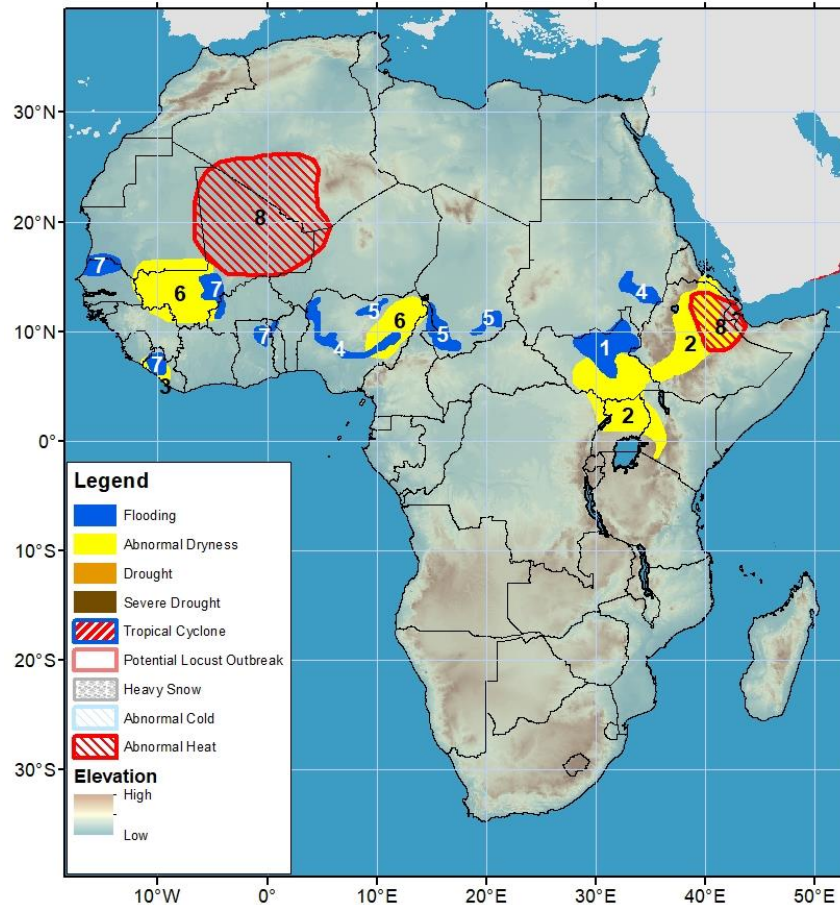


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 14 – 20 September 2023

- Abnormally hot weather forecast in parts of West Africa and Eastern Africa during the next week
- Heavy and above average rain has triggered flooding, affecting many people in Liberia during the past week.



- 1) Flood conditions are persisting in the Sudd wetlands in northern South Sudan.
- 2) Below-average rain since May and corresponding Standardized Precipitation Index values less than 1.5 standard deviations below the mean have led to abnormal dryness in South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern/central/northeastern Ethiopia. Significantly degraded vegetation health is also observed
- 3) Suppressed rainfall since early June led to abnormal dryness in Liberia.
- 4) Torrential and above-average rain has caused floods to continue in the Niger and Benue Rivers in Nigeria. Flooding is also continuing along the Blue Nile in eastern Sudan.
- 5) Heavy rains during the past several weeks have caused floods to emerge in Chad and northern Nigeria.
- 6) Below-average rain since June has led to abnormal dryness in southern Mali, southeastern Mauritania, and northeastern parts of Nigeria.
- 7) Recent heavy rains in the vicinity have caused rivers to rise in central Mali as well as northern Senegal, according to observations and hydrological models. Recent heavy rain has also caused flooding in many parts of Liberia, northern Ghana, and northern Togo.
- 8) Abnormally hot weather is forecast in northern Mali, southern Algeria, northeastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, and parts of northwestern Somalia, where maximum temperature and heat index are expected to exceed the 90th percentile for three or more consecutive days.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Poorly-distributed rain has maintained drier conditions in many areas of Eastern Africa.

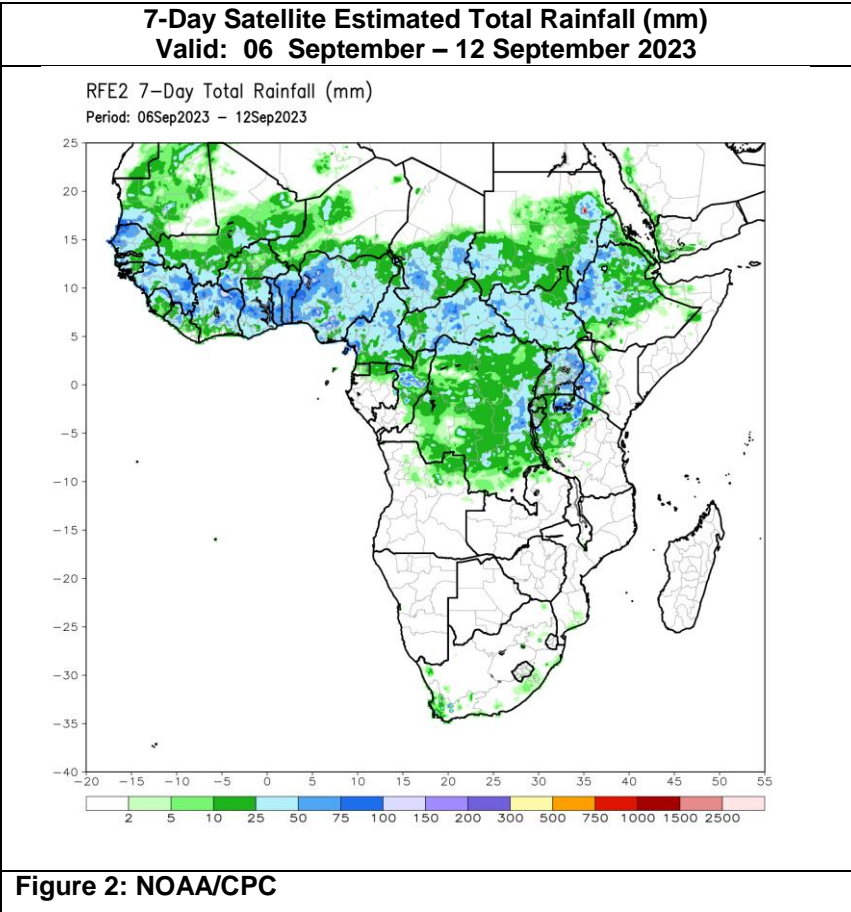
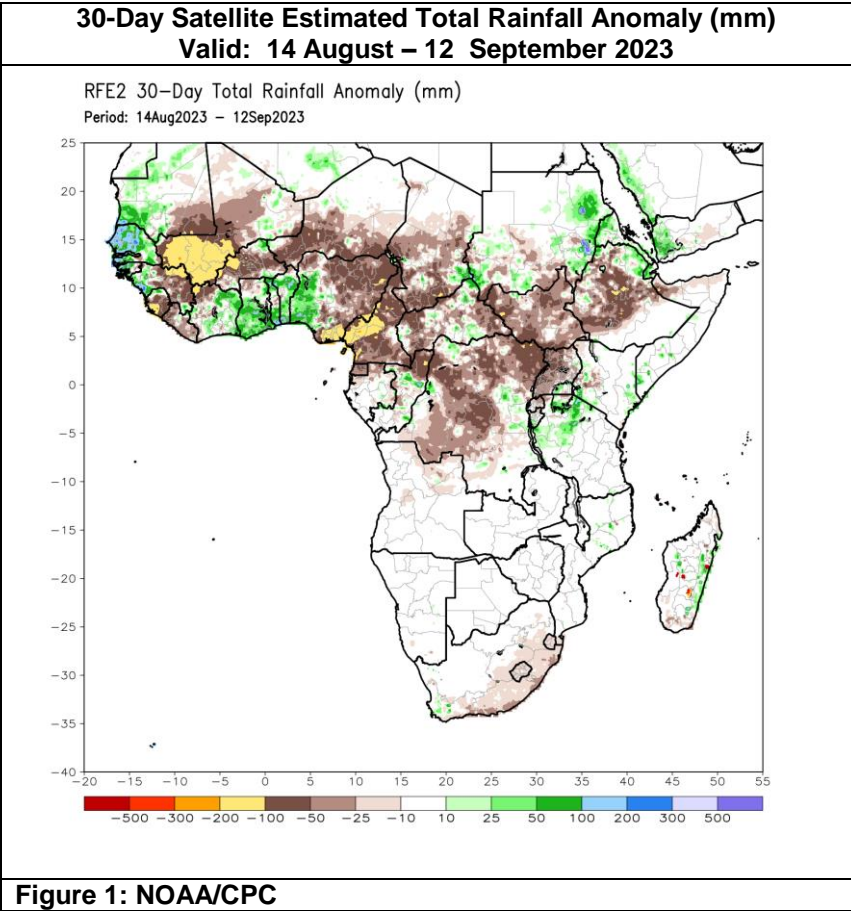
Over the past 30 days, cumulative rain was below-average over most areas in Eastern Africa (**Figure 1**). Affected areas included much of South Sudan, portions of southern Sudan, Uganda, parts of southwestern Kenya, a major portion of southwestern, central and eastern Ethiopia, and northwestern areas in Somalia. The largest deficits were observed in central Ethiopia, where departures from the long-term average ranged between 100-200 mm. The observed drier-than-average conditions resulted from a deficient and uneven spatial and temporal distribution in rainfall since July, based on data analyses and reports. This past week, although heavy rain fell over some areas in Eastern Africa, the bulk of the rain was recorded along the Sudan-Ethiopia border and around the Lake Victoria region in southwestern Kenya, whereas limited rain amounts fell elsewhere. As the current rainfall season is quickly coming to an end, a good rainfall distribution is needed over the upcoming weeks to prevent further negative impacts on water availability, cropping activities, and food production in the sub-region.

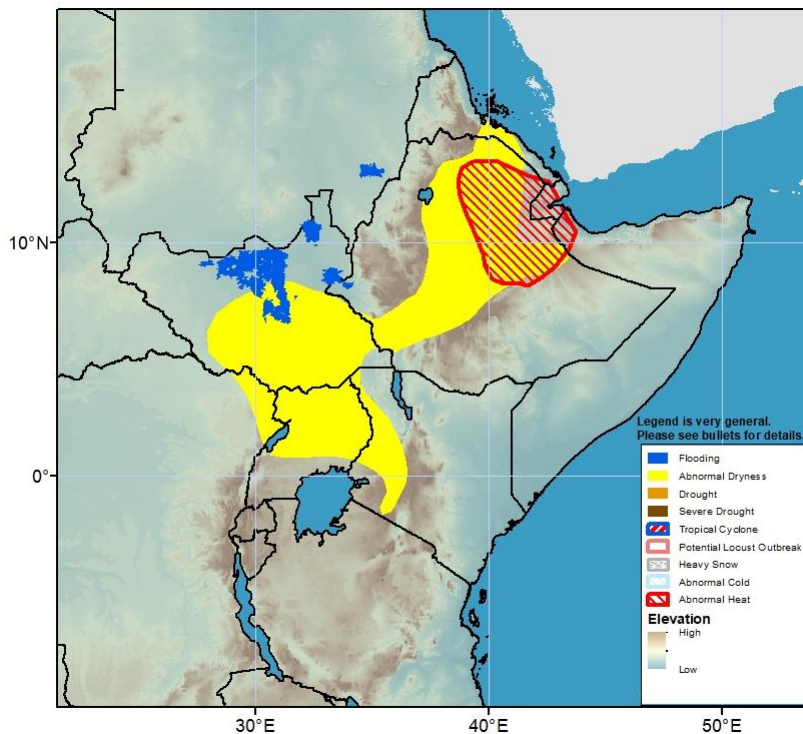
During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate that enhanced and above-average rain is possible in western Ethiopia; but little to light and below-average rain is likely over the southwest and central regions. Light to moderate rain is expected in southern Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Kenya.

Flooding continue to affect many areas in West Africa.

Moderate to heavy and above-average rain was received over the far western West Africa and central Gulf of Guinea during the past week. Those areas included Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, and portions of Liberia, Ghana, Togo, and Benin, where rain totals exceeded 50 mm (**Figure 2**). In Liberia, many people have been affected by flooding in the western, central, and northern, including the Kpatawee region in the Bong County due to recent heavy rain, according to media reports. Also, flooding and inundation have increased in parts of Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, and Chad following heavy rain over the past few weeks. The continuation of consistent rain could worsen ground conditions, damage infrastructures, destroy crops, and affect many people over already-flooded and flood prone areas in the sub-region. Conversely, light to locally moderate and below-average rain persisted over already dry areas in southern Mali and eastern Nigeria, maintaining dryness in each respective region. If favorable rain does not return over the upcoming weeks, vegetation conditions will worsen and eventually reduce crop yields.

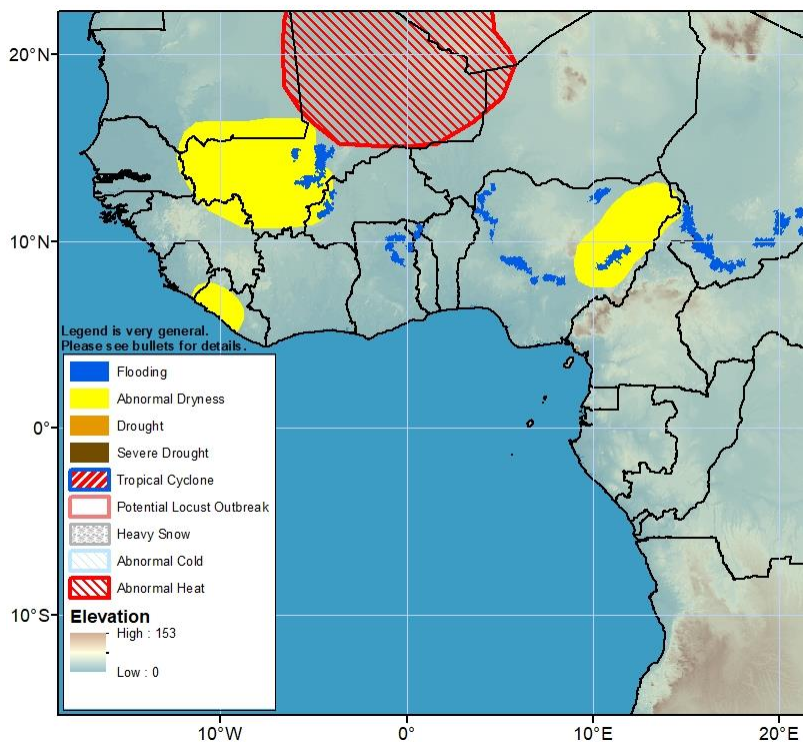
During the next week, heavy and above-average rain is forecast in West Africa, which could help partially reduce short-term and long-term deficits in southern Mali and eastern Nigeria. However, the forecast abundant rain may also exacerbate or trigger new flooding over many already-flooded and flood-prone areas in West Africa.





Flooding has persisted in the Sudd wetlands of South Sudan as well as along the Blue Nile in eastern Sudan.

Figure 3: Hazards, focused over Eastern Africa



Flooding have increased in central Mali, western Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, and northern Togo. More flooding have been observed along the Sokoto and Benue Rivers in Nigeria. Inundation has expanded in southern Chad.

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over West Africa