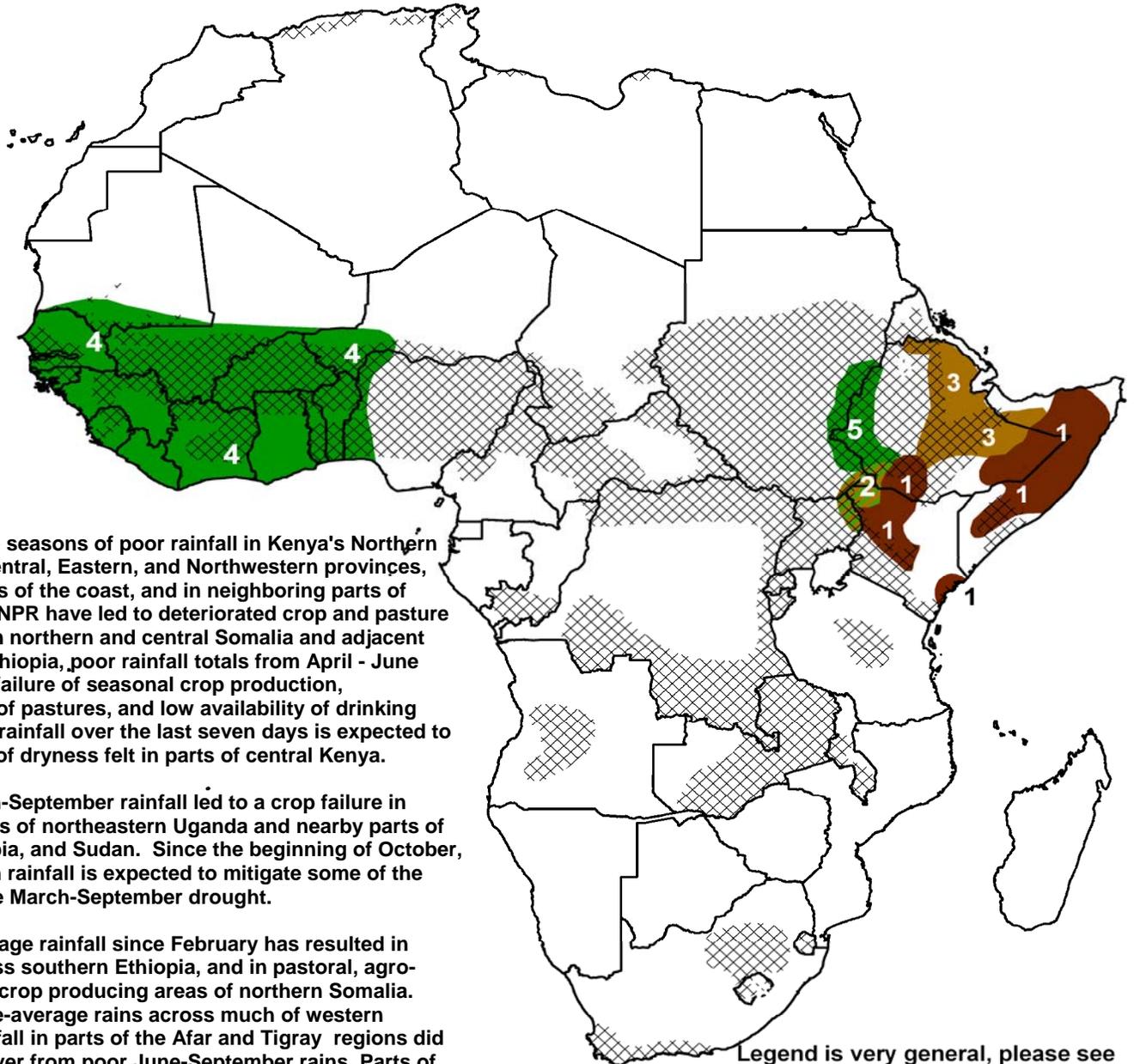


- Early October rains continue to help relieve areas impacted by long-term drought conditions throughout parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. An anomalously wet October-December rains season is expected to replenish water resources and lead to increased crop yields for many local areas in East Africa.
- Enhanced frontal activity has led to above-average October rainfall in the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape regions of South Africa. An increase in ground moisture remains favorable for cropping activities in many local areas along the coast.



1) Successive seasons of poor rainfall in Kenya's Northern Rift Valley, Central, Eastern, and Northwestern provinces, along sections of the coast, and in neighboring parts of Ethiopia's SNNPR have led to deteriorated crop and pasture conditions. In northern and central Somalia and adjacent portions of Ethiopia, poor rainfall totals from April - June 2008 led to a failure of seasonal crop production, deterioration of pastures, and low availability of drinking water. Ample rainfall over the last seven days is expected to relieve some of dryness felt in parts of central Kenya.

2) Poor March-September rainfall led to a crop failure in localized areas of northeastern Uganda and nearby parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Since the beginning of October, an increase in rainfall is expected to mitigate some of the impacts of the March-September drought.

3) Below-average rainfall since February has resulted in dryness across southern Ethiopia, and in pastoral, agro-pastoral, and crop producing areas of northern Somalia. Despite above-average rains across much of western Ethiopia, rainfall in parts of the Afar and Tigray regions did not fully recover from poor June-September rains. Parts of Oromia, Somali, and SNNP regions report decreased crop production, with the lowlands of Oromia, and Somali regions being the most severely affected.

4) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water availability and favorable crop conditions across much of western Africa. However, localized flooding has damaged bridges, roads, railways, and other infrastructure and agriculture throughout the region.

5) Much of western Ethiopia has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since late March. These rains have pushed further southwest since late September.



**East African rains continue to support early-season cropping activities.**

Over the last seven days, considerable amounts of rainfall were observed in East Africa. In Ethiopia, widespread precipitation amounts between 25 to 50 mm fell along the Ethiopian / Sudan border, with the highest amounts (<75 mm) concentrated in the Gonder region. Towards the east, many parts of the Oromia and Somalia regions saw isolated rain totals in excess of 75 mm. In Somalia, heavy rainfall remained isolated, resulting in totals in between 50 – 100 mm in parts of Puntland, and further south in the Shebelle region (Figure 1).

Since early October, beneficial rains continue to provide relief for many areas that have been plagued by the impacts of long-term drought. Satellite derived rainfall analyses indicate a large distribution of anomalously wet conditions extending from the Somali region of Ethiopia to many local regions of Somalia and into Kenya and northern Tanzania (Figure 2). While the anomalous rains over the last 30 days will not completely overcome the impacts of degraded pastures and lost livestock since early 2008, an increase in moisture may help to improve pastoral and agro-pastoral activity. In addition, this may help to recharge water resources and availability, and promote seasonal crop production by the end of the year. This, in turn, this would help redeem areas that have experienced repeatedly poor crop harvests.

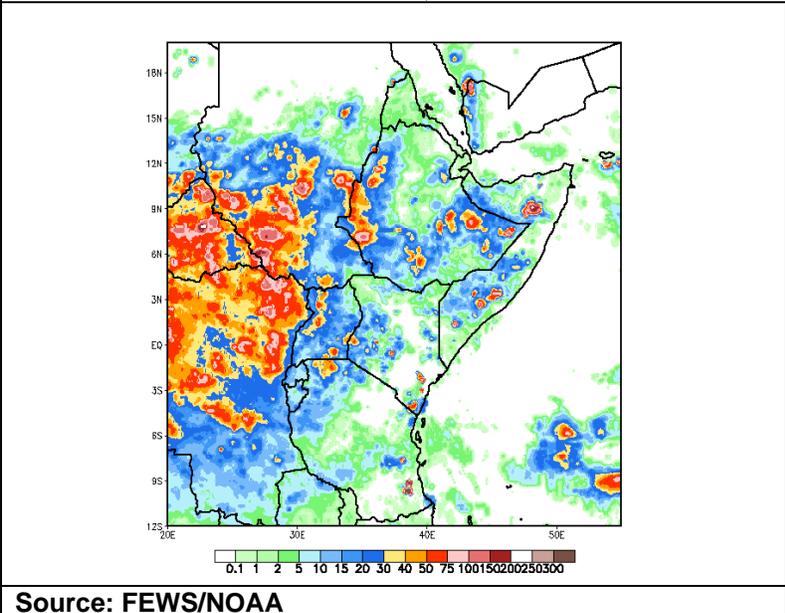
Precipitation forecasts over the next seven days suggest the rain pattern to continue for many areas in the East African region. Widespread rain amounts between 25 – 40 mm, with possibly heavier totals in local areas are expected for much of eastern Ethiopia, Somalia and parts of northern Kenya.

