

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

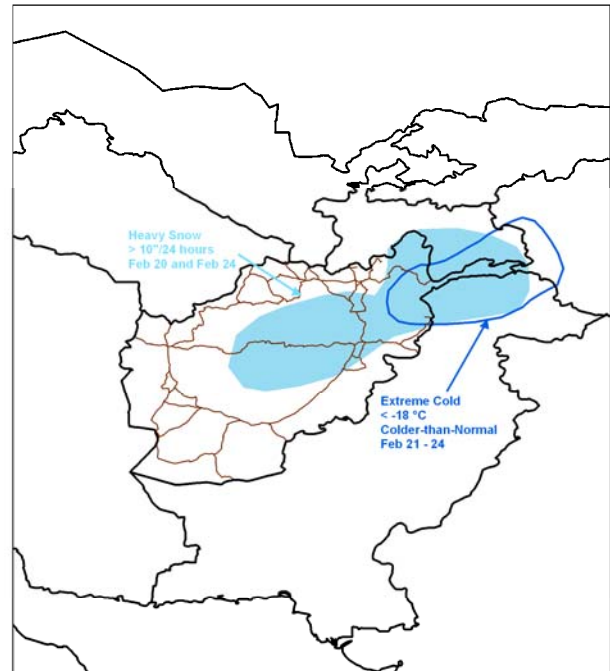
#07, February 18 - 24, 2009

Warm temperatures caused some early season melting, reducing snow coverage and depth, primarily in the northern provinces of Afghanistan. However, during the last three weeks colder temperatures and consistent snowfall have brought snow depths back up towards normal, and in many places snow depths are now above normal. (Figure 3) Eastern Afghanistan, north of Kabul, has experience some localized below normal precipitation. (Figure 2) Due to the colder temperatures causing some precipitation that would normally fall as rain, to fall as snow, snow depths are still near normal in this region.

The coming week is expected to bring additional snow and cold temperatures. Last week's snow fell mainly in the eastern part of the central highlands and the northeastern mountains. This week, the heaviest snowfall will likely be in the eastern parts of the central highlands. Extreme cold (minimum temperatures below -18°C) is also forecast for the highest elevations in Afghanistan in northeastern Afghanistan.

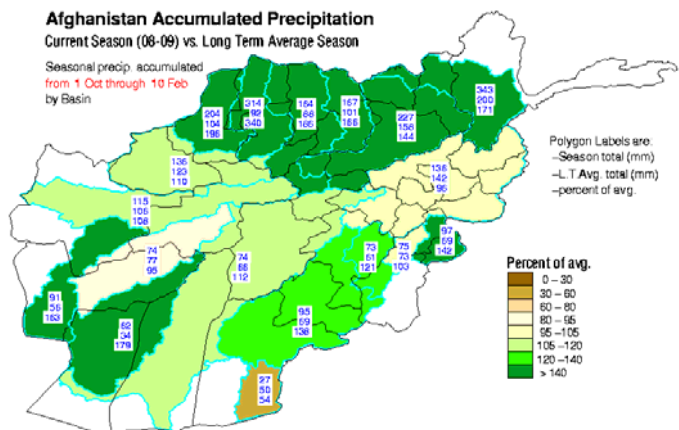
Snowfall this week will possibly be in excess of 10 inches in a 24 hour. A significant increase in snow depths is expected in the central highlands and northeast mountains (Figure 3). Western parts of the central highlands will not experience as much snow.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan



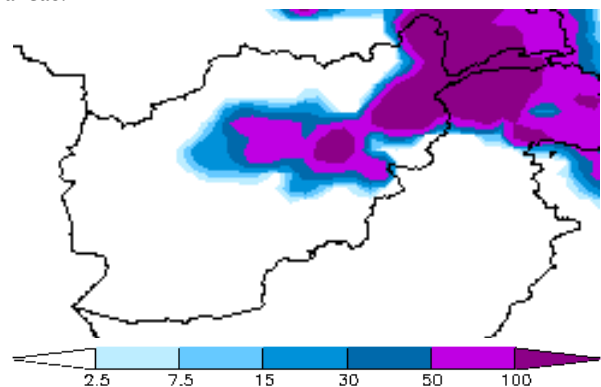
VALID: February 18 - 24, 2009
SOURCE: NOAA

Figure 2. Precipitation deficits, in eastern Afghanistan and the western highlands, are likely to shrink this week as two low-pressure systems are expected to move through the area.



Source: FEWS-NET/USGS

Figure 3. Forecast Snow Depth (cm) for February 24, 2009. Snow depths remain unusually high in most areas.



Source: FEWS -NET/NOAA