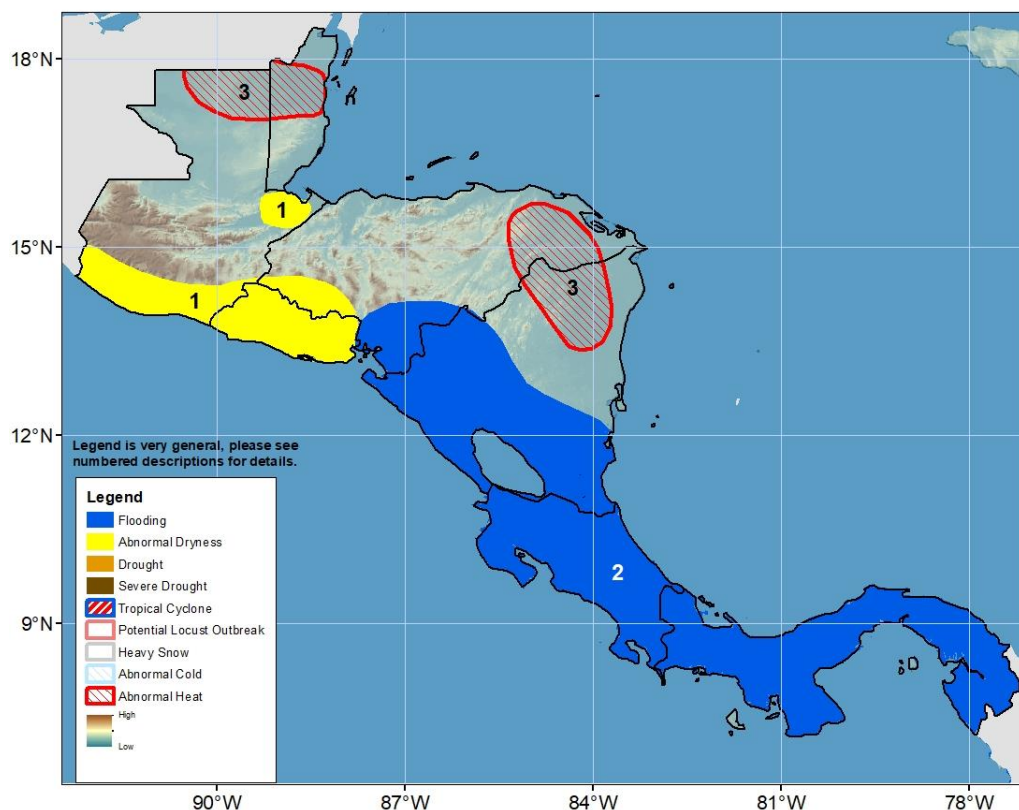


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET

7 November – 13 November 2024

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



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

2) During the next week, heavy rainfall is forecasted across southern Central America, maintaining high risks for flooding and landslides in southern Honduras, southern and western Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

3) Northern Guatemala, northern Belize, eastern Honduras, and northeastern 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.

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Heavy downpours likely to trigger flooding and landslides over southern Central America

During the past week, much of the interior of Central America, along with El Salvador received reduced precipitation, with mostly light rainfall. Conversely, heavy rainfall occurred in parts of Belize, areas of southern Guatemala, northern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Rainfall was well-above average in many of these areas. The Panamanian government has issued a red alert across the country due to flood concerns. During the past 30 days, an erratic rainfall distribution has resulted in positive rainfall anomalies over Belize, northeastern parts of Guatemala, northern Honduras, central and eastern parts of Nicaragua, and the central portion of Costa Rica and much of Panama. It also has led to negative rainfall anomalies across northwestern and southwestern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern and eastern Honduras, western and northeastern Nicaragua, northwestern and southwestern Costa Rica. Since early August, seasonal rainfall has been near-average to above-average in Belize, western Guatemala, central 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 (more than 100 mm), heightening the risks for flooding and landslides over many areas of the region. Light rain is expected over northern Central America, which would improve upon over-saturated conditions in some areas. Meanwhile, abnormal heat is expected in northern Guatemala, northern Belize, eastern Honduras, and northeastern 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.

