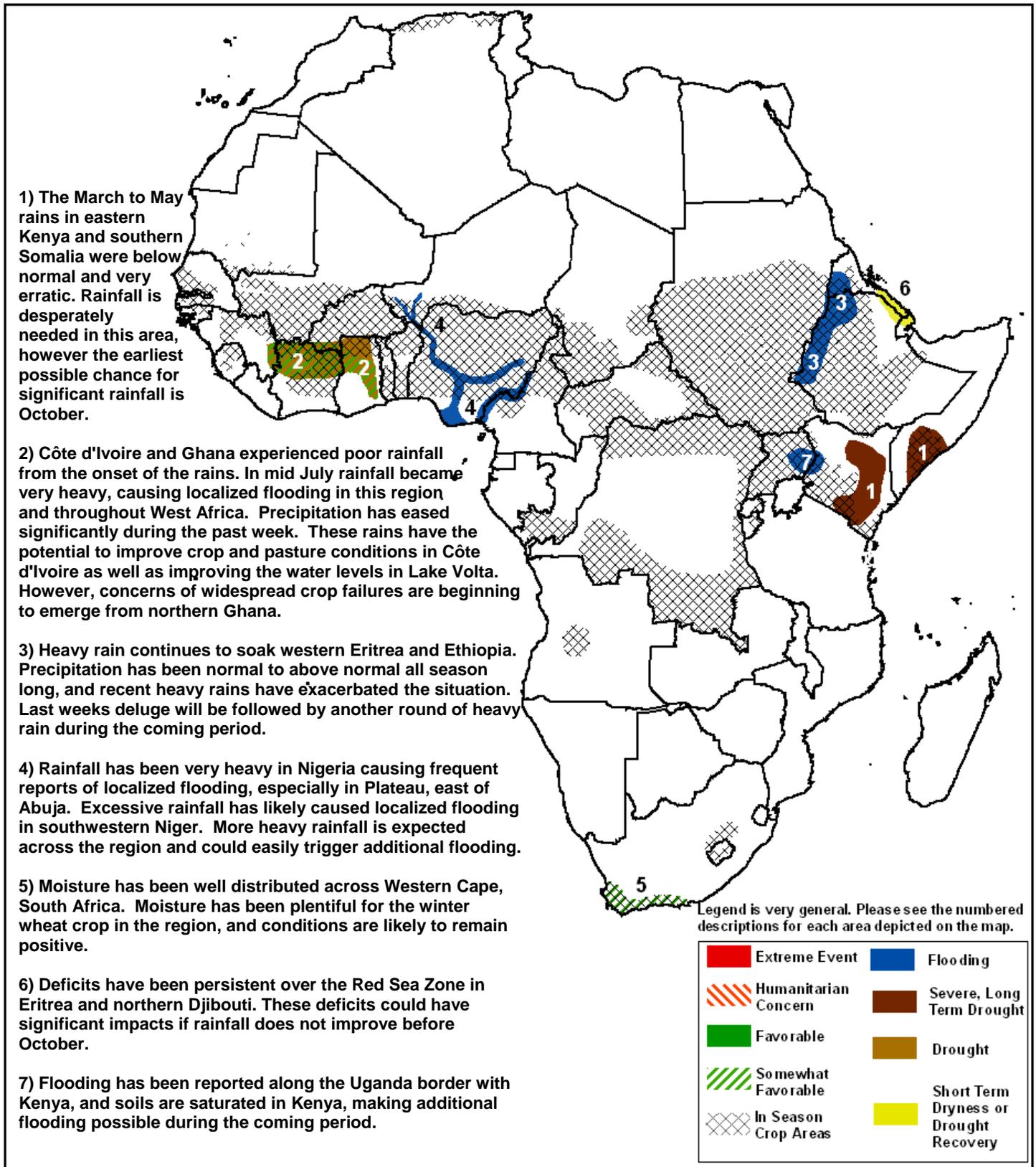


- Wet conditions persist across West Africa. The rainfall is improving areas that have experienced a poor start to the season. The wet conditions have caused localized flooding, especially in Mali, Niger and Nigeria.
- Portions of Eritrea and Djibouti need more rain this wet season, while western Ethiopia and Eritrea have experienced excess moisture. Meanwhile Kenya and Somalia continue to wait for the return of the rains in October.

