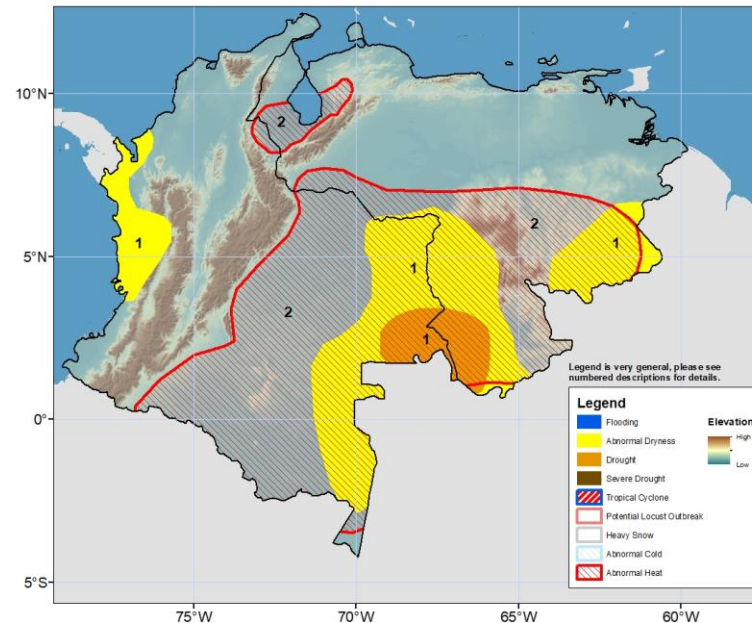


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 21 March – 27 March 2024

Hot and drier than average conditions observed and to continue over Colombia and Venezuela



During the past week, scattered moderate to locally heavy rainfall was observed in central and parts of western Colombia, as well as far-southern Venezuela, whereas dry conditions dominated to the north. Localized maximum rainfall totals were 100-200 mm, however most areas outside of central Colombia registered negative 7-day anomalies. Over the past 30 days, below-average rainfall persisted in Colombia, southern, and parts of eastern and western Venezuela. Over the past 90 days, cumulative rainfall remained between 25-80% of the average across western/southern Colombia and southern/eastern Venezuela. Abnormal dryness and drought hazards are posted over the most abnormally dry portions in the south and west of the region, where short-term and long-term rainfall deficits exceeded 100 mm (**Polygon 1**). Additionally, abnormally hot and drier conditions have already adversely impacted agriculture and livestock in many local areas in Colombia, according to reports. In Venezuela, vegetation conditions continued to be below-average in the north-central part of the country due to a poor rainfall distribution over the past six months. These same conditions create an environment conducive to wild fires and several have been burning in Colombia.

For next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is predicted across western Colombia (75-150 mm total) and moderate rain (25-50 mm) is likely in southern Colombia. However, despite some light to moderate rainfall in the South, forecasted amounts will likely be much-below average in Venezuela, which may strengthen dryness in the region. Meanwhile, an abnormal heat hazard is placed in southern and central Venezuela, central and southern Colombia, as well as northwestern Venezuela, as above-average maximum temperatures (4-6°C anomalies), potentially affecting vulnerable people are forecast 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.