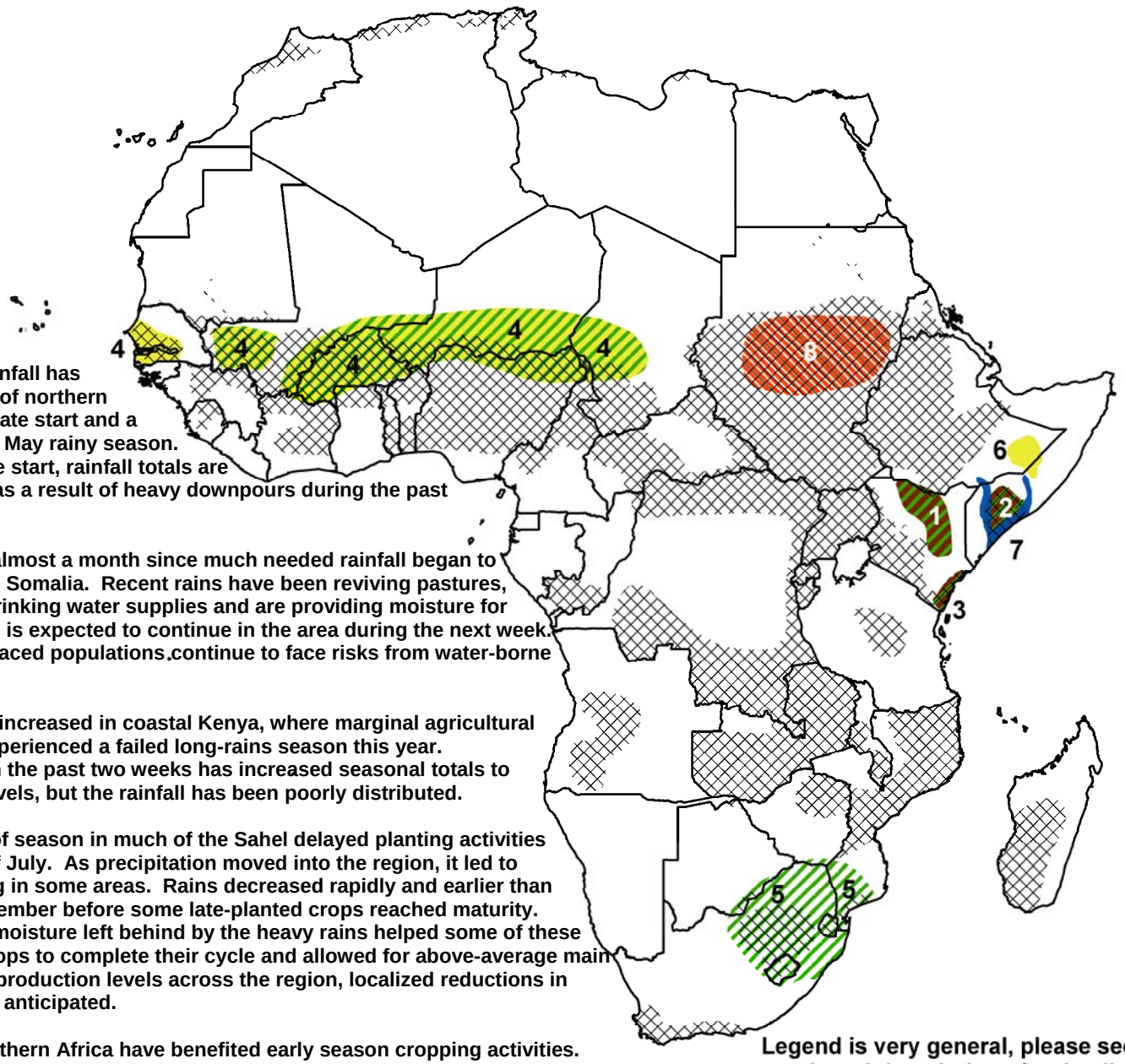
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa November 15 - 21, 2007

- **Rainfall has picked up significantly across southern Somalia, the Somali Region of Ethiopia and most of Kenya. Rainfall had been slightly slow to start in central Somalia, but moisture has increased in the area substantially.**

- **Moisture continues to increase in south eastern Africa with strong early rainfall across Swaziland, Lesotho, and South Africa and nearby portions of Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The wet season has started with very heavy rains in central Mozambique and southern Malawi.**



1) Seasonal rainfall has begun in most of northern Kenya, after a late start and a failed March to May rainy season. Despite the late start, rainfall totals are above normal as a result of heavy downpours during the past week.

2) It has been almost a month since much needed rainfall began to fall in southern Somalia. Recent rains have been reviving pastures, replenishing drinking water supplies and are providing moisture for crops. Rainfall is expected to continue in the area during the next week. However, displaced populations continue to face risks from water-borne diseases.

3) Rainfall has increased in coastal Kenya, where marginal agricultural households experienced a failed long-rains season this year. Precipitation in the past two weeks has increased seasonal totals to near-normal levels, but the rainfall has been poorly distributed.

4) A late start of season in much of the Sahel delayed planting activities until the end of July. As precipitation moved into the region, it led to severe flooding in some areas. Rains decreased rapidly and earlier than normal in September before some late-planted crops reached maturity. While the soil moisture left behind by the heavy rains helped some of these late-planted crops to complete their cycle and allowed for above-average main season cereal production levels across the region, localized reductions in crop yields are anticipated.

5) Rains in southern Africa have benefited early season cropping activities. However, it is still very early in the season and conditions could change.

6) The October to December rains have been below normal in parts of Somali Region of Ethiopia near the border with Somalia. Increased rainfall is needed in these areas to regenerate pastures.

7) Heavy rainfall in southern and central Somalia and nearby portions of Ethiopia has resulted in localized flooding along and near the Juba and Shabelle rivers. Additional flooding is possible during the coming week.

8) 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
- Humanitarian Concern
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- In Season Crop Areas
- Flooding
- Severe Drought
- Drought
- Short Term Dryness or Drought Recovery