



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 March 2026

Season: 2025/2026

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Widespread rainfall activities experienced over the country...
- Maize drying over the southern half, cobbing to maturity over the northern half...
- Wet spells to continue over lakeshore and northernmost areas, relatively dry elsewhere...

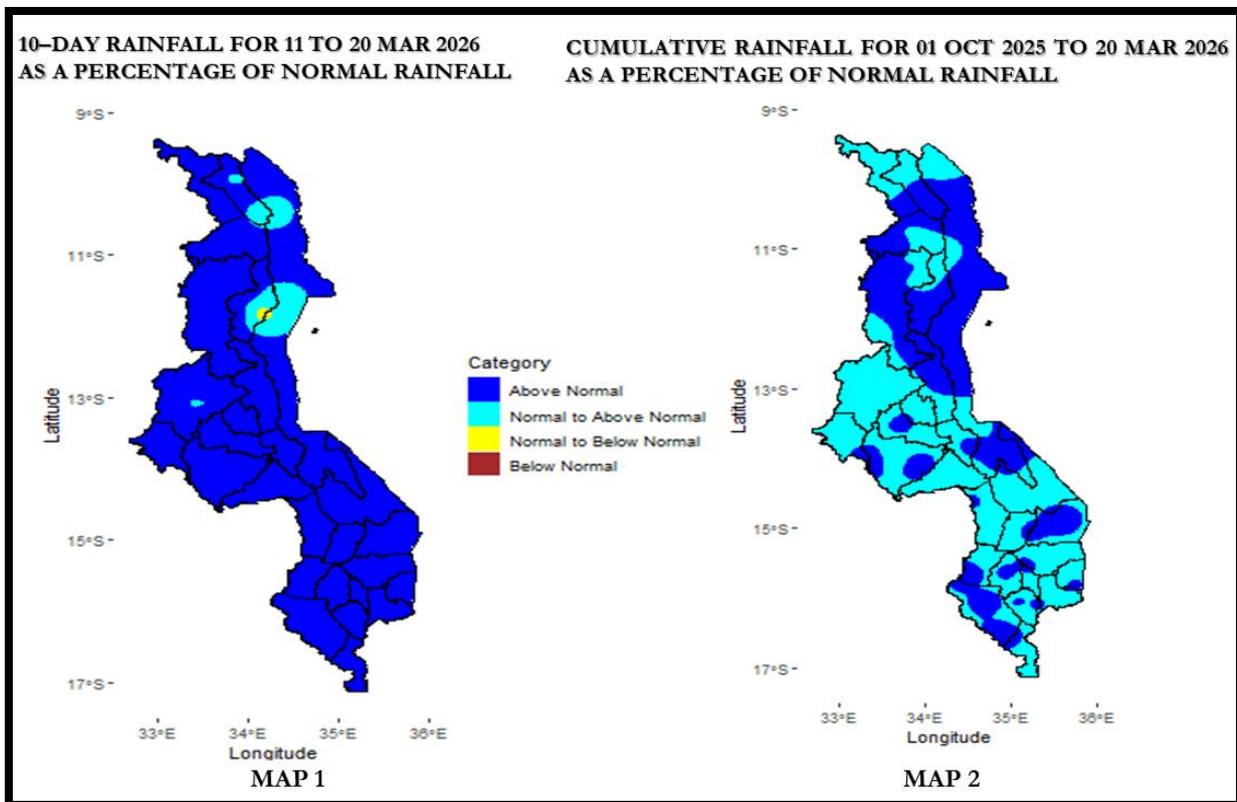


Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

A deep low pressure system was dominant over the country during the second dekad of March 2026 resulting in widespread rainfall activities which were very heavy in most areas.

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the period under review, widespread rainfall activities were experienced over the country. The recorded dekadal rainfall amounts were above normal of historical dekadal rainfall amounts for majority of areas of the country as shown in Map 1 in figure 1 above.

Stations that recorded rainfall amounts exceeding 300mm during the reporting dekad included Zomba Agriculture which recorded 410.7mm, Salima Meteorological Station recorded 389.8mm, Mwanza Boma recorded 378.3mm, Makoka Meteorological Station in Zomba recorded 367.4mm, Lifuwu Research Station in Salima recorded 350.1mm and Lujeri Tea estate in Mulanje recorded 316.7mm . The spatial distribution is captured in figure 2 below.

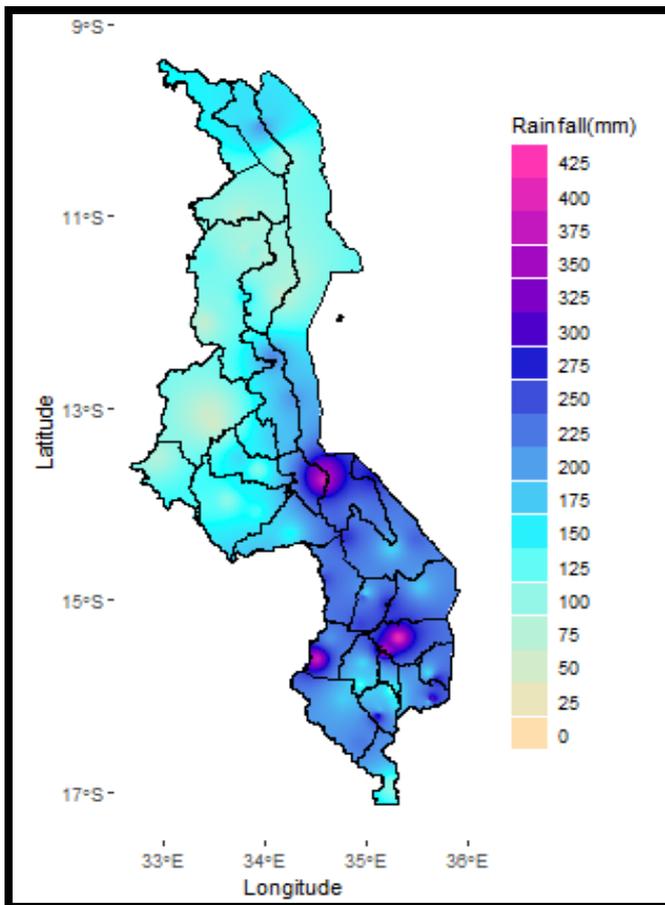


Figure 2: Observed rainfall for Malawi 11-20 March 2026

In terms of rainy days, the highest number was recorded over southern areas with seven stations registering 10 rainy days namely; Lujeri Tea estate, Fortlister in Phalombe, Mpemba Veterinary in Blantyre, Masambanjati Agriculture and Thyolo Boma in Thyolo, Mimosa Meteorological station and Mulanje Boma in Mulanje. More details in figure 3 below.

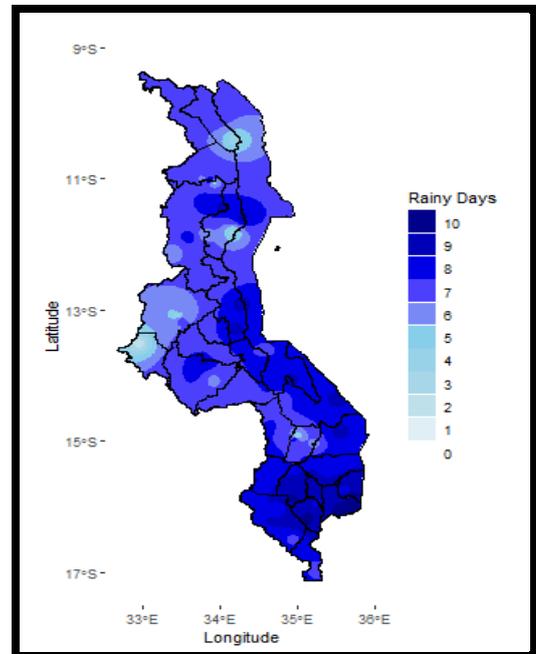


Figure 3: Rainy days for Malawi, 11-20 March 2026

Cumulatively, since the onset of rainfall monitoring season to 20th March 2026, normal to above normal conditions have been experienced over majority of areas of the country with above normal cases in all the three regions.(Map 2 in figure 1).

1.2 OTHER WEATHER PARAMETERS

The average maximum temperatures ranged from 24.9 °C at Kamuzu International Airport to 30.7 °C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa.

Air over Malawi was moist. Dekadal average Relative Humidity values recorded from stations ranged from 79% at Bolero Meteorological Station in Rumphi to 94% at Makoka Meteorological Station in Zomba.

Low wind speeds were experienced during the dekad under review, the observed dekadal average wind speeds measured at a height of two metres above the ground level ranged from 0.4 km per hour at Bolero Meteorological station in Rumphi to 5.2 km per hour at Chileka Meteorological station.

Low to medium hours of bright sunshine were observed over Malawi, Dekadal values of sunshine hours had ranged from 4.5 hours per day at Mimosa Meteorological station to 6.8 hours per day at Karonga Meteorological Station and consequently the amount of Solar Radiation had ranged from 7.3 to 10.6 cal/cm²/day.

1.3 OTHER INDICATORS

The longest consecutive dry days during the period 1st February to 20th March have been observed mainly over the south and parts of Mchinji. More details in figure 4 and table 1 below.

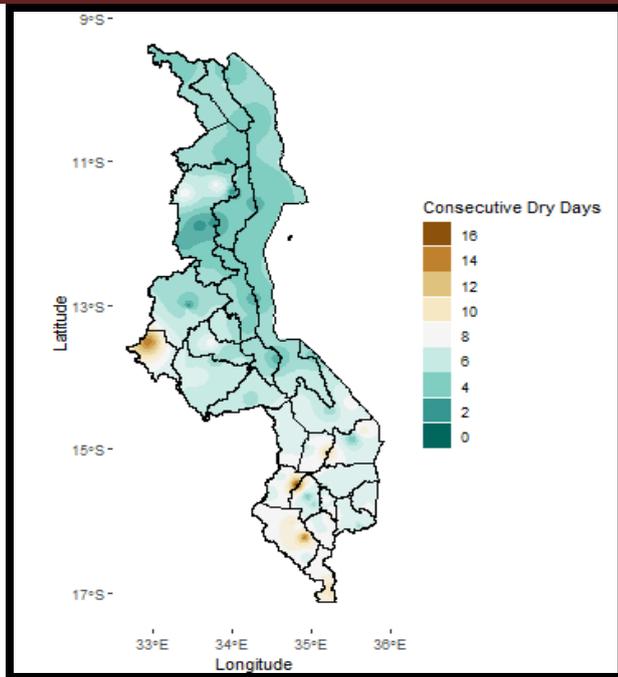


Figure 4: Longest consecutive dry days from 1 February to 20 March 2026

STATION	FEB_MAR DRYSPELL
Walkers Ferry	16
Nchalo Sucoma	14
Mkanda Met	14
Liwonde Township	11
Chikwawa Boma	10
Nsanje Boma	10

Table 1: Station with at least 10 consecutive dry days from 1 February to 20 March 2026

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, there was continued good spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall in most central and northern areas of the country with extremely wet and destructive conditions over southern areas of the country.

The rainfall experienced during the dekad under review particularly over some central and northern areas supported maturity of maize, as well as growth and development of rice in rice growing districts as captured in figure 5 below. Moreover, the rains ensured continued availability of water for livestock as well as growth and development of pastures.



Figure 5: Rice field benefiting from heavy rains, Chikwawa East Bank. Photo by Ramzy Mawiliga

Maize crop stand is very encouraging in all the three regions particularly where fertilizer or manure was applied as well as good agricultural practices as stipulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, were adhered to. The crop is reportedly at generally cobbing to maturity stages over northern half while maturity to drying over southern areas with some southern farmers already started harvesting. The good crop stand is largely due to good temporal and spatial distribution of rains this far.

Other crops such as groundnuts, soya beans, and tobacco, are also reportedly doing well with groundnuts and soya beans generally at flowering to podding stages over most of soya bean growing districts and majority of tobacco farmers are air curing and packaging in readiness for the 2025/2026 Tobacco marketing season..

However, the extreme wet conditions resulted in flooding over some central and southern districts with reported cases of crop wash-aways, destruction of property and death of Human beings as well livestock as depicted in figures 6 , 7 and 8 below.



Figure 6: Maize field washed away, Nkhotakota, Kasitu Extension Planning Area. Photo by Edward Danitsa



Figure 6: Drowned goats, Mchinji, Kalulu Extension Planning Area. Photo by Joseph Jaffu



Figure 7: Remains of a collapsed tobacco barn, Mchinji, Kalulu Extension Planning Area. Photo by Joseph Jajju

As assessment of impacts of the heavy rains caused by the deep low pressure system continues, preliminary reports shows Mchinji, Salima, Nkhotakota and majority of districts over southern Malawi have lost their cultivated hectareage due to flooding. The destruction has the potential of negatively affecting the good crop stand thereby affecting production at national scale.

In terms of the amount of water that has been available to maize crop through the analysis of the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI), overall, the 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. Over southern areas, good to excellent maize crop yield is expected where maize has had at least 97% of the water it requires. This is illustrated in figure 9 below.

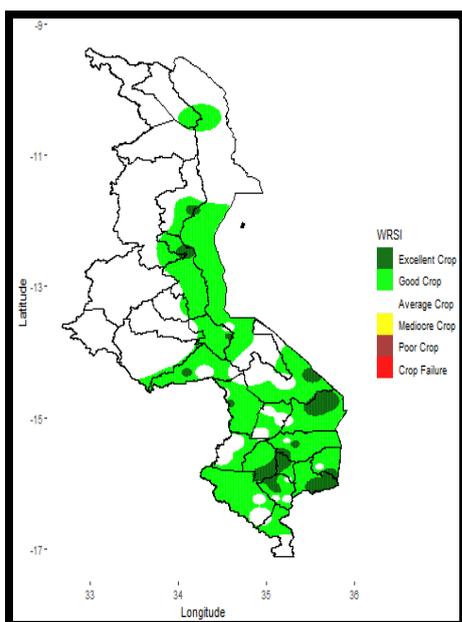


Figure 9: WRSI map for Malawi up to 20 March 2026

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 southern areas of the country.”

The spatial distribution of the forecast is captured in figure 10 below.

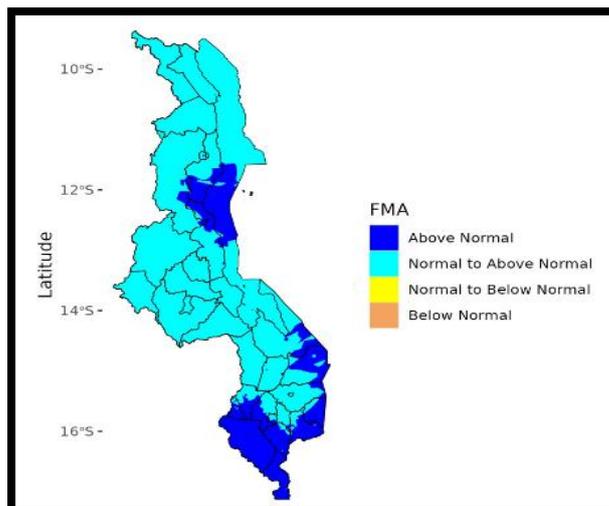


Figure 10: Forecast categories for the FMA sub season

4. OUTLOOK FOR 21-31 MARCH 2026

During the period 21 - 31 March 2026, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is expected to influence weather over the country. As a result, normal to above normal rainfall amounts are anticipated over majority of the country with normal to below normal over parts of Nsanje Thyolo, Mulanje and Phalombe districts. This is captured in figure 11 below.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND ADVISORIES

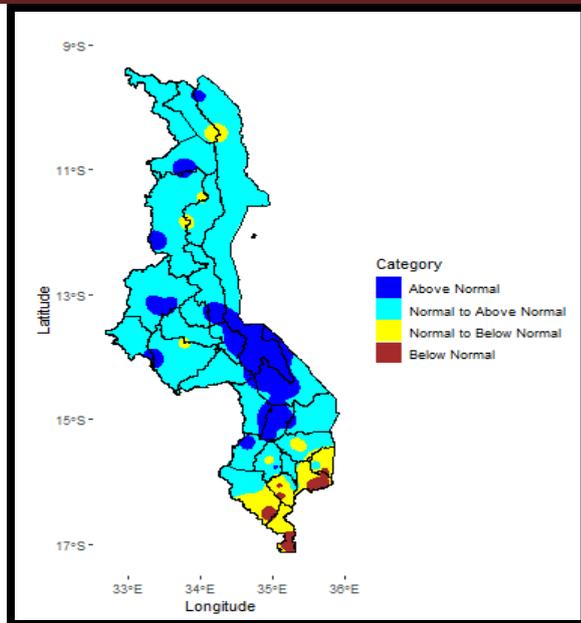


Figure 11: Dekadal rainfall outlook for Malawi for 21 – 31 March 2026

In terms of actual dekadal amounts anticipated, high rainfall amounts are expected over Chitipa, central and northern lakeshore areas with areas in Nkhatakota, Nkhata Bay and Karonga expected to receive over 150mm. The spatial distribution of anticipated amounts is shown in figure 12 below.

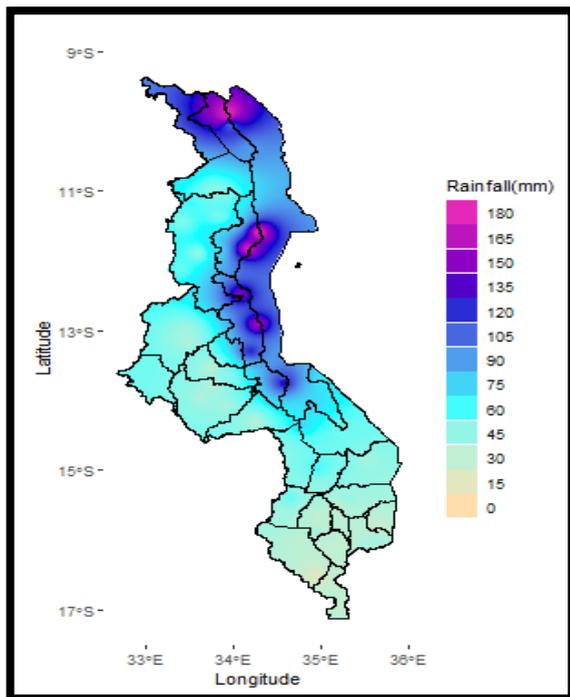


Figure 12: Dekadal forecast rainfall amounts for 21 – 31 March 2026

In areas where heavy rains are anticipated to continue particularly central lakeshore and northernmost districts, crop farmers are advised to take precautionary measures. Excess rainfall may cause waterlogging, soil erosion, nutrient leaching, and crop damage. Farmers should ensure that drainage channels in their fields are clear to allow excess water to flow away and prevent flooding. For southern half farmers particularly where crops such as maize, beans have matured, farmers should harvest early to prevent rotting, sprouting, and cob damage caused by continued rains. Farmers must practice good storage of harvested crops to prevent post-harvest losses due to higher rainfall amounts expected.

Livestock farmers are advised to take precautions to protect their stock as heavy rains can expose animals to worms, parasites and poor grazing conditions. Farmers should ensure that livestock are kept in dry, well-drained shelters to prevent prolonged exposure to wet conditions. Avoid grazing animals in flooded fields, riverbanks, or waterlogged areas as this increases the risk of drowning, injuries, and disease transmission.

Fish farmers are advised to take precautionary measures to protect their ponds and fish stocks. Farmers should strengthen pond dykes and embankments to prevent overflow and erosion. Furthermore, farmers are advised to ensure pond inlets and outlets are well protected to stop fish from escaping during heavy runoff.

For farmers from the south, the anticipated decline in rainfall activities provide an opportunity for harvesting and proper drying of already harvested crops.