

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#32, August 13 - 19, 2008

- 1) Much of Afghanistan has received below normal precipitation during the winter and spring, along with an early snow melt.
- 2) Locally heavy rainfall is possible across north-central Pakistan and far eastern Afghanistan.

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. Hot temperatures have also led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs, threatening water availability for agriculture. Temperature anomalies have eased since the beginning of July, and temperatures should average at or below normal during the next week.

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. Locally heavy rain may fall along the central Afghanistan/Pakistan border, but more widespread precipitation will not occur until the 2008-09 winter.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

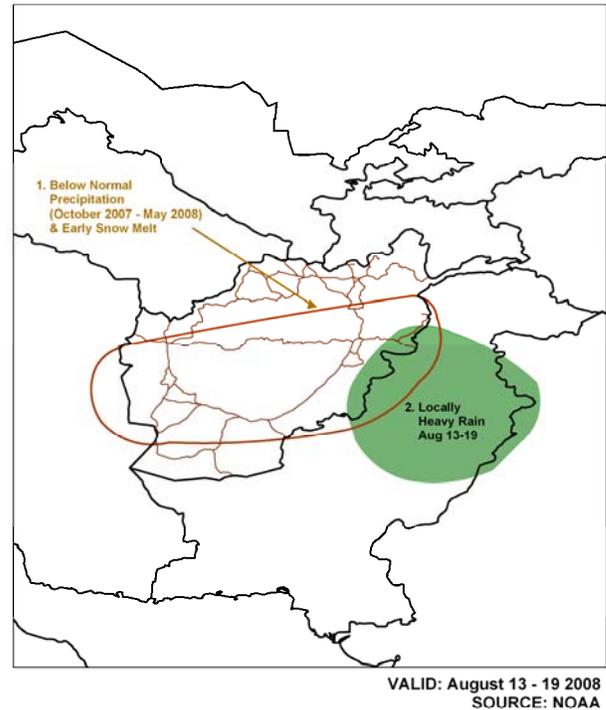
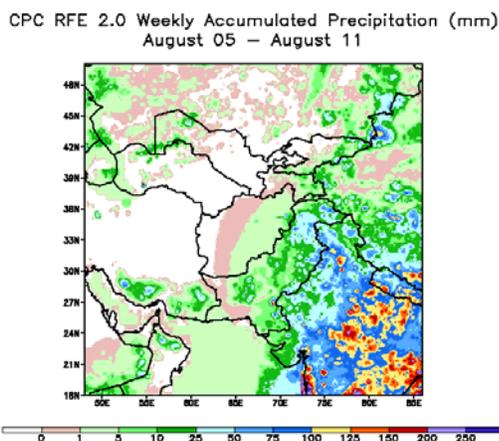


Figure 2. Weekly Precipitation (mm) Ending August 11

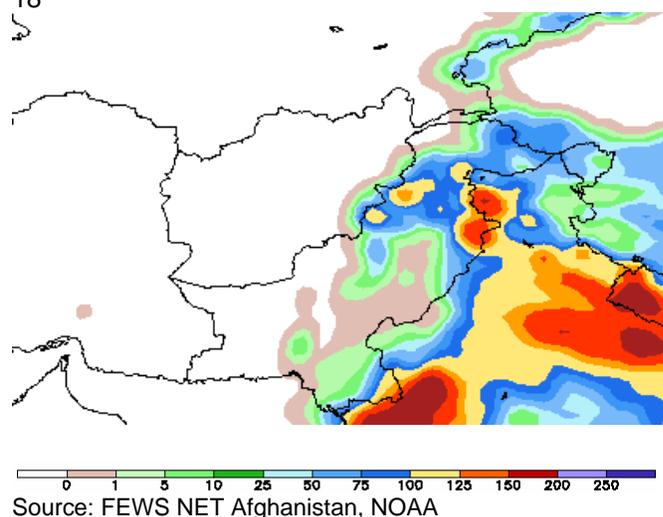


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Figure 3. Precipitation forecast (mm) for August 12 - 18



Source: FEWS NET Afghanistan, NOAA

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