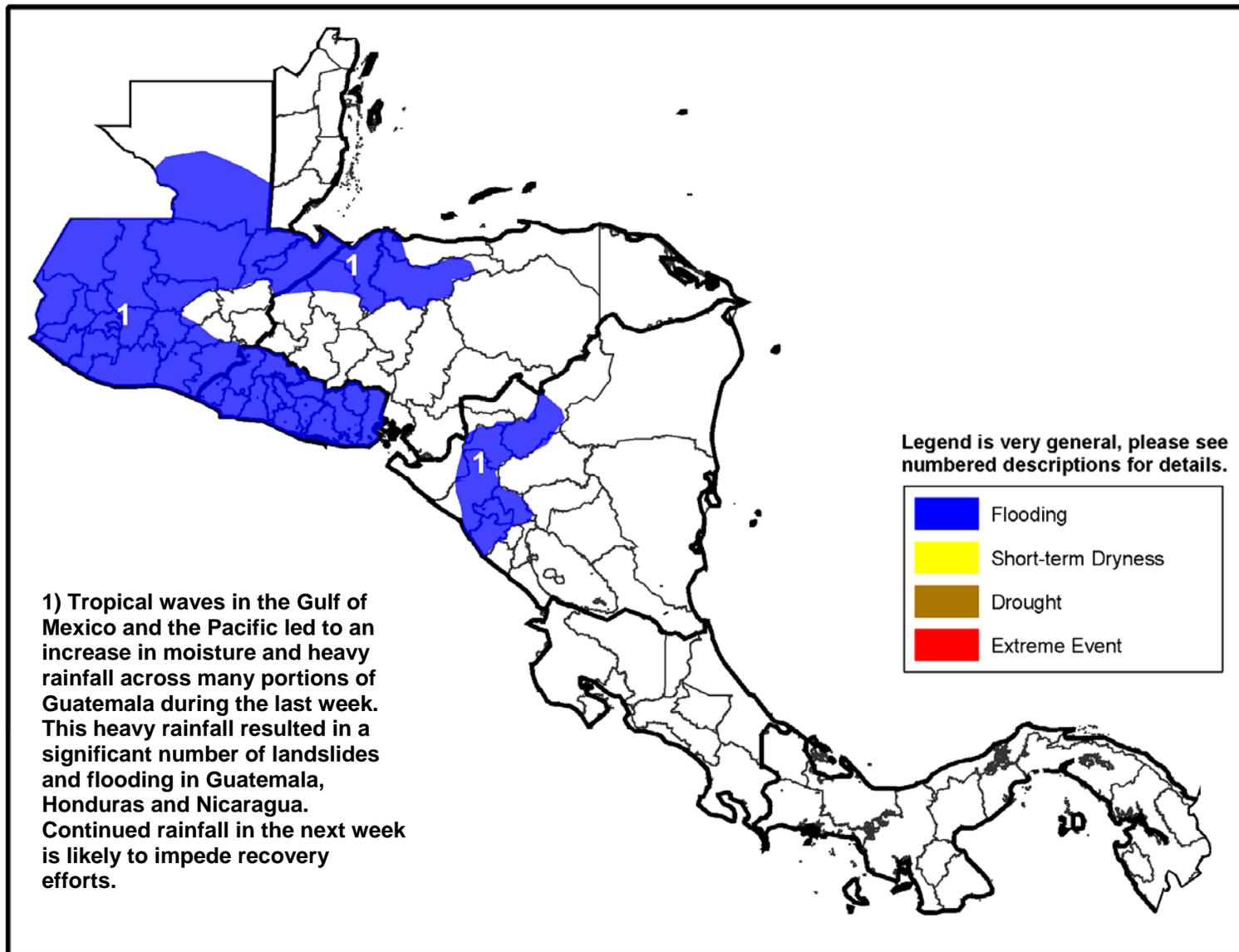


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America September 9 – September 15, 2010

- Excessive rainfall in Guatemala continues to trigger flooding, landslides, increased river levels, damages to infrastructure and fatalities.



Continued heavy rains devastate many local areas in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Copious amounts of rainfall (>100mm) were received across Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua resulting in flooding, landslides, damages to infrastructure, elevated river levels, and many fatalities during the last week. In Guatemala, a total of 255 individual events were reported in the last seven days, with the majority of flooding events reported across a number of departments in the south, as well as near the capital, with numerous landslides and land collapses that occurred in many central departments in the higher elevations. The rains also have led to considerable damages to maize, banana, and bean crops, and have caused damages to infrastructure, impeded transport and communications, displaced thousands of people and fatalities. In Honduras, persistently high amounts of precipitation have negatively affected sugar cane, maize, sorghum, coffee and bean crops, as a number of departments expect a considerable loss in crops. The potential for flooding still remains high in the Cortez, Santa Barbara and Yoro departments. In Nicaragua, flooding, landslides and damages to infrastructure were also reported for a number of departments in the north along the Honduras border.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a decrease in precipitation compared to the last week however rainfall is expected to remain above-average throughout many areas of Central America. Many areas may expect to receive weekly rainfall accumulations in excess of 75 mm. This enhanced precipitation is likely to exacerbate local flooding condition, river levels, and impede recovery efforts during the next week. Due to the persistence of heavy rains this summer, there also remains a high probability for flooding landslides in many parts of El Salvador. No significant tropical activity is expected.

