



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

MURANG'A COUNTY MARCH–APRIL–MAY (MAM)
2026 CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Date of Issue: 18th February 2026

1. Summary of the rainfall Outlook

Rainfall in **Murang'a County during the March–April–May (MAM) 2026** expected to be characterized by Normal to late onset with intermittent dry spells. However, occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to be witnessed in some areas of the County. In reference to Climatic Zones the Upper zones are more likely to be fairly wet compared to the lower zones.

A) Forecast for March 2026

Dry spells are expected in the first week with a chance of a few places receiving rainfall.

Lower Zones remains relatively dry with isolated cases of rainfall.

It's noted that high intensity rains may cause flash floods in some places.

B) Forecast for April 2026

Fairly wet with several parts of the County experiencing moderate rainfall which is expected to reduce towards the end of the month with an exception of a few places. The Lower Zone is however expected to receive depressed rainfall with some few areas having light to moderate rains.

C) Forecast for May 2026

Most of the seasonal rainfall will be experienced here especially in the Upper/Middle Zones with cessation towards the end of the month though other places may spill over into June.

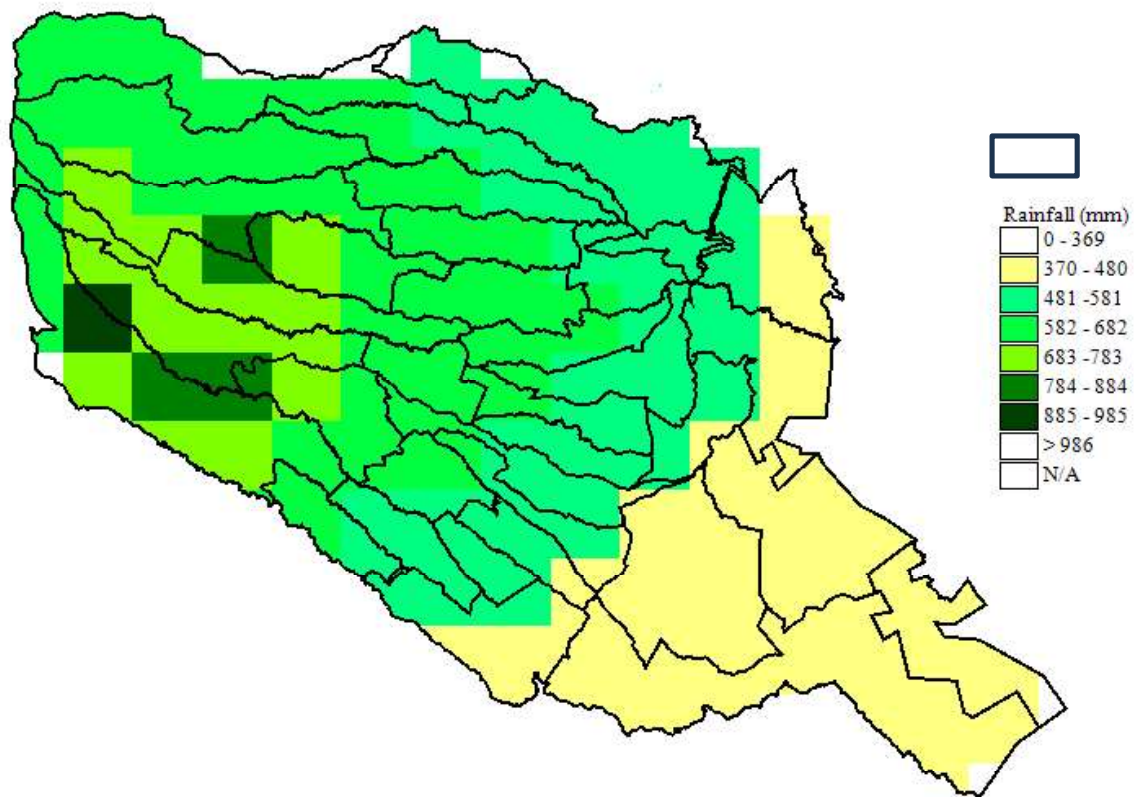


Fig 2. Normal (average) rainfall in mm in Murang'a County during the March, April, May rainy season.

The above map shows the average rainfall experienced during the same three-month period over 30 years between 1991 and 2020.

Darker shading indicates higher expected rainfall totals.

Below is a map showing the different climatic zones of Murang'a County. These zones are referred to in the forecast.

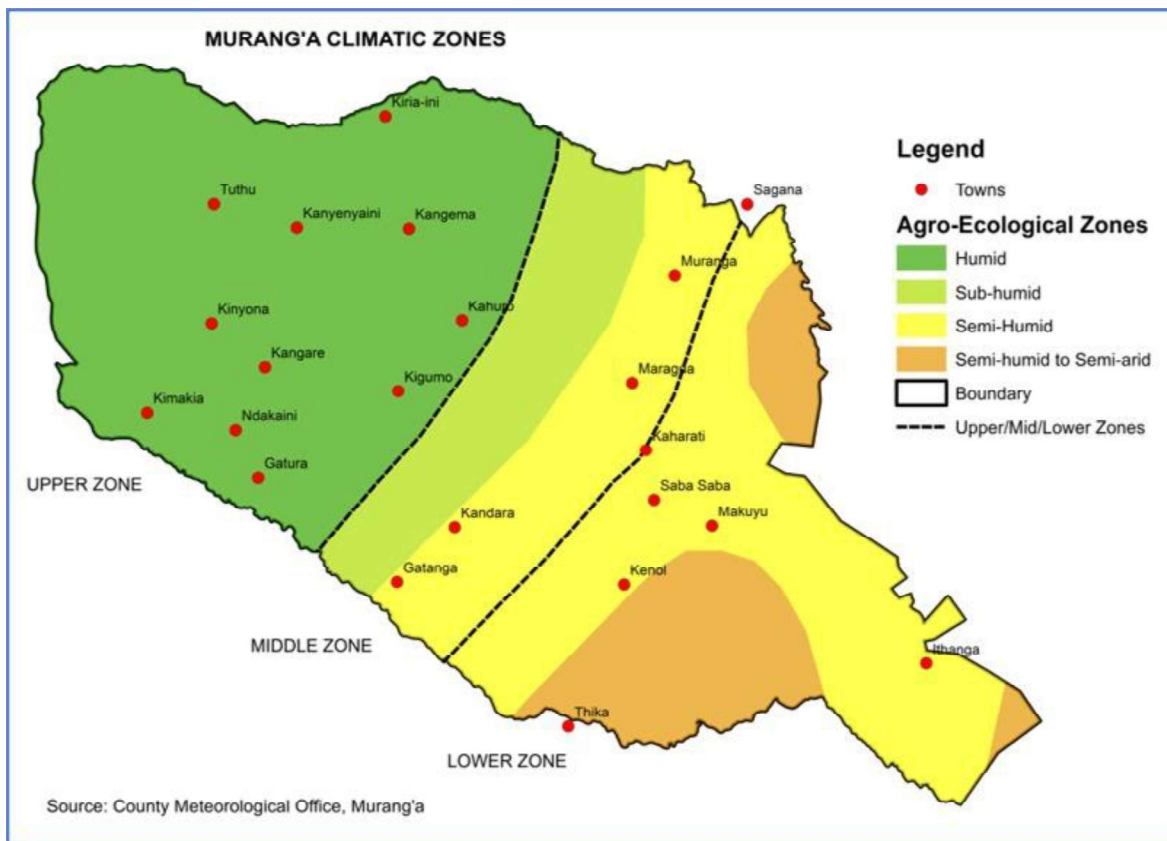


Fig 3. The main climatic zones of Murang'a County

2. Rainfall Outlook by Climatic Zone

UPPER ZONE: [KIRIAINI, TUTHU, KINYONA, KIGUMO, KANGEMA, GATURA, KANGARI, RWATHIA, MURARANDIA, MUGOIRI]

- **Onset of rains:** Rainfall is expected to continue from **February 2026**, with **dry spells likely in March**.
- **Cessation of rains:** Rainfall is likely to extend into **June 2026**.
- **Expected rainfall amount:** **470–975 mm**, which is **almost near the long-term seasonal average**.
- **Rainfall distribution:**
 - **Poor distribution in March and May**, marked by dry spells
 - **Fair distribution in April 2026**
- **Peak rainfall month: April**

MIDDLE ZONE:[GATANGA, KANDARA, MARAGUA, MURANGA TOWN, KAHURO, NGINDA, KAMACHARIA, KIHUMBUINI, KAGUNDUINI].

Onset of rain: Rainfall is expected to continue from **February 2026**, with **dry spells in March**.

