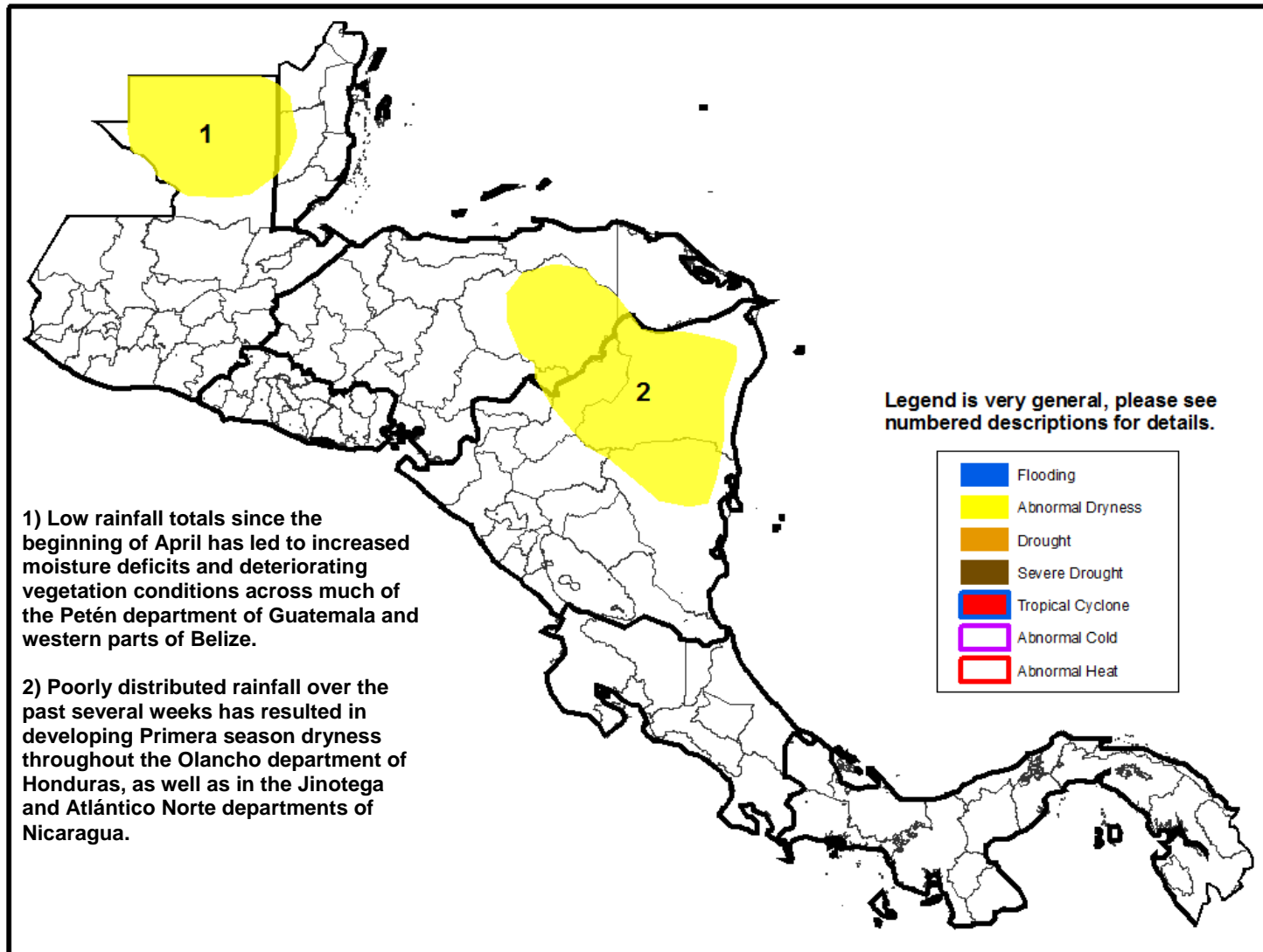


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET May 23 – May 29, 2013

- Poor spring rains have resulted in growing moisture deficits and unfavorable conditions for crop development across parts of Honduras, Nicaragua and northern Guatemala.



Suppressed Primera season rainfall observed for the second consecutive week.

During the last observation period, low and poorly distributed precipitation was received throughout many areas in Central America. The highest weekly precipitation accumulations (>30mm) were observed along the Gulf of Nicoya region in southern Costa Rica, and across the southern departments of Guatemala. Elsewhere, little to no precipitation was observed during the last week. In the past several weeks, seasonal precipitation deficits have strengthened over the Olancho and Gracias A Dios departments of Honduras, the Jinotega and Atlántico Norte departments of Nicaragua, as well as the Petén department of northern Guatemala. Many local areas in these departments have received less than a quarter of their normal precipitation accumulation over the last 30 days. This has resulted in considerable moisture deficits and deteriorating vegetation conditions which may negatively affect cropping activities for the Primera season.

For the next seven days, model forecasts indicate a significant increase in precipitation throughout Central America domain, with the potential for a developing tropical disturbance in the Pacific during the latter end of the outlook period. Depending on the location and rate of intensification of this disturbance, torrentially heavy and flood inducing rainfall may be possible for many departments extending from southern Guatemala. However, in the moisture stressed areas of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, average to below-average rainfall forecast is not expected to provide much relief to dryness. Further south, a seasonable precipitation of rainfall is forecast across of Panama and Costa Rica.

