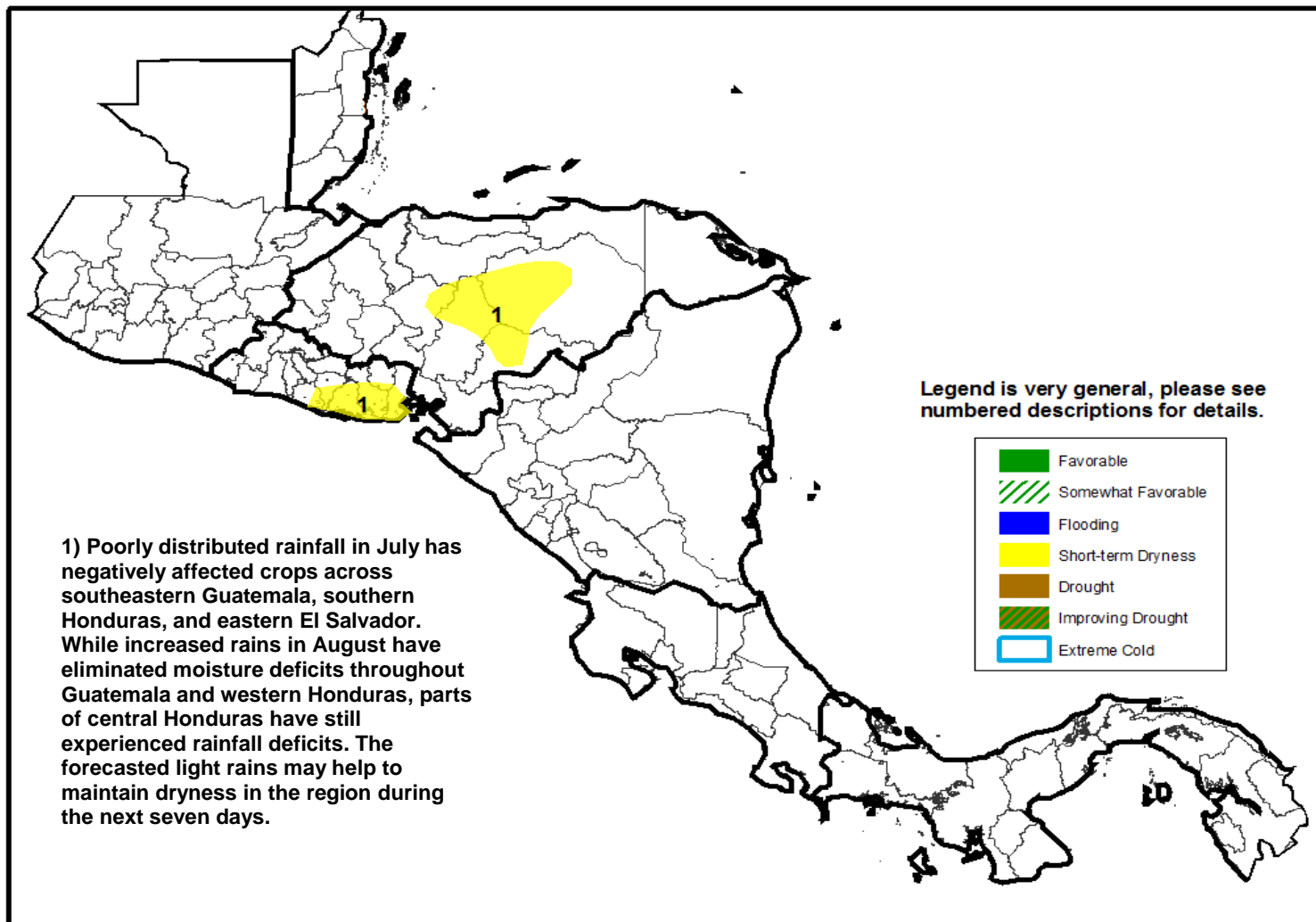




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 6 – September 12, 2012

- Increased rains were observed over Central America during the past week.
- A 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Costa Rica, resulting in a Tsunami warning along the Pacific Basin of Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua.



## Increased rains observed during the past week.

Widespread rains were observed across much of Central America during the past week. High (> 100 mm) amounts of rainfall were recorded over portions of western Guatemala, eastern Honduras, El Salvador, the Atlantic Basin of Nicaragua, Pacific region of Costa Rica, and western Panama. However, light (< 30 mm) rains fell over the Petén department of Guatemala, Gulf of Honduras, central Honduras, and along the Atlantic coastlines of Costa Rica, helping to maintain dryness across the dry portions of Central America. Meanwhile, a powerful earthquake hit off the coast of Costa Rica on September 5, leading to a Tsunami warning along the Pacific Basin of Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua. As of the accumulated rains during the past thirty days, positive anomalies were observed across a major proportion of Central America except central Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and the Atlantic Basin of Costa Rica, where moderate (50 – 75% of the average) moisture deficits were recorded.

For next week, heavy (> 50 mm) rains are forecasted along the coasts of eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua, while weather instabilities are expected to produce heavy showers over El Salvador and the southern Pacific region of Guatemala, increasing the risks for flooding and landslides over saturated grounds of the region. Heavy rains are also expected over the central and Pacific coasts of Costa Rica.. In contrast, light to moderate (20 – 40 mm) rains are expected to continue across northern Guatemala and the inland of Central America. The forecasted light rains could increase thirty-day moisture deficits and worsen dryness over the dry portions of Central America during the next week.

