

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
ETHIOPIAN METEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTE
 METEOROLOGICAL DATA AND CLIMATOLOGY LEAD EXECUTIVE
REMOTE SENSING AND CLIMATOLOGICAL DESK
MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN
May 2026

*Some Applications of
Climate Information*

Disaster Management



**Water Resources
Management**



Construction



Environment & Health



Transport



Recreation & Tourism

HIGHLIGHTS

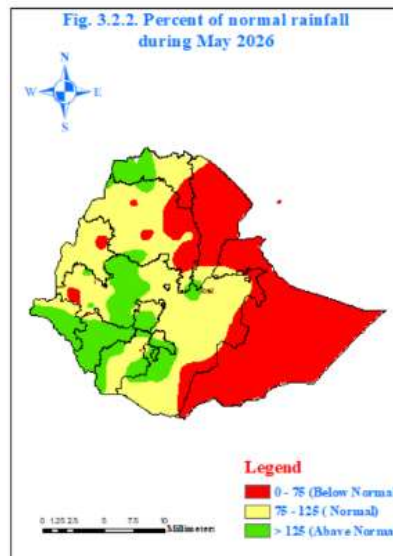
During May 2026, warm daytime conditions prevailed across several lowland areas of Ethiopia, including the Gambella, Somali, southern, eastern, and central parts of the Afar Region, the eastern part of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the southern and central parts of the Amhara Region, and the northern part of the Tigray Region (Fig. 3.1.2).

On the other hand, Extreme minimum temperatures of less than 8°C were recorded across various parts of the country, including the central and southern parts of the Amhara Region, localized areas of southwestern Oromia, parts of the Somali Region, and the Tigray Region.(Fig. 3.1.1).

In May 2026, the monthly rainfall amount exceeded 270 mm in several sections of Amhara, as well as the western, east, and south parts of Oromia, with higher rainfall episodes happening in the country's central part and west

Below-normal rainfall (0–75% of normal) prevailed over much of the eastern and southeastern parts of the country, including most of the Somali Region, eastern and southern Afar, eastern Oromia, and parts of eastern Amhara and Tigray. Near-normal rainfall (75–125% of normal) was observed across broad areas of the central and northwestern highlands, extending over parts of Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and the Southern Ethiopia regions. In contrast, above-normal rainfall (>125% of normal) occurred in localized areas of the western and southwestern parts of the country, particularly over parts of Gambella, western Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and isolated pockets of the central highlands and northwestern Ethiopia.

Overall, May 2026 was characterized by a pronounced west-to-east rainfall gradient, with wetter-than-normal conditions confined mainly to western Ethiopia, while much of the eastern and southeastern regions experienced substantial rainfall deficits.



Foreword

This climate bulletin is prepared and disseminated by the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI). It aims to provide climatological information to various community services involved in socio-economic activities and highlight major synoptic situations.

The information contained in this bulletin is believed to assist planners, decision-makers and the community at large by providing details of the climatic conditions of the nation in a given period.

This bulletin differs from the other real-time and near-real-time bulletins issued by the Institute, which, for their input, depend only on meteorological stations equipped with single-sideband radio for data transmission. Though this bulletin is not real-time, published with a delay of at least two months, the information contained in this bulletin is based on data coming from a much larger number of meteorological stations. Moreover, the information contained in this bulletin is not sector-specific and a wide range of users can benefit from it. The Institute disseminates monthly, seasonal and annual climatological bulletins in which all necessary climatological information and significant climatic anomalies are highlighted.

We have a strong belief that various socio-economic activities related to planning disaster mitigation, water resources management, construction, environmental protection, transportation, recreation, tourism and others will be benefited most by the careful and continuous use of this bulletin. Meanwhile, your comments and constructive suggestions are highly appreciated to make the objectives of this bulletin successful.

Director General

Ethiopian Meteorology Institute

P.O. Box 1090

Tel: +251-11-558-56-00/011-551 22 99

Fax : +251-11-552-8713/+251-11-558-7910

E-mail: emi@ethionet.gov.et

Addis Ababa



011 661 57 79



1090

Fax 011 551 70 66 E-mail nmsa@ethionet.et Web:

www.ethiomet.gov.et

1. Synoptic Situation

1.1 Surface

The Mascarene High, with a mean central pressure value of above 1020 hPa, was centered at about 32°S, 60°E.

The St. Helena high, with a mean central pressure value of above 1018hPa, was centered at about 30°S, 10°W.

The Azores high, with a mean central pressure value of 1018 hPa, was centered at about 32°N, 45°W.

1.2 Lower Troposphere (850 hPa vector wind)

Easterly flow with below 0 to 12 m/s mean vector wind flow originating from the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

1.3 Middle Troposphere Geopotential (500 hPa height)

Cross-equatorial and southeastern flow of above -6 to 3 m/s was observed over the northern and western Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, and the adjoining areas of the Horn of Africa.

1.4 Upper Troposphere (200 hPa vector wind)

The westerly wind, associated with The subtropical westerly jet had 0- 15 m/s and strengthened further, while the upper-level easterly flow, associated with the tropical easterly jet, weakened further

2. Tropical Oceanic and Atmospheric Highlights

During May 2026, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were above average across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. The depth of the oceanic thermocline (measured by the depth of the 20°C isotherm) was above-average across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. The corresponding sub-surface temperatures were 1-7°C above-average across equatorial Pacific.

3. Weather

3.1 Temperature

During May 2026, warm daytime conditions prevailed across several lowland areas of Ethiopia, including the Gambella, Somali, southern, eastern, and central parts of the Afar Region, the eastern part of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the southern and central parts of the Amhara Region, and the northern part of the Tigray Region (Fig. 3.1.2). Specifically, the extreme maximum temperature values were as high as 41.8, 40.5, 39.5, 39, 38.9, 38.8, 38.5, 38.2, 38, 37.4 and 37°C for Metema, Aysha, Fugnido, Gambella, Metehara (NMSA), Pawe, Adewa, Dire Dawa, Kibridahar, Gode, and Meisso stations, respectively (Table 3.1.1).

Extreme minimum temperatures of less than 8°C were recorded across various parts of the country, including the central and southern parts of the Amhara Region, localized areas of southwestern Oromia, parts of the Somali Region, and the Tigray Region.(Fig. 3.1.1). Ambamariam, Alemketema, D/Brehan, Jijiga, Wegeltena, Imdiber, Mehalmeda, Arise Robe, Debrawrek, Bore, Bui, and Nefasmewucha reported exceptional minimum temperatures of 3.6, 4.8, 5.2, 6.5, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8, 7, 7.8, 8, 8, and 8 , respectively (Table 3.1.2).

During May 2026, both positive and negative temperature departures from the climatological normal were observed across Ethiopia (Fig. 3.1.3). Positive temperature anomalies (warmer-than-normal conditions) prevailed over much of central, western, southwestern, and parts of northern Ethiopia, including large areas of Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, the Southern Ethiopia Region,

and portions of Amhara and Tigray. In contrast, negative temperature anomalies (cooler-than-normal conditions) were recorded over extensive parts of eastern, southeastern, and northeastern Ethiopia, particularly across the Somali Region, Afar, eastern Oromia, and localized areas of Amhara and Tigray. Overall, the spatial distribution indicates mixed temperature conditions across the country during May 2026, with warm anomalies dominating the western half of Ethiopia and cool anomalies more pronounced in the eastern and southeastern regions.(Fig. 3.1.3).

Table 3.1.1 Stations with extreme maximum temperature values of greater than or equal to 37 °C during May 2026

Stations	Extreme maximum temperature (°C)	Date
Metema	41.8	5
Aysha	40.5	24
Fugnuido	39.5	20
Gambella	39	4
Metehara (NMSA)	38.9	24
Pawe	38.8	4
Adewa	38.5	16
Dire Dawa	38.2	23
Kibridahar	38	30
Gode	37.4	29
Meisso	37	22

Table 3.1.2 Stations with extreme minimum temperature values of below or equal to 8 °C during May 2026

Stations	Extreme minimum temperature(°C)	Date
Ambamariam	3.6	28
Alemketema	4.8	3
D/Brehan	5.2	22
Jijiga	6.5	11
Wegeltena	6.5	13

Imdiber	6.6	26
Mehalmeda	6.8	24
Arise Robe	7	14
Debrawrek	7.8	5
Bore	8	4
Bui	8	30
Nefasmewucha	8	22

