

## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 13 – 19 February 2025

Light above-average conditions are likely to occur in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.



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.

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### **Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected over Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.**

Last week, local areas in southwestern and northwestern Guatemala, northern and southern Belize, and central Costa Rica observed moderate to heavy rainfall. In these areas, above-average rainfall conditions of 10-50 mm were registered. Meanwhile, the lack of rainfall prevailed across much of the interior of the sub-region. For the past 30 days, total rainfall remained above-average in coastal areas of Belize, southeastern Nicaragua, and central-eastern Costa Rica. The largest (> 300 mm) rainfall surpluses were observed in central Costa Rica. In contrast, below-average rainfall between 25 mm and 50 mm was registered in northern-central Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and eastern Panama. A local area in southwestern Guatemala showed deficits of 100 – 200 mm. Regarding minimum temperatures, warmer conditions of 2 – 6°C were observed over Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. Local reports mentioned that the inadequate rainfall and the warmer temperatures are deteriorating the vegetation health across Guatemala, El Salvador and southern Honduras. For vegetation conditions, the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index indicated below-average vegetation over Belize, southeastern Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, northern and southeastern Nicaragua, most parts of Costa Rica, and along the Caribbean-facing areas of Panama. Meanwhile, in the rest of Central America, near-average to above-average vegetation conditions dominate.

Next week, rainfall forecasts suggest moderate to heavy rainfall in southwestern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, most parts of Costa Rica, and Panama. In these regions, above-average rainfall between 10 mm and 50 mm is expected. Meanwhile, the rest of the region expects near-average conditions with light rainfall totals of 10 – 25 mm. These patterns might help to maintain the wetter-than-average conditions observed in the past 30 days in eastern Nicaragua and central-north Costa Rica. Moreover, warmer weather patterns will likely continue as above-average mean temperatures up to 4°C are expected across the region.

