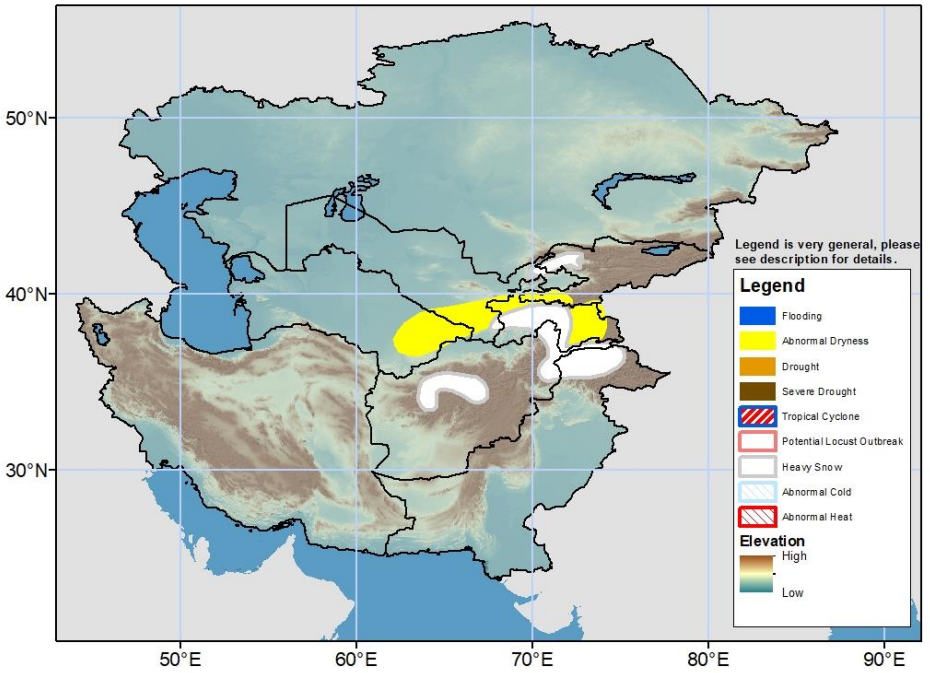
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
2 February – 8 February, 2023

Temperature:

Temperatures remained cooler than average for much of the region. However, some warmer conditions moved into parts of western and northern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperatures were 2-6°C below average in southeastern Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, eastern Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan, while minimum temperature anomalies were significantly larger. As a result, subfreezing temperatures remained widespread even through the region's southern portions. Minimum temperatures dropped below -20°C in central and eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

A significant pattern change is forecasted for the outlook period. Warmer than average conditions will dominate the region during the period. Positive mean temperature anomalies will range from 2-6°C for most of the region and only north-central Kazakhstan should expect near or below-average temperatures. As a result of the warmer than normal air mass, the coverage of subfreezing minimum temperatures will be substantially reduced.



Precipitation:

During the last week, the greatest precipitation was focused on southern portions of central Asia. Eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan received 10-25mm liquid equivalent precipitation with locally higher amounts. The mountains of northern Pakistan received the largest snow accumulations. Otherwise, the region was mostly dry with some light snows in northeastern Kazakhstan. Central parts of the region are drier than average by 10-50mm since 1 Nov. Additionally, based upon NASA's NoahMP model, negative snow depth anomalies exist across much of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and northern Afghanistan, though recent cold and snow have improved conditions in Afghanistan. As a result, abnormal dryness is placed in parts of eastern Turkmenistan, southern Uzbekistan, parts of southern Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

The storm track will shift farther north during the outlook period bringing light to moderate precipitation across Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, northern Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and much of Kazakhstan. The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts 5mm to 25mm liquid equivalent for most areas, with higher amounts in regions of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. A heavy snow hazard is posted for parts of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan.

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