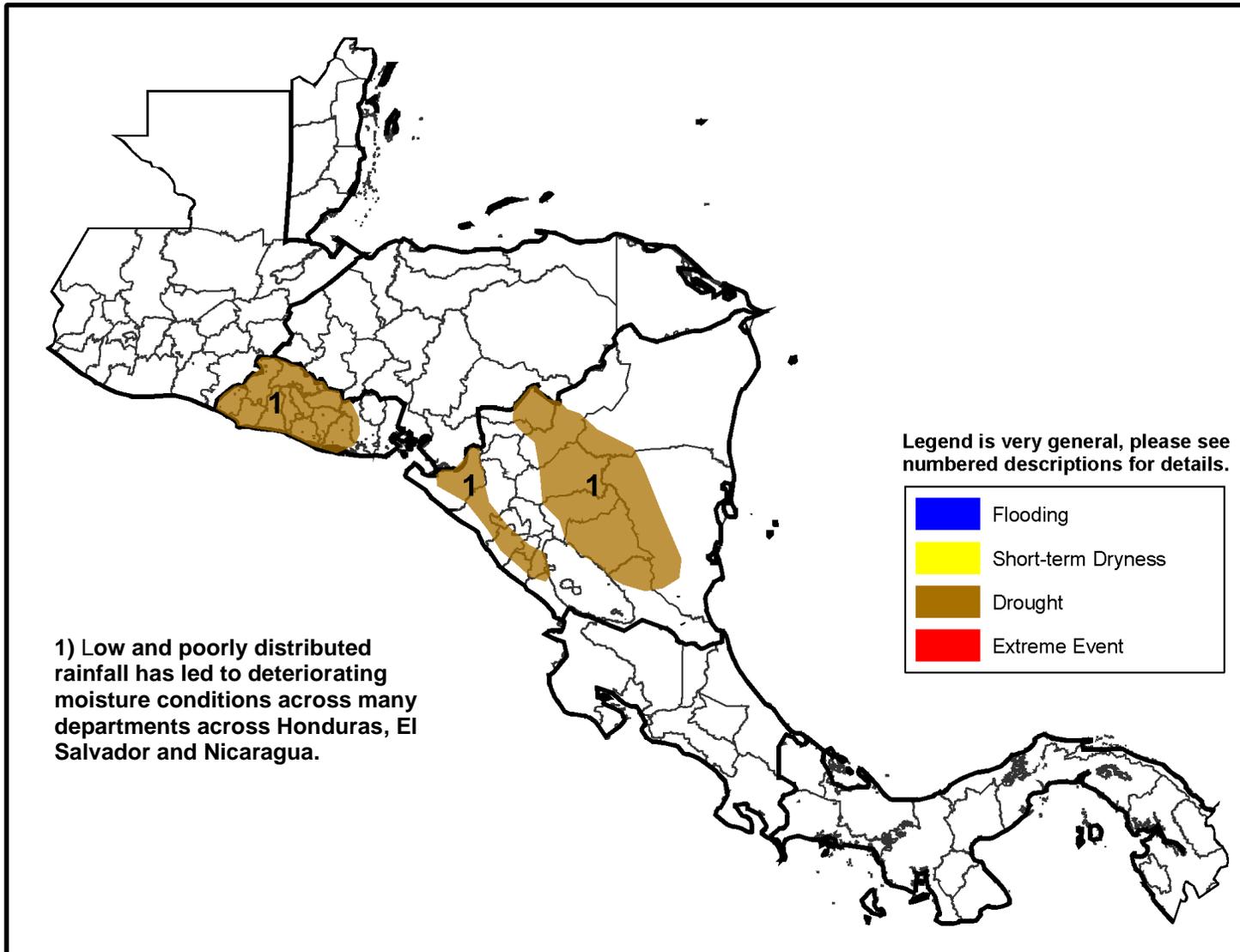


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America December 2 – December 8, 2010

- Below-average rains continue over many anomalously dry areas of Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.



Drought conditions likely to persist throughout parts of Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua

During the last observation period, precipitation remained fairly seasonable throughout many areas in Central America. The heaviest precipitation was observed in the southern Caribbean, where anomalously high rainfall amounts ranging between 70-150mm were received along the Atlantic coastlines of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama during the last week. Further north, however, precipitation remained generally suppressed. Little to no rainfall was observed throughout portions of central Guatemala, and east of the Gulf of Fonseca region, with some local areas in northern Guatemala, northern Honduras and central El Salvador receiving moderate amounts precipitation (15-30mm) during the last week. Although precipitation generally decreases during this time of the year, rainfall during the month of November has been below-average across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. This dryness during the last month has strengthened seasonal moisture deficits and is expected to negatively impact cropping areas throughout a number of local areas in El Salvador, as well as throughout portions of western and central Nicaragua. Precipitation forecasts suggest another week of low to moderate rainfall during the next seven days. The heaviest rains (50-100mm) are expected to remain in the southern Caribbean, with lower totals (5-20mm) over many areas already impacted by seasonal dryness in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

