

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 05 January – 11 January, 2023

Temperature:

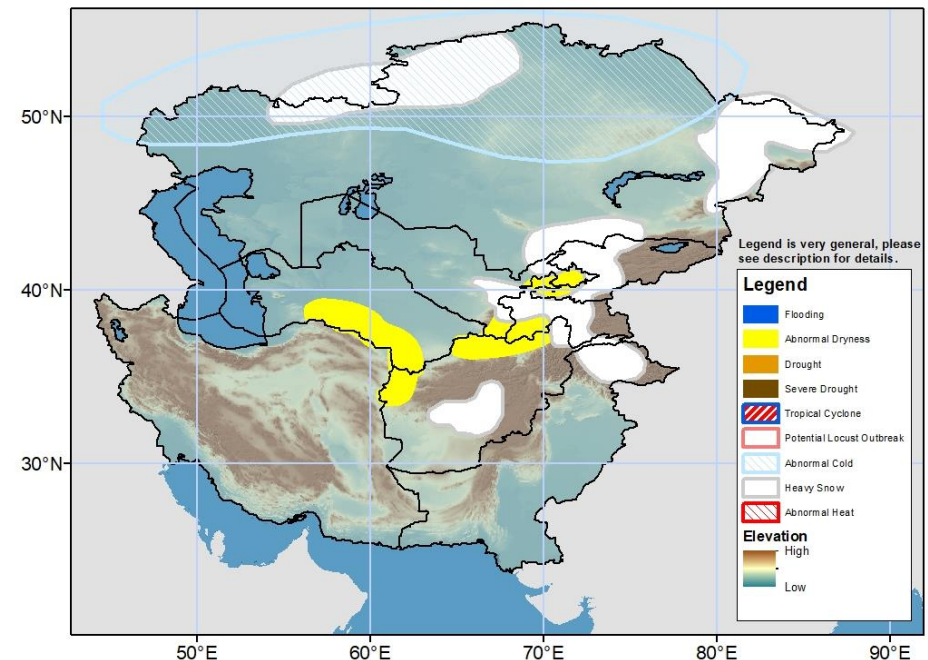
Weekly mean maximum temperatures were near or slightly above normal across much of the region. A pocket of eastern Kazakhstan registered positive anomalies of 4-6°C. Maximum temperature remained below freezing across the northern two thirds of Kazakhstan and exceeded 15°C in southwestern Afghanistan. Weekly mean minimum temperatures were even warmer than average (4-8°C anomalies) over the region. Despite the warmer than normal air mass, southern Afghanistan and Pakistan were the only portions of the region that remained above freezing.

The GEFS model forecasts an area of above-average temperatures (2-4°C anomalies) across southern and eastern parts of the region. The largest departures (4-8°C) are expected in the eastern Kazakhstan regions of Almaty, Pavlodar, and East Kazakhstan. However, much colder temperatures are present to the north and west. This air mass is forecasted to move into northern portions of Central Asia by the end of the period. At which time, minimum temperatures are likely to dip below 20°C in northern Kazakhstan and be more than 8°C below average so abnormal cold hazard is posted.

Precipitation:

This past week, light to moderate precipitation was observed across most of Central Asia. The highest liquid equivalent totals across the region were 10-25mm. Precipitation returned to Afghanistan where 5-25mm was measured. Central Asia has mostly been drier than normal during December. Consequently, based on USGS analysis, negative snow depth and SWE anomalies exist across much of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. Conversely, positive snow depth anomalies are present in eastern Kazakhstan and central Tajikistan. An abnormal dryness polygon is placed from northern Afghanistan to western Kyrgyzstan and from Afghanistan's Herat province to southern Turkmenistan due to low SPI values and low 30-day precipitation accumulation (25-50% of normal).

During the outlook period, multiple low pressure systems will trek across the region bringing precipitation mainly in the form of snow. The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts 10-25mm liquid equivalent across much of northern Kazakhstan and more than 25mm in parts Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. Heavy snow (>25cm) is expected in north-central and southern Kazakhstan and central/northern Afghanistan. More than 50cm of snow is likely in East Kazakhstan and the mountains of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Head, International Desks/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov. Questions about the USAID FEWS NET activity may be directed to Dr. James Verdin, Program Manager, FEWS NET/USAID, jverdin@usaid.gov.