

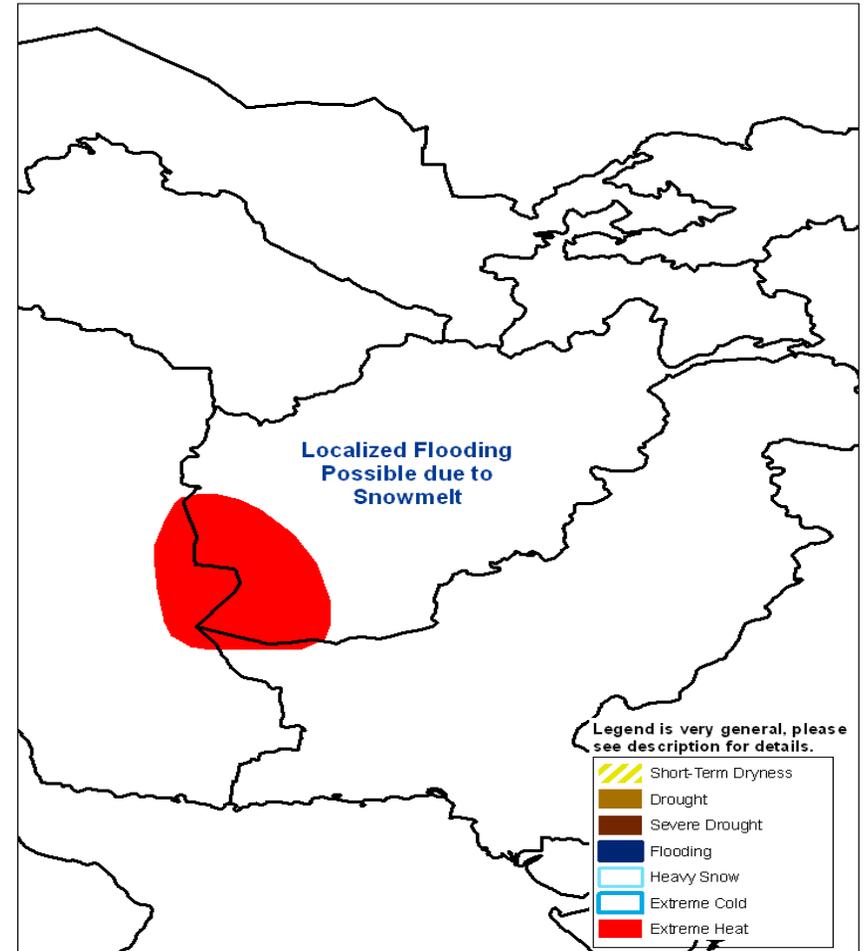
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Outlook for Afghanistan April 20 - 26, 2011

Temperatures:

During early April, temperatures remained below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains, while temperatures averaged above normal across the lowlands. The seasonal warming trend has triggered snow melt across the central highlands, but no flooding has been reported. During the next week, maximum temperatures are forecast to approach 40 (C) in southwest Afghanistan and near 20 (C) in the central highlands. Extreme heat hazard was posted for southwest Afghanistan where maximum temperatures are forecast to average more than 6 degrees C above normal.

Precipitation

Since mid-January, periods of moderate to heavy precipitation have created precipitation surpluses for the winter season. From October 1, 2010 – April 10, 2011, precipitation is running at least 150 percent of normal across much of Afghanistan, according to the USGS. Snow water volume charts from USGS indicate much above normal snow water values for much of the country. A sharp decline in snow water volume values indicates ongoing, rapid snow melt. Although dry weather can be expected during the next week, rapid snow melt may result in localized flooding.



Note: The Hazards assessment map 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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