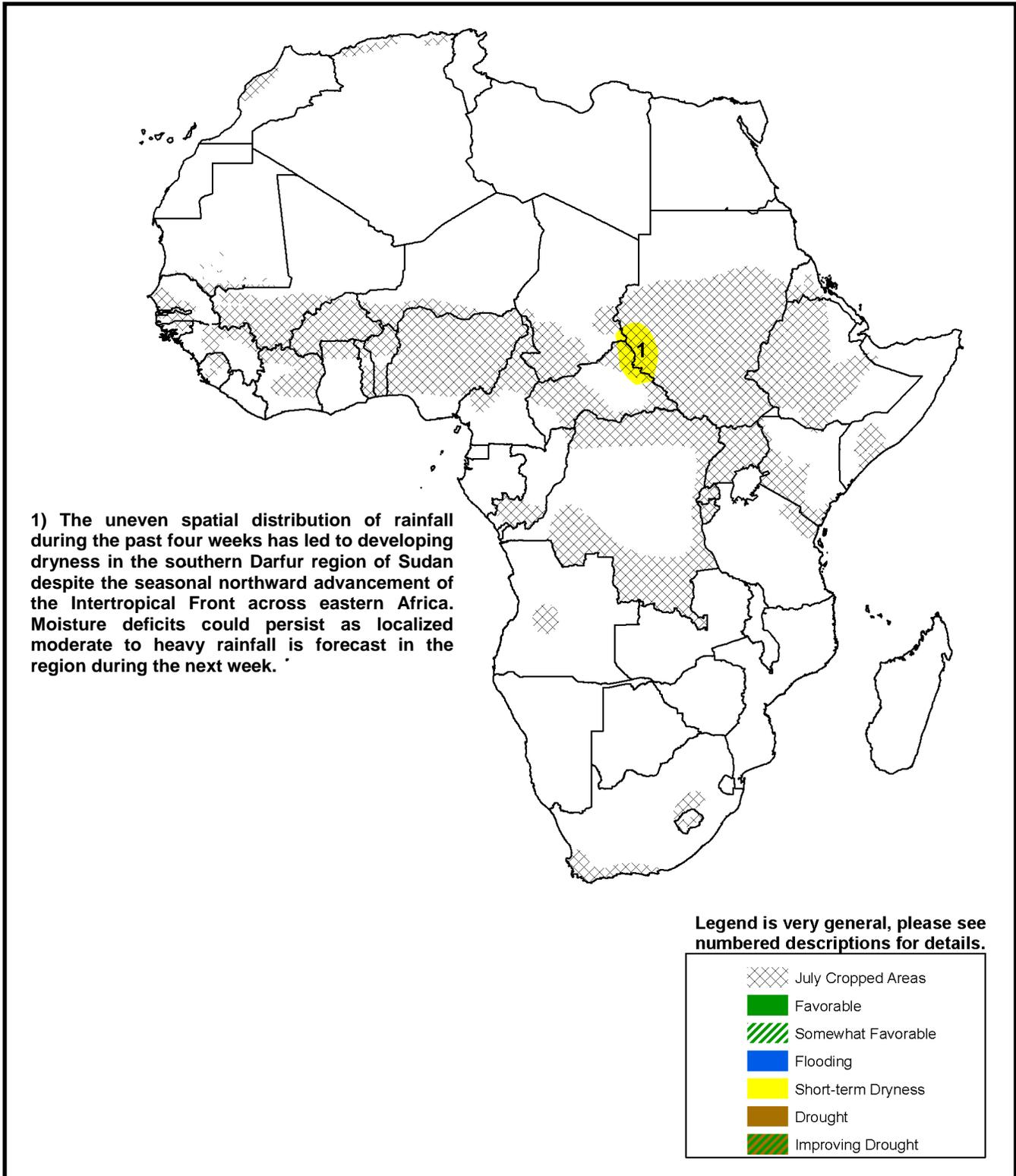


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 7 – July 13, 2011

- Below-average rains fall over the Darfur region of Sudan which has been experiencing short-term dryness.



Below-average rains are observed across much of Sudan.

During the past week, rainfall over the Greater Horn of Africa was generally moderate to heavy (> 20 mm). The heaviest precipitation (> 50 mm) was recorded across the Tigray, Amhara, Benishangual-Gumuz, Gambela and eastern Oromiya regions. The heavy rains over central portions of Ethiopia helped maintain moderate, thirty-day rainfall surpluses (25-100 mm). In contrast, while an increase in rainfall was observed along Ethiopia's northwestern border with Sudan, moderate to strong thirty-day rainfall anomalies (25-100 mm) still exist. Several more weeks of above-average rain would still be needed to have thirty-day rainfall totals approach climatology. Over Sudan, below-average rainfall was observed, strengthening thirty-day rainfall deficits. In particular, the lack of rain over the greater Darfur region of Sudan has led to the development of dryness (25-100 mm rainfall deficits) (**Figure 1**). This has occurred even though the progress of the Intertropical Front over eastern Africa has been close to average during the past thirty days. Across southern Somalia, the Hagaa rains have been below-average which has increased moisture stress across coastal areas of southern Somalia after a well below-average Gu rain season.

An indicator of crop performance based on water availability to crops (WRSI) over eastern Africa shows generally good conditions across much of Ethiopia and Sudan during the third dekad of June. However, the lack of rainfall during the past three to four weeks over the greater Darfur region of Sudan has led to deteriorating WRSI values. The impact of the lack of rain during the Hagaa season over southern Somalia is evident in the low WRSI values (**Figure 2**). While the rains during the Hagaa are light, they can help compensate for below-average rains during the preceding seasons. With the lack of rainfall during the Hagaa and preceding Gu rains season, pastoral and agro-pastoral areas continued to be affected.

During the next week, heavy rain (> 50 mm) is forecast across much of western Ethiopia with moderate totals (20-40 mm) expected over much of Sudan. However, localized areas in Sudan, including drier portions of western Sudan, could observe isolated heavy rain showers.

Heavy rain falls across western Gulf of Guinea.

Seasonal rainfall continued across the Gulf of Guinea during the past week as widespread heavy rain (> 50 mm) was observed in Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, western Burkina Faso and southern Mali. The heavy rains over northern and central portions of Nigeria (**Figure 3**) have helped reduce seasonal rainfall deficits over the region. The seasonal progression of the Intertropical Front (ITF) has been slightly ahead of climatology which is evident by the above-average rain observed across Mali, central Niger and central/western Burkina Faso. In contrast, rainfall across western Niger and eastern Burkina Faso was limited during the past week and below-average over the past thirty-days. Should the below-average rains continue, crops could be negatively affected. For the next week, the continued northward progression of the ITF should help bring rain further north into Mali and Niger while moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) is expected to continue across Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, and Guinea.

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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