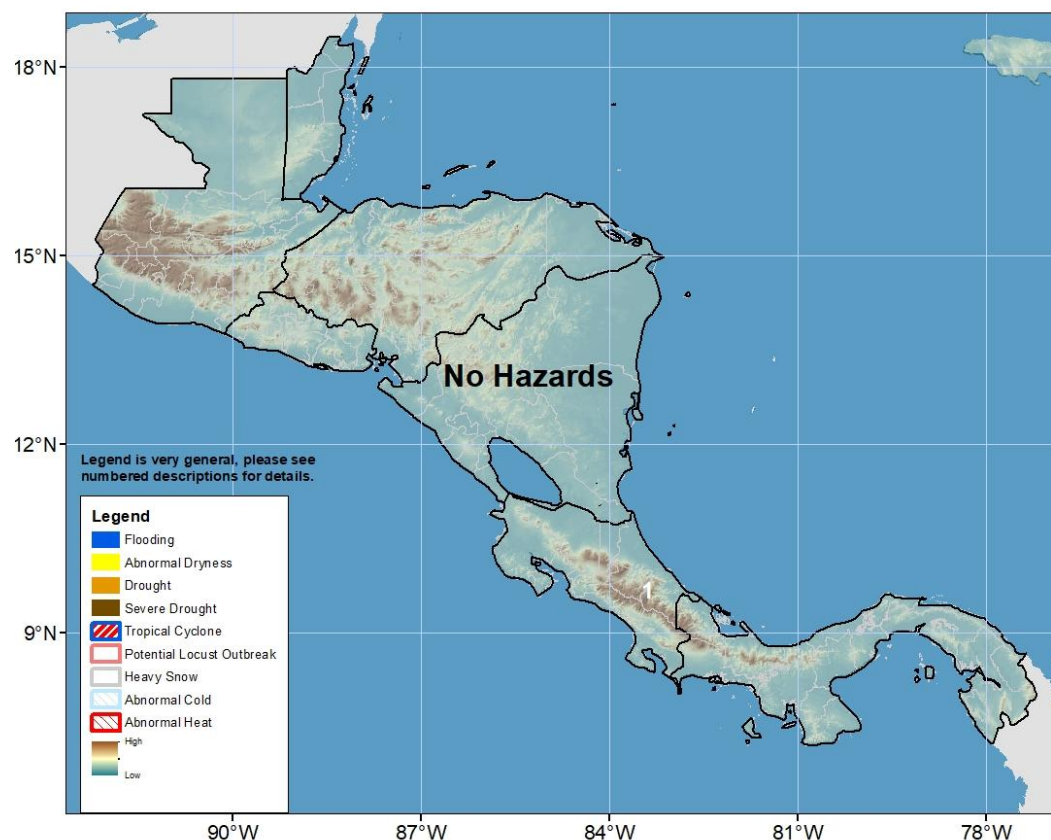


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 06 – 12 March 2025

Light rainfall deficits are expected along the coastal areas facing the Caribbean Sea.



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

Light rainfall is expected across Central America.

Last week, a lack of rainfall was generally observed across Central America. However, heavy rainfall ranging from 50 mm to 150 mm was observed in central Costa Rica, and rainfall showers were observed in a few areas in eastern El Salvador, Guatemala, and western Panama. These rainfall patterns led to maintaining near-average conditions over the region and drove above-average conditions of 25 – 100 mm in central Costa Rica. For the past 30 days, above-average rainfall ranging from 100 mm to 500 mm was registered in central and northern Guatemala, central Costa Rica, and along the coast areas facing the Pacific Ocean in 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 central and southern Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua. Moreover, minimum temperatures were warmer than average in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, with values from 2°C to 8°C. In addition, above-average maximum anomalies were observed in southeastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua. The lack of rainfall and warmer temperatures have helped soil moisture deficits, which have contributed to deteriorated vegetation health in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Next week, light rainfall is expected across Central America, except in the eastern portion of Panama, where the forecast suggests moderate rain. Below-average conditions ranging from 10 – 30 mm will likely occur in southeastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and along the coastal areas of Panama facing the Caribbean Sea. Meanwhile, near-average rainfall conditions are expected in most of Central America. Moreover, the forecast suggests that minimum anomalies will be above-average in southwestern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua, with positive anomalies ranging from 2°C to 4°C. Meanwhile, warmer-than-average maximum anomalies are expected in several parts of Central America.

