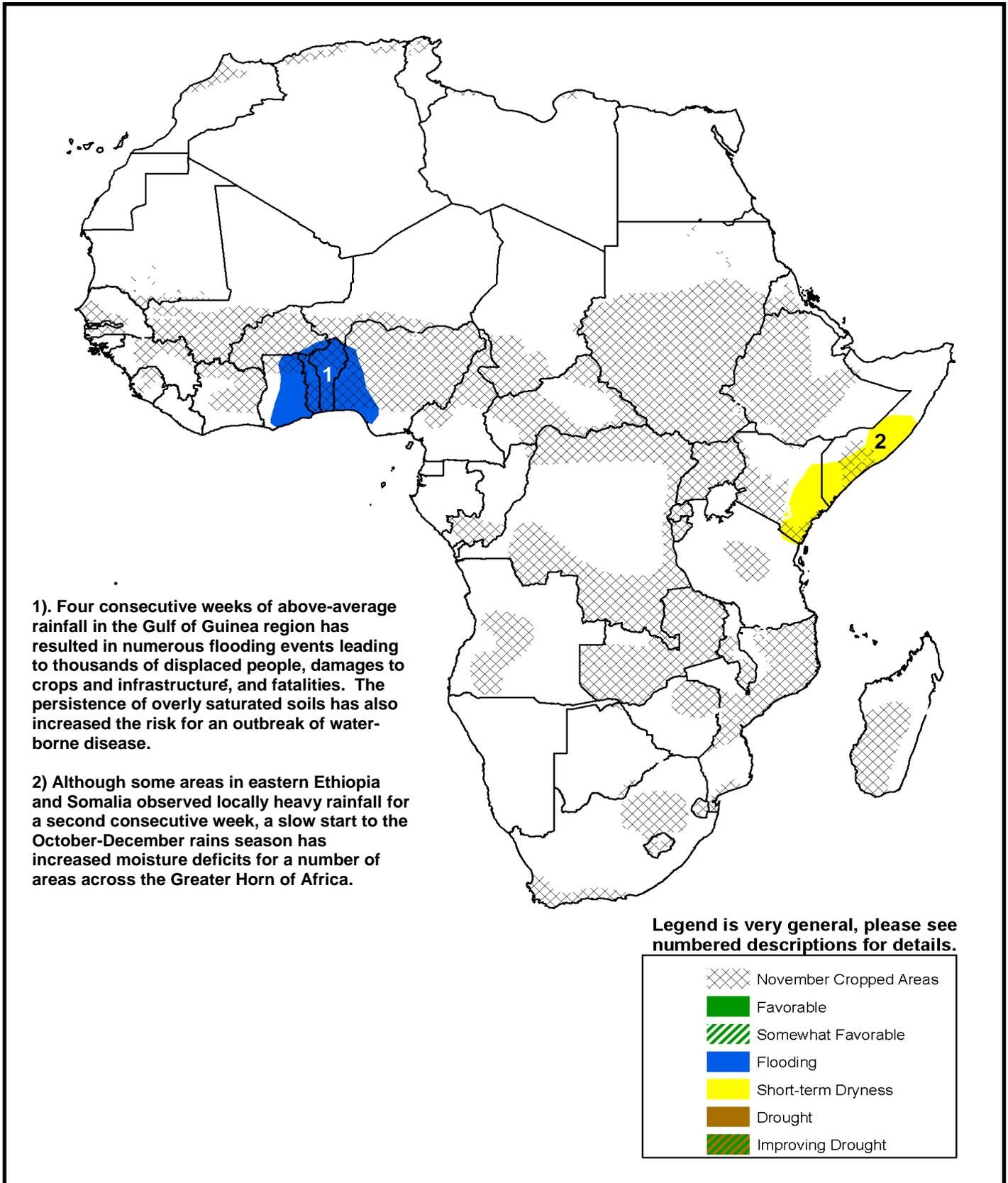


- Moderate to heavy rainfall across the Gulf of Guinea has provided little relief to saturated areas across Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southwestern Nigeria.



**Localized heavy rain fell over already saturated soils across the Gulf of Guinea region.**

During the past week, rainfall was not as widespread as previous weeks but instead locally heavy throughout many areas in West Africa. The highest rainfall totals (> 75 mm) were over the Gulf of Guinea region, in particular, over southern Nigeria, providing little relief to flooding which had occurred during past weeks. The ample rainfall has helped increase the risk for the spread of water-borne diseases like cholera in Nigeria. Localized abundant rains (> 50 mm) also extended to the far western portion of West Africa including Guinea, Sierra Leone and isolated areas in southern Mauritania. After several weeks of wet conditions across northern West Africa due to the anomalously northern position of the inter-tropical front, rainfall returned to more normal totals (< 10 mm) across Senegal, Mauritania and Mali. Rainfall was also slightly reduced across saturated and flooded areas in Ghana, Togo and Benin with rainfall accumulations ranging between 20-40 mm (**Figure 1**). While the slightly lower rainfall totals provided some relief across Ghana, Togo and Benin, the area is still susceptible to future flooding should rains continue.

Since October 1<sup>st</sup>, rainfall has been above-average across much of West Africa with totals ranging between 50-150 mm above normal across the most flood-affected areas in Nigeria, Togo and Benin (**Figure 2**). The rainfall surpluses have led to flooding, water-borne disease outbreaks, damages to crops and infrastructure as well as displaced local populations and caused fatalities around the Gulf of Guinea region.

Precipitation is forecast to become more seasonably drier across much of the Sahel during the next week. The highest probability for heavy rainfall is expected to be across southeastern Nigeria, coastal Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. Moderate rain (20-40 mm) is still expected to fall across flood-prone areas in southwestern Nigeria, Togo and Benin.

**Slow start to short-rains continues across parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.**

Locally heavy rainfall continued for a second consecutive week across parts of the Greater Horn of Africa while many areas experiencing a late start to the October-December rains season in Somalia and eastern Kenya observed little rainfall. Torrential rainfall (> 75mm) during the past week was isolated over portions of northeastern Kenya and the border between southern Ethiopia and Somalia. However, little to no rainfall was observed in the Shabelle and Jubba river basins. The lack of rainfall has strengthened moisture deficits (25-100 mm in the past month (**Figure 2**)) across southern Somalia and eastern Kenya further delaying the start of early season cropping activities (**Figure 3**). For the next week, rainfall is forecast to increase over dry portions of eastern Kenya while still being limited over much of southern Somalia. Forecasted limited rains would help extend the late start of the short-rains season across Somalia and parts of Kenya.

**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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