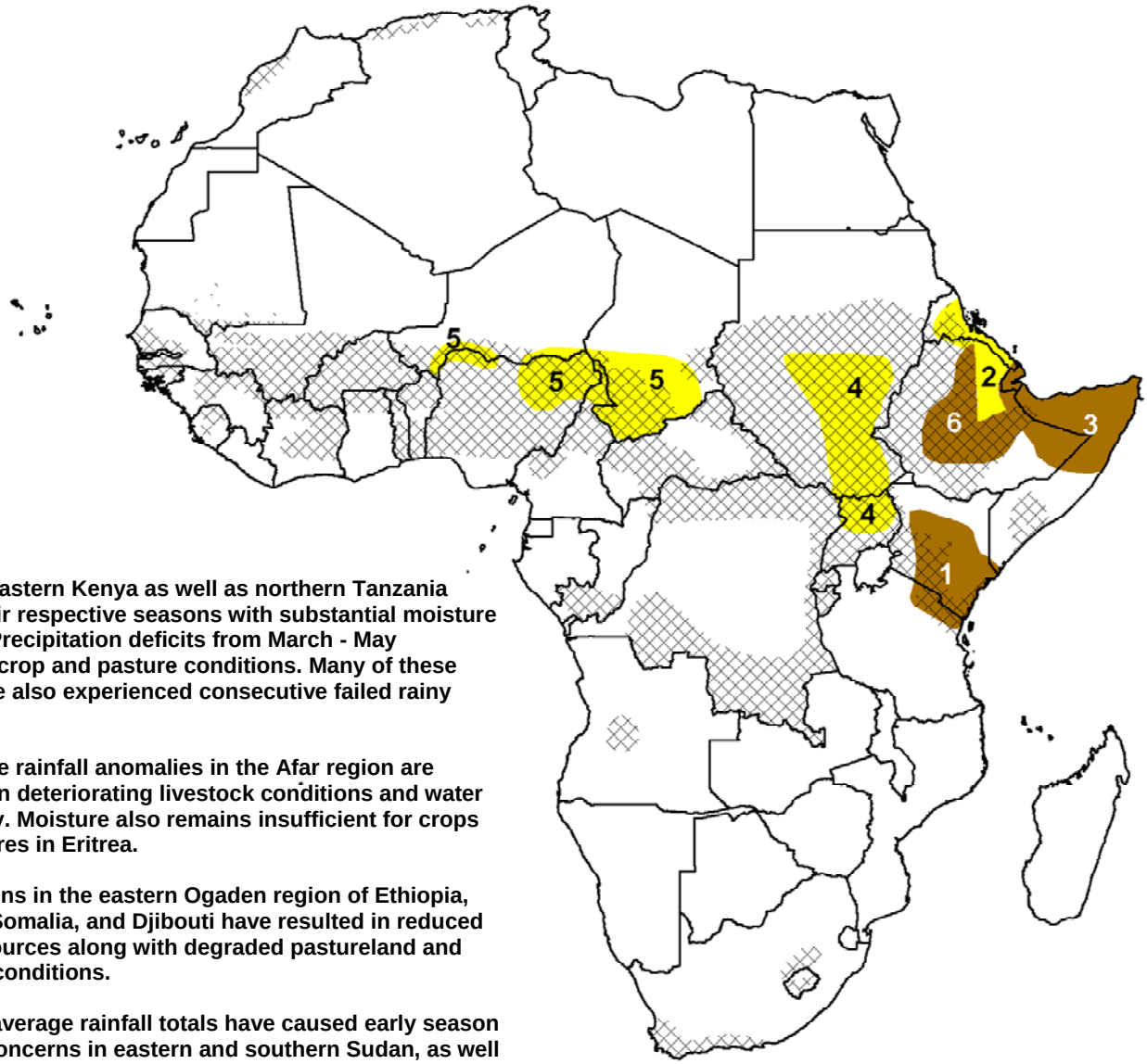
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
July 9 - 15, 2009

- **Compounded by a poor Belg rains season, the Meher rains have not been plentiful and consistent, which may result in failure of long-term crops across portions of Ethiopia and Sudan.**
- **An increase in rains since June has alleviated short-term dryness across many areas in West Africa. However, rainfall deficits continue to strengthen in northeastern Nigeria and neighboring portions of Niger, Cameroon and Chad.**



1) Southeastern Kenya as well as northern Tanzania ended their respective seasons with substantial moisture deficits. Precipitation deficits from March - May degraded crop and pasture conditions. Many of these areas have also experienced consecutive failed rainy seasons.

2) Negative rainfall anomalies in the Afar region are resulting in deteriorating livestock conditions and water availability. Moisture also remains insufficient for crops and pastures in Eritrea.

3) Poor rains in the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and Djibouti have resulted in reduced water resources along with degraded pastureland and livestock conditions.

4) Below-average rainfall totals have caused early season dryness concerns in eastern and southern Sudan, as well as into parts of northern Uganda.

5) The suppression of the Intertropical Front has led to strengthening dryness in northern Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad.

6) A severely delayed start of the belg season and erratic rainfall from February to May resulted in a near failure of the northern belg crops. In the southern areas crops either failed or will be harvested one to two months late and are expected to be much below average. Although the belg season has ended, the dry conditions have the potential to impede long cycle crops. In addition, locust swarms may also negatively impact crops throughout portions of Ethiopia.

