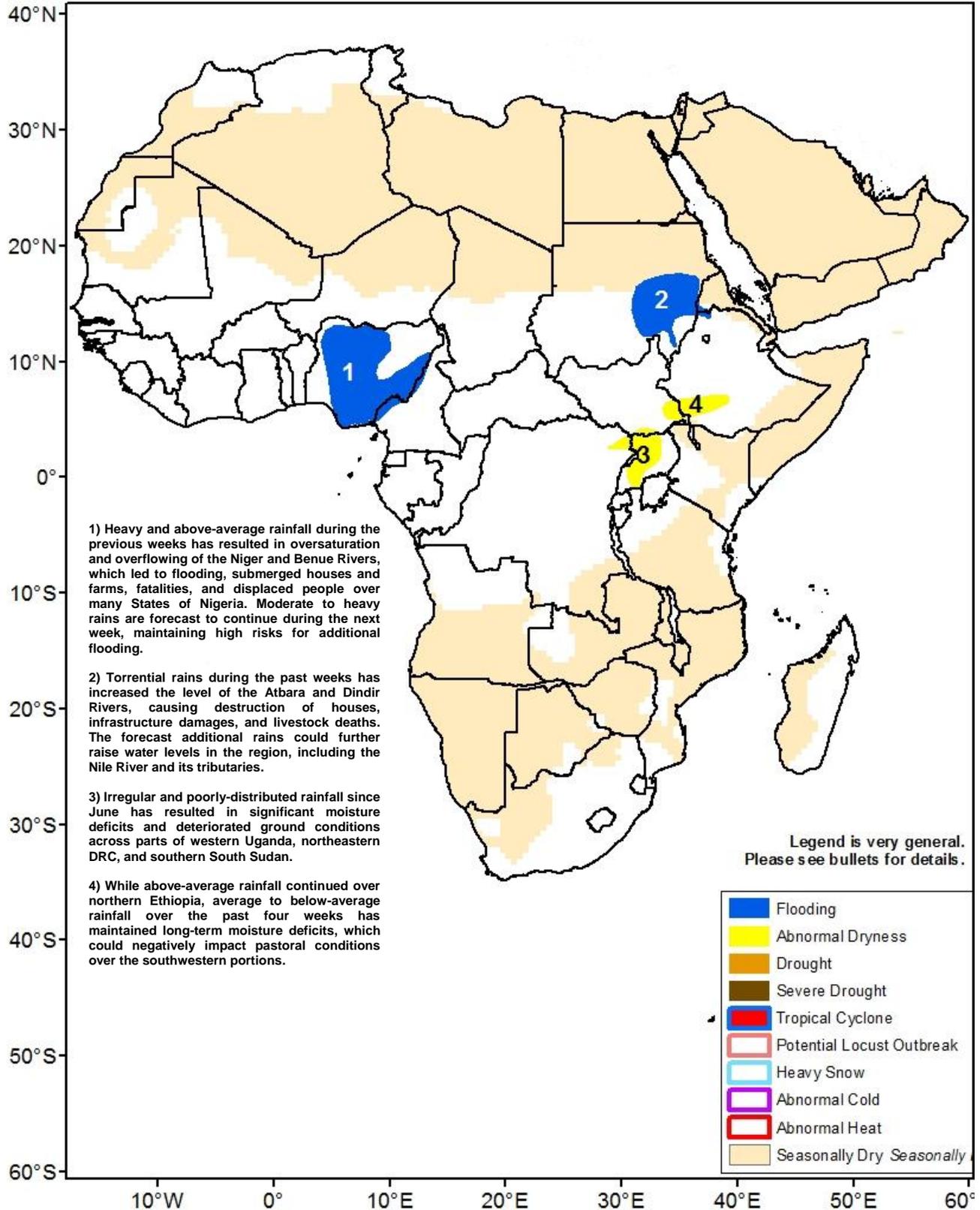




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 20 – 26, 2018

- Consistent, heavy rainfall resulted in flooding, fatalities, and displaced people over many States of Nigeria.
 - Long-term rainfall deficits have remained over parts of Uganda and southwestern Ethiopia.



