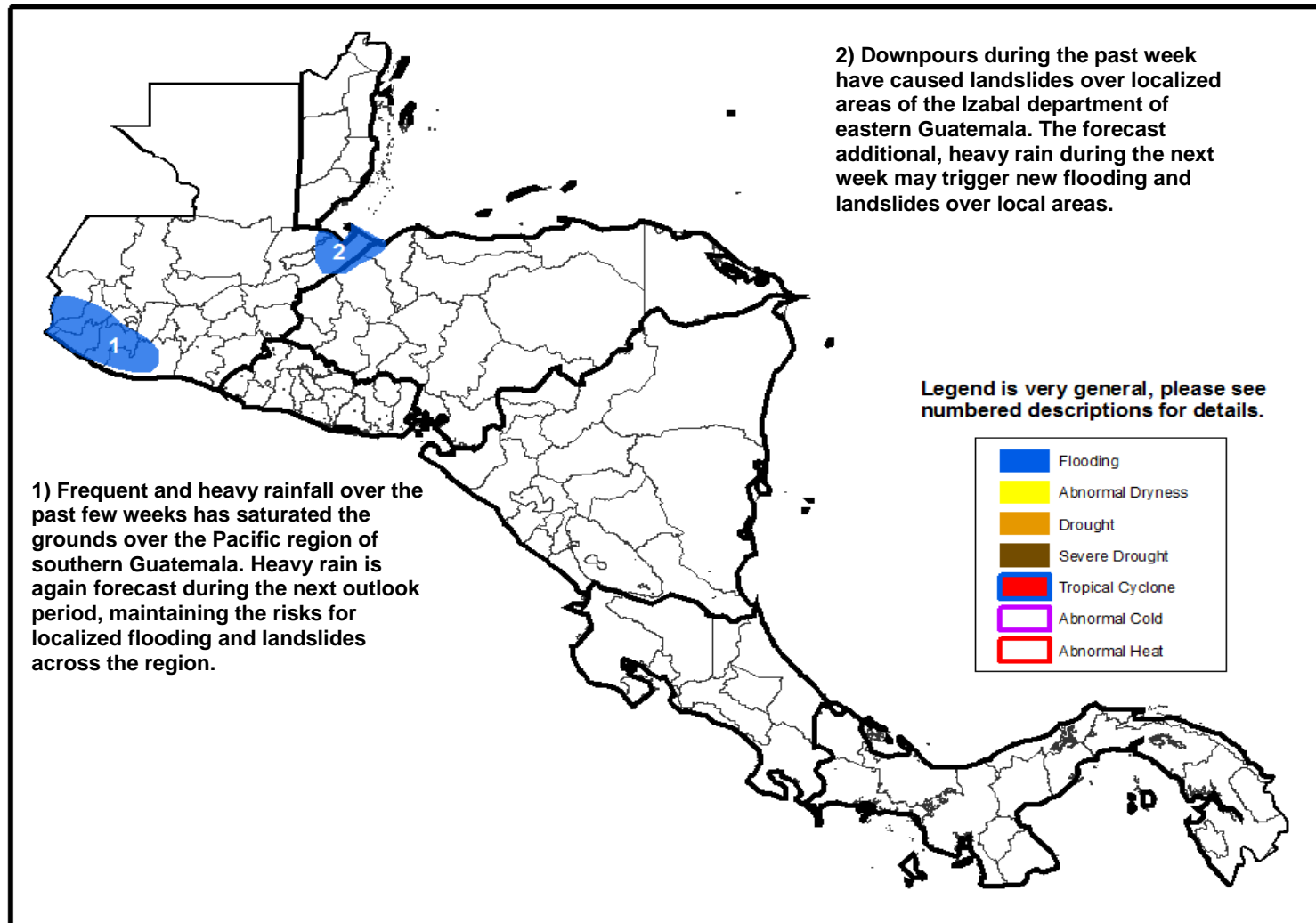


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET July 18 – July 24, 2013

- An increase in rainfall is expected along the Atlantic Basin of Honduras and Nicaragua during the next outlook period.



Increased rain expected along the Atlantic coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua.

During the past week, a slight increase in rainfall was observed over the inland of Central America relative to that of the previous period. Heavy rain fell over parts of the northern and southwestern regions of Guatemala, Gulf of Honduras, and Gracias a Dios department of eastern Honduras. In Guatemala, downpours (> 100 mm) have caused flooding and landslides over local areas of the Huehuetenango, Quiché, and Izabal departments, affecting many local residents. Farther south, torrential (> 100 mm) rain was recorded across portions of the Atlantic regions of Nicaragua and of Panama, while light to moderate rain was registered elsewhere. As the *Primera* rainy season progresses, while much of Guatemala and western Honduras have received above-average rainfall, areas, including the Gulf of Fonseca, eastern Honduras, particularly, the Atlantic Basin from Nicaragua to western Panama have experienced below-average rainfall, with deficits exceeding 200 mm. Additional and more frequent rainfall is needed over these dry portions of Central America to sustain adequate soil moisture for cropping activities.

For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest heavy rain to continue over western Guatemala and the Gulf of Honduras, increasing the risks for new flooding and landslides over already-saturated local areas. Moderate to locally heavy rain is also expected over El Salvador and Honduras. To the south, heavy showers are forecast along the Atlantic coastlines of Nicaragua and over much of Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain should continue to fall over the inland of Central America.

