Climate Prediction Northern South America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
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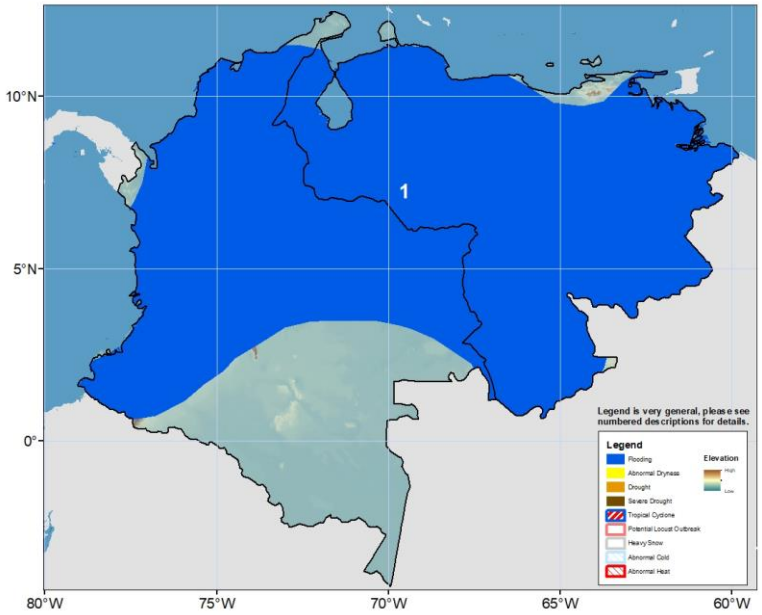
Northern South America likely to experience widespread flooding during the next week



During the past week, many local areas of western, central, and southern Colombia and western and southern Venezuela recorded heavy and above-average rainfall. The observed heavy rainfall has led to landslides, which have caused fatalities and damages in the Sabaneta Municipality in the Antioquia Department of northwestern Colombia, according to reports. In northern Colombia, the Magdalena River level has also overflown its banks, according to report. Over the past 30 days, most areas of northern South America registered near-average to above-average rainfall due to the past few weeks' consistent rainfall. In contrast, pocket areas of southern, western, and northeastern Colombia and southern Venezuela recorded below-average rainfall. While the continuation of seasonal rainfall contributes to benefit cropping activities in northern South America, excessive moisture may also lead to oversaturated soil and flooding, which could also hamper food production.

Next week, rainfall forecasts suggest that western and northern Colombia and the southern two-thirds of Venezuela will receive copious amounts (> 100 mm) in rainfall. The forecast torrential rainfall could, therefore, lead to widespread and severe flooding, landslides, and overflowing of rivers over many already-saturated and flood-prone areas of the sub-region (**Polygon 1**). Farther south, northern Bolivia will likely see light to moderate rainfall, which maintains moderate risks for flooding across the northern half of the country.

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