

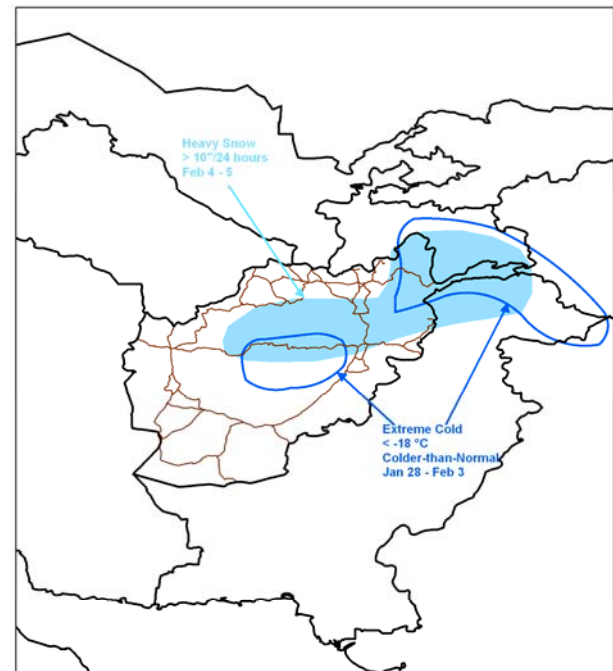
## AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#05, February 4 - 10, 2009

During early January, temperatures were below average across the central highlands and northeast mountains. By the middle of the month, temperatures were generally at or above normal across Afghanistan except for the central highlands. The warming trend resulted in the reduction of snow cover in northern Afghanistan. Last week and continuing through next week, below average temperatures can be expected in the northeast mountains and central highlands where extreme cold (minimum temperatures below  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) is forecast. Additionally a series of two low-pressure systems are expected to make their way across the region providing snow, that may make up for some of the lost snow cover in January.

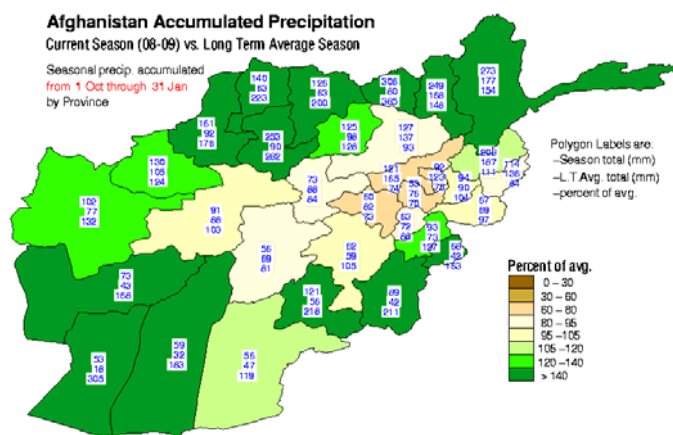
From October 1, 2008 – January 20, 2009, precipitation has averaged above normal across the lowlands, while precipitation has averaged at or slightly below normal across the central highlands (Figure 2). Precipitation during January has reduced long-term precipitation deficits in the central highlands. During the upcoming week, snow, possibly in excess of 10 inches in a 24 hour period is possible. Therefore, snow depths may recover a little in the northern low land areas. An increase in snow depths can also be expected in the central and northeast mountains (Figure 3).

**Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan**



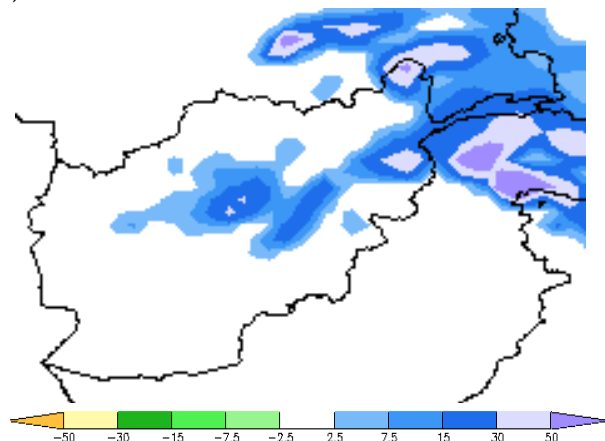
VALID: January 28 - February 3, 2009  
SOURCE: NOAA

**Figure 2. Precipitation deficits, in eastern Afghanistan, are likely to reduce during the coming week.**



Source: USGS

**Figure 3. Snow Depth Change (cm) for February 2 - 9, 2009**



Source: FEWS NET/NOAA