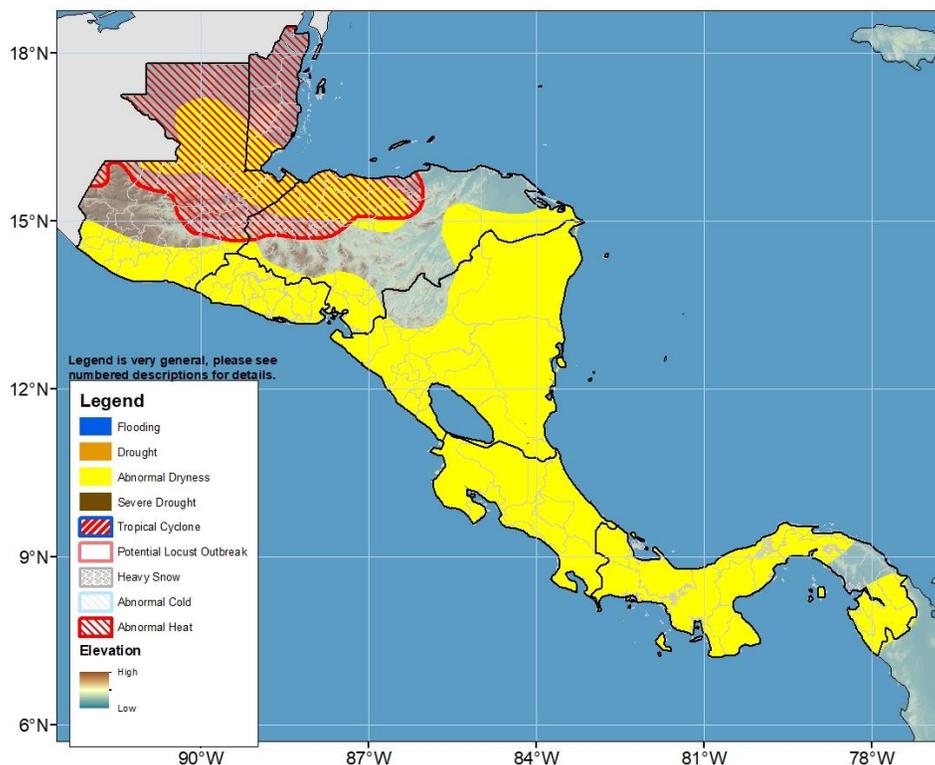


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 15 June – 21 June 2023

Abnormally dry and hot conditions are persisting throughout Central America during June.



- 1) Weekly mean maximum temperatures are forecast to be above average by 2-6°C across the northwestern Honduras, northern Guatemala and Belize with maximum temperatures exceeding 30°C and reaching as high as 40°C in northern Guatemala.
- 2) Inconsistent and insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the “primera” season starting in April has led to large reductions in total rainfall and expanding abnormal dryness – now into more areas of Guatemala and Honduras.

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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Portions of eastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras are expected to receive much heavier rains this week.

During the last week, heavy rainfall (50-100mm or more) occurred in portions of southern Honduras, northern/central Nicaragua, and northern Belize, as well as portions of Costa Rica and Panama. It is some of these areas of heaviest rain that registered surpluses for the week. Most other areas, however, mainly received light rainfall which led to substantial 7-day deficits. Areas of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, eastern/northwestern Nicaragua, and Panama all registered negative anomalies greater than 50mm. The 30-day cumulative rainfall analysis shows dry conditions prevailing across the region. Deficits of at least 100mm are present throughout many areas and larger deficits greater than 200mm are present in northern Costa Rica, western and eastern Panama, El Salvador, southern and northwestern Nicaragua, as well as southern and central Guatemala. Many of these deficits equate to 50% or even 75% reductions in rainfall, with many fewer days of rain than normal. As a result, abnormal dryness is steadily expanding through Central America. Vegetation health is relatively poor through the northern two thirds of Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, northern and southeastern (up to Chiquimula) Guatemala, Belize, most of El Salvador, and parts of central Panama. Maximum temperature anomalies were between 2 to 4°C above normal in Guatemala, western El Salvador, northern Honduras, and anomalies were 4 to 6°C above normal in eastern Guatemala, eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua. The high temperatures have quickly evaporated any moisture from the soil making agriculture difficult for local farmers. Field reports indicate crop losses are already happening in areas including Olancho, Honduras.

During the next week, forecasts suggest heavy rains will move into eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Large totals of more than 200mm are predicted by weather models. Heavy rainfall (100mm-150mm) is also expected in Costa Rica and parts of Panama. Even so, Guatemala and Belize are expected to receive below-normal totals and 20mm to more than 50mm rainfall anomalies are expected (Fig 1). Maximum temperatures are forecasted to be at least 2 to 6°C warmer than average across Guatemala, Belize, western Honduras, and El Salvador. The area between Guatemala/Belize and northwestern Honduras is expected to receive maximum temperatures >90th percentile for 3 or more consecutive days.

