Government of Malawi
Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change

Malawi 10-day Weather and Agrometeorological Bulletin

"In support of National Early Warning Systems and Food Security"

Be wise be weather-wise
Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services

Period: 11 – 20 Oct 2026 | Season: 2026/2027 | Issue No.02

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Very hot and dry conditions observed across the country…**
- **Land preparation, input acquisition in progress over most parts of the country…**
- **Isolated rainfall activities anticipated during the last dekad of October 2026…**

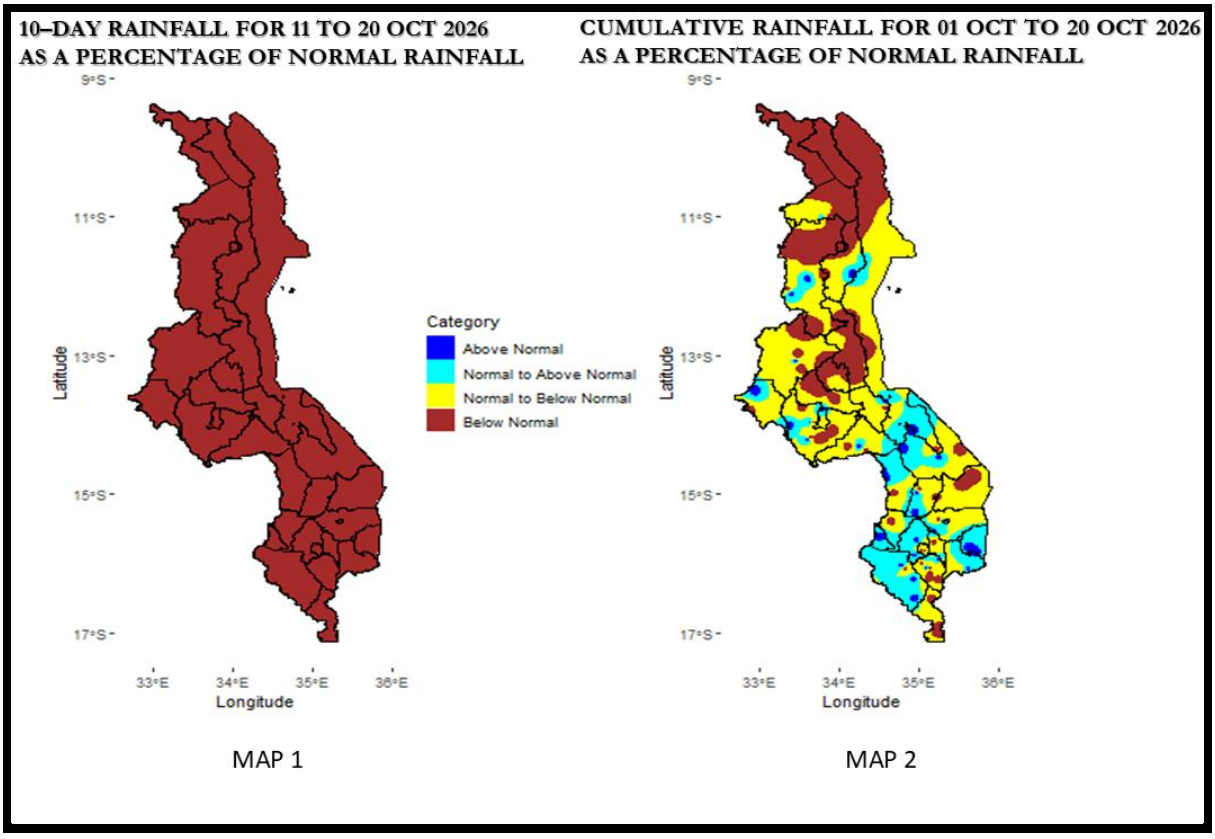


Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as a percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

During the period 11 to 20 October 2026, warm easterly airmass influenced weather over Malawi which resulted in hot very hot and dry conditions prevailing over the country culminating into a heatwave towards the end of the period under review.

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1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the second dekad of October 2026, the country experienced dry conditions as no rainfall was reported at any station compared to the previous dekad, as shown in figure 2 below.

