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OUTLOOK FOR APRIL, REVIEW OF MARCH AND OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS (APRIL-MAY-JUNE) 2026

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Outlook for April 2026

The outlook for April 2026 indicates that above-average rainfall is expected over parts of the North-Eastern region. Near- to below-average rainfall is likely over most parts of the South-Eastern Lowlands, isolated areas of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley, and parts of the Northwest and Northeast, while below-average rainfall is expected over the coastal region. Near-average rains are anticipated in the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Rift Valley, parts of north-western Kenya and most of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley including Nairobi. The rainfall is expected to be slightly depressed during the first half of the month over much of the country but it's likely to be enhanced towards the end of the month. Isolated episodes of heavy rainfall are however likely to occur in various parts of the country during the month.

Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average over the Coast, North-eastern and North-western Kenya. The rest of the country is likely to experience near-average temperatures.

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

The April-May-Jun (AMJ) 2026 rainfall season is expected to continue from March over several parts of the country with some breaks. The Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Rift Valley, Lake Victoria Basin, North-western, parts of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley, Southeast and the Coastal region are likely to experience dry spells during the first week of April. April marks the peak of the MAM season, which climatologically characterised by heavy rainfall events. 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 an exception; in these areas, rainfall is likely to extend into June.

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

1.3 March 2026 Review

The month of March marks the onset of the March-April-May (MAM) "Long Rains" season in the country. However, this year most parts of the country received their onsets in the second week of February where off-season rains influenced by the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) occurred. Parts of the Highlands West and East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi), the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, achieved their onsets in the second week of February. The South-eastern lowlands and parts of the South Coast got their onset in the fourth week of February. The onset in Northeastern was achieved in the first week of March and the third week of March for the North Coast. Northwestern received moderate to heavy rainfall in the first week of March, but this was followed by a prolonged dry spell hence, its onset is anticipated to be in the first to second week of April. Above-average rainfall was recorded over most parts of the country, except Mandera where average rainfall was recorded.

Maximum temperatures were cooler than average over the whole country while minimum temperatures were warmer than average over most places except in Kisii where average temperatures were recorded.

2.0 RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR APRIL 2026

2.1 April Rainfall Climatology

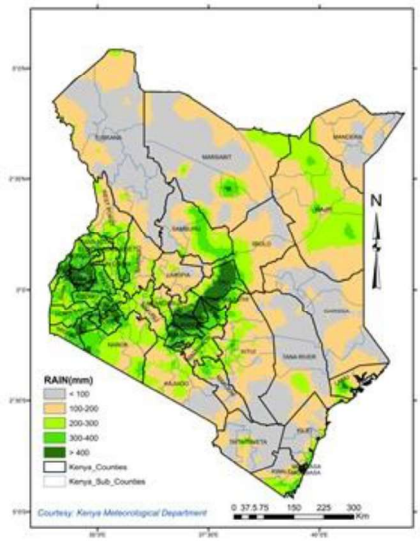

Figure 1: April Rainfall Climatology (1991-2020)

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 Air-mass 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 400mm) are normally received in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley and the Lake Victoria Basin.

2.2 Rainfall Outlook for April 2026

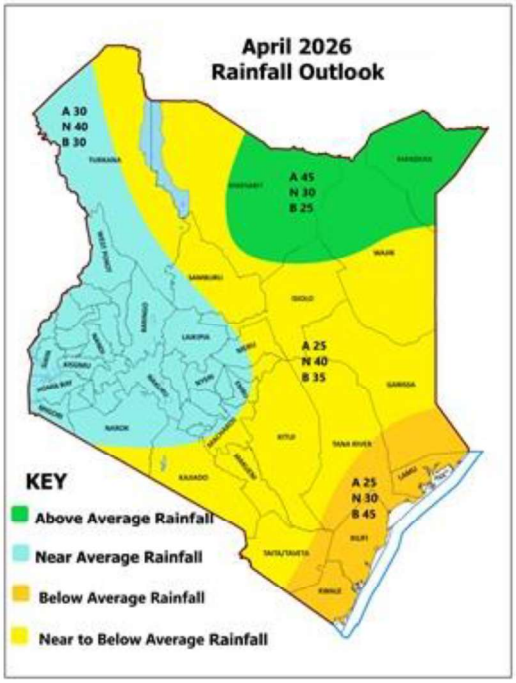

Figure 2: April 2026 Rainfall Outlook

The outlook for April 2026 indicates that above-average rainfall is expected over parts of the Northeastern. Near- to below-average rainfall is likely over most parts of the South-Eastern Lowlands, isolated areas of the Highlands East of the Rift Valley, and parts of the Northwestern and Northeastern. Below-average rainfall is expected over the coastal region. Near-average rains are likely in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and parts of north-western Kenya, as shown in **Figure 2.**

Rainfall is likely to be slightly depressed during the first half of the month over much of the country but it's likely to be enhanced towards the end of the month.

2.3 Detailed Regional Rainfall Outlook for April 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 expected during the month, with total amounts likely to be near the long-term average. Rainfall is expected to be slightly depressed during the first half of the month while enhancement is likely towards the end of the month. Occasional storms are also expected.

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

Occasional rainfall is expected during the month, with total amounts likely to be near the long-term average, especially along the border with Uganda and South Sudan. However, the eastern parts of Turkana and Samburu are expected to receive near- to below-normal rainfall. Occasional storms are also likely to be experienced.

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 expected during the forecast period, with total amounts likely to be near the long-term average for the month. Occasional storms are also likely to be experienced.

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

Occasional rainfall is expected during the month. Rainfall amounts are likely to be above the long-term average over the northern parts of Marsabit, Wajir, and Mandera counties. However, several parts of Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, and Isiolo are likely to receive near- to below-average rainfall. Occasional storms are also likely to be experienced.

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 expected during the forecast period, with total amounts likely to be near to below the long-term average for the month. Occasional storms are also likely to be experienced.

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

These counties are likely to experience occasional rainfall during the month, with total amounts expected to be below the long-term average for the month.

3.0 TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK FOR APRIL 2026

3.1 April Temperature Climatology

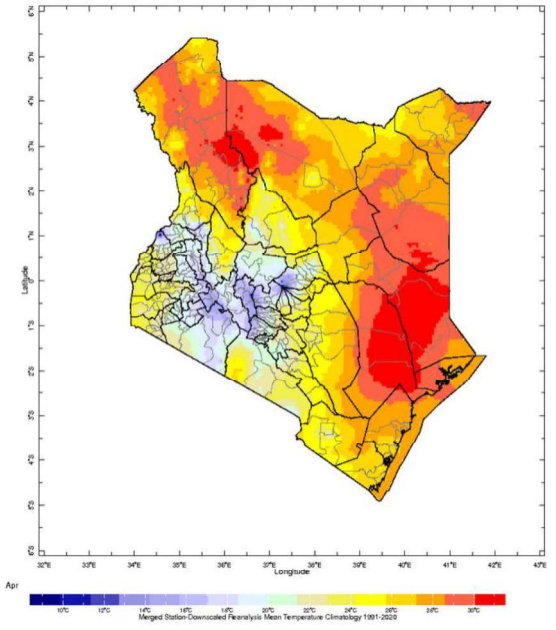

Figure 3: April Mean Temperature Climatology (1991-2020)

In April, most parts of Kenya experience warm and wet conditions due to the long rains season, with average daytime temperatures ranging between 20°C and 32°C.

However, the highlands east and west of the Rift Valley are noticeably cooler than other regions. This is mainly due to their higher altitude. As elevation increases, temperatures decrease because the air becomes thinner and retains less heat.

In contrast, the coastal, north-eastern, and north-western regions, which lie at lower altitudes, experience higher temperatures and warmer conditions. (**Figure 3**).

Night temperatures vary strongly by region: cool nights in the Highlands East of the Rift Valley and warm nights in the Coast, North-eastern and North-western Kenya.

3.2 Detailed Regional Temperature Outlook for April 2026

Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average over the Coast, North-eastern and North-western Kenya. The South-eastern Lowlands are expected to experience near average temperatures while the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley are likely to experience near-to-below 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).*	22°C to 31°C	10°C to 21°C
North-western *(Turkana and Samburu Counties)*	22°C to 36°C	13°C to 25°C
Highlands East of the Rift Valley *(Nyandarua, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Nairobi Counties)*	20°C to 28°C	06°C to 16°C
North-eastern *(Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo Counties)*	24°C to 36°C	17°C to 26°C
Southeastern Lowlands: *(Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Taita-Taveta Counties as well as the inland parts of Tana-River County)*	24°C to 32°C	15°C to 24°C
Coast *(Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu and Kwale Counties and the Tana Delta)*	29°C to 34°C	20°C to 26°C

4.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE APRIL 2026 RAINS AND CORRESPONDING ADVISORIES

4.1 Agriculture

Average to above-average rainfall expected in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, and some parts of North-eastern and North-western Kenya may result in waterlogging and crop losses. Farmers should strengthen field drainage, unclog furrows, and avoid activities that compact already-wet soils.

In the South-eastern Lowlands and the Coast crops may face uneven moisture availability and increased pest pressure; agricultural officers should guide farmers on targeted irrigation, water-saving practices, and integrated pest management to stabilise production under fluctuating rainfall.

The likelihood of isolated heavy rainfall events increases the risk of soil erosion, post-flood nutrient leaching and physical damage to maturing crops; farmers should apply soil-conservation measures such as contouring, mulching and timely top-dressing to maintain soil fertility and protect crop yields.

4.2 Water Resources and Flood Management

After severe flooding in March in several parts of the country where rivers burst banks and drainage systems failed; the continued April rains may cause renewed flooding in some areas. Water agencies should maintain round-the-clock monitoring of river levels and clear clogged drainage and riparian obstructions.

In northern counties expecting above-average rainfall, enhanced aquifer recharge may occur but with heightened flash-flood danger. Communities should avoid riverbanks and heed relocation orders.

There is a risk of water scarcity in some parts of the South-eastern Lowlands and the Coast which are expecting near-average to below-average rainfall. Households should harvest and store runoff safely to build resilience while county governments should repair damaged water infrastructure.

4.3 Transport and Infrastructure

Isolated heavy rainfall events may result in road wash-outs and disrupt transport. Transport agencies should pre-position road maintenance teams, repair damaged culverts, and issue travel advisories for flood-prone corridors. County governments should grade rural roads and reinforce drainage before heavy showers occur.

4.4 Health

Isolated heavy rainfall events may result in localised flooding. Health authorities should ensure safe water supplies and promote household-level mosquito control and hygiene campaigns. In northern counties expecting above-normal rainfall, renewed flooding could disrupt health-facility access and drug supply; counties should stockpile essential medicines and prepare contingency plans for accessing cut-off communities.

4.5 Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response

There is a risk of renewed emergencies in areas expected to receive average to above average rainfall. Disaster management agencies should maintain evacuation centres and strengthen early-warning dissemination. Local administrations should monitor dry-river channels and enforce restrictions on settlement or grazing near flood-paths. County disaster committees should pre-deploy emergency supplies and coordinate closely with KMD for real-time alerts.

5.0 OUTLOOK FOR APRIL-MAY-JUNE

The April-May-Jun (AMJ) 2026 rainfall season is expected to continue from March followed by a dry spell in the first half of the month over several parts of the country, thereafter, enhanced rainfall in the second half of the month over most parts of the country.

April serves as the peak of the MAM season, which climatologically is characterised by heavy rainfall events. 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, rains are likely to continue into June.

