

## Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 4 - 10, 2021

### Temperatures:

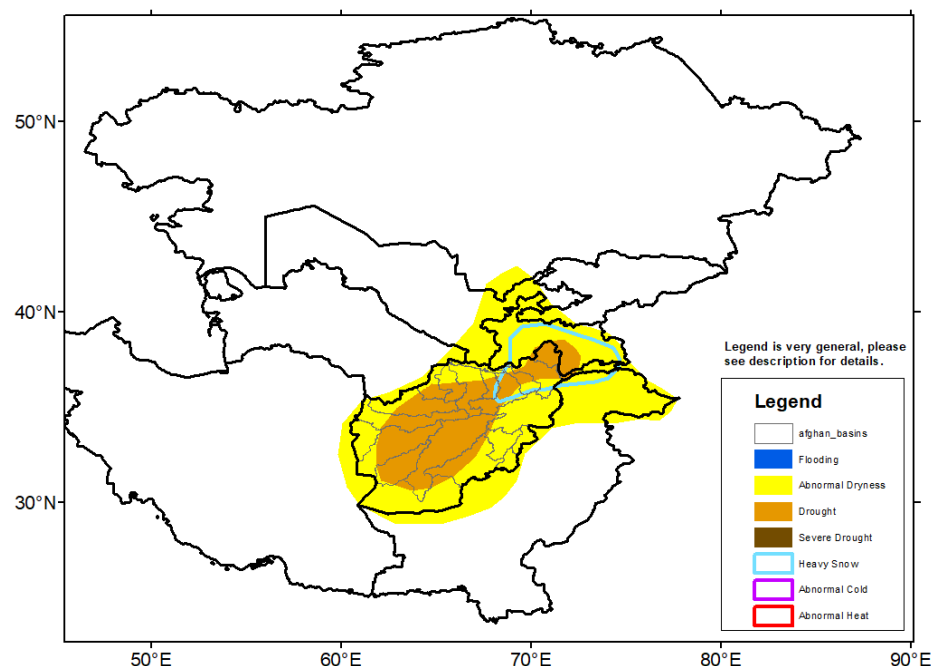
Much below normal temperatures returned to Kazakhstan during late February with weekly (Feb 21-27) temperatures averaging as much as -12 degrees C below normal. These below normal temperatures expanded to include western and northern Afghanistan. Minimum temperatures fell to near -40 degrees across northern Kazakhstan, while a hard freeze (observed lows of -8 degrees C) affected even the lower elevations of western Afghanistan.

The GFS model depicts that below normal temperatures are likely to persist across northern Kazakhstan but negative temperature anomalies are forecast to be smaller compared to the final week of February. Above normal temperatures are expected to return to Afghanistan with maximum temperatures warming into the mid to upper 20s (degrees C) in western and southern Afghanistan.

### Precipitation

Widespread snow fell throughout Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and the northeast mountains of Afghanistan. A couple of higher precipitation amounts (liquid equivalent) included 48 mm in Tajikistan and 24 mm in northern Afghanistan. Although negative snow depth anomalies persist across Afghanistan and Tajikistan, this recent snowfall decreased these negative anomalies and even resulted in small areas of slight positive anomalies in parts of northeast and central Afghanistan. Therefore, the spatial extent of the ongoing drought hazard was slightly reduced. 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 precipitation deficits are expected to affect spring wheat planting which typically begins later this month.

The heavy snow hazard is maintained for this outlook period for northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan since the GFS model depicts additional heavy snow (liquid equivalent of near 25 mm) for these areas.



**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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