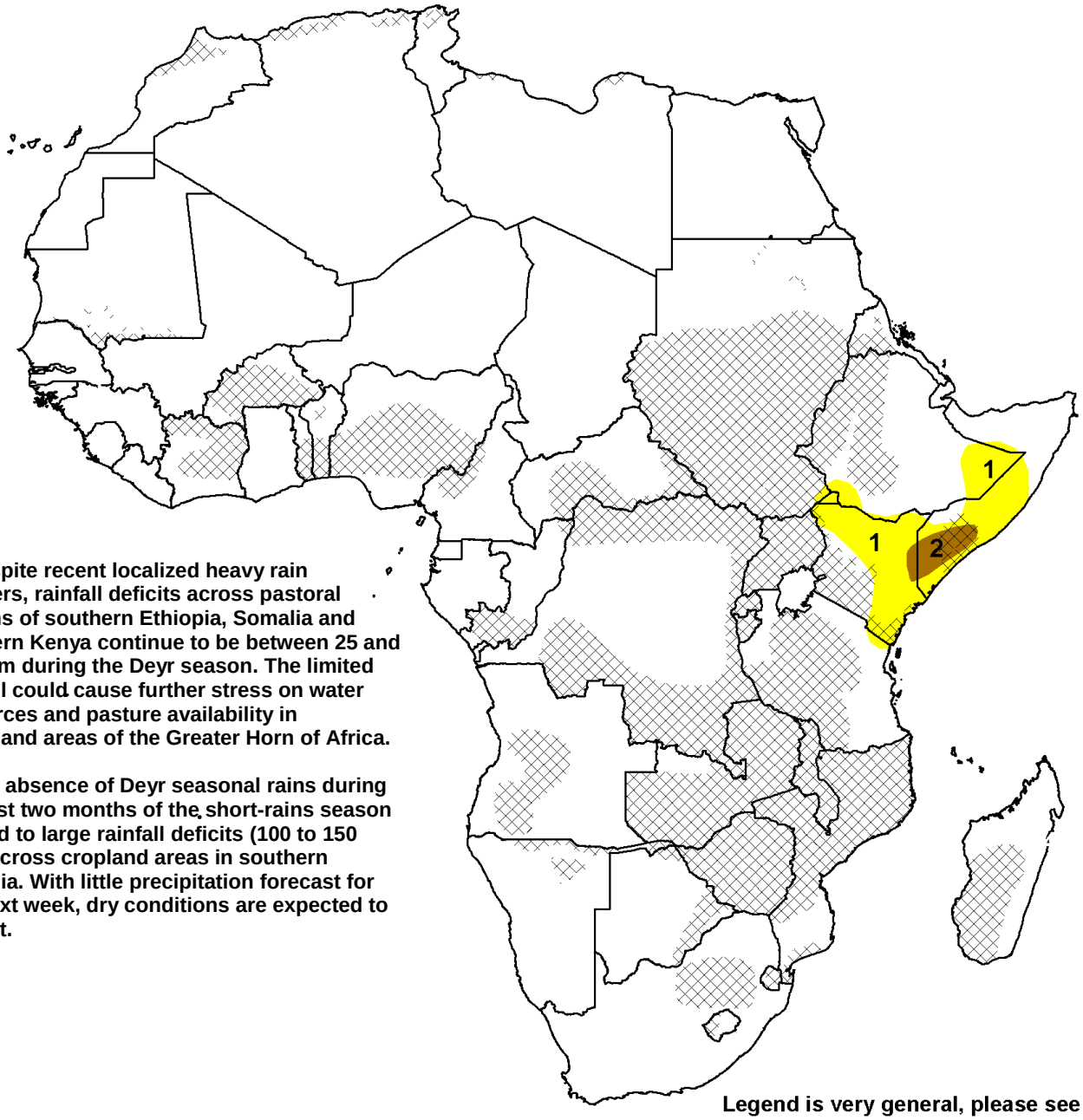
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
December 2 – December 8, 2010

- **While localized areas across the Greater Horn of Africa received heavy rainfall, Deyr rains continued to be absent over much of Somalia.**
- **Above-average rainfall was widespread across most of southern Africa including portions of eastern Africa which has seen a slow start to the rainy season.**



1) Despite recent localized heavy rain showers, rainfall deficits across pastoral regions of southern Ethiopia, Somalia and northern Kenya continue to be between 25 and 100 mm during the Deyr season. The limited rainfall could cause further stress on water resources and pasture availability in rangeland areas of the Greater Horn of Africa.

2) The absence of Deyr seasonal rains during the first two months of the short-rains season has led to large rainfall deficits (100 to 150 mm) across cropland areas in southern Somalia. With little precipitation forecast for the next week, dry conditions are expected to persist.

Localized heavy rainfall was observed across Kenya and southern Somalia.

During the past seven days, localized areas in Kenya, southwestern Ethiopia and southern Somalia received moderate rain showers (> 30 mm). These showers, while localized, were widespread across the Greater Horn of Africa occurring in areas that had seen little rainfall during the Deyr season. However, due to their confined nature, the showers did little to reduce the growing rainfall deficits across the region. The largest deficits (100 to 150 mm below-average) continued to be located across agropastoral areas in southern Somalia and around Mt. Kenya in Kenya. Rangeland areas in Somalia and southeastern Ethiopia also experienced little precipitation during the past week deepening Deyr seasonal rainfall deficits to between 25 and 100 mm (**Figure 1**). While past above-average seasonal rainfall has helped keep rangeland conditions from deteriorating quickly, stress on water resources and pasture availability is becoming a concern as the Deyr short-rains season ends in December.

Due to the miserable performance of the Deyr rains, the WRSI indicated a late start across most rangeland areas across the Greater Horn of Africa. Only locations in central southern Ethiopia and southeastern Kenya, where recent rain showers have fallen during the past several weeks, showed average to good conditions (**Figure 2**).

Rainfall is forecast to be limited across the Greater Horn of Africa during the next week with 10-30 mm of rain expected over southern Kenya and little to no rainfall over Somalia and southern Ethiopia.

Widespread abundant rain fell across southern Africa.

After a slow start to seasonal rains across portions of southern Africa, this past week saw widespread areas receive greater than 40 mm of precipitation. The heaviest rains (>75 mm) were across Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Botswana, eastern South Africa and northern Zimbabwe with the highest totals (> 150 mm) located over southern Mozambique. The above-average rain that was observed over Madagascar, eastern Zambia, and Mozambique was a relief from a sluggish start to the rainy season. The heavy rains in Angola marked the second consecutive week that above-average rain was observed. Southern portions of the Maize Triangle also experienced above-average rain during the past week which has continued to help reduce seasonal deficits. In contrast, after several weeks of heavy early seasonal rains across southeastern Botswana and southern Zimbabwe, precipitation totals were light during the past week (**Figure 3**).

Moderate rainfall is expected to continue for another week across much of southern Africa with the highest rainfall totals located over Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern Botswana and the northern Maize Triangle. However, precipitation totals are forecast to be light across northern Mozambique and much of Tanzania during the next seven days.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 1st – November 27th, 2010

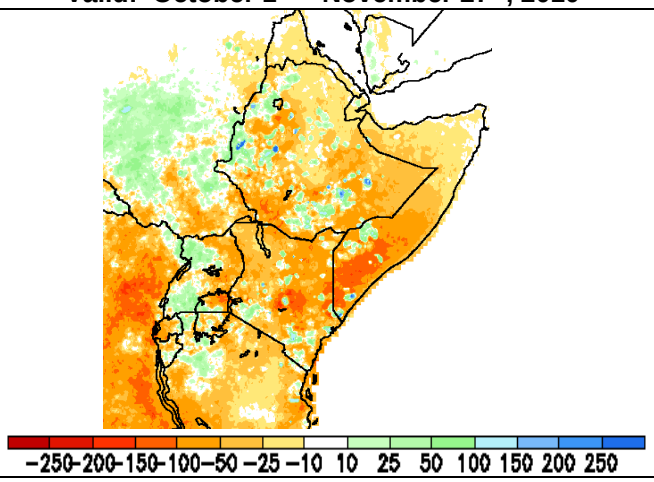


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI)
Valid: As of 2nd Dekad of November, 2010

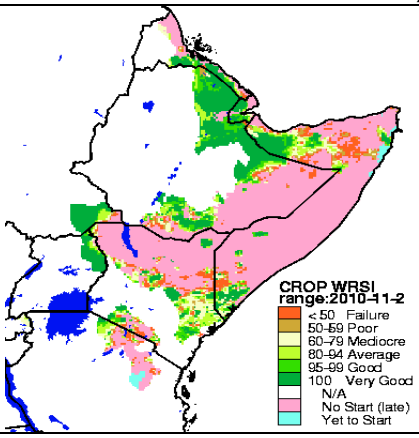


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: November 22nd – November 28th, 2010

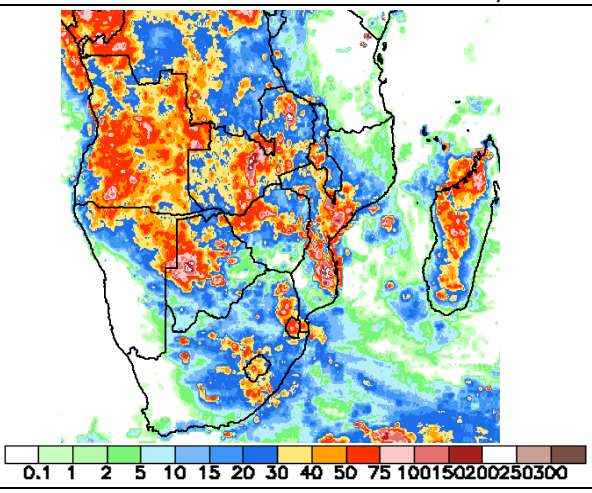


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.