MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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When Replying please quote reference and date

Ref: MET/HB/7/SO/2-2026 ***Date of Issue: 3 September 2026***

HOMA BAY COUNTY SEASONAL FORECAST FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER (OND) 2026 "SHORT-RAINS" SEASON

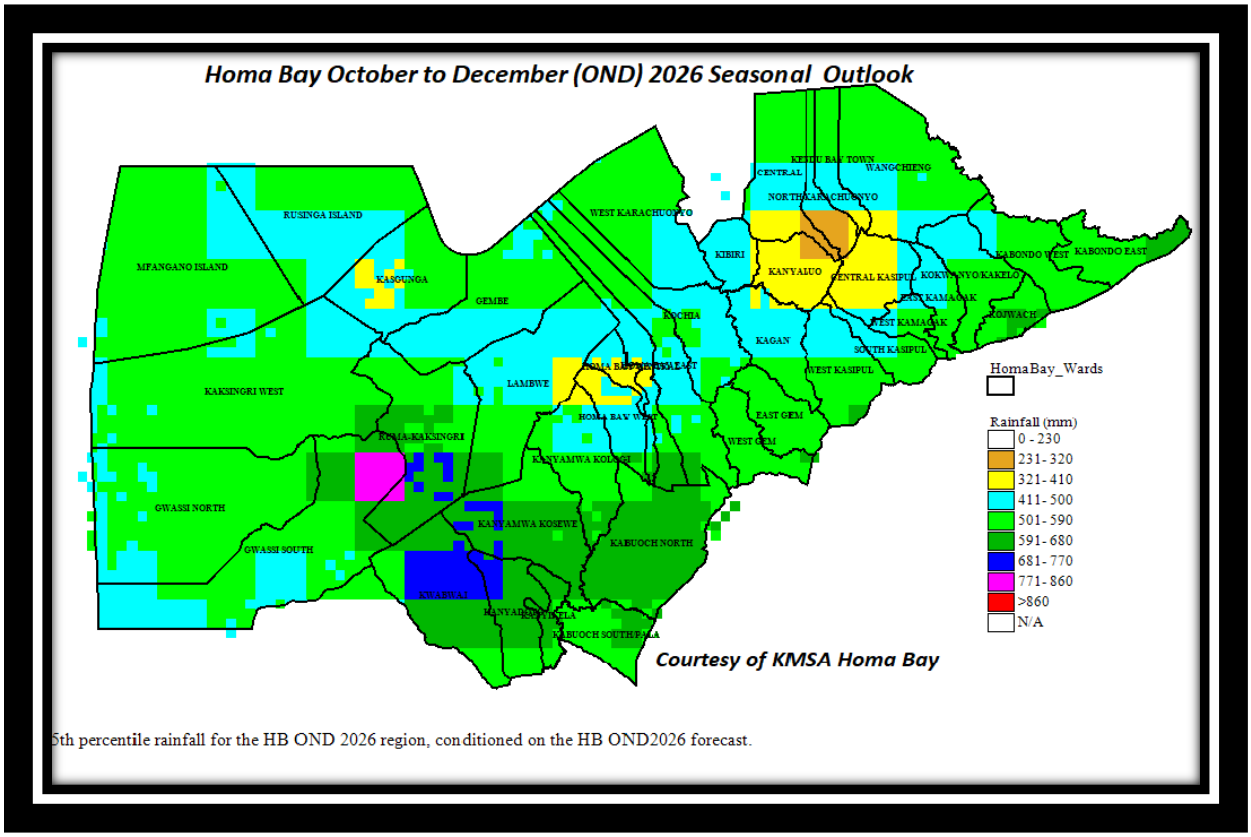

Figure 1: Forecast volume of rainfall in mm in Homa Bay County during the October, November, December 2026 Rainy season.

The map above (Figure 1) shows the volume of rainfall in mm that is forecasted to fall in each part of Homa Bay County during the coming rainy season.

Summary:

What the Weather Outlook Means for Our Community

Rainfall and associated Hazards

Most parts of Homa Bay County are likely to experience near average to above average. During this season:

- ***Some days may record heavy or very heavy rainfall, leading to flooding in low-lying areas, river overflows, lake backflow and soil erosion on farms.***
- ***Lightning strikes, occasional strong winds, and hailstones may accompany rainfall, posing risks to people, livestock, crops, property and infrastructure.***

The season occurs because of the southward migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). The duration and performance of the season is influenced by the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which enhances rainfall when in the positive phase. The El Nino phenomenon, that is currently strong, also enhances rainfall when it occurs concurrently with a positive IOD.

The map below (Figure 2) shows normal rainfall in mm in each part of the county during the same three-month period.

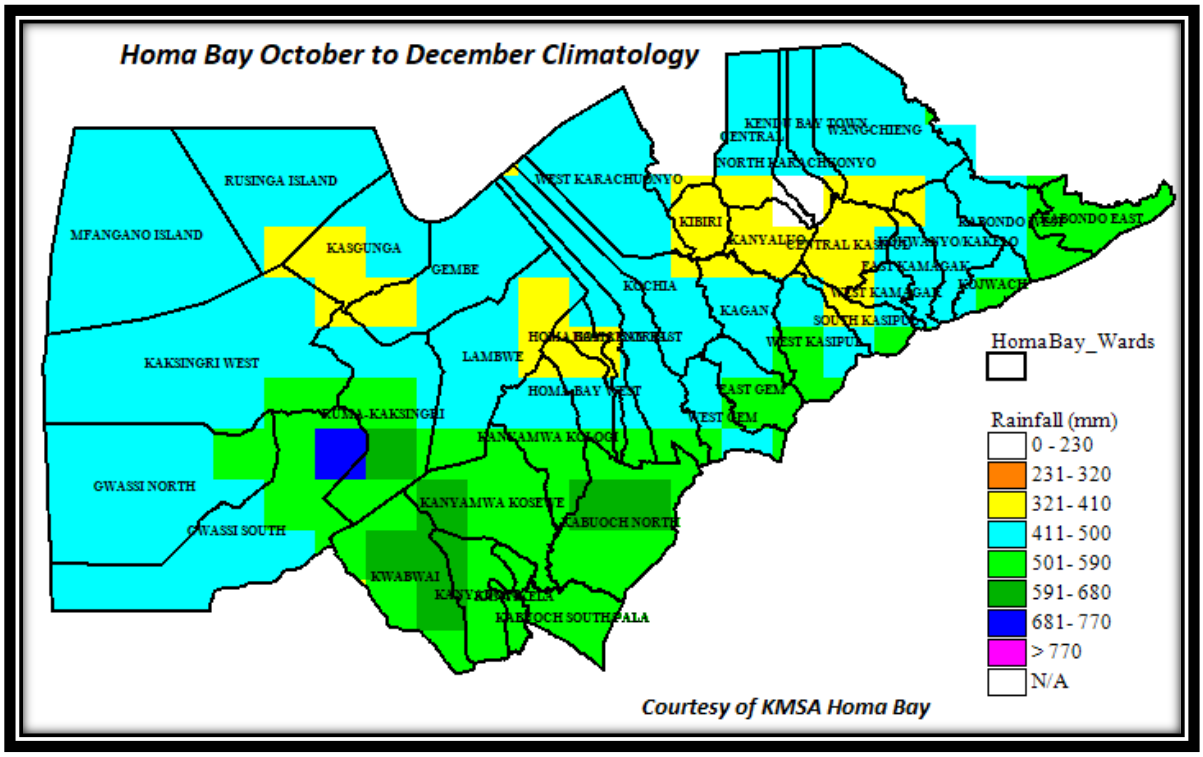

Figure 2. Normal rainfall in mm in Homa Bay County during October-December rainy season. *This map shows the average rainfall experienced during the same three-month period over 30 years between 1991 and 2020*

Figure 3 below shows the climatic zones of Homa Bay county.

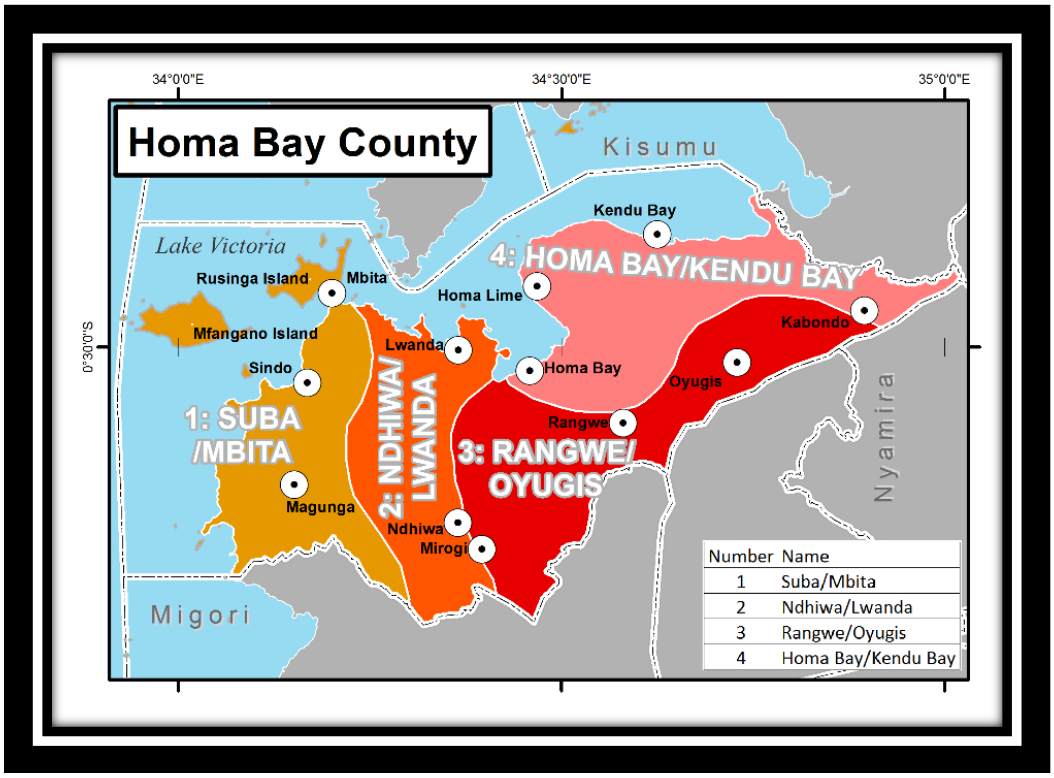

Figure 3. The main climatic zones of Homa Bay County

Seasonal Forecast for Homa Bay County by climatic zone

Forecast for Suba/Mbita, Ndhiwa/Lwanda, Rangwe/Oyugis and Homa Bay/ Kendu Bay climatic zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 (includes Mbita, Rusinga Island, Mfangano Island, Nyandhiwa, Sindo, Ndhiwa, Nyarongi, Mirogi, Rangwe, Oyugis, Kabondo, Homa Bay Town, Kendu Bay, Karachuonyo). Highest rainfall amounts expected over parts of Ndhiwa and Suba South sub counties.

Expected Onset: ***Continues from September 2026***

Cessation (End of season): ***Continues into January 2027***

Probable volume: *Between 400 to over 700 mm Entire County*

Probable distribution of rainfall during the rainy season: ***Fair to Good***

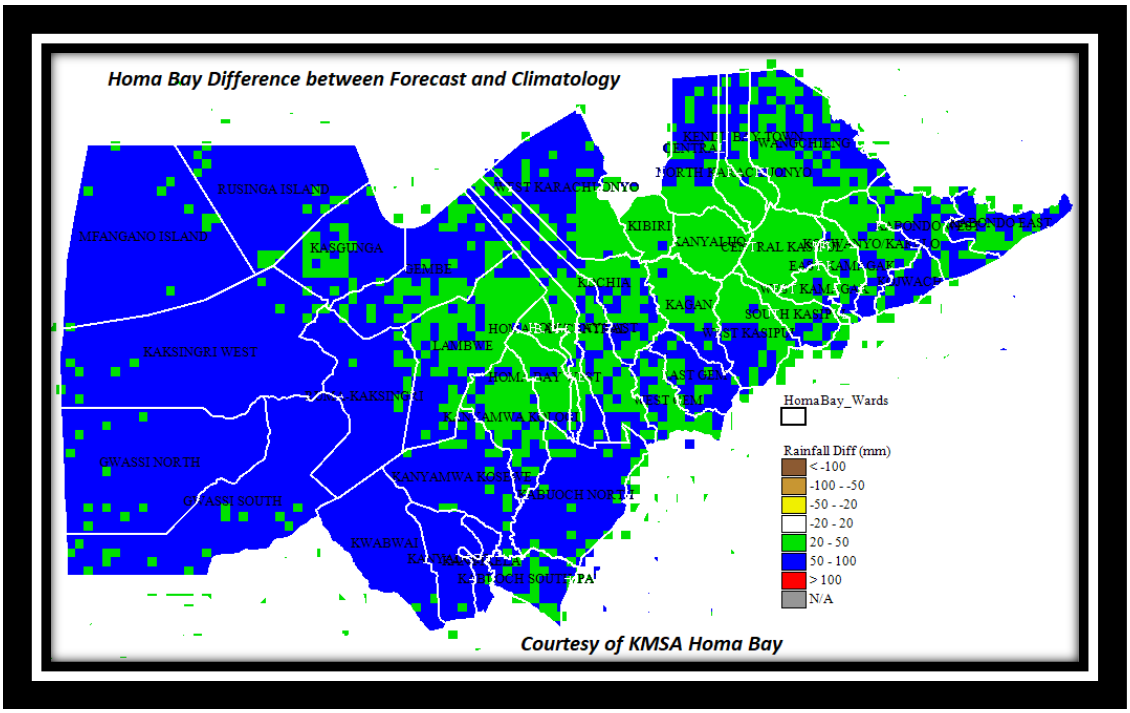

Figure 4: Shows rainfall difference between long-term average and October to December 2026 forecast. The entire county expected to receive between 20mm to 100mm above seasonal average.

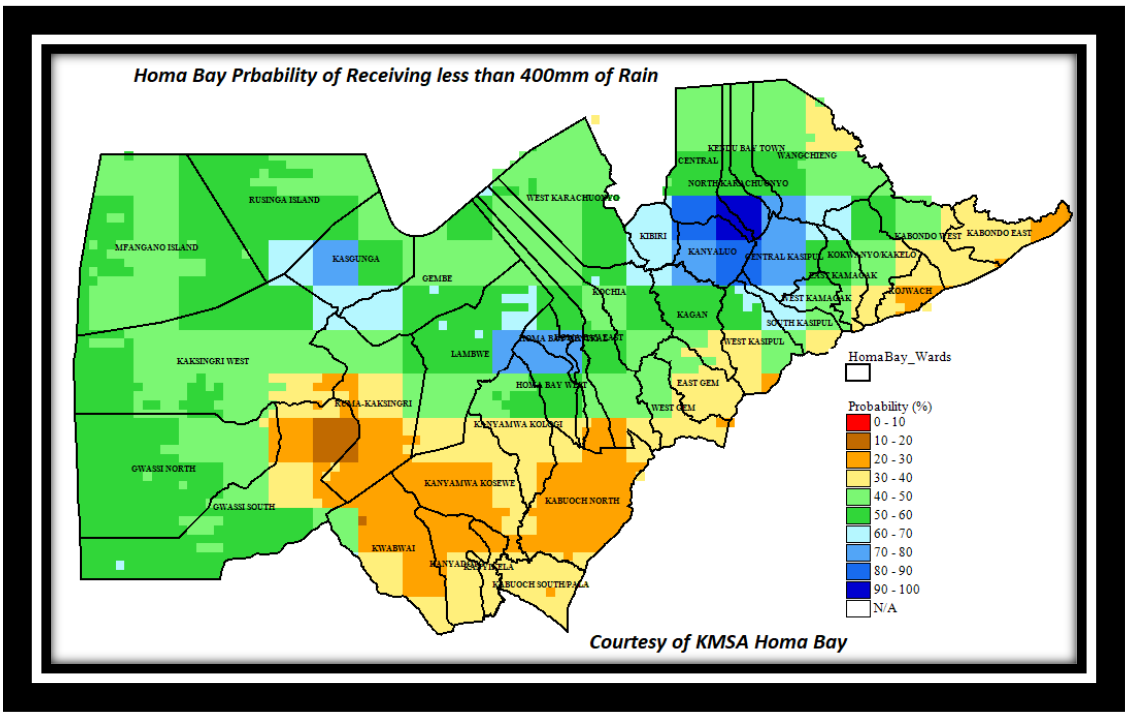

Figure 5: Shows low probabilities of receiving less than 400mm over the county during October-December 2026

