

## The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan January 20 - 26, 2010

During December and early January, temperatures averaged much below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. In the lowlands, temperatures averaged at or above normal with the largest positive temperature anomalies occurring during the final week of December. During the next week, temperatures should remain above normal in the lowlands with below normal temperatures limited to the northeast mountains. Minimum temperatures will likely fall below -20C in the northeast mountains.

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. Above normal snowfall amounts occurred from November into the beginning of December. However, during the past 5 weeks, mostly dry weather has dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Short-term dryness has worsened recently and concern for a lack of snowfall and adequate water resources is increasing. Dry weather is expected to continue for most areas, but a storm system should bring snow to the northeast mountains from January 23 – 24.

***Note: Short-term dryness hazard may be added next week for the northeast mountains.***

