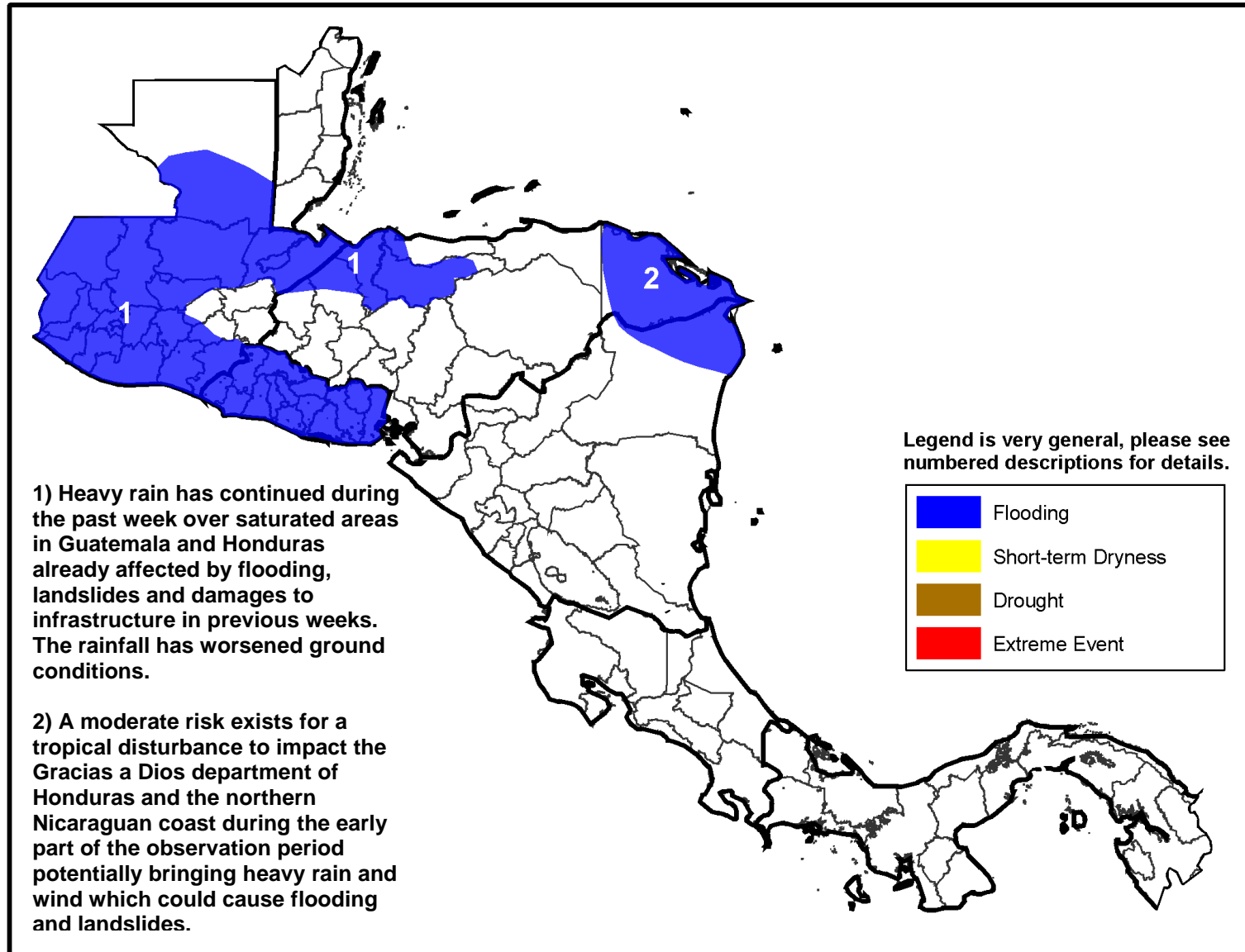


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America September 23 – September 29, 2010

