

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 26 January – 1 February, 2023

Temperature:

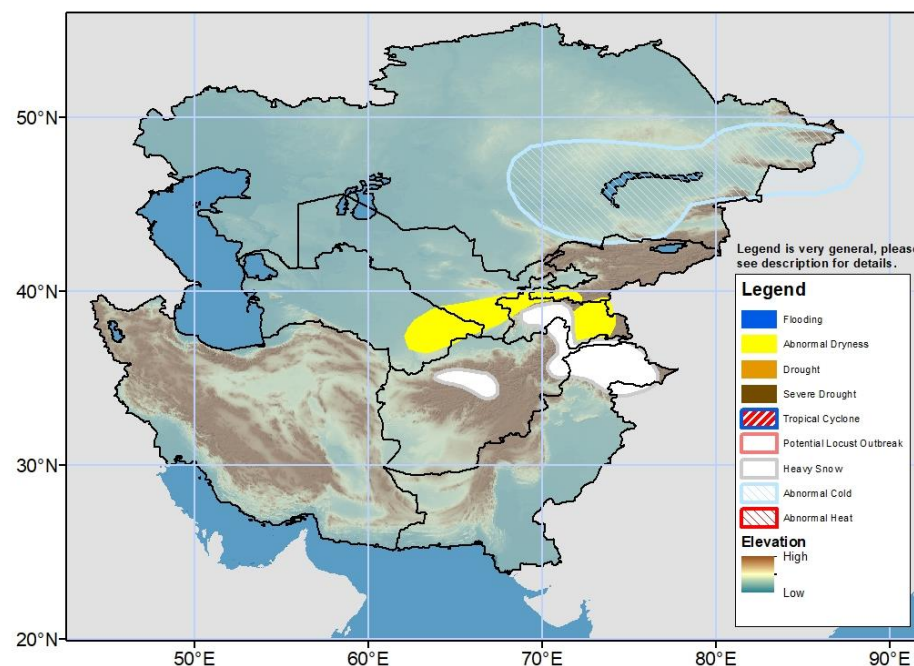
Temperatures were much colder than average across southern and eastern portions of the region. Both maximum and minimum temperatures were more than 8°C below average in southern Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, eastern Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan. As a result, subfreezing temperatures were widespread across Iran, southern portions of Afghanistan, and into Pakistan. Temperatures dropped below 20°C in central and eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan's higher elevations.

Colder than average conditions will remain across many of the same places early in the outlook period. Negative anomalies will still exceed 8°C in some cases, especially southeastern Kazakhstan, so an abnormal cold hazard is placed there. Widespread subfreezing minimum temperatures will persist. By the end of the outlook period warmer air will move in from the southwest and positive temperature anomalies of more than 6°C are possible in Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Precipitation:

This past week, light to moderate precipitation (5-25mm liquid equivalent) was observed across southern portions of Central Asia. With prevalent cold air, much of this fell as snow. The largest snow accumulations occurred in the mountains of northern Pakistan. Central portions of Central Asia have been drier than average since 1 November with 25-100mm anomalies. Additionally, based on USGS analysis, negative snow depth anomalies exist across much of Kyrgyzstan, eastern Tajikistan, and northern Afghanistan, though January cold and snow improved conditions in central and eastern Afghanistan. Conversely, positive snow depth anomalies are widespread across eastern Kazakhstan. Abnormal dryness is placed in some parts of eastern Turkmenistan, southern Uzbekistan, parts of southern Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

A system tracking through the southern part of the region will bring additional rain and snow to Afghanistan and Pakistan during the outlook period. The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts anywhere from 2mm to 25mm liquid equivalent for most of Afghanistan with higher amounts in northern Pakistan where a heavy snow hazard is posted. Conditions in the northern half of the region will be quieter with light 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, jverd@usaid.gov.