



**Metrological Forecast & Regional Flood / Cyclone Update for Southern Africa 30  
Update 1: 30 January 2009**

**Metrological Forecast**

Since late December 2008, localised flooding has been reported in Angola, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. The section below provides a brief overview of the impact of flooding in these countries. During the first half of the rainy season, October-December, most parts of the region received normal to above normal rainfall. Since late December, heavy rains have been recorded in Angola, Botswana, parts of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, central South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Meteorologists caution that further heavy rainfall within a short period may result in flooding. Countries expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall from January to March 2009 include, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, most of Namibia much of South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In Mozambique, areas that need close monitoring are Caia, Mutarara and Mafambisse districts. The Pungue River, which originates in Zimbabwe and flows through Mozambique, is slightly above flood alert at 6.4m (alert threshold 6m). This is a slight decrease compared to mid-January when it was above 7m. The National Disaster Management Institute has issued an orange alert and is closely monitoring the situation. Local authorities have been able to control the situation of localised flooding in the Inhambane province. The Limpopo River in the southern Mozambican province of Gaza is only 23 centimetres short of flood alert level at the Combumune measuring station. Continued rain in the countries upstream (South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana) may cause flooding at any time in Mozambique.

In Namibia, heavy rains are anticipated in the north-eastern (Caprivi region) and north-western (Oshana region) parts of the country during late January, according to Namibia's Meteorological Department. During the period 26 January to 28 January, good rains were received over the central northern areas of Namibia resulting in increased water levels in the Cuvelai district in the Oshana region. In the Caprivi region, the Katima Mulilo River has risen steadily and stands at two metres, which is above the normal level of 1.5 metres. Water authorities are closely monitoring the situation. The majority of people living along the floodplains have moved to higher ground ahead of possible flooding.

Flooding is only anticipated should Zambia and Angola experience heavy rains which cause the Zambezi River to reach above alert level and may result in flooding downstream affecting the Cuvelai system (Oshana region) and the Caprivi region. The Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister is strengthening preparedness activities for possible flooding in these regions. Namibia has entered into agreements with the Government of Angola and Zambia to manage the discharge of water from the Zambezi River so as to mitigate the impact of flooding in Namibia.

Most parts of Zambia have received above normal rainfall and there are no indications of flooding as yet. According to the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), the cumulative rainfall map since the start of the season (1st July 2008) indicates that Zambezi, Mansa and Mwinilunga rivers have recorded above 600mm. Most stations have received rainfall between 400-600mm except for Lundazi (Eastern Province) and central parts of the southern province that have recorded rainfall between 200mm - 400mm. There are no indications of flooding as yet. Parts of Zimbabwe have been inundated with heavy rains since 26 December. Areas of concern are Muzarabani, in Centenary districts, north of the country, and the Save River in the south eastern parts of the country.

## FLOOD SITUATION UPDATE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Angola

Heavy rainfall since late December has resulted in localized flooding in Kuando Kubango, Moxico and Uíge Provinces. More recently, heavy rainfall in northern Angola during 23 to 24 January 2009, damaged 66 homes and a public administration building in Maquela do Zombo district, to the north of Uíge city. According to government district officials the rains injured five people and have left at approximately 86 families displaced.

### Madagascar

On 19 January and 21 January 2009, the country was hit by Tropical Storm 'Eric' and Tropical Cyclone Fanele resulting in extensive flooding and damage to homes, public buildings including 38 schools, roads and agricultural crops. According to Madagascar's National Office for Natural Disaster Preparedness (BNGRC), both Fanele and Eric resulted in 12 deaths and more than 54,802 people are affected. [More](#)

### Malawi

As of 21 January, heavy rains and strong winds caused flooding in 13 districts affecting 9,225 households. Of these, 2,549 have had their homes damaged and another 6,676 households lost their crops, according to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). The loss of crops is a concern as this could aggravate existing food security concerns. The number of people with missing food entitlements according to the Malawi Vulnerability Committee (VAC) was revised downwards due to reduction in the price of maize from 1.5 million to 673,498 people. The country is also battling a cholera outbreak. From November 2008 to January 2009, there were 684 cases and 26 deaths (CFR 3.8%) reported. According to the SADC Drought Monitoring Centre, weather forecast indicates normal to above normal rainfall for most parts of Malawi for the period February to April 2009.

DoDMA continues to provide food and non-food items to households whose houses have collapsed. For households whose crops were affected, DoDMA submitted reports to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security for an appropriate response with regards to agricultural rehabilitation. Simultaneously, the government, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and District Assemblies, is distributing food to the 673,498 food insecure people. The distribution programme started in December 2008 and will run up to March 2009.

## Mozambique

In late December, torrential rains hit Mozambique's Inhambane Province in the south, and the central provinces of Manica, Sofala and Zambezia, destroying houses, roads and bridges. In Inhambane the heavy rainfall resulted in flash floods that displaced people, destroyed houses and inundated farmland.

Local water authorities have been able to control the f localised flooding in the Inhambane region and provided relief to the affected population. The UN Country Team is closely monitoring the situation of the rising river levels in close contact with the National Disaster Management Institute as well as with partners and counterparts for a rapid response. Emergency relief Supplies (include tents, emergency kits, buckets, jerricans, soap and learners' kits) are pre-positioned in Beira and Maputo and are ready to be distributed in case of an emergency.

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