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Afghanistan Climate & Water Risk Bulletin

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14

provinces need action now

8

eastern provinces with heavy rain coming (25 mm+)

6

provinces with dangerous heat (38 C+)

6

provinces with dust haze (AOD 0.20+)

Bottom line: The main change since Issue #6 is rain in the east. Our 15-day forecast now shows a strong wet spell over the eastern and southeastern mountains. Kunar rises from 20 mm in the last issue to 47 mm, Nangarhar from 12 mm to 47 mm, and Khost reaches 54 mm with one point at 107 mm. In steep, narrow valleys this is enough for flash floods and landslides, so the east is the first place to act this issue. Rain also reaches the Kabul basin, where Kabul, Logar and Kapisa can expect 24 to 33 mm. The rest of the country stays dry and hot. Peak temperatures reach 39 to 44 C in the southwest and the northern lowlands, with Nimroz, Hilmand and Jawzjan the hottest, and dust has eased but still hazes six provinces in the south and centre. Ground cover measured in June is bare or very sparse across most of the country. Read that with care: in the southern deserts low greenness is normal every summer and is not new drought, while in the west and centre it follows the harvest. The drought story has not changed since Issue #6. It remains a crop and water stress problem, not a rainfall gap.

All 34 Provinces at a Glance (Sorted by Ground Cover, Barest First)

Province	NDVI	Peak Temp C	Rain 15d mm	Dust AOD	Overall
Nimroz	0.07	43.6	0.0	0.30	ALER
Hilmand	0.10	41.0	0.0	0.42	ALER
Farah	0.11	39.5	0.0	0.17	ALER
Kandahar	0.12	38.9	0.0	0.43	ALER
Jawzjan	0.13	39.8	0.0	0.20	ALER
Zabul	0.14	32.3	1.0	0.30	WATC
Balkh	0.15	37.9	0.0	0.20	WATC
Hirat	0.16	35.6	0.0	0.10	WATC
Paktika	0.16	28.9	21.2	0.11	WATC
Uruzgan	0.16	33.3	0.6	0.29	WATC
Kunduz	0.18	38.2	0.0	0.16	ALER
Logar	0.18	26.7	26.5	0.07	ALER
Daykundi	0.18	29.3	0.3	0.24	WATC
Faryab	0.19	35.5	0.0	0.12	WATC
Ghazni	0.19	27.2	8.8	0.17	WATC
Badghis	0.19	33.9	0.0	0.10	WATC
Bamyan	0.20	25.4	1.9	0.15	NORM
Ghor	0.20	29.3	0.1	0.18	WATC
Kabul	0.21	26.8	23.9	0.07	WATC
Panjsher	0.21	21.9	16.5	0.06	WATC
Samangan	0.21	32.0	1.1	0.16	WATC
Sar-e-Pul	0.21	30.7	0.6	0.16	WATC
Badakhshan	0.22	19.6	8.1	0.05	NORM
Wardak	0.22	24.8	18.6	0.12	WATC
Parwan	0.23	25.5	16.3	0.10	WATC
Nangarhar	0.23	28.5	46.6	0.03	ALER
Baghlan	0.24	29.0	3.5	0.11	NORM
Takhar	0.24	31.3	1.8	0.08	NORM
Paktya	0.25	26.8	43.8	0.05	ALER
Kapisa	0.26	25.3	33.2	0.06	ALER
Laghman	0.28	25.6	37.2	0.04	ALER
Khost	0.29	27.1	53.6	0.03	ALER
Nuristan	0.30	18.7	34.8	0.03	ALER
Kunar	0.47	23.9	46.9	0.03	ALER

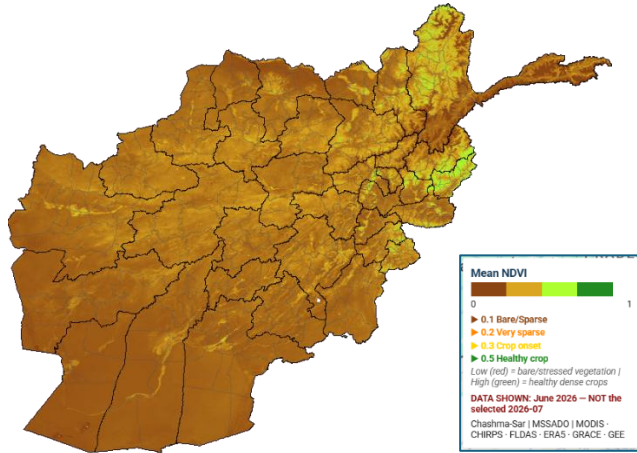
How to read the colours: green = normal, orange = watch, red = action needed. NDVI is how green the ground was in June, from satellite. Below 0.15 = bare or desert, 0.15 to 0.30 = sparse, above 0.30 = good cover. Read it with care: the southern deserts (Nimroz, Hilmand, Farah, Kandahar) are bare every summer, so a low value there is normal and is not proof of new drought. In the west and centre a low value follows the wheat harvest. NDVI is a snapshot of greenness, not a drought score; it does not measure snow, groundwater or river flow. Peak Temp is the hottest temperature expected anywhere in the province in the next 15 days: above 38 C = extreme heat, above 45 C = dangerous. Rain 15d is the forecast total; above 25 mm in mountain terrain means flash flood watch. Dust AOD is the province average for the worst forecast step: below 0.2 = clear, 0.2 to 0.5 = light haze, above 0.5 = dust storm. Overall combines heat, forecast rain in steep terrain, and dust.

How to Read This Bulletin

Term	Plain-language hint	How to read it
NDVI	How green the ground is, from satellite	Below 0.15 = bare or desert, 0.15 to 0.30 = sparse, above 0.30 = good cover. A snapshot of greenness, not a drought score
EHF	A heat-wave score (Excess Heat Factor)	0 = no heat-wave. 3 = forming, 8 = severe, 15+ = extreme. It measures a sudden jump, not absolute heat
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. Above 25 mm in steep valleys = flash flood watch
AOD / Dust	How much dust is in the air (dust-storm forecast)	Below 0.2 = clear. 0.2 to 0.5 = light haze. Above 0.5 = dust storm, above 1.0 = severe
Rating words	Overall status of a province	NORM = acceptable, WATC = watch, ALER = action needed, CRIS = immediate

The Maps: Ground Cover, Heat, Rain and Dust

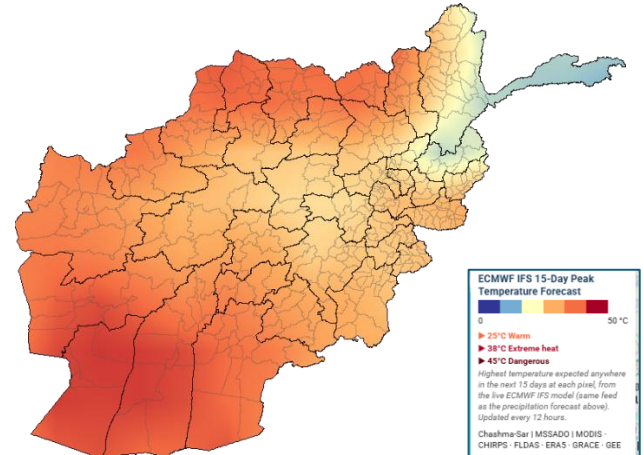
Map 1. Ground Cover (NDVI), Jun 1 to Jun 30, 2026



Most of the country is brown, meaning bare or very sparse ground in June. Green remains only in the eastern mountains (Kunar 0.47, Nuristan 0.30, Khost 0.29) and along irrigated river valleys. The barest provinces are Nimroz, Hilmand, Farah and Kandahar, but those are deserts that look like this every summer, so a low value there is not new drought.

Source: MODIS MOD13A3 (1 km).

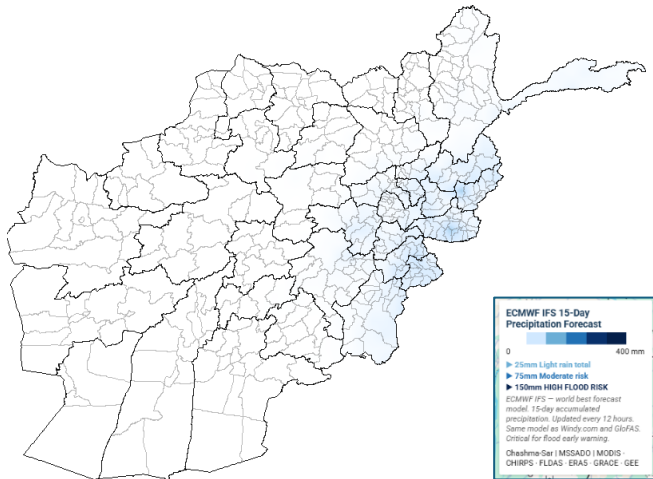
Map 2. Peak Heat Forecast, Jul 22 to Aug 7, 2026



The hottest 15-day temperatures reach 39 to 44 C in the southwest and northern lowlands. Nimroz is hottest at 43.6 C on average and 44.9 C at its peak, followed by Hilmand 41.0, Jawzjan 39.8, Farah 39.5 and Kandahar 38.9. The eastern and northeastern mountains stay much cooler.

Source: ECMWF IFS 15-day forecast, peak temperature. Model run 22 July 2026.

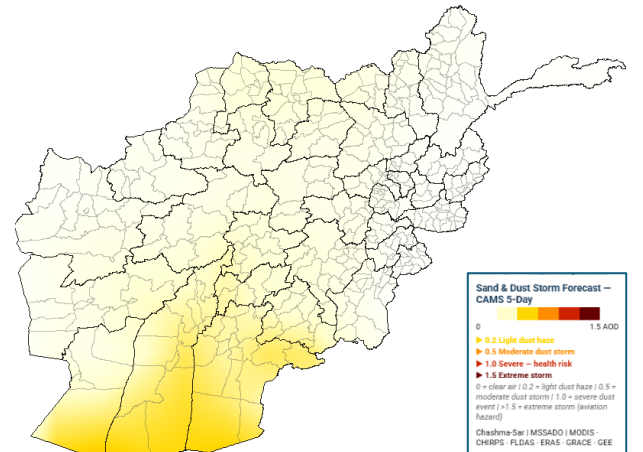
Map 3. 15-Day Rain Forecast (ECMWF), Jul 22 to Aug 7, 2026



This is the main change this issue. Rain is concentrated over the eastern and southeastern mountains. Khost leads at 53.6 mm, then Kunar 46.9 mm, Nangarhar 46.6 mm and Paktya 43.8 mm, with a single point in Nangarhar reaching 106.7 mm. Rain extends into the Kabul basin: Kapisa 33.2 mm, Logar 26.5 mm and Kabul 23.9 mm.

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

Map 4. Sand & Dust Storm Forecast (next 5 days)



Province statistics for the worst forecast step put the dust over the south and centre: Kandahar 0.43, Hilmand 0.42, Nimroz 0.30, Zabul 0.30, Uruzgan 0.29 and Daykundi 0.24. All six sit in the light dust haze band. The highest single cell anywhere is 0.65, a moderate dust storm, below the severe threshold of 1.0.

Source: ECMWF CAMS dust forecast (next 5 days). Model run 22 July 2026.

Heat-Wave Check and What Changed

What Changed Since Issue #6

Item	Issue #6 (8 Jul)	Issue #7 (23 Jul)
Kunar rain 15d	20.0 mm	46.9 mm
Nangarhar rain 15d	12.0 mm	46.6 mm
Khost rain 15d	12.8 mm	53.6 mm
Hottest province	Nimroz 45.9 C	Nimroz 43.6 C
Provinces 38 C+	9	6
Dust, worst province	Kandahar 0.66	Kandahar 0.43
Heat-wave (EHF)	None	None severe

The eastern rain roughly tripled, which turns flash flooding from a minor note into the leading hazard of this issue. Peak heat eased slightly and three fewer provinces reach 38 C, though the southwest and northern lowlands stay dangerous. Dust also eased: the worst province average fell from 0.66 to 0.43 and no province now reaches storm level. The heat-wave picture is unchanged.

