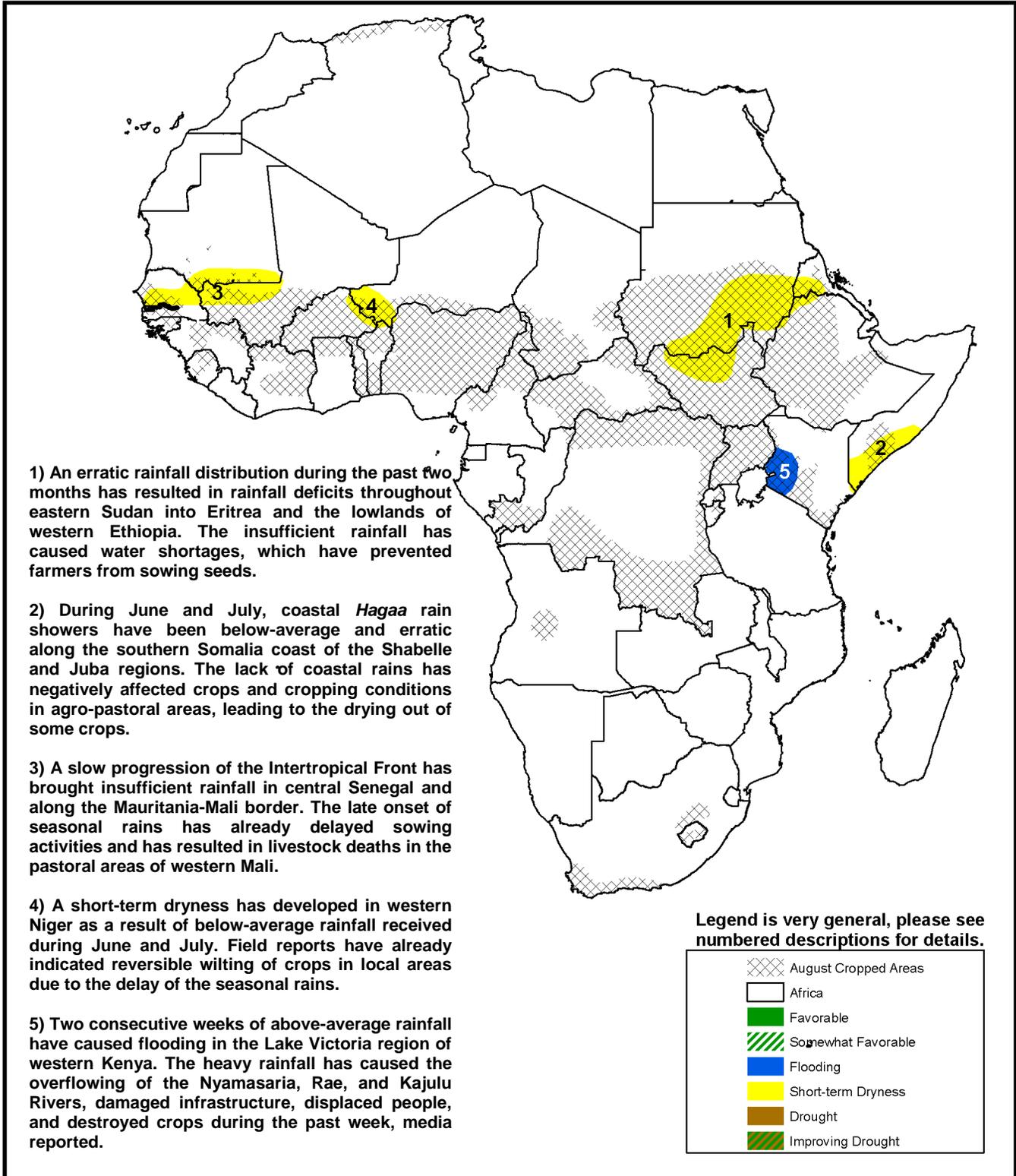


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 18– August 24, 2011

- Heavy rains fell in eastern Sudan during the past week; however the dryness has persisted in the region.
- An above-average rainfall has caused flooding in the Lake Victoria region and Turkana district of Kenya.



Abundant rains received in the eastern portions of West Africa during the past week.

The past seven days were characterized by the concentration of seasonal heavy (> 50mm) rainfall across the eastern portions of West Africa. Heavy rains were observed throughout central Mali, Burkina Faso, into western Niger and northern Nigeria (Figure 1). In Niger, two consecutive weeks of heavy rains have helped to reduce slightly the rainfall deficits that were observed in many local areas during the last thirty days. The continuation of seasonal rains was linked to anomalous westerlies that brought moisture from the Atlantic Ocean and helped to enhance easterly wave activities across the West and central Africa regions during the past week. Conversely, moderate (10-40mm) rains were observed in Senegal and along the southern Mauritania and western Mali border after heavy downpours during the previous week. The reduction of rainfall has eroded the thirty-day rainfall surpluses that were observed during the previous week and has led to moderate moisture deficits ranging between 25 and 50mm in the areas. The uneven distribution of rainfall since the start of the season could negatively affect crops development in the region.

The delay of the start of the rainfall season has negatively impacted vegetation growth across West Africa. The late onset of the seasonal rains was linked to an anomalous anticyclonic circulation located across North Africa, which helped to block the Intertropical Front's northward advancement across the Sahel. The resulting rainfall suppression has led to below-average crop conditions over a number of locations of West Africa, in particular along the Mauritania-Mali border (Figure 2). Average to below-average vegetation growth was also observed in central Senegal, western Niger, and portions of northwestern and northeastern Nigeria during the first dekad of August. In contrast, favorable conditions were observed across much of the Gulf of Guinea region.

The rainfall prospect for the next week suggests heavy (> 50mm) rainfall across much of the Sahel, with the heaviest (> 150mm) rains forecast in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and western and southern Niger. This is expected to bring favorable moisture for cropping activities and provide relief to the short-term dryness in many local areas of West Africa.

Wetter and drier than average conditions were observed in western Kenya and eastern Sudan/western Ethiopia, respectively.

Heavy (> 50mm) rainfall was observed for two consecutive weeks and has resulted in flooding in the Lake Victoria region and the Turkana district of Kenya. Western Kenya has received above-average rainfall, with surpluses over 100mm during the past thirty days (Figure 3). There is an increased risk for flooding in the Nzoia Basin as localized heavy rains are forecast in the area during the next week. Meanwhile, heavy rains fell in eastern Sudan and northwestern and central Ethiopia during the past week. However, severe (50-100mm) thirty-day rainfall deficits have persisted in the region. Model forecasts suggest ample rains to continue in western Ethiopia and western Sudan and South Sudan for the next week. Light to moderate rains are, however, forecast in eastern Sudan.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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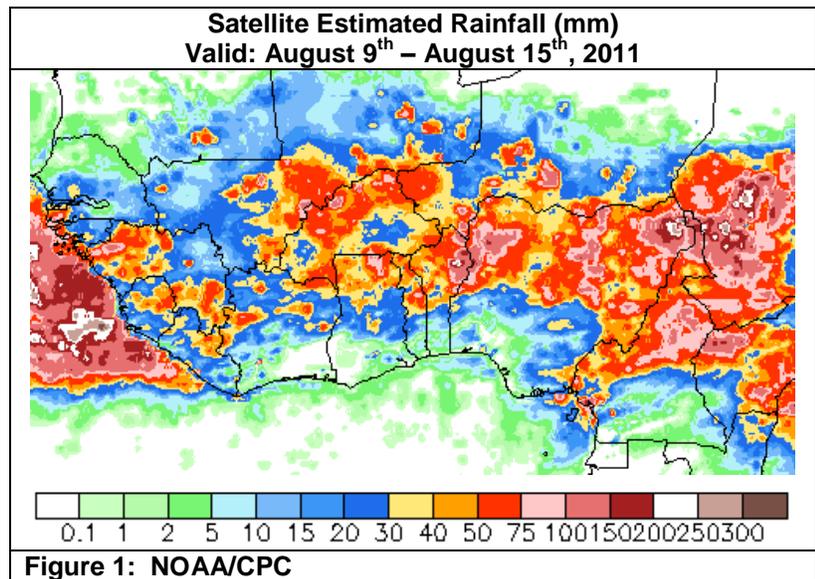


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

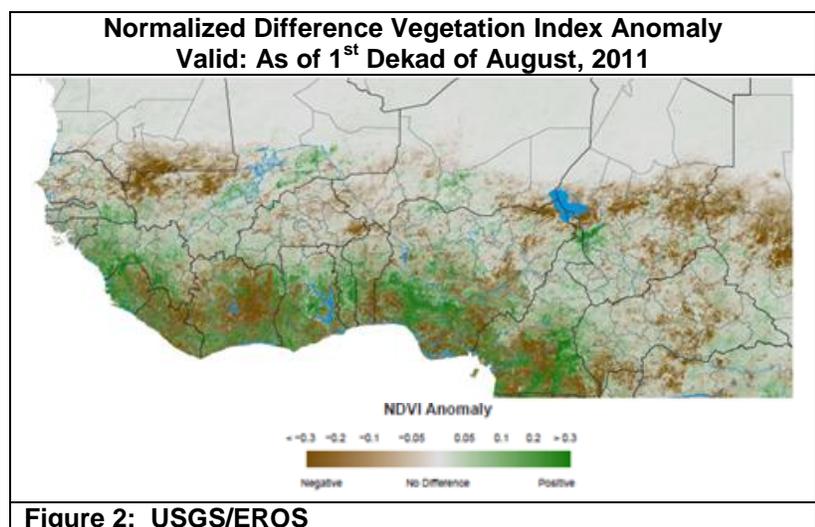


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

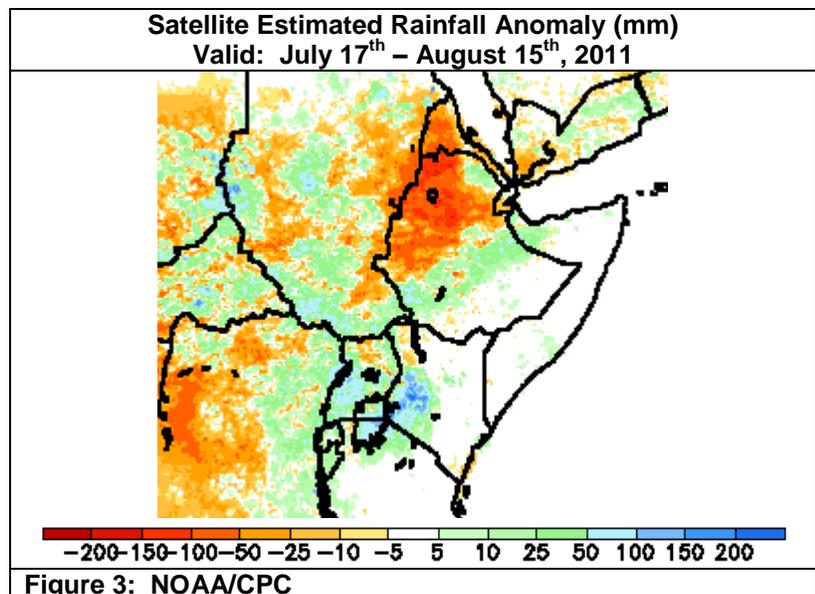


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC