

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#22, June 10 – 16, 2009

Since late March, heavy rainfall and snowmelt has triggered flooding, landslides, and avalanches in at least 10 of the country's 34 provinces. The heaviest precipitation has occurred in western and northern Afghanistan where flash flooding was responsible for casualties. Across Afghanistan, more than 10,000 hectares of farmland was affected and many livestock were killed.

Following a wet spring (Figure 2), dry weather has prevailed across Afghanistan during the past few weeks. In the highest elevations of the eastern central highlands, snow cover remains. Rapid melting has occurred in the lower elevations of the central highlands (Figure 3). Accelerating the snow melt recently has been above average temperatures in the lower elevations of the central highlands. Temperatures in the higher elevations in northeastern Afghanistan remain below average.

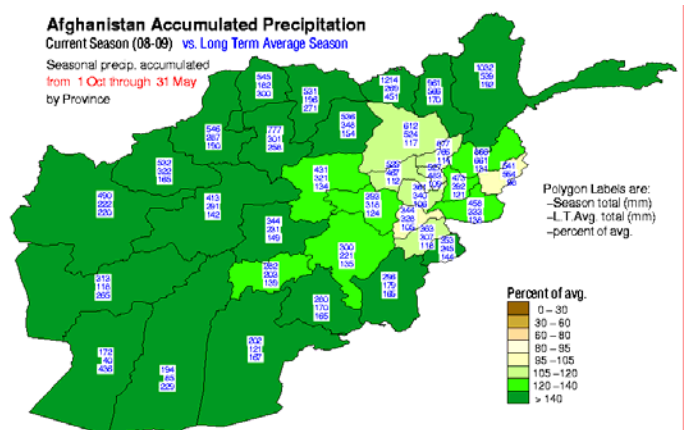
During the next week, dry weather can be expected across much of Afghanistan with precipitation limited to the northeast mountains. Temperatures should average within several degrees (°C) of normal. Extreme maximum temperatures could exceed 40 °C in southern and western Afghanistan.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan



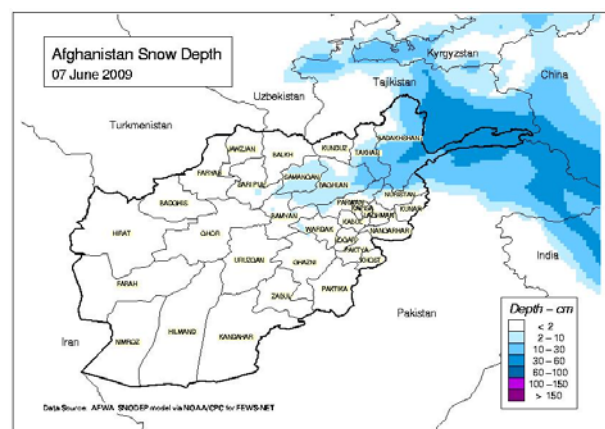
VALID: June 10 - 16, 2009
SOURCE: NOAA

Figure 2. Percent of average rainfall, October 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009.



Source: USGS

Figure 3. Snow depth as of June 7, 2009



Source: NOAA/CPC Data from AFWA