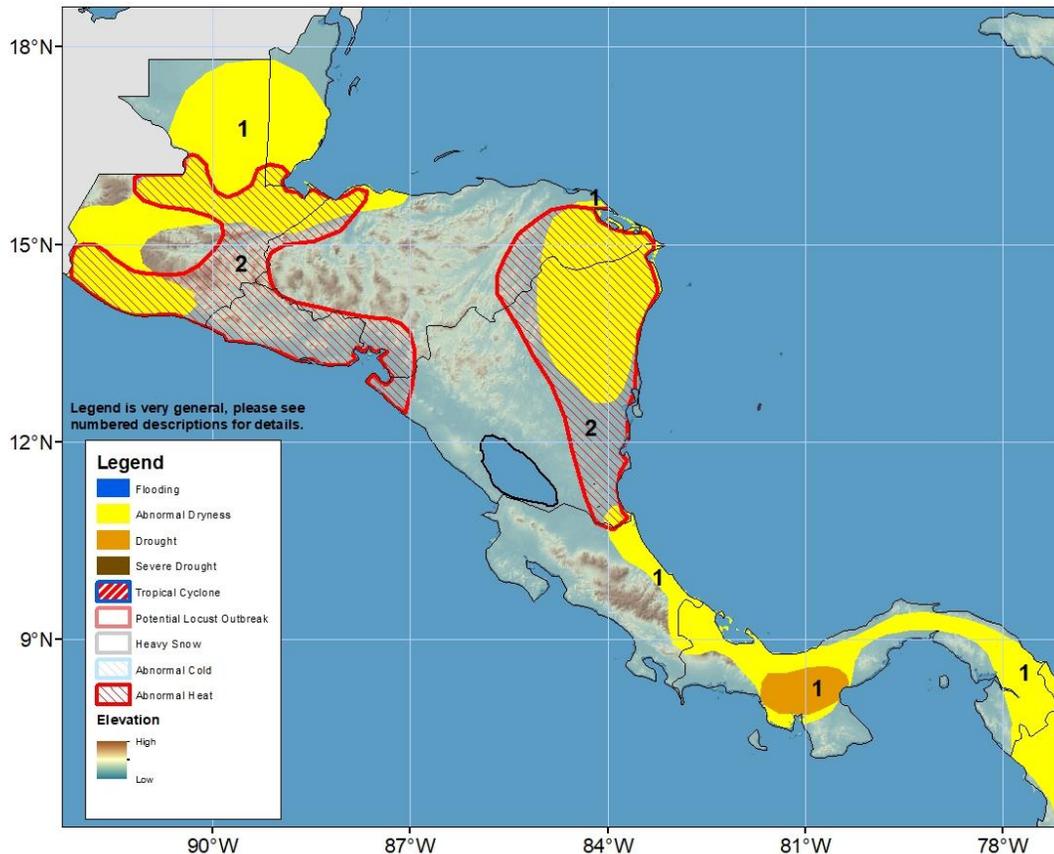


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 18 April – 24 April 2024

**Hot and dry conditions forecasted to continue in Central America during the next week**



- 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.

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## Hotter and drier conditions forecasted for Central America

During the past week, scattered, heavy rain fell in western and eastern Guatemala, northern Belize, western and southern Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama. In contrast, dry conditions persisted over the remainders of the region. Consequently, drier conditions remained across northern and parts of southwestern Guatemala, southern Belize, and western Honduras. Mixed conditions were observed in Costa Rica and Panama. Since mid-January, most places across the interior of Central America have experienced below-average rainfall, with deficits between 50-200 mm. The largest deficits were observed in northern and southwestern Guatemala, Belize, parts of southern Costa Rica and western Panama, indicating a poor rainfall performance so far. In Guatemala, drier and abnormally hot conditions have exacerbated dump fires, which also have affected air quality and have led authorities to close schools in the Guatemala, Escuintla, and Sacatepéquez Departments. Conversely, the past recent weeks rainfall has triggered lahars and landslides, affecting areas adjacent to the *Fuego Volcano* in southern Guatemala. For vegetation, the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) showed a further degradation in vegetation conditions over most places in northern Central America, particularly eastern Nicaragua.

For next week, limited and reduced rainfall is forecasted for Central America. Little to light rain is expected over most places of the region, except for the Gulf of Fonseca, where moderate rainfall is possible. The forecasted below-average rainfall could increase moisture deficits further, deplete soil moisture, and maintain abnormal dryness over many local areas. Also, abnormal heat is forecasted to continue 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.

