

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#29, July 23 - 29, 2008

- 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.

During the end of the wet season, high temperatures depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-normal snow pack 4 – 6 weeks earlier than normal. High temperatures have also led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs, threatening water availability for agriculture. Temperature anomalies have eased since the beginning of July, although temperatures remain moderately above normal (Figure 2).

Precipitation across most of Afghanistan was below average from October - May as well and, as a result, underground water sources, used for both drinking water and irrigation, have not been replenished. The cumulative effects of high temperatures and low rainfall have had a direct bearing on most households, who rely on agriculture and livestock for their income and food needs. Light rainfall has continued along the Pakistan border (Figure 3).

During the coming week temperatures will remain warmer than average, but anomalies will not be as large, for the upcoming week. Significant rainfall will not return until October.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan as of July 16, 2008

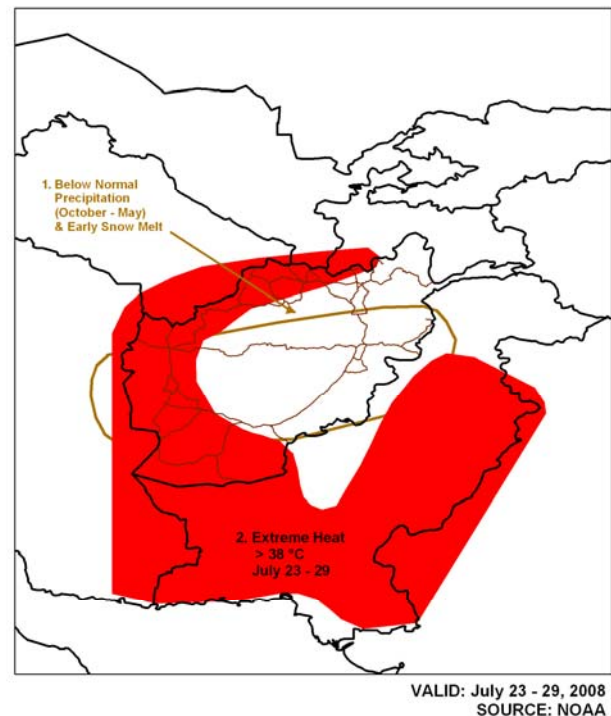
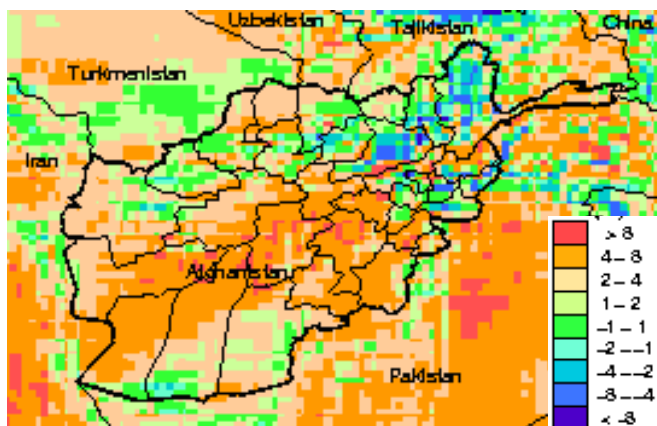
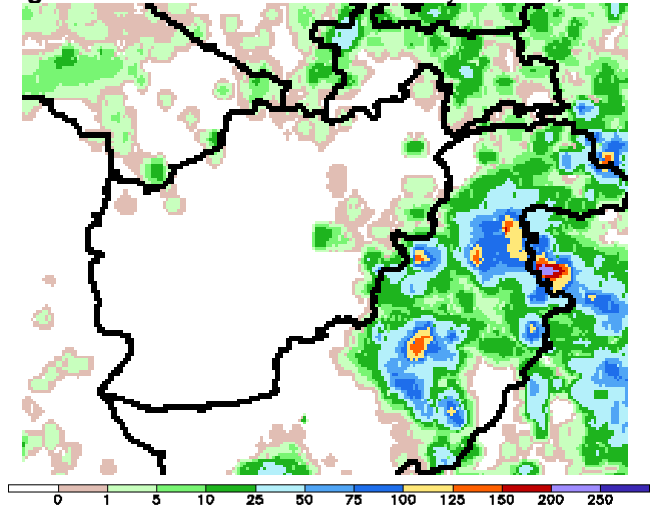


Figure 2. Temperature anomalies for the second dekad of July 2008



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, USGS

Figure 3. Total estimated rainfall July 14 – 20, 2008



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA