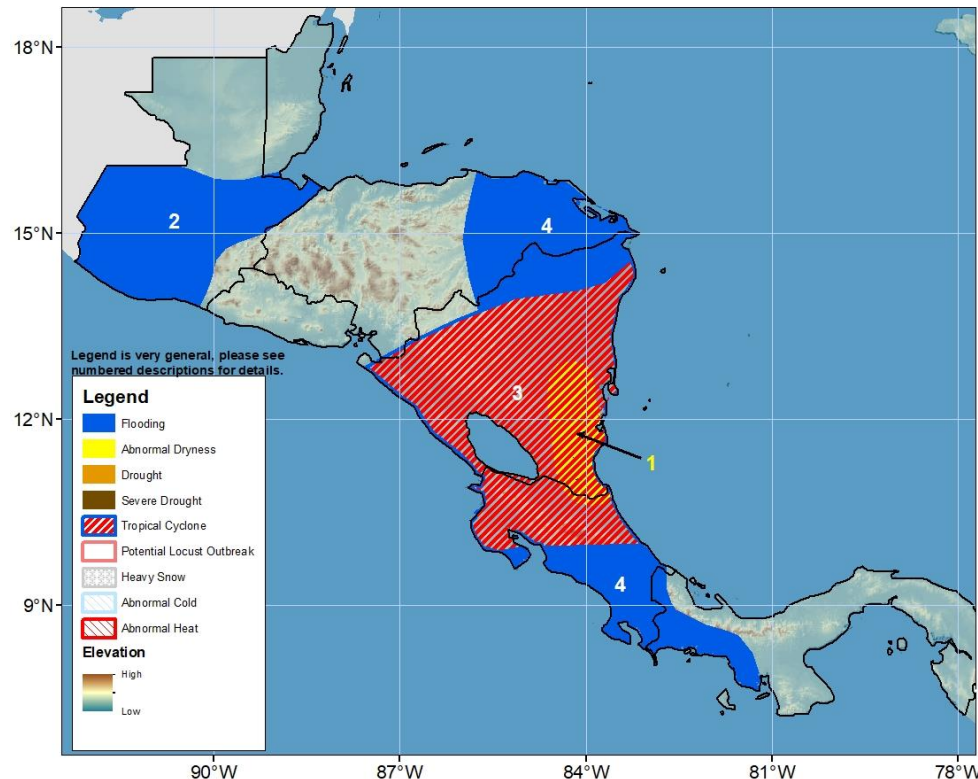


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 30 June – 6 July 2022

A new flood threat emerges as a potential tropical cyclone approaches the region during the outlook period.



- 1) Insufficient rains over the past month have rapidly increased moisture deficits in southeastern Nicaragua
- 2) Heavy and above-average rain over the past few weeks has led to ground oversaturation, which has resulted in flooding and landslides with many infrastructure damages, fatalities, and many people affected over many areas of Guatemala.
- 3) A potential tropical cyclone traversing just north of the South American coast will impact the area on Friday. Strength is uncertain, but winds of at least tropical storm force and torrential rains are expected where the storm makes landfall, likely in eastern Nicaragua.
- 4) Enhanced moisture surrounding the approaching tropical system enhances the chance for heavy, potentially flooding, rain and thunderstorms, especially where soil moisture is already high.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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An approaching potential tropical cyclone will bring gusty winds and excess rainfall to the region.

Some portions of Central America received abundant rainfall totals during the past week. Heavy (> 100 mm) rains fell over parts of central and southern Guatemala, parts of eastern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Many reports over previous weeks indicate that flooding and landslides have caused fatalities and major infrastructure damage over many areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Other parts of the region received well-below average rainfall (25-100mm anomalies). These include northern Guatemala, Belize, southern/western Honduras, El Salvador, much of Nicaragua, and Panama. An analysis of the past 30-day total rainfall shows that wetter-than-average conditions are present over portions of central Guatemala, southern and northern Belize, eastern and western Honduras, and northeastern and southwestern Nicaragua. Rainfall surpluses ranged between 50 – 200mm. The current level of ground oversaturation is such that any additional moisture will likely trigger flash floods over many areas. In contrast, drier-than-average conditions persisted over El Salvador and southern Honduras and southern Nicaragua due to an uneven rainfall distribution since April. Better rains in northern Guatemala and Belize over the past month has improved the moisture situation there. Also, over southern Nicaragua, significant deficits (> 100mm) are still present.

For next week, heavy and above-average rain is expected to focus over eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Belize, according to model forecasts. This is due to the approach of a developing tropical cyclone over the next 3 days. As the system moves westward, development into a tropical storm is likely before reaching eastern Nicaragua on Friday, and hurricane strength remains possible. Heavy rains (>100mm) will impact the region on Friday and Saturday, along with gusty winds exceeding 60kts gusts. This forecasted wet weather pattern maintains high risks for flooding and landslides over many areas. More moderate rainfall is forecast across Guatemala and El Salvador.

