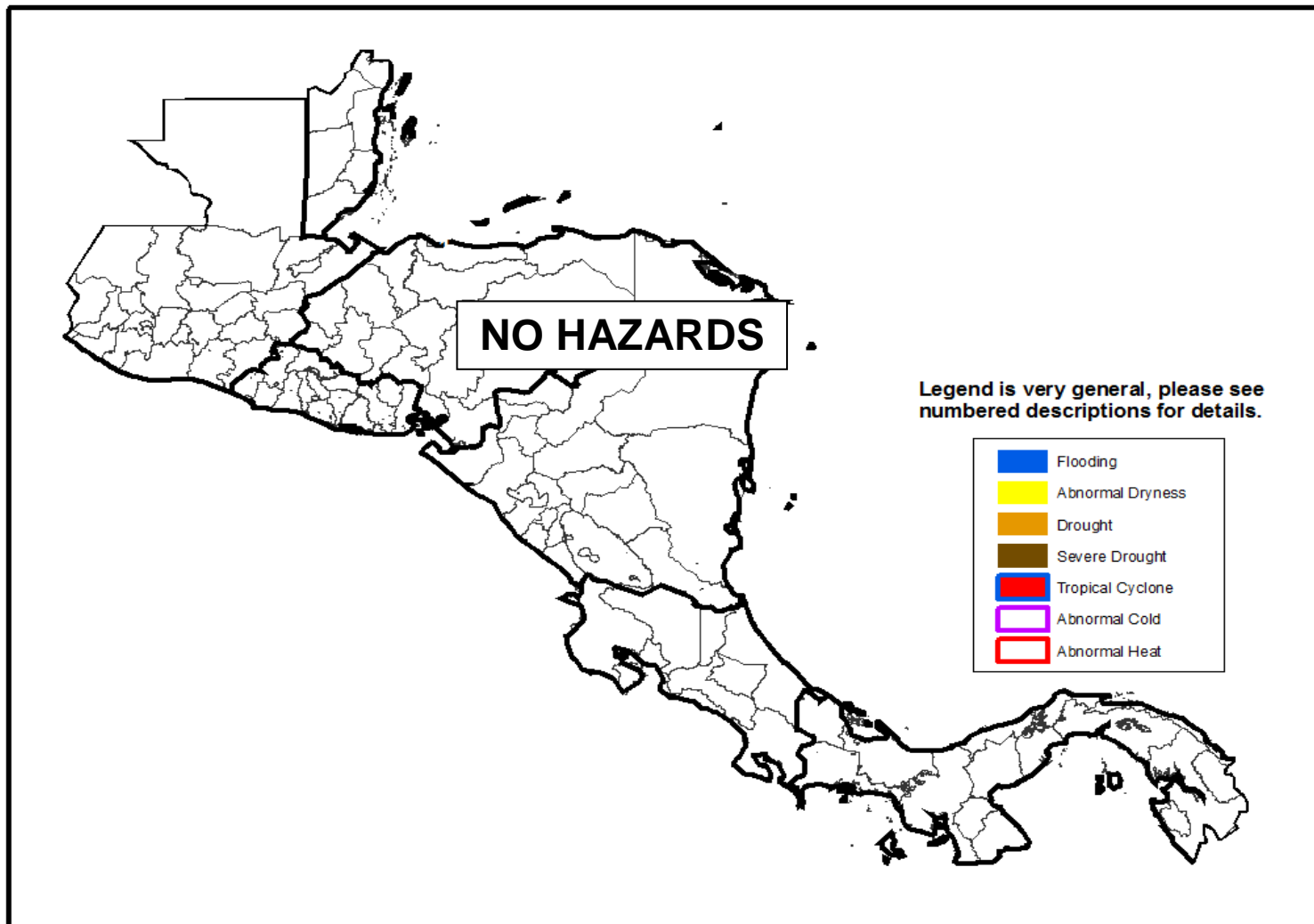




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 18 – April 24, 2013

- An increase in rainfall is expected throughout Central America during the next outlook period.



A widespread and enhanced rain forecast across Central America.

During the past week, a relatively dry weather prevailed across much of Central America. The heaviest rain fell across portions of the Huehuetenango department of western Guatemala, where heavy rain and strong winds caused infrastructure damage and displaced people during the prior week. Over the southern Caribbean, light rain was recorded over parts of the Atlantic Basin and central Costa Rica. Elsewhere, little to no rainfall was registered. Over the past thirty days, positive rainfall anomalies persisted across regions of Central America, including central Guatemala, northern and southern Honduras, and areas of northwestern Nicaragua. Conversely, thirty-day rainfall deficits were maintained over the northwestern and Pacific regions of Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and southern Caribbean. A gradual increase in rain is expected over the upcoming few weeks and should help to reduce accumulated moisture deficits as the season is transitioning toward the first rainy season. Meanwhile, the seasonal warming of the weather favors the spreading of forest fires across many local areas of the Central America.

For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest an enhancement and wider distribution of rainfall throughout Central America, with moderate to locally heavy rain across western and central Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. Light to moderate rain is also expected across Nicaragua and along the coastal areas of Costa Rica and Panama. Beside the concern with the prevalence of the *Coffee Rust* disease, the forecast increase in rainfall over the coming weeks should, in general, aid agricultural activities prior to the beginning of the *Primera* season.

