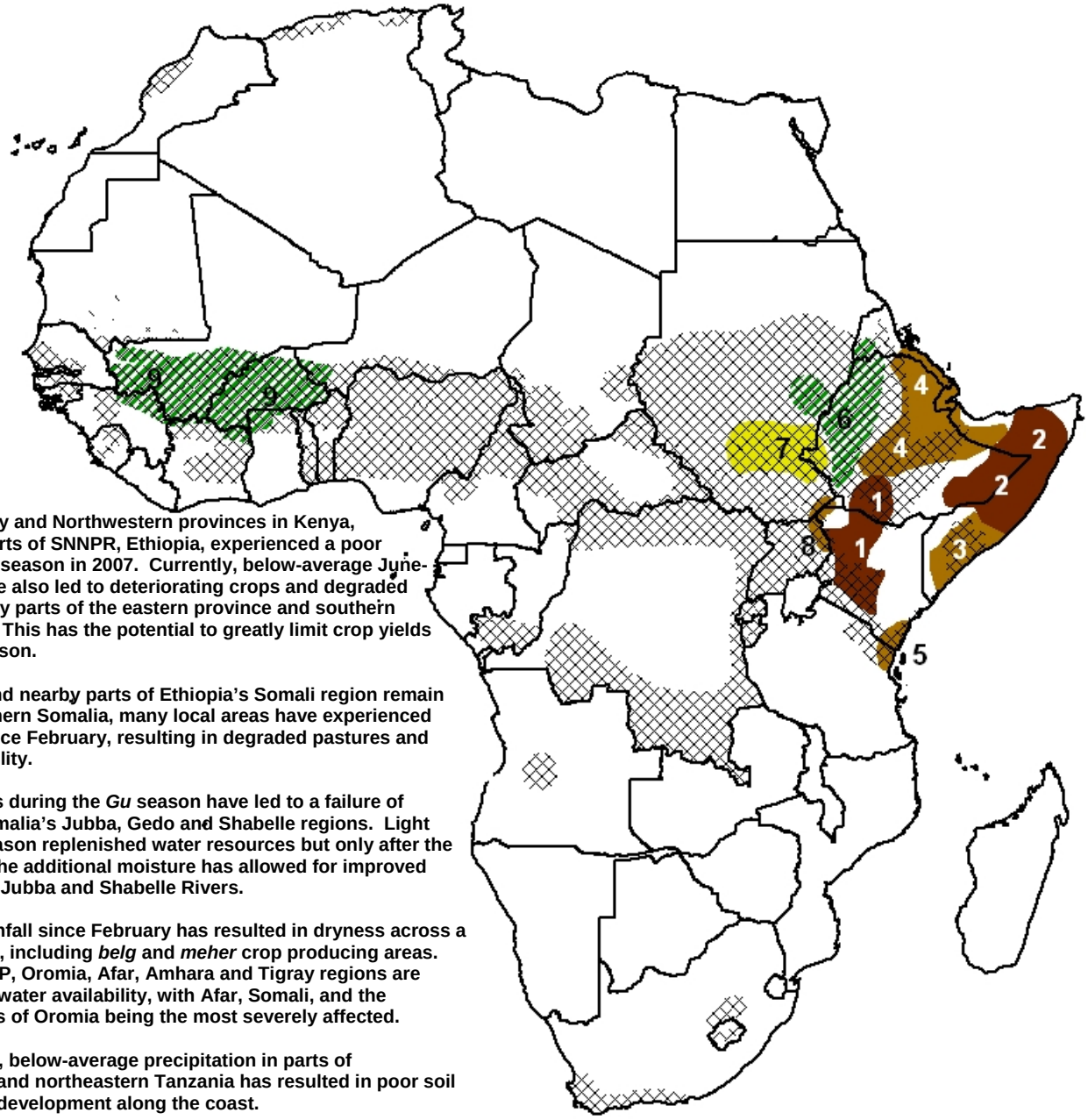
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa July 24 – 30, 2008

- **Below-average March-September rains and insufficient soil moisture conditions in northeastern Uganda have resulted in reduced sorghum and millet yields for many local areas along the Uganda, Sudan and Kenya border.**
- **Abundant rainfall across regions of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya over the last seven days continues to relieve areas that have been affected by long-term drought conditions.**



1) Northern Rift Valley and Northwestern provinces in Kenya, along with nearby parts of SNNPR, Ethiopia, experienced a poor October – December season in 2007. Currently, below-average June-September rains have also led to deteriorating crops and degraded pastures across many parts of the eastern province and southern Rift Valley of Kenya. This has the potential to greatly limit crop yields by the end of the season.

2) Central Somalia and nearby parts of Ethiopia's Somali region remain critically dry. In northern Somalia, many local areas have experienced little to no rainfall since February, resulting in degraded pastures and limited water availability.

3) Poor rainfall totals during the *Gu* season have led to a failure of seasonal rains in Somalia's Jubba, Gedo and Shabelle regions. Light rains after the *Gu* season replenished water resources but only after the season had failed. The additional moisture has allowed for improved conditions along the Jubba and Shabelle Rivers.

4) Below-average rainfall since February has resulted in dryness across a wide area of Ethiopia, including *belg* and *meher* crop producing areas. Parts of Somali, SNNP, Oromia, Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions are reporting decreased water availability, with Afar, Somali, and the neighboring lowlands of Oromia being the most severely affected.

5) Since last October, below-average precipitation in parts of southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania has resulted in poor soil conditions and crop development along the coast.

6) Western Ethiopia, in contrast to much of the Horn of Africa, has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since late March.

7) Despite receiving regular rainfall throughout July, many parts of southern Sudan are 50 percent below their average for the June-October seasonal rain totals.

8) Poor March-September rainfall has lead to deteriorated soil conditions and a failed crop season for localized areas of northeastern Uganda, and into parts of Kenya and Sudan.

9) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water resources and favorable crop conditions across parts of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.

Cropping season in parts of northeastern Uganda already considered a failure.

Many local areas of northern and northeastern Uganda have experienced average to below average rainfall for the March-September season, with considerable precipitation deficits observed in the northeastern Uganda and into local areas near the Kenya and Sudan border. As a result, crop harvests throughout most of the country have reportedly been marginal, with poor soil conditions and failed harvests found in the Karamoja province of Uganda. Satellite-derived crop analyses reflect this crop failure (**Figure 1**), with insufficient crop conditions extending into the East Equatorial state of southeastern Sudan.

Precipitation forecasts for the next seven days do not suggest that rainfall will significantly improve ground conditions in northern Uganda, or in other parts of the country. Seasonal rains through August and September are expected to mainly improve soil and increase water resources in localized areas.

Despite weekly rains in East Africa, many areas in northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and northern Somalia remain dry.

Over the last observation period, heavy rain totals in excess of 50mm were observed in isolated parts of central Somalia, with well-distributed totals (20 – 50 mm) in the Ogaden and SNNPR regions of Ethiopia. Currently, precipitation totals in much of central and southern Ethiopia have remained above-normal since the start of July. Recent rains are expected to help regenerate soil conditions, improve pastures, and increase water resources for many areas that have experienced consecutively failed rain seasons.

However, since July, the June-September rains have continued to fall below-normal for many areas north of the Ahmar mountain range. In the Welo and Tigray provinces of Ethiopia, many local areas are experiencing less than 50 percent of their average rainfall for the June-September season, with much of this dryness affecting parts of Djibouti and eastern Eritrea as well.

Satellite-derived rangeland analyses in northern Somalia also reflect this dryness and indicate that local pasture degradation extends into the Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool provinces of northern Somalia (**Figure 2**). Many of these areas experienced a poor March – May *Belg* rains season and already face deteriorating livestock conditions and limited water resources.

Continuous July Rainfall makes for favorable cropping conditions in Sahel.

During the last week, a robust distribution of precipitation was observed across the Sahel with the highest totals (exceeding 75-100mm) seen in localized parts of southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria (**Figure 3**). Seasonal May-September rain totals have been above-average for much of the Sahel since the start of July, and this continues to benefit the growth of maize and millet crops.

Precipitation forecasts over the next seven days suggest a continued increase in rainfall across much of the Sahel. Given the above-average rainfall and saturated soil conditions, some areas in Burkina Faso, southern Mali and western Niger may experience local flooding.

Satellite-Derived WRSI for Long-Season Crops (%)
As of 2nd Dekad of July, 2008

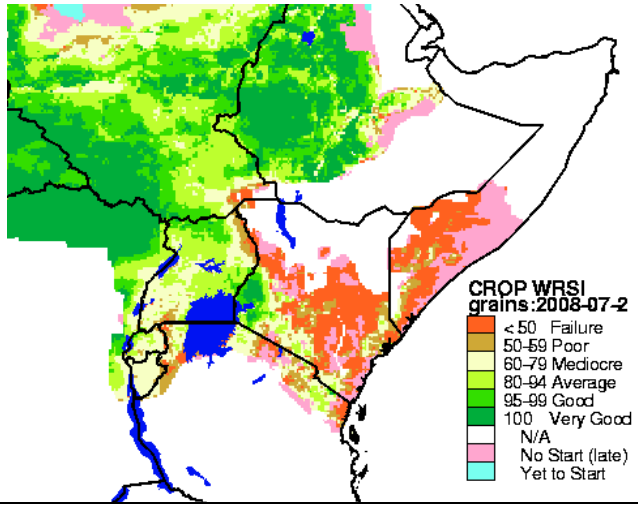


Figure 1
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Satellite-Derived WRSI Anomaly for Rangeland
As of 2nd Dekad of July, 2008

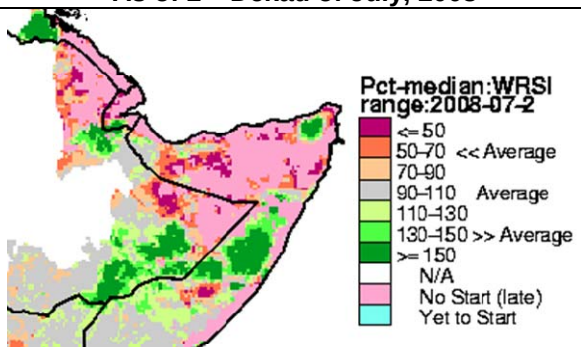


Figure 2
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Satellite-Derived Total Rainfall (mm)
July 14th – July 20th, 2008

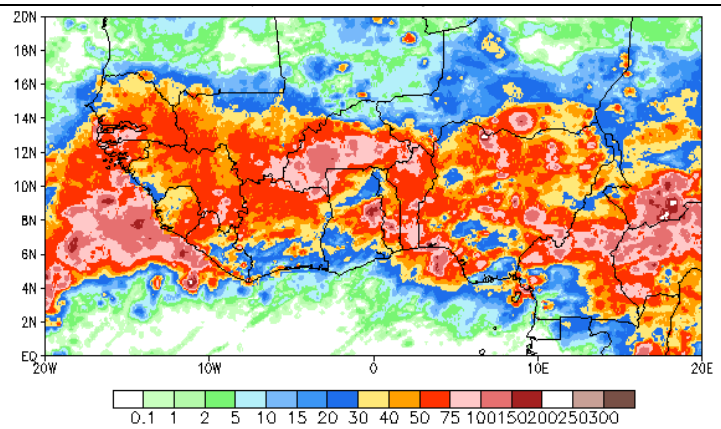


Figure 3
Source: USGS/FEWS NET