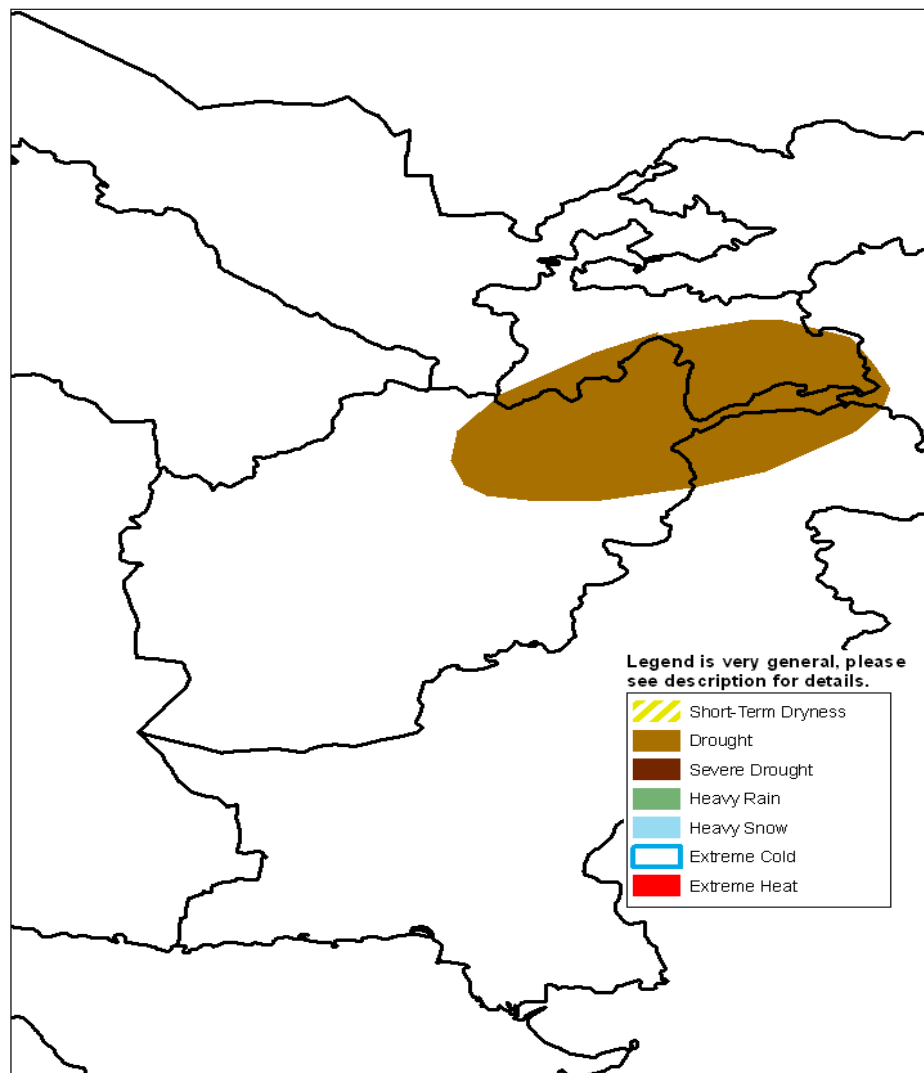


The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan April 21 - 27, 2010

During March and early April, temperatures averaged above normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest positive anomalies occurring from March 10 - 20. The unseasonably warm temperatures have resulted in a rapid and early snow melt. During the next week, temperatures are forecast to average slightly above average in the lowlands and below average across the northeast mountains. Minimum temperatures are expected to fall below freezing in the central highlands and northeast mountains, while maximum temperatures warm into the middle 30s (C) in southwest Afghanistan.

Although precipitation is usually relatively light during October and November, precipitation amounts this year at this time 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 late December and 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. Despite periods of rain and snow during March and April, precipitation deficits remain substantial across the northeast parts of the country. The central highlands are also experiencing drier than normal conditions, although not as severe as the northeast part of the country.

Periods of rain can be expected across central and northern Afghanistan during the next week. Locally heavy rain coupled with the recent snow melt could trigger river flooding. Snow should be limited to the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan.



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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