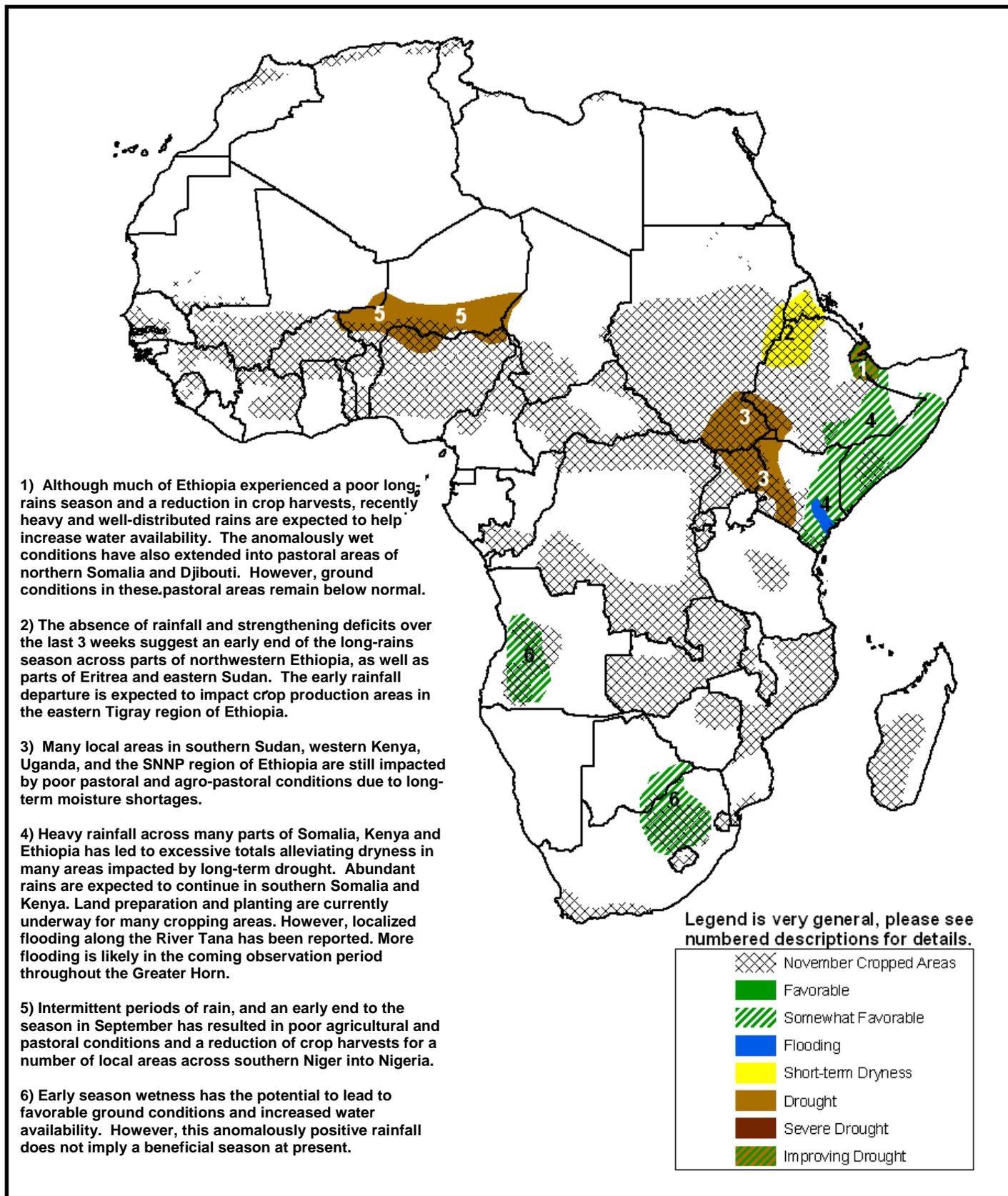


- Though only one month into the season, southern Africa rainfall totals in Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique are all falling 25 – 50 mm below average. However, there is plenty of time for improvement in the 8 months long season.



## Beneficial rains continue to promote planting, and mitigate long-term drought in East Africa, however lead to flooding

The observation period of October 29<sup>th</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup> brought another round of moderate to high amounts of rainfall to East Africa. Precipitation totals ranging between 30 - 50 mm and surpassing 75 mm locally were observed over southern Somalia and into coastal Kenya. In Kenya, heavy, isolated rainfall totals surpassing 100 mm were observed near the River Tana delta and along the banks where localized flooding was reported (**Figure 1**). The director of Meteorology in Kenya is calling for heavy rains to continue in December through February with more flooding episodes likely to occur.

The anomalously heavy rainfall suggests a favorable start and progression of the October-December rains season in East Africa. In Somalia, precipitation anomalies greater than 100 mm continue to be seen throughout the Shabelle, Juba and Gedo regions (**Figure 2**). Although the magnitude of these anomalies point to the potential for inundated river basins, there have not yet been any reported cases of flooding in Somalia. Flooding reports are likely to surface within the next two weeks as rainfall totals are expected to continue to be heavy.

## Above average Deyr rains expected

Multiple analyses and outlook models suggests an above average Deyr rains season in Somalia. Several composite year analyses all agree to positive anomalies of 0.2 mm – 1mm of rainfall per day from southeastern Ethiopia into central and southern Somalia and coastal Kenya. The highest rainfall anomalies are likely to occur in southern Somalia near the Ethiopia border. The International Research Institute (IRI) of Columbia University and NOAA's Africa Desk both agree to a tilt in the odds for above average precipitation in Kenya and the southernmost parts of Ethiopia and Somalia.

## Southern Africa El Niño

As of July NOAA's Climate Prediction Center declared an official El Niño. An El Niño is declared when central and eastern Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures exceed 0.5 degrees Celsius. The phenomenon has varying impacts globally. In southern Africa it typically is associated with warmer and drier conditions in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia. At present, southern Africa rainfall anomalies are above average for Angola, Namibia, Botswana and much of South Africa. These above average rains have led to favorable early season cropping conditions, however, it has not been reported that cropping activities have begun. The remaining countries in southern Africa are experiencing below average rains, however, those totals are only 25 mm – 50 mm below normal. The southern Africa season does not end until May, therefore there is time for recovery if this year does not shape up to be a typical El Niño for southern Africa.

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