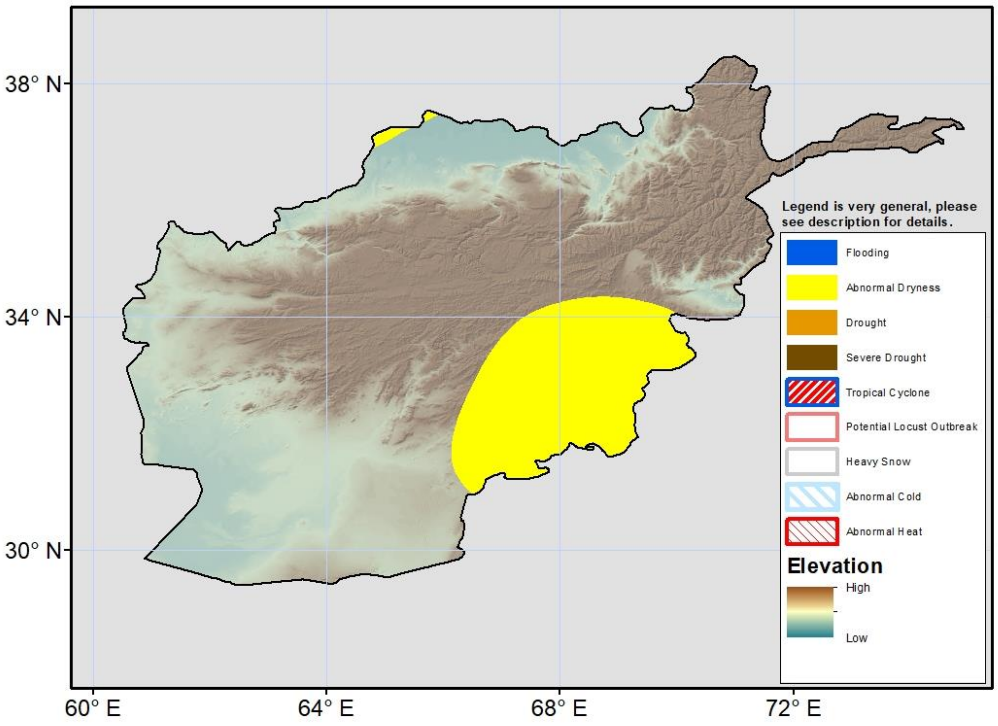
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
9 March – 15 March, 2023

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 central and northern provinces, while 2-6°C anomalies were present to the south. Southwestern provinces, as well as Nangarhar province, observed high temperatures between 25°C and 30°C and most of the central highlands warmed above freezing. Near to above-average minimum temperatures ranged from 0°C to -10°C across the highlands.

Much warmer than average conditions will persist into the outlook period. Mean temperatures are forecasted to average 4-8°C warmer than normal across the country with the largest anomalies across the northern provinces. Except for the northeastern mountains, most areas should experience maximum temperatures above freezing and high as 30°C in the Southwest. This should result in significant snowmelt at times.



Precipitation:

During the past 7 days, light to locally moderate rain occurred across southern and eastern parts of the country. Liquid equivalent totals of 5-25mm were observed according to gauge analysis. After a wetter period early in February, Afghanistan has dried out again in recent weeks. The 30-day rainfall analysis shows deficits of 25-100mm in southeastern portions of the country. With lack of substantial new precipitation and recent milder conditions, snow water equivalent values have steadily decreased and are below average across most of the country. As such, abnormal dryness is placed in southeast Afghanistan.

For the outlook period, light rain and snow is expected across northern and eastern Afghanistan. Total liquid equivalent amounts of 5-25mm are forecasted. Moderate snow is likely in the northeastern mountains and eastern portions of the central highlands, with snowfall totaling 5-15cm.

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.

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