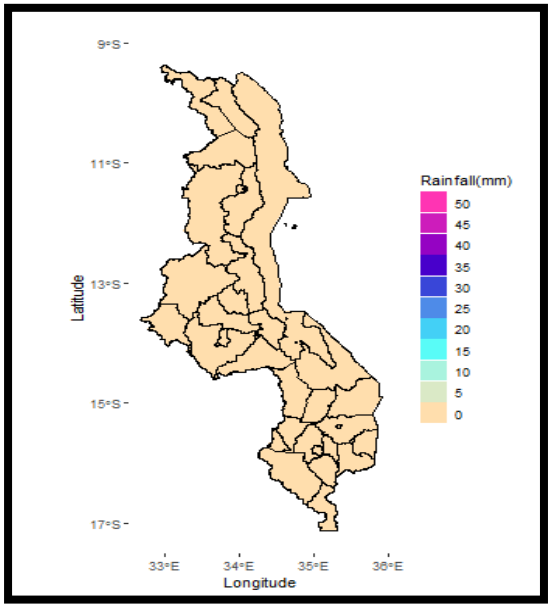


Figure 2: Observed dekadal rainfall for Malawi, 11-20 October 2026

Figure 3 below indicates that no rainy days were reported across Malawi during the second dekad of October 2026.

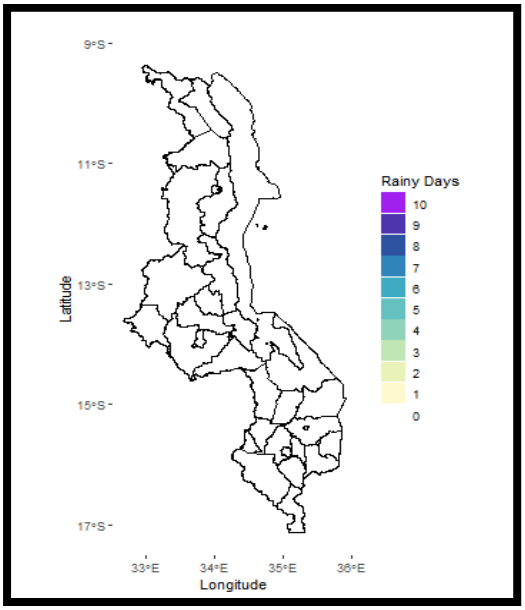


Figure 3*: dekadal rainy days for Malawi, 11-20 October 2026*

In terms of rainfall onset, the current status indicates that no station has observed onset based on the department's definition: ***"the first day or 3 consecutive days receiving a total of 25mm or more and not followed by 9 consecutive dry days within the next 21 days".*** Based on historical onset data, the likelihood of onset being attained by 31st October remains minimal with a 20 to 30% chance over Shire Highland districts as captured in Figure 4 below.

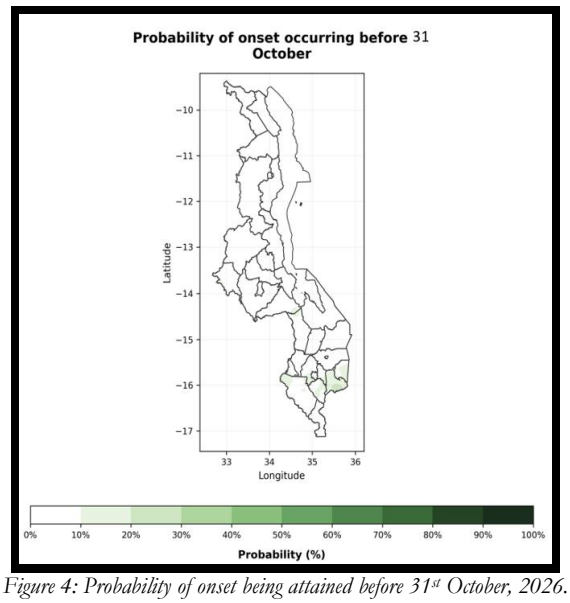


Figure 4: Probability of onset being attained before 31st October, 2026.

1.2 AIR TEMPERATURE

A heatwave was experienced over most areas. The reported average maximum temperatures ranged from 30.6°C at Kamuzu International Airport Meteorological station to 37.6°C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa, with highest absolute maximum at 43.3°C. Majority of stations recorded new absolute maximum temperature values with the highest anaomaly of 1.4°C recorded at Mzimba Meteorological station.

1.3 RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The air over Malawi was dry, the daily average Relative Humidity values recorded from various weather stations across the country ranged from 40% at Chileka International Airport in Blantyre to 53% at Nkhata Bay and Bvumbwe Meteorological Station in Thyolo.

1.4 WIND SPEED

During the dekad under review, daily average wind speeds measured at a height of two metres above the ground ranged from 2.5km per hour at Mangochi and Nkhotakota Meteorological Station to 17.3km per hour at Chitipa Meteorological Station.

1.5 SUNSHINE HOURS

Generally medium to long hours of bright sunshine were observed over Malawi during the period 11 to 20 October 2026. The daily values had ranged from 6.8 hours per day at Bvumbwe to 10.2 hours per day at Karonga Meteorological station and consequently the amount of Solar Radiation had ranged from 8.3 to 10.5 cal/cm²/day.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, the main on-farm activities over Malawi has been land preparation in readiness for effective planting rains. Some farmers in the southern region had already started planting during the first dekad of

October 2026. Figure 5 below shows a maize field in Zomba that was planted on 5 October 2026.



Figure 5: A maize field planted on 5th October 2026 in Mulunguzi, Zomba

3. PROSPECTS FOR THE 2026/2027 SEASON

The 2026/2027 rainfall season is being influenced by strong El Niño conditions that have been established over eastern-central equatorial Pacific Ocean. Global models project that these conditions are likely to persist throughout the season.

The rainfall forecast for the 2026/2027 season as shown in Figure 6 is that:

> **"*During October to December 2026, normal to below-normal rainfall is expected over most parts of southern and central Malawi, while normal to above-normal rainfall conditions are likely over most parts of northern Malawi.***
>
> ***During January-February-March 2027 period, below-normal rainfall conditions are likely to occur over southern and central areas of the country, while normal to above-normal rainfall conditions are likely over most parts of northern Malawi. However, normal to below-normal rainfall is likely over Mzimba and parts of Rumphi.*"**

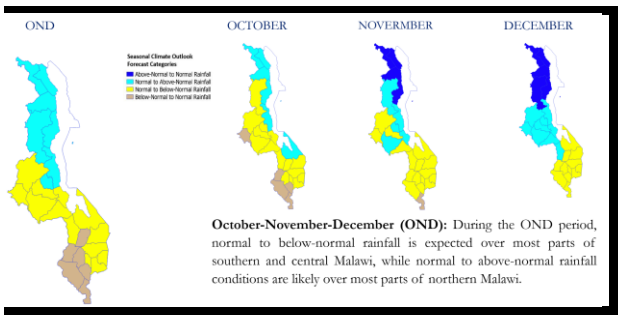


Figure 6(a): Forecast categories for sub-season OND and its monthly categories

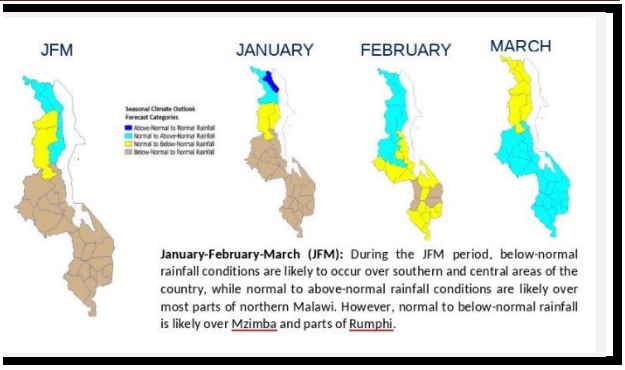


Figure 6(b): Forecast categories for sub-season JFM and its monthly categories

3.1 OCTOBER RAINFALL FORECAST

For the month of October 2026, generally normal to below normal rainfall amounts are anticipated over much of central and southern areas, below normal rainfall over Mchinji and Shire Valley and normal to above normal rainfall over the lakeshore and northern areas (refer to Fig. 7-left). The anticipated rainfall will likely be below 50 mm over most areas of the country during this month. (see Fig. 7-right).

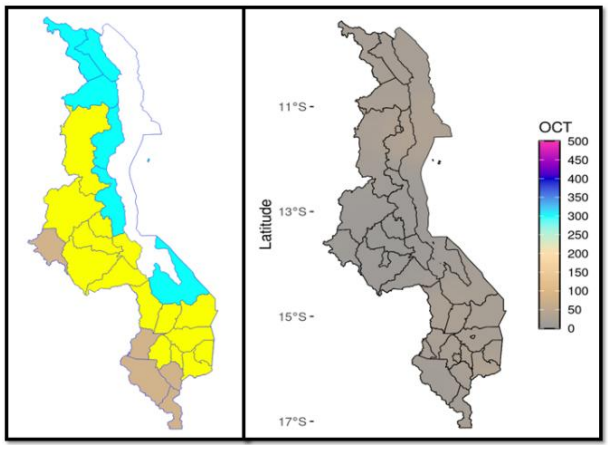


Figure 7: October forecast categories (left) and October forecast rainfall amounts (right)

3.2 OCTOBER TEMPERATURE FORECAST

October 2026 is expected to be characterized by generally hot to locally very hot maximum temperatures. The forecast

indicates above-normal maximum temperatures across all areas of Malawi (Figure 8).

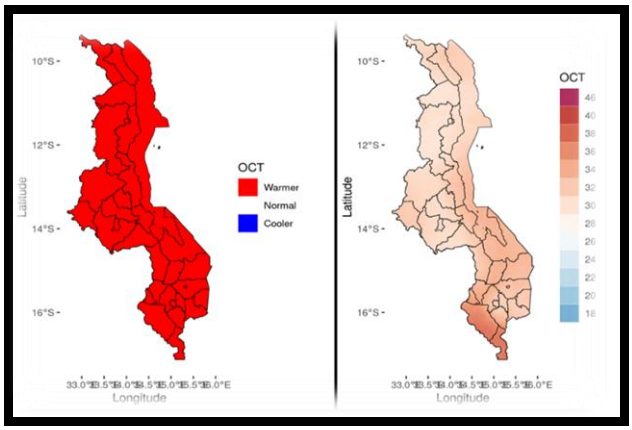


Figure 8: October 2026 maximum temperature forecast (a) categories and (b) values

4. OUTLOOK FOR 21-31 OCTOBER 2026

Sporadic rainfall activities are expected over Malawi due to the influence convergence of warm easterly and cool south easterly air masses. In figure 9 below, the map on the left shows the expected rainfall amounts while the map on the right shows the category of the expected dekadal rainfall. Hot to very hot temperatures are anticipated during this period.

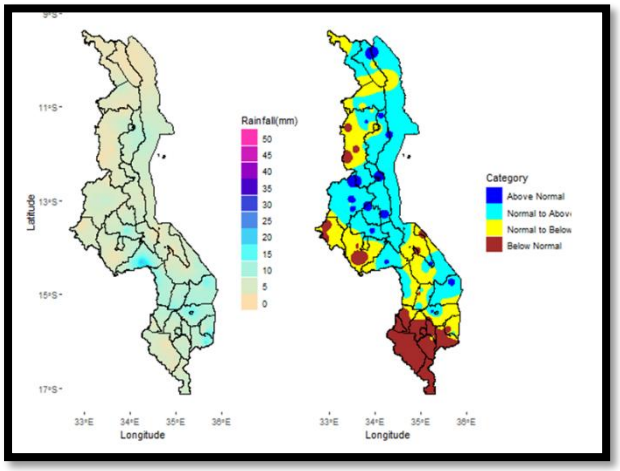


Figure 9: Dekadal rainfall outlook for Malawi for 21-31 October 2026

In terms of dry spells, the forecast indicates a high likelihood of a dry dekad with majority of areas expected to experience more than 5 consecutive dry days as captured in figure 10 below.

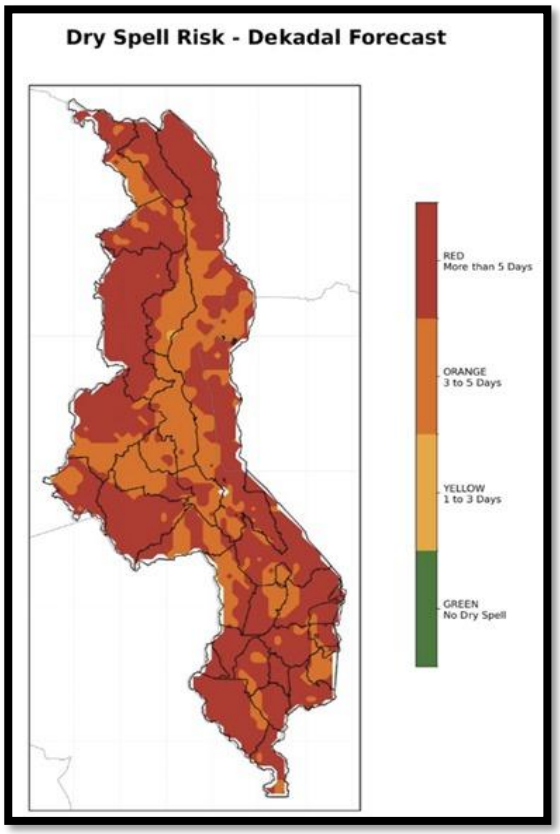


Figure 10: Dekadal dry spell risk outlook for 21-31 October 2026

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND ADVISORIES

The anticipated conditions provide an opportunity for farmers to continue with their land preparation initiatives. As a caution to potential poor germination and seed loss, farmers are advised to avoid planting crops following isolated, light showers, as the forecast indicates limited rainfall amounts though they may be in the normal to above normal category for some areas, and dry spells that could scorch early-emerging seedlings.

Livestock farmers are advised to provide adequate water for their stock to ensure livestock have access to clean water at regular intervals throughout the day to prevent heat stress and dehydration. Furthermore, farmers are advised to ensure there is adequate shade during grazing periods (natural tree canopies or constructed shelters) in grazing areas and kraals during peak hot hours.