



The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America April 14 – April 20, 2011



- Abundant amounts of rainfall were recorded across the southern Caribbean for a second consecutive week while seasonable precipitation totals were observed across northern Central America.



Highly above-average rains were observed across much of Panama during the past week.

During the past seven days, seasonable rainfall totals were observed across much of Central America. The heaviest precipitation (> 150mm) was located across the southern Caribbean, especially over Panama where positive, weekly rainfall anomalies were greater than 100 mm. The abundant amounts of rain during the past week also has similarly increased positive, thirty-day rainfall anomalies across the southern Caribbean to over 100 mm (> 200mm in localized areas in Panama). While Panama received above-average rain, average precipitation was observed across northern Central America where light to fair amounts of rain were recorded. The highest precipitation totals (10-30 mm) across northern Central America occurred in localized areas in northern Guatemala including the Petén and Alta Verapaz departments. In general, seasonal amounts of rain were recorded across northern Central America. However, since rain during the beginning of spring is relatively light, the dry conditions have aided in the spread of wildfires in western parts of Honduras and northern parts of Guatemala.

Rainfall forecasts for the next week indicate a reduction in precipitation across the southern Caribbean with light to fair amounts of rain (5-20 mm) forecast. Further north, an increase in precipitation along the Pacific coastlines of Guatemala and El Salvador and inland areas in western Honduras is forecast as moderate rain (15-40 mm) is expected. The increase in precipitation should aid in cropping activities in these regions.

