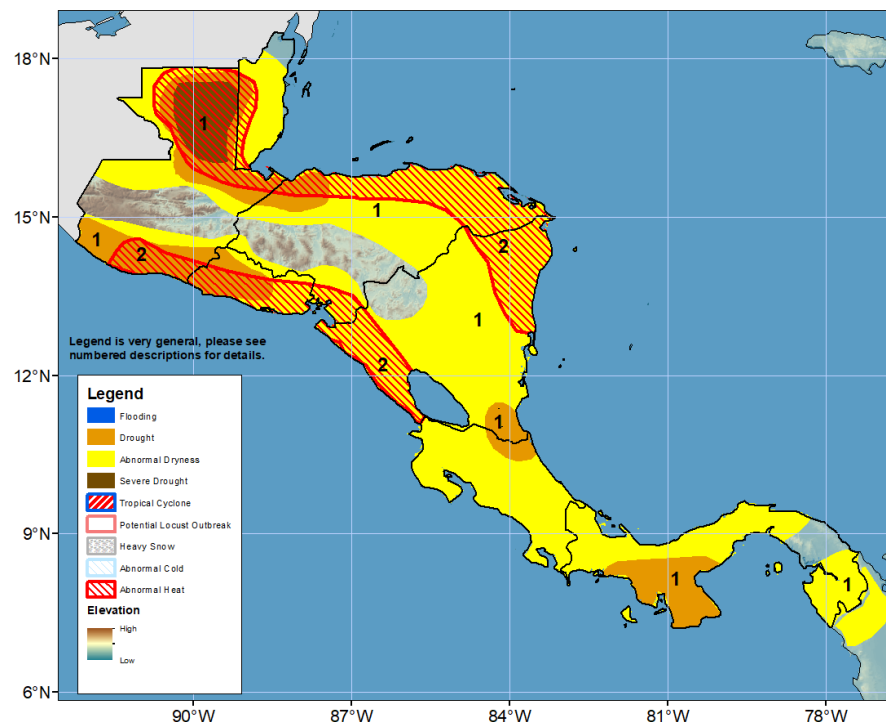


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 10 – 16 August 2023

Dry conditions continued in most parts of Central America, while hot conditions are located over Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.



- 1) Inconsistent and insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the “Primera” season starting in April has led to abnormal dryness across the region. Moreover, as the period of below-average rainfall continues and deficits deepen, drought is placed in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and central Panama. Meanwhile, due to the continuing and growing rainfall deficits, significant vegetation stress, dry soil conditions and ground observations, a severe drought polygon is placed in northern Guatemala. The irregular rains since the start of the Primera season have mainly affected the crops of subsistence farmers in the departments of Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa, Jutiapa and El Progreso. Due to the lack of continuity of rains, these farmers had to perform at least one or up to three replanting and they might experience yield reductions of 25% to 50% of average yields. In addition, the high temperatures and the lack of rain have exacerbated the availability of moisture in the soil.
- 2) Weekly mean maximum temperatures are forecast to be 30-40°C in some areas of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, where maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than average (2-4°C) for that reason an abnormal heat hazard have been place in these countries.

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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Areas in Costa Rica and Panama are likely to receive heavy rains.

During the last week, heavy rain (75-150 mm) were observed in central Guatemala, southern Belize, western Honduras, El Salvador, eastern Nicaragua and southern Panama; meanwhile, moderate rain was registered in most part of the region (25-50 mm). These rainfall patterns contributed to keeping dryer than normal conditions in most of Central America except for central Guatemala, southern Belize and western Honduras that recorded positive rainfall conditions. In the 30-day rainfall, conditions are dryer than normal for most part of Central America. Moreover, in the 90-day seasonal period, the northern and southern of Guatemala, El Salvador, southeastern Nicaragua, eastern of Costa Rica, and central and southern Panama register the largest below-average rainfall conditions. Further, the last analysis indicates that dryer than average vegetation conditions are predominant over central and northern part of Central America. Meanwhile, warmer than average temperature (1-3 °C above the mean) was observed in southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

During the next week, forecasts suggest heavy downpours (values larger than 100mm) in southern Costa Rica and northern Panama, while moderate rain in most part of Central America. However, the forecast shows dominant slightly below-average rainfall conditions for most of Central America. Furthermore, the maximum temperature anomalies forecast suggests hotter than average temperatures during next week over parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

