World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Seasonal Monitoring in Cambodia

February 2026

KEY MESSAGES

Seasonal rainfall over December–February indicated early onset of dryness conditions.

Cooler-than-normal temperatures in February in most areas, **but heat-stress days (≥35 °C) persisted for over two weeks in northern and eastern provinces,** posing localized risks to people, livestock, and vegetation**.**

River levels receded seasonally across all eight monitoring stations, with mixed deviations from long-term averages.

Soil moisture remained normal across most provinces, supporting favorable dry-season crop conditions.

Vegetation conditions in February were below average nationwide, especially in northern/eastern provinces, yet **most dry-season paddy areas remained generally healthy**.

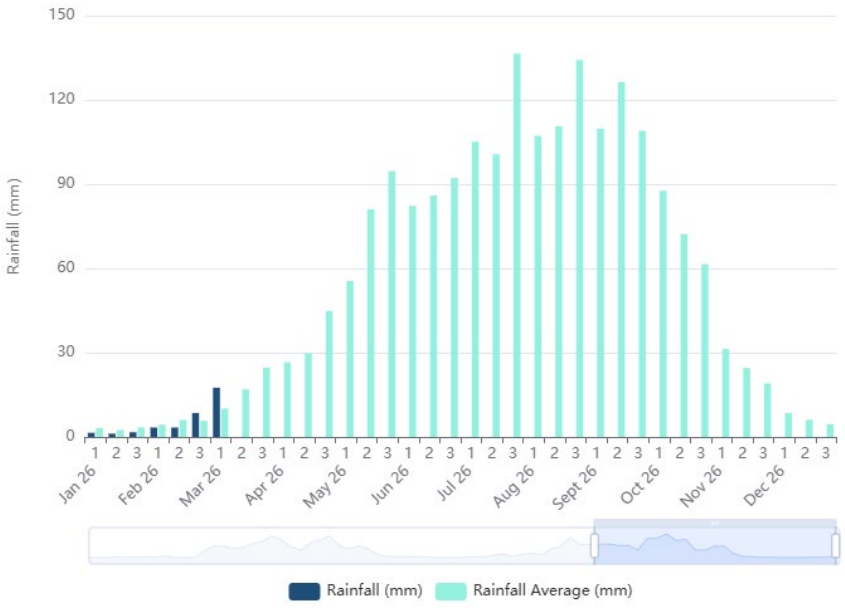
Seasonal Outlook: Rainfall is likely to be erratic from March–June. Above-normal temperatures are expected to rise in April and spread nationwide by May–June, indicating a warmer-than-usual season.

During the outlook period, continued monitoring MoWRAM updates is strongly advised to ensure timely awareness of **localized heat or rainfall variability extremes**. Preparedness efforts should prioritize **water-resource management**, **heat-stress risk awareness and prevention for people and livestock**, and **soil-moisture management** in agricultural activities to mitigate the effects of increased evaporation as temperatures rise.

RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

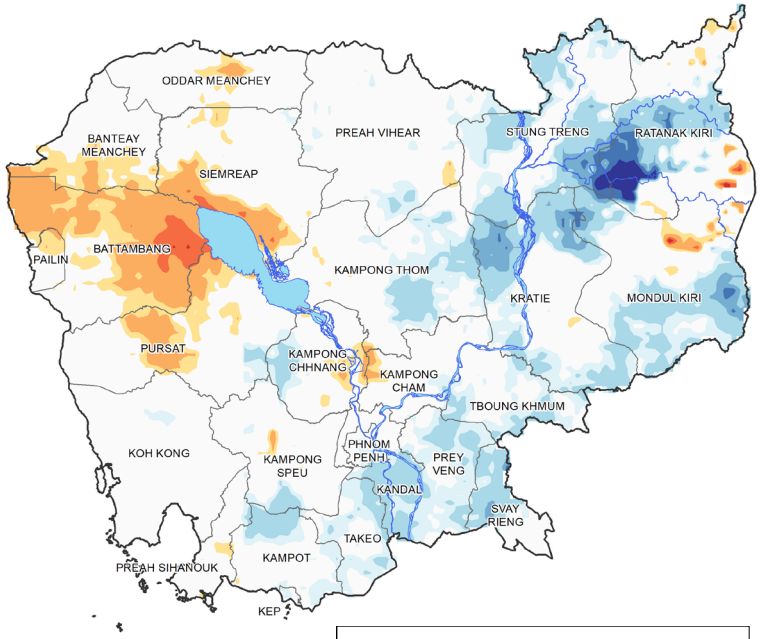
In February 2026, Cambodia generally received near to above normal rainfall, with moderate shortages in the western provinces (see SPI 1 map, below). Over the past three months (December 2025–February 2026), seasonal rainfall was moderately below normal in most parts of the country, except in the eastern provinces, which recorded near to above normal rainfall (see SPI 3 map, below). This pattern indicates the early onset of dryness conditions.

National-Average Rainfall Distribution
(From 1-28 February 2026)

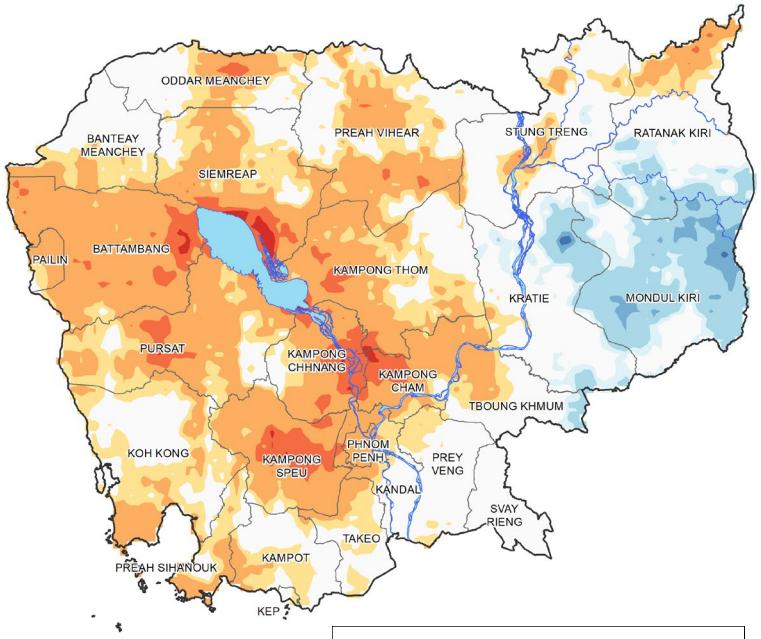


Source: Rainfall from CHIRPS and analysis by WFP.

1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-1)*
(1–28 February 2026)



3-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-3)*
(December 2025 – February 2026)

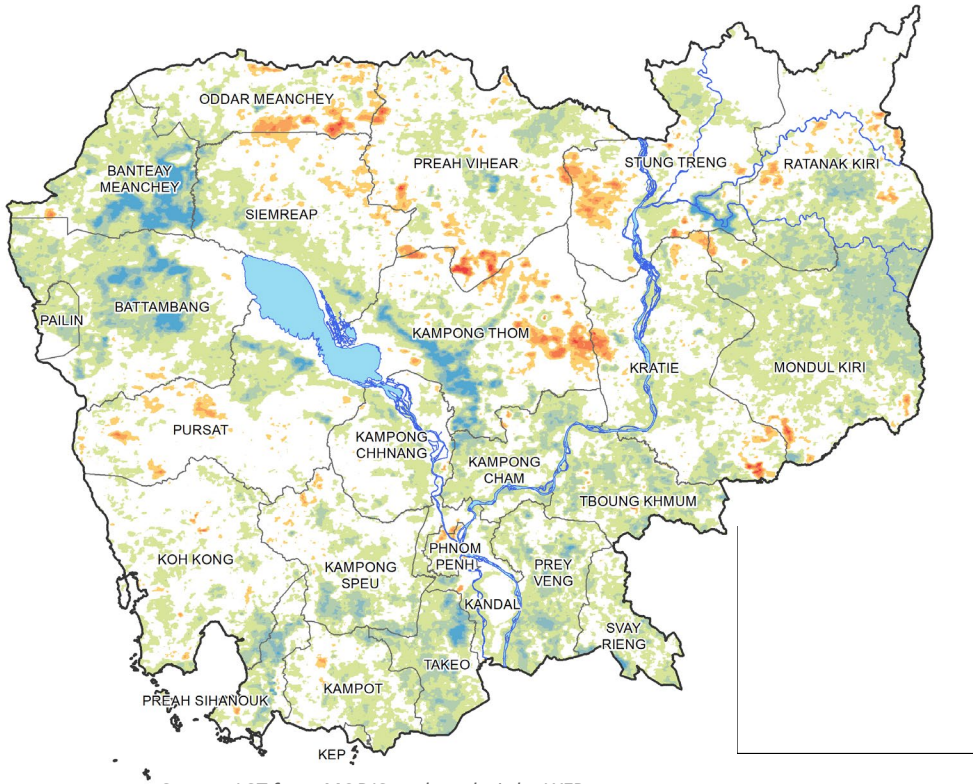


** Note: The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is a gold-standard meteorological drought indicator. A 1-month SPI (SPI-1) identifies short-term rainfall anomalies impacting immediate soil moisture and crop stress, while a 3-month SPI (SPI-3) captures short- to medium-term moisture deficits and early water scarcity—both of which are critical for rainfed agriculture and rural drinking water access.*

TEMPERATURE PATTERN

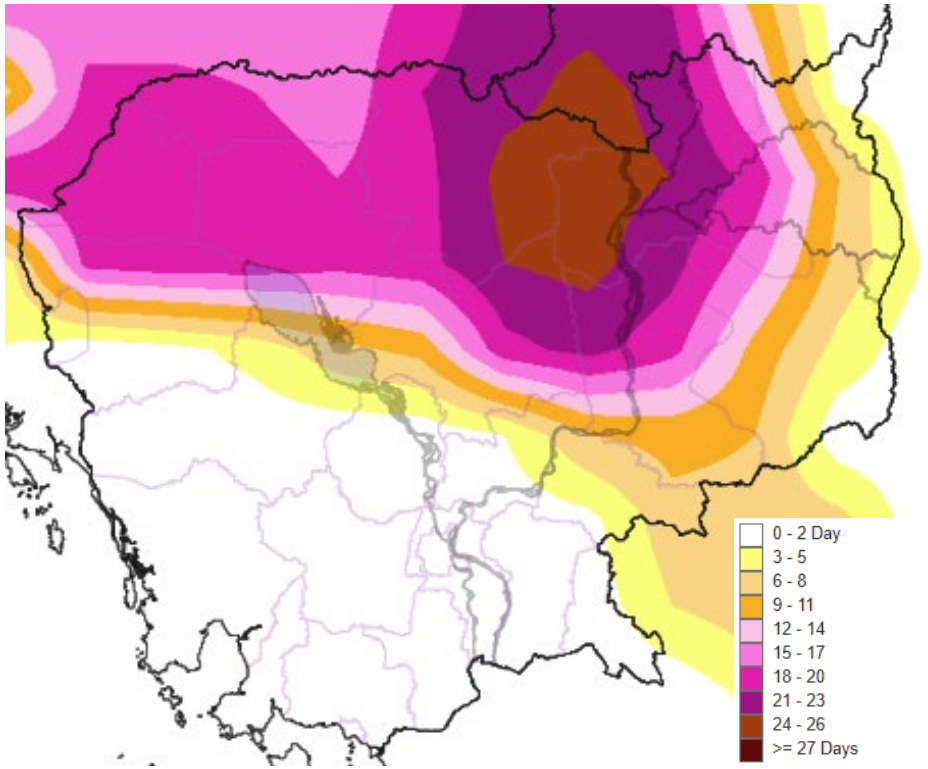
Land Surface Temperatures (LST) in February were generally cooler than normal across most provinces, with some localized warmer than normal areas (map below, left). Heat stress conditions (LST ≥ 35 °C) were detected in northern and eastern provinces, occurring for more than two weeks during the month (maps below, right). These prolonged warm spells may pose localized heat related risks for humans, livestock, and vegetation.

1-Month Land Surface Temperature (LST) Anomaly
(1–28 February 2026)



Source: LST from MODIS and analysis by WFP

Heat Stress Days (>= 35 °C)
(1–28 February 2026)



Source: USDA (NOAA-CPC)

RIVER WATER LEVELS

All eight river monitoring stations showed seasonal receding water levels throughout February, with minor deviations from long term averages.

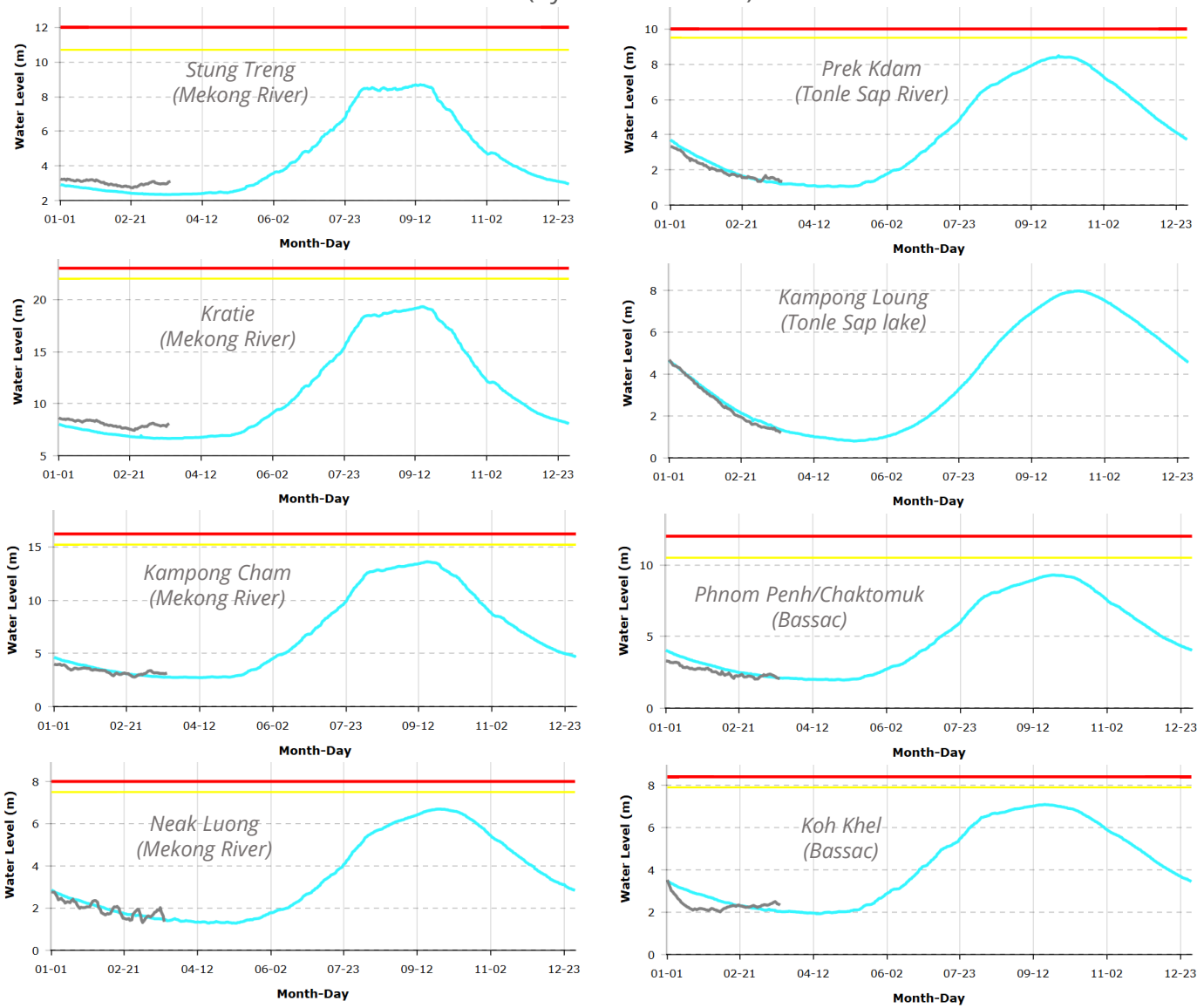
Along the Mekong River, water levels remained near to above long-term average at Stung Treng, Kratie, Kampong Cham, and Neak Loung, supported by higher rainfall in upstream catchments during February.

At the Tonle Sap Lake and Tonle Sap River stations (Kampong Loung, Prek Kdam), water levels remained close to long term averages.

Along the Bassac River, water levels showed mixed deviations at the Phnom Penh and Koh Khel stations.

River water level observed in 8 monitoring stations in Cambodia

(by 20 March 2026)



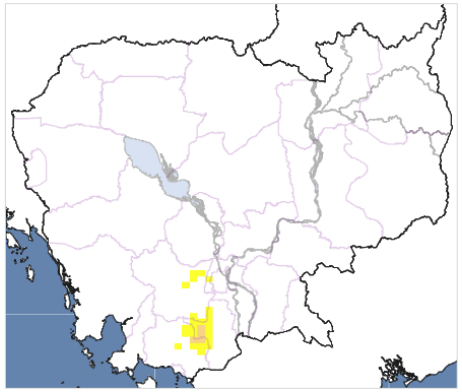
Source: MoWRAM's Department of Hydrology and River Works

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS

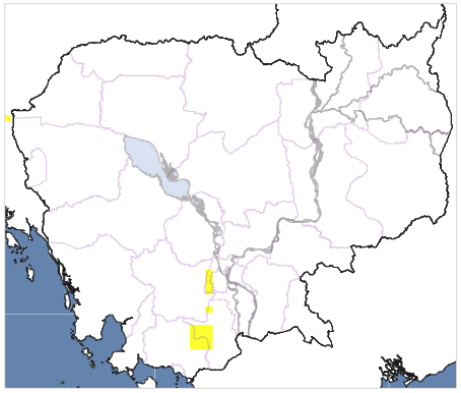
Soil moisture conditions remained generally normal across most of the country, supporting favorable dry season crop production (maps below).

Soil Moisture (Root zone: 0-100 cm) Anomaly

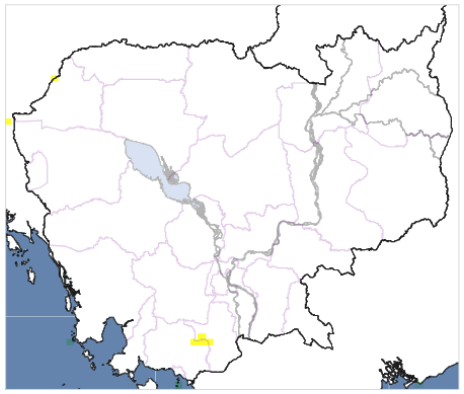
6 Feb 2026



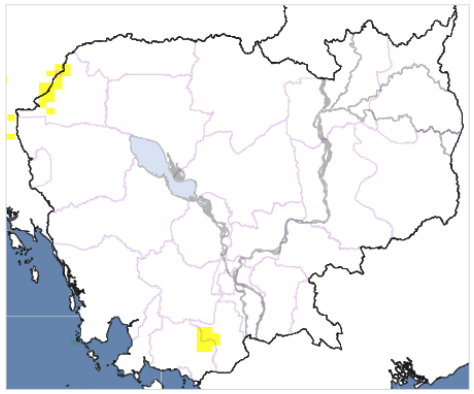
11 Feb 2026



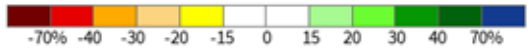
16 Feb 2026



21 Feb 2026



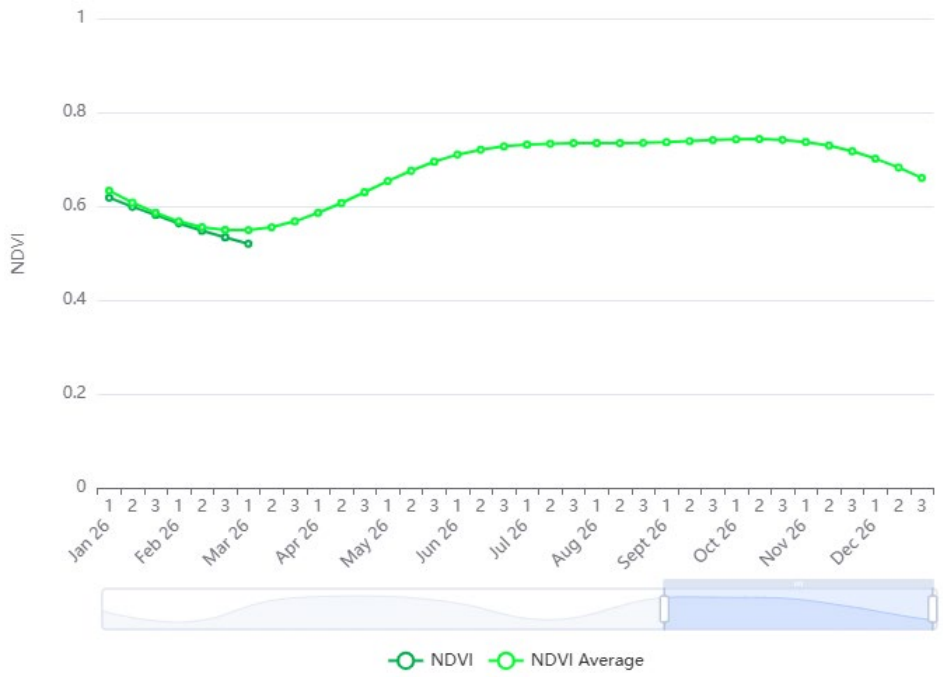
Source: USDA (NASA/GMAO SMAP)



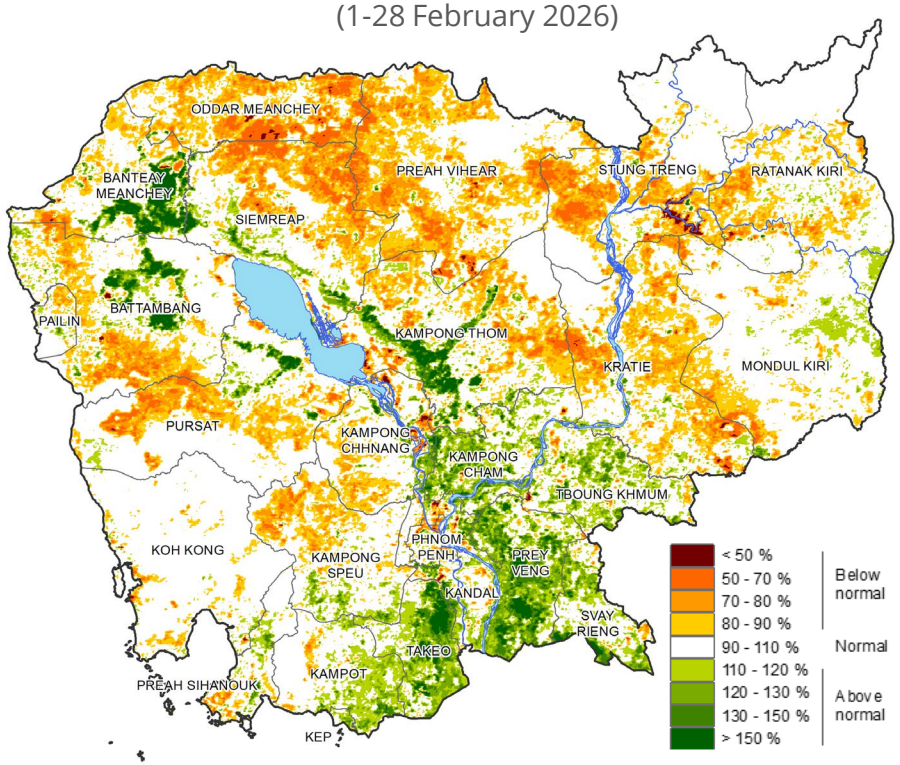
VEGETATION AND CROP CONDITIONS

Vegetation conditions in February were below the long-term average nationwide (chart below, left). The most affected areas were those experiencing higher temperatures, particularly northern and eastern provinces (map below, right). Despite these reductions, most dry season paddy producing areas—especially those surrounding the Tonle Sap Lake and across the southern plains—maintained generally healthy vegetation conditions.

National-Average NDVI
(From 1-28 February 2026)



1-Month NDVI Anomaly
(1-28 February 2026)



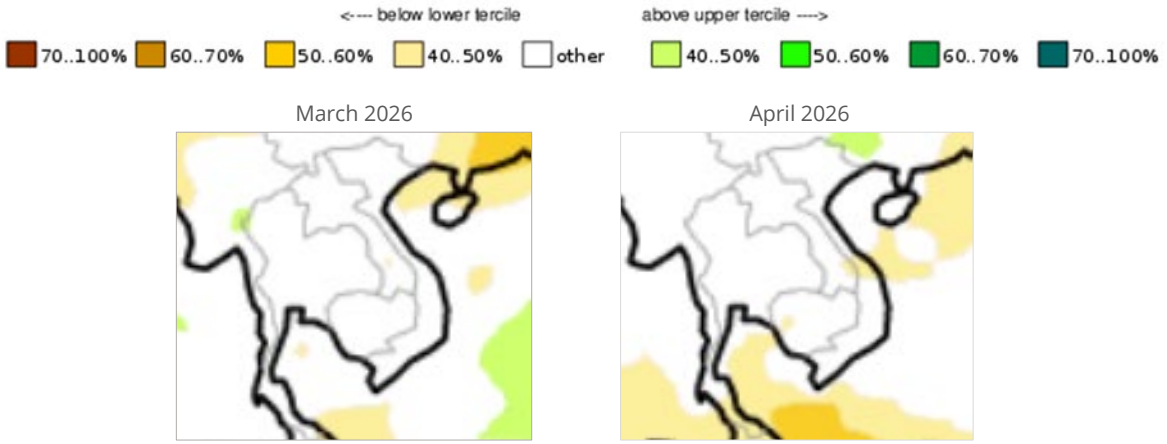
Source: NDVI from MODIS and analysis by WFP

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

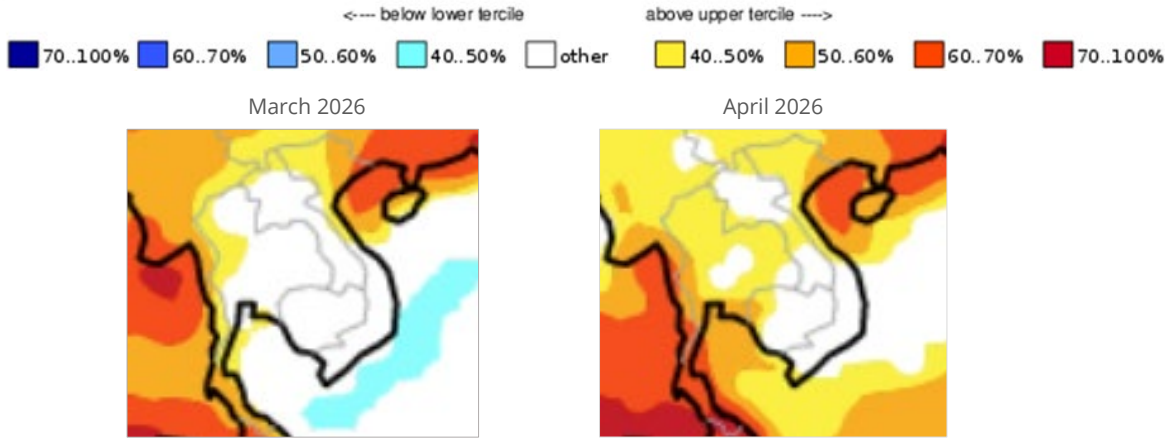
Seasonal forecasts show a low likelihood of either below or above normal rainfall for the upcoming four months (March–June 2026), indicating that rainfall may be erratic during this period. Above normal temperatures are likely to develop obviously first in the west in April, then expand across most of the country in May and June, signaling the onset of a warmer than usual seasonal pattern.

During this outlook period, continued monitoring is essential to anticipate localized or unexpected extremes related to rainfall variability and increased heat. This will enable timely preparedness and response.

Seasonal Rainfall Forecast



Seasonal Temperature Forecast



Source: ECMWF

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For further information:

WFP Cambodia - https://www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia