

THE SEASONAL CLIMATE FORECAST FOR JUNE TO AUGUST 2026 OVER UGANDA PRESS RELEASE

29th May 2026

1.0. OVERVIEW

Country men and women, I would like to bring to your attention the seasonal forecast for the upcoming season of June to August 2026. As you are aware, Uganda experiences two major rainfall seasons, namely; March-April-May (MAM) and September-October-November-December (SOND), as the first and second rainy seasons, respectively. However, Northern and parts of Eastern Uganda usually receive substantial rainfall during the June-July-August (JJA) season. The two major rainfall seasons are separated by two dry periods, namely; December to February, and June to August for the southern sector. Today, we are officially releasing the seasonal forecast for June-July-August 2026 rainfall season.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, through the Department of Meteorological Services produces weather and climate forecasts and information for different sectors, including aviation, marine transport, water resources management, agriculture, health, national defence and security, disaster preparedness, and other developmental activities to support planning and decision making for sustainable development.

2.0 CLIMATE DRIVERS FOR JJA 2026 SEASON

The major climate drivers that are expected to influence the rainfall outlook for JJA 2026 over Uganda are;

- i. The current warm state of the Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the equatorial Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean (**El Nino tendency**) is expected to suppress the JJA rainfall over most parts of the country;

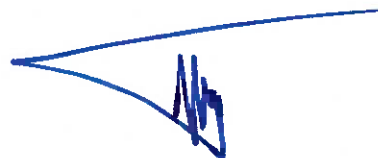


- ii. The intra-seasonal variation of the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO), which is characterized by an eastward-moving pulse of clouds and rainfall, among others in the tropics is likely to affect the timing and distribution of rainfall over some parts of the country during the season;
- iii. The relative position of the meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is expected to play a major role in positioning the Congo Air Boundary (CAB) over the northern and eastern region resulting into enhancement of rainfall during the season;
- iv. Topographic features such as mountains are expected to cause orographic uplift that increases precipitation on the windward side, whereas large water bodies and vegetation are expected to influence sub regional and local climate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Ministry of Water and Environment has generated a detailed seasonal rainfall outlook for JJA 2026 season as provided below.

3.0 GENERAL FORECAST

Overall, the JJA 2026 climate outlook indicates that most parts of the country are expected to receive **near normal to below normal (near average to below average)** rainfall (Figure 1a), and temperatures are expected to be **warmer than average** (Figure 1b).



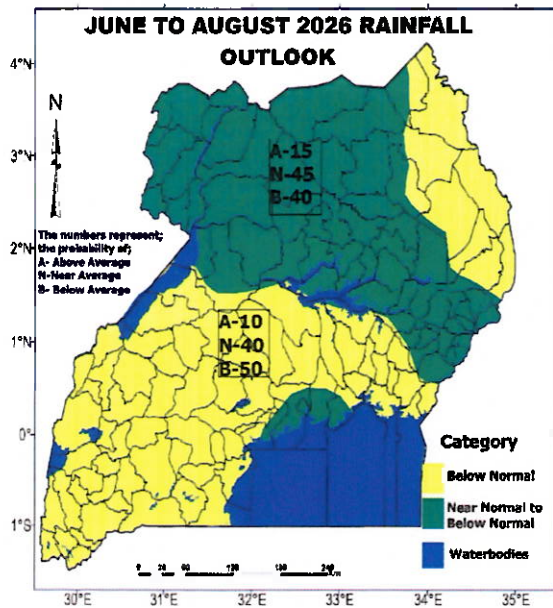


Figure 1a: JJA 2026 seasonal rainfall outlook

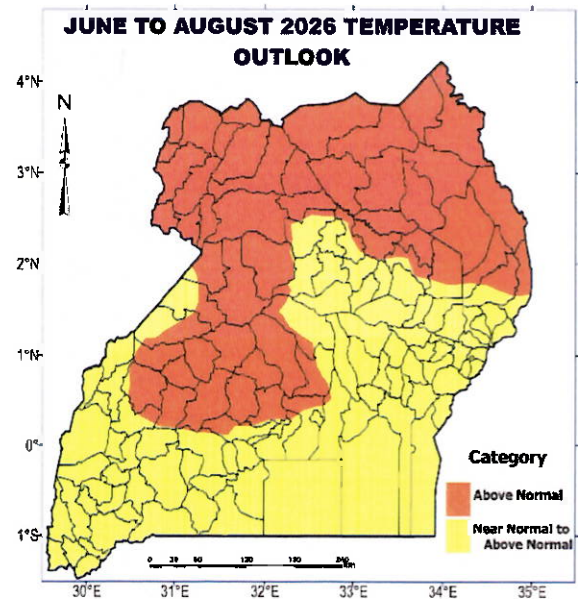


Figure 1b: Expected mean JJA 2026 temperature distribution

4.0 DETAILED FORECAST

4.1 WESTERN UGANDA

4.1.1 Southwestern Highlands (*Kabale, Kisoro, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Rukiga, Rubanda, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Buhweju, Sheema, Rwampara and Ntungamo districts*).

The current dry condition over this region is expected to give way to light isolated rainfall from early to mid-June. Thereafter, the dry season is expected to set in until the end of the forecast period. Overall, **below normal** (drier than normal) conditions are expected to prevail during the forecast period.

4.1.2 Southwestern Lowlands (*Isingiro, Mbarara, Ibanda, Kiruhura and Kazo districts*).

Currently, this region is experiencing dry conditions, signifying cessation of the first rainfall season. Light isolated rainfall is expected over this region around early to mid-June. Thereafter, the dry season is expected to set in until the end of the forecast period. Overall, **below normal** (drier than normal) conditions are expected to prevail during the season.

4.1.3 Rwenzori sub region (*Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole and Bunyangabu district*).

The current dry conditions over this region reveals the cessation of the first rainfall season. Light isolated rains are expected over this region around first week of June, thereafter, dry conditions are expected to set in and prevail over the region up to the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **below normal** (drier than normal) conditions are expected to prevail during the forecast period.

4.1.4 Central parts of Western (*Masindi, Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda, Kagadi, Kiryandongo and Kibaale districts*).

Most parts of this region are currently experiencing dry conditions, indicating the cessation of the first rainfall season. Light isolated rains are expected over this region during the first week of June. Thereafter, dry conditions are expected to set in and persist until the end of the forecast period over most districts of this region, apart from Masindi and Kiryandongo districts that are expected to experience light isolated rainfall during the forecast period.

Overall, **below normal** (drier than normal) conditions are expected over this region.

4.2 CENTRAL REGION AND LAKE VICTORIA BASIN

4.2.2 Western Central Region (*Lyantonde, Sembabule, Mubende, Kasanda, Kyankwanzi, Kiboga, Luwero, Nakaseke, and Nakasongola districts*).

This region is experiencing a reduction in rainfall, signifying cessation of the first rainfall season. Light isolated rains are expected over this region

during the first week of June, thereafter, a dry season is expected to set in and persist until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **below normal** (drier than normal) conditions are expected to prevail over the region.

4.2.3 Central and Western Lake Victoria Region (*Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Lwengo, Mpigi, Butambala, Kalungu, Kyotera, Rakai, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, and Mityana districts*).

Currently, this region is experiencing dry conditions, punctuated by isolated showers which are expected to continue up to mid-June. Thereafter, dry conditions are expected over this region until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **near-normal, tending to below normal** (normal dry, tending to drier than normal) conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

4.2.4 Eastern Central Region (*Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, and Buvuma districts*).

This region is experiencing on and off showers that are expected to persist until mid-June. Thereafter, occasional rains are expected to set in and continue over the region until the end of the season.

Overall, higher chances of **near-normal, tending to below normal** (normal dry tending to drier than normal) conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

4.3 EASTERN UGANDA

4.3.1 Eastern Lake Victoria and Southeastern Region (*Jinja, Mayuge, Kamuli, Iganga, Bugiri, Namayingo, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro and Busia districts*).

This region is currently experiencing isolated rains which are expected to continue until early-June, when dry conditions are expected to get established and persist until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **near-normal, tending to below normal** conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

4.3.2 Eastern Parts of Kyoga Region (*Pallisa, Kibuku, Budaka, Butaleja, Tororo, Butebo, Kumi, Kalaki, Kaberamaido, Soroti, Serere, Bukedea, and Ngora districts*).

Currently, this region is experiencing isolated showers which are expected to persist until mid-June. Thereafter, on and off rains are expected to continue until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **near-normal, tending to below normal** rainfall is expected over this region.

4.3.3 Mount Elgon Region (*Mbale, Manafwa, Namisindwa, Bududa, Sironko, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo districts*).

The on and off rainfall being experienced over this region is expected to prevail until mid-June. Thereafter, occasional rains are expected to continue until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **near-normal, tending to below normal** rainfall is expected over this region.

4.4 NORTHERN REGION

4.4.1 Northeastern Region (*Katakwi, Amuria, Kapelebyong, Napak, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Abim, Kotido, Kaabong, and Karenga districts*).

This region is currently experiencing dry conditions that are expected to give way to on and off rains until early to mid-June. Thereafter, rains are expected to gradually decline until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **below normal** (below average) rainfall is expected over this region.

4.4.2 Northwestern Region (*Arua, Maracha, Koboko, Terego, Yumbe, Obongi, Moyo, Adjumani, Madi Okollo, Zombo, Nebbi, and Pakwach districts*).

The current dry conditions over this region are expected to give way to isolated rains until mid-June. Thereafter, on and off showers are expected to prevail until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **near-normal, tending to below normal** rainfall is expected to prevail over this region.

4.4.3 Central Northern Region (*Districts of Gulu, Omoro, Lamwo, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam, and Kiryandongo*).

The on and off rains over this region are expected to continue until mid-June, when occasional showers are expected to prevail up to the end of the season.

Overall, **near normal, tending to below normal** rainfall is expected over this region.

4.4.4 Eastern Areas of Northern Region (*Dokolo, Amolatar, Alebtong, Lira, Kole, Otuke, Pader, Kitgum, Apac, and Agago districts*).

The ongoing dry conditions punctuated by on and off rains over this region are expected to continue until mid-June. Thereafter, isolated showers are expected to prevail over this region until the end of the forecast period.

Overall, **near normal, tending to below normal** rainfall is expected over this region.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE JJA FORECAST

The JJA forecast indicates that most parts of northern and eastern will experience near normal to below normal rainfall, while central and western regions are expected to experience below normal conditions (drier conditions) thus impacting various socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture and food security, health and water resources, among others.



6.0 SECTOR SPECIFIC ADVISORIES

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is important to note that **Sector Specific Advisories** have been developed and shared in the forecast document for your perusal, dissemination and utilization to ensure that appropriate anticipatory actions are taken in response to this forecast as an Early Warning Information.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen, I urge all stakeholders to **use this forecast for strategic planning and informed decision-making** to enhance food security, protect livelihoods, and strengthen climate resilience.

My Ministry will continue to provide timely weather updates to guide national and community-level planning and decision making.

For God and My Country.



Dr. Alfred Okot Okidi
PERMANENT SEVRETARY

29th May, 2026

APPENDIX

Explanation of Key Terms

Categorical Analysis

Categorical analysis involves comparing actual rainfall observations with the Long-Term Mean (LTM) to classify rainfall conditions into three categories: Above Normal (enhanced), Near Normal (average), or Below Normal (suppressed).

Above Normal

Rainfall is classified as above normal when the total amount exceeds 125% of the Long-Term Mean (LTM). In most cases, this leads to positive impacts on socio-economic activities, particularly when the increase is above the average.

Near Normal

This refers to rainfall totals ranging between 75% and 125% of the LTM. Under these conditions, normal socio-economic activities are expected to proceed without significant disruptions.

Below Normal

Rainfall falls into this category when it is less than 75% of the LTM. In such cases, socio-economic activities may experience increasing levels of stress, with the severity depending on the degree of rainfall deficiency.

