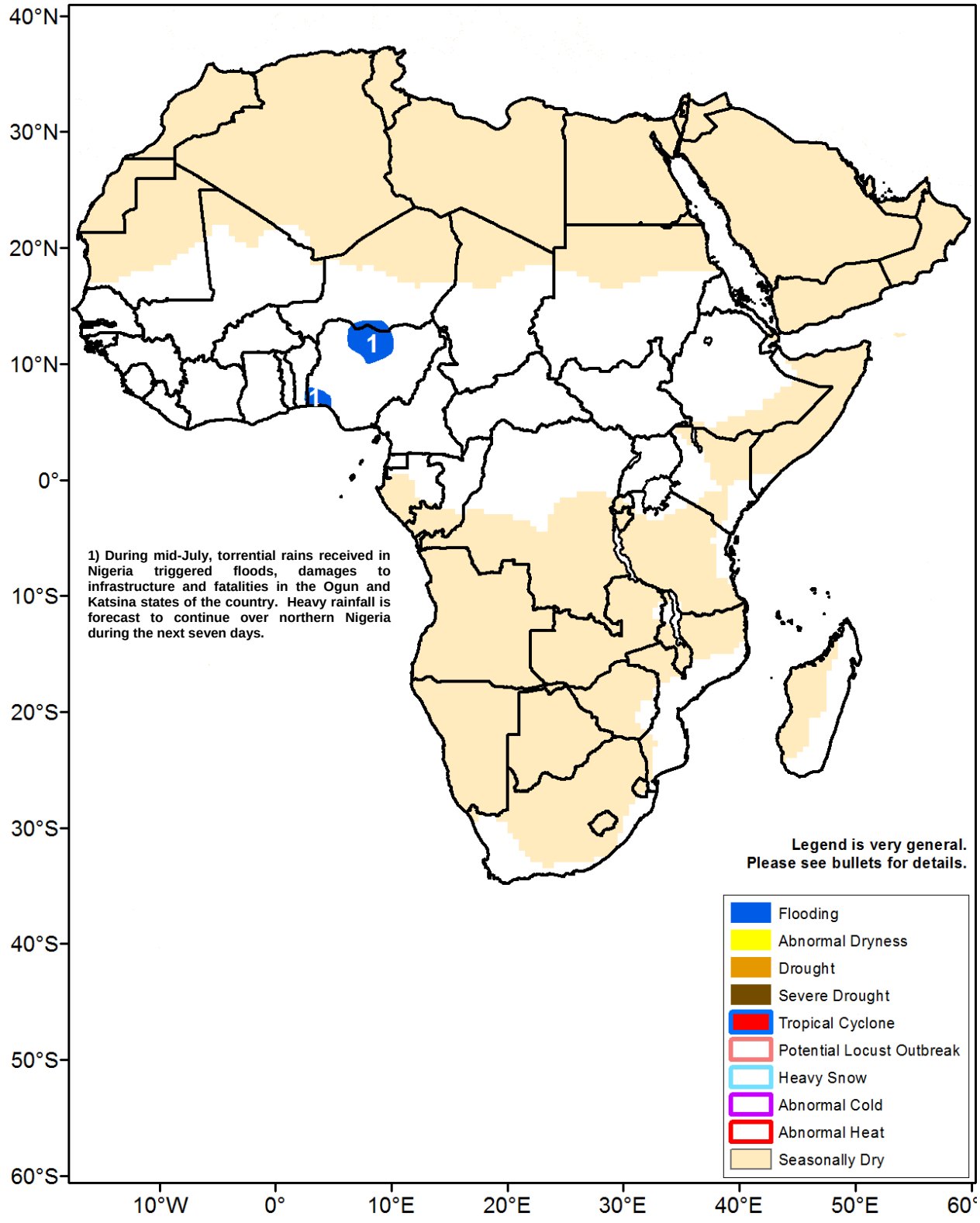
# Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
## July 19 – July 25, 2018

- **As enhanced rainfall continued over eastern Sudan elevating the risk for floods, drier than average conditions have developed in parts of southwestern Ethiopia.**
- **Torrential rains triggered floods, damages to infrastructure and fatalities in portions of Nigeria.**



## Moderate to heavy rainfall continues over many places in the Sahel region

During the last week, a seasonable distribution of precipitation was observed throughout West Africa, as several countries and regions continue to benefit from frequent and sufficient rainfall amounts through mid-July. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>50mm) were registered across parts of Chad, Nigeria, southern Mali, and Ghana (**Figure 1**). Locally heavy rainfall in parts of Nigeria has resulted in flooding over the Ogun and Katsina states of the country. Lesser, but well distributed rainfall amounts were also received across much of the Sahel, as the ITCZ/ITF pushed further north than usual into the arid portions of southern Mauritania and central Mali. Towards the west, little rainfall accumulation was registered for the second consecutive week over portions of Senegal. The absence of seasonable rainfall in Senegal follows a heavy rain event that signaled the onset of the monsoon during late June.

As of mid-July, the overall performance of the West Africa has been favorable, with much of the domain experiencing average to above-average precipitation over both short and long-term timescales. Areas that had experienced anomalous dryness since April and May have since generally recovered, and the latest dryness trends appear to be quite localized. Since mid-June, local portions of western Senegal, eastern Burkina Faso and central Nigeria remain below-average between 50-80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulations (**Figure 2**). While the moisture anomalies in Burkina Faso and Nigeria have remained stable over the past several weeks, the moisture deficits in western Senegal appear to have been slightly strengthening since early July. The continuation of suppressed rainfall may adversely impact ongoing cropping activities in the region.

