

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa December 20 – 26, 2007



- Locusts in areas of Somalia, northern Kenya, and Ethiopia have the potential to damage pastures and crops. Initial
 control efforts in Kenya have been successful. However locusts continue to cross the Somalia and Ethiopian borders
 into Kenya. This event is expected to exacerbate the already complex food security situation in GHA.
- Rainfall continues to benefit many areas of southern Africa. This is increasing water available for drinking, softening the earth for sowing of seeds and regenerating pastures. Flooding has been, and continues to be a localized problem in Zimbabwe, and Angola, and flooding is possible during the coming week in Malawi and Mozambique.

10.1 1) Northern pastoral areas of Kenya have experienced a belownormal short-rains season. In addition, while control operations r are underway, locust swarms in northern Kenya also threaten pastoralists' access to pasture and browse during the upcoming dry season. 2) The impact of the failed March – May cropping season continues to affect the region. Rainfall during the current October-December season has been average, which will mitigate some of the impacts of the failed previous season. 3) Dry weather continues to hamper crop production along the Kenyan coast. Much of the season has already passed and rainfall totals are well below normal. Recent rains have improved ground conditions and even caused flooding in the Tana River. If rains remain steady through January, crop and pasture conditions will improve. 4) The October – December rainy season has been erratic. Rainfall has recently become steadier, and if conditions continue to improve a near normal season will be possible. Current trends are favorable. 5) Rainfall has been below normal in central Somalia and the eastern part of the Somali region of Ethiopia. This will not allow pastures to regenerate adequately to last pastoral populations through the dry Legend is very general, please see season. Agro-pastoral crops have also been severely stressed. numbered descriptions for details. /// Somewhat Favorable 6) Due to excessive rainfall earlier this year there are localized outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever in central Sudan. Flooding Short-Term Dryness 7) Rains in parts of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique have been above normal, benefiting early season cropping activities. Much Drought of the rest of southern Africa is off to a normal start to the season. Severe Drought 8) Flooding in central Angola has caused localized damage to crops. 🕺 Improving Severe Drought Humanitarian Concern 9) Heavy rainfall in Zimbabwe has caused flooding. Additional flooding is possible along the Shire and Zambezi rivers during the 🔆 🕺 In Season Crop Areas coming week.

Desert Locust Situation continues

The following is according to the FAO as of December 11th. Northeastern Kenya has been impacted by desert locusts for the first time since the 1960s. Locusts are believed to have laid eggs between Mandera and Elwak. A hopper band recently crossed the Ethiopian border near Moyale. Crop damage was also reported along the Dawa River near the border. Currently, first and second instar hopper bands have formed in Neboi, Fikow, Burabor and Bella areas at densities of more than 2,000 hoppers per square meter. DLCO-EA and Kenyan Plant Protection teams started aerial and ground control operations on the 6th. So far, no locusts have reported been further south in Waiir District.

Near by areas of Ethiopia and Somalia survey and control operations are not possible in these areas. These suspected hopper bands would impact Kenya in January. This has the potential to cause crop damage as this is the beginning of the harvesting of the short season crops. These swarms are expected to move south into Kenya towards the border with Tanzania. In southeast Ethiopia, locust adults have been seen flying in the Borena zone of Oromiya region which is west of the Ogaden and north of Kenya. Large numbers of adult locusts were reported in the districts of Moyale, Dire, Arero and Yabelo. See image at right.

This is adding another level of complexity to the current situation in Horn as rainfall has been poor during the short rains in many areas of Kenya and Somalia.

Rainfall beneficial, at times heavy in southern Africa

The image to the right shows the higher than normal precipitation anomalies across most of southern Africa. The heavy rains have benefited almost all areas of southern Africa.

Tanzania had started the season later than normal, but this did not impact the growing season in the country, and heavy rainfall has quickly erased any significant moisture deficits in the country. Flooding has been a localized problem in Angola and Zimbabwe. During the coming period flooding may become an issue in Malawi and Mozambique.

Two consecutive failed season possible in Kenya

The 2007 long rains (March – May), upon which most of Kenyan crops are reliant, failed across the eastern and southern portions of the country. The short rains, which run from October until December have been very poor in most of Kenya. Not as much of the country is reliant on the short rains, but because of the failure of the first season there was more importance than usual on the short rains. See image at right.

Rainfall through both seasons has been sufficient close to Lake Victoria and near Mount Kenya; however, much of the rest of the country has the potential for a second consecutive failure of the rains. Coastal areas of Kenya recently began recovering, however for the region to fully recover rains will need to continue weeks after they typically end. Adding to this scenario is the potential for issues with locusts as described at the top of this page.







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