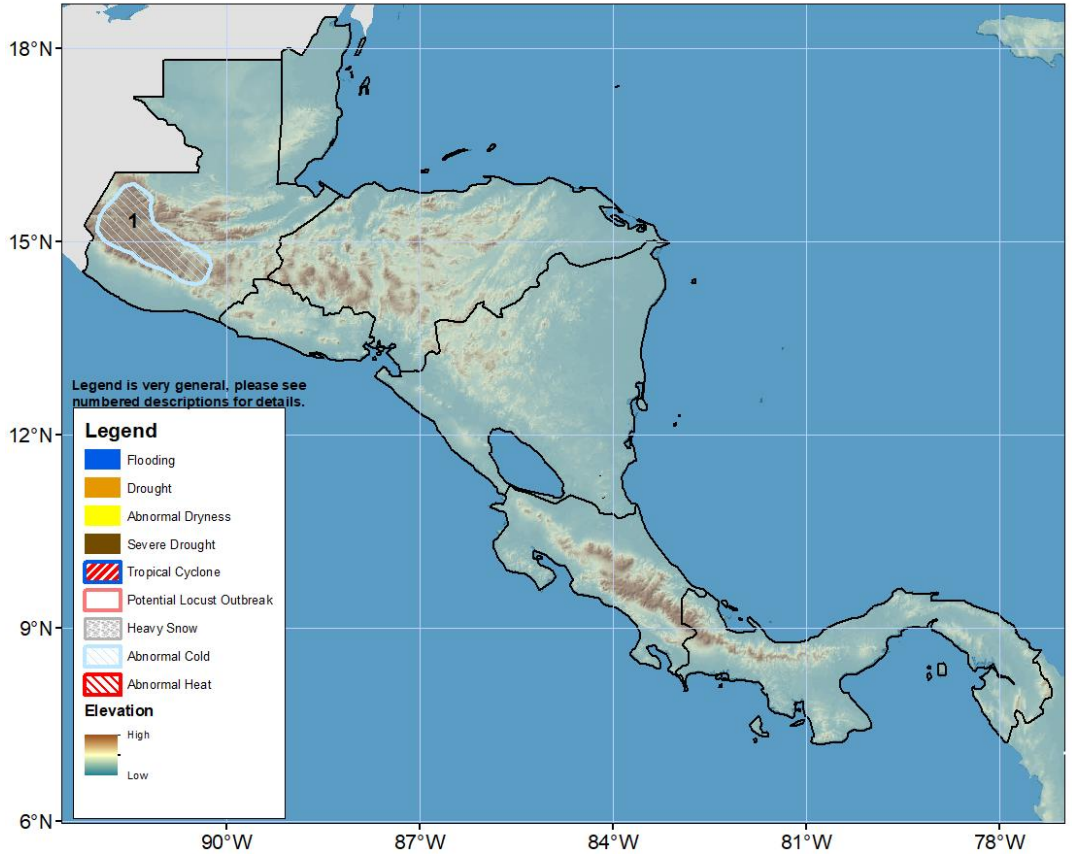
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
9 – 15 February 2023

Cold weather conditions to continue in the west and central highlands of Guatemala during the next week.



1. A high-pressure system in the north Atlantic and a cold front system passing across the Gulf of Mexico might bring below-average minimum temperatures and freezing temperatures, potentially affecting the livelihood of communities in western Guatemala. In addition, strong winds are likely to occur over the country, which might increase the risk of roof damage, crop damage, and wildfires across the country during the following 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.

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

Potential slightly above-average rainfall conditions expected along the Atlantic Tier of Central America during the next week.

During the first week of February, slight positive rainfall anomalies were observed over Central America. Scattered light (up to 25 mm) rain fell in parts of northern Guatemala and in central Costa Rica, whereas near-normal rainfall conditions dominated elsewhere. Consequently, the past 30-day rainfall anomalies showed a reduction of rainfall deficits in parts of eastern Costa Rica and northern Panama relative to the previous observation period. However, over the past 90 days, in Costa Rica and Panama, seasonal rain was below average with an accumulation accounting for only between 25-80 percent of the average. For vegetation, the latest analyses indicated that near-average conditions dominated over the region. Meanwhile, freezing temperatures and strong winds in the higher elevations in Guatemala have been reported during the last week over localized areas.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest slightly above-average conditions, with little to moderate amounts, in parts of northern Guatemala, the Gulf of Honduras, eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, southeastern Costa Rica, and northeastern Panama, while no rainfall is forecast elsewhere. These slight positive anomalies in rainfall might ease the dryness in Costa Rica and Panama in the 90 days accumulation period. Meanwhile, cold front passages across northern Central America and associated strong winds could bring below-freezing temperatures in western Guatemala, potentially negatively affecting crop development in the region.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly forecast (mm)
09 February – 15 February 2023

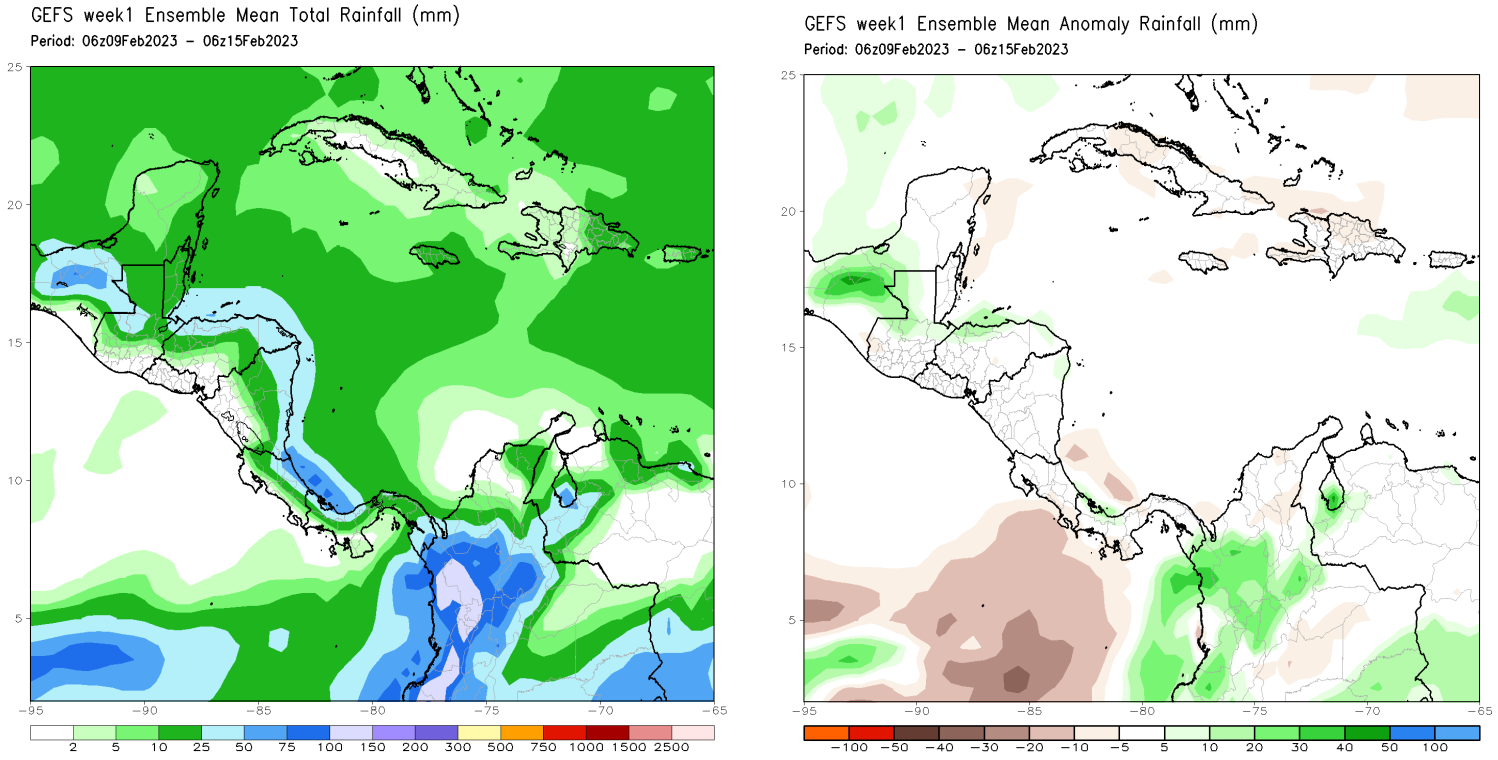


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC