MARCH 2026

CLIMATE BULLETIN

DEKAD 1, MARCH (11-20)

GMET/CLIMATE/020326 FORM337

3/1/2026

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SUMMARY

- **Rainfall:**
  - Most areas received high rainfall (>20.0 mm).
  - Sefwi Bekwai received the highest rainfall of 89 mm
  - The northern sector reported relatively less rainfall.
  - Forest zone: Highest rainy days (3 days).
  - Transition area to northern parts: Least or no rainy days (2 days).
- **Rainfall Anomalies:**
  - Deficit rainfall in most parts of the country.
  - Surplus rainfall in specific areas – northern and forested areas.
- **Temperatures:**
  - **Maximum:**
    - Elevated in Northern and Transition zones.
    - The maximum of the Maximum temperature of 40.8°C was recorded in Bongo.
    - Relatively cooler temperatures along the coast and in select forested areas.
  - **Minimum:**
    - Warmer in Northern, Transition and some coastal areas.
    - Cooler in forested areas.
    - The minimum of the Minimum temperature was recorded in Abetifi in the Forest zone, reaching 21.5°C.

OBSERVED CLIMATE DRIVERS

INTERTROPICAL FRONT

Also known as the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is a critical meteorological feature that significantly influences weather patterns in West Africa, including Ghana. The ITF is a boundary zone where the warm, moist air from the Atlantic Ocean (southwesterly monsoon winds) meets the hot, dry air from the Sahara Desert (northeasterly Harmattan winds). This convergence leads to the formation of clouds and precipitation, making it a key driver of the rainy season in West Africa. The northward movement of the ITF during March-July brings the rainy season to Ghana.

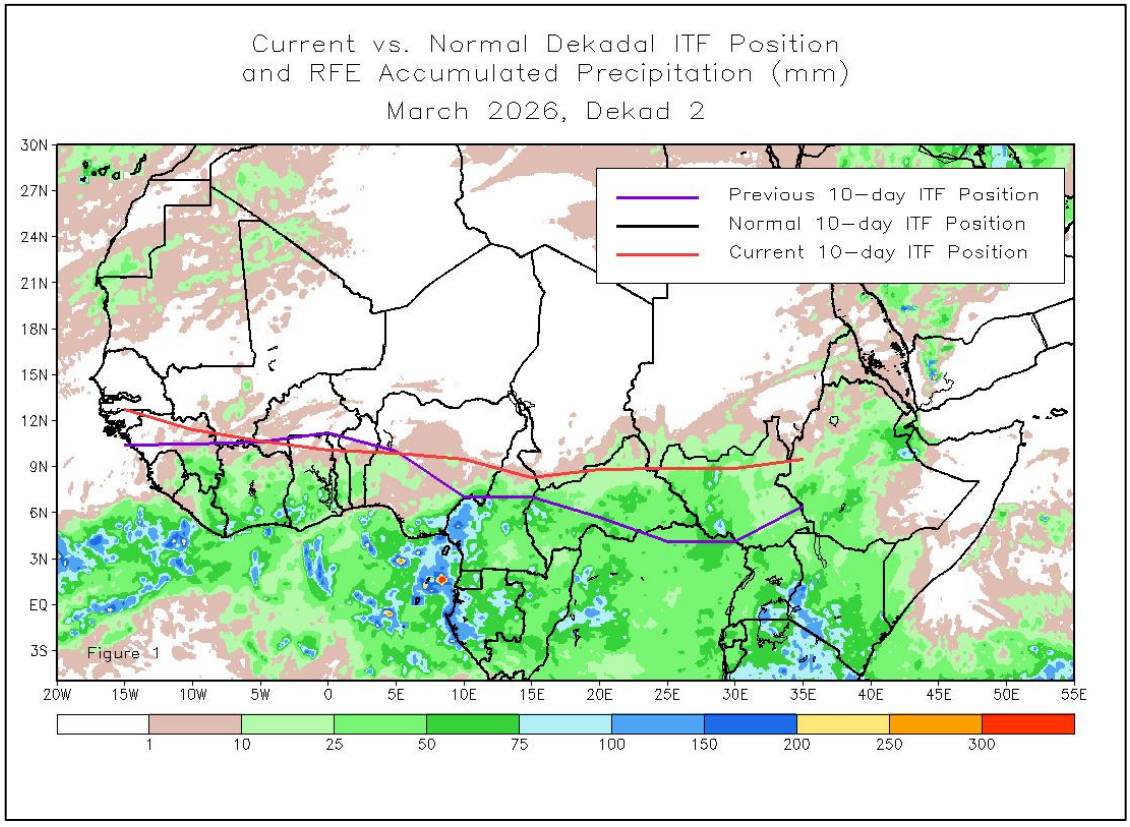


Figure 1. Current ITF position for March 2nd Dekad, 2026

Between March 11 and 20, the current Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) moved southward compared to its previous location. Specifically, the current ITF was located at approximately 10.1N in the northern sector of the country which is slightly south of its previous position at 11.2N. *Figure 1* displays the current position of the ITF during the *2nd* dekad of March and its previous position during the 1st dekad of March. Similarly, *Table 1* below also shows the evolving ITF's position of Ghana, located between 5W and 5E.

DEKAD	5W	0	5E
January 1	10.7	9.0	6.6
January 2	6.4	6.6	9.4
January 3	6.5	6.5	7.6
February 1	9.3	10.2	9.6
February 2	10.7	10.9	10.4
February 3	8.6	8.5	7.8
March 1	10.6	11.2	10.0
March 2	10.7	10.1	9.9

Table 1. Dekadal evolution of the ITF position over Ghana 2026.

MADDEN-JULIAN OSCILLATION (MJO)

MJO is a tropical disturbance that moves eastward around the globe, influencing weather patterns, including rainfall and temperature, in various regions. The MJO has phases (1-8), with each phase corresponding to its location over the tropics. Its position and strength can have significant implications for weather in Ghana, particularly during the West African monsoon season.

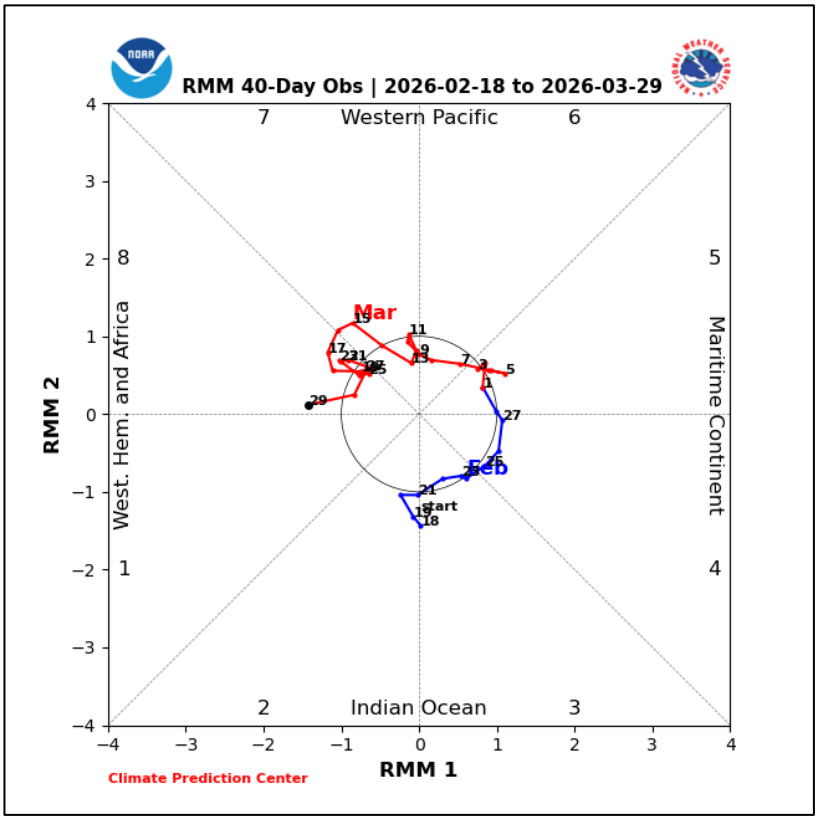


Figure 2. Current MJO position as of March 2nd Dekad, 2026

From *figure 2*, the MJO was primarily in phase 7 (Western Pacific) transitioning toward phase 8 (Western Hemisphere and Africa). This phase is unfavourable for rainfall, implying neutral to slightly suppressed convective activities particularly across southern sectors, where the MJO's signal is weak to moderate.

1.0 RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION

1.1 RAINFALL

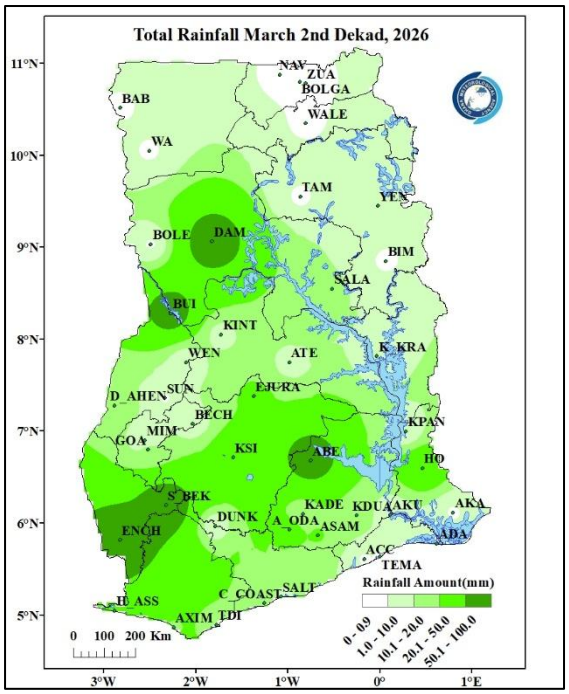


Figure 3a: Total Rainfall March 2nd Dekad, 2026

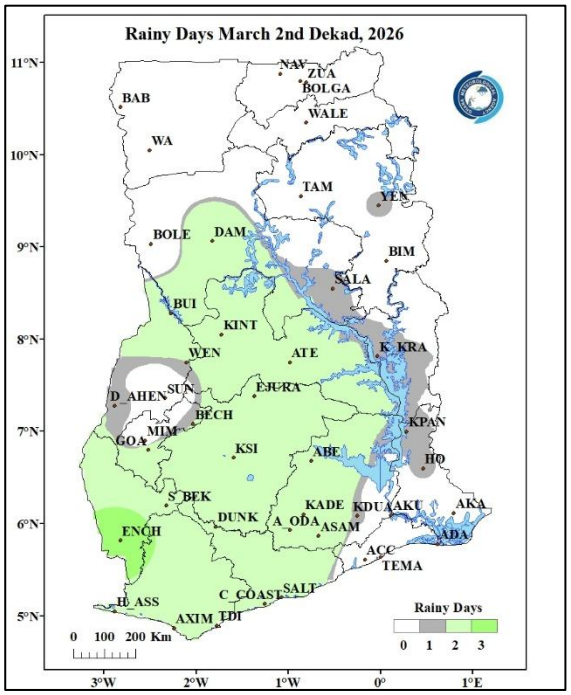


Figure 3b: Rainy Days March 2nd Dekad, 2026

Figure 3a illustrates the rainfall distribution across Ghana during the second ten-day period of March. The forested station Sefwi Bekwai recorded the highest rainfall amount with a total of 89 mm. In contrast, some areas in the Northern region such as Navrongo, Zuarungu, Bolgatanga and Bimbila experienced no rainfall during the period.

Figure 3b also illustrates the frequency of rainy days during the specified period. Areas in the Upper West, Upper East, and Northeastern regions recorded no rainy day. The forested areas around Enchi saw up to 3 rainy days recorded.

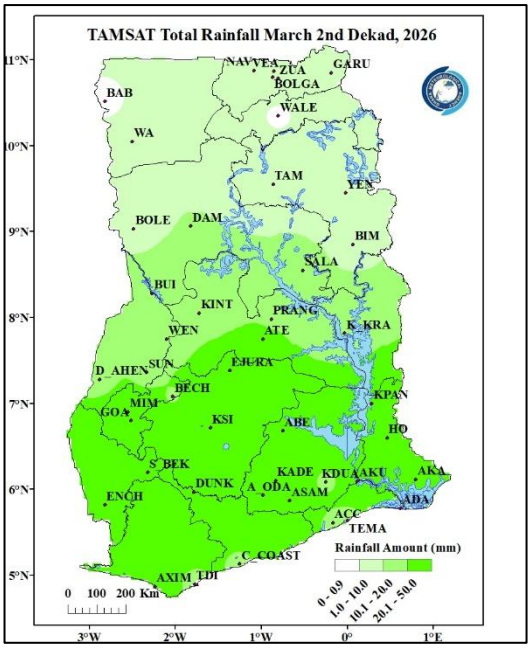


Figure 4. TAMSAT Total Rainfall March 2nd Dekad, 2026

Figure 4 presents the total rainfall derived from the TAMSAT rainfall estimate. The data indicates some spatial consistencies. However, rainfall amounts were underestimated in some parts of northern and southern sectors like Enchi, Sefwi Bekwai, Bui, and Damongo.

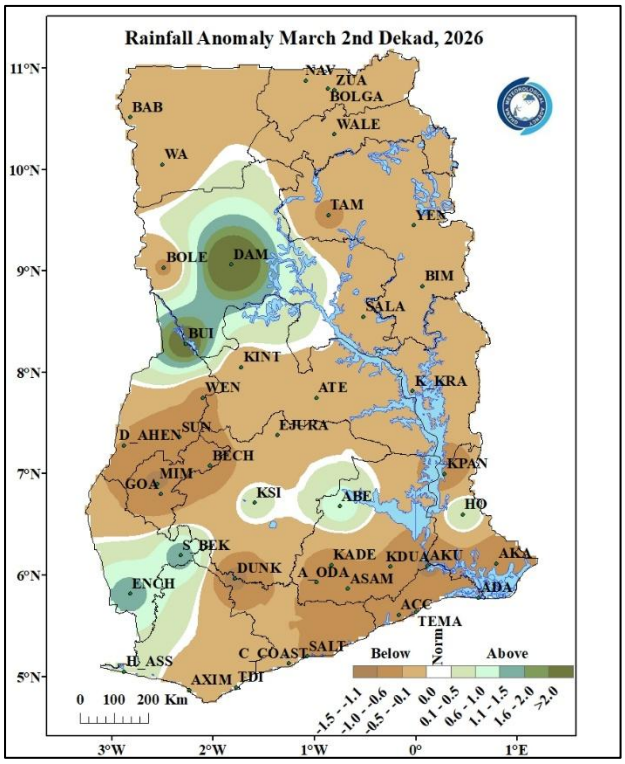


Figure 5: Rainfall Anomaly for March 2nd Dekad, 2026

Figure 5 also highlights areas with deviations from normal rainfall. Places around Ho, Kumasi, Abetifi, Bui, Damango, Enchi, and Sefwi Bekwai, located in the forest to the northern sector of the country experienced above-normal rainfall. The rest of the country experienced below-normal rainfall (e.g. Axim, Accra, Dunkwa, Kpando, Kete Krachi, Tamale, and Sunyani and its environs)

1.2 TEMPERATURE

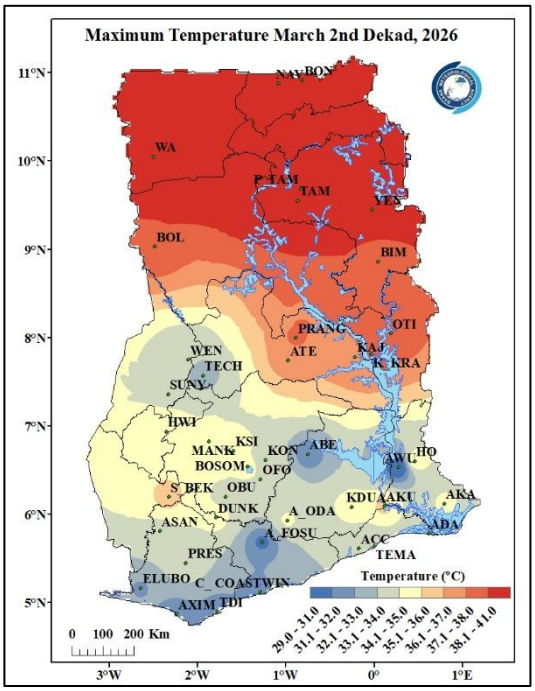


Figure 6a. Maximum Temperature March 2nd Dekad, 2026.

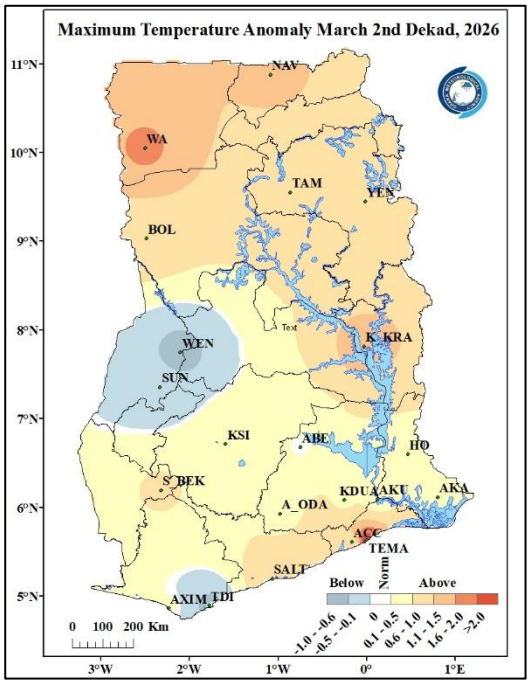


Figure 6b. Maximum Temperature Anomaly March 2nd Dekad, 2026.

Figure 6a displays the distribution of average daytime temperatures across the country. The northern belt recorded higher temperatures, ranging from 36.1°C to 41.0°C. The highest temperature of **40.8**°C was recorded in **Bongo**, while the lowest temperature of 31.1°C was observed in Abetifi and Cape Coast respectivley. In the transition zone, temperatures ranged between 34.1°C and 37.0.0°C. In contrast, the southern sector, including Abetifi, Accra, Saltpond, and Axim experienced relatively cooler temperatures ranging from 29.0°C to 36.0°C. Temperature were relatively warmer during this dekad.

Maximum Temperature Anomaly is represented in *figure 6b* above. Areas around Sunyani, Wenchi, Takoradi, and Abetifi experienced normal to below-normal temperatures. The rest of the country experienced above-normal temperatures during the period.

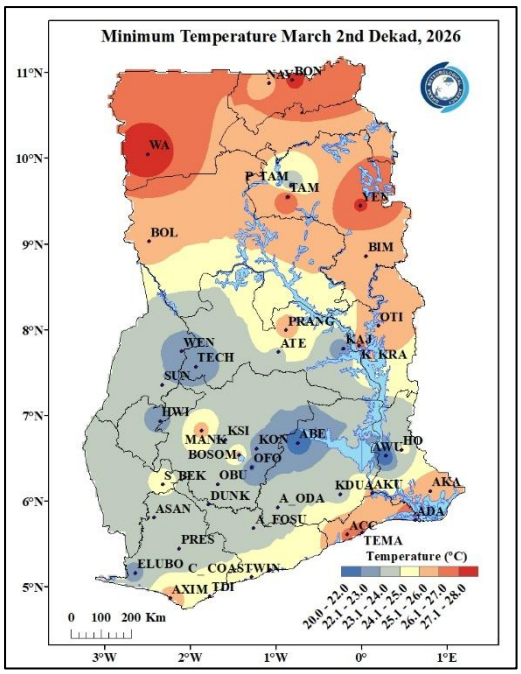


Figure 7a. Minimum Temperature March 2nd Dekad, 2026

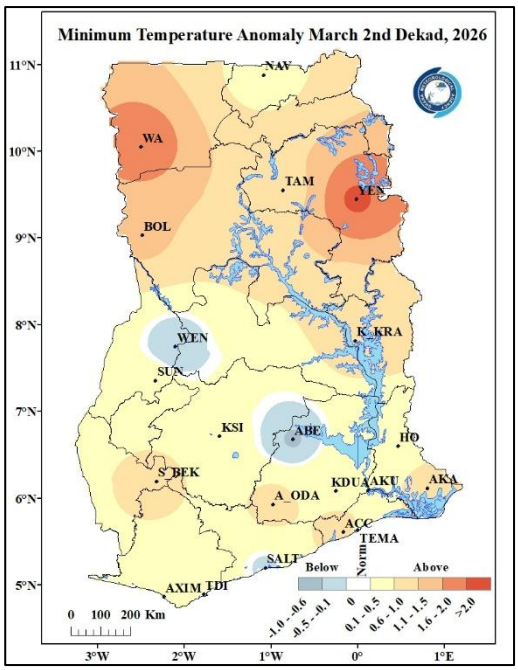


Figure 7b. Minimum Temperature Anomaly March 2nd Dekad, 2026

In *Figure 7a*, the average nighttime temperatures varied across different regions. The northern sector, the transition zones, and the coastline of the country, including Yendi, Akatsi, Accra, Ho, Tema, Axim and Kete Krachi, experienced relatively warmer temperatures, with average values ranging from 24.1°C to 28.0°C. The forest zone such as Kumasi, Akim Oda, and Elubo recorded average temperature between 20.0°C to 24.0°C. The lowest average nighttime temperature was recorded in Abetifi in the forest zone, reaching 21.5°C.

