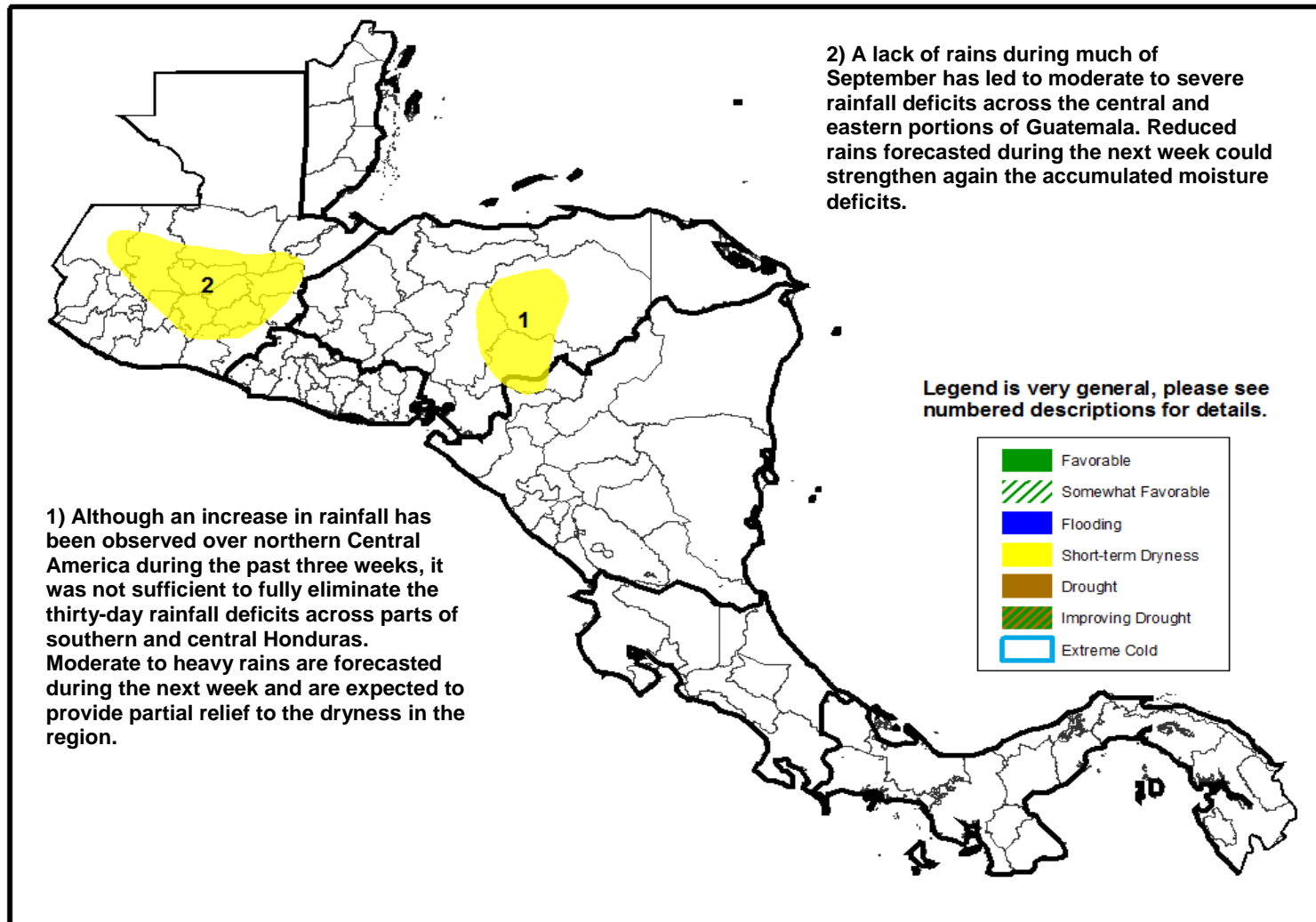


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 18 – October 24, 2012

- Poorly-distributed rainfall during the past week has sustained moisture deficits over the dry portions of Central America.



Reduced rains forecasted over northern Central America.

During the past week, a poor distribution of rainfall was observed over Central America. While heavy downpours (> 100 mm) continued throughout the southern Petén, Alta Verapaz, and Pacific region of Guatemala, light (< 30 mm) rains fell across much of the central parts of the country. Heavy (> 50 mm) rains were also recorded in the Gulf of Fonseca, eastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua, whereas light to moderate (20 – 50 mm) rains fell over central Honduras. Despite an increase in rainfall over the past few weeks, thirty-day rainfall deficits remained across central Guatemala and portions of central Honduras. Since the beginning of the *Postrema* season, wide areas of Guatemala and southern Honduras have experienced seasonal deficits, with accumulated rains accounting for only 50 to 75 percent of the average. The continuation of insufficient rainfall could potentially lead to reduced seasonal yields in many local areas of the region.

For next week, reduced (< 30 mm) rains are, in general, forecasted across northern Central America as dry airmass is expected to dominate the weather conditions during the beginning of the next outlook period. However, the return of strong easterlies is expected to enhance rainfall along the Atlantic coastlines of Central America afterwards. Isolated heavy showers are also expected over the Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala and local areas of southern Honduras. Meanwhile, widespread, torrential (> 75 mm) rains are forecasted over the southern Caribbean during the next week.

