WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Seasonal Monitoring in Cambodia

December 2025

KEY MESSAGES

December **rainfall was below average** across most provinces, except in Ratanak Kiri and Mondul Kiri, which received near to above normal rainfall.

Most provinces experienced **cooler-than-average temperatures**, with only small hotspots of warmer conditions. Heat stress was minimal and observed only briefly in Stung Treng.

All river stations showed normal recession patterns, with water levels remaining close to long term averages throughout December.

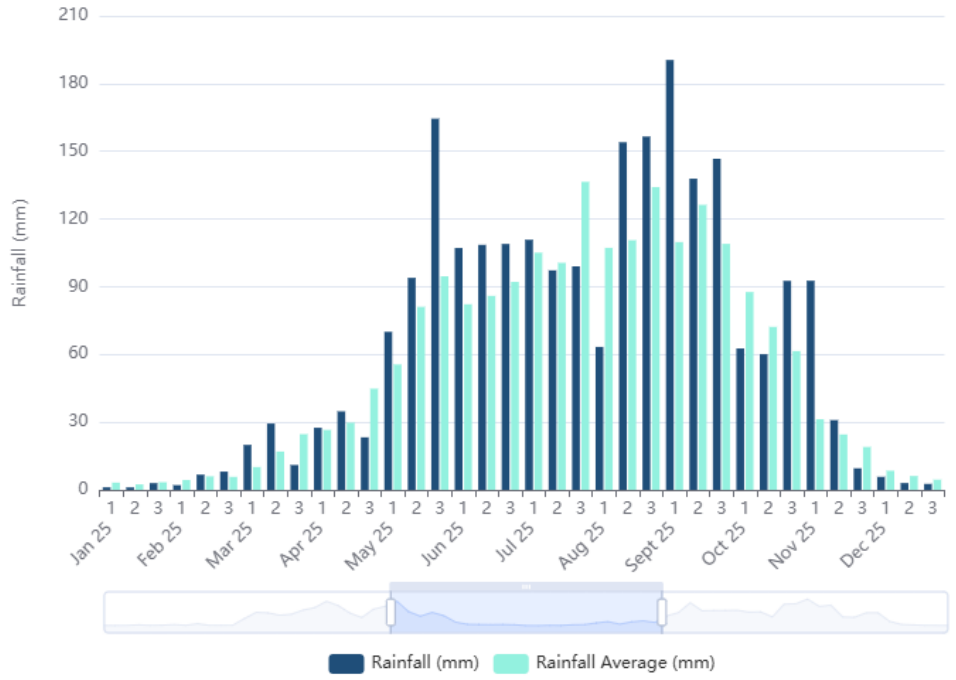
Soil moisture stayed normal to above normal, supporting crops. Vegetation was slightly below average around Tonle Sap due to earlier flooding, but **conditions remained healthy in most agricultural areas**.

Looking ahead, southern and coastal provinces are likely to see **higher-than-normal rainfall in January 2026**, while western provinces may experience **drier-than-normal conditions in February**. Slight **temperature increases are also expected in western and coastal areas during January and again from March to April**. Given the potential for localized or unexpected weather extremes, preparedness across the health, agriculture, and water-management sectors—and regular monitoring of MoWRAM updates—is strongly advised.

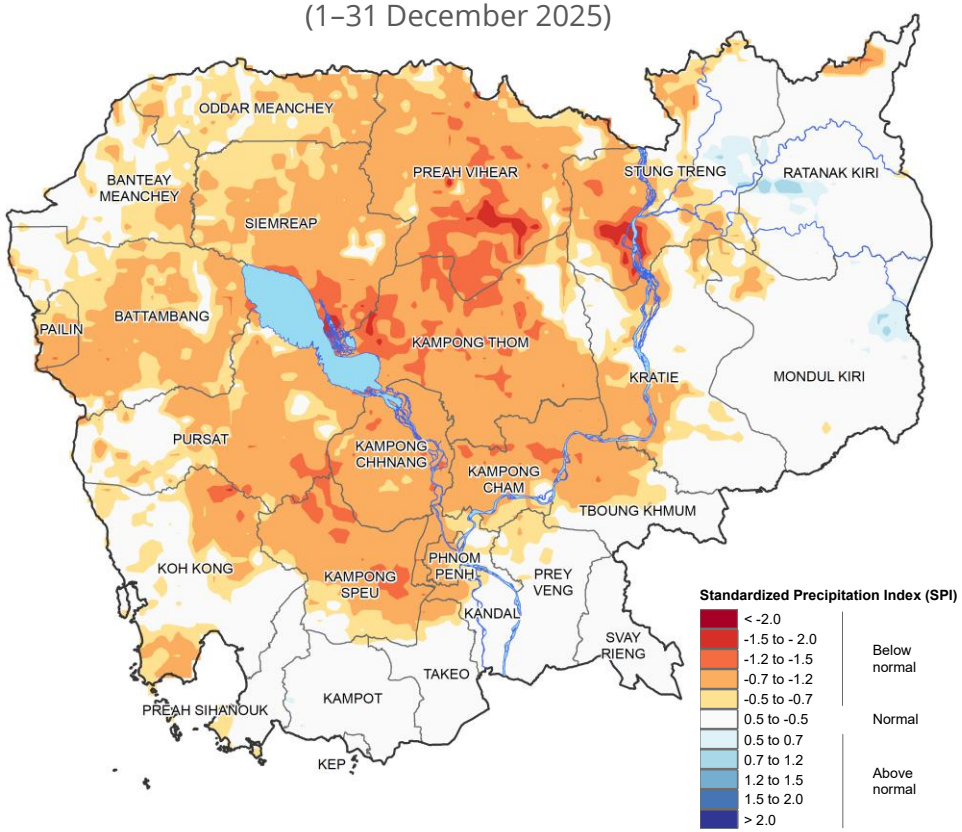
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

Cambodia recorded below-average rainfall in December, with most provinces receiving slightly less than normal *(chart below, left).* However, the eastern provinces, particularly Ratanak Kiri and Mondul Kiri, experienced normal to above-average rainfall *(map below, right).*

National-Average Rainfall Distribution
(From 1 January to 31 December 2025)



1-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
(1–31 December 2025)



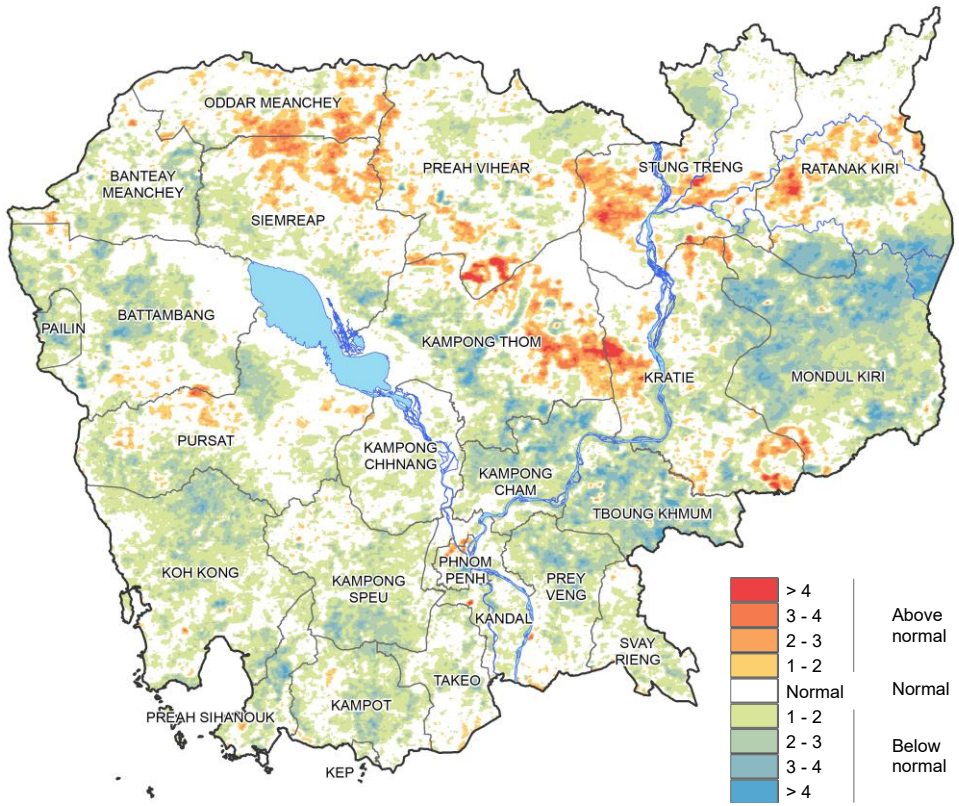
Source: Rainfall from CHIRPS and analysis by WFP.

TEMPERATURE PATTERN

Land Surface Temperatures (LST) in December were generally cooler than average across most provinces. Localized areas of higher-than-normal temperatures were observed in parts of Oddar Meanchey, Kampong Thom, Stung Treng, and Ratanak Kiri *(map below, left).* Heat stress conditions (>= 35 °C) were minimal and recorded only in Stung Treng, occurring on two days during the month *(maps below, right).*

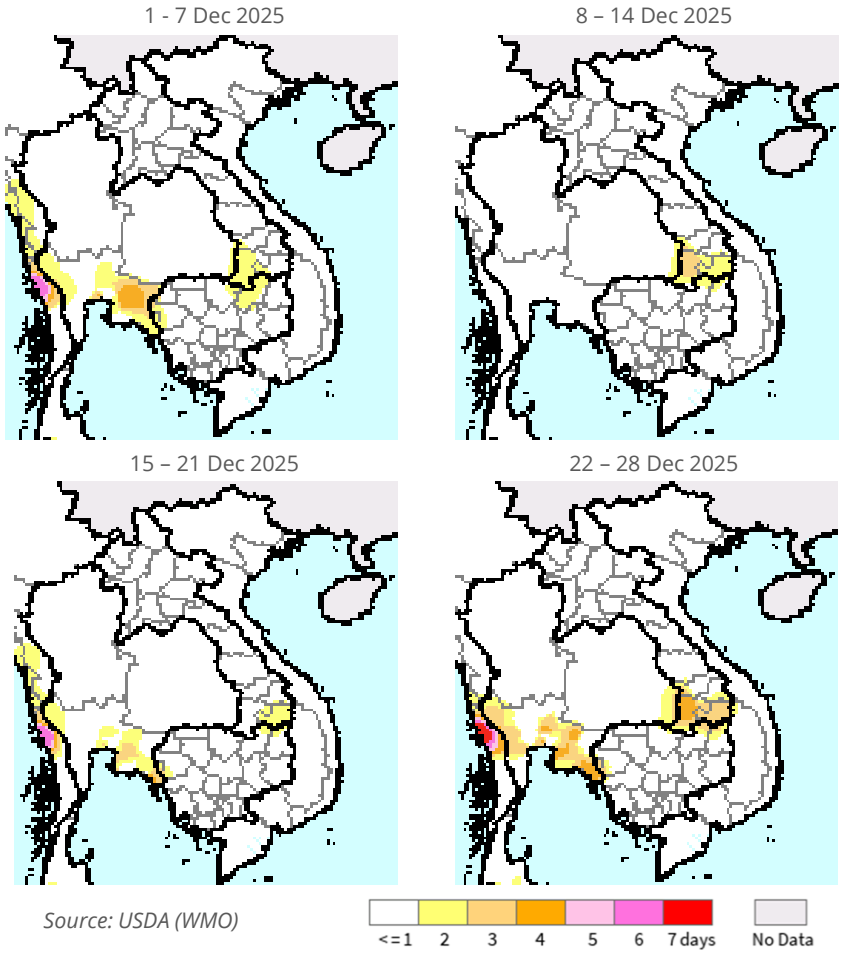
1-Month Land Surface Temperature (LST) Anomaly

(1–31 December 2025)



Source: LST from MODIS and analysis by WFP

Heat Stress Days (>= 35 °C)



Source: USDA (WMO)

RIVER WATER LEVELS

All eight river monitoring stations showed receding water levels throughout December, with no major deviations from long-term averages.

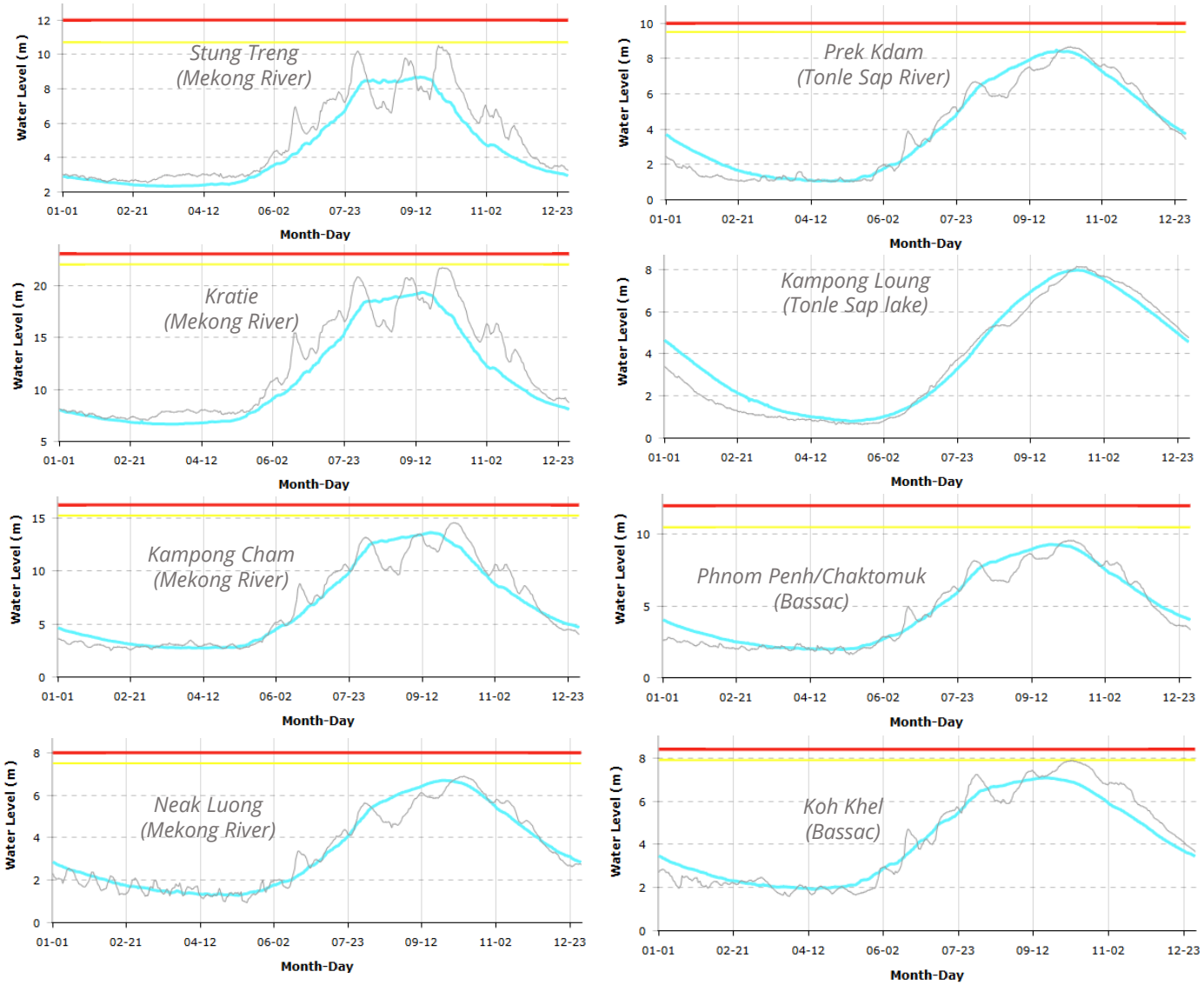
Along the Mekong River, water levels were slightly above average in Stung Treng and Kratie, but below average in Kampong Cham and Neak Loung.

At Tonle Sap Lake/River stations (Kampong Loung, Prek Kdam), water levels were close to long-term averages.

Along the Bassac River, levels were below average at Phnom Penh but above average at Koh Khel.

River water level observed in 8 monitoring stations in Cambodia

(by 31 December 2025)

