

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#01, January 7 - 13, 2009

Starting in late November and lasting until early December, temperatures were above-average, except in the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan. Since mid-December, much colder temperatures have prevailed as temperatures were 4 to 8 °C below-average in the central highlands and northeast mountains. Below-average temperatures should persist in the northeast mountains where minimum temperatures will fall to -15 °C to -18 °C in the valleys with colder temperatures at higher elevations (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 31, precipitation has averaged near or above normal across the majority of the country with only a small area of below-normal precipitation in the eastern part of the central highlands.

The area covered by snowfall remains less than the area covered last year, however this year snow depths have been higher in the western parts of the central highlands. One meter of snow was recently reported in the Han Dukush Mountains north of Kabul.

The outlook for the coming week will be dry with some reduction in snow depths across northern areas of Afghanistan (Figure 3). Some light snow may accumulate in isolated locations.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

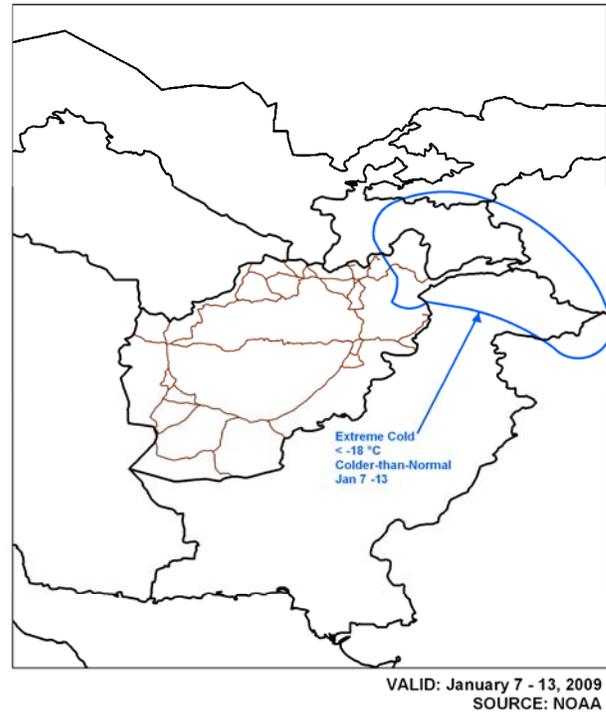


Figure 2. Extreme Minimum Temperature (°C) for January 5 - 12, 2008

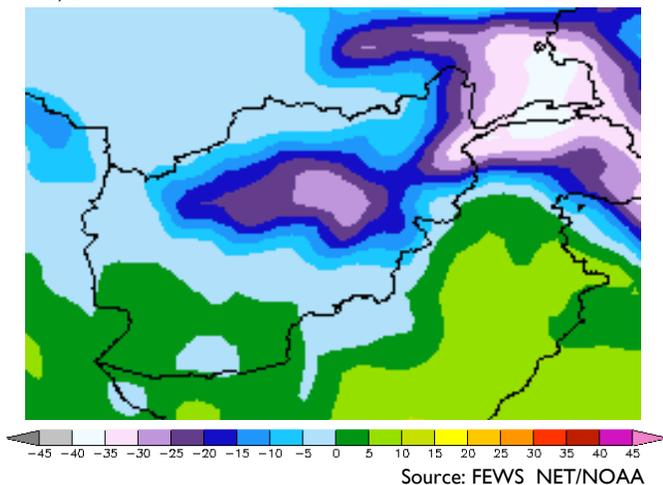


Figure 3. Snow Depth Change (cm) forecast for January 5 - 12, 2009

