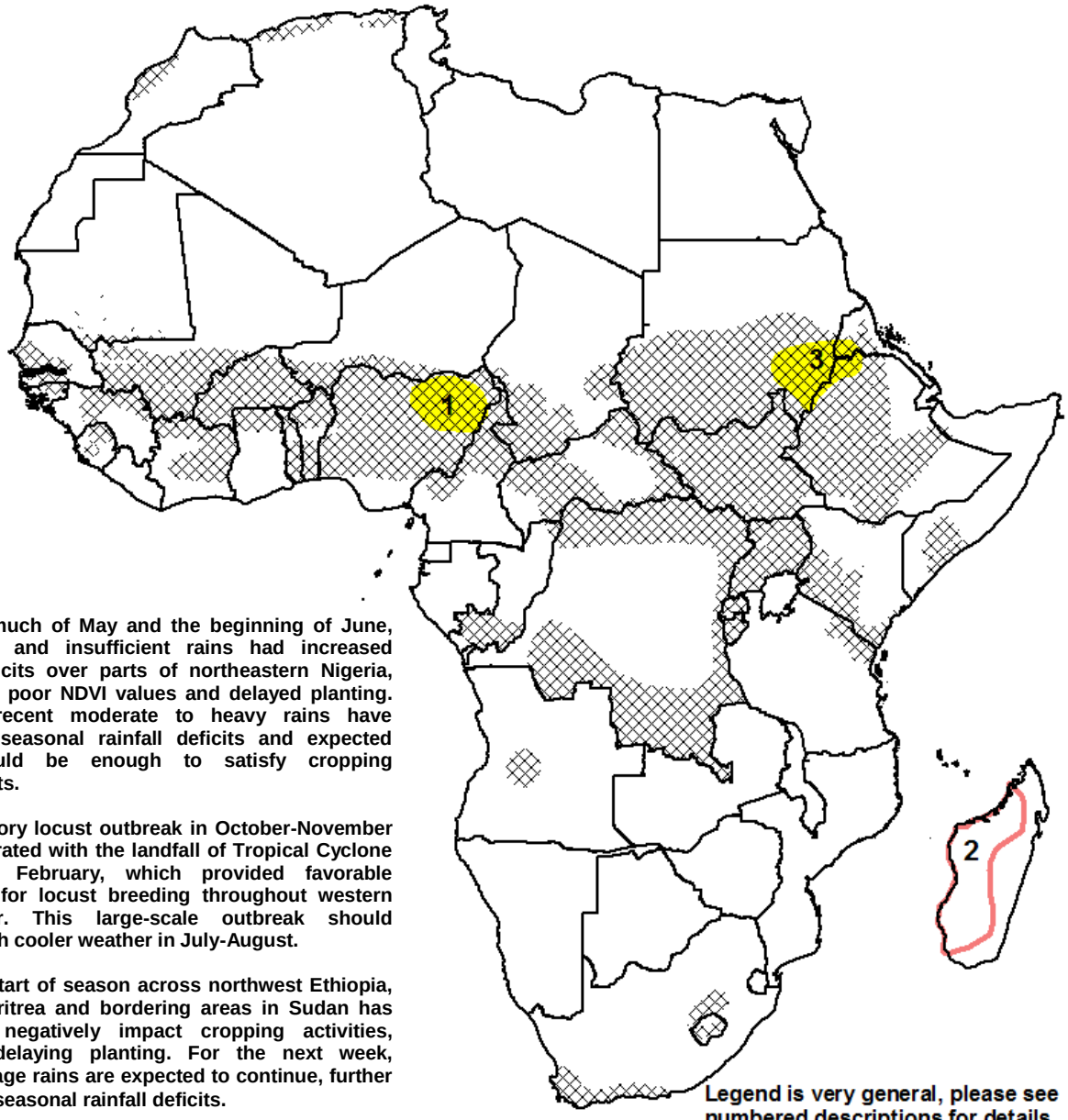
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
July 18 – July 24, 2013

- **Rains continue to recover across the Sahel of West Africa, while rainfall deficits develop along the Gulf of Guinea.**
- **Seasonal rainfall deficits grow and expand into eastern/central Sudan.**



1) During much of May and the beginning of June, intermittent and insufficient rains had increased rainfall deficits over parts of northeastern Nigeria, resulting in poor NDVI values and delayed planting. However, recent moderate to heavy rains have decreased seasonal rainfall deficits and expected rains should be enough to satisfy cropping requirements.

2) 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 July-August.

3) A poor start of season across northwest Ethiopia, southern Eritrea and bordering areas in Sudan has begun to negatively impact cropping activities, including delaying planting. For the next week, below-average rains are expected to continue, further increasing seasonal rainfall deficits.

Deficits develop along Gulf of Guinea coasts.

During the past seven days, heavy rain (>50mm) was observed in Nigeria, western and central Mali, and localized areas in Sierra Leone, western Burkina Faso, and Cote D'Ivoire. The abundant and above-average weekly rains in Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Niger helped to increase thirty-day rainfall surpluses. In general, rainfall has increased in intensity during the last several weeks across the Sahel after a below-average start of season. In contrast, moderate rains (10-40mm) were observed along the Gulf of Guinea in Ghana, Togo and Benin. Rains are climatologically expected to decrease over the next several weeks along the Gulf of Guinea, although recent below-average rains have led to growing thirty-day rainfall deficits. These deficits could affect cropping activities. In previously dry areas in western Mali and northeast Nigeria, rains have increased, reducing thirty-day deficits (**Figure 1**).

The recovery of rains across the Sahel during the past month as well as the recent drier-than-average conditions along the Gulf of Guinea are evident in an analysis of the number of rain days during the past thirty days. While the planting of crops was delayed across northeastern Nigeria during June, the number of rain days over the past thirty days has been above-average. As such, rains have met crop requirements in Nigeria. In contrast, where rainfall deficits have been growing in Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin, the number of rain days has been below-average. In general across West Africa, there has been an above-average number of rain days in the past thirty days (**Figure 2**).

For the next week, rainfall is forecast to be heavy (>50mm) across Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria. Moderate rains (20-50mm) are expected elsewhere across West Africa and the Sahel. In contrast, light rains (<15mm) are forecast for bi-modal areas in Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Togo and Benin.

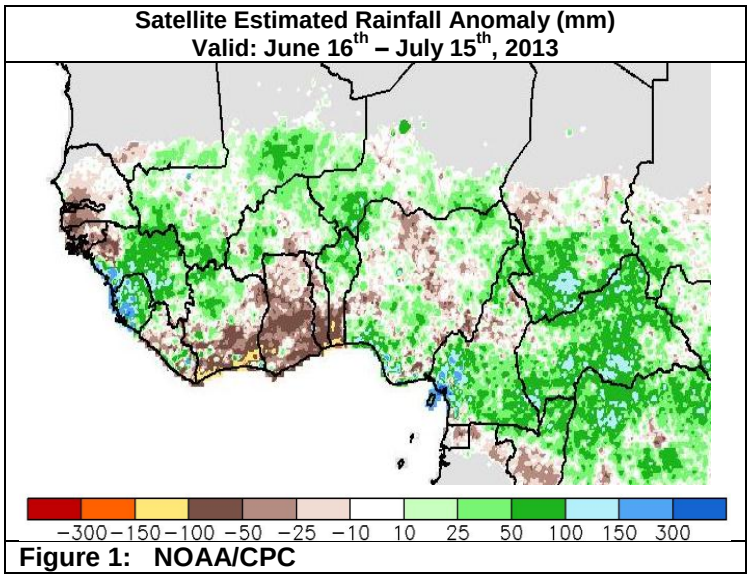


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

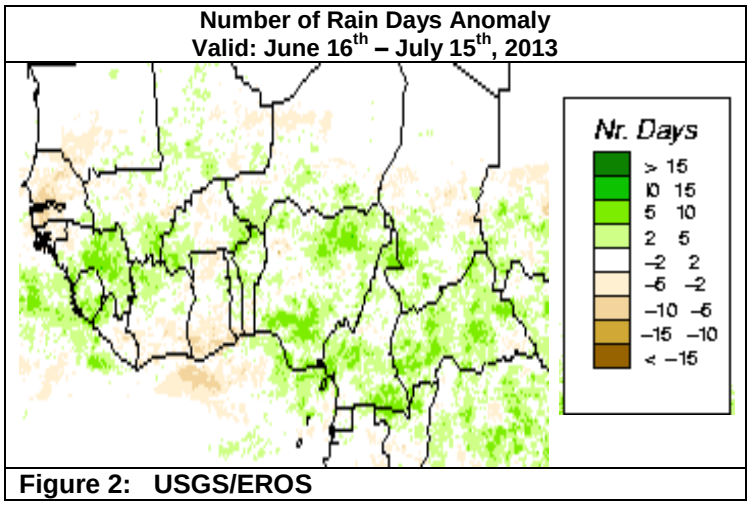


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Dryness begins to extend into central Sudan.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed across much of Ethiopia and in localized areas in South Sudan. Moderate rains (10-40mm) were recorded in western Sudan and northern Uganda. In contrast, below-average weekly rains occurred over parts of Eritrea, the Tigray province of Ethiopia and eastern Sudan. The lack of rains during the past month at the start of the *Kiremt* rainy season has negatively impacted agricultural activities in northwestern Ethiopia. The dryness also extends into Eritrea and Sudan, with total rainfall during the past 30 days being below the 10th percentile. Only three other years in the past 30 have had less rainfall during this thirty-day period (**Figure 3**). Elsewhere, above-average rain has fallen in Ethiopia, South Sudan and southwestern Sudan during the past thirty days. For the next week, heavy, seasonal rain is expected across much of Ethiopia, with moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) forecast for western Sudan and South Sudan. In contrast, light rains (<15mm) are expected in Uganda and across already drier-than-average locations in Sudan.

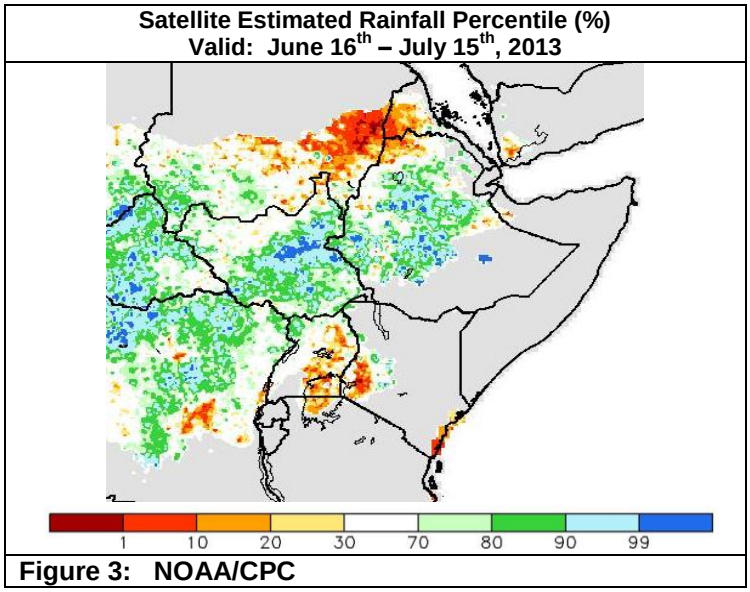


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.