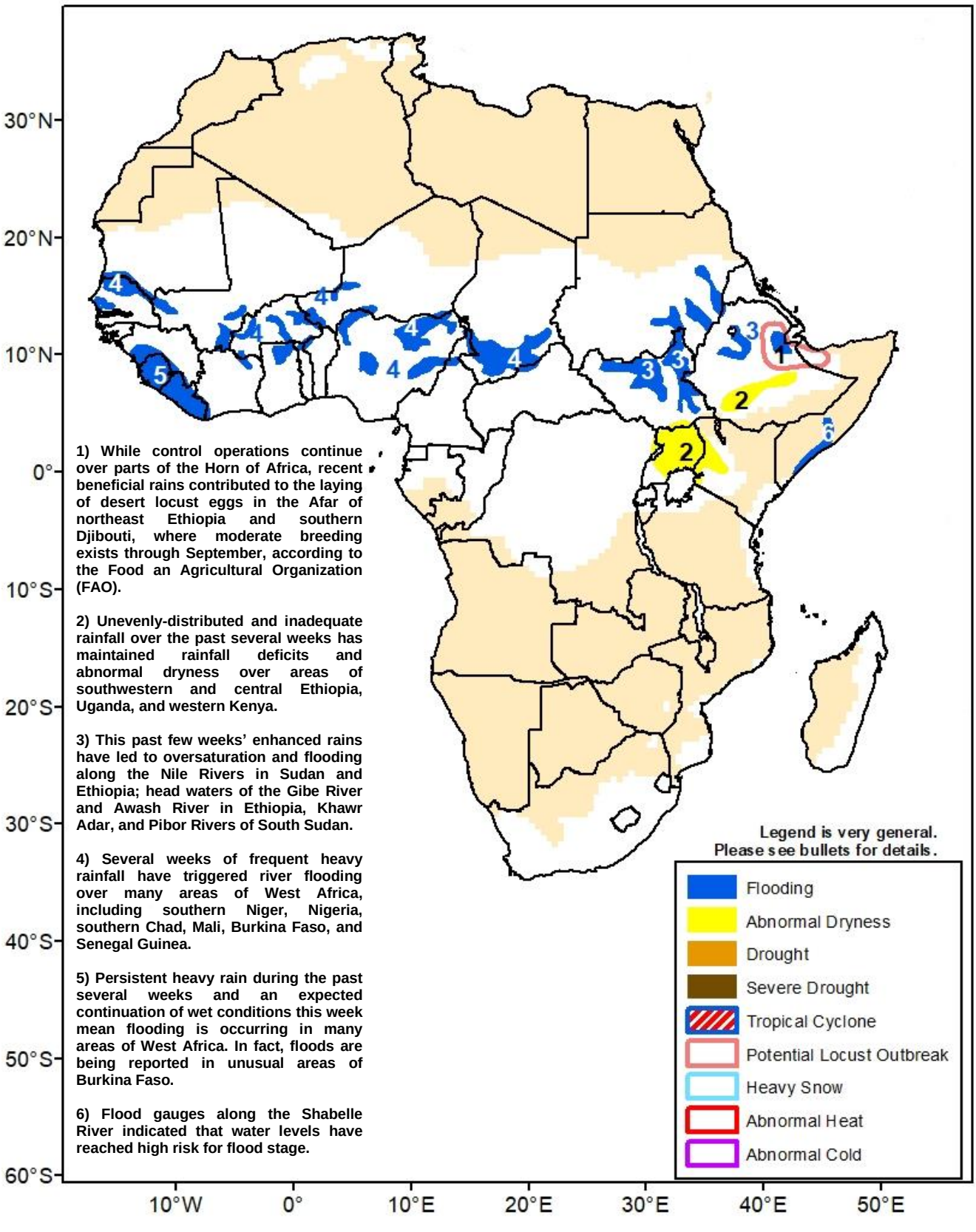
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
26 August – 1 September 2021

- **Consistent rains maintain high risks for flooding over many areas of West Africa and East Africa.**



1) While control operations continue over parts of the Horn of Africa, recent beneficial rains contributed to the laying of desert locust eggs in the Afar of northeast Ethiopia and southern Djibouti, where moderate breeding exists through September, according to the Food an Agricultural Organization (FAO).

