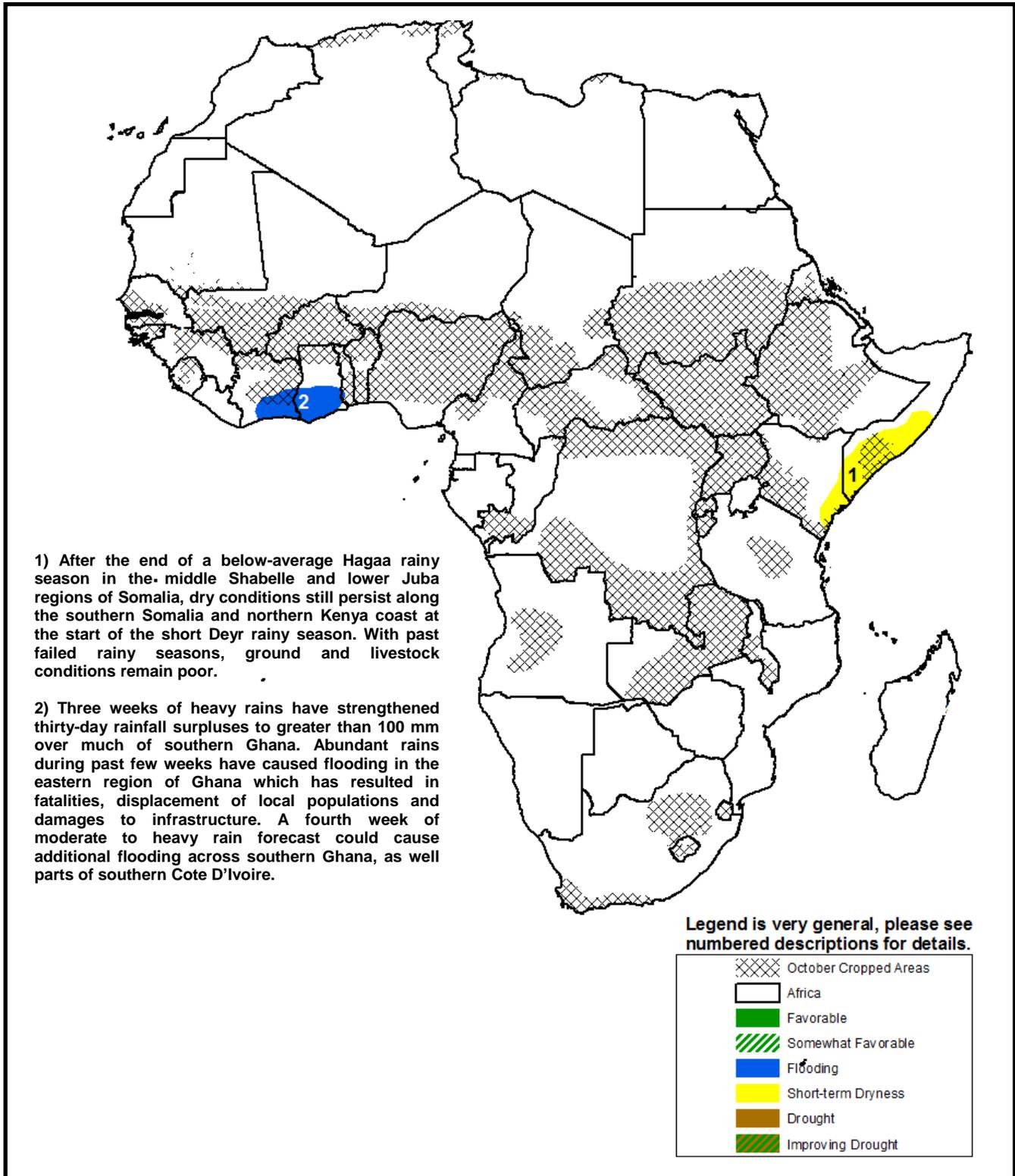


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 13 – October 19, 2011

- Early season Oct-Dec moisture deficits have begun to develop over portions over southern Somalia during the last week. However, the return of above-average rainfall next week may relieve many local areas.
- Three consecutive weeks of above-average precipitation over the Gulf of Guinea region is expected to worsen saturated ground conditions over parts of southern Ghana.



Oct-Dec rains season off to a slow start in some local areas.

During the past seven days, the onset of the Oct-Dec rains season was observed throughout many local areas in East Africa. In Somalia, locally moderate to heavy rainfall (15-40mm) was received across portions of central Somalia, with lighter amounts (<15mm) observed further north across the country (Figure 1). In Ethiopia, light rainfall was also seen throughout many local areas in the Ogaden region of the country during the last week, marking the first measurable amount of precipitation since the last 5 months across southeastern Ethiopia. Further south, light showers were also experienced across parts of the Turkana region of northwestern Kenya. Meanwhile, heavy precipitation (>50mm) continued across much of Uganda, as well as, southeastern Sudan and western Ethiopia.

Although the Oct-Dec rains appear to be underway in East Africa, short-term precipitation deficits have begun to develop particularly in areas that have observed a poor distribution of rainfall during the last three weeks (Figure 2). In southern Somalia, little to no rainfall has been observed which is expected to exacerbate drought conditions stemming from consecutively failed rains seasons since last year. Satellite-derived vegetation health analyses (NDVI) indicate the poorest conditions are concentrated in southern Somalia where short-term rain deficits have already developed. Although negative rainfall anomalies have been observed early in the season, the continuation of dryness across many moisture starved areas in southern Somalia and other neighboring areas is expected to worsen the ongoing drought, resulting unfavorable conditions for upcoming cropping activities, and further depleting water resources.

During the next seven days, precipitation forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall across East Africa. The heaviest rainfall amounts (> 50 mm) are expected across portions of southeastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya and southern Somalia. While this rainfall would provide much needed relief for many local areas affected by long-term and short-term dryness, rainfall may not be well-distributed during the next week. The isolated nature of the rainfall forecast could leave areas without precipitation for another week.

Above-average rain continues across the lower Gulf of Guinea region.

For a third consecutive week, widespread heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) was observed across much of the Gulf of Guinea region, with locally heavier totals in excess of 75mm across parts of southern and central Cote D'Ivoire, the Lake Volta region of Ghana, and southwestern Nigeria. This past week's rains fell over many areas that have already experienced significantly above-average rainfall in late September (Figure 3) and led to localized flooding and damages to infrastructure in eastern Ghana.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of high rainfall (30-50mm) across the Gulf of Guinea region, with the greatest amounts (50-75mm) expected further west in Cote D'Ivoire during the next seven days. Excess rains in the forecast are expected to sustain excess ground moisture, and possibly result in additional flooding 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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