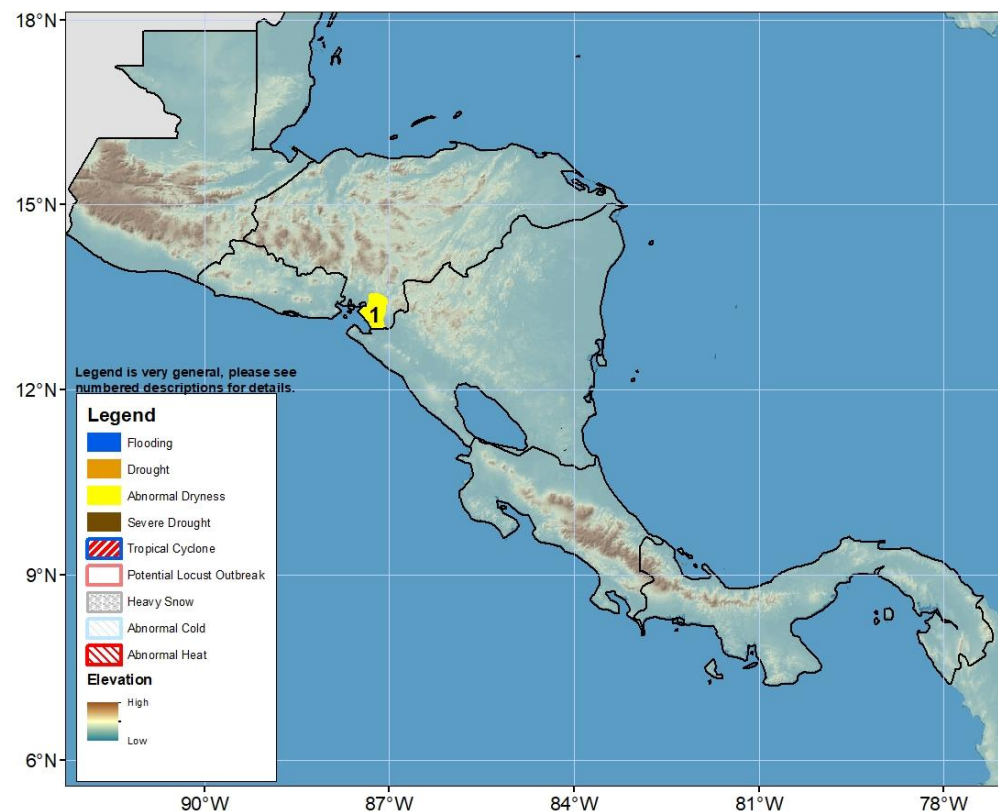


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 23 – 29 March 2023

Increased rains are expected across most of Central America during the coming week.



1. Seasonal deficits in rainfall with little new moisture during recent weeks in southern Honduras are leading to vegetation degradation and the risk of abnormal dryness in municipalities of the department of Choluteca in Honduras during the following 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.

Questions or comments about the hazards outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Elevated temperatures are expected in many parts of Central America during the upcoming week.

During the last week, moderate to heavy rain was observed throughout many parts of the region. Moderate to heavy rain (25 to 75mm) was observed across Costa Rica, central and southern Honduras, central and western Guatemala, and northwest Nicaragua, and 10 to 25mm rainfall was observed in western Nicaragua, eastern Guatemala, northwest Panama, northern Honduras, and northern and southern parts of Belize. Locally heavy rainfall 75 to 150mm was observed in central Costa Rica, southern parts of Honduras and central Guatemala. This rainfall pattern contributed to mostly wetter than average conditions in Costa Rica, western Nicaragua, central and southern Honduras, northwest Panama, and parts of central Guatemala. In the 30-day rainfall analysis, conditions are wetter than average over many parts of Panama, central and western Nicaragua, central and southern Honduras, central and southern Guatemala, and western Belize, where moderate to heavy rainfall was observed in the last 7-day. However, in the 90-day seasonal period, eastern areas of Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and many parts of Panama show below-average rainfall conditions. Further, the latest analysis indicates that near-average vegetation conditions are predominant over most of Central America. However, vegetation health is trending negatively in central/southern Honduras. Meanwhile, temperatures slowly moderated in the western and central highlands of Guatemala. Wild fire risk also remains elevated due to expected warmer than average temperatures.

During the next week, forecasts suggest increased rains across Central America. The model forecasts moderate to heavy rain (10 to 50mm) in eastern parts of Costa Rica and Panama, western Guatemala, Belize, southeast Honduras, northeast and eastern Nicaragua. Temperatures are forecast to be warmer than average by a few degrees (0.5 to 2 °C) in Belize, northern and eastern Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, and northwest Nicaragua.

