

The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan January 27 – February 2, 2010

During December and January, temperatures averaged below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. In the lowlands, temperatures averaged at or above normal with the largest positive temperature anomalies occurring during the second week of January. During the next week, temperatures should remain above normal in the lowlands with below normal temperatures limited to the northeast mountains and central highlands where minimum temperatures will likely fall below -20C.

Although precipitation is usually relatively light during October and November, precipitation amounts 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 the past 6 weeks, mostly dry weather has dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Short-term dryness has worsened recently and concern for a lack of snowfall and adequate water resources has increased. In the northeast mountains, precipitation deficits range from 25 to 75 mm. From January 27 – 29, a storm system should result in moderate to heavy snow which would ease short-term dryness in the northeast mountains.

