

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#27, July 9 - 15, 2008

Unusually hot temperatures continue across most of Afghanistan. The high temperatures, and below normal snow pack, depleted much of the countries snow pack 4 – 6 weeks earlier than normal. Snow pack is critical because it is used for irrigation in lowland areas. High temperatures have also led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs threatening water availability for crop production and pasture.

Precipitation across most of Afghanistan was below average from October - May as well, and as a result underground water sources, which are used for both drinking water and irrigation, have not been replenished. (See Figure 2) 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. We are now in the dry season (See Figure 3) and only light showers are expected along the Pakistan border.

For the upcoming week, maximum temperatures will exceed 38 °C in the lowlands and weekly temperatures will average 4 to 6 °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

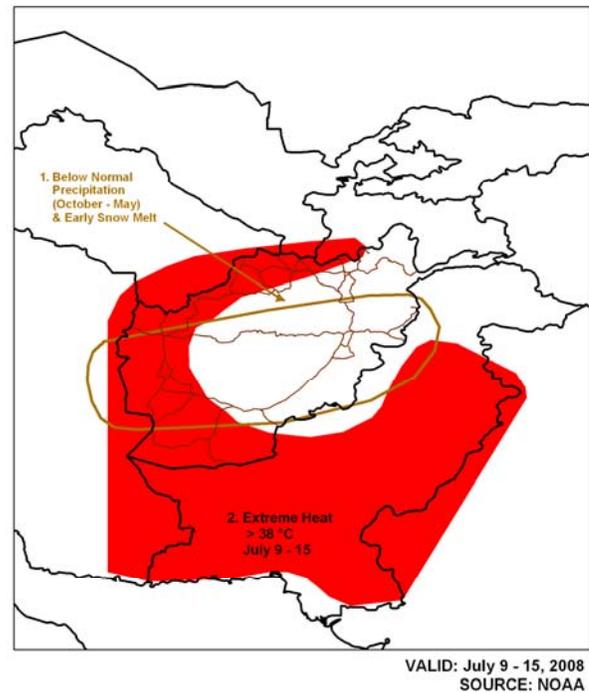
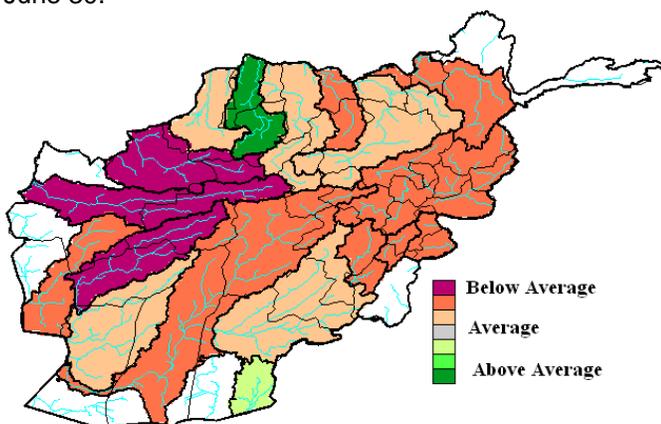
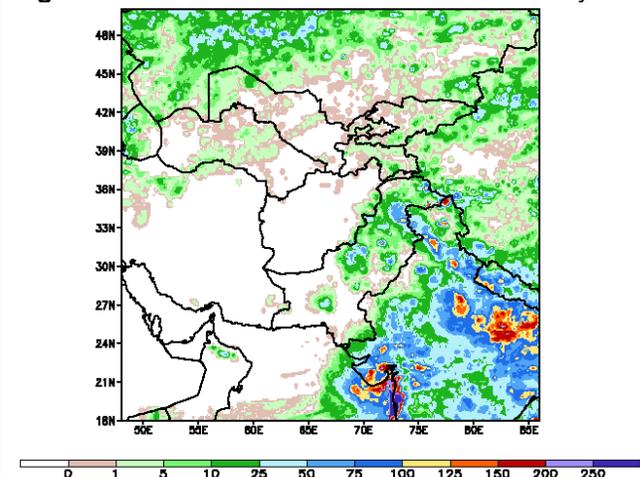


Figure 2. Irrigation supply percent of average as of June 30.



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, USGS

Figure 3. Total estimated rainfall June 30 – July 6



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA