Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
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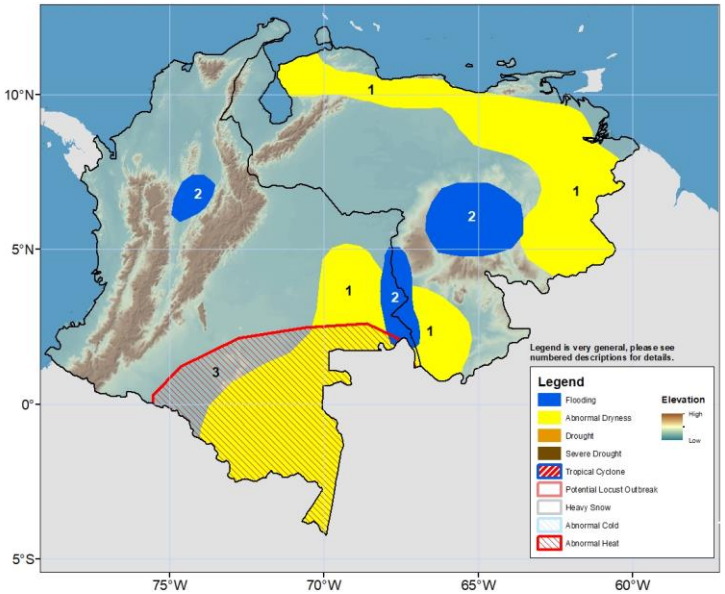
Abnormally dry conditons are expanding in southern and eastern portions of Colombia.



During the last week, the heaviest rain (100 to 300 mm) was observed in central and southern Venezuela. Localized totals of more than 100mm were also observed over western, central, and eastern Colombia. Areas of southern Colombia, northern Colombia and northern Venezuela received much lighter rainfall less than 25mm, and even close to zero in some cases. These patterns yielded positive rainfall anomalies between 25 mm and 200 mm above the mean locally in the Colombia Andes, as well as parts of central and southern Venezuela where flooding is likely taking place. Other areas in southern/eastern Colombia and northeastern Venezuela received below-average rainfall (25 – 100 mm anomalies). Over the past 30 days, positive rainfall anomalies ranged from 100 mm to 500 mm in parts of central and western Colombia, and Bolivar, Amazonas in Venezuela. In contrast, rainfall deficits between 100 and 300 mm were registered in northeastern Venezuela and eastern/southern Colombia (**Polygons 1**). Over the 90-day term, Anzoátegui and Monagas states of Venezuela showed accumulated rainfall deficits between 5-25 percent of the average. Over the past several months, the lack of rainfall and above-average temperatures have negatively impacted vegetation health across northern Venezuela, and southern Colombia, where satellite analysis indicates that vegetation health is poor.

The forecast suggests heavy rainfall (100 – 200 mm) in western Colombia and central Venezuela. Only in northern Venezuela and far-southern Colombia are rainfall totals expected to be less than 50 mm during the outlook period. The heaviest rainfall will yield positive anomalies of 10 – 100 mm. This rainfall pattern could lead to floods and landslides in central Colombia, where soils are already saturated, and Colombia and Bolivar states in Venezuela (**Polygons 2**). Meanwhile, the forecast suggests that maximum temperatures will be 2 – 4°C warmer than average in southern Colombia (**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.

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