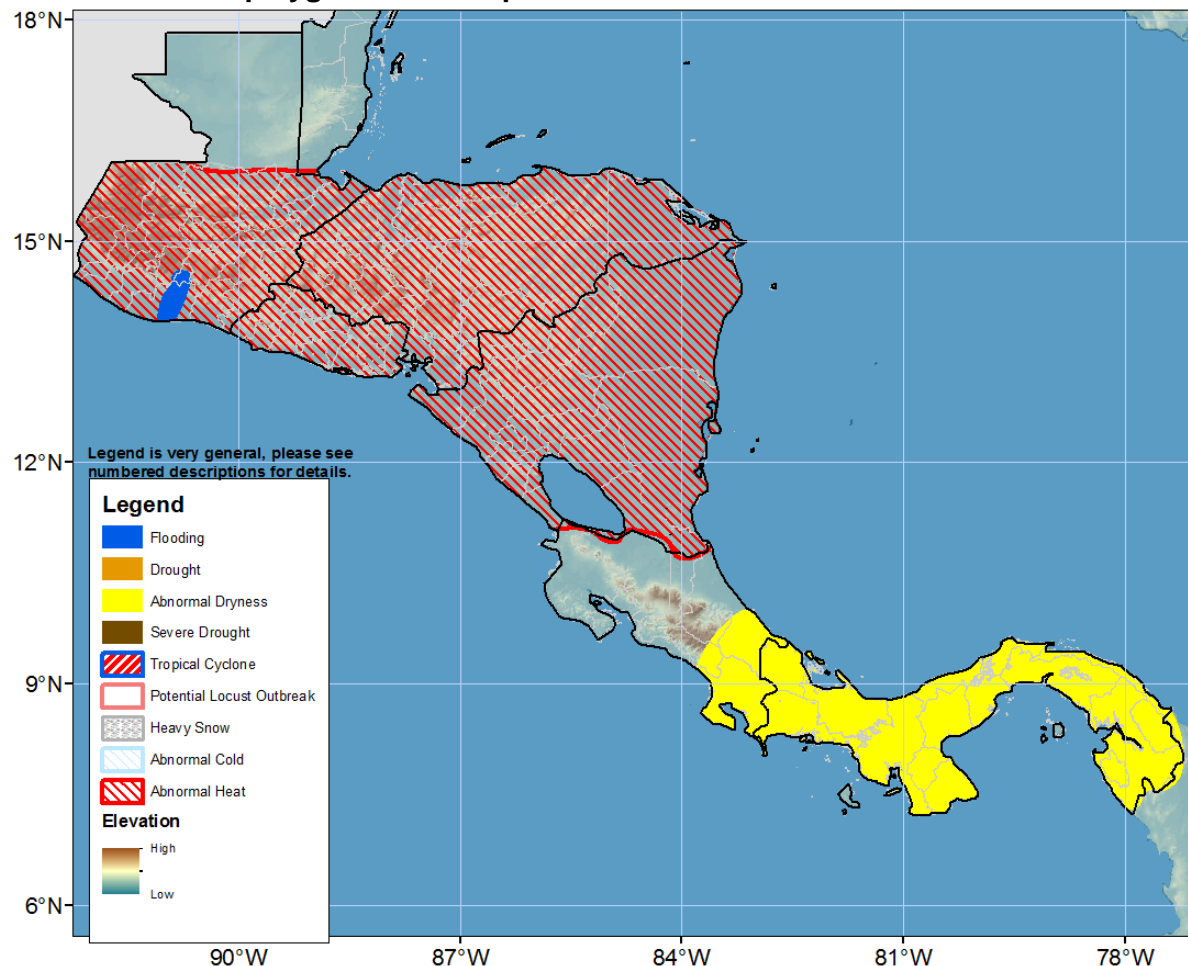


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 11 May – 17 May 2023

An abnormal dryness polygon is placed over southern Costa Rica and parts of Panama due to persistent dryness in the past 30 days. A flooding polygon has been placed in south-central Guatemala due to the expected heavy rains after the eruption of the Fuego Volcano. An abnormal heat polygon has been placed across southern Guatemala and extends to most of 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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**An Abnormal Dryness polygon is placed over southern Costa Rica and all of Panama due to dryness in the last 30 days.**

During the last week, above average rainfall was observed over northwestern Honduras, as well as parts of north-central Nicaragua. According to CMORPH, western Honduras and north-central Nicaragua received moderate to heavy rainfall between 25 to 75mm. Except for most of coastal and south-central Nicaragua, eastern Honduras, Belize, parts of northern Guatemala, most of Costa Rica, and most of Panama, most places in Central America observed precipitation. The 30-day cumulative rainfall analysis shows dry conditions especially in southern and eastern Costa Rica, throughout most of Panama, and in northern and southern Guatemala, with deficits between 50-100 mm throughout much of the region and locally larger deficits >100 mm in southern Costa Rica, western and eastern Panama, and in southwestern Guatemala. As a result, an abnormal dryness polygon has been expanded to include all of Panama and the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica. Although the latest analysis indicates near or above average vegetation conditions over much of Central America, vegetation health is relatively poor in northern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, northern Guatemala, parts of northern and southern Belize, and much of central Panama. In addition, minimum temperatures were 4 to 8°C warmer than average over southern Guatemala and central/western El Salvador. The maximum temperature magnitudes were not as high; western and parts of southern Honduras, central and southern Guatemala, western and central Nicaragua, most of Costa Rica, and eastern and western Panama observed maximum temperatures 2 to 6°C above normal.

During the next week, forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rainfall (75mm-150mm) across southern Guatemala, eastern Panama, southwestern Honduras, and northern El Salvador. The above normal rainfall expected in southern Guatemala could result in landslides especially in the vicinity of the Fuego Volcano, which recently erupted. However, most of Central America is expected to receive below normal rainfall, especially western and southern Costa Rica, much of western and central Panama, and southeastern Nicaragua -- which are expected to receive rainfall more than 50mm below normal during the coming week (Fig 1). Maximum temperatures are forecasted to be 2 to 4°C warmer than normal in most areas, especially in northwestern and central Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama. According to Insivumeh and the Guatemalan Meteorological Service, maximum temperatures will be more anomalous earlier in the forecast period and could impact areas from central and southern Guatemala to El Salvador. There is also a high probability that maximum temperatures in Nicaragua and Honduras will be higher than the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile for more than 3 consecutive days. These countries have been included within an abnormal heat polygon for this forecast period.

