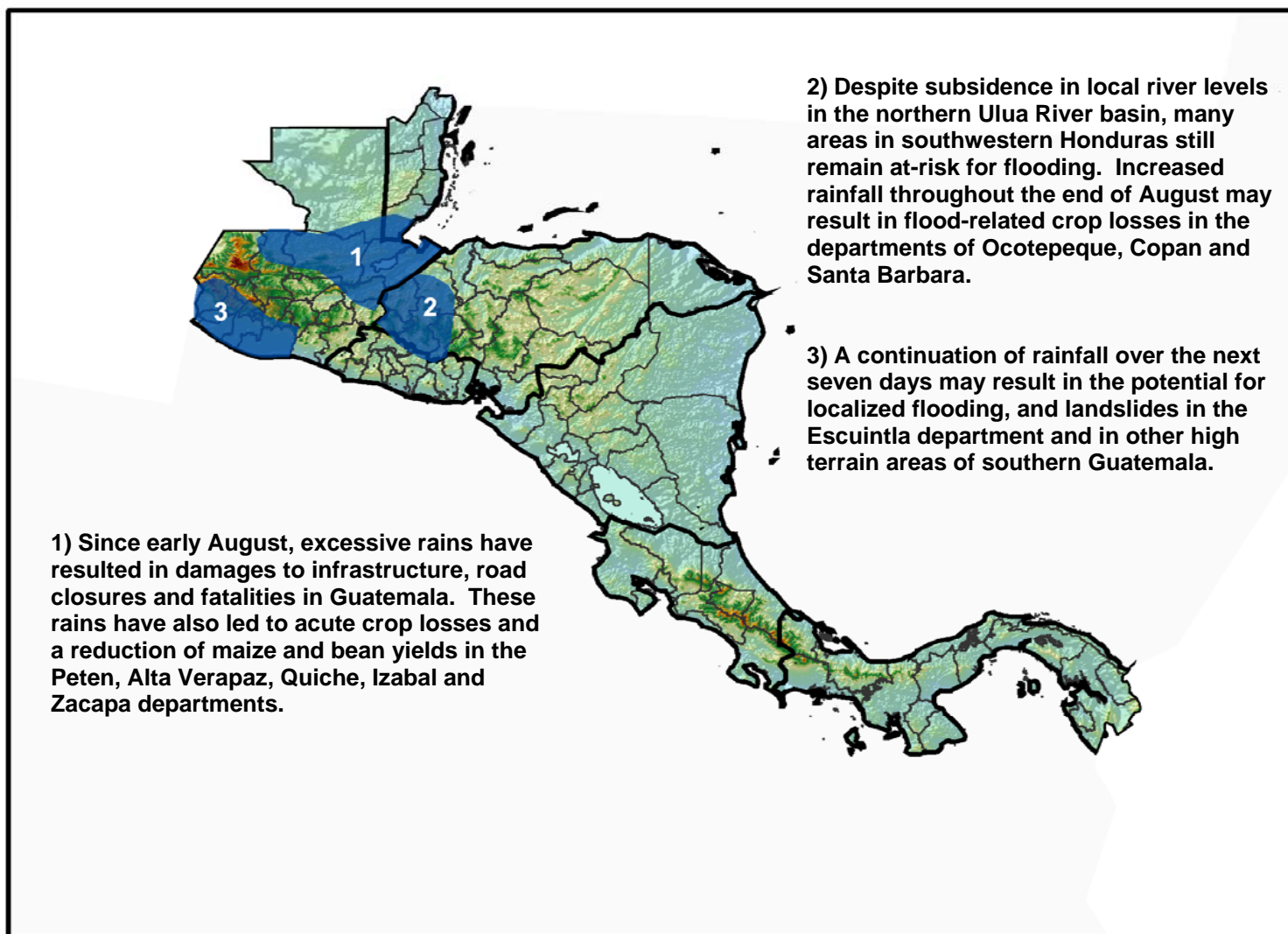


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 4 – September 10, 2008

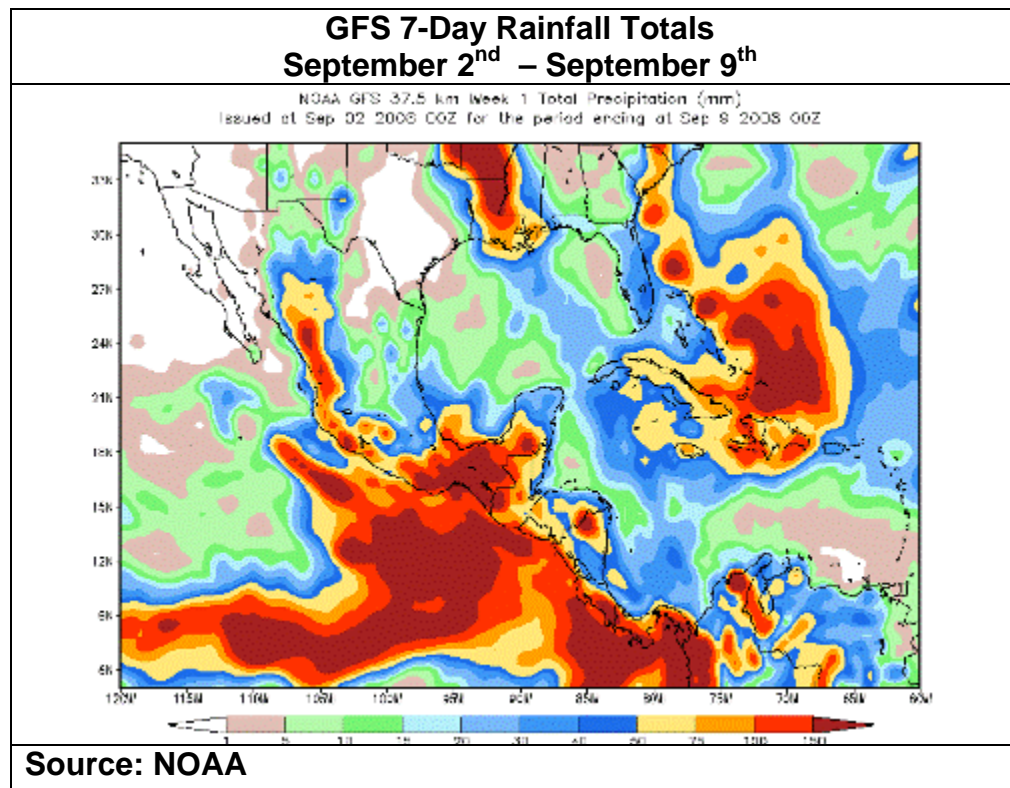


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Increased rains were observed across much of Central America, with the highest totals concentrated along the Pacific coast in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In Guatemala, rainfall totals ranging between 75 – 100 mm were observed in areas that have been affected by localized flooding and acute crop losses since August. In southern Guatemala, coastal precipitation over the last seven days continues to worsen already saturated soils, and increase the potential for localized flooding in the Escuintla department. In the Gulf of Fonseca region, above-average rains over the last two weeks continue to benefit cropping areas, while an increase in precipitation (totals > 50 mm) is expected to alleviate dryness in many parts of central Honduras.

As the Primera season comes to an end, many areas in Central America experienced seasonal deficits in rainfall since the start of May. Many local areas in central and northern Honduras observed rainfall totals that ranged between 25 to 50 percent below average from May to August. The lack of rainfall continues to affect soil moisture and crop development. Further south, many local areas north of Lake Nicaragua experienced lesser deficits, with rainfall totals approximately near 50 percent below normal for the Primera season. In Costa Rica and Panama, consistent rains since May has resulted in a widespread area of positive rainfall anomalies. Many of these areas have observed between 125 to 200 percent above - average rains for the Primera season.

For the September 4th – September 10th observation period, precipitation forecasts continue to show an increase in rainfall along the Pacific side of Central America. An active ITCZ and ample convective moisture transport in the Caribbean is expected to produce moderate to heavy rainfall across parts of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Precipitation totals in excess of 75 mm may be expected for many parts in southern Guatemala, while totals between 30 – 60 mm are also expected for regions near the Gulf of Fonseca.



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, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov