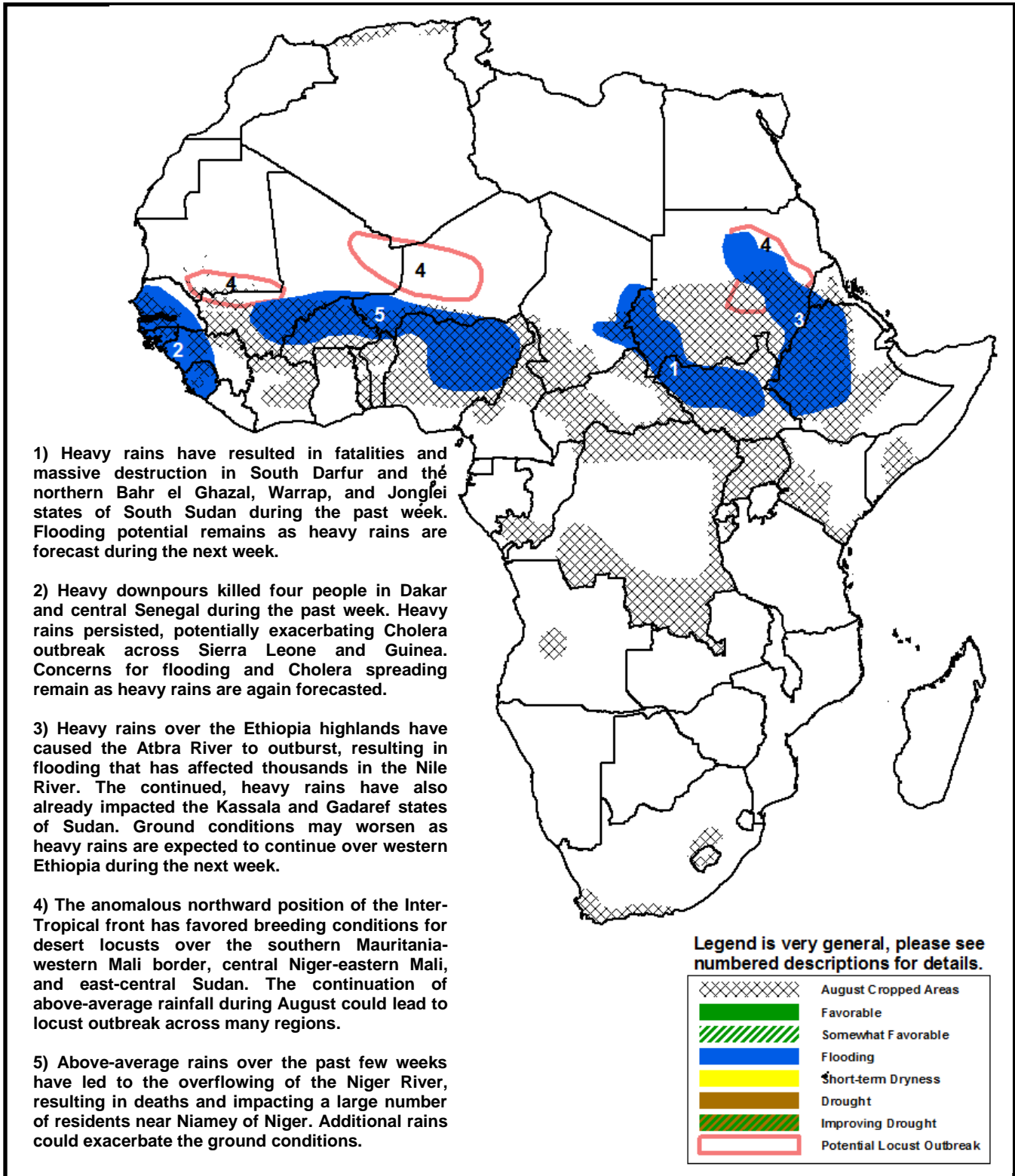


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 30 – September 5, 2012

- Torrential rains persist, potentially exacerbating Cholera outbreak across West Africa.
- Heavy rains worsen flooding conditions in eastern Africa.
- Hatching eggs and low-density locusts increase the potential for locust outbreak over many regions.



Heavy rains continue across West Africa.

Heavy and widespread rainfall was observed across West Africa during the past week. Heavy (> 50 mm) rains fell throughout Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, northern Liberia, southern Mauritania, western Mali, northern Benin, and Nigeria (Figure 1). In Senegal, more than 150 mm of rainfall triggered flooding near Dakar and the central portion of the country, killing four people in Diaoule and Touba during the past week. Farther east, reduced rains were recorded over western Niger, where flooding has been reported to affecting thousands of people, particularly in the Tillabery and Dosso regions. Meanwhile, heavy rains have resulted in flooding, fatalities, and destroyed farmlands in the Katsina, Nasarawa, and Adamawa states of Nigeria. Moderate rains were observed elsewhere. While the continued rains, in general, aid cropping activities, the excessive wetness also favors the spreading of waterborne diseases across West Africa.

Despite the delay in the onset of rains, much of West Africa has received above-average rains since the beginning of the season. Positive anomalies in excess of 200 mm were observed over western Guinea, Sierra Leone, central Mali, Burkina Faso, and southern Niger (Figure 2). This is mainly due to the anomalous northerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front since mid-May and the return of more consistent rains since July. The observed rainfall surpluses should provide adequate ground moisture and aid crop development. However, the excessive wetness could also enhance desert locust breeding across the region.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest continued heavy rains across West Africa, including Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea, Sierra Leone, southern Mali, portions of Burkina Faso, and Niger. Heavy rains are also expected over Nigeria, maintaining the risks for flooding.

Favorable vegetation conditions observed over eastern Africa.

During the past week, heavy rains continued over western Ethiopia and eastern Sudan, resulting in flooding that has affected thousands in the Nile River state of Sudan. Meanwhile, heavy rains caused flooding, which killed five people and left massive destruction in South Darfur. Further south, the consistent rains over the past several weeks have caused flooding and submerged crops in the northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Jonglei states of South Sudan. In general, the above-average rain frequency over the past few weeks has resulted in favorable vegetation growth over wide areas of eastern Africa (Figure 3). However, localized areas with negative anomalies have persisted due to the slow start of the June-September season over Ethiopia. For next week, heavy rains are forecast to continue over western Ethiopia, the Darfur region of Sudan, and much of South Sudan, potentially worsening flooding conditions in the region.

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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