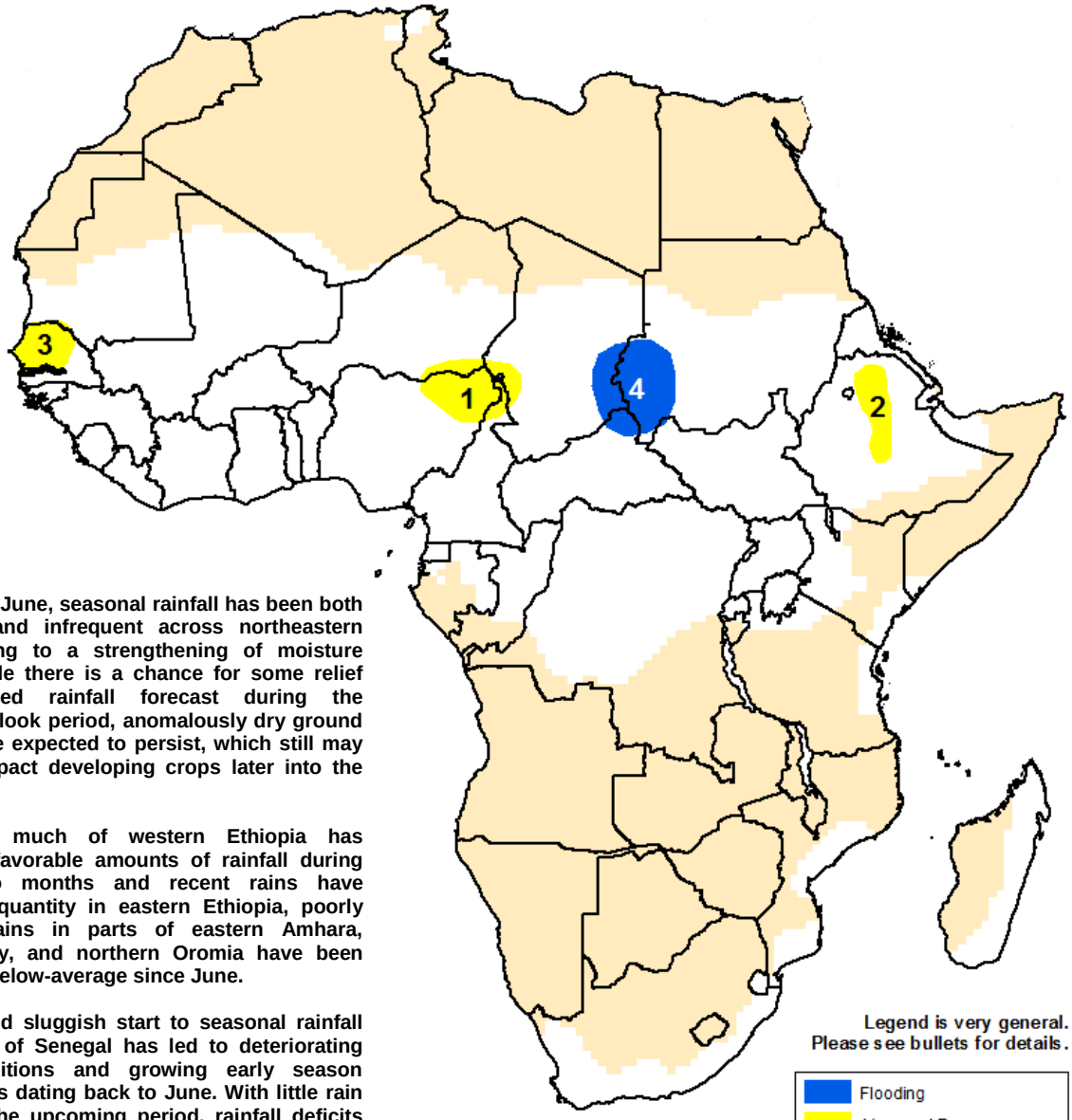
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
July 31 – August 6, 2014

- **Heavy rains in parts of eastern Sudan resulted in flooding which damaged infrastructure.**
- **Ground conditions continue to deteriorate due to poor rains in northeastern Nigeria, western Chad and Senegal.**



1) Since early June, seasonal rainfall has been both suppressed and infrequent across northeastern Nigeria leading to a strengthening of moisture deficits. While there is a chance for some relief with increased rainfall forecast during the upcoming outlook period, anomalously dry ground conditions are expected to persist, which still may negatively impact developing crops later into the season.

2) Although much of western Ethiopia has experienced favorable amounts of rainfall during the last two months and recent rains have improved in quantity in eastern Ethiopia, poorly distributed rains in parts of eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Oromia have been consistently below-average since June.

3) A continued sluggish start to seasonal rainfall across much of Senegal has led to deteriorating ground conditions and growing early season rainfall deficits dating back to June. With little rain forecast for the upcoming period, rainfall deficits are expected to grow, potentially impacting cropping activities.

4) Heavy rains during the past week in the Darfur region of Sudan caused flooding which destroyed shelters in parts of Central Darfur. With heavy and above-average rain forecast for the next week, additional flooding is likely.

Heavy rains were observed across the Sahel in West Africa, although below-average rains continued across dry areas in Senegal/Nigeria.

