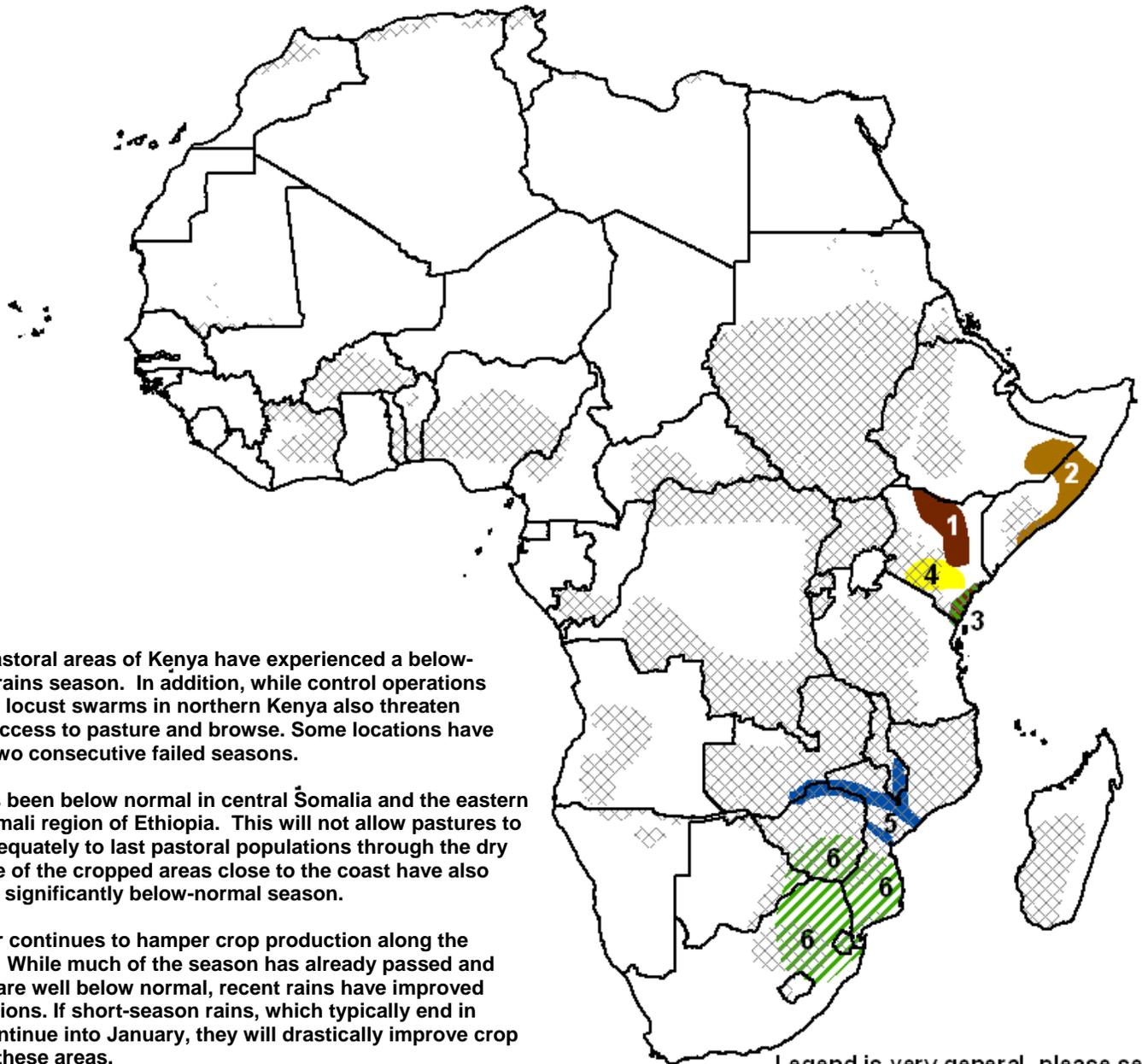


- Locusts in areas of Somalia, northern Kenya, and Ethiopia have the potential to damage pastures and crops. Initial control efforts in Kenya have been successful. However, locusts continue to cross the Somalia and Ethiopian borders into Kenya. This event, which is likely to continue through January, has the potential to locally exacerbate the complex food security situation in GHA.
- Rainfall continues to benefit many areas of southern Africa. This is increasing water available for drinking, softening the earth for sowing of seeds and regenerating pastures. Flooding has been, and continues to be a localized problem along the Buzi, Pungue, Zambezi and Shire Rivers.



1) Northern pastoral areas of Kenya have experienced a below-normal short-rains season. In addition, while control operations are underway, locust swarms in northern Kenya also threaten pastoralists' access to pasture and browse. Some locations have experienced two consecutive failed seasons.

2) Rainfall has been below normal in central Somalia and the eastern part of the Somali region of Ethiopia. This will not allow pastures to regenerate adequately to last pastoral populations through the dry season. Some of the cropped areas close to the coast have also experienced a significantly below-normal season.

3) Dry weather continues to hamper crop production along the Kenyan coast. While much of the season has already passed and rainfall totals are well below normal, recent rains have improved ground conditions. If short-season rains, which typically end in December, continue into January, they will drastically improve crop conditions in these areas.

4) While October - December rains have been erratic in much of south-central Kenya, recent improvements in rainfall may allow for a near-normal season.

5) A month of heavy rainfall began causing flooding in Zimbabwe in mid-December. The heavy rainfall is expected to continue and has the potential to cause flooding along the Buzi, Pungue, Zambezi and Shire Rivers.

