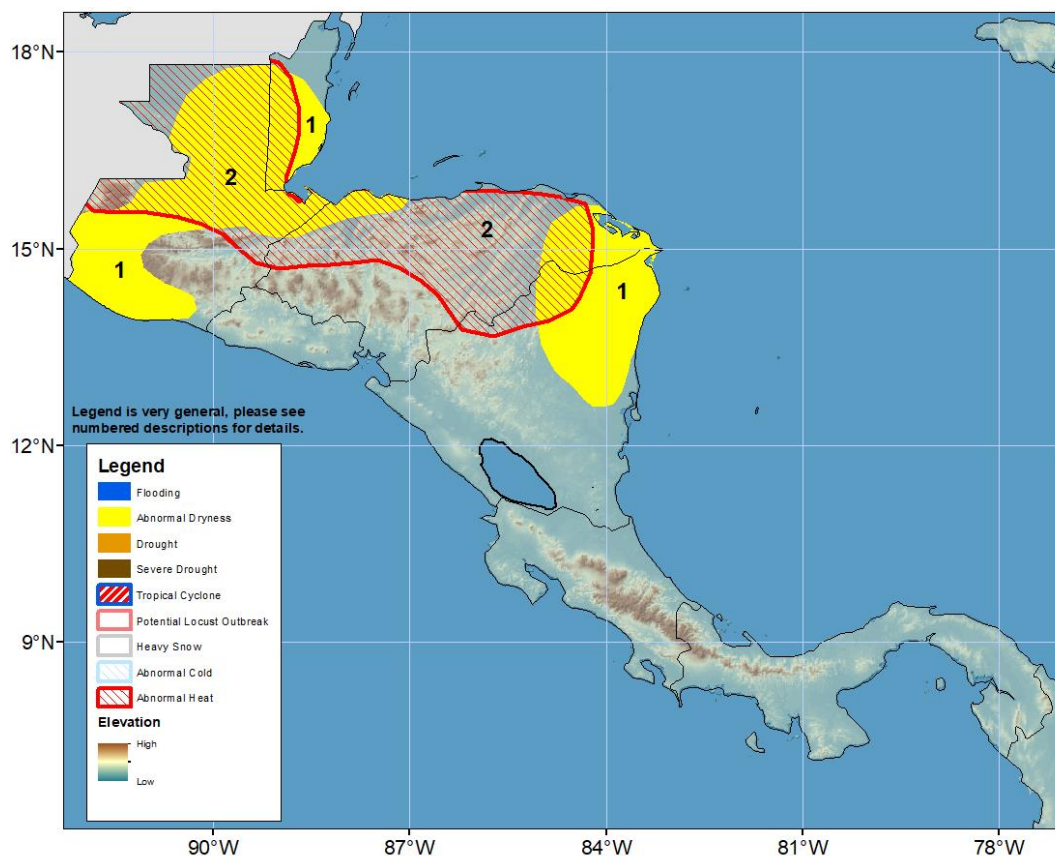


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 9 May – 15 May 2024

Drier and hotter conditions persist in northern Central America



- 1) The lack of rainfall during the last 7 days, as well as in the 90-day long term, has resulted in prolonged dryness in Guatemala, Belize, western and eastern Honduras, and central/northeastern Nicaragua.

- 2) Temperature forecasts suggest that mean maximum temperatures are likely to be higher than average by 2-8 degrees Celsius in central and northern Guatemala, most parts of Honduras, and some areas in northern Nicaragua.

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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Forecasts suggest that drier conditions will continue in northern Central America

During the past week, moderate rains fell in southwestern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, northwestern and southeastern Nicaragua, and most parts of Costa Rica. In these areas, rainfall was slightly above average. Further, heavy downpours were observed across Panama, where values ranged from 75 mm to 150 mm, which contributed to positive anomalies between 50 mm and 100 mm in central Panama. In contrast, reduced and limited rainfall was observed over central and northern Guatemala, Belize, most parts of Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua. Over the past 30 days, the largest deficits (25-100 mm) were observed in central and northern Guatemala, southern Belize, and a localized area in northwestern Honduras. According to reports, in Guatemala, below-average rainfall conditions and above-average temperatures have affected cropping activities in the eastern part of the country. Conversely, wetter conditions were depicted in southern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, southern and eastern Honduras, northeastern and southeastern Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and Panama. Over the past 90 days, central and northern Guatemala, northwestern Honduras, southwestern Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica registered cumulative rainfall between 5-50 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 in northern Guatemala, central Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua.

During the next week, moderate to heavy rainfall (50 mm to 150 mm) is forecasted in western Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, where above-average conditions are expected. On the contrary, rainfall totals lower than 50 mm are expected in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. These areas may receive below or near-average conditions during the next week. Meanwhile, in terms of temperatures, a high chance for abnormal heat exists across central and northern Guatemala, most parts of Honduras, and northern Nicaragua, which could affect vulnerable and sensitive people in the region.

