

Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook 30 March – 5 April, 2023

Temperature:

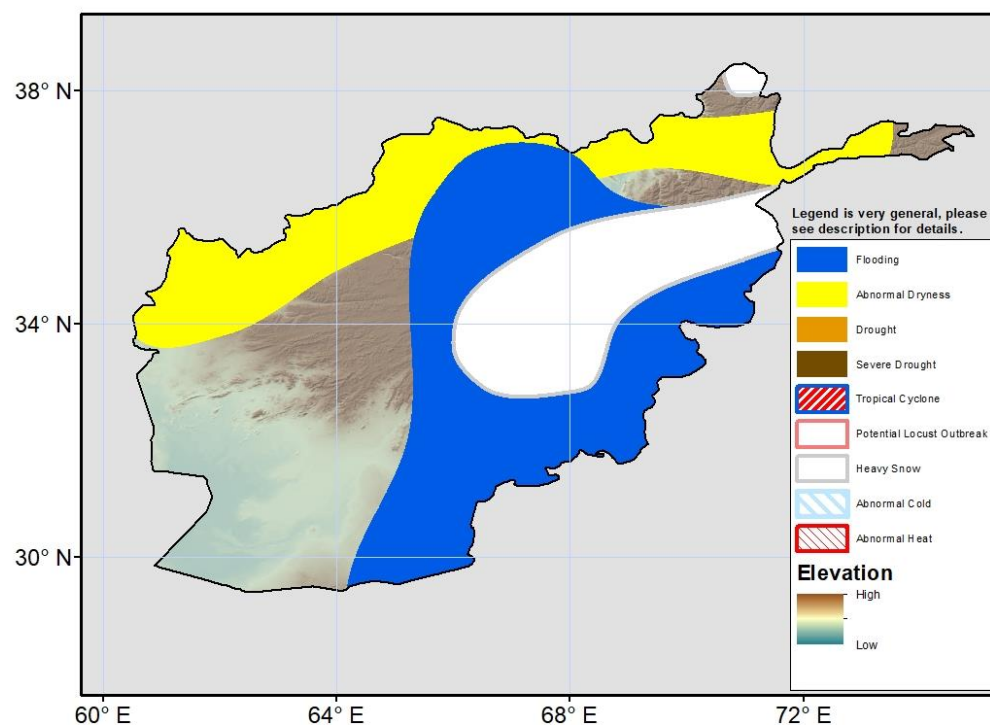
Mean maximum temperatures were above average across northern Afghanistan during the past week. Observed maximum temperature anomalies of 2-8°C were recorded in northern provinces. Southwestern and northern provinces observed maximum temperatures greater than 25°C and the highlands warmed well above freezing. Minimum temperatures in the northern lowlands stayed warmer than 5°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 and central Afghanistan. Mean temperatures are forecasted to average 1-4°C warmer than normal. Southeastern provinces are expected to be colder than average and could observe mean temperatures 1-4°C below normal. The lower elevations of the North should warm above 20°C. Melting of the snowpack due to above freezing temperatures in the central highlands and could add to the the flooding potential for central/eastern/northern Afghanistan.

Precipitation:

During the past 7 days, light to moderate precipitation occurred across most parts of Afghanistan. Liquid equivalent totals of 10-50mm, were observed according to gauges and satellite analysis. Due to enhanced precipitation in recent weeks, the 30-day rainfall deficits have been significantly decreased in southeastern. Snow water equivalent values still remain well below average across most of the country. As such, abnormal dryness is extended over northern and northwestern Afghanistan.

For the outlook period, widespread, persistent moderate to heavy precipitation is forecast across the eastern two thirds of Afghanistan. Liquid equivalent totals between 10-75mm are expected, with the heaviest precipitation expected in eastern/central Afghanistan (from the Kunar to Paktia provinces). A heavy snow hazard is placed where temperatures will be cold enough for significant snowfall that should accumulate as much as 20-35mm in the eastern highlands. At lower elevations continued rains on already saturated soils will elevate the risk of flooding.



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, jverd@usaid.gov