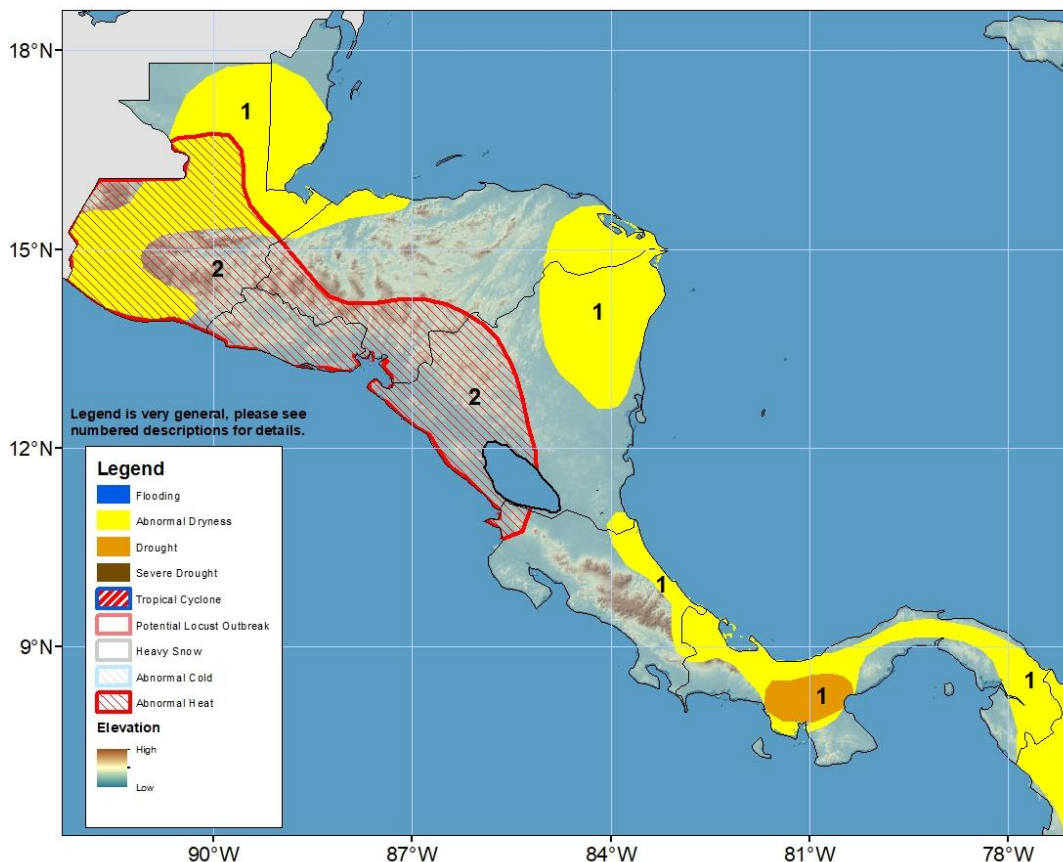


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 25 April – 1 May 2024

### Dry and hot conditions to continue in parts of Central America



- 1) The lack of rainfall in the past 30 and 90 days has resulted in prolonged dryness in Guatemala, Belize, western and eastern Honduras, central/northeastern Nicaragua, and the Caribbean Tiers of Costa Rica and Panama. The observed rainfall deficits and above-average temperatures continue to affect the shipping industry in the Panama Canal.
- 2) Temperature forecasts suggest that mean maximum temperatures are likely to be higher than average by 2-6 degrees Celsius in Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and western 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.

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)

## Increased rainfall and abnormally hot conditions forecasted in Central America

During the past week, light to locally moderate rainfall was observed in northern Central America, including western Guatemala and the Gulf of Fonseca, while little to no rainfall dominated elsewhere. Farther south, over the Southern Caribbean, moderate to heavy rainfall was received in southern Costa Rica and the western and eastern portions of Panama. Over the past 30 days, rainfall remained below-average in northern and southwestern Guatemala, southern Belize, western Honduras, and central Panama, which registered moisture deficits between 10-50 mm. The lack of rainfall has led to abnormal dryness, which has already delayed planting for the first growing season over many local areas, according to reports. In addition, persistent, above-average temperatures have exacerbated dump fires that have resulted in closing of schools in many departments in Guatemala. Over the past 90 days, drier conditions, with moderate to large (50-200 mm) seasonal rainfall deficits persisted across the inland of northern Central America. Hence, the latest vegetation products indicated below-average and poor vegetation conditions in northern, southern, and eastern Guatemala, central Honduras, and central and eastern Nicaragua.

For next week, an increase in rainfall is expected over parts of Central America, with widespread moderate and likely to be above-average rainfall in western and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southwestern Honduras, and the Atlantic coasts of Nicaragua. Over the Southern Caribbean, heavy and above-average rainfall is forecasted over Costa Rica and Panama. In contrast, little to light rainfall is predicted in northern Guatemala, central Honduras, and western Nicaragua. Meanwhile, an abnormal heat hazard is posted across western and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Nicaragua due to the predicted above maximum temperatures, which could potentially affect vulnerable and sensitive people in the region.