Where to Act First, Priority Provinces

Province	Main risk this issue	What to watch or do
Khost / Nangarhar / Kunar	Heavy rain 47 to 54 mm, up to 107 mm at one point	Highest flash flood risk this issue. Warn narrow valleys and riverside villages before rain starts
Paktya / Laghman / Nuristan	Heavy rain 35 to 44 mm in steep terrain	Flash flood and landslide watch; check road crossings and culverts
Kapisa / Logar / Kabul	Rain 24 to 33 mm over the Kabul basin	Urban and valley flooding; clear drains before the first heavy shower
Nimroz / Hilmand / Kandahar	Dangerous heat 39 to 44 C plus the highest dust (0.30 to 0.43)	Combined heat and dust health alert; shade, water points, masks, changed work hours
Jawzjan / Farah / Kunduz	Extreme heat 38 to 40 C, no rain	Heat action for outdoor workers, children and older people; livestock water supply
Uruzgan / Daykundi	Dust haze 0.24 to 0.29 reaching the central highlands	Respiratory advisory on dusty days; below emergency level
Hirat / Faryab / Badghis / Balkh	Bare ground and heat 34 to 38 C, no rain	Pasture and water supply checks; dry season stress continues
Wardak / Parwan / Panjsher	Rain 16 to 19 mm in mountain valleys	Small flash flood risk after heavy showers

Watch these first: In the east, Khost, Nangarhar and Kunar have the heaviest rain in steep terrain, so flash flooding is the single most urgent risk this issue. In the south, Kandahar, Hilmand and Nimroz carry dangerous heat and the highest dust together. In the north, Jawzjan, Kunduz and Balkh face heat with no rain relief.

What This Means, and What to Do

Topic	What the data shows	What it means, and what to do
Rain and flood	Heavy rain in the east: Khost 53.6 mm, Kunar 46.9 mm, Nangarhar 46.6 mm, Paktya 43.8 mm, one point at 106.7 mm. Rain also reaches the Kabul basin.	Flash flood and landslide risk in narrow valleys of Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Laghman, Khost and Paktya. Warn riverside communities before the rain starts, check road crossings, and clear urban drains in Kabul and Logar.
Heat and heat-wave	Forecast reaches 39 to 44 C in the southwest and northern lowlands; six provinces reach 38 C or more. The heat-wave score shows no severe heat-wave in the past three weeks, only light signals in the far northeast, north and southwest desert.	Heat action for outdoor workers, children and older people in Nimroz, Hilmand, Jawzjan, Farah, Kandahar and Kunduz: shade, water points, changed work hours. No heat-wave emergency at present, but watch the northeast, where a sudden warm spell affects people not used to heat even at a lower temperature.
Dust	Six provinces in the light haze band: Kandahar 0.43, Hilmand 0.42, Nimroz 0.30, Zabul 0.30, Uruzgan 0.29 and Daykundi 0.24. Highest single cell 0.65, a moderate dust storm. Nothing reaches the severe level.	Health advisory rather than an emergency. Masks and indoor care on dusty days for people with breathing problems, children and older people in those six provinces. Dust has eased since Issue #6.
Ground cover and drought	Bare or very sparse ground across most of the country in June; green remains only in the eastern mountains and irrigated valleys. No change in the underlying drought picture since Issue #6.	Bare ground is normal for the southern deserts and the post-harvest west, so use it to see where irrigated land still works, not as a drought score on its own. The drought has not ended; it has changed shape from a rainfall gap to crop and water stress. One wet spell in the east does not fix water stress in the west and centre. Keep food and water support going.

Sources: Ground cover: MODIS MOD13A3 (1 km). Heat-wave score: EHF, Nairn & Fawcett (2015). Temperature and rain forecast: ECMWF IFS 15-day. Dust: ECMWF CAMS 5-day, province zonal statistics. Windows: ground cover 1 to 30 June 2026; heat-wave score 1 to 20 July 2026; forecasts 22 July to 7 August 2026 (model run 22 July); dust next 5 days. Limits: the first seven days of a 15-day forecast are more reliable than the later days. Peak temperature is the highest value expected at a point, not a daily average. Dust AOD is a column-integrated optical property and a proxy for surface dust exposure, not a PM10 measurement. This bulletin shows where the hazard is, not how many people are exposed.

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