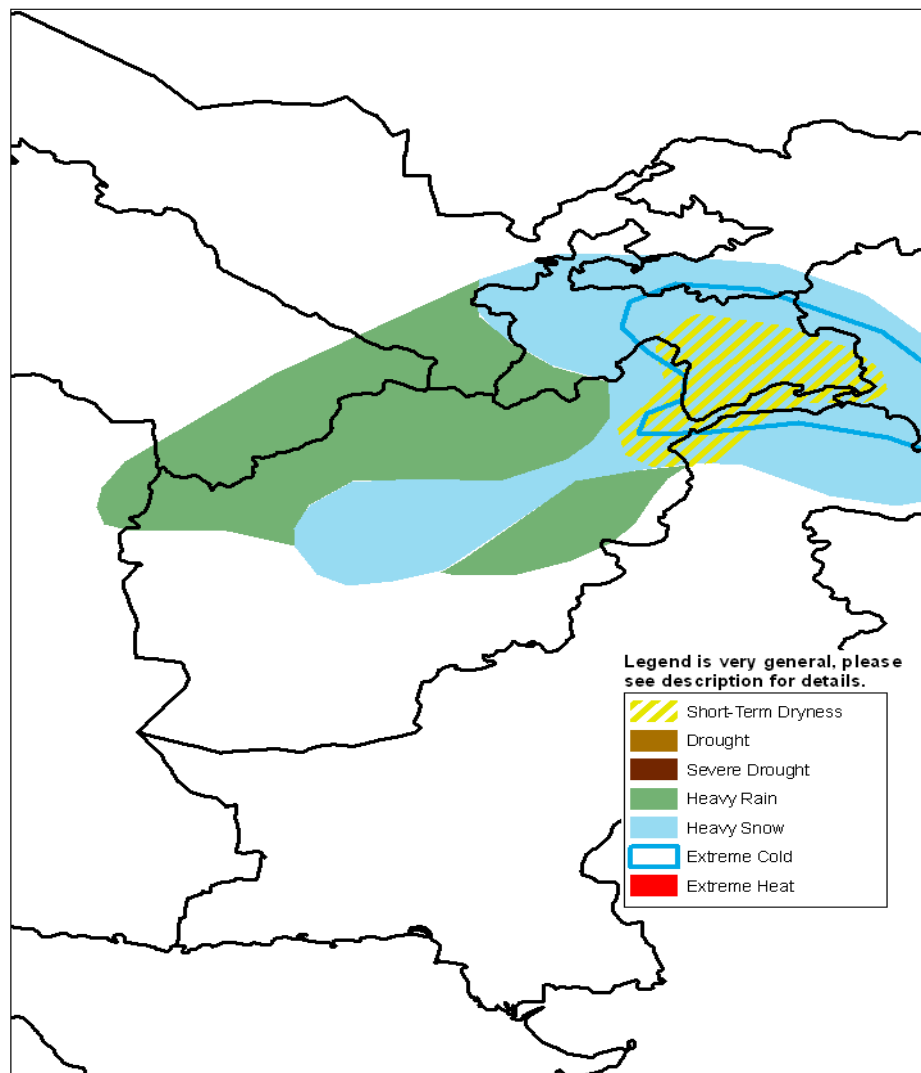


The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan February 24 – March 2, 2010

During much of the winter, temperatures have averaged below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. In the lowlands, temperatures have generally 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 slightly below normal in the central highlands and northeast mountains. Minimum temperatures will likely fall below -20C in the northeast mountains.

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 later December and much of January, mostly dry weather dominated the region, resulting in little or no increase in snow depths. Short-term dryness developed in the northeastern part of the country. Although snow has occurred in late January and early February, snowfall amounts have not been high enough to reduce precipitation deficits.

During the next week, a stormy pattern with increased chances for heavy snowfall can be expected in the central highlands and northeast mountains. Two winter storms are forecast to affect the region during the next week with the strongest storm expected to arrive at the beginning of March. Total snowfall amounts from the two storms could reach 50 cm in the northeast mountains. This snowfall should ease precipitation deficits. In the lower elevations, heavy rainfall is expected across the northern half of Afghanistan. If heavy rainfall occurs in areas with a deep snow pack, the risk for localized flooding would increase.



Note: This product 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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