

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#36, September 10 - 16, 2008

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

During the end of the October 2007 – March 2008 wet season, 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. This combination of factors has limited water availability for agriculture. These above-normal temperatures have moderated since the beginning of July.

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. During the past week, some rain showers fell in far eastern Afghanistan. (Figure 3) Dry weather is expected during the next week (Figure 2). Rain and mountain snow typically begin in October.

Temperatures should average slightly above normal in the lowlands, and extreme maximum temperatures could reach the upper 30s (°C). Minimum temperatures will fall below freezing in the highest elevations of northeast and central Afghanistan.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

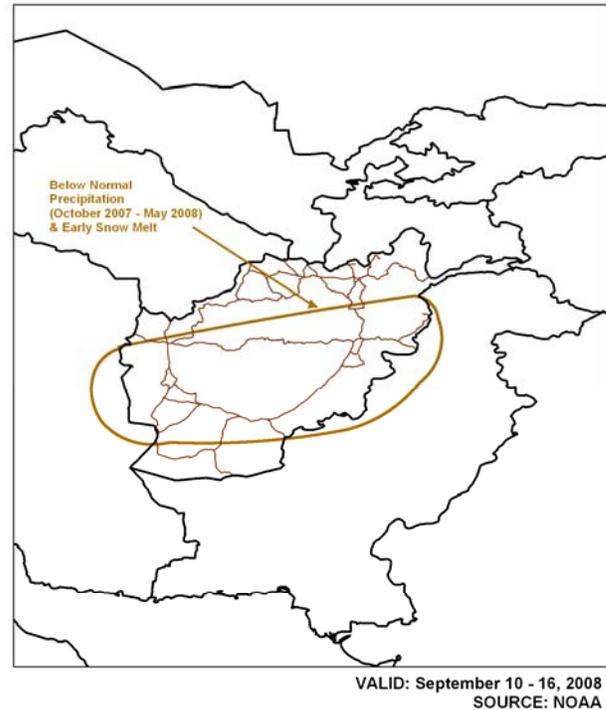


Figure 2. Weekly precipitation (mm) forecast for September 1- 7, 2008

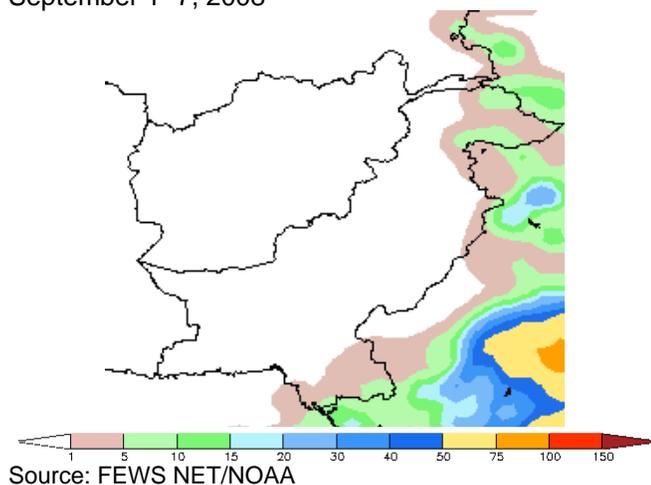


Figure 3. Satellite estimate precipitation (mm) totals for September 1 - 7, 2008

