REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
**KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**
Nyamira County Office, P. O. Box 467-40500, Nyamira, Kenya
E-mail: cdmnyamira@gmail.com
Website: http://www.meteo.go.ke

---

*When Replying please quote reference and date*

Ref: KMD/NYAM/FCST/MAM-2026 Date of Issue: 11th Feb, 2026

## SUMMARY OF THE MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 LONG RAINS SEASONAL FORECAST

i) **Climate Outlook:** For the March-April-May (MAM) 2026 "Long Rains" season, Nyamira County is projected to receive **near-normal to slightly above-normal** cumulative rainfall totals.

ii) **Rainfall Distribution:** The spatial and temporal distribution of precipitation is expected to be **fair to good**, though the season will be punctuated by occasional **dry spells** and ocalized **extreme weather events**, including intense rainstorms, gale-force winds, and hailstorms.

iii) The start of the Seasonal rainfall. The March to May seasonal rainfall is expected to continue from the month of February, into the month of June 2026.

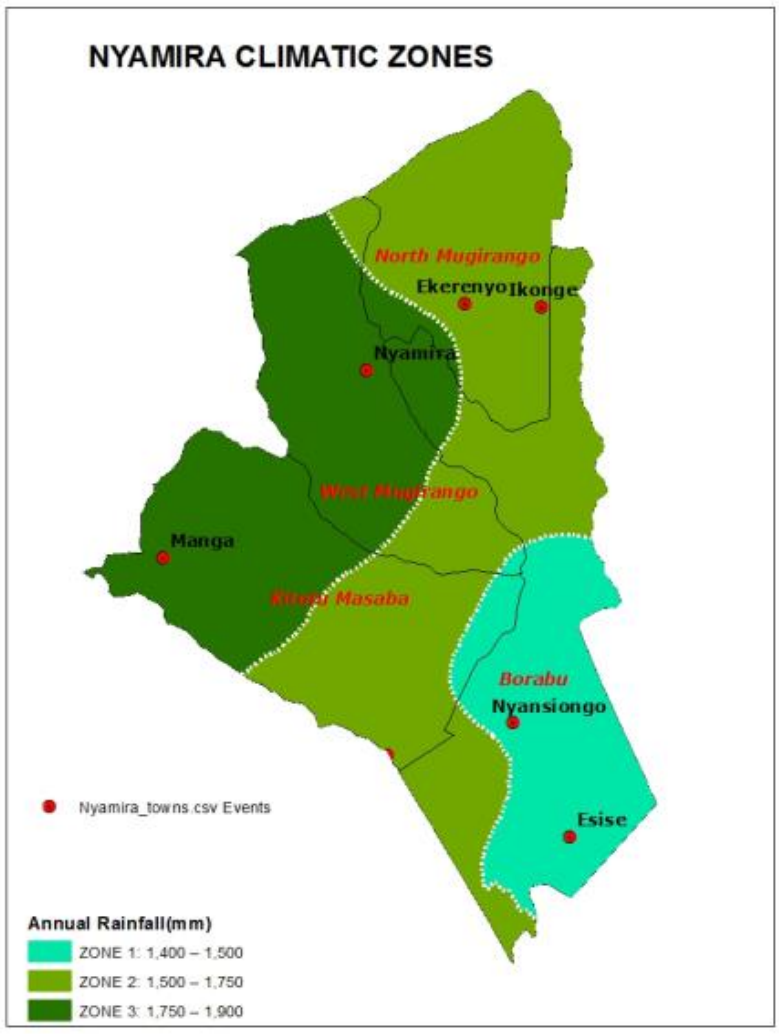



*Figure 1: Nyamira County climate zones*

**Summary of Rainfall Zones**

As illustrated in **Figure 1**, Nyamira County is divided into three distinct climatic zones based on average annual rainfall:

- **Zone 1:** Includes Borabu, Nyansiongo, Esise, Mekenene, Kajauri, Mwongori, and Kipkebe wards. This zone receives between **1,400 mm and 1,500 mm** of rainfall annually.
- **Zone 2:** Covers Ekerenyo, Magwagwa, Ikonge, Kiabonyoru, Nyamusi, Gekendo, and Miruka wards. These areas experience annual rainfall totals of **1,500 mm to 1,750 mm**.

- **Zone 3:** Comprises Nyamira, Nyamaiya, Kebirigo, Sironga, Tombe, Bosamaro, Gachuba, Rigoma, Manga, and Kemera wards. This is the wettest region, recording between **1,750 mm and 1,900 mm** of rainfall per year

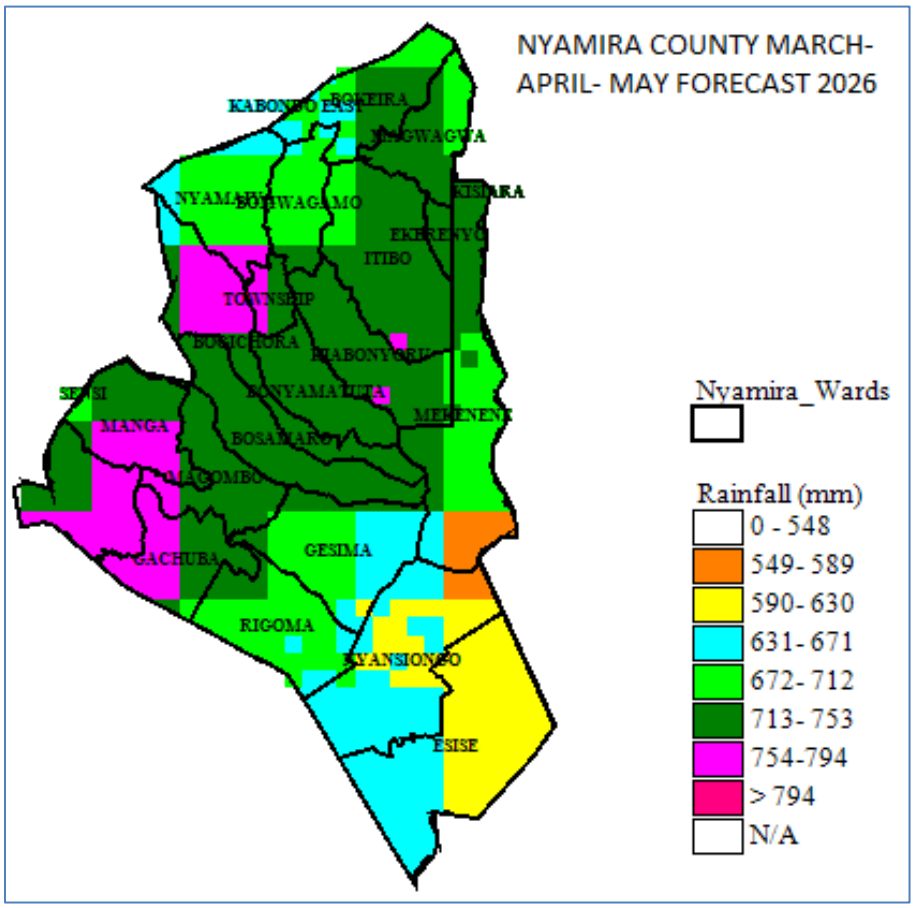



**Fig. 2**

Figure 2 illustrates the forecasted rainfall totals (in mm) for each region of Nyamira County during the upcoming March to May season.

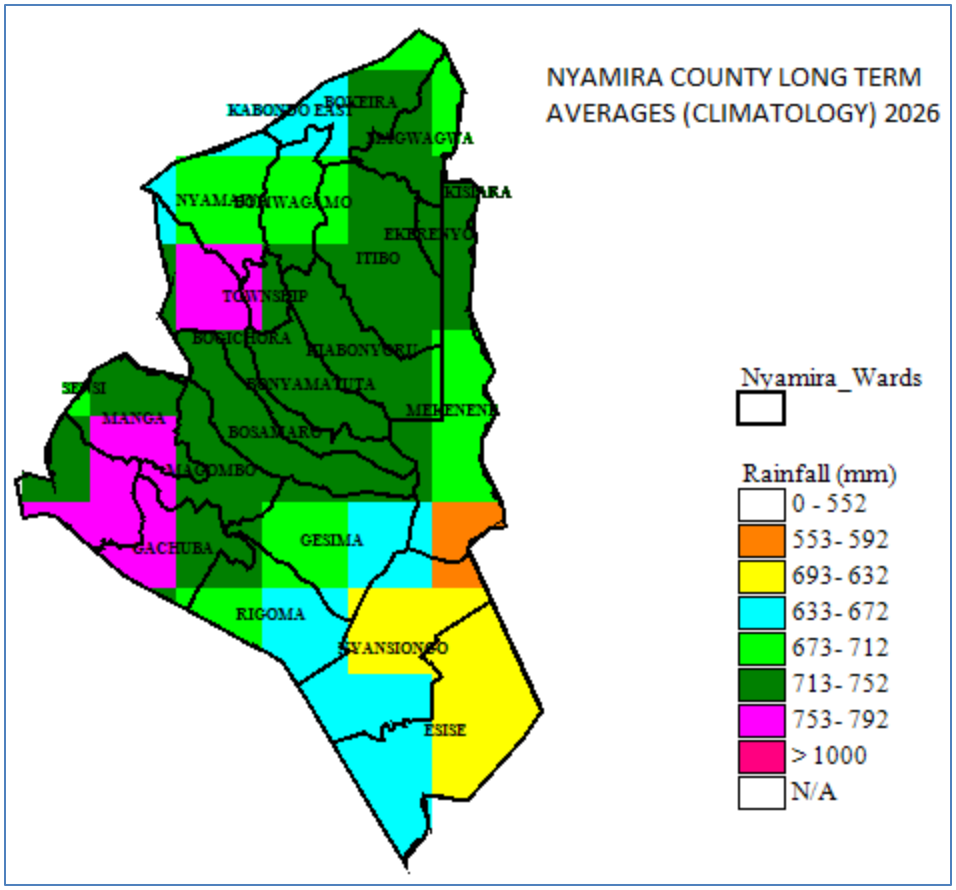
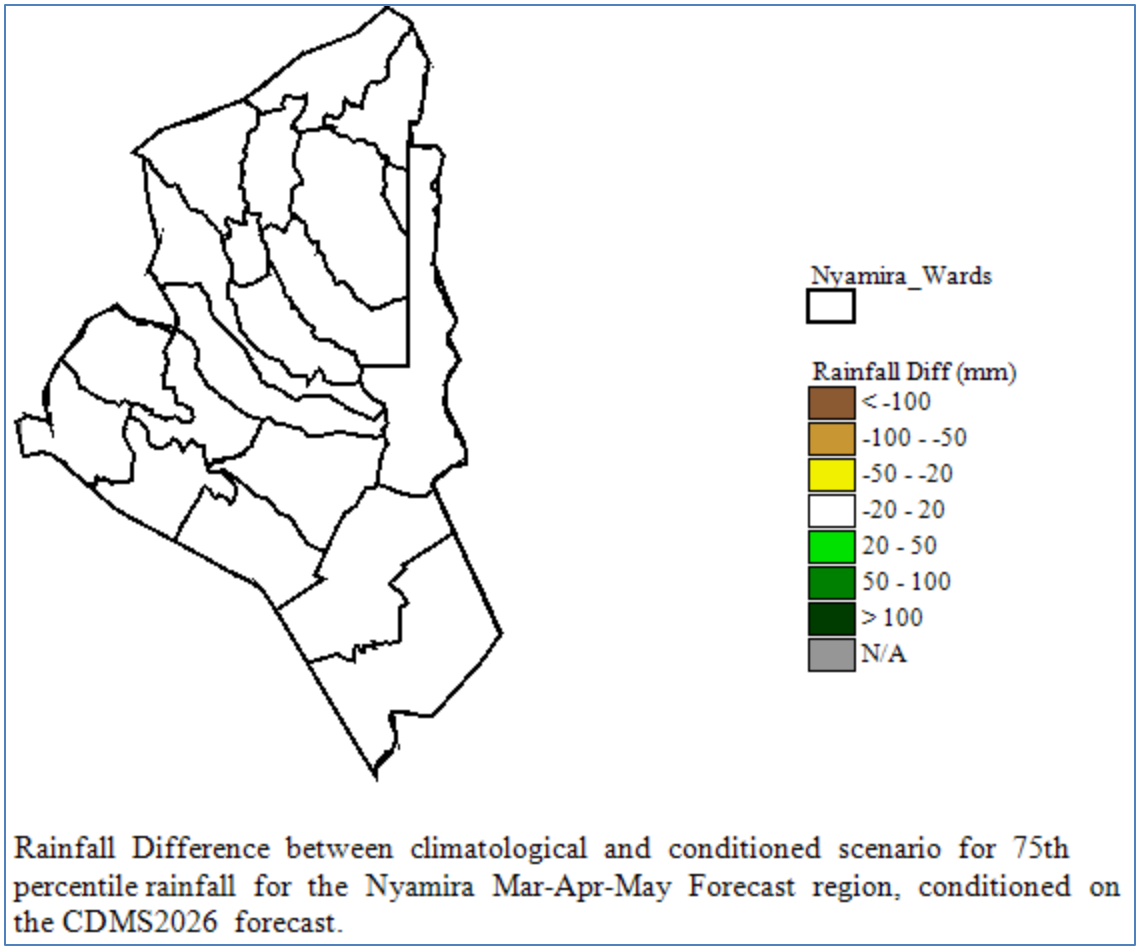



