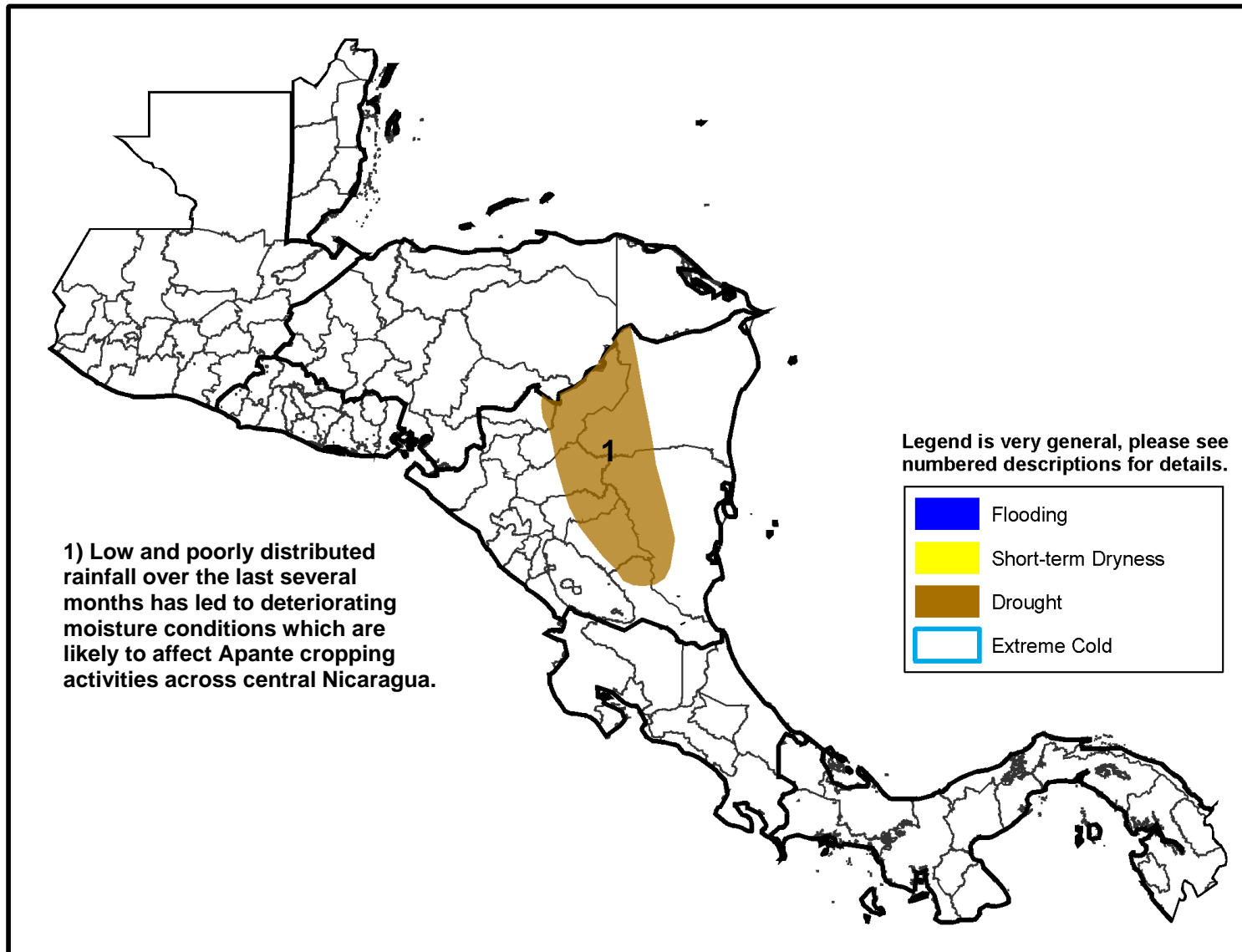


## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America January 27 – February 2, 2011

- Suppressed rainfall along the Atlantic region of Central America in the last week has helped to mitigate many areas in northern Honduras affected by flooding and recently heavy rains.



## Minimal amounts of rainfall observed in northern Central America

In the last seven days, little to light precipitation was observed throughout many local areas in Central America. The highest rainfall accumulations were received in Costa Rica, with rainfall amounts ranging between 30-50mm along the Pacific coastline and other areas in the Gulf of Nicoya region. Compared to the heavy rainfall observed throughout many local areas in northern Guatemala and Honduras two weeks ago, this past week's light rainfall distribution is expected to mitigate many of these areas affected by flooding, and overly saturated soils. During the last 30 days, precipitation has been well-above average in these parts of northern Guatemala and Honduras, as well as in the Atlantic coastal areas of Costa Rica and Panama. However, worsening dry conditions are still being experienced throughout parts of central and eastern Nicaragua due to poorly distributed rainfall in these areas since December.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a seasonable distribution of rainfall during the next seven days. For the remainder of January, the highest rainfall amounts (30-75mm) are expected over many areas along the Atlantic coast, with more moderate totals (5-20mm) expected further inland. Locally high rainfall forecast in the Gulf of Honduras region may also re-aggravate saturation conditions, and may trigger new flooding for the Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala, as well as the departments of Atlántida, Colon, and Cortes in northern Honduras in the next week.

