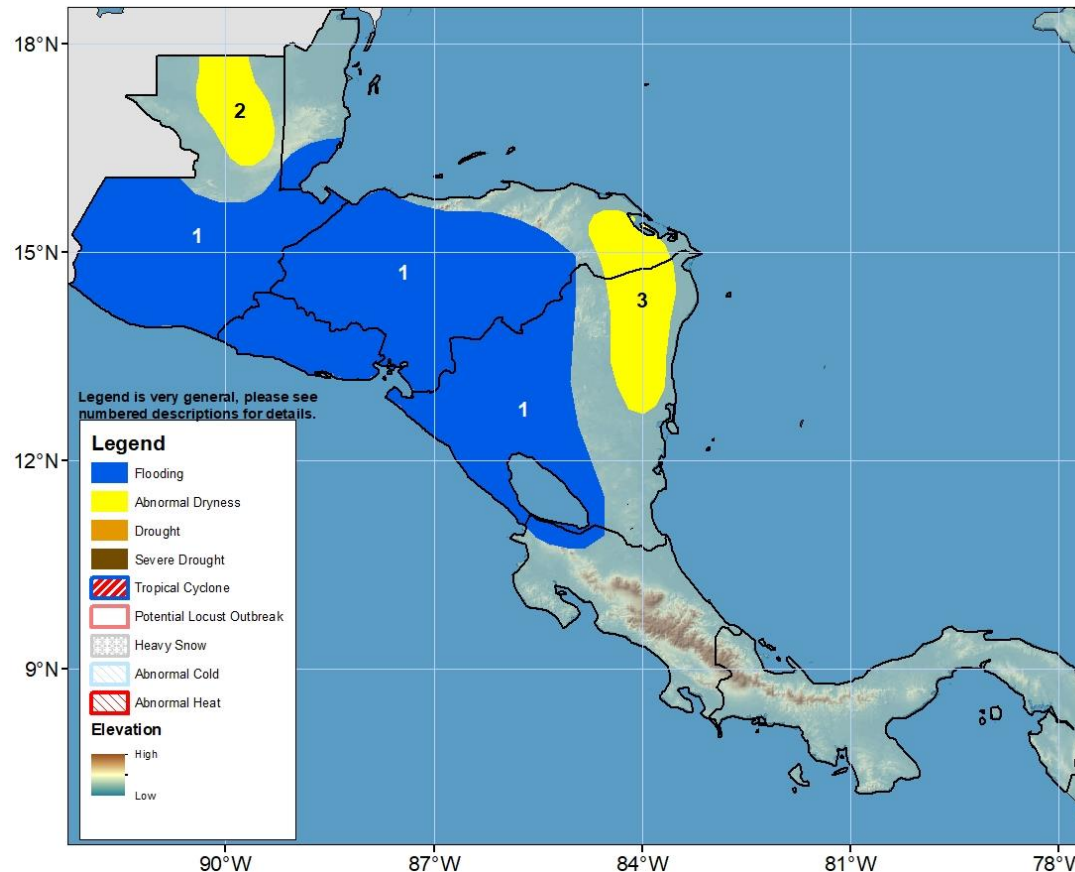


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 29 September – 5 October 2022

Heavy rains have caused flooding issues in many Central American countries during the past week



- 1) Following the past several weeks' heavy and above-average rain, many localized areas in Central America have been oversaturated, which have caused many floods and landslides. Heavy downpours are forecast over many central and Pacific-facing regions of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador during the next week, elevating the risks for flooding and landslides over a large portion of the region.
- 2) A lack of rainfall (less than 50% of average) over the past couple of months has led to abnormal dryness in the Petén department of Guatemala.
- 3) Uneven and inadequate rains over the past 30 days has led to abnormal dryness in eastern Nicaragua.

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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Continued heavy rains could trigger additional flooding over central and western Central America during the next week.

During the past week, heavy rain fell over many parts of Central America, including the Gulf of Fonseca region, Honduras, central and southern Guatemala, southern Belize, and parts of central Nicaragua. The highest observed totals exceeded 150mm in central parts of Honduras and southern Belize according to satellite estimates. The downpours triggered floods and landslides across Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In total, at least 2 people lost their lives and hundreds were displaced. Meanwhile, light rain was observed over parts of northern Guatemala, northern Belize, and Panama where negative 7-day anomalies were registered. Negative anomalies were also observed in eastern Nicaragua. The continued enhanced rain has maintained positive 30-day anomalies over Belize, central Guatemala, and central Honduras. In contrast, negative anomalies have persisted over northern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Based on precipitation deficits and negative SPI values, abnormal dryness is placed over these areas. An analysis of the latest vegetation products indicates that average to good conditions were predominate across Central America with some poorer health in northern Guatemala and Belize.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggested that heavy rain is likely throughout central and southern regions of Central America. Total rainfall exceeding 100mm is likely in those regions as well as in southwestern Guatemala. The continued wet weather could exacerbate conditions over many already-impacted areas. The high moisture content could also trigger new flooding and landslides, lead to overflowing of rivers, and damage infrastructures. Rains are likely to be suppressed in northern Central America. Hurricane Ian, in the Caribbean, has moved northward away from Central American interests leaving quiet conditions behind.

