

Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 15 – 21 December 2022

Rainfall has gotten generally lighter across the region With short-term deficits increasing in the South



1) Heavy rains during the past few weeks have filled local rivers and led to an elevated flood alert in central Guatemala.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

Questions or comments about the hazards outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov

Light and suppressed rains were observed over southern portions of the region this past week.

During the second week of December, near-normal rainfall conditions were observed across northern portions of Central America, while the southern part of the region received suppressed rainfall. The most rain was observed in central Guatemala, where totals exceeded 25mm. Lighter rains were observed in other areas including Belize, southern and eastern Honduras, and Nicaragua. Other areas, such as southern Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama, were mostly dry. In Costa Rica and Panama, this resulted in negative rainfall anomalies of 10-50mm for the week. Over the past 30 days, below-average rain occurred in northern Belize, northern Honduras, eastern Costa Rica, and Panama. Dryness has been building in eastern Honduras and the southern Caribbean for many weeks. However, improvement has been seen through the rest of Central America where above average rainfall is now present. Vegetation health indices indicate generally satisfactory vegetation for many parts of the region. Some indications of degraded ground conditions from recent dryness are evident in parts of Panama.

For next week, model forecasts suggest moderate rain (25-50mm and locally more) is expected in eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and Panama. Lighter rains should be scattered through the remainder of the region. Generally speaking, outside of eastern Nicaragua, rainfall totals are expected to be below average this week. Above-average temperatures are expected in Guatemala and Belize, though Guatemala's highest elevations could still drop close to freezing.

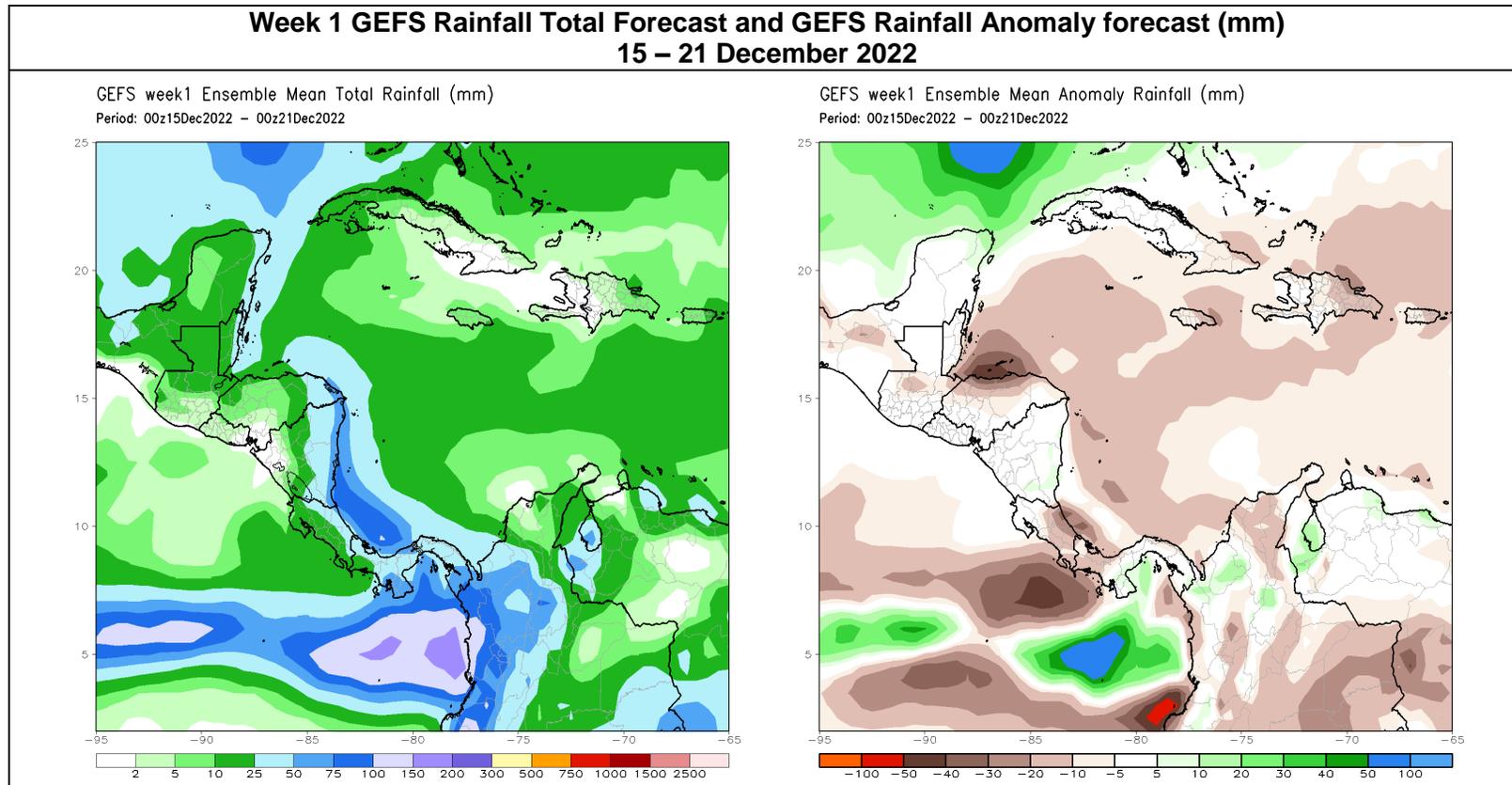


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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