



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
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**MONTHLY FORECAST FOR MAY, AND REVIEW OF APRIL 2026**

**1. SUMMARY**

**1.1. Monthly Forecast for May 2026**

The outlook indicates that near-average to above-average rainfall is likely to occur in a few areas. Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average throughout the county.

**1.2. April 2026 Rainfall Review**

Rainfall was received in several parts of the county. Some parts recorded enhanced rainfall. Mean temperatures were cooler than average.

**2. The Rainfall Outlook for May 2026**

**2.1. May Rainfall Climatology**

Climatologically, May marks the cessation of the March-April-May ("Long Rains") rainfall season over the county. The "Long Rains" end in May because the main rain-producing zone near the equator (the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone) shifts northwards as the sun moves into the Northern Hemisphere. This shift reduces moisture convergence over Kenya, weakening rainfall systems and allowing drier conditions to set in.

**2.2. The Rainfall Forecast for May 2026**

The outlook indicates that near-average to above-average rainfall is likely in a few areas of the Northern part of the county. Most of the county can expect near-average to below-average rainfall.

Rainfall is likely to be enhanced over much of the county during the first week of May, when the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is predicted to be in a favorable phase. The enhanced rainfall may extend into the second week of May over a few areas. Depressed rainfall is expected during the second half of the month.

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to above-average in Wajir North sub-county and the northern parts of Tarbaj sub-county. The remaining areas are likely to experience near-average to below-average rainfall.

### 2.3. May Temperature Climatology

In May, the county's mean temperatures reflect the combined effects of altitude, cloud cover from the long rains, and area aridity. The county experiences the highest mean temperatures, often exceeding 30°C, due to dry conditions and low elevation.

### 2.4. Temperature Forecast for May 2026

Mean temperatures are expected to be warmer than average throughout the county. Predicted maximum and minimum temperature ranges for individual areas are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Maximum and Minimum Temperature Ranges

<b>Area</b>	<b>Maximum Temperature Range</b>	<b>Minimum Temperature Range</b>
Northern Parts of the County. Wajir North parts of Eldas and Tarbaj sub-counties.	29°C to 35°C	22°C to 24°C
Central Parts of the county. Wajir West, Wajir East, and parts of Eldas and Tarbaj.	30°C to 37°C	24°C to 25°C
Southern Parts of the County. Parts of Wajir West and Wajir South sub-county.	31°C to 39°C	05°C to 26°C

## 3.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF MAY 2026 RAINS

### 3.1 Water Resource

Pasture regeneration enhancement may occur due to expected near-to-above-average rainfall in parts of the county

### 3.2 Health

Public health risks are likely to remain elevated as continued wet conditions favor the spread of waterborne diseases, contamination of water sources, and the expansion of mosquito breeding habitats, especially in areas expecting near- to above-average rainfall early in May. Flash flood-affected settlements may face increased exposure to diarrheal diseases, cholera, and malaria due to standing water and poor sanitation.

## 4. RAINFALL REVIEW APRIL 2026

### 4.1. Review of April 2026 Rainfall Performance

Rainfall was received across several parts of the country (Figure 1). Figure 1 presents the total rainfall amounts recorded in April, which should be compared with the April long-term mean (LTM) of 104 mm. The figure shows that some parts of the county recorded above-average rainfall, surpassing Wajir town's April LTM. Conversely, some areas, such as Griftu and Buna, recorded rainfall below the Wajir Town April LTM.

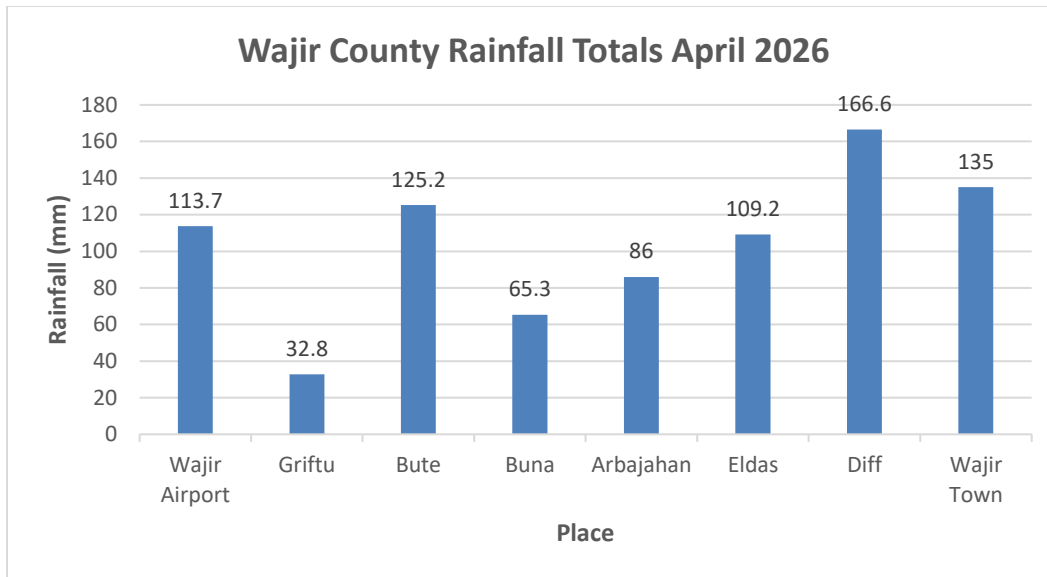


Figure 1: April 2026 Wajir County Total Rainfall

An analysis up to 30th April showed that the Diff police station recorded the highest rainfall (166.6 mm), followed by Wajir town (135.0mm). Wajir Airport, Bute, and Eldas recorded above normal. Other places recorded rainfall amounts below normal for April. The highest rainfall recorded in 24 hours was 56.4mm and 40.6mm at Diff police station on 14th and 16th of April 2026, respectively.

#### 4.2 Temperature Review – April 2026

##### 4.2.1 Maximum Temperature

The county recorded cooler-than-average maximum (daytime) temperatures. The highest recorded daily maximum temperature of 35.7°C was recorded on 2nd April 2026.

##### 4.2.2 Minimum Temperature

Minimum (nighttime) temperatures were cooler than average in the county. Wajir Airport Meteorological Station recorded the negative anomaly (-0.5°C). The lowest daily minimum temperature of 21°C was recorded on 5th April 2026 at the airport.

##### 4.2.3 Mean Temperature Review

Mean temperatures were cooler than average.

***NB: This outlook should be used with the 24-hour, 7-day, special forecasts, and regular updates/advisories issued by this Department.***

Daniel Wanjuhi,  
**COUNTY DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES.**

## 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, high intensity.

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.