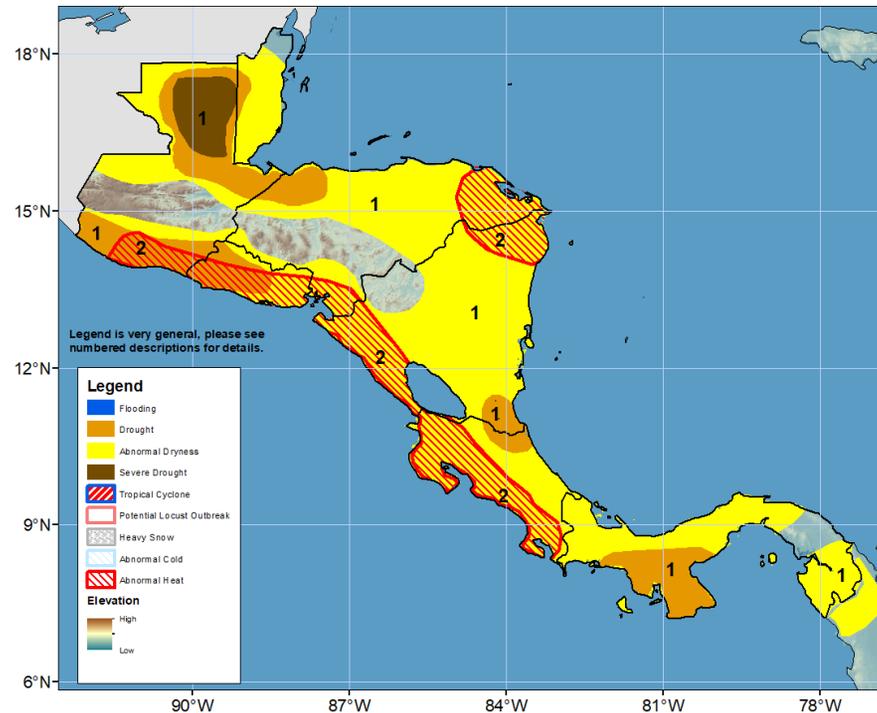


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 03 – 09 August 2023

Dry conditions continued in most parts of Central America, while hot conditions are located mainly in areas facing the Pacific Ocean.



- 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 across the region. As the period of below-average rainfall continued and deficits deepen, drought is placed in most part of Central America. Meanwhile, due to the continuing and growing rainfall deficits, significant vegetation stress, dry soil conditions and ground observations, a severe drought polygon is placed in northern Guatemala. The irregular rains since the start of the Primera season have mainly affected the crops of subsistence farmers in the departments of Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa and El Progreso. In addition, the high temperatures and the lack of rain have exacerbated the availability of moisture in the soil. Additionally, the recent passage of easterly waves has reduced seasonal deficits and impacts on crops. However, the lack of continuity of rains has affected the the amount of harvests. For example, subsistence farmers report yield reductions of 25% to 50% of average yields.
- 2) Weekly mean maximum temperatures are forecast to be above average by 2-4°C across the Pacific basins of Central America and in southeastern Honduras and nortestern Nicaragua, for that reason an extended Abnormal Heat hazard have been place in these regions.

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.

Central Guatemala, southern Belize, eastern Nicaragua, and eastern Panama continued receiving heavy rains.

During the last week, heavy rain (50-150 mm) was observed in central Guatemala, southern Belize, and coastal areas facing the Caribbean Ocean; meanwhile, light rain was registered elsewhere in the region (up to 25 mm). These rainfall patterns contributed to keeping dryer than normal conditions in most of Central America; except for central Guatemala and southern Belize which recorded positive rainfall conditions. In the 30-day rainfall, conditions are dryer than normal for most part of Central America. In the 90-day seasonal period, the northern and southern of Guatemala, El Salvador, southeastern Nicaragua, eastern of Costa Rica, and central and southern Panama register the largest below-average rainfall conditions. Further, the last analysis indicates that dryer than average vegetation conditions are predominant over central and northern part of Central America. Meanwhile, hot temperatures prevailed in western Central America.

During the next week, forecasts suggest little to light rain in Belize, western and central Guatemala, Panama, and eastern coastal areas of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Meanwhile, the forecast shows dominant slightly below-average rainfall conditions for most of Central America. Furthermore, the maximum temperature anomalies forecast suggests hotter than average temperatures during next week across southern and northern Guatemala, parts of El Salvador, western and northern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and parts of Panama.

