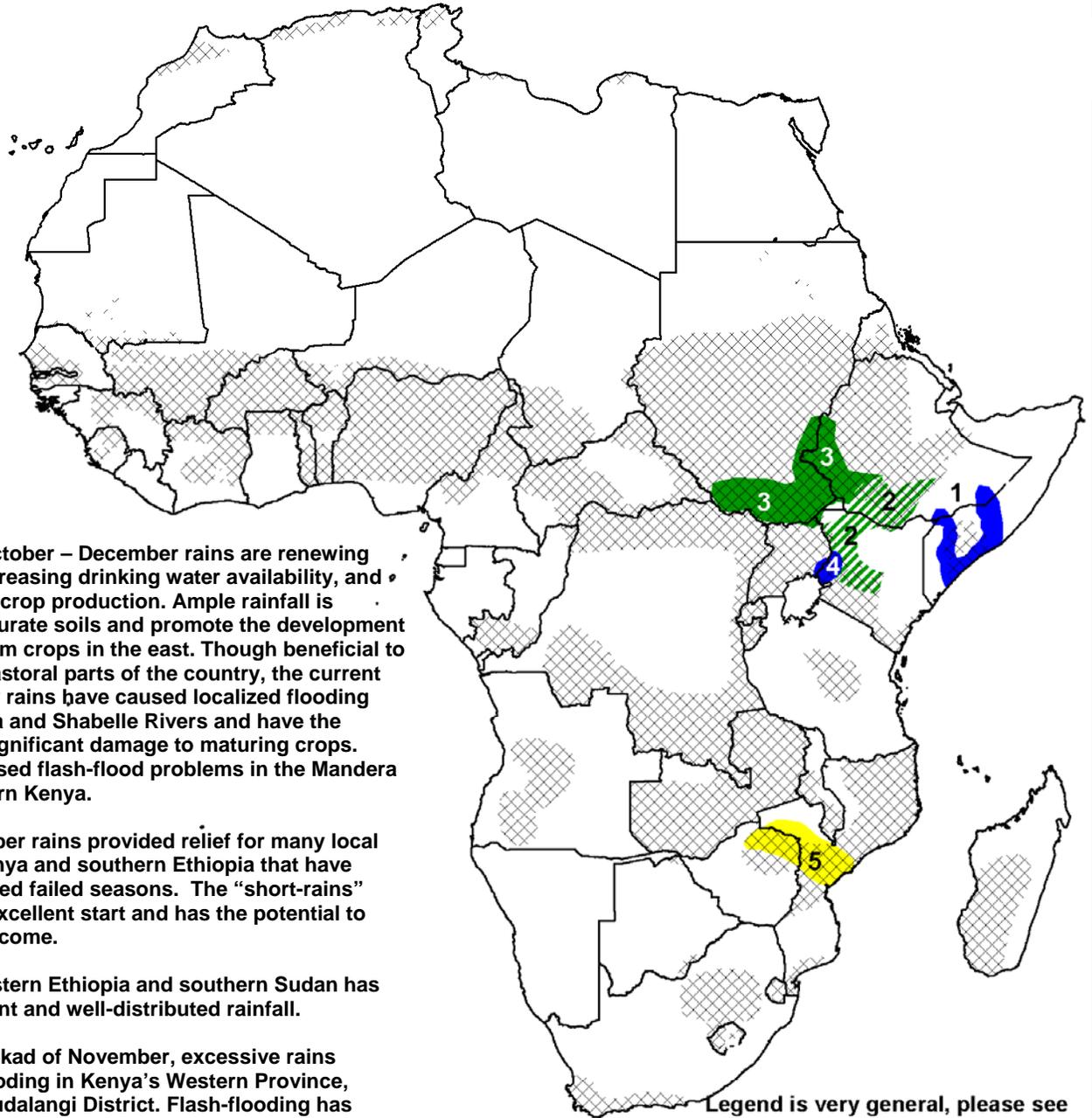


- Favorable rains in Southern Africa have significantly improved the spatial distribution of below-average rainfall totals for the season. Although some negative rainfall anomalies remain in parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, these anomalies are expected to continue improving for the next couple of weeks.
- The first dekad of November was very wet for eastern Africa removing all remaining negative rainfall anomalies. However, it also led to localized flooding in southern Somalia and western Kenya.



1) Above average October – December rains are renewing water resources, increasing drinking water availability, and promoting seasonal crop production. Ample rainfall is expected to help saturate soils and promote the development of maize and sorghum crops in the east. Though beneficial to pastoral and agro pastoral parts of the country, the current unseasonable heavy rains have caused localized flooding along the lower Juba and Shabelle Rivers and have the potential to cause significant damage to maturing crops. Rains have also caused flash-flood problems in the Mandera region in northeastern Kenya.

2) October – November rains provided relief for many local areas in western Kenya and southern Ethiopia that have suffered from repeated failed seasons. The “short-rains” season is off to an excellent start and has the potential to have a favorable outcome.

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

4) During the first dekad of November, excessive rains caused localized flooding in Kenya’s Western Province, particularly in the Budalangi District. Flash-flooding has displaced thousands, destroyed homes, and ruined hectares of farmland. Excessive rains have also caused the Nzoia River to burst its banks. The impacts of heavy rains are also being felt in eastern Uganda in the Karamoja region.

5) Below-average rainfall totals for the start of the October – May rainy season in parts of northeastern Zimbabwe and central Mozambique have caused concerns of insufficient water availability for crop production. Although the rainy season continues through May, the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum states that there is an increased chance that January – March rainfall for this area will be below-average.

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



**Excessive rainfall improves negative anomalies, causes flooding in some areas**

Though the first rains of the October - December season in eastern Africa were below normal, rains in recent weeks have reversed negative anomalies in many areas and have been beneficial for crop germination and pasture regrowth. During the first dekad of November, abundant and in some areas excessive rainfall fell in the region (Figure 1). This has caused localized flooding along the lower Juba and Shabelle river basins and may negatively impact maturing crops in southern Ethiopia.

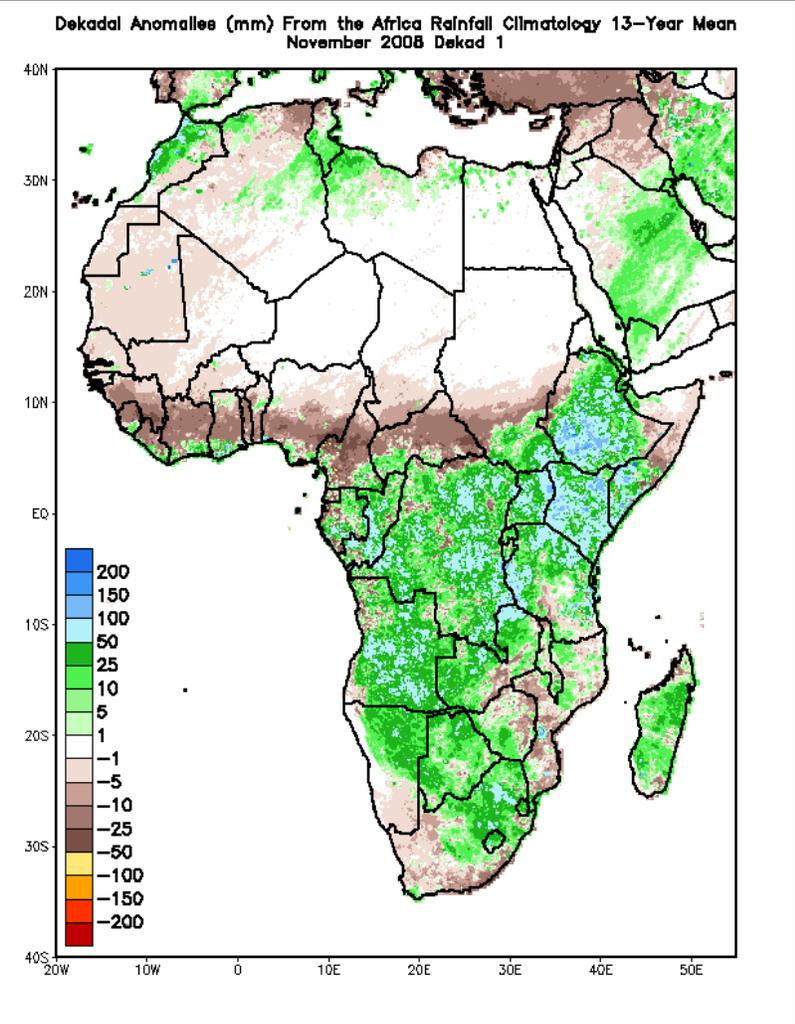
Flooding also occurred in Kenya, Uganda, and Chad. In Kenya, nearly every region was affected, including over 40,000 people in Busia District in Nyanza/Western Region near Lake Victoria. In central Kenya and the northern Rift regions, landslides triggered by excessive rains have occurred, affecting approximately 15,000 people. Elsewhere in Kenya, flooding, in addition to long-standing conflict, has pushed the total number of people affected to nearly 300,000. In Uganda, thousands of people have been displaced by floods in the Moyo district, where there are now reports of food shortages and outbreaks of cholera, malaria, and bilharzia. An important bridge connecting the Moyo district and the Adjuman district, where the Red Cross is located, has been washed away. Other roads in the region were also affected. In southern Sudan, east, west, and south Aweil; Mabaan; north and central parts of Bor; Akobo; and southern parts of Kapoeta have been affected. Elsewhere in east Africa, the "short rains" season is looking favorable.

