

Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 30 March – 5 April 2023

Scattered moderate rains continued across Central America during the past week.



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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Elevated temperatures are expected in many parts of Central America during the upcoming week.

During the last week, scattered moderate rains were observed throughout the region. Moderate rain (10 to 50mm) was observed in southern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras, while light 5 to 25mm rainfall was observed in eastern El Salvador, Costa Rica, and eastern Belize. This rainfall pattern contributed to wetter than average conditions in a few local areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. According to 30-day rainfall analysis, conditions are wetter than average over many parts of Costa Rica, central and western Nicaragua, Honduras, central and southern Guatemala. An area of Petén department in Guatemala has developed small 10-25mm deficits. However, in the 90-day seasonal period, northern Guatemala, eastern areas of Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and many parts of Panama show below-average rainfall conditions. Further, the latest analysis indicates that near or above average vegetation conditions are predominant over most of Central America. However, vegetation health is trending negatively in central Honduras. Meanwhile, temperatures slowly moderated in the western and central highlands of Guatemala. Wild fire risk also remains elevated due to expected warmer than average temperatures. The warm temperatures have also been evaporating moisture from the rain before it can be absorbed into the soils, tempering the benefit of recent rains.

During the next week, forecasts suggest that rains will shift east to cover eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and northern Panama. 10mm to as much as 50mm of total rainfall is likely. Temperatures are forecast to be warmer than average by a few degrees (1 to 4°C) in Guatemala, El Salvador, western Honduras, and southern Panama. While temperatures will likely be cooler than average by a few degrees in central Honduras, western Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

