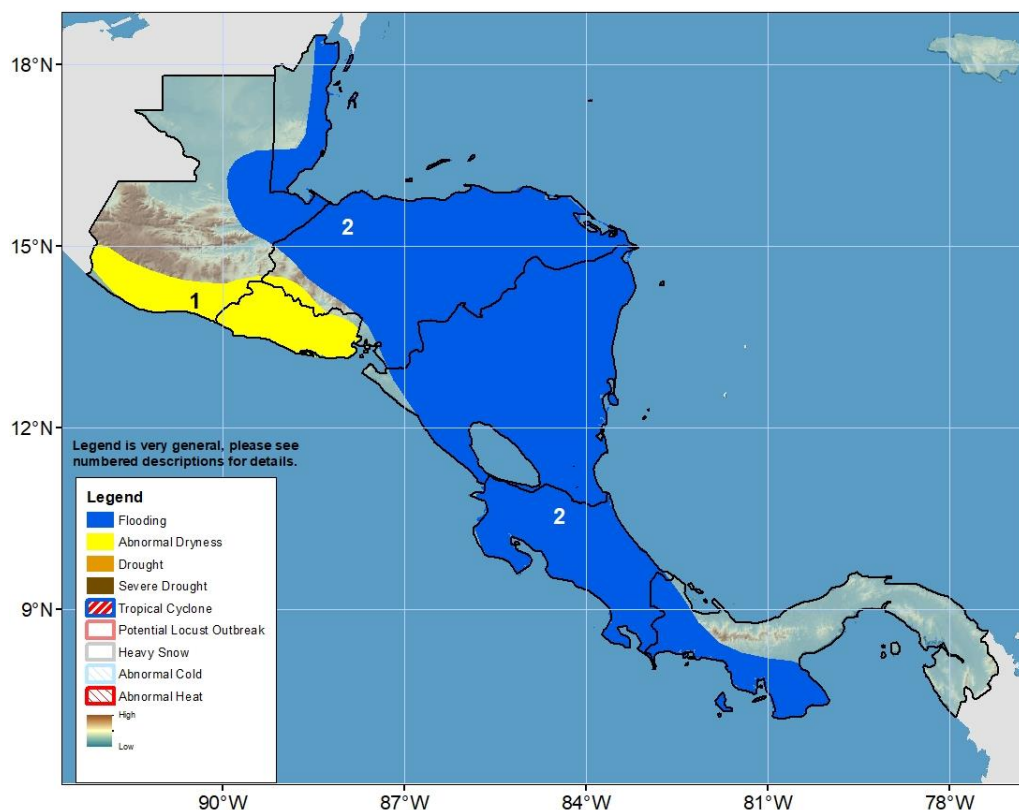


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 05 – 11 December 2024

Flooding and landslides are ongoing and continue to be a threat for the outlook period.



1) An Abnormal Dryness polygon is present in southern Guatemala and El Salvador due to below-average rainfall during the past 90 days, which has negatively affected vegetation health over local areas in these regions.

2) For the last few weeks, persistent, heavy precipitation has fallen over much of the region and forecasts predict heavy rains to continue. As such, a flooding hazard covers a large portion of the region, including eastern and southern Belize, eastern Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama.

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 and above average rains predicted along the Caribbean facing coast.

Last week, moderate to heavy rainfall was recorded over the northern coast of Honduras, Costa Rica, and western Panama, producing precipitation surpluses of 25 – 150 mm over northeastern Honduras and western Panama. Meanwhile, little or light rainfall (<25 mm) occurred in Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, Nicaragua, and eastern Panama resulting in deficits of 10 – 50 mm over much of the region. Cleanup continues and rivers slowly recede in areas affected by tropical storm Sara; however, areas receiving additional rainfall continue to be at risk for flooding. Additionally, the heavy rains are detrimental to many crops, including grains veggies and Bananas. During the past 30 days, large positive rainfall anomalies are present over Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and parts of Nicaragua. However, pockets of negative anomalies are present over eastern Nicaragua and eastern Panama. Since early September, seasonal rainfall is above average in Belize, central Guatemala, Honduras, a few parts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Conversely, the percent of average rainfall was between 50-80% of the average over northern and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, eastern Nicaragua, northwestern Costa Rica, and eastern Panama.

Next week, the heaviest rainfall will continue the shift toward Caribbean-facing regions of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica as well as most of Panama. Totals of 75 mm to locally as much as 150mm are forecasted according to the GEFS model. Light precipitation (2 – 25 mm) are expected for western Belize, much of Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Nicaragua. This pattern will reinforce flood risk for some of the same portions of the region. Meanwhile, 7-day mean maximum temperatures are forecasted to be near or below average across the region.

