



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of Climate Change and
Meteorological Services

2026/2027 DOWNSCALED SEASONAL FORECAST

LILONGWE

DISTRICT

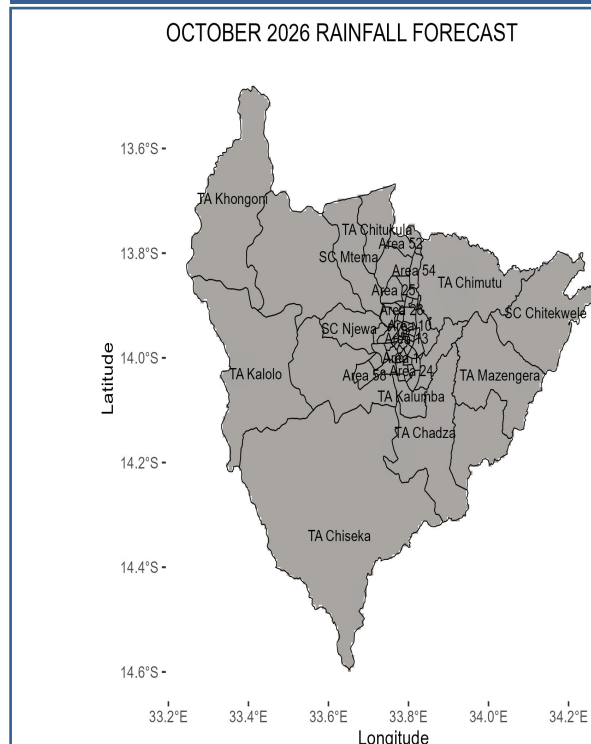


Overview

The 2026-2027 rainfall season is expected to be influenced by a strong El Niño. El Niño is the unusual warming of waters over the central-eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean which affects global rainfall patterns.

Lilongwe District is expected to receive normal rainfall from October to December while chance of normal to below normal rainfall in January and February.

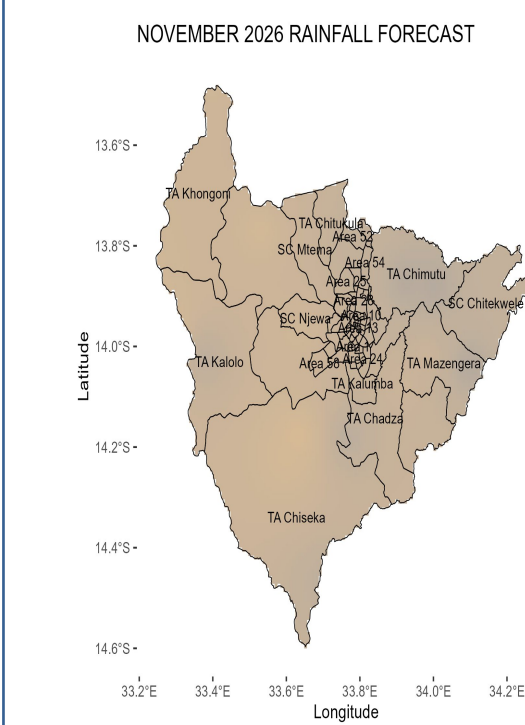
October 2026



October is expected to be generally dry, with little or no rainfall over most areas. However, *Chizimalupsya* rains of less than 15mm may occur in some areas.

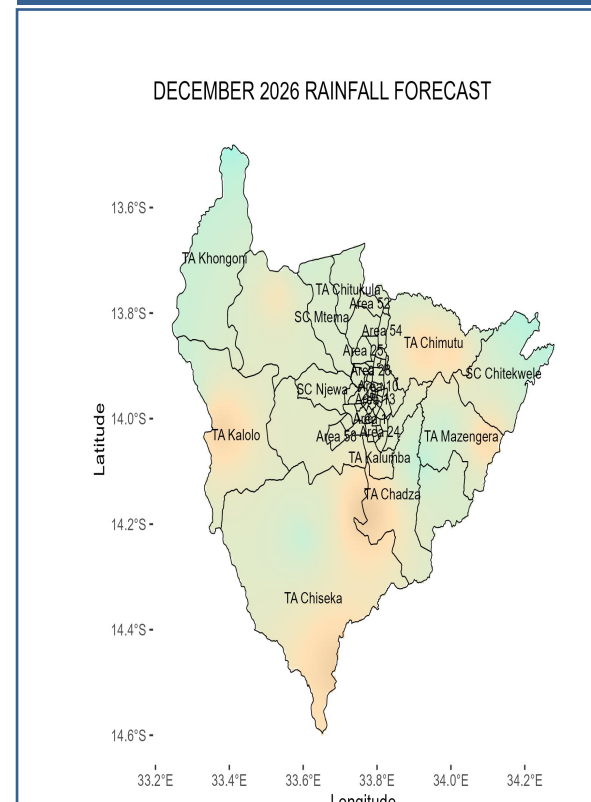
Gusty winds and thunderstorms are likely during the period.

November 2026



During this month, most areas are expected to receive generally normal rainfall, with amounts generally ranging from 50mm to 100mm.

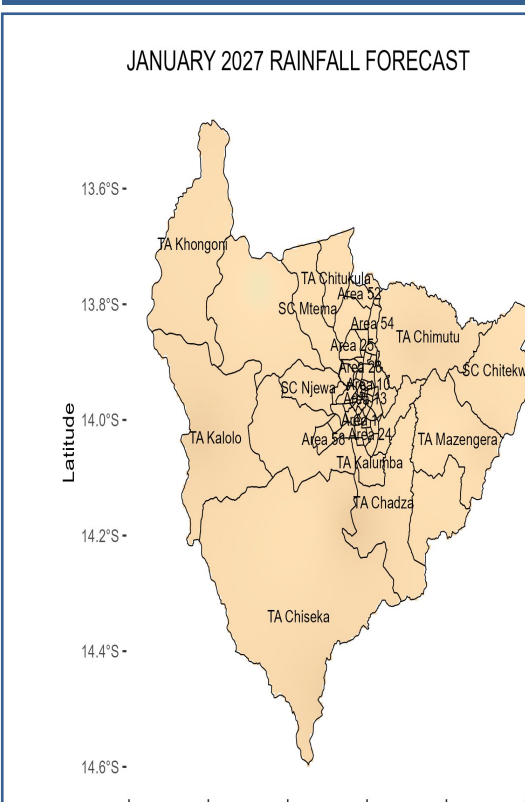
December 2026



Normal to above normal rainfall amounts are expected during this month, with totals ranging between 150mm to 250mm. Higher rainfall amounts ranging between 250mm to 300mm are expected over central parts of TA Chiseka, TA Khongoni, TA Mazengera and SC Chitekwere.

Rainfall onset is expected during the second to third week of December.

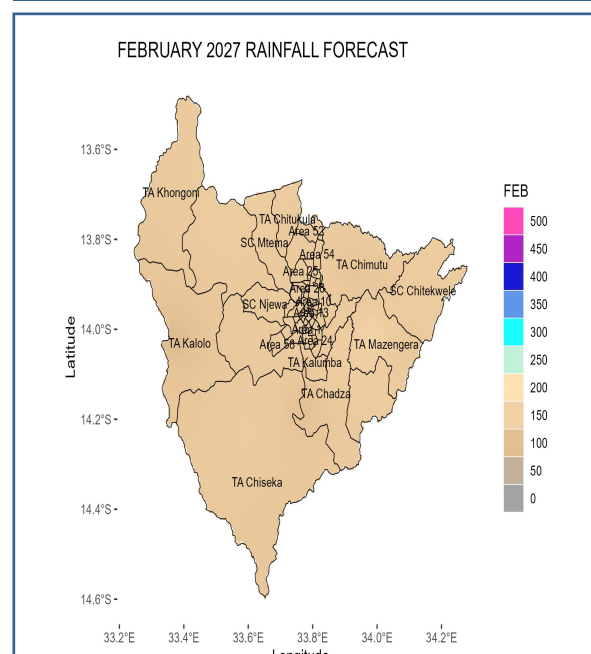
January 2027



Expect generally below normal rainfall over most areas with amounts expected in the range of 150mm to 200mm. Localized areas, particularly the central parts of SC Mtema, may exceed 200 mm.

Dry spells of about a week are expected during this month.

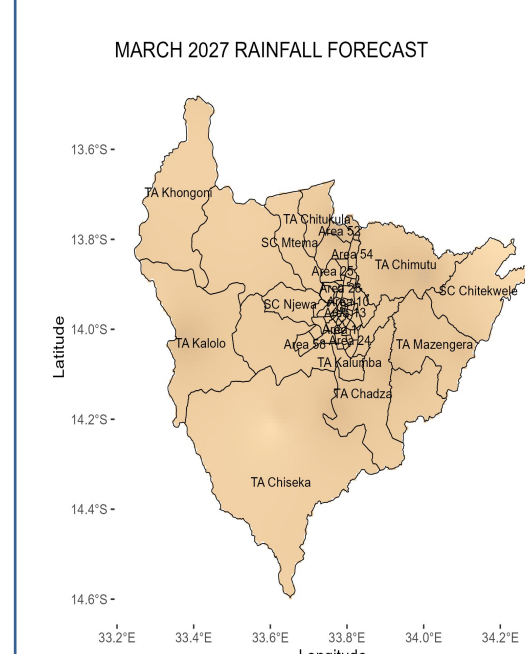
February 2027



Expect below normal rainfall amounts, with most areas of the district likely to receive between 150mm and 200mm of rainfall.

