



## KMD MONTHLY AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN



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### **MAY 2026 MONTHLY BULLETIN.**

#### **1.0 HIGHLIGHTS**

May 2026 marks the cessation phase of the long rains season across most parts of the country, with rainfall expected to be enhanced during the first half of the month followed by a significant reduction towards the second half. Near-average rainfall is expected over the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the Coast and Northwestern Kenya, while near-average to below-average rainfall is likely over the Southeastern Lowlands and much of Northeastern Kenya.

Heavy rainfall events are likely during the early part of the month, which may lead to flooding, waterlogging, soil erosion and nutrient leaching in high rainfall areas, while uneven rainfall distribution in marginal areas may result in moisture stress.

Mean temperatures are expected to be warmer than average across the country, increasing evapotranspiration rates and potentially accelerating soil moisture loss, especially in drier regions.

Farmers are advised to take advantage of early May rains for crop establishment and growth, while preparing for the transition to drier conditions later in the month through moisture conservation and appropriate crop management practices.

#### **1.1 Expected Weather conditions for May 2026.**

May 2026 is expected to be a transition month characterized by declining rainfall as the long rains season comes to an end. Rainfall will be generally near-average across most regions, with a tendency towards below-average in the Southeastern Lowlands and parts of Northeastern Kenya

Enhanced rainfall is expected during the first week and may extend into the second week over some areas, followed by suppressed rainfall during the second half of the month. Heavy rainfall events are likely in the early part of the month, particularly over the Highlands, Lake Victoria Basin and Rift Valley regions (**Fig 1.1**).

Temperatures are expected to be warmer than average across all regions. The Coast, Northeastern and Northwestern regions will experience the highest temperatures, while the Highlands will remain relatively cooler but still warmer than usual.

Soil moisture conditions are expected to remain high in the early part of the month, particularly in high rainfall areas, with risks of waterlogging. However, moisture levels are likely to decline towards the end of the month, especially in marginal and semi-arid regions, leading to localized moisture stress (Fig 1.2)

## 1.2 General Advisory for Farmers – May 2026

Farmers should utilize the early May rainfall to support crop growth, including weeding, top dressing and pest management, while preparing for reduced rainfall conditions expected in the second half of the month. In high rainfall areas such as the Highlands, Lake Victoria Basin and Rift Valley, emphasis should be placed on proper drainage, soil conservation and flood management to minimize crop damage.

In the Southeastern Lowlands and parts of Northeastern Kenya, farmers are advised to adopt moisture conservation practices such as mulching, minimum tillage and water harvesting to sustain crops through the anticipated dry spell.

Pastoralists should take advantage of improved pasture and water availability early in the month, while planning for gradual drying conditions by conserving fodder and water resources. Livestock health monitoring should be enhanced due to increased risk of diseases associated with wet conditions.

All farmers are encouraged to use short-term weather forecasts to guide farm operations and remain alert to extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, flooding and storms during the early part of May.

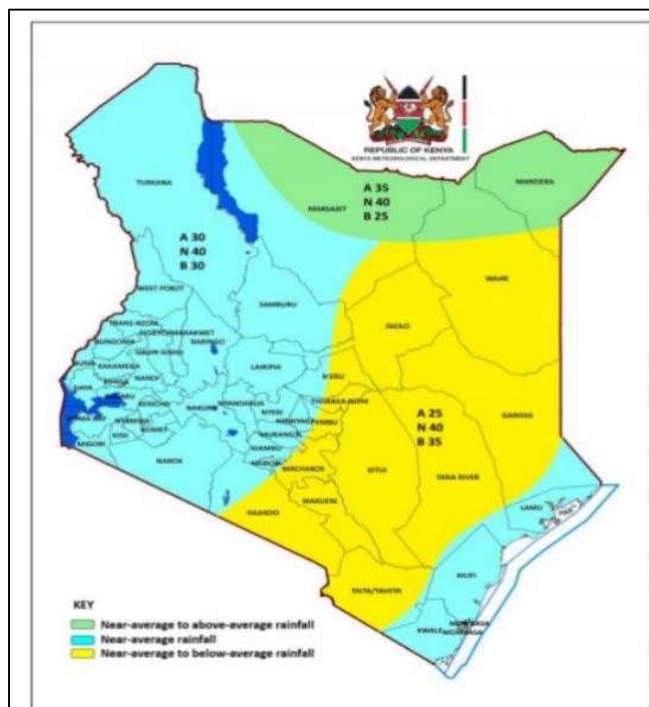


Figure 1.1 May 2026 Rainfall Forecast Map

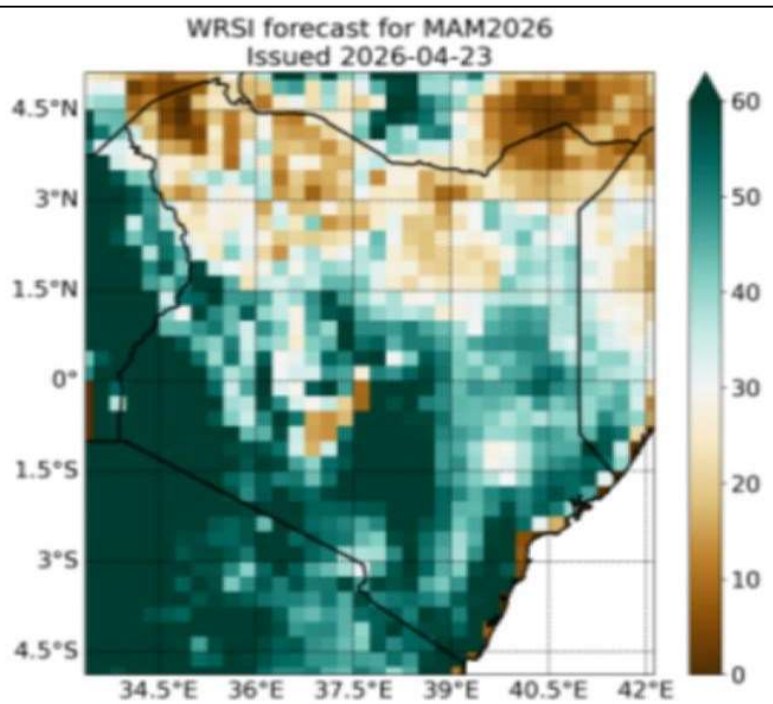


Figure 1.2 May 2026 Water Requirement Satisfaction Index -Forecast Map

### **1.3 May 2026 Outlook & Advisory**

May 2026 is expected to be characterized by initially wet conditions transitioning to drier conditions, with soil moisture remaining favorable in high rainfall areas but declining in arid and semi-arid regions as the rainy season comes to an end. Farmers and stakeholders are advised as follows:

#### **Crop Production & Farm Management**

- Utilize early May rains for crop development, including weeding and fertilizer application.
- Ensure proper drainage in high rainfall areas to prevent waterlogging and root damage.
- Prepare for moisture stress towards the end of the month through mulching and soil moisture conservation.
- Avoid late planting in areas expected to experience early cessation of rains.

#### **Pasture & Livestock Management**

- Early rains will support pasture regeneration; implement controlled grazing to avoid overuse.
- Conserve pasture and water for use during the expected dry period.
- Monitor livestock for diseases associated with wet and humid conditions.

#### **Water Resources Management**

- Harvest and store runoff water during early rainfall events.
- Monitor water sources as recharge may decline towards the end of the month.
- Maintain water infrastructure to maximize storage efficiency.

#### **Flood & Disaster Preparedness**

- Remain alert for flash floods and landslides during the early part of the month.
- Avoid farming in flood-prone and low-lying areas.
- Strengthen drainage systems and follow early warning advisories.

#### **Pest and Disease Control**

- Increased humidity may promote pests and fungal diseases; conduct regular field scouting.
- Apply timely control measures and maintain proper crop spacing.
- Monitor for migratory pests and disease outbreaks, especially in high rainfall areas.

