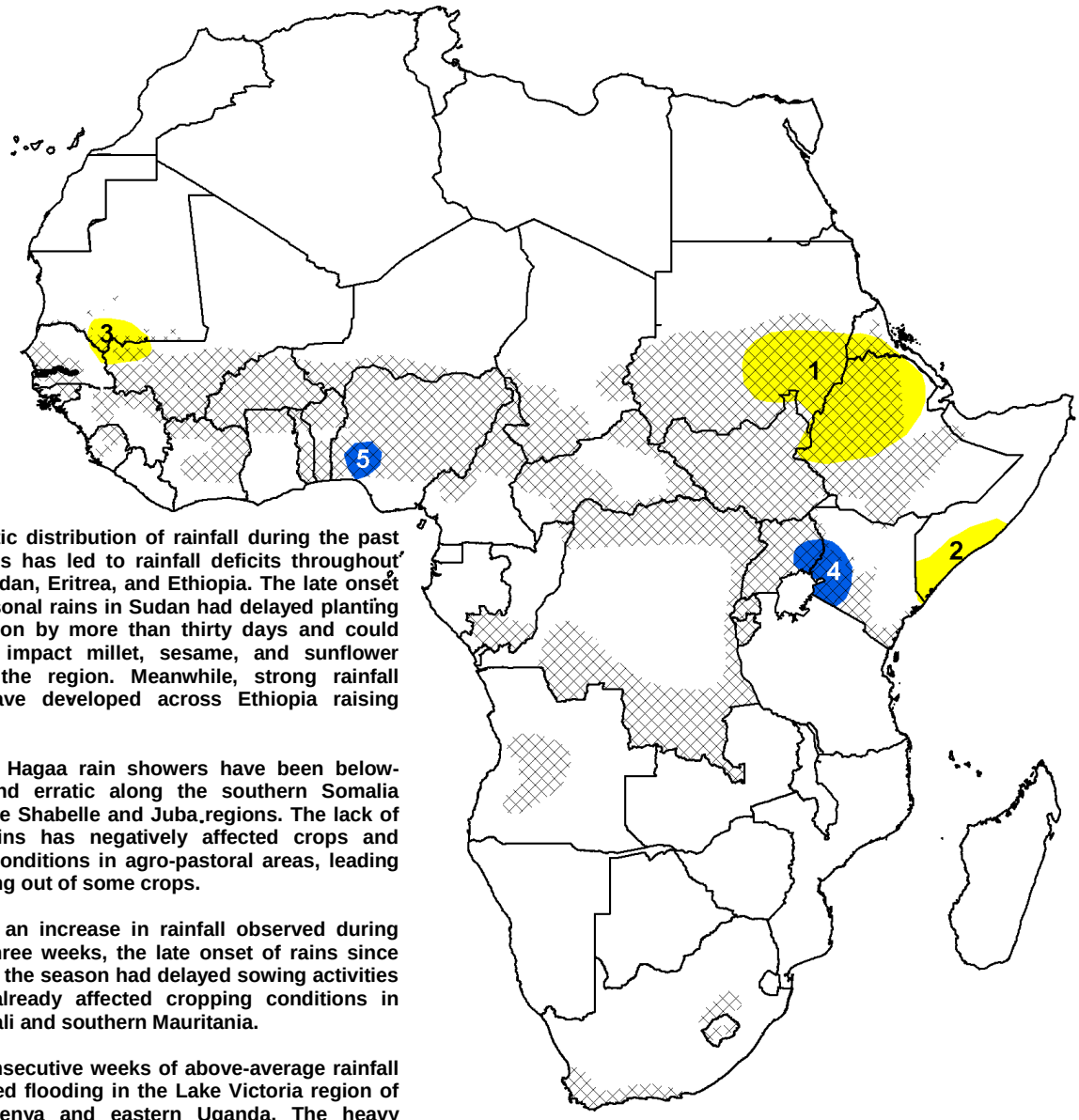
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
September 8 – September 14, 2011

- **Rainfall increases across eastern Africa helping to increase ground moisture over dry portions of Sudan and Ethiopia, while Nigeria continues to observe above-average rainfall.**



1) An erratic distribution of rainfall during the past two months has led to rainfall deficits throughout eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. The late onset of the seasonal rains in Sudan had delayed planting in the region by more than thirty days and could negatively impact millet, sesame, and sunflower yields in the region. Meanwhile, strong rainfall deficits have developed across Ethiopia raising concerns.

2) Coastal Hagaa rain showers have been below-average and erratic along the southern Somalia coast of the Shabelle and Juba regions. The lack of coastal rains has negatively affected crops and cropping conditions in agro-pastoral areas, leading to the drying out of some crops.

3) Despite an increase in rainfall observed during the past three weeks, the late onset of rains since the start of the season had delayed sowing activities and has already affected cropping conditions in western Mali and southern Mauritania.

4) Five consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall have caused flooding in the Lake Victoria region of western Kenya and eastern Uganda. The heavy rainfall have caused landslides in Uganda and flooding in Kenya, damaging infrastructure, displacing peoples, and destroying crops. Additional rains could worsen ground conditions.

5) Torrential rains have caused a dam to overflow and have resulted in fatalities, damaged infrastructure, and thousands of displaced peoples in Ibadan of southwestern Nigeria during the past week. Ground conditions could further worsen as moderate to heavy rains are expected in the region during the next week.

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

- September Cropped Areas
- Africa
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Heavy rains fall over Nigeria.

