

FLOOD & DROUGHT BULLETIN

JANUARY 2026

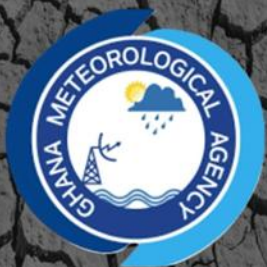


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INTRODUCTION

The Flood and Drought bulletin is a monthly analysis of rainfall in Ghana prepared and released by the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet). The bulletin provides an authoritative and scientific understanding of rainfall variability which is essential for accurate hydrological modeling, climate change assessments, and effective water resource planning to mitigate risks associated with extreme events like droughts and floods.

Among other services and products, the Flood and Drought bulletin complements the objectives of GMet in line with the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) to improve co-production, tailoring, delivery and use of science-based climate predictions and services focused on the five pillars of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO): agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, energy, health and water.

The analysis in the Flood and Drought bulletin is based on the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) developed by McKee et al. (1993) for the purpose of *defining and monitoring drought*. Drought is an insidious natural hazard that results from lower levels of precipitation than what is considered normal. When this phenomenon extends over a season or a longer period of time, water becomes increasingly insufficient to meet the demands of human activities and the environment. Drought must be considered a relative, rather than absolute, condition. Drought means different things to different users such as water managers, agricultural producers, hydroelectric power plant operators and wildlife biologists. Even within sectors, there are many different perspectives of drought because impacts may differ markedly. Droughts are commonly classified by type as meteorological, agricultural and hydrological, and differ from one another in intensity, duration and spatial coverage (WMO, 2012).

THE STANDARDIZED PRECIPITATION INDEX (SPI)

SPI indicator, which was developed by McKee et al. (1993), and described in detail by Edwards and McKee (1997), measures precipitation anomalies at a given location, based on a comparison of observed total precipitation amounts for an accumulation period of interest (e.g. 1, 3, 12, 48 months), with the long-term historic rainfall record for that period. This indicator measures anomalies of accumulated precipitation during a given period. In calculating SPI, precipitation is the only required input parameter (McKee and others, 1993, 1995). The SPI calculation for any location is based on the long-term precipitation record for a desired period. This long-term record is fitted to a probability distribution, which is then transformed into a normal distribution so that the mean SPI for the location and desired period is zero (Edwards and McKee, 1997).

The SPI is designed to quantify the precipitation deficit for multiple timescales and can be calculated from 1 month up to 72 months. Statistically, 1–24 months is the best practical range of application (Guttman, 1994, 1999). The Flood and Drought bulletin of Ghana considers only the 1-month, 3-month, 6-month and 12-month SPI.

1-month SPI: The 1-month SPI compares the precipitation of a specific month with the precipitation totals from the same month for all the years included in the historical record.

3-month SPI: The 3-month SPI provides a comparison of the precipitation over a specific 3 consecutive month period with the precipitation totals from the same 3-month period for all the years included in the historical record.

6-month SPI: The 6-month SPI compares the precipitation for a specific 6 consecutive months with the same 6-month period over the historical record.

12-month SPI: The 12-month SPI is a comparison of the precipitation for 12 consecutive months with that recorded in the same 12 months in all previous years of available data.

These timescales reflect the impact of drought on the availability of the different water resources. Meteorological and soil moisture conditions (agriculture) respond to precipitation anomalies on relatively short timescales, for example 1 to 3 months (SPI-1 to SPI-3), whereas streamflow, reservoirs, and groundwater respond to longer-term precipitation anomalies, for example 3 months to 12 months (SPI-3 to SPI-12) or longer (EDO, 2020).

A real strength of the SPI is its ability to be calculated for many timescales, which makes it possible to deal with many of the drought types described above. The ability to compute the SPI on multiple timescales allows for temporal flexibility in the evaluation of precipitation conditions in relation to water supply.

In the Flood and Drought bulletin, the SPI values for any given location and accumulation period, are classified into nine different precipitation regimes (from dry to wet), as shown in Table 1. As can be seen, increasingly severe rainfall deficits (i.e., meteorological droughts) are indicated as SPI decreases below -0.5, while increasingly severe excess rainfall is indicated as SPI increases above 0.5.










<i>ANOMALY</i>	<i>RANGE OF SPI VALUES</i>	<i>PRECIPITATION REGIME</i>	<i>COLOUR</i>
Negative	Min <= SPI <= -2.0	Extreme dry	
	-2.0 < SPI <= -1.5	Severe dry	
	-1.5 < SPI <= -1.0	Moderate dry	
	-1.0 < SPI <= -0.5	Mild dry	
None	-0.5 < SPI <= 0.5	Normal precipitation	
Positive	0.5 < SPI <= 1.0	Mild wet	
	1.0 < SPI <= 1.5	Moderate wet	
	1.5 < SPI <= 2.0	Severe wet	
	2.0 < SPI <= Max	Extreme wet	

Table 1: SPI classification scheme used in the Flood and Drought bulletin

SPI ANALYSIS FOR JANUARY 2026

The SPI analysis for rainfall in January 2026 has been generated in multiple timescales of 1-month (January 2026), 3-month (November 2025 – January 2026), 6-month (August 2025 - January 2026) and 12-month (February 2025 – January 2026). The maps generated depict the severity (positive or negative) of rainfall anomalies for the period under review.

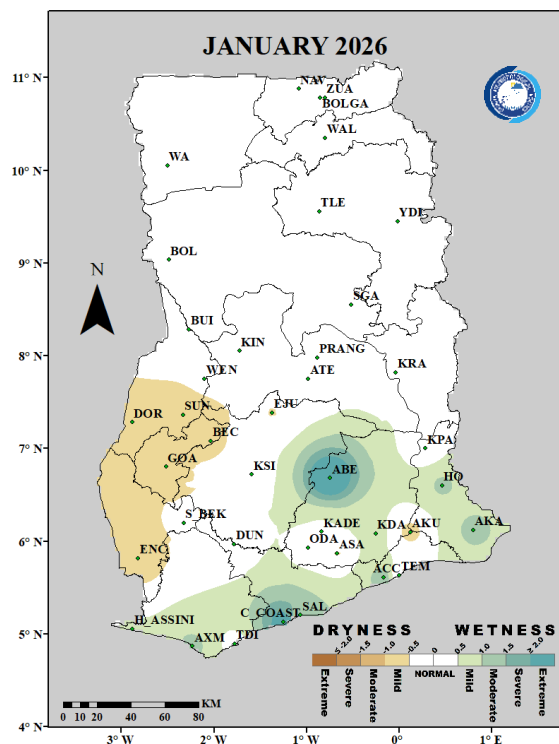


Fig. 1(a): 1-Month SPI (for meteorological drought): January 2026

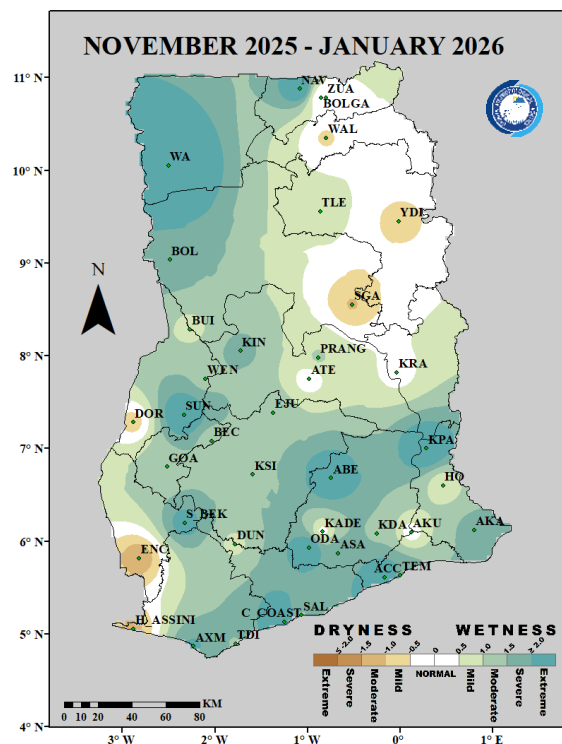


Fig. 1(b): 3-Month SPI (for agricultural drought): November 2025 – January 2026

1-Month SPI (January 2026)

The 1-Month SPI in Fig. 1(a) shows predominantly normal conditions across most parts of the country. In the Savannah and Transition zones, normal conditions dominate with no significant dry or wet conditions observed. Within the Forest zone, moderate to severe wet conditions are observed around Abetifi, while mild wet conditions extend towards Ho and Akatsi with Ejura, Akuse, Dormaa, Sunyani, Bechem, Goaso and Enchi depicting mild dryness. Along the Coast, mild to moderate wet conditions are observed around Accra, Cape Coast, Saltpond and Axim while Takoradi and Tema depicted normal conditions.

3-month SPI (November 2025 – January 2026)

The 3-Month SPI in Fig. 1(b) reveals mild to moderate wet conditions dominating a greater portion of the country. Mild to moderate wet conditions are observed over Navrongo, Wa, Bole and Tamale, while normal conditions prevail in areas such as Bolgatanga and Zuarungu, with Walewale and Yendi depicting mild dry conditions in the Savannah zone. Across the Transition zone, mild wet conditions prevail, with Kintampo and Prang depicting moderate wetness, while Salaga records mild dry conditions. Within the Forest zone, mild to moderate wet conditions dominate, with areas such as Abetifi, Sunyani, Sefwi Bekwai and Kpando depicting moderate to severe wet conditions. Patches of mild to moderate dryness are observed in Dormaa, Enchi and Half Assini. In the Coastal zone, mild to moderate wet conditions are observed in Cape Coast and Accra.

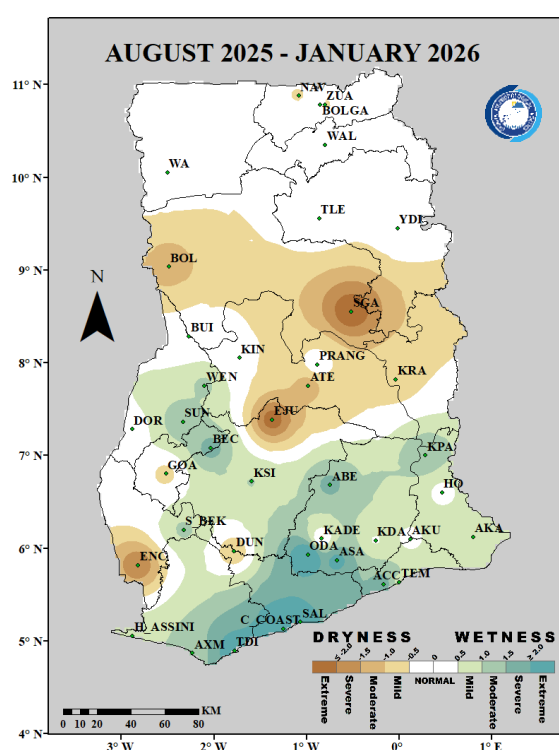


Fig. 1(c): 6-Month SPI (for hydrological drought): August 2025 - January 2026

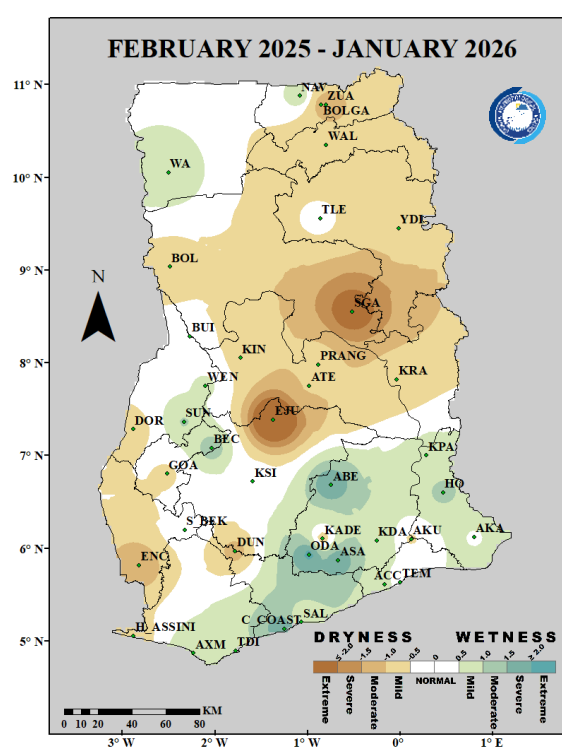


Fig. 1(d): 12-Month SPI (for streamflow and lake storage drought): February 2025 – January 2026

6-month SPI (August 2025 – January 2026)

The 6-Month SPI in Fig. 1(c) indicates mostly normal conditions across much of the Savannah zone, with Navrongo and Bole depicting mild to moderate dry conditions. Across the Transition zone, Sunyani and Bechem depict moderate wet conditions, while moderate to severe dry conditions are observed around Ejura and Salaga, with mild dry conditions extending towards Atebubu, Kete Krachi and its environs. Mild wet conditions dominate the Forest zone, particularly around Sefwi Bekwai, Abetifi, Kpando, Akim Oda and Asamankese, while patches of mild dry conditions occur around Goaso, Dunkwa and Enchi. The Coastal zone exhibits severe wet

conditions, especially around Cape Coast and Saltpond, while mild wet conditions prevail across Accra, Tema, Half Assini, Axim and Takoradi.

12-month SPI (February 2025 – January 2026)

The 12-Month SPI in Fig. 1(d) indicates predominantly mild to moderate dry conditions across much of the northern and Transition zones of the country. Wa and Navrongo depict mild wet conditions, with the rest of the north recording mild dry conditions. Across the Transition zone, moderate to severe dry conditions are observed around Salaga and Ejura, while mild dry conditions extend towards Kintampo, Atebubu, Prang and Kete Krachi. Within the Forest zone, mild to moderate wet conditions dominate areas around Abetifi, Akim Oda, Asamankese, Koforidua, Ho and Kpando, while mild to moderate dry conditions extend towards Dormaa, Goaso, Enchi, Dunkwa and Half Assini. The Coastal zone shows mild wet conditions dominating, with Cape Coast depicting moderate wetness.

STATIONS

Station	Abbreviation	Station	Abbreviation	Station	Abbreviation
Abetifi	ABE	Enchi	ENC	Sunyani	SUN
Accra	ACC	Goaso	GOA	Takoradi	TDI
Akatsi	AKA	Half Assini	H ASSINI	Tamale	TLE
Akim Oda	ODA	Ho	HO	Tema	TEM
Akuse	AKU	Kade	KADE	Wa	WA
Asamankese	ASA	Kete Krachi	KRA	Walewale	WAL
Atebubu	ATE	Kintampo	KIN	Wenchi	WEN
Axim	AXM	Koforidua	KDA	Yendi	YDI
Bechem	BEC	Kpandu	KPA	Zuarungu	ZUA
Bole	BOL	Kumasi	KSI		
Bolga	BOLGA	Mim	MIM		
Bui	BUI	Navrongo	NAV		
Cape Coast	C_COAST	Prang	PRANG		
Dormaa	DOR	Salaga	SGA		
Dunkwa	DUN	Saltpond	SAL		
Ejura	EJU	Sefwi Bekwai	BEK		

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**Kindly send feedback to:
The Director-General
Ghana Meteorological Agency
P. O. Box Lg 87, Legon, Accra-Ghana
Email: info@meteo.gov.gh
Phone: 0302764926 / 0302777172**