Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
19 January – 25 January, 2023

Temperature:

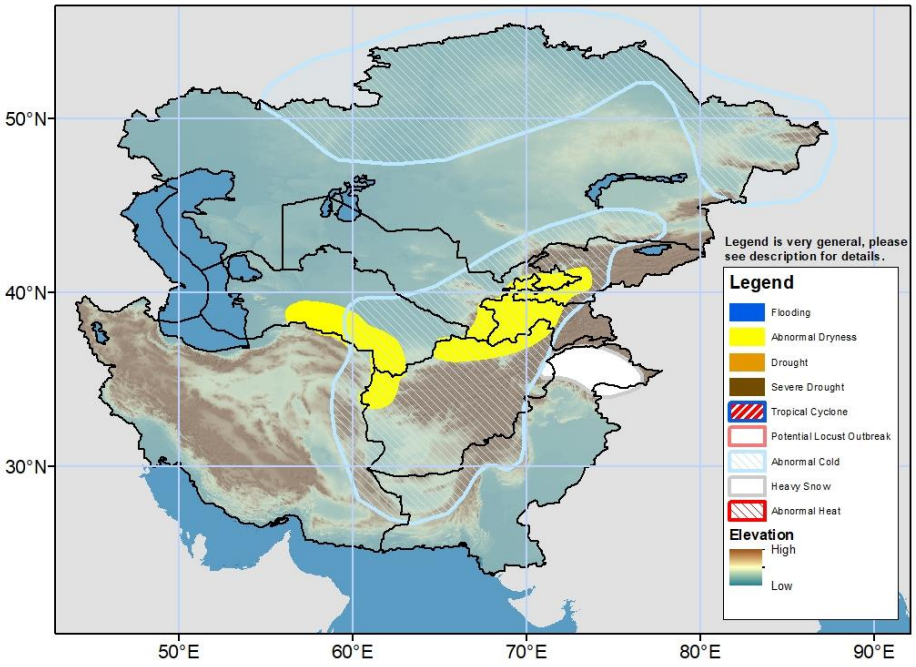
Temperatures were much colder than average across the entire region this past week with a strong arctic high in place. Both maximum and minimum temperatures were more than 10°C below average in southern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan Turkmenistan and northwestern Afghanistan. As a result, subfreezing temperatures were widespread across Iran, southern portions of Afghanistan, and even into Pakistan. Temperatures dropped well-below 20°C across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and into the Afghanistan's central highlands.

Arctic air will remain in place across central and southern parts of Central Asia. Negative anomalies will be slightly smaller but still significant with widespread subfreezing conditions. Temperatures in northern Kazakhstan will moderate during the first half of the period, before more anomalously cold air enters that region late in the period. Temperatures may again be at least 10°C below average so another abnormal cold hazard is placed.

Precipitation:

This past week, moderate to locally heavy precipitation (10-25mm or more liquid equivalent) was observed along an axis from Iran, stretching northeastward through eastern Kazakhstan. With the presence of cold air, most of this fell in the form of snow. The highest liquid equivalent totals (>25mm) and largest snow accumulations occurred in South Kaz, western Tajikistan, Kandahar Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan. Central portions of Central Asia have been drier than average during the past 10 weeks with 10-50mm anomalies observed. Additionally, based on USGS analysis, negative snow depth and SWE anomalies exist across much of Kyrgyzstan, eastern Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, though they are improving. Conversely, positive snow depth anomalies are present in parts of Kazakhstan and western Tajikistan. Abnormal dryness is placed from northern Afghanistan to western Kyrgyzstan and from Afghanistan's Herat province to southern Turkmenistan.

A system tracking through the southern part of the region will bring rain and snow to Afghanistan and Pakistan early in the outlook period. The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts 5-25mm liquid equivalent in Afghanistan and western Pakistan with much higher amounts in northern Pakistan. Conditions in the northern half of Central Asia will be quieter with light to moderate snow in northeastern Kazakhstan.



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