



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT – KISUMU COUNTY

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KISUMU COUNTY OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER (OND) 2026 SEASONAL FORECAST

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1. SHORT RAIN SEASONAL FORECAST FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

SEASONAL WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR OND

The October–November–December (OND) 2026 short-rains season is expected to experience above-average rainfall across Kisumu County. The County meteorological office outlook indicates that heavy rainfall events are likely in several parts of Kisumu County. The rains are expected to begin from September and continue into January, with the overall rainfall distribution rated fair to good.

The forecast presents both opportunities and risks for Kisumu County. The increased rainfall is likely to improve soil moisture, water availability, crop and livestock production, and recharge of water sources. However, heavy rainfall may also increase the risk of flash and riverine flooding, waterlogging, soil erosion, damage to roads and other infrastructure, crop losses, livestock diseases, water contamination and outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

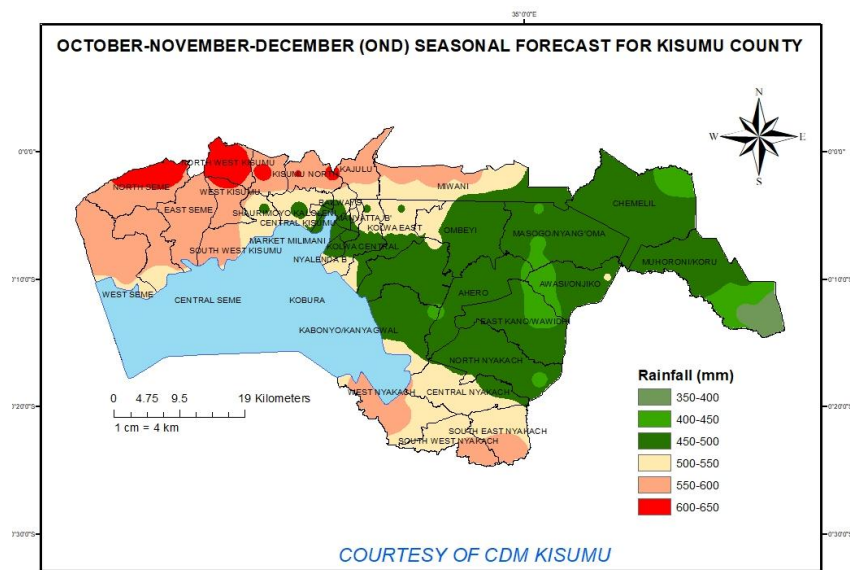


Fig 1. Forecasted rainfall in Kisumu County during the October to December 2026 Season

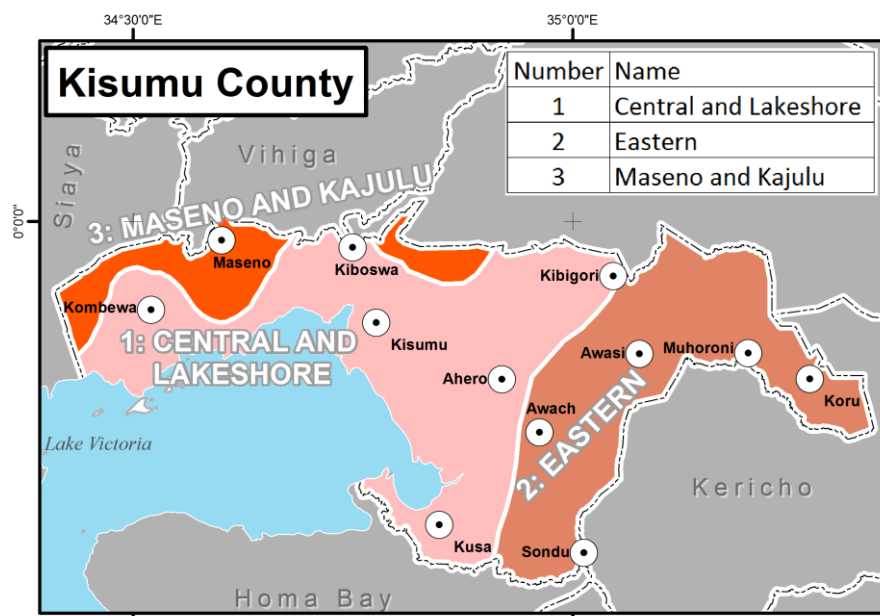


Fig 3. The main climatic zones of Kisumu County

2. PRIMARY POTENTIAL WEATHER HAZARDS DURING THE OND 2026 SEASON

Flooding and Lake Level Rise: High risk of flash and riverine flooding on low-lying plains, along with rising Lake Victoria water levels that threaten shorelines, landing beaches, and jetties.

Severe Weather Events: Frequent lightning strikes, violent wind squalls, and localized hailstorms.

Soil Degradation and Health Spikes: Severe topsoil erosion, nutrient leaching, mudslides, farm waterlogging, and spikes in waterborne (cholera/typhoid) and vector-borne (malaria) diseases

3. SECTOR SPECIFICS IMPACT AND MITIGATION

Agriculture and Food Security: High risk of crop waterlogging and post-harvest decay. Interventions include early land preparation, dry planting, and soil conservation, using hermetic storage bags /solar dryers, and pre-season de-silting of water pans.

Livestock Development: Threat of Rift Valley fever, Foot-and-Mouth disease, and pasture drowning. Mitigation focuses on targeted vaccinations, forage preservation (hay/silage), and livestock micro-insurance.

Public Health and WASH: Contamination of drinking water and clinic disruptions. Interventions include pre-positioning medical buffer stocks, deploying Community Health Promoters, and setting up mobile health clinics.

Disaster Management and Education: Risks of lightning strikes on ungrounded structures and disruption of national exams. Interventions include installing lightning arresters on public facilities, identifying non-school evacuation centers, and arranging contingency exam transport.

4. TRANSPORT SECTORS

A. Road Network and Urban Transport

- **Hazards:** Heavy rainfall causes flooding and standing water on major roads, making vehicles skid, break down, and causing traffic jams. Also heavy runoff can damage rural roads, wash away culverts, and make bridges unsafe or impassable.
- **Mitigation:**
 - i. Clear blocked drains and culverts before heavy rains.
 - ii. Use sandbags at areas that are prone to flooding.
 - iii. Check bridges and culverts to ensure they are safe.
 - iv. Identify alternative routes in case main roads are flooded or damaged.

B. Marine and Inland Waterways – Lake Victoria and Kisumu Port

- **Hazards:** Strong winds, thunderstorms and high waves can cause boats and canoes to capsize. Rising lake levels and flooding can damage or submerge jetties and fish landing sites.
- **Mitigation:** Ensure all passengers wear life jackets, stop small-boat travel during storms or at night when conditions are dangerous, provide timely marine weather warnings to BMUs, and raise/strengthen jetties and landing sites.

C. Aviation – Kisumu International Airport

- **Hazards:** Thunderstorms, lightning, strong winds, low clouds and poor visibility can cause flight delays, diversions or cancellations. Heavy rain can also cause waterlogging on the runway and make aircraft movement unsafe.
- **Mitigation:** Provide continuous weather updates to pilots and airport operators, maintain good runway drainage, regularly check runway surface conditions, and protect ground staff from lightning during thunderstorms.

5. IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR WEATHER UPDATES

This seasonal outlook should be used **together with monthly, weekly, 5-day, and daily forecasts**, as well as **special advisories** from the **Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), County Director of Meteorology** and relevant authorities to support, Safe farming decisions, Travel planning, Community safety and preparedness

County departments and partners are encouraged to **develop sector-specific advisories** based on this outlook to enhance resilience and climate-informed decision-making.

All Climate information stakeholders are encouraged to **share practical, timely advice** to protect lives and livelihoods.

6. Further Information and Contacts

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