- **Cessation of rain:** Rainfall is likely to continue into **June 2026**.
 - **Expected rainfall amount:** **470–770 mm**, **slightly near the long-term average**.
 - **Rainfall distribution:**
 - **Poor to fair distribution** in **March and May**, with dry spells
 - **Good distribution** in **April 2026**
 - **Peak rainfall month:** **April**
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LOWER ZONE: [KENOL, ITHANGA, MAKUYU, SABASABA, KAMBITI, KAKUZI]

- **Onset of rain:** Rainfall is expected to continue from **February 2026**, with **dry spells in March**.
 - **Cessation of rain:** Rainfall is likely to extend into **June 2026**.
 - **Expected rainfall amount:** **370–670 mm**, which is **slightly higher than the 30-year average**.
 - **Rainfall distribution:**
 - **Poor to fair distribution** in **March and May**, with dry spells
 - **Good distribution** in **April 2026**
 - **Peak rainfall month:** **April**
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3. What the Climate Outlook Means for Our Community

3.1 Rainfall and Associated Impacts

Most parts of Murang'a County are likely to experience **near-normal to above-normal rainfall**. During this season:

- Some days may record **heavy or very heavy rainfall**, leading to **landslides, river overflows, and soil erosion on farms**.
- **Lightning strikes, occasional strong winds, and hailstones** may **accompany rainfall**, posing risks to **people, livestock, crops, property, and infrastructure**.

3.2 Influence of Tropical Cyclones

Tropical cyclones may form over the Indian Ocean during this rainy season. Depending on their **location and movement**, these cyclones may either:

- **Enhance rainfall** over Murang'a County or
- Cause **dry spells** by diverting rainfall away

The path of cyclones and their probable impact upon the weather in Kenya can only be predicted **a few days in advance**. Follow daily and weekly forecasts regularly to find out if any cyclones are likely to affect Murang'a County.

3.3 Occurrence of Dry Spells

Dry spells may still occur within the rainy season. These periods of **several days or weeks without rain** can negatively affect:

- Crops and pasture
- Water availability
- Livestock productivity

Careful water use and **timely farm planning** are therefore essential.

3.4 Temperature Outlook

Temperatures during the MAM 2026 season are expected to be **slightly warmer than usual**. Warmer temperatures may:

- Increase soil moisture loss
- Raise water needs for crops and livestock
- Cause discomfort to people and animals

Advice from the County Meteorological Office

4. Advice to Farmers in All Areas of Murang'a County

1. **Diversify crop and livestock enterprises** to spread climate-related risks and ensure that gains in one activity can cushion losses in another.
2. **Select crop varieties** that perform well under **slightly above-normal rainfall** but can also withstand **short and prolonged dry spells**.

3. **Consult local agricultural extension officers** for guidance on farm planning based on this forecast. **Early planting is recommended.**
 4. **Plant tree seedlings at the onset of rains** to improve survival before the **January–March 2027 dry period.**
 5. **Plant mango trees in shelter belts**, as they have strong roots, resist wind damage, and help reduce wind speed.
 6. **Harvest and store rainwater** for future domestic and agricultural use.
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5. Flood Safety Advice by Zone

Upper/Middle Zone

Heavy rainfall in these higher ground may result into water logging thus Landslides, soil erosion, and subsequent loss of lives/livelihoods.

Potential risk of damaged infrastructure like roads leading to disruption of transport.

Residents are advised to:

- **Listen daily to local radio**, especially **Kangema Ranet FM (106.5 FM)**
 - **Consult local WhatsApp groups** for real-time information
 - Ensure data bundles are available
 - **Maintain close contact with community leaders**, including administrators, chiefs, religious leaders, teachers, and village leaders
 - **Attend barazas** and follow guidance from chiefs and assistant chiefs
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Lower Zones

Insufficient water availability may lead to increased trekking distance to watering points with likely incidences of communal and human-wildlife conflict.

6. Importance of Regular Weather Updates

This seasonal outlook should be used **together with monthly, weekly, 5-day, and daily forecasts**, as well as **special advisories** from the **Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)** and relevant authorities to support:

- Safe farming decisions
- Travel planning
- Community safety and preparedness

County departments and partners are encouraged to **develop sector-specific advisories** based on this outlook to enhance resilience and climate-informed decision-making.

All Climate information stakeholders are encouraged to **share practical, timely advice** to protect lives and livelihoods.

7. Further Information and Contacts

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