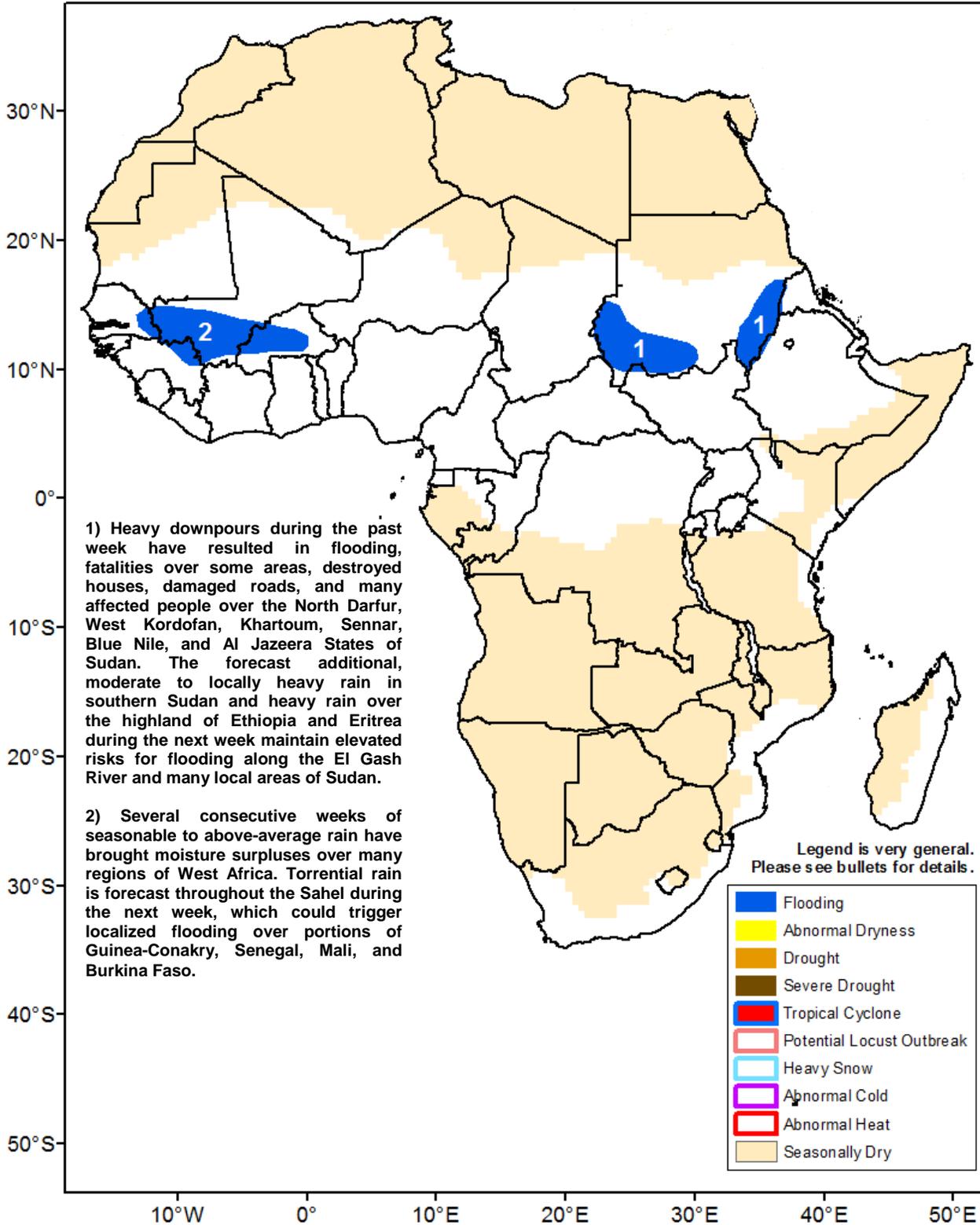




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 21 – July 27, 2016

- Abundant rain is forecast over West Africa during the next week.
- Torrential rain resulted in flooding, causing fatalities and affected people over several regions of Sudan.



### Increased risks for flooding exist over West Africa.

From July 13-19, a favorable distribution of rainfall was observed over West Africa, with widespread, moderate to heavy rain throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and portions of Ghana, Togo, and Benin (**Figure 1**). In Mali, flooding was reported over the San and Bla districts of the Segou region. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain continued across Senegal, southern Mauritania, north-central Mali, and eastern Niger. Over the past thirty days, rainfall surpluses were recorded over much of West Africa, except central and southern Senegal and parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries, where rain has relatively been frequent but insufficient. Positive rainfall anomalies, ranging between 50-100 mm prevailed across Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, while moisture surpluses in excess of 300 mm were registered over localized areas of Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone. The observed wetness throughout West Africa was partially attributable to an anomalous northerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front, rain-bearing system, since late May.

During the next week, the Global Forecast System model indicates a significant increase in rainfall throughout West Africa, with widespread, torrential (> 100 mm) rain across the Sahel. Heavy downpours are forecast over Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 2**). The forecast, enhanced rain should help reduce or eliminate thirty-day moisture deficits over the dry portions of West Africa. However, with the accumulated moisture surpluses over the past several weeks, the consistent heavy and above-average rain is likely to increase surpluses and potentially trigger flash flooding over many local areas.

### Downpours triggered many flooding over Sudan.

During the past week, abundant rain fell over a wide area of the Greater Horn of Africa. This included northwestern Ethiopia, Eritrea, west-central and eastern Sudan, where rain amounts in excess of 100 mm were received, according to satellite rainfall estimates (**Figure 3**). In Sudan, media have reported flooding, collapsed houses, displaced people, and fatalities over areas of North Darfur, West Kordofan, Khartoum, Sennar, Blue Nile, and Al Jazeera States. Since mid-June, wetness has been recorded throughout much of Eastern Africa, with the largest (> 100 mm) moisture surpluses over eastern Sudan and South Sudan. The wetter than average conditions were partially due to a favorable atmospheric circulation and consistent supply of moisture onto the region over the past several weeks. For next week, heavy rain is forecast to continue in northwestern Ethiopia and Eritrea, increasing risks for river flooding over many areas. This includes the Nile and Al Gash River of the Kassala State, which level has already reached a record height due to consistent rain over the past few weeks. Moderate to heavy rain is also expected over South Sudan and the western and southern portions of Sudan, increasing risks for new flooding and worsening of ground conditions over previously-flooded and inundation-prone areas.

**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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