

Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 26 – 31, 2020

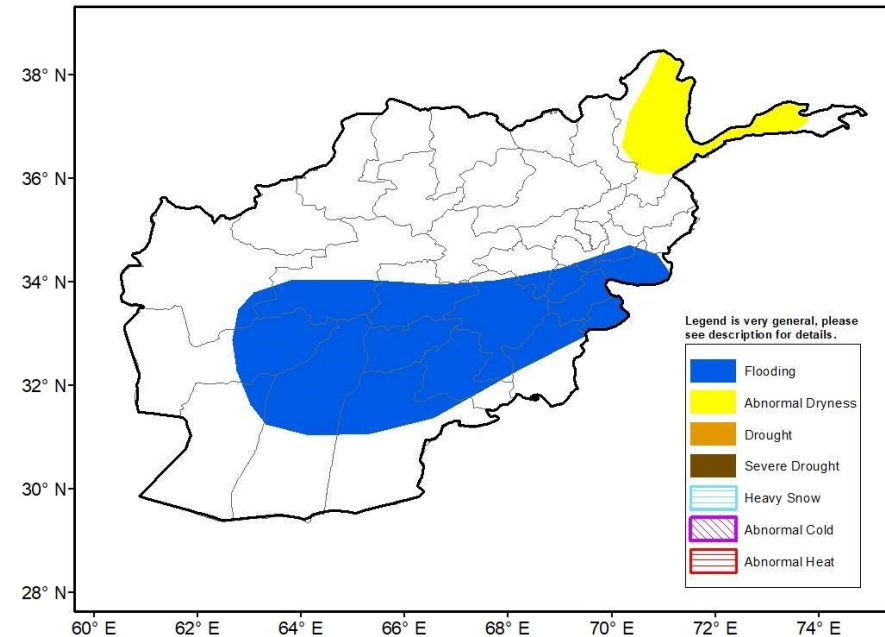
Temperatures:

During the last week, above-average temperatures prevailed across the country. Minimum temperatures have been above average, especially in the central and northern provinces, while maximum temperatures were most above average in the north and west. Positive anomalies exceeded 8°C. Maximum temperatures reached the low 30s (degrees C) in the Southwest. Looking ahead, models indicate that much cooler temperatures are likely during the early part of the outlook period with minimum temperatures below 5°C into the lower elevations.

Precipitation:

During the past week, widespread heavy rain and high-elevation snow occurred across much of Afghanistan and continued right through the end of the period. Total precipitation amounts of at least 25mm (liquid equivalent) were widespread, while more than 100mm were measured locally by gauges. Snow water volume analyses continue to indicate large negative anomalies across parts of northeast Afghanistan. Therefore, an abnormal dryness hazard is maintained for these areas.

Another low-pressure system is forecast to bring additional precipitation later in the outlook period. The frequent, heavy rainfall, along with rapid snow melt, are increasing the flooding risk across parts of Afghanistan. A broad hazard area is necessary to cover the risk of flash flooding and river flooding downstream at the lower elevations.



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook March 26 - 31, 2020

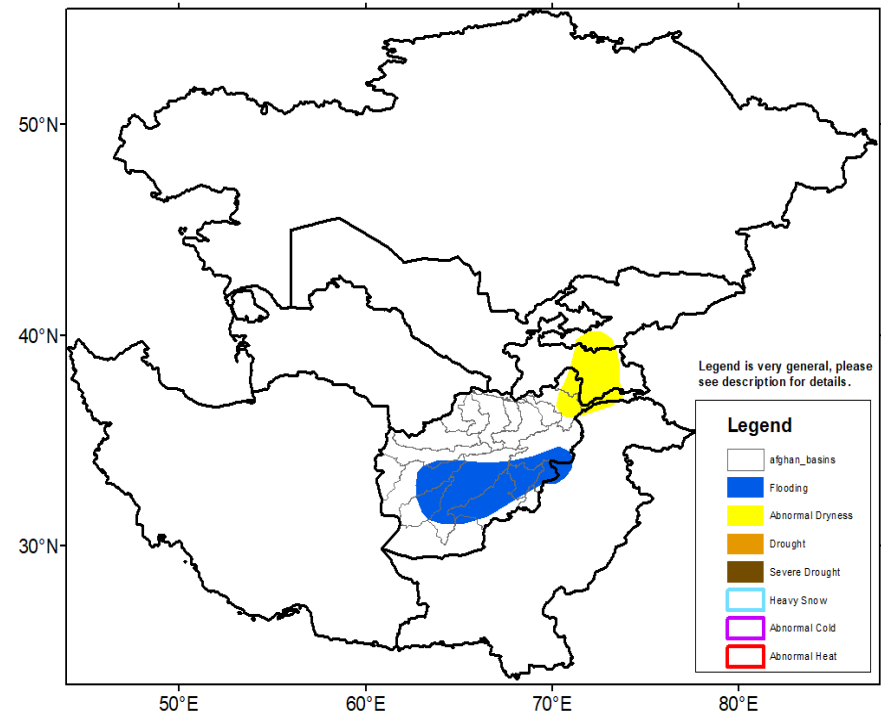
Temperatures:

Much above normal temperatures prevailed across Kazakhstan from March 15 to 21 with many 7-day observations of +10 to +12 anomalies. Although above normal temperatures were also observed across the remainder of the region, anomalies were more modest. Maximum temperatures were above 25 degrees C as far north as southern Kazakhstan, while maximum temperatures reached the lower 30s (degrees C) in Turkmenistan. Model solutions indicate that much cooler temperatures are likely during the early part of the outlooks period with subfreezing temperatures throughout Kazakhstan and minimum temperatures below 5 degrees C at the lower elevations of Afghanistan.

Precipitation:

Snow water equivalent anomalies continue to indicate negative anomalies across parts of northeast Afghanistan and eastern Tajikistan. Therefore, an abnormal dryness hazard is maintained for these areas. This abnormal dryness hazard will be reassessed next week and may be removed, pending heavy precipitation during March.

As of March 25, a low-pressure system was tracking across Afghanistan with rain and high-elevation snow. A second low pressure system is forecast to bring additional precipitation to Afghanistan later in the outlook period. The frequent rainfall along with rapid snow melt are likely to increase the flooding risk across parts of Afghanistan. A broad hazard area is necessary to cover the risk of flash flooding and river flooding downstream at the lower elevations.



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 for indicate current or projected food security conditions.