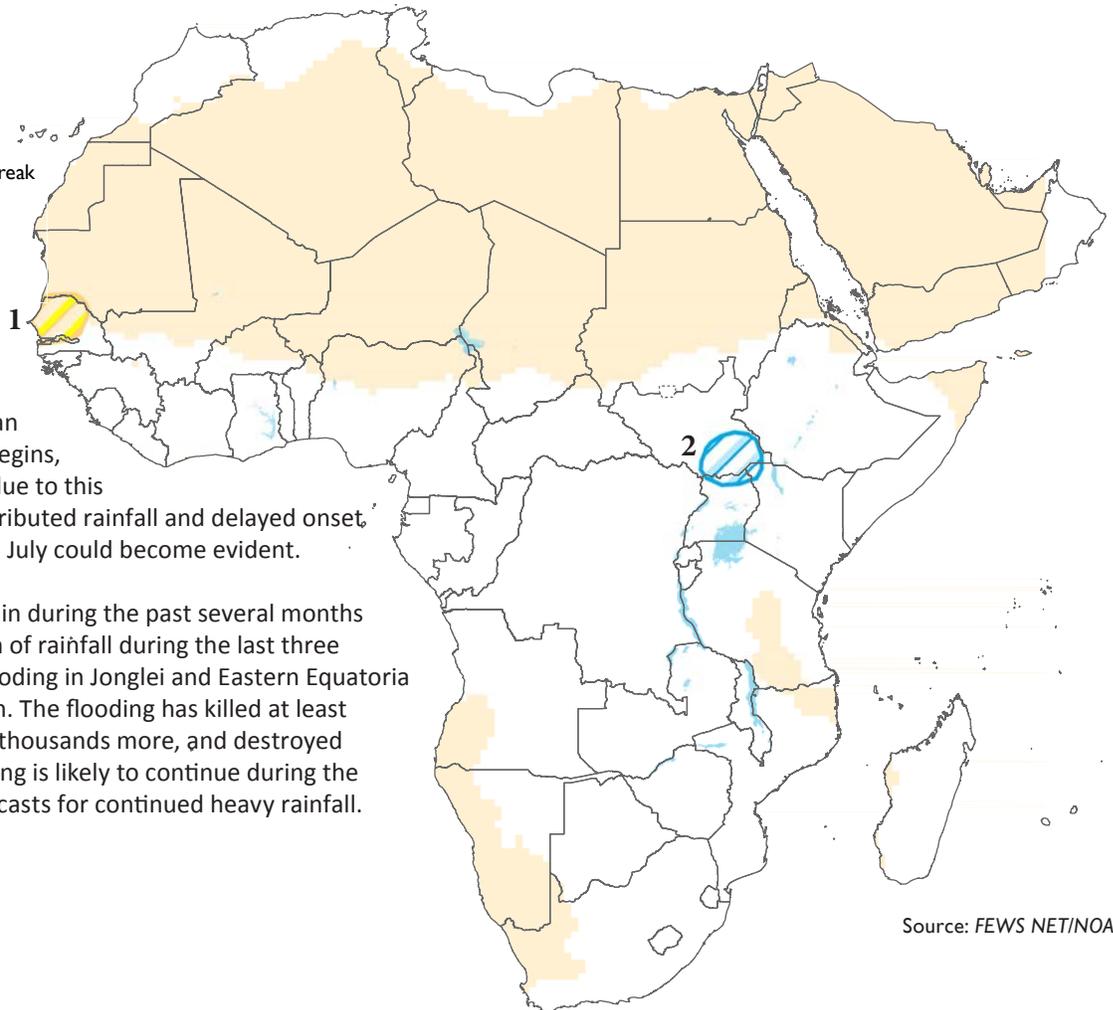


Second-season dryness continues in Haiti, flooding risks remain in Central America and South Sudan

Africa Weather Hazards

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



1. As the rainy season in Senegal comes to an end and harvesting begins, reduced crop yields due to this summer's poorly distributed rainfall and delayed onset of the rainy season in July could become evident.
2. Consistently heavy rain during the past several months and an intensification of rainfall during the last three weeks has caused flooding in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria States of South Sudan. The flooding has killed at least 10 people, displaced thousands more, and destroyed infrastructure. Flooding is likely to continue during the next week given forecasts for continued heavy rainfall.

Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Africa Overview

Heavy rain observed across saturated areas of South Sudan

During the past week, heavy rains again fell across a wide portion of eastern Africa. The heaviest rains (>75 mm) were recorded across South Sudan, southern Sudan, western Ethiopia, and areas around Lake Victoria. The abundant rains in South Sudan (10-50 mm above average) fell across areas that were suffered flood-related infrastructure damage and population displacements during the past several weeks. Farther south, abundant rains in Rwanda have improved ground moisture, after poor rains during September led to poor ground conditions. In contrast, only localized showers (10-40 mm) fell across central/southern Somalia during the past week, which was 10-25 mm below average (Figure 1) for southern Somalia.

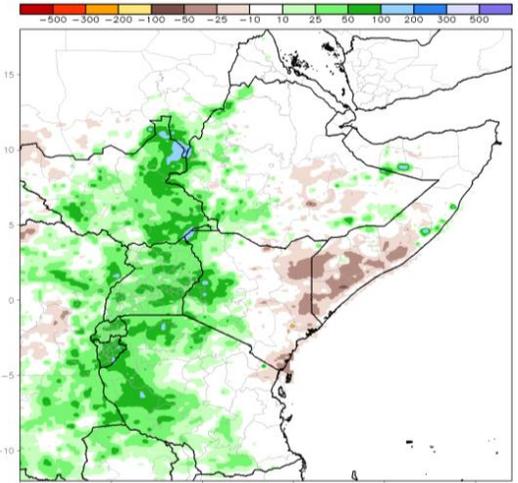
Much of eastern Africa has received above-average rainfall over the past 30 days. In particular, rainfall in western Ethiopia, Somali Region of Ethiopia, South Sudan, and central/northern Somalia has been 50-200 mm above-average. Farther south, recently heavy rain has led to growing 30-day rainfall surpluses of 10-100 mm around Lake Victoria, including previously dry areas in Rwanda. In contrast, a slow start to *Deyr* seasonal rains has led to rainfall deficits (10-50 mm) in southern Somalia (Figure 2). Since the rainy season is short (October-December), additional rainfall is needed during the next several weeks to avoid negative impacts on cropping activities.

During the next week, heavy rains (>50 mm) are forecast for areas around Lake Victoria, stretching north to southern parts of South Sudan. Another week of abundant rains in South Sudan will maintain elevated risks of flooding. Elsewhere, locally moderate to heavy rain (>25 mm) is expected for Somali Region of Ethiopia and central/southern Somalia. However, little rain (<10 mm) is forecast for central Ethiopia and coastal Kenya.

Below-average rainfall expected across West Africa next week

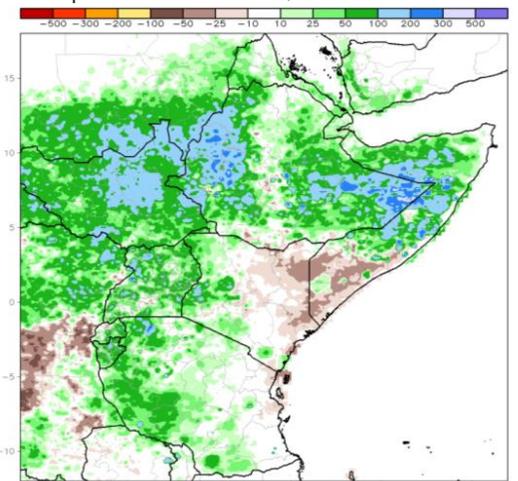
During the last week, rainfall across West Africa was average to below-average. The heaviest rainfall (>50 mm) was observed across saturated areas in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, as well as Nigeria and localized areas in Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Moderate rainfall (10-40 mm) was observed across dry areas in Senegal. In contrast, little rainfall (<10 mm) was recorded across the Sahel, where seasonal rains are ending, as well as coastal Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Since August 1st, much of West Africa has received above-average rains, with rainfall amounts in Burkina Faso and central/northern Mali above the 85th percentile. In contrast, rainfall in Nigeria has been below the 30th percentile (Figure 3), though it has been adequate for cropping. For the next week, below-average rainfall is expected across West Africa, which will increase rainfall deficits across bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea.

Figure 1: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 15-21, 2014



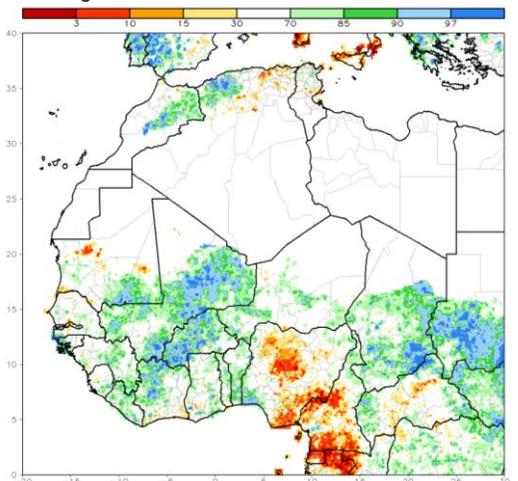
Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 2: Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: September 22-October 21, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3. Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: August 1-October 21, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

Central Asia Weather Hazards

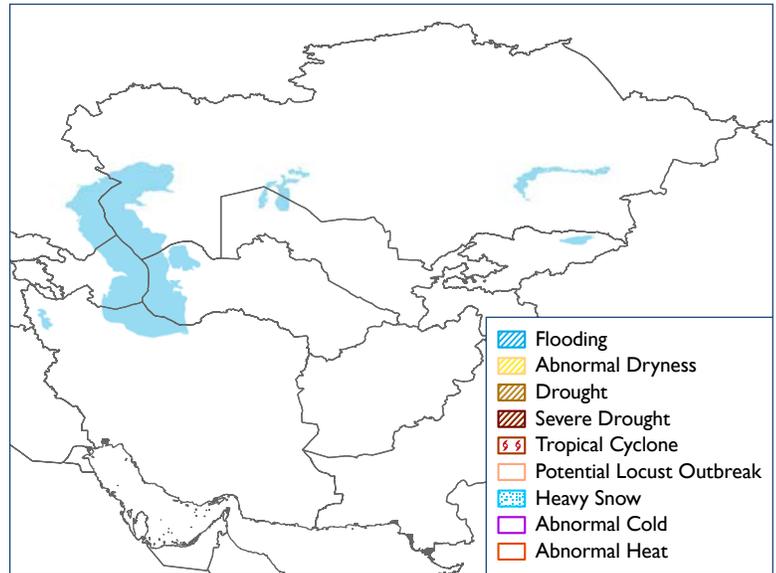
No hazards are posted for Central Asia.

Temperatures

Temperatures averaged 1-7°C above normal across most of Central Asia from October 12-18, except for extreme northern Kazakhstan, where below-normal temperatures were observed. Minimum temperatures fell below -5°C during the past week across northern Kazakhstan. During the next week, minimum temperatures could fall to -10°C across northern Kazakhstan, with freezing temperatures spreading as far south as Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Precipitation

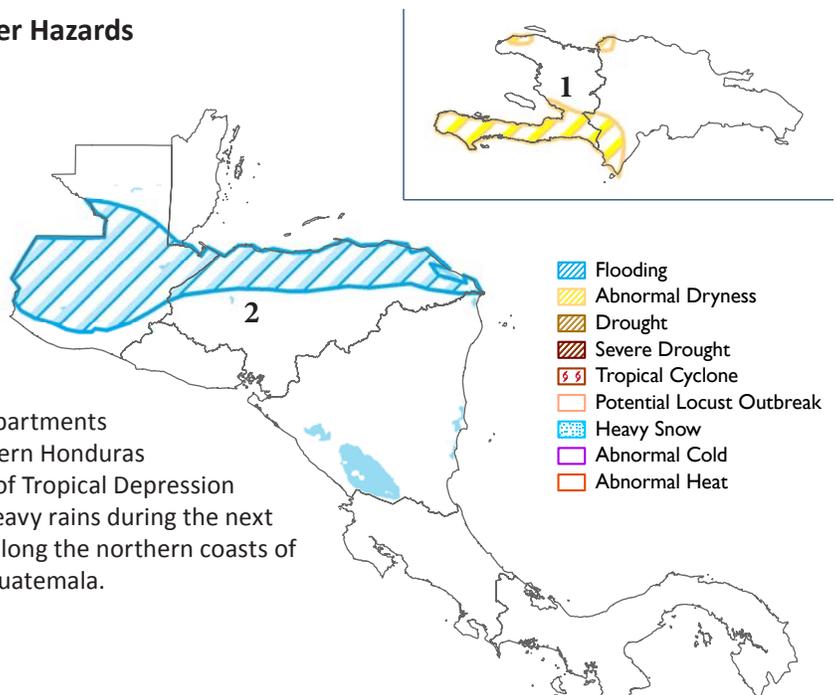
Widespread precipitation (10 – 28 mm) fell across the northern third of Kazakhstan from October 12-18, while locally heavy rain (more than 50 mm) fell along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Snowfall analysis indicates that snow depths are increasing across the higher elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan. During the next week, the GFS model forecasts moderate to heavy rain (25 to 75 mm) across eastern Kazakhstan. Locally heavy amounts of snowfall are likely across northeast Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Weather Hazards

1. Despite some increases in rainfall over central Hispaniola in September, southern and northwestern parts of Haiti, along with northwestern and southern Dominican Republic continue to be drier than normal. This dryness is due to insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the second rainy season.
2. Heavy and above-average rainfall triggered flooding and landslides in Chimaltenango, Zacapa, Guatemala, Baja Verapaz, and Petén Departments of Guatemala and San Pedro Sula region of western Honduras during the past week. Due to the forecast track of Tropical Depression Nine into the Yucatan Channel and associated heavy rains during the next week, risks for flooding and landslides are high along the northern coasts of Honduras and over already-saturated areas of Guatemala.



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Central America and the Caribbean Overview

Thirty-day rainfall surpluses observed over much of Central America

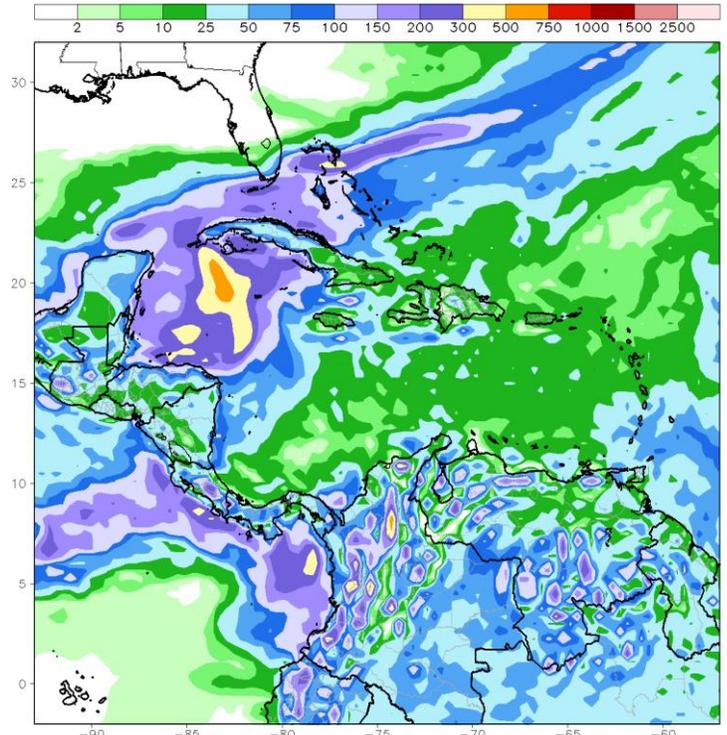
Frequent and above-average rains over the past month has led to rainfall surpluses across much of Central America. Rainfall surpluses of 200–400 mm have been recorded over the Pacific coasts, Quiché, and Izabal Departments of Guatemala and along the Gulf of Fonseca region. During the past week, heavy and above-average rains fell over much of Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, and Costa Rica. This rain caused flooding and infrastructure damages in Chimaltenango, Baja Verapaz, Guatemala, Petén, and Zacapa Departments of Guatemala. Heavy rains also caused flooding in San Pedro Sula of western Honduras and overflowing of the Esteli River in north-central Nicaragua. Rainfall to date during the August–November *Postrera* season has been average to above average over much of Central America. However, the excess moisture has damaged crops over some local areas of the region. However, seasonal rainfall deficits have been observed over parts of western Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Early during the next week, Tropical Depression Nine is expected to move from its current position south of Bay of Campeche eastward into the Yucatan Channel, which could bring torrential rain and flooding along the Gulf of Honduras and northern coasts of Honduras. Meanwhile, localized heavy showers are expected over western and central Guatemala, which increases the risks for flooding over saturated areas of Guatemala. Light to moderate rains are forecast over central Honduras and Nicaragua.

Increased rainfall observed over Hispaniola during the past week

During the past week, an increase in rainfall was observed over Hispaniola. The heaviest (>75 mm) rains fell across central Haiti, including the Ouest and Centre Departments, and the mountainous regions of central Dominican Republic. Light to moderate rains fell elsewhere. Despite this past week's average to above-average rains in central areas of the island, moisture deficits ranging between 100 and 200 mm have persisted along the coasts of Hispaniola over the past 30 days. Areas of southern and northwest Haiti, as well as northwestern and southwestern Dominican Republic, have received only between 25–50 percent of their average. Recent NDVI also suggests poor vegetation conditions in these areas. The continuation of insufficient rainfall could inhibit crop development and would likely reduce seasonal yields over many local areas. For the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest the return of dry weather, with light rains over much of Hispaniola. However, isolated areas of both central Haiti and central Dominican Republic could receive moderate rainfall.

Figure 1: Seven-Day Total Rainfall Forecast (mm)
Valid: October 22–29, 2014



Source: NOAA/CPC

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.