FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK

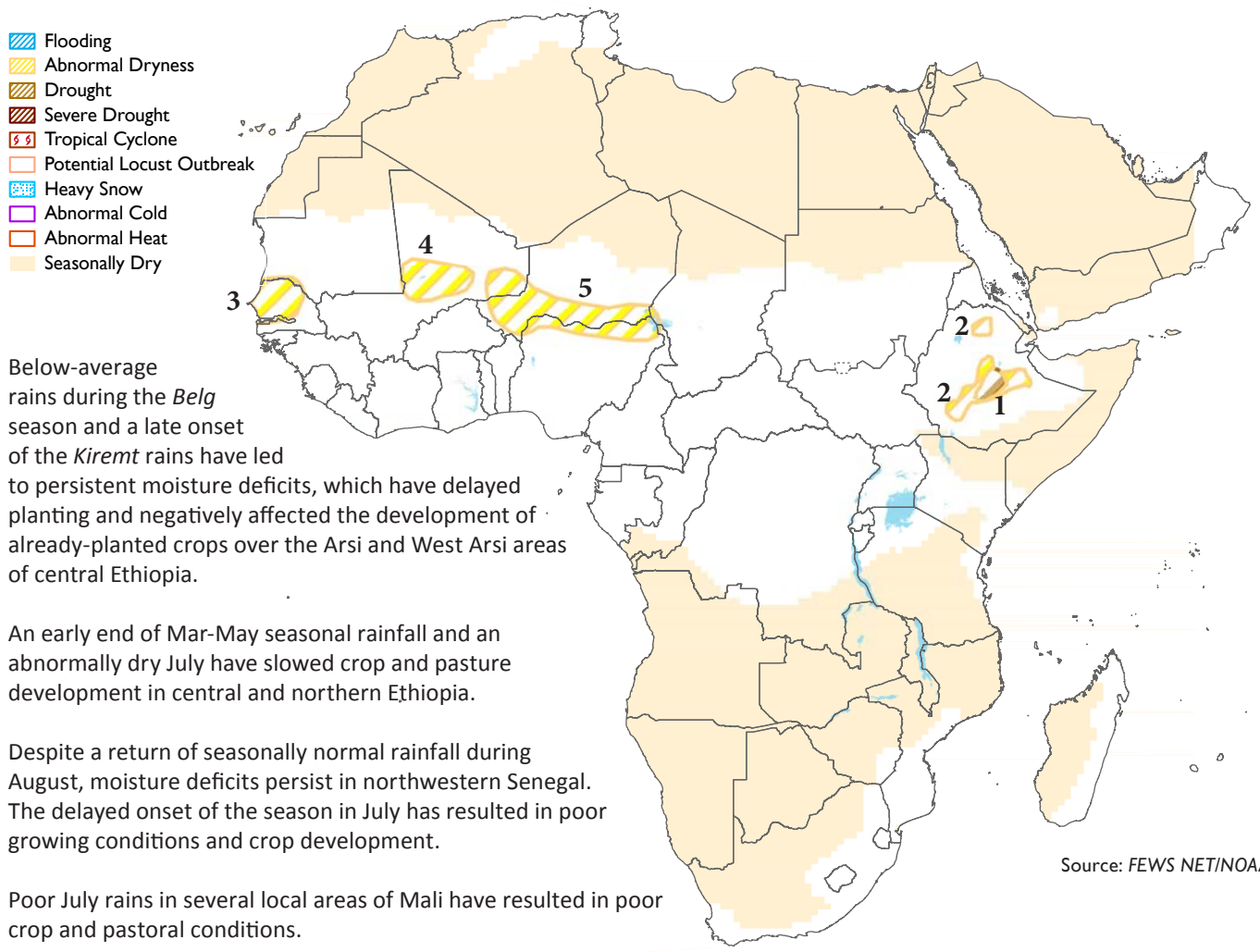
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Global Weather Hazards Summary

September 26 - October 2, 2014

Rainfall improving in Latin America, with dryness ongoing in parts of West Africa and Ethiopia

Africa Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Below-average rains during the *Belg* season and a late onset of the *Kiremt* rains have led to persistent moisture deficits, which have delayed planting and negatively affected the development of already-planted crops over the Arsi and West Arsi areas of central Ethiopia.

2. An early end of Mar-May seasonal rainfall and an abnormally dry July have slowed crop and pasture development in central and northern Ethiopia.

3. Despite a return of seasonally normal rainfall during August, moisture deficits persist in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season in July has resulted in poor growing conditions and crop development.

4. Poor July rains in several local areas of Mali have resulted in poor crop and pastoral conditions.

5. Poor rainfall since mid-August has led to late-season moisture deficits, increasing the likelihood for adverse ground impacts throughout many parts of western and southern Niger, eastern Mali, and northern Nigeria. Below average rains are forecast in the region for the next week.

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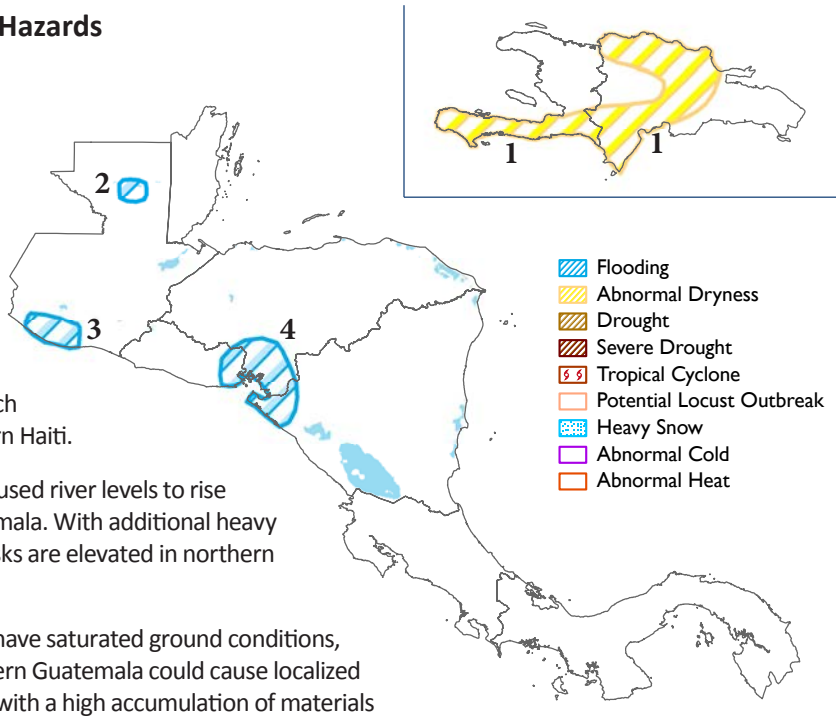
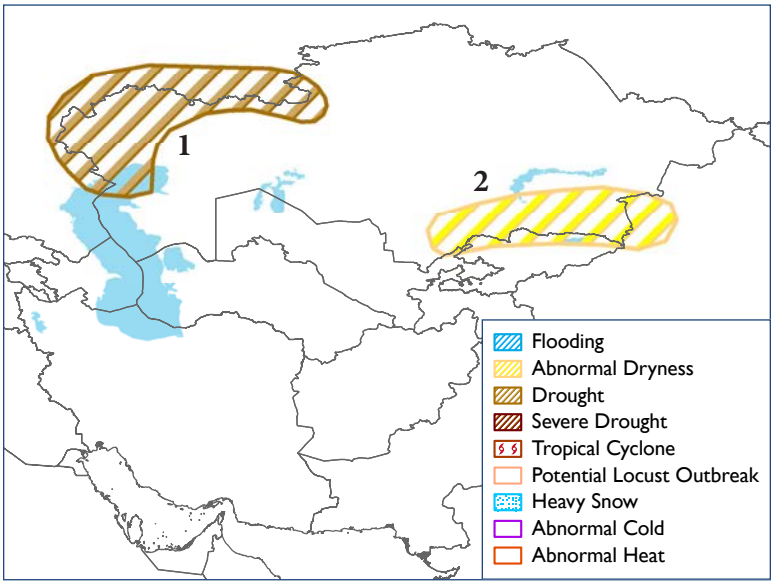
Latin America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Moderate to heavy rain during the past several weeks has led to localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, population displacements, and fatalities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Even though improved rains have helped to mitigate long-term seasonal dryness throughout southern and eastern Hispaniola, dryness remain across southern Haiti and parts of western/ central/northern Dominican Republic. Moderate to heavy rain is expected during the next week, which will likely help improve ground conditions in southern Haiti.
2. Torrential rains during the past three weeks have caused river levels to rise above alert-level in the Petén Department of Guatemala. With additional heavy rain forecast for the next week, localized flooding risks are elevated in northern Guatemala.
3. After abundant rains during the past several weeks have saturated ground conditions, heavy rains forecast for the next week across southern Guatemala could cause localized flooding in low-lying areas. This rain could combine with a high accumulation of materials ejected from the volcanos Santiaguito and Fuego, which would increase flooding risks.
4. Several weeks of above-average rain have led to 30-day rainfall surpluses greater than 150 percent of normal and saturated ground conditions near the Gulf of Fonseca. With abundant rain forecast for the next week, localized flooding is possible.

Central Asia Weather Hazards



Source: *FEWS NET/NOAA*

1. Below-average rainfall since May has resulted in drought across northwest Kazakhstan, where dry weather persisted for a third consecutive week.
2. Poorly distributed rainfall since May has led to increased moisture deficits and low soil moisture in southeastern Kazakhstan.

Temperatures

Weekly temperatures averaged 1-3°C below normal across Kazakhstan from September 14-20, and 1-3°C above normal across the rest of Central Asia. During the past week, northwest Kazakhstan experienced a widespread freeze. The GFS model forecasts above-average temperatures during the next week.

Precipitation

Below-average rainfall since May has resulted in drought across northwest Kazakhstan, where no precipitation occurred during the past week. In abnormally dry (but not drought-affected) areas, only light precipitation of 8 mm or less fell. During the next week, the GFS model forecasts widespread precipitation across much of Kazakhstan, with local amounts more than 25 mm. Accumulating snow is possible across the highest elevations of southeast Kazakhstan. Precipitation in the amounts forecast by the GFS model would provide major relief to the drought and abnormal dry areas.

Africa

Improving rainfall observed in Senegal to help relieve dryness.

During the last week, well-distributed moderate rain fell throughout West Africa, with the highest weekly amounts across much of Senegal, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire. Local station reports reflect this favorable increase in rains, with as much as 100 mm of rain reported in western Senegal. Less rain fell across the rest of the Sahel, but the northern limit of seasonal rains continued to cover parts of southern Mauritania, central Mali, and many parts of southern Niger (Figure 2). These late-season rains are expected to help mitigate seasonal dryness concerns in Senegal, Mali, and Niger.

In Senegal, a poor onset of seasonal rains in July was followed by a favorable recovery in August. However, below-average rain since late August/early September led to renewed moisture deficits, particularly in the Kaolack, Thies, Kaffrine, and Matam Regions. Here, many local areas have received less than 60 percent of their normal rainfall amounts between the beginning of July and early September, according to station reports.

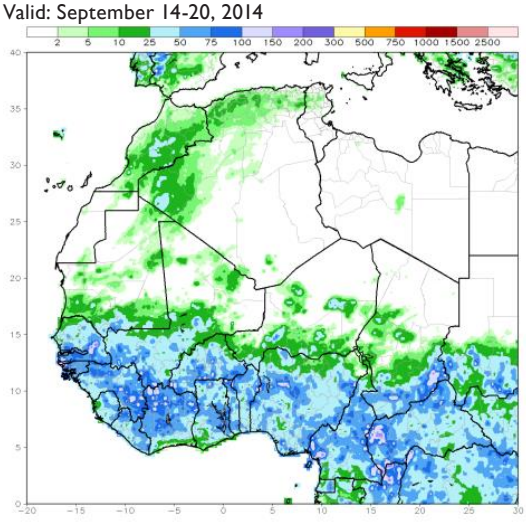
In southern and western Niger, below-average seasonal rainfall since mid-August has led to dryness throughout the region. Consecutive weekly satellite rainfall anomalies covering a 30-day period depict both an expansion and deepening of moisture deficits. Many local areas in the Dosso, Tillaberi, northern Tahoua, Zinder, and Diffa Regions have received 25 to 80 percent of their normal rainfall amounts since the third 10-day period of August (Figure 2). Continued late-season dryness is expected to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions.

For the next week, forecasts suggest another favorable week with average to above-average rainfall. The highest weekly amounts (>50 mm) are expected across the Gulf of Guinea region. However, less rains is forecast for the Sahel, with slightly below-average seasonal rainfall over Senegal.

Above-average rains expected in East Africa during the next week

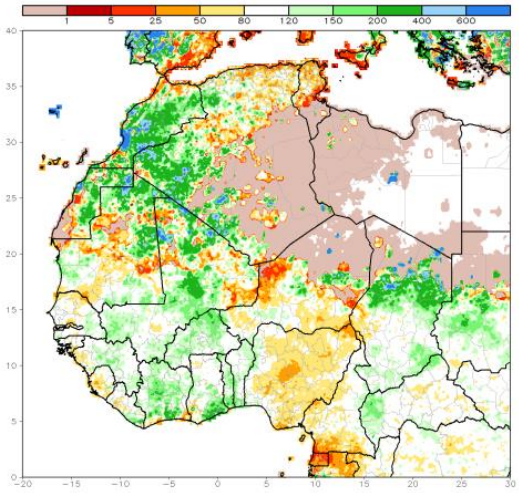
Since the beginning of September, rainfall throughout East Africa has been average to above-average with a few local areas in Ethiopia receiving below-average rains. Much of this late-season increase in rains and moisture is expected to benefit areas that have experienced poor and erratic rains earlier this summer. For the next week, a moderate to locally heavy rainfall are expected to continue for much of Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya (Figure 3). Light rain is also forecast for several coastal areas of Kenya and Somalia during the end of September.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: September 14-20, 2014



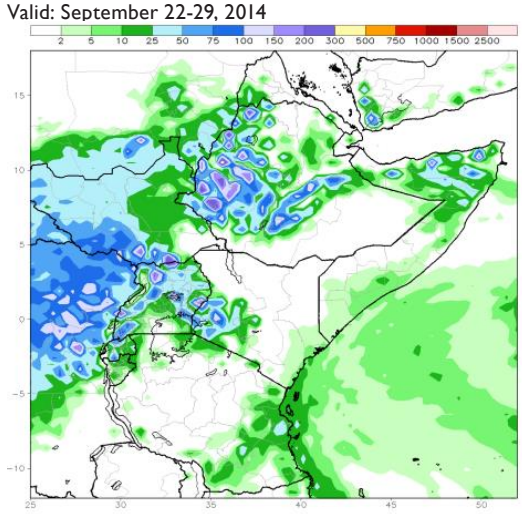
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: August 22-September 20, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3. GFS Total Precipitation Forecast (mm)
Valid: September 22-29, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

