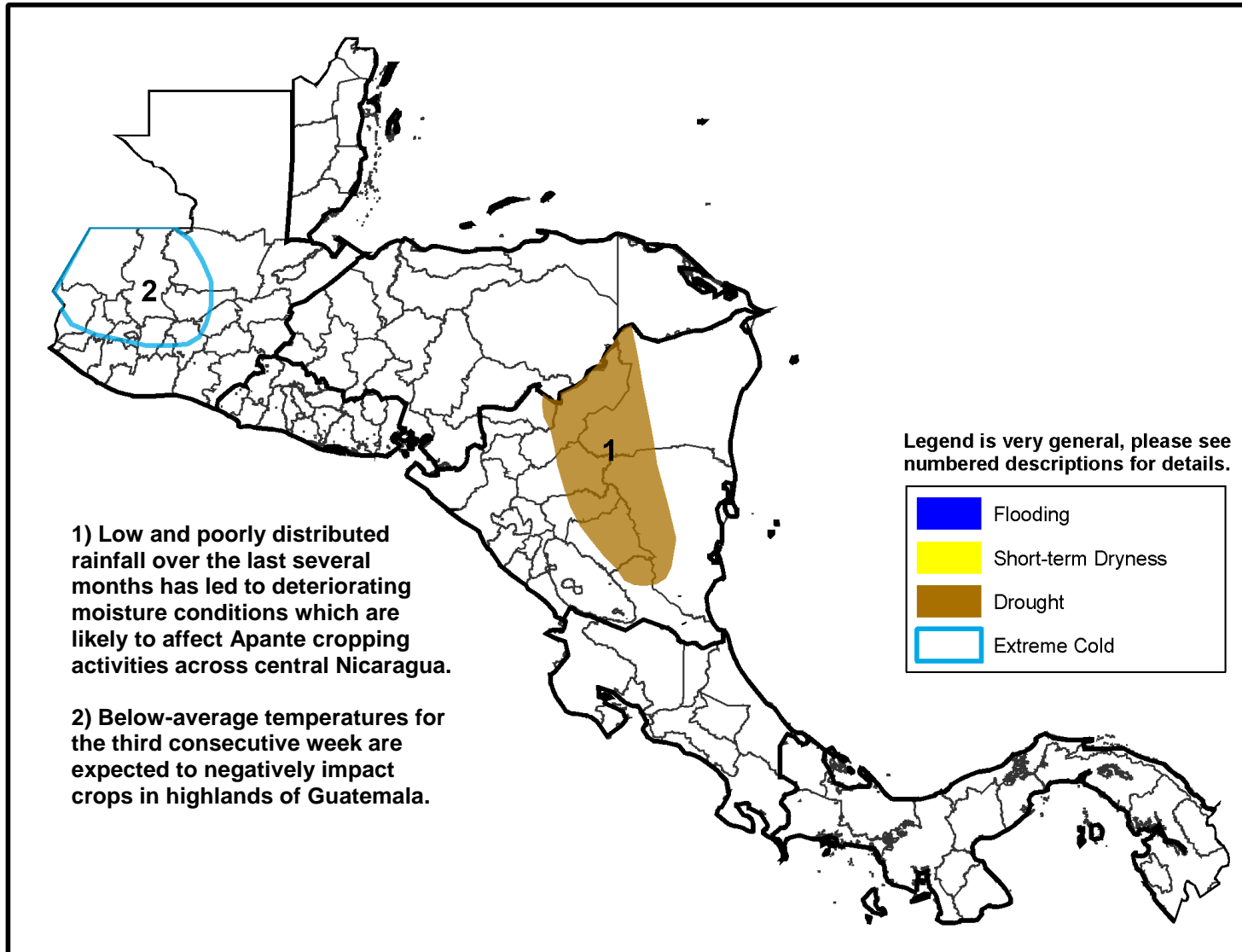


## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America December 30, 2010 – January 5, 2011

- An increase in rainfall is expected over many parts of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador during the next week.



## An increase in precipitation expected over the northern countries of Central America during the next seven days.

During the last observation period, little to no rainfall was observed over many areas in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. However, enhanced rains continued to fall across the southern Caribbean, with moderate rainfall accumulations received along the Atlantic coastlines of Panama and Costa Rica during the last seven days. This past week's distribution of precipitation has been consistent with the distribution of rainfall over the last several weeks, as anomalously wet conditions prevailed throughout the southern Caribbean in December. Towards the north, however, precipitation has been below-average over the last 30 days particularly along the Atlantic coastal areas of Honduras and Nicaragua. The below-average rainfall that has affected many parts of northern Central America has been associated with anomalously dryer and cooler air settled across the western Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico since the beginning of December. This anomalous pattern in December has resulted in below-freezing temperatures episodes in the higher elevations of Guatemala, and strengthening moisture deficits in Honduras and Nicaragua, which are both expected to negatively impact ongoing cropping activities in these areas. Precipitation forecasts indicate an increase in rainfall over northern Central America, with the potential for locally heavy rainfall in excess of 50mm throughout parts of central Guatemala, western Honduras and Nicaragua during the next week. Above average rainfall is expected to continue throughout Costa Rica and Panama in the next seven days.

