

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#15, April 22 - 28, 2009

For more than a month a series of low pressure systems, which have provided widespread precipitation to most of Afghanistan, have made their way through the region. Rain has been the dominant precipitation type in the lowlands, while snow has changed to rain in the lower elevations of the central highlands. Snow continues to accumulate in the northeast mountains and during the overnight hours in the central highlands. The last week brought precipitation amounts ranged from 5 to 50 mm, liquid equivalent, in most locations (Figure 2) with the exception of the a small area in the southwestern portion of the country. The rainfall along with expected snow melt has raised isolated flooding concerns mainly in the north.

A storm that is currently moving out of Afghanistan will spread some additional precipitation early in the period. Snow fall is likely, primarily in the northeast mountain areas with most other locations likely to receive rain. Another system will make its way across Iran during the week, and enter Afghanistan late in the period. Rain and high-elevation snow can be expected with the heaviest precipitation northern Afghanistan, and much lighter precipitation elsewhere. The northeast mountains of Afghanistan can expect moderate snow with lower elevations receiving rainfall. Temperatures are forecast to average below-normal during the next week (Figure 3). Although cooler-than-normal temperatures should mitigate rapid snow melt, heavy rain may result in localized flooding. At this time flooding has been reported in the northwestern areas of the country and flooding concerns will continue through the spring.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

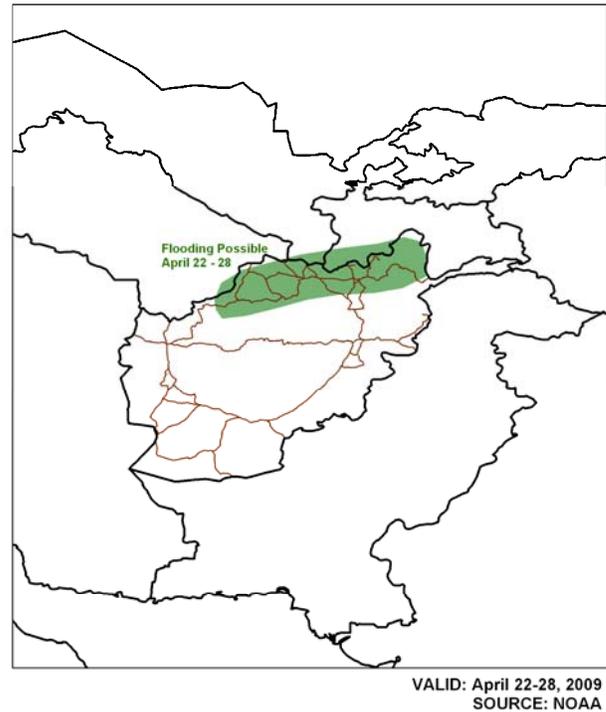
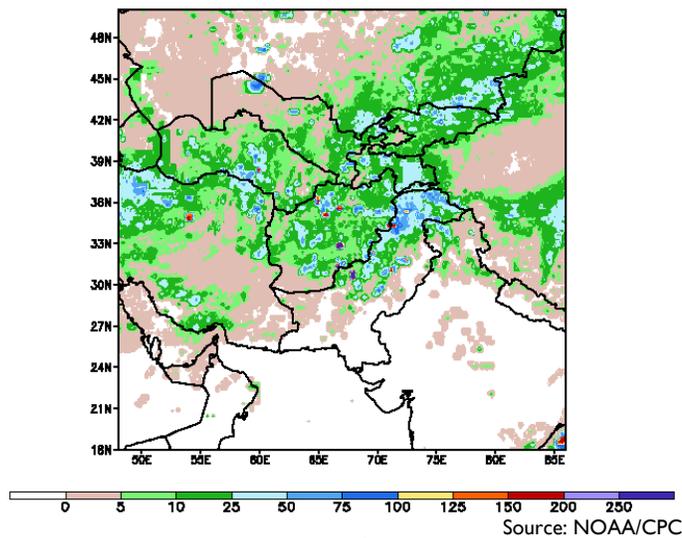


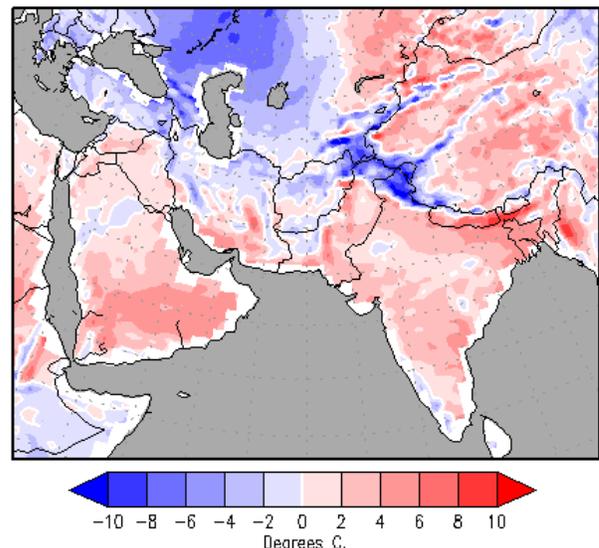
Figure 2. April 12 - 18 Accumulated Precipitation (mm) Based on Satellite and Gauge Data.



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Figure 3. GFS Temperature Anomaly Forecast: April 20 - 27



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