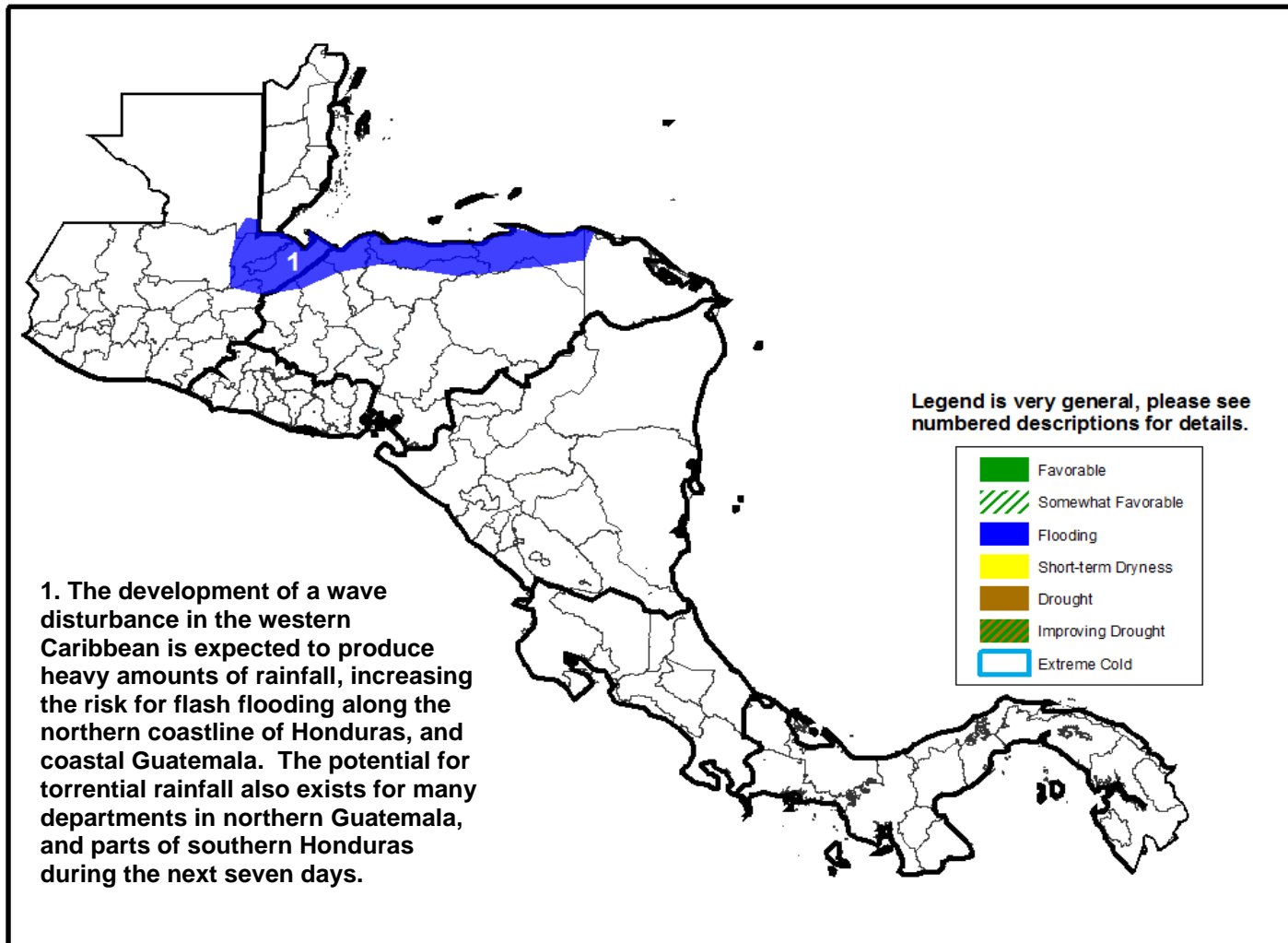


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 17 – May 23, 2012

- Heavy and potentially torrential rainfall is expected to increase the risk of flooding for many coastal areas in the Gulf of Honduras region.



Heavy rainfall may lead to localized flooding for many local areas across northern Central America.

In the last seven days, moderate to locally heavy Primera rainfall was received across much of Central America. The highest weekly precipitation amounts (50-100mm) were observed in southeastern Guatemala and western El Salvador, with lighter amounts received in many inland areas of Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Further south, Costa Rica and Panama saw a more seasonal distribution of rainfall during the last week. Since the middle of April, early season Primera rainfall has been generally above-average across the domain, with the highest 30-day precipitation surpluses (150-300 percent of average) have been centered offshore across the Caribbean, and along the Pacific coastlines of Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras and western Nicaragua. The wetter than average conditions along the Pacific coastline of Central America is expected to provide favorable ground moisture for the planting of Primera crops. However, early seasonal rainfall deficits (50-75 percent of average) have begun to develop for portions of central and northern Guatemala, as well as along the northern coastline of Honduras.

For the upcoming outlook period, the development of wave disturbance in the western Caribbean is expected to enhance precipitation for many local areas that have been experiencing early season dryness in northern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Heavy to locally intense rainfall amounts in excess of 100mm remain likely for these areas, which is expected to increase the risk of localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, and possible landslides. The potential for heavy rainfall also extends further south into portions of southern Honduras, Nicaragua and the Gulf of Fonseca region.

