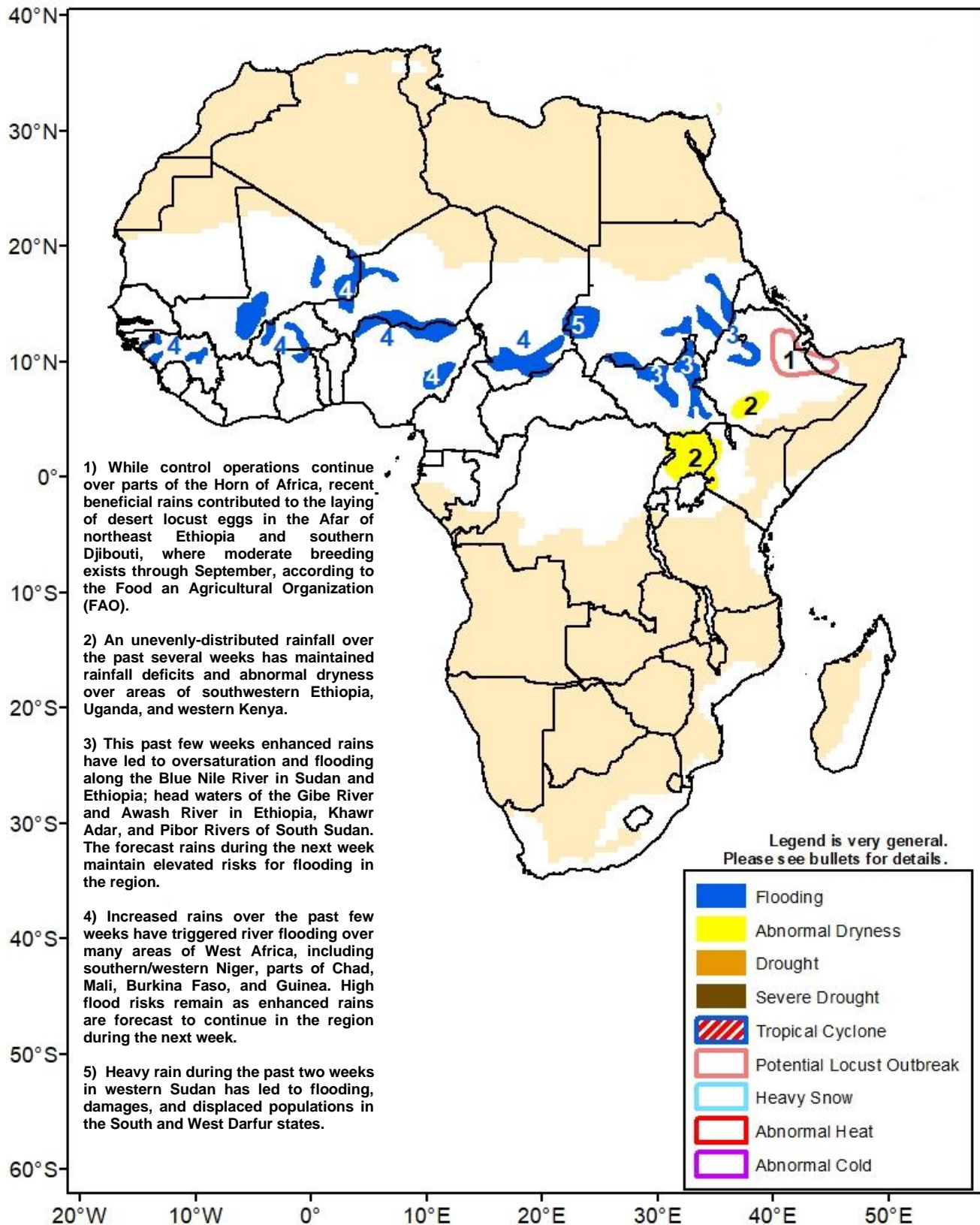




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook 12 – 18 August 2021

- Consistent rains maintain high risks for flooding over many areas of West Africa and eastern Africa.



Continuing enhanced rains have led to oversaturation over many parts of the Sahel.

During much of July and into early August, rainfall was above-average over many areas of the Sahel in West Africa. While the largest thirty-day rainfall surpluses dominated over the far-western portion, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and parts of southern Mali, positive anomalies ranged 50 – 100 mm over parts of southern Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad (**Figure 1**). The resulting oversaturation has already caused flooding and elevated water levels in Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. During this past week, flooding was reported in Bamako, Mali. Conversely, below-average rainfall was observed over north-central Guinea, southern Niger, and much of western and southern Nigeria. This dryness was mostly associated with a sluggish start to the season and an erratic spatial and temporal rainfall distribution in the region. Rains have been persistent in Nigeria, if not as heavy as normal.

While vegetation conditions improved along the Gulf of Guinea, poor and below-average conditions remained over parts of Senegal, as well as parts of Nigeria and Burkina Faso, according to the latest Vegetation Health Index (VHI).

During the next week, heavy and abundant rains are forecast over West Africa from the southern half of Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, and southern Mali, through Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Light rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea coastline. Suppressed rain is expected in northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, and central Mali. The forecast continued rains maintain high risks for flooding over many previously-flooded areas of West Africa.

Heavy rains continued over northern Ethiopia and western Sudan.

During early August, substantial rains persisted over northwestern Ethiopia and western Eritrea (**Figure 2**). Abundant rains were also received over localized areas of Sudan and South Sudan, whereas limited amounts with little to light rains were observed elsewhere. An analysis of this past thirty-day rainfall totals showed that wetness prevailed over eastern Africa. The largest rainfall surpluses dominated over northern Ethiopia and scattered portions of Sudan, where anomalies ranged 100 – 200mm. As a result, flooding and elevated river levels were already reported over many areas, including the Blue Nile, White Nile, Gibe, Sudd wetland, and Atbara Rivers. In contrast, below-average rainfall was registered over localized areas of southwestern Ethiopia, Uganda, and portions of western Kenya. Thirty-day rainfall deficits ranged 25 – 100 mm and accounted for 25 – 80 percent of the average. The persisting dryness was attributable to an uneven distribution in rainfall since the beginning of the June – September rainfall season.

Based on the latest VHI, vegetation conditions were mostly favorable over the sub-region, except for localized areas of eastern Sudan and Uganda, where poor status was depicted.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts suggested continued enhanced rains over the sub-region, increasing risks for flash flood further. Torrential rains are expected in western Ethiopia and western/eastern Sudan. Moderate rains are forecast across Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and western Kenya.

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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