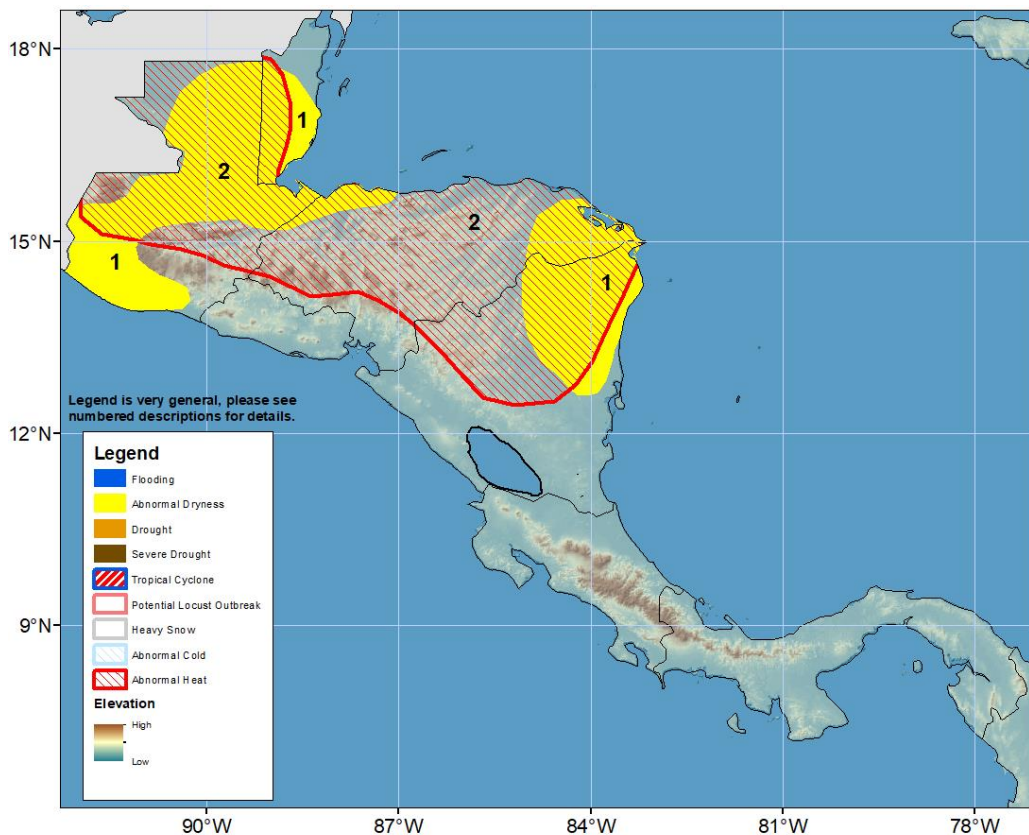


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 16 May – 22 May 2024

Dry conditions and hot temperatures continue in northern Central America



- 1) Extended dry conditions continue in Guatemala, Belize, western and eastern Honduras and central/northeastern Nicaragua due to the lack of rainfall during the last 90 days.
- 2) Mean maximum temperatures might be higher than average by 2-8 degrees Celsius in central and northern Guatemala, most parts of Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. Elevated temperature conditions continue to affect vegetation health in Guatemala.

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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Drier conditions will persist in Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Nicaragua

Last week, a lack of rainfall was observed in most parts of northern Central America, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, central and eastern Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. In contrast, moderate to heavy rainfall fell in a localized area in southern Guatemala, western Honduras, central and southern Costa Rica, and northern and southern Panama. These rainfall amounts yielded negative rainfall anomalies across Central America, except in coastal areas in Costa Rica, where positive anomalies ranged from 50 mm to 100 mm. Meanwhile, over the past 30 days, the largest deficits (25-100 mm) were observed in Guatemala, Belize, western El Salvador, most parts of Honduras, eastern Costa Rica, and many areas in Panama. According to reports, in Guatemala, below-average rainfall conditions and above-average temperatures have affected cropping activities in the eastern part of the country. Further, rainfall maps on the 90 days long term showed that southern, central, and northern Guatemala, northwestern El Salvador, many areas in Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica registered cumulative rainfall between 5-25 percent of the average, indicating a poor performance for the February – May rainfall season. As for vegetation conditions, the latest vegetation products displayed poor conditions over areas where there have been rainfall deficits (i.e., northern Guatemala, western El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua)

During the next week, the rainfall forecast suggests that below-average rainfall conditions will persist in northern Central America, where negative anomalies are expected to be between 20 mm and 100 mm below the mean. On the contrary, positive rainfall anomalies are forecasted in western Costa Rica, and most parts of Panama, where rainfall totals larger than 100 mm are expected. Regarding temperatures, there is a high chance for abnormal heat to continue in northern Central America, affecting vulnerable and sensitive people in the region.

