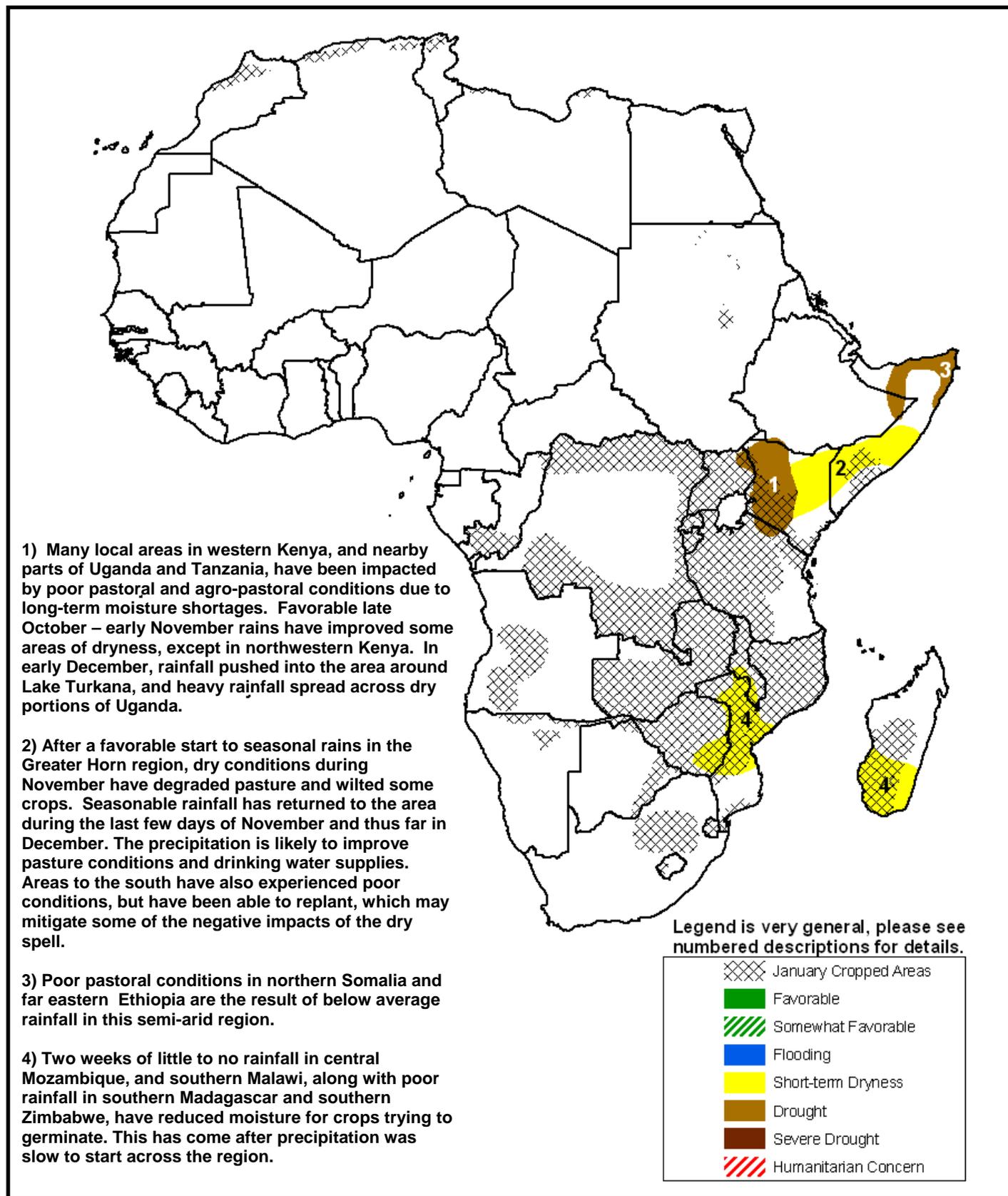


- A two week pause in the rains during November, during an otherwise wet Short Rain season, has wilted crops across most of Kenya and parts of Somalia. Some areas of southeastern Kenya have been able to replant.
- Central Mozambique and southern Malawi have dried out during the last few weeks. Nearby areas of Zimbabwe have also experienced a reduction in moisture recently.



Greater Horn Season, wet but rains unreliable

The season-long precipitation was above normal in the Greater Horn region, partially because of the influence of the ongoing El Nino in the Pacific. However, the poor distribution has negatively impacted the region.

Positive rainfall anomalies have occurred across nearly all of Somalia, Ethiopia, and a large area of Kenya. (Figure 1) However, El Nino's impacts tend to be seasonal, with local forcings being responsible for other fluctuations in precipitation. This occurred during the middle part of November when precipitation shut off for two to three weeks. The dry spell occurred suddenly, wilting crops that had done well to that point.

Since that dry spell, precipitation has picked up again, and most areas will close out the season with a net positive amount of precipitation. As a result of the return of the rains, some areas have been able to replant, such as some of the communities to the south and east of Nairobi. Despite the replanting, crop losses are still expected in this area.

Although the vast majority of the region is experiencing a wet season, there are some areas facing substantial deficits. The largest of these areas is in north-central Kenya.

Typically most moisture has pulled out of the region by now, with only light showers moving into Kenya. However, last week heavy rainfall, in some places exceeding 75 mm fell across much of the country. Additional, but lighter precipitation is expected over the next week.

Wet start in many areas changing as drying trend spreads in southern Africa

Rains arrived across most of southern Africa, either early or on time. This allowed for planting activities to get underway as expected. Precipitation across most of the major growing areas has been well distributed and positive precipitation anomalies are well spread.

Despite the good season thus far, during the last week, the only significant area of dryness began expanding. Early reports from Malawi have indicated some dryness in the southern portions of the country. Meanwhile in Mozambique, central parts of the country began the season slightly slowly, before precipitation moved into the region. The rains, though quite heavy, ceased three weeks ago, and once again the area is drying out. (Figure 2)

For two weeks there has been some indication that this dryness may be moving over the border into Zimbabwe. Satellite products have also picked up on the trend around the greater Caprivi Strip area to southern Zimbabwe. (Figure 3) This has started to change season long positive anomalies, negative.

