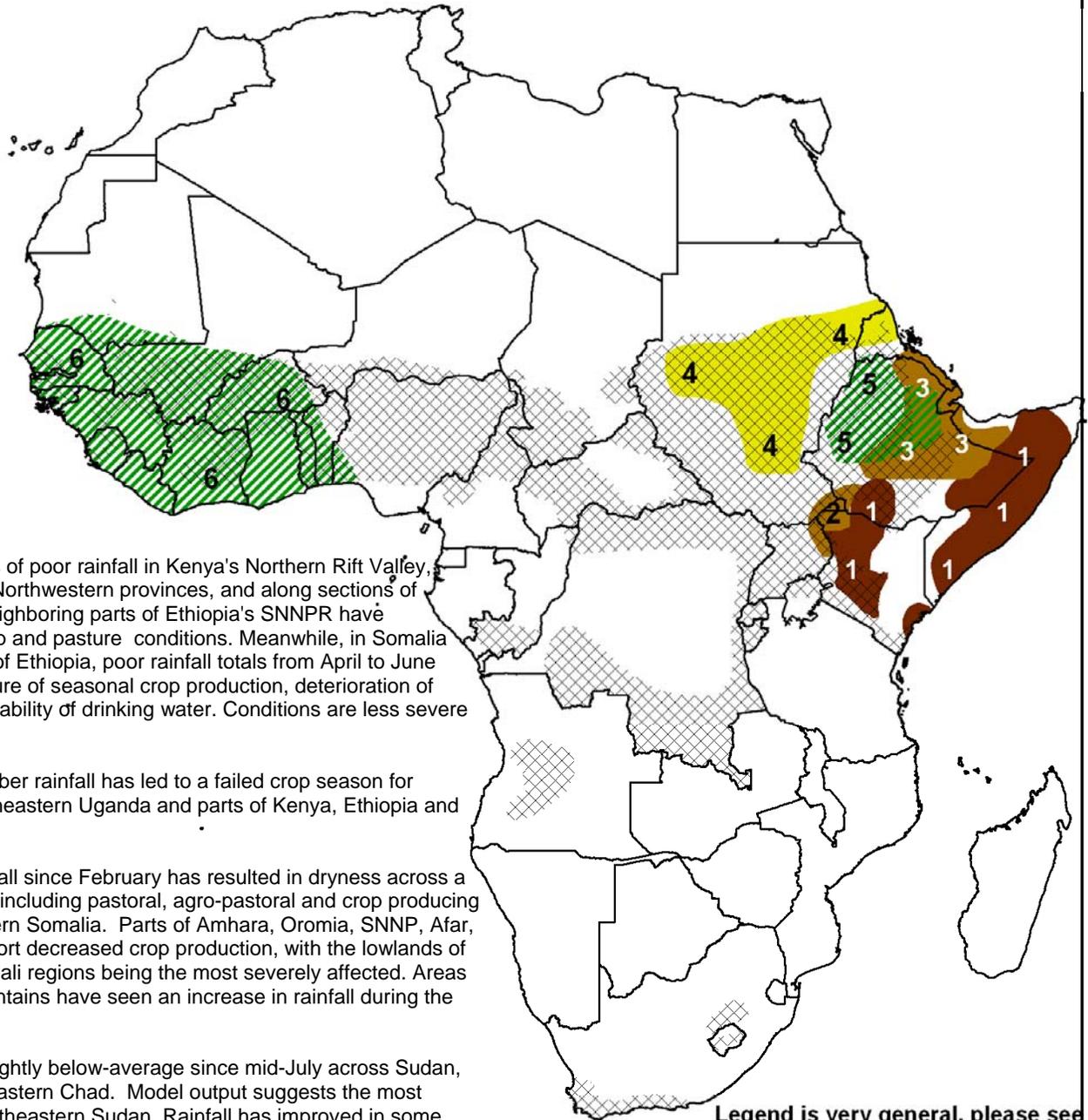


- Above-average precipitation across western Africa has benefited crops, pastures and water resources; however, it has also resulted in localized flooding and flood-related damage to bridges, roads, railways, and other infrastructure.
- Precipitation remains slightly below normal in Sudan. The most impacted area is likely in the northeast, near Khartoum.



1) Successive seasons of poor rainfall in Kenya's Northern Rift Valley, Central, Eastern, and Northwestern provinces, and along sections of the coast as well as neighboring parts of Ethiopia's SNNPR have led to deteriorating crop and pasture conditions. Meanwhile, in Somalia and adjacent portions of Ethiopia, poor rainfall totals from April to June 2008 have led to a failure of seasonal crop production, deterioration of pastures, and low availability of drinking water. Conditions are less severe in southern Somalia.

2) Poor March-September rainfall has led to a failed crop season for localized areas of northeastern Uganda and parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

3) Below-average rainfall since February has resulted in dryness across a wide area of Ethiopia, including pastoral, agro-pastoral and crop producing areas in parts of northern Somalia. Parts of Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Afar, and Tigray regions report decreased crop production, with the lowlands of Oromia, Afar, and Somali regions being the most severely affected. Areas north of the Amar Mountains have seen an increase in rainfall during the last month.

4) Rainfall has been slightly below-average since mid-July across Sudan, northern Eritrea, and eastern Chad. Model output suggests the most impacted area is in northeastern Sudan. Rainfall has improved in some areas, mainly the south, during the past two weeks.

5) Much of western Ethiopia has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall since late March. These rains have recently pushed eastward, into areas suffering from dryness since February.

6) Above-average rainfall since the beginning of July has resulted in increased water resources availability and favorable crop conditions across much of western Africa. However, localized flooding has caused damage to bridges, roads, railways, and other infrastructure and agriculture in throughout the region.

