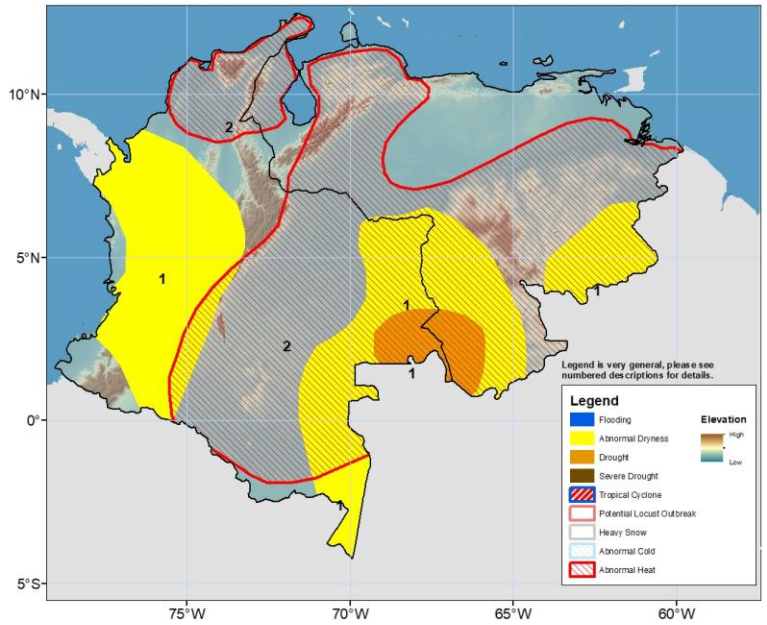
Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
18 April – 24 April 2024

Drier and hotter than average conditions observed in Northern South America



During the past week, scattered, moderate to heavy rain fell in western, central, and southern Colombia, and southern Venezuela, while dry conditions prevailed elsewhere. This past week's total rainfall was mostly below-average across Northern South America, which contributed to increase 30-day rainfall deficits and strengthen dryness in western, southern, and eastern Colombia, southern, and eastern Venezuela (**Polygons 1**) and erode 30-day surpluses in west-central Colombia. Over the past 90 days, rainfall deficits between 100-500 mm spread across these dry portions of the region, indicating largely insufficient rainfall in the region since mid-January. In addition persistent above-average temperatures have also already negatively impacted agriculture and livestock production over many local areas in Colombia, according to reports. In western Venezuela, poor rainfall is lowering reservoir water levels and streamflow, which, in turn, is reducing hydroelectric power generation.

During the next week, widespread and heavy rainfall is forecasted for Northern South America. Rainfall amounts are expected to vary between 50-200 mm, with the highest totals in west-central and southern Colombia, and the western and southern parts of Venezuela. The forecasted above-average rainfall should help erode short-term and long-term deficits, replenish soil moisture, and aid cropping activities over many local areas in the region. Also, a wide area in northern, southern, and eastern Colombia, and western and southern Venezuela could experience abnormal heat as well above-average maximum temperatures are expected to continue, potentially affecting vulnerable and sensitive people (**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.

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