

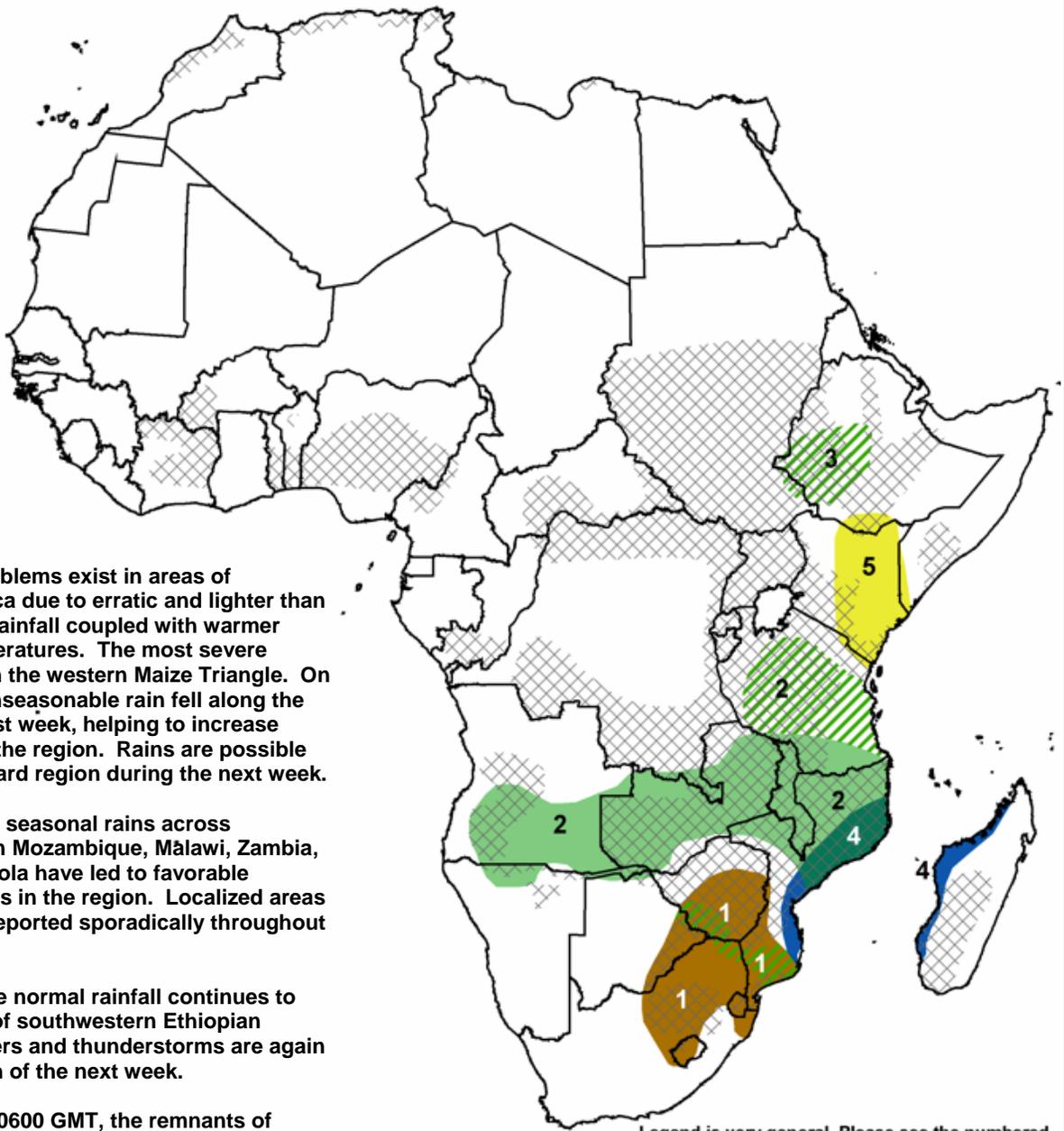


The USAID FEWS-NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa

April 5 - 11, 2007



- Remnants of Cyclone Jaya will bring locally heavy rainfall to areas of Madagascar and northern coastal Mozambique during the next week.
- Though portions of The Horn are experiencing slow to start seasonal rainfall, areas of the Ethiopian Highlands have seen moderate to heavy precipitation.



1) Agricultural problems exist in areas of southeastern Africa due to erratic and lighter than normal seasonal rainfall coupled with warmer than normal temperatures. The most severe conditions exist in the western Maize Triangle. On a positive note, unseasonable rain fell along the Limpopo Basin last week, helping to increase water supplies in the region. Rains are possible in the eastern hazard region during the next week.

2) Well distributed seasonal rains across Tanzania, northern Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and southern Angola have led to favorable growing conditions in the region. Localized areas of flooding were reported sporadically throughout the season.

3) Normal to above normal rainfall continues to fall in Belg areas of southwestern Ethiopian highlands. Showers and thunderstorms are again likely during much of the next week.

4) As of April 4 at 0600 GMT, the remnants of Tropical Cyclone Jaya was located just off the northwestern coast of Madagascar. Winds were sustained at 25 Knots and are decreasing. Associated moisture with the system will likely bring locally heavy showers to areas of western Madagascar and coastal Mozambique during the next few days.

