



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE AUTHORITY

NANDI COUNTY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

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NANDI COUNTY

OND SEASONAL OUTLOOK

1. CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR THE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER (OND) 2026 "SHORT RAINS" SEASON

1.1 Rainfall Outlook for the October-November-December (OND), 2026

The "Short Rains" (October–November–December, OND) season is an important rainfall season in Kenya, especially ASALs counties where it contributes to over 40% of the total annual rainfall. The Nandi will receive rainfall of up to 350mm, as shown in Figure 1

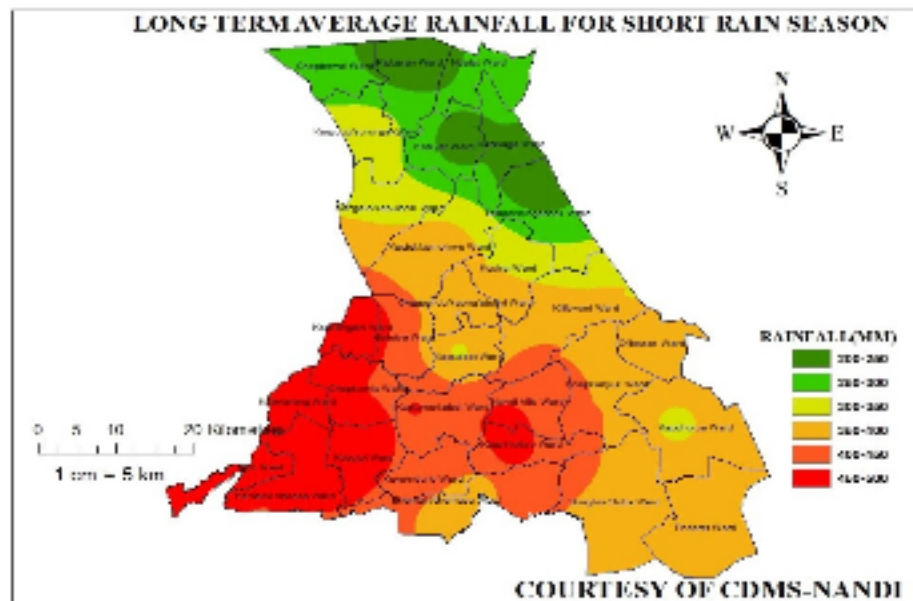


Figure 1: Showing Nandi County OND Long Term Average Rainfall Distribution

The season occurs due to the southward migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). Its duration and performance are influenced by the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which enhances rainfall wh

en in the positive phase. The ongoing strong El Niño event also enhances rainfall when it occurs concurrently with a positive IOD. On shorter timescales, rainfall intensity is influenced by the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) and the development of tropical cyclones over the Southwest Indian Ocean.

The Climate Outlook for the October–December 2026 “Short Rains” season indicates that above-average rainfall is expected over Nandi County (Figure 2).

