



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 February 2026

Season: 2025/2026

Issue No.14

Release date: 24 February 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rains were experienced across the country during the second dekad of February 2026...
- Maize is at maturity stages over the southern half, tasseling over the northern half...
- Above normal rainfall amounts expected over the north while normal to below normal over the south during 21 - 28 February 2026...

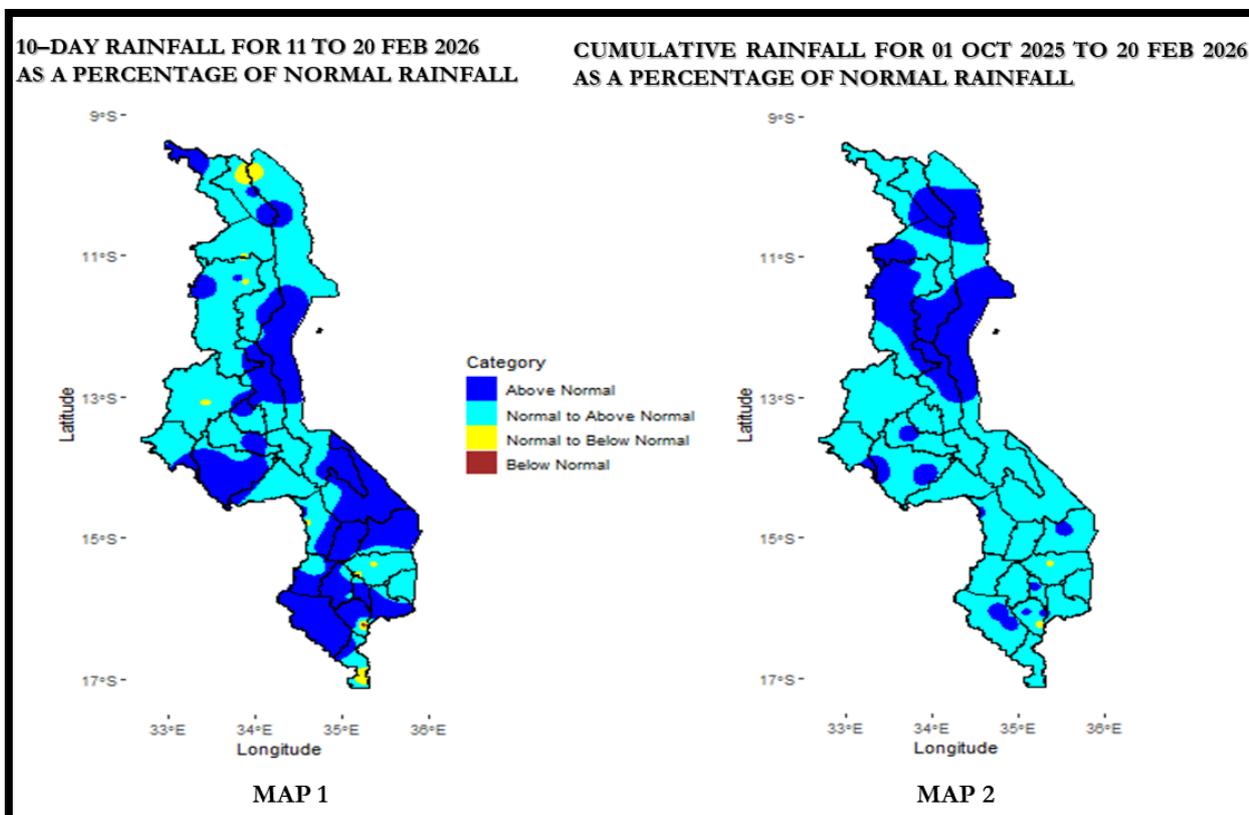


Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) enhanced rainfall activities over Malawi leading to widespread precipitation with locally heavy falls over some areas in the south and central regions.

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Normal to above normal rainfall amounts were experienced across the country with above normal rainfall mainly over lakeshore and southern areas during the last dekad as indicated in figure 1, Map1. Although the Lower Shire Valley districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje experienced predominantly dry conditions during the first days of the last dekad, some areas received rainfall. Cumulatively, since the monitoring of the 2025/2026 commenced on 1st October 2025, the country has experienced normal to above-normal rainfall with some areas particularly in the northern region recording noticeably above-normal amounts. (Figure 1, Map 2).

During the second dekad of February, the highest cumulative dekadal rainfall amounts above 200mm were recorded from the following stations; Vinthukutu Agriculture in Karonga recorded 246.4 mm in 5 rainy days, Masambanjati Agriculture in Thyolo recorded 240.2 mm in 4 rainy days, Satemwa Tea Estate recorded 219 mm in 7 rainy days, Thyolo Nchima recorded 218.7 mm in 7 rainy days, Lujeri Tea Estate recorded 217.7 mm in 7 rainy days, Chikwawa Boma recorded 212.4 mm in 3 rainy days and Kasinthula Research Station in Chikwawa recorded 205.4 mm in 7 rainy days. Figure 2 below shows the reported cumulative dekadal rainfall amounts.

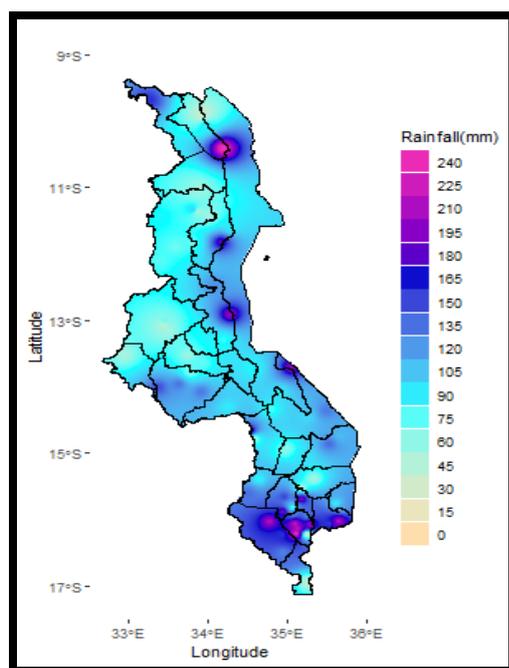


Figure 2: Observed dekadal rainfall for Malawi 11-20 February 2026

The average dekadal rainy days was 6 with the highest number of 9 rainy days recorded from the following stations; Mangochi Meteorological station, Dedza Meteorological station and Lifuwu Research Station in Salima during the period under review. Figure 3 below shows the number of rainy days across the country.

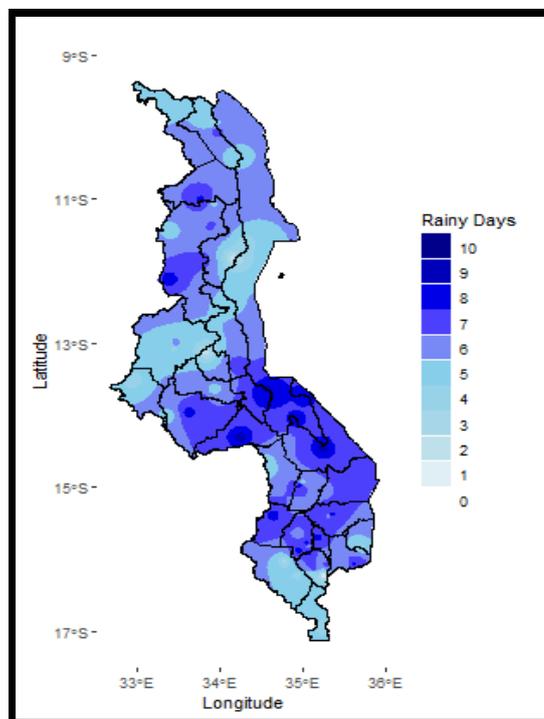


Figure 3: Rainy days for Malawi, 11-20 February 2026

1.2 OTHER WEATHER PARAMETERS

During the last dekad, warm to hot conditions were observed and the average maximum temperatures ranged from 24.8 °C at Bvumbwe and Mzuzu Meteorological Stations to 31.7 °C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa. The highest absolute maximum temperature of 36.4°C, was recorded at Ngabu on 12th February 2026.

The air was moist over most areas with the daily average relative humidity values recorded from stations ranging from 68% at Ntaja Meteorological Station in Machinga to 86% at Balaka and Dedza Meteorological Stations.

The observed daily average wind speeds measured at a height of two metres above the ground level was light to moderate over most areas, that ranged from 0.4 km per hour at Bolero Meteorological station in Rumphi to 13.3 km per hour at Chitipa Meteorological station.

Medium to long hours of bright sunshine were observed over Malawi. Daily values of sunshine hours had ranged from 6.2 hours per day at Nkhata Bay Meteorological station to 9.5 hours per day at Ngabu Meteorological station and consequently the amount of Solar Radiation had ranged from 8.7 to 12.6 cal/cm²/day.

1.3 OTHER INDICATORS

In terms of dry spells as of 20th February 2026, the longest consecutive dry days during the month of February so far has been 9 from the following stations Chikwawa Boma, Kasinthula Research Station, Masambanjati Agriculture in Thyolo, Nchalo Sugar Company, Nsanje Boma and Walkers Ferry in Blantyre. More details in Figure 4 and Table 1 below.

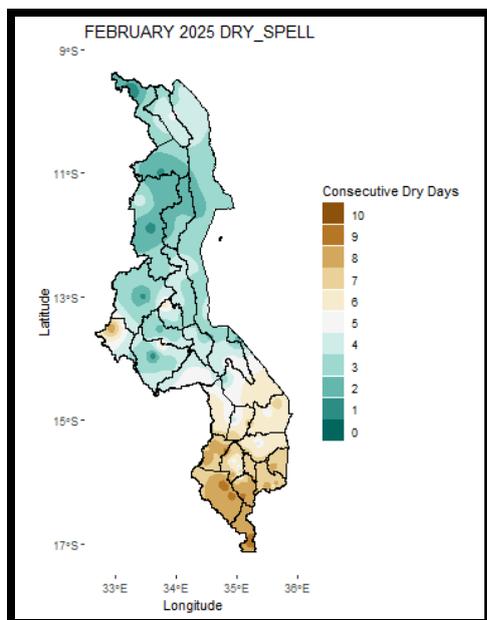


Figure 4: Longest consecutive dry days in February 2026



Figure 5: Maize at maturity stage in Mchinji, Photo by Anne Soko.

Other cash crops such as soybeans, groundnuts are reported doing well at podding and flowering stages as captured in figure 6 below.



Figure 6: Soybean crop, Chigonthi Extension Planning Area, Photo by Malekano Chale.

The amount of water that has been available to maize crop through the analysis of Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI), generally maize crop has had over 80% of water it requires for it to do well. This entails average yield are expected in majority of central and northern areas where maize has had 80 to 96% of the water it requires, while good to excellent yield expected mainly over southern areas where maize has had at least 97% of the water it requires. However, average to mediocre yields is expected in few parts of Karonga, Rumphi, Kasungu, Ntchisi and Mangochi as illustrated in Figure 7 below.

Station	Longest Dry Spell
Chikwawa Boma	9
Kasinthula Res. Stn.	9
Masambanjati Agri	9
Nchalo Sucoma	9
Nsanje Boma	9
Walkers Ferry	9
Lujeri Tea Estate	8
Mpemba Veterinary	8
Mulanje Boma	8
Mwanza Boma	8
Naminjiwa Agriculture	8
Neno Agriculture	8
Ngabu Met. Station	8
Satemwa Tea Estate	8
Thuchila Agriculture	8
Thyolo Met. Station	8
Mkanda Station	8

Table 1: Longest Dry spells experienced in February 2026.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The main on-farm activities have been application of top-dressing fertilizer and banking for some farmers over north. Maize crop is at maturity stage over the south and some central areas while tasseling stage over some northern areas. The general maize crop stand is encouraging over most parts of the country particularly where fertilizer or manure has been applied and good agricultural practices have been adhered as well as where no prolonged dry spell has been experienced as captured in Figure 5 below.

