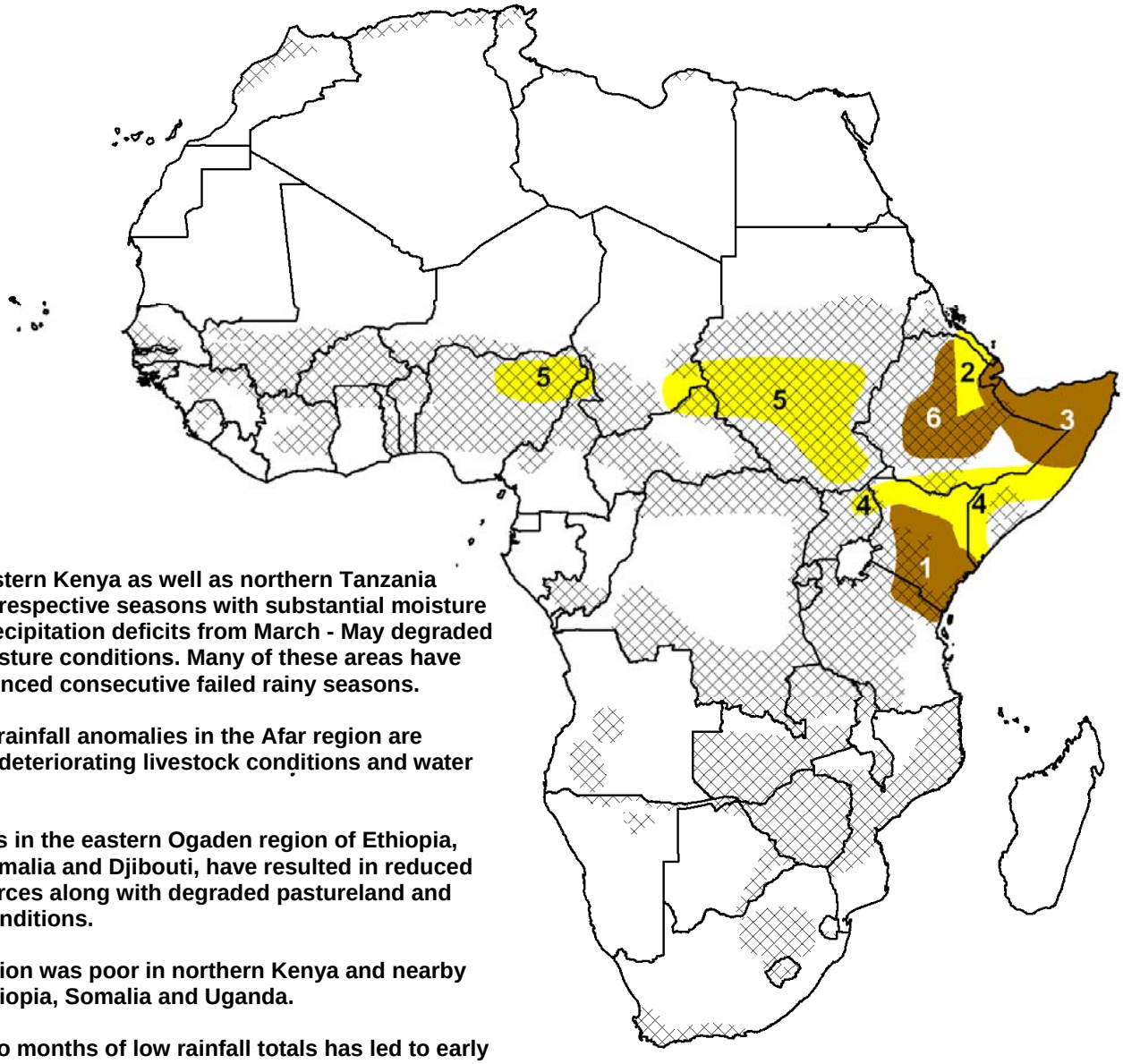
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
June 25 – July 2, 2009

- **The Meher rains arrived late in Ethiopia, which may impact long-term crops.**
- **Early season rainfall deficits continue in northern Nigeria and Sudan.**



1) Southeastern Kenya as well as northern Tanzania ended their respective seasons with substantial moisture deficits. Precipitation deficits from March - May degraded crop and pasture conditions. Many of these areas have also experienced consecutive failed rainy seasons.

2) Negative rainfall anomalies in the Afar region are resulting in deteriorating livestock conditions and water availability.

3) Poor rains in the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia, northern Somalia and Djibouti, have resulted in reduced water resources along with degraded pastureland and livestock conditions.

4) Precipitation was poor in northern Kenya and nearby areas of Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda.

5) Nearly two months of low rainfall totals has led to early season dryness concerns in southern Sudan. Moisture has also been suppressed in nearby areas of Chad and CAR. The suppression of the Intertropical Front has led to some short-term dryness in northern Nigeria.

6) A severely delayed start of the belg season and erratic rainfall from March to May resulted in a complete failure of the northern belg crops. In the southern areas crops either failed or will be harvested one to two months late. Though the season is now over, the dry conditions have the potential to negatively impact long-term crops.

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

- June Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought

Rainfall improves across much of west Africa, northern Nigeria remains dry.

During the last week precipitation greatly improve over most of west Africa. Although a few small pockets didn't receive the improved moisture, the only large area that did not benefit was northern Nigeria. (Figure 1)

Localized small rainfall deficits had begun to accrue in small areas of Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Niger. None of these deficits exceeded 25 mm and did not represent a delayed start to the season. Precipitation during the last week has ensured that those deficits did not become larger, and most of these areas are now showing a small surplus on the season.

Northern Nigeria and a few isolated locations in Burkina and Chad have not benefited from the heavy rainfall during the past week. Deficits in Burkina and Chad cover small areas, and are experiencing less than 50 mm of precipitation deficits. Deficits in northern Nigeria, however, are approaching 100 mm and cover nearly the entire northern half of the country. Those deficits carry over the border into Cameroon, although deficits there are not nearly as severe. (Figure 2)

Rainfall is likely to be suppressed across much of the region, however heavier rainfall is possible, especially in the far western countries.

East Africa continues to be dry in Ethiopia, Sudan

Ethiopia has had nearly a solid month of improved precipitation, with rainfall nearly everyday. However, the precipitation was delayed in arriving for the Meher season. Still, moisture has pushed out this past week towards Dire Dawa, beginning to relieve dry conditions there. Thus far, the Meher season has not improved on the very poor performance of the Belg season. Precipitation during the Belg season was generally suppressed. This led into a delayed start to the Meher season when pasture conditions and water availability continued their downward trend, before steady precipitation began. Unfortunately local long-term forecasts suggest that the Meher rains may end early.

Sudan, like Ethiopia, has had a poor start to its rainy season. Although rainfall along the CAR border has improved rapidly over the last several weeks, much of the rest of the country has deficits that are quickly growing. A large area of the south has received less than half of its average rainfall since May 1st, with deficits now approaching 150 mm. The lack of rainfall is negatively impacting crops, pasture and water availability across most of the country. Although light rainfall is expected during the coming week, it is unlikely that it will be enough to prevent moisture deficits from growing further. (Figures 1 and 3)

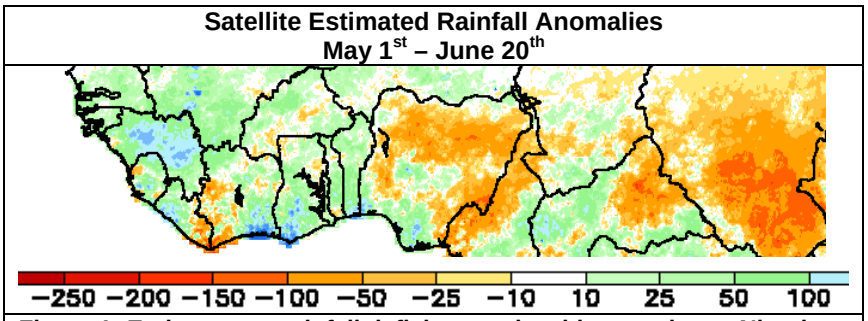


Figure 1: Early season rainfall deficits remain widespread over Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic and especially Sudan. Smaller pockets of dryness exist in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
Source: NOAA/CPC

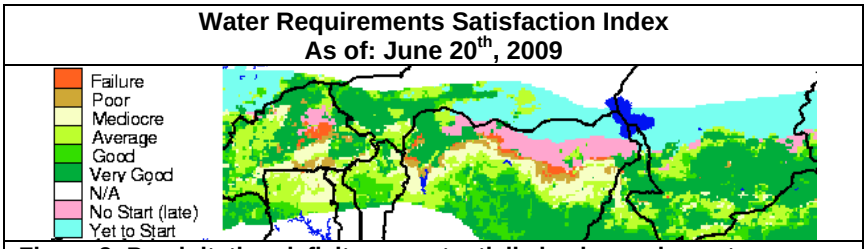


Figure 2: Precipitation deficits are potentially having an impact on crop conditions, based on a delayed start of the rains in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria.
Source: USGS

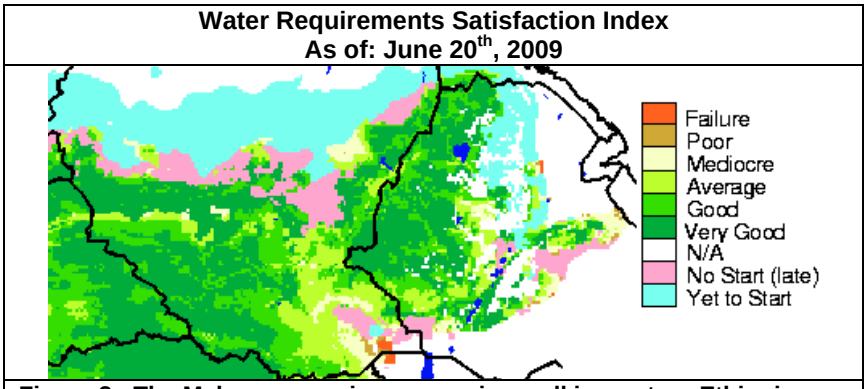


Figure 3: The Meher season is progressing well in western Ethiopia, although a few locations have been slow to start their season. Numerous areas of Sudan are showing rains are late to start, and WRSI values have been declining over the past several weeks in some other areas.
Source: USGS