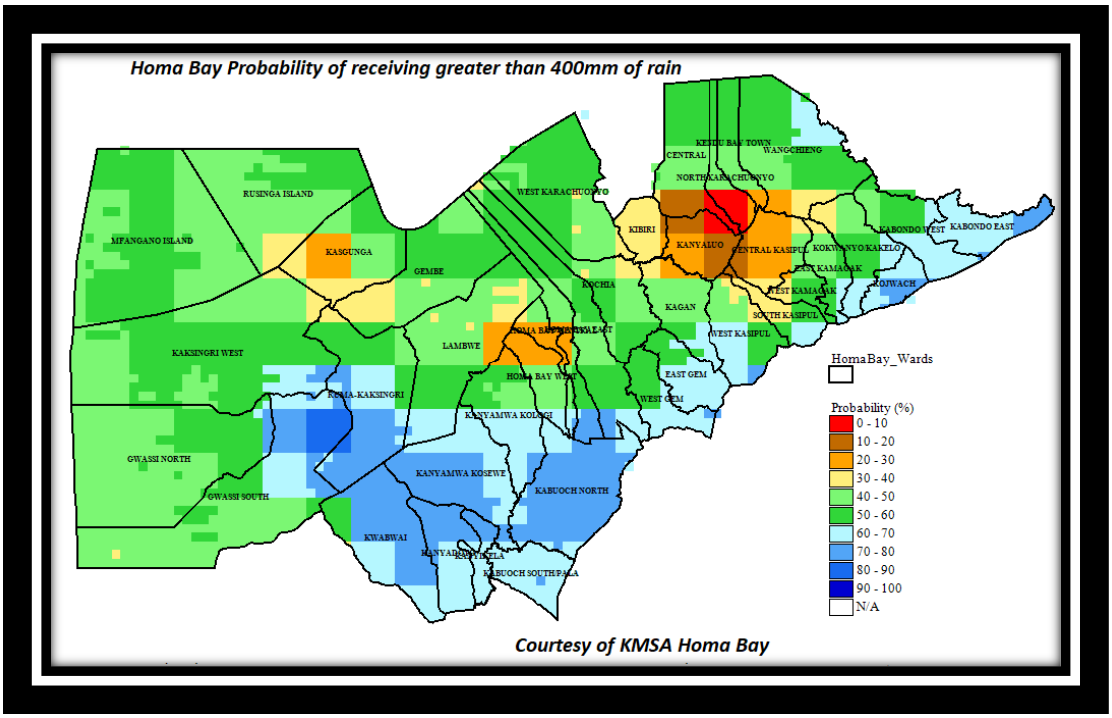

Figure 6: Shows high probabilities of receiving greater than 400mm over the county during October-December 2026

Commentary by County Meteorological Director:

Most parts of Homa Bay County are likely to experience near average to above average. During this season:

- ***Some days may record heavy or very heavy rainfall, leading to flooding in low-lying areas, river overflows, lake backflow and soil erosion on farms.***
- ***Lightning strikes, occasional strong winds, and hailstones may accompany rainfall, posing risks to people, livestock, crops, property and infrastructure.***
- ***The season is likely to be marked with fair to good distribution during the season, with occasional storms.***
- ***The onset is expected to continue from September 2026 for most parts of the County and Cessation to continue into January 2026***
- ***The rains are likely to be accompanied with lightning and thunderstorms; therefore, people should avoid taking shelter under the trees.***

NB: This forecast should be used with daily, weekly and monthly forecasts issued by this Department

For further information, please contact:

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ANNEX: POTENTIAL SECTORAL IMPACTS OF THE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2026 RAINS

Agriculture and Food Security: Crops

- Sensitize stakeholders on appropriate pre- and post-harvest best practices, including the promotion of essential post-harvest infrastructure such as solar dryers, cooling facilities, and storage systems
- Promote value chain-based agro-processing initiatives through county-led industrial parks and processing hubs.
- Strengthen surveillance systems to monitor pests and diseases affecting crops and livestock across counties
- Enhance strategic marketing approaches, including value addition for surplus feed and fodder, food conservation, and market aggregation.
- Promote early acquisition of agricultural inputs by issuing advisories to farmers and input suppliers on the timely procurement of quality seeds, fertilizers, and other essential inputs.
- Enhance surveillance of grain reserves and trading markets to monitor and manage aflatoxin contamination in cereal produce.
- Ensure timely dissemination of early warning information and agrometeorological advisories to sector stakeholders across the county.
- Advise farmers to undertake early land preparation and dry planting, and to plant long-maturing, high-yielding maize varieties that are better suited to potentially extended rainfall conditions.
- Promote climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices, including

conservation agriculture, water harvesting, integrated pest and disease management, and investment in soil and water conservation structures.

- Undertake timely desilting and maintenance of water harvesting and other excavated earth structures to improve their efficiency and storage capacity.

Livestock Development

- Increased use of crop residues as livestock fodder.
- Implementation of livestock resilience measures, including feed conservation (hay and silage), water harvesting, and water conservation.
- Rehabilitation of dams and boreholes.
- Rollout of livestock vaccination programs and campaigns, alongside disease outbreak monitoring through surveillance.
- Promotion of paddocking management practices.

