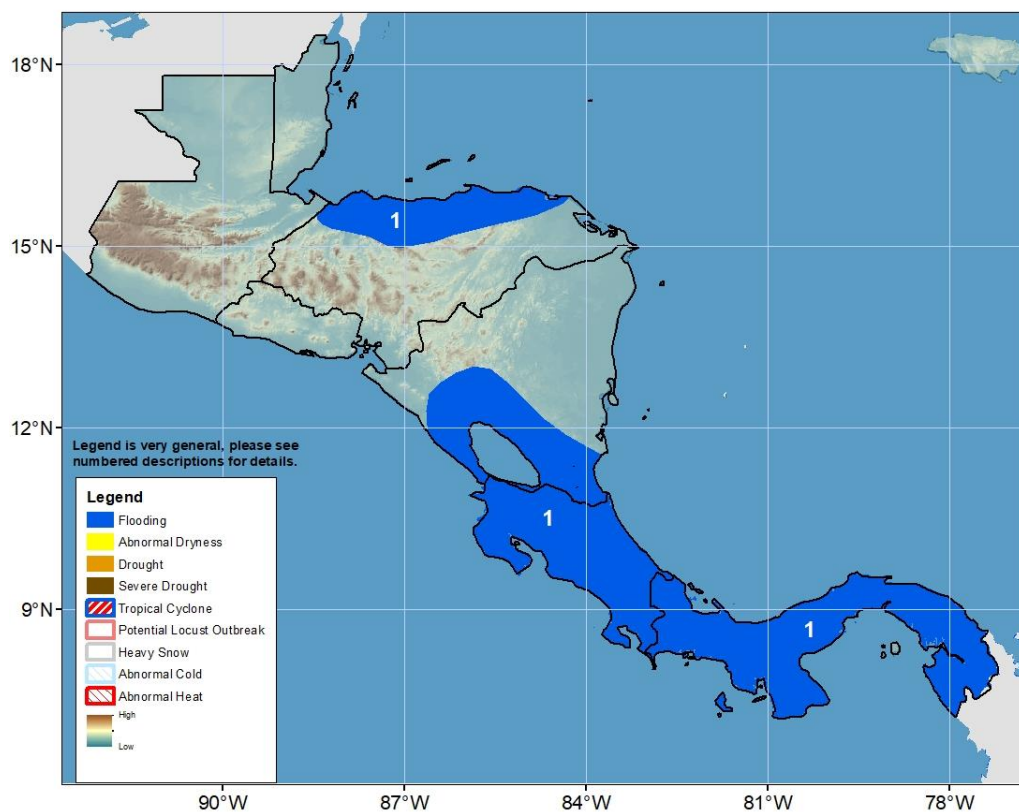


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 02 – 08 January 2025

Heavy rainfall continues the risk of flooding for parts of the region.



1) Over the last week, precipitation continued over northern Honduras, southern Guatemala, 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.

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Rainfall surpluses are expected for the southern half of the region and Caribbean-facing coasts.

Last week, moderate to heavy rainfall (>50 mm) was recorded over the Caribbean-facing coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The heaviest precipitation occurred over southern Costa Rica and western Panama with some regions receiving deficits greater than 100 mm. Meanwhile, little to no precipitation fell over eastern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. Light rainfall in northern Honduras and southern Guatemala has led to flooding since soils are already saturated. During the past 30 days, large positive rainfall anomalies are present over Belize, Honduras, central Guatemala, northern Costa Rica, and eastern Nicaragua. For the last 90 days, seasonal rainfall is above average in Belize, central Guatemala, Honduras, southern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Conversely, the percent of average rainfall was between 50-80% of the average over southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and central and eastern Panama. Maximum temperatures ranged from 25 – 30°C which was near average over much of the region. However, minimum temperatures ranged from 15 – 30°C which was 1 – 2°C above average.

Next week, light to moderate rainfall, ranging from 10 – 50 mm, is expected for the northern half of Central America. However, moderate to heavy rainfall (50 – 100 mm) is forecasted for the Caribbean-facing coasts of each country as well as Costa Rica and Panama with the highest totals expected over southern and eastern Panama. This pattern may produce more flooding and landslides over areas where soils are already saturated. Meanwhile, 7-day mean temperatures are forecasted to be near average across the region. While minimum temperatures are expected to be 1 – 2°C above average for the region, minimum temperatures are expected to be near-freezing in the highlands of southern Guatemala.

