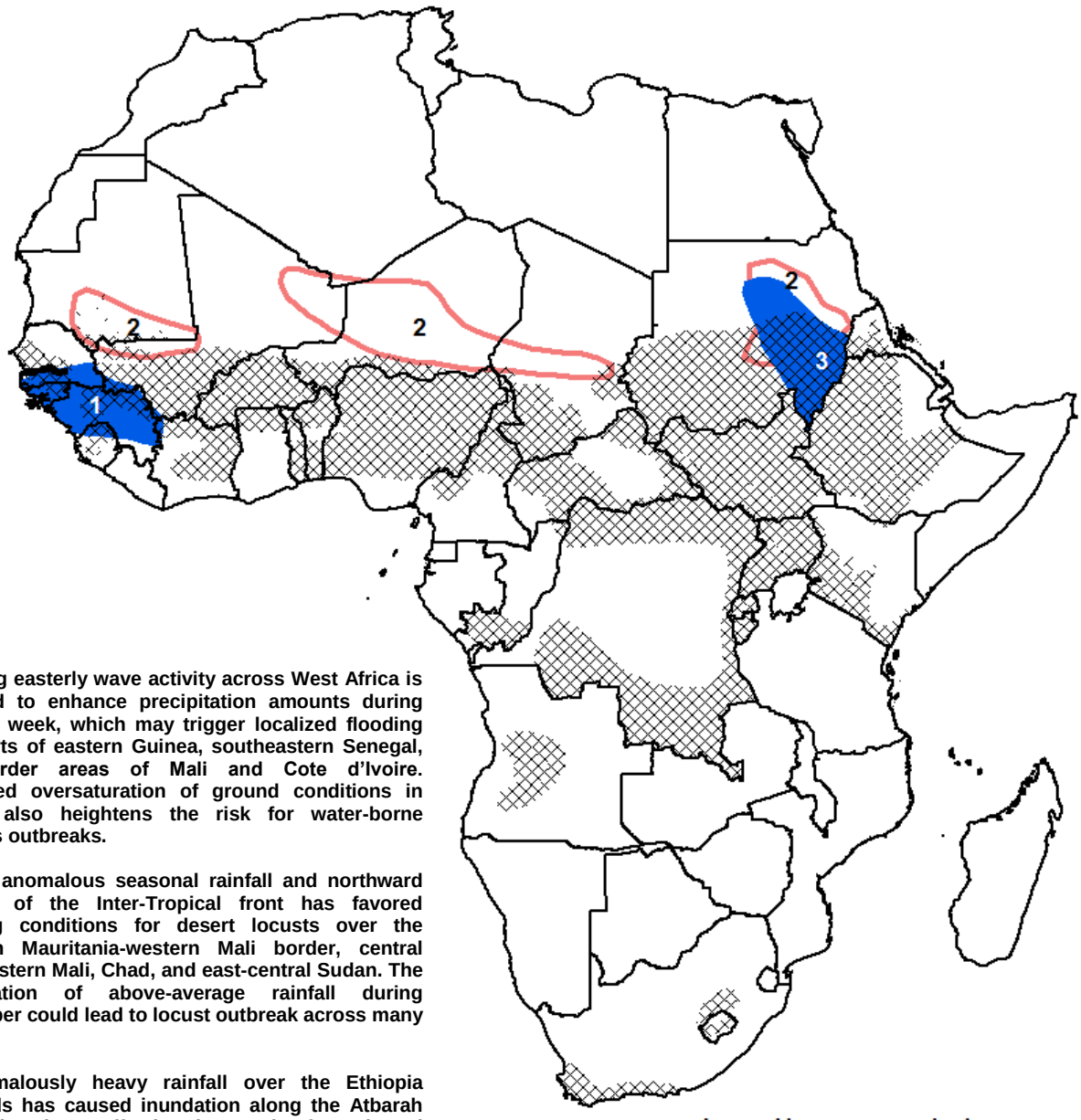
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
September 20 – September 26, 2012

- **Enhanced precipitation is expected over the western Gulf of Guinea region during the next week**
- **A continued decrease of rainfall is expected to help provide relief over many anomalously wet areas in the Sahel.**



1) Strong easterly wave activity across West Africa is expected to enhance precipitation amounts during the next week, which may trigger localized flooding over parts of eastern Guinea, southeastern Senegal, and border areas of Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. Continued oversaturation of ground conditions in Guinea also heightens the risk for water-borne diseases outbreaks.

2) Both anomalous seasonal rainfall and northward position of the Inter-Tropical front has favored breeding conditions for desert locusts over the southern Mauritania-western Mali border, central Niger-eastern Mali, Chad, and east-central Sudan. The continuation of above-average rainfall during September could lead to locust outbreak across many regions.

3) Anomalously heavy rainfall over the Ethiopia highlands has caused inundation along the Atbarah and Dinder Rivers, affecting thousands of people and households in southeastern Sudan. Ground conditions may worsen with additional rainfall throughout September, as there is also a continued risk of crop damage for many local areas in Sudan.

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

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

A gradual reduction of rains observed in the Sahel.

During the last observation period, seasonably moderate to locally heavy rainfall was received throughout Sahel and the Gulf of Guniea region of West Africa. The highest weekly precipitation accumulations (>75mm) were observed throughout many local areas in western and southern Guinea, and in northeastern Nigeria. Well-distributed, but lesser amounts were received further north, as weekly precipitation amounts generally ranged between 10-40mm across the Sahel regions of Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger (**Figure 1**). Decreased rainfall in these regions has been consistent with the equatorward retreat of the ITCZ/ITF which is normal during mid-September.

Throughout the summer, much of the African Sahel has been characterized as being anomalously wet. Since the beginning of August, positive 30-day rainfall anomalies greater than 100mm and flooding events were recorded throughout many local areas in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. However, in the last two weeks, both the spatial distribution and magnitude of 30-day rainfall surpluses have considerably weakened, suggesting that rainfall is returning to more seasonable conditions. Currently, many areas are in the Sahel were experiencing over twice their normal rainfall accumulation and now ranging between 110 to 200 percent of normal since mid-August (**Figure 2**). Decreased rainfall in September is expected to help bring relief for many areas negatively impacted by consistently heavy rainfall since July; however an abrupt cessation of rains could impede the development of crops that were planted later during the season.

Despite the recent decrease in precipitation, forecasts indicate the potential for heavy rainfall accumulations over many portions of the western Gulf of Guinea region. Rainfall amounts in excess of 125mm are expected for eastern Guinea, and many neighboring areas of Senegal, Mali and northern Cote d'Ivoire. Elsewhere, more seasonable rainfall is expected.

Frequent rainfall continues in East Africa.

Well-distributed and anomalously high precipitation amounts have continued across much of East Africa since mid-August. In addition to the magnitude of rainfall, the frequency of precipitation in these areas has also remained anomalous, as a higher than average number of rain days (>10 days) is observed throughout the higher elevations of Ethiopia, and areas near the Lake Victoria region of Uganda (**Figure 3**). Abundantly frequent rainfall is expected to be favorable for many pastoral and agropastoral areas, however, a continued excess of moisture may destroy crops and reduced yields by the end of the Meher season.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 9th – September 15th, 2012

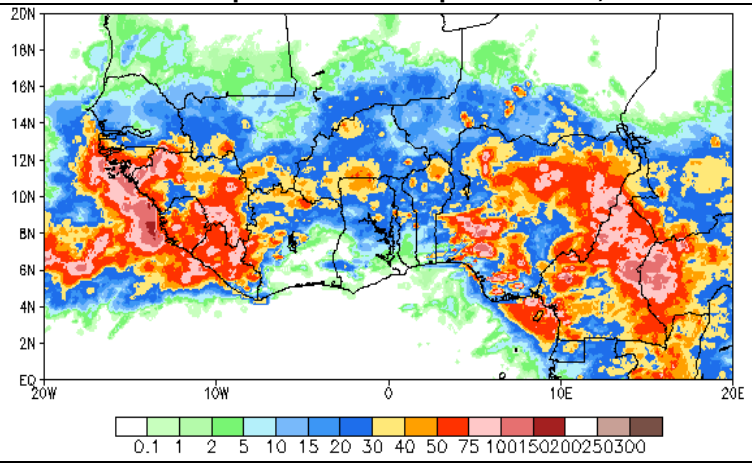


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percent of Normal (%)
Valid: August 17th – September 15th, 2012

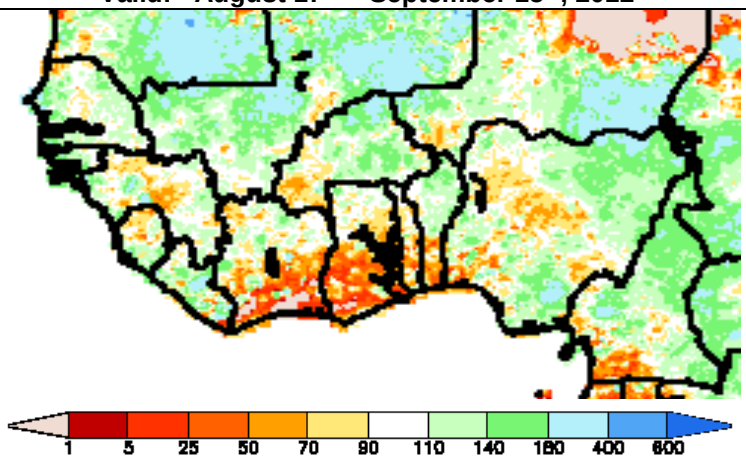


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Number of Rain Days Anomaly (over the last 30 days)
Valid: As of September 15th, 2012

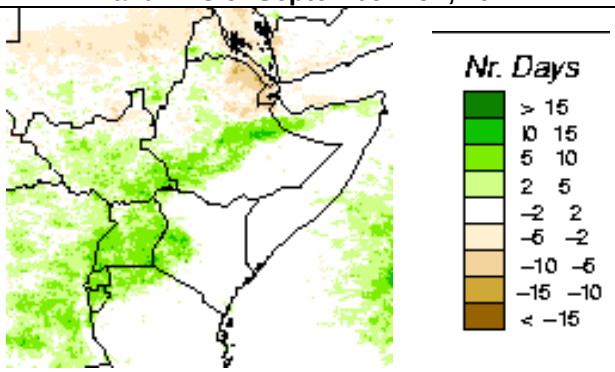


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

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.