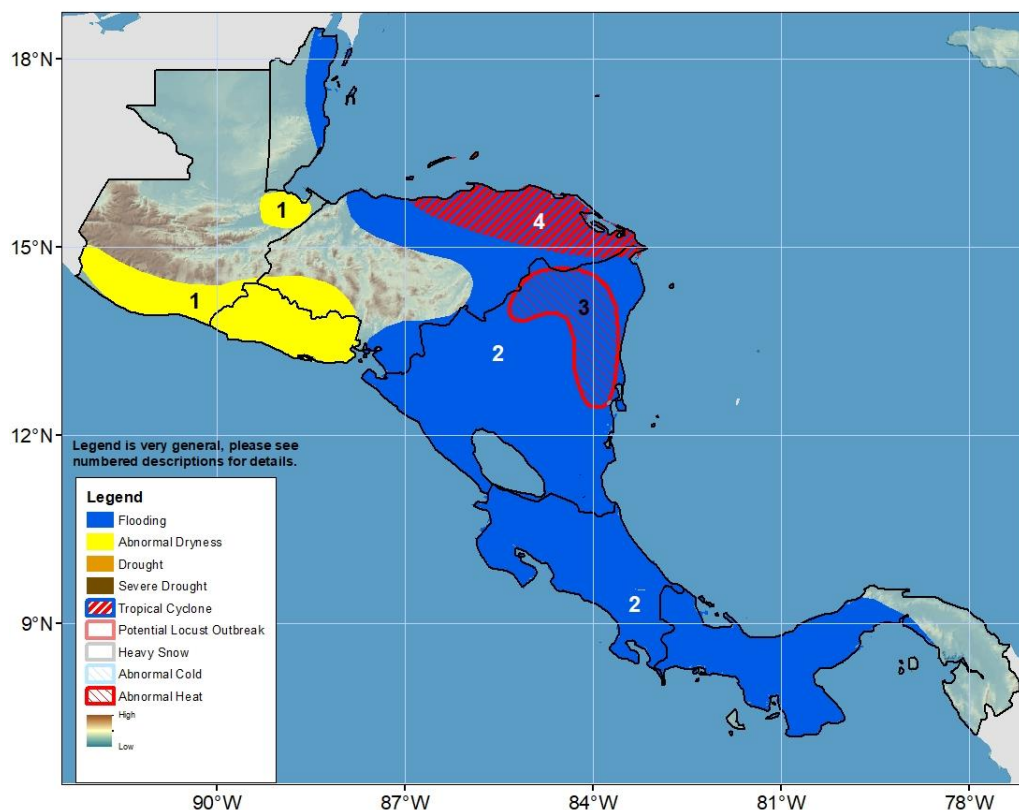


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET

14 November – 20 November 2024

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



1) Abnormal dryness polygon is present 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 eastern and southern Central America, maintaining high risks for flooding and landslides in already saturated areas of southern Honduras, southern and western Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Very heavy rain will be reinforced across parts of eastern Nicaragua and northern Honduras as a developing tropical system approaches the region and lingers for several days.

3) Eastern 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.

4) A strengthening tropical system will likely approach northeastern Honduras during the outlook period. Even if the system does not make landfall a tropical cyclone hazard is placed where wind and storm surge impacts are likely in addition to heavy rain.

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 from an approaching tropical wave likely to trigger flooding and landslides over central portions of Central America

During the past week, much of the interior and northern portions of Central America received reduced precipitation, with mostly little or no rainfall. Conversely, heavy rainfall occurred in southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Rainfall was well-above average in many of these areas and locally totaled as much as 300 mm. The Panamanian government had 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, northern Honduras, southeastern parts of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and much of Panama. It also has led to negative rainfall anomalies across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, central, southern and eastern Honduras, western and northeastern Nicaragua. Since early August, seasonal rainfall has been above average in Belize, parts of Honduras, and parts of Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and southern Panama; but has performed mostly between 50-80% of the average over northern and southern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, El Salvador, eastern Nicaragua, parts of 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, Costa Rica and many portions of Nicaragua and eastern Honduras will likely receive heavy and above-average rainfall (more than 100 mm), heightening the risks for flooding and landslides over already-saturated areas of the region. Much of this is the result a strengthening tropical wave approaching from the Caribbean. The storm is likely to linger for several days resulting in the chance for extreme rainfall and widespread flooding. Otherwise, 25-50 mm of rainfall is forecasted over Guatemala, and western El Salvador. Meanwhile, abnormal heat is expected in eastern 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.

