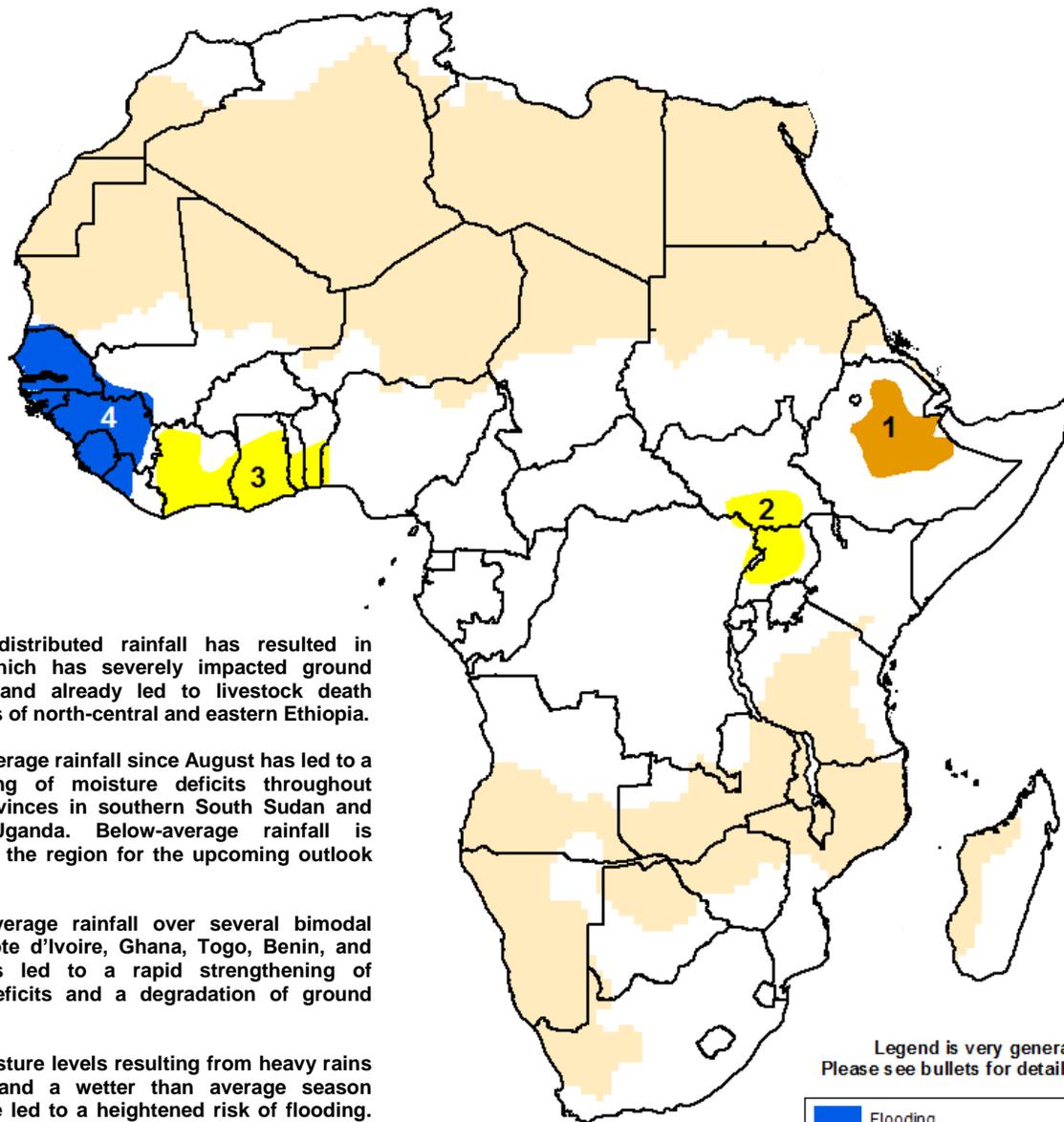




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 8 – October 14, 2015

- Continuation of suppressed rainfall along coastal Gulf of Guinea regions and enhanced rain across the Sahel and far western Gulf of Guinea.
- Dryness persists throughout parts of Ethiopia.



1) Poorly distributed rainfall has resulted in drought, which has severely impacted ground conditions and already led to livestock death across parts of north-central and eastern Ethiopia.

2) Below-average rainfall since August has led to a strengthening of moisture deficits throughout several provinces in southern South Sudan and northern Uganda. Below-average rainfall is expected in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

3) Below-average rainfall over several bimodal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria has led to a rapid strengthening of moisture deficits and a degradation of ground conditions.

4) High moisture levels resulting from heavy rains last week and a wetter than average season overall have led to a heightened risk of flooding. Flooding has been reported in northern Senegal. Increased chances of heavy rain for western Gulf of Guinea nations during the upcoming outlook period may trigger flooding in these regions.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Delayed onset to seasonal showers in some Gulf of Guinea countries coincides with continued late-season rain to the north.

Moderate to locally heavy rainfall continued throughout much of the Sahel to start October. The heaviest rainfall was focused over the western Gulf of Guinea countries with lighter rains in Nigeria and Cameroon. According to satellite data, the highest precipitation accumulations were received in southern Senegal, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, with lesser, but well-distributed amounts received across southern Mali, southern Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin (**Figure 1**). Deep meridional flow and atmospheric instability has again resulted in unusual shower activity throughout parts of northern Mauritania, Western Sahara, Algeria and Libya during the last week. Meanwhile, light to locally moderate amounts of rainfall were registered in Nigeria and Niger. Dry conditions persisted for coastal Ghana and Côte D'Ivoire.

Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall percentile shows that for many regions across West Africa, the season since early July ranks among the wettest of the past 30 years. Burkina Faso/western Niger and Guinea/southern Senegal/western Mali are the two most notable regions, shown to rank in the top 3% of seasons (**Figure 2**). More heavy rain falling on these areas would result in flooding concerns. Conversely, for southern Ghana, Togo, and Benin, which have seen a prolonged dry spell, some areas rank among the top 10% driest periods. The continuing delay in onset of the secondary rainfall season over these regions has heightened concerns for abnormal dryness and is negatively impacting ground conditions and cropping activities. For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts suggest heavy rainfall is likely for western Gulf of Guinea countries. Possible torrential rains over already soaked areas raise flooding concerns. Even as the ITCZ/ITF in West Africa continues its equatorward retreat, light to moderate rains are expected for many portions of the Sahel. A substantial onset of second season rains may begin to alleviate abnormal dryness in the southern Gulf of Guinea region.

Rains increase for parts of eastern, southern Ethiopia and Kenya.

During early October, heavy seasonal rainfall amounts continued over much of western Ethiopia, with lesser amounts received in Sudan and South Sudan. This marks a return to more seasonable conditions after an extended period of above-normal rainfall which eradicated much of the early season dryness in Sudan. In Ethiopia, despite a slight increase this past week, very poor rainfall has negatively affected several local highland areas in the eastern Amhara, western Afar, and northern Oromia. This seasonal dryness has also extended further south and east into other parts of Oromia and SNNP regions of the country. Widespread early season rainfall has been observed across southern Ethiopia, Somalia, and northern Kenya.

Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall anomalies since the beginning of September show a dipole pattern of above-average rain to the north and below-average to the south across the greater horn (**Figure 3**). Rainfall in many parts of southwestern Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda has been suppressed since early September leading to increasing moisture deficits, and increased concerns about available moisture for cropping and pastoral activities. Rainfall deficits greater than 50mm are observed for some of these local areas. During the next 7 days, little-to-no relief is expected for anomalously dry areas according to precipitation forecasts. However, increased rainfall is expected to remain and even increase for southern and eastern Ethiopia, most regions of Somalia, as well as southern and coastal regions of Kenya.

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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