**(Figure 2)**

**Continued improvement in southern Africa rainfall anomalies in most areas, possible poor implications for harvests in others**

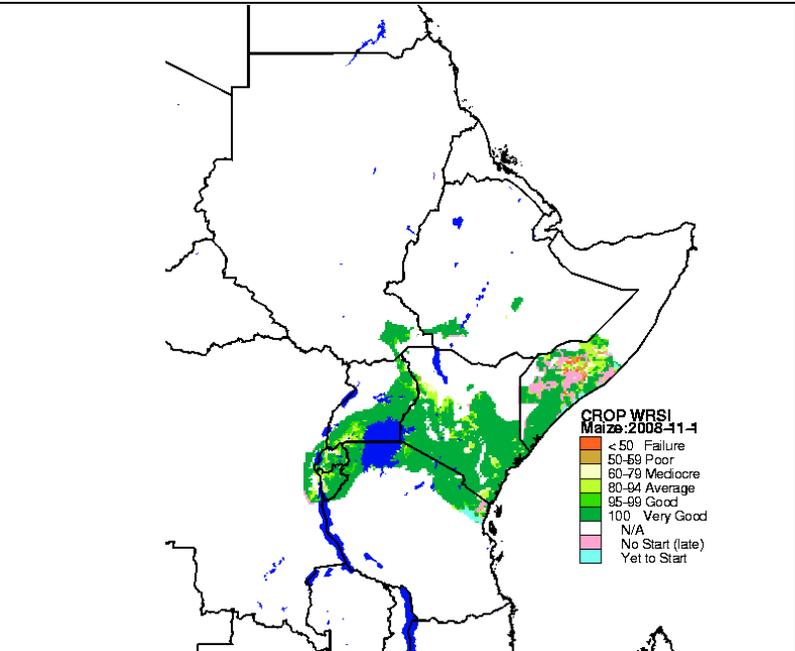
After abundant rains were observed in early October, rains tapered off in parts of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal regions of South Africa, causing a delayed start of season. Since the start of November, this trend has reversed. Recent water requirements for crops have improved. However some localized areas in southern Africa, specifically northeastern Zimbabwe and central Mozambique, are still observing rainfall totals that are below normal. This is not necessarily expected to negatively impact cropping activities because seeds can be sown through January and rains have the potential to improve prior to then. However, if the rains do not improve significantly or end up coinciding with the peak cropping period in southern Africa (which occurs in late-December to January), there could be poor implications for the upcoming harvests. In northeastern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique, there is an increased chance that rainfall totals will be at or below-normal for the January - March 2009 period.

**Figure 1: November Dekad 1 Rainfall Anomalies (mm)**



Source: NOAA/CPC

**Figure 2: Maize Crop Water Requirement Satisfaction Index As of November Dekad 1**



Source: FEWS NET/USGS