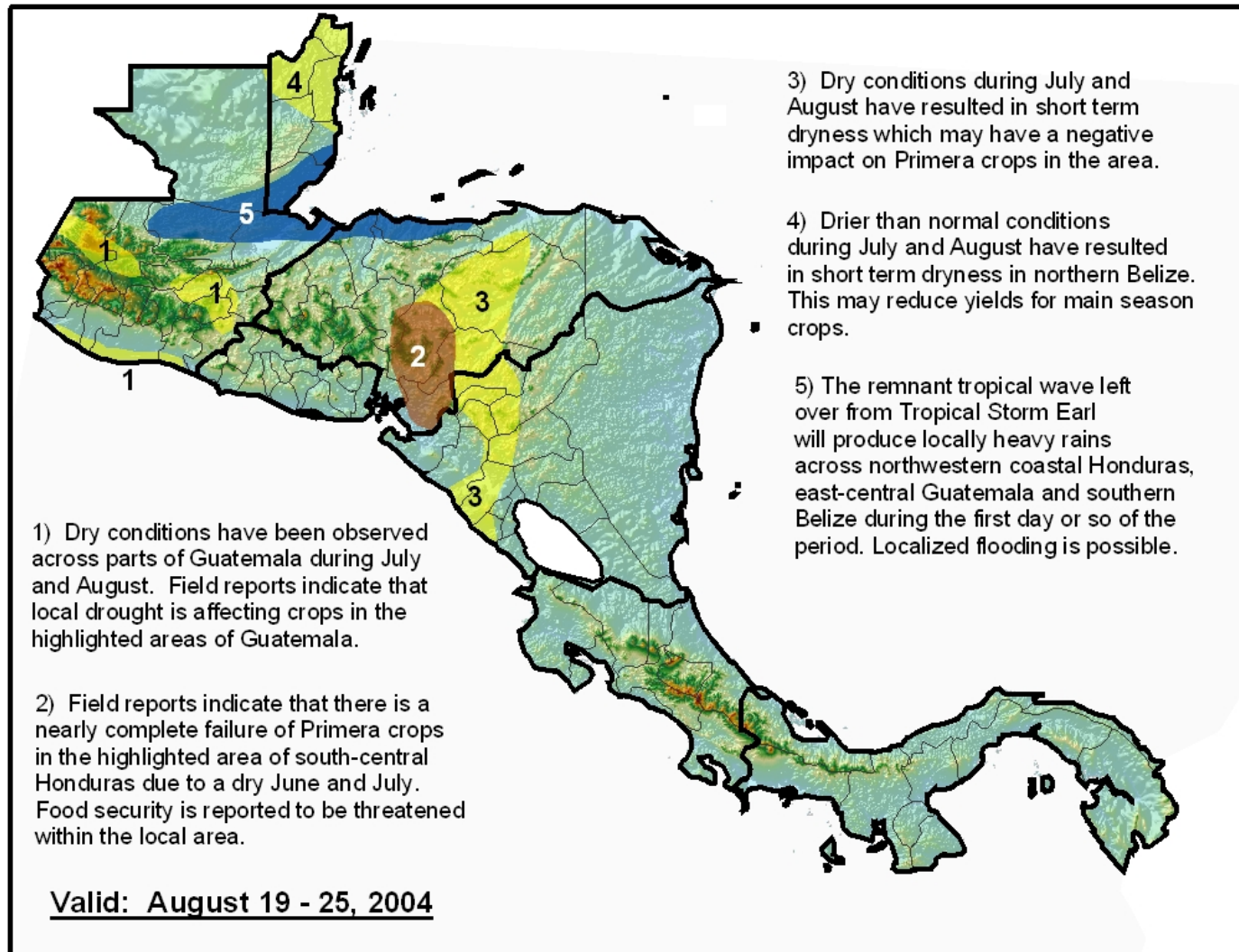


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

August 19 - 25, 2004



1. Rainfall has been lighter than normal across portions of southern Guatemala for the month of July, with rainfall totals of 20 to 60% of normal. Rainfall so far for the month of August has also been light and scattered. Along Guatemala's southern coast, some locations have experienced up to 45 consecutive days without measurable rainfall. These dry conditions have resulted in crop stress across some of Guatemala's southern departments. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to provide some relief to portions of southern Guatemala.
2. Field reports indicate nearly complete failure of Primera crops in south-central portions of Honduras due to dry conditions during June and July. Food security in the local area may be threatened.
3. Rainfall during the month of July has only been about half of normal, with only scattered showers observed so far during the month of August. This has resulted in moisture deficits and possible crop stress across portions of southern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua. Rainfall during the period will be scattered. Therefore, little in the way of dryness relief is expected.
4. Drier than normal conditions have been observed over northern portions of Belize during June, July and the first half of August. This may result in crop yield reductions across the area. Scattered showers are expected during the period. Therefore, some limited improvement is expected.
5. The remnant tropical wave left over from what was Tropical Storm Earl is producing showers and locally heavy thunderstorms over northern coastal Honduras and central Guatemala. These rains will continue through August 19th, and may spread into southern Belize. Rainfall totals are expected to range from 50 to 100 mm, with locally higher amounts. As a result, localized flooding is possible across northwestern coastal Honduras, central Guatemala and southern Belize. These rains will taper off by the 20th, reducing the risk of flooding.

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