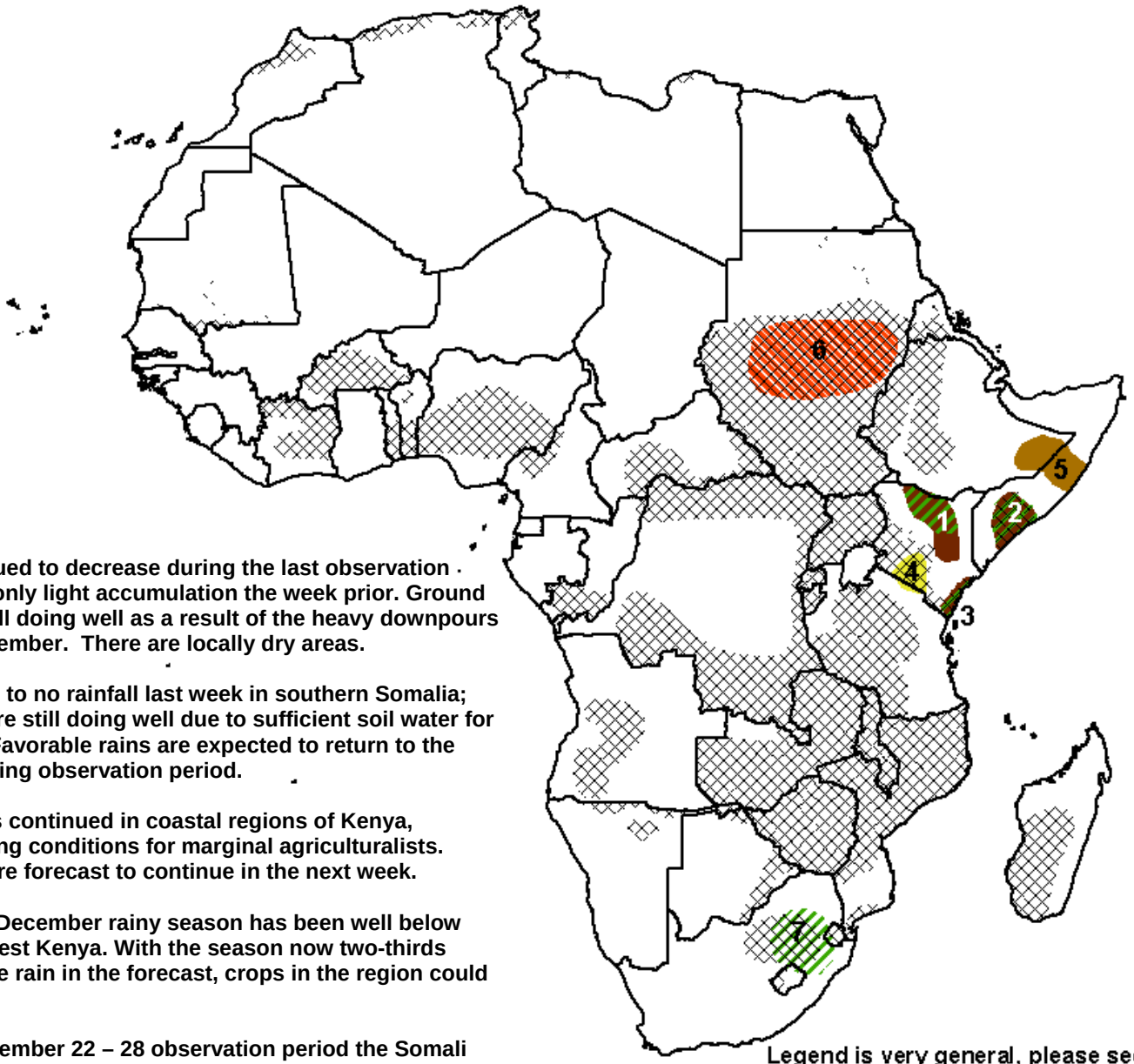
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa November 29 – December 5, 2007

- Several swarms of desert locusts have been reported in the Mandera district of Kenya, in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, parts of northern Somalia, and also in Ethiopia's Somali region. Locusts have the potential to jeopardize agro-pastoral crops causing food security issues in Ethiopia and Somalia. The threat in Kenya is not as significant.

- The Somali region of Ethiopia and parts of central Somalia continue to experience below-normal rainfall totals during the October to December rainy season. Light rainfall is expected next week; however, it is not expected to improve pasture conditions. If this trend continues, these areas may not receive any significant relief until the March to May rainy season.



1) Rainfall continued to decrease during the last observation period following only light accumulation the week prior. Ground conditions are still doing well as a result of the heavy downpours seen in early November. There are locally dry areas.

2) There was little to no rainfall last week in southern Somalia; however, crops are still doing well due to sufficient soil water for seasonal crops. Favorable rains are expected to return to the region in the coming observation period.

3) Abundant rains continued in coastal regions of Kenya, improving cropping conditions for marginal agriculturalists. Favorable rains are forecast to continue in the next week.

4) The October – December rainy season has been well below normal in southwest Kenya. With the season now two-thirds complete and little rain in the forecast, crops in the region could be stressed.

5) During the November 22 – 28 observation period the Somali Region of Ethiopia into central Somalia received little to no rainfall. Increased rainfall is needed for pasture regeneration and water source replenishment in these areas; else a dry season could be imminent. Light rains are expected in the area for the coming observation period.

6) Due to excessive rainfall earlier this year there are reports of localized outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever in central Sudan.

7) Rains in southern Africa have benefited early season cropping activities.

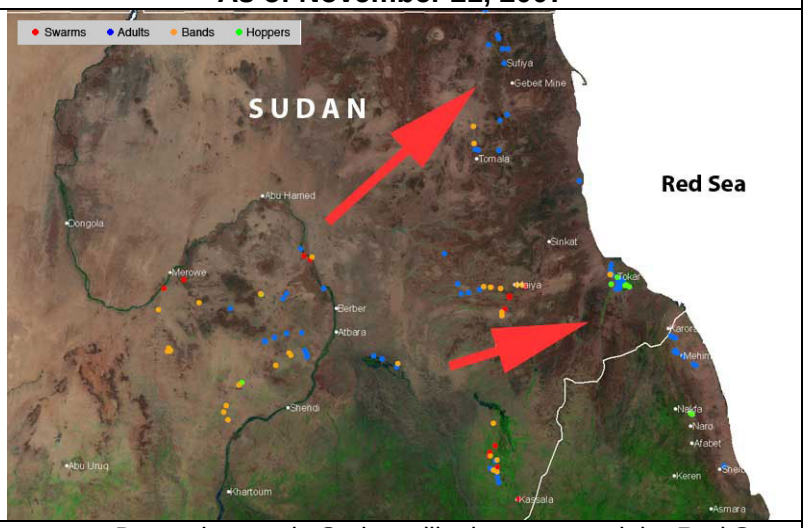
Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

- Extreme Event
- Humanitarian Concern
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- In Season Crop Areas
- Flooding
- Severe Drought
- Drought
- Short Term Dryness or Drought Recovery

Locusts outbreak grows in east Africa

Since September desert locusts have been posing a threat to the Greater Horn region of Africa. In September, swarms migrated from Yemen to the moist conducive climate of the GHA for their traditional summer breeding in much of northern Somalia and Ethiopia. Significantly above normal rainfall created conditions favorable to the hatching of locusts. Locust Watch of the Food and Agriculture Organization is now reporting swarms in Sudan and field assessments state that desert locusts originally situated in southern Somalia and Ethiopia have now crossed the border into Kenya's Mandera district. The locusts appear to be laying eggs and then heading southward there. Hatched larvae can cause crop and pastoral damage. As the number of locusts grows the impacts they can have increase proportionally. They are capable of migrating long distances and completely destroying plants and crops along the way. This threat is more substantial in Somalia and Ethiopia, than Kenya.

Infestation of Desert Locusts in Sudan
As of November 21, 2007



Desert locusts in Sudan will migrate toward the Red Sea.

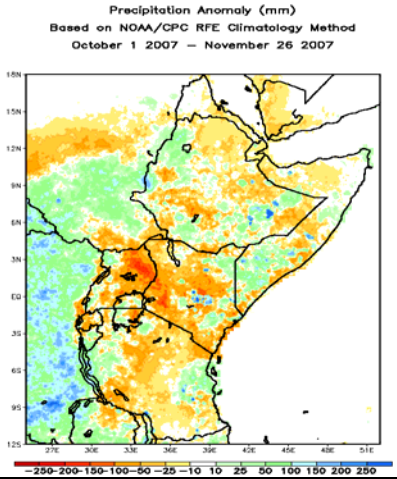
Source: FAO

Dryness prevails in the Greater Horn

The October – December short rainy season in the GHA has been variable leading to a season that is well below normal across most of the region. Parts of central and eastern Kenya into southern Somalia experienced an early start of season with abundant rains; however, that slowly began to change in early November as rains began to taper off. Now most of the region is experiencing significantly negative anomalies with some areas seeing up to -250mm. These anomalies translate to rainfall that is 5-20 percent of normal.

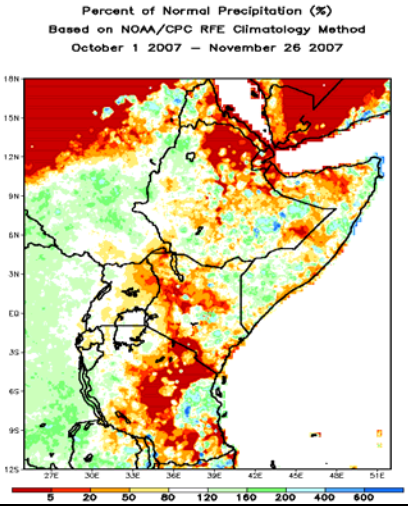
Unfortunately the outlook for the rest of the short rainy season, December, does not look favorable for an improvement in rains. The tropical Pacific is now experiencing a La Nina episode that is expected to strengthen into 2008. Intensifying La Nina often means below normal rains for the GHA. There may also be an early end to rains.

Observed Departures from Normal for the
October – December Rainy Season of 2007



Orange and red indicate regions of below normal rain, green and blue indicate above normal rains.

Observed Percent of Normal Rains for the
October – December Rainy Season of 2007



Reds and oranges indicate a low percentage of normal rain.

Source: NOAA/CPC

Rift Valley Fever takes a toll on Sudan

An unusually wet rainy season in 2007 has led to an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Sudan. Although the rain proved beneficial for water resource availability, vegetation regeneration and crop production, it also came with some very negative side effects.

During the first week of November reports of an outbreak of RVF surfaced and the sickness has been spreading since. According to the World Health Organization there have been over 300 cases of RVF in Sudan leading to ~100 deaths thus far. These cases have been reported in the eastern central region of Sudan near the borders of Eritrea and northern Ethiopia.