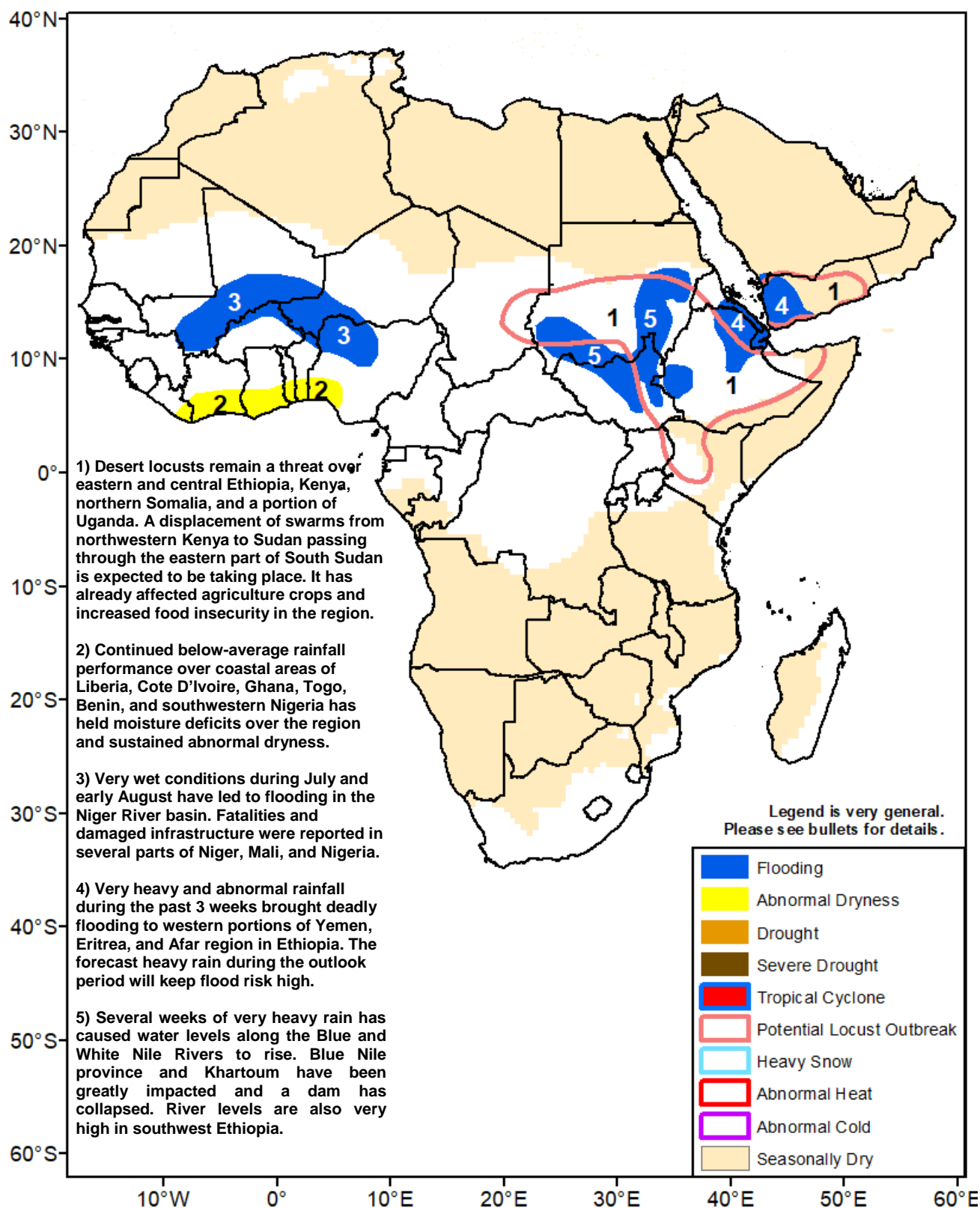




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 20 – 26, 2020

- Heavy rains have led to flooding and many affected people over several areas of West and the Horn of Africa.



## A favorable monsoon performance recorded in West Africa

A comparison of the cumulative rainfall since the beginning of June with the long-term average has showed that above-average seasonal rainfall has been received throughout much of West Africa. The largest (> 200 mm) positive rainfall anomalies are spread across Guinea-Conakry, Mali, parts of Burkina Faso, southern Niger, and northern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). The wetter-than-average conditions were attributable to an abnormally north position of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) during the recent periods. The resulting wetness has already triggered flooding, fatalities, and displaced people over many areas of West Africa, including Bamako of Mali, Niger, northwestern and north-central Nigeria, according to reports. Although the continuation of seasonal rains has benefitted cropping and pastoral activities over many areas, excessive moisture could lead to flash flood, infrastructure damages, displaced people, and even fatalities, which could further jeopardize the livelihoods of residents. In contrast, negative seasonal rainfall anomalies have been recorded along the Gulf of Guinea, particularly Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, where limited and insufficient rainfall has fallen since June.

For next week, moderate to heavy rains are to continue across the Sahel, including Guinea-Conakry, southern Mali, parts of Burkina Faso, northern Benin, southern Niger, and Nigeria, maintaining elevated risks for flooding in the region. In contrast, limited and light (< 25 mm) rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea countries, which are likely to sustain moisture deficits in the region.

## Consistent rains caused widespread flooding in the Horn of Africa.

During early to mid-August, widespread, moderate to heavy rains continued over the Horn of Africa. Abundant rains fell over western, southern and eastern Sudan, South Sudan, and western Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). The continued, consistent rains have already resulted in widespread flooding over many areas, including the south Darfur, North and West Kordofan, Al Jazirah, Khartoum, Kassala, Blue Nile, and the Red Sea States of Sudan, southwestern and the Afar region of Ethiopia, and western Yemen, according to recent reports. The continuation of additional and above-average rainfall is likely to exacerbate and worsen conditions on the ground over many areas. The accumulated rainfall since June was over 300 mm above the long-term average over much of South Sudan, northern Ethiopia, and western Yemen. The wetness was partially attributed to a well above-average position of the ITF over the region since the third dekad (10-day period) of June.

Based on the most recent Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) update, desert locust swarms persist in the Horn of Africa. Immature swarms continued to be present over many areas, including northwestern Kenya near the border with Uganda, over the Turkana County, northern Somalia, and adjacent areas to eastern Ethiopia despite control operations. Recent enhanced rains could increase breeding and infestation over eastern Ethiopia.

For next week, seasonally heavy rains are forecast to continue over western Ethiopia, and parts of Eritrea, increasing risks for flooding. Moderate to heavy rains are expected over South Sudan, southern and western Sudan, and parts of western Yemen, which maintain elevated risks for 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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