

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast #30, July 30 - August 5, 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) continues to affect the lowlands of Afghanistan and increase water evaporation.

During the end of the wet season, October - March, 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. That trend will continue through the coming week (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). Significant rainfall will not return until October.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan as of July 30, 2008

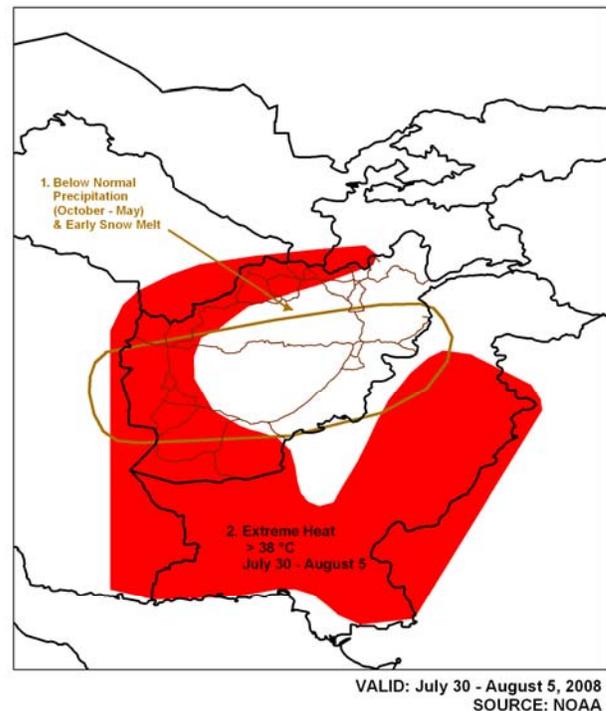
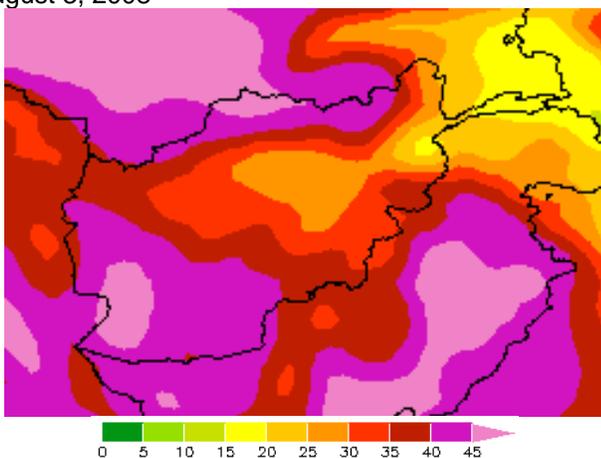
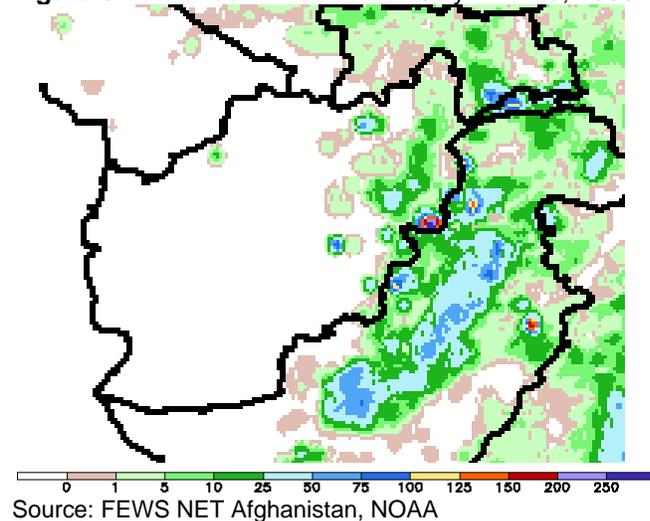


Figure 2. High temperature forecast for July 28 - August 3, 2008



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA

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



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA