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: 21 – 31 March 2026 | Season: 2025/2026 | Issue No.18

Release date: 06 April 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Localized heavy episodes experienced mainly over lakeshore and southern areas…**
- **Maize drying over the southern half, cobbing to maturity over the northern half…**
- **Wet spells to continue over lakeshore and northernmost areas…**

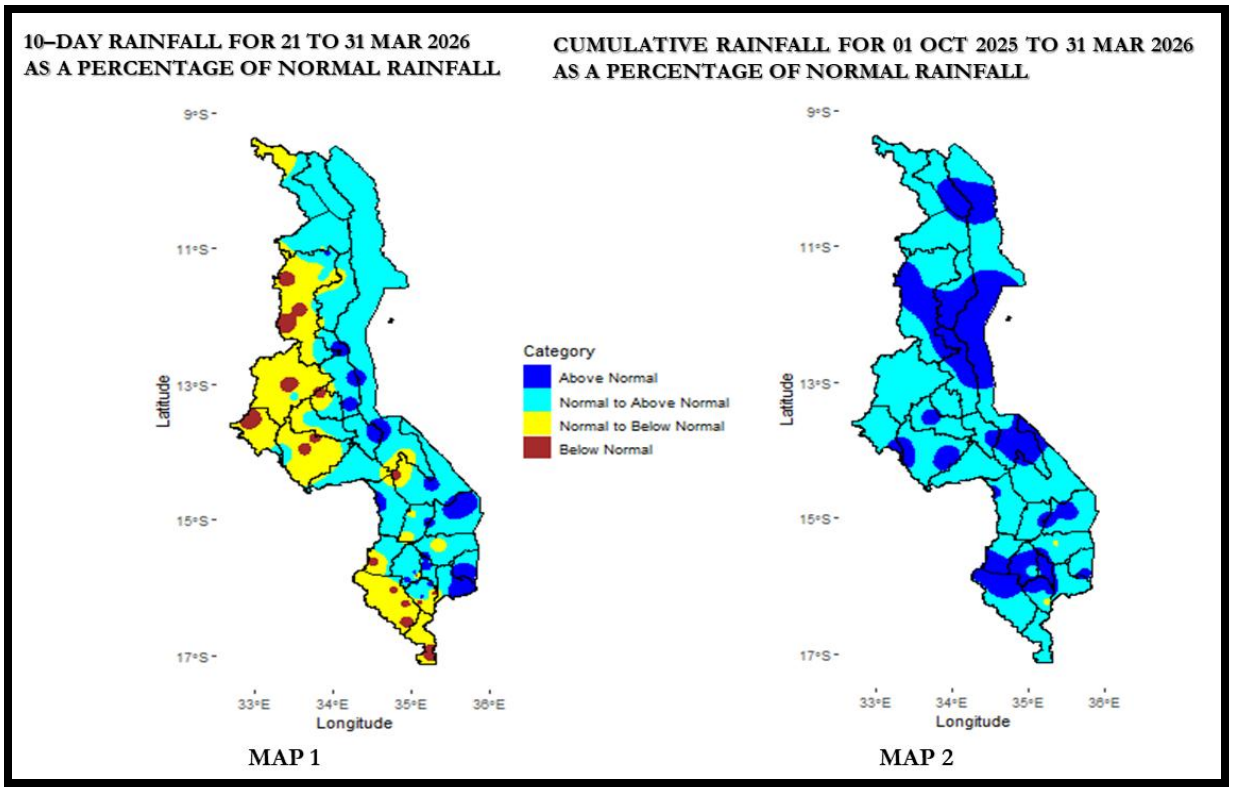

Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

Unstable easterly air mass influenced the weather over the country during the last dekad of March 2026, thereby causing scattered rains which were locally heavy over the lakeshore and southern areas.

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

Scattered rains of varying intensities were experienced, with heavy episodes dominating the lakeshore and southern areas. The recorded dekadal rainfall amounts were generally within normal to above normal of historical dekadal rainfall amounts, except for most central areas where normal to below normal rainfall amounts were observed, as shown in Map 1 in Figure 1 above. As of 31st March 2026, cumulatively, since the onset of rainfall monitoring season, normal to above normal conditions have been experienced over the majority of areas of the country with episodes of above normal cases in all three regions. (Map 2 in Figure 1).

The following stations recorded at least a cumulative rainfall amount of above 150mm during the dekade; Lujeri Tea Estate in Mulanje recorded 225.3mm, FortLister in Phalombe recorded 221.4mm, Mulanje Boma recorded 197.9mm, Dwangwa Sugar Company recorded 195.3mm, Nkhotakota Meteorological Station recorded 185.1mm, Chiradzulu Agriculture recorded 168.9mm, Salima Meteorological Station recorded 155mm, NkhataBay Meteorological Station recorded 151.9mm, and Chintheche Agriculture recorded 151.6mm. Figure 2 below shows the dekadal cumulative spatial distribution

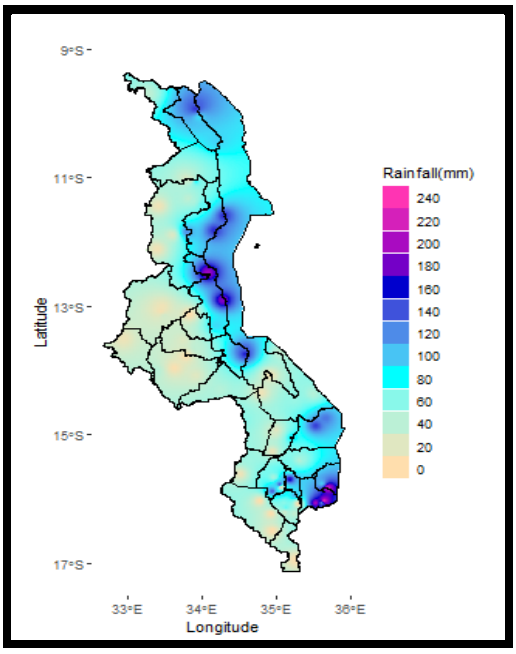

Figure 2: Observed rainfall for Malawi for 21 – 31 March 2026

The average number of rainy days was 5, with the highest value of 11 recorded at Nkhotakota. This was followed by 9 rainy days observed at Lujeri Tea Estate, Fort Lister, Chiradzulu Agriculture, Salima Meteorological Station, Nkhata Bay Meteorological Station, Mpemba Veterinary, and Mzuzu Meteorological Station. Further details are presented in Figure 3 below.

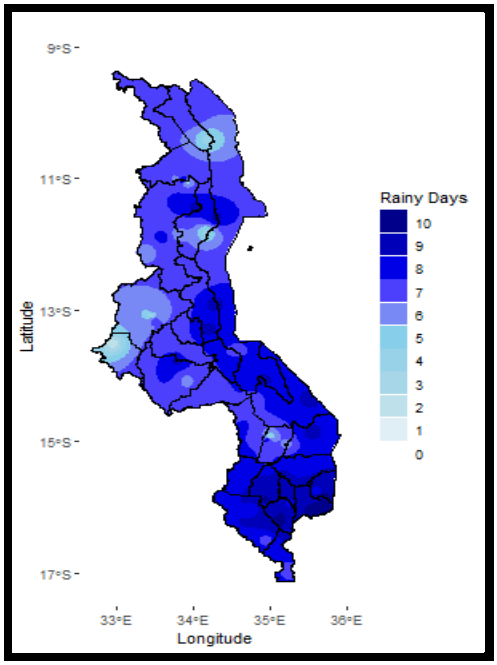

Figure 3: Rainy days for Malawi for 21 – 31 March 2026

1.2 OTHER WEATHER PARAMETERS

Warm to hot conditions were observed, with the average maximum temperatures ranged from 25.4 °C at Mzuzu International Airport to 33.6 °C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa.

Air over Malawi was moist and dekadal average relative humidity values recorded from stations ranged from 68% at Monkey Bay Meteorological Station in Mangochi to 85% at Makoka Meteorological Station in Zomba.

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 8.6 km per hour at Chitipa 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/cm^2/day.

1.3 OTHER INDICATORS

The March 2026 indicates predominantly **wet conditions across much of Malawi,** especially over the **central and southern regions** where the standardised precipitation and evapo-transpiration index (SPEI) ranged from *moderately wet to very wet*, with pockets of *extremely wet* conditions. These wetter-than-normal conditions enhanced soil moisture and a higher likelihood of flooding in localized areas. The **northern and part of the central region** shows generally *near normal* conditions.

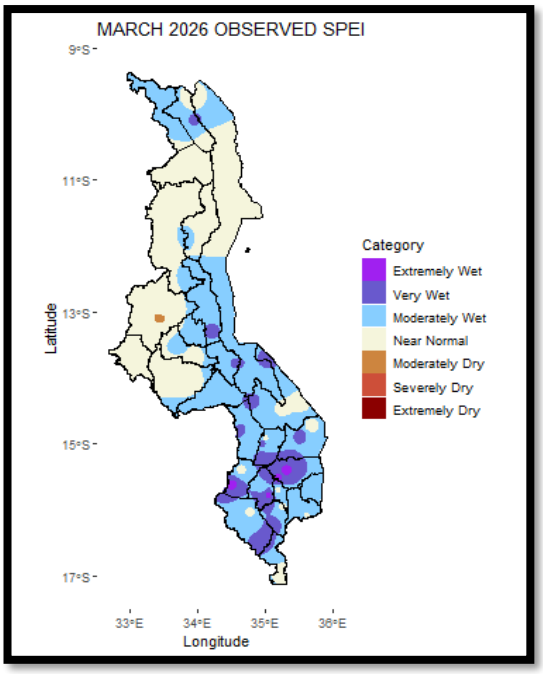

Figure 4: March 2026 monthly standardised precipitation and evapo-transpiration index (SPEI)

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The rainfall experienced during the dekad under review, particularly over the northern half of the country, supported the maturity of maize, as well as growth and development of rice in rice growing districts, as captured in Figure 5 . Moreover, the rains ensured the continued availability of water for livestock as well as growth and development of pastures. The reduction of rainfall over some southern areas helped farmers in the harvesting of maize as captured in Figure 6. So far, reports are indicating a good crop stand which is largely due to good temporal and spatial distribution of rains, though some areas faced weather related hazards like prolonged dry spells and flash flooding.

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

Figure 6: Maize harvest of a farmer from Mpokwa EPA in Zomba. Photo by Mr Kowela.

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 the majority of tobacco farmers are air curing and packaging in readiness for the 2025/2026 tobacco marketing season.

In terms of the amount of water that has been available to maize crop since the beginning of the season through 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 7 below.

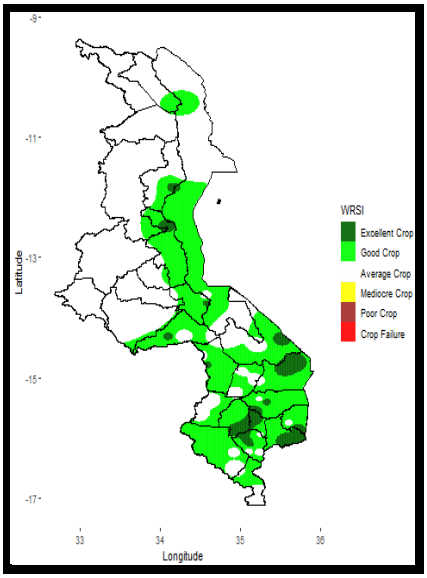

Figure 7: The Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) for maize map for Malawi up to 20 March 2026

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 8 below.

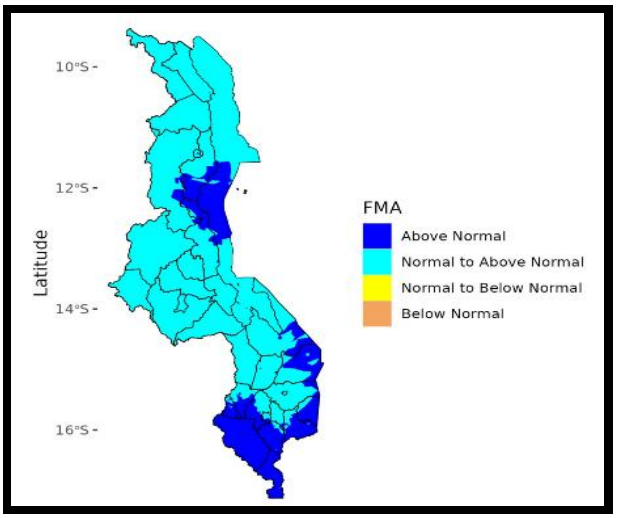

Figure 8: Forecast categories for the FMA sub season

4. OUTLOOK FOR 01-10 APRIL 2026

During the period 01-10th April 2026, the country is expected to be under the influence of an easterly air mass. As a result, normal to above normal rainfall amounts are anticipated over the majority of the country, with normal to below normal over parts of Nsanje, Thyolo, Mulanje and Phalombe districts. This is captured in Figure 9 below.

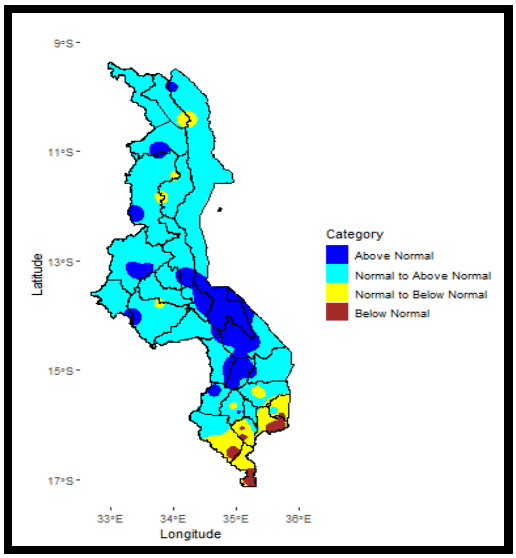

Figure 9: Dekadal rainfall outlook for Malawi for 01-10th April 2026

In terms of actual dekadal amounts anticipated, high rainfall amounts are expected over central and northern lakeshore areas with areas in Nkhata Bay and Karonga expected to receive over 150mm. The spatial distribution of anticipated amounts is shown in Figure 10 below.

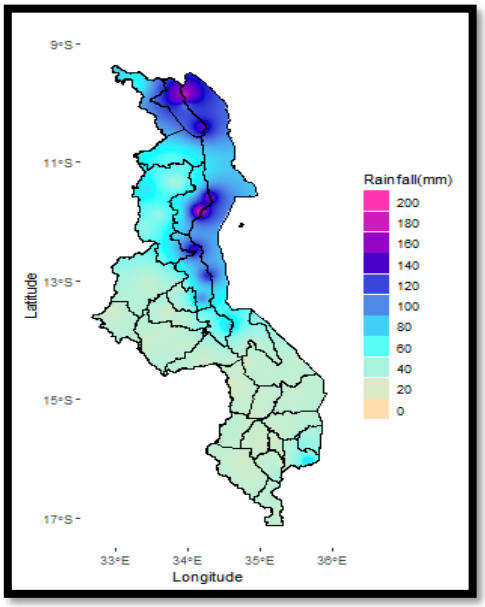

Figure 10: Dekadal forecast rainfall amounts for 01-10th April 2026

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND ADVISORIES

As heavy rains are expected to persist, particularly in the central and northern lakeshore districts, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures as excess rainfall may cause waterlogging, soil erosion, nutrient leaching, and crop damage. Farmers should also 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, ground nuts and 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 reduction in rainfall activities will provide an opportunity for harvesting and proper drying of already harvested crops