

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan December 16 - 22, 2009

Cold temperatures of the past month are likely to become more seasonable during the outlook period. Below freezing temperatures moved into the valleys and lowland areas of Afghanistan weeks earlier than normal. For the coming week, minimum temperatures will likely fall below -40C in the northeast mountains and below -15C in the central highlands. There will be a slight warm-up across the lowland areas of Afghanistan. This, combined with the temperature climatology lowering as we move into late December will make for more seasonable temperatures during the coming week.

Although precipitation is usually relatively light during October and November, precipitation amounts were higher than the long-term average. Typically, rain and snow amounts increase during November, and by December precipitation occurs weekly. The last month has seen snow totals increase each week, but the coming week will break from that trend. While snow is forecast, primarily in the central highland areas, it is not expected to be nearly as heavy as the snow storms from earlier in December. Rain showers are likely across the lowland areas.

This week's precipitation will be due to two different low-pressure systems that will move across the region during the next week. The first low-pressure system will clip northern Afghanistan and most of its precipitation will be rainfall in the northern lowlands. The other will push through the region this coming weekend late in the observation period and will be stronger and responsible for the majority of the snow next week.

