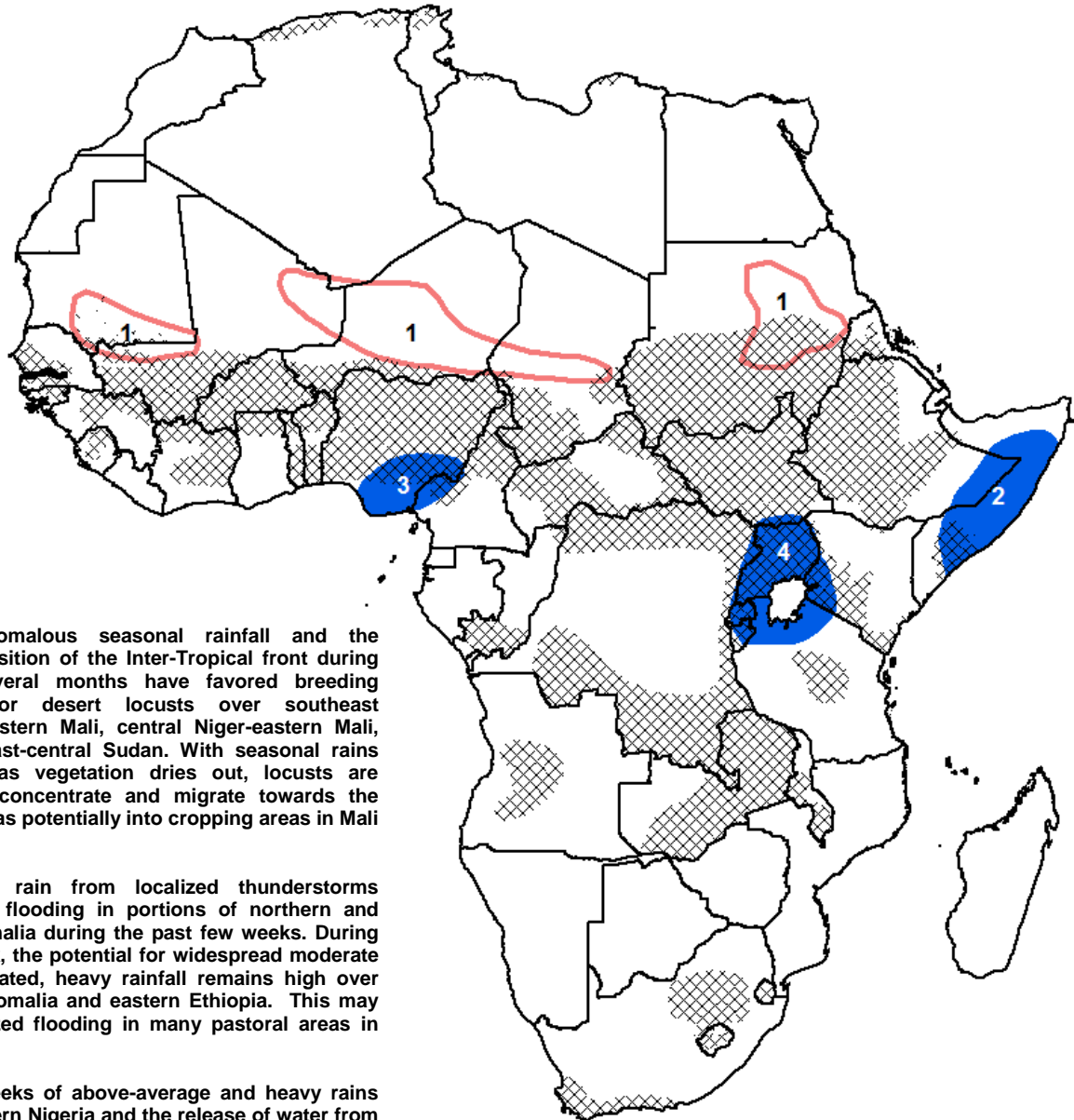


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 11 – October 17, 2012

- Widespread above-average rain was recorded along the Gulf of Guinea.
- Isolated thunderstorms were observed in eastern Ethiopia and southern 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 few weeks. During the next week, the potential for widespread moderate rain with 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) Widespread heavy rain is forecast for the Lake Victoria region during the upcoming seven days. The above-average rains will likely elevate the risks for flash flooding throughout the region.

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

XXXXXXX	October Cropped Areas
Green	Favorable
Green with diagonal lines	Somewhat Favorable
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Short-term Dryness
Brown	Drought
Green with diagonal lines	Improving Drought
Red outline	Potential Locust Outbreak

Above-average rains continued across West Africa.

During the past week, widespread above-average rain was recorded across West Africa including already saturated areas in Guinea and Sierra Leone and in flood affected portions of southern Nigeria. The heaviest rains (>50mm) fell in southern Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The torrential rains (>75mm) in southeastern Nigeria were 25-100mm above-average and located in areas previously affected by river and flash flooding. Elsewhere, widespread seven day rainfall surpluses between 10-50mm were recorded (**Figure 1**). Above-average rains extended as far north as western Niger and central/northern Mali which is anomalous for the beginning of October. Saturated conditions extend back to September as thirty-day rainfall surpluses exceed 100mm across southern Nigeria, Guinea, western Mali and northern Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana.

