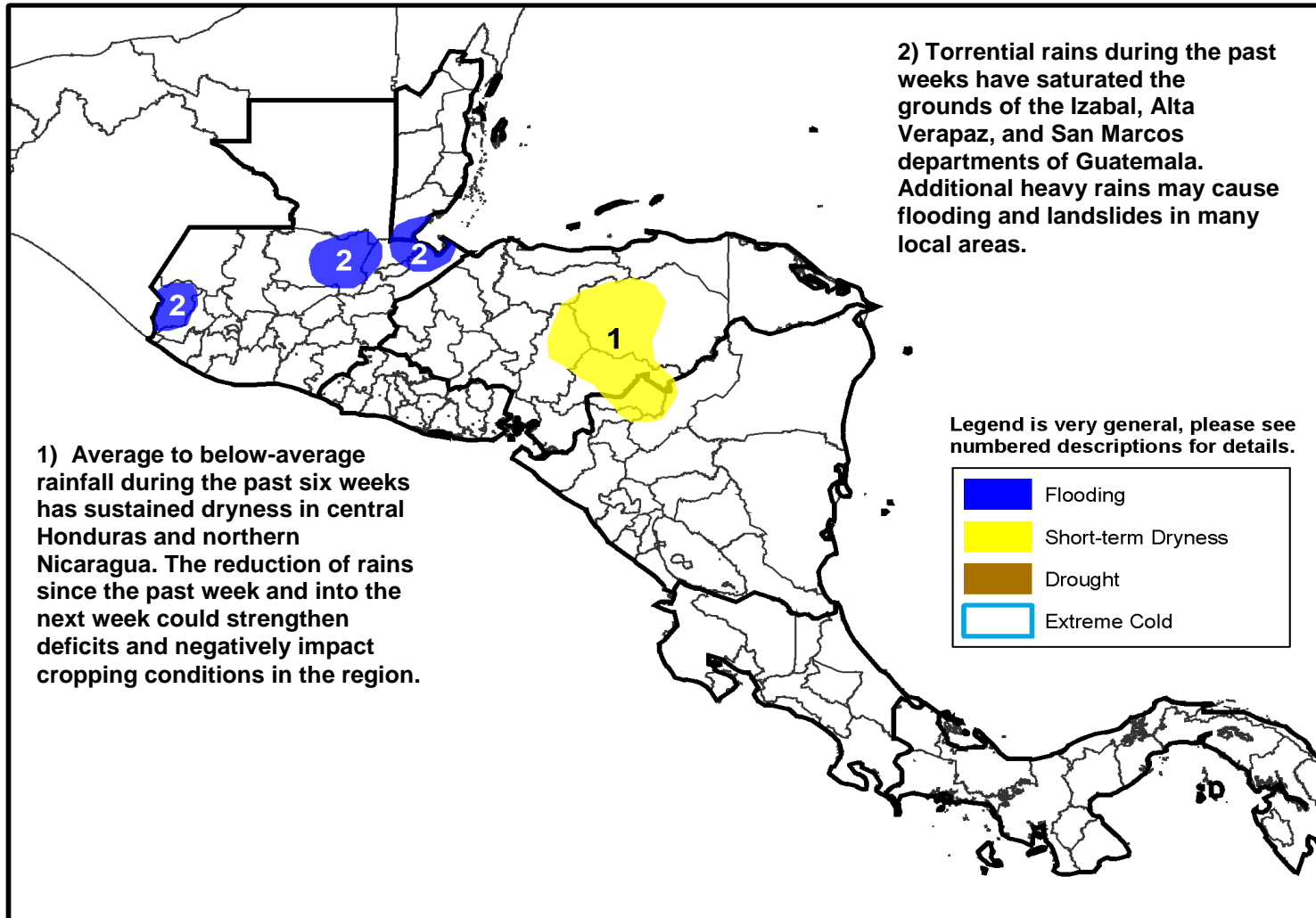




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 28 – August 3, 2011

- Central America has received reduced rainfall during the past seven days.



Reduced rainfall observed across Central America during the past seven days.

Central America has observed reduced rainfall totals during the past seven days relative to the large amounts of rain recorded during the previous week. The heaviest (> 100mm) rains were observed in the Izabal and local areas of the Gracias A Dios departments of eastern Guatemala and Honduras, respectively. In contrast, little to no (< 10mm) rains fell across the inland of southern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and the Pacific Basin of Nicaragua and Costa Rica during the past week. This reduction of rainfall could be indicative of the onset of the Canicula, the summer dry season. Since the beginning of the month, above-average rainfall has prevailed across Central America. However, rainfall deficits accounting for 50-90% of the average have expanded in the Olancho, Francisco Morazán, and El Paraiso departments of southern Honduras into the Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Jinotega departments of northern Nicaragua.

Rainfall forecasts during the next week suggest the continuation of reduced rainfall, which could exacerbate the dryness across many local areas of Central America. However, downpours (> 100mm) are still expected over a few regions, including the San Marcos, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal department of Guatemala. A weather disturbance is expected to develop in the eastern Pacific during the end of the observation period and could bring abundant (> 100mm) rains in the Gulf of Fonseca region and the Pacific Basin of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

