



CHASHMA-SAR

Afghanistan Climate & Water Risk Bulletin

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14

provinces need action now

11

provinces with weak crops (VHI below 55)

9

provinces with dangerous heat coming (38°C+)

4

southwest provinces with active dust

Bottom line: The season has changed, but the drought is not over. After spring rain, our short-term (3-month) rainfall score improved. That is only recent rain. Our vegetation-health index (VHI, how healthy crops and pasture look from satellite) still shows weak crops and pasture in 11 provinces, mostly in the west and center. Recent rain does not fix crop stress at once, and summer heat is now raising water demand. So, the drought has changed shape, from a rainfall gap to crop and water stress, not ended. Two summer hazards are now rising. First, heat: the 15-day forecast shows 40 to 46°C in the south and the northern lowlands, with Nimroz, Jawzjan, and Helmand the hottest. Second, dust: the far southwest is dusty, with the highest province-average air over Kandahar, Helmand, Nimroz, and Zabul. In the far southern desert corner, the forecast reaches severe levels. The next 15 days are dry in most of the country, so river-flood risk is low. Only the eastern mountains (Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Khost) will get rain, with a small flash-flood risk in narrow valleys.

All 34 Provinces at a Glance (Worst First)

Province	VHI (crops)	SPI-3 (rain)	Peak Temp °C	Rain 15d mm	Overall
Ghor	51.3	3.41	29.4	0.0	ALER
Bamyan	52.0	3.50	25.7	0.3	ALER
Sar-e-Pul	52.3	3.49	32.1	0.1	ALER
Wardak	52.4	3.50	26.4	0.2	ALER
Samangan	52.7	3.50	33.5	0.2	ALER
Parwan	53.4	3.50	27.2	0.8	ALER
Faryab	53.5	3.34	38.6	0.0	ALER
Daykundi	53.5	3.49	30.3	0.0	ALER
Badghis	53.7	3.19	36.4	0.0	ALER
Herat	54.2	2.95	38.3	0.0	ALER
Baghlan	54.7	3.50	30.2	0.9	ALER
Jawzjan	56.2	3.50	43.6	0.0	ALER
Hilmand	66.6	0.95	42.6	0.0	ALER
Nimroz	76.2	0.24	45.9	0.0	ALER
Takhar	55.3	3.50	32.7	1.3	WATC
Uruzgan	55.7	2.89	35.2	0.0	WATC
Ghazni	56.7	3.50	30.4	0.1	WATC
Paktya	57.6	3.50	30.9	5.4	WATC
Kabul	57.7	3.50	30.7	1.1	WATC
Logar	58.3	3.50	30.6	1.2	WATC
Kapisa	59.9	3.50	28.4	2.3	WATC
Kunduz	61.7	3.50	40.5	0.0	WATC
Kandahar	62.3	1.88	41.4	0.0	WATC
Farah	64.4	2.37	41.8	0.0	WATC
Balkh	64.8	3.50	40.6	0.0	WATC
Badakhshan	62.3	3.50	21.3	8.0	NORM
Zabul	62.4	3.38	35.3	0.0	NORM
Kunar	62.9	3.50	28.3	20.0	NORM
Panjsher	63.7	3.50	23.3	0.9	NORM
Paktika	64.3	3.50	33.9	1.0	NORM
Nuristan	64.9	3.50	21.6	8.2	NORM
Nangarhar	65.7	3.50	33.9	12.0	NORM
Laghman	69.5	3.50	30.4	3.5	NORM
Khost	70.0	3.50	30.9	12.8	NORM

How to read the colours: green = normal, orange = watch, red = action needed. VHI below 55 = crop stress. SPI-3 is a short-term rainfall signal (positive = recent rain above normal); it does not measure snow, groundwater, or river flow. Peak Temp above 38°C = extreme heat, above 45°C = dangerous. Rain 15d is the forecast total; in summer, low rain is normal. Overall combines crop stress (VHI), heat (temp forecast), and dust.

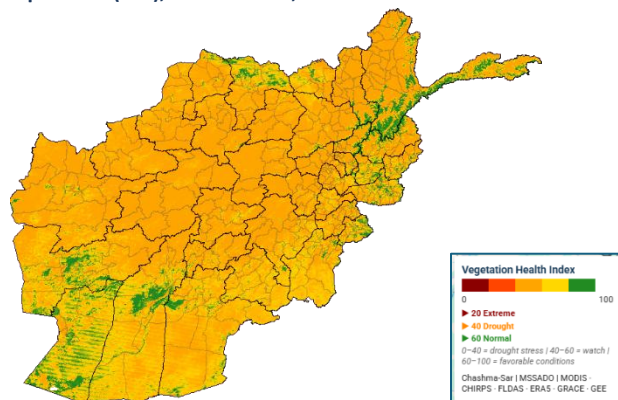
How to Read This Bulletin

Six satellite measurements are used to check each province. Use this glossary to read the table and maps.

Term	Plain-language hint	How to read it
VHI	How healthy crops and pasture look from satellite	Higher is healthier. Below 55 = stress, below 40 = crisis
SPI-3	A 3-month rainfall signal (recent rain only)	Positive = recent rain above normal. It does not include snow, groundwater, or river flow
EHF	A heat-wave score (Excess Heat Factor)	0 = no heat-wave. 3 = forming, 8 = severe, 15+ = extreme
Peak Temp	Hottest temperature expected in the next 15 days	Above 38°C = extreme heat, above 45°C = dangerous
ECMWF 15d	A 15-day rain forecast	Below 25 mm = a dry period ahead
AOD / Dust	How much dust is in the air (dust-storm forecast)	Above 0.5 = health warning; above 1.0 = severe
Rating words	Overall status of a province	NORM = acceptable, WATC = watch, ALER = action needed, CRIS = immediate

The Maps: Crops, Drought, Heat and Rain

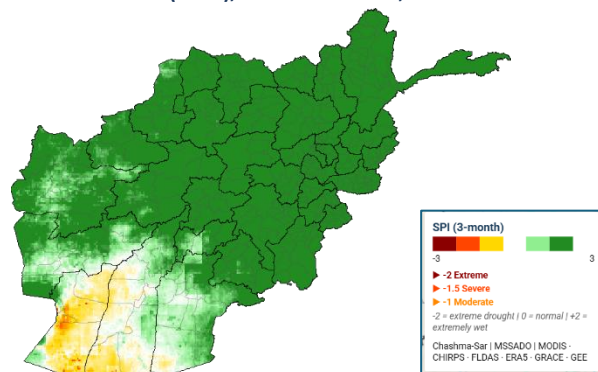
Map 1. Crop Health (VHI), Jun 4 to Jul 4, 2026



Crops and pasture are weakest in the west and center. The lowest are Ghor, Bamyán, Sar-e-Pul, Wardak, and Samangan. 11 provinces are in the stress range (VHI below 55).

Source: MODIS satellite (1 km); Kogan (1995).

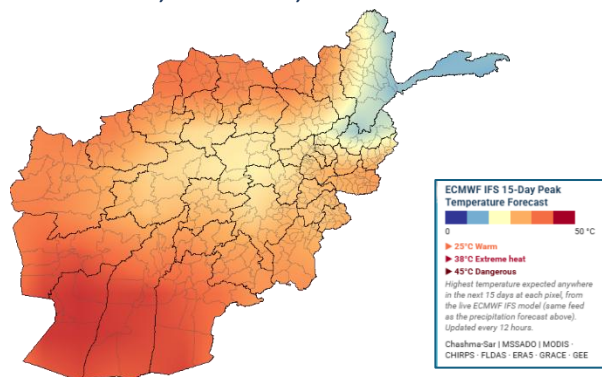
Map 2. Short-Term Rainfall (SPI-3), Mar 30 to Jun 30, 2026



Our short-term (3-month) rainfall score is positive after spring rain. Read it with care: it measures only recent rain, not snow, groundwater, or river flow. A 3-month score ending in June also misses the dry winter. It is a short-term rainfall signal, not a full drought measure. Longer 6- and 12-month scores would give the fuller picture.

Source: CHIRPS, ERA5-Land (multi-source); McKee et al. (1993).

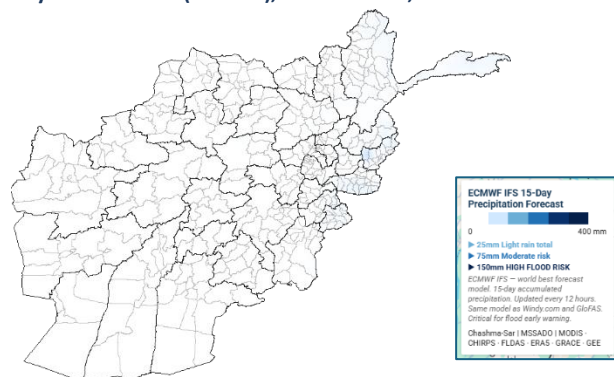
Map 3. Peak Heat Forecast, Jul 5 to Jul 21, 2026



The hottest 15-day temperatures reach 40 to 46°C in the south and north lowlands. Nimroz, Jawzjan, Helmand, Farah, and Kandahar are the hottest. The eastern mountains stay cooler.

Source: ECMWF IFS 15-day forecast, peak temperature.

Map 4. 15-Day Rain Forecast (ECMWF), Jul 5 to Jul 21, 2026



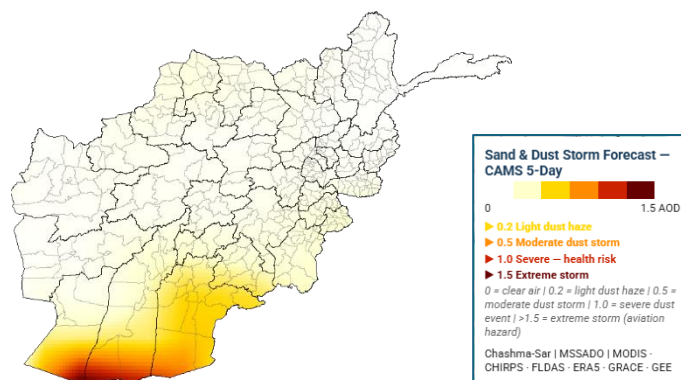
The next 15 days are dry in most of the country. Only the eastern mountains get rain: Kunar up to 20 mm on average (82 mm at one point), then Khost, Nangarhar, and Nuristan. Small flash-flood risk in narrow eastern valleys.

Source: ECMWF IFS 15-day forecast (same model as Windy.com).

Watch these first: In the west, Faryab, Herat, and Badghis have weak crops and hot forecasts together. In the southwest, Nimroz and Helmand face dangerous heat and dust at the same time. In the east, Kunar and Nangarhar have a small flash-flood risk.

Heat and Dust: The Two Rising Summer Hazards

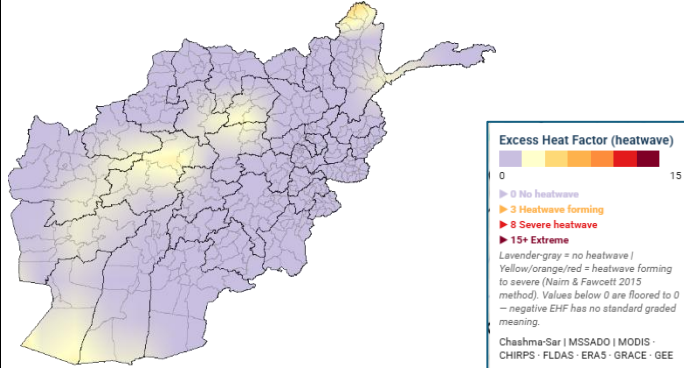
Map 5. Sand & Dust Storm Forecast (next 5 days)



Dust sits over the far southwest. Province-average dust for the worst forecast day: Kandahar 0.66 (health warning), Helmand 0.48, Nimroz 0.46, Zabul 0.30. In the far southern desert corner, the map peaks above 1.0 (severe); province averages are lower because the severe dust covers only the southern districts. People with breathing problems should take care.

Source: ECMWF CAMS dust forecast (next 5 days).

Map 6. Heat-Wave Score (EHF), Jun 4 to Jul 4, 2026



The heat-wave score shows no heat-wave yet over the past month. All provinces are below the 'heat-wave forming' level (EHF 3). The highest are Ghor and Nimroz, and both stay low. The real heat warning is in the forecast (Map 3), not in the past month.

Source: EHF (Nairn & Fawcett, 2015); values below 0 set to 0.

