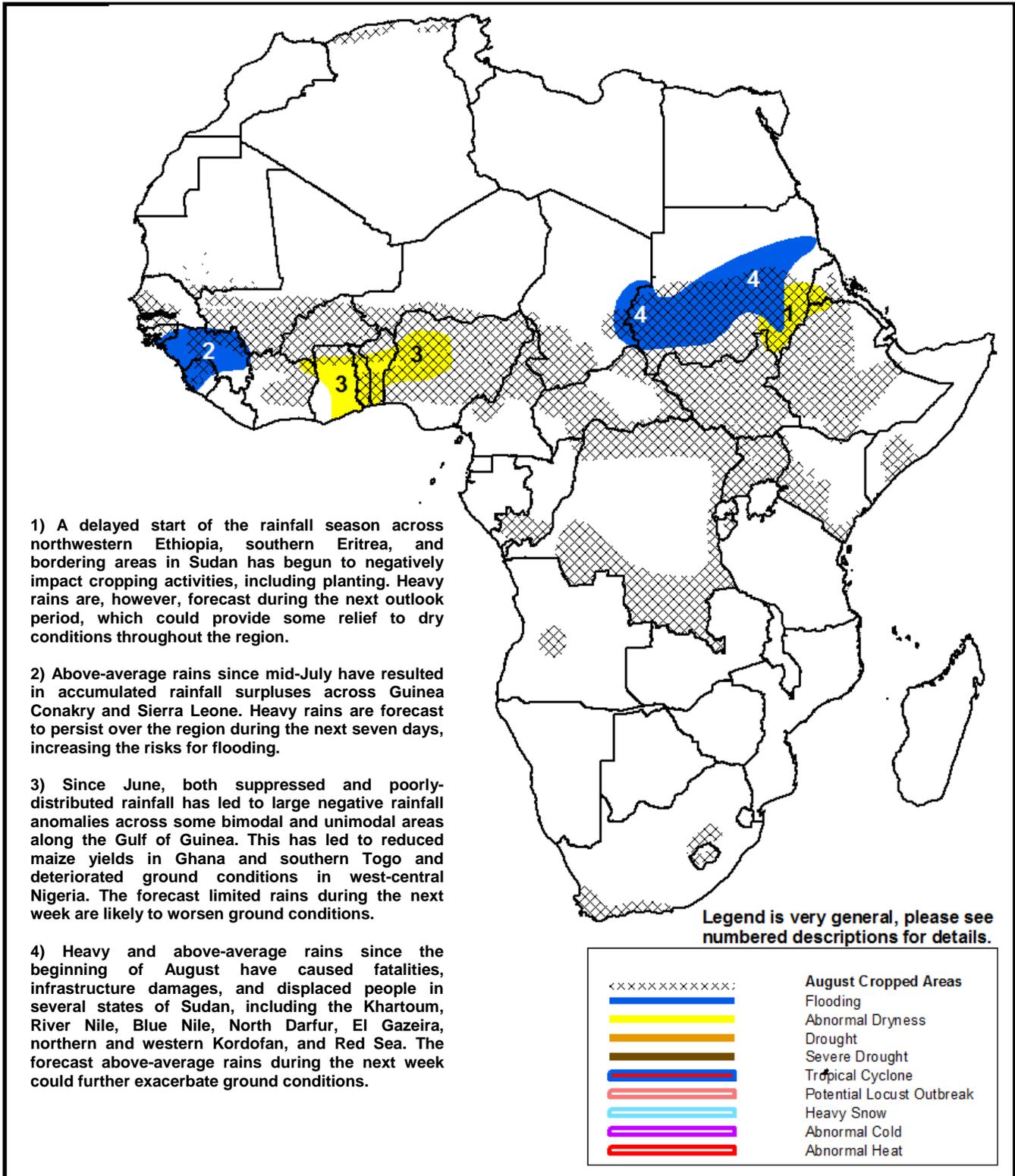


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 15 – August 21, 2013

- Rainfall deficits grow along the Gulf of Guinea, while dryness persists in eastern Sudan.



## Dryness worsens along the Gulf of Guinea.

While heavy rains continued to fall across much of West Africa, including western Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, western Mali, southern Mauritania, Burkina Faso, and western Niger, little to no rains persisted along the Gulf of Guinea during the past week. Although reduced rains are climatologically expected across the bimodal region of West Africa as the rain-bearing system is moving further North during this time of the year, below-average rains were again observed throughout Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria during the past seven days. This has helped to further increase rainfall deficits along the Gulf of Guinea over the past thirty days. Moderate (50-100 mm) rainfall deficits extended across Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, whereas large (> 100 mm) deficits were recorded over central Togo, Benin, west-central and southern Nigeria (**Figure 1**). The lack of rainfall over the past several weeks has already negatively impacted cropping activities over local areas of Togo and Ghana.

Due to below-average rainfall frequency and below-average rainfall amounts over the past thirty days, a significant depletion (< 40 percent) of soil moisture was observed throughout Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and parts of Benin and western Nigeria as indicated by an analysis of moisture index during early August (**Figure 2**). The continuation of insufficient rains could negatively impact agricultural activities and potentially reduce seasonal yields over the region. In contrast, favorable ground moisture was recorded farther North across the Sahel.

For next week, there is an increased chance for above-average rains to continue across much of West Africa. Heavy rains are expected to fall over the Sahel and Guinean-Sudanian regions, including Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, northern Nigeria, and eastern Chad. However, suppressed rains are forecast to persist along the Gulf of Guinea region.

## Dryness persists in eastern Sudan.

During the past week, widespread, moderate to heavy rains continued and resulted in additional flooding over the Khartoum, River Nile, Blue Nile, El Gazeira, Northern, Western Kordofan, and Red Sea states of Sudan. The stagnant and excess of water have increased the potential for waterborne disease outbreaks and damage to crops over many local areas. Conversely, slightly below-average rains were recorded farther east during the past week, sustaining dryness across eastern Sudan. Negative rainfall anomalies ranging between 50-100 mm have remained over eastern Sudan and portions of northwestern Ethiopia and southwestern Eritrea during the past thirty days (**Figure 3**). For next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue over southern Sudan. This maintains the risks for additional flooding and worsening of ground conditions over many local areas. Heavy showers are expected over Darfur and bordering Chad, potentially triggering flash flood. Meanwhile, heavy rains are forecast to continue over western Ethiopia and 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.**

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 a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1- 202-254-0204 or geilerts@usaid.gov.

