REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

KISUMU COUNTY MARCH–APRIL–MAY (MAM) 2026 CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Date of Issue: 16th February 2026

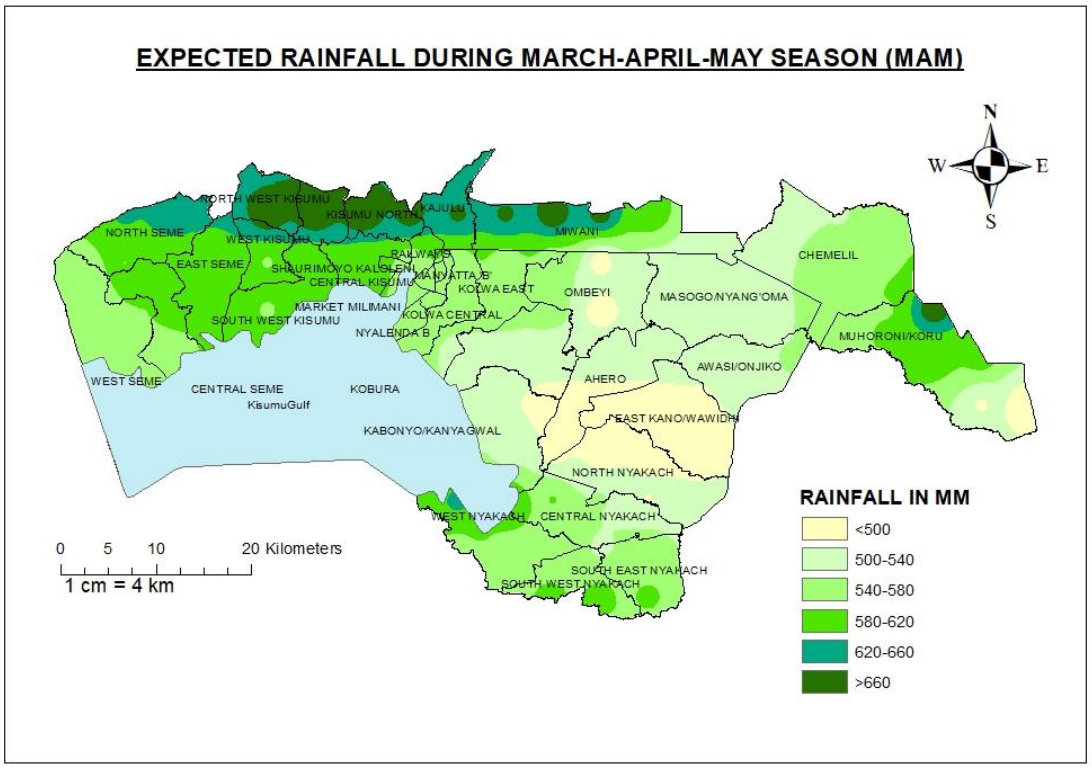

Fig 1. Forecast rainfall in Kisumu County during the March, April, May 2026 Season

Rainfall in Kisumu County during the March–April–May (MAM) 2026 rainy season is forecasts to be slightly above the normal rainfall usually expected thus implying enhanced rainfall.

However, the rains are unlikely to be evenly distributed across the season. Dry spells may occur, particularly in March, while episodes of heavy rainfall that could lead to flooding are possible at different times during the season.

The map in Figure 1 indicates the projected rainfall totals, in millimetres (mm), for different parts of Kisumu County during the upcoming rainy season.

The map below (Figure 2) shows the normal rainfall amounts for each area during the same three-month period. “Normal rainfall” refers to the average rainfall received in March, April, and May over the past 30 years.

