



## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook July 16 – 22, 2015

- Moisture increases for portions of the Senegal region; dry areas farther east show little improvement.
- Moisture deficits deepen in southeast Sudan, Eritrea and northwest Ethiopia with a continued lack of rainfall.



1) A delayed onset of the rainy season, followed by poorly-distributed rainfall, has led to abnormal dryness across Burkina Faso, the central and northern parts of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, western and southern Niger, and northern Nigeria. The lack of rainfall has delayed planting and has already negatively affected cropping activities over many local areas.

2. A delayed onset and general lack of rainfall has resulted in abnormal dryness across extreme western portions of Ethiopia, western Eritrea, and eastern Sudan. The most impacted states in Sudan are Gadaref, Sinar, and Blue Nile, including important agricultural regions where much planting is being delayed.

**In West Africa, observations show rainfall that is enhanced to the west and suppressed to the East.**

During the past week, a broad area of enhanced rainfall was observed across the western half of the region. Many areas in Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia picked up greater than 100mm of rainfall (**Figure 1**). Similar amounts were received in western Burkina Faso. Heavy rains were also observed in southern Nigeria. Rainfall was broadly suppressed across much of the eastern portion of the region. Areas in northern Nigeria and southern Chad, especially, received below normal rainfall totals. Notably, a tongue of moisture brought abnormal rainfall northward through Mali and into Algeria.

An analysis of 30-day rainfall anomalies since June 12 (**Figure 2**) indicates a lessening of rainfall deficits for eastern Senegal and western Mali due to this past week's enhanced rainfall. Additional improvements are observed in Burkina Faso and northern Ghana. Deficits remain ostensibly unchanged across Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Vegetation indices indicate near-normal and improving ground conditions near the Gulf of Guinea coast and into central Nigeria. However, poor conditions are ubiquitous across the entire northern tier of the region where the season has been late to start. More-or-less consistent rainfall over the past weeks is maintaining current deficits in the region of abnormal dryness. Recently increased rainfall around Senegal and western Mali has somewhat eased cropping concerns there at this time.

Over the course of the outlook period, rainfall should remain enhanced over Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, where heavier rains are likely. Below-normal amounts of rain can be expected across Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, and Benin. The rest of the region can expect near-normal conditions.

**The past week was widely dryer than normal across the greater horn.**

During the past week, observed rainfall has generally been below normal across the greater horn of Africa. Locally heavy convective showers in western Ethiopia were the exception to the rule, accumulating more than 100mm in spots (**Figure 3**) according to satellite estimates. Parts of eastern South Sudan received little to no rain. The onset of rains in Amhara, Afar, and Oromia provinces of central Ethiopia continues to be delayed this week and moisture deficits are beginning to emerge. These are some of the same areas that recently experienced a very poor belg rain season. Continued below-normal rainfall and a delayed onset are contributing to degraded conditions in extreme western Ethiopia, western Eritrea and eastern Sudan. Due to a low percentage of normal rainfall and evidence of poor vegetation conditions, many planting activities are being adversely affected and delayed in this important agricultural region.

During the coming outlook period, seasonably heavy rains are expected for the western provinces of Ethiopia. It is anticipated that rains will remain light for another week across South Sudan. The pattern looks to offer little relief for dry areas of Ethiopia and Sudan, which will likely continue to see less-than-normal rainfall.

**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.**

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