

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR *MASIKA* RAINFALL SEASON MARCH – MAY, 2026

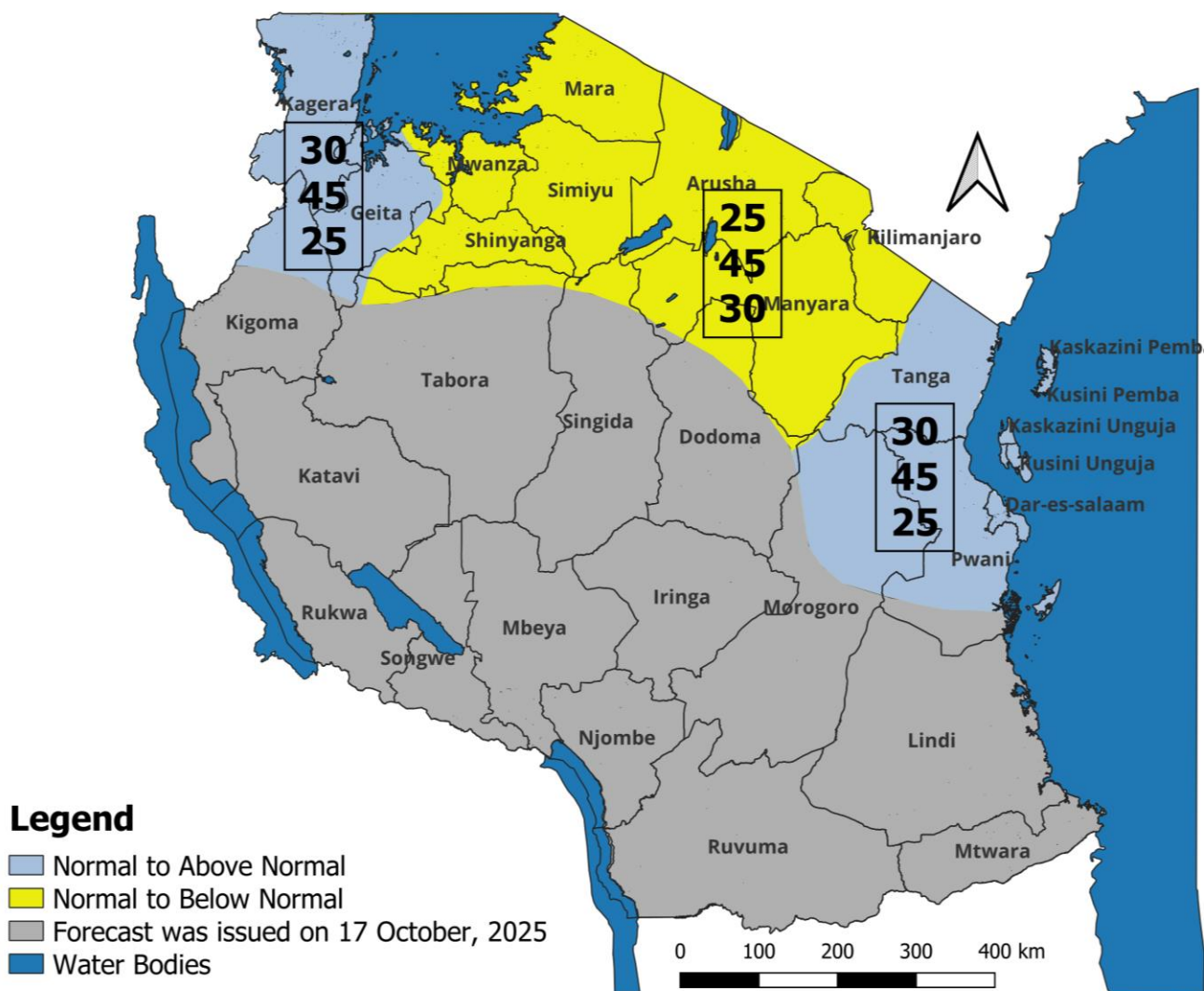


Figure 1: Rainfall Outlook for March to May, 2026.

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Highlights for *Masika* (March – May), 2026 Rainfall Season

This statement describes the evolution of climate systems and outlook for *Masika* rains, over the bimodal areas (Lake Victoria Basin, Northeastern Highlands, Northern Coast and northern part of Kigoma region) for the months of March to May, 2026. Advisories and early warnings have been provided to various weather sensitive sectors such as agriculture and food security, livestock and fisheries, natural resources, wildlife and tourism, energy and mineral, water, construction transport and transportation (land-roads and railway, marine and aviation), local authorities, health, private and disaster management. The outlook for *Masika* rains and associated impacts are as follows:

a) Outlook for *Masika* rains over bimodal areas:

- i. Normal to Above Normal rains are expected over most areas of the Northern Coast, western side of the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera and Geita regions) together with northern Kigoma. Meanwhile, Normal to Below Normal rains are expected over the North-eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) and some parts of the Lake Victoria Basin (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara and Simiyu regions).
- ii. The rains are expected to start during the fourth week of February and first week of March, 2026 over most areas of the Lake Victoria Basin; and during the first and second weeks of March over the Northern Coast; and during the second and third weeks of March, 2026 over the North-eastern highlands. The rains are expected to cease during the fourth week of May and first week of June 2026 over most bimodal areas.
- iii. Enhanced rainfall activities are expected during the month of April, 2026.

b) Expected Impacts

- i. Periods of excessive moisture and flooding may occur and affect crop growth particularly in some areas expecting to receive Normal to Above Normal rains.
- ii. Decrease in water levels of reservoirs and river flow is likely to occur over the areas where Normal to Below Normal rains are expected.
- iii. Disease outbreaks, particularly vector-borne and water-borne diseases are anticipated as a result of water contamination.

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1. PROGRESS FOR *MSIMU* RAINS (NOVEMBER, 2025 TO APRIL, 2026) AND OUTLOOK FOR *MASIKA* RAINS (MARCH – MAY), 2026

1.1 November, 2025 to April, 2026 (*Msimu*) season progress

Msimu rains over the unimodal areas issued in October, 2025 was forecasted to be Below Normal to Normal over Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Singida, and Dodoma regions. Additionally, Normal to Below Normal rainfall was expected over Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Mtwara, and Lindi regions, as well as the southern part of Morogoro region.

Seasonal rains were characterized by early onset during the fourth week of October and the first week of November 2025 over most areas of Western part of the country. Similarly, the Southwestern Highlands rainfall season commenced in the second week of November as forecasted. Furthermore, enhanced rains were observed during December over most unimodal areas. For the remaining period of the season (February to April, 2026), rainfall is expected to continue as forecasted.

1.2 Outlook for *Masika* rains (March – May), 2026

The *Masika* rainfall season is specific for Northeastern Highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), Northern Coast (northern part of Morogoro region, Pwani (including Mafia Isles), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba Isles), Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and the northern part of Kigoma region.

Based on the expected climate systems (as indicated in section 2 of this outlook), Normal to Above Normal rains are expected over most areas of the Northern Coast, western side of the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera and Geita regions) together with northern Kigoma. Meanwhile, Normal to Below Normal rains are expected over the Northeastern Highlands and some parts of the Lake Victoria Basin (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara and Simiyu regions). Furthermore, enhanced rainfall is anticipated in April, 2026. Details of the rainfall season are as follows:

i. *Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and northern part of Kigoma region (Kakonko and Kibondo districts):*

The *Masika* rains are expected to be Normal to Above Normal over the western parts of the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera and Geita regions) together with the northern part of Kigoma region, while Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara and Simiyu regions are expected to receive Normal to Below Normal rains. *Masika* rains are expected to start during the fourth week of February and the first week of March 2026 and cease during the third and fourth week of May, 2026.

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ii. **Northern Coast areas and its Hinterlands: (northern part of Morogoro region, Pwani (including Mafia Isles), Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions, Unguja and Pemba Isles):**

Normal to Above Normal rains are expected over most parts of the Northern Coast. Seasonal rains are expected to commence during the first and second weeks of March and cease in the fourth week of May and first week of June, 2026.

iii. **Northeastern Highlands: (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions):**

Normal to Below Normal rains are expected in these regions and are anticipated to start during the second and third weeks of March, 2026. Rains are expected to cease during the fourth week of May, 2026.

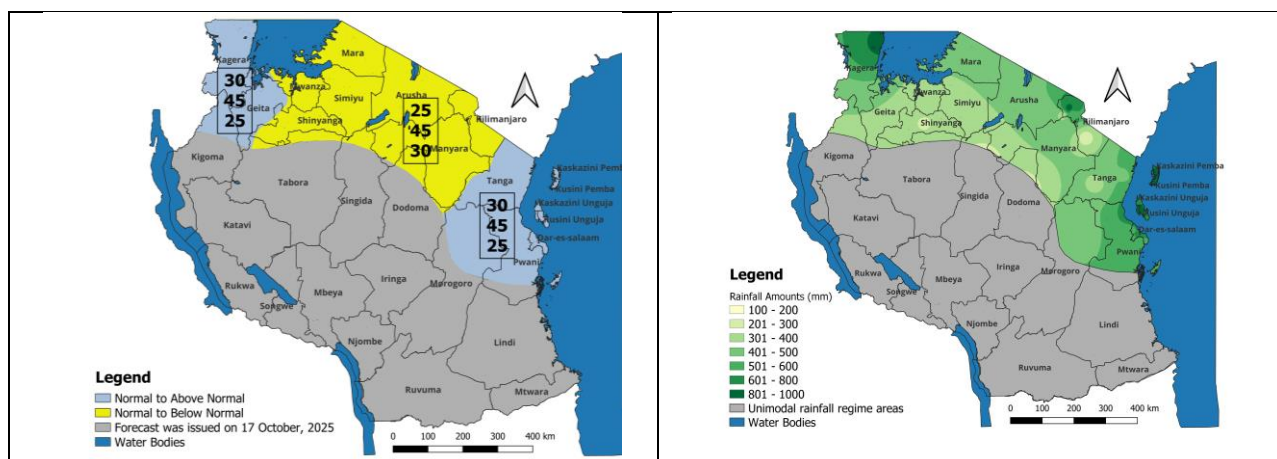


Figure 2: Left: Rainfall Outlook for Masika rains (March - May), 2026 and right: Long-term (30 years) average of March to May climatological rainfall (1991-2020).

Note 1: It should be noted that extreme weather events including incidences of heavy rainfall might occur even over areas expected to receive Normal to Below Normal rains.

Note 2: The seasonal rainfall outlook provided is focused on three months of the Masika rainy season and averaged over large spatial and temporal scales. Features and systems that influence small scales temporal and spatial climate variability will be addressed in the subsequent daily and monthly forecast. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day, monthly and warning updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

2. CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the eastern Tropical Indian Ocean (coast of Indonesia) are expected to be slightly warmer than average, while that of the western Indian Ocean (off

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the East African coast) is expected to be neutral. This condition is likely to slightly reduce moisture inflow into the coastal areas of our country and the adjacent hinterland.

Likewise, SSTs over the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean are expected to remain neutral to slightly warmer than average, the condition indicating less influence on rainfall patterns in our country.

On the other hand, weak and localized low-level westerly wind anomalies are expected over eastern Congo, particularly toward the end of the season. This condition may enhance moisture advection into the western parts of the Lake Victoria Basin, thereby slightly enhancing rainfall making mechanisms over those areas.

3. LIKELY IMPACTS AND ADVISORIES

Sectoral impacts and advisories provided hereunder were jointly developed by TMA and experts from respective sectors during the stakeholders meeting held on 2nd February, 2026, and media forum held on 4th February, 2026. Stakeholders from various social and economic sectors are advised to utilize tailor-made products provided by TMA during planning and implementations of their activities.

a) Agriculture and Food Security

Periods of excessive soil moisture and flooding are likely to occur in areas forecasted to receive Normal to Above Normal rainfall. This condition may adversely affect crop development due to waterlogging and the leaching of essential soil nutrients. Additionally, the risk of pest such as rodents and termites, and disease outbreaks particularly fungal infections is expected to rise, posing a threat to key crops such as bananas, maize, beans, cassava, and paddy. In contrast, areas anticipated to receive Normal to Below Normal rainfall may experience moisture stress, which could affect crop growth and development and reduce yields for rain-fed crops.

Farmers are advised to prepare their fields timely, plant, weed, and use appropriate inputs while considering soil moisture conditions. They should also apply best practices and technologies to prevent waterlogging in fields, soil erosion and leaching caused by prolonged water stagnation or flooding and conserve water on farms for the areas expected to receive Normal to Below Normal rainfall. Likewise, it is advised to strengthen agricultural infrastructure and to control pests and diseases in a timely manner in order to reduce potential damage. In addition, farmers are encouraged to use rainwater harvesting methods so that the water can be used for irrigation during the dry season.

Farmers are advised to seek accurate information from extension officers by taking into account the downscaled seasonal forecast of their respective districts when preparing and selecting appropriate crops, seeds, and agricultural inputs. In addition, farmers, extension officers, and other agricultural stakeholders such as researchers are encouraged to continue monitoring and using daily and dekadal (ten-day) forecasts in order to carry out agricultural activities effectively and accurately.

b) Livestock and Fishery

In areas expected to receive Normal to Below Normal rains suppression of rainfall may occur and affect availability of water and pasture for livestock leading to potential conflicts between pastoralists and other land users. However, in areas expected to receive Normal to Above Normal rains, livestock keepers and fishers are likely to benefit from availability of pasture, water and food for fish. In addition, seaweed farming may be affected due to a reduction in seawater salinity. However, outbreaks of livestock diseases such as Rift Valley fever, an increase in tick-borne diseases, challenges related to rising worm infestations, and breeding of vector-borne insects may occur.

Livestock keepers are advised to put in place good plans for the use and conservation of water and animal feeds. In addition, pastoralists and fishers are advised to use weather forecast updates and adhere to the advice provided by extension officers to minimize possible adverse impacts and capitalize on expected favorable conditions during the season.

c) Tourism and Wildlife

Scarcity of pasture and water for wildlife in parks and game reserves are expected in areas where Normal to Below Normal rainfall is likely. This condition may trigger conflict between wildlife and the neighboring community. However, excessive rains may cause stagnation and spread of water and lead to the migration of wildlife, particularly in areas expected to receive Normal to Above Normal rainfall. This condition is likely to trigger diseases transmission from wildlife to domestic animals due to wildlife entering community areas surrounding the parks and game reserves. Also, this situation can cause danger to humans and domestic animals due to attacks by wild animals.

The relevant authorities are advised to improve various infrastructure in the parks and game reserves and raise awareness among the community to take appropriate actions due to the likely impacts. Therefore, the community is advised to provide information to the relevant authorities once wildlife enters in their residential areas.

d) Construction

The construction sector is expected to benefit, particularly in areas anticipated to receive Normal to Below Normal rainfall during this *Masika* season. On the other hand, in areas expected to receive Normal to Above Normal rainfall, construction activities, especially work program may be affected, construction costs may increase, and this could lead to delays in the completion of some projects. Stakeholders in the construction sector are advised to take this forecast into account, and also to follow and effectively use the daily weather forecast when planning work schedules and implementing construction projects.

e) Transport and Transportation

Generally, Transport and Transportation Sector is likely to benefit from the expected Normal to Below Normal rains during the *Masika* season. On the other hand, in areas anticipated to feature Normal to Above Normal rains, road and railways infrastructure may be affected. These may cause increased number of accidents for land transport, delay and cancelation of flights, marine vessels leading to the increase of operational costs for aviation and maritime services. Stakeholders in this sector are advised to take appropriate measures, including making effective use of daily weather forecast, taking safety precautions and regular inspections of transport and transportation infrastructure, in order to reduce potential impacts that may arise.

f) Energy, Water and Mineral

Decrease in water levels of reservoirs and river flow is likely to occur over the areas where Normal to Below Normal rains is expected. Areas expected to receive Normal to Above Normal rainfall are likely to experience an increase of water levels in reservoirs and river flow leading to flooding especially in flood prone areas.

Water scarcity may significantly increase the cost of water treatment for domestic uses. In addition, flooding may lead to increased costs of water treatment due to the contamination of water sources. Sustainable use of water resources is highly recommended especially for irrigation, hydro power generation, mineral processing, industrial and domestic uses. Moreover, communities, and Water and Energy authorities are advised to take necessary precautionary measures to avoid adverse impacts that may affect water and energy infrastructures.

g) Local Authorities

Reduced water availability for domestic use, agriculture and livestock is anticipated in areas expected to receive Normal to Below Normal rains. Local Authorities are urged to enhance

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and maintain clean water distribution systems to ensure adequate supply to households and other critical sectors. During the rainy season, short periods of heavy rain can cause water stagnation and flooding, which may lead to infrastructure damage and loss of lives and properties. Local authorities are advised to improve water drainage systems to reduce effects that may be caused by floods. Provision of education and awareness to the communities on the measures that need to be taken are recommended.

Meanwhile, the relevant authorities are advised to enhance awareness among the Council Management Team (CMT) through its legally established meetings, the Councilors' Council, and the District Advisory Committee meetings, regarding the expected seasonal rainfall conditions, and to encourage the preparation of sector-specific plans and budgets in order to enhance preparedness and reduce potential impacts. Furthermore, we advise City Authorities and Local Government Authorities to put in place long-term plans to enhance communities' capacity to cope with climate/weather variability and change. This includes strengthening Disaster Management Committees from the village level up to the district level to oversee and reduce the associated impacts.

h) Health

In areas where Normal to Below Normal rains are expected, communities may be forced to utilize contaminated water. Therefore, responsible authorities and communities are advised to take appropriate health measures needed to minimize the expected negative impacts on health. Areas where Normal to Above normal rains are expected, destruction of water infrastructure due to water stagnation and surface runoff in human settlements may cause water contamination and may trigger disease outbreaks; such as vector and water borne diseases.

Relevant authorities responsible for public health and individuals are advised to take necessary health precautions, with special consideration for vulnerable groups, needed to minimize the expected negative impacts on health such as destroying mosquito-breeding sites, encouraging the community to treat water before using it, drinking clean and safe water and ensure enough stock of medications and other health facilities.

i) Private Sector

Agribusiness activities and industrial production may be affected due to reduction of agricultural raw materials induced by Normal to Below Normal rains expected over some areas. This situation may lead to increased costs for the acquisition of raw materials and operations. In addition, deficit of rain may also affect the quality of products such as pole trees, wood, meat, and honey.

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The Private Sector is advised to partner with various experts including meteorologists to mitigate potential impacts. Banking, microcredits and insurance institutions are advised to prepare and provide specific services to stakeholders to build resilience in business.

j) Disaster Management

Reduced rainfall condition is expected in some areas, particularly those anticipated to receive normal to below-normal rainfall. These conditions may lead to shortages of clean and safe water, reduced agricultural production, and limited pasture for livestock. At the same time, short periods of heavy rainfall are also anticipated, which could trigger floods and landslides. Such events may result in damage to infrastructure and the environment, outbreaks of disease, and the loss of property and lives. In light of these risks, the Disaster Management Department, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders across the country, is urged to continue coordinating and implementing plans to mitigate potential impacts.

In addition, the Environmental Sector together with Disaster Management Committees at the regional, district, ward, and village/street levels are advised to take appropriate measures, including providing awareness in line with relevant policies, laws, procedures, and guidelines that will help in preventing/reducing impacts, preparedness, response, and recovery when disasters occur, as well as promoting food storage and preservation within communities.

k) Media

Journalists are advised to make follow-ups and obtain accurate weather forecasts and warnings issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) to provide timely information with the aim of educating the public about potential weather-related impacts. It is important to note that, in accordance with the Tanzania Meteorological Authority Act No. 2 of 2019, it is a legal offence to disseminate weather-related information obtained from unofficial sources.

Journalists are advised to seek and make use of sectoral advice from relevant experts to prepare and disseminate sector-wide articles and reports in simple language with the aim of informing and educating the public on the effective use of the forecast to mitigate the effects of the adverse weather conditions.

TMA advises all users of this climate outlook including farmers, livestock keepers, wildlife conservation authorities, hydrological and health sectors to continue seeking and utilizing appropriate sectoral experts' advice.

TMA will continue to monitor developments of the weather systems and issue updates whenever appropriate. Users are encouraged to consult TMA for specialized outlooks and forecast on relevant sectors so as to suit their specific needs.

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By Tanzania Meteorological Authority

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