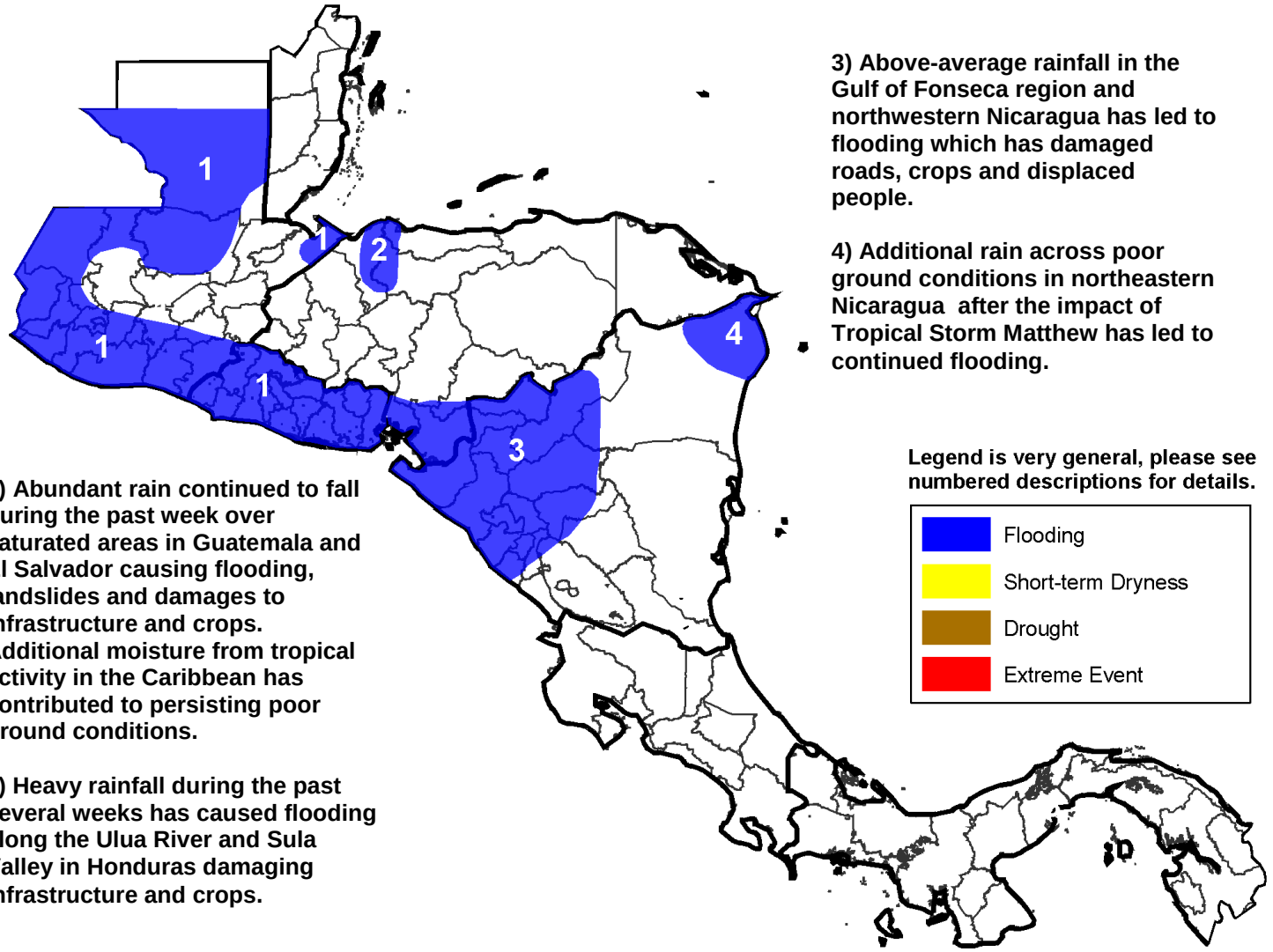
The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America
October 7 – October 13, 2010

- **Heavy rains over already saturated areas throughout Central America have led to flooding and landslides.**



1) Abundant rain continued to fall during the past week over saturated areas in Guatemala and El Salvador causing flooding, landslides and damages to infrastructure and crops. Additional moisture from tropical activity in the Caribbean has contributed to persisting poor ground conditions.

2) Heavy rainfall during the past several weeks has caused flooding along the Ulua River and Sula Valley in Honduras damaging infrastructure and crops.

3) Above-average rainfall in the Gulf of Fonseca region and northwestern Nicaragua has led to flooding which has damaged roads, crops and displaced people.

4) Additional rain across poor ground conditions in northeastern Nicaragua after the impact of Tropical Storm Matthew has led to continued flooding.

Widespread flooding and landslides from continued heavy rain occurred across Central America.

During the past seven days, heavy rainfall (> 100mm) was received across already saturated areas in Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Nicaragua. The most abundant rainfall (> 200mm) was situated over the Escuintla department of Guatemala and the Atlantida department of Honduras. The above-average rains followed the large amount of rain associated with Tropical Storm Matthew causing further stress on already vulnerable areas of Central America. In particular, the ample rainfall over Guatemala caused numerous landslides and flooding along the Pacific coast and in the Peten, Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenago departments of Guatemala. Very wet conditions during the past several months have led to especially poor ground conditions throughout the country. Similar conditions exist in El Salvador as continued rainfall has led to flooding and landslides. The above-average rainfall has also caused flooding along the Ulua River and the Sula Valley in Honduras displacing people and damaging crops and infrastructure. In Nicaragua, high rains in departments along the Honduran border have continued to impact crops, displace people and damage infrastructure. Locations in northern Nicaragua where Tropical Storm Matthew made landfall also saw another week of abundant rain cause flooding and damages to infrastructure.

Above-average rains are expected to fall across much of Central America during the next week. Since ground conditions are poor over a large part of Central America, additional rainfall could cause flooding and landslides. There is a slight risk for departments along the Atlantic coast of Honduras and Nicaragua to be impacted by a tropical system which could bring heavy rainfall during the end of the observation period.

Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast (mm)
October 5th – October 12th, 2010

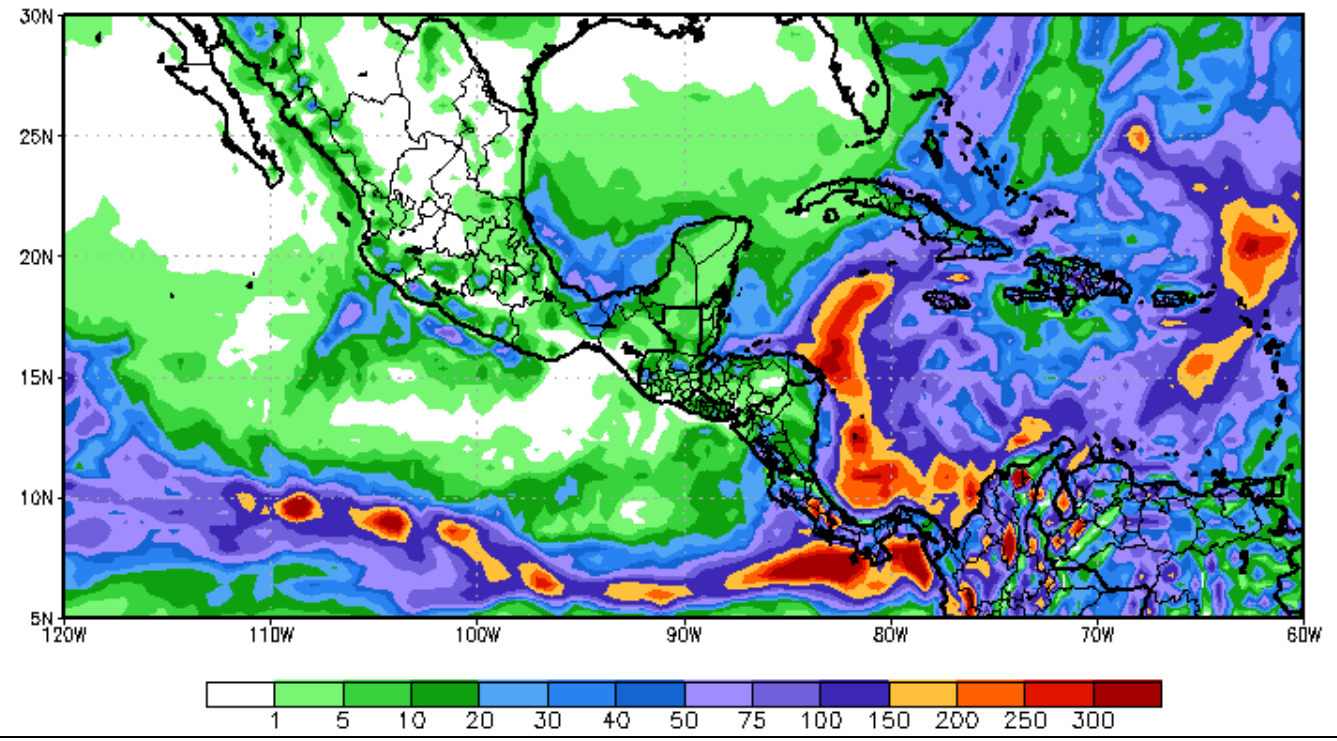


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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