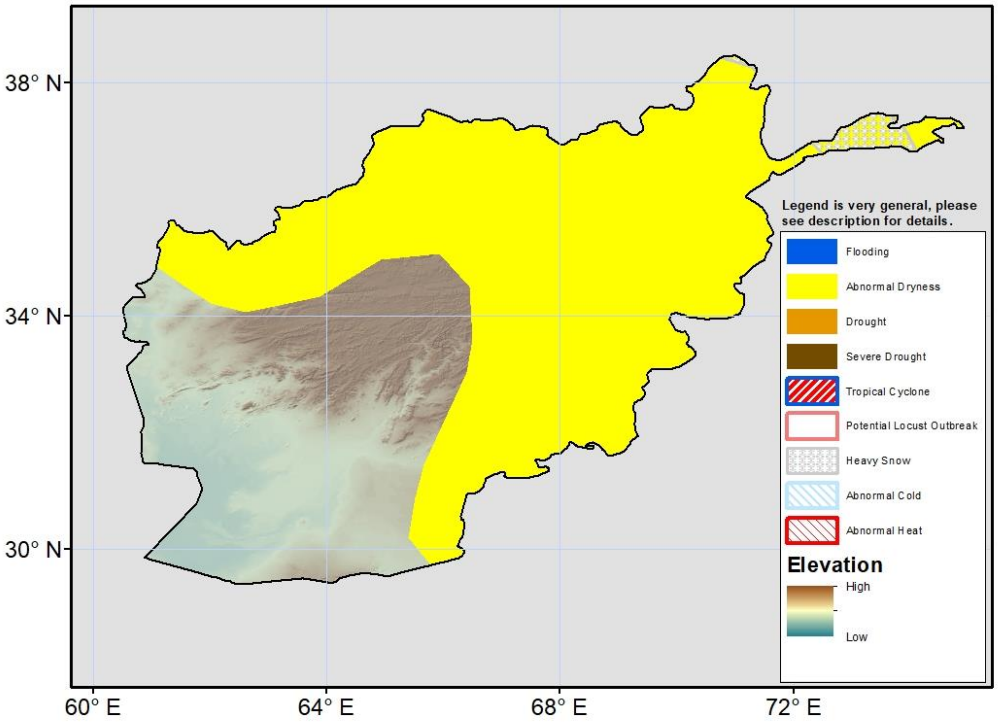
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
17 March – 23 March, 2022

Temperatures

Recent 7-day mean minimum temperatures were well-warmer than average by 4-8°C across most of Afghanistan. The region centered around Kabul observed near-average conditions. Mean maximum temperatures (Tmax) were above average with the largest anomalies exceeding 8°C in the Southwest. Mean Tmax were above freezing across the country. For the outlook period, the GEFS model forecasts continuing well-warmer than average temperatures. Mean temperature anomalies of 2-8°C are expected with the largest anomalies in the East. A similar pattern of warmer than average miniumum temperatures are forecasted across the country. A substantial increase in the time spent above freezing will contribute to enhanced melting of existing snowpack.

Precipitation

During the last 7 days, moderate to locally heavy precipitation was observed across the northern half of Afghanistan. Liquid equivalent amounts were widely 10-25mm and as much as 50mm in the Northeast. Analyzing the recent 30-day precipitation anomalies shows wetter than average conditions in the north and below-average conditions elsewhere in the country, with anomalies around 25mm or less. Snow depth observations from USGS show that snowpack is still below normal for most of the country. Abnormal dryness is maintained in eastern and northern parts of the country where negative snow water equivalent anomalies or seasonal precipitation deficits persist. For the outlook period, the storm track will shift northward. The country will be dryer with light snowfall in far-northeastern parts of the country. 10-25mm or more liquid equivalent precipitation is forecasted in the Northeast. This will result in heavy mountain snows of 10-35mm.



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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