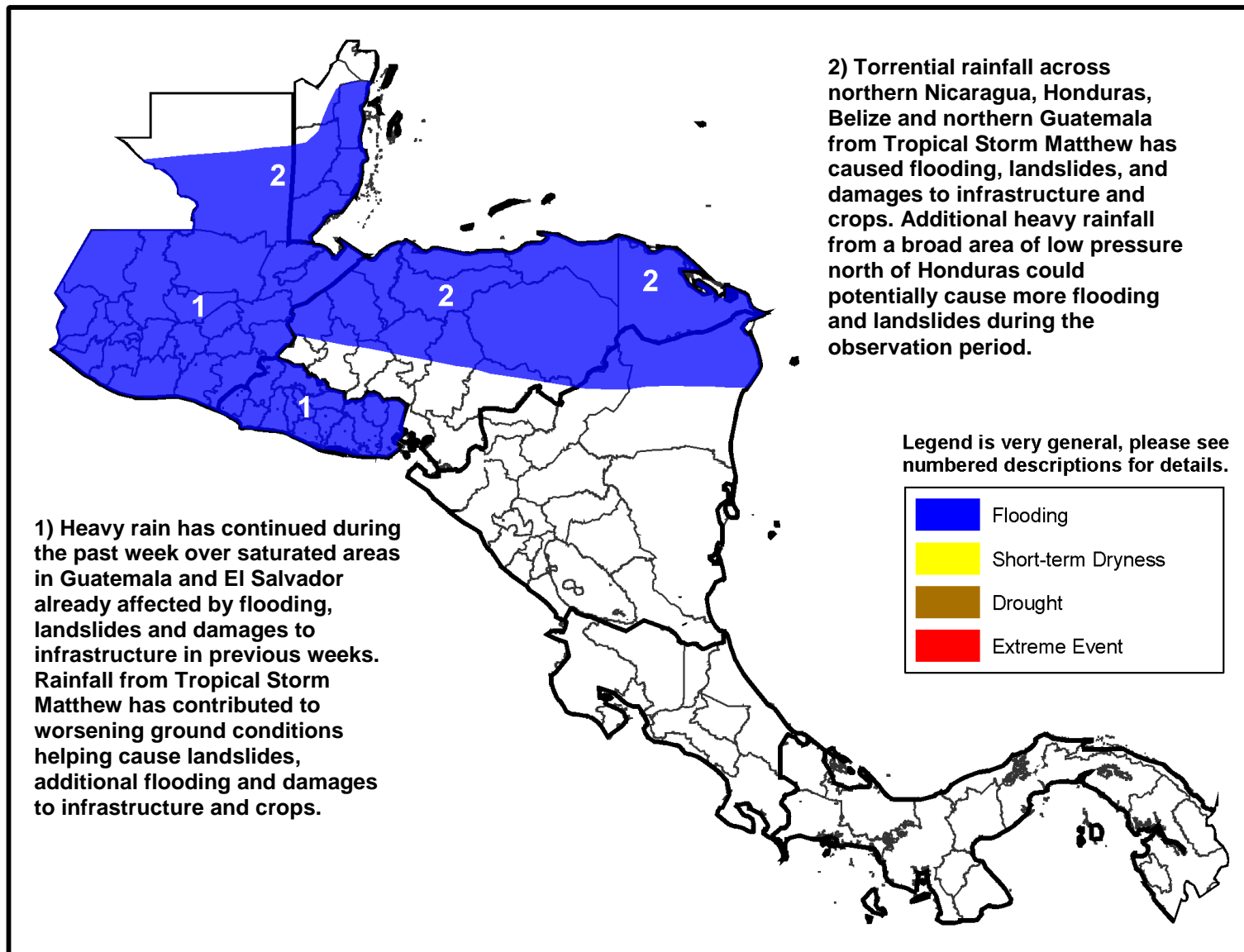


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America September 30 – October 6, 2010

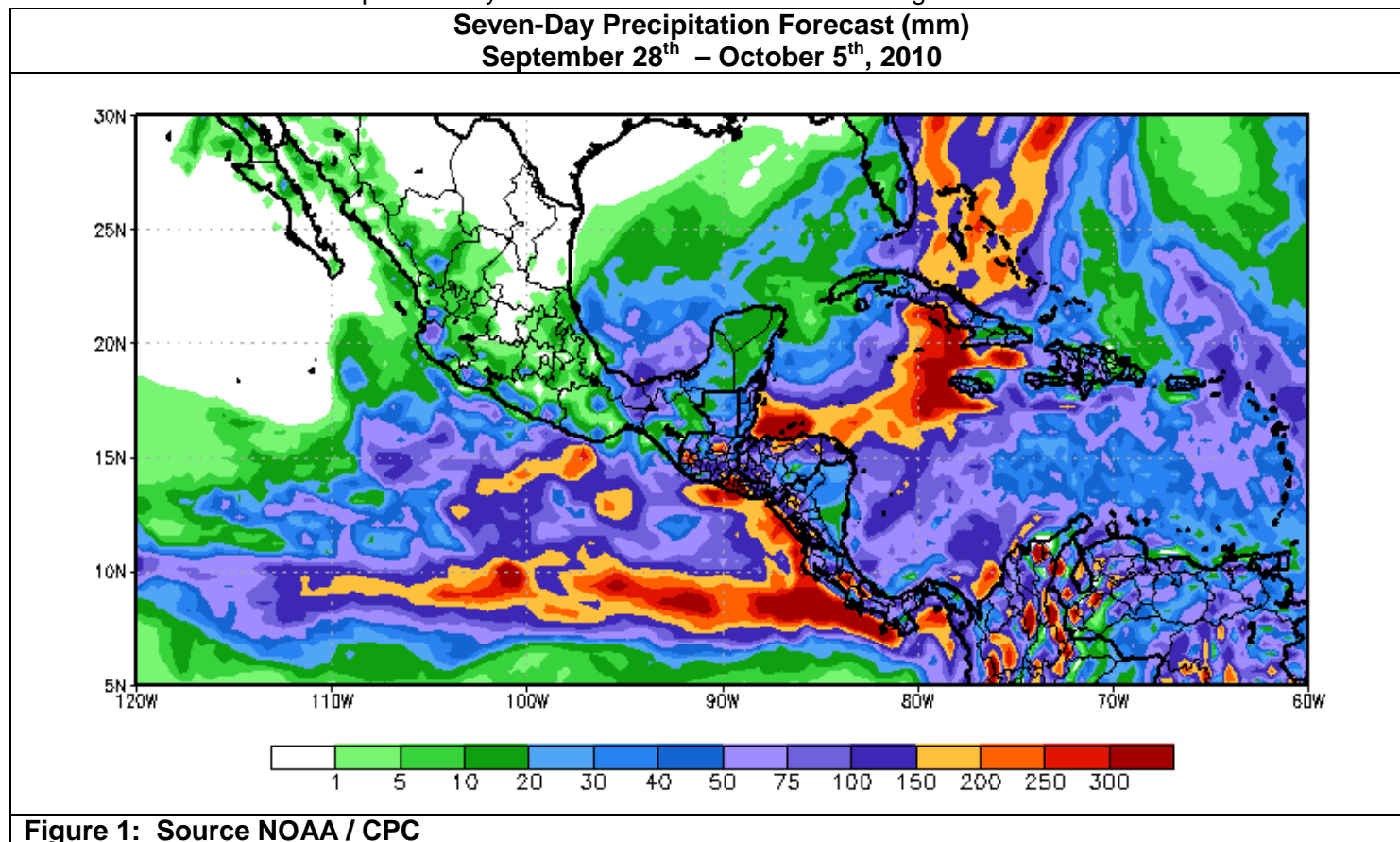
- Rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Matthew has caused flooding, landslides and damages to infrastructure and crops throughout Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize and Guatemala.



Torrential rainfall from Tropical Storm Matthew has caused flooding, landslides, and damages to infrastructure and crops throughout Central America

During the past week, heavy rainfall (> 100mm) associated with Tropical Storm Matthew was observed across northern Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize and Guatemala. The highest totals (> 200mm) were located across northern Nicaragua and the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras. A secondary maximum of precipitation (> 150mm) was located over southern Belize and the Peten department of Guatemala. The ample rains extended to Pacific coast as the Escuintla and Santa Rosa departments of Guatemala and the Gulf of Fonseca region observed greater than 100 mm of rain. In Guatemala, the abundant rains which fell over already saturated soils due to a wet primera season led to flooding, landslides and damages to crops and infrastructure especially over the Peten department of Guatemala. In Honduras, the heavy rains led to flooding, landslides and damages to crops and infrastructure in multiple departments with the Olancho department being the most affected. Similar impacts were felt along the northern coast of Nicaragua, where Tropical Storm Matthew made landfall, and southern Belize.

Due to a broad area of low pressure located north of Honduras, above-average rainfall is forecast over most of Central America including areas already impacted by Tropical Storm Matthew. The potential for additional flooding and landslides is high over Honduras, Belize and Guatemala during the next week as abundant rain associated with this low pressure system will continue to affect these regions.



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.