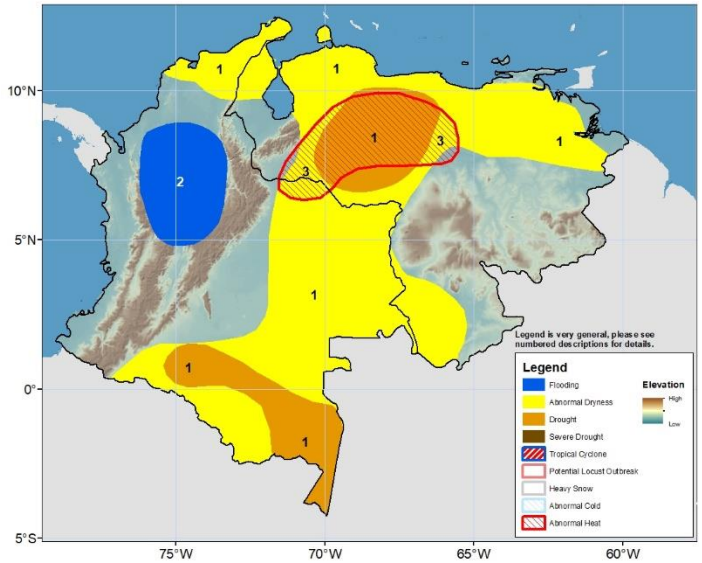
# Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook
# For USAID / FEWS-NET
# 19 – 25 December 2024

**Floods expected over northern Colombia while drought persists over Venezuela.**




Over the last 7 days, light to moderate rainfall (<75 mm) fell along Colombia's Pacific coast, southern Colombia, and southern and eastern Venezuela. Small storms produced light rainfall across localized areas of the Andes in Colombia. The pattern resulted in much of the region having rainfall deficits of 10 – 50 mm. Some coastal regions of Colombia experienced deficits of 100 – 200 mm. Over the last 30 days, below-average precipitation widely persisted, warranting abnormal dryness over much of eastern and southern Colombia and western and northern Venezuela (**Polygons 1**). Furthermore, over the last 90 days, a dry signal has been the dominant feature over the region, with portions of northern Venezuela and southern Colombia noting cumulative rainfall accounting for only 5 – 25% of the average. The extended period of dryness and above-average temperatures has resulted in low soil moisture levels, poor vegetation health, and an enhanced number of wild fires over areas of the region, especially in northern Venezuela. Consequently, drought hazards remain for northern Venezuela and southern Colombia (**Polygons 1**). Reports have noted that Guárico and Apure states in Venezuela are at risk for a food crisis due to these conditions.

Next week, models predict moderate to heavy rainfall (50 – 200 mm) will be widespread across Colombia while light to moderate precipitation (5 – 75 mm) is expected across Venezuela. While these rainfall surpluses may help reduce the effects of the drought, it poses a heightened potential for flooding due to increased risk of runoff. Areas in northern Colombia are also at risk for flooding due to previously saturated soils and complex terrain (**Polygon 2**). Maximum temperatures are forecasted to range from 30 – 40°C across northern and southern portions of Venezuela. Parts of northern Venezuela should experience positive maximum temperature anomalies of 2 – 4°C (**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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