Africa Regional Forecast: Total Rain and Snow for July-September 2012
Produced by the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society

Forecast Update: The forecast signals this month are not very strong, as we are no longer in a La Niña or El Niño phase.

IRI Global Forecast Map: Colours on this map indicate areas where we have increased confidence that the next three months will be unusually wet or dry. The darker the colour, the more confident we are. There is an increased chance of an El Niño event this year, which we will only know with more certainty in August. Seasonal forecasts at that time will reflect the result.

Areas of Concern
There is a slightly increased confidence that parts of Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia will be unusually dry this July-September.

What can I do?
To anticipate impacts, monitor local rainfall forecasts to see when and where rainfall events might occur. Some regional resources include: Seasonal forecasts. For the Sahel, see: ACMAD.

We suggest close monitoring of local/regional forecasts in areas with vulnerable populations.

If below-normal rainfall does occur, the following sectoral impacts are possible:
- Watsan: poor water quality
- Food security: change in planting/harvesting times, crop drying/storage
- Health: enhanced transmission rates of infectious diseases

For more information to help interpret the forecast, see accompanying document called: ‘Important Forecast Guidance and Resources’.
If you have any questions, please e-mail the IFRC Helpdesk at IRI: ifrc@iri.columbia.edu.