

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#06, February 11 - 17, 2009

Warm temperatures caused some early season melting, reducing snow coverage and depth, primarily in the northern provinces of Afghanistan. However, during the last two weeks colder temperatures and consistent snowfall have brought snow depths back up towards normal. Eastern Afghanistan, north of Kabul, has experience some localized below normal precipitation. (Figure 2) Due to the colder temperatures causing some precipitation that would normally fall as rain, to fall as snow, snow depths are near normal in this region.

The coming week is expected to bring additional snow and cold temperatures. Last week's snow fell mainly in the northern part of the central highlands and the northeastern mountains. This week, the heaviest snowfall will likely be slightly south of there. Extreme cold (minimum temperatures below -18°C) is also forecast for the higher elevations in Afghanistan.

The snow will possibly be in excess of 10 inches in a 24 hour period is possible. Thus an increase in snow depths is expected in the central and northeast mountains (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

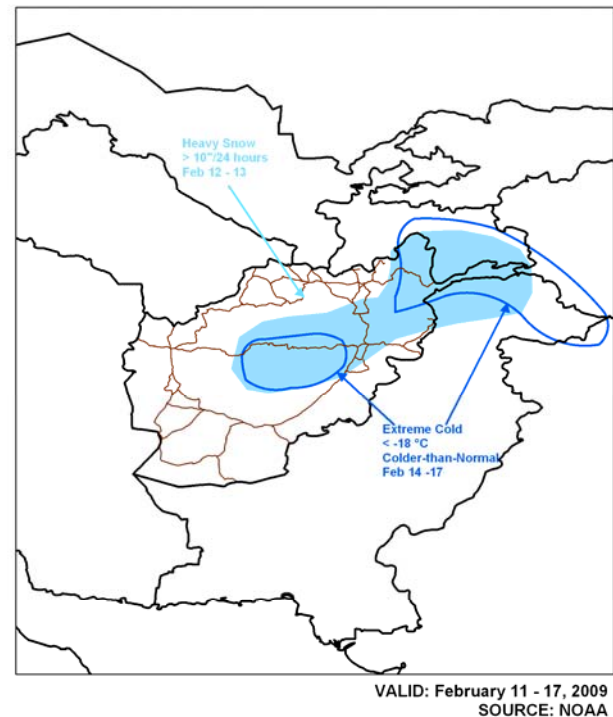
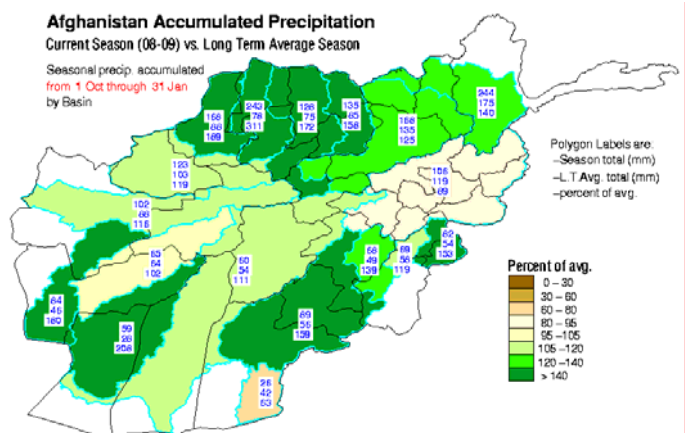
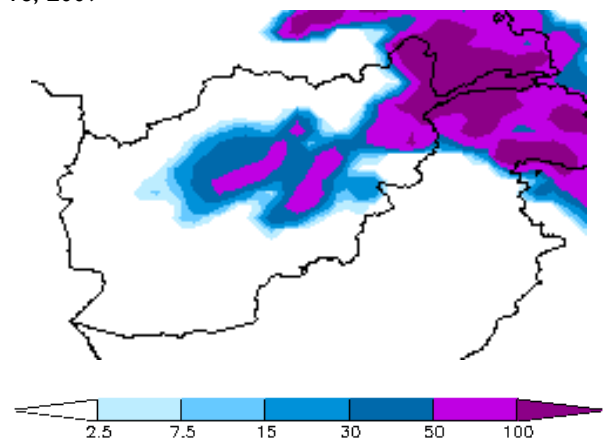


Figure 2. Precipitation deficits, in eastern Afghanistan, are likely to continue to reduce during the coming week.



Source: FEWS-NET/USGS

Figure 3. Forecast Snow Depth (cm) for February 16, 2009



Source: FEWS -NET/NOAA