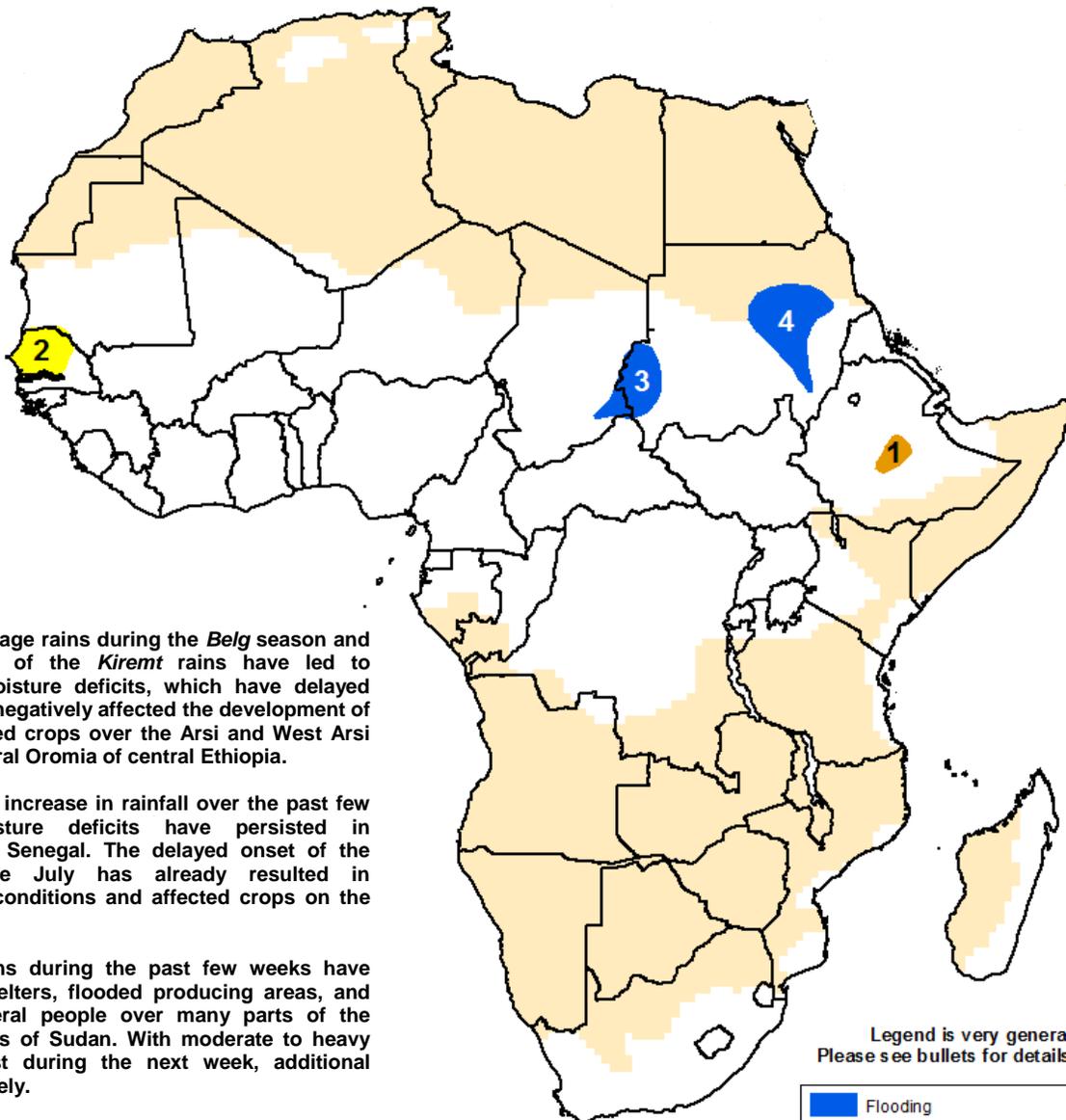




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 28 – September 3, 2014

- Above-average rains observed over the Sahel during the past week.
- Slightly reduced rains recorded in Sudan during the past observation period.



1) Below-average rains during the *Belg* season and a late onset of the *Kiremt* rains have led to persistent moisture deficits, which have delayed planting and negatively affected the development of already-planted crops over the Arsi and West Arsi zones in central Oromia of central Ethiopia.

2) Despite an increase in rainfall over the past few weeks, moisture deficits have persisted in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season since July has already resulted in deteriorated conditions and affected crops on the ground.

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

4) Heavy downpours during the past few weeks have caused flooding, infrastructure damages, injuries, and displaced people across the Khartoum, River Nile, and Al Gazeira 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

Enhanced rains have persisted in West Africa.

Following copious amounts of rain during the prior week, West Africa received another week of heavy rains. While the heaviest (> 200 mm) rainfall was observed in southern Senegal, a robust rainfall distribution, encompassing much of West Africa, was recorded during the past week (**Figure 1**). The rain belt pushed as far north as the southern half of Mauritania, which reduced thirty-day rainfall deficits further and replenished soil moisture in the region. Moderate to locally heavy rains also fell in northern Senegal, helping to erode negative anomalies associated with the delayed onset of the rainy season during July. Farther east, moderate to heavy rains were registered over Nigeria, resulting in flooding and several displaced people over the Gwagwalada locality of the central parts of the country. In the north east parts of Nigeria, moderate rains continued, which contributed to turn moisture deficits into surpluses over some local areas.

