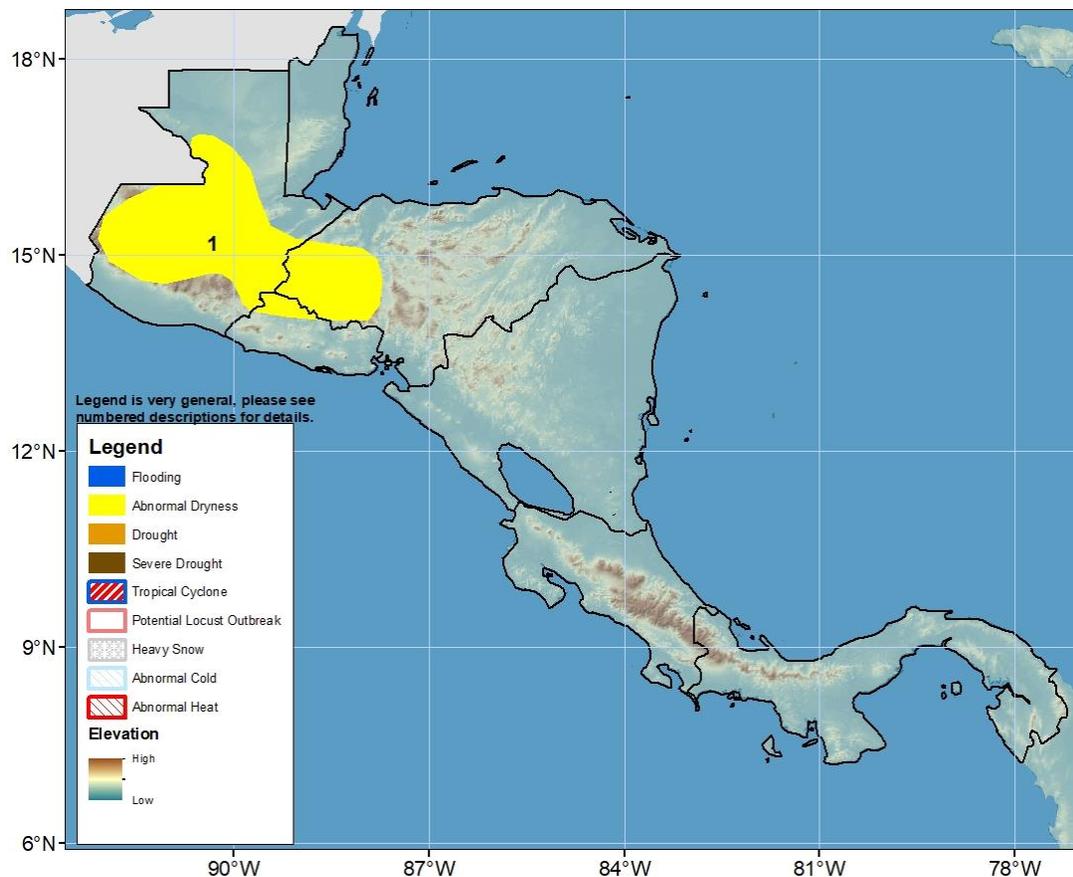




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 12 – 18 May 2022

Drier-than-average conditions continue over parts of Guatemala and Honduras despite recent increased rain.



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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A drier weather pattern expected to return during the outlook period

During early May, increased rains were received over Central America, particularly the Pacific-facing regions and the southern Caribbean. Heavy (> 100 mm) downpours fell over El Salvador and the Gulf of Fonseca, Costa Rica, and Panama, based on satellite rainfall estimates. This past week's heavy and abundant rains might have triggered flash flood over some local areas. Over the past thirty days, while rainfall was well above-average over much of Central America, in particular the Pacific and Atlantic Littorals and the southern Caribbean, rainfall remained below-average over central and northern Guatemala, western Belize, and portions of western Honduras, maintaining abnormal dryness in the region. An analysis of the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) has indicated that biomass conditions were below-average over the central parts and localized areas of northern Guatemala and central Honduras and near-average conditions elsewhere. As the *Primera*, May – August, rainfall season progresses, many areas should gradually begin to receive beneficial rains, provided that a favorable rainfall distribution comes to fruition over the upcoming weeks.

During the outlook period, widespread light to locally moderate and likely to be below-average rains are forecast over Central America. This forecast drier weather pattern could further increase moisture deficits and maintain dryness over the dry portions of the region. Meanwhile, mean temperatures are expected to average slightly above-normal over western and northern Guatemala and central Nicaragua.

