Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
27 July – 2 August 2023

Temperature:

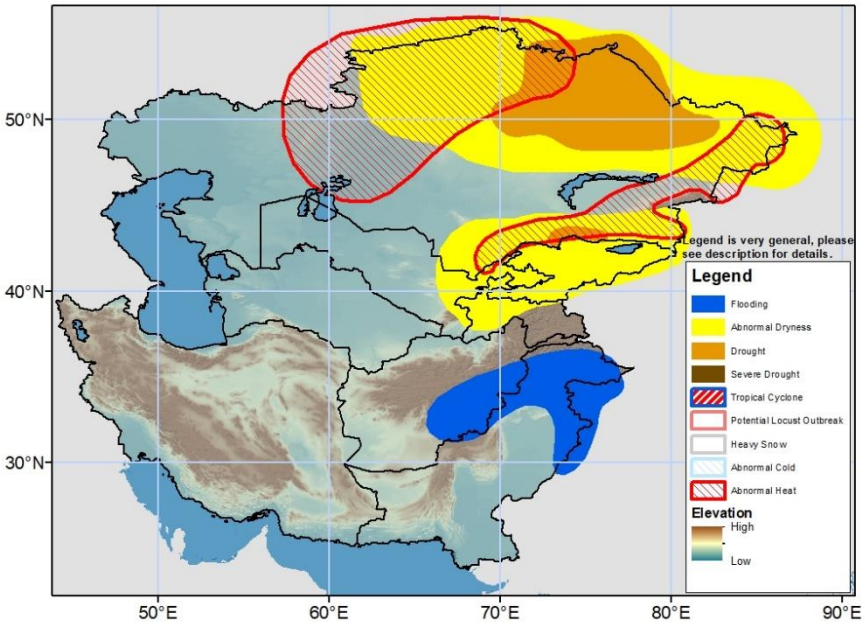
During mid-July, mean temperatures were above normal across parts of Central Asia, with the warmest anomalies in eastern Kazakhstan where maximum temperature averaged 2 - 6ºC above normal. Smaller positive anomalies were present in parts of Kyrgyzstan, Iran, and southwestern Afghanistan. Conversely, 2 - 4ºC negative anomalies were observed in western Kazakhstan. Maximum temperature exceeded 40ºC over portions of Turkmenistan, much of Iran, northern/western/southern Afghanistan, and central Pakistan. Minimum temperature averaged 2 - 6ºC above normal over eastern Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, and parts of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.

During the next week, well-above normal mean temperatures are forecast for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan where maximum temperature is expected to rise to at least 2-8ºC above normal. Minimum temperature is expected to be above normal by a similar magnitude across the region. An Abnormal Heat hazard is posted in southeastern Kazakhstan and central Kazakhstan, where the hybrid Heat Index (HI) and maximum temperature is likely to exceed the 90th percentile for 3 or more consecutive days early in the outlook period and late in the period respectively. In general, maximum temperature is expected to average between 25 - 45ºC across Central Asia, with the hottest weather over portions of Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Precipitation:

During the past week, heavy rain fell over India and Pakistan that led to flooding in parts of northern Pakistan. Moderate and locally heavy rain was received in eastern Afghanistan. Rainfall caused flooding in Ghazni, Wardak, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kabul, and Parwan provinces. More widespread light to moderate (up to 25 mm, locally more) rain was received across northern and western Kazakhstan. The past 30 day's precipitation anomaly shows moderate to large (up to 50 mm) rainfall deficits in north-central and eastern Kazakhstan with near to above-normal conditions elsewhere. Over the past 90 days, moderate to large rainfall deficits spread across northern, eastern, and southern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, southern Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and northern and central Afghanistan. A drought polygon is placed in Kazakhstan's regions of Pavlodar, eastern Akmola, eastern North Kazakhstan, northeastern Karaganda, Abai and southern Jambyl where 25% to more than 85% of cropland was affected by drought conditions (FAO). Negative ground impacts are also strongly reflected in vegetation health indices in those regions.

During the outlook period, moderate to locally heavy rain (up to 100mm) is forecast over Pakistan, which could exacerbate conditions on the ground or trigger new flooding over previously-flooded areas – especially in the North. Light to moderate rains are also expected to continue in eastern Afghanistan keeping an elevated flash flood threat in place. Farther north, light to moderate (2 - 25 mm) rain is expected in northern Kazakhstan. Totals are forecast to be slightly below average in the East. The forecast continued insufficient rain could worsen ground conditions in the already drought stricken areas in northern Kazakhstan. Moderate (10 – 50 mm liquid equivalent) precipitation is also expected in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



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