



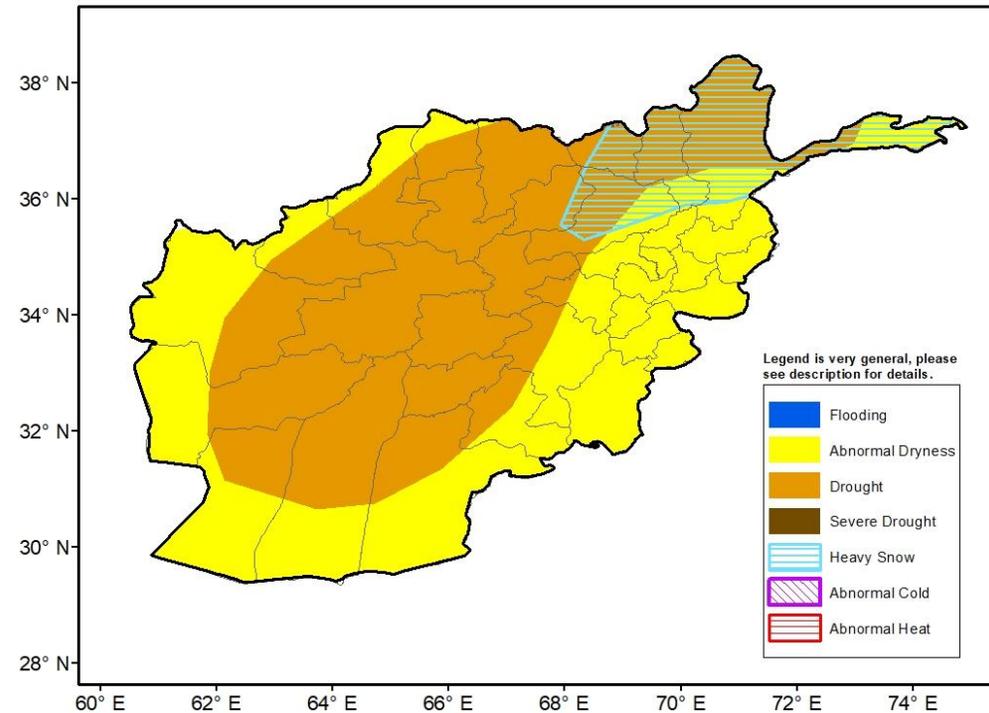
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook February 25 – March 3, 2021

Temperatures:

Temperatures averaged well-above normal during the past week across Afghanistan. Positive minimum and maximum temperature anomalies widely exceeded 4°C and 8°C in the east. Maximum temperatures warmed into the lower 30s (degrees C) across southern and western Afghanistan. The above-normal temperatures during early to mid-February may have prompted crops to break dormancy across the lower elevations. For the outlook period, the temperature pattern will be changeable, with initial below-average temperatures in the north and west giving way to above-average conditions across the country. Subfreezing minimum temperatures are likely early in the period across the lower elevations of the north.

Precipitation:

Last week, rain and high elevation snow spread across northern areas of Afghanistan, with up to 50mm liquid equivalent observed in the northeast. As of February 21, negative snow depth anomalies continue across the country. Based on these snow depth anomalies and 90-day precipitation deficits of more than 50mm (according to RFE satellite estimates), the abnormal dryness hazard continues. The drought hazard is based on: negative snow depth anomalies and RFE satellite estimates of more than 100 mm for the past 90 days. The increasing precipitation deficits are expected to affect spring wheat planting which typically begins later this month. On February 25 and 26, heavy snow (more than 25mm, liquid equivalent) is forecast for the northeast mountains of Afghanistan, with lesser amounts in the central highlands.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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