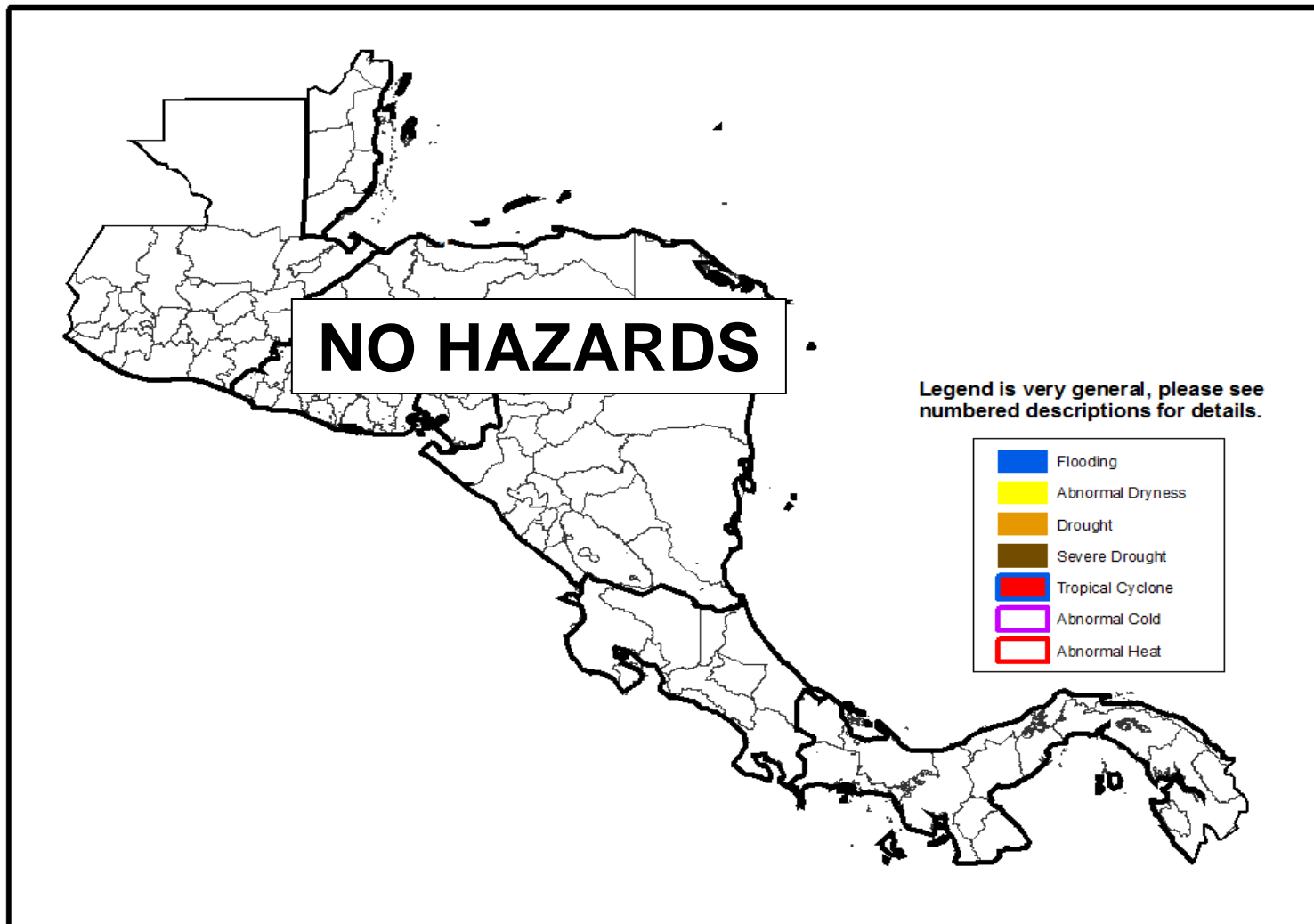




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 16 – May 22, 2013

- Below average rainfall expected during the next week.



After a near-normal start to the Primera rains, suppressed rainfall expected during the middle of May.

During the last seven days, a slight reduction of rainfall was received across the Gulf of Honduras region, with continued seasonal rainfall along the Pacific side of Central America. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations were observed across the Gulf of Fonseca and Gulf of Nicoya regions, with some local areas in southern Honduras and Costa Rica receiving more than 100mm. Further north, light rains (5-20mm) were observed mostly along the Atlantic sides of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In the last 30 days, many parts of Central America have generally observed a near normal start to the Primera rains. Some parts of northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua have experienced slightly below-average rainfall, whereas many parts of southern and central Guatemala and northern Honduras have experienced a surplus in early season rainfall. A continued increase in precipitation throughout May is expected to provide favorable ground conditions for ongoing cropping activities.

During the next outlook period, model forecasts indicate a reduction of precipitation mostly over northern half of Central America, with scattered localized showers across Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Further south, enhanced precipitation is also forecast for parts of Panama and Costa Rica. A continued suppression of precipitation throughout the month of May could negatively affect cropping conditions for areas that have planted early for the Primera season.

