

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa August 19 – August 25, 2010



- Extensive heavy rainfall over West Africa has led to flooding during the past week.
- Heavy rains continued over the highlands of Ethiopia and localized regions of Sudan leading to reports of flooding.



Widespread abundant rainfall across the Sahel has led to flooding across West Africa.

During the past week, high rainfall totals were extensive throughout West Africa. The most widespread heavy rain (> 75 mm) fell across western and central Mali, Burkina Faso and neighboring Mauritania. In southern Mauritania, these rains led to flooding, fatalities and damage to infrastructure. Abundant rainfall (> 50 mm) also was observed across the majority of Nigeria with the highest totals (>100 mm) located in southwestern Nigeria. The rain was also heavy across Chad, western Niger, northern Ghana, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. In particular, the intense rainfall across the Maradi and Zinder regions of Niger led to localized reports of flooding, fatalities and damage to infrastructure. The flooding along the Niger River across the Niamey region of Niger continued into the past week as well, displacing local populations and causing damage to infrastructure. Compared to previous weeks, a much larger surface area of West Africa experienced greater than 50 mm of rainfall. Areas in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire which had seen little rainfall (< 15 mm) in previous weeks saw a 20-30 mm increase in rainfall during the past seven days (Figure 1).

During the first dekad of August, copious amounts of rain have led to wet conditions across a large portion of West Africa. High moisture index values across Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, central Niger and Nigeria indicate good cropping conditions, however, if the heavy rainfall continues over certain areas, flooding risks may increase as well as the possibility of damaged crops (**Figure 2**).

Ample rains (> 50 mm) are forecast across southern Mauritania, Senegal, western Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria with localized areas along the Atlantic Ocean receiving greater than 75 mm of rain. The predicted heavy rain coupled with existing wet conditions across Mauritania, Mali and Senegal could likely lead to additional flooding, and damage to crops and infrastructure during the next week.

Another week of locally intense rainfall across Sudan and widespread heavy rains across Ethiopia has led to flooding.

Copious amounts of rain (> 75 mm) fell across the highlands of Ethiopia causing flooding, and damage to crops and infrastructure to localities in the Afar, Tigray, Amhara and Oromiya regions. In Sudan, central areas saw an increase in rain during the past week with heavy rains across the North Kordofan region causing flooding and damage to infrastructure in the Umm Ruwaba district. Ample rains (> 50 mm) also caused flooding in the Sennar and Nile region of Sudan. Elsewhere, the rains were locally intense (> 75 mm) across the southwestern portions of Sudan and areas bordering Chad. In contrast, the Northern Darfur and western Northern Kordofan regions saw a break from the rains as 5-15 mm of rain was observed, a 10-20 mm decrease from the week before (**Figure 3**).

During the next week, heavy rains are forecast over Darfur and the southern region of Sudan. The ongoing abundant rainfall over the highlands of Ethiopia is expected to continue for another week as well. As such, flooding could occur into next week along downstream portions of the Blue and White Nile and along the river Gash across northern Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Kassala region of Sudan.





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.

Figure 3:

NOAA/CPC

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