### **SUMMARY REVIEW FOR APRIL 2026**

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

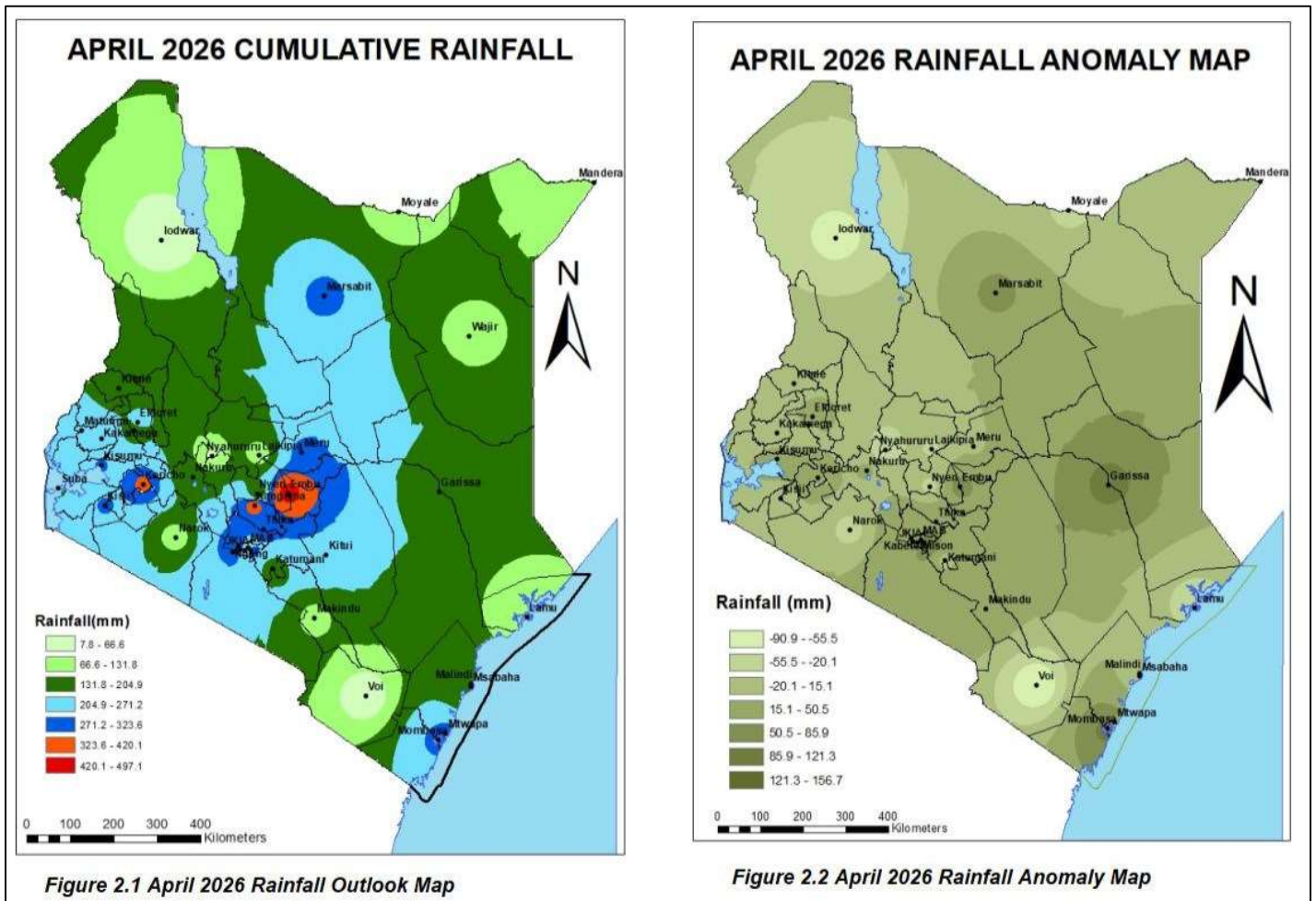
The enhanced rainfall in these areas led to improvements in soil moisture. Temperatures were generally warmer than average across most parts of the country.