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



## Precipitation remains persistent across Western Ethiopia

Precipitation has remained heavy, as it has all season long across western Ethiopia. (Figure 1) That rainfall, however, has at times been excessive, with localized areas of flooding and in some cases severe flooding, as with what was the case two weeks ago in southwestern portions of the country. The good precipitation has also spread eastward, providing rainfall to areas of the country that had been anomalously dry. This region remains the only large region of the Horn of Africa that has remained significantly above average all season long for all of the 2008 rainy seasons thus far.

## Precipitation deficits in Sudan remain, but also stay relatively low

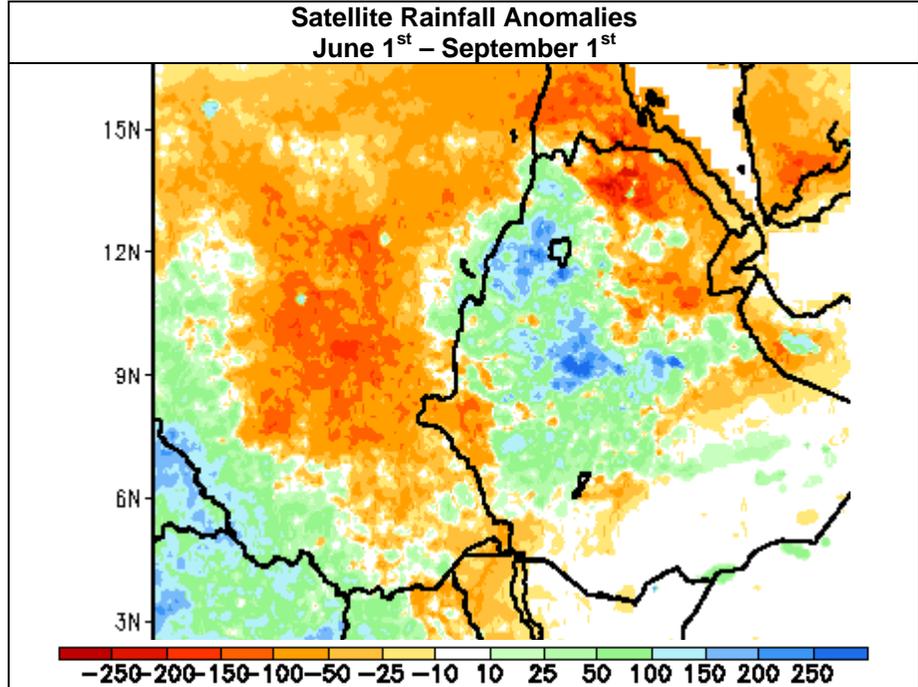
Since mid-July, rainfall has slowly tapered off across portions of Sudan. (Figure 1) This has resulted in deficits of up to 50 percent in some areas, mainly in the northern cropped regions. The cause of these negative anomalies is not an abrupt end to the rains, but instead poor rainfall totals. If precipitation remains in place across Sudan until the normal end of the rains in October and November, then it is unlikely that there will be dryness that has impacts beyond the local scale. However, if the wet season ends early, or if there is a break in the rains, a more serious impact could result.

During the last two weeks, precipitation has increased over many areas of Sudan. While this has not relieved the deficit, it has prevented further spreading of the dryness.

## Precipitation remains plentiful in the western Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea regions, improvement further east

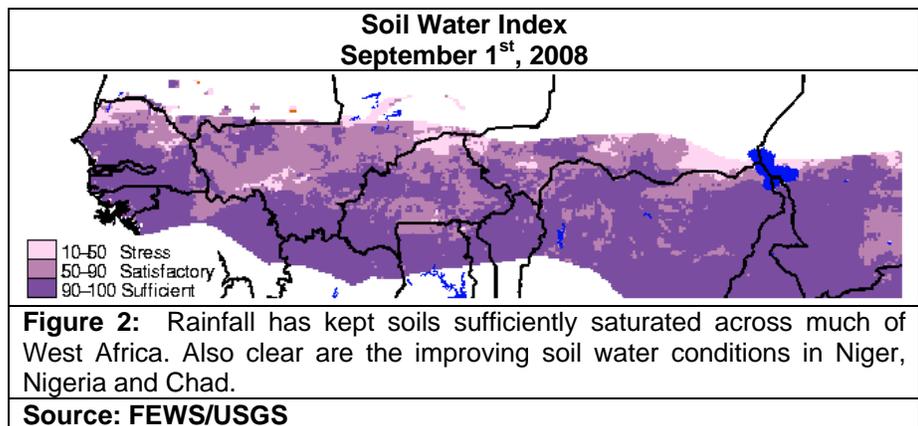
An area spanning from Mauritania and Senegal to Sierra Leone to Togo has experienced abundant and generally well-distributed rainfall. This has benefited crops, pastures, and drinking water supplies throughout the region. In addition, rainfall has returned to areas that had dried out slightly across Niger, Nigeria and western Chad. The return of heavier rainfall has caused localized flooding; however, it has also alleviated any concerns of dryness.

Despite the many benefits of abundant rains (Figure 2), there have also been reports of infrastructure damage and increased incidence of water-borne disease in western Africa. According to the World Health Organization, flooding has caused damage to roads, bridges, railways, and other vital infrastructure in Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and western Chad. There are reports from Senegal about outbreaks of cholera.



**Figure 1:** There is a clear dipole between the very wet areas of western Ethiopia and the drier areas to the north and west.

**Source:** FEWS/NOAA



**Figure 2:** Rainfall has kept soils sufficiently saturated across much of West Africa. Also clear are the improving soil water conditions in Niger, Nigeria and Chad.

**Source:** FEWS/USGS