

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

Temperature:

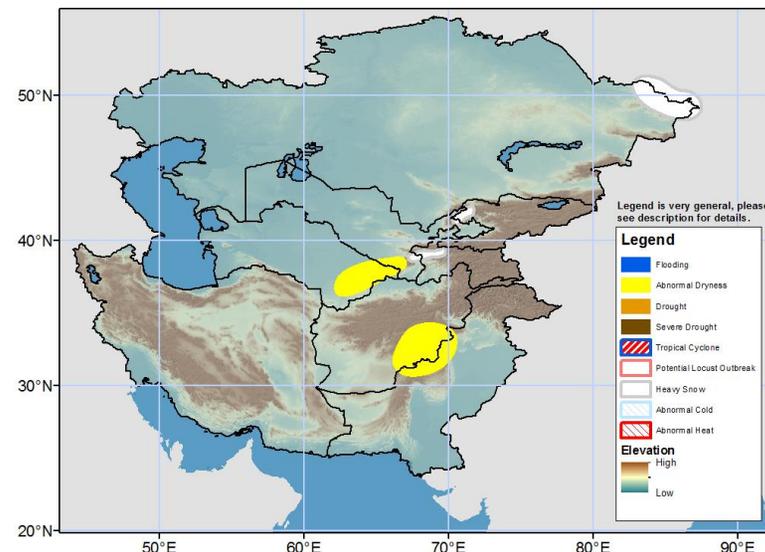
Weekly average minimum temperatures were above normal (4 to 8 °C) across most of Kazakhstan, most of Uzbekistan, northern Afghanistan, and a small portion of western Tajikistan and southwestern Kyrgyzstan from 28 Feb – 06 Mar 2023, with larger anomalies (8 to 12 °C) situated from the western Kyzylorda/northern Aktobe to northwestern Abai regions of Kazakhstan. Weekly average minimum temperatures were observed around -15 to -5 °C across the lower elevations of Kyrgyzstan (<1000 m), higher elevations of eastern Tajikistan (~4000 m), lower elevations of northern and central Kazakhstan (<1000 m), and the higher elevations of central and northeastern Afghanistan (>3000 m). Minimum temperatures ranged from -25 to -15 °C in higher elevations of central/eastern Kyrgyzstan (>2000 m), eastern Tajikistan (>4000 m), and eastern Kazakhstan (>1000 m). Minimum temperatures in higher elevations of central Kyrgyzstan and eastern Tajikistan were up to 12 °C below normal.

The GEFS model forecasts above normal mean temperatures (1 to 6 °C) across central/eastern Kazakhstan, parts of central Turkmenistan, the higher elevations of eastern/central Kyrgyzstan and eastern/central Tajikistan, northeastern/southeastern Afghanistan, northern/eastern Iran, and most of Pakistan from 09 Mar – 15 Mar 2023. Anomalies could exceed 6 to 10 °C in western, southern, and eastern Kazakhstan, most of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, lower elevations of northern/western Kyrgyzstan, lower elevations of western Tajikistan, and most of Afghanistan (primarily central portions of the country ~2000-3000 m). Weekly average minimum temperatures are forecast around -25 to 0 °C across higher elevations of central and eastern Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, higher elevations of northeastern/central Afghanistan, and northern/central/eastern Kazakhstan. Maximum temperature anomalies between 8 to 10 °C above normal are expected from northern Afghanistan to lower elevations of southwestern Uzbekistan, southwestern Tajikistan, and western Kyrgyzstan, as well as in northeastern Pakistan and parts of western/southeastern Kazakhstan. Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast around 20 to 30 °C in northern, western, and southern Afghanistan, most of Turkmenistan, central/eastern Uzbekistan, and lower elevations of southwestern Tajikistan. Weekly average maximum temperatures are forecast to be 35 to 40 °C across eastern Pakistan. Enhanced snowmelt due to anomalously high temperatures could increase runoff and streamflow throughout much of Central Asia.

Precipitation:

Moderate precipitation was observed across northern regions of Kazakhstan (with heavy precipitation in West Kazakhstan) eastern provinces of Afghanistan, central Kyrgyzstan, northern/central Pakistan, and southeastern/northwestern Iran from 01 Mar – 06 Mar 2023. Based on USGS snow depth and snow water equivalent (SWE) analysis, negative snow depth/SWE anomalies exist across eastern Tajikistan, most of Afghanistan, and most of Kyrgyzstan outside of west-central portions. A combination of low standardized precipitation index (SPI) values and precipitation accumulation over the last two months supports the addition of an abnormal dryness polygon in eastern Afghanistan.

The GEFS weekly ensembles mean forecasts moderate to heavy precipitation across northern, eastern, and southeastern Kazakhstan, northeastern Afghanistan, northern Kyrgyzstan, western/central Tajikistan, and western Iran from 08 Mar – 14 Mar 2023. Heavy snowfall is predicted across higher elevations of East Kazakhstan, central/northwestern Tajikistan, portions of eastern Uzbekistan, and northwestern Kyrgyzstan.



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, jverd@usaid.gov.