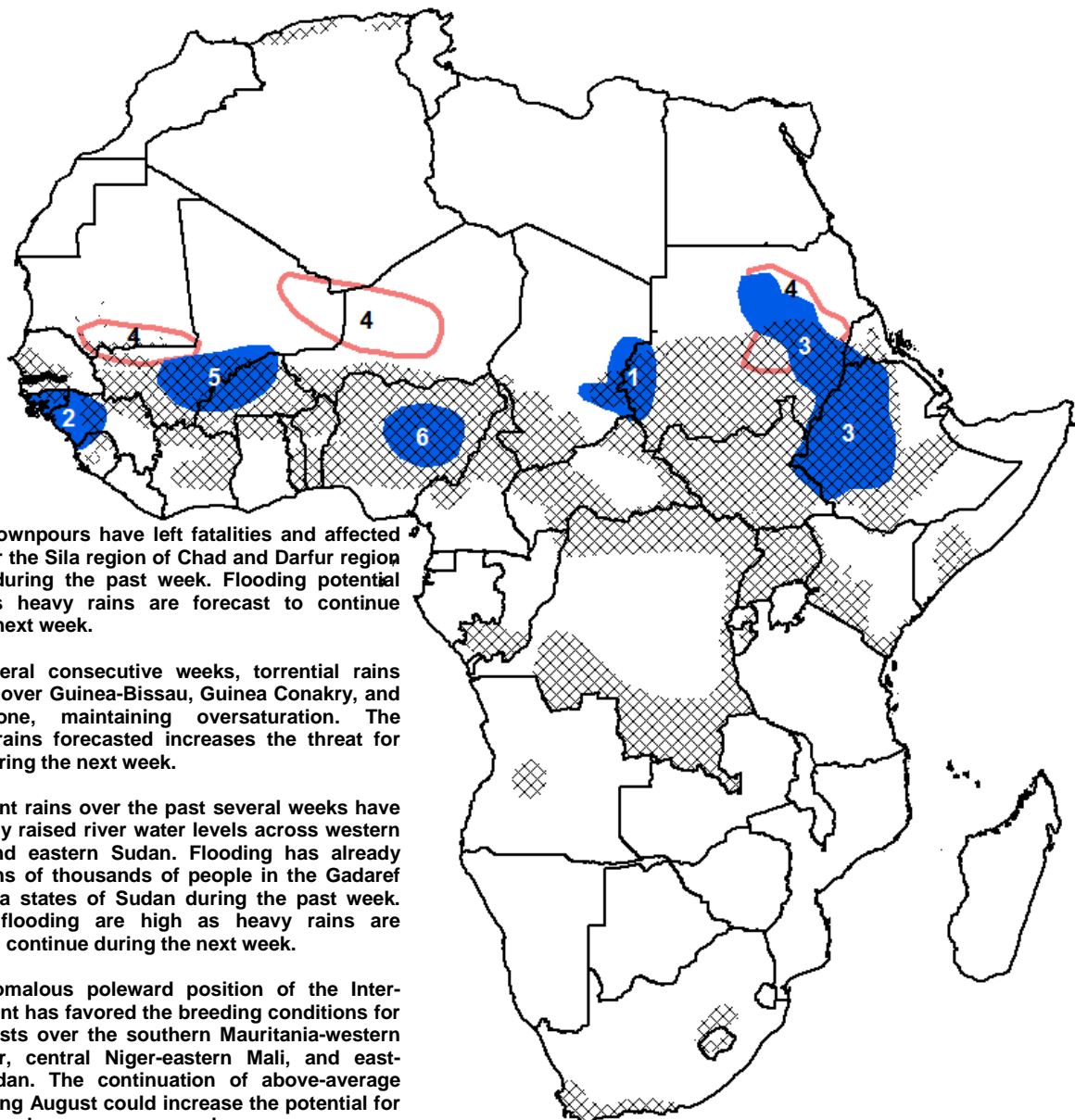


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 16 – August 22, 2012

- Widespread rains persist across the Sahel.
- Seasonal rains trigger flooding in eastern Africa.
- Hatching eggs and low-density locusts increase the potential for locust outbreak over many regions.



1) Heavy downpours have left fatalities and affected people over the Sila region of Chad and Darfur region of Sudan during the past week. Flooding potential remains as heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week.

2) For several consecutive weeks, torrential rains have fallen over Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, and Sierra Leone, maintaining oversaturation. The additional rains forecasted increases the threat for flooding during the next week.









3) Consistent rains over the past several weeks have substantially raised river water levels across western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan. Flooding has already affected tens of thousands of people in the Gadaref and Kassala states of Sudan during the past week. Risks for flooding are high as heavy rains are expected to continue during the next week.

4) The anomalous poleward position of the Inter-Tropical front has favored the breeding conditions for desert locusts over the southern Mauritania-western Mali border, central Niger-eastern Mali, and east-central Sudan. The continuation of above-average rainfall during August could increase the potential for locust outbreaks across many regions.

5) Consistent and above-average rains over the past few weeks have saturated the grounds of southern Mali and north-central Burkina Faso. The forecasted above-average rains increase the chance for flooding during the next week.

6) Torrential rains during the past week have led to flooding, leaving fatalities, destroyed crops, and affected people over the Plateau state of Nigeria. The threat for flooding remains high as heavy rains are forecasted to continue during the next week.

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

	August Cropped Areas
	Favorable
	Somewhat Favorable
	Flooding
	Short-term Dryness
	Drought
	Improving Drought
	Potential Locust Outbreak

Heavy rains persist across West Africa.

Following a widespread distribution of rainfall during the previous week, West Africa, in particular the Sahel region observed another week of abundant (> 50 mm) rains. While Guinea Conakry and Sierra Leone continued to record heavy rains that also exacerbate water-borne disease outbreak, the bulk of the rainfall fell across southern Mali and central Burkina Faso (**Figure 1**). In Mali, rain amounts in excess of 220 mm were reported at San during the past week. Meanwhile, heavy rains were also observed over western Niger and the northern half of Nigeria, maintaining moisture surpluses in the region. Moderate to locally heavy (20 – 50 mm) rains were observed over northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, eastern Mali, and central Niger. While the consistent rainfall helps to increase water availability, it also favors environmental conditions for desert locust breeding, which could potentially lead to locust outbreak. In Nigeria, the heavy rains during the past week have resulted in fatalities and destroyed crops over the Plateau state. The continuation of consistent, heavy rains is feared to potentially cause flooding and severe damages over the flood-prone areas of the country.

Despite a poor start of the rainy season, rainfall distribution and rainfall intensity have improved in Niamey, Niger over the past few weeks. This has helped to turn the ninety-day rainfall deficits into surpluses during the past week (**Figure 2**). The continued favorable rains are expected to aid crops throughout the remainders of the season.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of heavy rains across West Africa, with the heaviest (> 150 mm) rains over southern Mauritania and southern Mali. This increases the risks for flooding across the already-saturated portions of southern Mali and Burkina Faso. Localized heavy rains are also possible over coastal Guinea, increasing the potential for water-borne disease outbreak.

Flooding concern grows in eastern Africa.

River water levels have risen substantially over western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan due to above-average rain frequency over the past thirty days (**Figure 3**). During the past week, flooding associated with the overflowing of the Atbra and Gash Rivers was reported to affect tens of thousands people in the Gadaref and Kassala states of Sudan. Farther west, continued heavy rains have caused flooding, leaving fatalities, destroyed houses, and affected internally-displaced and refugee populations over the West and Central Darfur, Sudan and Sila region of eastern Chad. While the consistent, heavy rainfall could further exacerbate flooding conditions over Darfur and bordering Chad, it also increases the potential for inundation over western Ethiopia and overflowing of the River Nile along downstream locations in eastern Sudan. Next week, heavy rains are forecasted over western Ethiopia, while light to moderate (10 – 40 mm) rains are expected over eastern Sudan. Downpours (> 50 mm) are also expected across Darfur and neighboring Chad.

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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