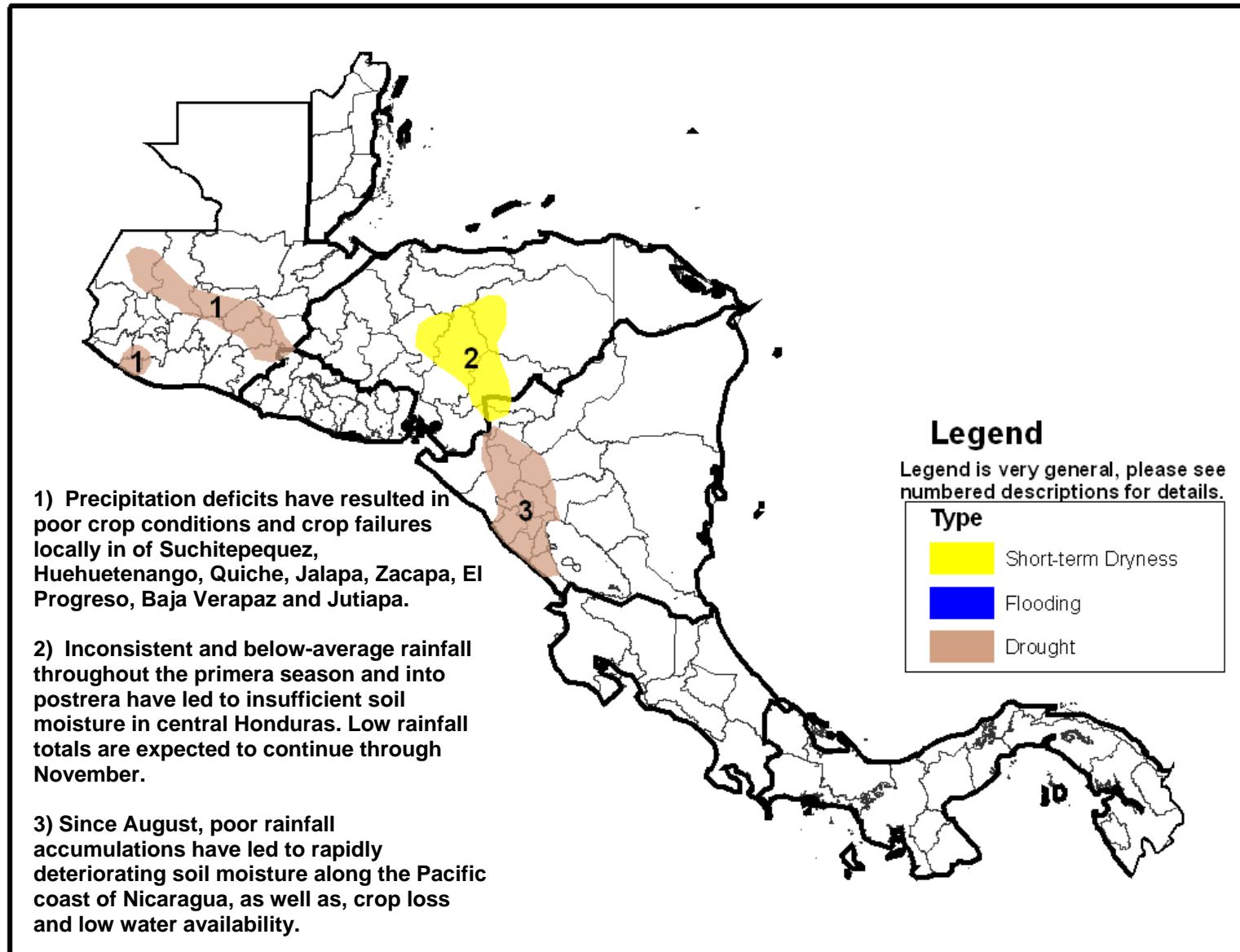


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America October 15 - 21, 2009

