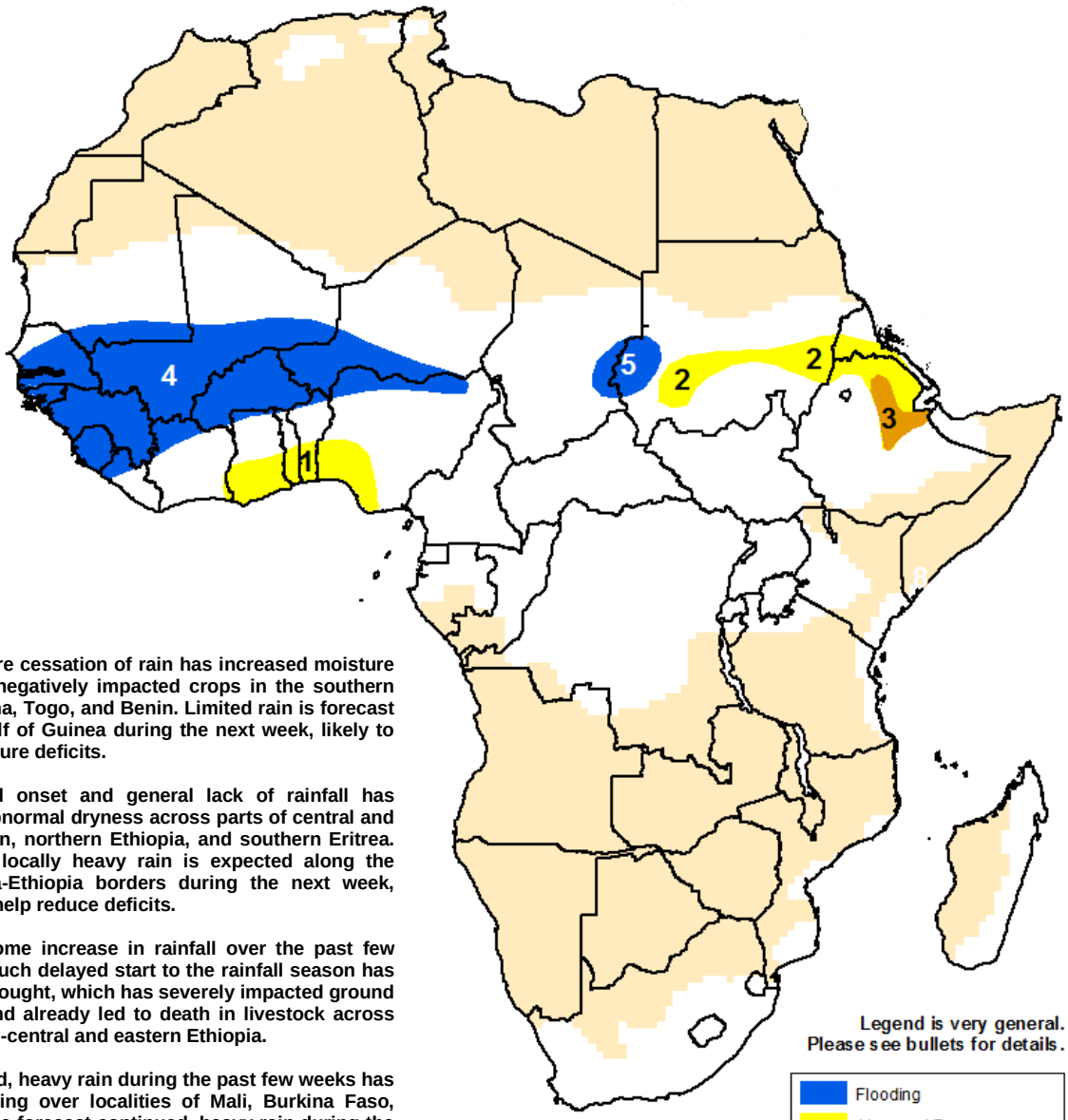
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
August 20 – 26, 2015

- **Widespread heavy rain continues and increases risks for flooding over many areas of West Africa.**
- **Rainfall deficits have persisted over parts of Eastern Africa despite increased rain during the recent weeks.**



1) A premature cessation of rain has increased moisture deficits and negatively impacted crops in the southern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Limited rain is forecast along the Gulf of Guinea during the next week, likely to sustain moisture deficits.

2) A delayed onset and general lack of rainfall has resulted in abnormal dryness across parts of central and eastern Sudan, northern Ethiopia, and southern Eritrea. Moderate to locally heavy rain is expected along the Sudan-Eritrea-Ethiopia borders during the next week, which could help reduce deficits.

3) Despite some increase in rainfall over the past few weeks, the much delayed start to the rainfall season has resulted in drought, which has severely impacted ground conditions and already led to death in livestock across parts of north-central and eastern Ethiopia.

4) Widespread, heavy rain during the past few weeks has caused flooding over localities of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. The forecast continued, heavy rain during the next week maintains elevated risks for flooding over many local areas of the region.

5) Abundant rain is forecast to continue over eastern Chad and western Sudan during the next week, heightening risks for flooding and potential waterborne disease outbreaks.

Wetness prevails across West Africa.

The increase in rainfall over the past few weeks has resulted in wetness across a wide portion of West Africa. An analysis of the thirty-day rainfall anomalies has indicated rainfall surpluses ranging between 50-200 mm over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger (**Figure 1**). Over some locations, cumulative rainfall over the past four weeks has accounted for more than twice their averages. Although, the recent favorable distribution in rainfall has helped relieve dryness that had been caused by a delayed onset to the rainfall season and erratic rain, oversaturation has also caused flooding and negative impacts on the grounds over many local areas of West Africa. Meanwhile, farther south, the early departure of rain has increased rainfall deficits and led to abnormal dryness along the Gulf of Guinea, including the southern portions of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southwestern Nigeria. During the past week, widespread, abundant rain continued throughout West Africa, with the largest amounts in excess of 100 mm observed over Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, southern Senegal, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and southern Niger.

During the next week, copious amounts of rain are forecast to continue over West Africa, with the heaviest rain over far western West Africa and coastal areas of Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Heavy rain is also expected over already-saturated grounds of Mali, northern Nigeria and southern Niger, which could trigger new flooding or exacerbate ground conditions over local areas of the region. Farther south, along the Gulf of Guinea, light to locally moderate rain is forecast, which is likely to sustain rainfall deficits.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: July 20 – August 18, 2015

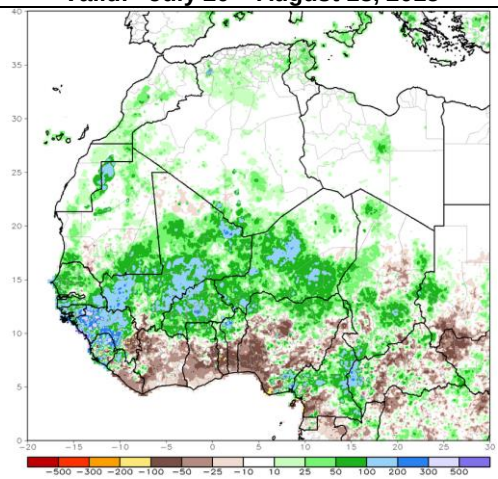


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

GFS Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: August 20 – August 26, 2015

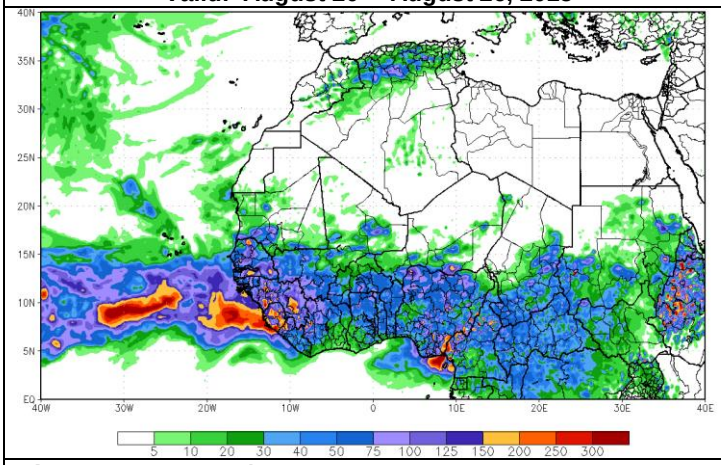


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Heavy rain observed in eastern Sudan, Eritrea, northern Ethiopia, and parts of northwestern Somalia.

During the past week, enhanced rain continued across Eastern Africa, with the heaviest (> 75 mm) amounts over eastern Sudan, southern Eritrea, northern Ethiopia, and parts of northwestern Somalia (**Figure 3**). In northwestern Somalia, increased rain since the beginning of the month has improved agro-pastoral and pastoral conditions in the region. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy rain was observed in southern Sudan and western South Sudan. In contrast, suppressed rain was recorded in southeastern South Sudan. Despite the enhancement in rainfall over the past recent weeks, which has helped reduce thirty-day moisture deficits over the dry portions of Eastern Africa, seasonal rainfall deficits have persisted over south-central and eastern Sudan, western Eritrea, and north-central and eastern Ethiopia. In northeastern Ethiopia, the lack of rain since the previous March-May season has substantially reduced water availability and already negatively impacted pastoral activities in the Afar region, according to reports. During the next week, heavy rain is forecast in western Ethiopia and Eritrea. Heavy rain is also forecast over western Sudan, which elevates risks for flooding over flood-prone areas such as the Darfur regions. Moderate rain is expected in western South Sudan, while light rain is forecast in eastern Sudan, eastern South Sudan, and northeastern Ethiopia.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 12 – August 18, 2015

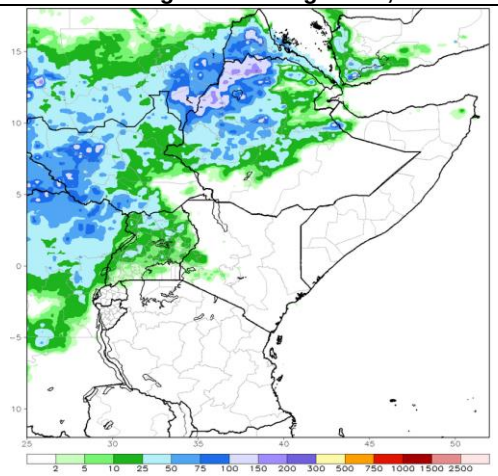


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.