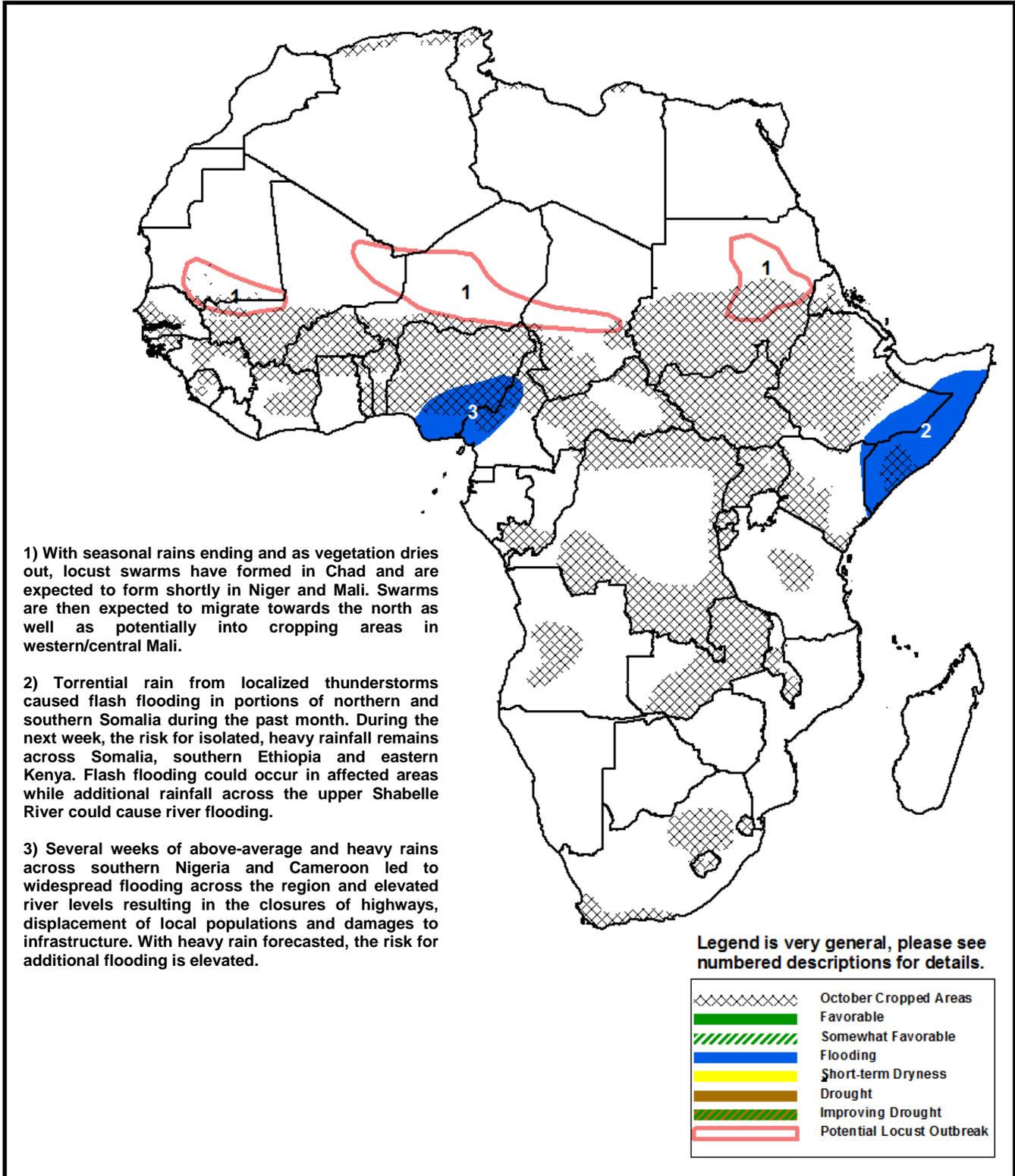


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 25 – October 31, 2012

- River flooding continues across portions of southern Nigeria.
- Flooding in southeastern South Africa resulted in fatalities and damages to infrastructure.



Rainfall surpluses increase during the past week.

During the past week, heavy rain (>50mm) was observed along the Gulf of Guinea. The heaviest rains (>75mm) fell across saturated areas in southern Nigeria, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Moderate rains (10-50mm) were recorded farther inland. During the past thirty-days, rains have been above-average across much of West Africa. The abundant rains in Nigeria have caused substantial flooding across the southern half of the country and have elevated water levels along the Niger, Benue, Chari and Yobe Rivers. Moderate to strong thirty-day rainfall surpluses (50-150mm) are present in Nigeria, northern Benin, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Elsewhere in West Africa, slight surpluses (5-50mm) are present (Figure 1). Overall, seasonal rainfall across West Africa has been above-average dating back several months resulting in flooding concerns in Nigeria, and far western West Africa.

With several weeks of above-average rain in West Africa, vegetative conditions have been positively affected as indicated in an analysis of vegetation conditions (NDVI) during the second dekad of October. Above-average vegetation conditions are present across much of the Sahel stretching from southern Mauritania, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger to countries farther south along the Gulf of Guinea. Poor NDVI values that are located across central and southern Nigeria (Figure 2) reflect the saturated conditions and flooding present across the region.

For the next week, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are forecast along the Gulf of Guinea. The heaviest rains (>50mm) are expected across already saturated areas in southern Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia. Lighter rains (<20mm) are expected farther north across the southern Sahel.

Localized heavy rain showers impact Somalia and Kenya.

Little to no rain (<15mm) was observed across much of Ethiopia, Sudan, Republic of South Sudan, eastern Kenya and northern/central Somalia. The lack of rains in Ethiopia and Sudan are reflective of the seasonal withdrawal of rains which occurs throughout October and November. Rains, though, were still below-average in South Sudan, Somalia and Kenya. In contrast, isolated thundershowers resulted in localized areas receiving heavy rains (>40mm) during the past week in portions of northern/central Kenya and southern Somalia (Figure 3). Flooding in past weeks resulted in fatalities and damages to infrastructure in central Kenya while rains across the upper Shabelle River in Somalia have caused flooding. Climatologically, rains increase spatially and in quantity across coastal Kenya and southern Somalia during October and November. Over the past thirty-days, rains have been above-average in these regions. During the next week, heavy rain (>40mm) is forecast across southern Ethiopia, Somalia and eastern Kenya with lesser amounts of rain (<30mm) expected farther north in Ethiopia, Sudan and 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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