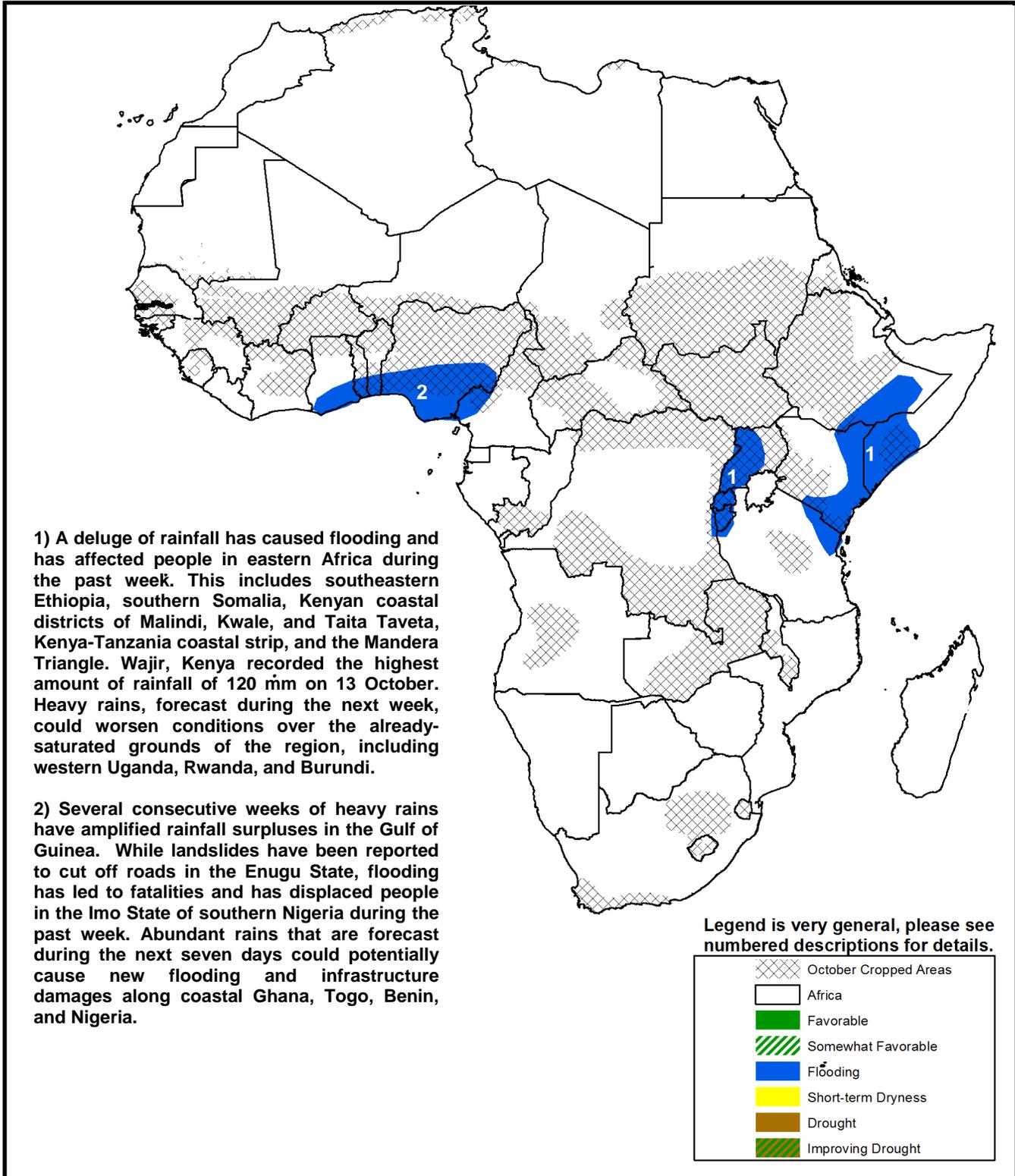


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 20 – October 26, 2011

- Heavy downpours during the past week have caused flooding and displacement of people in eastern Africa.
- Consistent heavy rains have triggered flooding and landslides in the Gulf of Guinea.



Unseasonably heavy rains were observed in eastern Africa during the past week.

After a long period of time with little to no rainfall, eastern Africa has received an abnormal large amount of rains, most of which have fallen on 13 October of the past week. Copious (> 75 mm) amount of rainfall was observed across the Manderia Triangle, including the Somali region of Ethiopia, Middle Shabelle and lower Juba regions of Somalia, and northeastern Kenya (Figure 1). Abundant (> 50mm) rains were also observed over local areas along the Kenyan and Tanzanian coastal strips. The torrential (> 50mm) rains have caused flooding in southeastern Ethiopia, flash flooding, and displacement of people in many local areas of southern Somalia. There have also been reports of flooding over the Kenyan coastal districts of Malindi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Kenya-Tanzania coastal strip. The well above-average rainfall during the past week has eroded and turned rainfall deficits accumulated across the Manderia Triangle during the past thirty days into rainfall surpluses.

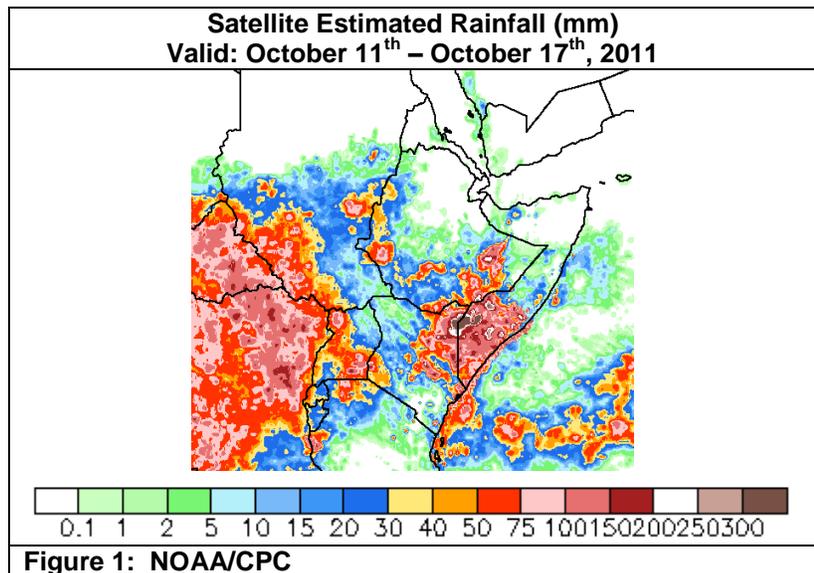


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

An analysis of a recent moisture index shows large areas with adequate and ample soil moisture covering the Manderia Triangle of eastern Africa (Figure 2). Compared to the moisture index during the past few days, a significant increase in ground moisture has been observed in the region recently. Although it is still early during the *Deyr*, October - December rainfall season, heavy rains that were recorded are expected to provide favorable ground moisture and benefit cropping activities in eastern Africa during the remainders of the season.

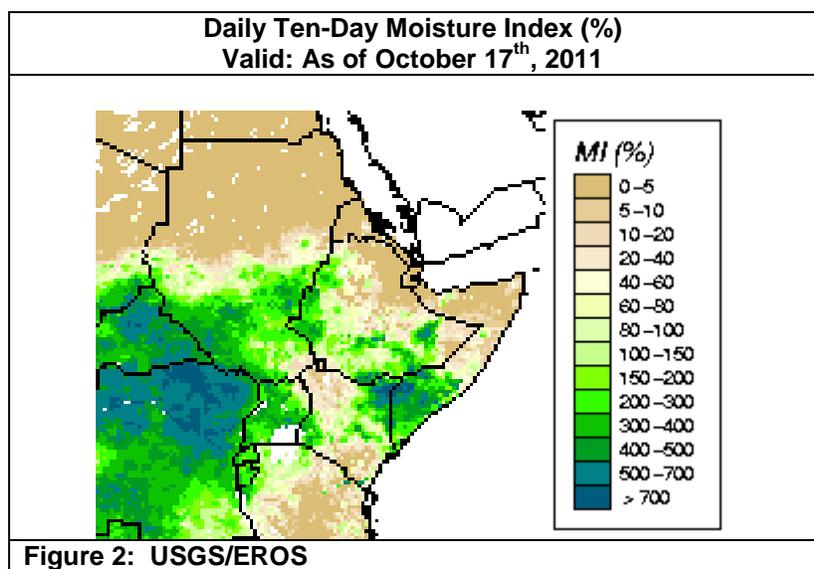


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

During the next seven days, rainfall forecasts indicate an increased chance for above-average rainfall in eastern Africa due to an active phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation. Heavy (> 50 mm) rains are forecast over southeastern Ethiopia, central and northern Kenya, and southern Somalia during the next week. Abundant (> 50 mm) rains are also expected over much of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The additional heavy rains could trigger new flooding and worsen conditions over many already-saturated grounds of the region.

The Gulf of Guinea has observed another week of above-average rainfall.

During the past week, the Gulf of Guinea has continued to receive consistent heavy (> 50 mm) rains as the Intertropical Front continued its southward movement across West Africa. Anomalous westerly winds have also provided abundant moisture onto the Gulf of Guinea, bringing heavy rains throughout Sierra Leone, eastern Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin, and Nigeria during the past week. The heaviest (> 150 mm) rains were observed in southeastern Nigeria and neighboring western Cameroon (Figure 3). The relentless heavy rains during the past several weeks have resulted in rainfall surpluses across much of West Africa's countries. Rainfall forecasts for the upcoming week indicate a slight respite but a continuation of heavy rains over the western and eastern portions of West Africa, respectively. Heavy (> 50 mm) rains are forecast along coastal areas of Ghana, Togo, and Benin. The continuation of frequent and heavy rains could cause flooding and infrastructure damages in the region.

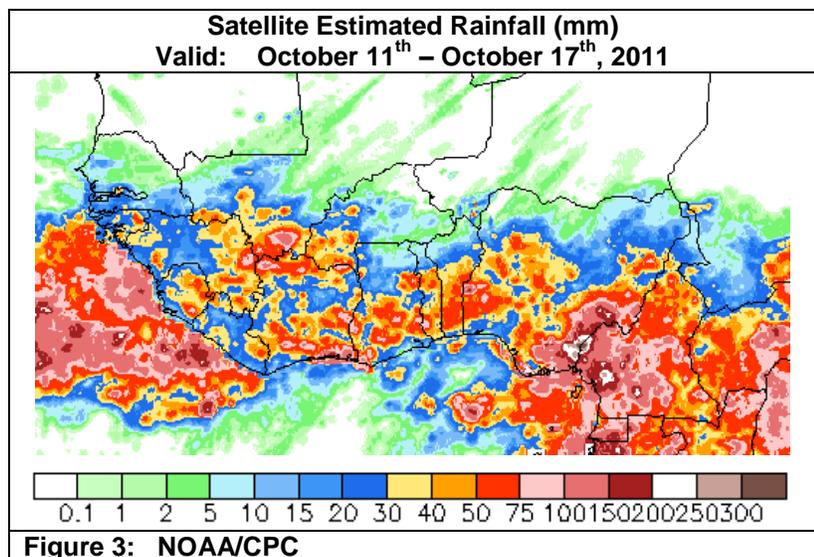


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

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.