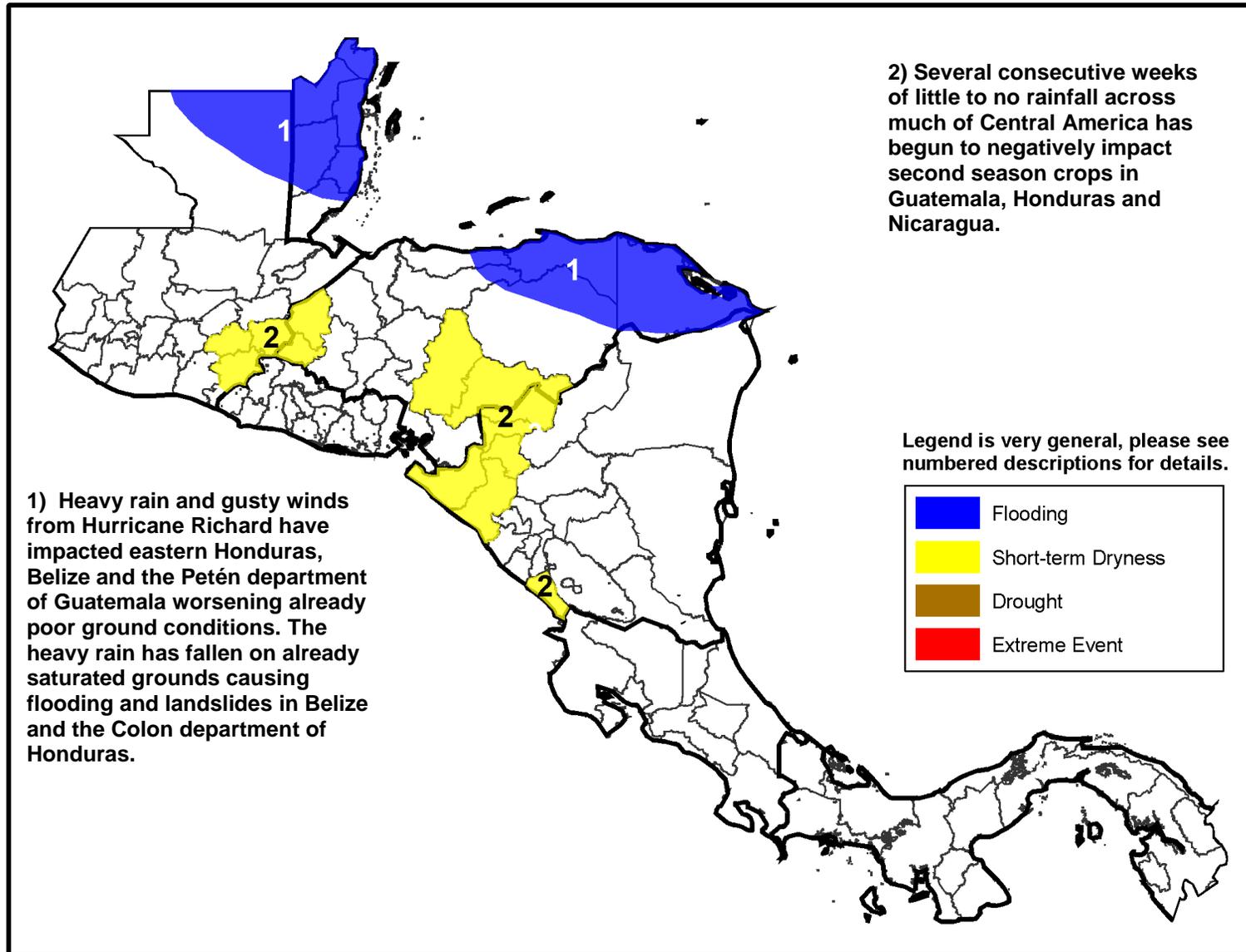


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America October 28 – November 3, 2010

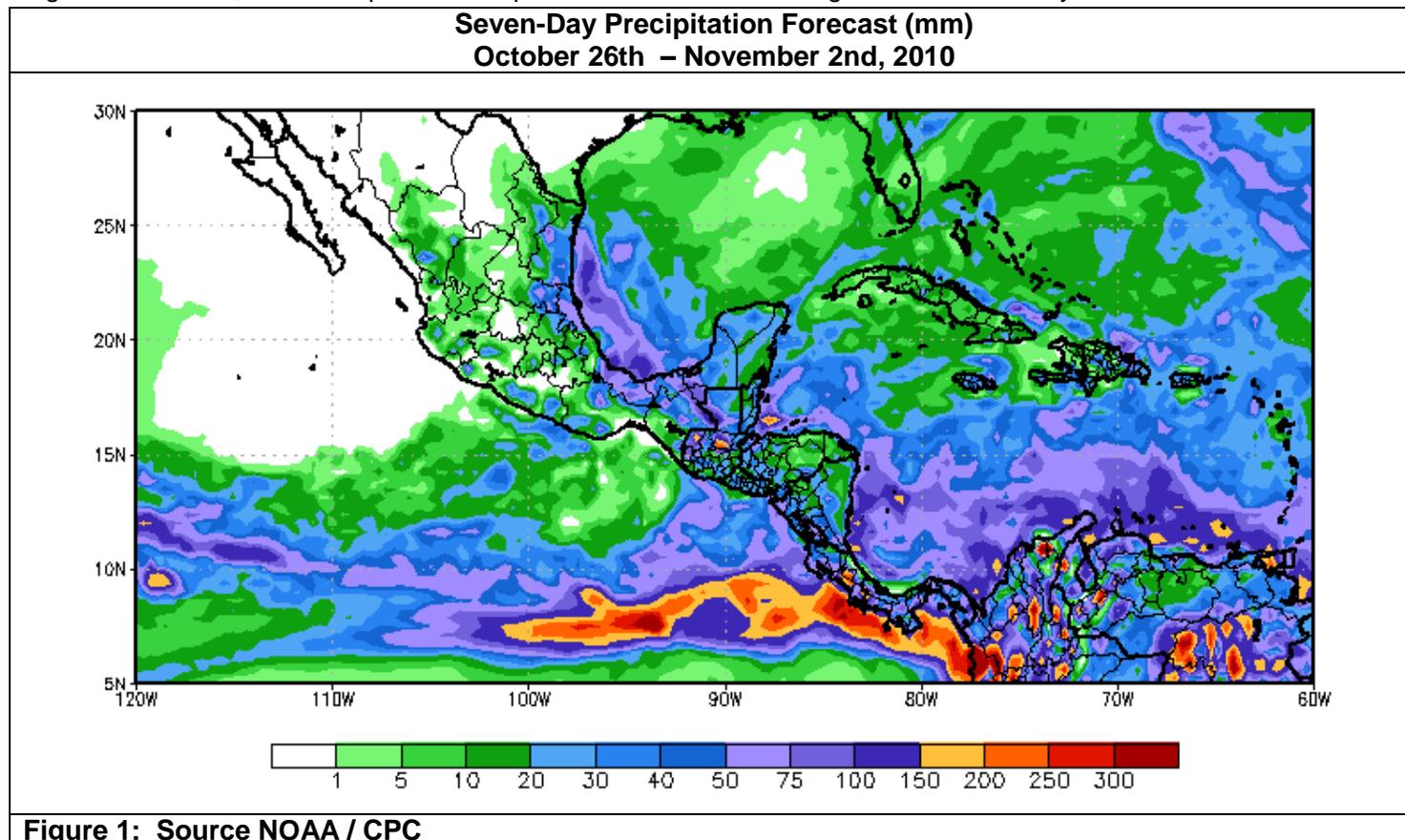
- Heavy rain and gusty winds from Hurricane Richard have impacted the Gulf of Honduras region.



Heavy rain and gusty winds from Hurricane Richard impacted Honduras, Belize and Guatemala.

The impacts from Hurricane Richard were felt from Honduras to Belize during the last week as heavy rain and gusty winds associated with the storm caused flooding and landslides. After brushing the Atlantic coastline of Honduras, Hurricane Richard made landfall across central Belize bringing heavy rain (> 100 mm) which caused flooding. Rains from Hurricane Richard over Honduras had earlier caused landslides that blocked highways in the Colon department. Besides rainfall along the Atlantic coast of Central America, locally heavy amounts (> 100 mm) of rain were observed in the Gulf of Fonseca region of Nicaragua and Honduras while rainfall totals were limited for a third consecutive week across Guatemala, El Salvador, and portions of Honduras. The limited rainfall during the month of October has led to rainfall deficits greater than 100 mm in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua erasing early post-rainy season rainfall surpluses. The continued lack of rainfall has begun to negatively impact second season black bean crops in Guatemala, and red bean crops in Honduras and Nicaragua. Further suppression of rainfall will only continue to worsen crop production.

An increase in rainfall is forecast during the next seven days across much of Central America with localized areas in northern Guatemala and the Gulf of Fonseca region receiving moderate to heavy rainfall (30-50 mm). However, drier than normal conditions are expected to continue across central Honduras and areas along the Pacific coast in Guatemala and El Salvador which have received little rainfall during the month of October. While tropical activity has been prevalent during the last month, it is not expected to impact Central America during the next seven days.



MFEWS is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The MFEWS weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by MFEWS field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries such as, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID MFEWS activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for MFEWS, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.