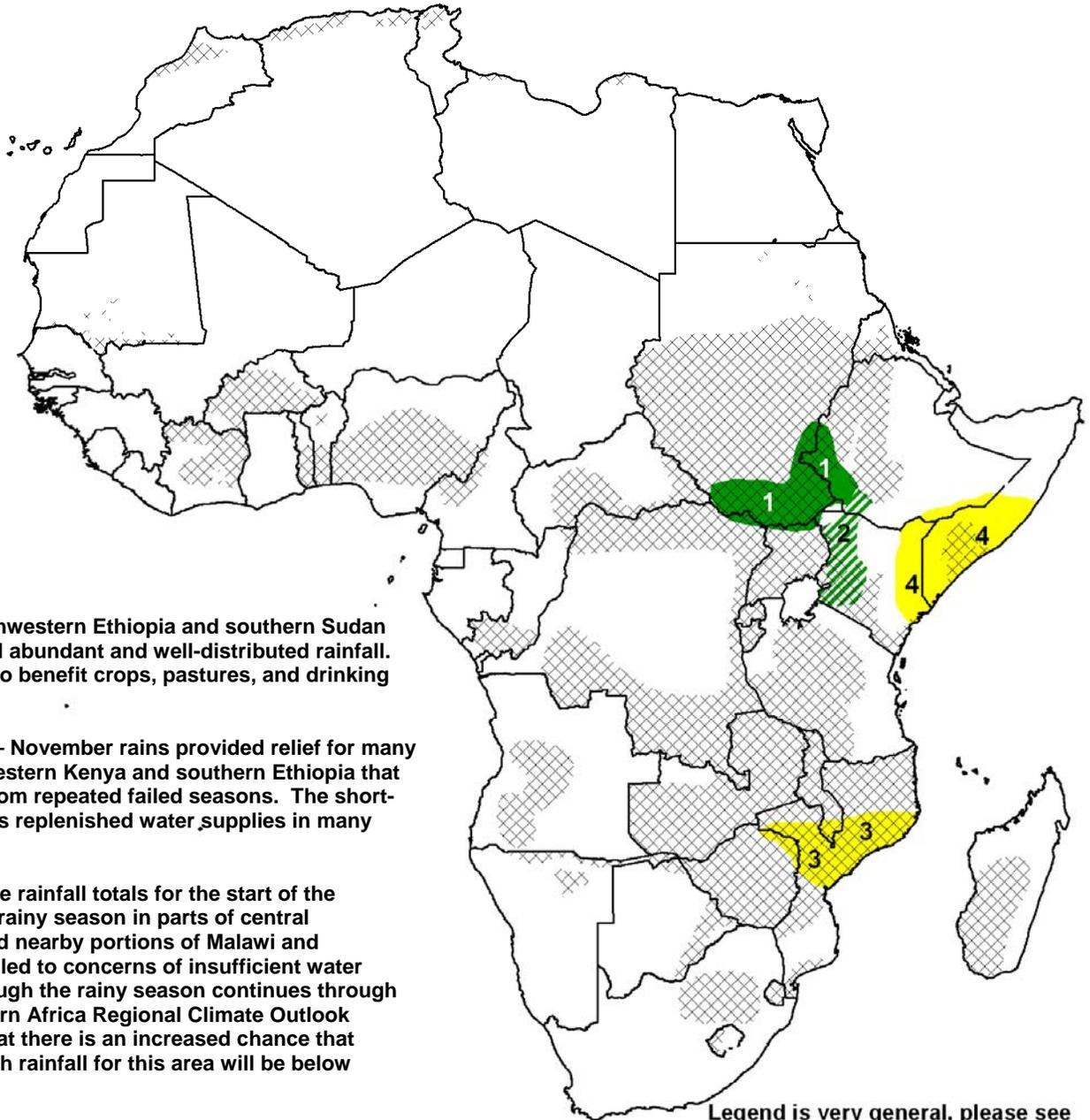


- Below-average rainfall in parts of central Mozambique and neighboring portions of Zimbabwe and Malawi continues to cause some concern for insufficient water resources and early-season cropping activities.
- An abrupt end to October to December rains in parts of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia has resulted in deteriorating crop conditions, degraded pastures, and limited water availability.



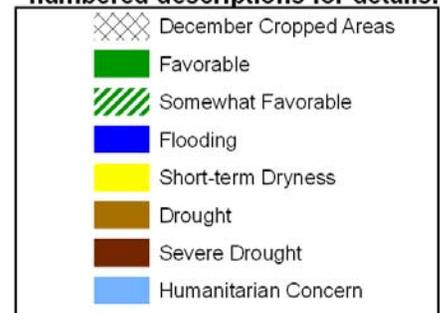
1) Much of southwestern Ethiopia and southern Sudan has experienced abundant and well-distributed rainfall. This continues to benefit crops, pastures, and drinking water supplies.

2) The October – November rains provided relief for many local areas in western Kenya and southern Ethiopia that have suffered from repeated failed seasons. The short-rains season has replenished water supplies in many areas.

3) Below-average rainfall totals for the start of the October to May rainy season in parts of central Mozambique and nearby portions of Malawi and Zimbabwe have led to concerns of insufficient water supplies. Although the rainy season continues through May, the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum states that there is an increased chance that January to March rainfall for this area will be below average.

4) The *Deyr* rains, between late September and early November 2008, were average in most parts of Somalia, including drought affected pastoral areas. However in the second and third dekads of November, the *Deyr* rains came to an abrupt stop. Portions of eastern Kenya are experiencing similar conditions.

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



Early season dryness in Zambezi region of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi

Since the start of November, many parts of central Mozambique, southern Malawi and eastern Zimbabwe have experienced a delayed start of their seasonal rains. Many local areas in the provinces of Tete, Sofala and Zambezia of Mozambique continue to experience less than half of average of their seasonal rainfall totals, with heavier moisture deficits found closer to the coast (**Figure 1**). These precipitation deficits continue to spread into areas further south and west, affecting the Mozambique provinces of Gaza and Inhambane, as well as the Harare and Manicaland regions of western Zimbabwe. Many of these dry areas face rainfall deficits greater than 150 mm since October.

During the last observation period, a fair distribution of rains (15 – 40 mm) fell in Mozambique, Malawi and northern Zimbabwe. While this rain provided some relief the early-season dryness, planting in many areas of central Mozambique has yet to occur and is 2-3 dekads late. According to satellite-derived crop analysis, the absence of precipitation throughout November and December is negatively impacting early season cropping activities. Less than satisfactory soil water conditions are also evident in many areas in the central region of Mozambique (**Figure 2**).

Elsewhere, much of southern Africa has experienced a normal start of rains. In Namibia and South Africa, rainfall still remains favorable. Further north, an early start in seasonal rainfall across parts in western Zambia and eastern Angola has lead to rainfall totals more than twice of their seasonal average.

Precipitation forecasts in the next seven days suggest some considerable relief for anomalously dry regions of Mozambique. Rainfall totals in excess of 50 mm may be expected to provide much needed ground moisture.

An abrupt end in seasonal rains in southern Somalia

After an early and heavy onset of the short-rains in Somalia, little to no rainfall accumulation in the last 30 days has resulted in widespread rainfall deficits in southern Somalia and eastern Kenya. Presently, this prevailing dryness has extended northward into the southern parts of the Orimiya and Ogaden regions of Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). This dryness may result in crop deterioration in late-planting areas; however it should allow rivers an opportunity to subside and should not impede crops in late vegetative stages. According to wind and moisture pattern analysis across the Greater Horn, it is unlikely rains will return before the end of the season.

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (mm) October 1st – December 6th, 2008

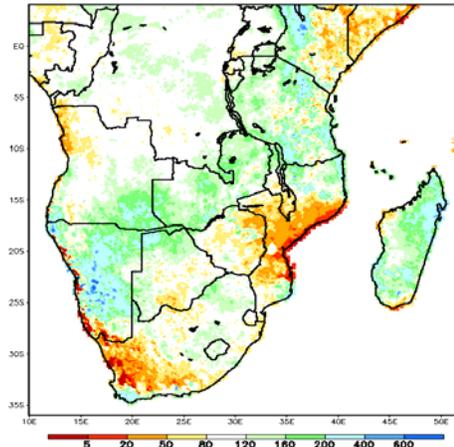


Figure 1:
Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Soil Water Index As of December 7th, 2008

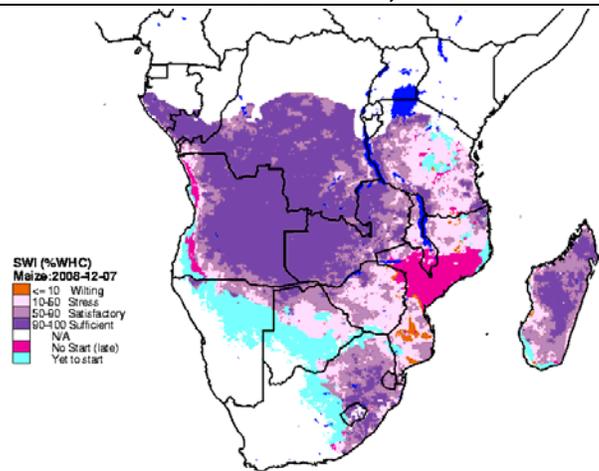


Figure 2:
Source: FEWS NET/USGS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm) October 1st – December 6th, 2008

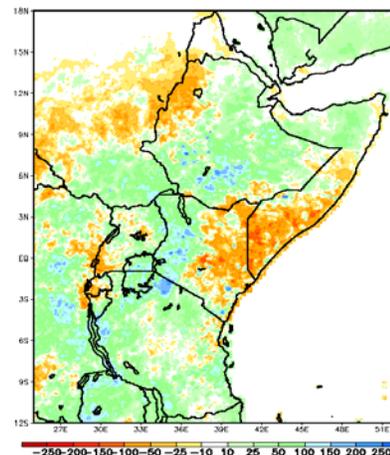


Figure 3:
Source: FEWS NET/NOAA