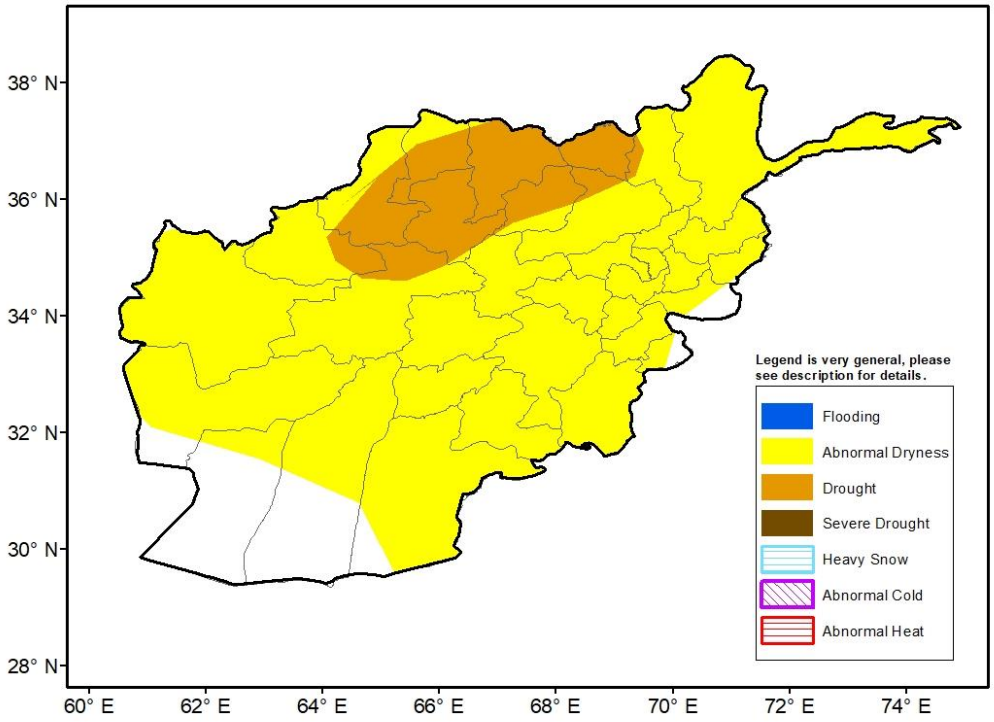
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
February 11 – February 17, 2021

Temperatures:

Last week's temperatures averaged above normal across Afghanistan. Positive minimum and maximum temperature anomalies reached 8°C. As such, coverage of sub-freezing temperatures was reduced. For the outlook period, warmer-than-normal temperatures are expected to persist. High temperatures are forecast to reach 8°C or more above average, while the week's average minimum temperature could be 10°C or more above normal. Minimum temperatures will likely remain above freezing across the lower elevations.

Precipitation:

Last week, some scattered light rain or snow was observed across northern and eastern areas of Afghanistan according to satellite estimates. Liquid equivalent amounts were less than 25mm resulting in another dryer-than-average week. As of February 7, the largest negative snow depth anomalies continue across northeast Afghanistan, with smaller negative anomalies for the central highlands. Based on these negative snow depth anomalies and 90-day precipitation deficits of more than 50mm (according to RFE satellite estimates), the abnormal dryness hazard was expanded. A drought hazard was added to northern Afghanistan where RFE satellite estimates depict 90-day precipitation deficits of more than 100mm. The increasing precipitation deficits are expected to affect spring wheat planting which typically begins later this month. For the outlook period, little to no precipitation is expected. The mostly dry weather is likely to worsen ongoing abnormal dryness and drought. If below-normal precipitation persists through the remainder of February, drought would likely expand in spatial coverage.



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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