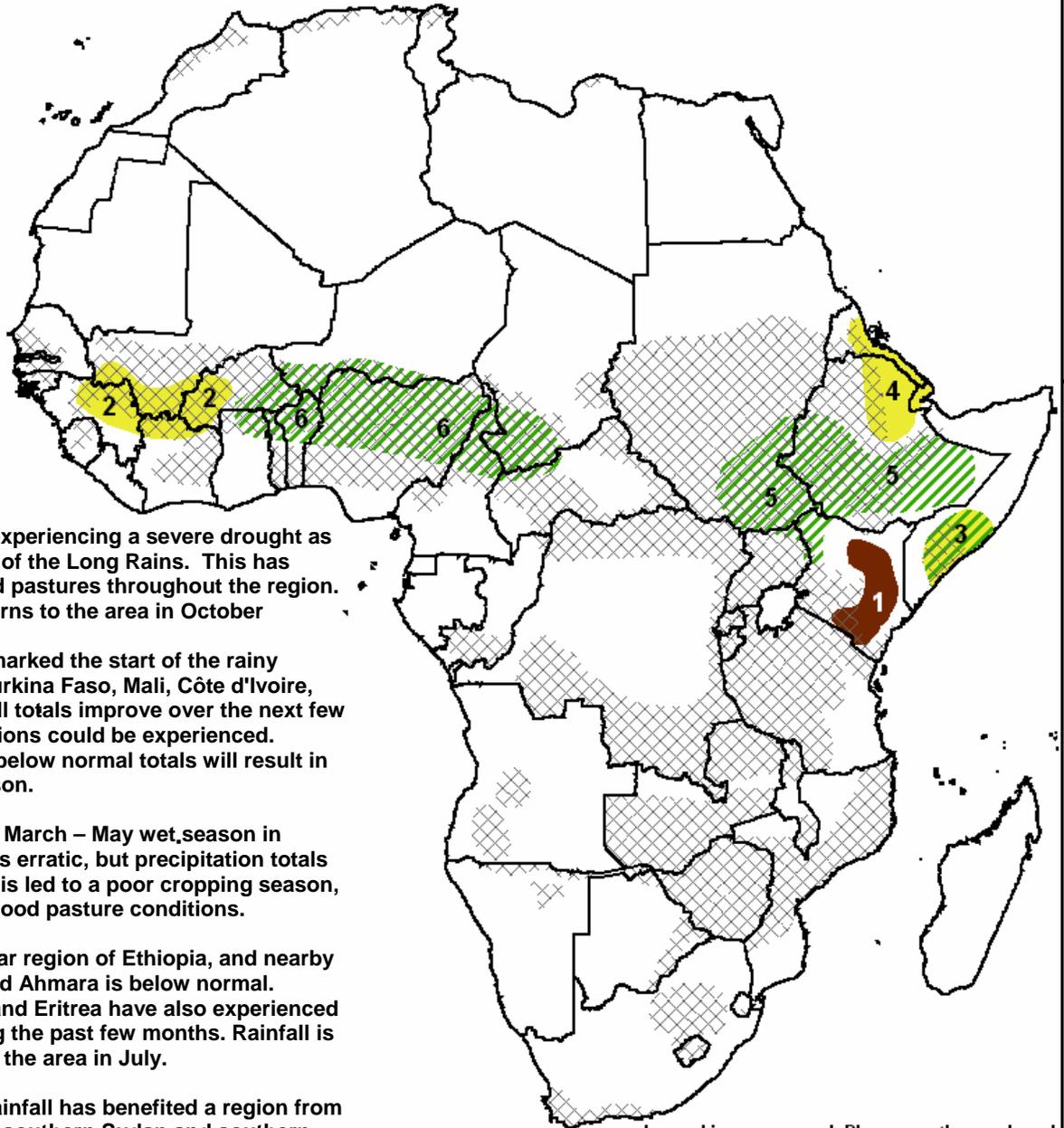


- West Africa has been drying out during the past few weeks. This includes a wide area from Burkina Faso to Chad that had experienced a good start to the season. Further to the west from Burkina Faso to Guinea the area has been slightly drier than normal since the beginning of the season.
- Kenya remains in a severe drought after the failure of the Long Season rains. Meanwhile southern Somalia, during the same period saw erratic rainfall that wilted crops in the region. The Afar region in Ethiopia also remains dry, but there has been scattered precipitation in the region during the past few weeks.



1) Eastern Kenya is experiencing a severe drought as a result of the failure of the Long Rains. This has devastated crops and pastures throughout the region. Rainfall typically returns to the area in October

2) Light rainfall has marked the start of the rainy season in parts of Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea. If rainfall totals improve over the next few weeks normal conditions could be experienced. However, continued below normal totals will result in a poor cropping season.

3) Rainfall during the March – May wet season in southern Somalia was erratic, but precipitation totals were near normal. This led to a poor cropping season, but also resulted in good pasture conditions.

4) Moisture in the Afar region of Ethiopia, and nearby sections of Tigray and Ahmara is below normal. Portions of Djibouti and Eritrea have also experienced dry conditions during the past few months. Rainfall is expected to return to the area in July.

5) Well distributed rainfall has benefited a region from northwestern Kenya, southern Sudan and southern Ethiopia. Pastures, crops and drinking water supplies have all benefited from the plentiful rains.

6) Abundant rains over the past month has favored recently sown crops while giving moisture supplies an early boost across an area stretching from southern Chad to eastern Burkina Faso. There are concerns that recent dryness in the area may be reversing the regions good start to the season.

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		

Sharp contrast of conditions across the Greater Horn of Africa.

While Kenya and Somalia experienced a poor cropping season, better conditions are found across most of Ethiopia. Preseasonal rainfall has been lighter than normal in the greater Darfur area.

Kenya has experienced a variety of conditions with eastern portions of the country experiencing a failure of the March – May rainfall, but normal to above normal cropping conditions in the western portion of the country. This includes the breadbasket of Kenya, near Lake Victoria. Coastal sections of the country have been allowed to dry out as the flood inducing rainfall earlier in the month has given way to dry conditions. The floods damaged infrastructure, flooded refugee camps and washed out roads.

In southern Somalia similar, although less severe conditions remain as the March – May rains were erratic and totals reach 70% of normal. The erratic rainfall wilted crops, while the lower than normal totals may reduce pasture as we get into August and September. At the current time it is not known how large of an impact this will have. Light rainfall has persisted in the northern parts of the country, well past the normal end of the season. This will likely help improve poor pasture conditions that resulted from below normal rainfall totals.

Ethiopia has had a normal to above normal Belg season and, thus far normal to above normal Meher season. The only large area to have experienced poor conditions is the greater Afar region, including parts of Tigray, and Amhara, as well as nearby parts of Eritrea and Djibouti. These areas main rainy season does not begin until July, and some early rains in the area have already brought relief.

While southern Sudan has experienced the same wet conditions as nearby Ethiopia, one area remains the exception. Preseasonal rainfall has been below normal in the greater Darfur area. This is not yet a major concern, as the main rainy season does not get underway until early July. With the on going humanitarian crisis in the area, this region will require close monitoring.

Early moisture from Chad to Burkina Faso has given way to dry conditions.

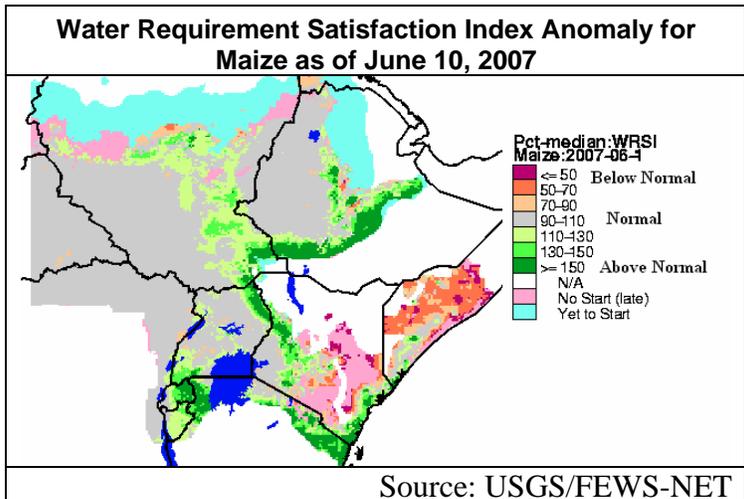
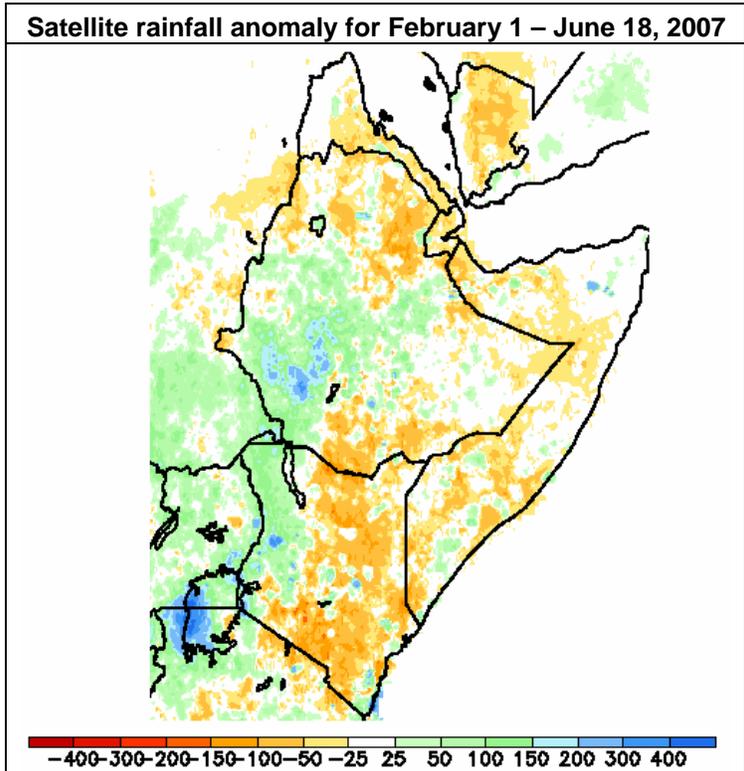
The wet season got off to an early start across a wide area of the eastern Sahel. Parts of Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Togo, Benin, and Burkina Faso all received precipitation before the normal start to the season.

The early rainfall has recently backed off, precipitation totals over the last week have dropped significantly and are expected to remain below normal for the next week. This could be a sign that unfavorable sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean have begun to impact the area.

If this is not the case, and moisture returns to the area, few impacts are expected. However, a prolonged dry spell will have significant ramifications in the region.

Below normal rainfall causes short term dryness in the western Sahel.

Unlike the eastern portions of the Sahel, the west did not receive an early shot of moisture. The region, however has seen surpress convection since the start of the wet season earlier this month. Precipitation totals have been unimpressive from western Burkina Faso into nearby sections of Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali. The area of dryness extends into Guinea. Nearby areas are also show slight moisture deficits and the polygon (shown on page one) has the potential to expand if precipitation totals do not pick up. This is especially true in parts of Guinea Bissau and Senegal. Other parts of Mali and Burkina Faso are also showing small deficits that have the potential to grow.



Source: USGS/FEWS-NET

