

- Good harvests expected in the Sahel, third year of no major harvest problems.
- Desert locusts threaten the Greater Horn of Africa (see page 2).

1) Due to poor seasonal rainfall, the recent harvest failed in Somalia, and pastures continue to suffer in Kenya. This is likely to continue until the next rainy season in October.

2) Rainfall has weakened over Ethiopia, western Eritrea and eastern Sudan. However, there were reports of landslides, last period in Ethiopia. The Shabelle River continues to flood as water has flowed down stream from the Ethiopian highlands into Somalia displacing hundreds and affecting farmland.

3) Precipitation has been heavy in Nigeria and Cameroon. Excessive rainfall has inundated crops and infrastructure, causing damage across the region.

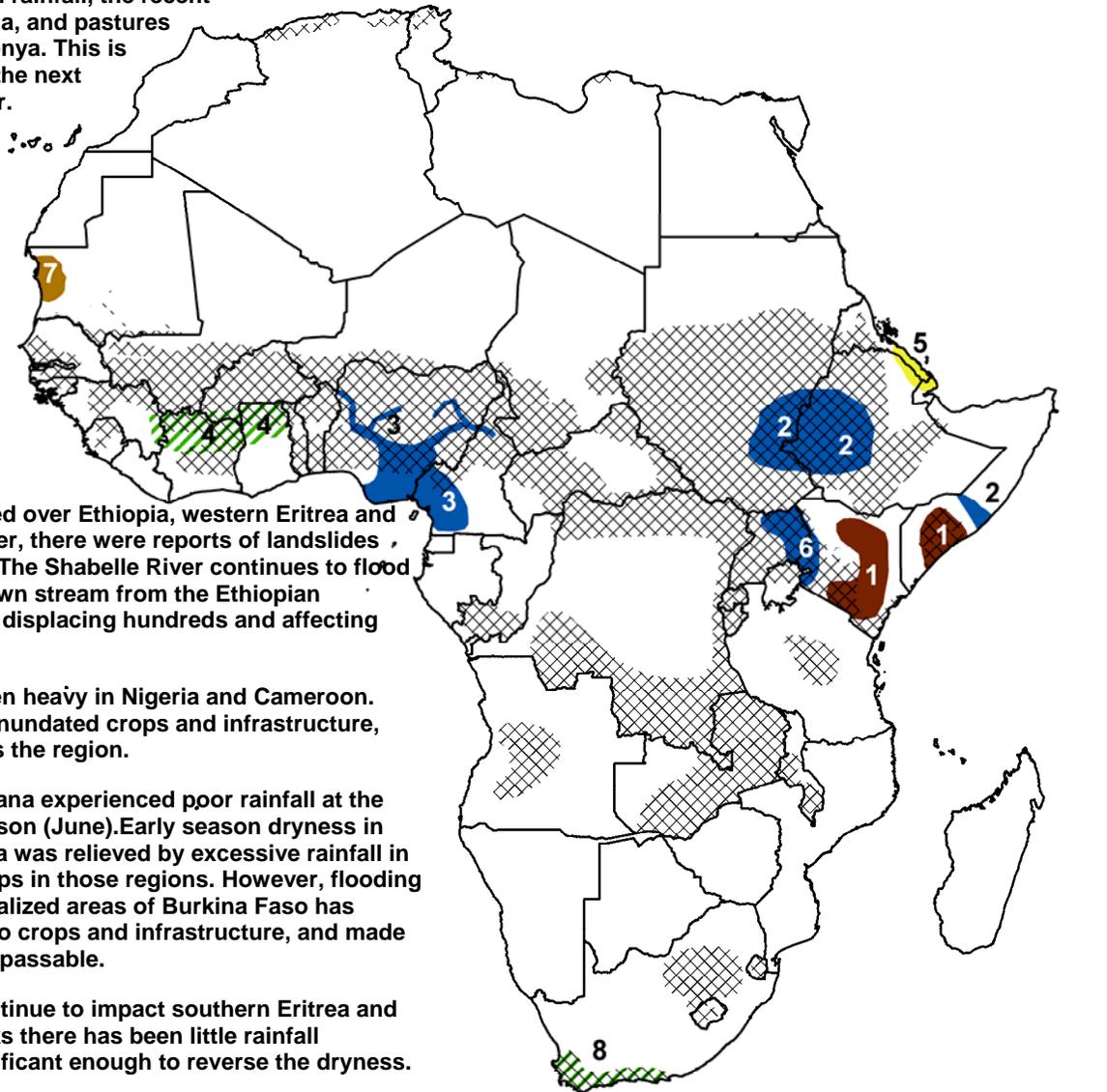
4) Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana experienced poor rainfall at the onset of their rainy season (June). Early season dryness in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana was relieved by excessive rainfall in mid July improving crops in those regions. However, flooding in Cote d'Ivoire and localized areas of Burkina Faso has caused some damage to crops and infrastructure, and made roads in some areas impassable.

5) Moisture deficits continue to impact southern Eritrea and Djibouti. In recent weeks there has been little rainfall accumulation, not significant enough to reverse the dryness.

