Government of Malawi
Ministry of Natural Resources

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: 01 – 10 January 2026 | Season: 2025/2026 | Issue No.10

Release date: 13 January 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Wet conditions observed across the country during the first dekad of January, 2026 …**
- **Top fertilizer dressing in progress over most areas …**
- **Normal to above normal rainfall anticipated over most areas during the second dekad of January 2026…**

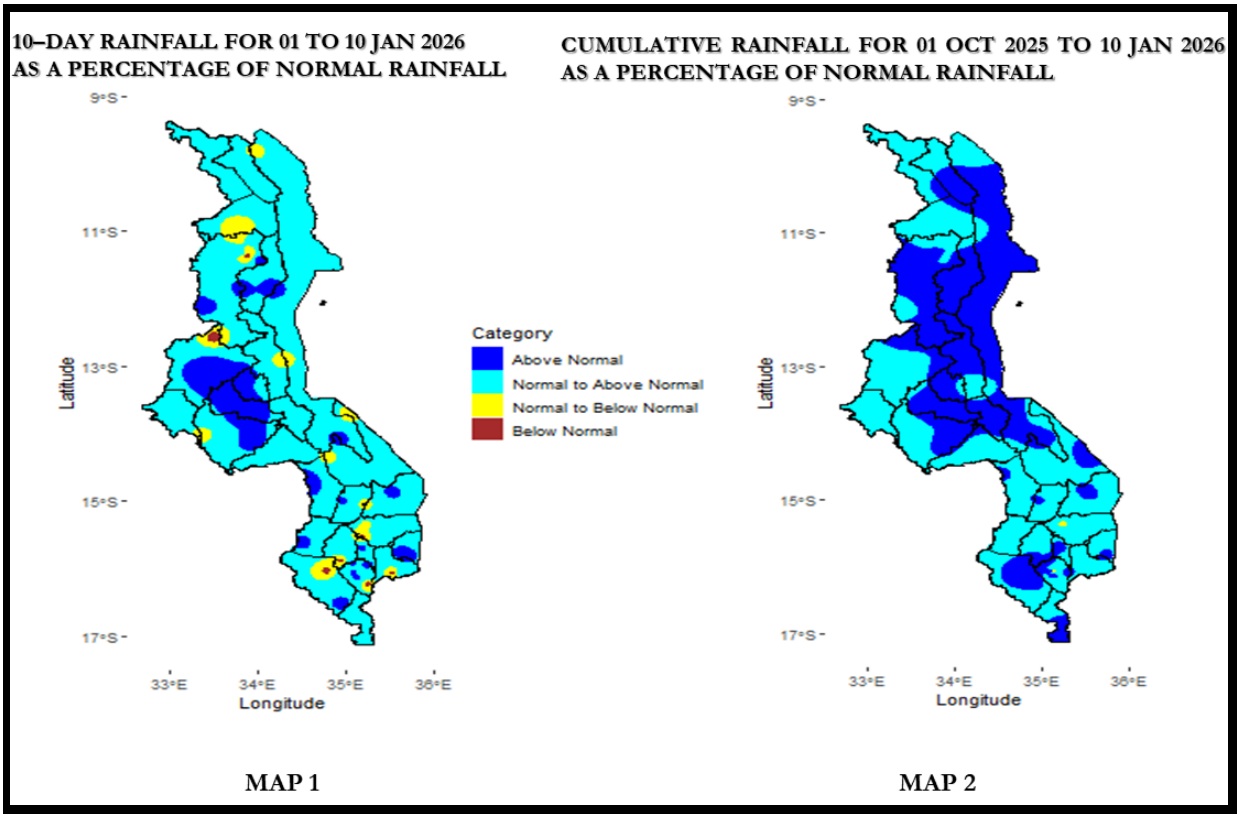

Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

Widespread rains with heavy episodes mainly over central and southern areas were observed due to a deep low-pressure system in the Mozambique channel which enhanced the combined effects of the Congo air mass and the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) across the country.

All inquiries should be addressed to: The Director of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, P.O. Box 1808, Blantyre, MALAWI
Tel: (265) 1 822 014/106 Fax: (265) 1 822 215 E-mail: metdept@metmalawi.gov.mw Homepage: www.metmalawi.gov.mw

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the first dekad of January 2026 widespread rains were observed with varying intensities but locally heavy mainly over central and southern areas. Figure 1, Map 1 shows that the dekad was wet as the country received generally normal to above normal rainfall amounts. Cumulatively as of 10th January, most of lakeshore and central areas have so far received above normal rainfall while generally normal to above normal conditions over the south (Figure 1, Map 2).

Figure 2 below shows the observed dekadal rainfall distribution during the last period under review. The highest dekadal cumulative rainfall was recorded at Mwanza Boma with 159.6 mm in 6 rainy days followed by Mbawa Research Station with 154.8 in 7 rainy days, FortLister in Phalombe recorded 154.7 mm in 6 rainy days, Chintheche Agriculture in NkhataBay recorded 144.3 mm in 3 rainy days, Satemwa Tea Estate in Thyolo recorded 144.3mm in 6 rainy days, Balaka Township recorded 138.1 mm in 8 rainy days, Nathenje Agriculture in Lilongwe recorded 138 mm in 8 rainy days, Chiradzulu Agriculture recorded 137.6 mm in 5 rainy days, K.I.A Meteorological Station recorded 137.2 mm in 8 rainy days, Lujeri Tea Estate in Mulanje recorded 131 mm in 8 rainy days.

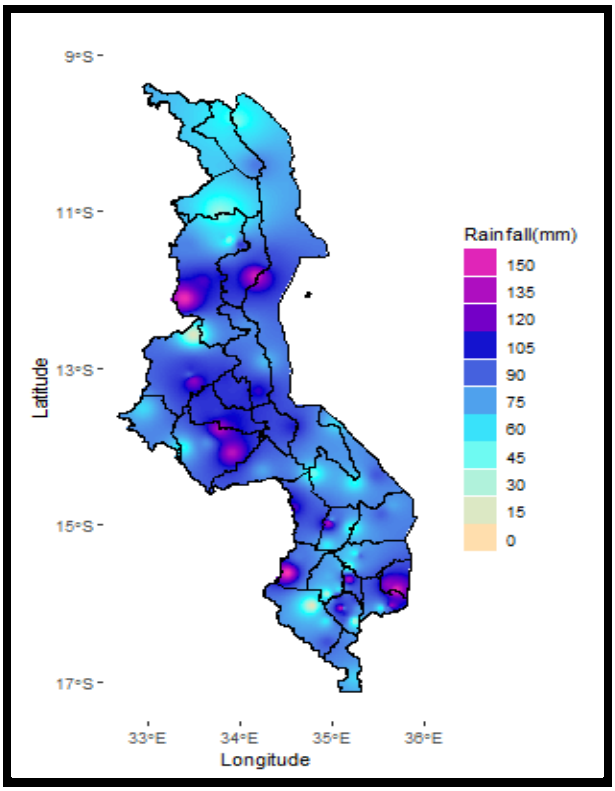

Figure 2: Observed dekadal rainfall for Malawi 1-10 January 2026

The number of rainy days ranged from 2 to 8 during the last dekad with an average of 5 rainy days (Figure 3). The following stations recorded the highest of 8 rainy days; Balaka Township, Nathenje Agriculture, K.I.A Meteorological Station, Lujeri Tea Estate, Mzimba Meteorological Station, Chikangawa forest, Mzuzu Meteorological Station, Chitedze Meteorological Station, Mangochi Meteorological Station, Rumphi Boma, And Kaluluma DTC. Areas with few rainy days were basically over the southern part of the country.

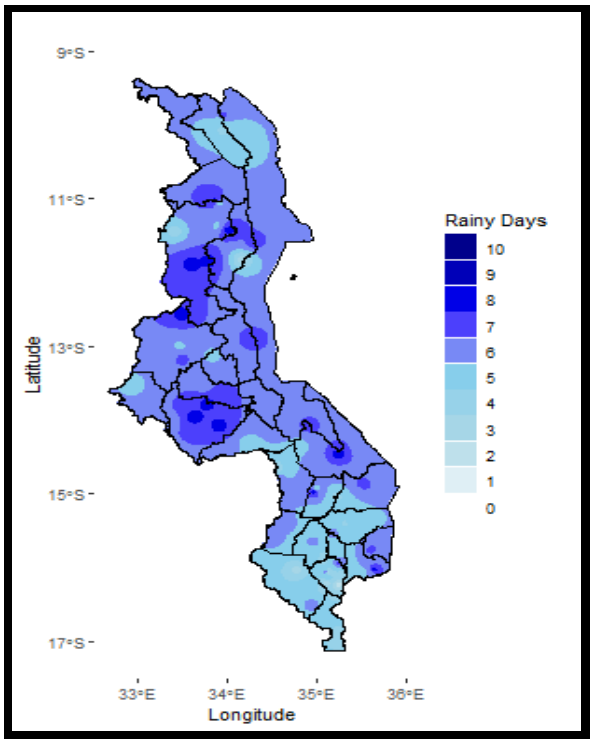

Figure 3: Rainy days for Malawi, 1-10 January 2026

1.2 OTHER WEATHER PARAMETERS

Most areas experienced warm to hot conditions, with average maximum temperatures ranging from 26.2 °C at Bvumbwe Meteorological Station in Thyolo to 33.1 °C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa. The highest absolute maximum temperature, 36.3 °C, was recorded at Ngabu on 3 January 2026.

The average relative humidity ranged from 67% at Salima Meteorological Station to 83% at Ntaja, Dedza, Mangochi and Bvumbwe Meteorological stations.

The observed daily average wind speeds measured at a height of two metres above the ground level ranged from 0.7 km per hour at Ntaja Meteorological station to 10.1 km per hour at Chileka Meteorological station.

1.3 OTHER INDICATORS

Most areas have now experienced the onset of the 2025/2026 rainfall season, as indicated in Figure 4 below. The onset ranged from the second dekad of November 2025 over the south to the first dekad of January 2026 for most of the northern areas. The onset of the season is defined as "***the first day or 3 consecutive days receiving a total of 25mm or more and not followed by 10 consecutive dry days within the next 21 days***".

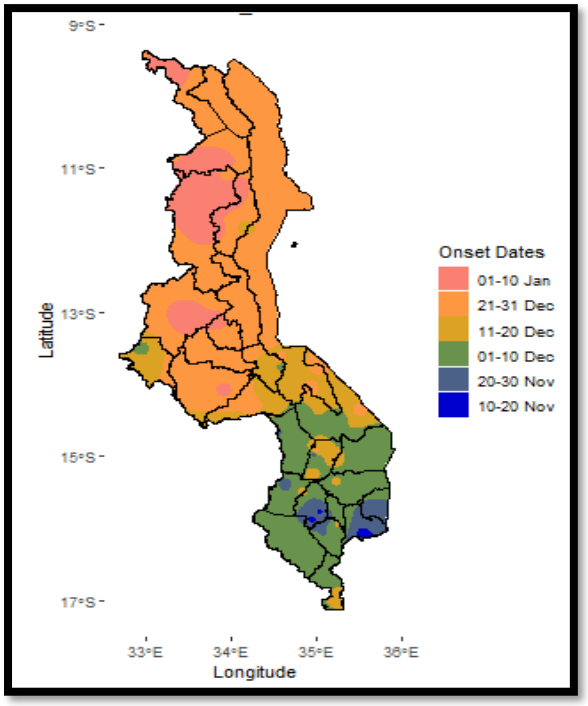

Figure 4 Status of seasonal onset for 2025/2026 season as of 31st December 2025

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

So far, most crops are performing well across the country, though there are some variations in growth due to different planting periods (Figures 6 and 7). Some farmers are yet to acquire fertilizer under the FISD Programme, but most farmers are applying basal dressing fertilizer. Some crops were affected by flash flooding due to the heavy rains.

Figure 5: Anastasia Soko in a Maize Garden -Chafisi Section Vibangalala EPA, Mzimba. Photo by Matsautso Phiri.

Figure 6: Tobacco field of Mr Henry Kamtuleni, Kapaladzala EPA Kasungu. Photo by Joel Mtima.

3. SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

The 2025-2026 rainfall season is expected to be influenced predominantly by ENSO neutral conditions.

The rainfall forecast for the 2025/2026 season is that:

"During October to December 2025, total rainfall amounts are anticipated to be generally normal to above-normal in most areas of the country, with normal to below-normal rainfall likely over some parts of the northern areas.

During January to March 2026, total rainfall amounts are anticipated to be generally normal to above-normal. Despite this trend, localized pockets, particularly in parts of Mchinji, Dowa, Kasungu and Lilongwe, are projected to receive normal to below-normal precipitation."

Illustration of the forecast is given in Figure 8 below with map (a) and map (b) showing sub-seasons October, November, December (OND) and January, February, March (JFM), respectively.

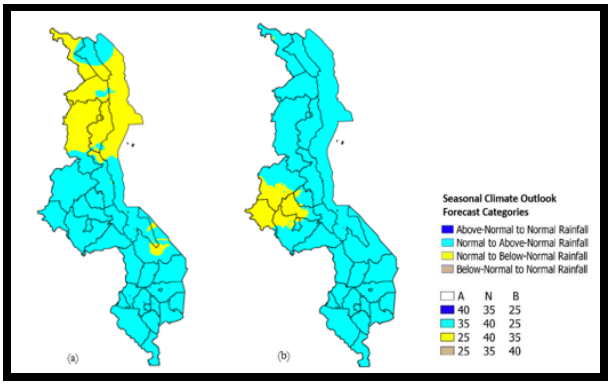

***Figure 7**: Forecast categories for OND and JFM*

RAINFALL FORECAST FOR JANUARY 2026

The January rainfall forecast indicates a likelihood of a normal to above-normal rainfall situation across the country, with pockets of normal to below normal rainfall over some central districts, refer to Figure 9 below map (a). The monthly rainfall totals are likely to range between 150 and 400 mm, as shown in Figure 9 map (b) below.

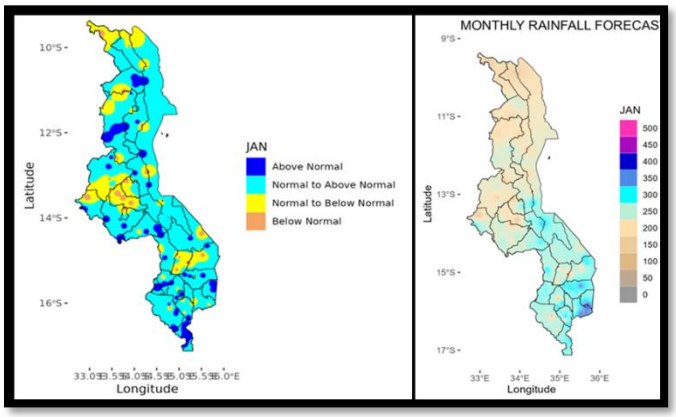

***Figure 8**: January 2026 rainfall forecast (a) categories and (b) values*

TEMPERATURE FORECAST FOR JANUARY 2026

A diverse temperature pattern is anticipated across the country, with normal conditions expected to be prevalent in the majority of areas, as shown in Figure 10, map (a), represented by white colour. Northern and southern regions, particularly those situated along the lakeshore and within the Shire Valley, are expected to experience warmer than average conditions with about 34.2 °C, contrasting sharply with the cooler temperatures of Nyika, where the average mean temperature is projected to be a more moderate regime of about 23.7 °C as captured in map (b) of figure 10 below.

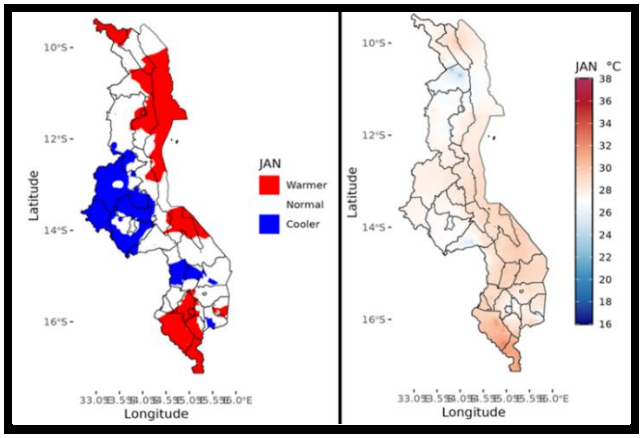

*Figure 9: **January** 2026 temperature forecast*

4. OUTLOOK FOR 11-20 JANUARY 2026

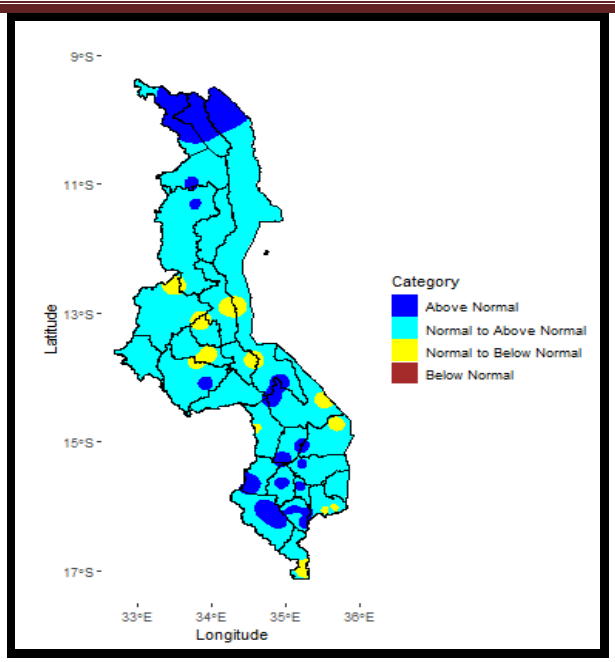

***Figure 10**: dekadal rainfall outlook for Malawi for 11-20 January 2026*

Light to moderate rains are expected over most areas as there's a slight reduction in rainfall intensity during this period. This will be due to warm north easterly air mass and later they are expected to converge with north westerly (Congo) air mass. Figure 11 shows the expected dekadal rainfall classes. The chances of prolonged dry spells during this dekad are small.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND ADVISORIES

The expected weather conditions will be favourable for improved field accessibility for farming activities such as weeding and fertilizer application. Farmers are advised to take advantage of the improved conditions to carry out other agricultural operations such as pest control and water harvesting techniques such as contour ridges, box ridges, and mulching to retain soil moisture.

Furthermore, livestock farmers are advised start conserving excess pasture as hay or silage for use later in the dry season.