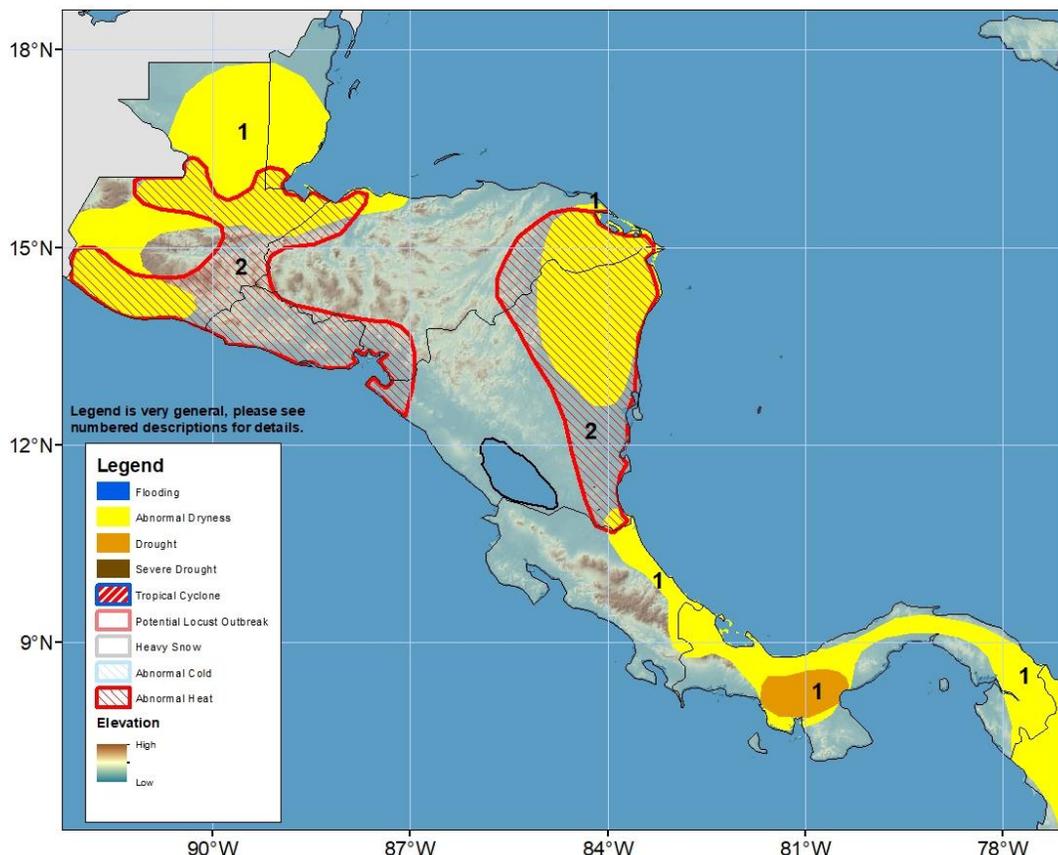


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 11 April – 17 April 2024

Below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures forecasted in Central America



- 1) The lack of rainfall in the past 30 and 90 days has resulted in prolonged dryness in Guatemala, Belize, western and eastern Honduras, central/northeastern Nicaragua, and the Caribbean Tiers of Costa Rica and Panama. The observed rainfall deficits and above-average temperatures continue to affect the shipping industry in the Panama Canal.
- 2) Temperature forecasts suggest that mean maximum temperatures are likely to be higher than average by 2-6 degrees Celsius over parts of Guatemala, southern Belize, El Salvador, parts of Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua.

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.

Questions or comments about the hazards outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Below-average rainfall forecasted across Central America

During early April, scattered moderate rainfall was observed in Guatemala, Honduras, and the Southern Caribbean. In contrast, dry conditions dominated over the remainders of the region. Over the past 30 days, rainfall was below-average in most places of Guatemala, Belize, western Honduras, western El Salvador, and parts of Costa Rica and Panama. The driest regions included northern and southwestern Guatemala, with rainfall deficits exceeding 50 mm. Since early January, rainfall has been below-average over Guatemala, central Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and portions of Costa Rica and Panama. Conversely, rainfall has been above-average along the northern coasts of Honduras, southern Honduras, and the Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica and Panama. For vegetation, recent agrometeorological products have indicated degraded conditions in northern, southern, and eastern Guatemala, Belize, central and eastern Honduras, and central and eastern Nicaragua due to the prolonged lack of rainfall. In Guatemala, drier and abnormally hot conditions have exacerbated waste fires, which have affected air quality and have led authorities to close schools in the Guatemala, Escuintla, and Sacatepéquez Departments. The past recent week's rainfall has also triggered lahars and landslides, affecting areas adjacent to the *Fuego Volcano* in southern Guatemala, according to reports.

During the next week, below-average rainfall is forecasted in central and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, western and southern Honduras. Light rainfall is expected in northern Guatemala, while light to moderate rainfall is forecasted for eastern Belize, eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. Farther south, moderate to heavy and above-average rainfall is expected for Costa Rica and Panama. Abnormal heat is likely over the northern, southern, and eastern parts of Guatemala, southern Belize, El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca, northwestern and eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua as above-average maximum temperatures, with warm anomalies between +2-6°C are forecasted in the region.

