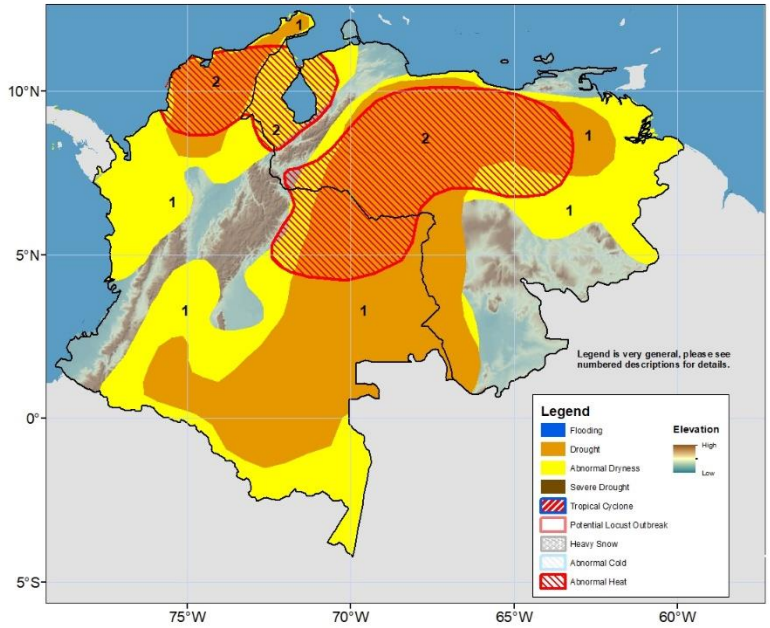
Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
14 December – 20 December 2023

Rainfall deficits and high temperatures continue across the region.



During the last week, moderate to heavy rainfall (between 25 mm and 100 mm) was registered in parts of southern Colombia, southern and eastern Venezuela. Higher amounts up to 150 mm were registered along the Pacific coast of Columbia. Little rain was observed over the remainder of the region. Most of the region observed 7-day rainfall deficits, except a few small areas to the west of the Andes in Colombia registered positive anomalies (25-100 mm above average). Over the past 30 days, the Caribbean, Llanos, and Amazonía regions of Colombia, as well as the Amazonas and eastern Bolivar states of Venezuela, showed rainfall deficits larger than 100 mm. Rainfall deficits also prevailed over the past 90 days, with the driest conditions over northern and eastern Colombia, northwestern and southwestern Venezuela, where total rainfall deficits were larger than 500 mm. This prolonged dryness has led to large moisture deficits, reduced water availability, and deteriorated vegetation across the region. In Colombia, livestock has been mainly affected by the dry conditions, and thus, cattle are being relocated due to deteriorated pasture. Further, dryness and elevated temperatures are still causing crop problems due to irrigation deficits in the Caribbean areas in northern Venezuela (**polygons 1**).

During the next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected across southern and western portions of the region, with the anomalously high rainfall predicted in southern and western Colombia and southwestern Venezuela (50-100 mm or more). However, dryer than average conditions are expected in eastern Venezuela. Furthermore, above-average maximum temperatures will prevail in northern Colombia and northern Venezuela. These warmer temperatures and rainfall deficits may worsen vegetation conditions and affect vulnerable people in the region (**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.

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