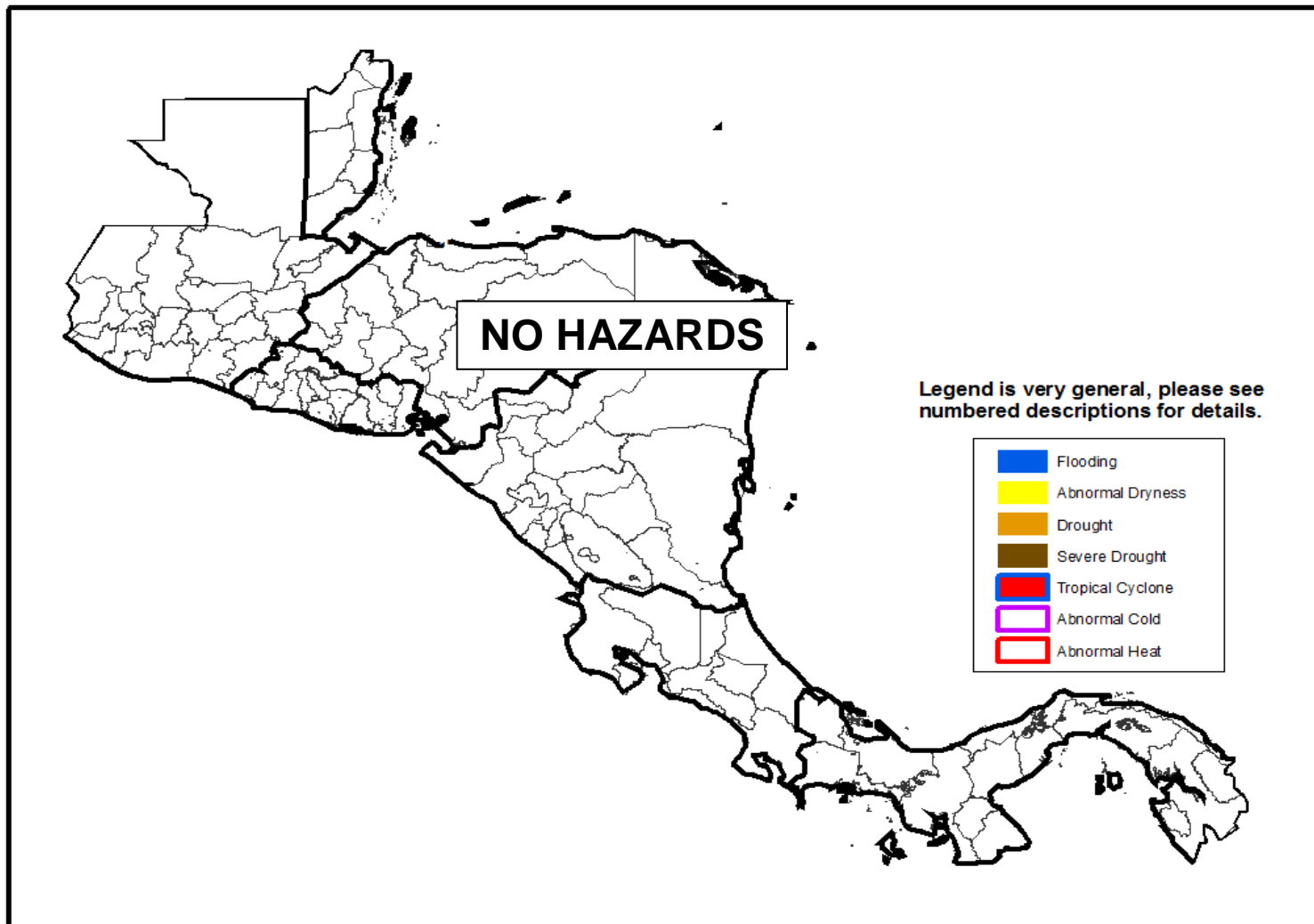




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 25 – May 1, 2013

- Average to above-average rain observed throughout Central America during the past seven days.



Moderate to heavy rain forecast to continue along the Pacific rim of northern Central America.

Over the past seven days, increased rainfall was observed across the Alta Verapaz and Pacific region of Guatemala, central El Salvador, and southern Caribbean, while the remainders of Central America received little to light rain. This past week rainfall amounts were average to above-average over much of Central America, helping to provide favorable soil moisture for crops during the May – August, *Primera* season. However, the seasonably little to no rainfall has continued to favor forest fires throughout Mesoamerica, including many local areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Over the past thirty days, the gradual increase in rainfall has contributed to the reduction of negative anomalies across southern Guatemala and southern Caribbean, though weak rainfall deficits remained over these regions. Biophysical models have showed sufficient soil moisture over the Alta Verapaz and portions of Petén departments of Guatemala and southern Caribbean, whereas much of Central America is still awaiting the onset of the next rainy season over the upcoming weeks.

During the next outlook period, moderate to locally heavy showers are forecast along the Pacific rim of northern Central America, including southwestern Guatemala and the Gulf of Fonseca region. Light rain is, however, expected over much of the inland of Honduras and Nicaragua. Farther south, moisture advection from the Pacific Ocean could result in heavy showers along the southern coastal areas of Costa Rica; while unseasonably little to no rainfall could fall across the interior of the latter and western Panama.

