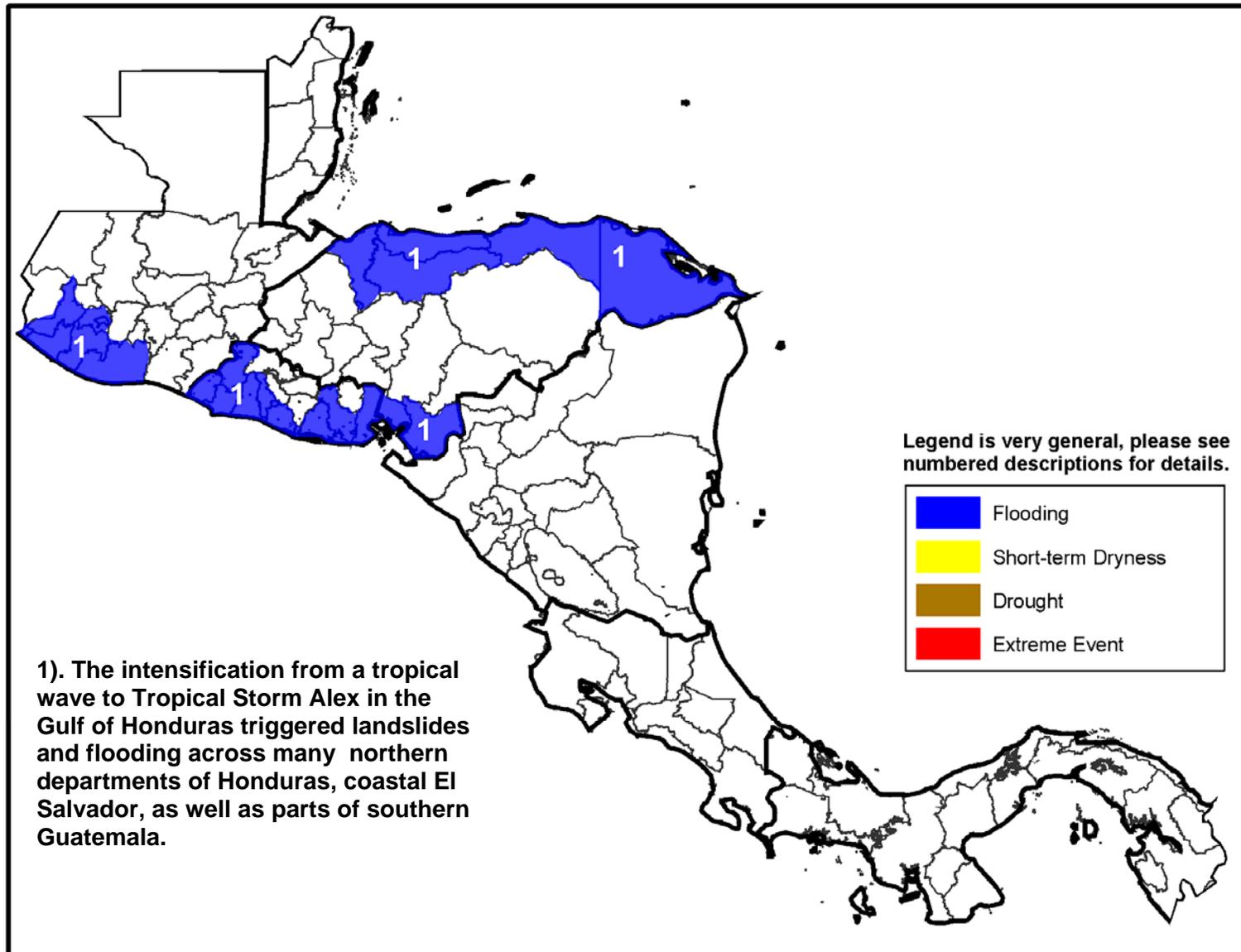


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America July 1 – July 7, 2010

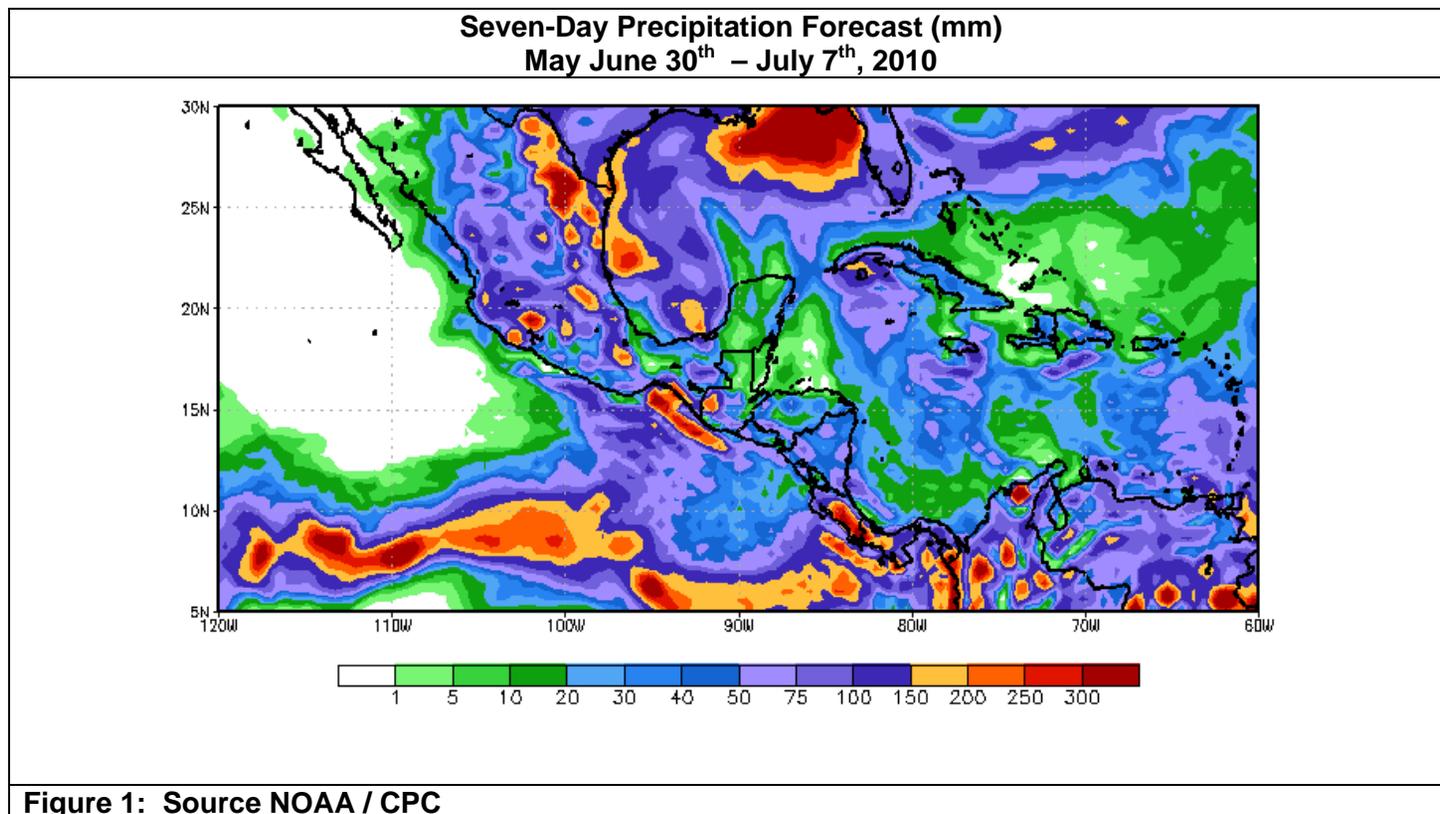
- The passage of Tropical Storm Alex has produced significant amounts of precipitation over the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico, and coastal Central America. This has resulted in flooding, landslides and damages to infrastructure in coastal parts of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.



Tropical Storm Alex produces above-average amounts of rainfall, leading to flooding and landslides.

During the last observation period, a tropical low in the Caribbean developed into the first Tropical Storm in the Atlantic Hurricane season. Tropical Storm Alex passed over the Gulf of Honduras, bringing increased winds and moisture into many parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize and the Yucatan Peninsula region of Mexico. Weekly precipitation amounts ranged between 50-100 mm for many of these areas, with locally higher amounts exceeding 150mm in parts of Honduras, and northern and southern Guatemala. In Guatemala, the rapid onset of precipitation has led to river catchment flooding, landslides, and damages to infrastructure and crops in the departments of Sololá, Quetzaltenango, Escuintla, Retalhuleu, and Suchitepéquez. In El Salvador, increased winds and moisture from the Pacific brought localized floods in the departments of La Libertad, La Paz, La Union, San Miguel, Usulután, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, and San Salvador. In Honduras, floods and landslides were also reported along the northern coast mainly affecting the departments of Atlántida, Colon, Cortes, Gracias a Dios, and Yoro. Towards the south near the Gulf of Fonseca region, similar impacts were observed in the municipalities of Marcova, San Marcos de Colon, and Croan, Alianza y Nacaome in the departments of Choluteca, and El Valle, respectively.

Precipitation forecasts and model guidance suggest little probability for continued tropical activity in the next seven days. The distribution of precipitation during the upcoming week is expected to be more seasonal, with many parts of Central America receiving rainfall amounts between 25-50 mm, with the possibility of heavier amounts (>75mm) concentrated in parts of southern Guatemala, and central Costa Rica.



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.