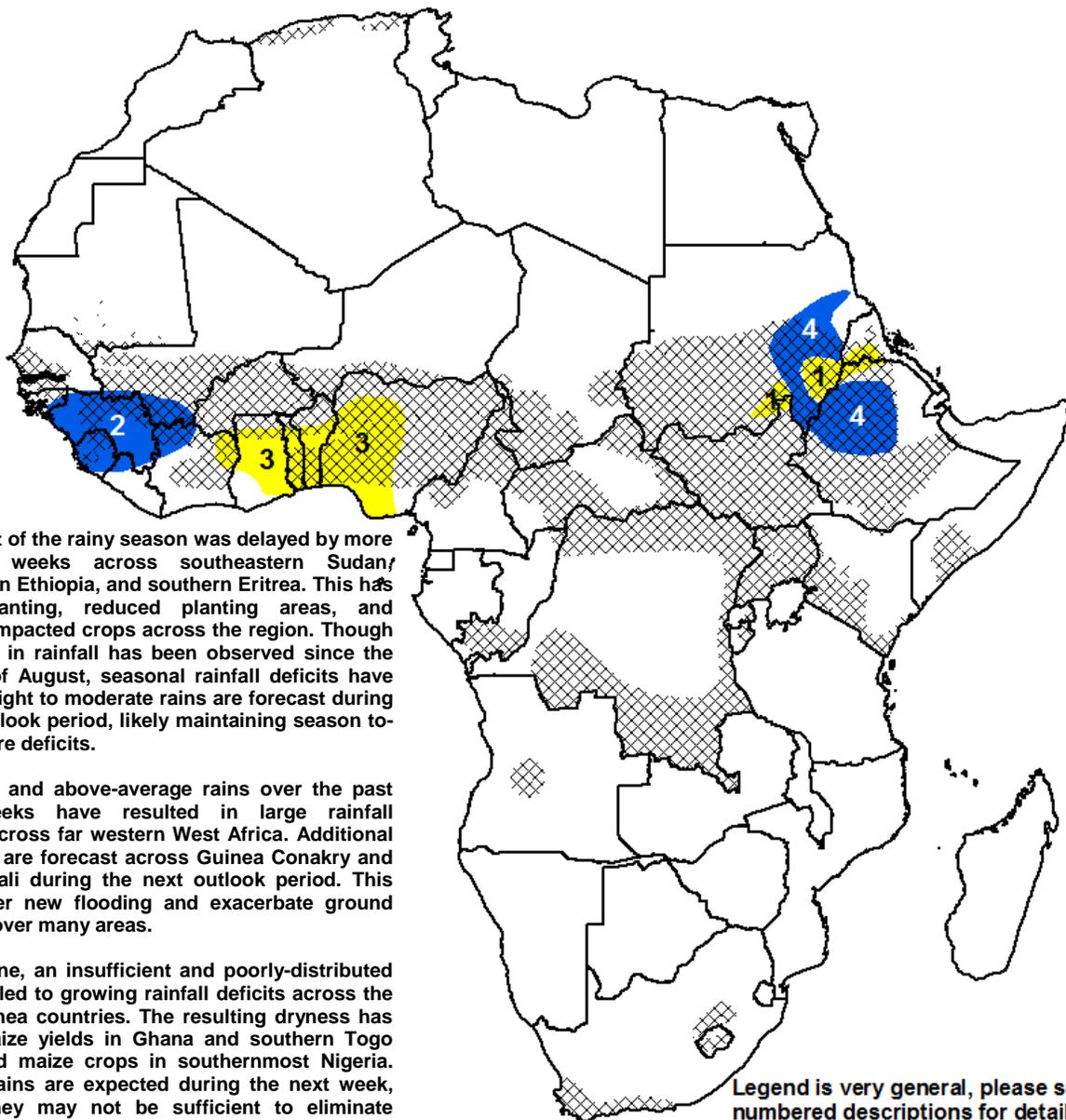




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 29 – September 4, 2013

- A slight reduction in rainfall was observed across West Africa, while seasonal rains continued over eastern Africa during the past week.