1) Heavy and above-average rainfall during the previous weeks has resulted in oversaturation and overflowing of the Niger and Benue Rivers, which led to flooding, submerged houses and farms, fatalities, and displaced people over many States of Nigeria. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week, maintaining high risks for additional flooding.

2) Torrential rains during the past weeks has increased the level of the Atbara and Dindir Rivers, causing destruction of houses, infrastructure damages, and livestock deaths. The forecast additional rains could further raise water levels in the region, including the Nile River and its tributaries.

3) Irregular and poorly-distributed rainfall since June has resulted in significant moisture deficits and deteriorated ground conditions across parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC, and southern South Sudan.

4) While above-average rainfall continued over northern Ethiopia, average to below-average rainfall over the past four weeks has maintained long-term moisture deficits, which could negatively impact pastoral conditions over the southwestern portions.

Flooding has affected many States of Nigeria.

From September 10 – 16, heavy rainfall continued across much of West Africa, with the heaviest (> 100 mm) amounts over the far western portions, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, and northwestern Cote d'Ivoire, and portions of north-central and southern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). In Nigeria, the consistent, abundant and above-average rainfall during the past several weeks has resulted in flooding, fatalities, destroyed houses, and displaced people over the Katsina, Niger, Anambra, Kogi, Bayelsa, Niger, Delta, Jigawa, and Kaduna States, according to media reports. The continuation of wetness could further exacerbate and adversely impact the livelihoods of many people in the region. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rains fell across Mali, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, southeastern Chad, and to the south, over Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Elsewhere, widespread light rainfall was recorded.

The persistent, wet weather pattern over the past several weeks was attributable to an anomalous northerly position of the Intertropical Front, main rain-bearing system, over West Africa despite an early equatorward withdrawal during early August. This resulted in above-average rainfall throughout much of the Sahel. In addition, farther south, lower-level wind convergence of moist, on-shore flow also brought moisture surpluses along the Gulf of Guinea, including Nigeria. As far as vegetation conditions are concerned, average to above-average conditions were registered throughout West Africa, based on recent indices.

During the next outlook period, a wet weather pattern is forecast to continue across West Africa, in particular the far western portions of the region. Heavy rainfall is expected over Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, to portions of Nigeria, which additional rainfall amounts could exacerbate conditions over many already-flooded and saturated areas.

Long-term deficits persisted over southern east Africa.

A comparison of the accumulated rainfall since July with the long-term climatology has shown a dipole structure anomaly over east Africa, with above-average rainfall throughout Sudan, northern South Sudan, Eritrea, northern Ethiopia, Djibouti, portions of southwestern Yemen, and northwestern Somalia and below-average rainfall, farther south, over northeastern DRC, western Uganda, southern South Sudan, and southwestern Ethiopia (**Figure 2**). While consistent, lower-level wind convergence brought torrential rains in eastern Sudan and northern Ethiopia, lower-level wind divergence and reduced moisture influx, maintained rainfall deficits over southwestern Ethiopia and northern Uganda. Deficits ranged between 100–200 mm over some local areas. During the past observation period, heavy rainfall was once again observed across northwestern Ethiopia, southern Eritrea, and eastern Sudan, increasing moisture surpluses, whereas little to light rainfall was recorded over southeastern South Sudan and northern Uganda. In Uganda, a gradual increase in rainfall since August has eliminated thirty-day deficits over a wide area of the country; however long-term moisture deficits have, in general, persisted.

Recent Vegetation Health Index (VHI) showed degraded conditions over parts of western Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, and northwestern Uganda likely as a response to an uneven rainfall distribution during July and August. Also, a short-term tendency in the index indicated worsening conditions over the dry portions of southern Ethiopia, southern South Sudan, and northern Uganda.

For next week, while moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast to continue over western Ethiopia, which could further raise river levels and maintain elevated flooding risks along downstream areas of Sudan, limited, little to light rainfall is expected over eastern South Sudan and Uganda.

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