6) Precipitation in parts of southeastern Africa has been above normal, benefiting early season cropping activities, regenerating pastures and increasing water supplies. Much of the rest of southern Africa is off to a normal start to the season.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



## Desert Locust Situation Worsens

According to the FAO, the desert locust situation has become more serious in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, infestations of hopper bands extend from the Ogaden in the north to the Kenyan border in the south. Most of the infestations are near Warder and Gode. New infestations have been spotted near the Rift Valley, between Negele and Teltele. The hoppers have caused crop and pasture damage, particularly in the Gode area.

In Kenya, small hopper bands are present in Mandera and Moyale. On 19 December, an immature swarm crossed the Dawa River from southern Ethiopia and settled west of Mandera. Its size was estimated to be about 5 km long by 3 km wide.

National plant protection teams in both countries are conducting ground control operations against the current locust infestations. The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) is reinforcing these operations with aircraft and experts for survey and control. Many of the hopper infestations in northeast Kenya have been treated, but control efforts in Ethiopia are limited because numerous areas are not safe or accessible.

The current situation is less well known in adjacent areas of central and southern Somalia, where similar locust infestations may be present.

Although most of the swarms are expected to move in southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya, there is a slight risk that a few swarms could reach northeast Uganda and a very low risk of their reaching northern Tanzania.

### Rainfall beneficial, at times heavy in southern Africa

Rainfall continues to be excessive across southern Africa, with precipitation exceeding twice normal in many locations. Rainfall has been heavy in central Angola, and along Zimbabwe and Mozambique rivers so far this season. Recently, rainfall has become lighter across Angola, allowing the country to dry out.

Most flooding has been localized, causing relatively little damage to crops and infrastructure, however northern Zimbabwe has had larger-scale flooding, including significant damage to infrastructure and fatalities. See image at right.

### Poor Short Rains Come to a Close in the Horn

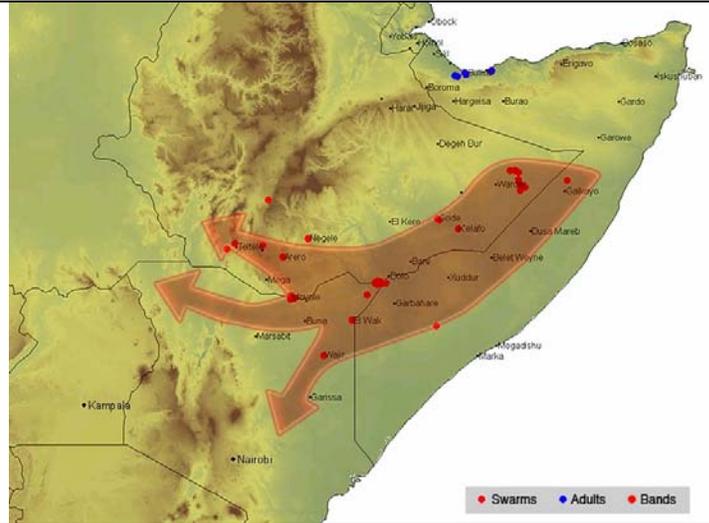
Rainfall was poor in many areas of the Greater Horn during the 2007 short-rains season. This followed on the heels of what had been a poor 2007 long-rains season. Some areas did manage a reasonable year, but many did not. The two countries most impacted by the poor rains have been Somalia and Kenya. The current locust infestation in the region has further complicated the situation.

In Somalia, the southern cropped areas had a poor first season, but a reasonable second season, with the exception of a strip of land along the coast. In the central pastoral areas, extending over the border into Ethiopia, rainfall was barely evident.

Meanwhile in Kenya, the north central region of the country has experienced two consecutive dry seasons, with areas along the coast needing additional precipitation to prevent a similar situation there. Closer to Lake Victoria, conditions have been normal for both seasons. See image at right.

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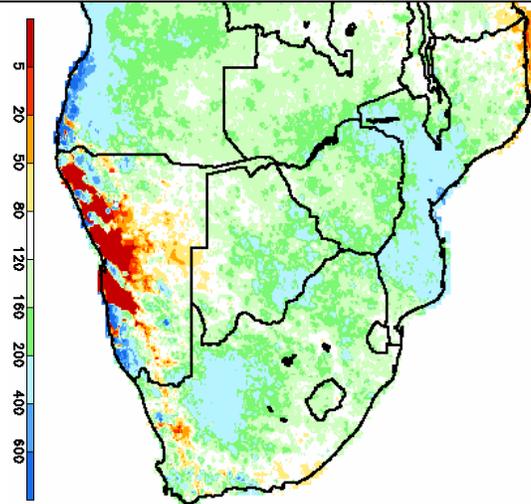
## Infestation of Desert Locusts in East Africa As of December 21, 2007



Locust swarms and hopper bands are spreading in parts of East Africa.

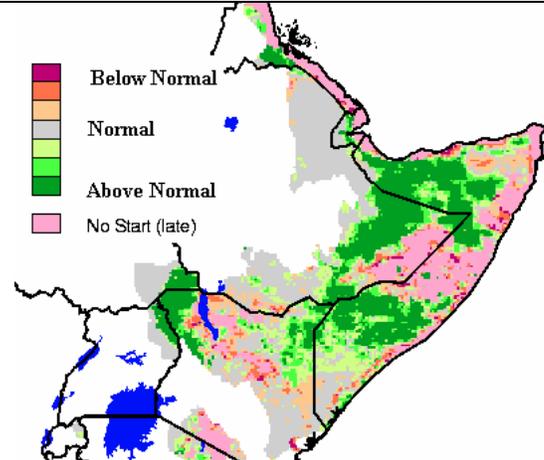
Source: FAO

## Rainfall Anomalies October 1- December 22, 2007



Source: NOAA

## Water Satisfaction Requirements Index for Pastures Anomalies as of December 20, 2007



Source: USGS