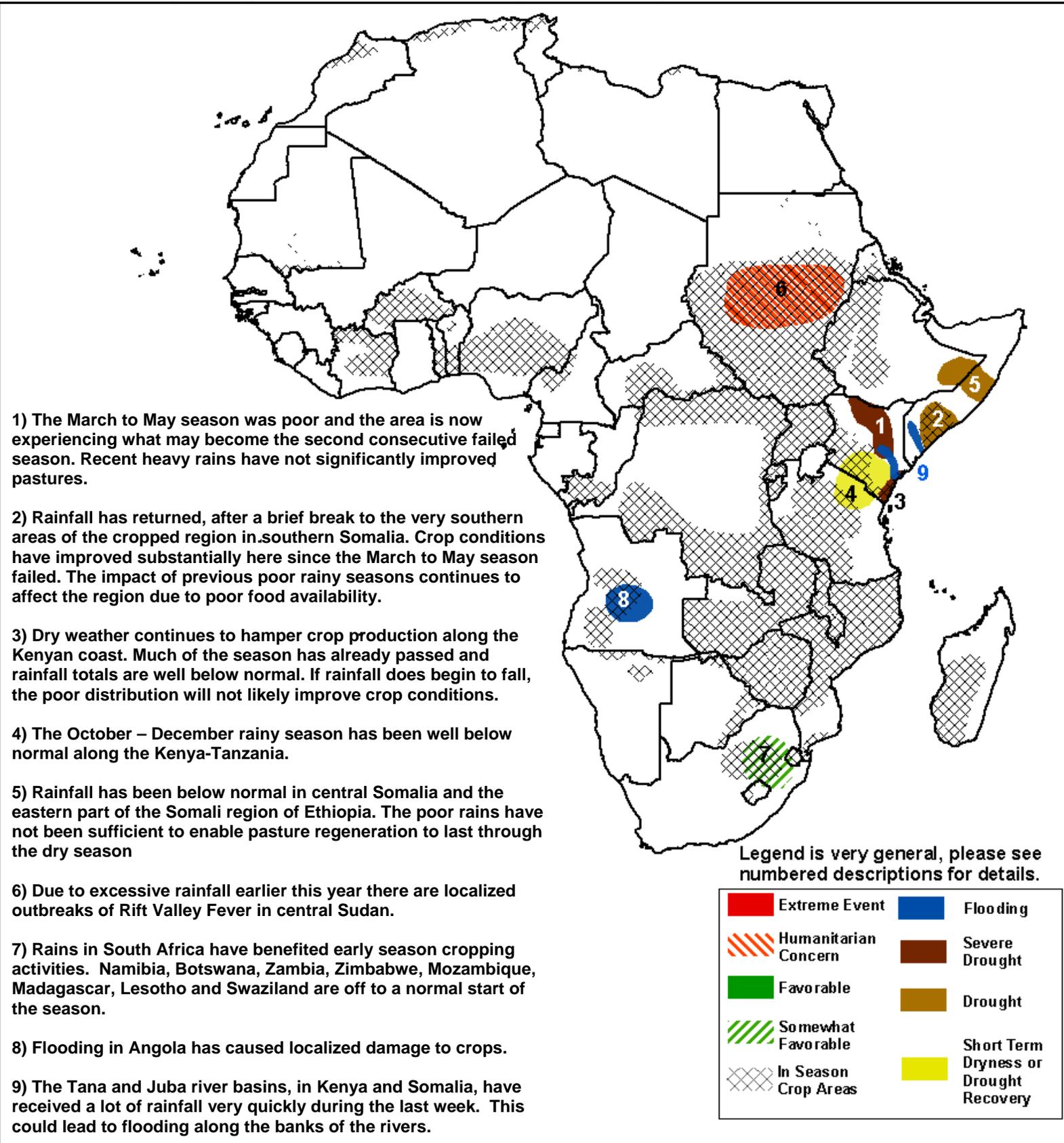


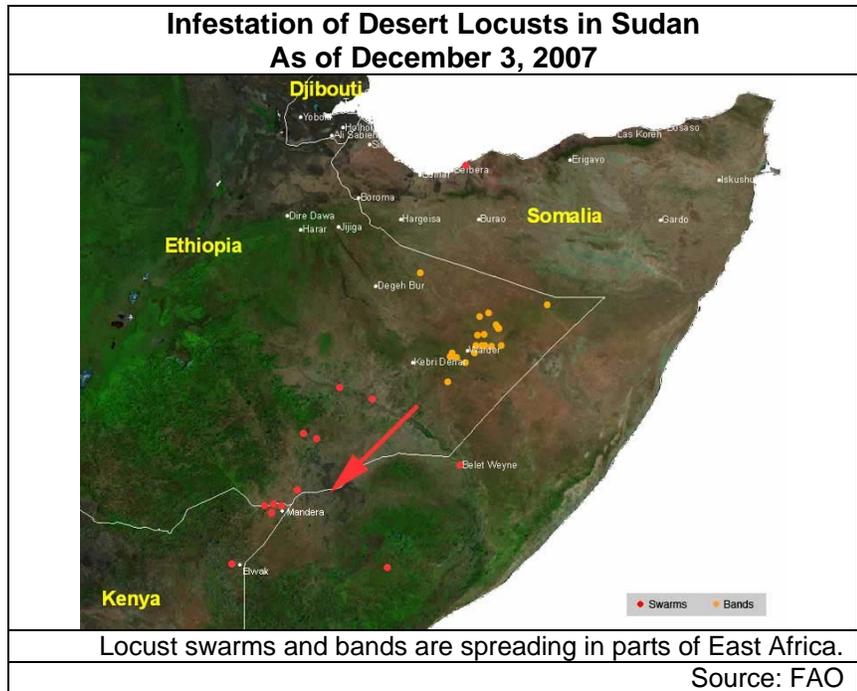
- Several swarms of desert locusts are now present in localized areas of Somalia, northern Kenya, and Ethiopia's Somali Region. The locusts have the potential to damage agropastoral crops in these areas, reducing household food access, although initial control efforts in Ethiopia were successful. The locusts exacerbate an already complex situation in GHA, in which rainfall is sufficient in some areas but deficient in others.
- Rainfall continues to increase in southern Africa. Rainfall has been abundant across most regions with isolated flooding occurring. In the short term there is flooding in portions of Angola.



Locusts outbreak spreads in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya

According to the FAO, northeastern Kenya has been impacted by desert locusts for the first time since the 1960s. The locusts are believed to have laid eggs between Mandera and Elwak. The eggs are expected to hatch around December 10 and form smaller hopper bands. Crop damage was reported along the Dawa River on the Ethiopian-Kenyan border. The Kenyan Government and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) are organizing a control campaign.

In eastern Ethiopia, hopper bands are forming in the Ogaden region and a similar situation is likely in central and southern Somalia. Survey and control operations are not possible in these areas. Uncontrolled bands will form new swarms in about mid-December. These swarms are expected to move south into Kenya towards the border of Tanzania. Hopper bands that are not controlled in Kenya could form new swarms in mid-January and move southwards. See image at right.



Mixed conditions continue in the Horn

Rainfall has been good in some locations, but poor in many during the current October – December wet season (see right). Areas near Lake Victoria and in southern Somalia have fared well. Rainfall across these regions has been near normal and reasonably well distributed. Flooding events have occurred in both areas, but incidents have remained isolated. Although rainfall has been slightly below normal here, the distribution of moisture was sufficient to maintain near normal ground conditions in most areas. Similar conditions are found near Mt. Kenya with rainfall totals slightly above normal.

Areas of concern, however, are running out of time to make up their rainfall deficits. These areas include: the Somali region of Ethiopia, central Somalia, north-central Kenya, southern Kenya and along the immediate Kenyan coast, especially near the border with Tanzania. Some of these areas were impacted by the failed March – May rains, and the failure of the October – December rains will further degrade pastures, crops and deplete water resources. These dry conditions are spreading into northern Tanzania.

Rainfall plentiful, sometimes excessive in southern Africa

Rainfall totals have been above normal, sometimes twice normal almost everywhere in southern Africa. This includes most of the following countries: Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, and Namibia. (See figure at right) Malawi is the one exception. Precipitation has been slightly below normal in the central portion of the country; however, it is early in the season and this is not yet considered a threat to food security.

Angola has received heavy rainfall during the last several weeks. Rainfall totals as a result are as much as six times above normal. This has caused localized damage to crop.

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