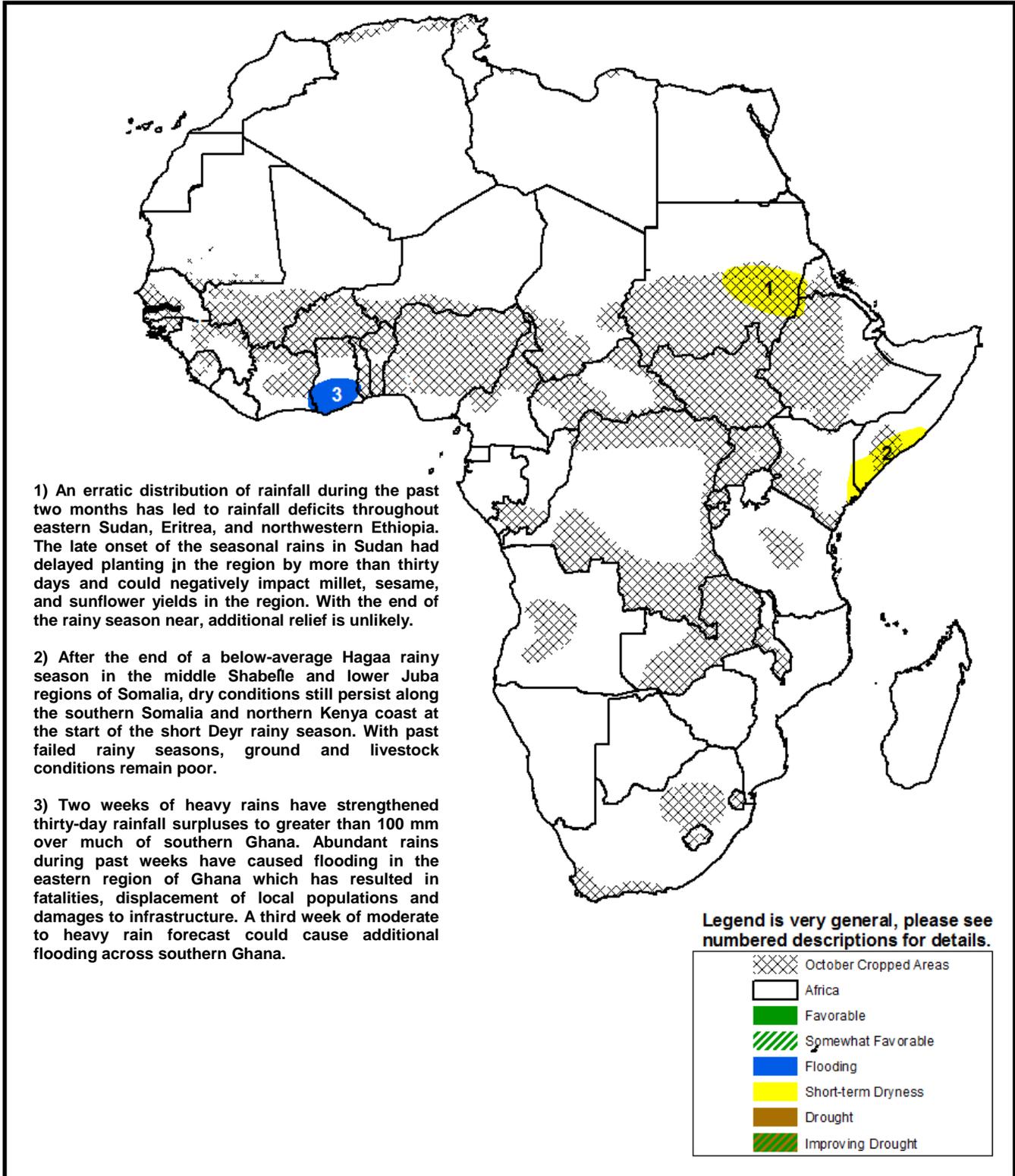


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 6 – October 12, 2011

- Below-average rainfall across central Sudan increased thirty-day rainfall deficits.
- Heavy rain continued to be observed along the Gulf of Guinea for a second week.



Below-average rains are observed across central Sudan.

During the past seven days, rainfall was concentrated farther south in eastern Africa. The suppression of rainfall across central parts of Sudan, including the Darfur and Kordofan regions, led to weekly rainfall deficits of 10 to 25 mm. Rains were also below-average over most of Ethiopia as only localized areas in western Ethiopia received heavy rains (> 50 mm). Most locations recorded light to moderate rainfall totals (5-30 mm) which were 5 to 25 mm below-average during the past week (**Figure 1**). The heaviest rain (> 50 mm total) was observed farther south in the Republic of South Sudan, Uganda, northern Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Climatologically, the heaviest rains should be migrating south along with the position of the Intertropical Front (ITF) throughout October. The heavy rains in Uganda and around Lake Victoria in Kenya continued the above-average weekly rainfall that has been consistent for the last couple of months.

The suppression of rainfall across central Sudan during much of September is evident in an analysis of moisture during the third dekad of September. While much of southern Sudan, western Ethiopia and Uganda show high values in the moisture index indicating sufficient or above-average moisture conditions, values across the Darfur and Kordofan regions of Sudan signify drier than average conditions (**Figure 2**). Anomalous and dry northerly winds have been present over Sudan in the past several weeks further helping to suppress rainfall to the south across eastern Africa. With the end of the season near, additional heavy rainfall is unlikely.

Next week, models indicate reduced rainfall across much of eastern Africa. The heaviest rainfall (> 40 mm) is expected across western Uganda and localized areas in southern Sudan, southern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Little to no rainfall is forecast across central Sudan.

Widespread heavy rain fell along the Gulf of Guinea.

For a second consecutive week, heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) was observed across a wide area along the Gulf of Guinea. The heaviest rains (> 75 mm) were located in coastal Nigeria, Liberia, Guinea, and localized areas in Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana. The abundant rain recorded in Ghana fell over areas still saturated from past weeks of heavy rain and flooding. Many locations in southern Ghana have thirty-day rainfall surpluses of over 100 mm. Farther north, moderate to locally heavy rain (10-30 mm, locally > 50 mm) was observed across Senegal, western Mali and localized areas in southern Mauritania (**Figure 3**). The increase in rainfall across dry portions of southern Mauritania and western Mali has come late into the season and has provided little relief to crops already impacted by poor rainfall during the preceding two months. The rainy season is expected to end during the next several weeks as the ITF progresses southward. For the next seven days, models forecast little to no rainfall across the Sahel as rains will be concentrated farther south along the Gulf of Guinea. Moderate to locally heavy rains (10-30 mm, locally > 40 mm) are expected in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin and coastal Nigeria. Additional heavy rains in Ghana could cause flooding as grounds are already saturated.

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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