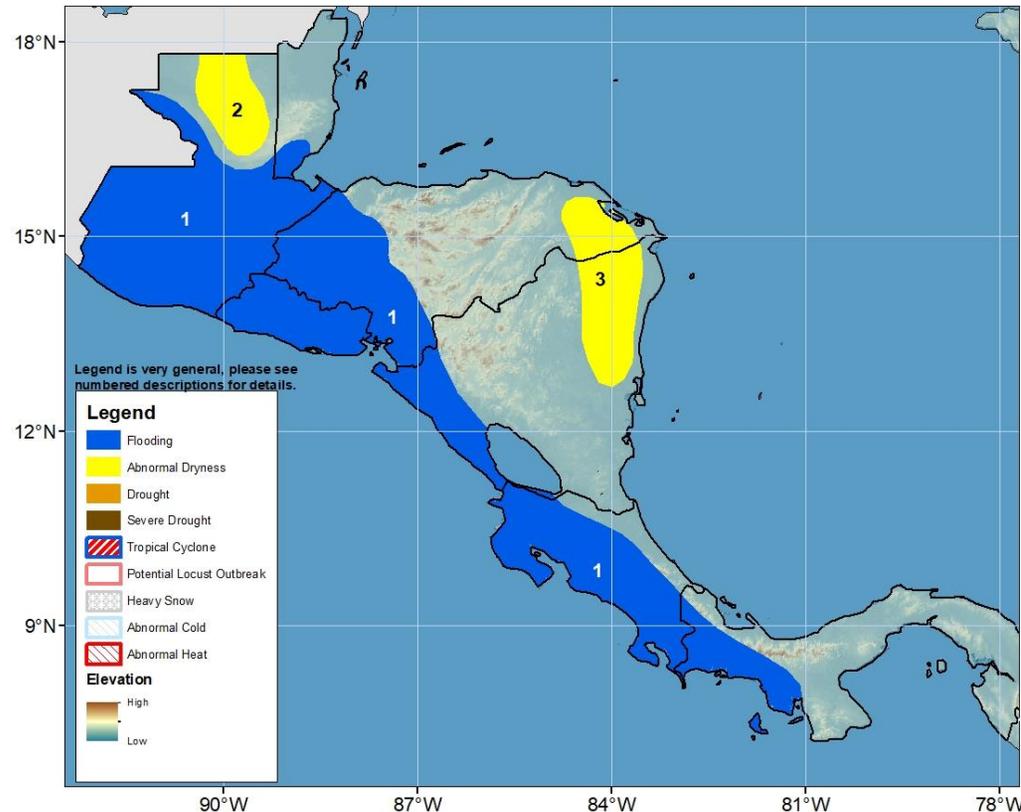


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 22 – 28 September 2022

**Insufficient rain during the past month has led to abnormal dryness in northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua**



- 1) Following the past few weeks heavy and above-average rain, many localized areas in Central America have been oversaturated, which have caused flooding and landslides. Heavy downpours are forecast over many central and Pacific-facing regions during the next week, elevating the risks for flooding and landslides over many local areas in the region.
- 2) A lack of rainfall (less than 50% of average) over the past couple of months has led to abnormal dryness in the Petén department of Guatemala.
- 3) Uneven and inadequate rains over the past 30 days has led to abnormal dryness in eastern Nicaragua.

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](mailto: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](mailto:jverdin@usaid.gov)

## Continued heavy rains could trigger additional flooding over central and western Central America during the next week.

During the past week, heavy rain fell over parts of Central America including the Gulf of Fonseca region, western Honduras, central Guatemala, southern Belize, and parts of Costa Rica and Panama. The highest observed totals exceeded 150mm in parts of Guatemala, Belize, and western Honduras according to satellite estimates. Heavy rain in Costa Rica caused flooding and landslides near the town of Cambronero that took the lives of at least 9 people. Meanwhile, light rain was observed over parts of northern Guatemala, northern Belize, central and northern Honduras, as well as eastern Nicaragua where negative 7-day anomalies were registered. The continued enhanced rain has maintained positive 30-day anomalies over Belize, central Guatemala, and central Honduras. In contrast, negative anomalies have persisted over northern Guatemala and increased over eastern Nicaragua and Panama. Based on precipitation deficits and negative SPI values, abnormal dryness is placed over these areas. An analysis of the latest vegetation products indicates that average to good conditions, overall, prevailed across Central America. Ongoing heavy rains have been detrimental to the *Postrera*, August – November, cropping activities in some areas delaying sowing operations.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggested that widespread and heavy rain is likely throughout Pacific-facing regions of Central America as well as interior Honduras. Total rainfall exceeding 100mm is likely in many places and localized amounts above 150mm are possible in southwestern Guatemala. The continued wet weather could exacerbate conditions over many already-impacted areas. The high moisture content could also trigger new flooding and landslides, lead to overflowing of rivers, and damage infrastructures. A disturbance south of Guatemala may develop into a TC during the next 5 days, but should stay offshore. The disturbance is contributing to enhanced rains in the area.

