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DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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AGROMETEOROLOGICAL MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2026



1.0 HIGHLIGHTS AND EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR OCTOBER 2026

October 2026 marks the onset of the October–November–December (OND) “Short Rains” season over much of Kenya.

Above-average rainfall is expected over most parts of the country, with higher probabilities over Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu, Mandera and parts of Taita Taveta, Tana River, Garissa and Wajir. Above-average rainfall is also expected over Makueni, Kajiado, Machakos, Kitui, Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang’a, Kirinyaga, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi, Meru, Isiolo, Nyandarua and Nyeri.

Near-average to above-average rainfall is expected over much of Western Kenya, Nyanza and parts of the Rift Valley **Figure 1**.

The enhanced rainfall is expected to improve soil moisture, pasture regeneration and water availability, creating favorable conditions for land preparation and planting. However, heavy rainfall events may cause waterlogging, flooding, soil erosion, delayed farm operations, crop

diseases and difficulties in transporting farm produce.

Mean temperatures are expected to be warmer than average across the country. The warmest conditions are likely over the Northeastern and Southeastern lowlands and the Coastal region, while relatively cooler conditions are expected over the highlands.

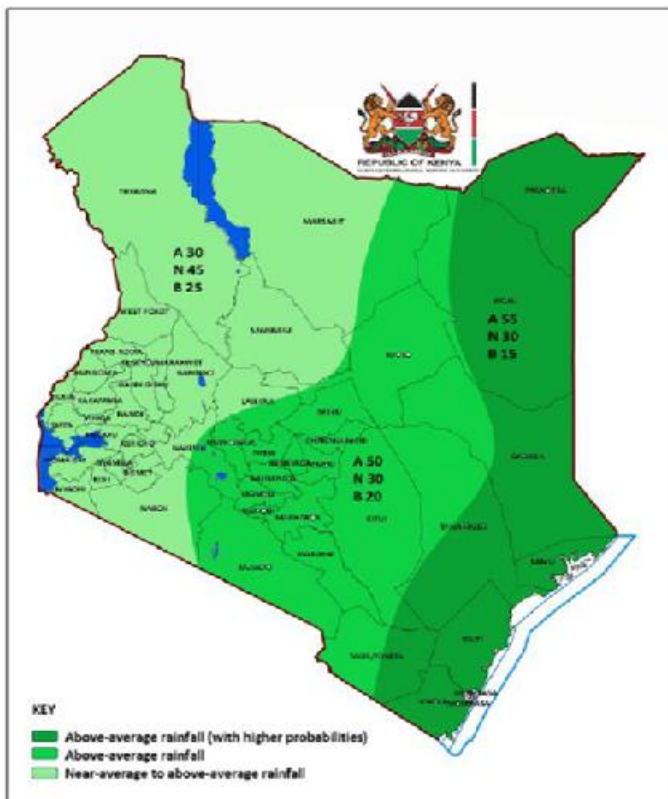


Figure 1: Rainfall Forecast for October 2026

1.0 General Advisory for Farmers

Farmers are advised to prepare land and plant with the October-November-December onset of reliable rains, conserve soil moisture, maintain drainage structures, use certified seed and appropriate inputs during October 2026.

Farmers should also harvest mature crops promptly, protect stored produce from moisture and monitor crops to minimize post-harvest loss. Monitor livestock for weather-related stresses.

Water-harvesting structures should be repaired and strengthened ahead of heavy rainfall events.

