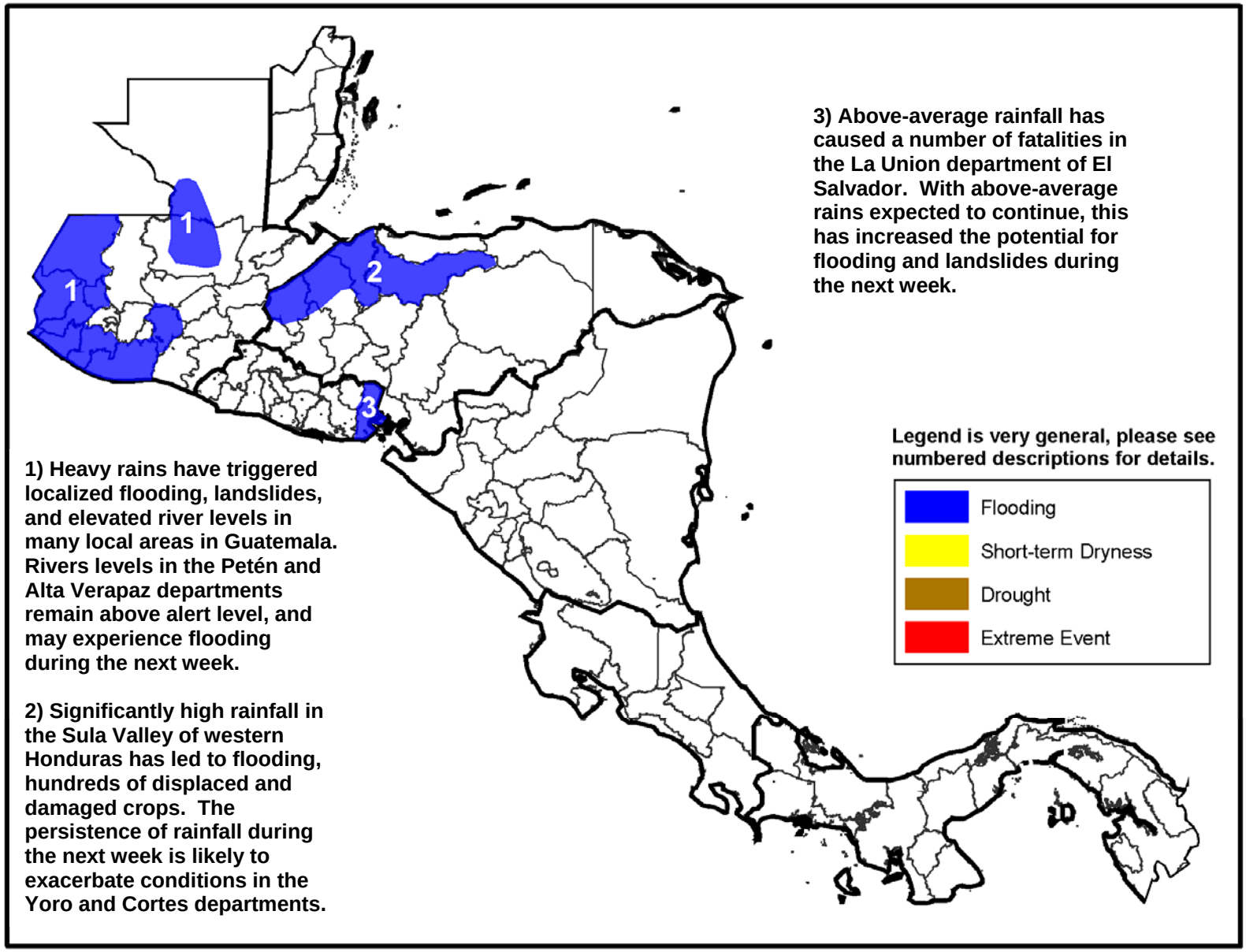
The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America
August 12 – August 18, 2010

- **Copious amounts of rainfall were received across a number of areas in Central America. This resulted in flooding, landslides, and elevated river levels, displaced people and damages to crop in Guatemala, Honduras and eastern El Salvador.**



3) Above-average rainfall has caused a number of fatalities in the La Union department of El Salvador. With above-average rains expected to continue, this has increased the potential for flooding and landslides during the next week.

1) Heavy rains have triggered localized flooding, landslides, and elevated river levels in many local areas in Guatemala. Rivers levels in the Petén and Alta Verapaz departments remain above alert level, and may experience flooding during the next week.

2) Significantly high rainfall in the Sula Valley of western Honduras has led to flooding, hundreds of displaced and damaged crops. The persistence of rainfall during the next week is likely to exacerbate conditions in the Yoro and Cortes departments.

Above average rains continues to impact many local parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

During the last seven days, excessive amounts of precipitation were received across a number of areas in Central America. The highest weekly rain accumulations (>75mm) were observed across southern and the elevated parts of Guatemala, as well as in portions of El Salvador and western Honduras. The persistence of above-average rainfall during the last several weeks has triggered flooding, landslides, elevated river levels, hundreds of displaced people, and a number of fatalities in Central America.

In Guatemala, high rainfall has resulted in landslides in the Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango, and Huehuetenango departments, as well as localized flooding in the Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Suchitequez, and Guatemala departments. Continuous rains have also led to a number of elevated rivers that may produce flooding in the Alta Verapaz and Petén departments. In El Salvador, two consecutive weeks of significantly heavy precipitation near the Gulf of Fonseca has led to a number of fatalities in the La Union department, with the possibility of volcanic activity also triggering flooding and damages to infrastructure near the San Salvador region. In Honduras, the overflowing of the Ulua River has led to flooding, hundreds of displaced people, and damages to crops and infrastructure. Currently, the Yoro and Cortes departments of western Honduras are in a Red Alert. In Nicaragua, heavy rains also have reportedly attributed to crop losses along the Coco River.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a high potential for moderate to heavy rainfall (50-100mm) along the Pacific Rim of Central America over the next seven days. These rains are likely to aggravate local flooding conditions and river levels, as well as possibly produce additional flooding in some local areas. Seasonally, the start of La Nina in the Pacific is also likely to enhance rainfall for the Postrera season in Central America.

Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast (mm)
August 11th – August 18th, 2010

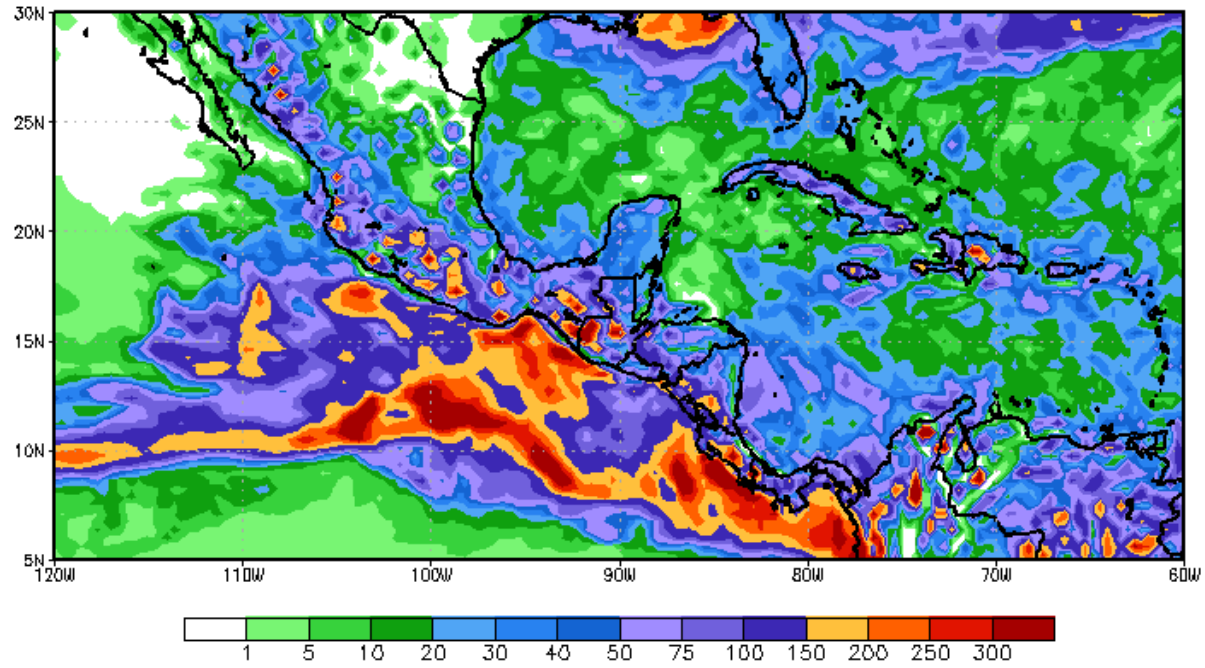


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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