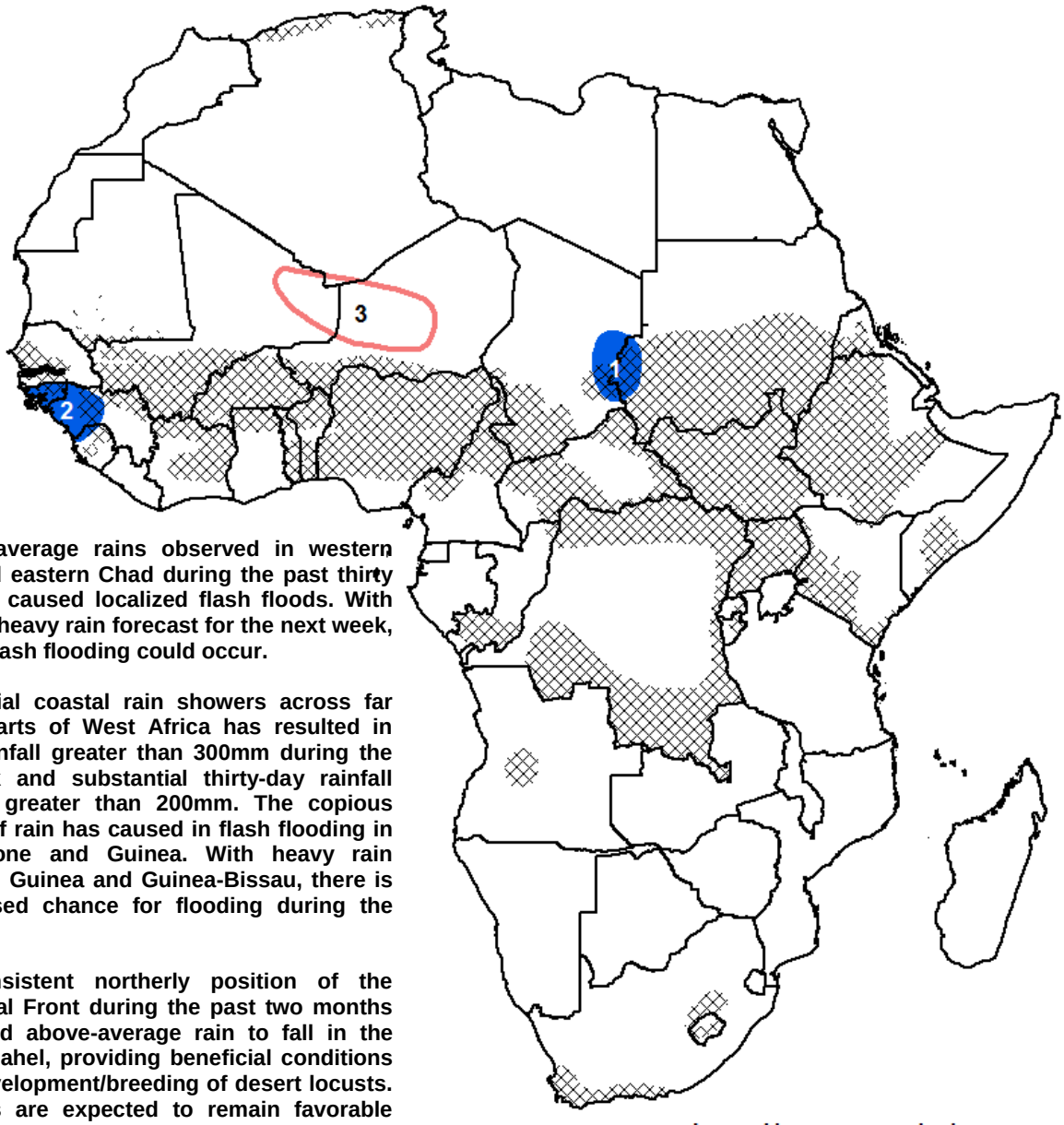
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
August 2 – August 8, 2012

- **Torrential rains impact coastal Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.**
- **Kiremt rains in Ethiopia continue to be above-average throughout the month of July.**
- **Locust threats remain elevated across northern Niger and Mali.**



1) Above-average rains observed in western Sudan and eastern Chad during the past thirty days have caused localized flash floods. With additional heavy rain forecast for the next week, localized flash flooding could occur.

2) Torrential coastal rain showers across far western parts of West Africa has resulted in weekly rainfall greater than 300mm during the past week and substantial thirty-day rainfall surpluses greater than 200mm. The copious amounts of rain has caused in flash flooding in Sierra Leone and Guinea. With heavy rain forecast in Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, there is an increased chance for flooding during the next week.

3) A consistent northerly position of the Intertropical Front during the past two months has caused above-average rain to fall in the northern Sahel, providing beneficial conditions for the development/breeding of desert locusts. Conditions are expected to remain favorable during the next week. Currently, efforts are underway in Niger to mitigate the impact.

Abundant rains continued across far western West Africa.

Over the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) was observed across much of West Africa. Heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded in northern Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, southern Mauritania, southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The highest weekly rainfall totals (>200m) were located along coastal Guinea and Sierra Leone. Four consecutive weeks of torrential rains have resulted in thirty-day rainfall surpluses exceeding 200mm in some locations in coastal Guinea and Sierra Leone. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain (>20mm) fell across western Niger and northwest Nigeria, eroding thirty-day rainfall deficits. Farther west, moderate rains (10-40mm) fell across central and northern Senegal (**Figure 1**). Above-average rains continued across northern Mali and Niger which has continued to create favorable conditions for desert locust breeding and migration.

The evolution of rains in western Niger during the past 90 days has been erratic. Several extended dry spells during the month of June led to the development of moderate rainfall deficits (50-100mm). While the below-average rains have not affected crop development, steady seasonal rains are still needed. In Niamey, rains during the past 20 days have been frequent and moderate (**Figure 2**) leading to decreasing 90-day rainfall deficits. Additional rains are still needed to continue to erode deficits which developed during June.

For the next week, heavy, above-average weekly rains are forecast across central and western Mali stretching into southern Mauritania and much of Senegal. The rains should help reduce early season deficits in central Senegal. Farther east, moderate to heavy rains (>20mm) are expected in Nigeria and southern/western Niger which should help improve ground moisture conditions. In contrast, below-average rains are forecast across southern Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 25th – July 31st, 2012

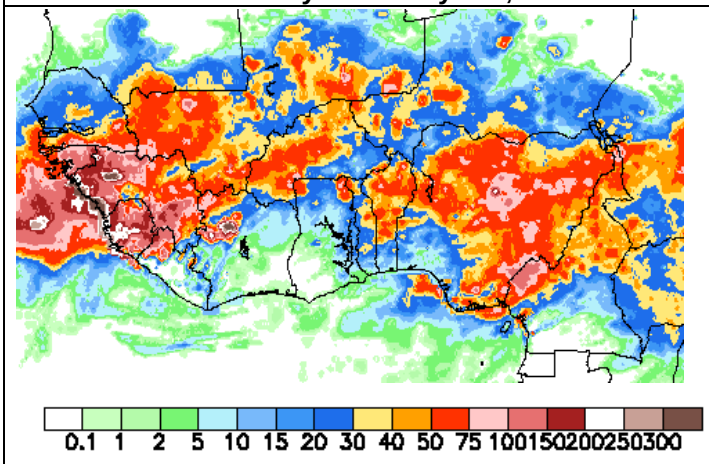


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

GTS Gauge Rainfall (in/mm)
Valid: May 1st – July 29th, 2012

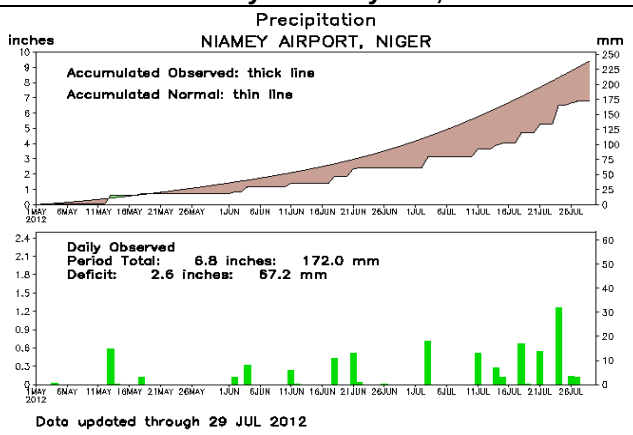


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Weekly rains remain above-average across Ethiopia.

After a slow start to seasonal rains in June, rain in July across Ethiopia has been above-average. During the past week, heavy rain (>50mm) was observed in northern, western and central Ethiopia. Farther west, rains were moderate to locally heavy (>30mm) across Sudan and South Sudan maintaining flooding concerns in the Darfur region of Sudan as well as causing water levels to rise along the Blue and White Nile Rivers. Farther south, an outbreak of the ebola virus has occurred in the Kibaale district of Uganda. The return of consistent Kiremt rains in Ethiopia has resulted in improving NDVI conditions during the month of July. While NDVI anomalies remain below-average in central regions, negative anomalies have lessened during the past thirty-days. In Sudan and South Sudan, rainfall has been satisfactory leading to positive NDVI anomalies (**Figure 3**). For the next week, Kiremt rains are forecast to remain above-average in Ethiopia while moderate to locally heavy rains (>30mm) are expected in Sudan and South Sudan.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: July 16th – July 25th, 2012

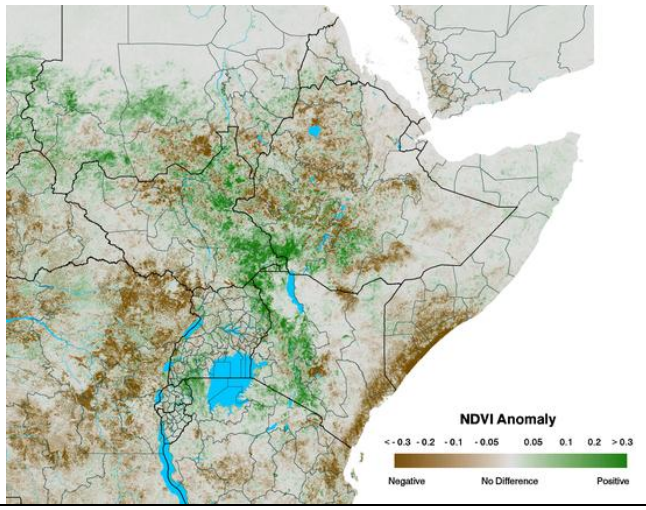


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.