MFEWS

- Favorable rainfall anomalies in the Gulf of Fonseca region for the postrera season.
- Primera season crop failures were reported in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

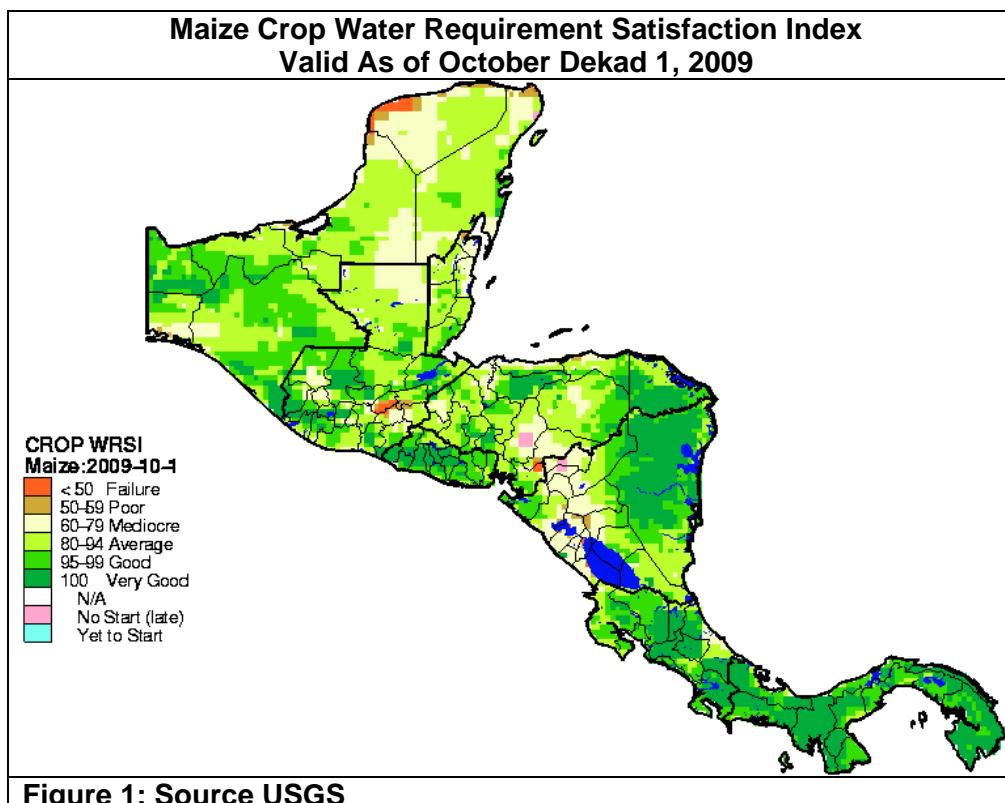


Postrera Season has a favorable start

The postrera season is off to a more favorable start than the primera season, but remains below average in many areas. The most significant rainfall deficits exist across central Guatemala, central Honduras, and into western Nicaragua. These deficits are ongoing from the primera season and many of these areas experienced crop loss as a result. Southern Guatemala, El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca, and much of eastern Nicaragua are currently experiencing above average rainfall totals. Current postrera season rainfall anomalies for these areas are an improvement for the average to below-average primera season. The poor primera season rains can be attributed to El Nino. However, now with the Central American rainy season winding down, it is likely that El Nino impacts throughout the remainder of the postrera season will be minimal. Despite this, in Honduras, the Ministry of Agriculture reports that they have chosen not to distribute seeds to some areas in the departments of Olancho, El Paraiso and Yoro because, according to climatology, they are likely to be affected by drought during the postrera season.

Extended crop outlook below average in some areas

The decision made by the Ministry of Agriculture in Honduras is somewhat supported by crop model products. According to the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index by USGS, if rainfall and external forces continue as they are at present it is likely that mediocre to a failed season will result in parts of central Guatemala, central and southern Honduras, and into western Nicaragua. These areas currently experience the lowest rainfall totals for the region this season.



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