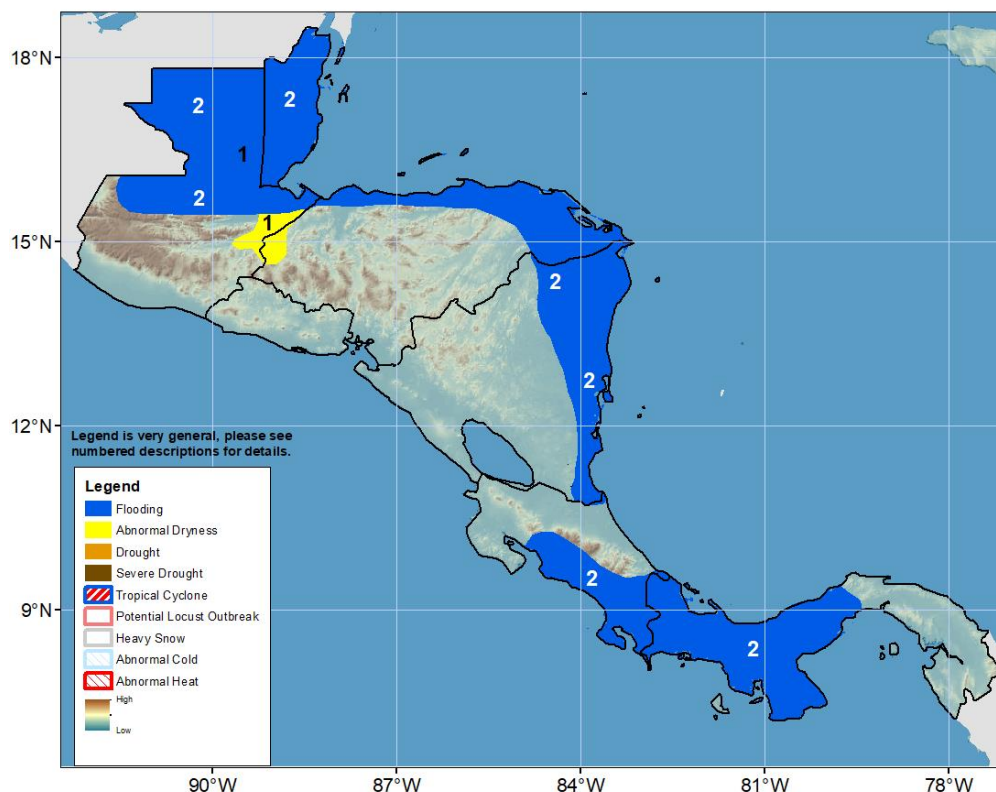


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 17 – 23 October 2024

Floods are likely to happen in several areas in Central America.



1) Abnormal dryness polygon is maintained in eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras due to rainfall deficits during the past 30 and 90 days, which has affected vegetation health in these regions as well.

2) Last week, heavy rainfall was observed in Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama. For next week, the forecast suggests heavy rainfall in central and northern Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, and along the Caribbean coastal areas of Honduras and Nicaragua. For that reason, floods are very likely to occur in these areas, mainly where the soil is already saturated due to the previous rainfall.

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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Above-average rainfall is expected in Guatemala, Belize and along the coastal areas facing the Caribbean Sea.

Last week, moderate rainfall (> 25 mm) was observed in most of Central America. Total rainfall amounts larger than 50 mm were registered in central and southwestern Guatemala, northern and central Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and northern and central Panama. An above-average rainfall of 10-50 mm was registered in these areas. Meanwhile, 25 mm to 100 mm below-average conditions were registered across Guatemala, El Salvador, western and eastern Honduras, northern western Nicaragua, northwestern Costa Rica, and southern Panama. Further, during the last 30 days, central, northern, and southern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras, most of El Salvador, and southern Panama registered rainfall deficits between 100 mm and 300 mm below the normal. On the contrary, central Guatemala, southern Honduras, northern and southwestern Nicaragua, and central Panama have been wetter than average (> 100 mm above the mean). Moreover, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows cumulative surpluses of 150-200 percent of the average rainfall in western/central Guatemala, southern Honduras, northern Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and central Panama; however, localized areas in central and southeastern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras and southern Panama registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-50 percent of the average. Regarding vegetation, good vegetation health is observed in central Guatemala, northern Honduras, eastern Nicaraguan, and eastern Costa Rica; however, poor vegetation is mainly registered in western areas of Central America and eastern Panama. The abnormal heat and erratic rainfall during the drought have increased insect pests on crops in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest heavy rainfall (> 50 mm) across Central America. Above-average rainfall between 20 mm and 100 mm is forecasted in Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and western Nicaragua. Floods will likely occur in Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, and the coastal areas facing the Caribbean Sea of Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala, where the forecast suggests heavy rainfall between 75 mm and 200 mm. Maximum temperatures between 25- 35°C with above-average conditions of 1-2°C in most parts of Central America.

