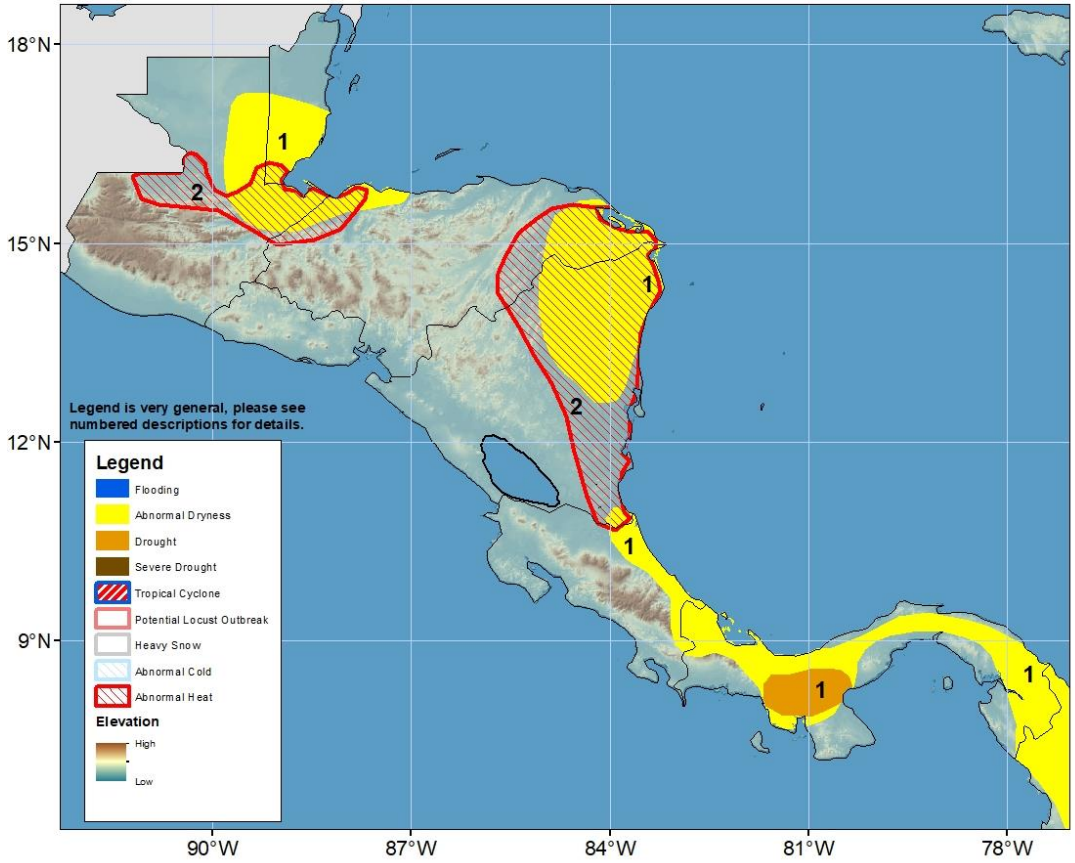
# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
# For USAID / FEWS-NET
# 4 April – 10 April 2024

**Hotter and drier conditions observed and expected to continue in Central America**




1) The lack of rainfall in the past 30 and 90 days has resulted in prolonged dryness in southern Belize, northern and eastern parts of 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 over parts of northern and eastern Guatemala, northwestern and eastern Honduras, southern Belize, and eastern 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. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov**

**Dry conditions have impacted the grounds over many parts of Central America**

During the past week, Central America experienced an increase in rainfall as scattered, moderate to heavy showers were recorded along the northern coasts and southern part of Honduras, north-central Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and western Panama. However, little to no rainfall was observed elsewhere. An analysis of the past 30 day-total rainfall has showed that below-average rainfall spread across northern and eastern Guatemala, Belize, parts of Honduras; Costa Rica; and Panama. Short-term deficits have led to abnormal dryness in the dry portions of Central America, where insufficient rainfall has already affected conditions on the ground, according to reports. Recent agrometeorological products have indicated worsening vegetation conditions over many areas of Central America, including northern Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In Guatemala, above-average temperatures and poor spatial and temporal rainfall distribution have resulted in substantially dry soil, which has delayed sowing activities, according to reports. Sugar cane yields are already likely to be lower this year in Guatemala. Dryness has also affected the energy sector in Guatemala, resulting in a declaration of emergency valid through June. Concerns are also growing that low streamflow across many areas, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua may adversely affect irrigation upon the start of the upcoming growing season.

During the next week, moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecasted in western and central Guatemala, northern El Salvador, southwestern Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama, whereas light rainfall is generally expected throughout the interior of the region. The forecasted near-average to above-average rainfall amounts should help reduce short-term rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture over some local areas. Meanwhile, excessive heat is likely over parts of northern and eastern Guatemala, southern Belize, northwestern and eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua as high and above-average maximum temperatures are forecast in the region.

**Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)**
**04 April – 10 April 2024**

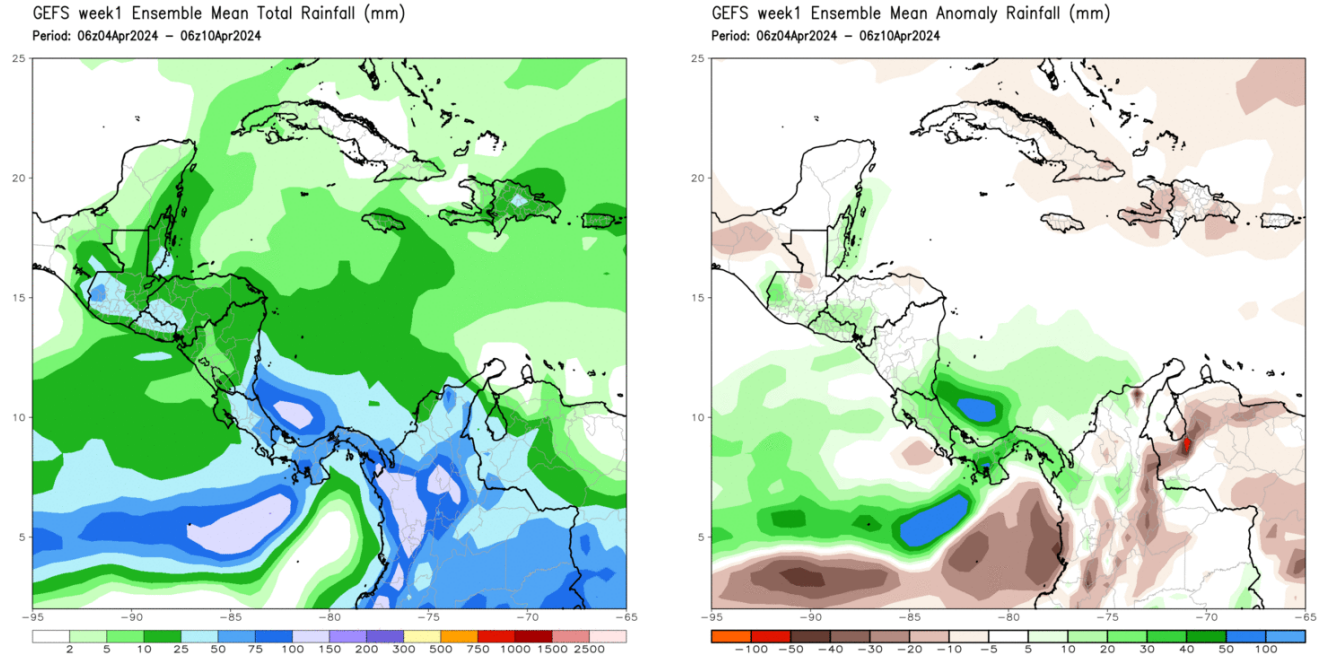



**Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC**