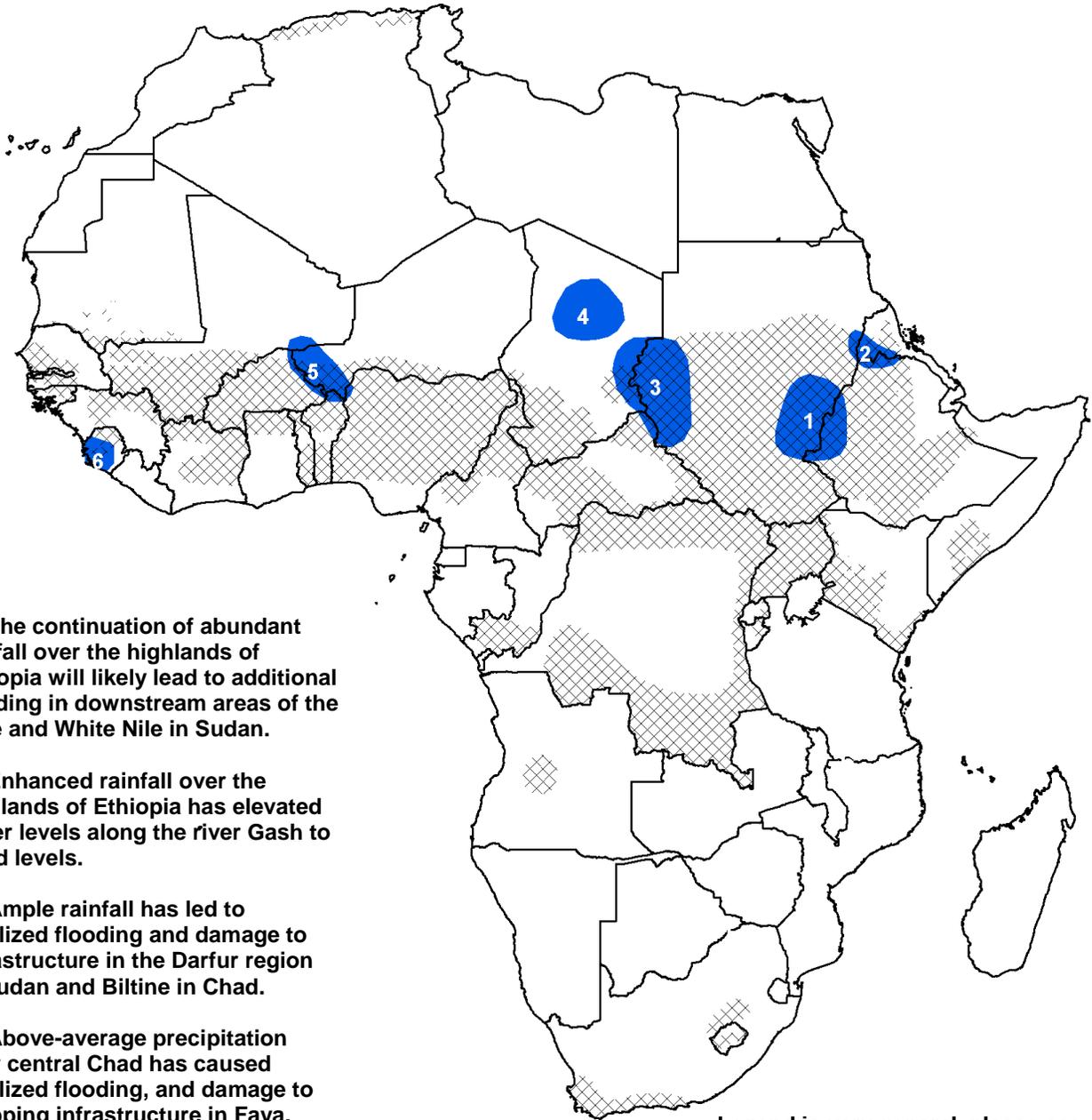


- **Torrential rains over West Africa have led to mudslides and river flooding during the past week.**
- **Localized flooding continues across the Darfur region of Sudan and the highlands of Ethiopia.**



1). The continuation of abundant rainfall over the highlands of Ethiopia will likely lead to additional flooding in downstream areas of the Blue and White Nile in Sudan.

2). Enhanced rainfall over the highlands of Ethiopia has elevated water levels along the river Gash to flood levels.

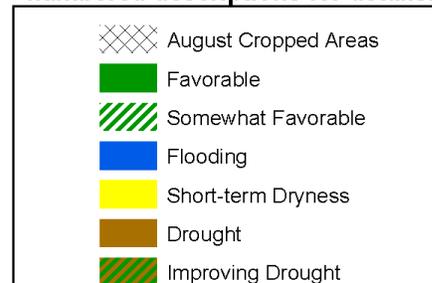
3). Ample rainfall has led to localized flooding and damage to infrastructure in the Darfur region of Sudan and Biltine in Chad.

4). Above-average precipitation over central Chad has caused localized flooding, and damage to cropping infrastructure in Faya.

5). After a slow start, the return of heavy rains have caused flooding and crop and infrastructure damage along the Niger River in western Niger.

6). Torrential rainfall in Sierra Leone has caused mudslides which have resulted in fatalities near the capital of Freetown.

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



Continued torrential rains over parts of the Sahel have led to flooding along the Niger River.

Rainfall across Guinea, eastern and central Mali, central Niger and portions of Nigeria during the past seven days continued to be heavy, with totals ranging between 40-75 mm. The high rainfall totals across the Sahel have helped contribute to the highest water levels along the Niger River in Niger since 1929. Flooding and crop damage has been reported in Niamey, the capital city of Niger, and the cities of Tillaberi and Dosso. The heaviest rain (> 75 mm) during the past week fell over Guinea, and localized portions of Sierra Leone. The significant rainfall near Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, caused mudslides that resulted in casualties and damage to infrastructure. Copious amounts of rain also fell over eastern parts of Nigeria (50-100 mm) that had seen a reprieve from the heavy rains last week while central and northwestern Nigeria continued to see high rainfall totals (40-75 mm). Heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) also was observed over portions of north central Chad which has resulted in flooding and damage to crops and infrastructure in the city of Faya. In contrast to the areas with ample rains, large portions of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana saw little precipitation (< 10 mm). In addition, the border region of Mali, Senegal and Mauritania observed only between 5-15 mm of rainfall, 10 mm less than the week before (Figure 1).

The heavy rainfall across the Sahel has begun to elevate local river levels during the third dekad of July, creating flooding concerns across central Mali, Burkina Faso, northern and eastern Niger, areas along the Niger River, and north central Chad as seen by an analysis of excess rainfall in river basins (Figure 2).

Abundant rains are forecast over central Mali, western Niger, northern Nigeria, coastal Guinea and coastal Sierra Leone. These rains could aggravate flooding and mudslide conditions across West Africa during the next week.

Localized flooding was reported after another week of intense rainfall across portions of Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad.

Over the past week, copious amounts of rainfall (localized > 50 mm) was observed over the highlands of Ethiopia. This rainfall has helped elevate water levels to flood levels in the river Gash along the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Just south, over the Tigray, Amhara and the Afar regions, the rainfall, although heavy, was not as intense or as frequent as past weeks and has been beneficial for crops. The Sennar and Nile regions of Sudan also saw localized high rainfall totals (> 40 mm) with flooding, and damage to infrastructure reported in the Nile states of Sudan. Further west, the Darfur, and Equatoria regions of Sudan received ample rainfall which led to reports of flash flooding and damage to infrastructure in Darfur and areas just across the border in Chad. For the second consecutive week, rain totals were low to moderate (10-40 mm) across the central part of Sudan while southern Sudan saw little rainfall (< 5 mm) (Figure 3).

A continuation of the heavy rains is forecast for the next seven days over the highlands of Ethiopia as well as the Darfur, Bahr El Ghazal and Equatoria regions of Sudan. These rains could potentially cause flooding across northern Ethiopia, downstream areas of the Blue and White Nile and the Darfur region of Sudan.

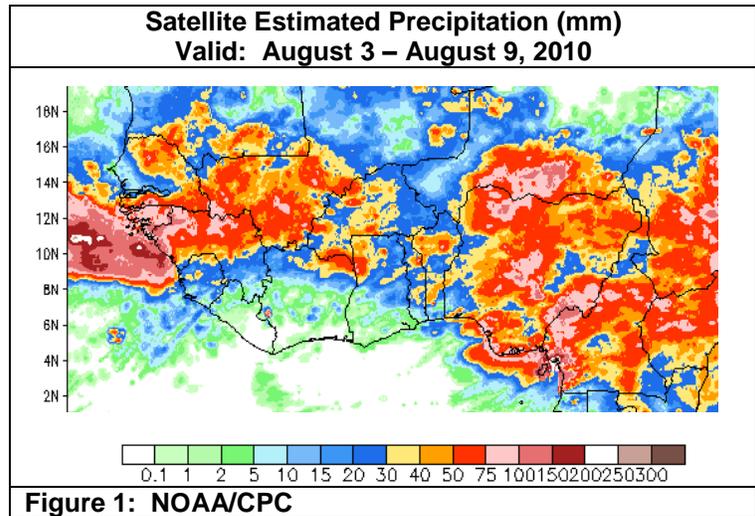


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

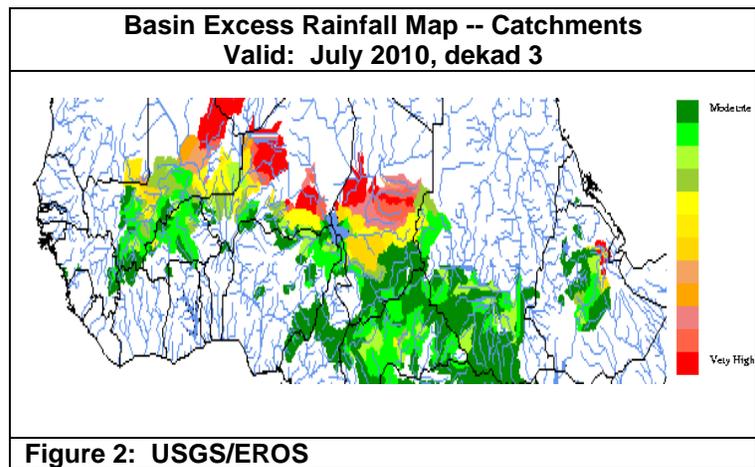


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

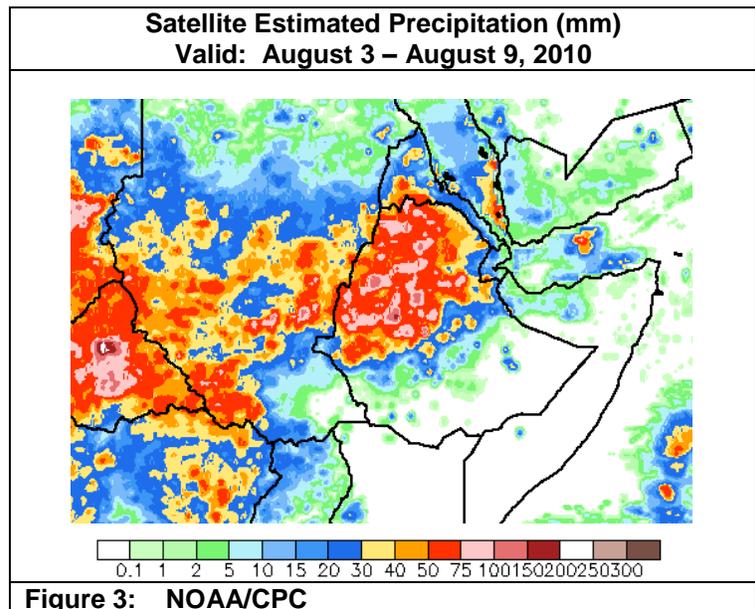


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards assessment 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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