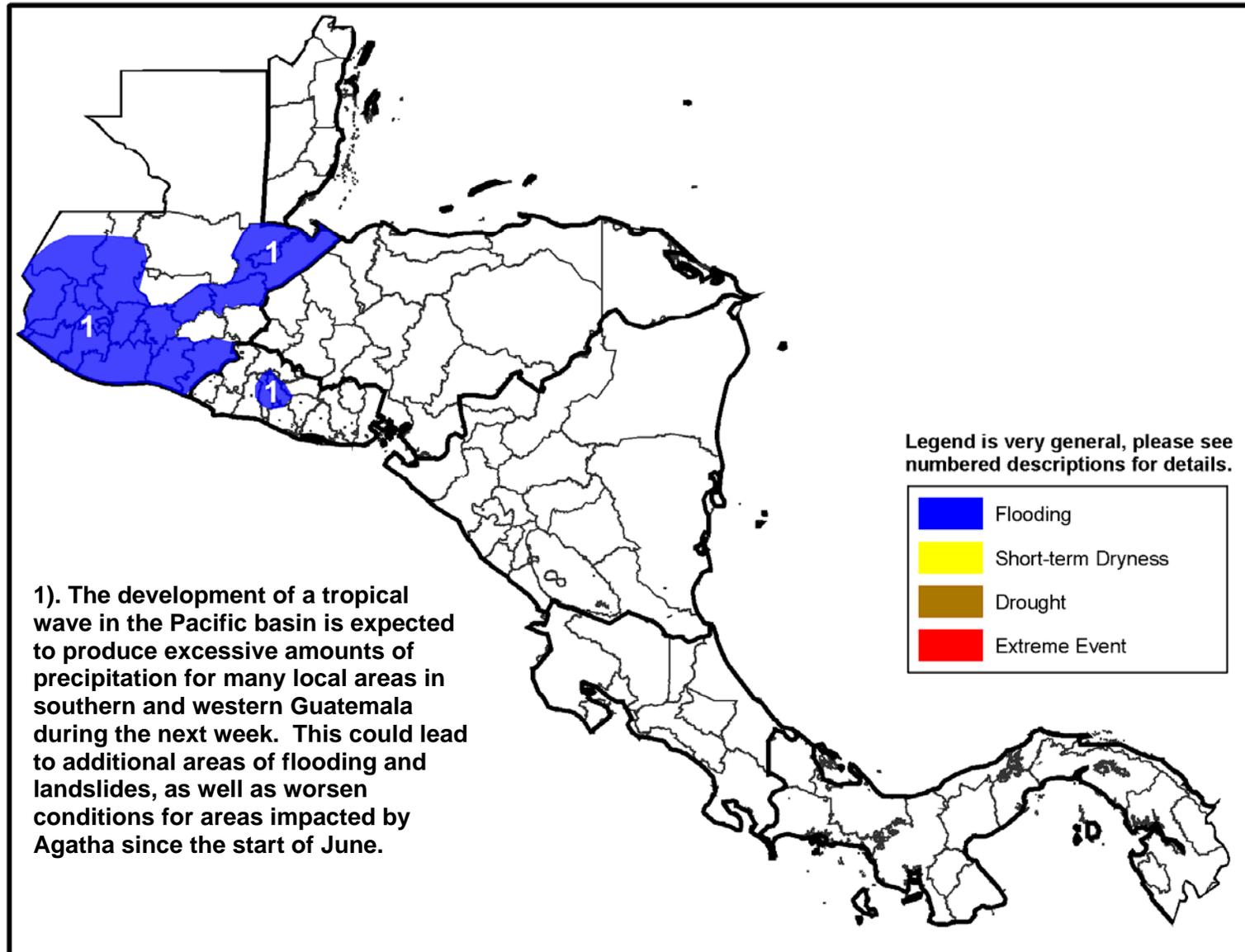


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America June 17 – June 23, 2010

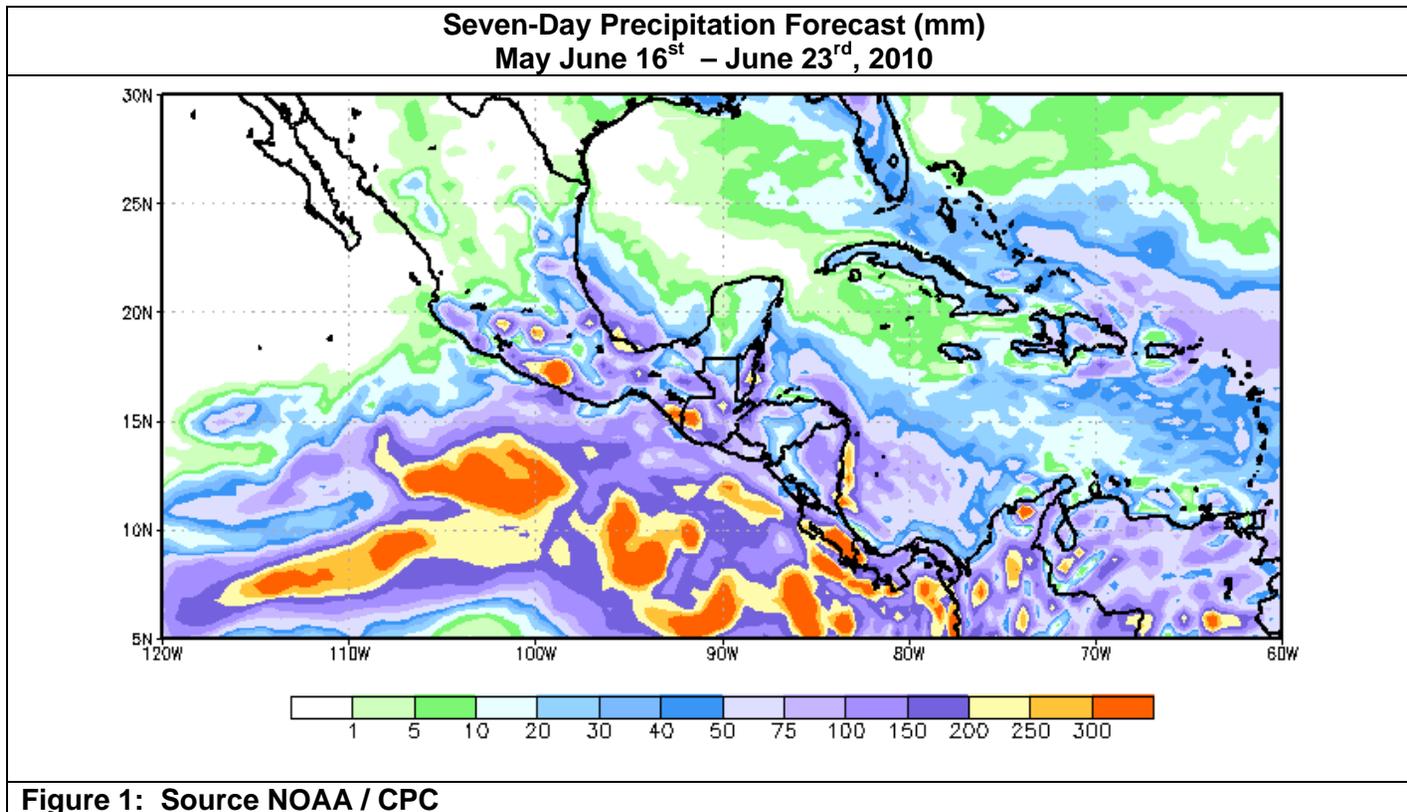
- Precipitation forecasts indicate above-average rainfall to continue throughout many areas in Central America. The heaviest rainfall is expected to affect portions of southwestern Guatemala during the upcoming week.



Increased amounts of precipitation are expected for areas along Pacific coast, with possible flooding in southern Guatemala.

In the last seven days, moderate rainfall amounts ranging between 25 -50 mm were observed across many areas in Central America, with the highest seven day amounts (>100mm) received in eastern Nicaragua and Honduras, as well as many areas near the Gulf of Fonseca region extending north towards the Izabal region of Guatemala. The recent above-average rains in Guatemala have also led to elevated water levels along the Motagua River. Since the start of June, precipitation has fallen slightly below-average for some local areas in Central America, however seasonal soil moisture conditions for the development of crops generally remain satisfactory. Recovery efforts from the passage of Tropical Storm Agatha in late May are expected to continue over the next several weeks. Many areas have experienced considerable losses in crops, which may reduce seasonal productions.

Precipitation forecasts indicate an increase in precipitation throughout the Pacific Rim of Central America. A tropical disturbance that has initiated just south of the Gulf of Nicoya region is expected to intensify by the end of the observation period. Although this tropical low is not expected to make landfall, increased winds and moisture from the Pacific will likely produce heavier than normal amounts of rainfall extending from the Gulf of Fonseca region to southern Guatemala. Seven-day rainfall amounts ranging between 100 -200 mm are expected for many local areas, with the possibility of locally higher amounts (>250mm) in southwestern Guatemala. Intense rainfall and higher winds may trigger localized flooding and possible landslides, particularly in the higher elevations and along swollen river basins of Guatemala and El Salvador.



MFEWS is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The MFEWS weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by MFEWS field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries such as, 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. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID MFEWS activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for MFEWS, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.