Water Resources Management

- Mapping flood-prone areas, strengthening water level monitoring, and early warning systems to support timely preparedness and response to flood events.
- Clearing storm drains and drainage channels regularly and deploying sandbags in vulnerable locations to minimize the impacts of localized flooding.
- Promotion of public awareness on water conservation and encouraging water harvesting to maximize the benefits of increased rainfall.
- Desilting dams, reservoirs, and water pans to maintain their storage capacity and operational efficiency.
- Monitoring the structural integrity of dams and managing reservoir water levels to reduce the risk of overtopping and structural failure.
- Mapping and monitoring small-scale water pans to improve management of increased runoff and water storage.
- Enhancing rainwater harvesting initiatives to supplement water supplies and improving water security during and after the season.
- Strengthening water quality surveillance, distributing water treatment chemicals where necessary, and promoting household water treatment

practices such as boiling drinking water.

Health

- Strengthen epidemic preparedness and response through risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), disease surveillance and response, pre-positioning of medical commodities and equipment, and implementation of WASH interventions.
- Enhance multi-sectoral collaboration to support coordinated response efforts, psychosocial support services, and the provision of emergency health services.
- Promote hygiene practices using personal protective equipment (PPE), provision of temporary shelters with adequate ventilation, active disea Disaster Management se surveillance, and adequate WASH facilities.
- Improve access to safe water and sanitation through the provision of WASH facilities, distribution of water treatment supplies, hygiene promotion activities, and community sensitization by Community Health Promoters (CHPs).
- Provide outreach health services to vulnerable populations, including mothers and children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and individuals with chronic illnesses.
- Strengthen access to healthcare through outreach programs, mobile clinics, medical camps, deployment of search teams, establishment of alternative supply routes, and maintenance of buffer stocks of essential medical supplies.
- Support vulnerable populations, particularly undernourished children, through food supplementation programs, nutrition screening and treatment services, unconditional cash transfers, and provision of double rations of nutritional food commodities for malnutrition cases.

Disaster Management

- Issue early warnings, sensitize communities, evacuate high-risk areas, and pre-position rescue teams.
- Strengthen drainage, vector control, community awareness, and preparedness of health supplies and response systems.

- Identify and prepare alternative evacuation centers away from schools.
- Enhance public lightning safety awareness and install lightning arresters in vulnerable locations.
- Monitor hazard-prone areas and support early evacuation, relocation, and temporary shelter provision.
- Strengthen protection of power infrastructure and implement contingency plans for critical services.
- Promote livestock insurance and farmer awareness on livestock protection measures.
- Disseminate early warnings and enforce marine safety measures, including use of life jackets.
- Improve farm drainage and promote appropriate land and water management practices.
- Inspect, repair, and reinforce critical infrastructure and promote alternative water sources.
- Enforce building standards and strengthen inspection of structures in high-risk areas.
- Disseminate early warnings and promote protective and nature-based risk reduction measures.
- Clear and maintain urban drainage systems, reinforce water-retention structures, and enforce proper waste management.
- Promote protective measures, including crop netting, livestock shelters, and early warning information.
- Pre-position relief supplies and maintain strategic stocks in accessible locations.

Environment and Forestry

- Conduct widespread afforestation, reforestation and ecosystem restoration activities to increase forest and tree cover.
- Enhance community awareness and engagement in tree growing initiatives.
- Increase seedling production and strengthen tree nursery enterprises to meet growing demand.
- Promote appropriate site-species matching and diversification of tree species to improve survival and resilience.
- Restore and protect degraded water catchments to enhance water availability in forest ecosystems.

- Promote the Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme (PELIS) to support food security and community livelihoods.
- Support nature-based enterprises such as agroforestry, beekeeping and carbon-market opportunities through capacity building, value addition and improved market access.
- Strengthen forest protection measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Improve drainage systems and establish raised seedbeds in flood-prone areas to reduce the impacts of flooding and waterlogging.
- Promote tree growing in catchment areas to enhance watershed protection and reduce flood risks.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns on mudslide risks and encourage tree planting in vulnerable areas.
- Strengthen hazard mapping and early warning systems for mudslides and other climate-related hazards.
- Implement afforestation, agroforestry, riparian buffer establishment and gabion construction to control soil erosion and reduce siltation of water bodies.
- Enhance forest health monitoring, surveillance and reporting to support early detection and management of pests and diseases.
- Promote mulching, cover cropping and improved drainage practices to minimize soil nutrient loss and leaching.
- Undertake regular maintenance, repair and upgrading of forest infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to weather-related damage.
- Enhance community participation in forest conservation, sanitation and ecosystem management activities to improve forest resilience.