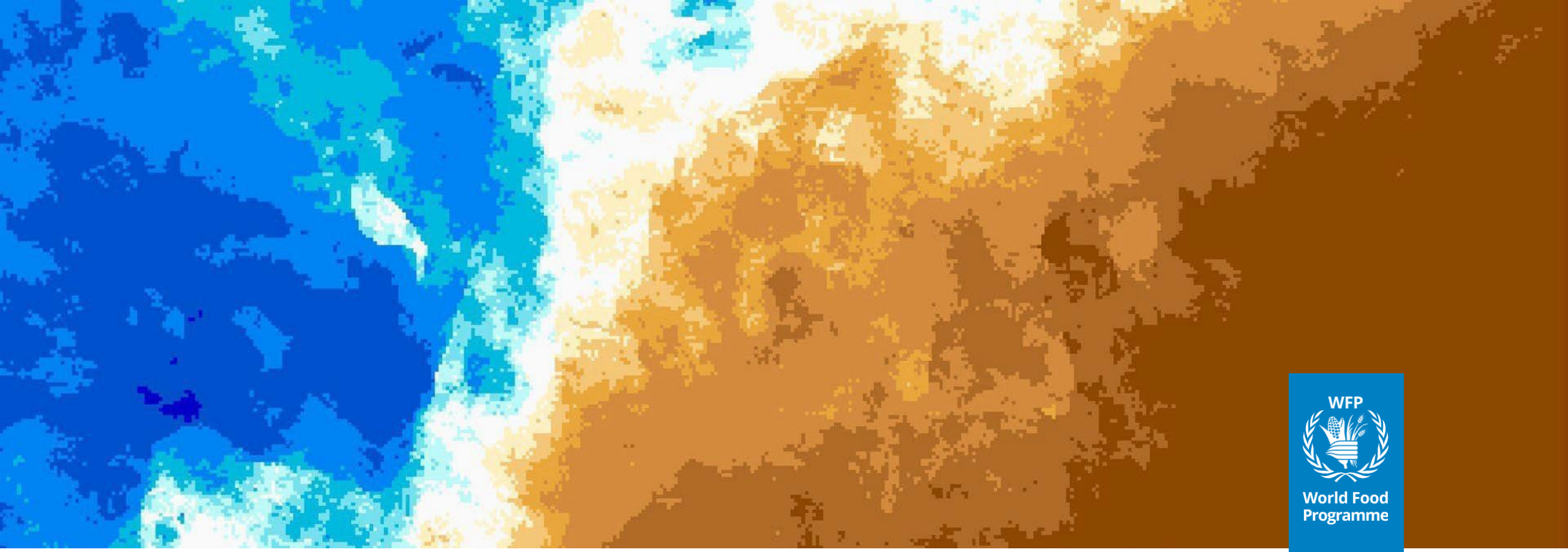


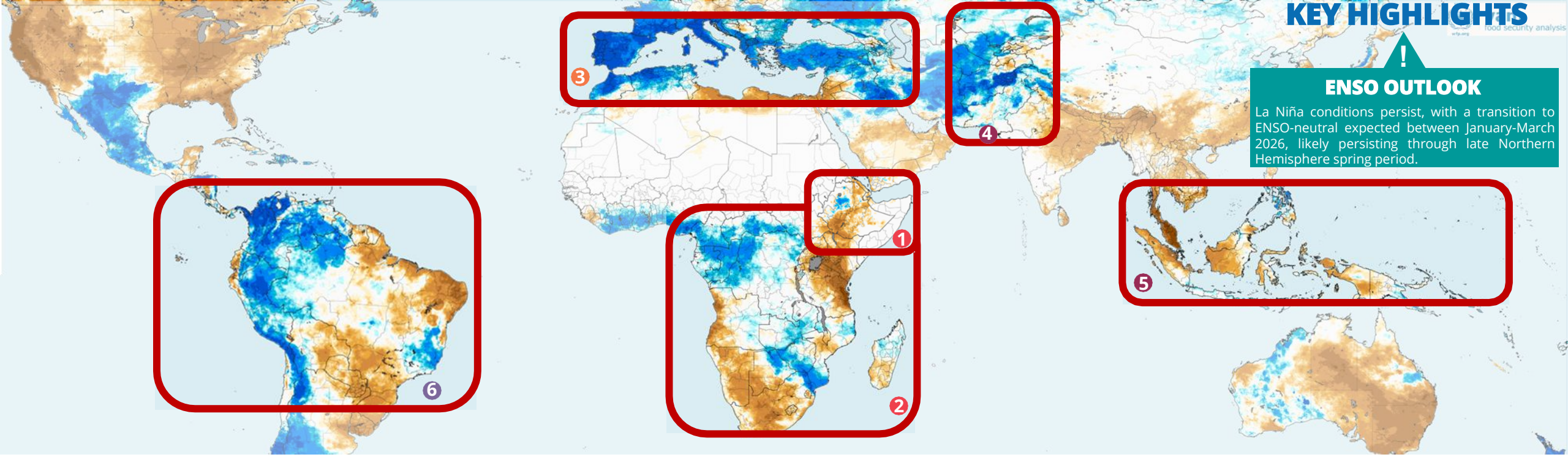
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Global Seasonal Outlook

January 2026



1 HORN OF AFRICA

drought

Rainfall forecasts for the March–May Long-Rains remain uncertain, with no clear indication of wetter or drier conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average. Following the failed 2025 Short-Rains, conditions remain highly fragile, and even near-normal rainfall may not be sufficient to fully restore soil moisture available to plants.

2 SOUTHERN AFRICA

flood cyclone drought

Recent weeks have been characterized by increasingly uneven rainfall, with severe flooding in southern Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe contrasting with emerging moisture stress in parts of northern Zambia and Angola. The February–April forecast points to persistent variability and ongoing cyclone risk, implying that impacts on people and livelihoods are likely

3 MENA

drought

Recent rainfall has supported localized improvements across the region following a delayed and generally dry start, though early-season deficits persist in parts of the Middle East. The February–April outlook indicates mostly near-average conditions, with wetter-than-usual conditions more likely in parts of Iraq, limiting the potential for broad regional recovery.

4 CENTRAL ASIA

drought

A prolonged dry start continues to shape winter conditions across the region. While February–April forecast rainfall may ease pressures in some areas, overall water availability is expected to remain constrained due to accumulated deficits and a weak snow season.

5 INDONESIA & PACIFIC

cyclone flood

Above-average early rains supported good vegetation development but also caused localized flooding. The February–April forecast indicates drier-than-usual conditions, which could hinder crop development, while the risk of tropical cyclone activity persists.

6 LATAM

flood drought

Rainfall across the region remains highly variable, with wetter conditions in parts of the west and persistent dryness further east. This pattern is expected to continue in the coming months, increasing localized flood risk in wetter regions while constraining crop development and water availability where rainfall deficits persist.

HORN OF AFRICA

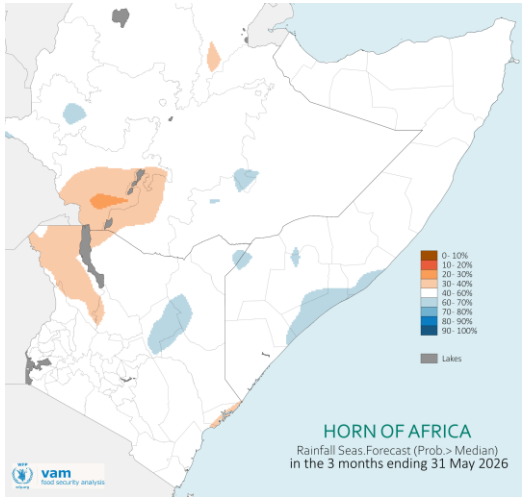
Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		HOA Long Rains, Ethiopia (Belg)							HOA Short Rains		

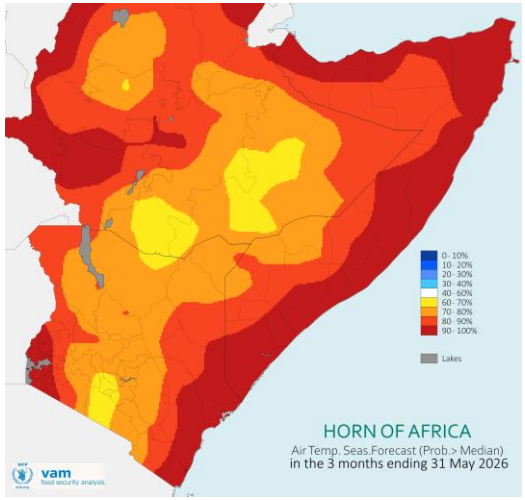
After Failed Short-Rains: Heat and Low Predictability for Long-Rains

Global seasonal forecasts for the March–May Long-Rains remain highly uncertain, with no clear signal pointing toward either wetter- or drier-than-average conditions. The latest regional outlook (GHACOF 72) indicates a 40% probability of near-normal rainfall across much of Somalia and Kenya. With the naturally low predictability of rainfall during this season, this uncertainty underscores the need for particularly close monitoring.

