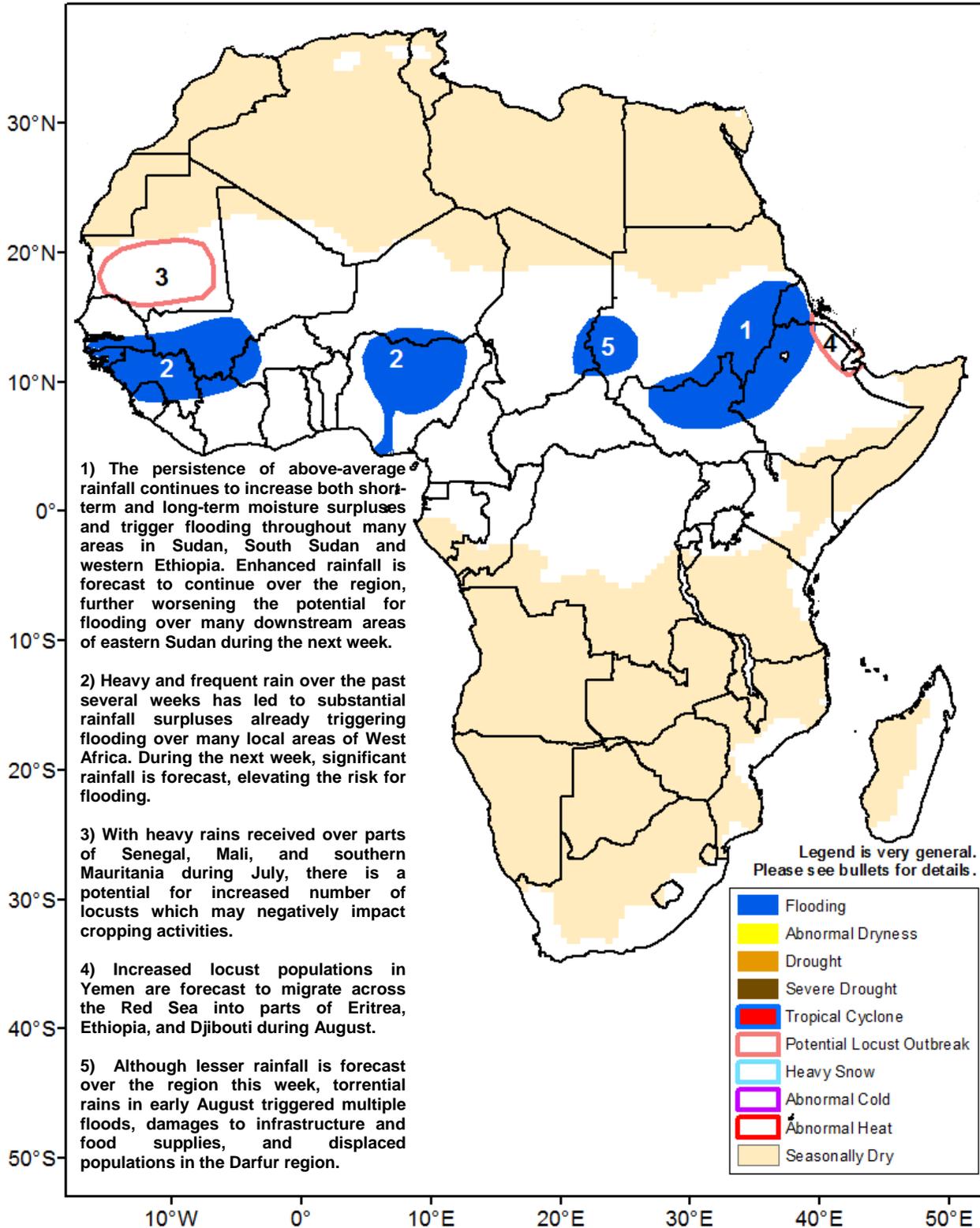




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 18 – August 24, 2016

- No relief to saturated ground conditions over eastern Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.
- Heavy rainfall forecast to shift southward and sustain flooding risks over Guinea, Mali and Nigeria.



Significantly heavy rains return this week across West Africa.

During the last observation period, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was received throughout many regions in West Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were received across northern Guinea and southern Senegal, with numerous pockets of similar accumulations over Mali, southern Mauritania, Burkina Faso and northern Cote d'Ivoire (**Figure 1**). Much of the heavy rainfall was associated with an abnormally high ITCZ/ITF position, which helped to pump ample moisture into more arid regions of the Sahel and lower Sahara region. Portions of northern Mali and southern Algeria also registered moderate to locally heavy amounts during the middle of August.

Following a significantly wet July, seasonal rainfall had lessened in intensity for a period in early August. However, this past week's rainfall distribution marked the return of conditions resembling that of July, with widespread enhanced moisture conditions negatively affecting many West Africa countries with flooding, damages to infrastructure, displaced populations and fatalities. The latest threat of flooding has emerged across central Nigeria where continuous, heavy rains have reportedly elevated river levels along the Niger River, as the local meteorological service have issued flood warnings for at least 11 states of the country.

Analysis of seasonal precipitation percentiles continue to indicate one of the wettest seasons on record for many local areas. The spatial extent of rainfall percentiles in excess of 97% is significant, and can be seen spanning across Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad (**Figure 2**). As the West monsoon typically reaches its peak in latitude and amount during the middle of August, there remains ample time for seasonal moisture anomalies to either weaken or strengthen further.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest a slight shift in the monsoon convergence with the highest weekly accumulations to occur further south into Guinea and southern Mali. This is expected to sustain the risk for flooding as high river levels and saturated ground conditions have been observed throughout the region.

No relief to heavy rains expected over western Ethiopia.

During the last week, an increase in the amount and distribution of seasonal rainfall was observed over many saturated areas of Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The persistent wet pattern over the region since July has led to floods, displaced populations, fatalities particularly along the Blue Nile and Al Gash rivers, as rainfall occurring upstream over western Ethiopia has shown no indication of weakening. For next week, the probability for above-average precipitation (>150% of normal) remains quite high in the outlook over western Ethiopia (**Figure 3**) and is expected to continue negatively impact many areas downstream.

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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