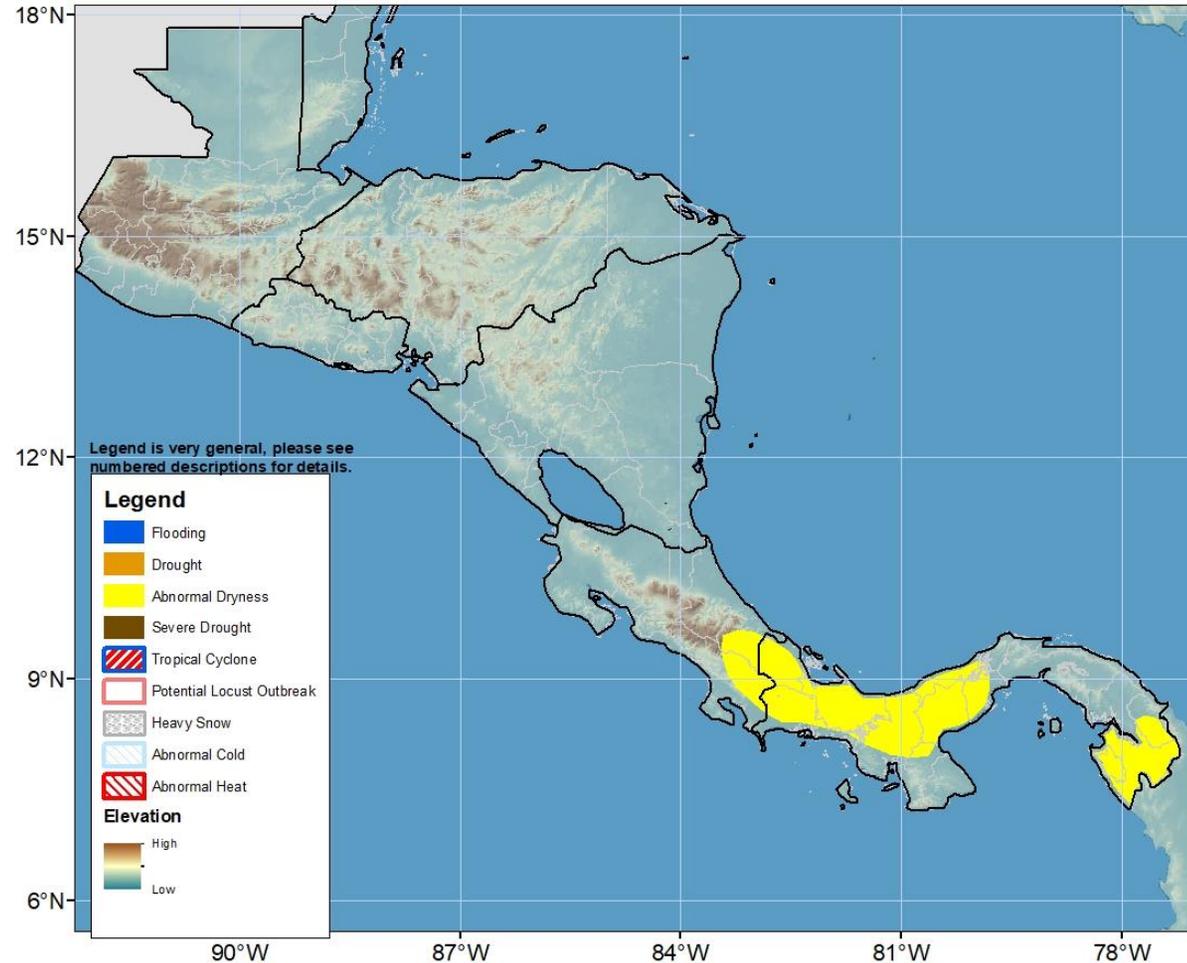


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 27 April – 03 May 2023

An abnormal dryness polygon is placed over southern Costa Rica and parts of Panama due to a persistent and relatively intense dryness in the past 30 days. Localized flash floods were reported in El Salvador.



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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During the last week, enhanced and wetter than average rainfall events were observed over central Guatemala and neighboring Belize, and central El Salvador. Since Saturday, the rains expanded to cover Honduras and Nicaragua. According to satellite estimated rainfall (RFE2), central Honduras and western El Salvador received heavy rainfall up to 75mm, while parts of Guatemala, Belize, and Nicaragua received 25-50 mm during the past week. Except for southwestern Nicaragua and bordering northwestern Costa Rica and southern Panama that remained dry, most places in Central America experienced wet conditions. The 30-day cumulative rainfall show dry conditions in southern Costa Rica and parts of Panama, with deficits exceeding 50-100 mm at some locations in the area. In addition, the rainfall has been irregular across the region. As a result, an abnormal dry polygon has been placed in southern Costa Rica and northern and southern Panama. Although, the latest analysis indicates near or above average vegetation conditions over most of Central America, vegetation health is trending negatively in central-north Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Meanwhile, minimum temperatures were 2 to 4°C warmer than average over southern Guatemala and El Salvador and cooler than average in southern Nicaragua and bordering Costa Rica.

During the next week, forecasts suggest increased rainfall with moderate to heavy intensity (100-150mm) across southern Guatemala. Likewise, moderate to heavy rainfall (50-75mm) is predicted across southern Honduras and bordering El Salvador. Southern Costa Rica and Panama are expected to receive much below average rainfall during the coming week, which exacerbates the already drier than average situation in the area (Fig 1). Meanwhile maximum temperatures are forecasted to be 2 to 4°C warmer than the long term weekly averages in most areas -- the highest positive anomalies are expected in eastern parts of Honduras and Nicaragua.