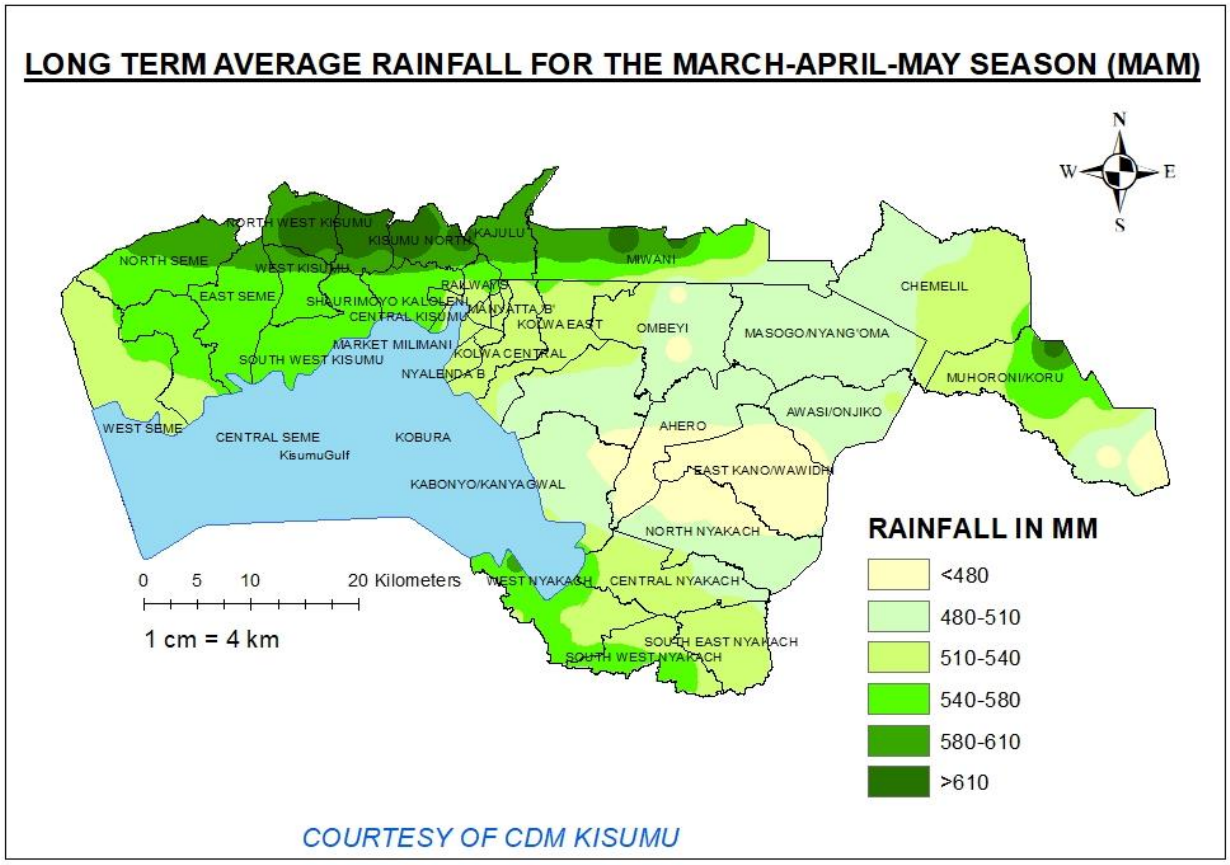

Fig 2. Normal rainfall (Long Term Average) received in Kisumu County during the March, April, May rainy season.

The map above illustrates the average rainfall received during the same March-April-May period (MAM) over a 30-year span (1991–2020). Areas shown in darker shades indicate rainfall amounts of over 600mm.

The map below displays the different climatic zones of Kisumu County. These zones are referenced in the forecast.

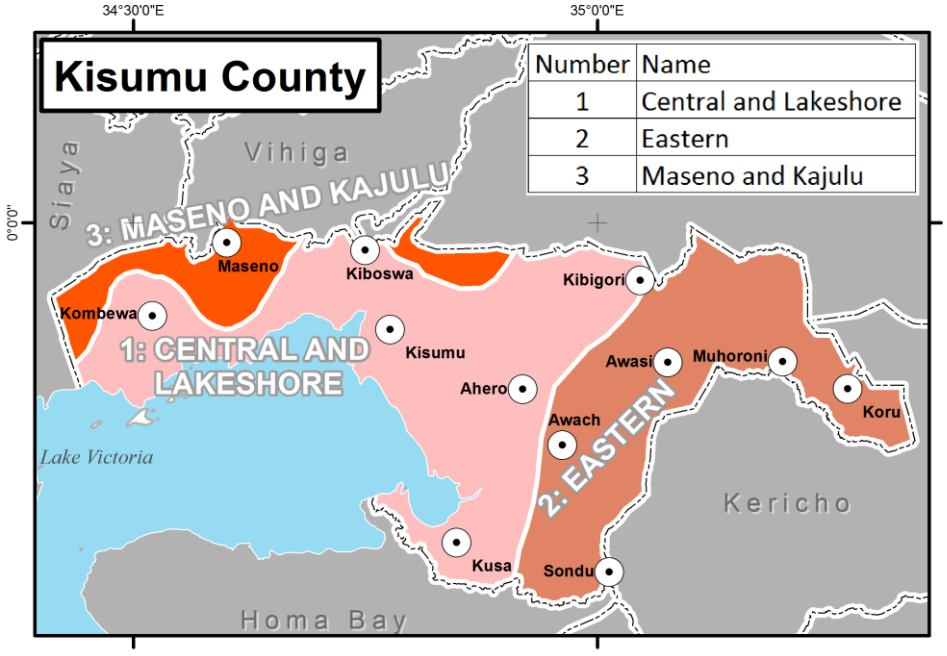

Fig 3. The main climatic zones of Kisumu County

2. Rainfall Outlook by Climatic Zone – MAM 2026

a. **Zone 1 & 3: Central/Lakeshore and Maseno–Kajulu Belt, Kisumu, Kombewa, Ahero, Kiboswa, Kibigori, Maseno, Kajulu**

❖ Seasonal Characteristics

- **Onset:** Rains expected to continue from February 2026; dry spells likely in March.
- **Cessation:** Likely to extend into June 2026.
- **Expected Seasonal Total: 500–700 mm** (slightly above long-term average).
- **Distribution:** Poor in March and May (dry spells likely) with **Peak** and fair distribution expected in April 2026.

❖ Impacts

- Good crop performance if planting aligns with early rainfall.
- Flood risk in lakeshore and low-lying areas near **Lake Victoria**.
- Soil erosion risk during heavy April rainfall events.

b. **Zone 2: Eastern Zone:** Muhoroni, Chemelil, Awasi, Sondu, Koru

❖ Seasonal Characteristics

- **Onset:** Rains continuing from February 2026; dry spells likely in March.
- **Cessation:** Likely to extend into June 2026.
- **Expected Seasonal Total: 500–650 mm** (near normal).
- **Distribution: occasional disruption of rains in march and may but with peak expected in April.**

❖ Impacts

- Favorable agricultural conditions in April.
- Risk of localized flooding in riverine areas, especially around Sondu.

3. What the Climate Outlook Means for the Community

3.1 Rainfall and Associated Hazards

Most parts of Kisumu County are expected to receive **near-normal to above-normal rainfall** during MAM 2026.

Potential Hazards

- Heavy to very heavy rainfall events may cause:
  - Flooding in low-lying areas.
  - River overflows.
  - Soil erosion and farm damage.
- Storm-related hazards may include:
  - Lightning strikes.
  - Strong winds.
  - Occasional hailstorms.

These may damage crops, livestock, homes, power lines, and other infrastructure.

3.2 Influence of Tropical Cyclones

Tropical cyclones may form over the **Indian Ocean** during the rainy season. Depending on their track and intensity, these systems may enhance rainfall, or deny moisture leading to temporary dry spells over the County.

Their impacts on Kenya can only be predicted a few days in advance thus continuous monitoring of daily and weekly forecasts is therefore critical.

3.3 Temperature Outlook

Temperatures during MAM 2026 are projected to be **slightly above average**. Warmer conditions may:

- Expect slightly higher temperatures than usual.
- This may increase water needs for crops and livestock.
- People and animals may feel more heat stress.

This reinforces the need for improved water management and shading for livestock.

3.4 Energy Sector

Positive Impacts

i. Higher hydropower inflows (**Sondu Miriu Hydroelectric Power Station**).
ii. Geothermal energy remains a reliable backbone of power supply.
iii. Balanced electricity demand–supply position.
iv. Vegetative regeneration supporting biomass fuel availability.
v. Stable operation of biogas plants.

Negative Impacts

i. Flood risks to dams and transmission infrastructure.
ii. Sedimentation challenges affecting reservoir capacity and turbine efficiency.

3.5 Health Sector

With Expected enhanced rainfall in most parts, the following are expected impacts.

Positive Impacts

1. Reduced malnutrition cases due to improved food production.
2. Increased water availability leading to reduced WASH-related diseases.

Negative Impacts

1. Flooding may cause:

- Deaths and water contamination.
- Outbreaks of waterborne diseases (e.g., cholera, typhoid, bilharzia).
- Increased vector-borne diseases (e.g., malaria, dengue, Rift Valley Fever).

2. Health system stress due to submerged or damaged health facilities.

3.6 Disaster Management Sector

Negative Impacts

1. Destruction of low-lying bridges.
2. Road impassability and structural failure of bridges and houses.
3. Destruction of school infrastructure and disruption of learning due to use as IDP camps.
4. Overflowing dams.
5. Power line failures.
6. Transboundary disaster risks.
7. Disaster-induced displacement.

3.7 Environment and Forestry

Positive Impacts

1. Increased forest growth through afforestation and restoration.
2. Enhanced water availability in catchments.
3. Improved biodiversity and ecosystem health.
4. Reduced forest fire risks.
5. Business opportunities in tree nursery establishment.
6. Improved food security

Negative Impacts

1. Pressure on wetlands and fragile ecosystems.
2. Landslides and mudslides may occur.
3. Increased pests and diseases.
4. Riverine flooding and soil erosion.
5. Spread of invasive alien species.

3.8 Transport

Impacts: There may be disruption in aviation industry due heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm and strong winds, reduced visibility, and the roads might be damaged due flash flooding and flooding

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4. Advisory from the County Meteorological Director

4.1 Guidance to Farmers Across Kisumu County

1. **Diversify crop and livestock enterprises** to spread climate-related risks.
2. **Select suitable crop varieties** that perform well under slightly above-normal rainfall but can tolerate short dry spells.
3. **Consult agricultural extension officers** for location-specific planting guidance. Early planting is strongly encouraged where rains have commenced.
4. **Plant tree seedlings at the onset of the rains** to improve survival before the January–March 2027 dry season.

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5. Flood Safety Advice by Zone

FLOOD SAFETY ADVICE BY ZONE

March–April–May 2026 Rainy Season is expected to have enhanced rains, especially in April, this may cause flooding in some parts of the County. These are:

1. Central / Lakeshore Belt (Zone 1 & 3)

- **Kisumu Town lowlands** – especially areas near **Lake Victoria** such as Obunga, Manyatta, and Nyalenda.
- **Ahero** – near Nyando River and floodplains.
- **Kombewa** – along the floodplain areas.
- **Kiboswa & Kibigori** – areas adjacent to rivers and drainage channels.
- **Maseno & Kajulu** – low-lying valleys near rivers and wetlands.

Flood Drivers: Lake Victoria backflow, river overflow, poor drainage, and heavy rainfall.

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2. Eastern Belt (Zone 2)

- **Muhoroni** – especially near Nyando and Nzoia River tributaries.
- **Chemelil** – low-lying farms along river valleys.
- **Awasi** – river-adjacent areas.
- **Sondu & Koru** – flat areas with limited drainage.

Flood Drivers: Flash floods from heavy rains, river overflow, and saturated soils.

General Flood-Prone Areas Across the County are:

- Riverbanks (Nyando River, Sondu River, Kibos, and smaller streams).
- Swamps and wetlands (e.g., Yala swamp fringe areas).
- Urban settlements with blocked drainage (Kisumu Town, Ahero, and Kombewa town centers).
- Low-lying agricultural plains, especially irrigated farms near rivers.

Flood-prone areas are at higher risk during **heavy rainfall events, lake backflows, or prolonged wet periods**. Residents in these areas are adviced:

- Stay alert to early warnings.
- Identify higher ground for temporary relocation.
- Ensure drainage channels are cleared before peak rains.

Summary

Forecasts indicating **enhanced rainfall** present both opportunities and risks across key sectors of Kenya's economy.

Above-average rainfall is likely to boost agricultural production, hydropower generation, forest regeneration, and food security. However, it also increases flood risks, infrastructure damage, waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and disaster displacement.

Below-average rainfall poses serious risks to food production, livestock survival, water availability, social cohesion, and macroeconomic stability, potentially increasing poverty levels and public expenditure pressures.

This brief outlines sector-specific impacts and recommends priority policy and operational actions to enhance resilience and mitigate risks.

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.

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7. Further Information and Contacts

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