Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
19 October – 25 October 2023

Temperature:

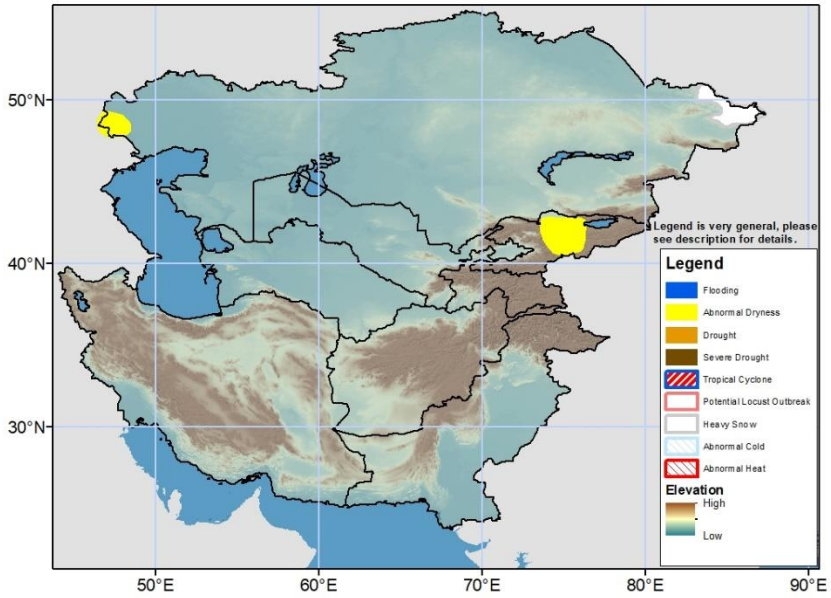
Weekly average maximum temperatures were above average (up to 2-6ºC anomalies) in eastern Kazakhstan and east/central parts of Afghanistan. Maximum temperatures were 2-4ºC above normal in southern Iran. Conversely, parts of southern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan observed maximum temperatures 2-6ºC below average. Much of Pakistan, central and southern Iran, as well as southwestern and eastern Afghanistan observed mean maximum temperatures above 30ºC. Meanwhile, mean minimum temperatures were largely above average for eastern and southern portions of the region. The highlands of Kyrgyzstan, eastern Tajikistan, northeastern and some central highland portions of Afghanistan observed mean minimum temperatures below freezing.

During the outlook period, the GEFS model predicts well-warmer than average maximum temperatures for southern and eastern Kazakhstan, as well as Kyrgyzstan and parts of Uzbekistan where 4-8ºC anomalies are expected. Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and northern/southwestern Afghanistan will also be warmer than average but with smaller anomalies. Conversely, below-average temperatures are forecast over Pakistan. Mean maximum temperatures are predicted to exceed 30ºC in Pakistan, southwestern Afghanistan, and southern Iran. Above-average mean minimum temperatures are forecast over all of the region. Many areas are likely to see 2-6ºC anomalies with the largest anomalies in southern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan. The anomalously warm air mass is forecast to keep temperatures largely above freezing outside of high elevations such as the mountains of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, central/northeastern Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan (above 3000m).

Precipitation:

Moderate precipitation was observed over north-central, eastern, and southern Kazakhstan with rainfall between 10 and 25 mm and locally more. Northern and eastern Uzbekistan, and western Tajikistan received similar amounts, while parts of northern Iran and Pakistan received heavy rainfall 50 mm to more than 100 mm. Lighter precipitation (< 10 mm) fell over southwestern Kazakhstan; parts of Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan. This pattern was near to slightly wetter than average for mid-October. The 30-day precipitation analysis shows surpluses of 10-100 mm covering southern, eastern, and scattered parts of western Kazakhstan. Larger positive anomalies were recorded locally in southern Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and northern Pakistan. Conversely, rainfall has been slightly suppressed in northern Kazakhstan. Over the 90-day period, significant deficits (25-100 mm) remain in a small area of eastern Afghanistan, parts of north-central Kazakhstan, central Tajikistan, as well as in central Kyrgyzstan where an abnormal dryness hazard is placed.

During the outlook period, the GEFS model predicts 20-50 mm of precipitation in the northwestern quadrant of Kazakhstan as well as far-eastern Kazakhstan with the passage a strong low pressure – mostly as rain. Lighter precipitation is likely for central/northeastern Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and central Kazakhstan. A Heavy Snow hazard is posted in eastern Kazakhstan. These mountains can expect 20-30 cm of snow. Lighter mountain snow is also expected elsewhere in eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and central/northeastern Afghanistan.



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