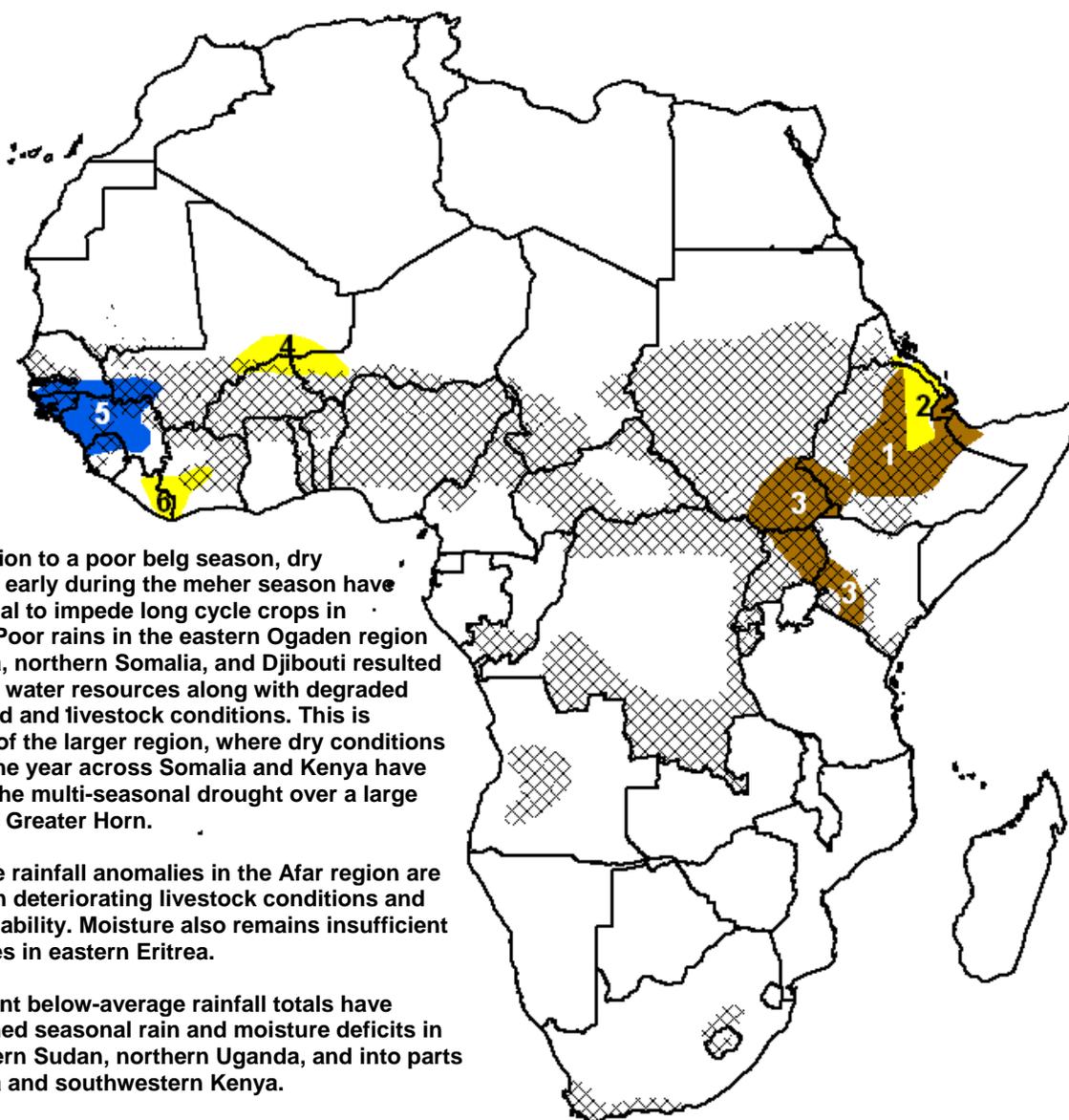


- Precipitation was suppressed again this week across Sudan.
- Western Ethiopia continued to receive seasonal rains, in contrast to the Belg and early Meher seasons.
- Generally wet conditions continued across far western Africa, while rainfall eased across Niger, Nigeria and Chad.



1) In addition to a poor belg season, dry conditions early during the meher season have the potential to impede long cycle crops in Ethiopia. Poor rains in the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and Djibouti resulted in reduced water resources along with degraded pastureland and livestock conditions. This is indicative of the larger region, where dry conditions earlier in the year across Somalia and Kenya have extended the multi-seasonal drought over a large area of the Greater Horn.

2) Negative rainfall anomalies in the Afar region are resulting in deteriorating livestock conditions and water availability. Moisture also remains insufficient for pastures in eastern Eritrea.

3) Persistent below-average rainfall totals have strengthened seasonal rain and moisture deficits in southeastern Sudan, northern Uganda, and into parts of Ethiopia and southwestern Kenya.

4) Short-term rainfall deficits have had local impacts on mixed cropping and pastoral areas. Livestock deaths have been reported in Gao, Mali, along with reports of slightly dry conditions in western Niger. More recently rainfall has improved.

5) The last three weeks have brought heavy rainfall to Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone. With additional heavy rainfall expected in the region this week, there is the possibility of continued localized flooding in this region.

6) The climatologically wet region along the Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire border, has been unusually dry.

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



Heavy rains, scattered flooding continue across portions of west Africa

Heavy rains have continued to cause flooding in the western portions of West Africa. Flooding has been reported over the course of the last three weeks in Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger (Figure 1).

The resulting standing water has raised concerns about the spread of disease and localized destruction of infrastructure and crops. The most destructive incident remains the flooding of Ouagadougou on September 1. During the last week, flooding was also reported in Dakar. In addition to these two urban flooding events, there have been many reports of isolated flooding events in rural areas. (Figure 2)

Niger, Nigeria, and Chad continue their rebound

West Africa has had a highly variable wet season thus far. Some locations experienced an early start to the rains in May. However, in the first dekad of June, precipitation slowed significantly, and dry conditions spread from Niger to Nigeria and into much of southern Chad. By early July, many areas in the region suffered from significant seasonal rainfall deficits. Rainfall has steadily improved since mid-July, providing consistent moisture to the region. (Figure 3)

Although much of western Niger experienced a normal start of season, this dryness resulted in deteriorated crop conditions and acute failure of millet crops in some local areas along the Nigeria-Niger border. Although reports on crops have been more upbeat, concerns remain for pastures that are located further north. To end the season with a better than mediocre millet harvest, consistent rains are needed through the end of September. After failure of the first sowing, farmers re-sowed shorter-cycle crops in mid-July with the revival of the rains that subsequently reduced moisture deficits in most areas. Some areas, such as Ouallam Department, did not replant until mid-August.

