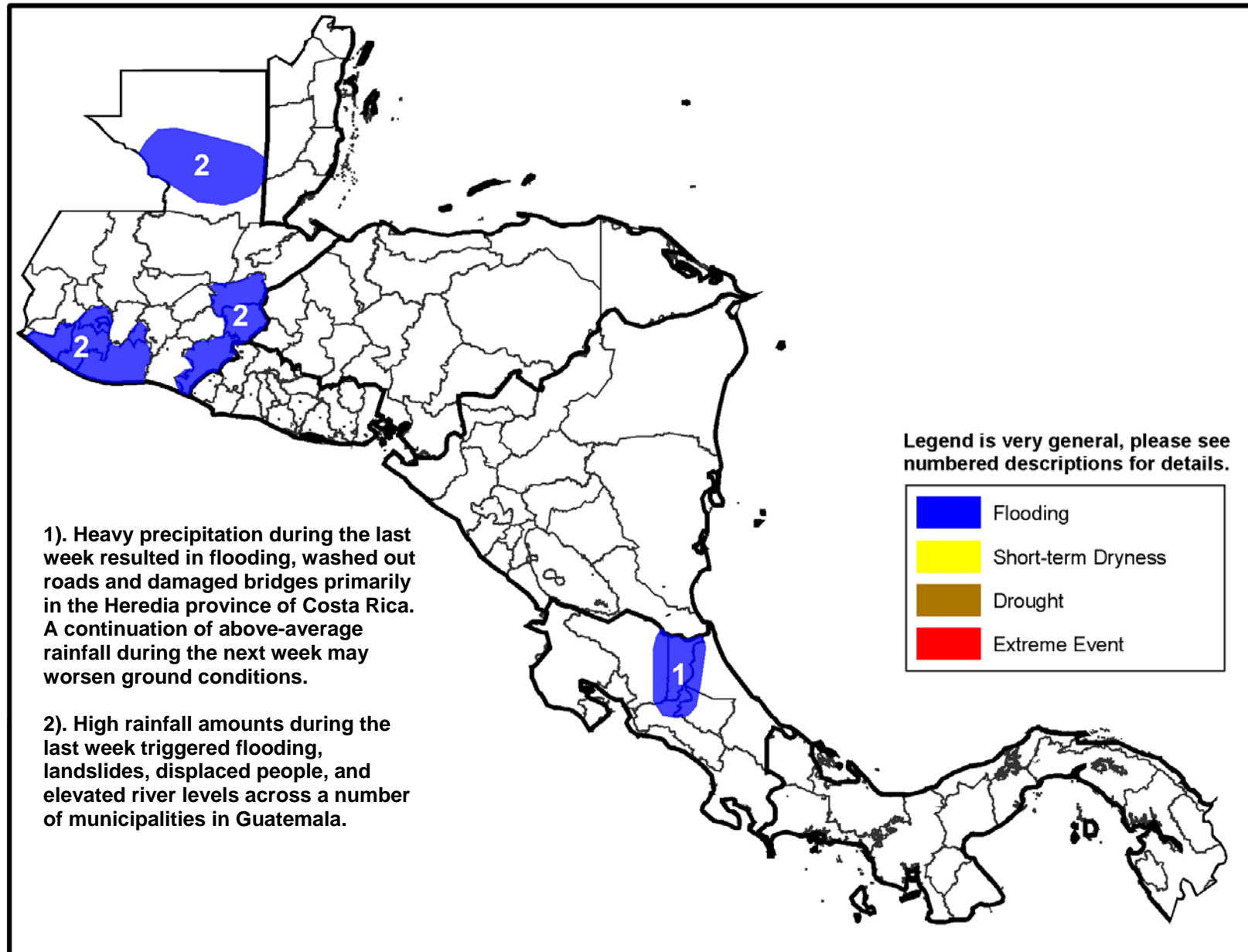


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America July 29 – Aug 4, 2010

