Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
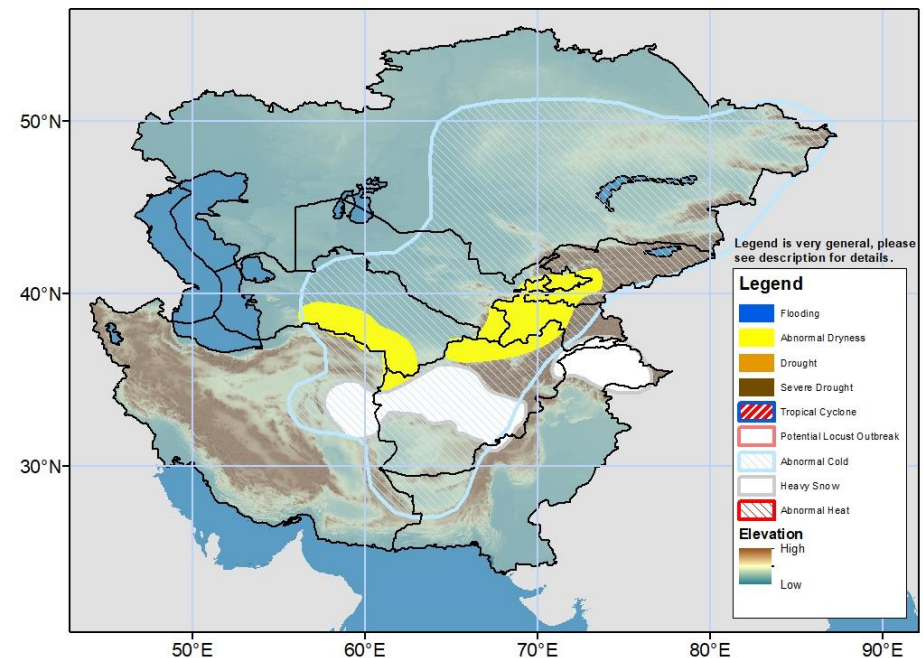## 12 January – 18 January, 2023

Temperature:

Weekly mean maximum temperatures started well-above average across most of the region before crashing well-below average by the end of the period. The week's maximum temperatures were more than 8°C above average over many portions of Kazakhstan, northern Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Parts of southern Kazakhstan even remained completely above freezing for the first half of the period. The southern half of the region experienced more seasonable temperatures, but still some above normal maximums.

Arctic air will continue spilling through Central Asia during the outlook period. The GEFS model forecasts ubiquitous below-average 7-day mean temperatures in the region with negative anomalies of 4-10°C or more. The largest anomalies will be concentrated in southeast Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan. The coldest temperatures will drop below -20°C in parts of northern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan's higher elevations while widespread freezing temperatures in the region's south. As a result, an abnormal cold hazard is posted over a large portion of the region.

Precipitation:

This past week, moderate to locally heavy precipitation (10-25mm or more liquid equivalent) was observed across Kazakhstan. The highest liquid equivalent totals and largest snow accumulations occurred in Aqtobe, Qaraghandy, South Kaz, and East Kaz regions. Significant snow was likely ongoing at the time of this outlook's writing in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Central portions of Central Asia have been drier than normal during December and early January with 10-50mm anomalies. Consequently, based on USGS analysis, negative snow depth and SWE anomalies exist across much of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. Conversely, positive snow depth anomalies are present in Kazakhstan and central Tajikistan. Abnormal dryness is placed from northern Afghanistan to western Kyrgyzstan and from Afghanistan's Herat province to southern Turkmenistan due to low 2-month precipitation accumulation and poor snow water equivalent.

For the outlook period, an axis of rain and mostly snow from Iran, stretching northeastward through eastern Kazakhstan will exit the region, while still bringing significant snowfall to northern Pakistan. The GEFS ensemble mean forecasts an additional 10-25mm liquid equivalent across southern Afghanistan at the end of the period. Heavy snow (>20cm) is expected in many parts of Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan.