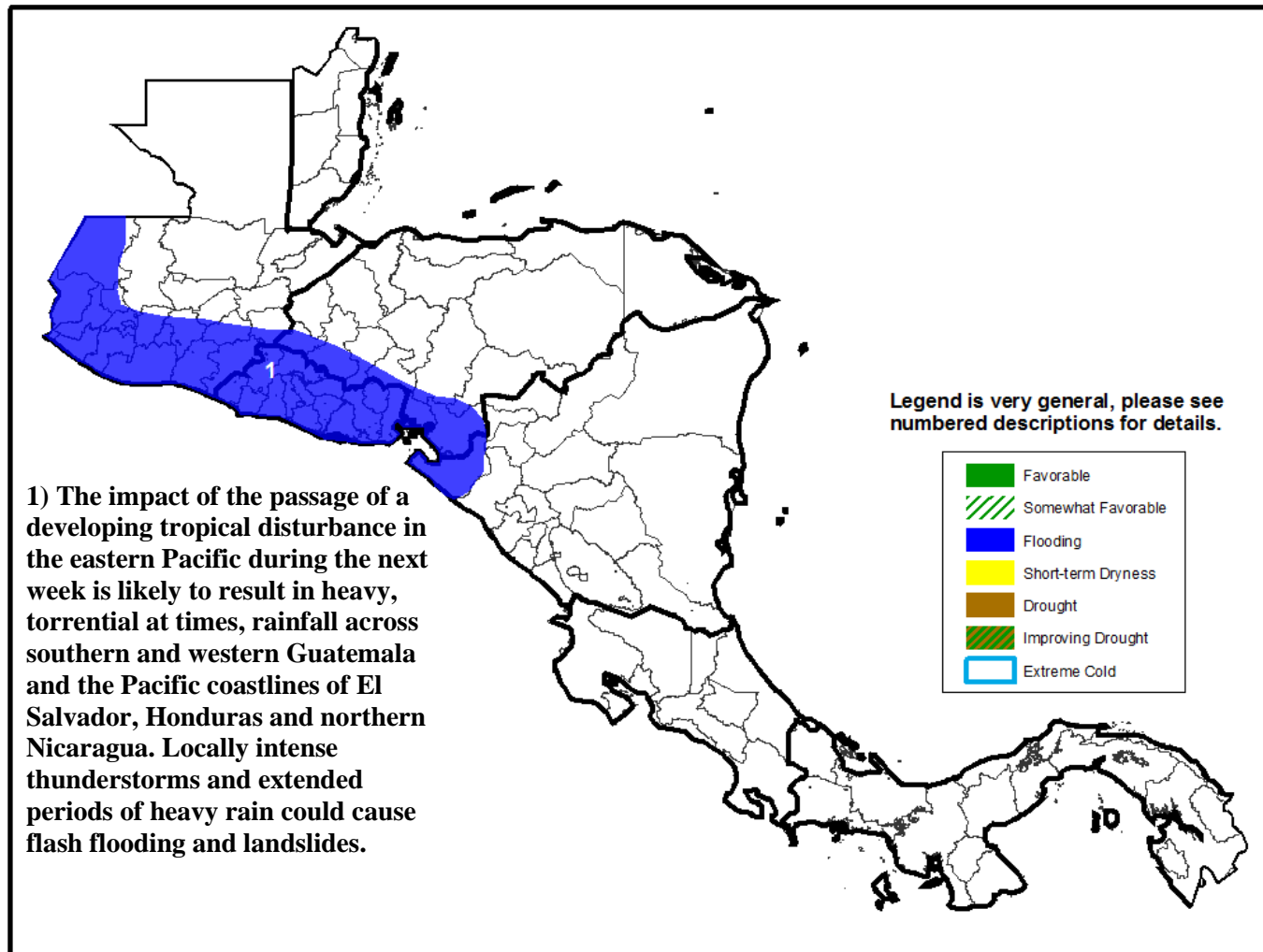


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET June 14 – June 20, 2012

- Torrential rains are forecast for the Pacific coastlines of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua.



Heavy rains impact the Gulf of Fonseca and northern Guatemala during the past week.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) was observed across a widespread portion of northern Central America. The highest rainfall totals (>60mm) were recorded across southern Central America, northern Guatemala and already saturated areas around the Gulf of Fonseca. The above-average rains during the past several weeks across much of northern Central America has led to thirty day rainfall surpluses in Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. The strongest surpluses (>100mm) are located across coastal Belize, the Gracias a Dios department of Honduras and northern Nicaragua. Torrential rains during the end of May caused much of these surpluses. Above-average, heavy rains (>50mm) were also observed across dry portions of the Caribbean coastline of Costa Rica. 100 mm of rain was recorded in a two day period in eastern Costa Rica. Thirty day rainfall deficits had been strengthening but the heavy rains reduced anomalies to near neutral conditions.

For the next week, southern Central America is expected to receive an increase in precipitation as heavy rains (>40mm) are expected in Costa Rica and Panama due to the passage of a tropical wave. The possible development of another tropical disturbance along the Pacific coastline of Central America is forecast to result in heavy rains (>75mm) with locally torrential thunderstorms from Guatemala to the Gulf of Fonseca during the middle of the next seven days. The potential for extended periods of heavy rain and thunderstorms has elevated the risk for flooding and landslides across this region. Around the Gulf of Honduras, light to moderate rains (1-30mm) are expected during the next several days before an increase in rain occurs at the end of the next seven days.

