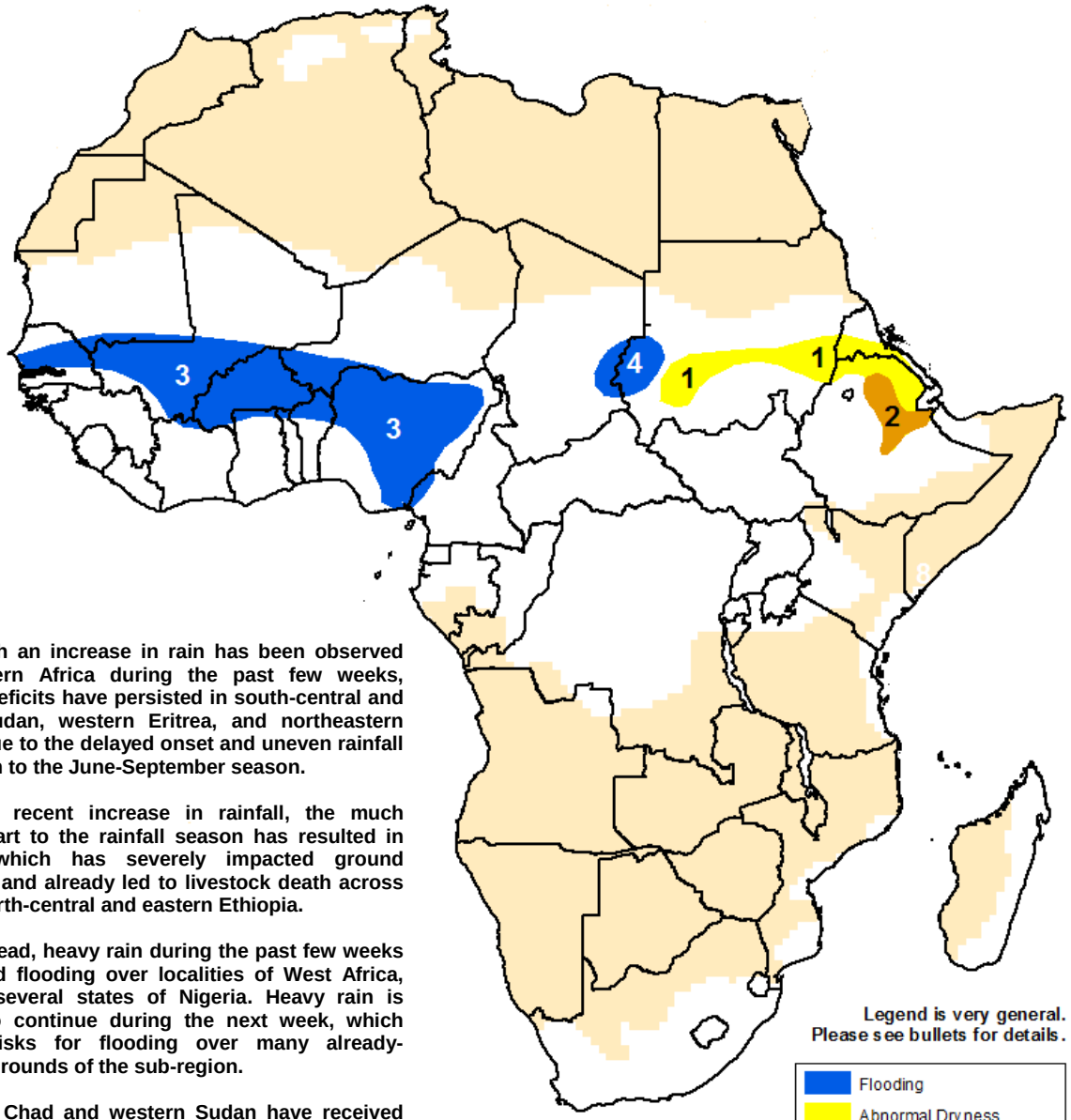
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
August 27 – September 2, 2015

- **Abundant rain has continued across a wide portion of West Africa.**
- **Despite a recent increase in rain, seasonal deficits have persisted over parts of the Greater Horn of Africa.**



1) Although an increase in rain has been observed over Eastern Africa during the past few weeks, seasonal deficits have persisted in south-central and eastern Sudan, western Eritrea, and northeastern Ethiopia due to the delayed onset and uneven rainfall distribution to the June-September season.

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

3) Widespread, heavy rain during the past few weeks has caused flooding over localities of West Africa, including several states of Nigeria. Heavy rain is forecast to continue during the next week, which elevates risks for flooding over many already-saturated grounds of the sub-region.

4) Eastern Chad and western Sudan have received above-average rain over the past four weeks. Abundant rain is expected to continue during the next week, heightening risks for localized flooding and potential waterborne disease outbreaks.

Wet conditions observed over a large area of West Africa.

The rainfall patterns during the past week were such that copious amounts of rain spread across much of West Africa. Heavy rain fell from the far western portion of the sub region – Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, to eastern Chad, and northern CAR (**Figure 1**). The heaviest rain was recorded over the southern parts of Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and northern Guinea-Conakry. To the east, copious amounts of rain have resulted in flooding over many states of Nigeria, including Kano, Benue, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Kwara, according to reports. Meanwhile, localized moderate to heavy rain was observed as far north as west-central Mauritania and north-central Mali. The consistent, enhanced rain over the past few weeks was attributed to vigorous southerlies, which helped push the Inter-tropical Front, rain-bearing system, anomalously to the north of the average position. As a result, a wide portion of West Africa has experienced wetter than average conditions, with rainfall surpluses ranging between 100-300 mm across many areas of the region during the past thirty days.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 19 – August 25, 2015

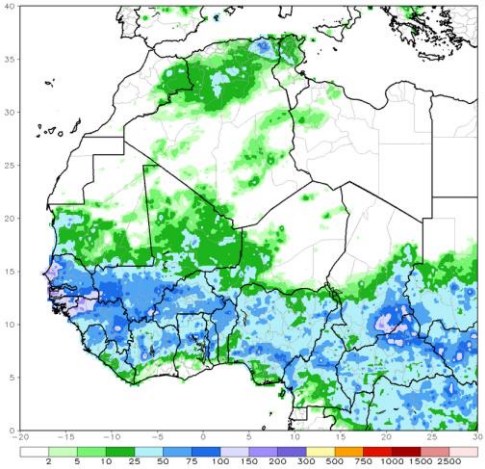


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

An analysis of the accumulated rainfall over the past thirty days has shown rankings above the 97th percentile, indicating wettest conditions on record, across a wide area of West Africa, including parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Although the consistent, above-average rain has helped mitigate dryness, associated with a delayed onset to the season over many areas of West Africa, excessive moisture could also damage and destroy crops over some areas.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: July 27 – August 25, 2015

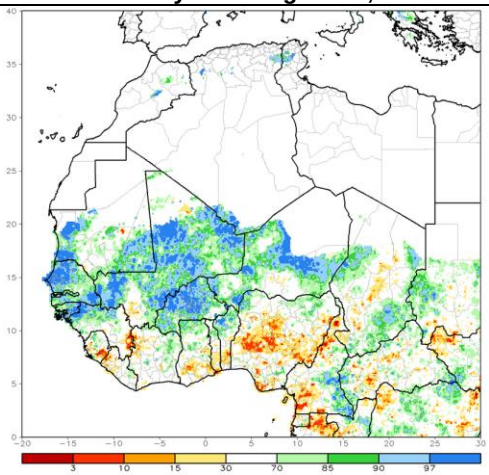


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

During the upcoming week, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of widespread, heavy rain across West Africa, with abundant rain throughout central Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, western Niger, northern Benin, and Nigeria. This, therefore, elevates the risks for flooding over many already-saturated grounds for the region. Along the Gulf of Guinea, light rain is forecast over Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and the southern portions of Togo and Benin.

Seasonal deficits remain over parts of the Horn of Africa.

During the past week, a slight reduction in rainfall was observed over Eastern Africa relative to during the week prior. However, heavy rain still continued over nearby areas along the Sudan-Ethiopia-Eritrea border. Moderate to heavy rain was also recorded over parts of southeastern Sudan, western South Sudan, and west-central Ethiopia, while light rain was registered elsewhere. Since the beginning of the June-September season, south-central and eastern Sudan, western Eritrea, and northeastern Ethiopia have received only between 50-80 percent of their average rainfall (**Figure 3**). The recent increase in rainfall was not sufficient to fully erode seasonal deficits over the dry portions of the sub-region. With a few weeks left to the season, any additional poor rain could negatively impact crops and water availability and reduce yields in the region. In contrast, parts of southern Sudan, western Ethiopia, and northwestern Somalia have received above-average rain. For next week, an increase in rainfall is forecast across Eastern Africa, with moderate to heavy rain in southern Sudan, Eritrea, and western Ethiopia. Moderate rain is expected in western South Sudan.

Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: June 01 – August 25, 2015

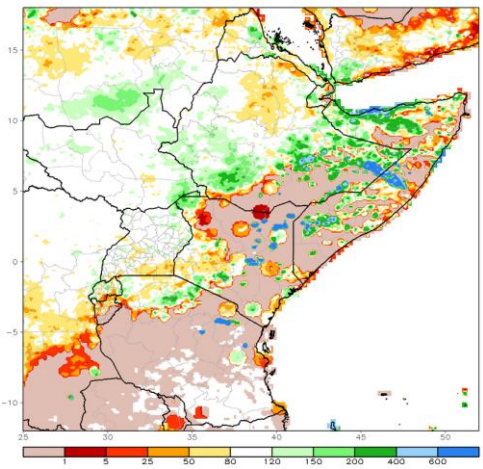


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.

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