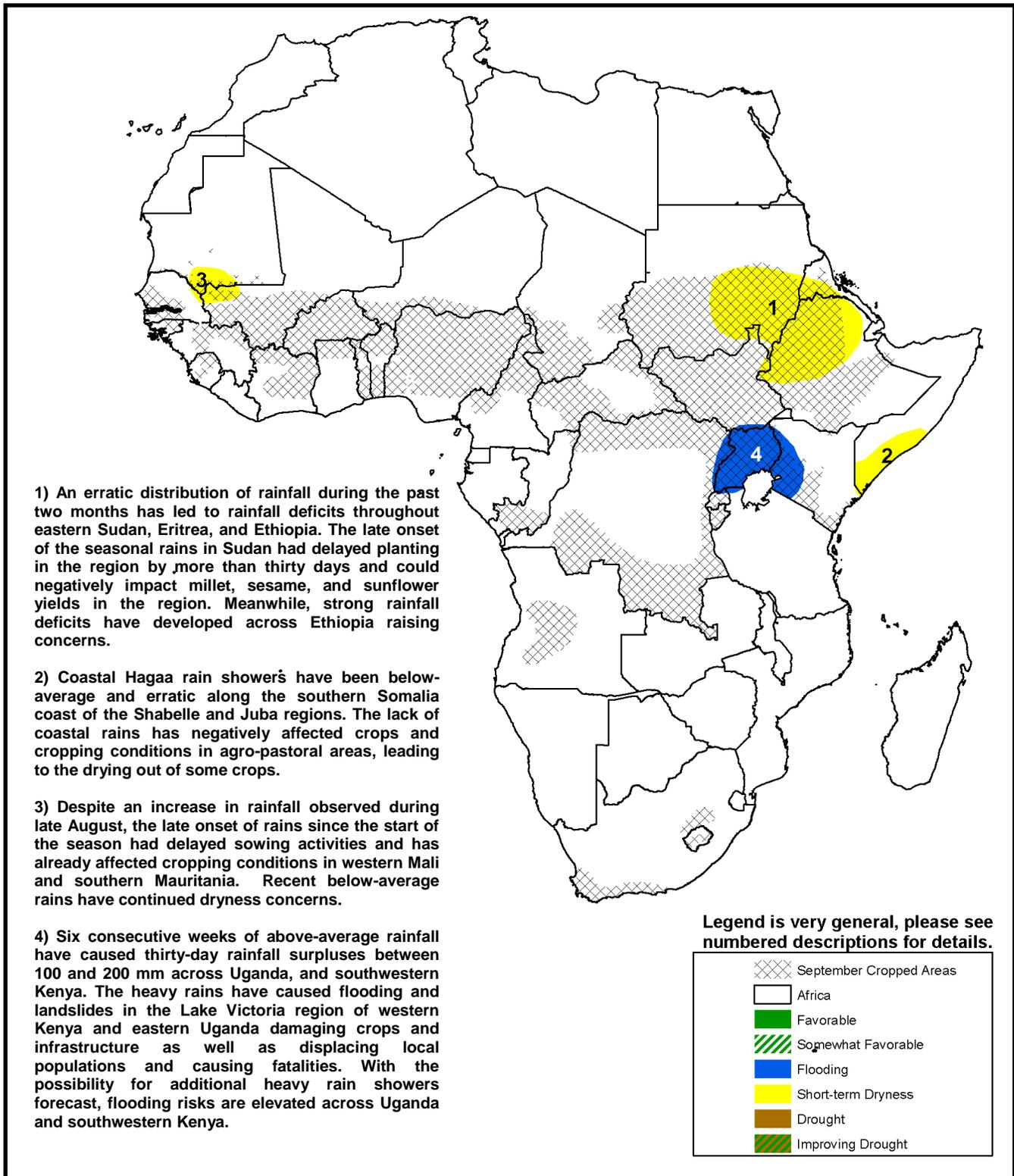


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 15 – September 21, 2011

- Below-average rain observed over Mauritania and western Mali has continued dryness concerns.
- Above-average rains over Uganda and Kenya cause additional flooding while rainfall deficits increase in eastern Sudan and Ethiopia.



Reduced rainfall recorded over Senegal and Mauritania.

Widespread heavy rains (> 50 mm) were observed across West Africa during the past week. The abundant rains (> 50 mm) again fell in localized regions of Nigeria for a third consecutive week although locations in southwestern Nigeria, where past flooding resulted in over 100 fatalities, observed moderate rainfall totals (10-30 mm). Elsewhere, high rainfall totals (> 50 mm) were observed in western Niger, Togo, Benin, western Burkina Faso, southern Mali, and Guinea. The localized heavy rain in western Niger provided some relief from recent dry conditions, though, thirty-day rainfall anomalies are still negative. In contrast to the ample rainfall, regions to the north including northwestern Mali, Senegal and Mauritania observed light rain showers (< 15 mm) (**Figure 1**). After above-average rains during the past several weeks helped to replenish poor ground moisture, the lack of rains during the past week (10-50 mm below-average) will add to the overall dry conditions across northwestern Mali and southern Mauritania.

During the first dekad of September, an analysis of vegetative growth indicated improving conditions over southern Mauritania and northwestern Mali. The improvement was due to moderate to heavy rains that fell during the last several weeks of August. However, vegetative conditions are still poor over portions of northwestern Mali and southern Mauritania (**Figure 2**) due to the erratic nature of the rains since June. The below-average rains that were observed during the past week combined with the close end of the rainy season will continue to negatively impact vegetative conditions during the next week.

During the next week, heavy rains (> 50 mm) are forecast over northern Nigeria, northern Togo, northern Benin, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea while light, below-average rains are forecast across Senegal, northwestern Mali and Mauritania providing little relief for dry ground conditions in the region.

Below-average rains observed over northern Ethiopia.

During the past seven days, heavy rainfall was observed across central and western portions of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan for a second consecutive week. The above-average rains have helped increase rainfall surpluses over much of the area. Due to the abundant rains, large, thirty-day rainfall surpluses (50-100 mm) have developed over southern areas of the Republic of South Sudan. Abundant rains also continued for a sixth consecutive week across Uganda and western Kenya further flooding crops and increasing the risk for landslides. Thirty-day rainfall surpluses range between 100-200 mm in both Kenya and Uganda. In contrast, below-average rains were observed across northern Ethiopia and northeastern Sudan increasing thirty-day rainfall deficits to greater than 100 mm in some locations (**Figure 3**). While some locations in the Amhara region of Ethiopia have received locally heavy rain showers raising water levels, conditions generally remain dry across northern and central Ethiopia. For the next week, western Sudan and localized areas in Uganda and Kenya are forecast to receive heavy rains (> 40 mm) potentially causing flooding in saturated areas while below-average rains are expected over dry portions of eastern Sudan and northern Ethiopia.

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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