

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID/ FEWS-NET December 31, 2020 – January 6, 2021

Temperatures:

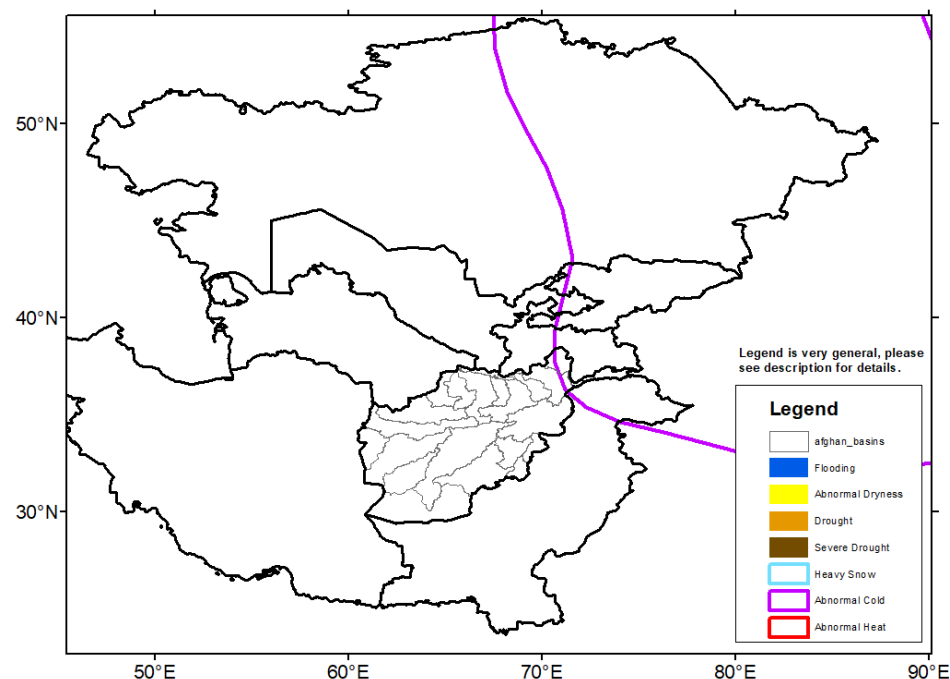
Below normal temperatures (-1 to -8 degrees C) persisted across most of Central Asia from Dec 20 to 26. During that time period, minimum temperatures fell below -30 degrees C across central and northeastern Kazakhstan, while subfreezing temperatures occurred at the lower elevations of Afghanistan.

The GFS model depicts that Arctic air is likely to persist over northeastern Kazakhstan where weekly temperatures are forecast to average more than -12 degrees C below normal and minimum temperatures could fall to near -40 degrees C. Based on the magnitude of this Arctic air, an abnormal cold hazard is posted for northeastern Kazakhstan. The abnormal cold hazard extends south to include Kyrgyzstan, eastern Tajikistan, and parts of northeast Afghanistan where below normal temperatures are forecast at the beginning of the outlook period.

Precipitation

According to the RFE satellite estimates and gauge observations, widespread precipitation (10 to 50 mm, liquid equivalent) occurred across northern Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and southern parts of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan during late December. Based on USGS snowfall analysis, positive snow depth anomalies currently exist across the central highlands of Afghanistan. Snow depth anomalies are more variable throughout the northeast mountains of Afghanistan.

The GFS model indicates that little or no precipitation will fall throughout the region during the first week of the New Year.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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