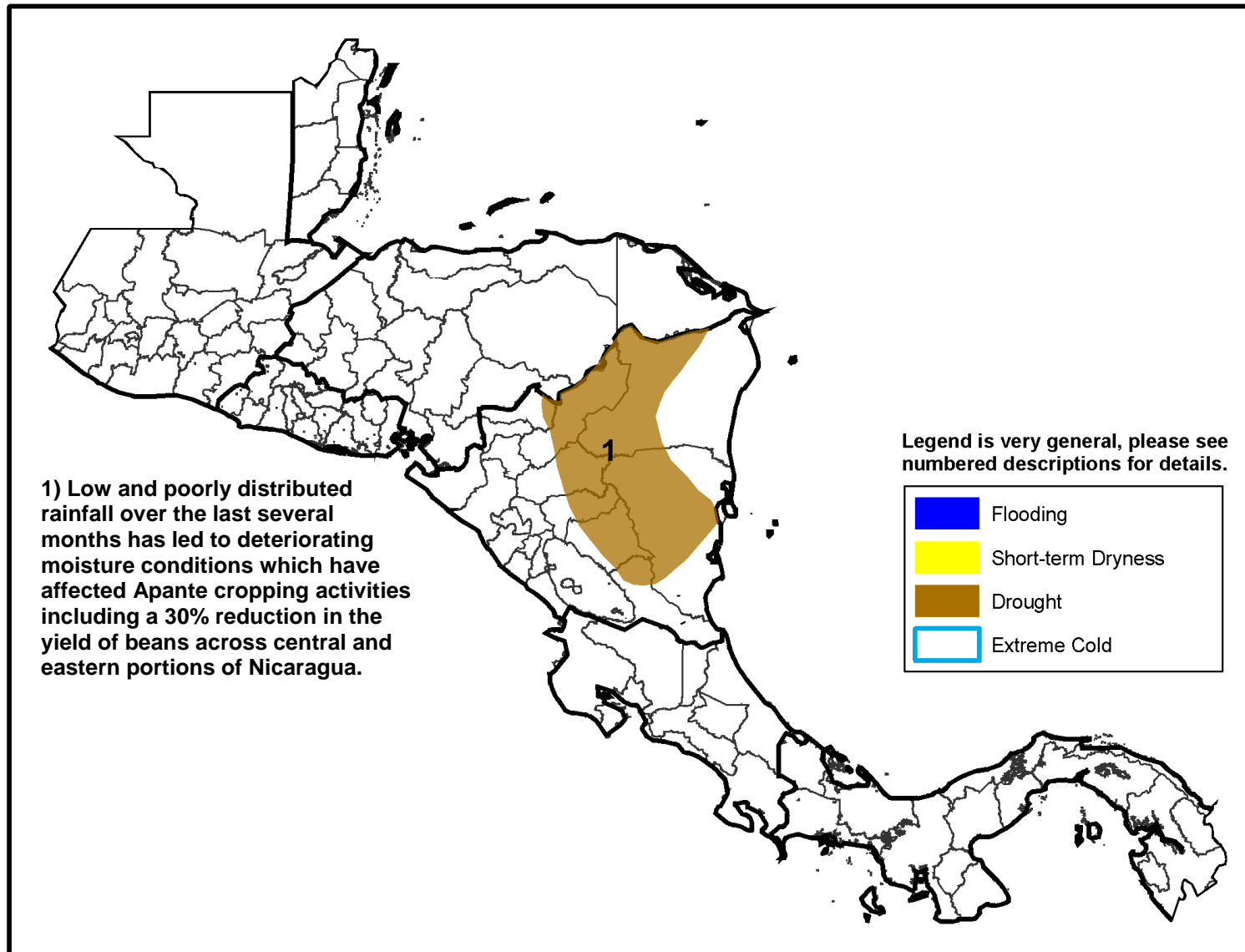


## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America March 3 – March 9, 2011

- For a second consecutive week, moderate rainfall was observed across dry portions of Nicaragua while areas along the Gulf of Honduras received light rain.



**Moderate rainfall is expected to continue during the next week across the southern Caribbean and dry areas in Nicaragua.**

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain was observed across the southern Caribbean. The heaviest precipitation totals (> 50 mm) were located along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and Costa Rica with moderate totals (20-40 mm) recorded across eastern Nicaragua, the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras, and western Honduras. A second consecutive week of above-average rainfall across eastern Nicaragua has helped saturate dry ground conditions that have developed during the Apante season as well as eliminate thirty day rainfall deficits. However, because the rain has fallen late into the Apante season, it has done little to benefit crops in the area. Along the Gulf of Honduras, light precipitation was observed which has helped relieve saturated areas that had seen flooding and landslides during the beginning of February. Further north, little rainfall was recorded across the Petén department of northern Guatemala after a brief return to moderate rains the week before. The dry weather has continued a below-normal trend in precipitation for the area during February.

For the next week, rain is forecast to be moderate to heavy across the southern Caribbean including coastal areas in Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua. Moderate rain (10-30 mm) is also expected to fall across drought-stricken areas in Nicaragua for a third week continuing to erode seasonal rainfall deficits that are between 100 and 150 mm. Along the Gulf of Honduras, rainfall is predicted to be light for a third consecutive week while moderate rain is expected further west in Guatemala.

