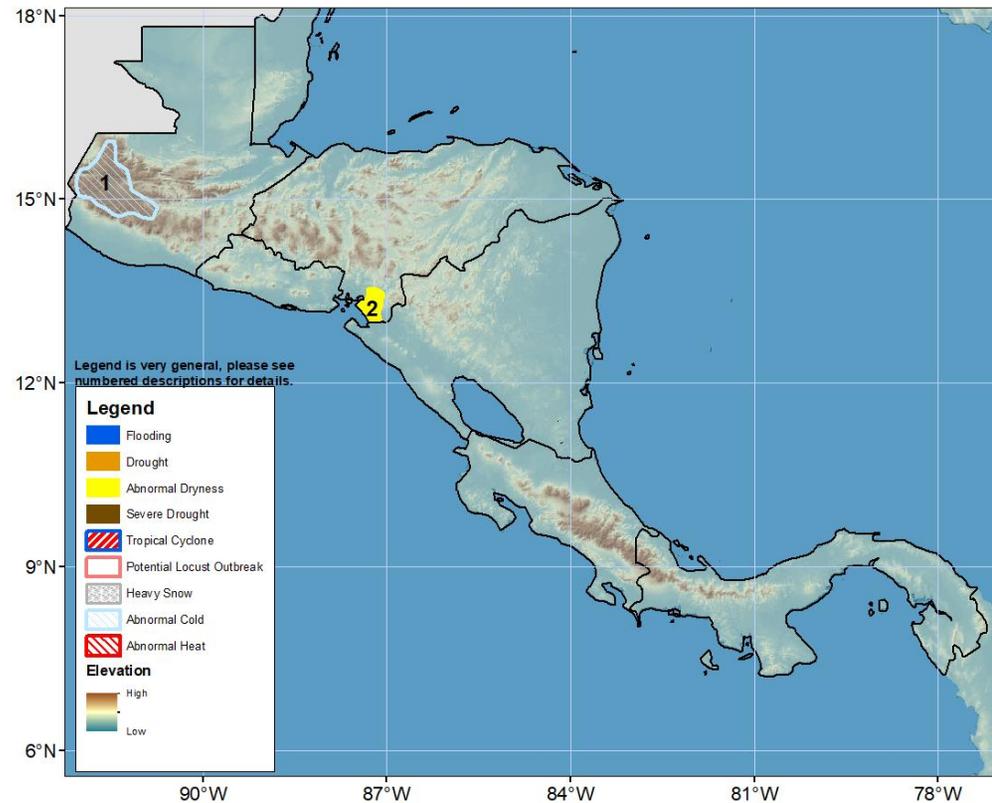


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 02 – 08 March 2023

Cold weather is expected in the highlands of Guatemala, and abnormal dryness conditions are likely to occur in southwestern Honduras.



1. Below-freezing and cold temperatures are expected in Guatemala's western and southern highlands during the next week, increasing the risk of crop damage (e.g., vegetables, coffee, corn, and beans) in these areas.
2. Deficits in rainfall during the last couple of weeks in southern Honduras are leading to vegetation degradation and the potential risk of abnormal dryness in municipalities of the department of Choluteca in Honduras 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.

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Below-normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail in most part of Central America during the following week.

During the last week, moderate rain (up to 50 mm) was observed in central and northern Guatemala and western Belize; meanwhile, light rain was registered in northwestern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica (up to 10 mm). These rainfall patterns contributed to keeping normal conditions in most of Central America, except for central and eastern Guatemala, and western Belize, which recorded slightly positive rainfall conditions. In the 30-day rainfall, conditions are similar to those observed in the 7-day range; however, in the 90-day seasonal period, eastern areas of Honduras and Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama countries show below-average rainfall conditions, with an accumulation accounting for only between 5-50 percent of the average. Further, the last analysis indicates that near-average vegetation conditions are predominant over Central America. Meanwhile, freezing and cold temperatures, and strong winds prevailed in the western and central highlands of Guatemala.

During the next week, forecasts suggest little to light rain in Belize, western and central Guatemala, Panama, and eastern coastal areas of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. However, the forecast shows dominant, slightly below-average rainfall conditions for most of Central America. Furthermore, the minimum temperature anomalies forecast suggests below-freezing and cold temperatures during next week in western Guatemala and central highlands, increasing the risk of crop damage in the region.