1) The onset of the rainy season was delayed by more than four weeks across southeastern Sudan/northwestern Ethiopia, and southern Eritrea. This has delayed planting, reduced planting areas, and negatively impacted crops across the region. Though an increase in rainfall has been observed since the beginning of August, seasonal rainfall deficits have persisted. Light to moderate rains are forecast during the next outlook period, likely maintaining season-to-date moisture deficits.

2) Frequent and above-average rains over the past several weeks have resulted in large rainfall surpluses across far western West Africa. Additional heavy rains are forecast across Guinea Conakry and southern Mali during the next outlook period. This could trigger new flooding and exacerbate ground conditions over many areas.

3) Since June, an insufficient and poorly-distributed rainfall has led to growing rainfall deficits across the Gulf of Guinea countries. The resulting dryness has reduced maize yields in Ghana and southern Togo and affected maize crops in southernmost Nigeria. Increased rains are expected during the next week, although they may not be sufficient to eliminate accumulated moisture deficits.

4) Consistent, heavy rains since mid-July have caused flooding, resulting in fatalities, infrastructure damages, and displaced people in many local areas of north-central Ethiopia, including the Oromia, North and South Wollo, North Shoa, and Gonder regions. In Sudan, the heavy rains since early August and continuing abundant rains over highland Ethiopia, which have led to inundation and further increased river water levels elevate the potentials for flooding over the Blue Nile, Kassala, Sinar, Khartoum, El Gazeira, and River Nile states.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

	August Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Dryness worsens along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past seven days, a slight reduction in rainfall was observed over West Africa, though torrential (> 75 mm) rains continued across the far western portions of the region, including southern Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, and western Mali. The consistent heavy rains over the past several weeks have increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses over Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, and parts of western Mali. Meanwhile, a widespread rainfall distribution was observed throughout southern Mali, Burkina Faso, western Niger, northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, Chad, and CAR (**Figure 1**). This past week's cumulative rainfall was average to above-average and helped to maintain overall adequate ground moisture across the Sahel. In contrast, suppressed rains were recorded along the Gulf of Guinea, particularly, throughout southeastern Cote d'Ivoire to southwestern Nigeria. As a result, thirty-day rainfall deficits have grown across the region.

An analysis of the percent of normal rainfall during the past thirty days exhibits very low amounts of rainfall accumulation since late July, accounting for only less than 25 percent of the average across the central parts of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and southern portions of Togo, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 2**). The growing rainfall deficits were mainly attributable to a poor distribution of rainfall during June and July and prolonged dry August break in southern Nigeria.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall along the Gulf of Guinea, with light to moderate rains throughout Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria. This could help to reduce moisture deficits and replenish soil moisture across the region. Farther north, heavy rains are expected to continue over Guinea Conakry, southern Mali, and northern Cote d'Ivoire. Moderate to heavy rains are also forecast across Burkina Faso, northern Benin, Niger, and central Nigeria.

Dryness persists despite some improvement in rainfall.

Since the beginning of August, an increase in rainfall has been observed over eastern Africa, particularly, Sudan, where flooding was reported in several states during early period of the month. During the past week, heavy rains continued over southeastern Sudan, helping to reduce thirty-day moisture deficits across the region. However, dryness has persisted as large season to-date rainfall deficits remained over the Qadaryf and Sennar states of eastern Sudan. Cumulative rainfall has been among the lowest in records over the past thirty years as shown in the rainfall percentile (**Figure 3**). While the prolonged delay of the onset of the season had already reduced planting area, the shorter window of the season left is likely to result in reduced crop yields. During the next outlook period, a reduction in rainfall is forecast across Sudan, with light to moderate rains across the southeastern parts. Moderate to locally heavy rains are, however, expected farther west, which could trigger flooding over the Darfur region. Meanwhile, heavy rains are expected to continue in western Ethiopia and western South Sudan.

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.