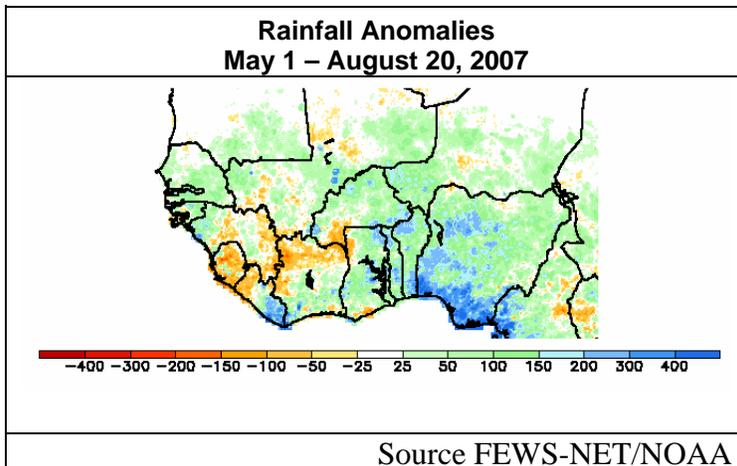


Crop concerns growing in northern Ghana, wet conditions remain in Sahel, Gulf of Guinea region

Rainfall began the wet season in the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea regions suppressed. This allowed moderate negative rainfall anomalies to build. The deficits however were quickly erased beginning in mid July when precipitation rapidly intensified. Few areas now boast deficits and localized flooding has occurred in Mali, Niger, and especially in Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

Most areas that experienced a delay in the rains have been able to recover, although at the cost of minor flooding. Northern Ghana, however has not. The heavier rains arrived after crops had already wilted. Similar conditions are possible in Côte d'Ivoire, where rainfall deficits have not been erased entirely.

Rainfall is expected to continue to be heavy throughout the region during the coming period, possibly causing additional localized flooding.

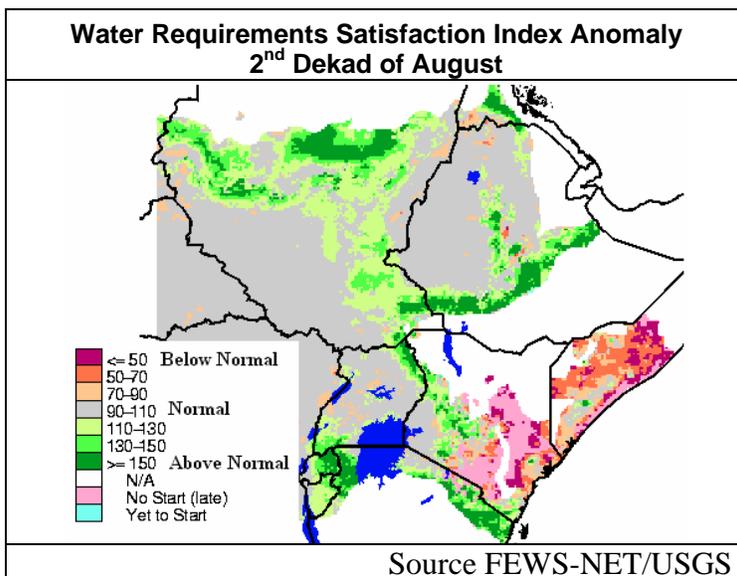


Wet and dry conditions in different parts of the Greater Horn

The current wet season across Sudan and Ethiopia has been normal, to above normal in terms of precipitation. Rainfall has been well distributed with near normal totals. The rains moved into the Afar region on time as well and have provided sufficient rainfall. These rains typically come to a close in October.

Precipitation has also been plentiful in the Lake Turkana area of Kenya as well as around the Lake Victoria basin. There have been isolated flooding and landslide incidents to the north of Lake Victoria in Kenya.

Conditions further east in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, however are poor. Rainfall totals were very poor in eastern Kenya, while precipitation was extremely erratic in southern Somalia. Crop failures in both areas and poor pasture regeneration in eastern Kenya has had a serious impact on livelihoods throughout the region. Rainfall is desperately needed in this area. Moisture usually returns to this area in October.



The ITCZ reaches its northward peak, becomes unstable

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) delineates the moist rain producing air to the south, from the dry desert air to the north. This line is crucial in determining the areas that currently have received and have the potential to receive moisture.

The ITCZ typically reaches its most northward journey during the second dekad of August. It now will begin to move southward at approximately twice the speed of its northward progress.

This dekad the ITCZ was very unstable. Although the 10 day average is near normal, rainfall just to the south of the ITCZ was light in many areas. There are two expectations to this. The first is in Mauritania where rainfall deficits are growing and where the ITCZ has had a notable lag all season long. The other exception is in Niger where rainfall was above normal for the second dekad in spite of the instability of the ITCZ.

A slower than normal southward movement of the ITCZ would greatly improve conditions in areas that experienced a late start to the season, however with the current daily fluctuations of the ITCZ being very large this seems unlikely to happen. Slower than normal southward movement would also benefit Lake Volta, which continues to have below normal water levels.

