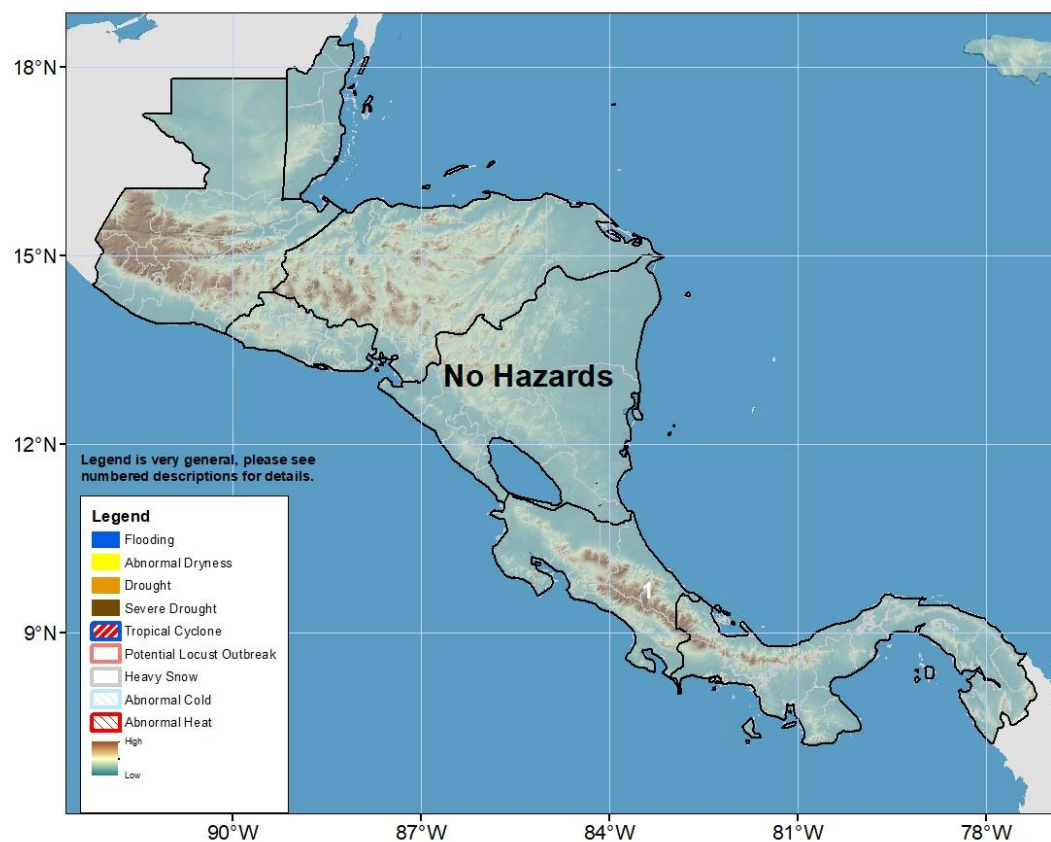


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 27 February – 05 March 2025

Light rainfall is expected in Central America during next week.



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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Light rainfall is forecasted in most of Central America.

Last week, heavy rainfall ranging from 50 mm to 300 mm was observed in southern, central, and northern Guatemala, most of Costa Rica, and western Panama. On the contrary, a lack of rain was observed in eastern El Salvador, most of Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. These rainfall patterns led to near-average conditions across the region, except in central and northern Guatemala, central Costa Rica, and western Panama which observed above-average rainfall of 50 – 300 mm. Similarly, for the past 30 days, near-average conditions dominated the region and above-average rainfall are found in coastal areas of Belize, central Guatemala, southeastern Nicaragua, central-eastern Costa Rica, and western Panama. In contrast, localized areas in southwestern Guatemala and northwestern Nicaragua showed deficits of 100 – 200 mm. Furthermore, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index indicated near-average to above-average vegetation conditions in several areas in Central America; however, below-average vegetation dominates in southern Belize, central Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua. Moreover, maximum and minimum temperatures were warmer than average in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. These warmer temperatures have helped accelerate soil moisture evaporation, which has deteriorated vegetation health in these countries.

Next week, GEFS rainfall forecasts suggest light rainfall across Central America, except in southern Panama where the forecast suggests heavy rainfall. Below-average conditions ranging from 10 – 20 mm will likely occur in central Guatemala and eastern Costa Rica. On the contrary, above-average conditions are expected in southern Panama. Near-average rainfall conditions are expected for the rest of the region. Moreover, the forecast suggests that minimum anomalies will be above-average in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, and western Nicaragua, with positive anomalies ranging from 1°C to 4°C. Meanwhile, warmer-than-average maximum anomalies are expected in several parts of Central America next week.

