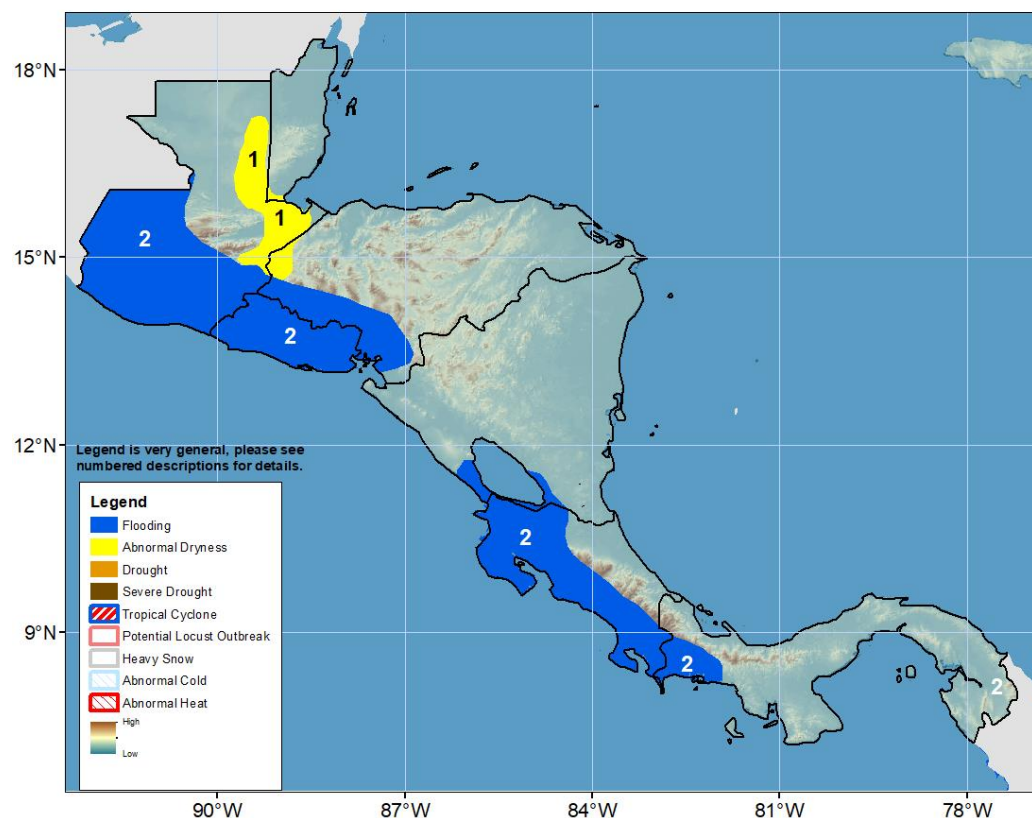


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 19 – 25 September 2024

Floods are expected in few areas facing the Pacific Ocean.



1) Rainfall have been erratic and scarce in eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras for the past 30 and 90 days. As a result, abnormal dryness polygon is maintained in these regions.

2) During the last week, Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama observed moderate to heavy rainfall. These rainfall patterns have helped maintain saturated soils over the last few weeks. Additionally, due to the high rainfall rates, floods have been reported in central and southern Guatemala. GEFS forecasts suggest that heavy rainfall will continue in these areas; thus, floods and landslides are expected in these countries.

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 rainfall conditions are expected in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

During the last week, heavy rainfall with values that ranged from 50 mm to 500 mm was observed in southern Costa Rica, southwestern Nicaragua, and central Panama. Meanwhile, the rest of Central America observed values between 10 mm to 50 mm. These rainfall amounts yielded below-average conditions across the region, except in western-central Guatemala, which recorded above-average rainfall (50 mm to 200 mm above the mean). High rainfall rates have led to floods, landslides, and infrastructural damage in several parts of central and southern Guatemala, including Huehuetenango, during the last 7 days. In addition, during the last 30 days, some areas, Belize, central-western and southwestern Guatemala, and western Honduras, have been wetter than average (100 mm above the mean), while other areas, such as central and northern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, and most of Panama have observed significant deficits (100 mm to 200 mm below the mean). Furthermore, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows a positive percent of average rainfall for most part of Central America. However, few areas in eastern Guatemala, southern Nicaragua, and southern Panama registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-80 percent of the average. Regarding vegetation, satellite products show near-average and favorable vegetation conditions in most parts of Central America; however, poor vegetation conditions continued in northern and southeastern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest heavy rainfall will happen in most of the region, with heavy downpours (> 100 mm) expected in southwestern Guatemala, western Honduras, El Salvador, western Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and areas in Panama. As a result, flooding and landslides might happens in these areas, especially where rainfall accumulation have been high in the last previous weeks. In terms of temperatures, maximum temperatures of 35°C are forecasted in most of Central America, with positive anomalies between 1°C-4°C in Guatemala, Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and eastern Costa Rica.

