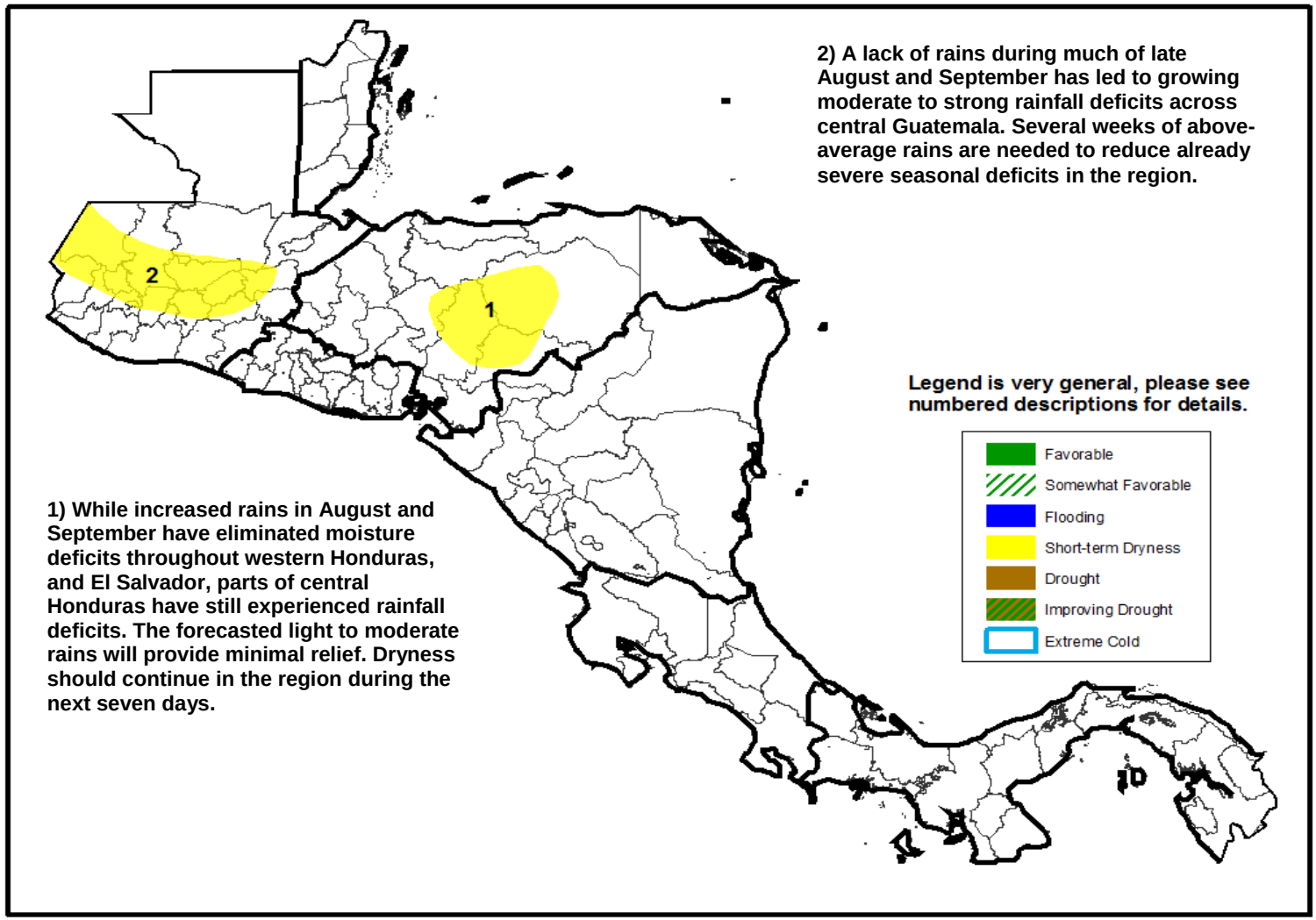
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
October 11 – October 17, 2012

- **Despite an increase in rainfall observed during the past week, rainfall deficits have persisted across portions of northern Central America.**



2) A lack of rains during much of late August and September has led to growing moderate to strong rainfall deficits across central Guatemala. Several weeks of above-average rains are needed to reduce already severe seasonal deficits in the region.

1) While increased rains in August and September have eliminated moisture deficits throughout western Honduras, and El Salvador, parts of central Honduras have still experienced rainfall deficits. The forecasted light to moderate rains will provide minimal relief. Dryness should continue in the region during the next seven days.

Increased rainfall observed across northern Central America.

The rainfall pattern during the past seven days was characterized by an increase in rainfall over northern Central America. Heavy downpours (> 100 mm) were recorded over the southern Petén and Alta Verapaz departments of Guatemala, where flooding have been reported to affect thousands of people during the past week. The heaviest (> 200 mm) rains were observed over parts of the Pacific region of Guatemala, helping to reduce the spatial extent and magnitude of negative anomalies observed over the past ninety days. However, rainfall deficits have persisted across the northwestern and central parts of Guatemala due to an irregular rainfall distribution since late August. Farther east, in Honduras, light to moderate (30 – 50 mm) rains fell over the dry corridor; but the rainfall amounts were not sufficient to neutralize the accumulated rainfall deficits in the region. Meanwhile, moderate to locally heavy (> 40 mm) rains were observed over the southern Caribbean, helping to sustain adequate ground moisture during the past week.

During the next seven days, model forecasts suggest reduced rains (< 30 mm) across the inland of Central America, with localized heavy (> 50 mm) rains over the Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala and local areas of Honduras. Therefore, the forecasted light rainfall could help to maintain dryness across portions of northern Central America. In contrast, the passage of easterly waves is expected to enhance rains along the Pacific coasts, including the Gulf of Fonseca region. Meanwhile, moist northeasterly winds are likely to bring heavy showers in the Gulf of Honduras.

Seven-Day Rainfall Forecast (mm)
00Z October 10 – 00Z October 17, 2012

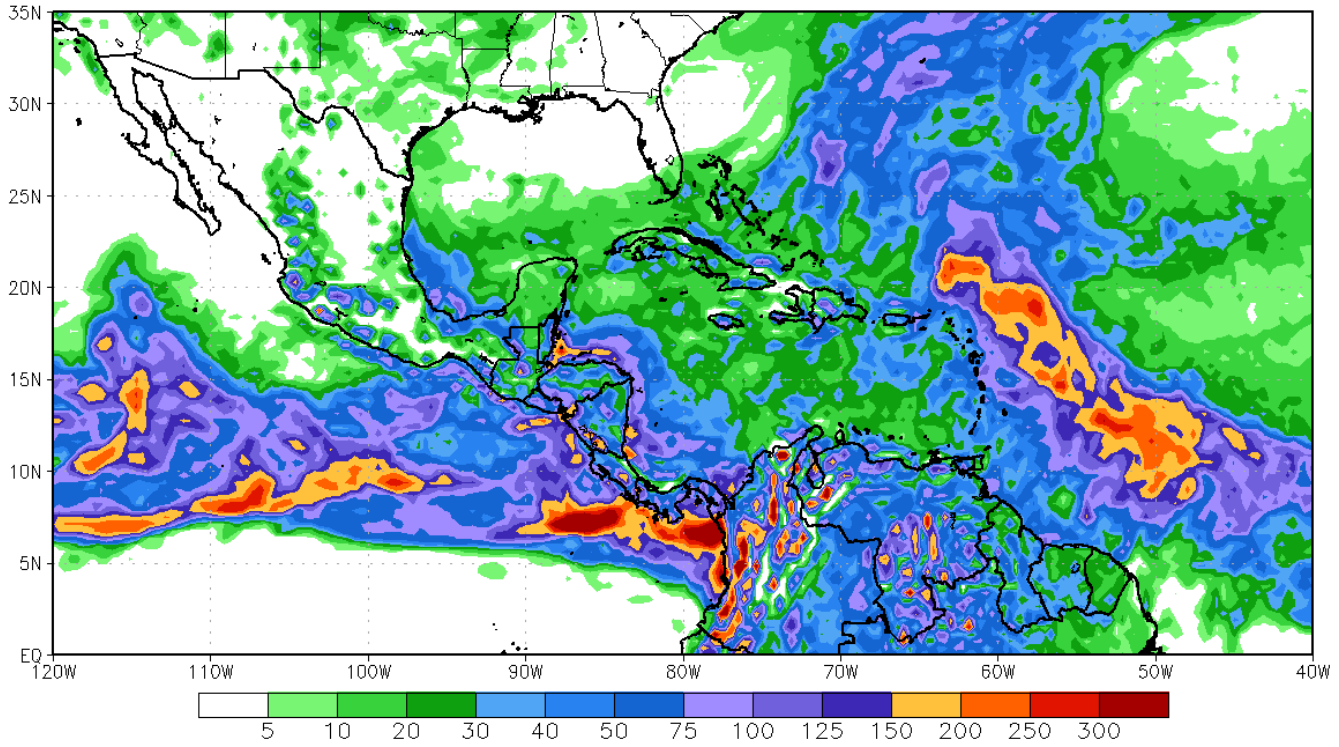


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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