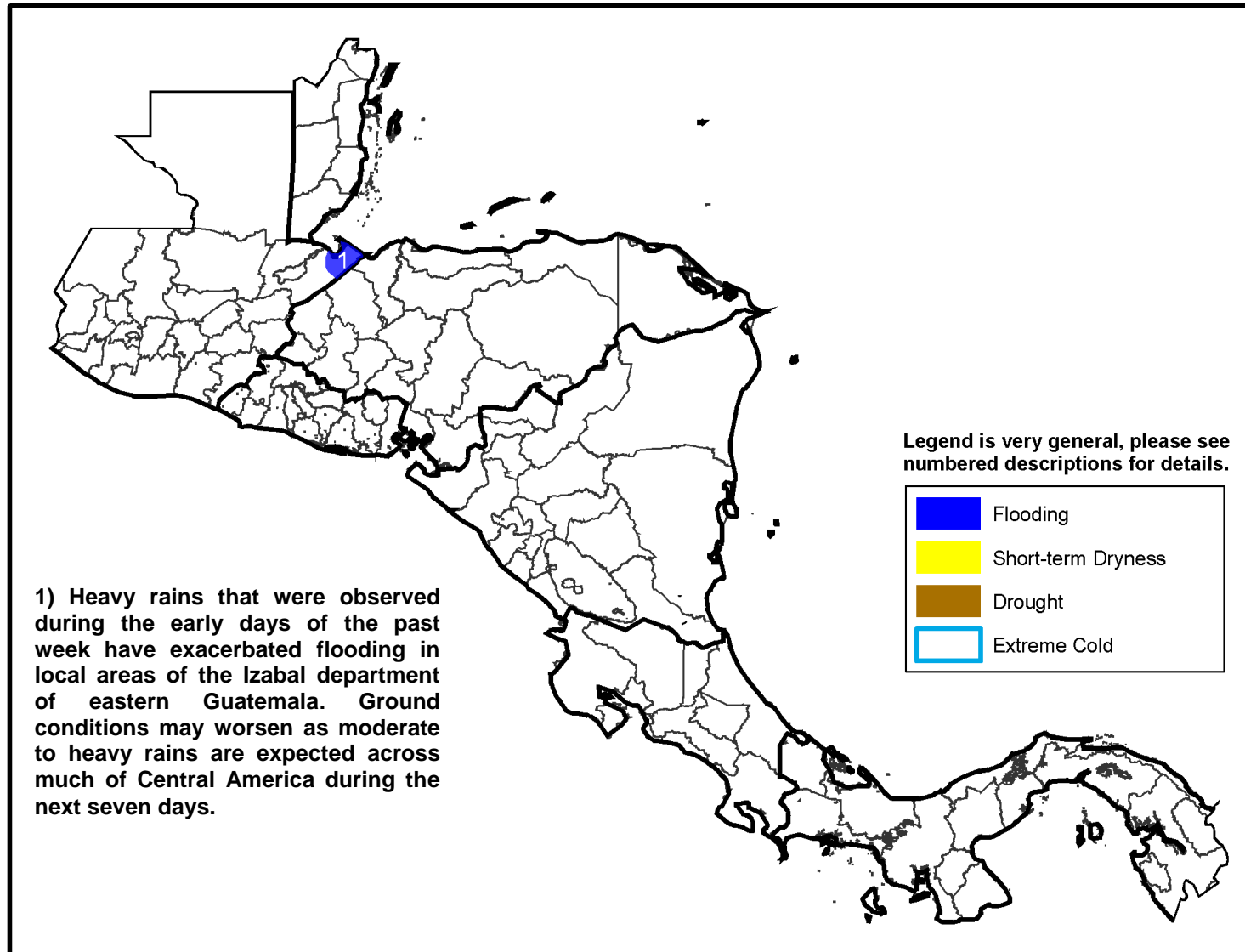


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America May 12 – May 18, 2011

- The return of rains is expected across much of Central America over the coming seven days.



A slow progression to the Primera rainfall season was observed across Central America.

During the last seven days, moderate to heavy (30-50mm) rainfall was scattered over the Sololá and Totonicapán departments of southwestern Guatemala and the La Paz and Intibucá departments of southern Honduras. Light to moderate (10-30mm) rainfall was observed in the Gracias A Dios department of eastern Honduras and the Atlántico Norte region of Nicaragua during the last week. The heaviest (> 100mm) rainfall was observed further south in the Atlántico Sur region of Nicaragua, the Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica, and Panama, where rainfall surpluses exceeded 100mm in many areas during the last thirty days. In Costa Rica, the heavy rains recorded during the last week helped to mitigate the dryness that has resulted from several weeks of insufficient rainfall. However, rainfall has been below-average in many areas of northern Central America, including the Gulf of Fonseca region since the beginning of the month. This could indicate a slow progression to the Primera season as seasonably rains are climatologically expected along the Pacific basin of northern Central America during May.

Rainfall forecast during the next week suggests the return of moderate to heavy (30-50mm) rains across much of Central America. Heavy (> 75mm) rains are expected in western Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and western Nicaragua. The heaviest (> 200mm) rainfall is expected in the southern Caribbean. The return of rains is likely to help neutralize the short-term dryness and benefit planting activities in Central America.

