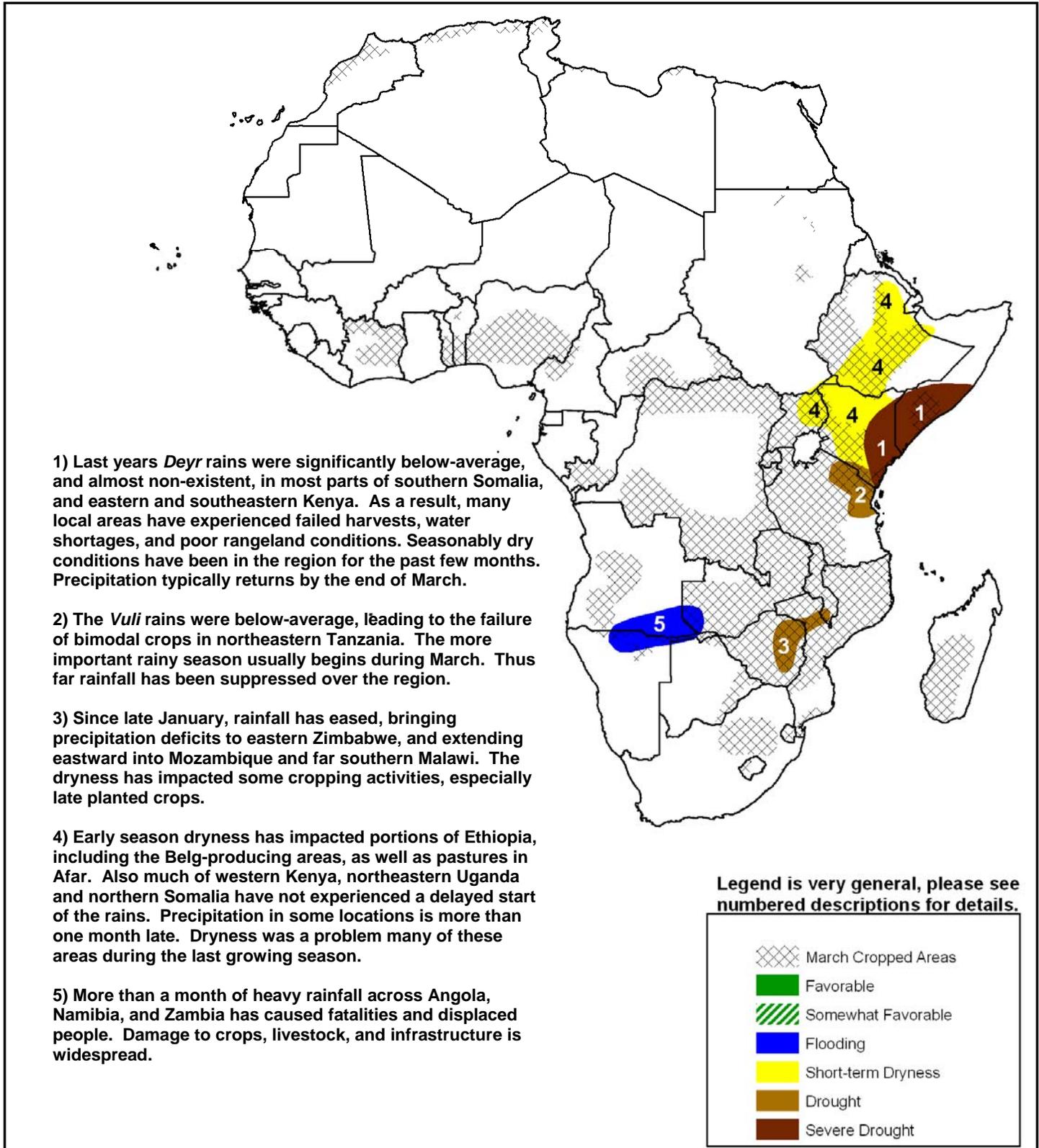


- Flooding causes fatalities, displaces people and damages infrastructure, and crops over a wide area of Namibia, Angola and Zambia.
- Preseason, and early season dryness has continued over portions of the Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia, most of Kenya and northeastern Uganda.



## Flooding causes fatalities, displacement and destruction in Namibia, Angola and Zambia

All season long rainfall has been over abundant in most of Namibia, southern portions of Angola and parts of Zambia near the Caprivi Strip. (Figure 1) Precipitation has continued to be heavy despite the fact that typically the season should be coming to a close.

Many of these areas were impacted by flooding at about this time last year. Early reports, however are describing the flooding event as the worst in four decades. As a result of the severity of the flooding, even though rainfall has tapered off during the last few days, it will take a longer amount of time than usual for rivers and streams to drain down. Any additional rainfall in the region, or upstream will aggravate an already swollen river system.

Damage to crops, that were nearing harvest stages, livestock fatalities, and damage to infrastructure has also been reported. Crocodiles and hippos have been spotted moving away from faster moving water, and into areas inhabited by humans. This has resulted in numerous instances where the animals have attacked humans and domestic livestock.

Heavy rainfall continued in portions of Zambia, and isolated locations in Angola. Namibia experienced additional light rainfall. The coming week will likely bring less precipitation.

## Dryness continues to spread in the Horn

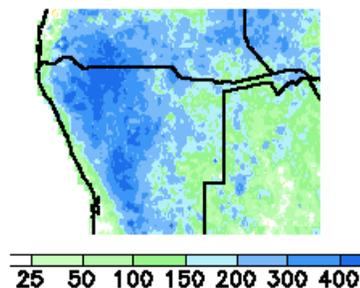
An area of below-average rainfall currently covers a wide and growing swath of the Horn of Africa. Many areas typically begin their growing season in the next week, however the lack of pre-season rainfall has made the ground harder to sow.

Dry conditions were first observed in Ethiopia in the districts of North and South Wello, and were then observed in Shewa. There is now an area of below average rainfall extending from northern Tanzania, through Kenya and northeastern Uganda into Ethiopia and into northern Somalia and Djibouti. (Figure 2) This is of particular concern in areas that experienced a poor season last year.

In Kenya, the dryness has moved into one of the locations that typically has more reliable rainfall. Although currently this is not of great concern, if the dryness persists in these areas, it could become problematic. In the adjacent areas of northeastern Uganda, rainfall is a month late.

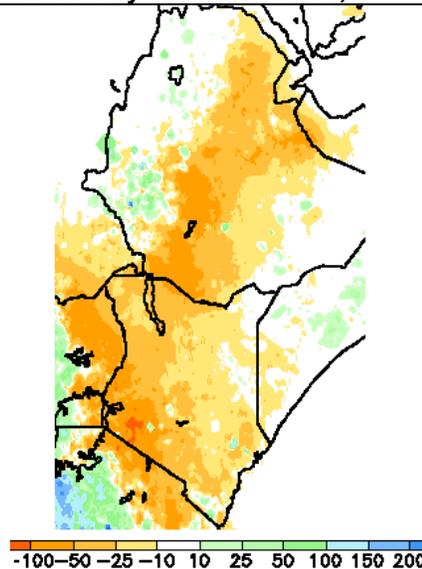
In Somalia an unusual rainfall event provided moisture to the inland areas of the southern part of the country. Since then, however, there has been no sign of continued rainfall. Precipitation however, does not usually start in significant quantities in this area until late March.

## Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009



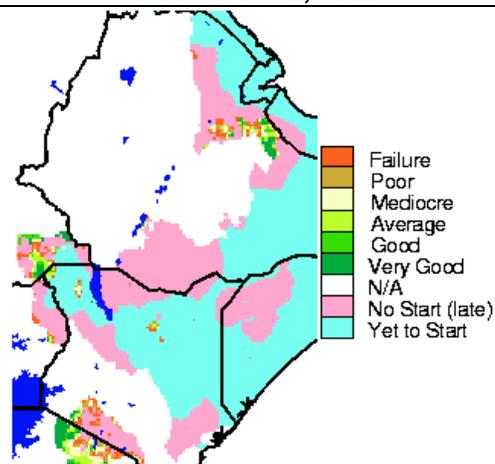
**Figure 1:** Season long heavy rainfall has culminated with what may be the worst flooding in decades. Northern Namibia, including the Caprivi Strip, southern Angola and nearby portions of Zambia have been directly impacted.  
**Source:** FEWS-NET / NOAA

## Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009



**Figure 2:** Preseason dryness in the Horn of Africa stretches from northern Tanzania through Kenya and northeastern Uganda and across the Belg-producing areas of Ethiopia. Dryness is also pushing into Somalia.  
**Source:** FEWS-NET / NOAA

## Water Requirements Satisfaction Index for Rangelands As of March 20, 2009



**Figure 3:** Precipitation has been suppressed over much of the Horn, causing a delayed start to the season in many areas.  
**Source:** FEWS-NET/USGS