During the past week, heavy rains fell across Nigeria for a third consecutive week as torrential rains (> 50 mm) were observed. Many of the areas were saturated from previous weeks of rain and flooding which had already caused the displacement of thousands of people, fatalities and damages to infrastructure. Elsewhere, a continuation of easterly wave activity across West Africa led to heavy rain (> 50 mm) across far western West Africa including southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea. Over the past thirty days, these locations have received 100-200% of their average precipitation. The above-average rains are most likely associated with anomalous, moist, westerly winds and continued above-average easterly wave activity. Localized heavy rain (> 40 mm) was also recorded across northern Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. Light to moderate rain (5-30 mm) was observed further north in Niger and Mauritania (**Figure 1**) likely associated with an increase in dry, anomalous northerly winds. The below-average rains have aided dry conditions already present across southern Mauritania.

Even though the location of the ITF is currently close to the climatology mean position over far western Africa, an analysis of vegetative growth (**Figure 2**) indicates that past weeks of below-average rain have negatively affected cropping in western Mali and southern Mauritania. The recent moderate rains which have aided in increasing ground moisture but have come late into the season. The ITF generally has reached its peak position by the end of August and will begin progressing southward during September. The negative anomalies can be expected to continue as the season comes to an end.

During the next week, continued moderate to heavy rain (> 40 mm) is expected over already saturated areas in western Nigeria increasing the risk for continued flooding. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) is forecast along the Gulf of Guinea with lesser amounts of rain (5-30 mm) further north.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 30th – September 5th, 2011

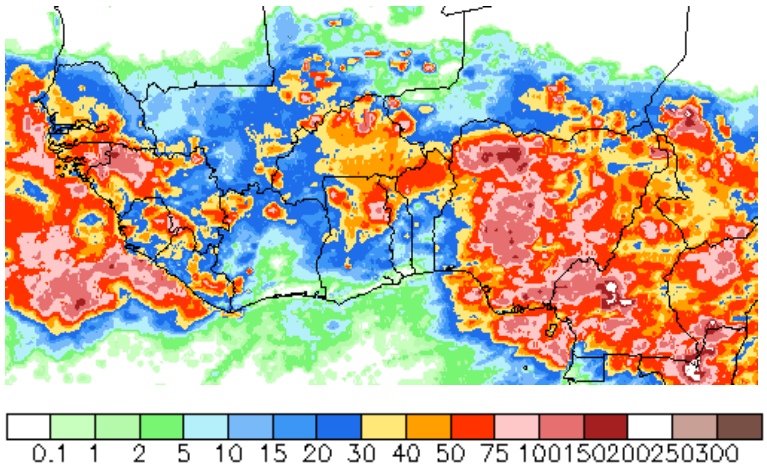


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: As of 3rd Dekad of August, 2011

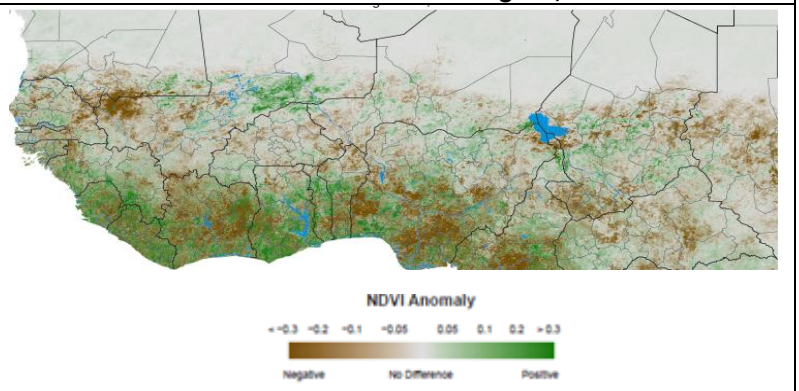


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Increase in rains occurs across eastern Africa.

During the past week, above-average rainfall was observed across eastern Africa including dry portions of Sudan and Ethiopia. After below-average rains have fallen since July, the above-average rains (10-50 mm surplus) across Sudan have helped increased ground moisture. The heavy rains spread as far south as flood-affected portions of Uganda and Kenya which have experienced another week of above-average rain (10-50 mm) furthering the flooding risks. In Ethiopia, rains during the past week were unevenly distributed as the Tigray and western portions of the Amhara region observed below average rains (10-25 mm below-average) while localized heavy rain showers increased the risk for flooding in the eastern Amhara region and above-average rains (5-25 mm) were observed in southwest Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). Thirty-day rainfall anomalies continue to indicate dry conditions across northern/central Ethiopia which could negatively impact crops. For the next week, moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) is forecast across eastern Africa aiding in the relief of current dry conditions in Ethiopia and Sudan while furthering the risks for flooding in Kenya and Uganda.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: August 30th – September 5th, 2011

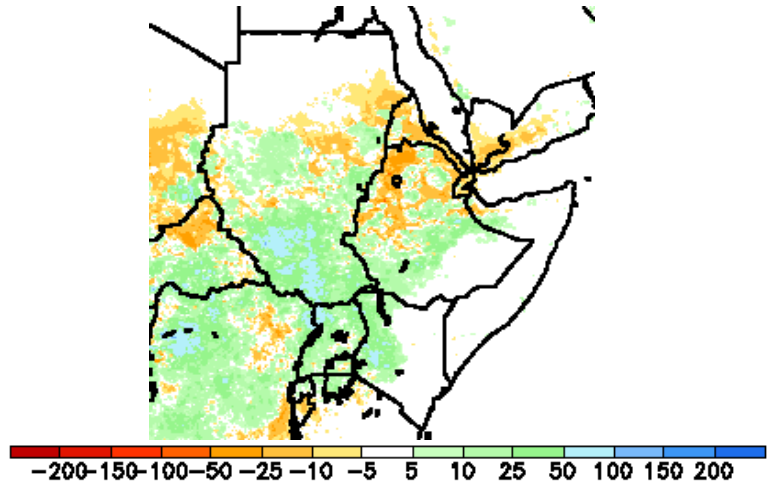


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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