tajikistan (1), with abnormally cold weather in northeastern Kazakhstan (2) during the next week.



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

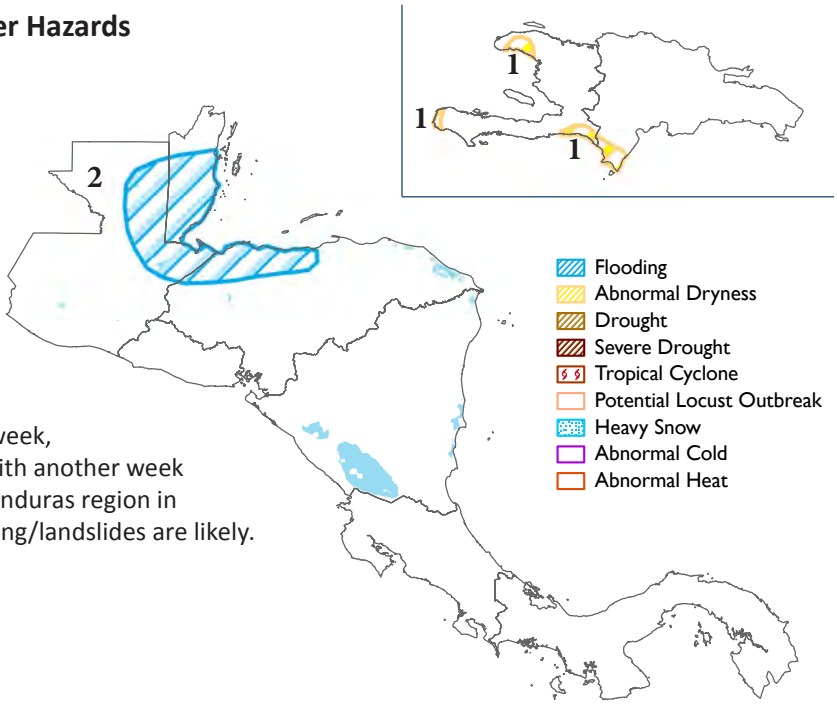
Temperatures
During the second dekad (10-day period) of November, temperatures were near normal across much of Central Asia. However, temperatures were 2-6°C below normal in north-central Kazakhstan, southern Uzbekistan, and central Afghanistan. During the next week, temperatures could fall between 8-10°C below normal in northeastern Kazakhstan. Low temperatures could possibly fall below -35°C in the region.

Precipitation
During the past week, up to 2 inches of precipitation (liquid equivalent) were recorded across southern Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Precipitation has been mostly average to above average across Central Asia since the beginning of October. During the next week, heavy snowfall is again forecast over localized areas of southern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, southern Uzbekistan, and parts of western Tajikistan.

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. An increase in rainfall over the past three weeks has removed rainfall deficits over many areas of Hispaniola. However, small deficits remain over parts of the northwest and southern peninsula of Haiti, due to below-average rainfall since the beginning of the second rainy season. Light rains are forecast for the next week, which is likely to increase rainfall deficits.

2. Rainfall in excess of 200 mm fell during the last week, increasing the risk for flooding and landslides. With another week of above-average rain forecast for the Gulf of Honduras region in Guatemala, Belize and Honduras, localized flooding/landslides are likely.



