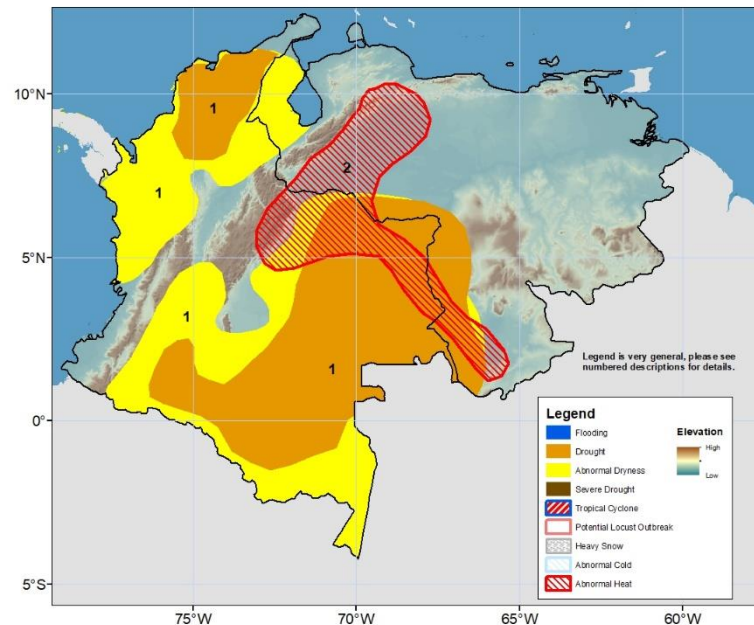


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 4 January – 10 January 2024

Drier and warmer-than-average conditions forecast to persist in Northern South America during the next week



During late December of the past year, scattered heavy and above-average rainfall was observed across the Andes and Amazon Basin in western and southern Colombia, respectively. Meanwhile, dry but typical conditions during the time of the year were experienced in northern Colombia and most areas in Venezuela. Over the past 30 days, parts of northern and eastern Colombia and southern Venezuela exhibited drier-than-average conditions, with rainfall deficits between 50-200 mm. In contrast, the past few weeks' enhanced rainfall led to near-average to wetter-than-average conditions in western Colombia. Over the past 90 days, cumulative rainfall accounted for only 25-50% of the average across northern, eastern, and southern Colombia and much of Venezuela. This prolonged dryness has led to large moisture deficits, reduced water availability, and notably deteriorated vegetation across the region. In Colombia, livestock have been mainly affected by the dryness, prompting cattle to be relocated due to deteriorated pasture (**polygons 1**). It is also reported that river levels are lower than normal in the Amazon Basin.

During the next week, although moderate to locally heavy rainfall is forecast to continue in western and southern Colombia and southern Venezuela, rainfall amounts will likely be below-average, which could maintain dryness in the region. Additionally, temperature forecasts indicate that above-average maximum temperatures (+1-4°C anomaly) is likely to occur in eastern Colombia and western Venezuela, potentially worsening crop conditions and affecting vulnerable people in the region (**polygon 2**).

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