GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

Seasonal Climate Outlook

Official Bulletin | Southern Ghana

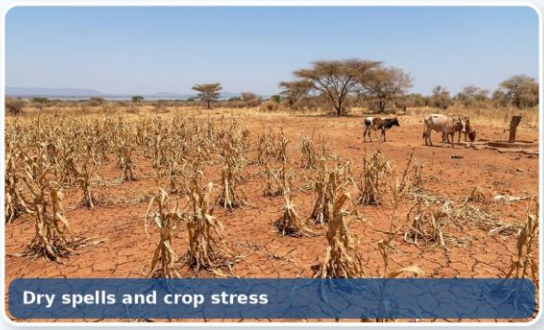
SEASONAL RAINFALL FORECAST

Update on Major Rainfall Season Southern Ghana

June–July–August (JJA) 2026 Update

Issued: June 2026

Climate risks and sectoral impacts covered in this outlook



Dry spells and crop stress

Flood risk and urban drainage

Public safety

Agriculture and water

Climate and health

Prepared by the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet)

For decision support in agriculture, water resources, health, disaster risk reduction and public safety

Update on Major Rainfall Season — Southern Ghana

June–August (JJA) 2026 Update

Issued by: Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) | June 2026

1. Overview

This bulletin provides an updated seasonal forecast for the Major Rainfall Season (March–July) over southern Ghana, with specific focus on the expected rainfall total amount and cessation of the major season before the Little Dry Season (August Break). The forecast is based on observed large-scale climate drivers, regional sea surface temperature anomalies, and guidance from global seasonal prediction centres.

2. Key Large-Scale Climate Drivers

The following major climate drivers are currently being monitored and are expected to influence the 2026 rainfall season over southern Ghana:

2.1 El Niño Development

Global models indicate a high likelihood of El Niño developing during the second half (June onwards) of 2026 and persisting into late 2026. El Niño typically suppresses rainfall over the Gulf of Guinea region, particularly from August onwards this year. Consequently, there is an increased risk of a stronger-than-normal August break and reduced rainfall during the period after the August break.

2.2 Tropical Atlantic Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

The tropical Atlantic remains warmer than average, enhancing moisture availability and supporting rainfall activity during the June–July peak season. This may partially offset the rainfall-suppressing influence of a developing El Niño during the early part of the season.

3. Forecast: Cumulative Rainfall for June to August

3.1 Rainfall Outlook for Southern Ghana: June–August 2026

The JJA 2026 seasonal forecast map shows enhanced probabilities of above-normal rainfall across much of southern Ghana, particularly over the Western, Central, Ashanti and parts of the Eastern Regions. Near-normal rainfall conditions are expected over portions of the transition zone, while below-normal rainfall probabilities are more pronounced over northern Ghana. For southern Ghana, this outlook supports the expectation of generally favourable moisture conditions through June and July, although localized dry spells may still occur, especially across the southeastern coastal sector.

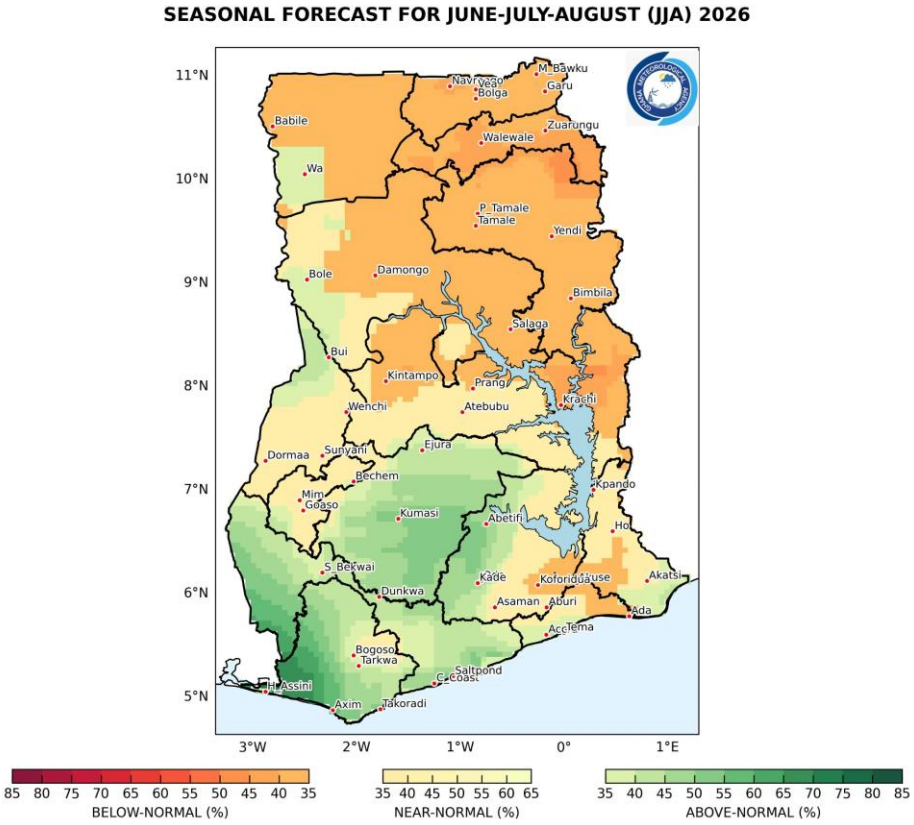


Figure 1: JJA 2026 Seasonal Rainfall Forecast Probabilities for Ghana

3.2 Temperature Outlook for Southern Ghana: June–August 2026

June 2026: Daytime maximum temperatures are expected to range from 27–32°C over the coastal sector (Accra, Tema, Ada and Cape Coast, Takoradi and Axim), and 27–30°C over the forest belt (Kumasi, Koforidua and Goaso). and). Minimum temperatures are expected to range from 20–25°C across southern Ghana.

July 2026: Increased cloudiness and rainfall are expected to moderate daytime temperatures. Maximum temperatures are likely to range from 27–30°C in coastal areas and 25–29°C across the forest and western sectors. Minimum temperatures are expected to remain between 19–24°C.

August 2026: In August, southern Ghana is expected to experience generally moderate temperatures across all ecological zones. Coastal areas will record maximum temperatures around 27–30°C and minimum temperatures of about 23–25°C, moderated by sea breezes and high humidity. Forest zones will be slightly cooler, with daytime highs of 26–29°C and night-time lows of 21–23°C, while transition areas may experience the warmest conditions, with maximum temperatures of 28–32°C and minimum temperatures of 22–24°C, reflecting relatively higher inland heating but still moderated by cloudiness and rainfall influences.

Overall, temperatures are expected to remain near climatological averages, with occasional short-lived warm spells during dry periods. The generally moderate temperature regime should support crop development, reduce the risk of heat stress, and favour moisture conservation where rainfall distribution remains adequate.

4. Forecast: Cessation of the Major Rainfall Season

Under climatological conditions, the major rainfall season ends between early July and early August, depending on the ecological zone. The 2026 forecast by zone is provided in the table below:

Ecological Zone	Key Districts	Normal Cessation	2026 Forecast	Confidence
Coastal Zones (East coastal areas)	Accra, Tema, Ada	Early - mid July	Early - mid July	High
Coastal Zone (Central parts of the coast)	Cape Coast, Winneba	Mid - late July	Mid - late July	High
Forest Zones	Kumasi, Koforidua, Goaso	Late July - early Aug	Near normal	Moderate
Coastal Zones (West coastal areas)	Takoradi, Axim	Late July - early Aug	Near normal	Moderate

Key findings from the forecast:

- The major season is likely to remain active through most of June and into early July across all southern zones.
- Rainfall frequency is expected to begin decreasing from approximately the second week of July.
- Effective cessation of the major season is likely between mid-July and late July 2026 for most southern districts.
- Coastal areas (Greater Accra, Volta coast, eastern Central Region) could experience an earlier transition into the August break compared to the forest belt.
- Forest and western sectors may continue receiving occasional significant rainfall events into late July.

5. Intra-Seasonal Dry Spell Outlook

Intra-seasonal dry spells represent the greatest agricultural risk for the 2026 season. The following dry spell outlook covers the period from now through the onset of the August break:

Period	Expected Dry Spell Duration	Most Affected Zones	Risk Level
June 2026	3–7 days	All southern zones	Low–Moderate
Late June – Mid July	7–10 days	Greater Accra, Volta, Eastern, Coastal Central	Moderate
July Transition	10–14 days	Southeastern coastal sector (highest risk)	Moderate–High
August 2026	10–20 days (August Break)	All southern zones	High

Note: The southeastern coastal sector (Greater Accra, Volta Region, coastal Central Region) is identified as the zone of highest vulnerability to prolonged dry spells during the July transition period.

6. Confidence-Based Overall Outlook

The table below provides a summary of the overall seasonal outlook based on current confidence levels:

Parameter	Assessment	Confidence
Major Season Cessation	Near normal to slightly early (mid–late July 2026)	High
August Break	Normal to stronger than normal	Moderate–High
Dry Spell Frequency	More frequent and longer than average (Aug–Oct)	Moderate
Flood Risk	Present: intense events are possible even within dry periods	Moderate
Seasonal Rainfall Totals	Near normal; distribution poorer than ideal	Moderate

7. General Advisories

GENERAL ADVISORY — All Southern Zones

The following sector-specific advisories are issued based on the update of the 2026 seasonal forecast for southern Ghana. These advisories should be communicated to officers and the user communities on time.

7.1 Agriculture Advisory

General Agricultural Advisory — All Southern Zones

- Farmers should not rely solely on seasonal rainfall totals; the distribution of rainfall may be more critical than total amounts for crop performance.
- Monitor updated 10-day and monthly forecasts, issued by GMet, closely throughout the season, particularly from late June onward.
- Flood risk remains present despite projected dryness; individual rainfall events may be intense even within longer dry periods.
- Consult the latest GMet, C3S, IRI, NMME, and ACMAD July–September and August–October seasonal forecasts for additional guidance.

7.2 Crop-Specific Advisories

Maize (Coastal Savannah and Forest Belt)

- Plantings established before mid-June should benefit from the remaining major-season rains.
- Farmers planting late-maturing varieties after late June face increased moisture stress risk during July and August.
- Early maturing varieties are recommended for late June plantings to reduce exposure to the August break.
- Supplementary irrigation should be considered where facilities are available for late-season crop support.

Other Crops

- Farmers should take advantage of the expected favourable rainfall conditions during June and early July to complete planting and other critical field operations.
- Given the likelihood of uneven rainfall distribution and the possibility of localized dry spells, soil moisture conservation practices such as mulching, minimum tillage, and timely weed control are strongly encouraged.
- Water harvesting and storage should be prioritized to support crop production during the anticipated August break and any prolonged dry spell periods.
- Farmers are advised to monitor regular weather and agrometeorological updates and adjust farm management practices accordingly to minimize weather-related risks and optimize yields.

Fisher folk and Coastal Communities

- Remain alert to changing weather conditions.
- Observe all safety precautions before embarking on fishing activities.
- Pay attention to marine forecasts and warnings issued by the Ghana Meteorological Agency.

7.3 Water Resources Advisory

WATER RESOURCES Management, Storage, Planning, Irrigation

- Water resource managers should maximize the capture and storage of runoff during June and early July while rainfall remains relatively reliable.
- Reservoir, dam, and groundwater managers are encouraged to closely monitor water levels and prepare for potentially reduced inflows from late July onwards as the major rainfall season transitions towards the August break.
- Communities and institutions should promote water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and efficient water use practices to enhance resilience during anticipated dry spell periods.
- Flood management and drainage systems should remain operational and well-maintained, as isolated heavy rainfall events may still occur despite the expectation of a gradual reduction in rainfall frequency later in the season.

7.4 Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Advisory

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Although periods of reduced rainfall and dry spells are anticipated from the third (3rd) week of July, isolated heavy rainfall events may still occur and trigger localized flooding, particularly in flood-prone and urban areas. Therefore,

- Communities, local authorities, and disaster management agencies should maintain a high level of preparedness and ensure that drainage systems, waterways, and other flood control infrastructure are kept clear and functional.
- Residents in low-lying areas, along riverbanks, and in locations with a history of flooding are advised to remain vigilant and pay close attention to weather forecasts and early warning information.

- District authorities and relevant stakeholders should continue to disseminate weather and climate information to vulnerable communities to support timely preparedness and response actions.
- Emergency response and early warning systems should remain operational throughout the season to facilitate rapid communication and coordinated action during significant weather events.
- Public awareness campaigns on flood safety, thunderstorm hazards, and weather-related risks should be intensified to enhance community resilience and reduce potential impacts.

7.5 Health Advisories

HEALTH – Planning, Surveillance, Response.

- Malaria risk is likely to increase due to enhanced rainfall; health facilities should pre-position diagnostics, medicines and intensify community vector control.
- Higher risk of waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid) is expected from flooding and water contamination; ensure WASH surveillance, safe water practices, and availability of ORS and treatment supplies.
- Flood-related health impacts may include injuries, displacement, and service disruption; strengthen emergency preparedness, mobile outreach, and coordination with disaster response agencies.
- Strengthen disease surveillance and risk communication to enable early outbreak detection and timely public advisories, especially in flood-prone districts.

8. Data Sources and References

- AGRHYMET WAS2SS Objective Products
- Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) — Seasonal Forecast Products
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) — ENSO and Seasonal Outlooks
- North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) — Seasonal Precipitation Forecasts
- African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) — Regional West Africa Outlooks
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) — ENSO Status and Forecasts
- Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (GOGLME) — SST Monitoring Products
- Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) — Historical Climatological Data and Station Records