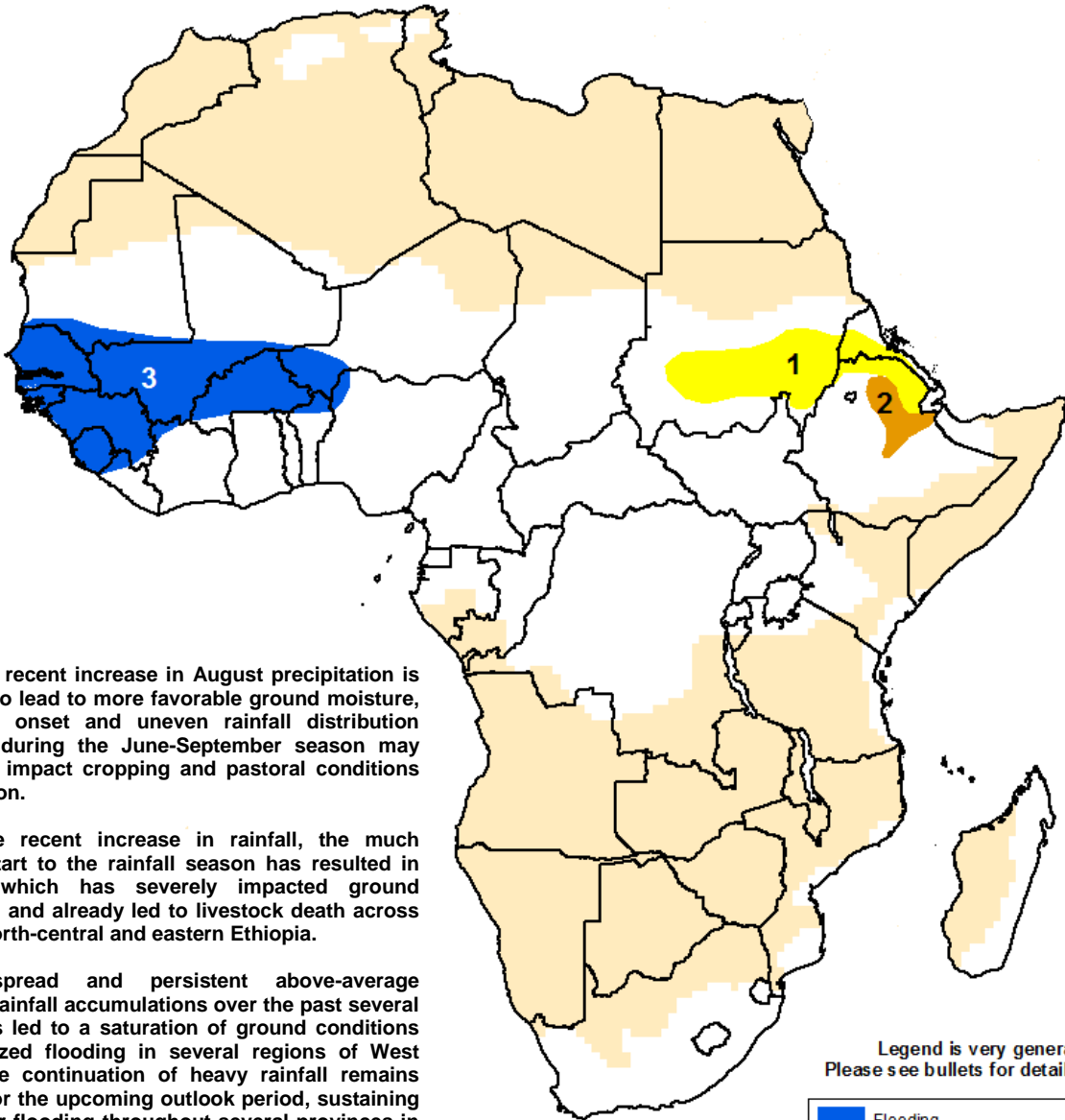




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 3 – September 9, 2015

- Above-average seasonal rainfall continues over several regions of West Africa.
- Poorly distributed rains strengthen seasonal deficits over parts of central Ethiopia.



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

Enhanced August rainfall continues across much of West Africa.

During the last week, moderate to locally heavy seasonal rainfall was received across much of western Africa. According to satellite data, the highest weekly precipitation accumulations (>125mm) were received in parts of western Mali, Burkina Faso, and eastern Nigeria, with well-distributed moderated amounts (25-75mm) registered throughout several countries in the Gulf of Guinea and across the Sahel (**Figure 1**). Light to moderate rainfall amounts were also recorded in the northern Sahel and southern Sahara regions. Meanwhile, little to rainfall was received across southern Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

An analysis of monthly rainfall anomalies depicts an increasing moisture trend since May, with the greatest rainfall surpluses mainly occurring during the month of August. Accumulated rainfall over the past thirty days has shown rankings above the 97th percentile, indicating the highest monthly totals on record, across a wide area of West Africa, including parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. Additionally, several regions located in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Guinea have experienced at least 4-5 consecutive weeks of above-average (>120 percent of normal) rainfall, suggesting that there has not been much opportunity for relief to the heavy rainfall (**Figure 2**). While several weeks of above-average precipitation has helped to alleviate much of the dryness observed earlier in the West Africa monsoon season, the continuation of enhanced rains could trigger additional floods and also damage crops over some overly saturated areas.

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of enhanced, heavy rains across a broad portion of West Africa. Local, but significantly high (>150mm) rainfall accumulations are expected over Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and western Nigeria. Additionally, an anomalous lower-level wind circulation is expected to trigger moderate to locally heavy rains as far north as northern Mauritania. This forecast has sustained the risk for flooding over many already-saturated grounds for the region.

Poor rainfall in central Ethiopia associated with long-term dryness.

During the past week, a near seasonable distribution of seasonal precipitation was observed across the Greater Horn of Africa. Throughout eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and northern Ethiopia slightly above-average rains were recorded, with mostly average to below-average rains received for several areas further south in central, southern Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. Since the beginning of July, much of the early season dryness in eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia has been mitigated due to increased rainfall during the last several weeks. However, residual dryness in central Ethiopia remains throughout parts of the Amhara, Tigray and Afar regions, as these areas have experienced between 50-80 percent of their normal rainfall over the past 2 months (**Figure 3**). The abnormal dryness in north-central Ethiopia has been a part of a much longer dryness trend, as this region of Ethiopia also experienced a very poor, and unfavorably distributed "Belg" rains season during the Mar-May period. Two consecutively failed rains seasons may exacerbate livestock and cropping conditions in the region. Precipitation forecasts suggest very near-normal rainfall across Ethiopia during early September, leaving less opportunity for moisture recovery before the end of the season.

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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