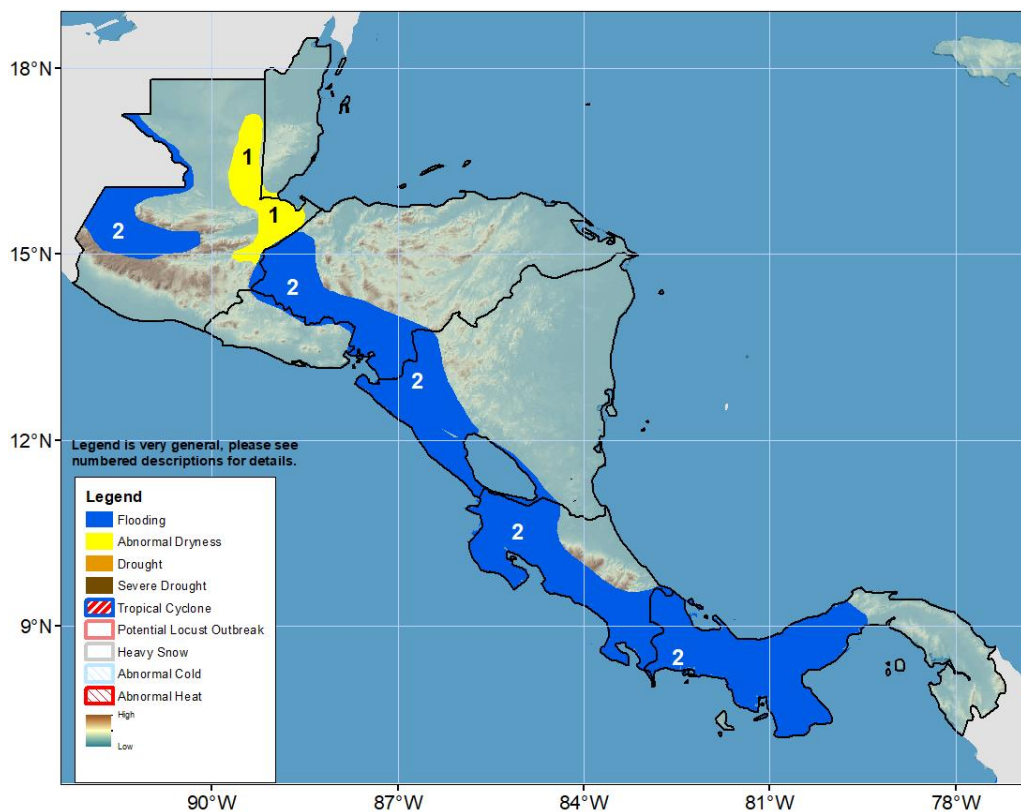


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 10 – 16 October 2024

Heavy rainfall increase the risk of floods and landslides in Central America.



1) Abnormal dryness polygon is maintained in eastern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras due to rainfall deficits during the past 30 and 90 days, which has affected vegetation health in these regions as well.

2) Last week, heavy rainfall continued along western areas of Central America, leading to floods and landslides in several areas of the region. Given that the forecast suggests moderate to heavy rainfall during the following week, a flood polygon is maintained along western Central America. Floods are very likely to happen, particularly in areas where soil is already saturated due to the previous amounts of rainfall observed.

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, jverd@usaid.gov

Floods expected in western Central America.

During the last week, heavy rainfall fell across Central America. The heavier rainfall (more than 75 mm) was registered in central/western and southwestern Guatemala, western Honduras, western and eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and northern and central Panama. Positive anomalies of 100-300 mm were observed in central Guatemala, and below-average conditions of 50 mm to 100 mm were observed in southeastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua, while the rest of the region recorded near-average conditions. Reports indicate that heavy rainfall has brought floods, landslides, and infrastructural damage in different countries in Central America. Meanwhile, during the last 30 days, central/western Guatemala, southern Honduras, eastern and northern Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and central Panama have been wetter than average (> 100 mm above the mean). On the contrary, northern and southern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, southeastern Nicaragua, and southern Panama have registered deficits between 100 mm and 300 mm. Furthermore, the 90-day rainfall analysis shows cumulative surpluses of 150-200 percent of the average rainfall in western/central Guatemala, southern Honduras, northern Nicaragua and central Panama; however, northern and central-southern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, central-southern Nicaragua and southern Panama, registered cumulative rainfall deficits between 25-80 percent of the average. Furthermore, the lasted vegetation satellite products show mostly near-average and favorable vegetation conditions in the region; but poor vegetation in local areas of northern and southeastern Guatemala and northern Honduras.

Next week, GEFS forecasts suggest the continuation of heavy downpours (> 50 mm) across Central America, with the highest rainfall (>100 mm) forecasted in western and eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western and eastern Panama. Positive anomalies between 30 mm to 100 mm are expected in southern and eastern Nicaragua and most of Cota Rica. It is very likely that floods and landslides continues along western Central America due to the continuation of heavy rainfall in already soil moisture saturated soils. Maximum temperatures between 30- 35°C with below-average conditions are forecasted for next week in most parts of Central America.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm) 10 – 16 October 2024

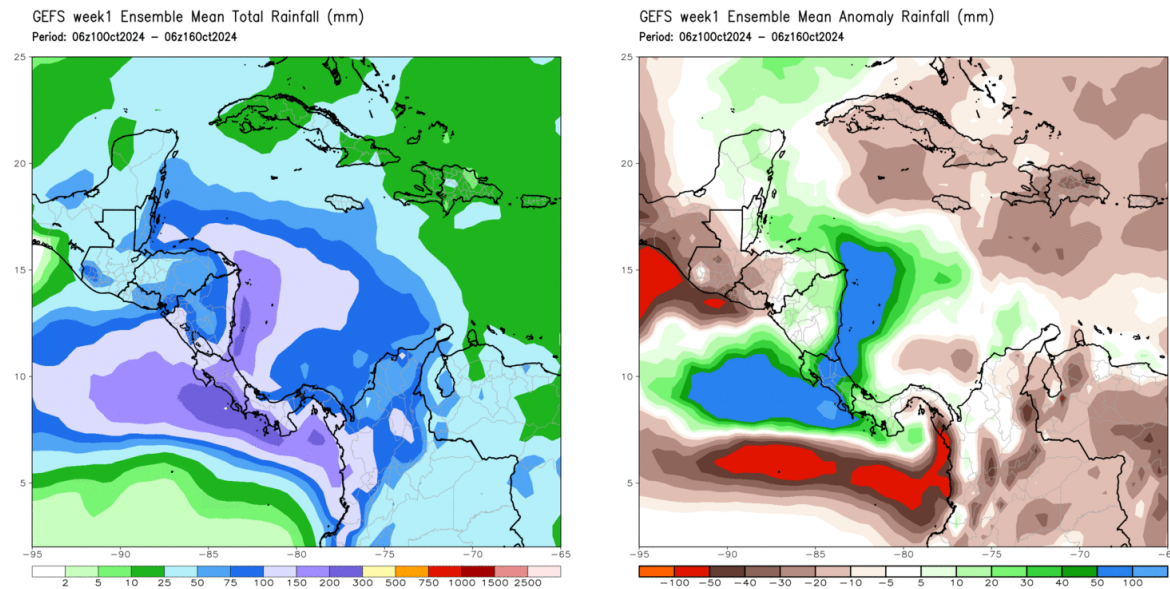


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC