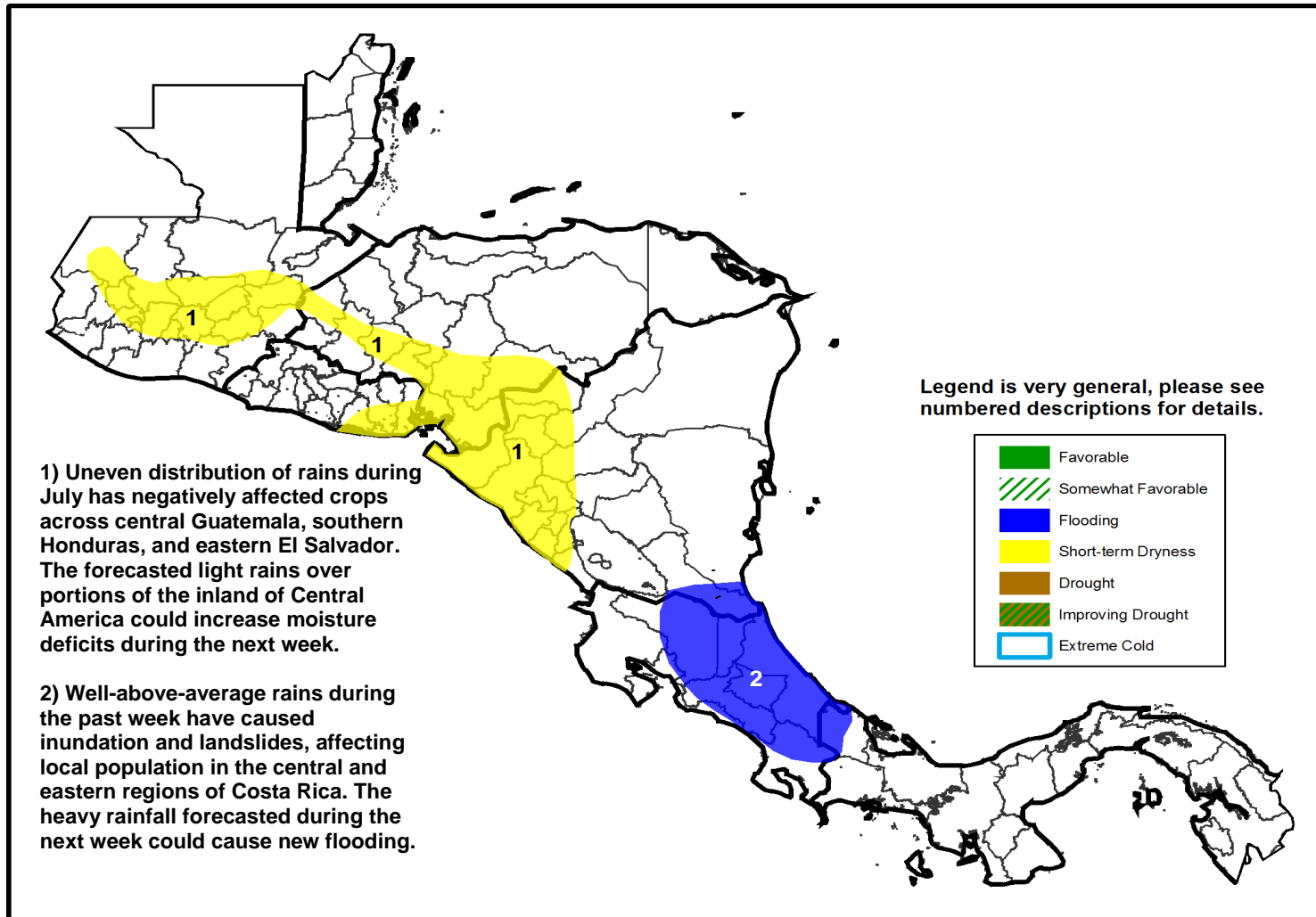


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 2 – August 8, 2012

- Torrential rains have triggered flooding and landslides in the central and Caribbean parts of Costa Rica during the past week.



Reduced rains observed over northern Central America.

During the past week, a reduction in rainfall was observed over northern Central America, with little (< 10 mm) rains across central Guatemala, inland of Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and western Nicaragua. While the reduced rains have contributed to the persistence of thirty-day rainfall deficits over the dry portions across the Gulf of Fonseca, the lack of rains since the beginning of the month has depleted ground moisture and negatively affected crops over central Guatemala and southern Honduras. Meanwhile, heavy (> 150 mm) downpours fell over southeastern Nicaragua and the eastern half of Costa Rica, causing flooding and landslides along the Caribbean Basin. In Costa Rica, fatalities and thousands of displaced populations were reported during the past week. While the continuation of reduced rains could further negatively impact cropping activities across the inland of northern America, excessive rains could also damage crops over the southern Caribbean.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest a continuation of heavy (> 50 mm) rains, which could exacerbate the ground conditions and trigger new flooding over the already-saturated regions of southeastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Farther north, localized areas of western, central, and southern Guatemala could experience heavy showers as tropical waves are expected to move across Central America. However, light (< 30 mm) rainfall is generally forecasted over the inland of Central America, increasing the chance for further depletion of moisture over the dry portions of the region.

