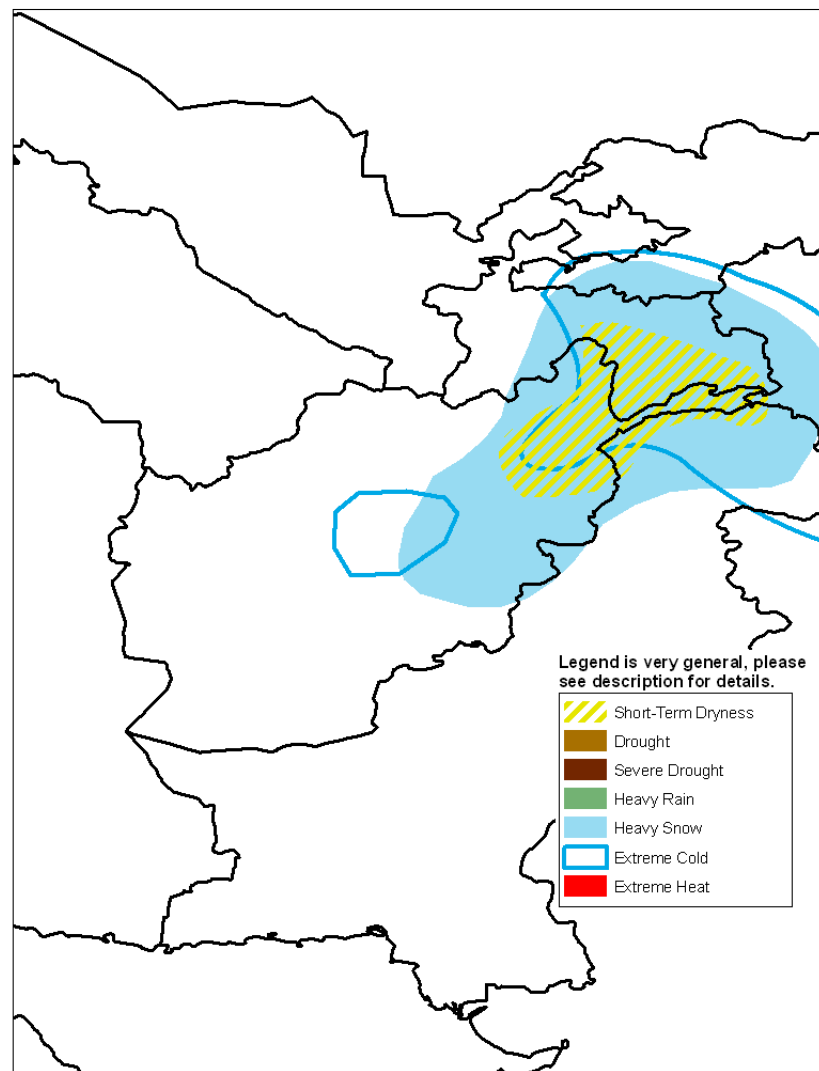


The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan February 3 - 9, 2010

During December and January, temperatures averaged 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 second week of January. During the next week, temperatures should remain above normal in the lowlands with below normal temperatures limited to the northeast mountains and central highlands where minimum temperatures will likely fall below -20C.

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 6 weeks, mostly dry weather has dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Short-term dryness has worsened recently and concern for a lack of snowfall and adequate water resources has increased. In the northeast mountains, precipitation deficits range from 25 to 75 mm. Last week, a storm system resulted in moderate to heavy snow which would ease short-term dryness in the northeast mountains.

During the coming week there is the potential for another snow event, including areas with the largest precipitation deficits.



Note: This product is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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