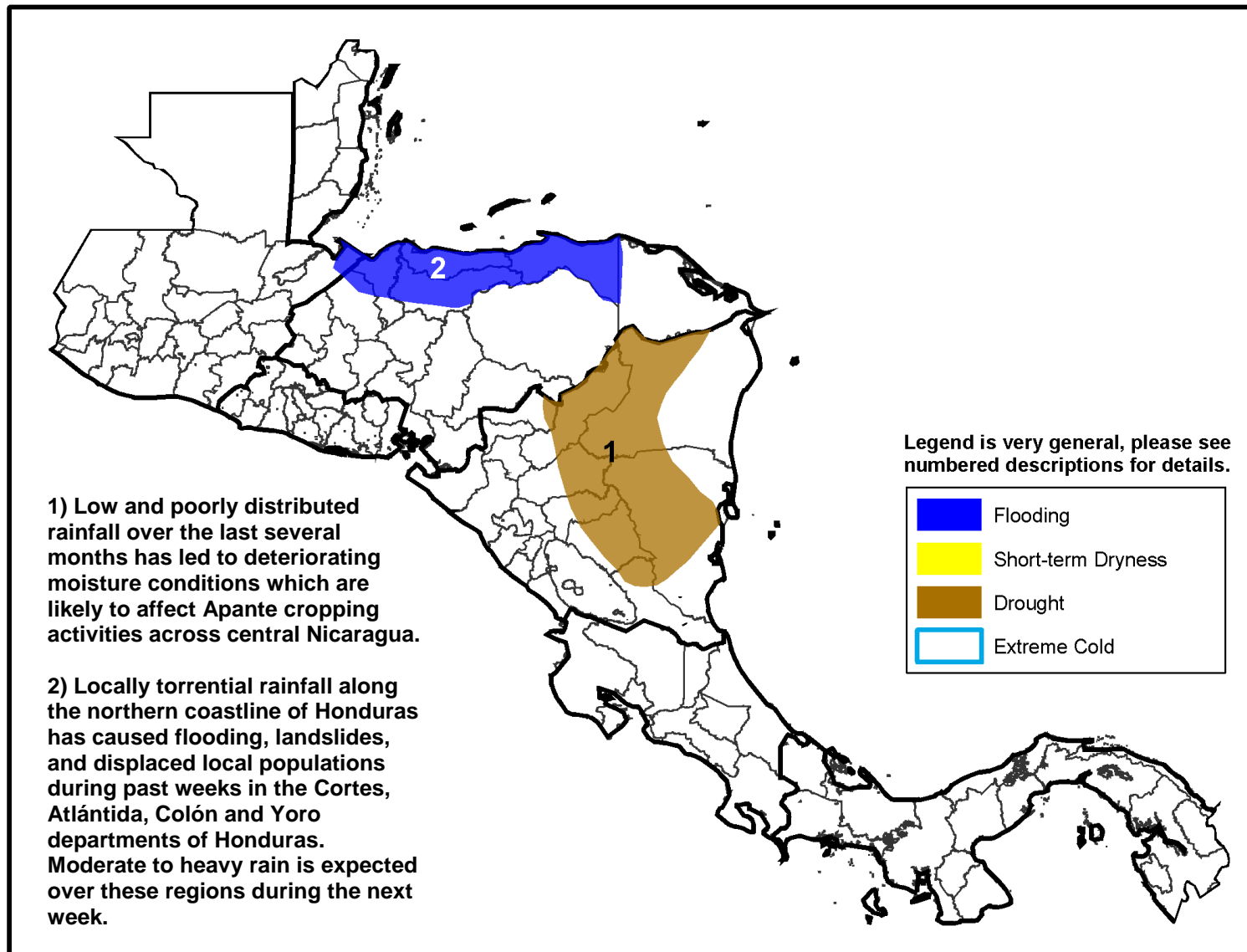


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America February 3 – February 9, 2011

- Heavy rainfall returned to the Atlantic region of Central America during the past seven days including to areas along the northern coastline of Honduras affected by flooding in past weeks.



Abundant rain fell over northern Honduras while light rainfall was observed across much of Central America.

During the past seven days, light rainfall (< 15mm) was observed throughout much of Central America while localized areas in the Izabal and Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala and along the northern coastline of Honduras received heavy amounts of rain (> 50 mm). The abundant precipitation added to the well-above-average rainfall totals during the past thirty days across northern Guatemala and Honduras. The highest rainfall totals during the past week were experienced around the Gulf of Honduras in particular. In Guatemala, Puerto Barrios, located along the coast in the Izabal department, observed over 150 mm of rain which caused localized flooding. Meanwhile, further east in Honduras, the cities of Tela and La Ceiba along the Atlantic coastline received greater than 100 mm of rain as well. After a previous week where limited rainfall mitigated some flooding concerns across northern Honduras, the heavy rainfall during the past week once again affected flood-prone and saturated areas. In contrast, dry conditions persisted throughout parts of central and eastern Nicaragua damaging red bean crops. Rainfall distribution has been poor dating back to December in this region.

Model forecasts for the next week suggest seasonal precipitation for much of Central America. The heaviest precipitation (> 30 mm) is expected along the Atlantic coastline with rainfall totals decreasing further inland as more moderate rainfall is forecast (5-20mm). Locally heavy rainfall, especially along the Gulf of Honduras, could exacerbate saturated conditions and cause additional flooding in the Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments of Guatemala and the Atlántida, Yoro, Colón and Cortes departments of northern Honduras during the next week.

