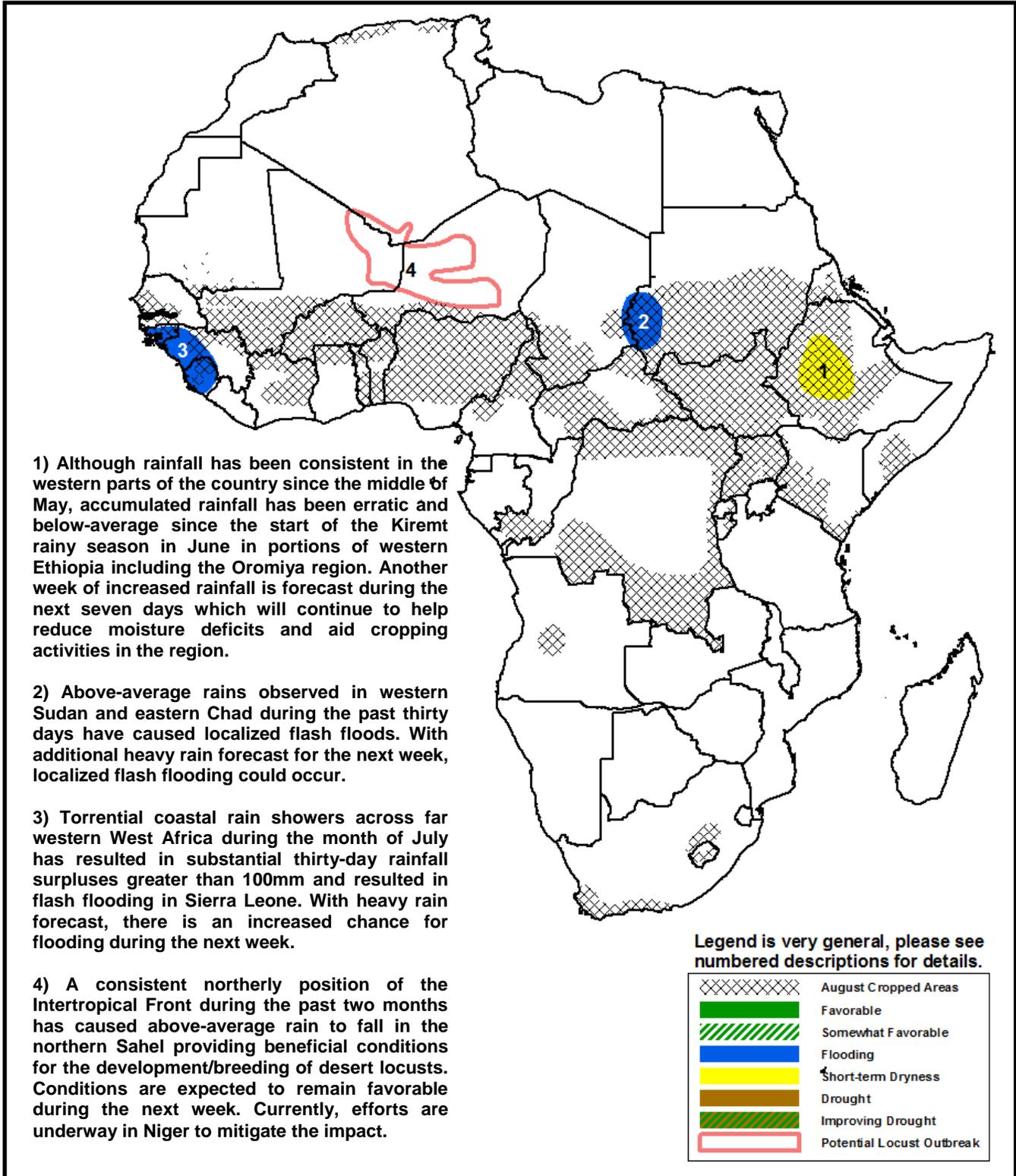


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 26 – August 1, 2012

- Above-average weekly rains were recorded across much of the Sahel during the past week.
- Locust threats remain elevated across northern Niger and Mali.



## Torrential rains impact Burkina Faso and western Mali.

Over the past seven days, widespread heavy rains (>75mm) were observed in western/central Mali, Burkina Faso, central Niger, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea. Three consecutive weeks of heavy, above-average rain have caused thirty-day rainfall surpluses to exceed 100mm (locally >200mm) in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and western Mali. Flooding has occurred in past weeks in Sierra Leone. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rain (10-40mm, locally >50mm) was recorded in portions of western Niger and northwest Nigeria (**Figure 1**) which have observed below-average seasonal rainfall to date. While rains have been erratic in these regions, the below-average rains have yet to negatively impact cropping conditions. However, an increase in frequency and quantity of rains is needed to erode the rainfall deficits. Farther north, continued above-average rains across the northern Sahel have created favorable conditions for the breeding and migration of desert locusts.

An analysis of vegetation conditions in West Africa during the second dekad of July indicates that even though rains have been above-average in many areas, vegetation is still performing below-average in certain areas. In northwest Nigeria and localized portions of western Niger, below-average NDVI values reflect the below-average rainfall that has been observed over the past ninety days. A slow start to seasonal rains in portions of Senegal has also resulted in below-average NDVI conditions. In contrast, above-average rains in western/central Mali and southern Niger has resulted in above-average NDVI values (**Figure 2**) reflecting good vegetative conditions.

A fourth consecutive week of above-average, heavy rains (>50mm) is forecast for Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, western Mali, and Sierra Leone which will lead to elevated risks for flooding. Farther east, abundant rain (>50mm) is forecast across eastern/southeastern Nigeria. Elsewhere, moderate rain (10-40mm) is expected across central West Africa including Burkina Faso, western Niger and western Nigeria.

## Above-average rains reduce seasonal deficits in Ethiopia.

Heavy rains (>50mm) were observed in western and northern Ethiopia during the past week. The above-average rains further eroded seasonal deficits that developed due to an erratic start of the Kiremt rains in June. Thirty-day rainfall anomalies reflect the above-average rains during the past several weeks as moderate surpluses (10-50mm) are present in western and northern Ethiopia. Deficits (25-100mm) remain in localized portions of the western Oromiya and Benishangul-Gumaz regions of Ethiopia. Farther west, moderate to locally heavy rains (>30mm) were recorded in Sudan and South Sudan (**Figure 3**) adding to seasonal rainfall surpluses. Heavy rains that extended into the desert parts of northern Darfur have increased the risks of desert locust outbreaks. For the next week, seasonal rains are expected in Ethiopia while heavy rains (>40mm) are forecast across western Sudan increasing the risk for flash flooding. Moderate rains (10-40mm) are expected in eastern Sudan.

**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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