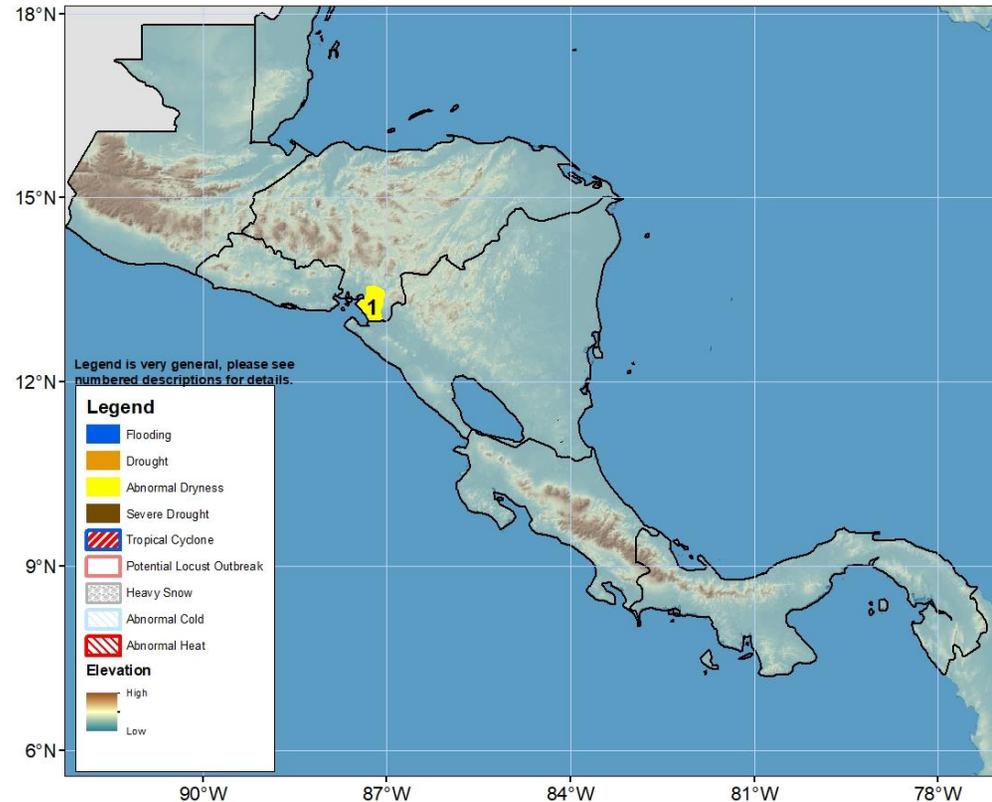


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 09 – 15 March 2023

Increased rains are expected in southern Guatemala, southern Honduras, El Salvador, as well as Costa Rica and Panama.



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

During the last week, little rain was observed throughout the region. A few light showers were observed registered in Caribbean-coastal regions of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama (up to 10 mm). This rainfall pattern contributed to mostly near average or some slightly dry conditions in Central America. In the 30-day rainfall analysis, conditions are slightly wetter than average over northern Guatemala and Belize, where a few periods of rain were observed during February. Conversely some slight negative anomalies are present in southern Guatemala and Costa Rica. 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 most of Central America. Vegetation health is trending negatively in central Honduras. Meanwhile, temperatures slowly moderated in the western and central highlands of Guatemala.

During the next week, forecasts suggest increased rains in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, as well as Costa Rica and Panama. Weekly totals are likely to be higher than average and could exceed 25mm. Even heavier rains (more than 50mm) are possible in Costa Rica. Minimum temperature are forecast to be warmer than average by a couple of degrees and the risk of high elevation frost and freezes will be mitigated.

