The 2019/20 rainy season was highly anticipated as it followed a prolonged drought season that affected a record 45 million people in the region (SASSCAL 2020).

The SASSCAL analysis of CHIRPS 2.0 precipitation data (Funk et al. 2015) shows that the 2019/20 rainy season remained a below normal rainy season for large parts of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. For most of Angola, however, the rainy season was either normal or above normal.

The prolonged drought has challenged the region’s water security and hydro-power supply, as dam levels were particularly low. The 2019/20 precipitation figures of the catchment areas of the main or biggest national dams of the region show that Gaborone Dam’s catchment received above normal precipitation, Gariep Dam’s catchment received normal precipitation, but Itezhi Tezhi, Gove and Von Bach Dam’s catchment areas received below normal precipitation.

References