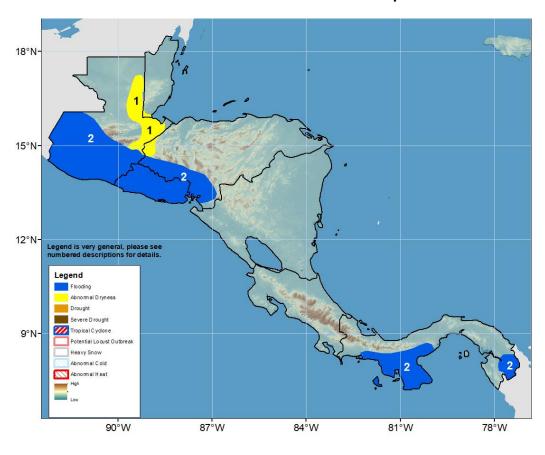






## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 12 September – 18 September 2024

Floods are expected in some areas in Central America.



- 1) Rainfall have been erratic and scarce in eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras for the past 30 and 90 days. As a result, abnormal dryness polygon is maintained in these regions.
- 2) During the last week, moderate to heavy rainfall dominated Central America. For the coming week, the forecast suggests moderate to heavy rain will continue in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama. Therefore, it is expected that floods will occur in a few areas in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama, particularly in areas where soil is already saturated due to the recent heavy rains.

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.

## Below-average rainfall conditions are expected for most of the region.

During the last week, moderate to heavy rainfall dominated Central America with values that ranged from 25 mm to 300 mm. Above-average conditions were observed in western Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and most parts of Costa Rica. From these countries, western Guatemala and northeastern Belize registered the biggest superpluses with positive anomalies that exceeded 100 mm. Additionally, local reports indicated that 11 departments in central and southern Guatemala have observed high rainfall rates in 24 hours, which have led to floods, landslides, and infrastructural damage, among others. On the other hand, suppressed rains were observed in few areas in central Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, and central and southern Panama, with 25 mm to 100 mm below the mean. The Palacagüina State (Nicaragua) reported crop stress due to the lack of rain. In addition, during the last 30 days, some areas, including Belize, western Guatemala, and most part of Honduras, have been wetter than average (100 mm above the mean), while other areas, such as central Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, and central Panama have observed significant deficits (more than 100mm of the mean). Furthermore, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows a positive percent of normal rainfall for most part of Central America. However, few areas in eastern Guatemala, southern Nicaragua, and eastern Panama registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-80 percent of the average. Regarding vegetation, satellite products shows near-average and positive vegetation conditions over Central America, however, poor vegetation conditions continued in northern Guatemala and northern Honduras.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rainfall will overspread most of the region. Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, western Honduras, western Costa Rica and central and southern Panama expect 75-150 mm of rainfall. As a result, flooding is a widespread risk, especially where rainfall accumulation have been high in the last week. In terms of temperatures, maximum temperatures of 35 °C are forecasted in most Central America.

