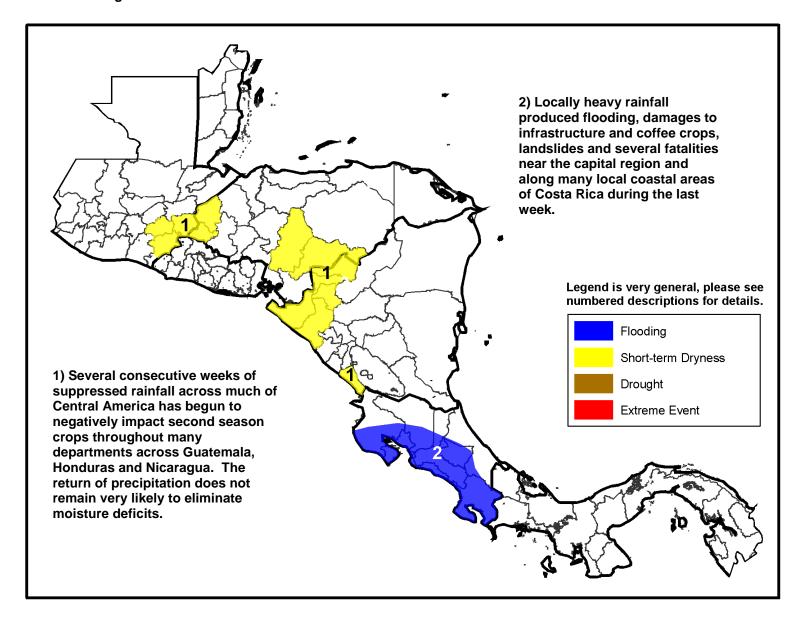


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America November 11 – November 17, 2010

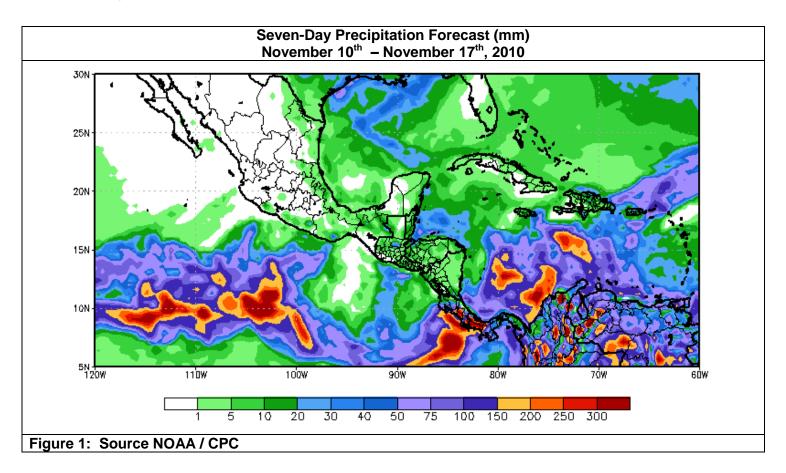


 Below-average precipitation in November continues to worsen areas affected by anomalous Postrera dryness in portions of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



An early end to the Postrera rains season appears likely.

Minimal amounts of precipitation were received across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua as a large number of areas observed light rainfall accumulations ranging between 5-20mm during the last seven days. However, significantly high precipitation was observed further south in Costa Rica, as many local areas experienced precipitation amounts in excess of 150mm throughout the San Jose, Cartago, and Puntarenas provinces. The onset of this heavy rainfall resulted in localized flooding, damages to infrastructure and coffee crops, elevated rivers and landslides that led to a number of fatalities near the capital region. In the last 30 days, Postrera rainfall has abruptly ceased throughout Central America, as moisture deficits have strengthened particularly throughout parts of where rainfall remained anomalously high during the Primera season earlier this year. Many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall since early October, which continues to negatively impact cropping activities in eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and many areas north of Lake Nicaragua. Due to the persistence of this late season dryness throughout October and November, this has given less opportunity for rains to return before the start of the Apante season. Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of below-average rainfall, as many areas are expected to receive accumulations less than 30mm during the next seven days.



MFEWS is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The MFEWS weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by MFEWS field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries such as, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila. Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID MFEWS activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for MFEWS, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.