3.2 Rainfall

May is typically the final month of the Belg (February–May, FMAM) rainy season, which is the smaller of Ethiopia's two main rainfall seasons. During this month, the mean monthly rainfall generally exceeds 270 mm across western and southern Oromia, as well as much of the southwestern and western parts of the country. The highest climatological rainfall totals are typically observed over the western and southwestern highlands of Oromia, reflecting the peak rainfall conditions in these Belg rain-benefiting areas

In May 2026, the monthly rainfall amount exceeded 270 mm in several sections of Amhara, as well as the western, east, and south parts of Oromia, with higher rainfall episodes happening in the country's central part and west. In particular, the monthly total rainfall values of May 2024 were as high as 386.9, 385.7, 370.5, 365.7, 365.5, 352.8, 301, and 272.5 mm over, Aman, Bedelle, Chewka, Nekemte, Tepi, Gidaayana, Gore, and Gimbi stations respectively and extreme daily rainfall values greater than 60 mm within 24 hours were recorded.. The 24 hour daily rainfall values were as high as 62, 63, 65.2, 68.8, 68.8, 76.8, 80, 81.6, 81.9, and 85.2 mm over Majji, Dangla, Kulumsa, Burji, Fugnuido, Bore, Gidaayana, Tepi, Sirinka Arise Robe respectively recorded. (Table 3.2.1)

the spatial distribution of the difference in monthly total rainfall between May 2026 and May 2025. Most parts of the country experienced lower rainfall than in May 2025 (shown in blue), particularly across eastern, southeastern, southwestern, and parts of western Ethiopia. In contrast, higher rainfall than the previous year (shown in red) was observed over parts of central, northern, and northwestern Ethiopia, with localized areas in western Oromia and the Rift Valley also recording positive rainfall anomalies. Overall, the comparison indicates that May 2026 was drier than May 2025 over a larger portion of the country, despite localized areas experiencing increased rainfall.

During May 2026, rainfall distribution across Ethiopia exhibited considerable spatial variability. Below-normal rainfall (0–75% of normal) prevailed over much of the eastern and southeastern parts of the country, including most of the Somali Region, eastern and southern Afar, eastern Oromia, and parts of eastern Amhara and Tigray. These areas experienced significant rainfall deficits, indicating drier-than-normal conditions that may have adversely affected late Belg season agricultural activities, pasture availability, and water resources.

Near-normal rainfall (75–125% of normal) was observed across broad areas of the central and northwestern highlands, extending over parts of Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and the Southern Ethiopia regions. These areas generally experienced rainfall close to the long-term climatological average, providing relatively favorable conditions for agricultural and water-related activities.

In contrast, above-normal rainfall (>125% of normal) occurred in localized areas of the western and southwestern parts of the

country, particularly over parts of Gambella, western Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and isolated pockets of the central highlands and northwestern Ethiopia. These regions received higher-than-average rainfall, which likely benefited soil moisture, vegetation growth, and surface water availability.

Overall, May 2026 was characterized by a pronounced west-to-east rainfall gradient, with wetter-than-normal conditions confined mainly to western Ethiopia, while much of the eastern and southeastern regions experienced substantial rainfall deficits. This pattern suggests an uneven distribution of moisture across the country during the month, with implications for agriculture, livestock, and water resource management, particularly in the Belg rain-dependent areas part of the country, with the exception of some portions of southern sips of Somali (Fig. 3.2.3).

Table 3.2.1. Stations with more than 60mm of rainfall in 24 hours during May 2026

Stations	Amount (mm)	Date
Majji	62	10
Dangla	63	10
Kulumsa	65.2	2
Burji	68.8	10
Fugnuido	68.8	25
Bore	76.8	9
Gidaayana	80	8
Tepi	81.6	13
Sirinka	81.9	10
Arise Robe	85.2	3

Table 3.2.3. Stations with more than 270 mm of monthly total rainfall during May 2026

Stations	Amount (mm)
Aman	386.9
Bedelle	385.7
Chewka	370.5
Nekemte	365.7
Tepi	365.5
Gidaayana	352.8
Gore	301
Gimbi	272.5

