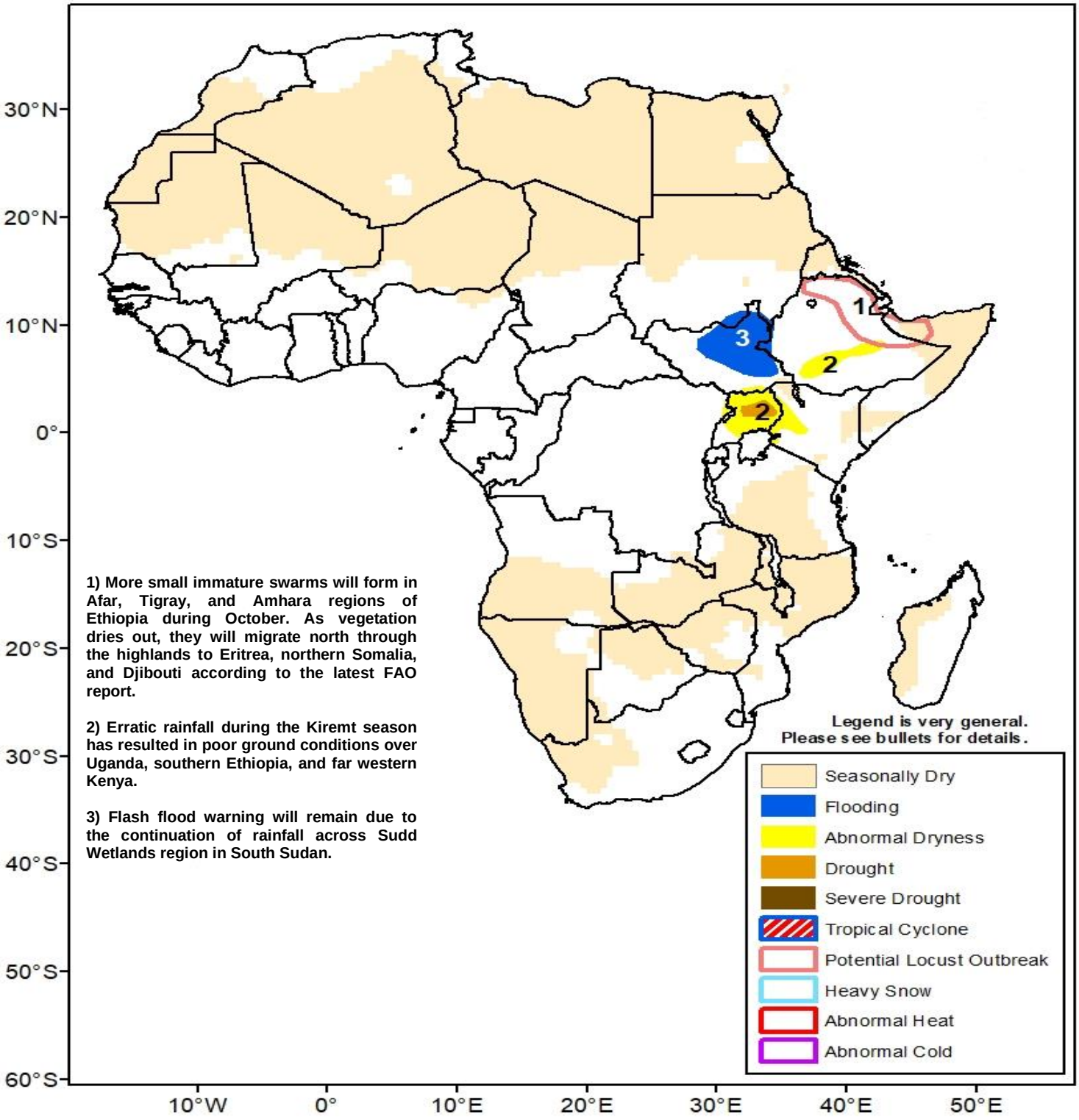
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
14 October – 20 October 2021

- **Enhanced rains over the Gulf of Guinea maintain risks of riverine floods along Niger River next week.**



1) More small immature swarms will form in Afar, Tigray, and Amhara regions of Ethiopia during October. As vegetation dries out, they will migrate north through the highlands to Eritrea, northern Somalia, and Djibouti according to the latest FAO report.

2) Erratic rainfall during the Kiremt season has resulted in poor ground conditions over Uganda, southern Ethiopia, and far western Kenya.

3) Flash flood warning will remain due to the continuation of rainfall across Sudd Wetlands region in South Sudan.

Heavy rainfall is expected along the coastal area of the Gulf of Guinea countries next week.

Rainfall season over much of West Africa, except along the Gulf of Guinea region, is approaching or has come to its end. An analysis of the cumulative rain since mid-July to date has indicated that most areas have received adequate rainfall, with percent of average rainfall exceeding two hundred percent over southeastern Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, a major part of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and southern/western part of Nigeria (**Figure 1**). The favorable rainfall performance was mostly attributed to a vigorous and anomalous northerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front. In contrast, the central portions of eastern Nigeria received between only 50-80 percent of their average rain due to an uneven rainfall distribution during the season. Recent vegetation indices indicated widespread of positive conditions throughout a wide area of the Sahel region.
From 05-11 October, heavy rainfall prevailed across southern and central Nigeria. Even though, any riverine flood or flash flood was reported yet, the actual alarming rivers water level across those areas are potential concerns for the coming week (**Figure 2**). While a southward retreat of the ITF is noticed across, northern Senegal, central Mali, northern Niger, and northern Nigeria, enhanced rainfall was noticed across the Gulf of Guinea countries which could continue until the end of October.

During the outlook period, heavy rainfall is expected across Sierra Leone, Liberia, and portion of southern Nigeria. Seasonable rainfall is expected over Senegal, Mali, southern Niger, and Burkina Faso.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: 1 August – 11 October 2021

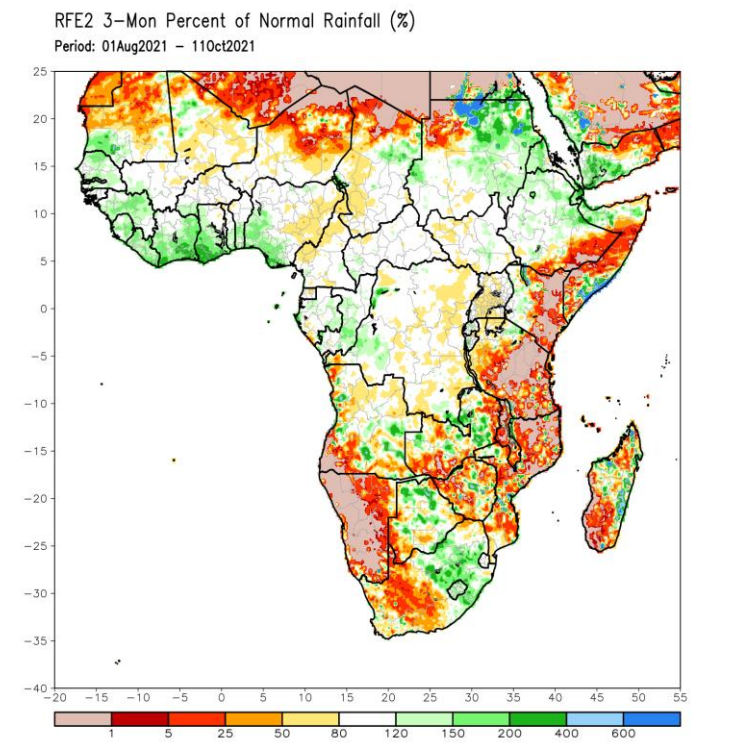


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Onset of October-December rainy season was observed across central Ethiopia.

The Kiremt season ended with an abnormal dryness and drought in Uganda. It has also recorded significant numbers of riverine floods reports across western Ethiopia, eastern Sudan, and South Sudan. The October-December season started across central Ethiopia with 50-75mm of rainfall this past week while suppressed rainfall prevailed across its eastern part (**Figure 2**). 10-25mm of rain prevailed across northern Somalia while suppressed rain prevailed over its central part. A continuation of below normal rainfall by the end of the month could lead to an abnormal dryness over eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia. Uganda showed near seasonal rainfall which will not help recover from the long-term abnormal dryness, however, it could be beneficial for the grassland vegetation. The vegetation health index indicated a growing vegetation across western and central Ethiopia, southern Sudan, northeastern Uganda, and South Sudan. Critical ground vegetation conditions remain across eastern Kenya and southern Somalia which will be monitored closely through the season.

October rains that are expected in the Somali region of eastern Ethiopia and adjacent plateau and coastal areas of northern Somalia will allow the summer-bred swarms and the remaining spring-bred swarms to mature and lay eggs, giving rise to hatching and hopper band formation from about early November onwards. Similarly, any swarms that reach the Red Sea coast of Eritrea from northern Ethiopia are likely to mature and breed once winter rains commence according to the latest FAO report.

During the outlook period, above average rainfall is expected across western and southern Ethiopia, central Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and western Kenya. Seasonable rainfall is expected across far southern Sudan.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 05 October – 11 October 2021

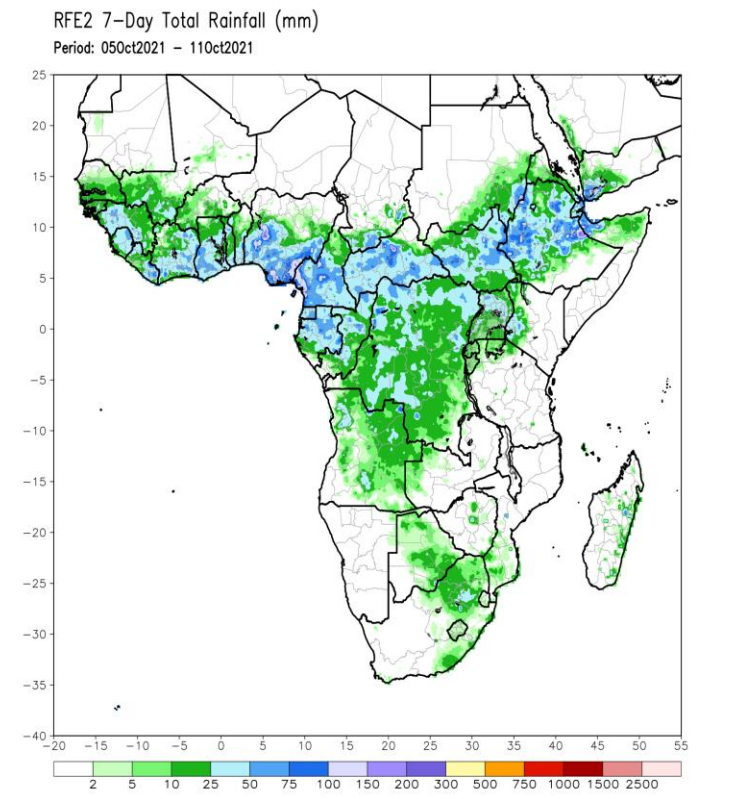


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

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

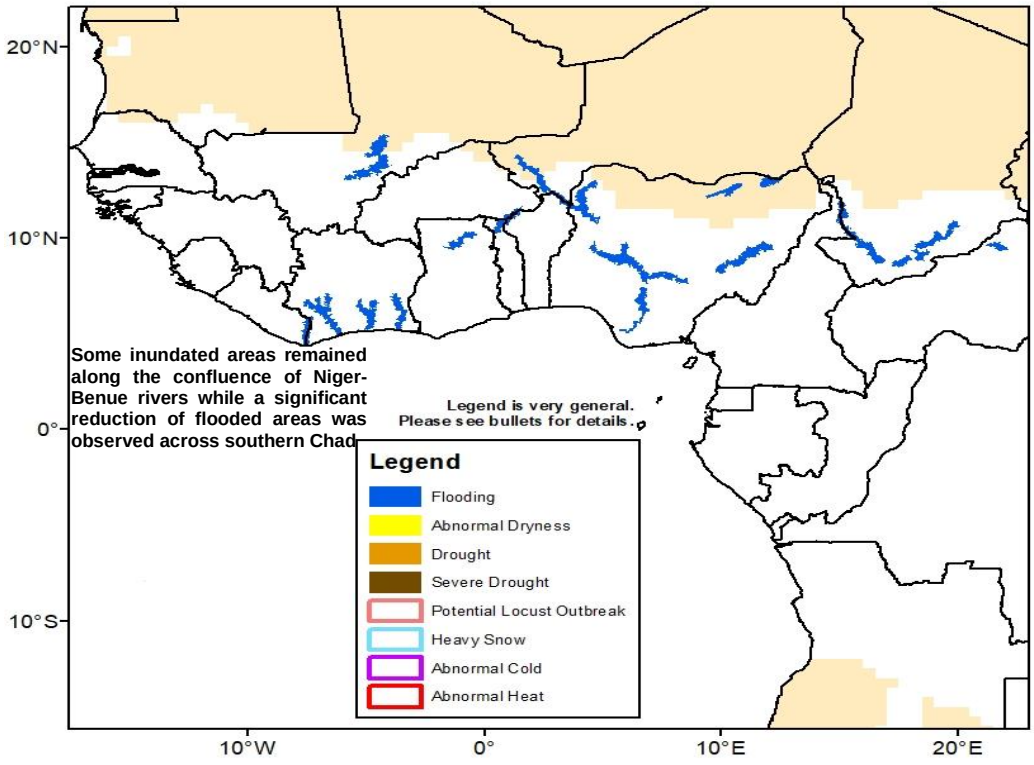


Figure 3: Hazards, focused over West Africa

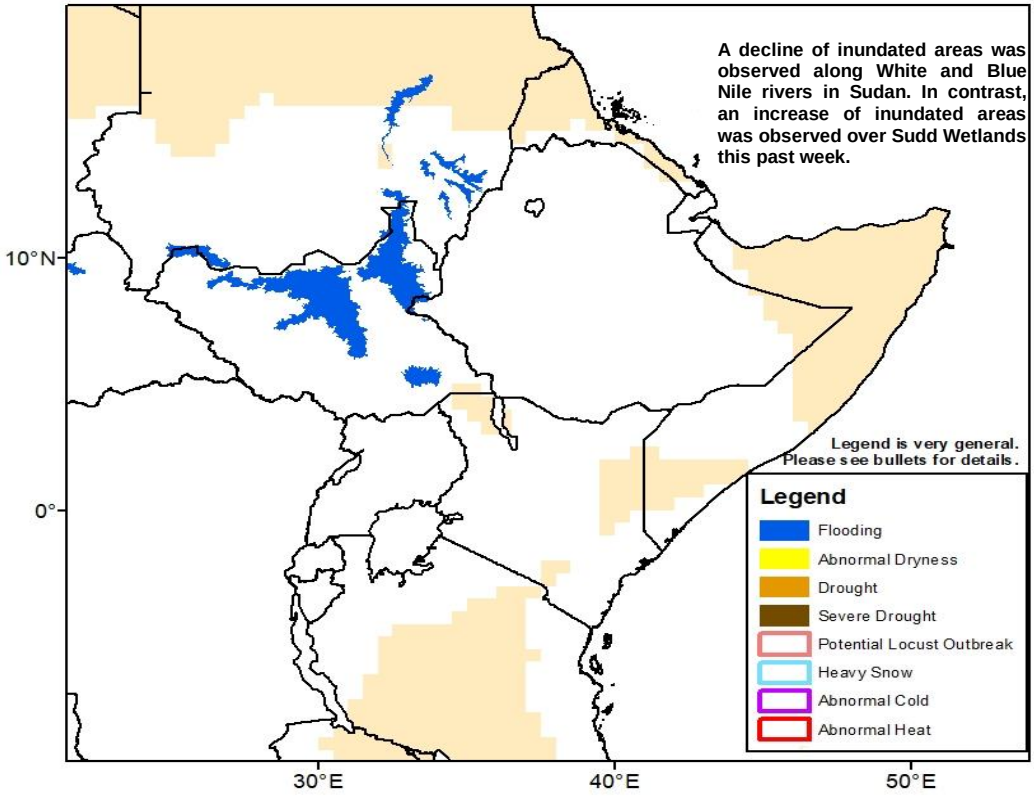


Figure 4: Hazards, focused over eastern Africa