



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
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MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 RAINFALL SEASON ONSET UPDATE

1.0 THE MARCH-APRIL-MAY RAINFALL CLIMATOLOGY

The March to May period is the major rainfall season (Long Rains) over most parts of Meru. When most parts receive rainfall amounts greater than 300mm

UPDATED MAM 2026 RAINFALL ONSET DATES

Rainfall that is currently being experienced is likely to continue into early March 2026. Many areas have meet the onset criteria in Meru. The onset criteria are defined as the receipt of at least **20 mm of rainfall within three consecutive days**, with **no dry spell exceeding seven (7) days thereafter**.

The forecasted early season rainfall is associated with the presence of favorable mesoscale and large-scale atmospheric systems, including the enhanced convective activity linked to the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO). These systems are expected to temporarily enhance moisture convergence and rainfall amounts over several parts of the county during the late February to early March period.

However, indications suggest that the **Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is likely to transition to **less favorable phases from mid-March**, which may result in a **reduction in rainfall amounts** and an **increased likelihood of dry spells**, as the **convective environment becomes suppressed** over some regions.

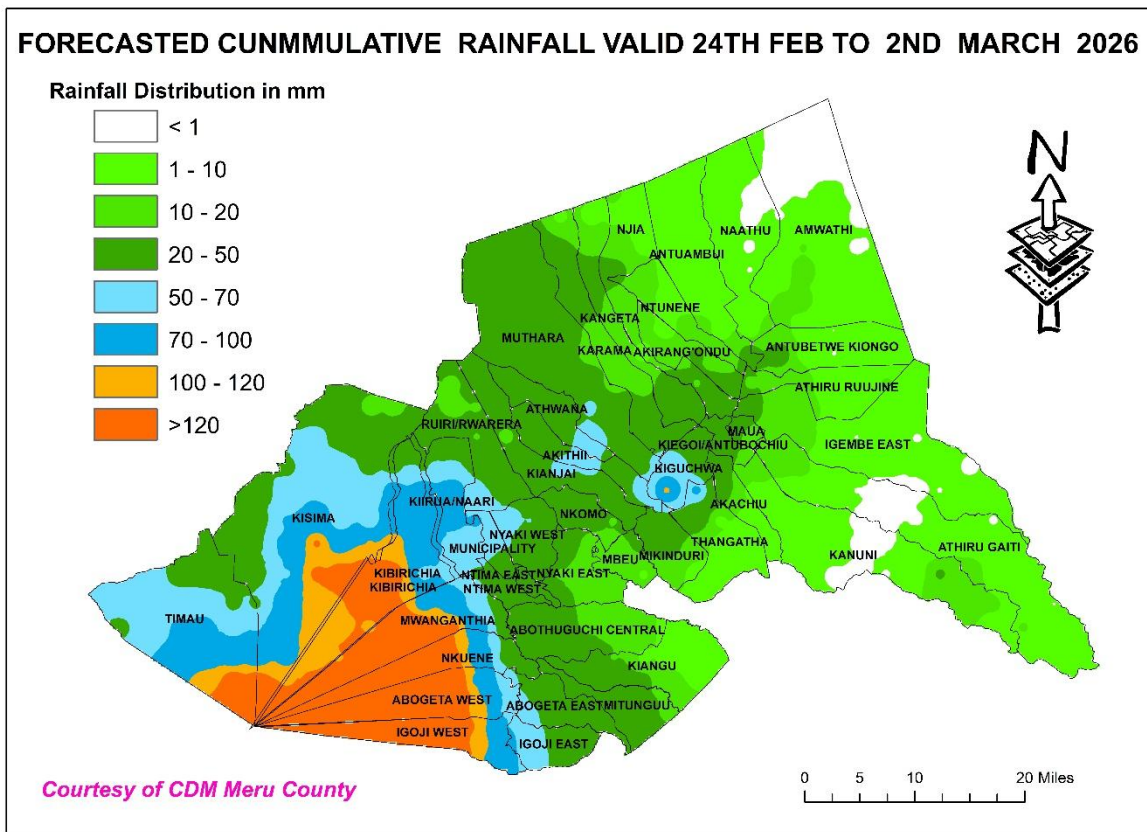
This outlook should be used together with the **24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, monthly** and **special forecasts**, as well as **regular updates and advisories** issued by this Department, in addition to the **Weekly** and **Monthly County forecasts** developed and disseminated by the County Meteorological Offices. **Farmers are advised to consult Agricultural Extension Officers** for further guidance and decision- making.

NB: Updates on the seasonal performance and key climate drivers, including the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) and tropical cyclones that may occasionally alter the seasonal rainfall performance, will be provided regularly. These updates will offer detailed insights into evolving rainfall patterns, thereby keeping stakeholders informed and supporting timely and informed decision-making.

Justin Murithi,

County Director Meteorological Services Meru

Annex



Amount of Rainfall expected over seven days as from 24th Feb to 3rd March 2026