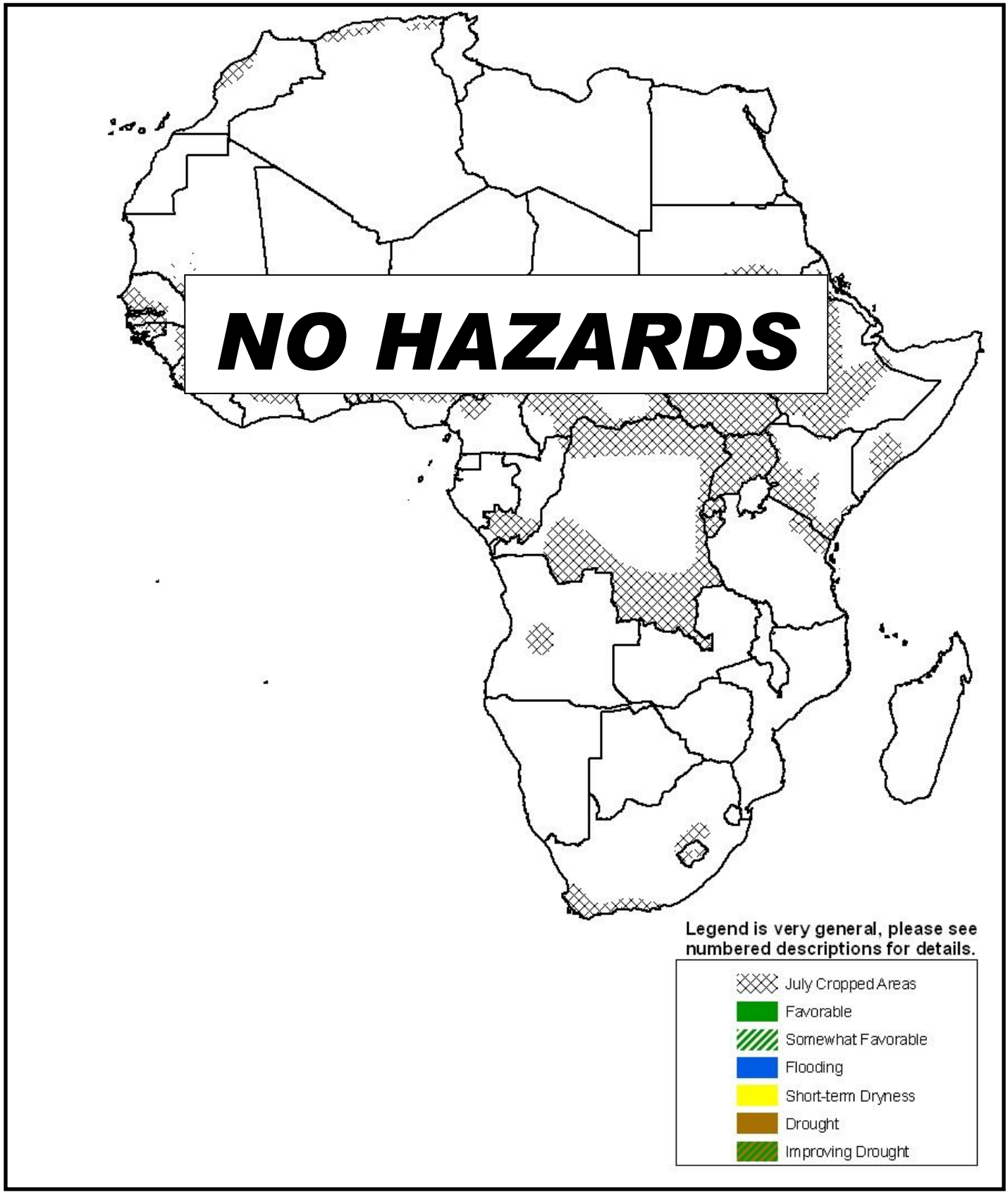
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
July 1 – July 7, 2010

- **Widespread heavy rains have improved early season dryness that has persisted since the beginning of the season across many areas in northern Nigeria and neighboring portions of Cameroon.**



Widespread heavy rains continue in parts of West Africa

During the last seven days many areas in the Gulf of Guinea and Sahel have continued to receive moderate to heavy rainfall. The continued northward expansion of the seasonal rainfall has resulted in weekly accumulation of rainfall ranging between 30 to 75mm in parts of Senegal and Niger. Enhanced rainfall was also observed in the eastern parts of West Africa. A higher total in excess of 100 was observed in the southern and eastern parts of Nigeria. The significant rainfall increase in the northern parts of Nigeria and Cameroon, and southwestern Chad, is beneficial for improving rainfall deficits that have persisted in these areas since the beginning of the rainfall season (**Figure 1**).

