

BULLETIN

Malawi rainy seasons
2026-27 and 2027-28

ENSO-based seasonal-to-decadal predictions for the Humanitarian sector

Earth Sciences
Department



www.aspect-project.eu

SUMMARY

The ENSO forecast points to El Niño conditions during the 2026-27 rainy season (November to April) and neutral conditions for the 2027-28 rainy season.

- **2026-27 rainy season:** El Niño conditions are related to warmer-than-normal conditions over Malawi, wetter-than-normal conditions over the Northern regions and drier-than-normal conditions over the Central and Southern regions.
- **2027-28 rainy season:** near-normal temperatures predicted over Malawi, with near-normal precipitation over the Northern region and drier-than-normal conditions over most of the Central and Southern regions.



If you have queries or feedback, contact us:

hello-aspect@bsc.es



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101081460. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the ASPECT project and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.



USER GUIDE

CLIMATE INDICATORS

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average of daily near-surface air temperatures during November to April

TOTAL PRECIPITATION

Total precipitation from November to April

STANDARDISED PRECIPITATION AND EVAPOTRANSPIRATION INDEX (SPEI6)

Index that assesses water availability for the plants by comparing the balance between precipitation and potential evapotranspiration during the rainy season (November-April). SPEI6 reflects moisture conditions over the previous 6 months, which is useful to predict agricultural drought

NIÑO3.4

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index. Correlated with local climate conditions in Malawi.

TIME SCALES

SEAMLESS SEASONAL-TO-DECADAL PREDICTIONS

Continuous forecasts of climate conditions for the next months to years. Results are shown for the best decadal prediction members constrained with the seasonal prediction ensemble mean.

LEGENDS

PREDICTIONS

Climate predictions are shown using terciles, which represent three categories - below normal, normal, and above normal - and the probabilities of each category to occur. The most likely tercile refers to the tercile with more probability to occur. The 'near-normal' category refers to the average conditions for a variable or indicator in a particular time of the year. In the past, the probability of each tercile is considered to be the same (that is, one third). This is what we call the climatology.

FORECAST QUALITY

No quality forecast (indicated with a mask in the maps) means that past predictions were not better than climatology, and it is indicated with a cross on the map. In these cases, the use of the climatology (or business as usual) is recommended. When the prediction has quality, it means that using the prediction is better than using the climatology.



SEASONAL-TO-DECADAL

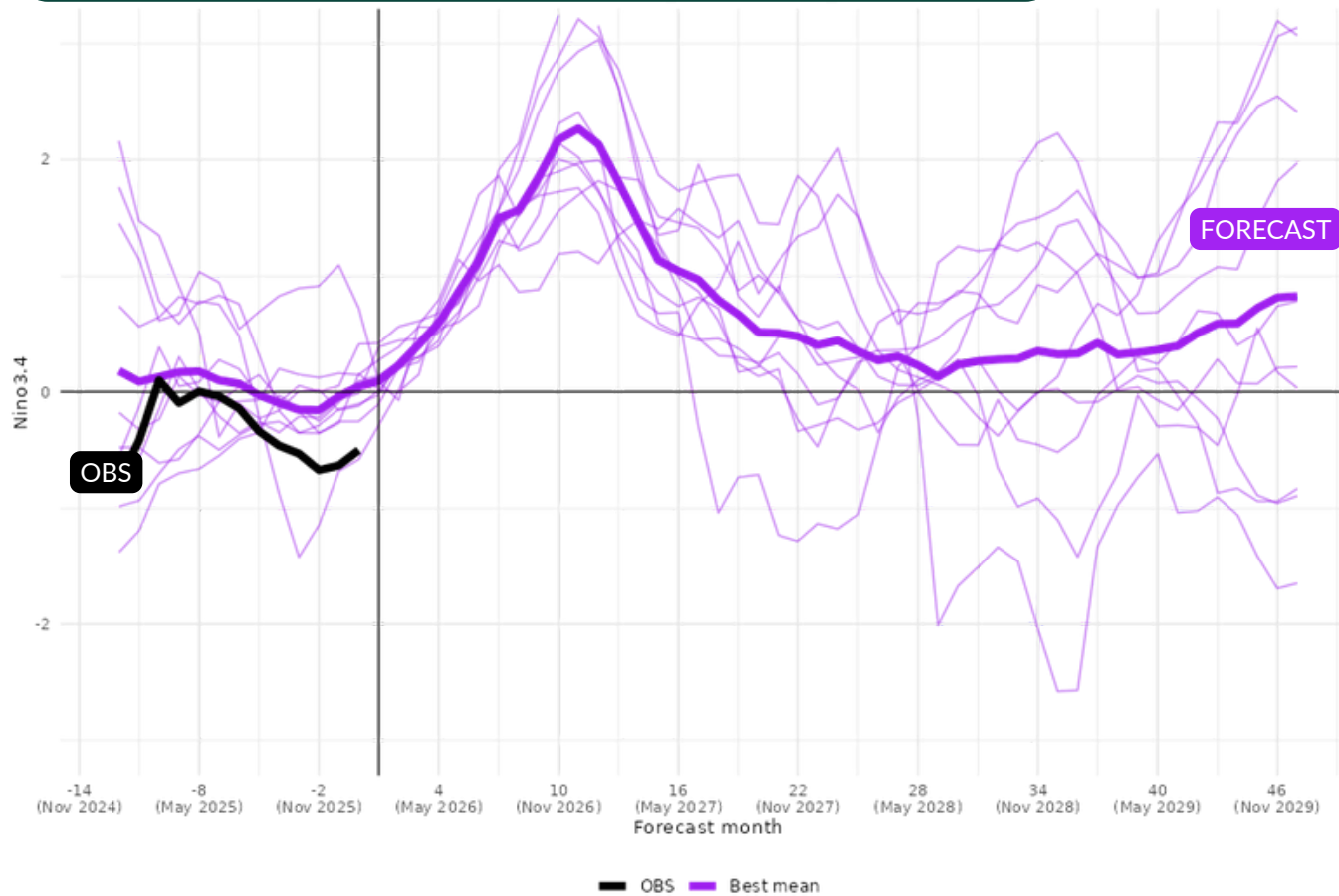
Model start date: **February 2026**

Selection method: **SP-based**

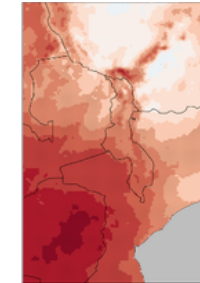
Reference dataset: **ERA5**

Reference period: **1981-2025**

ENSO FORECAST

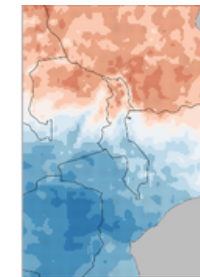


TEMPERATURE TELECONNECTION



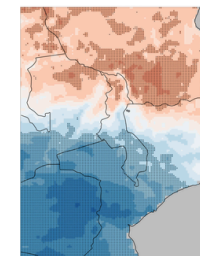
El Niño conditions are related to warmer than normal conditions

PRECIPITATION TELECONNECTION



El Niño conditions are associated with above normal precipitation over the North, and below normal precipitation over the South

DROUGHT TELECONNECTION



El Niño conditions are related to wetter than normal conditions over the North, and drier than normal conditions over the South



The forecasts point to El Niño conditions during the 2026-2027 rainy season, and neutral conditions during the 2027-2028 rainy season (November-April) in Malawi



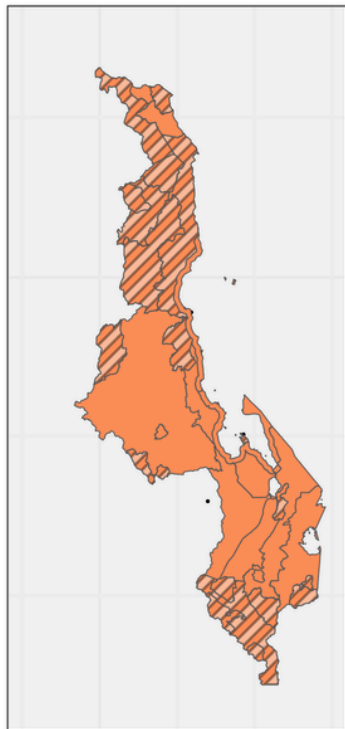
SEASONAL-TO-DECADAL

Model start date: **February 2026** Selection method: **SP-based** Reference dataset: **ERA5** Reference period: **1981-2025**

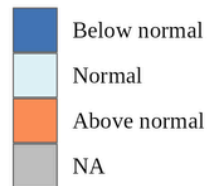
2026-2027 rainy season - Most likely tercile

masked areas indicate no quality forecast

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

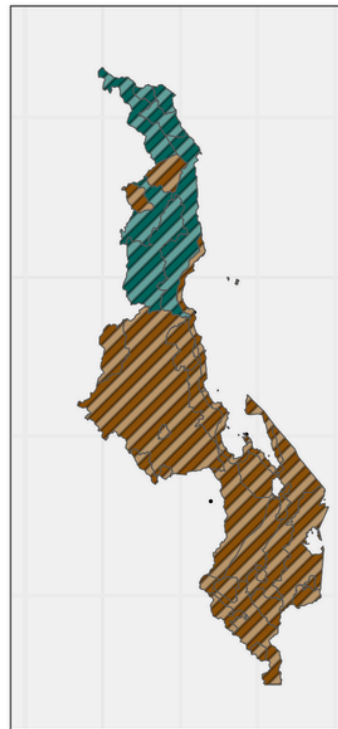


Most likely tercile

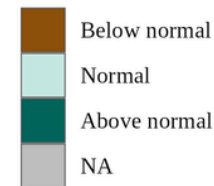


Near-normal temperature conditions over the whole country.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION

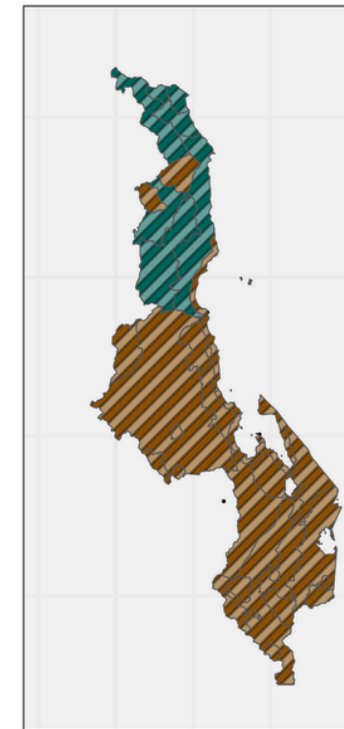


Most likely tercile

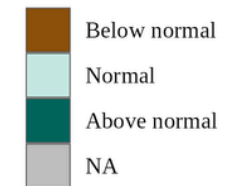


Above-normal precipitation over the Northern region, and below-normal precipitation over most zones of the Central and Southern regions. The forecast issued in February 2026 shows no quality.

SPEI6



Most likely tercile



Above-normal precipitation over the Northern region, and below-normal precipitation over most zones of the Central and Southern regions. The forecast issued in February 2026 shows no quality.



SEASONAL-TO-DECADAL

Model start date: **February 2026** Selection method: **SP-based** Reference dataset: **ERA5** Reference period: **1981-2025**

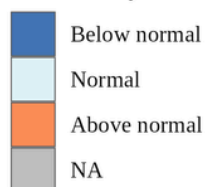
2027-2028 rainy season - Most likely tercile

masked areas indicate no quality forecast

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

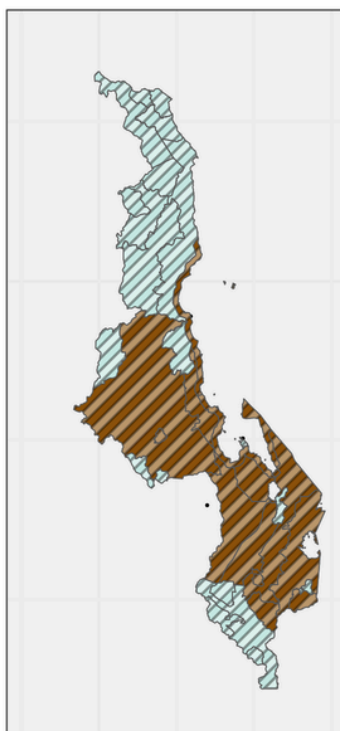


Most likely tercile

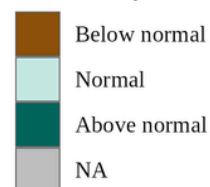


Near-normal temperature conditions over the whole country. The forecast issued in February 2026 shows no quality.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION

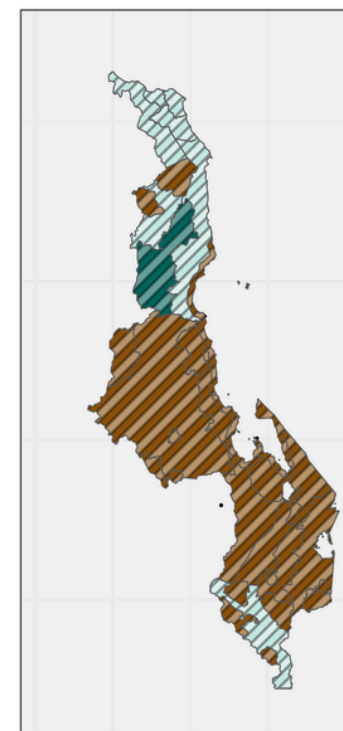


Most likely tercile

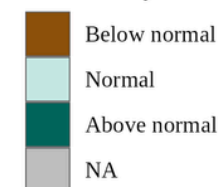


Near-normal precipitation over the Northern region, and below-normal precipitation over most zones of the Central and Southern regions. The forecast issued in February 2026 shows no quality.

SPEI6



Most likely tercile



Drier-than-normal conditions over most of the zones of the Central and Southern regions. The forecast issued in February 2026 shows no quality.