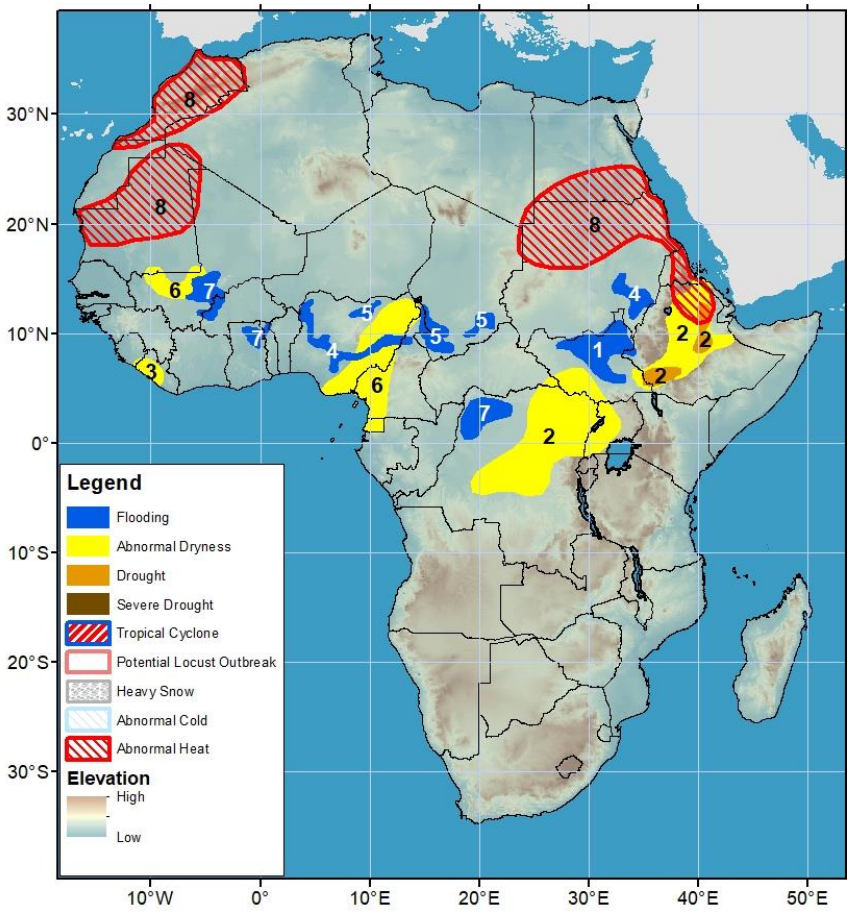
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
28 September – 4 October 2023

- **Deficient rainfall and hotter conditions have led to drought in southwestern and northeastern Ethiopia.**
- **Flooding worsen over many areas in West Africa as seasonal rainfall continues.**



1) Flooding conditions persist in the Sudd wetlands in northern South Sudan.

2) Unevenly-distributed rainfall since July has led to moderate to large seasonal rainfall deficits, which have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions.

3) Below-average rainfall was observed and has maintained abnormal dryness in Liberia.

4) Torrential and above-average rain has caused floods to continue in the Niger and Benue Rivers in Nigeria. Flooding is also continuing along the Blue Nile in eastern Sudan.

5) Heavy rains during the past several weeks have caused floods to emerge in Chad and northern Nigeria.

6) Below-average rainfall over the past several weeks has resulted in abnormal dryness in western Mali, eastern Nigeria, western Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea.

7) Heavy rains over the past few weeks have caused rivers to rise in central Mali. Recent heavy rains have also led to flooding in northern Ghana, northern Togo, and northwestern DRC, where landslides have resulted in fatalities, based on reports.

8) Abnormally hot conditions are forecast in Morocco, northern Mauritania, northern Sudan, southern Egypt, Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia, where well above-average (up to +4°C) maximum temperatures and elevated heat index are expected during the next week.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product considers long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Drought has emerged in Ethiopia despite recent increase in rainfall.

Since the beginning of July, a poor spatial and temporal distribution in rainfall has been observed in Eastern Africa. Many areas, including eastern South Sudan, the southwestern, eastern, and northeastern parts of Ethiopia, and southwestern Uganda have received deficient rainfall, with seasonal accumulation between 25-80% of the average (**Figure 1**). The worst hit area concerned southwestern Ethiopia, where total rainfall was less than 50% of the average. Despite an increase in rainfall over the past two consecutive weeks, the lack of rainfall has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions, which has resulted in drought in southwestern and parts of eastern and northeastern Ethiopia. As the rainfall season is coming to an end, the chance for recovery is slim to nil.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest that heavy rainfall will continue in southwestern and western Ethiopia, which should help erode short-term rainfall deficits further. Light to moderate rainfall is expected in southern Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and southwestern Kenya. Little to light rainfall is forecast across Somalia. Meanwhile, maximum temperature could average up to 4°C above average in northern Sudan, southern Egypt, Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia, potentially affecting vulnerable people in the region.

3-Month Satellite Estimated Percent of Average Rainfall (%)
Valid: 01 July – 26 September 2023

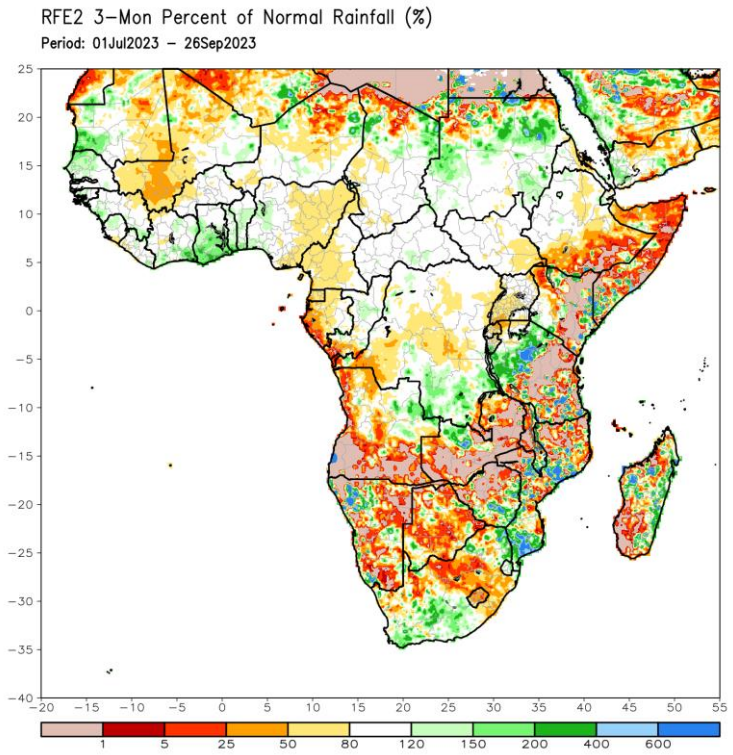


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Flooding detected over many areas in West Africa

During the past week, abundant rainfall was received over many areas in West Africa, including the far western West Africa such as western Guinea-Conakry, central Gulf of Guinea, including localized areas in Ghana, Togo, and Benin, and coastal areas in southern Nigeria (**Figure 2**). Meanwhile, moderate rain continued over most areas along the Gulf of Guinea. The continuation of seasonal rainfall has already triggered flooding over central Mali and parts of Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, central Nigeria, and southern Chad, based on enhanced flood monitoring analysis. The observed wetness may be attributable to a persistent anomalous northerly position of the Intertropical Front (ITF) since the first dekad (10-day period) of September. Besides the detected flooding, vegetation conditions were at or above-average over much of West Africa. Poor vegetation conditions were, however, indicated over localized areas such as southeastern Mauritania, parts of central and eastern Mali, parts of west-central and southeastern Niger.

During the next week, heavy rainfall is forecast along eastern Gulf of Guinea, which should help ease dryness in the sub-region. However, the forecast additional rain may also exacerbate or trigger new flooding in many areas. Meanwhile, abnormal heat hazards are posted in Morocco, and parts of Mauritania and Mali as well above-average maximum temperatures and elevated heat index are forecast in the region, potentially affecting vulnerable people.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: 20 September – 26 September 2023

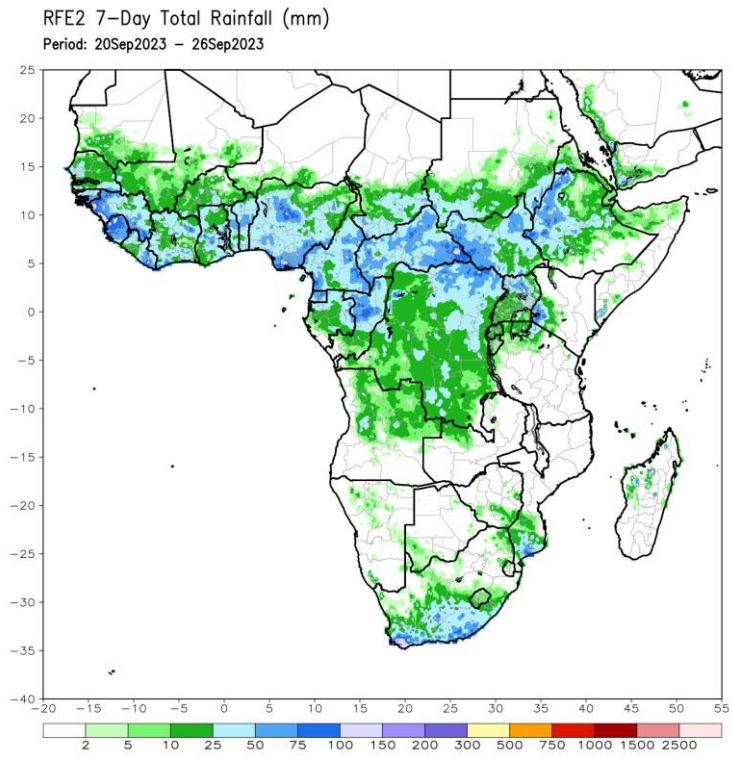
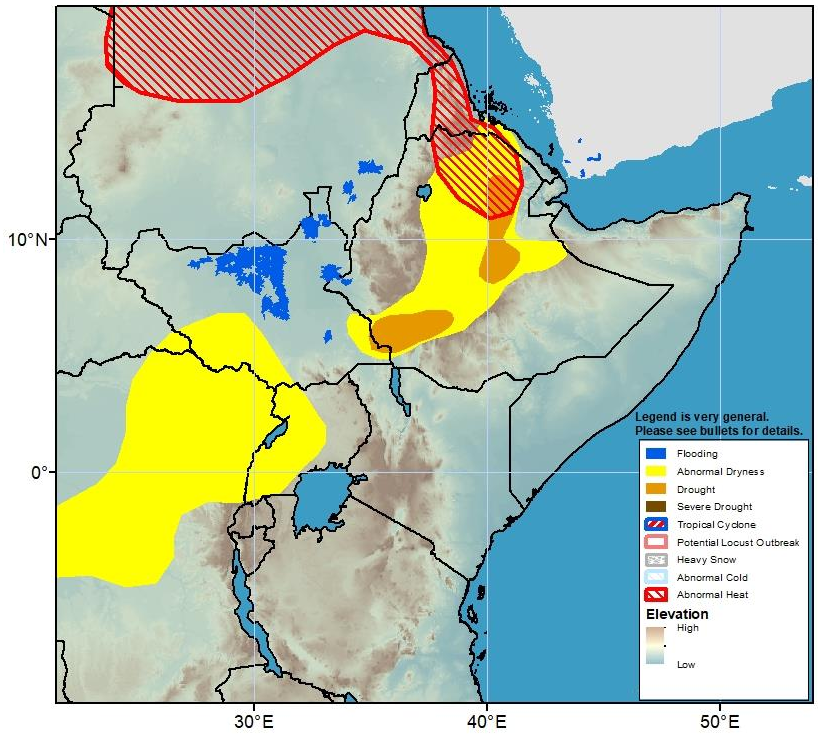
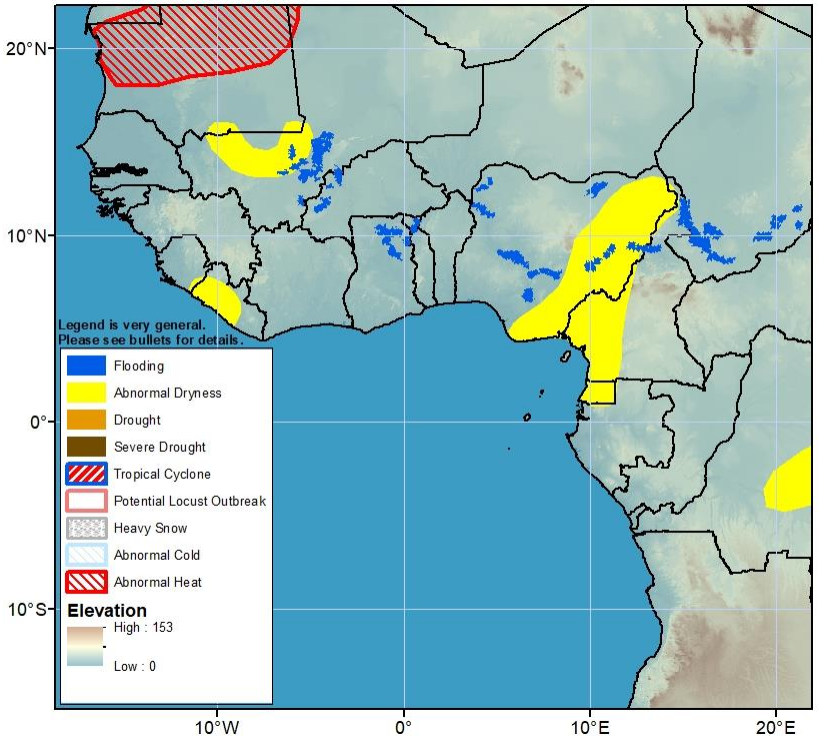


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC



Flooding have persisted in the Sudd wetlands in South Sudan as well as along the Blue Nile and White Nile Rivers in eastern Sudan.

Figure 3: Hazards, focused over Eastern Africa



Flooding persist or even worsen in central Mali, western Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, and northern Togo. Flooding have worsened in Nigeria and remained unchanged in Chad.

Figure 4: Hazards, focused over West Africa