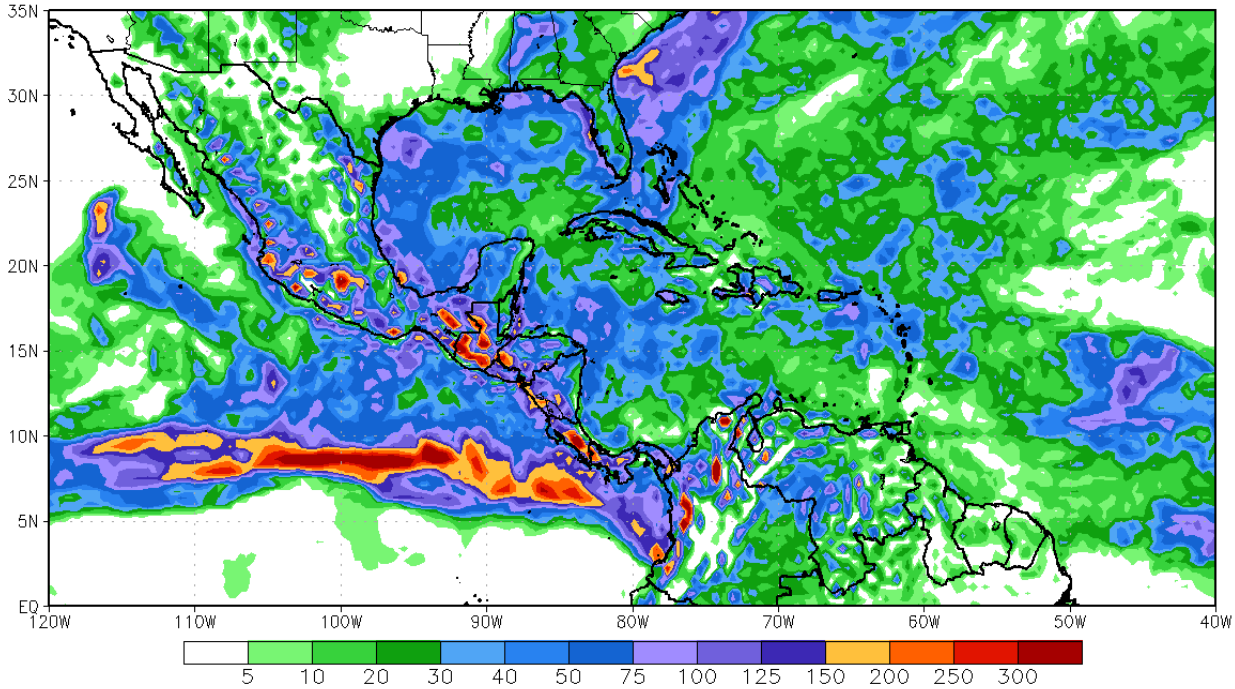
Latin America and the Caribbean

Copious amounts of rain observed around the Gulf of Fonseca and Costa Rica

During the past week, heavy rains (>50 mm) fell along the Pacific coastline of Central America and the Gulf of Honduras in western Belize and Guatemala. The heaviest rains (>100 mm) fell near the Gulf of Fonseca in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and western Panama. Rain gauges recorded over 200 mm of rain during the past week around the Gulf of Fonseca in Honduras, while over 150 mm was recorded in San Jose, Costa Rica. Due to the above-average rainfall during the past several weeks, 30-day rainfall surpluses currently exceed 200 mm around the Gulf of Fonseca with rainfall 150-200 percent above average. Elsewhere in inland Central America and on the Caribbean coastlines of Honduras and Nicaragua, moderate rainfall (15-40 mm) was observed. Moderate to heavy rain (>25 mm) that fell across Guatemala likely worsened saturation of soils in both Petén Department of Guatemala and along the southern coastline. Overall, *Postrera* season rainfall has been average to above-average across Central America, after a poor *Primera* rainy season reduced crop yields.

During the next week, heavy (>50 mm) and above-average rain is again forecast for much of Central America, including saturated areas around the Gulf of Fonseca and southern Guatemala. The heaviest rain (>75 mm) is expected across southern Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama. The abundant rains forecast for the Gulf of Fonseca will likely increase the risk for localized flooding.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: September 24 - October 1, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Heavy rain to continue improving agricultural conditions in southern Haiti

During the past week, heavy rain (>50 mm) fell across central Haiti and bordering areas in the Dominican Republic, according to satellite rainfall estimates. Moderate rain (10-40 mm) fell elsewhere on the island. Areas in eastern Hispaniola have received above-average rains for the last several weeks, but last week, these rains extended into parts of Haiti that have been experiencing abnormal dryness. Seasonal rainfall dating back to August 1st is between 50-80 percent of normal in Haiti's southern peninsula, with NDVI suggesting poor ground conditions in southern Haiti and southwestern/central/northern Dominican Republic. The recent increase in rains during the past 30 days has led to seasonal rainfall amounts close to average across the majority of Hispaniola. Moderate to heavy rain (>15 mm) is forecast next week for much of Hispaniola, with the heaviest rains (>30 mm) expected across central/eastern Dominican Republic and dry areas in the southern peninsula of Haiti. The above-average rains should help to improve poor ground conditions.

ABOUT WEATHER HAZARDS

Hazard maps are based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week) and 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.