Anomalous rains across the northern Sahel in West Africa have resulted in above-average vegetative conditions during the beginning of October. The abundant rains have provided beneficial conditions for locust breeding in Mauritania, Mali and Niger. As rains seasonally end and vegetation dries, locusts are expected to migrate to the north and potentially into cropping areas in Mali and Niger. Elsewhere, conditions are neutral across central West Africa even as rainfall has been spatially and temporally well distributed. Farther south across Benin and Nigeria, below-average vegetative conditions (**Figure 2**) are reflective of the abnormally wet conditions present across the Gulf of Guinea during the last several weeks.

For the next week, rains are forecast to be below-average across southern Nigeria providing relief. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are expected west along the Gulf of Guinea in Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Localized moderate to heavy rain falls in Somalia.

During the past seven days, moderate rain (10-50mm) was observed across Sudan, Republic of South Sudan and localized areas in Somalia, and western/eastern Ethiopia. Rains during the last seven days were generally below-average in east Africa. However, isolated areas in southern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia recorded heavy rains. Torrential localized rain showers have caused flooding in the Hiran region of Somalia in past weeks. Over the past thirty-days, rains have been moderately above-average (10-50mm) in central and southern Ethiopia and Somalia. In contrast, below-average rains (10-50mm) have been observed in the Afar region of Ethiopia, Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan (**Figure 3**). For the next week, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are forecast across much of Somalia and southern Ethiopia increasing the risk for localized river and flash flooding. Above-average, heavy rains (>50mm) also are expected in the Lake Victoria region elevating flooding risks. Elsewhere, little to no rain is expected in central and northern Ethiopia and Sudan. Moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) is forecast across the Republic of South Sudan.

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.

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 2nd – October 8th, 2012

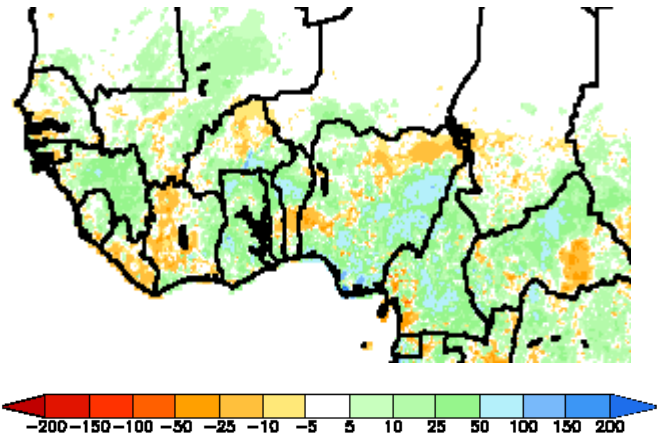


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
Valid: September 26th – October 5th, 2012

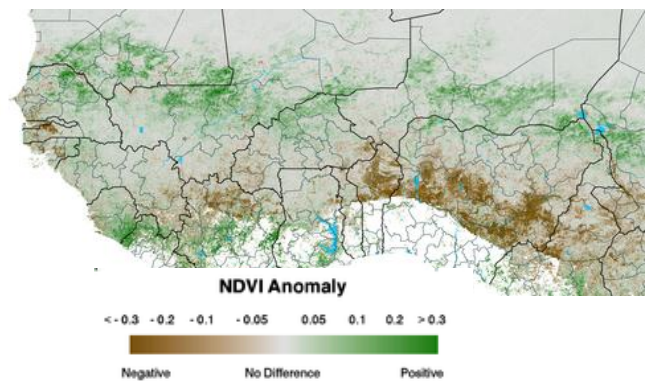


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: September 9th – October 8th, 2012

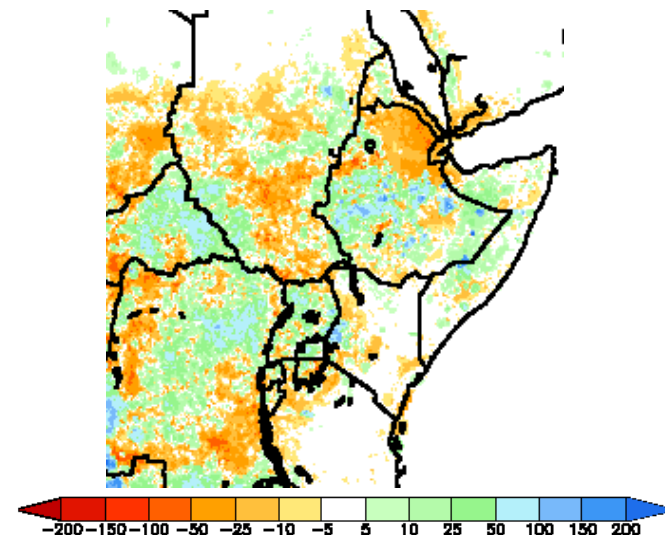


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC