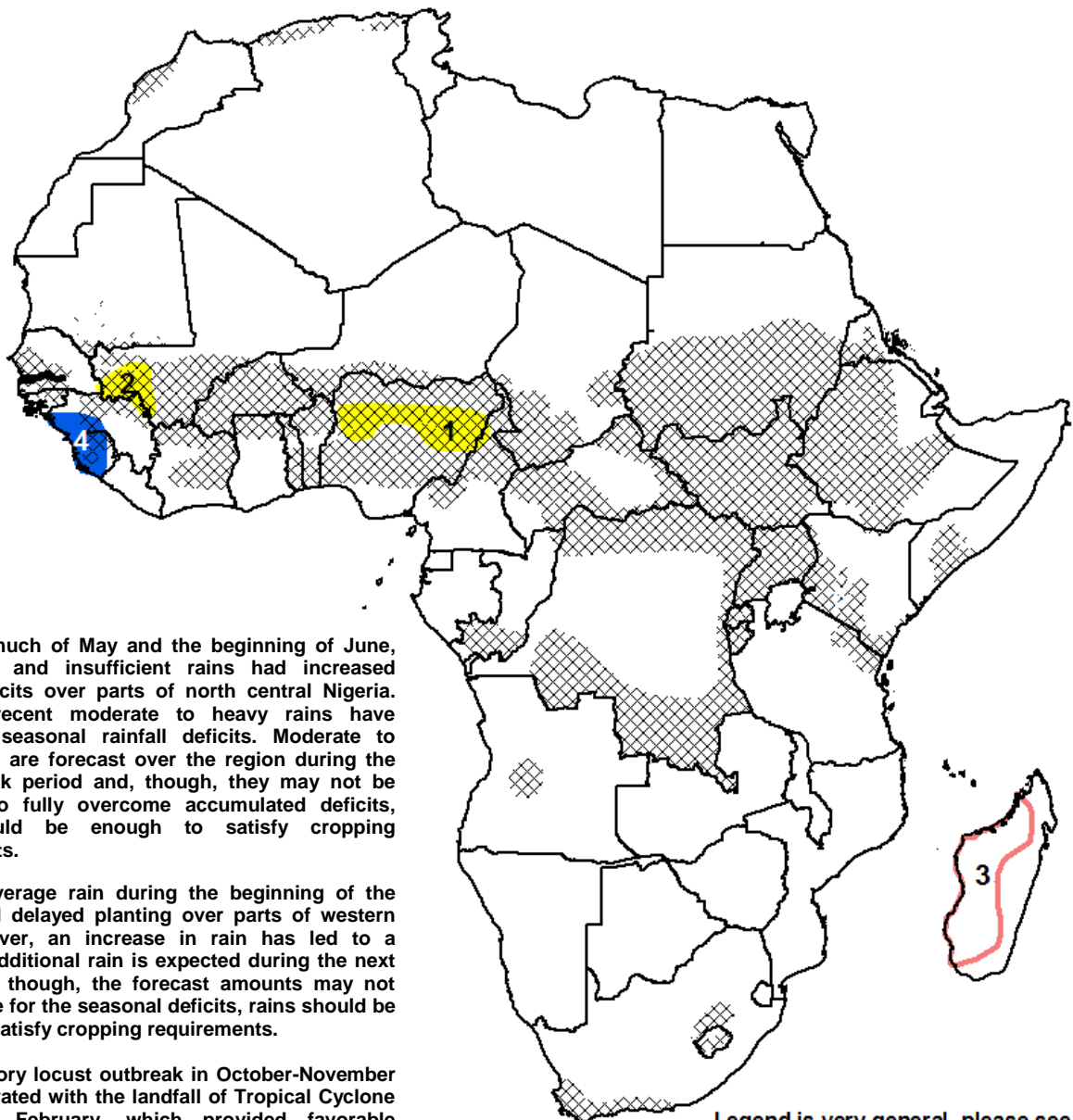


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 4 – July 10, 2013

- Moderate to heavy rains began to push north into the Sahel in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali
- Seasonal rainfall deficits continue across northwestern Ethiopia and bordering regions in Sudan.












1) During much of May and the beginning of June, intermittent and insufficient rains had increased rainfall deficits over parts of north central Nigeria. However, recent moderate to heavy rains have decreased seasonal rainfall deficits. Moderate to heavy rains are forecast over the region during the next outlook period and, though, they may not be sufficient to fully overcome accumulated deficits, rains should be enough to satisfy cropping requirements.

2) Below-average rain during the beginning of the season had delayed planting over parts of western Mali. However, an increase in rain has led to a recovery. Additional rain is expected during the next week. And, though, the forecast amounts may not compensate for the seasonal deficits, rains should be enough to satisfy cropping requirements.

3) A migratory locust outbreak in October-November was accelerated with the landfall of Tropical Cyclone Haruna in February, which provided favorable conditions for locust breeding throughout western Madagascar. This large-scale outbreak should subside with cooler weather in June-August.

4) Heavy rains during the past month have led to rainfall surpluses greater than 150mm. With torrential rains forecast for the next week, there is an increased chance for localized flooding across parts of Guinea and Sierra Leone.

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

| July Cropped Areas | |
|--|---------------------------|
|  | Flooding |
|  | Abnormal Dryness |
|  | Drought |
|  | Severe Drought |
|  | Tropical Cyclone |
|  | Potential Locust Outbreak |
|  | Heavy Snow |
|  | Abnormal Cold |
|  | Abnormal Heat |

Seasonal rains push north into Niger and central Mali.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) progressed farther north across the Sahel as compared to previous weeks. This northward extension of the rains coincided with a poleward movement of the Intertropical Front (ITF), bringing moisture to Niger, Burkina Faso and central/northern Mali. Elsewhere, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed across Nigeria, northern Benin, Guinea, Sierra Leone and western Mali. The abundant rains in northern Nigeria and western Mali have helped reduce seasonal rainfall deficits and improve cropping activities after drier-than-average conditions persisted during the previous 30-60 days. Meanwhile, torrential rains in Guinea and Sierra Leone have increased thirty-day surpluses (>150mm). In contrast, light rains (<10mm) were recorded in bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea (**Figure 1**).

The poor seasonal progression of rains across the Sahel during the past month has resulted in below-average vegetation conditions in northern Nigeria, Burkina Faso, western Mali and parts of eastern Senegal. Several additional weeks of above-average rains are needed to eliminate seasonal deficits. However, recent heavy rains have helped crops recover, and current rainfall amounts are enough to meet crop requirements. In contrast, heavy rains that fell during May have resulted in above-average vegetation conditions along the Gulf of Guinea (**Figure 2**), even though recent rains have been below-average.

For the next week, enhanced rainfall is expected across Guinea, western Mali, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, which will increase flooding risks. Heavy rains (>50mm) are also forecast for much of Nigeria and localized areas in Burkina Faso and southern Niger. Moderate to heavy rains across the Sahel should further reduce seasonal rainfall deficits.

Rainfall deficits continue along Ethiopia/Sudan border.

Nearly average rainfall was observed during the past week across East Africa, with the heaviest rains (>50mm) located over western Ethiopia and western South Sudan. While rains were near-average over the past seven days, thirty-day rainfall anomalies indicate a poor and temporally inconsistent start to Kiremt rains across northwest Ethiopia and bordering regions in Sudan, which could begin to negatively impact cropping activities. Thirty-day rainfall deficits exceed 100 mm in some locations, with a broad area in northwest Ethiopia observing deficits ranging from 50-100mm. Farther south, erratic seasonal rain, including extended dry spells, in Uganda has led to growing thirty-day rainfall deficits (25-100mm) and localized negative impacts on crops. In contrast, moderate, thirty-day rainfall surpluses are present in South Sudan and central/western Sudan (**Figure 3**). For the next week, seasonally heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for western Ethiopia, while moderate rains (10-40mm) are expected across western Sudan and western South Sudan. Lighter amounts of rain (<15mm) are likely in eastern Sudan, eastern South Sudan and Uganda.

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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