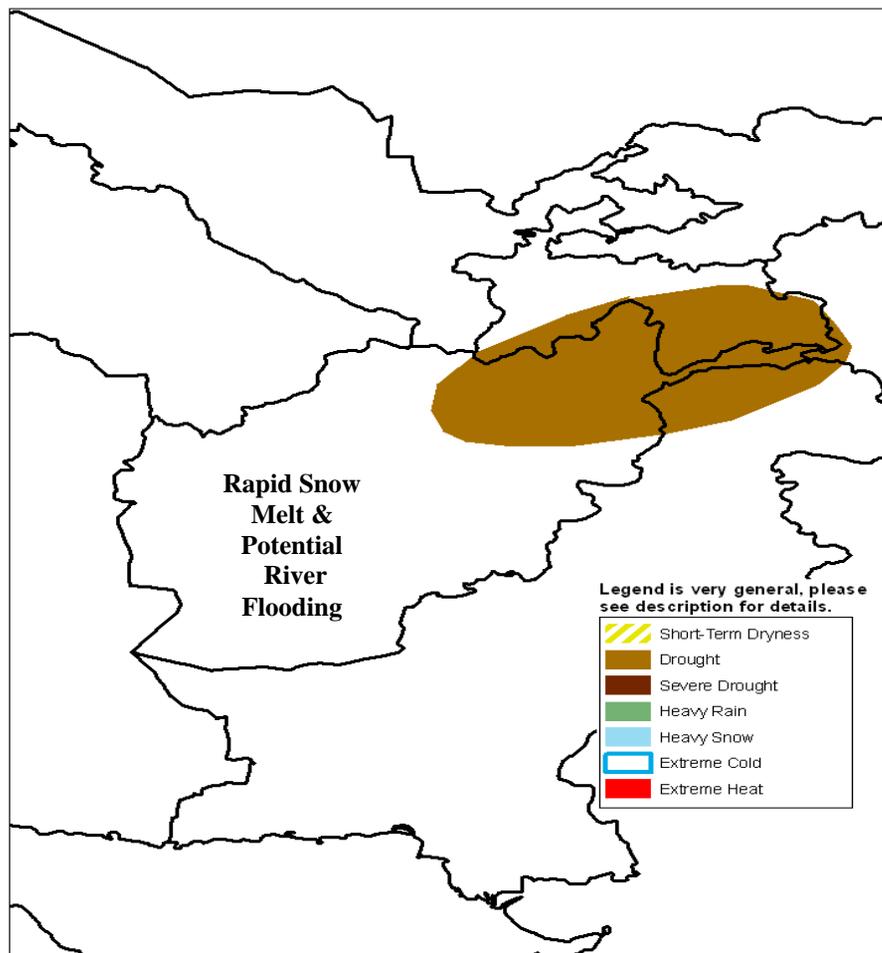


The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 17 - 23, 2010

During much of the winter, temperatures have averaged below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. In the lowlands, temperatures have generally averaged at or above normal with the largest positive temperature anomalies occurring during late February. During the next week, temperatures should remain above normal across much of the country. Maximum temperatures may reach 32C in southwest Afghanistan, while maximum temperatures will exceed freezing in the central highlands northeast mountains. The much above normal temperatures will likely trigger rapid snow melt and possible river flooding.

Although precipitation is usually relatively light during October and November, precipitation amounts this year at this time 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 later December and much of January, mostly dry weather dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Short-term dryness developed in the northeastern part of the country. Despite widespread rain and snow during the beginning of March, precipitation deficits remain substantial across the northeast parts of the country. With dry weather expected during the next week along with unseasonably warm temperatures and an early snow melt, drought is now designated in northeast Afghanistan.



Note: The Hazards assessment map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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