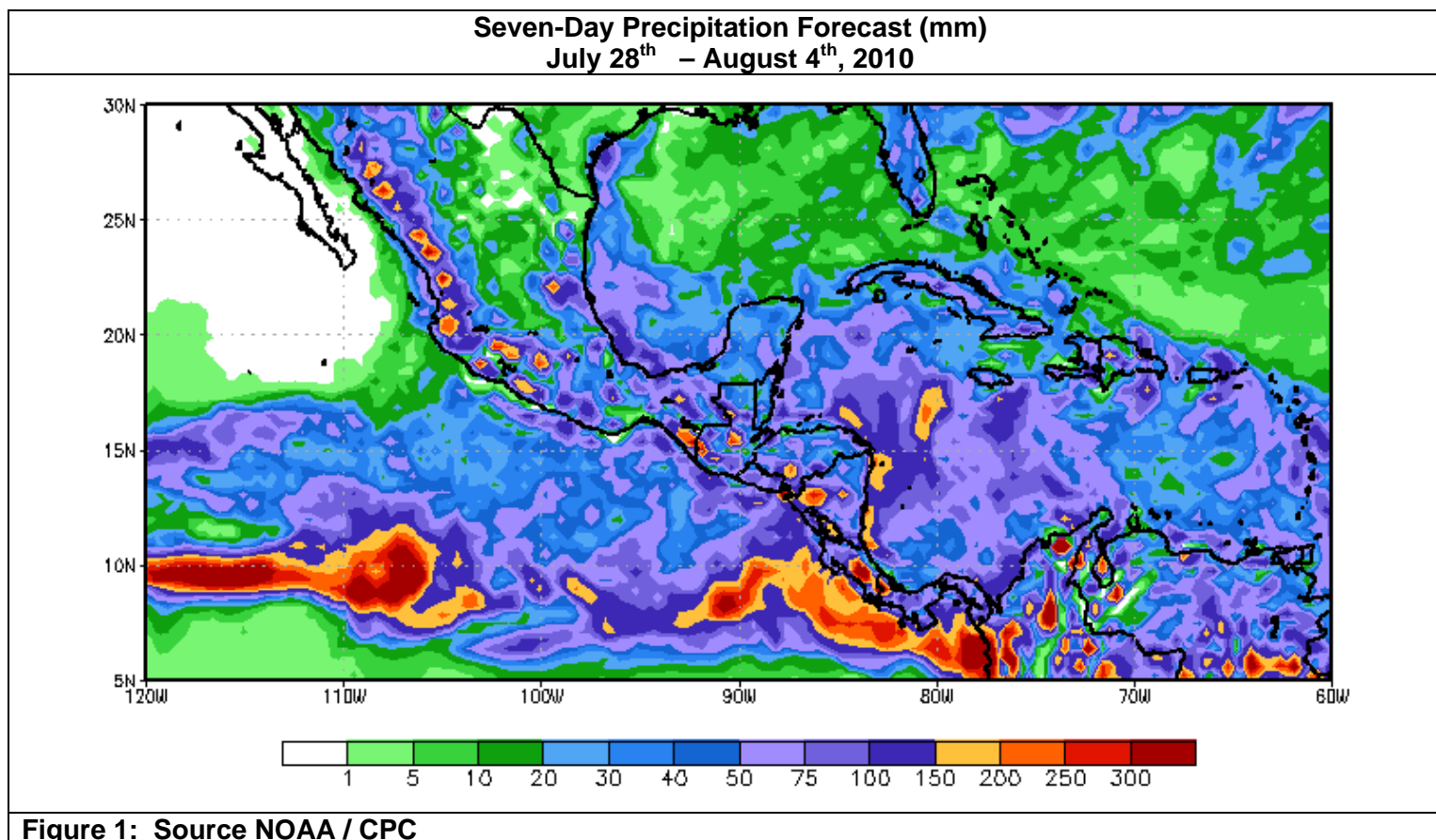
- Above-average amounts of precipitation led to flooding, displaced people and damages to infrastructure in Guatemala and Costa Rica.



Heavy rains lead to localized flooding and damages to infrastructure in central Costa Rica.

In the last seven days, locally heavy rainfall amounts in Costa Rica resulted in flooding, washed out roads, and a number of displaced people for many local areas in the Heredia province north of San Jose. In Guatemala, persistently high rainfall led to flooding, landslides, and hundreds of displaced people in the Sololá, Escuintla, Suchitepéquez, and Retalhuleu departments, with alarming river levels also reported in the Jutiapa and Petén departments during the last week. Since the start of the Primera season, precipitation amounts have been predominantly average to above-average. This is expected to provide favorable moisture conditions for both the development and maturation of crops for many local areas in Central America. However, in some parts of central Honduras and in some local areas near Lake Nicaragua, rainfall has been less frequent during the last couple of weeks which has caused a marginal decline in soil water conditions for these areas.

Precipitation forecasts suggest the development of a tropical wave in the Pacific which may extend heavy rainfall across a broad portion of Costa Rica during the next week. The persistence of heavy rainfall is likely to worsen flooding conditions for many affected areas in the Heredia province of Costa Rica. Increasing probabilities of high rainfall in the forecast may also worsen flood affected parts of Guatemala in the next seven days.



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.