Rainfall forecasts for the coming week indicate fair to moderate rainfall in the southern Sahel and the northern parts of the Gulf of Guinea countries, while the coastal regions of the Gulf of Guinea are expected to have enhanced rainfall.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: June 20 – June 26, 2010

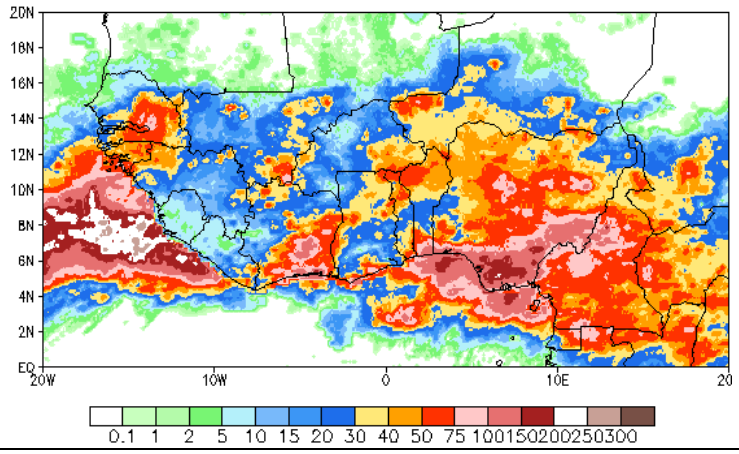


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Low rainfall totals in parts of southern Sudan, while enhanced rainfall continues in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia

During the last observation period, many places in southern Sudan have experienced rainfall deficits. The weekly totals in some of these areas were below 10mm, resulting in weekly rainfall deficits of 50mm and above. Meanwhile, patches of heavy rains were observed along the western regions of Sudan. Enhanced rains have continued in the eastern parts of Sudan and western Ethiopia, with the highest Kiremt rainfall totals seen in the western parts of the Amhara and Oromiya regions of Ethiopia. The weekly surplus rains in parts of western Oromyia have exceeded 150mm (**Figure 2**).

The recent Soil Water Index (SWI) analysis (**Figure 3**) depicts good ground moisture conditions in many places of Sudan and Ethiopia. Satisfactory to sufficient moisture conditions were indicated in southern and eastern Sudan, and western Ethiopia. However, the continued rainfall deficits since the beginning of the season have resulted in ground moisture stress and delayed early agricultural activities in parts of western Sudan. If the current early season dryness in this region continues into the early weeks of July, the ground moisture will decline further and the region may become an area of concern. Rainfall forecasts for the coming week indicate fair to moderate rainfall in central and southern Sudan, and heavy rainfall in western Ethiopia.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation Anomaly (mm)
Valid: May 1 – June 26, 2010

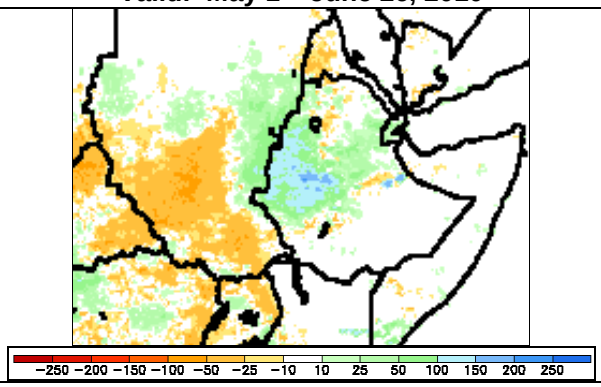


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Soil Water Index (SWI)
Valid: June 24, 2010

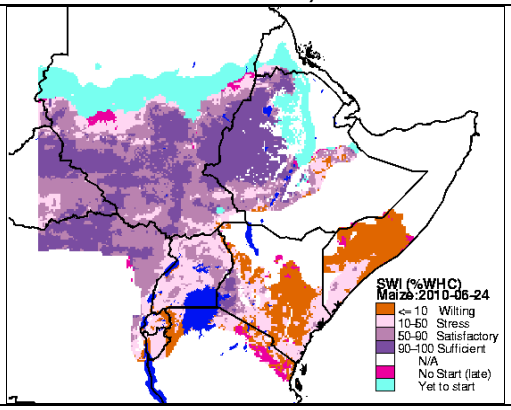


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

Note: The hazards assessment 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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