

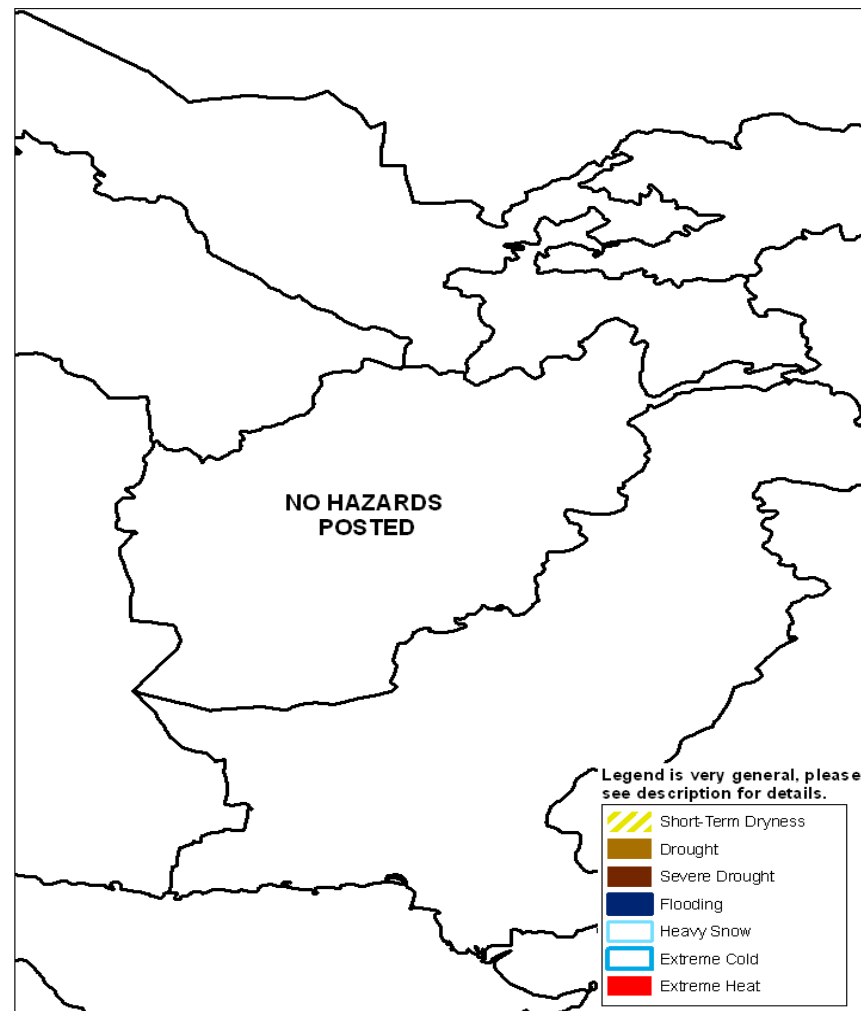
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 16 - 22, 2011

Temperatures:

During early March, temperatures averaged much below normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest negative temperatures anomalies in the central highlands. During the next week, temperatures are forecast to average near or slightly above average for much of the country. Maximum temperatures may reach 30 degrees C in southwest Afghanistan.

Precipitation

Since mid-January, periods of moderate to heavy precipitation have created precipitation surpluses for the winter season. From October 1, 2010 – March 10, 2011, precipitation is at least 150 percent of normal across Afghanistan, according to the USGS. Snow water volume charts from USGS indicate a large increase in water availability across the central highlands and northeast mountains. During the next week, light to moderate precipitation with snow at the higher elevations can be expected across northern Afghanistan. The potential for spring flooding associated with snow melt should be closely monitored later this spring.



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.