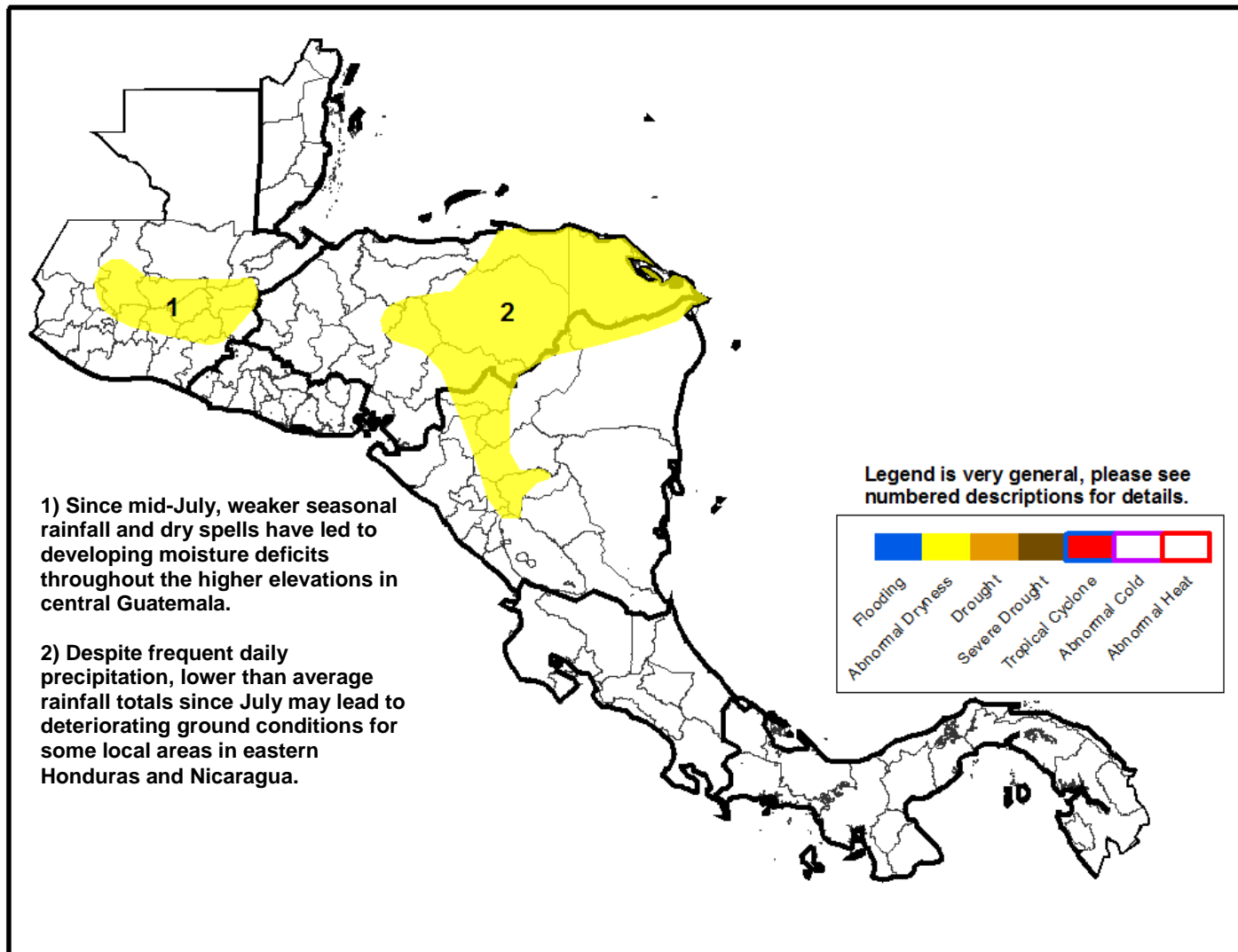


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 15 – August 21, 2013

- Reduced rainfall has led to anomalous dryness across parts of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



Increased amounts of precipitation expected to relieve developing dryness in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua.

During the last week, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was observed throughout Central America. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations were received across southern Guatemala, and across the southern Caribbean. Compared to the torrential rainfall observed across eastern Nicaragua which led to flooding during early August, reduced weekly rainfall totals in the Atlantic departments is expected to help provide relief to overly saturated conditions in the region. Since July, suppressed seasonal rainfall has led to developing dryness throughout many parts of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Some local areas in El Salvador and near the Gulf of Fonseca region have experienced multi-week dry spell, where little to no rainfall has been observed. This dryness may negatively impact the development of crops.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a general increase in rainfall to occur throughout Central America during the next seven days. The highest rainfall accumulations are forecast (>75mm) along the Pacific side of Central America, with the potential for locally heavy totals (>100mm) across southern Guatemala, Gulf of Fonseca region, and Costa Rica. An increase in precipitation across the Gulf of Fonseca region is expected to mitigate short term moisture deficits in El Salvador and southern Honduras. On the Atlantic side, however, lesser precipitation amounts are forecast for the upcoming week, which may enhance the developing dryness in eastern Honduras.

