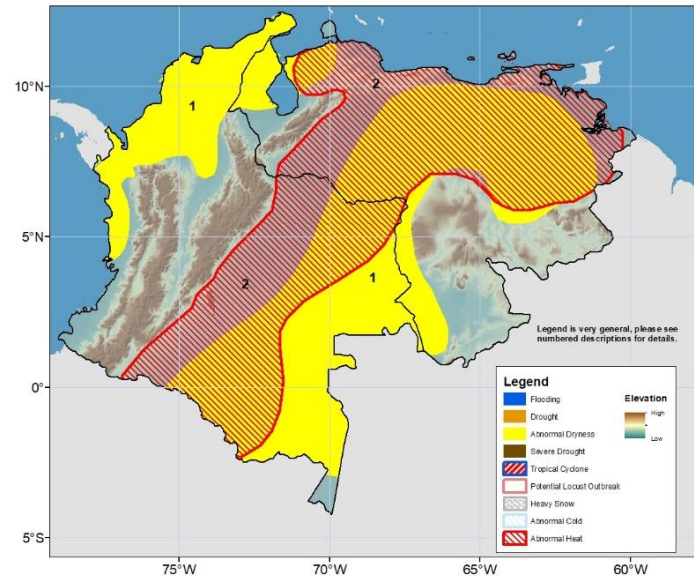


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 21 September – 27 September 2023

Dry and heat conditions continue to dominate much of Colombia and Venezuela.



During the last week, rainfall totals exceeding 100 mm were observed in the Pacific and Caribbean regions of Colombia. Rainfall totals of 50-100mm were observed in the Zulia and Bolivar states of Venezuela and Guainía state in Colombia. Scattered moderate showers were observed across the rest of Colombia and much of Venezuela, except for the Northeast. However, the majority of the region observed dryer-than-average rainfall conditions (25-100 mm anomalies) during the last week. Only parts of the Columbian Andes received near-average rainfall. In Colombia, rainfall deficits and irregular rainfall over the La Guajira department have led to deteriorating field conditions since the beginning of the year. Farmers did not sow the first crop cycle in this region, and water access for human and animal consumption is significantly limited. Due to the continuing and expanding rainfall deficits in the seasonal period, significant vegetation stress, SPI less than -1.5σ below the mean, abnormal dryness polygons are placed in areas in Colombia's Pacific and Caribbean regions, the southern amazon region, and the Amazon border between Colombia and Venezuela, as well as central and northern Venezuela (**Polygons 1**).

During the next week, much of the Northern-South America region is expected to continue to receive dryer-than-average conditions (totals less than 50 mm). The largest deficits are expected across central and eastern Venezuela as well as western Colombia. Most of the region can expect 20-50mm of rain although heavy rainfall in excess of 75mm is forecast in northern and western Colombia and localized portions of Bolivar Venezuela.

During last week, maximum temperatures were 2-4°C warmer than average in many parts of southern and eastern Colombia and many parts of Venezuela. Furthermore, maximum temperatures will likely be between 30°C and 40°C and warmer than average (2-4°C) in most of the region excepting the Columbian Andes. As a result, abnormal heat polygon hazards are placed over these regions (**Polygons 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.