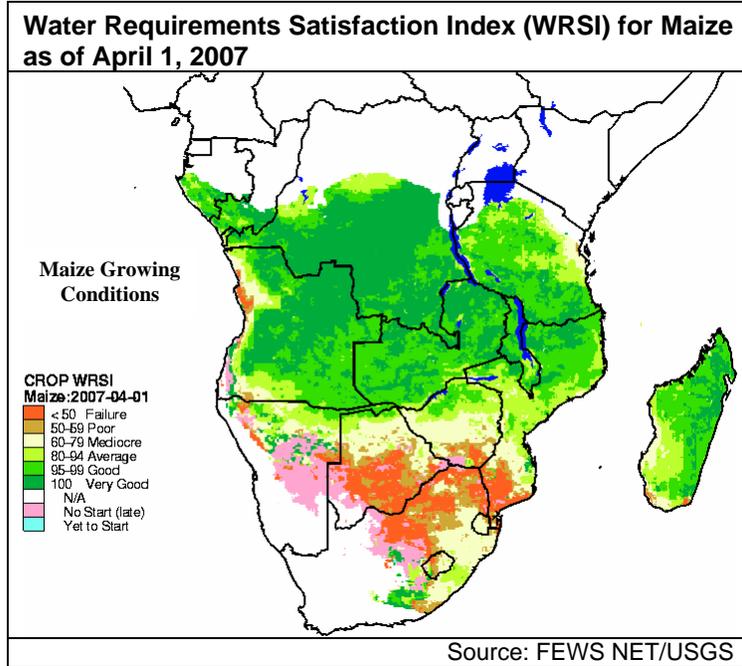
5) Rains are slow to start in portions of eastern Kenya as moisture deficits continue to increase and dryness concerns become evident.

Legend is very general. Please see the numbered descriptions for each area depicted on the map.

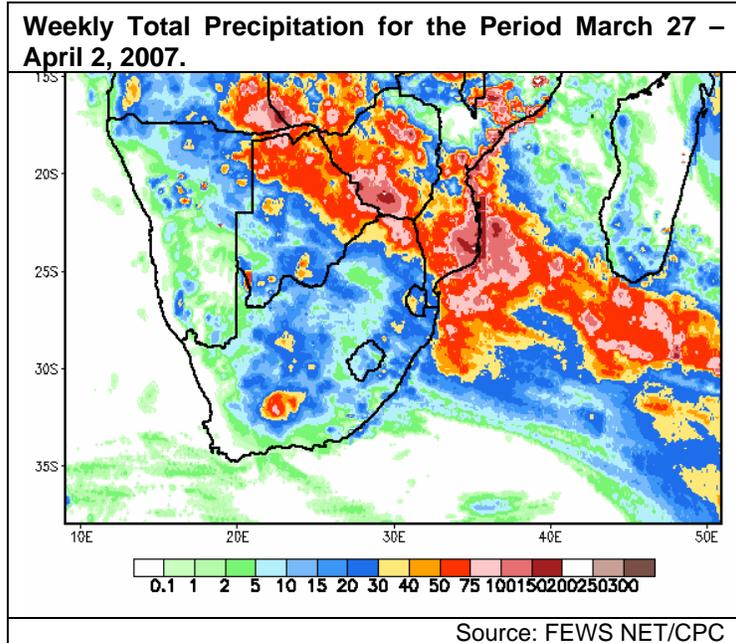
	Extreme Event		Flooding
	Humanitarian Concern		Severe, Long Term Drought
	Favorable		Drought
	Somewhat Favorable		Short Term Dryness or Drought Recovery
	In Season Crop Areas		

While poor seasonal rains have negatively affected crops in parts of the Maize Triangle, southern Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique, recent rains will improve conditions in the Limpopo Basin.

The Water Requirements Satisfaction Index, shown below, indicates broad regions of poor water availability for Maize agriculture in much of southern Africa. Due to erratic rainfall during the season, many crops received a lack of sufficient moisture, and associated warmer than normal temperatures may have led to further problems in many locations. Areas of the western Maize triangle likely saw the most unfavorable growing conditions during the season.



As shown below, a strong frontal system moved through the Limpopo Basin region during the past week, bringing widespread rainfall to the area. 7-Day precipitation totals exceeded 100 mm in many locations, with some localized areas receiving greater than 150 mm. The increased moisture availability will lead to favorable conditions for flood recession crops throughout the area as well as replenished drinking water supplies.



Eastern Kenya Rainfall Season Begins Slowly While Ethiopian Highlands are Wetter than Normal.

Seasonal rainfall has been slow to start throughout much of eastern Kenya and adjacent parts of southern Ethiopia and Somalia, as concerns for short term dryness grow. After the recent season of heavier than normal precipitation leading to an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever, 2007 seasonal rains have been erratic and much lighter than normal in many eastern Kenyan locations. Insufficient moisture has fallen in the region to warrant most crop planting activities, and latest rainfall forecasts from meteorological models do not forecast normal precipitation to fall over the area during the next week.

