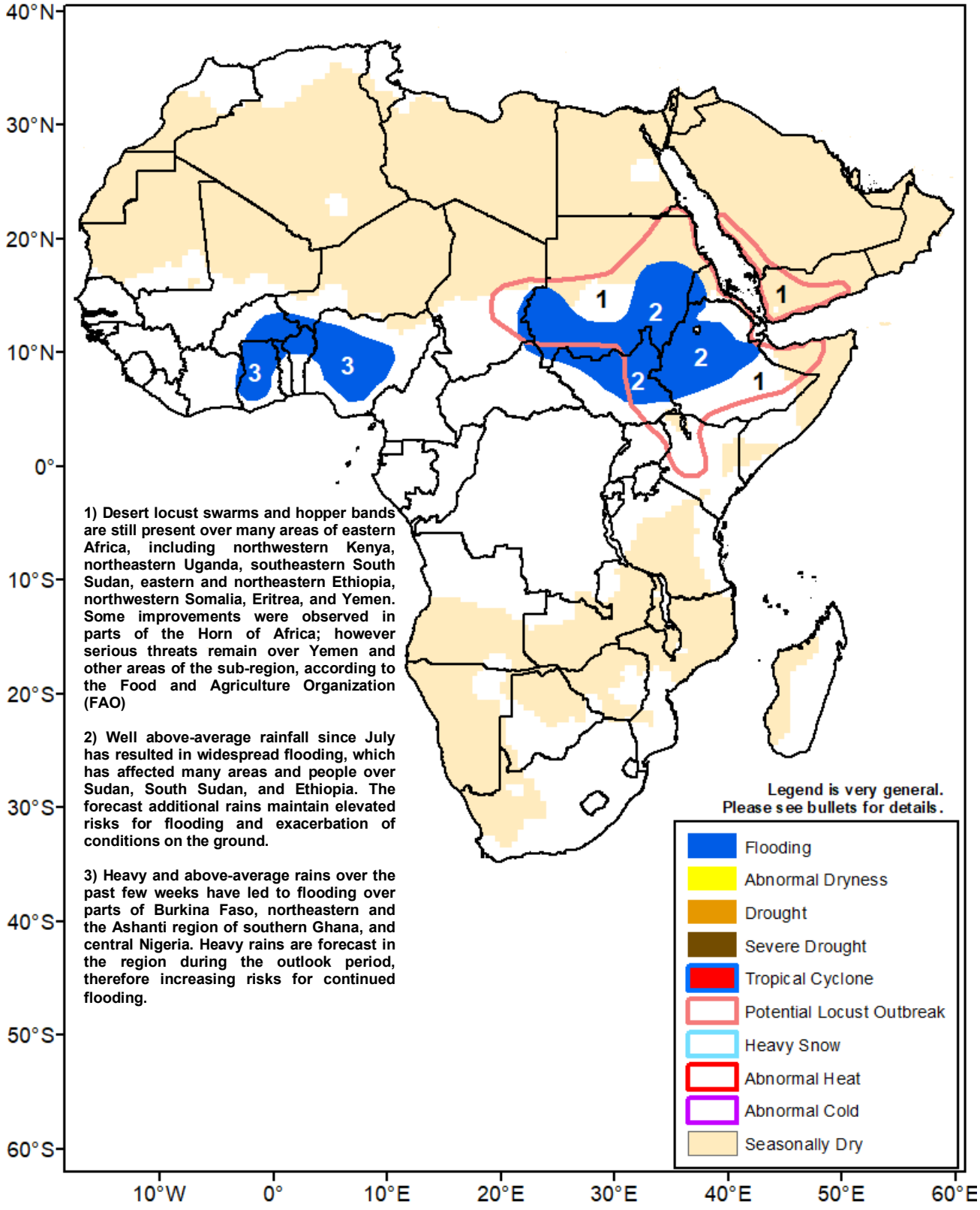
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
October 1 – 7, 2020

- **Flooding continued to impact many areas of West Africa and the Horn of Africa due to persistent wetness.**



1) Desert locust swarms and hopper bands are still present over many areas of eastern Africa, including northwestern Kenya, northeastern Uganda, southeastern South Sudan, eastern and northeastern Ethiopia, northwestern Somalia, Eritrea, and Yemen. Some improvements were observed in parts of the Horn of Africa; however serious threats remain over Yemen and other areas of the sub-region, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2) Well above-average rainfall since July has resulted in widespread flooding, which has affected many areas and people over Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. The forecast additional rains maintain elevated risks for flooding and exacerbation of conditions on the ground.

3) Heavy and above-average rains over the past few weeks have led to flooding over parts of Burkina Faso, northeastern and the Ashanti region of southern Ghana, and central Nigeria. Heavy rains are forecast in the region during the outlook period, therefore increasing risks for continued flooding.

Enhanced rains triggered flooding in the Ashanti region of southern Ghana.

During late September, the Gulf of Guinea experienced an increase in rainfall as the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF), main rain-bearing system, moved equatorward. While many Sahelian countries continued to receive light to moderate rains, areas farther south such as Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria recorded some moderate to locally heavy rains, with the largest amounts over southern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). In Ghana, this past week's heavy rains led to flooding and a fatality in Kumasi of the Ashanti region in the south, according to report. Despite elevated risks for flooding, the recent increase in rainfall contributed to alleviate dryness, which has affected the Gulf of Guinea over the past few months. During the past thirty days, only a few parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo showed small to moderate rainfall deficits, while the remainders of West Africa were dominated by large moisture surpluses.

For next week, heavy rains are forecast along the Gulf of Guinea from Guinea-Conakry to Cameroon, increasing risks for flooding and exacerbation of conditions over previously-flooded areas. Farther north, little to light rains are, generally, expected throughout the Sahel from Senegal, Burkina Faso, to Niger, which could still aggravate conditions over many already wetness-affected areas.

7-Day Satellite Total Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 23 – September 29, 2020

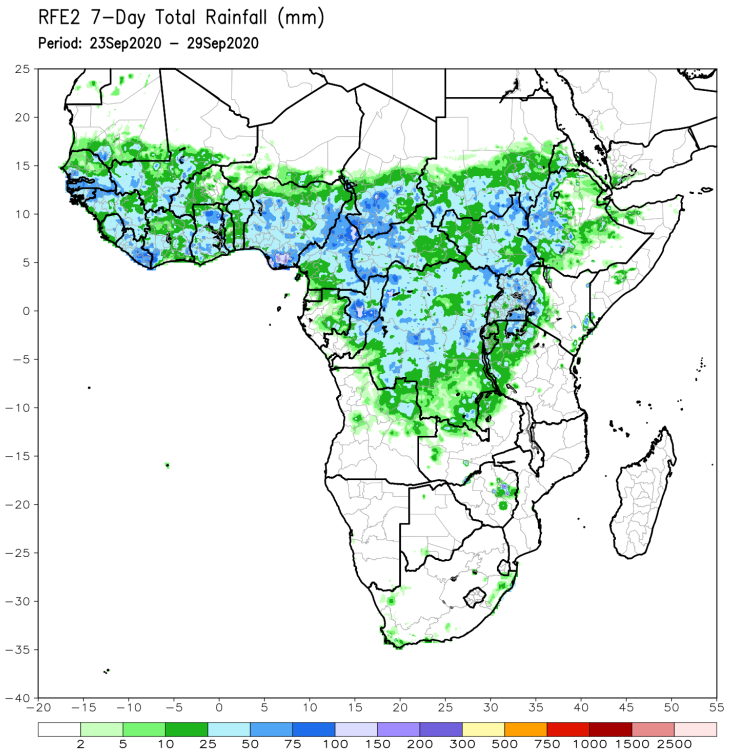


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Largely wet June-September rainfall season observed in the Horn of Africa.

An analysis of the June-September rainfall performance has showed a largely favorable seasonal rainfall over the Horn of Africa. Seasonal rainfall surpluses prevailed throughout Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, northeastern DRC, southwestern Kenya, northern Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, coastal and northwestern Somalia, and Yemen. The observed wetter-than-normal conditions could be attributed to an anomalous northerly position of the ITF over the eastern portion of Africa since mid-June. Similar wet pattern with positive rainfall anomalies were observed throughout the region over the past thirty days. The largest surpluses were registered over western and eastern Sudan and northern Ethiopia, where departures exceeded 200 mm (**Figure 2**). Flooding and overflowing of rivers has already destroyed human lives, homes, infrastructures, and crops, and has affected hundreds of thousand people in Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, according to reports. In Sudan, more than half a million people have been impacted by the floods, which have affected almost all states. In Ethiopia, the bursting of the Awash River has affected hundreds of thousand people in the Afar to the northeast. Additionally, recent flooding has hit the Amhara region. In contrast, below-average rainfall concerned localized areas of northern and east-central Ethiopia over the past thirty days.

A recent basin excess rainfall analysis depicted that very high potential for flooding continued over central and eastern Sudan, western Eritrea, and northeastern Ethiopia. Moderate to high flood risks also existed across South Sudan, northern DRC, northern Uganda, and western Ethiopia. With the continuation of late season and above-average rains, risks for flooding are likely to continue.

For next week, heavy rains are forecast in western Ethiopia, western South Sudan, and western Uganda, while moderate rains are expected in eastern South Sudan, eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Elsewhere, little to light rains are expected. The forecast decreased rains should help relieve wetness and oversaturation over some parts of Sudan.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: August 31 – September 29, 2020

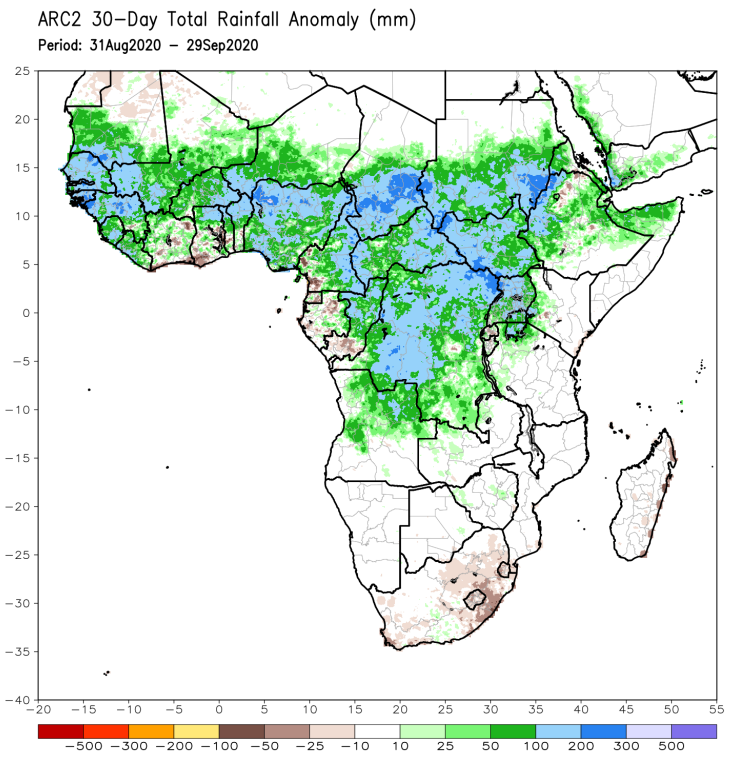


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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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