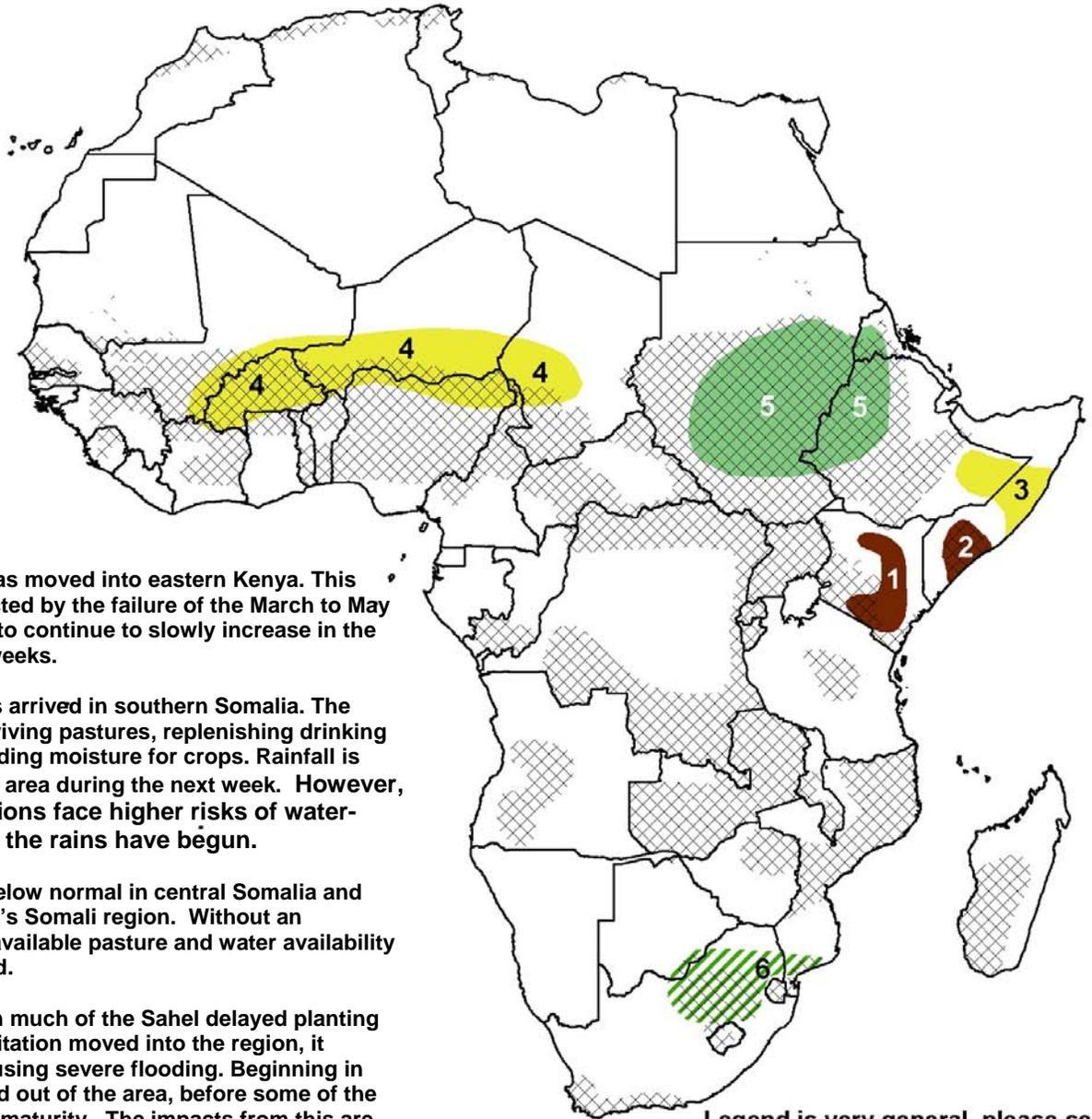


- The deyr and short rains have begun in southern Somalia and parts of Kenya that experienced a poor March to May wet season. These rains will help to replenish pasture and water sources if they continue. The rains are also likely to increase the risk of water-borne disease for IDPs in southern Somalia.
- While irregular rains during the 2007 rainy season in the Sahel will result in localized crop losses, normal harvests are still expected in most of the region.
- Central Somalia and nearby portions of Ethiopia's Somali region have been drier than normal. If the current dry trend continues this will have a serious impact on pastures and water availability in the region until at least March 2008, when the next rainy season is expected.



1) Seasonal precipitation has moved into eastern Kenya. This region was seriously impacted by the failure of the March to May rains. Rainfall is expected to continue to slowly increase in the region during the coming weeks.

2) Much needed rainfall has arrived in southern Somalia. The precipitation has begun reviving pastures, replenishing drinking water supplies and is providing moisture for crops. Rainfall is expected to continue in the area during the next week. However, newly displaced populations face higher risks of water-borne diseases now that the rains have begun.

3) Precipitation has been below normal in central Somalia and nearby portions of Ethiopia's Somali region. Without an improvement in moisture, available pasture and water availability will be significantly reduced.

4) A late start to the rains in much of the Sahel delayed planting until late July. After precipitation moved into the region, it became heavy, at times causing severe flooding. Beginning in September, moisture moved out of the area, before some of the late-planted crops reached maturity. The impacts from this are expected to be localized.

5) Good rains across much of Sudan and portions of Eritrea and Ethiopia have benefited pastures and crops across the region. While these rains have caused flooding which has resulted in damage to infrastructure and loss of life, the overall benefits to agriculture, livestock, water resources and wild food availability has been favorable.

6) Rains in Southern Africa have benefited early season cropping activities. However, it is still very early in the season and conditions could change.

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

	Extreme Event		Flooding
	Humanitarian Concern		Severe Drought
	Favorable		Drought
	Somewhat Favorable		
	In Season Crop Areas		Short Term Dryness or Drought Recovery

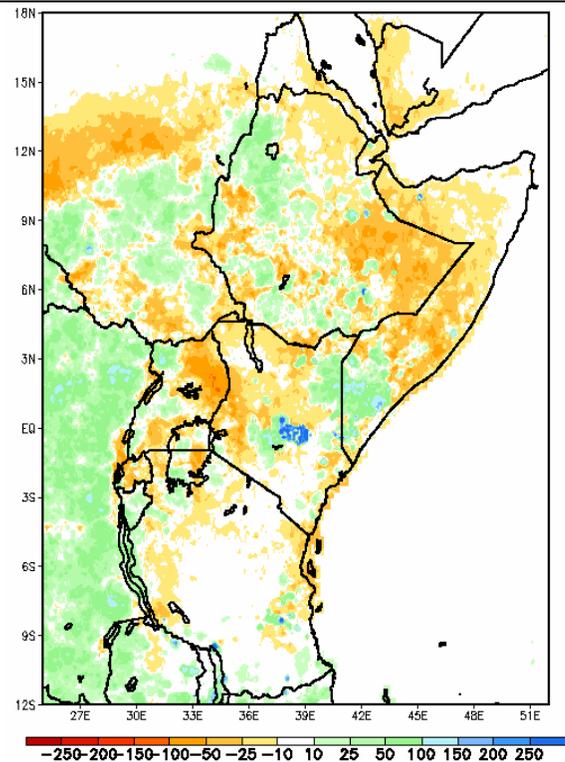
Relief, short term dryness move into the Horn

Southern Somalia and parts of eastern Kenya continue to see moisture increase in the region. Precipitation has been sustained across most areas where the failure of the 2007 March to May rains left the fields parched. Not all of Kenya is experiencing those rains; however these areas usually see their start of season occur in mid-November. These regions include areas to the north and south of Mt. Kenya and regions along the northern coast.

Further to the north, short-term dryness has moved into central Somalia and nearby portions of Ethiopia's Somali region. This area is already being monitored closely for food security issues. If rainfall returns to the region soon, it will be possible for the pastures to regenerate. Current outlooks do not favor an increase in precipitation however, and it is likely that this area will continue to see below normal precipitation totals through the end of the season. There are also indications that dryness may spread in eastern Ethiopia during the coming dekad.

At right the region of below normal precipitation is depicted in central Somalia and the Somali Region of Ethiopia.

Rainfall Estimate Anomalies October 1 – 28, 2007



Source: NOAA/FEWS-NET

Conditions in the Sahel remain mixed

Rainfall started later than normal across much of the Sahel, resulting in planting delays and causing some farmers to switch to shorter-cycle crops, where they were available.

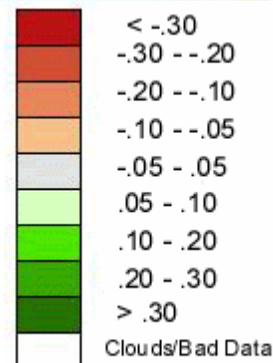
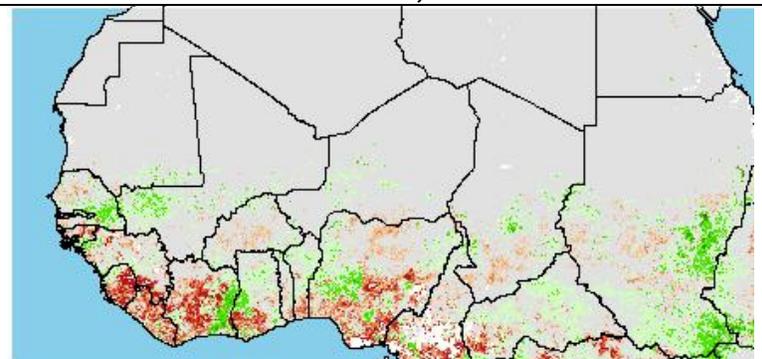
When rainfall did arrive, it was excessive. The overly abundant moisture caused flooding in many locations in the Sahel and along the Gulf of Guinea. These floods caused localized damage to crops and infrastructure and caused numerous deaths.

In mid-September, before the normal end of the wet season in many locations, the rains abruptly withdrew from much of the Sahel. Even with the short cycle crops, the truncated season was not enough in some local areas to bring crops to maturity.

While the full extent of these losses is not yet known, as assessments are currently underway, it is anticipated that residual household and state food security stocks and well-supplied markets from two years of surplus production, as well as this year's off-season agricultural production, will offset main-season production losses and help maintain cereal prices within their normal seasonal range.

There is also the possibility of flood recession crops in some pockets across the Sahel. This will help to improve food availability locally.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Compared to the Long Term Mean October 20, 2007



Source: USGS/FEWS-NET

The NDVI, at right, shows the mixed conditions in the Sahel with only slight anomalies, both positive and negative. This reflects the localized nature of current crop conditions.