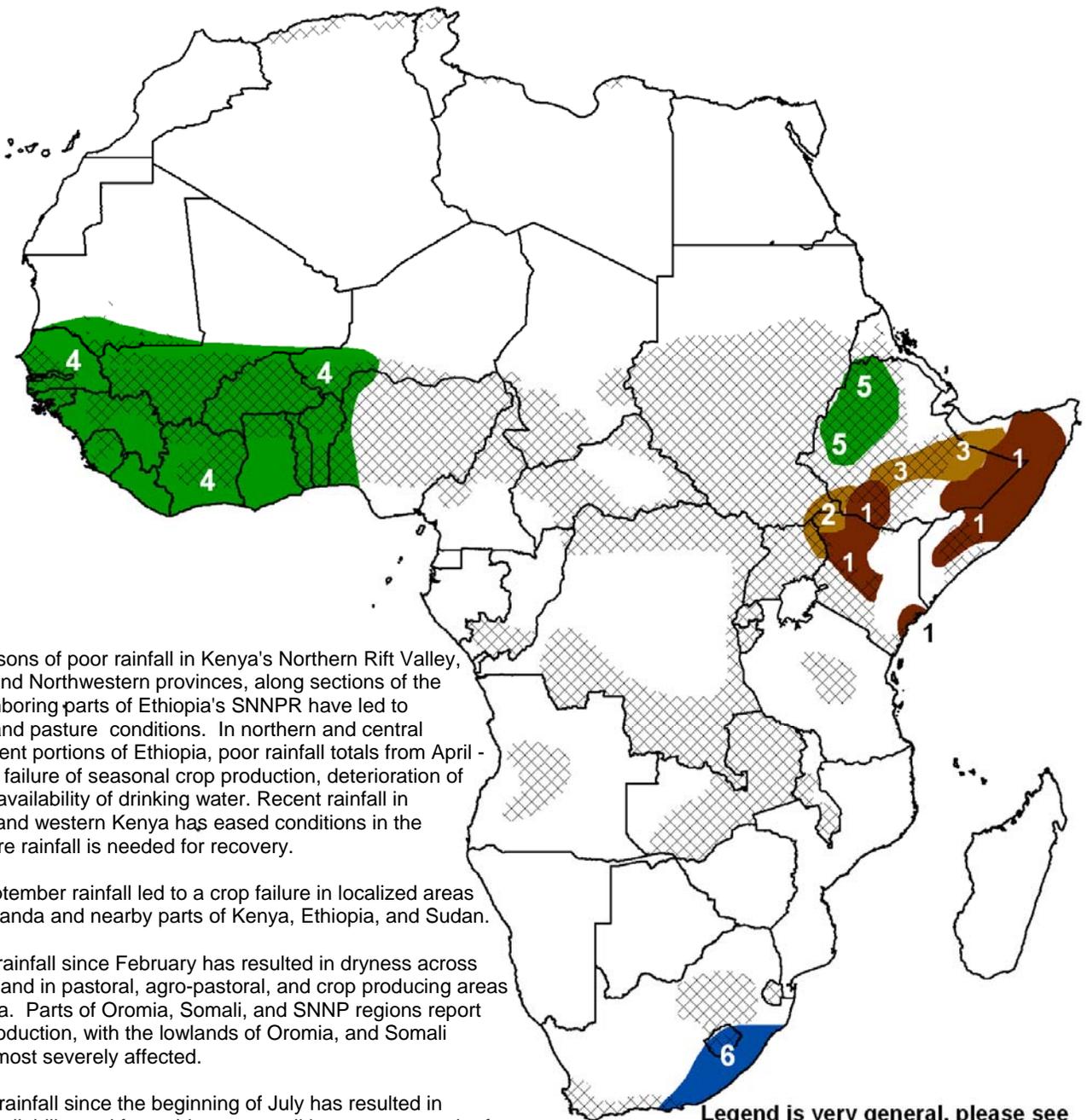


- Early rainfall in northern Somalia has begun replenishing water resources, which were depleted during the dry March to May season.
- Rains have been abundant across most of west Africa and western Ethiopia. Seasonal rains have begun to withdraw from the northern areas of these two regions as the dry season is expected to begin during October.



1) Successive seasons of poor rainfall in Kenya's Northern Rift Valley, Central, Eastern, and Northwestern provinces, along sections of the coast, and in neighboring parts of Ethiopia's SNNPR have led to deteriorated crop and pasture conditions. In northern and central Somalia and adjacent portions of Ethiopia, poor rainfall totals from April - June 2008 led to a failure of seasonal crop production, deterioration of pastures, and low availability of drinking water. Recent rainfall in southern Somalia and western Kenya has eased conditions in the short-term, but more rainfall is needed for recovery.

2) Poor March-September rainfall led to a crop failure in localized areas of northeastern Uganda and nearby parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

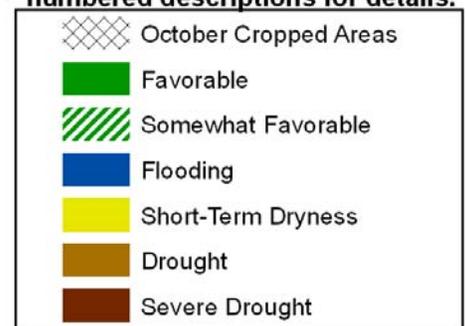
3) Below-average rainfall since February has resulted in dryness across southern Ethiopia, and in pastoral, agro-pastoral, and crop producing areas of northern Somalia. Parts of Oromia, Somali, and SNNP regions report decreased crop production, with the lowlands of Oromia, and Somali regions being the most severely affected.

4) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water availability and favorable crop conditions across much of western Africa. However, localized flooding has damaged bridges, roads, railways, and other infrastructure and agriculture throughout the region.

5) Much of western Ethiopia has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since late March. These rains have recently pushed eastward, into areas affected by dryness since February.

6) During the last two weeks several severe weather events have left parts of Lesotho, and nearby areas of South Africa, with localized damage as a result of flooding. During this period cold weather also moved into the region causing snow at higher elevations.

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



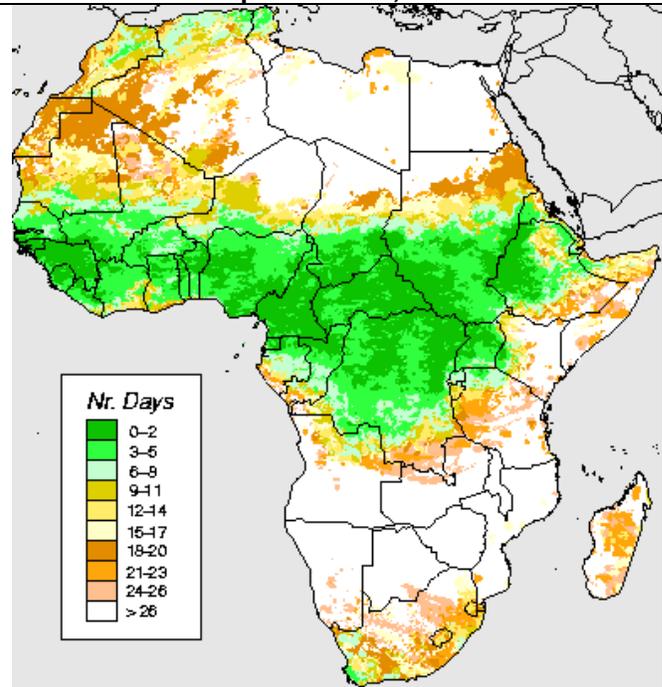
## Good rainfall distribution continues as season ends, unseasonable relief continues in Somalia

As the season comes to a close in parts of West Africa, precipitation has remained well distributed during the month of September. Rainfall was also consistent across Ethiopia, including the majority of the Afar region and neighboring portions of Djibouti and Eritrea.

Northern Somalia has also experienced consistent, but unseasonable rainfall. This has alleviated some of the dryness from poor rainfall during the main wet season, from March to May. Although light rainfall typically occurs during September and October, it is unusual for it to be this frequent, and this heavy. Rainfall during the past week exceeded 75 mm in some locations; the typical September and October rainfall rarely exceeds 50 mm in this area. The current rainfall is providing a chance for the refilling of water resources and an unseasonable improvement for pastures.

Early signs of the shift of rainfall to the south continue. Scattered rainfall has made its way into Madagascar, South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland. During October precipitation typically increases in intensity across this region.

Figure 1: Number of Dry Days during the past 30 Day Period  
September 27<sup>h</sup>, 2008



**Note:** Rainfall distribution remains even across west Africa and the Horn. Rainfall has also been consistent across northern Somalia and southern Africa.

**Source:** FEWS/USGS

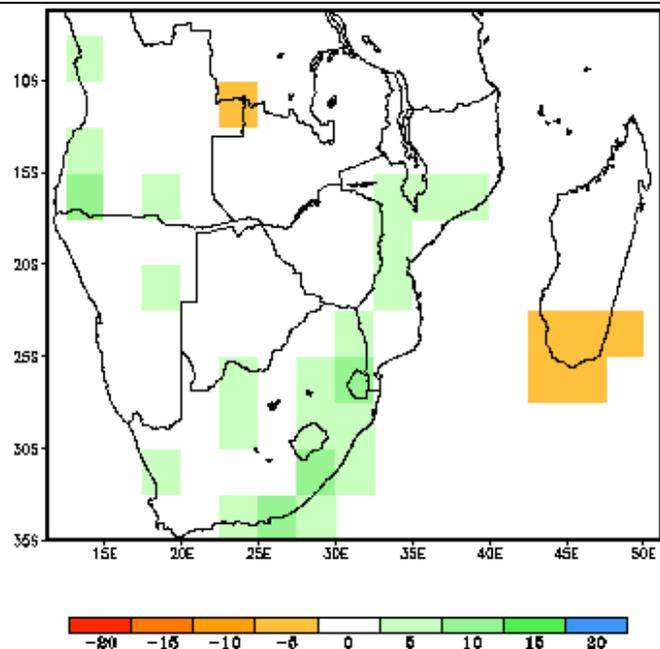
## Outlook for southern Africa

With the dry season coming to a close across many parts of southern Africa, the outlook is generally positive, with the odds favoring average to above-average precipitation across most of the region (Figure 2).

The odds favor above-average rainfall across much of South Africa and Mozambique. The locations with highest probability of above average rainfall are along the Kwa-Zulu Natal coast including Port Elizabeth and East London as well as Swaziland and nearby portions of South Africa. The odds also favor above average precipitation in scattered areas of Namibia and Angola. The highest tilt in the odds in this region is in southwestern Angola, which experienced flooding last season that caused localized damage to infrastructure and crops.

There are two areas that have odds favoring below-average seasons. The first is in southern Madagascar, with the second near where the Angola, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo borders meet.

Figure 2 Probability Forecast  
October - December, 2008



**Note:** Currently the odds favor above-average rainfall in some parts of southern Africa during the October to December rains. However, in southern Madagascar the odds favor below-average precipitation. The rest of the region is favoring near normal conditions.

**Source:** FEWS/NOAA