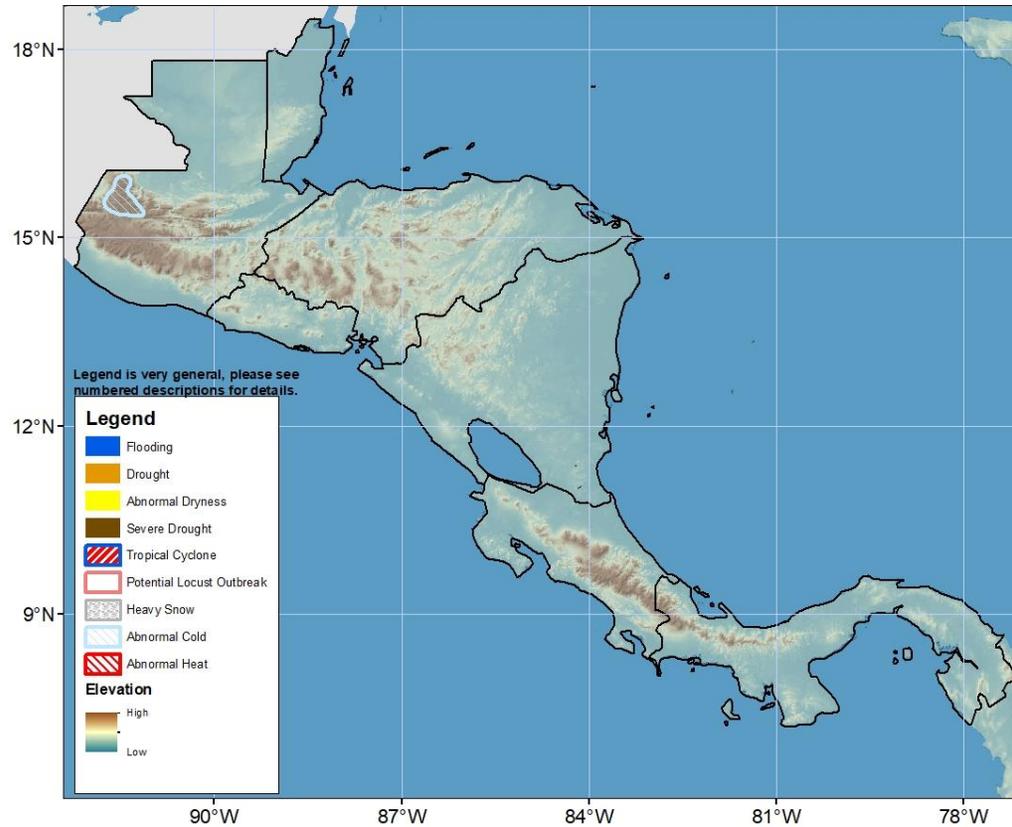


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 22 – 28 December 2022

**Rainfall is trending lighter across the region with short-term deficits persisting in the South**



- 1) An encroaching mid-latitude trough and northerly flow will increase the likelihood of subfreezing temperatures in western Guatemala's higher elevations.

**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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**Light and suppressed rains were observed for another week over southern portions of the region this past week.**

During the third week of December, seasonably light scattered rain showers were observed across northern portions of Central America. Any rainfall totals that were observed remained in the single digits. Meanwhile, the southern part of the region received light but suppressed rainfall. In fact, very little rain was seen in interior Costa Rica and Panama as well as eastern Nicaragua. This resulted in negative rainfall anomalies of 10-50mm for the week. Over the past 30 days, slightly below-average rain occurred in northern Belize and northern Honduras, while larger deficits (50-200mm) have accumulated in eastern Costa Rica and Panama. However, a beneficial end to the second rainy season has been received through the rest of Central America where above average 30-day rainfall is now present. Vegetation health indices indicate generally satisfactory vegetation health for many parts of the region. Some minor indications of degraded ground conditions from recent dryness are evident in parts of Panama and Nicaragua.

For next week, model forecasts suggest moderate rain (25-50mm and locally more) is expected in central Guatemala, Belize, eastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and parts of Panama. The potential for larger amounts between 50-100mm in northern Honduras. The highest amounts are likely in southern Nicaragua and northwestern Costa Rica. Slightly below-average mean minimum temperatures are expected in the region and western Guatemala's highest elevations could drop below freezing.

