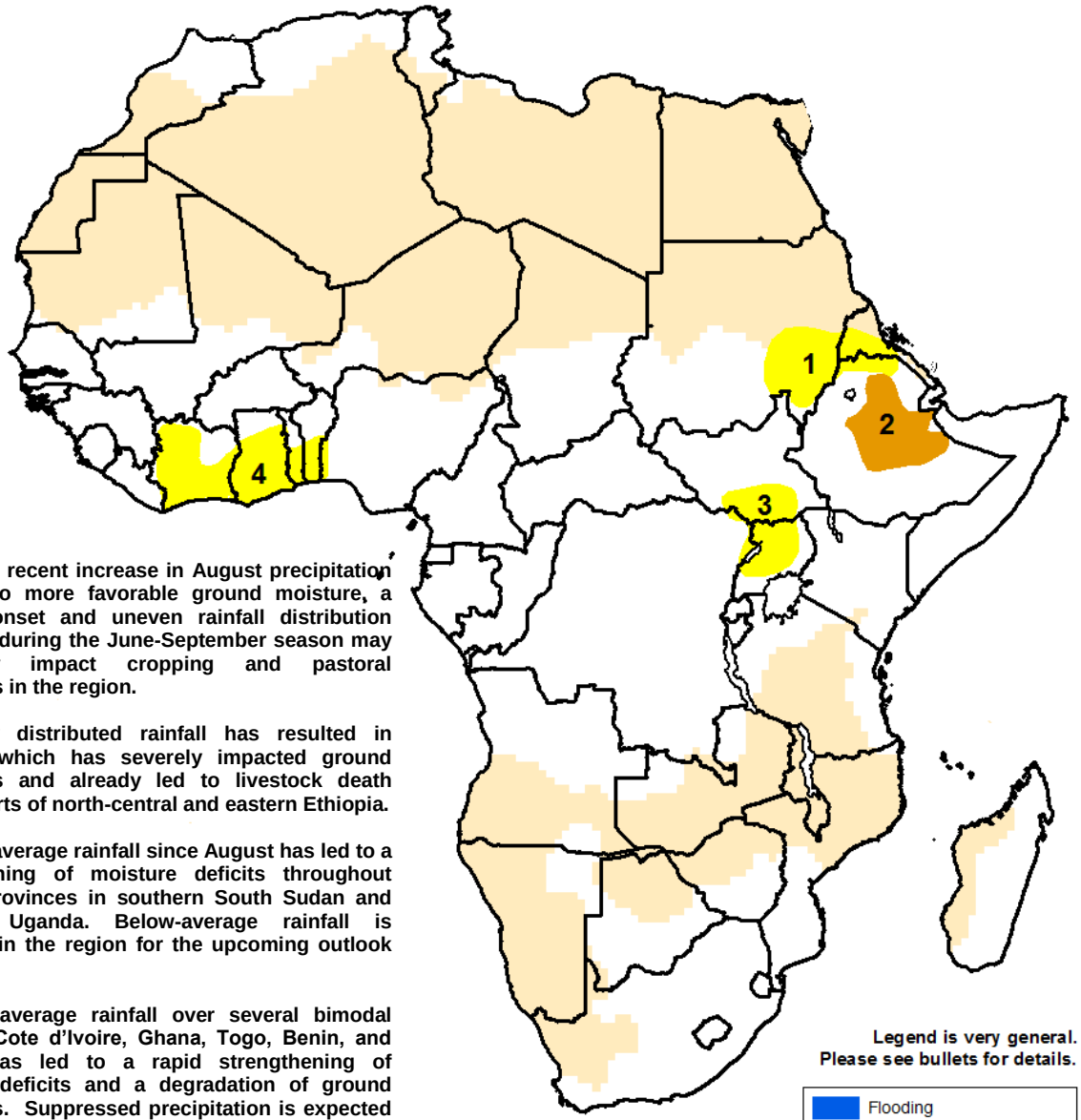
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
October 1 – October 7, 2015

- **Suppressed rainfall continues in the Gulf of Guinea region.**
- **Dryness worsens throughout parts of Ethiopia.**



1) While a recent increase in August precipitation has led to more favorable ground moisture, a delayed onset and uneven rainfall distribution observed during the June-September season may negatively impact cropping and pastoral conditions in the region.

2) Poorly distributed rainfall has resulted in drought, which has severely impacted ground conditions and already led to livestock death across parts of north-central and eastern Ethiopia.

3) Below-average rainfall since August has led to a strengthening of moisture deficits throughout several provinces in southern South Sudan and northern Uganda. Below-average rainfall is expected in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

4) Below-average rainfall over several bimodal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria has led to a rapid strengthening of moisture deficits and a degradation of ground conditions. Suppressed precipitation is expected during in the region during late-September.

Delayed onset to seasonal showers observed in some Gulf of Guinea countries.

