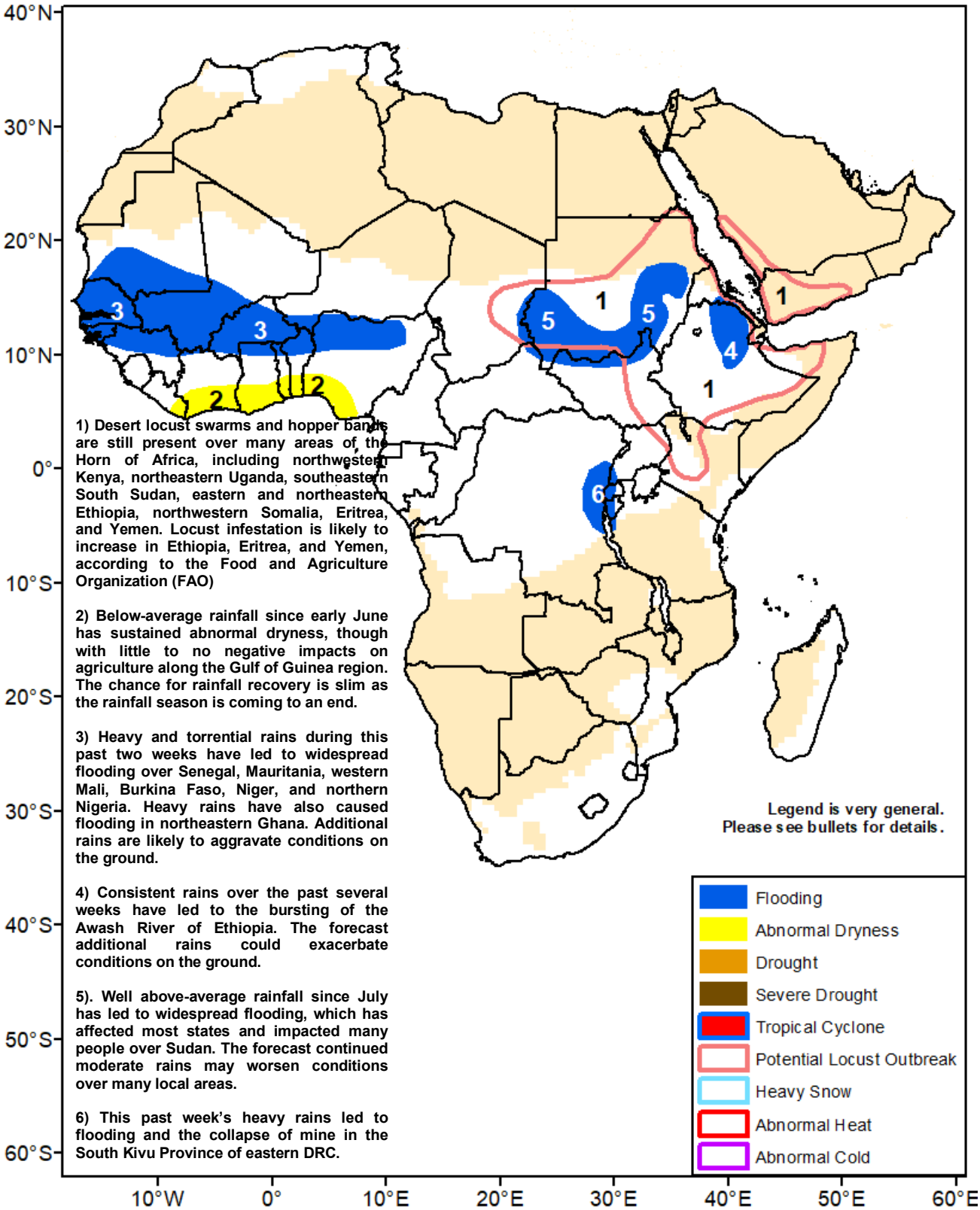
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 17 – 23, 2020

- **Heavy and above-average rainfall since July has caused floods and many affected people over several areas.**



1) Desert locust swarms and hopper bands are still present over many areas of the Horn of Africa, including northwestern Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan, eastern and northeastern Ethiopia, northwestern Somalia, Eritrea, and Yemen. Locust infestation is likely to increase in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Yemen, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2) Below-average rainfall since early June has sustained abnormal dryness, though with little to no negative impacts on agriculture along the Gulf of Guinea region. The chance for rainfall recovery is slim as the rainfall season is coming to an end.

3) Heavy and torrential rains during this past two weeks have led to widespread flooding over Senegal, Mauritania, western Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and northern Nigeria. Heavy rains have also caused flooding in northeastern Ghana. Additional rains are likely to aggravate conditions on the ground.

4) Consistent rains over the past several weeks have led to the bursting of the Awash River of Ethiopia. The forecast additional rains could exacerbate conditions on the ground.

5). Well above-average rainfall since July has led to widespread flooding, which has affected most states and impacted many people over Sudan. The forecast continued moderate rains may worsen conditions over many local areas.

6) This past week's heavy rains led to flooding and the collapse of mine in the South Kivu Province of eastern DRC.

Heavy rains poured into the far western West Africa.

During the past seven days, heavy rains continued over the far western West Africa, including Senegal, southern and eastern Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, and southern Mali (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains were also recorded throughout Burkina Faso, Liberia, northern Togo; Benin; and northwestern Nigeria. This past week's abundant rains triggered flooding, leaving many affected people over southern and eastern Mauritania and Burkina Faso. Meanwhile, additional moderate rains worsened conditions on the ground over many local areas, particularly Niamey of Niger, according to reports. Conversely, reduced precipitation with light to locally moderate rains were received in western Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and along the Gulf of Guinea. Rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days indicated wetter-than-average conditions across the Sahel, particularly the far western West Africa from Senegal, the Gambia, southern Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, to western Mali due to frequent wet spells since mid-August. In contrast, drier-than-average conditions persisted along the Gulf of Guinea, covering northeastern Cote d'Ivoire, southern Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southwestern Nigeria as a result of a poor rainfall distribution during the past several months.

An analysis of recent vegetation health index product displayed mostly favorable conditions across West Africa, particularly the Sahel, while deteriorated conditions were recorded over local areas of southwestern Ghana, southwestern Nigeria, and pocket areas of southern Togo and southeastern Cote d'Ivoire. The chance for recovery is slim as the rainfall season is winding down in the region.

For next week, heavy rains are to continue in southern Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, western Mali, Burkina Faso to central Nigeria, therefore maintaining high risks for flooding over many local areas. Light to moderate rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 09 – September 15, 2020

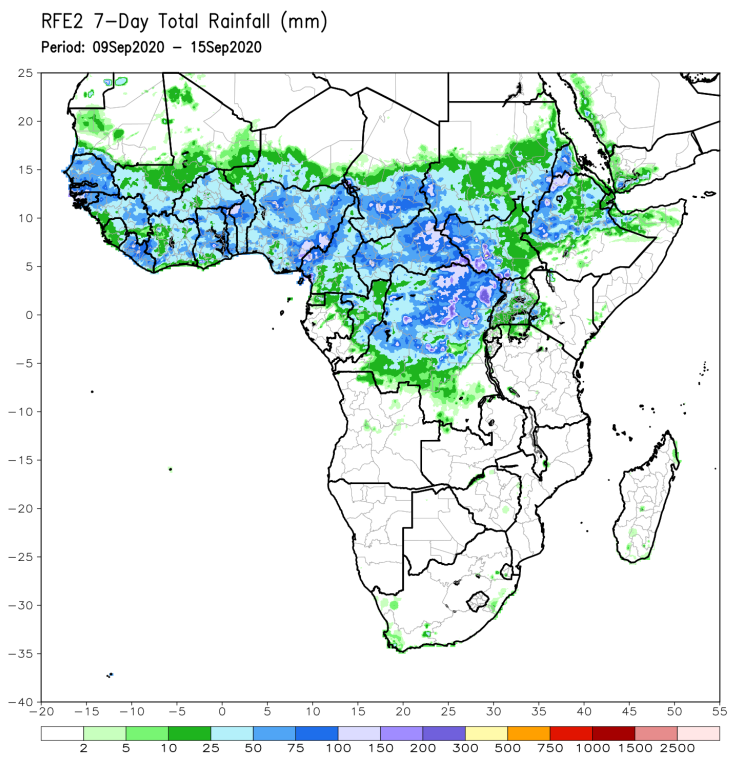


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Moisture surpluses observed throughout eastern Africa

Since the beginning of July, well above-average rainfall has been received throughout the Horn of Africa. Rainfall surpluses exceeded 300 mm over a number of areas such as western and eastern Sudan, western South Sudan, northern Ethiopia, eastern Eritrea, northwestern Uganda, and western Yemen (**Figure 2**). This wetness resulted from frequent and above-average rainfall, which already has caused flooding and many impacted people over the West Kordofan, Khartoum, Sennar, Al Jazirah, River Nile, Blue Nile, and many States of Sudan and the Amhara, Afar, Gambella regions of Ethiopia. During this past week, heavy rains continued along the Sudan-Ethiopia border, western South Sudan, and western Sudan, which contributed to maintain oversaturation in the region. Farther south, heavy downpours resulted in flooding and collapse of a mine in the South Kivu of eastern DRC, according to report.

Based on recent vegetation health index product, conditions were mostly favorable over eastern Africa, in particular Sudan, South Sudan, and eastern Ethiopia. However, poor and degraded conditions showed up over localized areas of western Ethiopia, which likely resulted from flooding and water-logged vegetation.

For next week, seasonally moderate to heavy rains are to continue over Ethiopia and Eritrea. In contrast, little to light rains are expected in eastern Sudan. Although the forecast rains are near to below-average over most areas, the risks for flooding remain high due to ongoing oversaturation.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: July 01 – September 15, 2020

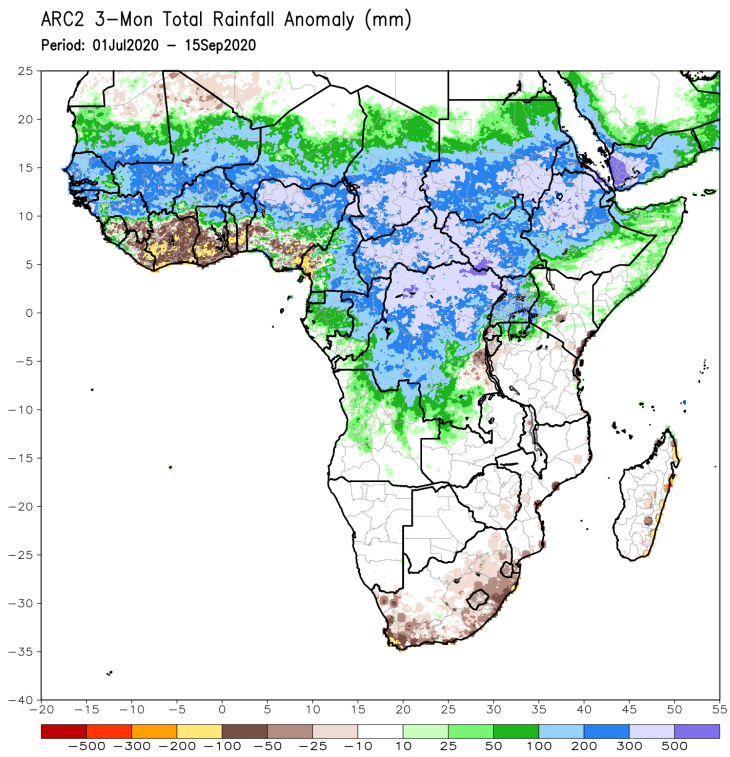


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.