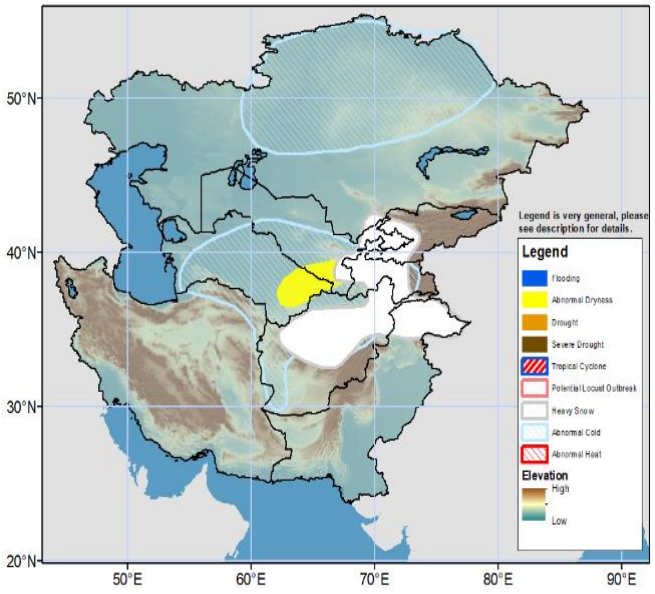
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
09 February – 15 February, 2023

Temperature:

According to Afghanistan's minister of disaster management, the country experienced one to its coldest winter in January due to disrupted polar vortex and temperature in January observed around -28 ºC resulting in 162 fatalities. Weekly average minimum temperatures were below normal (-6 to -2 ºC) across northeast Aktobe, and western and southern Kostanay regions of Kazakhstan during 31 Jan – 06 Feb 2023. In contrast, above normal minimum temperatures were observed southern, central, and eastern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, central and eastern Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, western and northern Afghanistan, and western Tajikistan. Weekly average minimum temperatures were observed around -25 to -10 ºC across northwest, northern and eastern Kazakhstan and eastern Tajikistan, while minimum temperatures were observed around -15 to 0 ºC across Kyrgyzstan, northwest and central Tajikistan, and central and northeast Afghanistan.

The GEFS model forecasts below normal temperature (-4 to -1 ºC) across southwest, central, and southern Kazakhstan, central and eastern Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, western and northern Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and western and central Tajikistan during 09 Feb – 15 Feb 2023. Weekly average minimum temperatures are forecast around -20 to -10 ºC across northern and eastern Kazakhstan, northwest, central and eastern Tajikistan, central and northern Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, with -30 to -20 ºC in eastern regions of Tajikistan. An abnormal cold hazard is posted across northern and central Kazakhstan, eastern Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, western, northern, southwest Afghanistan, western and central Tajikistan where temperature anomaly is below normal (-10 to -4 ºC) in starting few days of this outlook period.



Precipitation:

Light to Moderate precipitation was observed across western, central, northern and northeast Afghanistan, western and central Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, western Turkmenistan, western, southern and eastern Kazakhstan, and southern Kyrgyzstan during 31 Jan – 06 Feb 2023. Some greater amount of precipitation (25 to 50mm) was observed in central Tajikistan, northeast Uzbekistan and eastern Jambyl region of Kazakhstan. Based on USGS snow depth and snow water equivalent (SWE) analysis, negative snow depth and SWE anomalies currently exist across eastern Tajikistan, northeast Afghanistan, and eastern and western Kyrgyzstan.

The GEFS weekly ensembles mean forecasts moderate to heavy precipitation across Tajikistan, southern and southwest Kyrgyzstan, western, central, northern and eastern Afghanistan, eastern regions of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, some parts of southern and northeast Kazakhstan, western, southwest and northern Iran and northern Pakistan region during 09Feb – 15 Feb 2023. Heavy snowfall is predicted across central and northwest Tajikistan, southern Kyrgyzstan, northern Pakistan, and parts of western, central, northern and northeast Afghanistan. Therefore, a heavy snow polygon is posted.

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 takes into account 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 a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product 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, jverdin@usaid.gov