

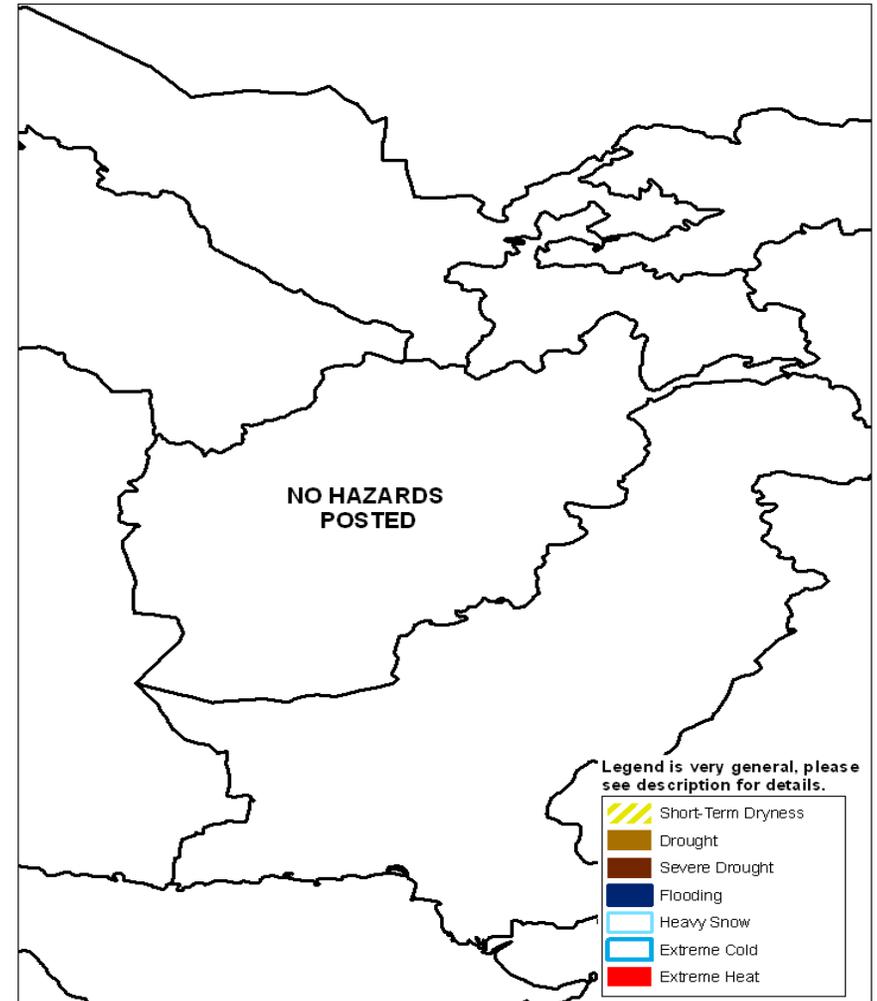
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 23 - 29, 2011

Temperatures:

During early March, temperatures averaged much below normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest negative temperatures anomalies in the central highlands. During the next week, temperatures are forecast to average near or slightly above average for much of the country. Maximum temperatures are forecast to exceed 30 degrees C in southwest Afghanistan. In the central highlands, maximum temperatures, warming to near 10 degrees C, are expected to result in substantial snow melt.

Precipitation

Since mid-January, periods of moderate to heavy precipitation have created precipitation surpluses for the winter season. From October 1, 2010 – March 20, 2011, precipitation is at least 150 percent of normal across Afghanistan, according to the USGS. Snow water volume charts from USGS indicate much above normal snow water values for much of the country. During the next week, light to moderate precipitation with snow at the highest elevations can be expected across northeast Afghanistan. Although substantial snow melt is expected during the next week in the central highlands, little or no rain should minimize the threat for widespread flooding.



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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