REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

KMD MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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APRIL 2026 MONTHLY BULLETIN.

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

April 2026 will have a slow start of rains followed by stronger rainfall later in the month, with adequate rainfall in most high-potential areas and reduced rainfall in the South-eastern Lowlands and Coast**. Farmers should align planting with the improving rains**, **weed crops, ensure good drainage in wetter areas and practice water conservation in drier regions.** There is also need to stay alert **for** storms, flooding, and pest or disease outbreaks and use regular weather updates to guide farm activities**.**

Mean temperatures are expected to be warmer than average over the coast North eastern, and north western Kenya. The rest of the country is expected to experience near normal.

1.1 Expected Weather conditions for April 2026.

April 2026 is expected to mark the **peak of the long rains season**, though rainfall will be **slightly depressed during the first half of the month and enhanced towards the end**. **Near-average rainfall** is anticipated over the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley, while **above-average rainfall** is expected in parts of the Northeastern. However, **near- to below-average rainfall** is likely over the South-eastern Lowlands, Coastal region and parts of the Northwestern. Occasional rainfall and **isolated storms** are expected across several regions. (fig 1.1)

Temperatures are expected to be warmer than average over the Coast, North-eastern and North-western regions**,** while the Highlands and Rift Valley areas are likely to experience **near to below-average temperatures**, resulting in generally warmer conditions.

Soil moisture will be moderate early in the month and improve later with increased rainfall**.** High moisture levels are expected in the Highlands, Lake Victoria Basin and Rift Valley, with possible waterlogging, while the South-eastern Lowlands and Coast may experience lower moisture and localized stress. (fig 1.2)

1.2 General Advisory for Farmers – April 2026

Farmers should time planting with the improved rains expected in the second half of April to ensure good crop establishment. In high rainfall areas, maintain proper field drainage and soil conservation practices to prevent waterlogging and erosion, while in drier regions, adopt water harvesting and moisture conservation techniques**.** Carry out timely weeding and fertilizer application to support crop growth, and regularly monitor for pests and diseases due to changing weather conditions. Additionally, farmers are encouraged to use short-term weather forecasts to guide daily farm activities and decision making.

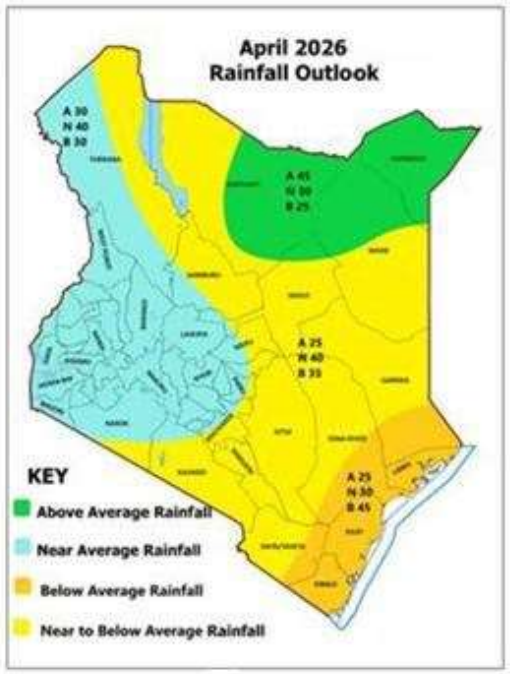

Figure 1.1 April 2026 rainfall forecast

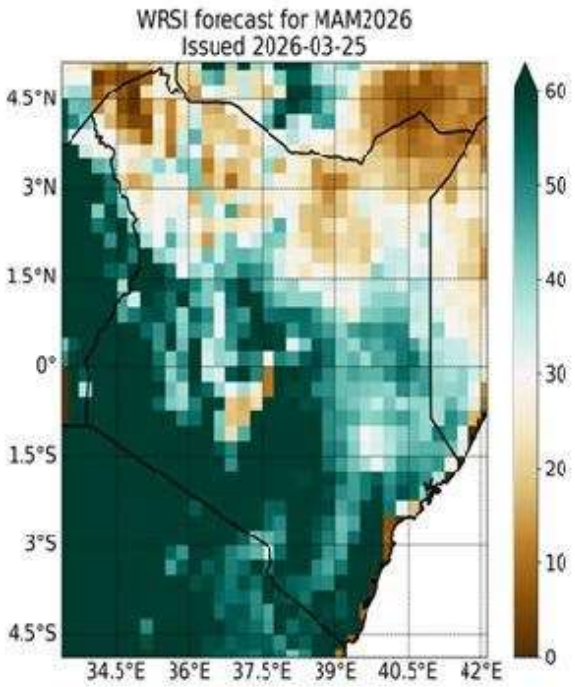

Figure 1.2 April 2026 Soil moisture forecast

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1.3 March 2026 Outlook & Advisory

Following the enhanced rainfall in March and the expected progression of the MAM season into April, conditions are expected to vary across regions, with a slow start in early April and improved rainfall towards the end of the month. Farmers and stakeholders are advised as follows:

Crop Production & Farm Management

- Utilize the improving rainfall in the second half of April to support planting and crop establishment where rains were delayed.
- In high rainfall areas (Highlands, Lake Victoria Basin, Rift Valley), **strengthen drainage systems** to prevent waterlogging and root damage.
- Practice soil conservation measures such as mulching, contour farming, and minimum tillage to reduce erosion from heavy storms.

- Apply timely top dressing after rainfall stabilization to minimize nutrient leaching.
- In drier regions (Southeastern Lowlands & Coast), adopt water harvesting and moisture conservation techniques to cope with uneven rainfall.

Pasture & Livestock Management

- Improved rainfall will support pasture regeneration**,** especially in high rainfall areas optimize grazing management.
- Monitor livestock for diseases associated with wet conditions (e.g., Foot-and-Mouth Disease).
- In ASAL areas, continue supplementary feeding and water storage, especially where rainfall remains below average.

Water Resources Management

- Harvest runoff water during rainfall events for future use**,** particularly in marginal areas.
- Communities in flood-prone zones should avoid riverbanks and low-lying areas due to potential flash floods.
- Maintain and repair water storage infrastructure to maximize benefits from the rains.

Flood & Disaster Preparedness

- Areas that experienced flooding in March should remain alert as renewed flooding is possible**.**
- Clear drainage channels and reinforce weak infrastructure ahead of heavy rainfall events.
- Follow early warning advisories and evacuation guidance where necessary.

Pest and Disease Control

- Increased humidity may lead to crop pests and fungal diseases; farmers should:
- Conduct regular field scouting
- Apply appropriate control measures early
- Maintain proper crop spacing to reduce disease spread

SUMMARY REVIEW FOR MARCH 2026

March 2026 was characterized with high rainfall over several parts of the country several regions experienced above normal rainfall with Kisii receiving the highest rainfall.

The enhanced rainfall in these areas led to improvements in soil moisture.
Temperatures were generally warmer than average across most parts of the country.

2.0 WEATHER & SOIL CONDITION ASSESSMENT

2.1.0 Rainfall amounts

Kisii station in the Nyanza region recorded the highest rainfall amount of 520mm, followed by Kangema station in the Central region with 453.93 mm. Overall, several parts of the country experienced above-average rainfall during the period under review **(fig 2.1 & 2.2).**

Wet conditions were experienced across most parts of the country during the review period, supporting

crop development and pasture regeneration, Rainfall that started in late February continued and marked early onset for the March–April–May (MAM) season.

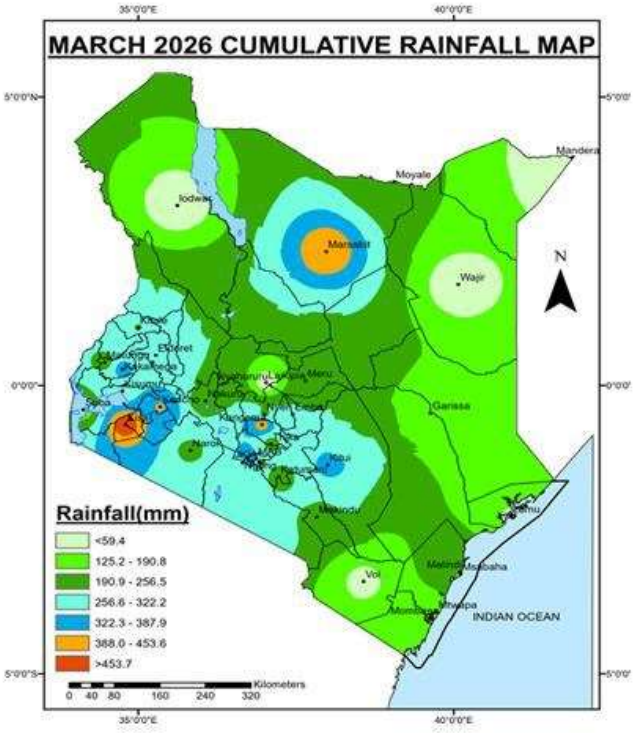

Figure 2.1 March 2026 rainfall outlook map

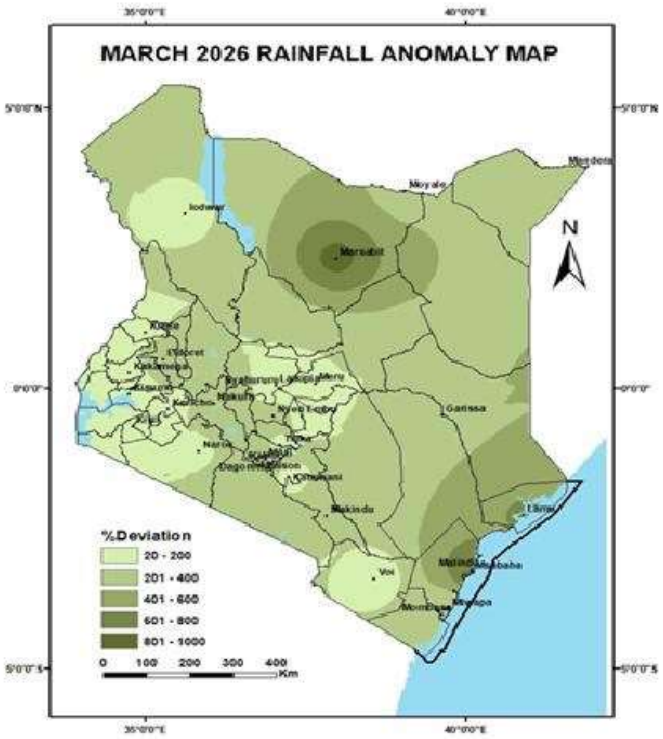

Figure 2.2 March 2026 Rainfall anomaly map

Mean Temperature

During the month of March, Mean temperatures in most stations were lower than temperatures experienced in the month. The highest mean temperature was recorded at Mombasa station while the lowest was recorded at Nyahururu station. **(fig 2.4)**

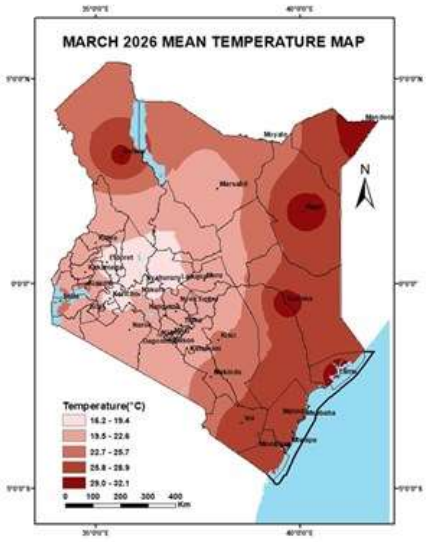

Figure 2.3 March Temperature outlook map

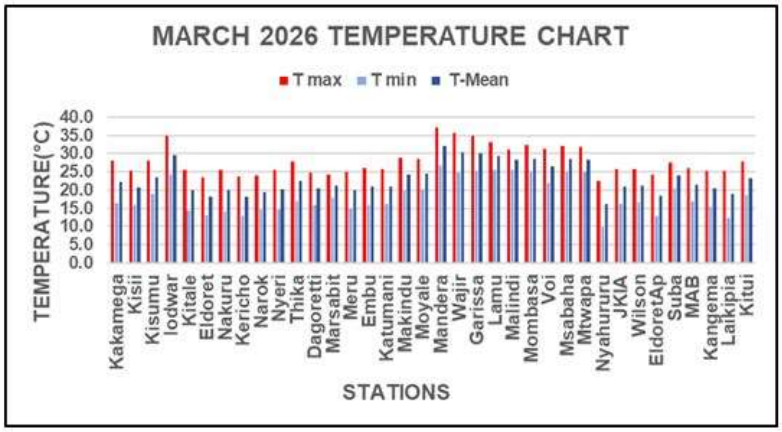

Figure 2.4 March 2026, Temperature map

2.1.1 Soil Moisture

Soil moisture levels were generally low over parts of the Northeastern, Northern and Coastal regions of the country. However, several areas recorded improved soil moisture conditions, particularly across Western and Nyanza, Central and Nairobi regions, as well as parts of the Rift valley following the off-season rainfall experienced during the month. (figure 2.5 & figure 2.6)

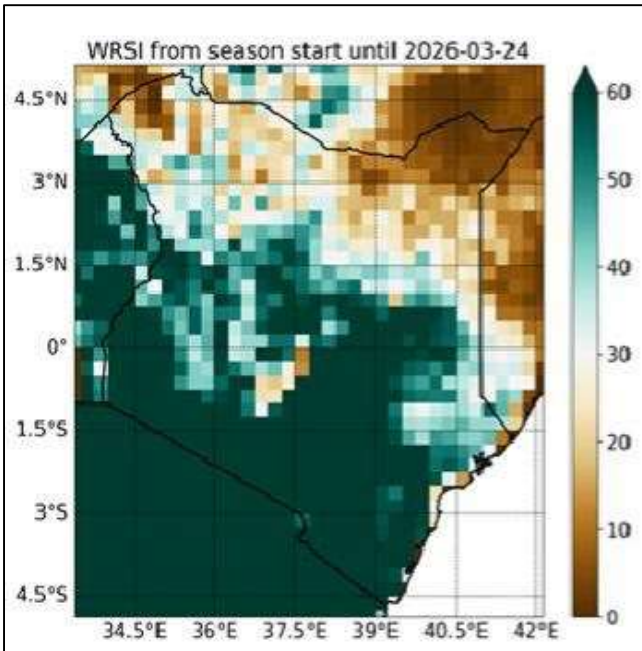

Figure 2.5 March 2026, Soil moisture outlook map

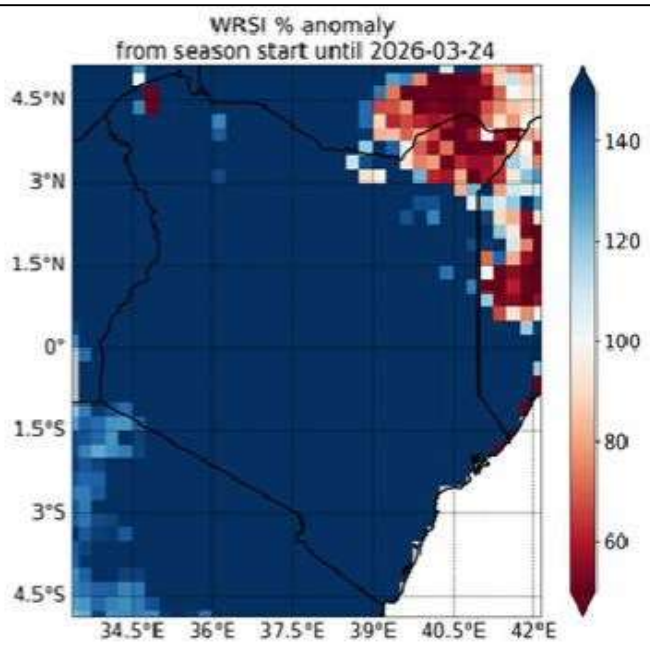

Figure 2.6 March 2026, Soil moisture anomaly map

3.0 CROP REVIEW FOR FEBRUARY 2026

3.10 Western & Nyanza Region: Above-normal rainfall significantly improved soil moisture conditions across the region. In Kisumu, Kakamega and Kisii, enhanced rainfall supported pasture regeneration and early land preparation activities. However, localized flooding in low-lying areas temporarily disrupted farming operations. Overall, crop prospects improved following the earlier moisture deficits.

3.11 Rift Valley Region: The region experienced enhanced rainfall. Most crops are at emergence stage, weeding activities commenced in readiness for the long rains season, some farmers have already planted and crops are at emergence stage. Pasture conditions also showed noticeable improvement.

3.12 Central and Nairobi Regions: Rainfall received during the month of march improved soil moisture levels, promoting crop development and seed germination. Farmers began planting and most crops are at emergence stage; some farmers have started weeding. The expected

3.13 Eastern Region: Enhanced rainfall experienced during. Consistent experienced rainfall improved soil moisture conditions supporting crop development.

3.14 Coastal Region: Rainfall experienced across the Agricultural activities remained constrained in drier zones.

3.15 North Eastern Region: Enhanced rainfall experienced resulting in continued moisture stress. Crop and pasture conditions remained poor in many areas, with limited regeneration observed.

Sustained rainfall into the MAM season will be critical for recovery.

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For

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