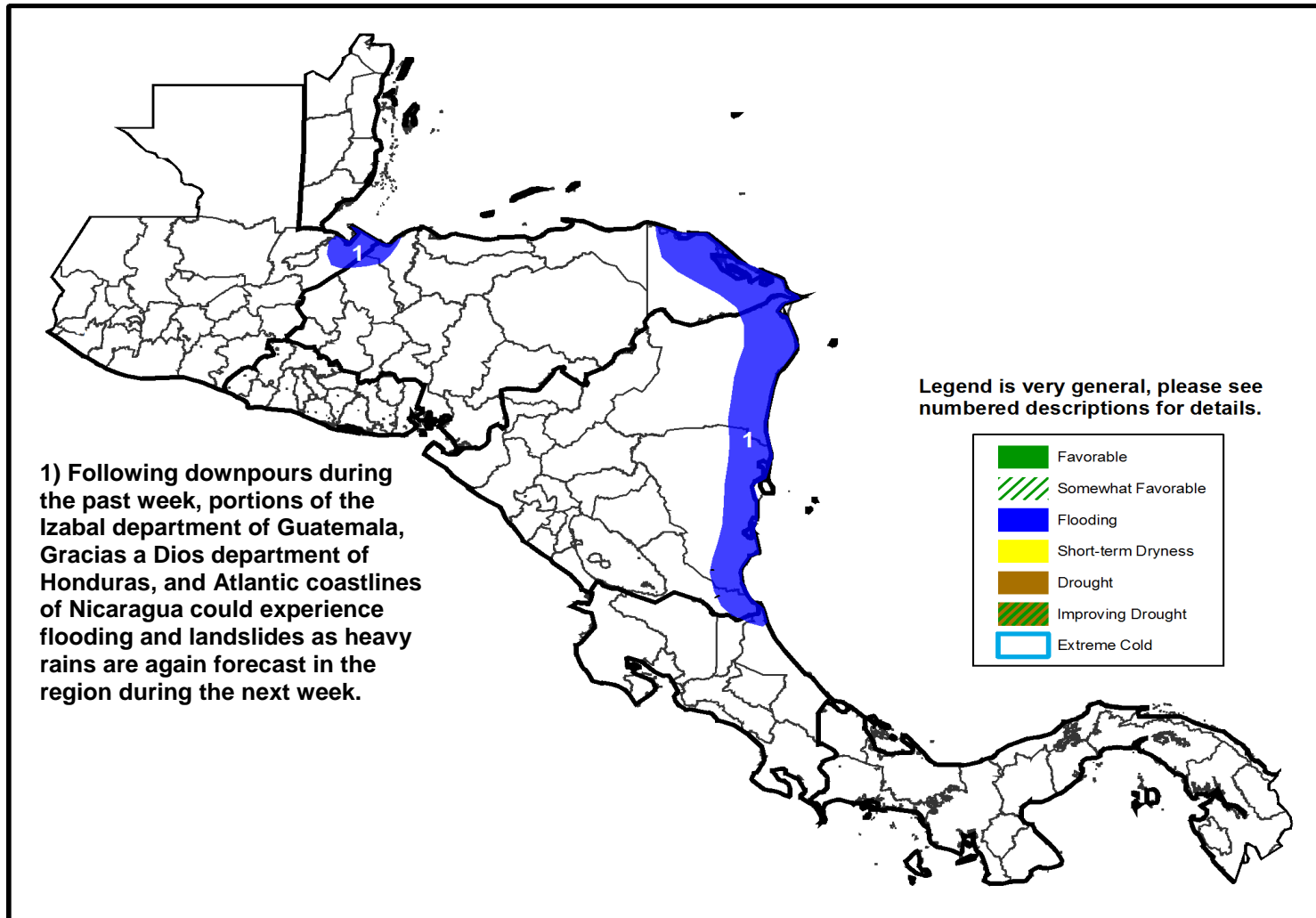




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 12 – July 18, 2012

- Increased rainfall was observed across Central America during the past seven days.



## Good performance of the *Primera* to date rainfall season.

During the week, the passage of tropical waves and strengthening of a high-pressure system over the Atlantic have resulted in an overall increase in rainfall over Central America. Heavy (> 100 mm) downpours were observed over portions of the Izabal departments of Guatemala, western El Salvador, Gracias a Dios department of Honduras, and the eastern two-thirds of Nicaragua. In Guatemala, flooding was reported to affect hundreds of people in Puerto Barrios. Farther south, heavy (> 50 mm) rains were also recorded over Costa Rica, reducing rainfall deficits accumulated over the past thirty days. Since the beginning of the *Primera* season, rainfall surpluses have been observed over much of Central America except the southern Caribbean region of Costa Rica and portions of Panama, where negative anomalies range between 150 and 200 mm. The continuation of seasonal rainfall should provide favorable ground moisture for cropping activities in many local areas of Central America.

For next week, the warm sea surface temperature over the eastern Pacific may favor the development of another tropical disturbance. However, it will likely remain far off-shore and move westward to pose a direct threat to Central America. However, the forecasted, strong easterly winds are expected to enhance rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras and the Atlantic coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua during the next week. This may exacerbate the ground conditions and trigger new flooding and landslides in many local areas of the region. Meanwhile, light (10 – 30 mm) rainfall is generally expected over the inland of Central America except local areas of western Guatemala, where heavy showers are forecast.

