

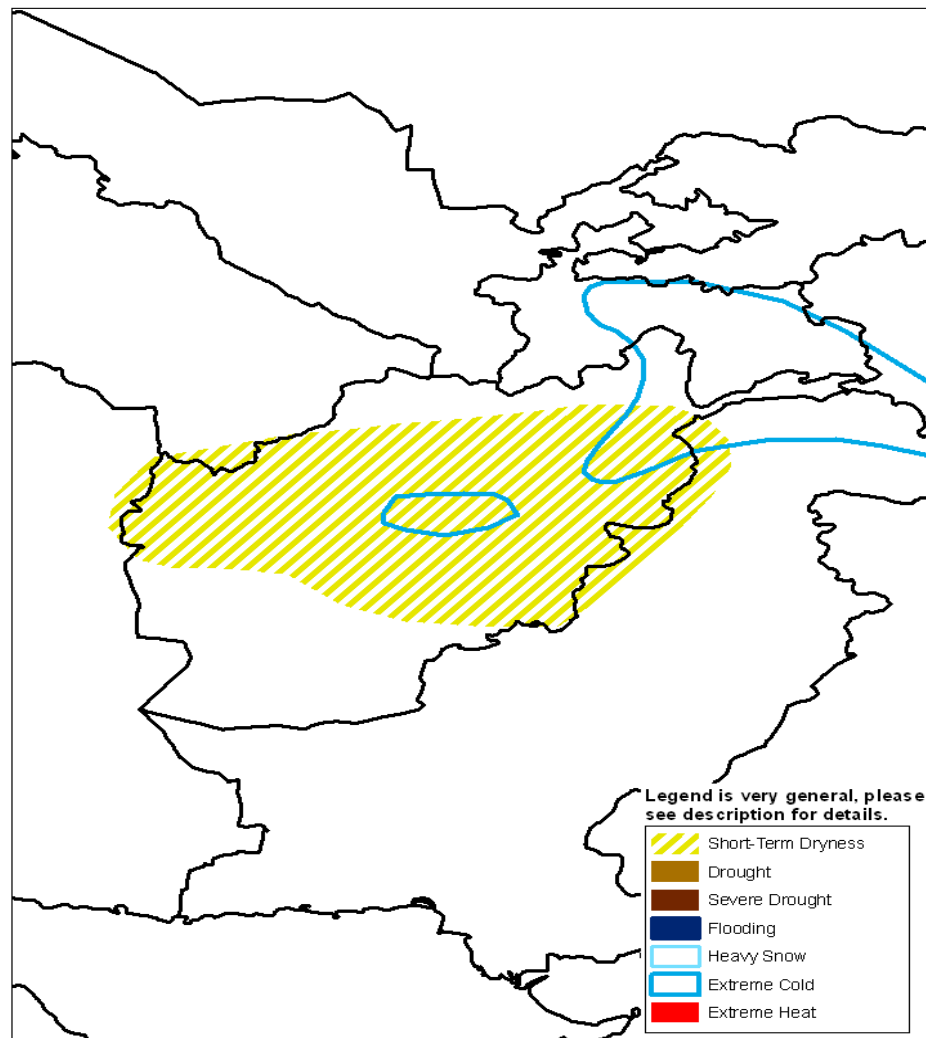
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan January 26 – February 1, 2011

Temperatures:

During early January, temperatures moderated across the lowlands of Afghanistan but remained much below normal across the northeast mountains. During the next week, temperatures are expected to remain below normal with the largest negative temperature anomalies forecast in the central highlands and northeast mountains. Minimum temperatures are forecast to fall below -30 degrees C in the northeast mountains and -20 degrees C in the central highlands. 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

During the past two weeks, moderate to heavy precipitation has decreased precipitation deficits across far northern Afghanistan including the northeast mountains. Snow water volume charts from USGS indicate a large increase in moisture availability across the northeast mountains. Due to the heavy snow since early January, snow water values are near average in the northeast mountains. However, precipitation deficits (25 to 50 mm) continue in the central highlands where a short-term polygon is needed. During the next week, periods of light snow (5 - 20 mm, liquid equivalent or less) can be expected across 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.

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.