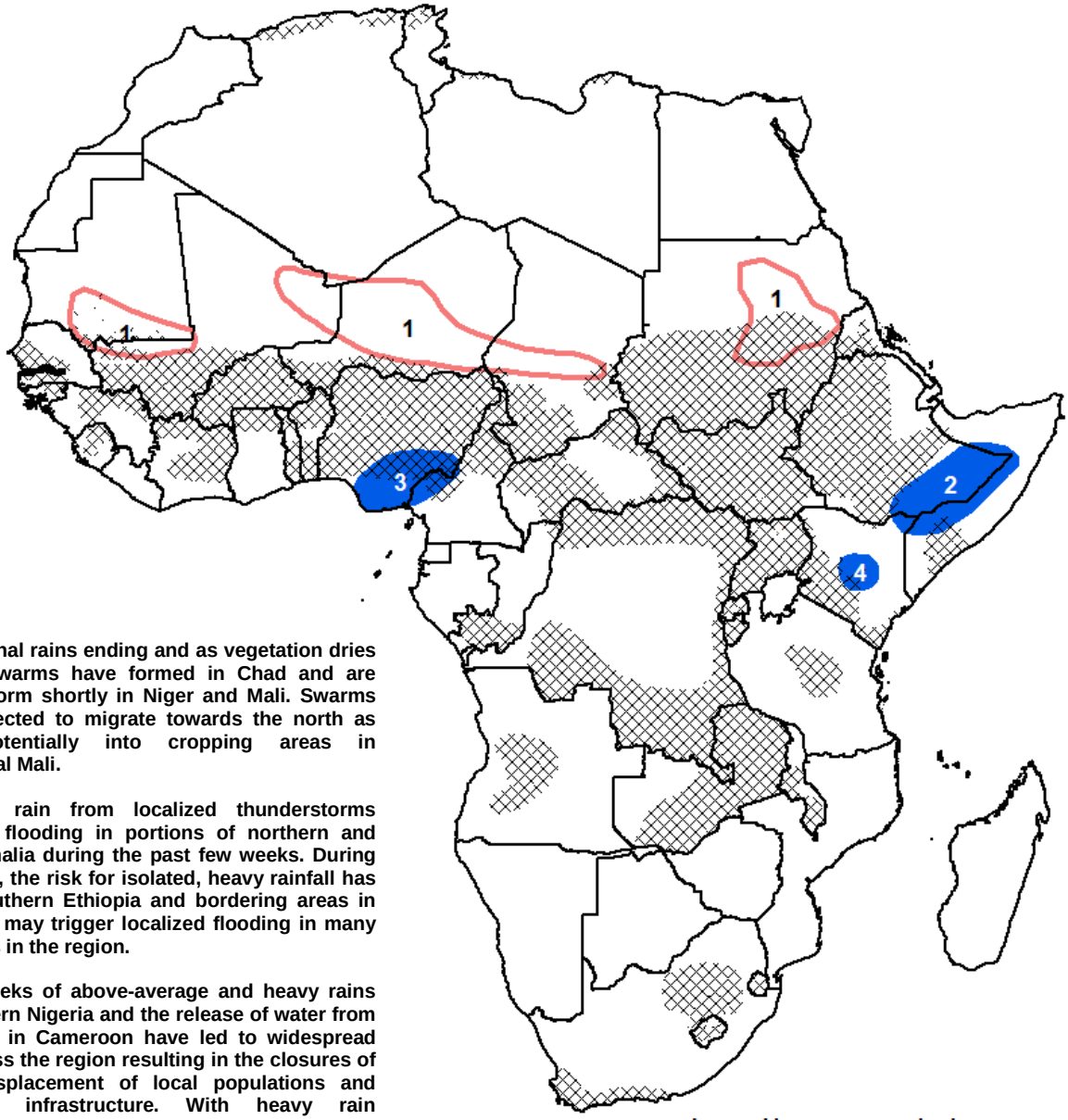
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
October 18 – October 24, 2012

- **Above-average rains continued to be observed across the Gulf of Guinea.**
- **Torrential coastal showers impacted Kenya and southern Somalia.**
- **Widespread moderate to heavy rain was recorded across South Africa and southern Mozambique.**



1) With seasonal rains ending and as vegetation dries out, locust swarms have formed in Chad and are expected to form shortly in Niger and Mali. Swarms are then expected to migrate towards the north as well as potentially into cropping areas in western/central Mali.

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 risk for isolated, heavy rainfall has shifted to southern Ethiopia and bordering areas in Somalia. 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) Heavy downpours which occurred across Central Kenya during the past week have resulted in flooding in the Meru district which caused at least six fatalities. With a risk for localized thunderstorms and heavy downpours during the next week, additional flash flooding is possible.

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

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

Increase in coastal rain showers observed during the past week.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rain (>25mm) was observed across eastern Africa. The heaviest rains (>50mm) were recorded in southern Somalia, coastal Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, southern portions of Sudan and western Ethiopia. The torrential coastal showers caused isolated flooding in eastern Kenya. 89 mm of rain was observed over a three day period in Mombasa and flooding was reported in the Meru district and at the Dabaab refugee camp in Kenya. The above-average weekly rains extended to the Lake Victoria region. The above-average weekly rains helped to reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits across South Sudan and Uganda. Overall, thirty-day rainfall anomalies are positive across much of eastern Africa with the highest surpluses (>50mm) located across central and western Ethiopia. Deyr rains across Somalia also have been moderate with the moderate rains extending farther south and west into Kenya (**Figure 1**).

Vegetative conditions across eastern Africa during the first dekad of October were influenced by rainfall during the past thirty-days. The largest positive anomalies are located across the Lake Turkana region and eastern Ethiopia where rains have been above-average. Good vegetative conditions also are present in Sudan and portions of southern Somalia where beneficial rains fell during the past few weeks. Below-average conditions remain across South Sudan, coastal Somalia and Kenya. While recent rains in Somalia and Kenya should improve ground conditions, thirty-day rainfall deficits in South Sudan should maintain below-average vegetative conditions (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, rains are forecast to be light (<10mm) across Sudan, South Sudan and western/central Ethiopia. The heaviest rains (>40mm) are expected across southern Ethiopia, Somalia, and around the Lake Victoria region. Localized torrential rains could cause flash flooding in portions of southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia and Kenya.

Torrential rains continued along the Gulf of Guinea.

Heavy (>50mm) and above-average rains were recorded along the Gulf of Guinea during the past seven days increasing seasonal rainfall surpluses and further saturating ground conditions in flood prone areas. The heaviest rains (>75mm) fell in coastal Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia and southern Nigeria. Abundant rains in Nigeria caused flooding in the south where the River Niger has overflowed its banks; displacing local populations, damaging infrastructure and isolating communities. Farther north, moderate rains (10-40mm) continued across the Sahel even as rains, climatologically, should be ending. Moderate rains extended as far north as southern Mauritania. In contrast, light rains (<15mm) were observed across much of Niger and northeastern Nigeria (**Figure 3**). For the next week, models forecast heavy rains (>50mm) in coastal areas along the Gulf of Guinea including saturated areas in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire and southeastern Nigeria.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: September 16th – October 15th, 2012

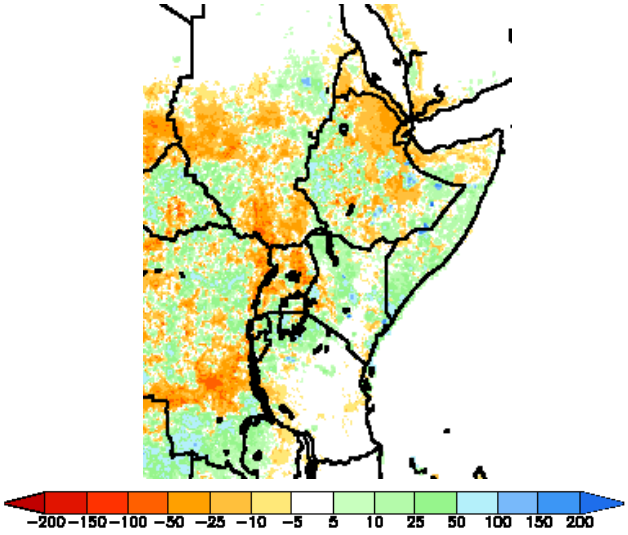


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: October 1st – October 10th, 2012

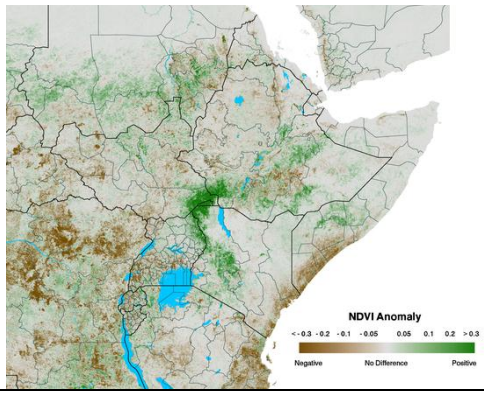


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

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

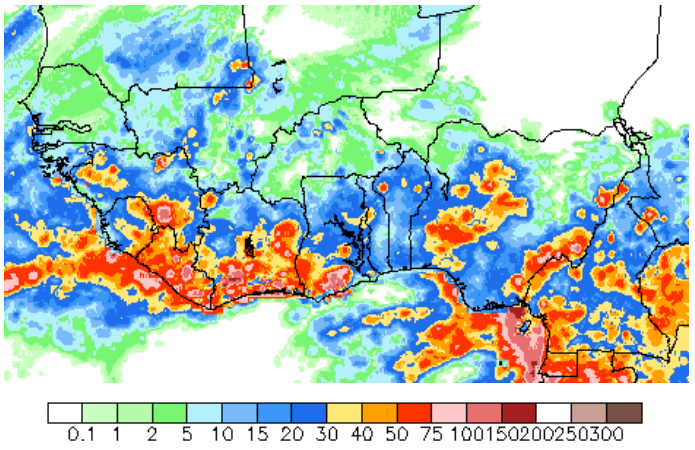


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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