The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa July 22 – July 28, 2010

- **Heavy rainfall across the Kassala region of Sudan has caused flooding along the Khor Baraka which has led to loss of life and property damage in the region.**
- **Increased rainfall over northeast Ethiopia has brought relief from a slow start to the Meher cropping season.**

1). Due to heavy rainfall over the Kassala region of Sudan, and the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions of Ethiopia, there have been reports of flooding. Flooding along the Khor Baraka in Sudan has led to loss of life and house damage while flash flooding in the Almata Woreda area of Tigray and in Dessie Town in Amhara has led to property damage.

2). Flash flooding in the Sennar state of Sudan has led to reports of house destruction in the region. There is also concern that continued heavy rainfall over the highlands of Ethiopia will lead to additional flooding in downstream areas of the Blue Nile in Sudan.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

- July Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Despite widespread rainfall across West Africa, rainfall totals across Nigeria were limited.

Over the last week, rainfall totals across West Africa generally exceeded 20-30 mm with localized areas across northeastern Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal receiving 30-75 mm of rainfall. For northeastern Nigeria, this marked a departure from the previous weeks of light rainfall. Over northwestern Nigeria the opposite occurred. Rainfall totals this week were 20-30 mm less than those observed during the preceding observation period where heavy rainfall was received across northwestern Nigeria (75-100 mm). The usually wet delta region of Nigeria also saw only 5-20 mm of rainfall, a large decrease from the 50-75 mm it observed during the previous observation period. For the third consecutive week, rainfall totals across areas of central Mali were low ranging between 5-15 mm. (**Figure 1**).

Despite the low rainfall over portions of Nigeria, daily WRSI values continue to suggest good cropping conditions over central portions of Nigeria. WRSI values also show good to average growing conditions over the majority of West Africa. Mediocre values exist across some localized areas in Nigeria and Niger while poor values are located across central Mali, northern Burkina Faso, western Niger and a persistent area over the northeastern corner of Nigeria (**Figure 2**).

For the upcoming week, many portions of the Sahel region are forecasted to experience heavy rainfall including parts of central Mali, northern Burkina Faso and western Niger. It is expected that the rainfall should help to increase WRSI values and promote cropping activities across those regions.

Heavy rainfall over Ethiopia provides relief to a slow start of the Meher season.

During the previous week, Kiremt dependent areas of Ethiopia saw heavy rainfall exceeding 75 mm in many locations with flooding reported in Almata Woreda in southern Tigray, Dessie town in the South Wollo area of Amhara and the Afar region. This has provided relief over portions of Tigray, eastern Amhara and eastern Oromiya regions of Ethiopia which had seen a slow start to the Meher season. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall (40-75 mm) has continued over portions of the western Oromiya region of Ethiopia. An increase in rainfall over the previous week was seen over the Kassala and Gedaref region of Sudan as totals ranged from 40-75 mm. Reports out of the Kassala region of Sudan have indicated flooding along the Khor Baraka which has claimed 15 lives and damaged property in the region. Western, central and southern Sudan also saw an increase in rainfall over the previous week as 30-75 mm of rainfall fell over the Darfur region, neighboring areas of the Kordofan region and southern Sudan (**Figure 3**). Additional reports of flash flooding causing house damage have come out of the South Kordofan and North Darfur regions.

Forecast models predict continued heavy rainfall over western Ethiopia, northern Ethiopia and western Sudan with an increase in rainfall over southern Sudan. The expected rainfall over Ethiopia should continue to help the Meher growing season. However, too much rain may result in flooding along downstream areas of the Blue Nile into the Sennar state of Sudan and flash flooding in northern Ethiopia. The rainfall over Sudan should help promote cropping activities but lead to localized areas of flash flooding.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: July 13 – July 19, 2010

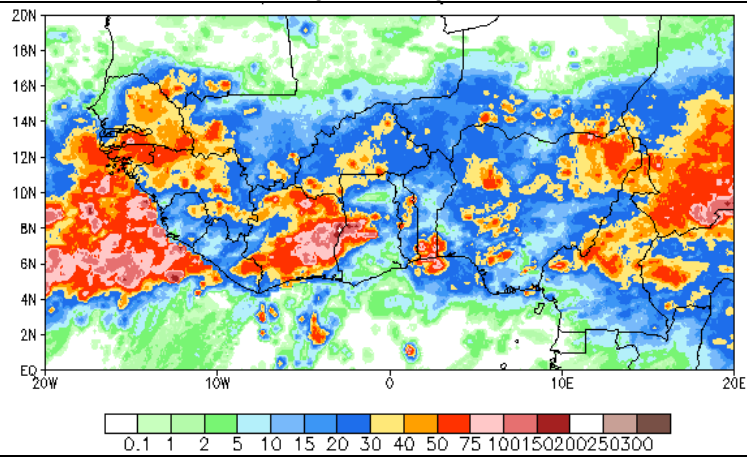

Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Daily WRSI, Valid: July 18, 2010

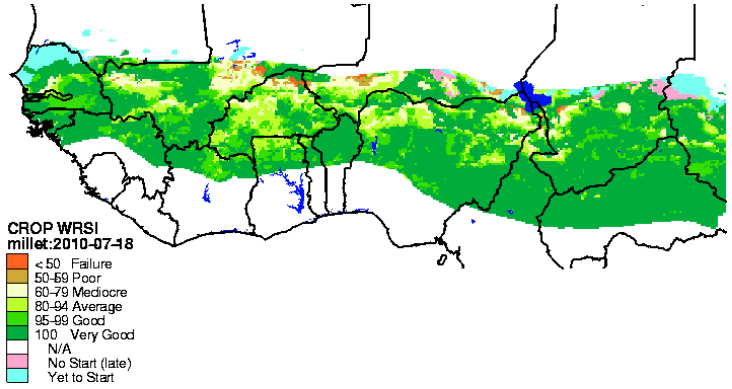

Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: July 13 – July 19, 2010

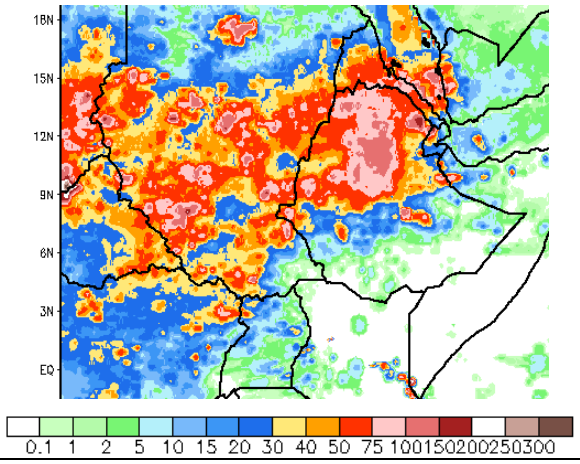

Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.