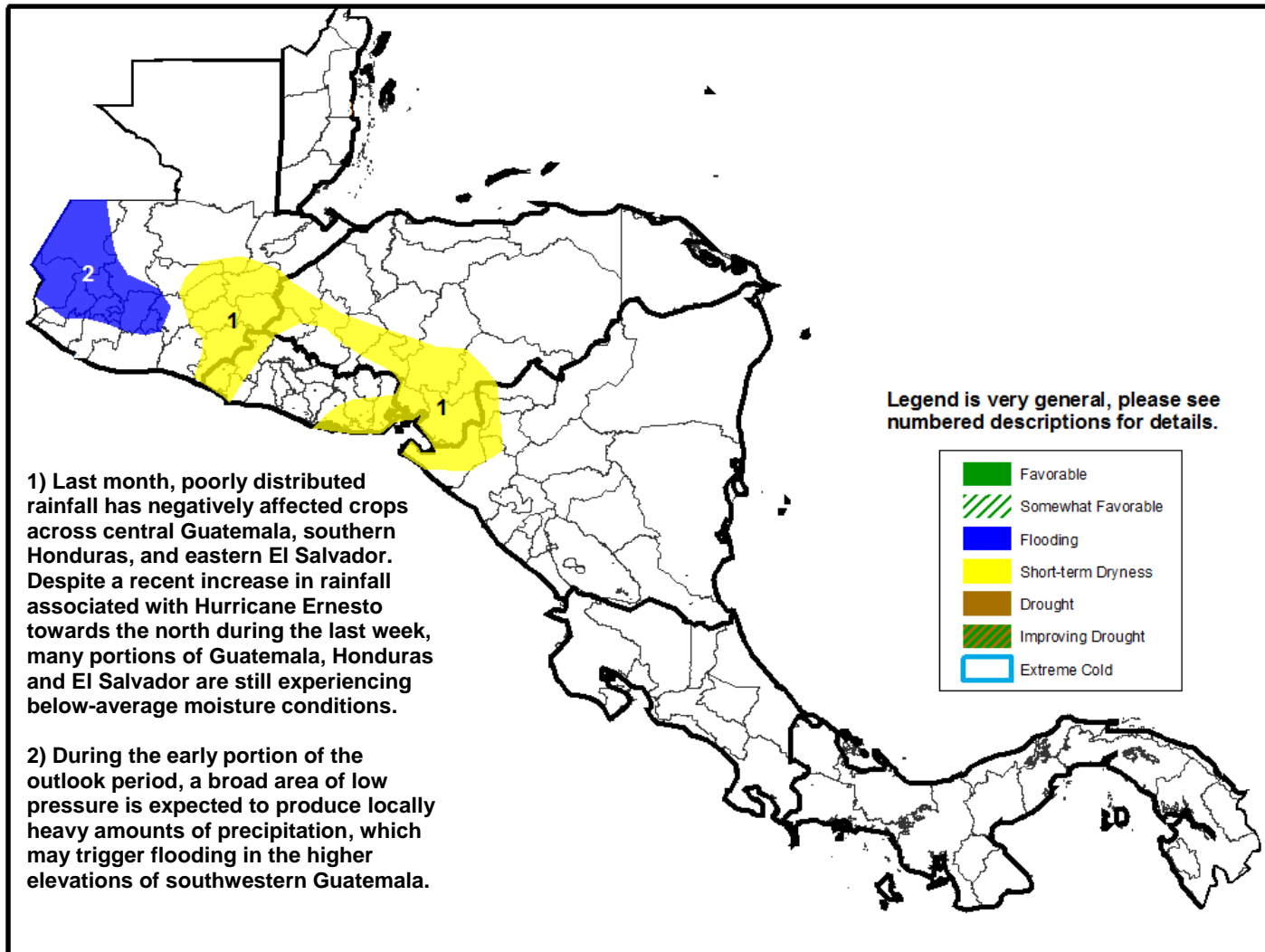


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 16 – August 22, 2012

- Increased rains help alleviate many anomalously dry areas of southern Honduras and coastal El Salvador.



## Below average moisture conditions persist, enhanced rainfall expected throughout parts of Guatemala.

During the last observation period, increased amounts of rainfall associated with the passage of Hurricane Ernesto were received throughout many portions of Central America. The greatest rainfall accumulations were observed in further north, with weekly amounts ranging between 40-100 mm over parts of costal Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. Despite Ernesto's strengthening prior to making landfall in the Yucatan, no torrential amounts of precipitation supportive of widespread flooding and damages to infrastructure were reported in Central America. While an increase in rains and moisture did help to alleviate moisture deficits throughout portions of eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and El Salvador, many local areas are still experiencing 50 to 75 percent of their normal rainfall since the beginning of July. In Guatemala, poor rainfall throughout July has resulted in poor Primera crop production in the El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa, and Jutiapa departments. Further south, a slight reduction in rainfall over parts of Costa Rica and Panama during the last week has also helped to mitigate overly saturated conditions observed since late July.

For the upcoming outlook period, the heaviest rainfall accumulations (>50mm) are expected over parts of southern and western Guatemala, and over parts of southern Honduras. While above-average rains expected in these areas may continue to help alleviate Primera season dryness, the potential for flooding exists in parts of Guatemala. No significant tropical activity is expected to impact Central America during the early portion of the outlook period.