Mean temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over several parts of the country more so in some parts of the Coast, North-western and North-eastern Kenya.

6.0 MARCH 2026 REVIEW

6.1 Review of March 2026 Rainfall Performance

Rainfall was recorded over most parts of the country during the month, with the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, Nairobi, and parts of the South-eastern lowlands receiving rainfall from the second week of February, while the rest of the country received rainfall during the second and third weeks of March. The rainfall was above the March Long Term Means (LTMs) except in Mandera and Voi where near normal rainfall was received.

Figure 4 shows the total amount of rainfall recorded in March 2026, (**the blue bars**) as compared to the LTMs (**the red bars**), while **Figure 5 and 6** depicts the spatial distribution.

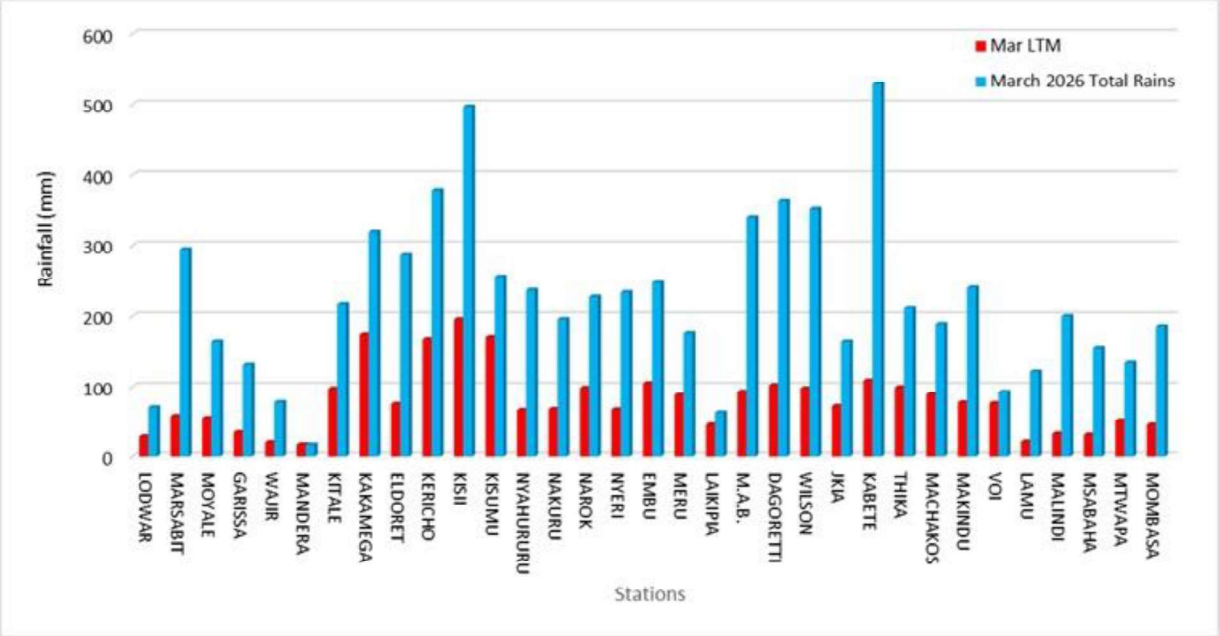

Figure 4: March 2026 Total Rainfall against March Long Term Mean

An analysis of up to 29th March showed Makueni County's Kitaingo station recorded the highest rainfall amount (587.6 mm), followed by Kasikeu (537.9 mm) also in Makueni County. Other stations exceeding 400 mm are Kabete (529.1 mm), Kisii (496.9 mm), Ndakaini (409.8 mm) among others. The month was characterized by severe storms over the South-eastern lowlands, Highlands East of the Rift Valley (including Nairobi County), the Lake Victoria Basin, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, and the Coastal region, where rainfall exceeding 100 mm in twenty-four hours was often recorded. For instance, Wilson Airport Station in Nairobi recorded 160 mm of rainfall within 24 hours on 6th March among other stations.

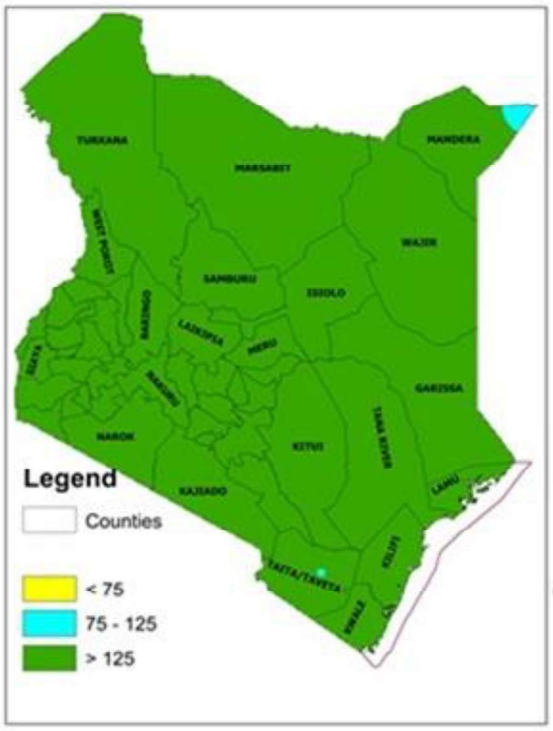

Figure 5: March rainfall as percentage of LTMS

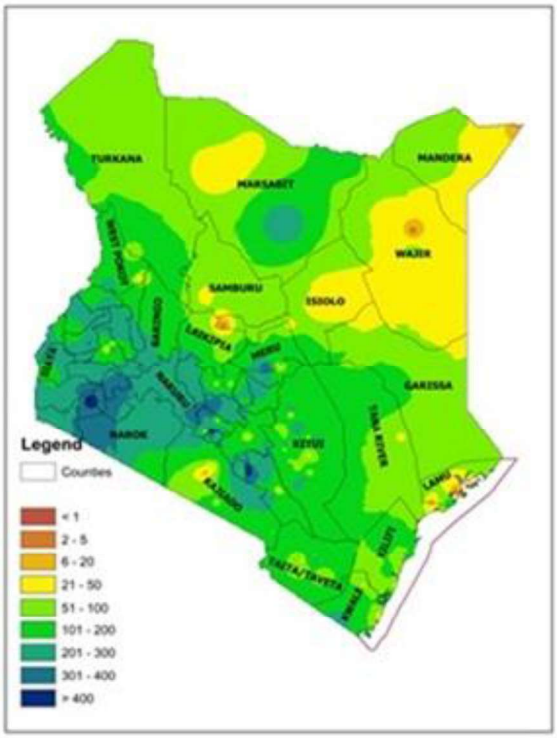

Figure 6: March 2026 rainfall totals

6.2 Temperature Review

6.2.1 Maximum Temperature Review

Maximum (daytime) temperatures were cooler than average across the entire country during the month (**Figure 7**). The Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, South-eastern Lowlands, North-eastern, and North-western regions recorded large negative anomalies of more than −2.0°C, with Kisumu recording the highest anomaly at −2.9°C.