**Southern African rains season showing a normal start.**

Over the last 30 days, increased frontal activity in the Cape region of southern Africa has resulted in periods of significant rainfall. Consistent rainfall in the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape regions over the last month has resulted in large distribution of positive anomalies (between 25 to 75 mm). Moisture Index analysis indicates that these active cropping regions of South Africa are experiencing greater than 100 percent of their moisture index (Figure 3).

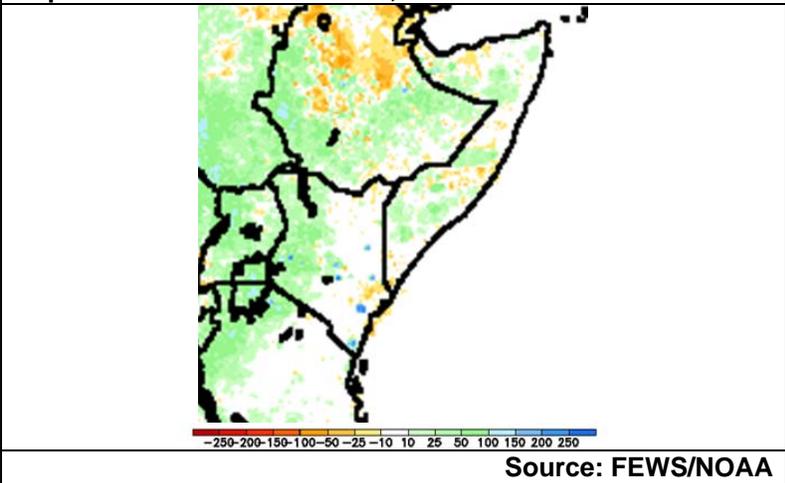
Precipitation forecasts show above-average rainfall to persist in this region for the next seven days. If above-average rains continue by the end of October, ample rain amounts and saturated soils should benefit early season planting activities.

**Figure 1: Satellite Derived Rainfall Estimates (mm) From October 5<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



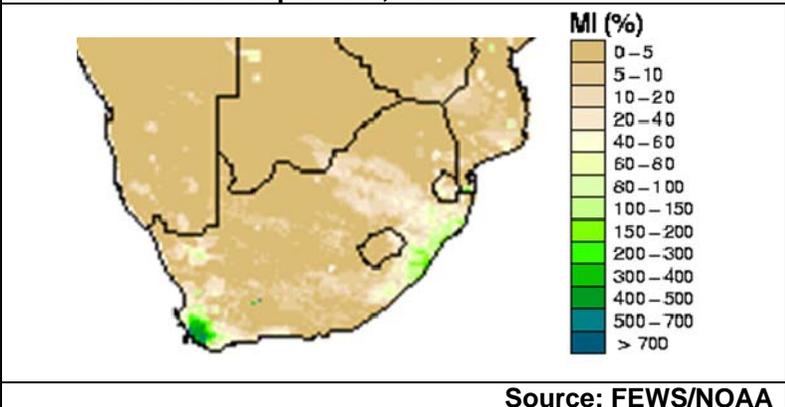
Source: FEWS/NOAA

**Figure 2: 30-Day Rainfall Anomalies (mm) September 12<sup>th</sup> – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



Source: FEWS/NOAA

**Figure 3: Moisture Index (%) As of 3<sup>rd</sup> dekad of September, 2008**



Source: FEWS/NOAA