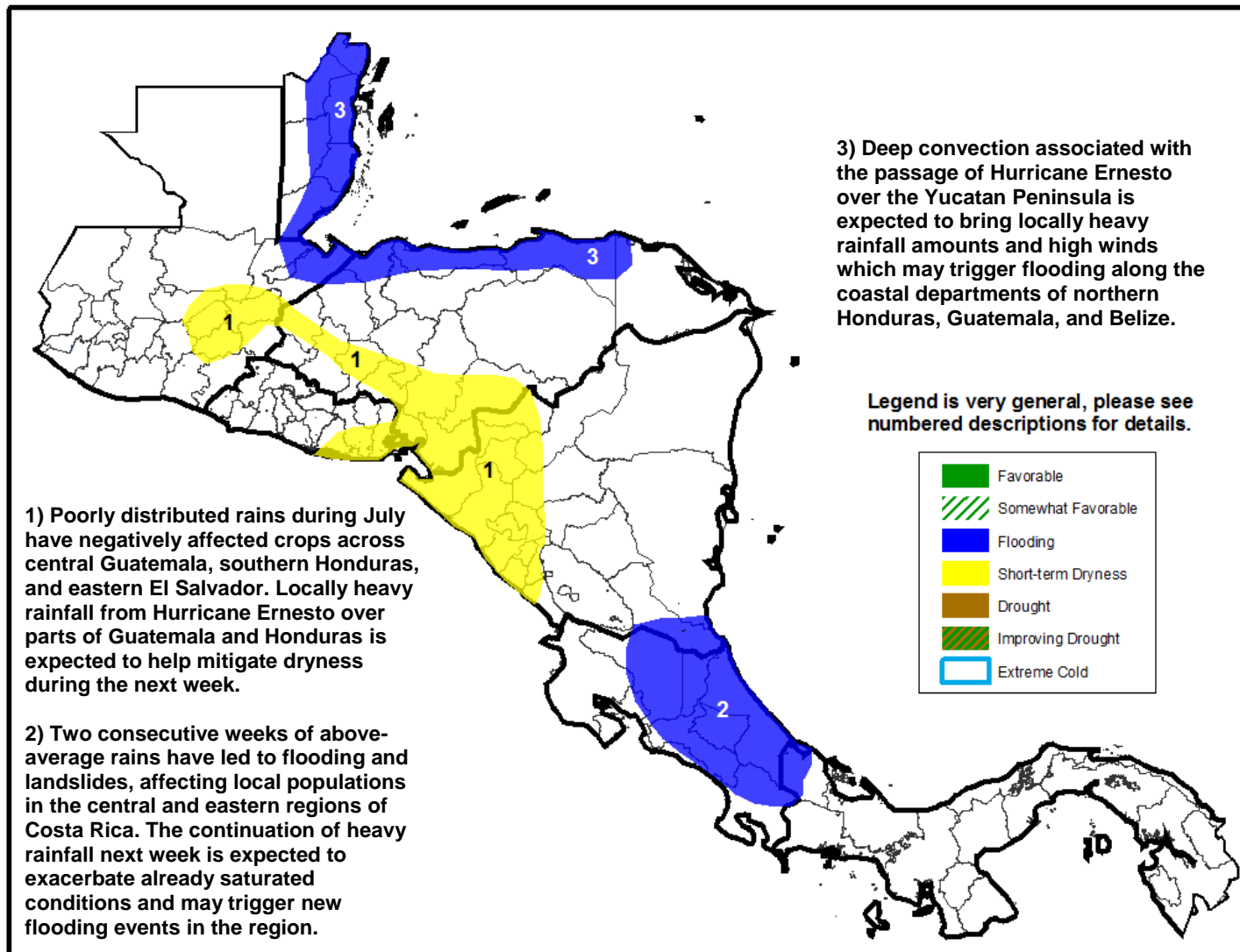


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 9 – August 15, 2012

- Heavy rainfall associated with Hurricane Ernesto elevates the potential for flooding conditions over portions of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize.



Heavy rains from Hurricane Ernesto likely to impact many local areas in the Gulf of Honduras region.

During the past seven days, well-distributed and heavy rainfall was received throughout many parts of Central America. The highest weekly precipitations (>75mm) were observed in southern Guatemala, northern Honduras and Costa Rica. For Costa Rica, this marks the second consecutive week of above-average rainfall in the southern Caribbean, which has already resulted in fatalities and displaced populations in the country. Towards the end of the latest observation period, the development of Hurricane Ernesto in the Gulf of Honduras has increased the potential for locally heavy rains and high winds throughout portions of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. While this storm has made landfall over the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, deep convective rains from Ernesto's periphery have elevated the potential for localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, and landslides throughout parts of Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. However, these above average rains are expected to help mitigate anomalous dryness observed in parts of central Guatemala, and southwestern Honduras.

For the upcoming outlook period, the distribution of rainfall and easterly winds are expected to become more seasonable throughout Central America in the wake of Ernesto. However, the continued increase in tropical activity across the Atlantic may impact portions of Central America and the Caribbean during the latter portion of the upcoming outlook period.

