



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 21 April– 27 April, 2022

Early-season dryness continues to develop in southern Guatemala and southern Honduras.



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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Most rainfall was relegated to Costa Rica and Panama during the past week.

The largest rainfall totals this past week was located over Costa Rica and Panama where localized areas observed 25-75mm according to satellite estimates. The rest of the region was mostly dry. Some light rainfall (2-25mm) was observed in El Salvador and coastal portions of Guatemala. Negative 7-day anomalies (10-25mm) resulted from the pattern in Guatemala, Belize, western Honduras, and El Salvador. Rains were above average in a few parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Analyzing the past 30 days, Guatemala, neighboring Belize, and southern Honduras show steadily increasing negative rainfall anomalies. Deficits of 10-50mm and locally larger were observed across those areas. Meanwhile, the 30-day period has been well-wetter than normal in the southern Caribbean. Increased wild fires are observed across Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua as they await the delayed onset of rains. Elevated temperatures are reported during recent weeks in southern parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras which have contributed to the forest fire activity. Satellite observed vegetation health Indices indicated poor vegetative performance in the areas of southern Guatemala corresponding to region of lowest percentage of normal rainfall. Farmers are beginning to sow seeds in higher elevations but are awaiting onset of rains before sowing in many other parts of Guatemala according to field reports.

For the coming week, models forecast suppressed rainfall across northern Guatemala, Belize, and over the southern Caribbean, with seasonable amounts of rainfall elsewhere. The largest rainfall totals can be expected (>50mm) can be expected over Costa Rica, Panama, and southern Guatemala. A return to cooler, near-normal temperatures is expected in southern Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, where maximum temperatures may even be a degree or two below average.