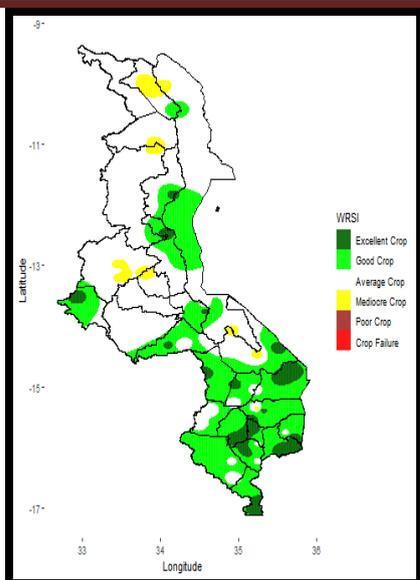


Figure 7: WRSI map for Malawi up to 10th February 2026

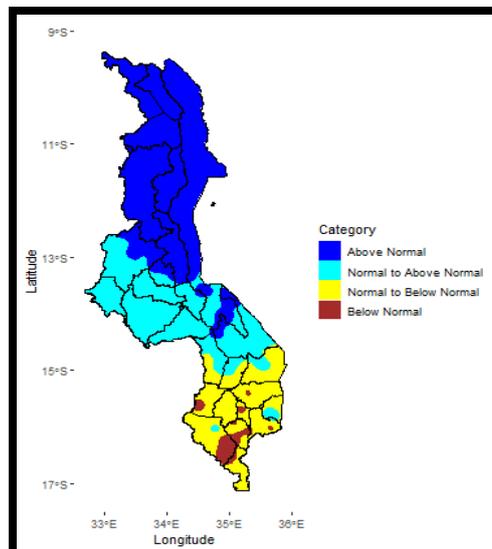


Figure 9: Dekadal rainfall outlook for Malawi for 21-28 February 2026

3. SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

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

The rainfall forecast for sub-season-February-March-April (FMA) of the 2025/2026 season is that:

“Normal to above-normal total rainfall amounts are anticipated over most central and northern areas of the country with above-normal total rainfall amounts over most of southern areas of the country.”

The spatial distribution of the forecast is captured in Figure 8 below.

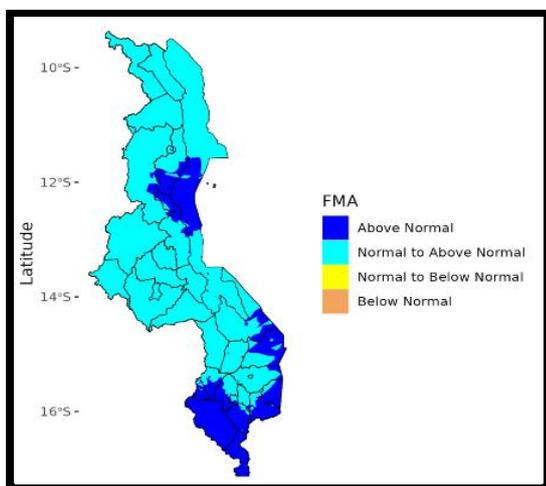


Figure 8: Forecast categories for the FMA sub season

The expected dekadal rainfall amounts range from 75mm to 190mm with highest amounts anticipated over lakeshore areas particularly Nkhonkhotakota, Salima and Mangochi districts. A spatial distribution of actual rainfall amounts is given in Figure 10 below.

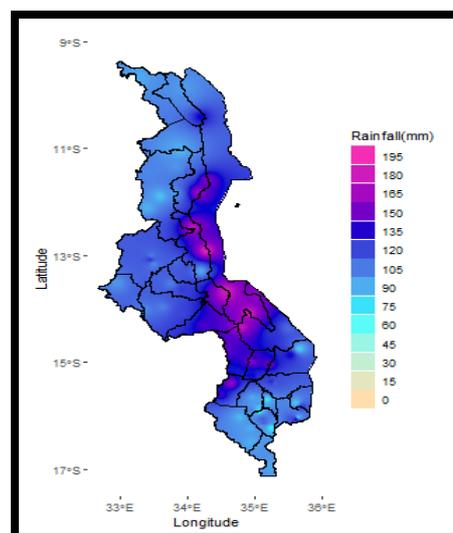


Figure 10: Dekadal rainfall amounts anticipated for 21-28 February 2026

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND ADVISORIES

For most northern and lakeshore areas, the expected weather conditions are favourable for supporting vegetative growth of most crops including maize, rice in rice growing districts of Karonga, Nkhonkhotakota and Salima among others. While for the south the conditions will favour for the plantation of tuber crops.

Livestock farmers, are encouraged to take proactive measures in ensuring their stock is properly housed and guarded against worms, parasites as the seasonal conditions may provide suitable environment for breeding of the same.

Overall, for proper utilization of rain water, farmers should adhere to principles of good agricultural practices including moisture conservation. Water harvesting technologies should also be practiced for future use during periods of suppressed rainfall.

4. OUTLOOK FOR 11-20 FEBRUARY 2026

During the last dekad of February 2026, the northern half of the country is expected to receive above normal rainfall amounts with generally normal over most of central and southern areas, and below normal in some areas such as Chikwawa as captured in Figure 9 below. This is due to the effect of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).