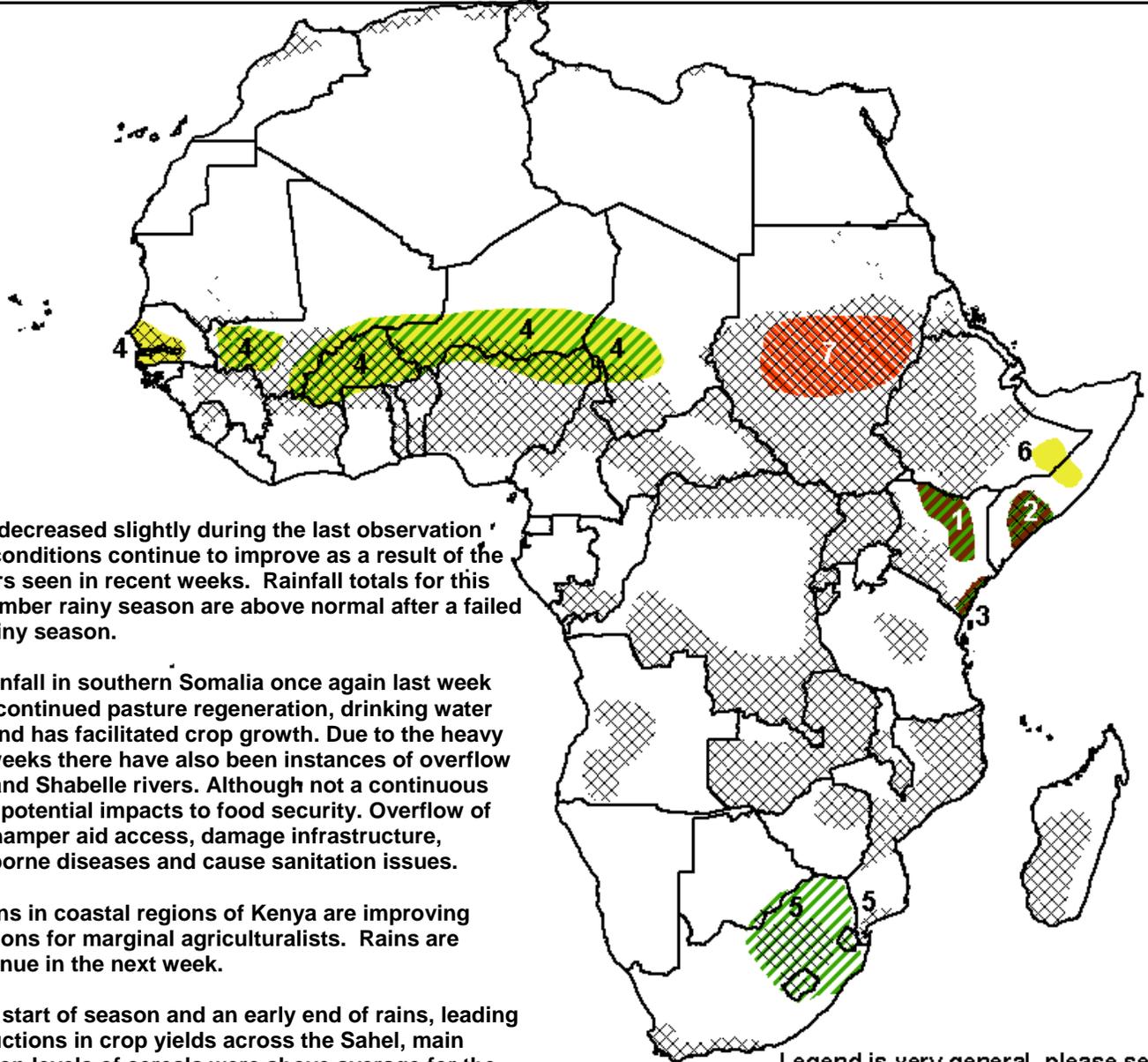


- Rainfall has increased significantly across southern Somalia and most of Kenya bringing significant improvement to rangeland and water availability for livestock.
- The Somali region of Ethiopia and parts of central Somalia continue to experience below-normal rainfall totals during the ongoing October to December rainy season. While light rains are expected to continue into the next observation period, they are not likely to significantly improve rainfall totals. If this trend continues, these areas may not receive any significant relief until the March to May rainy season.



1) While rainfall decreased slightly during the last observation period, ground conditions continue to improve as a result of the heavy downpours seen in recent weeks. Rainfall totals for this October to December rainy season are above normal after a failed March to May rainy season.

2) Significant rainfall in southern Somalia once again last week has allowed for continued pasture regeneration, drinking water replenishment and has facilitated crop growth. Due to the heavy rains in recent weeks there have also been instances of overflow along the Juba and Shabelle rivers. Although not a continuous threat, there are potential impacts to food security. Overflow of riverbanks can hamper aid access, damage infrastructure, increase water-borne diseases and cause sanitation issues.

3) Continued rains in coastal regions of Kenya are improving cropping conditions for marginal agriculturalists. Rains are forecast to continue in the next week.

4) Despite a late start of season and an early end of rains, leading to localized reductions in crop yields across the Sahel, main season production levels of cereals were above average for the region.

5) Rains in southern Africa have benefited early season cropping activities.

6) October to December rains continue to be below normal in parts of the Somali Region of Ethiopia and near the border with Somalia. Increased rainfall is needed for pasture regeneration and water source replenishment in these areas. Unfortunately, significant rains are not expected in the area for the coming observation period.

7) Due to excessive rainfall earlier this year, there is the potential for localized outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever in central Sudan.

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

	Extreme Event		Flooding
	Humanitarian Concern		Severe Drought
	Favorable		Drought
	Somewhat Favorable		Short Term Dryness or Drought Recovery
	In Season Crop Areas		