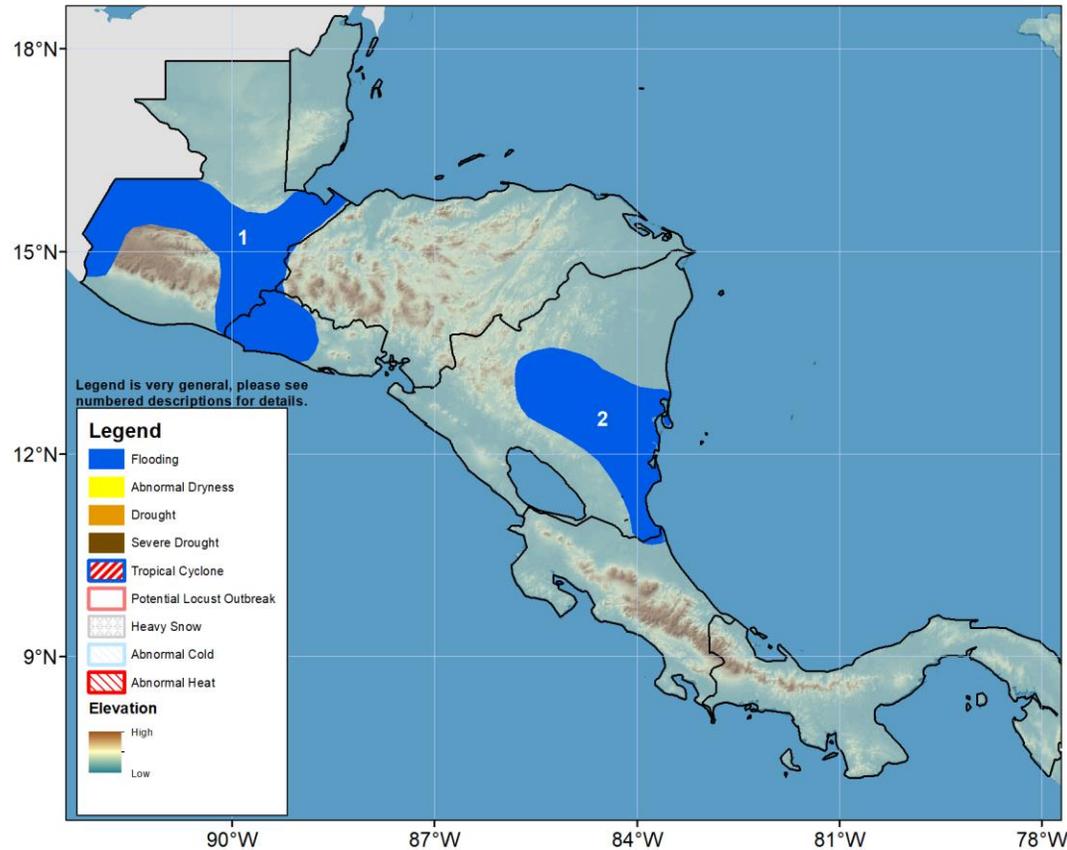


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 18 – 24 August 2022

High flooding risks exist over parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua following this past week's heavy rain.



1) This past week's heavy downpours have resulted in flooding over many municipalities in the Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Zacapa, and Chiquimula in Guatemala and have elevated the Rio Grande de Sonsonate, Rio Grande de San Miguel, and Rio Paz in El Salvador. Heavy rain is forecast, which could lead many rivers to burst their banks and impact infrastructures over El Salvador during the next week.

2) Heavy rainfall accumulation was received over central Nicaragua during the past week. Rainfall forecasts indicated that abundant rain will continue during the next week, elevating the risks for flooding and landslides over the region.

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, jverdin@usaid.gov

The forecast additional rain maintains high risks for flash flooding over many local areas in Central America.

During the past week, torrential (> 100 mm) rain fell over western Guatemala, the Gulf of Honduras, western El Salvador, central Nicaragua, and the Pacific coasts of Costa Rica and Panama. The increased rain has resulted in flooding over the Alta Verapaz, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Zacapa, and Chiquimula Departments in Guatemala, according to reports. Meanwhile, light to moderate rain dominated over the remainders of Central America. Over the past thirty days, most parts of Central America have received near to below-average rain, with totals ranging between 25 – 80 percent of the average. In contrast, western and central Guatemala has accumulated well above-average rain, with amounts totaling up to 400 percent of the average. Over the past ninety days, much of Central America has experienced near to above-average seasonal rain. Moisture surpluses have been observed across central Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, northern and southwestern Nicaragua, and parts of central Costa Rica, where cumulative rain accounted for up to 200 percent of the average. This could indicate a near-average performance of the May – August rainfall season despite below-average rain over the past several weeks. An analysis of soil moisture products has, however, indicated that favorable conditions have prevailed over most areas in Central America.

During the next week, heavy rain is forecast over much of Guatemala, El Salvador, eastern Belize, western and eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Moderate rain is expected elsewhere. The forecast, abundant rain is likely to raise river levels further, which could lead to urban flooding, impacting mobility and infrastructures over many areas in Guatemala and El Salvador. A Tropical Wave, located over eastern Nicaragua, is expected to move northwestward onto the Bay of Campeche, with some chance of development over the next few days.

