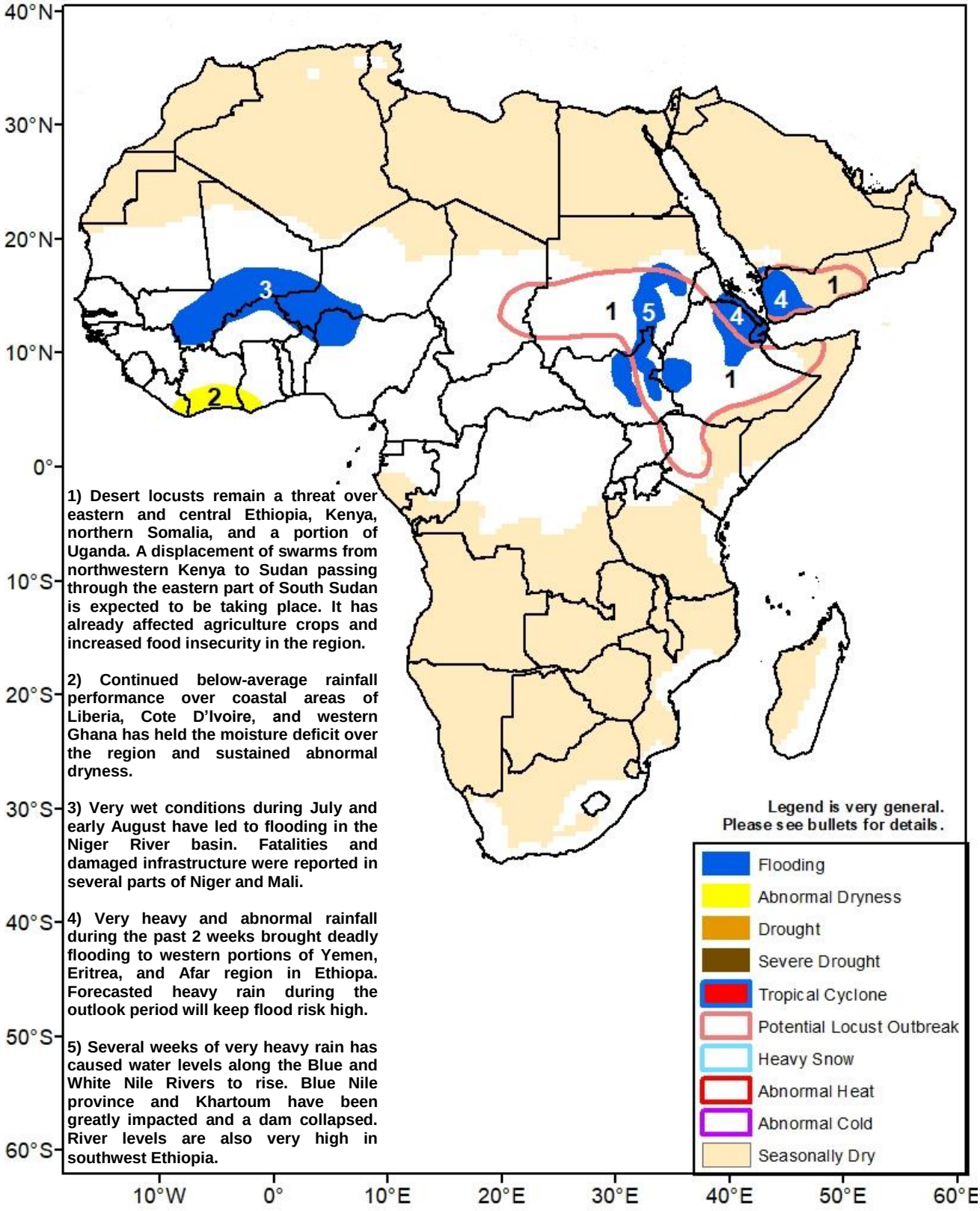
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
August 13 – August 19, 2020

- **Short-term moisture deficits are expanding across the Gulf of Guinea Countries.**
- **An abnormally wet summer is causing flooding across many other parts of Africa.**



1) Desert locusts remain a threat over eastern and central Ethiopia, Kenya, northern Somalia, and a portion of Uganda. A displacement of swarms from northwestern Kenya to Sudan passing through the eastern part of South Sudan is expected to be taking place. It has already affected agriculture crops and increased food insecurity in the region.

2) Continued below-average rainfall performance over coastal areas of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and western Ghana has held the moisture deficit over the region and sustained abnormal dryness.

3) Very wet conditions during July and early August have led to flooding in the Niger River basin. Fatalities and damaged infrastructure were reported in several parts of Niger and Mali.

4) Very heavy and abnormal rainfall during the past 2 weeks brought deadly flooding to western portions of Yemen, Eritrea, and Afar region in Ethiopa. Forecasted heavy rain during the outlook period will keep flood risk high.

5) Several weeks of very heavy rain has caused water levels along the Blue and White Nile Rivers to rise. Blue Nile province and Khartoum have been greatly impacted and a dam collapsed. River levels are also very high in southwest Ethiopia.

Rainfall is displaced northward across West Africa

During the past 7 days, the monsoon rain belt has been displaced northward bringing above-average rains to large portions of the Sahel and below-normal rains near the Gulf of Guinea. Some of the largest rainfall totals (>75-100mm) were observed in areas of southwest, central, and eastern Mali and southern Niger (Figure 1). Similar totals were scattered throughout Chad. Substantial rains were observed In Guinea, southeast Mauritania, Burkina Faso, and northern Nigeria. Meanwhile, to the South, little rainfall was observed in the Gulf of Guinea countries. Over the past 30 days, the Sahel has been much wetter than average. Many areas have received moisture surpluses of more than 50 or 100mm according to satellite estimates (Figure 2). This has led to rising river levels and many reports of destructive and deadly flooding, especially in the Niger River basin of Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. In contrast, rainfall deficits of as much as 50-100mm cover areas of southern Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria, which saw decreased moisture over the past month.

The vegetation health indices show signs of degraded vegetation in southern Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire with largely favorable vegetation over the rest of West Africa during early August. Other monitoring products point to the high basin excess moisture in many catchments of the Sahel, especially in Mali.

During the coming outlook period, recent rainfall patterns are expected to persist. Above-average rainfall is expected for many portions of the Sahel while rainfall is suppressed to the south. Heavy rainfall (>100mm) is expected for Guinea, southern Mali, and northern Nigeria. The continuation of heavy rains for many areas means that flooding is still likely.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 5 – August 11, 2020

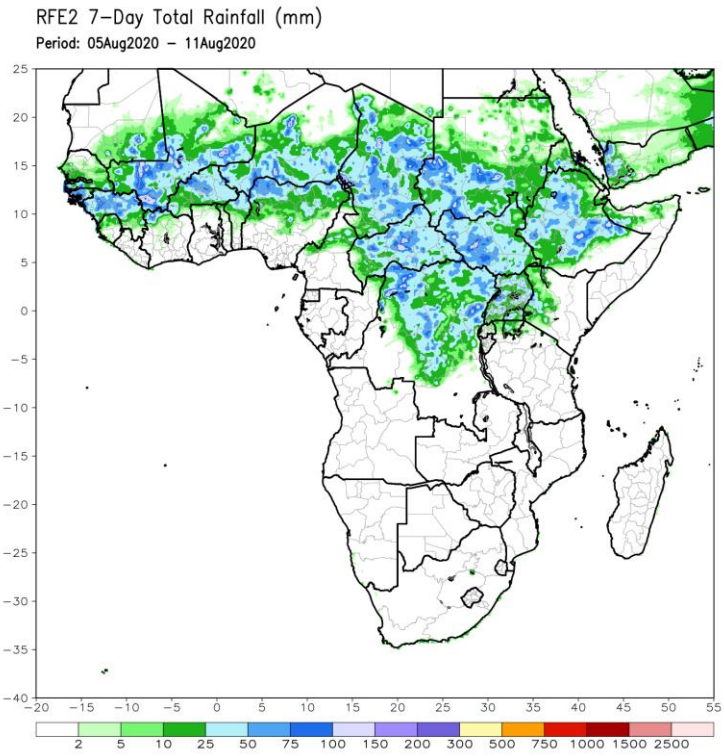


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Unusually heavy rain is continuing in Yemen, Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia.

Above-normal rainfall was received last week in many areas of East Africa. For a third week in a row, heavy and abnormal rainfall was observed in western Yemen, Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia. More than 100mm was recorded by satellite estimates (Figure 1). This has led to much more flooding in the area, including the Afar region of northern Ethiopia. Abnormally heavy rain occurred in nearby regions eastern Sudan. These countries, along with South Sudan, registered surpluses of 25-100mm. Slightly below-average rainfall was observed in southwest Ethiopia for a second week in a row. Short-term moisture deficits are increasing slightly there. Rainfall performance over the rest of East Africa has been favorable or overly wet during the last month (Figure 2). Persistent heavy rain and moisture surpluses have led to high water levels along the Blue and White Nile Rivers in Sudan and South Sudan.

The NDVI has showed favorable vegetation health during the period. Locust concerns persist into August. The increased rainfall over the western coastal areas of Yemen could accelerate and increase locust breeding giving rise to numerous hoppers bands and swarms for the coming weeks.

During the outlook period, enhanced rainfall is expected in southern Sudan, South Sudan, and northwestern Ethiopia. More than 50mm is likely. Seasonable rain is expected in Uganda and Kenya. Rains should decrease to more normal levels in Yemen which will help flood recovery

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: July 13 – August 11, 2020

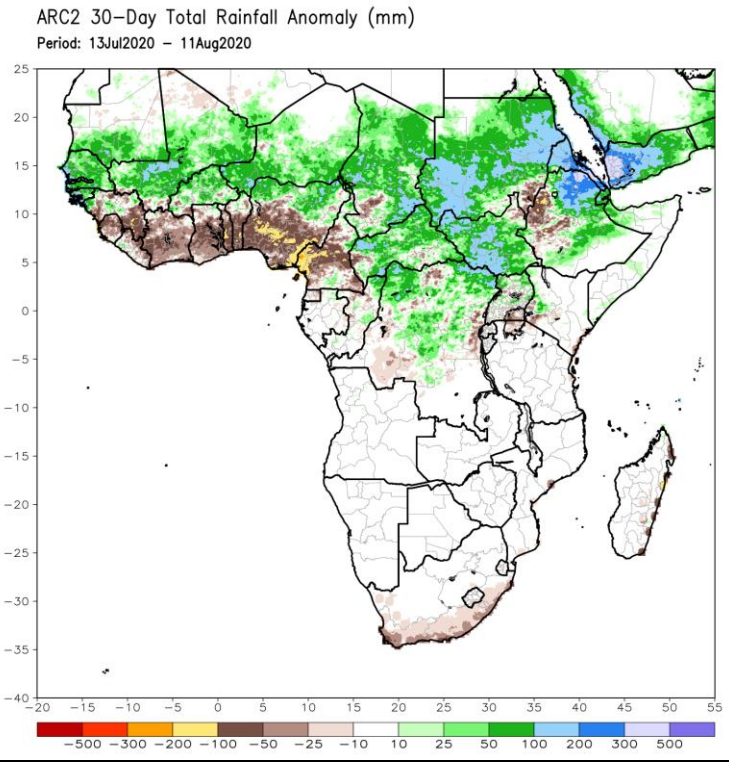


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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