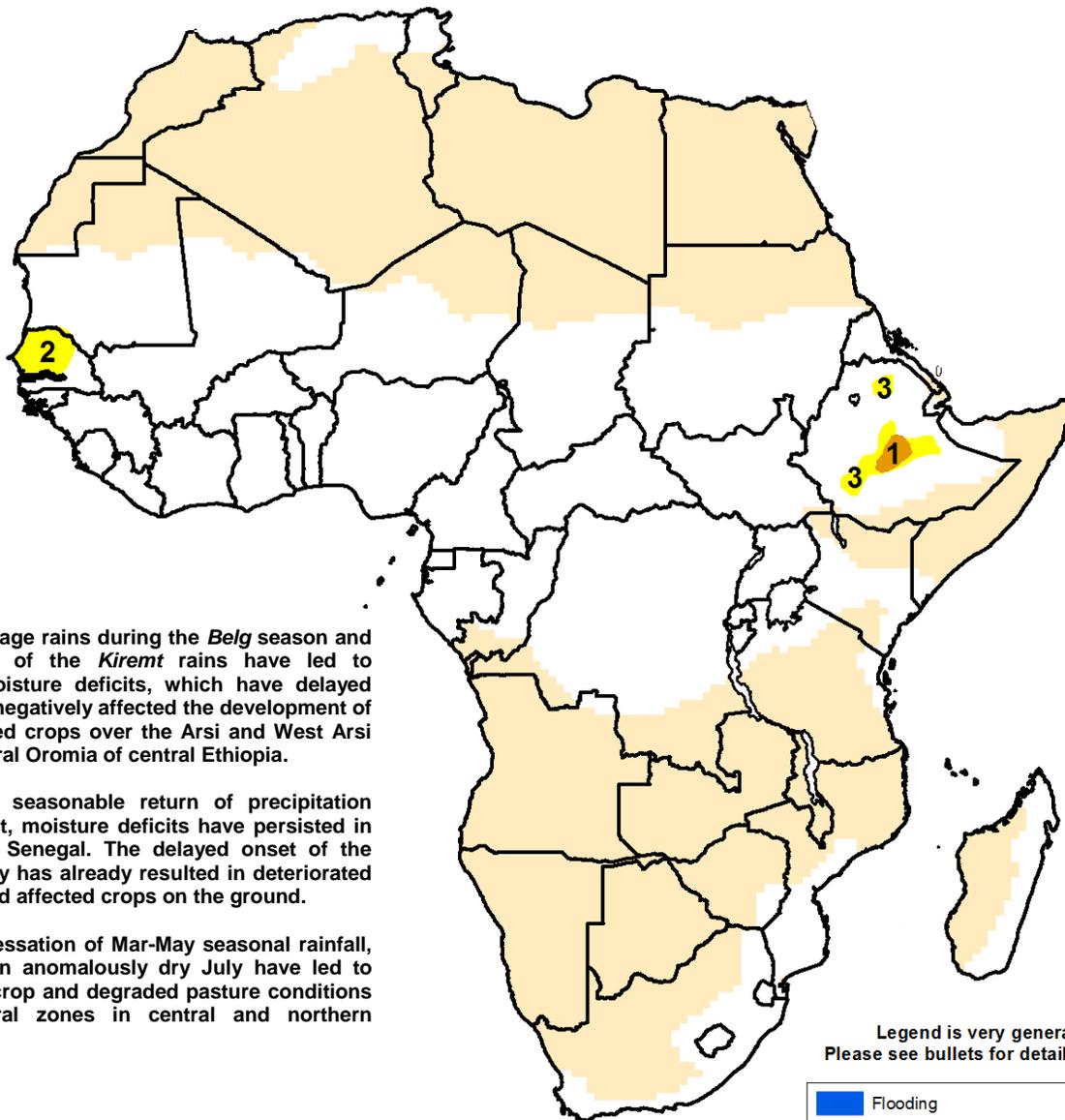




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 11 – September 17, 2014

- A seasonable distribution of rainfall was received across parts of the Sahel during the last week.
- Little relief to seasonal dryness was observed throughout parts of central Ethiopia.



1) Below-average rains during the *Belg* season and a late onset of the *Kiremt* rains have led to persistent moisture deficits, which have delayed planting and negatively affected the development of already-planted crops over the Arsi and West Arsi zones in central Oromia of central Ethiopia.

2) Despite a seasonable return of precipitation during August, moisture deficits have persisted in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season in July has already resulted in deteriorated conditions and affected crops on the ground.

3) An early cessation of Mar-May seasonal rainfall, as well as, an anomalously dry July have led to deteriorated crop and degraded pasture conditions across several zones in central and northern Ethiopia.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Below average rains affect parts of Senegal, western Niger.