2) Unevenly-distributed and inadequate rainfall over the past several weeks has maintained rainfall deficits and abnormal dryness over areas of southwestern and central Ethiopia, Uganda, and western Kenya.

3) This past few weeks' enhanced rains have led to oversaturation and flooding along the Nile Rivers in Sudan and Ethiopia; head waters of the Gibe River and Awash River in Ethiopia, Khawr Adar, and Pibor Rivers of South Sudan.

4) Several weeks of frequent heavy rainfall have triggered river flooding over many areas of West Africa, including southern Niger, Nigeria, southern Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Senegal Guinea.

5) Persistent heavy rain during the past several weeks and an expected continuation of wet conditions this week mean flooding is occurring in many areas of West Africa. In fact, floods are being reported in unusual areas of Burkina Faso.

6) Flood gauges along the Shabelle River indicated that water levels have reached high risk for flood stage.

The heaviest rains were again observed over the far-western parts of West Africa this past week.

Several parts of the region experienced heavy and above-average rainfall during the past 7 days. Some of the largest totals were observed in Guinea and southwestern Mali where 100-200mm of rain was recorded according to satellite estimates (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains of locally more than 75mm spread into areas of Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Liberia as well. Southern Nigeria also recorded more than 100mm locally. Light to moderate rains spread over northern Mali, while central parts of the country received light, less than average rains. Increasing rainfall continued to overspread Gulf of Guinea regions as well. During much of July and into August, rainfall has been above-average over many areas of the Sahel and in far-west Africa. The largest 30-day rainfall surpluses have dominated over the far-western portion, including Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, and parts of southwestern Mali. Positive anomalies reach more than 300mm. Many other areas, including northern Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, northwestern and now southern Mauritania have also been much wetter than average (**Figure 2**). The resulting oversaturation has caused elevated river levels in Guinea-Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. Recent heavy rain in Ghana's Upper West region and western Nigeria caused flooding. Conversely, below-average 30-day rainfall was observed over parts of central Mauritania and across eastern Nigeria and Cameroon. Though rains have still been persistent in these climatologically wet regions, the deficits will need to be monitored.

Signal for poor and below-average vegetation health remained over parts of Senegal, southwestern Nigeria, and Cameroon according to the latest Vegetation Health Index (VHI).

During the next week, abundant rains are forecast over southern and western portions of West Africa. The heaviest rains are again expected in Guinea Conakry Sierra Leone, and Liberia, where more than 100mm is likely. The forecast maintains high risks for flooding over many previously-flooded areas. Conversely, suppressed rain is expected along many parts of the Sahel.

Heavy rains continued over northwestern Ethiopia.

During the past week, rainfall was lighter for most of the region. Northwestern Ethiopia still received rains totaling more than 100mm (**Figure 1**). Most other areas received between 10mm and 50mm of rain –totals that were below average in many cases. 7-day deficits exceeded 25mm in many local areas of South Sudan, Sudan, and central Ethiopia. Flooding was also reported locally in Kivu and north Kivu, DRC. An analysis of recent 30-day rainfall totals showed that wetness prevailed over the northern section of eastern Africa and dryness has expanded over southern sections. The largest rainfall surpluses dominated over northern Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan, where anomalies ranged 25 – 100+mm. As a result, flooding and elevated river levels are reported over many areas. In contrast, recent below-average rainfall has exacerbated seasonal deficits over Uganda, localized areas of central and southwestern Ethiopia, and portions of western Kenya. Based on the latest VHI, the unhealthiest vegetation conditions are located in Uganda.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts suggested continued enhanced rains western Ethiopia. This will keep the flood risk elevated. Suppressed rains are forecast across South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and northwestern DRC.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 18 August – 24 August, 2021

