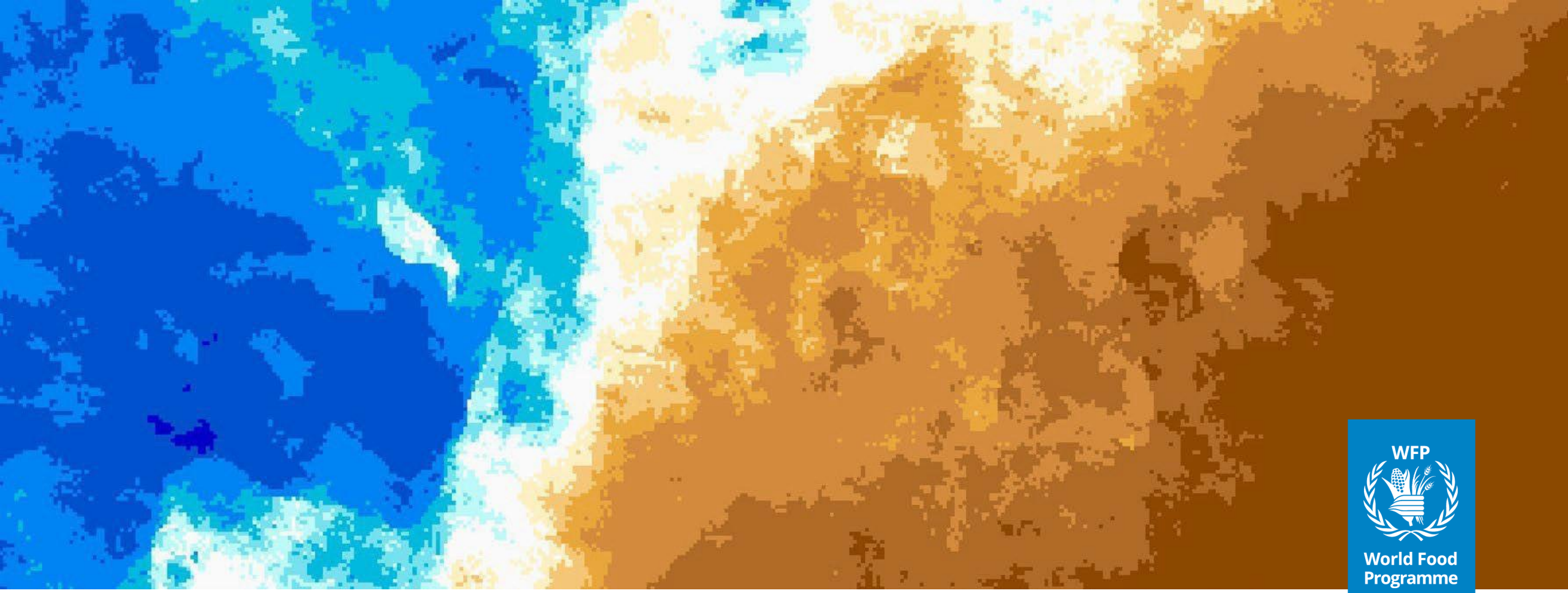


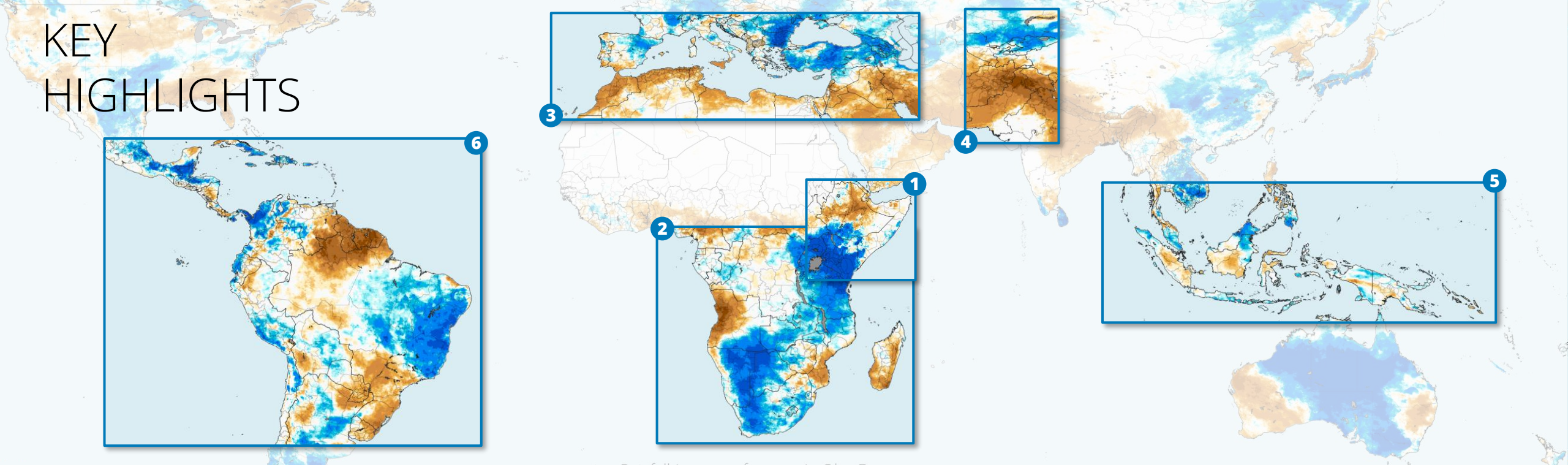
WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Global Seasonal Outlook

2026 February

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



1 HORN OF AFRICA

Rainfall outlook for March–May has improved across southern Somalia, eastern Kenya and parts of southern Ethiopia. However, depleted soil moisture and high temperatures may limit recovery and increase localized flood risk. Crop and pasture recovery will depend on how rainfall performs through March and April.

2 SOUTHERN AFRICA Cyclone Drought

Recent dry spells in parts of Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe may affect crops during key growth stages. Overall rainfall remains near to above average, but localized dryness persists. Cyclone activity remains active at near- to above-normal intensity.

3 MENA Drought

Conditions improved mid-season but have returned to dryness, with wetter conditions persisting in northern Syria and Turkey. Localized dryness is expected in southern Syria and northern Iraq, while above-average rainfall in the upstream areas of the Tigris-Euphrates basin may support irrigated agriculture in the coming months.

4 CENTRAL ASIA Drought Flood

Irregular winter precipitation and above-average temperatures may constrain water availability. Accelerated snowmelt increases flood and landslide risk in northeastern and central Afghanistan.

5 INDONESIA & PACIFIC Cyclone Flood

Above-average rainfall has caused flooding and landslides across Indonesia. As La Niña weakens, rainfall is expected to shift toward near- to below-average levels, easing overall rainfall-related stress, though localized heavy rainfall may persist. Tropical storm activity is expected to remain near normal for this period

6 LATAM Flood Drought

Wetter-than-average conditions in parts of South America may ease deficits but increase flood risk. In Central America and the Caribbean, the transition toward ENSO-neutral conditions and possible El Niño raises concerns about reduced rainfall during the upcoming wet season.

ENSO OUTLOOK

La Niña conditions persist, with a transition to ENSO-neutral expected between February-April 2026, likely persisting through the Northern Hemisphere summer period.

HORN OF AFRICA

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

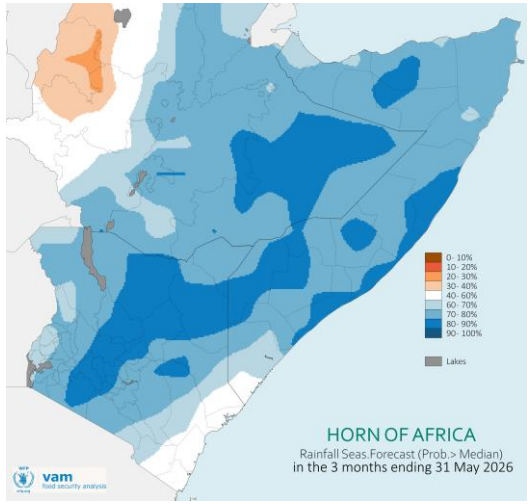
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HOA Long Rains, Ethiopia (Belg)			■	■	■							
HOA Short Rains										■	■	■

Improved Long Rains Outlook

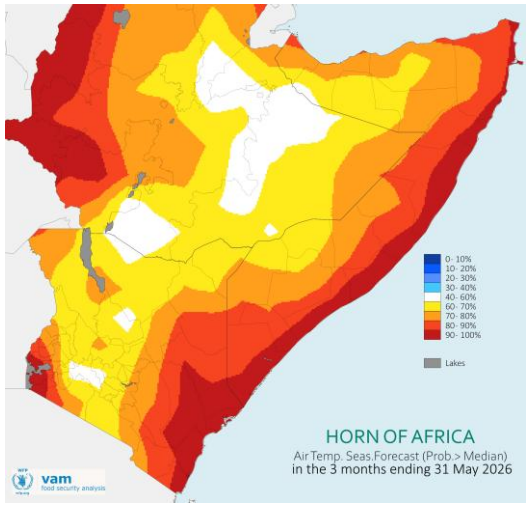
The March - May seasonal forecast shows average to above-average rainfall is likely across much of Somalia, Kenya, and southern and eastern Ethiopia. However, persistently above-average temperatures across the region will sustain elevated evaporation rates, reducing the efficiency of rainfall in replenishing soil moisture. Near-term forecasts suggest wetter-than-normal conditions over parts of Kenya and southwestern Ethiopia in the coming 10 days, which may signal an early seasonal onset in those areas.

The region enters the Long Rains season in a vulnerable state, with depleted soil moisture reserves and degraded rangeland conditions because of the poor October–December rains. While the risk of a widespread seasonal failure appears limited, the combination of fragile baseline conditions and high temperatures means that localized crop production deficits and continued stress in pastoral livelihoods cannot be ruled out.

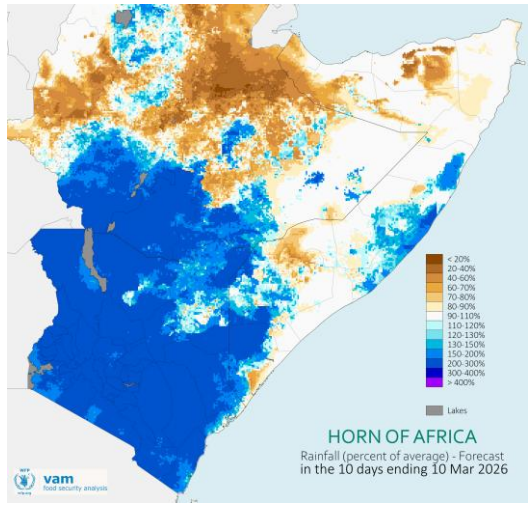
With a generally wetter seasonal outlook, heightened attention should be given to flood risk, particularly in flood-prone river basins and low-lying areas, particularly if rainfall occurs in intense episodes rather than being evenly distributed across the season.



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.



Temperature forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely colder (hotter) than usual conditions.



Rainfall **forecast** for the **10 days** ending 10 Mar 2026 as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Southern Africa												

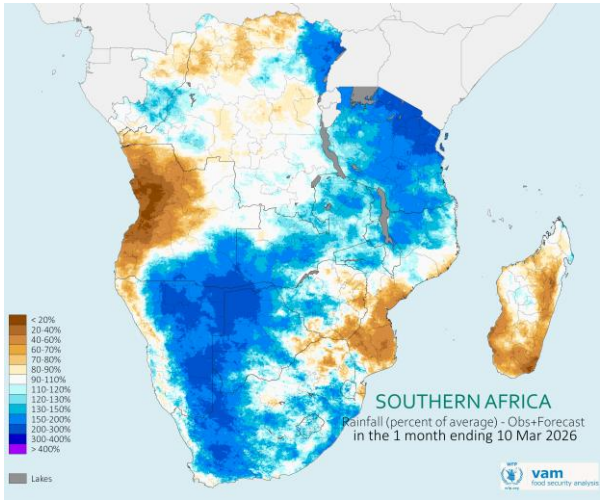
Mid-Season Dryness, Yet Favorable Crop Outlook Ahead

Between mid-January and mid-February, below-normal rainfall affected parts of southern Africa, with prolonged dry conditions posing the greatest concern in central, southern, and northeastern Mozambique, northern Zimbabwe, central Angola, southern Madagascar and northern South Africa. The timing of this dry spell, coinciding with critical crop growth stages, has raised concerns about moisture stress and potential yield losses in affected areas. In Mozambique, the situation has been further complicated by earlier flooding, leaving communities navigating rapid transitions between hazards with compounding effects on agriculture and livelihoods.

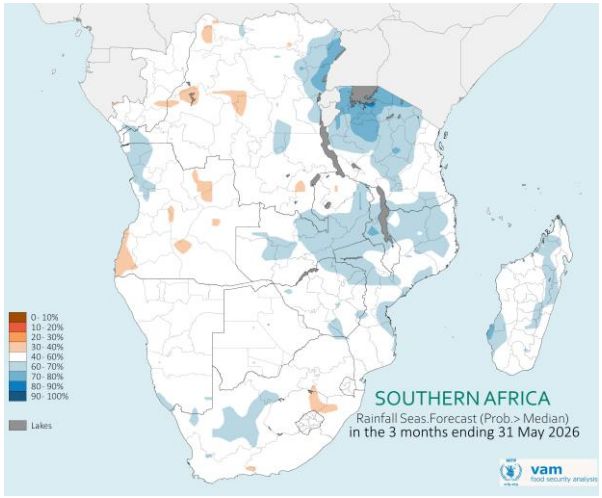
Despite these localized concerns, seasonal rainfall performance across the broader region has been largely average to above average, supporting a generally favorable outlook as countries move into the harvest period.

Forecasts for March to May point to a moderate likelihood of above-average rainfall in some areas, including eastern Zambia and northern Mozambique, while most of the region shows no clear signal.

Tropical Cyclone Gezani made landfall in Madagascar as a Category 4 system, the second cyclone to strike the country this season, bringing destructive winds and intense rainfall with significant humanitarian and agricultural implications. The 2025–26 South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season remains active and is tracking at normal to above-normal intensity levels. The season has already produced Cyclone Horacio, a Category 5 oceanic superstorm and the most intense system recorded so far. Although Horacio did not make landfall, its exceptional intensity highlights the severity of the current season and reinforces the need for continued close monitoring.



Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **ending 10 Mar 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTHERN AFRICA

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

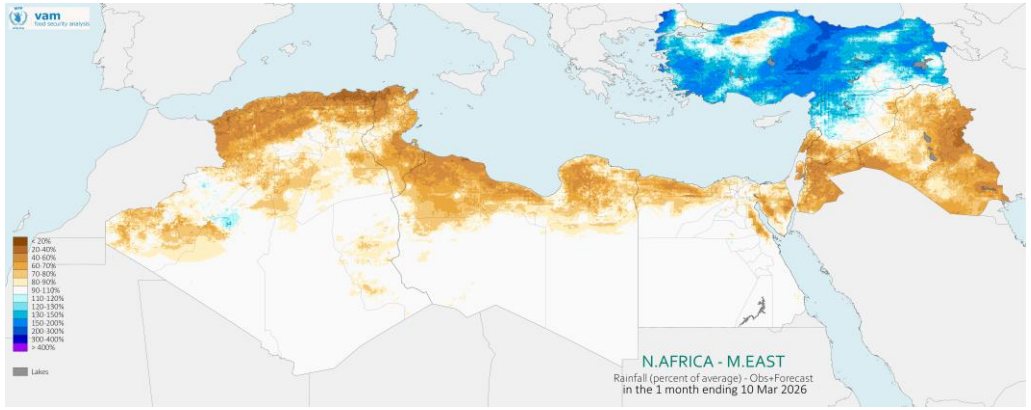
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MENA Region												

Mixed Winter Performance with Renewed Dry Signal

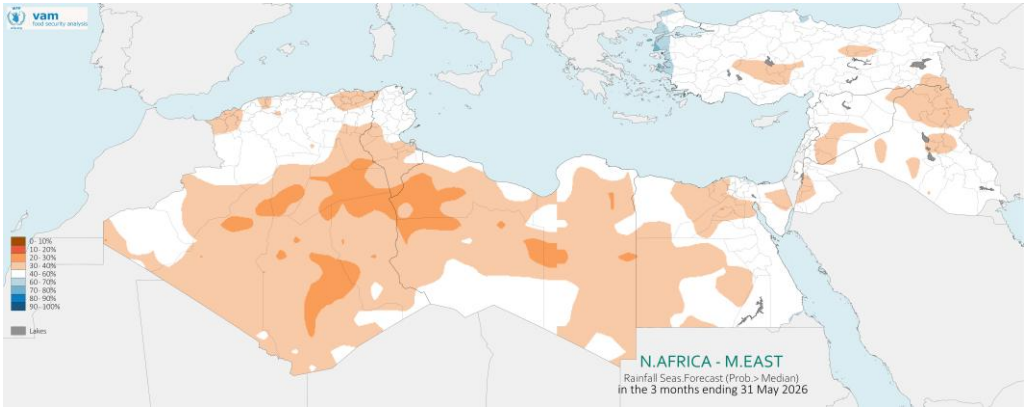
The 2025/26 winter season across the MENA region has followed a variable trajectory: after a dry onset, conditions improved markedly from December through early February, bringing beneficial rainfall to much of the region. However, a return to dry conditions from mid-February onward has mitigated that progress, with the exception of northern Syria and Turkey, where wetter conditions have persisted.

Short-term forecasts through early March are consistent with this pattern. Looking ahead, seasonal outlooks do not indicate clear regional trends, except for a likely tendency toward localized dry conditions in southern Syria and northern Iraq. Where spring rainfall underperforms, the agricultural gains accumulated during the wetter mid-season period may not fully translate into improved crop yields, a risk that warrants continued monitoring as the season progresses.

On a more favorable note, above-average rainfall in the upstream areas of the Tigris and Euphrates basins is expected to support water availability for irrigated agriculture in Syria and Iraq in the coming months.



Observed and forecast rainfall 1-month ending **10 Mar 2026**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

CENTRAL ASIA

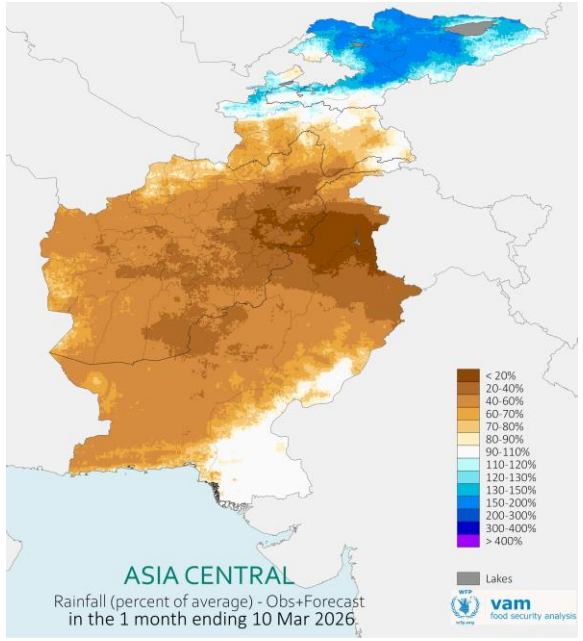
Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Central Asia												

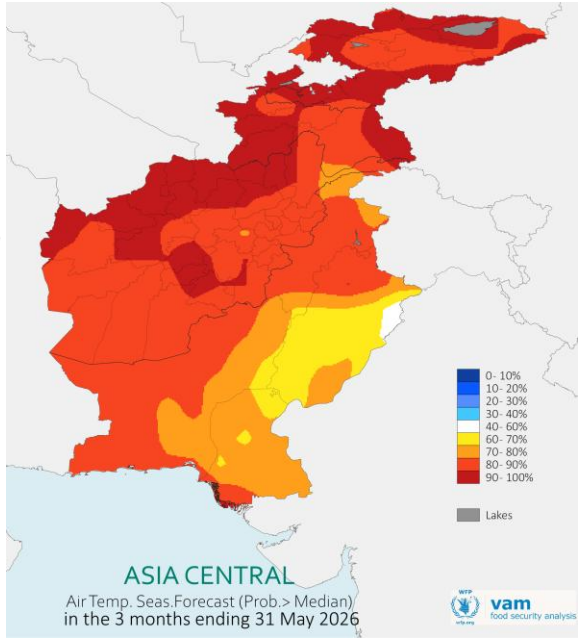
Uncertain Recovery Under Dry, Warm Outlook and Rising Flood Risk

Winter precipitation across the region has been irregular. Following a dry start to the season, rainfall and snowfall events between mid-January and early February offered partial recovery; however, significant moisture deficits persist, concentrated primarily in north-eastern Afghanistan and eastern Tajikistan. Snowpack conditions across Afghanistan remain highly uneven. Record-low accumulations have been recorded in the north-northeast, with only partial recovery in central basins. This points to an uneven spring and summer water supply for irrigation-dependent communities and agricultural systems, a concern that will require close monitoring as the melt season approaches.

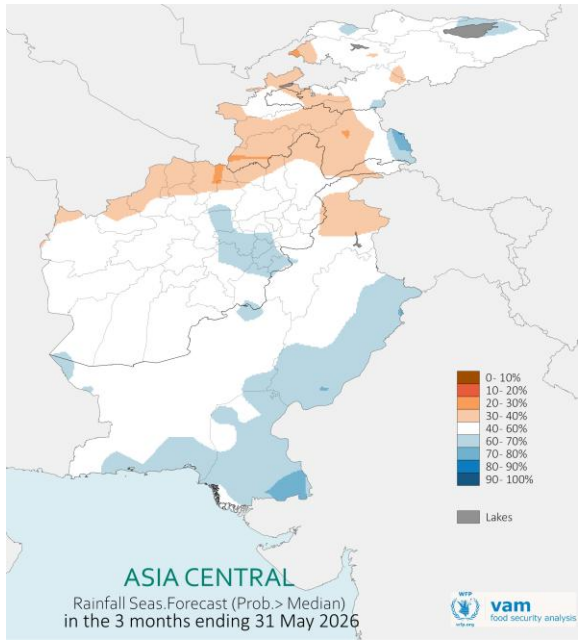
Near-term forecasts through early March indicate drier-than-normal conditions across much of the region. The March - May seasonal outlook compounds these concerns, projecting below-average rainfall across northern Afghanistan and most of Tajikistan alongside an elevated likelihood of above-average temperatures. The latter will likely accelerate snowmelt, elevating flood and landslide risk in northeastern and central areas during this period, while the northern highlands where snowpack remains low, face a reduced flood threat.



Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **ending 10 Mar 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.



Temperature forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely colder (hotter) than usual conditions.



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar - May 2026**, as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

INDONESIA & THE PACIFIC

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

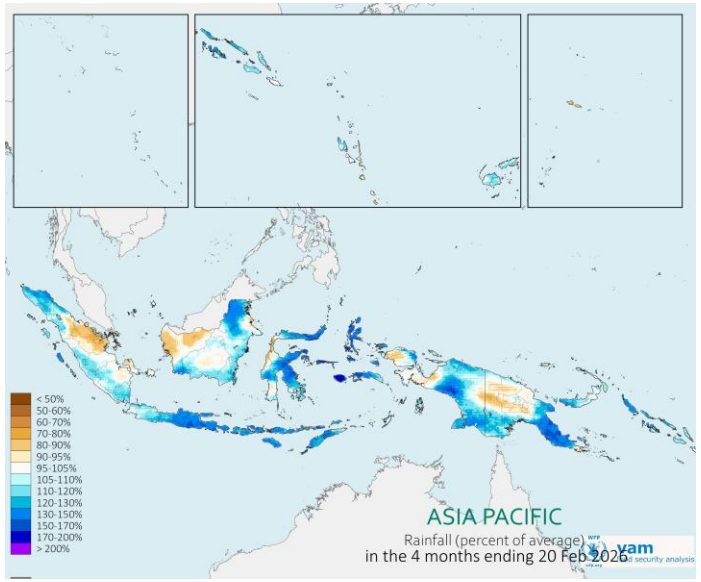
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indonesia and Pacific												

Transition Toward Drier Conditions After a Wet Period

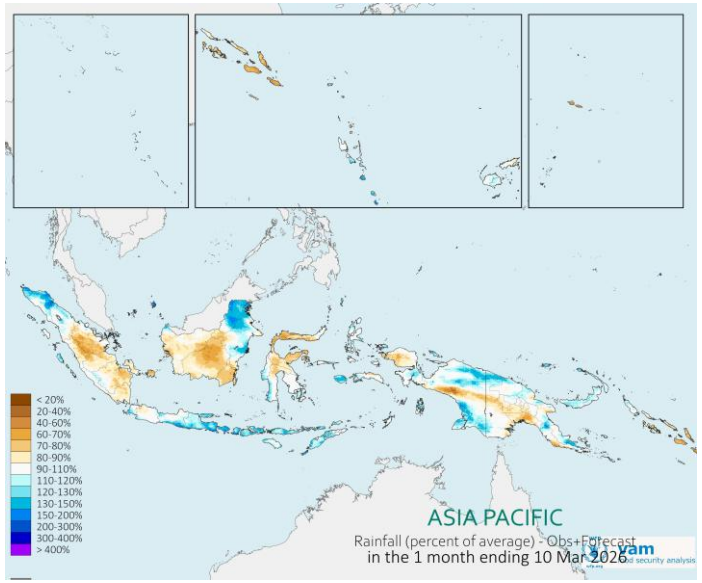
Recent months in Indonesia have been marked by above-average rainfall, leading to widespread flooding, landslides, and storm-related damage across Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Nusa Tenggara.

Seasonal forecasts point to a shift toward near- to below-average rainfall across much of the country as La Niña weakens and conditions transition toward ENSO-neutral. While localized heavy rainfall may still occur, overall rainfall-related stress is expected to ease.

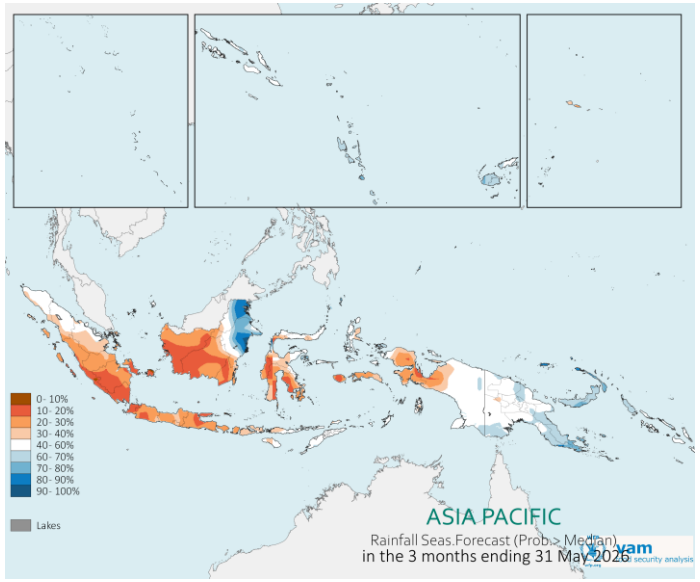
Tropical storm activity is projected to remain near normal, with occasional localized impacts, particularly in eastern Indonesia and areas north of the equator. Although direct cyclone landfalls are uncommon, eastern provinces remain exposed to increased rainfall, stronger winds, and coastal hazards due to their proximity to the Australian and Western Pacific cyclone basins, where nearby systems can influence local conditions even without making landfall.



Observed Rainfall for the 4-month **until 20 Feb 2026**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

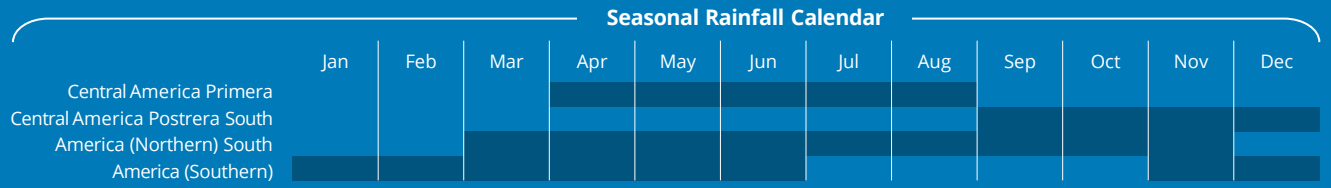


Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **until 10 Mar 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar - May 2026**, as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

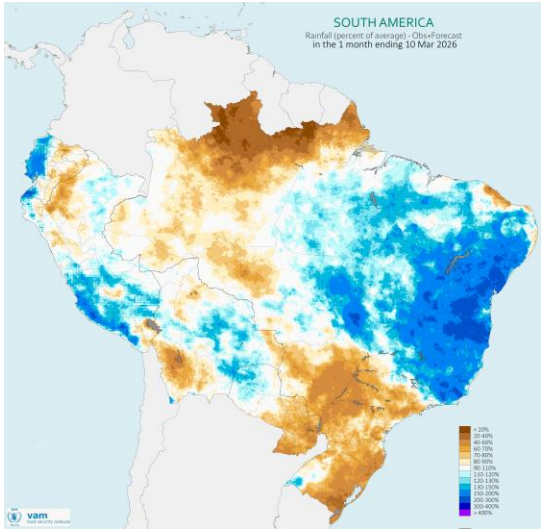
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



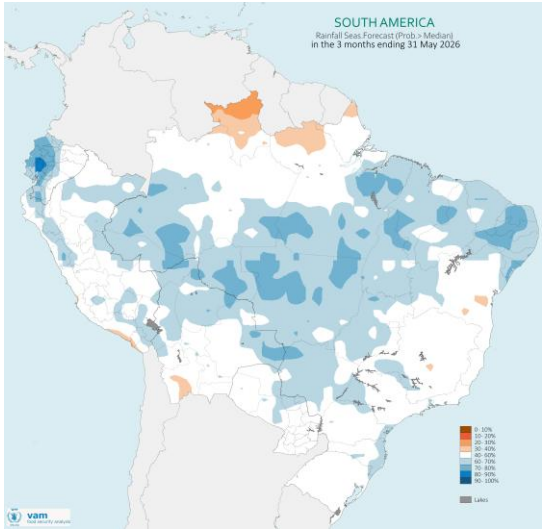
Contrasting Rainfall Outlooks Across the Region

South America: Rainfall patterns across South America since the onset of the rainy season have remained highly variable. Below average rainfall has prevailed over eastern portions of the continent while wetter conditions have affected parts of the west, particularly in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. This contrast has supported favourable vegetation conditions but also increased localized flood risk.

The outlook for the remainder of the rainy season indicates an increasing likelihood of above average rainfall across much of the continent. These wetter conditions could help alleviate existing deficits in some areas but also raise the risk of flooding in regions already experiencing saturated soils.

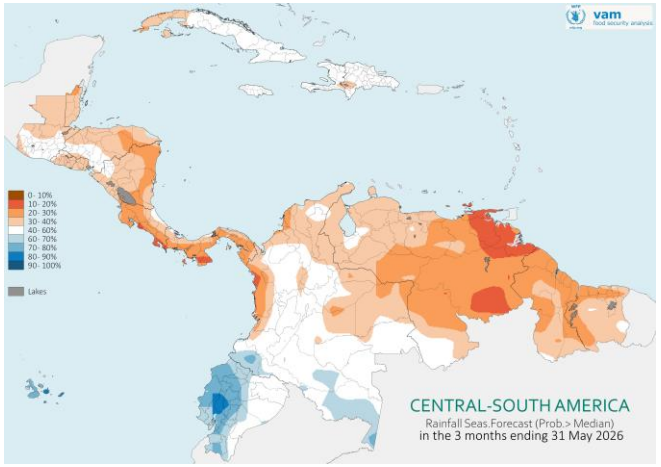


Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **ending 10 Mar 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.



Rainfall forecast for **Mar – May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual condition.

Central America and the Caribbean: The upcoming rainy season, typically beginning between March and April, is expected to be shaped by the ongoing transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions, with an increasing likelihood of El Niño later in the year. While recent agroclimatic conditions have generally been favourable despite periods of erratic rainfall, this shift raises concerns about reduced rainfall during the main wet season. Historically, El Niño is associated with drier-than-average conditions across much of the region and tends to suppress hurricane activity; however, anomalously warm North Atlantic waters may still enhance the potential for cyclone development and intensification.



Rainfall forecast for **Mar - May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual condition.

NOTES

All satellite data (rainfall, vegetation index and land surface temperature) both current and historical are stored and processed at the WFP-HQ Humanitarian Data Cube AWS cloud system.

Rainfall: Primary dekadal data (CHIRPS) from Univ California St Barbara Climate Hazards Centre (https://www.chc.ucsb.edu/data/chirps)
Various accumulations are computed on a dekadal basis and anomalies derived relative to a 25 year-long mean (1994-2018).

Land Surface Temperature: Primary data from MODIS-AQUA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled, both daytime and nighttime images. Thermal amplitude derived from difference between the two. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

Vegetation Index: Primary data from MODIS-AQUA and TERRA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

Seasonal Forecast: ECMWF seasonal forecasts **(SEAS5) |** The forecast anomalies are presented as the probability of exceeding the median, indicating the likelihood that seasonal precipitation will be above the median of the 24-year climatological distribution. These anomalies are derived from a 51-member forecast ensemble and are calculated relative to a 24-year model climatology (based on a 25-member ensemble reforecast) spanning 1993–2016

What is ENSO? ENSO is a recurring climate pattern in the equatorial Pacific, alternating between El Niño, La Niña, and Neutral phases. Shifts in ocean temperatures and atmospheric pressure during these phases influence global weather, affecting rainfall, temperatures, and the risk of extremes such as droughts, heavy rains, and tropical cyclones. (https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/)

Water level in reservoirs: G-REALM data from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

Flood Forecast: GLOFAS-Copernicus and GOOGLE Flood Hub

Prepared by: Irene Ferrari, Diego Oliveira De Souza, Gabriela Nobre, Giancarlo Pini, Anna Ong and Simon Renk

WFP World Food Programme

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