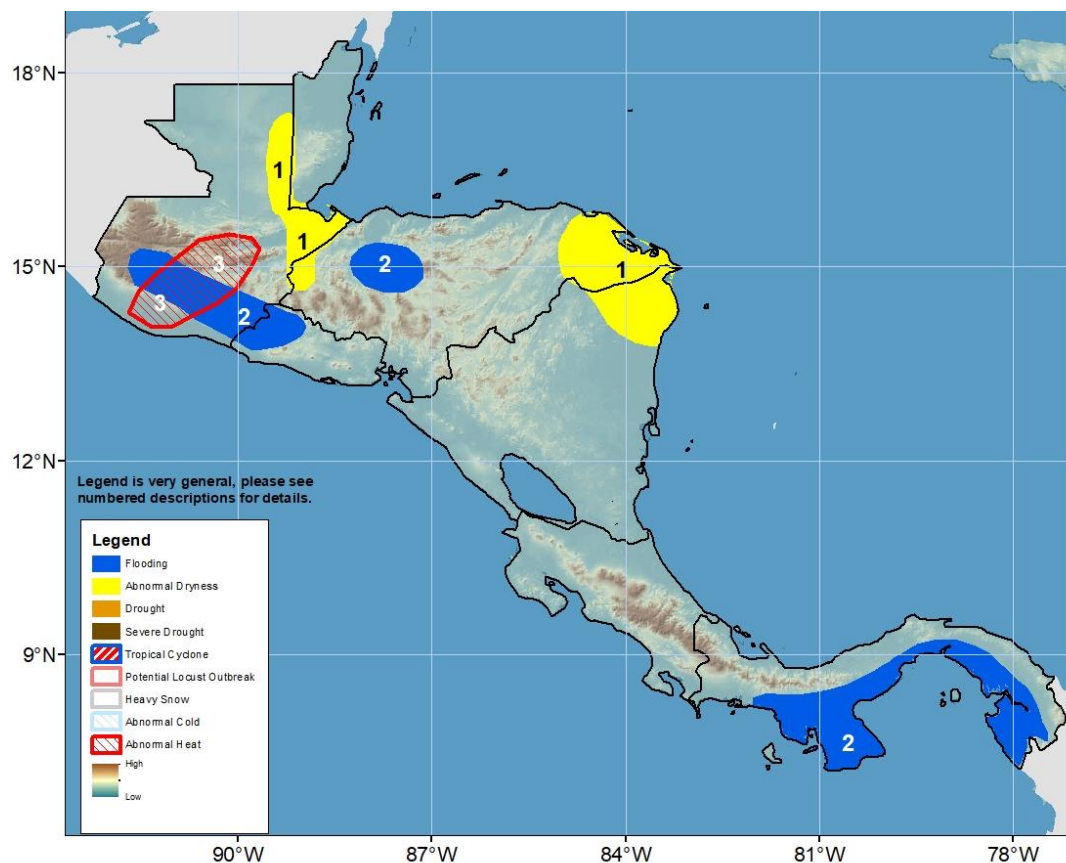# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
29 August – 04 September 2024

Above average rainfall is expected over western Nicaragua, cross border areas of El Salvador and Honduras, and southern Guatemala.

Legend
- Flooding
- Abnormal Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought
- Tropical Cyclone
- Potential Locust Outbreak
- Heavy Snow
- Abnormal Cold
- Abnormal Heat
- High
- Low

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

1) Rainfall was erratic and scarce over central Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua for the past 90 days. As a result, abnormal dryness polygon is maintained in those regions.

2) Heavier rainfall between 100-150 mm was observed in Belize, eastern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras, and northern and southern Panama during the last week. Predicted heavy rainfall in already saturated soil may lead to flooding.

3) Probabilities are high (> 80%) for a hybrid maximum temperature/heat index to exceed the 90th percentile for at least 3 consecutive days over southern and central Guatemala.
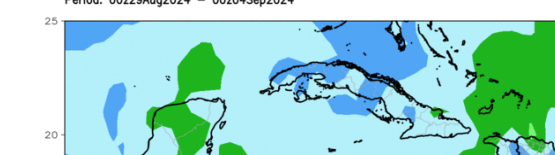
Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous 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

Above average rains expected in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and western Nicaragua.
During the last week, heavy rainfall (100 -150 mm) was observed in Panama, Belize, eastern Guatemala, and western Honduras. Slightly lower amount but heavy rainfall (50-100 mm) was also recorded in northeastern Nicaragua, southeastern Honduras, southern Guatemala, and El Salvador. The rainfall recorded in these areas was 25-100 mm above average, with the largest anomaly of 100 mm or more occurring in Belize. On the other hand, central Guatemala, northern Costa Rica, and southern Nicaragua registered 25-100 mm below average rainfall. 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 and eliminated the 30-day deficits recorded in northeastern Nicaragua and southeastern Honduras. On the other hand, rainfall deficits from 25 mm to 100 mm persisted in central Guatemala, while a new negative rainfall anomaly is creeping up in the cross-border regions of Costa Rica and northeastern Panama on the 30-day term. 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 but below-average rainfall will cover northern Panama and coastal areas of Costa Rica. Western Nicaragua, cross-border region of El Salvador and Honduras, and southern Guatemala will receive above average rainfall. Maximum temperature will top 30°C in northern Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, eastern and northwestern Nicaragua, and south-eastern Honduras. A heat hazard polygon is placed over southern and central Guatemala.

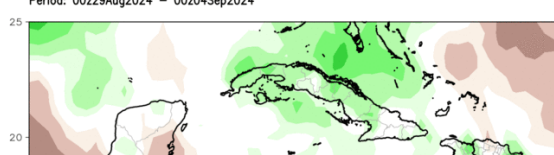**Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)**
29 August – 04 September 2024

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC