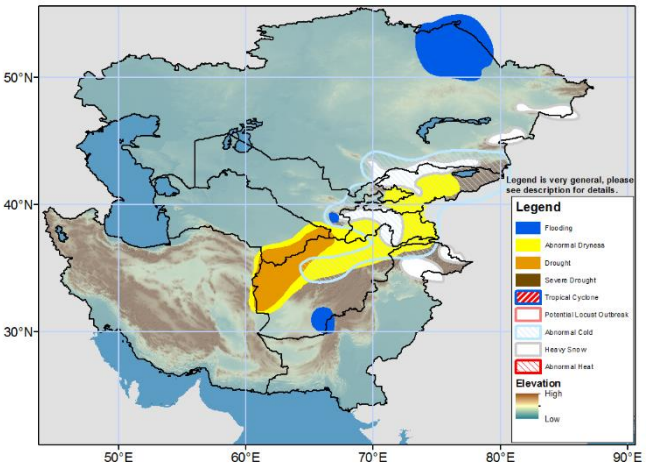
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
14 – 20 March 2024

Temperature:

Weekly average minimum temperatures were below average (-6 to -2°C) in parts of northwestern Kazakhstan, parts of northeastern and eastern Afghanistan, northwestern and central Kyrgyzstan, eastern Tajikistan, central and northwestern Pakistan, and parts of southern Iran from 05 – 11Mar2024, with the coldest temperature anomalies up to -8 °C in parts of central Kyrgyzstan. Minimum temperatures were above average (2 to 6 °C) in parts of eastern and southwestern Kazakhstan, central and northwestern Uzbekistan, and northeastern Turkmenistan. Minimum temperatures were up to 8 °C above average in south-central parts of Pavlodar and northwestern parts of Karaganda (Kazakhstan). Weekly average minimum temperatures were observed between -20 to -15°C in northwestern and parts of eastern Kazakhstan, central and southeastern Kyrgyzstan, and northeastern Tajikistan. Most of Kyrgyzstan, central and northern Kazakhstan, northern Pakistan, northwestern, central, and eastern Tajikistan, and northeastern and central Afghanistan observed average minimum temperatures between -15 to -5 °C.

The GEFS model forecasts below average minimum temperatures (-6 to -2°C) in parts of central and southeastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, most of Tajikistan, parts of central and northeastern Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan from 14 – 20Mar2024. Early in the valid period, minimum temperatures are expected to be below average (-12 to -6 °C) in northeastern, southern, and central Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, parts of northern, central, and southeastern Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, northeastern Uzbekistan, and parts of western Pakistan. In contrast, weekly average minimum temperatures are forecasted to be above average (1 to 4°C) in north-central and west-central Kazakhstan, western, northeastern, and central Iran, south-central Turkmenistan, parts of northwestern Afghanistan, and southeastern Pakistan. Minimum temperature anomalies are expected to be 2 to 8 °C above average by the middle of the valid period throughout most of Central Asia. Weekly mean minimum temperatures are forecasted around -20 to -10°C in northern, central, and parts of eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, northwestern and central Tajikistan, and central and northeastern Afghanistan. Minimum temperatures are expected to be colder (-30 to -20°C) in eastern Tajikistan, northeastern Afghanistan, parts of southeastern Kyrgyzstan, and northern Pakistan. An abnormal cold hazard is posted in much of Kyrgyzstan, southeastern Kazakhstan, parts of eastern Uzbekistan, parts of western and central Tajikistan, and northeastern Afghanistan.



Precipitation:

Moderate precipitation (10 to 25mm) was observed in northwestern and southeastern Afghanistan, southeastern and north-central Turkmenistan, eastern and central Uzbekistan, western Tajikistan, south-central Kazakhstan, northwestern Kyrgyzstan, southwestern Pakistan, and northeastern and western Iran from 05 – 11Mar2024. Southeastern Iran observed higher accumulations (up to 75mm). Negative snow depth anomalies exist across much of Tajikistan, northeastern and parts of central Afghanistan, much of Kyrgyzstan, and southeastern Uzbekistan.

The GEFS weekly ensemble mean forecasts moderate precipitation (10-50mm) across northeastern Afghanistan (northwestern Badakhshan), parts of northern Pakistan, western and central Tajikistan, northwestern Kyrgyzstan, northwestern Turkmenistan, eastern Uzbekistan, and parts of southeastern and northeastern Kazakhstan from 14 – 20Mar2024. Heavy precipitation (50 to 150mm) is expected in western Iran. A heavy snowfall polygon is posted in parts of northeastern Afghanistan, western and central Tajikistan, northern Pakistan, northeastern and southeastern Uzbekistan, northwestern Kyrgyzstan, and south-central and eastern Kazakhstan. Streamflow is expected to peak early in the valid period due to the recent moderate precipitation in southeastern (eastern parts of the Kandahar province) Afghanistan, which could result in minor flooding. Snowmelt may also contribute to flooding in southeastern Uzbekistan (northeastern parts of the Qashqadaryo region) and northeastern Kazakhstan (Pavlodar) late in the valid period.

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