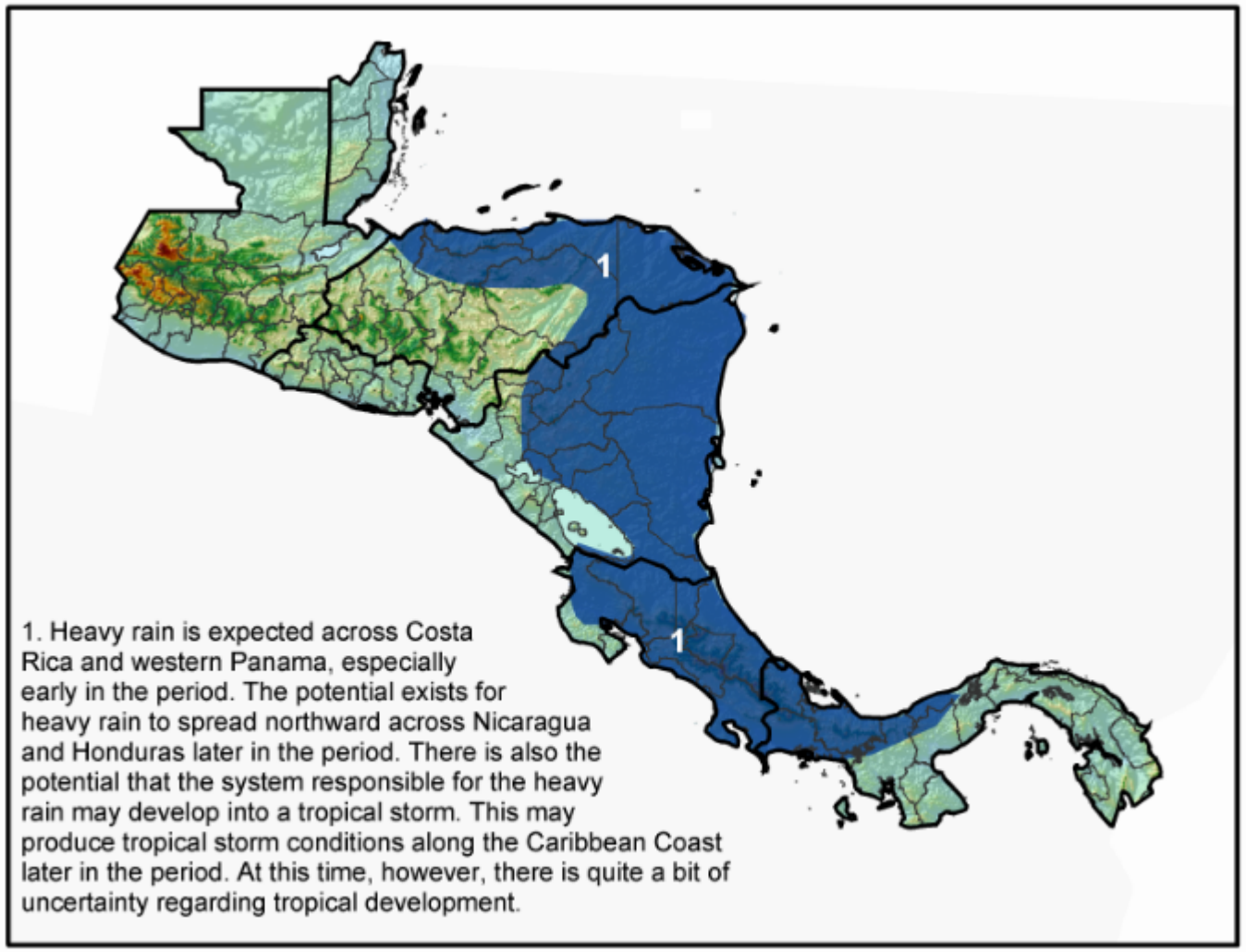
MFEWS Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System
Sistema Mesoamericano de Alerta Temprana para Seguridad Alimentaria

The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

October 27 – November 2, 2005



1. Heavy rain is expected across Costa Rica and western Panama, especially early in the period. The potential exists for heavy rain to spread northward across Nicaragua and Honduras later in the period. There is also the potential that the system responsible for the heavy rain may develop into a tropical storm. This may produce tropical storm conditions along the Caribbean Coast later in the period. At this time, however, there is quite a bit of uncertainty regarding tropical development.

Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1) A large, semi-organized cluster of thunderstorms over the southwestern Caribbean Sea is expected to result in heavy amounts of rainfall over Costa Rica and western Panama early in the period. Rainfall amounts of 100 to 200 mm, with locally higher amounts are expected. These rains may result in flooding, landslides and possibly some localized crop damage to maturing and un-harvested crops. These rains are expected to slowly spread northward, resulting in heavy rains across eastern Nicaragua, as well as northern and eastern portions of Honduras. There are also indications that the cluster of thunderstorms may slowly organize into a tropical storm. This may result in strong winds in addition to heavy rainfall across Nicaragua and/or Honduras. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the development of a tropical system, as well as the intensity and the exact motion of the system if it does indeed develop. Therefore, the potential exists for heavy rain and gusty winds anywhere from Panama to Honduras during the period. NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami is monitoring the area closely. If development occurs, the Hurricane Center will issue updated bulletins every 6 hours (3 hours if conditions warrant). These bulletins are available at: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov.

* Although not shown on the map, a cold front is expected to result in cold overnight low temperatures in the higher elevations of southern Guatemala, El Salvador and western Honduras. Minimum temperatures of 4 to 12 degrees Celsius can be expected during the period, especially in sheltered high elevation valley locations. Although not very unusual, these temperatures could pose a problem for individuals without shelter due to the recent torrential rains, floods and landslides in the area. As a result, homeless and displaced individuals could be vulnerable to exposure during the late night and early morning hours when temperatures are lowest.

AUTHOR: Chester V. Schmitt

The MFEWS weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Alvin.Miller@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7552