

## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America March 10 – March 16, 2011

- Seasonally light rainfall observed throughout most of Central America, with above-average rains received across many coastal areas of Costa Rica and Panama during the last week.



**Moderate rainfall is expected to continue during the next week across the southern Caribbean and dry areas in Nicaragua.**

During the last observation period, seasonally light rainfall was received throughout the northern Central America, with more moderate precipitation amounts observed in the south. The heaviest precipitation totals (> 50 mm) were recorded throughout many coastal areas of Costa Rica and Panama, with favorable amounts received along the border between Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador during the last week. In the last 30 days, above-average precipitation has been observed across a number of local areas, which has helped to relieve both short term and seasonal dryness. A short-term increase in rainfall that was observed during the end the February across portions of eastern and central Nicaragua has helped mitigate dryness that has persisted throughout most of the Apante season. The short-term increase in rainfall has helped to neutralize thirty day moisture deficits in region; however, the timing of these rains has done little to benefit crops in the area.

For the next week, rain is forecast to be moderate to heavy across the parts of Costa Rica and Panama, with the potential of locally high rainfall over parts of northern Guatemala during the next seven days. Fair to moderate rainfall (10-30 mm) is also expected across coastal Nicaragua, as well as northern Honduras.

