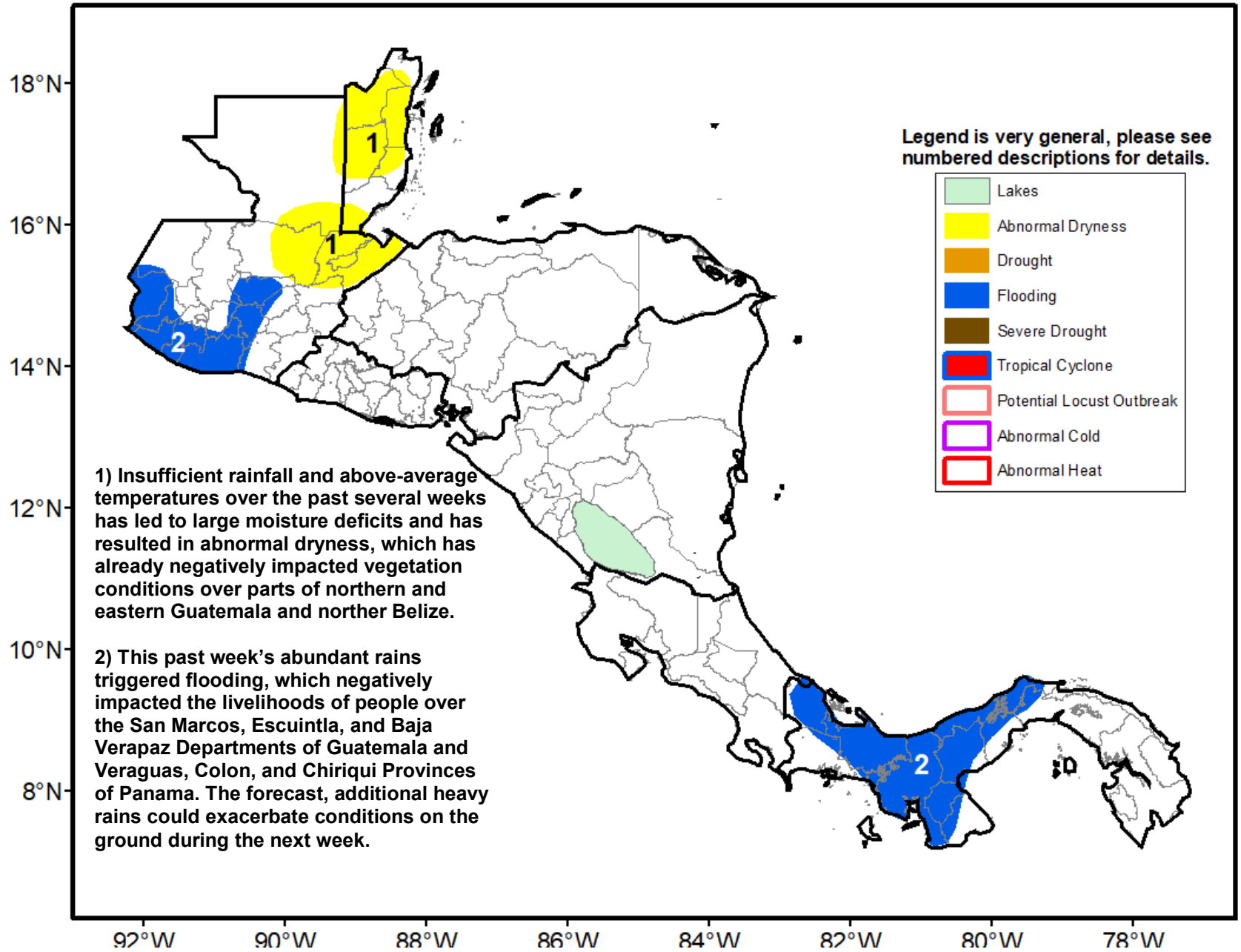
# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
## August 13 – 19, 2020

- **This past week's heavy rains led to floods over many areas, while dryness persisted in Belize and Guatemala.**




**1) Insufficient rainfall and above-average temperatures over the past several weeks has led to large moisture deficits and has resulted in abnormal dryness, which has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions over parts of northern and eastern Guatemala and norther Belize.**

**2) This past week's abundant rains triggered flooding, which negatively impacted the livelihoods of people over the San Marcos, Escuintla, and Baja Verapaz Departments of Guatemala and Veraguas, Colon, and Chiriqui Provinces of Panama. The forecast, additional heavy rains could exacerbate conditions on the ground during the next week.**

**Flooding concerns remain over many areas as additional rains are forecast to continue.**

An analysis of cumulative rainfall over the past thirty days indicated that drier-than-average conditions prevailed over the Atlantic-facing regions of Central America. Below-average rainfall was received over northern Belize, the Gulf of Honduras, from the eastern parts of Honduras; Nicaragua, and Costa Rica to western Panama. Conversely, wetter-than-average conditions were registered over southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and the Gulf of Fonseca. This uneven distribution of rainfall has led to moderate to large thirty-day moisture deficits, which have already degraded vegetation conditions over areas of northern and eastern Guatemala and northern Belize, based on recent vegetation products. As for the *Primera*, May-August, rainfall season, near to above-average seasonal rainfall performance was observed throughout Central America, except localized areas of eastern Guatemala, northern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua, where rainfall accumulation accounted for below 80 percent of the average. During the past week, while many areas of Central America continued to receive favorable rainfall amounts, the bulk of the rainfall totals was recorded along the Gulf of Fonseca, with torrential rains exceeding 150 mm, according to satellite rainfall estimates. The continuation of good rains is expected to benefit cropping activities during the early period of the second rainfall season.

For next week, moderate to heavy rains are forecast to continue along the coastal areas of Central America. Abundant rains are expected over western and southern Guatemala, coastal Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. The forecast, additional enhanced rains could worsen conditions on the ground over many previously-flooded areas. In contrast, reduced rainfall amounts are forecast over the interior of the sub-region, including central Honduras, north-central Nicaragua, and northern Guatemala, which may contribute to maintain moisture deficits over the dry areas.

**Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH Climatology (mm)**
**August 12 – 19, 2020**

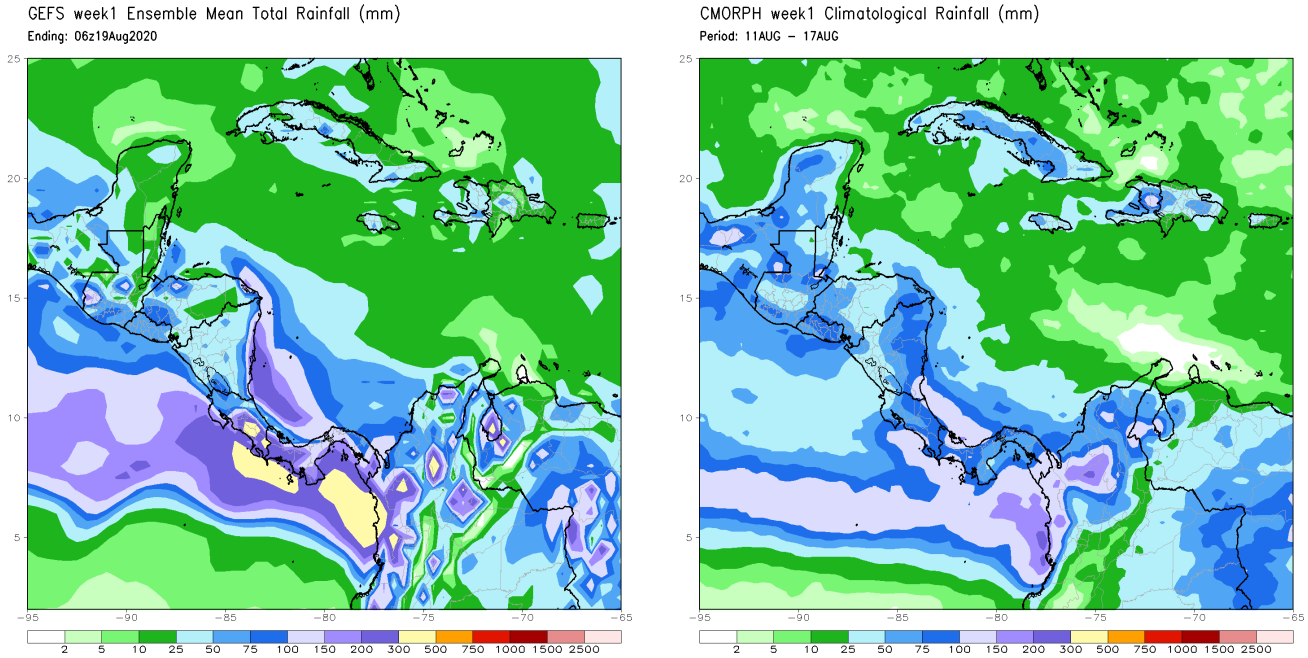



**Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC**

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.