

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#12, April 1 - 7, 2009

During the past week, a strong low pressure system brought widespread precipitation to the northern two-thirds of Afghanistan. Rain was the dominant precipitation type in the lowlands, while snow depths increased in the highest elevations of the central and northeast Afghanistan. Precipitation amounts ranged from 5 to 50 mm, liquid equivalent, in most locations (Figure 2). The rainfall along with expected snow melt has raised flooding concerns.

A powerful storm, slowly progressing across Iran on March 31, should affect Afghanistan at the beginning of April. Widespread rain and high-elevation snow can be expected with the heaviest rain (locally more than 50 mm) in western Afghanistan. The northeast mountains of Afghanistan can expect heavy snow from April 1 – 2. By April 6, more widespread precipitation is anticipated. Temperatures are forecast to average below-normal during the next week. Although cooler-than-normal temperatures should mitigate rapid snow melt, heavy rain may result in localized flooding. At this time, no widespread flooding has been reported but flooding concerns will continue during the spring.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

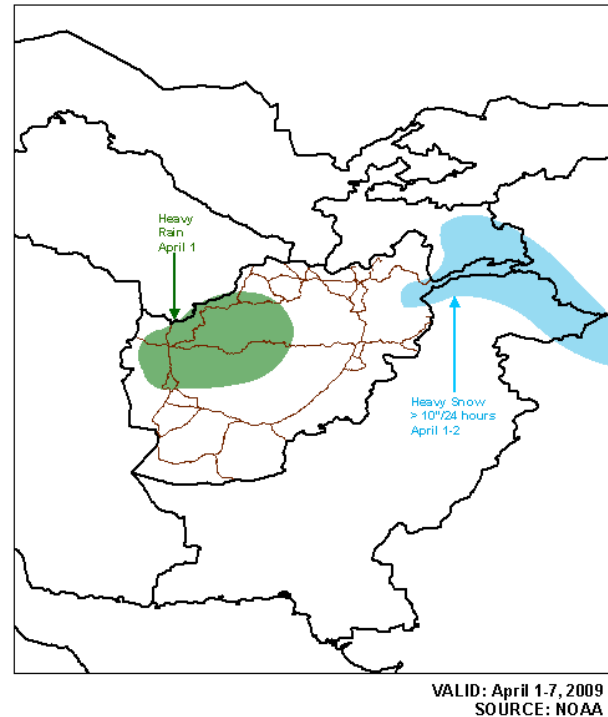
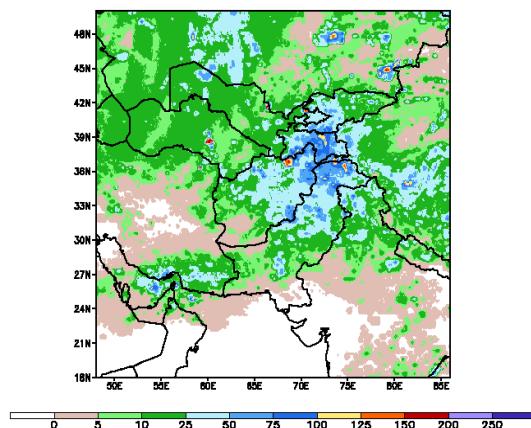
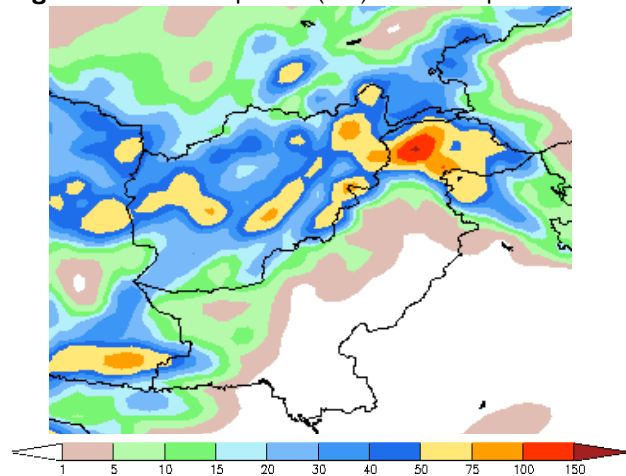


Figure 2. March 23 – 29 Accumulated Precipitation (mm) Based on Satellite and Gauge Data.



Source: NOAA/CPC

Figure 3. GFS Precipitation (mm) Forecast: April 1 - 6



Source: NOAA/CPC