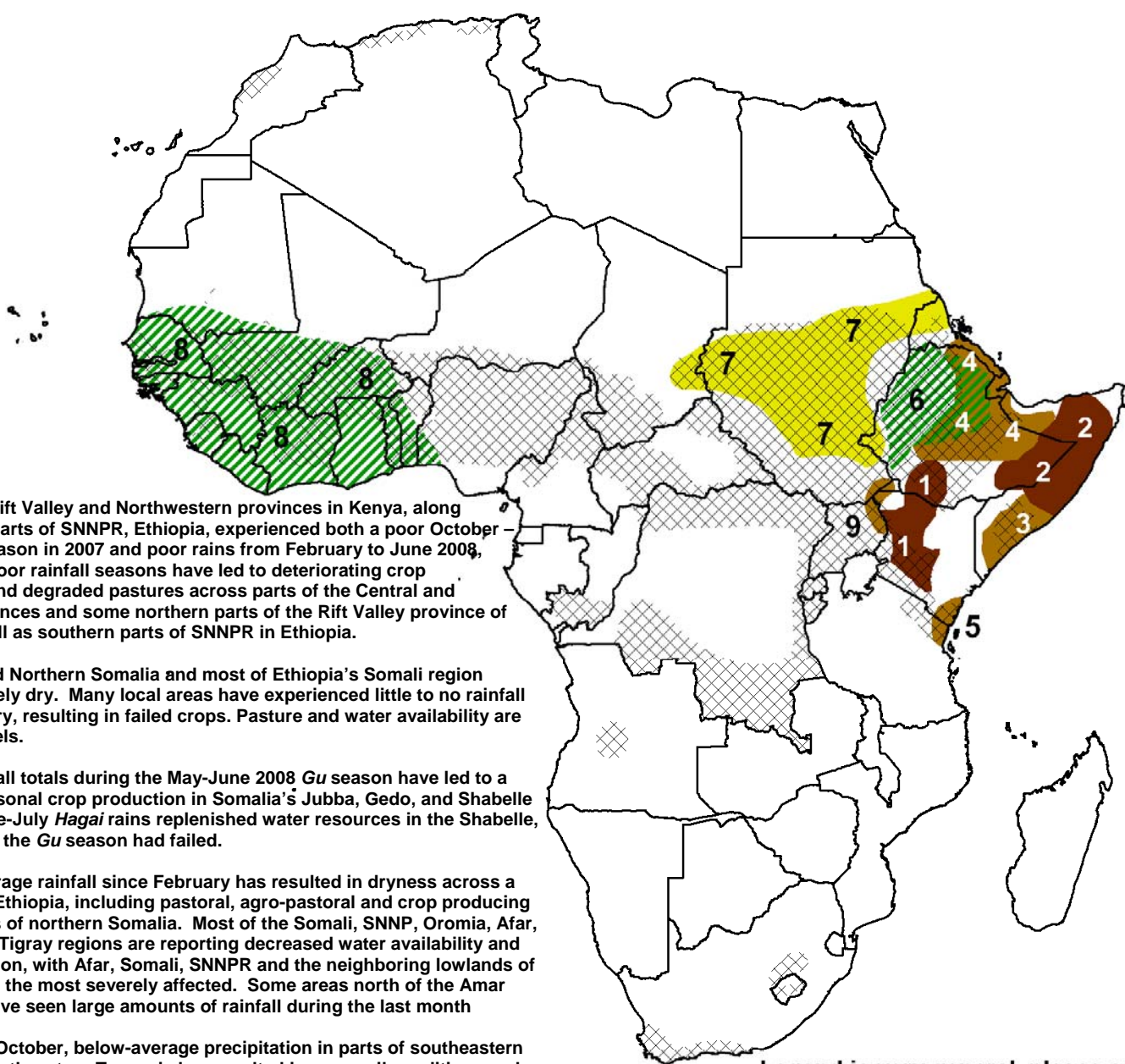


- Precipitation across much of western Africa has been above average. The exception is Niger where rainfall has been below average during later July and early August.
- Rainfall continues to ease across much of Sudan, especially in the south. If dryness persists, it may begin impacting crops.



1) Northern Rift Valley and Northwestern provinces in Kenya, along with nearby parts of SNNPR, Ethiopia, experienced both a poor October – December season in 2007 and poor rains from February to June 2008, successive poor rainfall seasons have led to deteriorating crop conditions and degraded pastures across parts of the Central and Eastern provinces and some northern parts of the Rift Valley province of Kenya, as well as southern parts of SNNPR in Ethiopia.

2) Central and Northern Somalia and most of Ethiopia's Somali region remain severely dry. Many local areas have experienced little to no rainfall since February, resulting in failed crops. Pasture and water availability are at critical levels.

3) Poor rainfall totals during the May-June 2008 *Gu* season have led to a failure of seasonal crop production in Somalia's Jubba, Gedo, and Shabelle regions. June-July *Hagai* rains replenished water resources in the Shabelle, but only after the *Gu* season had failed.

4) Below-average rainfall since February has resulted in dryness across a wide area of Ethiopia, including pastoral, agro-pastoral and crop producing areas in parts of northern Somalia. Most of the Somali, SNNP, Oromia, Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions are reporting decreased water availability and crop production, with Afar, Somali, SNNPR and the neighboring lowlands of Oromia being the most severely affected. Some areas north of the Amar Mountains have seen large amounts of rainfall during the last month

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.

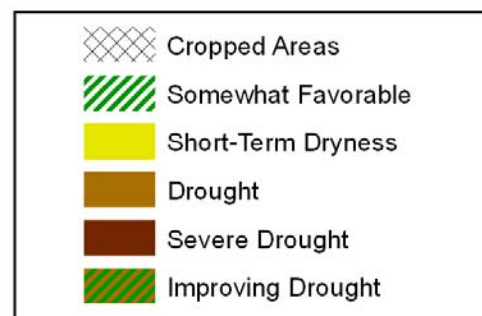
6) Western Ethiopia, in contrast to much of East Africa, has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since late March.

7) Rainfall has been slightly below-average since mid-July across Sudan, northern Eritrea, and eastern Chad.

8) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water resources and favorable crop conditions across much of western Africa. Cholera outbreaks have been reported in Senegal. Isolated flooding is likely throughout the region

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

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



Negative rainfall anomalies continue to grow in Sudan, spread into Chad and Eritrea

Over the past month, rainfall has become light across Sudan and in nearby parts of Eritrea and Chad. Though some areas continue to see sufficient rainfall for agriculture, many areas are beginning to show signs of crop stress. In northern Sudan, rainfall totals have been below-normal, with the start of seasonal rains in areas southwest and east of Khartoum at least two dekads late. The Darfur region continues to experience suppressed rainfall, and in southern Sudan, rainfall deficits continue to grow. These conditions are having an adverse effect on crops (Figure 1).

Given that seasonal rainfall is now approaching its northern-most extent, time for improvement in these areas is limited. Within the next couple of weeks, rainfall will begin to slowly withdraw, from north to south, across the region. If rainfall does not improve over the next one to two weeks in the northern-most areas, moisture deficits may not be able to recover.

A 30 day dry spell may have ended in Niger

During late July and early August rainfall totals were poor, but rainfall remained well distributed across Niger. Season long anomalies, since May, are now near average (Figure 2); while just a month ago they were 150 percent of average.

There is still ample opportunity for improvement. August is the wettest month of the year in Niger, and during the last week rainfall totals have improved. If this trend continues, and the rains stay in place through early October, the season will have recovered. However, an early end to the rains will have significant impacts on crops that have experienced a period of suppressed rains.

Precipitation remains plentiful in the western Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea regions

An area spanning from Mauritania and Senegal to Sierra Leone to Togo has experienced abundant and well distributed rainfall. This has benefited crops, pastures and drinking water supplies throughout the region. (Figure 2)

These rains have come at a price: there are reports from Senegal about outbreaks of cholera and flooding has caused problems throughout the region.