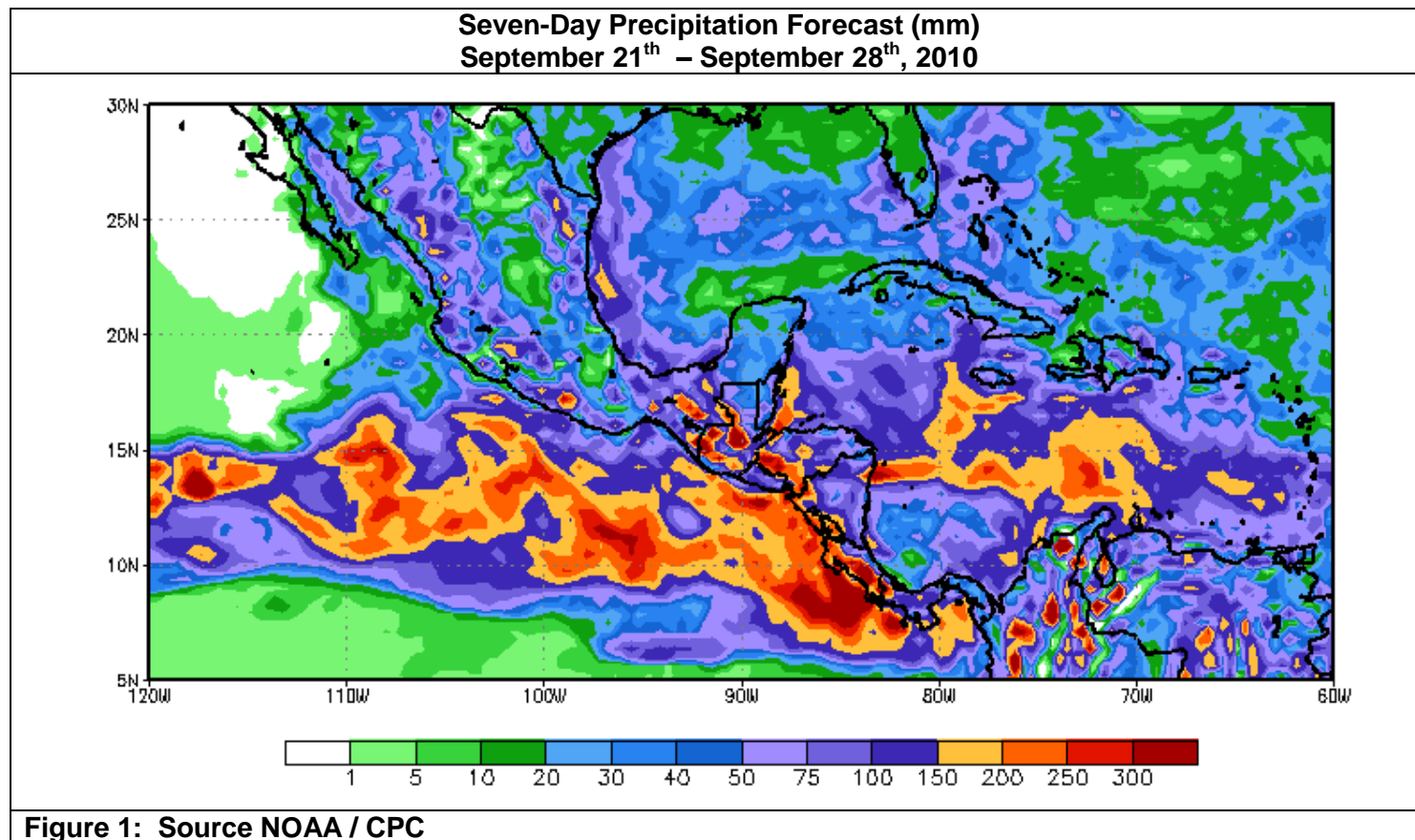
- Above-average precipitation over Guatemala and Nicaragua has continued to worsen ground conditions.



Abundant rainfall continued over many parts of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama during the last week.

Heavy rainfall (> 75 mm) was observed across portions of Guatemala, Honduras, coastal Nicaragua and western Panama during the past seven days. The abundant rainfall over Guatemala fell across areas which had already seen flooding, landslides, damages to infrastructure, elevated river levels and many fatalities in past weeks. The Quiche and Huehuetenango departments of Guatemala observed the highest precipitation totals (> 100mm) in the past week. The above-average rainfall which had negatively affected agriculture during the primera season in Guatemala has continued into the postrera season. Rainfall totals across Honduras were high (> 75mm) in the Colon and Olancho departments while in Nicaragua, ample rainfall (> 50mm) was observed in the Managua and Carazo departments. Heavy rainfall (> 100mm) was also observed across western Panama during the past week leading to flooding and damages to infrastructure.

Above-average rainfall is forecast across most of Central America including areas already affected by flooding and landslides. Isolated areas across Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua are forecast to observe greater than 100 mm of rain. Also, a tropical disturbance which has developed in the southern Caribbean Ocean is forecast to move west potentially impacting Nicaragua and Honduras during the early part of the observation period and, depending on the track of the system, Belize and Guatemala 1-2 days later. Areas affected could observe heavy rain and wind which could cause flooding and landslides.



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.