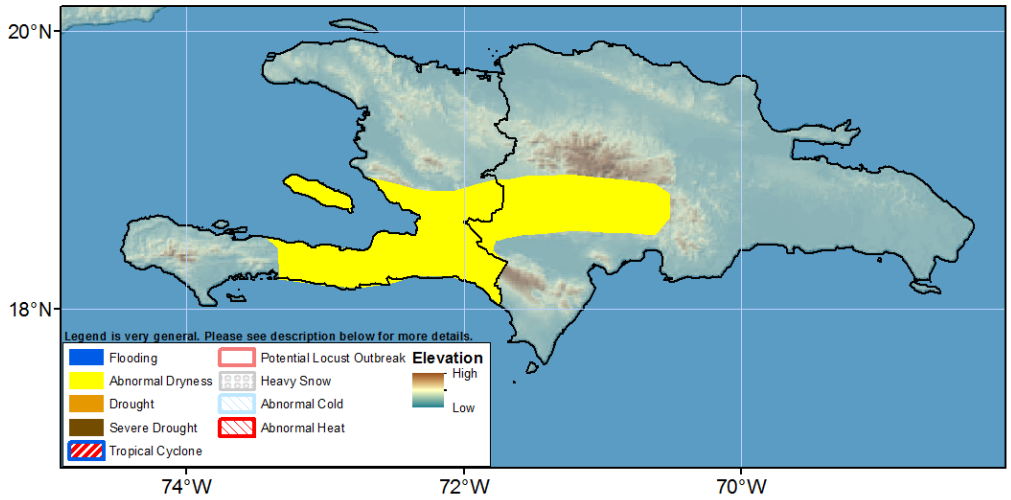
Climate Prediction Center's Hispaniola Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
11 May – 17 May 2023

Abnormal dryness has persisted in central Haiti and parts of western Dominican Republic and has been expanded to include all of southeastern Haiti and parts of the Cordillera Central Range.



Last week, below average rainfall was observed over most of Hispaniola. Parts of northwestern Dominican Republic and northern and southwestern Haiti recorded up to 25 mm of rainfall while central/eastern/southern Dominican Republic and most of central/southeastern Haiti remained dry. Although the 30-day rainfall accumulation is close to or slightly wetter than (by 10-25mm) the long term average over northern Haiti and northwestern Dominican Republic, southern and central Haiti have observed 30-day deficits in the range of 10-100mm, especially in and around the Gulf of Gonâve in central Haiti. In addition, 30-day deficits are up to 50mm in parts of central Dominican Republic (along the southern edge of the Cordillera Range). In the last 90-days, central and southern Haiti recorded below-average rainfall, with the highest deficits observed over the Gonâve Island/Gulf of Gonâve in Haiti. The lack of moisture has slowed sowing activities in Haiti, exacerbating food insufficiency especially in central and southern parts of the country. Satellite-based vegetation products show that below-average vegetation health is still evident across many areas of Hispaniola, including most of Haiti and central/southern Dominican Republic.

During the next week, models forecast light to moderate rainfall (primarily up to 50 mm, and locally up to 100 mm), with the heaviest falling in northern Haiti and northwestern Dominican Republic. However, the predicted weekly rainfall total is likely to be below the long-term average in most places across the region, especially in central/southern Haiti and central/southern/eastern Dominican Republic. Meanwhile, models predict 1-4°C warmer than average maximum temperatures across eastern Haiti and most of Dominican Republic, with locally higher anomalies in central Dominican Republic (up to 6 °C above normal).

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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