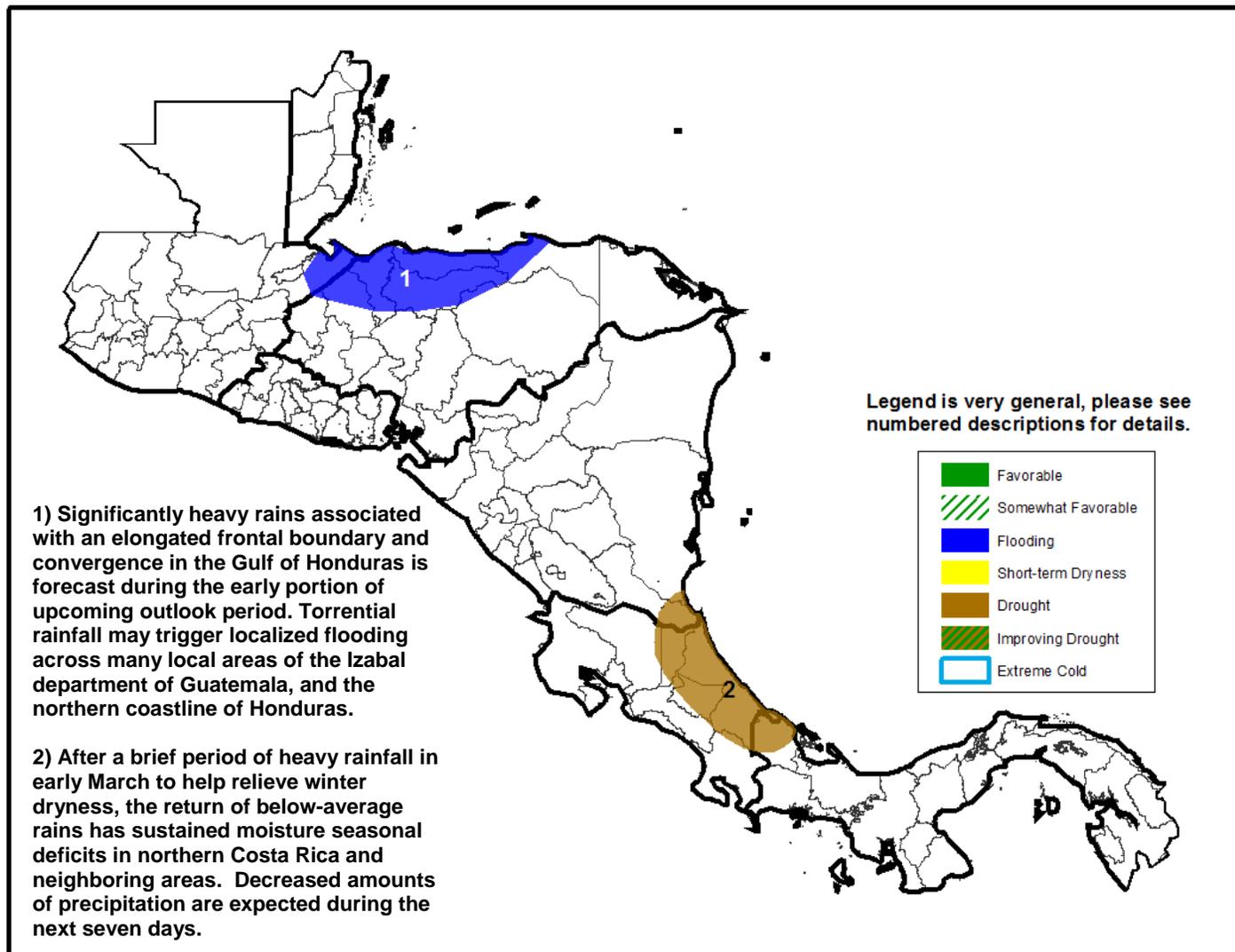


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 14 – March 20, 2013

- Increased rains continue throughout the southern Caribbean, providing relief to dryness across parts of Costa Rica.



Significant, above-average rains expected across the Gulf of Honduras.

During the past seven days, average to below-average rainfall was observed throughout much of Central America. The highest weekly rainfall amounts were received in the southern Caribbean, with totals ranging between 50-75mm along the Atlantic side of Costa Rica and Panama. Unlike the previous week, however, much of these rains did not extend onshore into Costa Rica and Panama. In Guatemala, light to locally moderate rainfall amounts (5-20mm) were received in the central departments and higher elevations of the country. In Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador, little to no rainfall was observed during the last week. After the onset of heavy rainfall to help mitigate seasonal moisture deficits in Costa Rica during early March, a week of suppressed precipitation has sustained seasonal moisture deficits, as many local areas have experienced less than 75% of their normal rainfall accumulation since January.

During the next week, significant amounts of precipitation associated with large frontal boundary extending into the Caribbean is expected across the Gulf of Honduras region. The high northerly winds, and significant daily rainfall are forecast during the early portion of the outlook period, as torrential rainfall may lead to localized flooding throughout parts of northern Guatemala and northern Honduras. This moisture is also expected to extend further south for many interior departments of Honduras and Nicaragua. In the southern Caribbean, moderate to heavy rains are again forecast, but not much rainfall is expected to be received inland.

