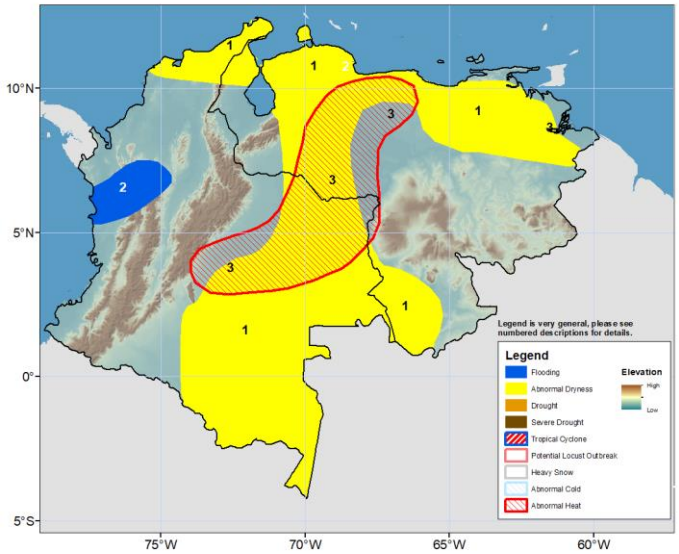
Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
10 – 16 October 2024

Abnormally high heat is expected across eastern Colombia and western Venezuela.



Over the last week, moderate to heavy rainfall (>75 mm) occurred over western Colombia, southeastern Venezuela, and a small localized area in Valencia and San Felipe states of Venezuela. However, the majority of the region recorded precipitation deficits ranging between 25 – 100 mm. Below-average precipitation over the last 30 days has been a consistent signal and warrants the abnormal dryness polygon over much of eastern Colombia and western and northern Venezuela (**Polygon 1**). Furthermore, over the last 90 days, the dry signal has persisted with portions of northern Venezuela, including the States of Falcon, Lara, Anzoátegui, and Monagas, noting cumulative rainfall deficits between 5-25 percent of the average (**Polygon 1**). The inadequate rainfall during the last several months has also led to poor vegetation in some areas across the region, especially in the Venezuelan states of Falcon, Lara, and Monagas and the Colombian states of Tolima and Huila. In addition, the abnormal heat has supported wildfires in a few areas in Colombia and Venezuela.

Next week, forecasts are predicting heavy rainfall (>50 mm) along the western coast of Colombia, northern Colombia, northwestern Venezuela, and over few areas in central Venezuela. Near-average rainfall are expected over western Colombia and northern Venezuela and. Meanwhile, rainfall deficits ranging between 10 – 50 mm are predicted in most parts of the region. A continuation of moderate to heavy rainfall in already saturated soil could result in flooding and landslides in northwestern Colombia (**Polygon 2**). Forecasts suggest temperatures will range from 30 – 40 °C across eastern and southern Colombia and much of Venezuela, with the highest temperatures over southern Colombia as well as southern Venezuela. The largest temperature anomalies (2 – 4 °C) are expected to stretch from eastern Colombia into western Venezuela and have the potential to be hazardous (**Polygon 3**).

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.

Questions or comments about the hazards outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov