

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#40, October 8 - 14, 2008

Much of Afghanistan received below normal precipitation from October 2007 through May 2008, along with an early snow melt (Figure 1).

Underground water sources, used for both drinking water and irrigation, have not been replenished. During the end of the October 2007 – March 2008 wet season, high temperatures, averaging between 4-8 degrees above normal, depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-average snow pack four to six weeks earlier than normal. Hot temperatures continued into the summer and led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs. This combination of factors has further limited water availability for crop and livestock based agriculture.

During mid-September, most of Afghanistan experienced warmer than average temperatures. Above normal temperatures are likely continue with freezing temperatures limited to the higher elevations of northeast and central Afghanistan (Figure 2). In southwest Afghanistan, maximum temperatures could reach the upper 30s.

During the past week, seasonal dryness prevailed. Dry weather is expected to persist during the next week (Figure 3), but light rain and snow can be expected in Tajikistan and northern Pakistan. Rain and mountain snow typically begin in October across the mountains of Afghanistan.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

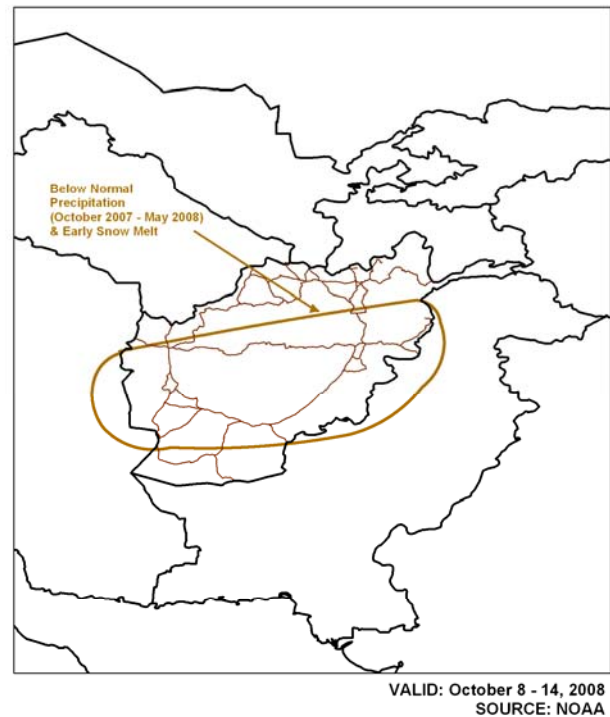


Figure 2. Extreme minimum temperature (°C) for October 6 - 12, 2008

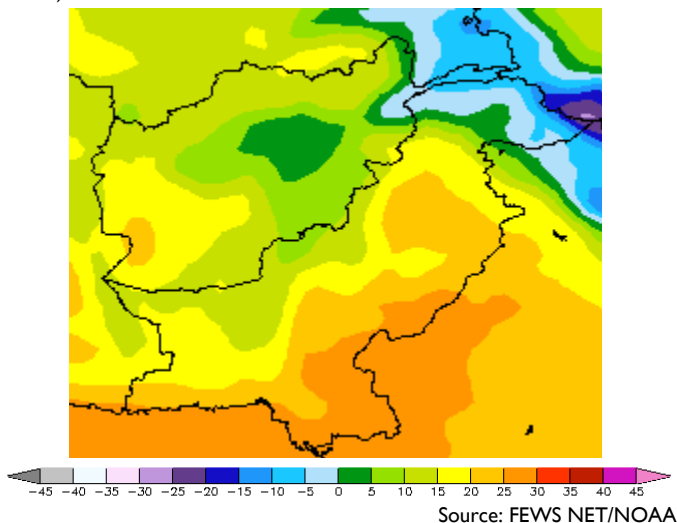


Figure 3. Weekly precipitation (mm) forecast for October 6 - 12, 2008