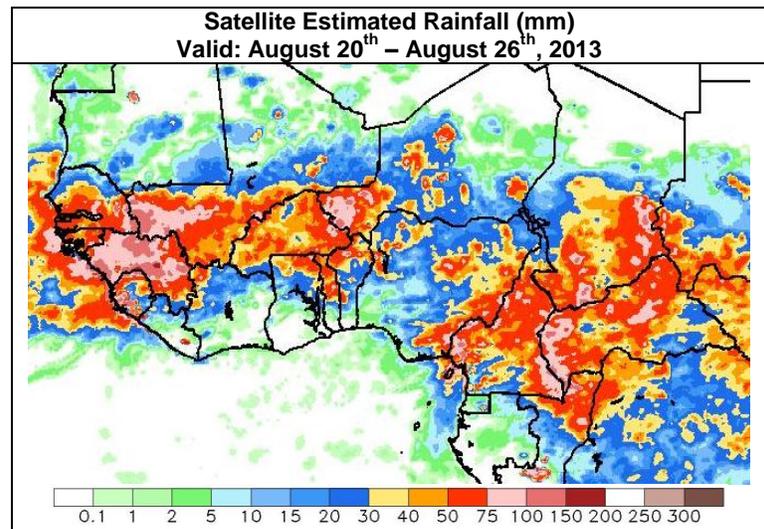


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

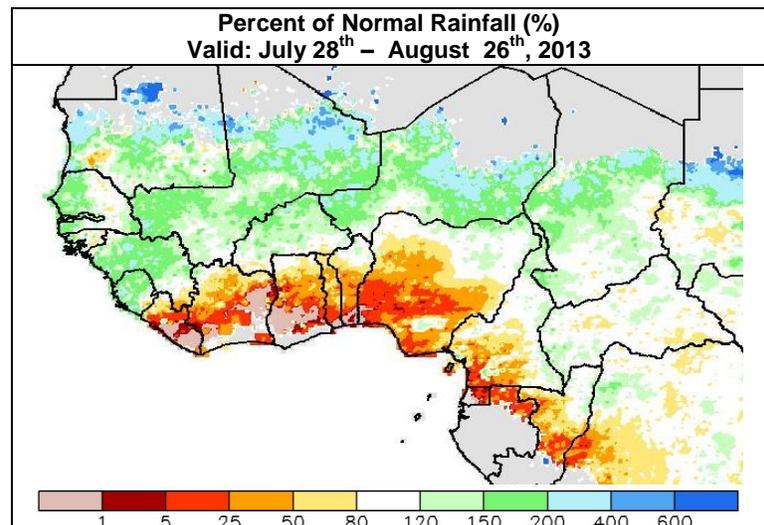


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

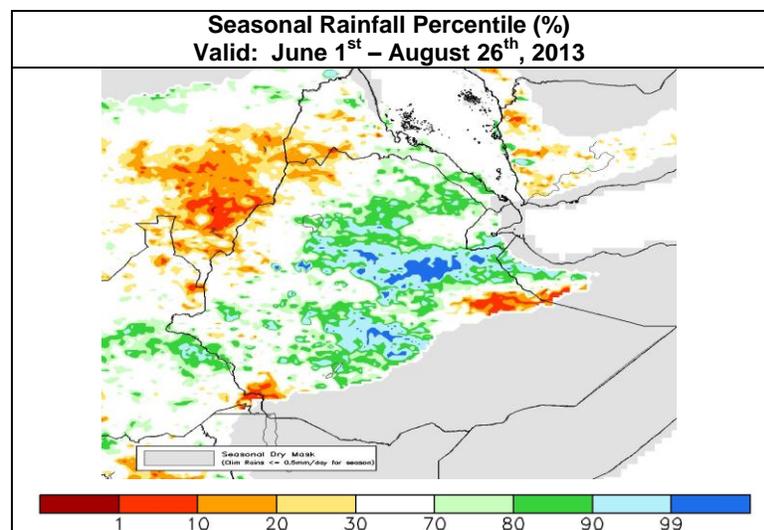


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC