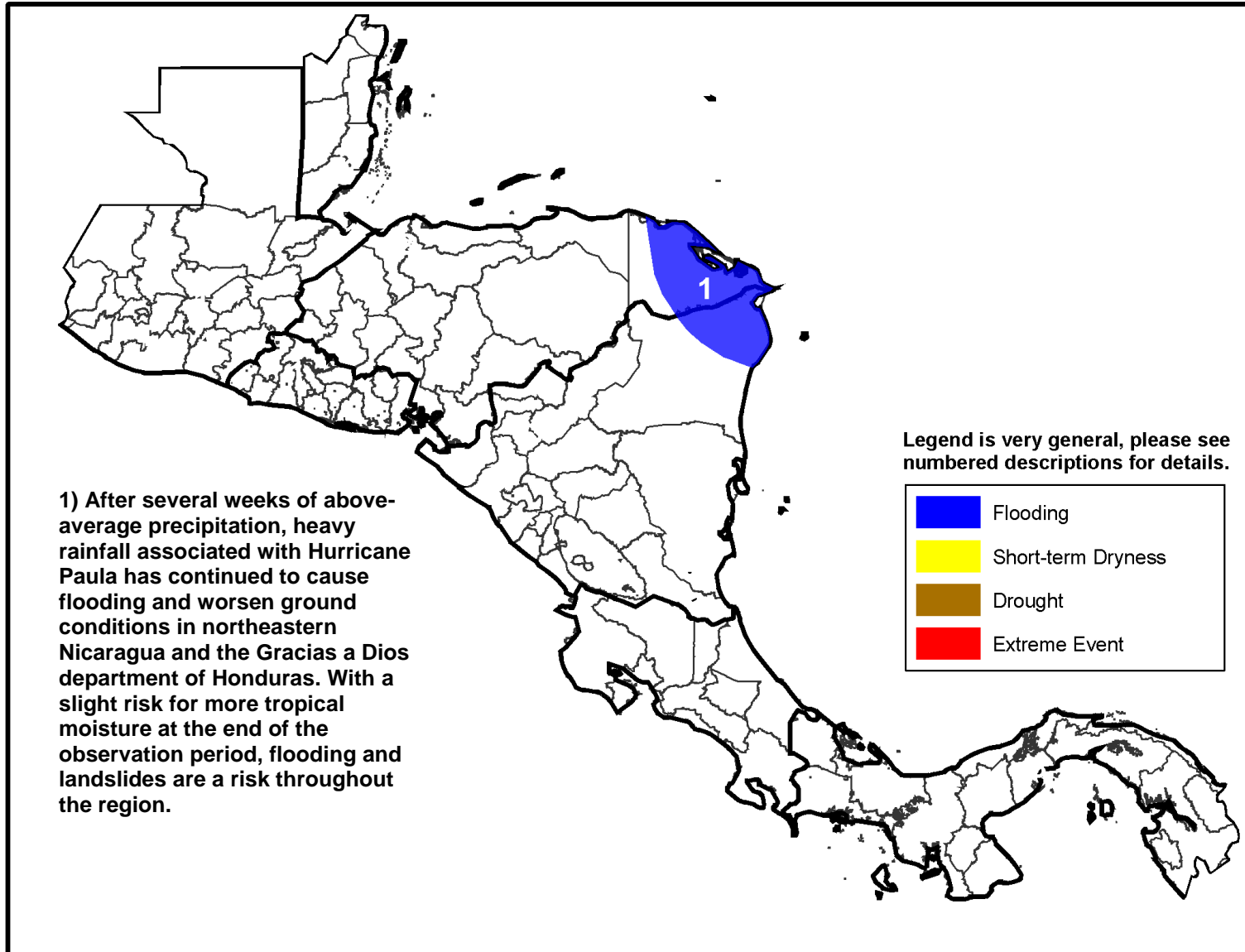


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America October 14 – October 20, 2010

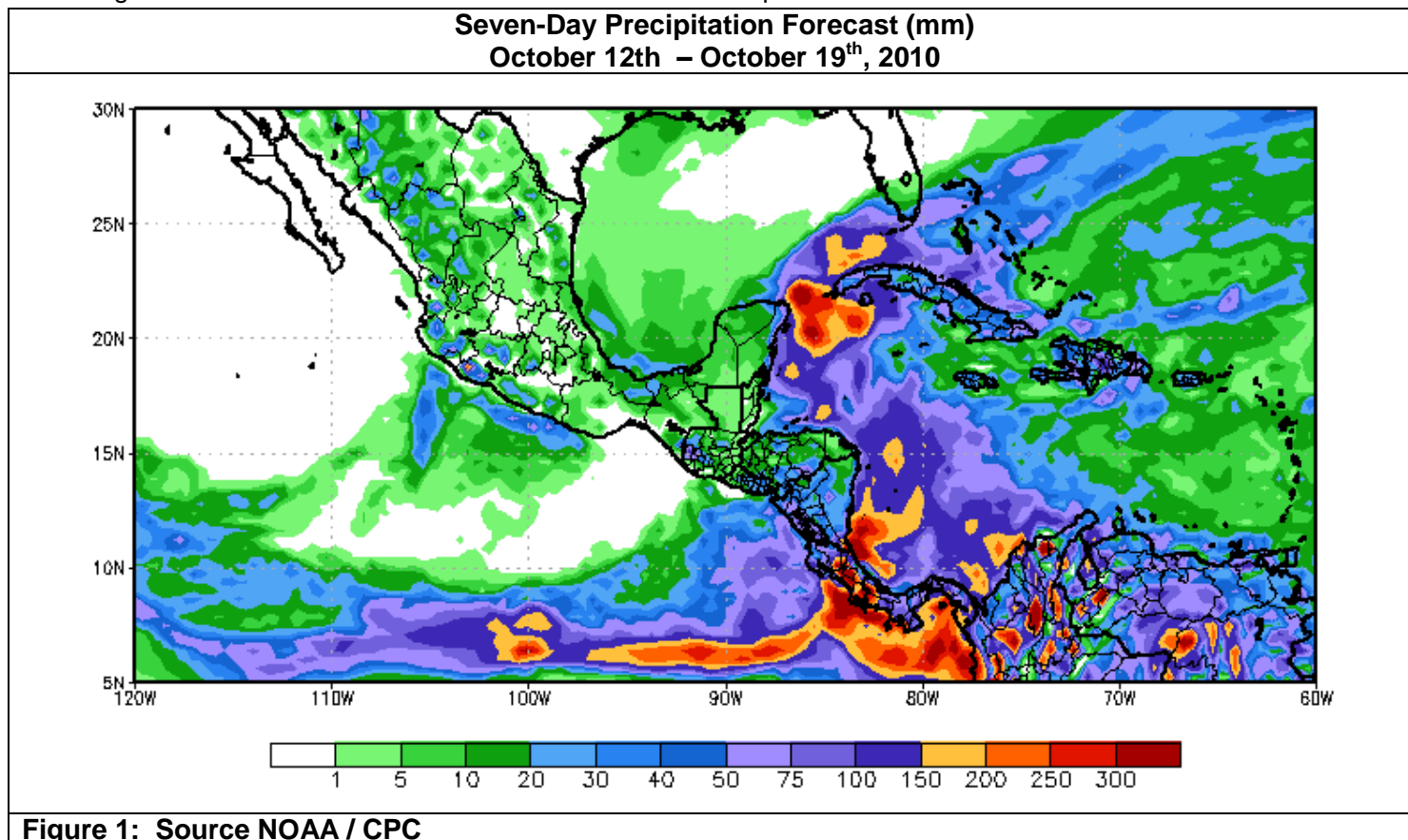
- Heavy rainfall from Hurricane Paula affected Nicaragua and Honduras while the rest of Central America observed little rainfall.



After several weeks of above-average precipitation, rainfall was suppressed across much of Central America.

During the past seven days, locations across northern Central America that had experienced heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides and damages to crops and infrastructure during previous weeks observed little precipitation (< 10 mm). After a significantly wet primera season and an above-average start to the postrera season, ground conditions have been poor, soil has been saturated and maize and red bean crops have been damaged across Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras. The suppression of rainfall this past week has provided relief from the above-average precipitation that has fallen over the area dating back to August. The highest rainfall totals (> 100 mm) were located across northern Nicaragua and the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras. This rainfall was associated with Hurricane Paula that developed from a stationary area of convection east of Honduras during the past week. The track of this system through northern Nicaragua and the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras was similar to the track of Tropical Storm Matthew through the same area causing additional flooding and providing no relief for saturated soils in the region.

The suppression of rainfall across Central America is forecast to continue during the next week. Developing high pressure along with the suppressed phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) over Central America will inhibit convection during the next seven days leading to drier conditions than observed in a couple of months. This will help provide relief to saturated ground conditions throughout Central America. There is a slight chance for tropical activity to affect the Nicaraguan/Honduran coastline at the end of the observation period.



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.