

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#43, October 29 – November 4, 2008

Much of Afghanistan received below-normal precipitation from October 2007 through May 2008, along with early snow melt (Figure 1) that did not allow for the replenishment of underground water resources.

During the end of the October 2007 – March 2008 wet season, high temperatures, averaging between four and eight degrees above normal, depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-average snow pack four to six weeks earlier than normal. Above-average temperatures continued into the summer and led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs. This combination of factors limited water availability for crop and livestock based agriculture.

During early to mid October, much of Afghanistan experienced warmer than average temperatures. Above normal temperatures will likely continue in southern Afghanistan, through the end of October. Across northern Afghanistan, weekly temperatures will average below-normal and minimum temperatures should fall below -20 °C (Figure 2) in the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan.

Since the beginning of October, occasional rain and snow showers have occurred across northeast Afghanistan. During the next week, snow depths will increase (Figure 3) in the mountains of northeast Afghanistan and snow could become briefly heavy. Rain and mountain snow typically increases in coverage and frequency during November.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

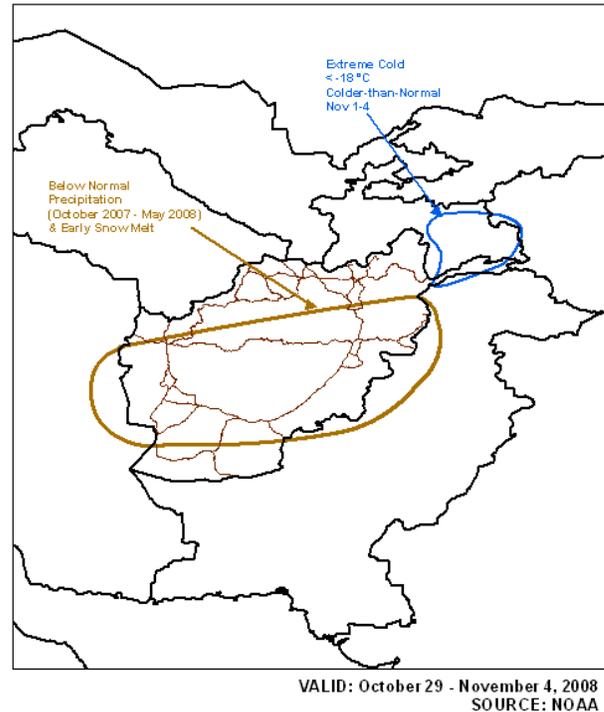
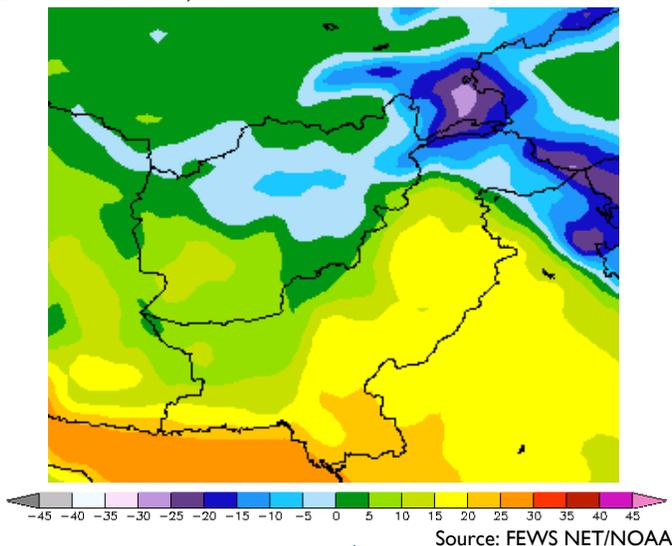


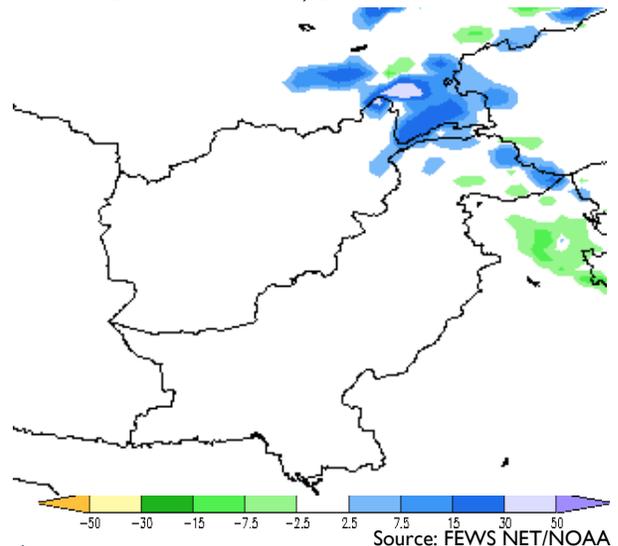
Figure 2. Extreme minimum temperature (°C) for October 28– November 3, 2008



FEWS NET Afghanistan
Tel: 070.15.60.60
fnajimi@fews.net

FEWS NET Washington
1717 H St NW
Washington DC 20006
info@fews.net

Figure 3. Snow depth change (cm) forecast for October 28 – November 3, 2008



FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.