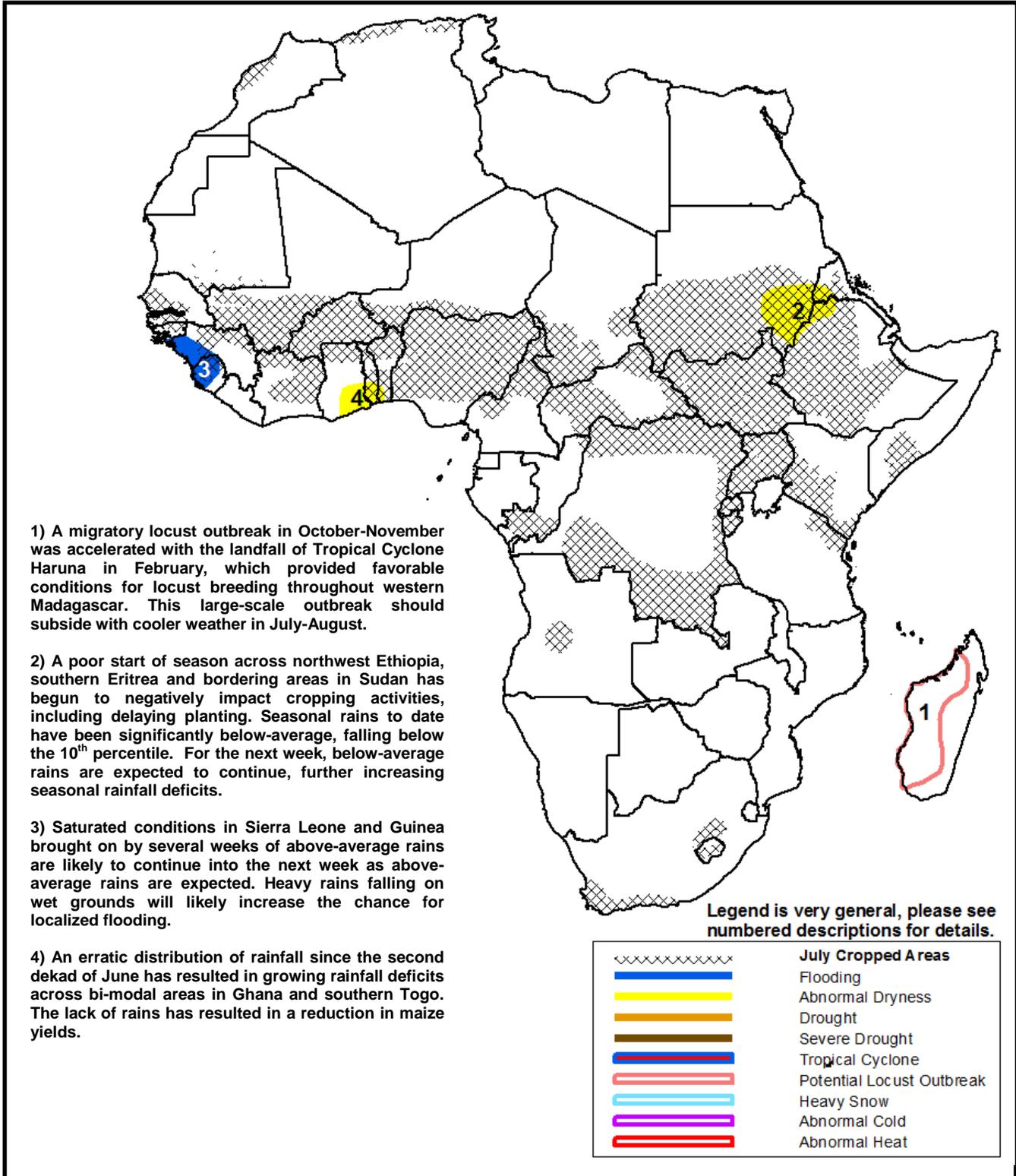


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 25 – July 31, 2013

- Dryness worsens across Sudan, Eritrea and northwest Ethiopia.
- Abnormal dryness develops across bi-modal areas in Ghana and southern Togo.



Rains increase across northeastern Nigeria.

During the past seven days, heavy rains (>50mm) extended from far western West Africa in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali to Burkina Faso and northeastern Nigeria. Moderate rains (10-40mm) extended north into Mauritania. The moderate to heavy rains that fell across the Sahel have helped to reduce seasonal rainfall deficits in northeastern Nigeria. Previously poor rains had led to deteriorating ground conditions. However, recent rains have led to a recovery. In contrast, light rains (<10mm) were observed in bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana and coastal Togo (**Figure 1**). Below-average rains have led to moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits in Ghana and coastal Togo which have reduced maize yields for the first season harvest.

The impact of the poor and erratic rains during June and May across northern Nigeria, and Mali is evident in an analysis of vegetation conditions during the second dekad of July. While poor ground conditions are still present in northeastern Nigeria and parts of western Mali, the recent rains across both areas have met crop requirements and reduced seasonal rainfall deficits. Ground conditions are expected to improve. Farther west in Senegal, a poor start to seasonal rains has also led to below-average ground conditions. In contrast, abundant rains, which have fallen in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia, have led to above-average vegetation conditions (**Figure 3**).

For the next week, rainfall is forecast to be enhanced across Sierra Leone, eastern Guinea, northern Liberia and southern Mali as heavy rain (>50mm) is expected. The abundant rains will increase the risk of localized flooding in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) is forecast for much of Nigeria. In contrast, rains are expected to be suppressed across Senegal, western Mali and southern Mauritania.

Poor seasonal rains continue in Sudan and Eritrea.

During the past week, heavy rain (>50mm) was observed across Ethiopia, western South Sudan and Sudan. Moderate rains (10-40mm) were recorded in eastern South Sudan and northern Uganda. The abundant rains in much of Ethiopia have continued to increase seasonal rainfall surpluses. The above-average Kiremt rains have increased flooding concerns across the country. In contrast, light and below-average rains were observed in eastern Sudan, increasing seasonal rainfall deficits. While rains have been above-average in most of Ethiopia, seasonal rains in the Tigray province of Ethiopia, western Eritrea and eastern Sudan have been erratic and poor, falling below the 10th percentile. For portions of eastern Sudan, seasonal rainfall to date has been the driest in the past 30 years. The lack of rains has negatively impacted agricultural activities. For the next week, heavy and enhanced rains (>50mm) are forecast for much of Ethiopia and southern Eritrea, reducing rainfall deficits in northern Ethiopia and Eritrea. However, below-average rains are expected across dry areas in Sudan, continuing dryness concerns.

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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