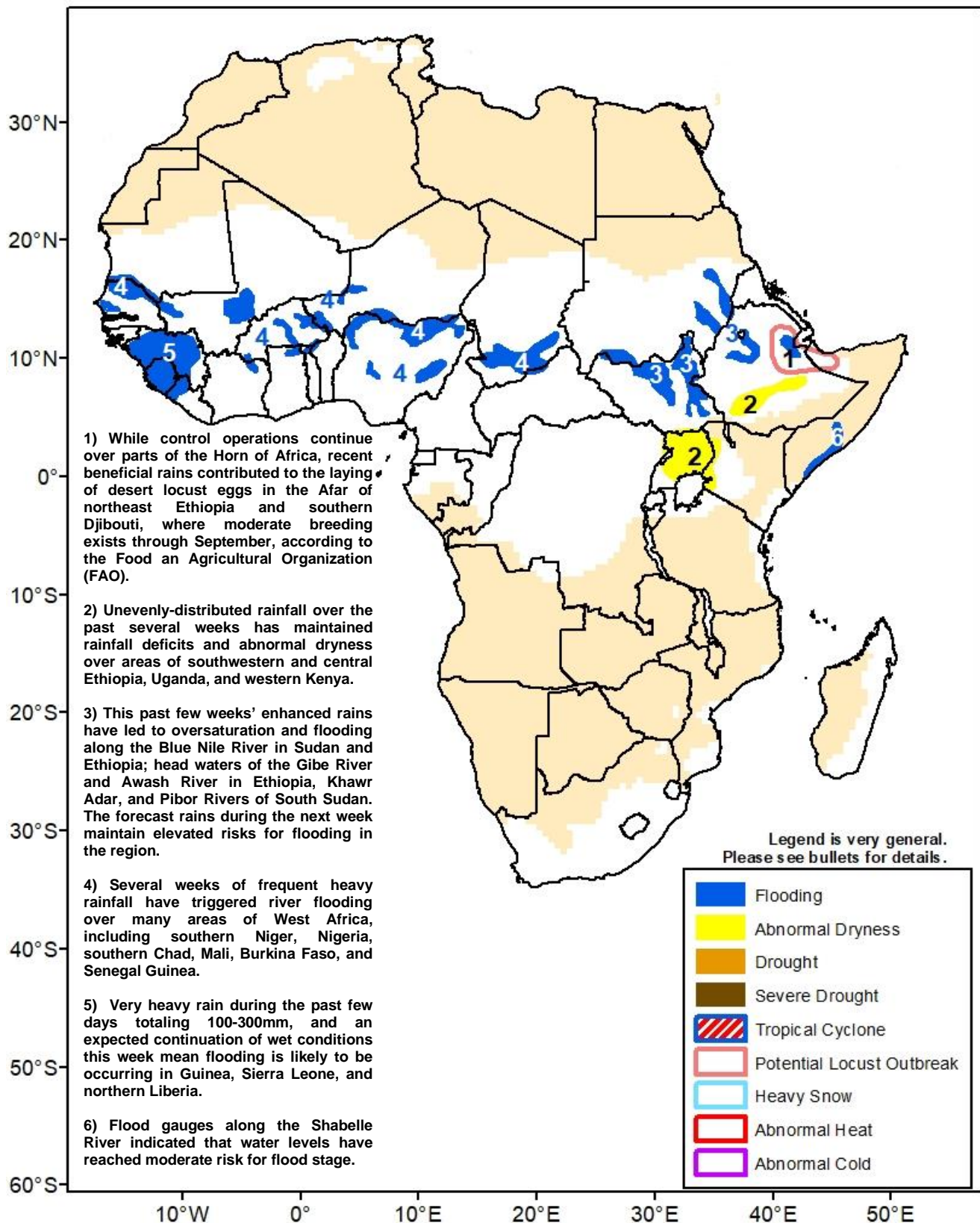




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook 19 – 25 August 2021

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



The heaviest rains were observed over the far-western parts of Africa this past week.

During much of July and into early August, rainfall was above-average over many areas of the Sahel in West Africa. The largest 30-day rainfall surpluses have dominated over the far-western portion, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and parts of southern Mali. Positive anomalies were more than 100mm and, in many cases, much higher. Other areas, including parts northern Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, parts of Niger and northern Nigeria, as well as much of Chad have also been wetter than average (**Figure 1**). The resulting oversaturation has caused flooding and elevated water levels in Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. Even heavier rain in Guinea and Sierra Leone during the past few days brings 7-day rainfall above 200mm and renews flood concerns there. Conversely, below-average rainfall was observed during the last 30-days over Mauritania, northern Mali, and southern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries. This dryness was mostly associated with a sluggish start to the season and an erratic spatial and temporal rainfall distribution in the region. Some significant negative anomalies have also been observed across eastern Nigeria and Cameroon. Though rains have still been persistent in these climatologically wet regions, the deficits will need to be monitored.

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, Togo, and Benin according to the latest Vegetation Health Index (VHI).

During the next week, abundant rains are forecast over much of the central and southern zones of West Africa. The heaviest rains are again expected in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry and southern Mali. More than 100mm is likely there. Enhanced rains are also highly favored in Nigeria and Cameroon. Light rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea coastline. Suppressed rain is expected in central Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. The forecast maintains high risks for flooding over many previously-flooded areas of West Africa.

Heavy rains continued over northwestern Ethiopia.

During the past week, substantial rains (50-150+mm) persisted over northwestern Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). Flooding also reported locally in Addis Ababa. Abundant rains were also received in nearby eastern Sudan. Moderate rainfall was observed across South Sudan and northeastern DRC. Uganda received improved rainfall. An analysis of this past 30-day rainfall totals showed that wetness prevailed over the northern half of eastern Africa. The largest rainfall surpluses dominated over northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan, where anomalies ranged 50 – 200mm. As a result, flooding and elevated river levels are reported over many areas, including the Blue Nile, White Nile, Sobat, Sudd wetland areas, Awash and Atbara Rivers. In contrast, below-average rainfall was registered over localized areas of central and southwestern Ethiopia, Uganda, and portions of western Kenya. 30-day rainfall deficits ranged 25 – 100mm. Based on the latest VHI, the unhealthiest vegetation conditions are located in Uganda resulting from the very dry recent period.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts suggested continued enhanced rains western Ethiopia. This will keep the flood risk elevated. 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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