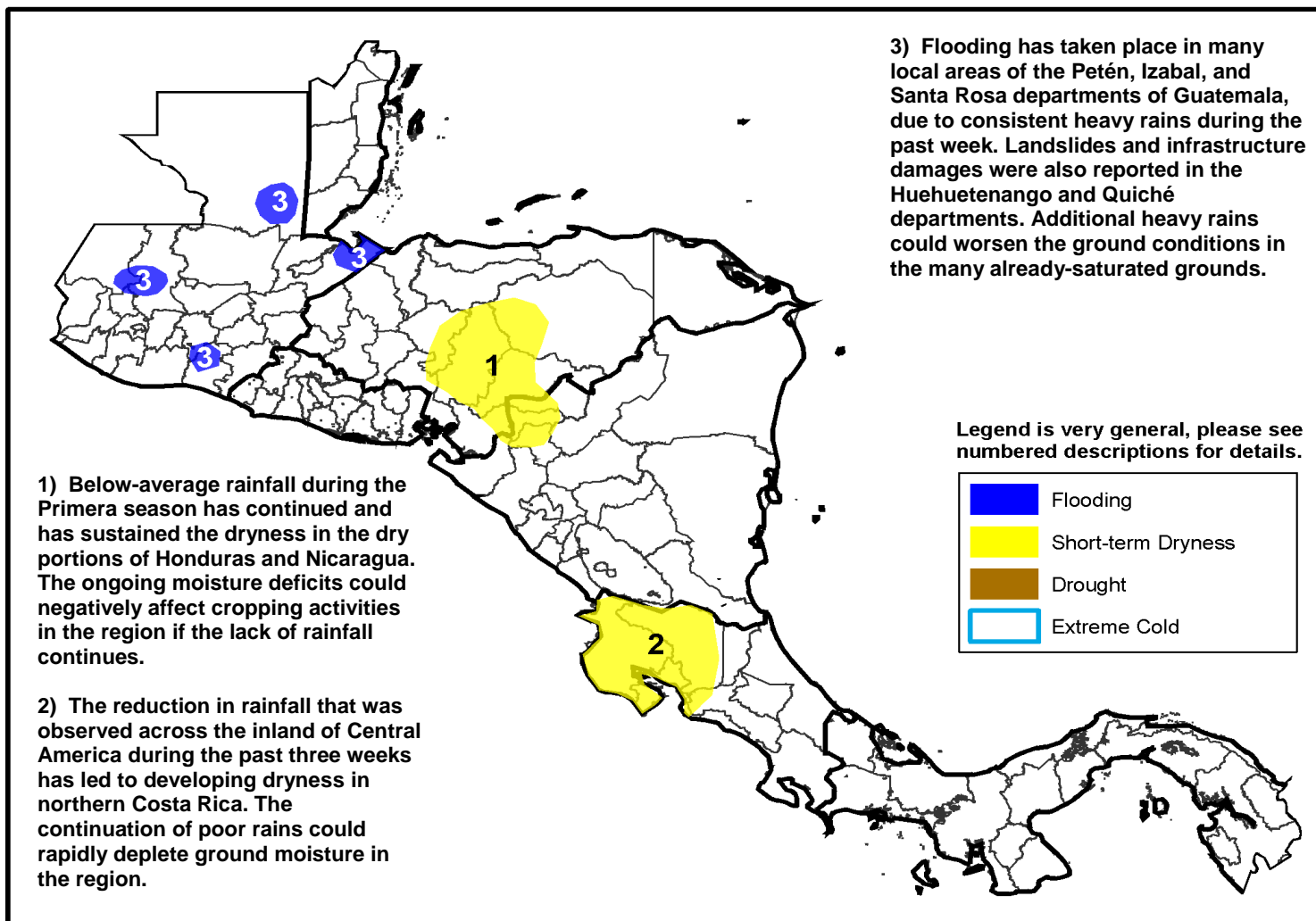




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 15 – September 21, 2011

- Persistent heavy rains were observed in the Gulf of Honduras, while little to no rainfall was recorded across the inland of Central America during the past week.



Heavy rains have persisted in the Gulf of Honduras, while insufficient rainfall was observed in central and southern Central America.

After the development of tropical storm Nate in the Gulf of Mexico, a weather disturbance has brought consistent downpours (> 100mm) in the Gulf of Honduras during the past week. The heaviest (> 100mm) rains were observed in southern Belize, southeastern Petén, northeastern Alta Verapaz, and much of the Izabal departments of Guatemala. The copious amount of rains has caused rising water levels and triggered inundation in local areas of the Petén, Santa Rosa, and Izabal departments, affecting hundreds of people in the region. Landslides and infrastructure damages were also reported in the Huehuetenango and Quiché departments of Guatemala during the past week. In contrast, rainfall has been below-average across the inland of Central America and the Southern Caribbean during the past three weeks. This has resulted in growing thirty-day rainfall deficits only accounting for between 50 and 90 percent of the average in El Salvador, the dry corridor of Honduras, and northern Costa Rica.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of heavy (> 50mm) rains in northern Central America, including the Gulf of Honduras, the northern, and northern transversal strip regions of Guatemala. This could potentially worsen the flooding conditions in the already-saturated grounds of the region. Heavy rains are also expected to return in the Gulf of Fonseca and should help to erode moisture deficits in El Salvador and southern Honduras. Further south, the Southern Caribbean coastlines are expected to receive copious (> 150mm) amount of rains over the week.

