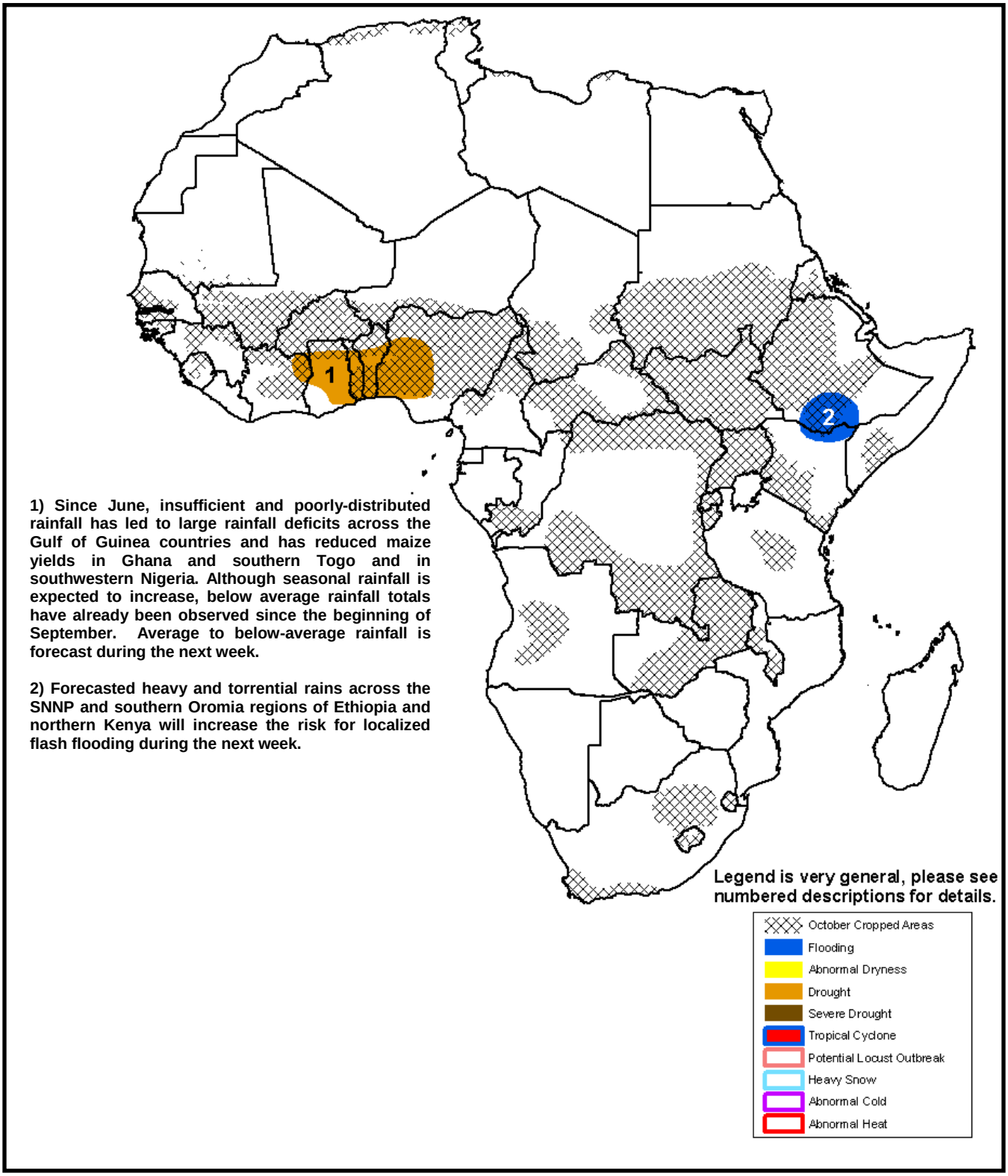
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
October 10 – October 16, 2013

- **After a week of heavy rain, rains across bi-modal West Africa were light and below-average.**
- **Anomalous heavy early-season rainfall was observed across much of Mozambique.**



1) Since June, insufficient and poorly-distributed rainfall has led to large rainfall deficits across the Gulf of Guinea countries and has reduced maize yields in Ghana and southern Togo and in southwestern Nigeria. Although seasonal rainfall is expected to increase, below average rainfall totals have already been observed since the beginning of September. Average to below-average rainfall is forecast during the next week.

2) Forecasted heavy and torrential rains across the SNNP and southern Oromia regions of Ethiopia and northern Kenya will increase the risk for localized flash flooding during the next week.

Below-average weekly rains returned to bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, below-average rain was observed across bi-modal West Africa. The heaviest rain (>50mm) was observed in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and eastern Nigeria. Moderate rains (10-40mm) were recorded across Cote D'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso and central/southeast Nigeria. Elsewhere, light rains (<10mm) fell. After a previous week of above-average rains in bi-modal areas including Togo, Benin and western Nigeria, the lack of rains during the past week (**Figure 1**) added to 60-day rainfall deficits. Rainfall has not been temporally well distributed across bi-modal areas dating back several months. The first peak of the bi-modal rainfall season during June and July was below-average which negatively affected crops. Below-average rainfall has continued during the second rainfall peak with 30 and 60-day rainfall percentiles below the 30th percentile in parts of Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

With the end of seasonal rains expected during the next month, spatially well-distributed rains are needed to help cropping activities along the Gulf of Guinea. However, rainfall for the next week is forecast to be average to below-average as light to moderate rain (<30mm) is expected across bi-modal areas. Elsewhere, little to no rain (<10mm) is forecast for central Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Niger. The heaviest rains (>50mm) are forecast for far western West Africa in Guinea and Sierra Leone (**Figure 2**), increasing 30-day and seasonal rainfall surpluses.

Above-average rain was observed across Ethiopia and northern Somalia.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) was observed across much of Ethiopia, western South Sudan, Uganda and areas around Lake Victoria. Heavy rain during the past several weeks has displaced 7000 people in the Warrap state of South Sudan but has not affected crops significantly. In western Ethiopia, the heavy rain (>50mm) has helped to reduce 30-day rainfall deficits. Moderate to heavy rain showers also extended into northern Somalia providing moisture to dry areas. During the next several weeks, seasonal rains are expected to increase across southern Ethiopia and Somalia as the Deyr rainy season begins. Farther south, moderate to heavy weekly rains increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses in Uganda, Kenya, northern Tanzania and Rwanda. Heavy rains in Rwanda during the last two dekads of September caused fatalities and damages to infrastructure and crops. In contrast, dry conditions were observed across Sudan as seasonal rains are coming to an end. Areas across eastern Sudan, NW Ethiopia and Eritrea, where a prolonged delayed start of season in June and July resulted in delayed planting, observed little rain (**Figure 3**), likely marking the end of season. For the next week (**Figure 2**), an increase in rain is forecast for southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya and Somalia, potentially causing localized flooding. Elsewhere, heavy rains are expected in western Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and areas around Lake Victoria.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 1st – October 7th, 2013

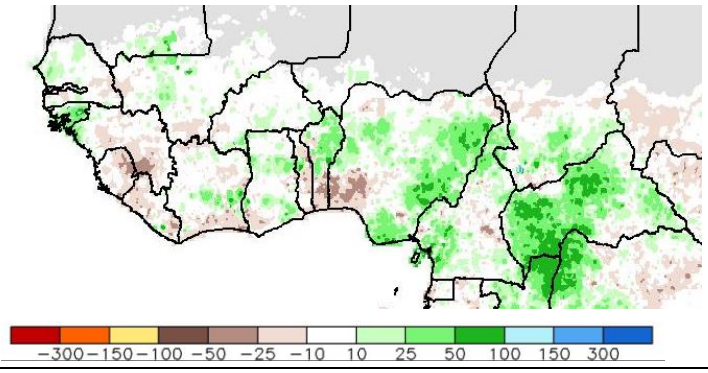


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

GFS Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: October 10th – October 16th, 2013

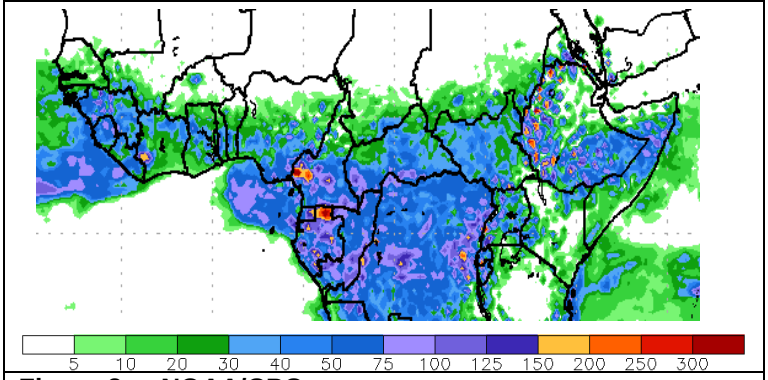


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: October 2nd – October 8th, 2013

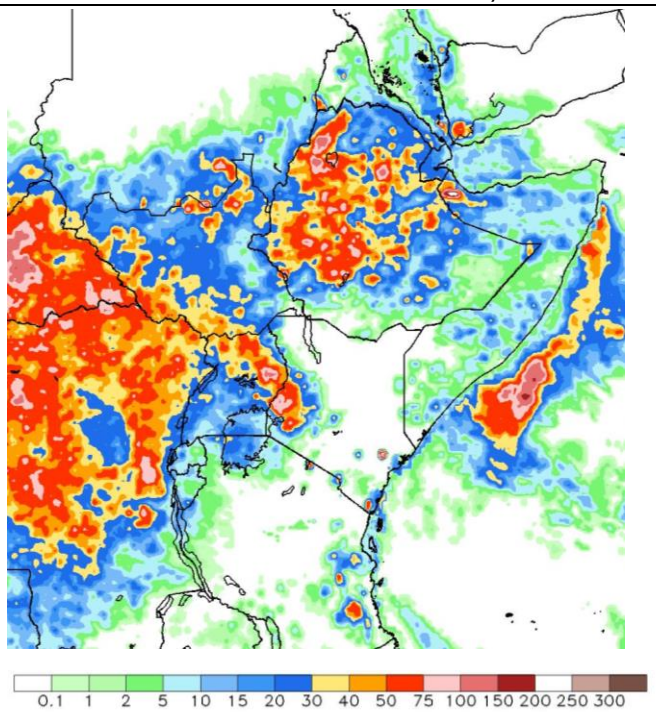


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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