



The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America

April 7 – April 13, 2011



- Heavy rainfall returned to portions of southern Central America during the past week while a continuation of light rainfall was observed further north.



Heavy rains returned to the southern Caribbean and are expected to continue over the area during the next week.

While light to fair amounts of precipitation (< 20mm) were observed across many locations in northern Central America during the last week, heavy rain was received across southern Central America. The highest weekly precipitation totals (> 50mm) were recorded across many local areas in Costa Rica and Panama with some locations in central Costa Rica and Panama seeing over 100 mm of precipitation. Due to the ample amount of rain, moderate, positive, thirty-day-rainfall anomalies (50-100 mm) have developed over southern Central America. Climatologically, rainfall is expected to continue to be abundant across the southern Caribbean during the month of April. Further north, the light rainfall recorded during the past several weeks has maintained broadly average rainfall totals over many local areas. However, forest fires have occurred across seasonally dry regions of northern Central America including the Olancho department of Honduras and the Petén, Alta Verapaz and Chimaltenango departments of Guatemala. Overall, favorable cropping conditions persist over much of Central America.

For the next week, models forecast an increase in precipitation across inland areas of Guatemala, western Honduras and El Salvador as moderate rain (20-40mm) is likely to occur. The heaviest rainfall (> 40mm) is expected over the southern Caribbean with the possibility of localized areas in Panama receiving greater than 75 mm of precipitation during the next seven days.

