Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
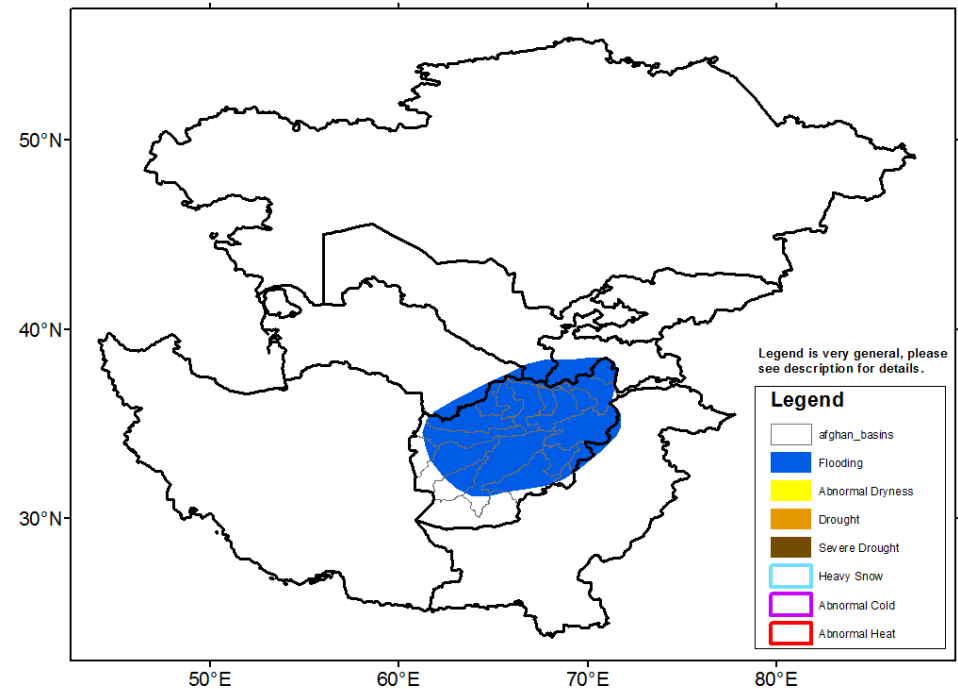## April 18 – 24, 2019

Temperatures:

Above-normal temperatures persisted through early April with the largest anomalies (+7 or +8 degrees C) observed in southwest Afghanistan and northern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperatures warmed into the lower 30s (degrees C) in southern Afghanistan and were near 30 degrees in southwest Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The warmer temperatures continued to cause rapid snow melt. The GFS model indicates that above normal temperatures will persist across much of the region. Maximum temperatures are forecast to warm to near 30 degrees C as far north as southern Kazakhstan, while maximum temperatures could exceed 35 degrees C in southern Turkmenistan and southwest Afghanistan.

Precipitation:

Frequent precipitation has occurred across Afghanistan since early January, resulting in widespread precipitation surpluses and above-normal snow water equivalent at higher elevations. The abundant water supplies are expected to aid the planting of spring wheat. On April 15, a strong low pressure system resulted in heavy rainfall and flash flooding across Afghanistan. According to the Afghanistan disaster ministry, heavy rain and flooding affected 16 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

A strong ridge of high pressure anchored over the higher latitudes of Europe is forcing multiple low pressure systems to track unusually far to the south across the Middle East and Central Asia. This pattern is forecast to continue into the latter half of April. During the next week, the GFS model indicates local precipitation amounts exceeding 50 mm from Afghanistan north to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. A high risk of flash flooding and river flooding continues for much of Afghanistan due to predicted heavy rainfall coupled with runoff from snow melt.

Legend is very general, please see description for details.

Legend

- afghan_basins
- Flooding
- Abnormal Dryness
- Drought
- Severe Drought
- Heavy Snow
- Abnormal Cold
- Abnormal Heat

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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