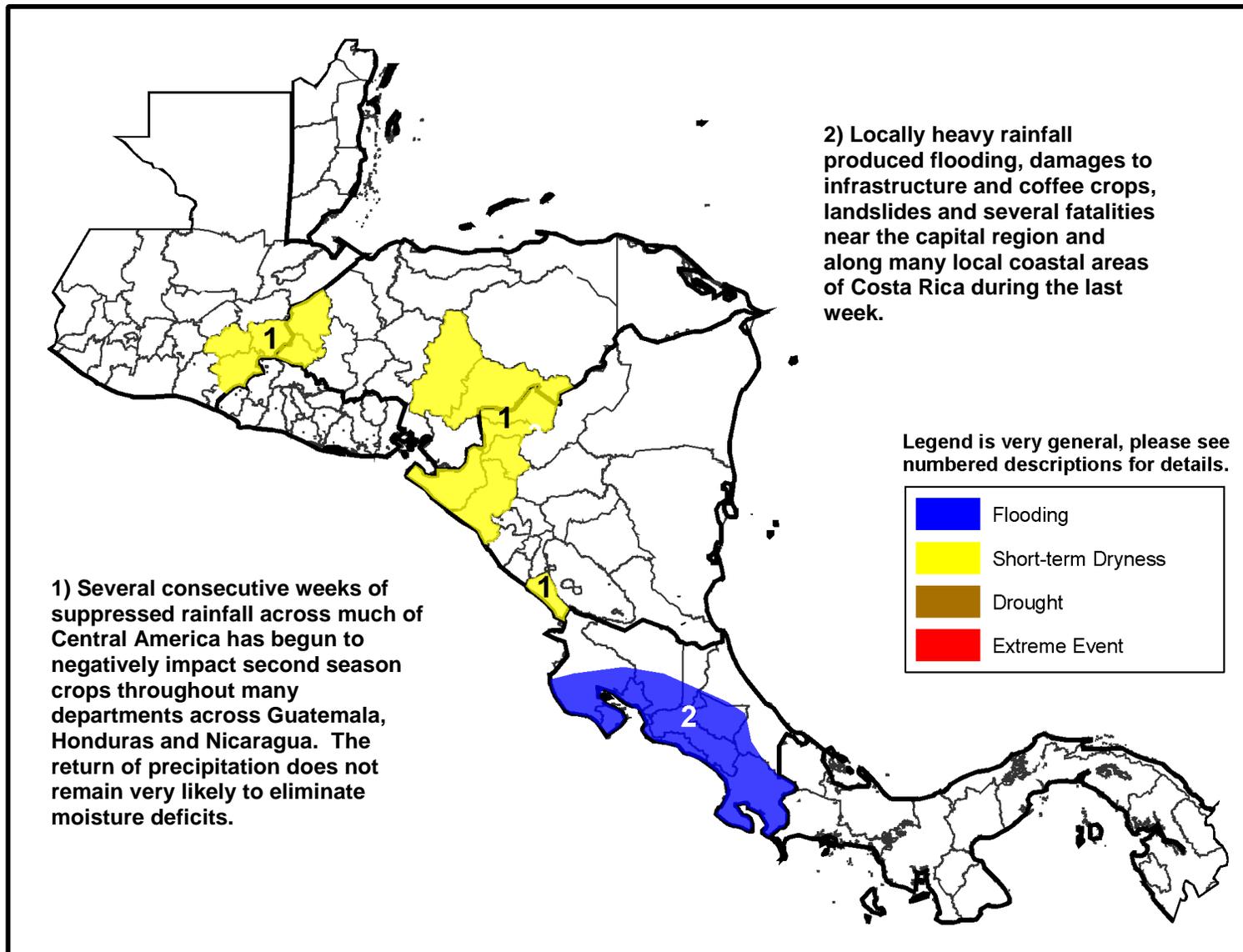


The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America November 11 – November 17, 2010

- Below-average precipitation in November continues to worsen areas affected by anomalous Postrera dryness in portions of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



An early end to the Postrera rains season appears likely.

Minimal amounts of precipitation were received across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua as a large number of areas observed light rainfall accumulations ranging between 5-20mm during the last seven days. However, significantly high precipitation was observed further south in Costa Rica, as many local areas experienced precipitation amounts in excess of 150mm throughout the San Jose, Cartago, and Puntarenas provinces. The onset of this heavy rainfall resulted in localized flooding, damages to infrastructure and coffee crops, elevated rivers and landslides that led to a number of fatalities near the capital region. In the last 30 days, Postrera rainfall has abruptly ceased throughout Central America, as moisture deficits have strengthened particularly throughout parts of where rainfall remained anomalously high during the Primera season earlier this year. Many local areas have experienced less than a quarter of their normal rainfall since early October, which continues to negatively impact cropping activities in eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and many areas north of Lake Nicaragua. Due to the persistence of this late season dryness throughout October and November, this has given less opportunity for rains to return before the start of the Apante season. Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of below-average rainfall, as many areas are expected to receive accumulations less than 30mm during the next seven days.

