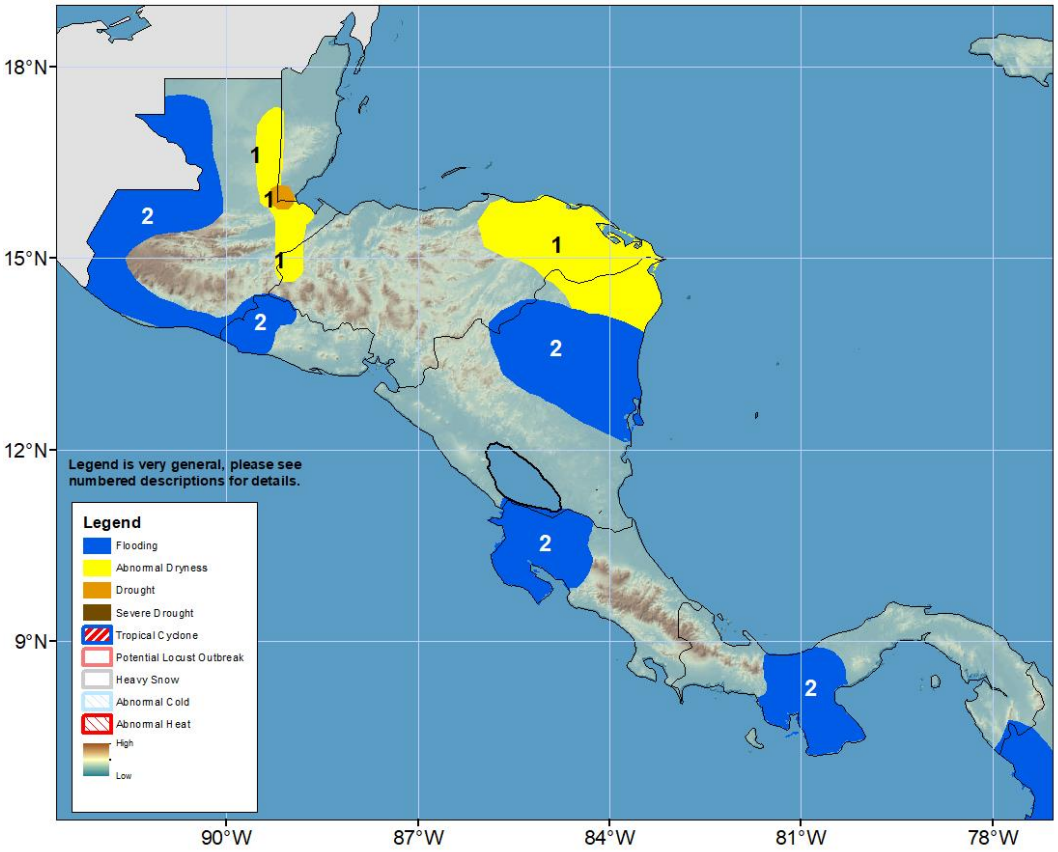
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
18 July – 24 July 2024

Floods are expected in several areas of Central America.



1) Due to the lack of rainfall over the last 30 days, below-average conditions persist in eastern Guatemala, western and eastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua. Further, in the 90-day term, below-average conditions prevail in the local area in eastern Guatemala.

2) The forecast suggests heavy downpours in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Due to the increase in soil moisture in recent weeks over northern Central America, particularly in eastern and southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, northeastern Nicaragua, western Costa Rica, and western Panama and central Panama, there is a better chance of getting floods or landslides in these areas during the outlook period in these areas.

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

Heavy rainfall might continue across Central America.

During last week, heavy rainfall from 50 mm to 200 mm affected central and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, eastern and southern Belize, southern Honduras, most Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica, and central Panama. These heavy rainfalls brought positive anomalies from 50 mm to 200 mm in southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, eastern Belize, southern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. Meanwhile, negative anomalies ranged from 25 mm to 100 mm in central-eastern Guatemala, southern Belize, southern Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and northern and southern Panama. At the same time, near-average conditions were registered in the rest of Central America. The continuing rainfall during the last weeks has helped to reduce the abnormal dryness conditions observed previously in most parts of northern Central America. Currently, the 30-day rainfall patterns show positive rainfall conditions in most parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. However, 50-300 mm rainfall deficits are still recorded in eastern Guatemala, southern Belize, southeastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, western Costa Rica, and a few areas in Panama. Moreover, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows that eastern Guatemala, southern Belize, localized areas in eastern Honduras, northeastern and southeastern Nicaragua, and central Panama registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-50 percent of the average. Regarding vegetation, the latest satellite products show major improvements in vegetation health over the northern parts of the region, particularly in Guatemala and Belize.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest that heavy rainfall might occur across Central America, with the largest rainfall amounts expected in southwestern Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, most of Costa Rica and Panama. Above-average conditions are likely to occur in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, the rest of the region expected near-average conditions, except southeastern Nicaragua that is expecting negative rainfall values between 20 mm and 40 mm. In addition, forecasts suggest the presence of Sahara dust across Central America during the coming days, which might support the inhibition of rainfall, particularly in areas of Guatemala.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
18 July – 24 July 2024

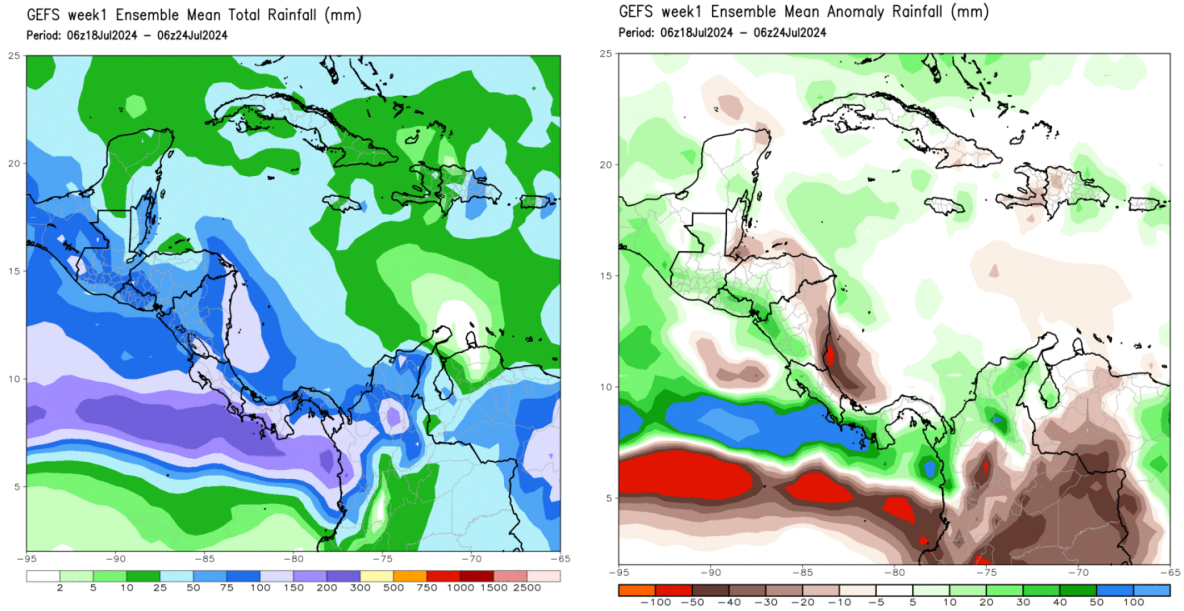


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC