

Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 06 – 12 April 2023

With a few exceptions, dry condition prevailed across much of 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, except for a few exceptions most places in Central America remained largely dry. Accordingly, few localities over southern Panama received light rains (2-5 mm) while few places in central and southwestern Costa Rica recorded up to 25 mm during the week. Aggregated over a 30-day period, conditions were wetter than average over many parts of Costa Rica, central and western Nicaragua, south-central Honduras, central and southern Guatemala. However, in the 90-day seasonal period, northern and western Guatemala, western El Salvador, eastern areas of Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and many parts of Panama experienced 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, maximum temperatures were 1 to 2°C warmer than average over southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and southern Panama. Minimum temperatures were 1 to 2°C cooler than average in southern Guatemala, but showed no significant difference from the weekly long-term average values elsewhere.

During the next week, forecasts suggest improved rainfall activity and increased coverage extending over western Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica and eastern coastal areas of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, with weekly total reaching up to 25 mm at some places (Fig 1). Maximum temperatures are forecasted to be 1 to 4°C warmer than the long term averages, with the highest positive anomalies indicated over Guatemala and El Salvador, and western Honduras. Morning minimum temperatures are predicted to be 1 to 2°C cooler than normal across Guatemala, Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and northern Panama.

