REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

EMBU METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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EMBU COUNTY OCTOBER TO DECEMBER (OND 2026) SEASONAL FORECAST

OUTLOOK ACROSS EMBU COUNTY

The "Short Rains" (October–November–December, OND) season is an important rainfall season in Embu where it contributes to over 40% of the total annual rainfall. More than 800 mm of rainfall is received in some parts(upper zone) of the county during this season.

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 when 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.

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 °C during May–July 2026. and the July monthly value rising to +2.03 °C. The latest weekly Niño 3.4 index, centred on 12 August 2026, reached +2.7 °C. These observations indicate that El Niño is strengthening further and evolving toward a very strong event.

REVIEW OFMAM 2026 SEASON

- **The March to May season analysis indicate that Near to Normal rainfall occurred in the lower zones of the County.**
- **However the upper zones (Manyatta & Runyenjes Sub-County) received above Normal rainfall.**

EMBU COUNTY OND 2026 SEASONAL FORECAST

The Climate Outlook for the October–December 2026 "Short Rains" season for Embu County indicates that:

- **Upper zone and regions adjacent to Mt Kenya ie Manyatta and Runyenjes Sub-Counties are expected to receive a bove normal rainfall(800mm).**
- **Middle ground areas are expected to receive Normal tending to above Normal rainfall**
- **Lower grounds areas are expected to receive Near-Normal tending to a bove normal rainfall.**
- **The Onset dates,Cessation and Distribution is as indicated in the table 1 below.**
- **The spatial distribution of rainfall is highlighted in Fig 2 below and it will be fair to good distribution both in time and space.**

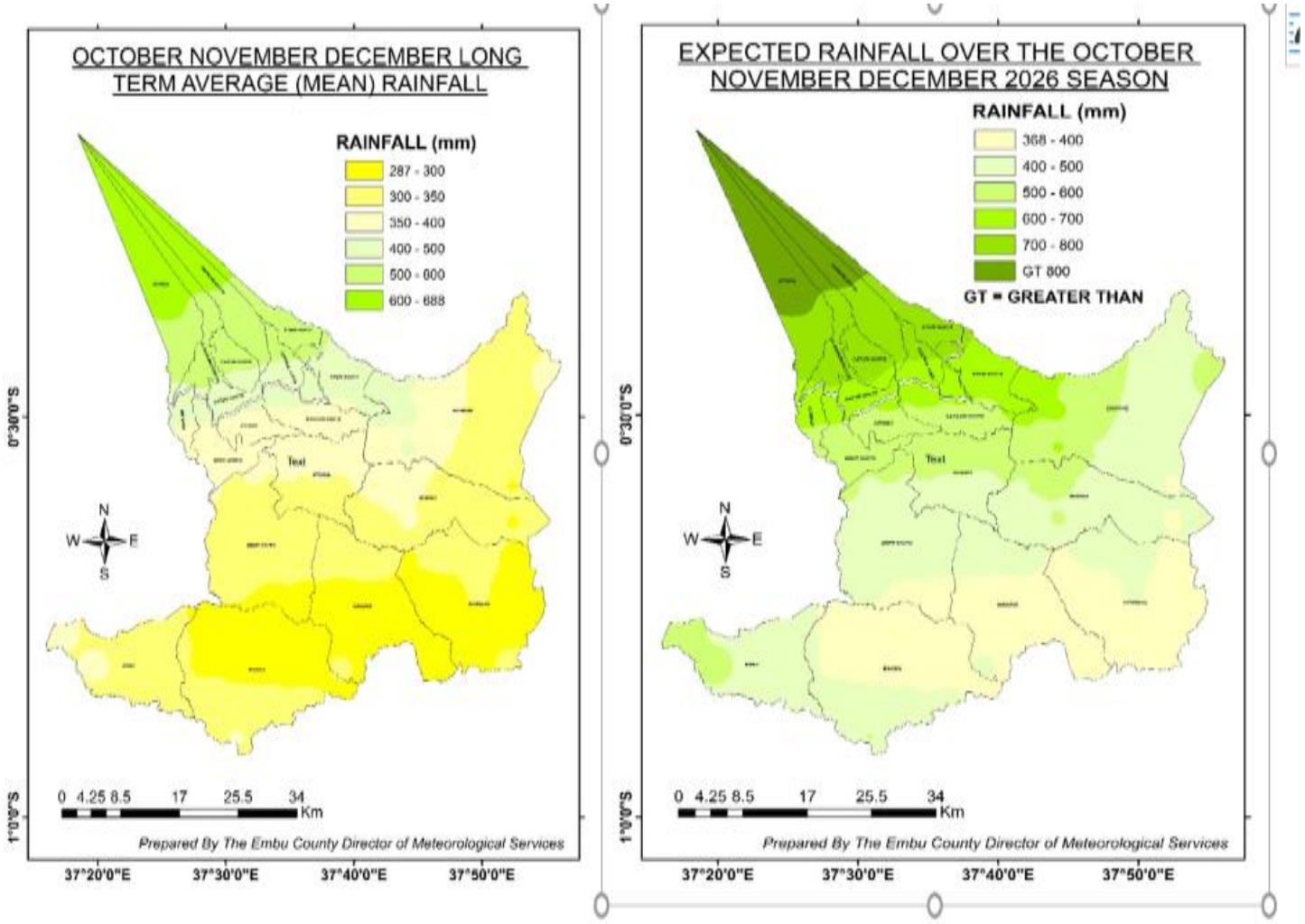
POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF 'Short Rains' (October to December) 2026 SEASON

- **The expected rainfall during 'OND' 2026 season is expected to have both negative and positive impacts**
- **The most likely impacts on various sectors will be highlited by sector leads, after co-production of advisories by stakeholders**

Table 1:Onset, Cessation and Distribution of OND 2026 Rainfall

REGION	ONSET DATES	CESSATION DATES	DISTRIBUTION
Manyatta Sub-County	2nd to 3rd week of October	Continues into January	Fair to Good
Runyenjes Sub-County	2nd to 3rd week of October	Continues into January	Fair to Good
Mbeere South	3rd to 4th week of 3rd to 4th of October	2nd to 3rd week of Dec	Fair
Mbeere North	3rd to 4th week of 3rd to 4th of October	2nd to 3rd week of Dec	Fair

FIG 2: Embu County OND 2026 season Spatial distribution of rainfall



NB/ The intraseasonal drivers of variability such as tropical cyclone and Madden-Julian Oscillation are only predictable at a short lead time and can significantly influence the expected outcome of the season.
It is therefore imperative to stay up to date with subsequent forecasts and updates.

Commentary of county weather forecaster:

County Meteorological Office: Email:cdmembu@meteo.go.ke.com/gideonalubia4@gmail.com

N.B: This forecast should be used in conjunction with the daily (24-hour) /weekly forecast issued by this department. For more information about the climate and weather in Kenya visit KMD website at http://www.meteo.go.ke/

Gideon O. Alubia



County Director of Meteorological Services, Embu