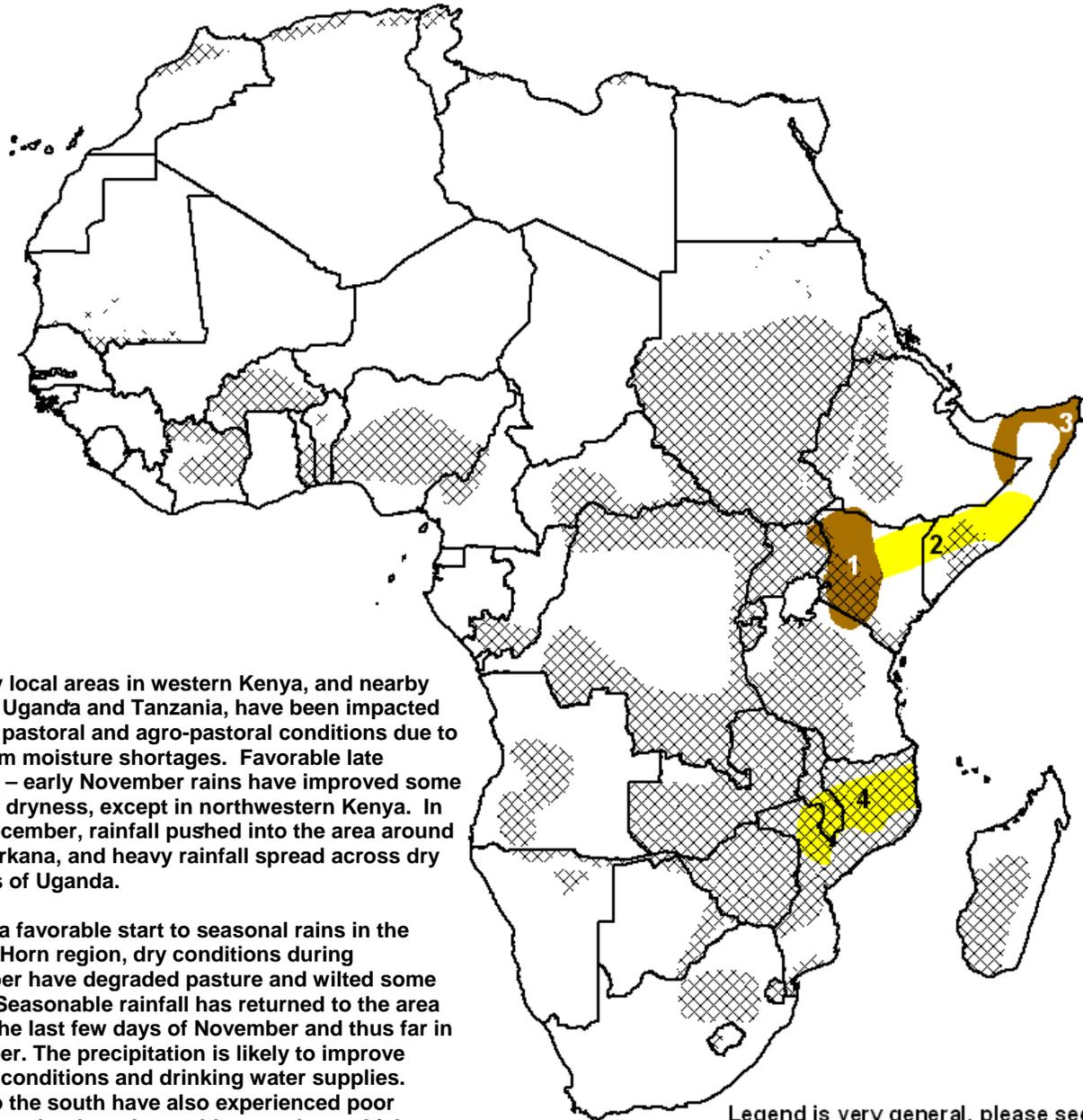


- A two week pause in the rains have damaged some crops in Kenya and Somalia, however some areas were able to replant.
- Short-term dryness has developed in northern Mozambique and southern Malawi.



1) Many local areas in western Kenya, and nearby parts of Uganda and Tanzania, have been impacted by poor pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions due to long-term moisture shortages. Favorable late October – early November rains have improved some areas of dryness, except in northwestern Kenya. In early December, rainfall pushed into the area around Lake Turkana, and heavy rainfall spread across dry portions of Uganda.

2) After a favorable start to seasonal rains in the Greater Horn region, dry conditions during November have degraded pasture and wilted some crops. Seasonable rainfall has returned to the area during the last few days of November and thus far in December. The precipitation is likely to improve pasture conditions and drinking water supplies. Areas to the south have also experienced poor conditions, but have been able to replant, which may mitigate some of the negative impacts of the dry spell.

3) Poor pastoral conditions in northern Somalia and far western Ethiopia are the result of below average rainfall in this semi-arid region.

4) One week of little to no rainfall in northern Mozambique, and southern Malawi have reduced moisture for crops trying to germinate. This has come after precipitation was slow to start across the region.

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



Greater Horn Season, wet but rains unreliable

The season-long precipitation was above normal in the Greater Horn region, partially because of the influence of the ongoing El Nino conditions in the Pacific. However, the poor distribution has negatively impacted the region.

Positive rainfall anomalies have occurred across most of Somalia, Ethiopia, and a large area of Kenya. **(Figure 1)** However, El Nino's impacts tend to be seasonal, with local forcings being responsible for other fluctuations in precipitation. This occurred during the middle part of November when precipitation shut off for two to three weeks, wilting crops that had done well to that point, due to the abundant moisture.

Since that dry spell precipitation has picked up again, and most areas will close out the season with a net positive amount of precipitation. As a result of the return of the rains, some areas have been able to replant, such as some of the communities to the south and east of Nairobi. **(Figure 2)**

Although the vast majority of the region is experiencing a wet season, there are some areas facing substantial deficits. The largest of these areas is in north-central Kenya.

Southern Africa season progressing well, some concern in Mozambique, Malawi

Most areas in southern Africa are doing well. Rains arrived across most of the region, either early or on time. This has allowed for planting activities to get underway. Precipitation across most of the major growing areas has been well distributed and positive precipitation anomalies are well spread.

Despite the good season thus far, there are a few pockets of minor dryness around the region. Early reports from Malawi are indicating some dryness in the southern portions of the country. Meanwhile in Mozambique, central and northern parts of the country began the season slightly slowly, before precipitation moved into the region. The rains, though quite heavy, have since ceased, and once again the area is tilting towards dryness. **(Figure 3)**

Although it isn't showing up on satellite products yet, there is some indication on the ground that this dryness may be moving over the border into Zimbabwe. Elsewhere around the region precipitation remains somewhat sparse across southwestern Angola. During the last two weeks there has been a drying trend from the Caprivi Strip to southern Zimbabwe.

