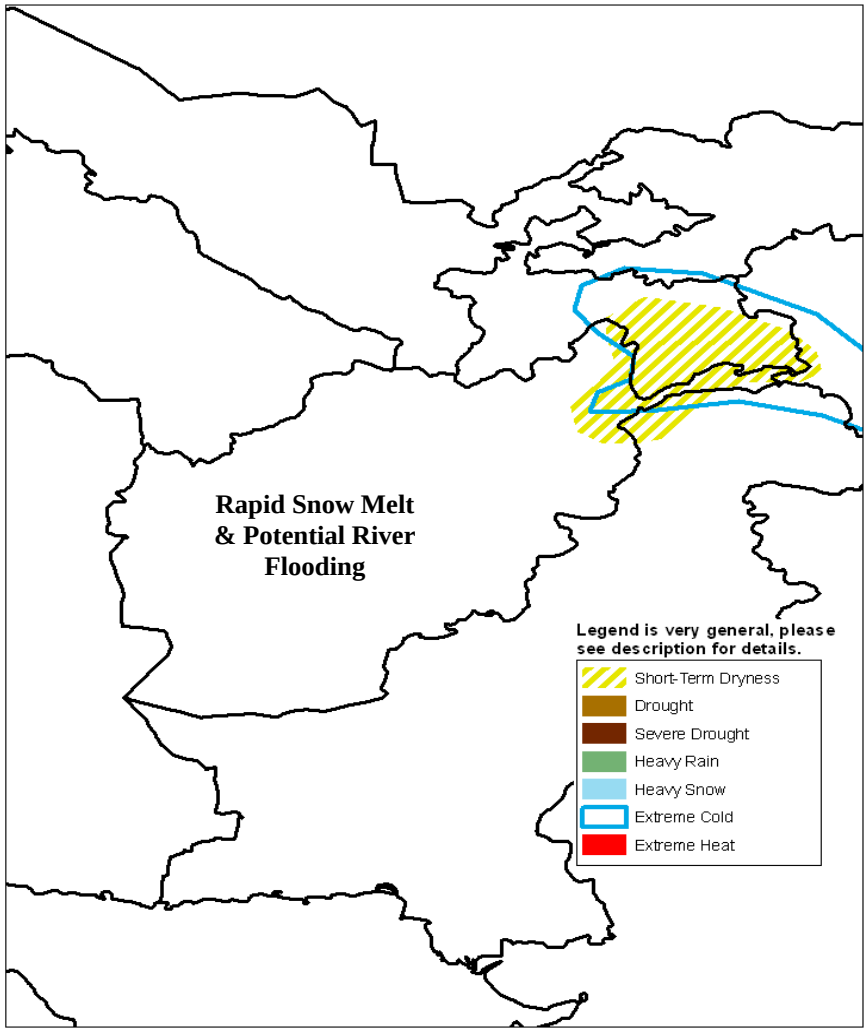
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 10 - 16, 2010

During much of the winter, temperatures have averaged below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. In the lowlands, temperatures have generally averaged at or above normal with the largest positive temperature anomalies occurring during late February. During the next week, temperatures should remain above normal across much of the country. Maximum temperatures may reach 30C in southwest Afghanistan, while maximum temperatures will exceed freezing in the central highlands and trigger snow melt. Temperatures are expected to average slightly below normal in the northeast mountains where minimum temperatures will remain 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 later December and much of January, mostly dry weather dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Short-term dryness developed in the northeastern part of the country. During the two weeks, widespread rain and snow has occurred in Afghanistan. The northeast mountains, suffering from the short-term dryness, has received 50 – 150 mm (liquid equivalent) of precipitation. Although this wetness has reduced precipitation deficits, additional precipitation is needed to eliminate the precipitation deficits.

During the next week, drier weather is expected with no significant increase of snow depths in the northeast mountains. ***Much above normal temperatures will likely trigger rapid snow melt and river flooding in the central highlands.***



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.