Ref No: KMD/FCST/01-2026/SO/01   Issue Date: 6ᵗʰ February 2026

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE "LONG RAINS" (MARCH-MAY) 2026 SEASON
AND REVIEW OF THE OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025 "SHORT RAINS" SEASON

1   HIGHLIGHTS
1.1   Outlook for March-April-May (MAM) 2026

The climate outlook for the March–April–May (MAM) 2026 "Long Rains" season indicates that near-to above-average rainfall is expected over the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi) and much of North-western Kenya. Near-average to below-average rainfall is expected over the Southeastern Lowlands, Northeastern, and parts of North-western Kenya. Below-average rainfall is expected over the Coast.

During the season, several areas are likely to experience a generally poor to fair temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. The season is expected to be characterised by a normal to late onset, with intermittent dry spells. However, scattered heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the country.

The peak of the rainfall season is expected to occur in April over most regions, except for the Coast, where the peak is expected in May.

Warmer than average temperatures are expected over the whole country, with increased probabilities over parts of the Lake Victoria Basin, the Coast, the South-eastern Lowlands and North-eastern Kenya.

1.2   Review of the October-November-December (OND) 2025 "Short-Rains" Season
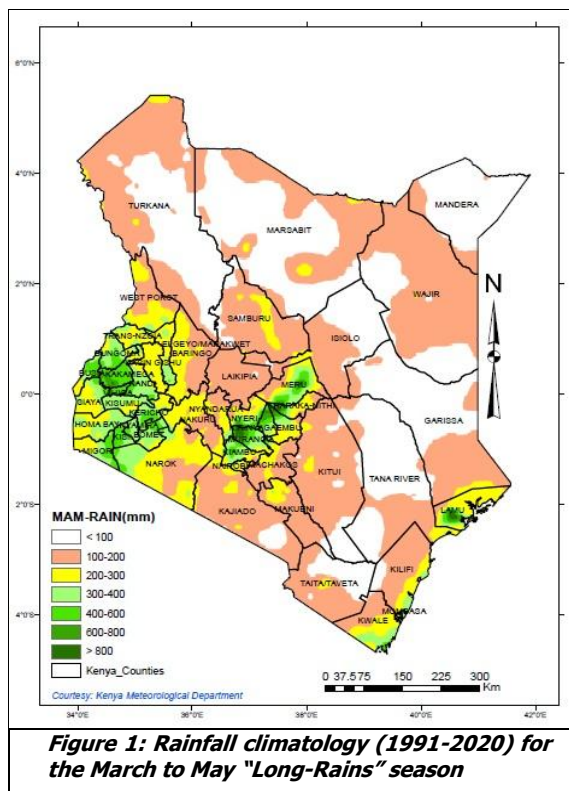
Near to below normal rainfall was received in most parts of the country. The rainfall was poorly distributed in time and space with much of the country experiencing prolonged dry spells. Temperatures were warmer-than-average over the whole country.

MAM2026 FORECAST

Follow us on X and IG: x.com/MeteoKenya and Facebook: fb.com/KenyaMeteorologicalDepartment

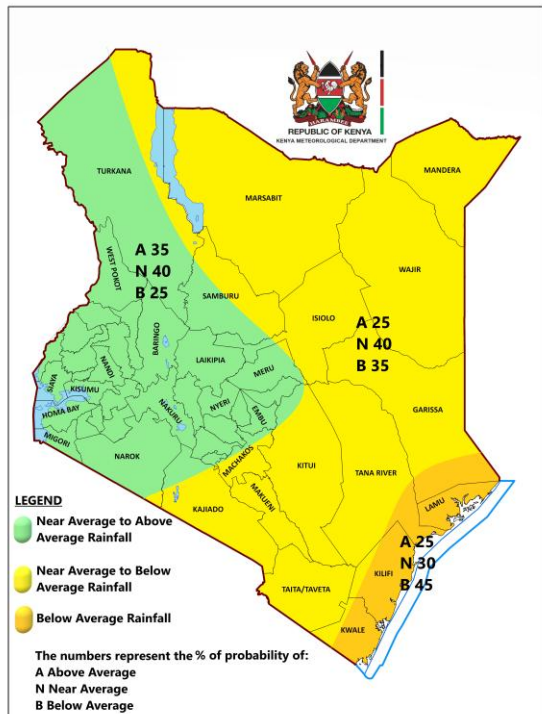## 2 FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 "LONG-RAINS" SEASON
2.1 MAM Rainfall Climatology

Figure 1: Rainfall climatology (1991-2020) for the March to May "Long-Rains" season

The March to May period is the main rainfall season over most parts of Kenya and much of equatorial Eastern Africa.

The highest seasonal rainfall amounts (greater than 300mm) are normally received over the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Central and South Rift Valley, the Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi County) and the Coast, as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

2.2 Rainfall Outlook for March-April-May 2026 "Long-Rains" Season

Figure 2: March-April-May 2026 "Long-Rains" Season Rainfall Outlook

The climate outlook for the March–April–May (MAM) 2026 "Long Rains" season (**Figure 2**) indicates that near- to above-average rainfall is expected over the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and parts of North-western Kenya. Near-average to below-average rainfall is expected over the Southeastern Lowlands, Northeastern, and parts of North-western Kenya. Below-average rainfall is expected over the Coast.

