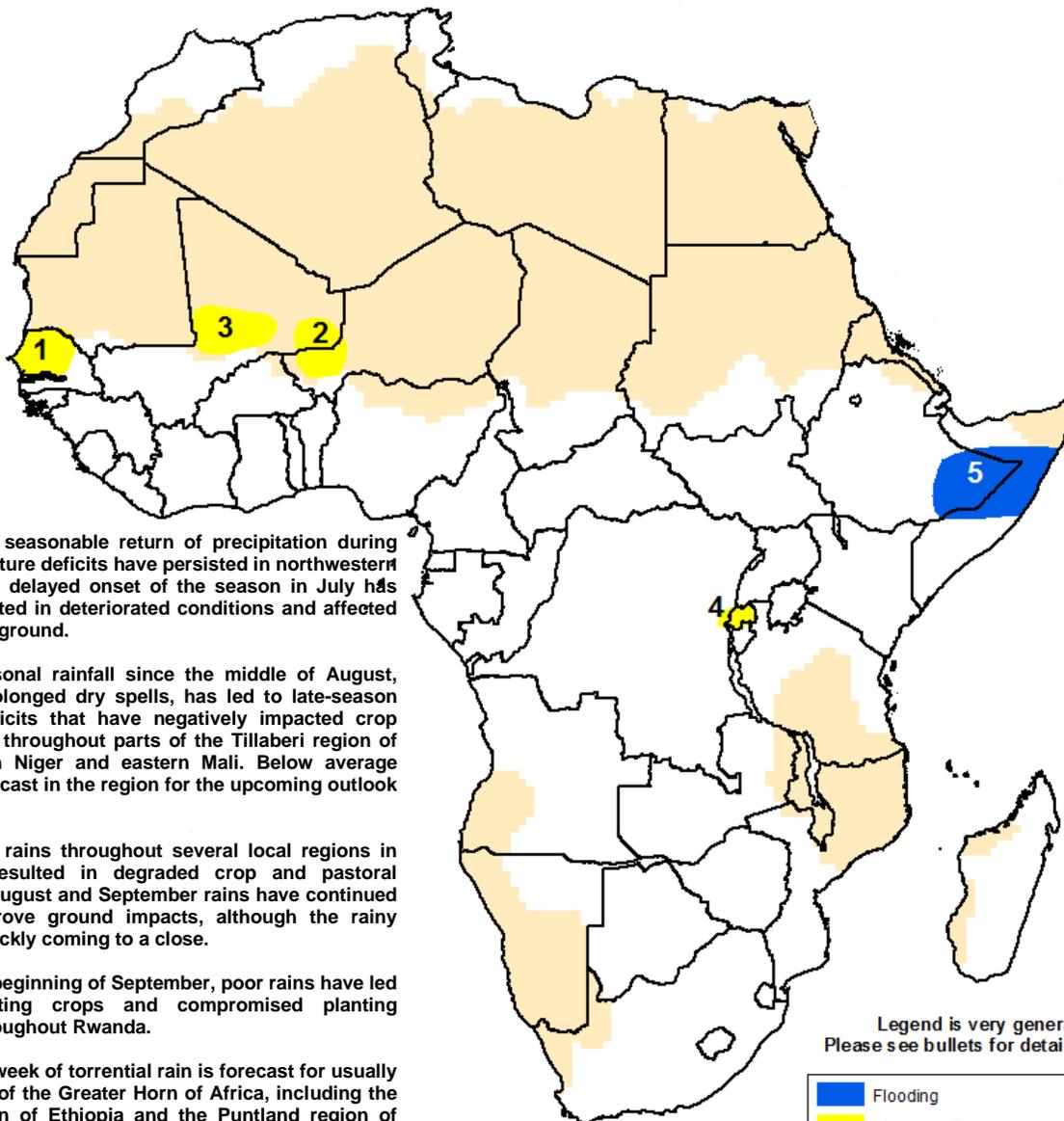




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 9 – October 15, 2014

- Beneficial late-season rainfall continued across previously dry portions of the Sahel.
- Torrential rains were recorded across parts of eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia.



1) Despite a seasonable return of precipitation during August, moisture deficits have persisted in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season in July has already resulted in deteriorated conditions and affected crops on the ground.

2) Poor seasonal rainfall since the middle of August, including prolonged dry spells, has led to late-season moisture deficits that have negatively impacted crop development throughout parts of the Tillaberi region of southwestern Niger and eastern Mali. Below average rains are forecast in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

3) Poor July rains throughout several local regions in Mali have resulted in degraded crop and pastoral conditions. August and September rains have continued to help improve ground impacts, although the rainy season is quickly coming to a close.

4) Since the beginning of September, poor rains have led to deteriorating crops and compromised planting activities throughout Rwanda.

5) A second week of torrential rain is forecast for usually dry portions of the Greater Horn of Africa, including the Somali region of Ethiopia and the Puntland region of Somalia. Localized flash flooding is likely in areas that receive heavy rains.

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

Above-average rains continue across the Sahel.

During the past week, the ITCZ/ITF remained displaced to the north across parts of the Sahel including Mali and Niger, bringing anomalous rain to parts of the Sahel. In addition, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded farther west across already saturated areas in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Abundant rains (>50mm) were also observed across Nigeria, Togo and Benin. Moderate rain (10-40mm) fell elsewhere in Cote D'Ivoire and southern Niger and light rains fell in Senegal (**Figure 1**). The moderate rains that were observed across Niger provided a late season increase in ground moisture after dry conditions in August and September.

As the West African Monsoon season comes to close, rains over the past thirty-days in West Africa have exhibited a di-pole pattern as above-average rains have occurred in central/western West Africa while below-average rains have been recorded in the east. In particular, a late surge of rain and moisture during the last several weeks across Mali and western Niger has helped offset moisture deficits that developed earlier in the rainy season. In fact, increasing late season rainfall has occurred across most previously dry areas of West Africa. However, despite these improvements, seasonal and short-term moisture deficits remain in local areas in southwestern Niger and bordering Mali. Meanwhile, the large thirty-day rainfall surpluses (>50mm) continued to grow across saturated areas of far western West Africa (**Figure 2**).

For the upcoming week, a reduction in rains is expected across West Africa as the ITF is expected to retreat equatorward. Little to no rain is expected across the Sahel including Niger and Burkina Faso, while light rains (<15mm) are forecast for parts of southern Mali and Senegal. The heaviest rains (>50mm) are expected across saturated areas of far western West Africa, though below-average rains are forecast farther south along the Gulf of Guinea.

Heavy rains observed across northern Somalia.

Heavy, late-season rains (>50mm) continued for a wide portion of East Africa during the past seven days. Above-average weekly rains were observed across Ethiopia, northern Somalia, South Sudan, and areas around Lake Victoria as moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) fell (**Figure 3**). The abundant rain in Ethiopia is expected to benefit areas that experienced poorly distributed and erratic rains earlier this Kiremt rainy season. Meanwhile, rains in South Sudan and northern Somalia likely resulted in localized flooding due to the heavy nature of the showers. Farther south, increased weekly rains across Rwanda likely provided needed ground moisture after poor September rains negatively impacted cropping activities.

For the next week, wet conditions are expected to continue across the Greater Horn as heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for Ethiopia, central/northern Somalia, South Sudan and localized areas around Lake Victoria. The torrential rains in the Somali region of Ethiopia and bordering areas in central/northern Somalia could trigger localized flooding 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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