

Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook 23 March – 29 March, 2023

Temperature:

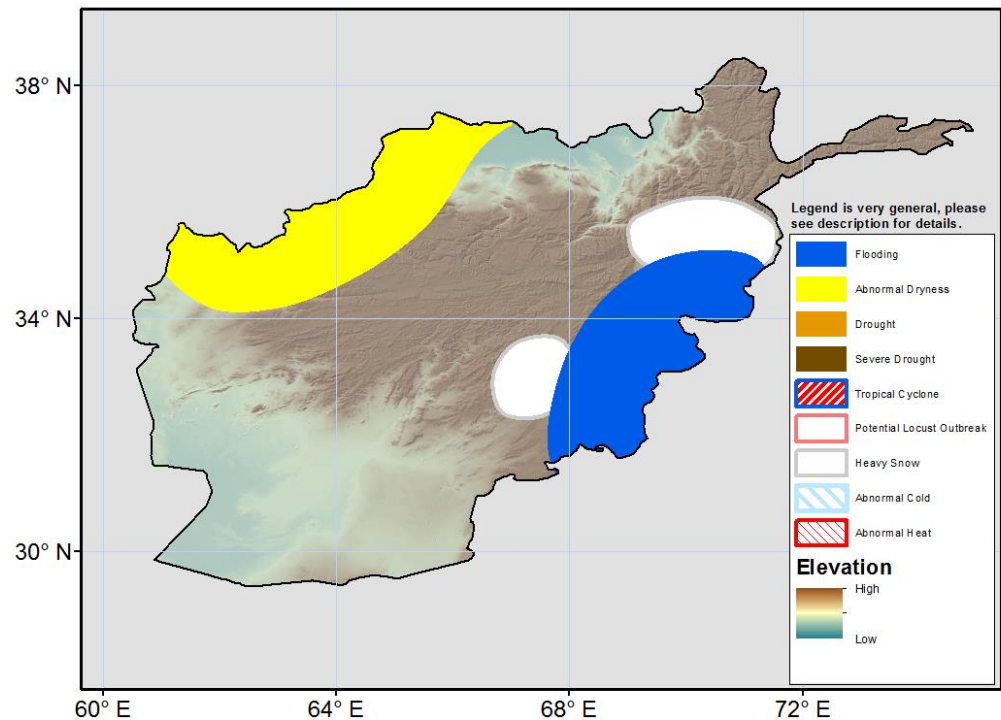
Mean maximum temperatures were much-above average across Afghanistan during the past week. Observed maximum temperature anomalies of 6-12°C were recorded in western and northern provinces, while 4-6°C anomalies were present in the Northeast. Southwestern provinces observed maximum temperatures greater than 30°C and most of the highlands warmed well above freezing. Above-average minimum temperatures in the North stayed warmer than 10°C and minimum temperatures were 0°C to -10°C across the highlands.

Warmer than average conditions will persist into the outlook period for northern Afghanistan. Mean temperatures are forecasted to average 2-6°C warmer than normal across the country with the largest anomalies across the north-central provinces. Southeastern provinces are expected to be colder than average and could observe mean temperatures 2-4°C below normal. Central highlands should continue to experience melting conditions and lower elevations should warm above 20°C.

Precipitation:

During the past 7 days, moderate to locally heavy rain occurred across central and eastern parts of the country. Liquid equivalent totals of 10-15mm, and up to 50mm in the East, were observed according to gauge analysis. Due to the recent precipitation, the 30-day rainfall analysis shows smaller deficits of up to 25mm in southeastern and northeastern portions of the country, although northwestern portions remain drier with deficits up to 50mm. Snow water equivalent values still remain well below average. As such, abnormal dryness is placed in northwestern Afghanistan but has been removed for southeastern Afghanistan.

For the outlook period, widespread moderate to heavy precipitation is forecast across Afghanistan. Liquid equivalent totals between 50-75mm are expected from the eastern provinces of Nangarhar to Paktika, where there is a potential flood threat. The highest liquid equivalent totals (75-100mm) are expected in eastern Afghanistan from the Nangarhar to the Khost provinces. With warm temperatures in place, most of this will fall as rain with snow relegated to the highest elevations and some southeastern provinces. The earthquake that struck northeastern Afghanistan (near Jurm) on 21 Mar triggered landslides, though precipitation should remain light in the affected region for this 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 considers 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 several other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

Questions or comments about the hazard's outlooks 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