REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

State Department for Environment & Climate Change

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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OUTLOOK FOR MARCH 2026 AND REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 2026

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Outlook for March 2026

The outlook indicates that the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the South Coast, Northwestern and some parts of the Southeastern Lowlands and Northeastern Kenya are likely to receive near-average to above-average rainfall. Much of the North Coast and North-eastern Kenya are likely to receive near-average rainfall.

Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average over the Coast, the Southeastern Lowlands, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya. The rest of the country is likely to experience near-average temperatures.

1.2 Outlook for the Next Three Months (March-April-May 2026)

The March-April-May (MAM) 2026 rainfall season is projected to begin with a steady transition, as the precipitation currently observed in February persists through the first two weeks of March across various parts of the country. March serves as the official onset of the MAM season, leading into April, which is anticipated to be the climatic peak. During this period, isolated heavy rainfall events may occur nationwide. While the season is expected to conclude for most parts of the country by late May, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, Central Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, and the Coastal region are notable exceptions; in these areas, rainfall is likely to extend well into June.

Mean temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over most parts of the country more so in some parts of the Coast and Northeastern Kenya.

1.3 February 2026 Review

Several parts of the country, most notably the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and the Southeastern Lowlands experienced off-season rains in February. Some parts of the Coast, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya remained generally dry. Heavy rainfall recorded in areas such as Narok and Migori resulted in flooding and damage to infrastructure.

Mean temperatures were warmer than average in most parts of the country except in Kericho, Kisii and Kisumu Meteorological Stations where cooler than average temperatures were recorded.

2.0 RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR MARCH 2026

2.1 March Rainfall Climatology

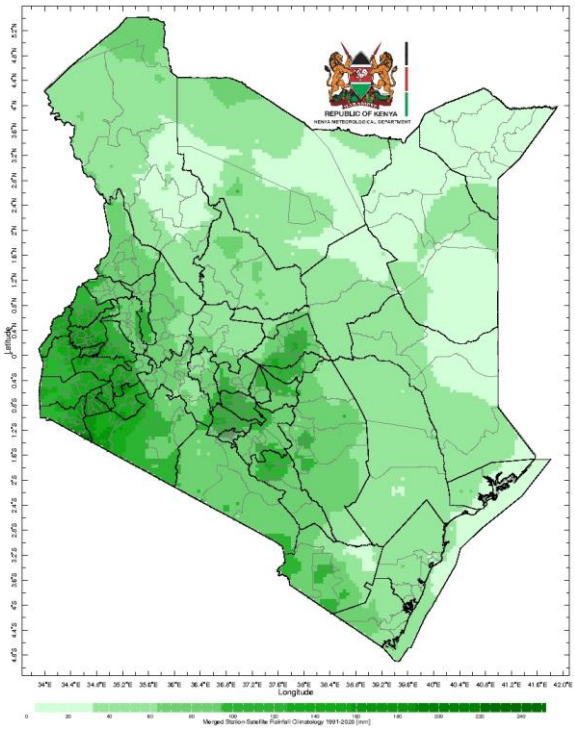

Figure 1: March Rainfall Climatology (1991-2020)

In the country, the onset of the MAM seasonal rainfall is primarily driven by the northward migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). This seasonal shift occurs as the ITCZ follows the sun's overhead path back toward the equator, bringing a convergence of moist air masses that trigger widespread precipitation.

This shift creates a zone of rising air over East Africa and draws in warm, moist winds from the Indian Ocean and the Congo Airmass which are lifted over the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley leading to more rainfall in those regions.

The timing and strength of MAM rainfall are often influenced by the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)—a traveling pattern of convective clouds, rainfall, and winds that moves eastward around the equator—and by tropical cyclone activity in the Indian Ocean.

Figure 1 indicates that the highest monthly rainfall amounts (greater than 240mm) are normally received in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley and the Lake Victoria Basin.

2.2 Rainfall Outlook for March 2026

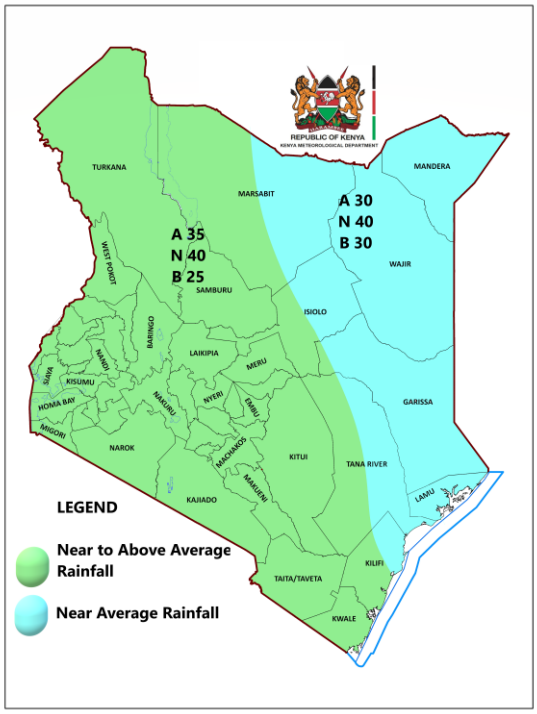

Figure 2: March 2026 Rainfall Outlook

The outlook indicates that the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the South Coast, Northwestern and some parts of the Southeastern Lowlands and Northeastern Kenya are likely to receive near-average to above-average rainfall. Much of the North Coast and North-eastern Kenya are likely to receive near-average rainfall (**Figure 2.**)

Rainfall is likely to be enhanced over much of the country during the first half of March. Dry spells are expected to occur during the second half of the month when the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) is predicted to be in unfavourable phases.

2.3 Detailed Regional Rainfall Outlook for March 2026

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 during the first half of the month.

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

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to above-average. Intermittent rainfall, that may occasionally be heavy, is expected during the first half of the month with onsets expected in the 1st to 2nd weeks of April.

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 likely to occur in several parts of the region during the first half of the month.

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

Rainfall is likely to be near-average in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and the eastern parts of Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. The western parts of Marsabit and Isiolo Counties are likely to receive near-average to above-average rainfall. Intermittent rainfall, that may occasionally be heavy, is expected during the first half of the month. Rainfall onsets are expected in the 1st to 2nd weeks of April.

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 above-average over much of the region except the eastern parts of Tana River County where near-average rainfall is expected. Occasional heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in a few areas during the first half of the month.

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

Rainfall is likely to be near-average in Lamu County, the Tana Delta and the eastern parts of Kilifi County. Mombasa and Kwale Counties as well as the western parts of Kilifi County are likely to receive near-average to above-average rainfall. Intermittent rainfall, that may occasionally be heavy, is expected during the first half of the month. Rainfall onsets for the North Coast are likely to occur in the 4th week of March to 1st week of April.

3.0 TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK FOR MARCH 2026

3.1 March Temperature Climatology

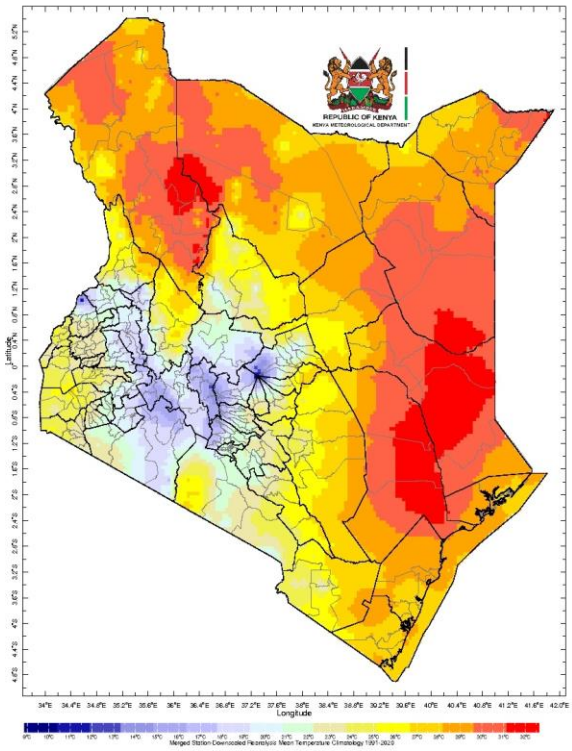

Figure 3: March Mean Temperature Climatology (1991-2020)

March is generally a warm month, with temperatures across the country being influenced by the transition from the hot and dry season (January and February) into the long-rains period (March-April-May).

The Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley remain relatively are cooler due to the environmental lapse rate, while the Coast, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya experience the highest temperatures (**Figure 3**).

Night temperatures vary strongly by region: cool nights in the Highlands East of the Rift Valley and warm nights in the Coast, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya.

3.2 Detailed Regional Temperature Outlook for March 2026

Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average over the Coast, the Southeastern Lowlands, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya. The rest of the country is likely to experience near-average temperatures. Predicted maximum and minimum temperature ranges for individual regions are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Maximum and Minimum Temperature Ranges

Region	**Maximum Temperature Range**	**Minimum Temperature Range**
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).*	20°C to 34°C	08°C to 24°C
North-western *(Turkana and Samburu Counties)*	20°C to 40°C	09°C to 28°C
Highlands East of the Rift Valley *(Nyandarua, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Nairobi Counties)*	27°C to 32°C	05°C to 19°C
North-eastern *(Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo Counties)*	20°C to 40°C	16°C to 28°C
Southeastern Lowlands: *(Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Taita-Taveta Counties as well as the inland parts of Tana-River County)*	24°C to 36°C	13°C to 24°C
Coast *(Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu and Kwale Counties and the Tana Delta)*	28°C to 36°C	22°C to 28°C

4.0 OUTLOOK FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY

The rainfall being experienced in February is expected to continue into the first and second weeks of March over several parts of the country. March is climatologically the beginning of the March-April-May rainfall season. However, the onset criteria that is defined as the receipt of at least 20 mm of rainfall within three consecutive days, with no dry spell exceeding seven days thereafter has already been met in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the Southeastern Lowlands and the South Coast.

April is climatologically the peak of the March-April-May rainfall season. Isolated heavy rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the country during this month. May is expected to mark the end of the rainfall season for much of the country except the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Coast where the rains are likely to continue into June.

Mean temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over most parts of the country more so in some parts of the Coast and Northeastern Kenya.

5.0 FEBRUARY 2026 REVIEW (AS AT 26TH FEBRUARY 2026)

5.1 Review of February 2026 Rainfall Performance

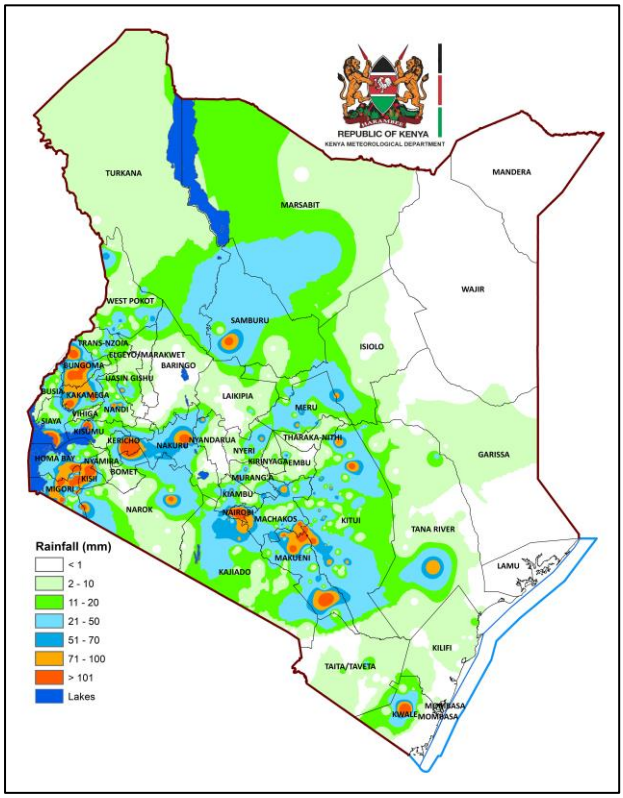

Figure 4: February 2026 Rainfall Totals

Several parts of the country, most notably the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and the Southeastern Lowlands experienced off-season rains in February (**Figure 4**). These rains surpassed their February LTMs (**Figure 5**) where the total rainfall amount recorded in February (Blue bars) is compared with February LTMs (Red bars). Some parts of the Coast, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya remained generally dry.

