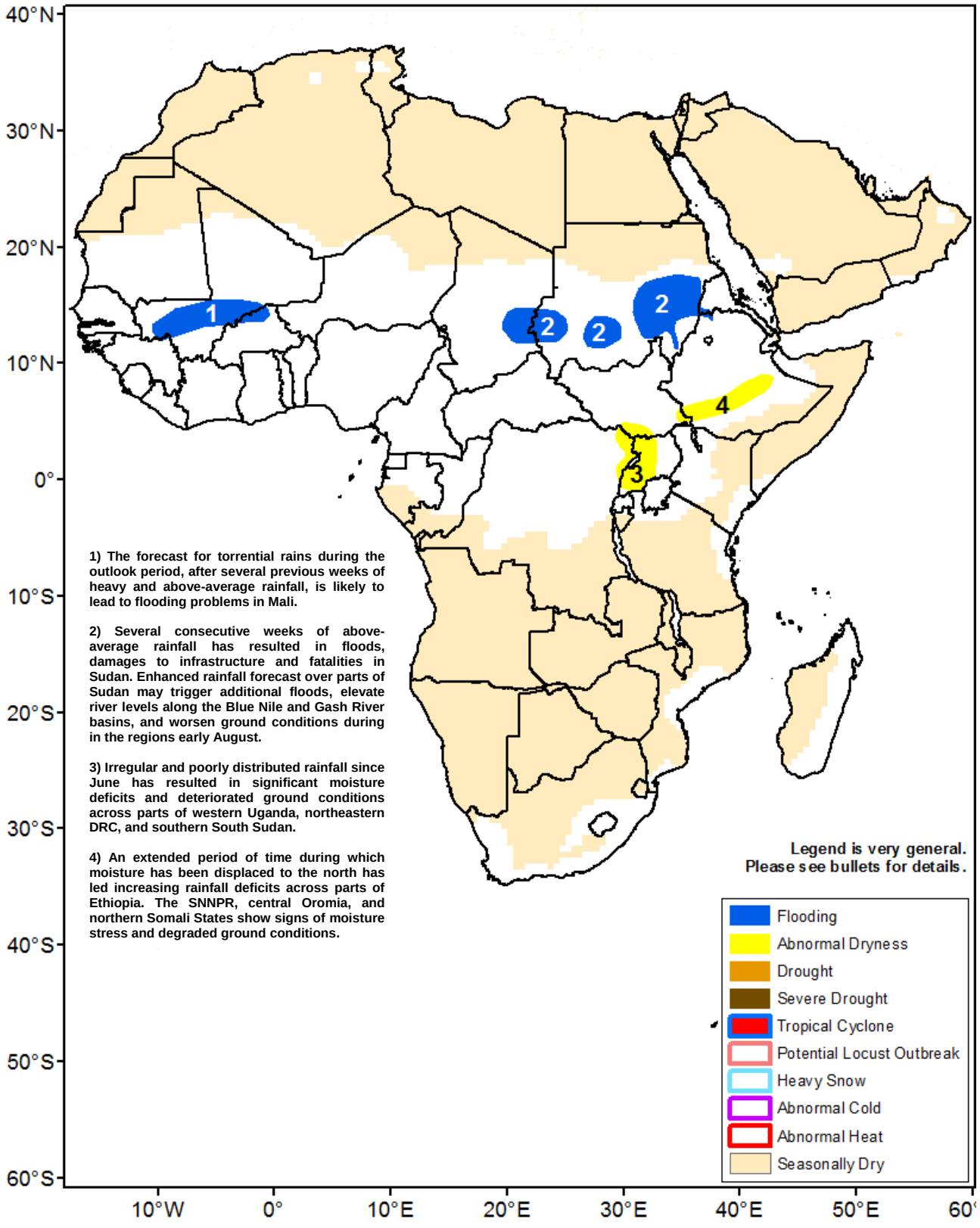
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
August 9 – August 15, 2018

- **Enhanced rains received over the western Sahel countries during the last week.**
- **Moisture deficits continue to strengthen over several regions of Ethiopia.**



Parts of western Senegal received a welcome increase in rains this past week.

During the first week of August, locally heavy rainfall accumulations were received throughout several West African regions including Guinea, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. For many western countries, it was the third consecutive week of heavy, above-average seasonal rainfall which is expected to help improve moisture conditions following a drier first half of July. Moisture surged far to the north into desert areas of northern Mali, Niger, and southern Algeria (**Figure 1**). Along the Gulf of Guinea, portions of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin received only light and scattered rainfall.

As of late-July, the performance of the West Africa monsoon continues to be favorable, with much of the domain experiencing average to above-average precipitation over both short and long-term timescales. Since the beginning of May, the highest moisture surpluses remain along the Sahel, where portions of southern Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad have experienced more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation (**Figure 2**). Towards the south, positive seasonal anomalies remain more moderate. However, parts of northeastern Nigeria and western Senegal depict marginally drier than average conditions. Despite the improved rainfall amounts over many western countries during late July, some local parts of western Senegal failed to receive the increase in precipitation, as areas near Dakar have registered little to no rainfall since the beginning of July according to satellite estimated rainfall and rain gauge measurements.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of average to above-average rainfall throughout much of West Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) are forecast for parts of Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Northern Nigeria. There is potential for another week of decreased rainfall amounts over parts of southern Mauritania and Senegal, as well as along the Gulf of Guinea coast.

Anomalous dryness continues over parts of Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and DRC

According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest rainfall totals (>75mm) were more localized than the previous week, but totals were still widely above average over Sudan and northern South Sudan. The continuation of moderate to locally heavy rainfall over saturated areas is triggering floods and other adverse ground impacts across the region. Most of Uganda received increased rainfall of up to 25mm or more this past week, as did many local parts of Yemen (**Figure 1**).

While portions of eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia have continued to experience above-average seasonal rainfall, there are several areas towards the south that have experienced a rapid strengthening of anomalous dryness during the past several weeks. In parts of northern Uganda, northeastern DRC and southern South Sudan, significant moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions have been identified according to remote sensing products, as some local areas have recorded fewer than 7 days of rain since the start of July. In many parts of Ethiopia, mid-seasonal dryness has expanded throughout many central and western areas. Some parts of the SNNP region, as well as throughout parts of the eastern Amhara, Oromia, eastern Tigray, and the Afar region have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall since the beginning of July. The continuation of suppressed rainfall is expected to adversely impact ongoing cropping activities.

Precipitation models suggest the potential for above-average rainfall during the next week over western eastern Sudan, western Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia. Near-average rain is expected elsewhere.

Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: Aug 01 – August 07, 2018

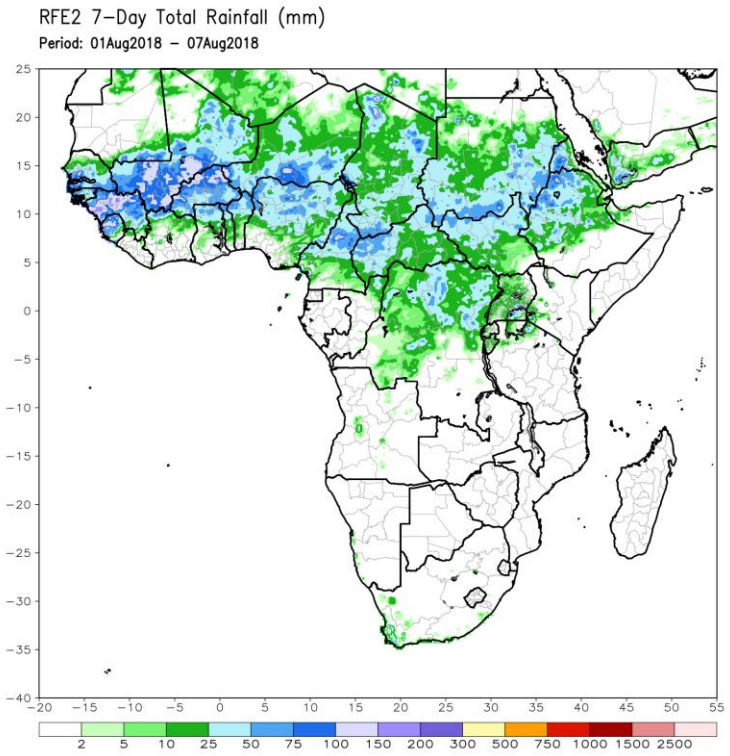


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: June 1 – August 7, 2018

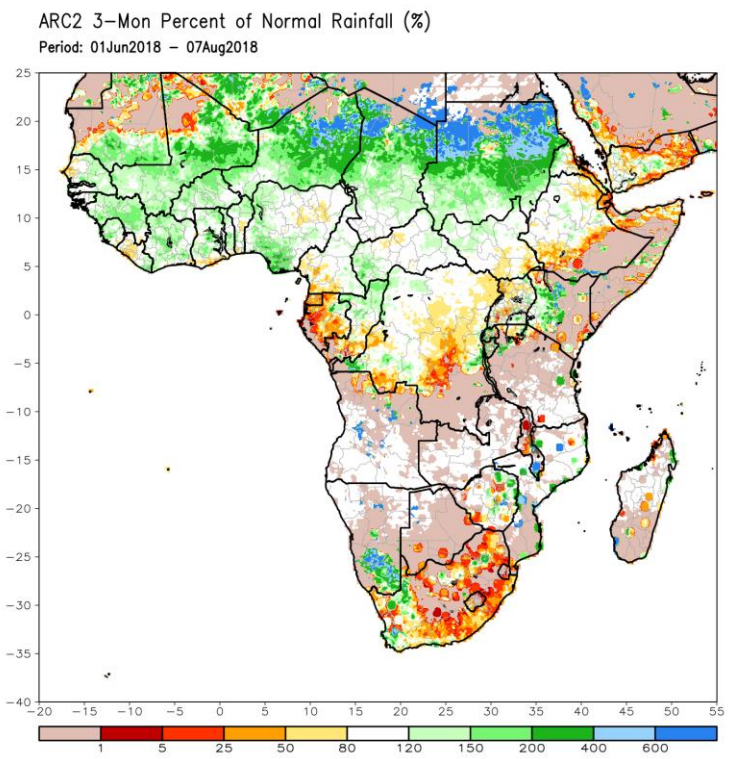


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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