During the season, several areas are likely to experience a generally poor to fair temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. The season is expected to be characterised by a normal to late onset, with intermittent dry spells. However, scattered heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the country.

The peak of the rains is expected to occur in April over most regions, except for the Coast, where the peak is expected in May.

2.3 Specific Rainfall Outlook for the March-April-May 2026 "Long-Rains" Season

2.3.1 The Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley (Nandi, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Siaya, Busia, Baringo, Nakuru, Trans-Nzoia, Uasin-Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, West-Pokot, Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho, Bomet, Kisumu, Homabay, Migori and Narok Counties):

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to above-average. Occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in several parts of the region.

2.3.2 North-western Kenya (Turkana and Samburu Counties):

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to above-average. Occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in a few areas.

2.3.3 The Highlands East of the Rift Valley (Nyandarua, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Nairobi Counties):

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to above-average. Occasional heavy rainfall events are also likely to occur in several parts of the region.

2.3.4 North-eastern Kenya (Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo Counties):

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to below-average. Occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in a few areas.

2.3.5 The South-eastern lowlands (Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Taita-Taveta Counties as well as the inland parts of Tana-River County):

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to below-average. Occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in a few areas.

2.3.6 The Coast (Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu and Kwale Counties as well as the Tana Delta):

Rainfall is likely to be below-average. However, occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in a few areas.
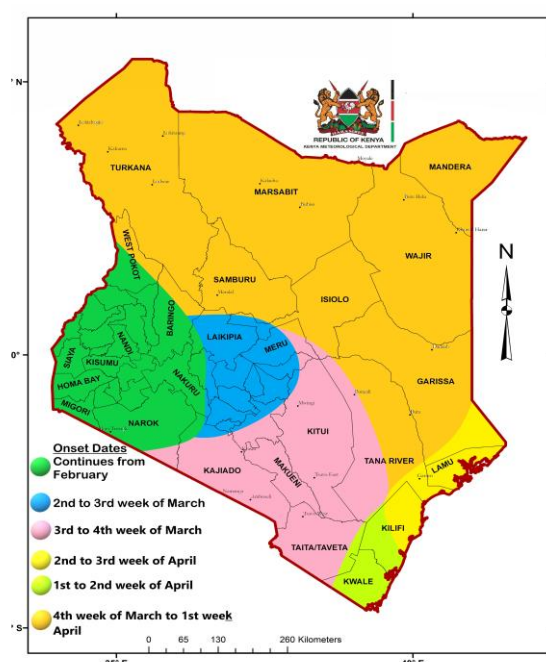
2.4 Onset, Cessation and Distribution of Rainfall for the March to May 2026 "Long-Rains" Season

2.4.1 Distribution

The predicted onsets, cessations, and distribution of rainfall were derived from dynamical climate model runs as well as statistical analyses of past years which showed similar characteristics to the current year and are as indicated in **Table 1**. The analogue (similar) year is 2023. The season is expected to have a normal to late onset over most parts of the country.

The rainfall outcomes of the analogue years should not be interpreted as forecasts for the season. Rather, they provide a sense of the possible rainfall outcomes under broadly similar global climate conditions. They also offer indicative information on the temporal distribution associated with specific seasonal rainfall totals.
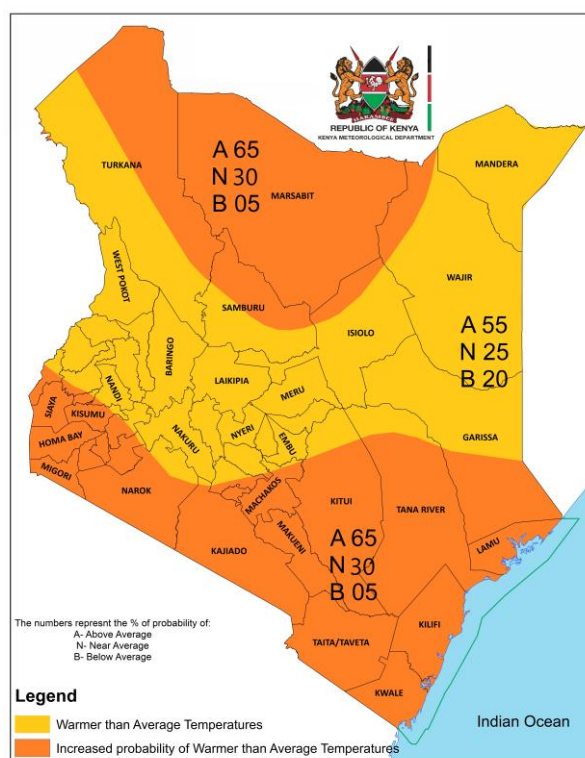
2.4.2 Onset and Cessation Dates

The expected onset and cessation dates for the various counties are shown in **Figure 3** and **Table 1**.

Figure 3: Onset dates for MAM 2026 rainfall

Table 1: Onsets, Cessation and Distribution

Region	Onset Dates	Cessation Dates	Distribution
Highlands West of the Rift Valley, Lake Victoria Basin and Rift Valley: *(Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, West Pokot, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bomet, Kericho, Kisii, Nyamira, Homa Bay, Migori, Siaya, Kisumu, Busia, Baringo, Nakuru, Narok and Western Laikipia).*	Continues from February	Continues into June	Fair to good
Highlands East of the Rift Valley, including Nairobi County: *(Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Embu, Meru, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Nairobi and Eastern Laikipia)*	2nd to 3rd week of March	3rd to 4th week of May	Fair to good
Southeastern Lowlands: *(Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Machakos, Taita Taveta and inland parts of Tana River)*	3rd to 4th week of March	2nd to 3rd week of May	Poor
North Coast: *(Lamu, Malindi, Kilifi and the Tana Delta)*	2nd to 3rd week of April	Continues into June	Poor
South Coast: *(Mombasa, Kwale)*	1st to 2nd week of April	Continues into June	Poor
North-western: *(Turkana, Samburu)*	4th week of March to 1st week of April	3rd to 4th week of May	Poor
North-eastern: *(Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Mandera and Marsabit)*	4th week of March to 1st week of April	3rd to 4th week of May	Poor

2.5 Temperature Forecast

Warmer than average temperatures are expected over the whole country, with increased probabilities over parts of the Lake Victoria Basin, the Coast, the South-eastern Lowlands and North-eastern Kenya as shown in **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: MAM 2026 Temperature Outlook

3 POTENTIAL SECTORAL IMPACTS OF THE MAM 2026 RAINS

3.1 Agriculture and Food Security

Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)

1. Opportunities for crop diversification within these areas.
2. Opportunities for sale of conserved livestock feeds and fodder.
3. Opportunities for water harvesting and conservation for agricultural use.
4. Opportunities for conservation of feeds and fodder support pasture.
5. Increased sales opportunities for businesses selling seeds, agro-chemicals and feeds/feed additives.
6. Opportunities for soil conservation measures.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)

1. Enhanced risk of pest and disease outbreaks due to increased humidity.
2. Potential flooding, waterlogging, landslides and soil erosion; and subsequent loss of livelihoods.
3. Risk of damaged infrastructure like roads leading to disruption of the supply chain.
4. Nutrient leaching and delayed planting or harvesting due to potential flooding and waterlogging.
5. Rapid weed growth requiring enhanced control resulting in increased production costs.
6. Pre- and post-harvesting losses occasioned by spoilage, rotting and contamination associated with enhanced air and soil moisture.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)

1. Declined crop performance due to limited rainfall.
2. Reduced income from agricultural production.

3. Increased incidences of communal and human-wildlife conflicts.
4. Low prices for agricultural products.
5. Insufficient water availability leading to increased return trekking distance to watering points.
6. Reduced food security and poor nutrition.
7. Increased soil degradation.
8. Increased pest and diseases.
9. Increased migration reducing agricultural productivity.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)

1. Timely dissemination of early warning and seasonal advisories to sector stakeholders.
2. Availing of post-harvesting loss management infrastructure including grain drying, cooling, and storage facilities to reduce loses/contamination.
3. Surveillance of grain reserves & trading markets to monitor aflatoxin presence in agricultural produce.
4. Implementing effective marketing strategies to ensure value addition of surplus of feeds and fodder as well as food conservation and market access.
5. Advising farmers and input suppliers to acquire appropriate and quality inputs, ensuring agricultural productivity, resilience and reduced vulnerability.
6. Facilitated value addition at different stages of the agricultural value chains. Promote processing and safe handling practices.
7. Desilting of drainage systems and construction of dykes to prevent destruction of infrastructure.
8. Use high yielding crop varieties for increased production.
9. Sensitization of farmers on Integrated Pest & Disease Management (IPDM).
10. Agro-stockists to ensure adequate seeds and agro-chemicals are available before rainfall onsets.
11. Government to upscale timely provision of subsidy farm inputs.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)

1. Timely dissemination of early warning and seasonal advisories to sector stakeholders.
2. Early land preparation and dry planting.
3. Government to upscale timely provision of drought tolerant, fast maturing crop and pasture varieties.
4. Promotion of Climate Smart Technologies Skills such as minimal tillage, conservation agriculture, agro-ecology & nature-based solution farming.
5. Agricultural resource conflict resolution initiatives and peace building led by farmers' organizations.
6. Facilitated market access for agricultural products by produce aggregation.
7. Promotion of water harvesting and efficient irrigation (e.g. drip systems).

3.2 Livestock Development
Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Regeneration of pastures and availability of water.
2. Improved livestock body condition.
3. Improved livestock production and productivity.

4. Better household access to livestock and livestock products.
5. Surplus livestock and livestock products e.g. milk and meat.
6. Surplus forage and crop residues e.g. hay (standing and bales) and silage.
7. Reduced migration of livestock in the pastoral production system.
8. Improved fertility rates (reproduction).
9. Improved livestock prices.
10. Reduced conflicts.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Possible flooding that may result in livestock displacement, deaths and inaccessibility of pasture.
2. Outbreak of livestock water borne diseases, internal and external parasites, transboundary animal diseases and vector-borne diseases.
3. Possible lightning strikes may result in livestock deaths and destruction of infrastructure.
4. Increased cases of bloating due to consumption of lush pastures.
5. Soil erosion in areas lacking adequate soil conservation infrastructure.
6. Reduced livestock product prices (e.g. milk glut).
7. Destruction of marketing infrastructure e.g. roads and markets.
8. Post harvest loss of forage.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Decreased livestock production and productivity.
2. Minimal regeneration of pasture and forage.
3. Marginal recharge of water sources/water supply.
4. Increased cost of livestock inputs e.g. feeds and drugs.
5. Longer trekking distances to watering points and pastures.
6. Resource based conflicts.
7. Loss of livestock body condition.
8. Pest & disease outbreak.
9. Depressed prices of livestock due to poor body condition.
10. Absconding of bees.
11. High product prices (milk).

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Facilitate market access for the surplus livestock and livestock products especially milk.
2. Enhance production and conservation of surplus fodder.
3. Enhance disease surveillance and community awareness about possibilities of disease outbreaks.
4. Running advisories for communities to prepare for relocation to secure grounds if need arises.
5. Facilitate community awareness about expected rains to encourage planting of fodder, presentation of animals for vaccination, harvesting of pastures and water conservation.
6. Enhance milk processing capacity to handle milk gluts.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Enhance production and conservation of fodder.
2. Promote rehabilitation and servicing of critical water sources.

3. Enhance disease surveillance and community awareness about possibilities of disease outbreaks.
4. Promote provision of supplementary animal feeding and water supply.
5. Promote livestock offtake before deterioration of animal body condition.
6. Promote resource mobilization efforts to support anticipatory actions.

3.3 Water Resources Management

Positive Impacts (the Lake Victoria, Rift Valley and Upper Athi and Tana Basins)
1. Availability of water for all uses.
2. Increased aquifer recharge.
3. Improved water quality due pollution dilution.
4. Improved sanitation.
5. Decreased turnaround time.

Positive Impacts (Lower Athi and Tana Basins)
1. Availability of water for irrigation.

Negative Impacts (Lower Athi and Tana Basins and Ewaso Ngiro North Basin)
1. Water related conflicts.
2. Decreased aquifer recharge.
3. Low inflows into rivers and reservoirs.

Negative Impacts (Lake Victoria, Rift Valley and Upper Athi Basins)
1. Contamination of water resources.
2. Increased water utility operation costs.
3. Flash floods.
4. Disruption of water supply.
5. Riverine floods.
6. Increased siltation of water channels.
7. Rising Rift Valley lake levels.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Mapping of flood risk areas.
2. Enhanced water level monitoring and early warning.
3. Clearing of storm drains.
4. Application of Natural Based Solution (NBS) e.g. semi-circular bunds in ASALs and tree planting.
5. Distribution of water treatment chemicals.
6. Enhanced water quality monitoring.
7. Promotion of household water treatment such as boiling.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Community based conflict management strategies.
2. Water trucking.
3. Mapping of available water sources and water supply disruption prone areas.
4. Water harvesting.
5. Water rationing.

6. Water abstraction surveys and enforcement of water allocation plans.
7. Development of micro-basin and semi-circular bunds in ASALS.
8. Promotion of efficient water use across households, agriculture and livestock sectors to reduce wastage.
9. Ground water level monitoring.

3.4 Energy Sector

Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Higher hydropower inflows (Turkwel, Sondu, Gogo).
2. Stable Seven Forks cascade generation.
3. Geothermal remains reliable backbone.
4. Balanced demand-supply.
5. Vegetative regeneration for biomass fuel.
6. Biogas plants to operate normally.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Flood risk to dams & transmission.
2. Sedimentation challenges.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Limited hydro contribution.
2. Increased cooling demand (AC loads).
3. Reduced biomass production.
4. Reduced livestock dung fed biogas plants output due to reduced feedstock.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Optimize hydro dispatch to absorb excess inflows.
2. Strengthen dam safety & flood monitoring protocols.
3. Implement sediment management (sluicing, dredging).

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Maintain balanced hydro-geothermal dispatch.
2. Monitor reservoir levels for early warning.
3. Scale up geothermal & wind generation to offset deficits.
4. Enhance energy efficiency campaigns.
5. Secure fuel supply chains for thermal plants.

3.5 Health Sector

Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Reduced malnutrition cases.
2. Increased water availability hence reduced WASH related diseases.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Possible flooding may lead to:
   a) Deaths, water contamination and subsequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases (e.g. cholera, typhoid and bilharzia) and vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria, dengue and Rift Valley Fever).

b) Health system stress (submerged health facilities).
1. Impassable roads will affect accessibility to health facilities exacerbating the vulnerability of pregnant women, under-fives and patients on routine medication.
2. Shortage of drugs may result from hampered supply occasioned by impassable roads and possible flooding.
3. Increased stress.

Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Normal accessibility to health services.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Water scarcity leading to water-borne diseases e.g. diarrheal diseases, cholera, typhoid and amoebiasis.
2. Heat stress and increased respiratory diseases in dry areas.
3. Increased malnutrition especially among under-fives, pregnant and lactating women.
4. Increased stress.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies
1. Vector-borne diseases: Proper waste disposal and management (*epuka-uchafu* initiative), unclog drainage systems, indoor residual spraying, larval source management, distribution of LLITN and malaria drugs and testing kits, provision of filariasis prophylaxis and sensitization of mitigation measures to stakeholders.
2. Water-borne diseases: Intensify key hygiene promotion messages, procurement and distribution of WASH commodities, separate animal and human water points, water sampling and testing, cholera mitigation measures (vaccination campaigns, surge capacity, stock piling vaccines, drugs and plan for cholera isolation centres.
3. Malnutrition: Stock piling nutrition commodities, food supplements, proper food storage and handling, setting up screening and community outreach centres, nutrition counselling and education.
4. Health system stress: stock piling of drugs, mobile medical camps, capacity building of health care workers, strengthening and maintenance of real time surveillance systems for disease outbreaks, improving cold chain services for vaccines and drugs as well as development of climate resilient health infrastructure.
5. Heat stress effects: development and implementation of climate smart cooling systems (e.g. tree planting and large open windows in buildings), sensitizations (e.g. on rehydration (water points), symptoms and management of heat stress [thermal comfort]).
6. Mental health effects: psychosocial support programs, establishment of mental health support for the general population and communities at high risk.

3.6 Disaster Management Sector
Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Destruction of low-lying bridges by flood waters.
2. Impassibility of roads and structural failure of bridges, houses etc due to heavy rainfall.
3. Destruction of school infrastructure by floods and disruption of learning due to usage of the school facilities as IDP camps.
4. Overflowing of dams.
5. Power line failures.
6. Transboundary risks.
7. Disaster displacement.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Increased risk of snake and insect bites.
2. Hikes in water prices.
3. Disruption of learning due to high temperatures and lack of food.
4. Child labour and early marriage as coping mechanisms (GBV).
5. Enhanced migration of livestock in search of water and pasture.
6. Enhanced resource-based and human wildlife conflict.
7. Disaster displacement (both human and livestock in search of food, water and pasture).

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Anticipatory Action, prepositioning of food and non-food items, multisectoral/multistakeholder engagements (including the private sector), awareness creation/sensitization (civic education), early warning/risk communication, resource mapping, gender and disability mainstreaming.
2. Strengthening of dykes.
3. Rapid assessment of dams & water resources.
4. Early warning/awareness creation.
5. Coordinating respective stakeholders based on the results of the rapid needs assessment.
6. Identification of alternate temporary relocation facilities (aside from schools).
7. Disaster displacement risk management.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Anticipatory Action, prepositioning of food and non-food items, multisectoral/multistakeholder engagements (including the private sector), awareness creation/sensitization (civic education), early warning/risk communication, resource mapping, gender and disability mainstreaming.
2. Grazing reserves.
3. Coordination of supportive veterinary services.
4. Coordination of commercial and emergency livestock offtake.
5. Coordination of livestock feed interventions.
6. Insurance of residual risks.
7. Coordination of preposition of food reserves.
8. Coordination of social protection systems.
9. Awareness creation to water committees and County DRR Committees.
10. Coordinating respective stakeholders based on the results of the rapid energy needs assessment.
11. Coordination of school feeding programmes.
12. Coordination with peace committees e.g. peace caravans and meetings.
13. Coordination with KWS and other stakeholders.
14. Disaster displacement risk management.

3.7 Macroeconomy
Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Increased agricultural production leading to lower food prices.
2. Increased generation of hydroelectricity resulting in:
   a) Lower electricity prices.

b) Manufacturers passing benefits of lower electricity costs (a major component of production costs) to customers.
c) Moderation of inflationary pressures.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Reduced food production leading to food insecurity and increased cases of malnourishment.
2. Reduced pasture leading to livestock fatalities.
3. Potential for increased internal and cross border conflicts over scarce pasture and water resources. Displacement and increased insecurity.
4. Reduced incomes due to low agricultural production leading to financial distress and increased number of households falling below poverty level.
5. Most interventions will have cost implications on the Exchequer leading to increased expenditure pressure and need for resource mobilization.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Formulation of strategies to move food from high supply to low supply areas.
2. Buying of cereals from farmers to increase Strategic Reserves.
3. Increasing drying and storage areas to minimize post-harvest losses.
4. Optimization of generation of hydroelectricity.
5. Monitoring electricity and general price levels.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Increased monitoring and surveillance of weather conditions to determine if dry conditions will persist for early mitigation.
2. Planning for food imports to boost food security where necessary.
3. Advising farmers to plant drought tolerant crops to boost food security.
4. Planning for destocking of livestock before their health deteriorates.
5. Enhancing monitoring of potential conflict areas to ensure community safety and maintenance of law and order.
6. Diversification of livelihoods (away from pastoralism).
7. Supporting crop insurance.
8. Mainstreaming programs targeting vulnerable groups, including cash transfers.
9. Leveraging on multilateral development partners and non-state players including NGOs to fill the deficit in mitigation measures.

3.8 Environment and Forestry
Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Increased forest growth and regeneration through afforestation, reforestation and restoration activities.
2. Enhanced water availability in forest catchments.
3. Improved forest biodiversity and ecosystem health.
4. Significantly reduced forest fire risks.
5. Enhanced business opportunities for establishment of tree nurseries to raise stock for tree growing.
6. Improved food security through Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme (PELIS) within forest areas.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Pressure on wetlands and fragile ecosystems.
2. Increased risk of landslides and mudslides and infrastructure damage.
3. Increased wind snap & wind throws damaging trees and forests.
4. Prevalence of moisture-related pests and diseases.
5. Riverine flooding and soil erosion in forests and adjacent areas.
6. Forest degradation from possible flood damage and human pressure.
7. Spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Increased risk of forest fires.
2. Increased forest grazing and over dependence of forest resources.
3. Biodiversity loss.
4. Reduced afforestation and re-afforestation activities resulting in increased risk of deforestation.
5. Spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies
1. Creation of awareness and community engagement on tree growing.
2. Maintenance of water points & migration corridors for wild animals.
3. Fencing of habitats.
4. Creation of awareness on wildlife conservation.
5. Forest health monitoring and reporting.
6. Education and awareness on land-slide risks.
7. Fire hotspots mapping, management plans for fires and community education and awareness.
8. Species site matching and planning in support of afforestation.

3.9 Transport
Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)
1. Increased transport demand from increased food productivity leading to increased revenue for transport operators.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)

1. Expected heavy rainfall events may result in disruption of road transport, reduced visibility and delays/diversions at airports.

Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)
1. Minimal disruption to transport systems.
2. Favourable conditions for construction of infrastructure and maintenance works.
3. Increased transport demand from pastoralist laying off their livestock, water trucking leading etc. to increased revenue for transport operators.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)

1. Increased environmental pollution because of dusty earth/gravel roads.
2. Increased risk of insecurity on roads in livestock conflict areas.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)

1. Unblocking and desilting existing drainage structures.
2. Advisories on alternative routes/modes of transport.
3. Repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure.
4. Proper road marking and mounting of road signs.
5. Regular weather updates.
6. Sensitization of road users to drive at lower speeds.
7. Upgrading of existing airstrips to handle larger aircraft.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)

1. Sensitization of road users to drive at lower speeds.
2. Upgrading of earth/gravel to bitumen standards.
3. Frequent watering of gravel roads to abate dust.

3.10 Community and Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Groups

Positive Impacts (areas expecting near-average to above-average rainfall)

1. Food security (well-being and good mental state, reduced GBV and crimes).
2. Employment creations (reduced crimes, GBV and social cohesion).
3. Increased water harvesting.

Negative Impacts (areas expecting near-average to below-average rainfall)

1. Food Insecurity and malnutrition.
2. Loss of lives and livelihoods.
3. Water scarcity and overstretched health facilities.
4. Human-wildlife conflicts, migration.
5. GBV, early marriages, insecurity, increased crime rates and mental health issues.
6. School dropouts and school calendar disruption.
7. Increased water-borne diseases.
8. Increased food prices.
9. Alternative destructive livelihoods.

Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

1. Vulnerability mapping and targeted assistance e.g. cash transfers and drought resistant seeds.
2. Increasing water harvesting, safe locations of water points, increased boreholes, water trucking, community groups mediation as well as crop and livestock diversification.
3. Wild animal tracking, sensitization to local communities and creation of water points for wild animals.
4. Reporting hotlines and suggestion boxes.
5. School meals and support to vulnerable groups to access education facilities.
6. Tailored sensitization and awareness.

3.11 Media

National and community media houses play a pivotal role in ensuring public preparedness during the March–April–May (MAM) 2026 season. Media organizations are strongly encouraged to proactively access, monitor, and disseminate official weather and climate forecasts, advisories, and early warnings in a timely manner to reach all segments of the population.

To enhance accuracy, credibility, and public trust, media practitioners are urged to work closely with meteorological experts, relevant government institutions, and disaster risk management agencies in the interpretation and communication of forecast information. The use of clear, simple, and locally relevant language is essential to translate technical climate information into actionable messages that communities can easily understand and act upon.

Through timely, accurate, and accessible reporting, the media remains a critical partner in safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and property by enabling informed decision-making and strengthening community resilience throughout the MAM 2026 season.

4   OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER (OND) 2025 SEASON
4.1   Review of October-December 2025 "Short-Rains" Seasonal Performance
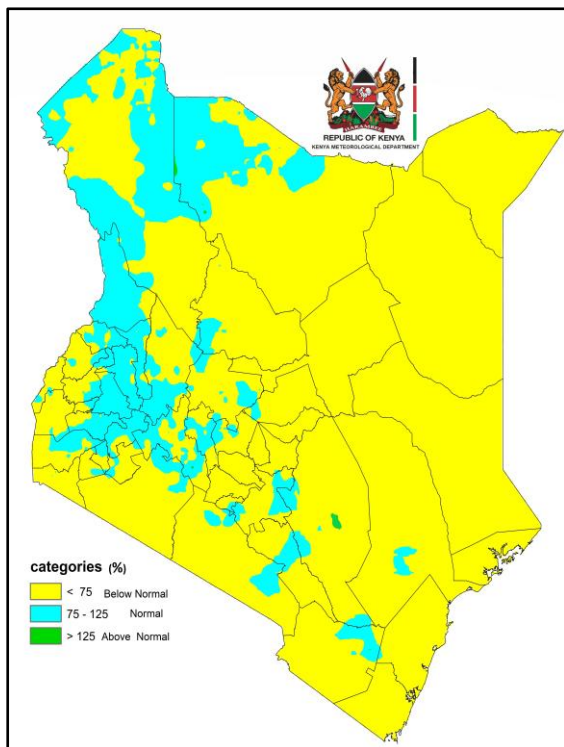

Figure 5: October-November-December 2025 Seasonal Rainfall Performance (%) against OND LTMs

An analysis of the October-November-December (OND) 2025 seasonal rainfall reveals that only Kitui Meteorological Station recorded above-average rainfall (133.6% of its OND LTM).

Several stations in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley recorded near average rainfall (75% to 125% of their OND LTMs).

Most stations in the South-eastern Lowlands, the Coast, North-eastern and North-western Kenya recorded below average rainfall representing (less than 75% of their OND LTMs). Most notable among these were Marsabit, Lamu and Mandera Meteorological Stations that recorded 10.2%, 8.7% and 7.6% of their OND LTMs.

Figure 5 shows OND rainfall performance against the OND LTMs while **Figure 6** compares the total rainfall recorded in OND 2025 (blue bars) with the OND LTMs (red bars).
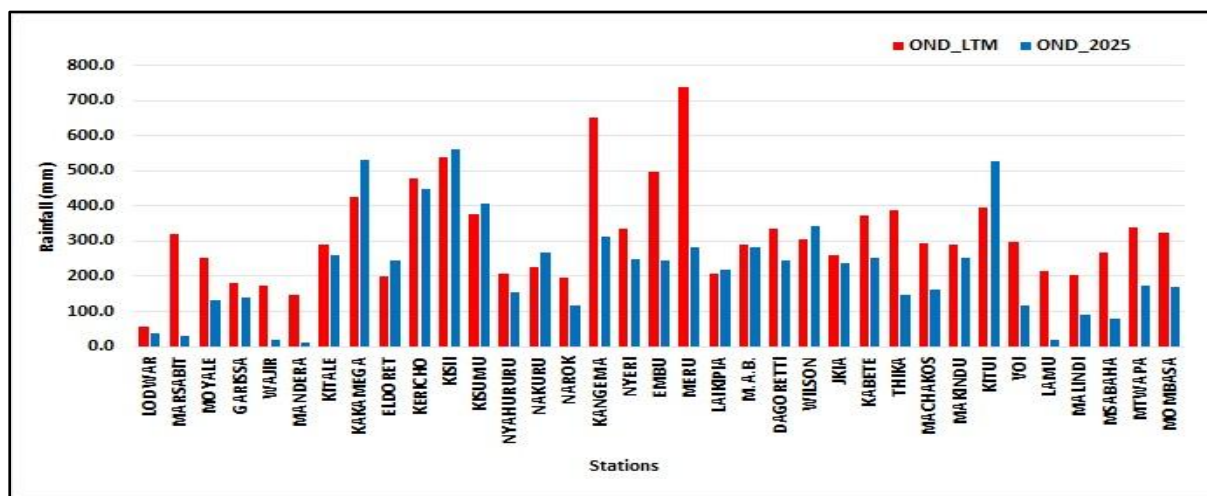

Figure 6: October-November-December 2025 Seasonal Rainfall Totals against OND LTM

MAM2026 FORECAST

Follow us on X and IG: x.com/MeteoKenya and Facebook: fb.com/KenyaMeteorologicalDepartment

The highest seasonal rainfall amounts (675.5 mm) were recorded in Nyaroya Rainfall Station in Migori County. Other stations that recorded more than 500mm of rainfall are shown in **Table 2.**

Table 2: Stations that received more than 500 mm of rainfall

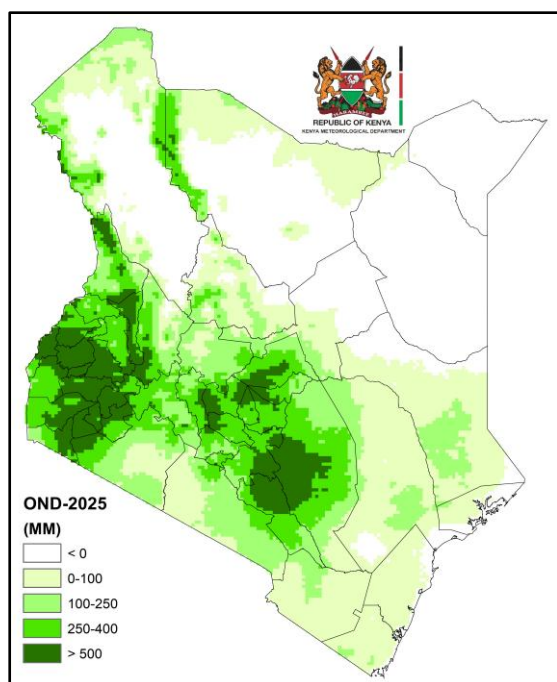| Station	County	Amount in mm
Ulanda Girls High School Automatic Weather Station	Migori	648.7
Kaguru A.T.C Rainfall Station	Meru	596.9
Mabanga A.T.C Rainfall Station	Bungoma	589.3
Khalaba Ward Rainfall Station	Bungoma	579.2
Kisii Meteorological Station	Kisii	560.1
Bungoma Water Supply Office Rainfall Station	Bungoma	550.9
Kuna Rainfall Station	Migori	540.3
Kakamega Meteorological Station	Kakamega	531.8
Sony Sugar Rainfall Station	Migori	529.4
Kanduyi Agricultural Office Rainfall Station	Bungoma	527.5
Busia Ministry of Water Office Rainfall Station	Busia	517.8
Ndaka-Ini Rainfall Station	Murang'a	509.2
Kanga Automatic Weather Station	Migori	509.0

Figure 7: OND 2025 Rainfall Totals

Figure 7 depicts OND 2025 totals for the entire country. In the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley, rainfall continued from August and was sustained to December. There were however prolonged dry spells in November and early December.

Some parts of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi County) experienced a false onset in early October that was followed by a prolonged dry spell. Heavy rainfall events occurred over these areas as the season came to an end in late December.

The South-eastern lowlands, North-eastern and North-western Kenya had no clearly defined rainfall onsets and cessations. Rainfall in these areas was frequently interrupted by prolonged dry spells.

In the Coast, rainfall began in early October, but dry spells dominated the season with much of the rainfall being received in late October while November and December were generally dry.

4.2 Temperature Review

Mean temperatures were warmer than average over the whole country with highest positive anomalies being recorded over Northeastern Kenya as shown by **Figure 8**.
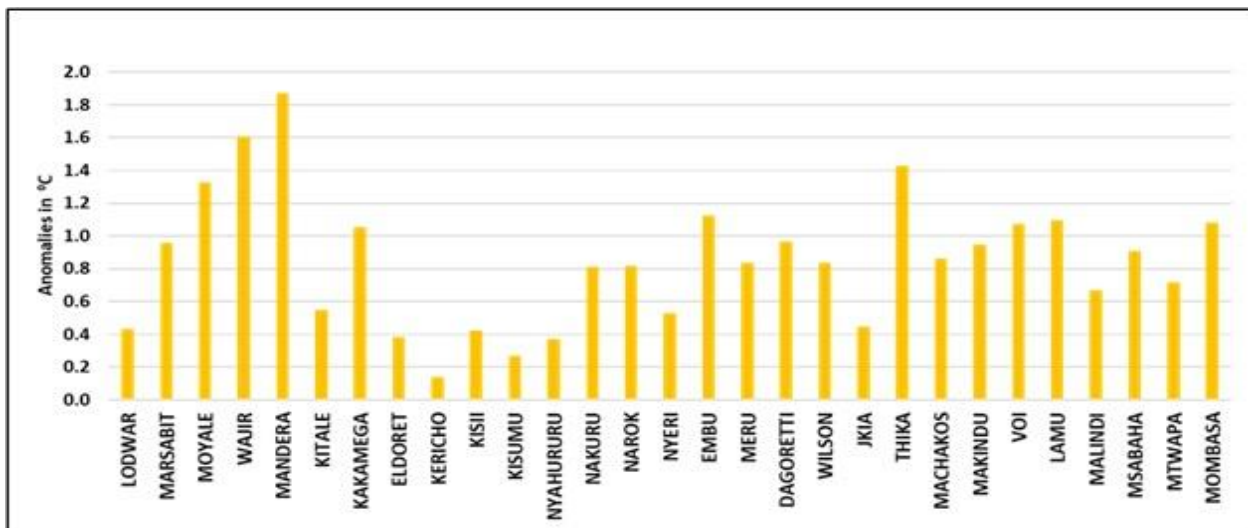
Figure 8: October-November-December 2025 Seasonal Mean Temperature Anomalies

N.B: **This outlook should be used together with the 24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, special forecasts and regular updates/advisories issued by this Department. County specific weekly and monthly forecasts are available from the offices of respective County Directors of Meteorological Services.**

Edward M. Muriuki
Ag. DIRECTOR, KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX I: INTERPRETATION OF TERMS USED

Term	Rainfall Amount (24 hrs.)	Description
Below normal/average	< 75% of the LTM	Depressed rainfall.
Normal/average	75% to 125% of the LTM	Near average rainfall.
Above normal/average	>125% of the LTM	Enhanced rainfall.
LTM		Long term mean

Term	Rainfall Amount (24 hrs.)	Description
Light	< 5 mm	Gentle rain, drizzle.
Moderate	5–20 mm	Steady, noticeable rain.
Heavy	21–50 mm	Intense rain, possible thunder.
Very Heavy	> 50 mm	Prolonged rain.

Term	Area Affected	Description
Few places	< 33%	Rain in a small portion of the region.
Several places	33% to 66%	Rain in multiple but not most parts of the region.
Most places	> 66%	Rain in nearly all parts of the region.

Term	Area Affected	Description
Isolated	Less than 25%	Very few areas affected.
Scattered	25–50%	Several, but not most, areas affected.
Numerous	51–70%	Many areas affected.
Widespread	Over 70%	Almost all areas affected.

Term	Time Coverage (%)	Meaning
Occasional	Less than 25%	Happens rarely or a few times.
Intermittent	25% – 50%	Starts and stops, comes and goes.
Frequent	51% – 75%	Occurs regularly.
Very Frequent / Common	More than 75%	Happens almost all the time.

Term	Probability of Occurrence	Description
Possible	10–30%	There is low confidence.
Chance of/ May	31–50%	There is moderate confidence.
Likely	51–75%	The event is more probable than not.
Expected	76–90%	There is high confidence.
Very Likely	91–99%	There is very high confidence. Almost certain.
Certain	100%	The event is guaranteed to occur.