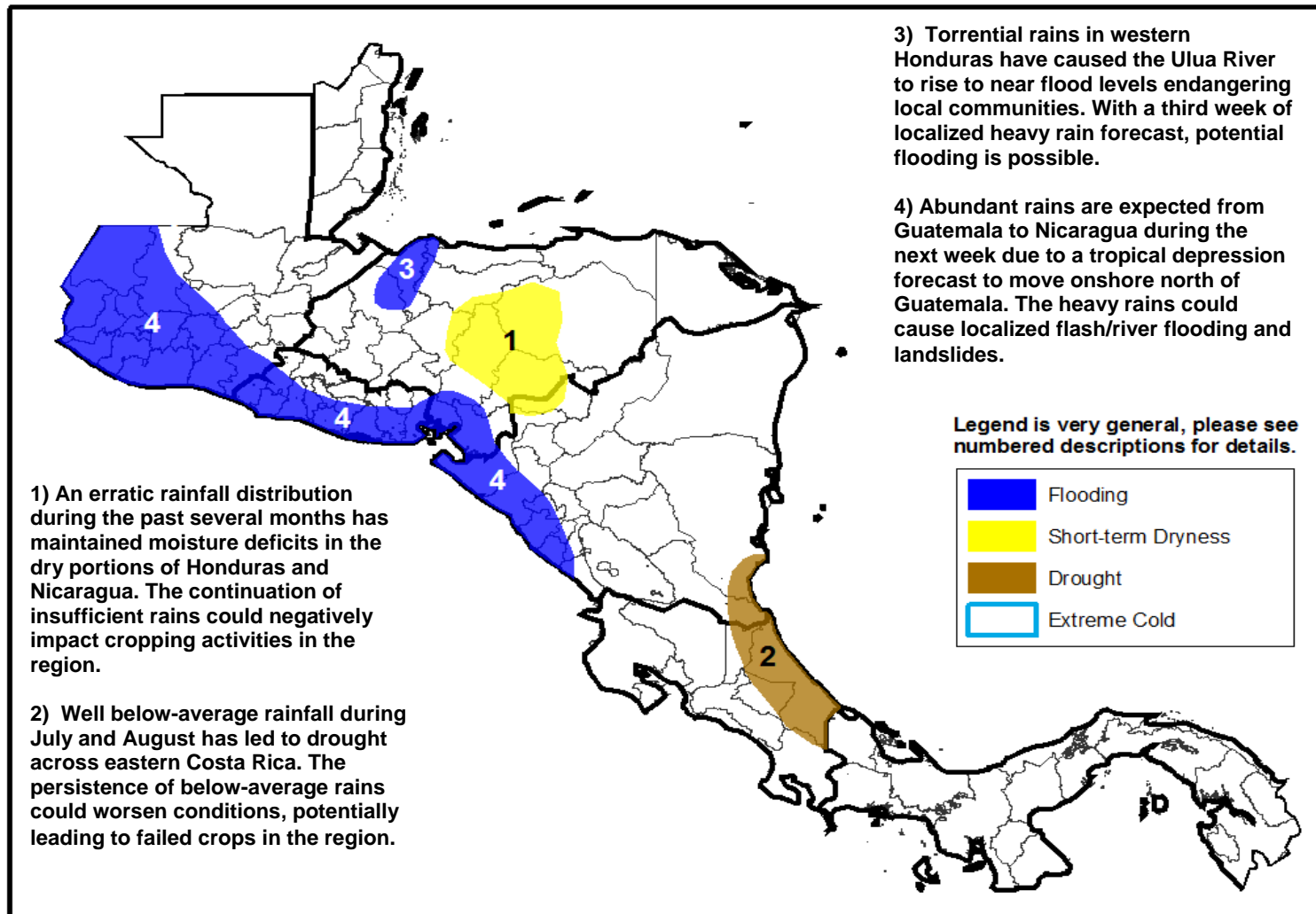


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 13 – October 19, 2011

- Heavy, tropical rains are expected along the Pacific coastline of Central America during the next week.



Torrential rainfall is forecast across Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua due to convection associated with a tropical depression.

During the past week, heavy rains (> 50 mm) were recorded along the Caribbean and Pacific coastlines of Central America including already saturated areas in northern Honduras, the Gulf of Fonseca and the Pacific coastline of Guatemala. Previous weeks of heavy rain in the Nueva Concepción municipality in the Escuintla department along the Pacific coastline of Guatemala caused the loss of Primera season crops and negatively affected recently sown Segunda season crops. Additional heavy rain along the Ulua River has kept river levels and flooding risks high. Further south, heavy rains (> 50 mm) were recorded across western Panama and Costa Rica including dry northwestern portions of Costa Rica. A second week of average to above-average rains in northwestern Costa Rica has helped reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits. Ground conditions are still dry along the Atlantic coastline of northern Costa Rica as only light to moderate rains (5-40 mm) were recorded.

For the upcoming week, a tropical depression is expected to move onshore north of Guatemala bringing torrential rains (> 75 mm) to Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. The abundant rain will be capable of causing flash/river flooding and landslides. Several rivers in southern Guatemala, such as the Los Esclavos and Samala rivers, are already at alert level. Elsewhere, heavy rains (> 50 mm) are also expected across southern Central America with moderate rains (10-30 mm) forecast across eastern Nicaragua and the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras.

