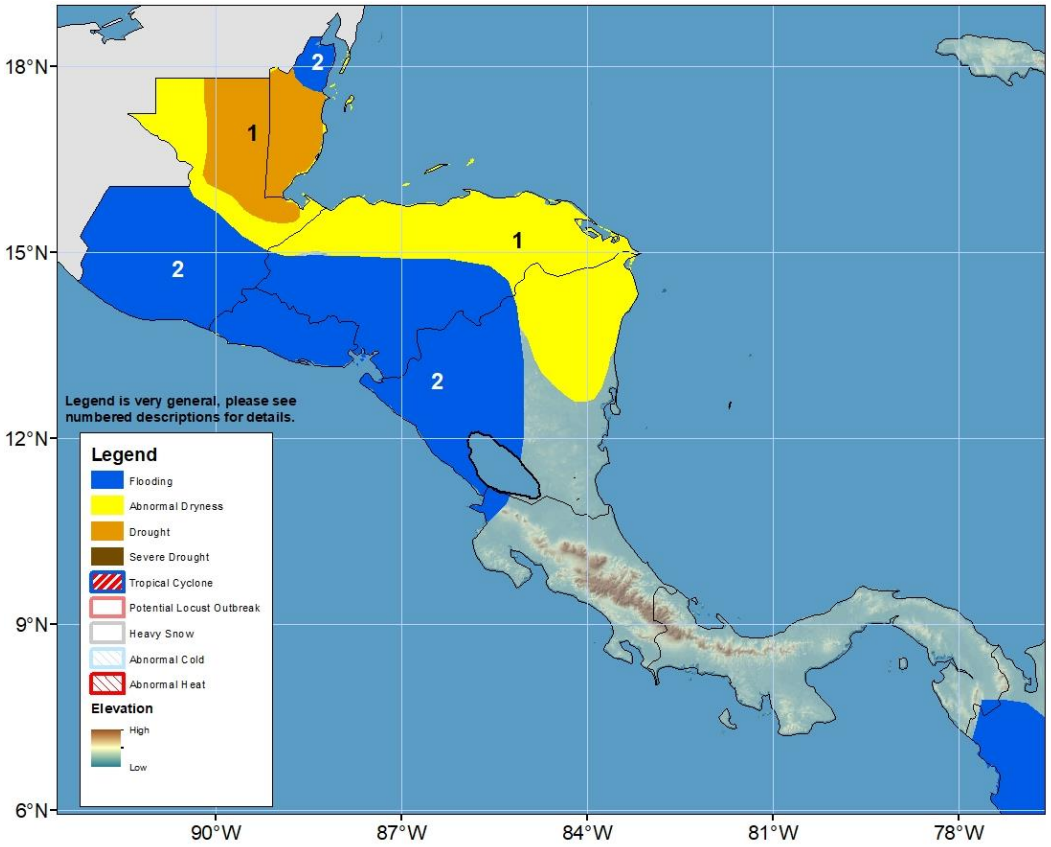
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
20 June – 26 June 2024

Very heavy rainfall is expected to continue across Central America during the upcoming week and lead to flooding.



1) The short and long-term lack of rainfall has led to abnormal dryness in most parts of Guatemala, western El Salvador, northern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua, impacting sowing activities in the region. Rainfall deficits have deepened over the last 4 weeks or longer in northern Guatemala, and Belize leading to drought.

2) Due to recent heavy thunderstorms and rounds of very heavy rain that will persist into the outlook period, flooding is likely in Pacific-Facing regions of Guatemala, El Salvador and 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. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Ongoing very heavy rainfall may alleviate abnormal dryness in many areas of the region.

Very heavy rain has spread across large portions of Guatemala, Southern Honduras, and Nicaragua due to a large, strong circulation over northern Central America and southern Mexico. The rains resulted in large 7-day anomalies of more than 100 mm in some cases. This has already led to deadly and destructive flash floods, landslides (especially near Fuego volcano and forest fire areas) and river floods, especially in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and southern Honduras. There are reportedly at least 14 fatalities. Impacts to food security include washed out seeds, destroyed infrastructure and interruptions to food transport. Conversely, below average rainfall was observed in eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua resulting in negative anomalies of 25-100 mm. Further, 30-day rainfall products show that the largest rainfall deficits (100 – 200 mm below the mean) are recorded in northern Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. The deficit situation has improved in southern Guatemala but worsened in eastern Nicaragua during the past couple of weeks. Moreover, 90-day rainfall analysis shows that northern Guatemala and Belize registered cumulative rainfall between 5-50 percent of the average.

During the next week, rains are forecasted to remain very heavy. Large and above-average rainfall totaling 100 mm to locally 500 mm is expected in central and Pacific-facing portions of the region as well as northern Belize. The increased rain could be detrimental to sewing activities in Guatemala, and will also likely cause additional riverine flooding and flash floods or landslides. Seasonable heavy rains are likely in Costa Rica and Panama while some below-average totals are still possible in eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Regarding temperatures, maximum temperatures are expected to be near or cooler than average with cooler temperatures in the rainiest areas of the region.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
20 June – 26 June 2024

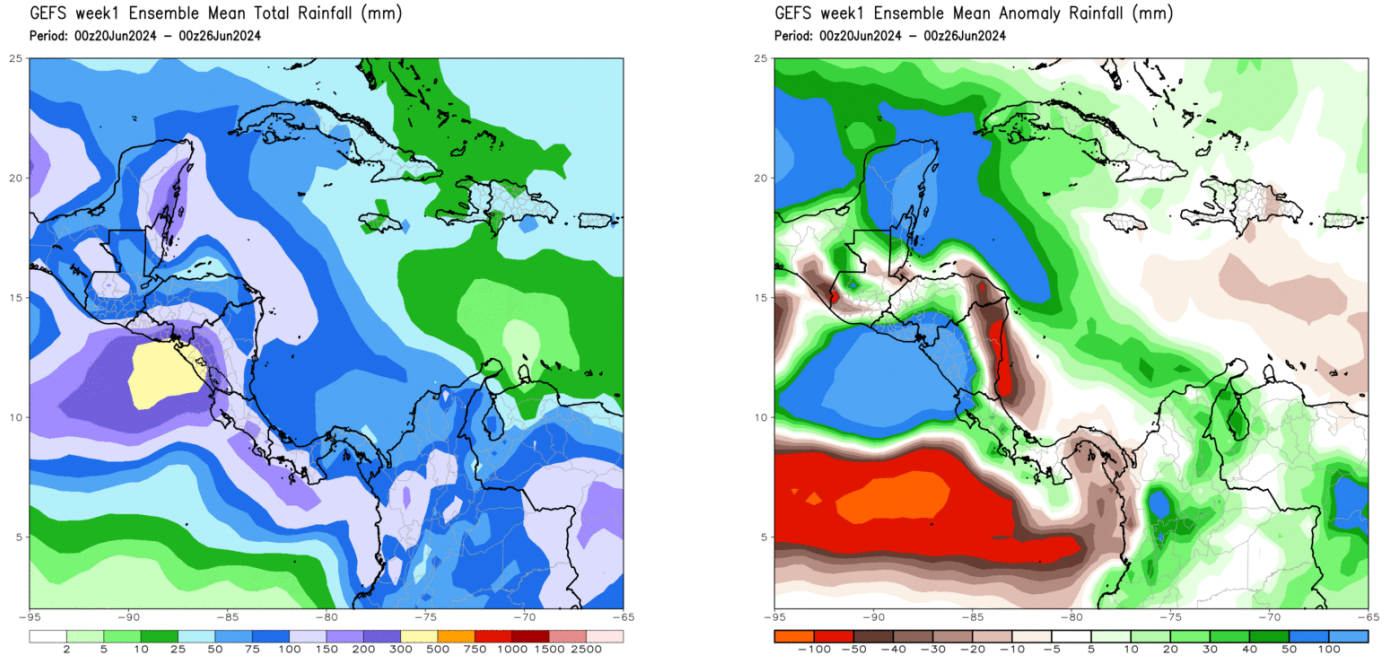


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC