

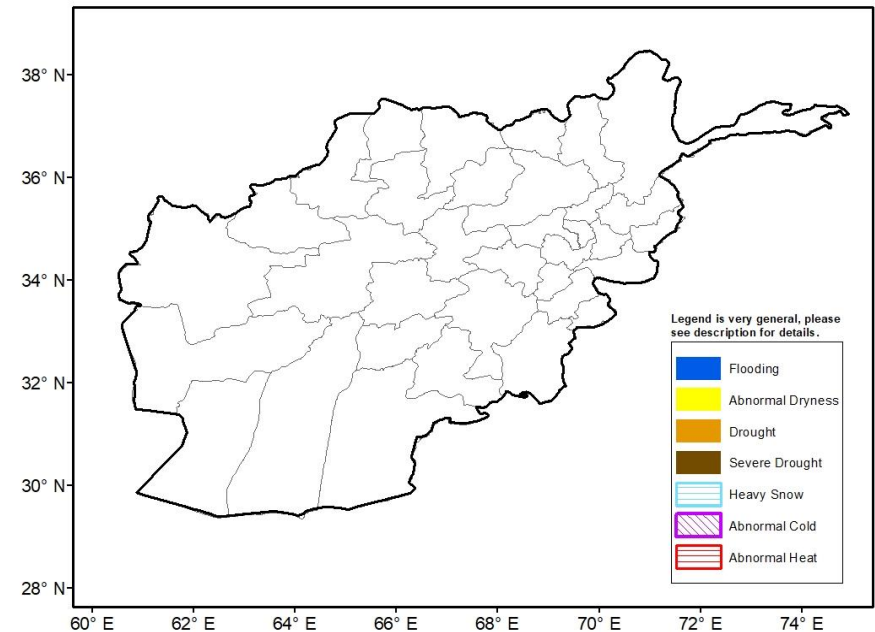
**Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
December 24 - 30, 2020**

Temperatures:

During the past week, below-normal temperatures remained entrenched across Afghanistan. Subfreezing temperatures occurred across the entire country. Minimum temperatures reached more than 8°C below average in some places with minimum temperatures below -5°C for many of the lower elevations. During the first half of the outlook period, temperatures are forecast to moderate across the country. This is expected to be followed by another shot of below-average temperatures. As such, minimum temperatures for the period may again fall below freezing for many parts of the country's lower elevations.

Precipitation:

Last week, according to gauge observations, widespread light to moderate precipitation (25mm or less, liquid equivalent) occurred across central and northern Afghanistan. This mostly fell in the form of snow. After a generally cold pattern, 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. A low pressure is forecast to traverse the country during the first half of the outlook period. Widespread snow is likely in the northern two thirds of the country. A heavy snow hazard is not posted since total snowfall amounts for the period are expected to remain generally below 30cm. The pattern dries later in the period.



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook December 24 - 30, 2020

Temperatures:

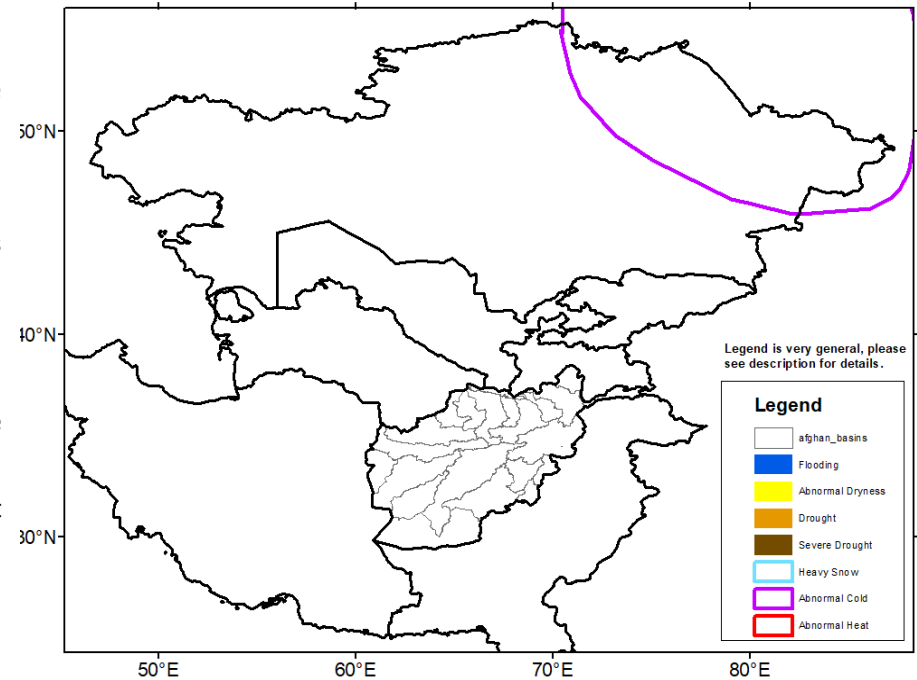
Below normal temperatures (-3 to -12 degrees C) persisted across the southern half of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and parts of Afghanistan from Dec 13 to 19. During that time period, minimum temperatures fell to near -20 degrees C as far south as northern Uzbekistan, while minimum temperatures were below -5 degrees C across the lower elevations of Afghanistan.

The GFS model depicts that a moderating trend in temperatures throughout most of the region. However, an abnormal cold hazard is posted for northeast Kazakhstan where weekly minimum temperatures are forecast to average more than -8 degrees C below normal. Minimum temperatures are likely to fall below -30 degrees C within this outlined hazard area.

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 additional rain and high-elevation snow are likely to occur across much of Afghanistan and Tajikistan during the remainder of December. A heavy hazard is not posted since total snowfall amounts for the outlook period are expected to remain generally below 30 cm.



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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