



## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 19 – 25 May 2022

**High risks for flooding exist over many areas as heavy downpours are forecast over Central America.**



- 1) A delayed start to the onset of rains since April has led to growing moisture deficits and delayed sowing of crops over Guatemala and western Honduras.
- 2) The forecast torrential rains during the next week increase the risks for flooding and landslides over already-saturated areas along the Gulf of Fonseca, parts of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

**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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## Below-average rain could continue over Guatemala and parts of Honduras during the next week.

During the past week, a reduction in rainfall was observed over much of Central America. While moderate to locally heavy rains fell over southwestern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, west-central Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean, little to light rains dominated throughout the inland of region, including northern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and central Nicaragua. Over Guatemala, flooding was reported over localized areas in the Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez Departments in the south west. Also, this past week's limited rain contributed to maintain moderate to large thirty-day rainfall deficits, sustaining dryness over northern Guatemala and western Honduras. In contrast, above-average rain since April led to oversaturation along both the Pacific and Atlantic Littorals and the southern Caribbean. Hence, vegetation was mostly adequate throughout Central America, except for localized areas in central and northern Guatemala and central Honduras, where below-average conditions were depicted, according to the latest agroclimatic products. The continuation of the seasonal rain should, in general, help improve ground conditions and benefit cropping activities over many local areas.

For next week, widespread heavy and above-average rains are forecast over the southern portions of Central America from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. This expected wet weather pattern could trigger localized flooding and landslides over some areas. In contrast, light to moderate and likely to be below-average rain is expected over central and northern Guatemala, and northwestern Honduras, which would maintain accumulated moisture deficits in the region. Additionally, mean surface temperatures are expected to average 1 – 4 degrees Celsius above normal across Guatemala and parts of western Honduras. Finally, as the Hurricane season has begun over the eastern Pacific, no Tropical Cyclone activities are expected over the next few days.

