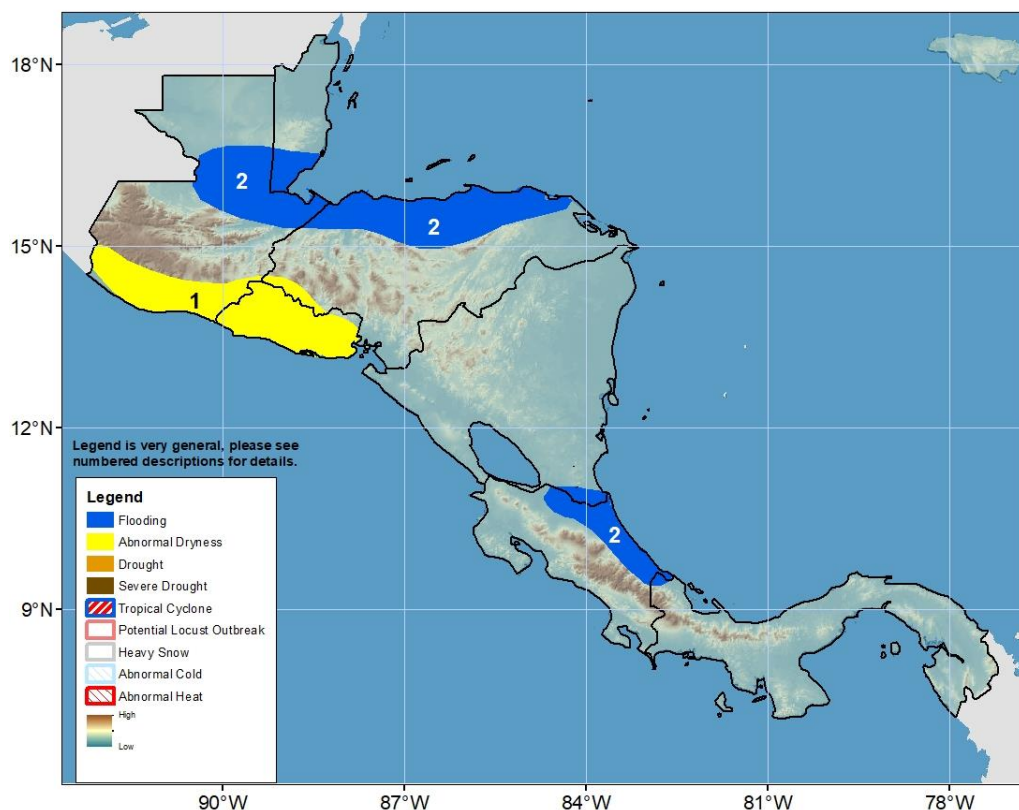


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 19 – 25 December 2024

The risk of flooding and landslides continues due to ongoing rainfall for parts of the region.



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) Over the last week, precipitation continued over northern Guatemala, northern Honduras, and the Caribbean-facing coast of Costa Rica resulting in flooding and landslides.

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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Rains are expected to be near-to-below-average over the northern half of the region and above-average over Costa Rica and Panama.

Over the last 7 days, heavy rainfall was recorded over northern Belize, northern Guatemala, and coastal Honduras. These areas received 100 mm to locally more than 300 mm in central Guatemala, producing precipitation surpluses of 100 – 300 mm. Meanwhile, light to moderate rainfall (<25 mm) occurred along the eastern coast of Nicaragua and central/eastern Costa Rica. Much of the region along the Pacific-facing coast and Panama 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, northern Costa Rica, and parts of Nicaragua. Negative anomalies are beginning to dissipate in southern Guatemala and El Salvador, but deficits persist across Panama. Since mid-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 were 1-2 °C above-average across the entire region over the last week. However, minimum temperatures are reaching near-freezing over the highlands of southern Guatemala. Eastern and southern Guatemala and El Salvador have also experienced stronger-than-average low-level winds which have helped produce wildfires earlier in the season than normal.

Next week, little to no rain is expected for southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. However, moderate to heavy rainfall is forecasted along the Caribbean-facing regions of Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica with the highest totals (75 - 150 mm) expected in Costa Rica and Panama. This pattern may slow recovery from flooding in some of the same portions of the region, especially in areas of Costa Rica where flooding has been ongoing. Meanwhile, 7-day mean temperatures are forecasted to be near average across most of the region.

