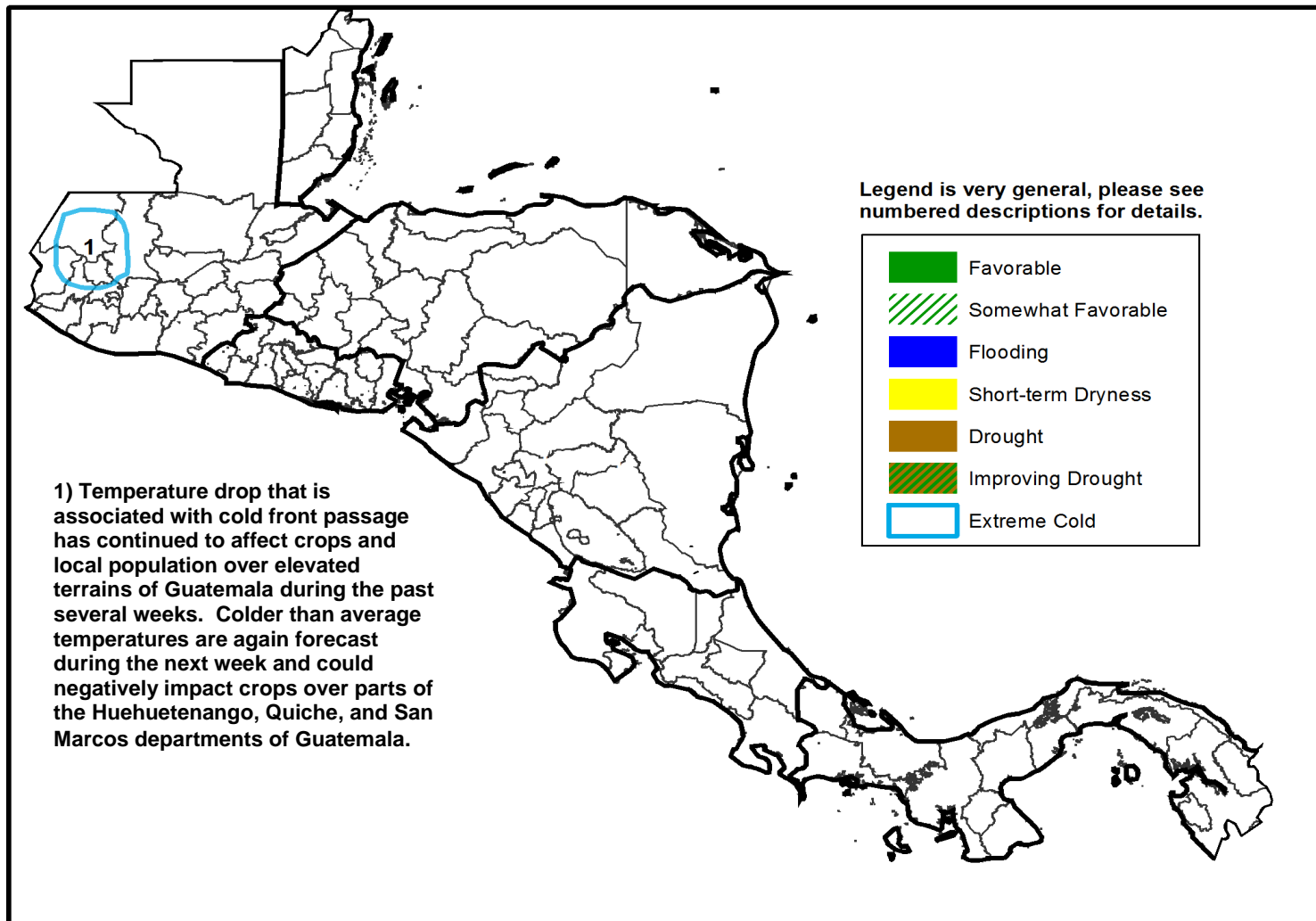


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 23 – February 29, 2012

- Little to no rainfall was observed across much of Central America during the past week.



Little amounts of rainfall observed over Central America.

During the past week, little to no (< 10 mm) rainfall was observed across much of Central America. The heaviest (30 – 50 mm) rainfall was recorded over parts of the Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala and the Ocotepeque department of Honduras. While light (10 – 30 mm) rainfall was recorded over portions of Guatemala, little to no rainfall was observed elsewhere. This has helped to spread forest fires in local areas of the Jalapa department of Guatemala during the past week. Since the beginning of the month, the northern half of Central America has received average to above-average rainfall, with thirty-day rainfall surpluses ranging between 20 and 100 mm. The surpluses have provided favorable soil moisture across the region during the *Apante* season. In contrast, the southern half has experienced average to below-average rainfall, with moisture deficits between 20 and 50 mm over parts of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, where reports have already indicated loss in red bean crops in Waslala and Nueva Guinea. Meanwhile, nighttime temperature drop has continued to affect hundreds of people over elevated terrains of Guatemala.

For the next week, model forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall along the Atlantic basin of Central America, with the heaviest (> 50 mm) rainfall forecast along eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. Moderate (30 – 50 mm) rainfall is also expected in the Gulf of Honduras region, portions of northern Guatemala, and the Autonomous Atlantic Regions of Nicaragua, while light rainfall is forecast elsewhere, including Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, temperatures are again expected to remain below-average over higher terrains of western Guatemala during the next week.

