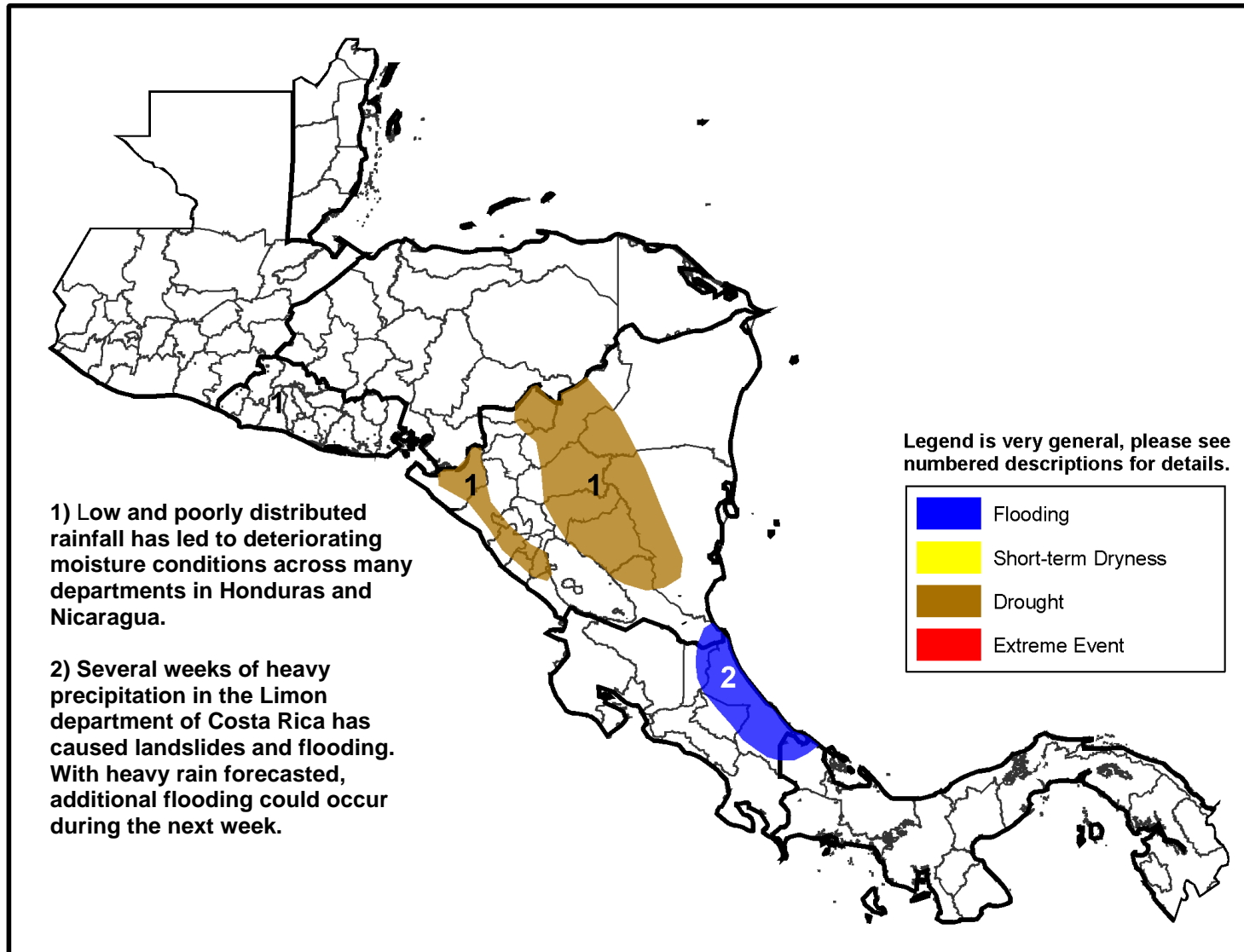


## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America December 9 – December 15, 2010

- Seasonally dry conditions persist throughout much of northern Central America.



**Dry conditions expected to persist across northern Central America while southern Central America remains wet.**

During the previous seven days, seasonally dry conditions were felt throughout the majority of northern Central America. For a second consecutive week, the highest precipitation totals were observed in the southern Caribbean as above-average rain, ranging between 75-150 mm, fell across southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Rainfall totals across northern Central America, however, were generally light. The heaviest precipitation (50-100 mm) across northern Central America was located along the coastline of the Gulf of Honduras in Belize and Honduras, while moderate rain (20-30 mm) fell in localized areas across western Guatemala. The rainfall across Guatemala and along the Gulf of Honduras has been a relief from the dryness that defined the end of the Postrera season and has helped reduce rainfall deficits which had grown larger during the past month. Further south, the dryness in Nicaragua is expected to negatively impact cropping areas located in western and central portions of the country. Model forecasts for the next week predict similar conditions as the past week across Central America. The heaviest rains (50-100 mm) are forecast to continue in the southern Caribbean with the highest totals (> 100 mm) expected across localized areas in Costa Rica and Panama which have experienced recent flooding and landslides. Further north, moderate rainfall (30-50 mm) is forecast along the Gulf of Honduras while drier conditions (5-10 mm of rain) should prevail over many areas including portions of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador which have received below-average precipitation during the past month.

