

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#38, September 24 - 30, 2008

Much of Afghanistan received below normal precipitation from the winter of 2007/2008 to the spring of 2008, along with an early snow melt (see Figure 1).

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. During the end of the October 2007 - March 2008 wet season, high temperatures, averaging between 4-8 degrees, depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-normal snow pack four to six weeks earlier than normal. Hot temperatures continued into July and led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs. This combination of factors has further limited water availability for agriculture. These above-normal temperatures have returned to and remained at normal seasonal levels since the beginning of July.

The cumulative effects of high temperatures and low rainfall have directly impacted households, who rely on agriculture and livestock for their income and food needs. During the past week, some rain showers fell in far eastern Afghanistan, and temperatures have continued to cool during the past few weeks (Figure 2). Dry weather is expected to persist during the next week (Figure 3). Rain and mountain snow typically begin in October.

Temperatures should average near normal in the lowlands,. Extreme maximum temperatures could reach the upper 30s (°C). Minimum temperatures will fall below freezing in the highest elevations of northeast and central Afghanistan.

Figure 2. Temperature (C) anomalies September 1 - 10th, 2008

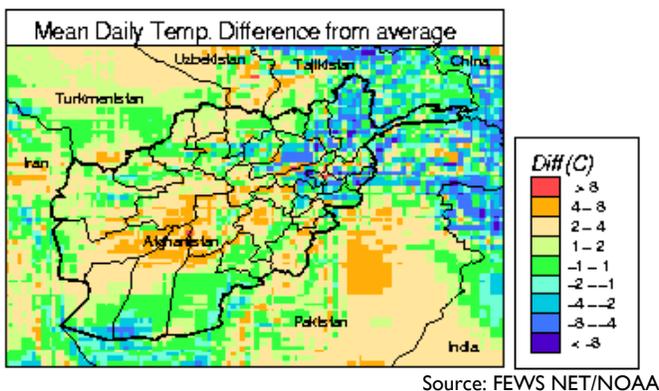


Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

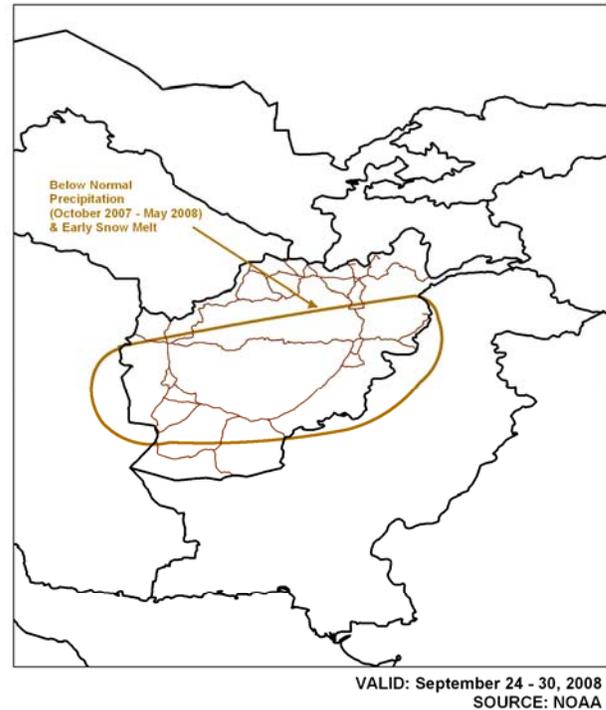


Figure 3. Weekly precipitation (mm) forecast for September 22 - 29, 2008

