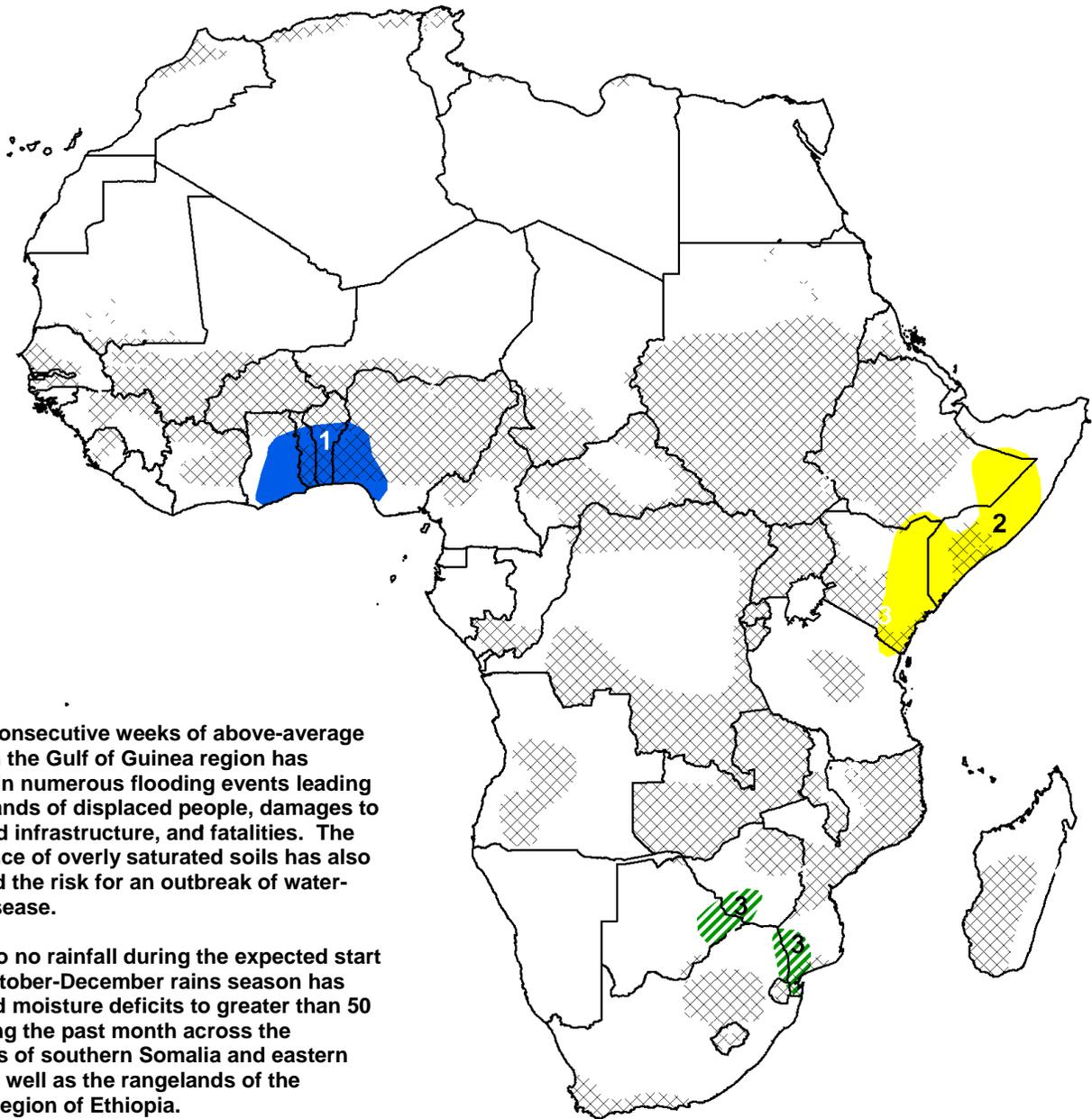


- While heavy rains continued over flooded portions of West Africa, dryness deepened over far eastern Africa including Somalia, eastern Ethiopia and parts of Kenya.



1) Five consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall in the Gulf of Guinea region has resulted in numerous flooding events leading to thousands of displaced people, damages to crops and infrastructure, and fatalities. The persistence of overly saturated soils has also increased the risk for an outbreak of water-borne disease.

2) Little to no rainfall during the expected start of the October-December rains season has increased moisture deficits to greater than 50 mm during the past month across the croplands of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya as well as the rangelands of the Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

3) Heavy early season rains across southeastern Botswana, southwestern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique have created somewhat favorable conditions for cropping activities at the onset of the rainy season.

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



Abundant rainfall continued over flooded areas across the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past seven days, heavy rain (> 50 mm) fell across southern West Africa while rainfall was limited across the northern Sahel. The highest rainfall totals (> 75 mm) were observed across already saturated areas in southwestern Nigeria. In addition, flooded areas in southern Togo, Benin and Ghana received ample rainfall (> 50 mm) during the past week providing little relief to recent flooding (**Figure 1**). The additional release of water from the Akosombo Dam in southern Ghana also aided in further continuing flooding. The copious amounts of rain during the past couple of months over these regions have led to flooding, damages to crops and infrastructure, displacement of people and the spread of water-borne diseases.

Rainfall during the next week is forecast to be reduced along the Gulf of Guinea coastline including those areas impacted by flooding during the past months.

Rainfall deficits grew stronger across the Greater Horn of Africa.

A slow start to the October-December rains season across the Greater Horn of Africa continued during the past week as little to no rainfall was recorded across southeastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia and bordering Kenya. The lack of rainfall has increased rainfall deficits in Somalia to between -50 and -100 mm during the past 30 days (**Figure 2**). Many locations throughout southern Somalia have observed little rainfall (< 10 mm) since June. This extended period of little to no rainfall could stress local water supplies if the rains continue to not fall. Further south, heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) was observed across southeastern Kenya eliminating rainfall deficits that had been growing during the previous month.

Rainfall is forecast to be limited across the Greater Horn of Africa during the next week enhancing rainfall deficits and further delaying the start of the short-rains season.

Favorable early season rains fall across southern Africa.

As the month of November progresses, rainfall is climatologically expected to increase across much of southern Africa. During the past week, heavy early season rains (> 40 mm) were observed over southeastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and the northern Maize Triangle in South Africa. These early rains will help cropping activities throughout these regions. In contrast to these above-average early rains, the southern Maize Triangle has experienced a delayed start to the seasonal rains. For the next week, moderate rainfall is forecast over drier portions of the Maize Triangle as well as over Zimbabwe, enhancing favorable cropping activities in the region.

Note: The hazards assessment 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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