

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 11 - 17, 2021

Temperatures:

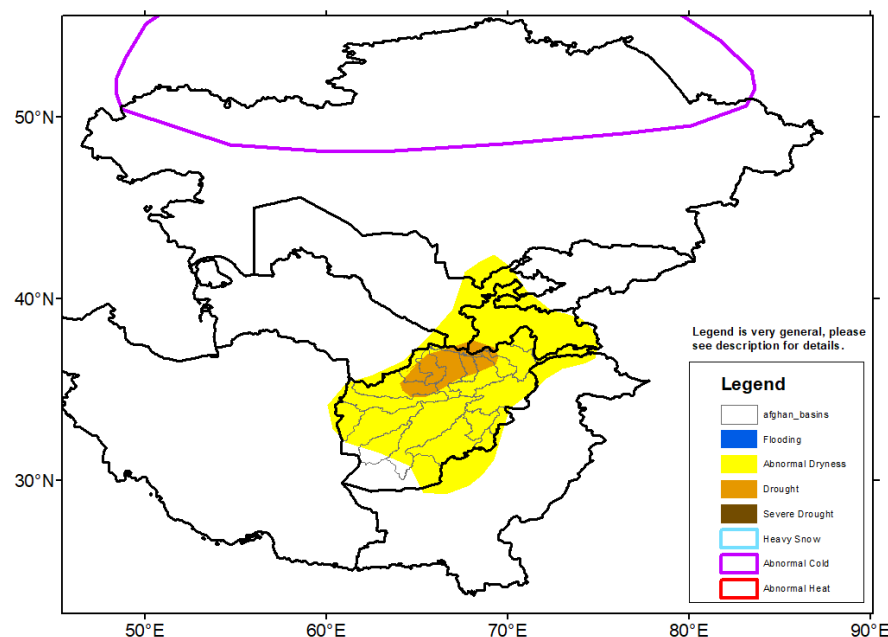
Much above normal temperatures (6 to 12 degrees C) were observed throughout the region from January 31 to February 6. Minimum temperatures ranged from around -20 degrees C across north-central Kazakhstan, while temperatures remained above freezing in the lower elevations of Afghanistan during early February.

The GFS model depicts that Arctic Air returns to northern Kazakhstan during mid-February with weekly temperatures forecast to average more than -10 degrees C below normal. Therefore, an abnormal cold hazard is posted for the northern third of Kazakhstan where minimum temperatures are expected to fall below -30 degrees C.

Precipitation

Mostly dry weather prevailed across a majority of the region from January 31 to February 6 with light to moderate snow (2 to 13 mm, liquid equivalent) limited to northern Kazakhstan. As of February 7, the largest negative snow depth anomalies continue across northeast Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan with smaller negative anomalies for the central highlands of Afghanistan. Based on these negative snow depth anomalies and 90-day precipitation deficits of more than 50 mm (according to RFE satellite estimates), the abnormal dryness hazard was expanded. A drought hazard was added to northern Afghanistan where RFE satellite estimates depict 90-day precipitation deficits of more than 100 mm. The increasing precipitation deficits are expected to affect spring wheat planting which typically begins later this month.

During the outlook period, light to moderate snow, less than 25 mm (liquid equivalent), is forecast for parts of Kazakhstan south into Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Mostly dry weather is likely to worsen ongoing abnormal dryness and drought for Afghanistan. If below normal precipitation persists through the remainder of February, drought would likely expand in spatial coverage.



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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