An analysis of rainfall anomalies during the second dekad (10-day period) of August has shown above-average rains across much of West Africa. Rainfall surpluses ranging between 50-100 mm were observed in southern Mauritania, northeastern Mali, northern Cote d'Ivoire, eastern Nigeria, and eastern Chad (**Figure 2**). The positive rainfall anomalies have resulted from an anomalous northward position of the Inter-tropical Front and more frequent rains across the central portions of West Africa. The recent increase in rainfall has helped reduce accumulated deficits and replenish soil moisture over many local areas.

For next week, torrential rains are forecast over far western Africa, including southern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, and southern Mali. Moderate to heavy rains are also expected over Nigeria. In contrast, light to suppressed rains are expected across the northern parts of the Sahel. These include northern Senegal, western Mali, southern Mauritania, and western Niger.

Slightly reduced rains observed in Sudan.

During the past week, a reduction in rainfall was observed over parts of south-central Sudan relative to that during the prior week. However, heavy rains continued over the Darfur in the western parts of the country, which resulted in floods, destroyed shelters, and affected people. Moderate to heavy rains were also received in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia (**Figure 3**). Although positive rainfall anomalies have been observed over much of Eastern Africa during the past thirty days, rainfall deficits have remained over localized areas of south-central Ethiopia and western South Sudan. During the next outlook period, reduced rains are expected over Sudan, except the Darfur region, where the forecast heavy rains could exacerbate conditions on the ground and trigger new flooding. Over South Sudan, there is an increased chance for above-average rains, potentially resulting in localized flooding, particularly over flood-prone areas. Meanwhile, seasonal, moderate to heavy rains are expected to continue in western Ethiopia, which are likely to increase downstream river levels further, thus elevating risks for floods in 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 or 1-301-683-3424.

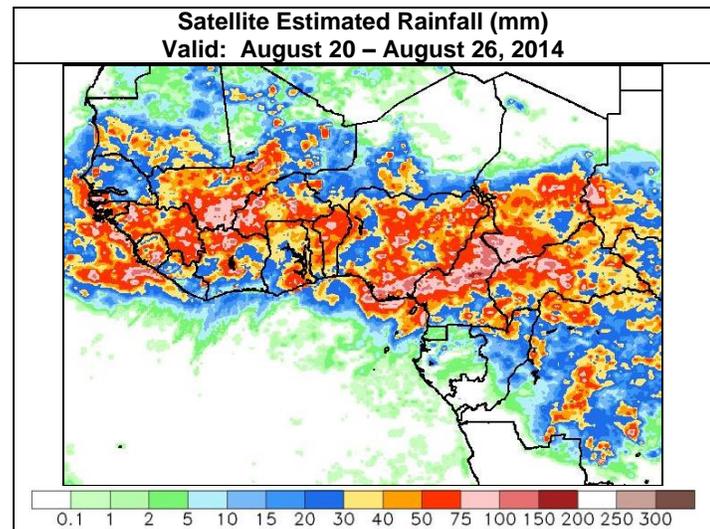


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

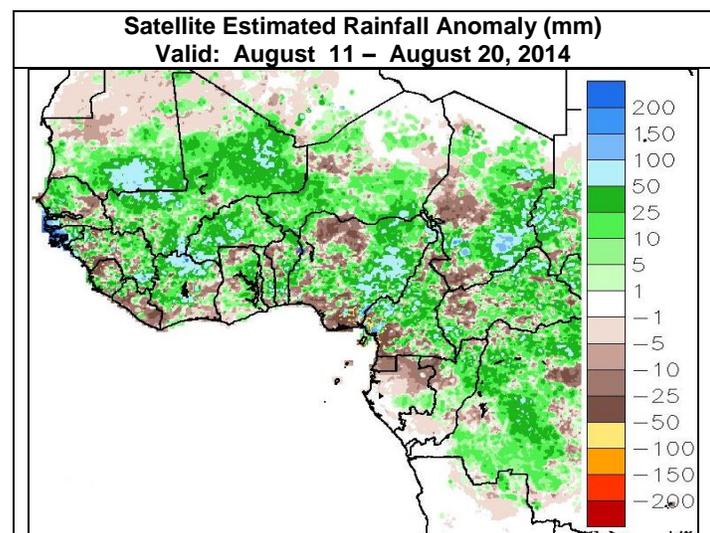


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

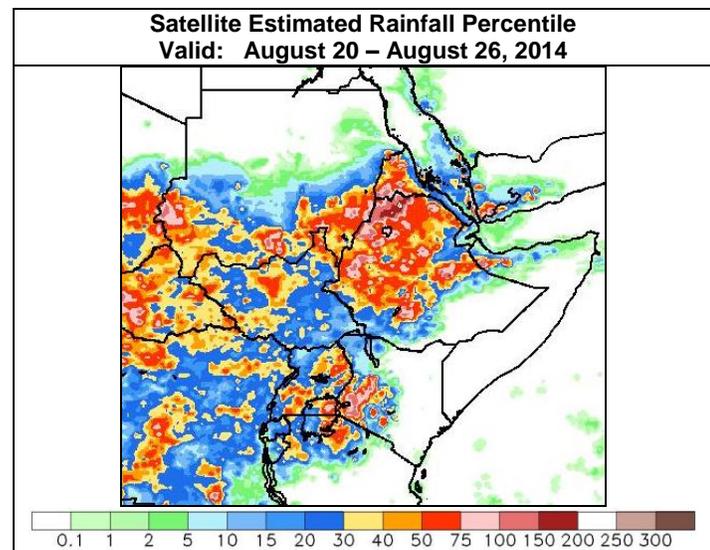


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC