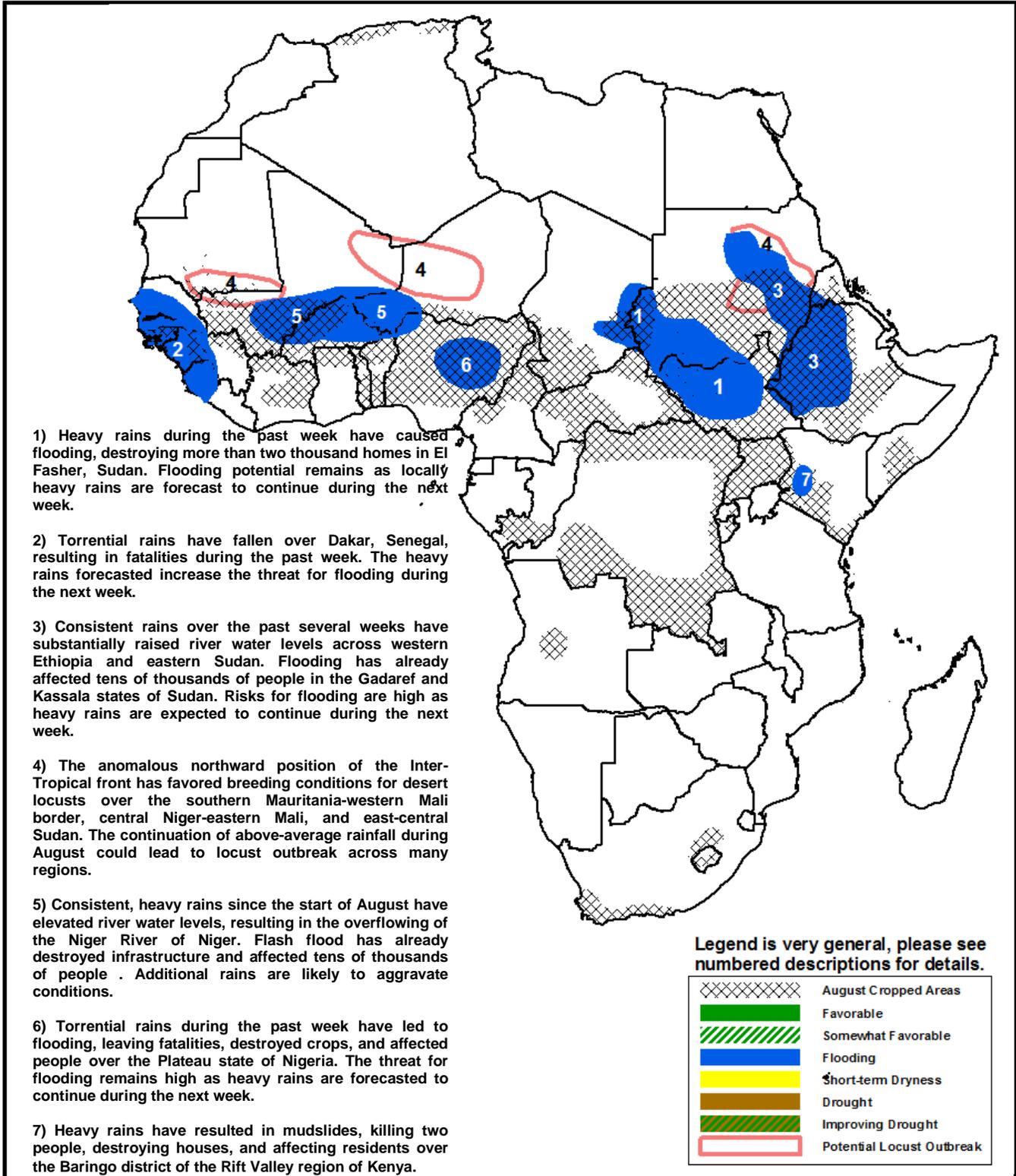


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 23 – August 29, 2012

- Wet conditions prevail across West Africa and eastern Africa.
- Hatching eggs and low-density locusts increase the potential for locust outbreak over many regions.



Wetness observed across West Africa.

Well distributed rains over the past thirty days have resulted in rainfall surpluses across West Africa. Positive anomalies in excess of 150 mm were observed over western Guinea, Sierra Leone, central Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger during the past thirty days (**Figure 1**). Moreover, heavy (> 50 mm) rains during the past week have enhanced moisture surpluses over localized areas, including western Senegal, southern Mauritania, Niger-Nigeria border, and east-central Nigeria. In Niger, persistent, heavy rains have caused the Niger River to outburst its banks, resulting in flash floods, which have already destroyed infrastructure and affecting tens of thousands of residents in the region. In Nigeria, abundant rains have also led to flooding, affecting not less than thousand families in the southern Plateau state. Not only could favor the persistence of abundant rains environmental conditions for desert locust breeding, but it could also exacerbate conditions for the spreading of water-borne disease across conterminous countries.

Since the start of July, the return of the seasonal rains has gradually reduced rainfall deficits in Niamey, Niger (**Figure 2**). The increased frequency of rains since August has contributed to overturn moisture deficits to surpluses. Seasonal rains are expected to continue during the next several weeks, which should provide adequate ground moisture for crops during their maturation stages.

For next week, anomalous on-shore flow is expected to enhance rainfall across West Africa, with the heaviest (> 150 mm) rains over Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mauritania-Mali border, Burkina Faso, and central Nigeria. Light to moderate rains are forecasted elsewhere.

Favorable rains aid crops in eastern Africa.

While rains have diminished over western Ethiopia, heavy rains have persisted over Sudan and South Sudan during the past week. Torrential rains have triggered flooding in El Fasher of Sudan, destroying more than two thousand homes and affecting three hundred families. To the south, persistent, heavy rains have destroyed crops and displaced people over northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Unity states of South Sudan. Meanwhile, heavy rains have triggered landslides, leaving fatalities, destroyed houses, and displaced people in the Baringo district of the Rift Valley region of Kenya. In general, the above-average rains over the past several weeks have helped to enhance ground moisture, leading to favorable crop conditions over a wide portion of eastern Africa as indicated in the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index during the second dekad (10-day period) of August (**Figure 3**). For next week, heavy rains are forecasted over western Ethiopia, heightening the threats for the overflowing of major rivers and affluent. Darfur could receive another week of heavy rains, while South Sudan may experience moderate to locally heavy rains during the next week.

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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