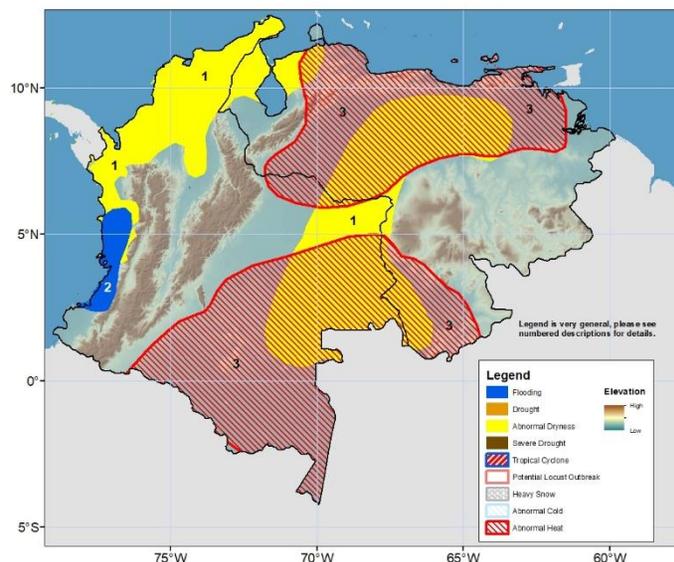


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 7 September – 12 September 2023

Dry and heat conditions have expanded across Colombia and Venezuela.



During the last week, rainfall totals exceeding 100 mm were observed in the Pacific and Caribbean regions of Colombia and in the Zulia, Bolivar, and Amazonas departments of Venezuela. Some localized moderate showers were observed across Columbia. However, the northwestern, northern, and eastern departments of Colombia and the majority of Venezuela observed dryer-than-average rainfall conditions (25-100 mm below normal) during the last week. In Colombia, rainfall deficits and irregular rainfall over the La Guajira department have led to deteriorating field conditions since the beginning of the year. Farmers did not sow the first crop cycle in this region, and water access for human and animal consumption is significantly limited. Due to the continuing rainfall deficits in the seasonal period, significant vegetation stress, SPI less than -1.5σ below the mean, abnormal dryness polygons are placed in areas in Colombia's Pacific and Caribbean regions and the Amazon border between Colombia and Venezuela, as well as central Venezuela (**Polygons 1**).

During the next week, much of the Northern-South America region is expected to receive dryer-than-average conditions. The largest deficits are expected to happen in western and central Colombia, the Amazonas and Apure departments (Venezuela). Meanwhile, above-average rainfall conditions were observed in localized areas in southwestern Colombia, the Colombia Andes, and in a localized area in central Venezuela (values bigger than 75 mm). Due to the positive rainfall anomalies observed in the 90 days period and heavy rainfall forecasted by the GEFS model a flood polygon is placed between the western coast and the Andes region in Colombia (**Polygon 2**).

During last week, maximum temperatures were as much as 2-4°C warmer than average in many parts of Colombia and were as much as 3-5°C warmer than average in western and northeastern Venezuela. Furthermore, maximum temperatures will likely be between 30°C and 40°C and warmer than average (2-6°C) in most of the region excepting western Columbia. As a result, abnormal heat polygon hazards are placed over these regions (**Polygons 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.