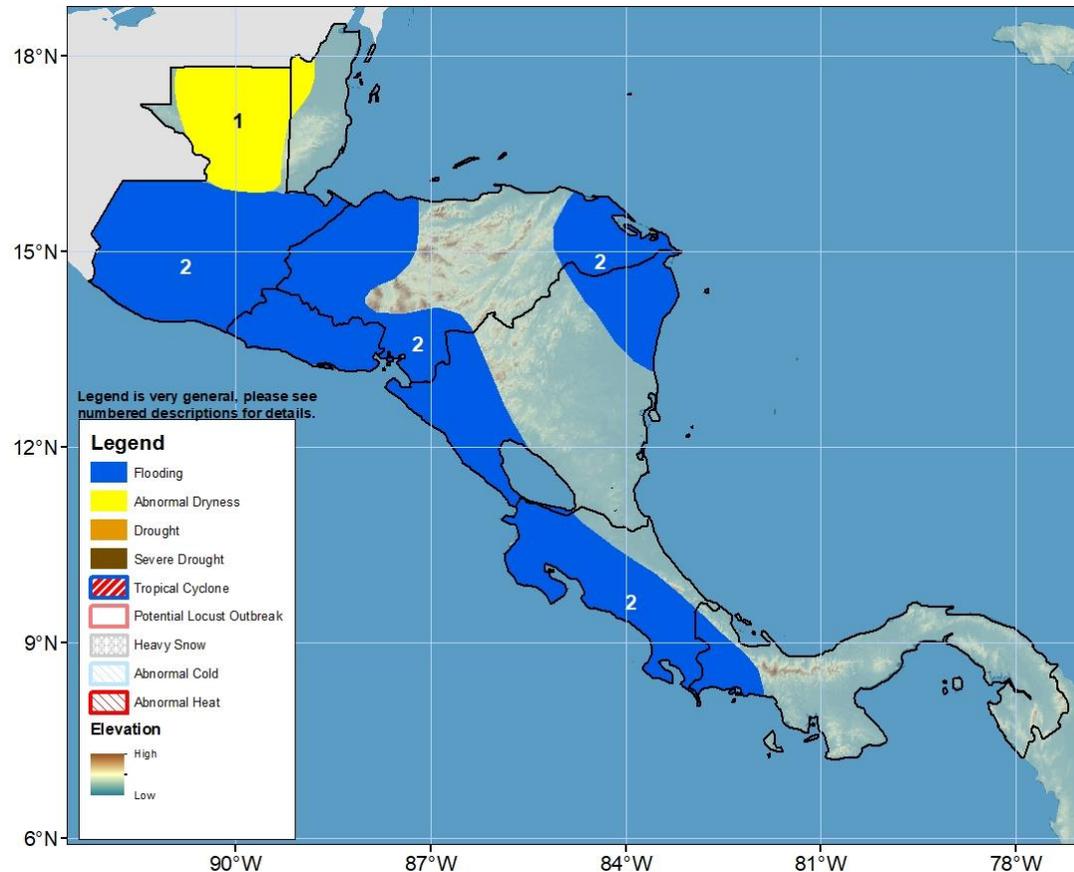




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 9 – 15 June 2022

Flash flood and landslides threaten many areas of Central America as heavy downpours are expected to continue.



- 1) A delayed onset to the seasonal rain since April has strengthened rainfall deficits, resulting in abnormal dryness over northern Guatemala and parts of Belize.
- 2) Heavy and above-average rain over the past few weeks has led to ground oversaturation, which has resulted in flooding and landslides with many infrastructure damages, fatalities, and many people affected over many areas of Central America. Heavy rains will continue along the Pacific coast.

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 current wetness and forecast abundant rains maintain high potential for flooding and landslides over many areas.

Some portions of Central America received abundant weekly rainfall totals during early June. Torrential (> 100 mm) rains fell over parts of northern, and eastern Guatemala, Belize, western, central, and eastern Honduras, and localized Pacific coastal regions of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Many reports over this and previous weeks indicate that flooding and landslides have caused fatalities and many people over several parts of Guatemala and Honduras. Currently, the Ulúa River in Honduras is reaching flood level and many regions of Honduras and El Salvador are under met agency alerts for flooding. Some other parts of the region, though still receiving rains, received well-below average rainfall (25-100mm anomalies). These include much of Guatemala, southern Honduras, El Salvador, and Panama. An analysis of the past thirty-day total rainfall has showed that wetter-than-average conditions are present over portions of central Guatemala, Belize, northern and eastern Honduras, and Nicaragua. Rainfall surpluses ranged between 50 – 200mm. The current level of ground oversaturation was such that any additional moisture will likely trigger flash flood over many areas. In contrast, drier-than-average conditions persisted over northern Guatemala, and portions of northern Belize due to a continued poor rainfall distribution since April. Thirty-day rainfall deficits were now entrenched, with a moisture gap ranging between 50 – 100mm below average. Also, over southern Guatemala, El Salvador and Southeastern Nicaragua significant deficits (> 100mm) are now present.

For next week, heavy and above-average rain will continue over Central America, according to model rainfall forecasts. Widespread, heavy rains (> 100mm) are expected throughout the region, with the heaviest rains over the Pacific-third of the region, and eastern portions of Nicaragua. This forecasted wet weather pattern, therefore, maintains high risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas. Meanwhile, near-average maximum temperature is forecast over the region. While no tropical development is imminent, June is expected to be a more active than normal month.

