



# FEWS BULLETIN

PN-AAA-949 65

ISSN = 51457

Number 87:3

PN-AAA-949

August 20

Document: AFRICA/ST/11/13  
AID-REF/CE/EE/D1  
Post: 200, 58-16

**BURKINA:** Although rainfall is reported to be localized and sporadic, satellite imagery for August 1-10 indicates that vegetation conditions, and by inference crop conditions, are above average throughout Burkina, except for Soum Province. Throughout the southern and central provinces, imagery shows that vegetation conditions are at, or above, the 1981-86 historical maximum. However, because of the lateness of the rains in the south and west, a good harvest in these areas will likely depend upon the rainy season continuing into October and November, which does not normally occur. In the north, rainfall is well below normal (see hacl), and imagery suggests that little "green-up" has occurred. A poor harvest is expected in this area, as is the norm.

**CHAD:** Satellite imagery for August 1-10 shows an increase in vegetative vigor throughout the Sudanian and much of the Sahelian zone since July. Northern Chari-Baguirmi Prefecture did not improve, however, and is showing (along with south Kanem Prefecture) less vigor in spots than in 1984 (see image). On August 13, the Mission reported close to 100% crop loss in Biltine and northern Ouaddai Prefectures. Sections of these areas required food aid in 1987. Although evidence from the imagery suggests that rain fell there in late July, these prefectures will likely experience food crises unless consistent, well timed rains continue through the end of September.

**ETHIOPIA:** Very poor prospects for crops are found in most of Eritrea, Tigray, and Welo, and in the northern third of Shewa Region (north and east of Addis Ababa). These four regions (affected population according to the UN is 9.2 million) are frequently vulnerable to famine because of normally deficit food production. They will continue to require food assistance, with levels likely to be higher in the near future because of the probable poor harvest this year. Initial estimates of local crop losses due to drought range between 25 and 100%. Nevertheless, there has been improvement in the vegetative cover in most of Ethiopia during the first ten days of August, probably reflecting better rains in late July and early August. Much of the rest of west, central and southern Ethiopia shows very vigorous vegetative conditions, suggesting good crop prospects in those areas.

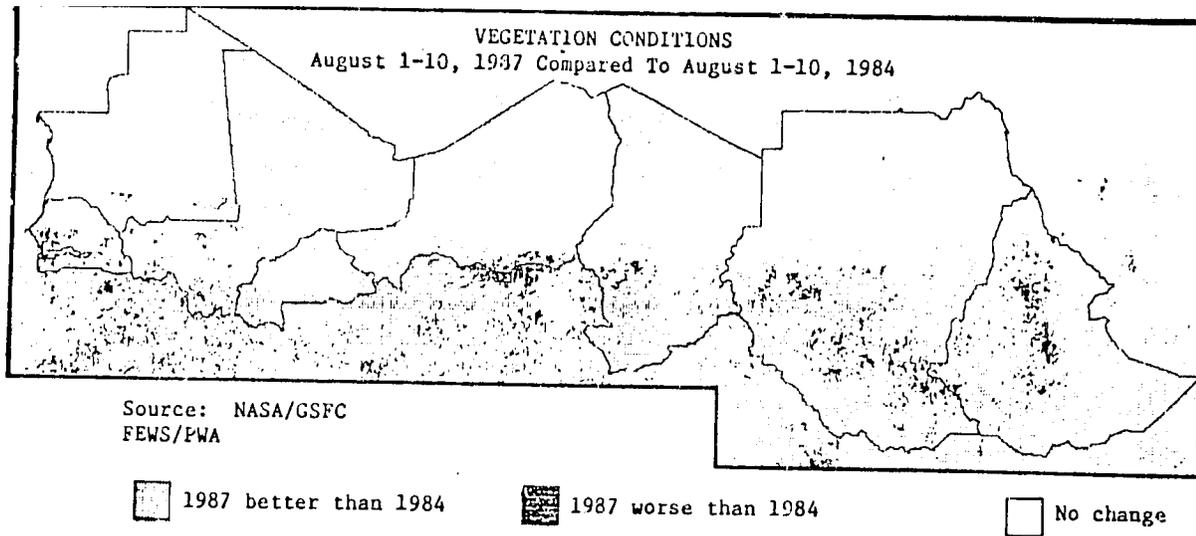
**MAURITANIA:** Satellite imagery suggests the presence of vegetation only in the south of the two Hodh Regions, and at southern Assaba Region. The area with a confirmed food shortage in 1987 (near Touil, Hodh Gharbi Region) warrants close monitoring. This area shows less vegetative vigor in 1987 than in 1986 or 1985 for the August 1-10 period. Two other areas of concern are Amourj Department, where recent dryness may necessitate reseeding, and areas in mid-Assaba Region where vegetation conditions are even worse than in 1984 (see image).

**NIGER:** Cereal production has been seriously compromised by low and poorly spaced rainfall up to the end of July. Even though recent rains have been more regular and in better quantity, many areas have received less than 50% of "normal" cumulative rainfall compared to the 1968-86 period, and most of the important agricultural areas have had less rain this year than in 1984. Satellite imagery shows that vegetation conditions in southern Zinder and much of Diffa Department are worse than in any year in the historical record (1981-86). Vegetation conditions are also worrisome in northern Niamey Department, and average elsewhere. An analysis of historic rainfall trends for these areas shows little hope for improving crop conditions, as there is normally only about a 25% chance that rains will satisfy crop needs through August and September in these areas.

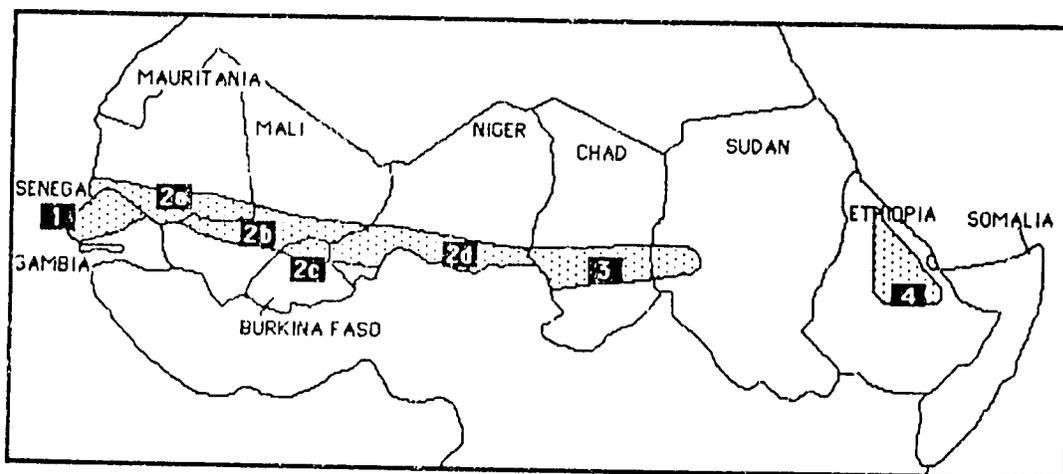
**MALI:** Satellite imagery suggests that vegetation conditions appear average to good in most of Mali. Exceptions to this include most of Mopti, Tombouctou and Gao Regions. The relatively minor rainfed agricultural production in these areas will not do well this year. Light rains in late July and early August have hurt crop development in southern Sikasso and Segou Regions. Noticeable greening occurred in northern Kayes and Koulikoro Regions during that same period.

**SUDAN:** Analysis of August 1-10 satellite imagery suggests that districts along the border between North and South Darfur Provinces, and along the border between South Kordofan and Upper Nile Provinces have less vegetative vigor than at the same time in 1984. In the former area, the drought in 1984 resulted in famine, and it is currently extremely vulnerable to a food emergency. In the latter area, the risk of war, in addition to dryness, places the people of this locale at-risk of food shortages.

GM-0000-C-00-609-00



## RAINFALL ANOMALIES



1. Little or no rain fell during the second decade of August. Along the northernmost border, cumulative rainfall (May 1-August 20) is less than 50% of normal. Elsewhere cumulative rainfall is generally between 60 and 70% of normal.
2. Cumulative rainfall (May 1-August 20) is less than 60% of normal.
  - a. At Aion and Nema, near normal rainfall the last two decades of July was followed by little or no rainfall in August.
  - b. At Segou, cumulative rainfall is the lowest since 1951.
  - c. Cumulative rainfall at Dori is the second lowest since 1951.
  - d. Cumulative rainfall at several stations is the lowest since 1951: Tiliaberi, Niamey, Zinder, and Maine-Soroa. For Birni N'Konni and Magaria, it is the second lowest since 1951.
3. Potential rain-producing clouds were observed on satellite imagery on several days during the second decade of August across this area in Chad and Sudan which experienced a shortage of rainfall during July and the first decade of August.
4. During the second decade of August, potential rain-producing clouds were frequently observed on satellite imagery across the area for the first time since June which normally is the beginning of the rainy season.
  - Occurrences were more numerous on the western edge; Desse reported a 10-day rainfall total of 195 mm which is 200% of normal.
  - In the southeast, rainfall was still deficient; reported rainfall at Jijiga for the first two decades of August was 25% of normal.

Position of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ): The average position of the ITCZ during the second decade of August was farther north than the previous decade. The average of 19°N was the same as the mean of the previous eight years.

\* In cooperation with JAWF (NOAA/USDA).

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