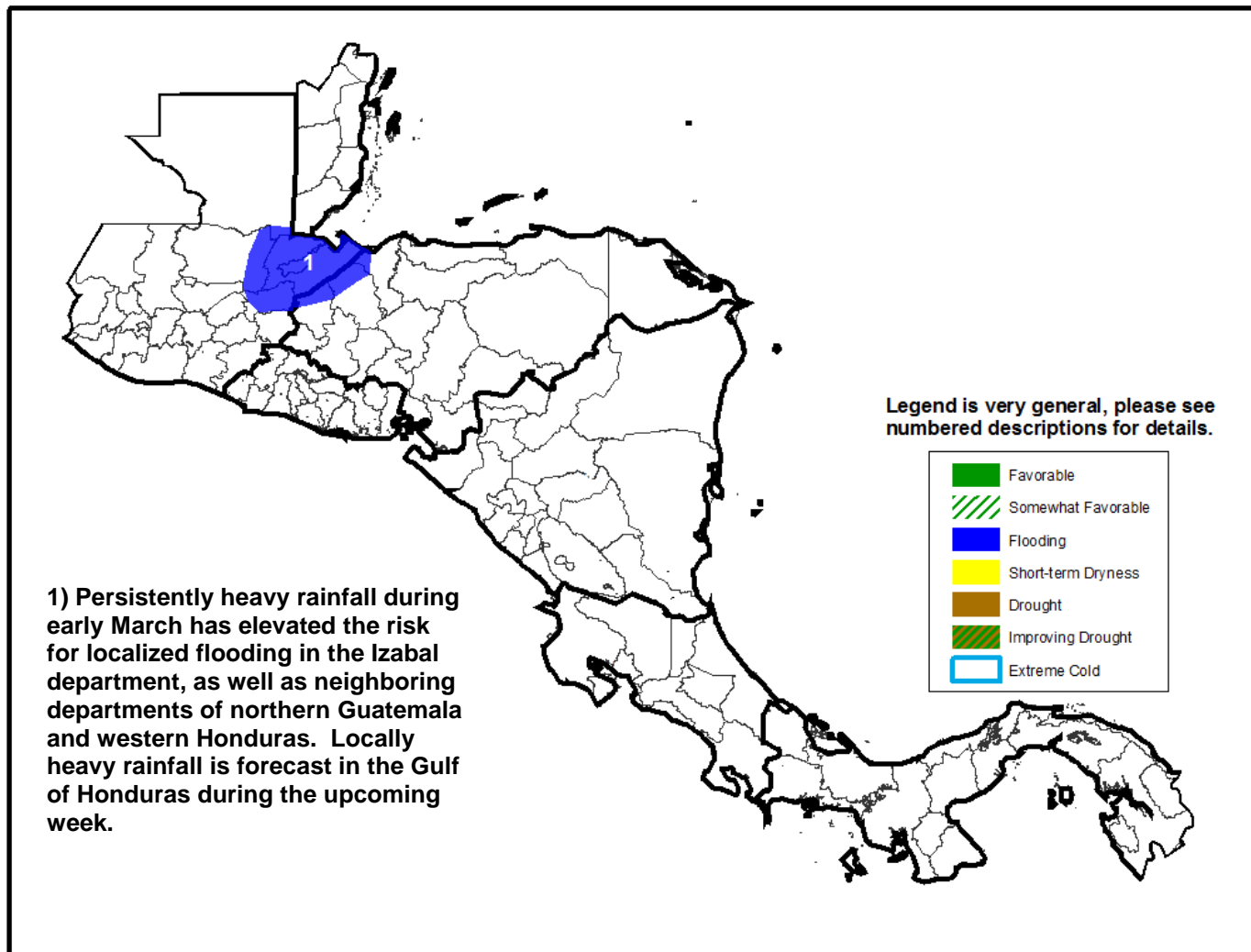


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 15 – March 21, 2012

- Above average rainfall over the Gulf of Honduras has saturated ground conditions and has elevated the risk for flooding in northern Guatemala.



## Seasonal amounts of precipitation expected along Atlantic departments of Central America.

In the last seven days, seasonably moderate rainfall was received across Central America. Weekly precipitation amounts ranging between 40-75mm were observed in many coastal departments along the Atlantic, with the highest local amounts observed in northern Guatemala and Honduras. For many departments along the Pacific, weekly rainfall amounts remained seasonably low during early March. Over the last 30 days, rainfall has been marginally below average throughout Central America, except for areas along the Gulf of Honduras region. Locally heavy and frequent rainfall during the first dekad of March has resulted in saturated ground conditions, moisture surpluses, and elevated the risk for flooding in northern Guatemala.

For the upcoming week, a seasonable distribution of precipitation is expected across Central America. During the earlier portion of the observation period, predominant easterly winds are likely to sustain sufficient moisture and produce locally heavy rainfall across portions of the southern Caribbean and Gulf of Honduras. The potential for heavy rains in these areas may possibly trigger localized flooding in the Izabal department, and other neighboring departments of northern Guatemala and Honduras.

