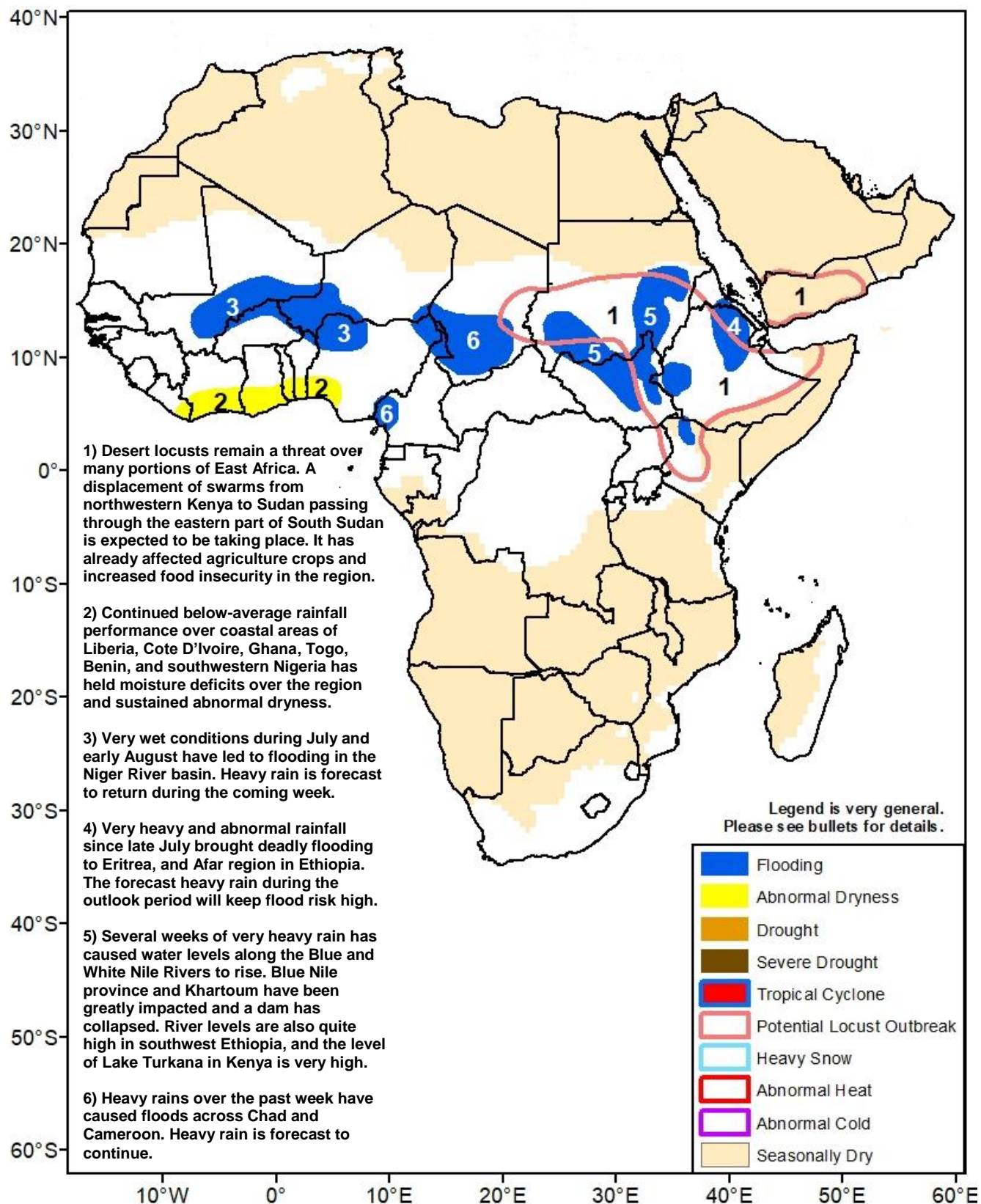




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 27 – September 2, 2020

- Heavy rains have led to flooding and numerous affected people over many areas across Africa.



Below-average rainfall performance has continued for Gulf of Guinea countries.

Heavy rainfall (75-100mm+) was received in southern Chad, Cameroon, and Nigeria causing new reports of flooding (**Figure 1**). Moderate to locally heavy rain was observed over many other portions of the Sahel, while the Gulf of Guinea countries stayed dry. A comparison of the cumulative rainfall since the beginning of June with the long-term average shows that above-average seasonal rainfall has been received throughout much of West Africa. The largest positive rainfall anomalies (>200mm) are spread across Guinea-Conakry, Mali, parts of Burkina Faso, southern Niger, and northern Nigeria (**Figure 2**). 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 already triggered flooding, fatalities, and displaced people over many areas of West Africa, including in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, according to reports. Although the continuation of seasonal rains has benefitted cropping and pastoral activities over many areas, excessive moisture has led to impacts which may 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, heavy rains will continue across the Sahel, including Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, northern Cote D'Ivoire, and Nigeria, maintaining elevated risks for flooding in the region. Similar conditions are expected in Cameroon and Chad. In contrast, limited (< 25 mm) rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea countries.

Consistent rains caused widespread flooding in the Horn of Africa.

During the past week, widespread moderate to heavy rains continued over East Africa. Torrential rains, totaling more than 100-200mm, fell over central/western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan. (**Figure 1**). Rains over many other East African countries were greater than average for mid-August as well. The consistent rains already resulted in widespread flooding in 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 according to reports. Reports also indicate that flooding is ongoing along Lake Turkana and the Turkwel dam is likely to be overtopped. The accumulated rainfall since June is over 300mm above the long-term average for much of South Sudan, northern Ethiopia, and western Yemen (**Figure 2**). The wetness is partially attributed to a well-above average position of the ITF over the region since the final 10 days 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 rains are expected over South Sudan, western Sudan, parts of Uganda, 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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