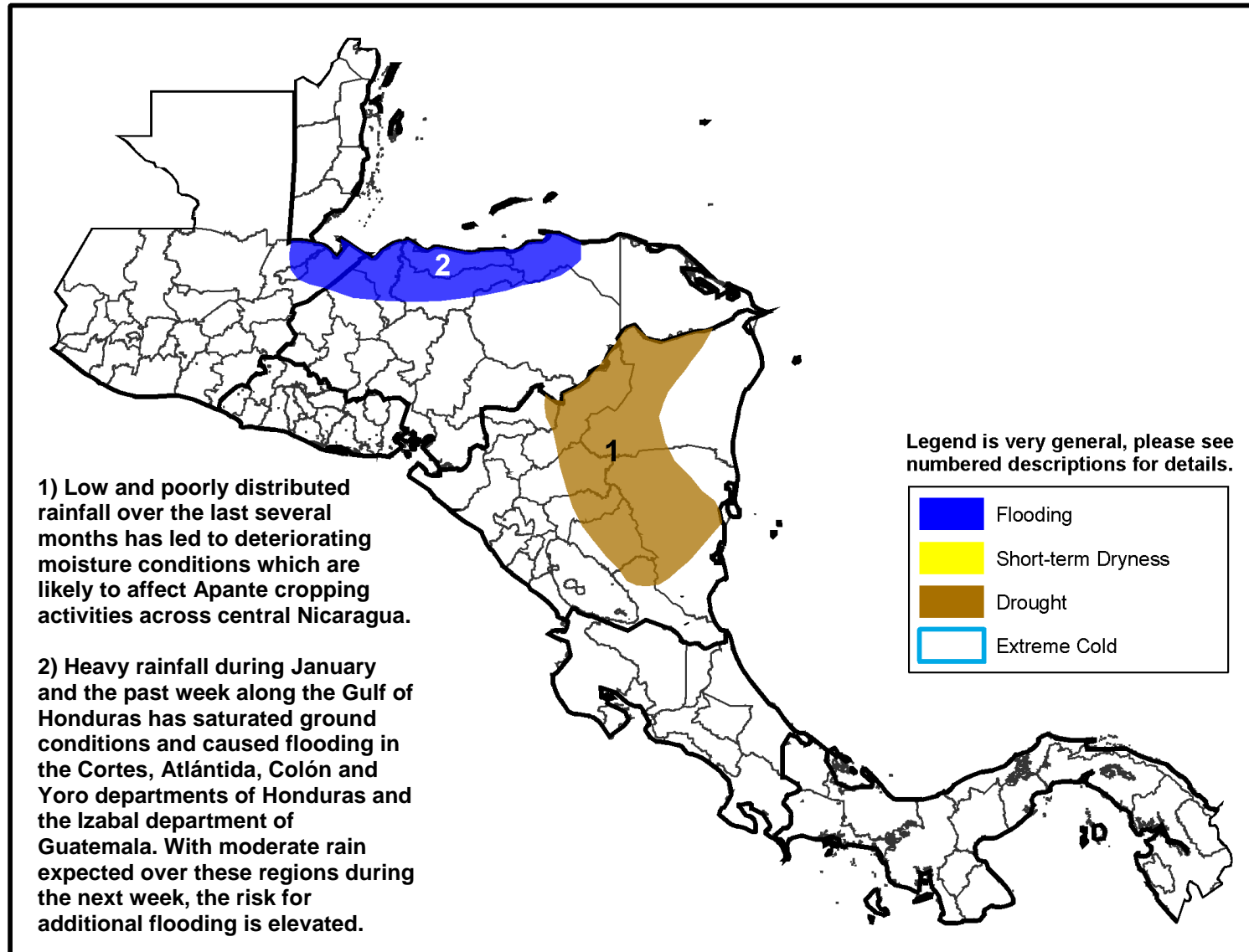


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America February 17 – February 23, 2011

- After limited rainfall two weeks ago, torrential rain returned during the past week to the Gulf of Honduras, especially the northern Honduras coastline.



Moderate rainfall is expected along the Gulf of Honduras for a second consecutive week.

During the past seven days, abundant rainfall was recorded along the northern Honduras coastline as heavy rain returned to the Gulf of Honduras after a previous week with little precipitation. For instance, high rainfall totals were measured at the coastal cities of Tela and La Ceiba in the Atlántida department of Honduras where 167 mm and 369 mm were observed respectively. The heavy rain fell across already saturated and flood-affected regions along the Gulf of Honduras causing flooding and worsening ground conditions in the area. Because of similar weeks with high rainfall totals, the past thirty days have seen above-average precipitation across departments in northern Honduras as well as the Izabal, Alta Verapaz and Petén departments of Guatemala. Further south, moderate rainfall (10-30 mm) was recorded in localized areas in Costa Rica while dry conditions persisted across Nicaragua as light precipitation (1-10 mm) was observed. Thirty day precipitation deficits between 20 and 50 mm are widespread across central and eastern portions of Nicaragua where rainfall has been poor during the Apante season.

Another week of moderate rainfall across the Gulf of Honduras is expected as models forecast 20-40 mm across saturated areas in northern Honduras and the Izabal department of Guatemala. The majority of this rainfall should occur during the beginning of the observation period. With the potential for a second consecutive week of above-average precipitation, flooding risks are elevated across these regions. Further south, moderate to heavy rainfall (30-50 mm) is also expected along the Caribbean coastline of Costa Rica and Panama while light rainfall (<10 mm) is predicted over areas in Nicaragua experiencing below-average Apante seasonal rainfall.

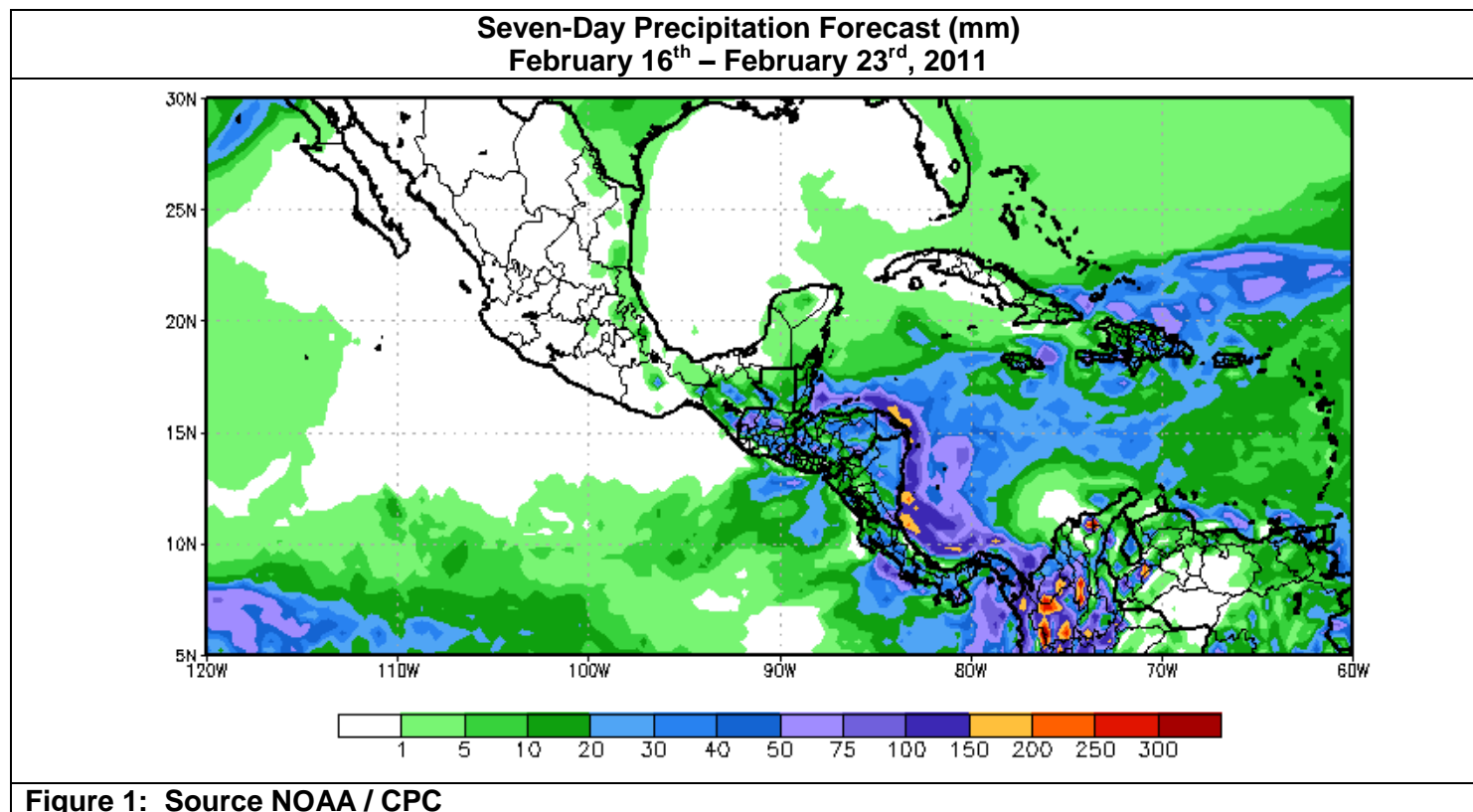


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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