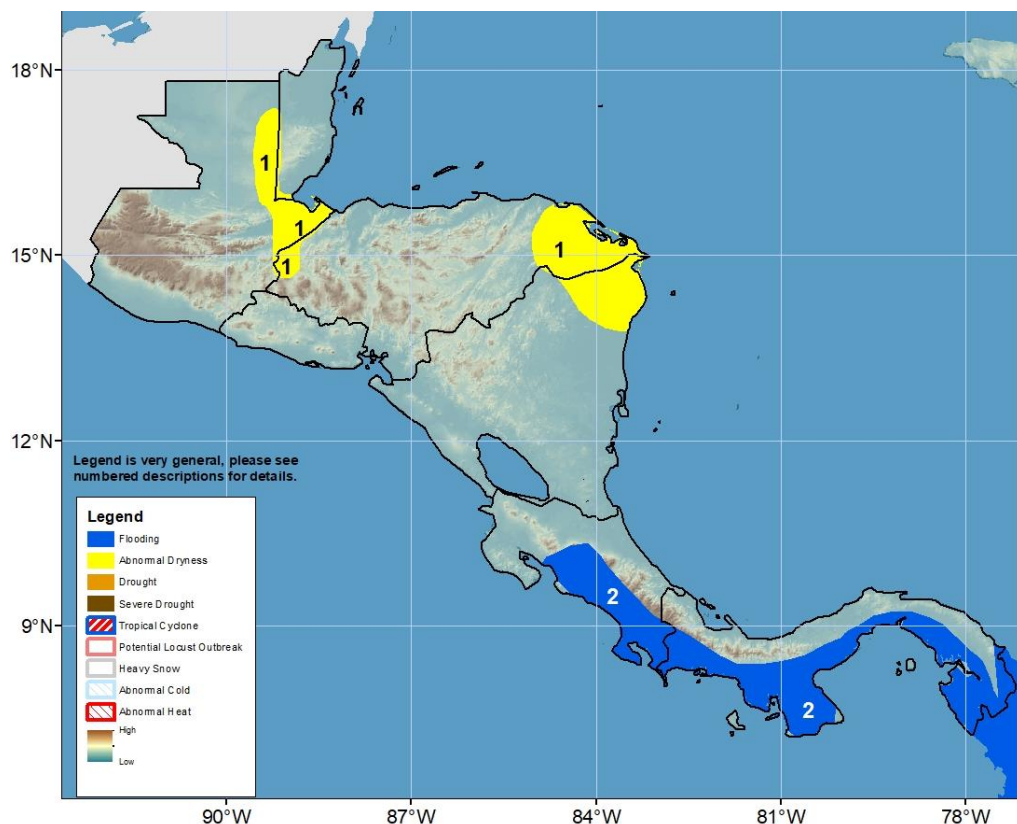


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 22 – 28 August 2024

Heavy rainfall will return to Coasta Rica and Panama.



- 1) Heavier rainfall between 100-150 mm was observed in central Panama, while southern Panama and southern Guatemala received heavy rainfall between 75-100mm during the last week. Except over northern Panama and bordering Costa Rica, which recorded 25-50mm below average rainfall, and parts of Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, and northwestern Nicaragua that received 10-25mm below the average, most of Central America experienced wetter than average conditions with weekly anomalies of at least 10 mm or more above the average.
- 2) Rainfall was erratic and scarce over central Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua for the past 30 days and 90 days. As a result, abnormal dryness polygon is placed in those regions.
- 3) Heavy rainfall is predicted across Panama and Costa Rica.

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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Heavy rainfall to return to Panama and Costa Rica.

During the last week, most of Panama recorded heavy rainfall. According to the CPC Unified Gauge Measurements, the heaviest rainfall (100-150 mm) fell in central Panama, while southern Panama and southern Guatemala received heavy rainfall between 75-100mm. Most of Nicaragua, central Honduras, and northern Costa Rica received 50-75mm. Lower rainfall amounts between 10-50mm were recorded in the remaining parts of Central America. Except over northern Panama and bordering Costa Rica, which recorded 25-50mm below average rainfall, and parts of Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, and northwestern Nicaragua that received 10-25mm below the average, most of Central America experienced wetter than average conditions with weekly anomalies of at least 10 mm or more above the average. Central Panama registered positive anomalies between 50-100mm during the week. With the continuing dryness in central Guatemala, ground reports indicated that the high temperatures in the region exacerbated the dryness over the Quiche, Huehuetenango, and Alta Verapaz departments. During the last 30 days, heavy rainfall totals brought positive anomalies in most parts of Central America. The largest positive rainfall anomalies exceeding 100 mm were recorded in southern Guatemala, southern Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. On the other hand, rainfall deficits from 25 mm to 100 mm were observed in central Guatemala. In addition, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows that central Guatemala, southern Honduras and bordering northeastern Nicaragua registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 50-80 percent of the average. Responding to the drier than average rainfall patterns, poor vegetation conditions continued in central Guatemala, central Belize, over the Atlantic-facing regions of Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest that heavy and above-average rainfall will cover Panama and coastal areas of Costa Rica. Most of Nicaragua, El Salvador, most of Honduras, and southern Guatemala will receive below average rainfall. Maximum temperature will top 30°C in northern Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, eastern and northwestern Nicaragua, and south-eastern Honduras.

