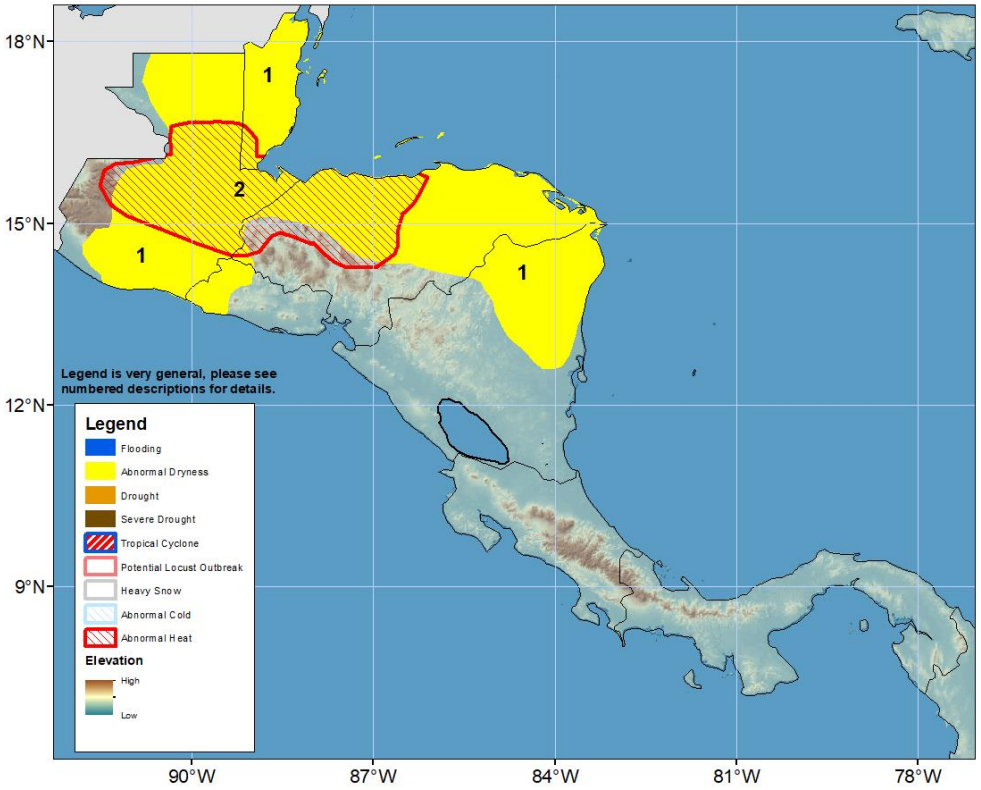
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
23 May – 29 May 2024

Dry conditions have expanded across northern Central America



1) The lack of rainfall during the last couple of weeks, as well as the long-term rainfall deficits, have led to abnormal dryness in Belize, most parts of Guatemala, western El Salvador, northern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua. In addition, the rainfall forecast suggests large rain deficit amounts for the coming week.

2) The mean maximum temperatures forecast suggest warmer than average temperatures will continue in central Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. In these areas, it is expected that temperatures will be higher than average by 2-6 degrees Celsius and will reach temperatures of 45 degrees Celsius.

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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Rainfall deficits continue in northern Central America

Rainfall deficits were observed in most parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. However, a few areas show moderate to heavy rainfall, leading to positive rainfall anomalies. These areas included southwestern Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, western Nicaragua, northwestern and central Costa Rica, and central Panama. Over the past 30 days, 25-100 mm rainfall deficits were observed in Guatemala, Belize, western El Salvador, most parts of Honduras, western Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and coastal areas in northwestern Panama. According to reports, in Guatemala, below-average rainfall conditions and above-average temperatures have affected cropping activities and vegetation health in the eastern part of the country. Further, rainfall maps on the 90-day long term showed that southeastern, central, and northern Guatemala, western El Salvador, many areas in Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua registered cumulative rainfall between 5-25 percent of the average. Furthermore, the lack of rainfall has also affected the health of vegetation in northern and central Guatemala, western El Salvador, Honduras, and most parts of Nicaragua.

During the next week, even though the rainfall forecast suggests light to moderate rainfall in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, western Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, rainfall conditions with negative anomalies between 40 mm and 100 mm below the mean are expected. On the contrary, positive rainfall anomalies are forecasted in central and southern Panama, where rainfall totals larger than 100 mm are likely to happen. Regarding temperatures, there is a high chance that abnormal heat will continue in central Guatemala and northwestern Honduras and might bring heat-related problems, particularly to vulnerable and sensitive people in the region.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
23 May – 29 May 2024

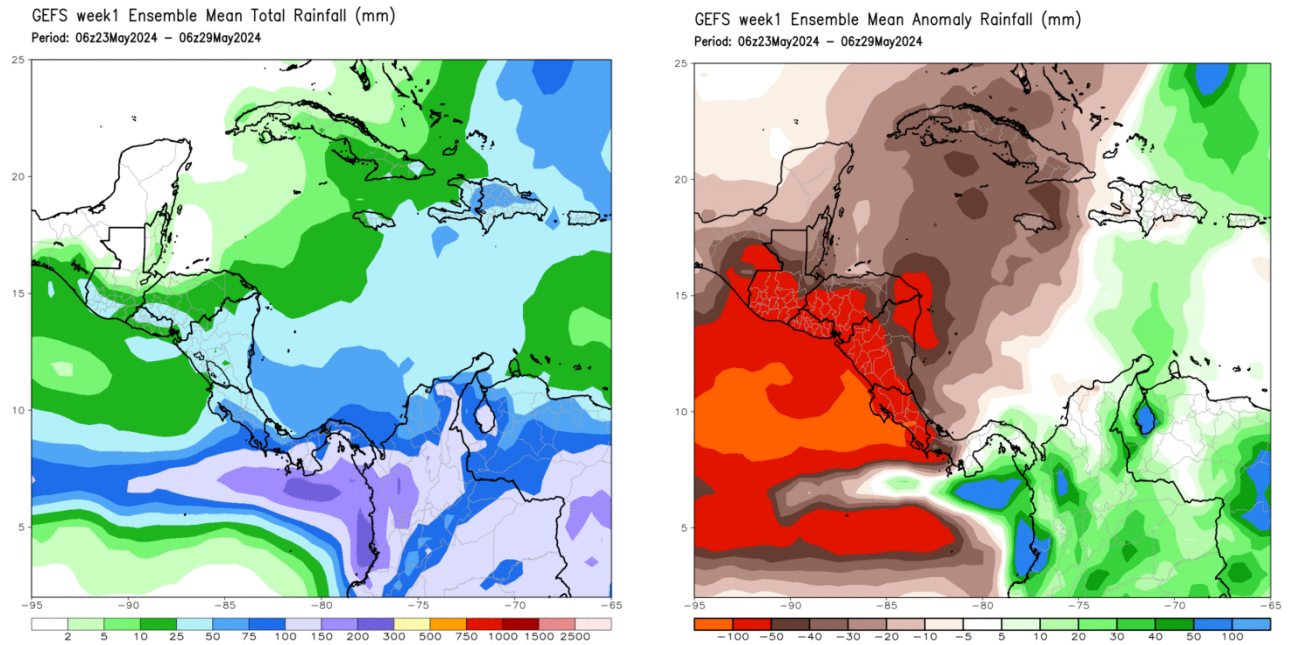

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC