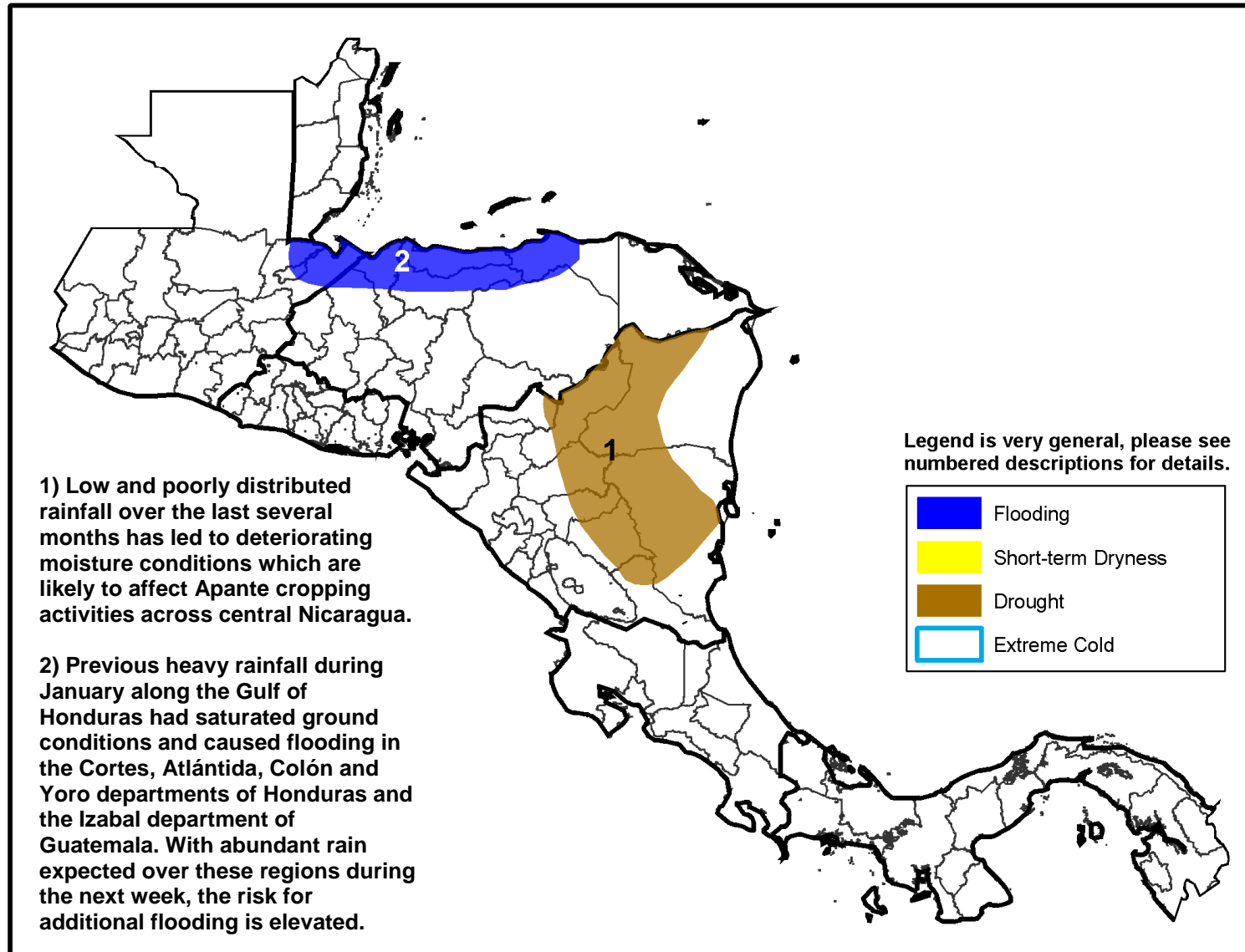


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America February 10 – February 16, 2011

- After a week of limited rainfall, an increase in precipitation is expected across the Gulf of Honduras during the next week.



After a week with little to no precipitation, an increase in rainfall is expected across Central America during the next seven days.

During the past week, little to no precipitation fell across most of Central America as the heaviest precipitation (> 40 mm) fell in offshore areas in the southern Caribbean. The highest precipitation totals (20-30 mm) on land were experienced in localized areas of Costa Rica. Across previously saturated regions along the Gulf of Honduras, light rainfall (< 10 mm) was observed providing relief to locations in northern Honduras and the Izabal department of Guatemala that have recently experienced flooding. Rainfall totals over the past thirty days, though, are still above-average across northern Honduras, and the Izabal, Alta Verapaz and Petén departments of Guatemala. Further south, dryness continued over central and eastern portions of Nicaragua strengthening rainfall deficits over the past thirty days to between 20 and 50 mm. Due to the poor rainfall distribution and dry conditions dating back to December, red bean crops in the region have been negatively impacted.

Precipitation forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall totals across Central America during the next week. Moderate to heavy rainfall (30-50 mm, locally > 50 mm) is forecast over northern portions of Guatemala and along coastal areas of the Gulf of Honduras. A return of above-average rain across previously flood affected areas in northern Honduras and the Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments of Guatemala could worsen ground conditions after a beneficial previous week with little rainfall. Abundant rain (30-50mm) is also expected along the Atlantic coastline of Nicaragua and Costa Rica as well.

