

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 25 – March 3, 2021

Temperatures:

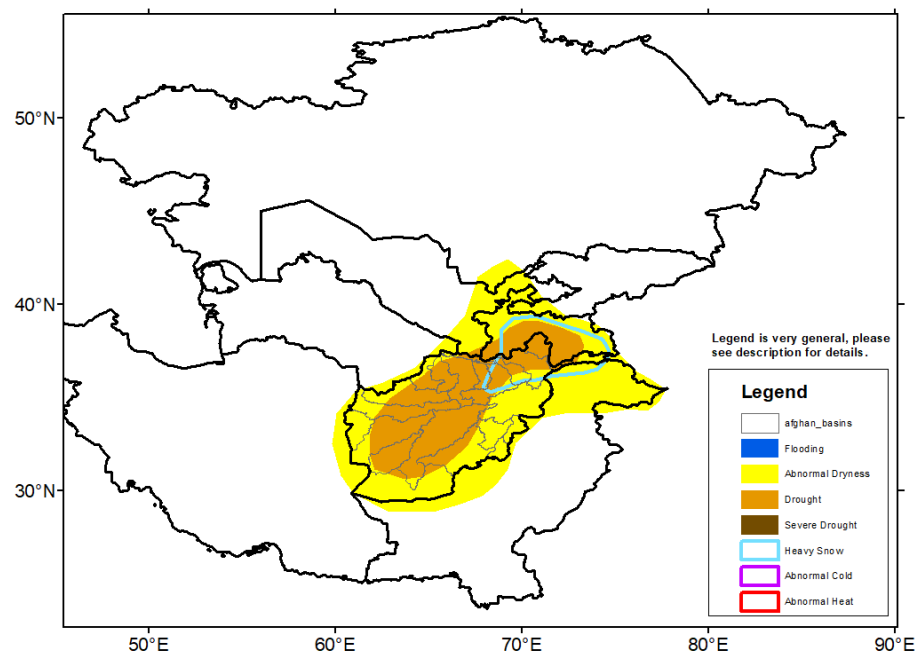
Above normal temperatures prevailed throughout Central Asia from February 14 to 20 with the largest positive anomalies (more than +7 degrees C) observed across southern Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Maximum temperatures warmed into the upper 20s to the lower 30s (degrees C) across southern parts of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan along with western Afghanistan. The above normal temperatures during early to mid-February may have prompted crops to break dormancy across the lower elevations of Afghanistan.

The GFS model depicts that temperatures are likely to average at or above normal during the remainder of February and into the beginning of March.

Precipitation

Mostly dry weather (less than 10 mm) persisted across Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan with moderate snow (10 to 25 mm, liquid equivalent) limited to northwestern Kazakhstan. As of February 21, 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.

On February 25 and 26, heavy snow (more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) is forecast for the northeast mountains of Afghanistan along with parts of Tajikistan.



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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