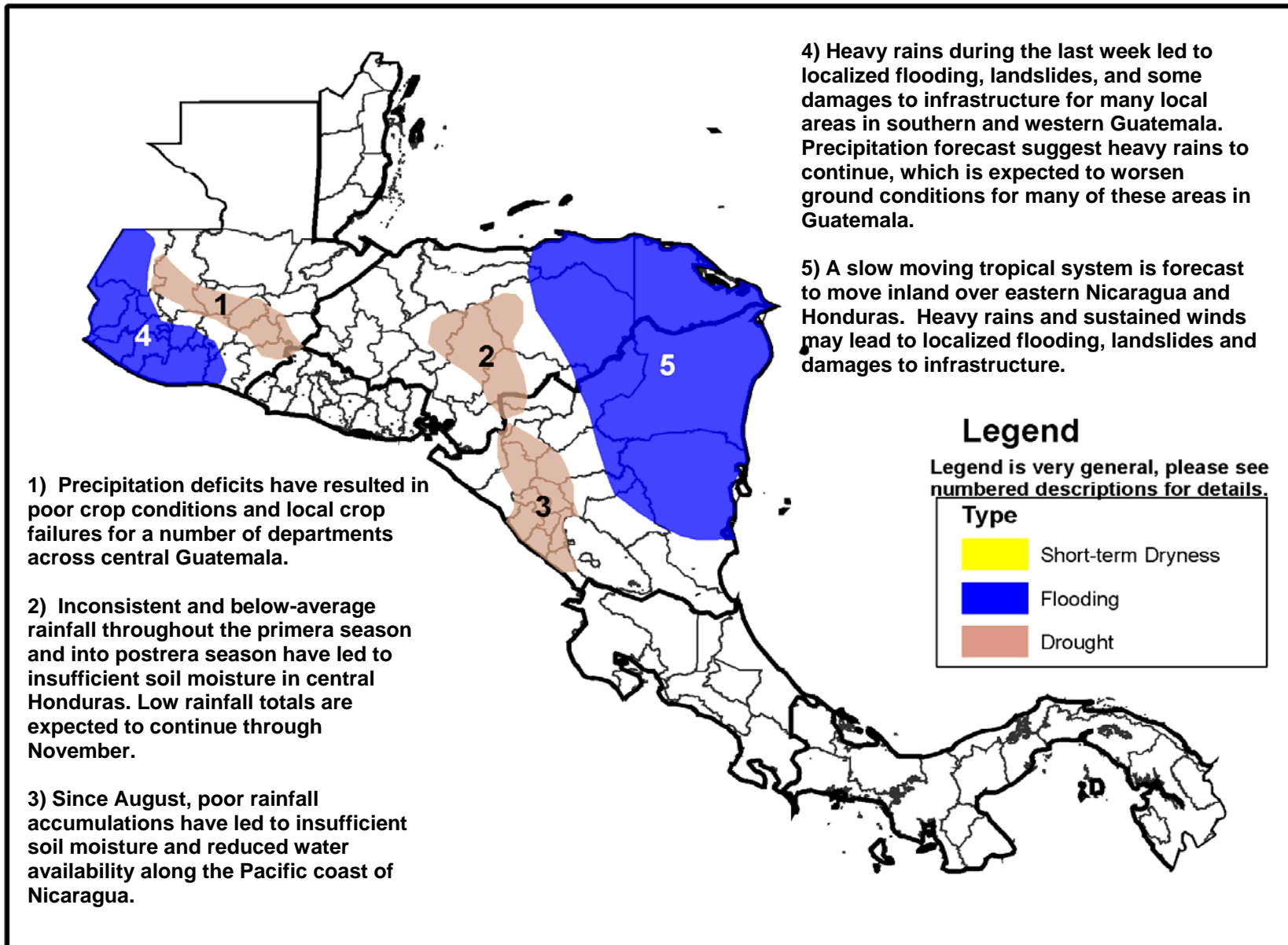


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America November 5 – November 11, 2009

- With the development of tropical activity in the Pacific, heavy rains are expected to continue in southern Guatemala as well as across parts of western Honduras and Nicaragua.
- An increase in precipitation over central parts of Honduras and Nicaragua is expected to provide some relief to seasonal drought.



Some Improvement is expected for dry areas in Nicaragua and Guatemala

During the last observation period, increased amounts of precipitation were received throughout many parts of Central America. In Guatemala, the heaviest rains were observed in the south, with rainfall totals in ranging between 75-100mm. These rains brought isolated flooding, landslides, and damages to infrastructure in the Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, and the Huehuetenango departments throughout the southwest and northwest in the last seven days. In the Alta Verapaz department, increased rainfall has also resulted in elevated river levels along the Polochic River. In Honduras and Nicaragua, seven-day rainfall totals in excess of 50mm were also observed in areas north of the Gulf of Fonseca, which is expected to provide some relief for many local areas impacted by seasonal drought. In Costa Rica and Panama, seasonably moderate to heavy rainfall was received.

Forecast models show the development of tropical activity across the Pacific and Caribbean in the next seven days. During the earlier part of the observation period, a tropical depression in the southern Caribbean is expected to intensify, and move inland across eastern Nicaragua and Honduras producing heavy amounts of precipitation, and sustained winds <50 kts. The slow movement of this system may produce localized flooding, landslides and damages to infrastructure for many coastal areas. In addition, a developing tropical low in the Pacific may also produce heavy rains in southern Guatemala.

