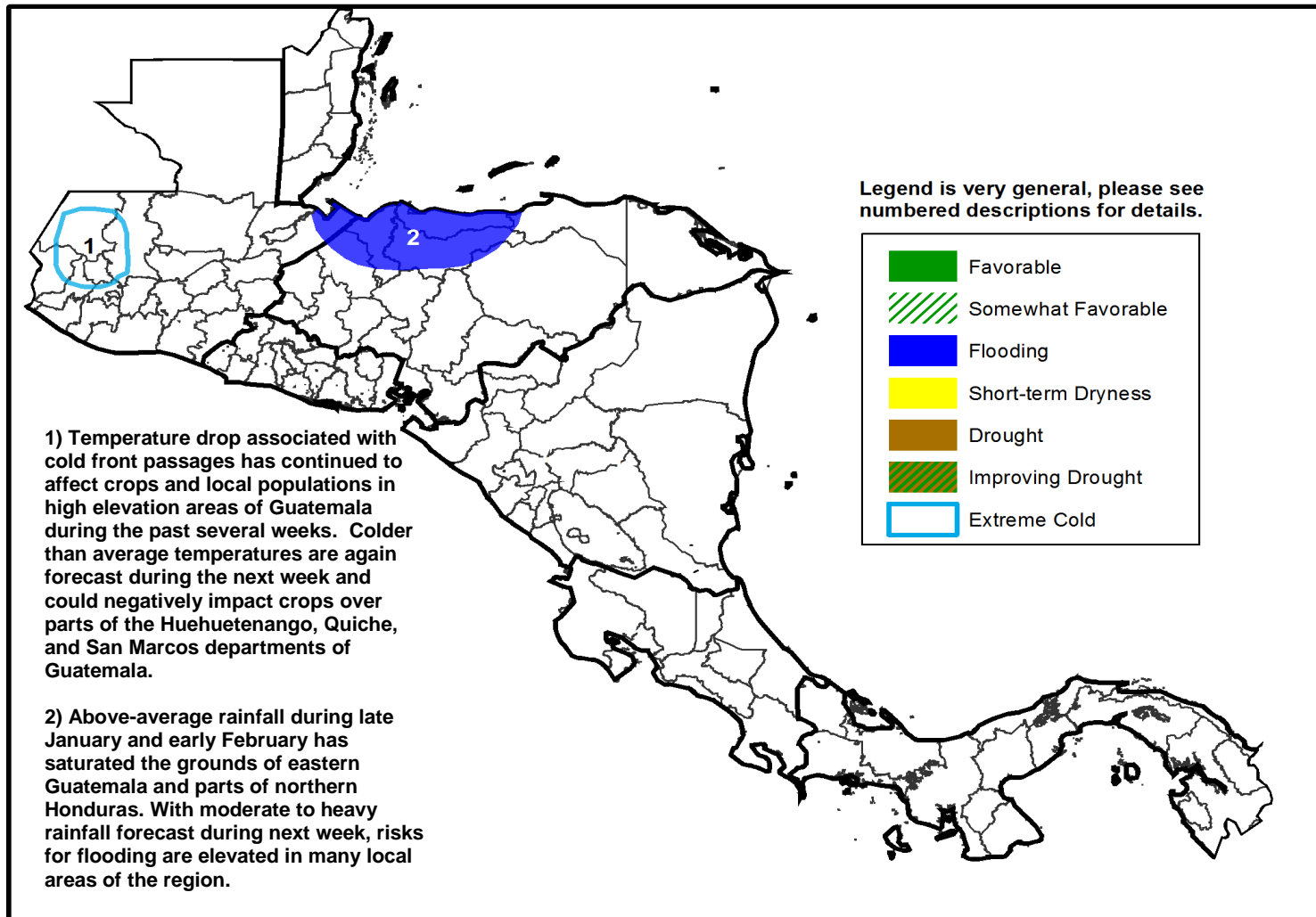


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 1 – March 7, 2012

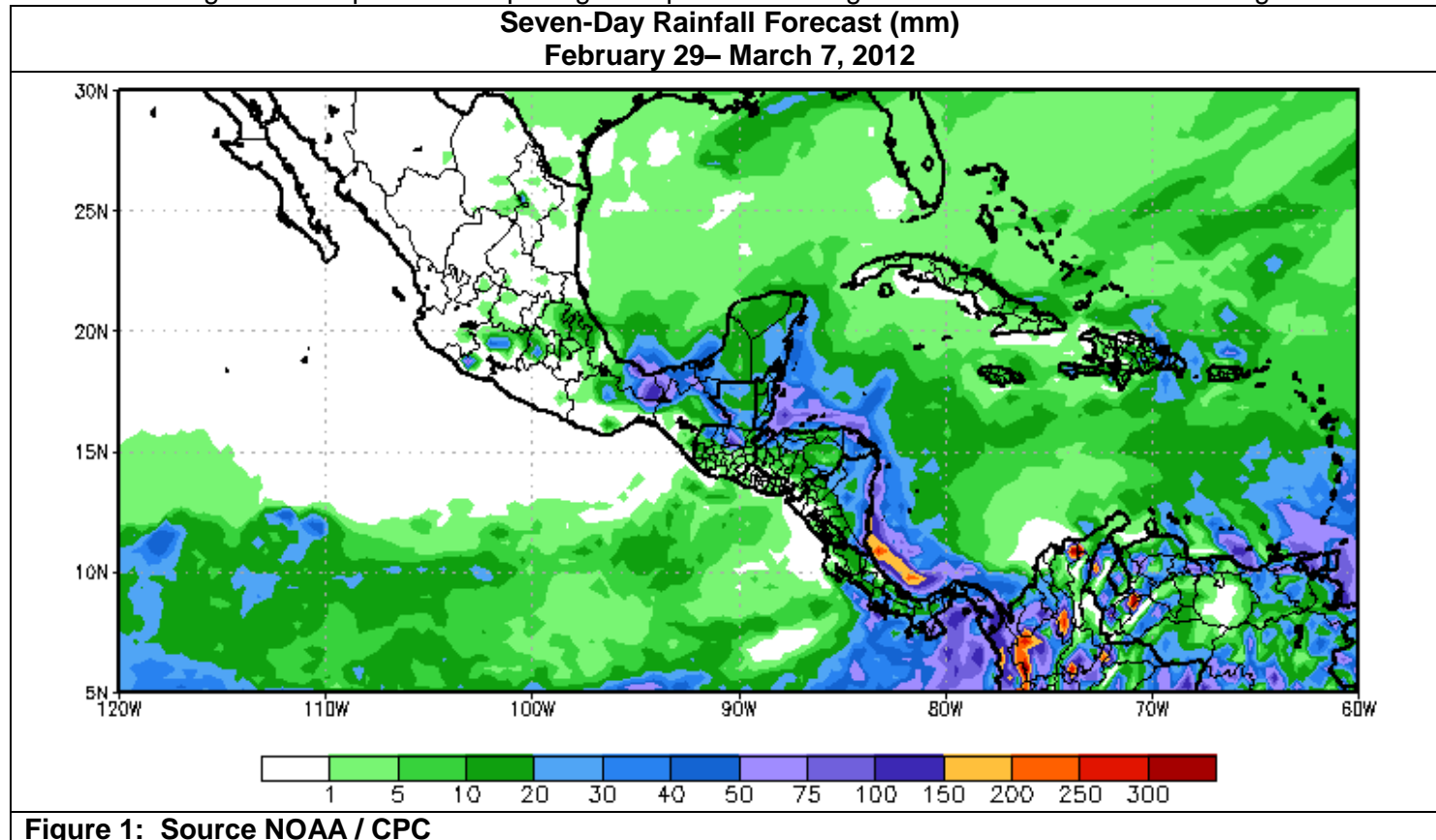
- For a second consecutive week, little to no rainfall was observed over much of Central America.



Increased rainfall forecast along the Atlantic basin.

For a second consecutive week, suppressed rainfall has been observed across much of Central America. The heaviest (30 – 50 mm) rainfall was recorded over parts of the Izabal department of eastern Guatemala, while little to no (< 10 mm) rainfall was observed elsewhere. During the past thirty days, much of northern Central America has received above-average rainfall, providing ample soil moisture for cropping activities during the Apante season. In Nicaragua, the above-average rainfall during late January and early February has already resulted in loss of red bean crops in Waslala and Nueva Guinea due to excessive soil moisture. In contrast, moderate (20 – 50 mm) thirty-day rainfall deficits have persisted in southeastern Nicaragua and much of Costa Rica. Since the start of the Apante season, the Petén and Izabal departments of Guatemala, Belize, and the Jinotega department of Nicaragua have experienced wetness, with rainfall surpluses exceeding 150 mm, while portions of eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica have observed below-average rainfall, with seasonal deficits between 100 and 150 mm. Meanwhile temperatures remained below-average across southern Guatemala and northern Honduras during the past week.

For next week, increased rainfall is forecast along the Atlantic coastlines of Central America, including the Gulf of Honduras region. The forecast heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall in the region could potentially trigger flooding in many local areas of eastern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Moderate (10 – 40 mm) rainfall is also expected over the eastern half of Nicaragua, which could bring excessive moisture and further destroy crops in north central Nicaragua. Meanwhile nighttime temperature drop is again expected over higher terrains of Guatemala during the next week.



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