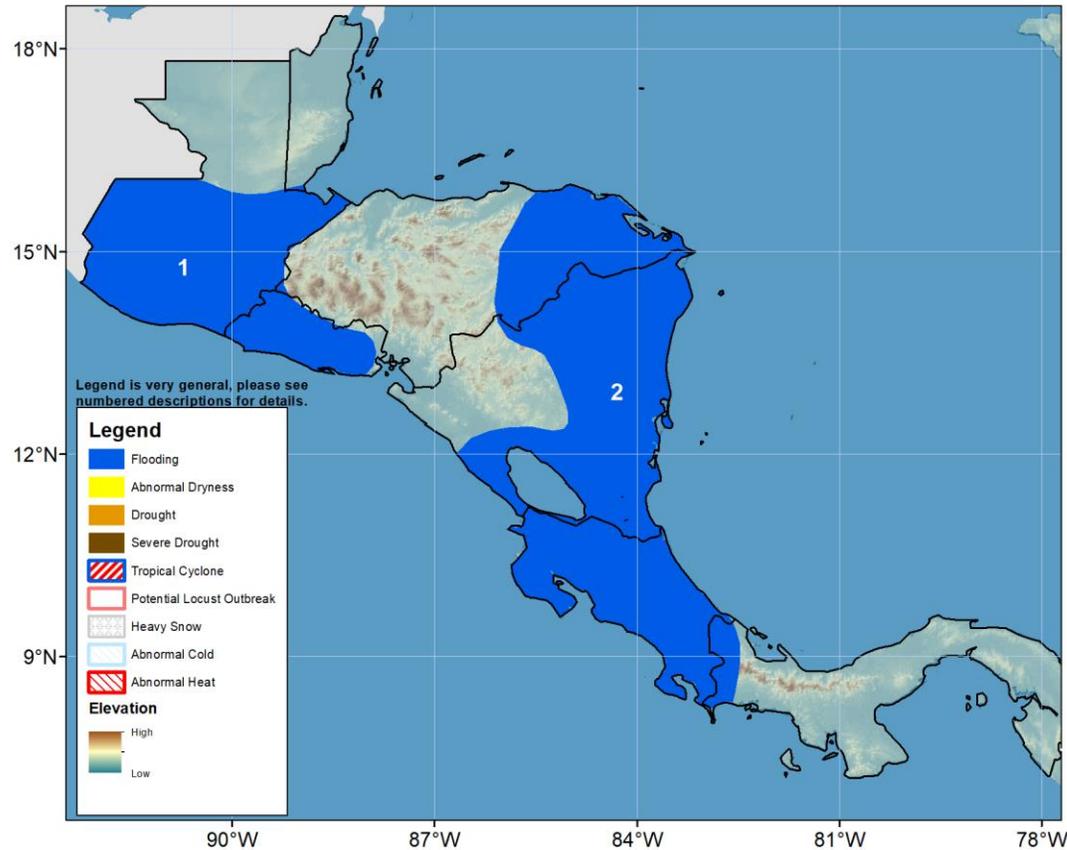


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 21 – 27 July 2022

Flood risks remain high as heavy rain is forecast to return over many areas during the next week.



1) Heavy and above-average rain over the past few weeks has led to ground oversaturation, which has already caused flooding, landslides, and many people affected over many areas of Guatemala and El Salvador. Heavy rains are forecast to continue during the next week, maintaining high flood risks.

2) Continued heavy and above-average rain during the past few weeks has contributed to increase rainfall surpluses over eastern Honduras, eastern and southwestern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama. The risks for flooding and landslides remain high as heavy rain is to persist during the next week.

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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Elevated risks for flash flood and landslides remain over many areas despite reduced rain over the recent weeks.

During the past week, reduced rain was observed over many areas of Central America, particularly the northern portions of the sub-region. Little to no rainfall was registered over northern Guatemala, Belize, and central Honduras. Farther south, moderate to locally heavy, but still below-average rain, was received over the southern Caribbean. However, torrential rain, with amounts exceeding 100 mm, fell over localized areas in southwestern, western, and eastern Guatemala, central Nicaragua, and parts of Costa Rica and Panama. This past thirty days cumulative rainfall has showed that drier-than-average conditions strengthened over Central America due to the recent decrease in rainfall. Rainfall totals ranged between 25 – 50 percent of the average only over northern and southern Honduras, the Gulf of Fonseca, northern Guatemala, Belize, and parts of Panama. Conversely, cumulative rainfall exceeded 120 percent of the average over areas in west and east-central Guatemala, south-central Honduras, central Nicaragua, and central Costa Rica. Flooding and landslides have already been reported over many local areas, including the Chiquimula and Huehuetenango Departments in Guatemala and Matagalpa and Chontales Departments in Nicaragua. For the *Primera*, May – August, rainfall season, near to above-average seasonal rain was received over much of Central America. However, below-average seasonal rain was registered over northern and south-central Guatemala, southern Honduras, northern El Salvador, southern Nicaragua, and eastern Panama.

For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggested that widespread, moderate to heavy rains are expected over much of Central America. Therefore, high potentials for flooding and landslides remain over many local areas, in particular previously-flooded and susceptible areas. In contrast, little to light rain is forecast over northernmost Guatemala. Meanwhile, no Tropical Cyclone activities are expected to directly threaten Central America over the next few days.

