

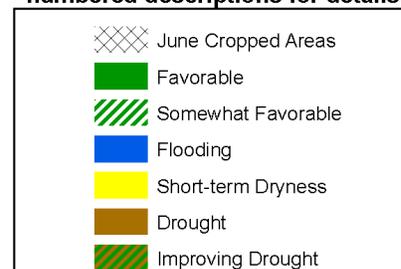
## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET June 23 – June 29, 2011

- The continuing northward advancement of the Intertropical Front has brought seasonal rainfall in the Sudano-Sahelian region of West Africa.
- Heavy downpours were observed in the dry portions of southeastern Sudan during the last seven days.



1) Below-average rainfall that was associated with a slow, northward progression of the Intertropical Front during April and May has resulted in moderate moisture deficits in the Jonglei region of southeastern Sudan. The resulting dryness had already impacted pastoral and agropastoral activities in the region. Rainfall outlook during the next seven days suggests light to moderate rains, which could sustain rainfall deficits in the region.

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



## The northward migration of the Intertropical Front resumed in West Africa.

After a retreat that was observed during the previous week, the Intertropical Front has regained its momentum and has continued its northward movement during the past seven days. The northward advancement of the rain belt has brought heavy (> 50mm) rains in many countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, including Guinea, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and south central Niger, during the past week (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, heavy rains were also observed in many local areas of the Gulf of Guinea region, including eastern Sierra Leone, southern Liberia, southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, northern Togo and Benin. In Nigeria, abundant (> 50mm) rains were recorded in the coastal region and western half of the country during the past seven days. This marked a stark increase in weekly rainfall totals relative to those during the previous week. However, moderate (10-30mm) rains persisted across much of the central and northern portions of the country, where mild to moderate negative rainfall anomalies have been present since the beginning of the season.

The analysis of the actual evapotranspiration anomaly during May shows neutral (90-110% of average) anomaly across most of the countries in the Gulf of Guinea region (**Figure 2**). Above-average evapotranspiration was also observed in northern Senegal and southern Mali during the previous month. However, below-average conditions remained in many local areas, including eastern Burkina Faso and northeastern Nigeria, where the actual evapotranspiration anomaly ranged between 70 and 90%. Although it is still early in the season, insufficient rainfall could negatively impact agricultural activities in these regions.

The rainfall forecast for the upcoming seven days indicates that seasonal rainfall will continue across much of the Gulf of Guinea region, with the heaviest rainfall in southern Guinea, southern Ghana, and coastal Nigeria. Heavy rains are also expected in many local areas of southern Senegal, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, during the next week.

## An increase in rainfall was observed in southeastern Sudan.

During the past week, an increase in rainfall was observed in southeastern Sudan, while a reduction of seasonal rainfall was recorded in western Ethiopia (**Figure 3**) relative to the rainfall amounts observed during the previous week. In Sudan, the shift of the rainfall pattern to the southeast was beneficial to the dry portions of the Jonglei and Upper Nile regions, where moisture deficits had already affected pastoral and agropastoral activities during the past several weeks. The above-average rainfall received during the past week has helped to bring relief to the water shortages in the region. In Ethiopia, moisture divergence has, however, produced more localized rainfall and has resulted in erosion of the thirty-day rainfall surpluses in the western portions of the country. Further south, localized heavy rains were also recorded in Uganda and southwestern Kenya. For the upcoming seven days, seasonal rainfall is expected to continue in western Ethiopia. Heavy (> 50mm) rainfall is also expected in many local areas of southwestern and southern Sudan, southern Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. The continuation of seasonal rainfall is expected to aid agricultural activities in the region.

**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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