REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

MURANG'A COUNTY OCTOBER–NOVEMBER–DECEMBER (OND) 2026 CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Date of Issue: 01st September 2026

1. Summary of the rainfall Outlook

Above-average rainfall is expected meaning wetter-than-normal conditions**.** The rains are likely to **set in during the 2nd–3rd week of October 2026**, continue through November and December, and **extend into January 2027**. Rainfall distribution is expected to be **fair to good** in both time and space, with periods of prolonged wet conditions and occasional isolated storms. Drought risk is expected to be low. In reference to Climatic Zones the Upper zones are more likely to be fairly wet compared to the lower zones.

According to the most recent update, the 2026 El Niño event continues to intensify across the Central-Eastern equatorial Pacific with the most recent value at +2.7 degree Celsius. This indicates its developing to a very strong event. The Indian Ocean Dipole(IOD) is still neutral but is expected to increase in magnitude from September 2026(although some uncertainty remains as to when and its magnitude). The ongoing strong El Niño event enhances rainfall when it occurs concurrently with a positive phase of IOD.

Other drivers that influence rainfall in our region are the southward migration of Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) on a shorter term scale and development of Tropical Cyclones over the Southwest Indian Ocean.

The Kenya Meteorological Service Authority (KMSA) continues to monitor both El Niño and IOD as they continue to evolve and issue advisories on the same.

A) Forecast for October 2026

Dry spells are expected in the first week with a chance of a few places receiving rainfall.

Lower Zones remains relatively dry with isolated cases of rainfall.

It’s noted that high intensity rains may cause flash floods in some places.

B) Forecast for November 2026

Fairly wet with several parts of the County experiencing moderate rainfall which is expected to reduce towards the end of the month with an exception of a few places. Some of the Lower Zone is however expected to receive higher than normal rainfall with some few areas having light to moderate rains.

This is peak of the season.

C) Forecast for December 2026

The seasonal rainfall is expected to start to reduce here with cessation towards the end of the month though other places may spill over into January. This month may contain dry spells.

EXPECTED RAINFALL DURING OCTOBER TO DECEMBER SEASON 2026

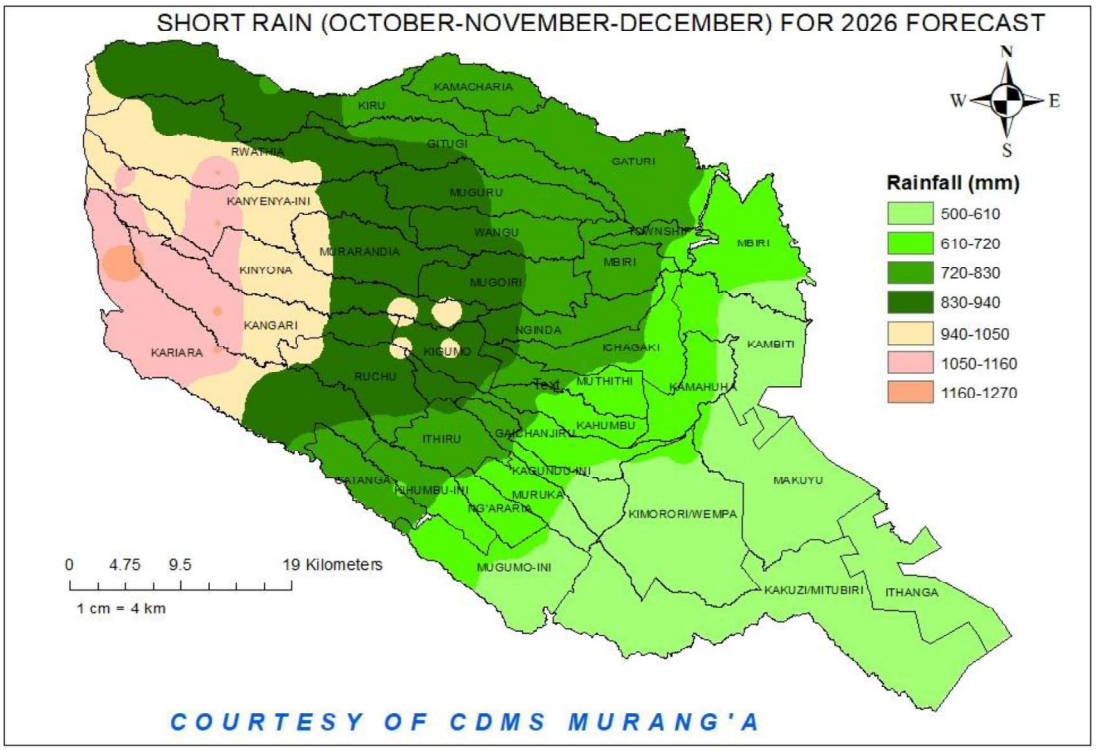


Fig 1. Forecast rainfall in Murang'a County during the October, November, December 2026 rainy season

The map on page 3 (Fig 1) shows the amount of rainfall in millimetres (mm) that is forecast to fall in each part of Murang'a County during the coming rainy season.

The map below (Fig 2) shows Long Term Mean rainfall(LTM) in each part of the county during the same three-month period. (Normal rainfall means the average amount received in October, November, December over the last 30 years.)

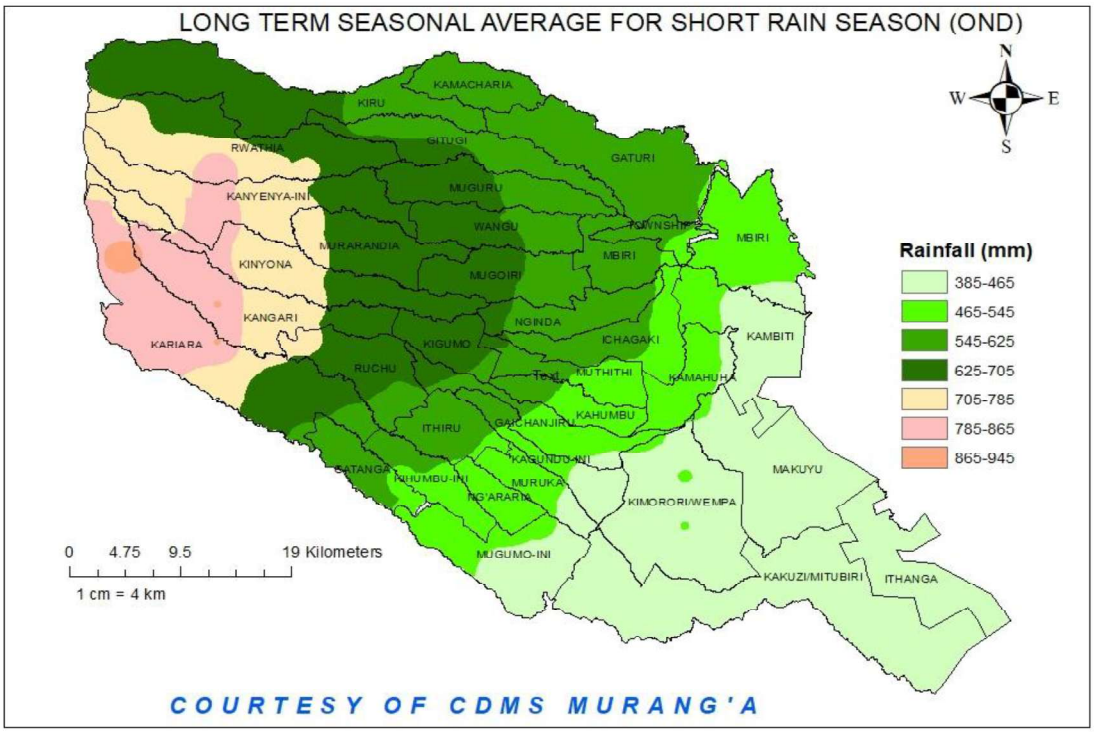


Fig 2. Normal (average) rainfall in mm in Murang'a County during the October, November, December rainy season.

The above map shows the average rainfall experienced during the same three-month period over 30 years between 1991 and 2020.

Below is a map showing the different climatic zones of Murang'a County. These zones are referred to in the forecast.

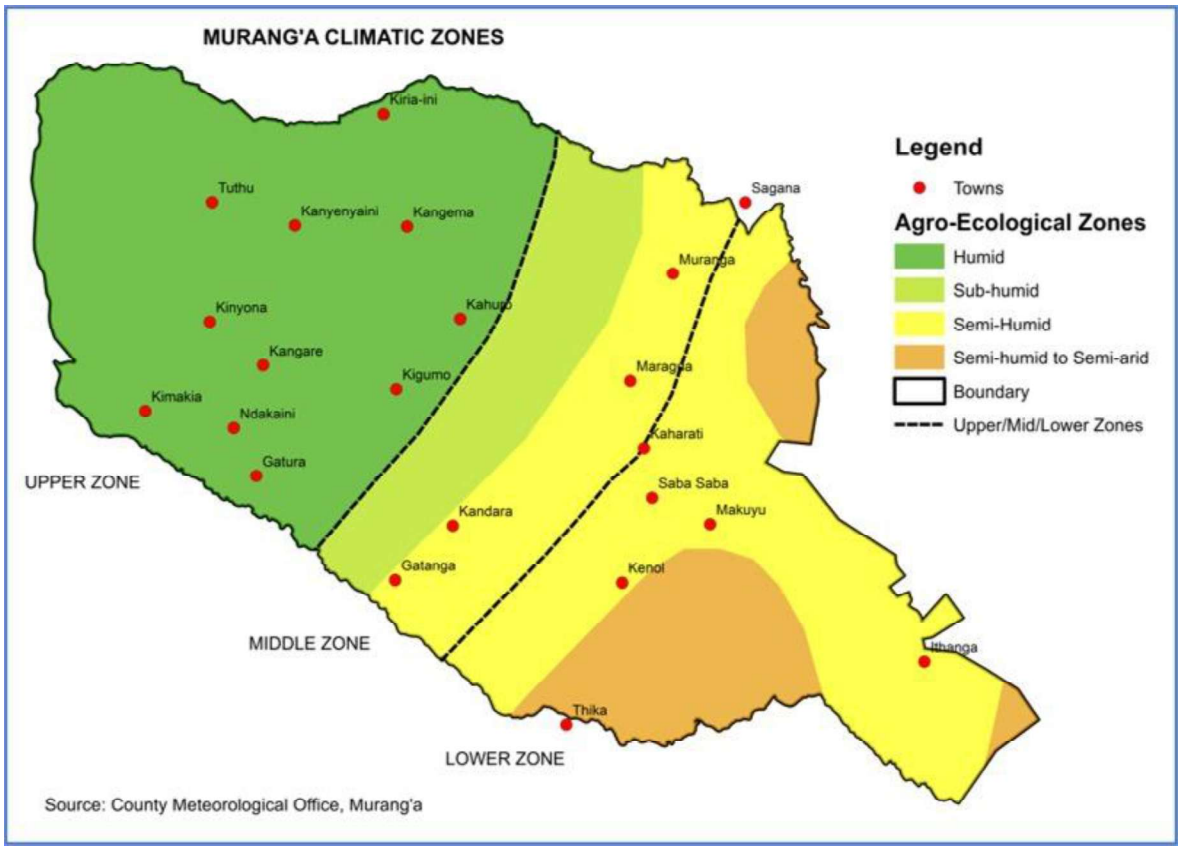


Fig 3. The main climatic zones of Murang'a County

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2. Rainfall Outlook by Climatic Zone

UPPER ZONE: [KIRIAINI, TUTHU, KINYONA, KIGUMO, KANGEMA, GATURA, KANGARI, RWATHIA, MURARANDIA, MUGOIRI]

- **Onset of rains:** Onset expected during the **2nd to 3rd week of October**
- **Cessation of rains:** Rainfall is likely to extend into **January 2027**.
- **Expected rainfall amount: 500–1300 mm**, which is **slightly above the long-term seasonal average**.
- **Peak rainfall month: November**

MIDDLE ZONE: [GATANGA, KANDARA, MARAGUA, MURANGA TOWN, KAHURO, NGINDA, KAMACHARIA, KIHUMBUINI, KAGUNDUINI].

Onset of rain: Rainfall is expected to start from **2nd-3rd Week of October 2026**.

- **Cessation of rain:** Rainfall is likely to continue into **January 2027**.
- **Expected rainfall amount:** 7**00–1000 mm**, **slightly above the long-term average**.
- **Peak rainfall month: November**

LOWER ZONE: [KENOL, ITHANGA, MAKUYU, SABASABA, KAMBITI, KAKUZI]

Onset of rain: Rainfall is expected in **2nd-3rd Week of October 2026**.

- **Cessation of rain:** Rainfall is likely to extend into **January 2027**.
- **Expected rainfall amount: 350–550 mm**, which is **slightly higher than the 30-year average**.
- **Peak rainfall month: November**

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3. What the Climate Outlook Means for Our Community

3.1 Rainfall and Associated Impacts

Most parts of Murang'a County are likely to experience **near-normal to above-normal rainfall**. During this season:

- Some days may record **heavy** or **very heavy rainfall**, leading to **landslides**, **mudslides, river overflows**, and **soil erosion on farms** particularly along the steep terrain of upper Murang'a (such as Kangema, Mathioya, and Gatanga sub-counties).

- **Flash Floods**: Low-lying areas and locations near major river basins are highly vulnerable to sudden riverine flooding and urban flash flooding.
- **Lightning strikes, occasional strong winds, and hailstones** may **accompany rainfall**, posing risks to **people, livestock, crops, property, and infrastructure**.
- **Silted Dams, Broken/Damaged water pipes, Blocked Drainages/Culverts** and **cracked bridges.**

3.2 Occurrence of Dry Spells

Dry spells may still occur within the rainy season. These periods of **several days or weeks without rain** can negatively affect:

- Crops and pasture
- Water availability
- Livestock productivity

Careful water use and **timely farm planning** are therefore essential.

Drought risk is expected to be low.

3.3 Temperature Outlook

Mean temperatures are forecast to be **warmer than average.** Warmer temperatures may:

- Increase soil moisture loss
- Raise water needs for crops and livestock
- Cause discomfort to people and animals

Advice from the County Meteorological Office

4. Advice/Opportunity to Farmers in All Areas of Murang'a County

1. **Diversify crop and livestock enterprises** to spread climate-related risks and ensure that gains in one activity can cushion losses in another.
2. **Select crop varieties** that perform well under **slightly above-normal rainfall** but can also withstand **short and prolonged dry spells**.
3. **Consult local agricultural extension officers** for guidance on farm planning based on this forecast. **Early planting is recommended.**

4. **Plant tree seedlings at the onset of rains** to improve survival before the **dry period**.
5. **Plant mango trees in shelter belts**, as they have strong roots, resist wind damage, and help reduce wind speed.
6. **Harvest and store rainwater** for future domestic and agricultural use.

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5. Flood Safety Advice by Zone

Safety Recommendations: Residents living on vulnerable hillsides or downstream of river courses must remain highly alert. Motorists are advised to expect heavily reduced visibility during isolated storms and avoid crossing swollen, moving waters. **Vigilance should be heightened by all including activation of Disaster Response Teams.**

Upper/Middle Zone

Heavy saturation from prolonged wet spells drastically elevates the risk of Landslides/Mudslides, soil erosion, mudslides, rock falls, collapse of pit latrines, crop destruction and subsequent loss of lives/livelihoods.

Potential risk of damaged infrastructure like roads, water pipes, power lines leading to disruption of normal daily activities such as transport, water contamination, power blackouts, disrupted water supply etc. The Overflow of Ndakaini Dam.

Lower Zones

Increased rainfall may result in swollen rivers, Dam Overflow and flooding in low lying areas.

Residents are advised to:

- **Listen daily to local radio**, especially **Kangema Ranet FM (106.5 FM)**
- **Consult local WhatsApp groups** for real-time information
    - Ensure data bundles are available
- **Maintain close contact with community leaders**, including administrators, chiefs, religious leaders, teachers, and village leaders
- **Attend barazas** and follow guidance from chiefs and assistant chiefs

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6. 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 Service Authority (**KMSA**) 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.

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7. Further Information and Contacts

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