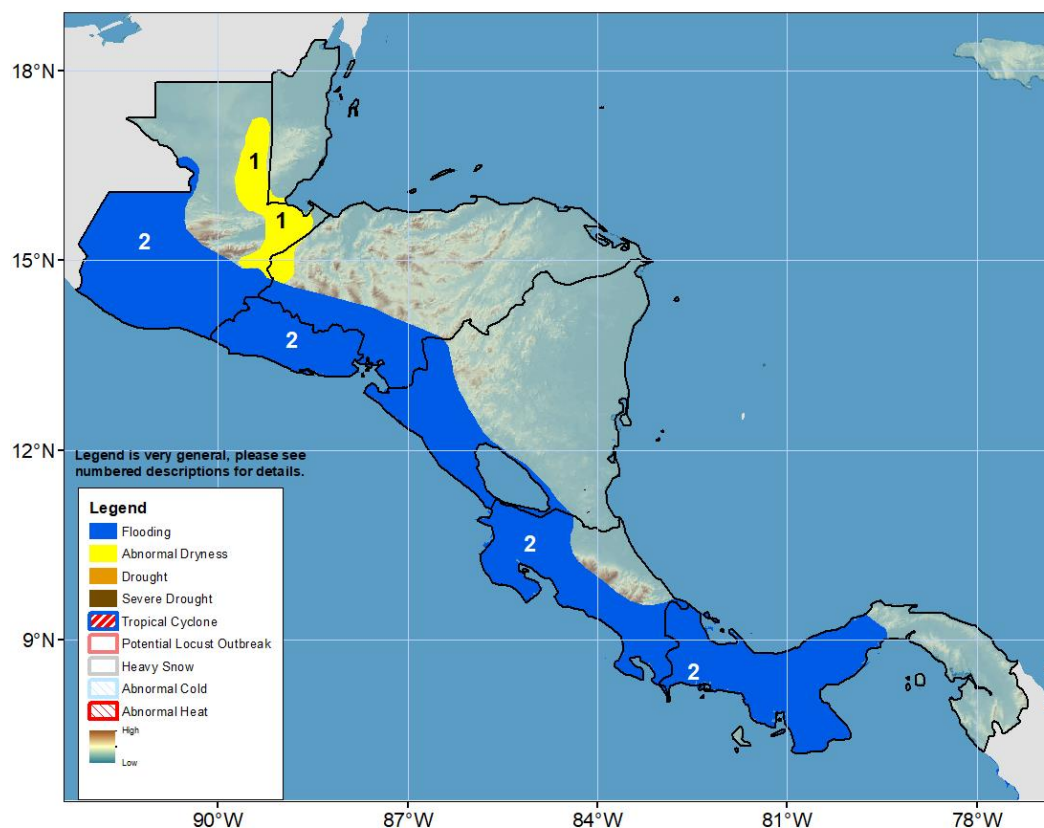# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
03 – 09 October 2024

Heavy rainfall continues along western Central America.

1) Rainfall deficits during the past 30 and 90 days have resulted in abnormal dryness in eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. The erratic and scarce rainfall is affecting vegetation health in these regions.

2) Heavy rainfall continues along western areas of Central America. It is likely that floods and landslides happen due to heavy rainfall forecasted during the outlook period, and given that, soil moisture is already saturated in these areas. In addition, storms might bring heavy rain in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras during the following days.

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

Heavy rainfall continue along the coastal areas facing the Pacific Ocean.

During the last week, heavy downpours (> 100 mm) were registered in localized areas of southwestern and western Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, western and northern Nicaragua, and northern and central Panama. In these regions above-average rainfall was observed with values ranging from 50 mm to 200 mm. On the contrary, central and northern Guatemala, a localized area in southern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras, and southern Panama registered below-average rainfall (25 mm to 100 mm below the mean). Reports indicate that deep storms have brought high rainfall rates in several areas across Central America, leading to floods, landslides, and infrastructural damage. Meanwhile, during the last 30 days, central-western Guatemala, most of Honduras, eastern and northeastern Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and central Panama have been wetter than average (> 100 mm above the mean), while some areas of Guatemala, southeastern Nicaragua, and southern Panama have observed significant deficits (100 mm to 200 mm below the mean). Furthermore, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows positive percent of average rainfall in eastern Belize, southern and eastern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua; however, northern and central-southern Guatemala, central-southern Nicaragua, northern Costa Rica, and southern Panama, registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-80 percent of the average. In addition, vegetation satellite products show mostly near-average and favorable vegetation conditions for Central America; but poor vegetation in local areas of northern and southeastern Guatemala and northern Honduras

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest the continuation of heavy rainfall (> 75 mm) along the coastal areas facing the Pacific Ocean. Positive anomalies between 40 mm to 100 mm are likely to occur in western Guatemala, and northwestern Honduras. Even though, the forecast suggests below-average conditions for the rest of Central America, floods and landslides are likely to occur along western Central America due to the continuation of heavy rainfall during the last couples of weeks. Maximum temperatures between 30- 35°C with positive anomalies between 2°C and 4°C are forecasted in eastern areas of Honduras and Nicaragua.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
03 – 09 October 2024

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC