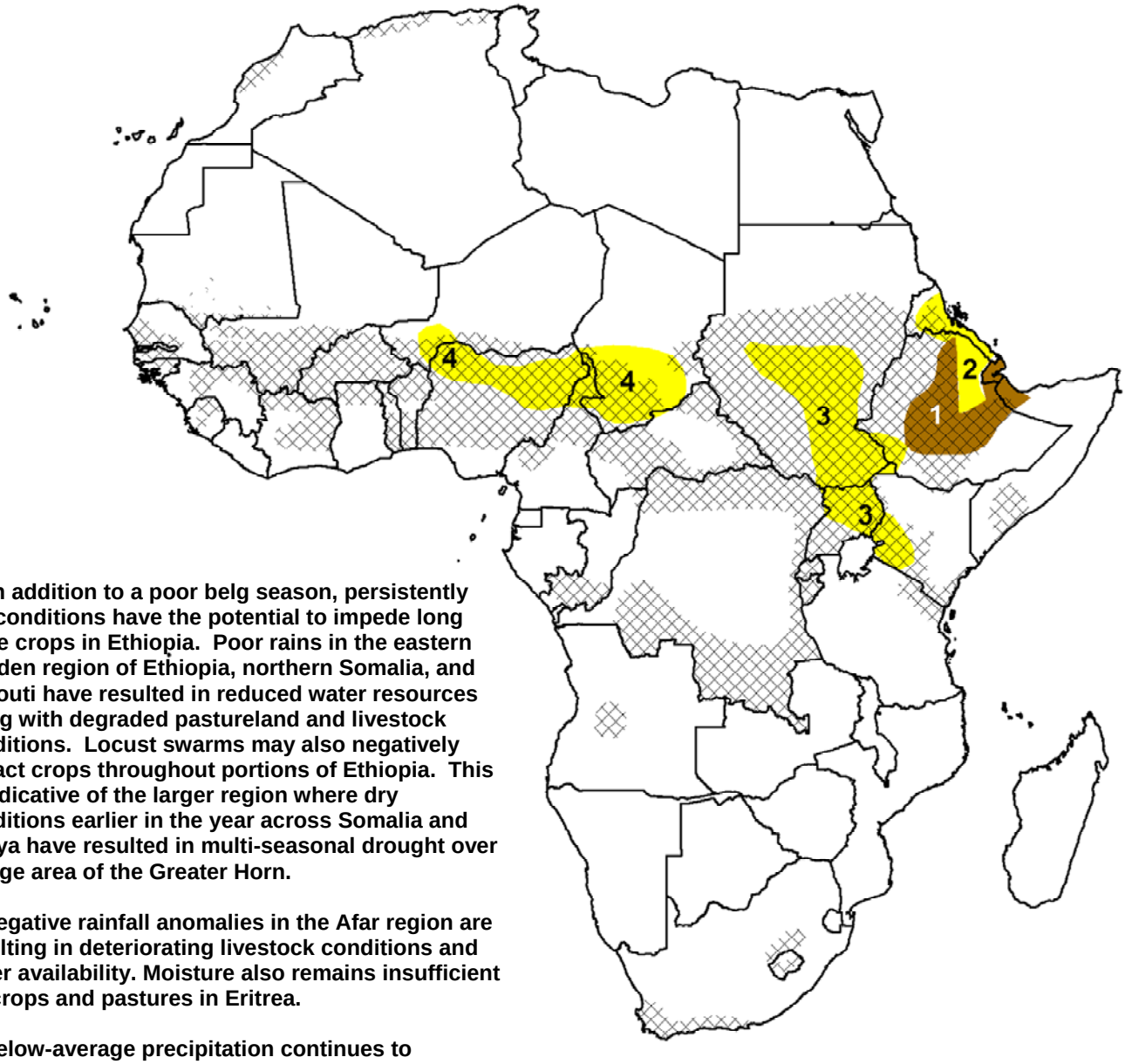
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
July 30 – August 5, 2009

- **Despite moderate amounts of rain over Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad in the last seven days, many local areas still need additional precipitation and moisture to mitigate the effects of short-term dryness.**
- **Several weeks of poor precipitation have strengthened seasonal moisture deficits across much of southern Sudan and northern Uganda.**



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 extending from western Niger, across northern Nigeria, and into parts of 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

Additional moisture needed in Niger, Nigeria and Chad

In the last seven days, light to moderate amounts of precipitation fell across Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad. Rainfall totals between 30 - 50 mm were observed across most of Nigeria, with locally heavier amounts seen in Cameroon and southwestern Chad (**Figure 1**). While much of this moisture was observed further north into Niger, some local parts of western Niger experienced another week of below-average rainfall. Elsewhere in West Africa, many countries continue to experience seasonally favorable rainfall, with some local pockets of short-term dryness in Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea.

