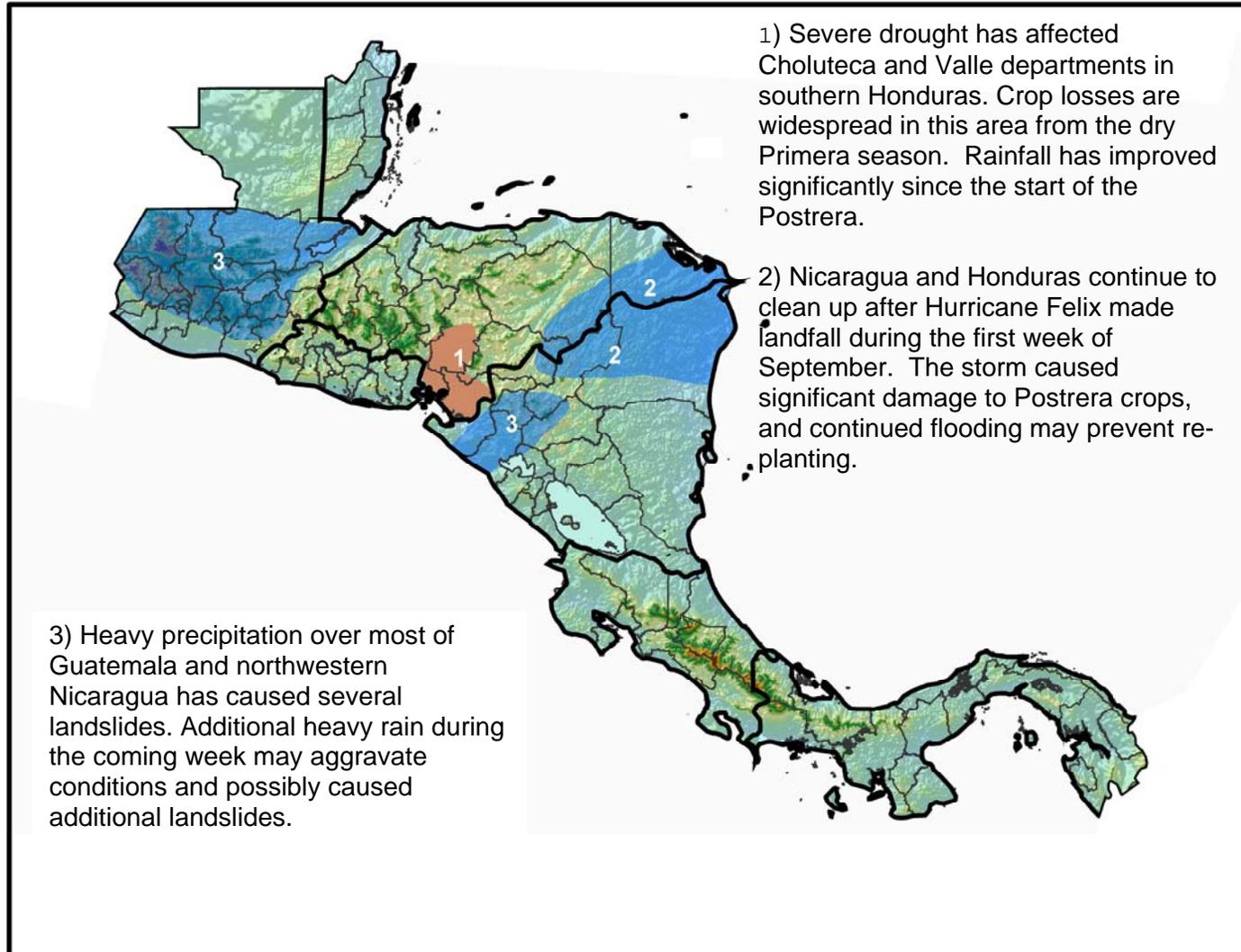


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 27 – October 3, 2007



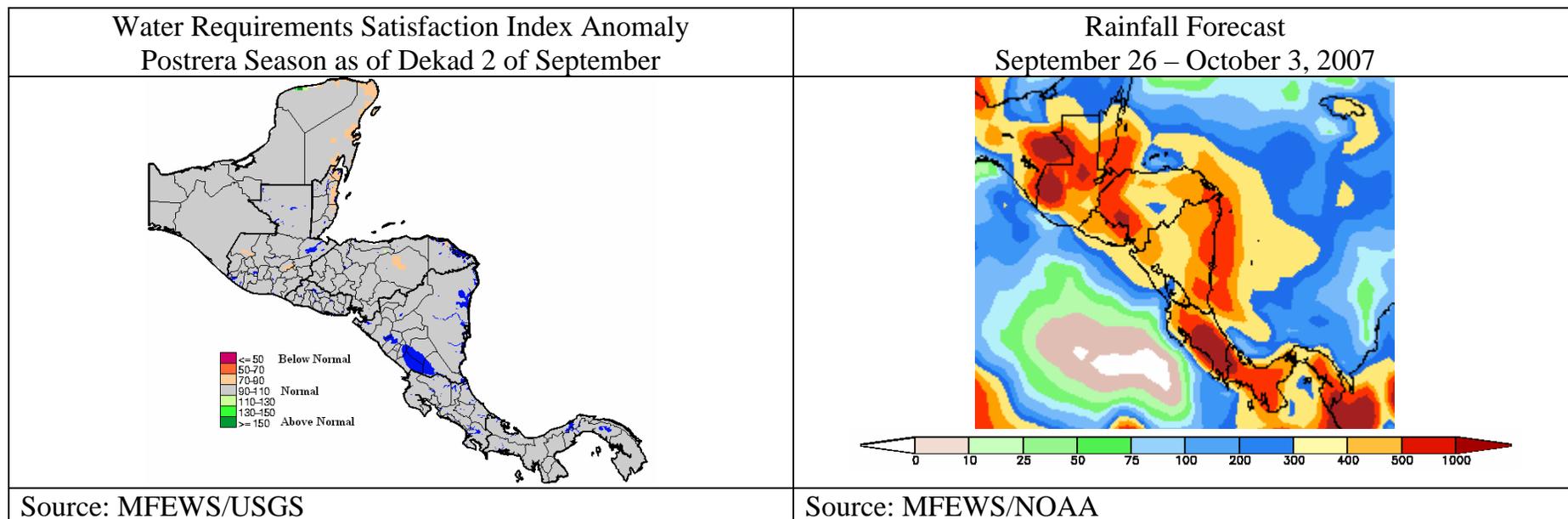
Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Damage remains from Hurricane Felix in northeastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras. Along with the damage from heavy rains and strong winds, is the potential that reseeded efforts in these regions may not be successful due to over saturated soils. The developing La Nina is also a threat as that would have the potential to bring excess moisture to the Central America region. These conditions have the potential to seriously impact the Postrera crops in this part of Central America.

Southern Honduras continues to face food shortages due to a poor Primera harvest. Rains were significantly below normal during the Primera, denying crops necessary moisture. The Postrera season is doing much better and has the potential to significantly improve food and water availability in this region. MSH is not expecting rains to ease during the next two dekads.

Heavy precipitation in Guatemala and Nicaragua has triggered several landslides. Soils have become saturated due to heavy rainfall and additional heavy precipitation is expected during the coming week. This will likely make conditions worse, and may cause more landslides in the area. They heavy rains were triggered by a strong tropical wave that moved through Central America

La Nina continues to develop in the Pacific. The atmosphere has already begun to respond to the cold waters in the Pacific Ocean. This makes it very likely that Central America will be unusually wet during the coming months. INSIVUMEH reports that this will likely bring a wet remainder of September with rainfall decreasing thereafter. IMN has reported very wet conditions on the Pacific side of the country with drier conditions close to the Caribbean side.



The evaluation of climatological threats of MFEWS include the participation of the central and local offices of MFEWS, NOAA-CPC, USGS, NASA, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov