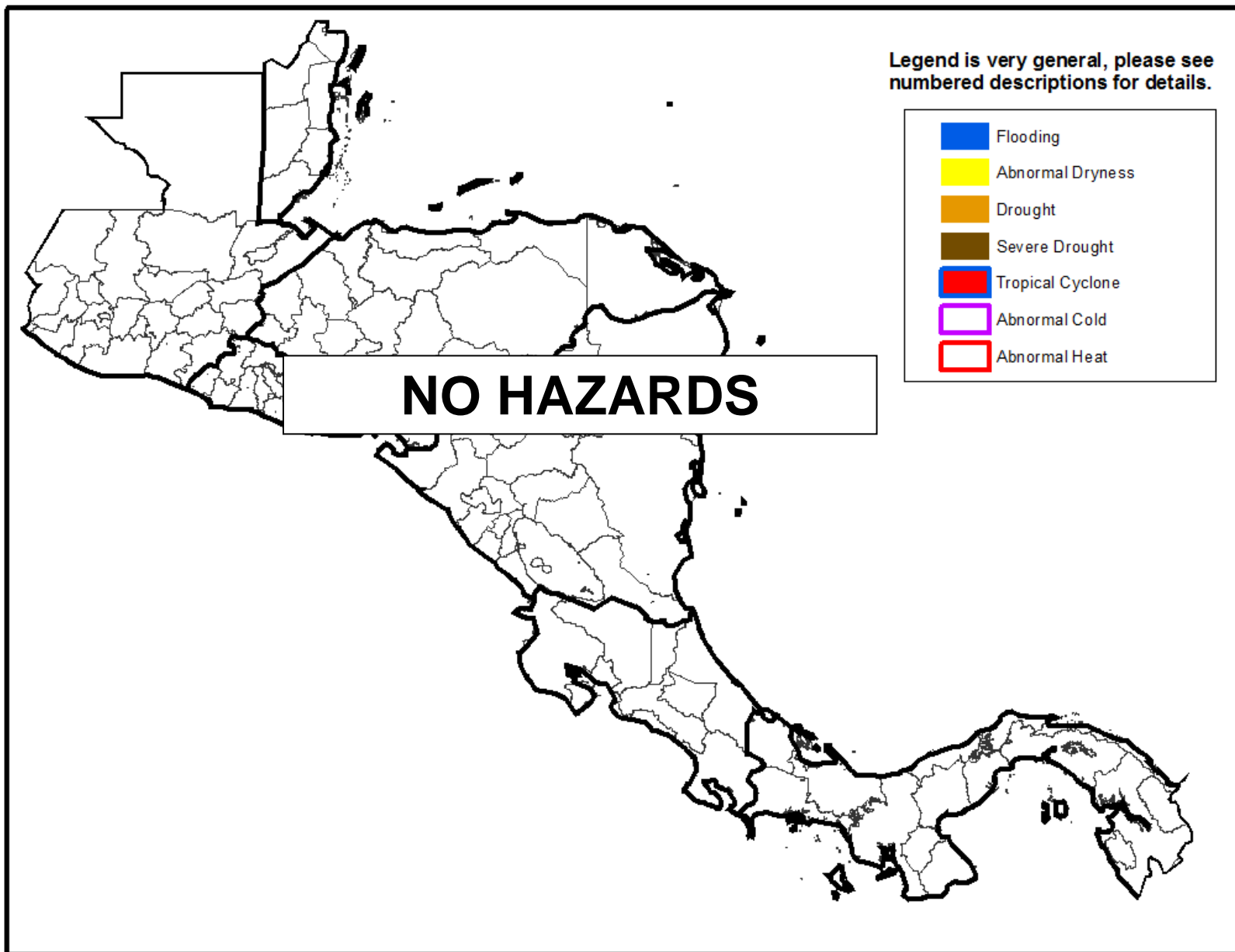




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 19 – December 25, 2013

- Above-average rains returned over the Gulf of Honduras region.



Anomalously wet conditions persist across northern Guatemala, Honduras and Belize.

During the last seven days, average to above-average rainfall was received across the northern half of Central America. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (> 100mm) according to station data was observed across Belize, as well as, throughout eastern Honduras, and eastern Honduras, with slightly lesser amounts (50-75mm) observed in northern Guatemala. More seasonal weekly accumulations were received across parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Over the last 30 days, above-average rainfall has prevailed throughout northern Central America, with sustained seasonal moisture surpluses in excess of 100mm throughout much of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. Conversely, a continuation of below-average rainfall in November has sustained moisture deficits throughout many parts of eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Despite the below-average monthly rainfall totals further south, seasonal rainfall continues to be frequent and favorably distributed.

For the next seven days, a reduction of precipitation is again expected for northern Central America. The potential for locally heavy rainfall (50-75mm) still exists across parts of northern Guatemala, and northern Honduras during the earlier portion of the outlook period. However, many local areas are expected to receive average to below average rainfall during mid to late December. Minimum temperatures are also forecast to be slightly warmer compared to the previous week, and are not expected to drop below freezing in the higher elevations.

