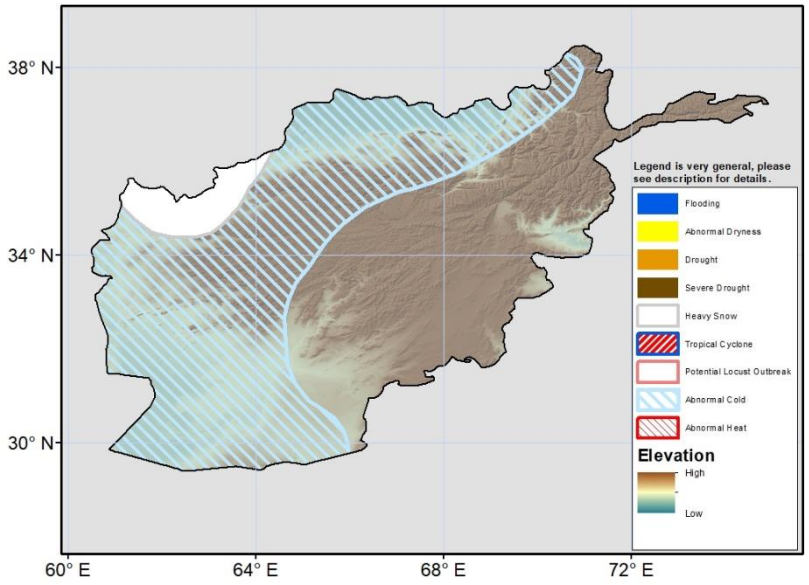
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
12 November – 18 December, 2024

Temperature:

During the past 7 days, mean maximum temperatures were below average over the country. Negative anomalies were 2-6˚C across most of Afghanistan with the larger anomalies to the north. 7-day mean maximum temperatures were -5 - 0˚C in the higher elevations of central and as low as -10˚C in northeastern Afghanistan. 7-day mean minimum temperatures were also below average by at least 2-8°C across the country. Minimum temperatures as low as -15˚C were observed in the Central Highlands and subfreezing mean temperatures spread to relatively low elevations.

Weather models forecast below-average 7-day mean maximum temperature across northern and western portions of the country during the outlook period. Negative anomalies will generally be between 2 and 6˚C. 7-day mean minimum temperature is forecasted to be well-cooler than average across Afghanistan with the anomalies of 2˚C to as much as 6˚C in the South and West. The mean minimum temperature is forecasted to be as cold as -15˚C in the Central Highlands and as cold as -30˚C in the Northeast. Subfreezing temperatures will overspread most of the country, even to very low elevations in the West. As such, an abnormal cold hazard covers northern and western portions of the country.



Precipitation:

Little in the way of precipitation was observed across Afghanistan during the past 7 days. Over the past 30 days, rainfall was slightly above average in the Northeast and near average elsewhere. Checking in on snow depth reveals little change to the snow pack this week with some mixed anomalies. However, negative anomalies have the largest areal coverage.

The GEFS 7-day ensemble mean forecasts light to moderate precipitation across some portions of northern and central Afghanistan. 7-day liquid equivalent totals will likely range from a few millimeters in central Afghanistan to 10-25mm in Herat, Badghis, and Faryab provinces. Much of this is likely to fall as snow, and snowfall totals may approach 20-15 cm.

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