In late September, moderate to locally heavy rainfall continued throughout much the Sahel and some Saharan regions, with reduced precipitation amounts in the Gulf of Guinea countries. According to satellite data, the highest precipitation accumulations were received in southern Mali and western Burkina Faso, with lesser, but well-distributed amounts received across Senegal, southern Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea (**Figure 1**). Deep meridional flow and atmospheric instability had also resulted in usual shower activity throughout parts of northern Mauritania, Western Sahara, and Libya during the last week. Meanwhile, light to locally moderate amounts of rainfall were registered in the Gulf of Guinea countries towards the south.

Analysis of satellite estimated percent of normal rainfall since late August depicts fairly strong dipole pattern in West Africa, with abnormally wet conditions in the Sahel, and abnormally dry conditions in the Gulf of Guinea countries (**Figure 2**). Due to suppressed and poorly distributed rainfall during September, the strongest precipitation deficits reside across many parts of central and southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Many of these areas have received less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation since late August, which has elevated concerns of a late onset of their secondary rains season in the region. The continuation of dryness into late September and early October is expected to negatively impact ground conditions and cropping activities.

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest a general weakening of rainfall across much of West Africa. Even with the ITCZ/ITF continuing its equatorward retreat, lesser rainfall amounts are expected to provide relief for several saturated and anomalously wet regions in the Sahel, the abnormal dryness in the Gulf of Guinea region is likely to worsen into early October.

Dryness worsens across parts of eastern, southern Ethiopia.

During late September, heavy seasonal rainfall amounts continued over much of western Ethiopia and southeastern Sudan, with lesser amounts received to the east and to the south. While much of enhanced rainfall in the region has recently helped to alleviate moisture deficits stemming from a delayed onset of rains during July, other regions in the Greater Horn have continued to experience an unfavorable distribution of seasonal rainfall activity. In Ethiopia, very poor rainfall has negatively affected several local highland areas in the eastern Amhara, western Afar, and northern Oromia. However, much of this seasonal dryness has extended further south and east into other parts of Oromia and SNNP regions of the country. Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall anomalies since the beginning of July show strengthening rainfall deficits (>100mm) into Shewa and Harerge regions of the country (**Figure 3**). Additionally, rainfall in many local parts in southwestern Ethiopia and South Sudan has been consistently suppressed since mid-August, which had led to a rapid increase in moisture deficits, and increased concerns for available moisture for cropping and pastoral activities. During the next seven days, little to no relief is expected for several anomalously dry areas according to precipitation forecasts. However, a large increase in rainfall is expected for the Somali region of far eastern Ethiopia, and across both coastal and interior regions of Somalia, signaling the beginning of the Oct-Dec rains season.

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 20 – September 26, 2015

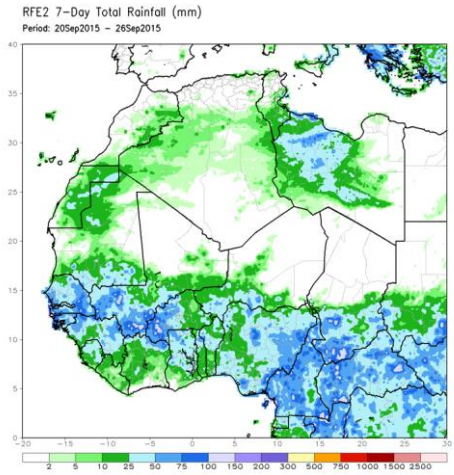


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: August 28 – September 26, 2015

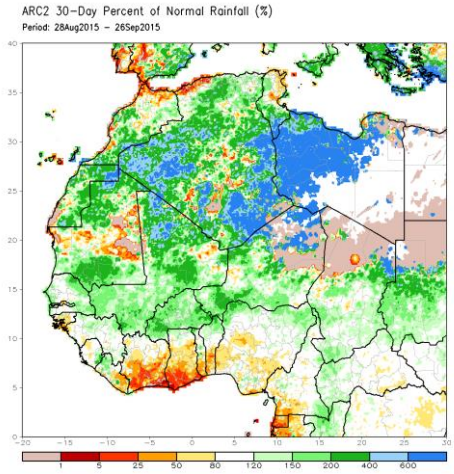


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: July 1 – September 26, 2015

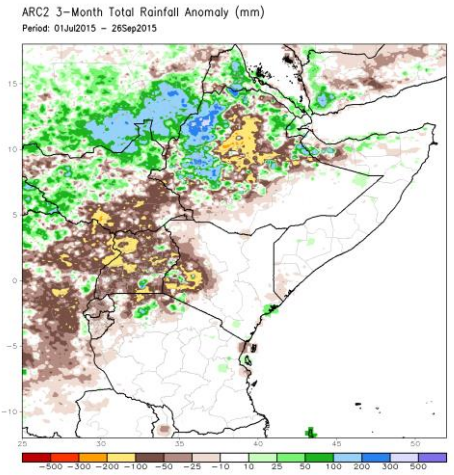


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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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