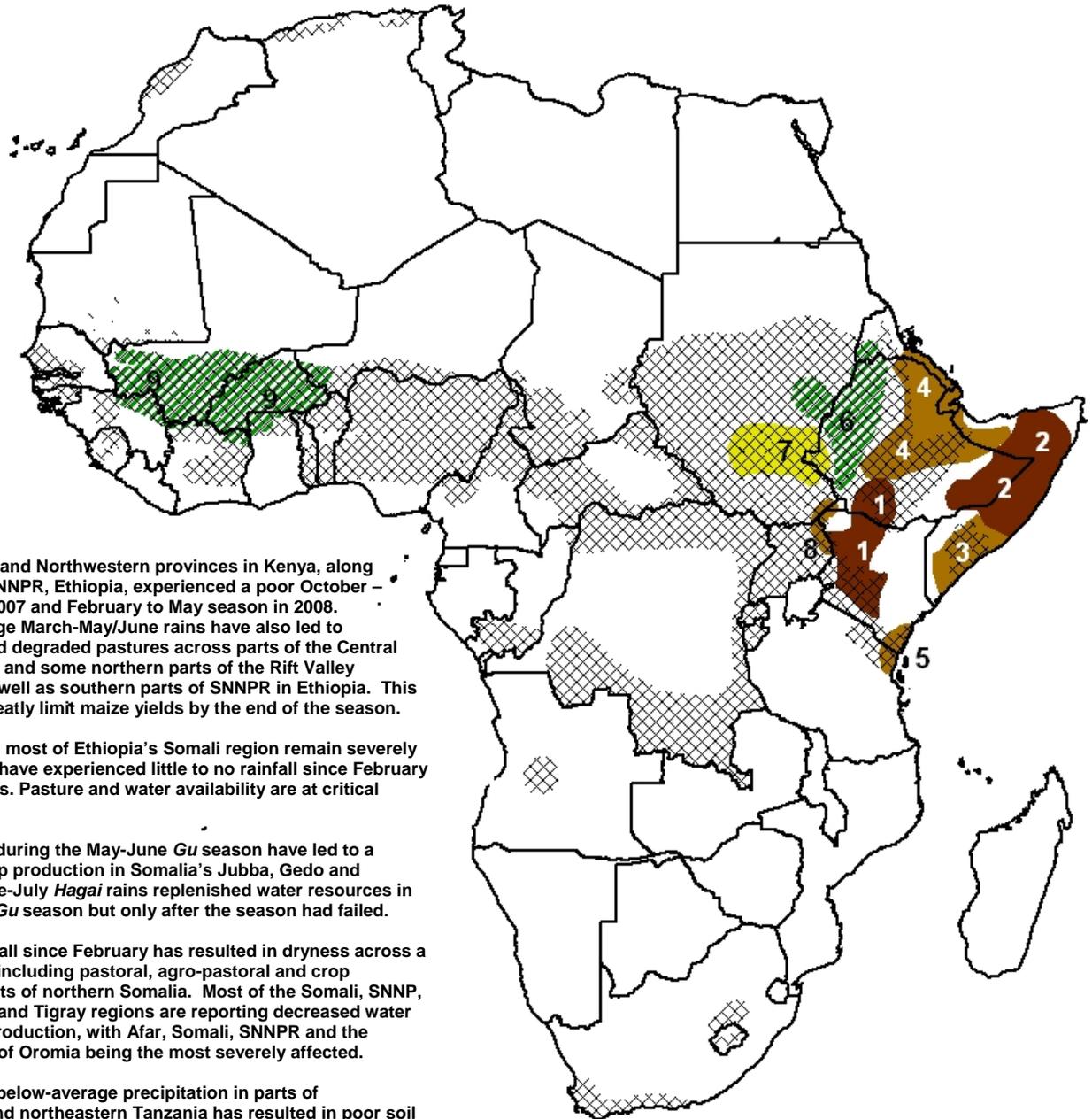


- Above-normal May-September rainfall across the Sahel has resulted in increased water availability and favorable crop conditions. With the abundance of rainfall, some areas in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger may experience localized flooding.
- A below-normal June-October season continues to adversely affect crop development across many parts of Kenya. This is likely to result in reduced crop yields throughout areas in the eastern provinces and Great Rift Valley.



1) Northern Rift Valley and Northwestern provinces in Kenya, along with nearby parts of SNNPR, Ethiopia, experienced a poor October – December season in 2007 and February to May season in 2008. Recently, below-average March-May/June rains have also led to deteriorating crops and degraded pastures across parts of the Central and Eastern provinces and some northern parts of the Rift Valley province of Kenya, as well as southern parts of SNNPR in Ethiopia. This has the potential to greatly limit maize yields by the end of the season.

2) Central Somalia and most of Ethiopia's Somali region remain severely dry. Many local areas have experienced little to no rainfall since February resulting in failed crops. Pasture and water availability are at critical levels.

3) Poor rainfall totals during the May-June *Gu* season have led to a failure of seasonal crop production in Somalia's Jubba, Gedo and Shabelle regions. June-July *Hagai* rains replenished water resources in the Shabelle after the *Gu* season but only after the season had failed.

4) Below-average rainfall since February has resulted in dryness across a wide area of Ethiopia, including pastoral, agro-pastoral and crop producing areas in parts of northern Somalia. Most of the Somali, SNNP, Oromia, Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions are reporting decreased water availability and crop production, with Afar, Somali, SNNPR and the neighboring lowlands of Oromia being the most severely affected.

5) Since last October, below-average precipitation in parts of southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania has resulted in poor soil conditions and crop development along the coast.

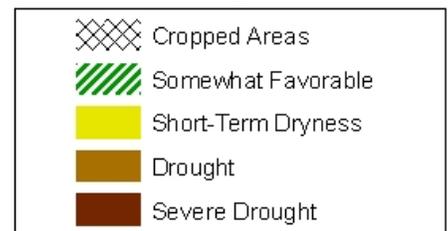
6) Western Ethiopia, in contrast to much of the Horn of Africa, has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since late March.

7) Despite receiving regular rainfall throughout July, many parts of southern Sudan are 50 percent below average for their June-October seasonal rain totals.

8) Poor March-September rainfall has led to deteriorated soil conditions and a failed crop season for localized areas of northeastern Uganda, and into parts of Kenya and Sudan.

9) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water resources and favorable crop conditions across parts of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.

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



Increased rains in West Africa continue to favor healthy cropping conditions.

In many areas across the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea countries, excessive and frequent rains during July have led to an above-normal May-September season. While the Sahel observed a slight decrease in rainfall over the last seven days, seasonal rainfall accumulations still range between 150 and 200 percent above average in many local parts of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. These positive precipitation anomalies are expected to provide favorable conditions for the development of maize, sorghum and millet, as most of these crops are in the peak phase of vegetation and production for the season. For parts of Nigeria, July rainfall may also lead to increased water availability and regeneration of soils for areas that were anomalously dry in June.

For areas in southern Burkina Faso and northern parts of Ivory Coast and Ghana that experienced a two to three dekade late start to the May-September season, satellite-derived crop analyses show healthy conditions in many of these areas due to the abundant rainfall in July (Figure 1). In Niger, significantly high river levels are reported along the Niger River, as well as cases of isolated flooding in some cropping fields.

Precipitation forecasts over the next seven days suggest a continued increase in rainfall across much of the Sahel. As a result, some areas in Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, southern Mali and western Niger have the potential to experience localized flooding due to the increased rains and excess in river basin levels (Figure 2).

Death of seasonal rains has led to exacerbated drought conditions and poor harvests in Kenya.

Over the last observation period, light to moderate rainfall totals (10 – 40 mm) were observed over parts of the central Rift Valley, with heavy, isolated totals in excess of 50 mm received near the Malindi and Tana River districts in the coastal southeastern province of Kenya. While rainfall over the last seven days helped to alleviate dry soil conditions, much of Kenya is suffering from drought since February due to poor long and June-October rains.

According to a crop assessment mission in Kenya, below-average February-September precipitation has resulted in a possible 60 percent production loss in the central province, with a complete failure of crops being felt in local parts of the southeastern province. Despite regular rains observed in southwestern Kenya during July, crop reports suggest an approximate 10 percent loss in the Nyanza province.

Precipitation forecasts over the next seven days suggest a chance for some improvement, as the majority of rains (between 20 – 50 mm) are expected to fall across much of southwestern Kenya. This projected rainfall should help reduce local rain deficits observed in the Nyanza, Western and Rift Valley provinces (Figure 3).

Elsewhere in East Africa, many parts of northeastern Ethiopia observed a heavy distribution of rain, with totals exceeding 75 – 100 mm across the Gojam, Gonder and Welo provinces over the last seven days. These rains continue to promote favorable crop conditions for many local areas.

Figure 1. Satellite-Derived WRSI and Start of Season Anomaly for Crops as of 2nd Dekad of July, 2008

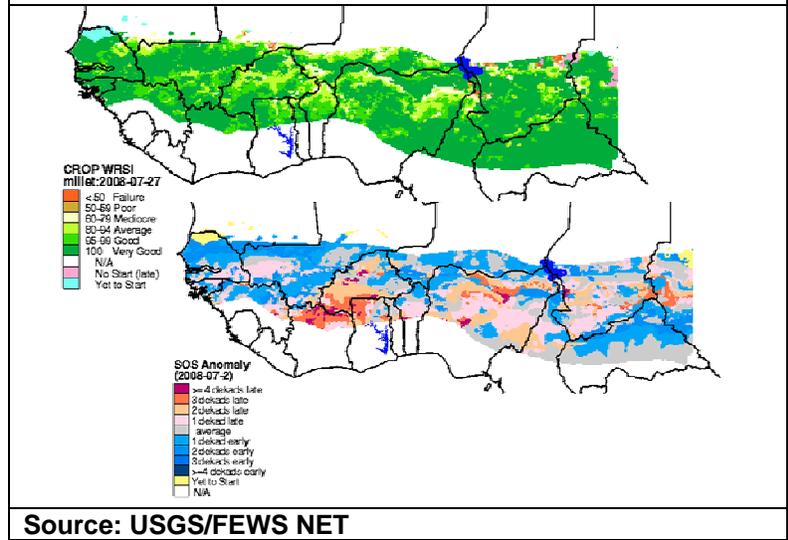


Figure 2. Basin Excess Rainfall Map (BERM) as of 2nd Dekad of July, 2008

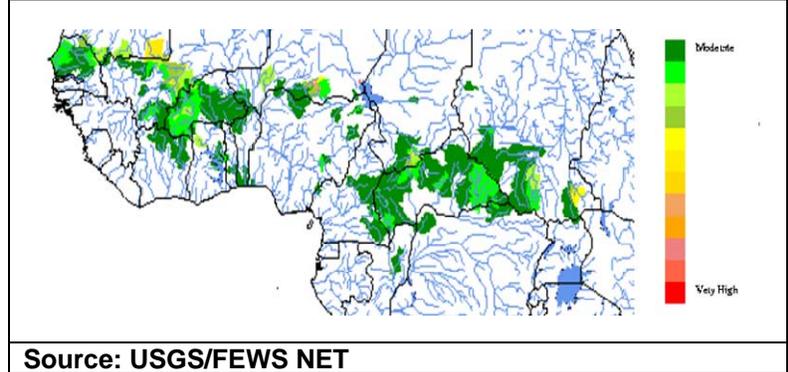


Figure 3. Satellite-Derived Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm) from February 1st to July 26th, 2008

