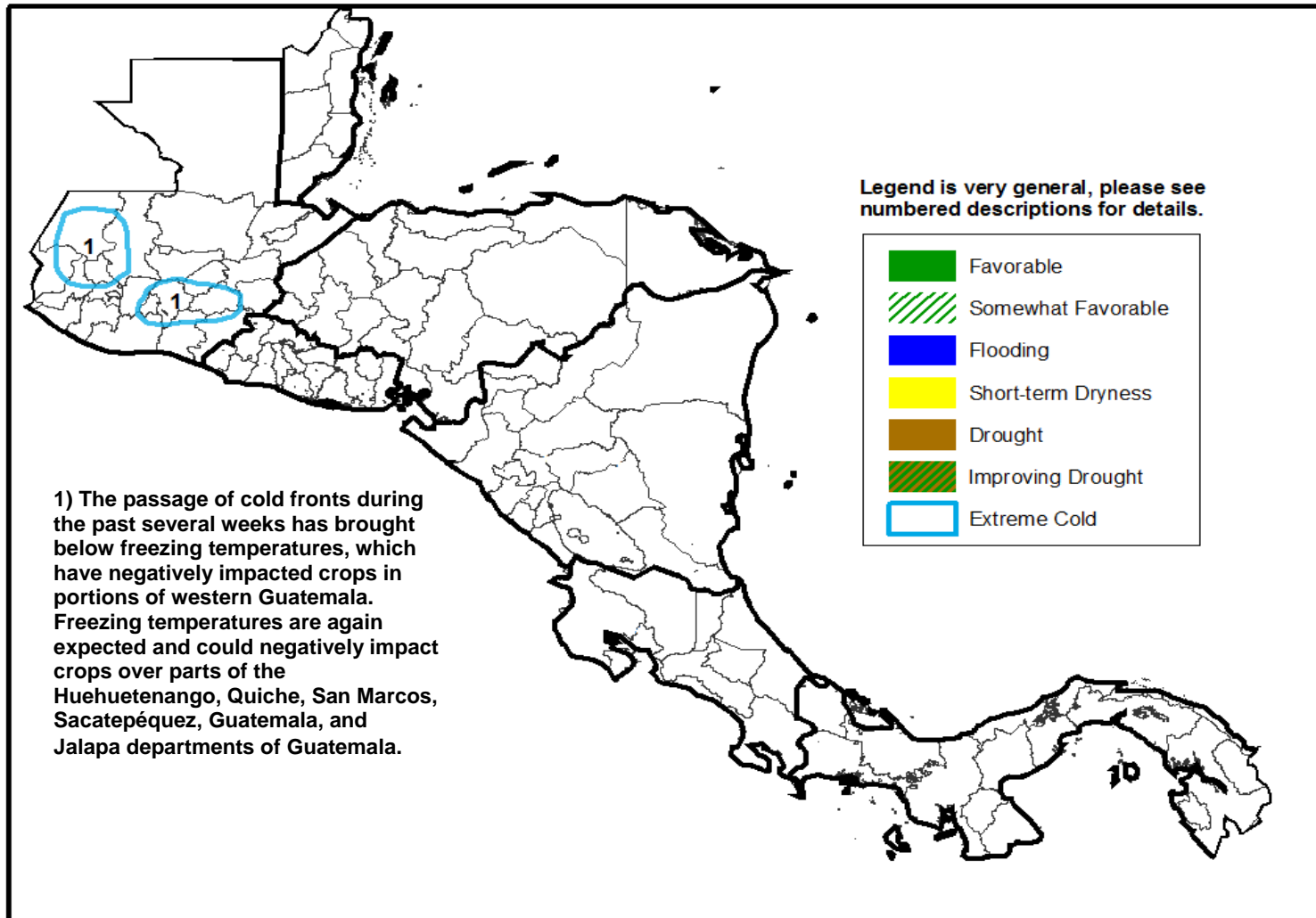


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 16 – February 22, 2012

- After two weeks of heavy rains, northern Central America has observed reduced rainfall during the past week.



## Reduced rainfall observed over Central America.

During the past week, accumulated rainfall has subsided across much of Central America, particularly in the north, related to that of the past two weeks. The heaviest (30 – 50 mm) rainfall amounts were observed in the Gulf of Honduras region, including the Atlántida department and western portions of Honduras, and local areas of the Suchitepéquez department of Guatemala. Light (< 30 mm) rainfall was also observed across the western half of Honduras and neighboring El Salvador, while little to no (< 10 mm) rainfall was recorded elsewhere. Since the start of the Apante season, northern Guatemala and north-central Nicaragua have received above-average rainfall, with positive anomalies exceeding 150 mm, while the Caribbean basin of Costa Rica has experienced below-average seasonal rainfall, with moisture deficits ranging between 100 and 150 mm. Meanwhile, surface temperatures remained colder than average across southern Guatemala and northern Honduras during the past week.

For the next week, Central America is again expected to receive light rainfall as high pressure system builds over the western Caribbean Sea. However, frontal systems during the middle of the next week could bring heavy showers in local areas of the western and northern parts of Guatemala. Moist and strong easterly winds are also forecast to bring moderate to heavy (30 – 50 mm) rainfall along eastern Honduras and Nicaragua coasts. Further south, little to no rainfall is forecast over Costa Rica and Panama, which could strengthen further thirty-day moisture deficits in the region. Meanwhile surface temperatures are again forecast to be below-average over higher elevations of Guatemala during the next observation period.