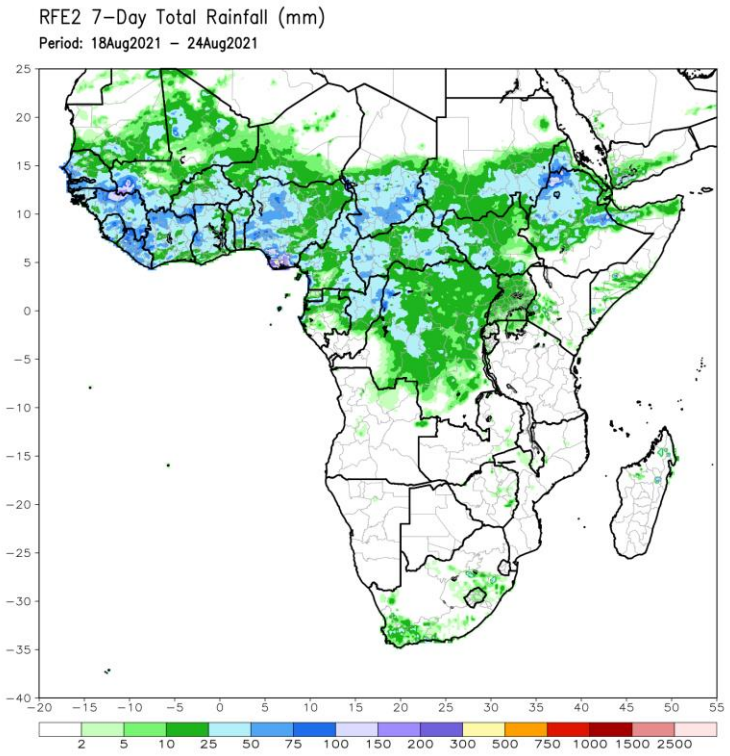


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: 26 July – 24 August, 2021

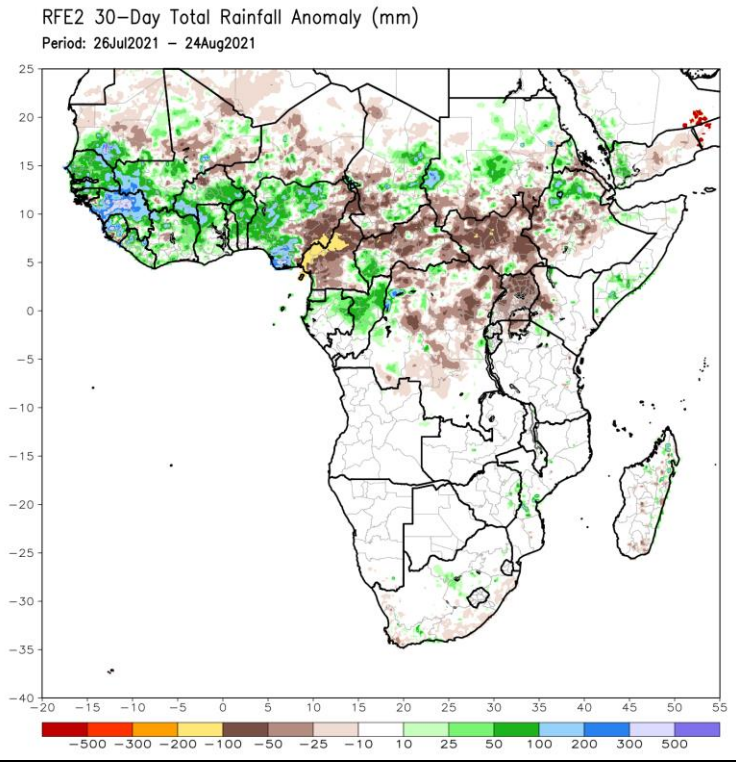


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

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.