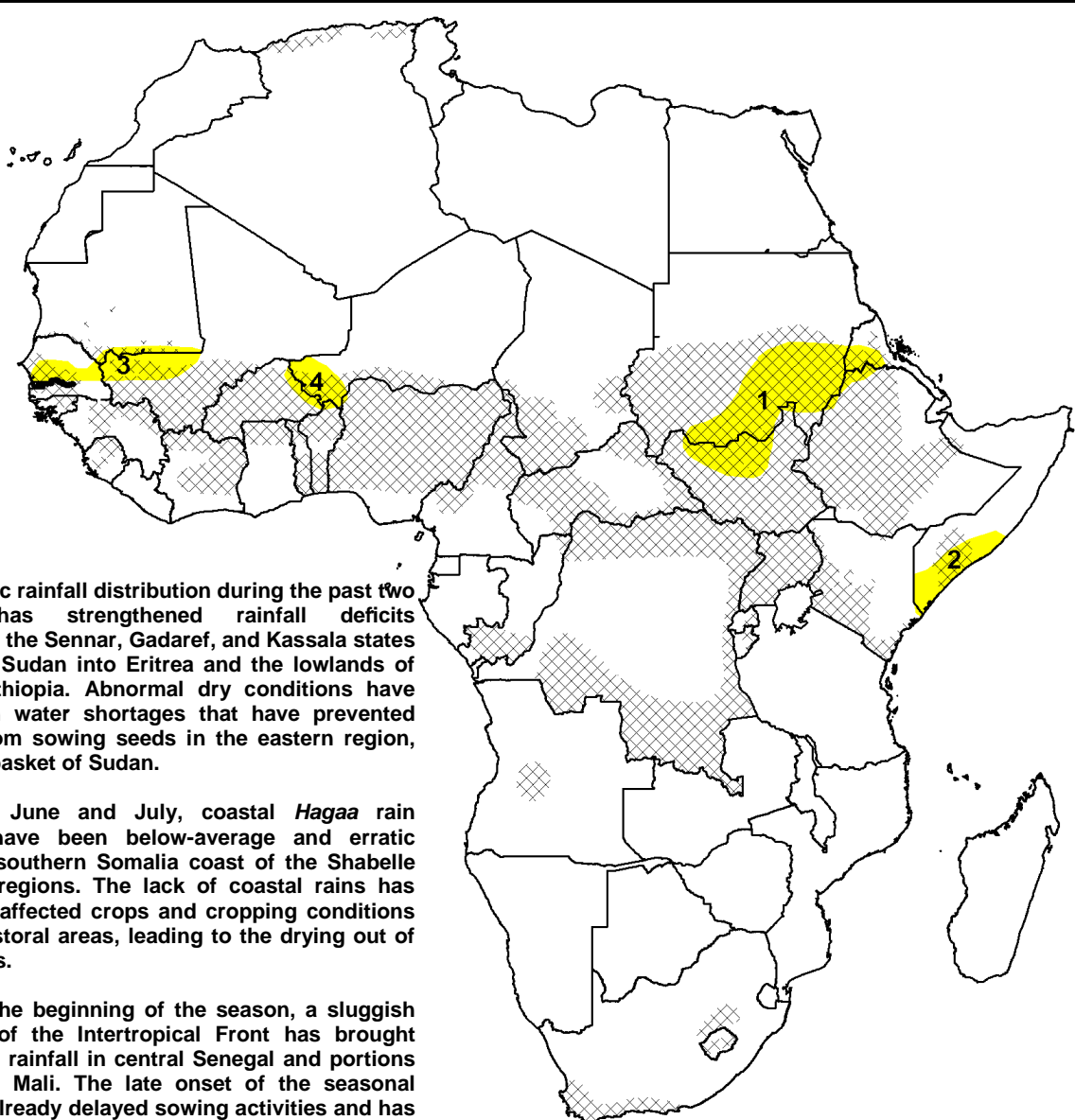


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 11– August 17, 2011

- Dryness persists in Sudan despite a slight increase in rainfall during the past week.
- Dryness has settled in across a few areas of West Africa.



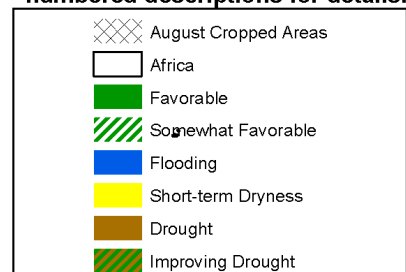
1) An erratic rainfall distribution during the past two months has strengthened rainfall deficits throughout the Sennar, Gadaref, and Kassala states of eastern Sudan into Eritrea and the lowlands of western Ethiopia. Abnormal dry conditions have resulted in water shortages that have prevented farmers from sowing seeds in the eastern region, the bread basket of Sudan.

2) During June and July, coastal *Hagaa* rain showers have been below-average and erratic along the southern Somalia coast of the Shabelle and Juba regions. The lack of coastal rains has negatively affected crops and cropping conditions in agro-pastoral areas, leading to the drying out of some crops.

3) Since the beginning of the season, a sluggish migration of the Intertropical Front has brought insufficient rainfall in central Senegal and portions of western Mali. The late onset of the seasonal rains has already delayed sowing activities and has resulted in livestock deaths in the pastoral areas of western Mali. Light rains that are forecast during the next week may strengthen moisture deficits and worsen the ground conditions.

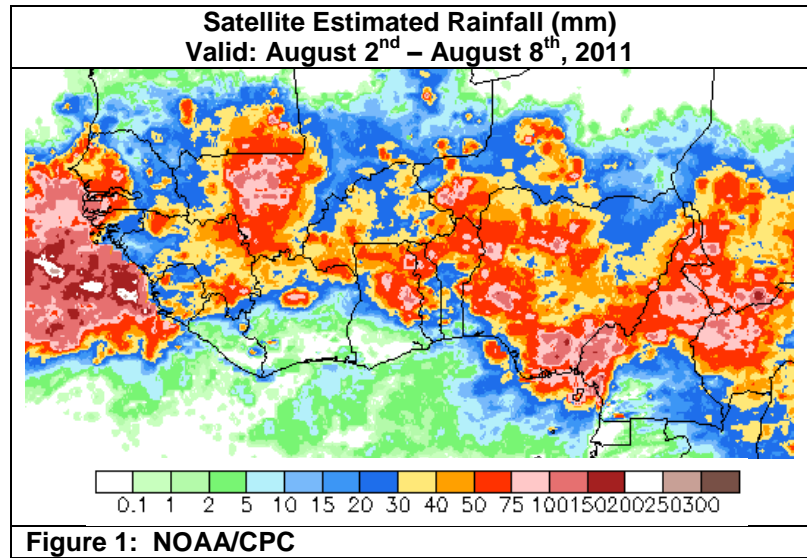
4) A short-term dryness has developed in western Niger as a result of below-average rainfall received during June and July. Field reports have already indicated reversible wilting of crops in local areas due to the delay of seasonal rains. Moderate rains are, however, expected to provide favorable moisture for cropping activities during the next observation period.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

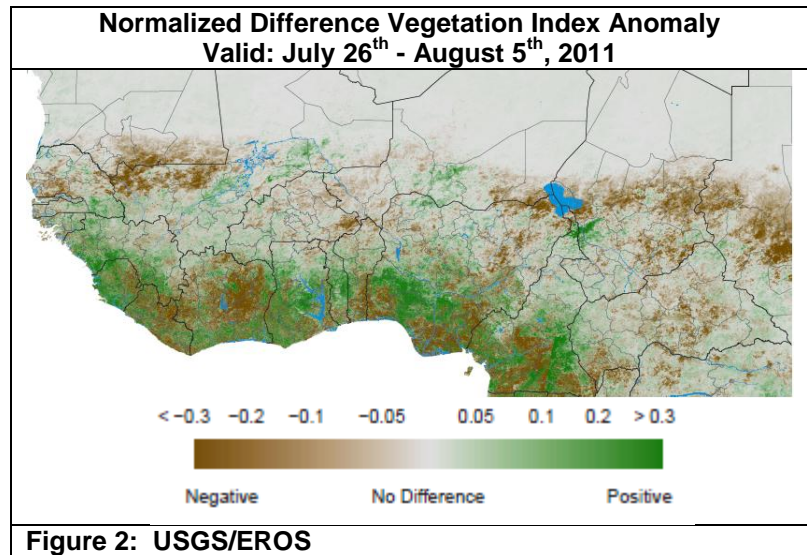


**Localized heavy rains observed across West Africa during the past week.**

The meteorological conditions during the past week were characterized by the development and westward propagation of easterly waves, which brought downpours (> 75mm) in western Mali and heavy (> 50mm) rains in many local areas of West Africa (Figure 1). Heavy rainfall was observed in central Senegal, where the rainfall deficits have averaged between 50 and 100mm or less than 50 percent of the average during the last thirty days. Heavy showers were also observed throughout Guinea, Burkina Faso, and southern Niger. More widespread heavy rains were recorded across the eastern two-third of Nigeria, which should help to reduce the thirty-day rainfall deficits in the country. Meanwhile, moderate (10-30mm) rainfall was observed elsewhere. Compared to the rainfall of the previous week, the past seven days have experienced a decrease in rains across the Sahel, but a slight increase in the Gulf of Guinea region.



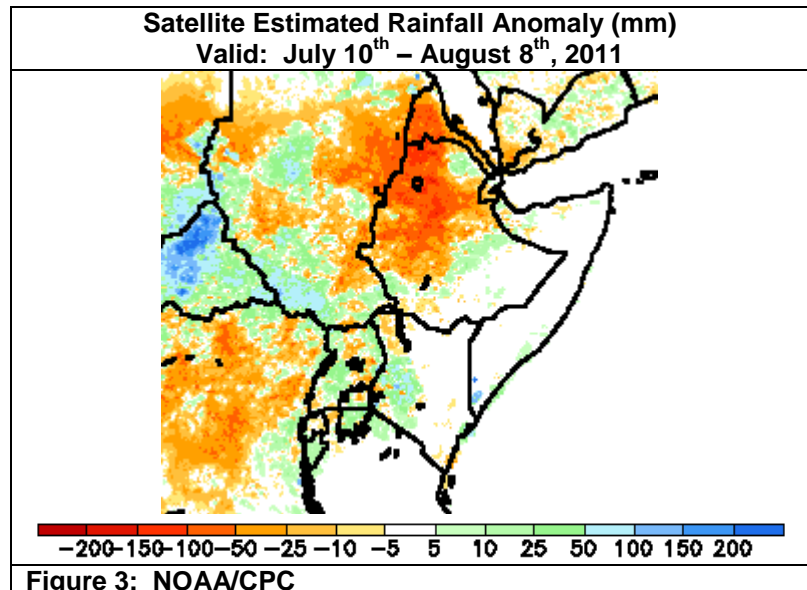
An analysis of the normalized difference vegetation index anomaly shows a severe deterioration of vegetation conditions relative to the average along the Mauritania-Mali border during the past ten days (Figure 2). Relatively poor conditions were also observed in central Senegal and western Niger, where the delay in seasonal rainfall has led to moisture deficits ranging from 50 to 100mm during the past thirty days. In contrast, favorable vegetation growth was observed in the Gulf of Guinea throughout Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire to Nigeria. While the continuation of seasonal rainfall is favorable for crop development in the Gulf of Guinea, the late start of the seasonal rains could negatively impact cropping conditions in the Sahel.



Rainfall forecasts for the upcoming week indicate seasonal heavy (> 50mm) rains to fall throughout Guinea, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, into southern Niger and northern Nigeria. Moderate (20-40mm) rains are expected in western Niger. Light (< 10mm) rains are, however, forecast in central Senegal and western Mali and could worsen the dryness in the region during the next seven days.

**Dryness continues in eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and the lowlands of western Ethiopia.**

During the past week, an increase in rainfall was observed across Sudan, including the eastern region, where localized heavy (> 50mm) rains were observed. A more widespread heavy rainfall was also observed in the Darfur and Kordofan regions of Sudan and western South Sudan during the past seven days. Seasonal rainfall was, however, confined to the northern half of Ethiopia, marking a decrease in weekly rainfall totals during the past week. Despite the slight increase in rains in eastern Sudan, moisture deficits have persisted, with a thirty-day rainfall anomaly ranging between 50 and 100mm (Figure 3). In Sudan, the dryness has already resulted in water shortages, which have already prevented farmers from planting. Rainfall forecasts during the next week suggest a continuation of seasonal rains in western Ethiopia and heavy (> 50mm) rains in the Darfur and Kordofan regions of Sudan and much of South Sudan. Light to moderate (10-40mm) rains are, however, expected in the eastern Sudan, which could sustain the dryness 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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