

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 30 March – 05 April, 2023

Temperature:

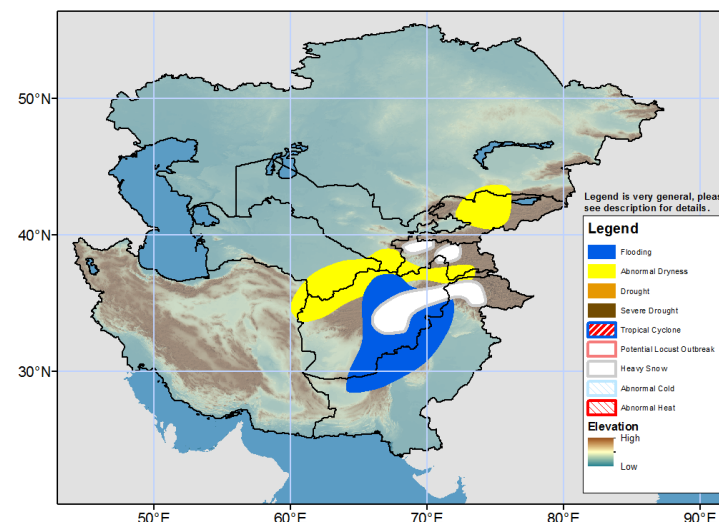
Weekly average minimum temperatures were above normal (4 to 8 °C) across northwestern/north-central Kazakhstan, and maximum temperatures were 6-18 °C above normal in western Kazakhstan, western/central Uzbekistan, central/northern Turkmenistan, and central Tajikistan from 21 Mar – 27 Mar 2023. Weekly average minimum temperatures were observed around -20 to -5 °C across higher elevations of Kyrgyzstan (>3000 m), higher elevations of eastern Tajikistan (>4000 m), north-central 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, central/eastern Kyrgyzstan, central/eastern Afghanistan, and eastern Kazakhstan were up to 8 °C below normal.

The GEFS model forecasts above normal mean temperatures (1 to 6 °C) across southern/northeastern/central Kazakhstan, most of Turkmenistan, most of central/western Kyrgyzstan, central/western Tajikistan, central/eastern Uzbekistan, northern/central Afghanistan, and northern Iran from 30 Mar – 05 Apr 2023. Anomalies could exceed 6 to 12 °C above normal in northwestern Kazakhstan (especially in West Kazakhstan, Aktobe, and Kostanay) and western Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan). Colder than normal mean temperatures (1 to 4 °C) are expected in east-central (primarily around Lake Balkhash) Kazakhstan, higher elevations of southeastern Kyrgyzstan, southern/eastern Afghanistan, most of Pakistan, and western/southern Iran. Weekly average minimum temperatures are forecast around -20 to 0 °C across higher elevations of central/northern/eastern Tajikistan, higher elevations of central/eastern/southern Kyrgyzstan, higher elevations of northeastern/central Afghanistan, and north-central/eastern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperature anomalies between 6 to 12 °C above normal are expected in western/central portions of Kazakhstan (especially West Kazakhstan, Aktobe, and Kostanay), western/central Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan), and north-central Turkmenistan (Dasoguz). Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast around 20 to 30 °C in southwestern/south-central Kazakhstan, northern, western, and southern Afghanistan, most of Turkmenistan, lower elevations of Uzbekistan, and lower elevations of southwestern Tajikistan and west-central Kyrgyzstan. Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast to be between 30 to 35 °C across localized areas of southeastern Iran and southwestern Afghanistan. South-central Pakistan is forecast to be 35-40 °C. Melting of the snowpack due to above freezing temperatures in the central highlands and could increase the flooding potential for central/eastern/northern Afghanistan.

Precipitation:

Light to moderate precipitation was observed across central/eastern/northwestern Afghanistan (with heavier precipitation throughout most of the eastern provinces, southwestern Turkmenistan, and west-central/eastern Kyrgyzstan. Higher elevations of northern/western/southern Iran, as well as northern/central/southwestern Pakistan also received heavy precipitation from 21 Mar – 27 Mar 2023. Based on USGS snow water equivalent (SWE) analysis, negative SWE anomalies exist across eastern/northwestern Tajikistan, northeastern/northwestern/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 extension of the abnormal dryness polygon from northwestern Afghanistan (Herat) into the Wakhan Corridor.

The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts moderate to heavy precipitation across northwestern/central Tajikistan, southwestern Kazakhstan, western Kyrgyzstan, central/eastern Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, and northwestern Iran from 30 Mar – 05 Apr 2023. The GFS deterministic model predicts heavy snowfall across northwestern/central Tajikistan (Sughd, Pamir Range) and the central highlands of Afghanistan (Ghazni, Bamian, Wardak, Parwan) into northeastern Afghanistan (Kapisa, Laghman, Kunar, Badakhshan). The heaviest precipitation is expected in eastern/central Afghanistan (from the Kunar to Paktia provinces), though flooding could extend to the Kandahar province to the south and to the Balkh province in the north, especially in the first few days of the forecast period. Heavy rainfall is also expected in Pakistan's Fata province.



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, jverdind@usaid.gov.