



REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY  
State Department of Environment & Climate Change  
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT  
Vihiga County Director of Meteorology, P. O. Box 1000, 50300, Maragoli, Kenya  
E-mail: [cdmvihiga@meteo.go.ke](mailto:cdmvihiga@meteo.go.ke), Website: <http://www.meteo.go.ke>

Date of Issue: 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

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

1.0: 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 region and during the season, several areas are likely to experience a generally fair temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. Occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in several parts of the region. The season is expected to be characterized by a normal onset, with intermittent dry spells while the peak of the rainfall season is expected to occur in April over most sub-counties. Warmer than average temperatures are expected during the period under review. (*Refer to Fig1 & 2 as shown below*)

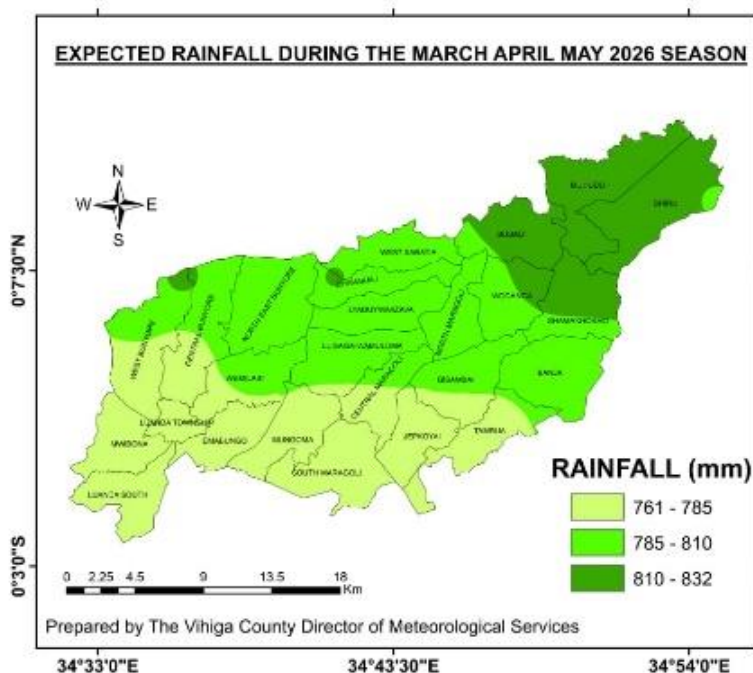


Fig 1: MAM Rainfall Forecast

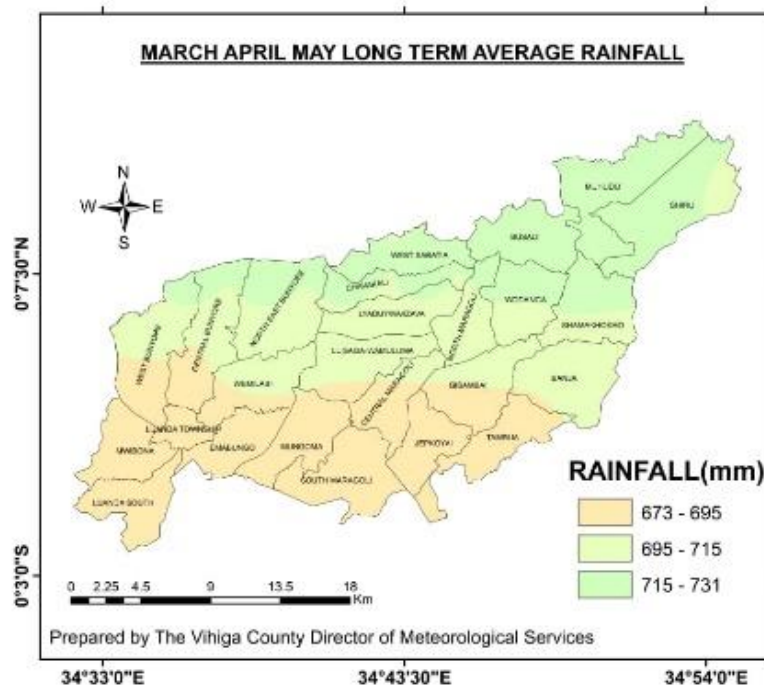


Fig 2: Long term Rainfall Average

## 2.0: Review of the October-November-December (OND) 2025 “Short-Rains” Season

Near to below normal rainfall was received in most parts of the county. The rainfall was poorly distributed in time and space with much of the county experiencing prolonged dry spells. Temperatures were warmer-than-average over the whole region.

## 3.0: Onset, Cessation and Distribution of Rainfall

S/NO	Sub-county	Onset dates	Cessation dates	Distribution
1	Luanda	Continues from February 2026	Continues into June 2026	Fairly to good
2	Emuhaya			
3	Sabatia			
4	Vihiga			
5	Hamisi			

## 4.0: Potential sectorial impacts of the MAM rains

### 4.1: Agriculture and Food Security

#### 4.1.1: Positive impacts

- Opportunities for crop diversification.
- Opportunities for water harvesting and conservation for agricultural use.
- Opportunities for conservation of feeds and fodder support pasture.
- Increased sales opportunities for businesses selling seeds, agro-chemicals and feeds/feed additives.
- Opportunities for soil conservation measures.

#### 4.1.2: Negative impacts

- Enhanced risk of pest and disease outbreaks due to increased humidity.
- Potential flooding, waterlogging, landslides and soil erosion; and subsequent loss of livelihoods.
- Risk of damaged infrastructure like roads leading to disruption of the supply chain.

- Nutrient leaching and delayed planting or harvesting due to potential flooding and waterlogging.
- Rapid weed growth requiring enhanced control resulting in increased production costs.
- Pre- and post-harvesting losses occasioned by spoilage, rotting and contamination associated with enhanced air and soil moisture.

#### 4.1.3: Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

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

### 4.2 Livestock Development

#### 4.2.1: Positive Impacts

- Regeneration of pastures and availability of water.
- Improved livestock body condition.
- Improved livestock production and productivity.
- Better household access to livestock and livestock products.
- Surplus livestock and livestock products e.g. milk and meat.
- Surplus forage and crop residues e.g. hay (standing and bales) and silage.
- Improved fertility rates (reproduction).
- Improved livestock prices.
- Reduced conflicts.

#### 4.2.2: Negative Impacts

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

#### 4.2.3: Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

- Facilitate market access for the surplus livestock and livestock products especially milk.
- Enhance production and conservation of surplus fodder.
- Enhance disease surveillance and community awareness about possibilities of disease outbreaks.
- Running advisories for communities to prepare for relocation to secure grounds if need arises.
- Facilitate community awareness about expected rains to encourage planting of fodder, presentation of animals for vaccination, harvesting of pastures and water conservation.
- Enhance milk processing capacity to handle milk gluts.

#### 4.3 Water Resources Management

##### 4.3.1: Positive Impacts

- Availability of water for all uses.
- Increased aquifer recharge.
- Improved water quality due pollution dilution.
- Improved sanitation.
- Decreased turnaround time.

##### 4.3.2: Negative Impacts

- Contamination of water resources.
- Increased water utility operation costs.
- Flash floods.
- Disruption of water supply.
- Riverine floods.
- Increased siltation of water channels.

##### 4.3.3: Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

- Mapping of flood risk areas.
- Enhanced water level monitoring and early warning.
- Clearing of storm drains.
- Distribution of water treatment chemicals.
- Enhanced water quality monitoring.
- Promotion of household water treatment such as boiling.

#### 4.4: Health Sector

##### 4.4.1: Positive Impacts

- Reduced malnutrition cases.
- Increased water availability hence reduced WASH related diseases.

##### 4.4.2: Negative Impacts

- Possible flooding may lead to:
  - 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).
  - Health system stress (submerged health facilities).
- Impassible roads will affect accessibility to health facilities exacerbating the vulnerability of pregnant women, under-fives and patients on routine medication.
- Shortage of drugs may result from hampered supply occasioned by impassible roads and possible flooding.
- Increased stress.

##### 4.4.3: Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

- 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.

- 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).
- Malnutrition: Stock piling nutrition commodities, food supplements, proper food storage and handling, setting up screening and community outreach centres, nutrition counselling and education.
- 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.
- 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]).
- Mental health effects: psychosocial support programs, establishment of mental health support for the general population and communities at high risk.

#### 4.5: Disaster Management Sector

##### 4.5.1: Negative Impacts

- Destruction of low-lying bridges by flood waters.
- Impassability of roads and structural failure of bridges, houses etc due to heavy rainfall.
- Destruction of school infrastructure by floods and disruption of learning due to usage of the school facilities as IDP camps.
- Overflowing of dams.
- Power line failures.
- Trans boundary risks.
- Disaster displacement.

##### 4.5.2: Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

- 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.
- Strengthening of dykes.
- Rapid assessment of dams & water resources.
- Early warning/awareness creation.
- Coordinating respective stakeholders based on the results of the rapid needs assessment.
- Identification of alternate temporary relocation facilities (aside from schools).
- Disaster displacement risk management.

#### 4.6: Environment and Forestry

##### 4.6.1: Positive Impacts

- Increased forest growth and regeneration through afforestation, reforestation and restoration activities.
- Enhanced water availability in forest catchments.
- Improved forest biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- Significantly reduced forest fire risks.
- Enhanced business opportunities for establishment of tree nurseries to raise stock for tree growing.
- Improved food security through Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme (PELIS) within forest areas.

#### 4.6.2: Negative Impacts

- Pressure on wetlands and fragile ecosystems.
- Increased risk of landslides and mudslides and infrastructure damage.
- Increased wind snap & wind throws damaging trees and forests.
- Prevalence of moisture-related pests and diseases.
- Riverine flooding and soil erosion in forests and adjacent areas.
- Forest degradation from possible flood damage and human pressure.
- Spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

#### 4.6.3: Key response measures/mitigation and management strategies

- Creation of awareness and community engagement on tree growing.
- Maintenance of water points & migration corridors for wild animals.
- Fencing of habitats.
- Creation of awareness on wildlife conservation.
- Forest health monitoring and reporting.
- Education and awareness on land-slide risks.
- Fire hotspots mapping, management plans for fires and community education and awareness.
- Species site matching and planning in support of afforestation.

**N.B:** This outlook should be used together with County specific weekly forecasts available from this office.



Fredrick Etemesi  
**Vihiga County Director of Meteorological Services**