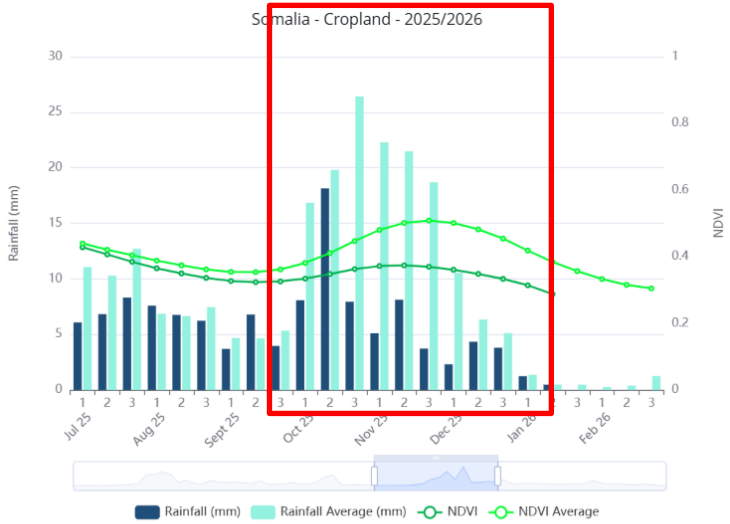
Temperatures are very likely to remain above average across most areas, increasing evaporation, accelerating soil-moisture loss, and heightening vegetation dryness. Following the complete failure of the previous Short-Rains, baseline conditions are already extremely fragile (plot on the right): soils are depleted, water sources are under stress, and rangelands are weakened. Under these starting conditions, even near-average rainfall would not ensure recovery, and any early- or mid-season dry spells could have strong impacts on crop development, pasture regeneration, and water availability.



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions



Temperature forecast for the 3-month periods **Mar-May 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely colder (hotter) than usual conditions



Time series of actual rainfall and NDVI (dark blue bars/ green line) and mean long term rainfall (light blue bars/green line) since July 2025. Note exceptionally l low NDVI and rainfall during 2025 short season .

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Southern Africa	■	■	■	■						■	■	■

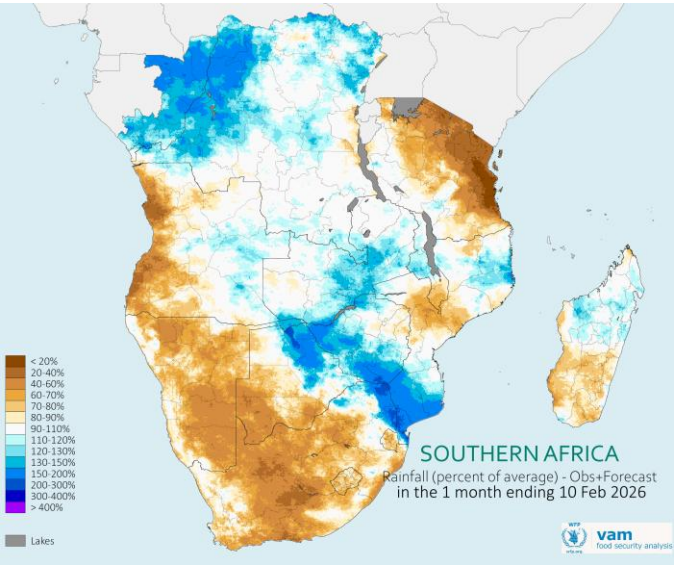
Severe Mid-Season Flooding and Uncertainty Ahead

Late December–January rainfall became increasingly uneven and episodic, marking a mid-season shift from earlier conditions. Successive heavy events led to rapid accumulations and severe flooding in southern and central Mozambique, with additional impacts reported in parts of southern and eastern Zimbabwe, Malawi and eastern Zambia. Tropical Storm Ewetse brought further heavy rainfall to southwestern Madagascar.

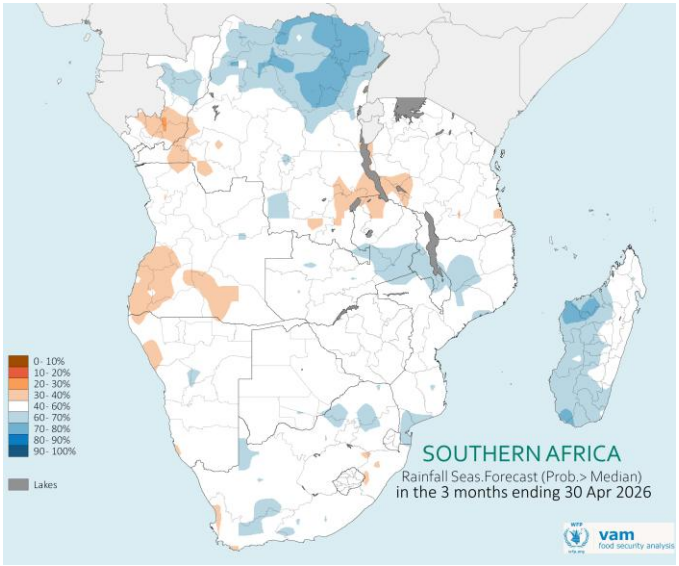
In contrast, rainfall has been less consistent in other parts of the region, with emerging moisture stress in parts of northern and north-eastern Zambia and Angola.

La Niña influence is weakening, reducing the coherence of the large-scale seasonal signal and increasing uncertainty. This is reflected in the February–April forecast, which indicates a predominantly near-average rainfall signal across most of the region, with probability of rainfall exceeding the median in a few areas of Northern and southern Mozambique and parts of Zambia and Madagascar. A near-average forecast doesn't imply normal conditions; both wet and dry extremes remain possible, and the season could still experience significant variability or impactful events.

Cyclone activity in the South-West Indian Ocean is expected to be normal to above normal, maintaining elevated risk for Madagascar and the Mozambique Channel.



Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **ending 10 Feb 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Feb-Apr 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

SPECIAL FOCUS: MOZAMBIQUE FLOOD EMERGENCY

Mozambique Flood Emergency

Repeated heavy rainfall over late December–January

Soils became saturated, reducing infiltration

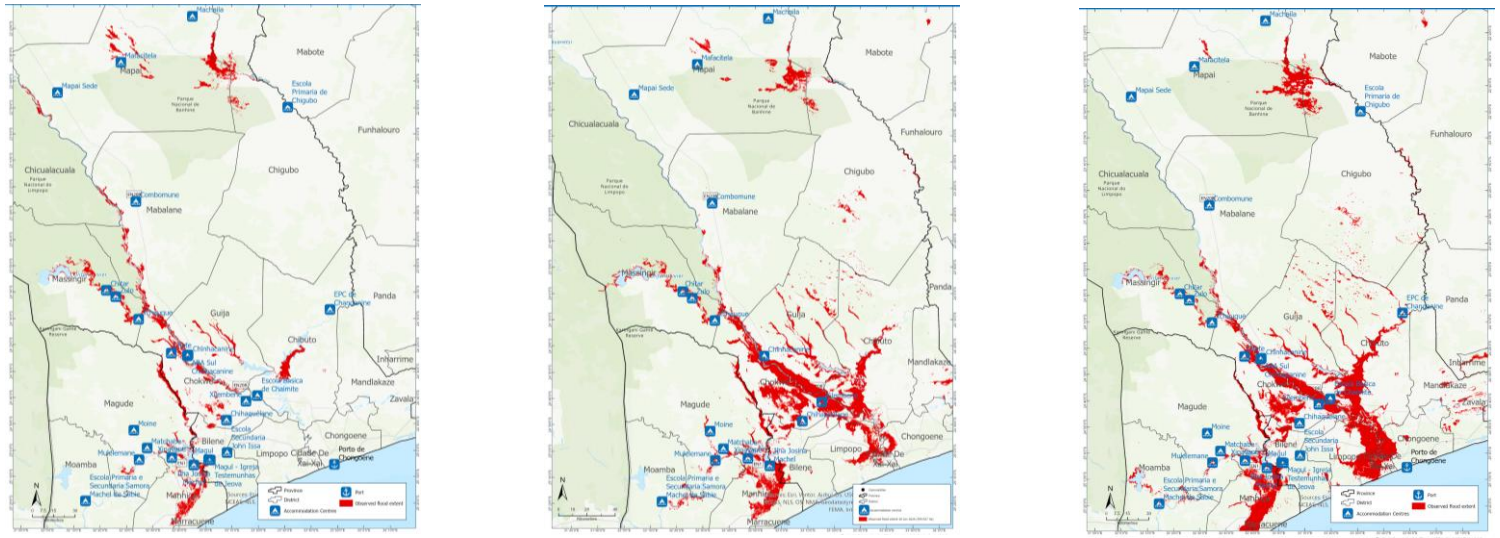
Runoff increased with each new rainfall episode

River levels rose progressively across the Limpopo basin

Upstream flows accumulated downstream, even after local rainfall eased

Prolonged riverine flooding, affecting wide areas and delaying recovery

Mozambique experienced severe flooding in late Dec–Jan due to persistent heavy rains across Gaza, Maputo, Inhambane and Sofala.
Major rivers - including the Limpopo, Incomati and Buzi- overflowed, affecting hundreds of thousands and disrupting housing, services, and access.
This ranks among the most severe riverine floods in two decades.
Crop losses and prolonged inundation will likely reduce short-term food access and post-harvest stocks.
Drier conditions forecast for late January–early February may support gradual recession of floodwaters.



Limpopo & Incomati river basin: Flood extent 15 January 2026 (right), 20 January 2026 (middle), 25 January 2026 (left). Flooded areas in red.

EMERGENCY IN NUMBERS

700,000 people affected

287,000 ha cropland impacted

139,000 ha lost

326,000 livestock lost

155,000 houses flooded

Source: INGD, as of 26 January 2026*

*Instituto Nacional de Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres

MENA REGION

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mena Region												

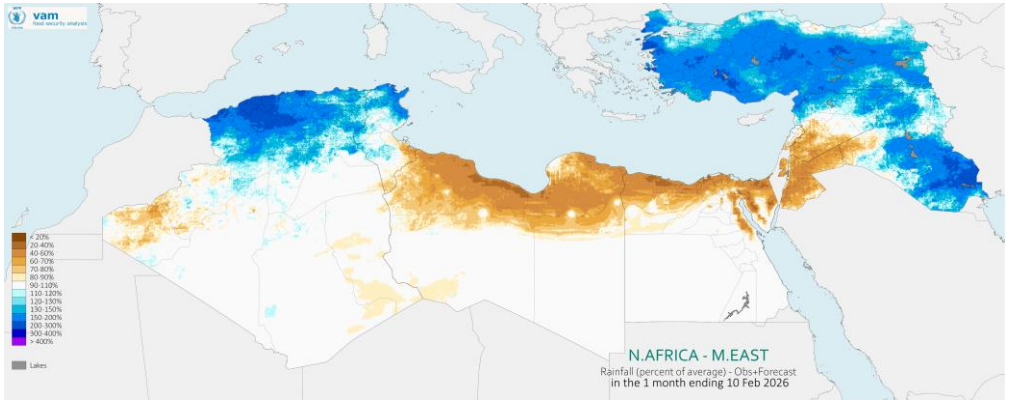
Early-Season Delays and Mixed Prospects

The 2025/26 winter season across the MENA region has evolved from a delayed and generally dry start toward a mixed mid-season pattern, marked by localized improvements but no coherent regional recovery.

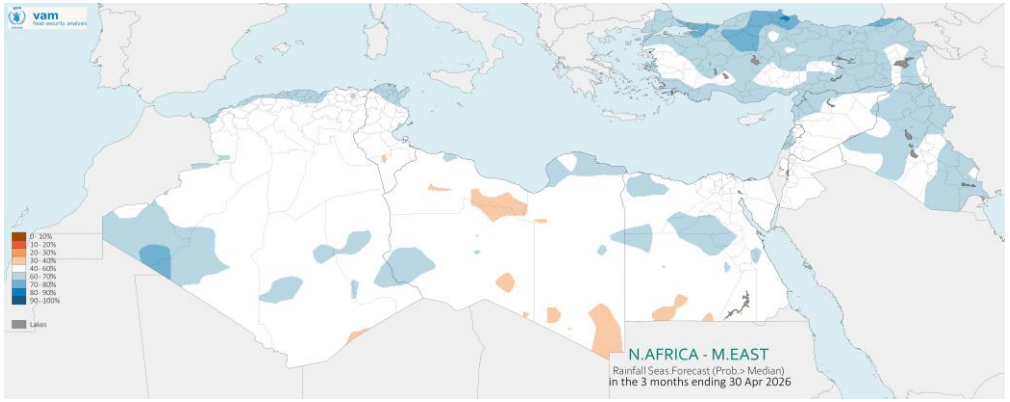
Rainfall increased across parts of North Africa, Turkey, and Iraq, supporting localized gains in surface moisture and short-term cropping conditions, while early-season deficits persist across western Syria, Jordan continuing to constrain rainfed crop recovery.

Seasonal forecasts for February–April indicate near-average conditions across much of North Africa, Syria, and the central Middle East, providing no clear signal of the above-average rainfall needed to offset early-season deficits or reduce the risk of poor performance in rainfed systems.

In contrast, parts of Iraq and northern Syria areas show a higher likelihood of wetter-than-average conditions, which could provide some late-season support to winter crops.



Observed and forecast rainfall 1-month ending **10 Feb 2026** , as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Feb-Apr 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions

CENTRAL ASIA

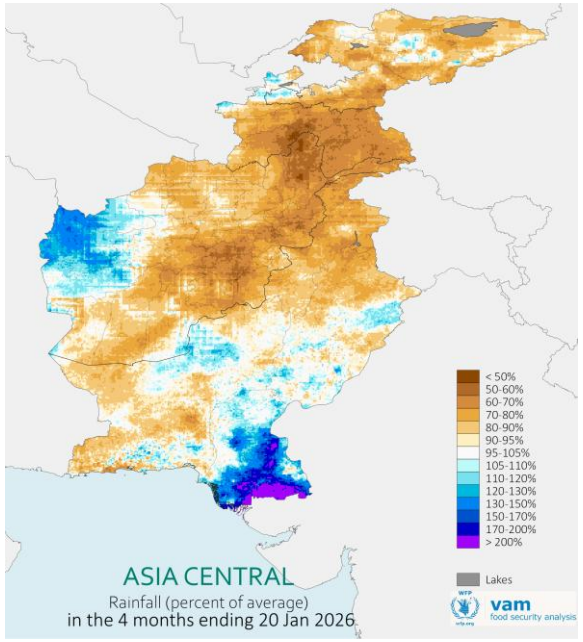
Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Central Asia	■	■	■	■	■					■	■	■

Start Improving, but Likely Still Insufficient

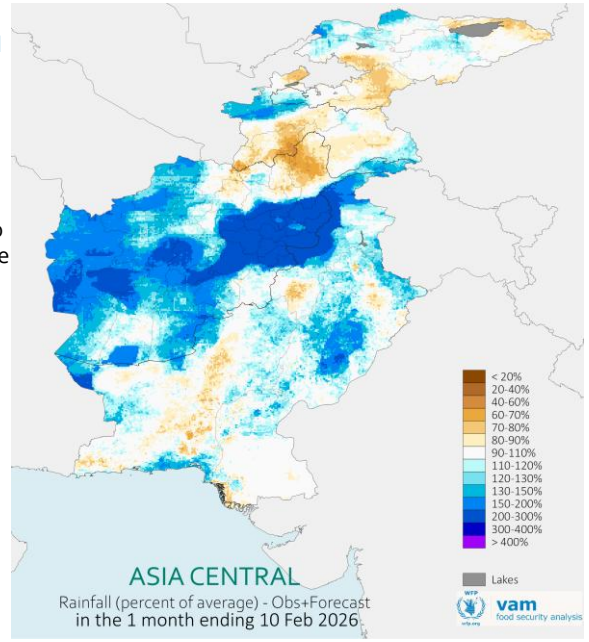
The winter season across the region has been shaped by pronounced rainfall deficits, with the past four months markedly drier than average across much of Afghanistan, particularly in central and northern areas, as well as in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. These conditions have prolonged moisture stress following consecutive dry years and delayed seasonal recovery of water resources.

In contrast to the earlier dry start, short term forecasts point to above average rainfall through January, and seasonal outlooks for the next three months indicate a tendency toward wetter than average conditions. While this shift may help ease drought intensity in parts of Afghanistan, accumulated deficits and ongoing snow water shortages mean that full recovery remains unlikely within a single season. As a result, water availability and agricultural conditions are expected to remain vulnerable despite improving rainfall prospects. Conversely, the likelihood of extreme events and flooding is rising

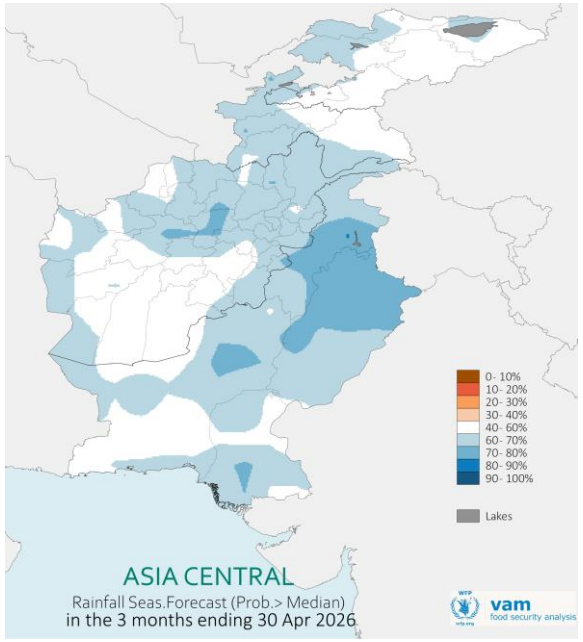


Observed Rainfall for the 4-month **until 20 Jan 2026**, as a proportion of the long- term average.

Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall



Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **until 10 Feb 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Feb - Apr 2026**, as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions

LATIN AMERICA

South America (Southern)

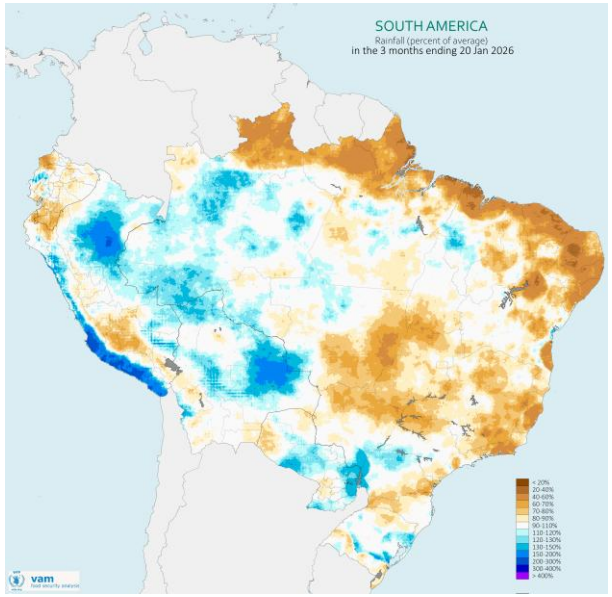
Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

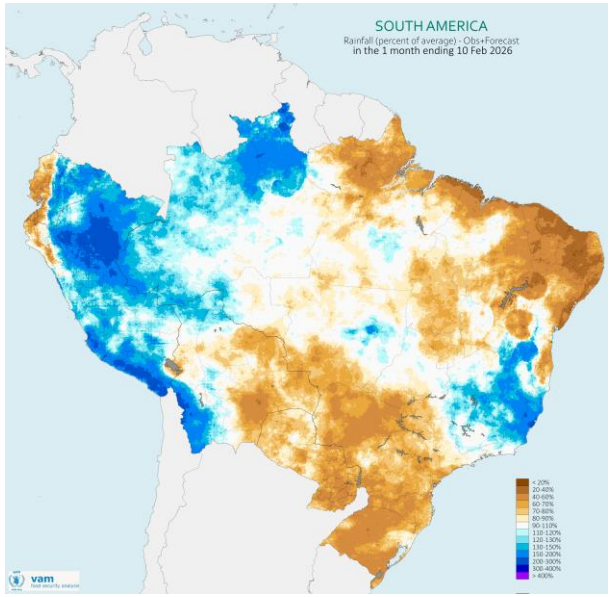
Mixed Rainfall Patterns Persist Across South America

Rainfall patterns across the region remain highly mixed. Below average rainfall has prevailed over eastern parts, while above average rainfall has been observed across western areas, particularly over Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. This contrast has supported generally favourable vegetation conditions in the west, but has also increased localized flood risk, while drier conditions persist further east.

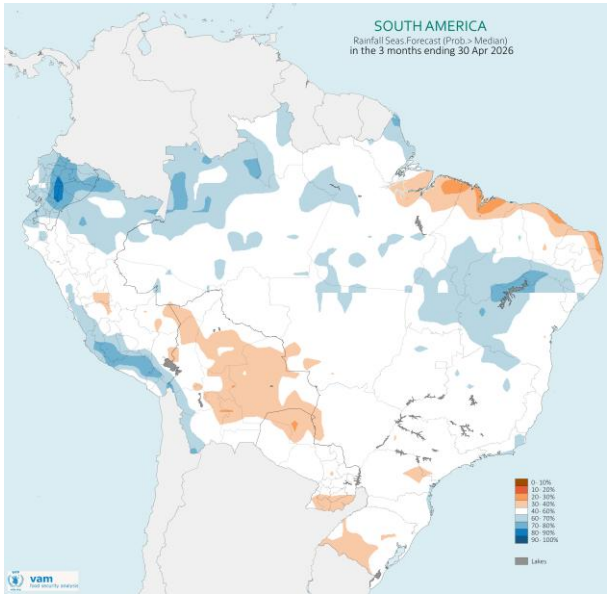
In the short term, rainfall are expected to remain broadly with the same pattern, through early February. Looking further, forecasts through April continue to indicate a heterogeneous pattern, with wetter than average conditions likely to persist over western parts, and drier than average condition forecast across much of the remainder of the region. This spatial variability suggests differentiated impacts on crops, with localized flooding risk in wetter regions and potential stress in areas with persistent rainfall deficits.



Observed Rainfall for the 3-month **until 20 Jan 2026**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.



Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **until 10 Feb 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions



Rainfall forecast for **Feb - Apr 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual condition

Indonesia and Pacific

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

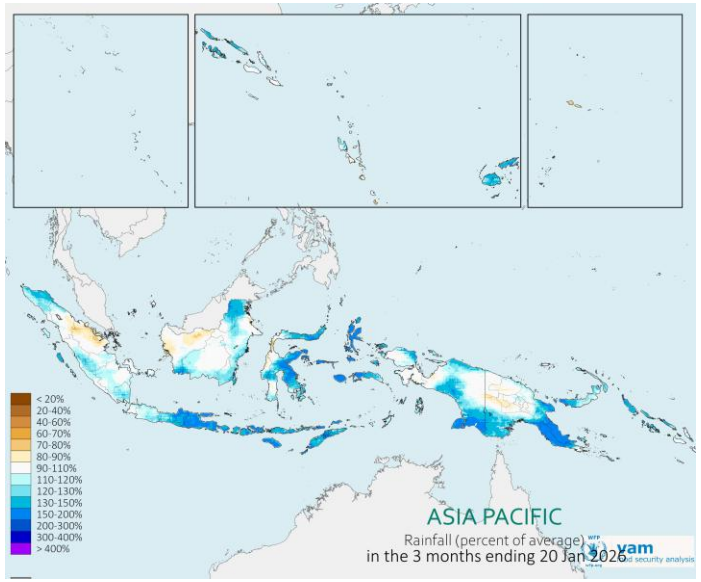
Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec

Seasonal Conditions Shift After a Wet Start

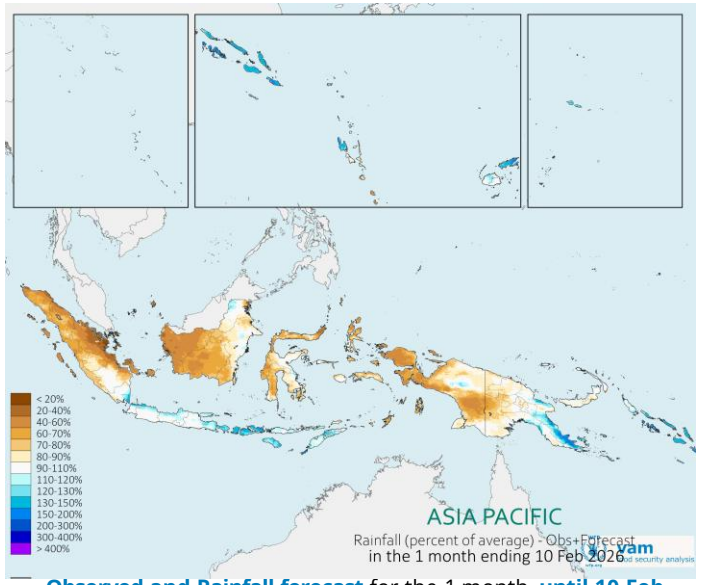
The first months of the rainy season were characterized by above average rainfall across much of the region, with particularly wet conditions observed over Indonesia. These early rainfall helped support soil moisture and crop establishment but also followed a period of localized flooding and landslides in some areas.

Looking ahead, forecasts for early February and for Feb-Apr period point to a shift toward below average rainfall across must of the region, especially over Indonesia. This transition raises concerns for crop growth during key development stages, as reduced rainfall combined with warmer conditions could increase moisture stress later the season.

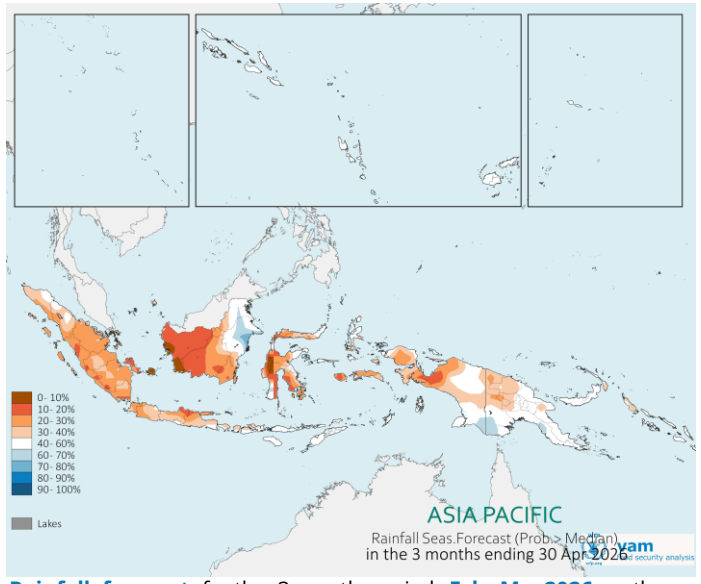
Tropical cyclone activity is expected to remain near normal to slightly above normal, continuing to represent a localized hazard despite the boarder drying trend.



Observed Rainfall for the 3-month **until 10 Jan 2026**, as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.



Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **until 10 Feb 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions



Rainfall forecast for the 3-month periods **Feb - Mar 2026**, as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median.Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions

All satellite data (rainfall, vegetation index and land surface temperature) both current and historical are stored and processed at the WFP-HQ Humanitarian Data Cube AWS cloud system.

Rainfall: Primary dekadal data (CHIRPS) from Univ California St Barbara Climate Hazards Centre (https://www.chc.ucsb.edu/data/chirps)
Various accumulations are computed on a dekadal basis and anomalies derived relative to a 25 year-long mean (1994-2018).

L**and Surface Temperature:** Primary data from MODIS-AQUA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled, both daytime and nighttime images. Thermal amplitude derived from difference between the two. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

Vegetation Index: Primary data from MODIS-AQUA and TERRA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

Seasonal Forecast: ECMWF seasonal forecasts **(SEAS5) |** The forecast anomalies are presented as the probability of exceeding the median, indicating the likelihood that seasonal precipitation will be above the median of the 24-year climatological distribution. These anomalies are derived from a 51-member forecast ensemble and are calculated relative to a 24-year model climatology (based on a 25-member ensemble reforecast) spanning 1993–2016

What is ENSO? ENSO is a recurring climate pattern in the equatorial Pacific, alternating between El Niño, La Niña, and Neutral phases. Shifts in ocean temperatures and atmospheric pressure during these phases influence global weather, affecting rainfall, temperatures, and the risk of extremes such as droughts, heavy rains, and tropical cyclones. (https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/)

Water level in reservoirs: G-REALM data from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

Flood Forecast: GLOFAS-Copernicus and GOOGLE Flood Hub

Prepared by: Irene Ferrari, Diego Oliveira De Souza, Sophia Rosa, Virginia Leape, Giancarlo Pini

WFP World Food Programme

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