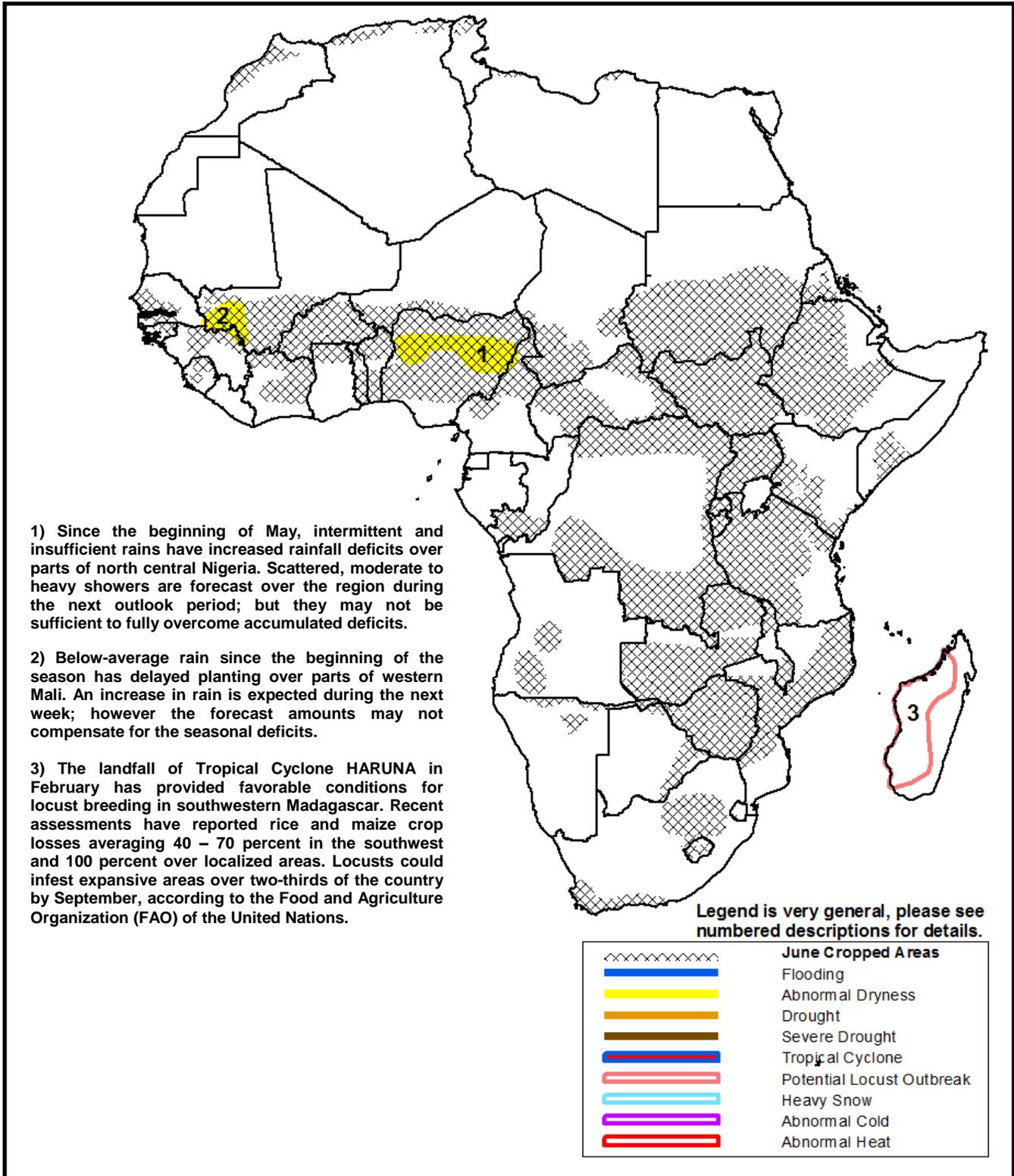


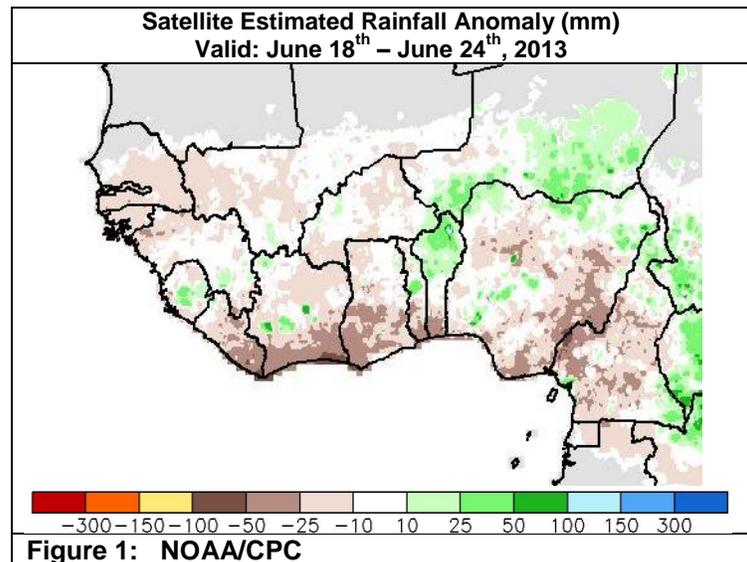
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET June 27 – July 3, 2013

- Locusts have infested a wide portion of western Madagascar, threatening the livelihoods of millions of people.
- Reduced rain was observed along the Gulf of Guinea, while heavy rain fell over South Sudan during the past week.

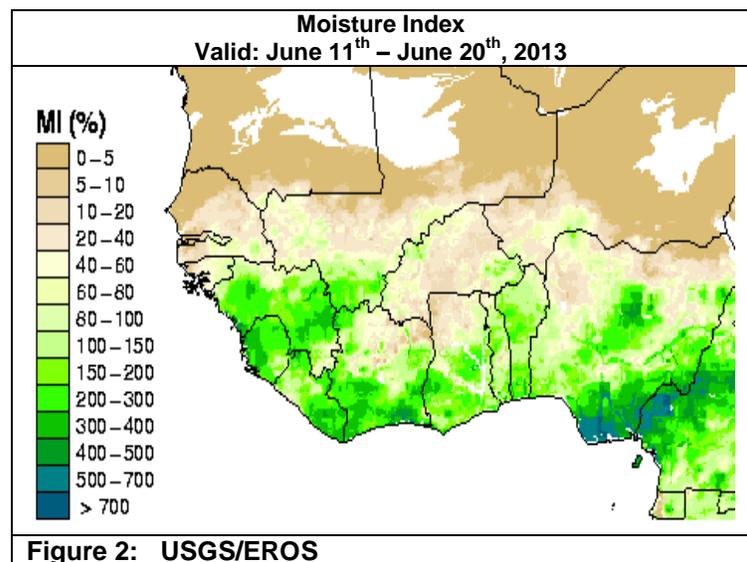


Reduced rain observed along the Gulf of Guinea.

Meteorological conditions during the past week have resulted in below-average rain along the Gulf of Guinea. Lower-level wind divergence to the south of Conakry, Guinea suppressed influx of moisture and hence reduced rainfall totals across the region. Rainfall deficits were recorded over eastern Liberia, the southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southeastern Nigeria, where negative anomalies ranged between 25 and 50 mm (**Figure 1**). Below-average rain during this past week has increased thirty-day rainfall deficits across western Mali and north-central Nigeria, sustaining early-season dryness. In contrast, average to above-average rain was observed over Guinea, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, northern Benin, and western Niger. This has helped to reduce slightly accumulated deficits across these regions. The continuation of uneven distribution of rainfall could negatively impact water availability, pastoral, and agricultural activities in West Africa.



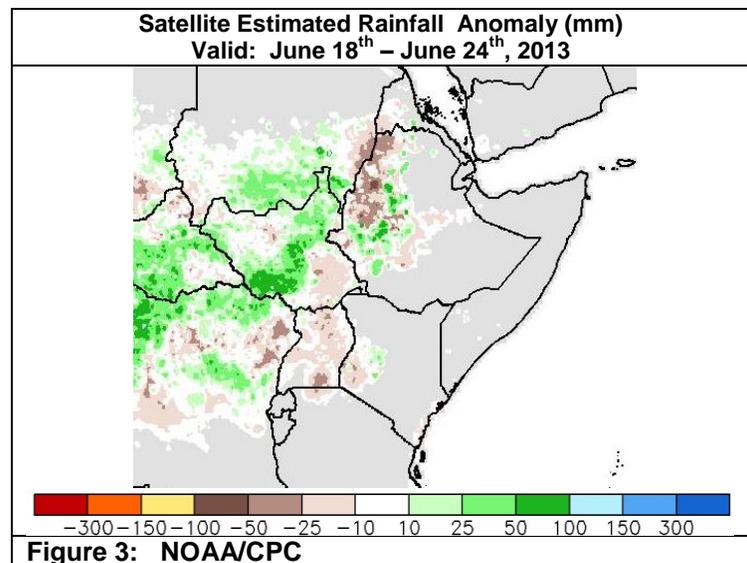
Despite the reduction in rain during the past week, a wide area of the Gulf of Guinea has experienced adequate soil moisture as reflected in an analysis of the moisture index during mid-June (**Figure 2**). This is mainly attributed to the favorable rains observed across the bimodal region along the coasts during earlier months. However, parts of the Guinean-Sudanian and Sahelian-Sudanian regions further north registered lower moisture index values (< 40 percent) due to a poor rainfall distribution over the past thirty days. These include localized areas of western Mali, northeastern Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, and the northwestern and northeastern parts of Nigeria.



During the next outlook period, the impacts of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) and local low-level convergence are expected to enhance rain over Guinea, western Mali, central Burkina Faso, Benin, and the southern half of Nigeria. Heavy showers (> 150 mm) could develop along coastal Nigeria, potentially causing localized flooding. Light to moderate rain is expected elsewhere.

Heavy and above-average rain observed over South Sudan.

During the past week, while heavy rain fell over western South Sudan, southern Sudan, and parts of western Ethiopia, light to moderate rain was received farther north over northwestern Ethiopia. This uneven distribution of rainfall led to seven-day rainfall surpluses, with positive anomalies between 50 and 100 mm over South Sudan, but seven-day deficits ranging from 25 – 50 mm in northwestern Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). In northwestern Ethiopia and neighboring eastern Sudan, below-average rain since the start of the *Kiremt*, June – September season, has resulted in moderate seasonal deficits, with negative anomalies from 50 - 150 mm. For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest enhanced rain to persist over the western two-thirds of South Sudan, potentially resulting in localized flooding. Increased rain is also forecast over western Ethiopia and is expected to reduce seasonal deficits over the region. Farther south, light to moderate rain is likely to continue along coastal areas of Kenya.



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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