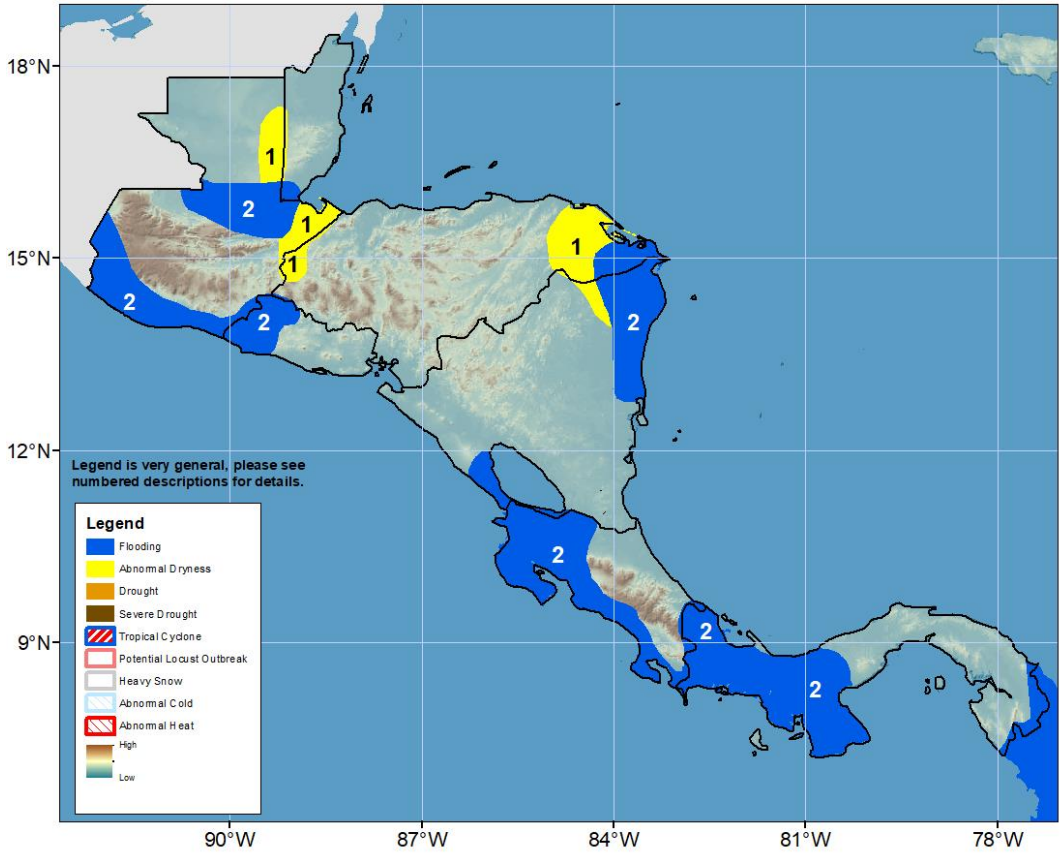
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
01 – 07 August 2024

Heavy rainfall might drive floods in portions of Central America.



1) Heavy rainfall during the last weeks has alleviated the extension of the abnormal dryness in eastern Honduras and eastern El Salvador. However, due to the erratic and deficient rainfall over the last 30 days and 90 days, dryness conditions prevail in eastern Guatemala, western and eastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua.

2) Central America has observed heavy downpours during the last week, favoring the increase of soil moisture saturation in most of the region. The heavy rainfall has led to floods in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama. For next week, the forecast suggests that heavy rainfall will continue. Therefore, there is an increased chance that floods and landslides might occur over Guatemala, western El Salvador, southeastern Honduras, northeastern and southeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and portions of Panama.

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

The forecast suggests heavy rainfall across Central America.

