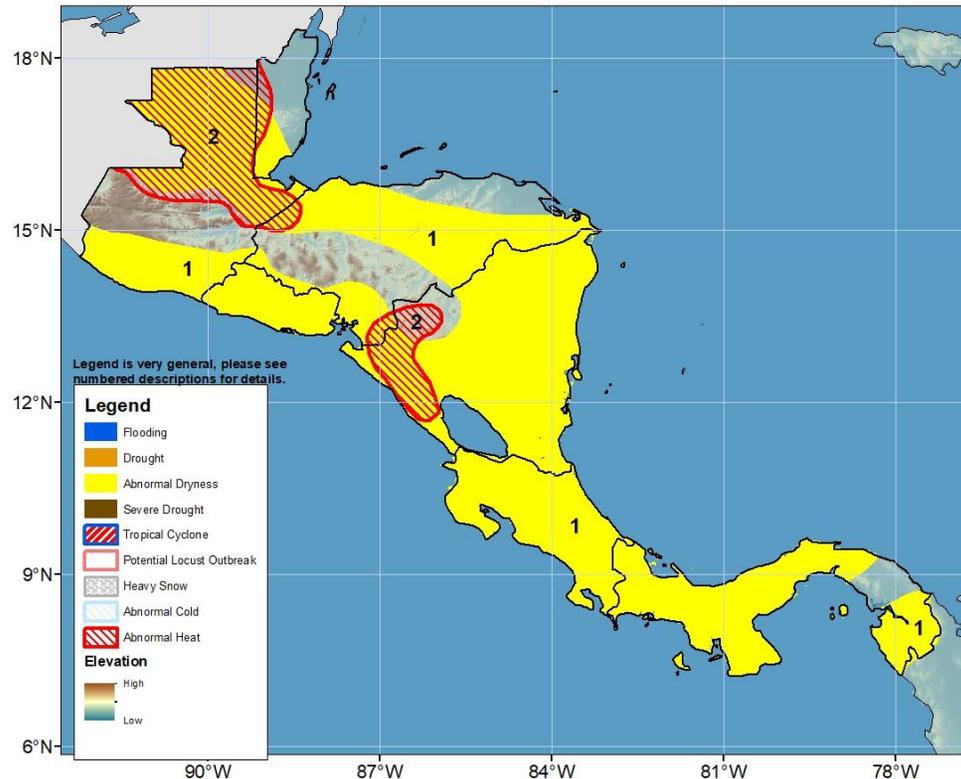


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 22 June – 28 June 2023

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



- 1) 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 with abnormal dryness expanding in Guatemala and Honduras.
- 2) Weekly mean maximum temperatures are forecast to be above average by 2-6°C across northern Guatemala, parts of Belize, and western Nicaragua with maximum temperatures exceeding 30°C and reaching as high as 40°C in northern Guatemala.

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 El Salvador received heavier and beneficial rains this past week.

During the last week, heavy rainfall (50-150mm or more) occurred in portions El Salvador, central/eastern Nicaragua, as well as portions of Costa Rica and Panama. It is some of these areas of heaviest rain that registered surpluses for the week. Other areas, however, mainly received little to no rainfall which led to substantial 7-day deficits. Many areas of Guatemala, Belize, northwestern Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica, and western 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 northeastern Costa Rica, central Panama, southern and western Nicaragua, western Honduras, southern Belize, as well as much of Guatemala. Many of these deficits equate to 50% or even 75% reductions in rainfall, with up to 20 fewer days of rain than normal. 90-day deficits are similarly expansive. As a result, abnormal dryness is steadily expanding through Central America. Vegetation health is relatively poor through northern Honduras, Nicaragua, northern and southeastern (up to Chiquimula) Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and parts of central Panama. Maximum temperature anomalies were at least 2 to 4°C above normal through the northern half of the region and were 4 to 6°C above normal in eastern Guatemala, northern El Salvador, and western Honduras. Temperatures have averaged as much as 6°C above the mean over the month of June to date and the high temperatures have quickly evaporated any moisture from the soil making agriculture difficult for local farmers.

During the next week, forecasts suggest heavy rains will cover much of Central America. Totals of more than 100mm are predicted by weather models in southern Guatemala, western/eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. This may bring beneficial rains to parched portions of Guatemala and Honduras. Even so, northern Guatemala is expected to receive below-normal totals leading to 10mm to 50mm rainfall anomalies (Fig 1). Maximum temperatures are forecasted to be 2 to 4°C warmer than average across central/northern Guatemala, Belize, and portions of Honduras and Nicaragua. Maximum temperatures will be >90th percentile for 3 or more days in Guatemala and western Nicaragua leading to the placement of an Abnormal heat hazard.

