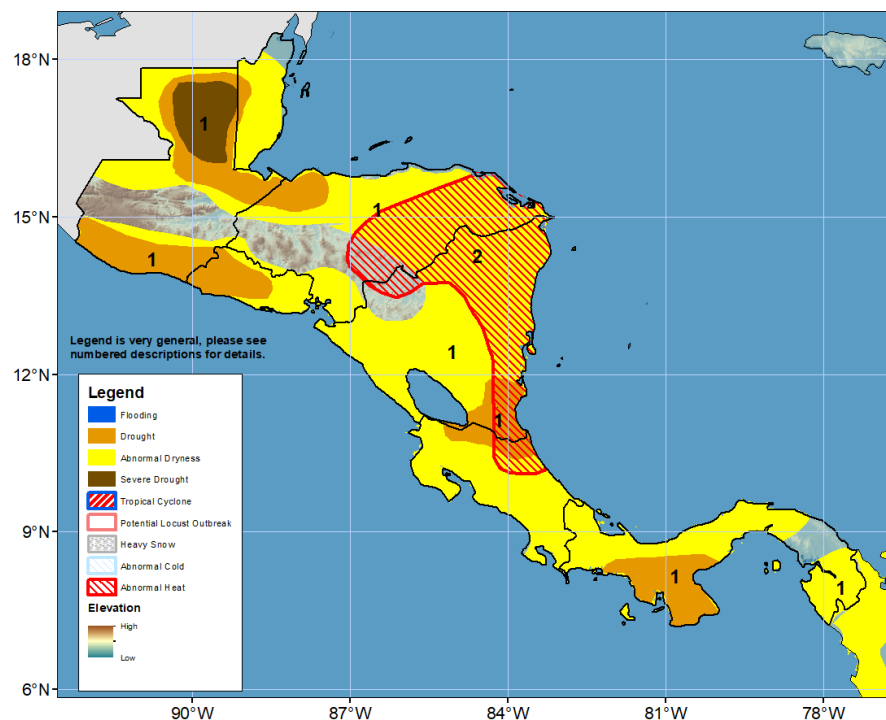


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 24 – 30 August 2023

Rainfall deficits and abnormally warmer temperatures continue in most parts of Central America.



- 1) Inconsistent and insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the “Primera” season, starting in April, has led to abnormal dryness across the region, particularly in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and central Panama. Moreover, a severe drought polygon is maintained in northern Guatemala due to the continuing rainfall deficits, significant vegetation stress and dry soil conditions. 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, Jutiapa, and El Progreso. Due to the lack of continuity of rains, these farmers had to perform at least one or up to three replanting, and they might experience yield reductions of 25% to 50% of average yields. However, coastal areas facing the Pacific Ocean from Costa Rica to Guatemala might experience flash floods due to heavy rainfall. In addition, the high temperatures and the lack of rain have exacerbated moisture availability in the soil.
- 2) Weekly mean maximum temperatures are forecast to be 30-40°C in some areas of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and southern Panama. In these regions, maximum temperatures will likely be warmer than average (0.5-4°C). Therefore, an abnormal heat hazard is maintained 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.

### Heavy rains are likely to happen in the regions facing the Pacific Ocean.

During the last week, heavy rains (75-150 mm) were observed in eastern Guatemala, southern Belize, El Salvador, eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. However, these rainfall totals still show below-normal conditions during the 7 days. Additionally, the 30-day rainfall period shows that northern and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, some areas in Honduras, western Nicaragua, localized areas in Costa Rica, and western Panama have received less than 50 percent of normal rainfall. Moreover, in the 90-day seasonal period, the largest rainfall deficits are still observed in northern and southern of Guatemala, El Salvador, southeastern Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica, and central and southern Panama, where deficits are larger than 300 mm. Further, vegetation health indices shows that dryer-than-average conditions dominate in northern Guatemala, and areas across Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, warmer than average temperatures (1-2 °C above the mean) were observed in Costa Rica and Panama.

During the next week, forecasts suggest heavy rainfall (values larger than 100mm) in areas facing the Pacific Ocean. In these areas, the forecast suggests above-average rainfall conditions, with larger positive values are expected to happen over central Guatemala, El Salvador, southwestern Honduras, western Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and northern Panama (more than 50 mm above the mean). On the contrary, in eastern Honduras and eastern Costa Rica below-average conditions are expected. Furthermore, the maximum temperature anomalies forecast suggests hotter than average temperatures during next week in some areas in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

