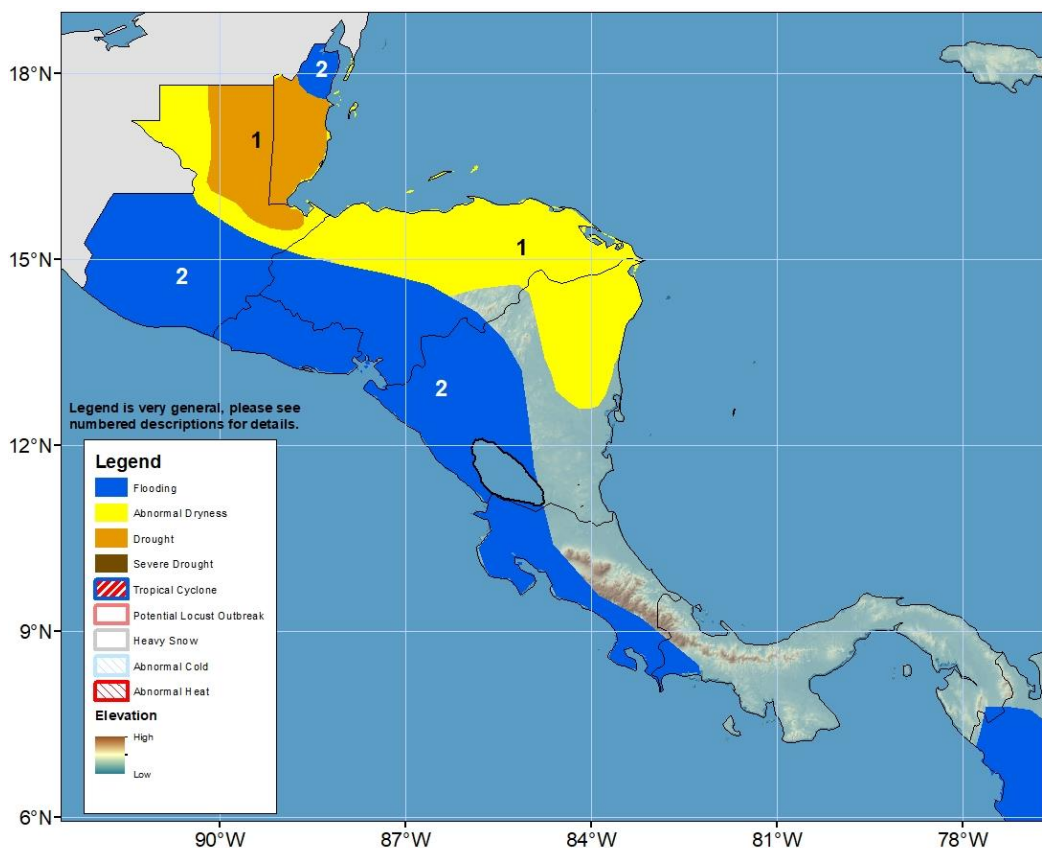


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 27 June – 03 July 2024

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



- 1) The lack of rainfall during the first part of the season has led to abnormal dryness in many parts of Guatemala, northern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua, affecting sowing activities in the region. Rainfall deficits have been in place for well over 4 weeks in northern Guatemala and Belize leading to drought.
- 2) Due to recent rounds of very heavy rain and heavy thunderstorms that will persist into the outlook period, additional flooding is likely in Pacific-Facing regions of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, western Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

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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Ongoing very heavy rainfall has alleviated some abnormal dryness in the region, at the expense of flooding.

Very heavy rain spread across large portions of Guatemala, Southern Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Belize due to a large, strong circulation over northern Central America and southern Mexico. 7-day totals were widely more than 100mm and locally exceeded 300 mm along Guatemala's southern coast. The rains resulted in large 7-day anomalies of more than 100 mm or even 200 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, in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and southern Honduras. There are reportedly at least 19 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 significant rainfall deficits (100 – 200 mm below the mean) remain in northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. The deficit situation has improved in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and Belize with recent rains. Moreover, 90-day rainfall analysis shows that northern Guatemala, southern Belize, and eastern Honduras and Nicaragua 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 300 mm is expected in central and Pacific-facing portions of the region as well as in 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. Some below-average totals are still possible in eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua, though they remain rainy in general. Maximum temperatures are expected to be near or cooler than average in Pacific-facing regions and warmer than average by 2-4°C in eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua.

