

Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook 14 March – 21 March 2024

Temperature:

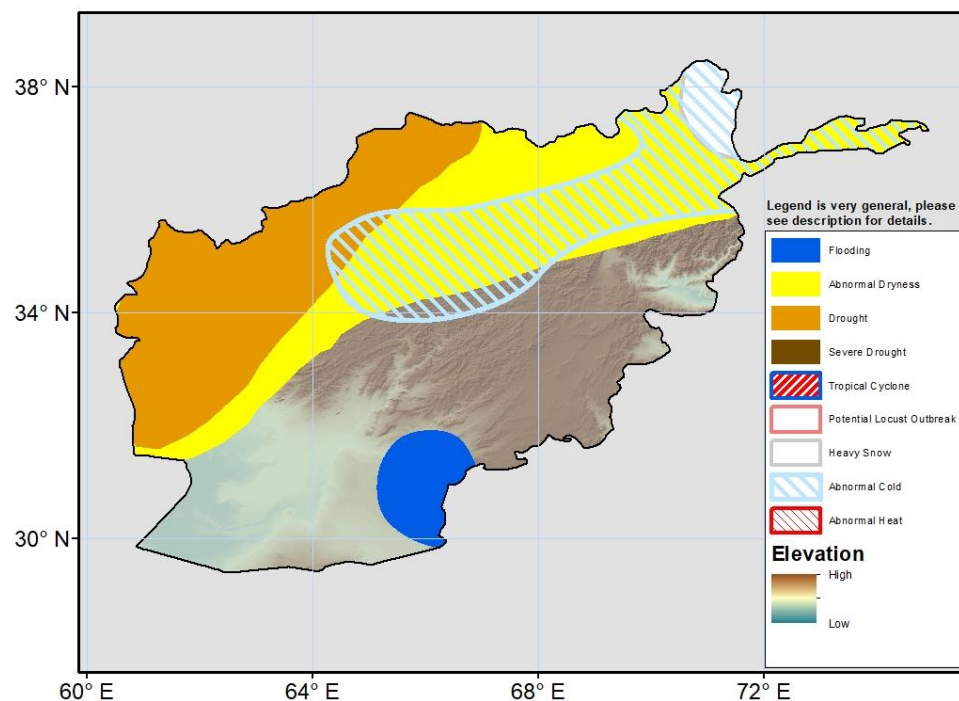
Mean maximum temperatures were below average across southern Afghanistan and above average in eastern Afghanistan by 2°C to 4°C. The remainder of the country was near average. 7-day mean minimum temperatures were near to below average (2-4°C anomalies) across the country. Mean minimum temperatures ranged from -20°C to -5°C in the Northeast's mountains and -10°C to 0°C in the Central Highlands.

During the outlook period, the pattern is expected to shift from colder to warmer. Negative 7-day mean maximum temperature anomalies of 1-2°C are forecasted in some southern and northeastern portions of Afghanistan while positive anomalies (1-4°C) are expected in many western, northern, and eastern areas. Only the highest elevations (>4000m) will likely remain below freezing. An abnormal cold hazard is placed in central and northeastern areas. Minimum temperatures of 1-2°C above average are forecasted in the West region. Central, Southeastern, and Northeastern regions can expect 1-4 below average temperatures. Consequently, minimum temperatures are forecasted to be -15 to -0°C in the Central Highlands.

Precipitation:

During the last 7 days, western and southern portions of Afghanistan received light to moderate precipitation. Liquid equivalent totals of 5-25 mm were widely recorded. Based on USGS snow depth and snow water equivalent (SWE) analysis, snow depth and SWE have shifted towards positive anomalies after recent snowfall. However, despite recent snow, snowpack on higher mountains has yet to recover all the way to average. Rainfall estimates of 30-day precipitation depict 10-100 mm positive anomalies in many parts of the country with negative anomalies now present in the Southeast. Long-term dryness persists in the North and West.

For the outlook period, some light rain or snow is expected scattered across the northern half of the country. Models forecast precipitation between 2 mm and 10 mm. A heavy snow polygon is posted in Central Highland and northeastern Afghanistan. A small flooding hazard is posted in southern Afghanistan where recent substantial precipitation coupled with mountain snowmelt may raise stream flows.



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