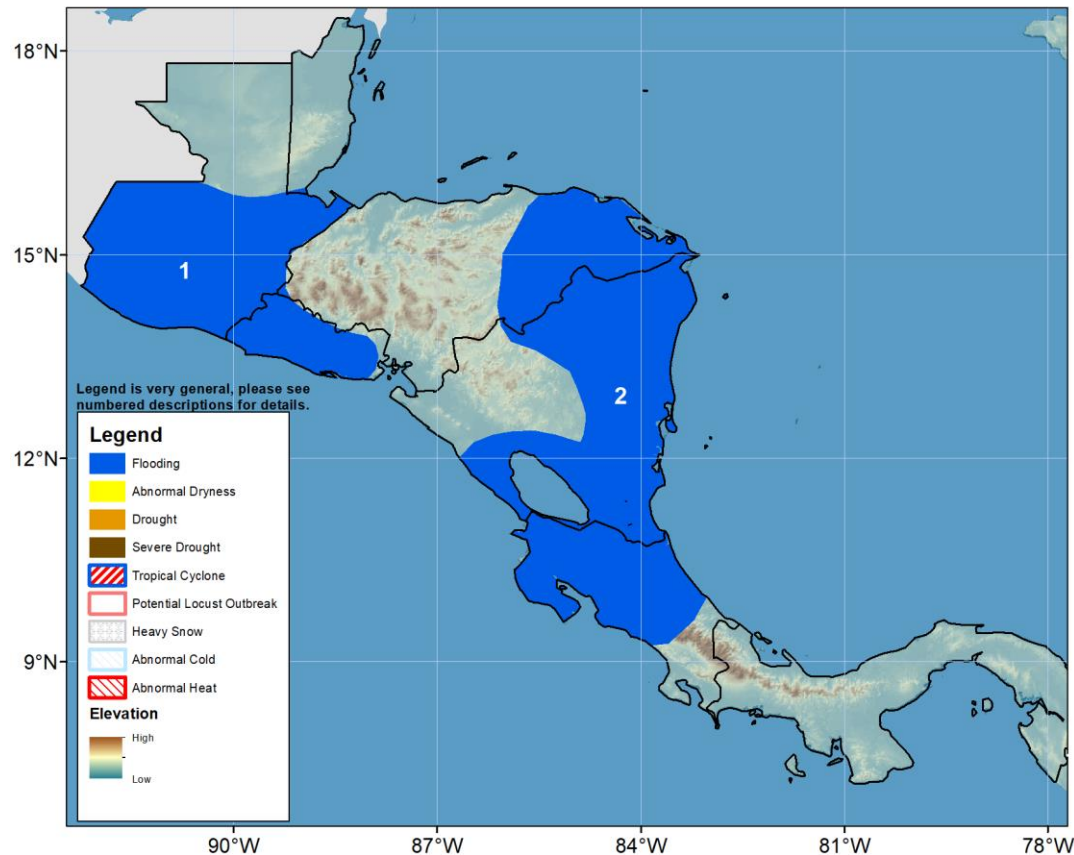


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 14 – 20 July 2022

The forecast heavy rains maintain high risks for flooding over many areas in Central America during the next week.



- 1) Heavy and above-average rain over the past few weeks has led to ground oversaturation, which has already caused flooding, landslides, and many people affected over many areas of Guatemala and El Salvador. Heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week, maintaining high flood risks.
- 2) Continued heavy and above-average rain during the past few weeks has contributed to increase rainfall surpluses over eastern Honduras, eastern and southwestern Nicaragua, and western Costa Rica. The risks for flooding and landslides remain high as heavy rain is to persist during the next week.

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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Floods and landslides likely to continue over many areas due to oversaturation and forecast continued heavy rain

During early July, a reduction in rainfall was observed over northern Central America. Little to light and below-average rain was received over parts of northern and central Guatemala, northern Belize, and parts of Honduras. In contrast, heavy downpours fell over parts of western Guatemala, the Gulf of Honduras, central Nicaragua, and the Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica and Panama. While the slight decrease in rainfall could be associated with the Central America *mid-summer drought* period that is typical of the region around mid-July, additional enhanced rain contributed to maintain and even increase thirty-day moisture surpluses over many local areas. Hence, susceptible and flood-prone areas have already been impacted, according to reports. Reports have also indicated urban flooding due to poor drainage systems over Guatemala City in Guatemala, San Salvador in El Salvador, and Tegucigalpa in Honduras. An analysis of the latest vegetation products has indicated that favorable conditions dominated over much of Central America, except localized areas, where below-average biomass conditions were depicted. Although the continuation of seasonal rain should benefit the current May – August growing season, excessive moisture could also hamper and potentially reduce yields over some areas.

During the next week, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over western Guatemala, western El Salvador, eastern Honduras, the Atlantic Regions in eastern Nicaragua, and much of Costa Rica and Panama. Although the rain amounts may fall short of the long-term average, the forecast additional rain is likely to exacerbate conditions over already-saturated areas or even trigger new flooding over many local areas. Also, over Guatemala, the expected, continued heavy rain could exacerbate lahars, spewed by the Fuego Volcano. In contrast, light rain is likely over northern Guatemala, western Belize, and parts of northern Honduras. No Tropical cyclone activities are expected to influence Central America over the next few days.