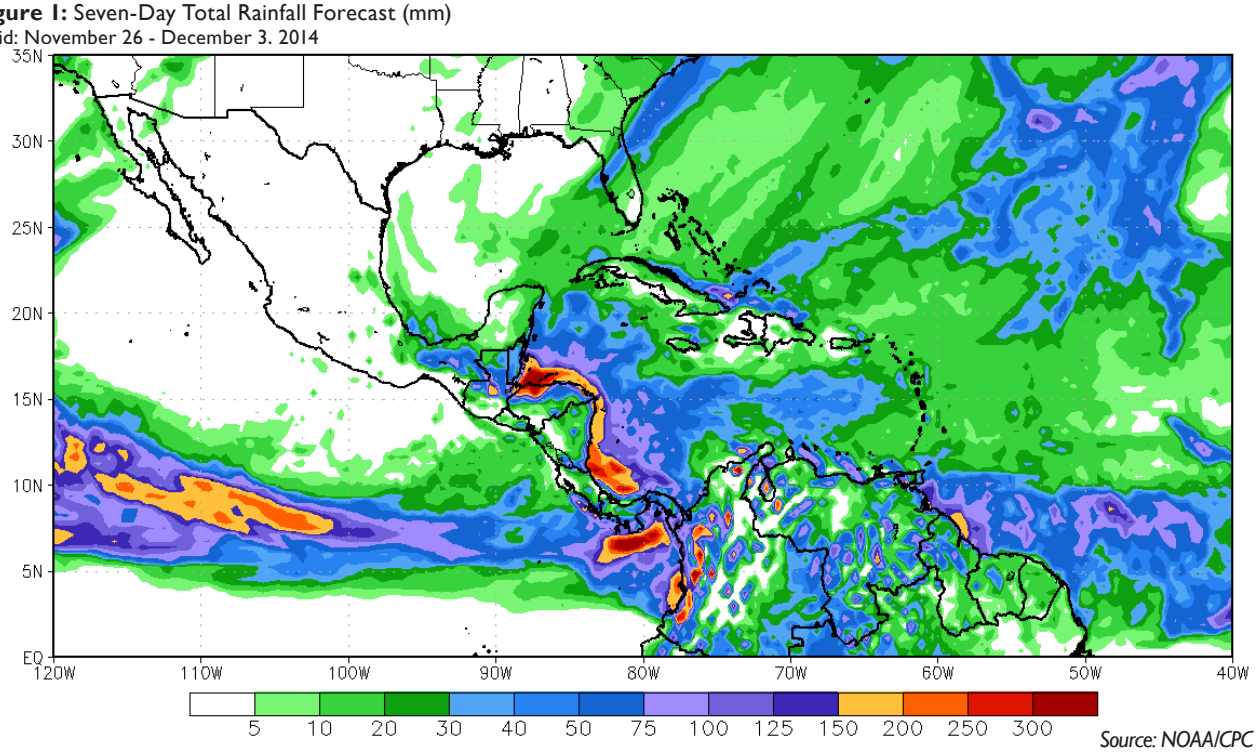
Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Heavy rainfall expected over northern Central America

During the last week, heavy rain (>50mm) fell over much of the Caribbean side of Central America. The highest rainfall (>200 mm) occurred in Atlántida Department of northern Honduras, as well as Izabal and Petén Departments of Guatemala. Torrential rain (>100 mm) fell across Belize and the Colón and Gracias a Dios Departments of Honduras as well. Moderate to heavy rain (>25 mm) fell across eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. This rainfall over northern Central America added to 30-day surpluses around the Gulf of Honduras, where rainfall is between 120-200 percent of average. In contrast, inland and coastal areas along the Pacific Ocean, rainfall decreased between last week and the week prior. While rainfall has been average to above average in most of Central America since the beginning of the Postrera season in August, dryness remains in parts of Huehuetenango Department of western Guatemala, Gracias a Dios Department of eastern Honduras, and the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua, where seasonal rainfall is only 50-80 percent of normal. During the next week, heavy rainfall is expected across northern Central America, including already saturated areas along the Gulf of Honduras in Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>25 mm) is likely over the Caribbean coastlines of southern Central America, while lighter rainfall totals (<20mm) are expected in interior and western portions of Central America.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: November 26 - December 3. 2014



Dry weather expected to continue in Haiti during the next week

After a several weeks of consistently above-average rains, rainfall during the past seven days across Hispaniola was reduced. Rainfall across Haiti was generally less than 10 mm, and the highest rainfall amounts (15-25 mm) fell across northern and southeastern parts of the Dominican Republic. The reduction in rains helped to relieve saturated conditions across northern departments of Haiti and northwestern Dominican Republic after torrential rains caused substantial flooding earlier in November. Overall, rainfall during the past 30 days has been average to above-average across Hispaniola, with rainfall reaching 200-400 percent of normal along the northern coast of Dominican Republic and northeastern Haiti. However, since the beginning of the second rainy season, rainfall has been only 50-80 percent of normal across southern Haiti, southwestern Dominican Republic, and localized areas in northwestern Haiti. The most recent remote sensing vegetation condition indicators continue to suggest poor conditions over these areas. During the next week, dry weather is expected to continue. Light rains (<15mm) are forecast for localized areas in eastern Dominican Republic, while little to no rain is forecast for much of Haiti. The lack of rain will likely increase moisture deficits across dry areas and continue to negatively impact cropping conditions.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS

Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.