

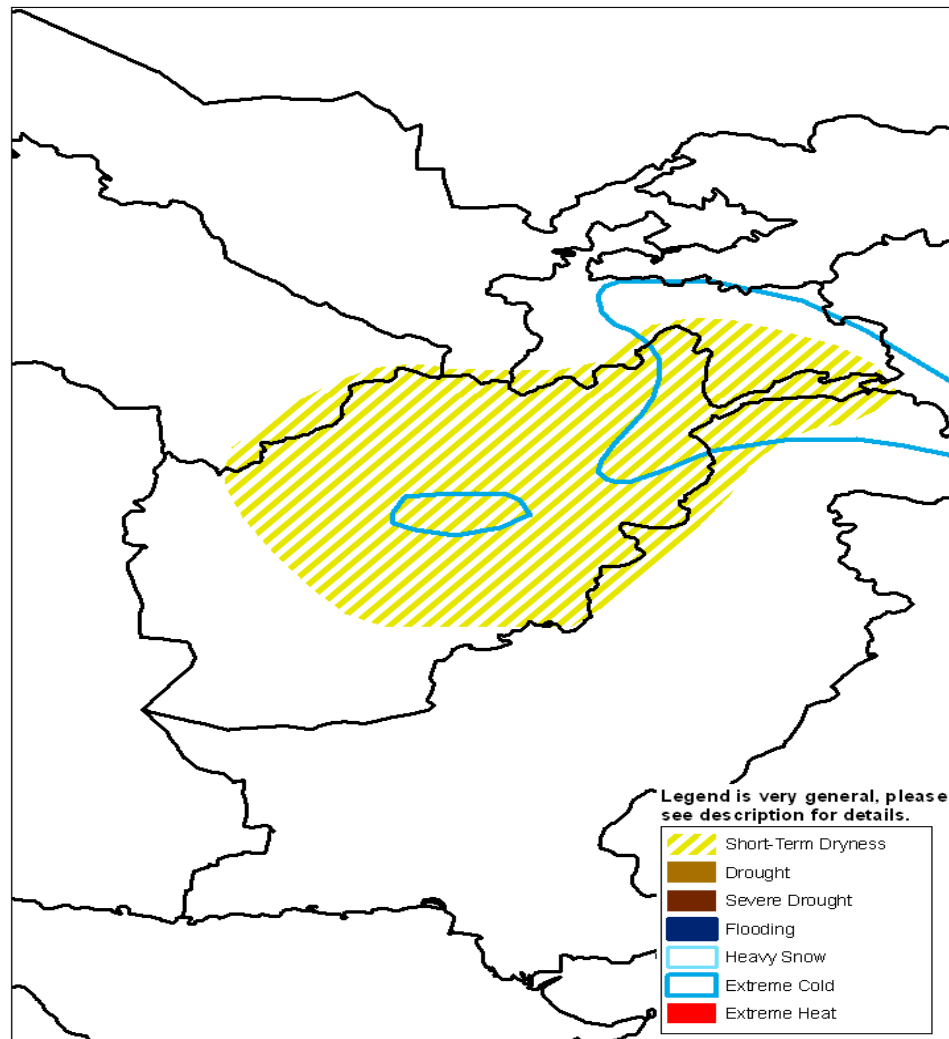
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan December 29, 2010 – January 4, 2011

Temperatures:

From December 11 - 20, temperatures remained much below normal across the central highlands and northeast mountains. During the next week, temperatures are expected to remain much below normal in these areas. 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 20, precipitation deficits in the northeast mountains exceed 50 mm. Precipitation deficits are around 25 mm 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 has been expanded to include all of northern and central 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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