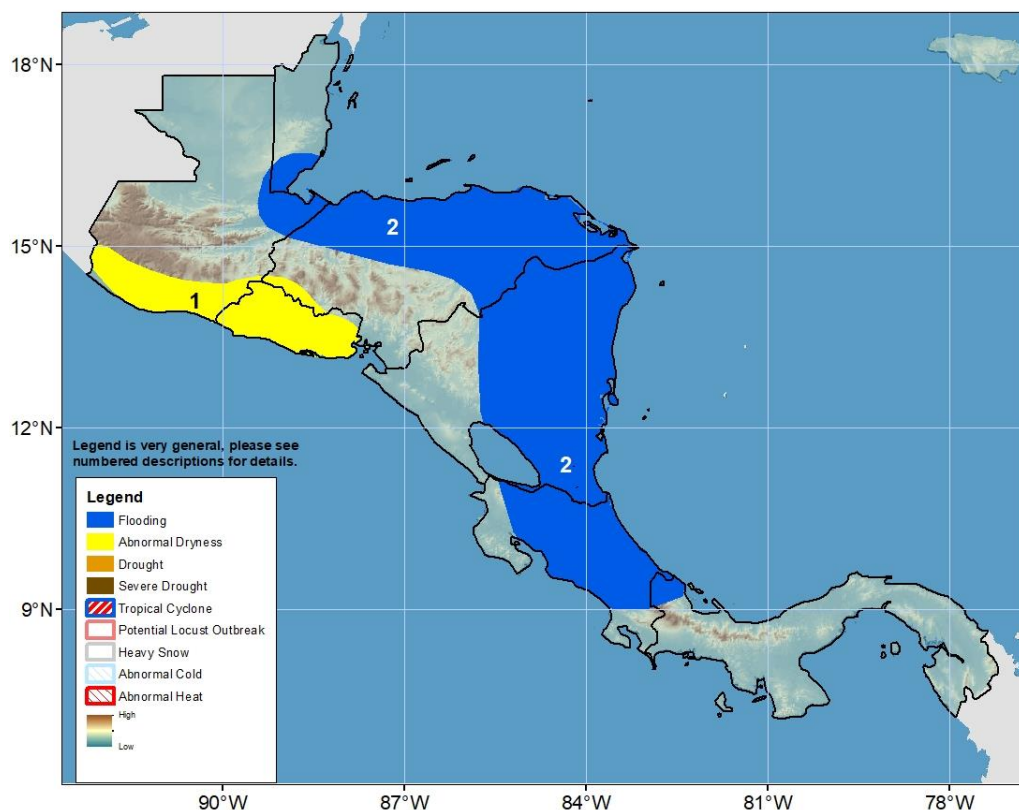


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 12 – 18 December 2024

Flooding and landslides are ongoing and continue to be a threat for the outlook period after additional heavy rain.



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, periods of heavy precipitation have fallen over much of the region. As such, a flooding hazard covers a large portion of the region, including southern Belize, eastern Guatemala, northern and eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

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

Rains are expected to be more moderate in intensity for the coming week.

Last week, heavy rainfall was recorded over northern coastal and eastern areas of Honduras, southern Belize, eastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and northern Panama. These areas received 100 mm to locally more than 300mm during the past 7 days, producing precipitation surpluses of 100 - 300 mm. Meanwhile, light to moderate rainfall (<25 mm) occurred in eastern Guatemala, western Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and much of Panama. El Salvador, much of Guatemala, and Belize remained dry. In many places, including Guatemala, rivers slowly recede in areas that received rounds of heavy rain and these heavy rains are detrimental to many crops, including grains, veggies, and Bananas. Moist conditions have caused disease in coffee trees as well. During the past 30 days, large positive rainfall anomalies are present over Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and parts of Nicaragua. Pockets of negative anomalies in eastern Nicaragua have disappeared in the most recent analysis, but deficits persist in eastern Panama. Since early September, seasonal rainfall is above average in Belize, central Guatemala, Honduras, much 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, and central and eastern Panama. Temperatures in the northern portions of the region have been warmer than average during the day but cool during the night, approaching freezing in the Guatemalan highlands.

Next week, the greatest rainfall will generally remain along the Caribbean-facing regions of Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Totals of 25 - 75 mm are forecasted according to the GEFS model. Moderate rains are also expected in northern Guatemala and the inland portions of Belize. This pattern may slow recovery from flooding in some of the same portions of the region. Little rain is expected in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. Meanwhile, 7-day mean temperatures are forecasted to be near average across most of the region.