## 2.0 WEATHER & SOIL CONDITION ASSESSMENT

### 2.1.0 Rainfall amounts

Embu station in the eastern region recorded the highest rainfall amount of 497.4mm, followed by Kakamega station in the western region with 385.42mm. Overall, several parts of the country experienced above-average rainfall during the period under review (**fig 2.1 & 2.2**).

In general, April 2026 was characterized by generally active rainfall across much of the country, marking the peak phase of the March–April–May (MAM) rainfall season.



### Mean Temperature

Temperature conditions during April showed mixed patterns. Daytime (maximum) temperatures were generally cooler than average in several parts of the country due to persistent cloud cover and rainfall, while nighttime (minimum) temperatures were warmer than average in most areas. The highest mean temperature was recorded at Garissa and Lodwar stations while the lowest was recorded at Nyahururu station. (**Fig 2.4**)

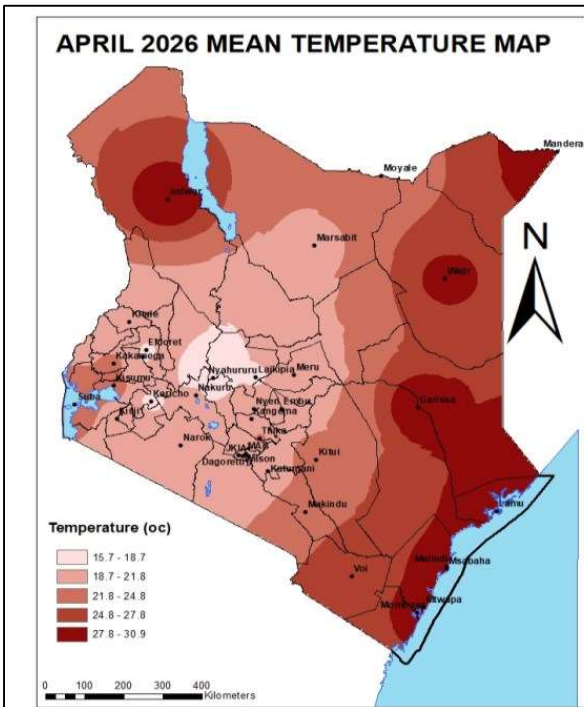


Figure 2.3 April 2026 Temperature Outlook Map

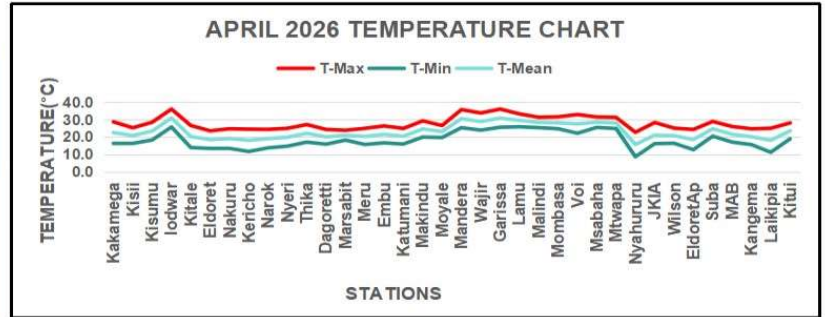


Figure 2.4 April 2026 Temperature Graph

### 2.1.1 Soil Moisture

Soil moisture conditions during April 2026 showed notable improvement across many parts of the country, largely driven by the rainfall received during the peak of the March–April–May (MAM) rainfall season, though spatial variability persisted, with some arid and coastal areas remaining moisture-stressed while high rainfall zones experienced occasional excess moisture conditions (Figure 2.5 & Figure 2.6).

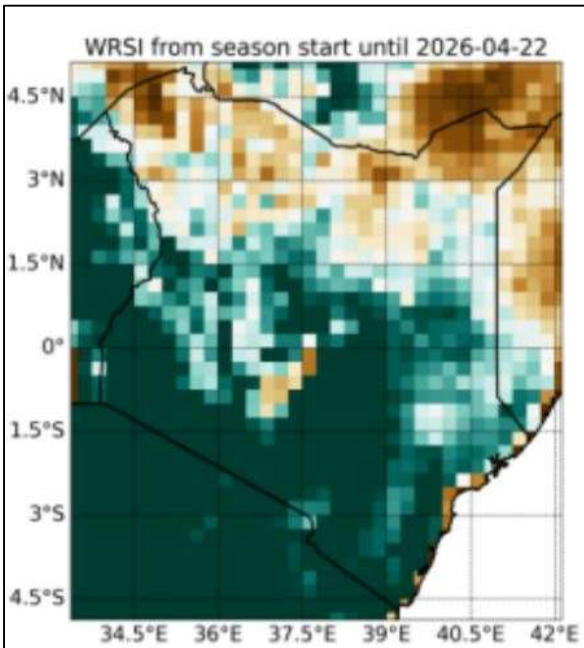


Figure 2.5 April 2026 Water Requirement Satisfaction Index Map

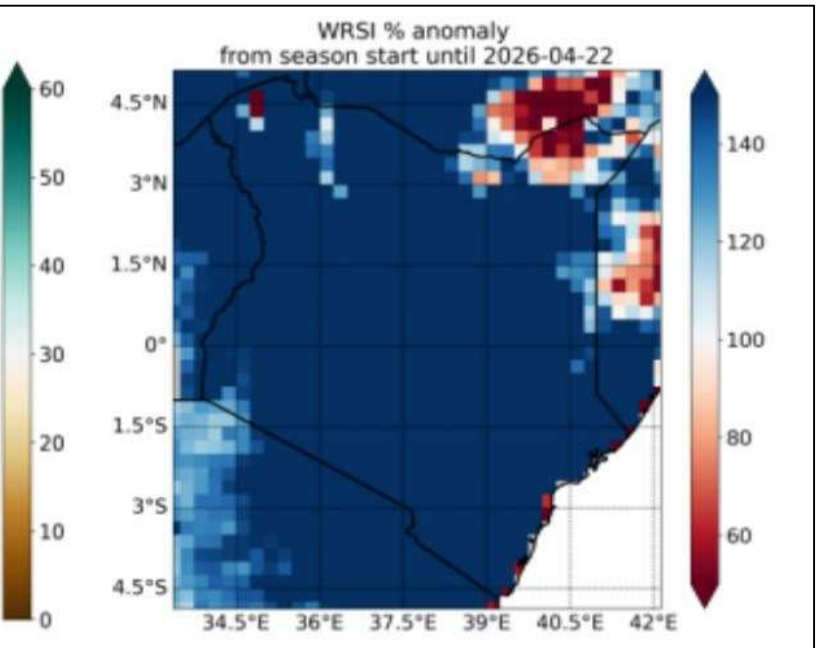


Figure 2.6 April 2026 Water Requirement Satisfaction Index -Anomaly Map

### **3.0 CROP REVIEW FOR APRIL 2026**

**3.10 Western & Nyanza Region:** April was characterized by above- to near-average rainfall which significantly improved soil moisture conditions across the region. In Kisumu, Kakamega and Kisii, the enhanced rainfall supported crop germination, early vegetative growth and pasture regeneration. However, localized flooding in low-lying areas temporarily disrupted farming activities.

**3.11 Rift Valley Region:** The region experienced enhanced rainfall. Most crops are at post emergence stage, weeding activities commenced, pasture conditions also showed noticeable improvement.

**3.12 Central and Nairobi Regions:** Rainfall received during the month of April improved soil moisture levels, promoting crop development and seed germination. Most farmers have planted and weeding activities are ongoing.

**3.13 Eastern Region:** Consistent rainfall during April improved soil moisture conditions, supporting crop establishment and early growth. However, spatial variability in rainfall resulted in uneven crop performance, with some areas performing well while others experienced moderate moisture stress. Weeding and fertilizer application are on-going.

**3.14 Coastal Region:** Rainfall was received across parts of the region, leading to some improvement in soil moisture and crop conditions. However, uneven distribution limited agricultural activities in drier zones, resulting in mixed crop performance across the region.

**3.15 North Eastern Region:** Although some areas received rainfall during April, the amounts and distribution were generally insufficient to fully alleviate 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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