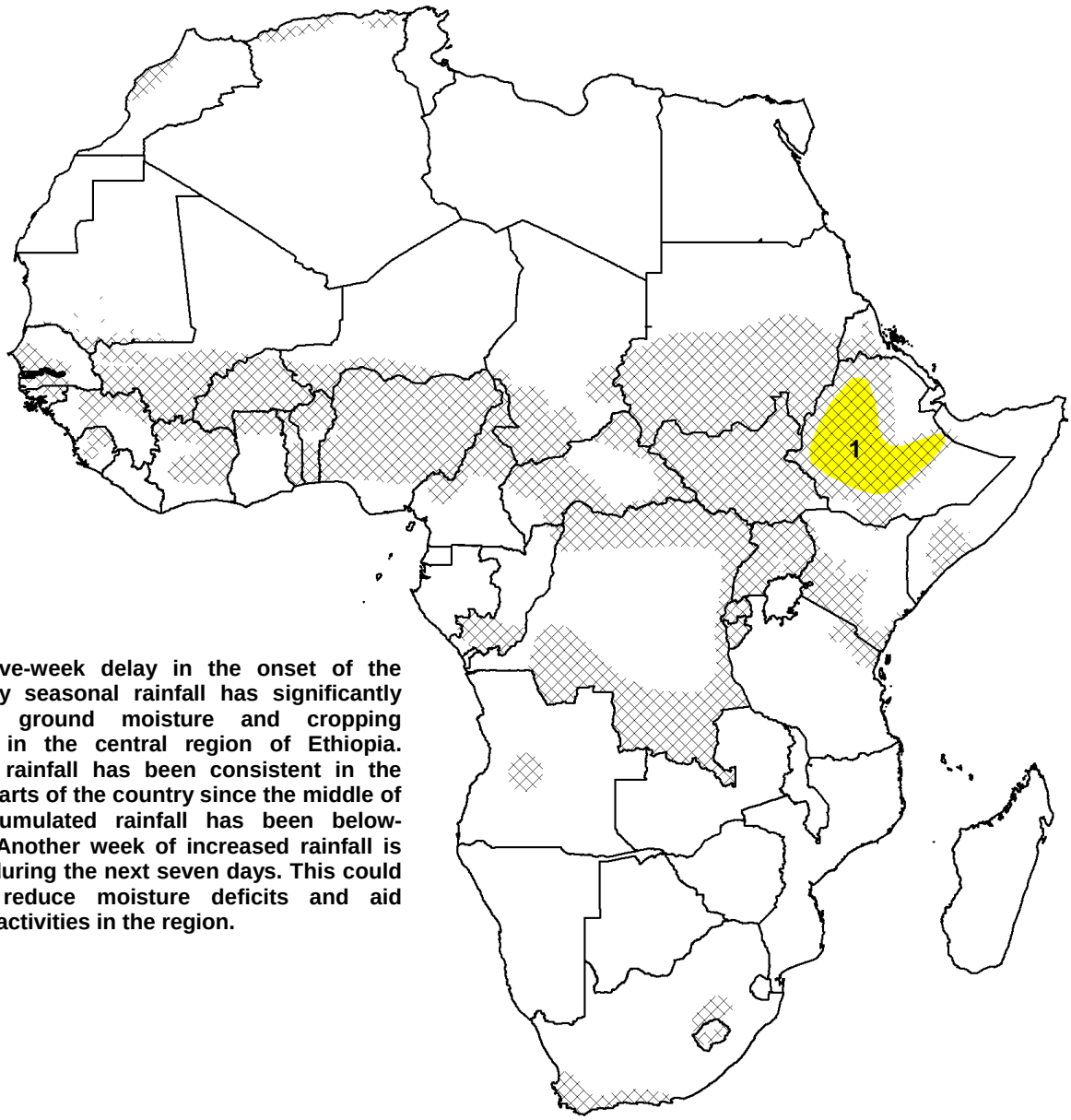
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
June 28 – July 4, 2012

- **Increased rainfall was observed in West Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa during the past seven days.**



1) The five-week delay in the onset of the March-May seasonal rainfall has significantly impacted ground moisture and cropping activities in the central region of Ethiopia. Although rainfall has been consistent in the western parts of the country since the middle of May, accumulated rainfall has been below-average. Another week of increased rainfall is forecast during the next seven days. This could help to reduce moisture deficits and aid cropping activities in the region.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

- July Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Increased rainfall observed in western Sahel.

During the past seven days, an increase in rainfall was observed across West Africa, particularly across western Sahel. This was partially attributed to the weakening of the dry northeasterly flow, which has enabled the Inter-tropical front (ITF) to advance further north. Moderate to locally heavy (20 – 50 mm) rainfall fell in eastern Senegal and western Mali, whereas heavy (> 50 mm) rains were recorded over parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone, western Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and local areas of Nigeria (**Figure 1**). The increased rainfall during the past week has helped to offset thirty-day rainfall deficits in many local areas of Burkina Faso, Benin, and Nigeria. Meanwhile, moderate rainfall was recorded elsewhere. In general, the continuation of the seasonal rainfall should provide favorable soil moisture and benefit agricultural activities in the region. However, the anomalous northerly position of the ITF since May could lead to favorable climatic conditions for the breeding and migration of desert locusts into the Sahel region.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: June 20th – June 26th, 2012

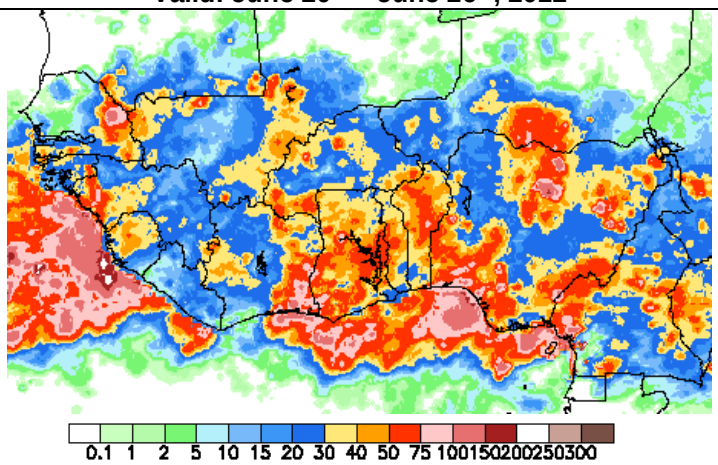


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

During the second dekad (10-day period) of June, the continued seasonal rainfall and anomalous northward position of the ITF have brought adequate soil moisture, resulting in average to above-average vegetation growth over southern Mali and along the Niger-Nigeria border (**Figure 2**). In contrast, poor spatial distribution of rainfall has led to degrading conditions over eastern Burkina Faso, northern Coted d'Ivoire, Ghana, and parts of Nigeria.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: As of the 2nd Dekad of June, 2012

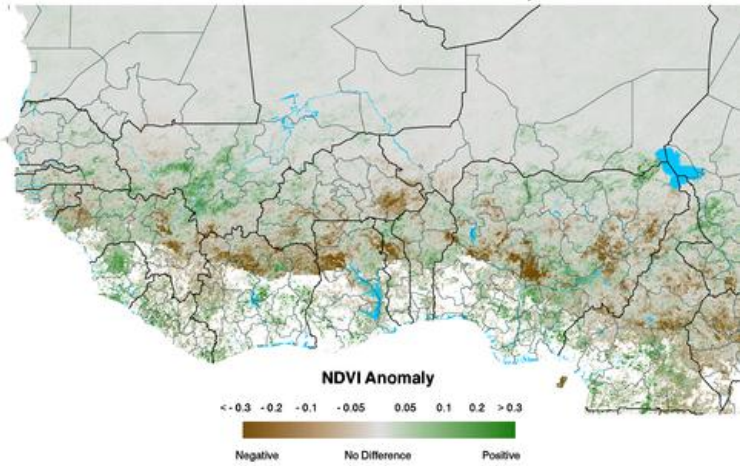


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

During the next seven days, the enhanced phase of the Madden-Julian oscillation (MJO) is expected to bring above-average rainfall across the Gulf of Guinea countries. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue throughout Guinea, southern Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria, with the heaviest (> 100 mm) rainfall along the coasts and localized areas of the region. Meanwhile, there is a chance for continued light to moderate (20 – 50 mm) showers throughout eastern Senegal, northern Mali, and central Niger.

Slow start of the June-September rainfall season in Ethiopia.

An increase in rainfall was observed over Ethiopia during the past seven days. Although this has helped to reduce accumulated rainfall deficits slightly, it was not sufficient to compensate the seasonal deficits observed in the western parts of the country. Negative rainfall anomalies have now ranged between -100 and -50 mm since the beginning of the month, indicating a slow start of the June – September rainfall season (**Figure 3**). However, the hope for recovery remains as rainfall is expected to peak across the region during the next month. As for the next seven days, seasonal rainfall is expected to continue over western Ethiopia. This could help to further erode rainfall deficits and aid cropping activities in the region. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy showers are forecast over Sudan and South Sudan.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: June 1st – June 26th, 2012

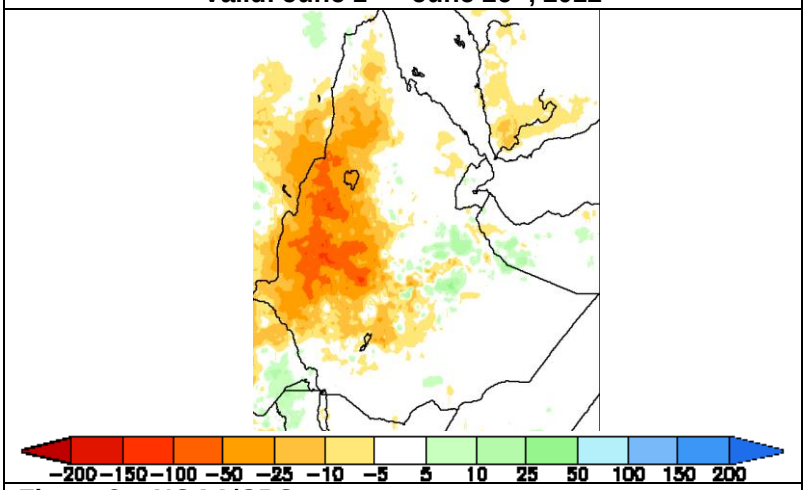


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.