Since early July, many local areas in the Tillaberi, Dosso and Tahoua regions of Niger now face seasonal rainfall deficits ranging between -50 to -150 mm. Although much of western Niger experienced a normal start of season, this dryness has resulted in deteriorating crop conditions, and acute failure of millet crops in some local areas along the Nigeria / Niger border (**Figure 2**). Further towards the east, precipitation associated with the Inter-Tropical Front continues to be suppressed over southwestern Chad since early July. This has also led to depleted ground moisture and below-average crop conditions. Although some of these areas in Niger and Chad have replanted, more precipitation and ground moisture are needed to compensate seasonal rainfall deficits and the loss of crops before the end of July.

Precipitation forecasts show an increase in rainfall over many dry areas of Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. Rainfall amounts ranging between 30 – 75 mm are expected over southwestern Chad, with locally higher amounts across Nigeria and western Niger.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
July 19th – July 25th, 2009

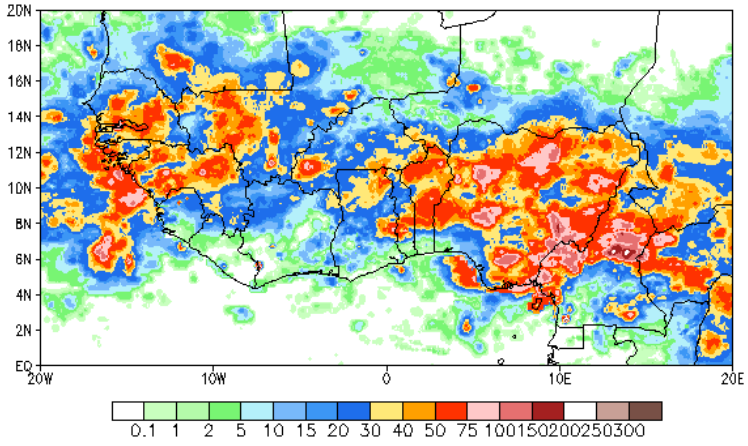


Figure 1:
Source: NOAA/CPC

Crop Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
As of 2nd dekad of July, 2009

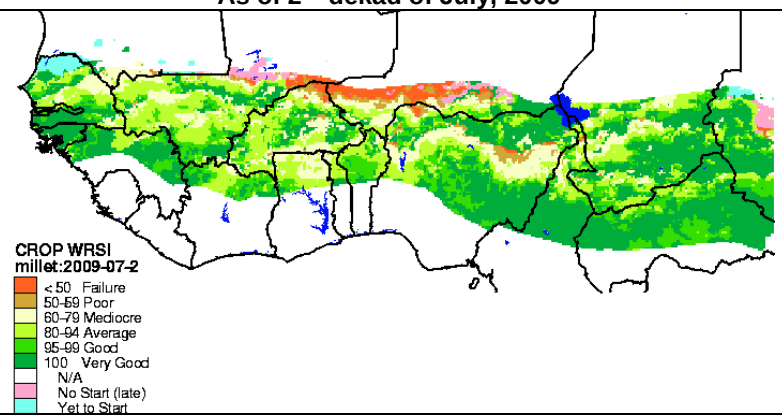


Figure 2:
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS

Moisture deficits strengthen in southern Sudan, northern Uganda

During the last observation period, moderate to heavy amounts (> 50 mm) of precipitation were observed in the Jongli, Warrap, and Upper-Nile states of Sudan. Further south, many local areas in the southern equatorial states of Sudan, as well as into northern Uganda, received another week of little to no precipitation.

This absence of rainfall continues to strengthen moisture deficits for much of southern Sudan and northern Uganda, as many of these areas are greater than 150 mm below their seasonal average (**Figure 3**). Since early June, this dryness has led to reduced water availability and deteriorating crop and pasture conditions north of the Lake Victoria basin. Precipitation forecasts do not show much relief in the near-term, as many of these areas are expected to receive precipitation totals less than 20 mm over the next seven days.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Since May 27th , 2009

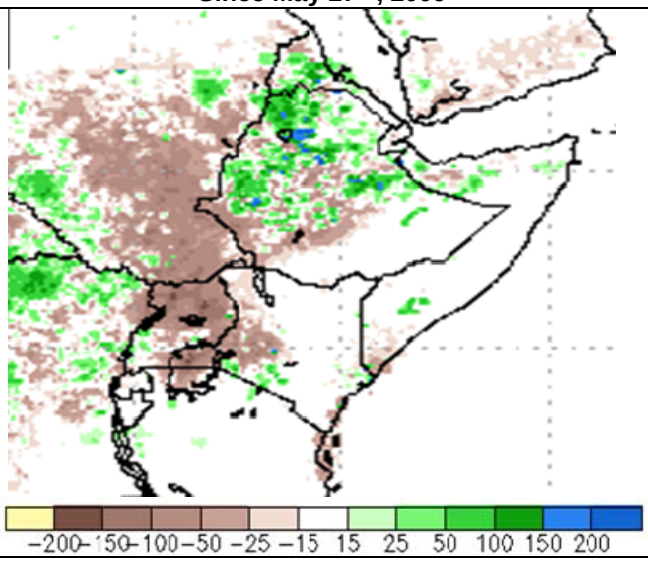


Figure 3:
Source: FEWS-NET / USGS