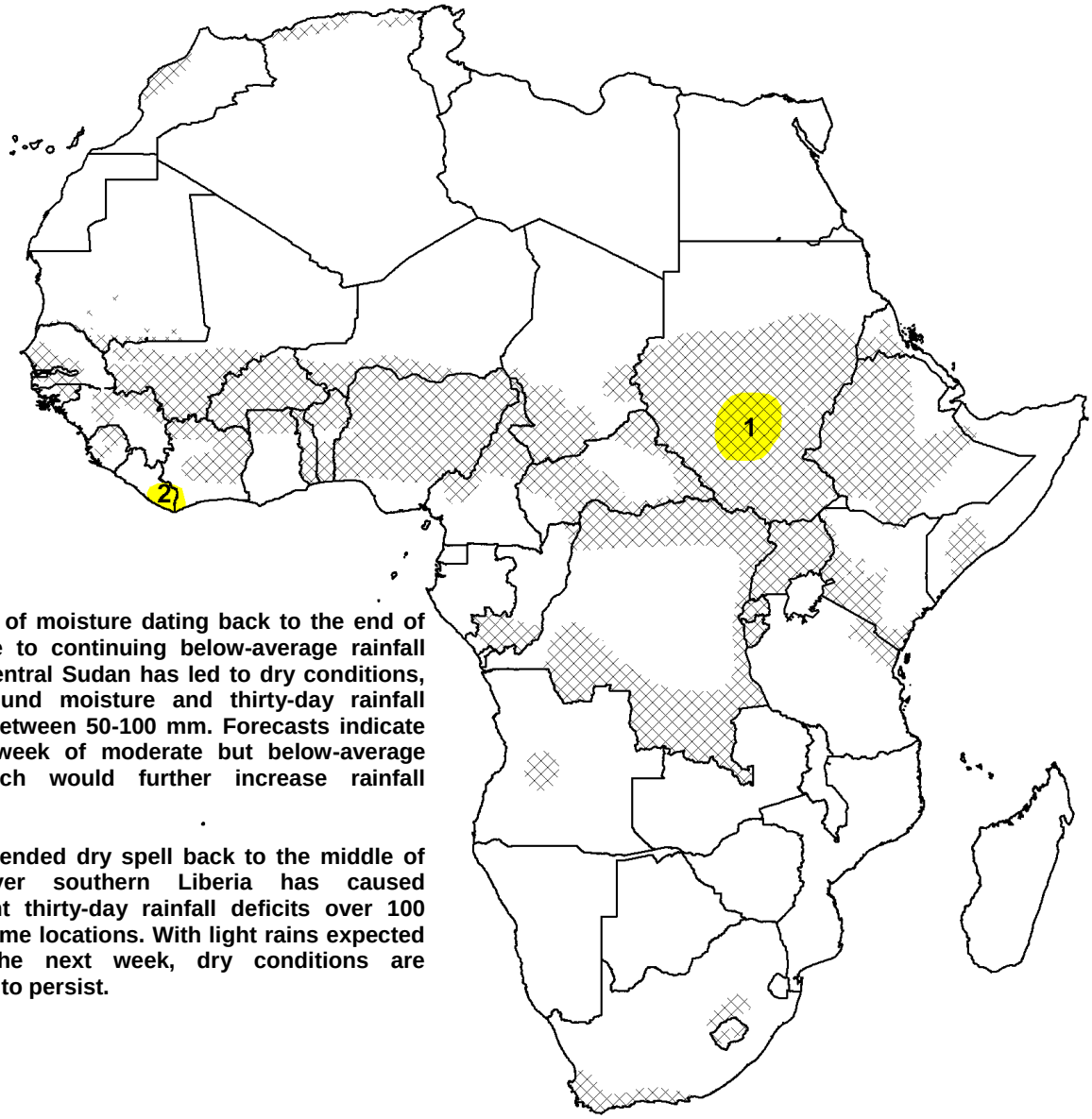
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
July 21 – July 27, 2011

- **Below-average rain was observed across western Niger and Liberia.**
- **Rainfall deficits over central Sudan increased after light rainfall was observed during the past week.**



1) A lack of moisture dating back to the end of June due to continuing below-average rainfall across central Sudan has led to dry conditions, poor ground moisture and thirty-day rainfall deficits between 50-100 mm. Forecasts indicate another week of moderate but below-average rain which would further increase rainfall deficits.

2) An extended dry spell back to the middle of June over southern Liberia has caused significant thirty-day rainfall deficits over 100 mm in some locations. With light rains expected during the next week, dry conditions are expected to persist.

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

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

Widespread heavy rain observed across West Africa.

Rainfall during the past week was heavy over a wide area of West Africa. The highest precipitation totals (> 50 mm) were located over Ghana, southeastern Senegal, northeastern Nigeria, western Mali, and localized areas in Burkina Faso. The abundant rain that was recorded across Nigeria fell across coastal areas around Lagos which had seen torrential rainfall and significant flooding in past weeks. The additional rainfall provided little relief from the wet conditions. In contrast, rainfall was limited (< 20 mm) across much of Niger, and localized areas of Liberia and coastal Cote D'Ivoire (**Figure 1**). While lighter amounts of rainfall is climatologically expected across southern Liberia and coastal Cote D'Ivoire during the rest of the summer months, rains still have been below-average with some portions of Liberia observing little rain since the middle of June. Rains across Niger, however, should be increasing as the Intertropical Front progresses north. An increase in rains two weeks ago after several weeks of drier conditions helped to increase ground moisture. However, a return to drier conditions over western Niger during the next several weeks would negatively impact moisture conditions, cropping activities and livestock.

