

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- December marks the cessation of the Kenya's short Rains (October-November-December) season over most parts of the country.
- Most stations across the country recorded below normal rainfall during the period under review.
- The predominance of below-average rainfall led to insufficient soil moisture, resulting in unfavorable soil moisture conditions that were not supportive of vegetation growth and crop development in several parts of the country.
- Reduced rainfall adversely affected tree growth by lowering soil moisture availability, increasing heat stress, reducing seedling survival rates, slowing tree growth, and limiting long-term regeneration.
- Temperatures increased significantly across several parts of the country during the month.

2.0 WEATHER & SOIL CONDITION ASSESSMENT

2.1.0 Rainfall amounts

Suba station in the Nyanza region recorded the highest rainfall amount of 277.52 mm, followed by Kitui station in South Eastern Kenya. Overall, most parts of the country experienced below-average rainfall during the period under review. However, isolated stations within the Lake Victoria Basin, Western Kenya, Nairobi area, Eastern, and parts of the Rift Valley recorded above-average rainfall. (fig 2.2)

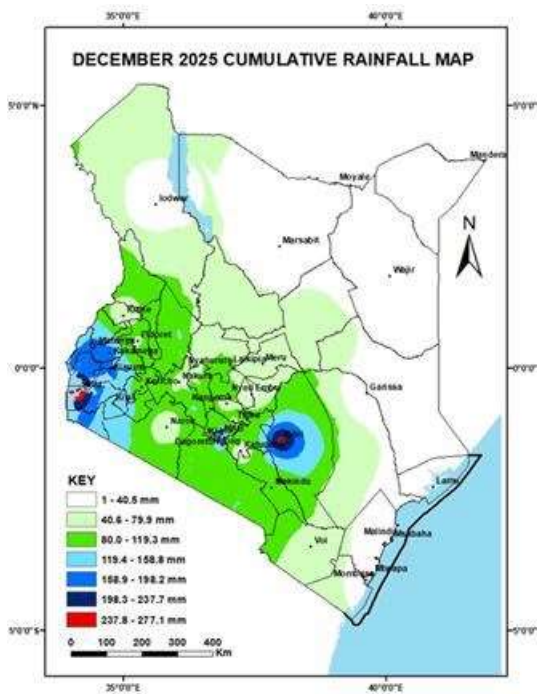


Fig 2.1

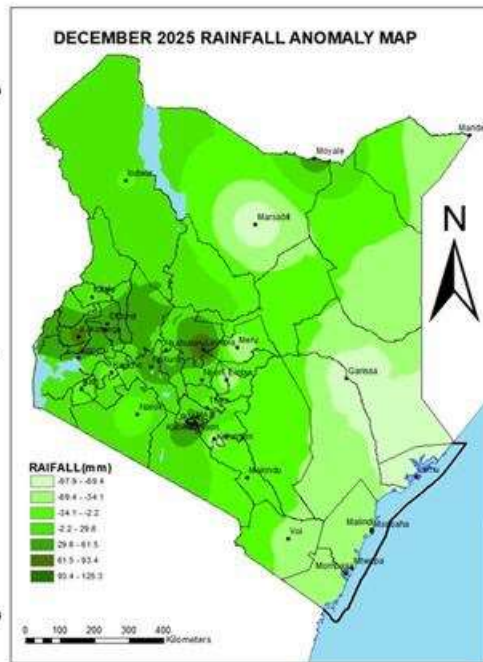


Fig 2.2

2.1.1 Mean Temperature

During the month of December, temperatures increased significantly compared to November across most parts of the country. Above-average temperatures were particularly observed over the North Eastern, North Western, and Coastal regions. Mandera station recorded the highest mean temperature, while Nyahururu station in the Central region recorded the lowest mean temperature during the period under review. (fig 2.4)

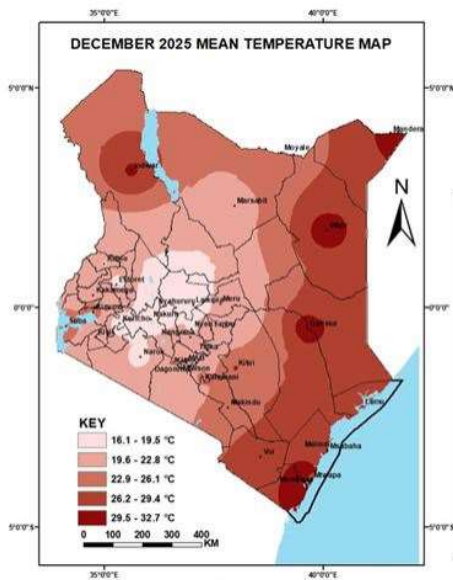


Fig 2.3

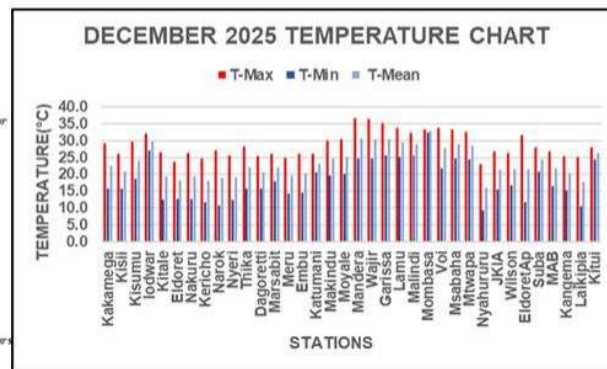
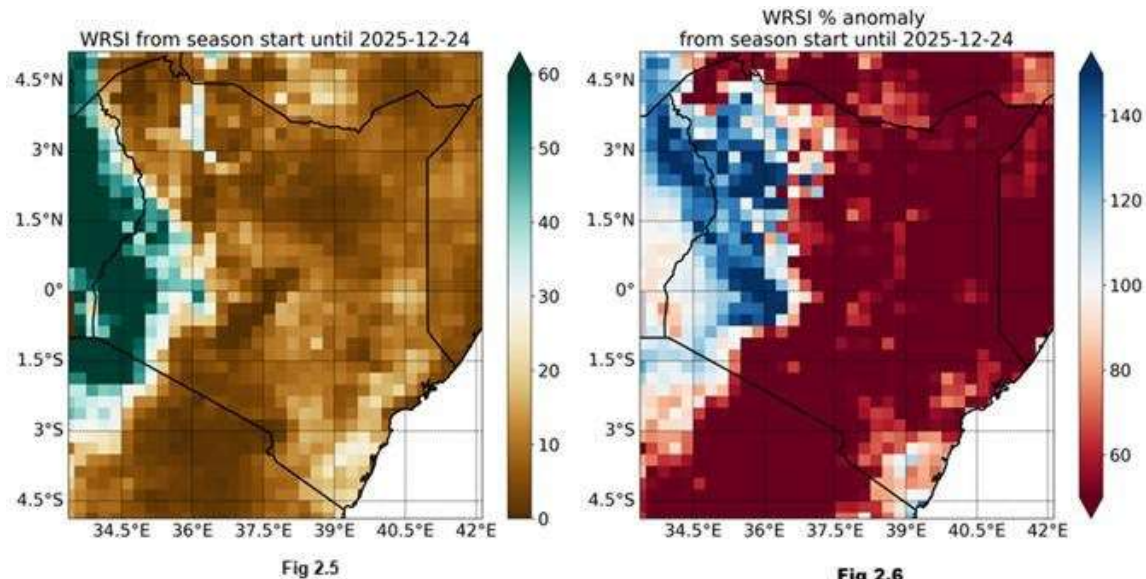


Fig 2.4

2.1.2 Soil Moisture

Several parts of the country experienced generally below average soil moisture, with heightened moisture stress on crops, rangelands, and tree seedlings across much of the country. In some localized areas that received near- to above-average rainfall, soil moisture conditions were relatively improved.



3.0 CROP REVIEW FOR DECEMBER 2025

3.10 Western & Nyanza Region: The above-normal rainfall received over the Nyanza region led to improved soil moisture conditions, which in turn enhanced the performance of late-planted maize and bean crops. However, crop performance in Kakamega in the Western region remained below average, likely due to localized rainfall deficits.

3.11 Rift Valley Region: Crop performance was generally good across the region, with particularly favorable conditions observed in Kericho. Bean harvesting was underway in Kitale during the period under review.

3.12 Central and Nairobi Regions: Despite the generally favorable rainfall, crop performance in Thika, Dagoretti, and Kabete remained below average, due to soil moisture inadequacies. Nyeri experienced favorable crop conditions, with maize at the tasseling stage and beans at the budding stage. Overall, crop performance in the region was variable, influenced by soil moisture availability and rainfall distribution.

3.13 Eastern Region: Crop performance varied across the region. In Meru, crops are corresponding well to the normal growth. Embu recorded rainfall which contributed to partial recovery of crops from earlier moisture stress. Katumani experienced poor crop performance, largely attributed to low rainfall amounts and high temperatures, which contributed to soil moisture depletion.

3.14 Coastal Region: Crop performance across parts of the region was constrained by temperature and moisture stress. In Mtwapa, crops were adversely affected by high temperatures, despite the recorded rainfall. In Msabaha, the relatively low rainfall amounts led to insufficient soil moisture, resulting in crops wilting. Cassava, coconuts, and mangoes showed resilience, although young fruit trees experienced heat and moisture stress.

3.15 North Eastern Region: Rain-fed crop performance in the region was very poor, primarily due to inadequate rainfall and severely depleted soil moisture. Irrigated crops exhibited moderate performance however, high temperatures increased crop water demand and irrigation costs.

4.0 Expected Weather conditions during January 2026.

Most parts of the country are likely to experience predominantly dry weather conditions. However, isolated areas including the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Central and Southern Rift Valley, the Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi County), the Southeastern Lowlands, and the Coastal strip are expected to receive occasional rainfall.



Fig 4.1

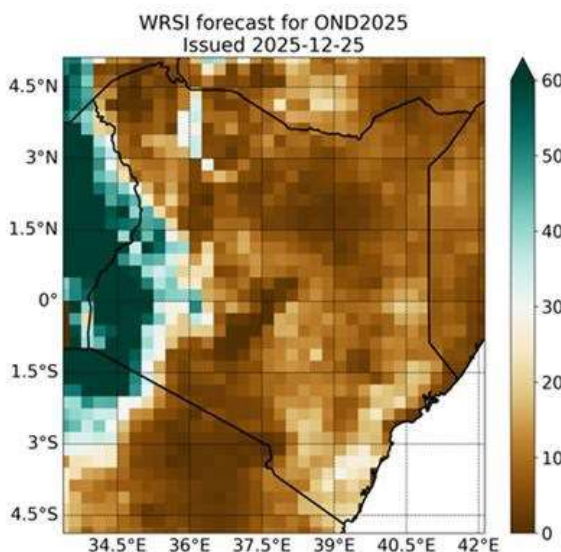


Fig 4.2

4.2 January 2026 Outlook & Advisory

The expected dry weather conditions are likely to affect crop production and pasture growth. Farmers are encouraged to Use water-conservation techniques: mulching, Zai pits/contour ridges, soil moisture retention practices, and efficient irrigation where available.

In pastoral and rangeland areas reserve or harvest available forage early (hay or silage), practice rotational grazing, and avoid overstocking. Also restock water storage systems (water pans, boreholes), maintain and rehabilitate water points before water levels drop further.

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For

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