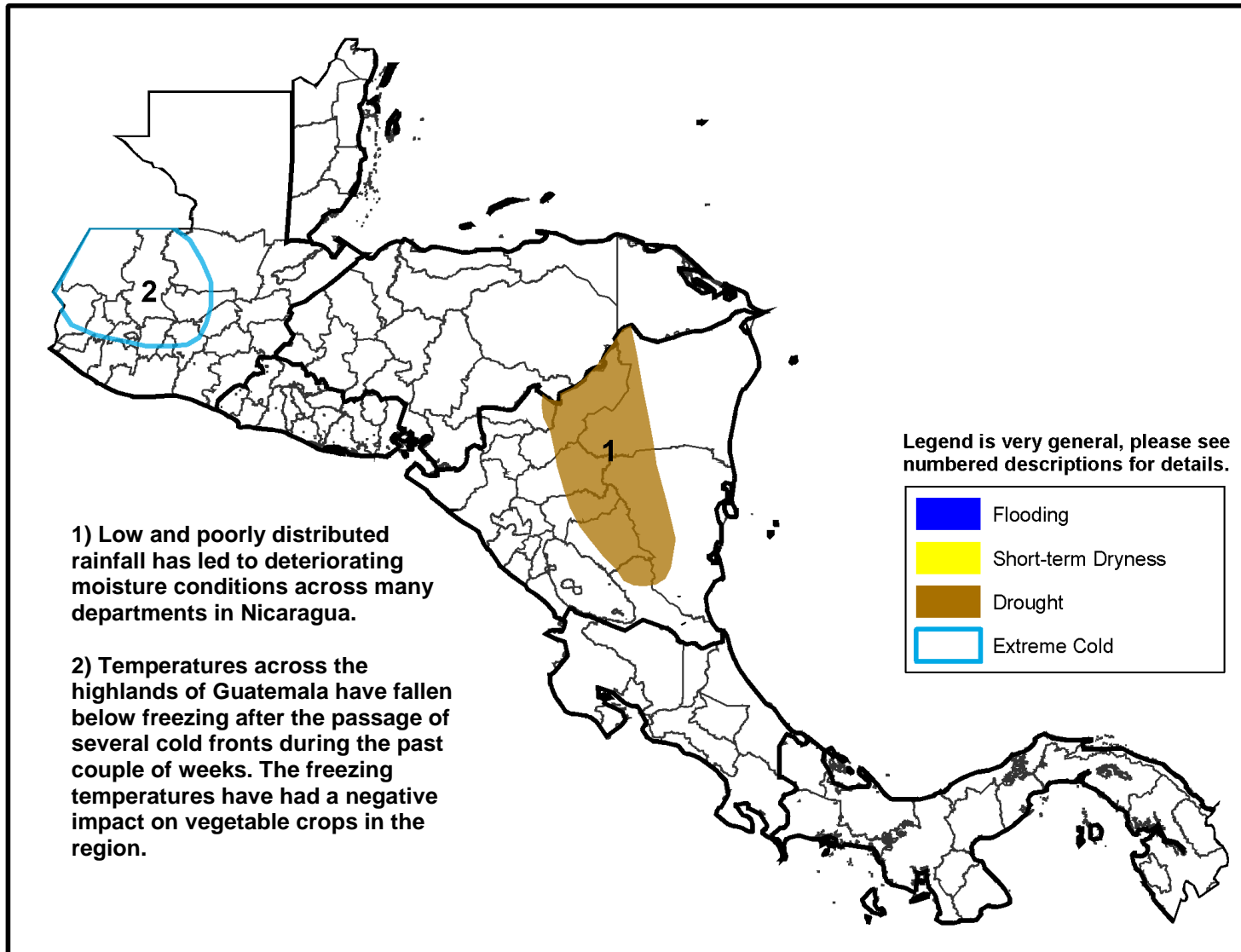


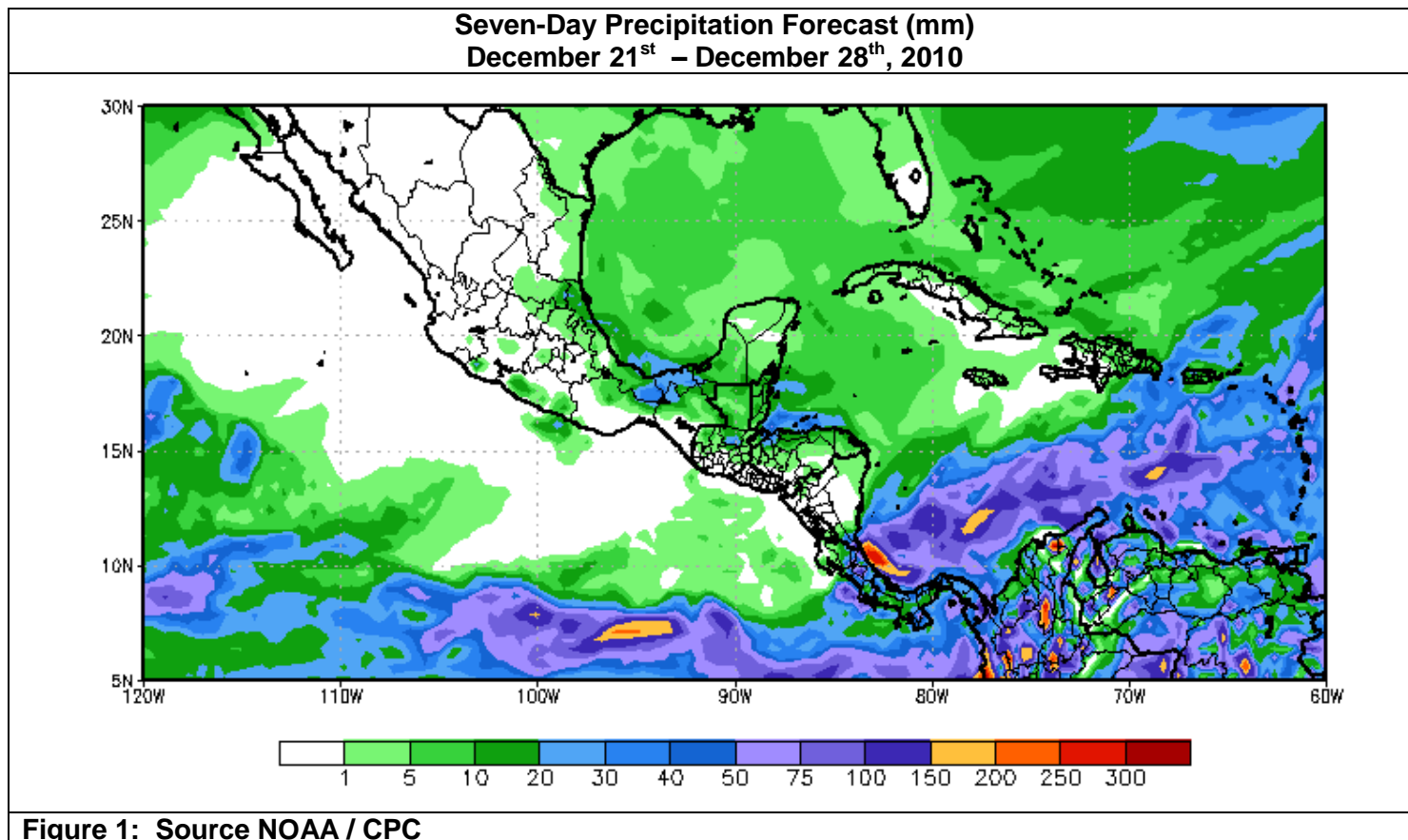
The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America December 23 – December 29, 2010

- Moderate rainfall continued over Panama while little precipitation was received across northern Central America.



While moderate rainfall affected localized areas in southern Central America, northern countries received little to no precipitation.

The past seven days saw a continuation of a weather pattern that has been persistent for the last several weeks. Rain was again focused across the southern Caribbean while locations in northern Central America received little to no precipitation. The highest rainfall totals (40-50 mm) were located across central Panama in a region which had observed flooding and landslides during the previous week. In general, though, 5-20 mm of rain was observed across much of southern Central America. The heaviest rains (10-20 mm) in northern Central America fell in localized areas in Guatemala and neighboring El Salvador. Rainfall was limited elsewhere as less than 10 mm of precipitation was observed in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Belize. Rainfall deficits during the past thirty days across eastern Nicaragua have grown to between 50 and 100 mm. The lack of rainfall across cropping areas in central and eastern Nicaragua has further negatively impacted production. With little precipitation forecast during the next week, deficits are expected to grow. While the lack of rainfall has been a concern in Nicaragua, anomalously cold temperatures have continued to negatively impact vegetable cropping activities throughout the highlands of Guatemala. For the next week, models forecast warming temperatures across the highlands of Guatemala with a chance for freezing temperatures at the end of the observation period. Precipitation is expected to be light across much of northern Central America with locations along the Gulf of Honduras receiving moderate rainfall (20-30 mm). Further south, heavy rain (> 50 mm) is forecast over Costa Rica and Panama after a week of lighter rainfall totals.



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