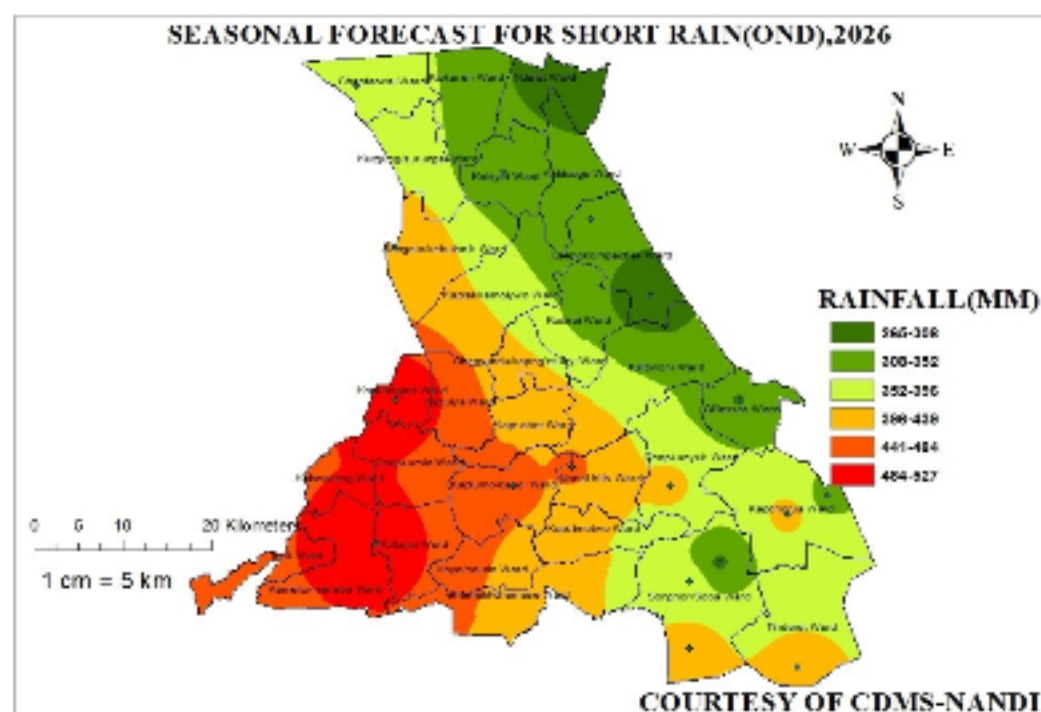


Figure 2: Showing OND 2026 Seasonal Outlook

According to the most recent update, the 2026 El Niño event continues to intensify across the central-eastern equatorial Pacific. The traditional Niño 3.4 index shows a clear and sustained increase, with the most recent seasonal mean reaching $+1.51^{\circ}\text{C}$ during May–July 2026, and the July monthly value rising to $+2.03^{\circ}\text{C}$. The latest weekly Niño 3.4 index, centered on 12 August 2026, reached $+2.7^{\circ}\text{C}$. These observations indicate that El Niño is strengthening further and evolving toward a very strong event.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. As of 23 August 2026, the weekly IOD index stood at $+0.17^{\circ}\text{C}$ which is below the positive IOD threshold ($+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$). Sustained values above this threshold are required for eight consecutive weeks before a positive IOD event is considered established. The current IOD value is expected to increase in magnitude and surpass the threshold from September 2026 although some uncertainty remains regarding its timing and strength. The maximum predicted IOD value for the season is $+0.7$, which is closer to the level observed in 2015 than to those recorded in 2023 or 1997. The Kenya Meteorological Service Authority (KMSA) will continue to closely monitor El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and IOD conditions.

1.2 Expected Distribution of the OND Rainfall, Onset and Cessation Dates

1.2.1 Distribution

The predicted onsets, cessations, and distribution of rainfall were derived from dynamical models and statistical analysis of the selected analogue years, which showed similar characteristics to the current year, and are indicated in Table 1.

The analogue (similar) year is 2015 based on the most recent evolution and prediction of both the ENSO and IOD. The rainfall outcomes for this analogue year (2015), is for reference only and should not be interpreted as the forecast. Analogue years provide a sense of the rainfall outcomes that can occur under broadly similar global climate conditions.

The OND 2026 rainfall is expected to be fairly to a well distributed. This season will be marked by prolonged wet spells and occasional isolated storms over several parts of the county.

1.2.2 Onset and Cessation

The expected onset and cessation dates for the Counties are as indicated in Table 1

Table 1: Expected Onset and Cessation for the OND 2026 Rains

County	Onset Dates	Cessation Dates	Distribution
Nandi	Continues from September	Continues into January	Fair to good

NB: Updates on the onset, distribution, and cessation of rainfall will be provided regularly through weekly, monthly forecasts as the season approaches. These updates will offer detailed insights into any changes and developments in rainfall patterns to keep stakeholders informed and support timely decision-making.

1.3 Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) forecast

The SPI forecast for the October–November–December (OND) 2026 season indicates that the probability of the occurrence of mild, moderate or severe drought events is low over most parts of the county.

1.4 OND 2026 Temperature Outlook

October-November-December Temperature Climatology

The October-November-December season in Kenya is generally warm with mean temperatures ranging from about 18°C in Nandi County

The warm temperatures are due to the southward migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) that is associated with warm humid air. During this season, day to-night temperature variations is generally small across much of Kenya.

1.5 Temperature Forecast for October-November-December 2026

Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average during the season

1.6 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE OND 2026 RAINS

The expected enhanced rainfall during the months of October to December rainfall season is expected to have both negative and positive impacts across various sectors. The most likely impacts on various sectors will be highlighted by the sector leads.

1. Agriculture

a) Positive

- Good for short cycle crops-Beans, vegetables
- Recharge of soil moisture for the next long-rains season
- Enough fodder into January

b) Negative

- Post-Harvest losses (maize- poor drying)
- Tea-Excessive wetness-good quantities but poor quality, difficult plucking, increased fungal diseases (black rot)
- Dairy-Improved pasture but increased foot & mouth, mastitis diseases due to muddy conditions on zero grazing units.

2. Health

- **Malaria risks:** Nandi is a hot spot. In Nandi county Bulletin of May had temperatures +1.7°C above normal pushing epidemic risks to 30% above threshold. (OND above normal rains + warmings=higher breeding)
- **Waterborne diseases:** Cholera and Typhoid from contaminated water
- **Cold-related respiratory** infections in highlands

3. Landslides, Floods & Infrastructure

- Nandi hills, Tinderet, Nandi Escarpments are prone-areas(**Hotspots**) for landslides.
- Damage to rural murram roads, bridges, Kapsabet-Chevakali road
- Blocked drainage systems-run-offs; erosions etc
- Displacement of persons (IDPs), and school disruptions in low-lying areas of Kingwal swamp
- Power outages from lightning strikes and fallen pylons.
- Poor visibility for motorists-accidents, tea transport disruptions
- Hydro power-increased water levels for small hydro plants.

4. Water and environment

- Recharge of Kingwal Swamp, Kipchorian sources
- Good for domestic but risk of pollution of shallow wells
- Increased human-wildlife conflicts near Nandi forest as animals move to high grounds

Advisories on what to prepare for

Farmers: Early harvest of maize, drying under cover& not selling all as green maize. Improve drainage in tea farms and prune for airflow, Store fodder for livestock.

Public: Avoid flood prone valleys, avoid sheltering under trees during storms, avoid walking on open water standing near windows/leaning on and keenly listen to county disaster updates.

Health: Sleep under treated mosquito nets, clear stagnant water and sprouting bushes, drink boiled or treated water, vaccinate livestock

County Government: Unblock drainage systems around farms and homesteads before mid-September, pre-plan for catering and support services for the affected people, pre-position rescue teams in Tindiret, Chesumei and Nandi sub-counties.

NB: There are intraseasonal drivers of variability, such as tropical cyclones and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), that are only predictable at shorter lead times. It is therefore imperative to stay up to date with subsequent forecasts and updates.

This outlook should be used together with the 24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, monthly, special forecasts and regular updates/advisories issued by this Authority as well as weekly and monthly county forecasts developed and available by County Meteorological Office.

County government departments/sectors alongside our partners and stakeholders should develop their detailed own specific advisories in light of this OND outlook to enhance smart and informed decision-making process for maximum safety output. Any request for assistance is highly encouraged and welcome by the county meteorological office through the CDM.

All correspondence should be addressed to the CDMS-Nandi county on:

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Annexes

Figure 1: October to December Rainfall Climatology

Figure 2: OND 2026 Rainfall Outlook

Table 1: OND 2026 Rainfall Onset