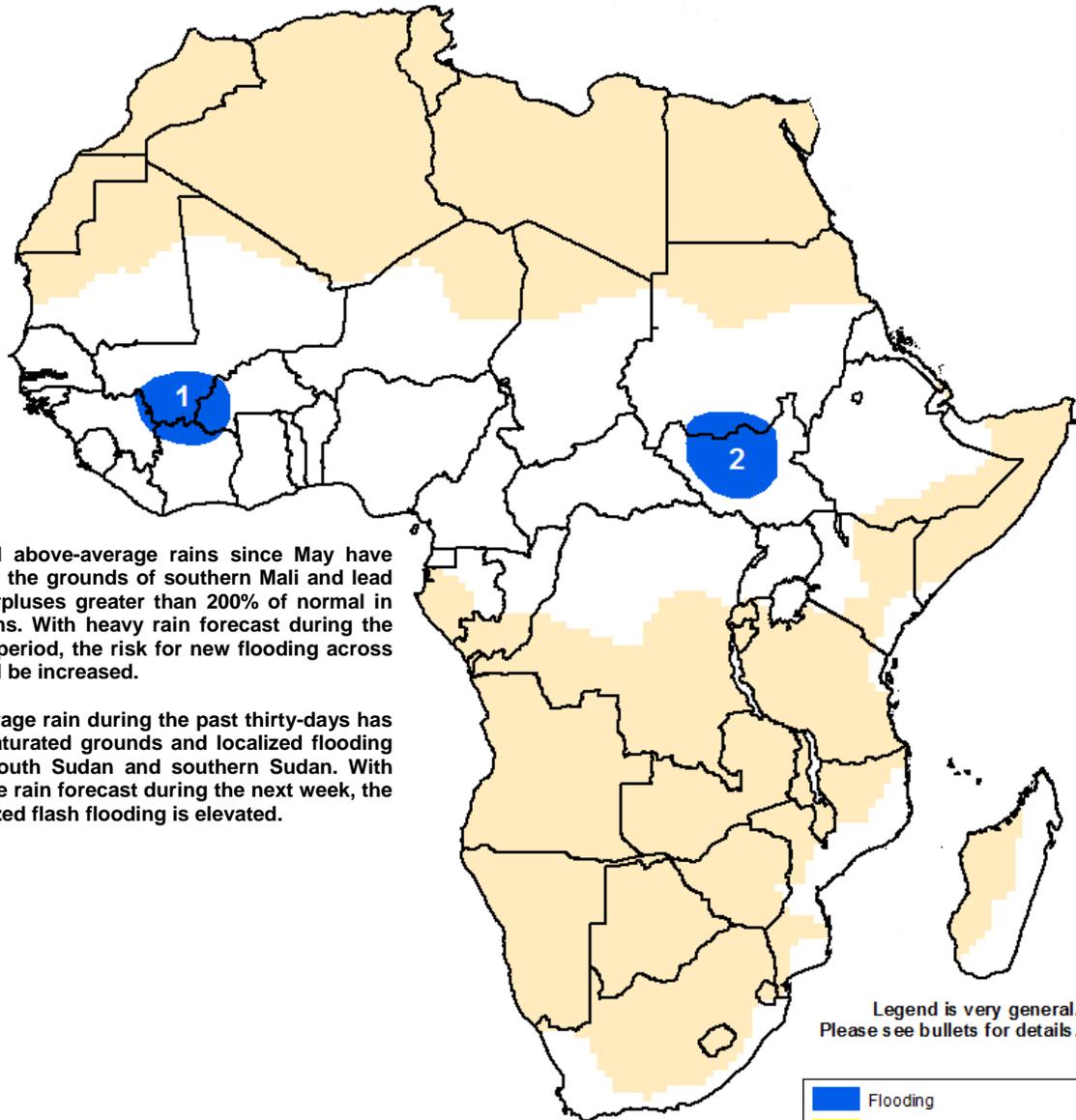




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 10 – July 16, 2014

- Torrential rains impacted coastal Cote D'Ivoire during the past week.
- An increase in rain was observed across dry areas in northwestern Ethiopia and southeastern Sudan.



1) Heavy and above-average rains since May have oversaturated the grounds of southern Mali and lead to rainfall surpluses greater than 200% of normal in some locations. With heavy rain forecast during the next outlook period, the risk for new flooding across the region will be increased.

2) Above-average rain during the past thirty-days has resulted in saturated grounds and localized flooding in parts of South Sudan and southern Sudan. With above-average rain forecast during the next week, the risk for localized flash flooding is elevated.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Torrential coastal rains observed in far western West Africa.

During the past week, much of western West Africa observed heavy rain (>40mm) while moderate rain (10-40mm) was reported elsewhere across West Africa. The heaviest rains fell along the coast of Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia where seven-day rainfall totals exceeded 300mm in some places. The copious amounts of rain dating back to early June have resulted in flash flooding in Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia. The torrential rains (>50mm) extended into Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. Farther east, moderate to heavy rain was observed from Ghana to Nigeria while moderate rains extended across the Sahel in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali (**Figure 1**). Rains across the Sahel were seasonable during the last week which provided needed ground moisture. In contrast, weekly rains remained slightly below-average across western Chad which has increased rainfall deficits due to insufficient rainfall during the past two to five weeks.

Dating back to May 1st, West Africa has observed a consistent rainfall pattern. Wet conditions have prevailed in western West Africa while drier than average seasonal rainfall has occurred in eastern West Africa. Seasonal rains have been between 120-200% greater than average in Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire which has caused reports of flooding and damages to infrastructure during the past two months. Meanwhile rains are between 50-80% of average in Nigeria, Chad and eastern Niger (**Figure 2**) which has raised dryness concerns, especially in Chad.

For next week, an increase in rain is forecast across the Sahel providing relief to drier areas in Niger. Elsewhere, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for saturated areas in southern Mali which will elevate the risk for flooding. In contrast, lighter amounts of rain (<20mm) are expected in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, providing relief to saturated conditions.

An increase in rain improves ground moisture in northern Ethiopia and southeastern Sudan.

During the past week, heavy rain (>50mm) was observed in western/northwestern Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan which caused flooding in South Sudan and the western Darfur and southern Kordofan regions of Sudan. The heavy rains extended across northwestern Ethiopia and southeastern Sudan where thirty-day rainfall deficits had been growing. The previous below-average rain during June resulted in dryness concerns in the El Gezira region of Sudan. However, the increase in rain during the past week has helped to reduce thirty-day deficits with previously dry areas now observing rainfall totals around climatology and other areas recording above-average rainfall (**Figure 3**). Vegetative indices during the end of June and beginning of July still indicate poor ground conditions in eastern Sudan and northwestern Ethiopia but recent rains should help improve ground conditions. For the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for much of eastern Africa including Ethiopia, northern Eritrea, South Sudan and southern Sudan. The increase in rain should help improve ground conditions in dry areas and increase flooding concerns in South Sudan and southern Sudan.

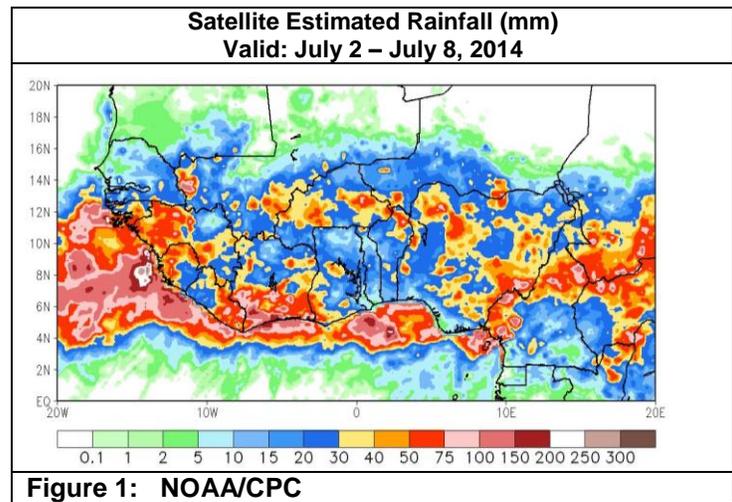


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

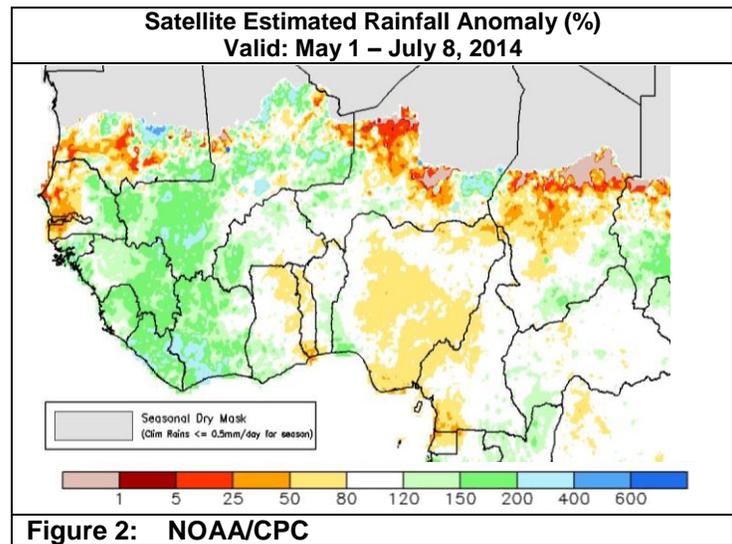


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

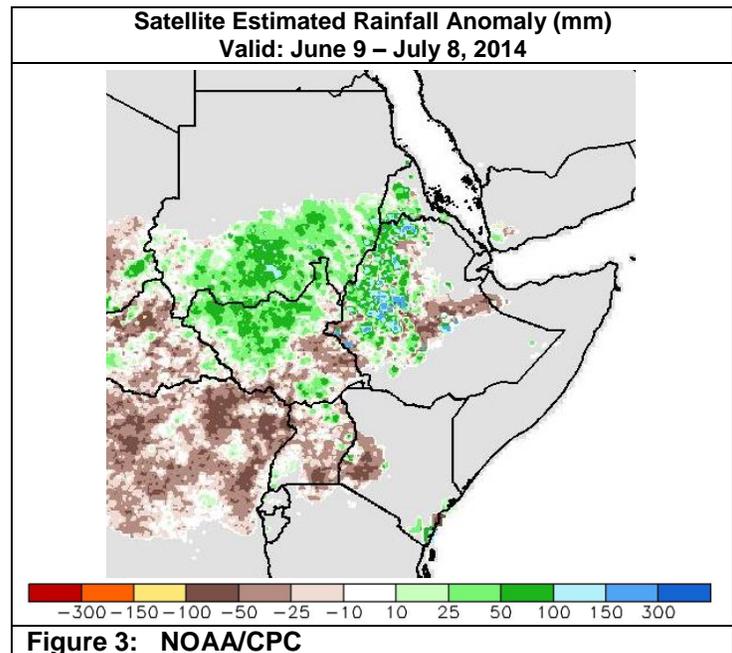


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.