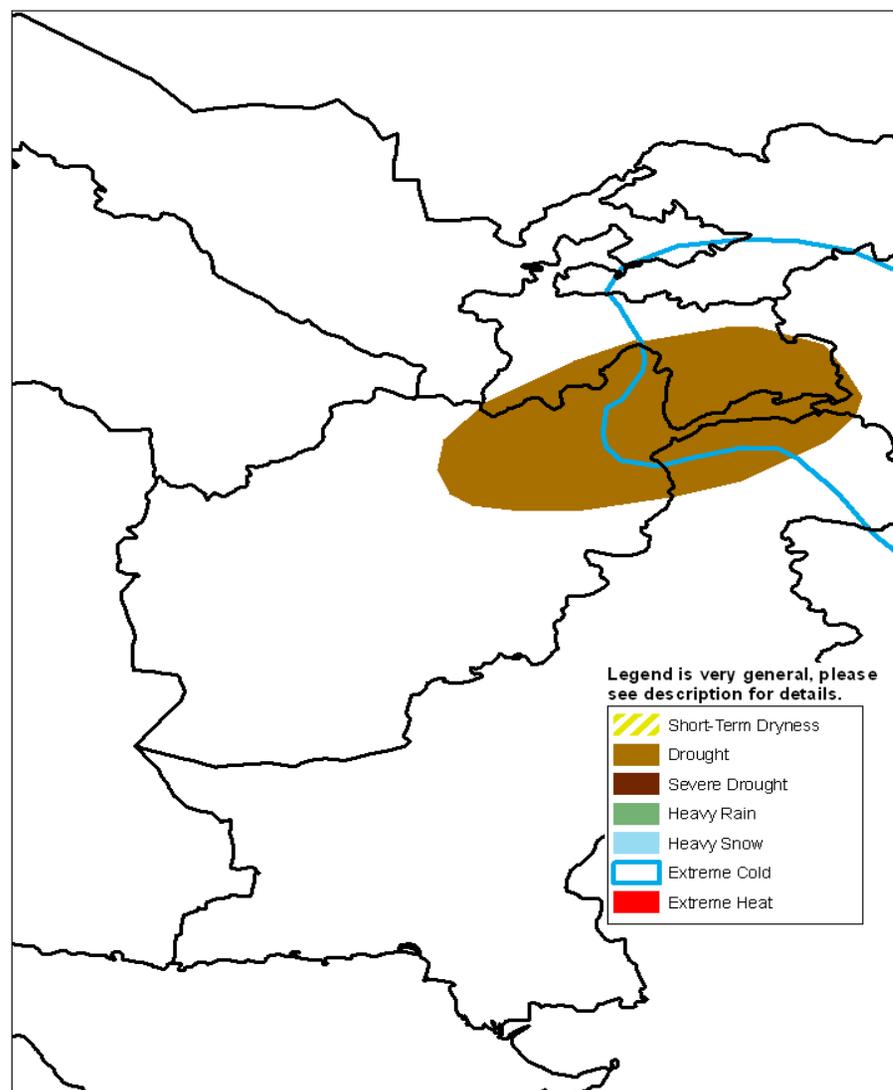


## The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 24 - 30, 2010

During March, temperatures have averaged above normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest positive anomalies occurring recently. The unseasonably warm temperatures have likely resulted in rapid snow melt which has increased the risk of river flooding. Temperatures are expected to remain above normal early in the outlook period before cooler temperatures arrive from March 27 – 30. Minimum temperatures are forecast to fall below -20C in the northeast mountains from March 27 – 30.

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. Periods of light to moderate snow can be expected in the northeast mountains where total accumulations during the upcoming week may reach 30cm.



**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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