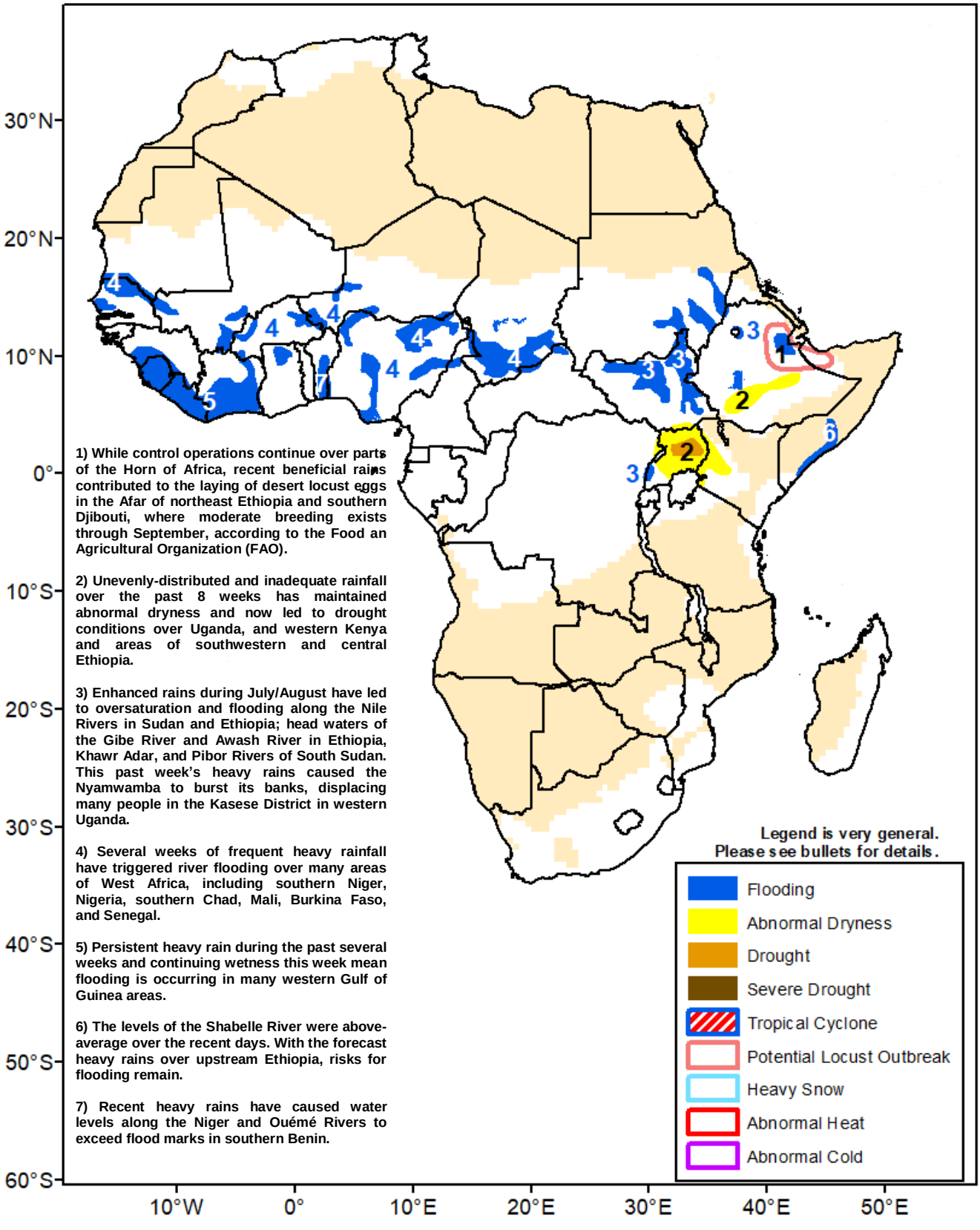
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
9 – 15 September 2021

- **High risks for flooding persist as heavy rains are forecast over West Africa and the Horn of Africa.**



A favorable seasonal rainfall performance observed over West Africa

Over West Africa, cumulative rainfall since July was mostly near to above-average, with total rainfall accounting for more than 150 percent of the average over the far western West Africa and along the Gulf of Guinea. Wetter-than-average conditions were observed across Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and the southern portions of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 1**). Farther north, near-average conditions were registered throughout the Sahel. Lately, the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF), main rain-bearing system, remained abnormally north of the long-term mean position, which maintained beneficial moisture over many areas of the region. Although a favorable seasonal rainfall performance dominated over West Africa, earlier months' delayed onset and an uneven rainfall distribution affected some areas, including parts of Burkina Faso, southeastern Cote d'Ivoire, southern Ghana, and southeastern Nigeria.

An analysis of recent vegetation products has shown that healthy and lush vegetation spread across much of the Sahel. However, poor and below-average conditions were still depicted over localized areas south-central Mali, western Burkina Faso, and parts of northern Benin, and north-central Nigeria.

For next week, widespread and heavy rains are to continue over the far western West Africa and along the Gulf of Guinea. To the north, light to moderate rains are forecast over the Sahel. Following ongoing oversaturation and already-elevated river levels, high risks for flooding remain over many areas of the sub-region.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: 1 July – 7 September 2021

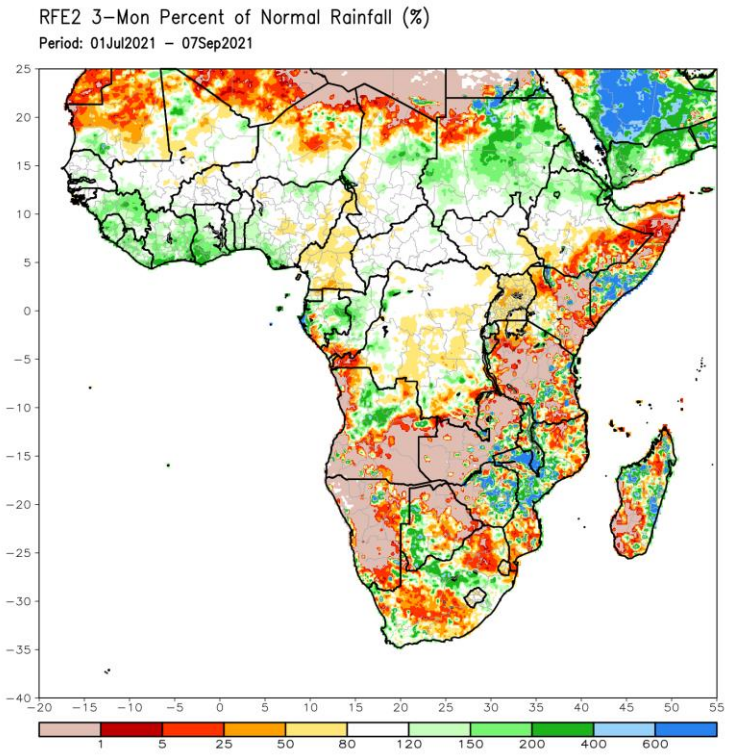


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Increased rains recorded over South Sudan and parts of Ethiopia and Uganda

During early September, an enhancement in rainfall was observed over the Horn of Africa, compared with that of the week prior. While copious amounts of rainfall persisted over eastern Sudan, southern Eritrea, and northwestern Ethiopia, widespread moderate to heavy rains also fell over South Sudan, west-central Ethiopia, and northern Uganda (**Figure 2**). Farther south, this past week's increased rains contributed to the overflowing of the Nyamwamba River, which has displaced many people in the Kasese District in western Uganda, based on reports. Recently, an analysis indicated that the eastern (20E-35E) portion of the ITF retreated equatorward farther by 0.9 degree to the south relative to its average position during this time of the year. However, wetness continued to affect many areas over eastern and southern Sudan, South Sudan, wet-central and northern Ethiopia over the past thirty days.

While favorable vegetation conditions were exhibited over much of Sudan, South Sudan, and northeastern Ethiopia, degraded conditions were already depicted over localized areas of western and south-central Ethiopia, and parts of Uganda as a response to an unevenly-distributed rainfall since June.

During this outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest that heavy downpours are likely to persist over western Ethiopia. Moderate to heavy rains are expected over southern Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. Although the forecast enhanced rains could help ease dryness over some areas of the sub-region, excess moisture could also exacerbate already-flooded areas or raise water levels further over areas as western Uganda and southern Somalia.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 1 September – 7 September 2021

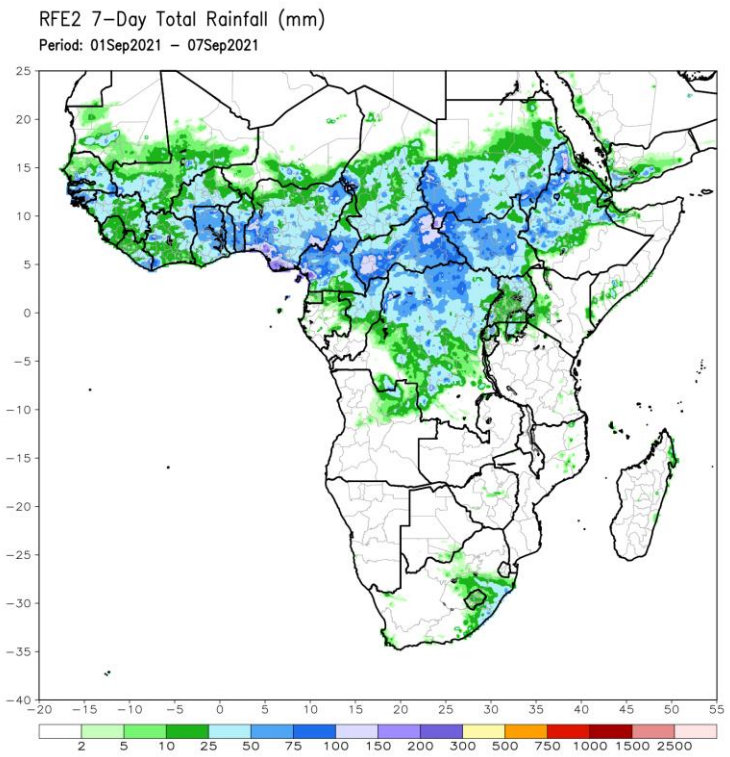


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

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