

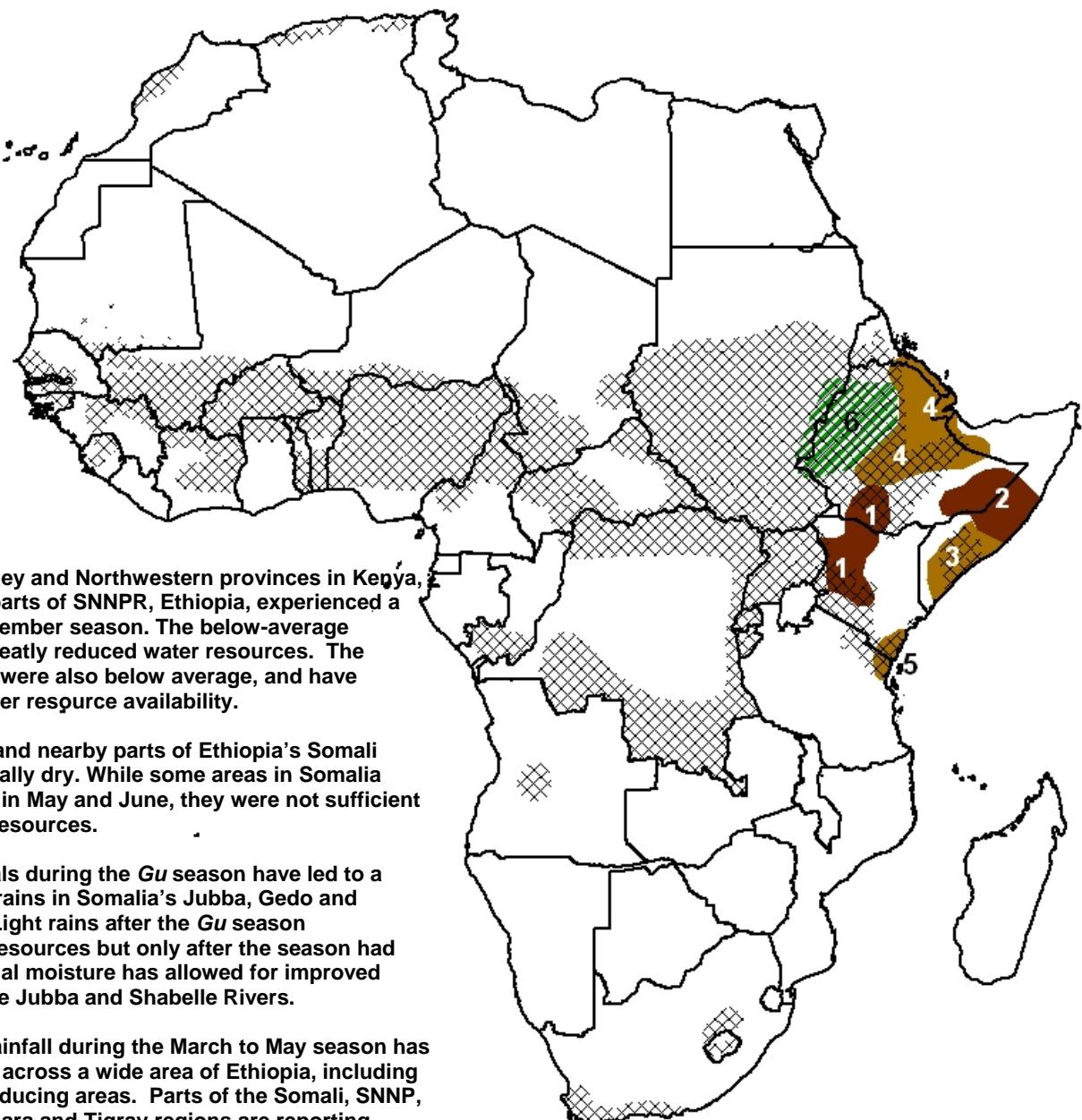


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa July 10 – 16, 2008

FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

- Well-distributed May-September rainfall continues to benefit crop conditions and water resources across many parts of the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea countries. However, marginal rainfall in parts of central and northeastern Nigeria in the last month has become increasingly below-average for this time of the season.
- While increased rainfall in the Greater Horn has helped to alleviate long-term dryness during the last week, drought conditions continue to worsen for many parts of Ethiopia and Kenya.



1) Northern Rift Valley and Northwestern provinces in Kenya, along with nearby parts of SNNPR, Ethiopia, experienced a poor October – December season. The below-average precipitation has greatly reduced water resources. The March to May rains were also below average, and have further reduced water resource availability.

2) Central Somalia and nearby parts of Ethiopia's Somali region remain critically dry. While some areas in Somalia received light rains in May and June, they were not sufficient to replenish water resources.

3) Poor rainfall totals during the *Gu* season have led to a failure of seasonal rains in Somalia's Jubba, Gedo and Shabelle regions. Light rains after the *Gu* season replenished water resources but only after the season had failed. The additional moisture has allowed for improved conditions along the Jubba and Shabelle Rivers.

4) Below-average rainfall during the March to May season has resulted in dryness across a wide area of Ethiopia, including *belg* and *meher* producing areas. Parts of the Somali, SNNP, Oromiya, Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions are reporting decreased water availability, with Afar, Somali, and the neighboring lowlands of Oromiya being the most severely affected. Dry conditions extend into Eritrea and Djibouti as well.

5) Coastal sections of Kenya and Tanzania have experienced below-average precipitation since last October.

6) Western Ethiopia, in contrast to much of the Horn of Africa, has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since the season began, in late March.

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

	Cropped Areas
	Somewhat Favorable
	Short-Term Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought

Rains benefit crops across much of West Africa, except for dryness in parts of Nigeria

During the last week, moderate to heavy rainfall totals (30 – 75 mm) were observed across much of the Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo and western Nigeria. Heavier totals (> 75 mm) were observed further west in parts of Cote de Ivore, Liberia, Guinea and southern Mali. Since the start of May, many parts of western Africa have experienced 120-150% of their average precipitation (**Figure 1**). These above-average rains have resulted in increased water availability, and sufficient soil moisture for the development of maize, millet and wheat crops. There have been no reports of localized flooding.

Despite an above-average season in much of West Africa, many parts of central and northeastern Nigeria have experienced a slight departure of May-September rains. Over the last 30 days, precipitation deficits ranging between 25-75 mm have been felt across the Kaduna, Plateau and Bauchi states with larger rainfall deficits concentrated in the Kano, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno states along the Nigeria / Niger border. In addition to low May-September rain totals, precipitation has also been considerably infrequent, with many local areas having experienced 9-11 consecutive days with no rain in parts of a normally wet northern Nigeria.

Since the start of July, satellite-derived crop analyses do not indicate any major areas of maize and millet degradation or soil moisture stress (**Figure 2**). However, if this dryness continues, decreased soil moisture will potentially lead to insufficient soil moisture, low crop yields and reduced water resources by the end of the season.

Precipitation forecasts over the next seven days do not show much change from last week's rainfall distribution. Heavier totals are expected for much of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali, with an increased chance for higher rainfall totals (> 50 mm) for much of Nigeria.

Despite increased rains, Kenya and Ethiopia drought looms

In the last seven days, isolated rainfall totals (50-75 mm) were observed over some significantly dry areas in Kenya and Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). While these high isolated rain totals should help to alleviate dry ground conditions, there are other areas in Kenya that are experiencing severe dryness since February. In the central province of Kenya, a 60% production loss is expected, while more crop failures are expected in the southeastern lowlands of Kenya, according to field reports.

In Ethiopia, precipitation has remained beneficial in much of western provinces, with considerably high rain deficits in parts of the Oromiya and Ogaden regions of Ethiopia, as well as parts of Djibouti, Eritrea and into Somalia. A continued absence of June-September rains is likely to compound the effects of consecutively failed rain seasons for some local areas.

Satellite-Derived Percent of Average Rainfall

May 1st – July 5th, 2008

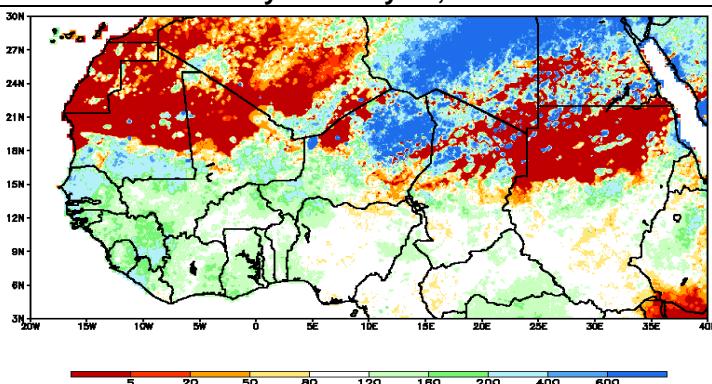


Figure 1

Source: NOAA/FEWS NET

WRSI for Millet Crop
As of 3rd Dekad of June, 2008

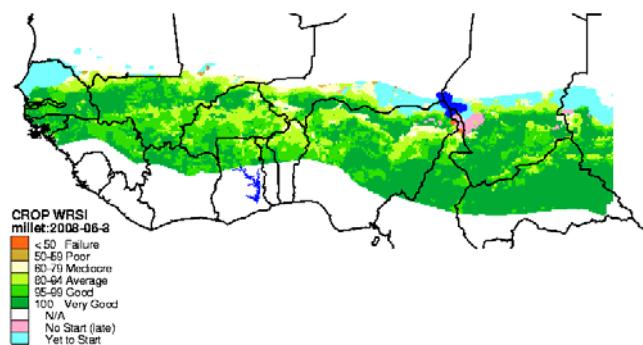


Figure 2

Source: USGS/FEWS NET

7-Day Satellite-Derived Rainfall
June 29th - July 5th, 2008

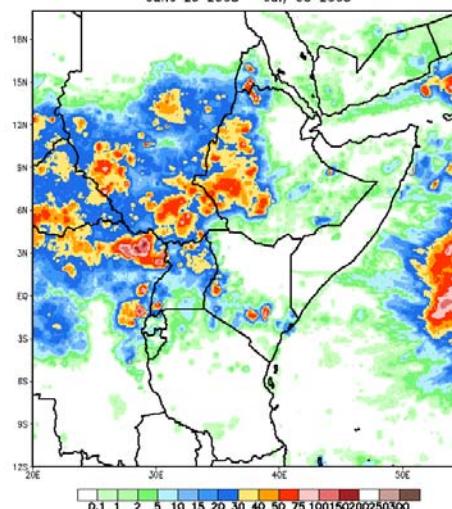


Figure 3

Source: NOAA/FEWS NET