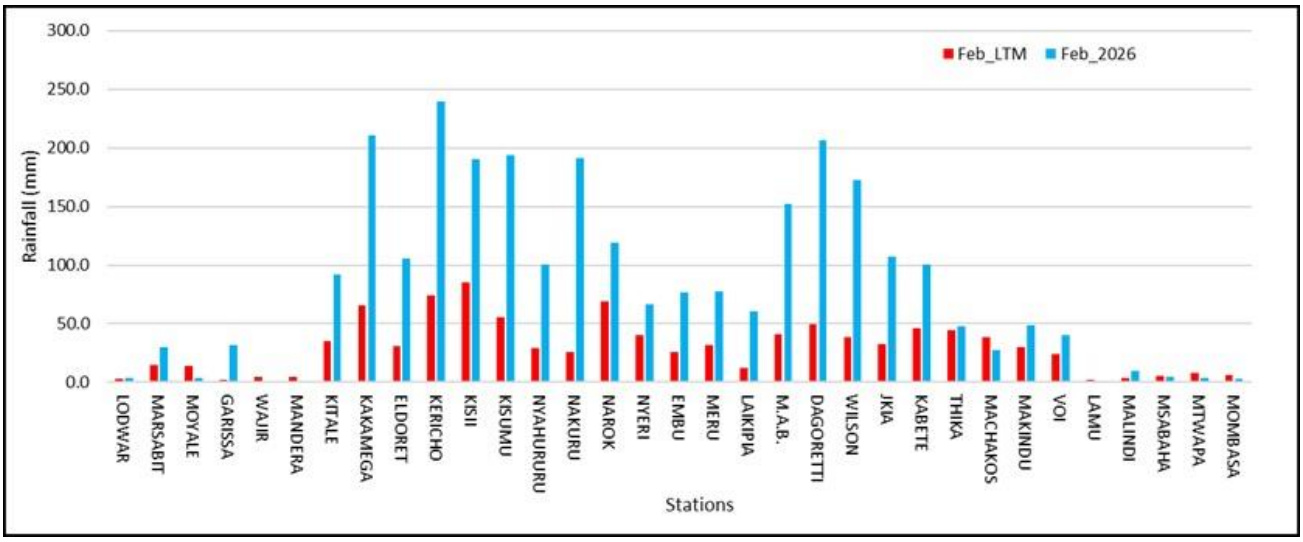

Figure 5: February 2026 Rainfall Totals against February LTMs

The highest monthly rainfall total (294.2 mm) was recorded at Kanga Automatic Weather Station in Migori County. Lamu, Mandera and Wajir Meteorological Stations recorded no rainfall in February 2026. The rainfall station at Vigurungani Chief's Office in Kwale County recorded the highest amount of rainfall within 24-hours: 113.9 mm on 25th February 2026.

5.2 Temperature Review

5.2.1 Maximum Temperature Review

Warmer than average maximum (daytime) temperatures were recorded in most parts of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley, the South-eastern Lowlands, the Coast, Northeastern and Northwestern Kenya. The Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley recorded cooler than average maximum temperatures (**Figure 6**). The highest positive anomaly (2.7°C) was recorded at Thika Meteorological Station while the lowest negative anomaly (-2.6°C) was recorded at Kisumu Meteorological Station. Lodwar Meteorological Station recorded the highest daily maximum temperature: 39.4°C on 20th February 2026.

