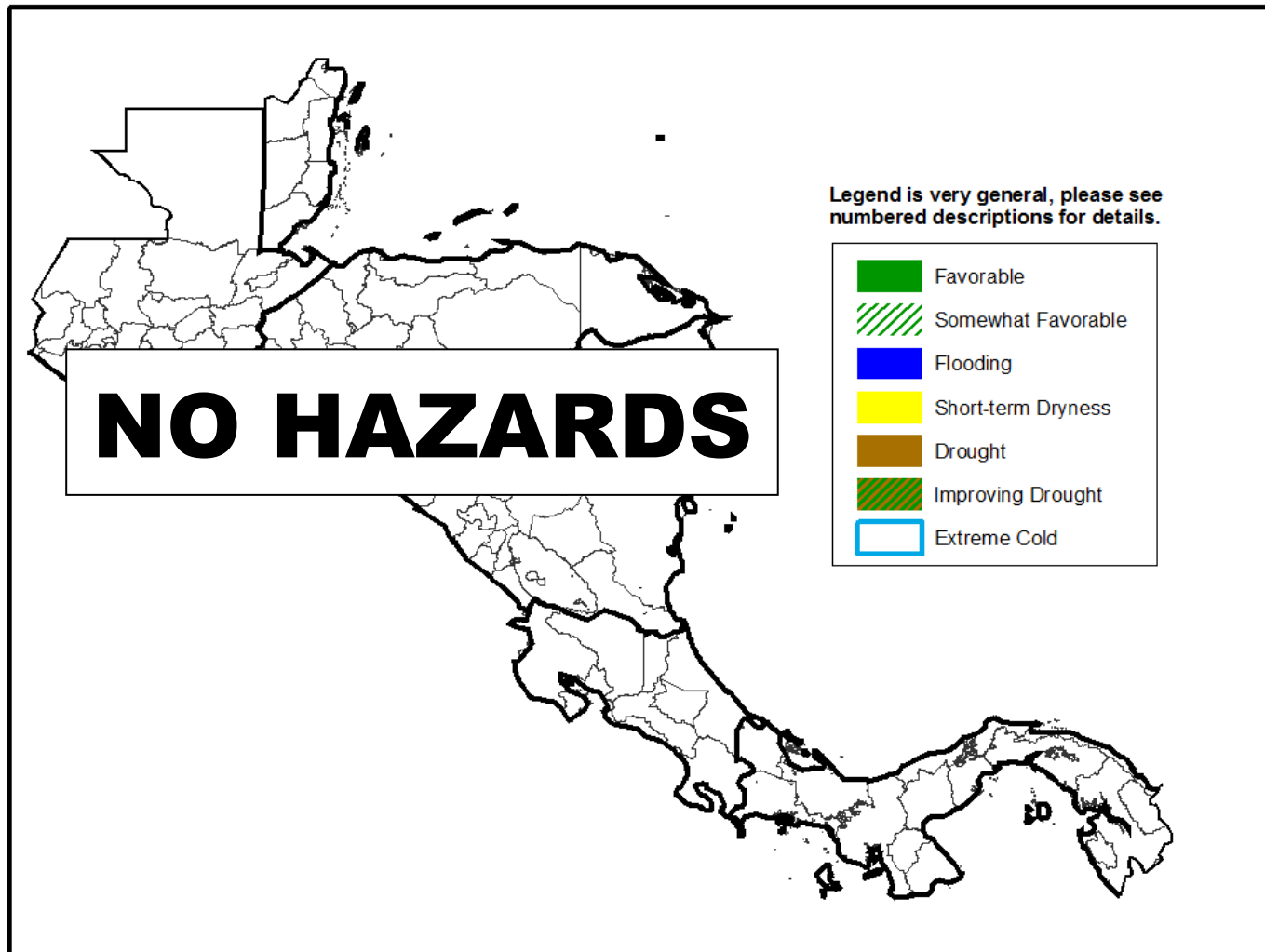




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 29 – January 4, 2011

- Torrential rains cause flooding in Nicaragua while moderate rains affect Costa Rica, Belize and northern Guatemala.



Heavy rains cause flooding in Nicaragua while moderate rain prevails elsewhere along the Caribbean coastline of Central America.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rains (> 30 mm) were recorded along the Caribbean coastline of Central America. The heaviest precipitation was observed across northern and central portions of Nicaragua as greater than 200 mm was recorded. The torrential rains caused flooding and swollen rivers across the interior of Nicaragua as well as reports of fatalities in the Boaco and Matagalpa provinces. Further north, above-average, moderate to locally heavy rain (> 40 mm) was observed across southern Belize and the Petén and Izabal departments of Honduras helping to reduce thirty-day rainfall deficits. Across southern Central America, moderate rains (10-40 mm) fell along the Caribbean coastlines of Costa Rica and Panama, a reduction in rainfall totals compared to the high totals observed during the past several weeks. The continued rains across the southern Caribbean have resulted in thirty-day moisture surpluses and have reduced longer term rainfall deficits. These rains have provided relief to many local areas that experienced dryness in October and November. Meanwhile, seasonally dry conditions persisted across the Pacific coastline and interior portions of northern Central America during the past week.

For the next week, models forecast a seasonal rainfall distribution across Central America for the end of December. Moderate to heavy rain (> 30 mm) is expected across coastal Atlantic parts of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Rainfall, though, is expected to be reduced across Panama.

