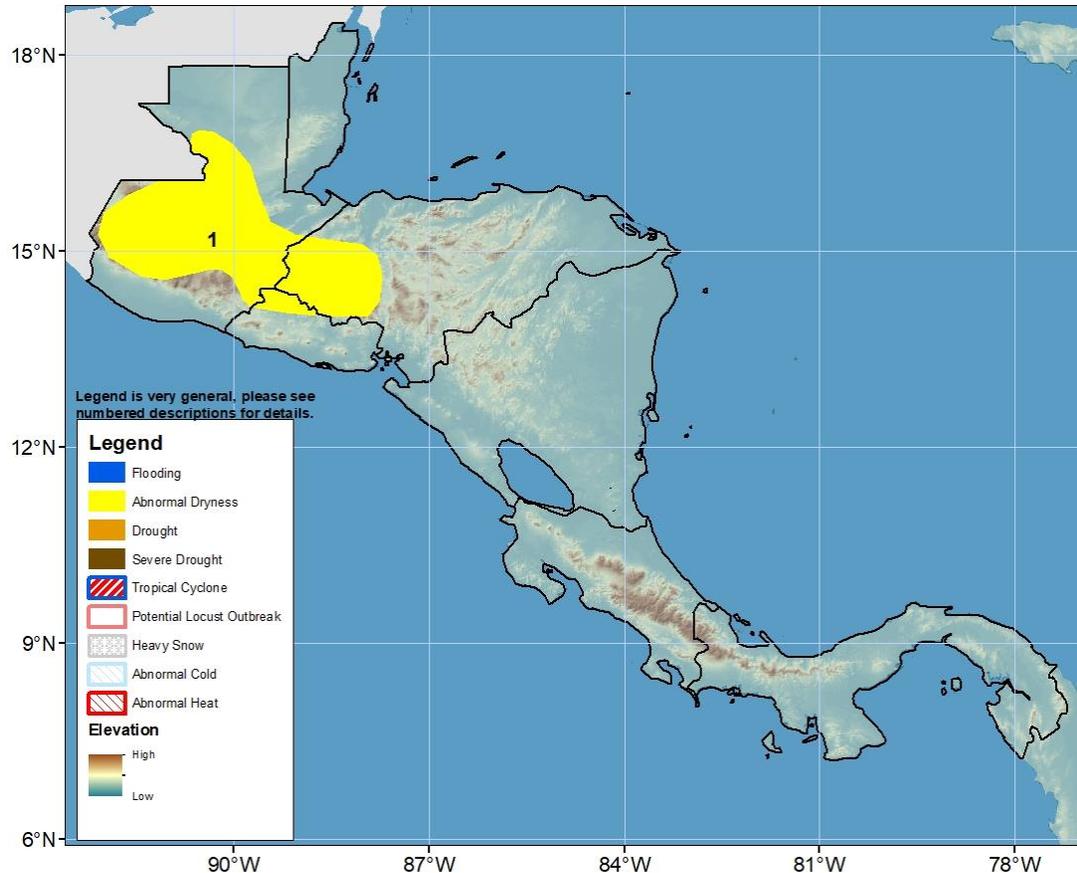




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 5 – 11 May 2022

Poor rains during April led to abnormal dryness, delaying sowing and planting in parts of Guatemala and 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.

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, jverdind@usaid.gov

Increased rains expected over much of Central America during early May

A climate analysis has shown that rainfall was below-average over much of Guatemala and western Honduras during April. Over many areas, thirty-day rainfall anomalies ranged between -50 and -25 mm, accounting for less than 50 percent of the average rainfall. The drier-than-average conditions have resulted in abnormal dryness and led farmers to delay sowing and planting over many areas, according to reports. Meanwhile, rainfall was near to above-average over the remainders of the region. Recently, increased rains resulted in positive thirty-day rainfall anomalies along the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines, Costa Rica, and Panama. During late April of the past week, moderate to heavy rains fell along the Pacific-facing regions, Atlantic coasts of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. Over the inland of Central America, while moderate rains fell over central Honduras, dry conditions and below-average rainfall were experienced over parts of Guatemala. Vegetation was mostly favorable throughout Central America, except over local areas in central Guatemala and central Honduras, based on the most recent Vegetation Health Index. The ongoing progression of the rainfall season should help improve soil moisture and aid cropping activities over many local areas in the region.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggested wetter-than-average patterns, with heavy rains across much of Central America from southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, Nicaragua, to the southern Caribbean. This may trigger flash flood over some local areas. In contrast, little to light rains and likely to be below-average amounts are expected over northern Guatemala. For temperatures, maximum temperature is expected to average 2 – 4 degrees Celsius above average over the northern half of Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. In contrast, maximum temperature is forecast to be below-average over El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca, western Nicaragua, and western coasts of Costa Rica.

