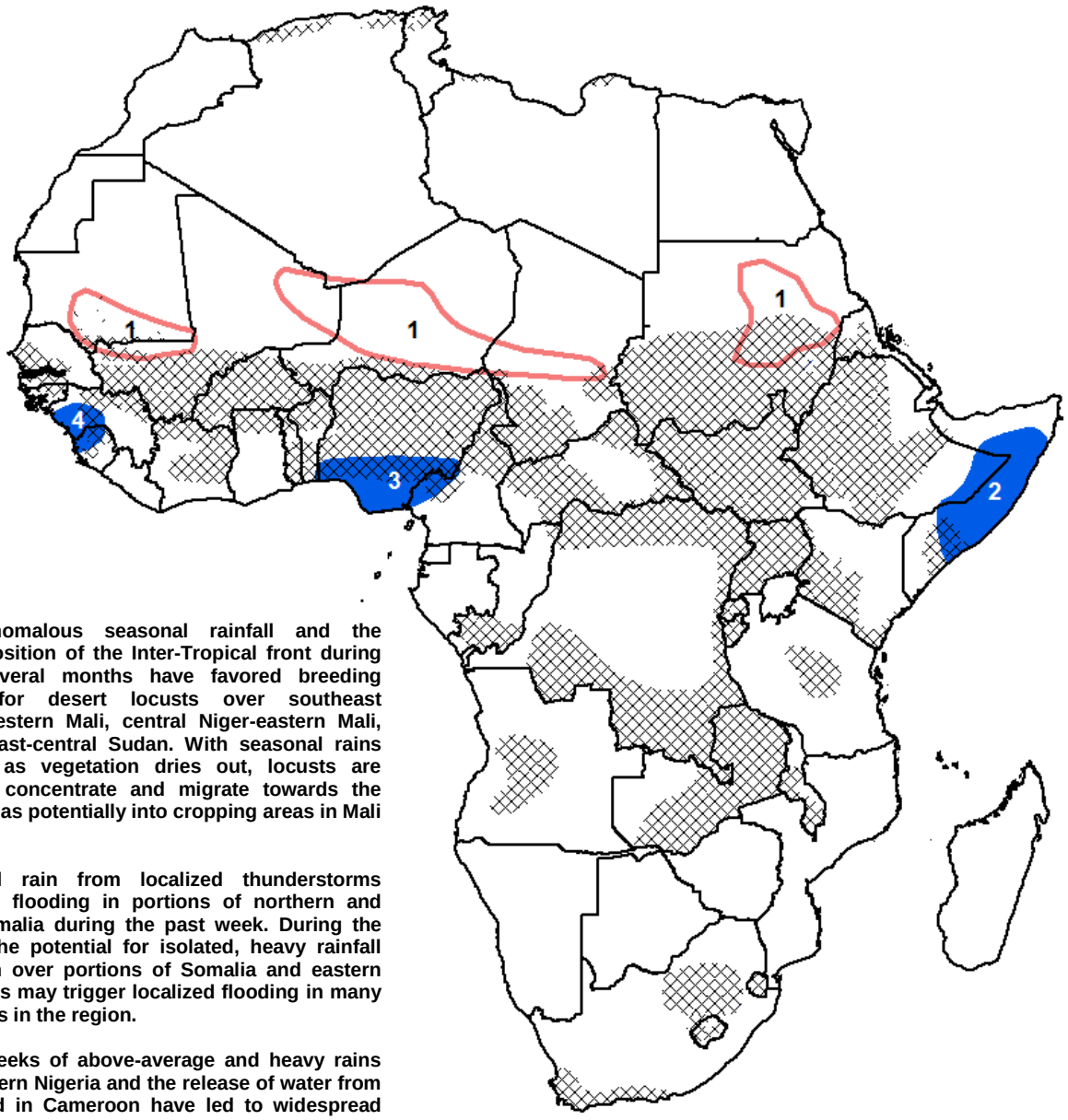
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
# For USAID / FEWS-NET
# October 4 – October 10, 2012

- **Anomalously heavy rains were recorded across far western West Africa and southern Nigeria.**
- **Localized heavy thunderstorms caused flooding along the Shabelle River in the Hiran region of Somalia.**




**1) Both anomalous seasonal rainfall and the northward position of the Inter-Tropical front during the past several months have favored breeding conditions for desert locusts over southeast Mauritania-western Mali, central Niger-eastern Mali, Chad, and east-central Sudan. With seasonal rains ending and as vegetation dries out, locusts are expected to concentrate and migrate towards the north as well as potentially into cropping areas in Mali and Niger.**

**2) Torrential rain from localized thunderstorms caused flash flooding in portions of northern and southern Somalia during the past week. During the next week, the potential for isolated, heavy rainfall remains high over portions of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. This may trigger localized flooding in many pastoral areas in the region.**

**3) Several weeks of above-average and heavy rains across southern Nigeria and the release of water from dams located in Cameroon have led to widespread flooding across the region resulting in the closures of highways, displacement of local populations and damages to infrastructure. With heavy rain forecasted, the risk for additional flooding is elevated.**

**4) Anomalous moisture has resulted in another week of heavy rain across western portions of West Africa. With a numerous reports of flooding in the previous months, thirty-day rainfall surpluses greater than 50 mm and forecasted localized heavy rain, the potential for flooding exists.**

**Heavy rains impact western West Africa and southern Nigeria.**

Climatologically during October, rainfall is expected to decrease across northern portions of West Africa and the Sahel as the Intertropical Front progresses equator-ward. However, anomalously moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) extended as far north as southern Mauritania in western West Africa during the past week. Torrential rains (>50mm) were recorded in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone with the highest rainfall amounts (>75mm) located across Guinea. Farther east, abundant rains (>50mm) were observed across already saturated areas in central/southern Nigeria. Above-average rains over the past several months have led to multiple flooding events, river basin inundation, disease outbreaks and displaced populations throughout far western Africa and Nigeria. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain (20-50mm) fell in Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin while light rains (<15mm) fell in Burkina Faso and Niger (**Figure 1**).

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: September 26th – October 2nd, 2012**

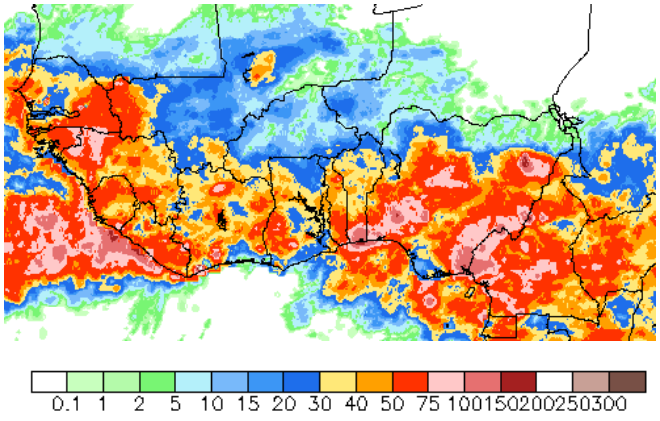



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

During the previous thirty-days, rainfall has been above-average across much of the Sahel and West Africa due to a consistent anomalously pole-ward position of the Intertropical Front (ITF). This is evident in an analysis of rain day anomalies across West Africa. Many areas across the northern Sahel including Senegal, Mauritania, Central/northern Mali, and Niger have seen 5-15 more rain days than normal. The above-average seasonal rains have led to a continued Locust threat across the Sahel. Farther south, an anomalously positive number of rain days across Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone (**Figure 2**) have resulted in above-average rains. In contrast, locations along the Gulf of Guinea have observed less rain days than average and below-average thirty-day rainfall.

**Number of Rain Days in the Past Thirty Days Anomaly**
**Valid: September 2nd – October 1st, 2012**

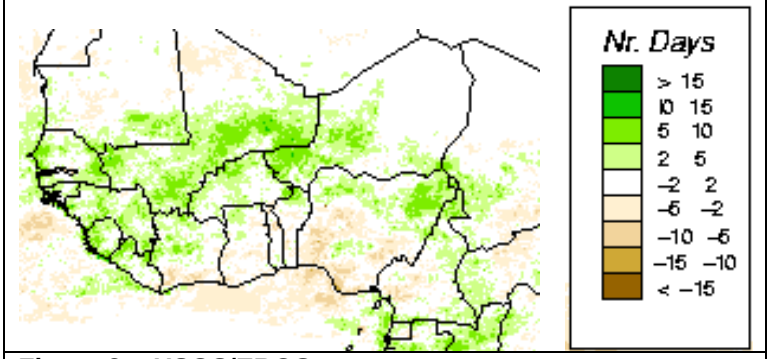



**Figure 2: USGS/EROS**

For the upcoming week, models forecast the equator-ward propagation of the ITF resulting in light to moderate rains (5-30mm) across the Sahel. The heaviest rains (>40mm) are expected along the Gulf of Guinea, including saturated areas in southern Nigeria, and in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

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**Torrential rains cause flooding in Somalia.**

Rains during the past week were above-average across western Ethiopia and northern/southern Somalia. The heaviest rains (>50mm) were observed across western Ethiopia, and localized areas in eastern Ethiopia, northern Somalia and the Hiran region of southern Somalia. The heavy rains in the Hiran region of Somalia led to flash flooding along the Shabelle River resulting in the inundation of two-thirds of the town of Beletwein; displacing local populations and damaging infrastructure. Above-average rains also fell across northern Sudan which was a relief from dry past weeks that caused thirty-day rainfall deficits. In addition, the lack of rains (<15mm) in the Afar region of Ethiopia (**Figure 3**) increased thirty-day deficits. For the next week, above-average rains are expected across Somalia increasing flooding risks while light rains (<25mm) are expected elsewhere in east Africa.

**Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: September 26th – October 2nd, 2012**

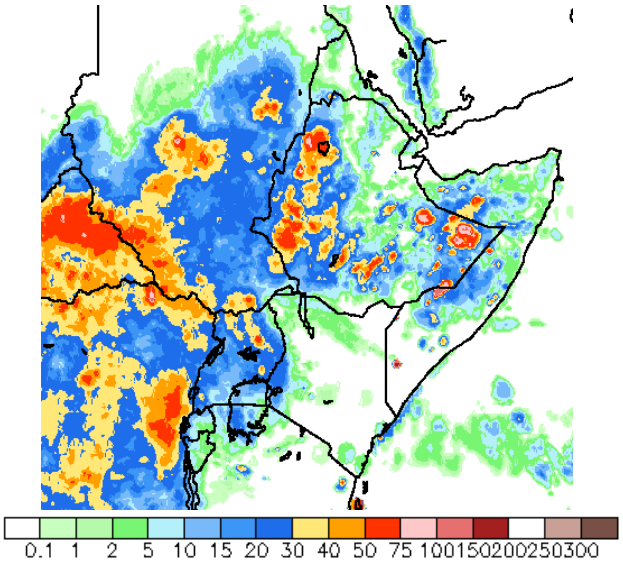


**Figure 3: NOAA/CPC**

**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.**