

AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#14, April 15 - 21, 2009

The last several weeks have brought a series of low pressure systems which have provided widespread precipitation to most of Afghanistan. Rain has been the dominant precipitation type in the lowlands, while snow has changed to rain in the central highlands. Snow continues to accumulate in the northeast mountains. The last week brought precipitation amounts ranged from 5 to 50 mm, liquid equivalent, in most locations (Figure 2) with the exception of the southern portion of the country. The rainfall along with expected snow melt has raised isolated flooding concerns mainly in the north.

The storm, currently progressing across Afghanistan will make its way off to the east early in the period. Additional snow fall is likely, primarily in the northeast mountain areas with most other locations likely to receive rain. Another system will make its way across Iran during the week, and enter Afghanistan late in the period. Widespread rain and high-elevation snow can be expected with the heaviest precipitation eastern Afghanistan. The northeast mountains of Afghanistan can expect moderate snow with lower elevations receiving rainfall. Temperatures are forecast to average below-normal during the next week (Figure 3). Although cooler-than-normal temperatures should mitigate rapid snow melt, heavy rain may result in localized flooding. At this time flooding has been reported in the northwestern areas of the country and flooding concerns will continue through the spring.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan

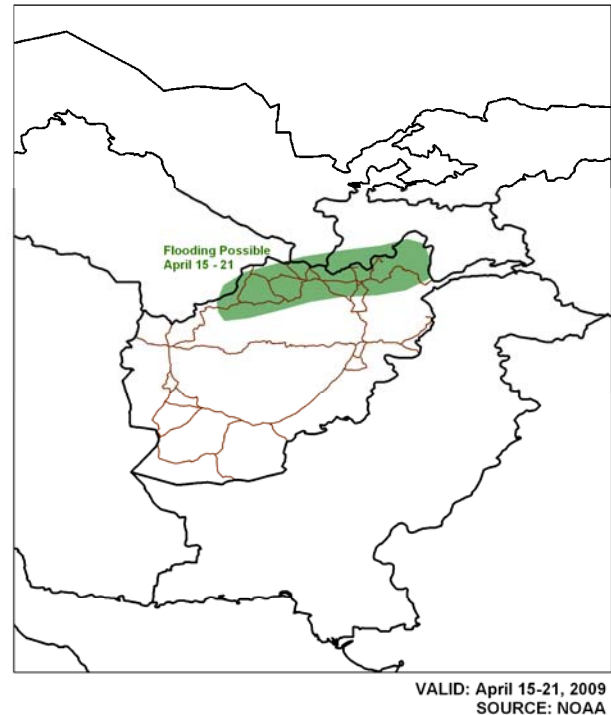
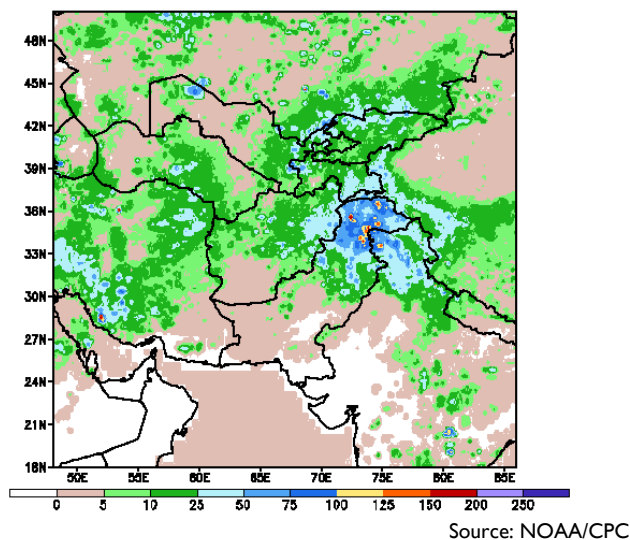


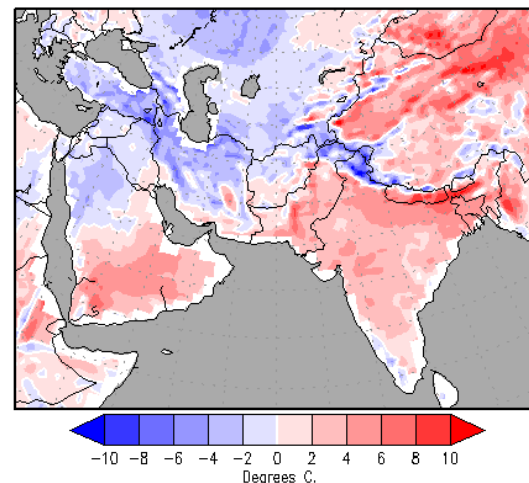
Figure 2. April 6 - 12 Accumulated Precipitation (mm) Based on Satellite and Gauge Data.



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Figure 3. GFS Temperature Anomaly Forecast: April 13 - 19



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