

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#10, March 11 - 17, 2009

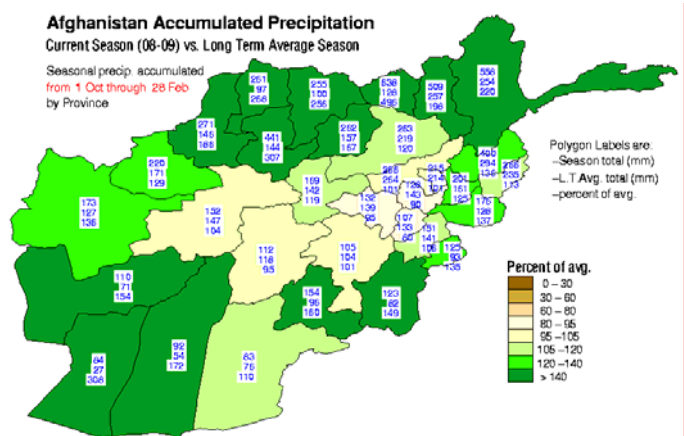
During February, colder temperatures and consistent snowfall increased snow depths throughout the central highlands and northeast mountains. Frequent winter storms have also reduced precipitation deficits near Kabul. As of February 28, precipitation has averaged at or above normal across much of Afghanistan for the 2008-09 winter (Figure 2).

At the beginning of March, a strong storm brought heavy rainfall (25 mm or more) and possible flooding to northwest Afghanistan. Drier weather and well above normal temperatures have returned. During the next week, above normal temperatures should continue. Maximum temperatures will reach the lower 30s (°C) in southwest Afghanistan. Maximum temperatures should warm above 5 °C in the central highlands where a rapid snow melt can be expected. Although dry weather should prevail, the rapid snow melt may lead to flooding in the central highlands.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

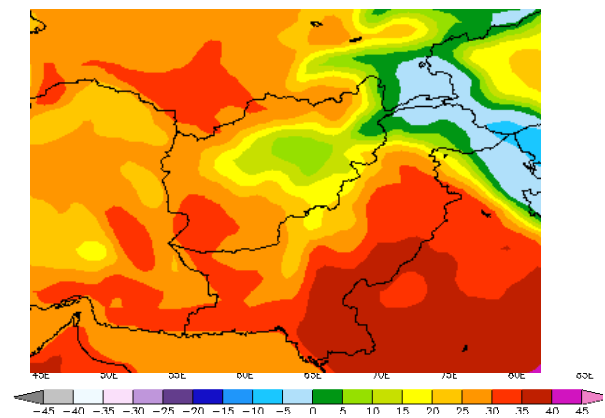


Figure 2. Precipitation has averaged at or above normal throughout Afghanistan.



Source: FEWS-NET/USGS

Figure 3. Extreme maximum temperature (°C) for March 9 - 15



Source: FEWS-NET/NOAA