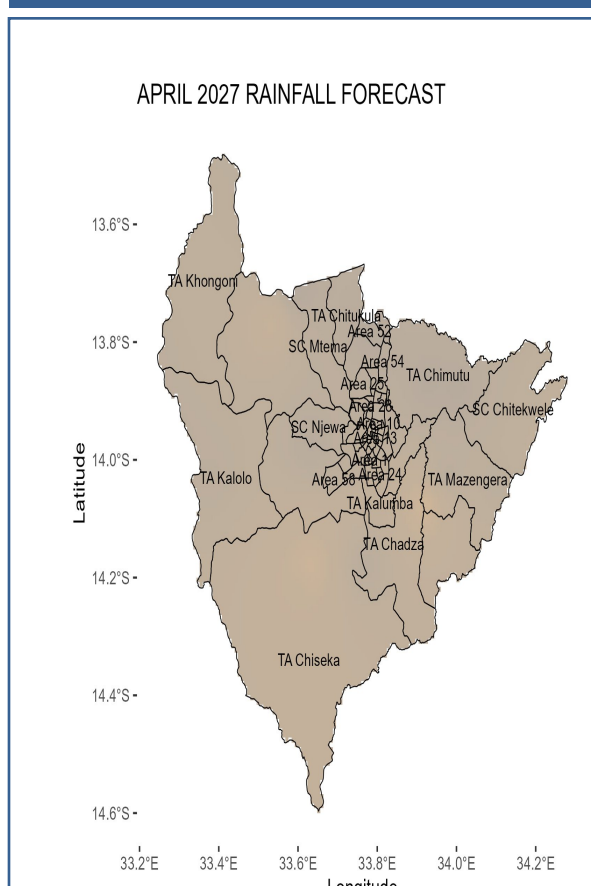
There is high likelihood of one week dry spell during this month.

March 2027



Expect normal rainfall amounts over most areas of the district. Overall, rainfall amounts are expected to remain within the range of 80mm to 200mm across most of the district.

April 2027



As the rainfall seasons comes to an end, rainfall amounts across the district are expected to remain generally low, with most areas receiving less than 100mm.

Rainfall cessation is expected to occur in second week of April.

SEASON IN SUMMARY

Rainfall Onset

Rainfall onset is expected from the second week of December 2026.

Dry Spells

Dry spells of about one week are anticipated in January and February 2027.

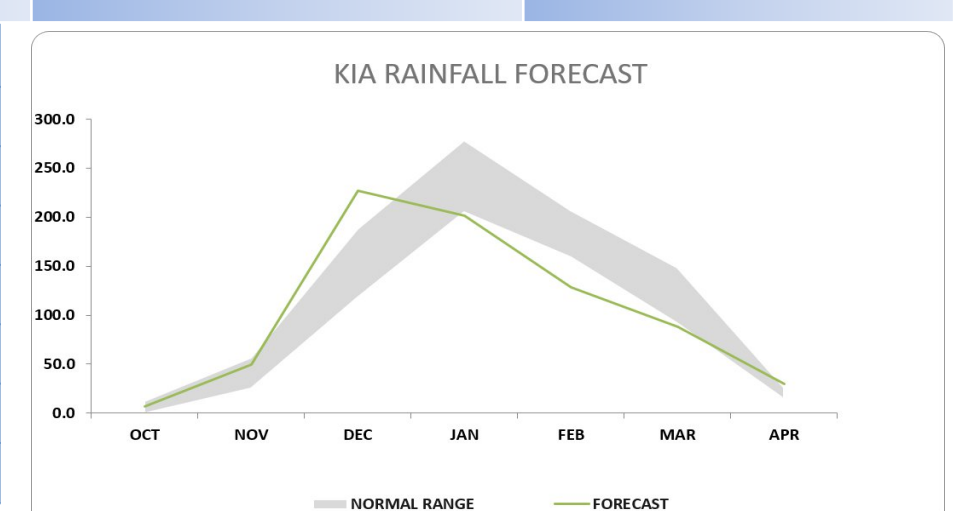
Seasonal Length

Expected to range from 115-125 days.

Cessation

Expected on second week of April, 2027.

MONTH	NORMAL RANGE	FORECAST
OCT	0.3- 12.4	7.0
NOV	25.6- 56.9	49.4
DEC	118.2 - 188.3	226.8
JAN	205.2 – 278.0	201.5
FEB	159.1 – 207.1	128.3
MAR	91.6 – 148.4	88.2
APR	14.3– 25.9	29.6



The table and graph above show monthly rainfall distribution at Kamuzu International Airport with a normal band in grey.

Produced and published with assistance from:



Follow weather forecasts and advisories from DCCMS throughout the season



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