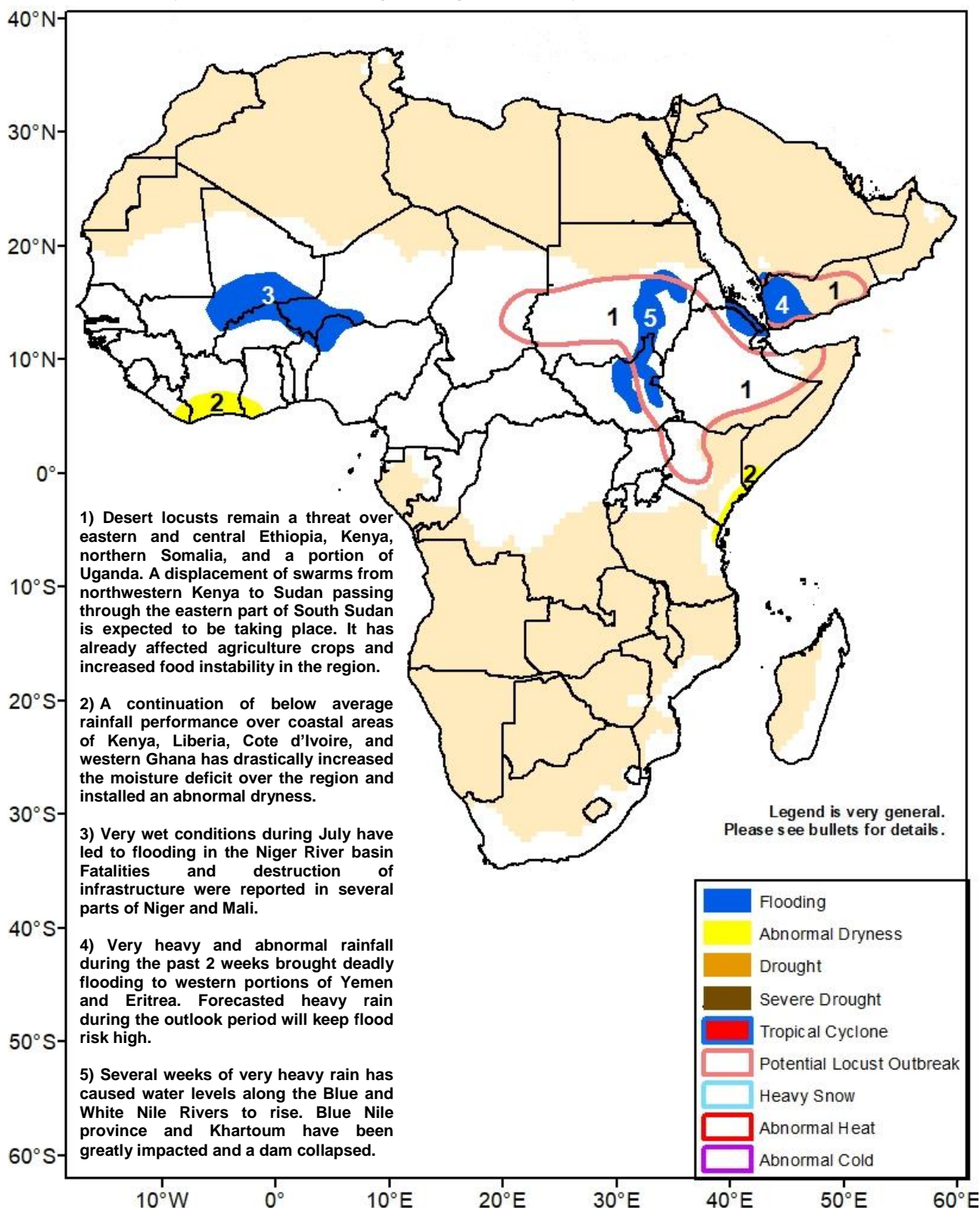




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 6 – August 12, 2020

- Below-average rainfall over the past two months has led to abnormal dryness in southern Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire
- An abnormally wet summer is causing flooding across many other parts of Africa.



An abnormal dryness is installed over the coastal areas of some Gulf of Guinea countries.

During the past seven days, the Monsoon rain belt has been displaced northward bringing above-average rains to large portions of the Sahel. Some of the heaviest rainfall totals (>75mm) were observed in southern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, with more in Cameroon, and Chad (Figure 1). Lighter rains were spread across many other portions of the Sahel, including southern Mauritania and northern Niger. Meanwhile, to the South, little rainfall was observed along the Gulf of Guinea coast. Over the past 30 days, the Sahel has been much wetter than average. Many areas have received moisture surpluses of more than 50 or 100mm according to satellite estimates (Figure 1). This has led to rising river levels and many reports of destructive and deadly flooding, especially in the Niger River basin of Mali and Niger. In contrast, rainfall deficits of as much as 50-100mm cover the southern areas of Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana which saw decreased moisture over the past month.

The vegetation health indices show signs of degraded vegetation in southern Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire with largely favorable vegetation over the rest of West Africa during early August. Other monitoring products point to the high basin excess moisture in many catchments of the Sahel, especially in Mali.

During the coming outlook period, above-average rainfall is expected in southern Senegal, southern Mali, and Burkina Faso. Heavy rainfall (>100mm) is expected for southeastern Niger and Chad. The continuation of heavy rains for many areas means that flooding is still likely. Very light rains are expected to continue in southern Gulf of Guinea countries.

Unusually heavy rain has been recorded over Yemen.

Above-normal rainfall was received last week in many areas of East Africa. For a second week in a row, extremely heavy and abnormal rainfall was observed in Yemen. More than 100mm was recorded in the west (Figure 1). This has led to much more flooding in the area. Nearby regions of Eritrea, northern Ethiopia, and eastern Sudan also received heavy rainfall of more than 100mm. Sudan and South Sudan registered some surpluses (50-100mm above average) where heavy rains surged very far north into Sudan reaching Egypt. Floods are also possible there. Slightly below-average rainfall was observed in southwest Ethiopia. Rainfall performance over East Africa has been favorable, or even too wet, over a major part of the region during July (Figure 2). Persistent heavy rain and 30-day surpluses have led to high water levels along the Blue and White Nile Rivers in Sudan and South Sudan. The coastal areas of Kenya are still observing weak performance (50-80%).

The NDVI has showed favorable vegetation health during the period. Locust concerns persist into August. The increased rainfall over the western coastal areas of Yemen could accelerate and increase locust breeding giving rise to numerous hoppers bands and swarms for the coming weeks.

During the outlook period, heavy rainfall (>100mm) is expected in southern Sudan and most of western Ethiopia. Seasonable rain is expected in western South Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya. Heavy rains should also continue in western Yemen which will prolong flooding problems there.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)

Valid: July 29 – August 4, 2020

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 29Jul2020 – 04Aug2020

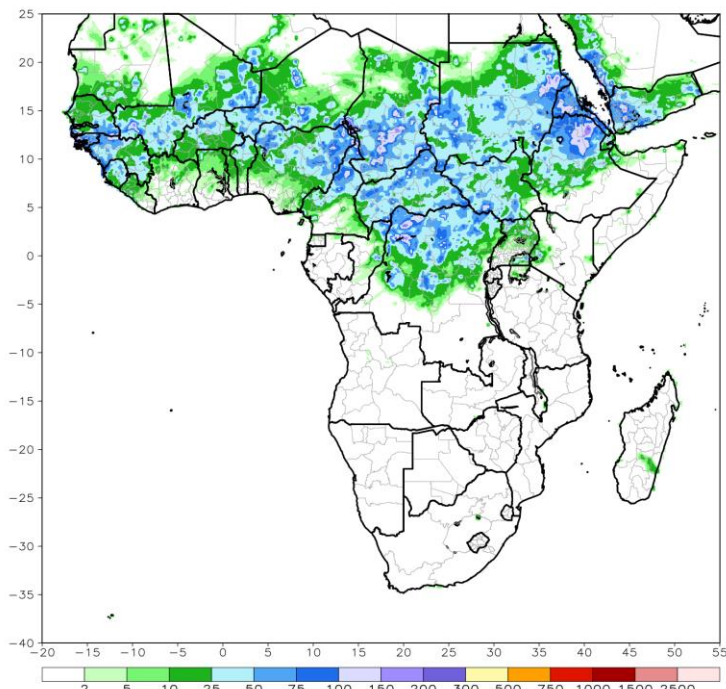


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: July 6 – August 4, 2020

ARC2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 06Jul2020 – 04Aug2020

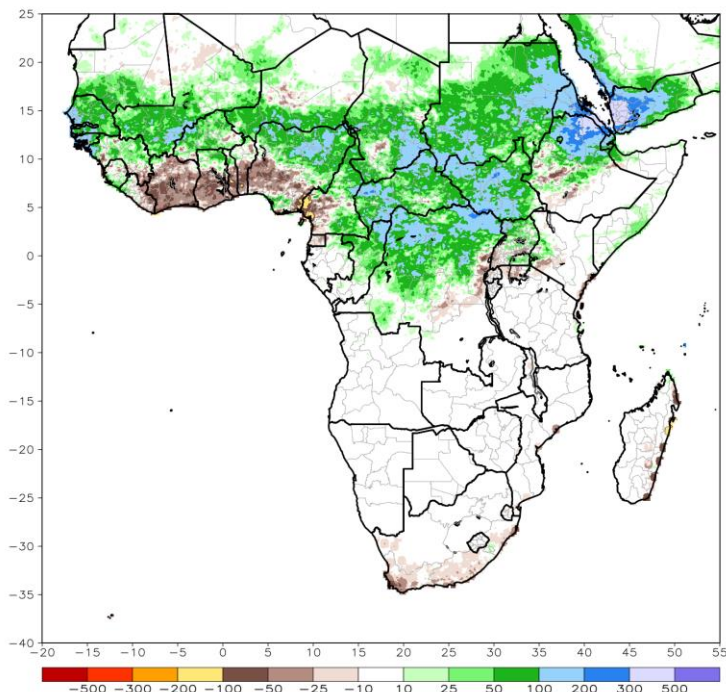


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.