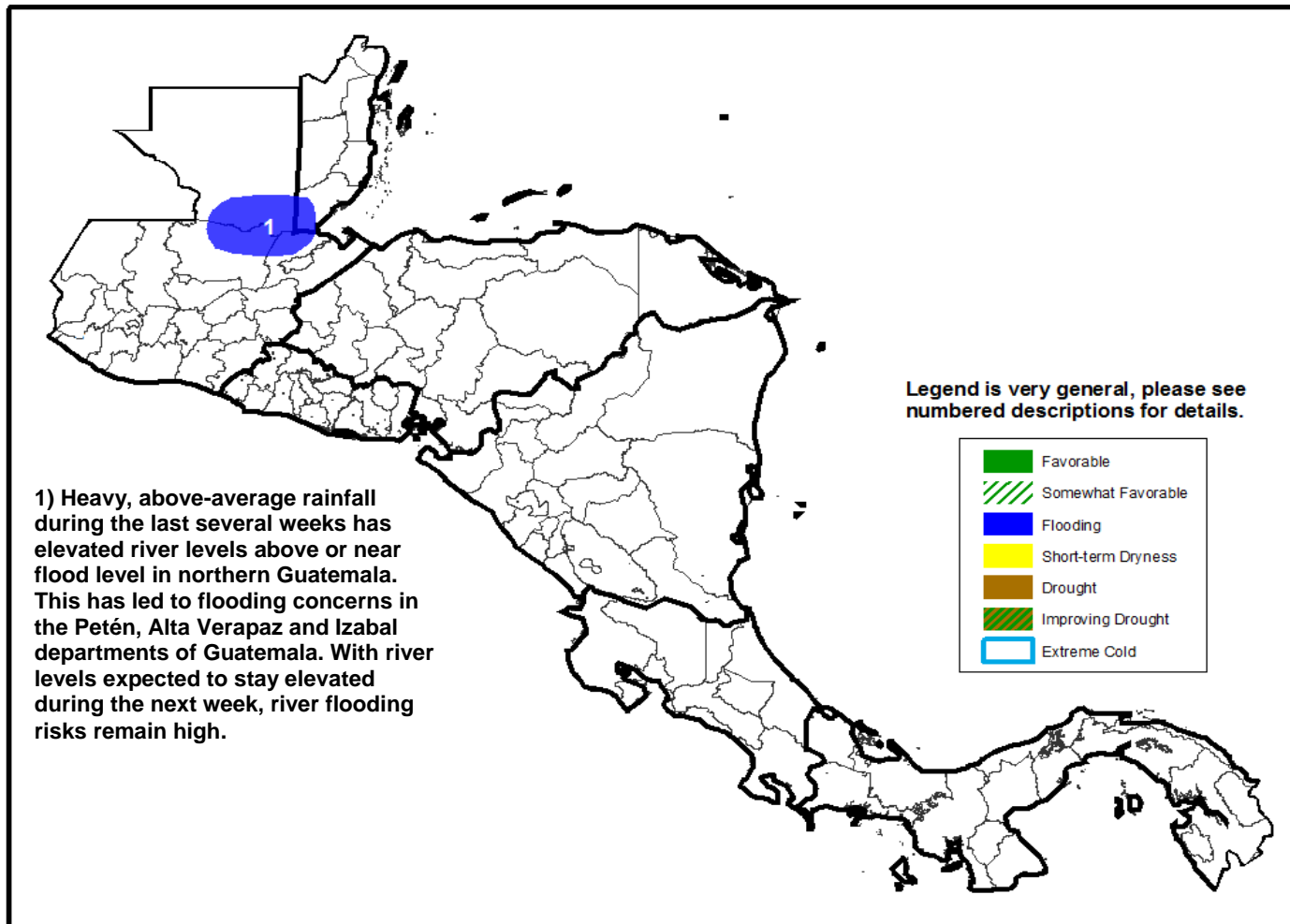


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET June 28 – July 4, 2012

- Heavy rains were observed across northern Central America while below-average rains were recorded farther south.



## Northern Guatemala and Belize observed abundant rain during the past week.

An increase in convection associated with a tropical system in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in abundant, heavy rains (>75mm) across northern portions of Central America including northern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras and Belize. The rains further increased flooding risks in the Petén, Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments of Guatemala and along the Ulúa River in northwestern Honduras. Heavy coastal showers (>50mm) were also recorded along the Pacific coastline of Guatemala in the Escuintla and Retalhuleu departments causing localized flooding. While potential flooding and above-average rains occurred in the north, rains were light to moderate (5-40mm) across the rest of Central America. The largest weekly rainfall deficits (25-75mm) occurred along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. A shift in the winds to the north during the past week resulted in a decrease in moisture across much of southern Central America. Thirty-day rainfall anomalies, however, remain neutral to above-average. Overall, much of Central America has observed near-average rainfall during the past thirty days with the largest surpluses (>200mm) located across northern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras and Belize.

For the next seven days, a reduction in rainfall is forecast across northern Central America, although locally moderate to heavy showers (>30mm) are possible across northern Guatemala at the beginning of the observation period. Elsewhere, widespread moderate to heavy rains (10-40mm) are expected in central/southern Central America with the heaviest rains (>50mm) forecast in Costa Rica and Panama.

