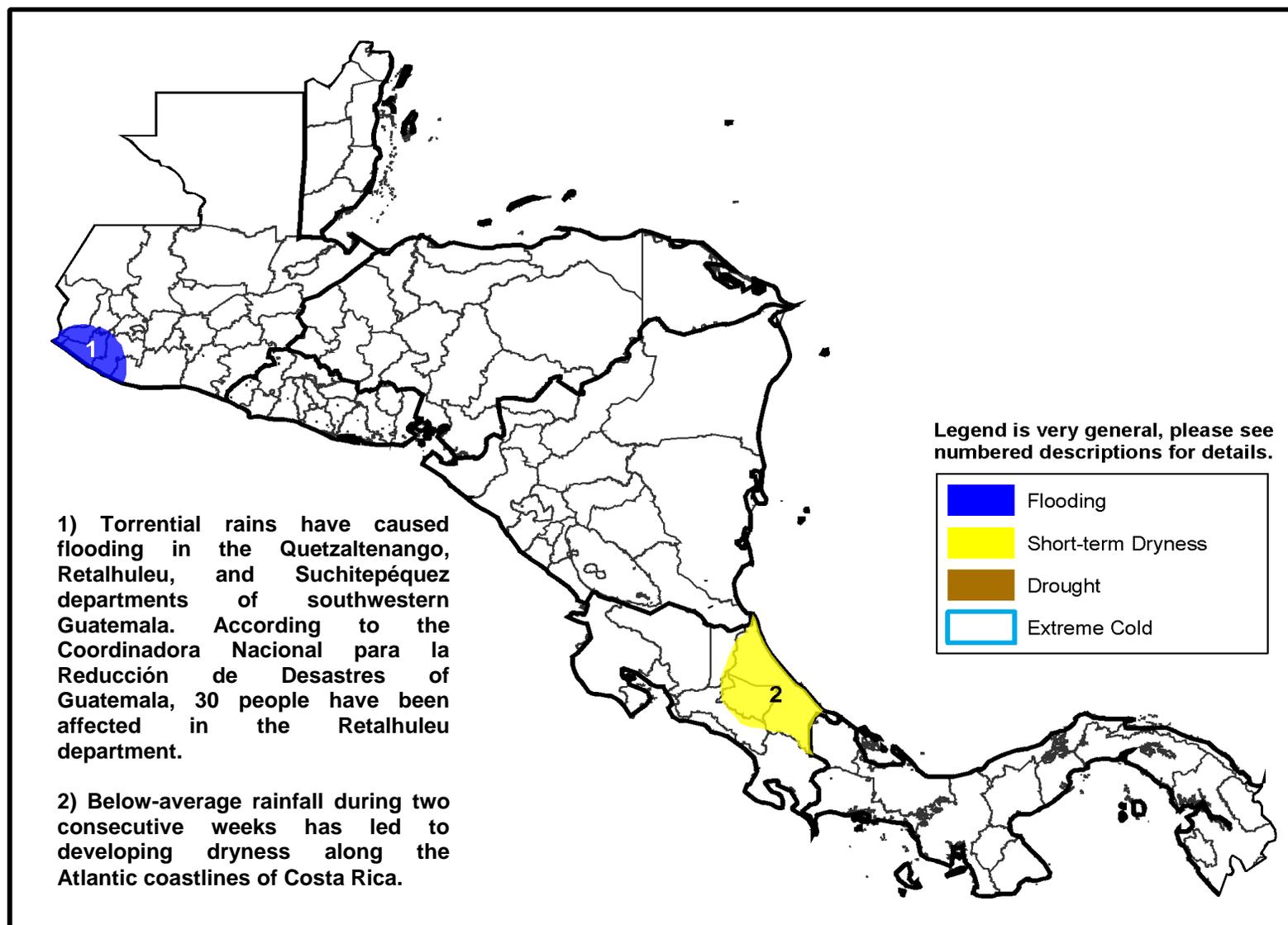


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America May 26 – June 1, 2011

- Torrential rains during the past seven days have caused flooding in southwestern Guatemala.
- Below-average rainfall during two consecutive weeks has led to developing dryness along the Atlantic coastlines of Costa Rica.



Torrential rains caused flooding in southwestern Guatemala, while suppressed rains led to developing dryness in Costa Rica.

The meteorological conditions across Central America during the past seven days were characterized by a reduction of seasonal rainfall relative to the previous week. Seasonal rainfall was mainly observed along the Pacific basin of Central America, with torrential (> 100mm) rains in southwestern Guatemala, where flooding was reported. In contrast, little to no rainfall was observed in many local areas of inland Central America. This has prevented farmers from sowing in areas such as the Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz of Guatemala and the Lempira of Honduras. Further south, suppressed rainfall during two consecutive weeks along the Atlantic basin of Central America has resulted in developing dryness, with moisture deficits between 50-200mm in the Atlantic regions of Costa Rica during the last thirty days. The lack of rainfall that was observed could negatively affect crops during their developing stages during this time of the season.

Rainfall forecasts for the next seven days indicate the return of a more widespread rainfall distribution across Central America. Heavy (> 50mm) rains are expected in many local areas of southern Guatemala and could exacerbate the flooding in the southwest of the country. Abundant (> 150mm) rainfall is also expected in the Gulf of Fonseca region, including southern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua, and central Costa Rica during the next week. The continuation of seasonal rainfall is expected to aid agricultural activities in the region.

