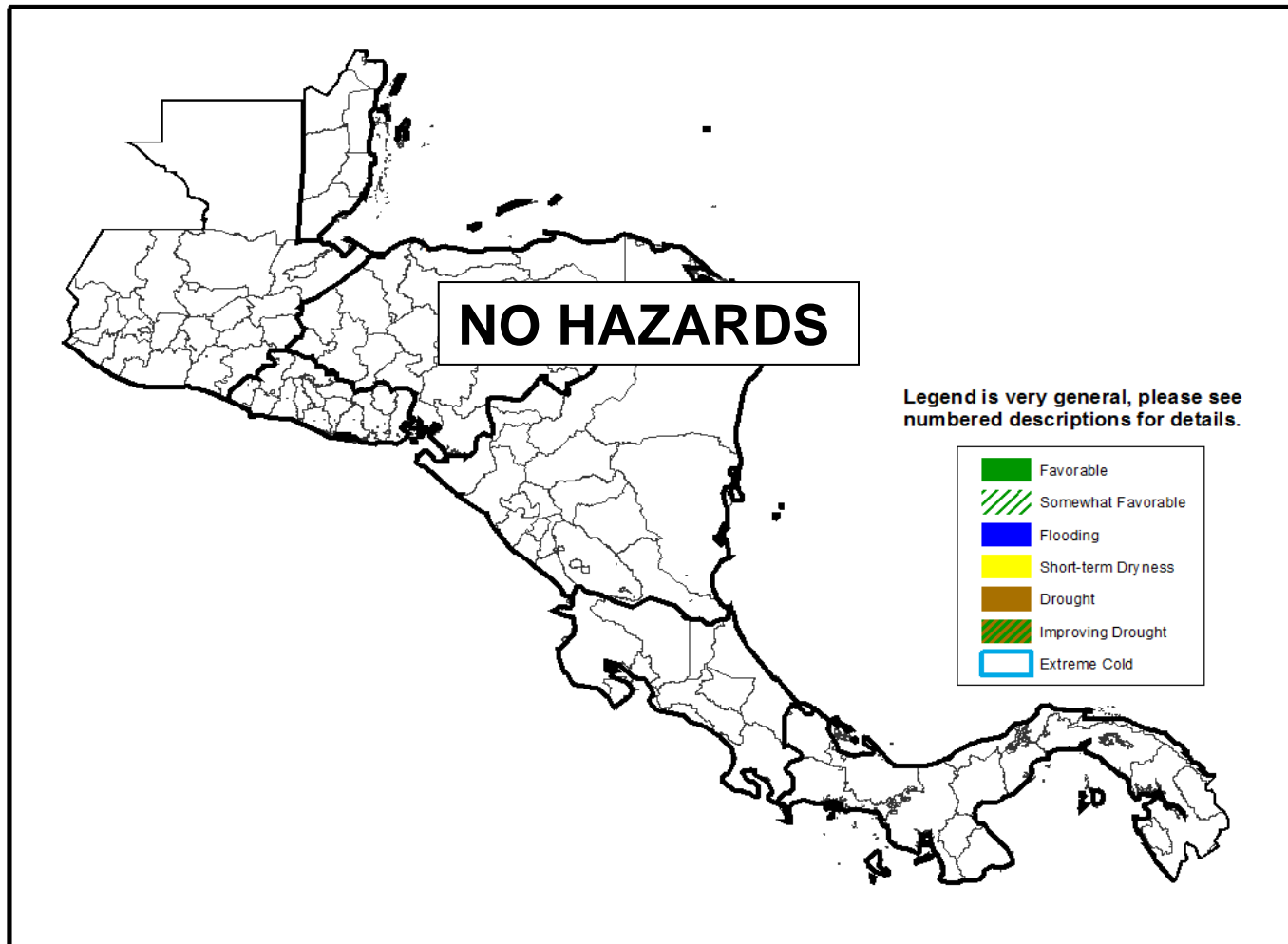




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 20 – December 26, 2012

- Moderate to locally heavy showers expected over the northern coastlines of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.



Average to above-average rains expected during the next seven days.

Over the last seven days, light to moderate rainfall amounts were observed across Central America. Increased amounts of precipitation (>30mm) were received across the Peten and Alta Verapaz departments of Guatemala, as well as across central departments of Honduras and in the southern Caribbean. In the higher elevations of Guatemala, colder than average temperatures were observed during the earlier part of last week. However, weekly minimum temperatures remained above freezing. Since the beginning of December, below-average rainfall was observed across parts of southeastern Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica and Panama. Further north, many local areas in Guatemala and Honduras have experienced seasonable precipitation in December.

For the next seven days, developing high pressure over the northern Caribbean is expected to bring prevailing easterly winds throughout much of the outlook period. As a result, rainfall forecasts are suggesting average to above-average rainfall throughout much of Central America. The potential for the highest rainfall amounts remains over the southern Caribbean, which may help to alleviate some of the developing December dryness in parts of coastal Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama during the next seven days.

