

Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook April 4 – 10, 2019

Temperatures:

Above-normal temperatures persisted throughout the region during the final week of March with the largest positive anomalies (+6 to +10 degrees F) in much of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Maximum temperatures warmed above 15 degrees C in the east-central highlands, prompting additional snow melt. Subfreezing temperatures were limited to the higher elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The GFS model indicates that above-normal temperatures are likely to continue into early April with maximum temperatures warming above 30 degrees C in southwest Afghanistan.

Precipitation:

During late March, a strong low pressure system resulted in widespread, heavy precipitation with more than 25 mm observed across western Afghanistan. Flash flooding caused multiple fatalities in the provinces of Faryab and Herat. Frequent precipitation has occurred across Afghanistan since early January, resulting in widespread precipitation surpluses and above-normal snow water equivalent at higher elevations. However, the RFE satellite estimates indicate below normal precipitation across Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and northeast Afghanistan during the past 90 days.

The stormy weather pattern with a high risk of additional flash flooding is likely to persist through mid-April as multiple low pressure systems track east across Afghanistan. During this outlook period, local rainfall amounts are forecast to exceed 25 mm in western Afghanistan where the risk of flash flooding is highest. Rainfall coupled with runoff from snow melt increases the risk of river flooding throughout central and eastern Afghanistan. Model solutions, such as the GFS ensemble mean, indicate that above average precipitation and above average temperatures are likely to continue through mid-April.



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.