**Figure 3: Nyamira March-April-May (MAM) Long term averages (Climatology) Rainfall Volumes (in mm).**

- **Historical Baseline:** Figure 3 displays the **long-term average rainfall** for the MAM season, calculated from a 30-year climatological period (1991–2020).
- **Comparative Analysis:** To determine if the current forecast is above, below, or near historical norms, compare the **projected values** in Figure 2 with the **historical averages** in Figure 3.
- **Technical Definition:** It is important to note that "**Above Normal**" is a statistical classification relative to the long-term mean; it does not inherently imply a "good" or "bad" season, but rather indicates a departure from the 30-year average.




Rainfall Difference between climatological and conditioned scenario for 75th percentile rainfall for the Nyamira Mar-Apr-May Forecast region, conditioned on the CDMS2026 forecast.

**Figure 4: Rainfall Difference between Long term (climatology) and forecasted rainfall in the year 2026.**

Figure 4 indicates that Nyamira County is likely to receive near-Average to slightly Above Average rainfall across all areas. The forecast aligns closely with the long-term average (LTM), showing negligible variance between historical norms and the projected seasonal totals.

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE MARCH-APRIL-MAY (MAM) 2026 SEASONAL RAINFALL

### 1. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- **Potential Hazards:** Increased incidence of vector-borne diseases (e.g., East Coast Fever, Foot-and-Mouth, Lumpy Skin Disease) due to proliferating tick and mosquito populations; internal

parasite (worm) infestations from wet pastures; livestock mortality via drowning in flash floods or lightning strikes in open grazing lands; and waterborne pathogens such as anthrax.

- **Risk Zones:** Low-lying riparian zones (riverbanks), communal watering points, and poorly sheltered kraals or bomas.
- **Strategic Opportunities:** Significant improvement in pasture availability and fodder biomass; replenishment of seasonal water pans and dams; and projected increases in milk yields.
- **Advisories:**
  - **Extension Services:** Sub-county livestock officers should initiate vaccination campaigns and sensitize farmers on rigorous deworming and acaricide (tick control) schedules.
  - **Farm Management:** Farmers are encouraged to reinforce animal shelters, relocate herds from flood-prone plains to higher ground, and adopt fodder conservation techniques such as hay and silage production.
  - **Hygiene:** Utilize elevated feeding and watering troughs to minimize fecal-oral contamination.

**2. CROP PRODUCTION**

- **Potential Hazards:** Soil saturation and waterlogging leading to root rot and nutrient leaching; accelerated soil erosion on high-gradient slopes; physical crop damage from hailstorms; and increased phytosanitary pressures from pests and diseases (e.g., Fall Armyworm, blight, and maize smut).
- **Risk Zones:** Steep-sloped terraced farms, riverine areas, and regions with historically poor drainage.
- **Strategic Opportunities:** Optimal soil moisture for high-yielding and early-maturing varieties; expanded vegetable production; and favorable conditions for agroforestry and perennial crop establishment.
- **Advisories:**
  - **Soil Conservation:** Implementation of contour farming and maintenance of terraces to mitigate erosion.

- **Input Management:** Use of certified, disease-resistant seeds; agro-dealers must ensure early stocks of maize, millet, and sorghum to facilitate timely planting.
- **Diversification:** Farmers should consider drought-tolerant or water-resilient crops like groundnuts and cassava as a risk-mitigation strategy.

**3. BANANA SUB-SECTOR**

- **Potential Hazards:** Topsoil degradation; sedimentation of planting holes; burial of young suckers by runoff; and logistical disruptions due to compromised rural access roads.
- **Strategic Opportunities:** Ideal window for establishing soil conservation structures and early seedbed preparation.
- **Advisories:** Nursery operators should ensure adequate stocks of hardened seedlings. Farmers are advised to install windbreaks to prevent lodging and apply mulch to protect soil integrity.

**4. HORTICULTURE (LOCAL VEGETABLES)**

- **Potential Hazards:** High-intensity rainfall and hailstorms causing physical leaf damage and soil erosion.
- **Strategic Opportunities:** Adoption of solar-drying technologies for value addition and the formation of marketing collectives to manage seasonal surpluses.
- **Advisories:** Prioritize early planting and the use of certified, climate-smart seeds.

**5. FISHERIES SECTOR**

- **Potential Hazards:** Structural failure of fish ponds due to flash floods; pond contamination via siltation and chemical runoff; and disruption of riverine breeding projects.
- **Risk Zones:** Lowland aquaculture sites located within floodplains.
- **Advisories:** Fish farmers should reinforce dykes, install mesh screens on overflow channels to prevent fish escape, and avoid siting new ponds in direct flood paths.

**6. DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)**

- **Potential Hazards:** Mass wasting events (landslides and mudslides) on steep terrain; displacement of populations; loss of life and property; and hazardous lightning strikes.

- **Risk Zones:** Settlements situated on or beneath hilly escarpments and residential areas adjacent to riverbanks.
- **Advisories:**
  - **Preparedness:** Map high-risk zones and activate community-based early warning systems (EWS).
  - **Safety Protocols:** Residents in landslide-prone areas must relocate to safer ground before the peak of the rains. During storms, avoid sheltering under trees, near windows, or in open fields to mitigate lightning risks.

**7. WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

- **Potential Hazards:** Contamination of groundwater and shallow wells; destruction of sanitation infrastructure (e.g., collapsing pit latrines); and high turbidity/siltation in reservoirs.
- **Strategic Opportunities:** High potential for large-scale rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- **Advisories:** Intensify rooftop water harvesting; promote household water treatment (boiling or chlorination); and ensure the desilting of water pans prior to the season's peak.

**8. PUBLIC HEALTH**

- **Potential Hazards:** Upsurge in waterborne diseases (cholera, typhoid, dysentery) and vector-borne illnesses (malaria); increase in acute respiratory infections due to cold, damp conditions.
- **Risk Zones:** Informal settlements with inadequate drainage and populations near stagnant water bodies.
- **Advisories:**
  - **Intervention:** Pre-position emergency medical supplies and distribute Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs).
  - **Surveillance:** Health personnel should heighten surveillance for outbreak-prone diseases. Public health campaigns should emphasize the "Boil Water" protocol and general hygiene.

.

For further information, please contact:

**Henry Maringo Sese**

The County Director of Meteorology:

Mobile: 0723842121
Email: henrysese@yahoo.com/ sesehenry409@gmail.com