Where to Act First, Priority Provinces

Province	Main risk this issue	What to watch or do
Ghor	Weak crops (VHI 51), central highlands	Start food and pasture checks; remote area, plan access early
Bamyan	Weak crops (VHI 52), highland planting	Watch pasture and maize planting; food security check
Sar-e-Pul	Weak crops (VHI 52), harvest time	Food security check; a little residual highland moisture
Faryab	Weak crops (VHI 54) + heat 39°C	Northwest wheat area; crop and heat watch together
Herat	Weak crops (VHI 54) + heat 38°C	Harvest and returnees; food and heat protection
Badghis	Weak crops (VHI 54), wheat filling	Weakest wheat belt; food security check
Samangan / Wardak / Daykundi / Parwan / Baghlan	Weak crops (VHI 52 to 55)	Pasture and food checks across the western and central belt
Nimroz	Dangerous heat 46°C + dust	Heat and dust health alert; masks, shade, water points
Hilmand	Dangerous heat 43°C + dust	Heat and dust health alert; protect outdoor workers
Jawzjan	Dangerous heat 44°C	Heat action for workers, children, and older people
Kandahar / Zabul	Highest dust in country (0.66, 0.30) + heat in Kandahar	Respiratory advisories; heat watch in Kandahar
Kunar / Nangarhar	Rain in the forecast, narrow valleys	Small flash-flood risk; watch after heavy showers

What This Means, and What to Do

Topic	What the data shows	What it means, and what to do
Crops and food	Crops weak in 11 provinces, west and center.	Wheat harvest may be smaller. Start food and pasture checks in Ghor, Bamyan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Hirat, Badghis, and Samangan.
Heat	15-day forecast shows 40 to 46°C in the south and north lowlands. 9 provinces reach 38°C or more.	Heat action for outdoor workers, children, and older people in Nimroz, Jawzjan, Helmand, Farah, Kandahar, Balkh, and Kunduz. Shade, water points, changed work hours.
Dust	Dustiest in the south: Kandahar (0.66, highest), Helmand, Nimroz, Zabul. Far southern corner reaches severe on the map.	Health warning. Masks and indoor care on dusty days in Kandahar, Helmand, Nimroz, and Zabul.
Rain and flood	Dry in most of the country. Rain only in the eastern mountains.	River-flood risk is low. Small flash-flood risk in narrow valleys of Kunar, Nangarhar, and Nuristan after heavy showers.
Drought status	Short-term rain improved after spring, but our crop-health index still shows 11 weak provinces. Deeper water stress (snow, groundwater, rivers) is not fixed by one wet spring.	The drought is not over; it has changed from a rainfall gap to crop and water stress. Worst crops in Ghor, Bamyan, Sar-e-Pul, and Samangan. Keep food and water support going.

Sources: Crop health: MODIS, Kogan (1995). Rainfall drought: CHIRPS and ERA5-Land, McKee et al. (1993). Heat-wave score: EHF, Nairn & Fawcett (2015). Temperature and rain forecast: ECMWF IFS 15-day. Dust: ECMWF CAMS 5-day. Windows: crops and heat-score Jun 4 to Jul 4; short-term rainfall Mar 30 to Jun 30; forecasts Jul 5 to Jul 21; dust next 5 days.

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CHASHMA-SAR Afghanistan Multi-Hazard Climate & Water Intelligence Platform

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Do you need more than this bulletin? We can help.

District-Level Data This bulletin shows province averages. We also have data for 400+ districts (crops, drought, heat, rain, dust). Ask us for it as a CSV file or a short report.	Training for Your Team Live training for your team: how to read the indices, understand the maps, and use the data in your work.	Questions and Custom Analysis Questions about the methods, the limits, or what a district number means? We send written answers and custom analysis on request.
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What the Platform Provides, On Demand, for Any District	
Service	What you get
District data files	Average, lowest, and highest for any index, any dates, all 400+ districts
Short reports	A drought, heat, or flood report for a province or district, ready for donors
Combined risk	Districts with two or more risks at the same time
Past records	Any index from 1981 to today, compared with the 30-year average
Forecasts	15-day rain, heat, and dust forecasts to help with planning
Climate finance data	Data prepared for climate finance proposals (GCF, GEF) and NDC reports

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