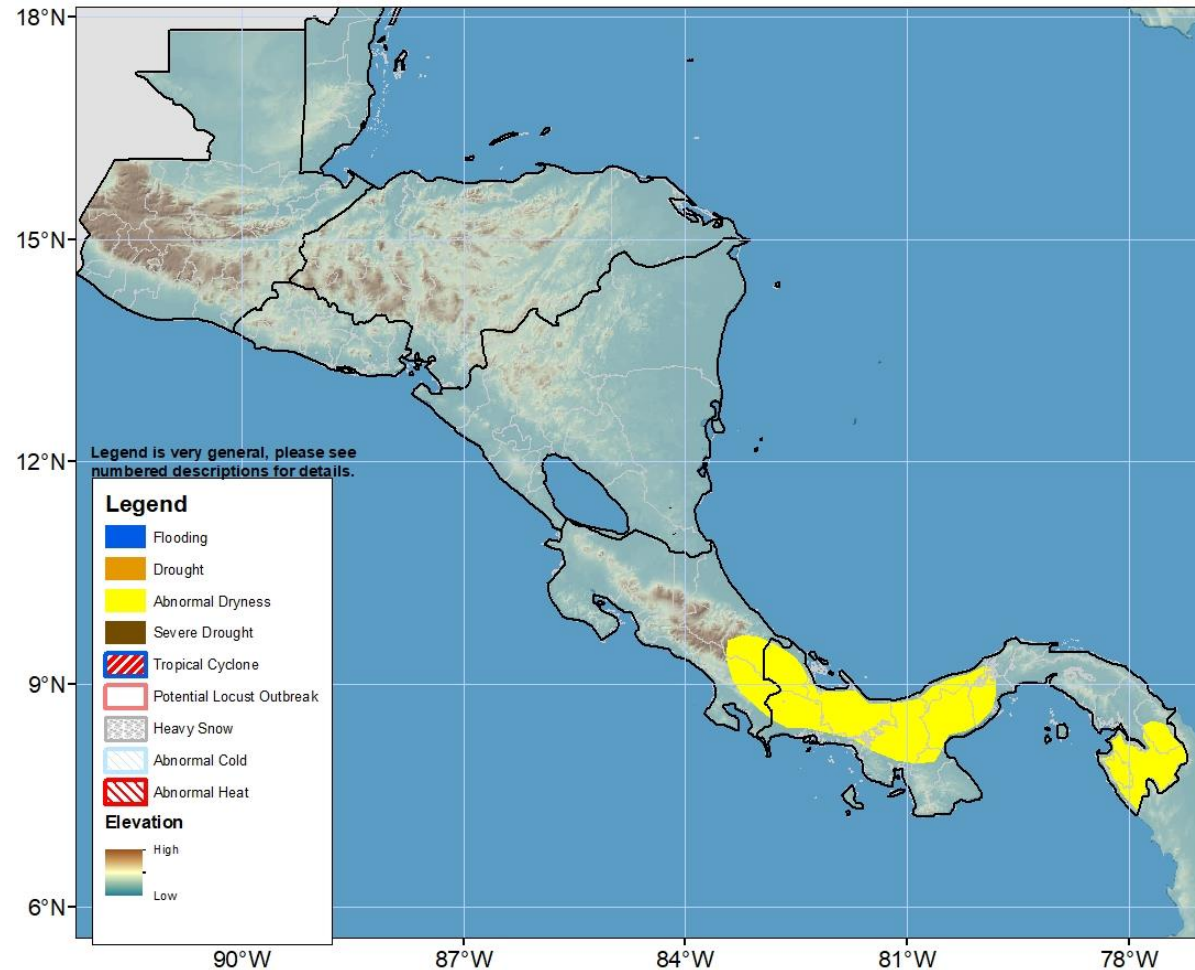


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 20 – 26 April 2023

An abnormal dryness polygon is placed over southern Costa Rica and parts of Panama due to a persistent and relatively intense dryness in the past 30 days. Localized flash floods are reported in El Salvador.



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](mailto:wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov). Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, [jverdina@usaid.gov](mailto:jverdina@usaid.gov)

**An Abnormal Dryness polygon is placed over southern Costa Rica and parts of Panama due to a persistent and relatively intense dryness in the past 30 days. Localized flash floods are reported in El Salvador.**

During the last week, most places in Central America remained largely dry except for light rains in western Guatemala and moderate to heavy rains in central and northern Guatemala, southern Belize and southern El Salvador, the cross-border areas of El Salvador and Honduras, and central Costa Rica. According to RFE, 2-5 mm rain was observed in southwest Guatemala, while 10-25 mm rainfall was recorded in southern and northern Guatemala, west-central Costa Rica and the cross border areas of Honduras and El Salvador. Central Guatemala and southern Belize received 25-50 mm rainfall during the week. In addition, some ground reports indicated localized flash floods in El Salvador. The 30-day cumulative rainfall show dry conditions in southern Costa Rica and parts of Panama, with 30-day deficits exceeding 40 mm at some locations in Panama. As a result, an abnormal dry polygon has been placed in southern Costa Rica and northern and southern Panama. Although, the latest analysis indicates near or above average vegetation conditions over most of Central America, vegetation health is trending negatively in central-north Honduras. Meanwhile, maximum temperatures were 2 to 4°C warmer than average over southern Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica.

During the next week, forecasts suggest light to moderate rainfall (10-25mm) over the highlands across Central America, while moderate to heavy rainfall (25-50mm) is predicted over western Guatemala (Fig 1). Maximum temperatures are again forecasted to be 2 to 4°C warmer than the long term weekly averages in most areas -- the highest positive anomalies are expected over Guatemala and Honduras. Morning minimum temperatures are predicted to be cooler than normal in the range of 1-2°C below averages at many places in Costa Rica and Panama.

