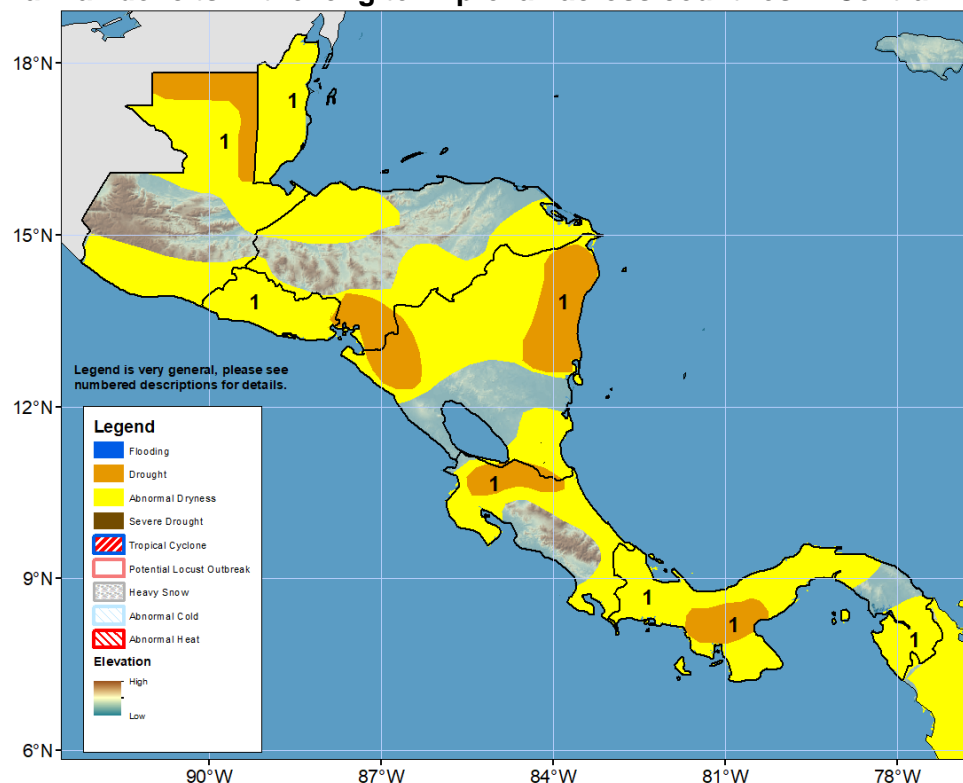


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 30 November – 06 December 2023

Rainfall deficits in the long term prevail across countries in Central America.



1) Although reasonable amounts of rainfall during the last month have helped improve soil moisture across the region, irregular and insufficient rainfall in the 90 days (long-term) has led to abnormal dryness and drought conditions in Central America. Therefore, abnormal dryness polygons are kept in Central America due to the lack of rainfall during the rainy season. In Guatemala, these deficits in the rain since the start of the Primera season have affected the agricultural sector, and farmers of subsistence crops report damages and sowing delays; for this reason, farmers might experience yield reductions of 25% to 50% of the average. The rainfall deficits are also affecting the shipping industry in Panama Canal, where the water level of Gatun Lake is below average.

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, [jverdin@usaid.gov](mailto:jverdin@usaid.gov)

### Rainfall is forecasted to be below-average in the coming week.

During last week, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and northern Nicaragua observed no rainfall, an exception for some localized rain. In these areas, rainfall was close to average conditions. Meanwhile, southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama register rainfall values between 10 mm and 200 mm. The largest amount of rainfall was observed in southeastern Nicaragua, where anomalies were above average. Meanwhile, Costa Rica and Panama observed below-average conditions. According to reports, the recent increase in rainfall has contributed to elevated river levels and flooding over many areas in Central America, including the Huehuetenango, Alta Verapaz, and Baja Verapaz Departments in Guatemala. Rainfall conditions across the region have improved over the last 30 days, showing above-average rainfall and SPI values larger than 0.3 over western Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize, Nicaragua, most of Costa Rica, and western Panama. Meanwhile, below-average rainfall conditions have been confined to localized areas in southern Guatemala, eastern and southern Costa Rica, and coastal Caribbean areas of Panama. In addition, over the past 90 days, north and south Guatemala, southeastern and southwestern Honduras, northern and southern Nicaragua, most of Costa Rica, and Panama still registered rainfall deficits larger than 100 mm. The irregular rainfall and the prolonged insufficient rainfall have contributed to the degradation of the vegetation in some regions and have impacted the agricultural sector in Guatemala.

For next week, the GEFS forecast suggests that eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, most of Costa Rica, and most part of Panama might receive rainfall amounts from 25 mm to 100 mm. Rainfall deficits are forecast to continue in the Gulf of Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama.

