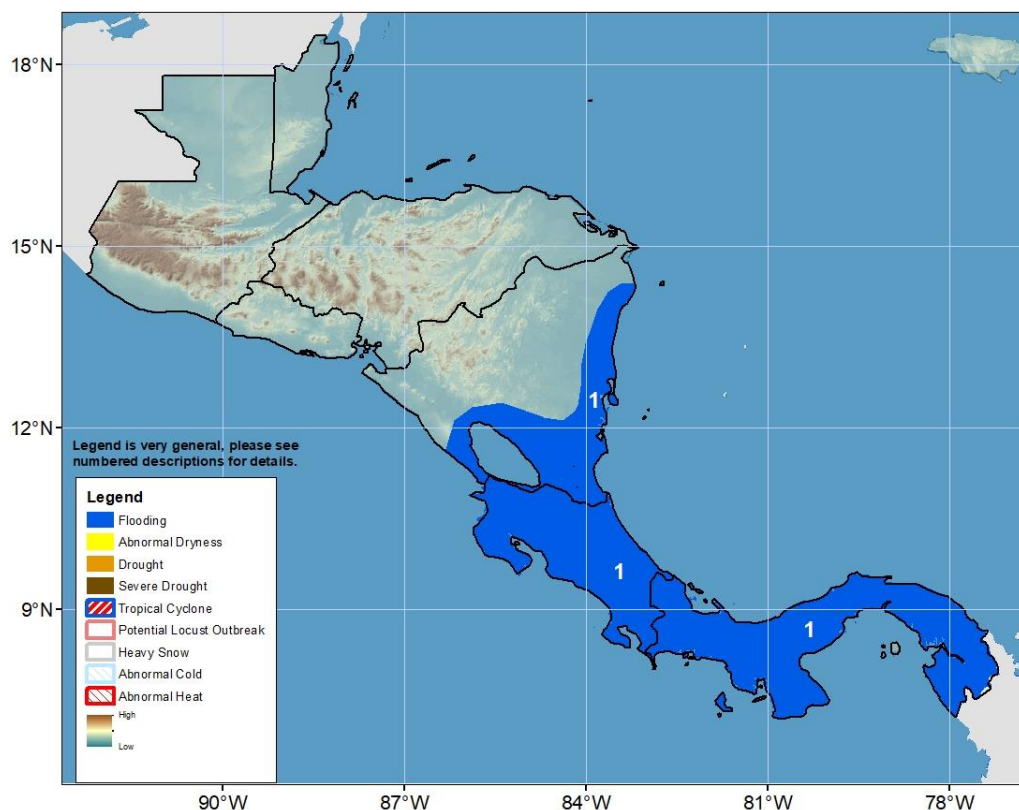


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET

16 January – 22 January 2025

High flooding risks remain in many areas of southern Central America.



1) Heavy and above-average rainfall over the past several weeks has resulted in flooding and landslides in many areas of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast in the region during the next week, maintaining high risks of flooding.

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

Wetter-than-average conditions persist in Central America.

During the past week, northern Honduras, southeastern Nicaragua, northeastern Costa Rica, and part of Panama received moderate to locally heavy rainfall. In contrast, dry conditions dominated across the interior of northern Central America. Despite this past week's reduction in rainfall, cumulative rainfall remained above-average across Belize, western and part of northern Guatemala, northern and eastern Honduras, western, southern, and eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama over the past 30 days. The resulting wetness has oversaturated the soil and has resulted in numerous flooding in Central America, according to reports. Over the past 90 days, central Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, southwestern Nicaragua, northwestern and central Costa Rica received between 200-400% of their average rainfall. However, strong winds and above-average temperatures over the past several weeks have contributed to environmental conditions, which increased the number of forest fires over many areas, including central and northern Guatemala and Honduras, according to reports. The latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) product has indicated below-average vegetation conditions over many areas of northern and eastern Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, western and eastern Panama.

Next week, near to above-average precipitation is forecast in Central America. Moderate rainfall is expected in northern Guatemala, Belize, northern and eastern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. Farther south, moderate to heavy rainfall is anticipated along the Caribbean coasts of southeastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and Panama. Meanwhile, above-average mean temperatures are expected in northern Central America, whereas near-average mean temperatures are forecast in the southern Caribbean.

