

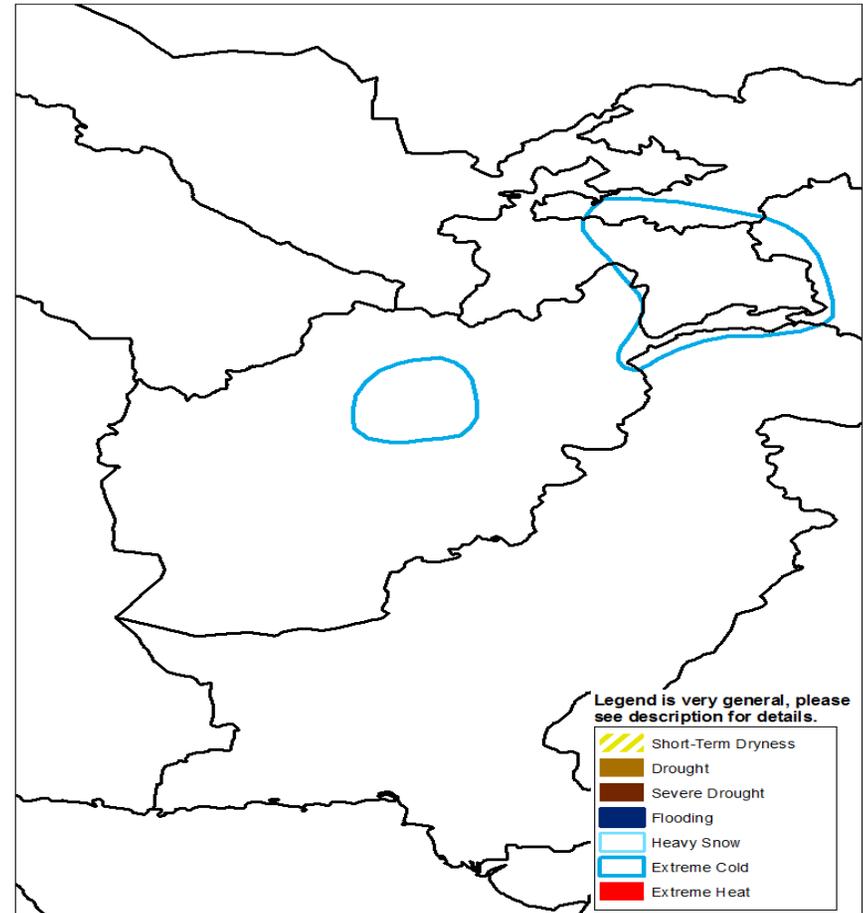
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 4 - 10, 2012

Temperatures:

During December, temperatures averaged below normal across most of Afghanistan with the largest negative temperature anomalies across the central highlands and northeast mountains. Below normal temperatures are forecast across most of Afghanistan for a fifth consecutive week. The largest negative anomalies (> 8 degrees C below normal) are expected to continue in the central highlands and northern Afghanistan. Minimum temperatures may fall to below -30 degrees C in the central highlands and -40 degrees C in the northeast mountains. Due to these bitterly cold temperatures, an extreme cold hazard is posted for these locations. It should be noted that the coldest temperatures can be expected early in the period.

Precipitation

Although snow coverage remains across the higher elevations of central and northeast Afghanistan, snow depth are likely below average due to unseasonably dry weather since the beginning of December. The lack of snowfall should be closely monitored and a short-term dryness polygon may be posted in future assessments. During the next week, light to moderate snow (5 – 30 mm, liquid equivalent) is expected across the northern half of Afghanistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook 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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