

Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 13 – 19 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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Moderate to heavy (25-50 mm) rainfall is likely in western Guatemala. Afternoon temperatures will be 2-4°C warmer than average in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua.

During the last week, except for a few exceptions most places in Central America remained largely dry. Accordingly, isolated areas in Guatemala and El Salvador, and central and southwestern Costa Rica received light to moderate (2-25 mm) rainfall during the week. Aggregated over a 30-day period, conditions were wetter than average over many parts of Costa Rica, and few places in central and western Nicaragua, south-central Honduras, and central Guatemala. However, in the 90-day seasonal period, northern and western Guatemala, western El Salvador, eastern areas of Honduras and Costa Rica, northeastern Nicaragua, and most parts of Panama experienced below-average rainfall conditions. Further, the latest analysis indicates that near or above average vegetation conditions are indicated over most of Central America. However, vegetation health is trending negatively in central-north Honduras. Meanwhile, maximum temperatures were 2 to 3°C warmer than average over western Guatemala, and 1-2°C warmer than average over Costa Rica and western Nicaragua. Minimum temperatures remained near average for the week across the region.

During the next week, forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rainfall (25-50 mm) over western Guatemala, while light to moderate rains up to 25 mm are indicated to extend into Honduras and El Salvador. Costa Rica and eastern coastal areas of Panama are predicted to receive 10-25 mm (Fig 1). Maximum temperatures are forecasted to be 2 to 4°C warmer than the long term weekly averages in most areas, with the highest positive anomalies indicated over Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua. Morning minimum temperatures are predicted to remain within 1°C of the long-term average values in most areas.