6) Heavy rains inundated the Kenya-Uganda border area. These rains occurred during the harvest period in the Northern Rift Valley areas, potentially affecting crop yields. Flooding in northern Uganda has already had a significant impact on IDP camps and their accessibility, and will increase the risk of water-borne diseases. Flooding in Uganda could worsen given the potential for above normal rains between late September and December.

7) Recent rains have improved pasture conditions for small ruminants, but dry conditions throughout much of July and August have made it difficult for large animals (especially cattle) to access adequate grazing land. Although the region is not heavily populated, rain deficit impacts are significant. Conditions are not expected to improve in the near future.

8) Well distributed precipitation has favored winter wheat crops in Western Cape, South Africa.



Legend

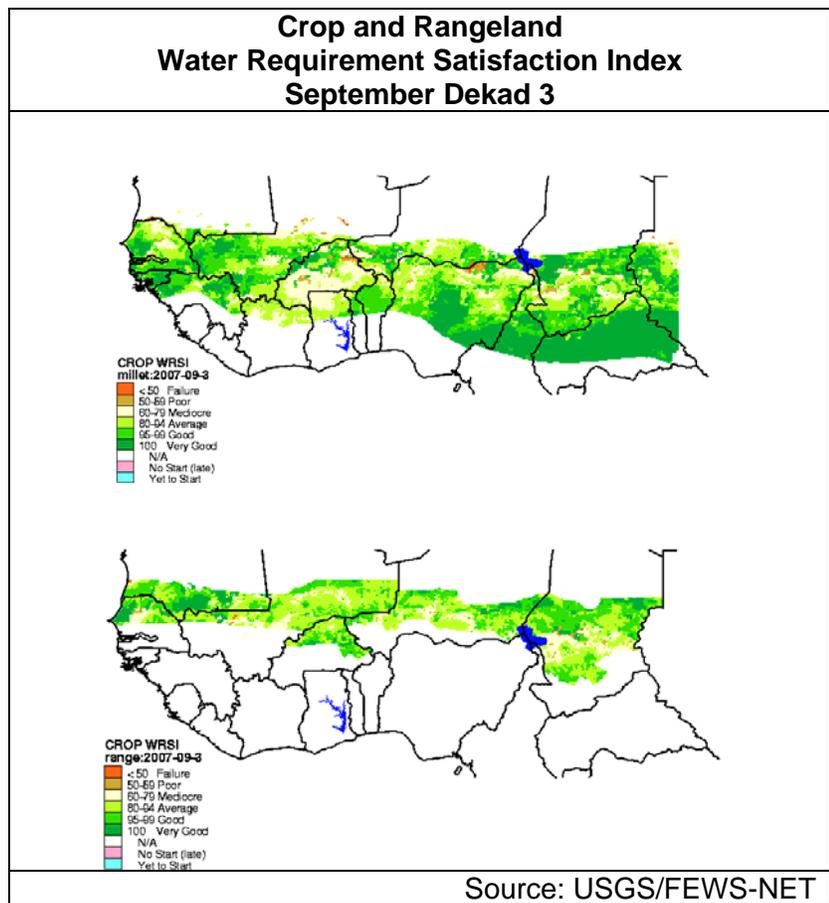
	Extreme Event		Flooding
	Humanitarian Concern		Severe, Long Term Drought
	Favorable		Drought
	Somewhat Favorable		Short Term Dryness or Drought Recovery
	In Season Crop Areas		

Heavy rains cause significant, but good season overall.

Since mid July excessive rainfall has characterized the majority of the Sahel to the Greater Horn of Africa. Flash floods and localized flooding have been the cause of lost homes, agriculture, infrastructure, and death. Despite the locally harsh impacts rains have had, the Sahel can expect a good harvest.

From June to mid July early season dryness affected Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, all of which then experienced excessive rainfall and localized flooding. Rains have revived the dry conditions in those regions, however have caused localized flooding. Local emergencies are being addressed. Agricultural impacts of the flooding are very local and not significant on the national level. Due to the relief provided by the late excessive rains, overall, the Sahel is expected to have a very good harvest. This will now make the third successive year where harvests were good as long as rains now continue at normal.

In the coming observation period heavy rains will continue across the lower Sahel region as the ITCZ continues its southern trek. Seasonal rains are expected in the northern Sahel.



Locusts Threaten GHA

According to the FAO, local breeding is in progress along the coastal plains in Eritrea and Sudan where groups of adults laid eggs last month. Hatching is expected in the near future in Tokar Delta, Sudan, in Eritrea near Mehimet in the north and near Shieb on the central coast. During October, breeding is expected to extend into other coastal areas in both countries. Breeding has occurred earlier than normal this year because of good rainfall since August. Consequently, there is a high risk that locusts will increase dramatically in the coming months.

The locust infestation in Yemen is declining due to vegetation drying out, but there is a risk of these swarms moving into Somalia. During periods of strong northerly winds, swarms from Yemen could reach northern Somalia. In northeastern Somalia, there have been several reports of locusts. Locusts were first reported near Iskushuban in mid September. Locust swarms were also reported over Gardo. It is unclear if these are local infestations or from Yemen. Heavy rains in recent weeks have allowed favorable breeding conditions and consequently, locusts will increase in the coming months in the traditional summer breeding areas of the countries.

