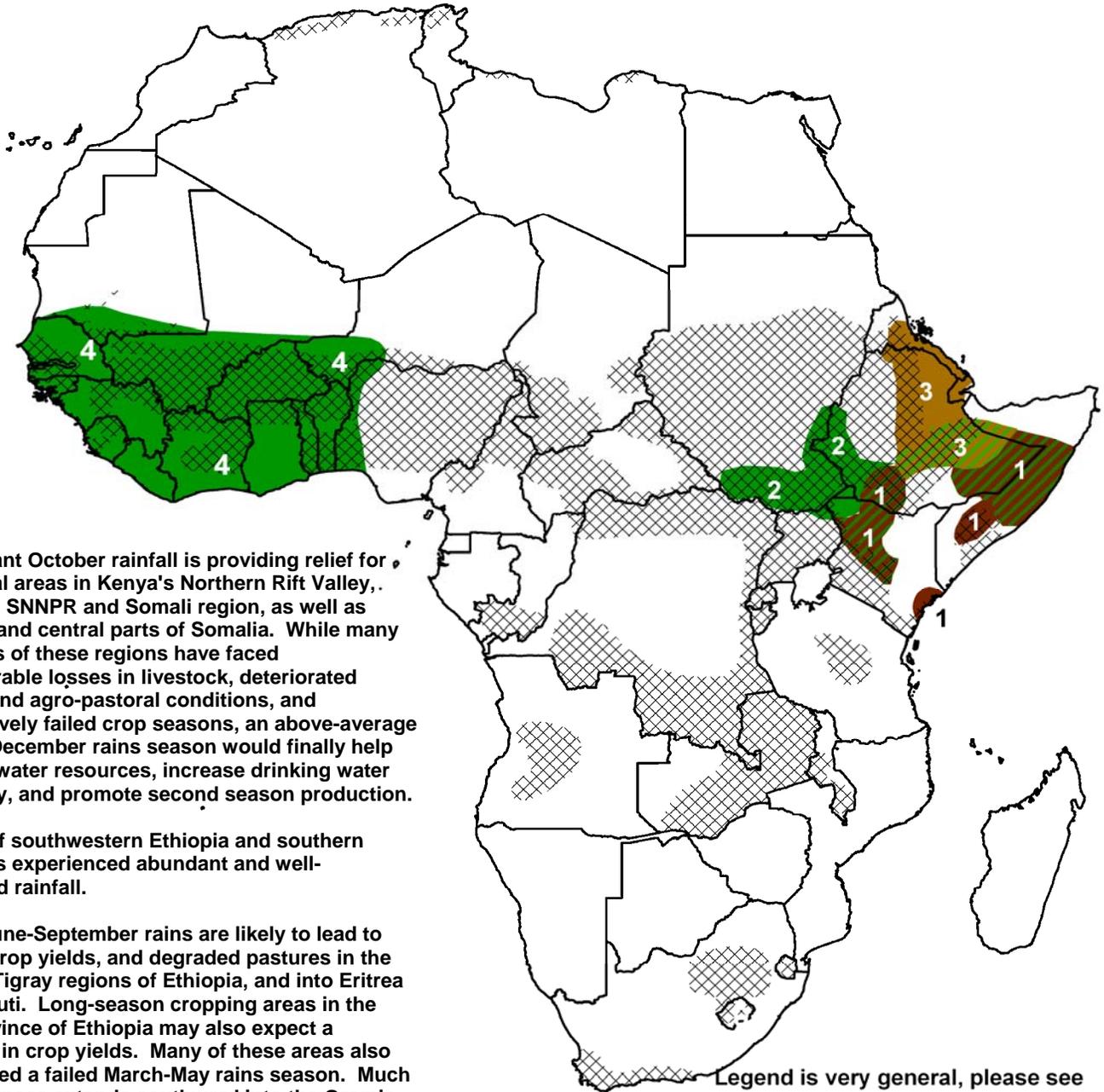
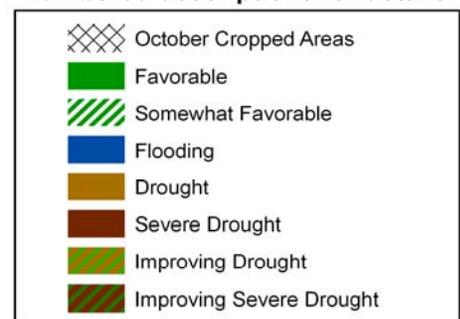


- Remnants from Tropical Cyclone “Three” in the Gulf of Aden produced significant amounts of rain across many areas of northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. Increased moisture associated with this tropical disturbance has further increased Oct-Dec seasonal rain totals across the Greater Horn.
- Another week of fair rainfall continues to promote early season cropping activities in parts of the Maize Triangle and southern Zimbabwe, however many other regions in southern Africa are beginning to experience a delay in early season rain totals.



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



1) Abundant October rainfall is providing relief for many local areas in Kenya's Northern Rift Valley, Ethiopia's SNNPR and Somali region, as well as southern and central parts of Somalia. While many local parts of these regions have faced unrecoverable losses in livestock, deteriorated pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions, and consecutively failed crop seasons, an above-average October-December rains season would finally help recharge water resources, increase drinking water availability, and promote second season production.

2) Much of southwestern Ethiopia and southern Sudan has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall.

3) Poor June-September rains are likely to lead to reduced crop yields, and degraded pastures in the Afar and Tigray regions of Ethiopia, and into Eritrea and Djibouti. Long-season cropping areas in the Welo province of Ethiopia may also expect a reduction in crop yields. Many of these areas also experienced a failed March-May rains season. Much of this dryness extends southward into the Oromia, Somali, and SNNP regions of Ethiopia, however ample October rainfall is expected to help saturate soils and promote the development of maize and sorghum crops in these regions.

4) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water availability and favorable crop conditions across much of western Africa.

## Unseasonable amounts of rain from tropical systems affect Greater Horn and regions in southern Africa

The passage of Tropical Cyclone "Three" in the northwestern Indian Ocean produced ample amounts of rain across many of the climatologically dry regions near the Gulf of Aden. In the last week, widespread precipitation totals in excess of 30- 40 mm were observed across the Sool and Sanaag regions of Somalia, with locally heavier amounts in the Bari region and other local areas along the coast (**Figure 1**). Much of the moisture associated with tropical system was also observed further south, producing average to above-average rainfall across the Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia, as well as into the Shabelle and southern regions of Somalia.

Extreme isolated totals (>100 mm) were also observed north of Mogadishu, and local areas downstream in the Shabelle river basin. Since early October, heavy rains have reportedly attributed to rising river levels across southern Somalia, as there are increased concerns of flooding if above-average rains continue. To date, above-average precipitation in October has resulted in favorable crop conditions across many areas where inputs are available for second season production (**Figure 2**).

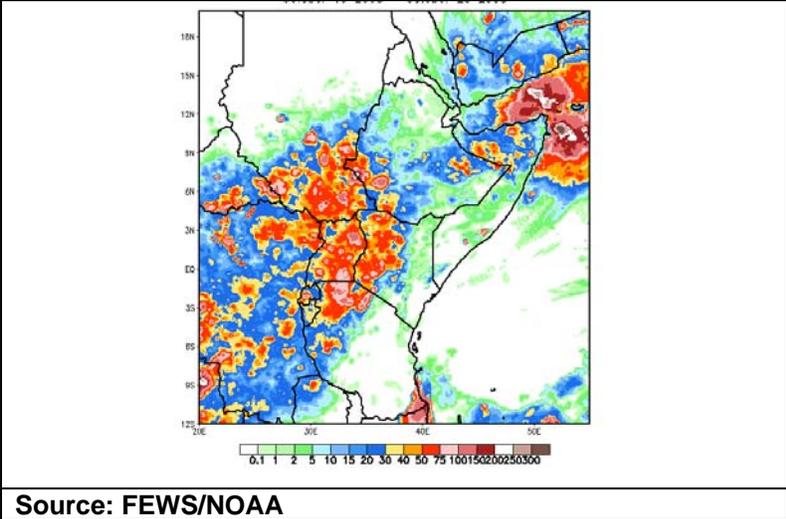
Further south, another tropical disturbance (formally tropical cyclone "ASMA") produced plentiful amounts of rain in parts of Madagascar and northern Mozambique / southern Tanzania. While these areas have not begun their start of season, this rainfall is expected to promote early season soil conditions and increase drinking water availability.

Precipitation forecasts over the next seven days show another week of moderate to heavy rains across the Greater Horn. Rainfall totals ranging between 30 -50 are expected across the drier parts of Ethiopia and Somalia, with high probabilities for significant rainfall further south into parts of central Kenya and northern Tanzania.

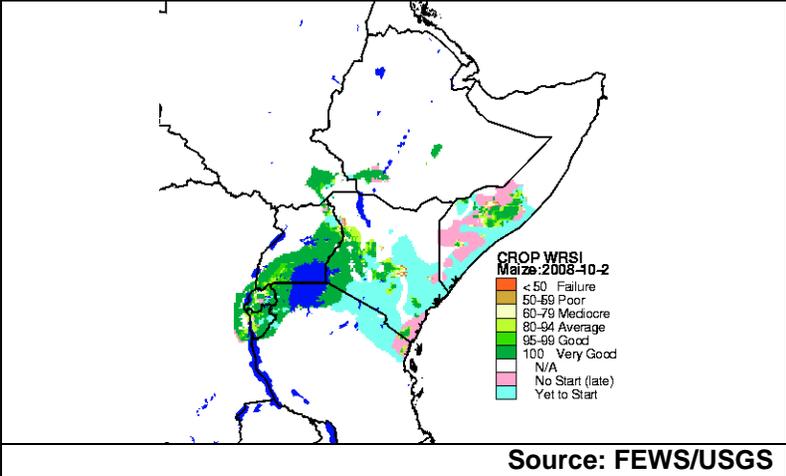
## A delayed start of season for cropping regions in South Africa.

Since abundant rains were observed in early October, there are parts of the eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal regions of South Africa that are now beginning to experience a delayed start of season. Satellite-derived rainfall analyses indicate seasonal rain deficits have been increasing gradually over the past two weeks (**Figure 3**). While rainfall totals are currently below-average for this time of year, this has not thwarted early season cropping activities as ground moisture analyses remain near normal.

**Figure 1: Satellite Derived Rainfall Estimates (mm) From October 19<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



**Figure 2: Crop WRSI for Maize As of 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of October, 2008**



**Figure 3: Rainfall Anomalies (mm) As of October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

