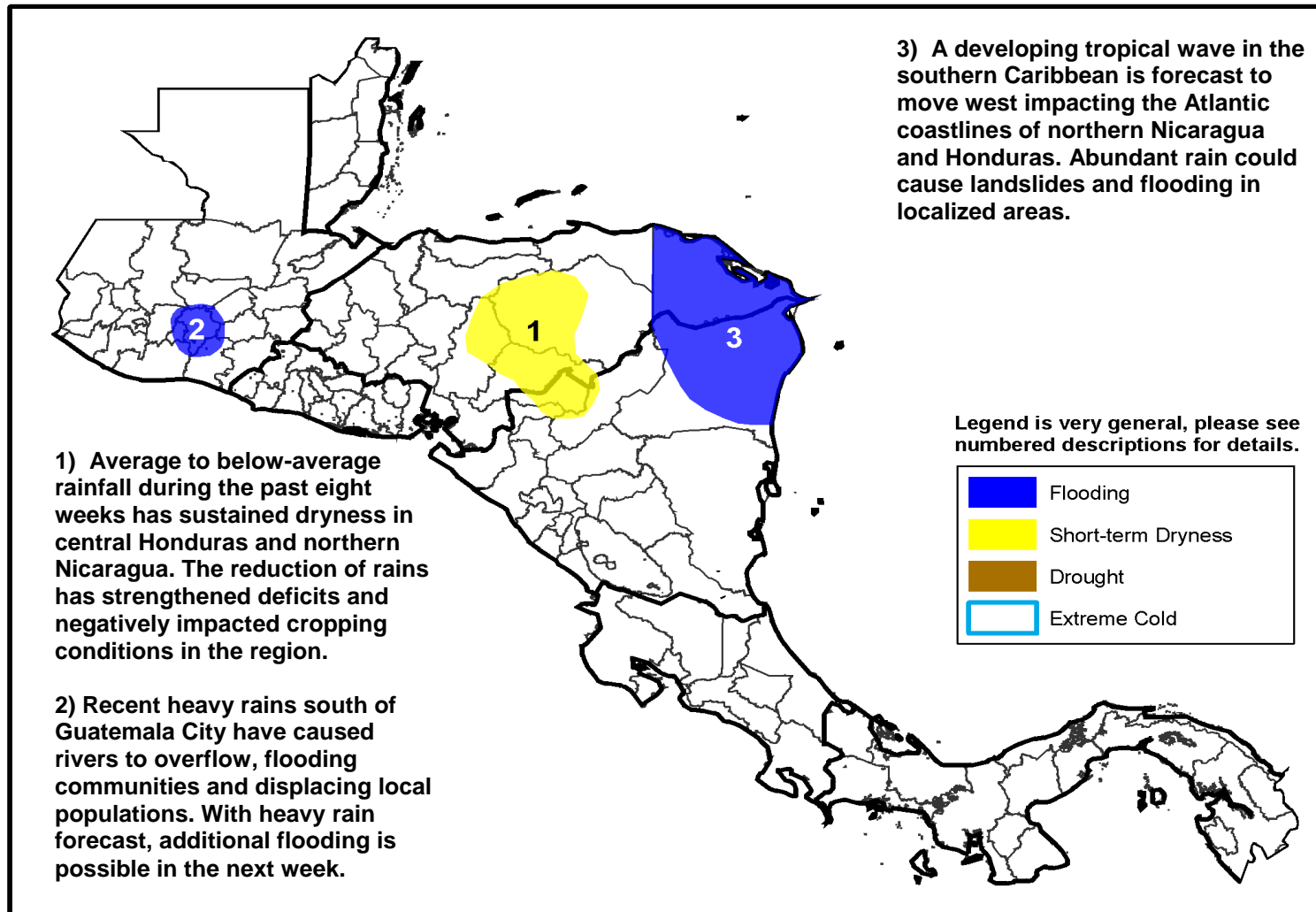


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 18 – August 24, 2011

- An increase in rainfall is observed across much of northern Central America.
- A tropical wave could potentially impact Honduras and Nicaragua during the middle of the observation period.



After several weeks of reduced rainfall, an increase in rain was observed across Central America during the past week.

During the past seven days, an increase in precipitation was recorded across much of Central America. Moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) was observed over a large portion of Central America with the highest precipitation totals (> 75 mm) located over southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and western Panama. Abundant rainfall in the Guatemala department of Guatemala caused rivers to overflow their banks flooding local communities. The heavy rain along the Pacific coastline of El Salvador and Guatemala was associated with an area of tropical convection that lingered offshore. The increase in rains after several weeks of reduced rainfall suggests that the Canicula is coming to an end across Central America. In contrast, rains were light (< 10 mm) across the Pacific coastline of Nicaragua, northern Belize and portions of southern Honduras and northern Nicaragua where conditions have been dry since July.

Forecasts for the next week indicate a second consecutive week of heavy rain (> 50 mm) across much of Central America. Heavy rain associated with a developing tropical system is expected to impact the Atlantic coastline of Honduras and northern Nicaragua during the middle of the observation period potentially causing flooding and landslides. In addition, abundant rain over portions of Guatemala could cause localized flooding. Elsewhere, continued heavy rain (> 50 mm) is forecast across southern Central America for a second week.

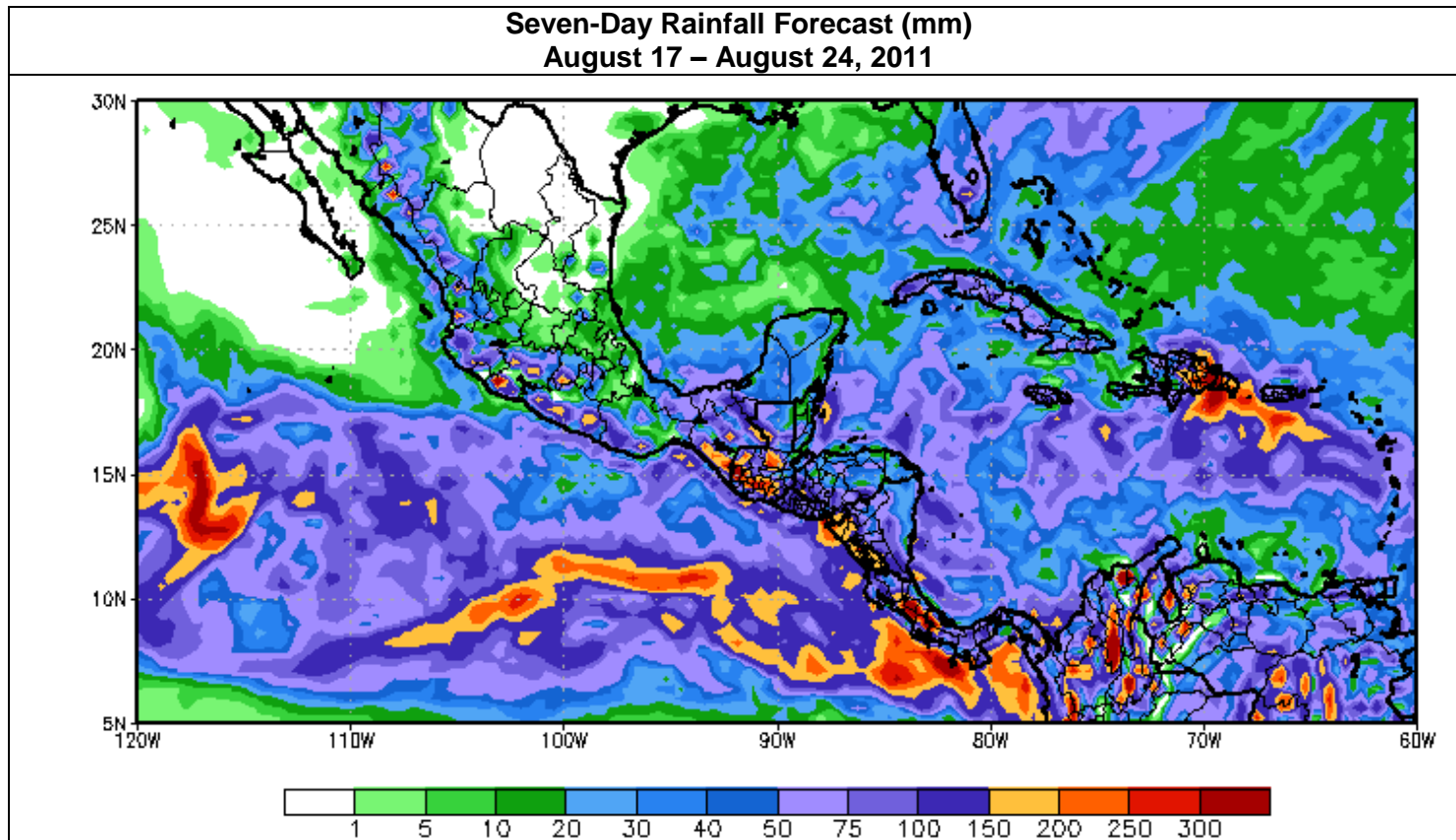


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC