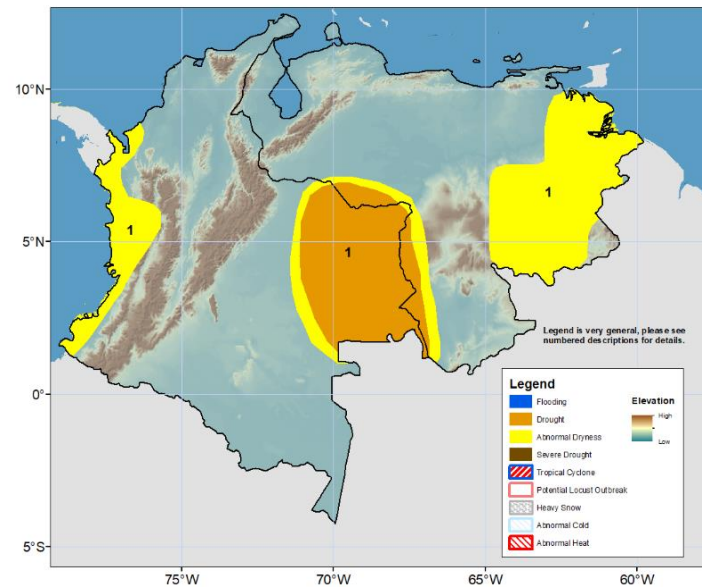


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 15 – 21 February 2024

Insufficient rainfall over the past months has led to dryness and drought in Colombia and Venezuela.



Moderate to heavy rainfall continued during last week over most parts of Colombia, as well as northwestern and southern Venezuela. Heavy rainfall (> 100 mm) was observed in localized areas in southeastern Colombia, western Colombia Andes, southern Colombia Amazonia, surrounding areas of the Maracaibo Lake in Venezuela, and southwestern Guayana in Venezuela. In these areas, positive anomalies reach up to 300 mm above the average values. The rainfall events during the last two weeks have helped to relieve some of the dryness observed across the region, particularly over the eastern side of Colombia and western Venezuela, where the 30-day analysis shows favorable rainfall conditions between 50 mm and 500 mm. However, due to consistently drier, below-average rainfall conditions, rainfall deficits are still observed in northwestern Colombia and southern Venezuela. Further, during the past 90 days, cumulative rainfall was below average, with totals ranging between 5-50% of the average in parts of northern and eastern Colombia and northern and eastern Venezuela. Abnormal dryness polygons are maintained over the dry portions of Colombia and Venezuela, where 90-day rainfall deficits exceed 100 mm (Polygons 1). According to reports, the insufficient rainfall has already adversely impacted agriculture and livestock in many local areas in Colombia. Additionally, above-average temperatures have exacerbated dryness in many parts of Northern South America over the past month.

Next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is predicted across Colombia and eastern Venezuela. Regarding anomaly, above-than-average rainfall of 20-50 mm is expected in most parts of Northern South America. Meanwhile, maximum temperatures are forecasted to average 35-40°C in northern and eastern Colombia, and in most parts of western and central Venezuela.

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.