AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast #26, July 2 - 8, 2008

Temperatures continue to remain above normal across most of Afghanistan, depleting much of the country's snow pack 4 – 6 weeks earlier than normal. Snow pack is critical because it is used for irrigation in lowland areas. The remaining snow pack now resides only in the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan. High temperatures have also led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs threatening water availability for crop production and pasture.

Precipitation across most of Afghanistan is below normal as well (Figure 2) and as a result underground water sources, which are used for both drinking water and irrigation, have not been replenished.. The cumulative effect of this situation will have a direct bearing on most households, who rely on agriculture and livestock for their income and food needs.

For the upcoming week, maximum temperatures will exceed 38 °C in the lowlands and weekly temperatures will average 3 to 5 °C above normal across much of the country.

1) Much of Afghanistan has received below normal precipitation during the winter and spring along with an early snow melt.

2) Extreme heat (maximum temperatures above 38 °C) will affect the lowlands of Afghanistan and continue to increase water evaporation.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan as of July 1, 2008

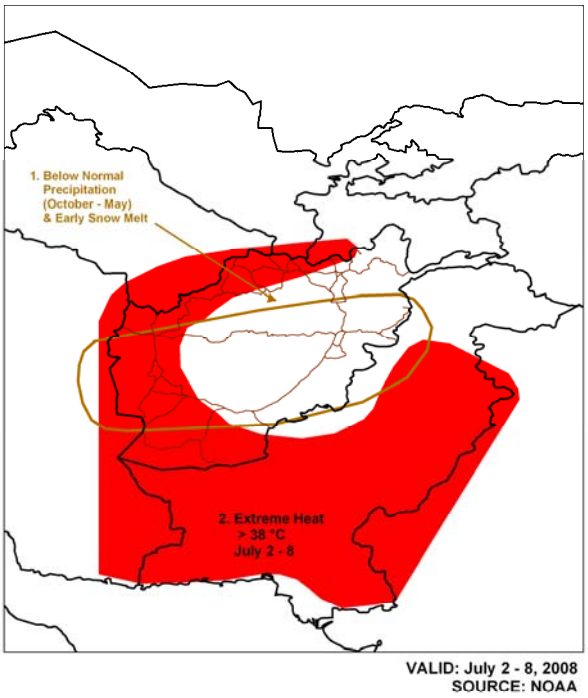
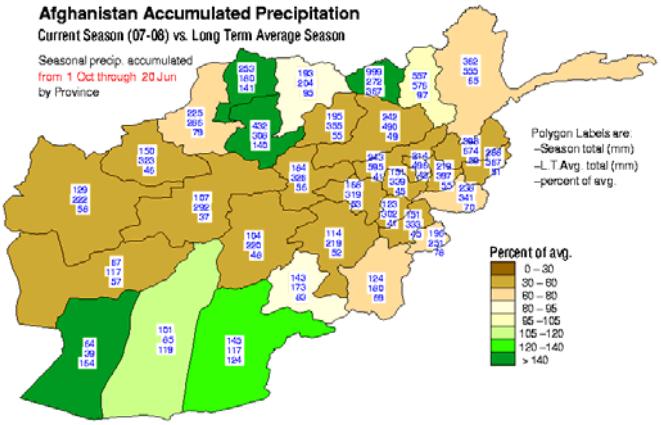
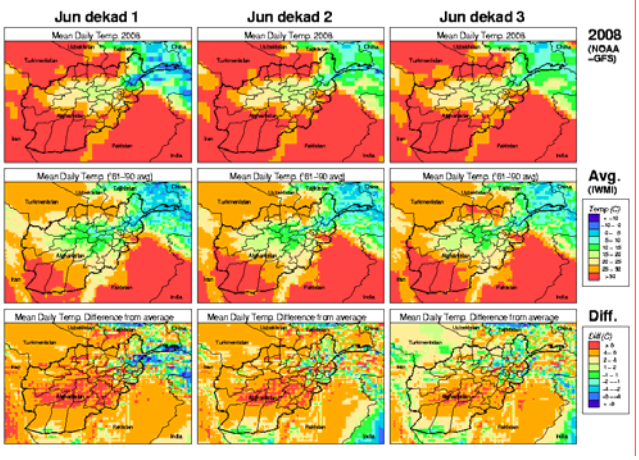


Figure 2. Accumulated liquid precipitation



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, USGS

Figure 3. Mean Temperature Anomaly – June



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, USGS

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