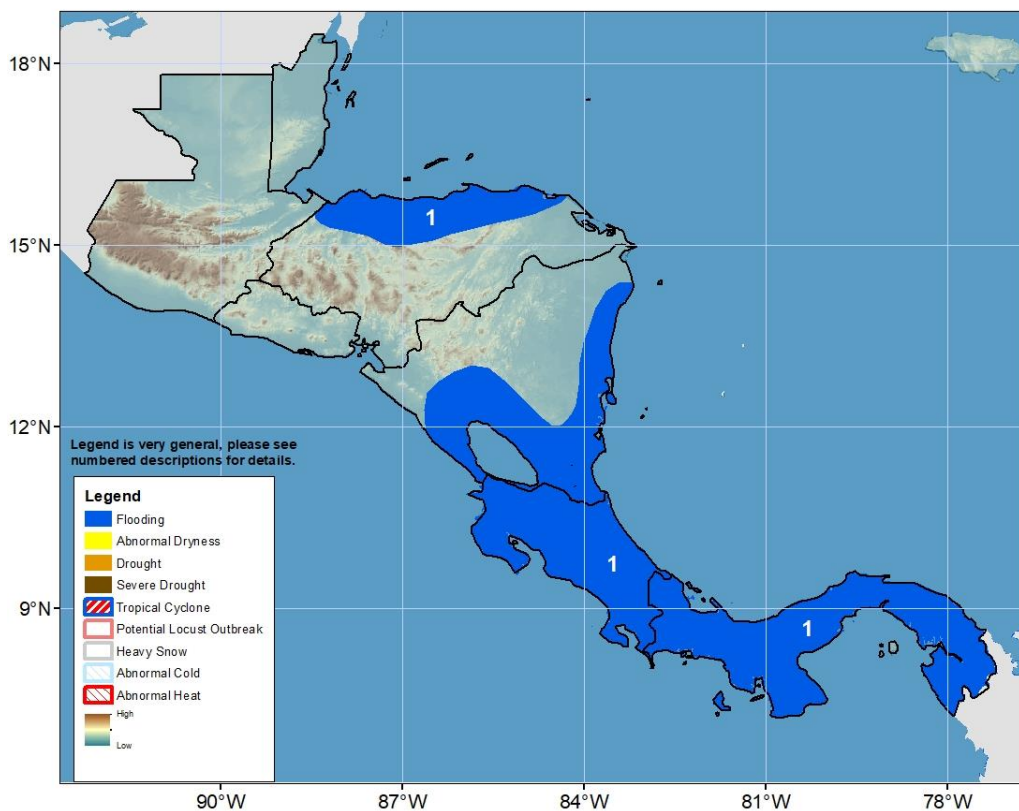


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 9 – 15 January 2025

Consistent rainfall over the past several weeks has led to oversaturation and flooding over many areas of Central America.



1) Heavy and above-average rainfall over the past several weeks has resulted in flooding and landslides across northern Honduras, southern and eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The forecast additional rainfall maintains high risks for flooding over many local areas of the region.

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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High risks of flooding persist over the Caribbean-facing regions of Central America.

During the past week, heavy rainfall occurred along the Atlantic-facing region of Central America, which contributed to strengthen the accumulated moisture surpluses over many local areas of the sub-region. Abundant rainfall was received in southwestern and part of northern Guatemala, northern and southern Nicaragua, and portions of Costa Rica and Panama. In contrast, limited and reduced rainfall was recorded in southeastern Guatemala, El Salvador, and southern Honduras. Over the past 30 days, rainfall was above-average across much of Central America, with total rainfall accounting for over 200% of the average along the Pacific and Atlantic Littorals, western Guatemala, Costa Rica, western and central Panama. The resulting wetness has already led to flooding over many areas, according to reports. However, small moisture deficits remained in southeastern Guatemala, western El Salvador, and southern Honduras. Over the past 90 days, north-central Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and northern Costa Rica received well above-average rainfall with cumulative rainfall between 200-400% of the average, while the remainders of the sub-region experienced near-average to slightly below-average rainfall. Meanwhile, maximum temperatures were below-average in eastern Guatemala, western and southern Honduras, El Salvador, and northwestern Nicaragua, whereas minimum temperatures remained above-average across northern Central America, eastern Costa Rica, and western Panama.

Next week, light to moderate rainfall is forecasted along much of the Atlantic-tier of Central America and eastern half of Panama, which could exacerbate conditions over previously-flooded areas or even trigger new flooding over some locations. For temperatures, mean temperatures are expected to be at or above-average in northern Central America as both maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are forecasted to rise 0.5-2°C above average over most areas in the region.

