

The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America May 13 – May 19, 2010

- A decrease in rainfall during the last seven days is expected to relieve many areas impacted by heavier than normal precipitation during the last several weeks.



Many areas in Central America experience a decrease in rainfall in early May.

During the last observation period, a general decrease in rainfall accumulation was observed over Central America. In Guatemala, fair to locally moderate rainfall totals were received in areas mostly in the north during the last seven days. Further east, rainfall remained minimal, with the highest precipitation amounts observed along the El Salvador and Honduras border during the last week. Rainfall activity was most frequent in Costa Rica and Panama over the last seven days, as many local areas received totals in excess of 50mm along the Pacific coastline. Although rainfall has remained slightly below-average for a number of local areas since the start of May, crop development and soil moisture analyses suggest favorable conditions due to the increase in rains that had occurred in late April.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a return of moderate to heavy rainfall for many areas in Central America for the upcoming week. Rainfall accumulations ranging between 50-75mm are expected for many areas along the Atlantic basin, with locally heavier amounts (>150mm) possible over portions of Costa Rica and in the southern Caribbean. The rapid onset of daily torrential rainfall may lead to localized flooding in parts of Costa Rica and Panama during the next week.

