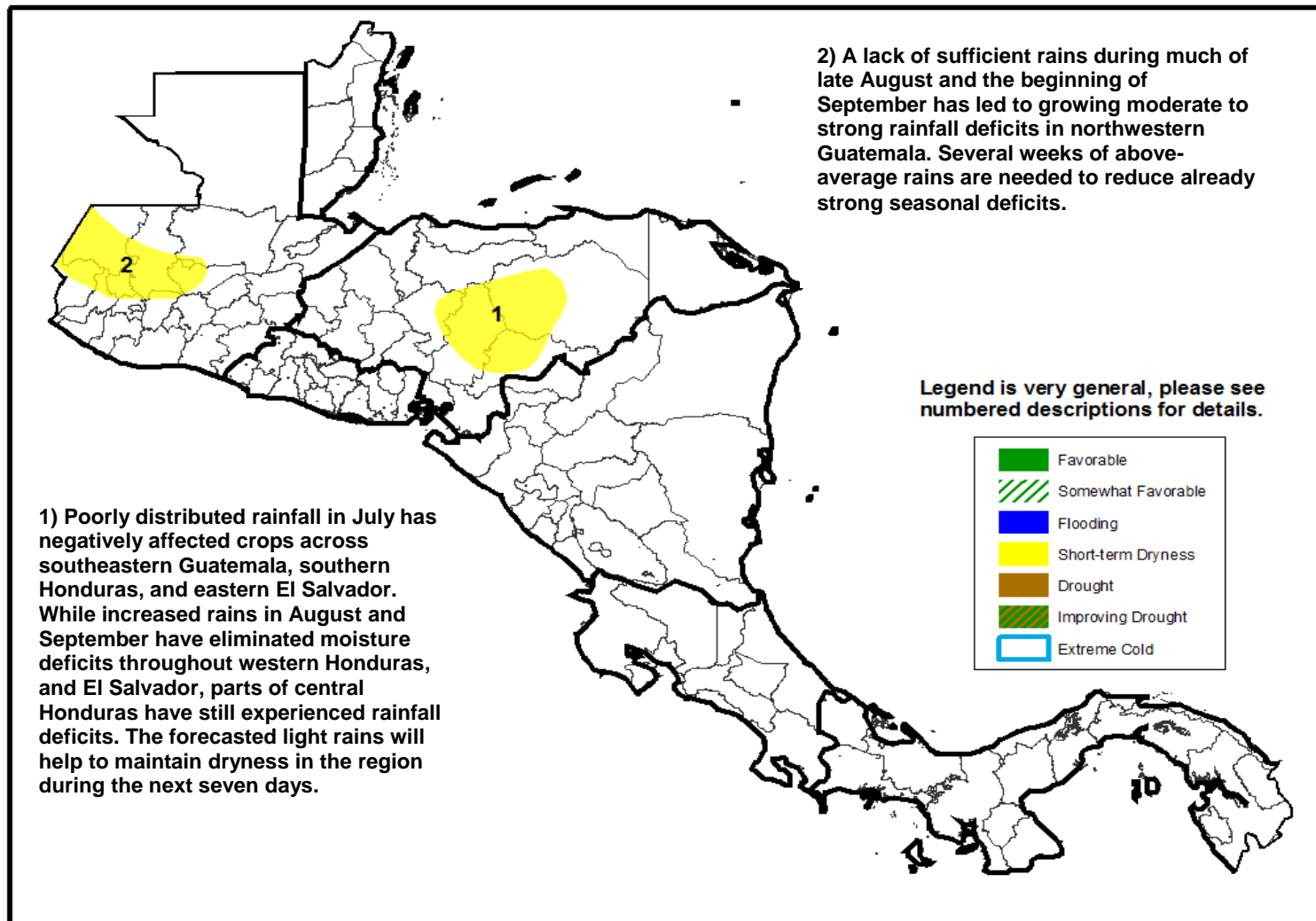


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 27 – October 3, 2012

- Rainfall deficits deepened and expanded across Central Guatemala and Central Honduras during the past week.
- Heavy rains were observed across southern Central America for a second consecutive week.



## Below-average weekly rains increase seasonal deficits in northern Central America.

During the past week, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) were recorded across southern Central America and localized areas around the Gulf of Fonseca, El Salvador, and northern Guatemala. Heavy rain showers caused flooding in the Petén department of Guatemala. Even though rains were heavy (>50mm) in portions of Costa Rica and Panama, weekly rainfall across much of Central America was below-average during the past seven days. However, ground conditions are adequate for cropping across Costa Rica, and Panama. In contrast, rains were light to moderate (<25mm) during the past week across inland areas of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The lack of rains across the Huehuetenango, Quiché, Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Totonicapán and San Marcos departments of Guatemala and the Olancho, El Paraíso and Francisco Morazán departments of Honduras has led to deepening thirty-day rainfall deficits (>100mm). Low values in several vegetative health indices suggest that the poor rains have led to poor ground conditions for cropping in central Honduras. Below-average rains in Guatemala have led to worsening ground conditions as well.

For the next seven days, seasonally heavy rains (>40mm) are forecast across southern Central America including Costa Rica and Panama while moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are expected along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and localized areas in southwestern Guatemala. In contrast, light to moderate rains (<25mm) are forecast for inland areas of Guatemala and Honduras increasing seasonal rainfall deficits and likely negatively impacting ground conditions.