During the first week in September, an increase in rainfall returned across the Sahel following a week where rains had been below-average in the region. Well distributed, moderate precipitation amounts (10-25mm) were received throughout portions of southern Senegal, Mauritania, central Mali, and southern Niger, with much heavier weekly accumulations (>50mm) received further south in Guinea, Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin (**Figure 1**). In Nigeria, rains were also well distributed throughout the northern half of the country, but remained suppressed closer towards the Gulf.

During the last 30 days, seasonal precipitation has generally improved over areas that saw poor July rainfall. However, below-average moisture conditions still exist over many local areas in Senegal, central Mali, and western Niger. Since the beginning of July, much of Senegal has experienced between 50 to 80 percent of their normal seasonal rainfall (**Figure 2**), which had already negatively affected cropping activities. In western Niger, a sharp reduction in rains since mid-August has greatly reduced seasonal moisture surpluses, which may also negatively impact developing crops. As the ITF/ITCZ is expected to continue its southward retreat during mid-September, this shortens the window for any recovery in seasonal rains and moisture.

For the upcoming outlook period, the western half of the West Africa region is expected to receive average to above-average rainfall, with the potential for heaviest rainfall (>75mm) over many areas anomalously dry areas of Senegal. However, another week of suppressed rains is forecast over western Niger, extending the late poor seasonal rains, which is likely to worsen short-term moisture deficits.

Dryness concerns grow in central Ethiopia.

During the past week, heavy rain showers continued over western Ethiopia and western Eritrea, with weekly accumulations greater than 50mm received across most of Tigray and western Amhara regions. Lesser, but well-distributed rainfall amounts (10-25mm) were also received further south, bringing late-season moisture throughout much of Gambella, Oromia, and SNNP regions. Since the beginning of the *Kiremt* rains season (June-September), rains have been mostly favorable throughout the western portion of the country; however suppressed rainfall during July has resulted in seasonal to date rainfall accumulations between the 10th and 15th percentiles for several local areas in the central region of the country (**Figure 3**). Much of this dryness has affected areas that were also previously affected by a poor end to the *Belg* (March-May) rains season earlier this year. These moisture deficits have led to deteriorating crop and degraded pasture conditions. Precipitation forecasts for the upcoming week suggest average to above-average rainfall through the middle of September.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm) Valid: August 31 – September 6, 2014

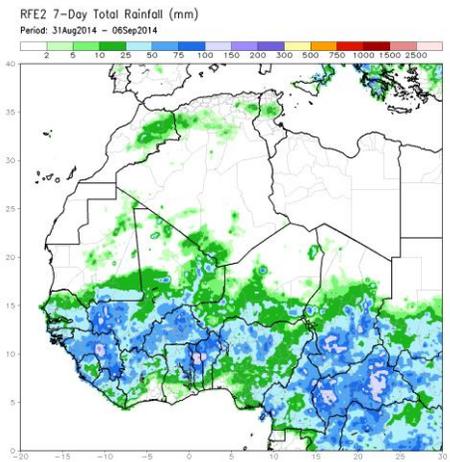


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Valid: August 8 – September 6, 2014

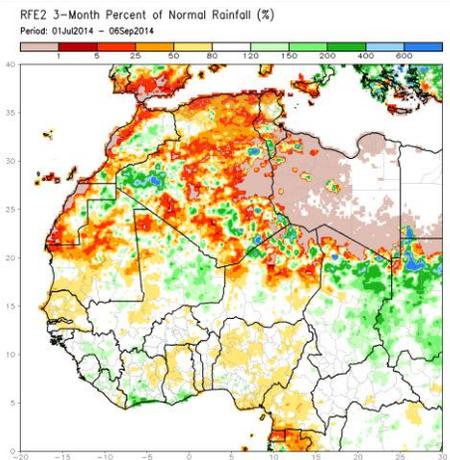


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile Valid: June 1 – September 31, 2014

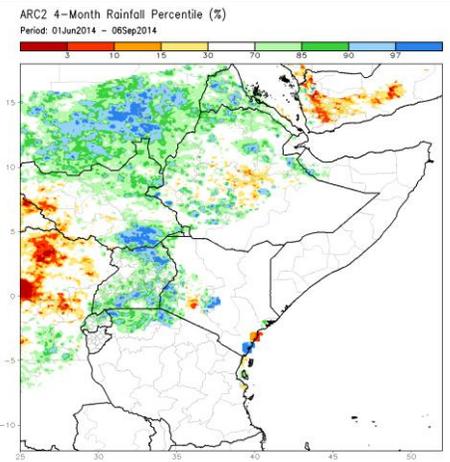


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.