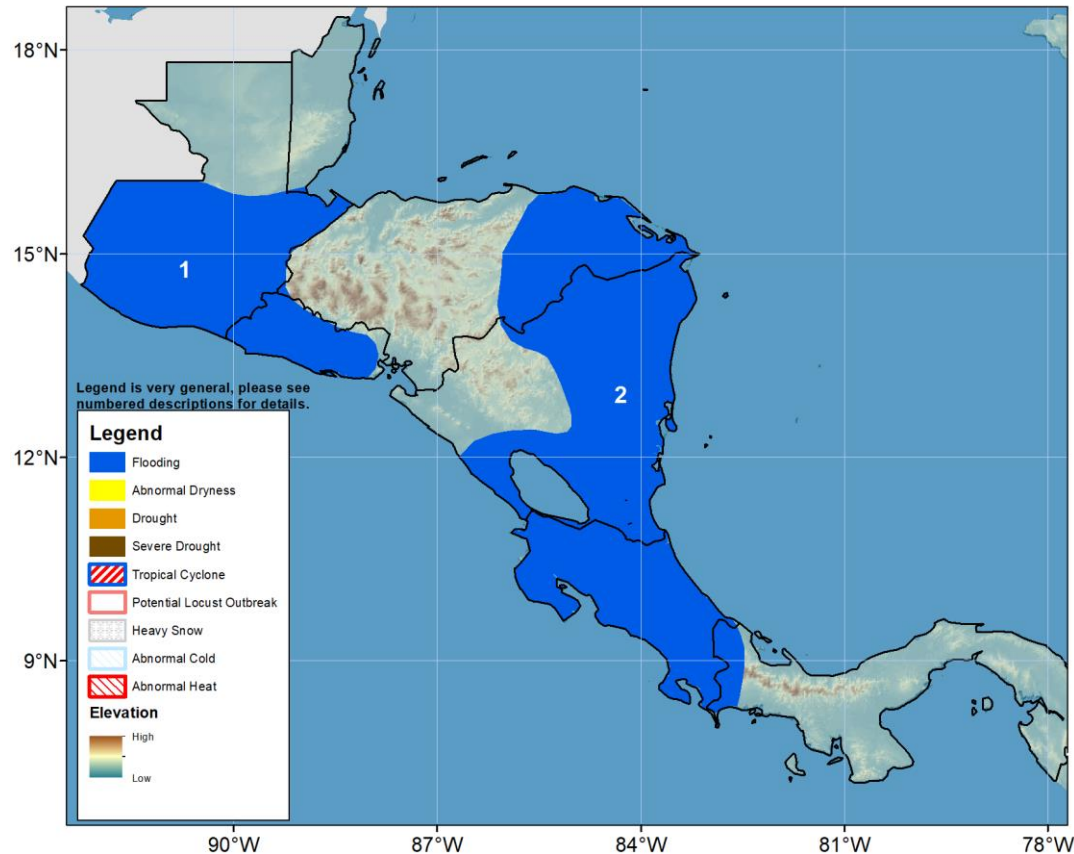


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 28 July – 03 August 2022

High flood risks remain in place as heavy rain is forecasted to occur across many areas of the region during the next week.



- 1) Heavy and above-average rain over the past few weeks has led to ground oversaturation, causing flooding and landslides which have left many people affected over many areas in Guatemala and El Salvador. Heavy rains are very likely 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, most part of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama. The risks for flooding and landslides remain high as heavy rain is forecasted 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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Wet weather patterns are expected to return over Central America, which maintain high risks for flooding over many areas.

During the past week, an uneven distribution in rainfall was observed over Central America. While heavy rainfall was received over the Northern Transversal Strip and coastal southern Guatemala, southern Belize, eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and the Pacific and Caribbean coastlines of Costa Rica and Panama, light to moderate rainfall dominated elsewhere. Over the Pacific Region in southern Guatemala, damaged houses due to strong winds were reported. These past thirty days, cumulative rainfall has showed that drier-than-average conditions spread across northern, eastern, and southern Guatemala, Belize, western Honduras, El Salvador, northeastern Nicaragua, and much of Costa Rica, and Panama. Although ground conditions were mostly favorable over Central America, the recent decrease in moisture has favored worm infestation over the dry portions of Central America, according to reports. Conversely, cumulative rainfall showed that above-average rainfall persisted over areas in central Guatemala, south-central Honduras, and central Nicaragua. For the *Primera*, May – August, rainfall season, near to above-average seasonal rain was registered over much of Central America, except northern and south-central Guatemala, southern Honduras, northern El Salvador, southern Nicaragua, and parts of Panama, where below-average rain continued.

During the outlook period, the rainfall forecast model suggests that moderate to heavy rains are expected across much of Central America. In particular, increased rainfall is forecasted over localized areas in south Guatemala, western El Salvador, western Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Therefore, high potential for flooding and landslides remains in place for many local areas, in particular previously-flooded and susceptible areas. Meanwhile, no Tropical Cyclone activities are expected to directly threaten Central America over the next few days.

