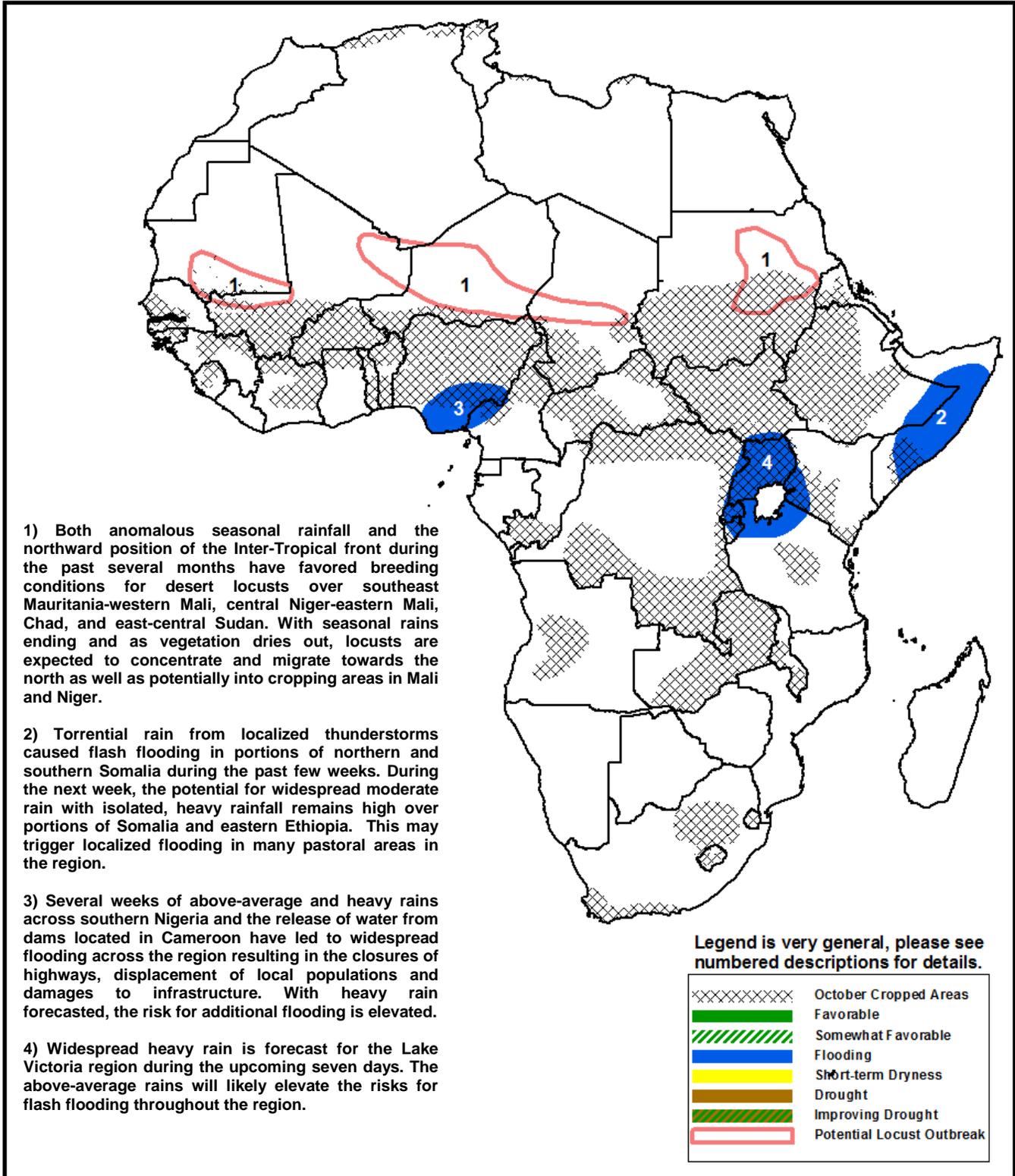


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 11 – October 17, 2012

- Widespread above-average rain was recorded along the Gulf of Guinea.
- Isolated thunderstorms were observed in eastern Ethiopia and southern Somalia.



Above-average rains continued across West Africa.

During the past week, widespread above-average rain was recorded across West Africa including already saturated areas in Guinea and Sierra Leone and in flood affected portions of southern Nigeria. The heaviest rains (>50mm) fell in southern Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The torrential rains (>75mm) in southeastern Nigeria were 25-100mm above-average and located in areas previously affected by river and flash flooding. Elsewhere, widespread seven day rainfall surpluses between 10-50mm were recorded (Figure 1). Above-average rains extended as far north as western Niger and central/northern Mali which is anomalous for the beginning of October. Saturated conditions extend back to September as thirty-day rainfall surpluses exceed 100mm across southern Nigeria, Guinea, western Mali and northern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana.

Anomalous rains across the northern Sahel in West Africa have resulted in above-average vegetative conditions during the beginning of October. The abundant rains have provided beneficial conditions for locust breeding in Mauritania, Mali and Niger. As rains seasonally end and vegetation dries, locusts are expected to migrate to the north and potentially into cropping areas in Mali and Niger. Elsewhere, conditions are neutral across central West Africa even as rainfall has been spatially and temporally well distributed. Farther south across Benin and Nigeria, below-average vegetative conditions (Figure 2) are reflective of the abnormally wet conditions present across the Gulf of Guinea during the last several weeks.

For the next week, rains are forecast to be below-average across southern Nigeria providing relief. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are expected west along the Gulf of Guinea in Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Localized moderate to heavy rain falls in Somalia.

During the past seven days, moderate rain (10-50mm) was observed across Sudan, Republic of South Sudan and localized areas in Somalia, and western/eastern Ethiopia. Rains during the last seven days were generally below-average in east Africa. However, isolated areas in southern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia recorded heavy rains. Torrential localized rain showers have caused flooding in the Hiran region of Somalia in past weeks. Over the past thirty-days, rains have been moderately above-average (10-50mm) in central and southern Ethiopia and Somalia. In contrast, below-average rains (10-50mm) have been observed in the Afar region of Ethiopia, Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan (Figure 3). For the next week, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are forecast across much of Somalia and southern Ethiopia increasing the risk for localized river and flash flooding. Above-average, heavy rains (>50mm) also are expected in the Lake Victoria region elevating flooding risks. Elsewhere, little to no rain is expected in central and northern Ethiopia and Sudan. Moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) is forecast across the Republic of South Sudan.

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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