Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
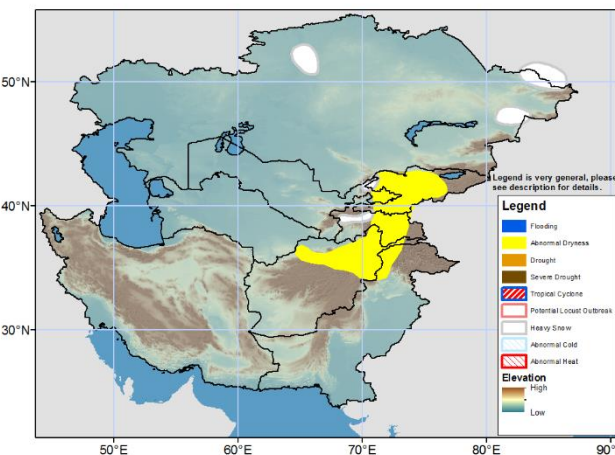## 21 December 2023 – 27 December 2023

Temperature:

Weekly average minimum temperatures were above average (2 to 6 ^{o}C) across parts of southern and northeastern Afghanistan, southeastern Uzbekistan, western and central Tajikistan, southwestern Kyrgyzstan, western and central Pakistan, and northern and southeastern Iran from 12 – 18Dec2023. Weekly average minimum temperatures were below average (4 to 8 ^{o}C) across northern and central Turkmenistan, most of Uzbekistan, northern Kyrgyzstan, and western and central Kazakhstan. Anomalies were slightly higher (8 to 15+ ^{o}C) in north-central Kyrgyzstan and northern, southern, and eastern Kazakhstan. Weekly average maximum temperatures were also below average (6 to 15+ ^{o}C) in north-central Turkmenistan, western Uzbekistan, north-central Kyrgyzstan, and much of northern, eastern, and southern Kazakhstan. Weekly average maximum temperatures were below freezing throughout Kazakhstan, most of Kyrgyzstan, eastern and west-central Tajikistan, western, central, and parts of northeastern Uzbekistan, north-central and northwestern Turkmenistan, northeastern and parts of central Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan. The cold temperatures damaged gas pipelines in the Zhambyl region of Kazakhstan, leaving >1,200 homes without heat.

The GEFS model forecasts above average weekly mean minimum temperatures (more than 4 ^{o}C) across most of Central Asia except for much of Iran. Larger anomalies (6 to 10+ ^{o}C) are expected across eastern and west-central Tajikistan, parts of northern and southern Kyrgyzstan, central and northeastern Afghanistan, parts of northern Pakistan, and most of central and northern Kazakhstan from 21 – 27Dec2023. Maximum temperatures are expected to be above average (6 to 10+ ^{o}C) in central, northern, and eastern Afghanistan, western and parts of eastern Tajikistan, northern Pakistan, most of Uzbekistan, most of Turkmenistan, and northern, central, and western Kazakhstan. Weekly mean minimum temperatures are forecasted around -15 to 0 ^{o}C in northwestern and central Tajikistan, central, parts of eastern, and northeastern Afghanistan, most of Kyrgyzstan, parts of western Iran, and central, eastern, and northern Kazakhstan. Minimum temperatures are expected to be colder in eastern Tajikistan (-25 to -15 ^{o}C), parts of southeastern Kyrgyzstan (-20 to -15 ^{o}C), northeastern Afghanistan (-25 to -15 ^{o}C), and northern Pakistan (-25 to -15 ^{o}C). Weekly mean maximum temperatures are expected to be below freezing in northeastern Kazakhstan, central and southern Kyrgyzstan, central and eastern Tajikistan, northeastern Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan.

Precipitation:

Light to moderate precipitation (5 to 25mm) was observed across southeastern, western, and north-central Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, western, northern, and eastern Kyrgyzstan, western Tajikistan, southwestern and parts of eastern Turkmenistan, northern Afghanistan, and northern and western Iran from 11 – 17Dec2023. Heavier precipitation fell in west-central Tajikistan (25 to 50 mm) and north-central Iran (25 to 100+ mm). Negative SWE anomalies exist across eastern, central, and northwestern Tajikistan, central, northern, northeastern, and eastern regions of Afghanistan, southern and central Kyrgyzstan, and some northeastern, central, and northwestern regions of Kazakhstan. In addition, precipitation across these regions (outside of northern Kazakhstan) is below normal (10 to 50 mm) over the last 30 days. Abnormal dryness is present in western and central Kyrgyzstan, central and parts of eastern Tajikistan, and northeastern, parts of northern, and eastern Afghanistan (Konar and Nangarhar).

The GEFS weekly ensemble forecasts light to moderate precipitation across Kazakhstan, northwestern Kyrgyzstan, eastern and northwestern Uzbekistan, southwestern Turkmenistan, western and central Tajikistan, parts of northern Afghanistan, and northern Iran from 21 – 27Dec2023. Heavy precipitation (25 to 75 mm) could fall in northwestern Iran. Heavy snowfall polygons are posted in northeastern (East Kazakhstan) and north-central (eastern Kostanay) Kazakhstan, between northeastern Uzbekistan and northwestern Kyrgyzstan, and west-central Tajikistan (Sughd).