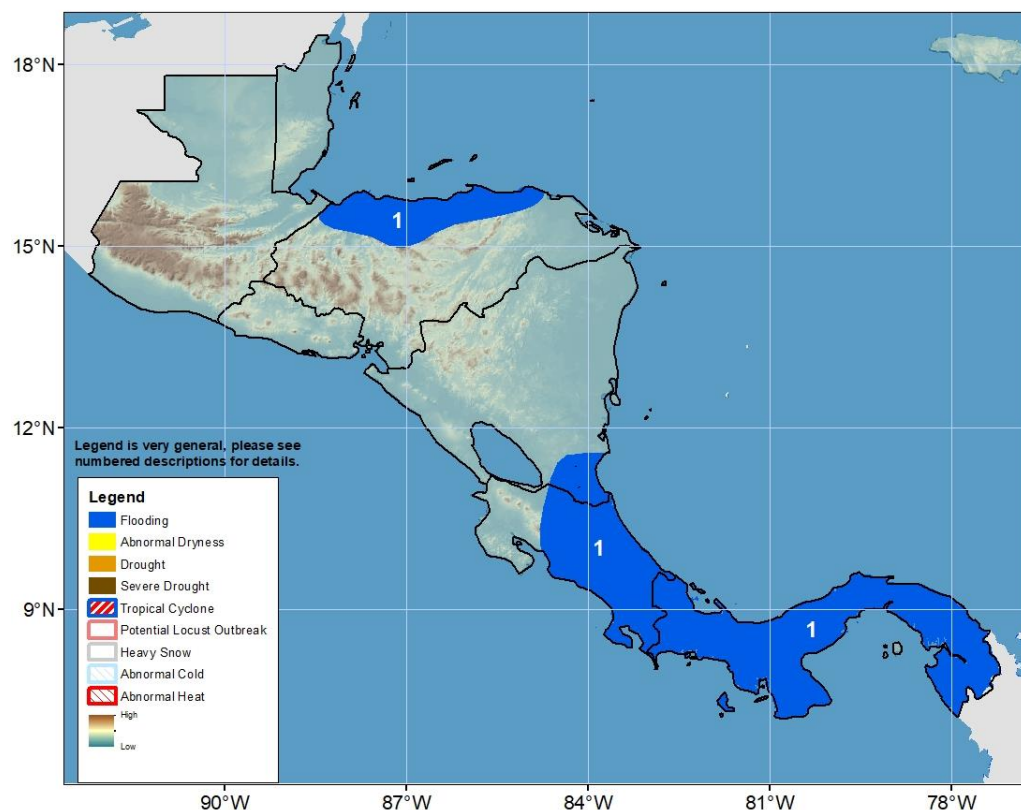


## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET

26 December – 01 January 2025

Flooding risks continue for parts of the region due to ongoing heavy rainfall.



1) Over the last week, precipitation continued over northern Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama 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.

Questions or comments about the hazards outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, [wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov](mailto:wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov). Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, [jverdina@usaid.gov](mailto:jverdina@usaid.gov)

## Heavy rainfall is expected for Costa Rica and Panama once again.

Last week, heavy rainfall (>100 mm) was recorded along the northern coast of Honduras and areas of Costa Rica and Panama with some localized areas of Panama receiving more than 200 mm. Meanwhile, little to no precipitation fell over much of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, southern and central Honduras, and western and central Nicaragua. 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, central Guatemala, northern Costa Rica, and eastern Nicaragua. Since late-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. However, due to the end of the rainfall season, the abnormal dryness polygon over southern Guatemala and El Salvador has been removed. While maximum temperatures were near average over Honduras, max temperatures anomalies were 0.5-2 °C above-average across much of the 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, light to moderate rainfall, ranging from 10 – 50 mm, is expected for Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. However, moderate to heavy rainfall (50 – 200 mm) is forecasted for Costa Rica and Panama with the highest totals expected over southwestern Panama and southern Costa Rica. This pattern may produce more flooding and landslides over Costa Rica and Panama where soils are already saturated. Meanwhile, 7-day mean temperatures are forecasted to be near average across the region.