For the upcoming outlook period, moderate to locally heavy rainfall is expected across the western Gulf of Guinea region, with the potential for average to below average rainfall over Senegal. Further east, moderate to locally heavy rainfall is also forecast over parts of northern Nigeria and southern Niger, which may worsen saturated ground conditions in the region.

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## Dryness develops over the SNNP region of Ethiopia

According to satellite rainfall estimates, another week of heavy rainfall over eastern Sudan helped to sustain high seasonal moisture surpluses across eastern and western Sudan, and in parts of northwestern Ethiopia. The continuation of moderate to locally heavy rainfall over saturated areas may trigger floods and other adverse ground impacts across the region during the next week.

However, the southern parts of the Kiremt rainfall region of Ethiopia have experienced much less rainfall, which has resulted in strengthening seasonal dryness across parts of the SNNP region of the country. Since mid-June, many local areas have received less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation (**Figure 2**), where the moisture deficits may be associated with the unusual northward placement of the ITCZ/ITF since mid-June over East Africa. As the Kiremt rains typically migrate northward during July and into August, the opportunity for adequate recovery may not occur until later in the season, when the ITCZ/ITF retreats back towards the south over the region.

Precipitation models suggest the potential for average to above-average rainfall during the next week over western Ethiopia, with possibility of locally moderate to heavy rainfall amounts (>75mm) over parts of the Oromia and the SNNP to provide some moisture relief.

**Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)**
**Valid: July 11 – July 17, 2018**

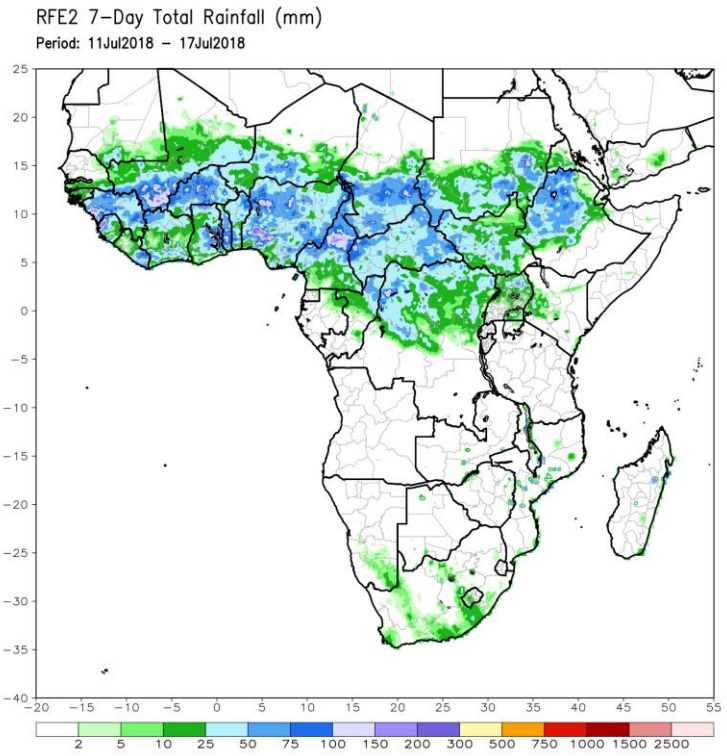


**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**

**Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)**
**Valid: June 18 – July 17, 2018**

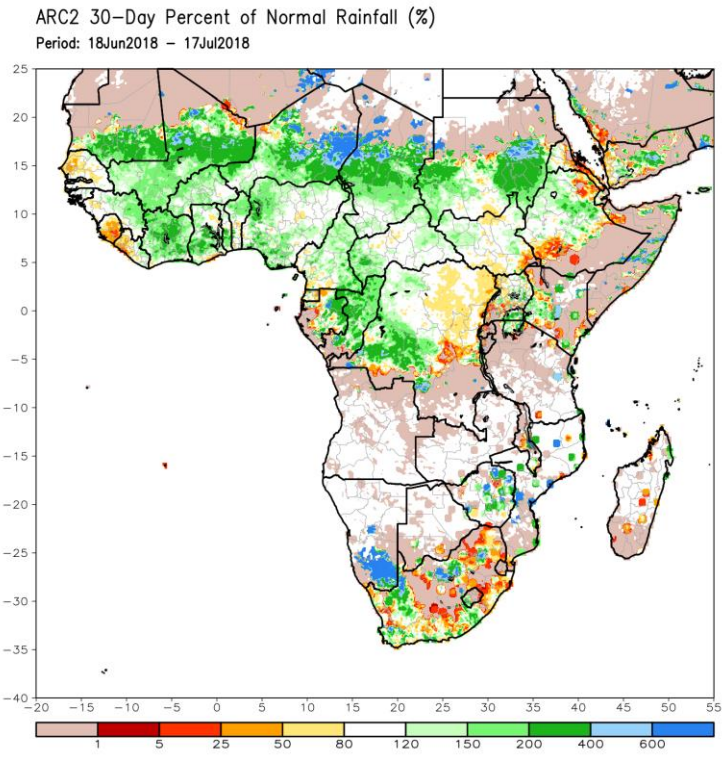


**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**

**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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