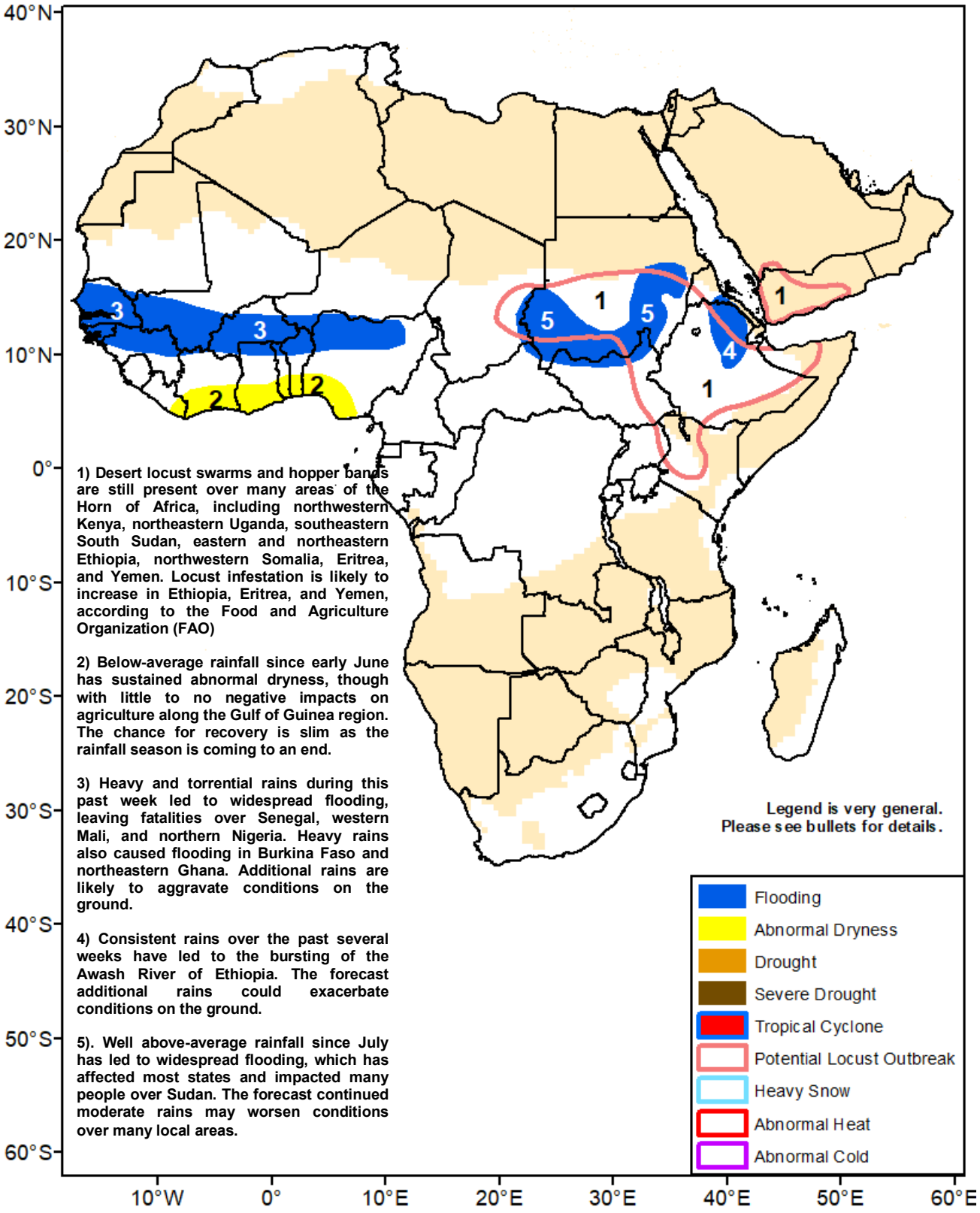
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
September 10 – 16, 2020

- **Heavy rains continue to trigger widespread flooding over West Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa.**



1) Desert locust swarms and hopper bands are still present over many areas of the Horn of Africa, including northwestern Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan, eastern and northeastern Ethiopia, northwestern Somalia, Eritrea, and Yemen. Locust infestation is likely to increase in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Yemen, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2) Below-average rainfall since early June has sustained abnormal dryness, though with little to no negative impacts on agriculture along the Gulf of Guinea region. The chance for recovery is slim as the rainfall season is coming to an end.

3) Heavy and torrential rains during this past week led to widespread flooding, leaving fatalities over Senegal, western Mali, and northern Nigeria. Heavy rains also caused flooding in Burkina Faso and northeastern Ghana. Additional rains are likely to aggravate conditions on the ground.

4) Consistent rains over the past several weeks have led to the bursting of the Awash River of Ethiopia. The forecast additional rains could exacerbate conditions on the ground.

5). Well above-average rainfall since July has led to widespread flooding, which has affected most states and impacted many people over Sudan. The forecast continued moderate rains may worsen conditions over many local areas.

Torrential rains caused widespread flooding in West Africa.

During early September, torrential rains fell over the far western West Africa, leading to widespread flooding and many affected people and fatalities. Senegal has activated the state of emergency due to severe flooding over many regions, including Dakar, areas of Joal, Khombole, Sokone, Passy, Thiare, Kaolack, and Tambacounda. Heavy downpours exceeding 100 mm also led to inundation in western Mali, including Bamako and surrounding areas. Farther east, copious amounts of rain caused flooding over over the Fada area of eastern Burkina Faso, northeastern Ghana, and northern Nigeria. While, heavy rains prevailed across the Sahel, suppressed and limited rainfall persisted along the Gulf of Guinea (**Figure 1**). This past thirty days, rainfall was well above-average over the Sahel from Senegal, southern Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, to Chad. This situation has aided agricultural and pastoral activities over many local areas. However, excessive moisture has also destroyed crops and negatively impacted the livelihoods of many people over some areas. In contrast, rainfall was below-average along the Gulf of Guinea from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, to central and southern Nigeria.

For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest continued, moderate to heavy rains in West Africa, which maintain heightened risks for flooding or aggravation of conditions over many previously-flooded areas, including Senegal, western Mali, eastern Burkina Faso, and northern Nigeria.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 02 – September 08, 2020

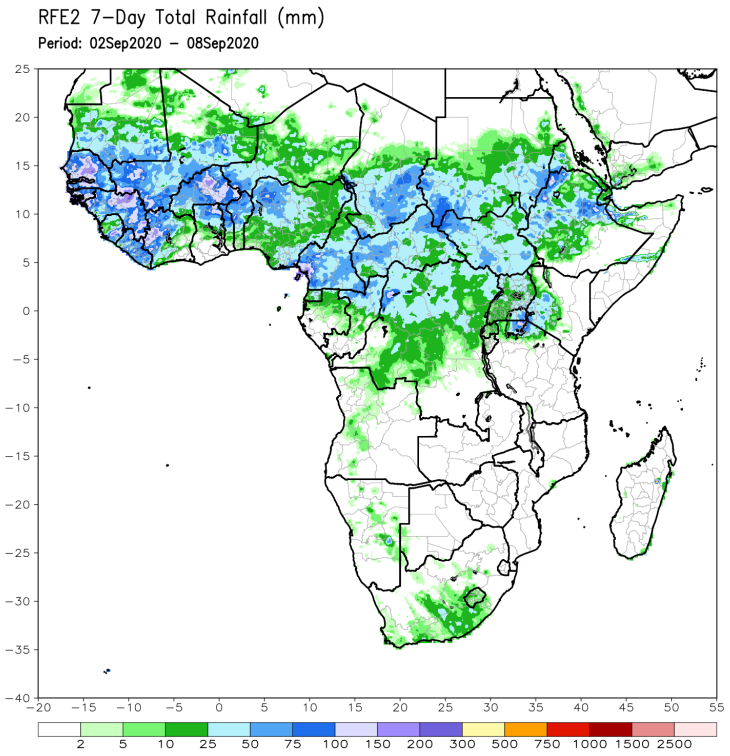


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Wetness prevailed in eastern Africa.

An analysis of climatic conditions over the past thirty days has showed widespread wetness over the Horn of Africa. Cumulative rainfall was at least 100 mm above the long-term average across a wide area of the region. The largest surpluses were observed over eastern Sudan and portions of western Ethiopia, where positive anomalies exceeded 300 mm locally (**Figure 2**). This wetness was due to frequent and well above-average rainfall during August and early September. During this past week, heavy downpours fell and triggered flooding, which affected many people in Khartoum of Sudan, according to reports. Sudan has been inflicted by widespread flooding, which has impacted as many as a half million people since July, according to reports. Heavy rains were also received over Ethiopia, which triggered the bursting of the Awash River and affecting riverine areas of the Afar. Although good rains have, overall, aided the current *Kiremt*, June-September, growing cycle, excessive moisture has also damaged crops and negatively impacted the livelihoods of many people over certain areas.

Desert locusts are still present over many areas of eastern Africa despite ongoing control operations. Swarms and hopper bands were observed in northwestern Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan, eastern and northeastern Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen, and northwestern Somalia. Further infestation is expected over Ethiopia, Yemen, and Eritrea, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

For next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue over western and central Ethiopia and the western and southern parts of Sudan. The forecast additional rains, therefore, maintain elevated risks for flooding over many local areas. Light to locally moderate rains are expected in South Sudan, Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and western Yemen.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: August 10 – September 08, 2020

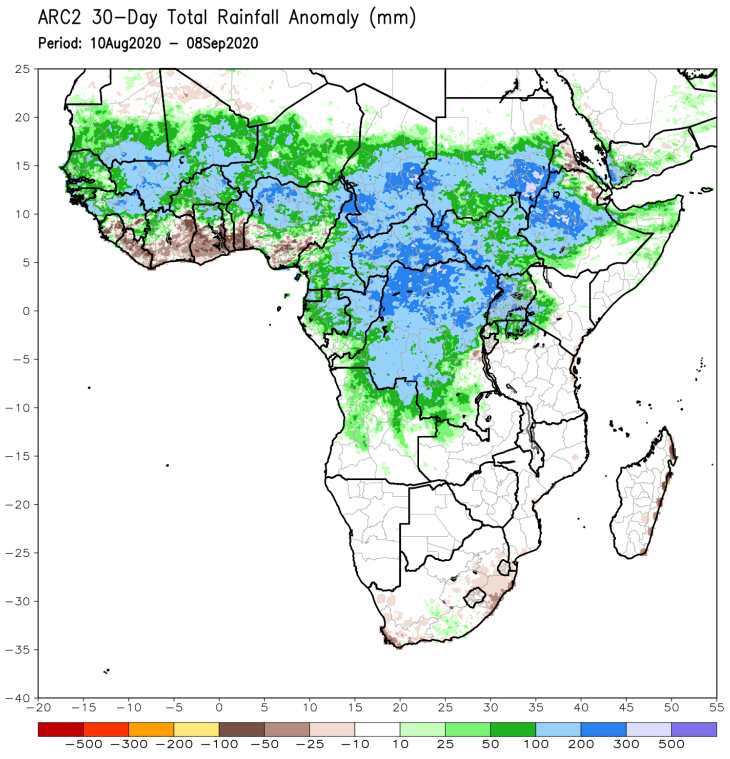


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.

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