

During 1985 the rains returned and brought a soothing relief to this situation. Those African countries stricken by the drought are finally, and in varying degrees, experiencing the effects of the rains. Certain parts of Ethiopia, Sudan and the Sahel countries have begun to turn green again: 50 per cent of normal food production has already been reached in some regions. The return of the rains enabled a sizable proportion of those who had found refuge in the camps to return to their fields.



*Grazing near Khartoum, Sudan*

There are, however, entire regions that have still not had a single drop of rain. In Sudan, most of the north as well as the hills near the Red Sea remain arid and scorched. The drought still goes on in Mozambique, and extends out to Lesotho and Botswana. In contrast, some areas received such heavy rains that they washed out roads and brought entire convoys of food to a standstill; and as a result, people had to wait several weeks for the supplies consigned to them.

Africa more than ever seems a continent of extremes, where people must cope with tropical storms, with the floods brought on by their sudden appearance, with the grasshoppers and other pests that follow them, and with the drought that persists. They must cope, as well, with frequent violence and conflict. In Angola and Mozambique civil conflict and outside aggression are now the primary causes of the spread of hunger and famine.