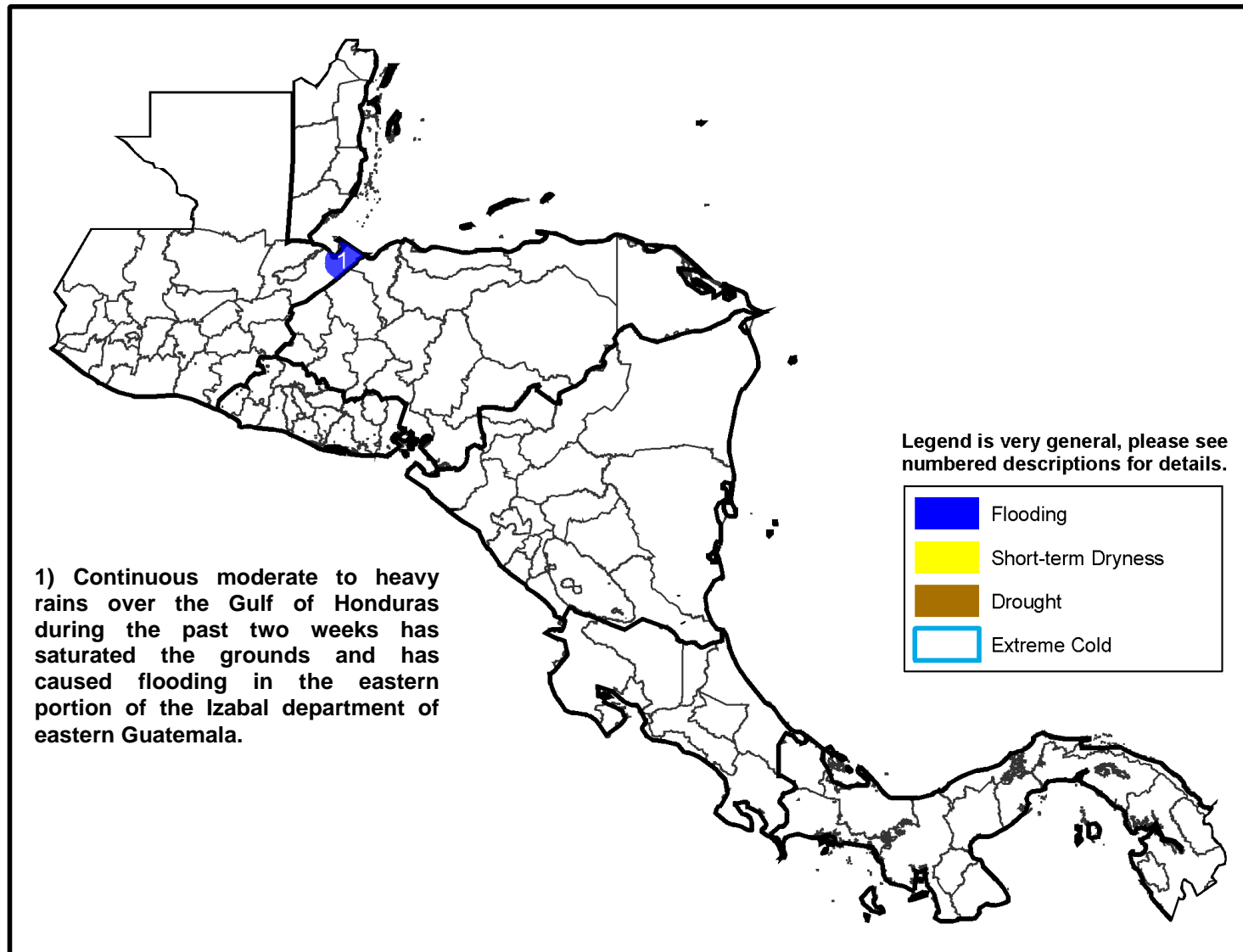


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America May 5 – May 11, 2011

- Steady heavy rainfall over the Gulf of Honduras during the past two weeks has caused flooding in the eastern portion of the Izabal department of Guatemala.



An increase in rainfall observed during the past week may announce the onset to the Primera rainfall season.

During the past week, an increase in rainfall totals was observed across much of Central America. This could, in effect, mark the onset to the Primera rainfall season in the region. However, the continuation of moderate to heavy (30-50mm) rains over the Gulf of Honduras during the past week has sustained rainfall excesses, which have caused flooding in the eastern portion of the Izabal department of Guatemala. In addition, heavy (>50mm) rains also fell along the border between the Colón and Olancho departments of northern Honduras, the Jinotega, Matagalpa, and Atlántico Norte departments of northern Nicaragua, the Pacific coastlines of Costa Rica, and Panama during the past seven days. The moderate to heavy rains received during the past week have resulted in above-average rainfall over the past thirty days over many local areas of northern Central America and have ultimately helped to reduce the thirty-day negative rainfall anomalies. Further south, the continuous heavy rains during the past seven days have resulted in above-average rainfall, with surpluses exceeding 200mm in portions of eastern Panama. In contrast, the lack of rainfall during the past several weeks has enhanced rainfall deficits in the Limón province of Costa Rica.

Over the next seven days, a continuation of moderate to heavy (10-40mm) rains is expected across much of Central America, with heavy (>50 mm) rains expected locally over Guatemala, the southern Francisco Morazán, La Paz, and Intibucá departments of Honduras, the Jinotega and Atlántico Norte departments of northern Nicaragua, the Pacific coastlines of Costa Rica, and Panama. The heaviest (> 150mm) rainfall is expected off-shore of southern Nicaragua and Costa Rica in the Caribbean Sea. In general, the continuation of seasonal rainfall during the next week is expected to aid cropping activities in Central America.

