

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan December 2 - 8, 2009

Below-freezing temperatures have moved into Afghanistan slightly earlier than they usually do. Seasonally, below freezing temperatures are now regularly reaching into the valleys and lowland areas of Afghanistan. During the upcoming week, temperatures are forecast to average below-normal across much of the country. Minimum temperatures will likely fall below -20C in the northeast mountains and below -5C in the central highlands. This is a similar pattern to last weeks weeklong low temperatures.

Although precipitation is usually relatively light during October and November, precipitation amounts have been greater than the long-term average. Typically, rain and snow amounts increase during November. The last two weeks of growing snow totals will continue into the coming week. Snow totals may exceed 30 mm in the eastern portion of the central highlands. Heavy snow totals are also likely to continue in the northeastern corner of the country. Lighter snow totals are likely in the western part of the central highlands. Light to moderate rains are also likely across the northern lowlands.

This week's precipitation is due to two different low-pressure systems that will move across the region during the next week. The first will pull through during the middle of the week, and the other will push through the region of this coming weekend.

