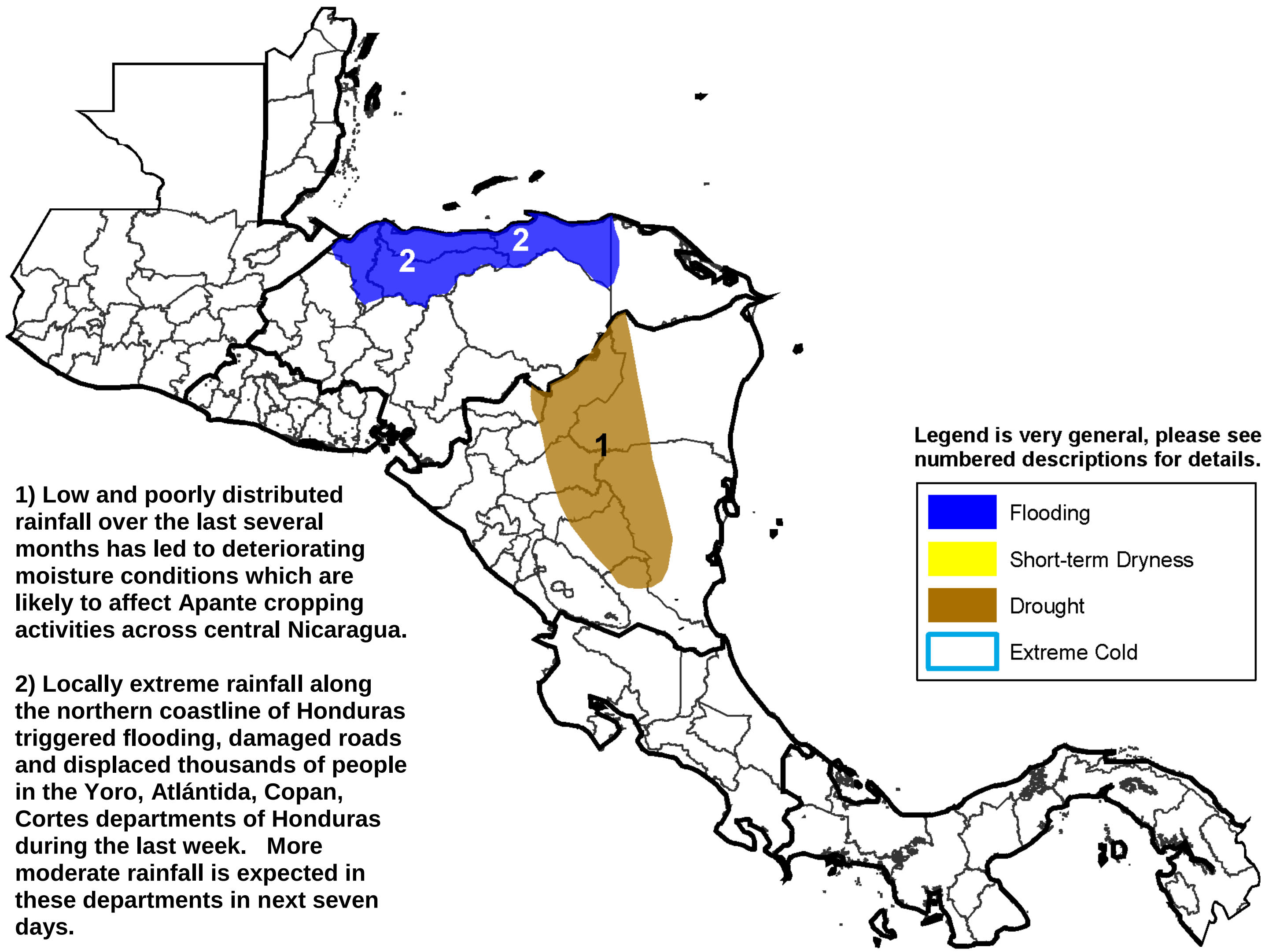
The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America
January 20 – January 26, 2011

- **Increased amounts of precipitation in northern Central America produces flooding, damages to infrastructure, and thousands of displaced people in northern Honduras.**



1) Low and poorly distributed rainfall over the last several months has led to deteriorating moisture conditions which are likely to affect Apante cropping activities across central Nicaragua.

2) Locally extreme rainfall along the northern coastline of Honduras triggered flooding, damaged roads and displaced thousands of people in the Yoro, Atlántida, Copan, Cortes departments of Honduras during the last week. More moderate rainfall is expected in these departments in next seven days.

Above average rainfall across northern Central America helps relieve Apante dryness, but leads to flooding in northern Honduras.

During the last week, an increase in winds and moisture across the Caribbean produced high amounts of rainfall throughout many areas in northern Central America. In Guatemala, weekly precipitation amounts ranging between 50-100mm were received across the Peten and Alta Verapaz departments, with locally heavier amounts (>100mm) observed in northern Peten. In northern Honduras, locally extreme amounts of rainfall (>200mm) during the last week led to flooding, damaged roads and thousands of displaced people in the Yoro, Atlántida, Colon and Cortes departments of Honduras. The anomalously wet distribution of rainfall during the past week has reduced developing rainfall and moisture deficits for many of these areas in northern Guatemala and Honduras. While these rains have help neutralize rainfall deficits over the last 30 days, more moderate dryness still remains across portions of central and southern Honduras, and central Nicaragua. In the Peten department of Guatemala, poorly distributed rains that occurred during December are expected to reduce crops yields by the end of the Apante season.

Precipitation forecasts indicate a decrease in precipitation over northern Guatemala and Honduras, with continuing heavy precipitation for many local areas towards the south. Weekly rainfall amounts ranging between 10-30mm are expected for northern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras, with a more seasonable distribution of rainfall (30-50mm) expected for many Atlantic coastal areas in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast (mm)
January 17th, 2010 – January 24th, 2011

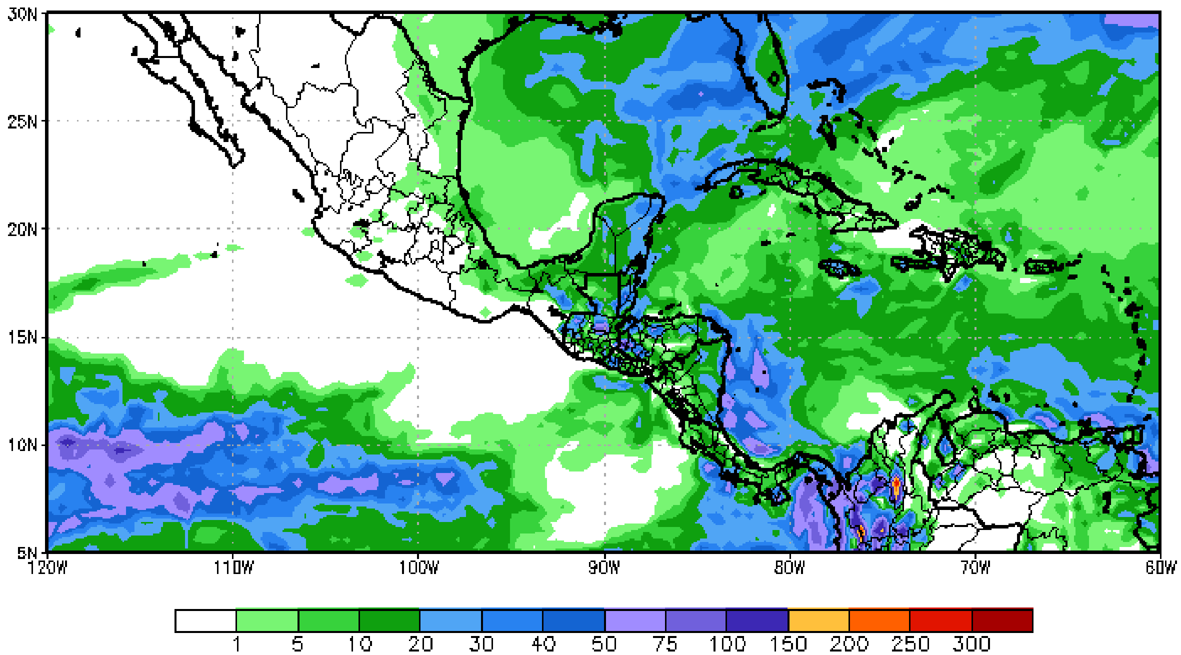


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC