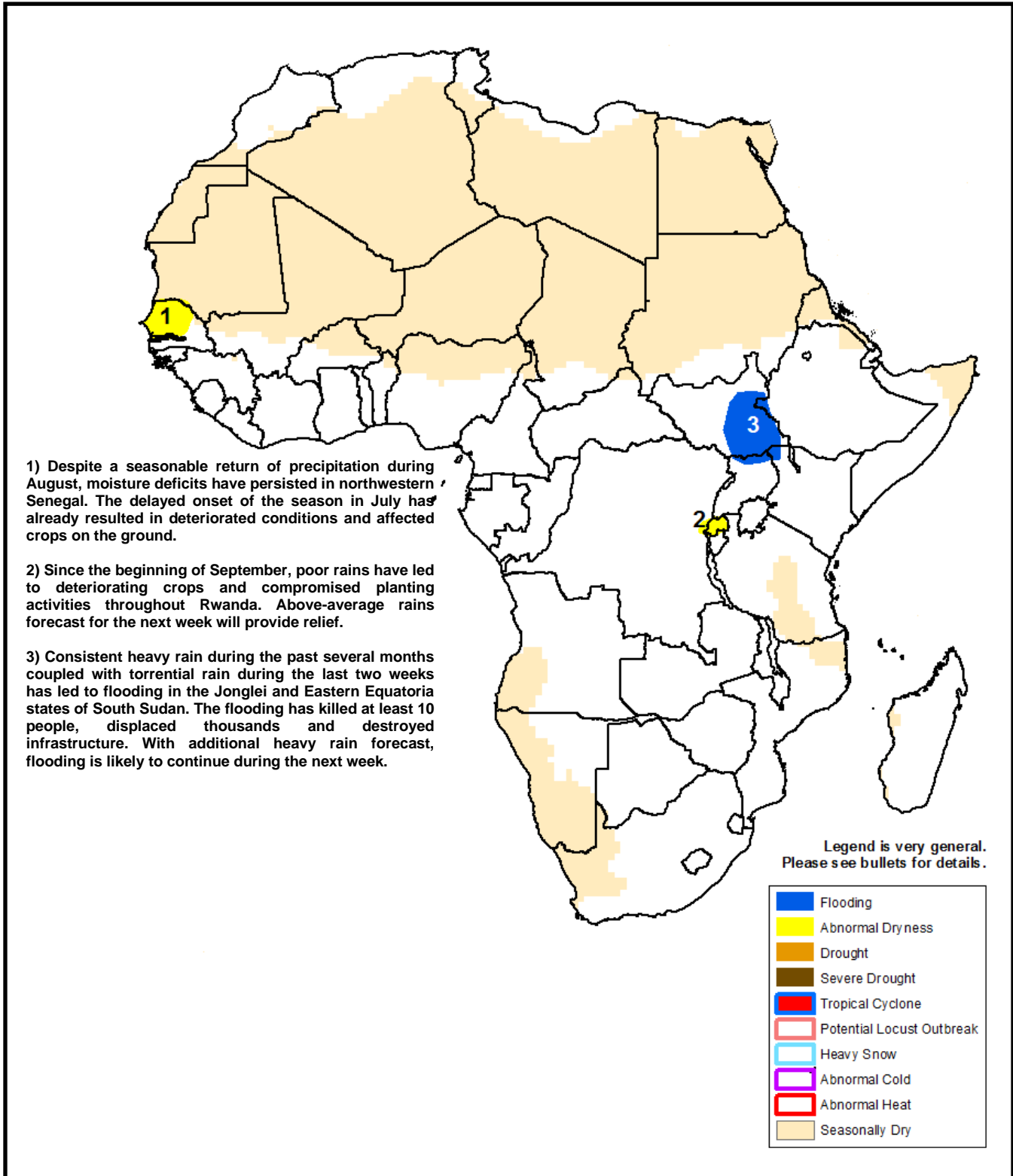




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 16 – October 22, 2014

- Heavy rains in South Sudan resulted in flooding and localized landslides during the past two weeks.
- Below-average rain was observed across bi-modal areas in West Africa.



Torrential rains fell across central/northern Somalia.

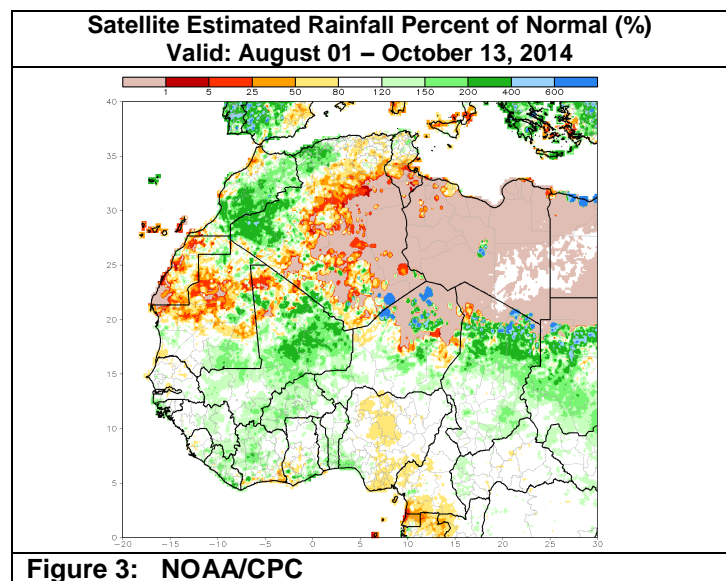
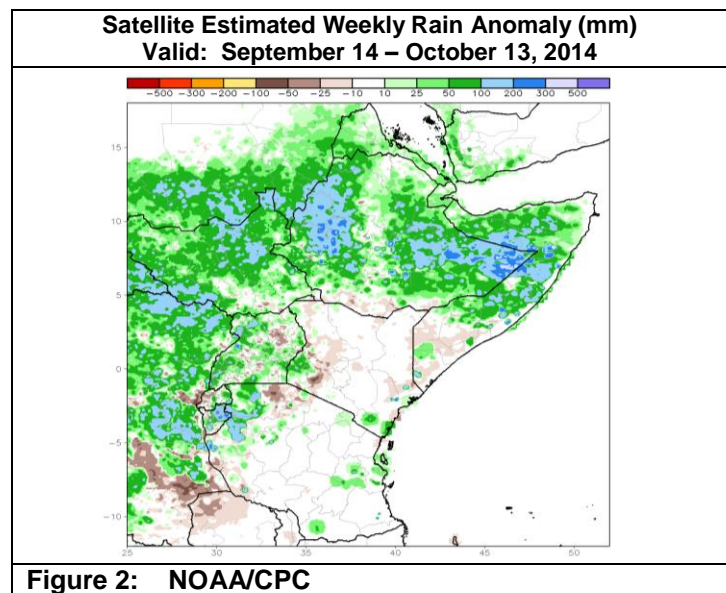
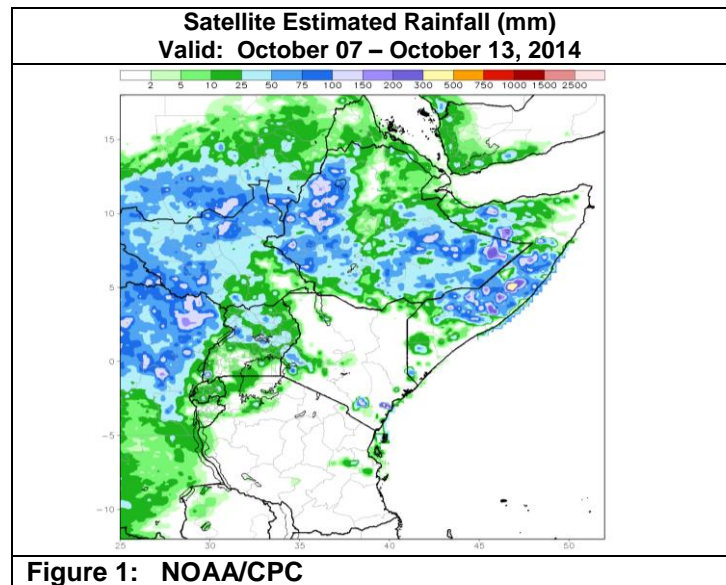
During the past seven days, heavy and well-distributed rainfall was observed across much of eastern Africa. Heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded throughout Ethiopia, South Sudan, DRC and central/northern Somalia. The highest rainfall totals (>100mm) were located in the Somali region of Ethiopia and central Somalia. The abundant rains in central/northern Somalia marked the second consecutive week where well-above-average rains were observed. As this region is generally dry and it is only the beginning of the Deyr rainy season, the torrential rains likely resulted in localized flash flooding. In the Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states of South Sudan, abundant rains during the past several weeks have resulted in flooding which has killed at least 10 people, displaced thousands and damaged infrastructure. To the south, moderate to heavy rain (10-50mm) was observed around Lake Victoria (**Figure 1**).

The above-average rain observed in West Africa during the last week is consistent with the wet pattern seen during the past thirty-days. Heavy rains over the past several weeks in northern/central Ethiopia have resulted in an above-average end to seasonal rains. Meanwhile, torrential rains in eastern Ethiopia and Somalia have led to thirty-day surpluses exceeding 100mm. Moderate to large thirty-day surpluses (>50mm) extend west across saturated areas of South Sudan. To the south, rains have been closer to average around Lake Victoria with some areas in southwestern Kenya and Rwanda experiencing thirty-day rainfall deficits (**Figure 2**). Poor September rains negatively impacted cropping activities in Rwanda.

For the upcoming week, reduced rains are expected across Ethiopia as seasonal rains begin to pull out. Elsewhere, moderate rains (10-40mm) are forecast for central/southern Somalia, while heavy rains (>50mm) are forecast for saturated areas in South Sudan and areas farther south around Lake Victoria. Rains in South Sudan will keep flooding risks elevated. Locally heavy rain is also expected in Rwanda, helping to improve ground conditions.

Below-average rains fall across West Africa.

During the last week, rainfall was reduced across West Africa, especially in bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea. Although, heavy rains (>50mm) were still observed in southern Nigeria and saturated areas of far western West Africa in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Little rain (<10mm) fell across much of the Sahel, indicative of the equator-ward progression of the Intertropical Front (ITF). Rains in West Africa dating back to August 1st were average to above-average with rains 120-200% above-average across Mali and Burkina Faso; although below-average rains fell in Nigeria (**Figure 3**). However, rains in Nigeria, though below-average, were well-distributed and provided adequate moisture for crop development. A late season surge of moisture across the Sahel helped to improve seasonal rainfall totals and ground conditions after poor rains in July and August. For the next week, moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) is forecast for countries along the Gulf of Guinea, while little rain is expected across the Sahel.



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.