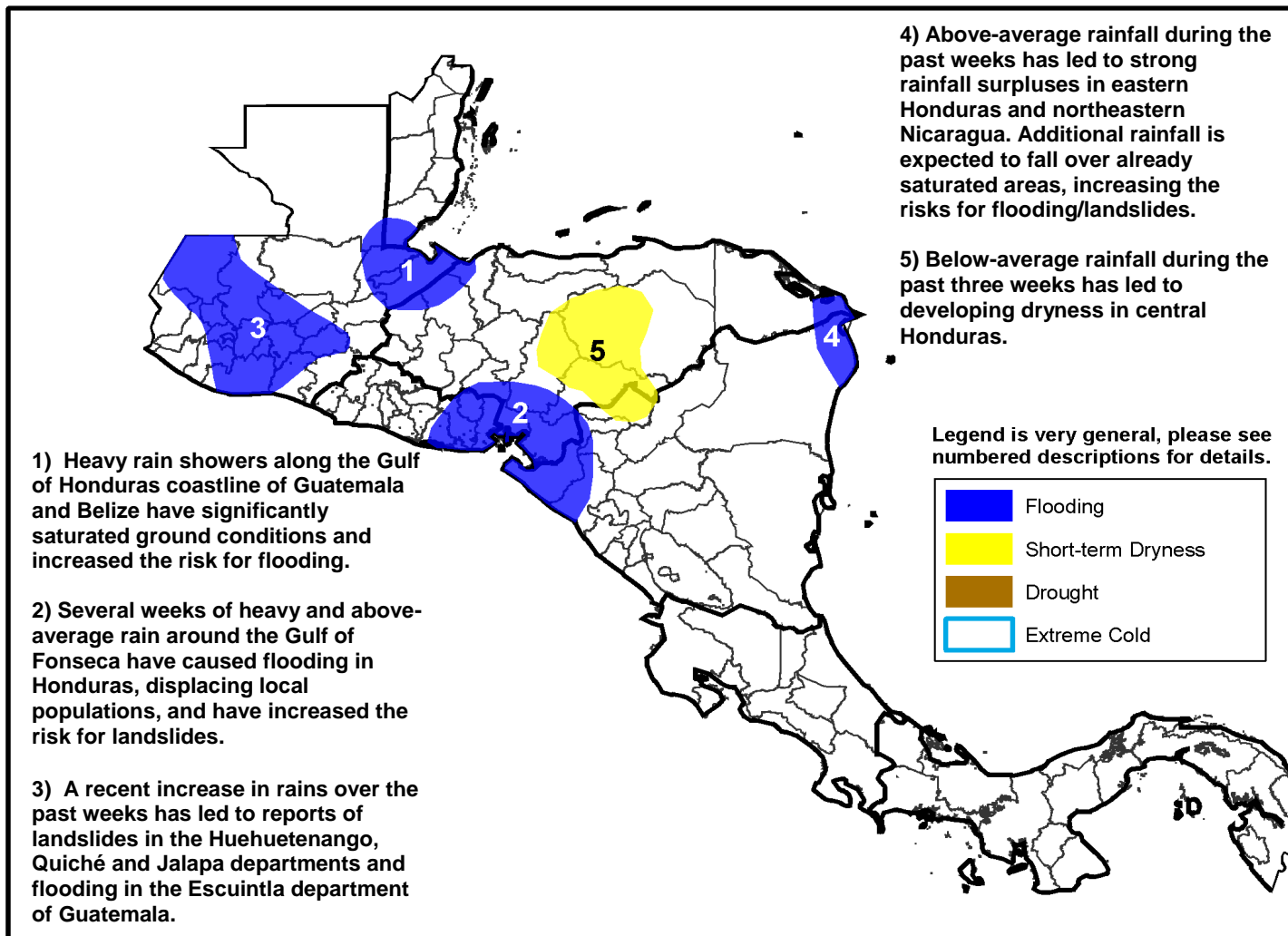


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 7 – July 13, 2011

- Below-average rainfall during the past three weeks has led to developing dryness in central Honduras, while seasonal rainfall has continued elsewhere during the past week.



A Short-term dryness has settled in across central Honduras.

During the past week, little to no rainfall fell for the third week across central Honduras and northern Nicaragua despite the continuation of seasonal rainfall across much of Central America. The uneven rainfall distribution has resulted in mild to moderate (20-100mm) rainfall deficits in the region during the last thirty days. In contrast, abundant (> 100mm) rains have sustained thirty-day rainfall surpluses exceeding 200mm in the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras and the Atlántico Norte region of Nicaragua during the past week. Copious (> 100mm) amounts of rain were also observed over the already-saturated grounds of the Gulf of Fonseca and much of northern Guatemala during the past seven days. Since the start of the May-August rainfall season, much of Central America has received near-average rainfall except a few local areas in northern Guatemala, Pacific basin of El Salvador, and central Honduras, where drier than average conditions have been observed.

Over the upcoming seven days, a widespread distribution of heavy (> 50mm) rainfall is expected across much of Central America, with torrential (> 150mm) rains forecast across western Guatemala. Heavy rains are also expected along the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines of Central America, increasing the risk for flooding and landslides in the already-saturated grounds of the region. However, light to moderate (10-40mm) rains that are forecast in central Honduras could worsen moisture deficits and affect cropping conditions in the region during the next week.