In *figure 7b*, we see the Minimum Temperature Anomaly. Except for Abetifi, Wenchi, Saltpond and its environs that experienced normal to below-normal nighttime temperatures, above-normal temperatures dominated the rest of the country indicating increased nighttime temperatures during the period.

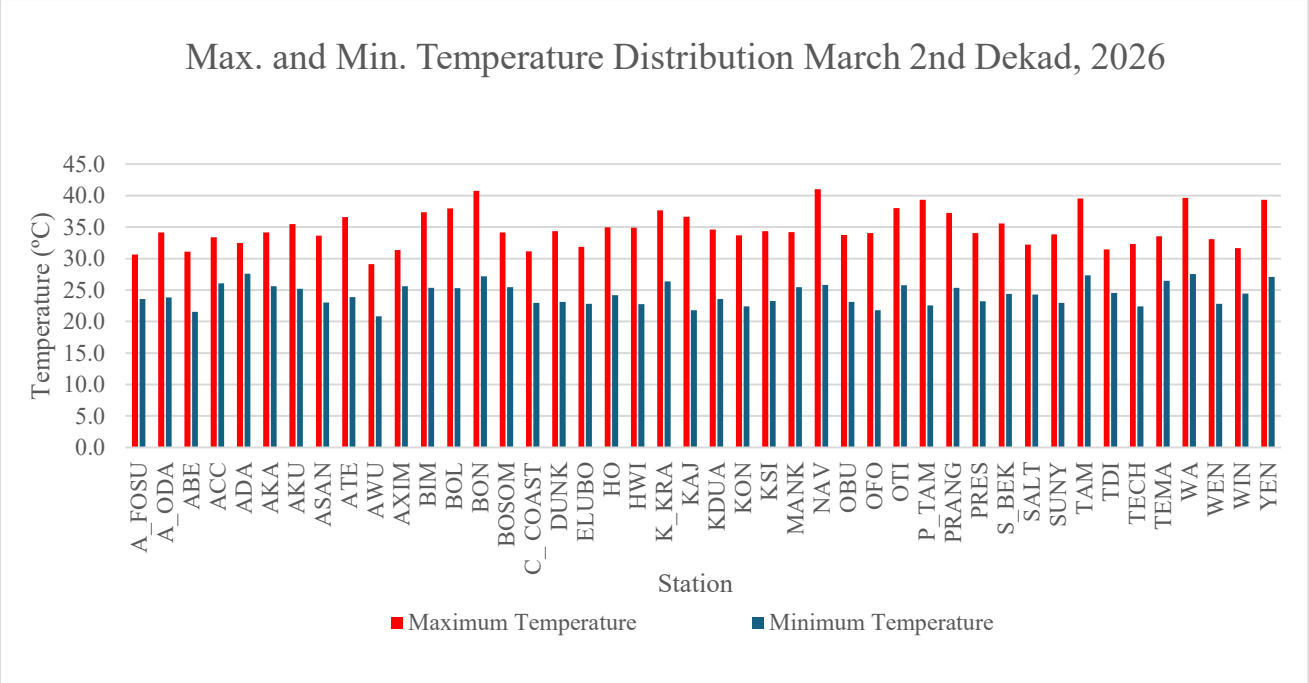
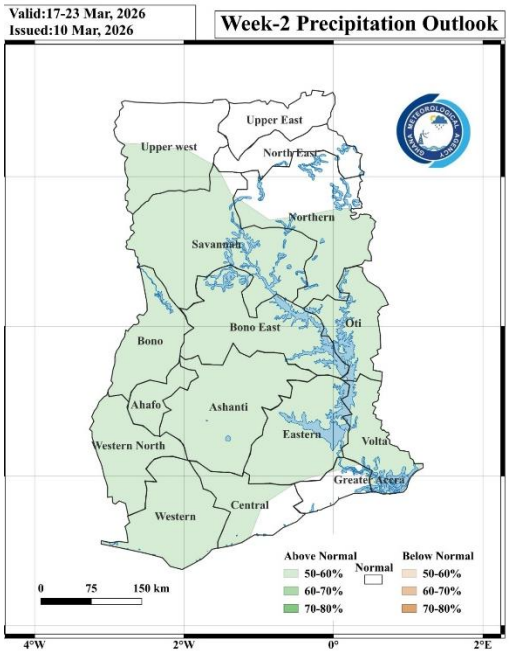
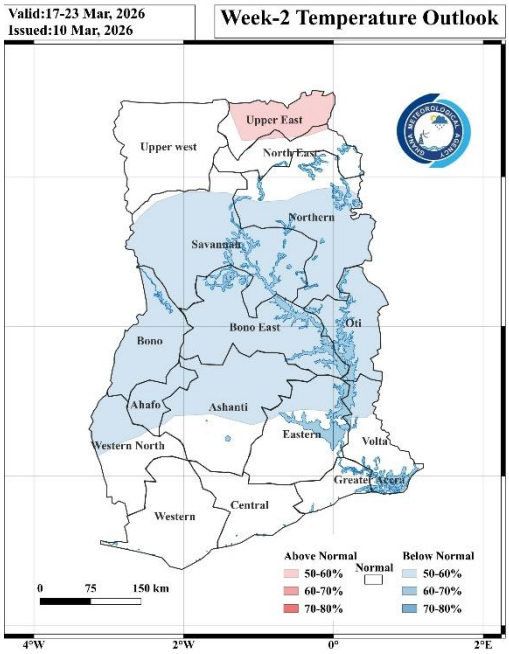


Figure 8. Max. and Min. Temperature Distribution for March 2nd Dekad, 2026

2.0 RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK 17TH – 23RD MARCH 2026

For the coming week, rainfall is projected to be above-normal in most parts of the country, including the transition zone and some parts of the Northern sector. However, normal rainfall is expected at the Upper East and Northeastern regions, alongside some coastal areas such as Accra, Tema, and Cape Coast. Temperatures on the other hand are expected to be above-normal in the Upper East region, whiles the rest of the country is projected to be normal to below-normal.





3.0 ADVISORIES

1. **Health Sector**
    - Increased temperatures may lead to dehydration and heat stress.
    - Be cautious of heat-related illnesses, especially for vulnerable groups (elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses) due to high daytime temperatures particularly in the Northern belt.

2. **Water Resources Management Sector**
    - Conserve water and use it efficiently, especially in regions with little or no rainfall (Northern sector).

3. **General Public**
    - Normal to Above-Normal Temperatures (Nationwide). The public should limit outdoor activities during peak heat hours (11 am to 4 pm).
    - The use of fans or air conditioning where available to stay cool
    - Stay hydrated, avoid prolonged sun exposure, and wear light clothing.
    - Stay updated on weather forecasts from the Ghana Meteorological Agency.

4.0 APPENDIX

4.1 TABLE OF STATIONS

STATIONS	Abrevation	STATIONS	Abrevation	STATIONS	Abrevation
Abetifi	ABE	Bui	BUI	Salaga	SALA
Accra	ACC	Cape Coast	C. COAST	Saltpond	SALT
Ada	ADA	Damongo	DAM	Sefwi Bekwai	S. BEK
Agona Kwanyako	AG. KWA	Dorma Ahenkro	D. AHEN	Sefwi Wiawso	S. WIAW
Agona Swedro	AG. SWE	Duayaw Nkwanta	D. NKWA	Sunyani	SUNY
Akatsi	AKA	Dunkwa	DUNK	Techiman	TECH
Akim Oda	AK. ODA	Goaso	GOA	Tafo	TAFO
Akropong Akwapim	A. Akwap	Ho	HO	Takoradi	TADI
Akuse	AKU	Kade	KADE	Tamale	TAMA
Asamankese	ASAM	Kete Krachi	K. KRA	Tarkwa	TARK
Asankragwa	ASANK	Kintampo	KINT	Tema	TEMA
Atebubu	ATE	Koforidua	KOF	Twifo Praso	T. PRA
Atieku	ATIEKU	Kpando	KPAN	Vea Dam	VEA
Axim	AXIM	Kumasi	KSI	Wa	WA
Babile	BABILE	Manga Bawku	M. BAWKU	Walewale	WALE
Bechem	BECH	Mim	MIM	Wamfie	WAMF
Bibiani	BIB	Navrongo	NAV	Wassaw Akropong	W. AKR
Bimbila	BIMB	Nsoatre	NSOA	Wenchi	WEN
Bole	BOLE	Obuasi	OBUASI	Winneba	WINN
Bolgatanga	BOLGA	Pong Tamale	P. TAM	Yendi	YEN
Bompata	BOMPA	Prang	PRANG	Zuarungu	ZUA
Breman Asikuma	B. ASIK				

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