AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast #44, November 5 - 11, 2008

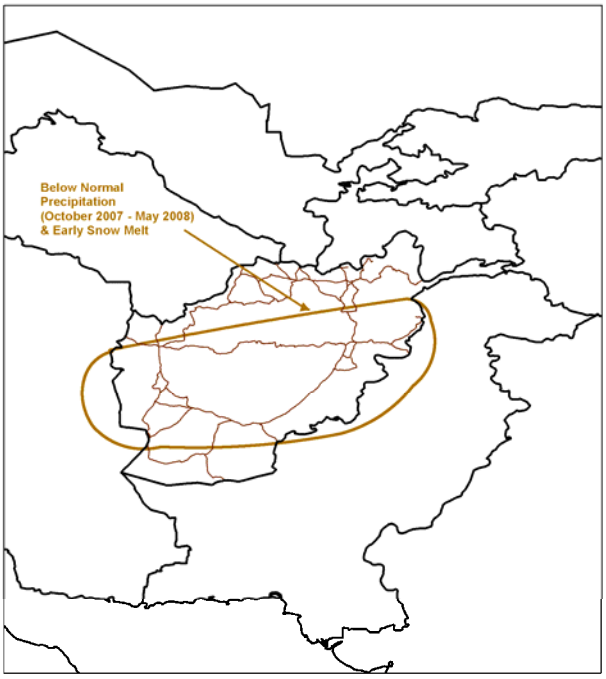
Much of Afghanistan received below-normal precipitation from October 2007 through May 2008, along with early snow melt (Figure 1) that did not allow for the replenishment of underground water resources.

During the end of the October 2007 – March 2008 wet season, high temperatures, averaging between four and eight degrees Celsius above normal, depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-average snow pack four to six weeks earlier than normal. Above-average temperatures continued into the summer and led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs. This combination of factors limited water availability for crop and livestock based agriculture.

During early to mid October, much of Afghanistan experienced warmer than average temperatures. In late October and early November, however, temperatures dropped significantly as low as -20 °C (Figure 2) in the highest-elevations of northeast Afghanistan.

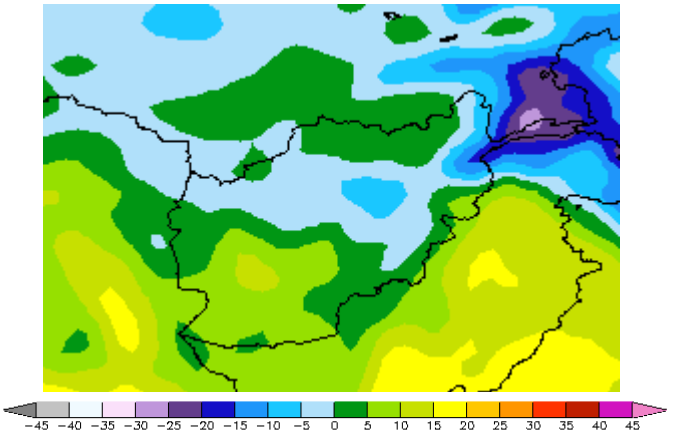
Since the beginning of October, occasional rain and snow showers have occurred across northeast Afghanistan. Snowfall, while still light has begun accumulating in the northeastern areas of the country. During the next week, snow depths will increase to their highest of the season (Figure 3) in the mountains of northeast Afghanistan and snow could become briefly heavy. There is also the possibility of very light snow falling in the highest elevations of central Afghanistan. This is typical for this time of year.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan



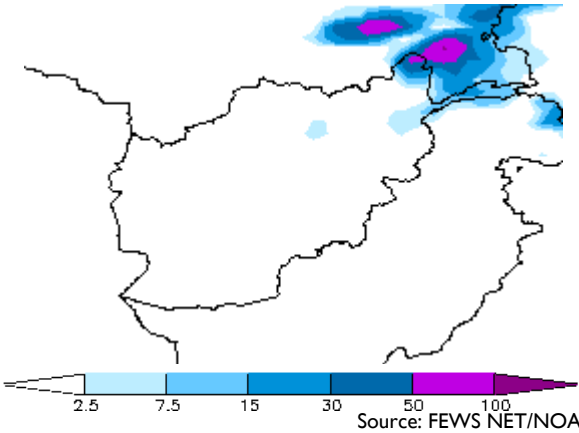
VALID: November 5 - 11, 2008
SOURCE: NOAA

Figure 2. Extreme minimum temperature (°C) forecast for November 3 – 10, 2008



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

Figure 3. Snow depth (cm) forecast for November 10, 2008



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA

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