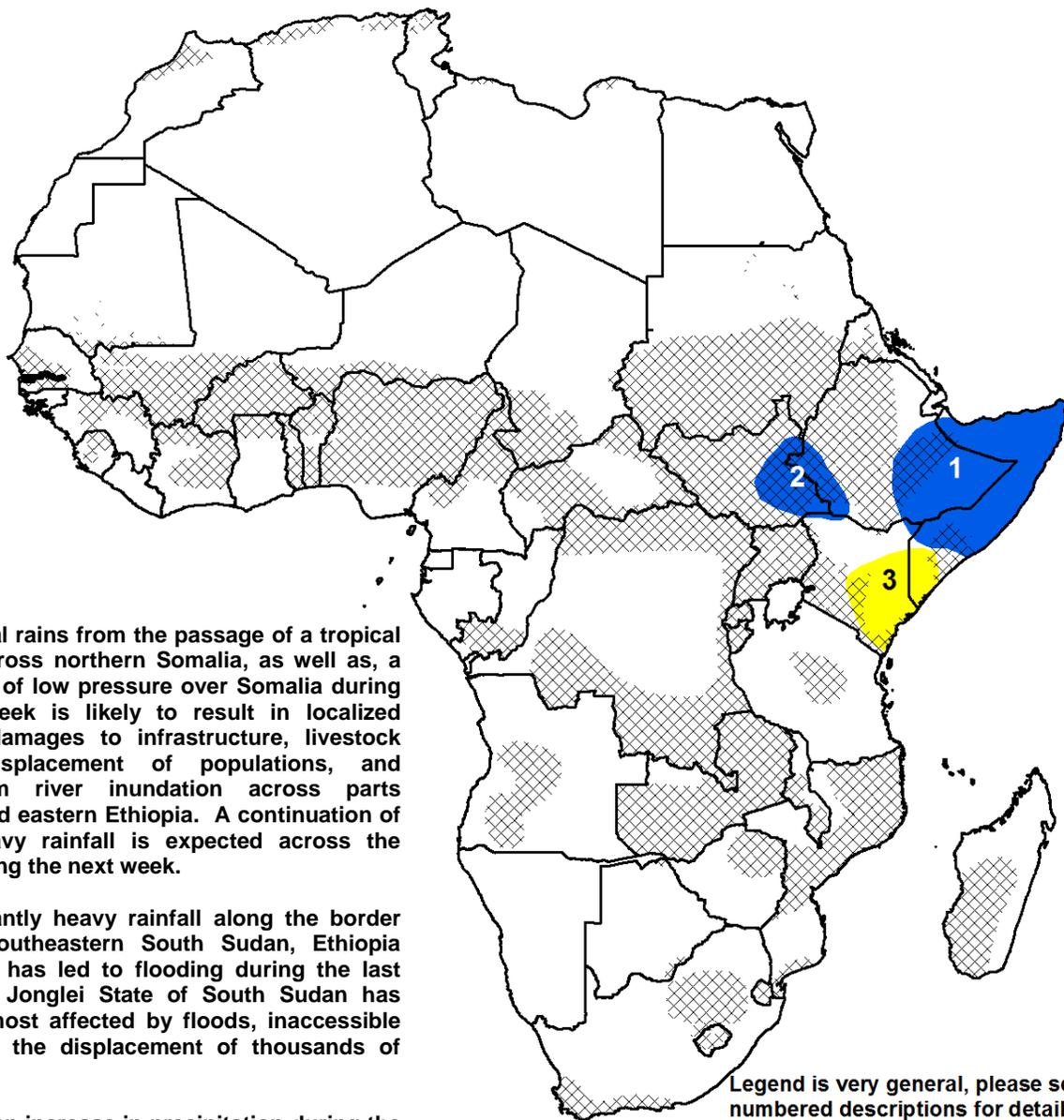




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook November 14 – November 20, 2013

- Following a week of torrential rainfall, the continuation of above-average precipitation in mid-November is likely to sustain the risk of flooding, and lead to adverse ground impacts across many parts of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.



1) Torrential rains from the passage of a tropical cyclone across northern Somalia, as well as, a broad area of low pressure over Somalia during the last week is likely to result in localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, livestock losses, displacement of populations, and downstream river inundation across parts Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. A continuation of locally heavy rainfall is expected across the region during the next week.

2) Significantly heavy rainfall along the border between southeastern South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya has led to flooding during the last week. The Jonglei State of South Sudan has been the most affected by floods, inaccessible roads, and the displacement of thousands of people.

3) Despite an increase in precipitation during the last seven days, many local areas in southern Somalia and eastern Kenya have experienced a delayed start of seasonal rainfall. Little to no rainfall in October has resulted in considerable moisture deficits, which could negatively impact the development of crops, and pastoral conditions in the region.

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

	November Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Heavy rains expected to adversely impact East Africa.

During the last seven days, a significant increase in rainfall was observed across the Greater Horn of Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) were received across southeastern South Sudan and western Ethiopia, with locally torrential amounts also received throughout eastern Ethiopia, Somalia, and northeastern Kenya (**Figure 1**). The sharp increase in rains and moisture across Somalia was associated with a broad area of low pressure during the earlier part of the observation period, as well as, the passage of a tropical cyclone which made landfall near Eyl, Somalia during the latter end of the observation period. The westward moving cyclone intensified from a small tropical disturbance in the Arabian Sea, bringing sustained winds (75mph) and ample amounts moisture extending from eastern Kenya to northern Somalia. Further south, many parts near the Lake Victoria basin received a more seasonal distribution of rainfall, with heavy shower activity along the eastern Tanzania and Kenyan coastlines.

The onset of anomalously heavy rains during the first dekad of November is expected to have moderate to significant ground impacts across the East Africa. While precipitation during the month of October had been characterized as average to slightly above average in Ethiopia and parts of Somalia, many local areas are now experiencing moisture surpluses in excess of 200 percent of normal since the middle of September (**Figure 2**). In South Sudan, the heavy rains during the last week have reportedly resulted in numerous flooding, inaccessible roads, damages to infrastructure, and the displacement of thousands of people in the Jonglei State. Locally heavy rainfall and high winds triggered by the passage of the tropical cyclone in Somalia is also expected to lead to localized flooding, river basin inundation, and the displacement of populations. Many of these areas have received nearly 3 times their normal rainfall accumulation since October.

Throughout parts of Kenya and far southern Somalia, the recent increase in precipitation has helped to mitigate anomalous dryness due to a poor rainfall distribution in October. In northeastern and central Kenya, monthly moisture deficits have nearly been offset during the last week. However, there remain several local areas near the Jubba River in southern Somalia, as well as, parts of southeastern Kenya that did observe an improvement in moisture conditions. Latest vegetation index analysis suggests that the poorest ground conditions exist in central and eastern Kenya, and extend into southern Somalia (**Figure 3**). While some recovery is expected for areas further north, more rainfall and moisture is needed in November to avoid possible failure of short season crops, and further deterioration of ground conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, a continued increase in precipitation is expected across much of East Africa in the wake of the tropical cyclone passage. Locally heavy precipitation amounts (>75mm) is forecast for northeastern Kenya, eastern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. While some of these rains may help to alleviate dryness in the south, above-average rains may also exacerbate already saturated ground conditions, and sustain the risk of additional flooding in mid-November.

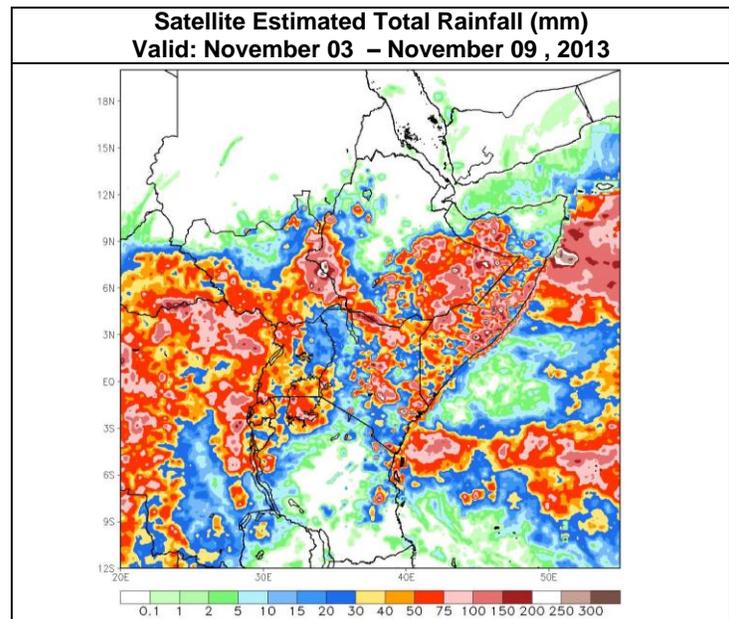


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

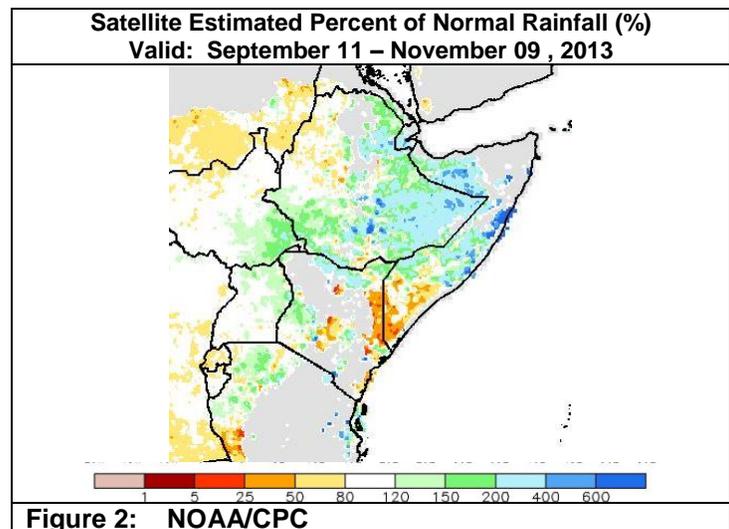


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

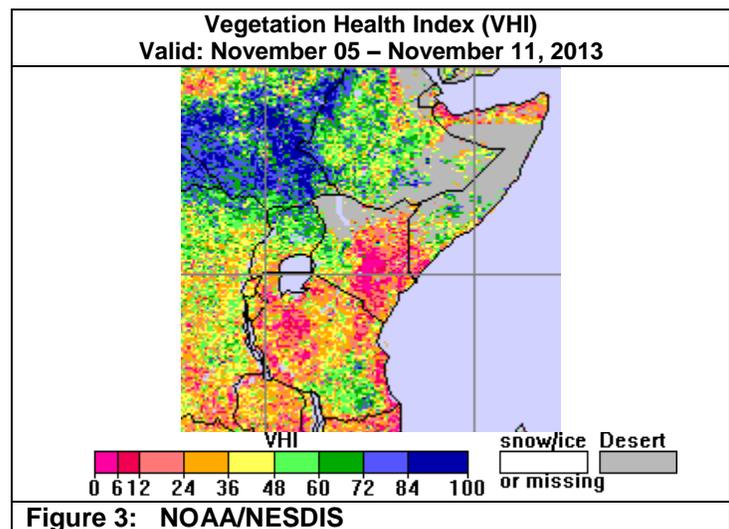


Figure 3: NOAA/NESDIS

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.