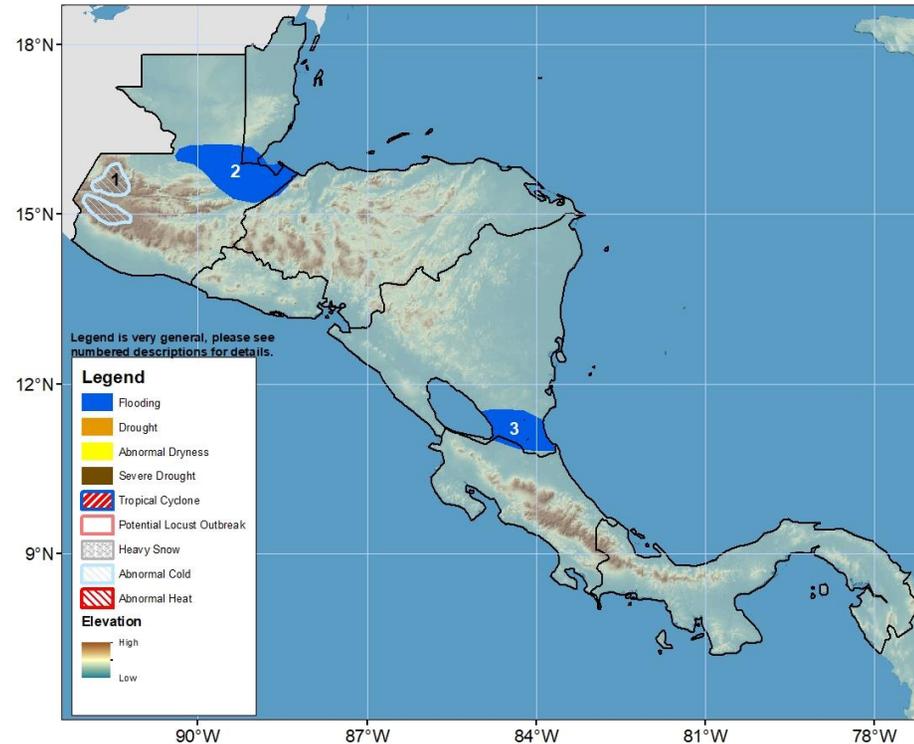


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 08 – 14 December 2022

Heavy rain during the past couple weeks has triggered river flooding in southern Nicaragua and central Guatemala.



- 1) Nighttime minimum temperatures at or below freezing is resulting in frost for the departments of Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Sololá, Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango and Chimaltenango.
- 2) Heavy rains during the past few days have filled local rivers and led to an elevated flood alert in Central Guatemala
- 3) Recent heavy rain, greater than 100mm over the past 7 days has raised river level in far southern Nicaragua. The San Juan River is currently above the 20 year exceedance threshold, but is expected to recede over the coming days.

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

Moderate to locally heavy rainfall shifted towards southern and pacific-facing regions this past week.

During the first week of December, near-normal or wetter than normal conditions were observed across Central America, except over areas of Panama and Costa Rica, where small negative rainfall anomalies were registered. The largest rainfall totals, more than 50mm, were experienced over central Guatemala and southern Belize, as well as southern Nicaragua. Other areas of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, western Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama received light rains. Over the past 30 days, below-average rain occurred in northern Belize, northern Honduras, eastern Costa Rica, and Panama. However, improvement has been seen through the rest of Central America where near and above average rainfall is now present. Since the beginning of the *Postrera* rainfall season, August – November, near-average seasonal rain has been received over the inland of Central America, while below-average rain has been recorded elsewhere. Vegetation health indices indicate generally satisfactory vegetation.

For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggested moderate rain is expected in along the Caribbean-facing portions of the regions. More than 25mm of rainfall is likely and more than 50mm is possible in eastern Nicaragua. Some light shower activity is likely elsewhere, with a slightly suppressed overall pattern.

