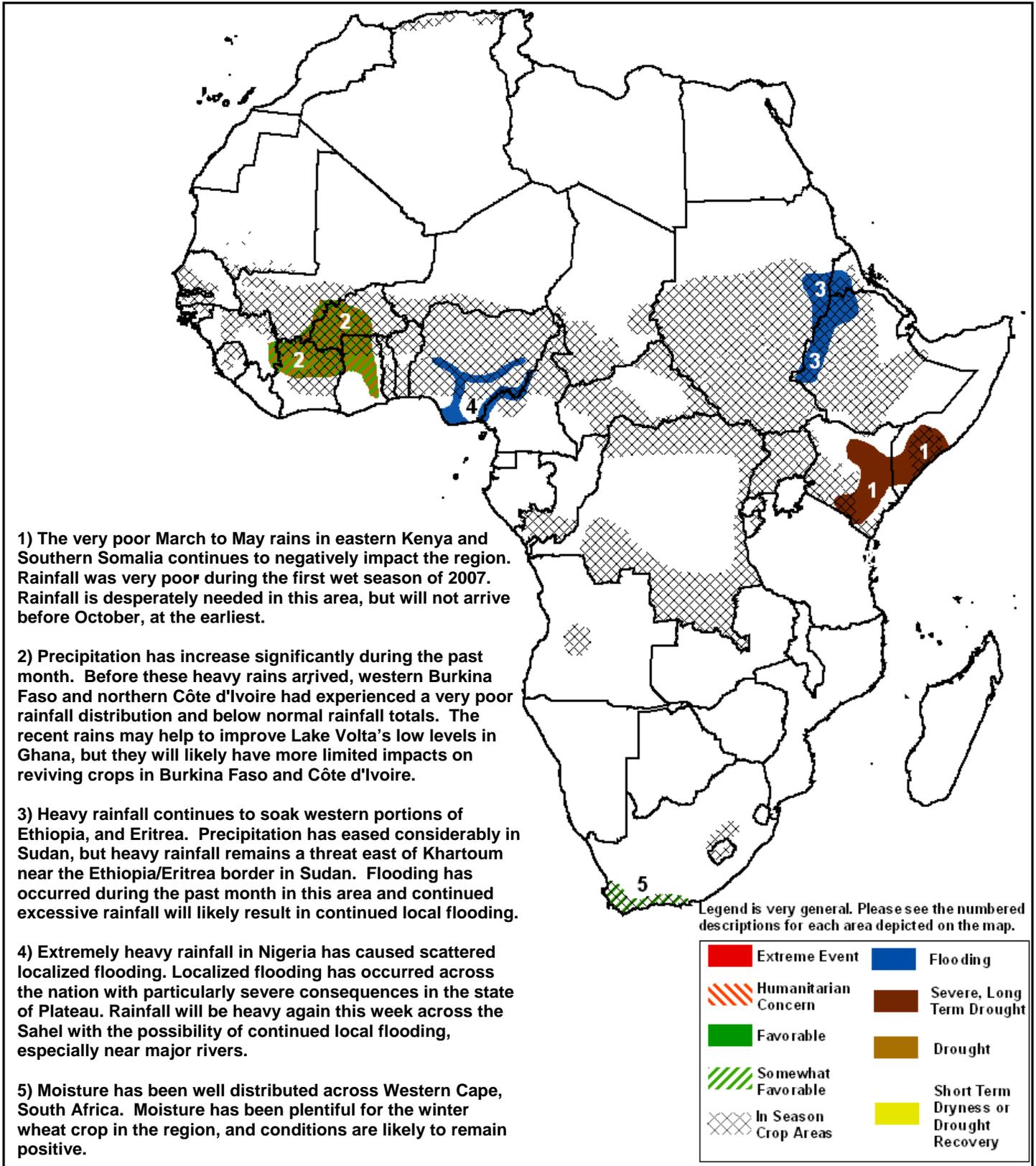


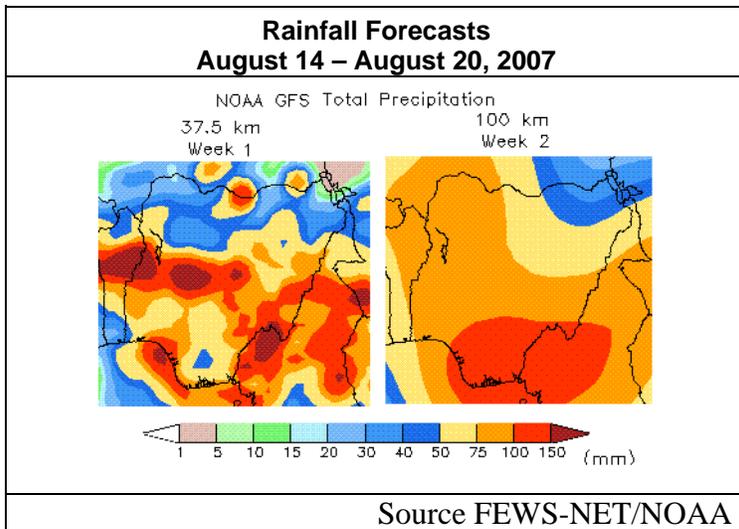
- A slow, and in some locations erratic start to the rainy season in west Africa, has given way to excessively wet conditions. There has been localized flooding across portions of the Sahel and the Greater Horn. Additional heavy rains are likely to continue this week and through the end of August.
- Rainfall totals remain normal to slightly above normal across most of the Greater Horn of Africa. Meanwhile, eastern Kenya continues to wait for the next wet season to relieve the drought left by the poor March – May rains.



Excessive moisture in Nigeria causes localized flooding, rain likely to continue

Like most of west Africa, Nigeria had small, but persistent rainfall deficits until recently. As of the middle of June, deficits as high as 100 mm had accrued since the rains started in May. Now a moisture surplus of up to and exceeding 200 mm is prevalent across the country.

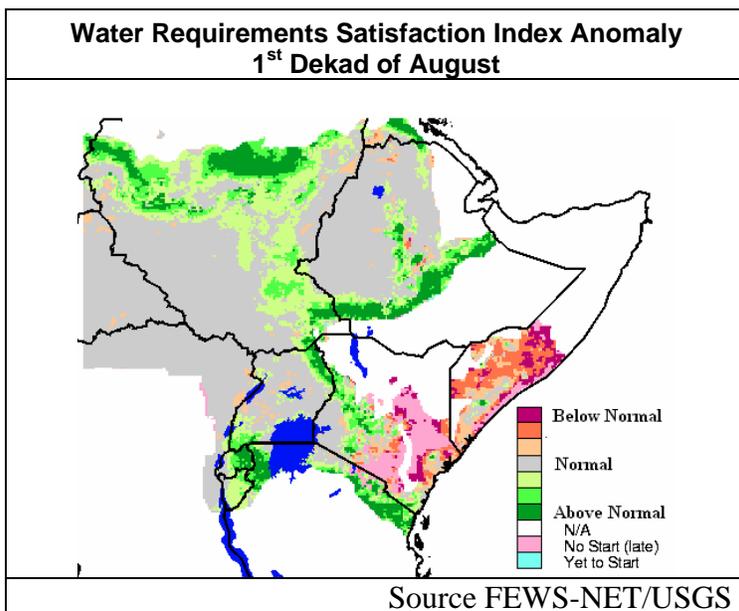
Beginning in the middle of June heavy rain moved into the region, and has remained since. The rainfall has caused localized flooding in Nigeria and elsewhere in the Sahel. Rainfall is expected to remain at least in the near term, and there is the possibility that rainfall will remain heavy throughout the rest of the season. Sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic and Gulf of Guinea, however provide a less wet scenario, possibly helping to suppress the rain throughout the region.



Rainfall has been plentiful over most of the northern and western Greater Horn, but lingering problems remain in Kenya and Somalia

Heavy rains across the Ethiopian highlands and Sudan has lead to a normal season throughout the region. These rains, however, have come at a cost. Localized flooding in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea near the other two countries has caused minor problems. The abundant rainfall stretches south towards Lakes Turkana and Victoria. Flooding and landslides have also occurred here in western Kenya as a result of the excess moisture.

The story is very different in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, where a poor March – May wet season has left drought conditions. Rainfall is needed here during the next wet season to prevent a more severe crisis. The rains typically return to this area in October.



The ITCZ approaches its zenith

We are now approaching the climatological maximum northward push of the ITCZ. In the next month the area where the rains are located will begin to move towards the south. Normally the movement to the south is twice as fast as the move was to the north.

The ITCZ maintained its normal position over the first ten days of August. Rainfall south of the ITCZ remained above normal during the dekad. The ITCZ has remained near normal for the past two dekads, this is a change, and an improvement over its erratic behavior earlier in the season.

