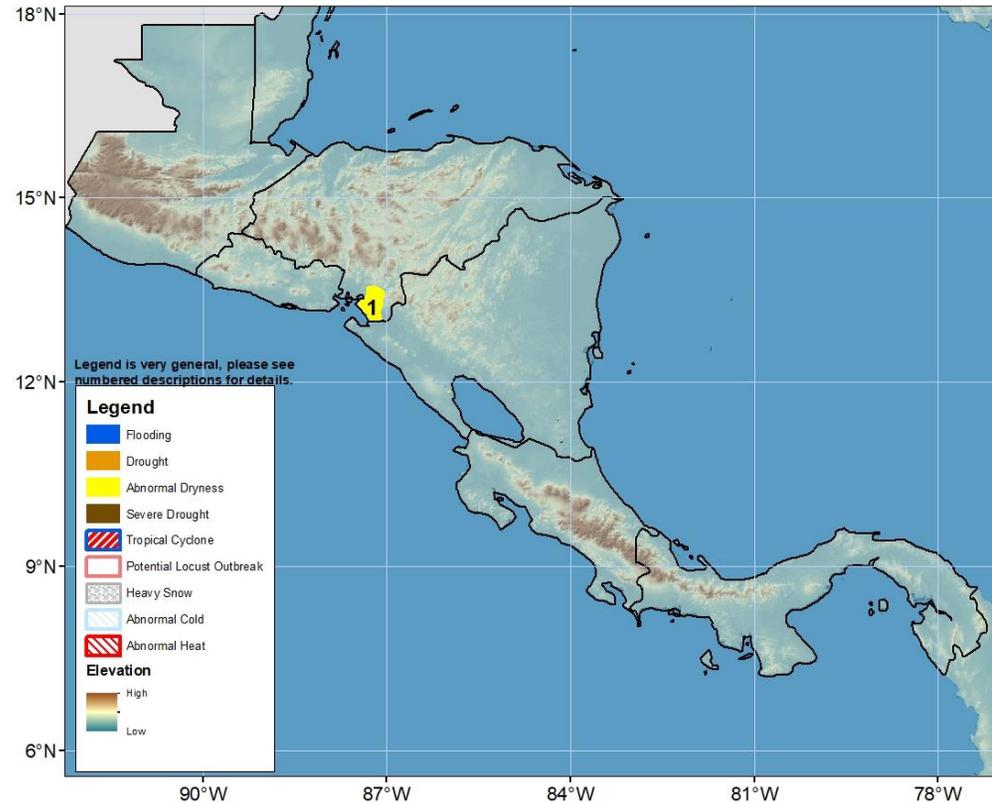


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 16 – 22 March 2023

**Increased rains are expected across most of Central America during the coming week.**



1. Seasonal deficits in rainfall with little new moisture during recent weeks in southern Honduras are leading to vegetation degradation and the 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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**Elevated temperatures are expected in many parts of Central America during the upcoming week.**

During the last week, little rain was observed throughout many parts of the region. Light to locally moderate rain was observed in parts of Costa Rica and Panama (up to 25mm). Light showers totaling 5-25mm were seen across western Guatemala. This rainfall pattern contributed to mostly near average with some slightly wetter than average conditions in southern 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. However, in the 90-day seasonal period, eastern areas of Honduras and Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama show below-average rainfall conditions. Further, the latest analysis indicates that near-average vegetation conditions are predominant over most of Central America. However, vegetation health is trending negatively in central/southern Honduras. Meanwhile, temperatures slowly moderated in the western and central highlands of Guatemala. Wild fire risk also remains elevated due to expected warmer than average temperatures.

During the next week, forecasts suggest increased rains across Central America. Weekly totals are likely to be well-higher than average and should exceed 25mm in many areas. Even heavier rains (more than 50mm) are possible in central Guatemala, and central Honduras. Temperatures are forecast to be warmer than average by a few degrees and the risk of high elevation frost and freezes has passed.

