



THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND FORESTRY

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE “LONG RAINS” (MARCH-APRIL-MAY) 2026 SEASON

1.0 Outlook for March-April-May 2026

The March to May period is one of the major rainfall seasons over Wajir county. The highest seasonal rainfall amounts (greater than 200mm) are normally received over the strip in Wajir south sub county bordering Somalia country and parts of Wajir north sun county. **Figure 1** illustrates the rainfall climatology during the March to May rainfall season.

The climate outlook for the March–April–May (MAM) 2026 season (Figure 2) indicates that near-average is expected over the strip west of Wajir south and parts of Wajir North sub counties. Near- average to below-average rainfall is expected over the rest of sub counties except parts of Wajir west. Below-average rainfall is expected over the western parts of Wajir west sub county.

During the season, most areas are likely to experience a generally poor temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall. The season is expected to be characterized by a normal to late onset, with intermittent dry spells. However, occasional moderate rainfall events are likely to occur in some parts of the county.

The peak of the rain is expected to occur in April over most sub counties.

In **Figure 2**, the areas projected to receive near-average rainfall are depicted in **dark green**. Places expected to receive near-average to below-average rainfall are shown in **light green**

and yellow. Meanwhile, the areas forecasted to experience below-average (depressed) rainfall are highlighted in orange.

2.0 Detailed Outlook for Particular Areas

The Specific Rainfall Outlook for the March-April-May 2026 “Long-Rains” Season is as follows:

2.1 East part of Wajir South sub county (Parts of Diff, Dadajabulla and Biyomathow)

Rainfall is likely to be near average. Occasional moderate rainfall events are likely to occur in a few parts of the mentioned places.

2.2 Wajir East, Eldas, Tarbaj and parts of Wajir West, North and South

Rainfall is likely to be below average to near-average. Occasionally moderate rainfall events are likely to occur in a few areas.

2.3 Wajir West (Part of Hadado, Athibol, Qaseqoftu)

Rainfall is likely to be below average.

NB: Intraseasonal drivers of variability, such as tropical cyclones and the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO), are only predictable at shorter lead times and can significantly influence the expected seasonal outcome. It is therefore imperative to stay up to date with subsequent forecasts and updates.

3. EXPECTED DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAM RAINFALL, ONSET AND CESSATION DATES

3.1 Onset, Cessation and Distribution of Rainfall for March to May 2026 “Long-Rains” Season

Distribution

The predicted onsets, cessations, and distribution of rainfall were derived from dynamical climate model runs as well as statistical analyses of past years which showed similar characteristics to the current year and are as indicated in **Table 1**. The analogue (similar) year is 2023. The season is expected to have a normal to late onset over parts of the county.

The rainfall outcomes of the analogue years should not be interpreted as forecasts for the season. Rather, they provide a sense of the possible rainfall outcomes under broadly similar global climate conditions. They also offer indicative information on the temporal distribution associated with specific seasonal rainfall totals.

Onset and Cessation Dates

The expected onset and cessation dates for the various counties are as indicated in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Onset, Cessation and Distribution

County	Onset Dates	Cessation Dates	Distribution
Wajir	4th week of March to 1st week of April	3rd to 4th week of May	Poor

NB: Updates on the onset, distribution, and cessation of rainfall will be provided regularly through weekly, monthly forecasts as the season approaches. These updates will offer detailed insights into any changes and developments in rainfall patterns to keep stakeholders informed and support timely decision-making.

4. MAM 2026 TEMPERATURE FORECAST

Warmer than average temperatures are expected over the whole county, with increased probabilities over parts of the Wajir North sub county.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE (MARCH TO MAY) 2026 SEASON

The expected rainfall during the ‘Long rains’ (March to May) 2026 season is expected to have both negative and positive impacts across various sectors. The most likely impacts on various sectors will be highlighted by the sector leads during the PSP workshop subject to support from development partners.

NB: This outlook should be used together with the 24-hour, Weekly forecasts, monthly forecasts, regular updates, and advisories issued by this Department.

Daniel Wanjuihi,

COUNTY DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES - WAJIR.

6. Annexes

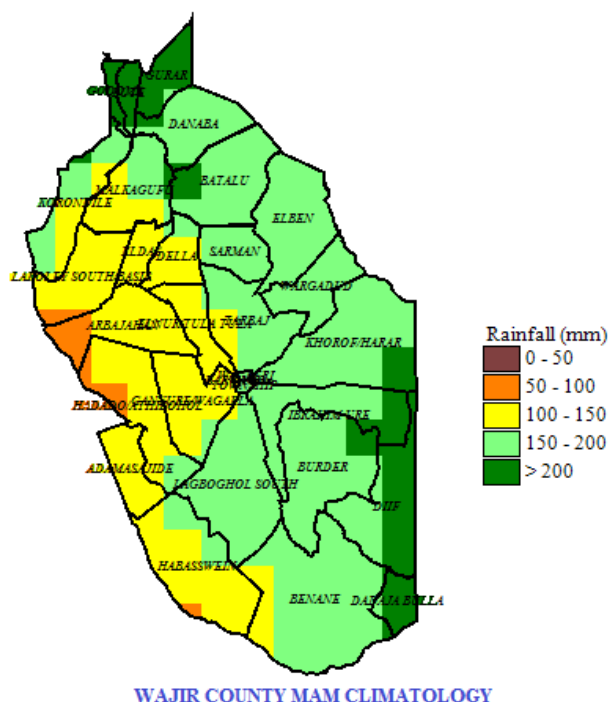


Figure 1: Rainfall climatology for the March to May “Long- Rains” season

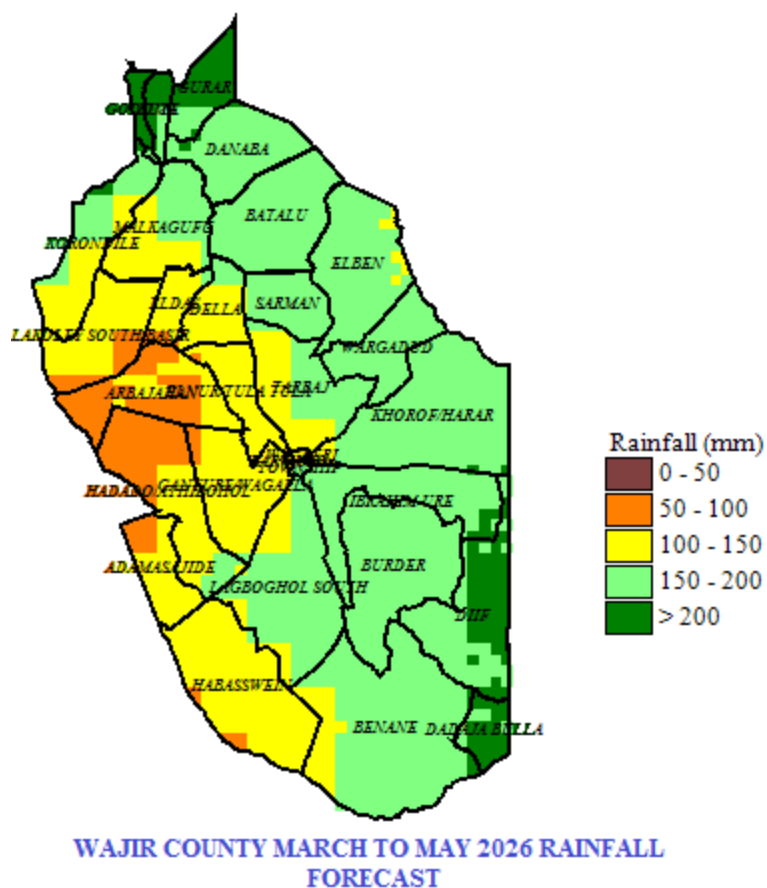


Figure 2: MAM 2026 Rainfall Outlook