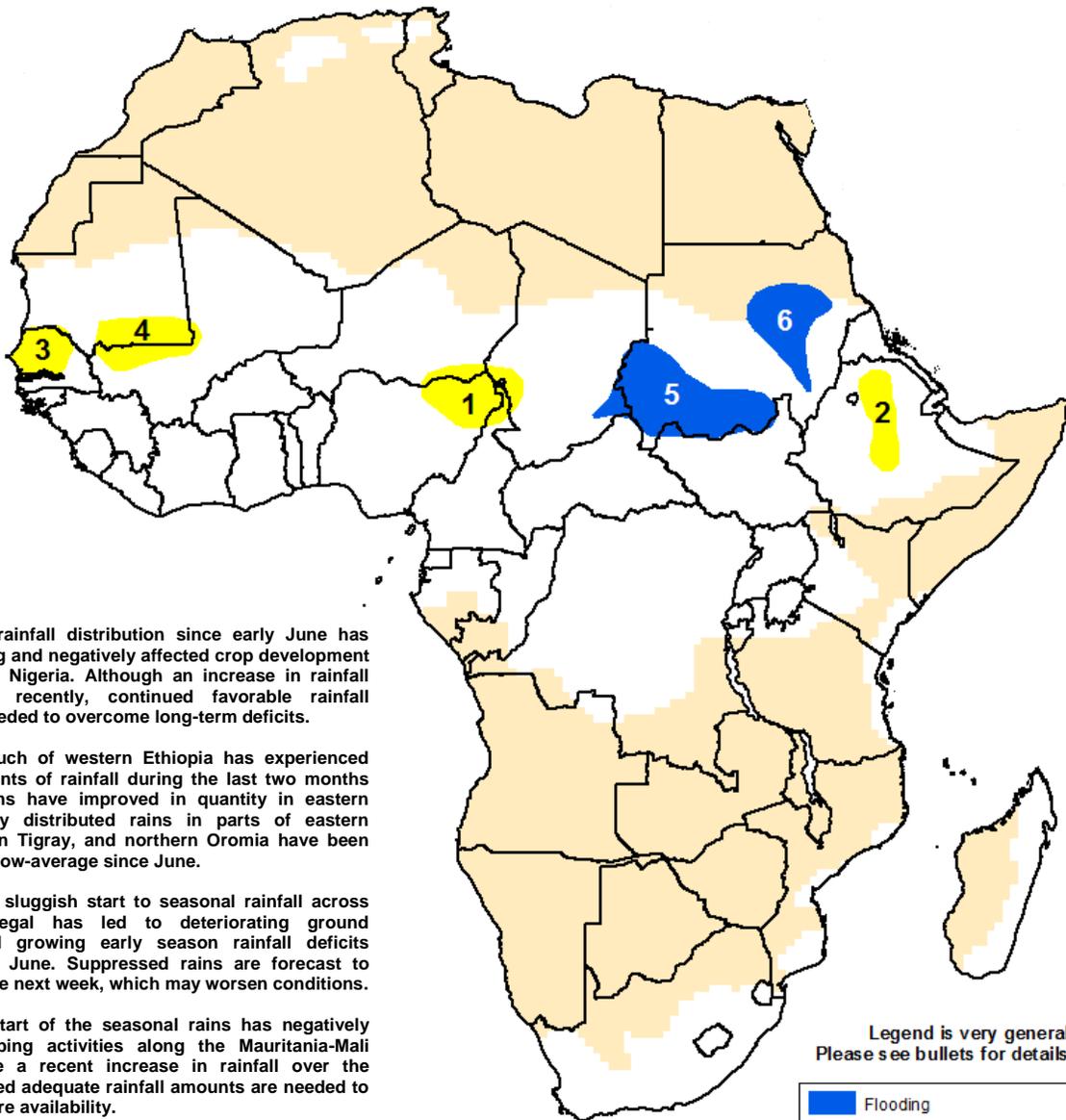




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 21 – August 27, 2014

- Increased rains observed in West Africa during the past observation period.
- Consistent heavy rains triggered flooding, destroyed houses, and thousands of displaced people in Sudan.



