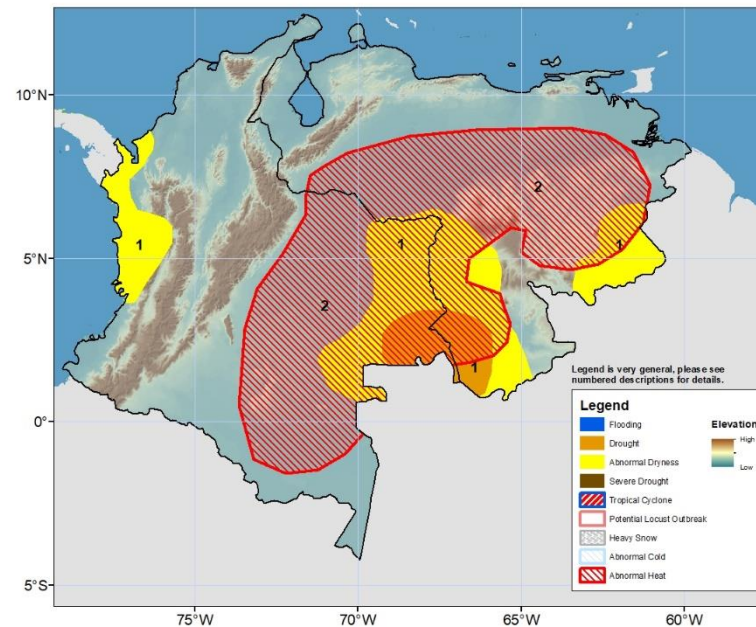


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 7 March – 13 March 2024

Hot and dry conditions observed and to continue over Colombia and Venezuela



During the past week, scattered moderate to heavy rainfall was observed in western and southern Colombia, as well as southern Venezuela, whereas dry conditions dominated elsewhere. Over the past 30 days, rainfall was above-average across central Colombia and western Venezuela due to above-average rainfall during early to mid-February. However, below-average persisted in western, southwestern, and part of eastern Colombia, southern, and eastern Venezuela. Over the past 90 days, cumulative rainfall remained between 25-80% of the average across most places in Northern South America. Abnormal dryness and drought hazards are posted over the dry portions in the region, where short-term and long-term rainfall deficits exceeded 50 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 forest fires and 20 significant ones are already burning in Colombia across many provinces.

For next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is predicted across southern Venezuela and southern Colombia (25-100 mm total) and western Colombia (75-150 mm total). However, forecasted amounts will likely be below-average in Venezuela and scattered portions of Colombia, which may strengthen dryness over many areas in the region. Meanwhile, an abnormal heat hazard is placed in southern/eastern Colombia and southern/central Venezuela as above-average maximum temperatures, 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.