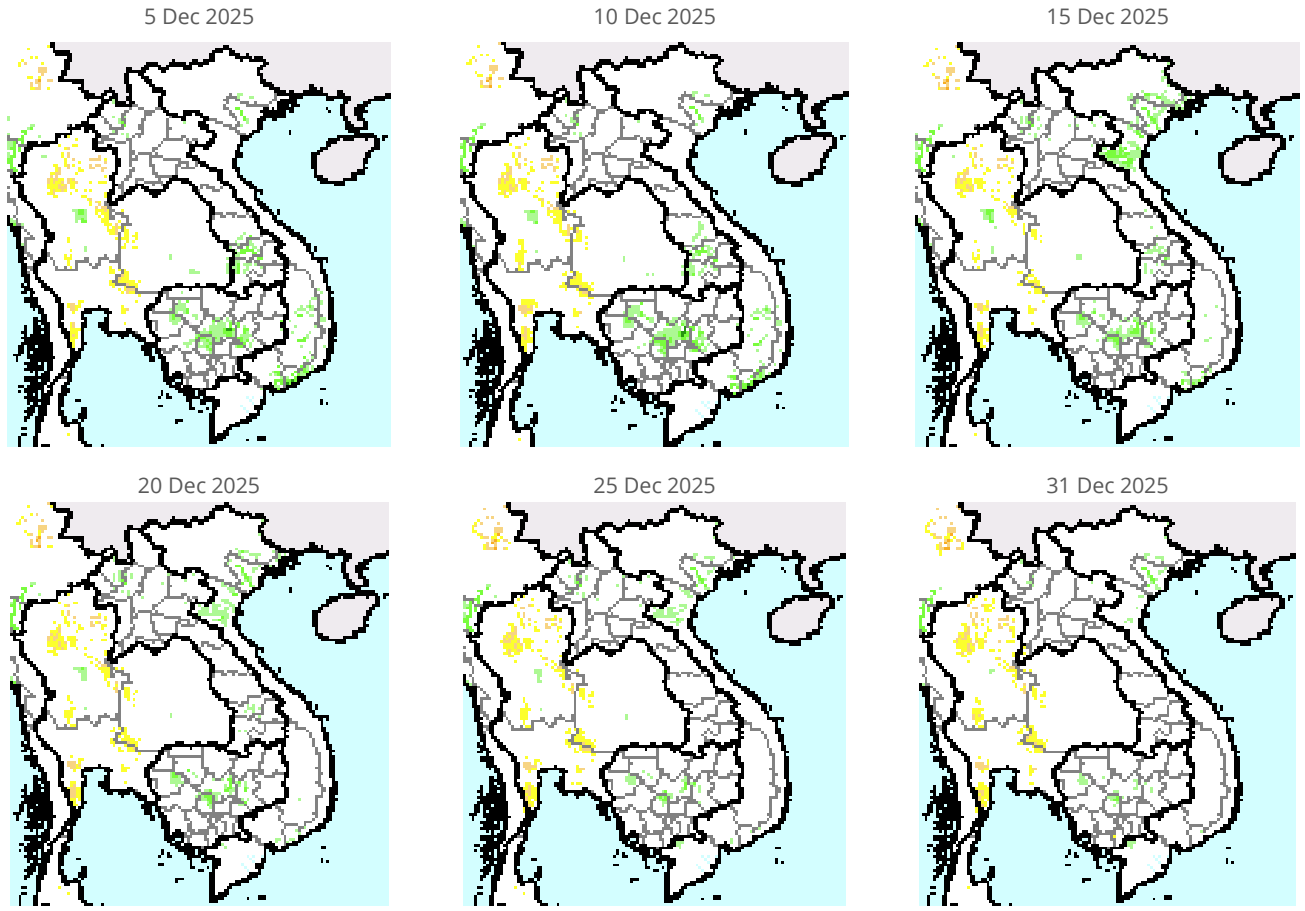


Source: MoWRAM's Department of Hydrology and River Works

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS

Root-zone soil moisture (0–100 cm) remained normal to above normal across most of the country in December, supported by substantial rainfall in preceding months *(maps below).* These moisture conditions were favorable for late wet-season and early dry-season crop cultivation.

Soil Moisture (Root zone: 0-100 cm) Anomaly



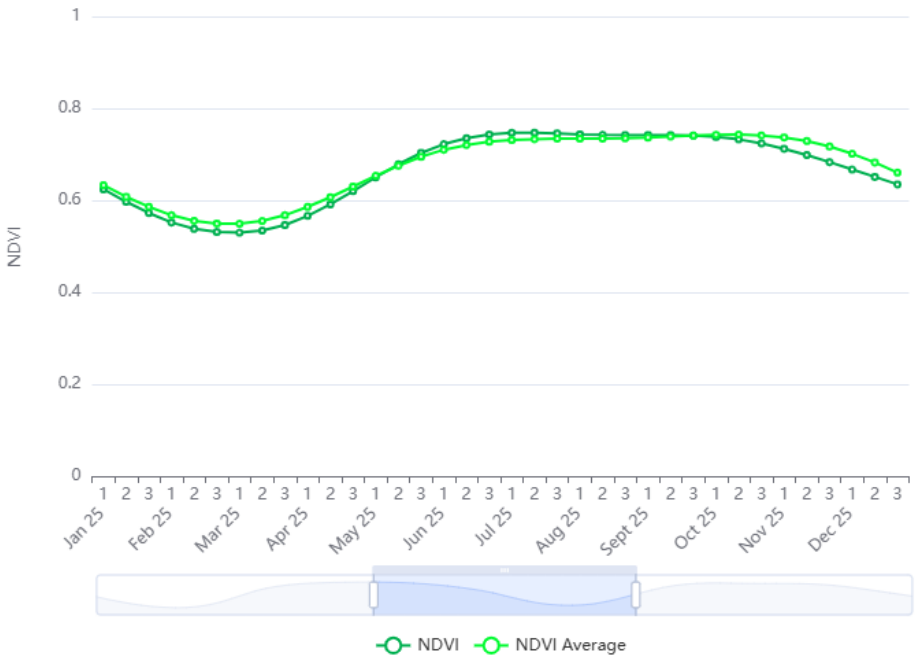
Source: USDA (NASA/GMAO SMAP)

VEGETATION AND CROP CONDITIONS

Vegetation conditions nationwide were slightly below the long-term average *(chart below, left).* The most affected areas were those surrounding the Tonle Sap Lake, where flooding and waterlogging—caused by overflow from the lake basin—likely contributed to reduced vegetation conditions *(map below, right).* Despite these localized impacts, most crop-producing provinces maintained healthy vegetation conditions.

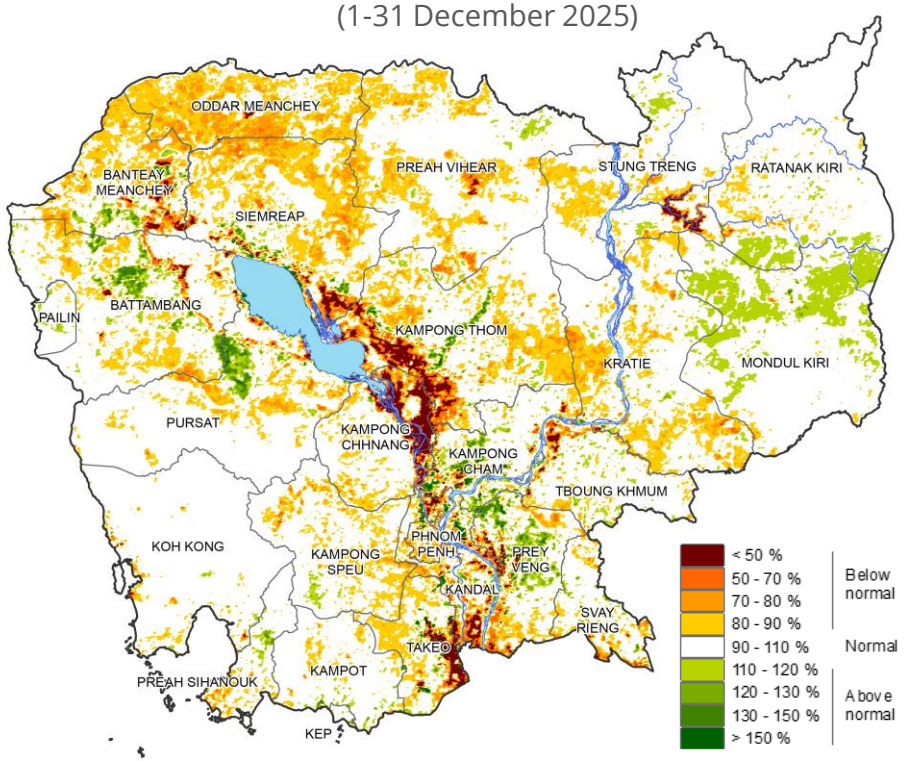
National-Average NDVI

(From 1 January to 31 December 2025)



1-Month NDVI Anomaly

(1-31 December 2025)



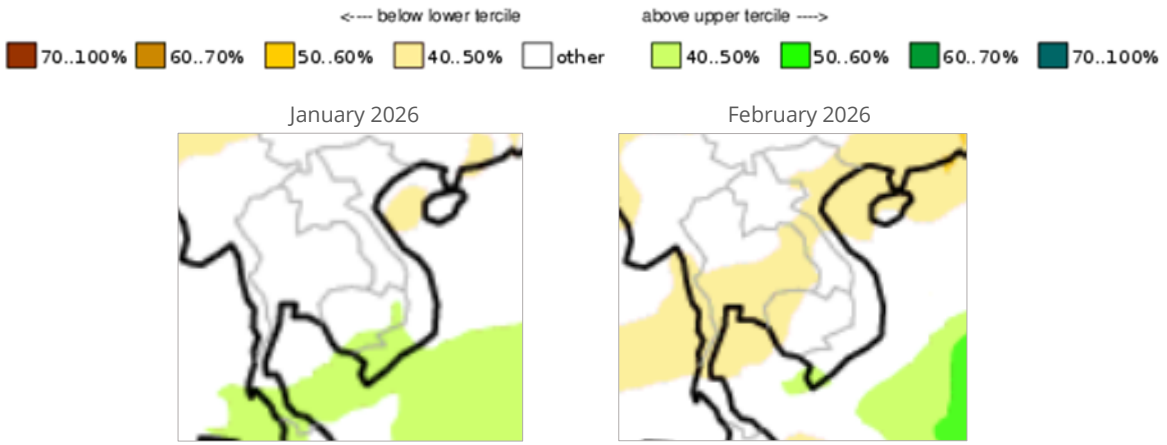
Source: NDVI from MODIS and analysis by WFP

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

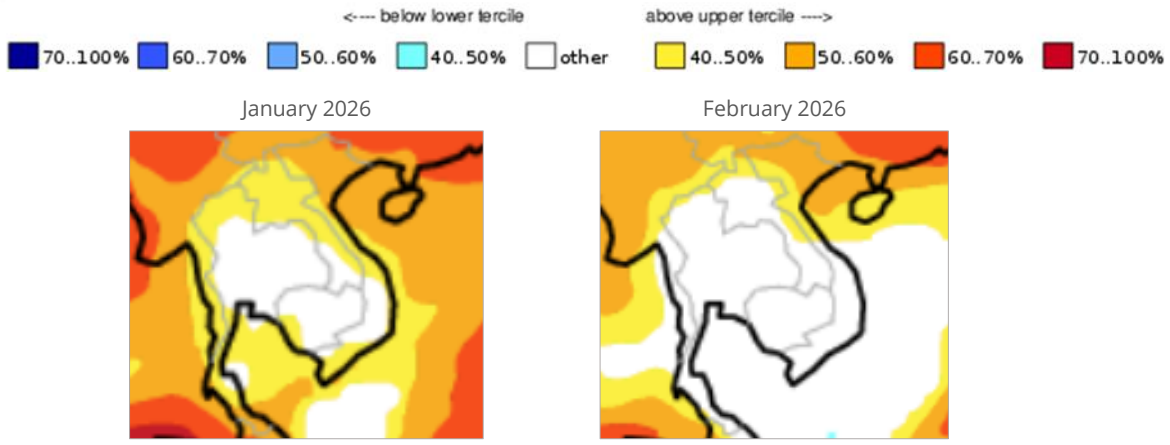
Seasonal forecasts indicate a low likelihood of significantly below- or above-average rainfall and temperatures across most provinces from January to April 2026. However, southern and coastal provinces show an increased chance of higher-than-normal rainfall in January, while western provinces are more likely to experience lower-than-normal rainfall in February *(maps below, left).* The probability of above-normal temperatures also increases slightly, particularly in western and coastal provinces during January, March, and April *(maps below, right).*

During this period, preparedness efforts should focus on anticipating localized or unexpected weather extremes—such as higher rainfall and rising temperatures—by reinforcing efficient water resource management and implementing preventive health and agricultural measures.

Seasonal Rainfall Forecast



Seasonal Temperature Forecast



Source: ECMWF

House 108, Street 63/corner Street 208, Sangkat Boeung Raing,
Khan Daun Penh, P.O Box 937, Phnom Penh

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring (RAM) Unit

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Team

For further information please contact:

Jae Hwi KIM - jaehwi.kim@wfp.org

Chanvibol CHOEUR - chanvibol.choeur@wfp.org