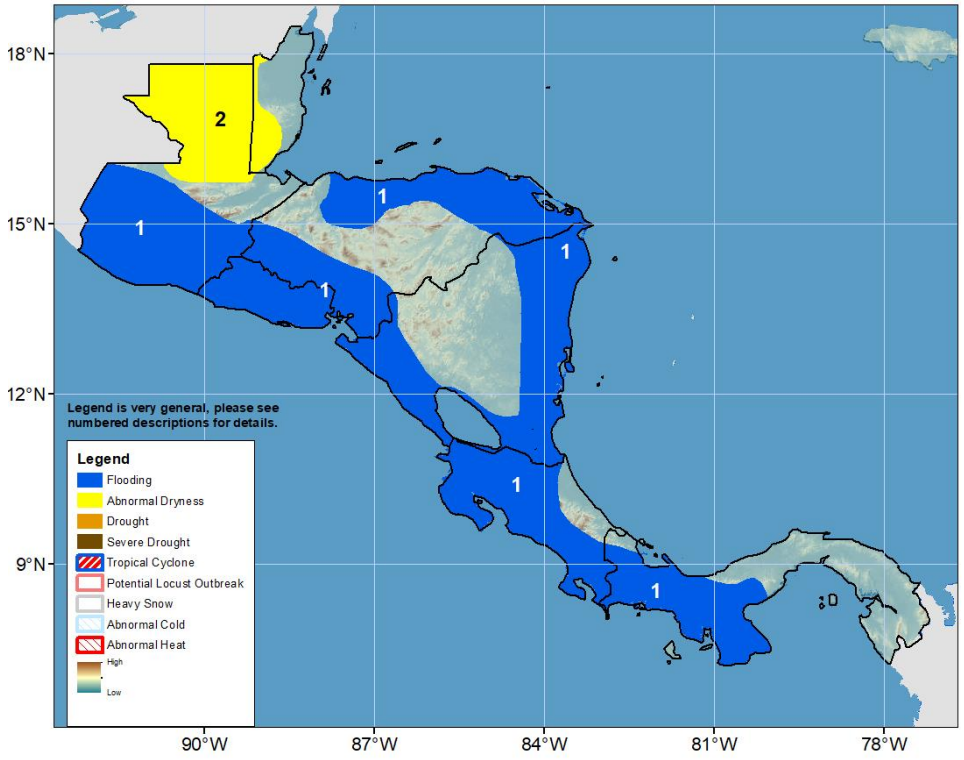
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
03 – 09 July 2025

Flooding is likely in several areas in Central America.



1) Heavy rainfall continued during the last week, intensifying soil moisture anomalies in Central America. Floods were reported in various countries in the region. Additionally, the forecast suggests heavy rain with values ranging from 50 mm to 200 mm.

2) The lack of continuation of rainfall, hot temperatures, and deficits in soil moisture in the last thirty days sustains abnormal dryness conditions in central and northern Guatemala. Conditions are improving in western Belize.

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, jverdin@usaid.gov

Heavy rain and floods were observed in Central America.
Last week, heavy rainfall was observed across the region. The largest total rainfall values were registered in central-eastern Guatemala, northern Belize, western and southeastern Honduras, central and eastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and western Panama, with values ranging from 150 mm to 500 mm. Positive anomalies were observed between 100 mm and 500 mm in parts of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Floods, landslides, river overflow, and damage to infrastructure were reported in Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. In addition, the intense rainfall along the Pacific Basin over the last few weeks has led to a delay in the sowing activities of beans due to excess moisture in the soils. Also, intense rainfall triggered lahars from Fuego Volcano and Santiaguito Volcano in Guatemala during the last week. Over the 30-day period, northern and southeastern Guatemala, as well as central Panama, exhibit rainfall deficits of 100-200 mm. Conversely, most of Central America exhibits positive rainfall anomalies ranging from 25 mm to 500 mm. Maximum temperatures were warmer than average by 1 °C in Petén Department (Guatemala), while near average over the rest of Central America.

Next week, heavy rainfall with values from 100 mm to 150 mm is likely in eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and most of Panama. Meanwhile, the rest of Central America is forecast to receive precipitation ranging from 10 mm to 100 mm. Positive rainfall anomalies are expected in northern Panama. On the contrary, in Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua, rainfall deficits of 10-30 mm are expected. The risk of flooding persists in several countries in Central America, as intense rainfall is highly likely to occur over the region. Additionally, lahars resulting from heavy rainfall continue to pose a risk near El Fuego and Santiaguito volcanoes. Areas facing the Pacific Basin of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras are at a higher flood risk, as heavy rainfall has prevailed over the last few weeks, causing soil saturation. Additional rain could lead to flash floods and rivers overflowing. Regarding maximum temperature, warmer-than-average and near-average conditions are forecasted in the region.

Week 1 GEFS Rainfall Total Forecast and GEFS Rainfall Anomaly Forecast (mm)
03 July – 09 July 2025

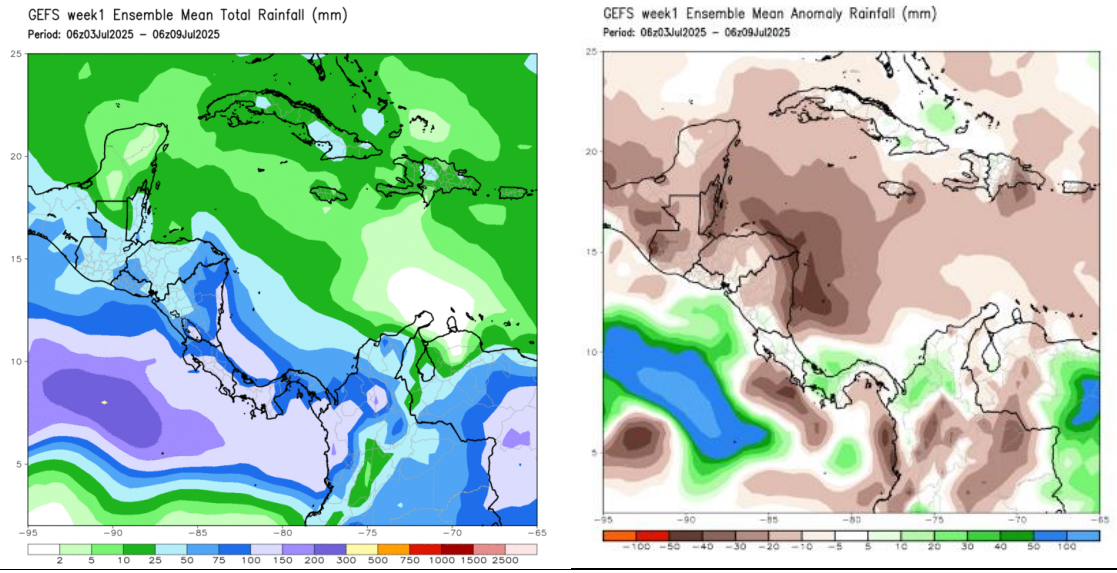


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC