





Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 06 April –12 April, 2023

Temperature:

Weekly average minimum temperatures were above normal by 4 to 8°C across the western half of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and much of Turkmenistan. Minimum temperatures were 2-6°C cooler than average in parts of eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan. Maximum temperatures were similarly distributed, with positive anomalies topping out at 8-12°C above normal in central/western Kazakhstan, western Uzbekistan, and northern Turkmenistan. Weekly average minimum temperatures were observed around -15 to -5°C across higher elevations of Kyrgyzstan (>3000 m), higher elevations of eastern Tajikistan (>4000 m), higher elevations of eastern Kazakhstan, and the higher elevations of central and northeastern Afghanistan (>3000 m).

During the outlook period, the GEFS model forecasts above normal mean temperatures (1 to 6°C) across Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, central/western Kyrgyzstan, central/western Tajikistan, northern/western Afghanistan, and northern Iran.. Colder than normal mean temperatures (1 to 4°C) are expected in the higher elevations of southeastern Kyrgyzstan, eastern Afghanistan, most of Pakistan, and southern Iran. Weekly average minimum temperatures are forecast around -20 to -5°C across eastern Tajikistan, the higher elevations of eastern/southern Kyrgyzstan, and the higher elevations of northeastern Afghanistan. Minimum temperatures between -5 and 0°C are forecast for parts of Afghanistan's central highlands, central Kyrgyzstan, and northeestern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperature anomalies between 4 to 8°C above normal are expected in north-central and northwestern portions of Kazakhstan (especially West Kazakhstan, Aktobe, and Kostanay) as well as southern Turkmenistan, northern Iran, and northern/western Afghanistan. Smaller 1-4°C positive anomalies are expected throughout the remainder of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, western Tajikistan, and central/western Kyrgyzstan. Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast to exceed 25°C in northern Afghanistan, central/eastern Turkmenistan, southern Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, while exceeding 30°C in southwestern Afghanistan, and southeastern Iran and Pakistan.

Precipitation:

Heavy precipitation (50-100mm totals) was observed in southeastern Afghanistan as well as western and northern Pakistan. Flooding was observed due to this heavy rainfall in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province from 24 March to 2 April where 11 fatalities were reported. Light to moderate rains, less than 50mm, spread further across other portions of Afghanistan, northern, western/southeastern Iran, western Tajikistan, western Turkmenistan, parts of Uzbekistan, and western Kazakhstan. Based on USGS snow water equivalent (SWE) analysis, negative SWE anomalies exist across eastern/northwestern Tajikistan, northeastern/central Afghanistan, and most of Kyrgyzstan outside of lower elevations in west-central portions of the country. Low SWE values and low standardized precipitation index (SPI) values support abnormal dryness in central Kyrgyzstan. Low SPI values and precipitation accumulation over the last two months supports the abnormal dryness polygon across the northern tier of Afghanistan and neighboring portions of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts moderate to heavy precipitation across the central mountainous areas of the central Asia region as well as eastern Kazakhstan during the Outlook period. Liquid equivalent of 25-50m are forecast, with much of it falling as snow. As such, heavy snow hazards are placed across northwestern/central Tajikistan (Sughd, Pamir Range) and portions of northeastern Afghanistan (Nuristan, Laghman, Kunar, Badakhshan), Kyrgyzstan, and the higher elevations of eastern Kazakhstan. Lighter rains, less than 25mm, are forecast across central and northeastern Afghanistan, parts of Uzbekistan and much of Kazakhstan. Some continued rains in already-saturated portions of Pakistan may cause continued flooding issues.



