

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan January 6 - 12, 2010

During December, temperatures averaged much below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. In the lowlands, temperatures averaged at or above normal with the largest positive temperature anomalies occurring during the last week of the month. During the next week, the temperature pattern is forecast to remain unchanged as below normal temperatures continue in the central highlands and northeast mountains. Therefore, an extreme cold hazard is posted in these areas where minimum temperatures will likely fall below -20 C. Minimum temperatures may fall below freezing in the lowlands.

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. Above normal snowfall amounts occurred from November into the beginning of December. However, during the past 3 to 4 weeks, mostly dry weather has dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Mostly dry weather is expected to continue during the upcoming week.

