

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#52, Dec 31, 2008 – January 6, 2009

During late November and early December, temperatures were above-average, except in the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan. During mid-December, much colder temperatures prevailed as temperatures were 4 to 8 °C below-average in the central highlands and northeast mountains. Below-average temperatures should persist in the central highland and northeast mountains where minimum temperatures will fall below -20 °C (Figure 2).

Thus far, significant snowfall has accumulated in the northeastern parts of the country, with lighter amounts in the central highlands. From October 1 - December 20, precipitation has averaged near or above normal across the majority of the country with only a small area of below normal precipitation in the central highlands.

During the next week, a low pressure system will track across Afghanistan from January 2 – 4, bringing snow to the higher elevations and rain to the lowlands. Snow depths could increase by more than 30 cm in the northeast mountains (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

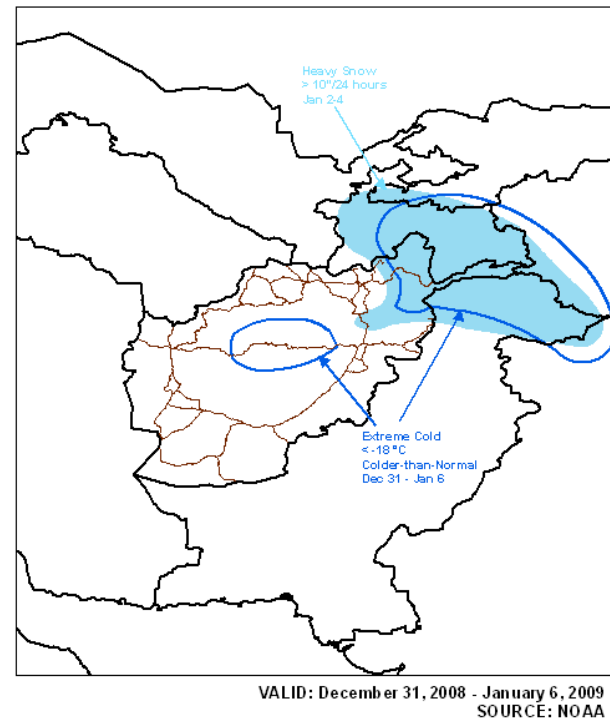
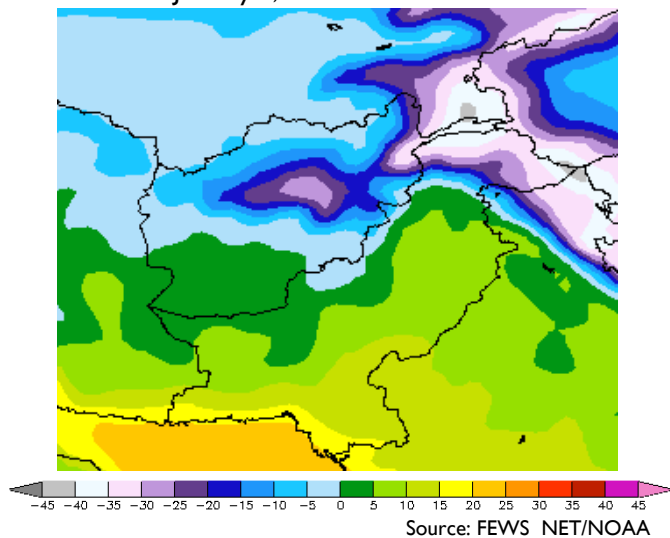


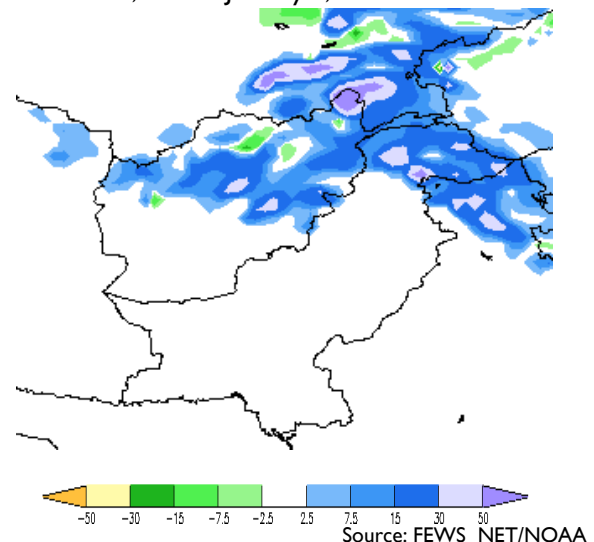
Figure 2. Extreme Minimum Temperature (°C) for December 30 – January 5, 2008



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 December 30, 2008 – January 5, 2009



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