1) Inadequate rainfall distribution since early June has delayed planting and negatively affected crop development in northeastern Nigeria. Although an increase in rainfall was observed recently, continued favorable rainfall amounts are needed to overcome long-term deficits.

2) Although much of western Ethiopia has experienced favorable amounts of rainfall during the last two months and recent rains have improved in quantity in eastern Ethiopia, poorly distributed rains in parts of eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, and northern Oromia have been consistently below-average since June.

3) A continued sluggish start to seasonal rainfall across much of Senegal has led to deteriorating ground conditions and growing early season rainfall deficits dating back to June. Suppressed rains are forecast to return during the next week, which may worsen conditions.

4) A delayed start of the seasonal rains has negatively impacted cropping activities along the Mauritania-Mali border. Despite a recent increase in rainfall over the region, continued adequate rainfall amounts are needed to improve moisture availability.

5) Heavy rains during the past few weeks have destroyed shelters, flooded producing areas, and affected several people over many parts of the Darfur and Kordofan areas of Sudan. With moderate to heavy rains forecast to continue next week, additional flooding is likely.

6) Heavy downpours during the past few weeks have caused flooding, infrastructure damages, injuries, and displaced people across the Khartoum, River Nile, and Al Gazeera states of Sudan. Potential for flooding remains high as heavy rains are forecast to continue over upstream Ethiopian highland.

Legend is very general.  
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

### Increased rains observed in West Africa.

During the past week, increased rains prevailed over West Africa. The rainbelt undulated across the subregion from The Gambia, southern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, northern Nigeria, to Chad, and CAR (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains were received as far north as northeastern Mali. The heaviest (> 275 mm) rains were observed over Cape Skiring of southern Senegal. This past week's enhanced rains have contributed to maintain favorable soil moisture across the Sahel. Enhanced rains were also registered over the dryness-affected areas of northern Senegal and southern Mauritania. This has helped eliminate thirty-day rainfall deficits over many local areas. Similarly, heavy and above-average rains have neutralized thirty-day rainfall anomalies in northeastern Nigeria. However, despite the recent increase in rainfall over the past few weeks, the delayed start of the season has resulted in long-term moisture deficits, which has negatively impacted planting activities and crop development in the region.

Percent of normal rainfall since the beginning of the West African monsoon has indicated average to above-average rainfall across the Sahel and western portions of the Gulf of Guinea region (**Figure 2**). However, northwestern Senegal and parts of southern Mauritania have received only between 25 and 80 percent of their average rainfall. The dryness was mostly attributed to the delayed start of the season and poor rainfall distribution in July. Parts of Nigeria, particularly the Maiduguri in the northeast, have also experienced a delayed start of the rainy season, which had already negatively affected agricultural activities over many local areas. If the uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall continues, it could reduce moisture availability further and significantly lower seasonal yields over many local areas of West Africa.

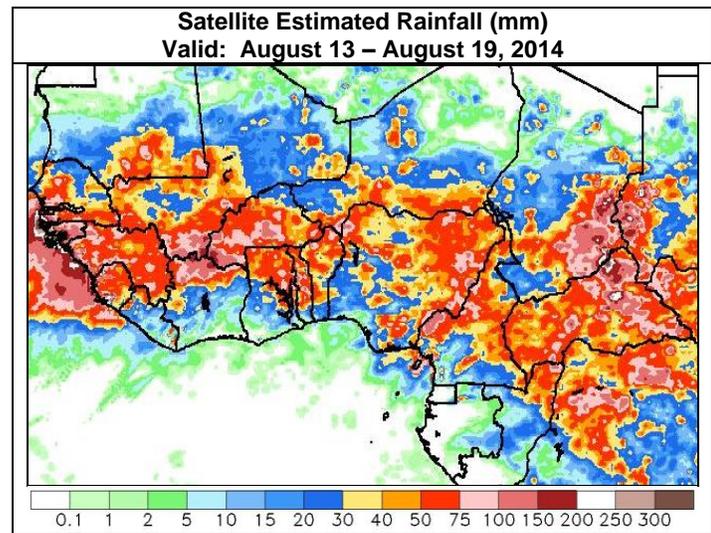
During the next week, a slight reduction in rainfall is expected over West Africa. Though, heavy rains are forecast over parts of Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, central Mali, western Niger, and northern Nigeria. In contrast, reduced rains are expected in northern Senegal and southern Mauritania.

### Atypical wetness observed over Sudan.

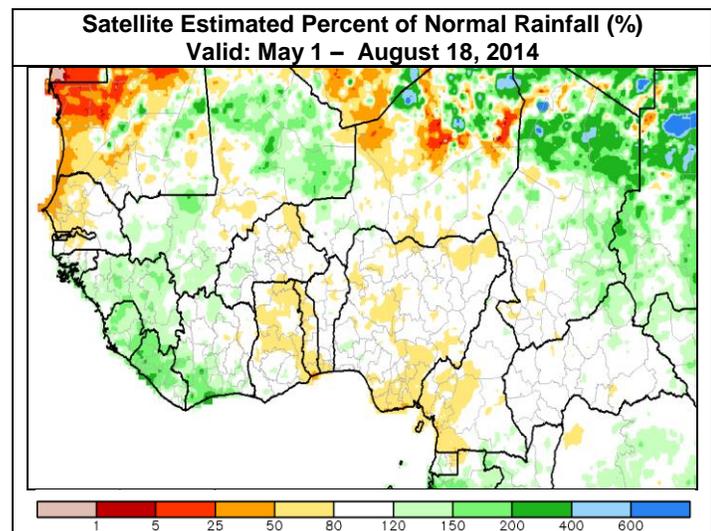
During the past week, torrential rains were observed over much of Eastern Africa. Heavy rains continued across Sudan, South Sudan, and western Ethiopia. Over Sudan, the season has been abnormally wet as cumulative rainfall since mid-July has ranked over the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile (among the top wettest years over the past thirty years) across a wide portion of the country (**Figure 3**). The continuous above-average rains over the past few weeks have resulted in flooding, destroyed homes, and thousands of affected people in many parts of Sudan, including the North Darfur, Central Darfur, West Darfur, Khartoum, Kassala, River Nile, and White Nile. For next week, seasonal, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue over the Darfur of western Sudan, western South Sudan, and western Ethiopia. This, therefore, maintains the risks for flooding over many already-affected and flood-prone areas. Light to moderate rains are expected over eastern South Sudan and eastern 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.

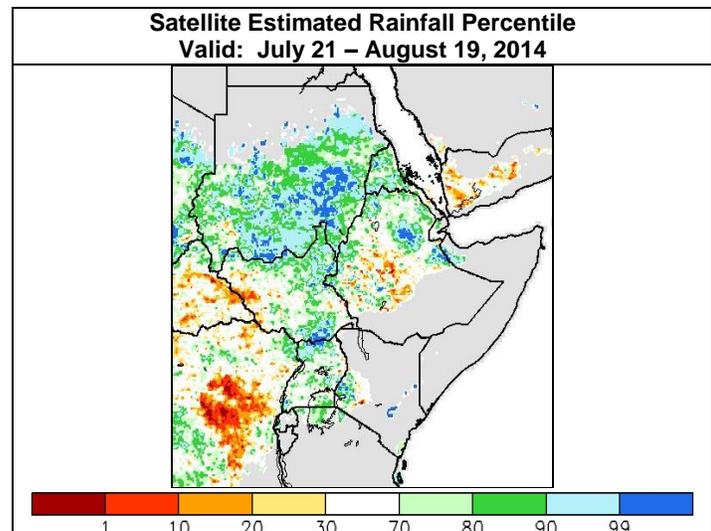
Questions or comments about this product may be directed to [Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov) or 1-301-683-3424.



**Figure 1: NOAA/CPC**



**Figure 2: NOAA/CPC**



**Figure 3: NOAA/CPC**