

Above-average rainfall with Erratic Distribution over Haiti

Key messages

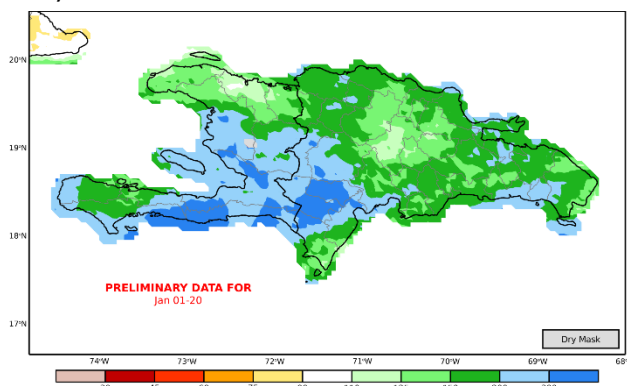
- Above-average cumulative rainfall with erratic distribution is reported over Haiti in late December–January, increasing localized runoff and erosion risks.
- Vegetation conditions are generally above average, driven by short-term soil moisture gains, with localized stress persisting.
- Current and forecast early spring conditions are broadly favorable, but benefits remain fragile due to rainfall irregularity and non-climatic constraints.

Rainfall Variability, Vegetation Response, and Agroclimatic Implications

During late December 2025 and January 2026, Haiti experienced above-average cumulative rainfall. However, these positive anomalies were primarily driven by episodic heavy rainfall events interspersed with prolonged dry spells, reflecting significant intra-seasonal variability. This uneven temporal distribution reduced effective infiltration and increased localized risks of surface runoff, soil erosion, and nutrient leaching, particularly in lowland areas and steeply sloped watersheds. The rainfall map (Figure 1) highlights the spatial heterogeneity of these precipitation patterns across the country.

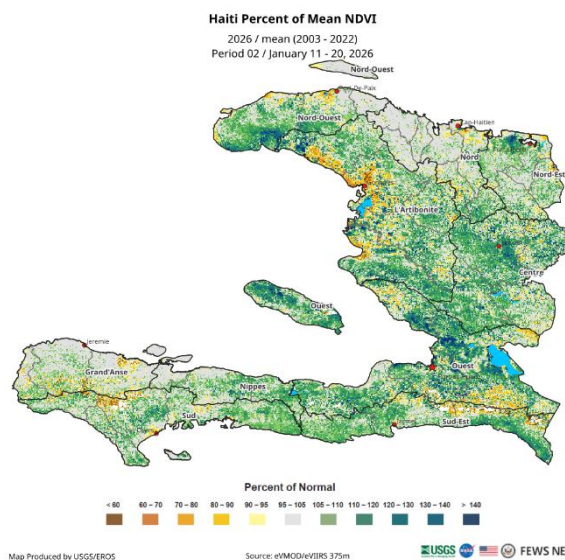
Vegetation conditions, as indicated by positive NDVI anomalies, are generally above average across large portions of Haiti. This response reflects short-term soil moisture recharge following late-December rainfall, combined with near- to slightly below-average temperatures that reduced evapotranspiration demand. The most pronounced vegetation improvements are observed in parts of Artibonite, Ouest, Sud-Est, and the Gonaïves area, although localized pockets of vegetation stress persist in areas affected by

Figure 1. Percent of average rainfall December 21, 2025 – January 20, 2026.



Source: CHC/FEWSNET

Figure 2. Percent of mean Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, January 11 -20, 2026.



Source: USGS/FEWS NET



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rainfall intermittency. These contrasts are illustrated in the NDVI anomaly map (Figure 2).

From an agroclimatic perspective, current conditions are broadly conducive to the preparation and early initiation of the Spring agricultural season. However, the sustainability of these conditions remains highly dependent on improved rainfall regularity in the coming weeks. February forecasts indicate near-average rainfall and temperature conditions, which could support crop establishment if precipitation becomes more evenly distributed. Nevertheless, anticipated impacts on food security are expected to remain limited and uneven, as the translation of favorable climatic conditions into durable food security gains continues to be constrained by non-climatic factors, including access to agricultural inputs, security conditions, and market functioning.