

Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 01 – 07 December 2022

The forecast of heavy rain could trigger flooding over Guatemala, eastern Belize and central Panama during the next week.



- 1) This past week's moderate to locally heavy rain has resulted in saturated soil moisture conditions in Belize, as well as in the eastern Colón, Los Santos, and Herrera Provinces in Panama. Furthermore, moderate to heavy rain is forecast during the next week along the Caribbean coastlines in Belize and over Panama, maintaining a high risk for flooding and landslides over many areas in eastern Belize and central Panama.
- 2) Reports indicated that heavy rain caused major flooding last week over Suchitepéquez, Santa Rosa, and Petén departments in Guatemala. Moderate rain is forecast over Petén during the next week, maintaining high risks for flooding and landslides over local areas south of this department.

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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Moderate rainfall might trigger flooding in Guatemala, eastern Belize and central Panama.

Towards the end of November, normal conditions were observed across Central America, except over Panama, where negative rainfall anomalies were registered. Yet, wet conditions, with locally moderate rain, were experienced over eastern Belize, Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, the Pacific Littorals in Costa Rica, and part of the Azuero Peninsula in Panama. Over the past 30 days, below-average rain prevailed across Central America, except in local areas in northern and southwestern Guatemala, Pacific Littorals in Costa Rica, and the Azuero Peninsula in Panama. Since the beginning of the *Postrera* rainfall season, August – November, near-average seasonal rain has been received over the inland of Central America, while below-average rain has been recorded elsewhere.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggested moderate to heavy rain is expected in Petén department in Guatemala, and along the Caribbean coasts in Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and in central Panama. From these countries, Guatemala, Belize and central Panama are more likely to experience flash flooding and landslides during the next week due to many local areas are already-saturated. In contrast, light rain is forecast elsewhere.

