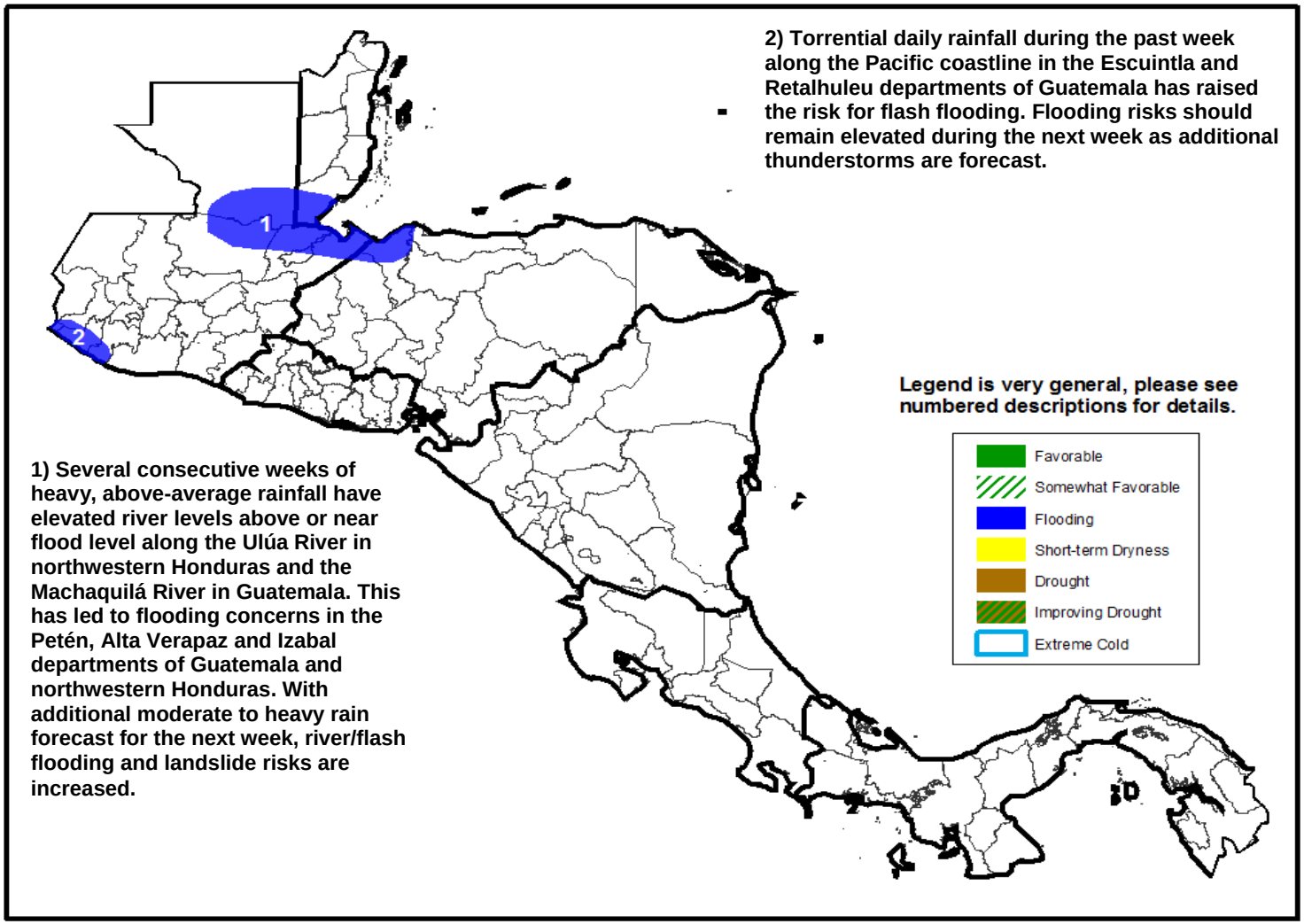
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
June 21 – June 27, 2012

- **Northern Guatemala and dry portions of Costa Rica observed heavy rains during the past seven days.**



- **2) Torrential daily rainfall during the past week along the Pacific coastline in the Escuintla and Retalhuleu departments of Guatemala has raised the risk for flash flooding. Flooding risks should remain elevated during the next week as additional thunderstorms are forecast.**

1) Several consecutive weeks of heavy, above-average rainfall have elevated river levels above or near flood level along the Ulúa River in northwestern Honduras and the Machaquilá River in Guatemala. This has led to flooding concerns in the Petén, Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments of Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. With additional moderate to heavy rain forecast for the next week, river/flash flooding and landslide risks are increased.

Heavy rains in northern Central America raise flooding concerns.

Last week, Hurricane Carlotta developed to the south of Central America, tracking to the north and west of Central America before making landfall in southern Mexico. Only areas in southern Central America during the initial development phase of Carlotta observed any impact. During the past seven days, widespread moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) were recorded in Central America. The heaviest rains (>100mm) fell across Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala. The abundant rains along the Caribbean coastline of Costa Rica have turned thirty-day rainfall deficits to surpluses and increased ground moisture. Farther north, above-average weekly rains (>50mm total) fell across Belize and Guatemala. Over a three day period, abundant rains (>75mm) fell along the Pacific coastline and in northern Guatemala equaling roughly 30-65% of the monthly climatological total in some locations. Localized flooding was reported. The recent above-average rains have led to above-average Primera seasonal rainfall totals and widespread above-average thirty-day rainfall anomalies across Central America. The largest thirty-day anomalies (>100mm) are located along the Gulf of Honduras in Belize and eastern Honduras.

For the next week, an increase in drier air will result in a reduction in rains across much of Central America. However, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) are forecast along the Gulf of Honduras and much of Guatemala. Locations in coastal and northern Guatemala including the Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Petén, Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments could observe localized river/flash flooding. Elsewhere, lighter amounts of precipitation (5-30mm) are expected as a drier air mass moves into the region during the next seven days.

Seven-Day Rainfall Forecast (mm)
June 20 – June 27, 2012

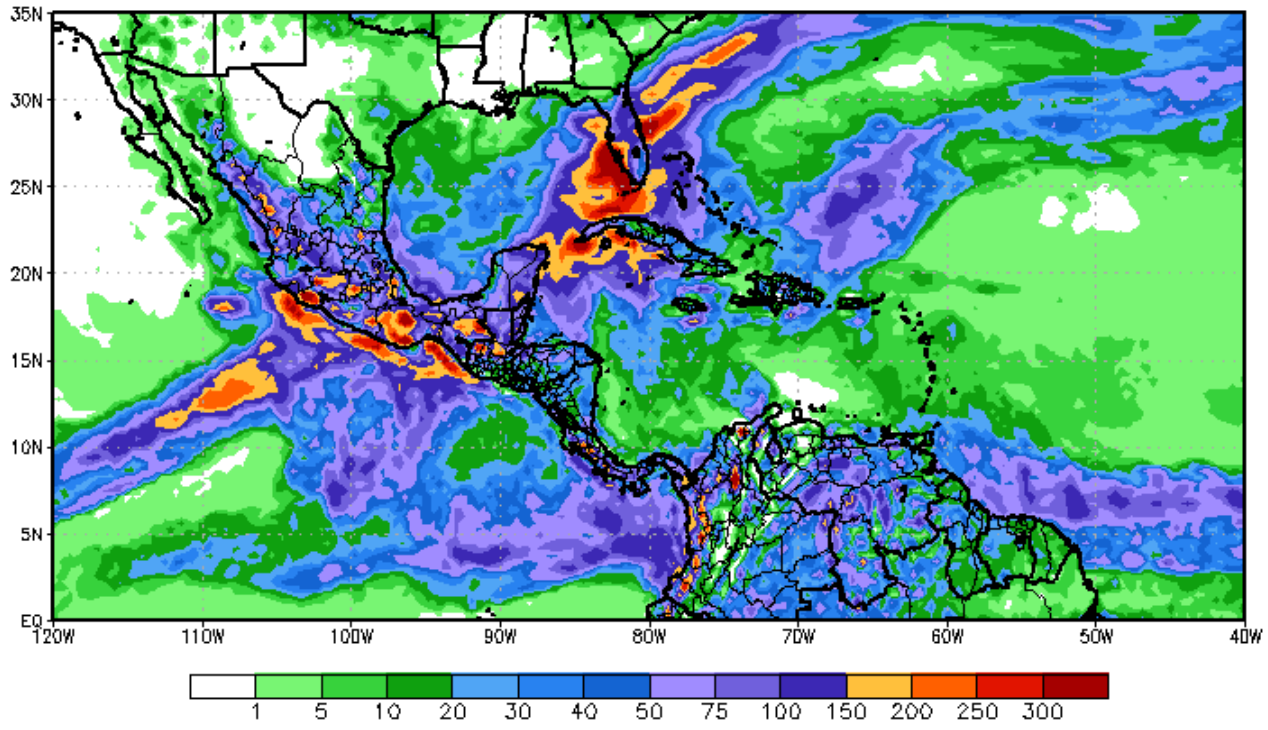


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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