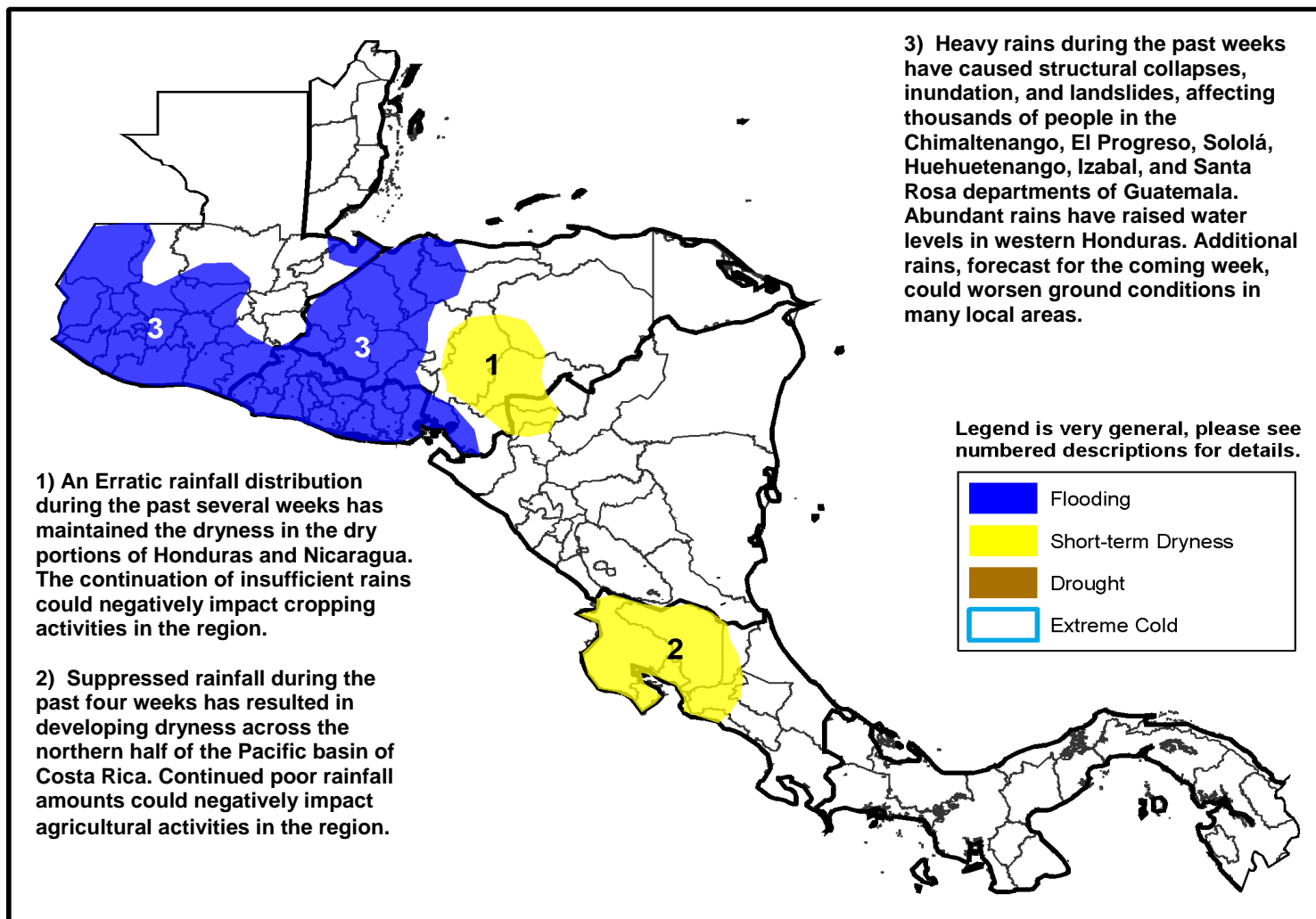


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 22 – September 28, 2011

- Heavy rains, forecast during the next week, increase the risk for flooding and landslides across northern Central America.



Heightened risk for flooding and landslides across northern Central America during the next week.

During the past week, an increase in rainfall was observed across much of Central America, with the heaviest (> 100mm) rains observed over the Huehuetenango and Quiché departments of Guatemala, Gulf of Fonseca, and eastern Nicaragua. In Guatemala, consistent heavy (> 50mm) rains during the past two weeks have caused structural collapses, inundation, rising water levels, and landslides, affecting, in total, tens of thousands of people in the Chimaltenango, El Progreso, Sololá, Huehuetenango, Izabal, and Santa Rosa departments. Meanwhile, heavy rains were also recorded across El Salvador and western Honduras, resulting in rising water levels in the region. Further south, the Pacific basin of Costa Rica has received heavy rains during the past week, which have helped to provide a slight relief to the dryness in the region. The continuation of seasonal rainfall, forecast for the coming week, is expected to aid agricultural activities in many areas of Central America during the Postrera rainfall season.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate another week of heavy (> 50mm) rains across Central America. Thunderstorms and showers that are associated with the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone are expected to bring heavy rains along the Pacific coastlines of Central America, increasing the risk for flooding and landslides in Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras during the next week. Copious (> 50mm) amount of rains is also expected across the Southern Caribbean due to the passage of weather disturbances in the region during the next week.

