

October 2024

During the month of October, most areas in Balaka District are expected to remain dry. Any rainfall that does occur, referred to as *Chizimalupsya* rains, is not expected to exceed 30mm. However, isolated areas may still experience strong winds and thunderstorms associated with these early rains.

November 2024

In November, Balaka District is expected to receive less than 70mm of rainfall. The onset of the rainfall season is anticipated between the third week of November and the second week of December 2024. Rains during this month are likely to be accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms.

December 2024

Rainfall intensity is forecasted to increase significantly in December. Most areas in the district are expected to receive rainfall amounts exceeding 150mm. However, late onset of rains is expected in some areas, particularly during the last week of December.

January 2025

January is expected to be a wetter month, with most areas in Balaka forecasted to receive normal rainfall amounts of at least 300mm. Nonetheless, areas around TA Nsamala may receive less than 200mm. The threat of prolonged dry spells lasting more than seven days is high during this month.

February 2025

In February, reduced rainfall amounts are expected over most areas in the district, generally ranging from 150mm to 200mm. However, some areas, particularly around TA Kalembo and Balaka Town, may receive more than 250mm. Prolonged dry spells of over seven days are also expected during this month.

March 2025

Balaka District is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall amounts during March, ranging from 100mm to 150mm. Most areas may experience early cessation of rains beginning in the third week of March.

April 2025

As the rainfall season draws to a close, most areas in Balaka are expected to receive rainfall amounts between 50mm and 100mm. Rainfall cessation for several areas is anticipated during the month of April 2025.

Season Summary

Rainfall onset for the 2024–2025 season in Balaka is expected between the third week of November and the second week of December 2024. Cessation is projected to occur between the second and fourth week of April 2025, although some areas may experience early cessation starting in the third week of March. Prolonged dry spells of more than seven days are likely during January and February. The total length of the rainfall season is expected to range between 110 and 130 days. The season will be influenced by a weak La Niña event, and overall, Balaka District is forecasted to experience a wetter season compared to the previous year, with normal to above-normal rainfall expected in some months.