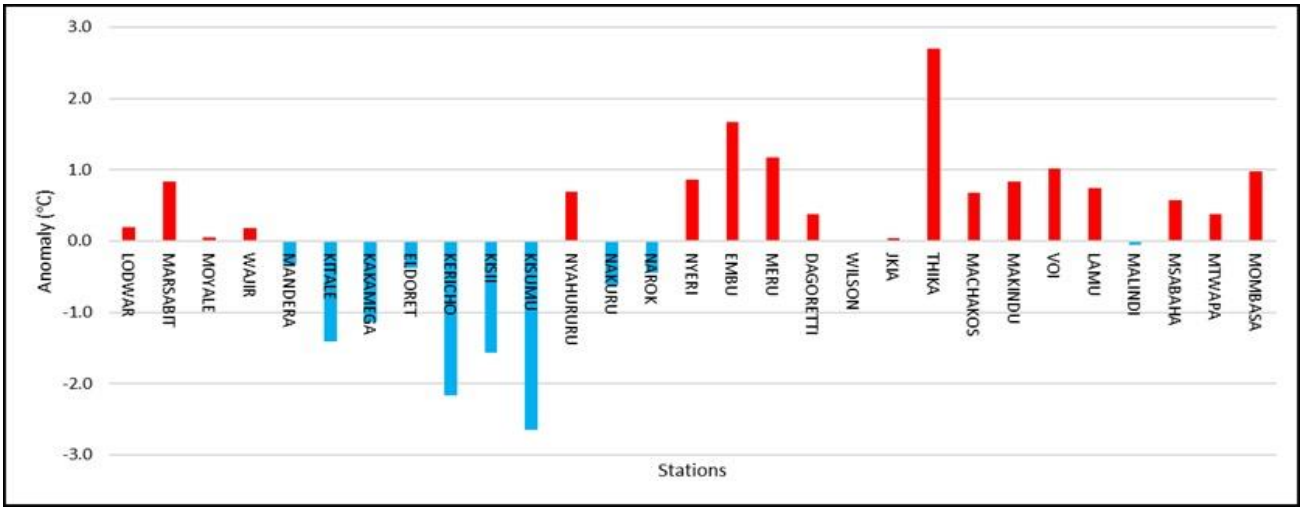

Figure 6: February 2026 Maximum Temperature Anomalies

5.2.2 Minimum Temperature Review

Minimum (nighttime) temperatures were warmer than average throughout the country with only Kisii Meteorological Station recording a negative anomaly: -0.4°C (**Figure 7**). The highest positive

anomaly 2.8°C was recorded at Narok Meteorological Station. Nyahururu Meteorological Station recorded the lowest daily minimum temperature: 5.7°C on 11th February 2026.

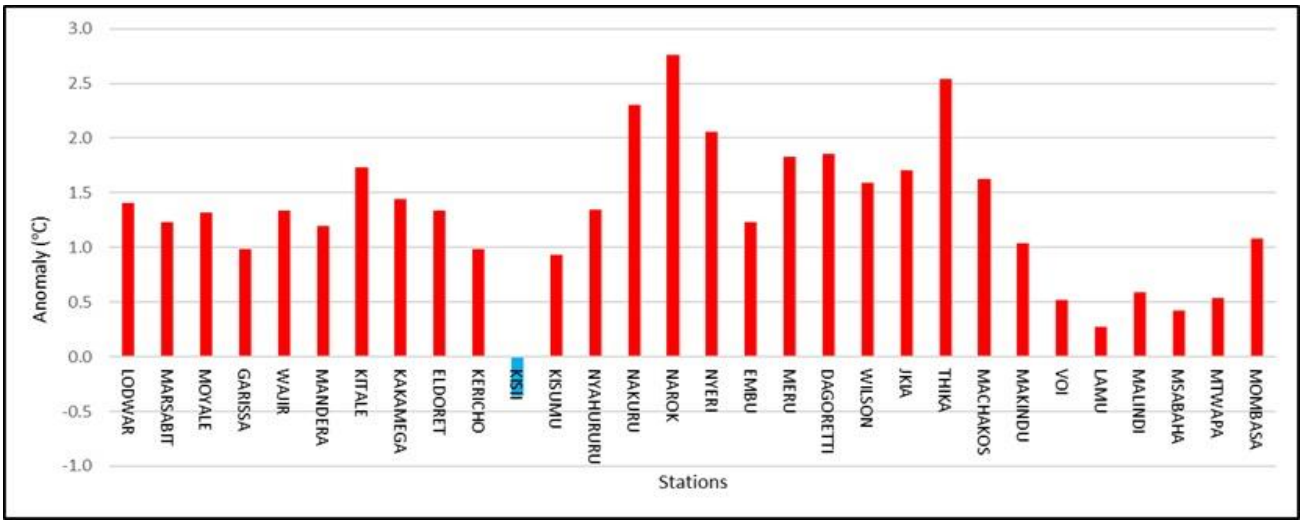

Figure 7: February 2026 Minimum Temperature Anomalies

5.2.1 Mean Temperature Review

Mean temperatures were warmer than average in most parts of the country except in Kericho, Kisii and Kisumu Meteorological Stations where cooler than average temperatures were recorded (**Figure 8**).

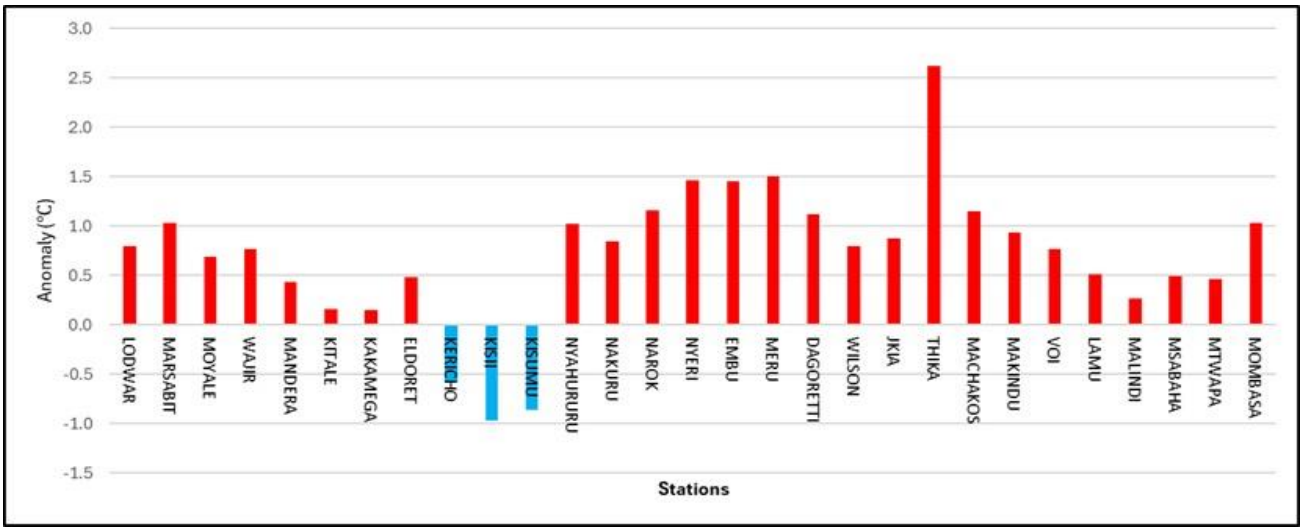

Figure 8: February 2026 Mean Temperature Anomalies

6.0 REPORTED IMPACTS OF FEBRUARY 2026 WEATHER

1. Several Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) Counties continued to be affected by drought.
2. Migori Footbridge along the Isebania–Sare (A1) Road was closed indefinitely after being damaged by River Migori's rising waters. Households, schools and a health facility were also affected by flooding.
3. The Mara River, in Narok County, overtopped Mararianta Bridge and swept away a vehicle.
4. Livestock died in Vigurugani, Kwale County after being struck by lightning.
5. Some roads in Kitui and Isiolo Counties were rendered impassable by heavy downpours.
6. Strong winds blew off some roofs in Nkondi, Tharaka Nithi County.

N.B: This outlook should be used together with the 24-hour, 5-day, 7-day and special forecasts as well as regular updates/advisories issued by this Department. County specific weekly forecasts and monthly outlooks 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.