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

- July Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought

Low rainfall totals in northeastern Nigeria strengthens seasonal deficits

During the last observation period, a favorable accumulation of rainfall ranging between 25-75 mm was observed throughout many areas in the Gulf of Guinea and Sahel. Heavier totals in excess of 100mm were seen across lower Gulf of Guinea region that has continued to provide additional amounts of ground moisture and benefit cropping activities. Since early June, precipitation in western and central portions of the Sahel and lower Gulf of Guinea region has become more consistent, which continues to mitigate the effects of early-season dryness across many local areas in West Africa.

Areas not benefitting from this trend of enhanced rainfall in West Africa are in northeastern Nigeria, and neighboring areas of Niger, Cameroon and southern Chad. Although these areas have been receiving rainfall in recent weeks, lower than average accumulations continue to increase seasonal deficits. Some local areas in northeastern Nigeria are experiencing less than half of average accumulation since the start of May (**Figure 1**). Much of this dryness has led to crop deterioration and failure across some local areas of Chad, as well as parts of southern and western Niger along the Nigeria border.

Precipitation forecasts suggest some improvement over northeastern Nigeria over the next seven days. Rainfall amounts ranging between 50-75 mm are expected over central portions of the country. Other countries in the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea are also expected to receive precipitation accumulations in excess of 50mm.

Dryness showing signs of some improvement in southeastern Sudan

During the last seven days, rounds of showers and thunderstorms produced significant rainfall totals in southern Sudan and across portions of western Ethiopia. Rainfall accumulations in excess of 75-100mm were observed in the East Equatoria states of Sudan, with heavier totals seen across the border into western Ethiopia (**Figure 2**).

Although seasonal deficits remain fairly widespread throughout much of Sudan, an increase in precipitation in recent weeks has gradually weakened many areas affected by short-term dryness throughout central and western Sudan. Moisture index analyses also reflect this improvement, with considerable differences in available moisture mostly seen in southern half of the country (**Figure 3**).

Despite these recent improvements, precipitation forecasts do not show rains to be as favorable during upcoming observation period. Totals ranging between 25-50mm are expected throughout many areas in the southern and central region of the country.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percent of Average (%)
May 1st – July 6th, 2009

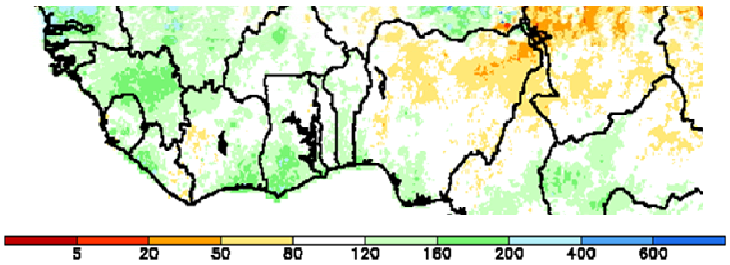


Figure 1:
Source: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
June 28th – July 4th, 2009

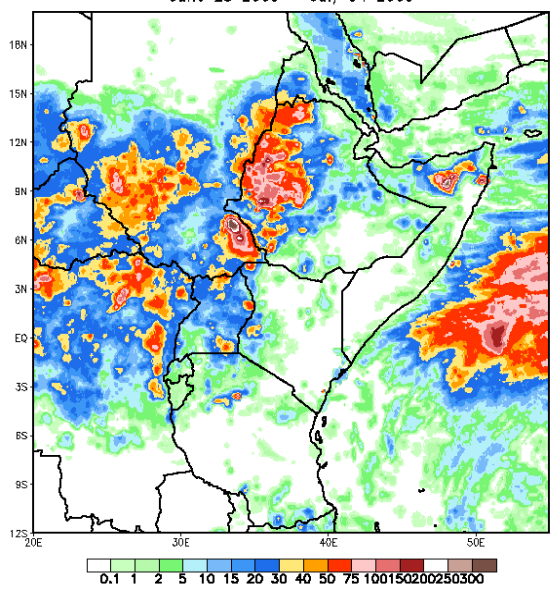


Figure 2:
Source: NOAA/CPC

Moisture Index (Difference since previous dekad)
As of 3rd Dekad of June, 2009

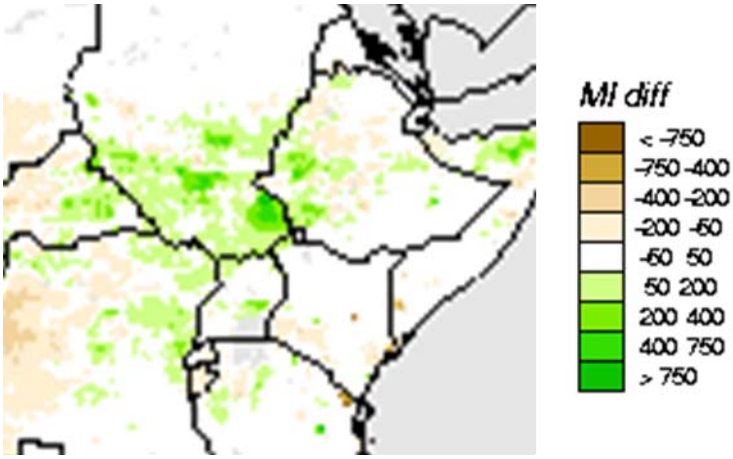


Figure 3:
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS