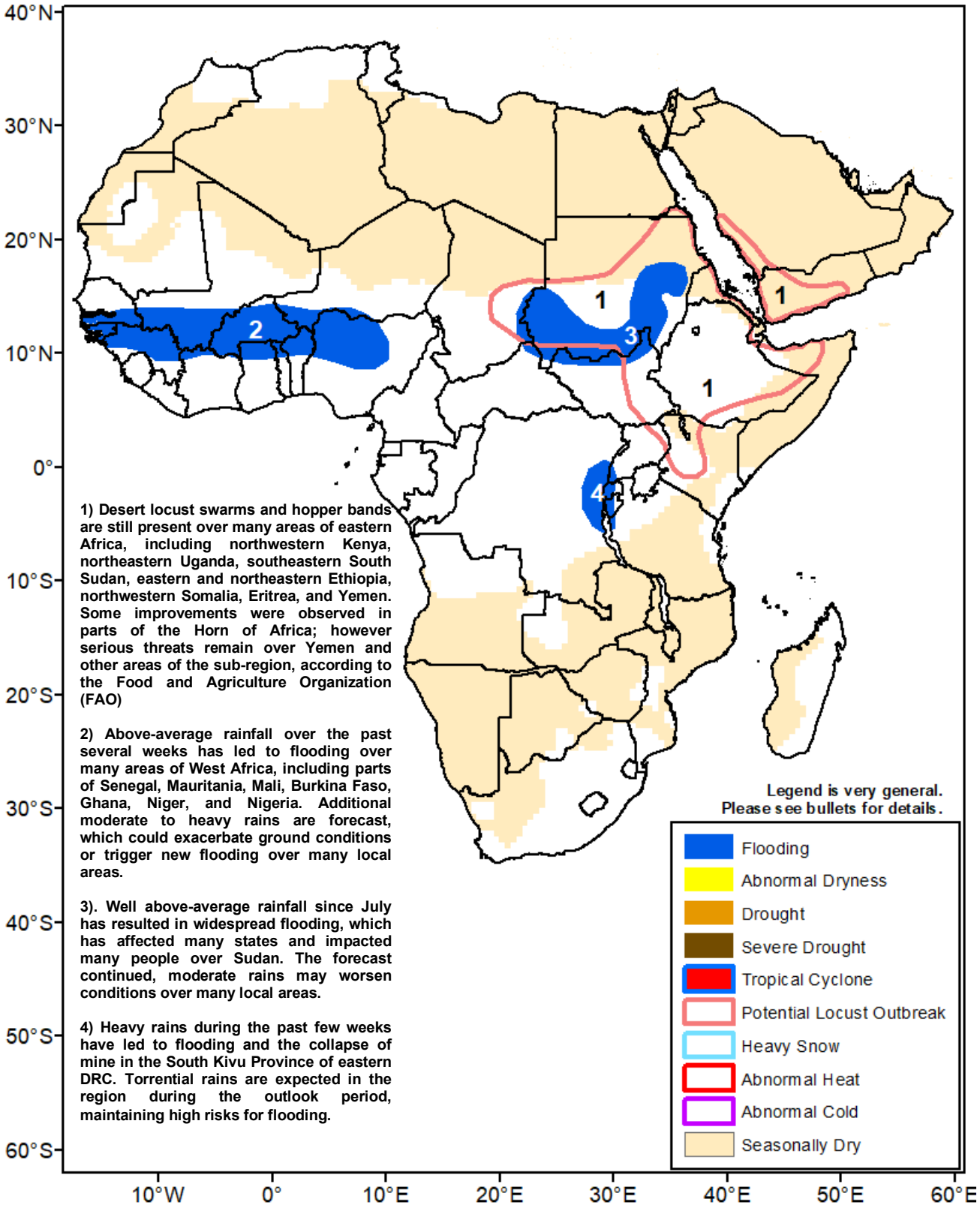
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 24 – 30, 2020

- **High risks for flooding remain as near to above-average rainfall is forecast to continue during the next week.**



1) Desert locust swarms and hopper bands are still present over many areas of eastern Africa, including northwestern Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan, eastern and northeastern Ethiopia, northwestern Somalia, Eritrea, and Yemen. Some improvements were observed in parts of the Horn of Africa; however serious threats remain over Yemen and other areas of the sub-region, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2) Above-average rainfall over the past several weeks has led to flooding over many areas of West Africa, including parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria. Additional moderate to heavy rains are forecast, which could exacerbate ground conditions or trigger new flooding over many local areas.

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

4) Heavy rains during the past few weeks have led to flooding and the collapse of mine in the South Kivu Province of eastern DRC. Torrential rains are expected in the region during the outlook period, maintaining high risks for flooding.

Abundant West Africa monsoon rains caused numerous flooding.

This year, the West African monsoon was characterized by a favorable performance. An analysis of the accumulated rainfall since July exhibited above-average rainfall throughout most areas, particularly the Sahel, where seasonal rainfall accounted for between 150-400 percent of the average (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains during the past few weeks have led to oversaturation and have already caused flooding and even fatalities over several areas, including Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad, according to media reports. During this past week alone, heavy downpours led to flooding and many affected people over the Niger State of west-central Nigeria. The wetter-than-average conditions were attributable to an abnormally north position of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF), main rain-bearing system, which brought frequent and above-average influx of moisture throughout the sub-region until now. Conversely, low-level wind divergence and poor rainfall distribution caused drier-than-average conditions along the Gulf of Guinea, covering eastern Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and parts of Togo, and Benin.

As a result, recent vegetation health index (VHI) depicted mostly good to very good conditions across the Sahel. Though, some deteriorated conditions were shown over localized pixels of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria.

During the upcoming outlook period, an equatorward shift of the ITF is expected to bring heavy rains from Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and central and southern Nigeria. Also, light to moderate rains are forecast over Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, which maintain high risks for flooding over previously-flooded areas of the sub-region.

Ample seasonal rainfall continued in the Horn of Africa.

During mid-September, ample seasonal rainfall fell over the Horn of Africa. While heavy (> 50 mm) downpours persisted in western Ethiopia, moderate to locally heavy (> 25 mm) rains were received in southern and eastern Sudan, South Sudan, eastern DRC, and northern Uganda (**Figure 2**). The continued, favorable rainfall distribution contributed to maintain wetter-than-average conditions over eastern Africa. In Sudan, oversaturation and widespread flooding was reported to impact almost all States and affect more than half a million people across the country. In Ethiopia, recent torrential rains have led to the overflowing of the Awash River and flooding of parts of the Afar region. While the continuation of seasonal rainfall generally favor cropping and agropastoral activities, excessive moisture could also hamper or even jeopardize food production over certain areas.

For the desert locust outbreak, some improvements were observed other parts of eastern Africa due to ongoing control operations, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). However, serious threats remain over Yemen and other parts of the Horn of Africa as hopper and swarms are still present in the infested areas of northwestern Kenya, central and northwestern Somalia, northeastern Ethiopia, western Yemen, and southwestern Saudi Arabia.

For next week, heavy rains are forecast in eastern DRC, western Ethiopia, northern Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and South Sudan, maintaining heightened risks for flooding over many local areas.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: July 01 – September 22, 2020

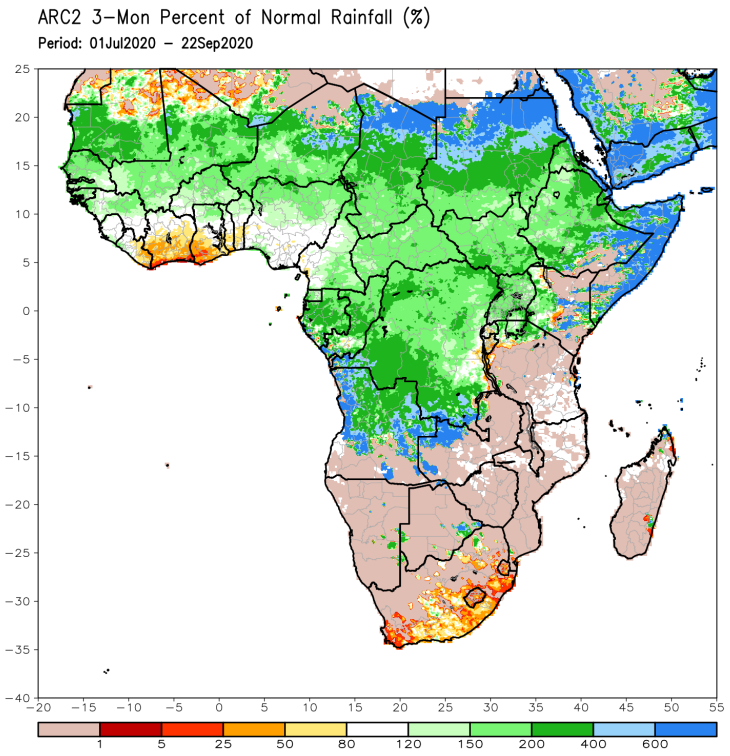


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

7-Day Satellite Total Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 16 – September 22, 2020

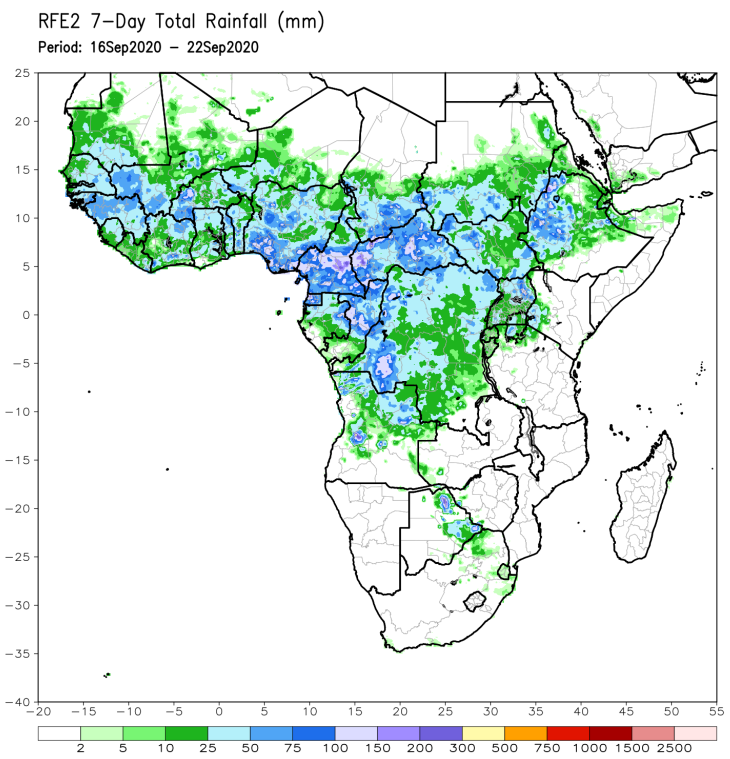


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.