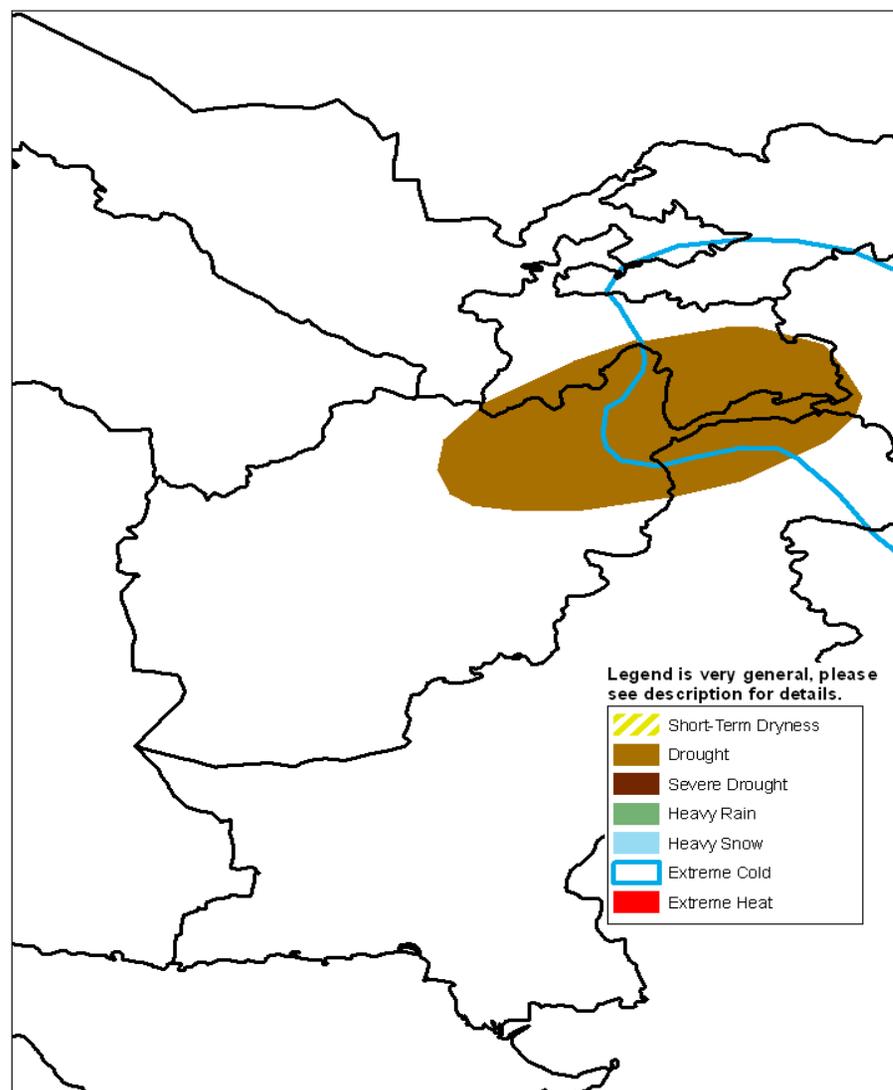


The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 31 – April 6, 2010

During the first three weeks of March, temperatures averaged above normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest positive anomalies occurring from March 10 - 20. The unseasonably warm temperatures have likely resulted a rapid, early snow melt which has increased the risk of river flooding. Following unseasonable warmth, temperatures have cooled recently. During the next week, temperatures are forecast to average near normal in the lowlands and below average across the central highlands and northeast mountains. Minimum temperatures are expected to fall below -20C in the northeast mountains.

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 periods of rain and snow during the past two weeks, precipitation deficits remain substantial across the northeast parts of the country. During the next week, periods of light to moderate snow can be expected in the northeast mountains where total accumulations should range from 15 to 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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