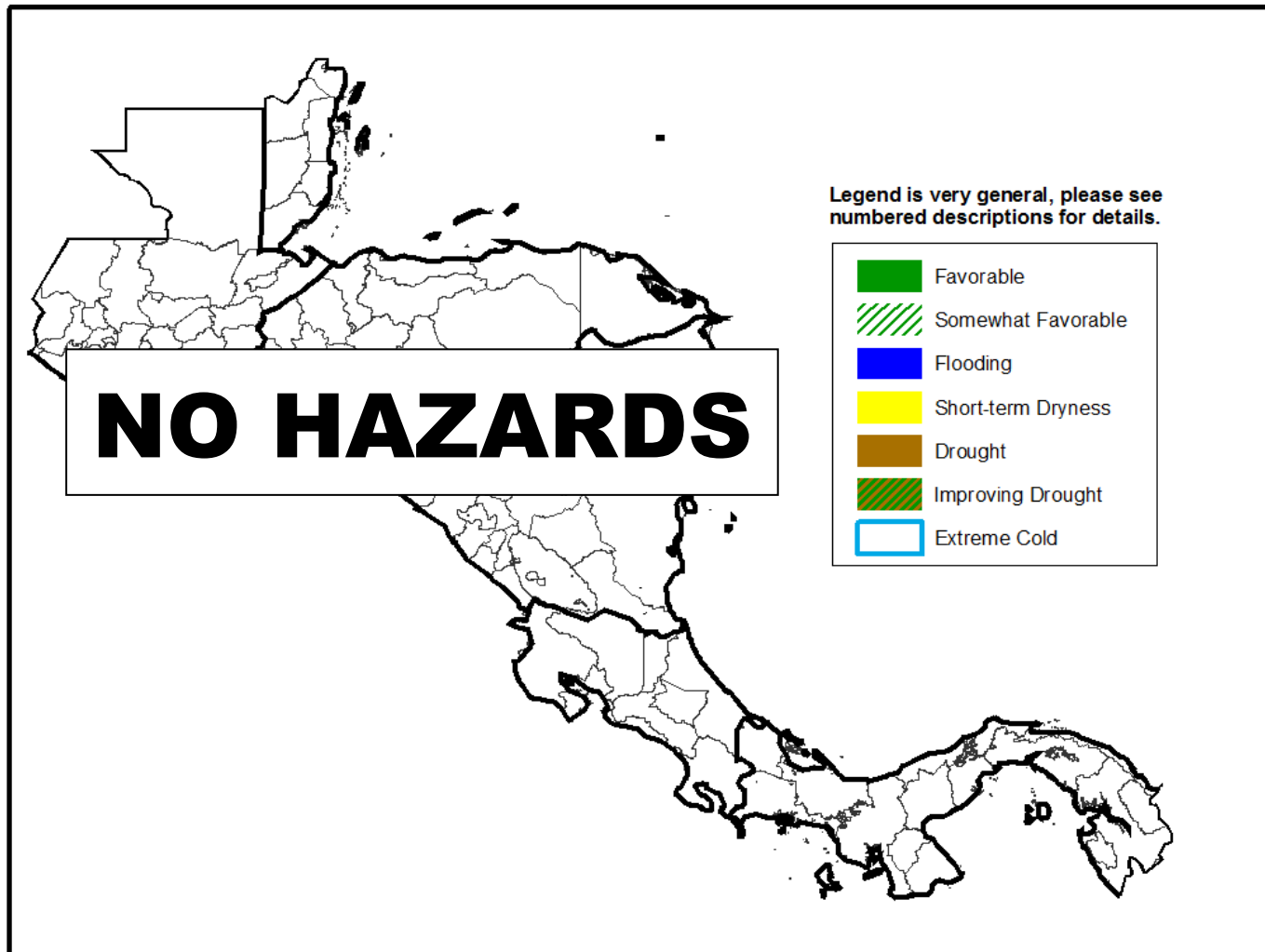




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 12 – January 18, 2012

- Torrential rains affected portions of southern Central America during the past week.



Very heavy daily rainfall was observed across the Caribbean coastline of Costa Rica during the last week.

For a third consecutive week, localized abundant rainfall impacted portions of southern Central America while elsewhere rainfall was limited. The heaviest rains during the past week fell across the Caribbean coastline of Costa Rica as greater than 100 mm was recorded. In Limón, Costa Rica, a daily rainfall event in excess of 135 mm occurred on January 5th with around 220 mm of rain observed over a three day period starting January 4th. Moderate to locally heavy rains (> 30 mm) also were observed along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and northern Panama. Across northern Central America, rainfall was light (< 10 mm) which provided relief to saturated areas in Belize and northern Guatemala which have observed above-average precipitation during the previous week. Cold temperatures, though, have negatively affected crops in southern portions of Guatemala. Overall, rainfall over the past thirty days remains above-average across much of Central America including Belize, northern Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

For the next seven days, models forecast widespread moderate to locally heavy rainfall (> 30 mm) across much of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua. Meanwhile, rainfall is expected to be lighter (5-15 mm) in Panama and saturated areas in Costa Rica. Locations along the Pacific Ocean in Central America are forecast to observe seasonally light precipitation (0-10 mm). Temperatures are forecast to be below normal across Central America with the coldest temperatures across southwestern Guatemala.

