

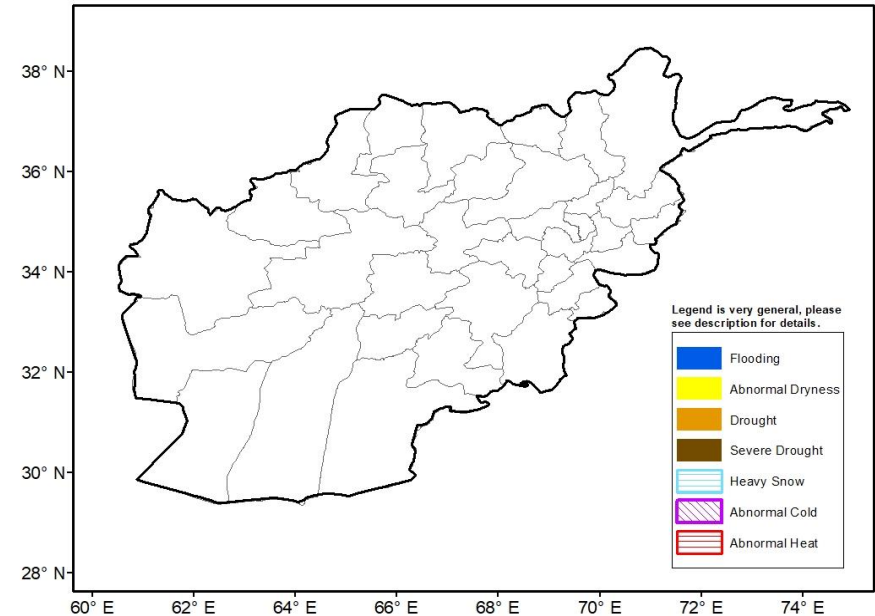
**Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
December 17 - 23, 2020**

Temperatures:

During the past week, below-normal temperatures were entrenched across Afghanistan. Subfreezing temperatures occurred widely at the lower elevations for a second consecutive week. Minimum temperatures were more than 8°C below normal in some places with temperatures below 15°C in the central highlands. During the outlook period, temperatures are forecast to moderate across the country. Despite this moderating trend, minimum temperatures may continue to fall at or below freezing for parts of the lower elevations of Afghanistan. Warmer than average temperatures could occur in the south

Precipitation:

After widespread light to moderate precipitation occurred across Afghanistan early last week, the pattern dried out considerably. Observed liquid equivalent precipitation totals generally were less than 25mm. Despite some overall precipitation deficits for the past 30-day period, positive snow depth anomalies currently exist across the central highlands of Afghanistan based on USGS snowfall analysis. Snow depth anomalies are more variable throughout the northeast mountains of Afghanistan. During the outlook period, dry conditions will persist with only a little light rain or snow expected across northern parts of the country. The GFS model forecasts less than 10mm liquid equivalent precipitation.



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook December 17 - 23, 2020

Temperatures:

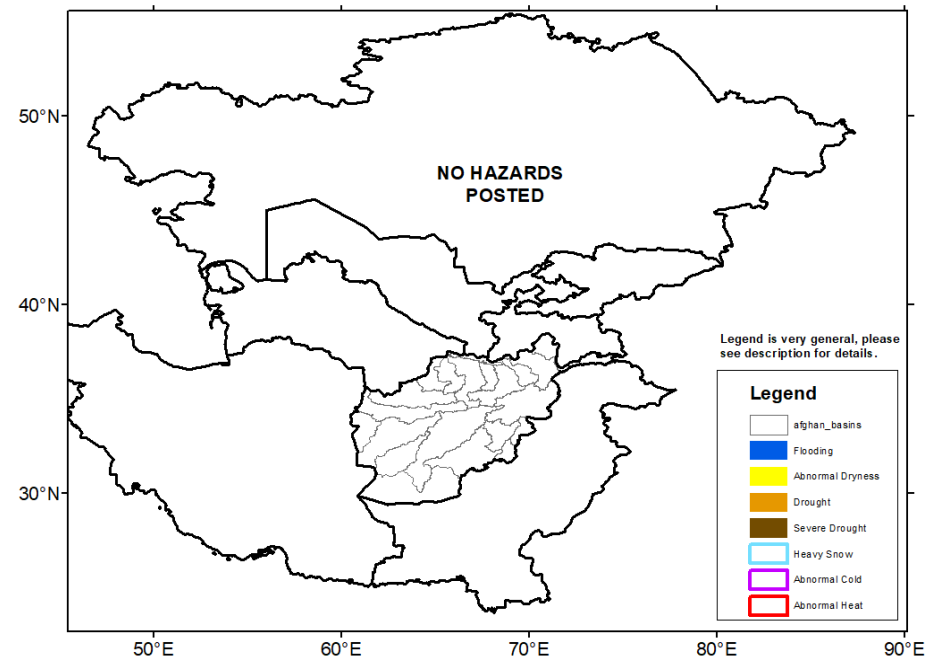
Much below normal temperatures (-5 to -15 degrees C) persisted across southwest Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan from Dec 6 to 12. Weekly negative temperature anomalies were smaller throughout the remainder of Central Asia. During the past week, minimum temperatures fell below -20 degrees C as far south as northern Uzbekistan, while subfreezing temperatures occurred even at the lower elevations of Afghanistan for the second consecutive week.

The GFS model depicts that minimum temperatures are likely to remain below normal across northern Kazakhstan, while temperatures moderate from Turkmenistan south to Afghanistan. Despite this moderating trend, minimum temperatures may continue to fall at or below freezing for parts of the lower elevations of Afghanistan.

Precipitation:

According to the RFE satellite estimates and gauge observations, widespread light to moderate precipitation (25 mm or less, liquid equivalent) occurred across much of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Based on USGS snowfall analysis, positive snow depth anomalies currently exist across the central highlands of Afghanistan. Snow depth anomalies are more variable throughout the northeast mountains of Afghanistan.

The GFS model indicates that drier weather is likely to prevail across Afghanistan during the outlook period. Farther to the north, light to moderate snow (mostly less than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) is forecast for the remainder of Central Asia.



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.

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