

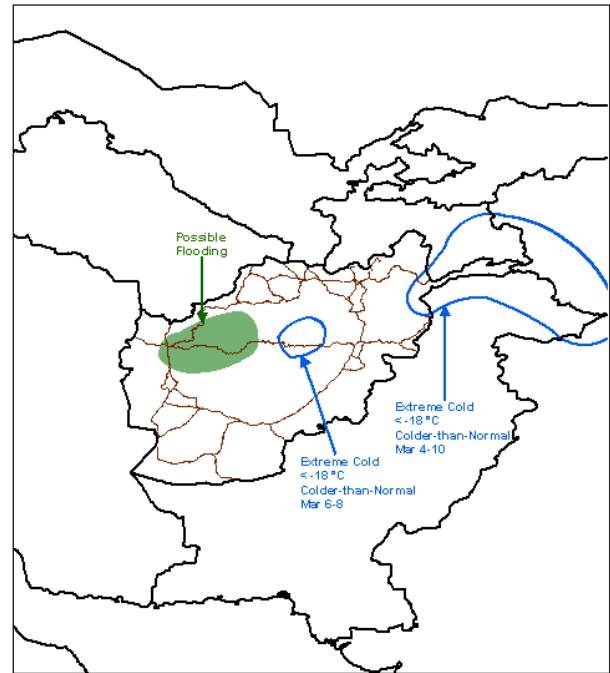
AFGHANISTAN Weekly Climate Forecast

#09, March 4 - 10, 2009

During February, colder temperatures and consistent snowfall increased snow depths throughout the central highlands and northeast mountains. Frequent winter storms have also reduced precipitation deficits near Kabul. As of February 28, precipitation has averaged at or above normal across much Afghanistan for the 2008-09 winter (Figure 2).

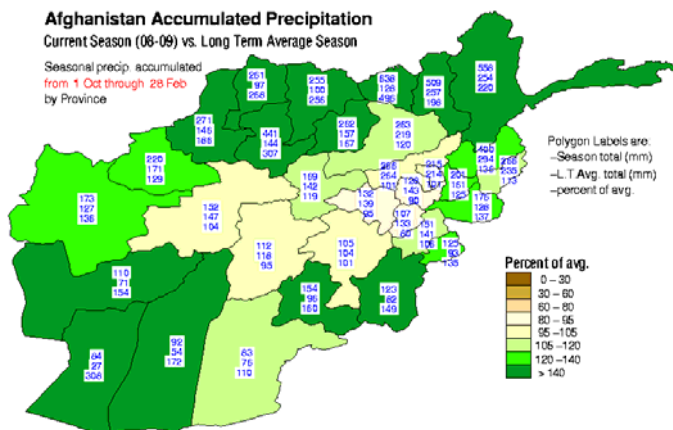
Prior to the assessment period on March 2, a strong storm brought heavy rain to northwest Afghanistan (Figure 3). Heavy rain along with expected snow melt may result in flooding across northwest Afghanistan. Once this storm passes away from Afghanistan, occasional light snow should be limited to the northeast mountains with dry weather across the remainder of the country. Snow depths should likely increase in the northeast mountains during the next week. Temperatures should average below-normal in the central highlands and northeast mountains.

Figure 1. Weather hazards in Afghanistan



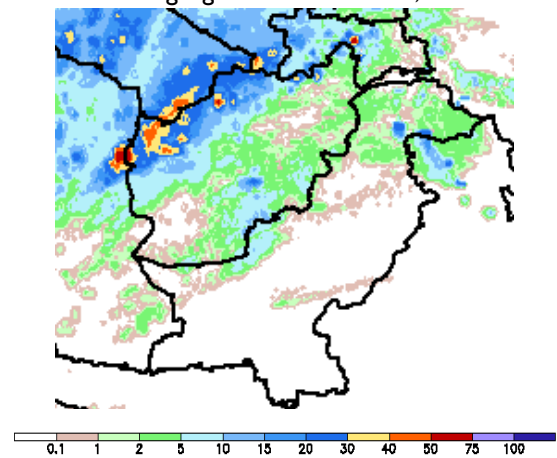
VALID: March 4 - 10, 2009
SOURCE: NOAA

Figure 2. Precipitation has averaged at or above normal throughout Afghanistan.



Source: FEWS-NET/USGS

Figure 3. Precipitation estimate (mm) based on satellite and rain gauge data for March 2, 2009



Source: FEWS-NET/NOAA