

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#42, October 22 - 28, 2008

Much of Afghanistan received below-normal precipitation from October 2007 through May 2008, along with early snow melt (Figure 1) that did not allow for the replenishment of underground water resources.

During the end of the October 2007 – March 2008 wet season, high temperatures, averaging between four and eight degrees above normal, depleted much of Afghanistan's already below-average snow pack four to six weeks earlier than normal. Above-average temperatures continued into the summer and led to increased evaporation from water reservoirs. This combination of factors has further limited water availability for crop and livestock based agriculture.

During the latter half of September, most of Afghanistan experienced warmer than average temperatures. Above normal temperatures will likely continue in the lowlands, through the end of October. Across the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan, weekly temperatures will average slightly below normal and minimum temperatures could fall to -15 °C (Figure 2) between now and the end of the month.

During the past week, rain and snow showers fell across northeast Afghanistan. Some of the precipitation fell across the central highland areas. This was the first precipitation in those areas since the rains pulled out of this area in May. Light rain and snow showers can be expected in northeast Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and northern Pakistan during the next week. Rain and mountain snow typically begins to increase during October across the mountains of Afghanistan.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

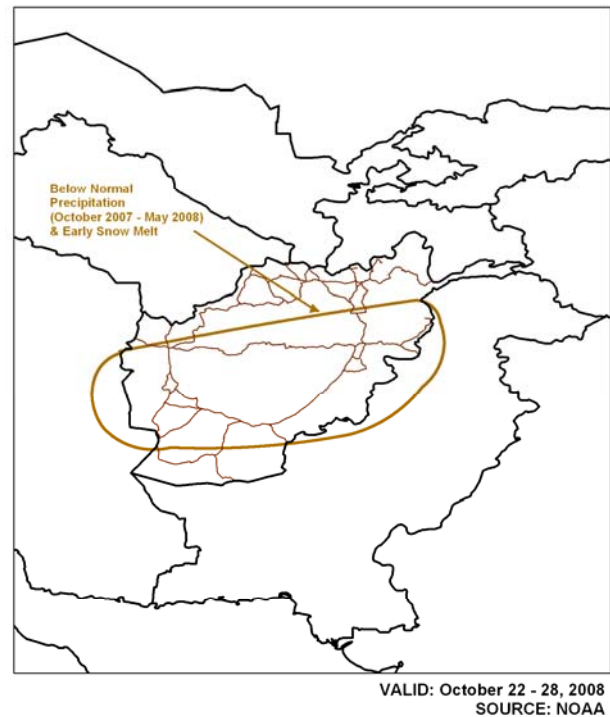


Figure 2. Extreme minimum temperature (°C) for October 20 – 26, 2008

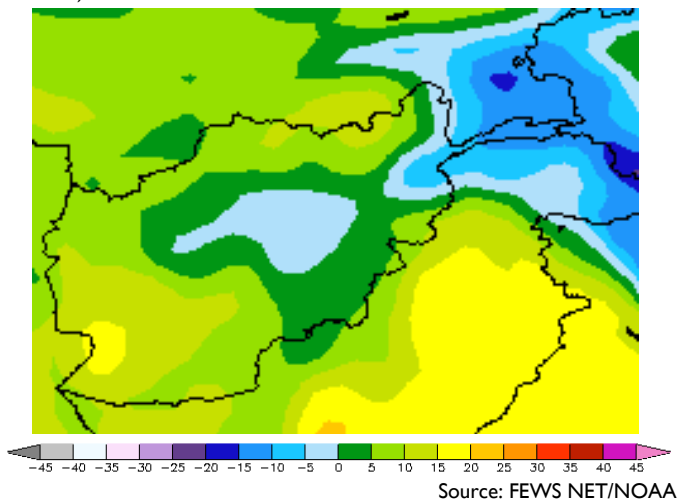


Figure 3. Weekly precipitation (mm) forecast for October 20 – 26, 2008