An analysis of rainfall across West Africa during the first dekad of July indicates a mix of wet and dry conditions. Large, positive rainfall anomalies exist across Guinea, Ghana, Togo, Benin, northern Cote D'Ivoire and coastal Nigeria. The abundant rain over coastal Nigeria caused flooding in Lagos damaging infrastructure and causing fatalities. Further north, average precipitation was recorded across Burkina Faso, Niger and portions of Mali. Conversely, much of Liberia and coastal Cote D'Ivoire received below-average rainfall consistent with a trend of dry weather dating back to June (**Figure 2**).

Models forecast moderate rain (10-40 mm) across much of West Africa during the next week with the heaviest rain located over localized areas in Nigeria, Mali, and Guinea. Light rain (< 15 mm) is also forecast over recently drier regions including southern Liberia.

Below-average rain continues over much of Sudan.

Below-average rain was observed across much of central and eastern Sudan as well as Ethiopia during the past week. The heaviest rain (> 50 mm) was observed across northern and western Ethiopia as well as local areas in western/southern Sudan. The ample rains over western Sudan over the past two weeks have helped increase ground moisture after several weeks of drier-than-normal conditions. Elsewhere, light to moderate rain (10-30 mm) was recorded across central/eastern Sudan (**Figure 3**). The below-average rainfall totals helped increase thirty-day rainfall deficits to 50-100 mm over central portions of Sudan decreasing ground moisture. Similarly, below-average rainfall over Ethiopia has also increased thirty-day rainfall deficits to moderate levels. However, as opposed to Sudan, rains have been relatively frequent across Ethiopia and ground moisture should be adequate for cropping activities. For the next week, rains are forecast to be heavy (> 50 mm) over much of western/central Ethiopia while moderate but still potentially below-average rain (10-30 mm) is expected over central Sudan.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 12th – July 18th, 2011

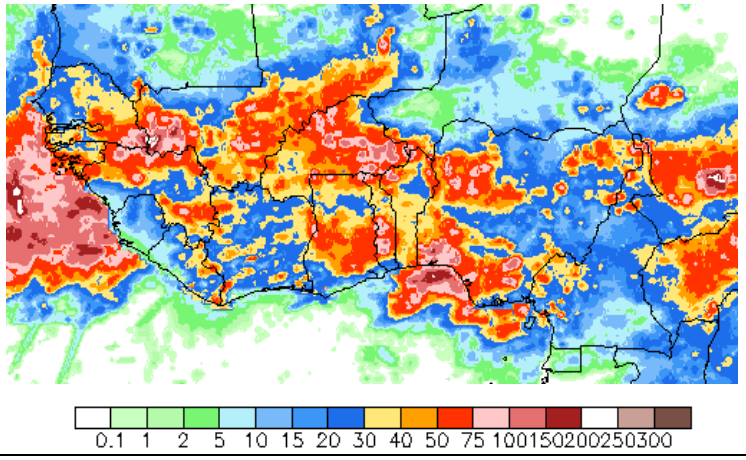


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
Valid: As of the 1st dekad of July, 2011

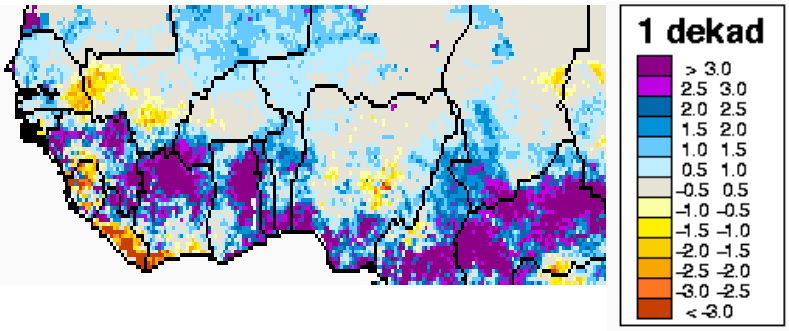


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 12th – July 18th, 2011

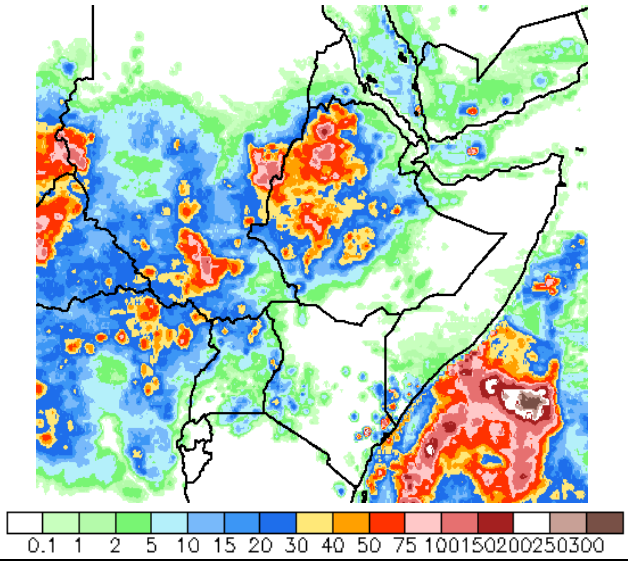


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.