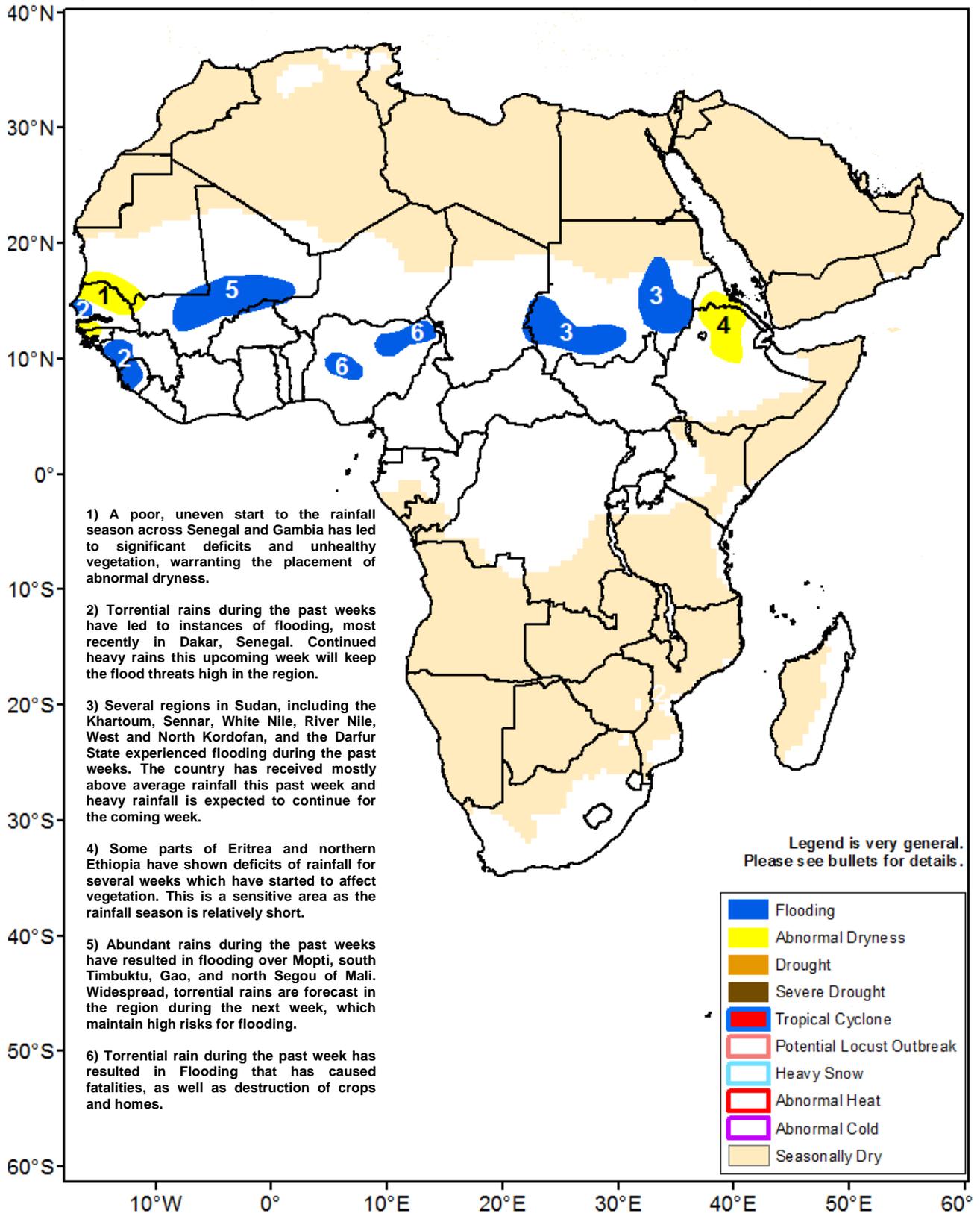




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 29 – September 4, 2019

- Observed wetness and forecast heavy downpours increase the risks for flooding over West Africa and Sudan.
- Infrequent rains over the past several weeks have led to abnormal dryness in parts of Ethiopia and Eritrea.



1) A poor, uneven start to the rainfall season across Senegal and Gambia has led to significant deficits and unhealthy vegetation, warranting the placement of abnormal dryness.

2) Torrential rains during the past weeks have led to instances of flooding, most recently in Dakar, Senegal. Continued heavy rains this upcoming week will keep the flood threats high in the region.

3) Several regions in Sudan, including the Khartoum, Sennar, White Nile, River Nile, West and North Kordofan, and the Darfur State experienced flooding during the past weeks. The country has received mostly above average rainfall this past week and heavy rainfall is expected to continue for the coming week.

4) Some parts of Eritrea and northern Ethiopia have shown deficits of rainfall for several weeks which have started to affect vegetation. This is a sensitive area as the rainfall season is relatively short.

5) Abundant rains during the past weeks have resulted in flooding over Mopti, south Timbuktu, Gao, and north Segou of Mali. Widespread, torrential rains are forecast in the region during the next week, which maintain high risks for flooding.

6) Torrential rain during the past week has resulted in Flooding that has caused fatalities, as well as destruction of crops and homes.

Moderate to locally heavy rains helped ease dryness over the central and northern parts of Senegal.

Rainfall increased in both intensity and spatial distribution during the past week. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall was observed over the already-dry areas of West Africa, including the central and northern parts of Senegal and portions of western Mali (Figure 1). This, therefore, has continued to reduce accumulated moisture deficits and alleviate dryness in the region. Abundant rains also persisted throughout Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, and western Burkina Faso exacerbating, in contrast, previously-flooded and water-logged areas of the region. Farther east, scattered heavy rains were observed in Nigeria, which resulted in flooding over Abuja and in several northeastern states, according to reports. Copious amounts of rain were received across southern Niger and Chad. Meanwhile, widespread, rain was widespread over the northern Sahel and even into desert areas of Mali and Niger.

Over the past few weeks, an abnormal southward deflection of the Inter-Tropical Front over Mauritania, Senegal, and parts of Mali has led to insufficient rainfall and moisture deficits, which negatively impacted biomass conditions in the region. In contrast, vigorous, onshore westerlies along with their influx of moisture have contributed to wetter-than-average conditions over Guinea-Conakry and Sierra Leone. These have expanded northward in recent weeks helping to shrink moisture deficits.

During the outlook period, wet weather conditions are expected to persist across the Sahel. Heavy downpours are forecast throughout Guinea-Conakry, Senegal, Southern Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Mali, western Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. This could trigger widespread flooding over many areas.

Continued heavy rains over many parts of Sudan sustain heightened flooding risk.

Cumulative rainfall over the past thirty days was above-average over eastern Africa for the most part. Positive anomalies spread across Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Ethiopia (Figure 2). In Sudan, both consistent rains received over the country, and excess moisture from upstream Ethiopian highlands contributed to flooding over many states effecting over 170,000 people, based on reports. In contrast, insufficient rains have led to moderate to large rainfall deficits across northern Ethiopia, which have already started to negatively impact vegetation along the northeastern escarpment and parts of Eritrea. Some improved moisture has reduced the deficit area in recent weeks.

An analysis of crop performance model assessment indicates that some of these areas of Eritrea and northeastern Ethiopia could experience further degradation in vegetation conditions as the rainfall season is relatively short. A favorable rainfall distribution is needed over the upcoming weeks to replenish soil moisture and ensure adequate crop growth and development.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rains over western Ethiopia, South Sudan, and northeastern DRC. A potential reduction in rainfall over eastern Sudan is beneficial; however, flooding risks remain over the Darfur region, south-central, and the east-central parts of Sudan.

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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