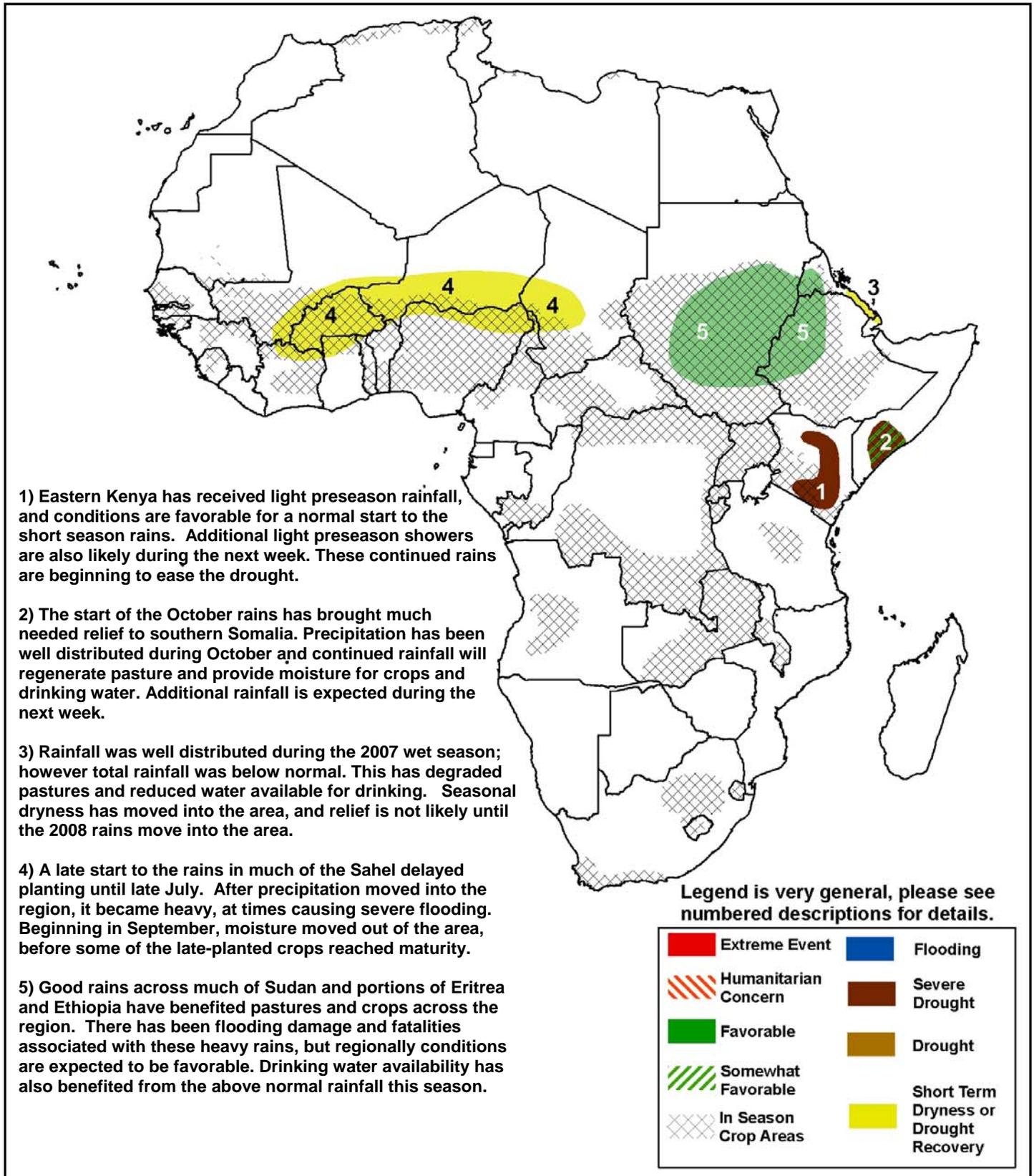


- Although seasonal rainfall totals were average to above average in most of the Sahel, the season started late and ended abruptly in mid-September. As a result of the short duration of the rains and flooding in some areas, localized crop losses are expected.
- The start of the short-rains is bringing relief to areas of East Africa affected by drought earlier in the year. In southern Somalia, precipitation began on time in October and has not been excessive. Meanwhile pre-season rainfall in eastern Kenya suggests a timely start-of-season in the next couple weeks.



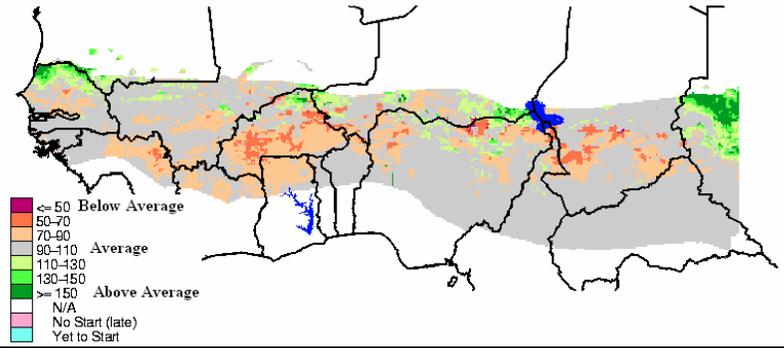
**Rocky season in central West Africa comes to abrupt end, consequences undetermined**

Rainfall started later than normal across much of the Sahel, resulting in planting delays and causing some farmers to switch to shorter-cycle crops, where they were available.

When precipitation did arrive in the region, toward the end of July, rainfall was generally heavy. The excess moisture resulted in significant localized flooding in many countries in the Sahel and along the Gulf of Guinea. These floods caused localized damage to crops and infrastructure and caused numerous deaths.

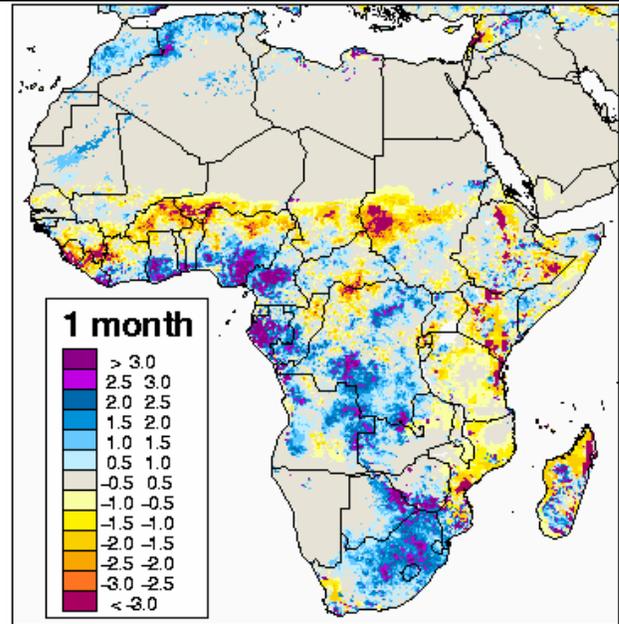
Rains abruptly withdrew from the region in mid-September, before many late-planted crops had reached maturity. It is likely that the truncated nature of the 2007 rainy season will lead to some localized production losses. While the full extent of these losses is not yet known, as assessments are currently underway, it is anticipated that residual household and state food security stocks and well-supplied markets from two years of surplus production, as well as this year's off-season agricultural production, will offset main-season production losses and help maintain cereal prices within their normal seasonal range

**Water Requirements Satisfaction Index for Millet  
October Dekad 2**



Source: NOAA/FEWS-NET

**Standard Deviation of Precipitation  
September 21 – October 20, 2007**



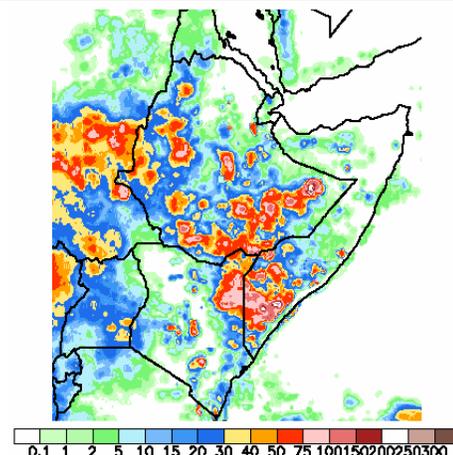
Source: USGS/FEWS-NET

**Moisture continues to increase in the Horn, rainfall reviving pastures, benefiting crops**

After the failed March – May rains in eastern Kenya and southern Somalia crops, pastures and drinking water availability all suffered. Moisture has now returned to the region at the normal time, with steady rains falling in southern Somalia and pre-season showers pushing into parch portions of Kenya. Although more rainfall is needed, the October – December rains have begun on time and thus far are delivering sufficient moisture. The rains are expected to continue into the coming week with the potential for normal rainfall totals across the region.

One notable exception to the regions good rains is Eritrea where rainfall totals have been below normal.

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall  
October 16 – 22, 2007**



NOAA/FEWS-NET