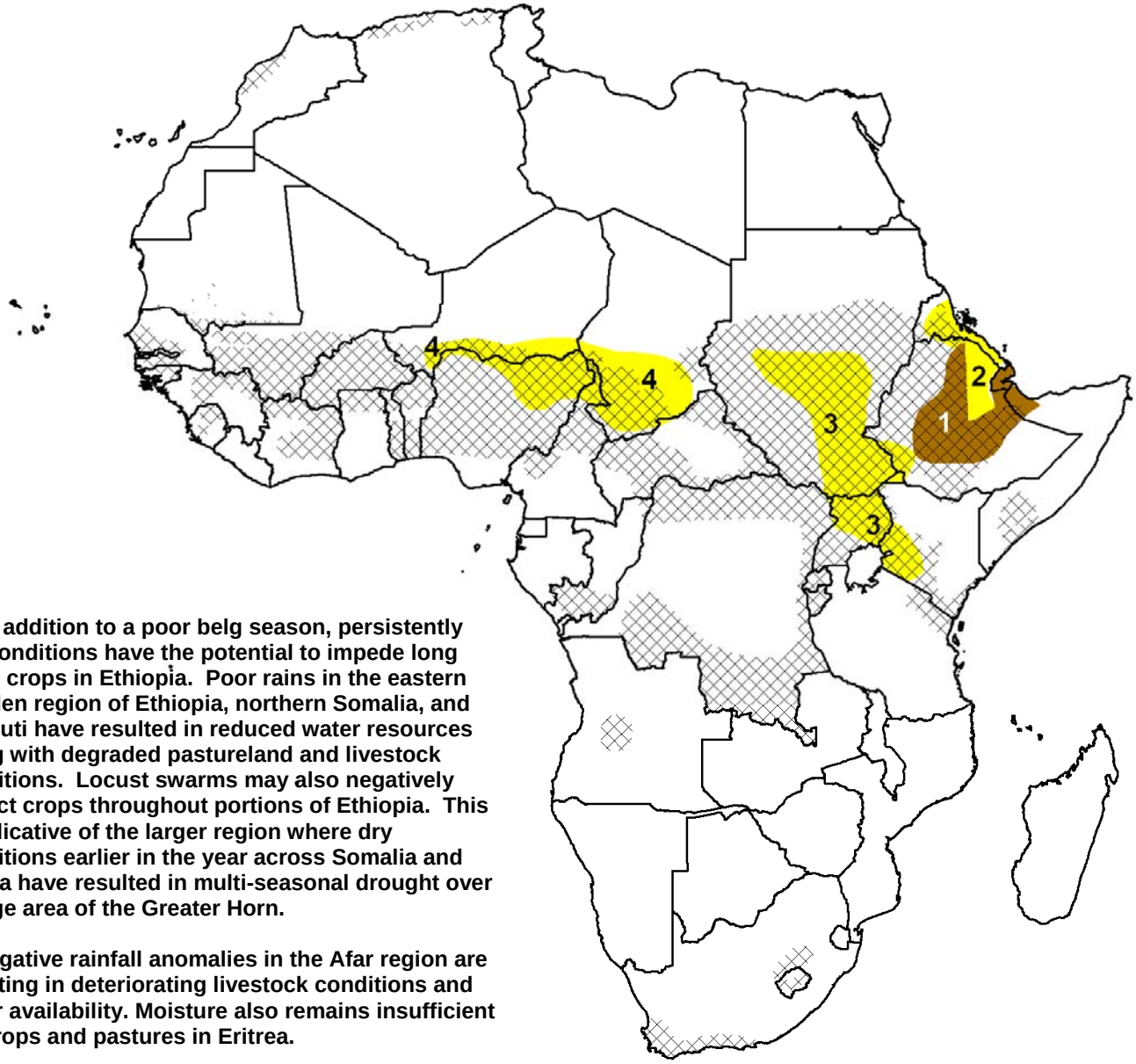
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
July 23 - 29, 2009

- **Light precipitation continues to exacerbate 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. This is indicative of the larger region where dry conditions earlier in the year across Somalia and Kenya have resulted in multi-seasonal drought over a large area of the Greater Horn.

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

Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia continue to experience growing deficits

During the last observation period, light precipitation was observed across Sudan, with an increase in moisture in the dry southeastern portion of the country (**Figure 1**). Despite the better rainfall, over many areas rainfall deficits continued to grow. In Uganda, light rain over the last week continued the trend of below-average precipitation totals. Precipitation did increase over southwestern Ethiopia, however the season long issue of poorly distributed rains continues to be a major problem across much of SNNPR. Towards the north along the Sudan-Ethiopia border, precipitation has remained consistent and favorable, although this is a short-term trend.

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 are 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, the continued erratic nature of the rains and insufficient moisture has strengthened seasonal deficits, leaving many local areas in the south and southeast with 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 remain lack-luster over Sudan, Uganda and Kenya for 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-Ethiopia border and southward into western Kenya.

Areas in Nigeria and Chad get relief, short-term dryness spreads in Niger

Heavier rainfall than has been observed thus far this year in Chad and northeastern Nigeria has brought short-term relief to the area. This has helped to mitigate the effects of dryness that have negatively impacted the growing season this year. Despite the relief, many local areas continue to face 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.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
July 12th – July 18th, 2009

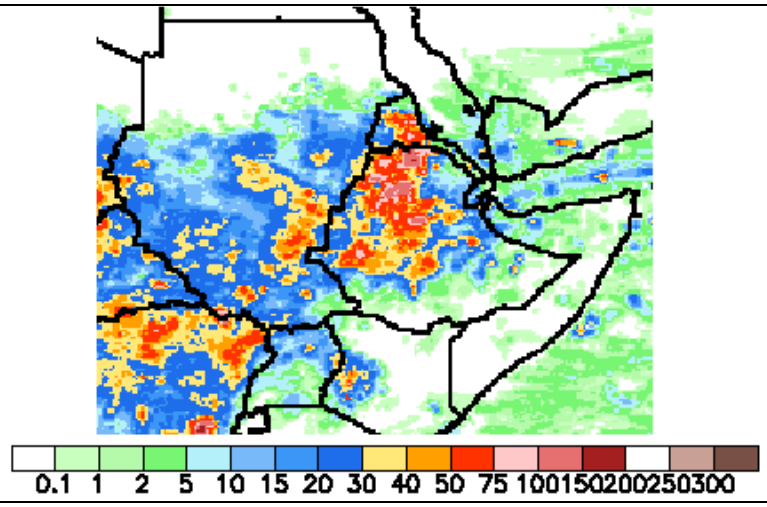


Figure 1: Rain fall has improved across eastern Sudan, however the long-term trend remains dry. Uganda and Kenya also continued to experience below-average rainfall.
Source: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
February 1st – July 18th, 2009

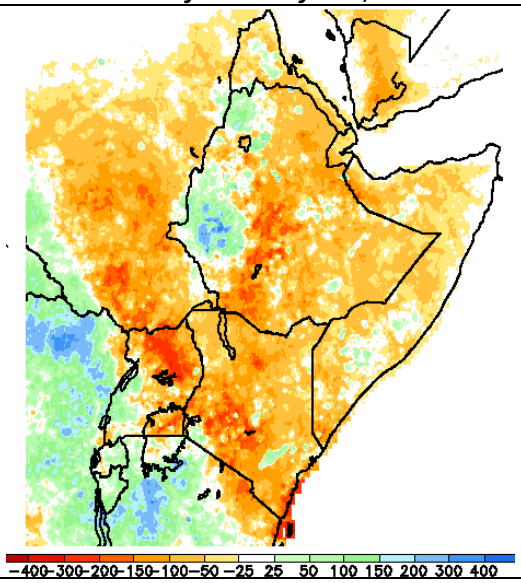


Figure 2: Dry conditions remain in place across much of the Greater Horn of Africa region, with few areas having experienced positive anomalies this year.
Source: NOAA/CPC

Crop Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
As of 18th of July, 2009

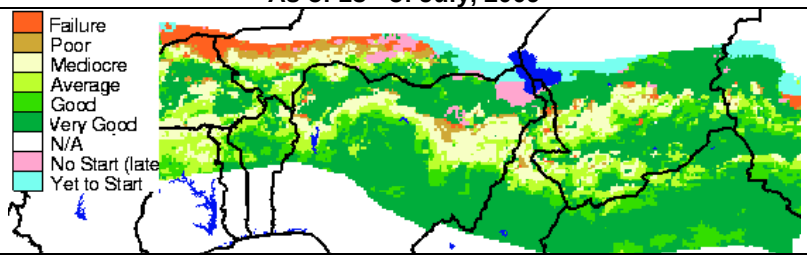


Figure 3: Northeastern Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon continue to show poor crop conditions, and those are now spreading into Niger.
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS