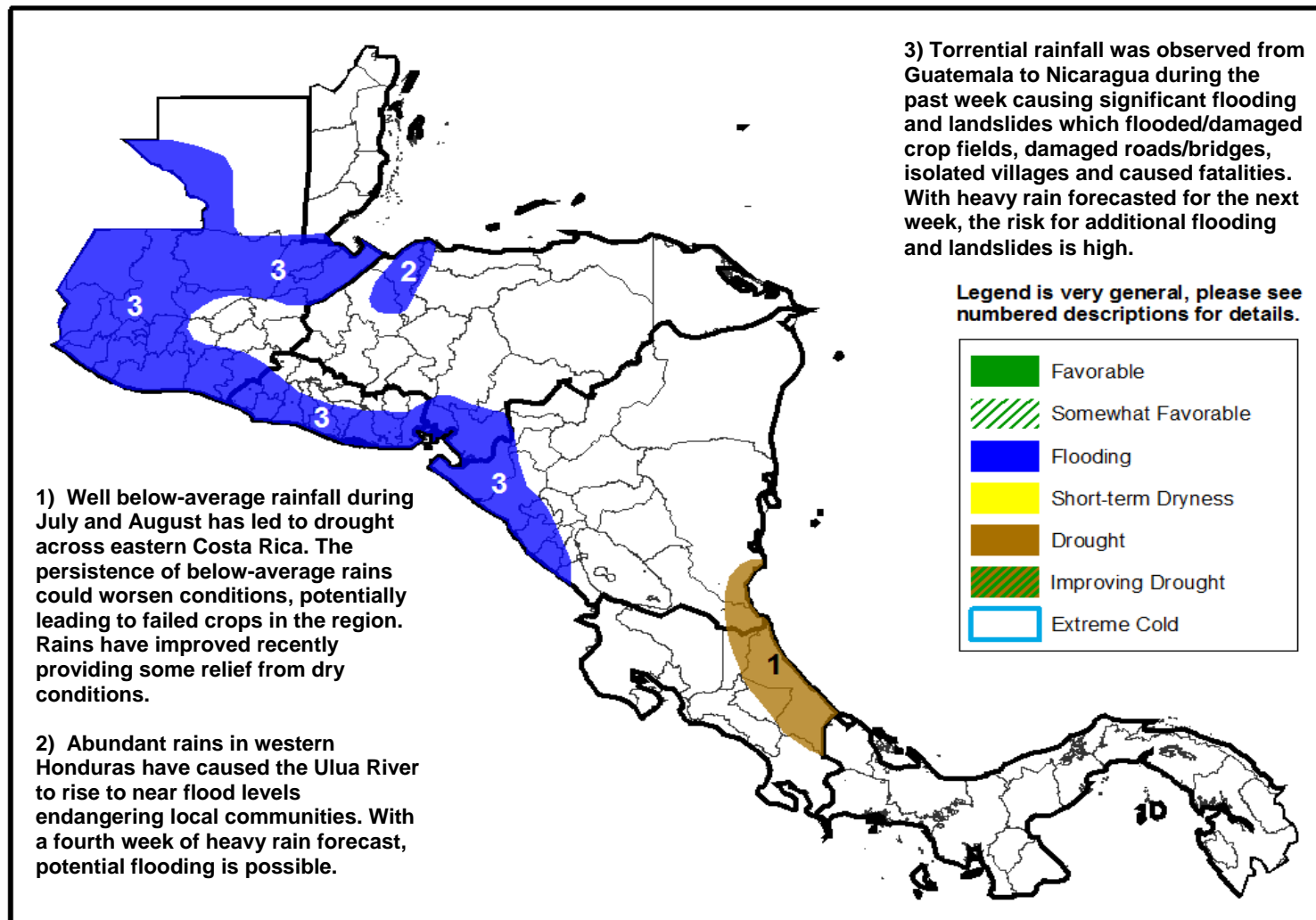


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 20 – October 26, 2011

- Extensive flooding occurred across northern Central America during the past week.



Torrential rains caused flooding and landslides in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua during the past week.

Torrential rains associated with a slow moving tropical depression caused significant flooding across much of northern Central America during the past week. Many areas along the Pacific coastline in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua and along the Gulf of Honduras in Belize and Honduras observed several days of > 100 mm daily rainfall with weekly totals > 250 mm. In general, northern Central America averaged > 100 mm of weekly rainfall. These highly anomalous rains caused flooding and landslides resulting in flooded and damaged crop fields, closed roads and bridges, displacement of local populations and 80 fatalities. States of emergency have been declared in El Salvador and southern Honduras while a “red alert” and a state of calamity have been issued for Guatemala. Further south, moderate rainfall (10-40 mm) was observed across drought-stricken areas in northeastern Costa Rica providing relief to dry conditions.

During the next few days, a continuation of heavy rains (> 50 mm) is forecast along the Pacific coastline of northern Central America including many areas already affected by significant flooding during the past week. Any additional rains will further exacerbate poor ground conditions across the region, hindering relief efforts. Elsewhere, abundant rains (> 50 mm) are expected across southern Central America and along the northern coastline of Honduras which will continue flooding concerns along the Ulua River in Honduras.

