

19 March 2026

18–19 March Rainfall and the Forecast Outlook

Following a drier-than-average first half of March (a continuation of the dry conditions experienced in February), rainfall over the past 24 hours was concentrated primarily in the eastern and southern parts of the country, whereas precipitation amounts in the western and northern regions were minimal. This marks the onset of a wet spell anticipated over the coming week, which is expected to yield substantial precipitation accumulations.

Precipitation over the Past 24 Hours and Forecast Outlook

Precipitation Progression

Yesterday (March 18), our region was under the influence of a Sharav depression (thermal low) situated over the Nile Delta, which led to a significant rise in temperatures. During the evening and overnight hours, the depression migrated north-northeastward toward the Eastern Mediterranean. From the early to late afternoon hours, rain-bearing clouds began advecting into our region from the south-southwest, initially affecting the southern part of the country and subsequently progressing into more northern regions. Precipitation gradually intensified over the southern and eastern parts of the country during the evening, while subsiding in the western regions. A nationwide lull in precipitation occurred overnight. Showers resumed toward dawn in the eastern part of the country (extending from the Golan Heights to the Arava Valley), and temporarily in the northwestern regions as well.

Precipitation Amounts

The highest 24-hour precipitation totals were recorded in the eastern parts of the country: the Hula Valley received 10 to 20 mm, with Gadot, located in the central valley, measuring up to 29 mm. The northern Arava Valley and the southern Dead Sea basin, typically arid regions, recorded 10 to 15 mm (with Sedom recording 17 mm). Similar accumulations were recorded along the eastern slopes of the Hebron Hills, the Upper Galilee, the Eastern Galilee, and the Golan Heights (Alonei HaBashan recorded 20 mm). Extensive areas of the Negev (excluding the northwestern sector), the central Arava, the Jordan River Valley, and the Sea of Galilee (Kinneret) basin received 5 to 10 mm.

Lower totals of 3 to 6 mm were observed in the Lower Galilee, the Jezreel Valley, Samaria, the Judean Mountains, and the Coastal Plain north of Haifa.

The Coastal Plain south of Haifa, the Shfela (Judean Foothills), and southward to the northwestern Negev recorded under 2 mm, with numerous stations measuring less than 1 mm (Table 1).

Precipitation in the southern and eastern portions of the country triggered flash floods in wadis draining into the Dead Sea basin, notably in the sector between Wadi Arugot and the hotel zone, resulting in the closure of Route 90.

Outlook

A brief lull occurred today (March 19); however, precipitation resumed around midday, primarily in the southern parts of the country. Over the coming days, intermittent rainfall is forecast nationwide. The projected precipitation accumulations are significant, expected to reach several tens of millimeters, with potential isolated totals exceeding 100 mm, particularly over the northern mountains. This system is likely to classify March as a rainy month and mitigate the cumulative seasonal precipitation deficit in the north of the country.

Table 1: Precipitation Totals at Selected Stations on 18–19 March 2026

Station	Rainfall (mm)	Station	Rainfall (mm)	Station	Rainfall (mm)
Nahariyya	2	Merom Golan Picman	14	Arad	8
Akko	4	Alonei HaBashan	20	Beer Sheva	2
Afek	10	Kefar Giladi	13	Sede Boqer	5
Haifa Technion	3	Elon	3	Avdat	6
Kfar Hasidim	7	Zefat Har Kenaan	15	Kefar Blum	13
Zichron Yaakov	3	Harashim	6	Ayelet HaShahar	15
En HaHoresh	0	Deir Hana	5	Gadot	29
Hakfar Hayarok	0.4	Avne Eitan	12	Capernaum (Kfar Nahum)	10
Tel Aviv Coast	0.3	Nazareth	5	Tiberias	9
Bet Dagan	0.5	Afula Nir HaEmek	1	Zemah	8
Ben Gurion Airport	0.3	Qarne Shomron	0.2	Eden Farm	2
Rishon Lezion	0.4	Har Harasha	1	Beit HaArava	13
Qevuzat Yavne	0.4	Jerusalem Center	3	Metzoke Dragot	11
Negba	0.4	Rosh Zurim	3	Sedom	17
Dorot	1	Beit Jamal	1	Hazeva	12
Besor Farm	0.2	Mitzpe Madreg	12	Paran	7
Majdal Shams	14	Carmel (Hebron Hills)	20	Eilat	1