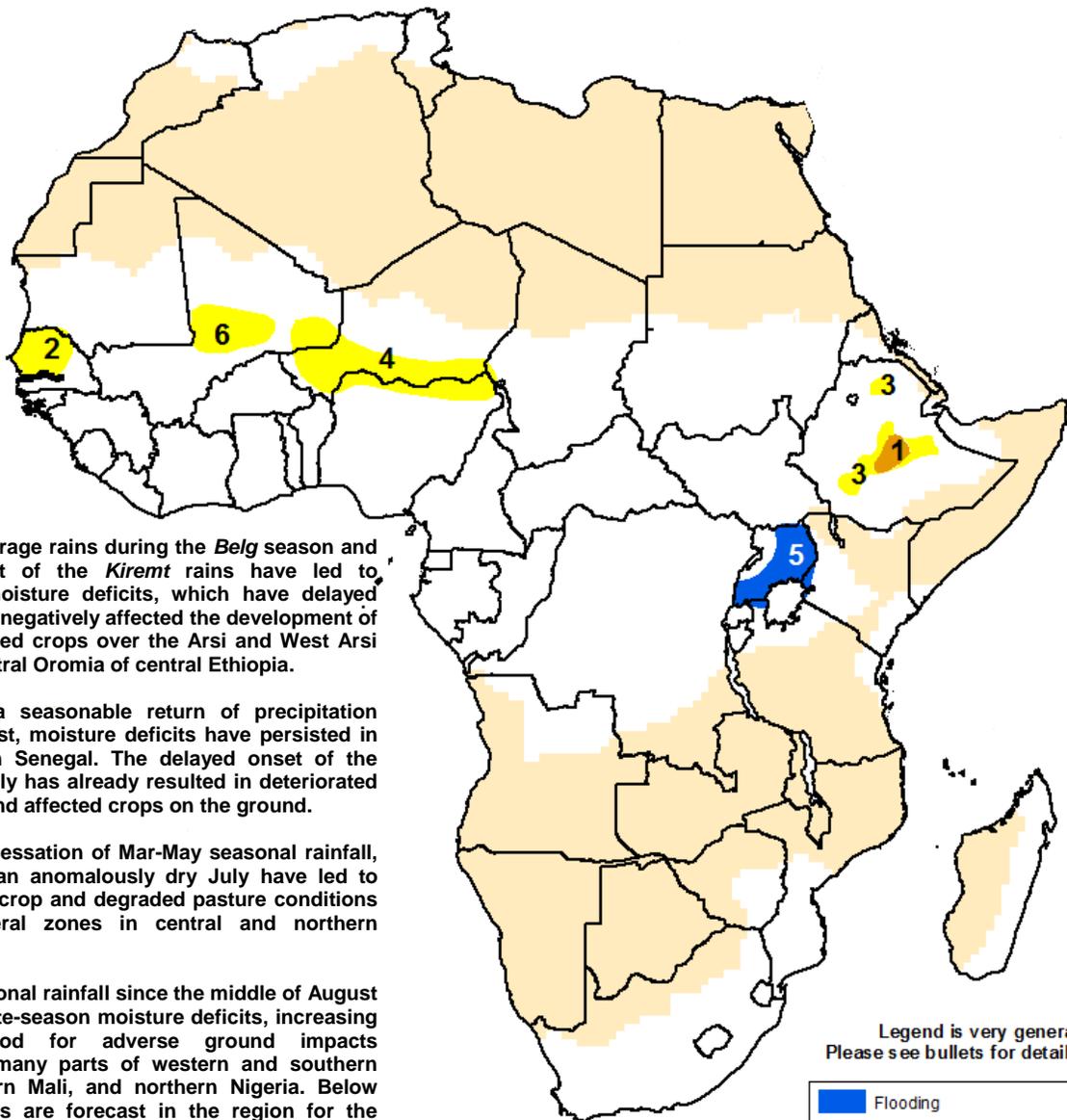




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 18 – September 24, 2014

- Seasonal shower activity weakens, leaving many anomalously dry areas as the ITCZ/ITF withdraws across the Sahel.
- Heavy September rains lead to flooding, and damaged crops throughout many parts of Uganda.



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.

4) Poor seasonal rainfall since the middle of August has led to late-season moisture deficits, increasing the likelihood for adverse ground impacts throughout many parts of western and southern Niger, eastern Mali, and northern Nigeria. Below average rains are forecast in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

5) Several consecutive weeks of enhanced rainfall has resulted in widespread flooding, thousands of displaced people, and extensive crop damages across many provinces of eastern Uganda.

6) Poor July rains throughout several local regions in Mali have resulted in degraded crop and pastoral conditions. August and September rains have continued to help improve ground impacts.

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

**Not much relief to dryness for some areas in the Sahel during early September.**

In the last seven days, a seasonable distribution of rains was received across West Africa. The highest weekly accumulations were felt in the far western portion of the continent, with amounts exceeding 75mm in parts of southern Senegal, western Mali, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. Further east, more moderate, but well distributed rains were received in the southern Sahel region, and northern Gulf of Guinea countries (Figure 1).

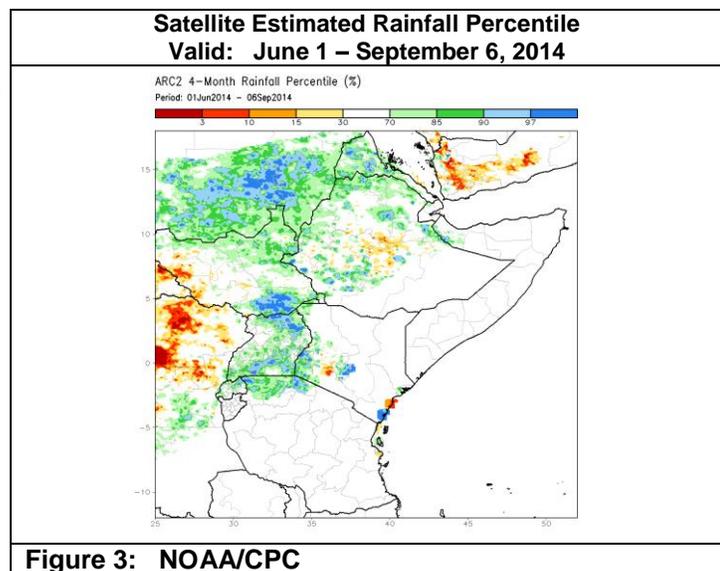
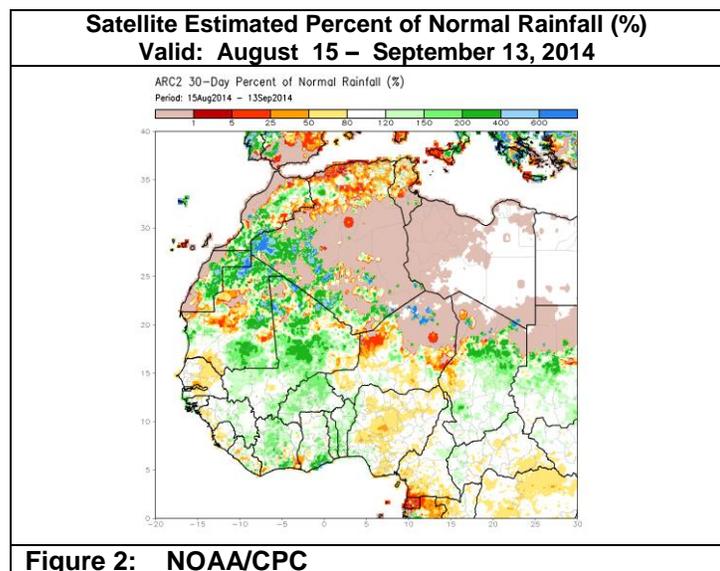
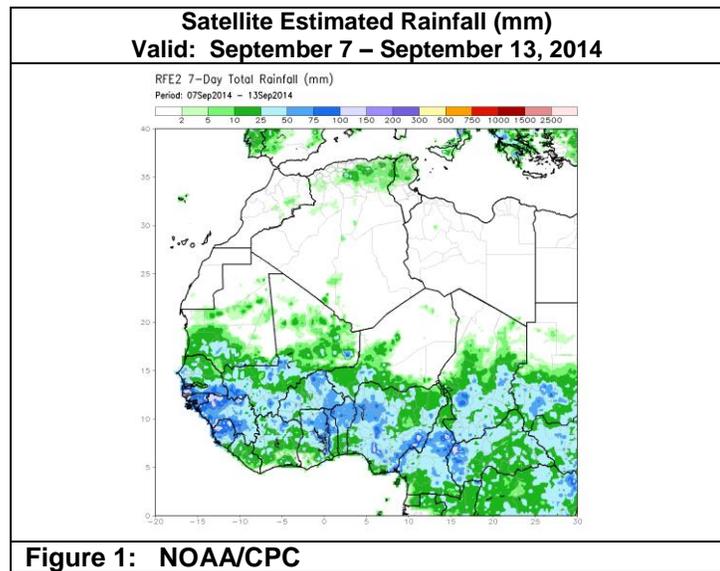
Despite the favorable distribution of rains during the last week, there remain several areas in West Africa that have experienced a suppression in late-season precipitation which has led to moisture deficits, increasing the likelihood for adverse ground impacts. Throughout many local areas in Senegal, a poor onset of seasonal rains in July was followed by a favorable recovery August. However, below-average rains since late August/early September have re-strengthened moisture deficits, particularly in the Kaolack, Thies, Kaffrine, and Matam provinces in the country. Here, many local areas have experienced less than 60 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since the beginning of July according to station reports.

In southern Niger, below-average rains and frequent dry spells since the middle of August have also led to late-season dryness concerns. Satellite rainfall estimates analysis over the last 30 days depict an expanding area of negative anomalies (less than 80 percent of normal) in the southern third of the country (Figure 2). Local stations also reflect the anomalous late-season dryness with unfavorable monthly percent of normal rain reports in the Tillaberi, Tahoua, Maradi, and Zinder provinces of the country

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest not much change from the distribution of seasonal rains during the previous week. Average to above-average rains are expected in parts of southern Senegal, southern Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso, with reduced rains further east. As the ITCZ/ITF continues its seasonal retreat, this is expected to shorten the window for recovery over many areas in the Sahel.

**Increased rains observed in Ethiopia during the last week.**

During the past week, heavy rain showers continued over northern and western Ethiopia, with increased amounts received in Afar, and eastern Oromia regions of the country. Since the beginning of September, rainfall over much of Ethiopia has been above-average with few local areas experiencing below-average rains. For the season, however, suppressed rainfall during July has resulted in seasonal to date rainfall accumulations between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> percentiles for several local areas in the central region of the country (Figure 3).



**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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