

The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America May 20 – May 26, 2010

- A return of above-average rains was observed over parts of Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica during the last week.



Negative Rainfall anomalies strengthening across portions of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

In the last seven days, a considerable increase in precipitation was observed across the Gulf of Honduras regions. The passage of an easterly wave in this region produced heavy rainfall amounts in the last several days, ranging between 50-100mm over portions of northern Guatemala and many other local areas neighboring the Gulf. The heaviest weekly precipitation amounts were observed further south, where high rainfall amounts in excess of 75mm were received across the Atlantic departments of Nicaragua, central Costa Rica, and portions of Panama. Despite the return of above-average rainfall in the last seven days, accumulative precipitation in May has been generally below-average, resulting in growing moisture deficits particularly around parts of Honduras, western Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a continuation of above-average rains for many areas in Central America for the upcoming week. Rainfall accumulations ranging in excess of 100mm are expected for many parts of Costa Rica and Panama, as well as throughout the Gulf of Honduras region, due to enhanced winds and increased moisture from the Pacific.

