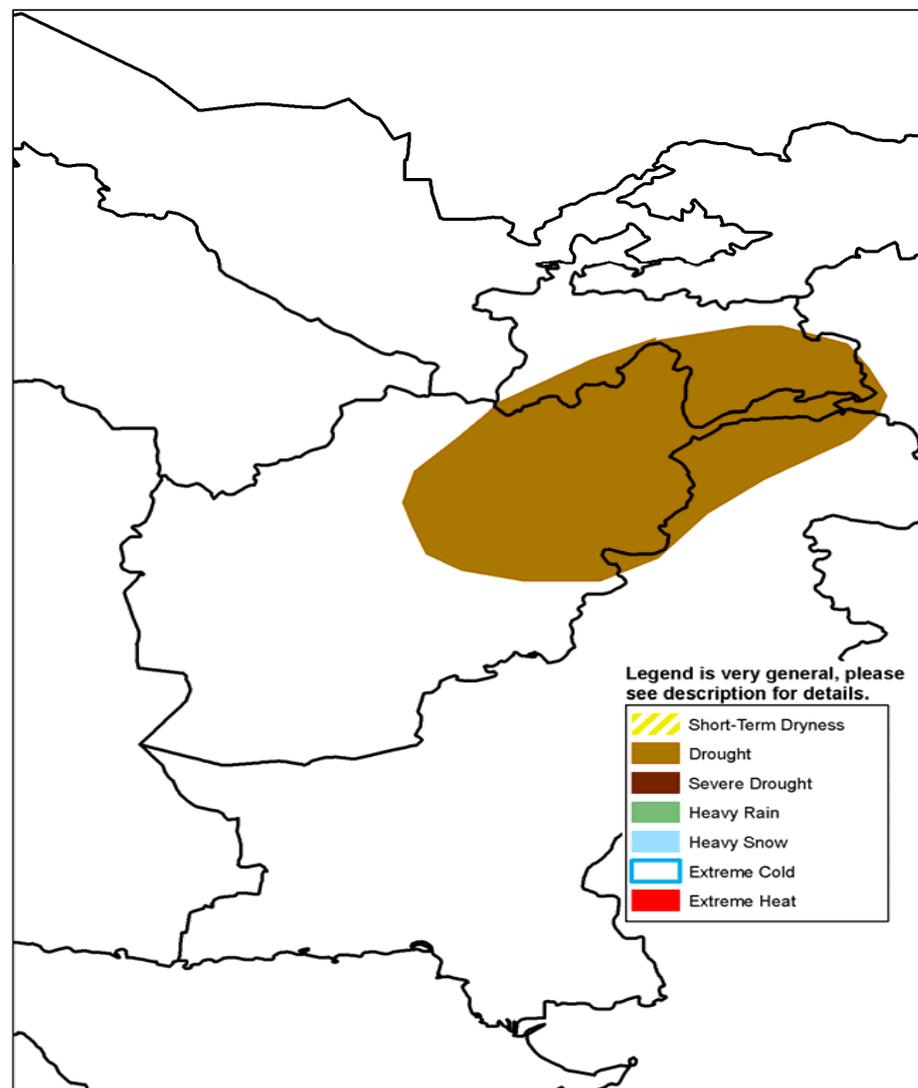


The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan April 28 – May 4, 2010

Throughout most of April, temperatures remained above normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest positive anomalies observed in the southern lowlands of Afghanistan. However, during late April, lower than normal temperatures were observed in the northeast, which may decelerate snow melt in some local areas. During the next week, forecasts suggest temperature pattern to continue across Afghanistan with minimum temperatures ($< -10^{\circ}\text{C}$) expected in the northeast mountains, and maximum temperatures ($> 35^{\circ}\text{C}$) confined in many local areas in the south.

Although precipitation is usually light during spring, rainfall in the last month continues to fall below average. Despite periods of rain and snow during March and April, the most significant precipitation deficits remain in the east and northeast, as many local areas north of the Kabul region have experienced less than half of their normal seasonal precipitation accumulation since last fall. This seasonal dryness has affected portions of the central highlands, however seasonal moisture deficits are not as severe as the northeast part of the country. Snow cover extent also remains well below-average throughout Afghanistan. With seasonably warmer temperatures expected in the next several weeks, many local areas may expect increased melting and runoff, and less opportunity for any new snowfall accumulations.

Periods of rain can be expected across central and northern Afghanistan during the next week. Locally heavy rain coupled with the recent snow melt could trigger river flooding. Snow should be limited to the highest elevations of 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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