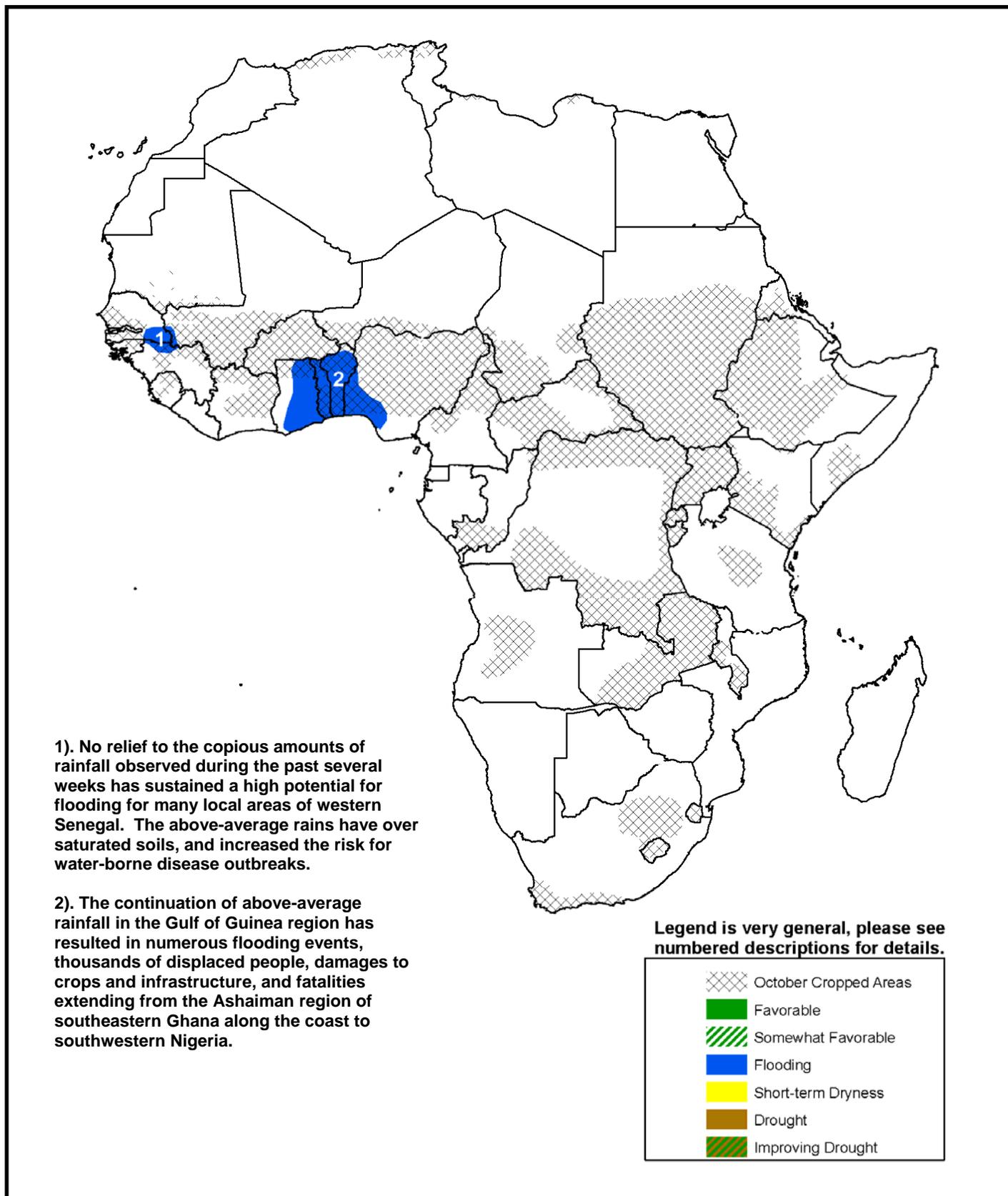


- Another week of above-average precipitation throughout the Gulf of Guinea region has triggered additional flooding across many parts of coastal Ghana, Togo, Benin and southwestern Nigeria.



High rains, flooding spreads across the Gulf of Guinea region

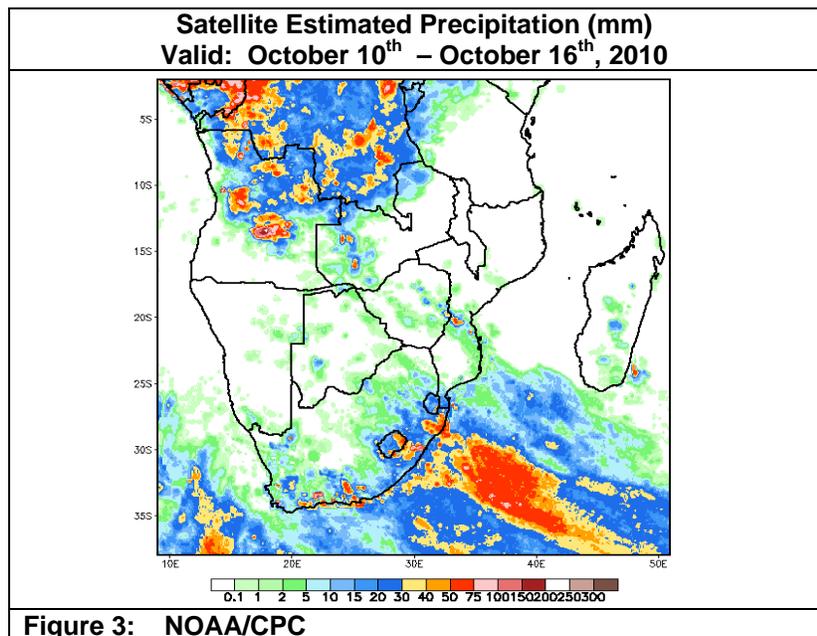
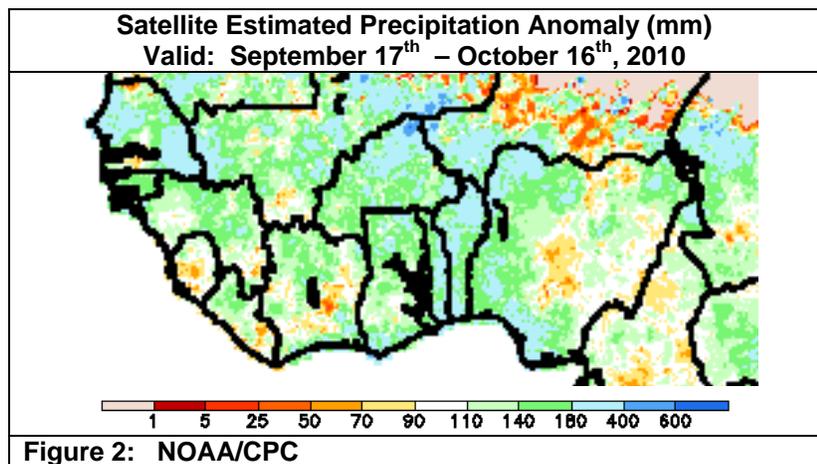
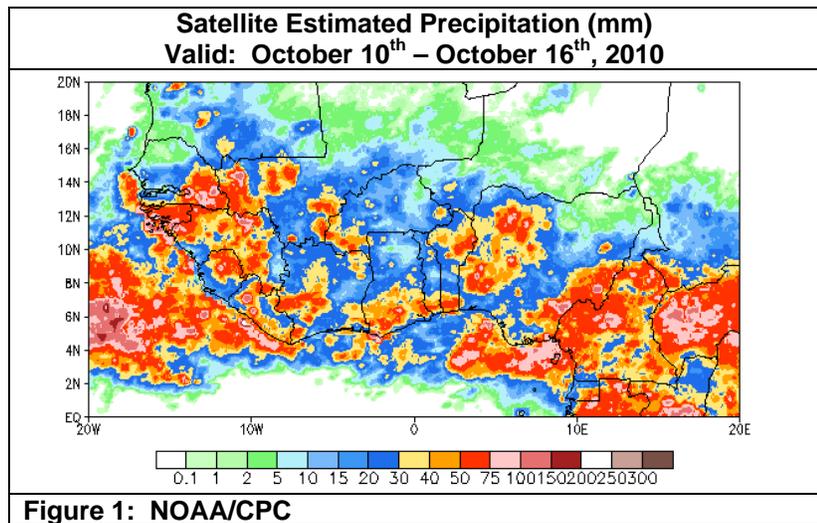
During the last observation period, a significant increase in rainfall was observed throughout West Africa, particularly across portions of the western Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea region. A resurgence of high moisture and ample amounts of rainfall was seen across the extreme western Sahel, as many local areas in Senegal, western Mali and southern Mauritania received precipitation accumulations ranging between 20-50mm, with locally heavier totals reaching 100mm during the last seven days (**Figure 1**). The heaviest rainfall was again felt in southeastern Senegal this week, which has continued to produce excessively saturated soils and sustain a high potential for flooding and water-borne disease outbreaks.

Further east, considerably high rainfall was also observed in the lower Gulf of Guinea region during the last week. Precipitation amounts in excess of 50mm were received along the Gulf of Guinea coastline, which had aggravated previous flooding conditions and triggered additional flooding across a number of local areas in southern Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. These floods have resulted in widespread damages to crops, livestock and infrastructure, as well as the displacement of thousands of people and fatalities. Benin has been the most negatively impacted by the recently heavy rains, as nearly half the country has experienced twice their normal amount of rainfall in the last 30 days (**Figure 2**). A continuation of rainfall is expected to worsen ground conditions and also increase the risk for water-borne diseases, as the Benin government has issued a national state of emergency.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a more seasonable distribution of rainfall over West Africa in the next seven days. The probability of locally heavy rainfall is expected to be lower; however a continuation of moderate shower activity may worsen ground conditions particularly along the lower Gulf of Guinea region during the next week.

Increasing rainfall expected to provide favorable early season moisture conditions in southern Africa.

Despite a brief delay in pre-seasonal showers across South Africa in the last two weeks, frequent frontal activity has produced higher amounts of rainfall in southeastern South Africa, particularly along parts near Lesotho and the Kwa-Zulu Natal region. Ample rainfall in excess of 30mm was observed for a number of local areas from the West Cape area along the coast up to southern Mozambique (**Figure 3**). These rains are expected to saturate soil conditions and benefit early season cropping activities. Rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of favorable rainfall along coastal South Africa, as well as an onset of rains northward into the Maize Triangle area during the next week.



Note: The hazards assessment 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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