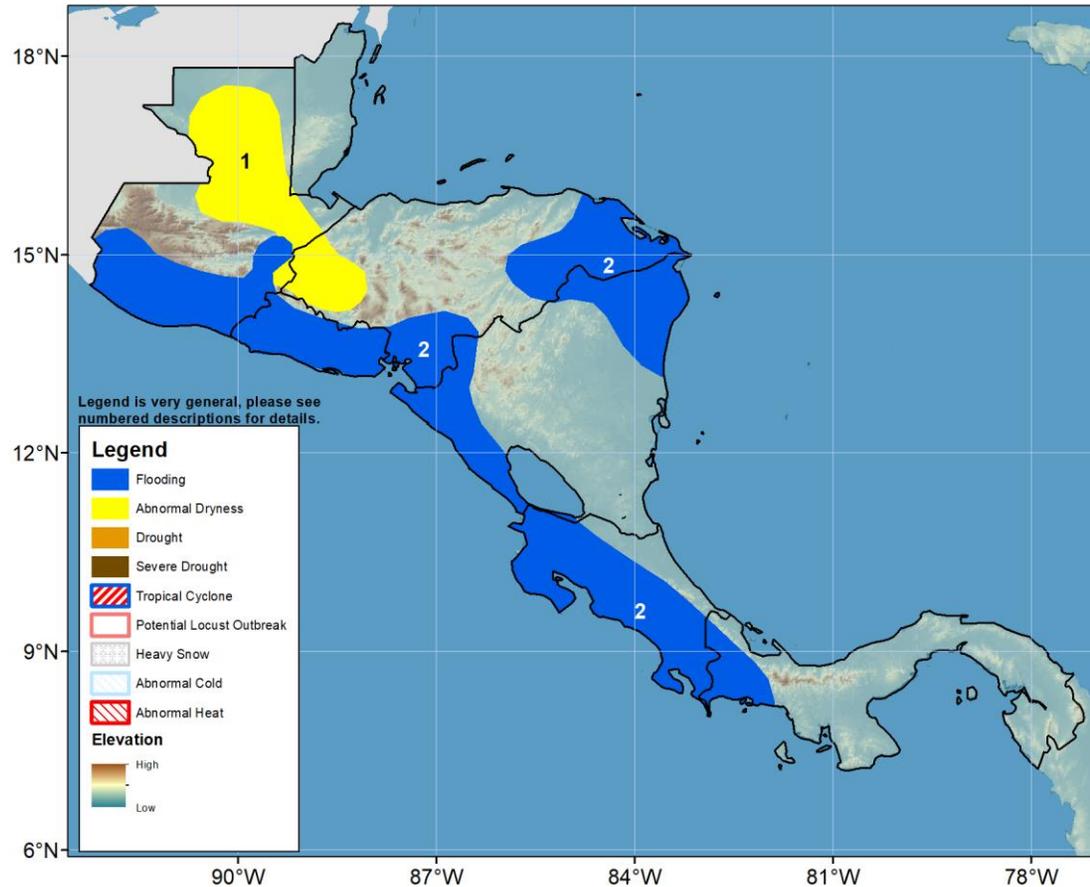




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 26 May – 1 June 2022

High risks for flooding remain as heavy and above-average rain forecast over Central America next week



1) A delayed start to the onset of rain since April has led to growing moisture deficits and delayed sowing of crops over northern Guatemala and western Honduras.

2) The forecast torrential rains increase the risks for flooding and landslides over many already-saturated areas along the Pacific-facing regions of Central America and parts of Honduras and Nicaragua. The forecast increased rains could also exacerbate lahars from volcanic activities in southern Guatemala.

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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The forecast heavy rains may trigger flooding and landslides over many areas in Central America during the next week.

During the past week, while many areas over the inland of Central America experienced an increase in rainfall with moderate to locally heavy rains, northern Guatemala, Belize, and western El Salvador received little to no rainfall. Abundant rains have led to flooding over many areas in Guatemala, including the San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Zacapa, Alta Verapaz, and Suchitepéquez Departments. Flooding were also reported over Tegucigalpa and Juticalpa in Honduras and Cabanas in El Salvador. An analysis of this past thirty day cumulative rainfall has showed that below-average rain persisted over northern Guatemala and parts of western Honduras, maintaining abnormal dryness conditions that have already delayed cropping activities over many areas in the region. In contrast, above-average rainfall was registered along the Pacific and parts of the Atlantic-facing regions. While the continuation in seasonal rain, in general, benefits agricultural activities, excess moisture and ground oversaturation could also lead to flooding and landslides, which could adversely impact many areas.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggested a widespread increase in rainfall over Central America. Torrential (> 100 mm) rain amounts are forecast along the Pacific Rim of Central America. Heavy rains are also expected over much of the interior of the region and the Atlantic Littorals. In Guatemala, the forecast enhanced rains are likely to exacerbate lahars, associated with volcanic activities over the south. Meanwhile, temperatures are expected to average below-normal across northern Central America and near-average elsewhere. Areas of low-pressure system are expected to gradually develop over the eastern Pacific; but these weather disturbances are likely to move slowly westward away from Central America during the next few days.

