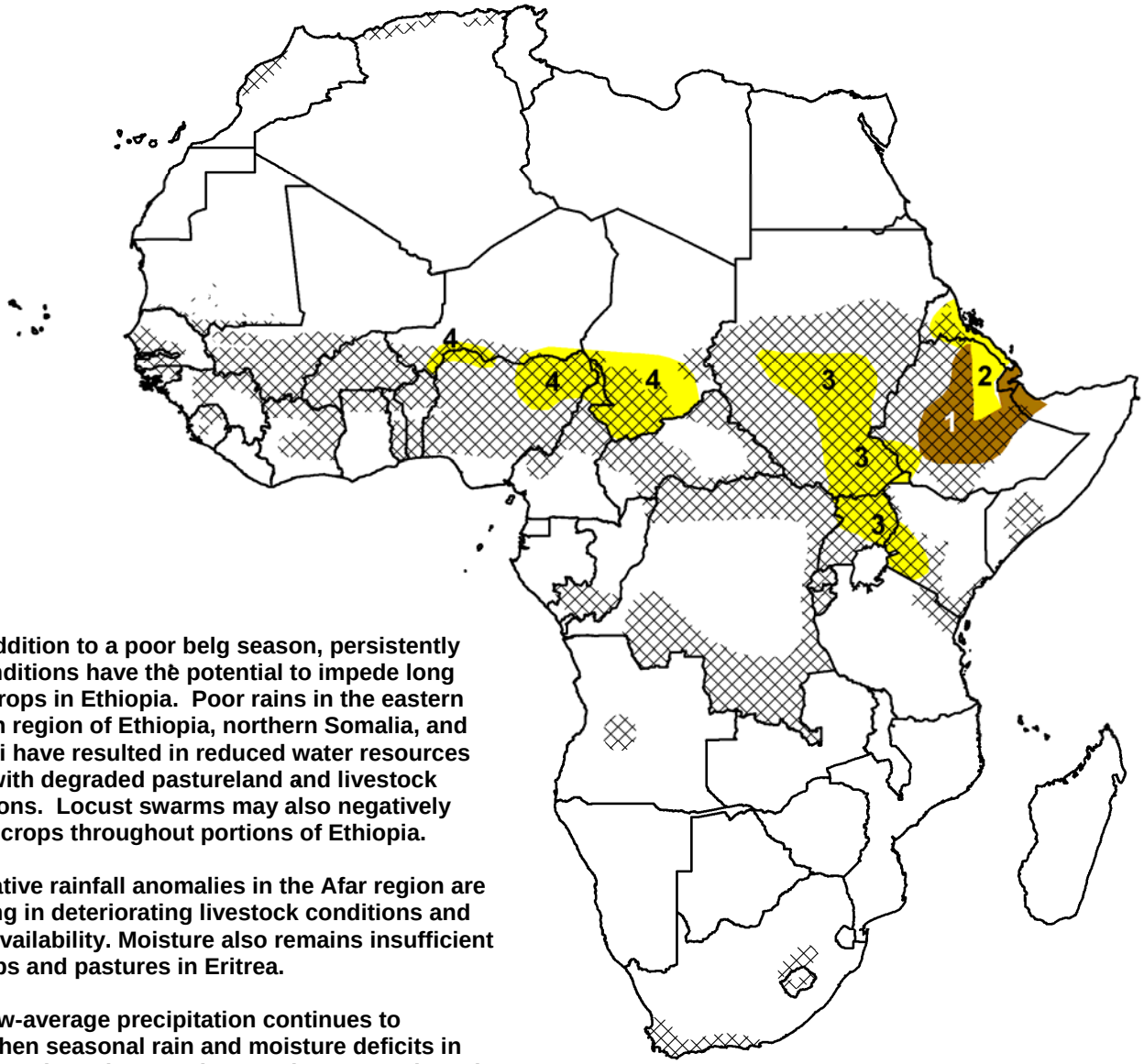
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa July 16 - 22, 2009

- **Little to no precipitation in the last week exacerbated dryness across parts of Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Ethiopia.**
- **Below-average rainfall has led to deteriorating crop conditions in some parts of northern Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and southwestern Chad.**



1) In addition to a poor belg season, persistently dry conditions have the potential to impede long cycle crops in Ethiopia. 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. Locust swarms may also negatively impact crops throughout portions of Ethiopia.

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) Below-average precipitation continues to strengthen seasonal rain and moisture deficits in eastern and southern Sudan, northern Uganda and into parts of southwestern Kenya and Ethiopia. Many areas throughout central and eastern Kenya, as well as northern Tanzania ended their respective seasons with substantial moisture deficits, resulting in degraded crop and pasture conditions.

4) A decrease in rainfall over the last several weeks has led to strengthening dryness and deteriorating crop conditions in northern Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad.

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

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

Poor rains sustain drought in parts of Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia

During the last observation period, little to no precipitation was observed in southeastern Sudan, with more seasonally average accumulations seen further towards the west (**Figure 1**). In Uganda, isolated thunderstorms over the last week produced high totals over some local areas, however, many areas in the northern portions of the country remain well below-average. Poorly distributed rains were also observed in southwestern Ethiopia, with precipitation totals less than 20 mm across a broad portion of the SNNP region. Towards the north along the Sudan / Ethiopia border, precipitation has remained consistent and favorable.

Since mid-April, precipitation across many portions of the Greater Horn has been erratic and below-average (**Figure 2**). In addition to a poor *Belg* season, many parts of Ethiopia are facing major precipitation deficits for the *Meher* season, which is likely to lead to pronounced crop and pastoral deterioration. Although precipitation was showing signs of some improvement over the last couple of weeks in Sudan, this past week's absence of rains and moisture has strengthened seasonal deficits, leaving many local areas in the south and southeast between 50-75 percent of their average rainfall since May. This dryness also extends further south into parts of Uganda and western Kenya along the Lake Victoria basin. As a result, crop and vegetation conditions have been declining in many of these areas due to insufficient soil moisture and water shortages since June.

Precipitation forecasts do not suggest much improvement over Sudan, Uganda and Kenya in the next seven days. Rainfall amounts ranging between 20- 50 mm are expected over southwestern portions of Sudan, with minimal amounts (< 20 mm) for areas in the southeast, and along the Uganda and Ethiopia border.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
July 5th – July 11th, 2009

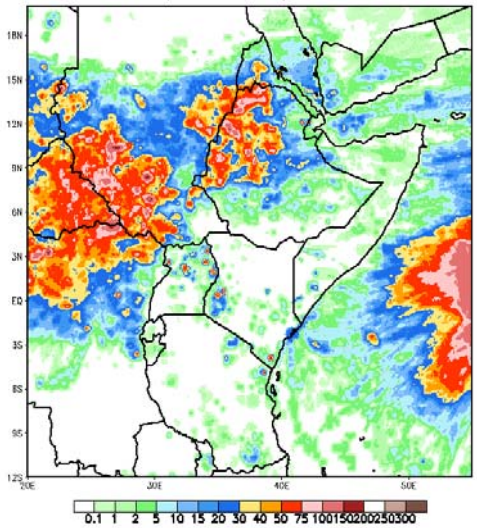


Figure 1:
Source: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Since April 15th, 2009

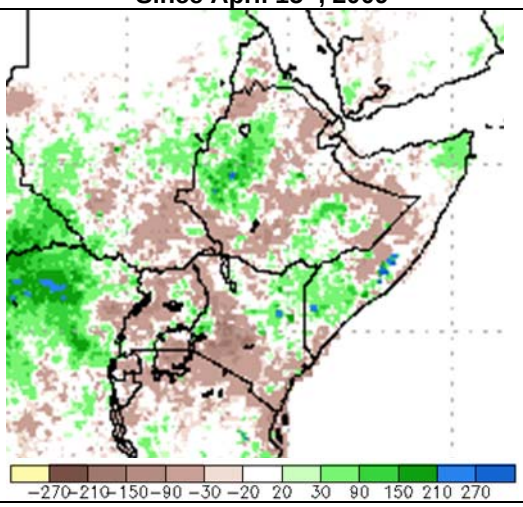


Figure 2:
Source: NOAA/CPC

Despite some relief to dryness, many areas in Nigeria and Chad face crop degradation.

Many parts of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad experienced an increase in rains with totals in excess 30-40mm in the last seven days. Although this has helped to mitigate the effects of short-term dryness, many local areas continue to face growing rainfall and soil moisture shortages. As a result, a number of millet crops have experienced acute failure along the Niger / Nigeria border, and in southwestern regions of Chad. Latest crop condition analyses now show below-average conditions extended eastward throughout portions of central Chad (**Figure 3**).

Although some of these areas have replanted, more precipitation and ground moisture are needed to compensate the loss of crops before the end of July. Precipitation forecast suggest an increase in rains across the Sahel in Niger and Chad in the next seven days.

Crop Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
As of 1st Dekad of July, 2009

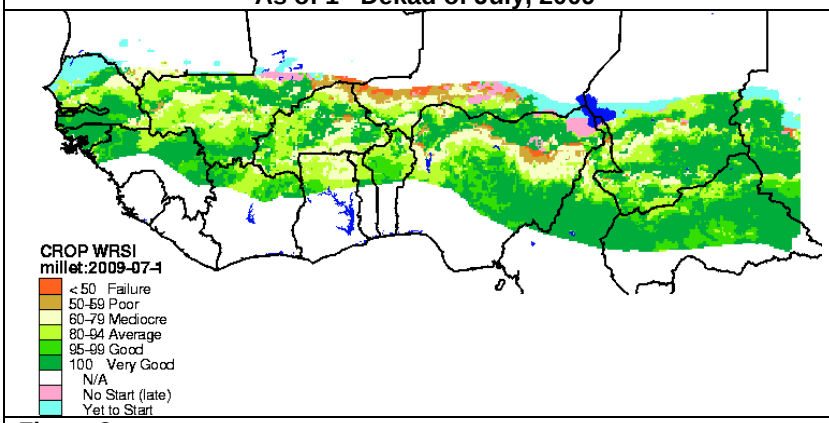


Figure 3:
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS