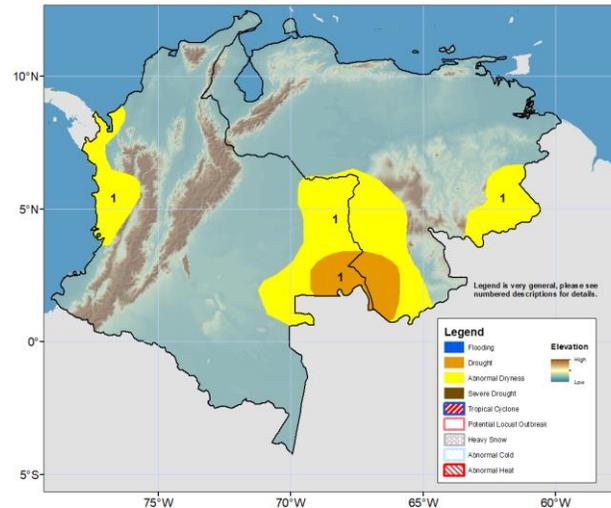


Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 22 – 28 February 2024

Rainfall deficits will continue in the western and eastern regions of Colombia and Venezuela.



Moderate to heavy rainfall continued during last week over western, southern, and eastern Colombia, as well as southern Venezuela. Particularly heavy rainfall (> 100 mm) was observed in localized areas in southeastern Colombia, which registered positive anomalies between 25 mm and 100 mm. The rainfall during the last couple of weeks has helped to relieve some of the dryness observed across the region, particularly over the western and eastern sides of Colombia and southwestern and eastern Venezuela. Meanwhile, the 30-day analysis shows above-average rainfall conditions between 50 mm and 500 mm in localized areas across Colombia, surrounding areas of Maracaibo Lake, and areas in the western Amazon region of Venezuela. However, due to consistently drier, below-average rainfall conditions, rainfall deficits are still observed in northwestern Colombia and southwestern Venezuela. Further, during the past 90 days, cumulative rainfall was below average, with totals ranging between 1-50% of the average in parts of northern and southeastern 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 200 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. The low values of vegetation indexes across central Venezuela are the result of the low and erratic rainfall that has been observed during the last six months.

Next week, moderate to heavy rainfall is predicted across Colombia and southern Venezuela. Regarding anomaly, below-than-average rainfall of 20-100 mm is expected in most parts of Colombia and southern and eastern Venezuela. Meanwhile, below-average maximum temperatures are forecasted in northern Colombia, and northwestern Venezuela, in this places maximum temperatures are average to be between 20-40°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.

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