

Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 20 – 26 February 2025

Above-average conditions are likely to happen in Guatemala 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 in Guatemala and Panama.

Last week, rainfall ranging from 10 mm to 75 mm was observed in localized areas in Guatemala, southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and northern Panama. Meanwhile, the lack of rainfall prevailed across Central America. Above-average conditions were observed in local areas in western Guatemala, central Costa Rica, southeastern Costa Rica and northwestern Panama. Meanwhile, near-average conditions were observed elsewhere. For the past 30 days, total rainfall remained above-average in coastal areas of Belize, southeastern Nicaragua, and central-eastern Costa Rica. In contrast, below-average rainfall between 25 mm and 50 mm was registered in northern-central Guatemala. Localized areas in southwestern Guatemala and northwestern Nicaragua showed deficits of 100 – 200 mm. The latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index indicated below-average vegetation over Belize, Guatemala, eastern Honduras, eastern 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. Moreover, maximum and minimum temperatures were warmer than average over Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and western Honduras. These warmer temperatures have helped accelerate soil moisture evaporation, which has deteriorated vegetation health in these countries.

Next week, GEFS rainfall forecasts suggest light rainfall in most of Central America. The exceptions are western-central Guatemala, eastern Costa Rica, and most parts of Panama, where the forecast suggests moderate rainfall. Guatemala, and central and southern Panama expect above-average rainfall between 10 mm and 40 mm, while eastern Nicaragua expects below-average conditions. Near-average rainfall conditions are likely to continue for the rest of the region. Moreover, warmer weather patterns will likely continue as above-average minimum temperatures up to 2°C are expected in Guatemala, El Salvador, southwestern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua.

