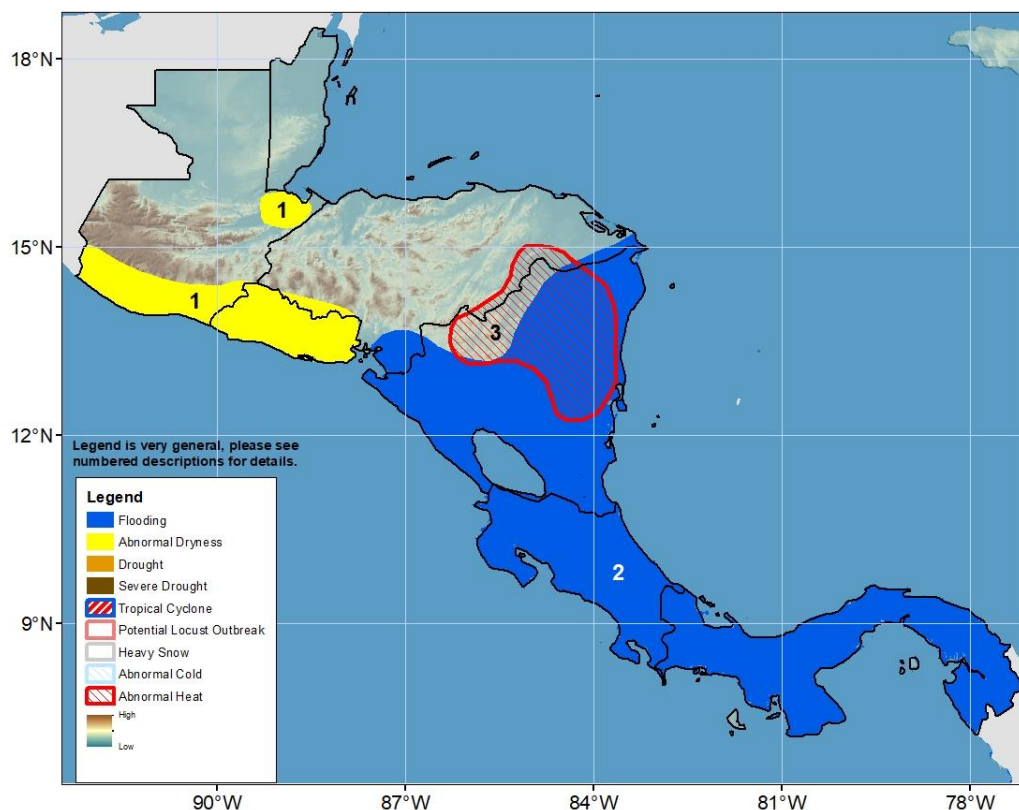


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET

31 October – 6 November 2024

The potential for widespread flooding is high across southern Central America as heavy rainfall is forecasted in the region next week.



1) Abnormal dryness polygon has settled in eastern and southern Guatemala and El Salvador due to below-average rainfall during the past 30 and 90 days, which has negatively impacted vegetation health over local areas in these regions.

2) During the past week, heavy rainfall has triggered landslides killing people in central Costa Rica. During the next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is forecasted across southern Central America, maintaining high risks for flooding and landslides in southern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

3) North-central Nicaragua may experience abnormal heat conditions as above-average maximum temperatures and persistent excessive heat, potentially affecting vulnerable people, is anticipated in the region during the next week.

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 downpours likely to trigger flooding and landslides over southern Central America

During the past week, the interior of Central America received reduced precipitation, with mostly light rainfall; whereas heavy rainfall occurred along the Gulf of Honduras, northern and areas of southern Guatemala, northern Honduras, southeastern Nicaragua, and the central part of Costa Rica and Panama. In Costa Rica, this past week’s enhanced rainfall has triggered landslides killing people, according to reports. During October, an erratic rainfall distribution has resulted in positive rainfall anomalies over Belize, the northern and central parts of Guatemala, northern and central Honduras, central and eastern part of Nicaragua, and the central portion of Costa Rica and Panama; but it also has led to negative rainfall anomalies across northwestern and southwestern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern and eastern Honduras, western and northeastern Nicaragua, northwestern Costa Rica, and western and eastern Panama. Since late July, seasonal rainfall has been near-average to above-average in Belize, western Guatemala, Honduras, northern Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and western Panama; but has performed mostly between 50-80% of the average over northern and eastern Guatemala, western Honduras, El Salvador, southern Nicaragua, parts of Costa Rica, and eastern Panama. This poor rainfall distribution, compounded by above-average temperatures has favored an environmental conditions conducive to Central America locust infestation over many areas from southern Mexico, northern Guatemala, to Nicaragua, according to media reports.

Next week, the Pacific Tier and southern Central America will likely receive heavy and above-average rainfall, heightening the risks for flooding and landslides over many areas of the region. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall is also expected over northern Central America, which could still exacerbate conditions over many already-flooded areas in the region. Meanwhile, abnormal heat conditions are expected in north-central Nicaragua as above-average maximum temperatures and excessive heat are forecasted to persist for three or more consecutive days, potentially affecting vulnerable people in the region.

