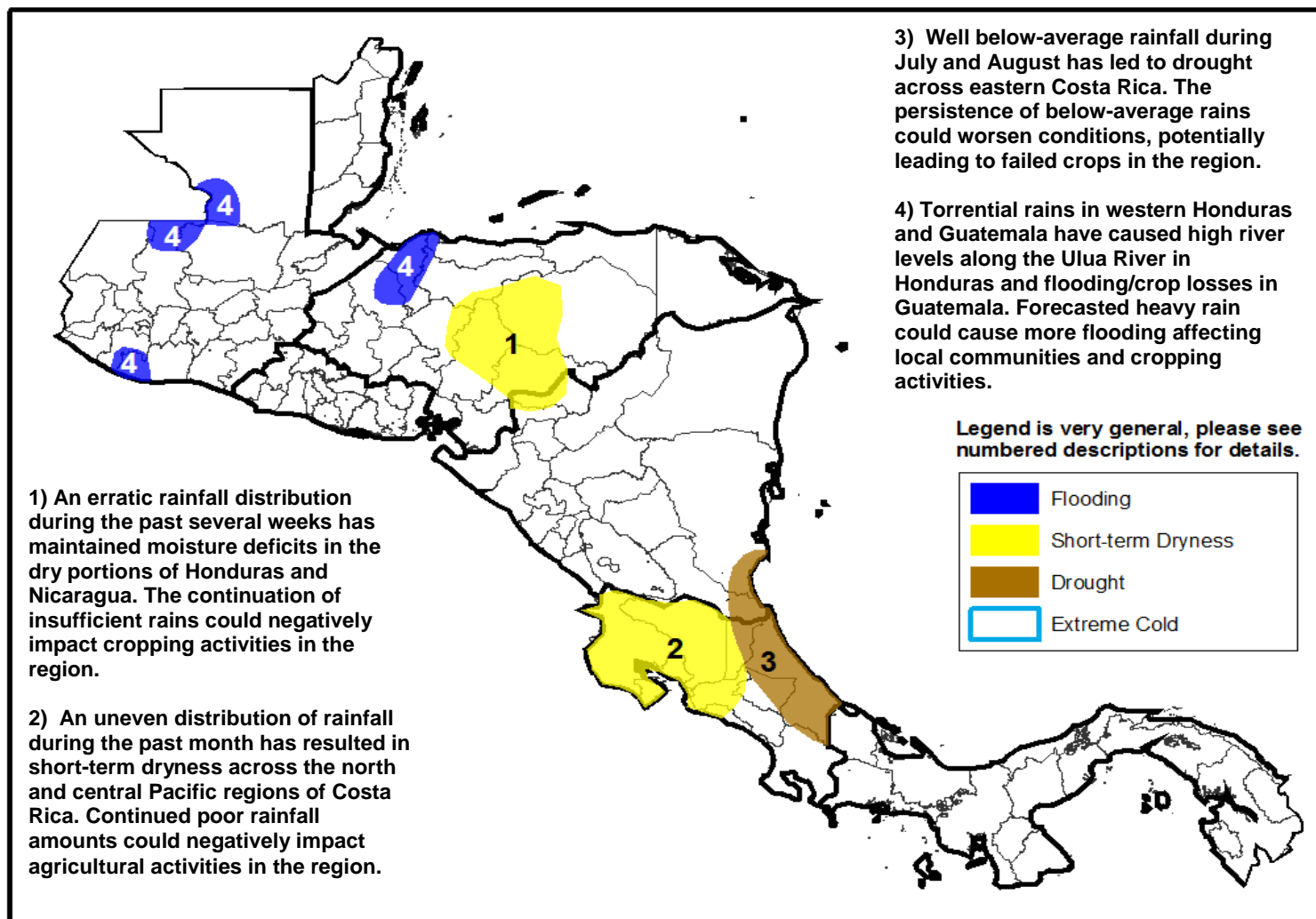


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 6 – October 12, 2011

- Heavy rains affected much of Central America during the past week including dry portions of Costa Rica.



## Heavy rains raise river levels in Honduras and cause flooding in western Guatemala.

During the past seven days, heavy rains (> 50 mm) were observed across much of Central America. The highest rainfall totals (> 100 mm) were recorded around the Gulf of Fonseca and Gulf of Honduras, the Pacific coastline of Guatemala, and in western Panama. Moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) was observed elsewhere. The locally abundant rains in the Playa Grande-Ixan (Quiché department), Sayaché (Petén department) and Nueva Concepción (Escuintla department) municipalities in Guatemala caused flooding which negatively affected Segunda season crops and resulted in lost Primera season crops. In western Honduras, rains caused water levels along the Ulua River to rise elevating flooding risks. Farther south, the moderate to heavy rains over northwestern Costa Rica helped improve ground moisture as poor rainfall totals during the Primera and the Postrera season caused short-term dryness. In contrast, dry conditions persisted along the Atlantic coastline of Costa Rica which further worsened poor ground conditions that developed because of well below-average rainfall during the last several months.

For the upcoming week, models suggest heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) over a large portion of Central America including Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, Costa Rica and Panama. The abundant rains could potentially cause flooding and landslides in saturated areas in Guatemala and western Honduras while also replenishing ground moisture in dry portions of Costa Rica.

