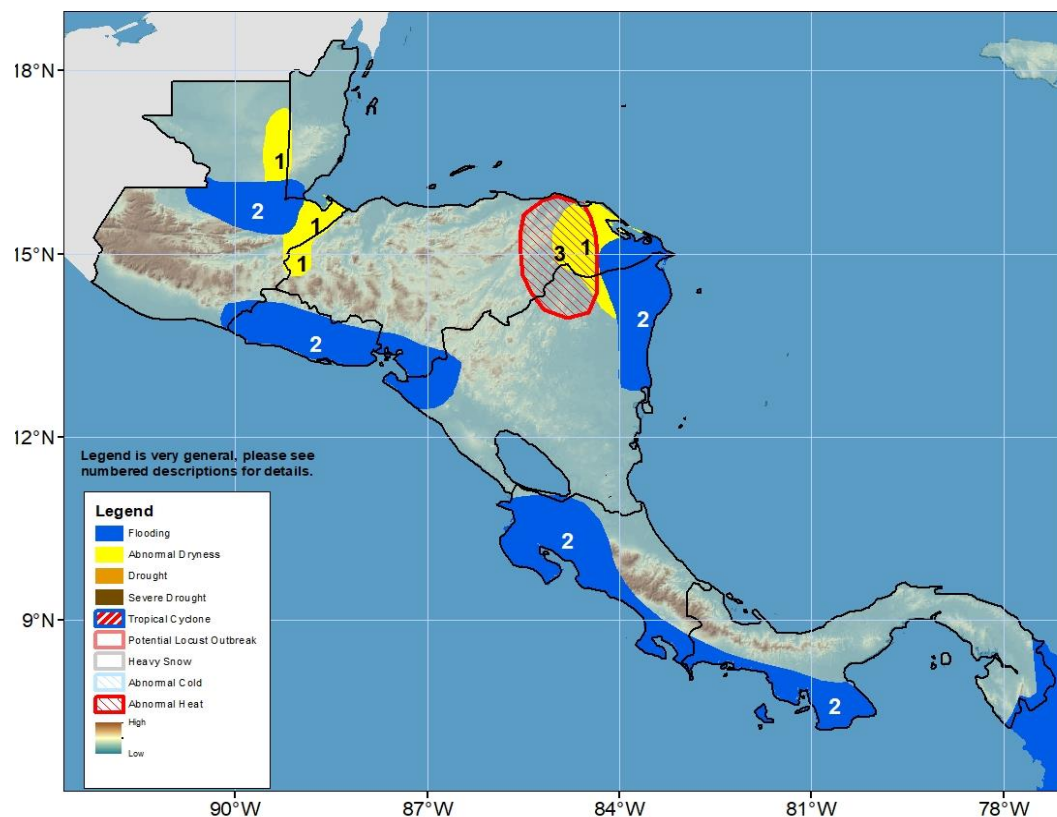


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 08 – 14 August 2024

Localized heavy rainfall was observed in southern Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama.



- 1) While light to moderate rainfall fell over eastern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua in the last 7 days, the erratic and deficient rainfall over the last 30 days and 90 days has resulted in anomalously dry conditions in these areas.
- 2) Southern Guatemala, parts of El Salvador, Panama and Costa Rica observed heavy downpours during the last week, favoring the increase of soil moisture saturation in most of the region. For next week, the forecast suggests heavy rainfall in El Salvador, parts of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Therefore, there is an increased chance that floods and landslides might occur at places in these regions.
- 3) Probabilities are high for a hybrid maximum temperatures/heat index to exceed the 90th percentile for at least 3 days over southeastern Honduras and northeastern 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, jverdina@usaid.gov

The forecast suggests heavy rainfall across the southern portions of Central America.

During the last week, heavy rainfall prevailed over southern Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama. According to CPC Unified precipitation analysis, the heaviest rainfall (100-150mm) fell in southern Guatemala, northern Panama and central Costa Rica, where weekly anomalies exceeded 25-100mm above the average in some localized areas. Weekly rainfall totals of 25-75mm were observed in many places of Central America. Except over central Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and central Panama where slightly below average rainfall was observed, most areas recorded weekly rainfall anomalies at least 10 mm or more above the average. During the last 30 days, heavy rainfall totals brought positive anomalies in most parts of Central America. The largest positive anomalies exceeding 100 mm were recorded in several areas of Guatemala, western and southern Honduras, western Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica, and central Panama. However, rainfall deficits from 25 mm to 100 mm were observed in central Guatemala, northeastern Nicaragua, and southeastern Honduras. In addition, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows that these same areas registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 5-80 percent of the average. Responding to the drier than average rainfall conditions, poor vegetation health conditions are observed in central and northern Guatemala, Belize, southeastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest that heavy rainfall will persist across the southern portions of Central America, with the heaviest rainfall occurring along the Pacific-facing coast of Costa Rica and Panama where positive anomalies of 10 to 50 mm are expected. Heavy rainfall is also indicated in western El Salvador and eastern parts of Nicaragua. These rains may lead to localized flooding, especially in Costa Rica, Panama and parts of El Salvador and northeastern Nicaragua. Negative anomalies are expected in the Atlantic-facing cross-border regions of Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

