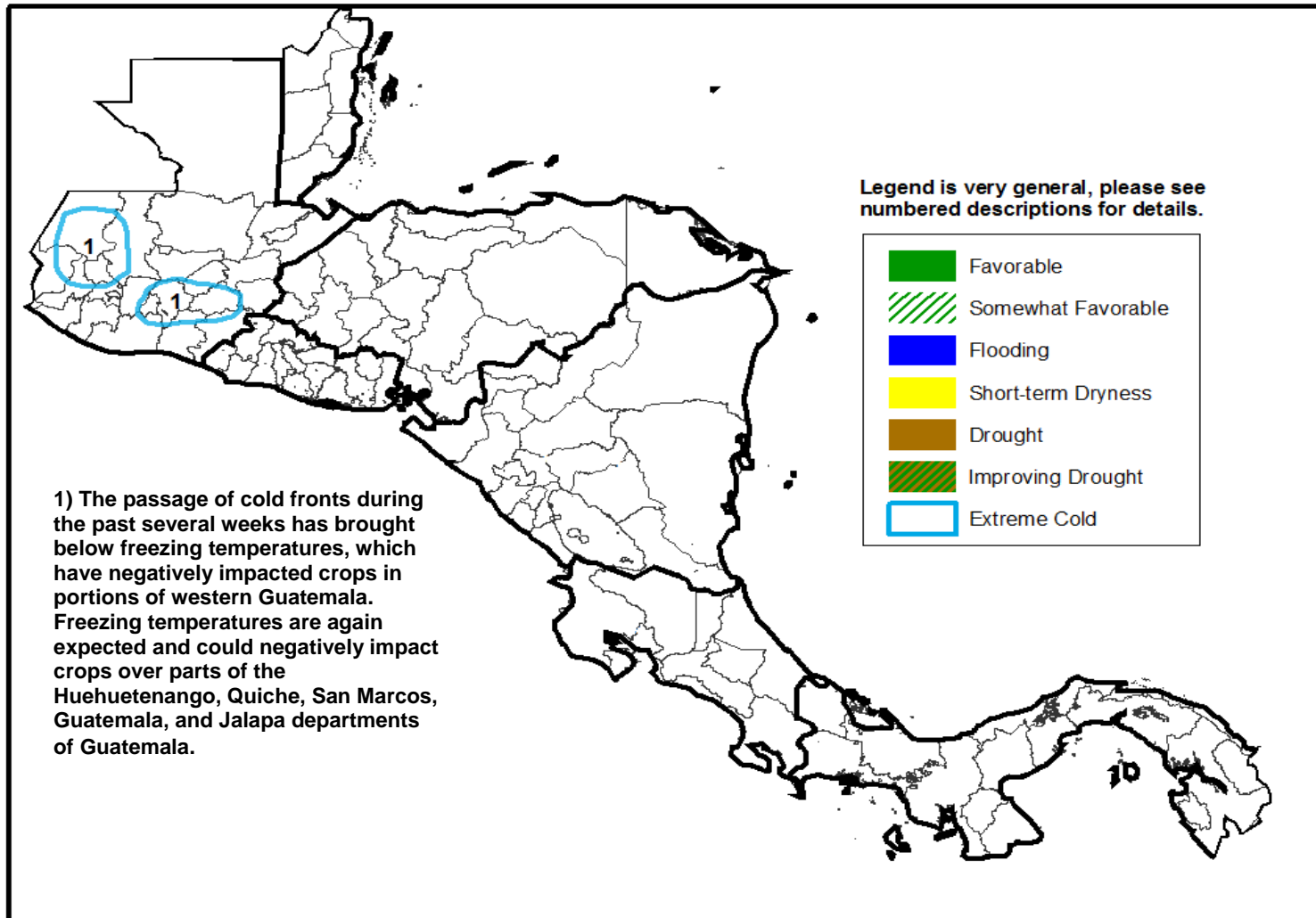


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 9 – February 15, 2012

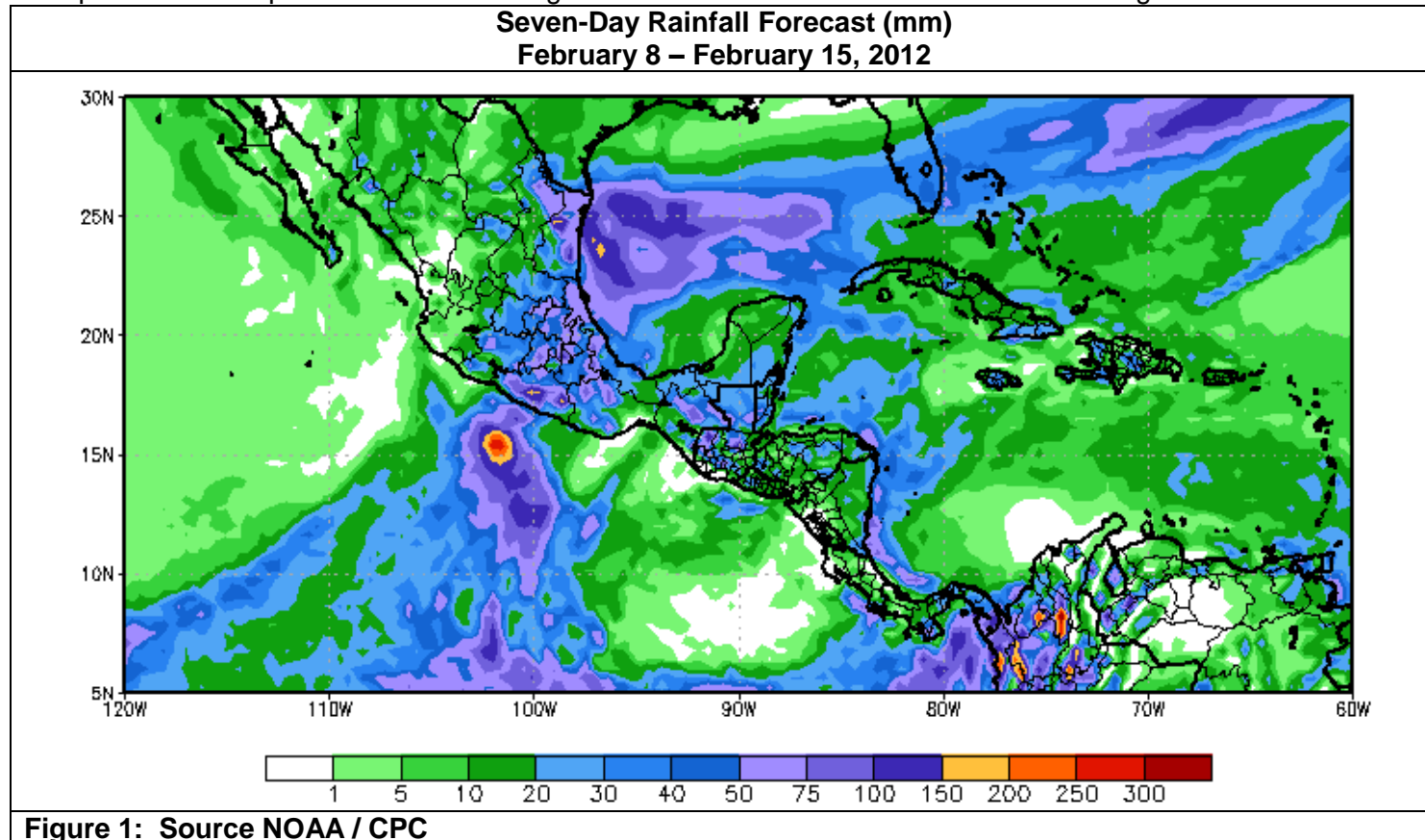
- Increased rainfall was observed across northern Central America during the past week.



Increased rainfall observed over northern Central America.

The passage of frontal systems and enhanced easterly to northeasterly winds have brought heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall across northern Central America, including the Petén department of Guatemala, Belize, and Gulf of Honduras during the past week. The heaviest (> 100 mm) rainfall was observed over east central Belize and off-shore of northern Honduras. The observed heavy rainfall during the past week has strengthened thirty-day rainfall surpluses over northern Guatemala, Belize, and the Gulf of Honduras, with positive anomalies exceeding 100 mm over some local areas. Further south, moderate (30 – 50 mm) rainfall was also recorded along the Atlantic coastlines of Costa Rica during the past week. This has helped to reduce slightly the accumulated rainfall deficits in the region during the past thirty days. Elsewhere, light to moderate (10 – 30 mm) rainfall was observed. Meanwhile, surface temperatures have been below-average across southern Guatemala and northern Honduras, but above-average throughout southern Central America during the past week.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest a reduction in rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras as ridges develop over the western Caribbean Sea. However, isolated showers are expected over local areas of the Huehuetenango, Petén, and Alta Verapaz departments of Guatemala, raising concerns for the overflowing of rivers in the region. Strong easterly winds are also forecast to bring heavy rainfall along the Atlantic coastlines of Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, surface temperatures are forecast to remain below-average over Central America, with possible below freezing nighttime temperatures over parts of the western highland and Central Plateau of Guatemala during the next week.



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