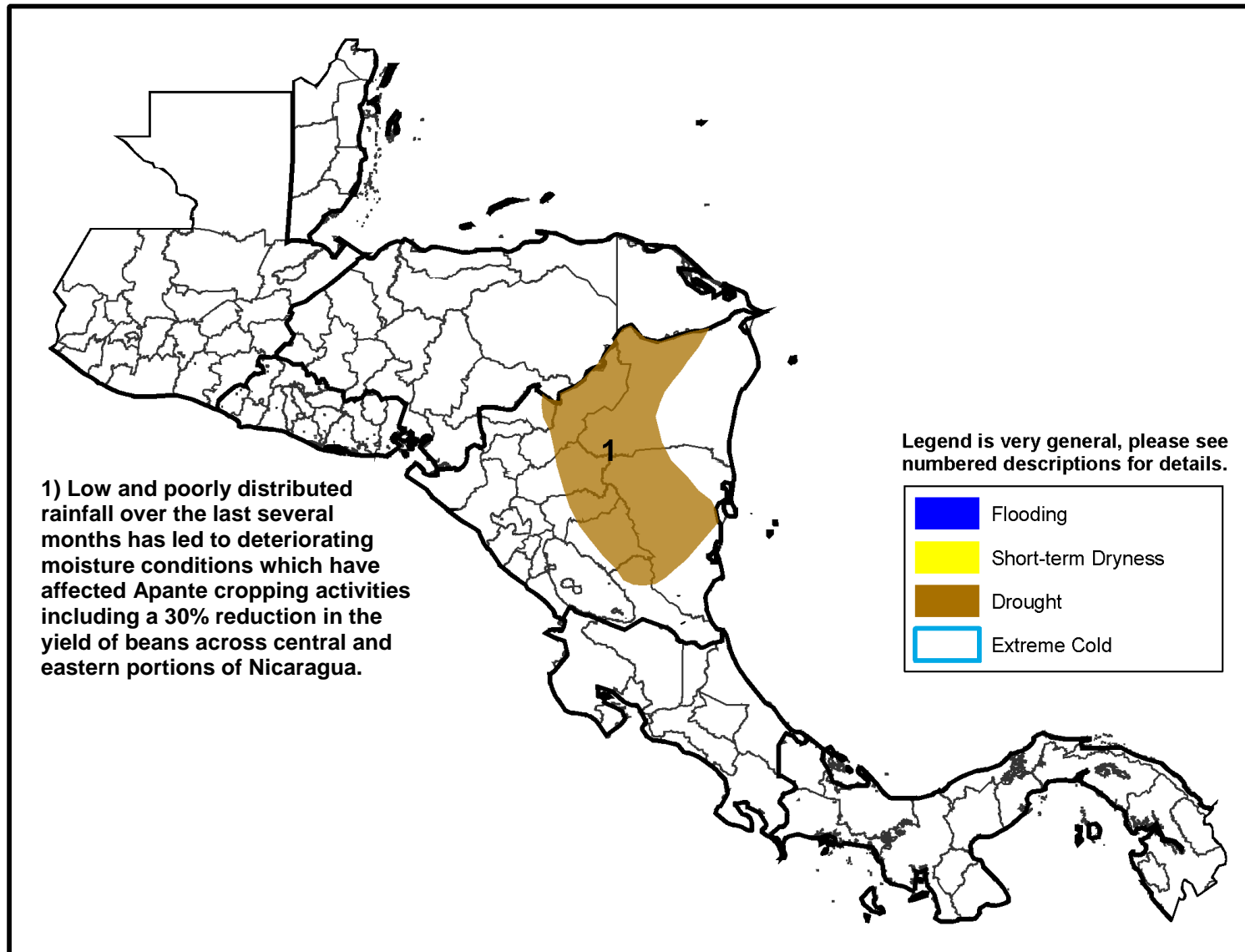


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America February 24 – March 2, 2011

- Dry portions of Nicaragua received above-average precipitation for the first time in several months while areas along the Gulf of Honduras observed moderate rain for a second consecutive week.



After two weeks of above-average rainfall, precipitation across the Gulf of Honduras is forecast to be light during the next week.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rainfall was recorded along most of the Atlantic coastline of Central America. The heaviest rain (> 50mm) was located offshore of Costa Rica and in the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras. Precipitation across northern Honduras, where flooding has occurred during past weeks, was moderate (10-30 mm) providing slight relief to the saturated ground conditions that developed during January and February. Elsewhere, moderate rainfall returned to several locations including Nicaragua and northern Guatemala which have been dry in the recent past. Rainfall totals in the Petén department of Guatemala were between 10-40 mm helping relieve dry conditions that developed during February. Further south over drought-stricken areas in central and eastern Nicaragua, the largest amount of rain in several months (10-30 mm) was observed. While the recent rains have helped reduce 30-day rainfall deficits to near 20 mm, it has come too late into the Apante season to benefit crops. Apante seasonal rainfall deficits still are between 50 and 200 mm in some locations in Nicaragua.

For the next seven days, precipitation along the Gulf of Honduras is forecast to be light as the heaviest precipitation (> 40 mm) is focused over the southern Caribbean including coastal Costa Rica and Panama. A week of light precipitation will be a relief for flood-prone areas in northern Honduras. Moderate rainfall (10-30 mm) is also expected for a second consecutive week in the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras while light to moderate rainfall (5-20 mm) could be observed for another week across drought affected areas in Nicaragua.

