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CHASHMA-SAR

Afghanistan Climate & Water Risk Bulletin

April 2026 · Issue #2 · What just happened and what is coming in the next 15 days

BOTTOM LINE — READ THIS FIRST

Heavy rain is coming to the NORTH-EAST (Badakhshan, Takhar, Panjshir, Baghlan) in the next 15 days. Snow is still on the mountains there. Rain on top of snow will cause floods. Prepare staff and supplies in these provinces now.

Crops in the NORTH-WEST are in trouble. Badghis, Faryab, Herat and Kunduz show stressed vegetation. The May wheat harvest may be smaller than normal.

The country had a DRY month overall — even though some places flooded. This does not change the long-term water shortage in most provinces.

HIGH <small>Danger — act now</small>	RISK <small>Be ready — plan ahead</small>	WATCH <small>Keep watching</small>	OK <small>Normal for this season</small>
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All 34 Provinces — Risk at a Glance

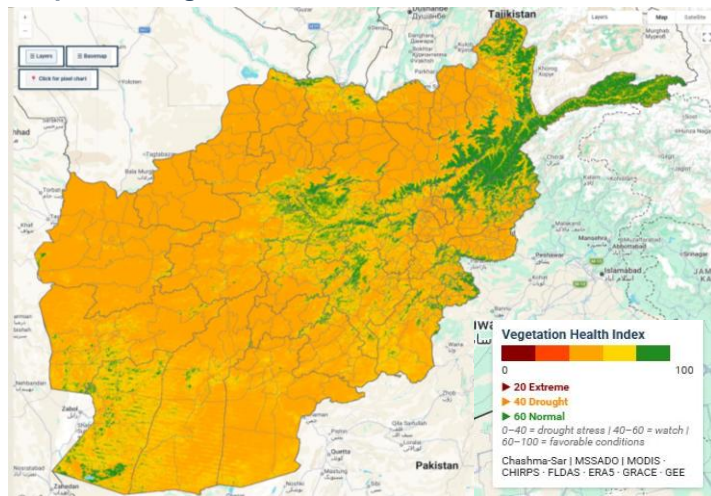
Sorted worst first. See the colour key above.

Province	Crops	Rain (next 15 days)	Snowmelt flood	Water shortage	OVERALL
Takhar	WATCH	WATCH	WATCH	HIGH	HIGH
Baghlan	WATCH	WATCH	RISK	HIGH	HIGH
Parwan	OK	WATCH	RISK	HIGH	HIGH
Badakhshan	OK	WATCH	WATCH	HIGH	HIGH
Kunar	OK	WATCH	OK	HIGH	HIGH
Panjshir	OK	WATCH	WATCH	RISK	RISK
Nuristan	OK	WATCH	OK	RISK	RISK
Kunduz	RISK	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Sar-e-Pul	WATCH	WATCH	WATCH	RISK	RISK
Kapisa	WATCH	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Laghman	WATCH	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Samangan	RISK	WATCH	WATCH	RISK	RISK
Nangarhar	WATCH	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Faryab	RISK	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Balkh	WATCH	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Jawzjan	RISK	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Bamyan	OK	WATCH	WATCH	RISK	RISK
Kabul	WATCH	WATCH	OK	RISK	RISK
Badghis	RISK	OK	OK	RISK	RISK
Maidan Wardak	OK	OK	WATCH	RISK	RISK
Hirat	RISK	OK	OK	WATCH	RISK
Uruzgan	RISK	OK	OK	WATCH	RISK
Kandahar	RISK	OK	OK	OK	RISK
Daykundi	WATCH	OK	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Ghor	WATCH	WATCH	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Logar	WATCH	OK	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Khost	OK	OK	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Paktya	OK	OK	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Ghazni	OK	WATCH	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Farah	WATCH	OK	OK	WATCH	WATCH
Zabul	WATCH	OK	OK	OK	WATCH
Hilmand	WATCH	OK	OK	OK	WATCH
Paktika	WATCH	OK	OK	OK	WATCH
Nimroz	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

