

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan December 23 - 29, 2009

Cold temperatures that eased slightly during the past week are likely to return during the outlook period. Earlier than normal, below freezing temperatures moved into the valleys and lowland areas of Afghanistan. This has allowed for unseasonable amounts of snow to build up across the highland areas of Afghanistan. For the coming week, minimum temperatures will likely fall below -40C in the northeast mountains and below -20C in the central highlands. Temperatures in the lowland areas will likely slip below freezing several times during the week. The exception will be the an area from Kandahar to Herat, including all of the southwest, that will remain above freezing throughout the period.

Although precipitation is usually relatively light during October and November, precipitation amounts were higher than the long-term average. Typically, rain and snow amounts increase during November, and by December precipitation occurs weekly. The last month has seen unusually high snow totals. Although some snow is forecast for the coming week, it will be lighter than the snow storms of late November and early December.

This week's precipitation will be due to a week low-pressure system that will move across the region. The low-pressure system will clip northern Afghanistan and most of its precipitation will be rainfall in the northern lowlands, and snow in the central highlands. The system is week, and does not have a lot of moisture to work with, so precipitation totals will be light.

