

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#33, August 20 - 26, 2008

Much of Afghanistan has received below normal precipitation during the winter and spring, along with an early snow melt (see Figure 1).

During the end of the wet season, October - March, high temperatures depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-normal snow pack 4 – 6 weeks earlier than normal. Hot temperatures have also led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs. This combination of factors threatens water availability for agriculture. Temperature anomalies have eased since the beginning of July. Temperatures should average slightly above normal in the lowlands and extreme maximum temperatures could reach the upper 30s (°C).

Precipitation across most of Afghanistan was below average from October - May as well and, as a result, underground water sources, used for both drinking water and irrigation, have not been replenished. The cumulative effects of high temperatures and low rainfall have had a direct bearing on most households, who rely on agriculture and livestock for their income and food needs. During the past week, locally heavy showers fell in the central highlands and eastern Afghanistan. Dry weather is expected during the next week.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

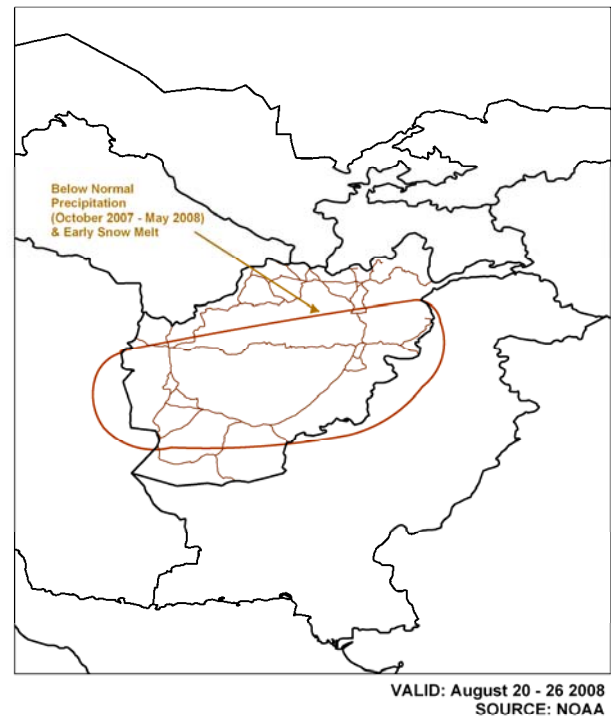
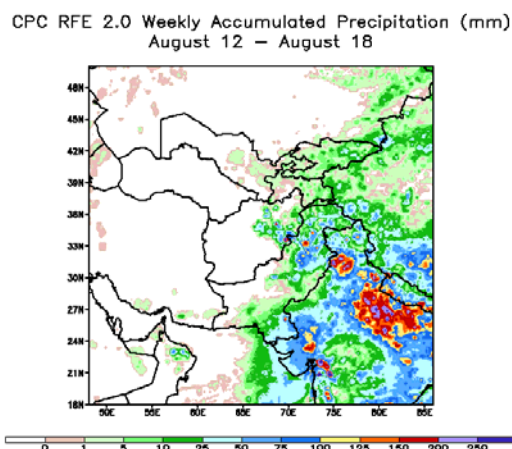


Figure 2. Weekly Precipitation (mm) Ending August 17

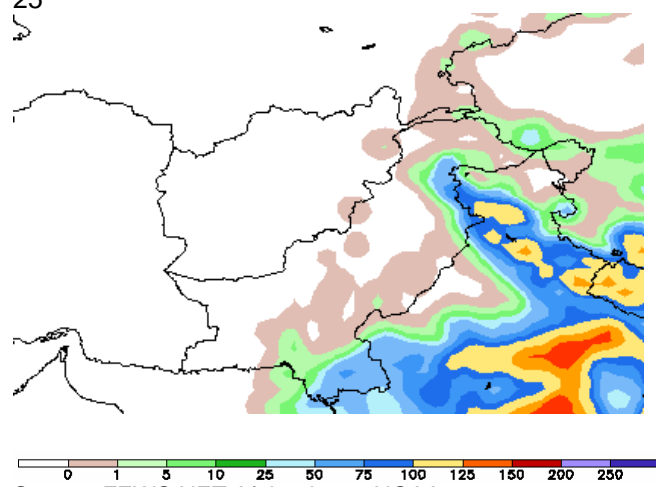


Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA

FEWS NET Afghanistan
Tel: 070.15.60.60
fnajimi@fews.net

FEWS NET Washington
1717 H St NW
Washington DC 20006
info@fews.net

Figure 3. Precipitation forecast (mm) for August 19 – 25



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.