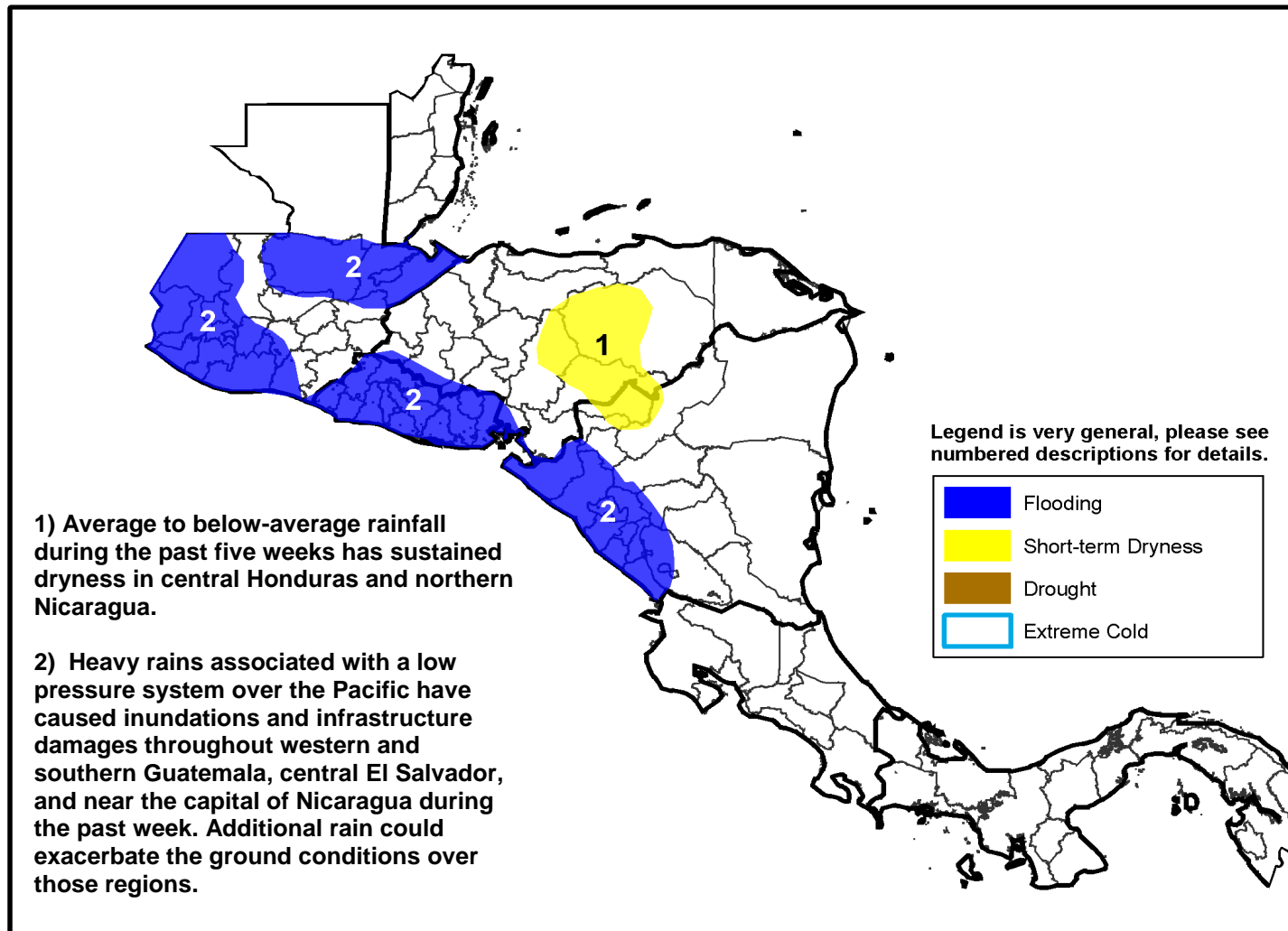


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 21 – July 27, 2011

- Thunderstorms and convective activities have brought torrential rains along the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines of Central America during the past week.



Tropical low and easterly waves have brought heavy rains along the Pacific and Atlantic sides of Central America, respectively.

Convective activities that were associated with a tropical low pressure system have brought heavy (> 50mm) rains throughout the Pacific Basin of Central America during the past week. In Guatemala, heavy rainfall has resulted in flooding in the Retalhuleu, Quiche, Santa Rosa, and Huehuetenango departments. Abundant (> 50mm) rains were observed over El Salvador, where fatalities have been reported in the San Salvador, San Vicente, and the Cuscatlán departments during the past week. Further south, in Costa Rica and Panama, torrential (> 150mm) rains were also observed. Meanwhile, tropical waves have brought copious (> 100mm) amounts of rains in the Gulf of Honduras, causing flooding in the Izabal department of eastern Guatemala. Torrential rains were also recorded in eastern Honduras and the southern Caribbean coastlines during the past seven days. Since the beginning of this month, much of Central America has received above-average rainfall, which has improved moisture conditions in the dry portions of Central America. However, the excessive rainfall could also negatively impact cropping conditions in many local areas of the region.

Rainfall forecast suggests a reduction of rainfall over Central America during the next week. However, localized heavy (> 50mm) rains are expected to continue over the already-saturated portions, increasing the risk for flooding and landslides in many local areas of Central America.

