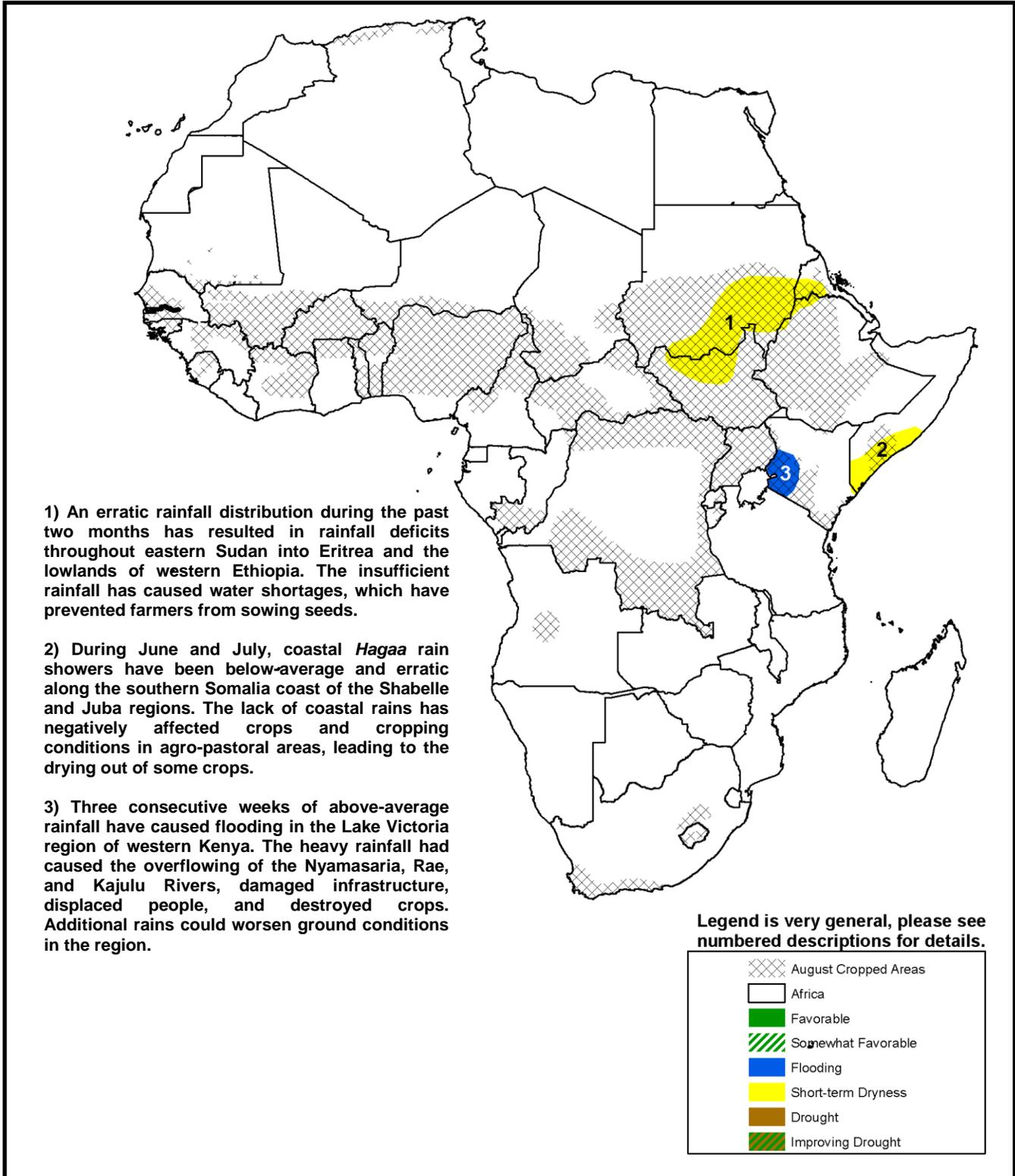


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 25– August 31, 2011

- Much of West Africa has received an above-average rainfall, while eastern Sudan has observed below-average rains during the past seven days.



## Enhanced African Easterly Wave activity has brought abundant rains in West Africa.

Much of West Africa has experienced wetter than average conditions due to heavy thunderstorms and showers, which have brought copious amount of rains throughout the region during the past week (**Figure 1**). Downpours (> 75mm) were observed from Senegal, Guinea to western Mali. The large amount of rainfall that was observed during the past seven days has turned negative anomalies in Senegal, southern Mauritania-western Mali border, and western and southern Niger into rainfall surpluses during the past thirty days. Reports have indicated fatalities, flooding, and infrastructure damages in southern and western Niger during the past week. Widespread heavy (> 50mm) rains were also recorded throughout northern Cote d'Ivoire, northern Ghana, and northern Benin into central and the northern two-third of Nigeria during the past week. The increase in rainfall during the past seven days was associated with the combined effects of vigorous African easterly waves and the advancement of the Intertropical Front across West Africa. Although, the return of seasonal rainfall should aid cropping conditions in most areas that experienced late onset of rains, moisture surpluses could also damage crops.

The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly that was observed during the second dekad of August shows poorer than average conditions across southern Mauritania and western Mali (**Figure 2**). These regions have experienced lateness on the onset of the rainfall season during the past two months; however they have received above-average rainfall toward the end of the second dekad of the month.

The rainfall forecasts during the next week indicate a decrease in rainfall across the Sahel, with localized heavy (> 50mm) rains forecast in Senegal, southern Mali, and southern Niger. Moderate (10-40mm) rains are forecast in western Mali. Heavy and widespread abundant (> 50mm) rains are expected in the Gulf of Guinea region during the next week.

## A decrease in rainfall observed in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia during the past week.

Compared to the previous week, an increase in rainfall was observed across the Darfur region of Sudan and southern Kordofan of the Republic of South Sudan; while a decreased weekly rainfall totals were recorded in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia during the past week (**Figure 3**). Moderate (10-30mm) rains were recorded across eastern Sudan and western and central Ethiopia, where the dryness has persisted, with thirty-day rainfall deficits ranging between 50 and 100mm in many local areas. In western and central Ethiopia, heavy (> 50mm) rains were only observed in a few local areas. In Somalia, light (< 10mm) rains that are associated with the *Hagaa* period were observed in the south and central parts. Rainfall forecasts during the next week indicate seasonal rainfall to return in western and central Ethiopia. Heavy (> 50mm) rains are also forecast across South Sudan. In contrast, light (<30 mm) rains are forecast in eastern Sudan. The erratic rainfall that has been seen since the start of the season could negatively impact crops in many local areas of 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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