During the last week, heavy rainfall prevailed across Central America. Rainfall values ranged from 100 mm to 200 mm in central and southern Guatemala, southern Belize, southeastern Honduras, southeastern Nicaragua, and local coastal areas of northern and central Panama. Above-average rainfall conditions between 50 mm and 200 mm were observed in central and southern Guatemala, northern and southern Belize, southeastern Honduras, southeastern Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica. Meanwhile, slightly negative conditions were noted over western-central Guatemala and southern Panama, while the rest of Central America observed near-average conditions. In the last 30-day term, heavy rainfalls have brought positive anomalies in most parts of Central America. The largest positive anomalies from 100 mm to 500 mm have been recorded in several areas of Guatemala, western and southern Honduras, northern and southwestern Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica, and northern and central Panamá. However, rainfall deficits from 25 mm to 100 mm are observed in central Guatemala, northwestern and southeastern Honduras, southeastern Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and central and southern Panama. Further, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows that central and eastern Guatemala, western and eastern Honduras, and northeastern and southern Nicaragua registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-80 percent of the average. Regarding vegetation, satellite products show poor vegetation health conditions in central and northern Guatemala, Belize, southeastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest that heavy rainfall will persist across Central America, with the heaviest rainfall occurring in eastern and southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and most of Panama. Positive anomalies of 10 to 100 mm are likely in Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, while slightly negative anomalies are expected in central and southern Guatemala, eastern Belize, western El Salvador and northwestern Honduras. These rainfall conditions might lead to localized flooding in several Central American countries.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
01 – 07 August 2024

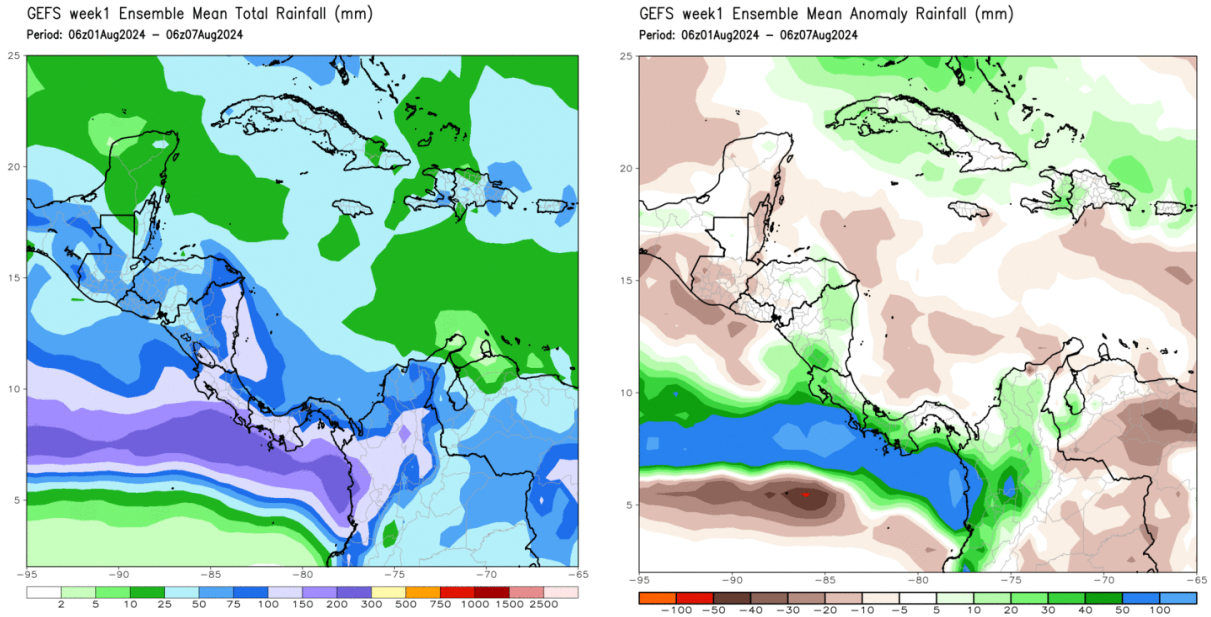


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC