



AFGHANISTAN
FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE
CLUSTER

Monthly Meeting
22nd February 2023

**Food Security and
Agriculture Cluster
in Afghanistan**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Agenda of the meeting

S. No	Subject	Presenting Agency	Time
1	Early Warning Updates	FSAC Early Warning Group	40 min
2	IPC Post Monitoring Key Messages	IPC/FSAC	5 min
3	Updates from regions on the female ban/ presentation of the FSAC monitoring tool	Open discussion	60 min
4	AoB; <ul style="list-style-type: none">- AHF coordination- Review of the FSAC Strategic Advisory Group TOR- Selection of new NGO chair	FSAC	20 min

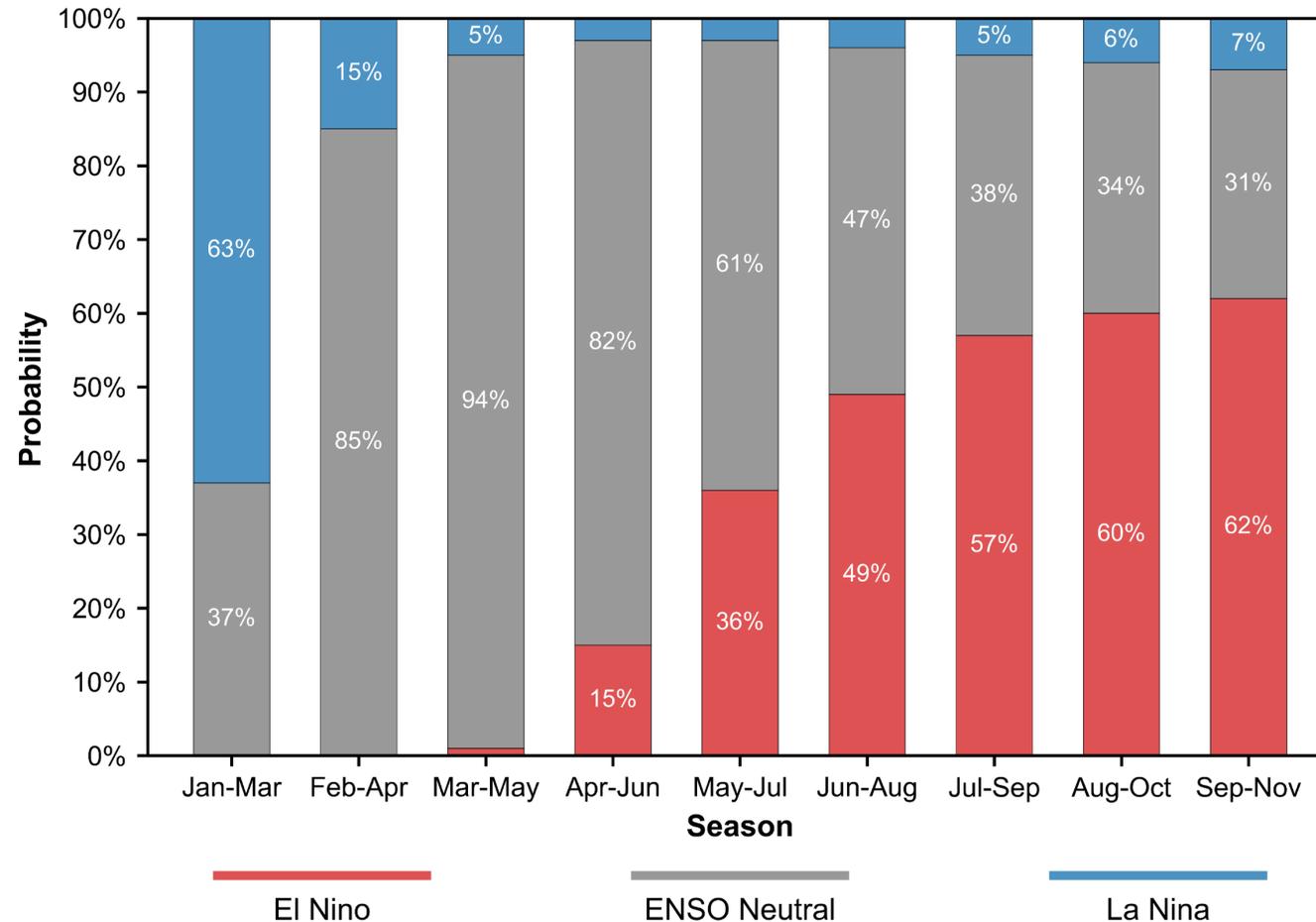


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**Early Warning Information Working Group
(EWIWG) Updates
22nd Feb 2023**

ENSO neutral is the most likely ENSO state in Feb-Apr 2023

Early February 2023 Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities



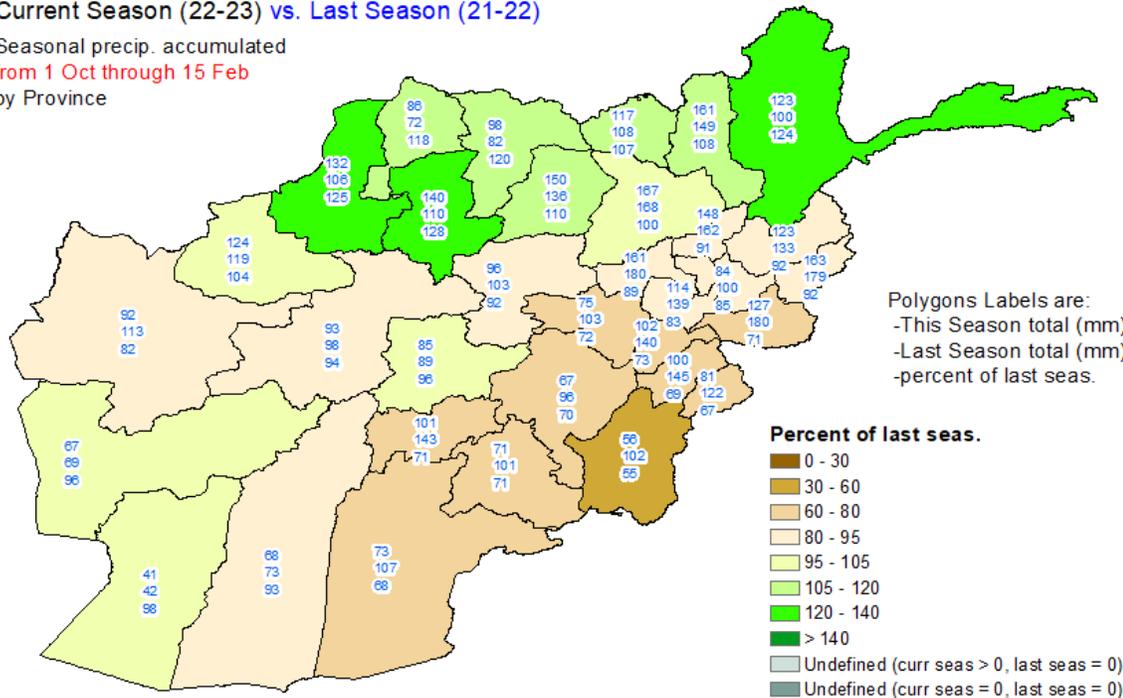


2022 - 2023 Wet Season Precipitation in Afghanistan

Afghanistan Accumulated Precipitation

Current Season (22-23) vs. Last Season (21-22)

Seasonal precip. accumulated
 from 1 Oct through 15 Feb
 by Province



Map produced by USGS/EROS

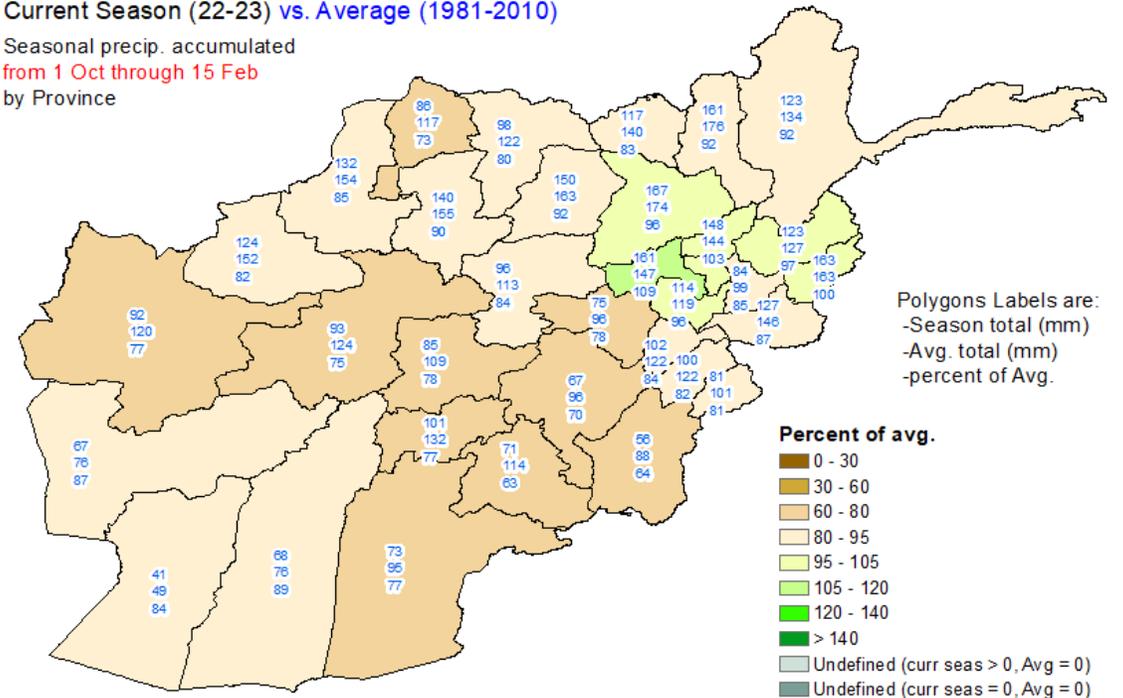
Source: CHIRPS version 2.0 *prelim*



Afghanistan Accumulated Precipitation

Current Season (22-23) vs. Average (1981-2010)

Seasonal precip. accumulated
 from 1 Oct through 15 Feb
 by Province



Map produced by USGS/EROS

Source: CHIRPS version 2.0 *prelim*

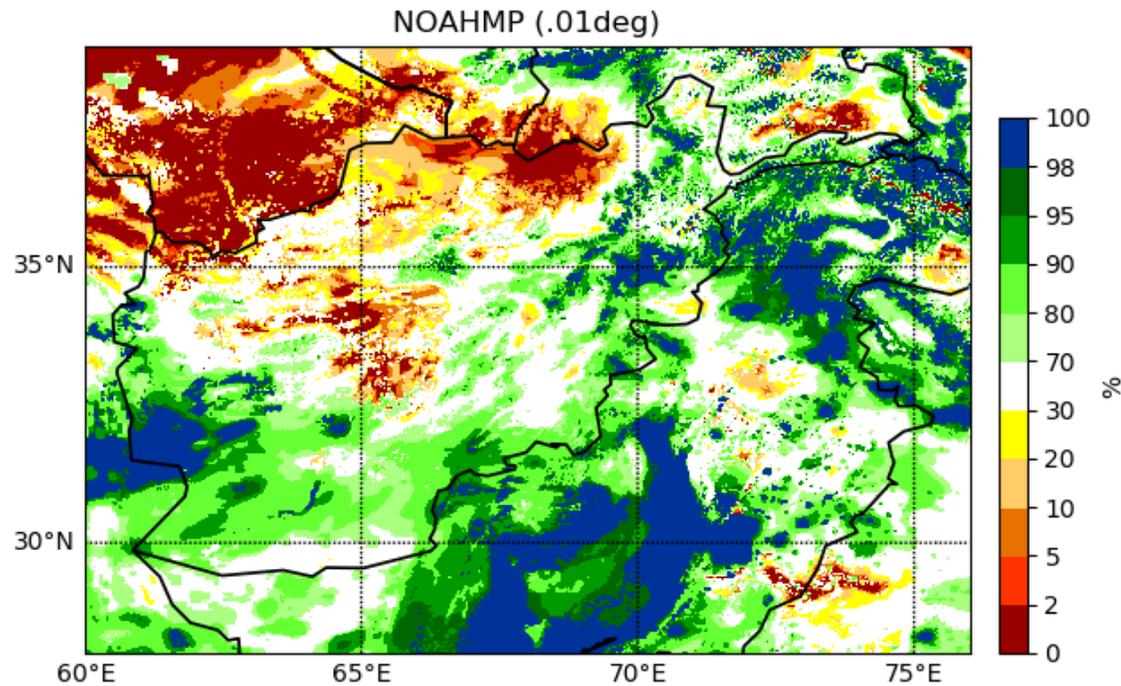




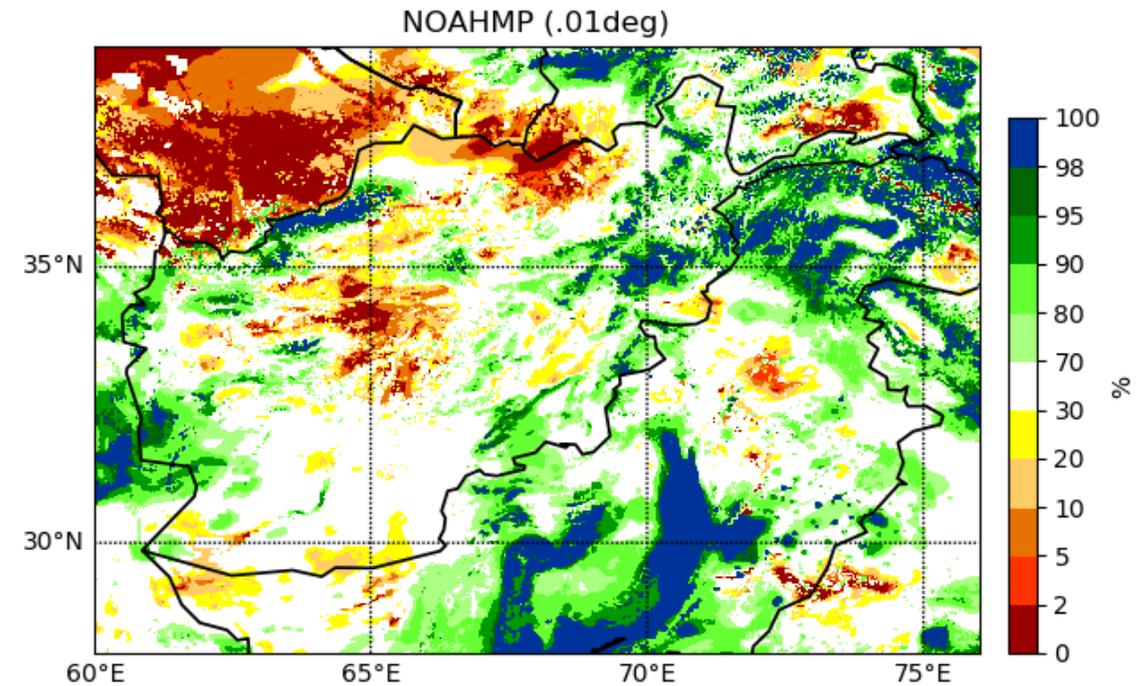
Mid-February 2023 Soil Moisture

Low soil moisture deficits improved since last month

Rootzone Soil Moisture Percentile : 20230116



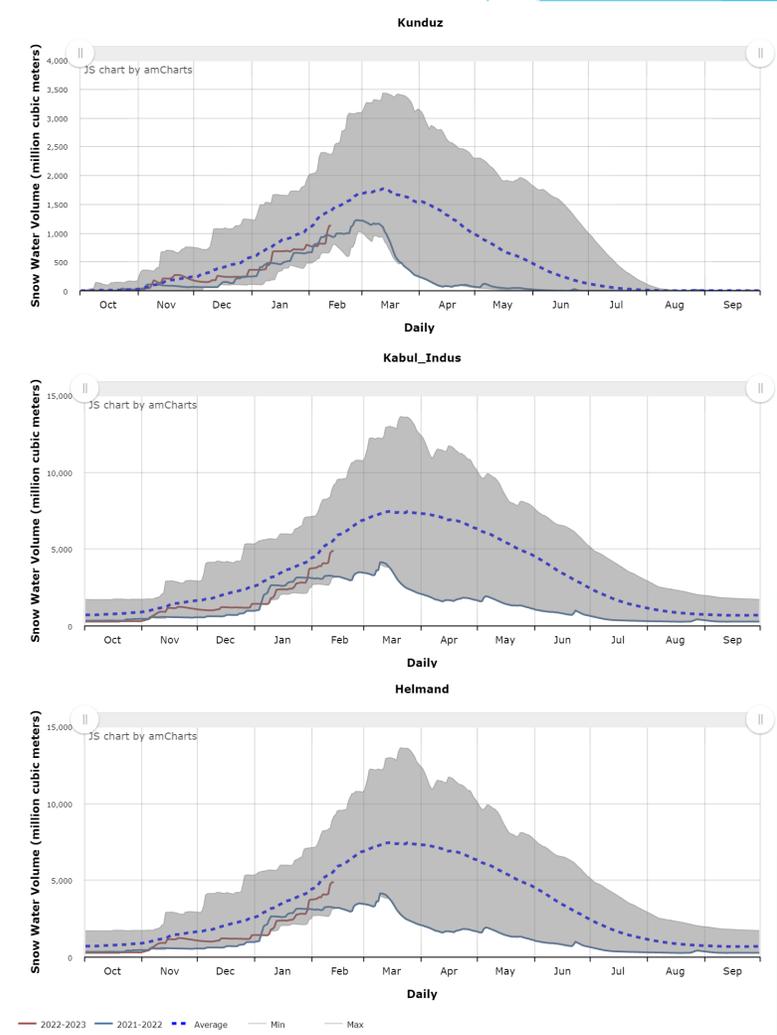
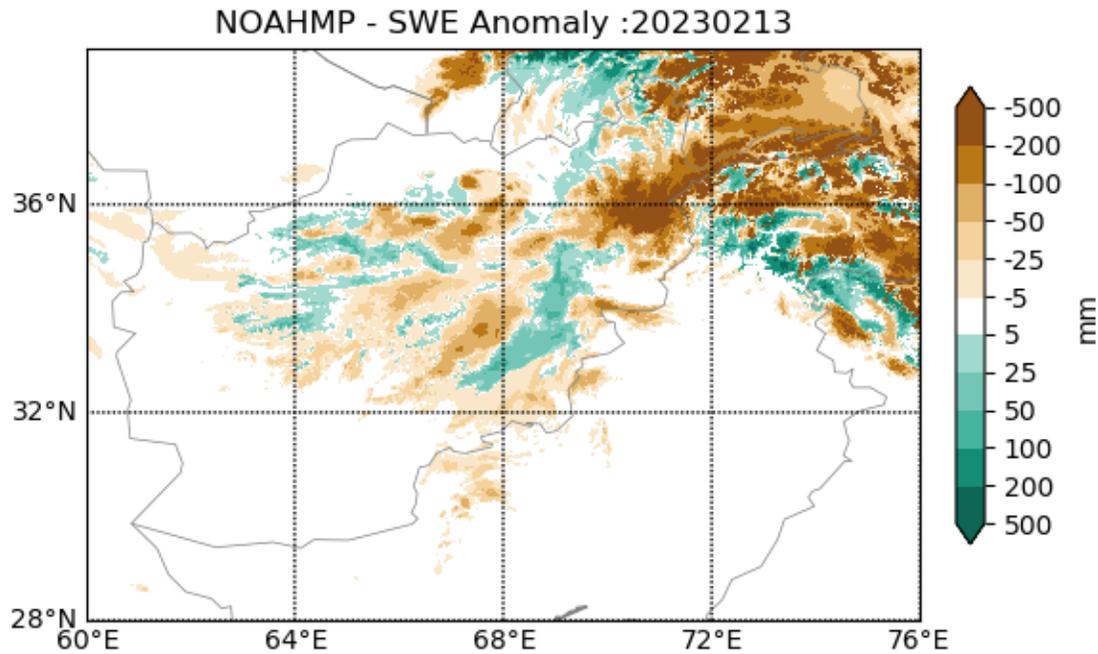
Rootzone Soil Moisture Percentile : 20230213





Snowpack Development

Average and below-average in most basins w/ recent increases





Spatial Coherence During the Analogue Years

La Nina Years # of Basins

2021-2022 2

2020-2021 2

2017-2018 6

2016-2017 6

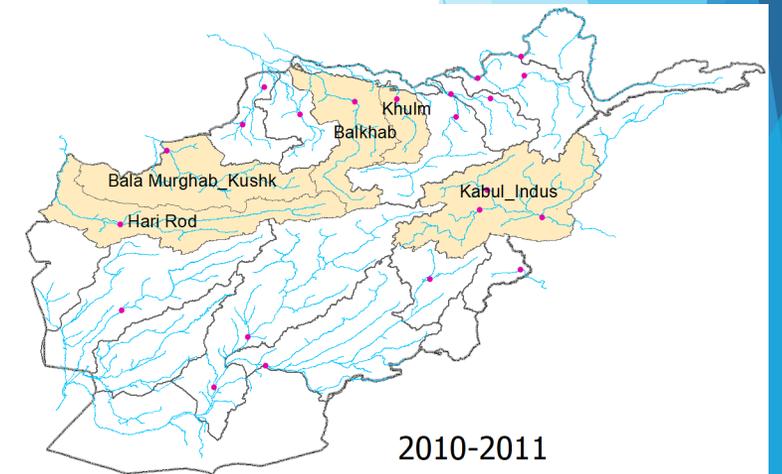
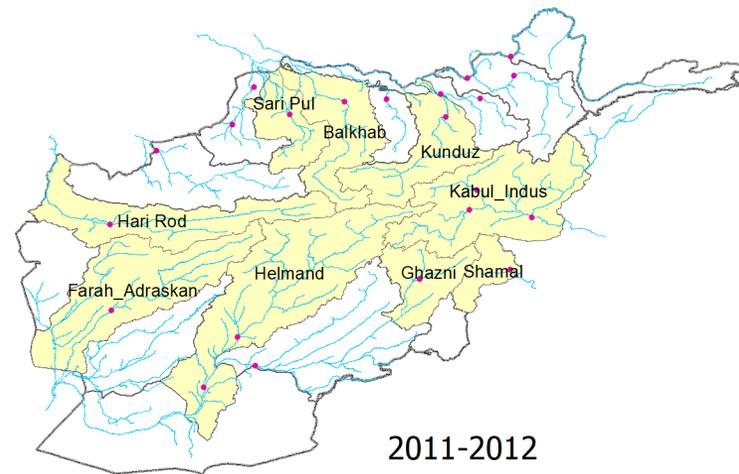
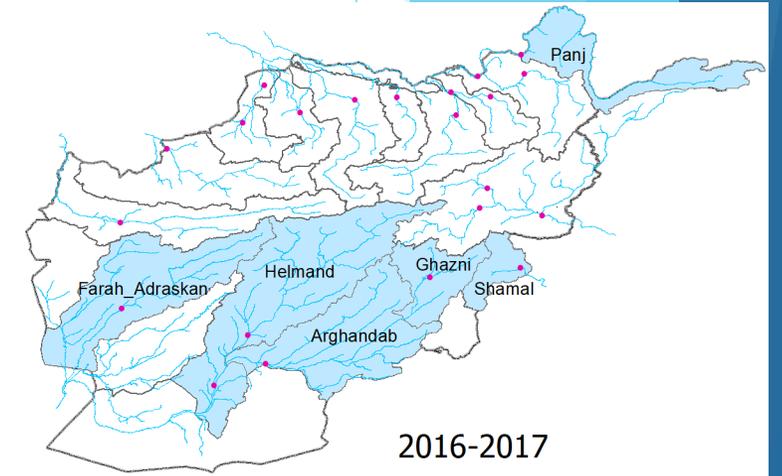
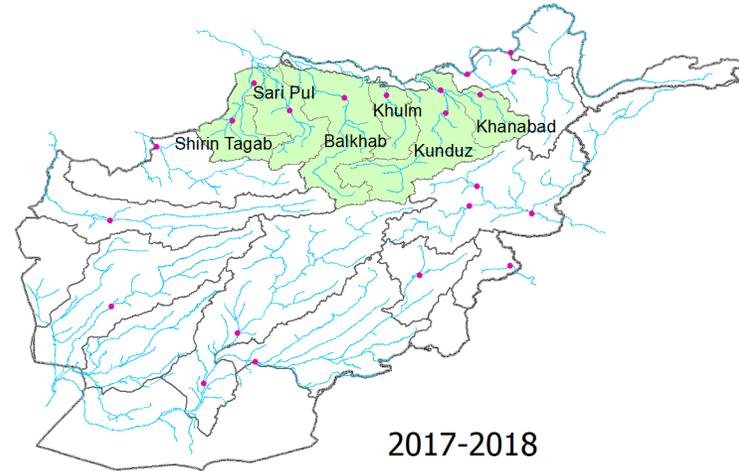
2011-2012 8

2010-2011 5

2007-2008 1

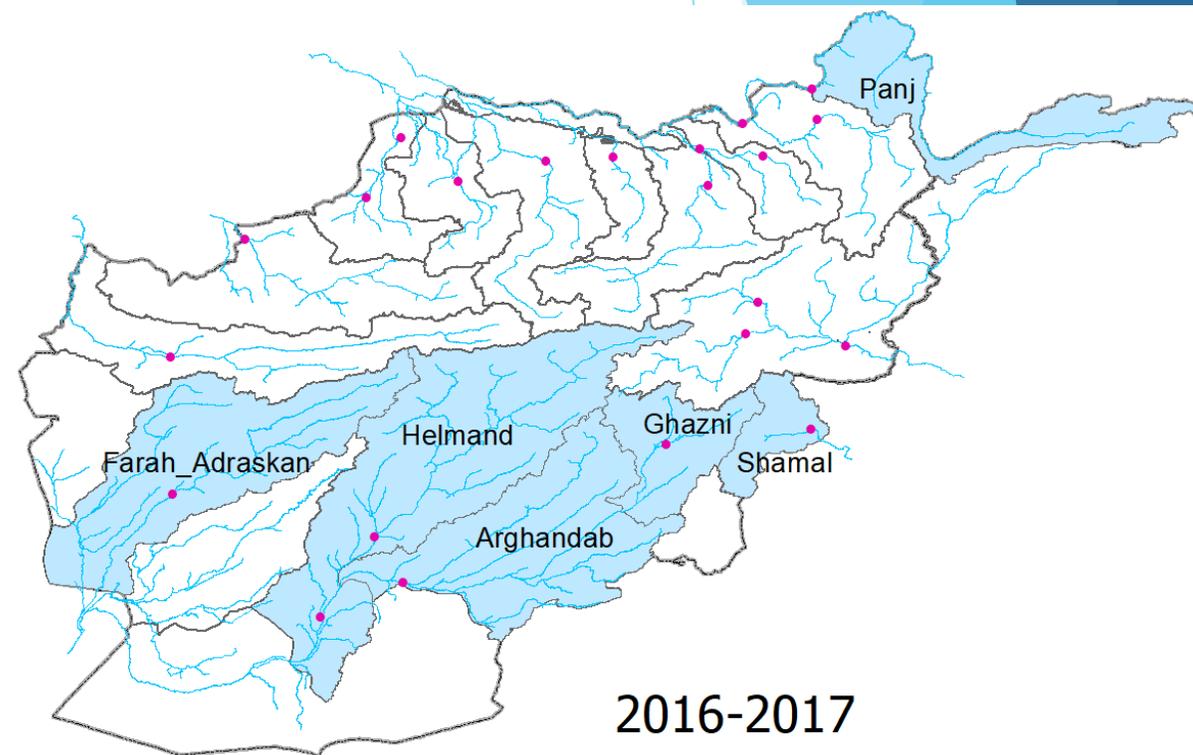
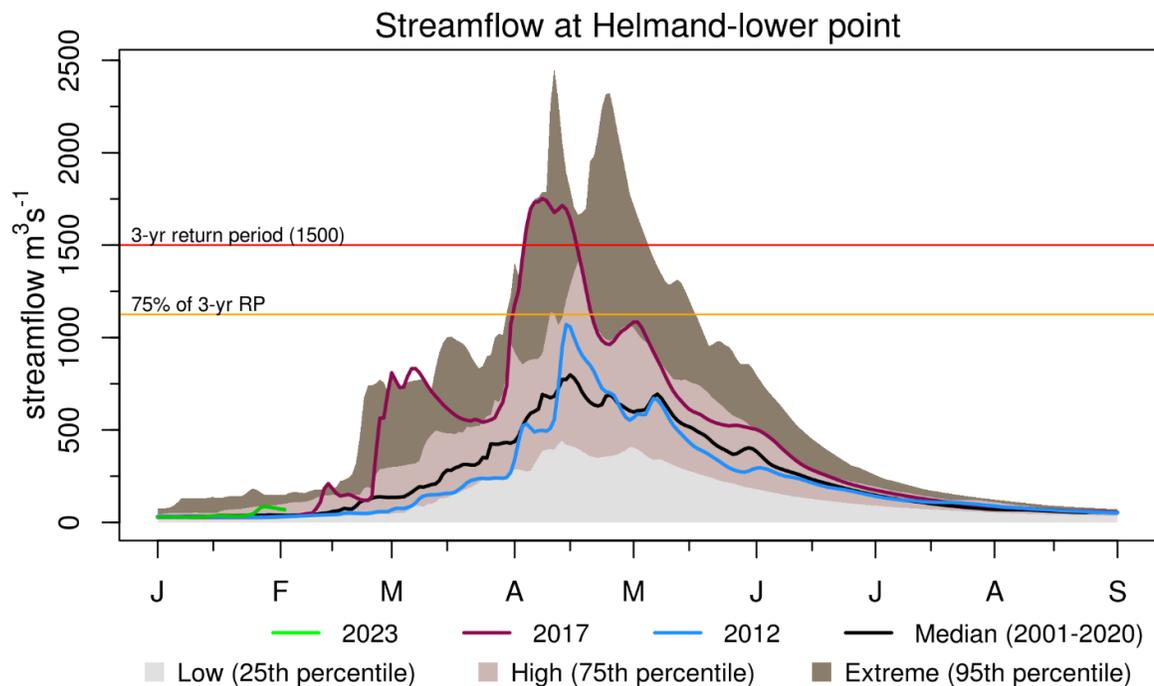
2000-2001 2

- **4 years** stood out.
- With distinctive spatial pattern.



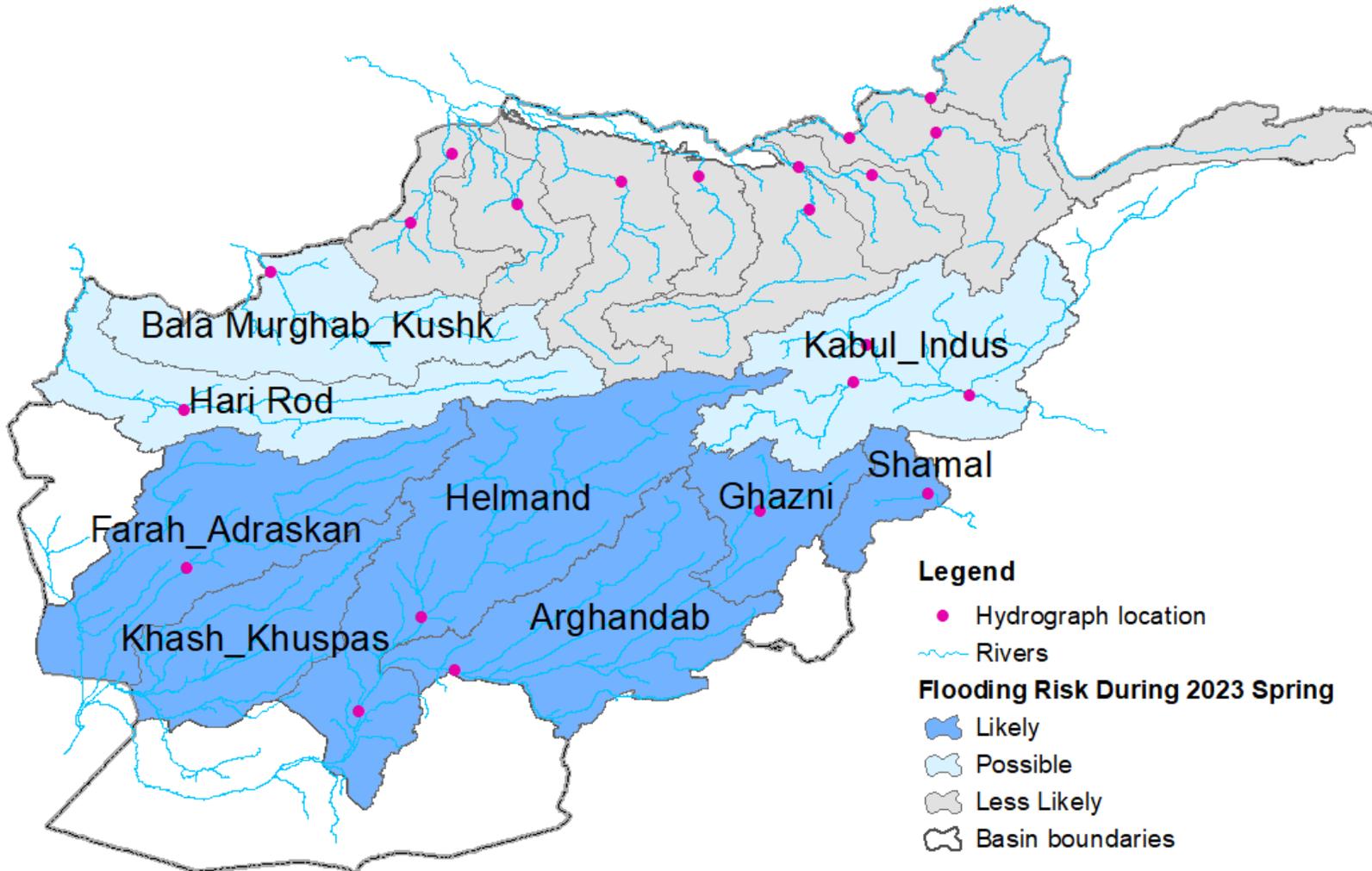


Conditions in 2016-2017



- 2022-2023 SWE is similar to 2016-2017 SWE in the south/southwestern basins.
- There were some high discharge events especially in the south/southwestern rivers.
- Flooding were reported in the spring of 2017 in the south/southwestern basins.

Possible Flooding Risk During Spring of 2023



Likely:

We might see some flooding, possibly few flooding events in these basins.

Possible:

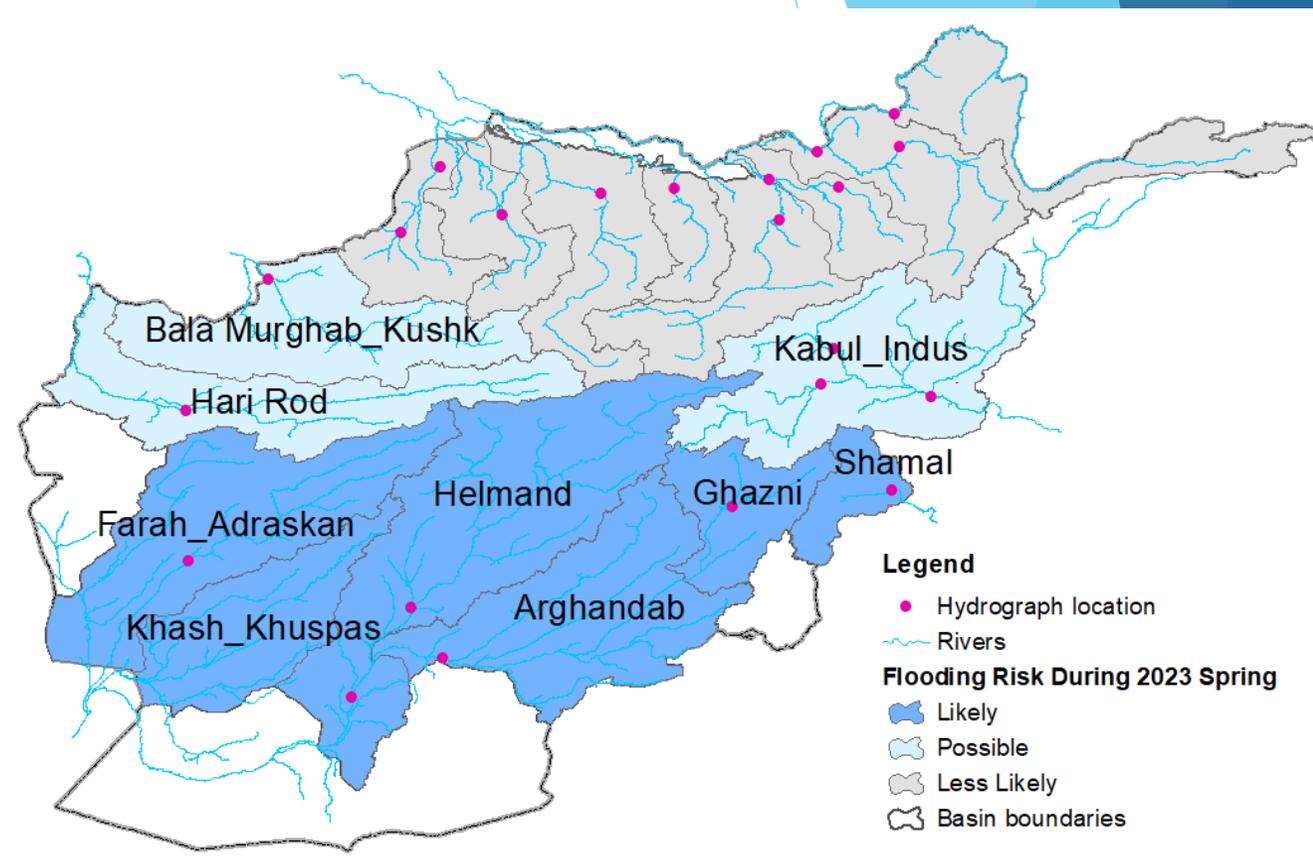
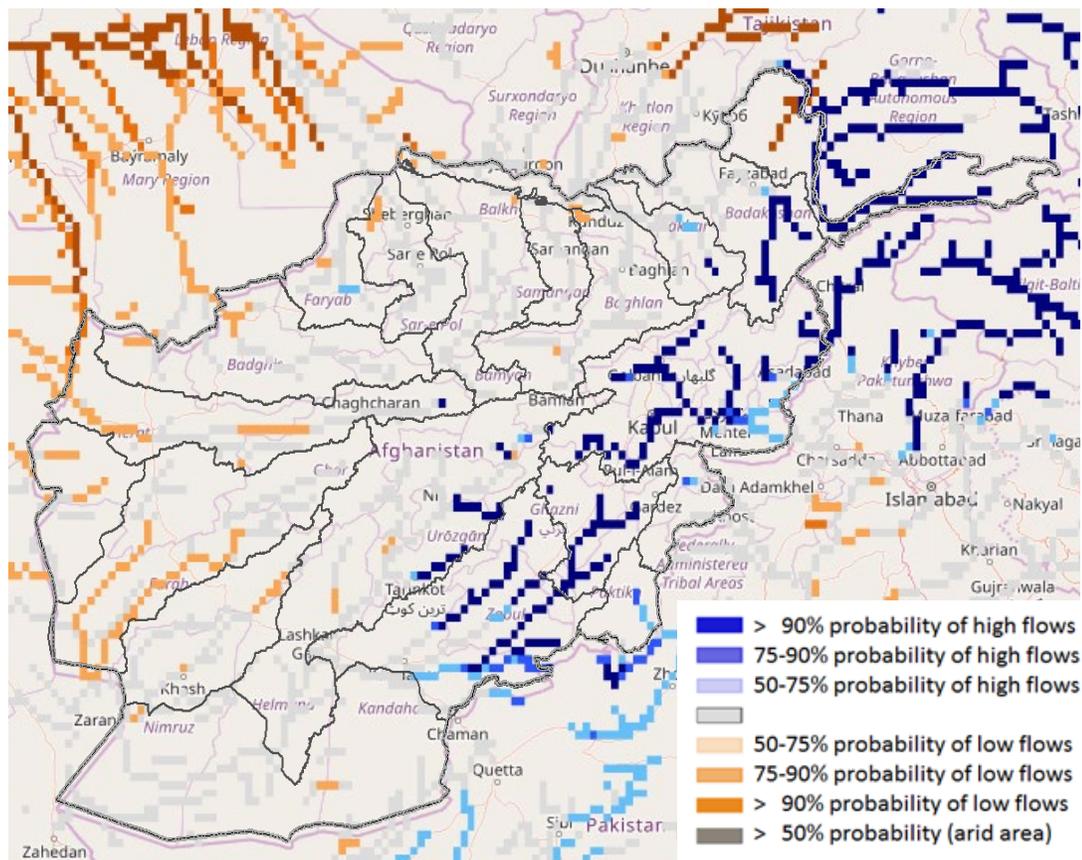
Like 50/50 chance (for the sake of a better term). May be one or two flooding events in these basins.

Less Likely:

Flooding is less likely to occur in these basins.



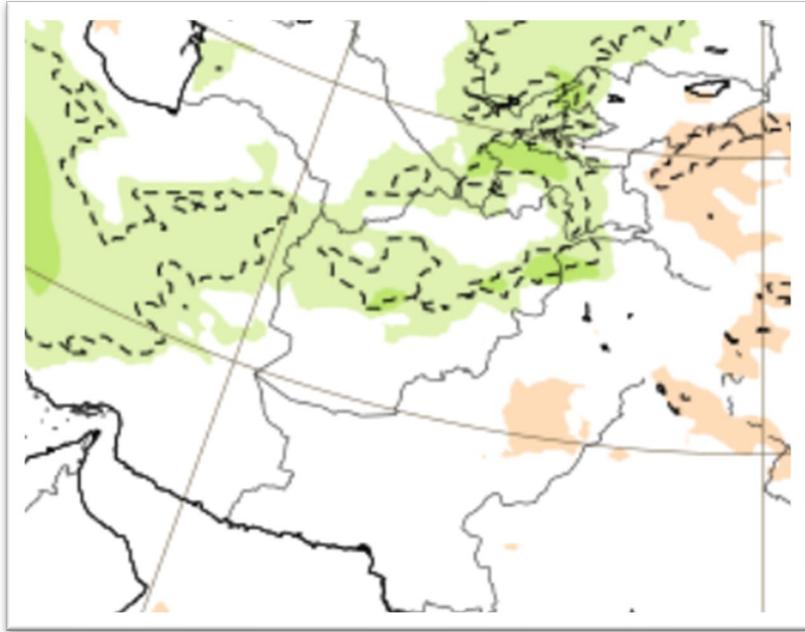
GloFAS Seasonal Forecast



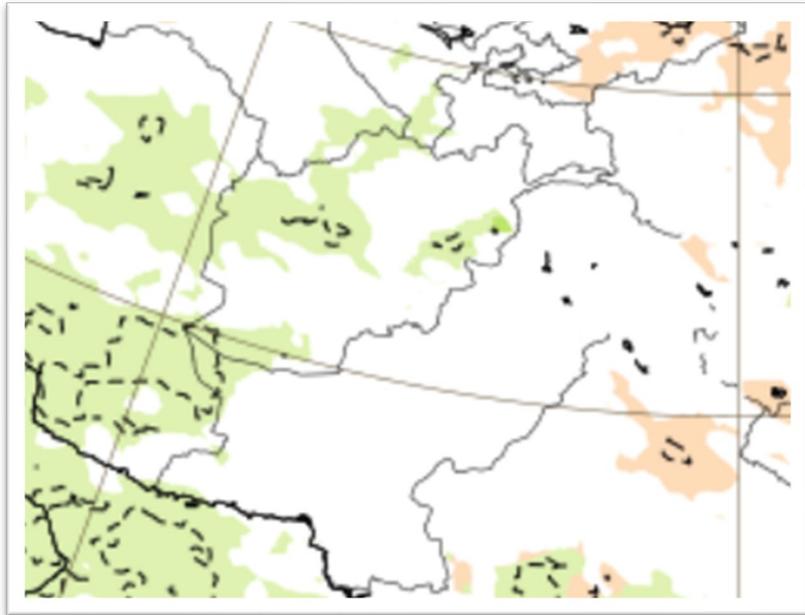
GloFAS streamflow seasonal forecast : **Jan-Apr 2023**

- Streams in Helmand, Arghandab, Ghazni, and Shamal forecast above average flow.
- Average flow is the forecast especially in the north.

6-13 March

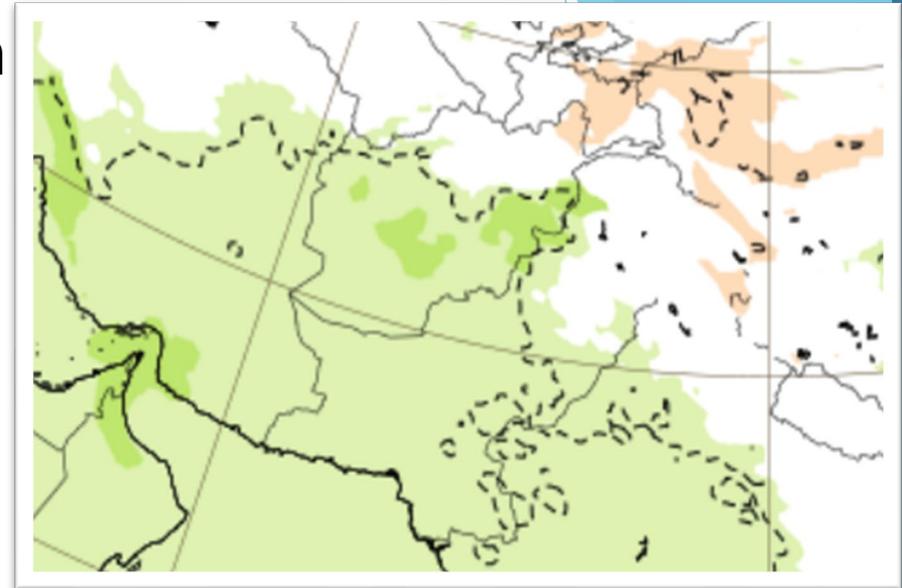


13-20 March

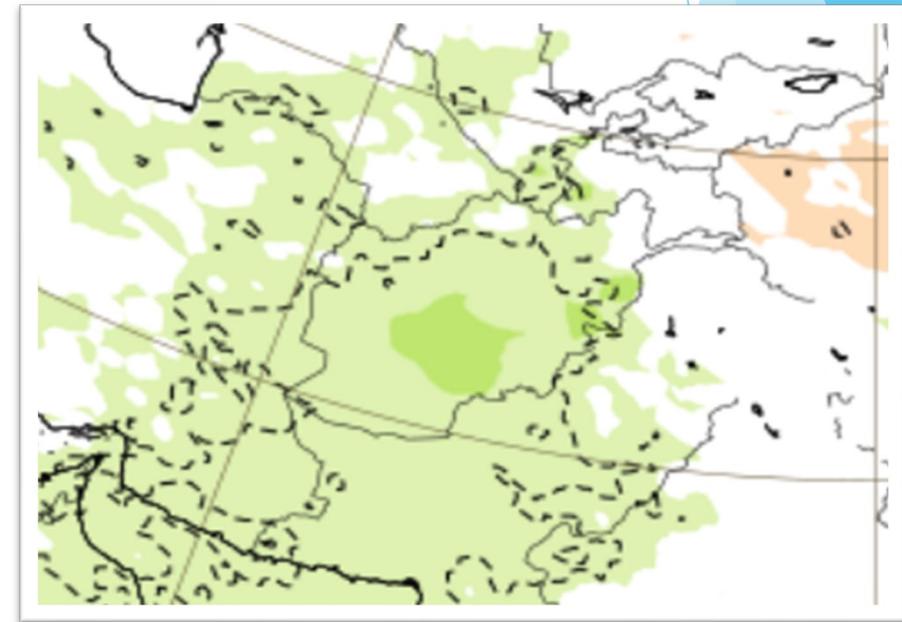


March 2023 Precipitation Forecast

20-25 March



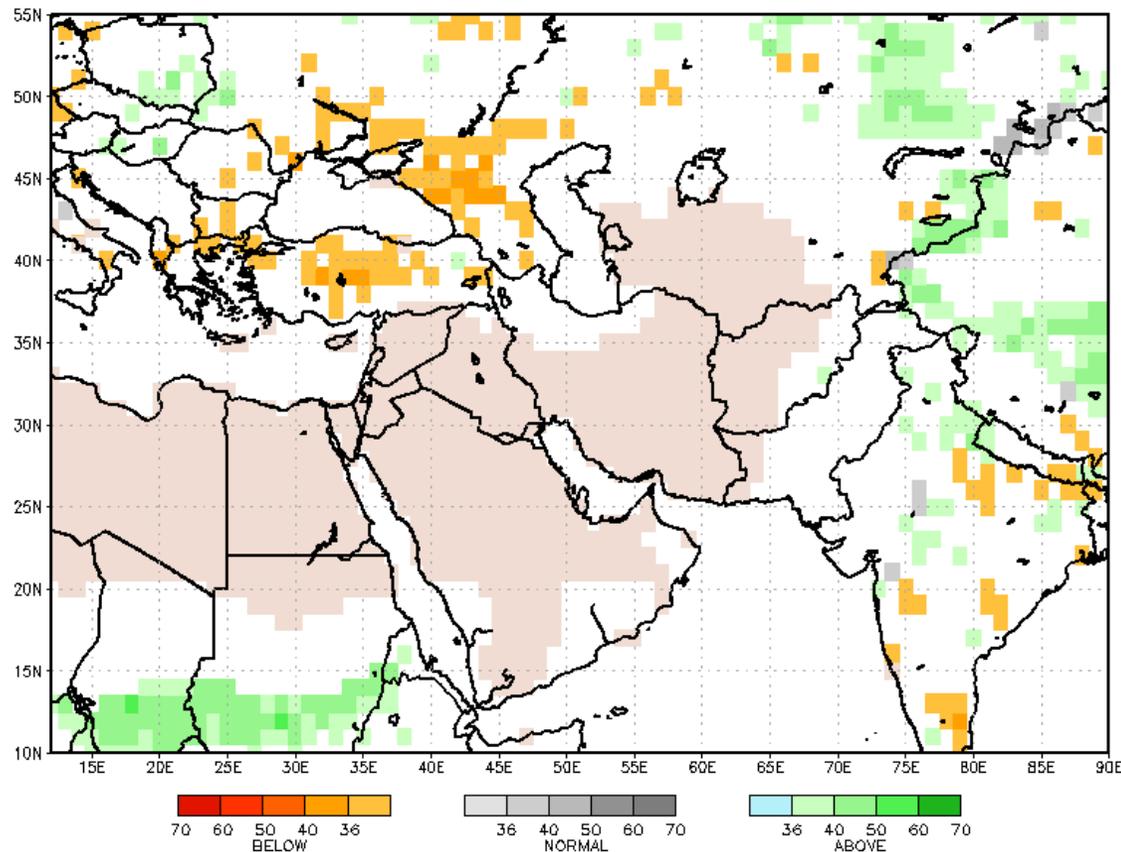
27 March-03 April



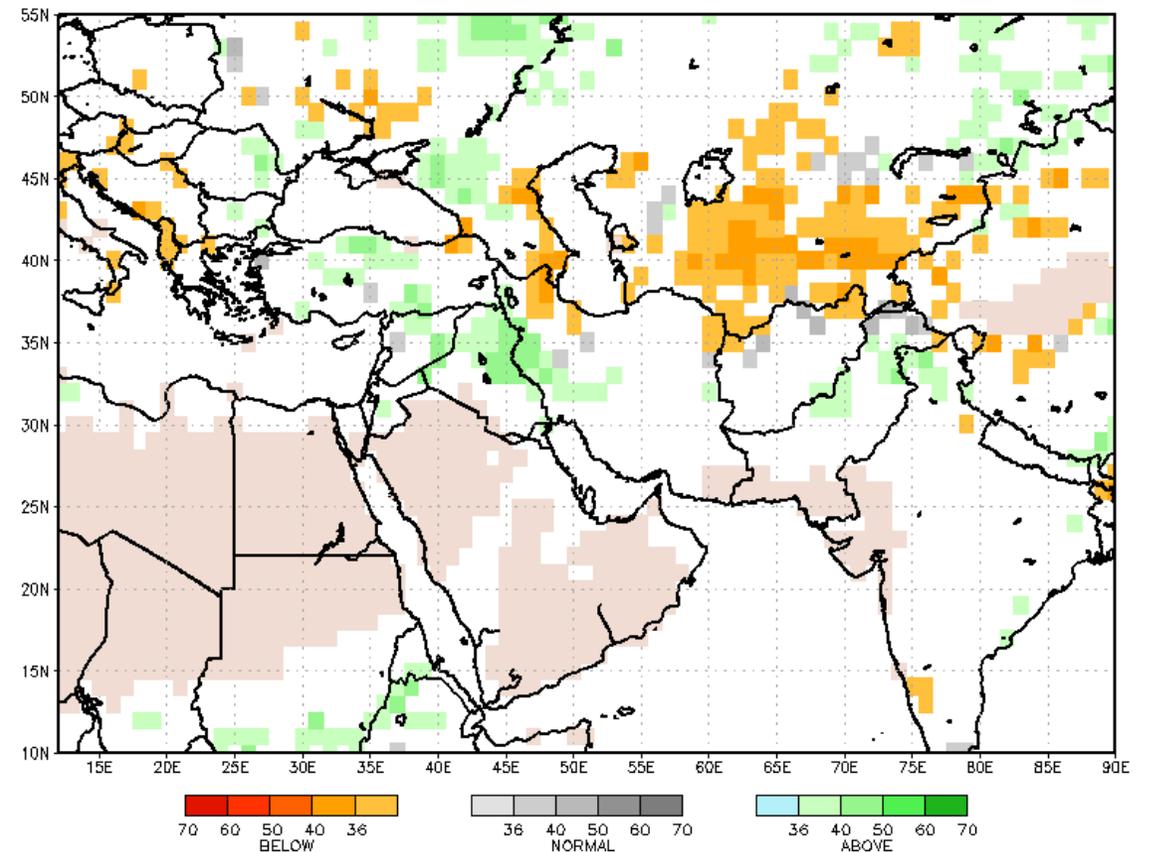
March-May 2023 Precipitation Forecast

Little tilt in odds to above- or below-average in Afghanistan

NMME Precip Prob. Feb1C Jun2023–Aug2023 Fcst



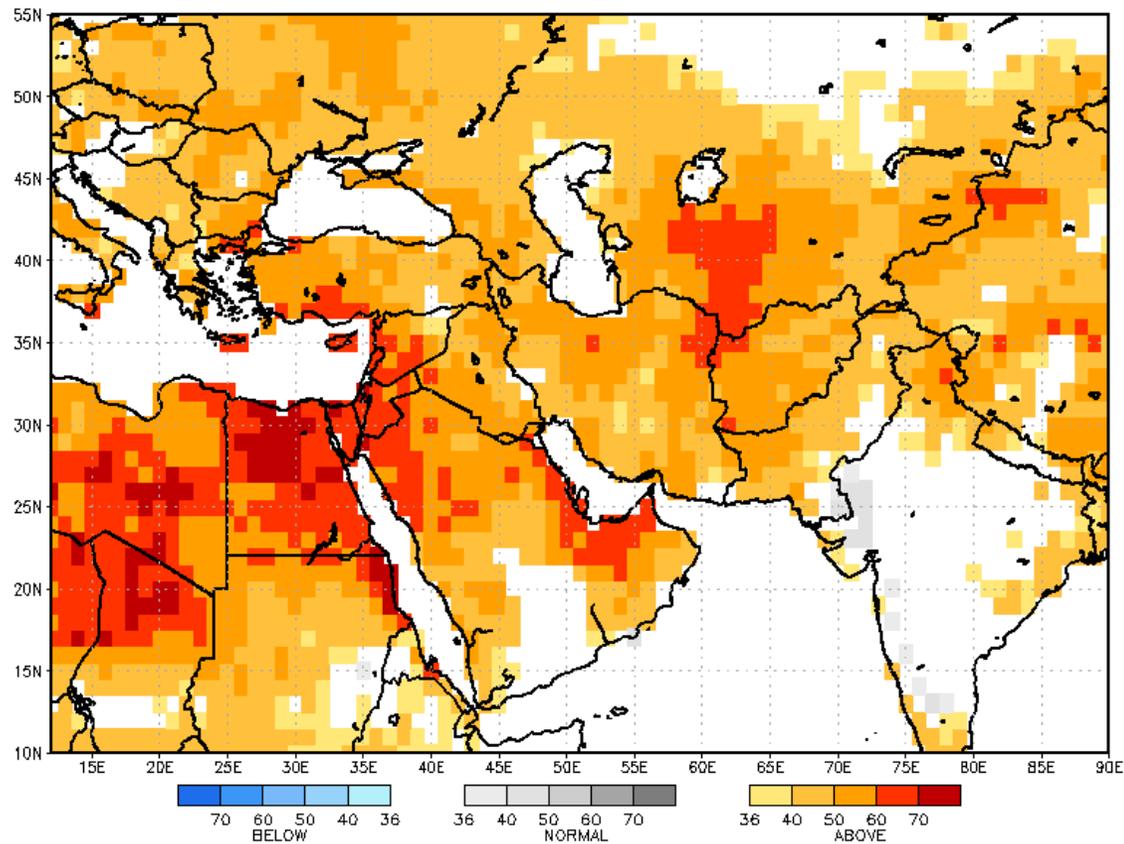
NMME Precip Prob. Feb1C Mar2023–May2023 Fcst



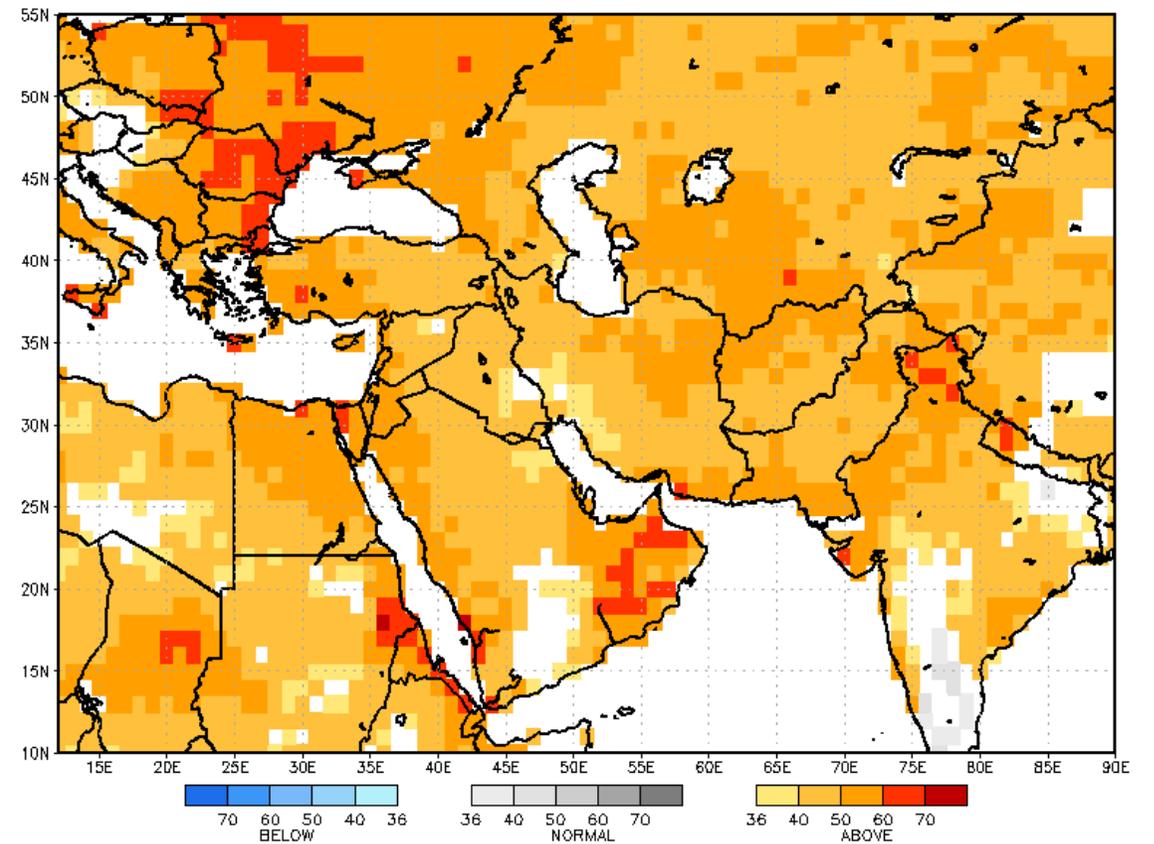
March - May 2023 Temperature Forecast

Above-average most likely

NMME 2m Air Temp Prob. FebIC May2023-Jul2023 Fcst



NMME 2m Air Temp Prob. FebIC Mar2023-May2023 Fcst





Assumptions:

- La Nina is likely to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter. ENSO will most likely transition to neutral in February-April 2023 and remain neutral into the Northern Hemisphere summer of 2023. There is a tilt in the odds of El Nino in the Northern Hemisphere in late summer and autumn of 2023.
- Based on CHIRPS, cumulative precipitation for the winter wet season, from October 2022 to February 2023, is most likely to be below average across western and southern Afghanistan, with closer to average precipitation for northern, central, and eastern areas.
- Cumulative precipitation from March to May 2023 in Afghanistan will likely be average throughout most of the country.



Assumptions:

- Given current snow water volumes and expectations for precipitation, snow water volumes are anticipated to be near and below average in most basins through May 2023. This may limit water availability for second-season crops and will likely negatively impact winter wheat and second-season crop planting.
- Given current reservoir and streamflow levels, hydrological drought is likely ongoing and will most likely persist through at least May 2023 across parts of the west, south, and north.
- Above-average mean temperatures are most likely throughout most of the country through September 2023.
- Vegetation conditions are expected to remain at seasonally low levels during the remainder of the winter months, as is typical. Vegetation conditions are likely to improve, although remain below average in the March to May season, due to the lingering effects of two consecutive droughts (2020/21 and 2021/22).



Key Prices, Wages, Days of Work Available, and Terms of Trade

	2nd week Feb 2023	Month-on-Month	Year-on-Year	Two-Year Avg.
Exchange Rate (AFN/USD)	89.8	1%	-2%	6%
Wheat Grain (AFN/Kg)	43	-1%	3%	16%
Wheat Flour - High price (AFN/Kg)	46	-2%	1%	13%
Wheat Flour - Low price (AFN/Kg)	43	-2%	2%	15%
Rice - High Price - "Palawi" (AFN/Kg)	125	2%	19%	30%
Rice - Low Price - "Sholae" (AFN/Kg)	66	3%	23%	28%
Pulses (AFN/Kg)	115	1%	1.4%	13%
Cooking Oil (AFN/Liter)	142	-0.2%	-18%	-2%
Sugar (AFN/Kg)	63	-1%	-2%	10%
Fertilizer - DAP (AFN/50 Kg)	5,998	-4%	16%	54%
Fertilizer - Urea (AFN/50 Kg)	2,566	-3%	-10%	26%
1-year Old Live Female Sheep (AFN/Head)	7,969	1%	2%	3%
Unskilled Labour Wage (AFN/day)	289	-2%	6%	2%
Skilled Labour Wage (AFN/day)	610	1%	8%	1.2%
Days of Unskilled Work Available Per Week	1.7	2%	23%	-3%
Diesel (AFN/Liter)	87	-4%	17%	47%
Real Unskilled Labour Terms of Trade (Kgs)	1.6	-2%	28%	-19%
Pastoralist Terms of Trade (Kgs)	192	3%	1%	-13%

1. In the second week of February 2023, the prices of wheat grain, wheat flour, sugar, pulses, rice, and cooking oil saw negligible change compared to the first week. However, these prices remain significantly higher when compared to 2-years average — except for cooking oil.
2. The purchasing power of unskilled casual labour and unskilled labour had negligible change compared to the previous week. However, the Terms of Trade for one-year female sheep and unskilled casual labour to wheat remain significantly low compared to 2-years average.
3. The price of DAP and urea fertilizers remained elevated at 54 percent and 26 percent above their two-year average prices, respectively. It's expected that this would have already negatively impacted winter planting along with other factors and will have its negative impact on spring cultivation.
4. FSAC food basket price:
 - a. The national average AFN price was 4 percent higher than one year ago and 11 percent higher than the two-year average.
 - b. In sixteen provincial capitals, the AFN price was higher than the national average of 7,489. Four markets had AFN prices more than 10 percent above the national average, including Nuristan and Bamyan (16%), Kandahar (12%) and Urozgan (11%).
 - c. The FSAC food basket trigger analysis shows that the national average basket cost reached 7th consecutive weeks being \leq AFN 85, 00 out of 8 weeks sat as the threshold for change.



- In general, winter wheat has been cultivated very extensively except some reduced area investment in the Eastern part of the country, and germinated very well. Unfortunately, the recent cold wave affected some standing wheat crops especially in the northern, western, southern part of the country, and higher elevation in the eastern part of the country. In these impacted area the frost damage compounded by the inability of farmers to procure and use fertilizers, could likely affect the final yield.
- Below-average precipitation has discouraged the farmers to cultivate rainfed wheat in the southern region while in other area of the country the outlook are more promising especially in the North
- The recent cold wave has negatively impacted also on barley, vegetables, saffron, fig trees in western region and Farah also greenhouses and tunnel has been damaged by snow and frost
- Precipitation has been erratic and limited in amount in Western and Southern areas. Groundwater depletion continues, and some farmers are complaining about concerning dropping of water level in boreholes. **Water levels in Dahla and Kajaki reservoirs, and Kamal Khan diversion dam, respectively located in Kandahar, Helmand, and Nimruz provinces, are lower than average. Naghlu and Darunta reservoirs condition are better than 2021 and above average in water volume. While Band e- sultan is better than 2021 but still below average.**
- Livestock: pasture growth is better this year in comparison to the last year but still vegetation condition are lower than normal year, resulting in potential fodder shortage in case of overgrazing. In some area the snow cover is still present, and likely will help the initial development stage of pasture
- Because of very low temperature and freezing, animal sector has been severely impacted with losses of animal up to 30% in some extreme cases. In this harsh winter livestock keepers faced to lack of feed and animal got severe stress. **Respiratory diseases because of cold weather are reported.** Moreover recent reports recorded cases of enterotoxaemia, PPR, and sheep pox, CCPP (pneumonia) and Newcastle disease. At the moment LSD outbreak in the coldest areas of the Country are not recorded till now since flies, the main vector, are not active. Some LSD reports are still occurring in the warmer area.



Short term forecast

- Temperature:
 - Temperatures averaged mostly near normal during this past week. Only southeastern Afghanistan observed maximum temperature anomalies of 1-4°C. Southern provinces observed temperatures between 20°C and 25°C. Warmer air will make its return for the outlook period. **Mean temperatures will likely average 4-8°C warmer than normal across the country with the largest anomalies to the east.** Most areas, except for the country's highest elevations, should reach above freezing.
 - This may result in significant snowmelt, increasing risk of flood and flash flood where heavy snow had occurred
- Precipitation:
 - During the past 7 days, rain and widespread snow occurred across central and northern portions of the country. Liquid equivalent totals of 10-50mm were observed according to gauge analysis. After recent precipitation, the past 30 days, as well as seasonal precipitation performance, is improved with north and northeastern regions now experiencing surplus conditions region
 - Snow water equivalent values have also improved, especially in central and eastern of Afghanistan, **HOWEVER below average conditions are still present in the Northeast.** For the outlook period, rain and snow is forecasted to continue over northern portions of Afghanistan. Liquid equivalent accumulations of 10-25mm are forecast with higher amounts in the northeastern mountains. There, large snowfall accumulations, exceeding 50cm, are expected. More moderate snows, between 10cm and 25cm, are anticipated in parts of the central highlands.



Long term forecast

- **Temperature:**
 - Long term forecast are still showing 40 to 50% likelihood of above average temperature for spring up to early summer for majority of the country and higher likelihood for western and north
 - This could impact water availability for second season due to increase in Evapotranspiration and lower soil moisture, limiting also groundwater recharge
- **Precipitation:**
 - Long term forecast are still showing 40 to 50% likelihood of above average rainfall for spring up to early summer for the central and southeastern region, but likelihood of below average precipitation still persists in the north eastern part of the Country.
 - Irrigated and rainfed wheat could benefit from the better water availability during flowering stage, however the previous drought conditions can still extend their effect on yield due to lower precipitation at the sowing and early stage of crop.
 - Western and southern part of the country are likely to experience still some impact on the crops due to limited water availability
 - Second crop season can still be impacted due to limited water availability



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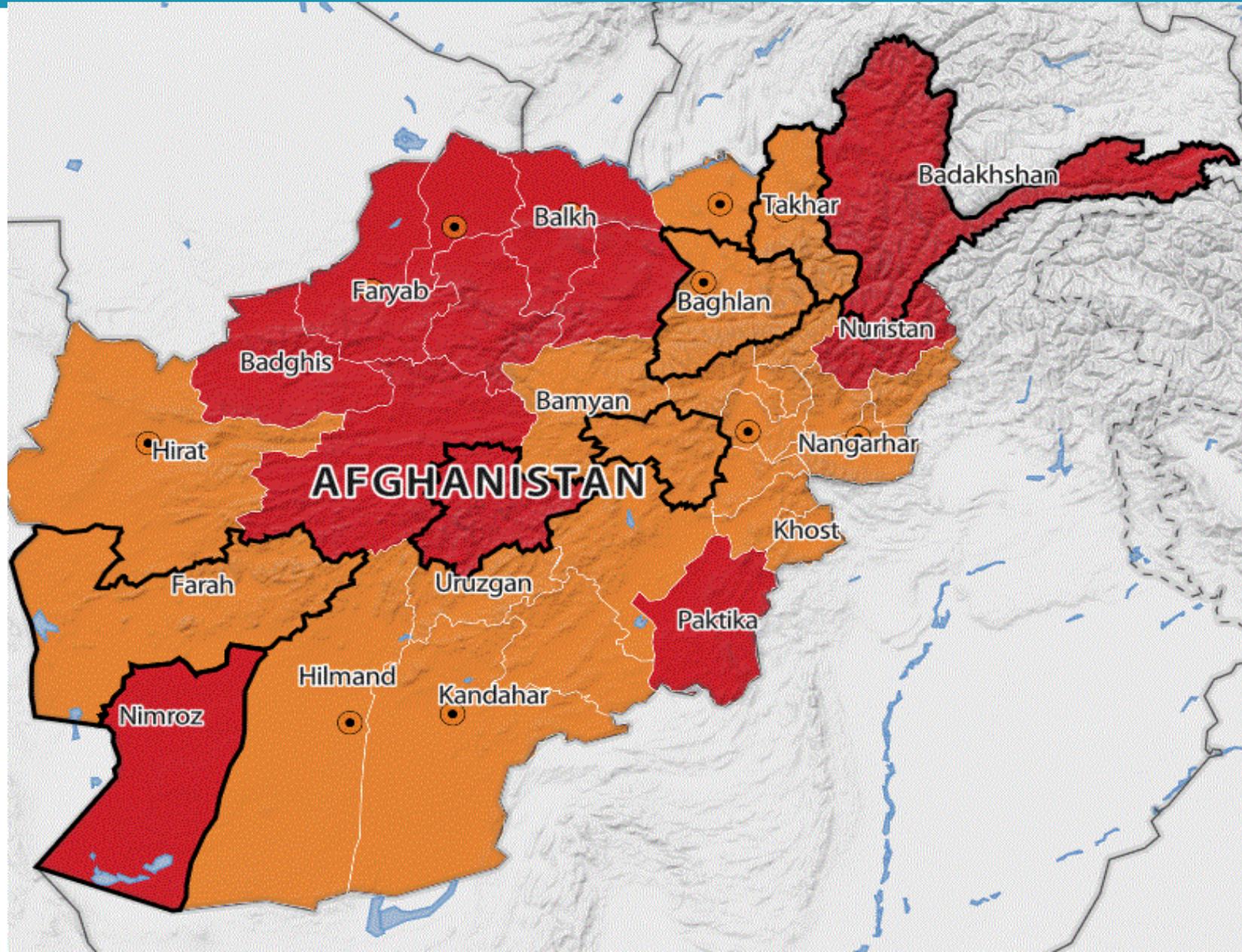
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

IPC-Post Monitoring Updates 22nd Feb 2023

IPC Analysis Findings

Projection November 2022– March 2023

19.9M
46% in IPC
Phase 3 and
above (FLM)





Economic Decline



High Food Prices



Dry spells/Drought:



**Natural Disaster(Floods/
earthquake)**



**Reduced Income and
Unemployment**

Key assumptions for the projection period

Precipitation: Below-average precipitation, including rain and snow, is likely through at least February 2023.

Staple Food Production: Planted area for winter wheat is likely to be below average, making a large national wheat deficit likely in 2023.

Pasture and Livestock Productivity: Below average precipitation through at least February 2023 will inhibit the recovery of pasture conditions.

Income and Livelihood Opportunities: Agricultural labor opportunities will be below average due to reduced winter wheat planting, alongside the typical decrease in unskilled casual labor opportunities seen in winter.

Prices Trends in Afghanistan: Commodity prices are likely to remain elevated,

Remittances: While remittance inflow from Gulf countries will likely be near average or average, it will be reduced from Pakistan and Iran due to economic crisis in both countries.

Humanitarian Food Assistance: Coverage is expected to decrease due to limited confirmed funding at the time of analysis.

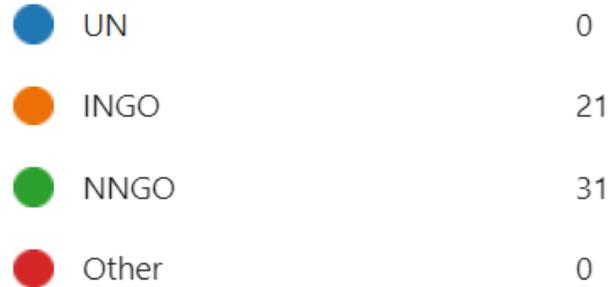
- Cumulative precipitation from March to May 2023 in Afghanistan will likely be average throughout most of the country.
- Winter wheat has been cultivated very extensively except some reduced area investment in the Eastern part of the country, and germinated very well. Unfortunately, the recent cold wave affected some standing wheat crops.
- Pasture growth is better this year in comparison to the last year but still vegetation condition are lower than normal year, resulting in potential fodder shortage in case of overgrazing.
- Because of very low temperature and freezing, animal sector has been severely impacted with losses of animal up to 30% in some extreme cases. In this harsh winter livestock keepers faced to lack of feed and animal got severe stress. Respiratory diseases because of cold weather are reported.

- In the second week of February 2023, the prices of wheat grain, wheat flour, sugar, pulses, rice, and cooking oil saw negligible change compared to the first week. However, these prices remain significantly higher when compared to 2-years average — except for cooking oil.
- In 2020, the national average of available working days in a week stood at 2.7, while in 2021, it went down to 2 days and in 2022 decreased to 1.7 working days per week. In January 2023, the national average stood at 1.6 days per week that is decreased from 1.7 days per week than last year. Still it's significantly lower than last year same time and start of the year.
- January and December 2022, FSAC partners supported 22.2 million people with food assistance and 6.4 million people with livelihood assistance (agriculture and livestock support) in all 34 provinces.
- **Overall, considering the agriculture situation, livestock, climate outlook, prices and livelihood opportunities and assistance the food security situation is align with the projection period and there is no deterioration to update the IPC analysis.**

**Updates from regions on the female
ban/ presentation of the FSAC
monitoring tool**

Latest Survey Updates

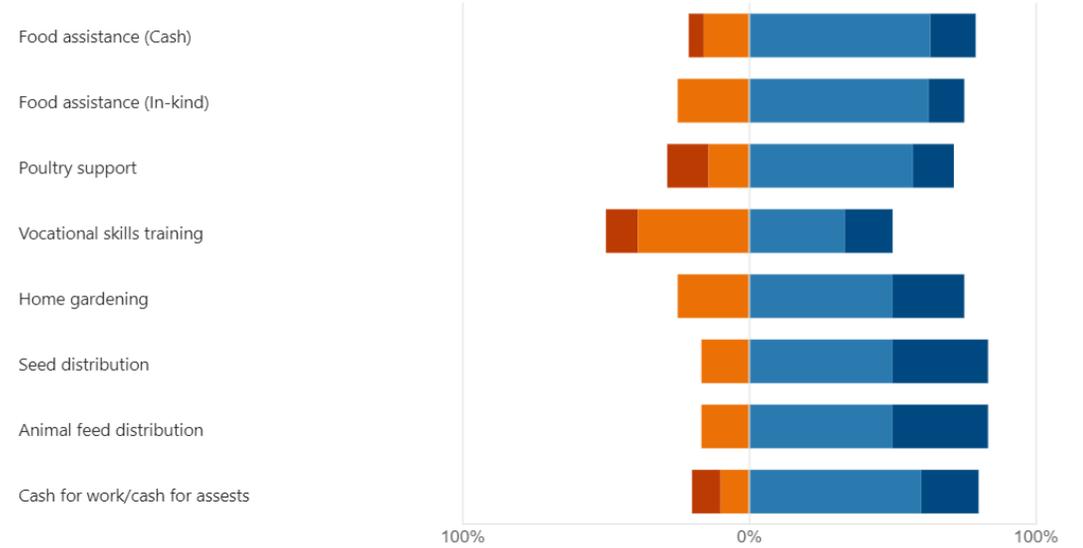
Type of organization



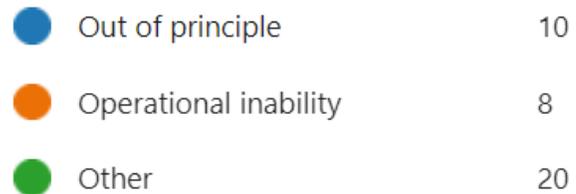
52 Responses

Which FSAC activities still are suspended after 29 January 2023 due to the ban?

■ AHF funded projects ■ UN funded projects ■ other donors ■ All

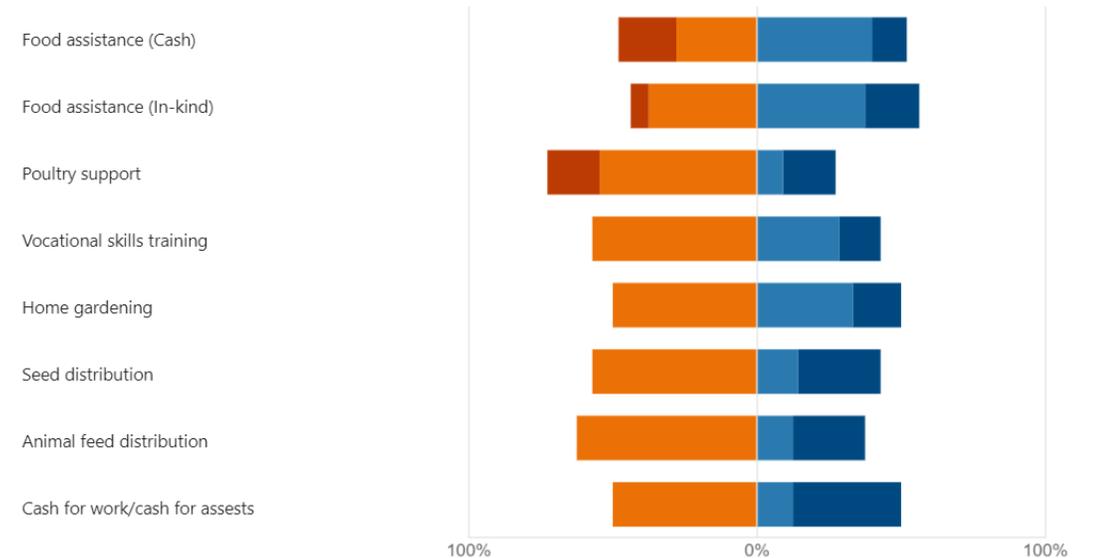


If you still have suspended your activities, what is the reason?



Which FSAC activities are resumed after 29 January 2023?

■ AHF funded projects ■ UN funded projects ■ other donors ■ All



FSAC monitoring tool

<https://forms.office.com/r/vqmhwpwjkbb>

AoB;

- **AHF Coordination**
- **Review of the FSAC Strategic Advisory Group TOR**
- **Selection of new NGO chair**
- **Next FSAC monthly meeting**

Thanks 😊

FSAC website: <http://fscluster.org/afghanistan/>

Interactive dashboard: <https://app.powerbi.com/view>

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