

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 18 - 24, 2021

Temperatures:

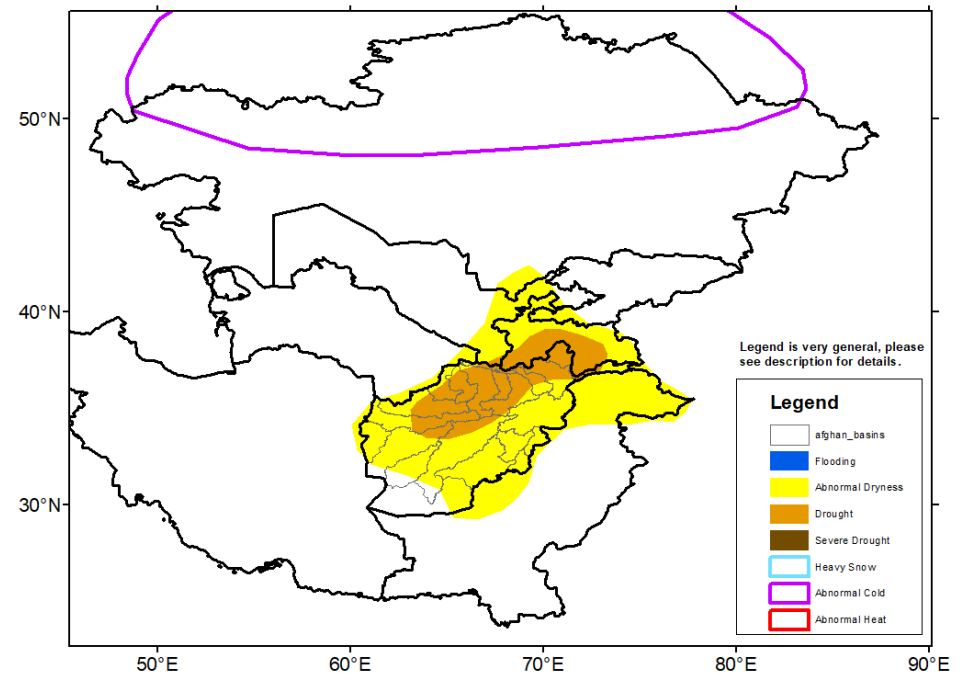
Below normal temperatures (-1 to -5 degrees C) were limited to northern Kazakhstan from February 7 to 13, while above normal temperatures (+3 to +9 degrees C) were prevailed across the remainder of the region. Minimum temperatures fell to -40 degrees C in parts of northern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperatures warmed into the middle 20s (degrees C) across western and southern Afghanistan which may prompt vegetative growth of dormant crops.

The GFS model depicts that Arctic Air persists throughout northern Kazakhstan during mid to late February with weekly temperatures forecast to average more than -8 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

Dry weather persisted across Afghanistan with snow (up to 60 mm, liquid equivalent) across northern and eastern Kazakhstan. As of February 14, negative snow depth anomalies continue across Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. 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 continues. The drought hazard is based on: negative snow depth anomalies and RFE satellite estimates of more than 100 mm for the past 90 days. The increasing precipitation deficits are expected to affect spring wheat planting which typically begins later this month.

During the outlook period, much needed rain and high-elevation snow (5 to 50 mm, liquid equivalent) is forecast for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and northeast parts of Afghanistan.



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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