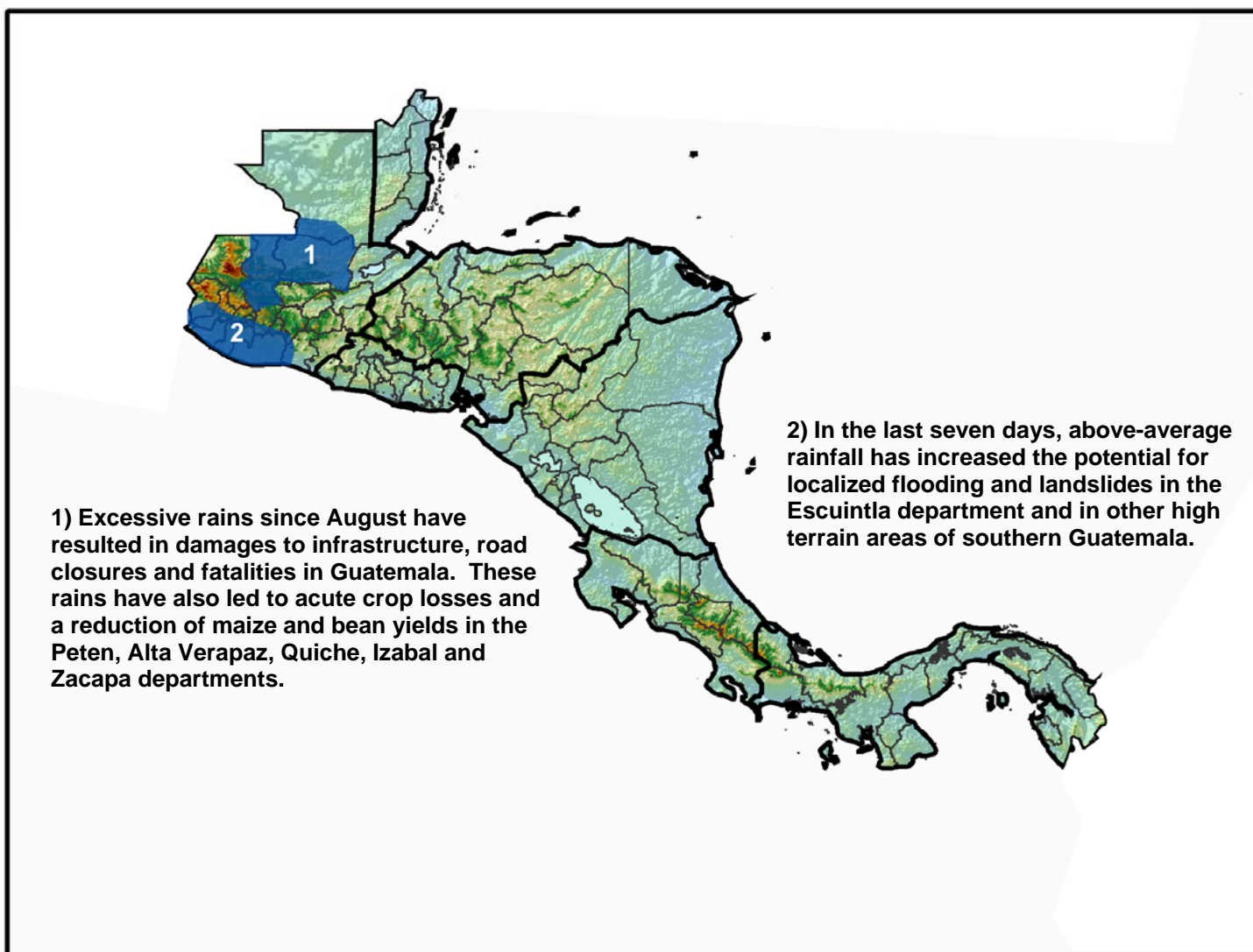


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 11 – September 17, 2008

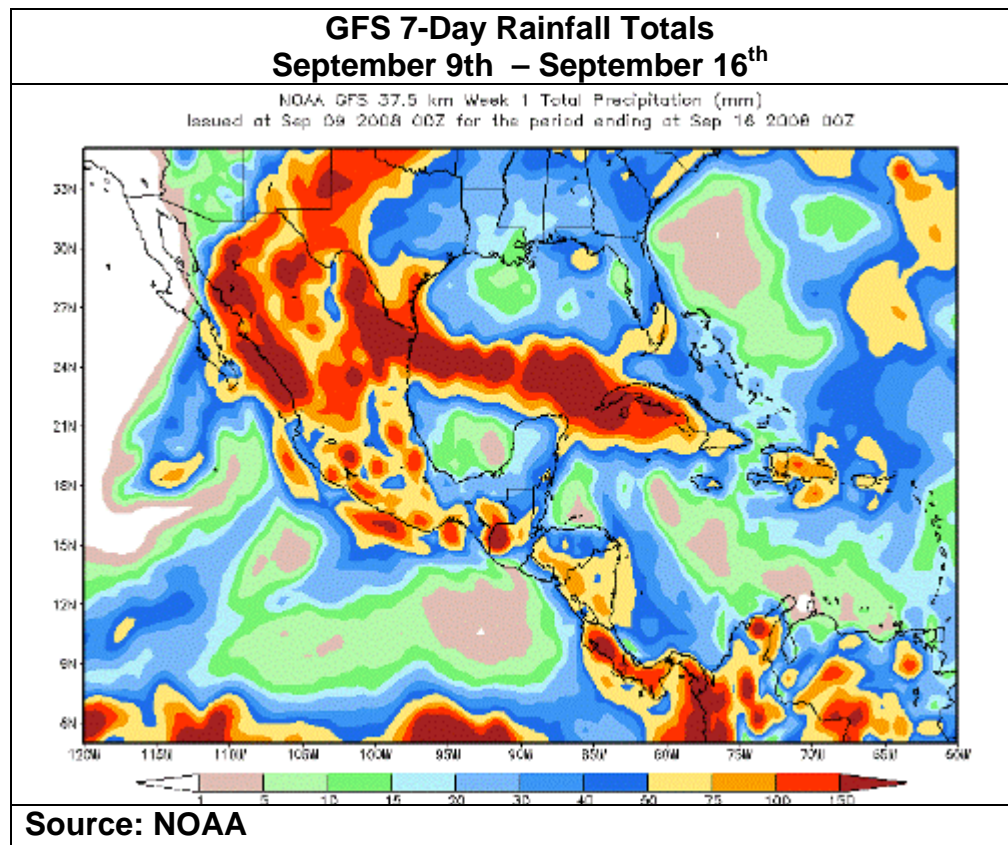


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

During the last seven days, ample rainfall amounts were observed across many parts of Guatemala, with higher totals (> 75 mm) observed in the Quiche, Alta Verpaz, and the southern region of the Peten department. This rainfall is expected to negatively impact water levels and cropping activities in areas that have been experiencing localized flooding and reduced crop yields since August. In the Joyabaj municipality of the Quiche department, last week's rains resulted in a landslide that damaged roadways and caused a number of deaths. Further south, excessive rainfall is also expected to worsen flooding conditions and increase the potential for landslides in the Escuintla, Suchitepequez and Retalhulehu departments along the Pacific coast. Since the beginning of September, high rain totals and saturated ground conditions have resulted in reported crop losses in the Suchitepequez department of Guatemala, as many these local areas have already surpassed their average seasonal rainfall for September.

In many local parts in western Honduras, a decrease in rainfall has alleviated areas that have been experiencing high water levels along the Uluá River basin. Further east, moderate rainfall amounts (> 50mm) were observed over many local areas in central Honduras and northern Nicaragua. This rainfall is also expected to improve soil and crop conditions in areas that were adversely affected by a dry Primera season.

For the September 11th – September 17th observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest a slight decrease in rainfall along the Pacific side of Central America. Significant rainfall amounts (> 75mm) are expected for parts of southwestern Guatemala, as well as many parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Lesser rainfall amounts are expected across parts of Honduras and Nicaragua, as additional moisture should continue to relieve anomalously dry areas. No tropical activity is expected over the next seven days.



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 Wesley.Thayer@noaa.gov.