

## AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

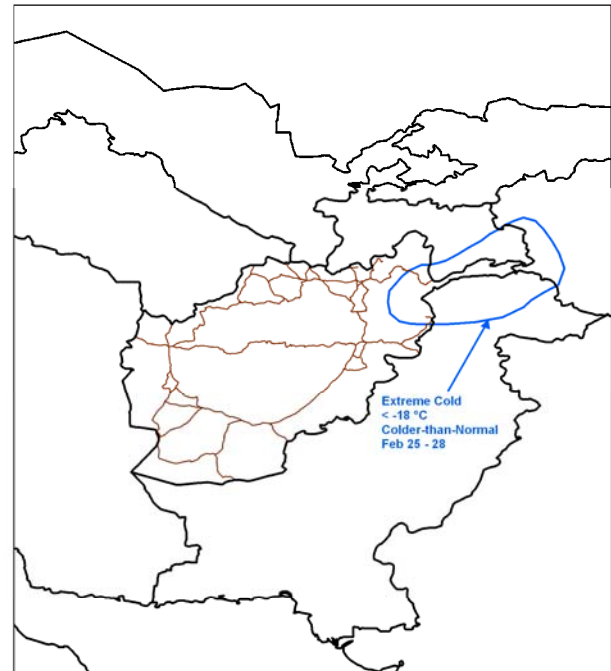
#08, February 25 – March 3, 2009

Warm temperatures caused some early season melting, reducing snow coverage and depth, primarily in the northern provinces of Afghanistan. However, during the last four weeks colder temperatures and consistent snowfall have brought snow depths well above normal for this time of the year. (Figure 3) Eastern Afghanistan, north of Kabul, has experienced some localized below normal precipitation. (Figure 2) Due to the colder temperatures causing some precipitation that would normally fall as rain, to fall as snow, snow depths are still above normal in this region.

Recent snowfall and cold temperatures have caused fatalities during the last few weeks. Snow has also cut off mountain passes and has made travel more difficult in many areas.

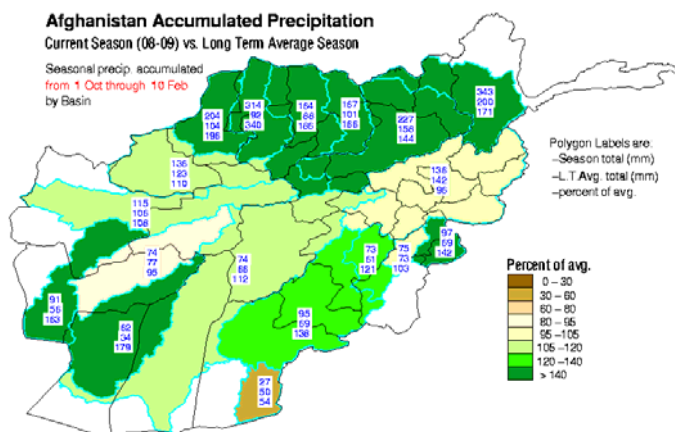
The coming week is expected to bring needed relief from both additional snow, and a gradual rise in temperatures. Extreme cold (minimum temperatures below  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) is also forecast for the highest elevations in Afghanistan in northeastern Afghanistan, but only for the beginning of the period. Temperatures are expected to slowly rise, possibly allowing for some needed melting. That will reduce the chances of a rapid and excessive melt in spring. Light rain and snow showers are possibly throughout the week.

**Figure 1.** Weather hazards in Afghanistan



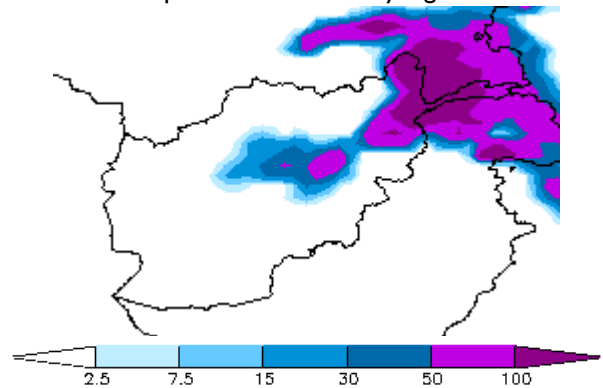
VALID: February 25 - March 3, 2009  
SOURCE: NOAA

**Figure 2.** Precipitation deficits, in eastern Afghanistan and the western highlands remain nominal with much of the country significantly above average.



Source: FEWS-NET/USGS

**Figure 3.** Forecast Snow Depth (cm) for March 2, 2009. Snow depths remain unusually high in most areas.



Source: FEWS -NET/NOAA