

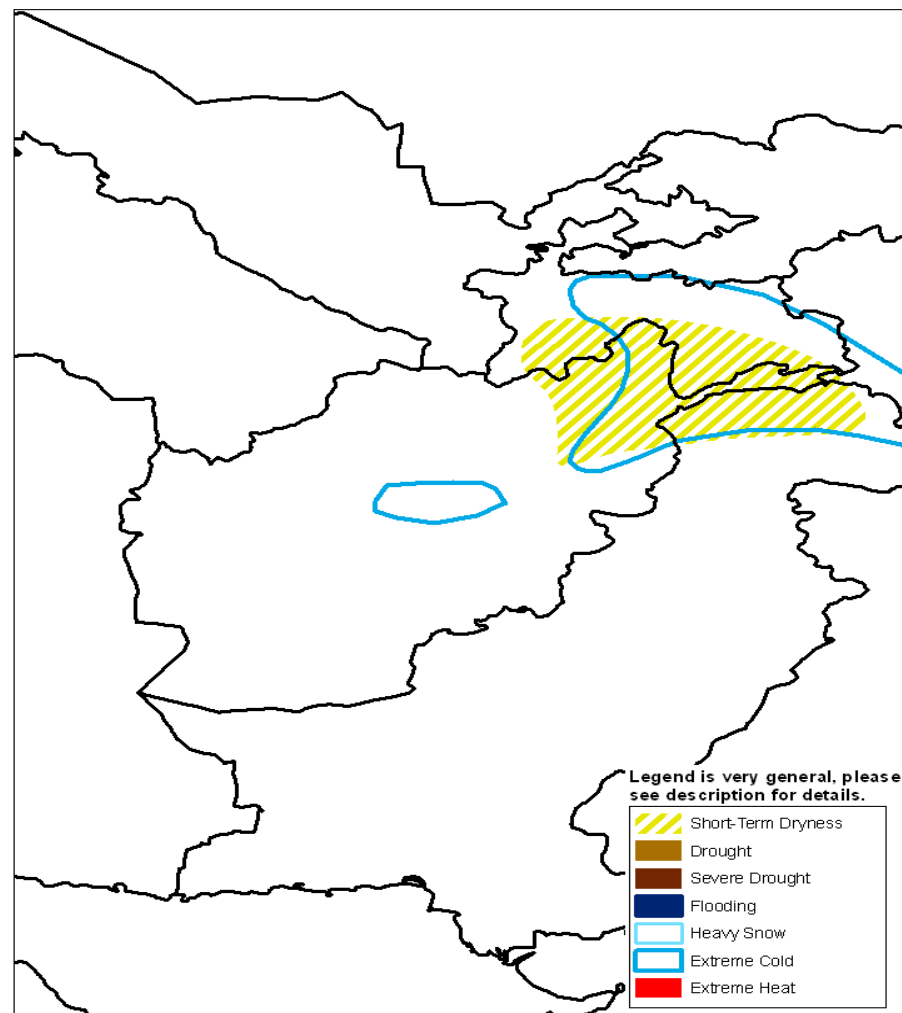
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan December 15 - 21, 2010

Temperatures:

From December 1 - 10, temperatures have averaged below normal across Afghanistan with the largest negative temperature anomalies in the northeast mountains. During the next week, temperatures are expected to remain below average in the northeast mountains and central highlands. Minimum temperatures are forecast to range from -20 to -10 C in the central highlands and -30 to -20C in the northeast mountains. Freezing temperatures can be expected in the lowlands of southern Afghanistan. An extreme cold hazard is posted for the northeast mountains and parts of the central highlands due to the large negative temperature anomalies forecast.

Precipitation

From October 1 – December 10, precipitation deficits in the northeast mountains exceed 50 mm. Precipitation deficits are also increasing in the central highlands. Dry weather is expected to prevail across Afghanistan during the next week. Precipitation amounts typically begin to increase by the beginning of December with the potential for heavy snowfall and extreme cold. At this time, heavy snow is not expected in the near future with precipitation deficits likely increasing. Due to the lack of precipitation so far this season and the expected dryness during the upcoming week, a short-term dryness polygon continues to be needed for the northeast mountains.



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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