

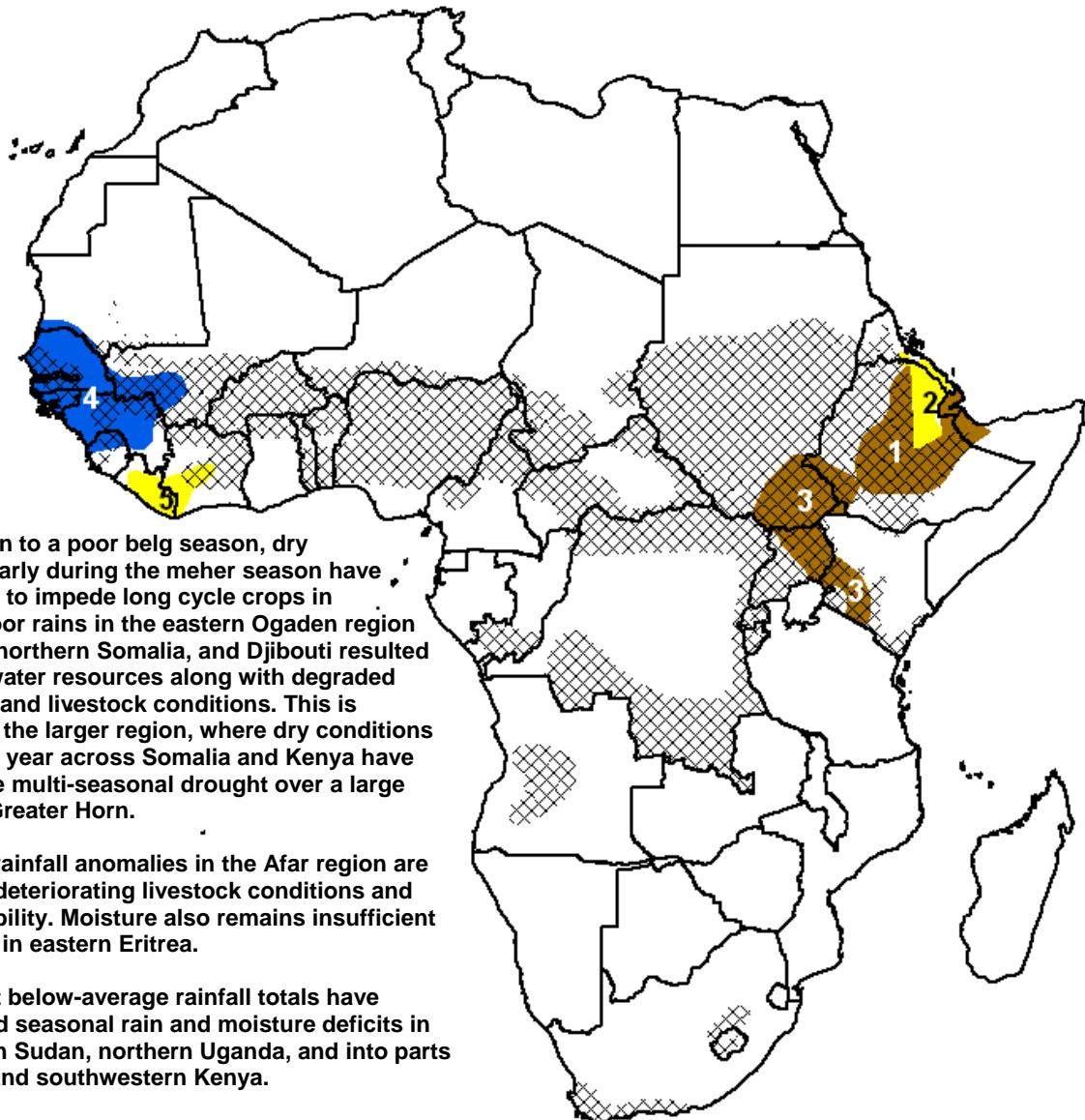


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The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa September 24 - 30, 2009

FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

- Flood risk remains moderate to high over the western end of the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea region. However, rainfall has somewhat eased in many other parts of West Africa.
- Heavy rainfall cause a flash flood in Kisumu, Kenya.
- Dryness remains widespread across parts of the Greater Horn.



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) The last three weeks have brought heavy rainfall to Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone. Heavy precipitation is likely again this week across portions of West Africa.

5) The climatologically wet region in Liberia and central Côte d'Ivoire, has been unusually dry.

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

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

West Africa flooding event begins to wind down, some areas still at risk

The heavy rains that caused flooding from Burkina Faso and Niger to Senegal and Sierra Leone, have eased over much of the area during the past week. Although heavier rainfall totals were observed by satellite, during the last week, the area impacted was smaller. The large precipitation totals in West Africa during the last three weeks have resulted in high positive rainfall anomalies (**Figure 1**).

There are continued problems with damage to crops and infrastructure associated with the rainfall. Standing water, primarily in low lying areas, poses a potential area of concern due to the spread of disease. The most destructive incident remains the flooding of Ouagadougou on September 1. During the last week, flooding reports have primarily come out of Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone and Mali. Most incidences remain localized and are likely only to be of concern for the short-term.

Dryness remains in place across numerous areas of the Greater Horn

Poor precipitation totals remain firmly in place across southern Sudan, southwestern Ethiopia, much of Uganda, and western Kenya. This has had a negative impact on crops in the region (**Figure 2**). In addition, rainfall has been somewhat poor across the Afar region of Ethiopia, and in the marginal areas of Sudan.

Although the distribution of the rainfall has been good over most of these areas, the rainfall has been lighter than average. There has been very little variation of this pattern since April.

Northern extent of the rainfall peaks, begins to head south

The Intertropical Front (ITF), or the northern edge of the rainfall, reached its northern most point approximately one dekad than usual across the Sahel. Further east across Sudan, the ITF peaked at the usual time.

The ITF has already begun its annual withdraw from the region. The current analysis shows the ITF slightly north of normal in the west, and near normal in the east. (**Figure 3**)

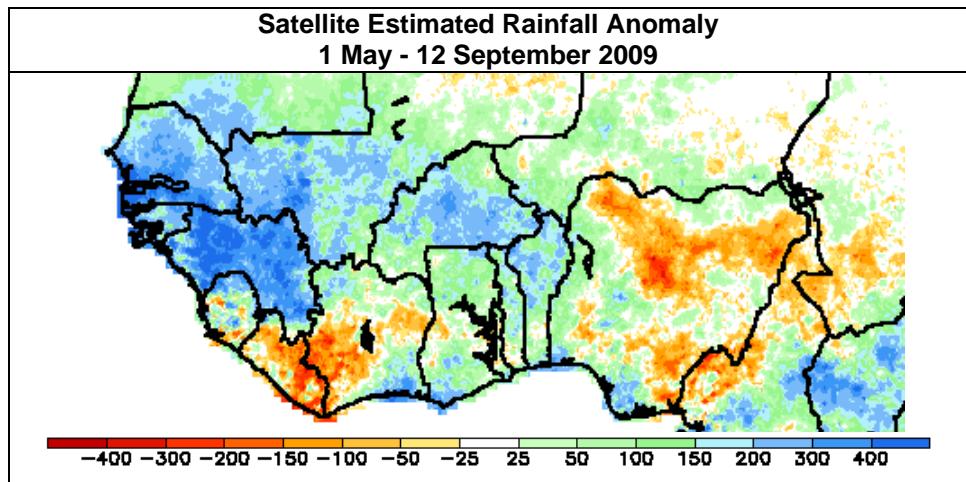


Figure 1: Heavy rainfall in far West Africa contrasts with drier conditions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. Early season dryness is largely responsible for the deficits in Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad.

Source: NOAA/CPC

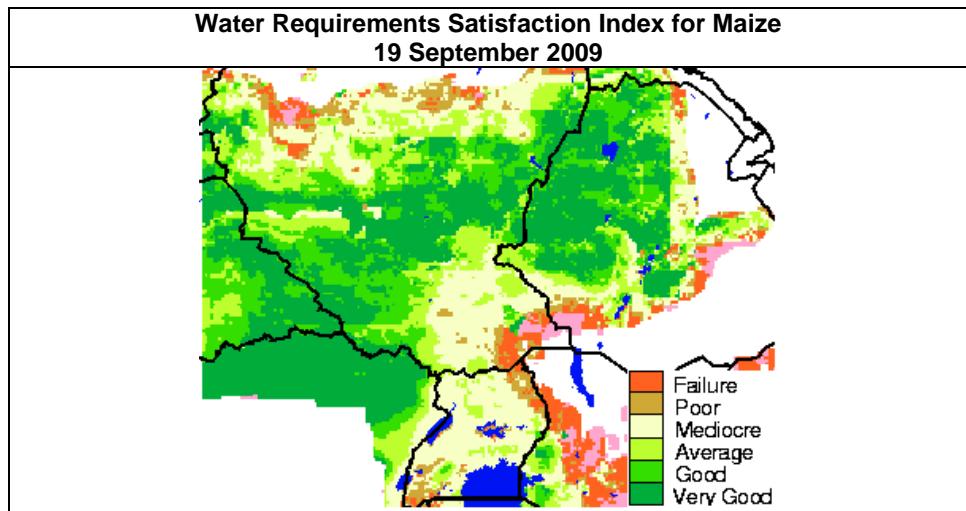


Figure 2: Southern cropped areas of Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and parts of Uganda and western Kenya have received poor rainfall thus far this season, negatively impacting crops.

Source: USGS

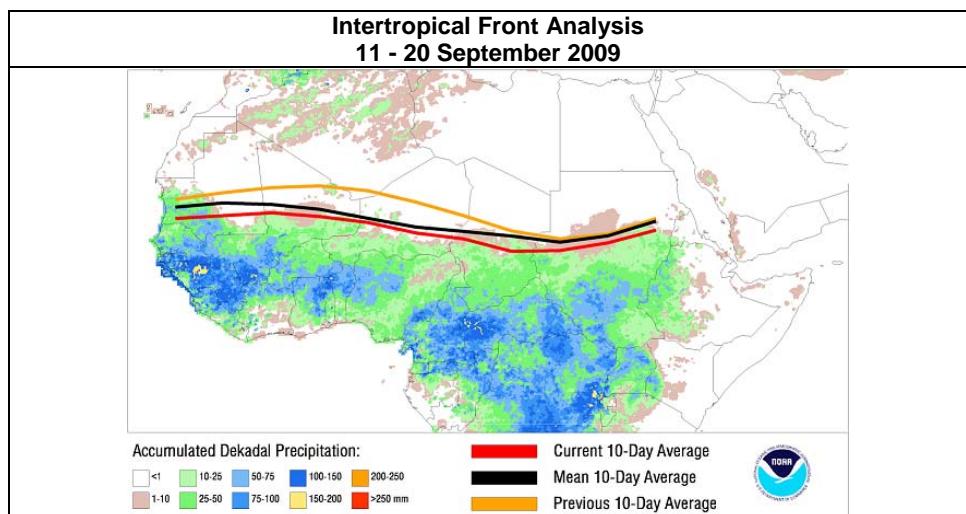


Figure 3: The rains reached their northern most point approximately one dekad after the average. Rainfall is now beginning to slowly withdraw from the region, as it normally does this time of the year.

Source: NOAA/CPC