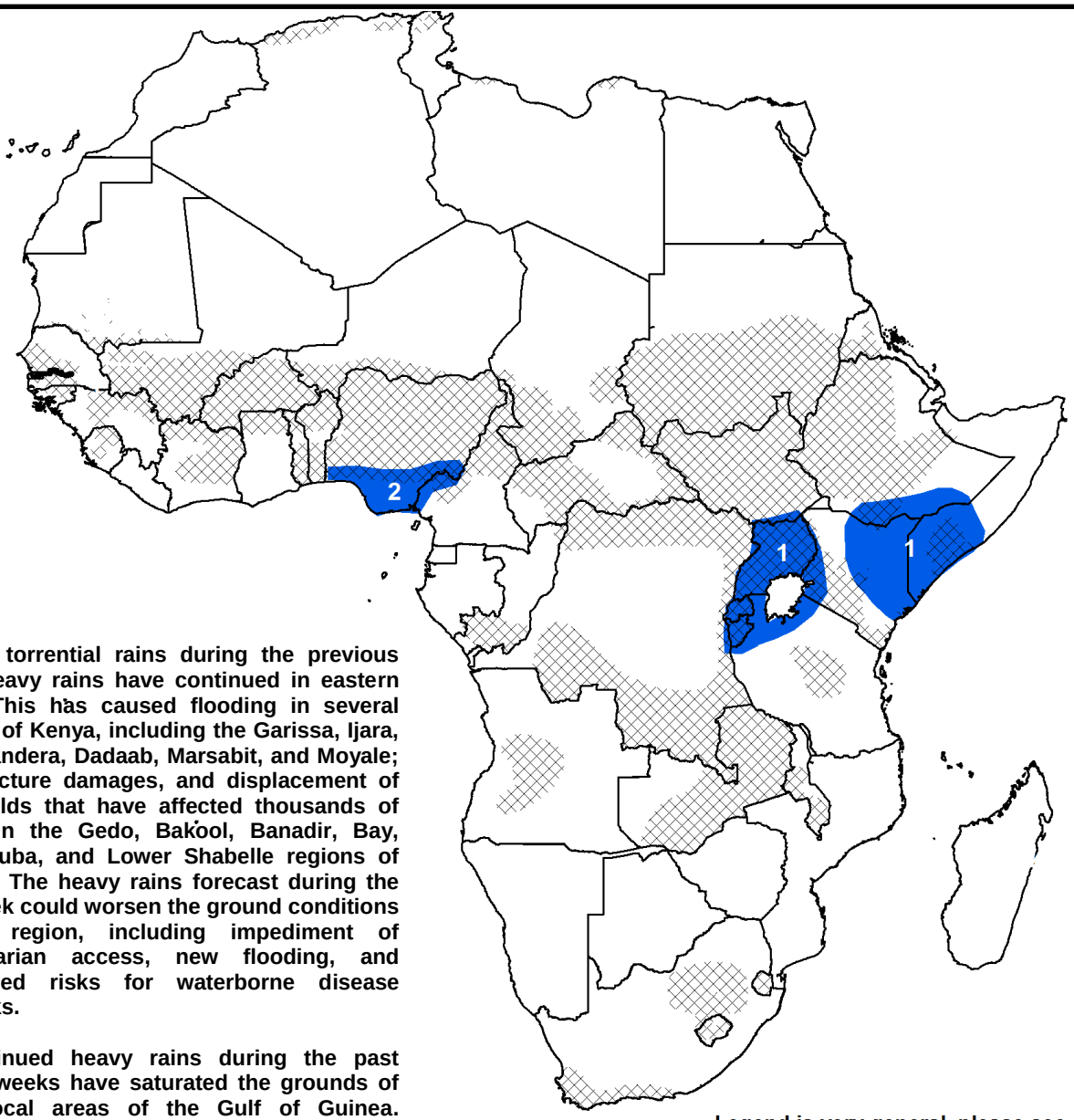
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
October 27 – November 2, 2011

- **For the second consecutive week, wetter than average conditions have been observed in Eastern Africa.**
- **Continued heavy rains have caused flooding, resulting in fatalities in southern Nigeria.**



1) After torrential rains during the previous week, heavy rains have continued in eastern Africa. This has caused flooding in several districts of Kenya, including the Garissa, Ijara, Hola, Mandera, Dadaab, Marsabit, and Moyale; infrastructure damages, and displacement of households that have affected thousands of people in the Gedo, Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Lower Juba, and Lower Shabelle regions of Somalia. The heavy rains forecast during the next week could worsen the ground conditions in the region, including impediment of humanitarian access, new flooding, and heightened risks for waterborne disease outbreaks.

2) Continued heavy rains during the past several weeks have saturated the grounds of many local areas of the Gulf of Guinea. Abundant rains during the past week have triggered flooding, leading to infrastructure damages and fatalities in Calabar, Lagos, and Imo States of southern Nigeria. In Lagos, torrential rains have resulted in the overflowing of the Ogun River, affecting residents along the Ogun River axis. Additional heavy rains forecast during the next week could exacerbate the flooding conditions along coastal Nigeria.

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

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

The Greater Horn of Africa continues to experience wetter than average conditions.

After an above-average rainfall conditions during the previous week, southeastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and northern and western Kenya have received another week of torrential (> 50 mm) rains. The heaviest (> 75 mm) rains were observed across southern Somalia, and northern Kenya, where flooding has been reported in the Garissa, Ijara, Hola, Mandera, Dadaab, Marsabit, and Moyale districts. In Somalia, heavy (> 50 mm) rains were observed throughout the Gedo, Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Lower Juba, and Lower Shabelle regions, which have destroyed infrastructure and have displaced several thousands of people. During the past thirty days, local areas of southeastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and northern Kenya have received cumulative rainfall exceeding 600 percent of the long-term average (**Figure 1**). The onset of the *Deyr*, October – December rainfall season has already improved water resources in many areas of the region; however consistent heavy rains could also negatively impact cropping activities, destroy internally-displaced people's camps, and cause acute watery diarrhea in the region.

An analysis of the Basin Excess Rainfall Map during the second dekad of October shows areas with a moderate to high likelihood for flooding in southern Somalia and northeastern Kenya (**Figure 2**). The accumulated rainfall during the past two weeks has substantially increased river streamflows and heightened the risks for river flooding in many local areas of the region.

During the next seven days, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of heavy rains in southern Somalia due to enhanced anomalous easterly winds from the western Indian Ocean. Heavy rains are also expected over southern Ethiopia, Uganda, and much of Kenya during the next week. Although the recent heavy rains have contributed to the increase in water availability for livestock and cropping activities in previously drought-stricken areas, the persistence of excessive moisture could damage infrastructure and crops, displace local communities, and trigger waterborne disease outbreaks in the Greater Horn of Africa.

Seasonal rains coming to an end in the Sahel.

During the past week, rainfall has significantly decreased in the Sahel, while heavy rains have persisted over portions of the Gulf of Guinea. Senegal has still received light (< 10 mm) rains, while Mauritania, Mali, northern Burkina Faso, and Niger have experienced little to no (< 5 mm) rainfall. This is indicative that rainfall is progressively ending in the Sahel (**Figure 3**). Further south, heavy rains were observed throughout Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria. In Nigeria, heavy rains have caused floods, resulting in infrastructure damages and fatalities in Lagos, Imo State, and Calabar during the past seven days. As for the upcoming week, rainfall forecasts suggest a reduction of rainfall across much of West Africa. The heaviest (> 150 mm) rains are forecast over local areas of southern Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon. Light (< 20 mm) rains are expected elsewhere. Additional heavy rains forecast during the next week could worsen ground conditions and cause new flooding over local areas of coastal Nigeria.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percent Normal (%)
Valid: September 25th – October 24th, 2011

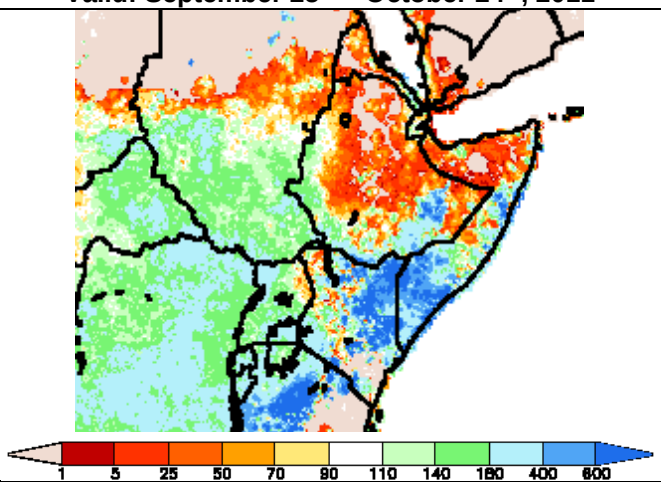


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Basin Excess Rainfall Map - Catchments
Valid: As of 2nd Dekad of October, 2011

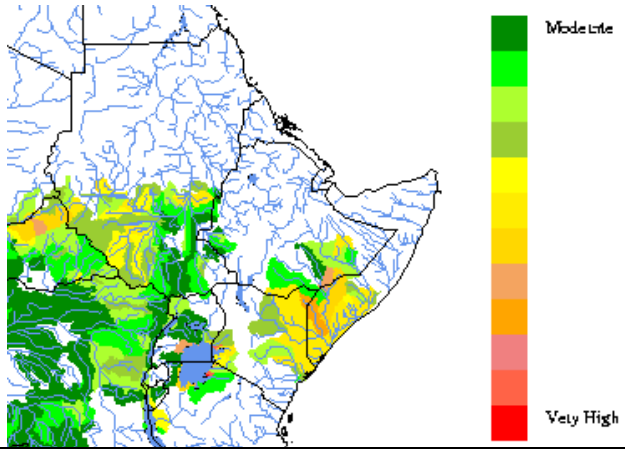


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: October 18th – October 24th, 2011

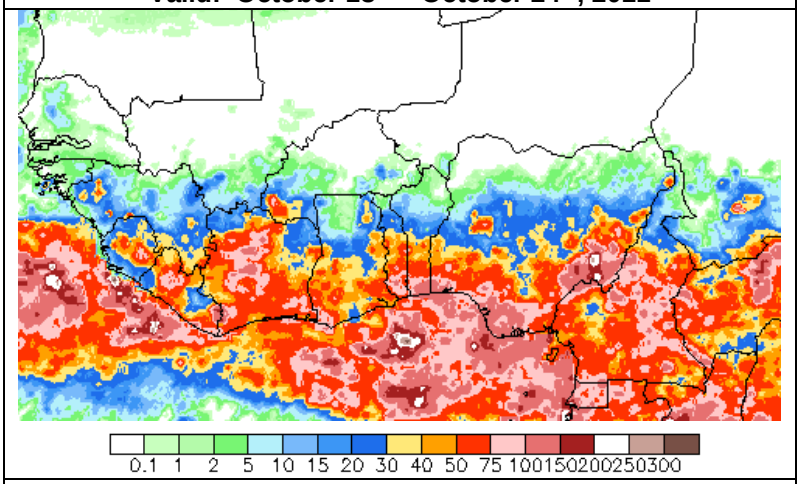


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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