During the past week, rains extended north into the Sahel of West Africa as heavy rains (>50mm) were observed in central/northern Mali, and Burkina Faso. Locally heavy rain (>50mm) was also reported in Guinea, Sierra Leone and northwest/central Nigeria. Torrential rains in the Sokoto and Plateau department of Nigeria resulted in flooding which damaged cropland. Farther south along the Gulf of Guinea, rains were reduced as light to moderate rain fell (<25mm). Light (<10mm) and below-average rains were also recorded in Senegal (**Figure 1**) which has observed a poor start to seasonal rains.

Over the past 60 days, rainfall has been suppressed across parts of eastern Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria as the heaviest rains were focused across far western areas of West Africa. This pattern has remained consistent on both seasonal and thirty-day timescales. In saturated areas in far western West Africa, including Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia and southern Mali, sixty-day rainfall totals have been between 120-200% of normal. The copious amounts of rain have previously resulted in isolated flooding events. Meanwhile, a delayed start to seasonal rains in Senegal as well as a continued suppression of rains in parts of southern Mali, northeastern Nigeria, western Chad and southeastern Niger have reduced ground moisture and could potentially impact cropping activities. Sixty-day rainfall totals have been below 80% of normal in these areas (locally below 50% of normal) (**Figure 2**) with rainfall percentiles below the 20th percentile. The lack of rains has delayed planting in Chad and Senegal and could further degrade ground conditions and negatively impact cropping activities. Recent rains in northeastern Nigeria have provided some relief, although rains will need to continue to improve to result in adequate cropping conditions. In Senegal, while early into the season, the below-average start to seasonal rains has raised concerns for crops as ground conditions deteriorate.

For next week, light rainfall (<15mm) is forecast for the anomalously dry parts of Senegal; however the potential for moderate to heavy rain exists over parts of Nigeria, providing some relief to dry conditions. Heavy rains (>50mm) are also forecast for southern/central Mali and parts of Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 23 – July 29, 2014

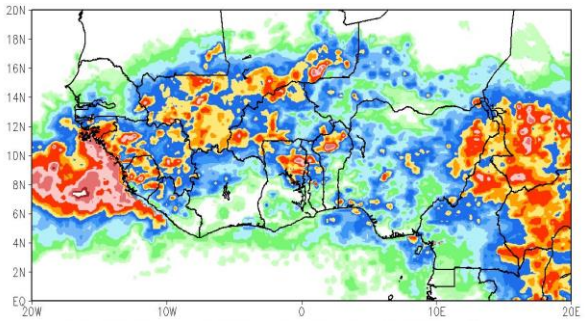


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percent of Normal (%)
Valid: May 30 – July 28, 2014

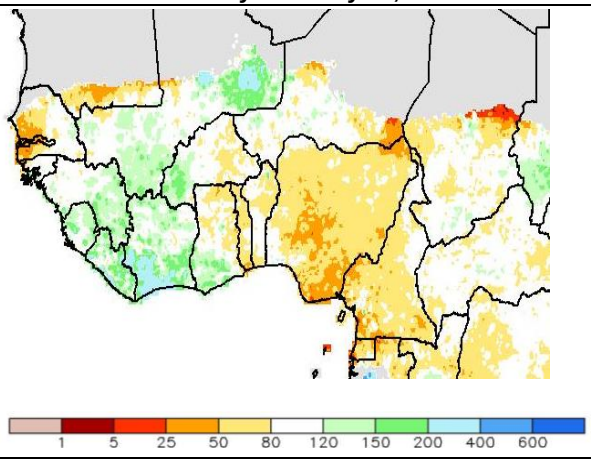


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: June 1 – July 28, 2014

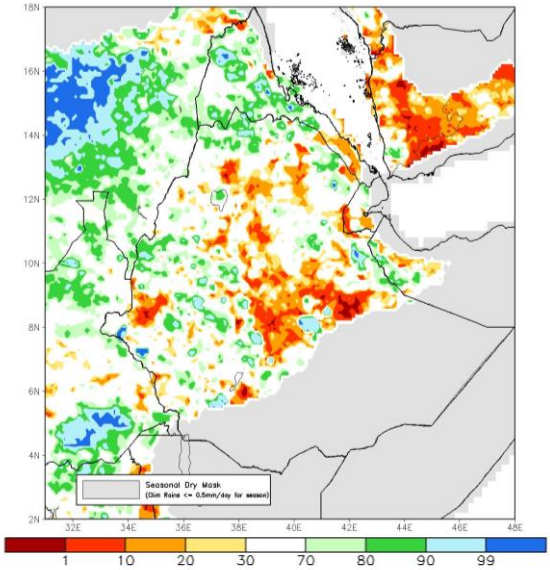


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Rains improve across dry areas of central/northern Ethiopia.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded in much of eastern Africa. The heaviest rains (>75mm) fell in northern and central Ethiopia, South Sudan and eastern Sudan. Torrential rains in the River Nile and Sennar states of Sudan resulted in flooding. Heavy rains also damaged infrastructure in the Darfur region of Sudan. Farther south, above-average rains dating back several months in South Sudan has caused flooding and increased the transmittance of cholera. Meanwhile, in Ethiopia, the abundant rains in the eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Oromia regions during the past week provided some relief to dry conditions. Although, rainfall totals dating back to June 1st are below the 20th (locally 10th) percentile (**Figure 3**) indiciating moisture shortages and poor ground conditions which are unfavorable for the development of seasonal crops. For the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast across western Ethiopia and western/central parts of Sudan and South Sudan. The abundant rains expected in the Darfur region of Sudan will increase the threat for flooding as grounds are already saturated.

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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