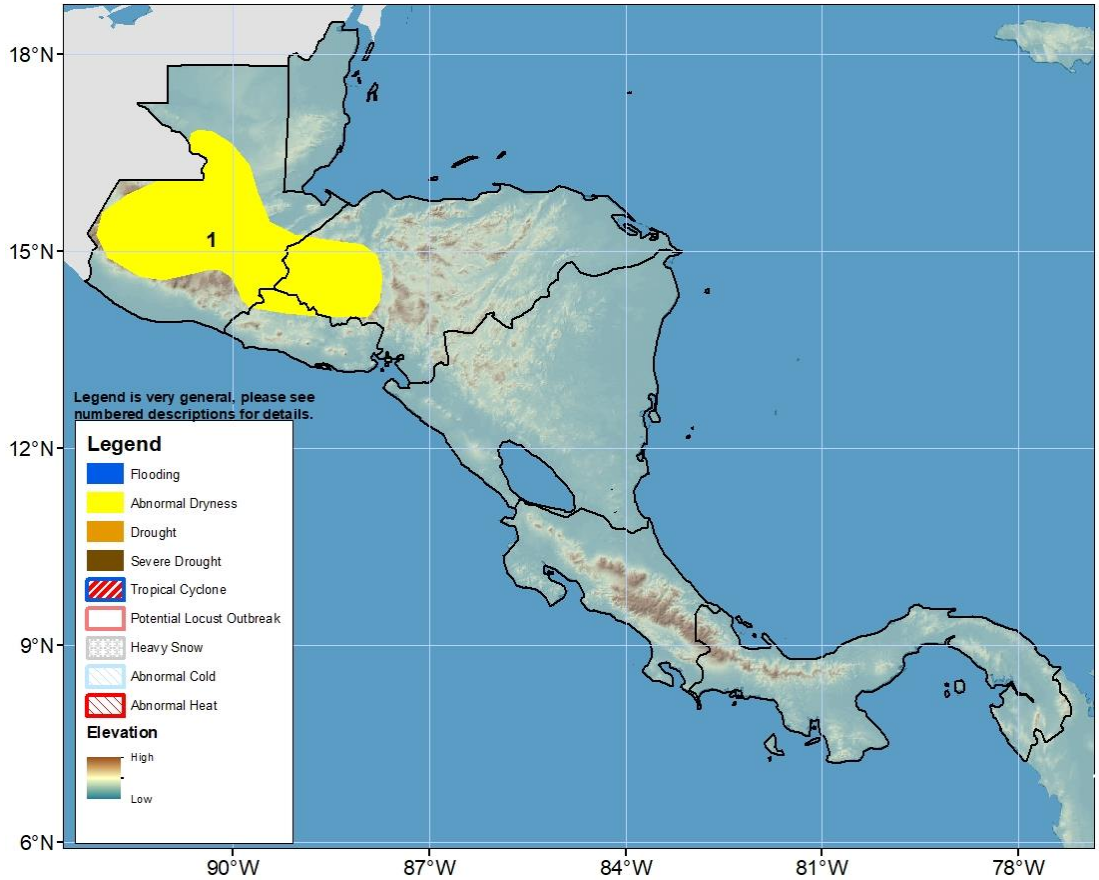
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
28 April – 4 May, 2022

Early-season dryness continues to develop in southern Guatemala and western Honduras.



1. A delayed start to the onset of rains during April has led to growing moisture deficits and delayed sowing of crops in central Guatemala and western Honduras.

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 increased for many coastal regions this past week, while interior remained dry.

Light to moderate rains were much more widespread across the region this past week, although the interior portions of Central America remained drier. Coastal areas observed at least 10mm of rainfall, but in many cases, locally more than 50mm according to satellite estimates. Some higher totals were received near the Gulf of Fonseca, western Costa Rica, and southern Guatemala. The wetter areas registered positive 7-day rainfall anomalies of 10-50mm. Analyzing the past 30 days, Guatemala, neighboring Belize, and western Honduras show steadily increasing negative rainfall anomalies. Deficits of 10-50mm and locally larger were observed across those areas. Meanwhile, the 30-day period has been well-wetter than normal in the southern Caribbean. After a cooler, moister air mass and shower activity enveloped the region, wild fire activity has decreased across Central America. Most hot spots were relegated to interior dryer regions according to satellite monitoring. Satellite observed vegetation health Indices indicated poor vegetative performance in the areas of southern Guatemala corresponding to the region of lowest percent of normal rainfall. Farmers are beginning to sow seeds in higher elevations but are awaiting onset of rains before sowing in many other parts of Guatemala according to field reports. Vegetation monitors also now show degraded conditions in western Nicaragua and central Honduras.

For the coming week, models forecast rains throughout the region, with some heavier totals (>100m) in Costa Rica and Panama, where a rainier than average week is favored. Most of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Nicaragua are likely to see 25-50mm of rainfall. This would signal the onset of the rainy season for interior regions and enable cropping activities to resume. Cooler temperatures are forecasted this week. Northern Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua are likely to experience maximum temperatures that are 1-4 degrees below average according to models.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH average total rainfall (mm)
28 April – 04 May, 2022

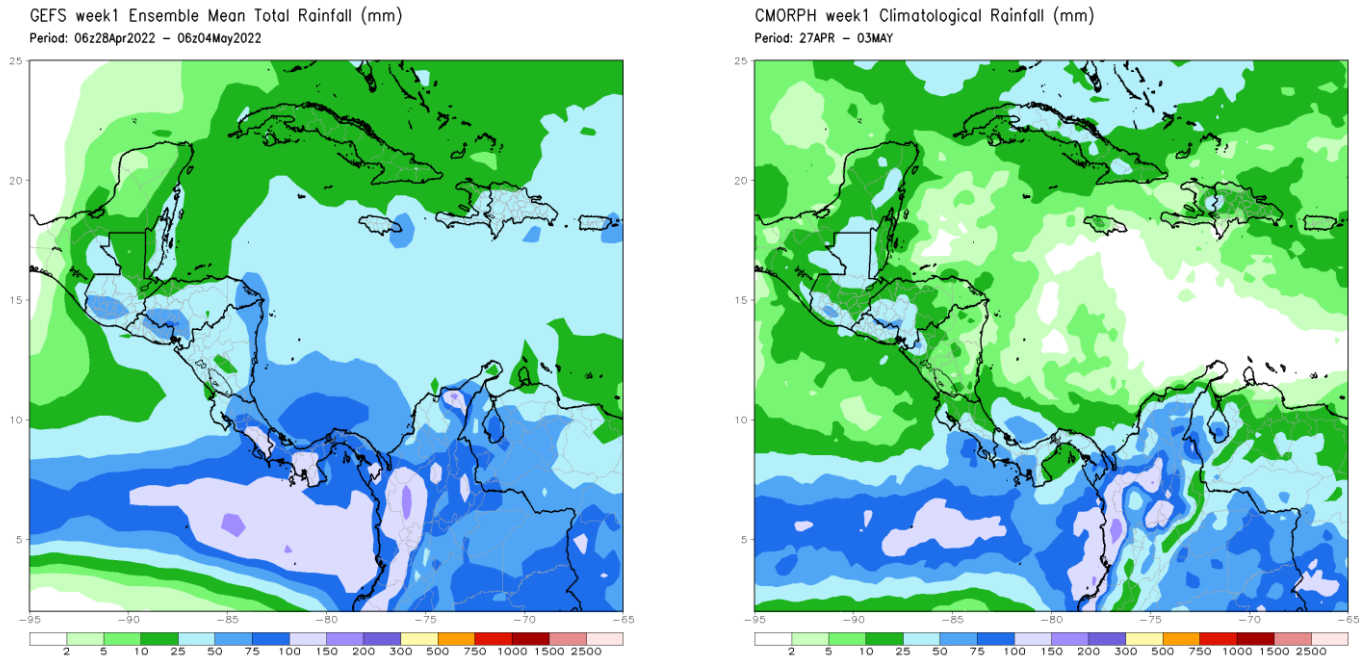

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC