TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

SEASONAL WEATHER FORECAST

No. 41 Special Issue: November, 2026 to April (NDJFMA) 2027 Rain Season *Forecast issued on 23rd October, 2026*

HIGHLIGHT

- The "***Msimu***", 2026/2027 season is more likely to be influenced by Very Strong El-Niño conditions, particularly during the first half of the season (November, 2026- January, 2027).
- Above Normal to Normal rains are expected over Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Singida, Dodoma, Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe and Rukwa regions, together with the southern part of Morogoro region. However, Normal to Above Normal rains are expected over Ruvuma, Mtwara and Lindi regions.
- Rains are expected to commence during the fourth week of October, 2026 over some areas of Tabora, Katavi, Kigoma, Lindi and Mtwara regions, spreading to other unimodal areas in November, 2026. The rains are expected to cease during the third and fourth weeks of April 2027 over most areas.
- The first half of the season (November, 2026- January, 2027) is expected to be wetter than the second half (February-April, 2027).

CLIMATE SYSTEM OUTLOOK FOR MSIMU RAINS (NOVEMBER, 2026 - APRIL, 2027)

During this season, the above normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are expected to persist over the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean, signifying the continuation of strong El-Niño conditions. Moreover, the above normal SSTs are expected over the Western Indian Ocean relative to the eastern Indian Ocean, particularly during November 2026 to January 2027. This scenario is likely to favor moderate to strong positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions. The slightly above normal SSTs are also anticipated over the Eastern Atlantic Ocean, off the Angola coast.

Enhanced low level moist westerly winds from the Congo Forest towards the country are expected to prevail during the season, particularly the first half of the season. This condition is expected to enhance convergence of winds along the central and western parts of the country and further strengthen the rainfall-making mechanisms over those areas.

These ocean-atmosphere conditions are expected to enhance the rainfall making mechanisms over most parts the country.

SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR MSIMU RAINS (NOVEMBER, 2026 - APRIL,

The "***Msimu***" rainfall season is specific for the western, central, southwestern highlands, southern region, southern coast and southern part of Morogoro region. These regions experience unimodal rainfall regime, which starts in November and ends between April and May of the following year.

Based on the current and expected climate systems, there is an elevated chance of above normal to normal rains over Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Singida, Dodoma, Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe, and Rukwa regions together with the southern part of Morogoro region. However, normal to above normal rains are expected over Ruvuma, Mtwara and Lindi regions.

The rains are expected to start during the fourth week of October, 2026 over some areas of Tabora, Katavi, Kigoma, Mtwara and Lindi regions and spreading to other unimodal areas in November, 2026. Msimu rains are expected to cease during the third and fourth week of April, 2027 over most areas.

The first half of the season (November, 2026 - January, 2027) is expected to be relatively wetter than the second half (February - April, 2027). The details of the "***Msimu***" rainfall season are as follows:

Western areas (Tabora, Katavi and Kigoma regions):

Above normal to normal rains are anticipated to start during the fourth week of October and first week of November, 2026 and cease in the fourth week of April and first week of May, 2027.

Western areas (Tabora, Katavi and Kigoma regions):
Above normal to normal rains are anticipated to start during the fourth week of October and first week of November, 2026 and cease in the fourth week of April and first week of May, 2027.

Central areas (Singida and Dodoma regions):
Above normal to normal rains are expected to start during the second and third week of November, 2026 and cease in the third and fourth week of April, 2027.

Southwestern Highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe regions and southern part of Morogoro region):
Above normal to normal rains are expected to commence during the first and second week of November, 2026 and cessation is expected in the fourth week of April and first week of May, 2027.

Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions):
Normal to above normal rains are expected to commence during the fourth week of October and first week of November, 2026. Rains are expected to cease in the third and fourth week of April, 2027.

Southern Region (Ruvuma region):
Normal to above normal rains are likely to commence during the first and second week of December, 2026 and are expected to cease in the third and fourth week of April, 2027.

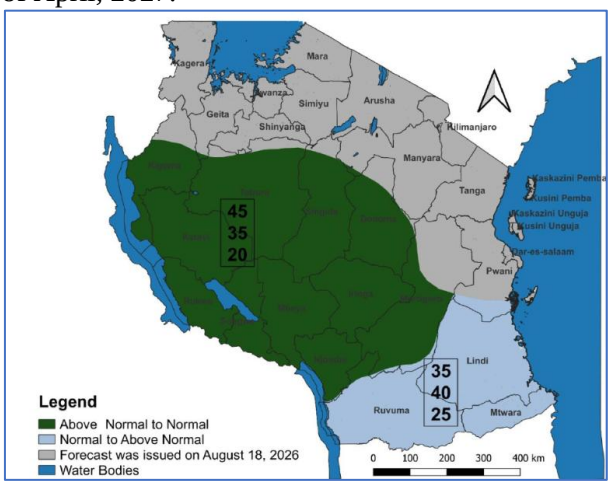


Figure 1: Rainfall outlook for November, 2025 to April, 2026.

EXPECTED IMPACTS AND ADVISORY DURING MSIMU RAINS (NOVEMBER, 2026 - APRIL, 2027)

Agriculture, Fishery, Livestock and Wildlife Production

The anticipated above normal to normal rains in most areas may result into periods of excessive soil moisture, water logging and flooding that may eventually adversely affect crop growth and damage agricultural infrastructure. The incidence of crop diseases caused by fungal, bacterial, and viral pathogens are expected to increase. These diseases can affect growth, quality and yields of various crops, especially potatoes, sunflowers, beans, sesame, fruits and vegetables. Farmers are advised to prepare their fields, plant, weeding, and apply appropriate agricultural inputs timely. Furthermore, they are encouraged to adopt improved farming practices and technologies, including the construction of drainage channels, contour farming, and raised beds to prevent waterlogging, soil erosion, and loss of soil fertility.

Livestock keepers and fishers are likely to benefit from increased availability of pasture and fish feed, which may boost production. However, wetter condition and stagnant water may increase the risk of livestock disease outbreaks, such as Rift Valley fever and foot rot, as well as breeding of vector-borne insects. Livestock keepers are advised to practice good animal husbandry in order to conserve pasture and harvest rainwater for future use. The community is advised to put in place good plan for management and conservation of water and animal feeds.

The availability of pasture and water for wildlife in parks and game reserves is expected to be good. However, excessive rainfall may lead to water stagnation and widespread flooding, which could lead to migration of wildlife into community areas. This condition is likely to trigger the risk of disease transmission from wildlife to domestic animals as wildlife entering community areas surrounding parks and game reserves. Such movements may also increase the likelihood of human-wildlife conflicts, posing risks to both people and livestock. The relevant authorities are advised to improve various infrastructures, such as roads and water drainage channels in wildlife reserves and raise community awareness on preventing and responding to human-wildlife conflicts.

NOTE 3: *The seasonal rainfall outlook provided is focused on six months of the "**Msimu**" 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 and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).*