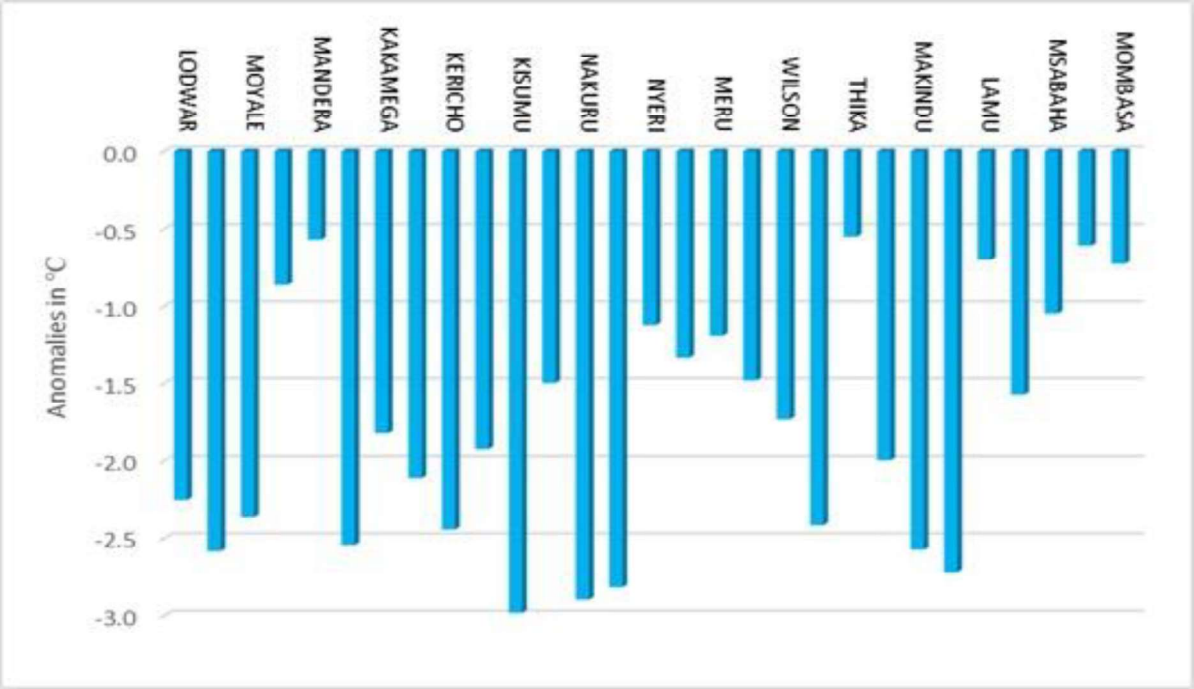

Figure 7: March 2026 Maximum Temperature Anomalies

6.2.2 Minimum Temperature Review

Minimum (night-time) temperatures were warmer than average over most stations except Kisii where near average temperatures were recorded (**Figure 8**). Some stations in the Highlands East of the Rift Valley occasionally recorded minimum temperatures below 10.0°C. Notable observations included Nyahururu recording 6.2°C on 25th March, 6.8°C on 16th and 26th of the same month. Laikipia Air Base (LAB) recorded 8.3°C on 16th and 9.8°C on 26th, and Nyahururu recording below 10.0°C for most of the month along with the lowest monthly average minimum temperature (10.3°C)

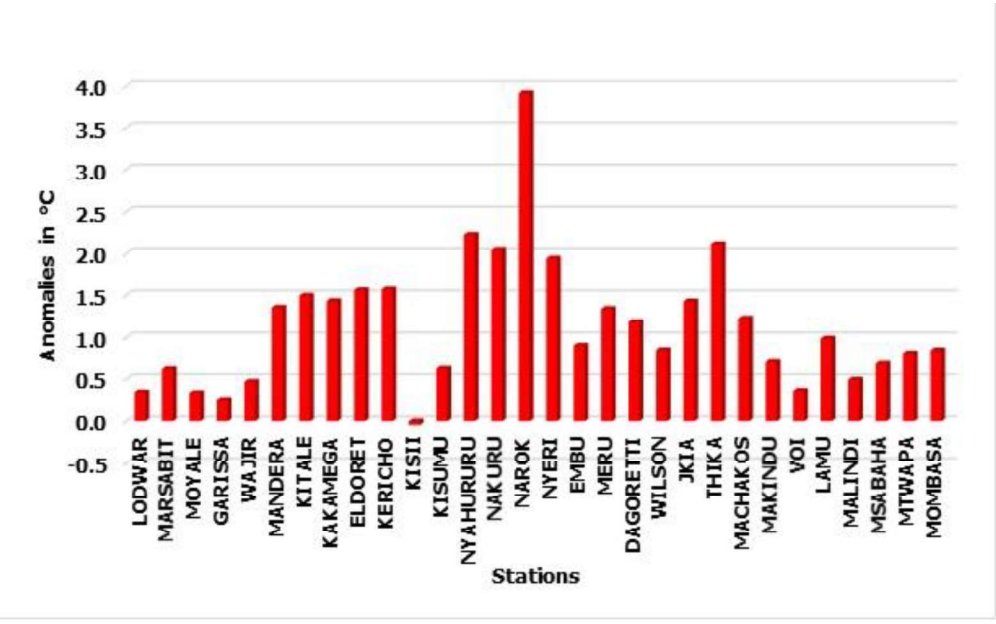

Figure 8: March 2026 Minimum Temperature Anomalies

6.2.1 Mean Temperature Review

Mean temperatures were cooler than average over several parts of the country except Thika, Narok, Mandera, Nyahururu among others which recorded warmer than average temperatures with the highest negative anomaly of -1.2°C being recorded in Kisumu (**Figure 9**).

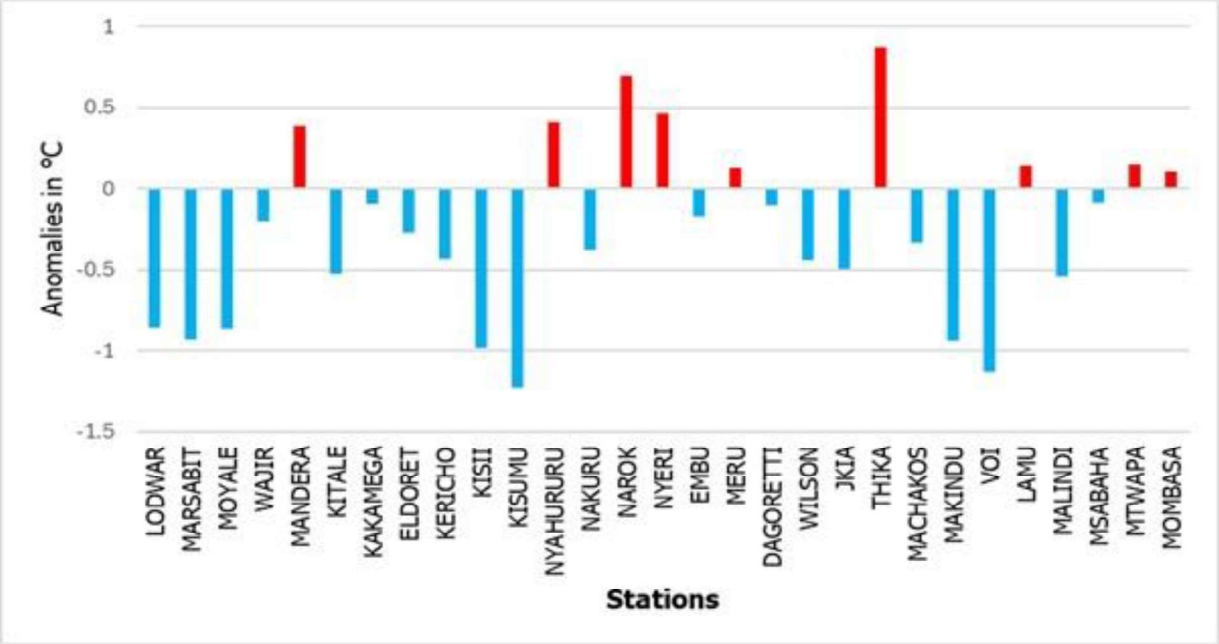

Figure 9: March 2026 Mean Temperature Anomalies

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.

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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.