Where Is the Risk? — Four Maps in Plain Words

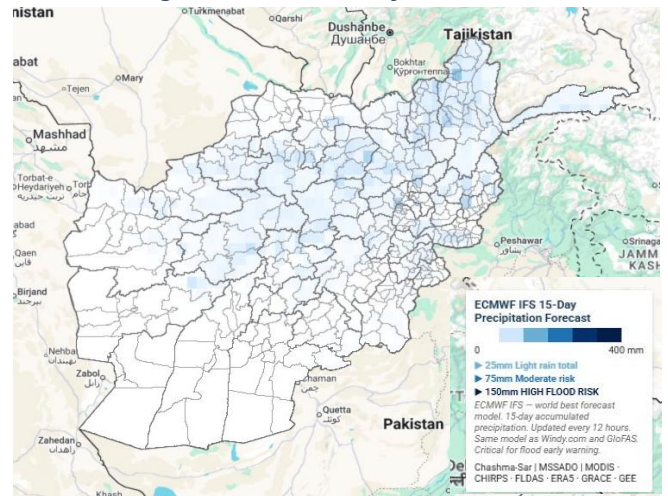
Each map shows one part of the story. Read them together.

Crop health right now (VHI — Apr 1–19, 2026)



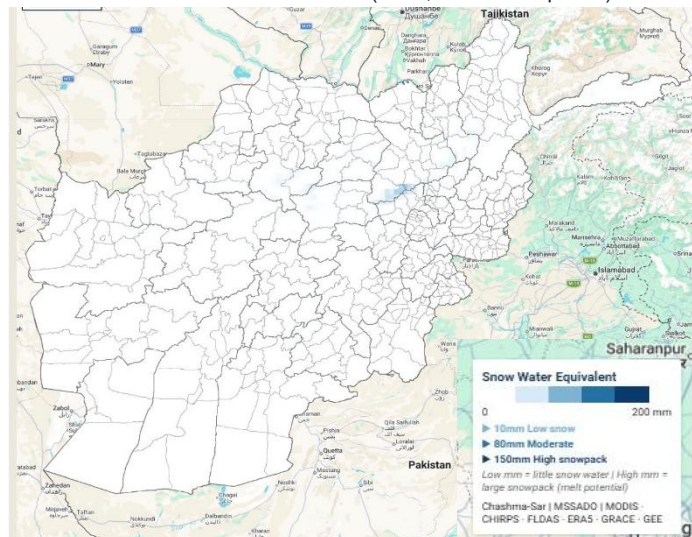
Orange = plants under stress. The NORTH-WEST (Badghis (50.3), Faryab (50.8), Herat (51.4), Kunduz (52.3), Jawzjan (52.9), Uruzgan (53.7), Samangan (54.3)) has the weakest crops. Green east = healthy. The May wheat harvest in the west will likely be smaller than normal.

Rain coming in the next 15 days (ECMWF IFS)



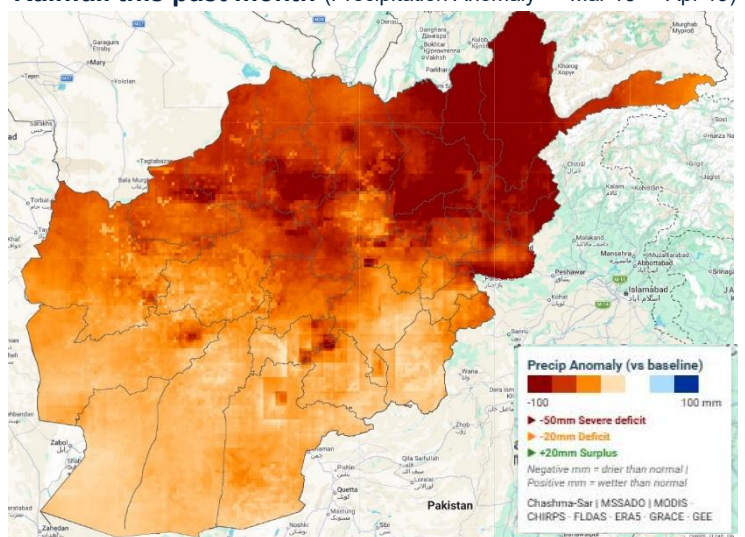
Dark blue = heavy rain expected. The NORTH-EAST (Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Panjshir) will get the most. Kabul ring and some eastern districts also at risk.

Snow still on the mountains (SWE, Mar 15 to April 19)



Blue = snow still there. Most of the country has melted. Snow remaining in Salang–Khenjan–Andarab corridor + upper Badakhshan + Panjshir. District maxima: Baghlan/Tala Wa Barfak (20 mm), Baghlan/Khenjan (17), Parwan/Shinwari (14), Parwan/Salang (11). When rain falls on this snow, floods follow.

Rainfall this past month (Precipitation Anomaly — Mar 15 — Apr 19)



Red/brown = drier than normal. Most of the country was drier than average in the past month, even in provinces that had flooding events. Water shortage is still the long-term problem. Severe deficit province means: Takhar (-127 mm), Baghlan (-117), Parwan (-113), Badakhshan (-112), Kunar (-102). Localized flood events do not reverse the national monthly moisture deficit signal.

Together, these four maps show the big picture: wet in the north-east (flood risk), dry in the north-west (crop risk), and snow melting fast.

Top 15 Districts to Watch in the Next Two Weeks

These districts have at least two risk signals at the same time. Pay attention here first.

Province	District	Risk Level	Why — in plain words
Kabul	Estalef	HIGH	Very heavy rain expected. Urban flash flood likely.
Kunar	Chapadara	HIGH	Heavy rain on already stressed land. Landslide possible.
Badakhshan	Raghestan	HIGH	Heavy rain falling on mountain snow. Flood likely.
Badakhshan	Keshem	HIGH	Rain on snow. Downstream villages at risk.
Panjshir	Bazarak	HIGH	Narrow valley. Snow melting plus heavy rain incoming.
Parwan	Salang	HIGH	The pass itself. Snow plus rain = serious flooding.
Badakhshan	Khwahan	RISK	Remote area. Rain on snow. Hard to reach if flooded.
Takhar	Chahab	RISK	Heavy rain on dry ground. Quick runoff to rivers.
Baghlan	Doshi	RISK	On the Salang corridor. Rain plus snowmelt.
Parwan	Shinwari	RISK	Heavy snow still present. Rain will melt it fast.
Baghlan	Khenjan	RISK	Lots of snow still. Will melt fast with rain.
Baghlan	Tala Wa Barfak	RISK	Most snow in the country. Big melt coming.
Panjshir	Paryan	RISK	Mountain village. Rain on snow. Remote.
Kabul	Surobi	WATCH	Urban flash-flood signal. Check drains.
Badakhshan	Khash	RISK	Steep terrain. Heavy rain means landslide risk.

What to Do — Guidance by Sector

Sector	Where	What to do (next 15 days)
Floods	Badakhshan, Takhar, Panjshir, Baghlan, Parwan — especially Salang area and Andarab valleys	Pre-position food, shelter, blankets in Pul-e-Khumri, Taloqan, Fayzabad before April 23. Warn villages near rivers below snow areas. Be ready for roads to close.
Urban floods	Kabul (Estalef, Surobi, Paghman), Jalalabad, Mehtarlam	Clear drains now. Warn people in low-lying neighbourhoods. Check that pumps work.
Drought and food	Badghis, Faryab, Herat, Kunduz, Jawzjan, Uruzgan, Samangan	Plan for a smaller May wheat harvest. Talk to FAO about seed support for next season. Start food-security assessments now.
Water and WASH	Badakhshan, Kunar, Nuristan, Baghlan, Kabul Surobi	Test well water after floods. Check hand pumps in drought areas. Clean up animal carcasses in rivers.
Roads and access	Salang Pass, Kabul–Jalalabad, Herat routes, Kunar–Nuristan	Plan alternative routes through Bamyan. For Kunar and Nuristan remote areas, prepare helicopter supply options.

Where the Data Comes From

This bulletin uses four kinds of satellite information:

1. Crop health — measured by satellites that watch how green the plants are. We compare to the average year.
2. Rain forecast for the next 15 days — from the European weather model (ECMWF). This is the same model Windy.com uses. The first 7 days are the most reliable.
3. Snow on the mountains — measured by satellites. We only count snow above 500 metres elevation.
4. How much rain fell this past month compared to a normal month — shows us if the country is getting wetter or drier than usual.

How to read the colours:

We sort every province and district into four groups — HIGH, RISK, WATCH, or OK — based on how bad the satellite numbers are. A province is "HIGH" if one of its hazards is in the worst group. We rank the country worst-first so you know where to look.

Important to know:

Satellite data is very good but not perfect. The forecast is most reliable for the first week. Some data is 2 to 4 weeks old because satellites take time to process. This bulletin shows where the hazards are — not yet who is exposed. We will add population numbers in the next issue.

For scientific methodology, citations, and data source details — please contact us directly. We prepare a technical annex on request for donors, researchers, and analysts.

Citation

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