



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 8 – March 14, 2012

- Seasonably light rainfall was observed over much of Central America during early March.



Seasonal amounts of precipitation expected along Atlantic departments of Central America.

During the last seven days, seasonably light to moderate rainfall amounts were received across many portions of Central America. In Guatemala, the highest rainfall accumulations were localized in the Izabal department, with amounts ranging between 30-60mm along the coast. In the Peten department and in many local areas further south, precipitation was relatively light (5-25mm) in late February and early March. Throughout portions of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, fair amounts of precipitation (10-30mm) were also received along the Atlantic coastlines during the last week. During February, monthly rainfall was notably above-average throughout northern Guatemala and the Gulf of Honduras. The greatest precipitation surpluses were observed over the Peten department of Guatemala, and across portions of northern and western Honduras. Conversely, precipitation has been below average across parts of eastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica, with developing moisture deficits since the middle of February.

For next week, a seasonable distribution of precipitation is expected across Central America. During the earlier portion of the observation period, strengthening easterly winds is likely to transport additional moisture and produce increased amounts of rainfall across the southern Caribbean. Seven day rainfall amounts ranging between 50-75mm, and possibly locally heavier amounts are expected for the Atlantic departments of eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Further north, average to above-average of precipitation are also forecast for parts of northern Guatemala and Honduras.

