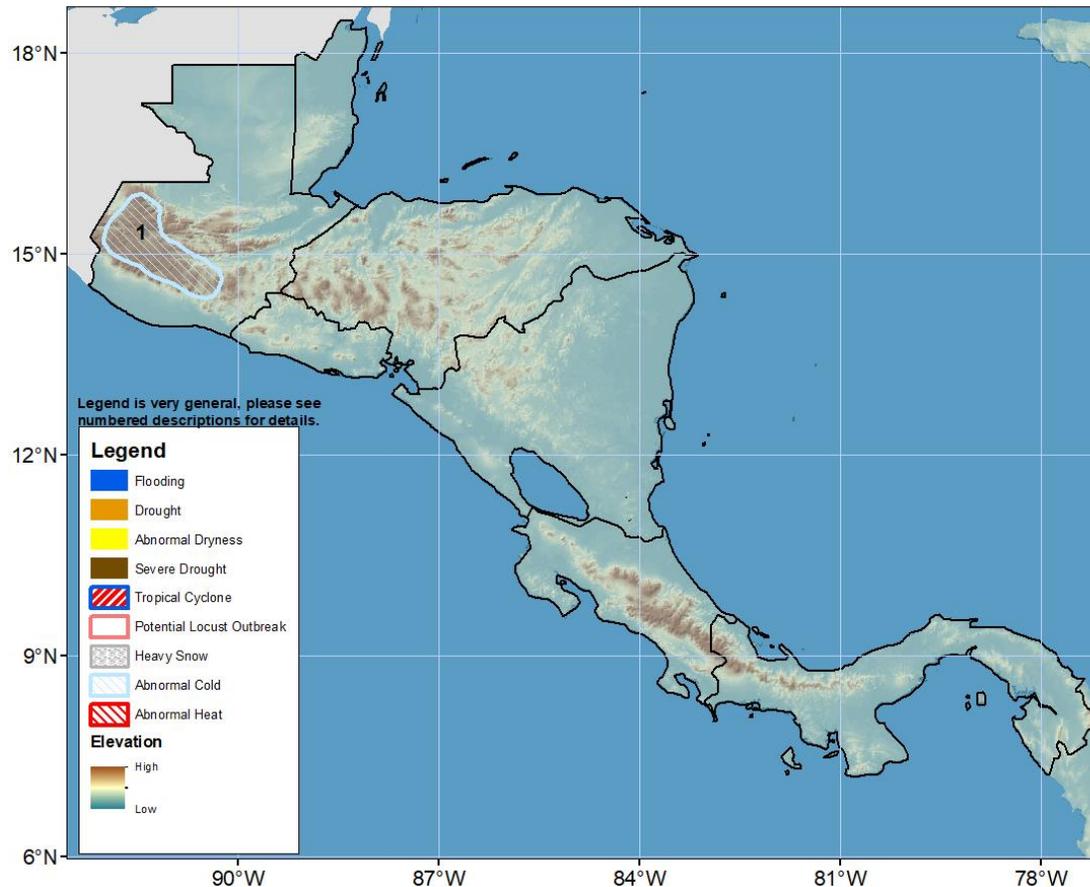


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 16 – 22 February 2023

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



1. Below-freezing and cold temperatures are expected in western Guatemala and central highlands during the next week, potentially affecting the livelihood of communities in western Guatemala. In addition, forecasted rainfall might increase flood risk in localized areas in the Petén department in northern Guatemala.

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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Near-normal rainfall conditions are expected along Central America during the next week.

During last week, normal conditions prevailed across Central America, except for a localized area in central Costa Rica. Light rain (up to 10 mm) was observed in central and northern Guatemala and northern Nicaragua; meanwhile, moderate rain fell in central Costa Rica (up to 50 mm). During the past 30 days, slight rainfall anomalies deficits have been observed in Belize, parts of Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua, while positive rainfall anomalies are in central Costa Rica. However, over the past 90 days, eastern Costa Rica and Panama have shown seasonal below-average rainfall, with an accumulation accounting for only between 5-80 percent of the average. Further, the latest analyses indicated good conditions for vegetation in the western parts of southern Guatemala, western Honduras, and western Nicaragua, and maps show that near-average vegetation conditions are dominant over Central America. Meanwhile, freezing and cold temperatures in the western and central highlands of Guatemala have been reported during the last week.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest little to moderate amounts in most parts of Central America with slightly above-average conditions in parts of southeastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and northeastern Panama. Meanwhile, slightly below-average rainfall conditions are forecasted in southwestern Guatemala, the Gulf of Honduras, northern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and southern Panama. These slight positive anomalies in rainfall might ease the dryness in Costa Rica and Panama in the 90 days accumulation period. Furthermore, the minimum temperature anomalies forecast suggests below-freezing and cold temperatures during next week in western Guatemala and central highlands, potentially negatively affecting crop development in the region.

