

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 16 March – 22 March, 2023

Temperature:

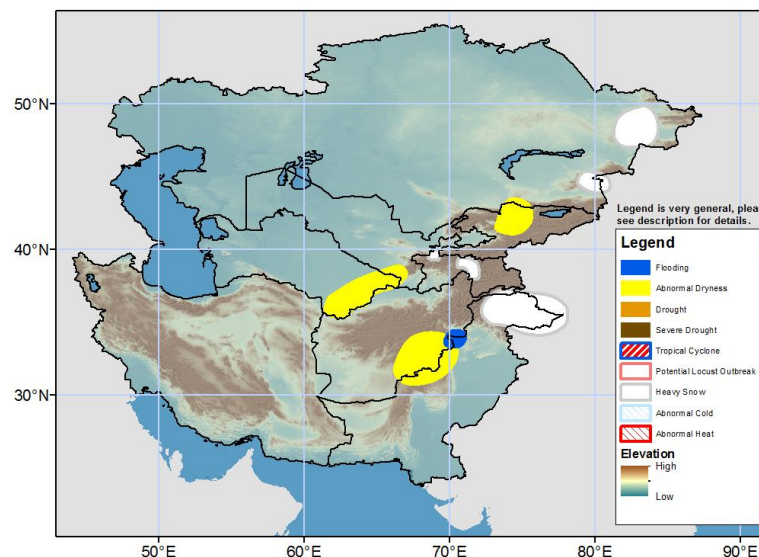
Weekly average minimum temperatures were above normal (4 to 8 °C) across north-central/southern Kazakhstan, western/eastern Uzbekistan, northern Afghanistan, western Tajikistan, most of Turkmenistan, northern/western/eastern Kyrgyzstan, and central/northeastern Iran from 07 Mar – 13 Mar 2023, with larger anomalies (8 to 12 °C) situated in central/eastern/northwestern Kazakhstan, central Uzbekistan, northeastern Turkmenistan, far west-central Tajikistan, and north-central Afghanistan. Weekly average minimum temperatures were observed around -15 to -5 °C across the higher elevations of Kyrgyzstan (>3000 m), higher elevations of eastern Tajikistan (>4000 m), northern and higher elevations of eastern Kazakhstan, and the higher elevations of central and northeastern Afghanistan (>4500 m). Minimum temperatures in higher elevations of eastern Tajikistan were up to 4 °C below normal.

The GEFS model forecasts above normal mean temperatures (1 to 6 °C) across western/south-central/northeastern Kazakhstan, most of Turkmenistan, the lower elevations of western Kyrgyzstan and western/central Tajikistan, most of Afghanistan, central/northern Iran, and northern Pakistan from 16 Mar – 22 Mar 2023. Anomalies could exceed 6 to 8 °C in northwestern/southwestern Kazakhstan, and lower elevations of west-central Tajikistan. Colder than normal mean temperatures (1 to 6 °C) are expected in east-central Kazakhstan (primarily around Lake Balkhash), higher elevations of eastern Kyrgyzstan, and southern Pakistan. Weekly average minimum temperatures are forecast around -25 to 0 °C across higher elevations of central and eastern Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, higher elevations of northeastern/central Afghanistan, and northern/central/eastern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperature anomalies between 6 to 10 °C above normal are expected from northwestern and southwestern portions of Kazakhstan and northwestern Uzbekistan. Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast around 20 to 30 °C in northern, western, and southern Afghanistan, most of Turkmenistan, lower elevations of south-central and eastern Uzbekistan, and lower elevations of southwestern Tajikistan. Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast to be between 30 to 35 °C across southeastern Iran and parts of southwestern Afghanistan, and average maximum temperatures between 35 to 40 °C are expected across south-central Pakistan. Enhanced snowmelt due to anomalously high temperatures could increase runoff and streamflow throughout much of Central Asia. Throughout Afghanistan, this could result in the snowmelt season ending about a month earlier than usual, as irrigation begins for corn/cotton.

Precipitation:

Light to moderate precipitation was observed across most of Kazakhstan (with heavy precipitation in the northern part of East Kazakhstan, southeastern Turkistan, and higher elevations of the Almaty/Jetisu regions), eastern provinces of Afghanistan (near Kabul), central Turkmenistan, central/eastern Uzbekistan, western Tajikistan, and northern Kyrgyzstan. Higher elevations of western Iran also received heavy precipitation from 08 Mar – 14 Mar 2023. Based on USGS snow water equivalent (SWE) analysis, negative SWE anomalies exist across eastern Tajikistan, northeastern/western/central Afghanistan, and most of Kyrgyzstan outside of lower elevations in west-central portions of the country. Low standardized precipitation index (SPI) values and precipitation accumulation over the last two months supports the addition of an abnormal dryness polygon in north-central Kyrgyzstan and southern portions of the Jambyl region.

The GEFS weekly ensemble mean forecasts moderate to heavy precipitation across eastern portions of Kazakhstan, eastern and central Afghanistan, northeastern Pakistan, central/northwestern Tajikistan, southwestern Kyrgyzstan, east-central Uzbekistan, and northern/western Iran from 16 Mar – 22 Mar 2023. The GFS deterministic model predicts heavy snowfall across higher elevations of the East Kazakhstan and Jetisu regions, higher elevations of northwestern/central Tajikistan, localized areas in northeastern Afghanistan, and northeastern Pakistan. Heavy rainfall is expected in eastern Afghanistan, from the Nangarhar to the Khost provinces.



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.