COUNTY WEATHER OUTLOOK AND ADVISORIES

COUNTY	Forecast weather	Expected Crop and Livestock condition	Advisories
Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River and Lamu	Above-average rainfall is expected, with the OND rains continuing from September and expected to persist until the 1st–2nd week of December.	Improved soil moisture and pasture conditions are expected, although excess rainfall may cause waterlogging and crop disease..	Prepare drainage, plant appropriately, harvest mature crops during dry intervals and monitor crops for fungal diseases..
Taita Taveta	Above-average rainfall is expected, with the OND rains expected to commence during the 2nd to 3rd week of October and continue through January	Improved soil moisture, pasture and water availability are expected after the dry period..	Repair water-harvesting structures, prepare land and monitor for flooding and waterlogging.
Garissa Wajir Mandera Marsabit Isiolo	Above-average rainfall is expected, with the OND rains expected to commence during the 1st–2nd week of October and continue until the 1st–2nd week of December.	Rainfall is expected to improve pasture, browse and water availability, although high temperatures will maintain livestock water demand..	Harvest rainwater, conserve pasture, provide adequate livestock water and avoid overstocking.
Meru Tharaka-Nithi Embu Kirinyaga Kiambu and Nairobi Nyandarua Nyeri Murang'a	The OND rains are expected to commence during the 2nd to 3rd week of October and continue through January. Above-average rainfall expected.	Improved soil moisture will favor crop establishment and development. Excess rainfall may temporarily disrupt farm operations.	Prepare farms early, maintain drainage, conserve soil and monitor crops for fungal diseases.

Kitui Machakos Makueni Kajiado	Above-average rainfall is expected, with the OND rains expected to commence during the 2nd to 3rd week of October and continue through January.	improved soil moisture and pasture conditions.	Prepare land early, harvest rainwater, plant promptly after reliable rains and protect against soil erosion.
West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo and Laikipia Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Nakuru Narok, Kericho and Bomet	Near-average to above-average rainfall is expected, with the OND rains continuing from September in most areas and expected to persist through January	Reduced pasture and browse availability are expected, together with increased livestock water demand and heat stress.	Practice rotational grazing, conserve pasture, provide supplementary feed and adequate drinking water.
Turkana and Samburu	Near-average to above-average rainfall is expected. The OND rains are expected to commence during the 3rd–4th week of October and continue to the 1st week of December, with poor to fair rainfall performance	Some improvement in pasture and water availability is expected, although conditions may remain variable.	Livestock keepers should prepare for the rains by identifying grazing areas, rehabilitating water sources and conserving available fodder.
Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia, Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii and Nyamira	Near-average to above-average rainfall is expected during October, with the OND rains continuing from September and expected to persist through January.	Rainfall will support crop establishment, pasture regeneration and livestock production.	Prepare land and inputs early, plant promptly and monitor crops for pests, diseases and excess moisture.

2.0 AGRICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS AND ADVISORIES

2.1 Crop Production and Harvesting

The expected above-average to near-average rainfall will provide favorable conditions for land preparation, planting and crop establishment across much of the country. Farmers should take advantage of the onset of reliable rainfall to undertake timely planting and apply appropriate crop-management practices. Areas expecting enhanced rainfall should, however, guard against waterlogging, flooding and soil erosion, particularly in poorly drained fields and low-lying areas.

2.2 Livestock

The expected rainfall will improve pasture, browse and water availability, particularly in the ASAL areas that experienced declining resources during the preceding dry period. However, warmer-than-average temperatures are expected throughout the country, while excessive rainfall may expose livestock to wet conditions and disease risks.

2.3 Pests and Diseases

Increased rainfall and higher humidity may create favorable conditions for fungal and other moisture-related crop diseases. Waterlogging may also weaken crops and increase disease susceptibility. The forecasted warmer conditions may favor some crop pests.

2.4 Preparation for October Rains

The October forecast indicates widespread improvement in rainfall conditions compared with the predominantly dry conditions experienced in September. Farmers should use the month to prepare land, repair water-harvesting structures, clear drainage channels, acquire certified seed and other farm inputs and plan planting activities. The October-November-November outlook indicates a likelihood of widespread rainfall from October, including above-average rainfall in several areas.

SUMMARY REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

August 2026 was mainly characterized by sunny and dry weather conditions across much of Kenya. Kericho recorded the highest monthly rainfall total of 267.9 mm, while Lodwar, Marsabit, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Machakos, Makueni, Voi, Wilson and JKIA recorded no rainfall. Kericho, Nakuru and Lamu recorded rainfall amounts that surpassed their August long-term means, while several stations including Kakamega, Kitale, Kisii, Eldoret and Nyahururu recorded below-average rainfall.

2.0 WEATHER AND SOIL CONDITION ASSESMENT DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026

2.1.0 Rainfall

Rainfall during September 2026 was unevenly distributed across the country. The highest rainfall totals were recorded over the Coastal, Western and parts of the Rift Valley regions. Mombasa recorded the highest monthly total of 244.6 mm, followed by Kisii (231.2 mm), Mtwapa (220.2 mm), Kericho (160.0 mm), Lamu (141.0 mm), Malindi (138.9 mm), Msabaha (136.3 mm) and Kakamega (111.2 mm). In contrast, rainfall remained very low over parts of the northern, eastern and central regions. Lodwar, Kabarak and Matungu recorded 0.0 mm, while JKIA, Narok, Ngong and Makindu recorded only 2.8 mm, 2.9 mm, 6.3 mm and 6.5 mm, respectively.

Compared with the September long-term mean, 20 stations recorded above-average rainfall while 19 stations recorded below-average rainfall **Figure 2.**

2.2.0 Mean air temperature

Mean air temperatures during September 2026 remained generally warm, with considerable spatial variation across the country. Most stations recorded an increase in mean temperature compared with August.

The highest monthly mean temperatures were recorded at Lodwar (31.4°C), Mandera (31.2°C) and Wajir (28.8°C), while the coolest conditions were observed at Nyahururu (15.2°C), Kericho (18.6°C) and Kangema (18.7°C).

The relatively warm conditions, particularly over the ASAL areas, increased evapotranspiration and livestock water requirements, while the cooler conditions over the highlands generally reduced moisture loss.

Figure 3 and 4.

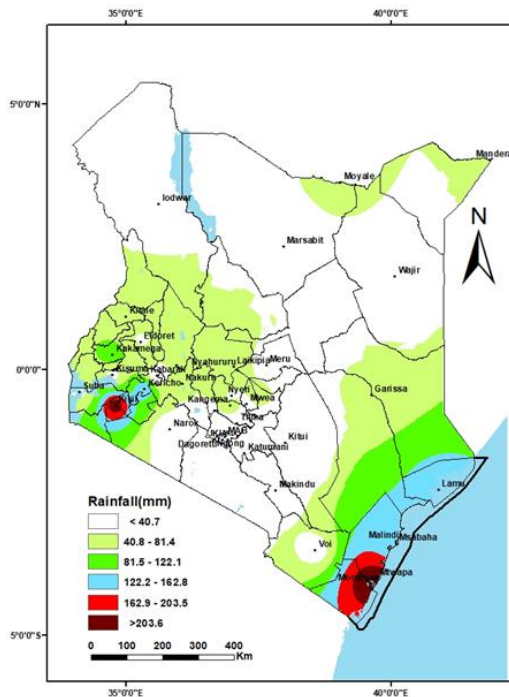


Figure 2: Cumulative observed rainfall for September 2026

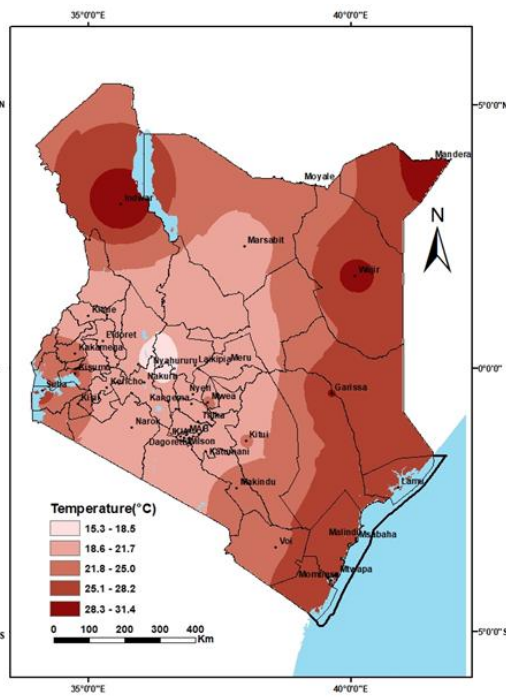


Figure 3: Observed mean air temperature for September 2026

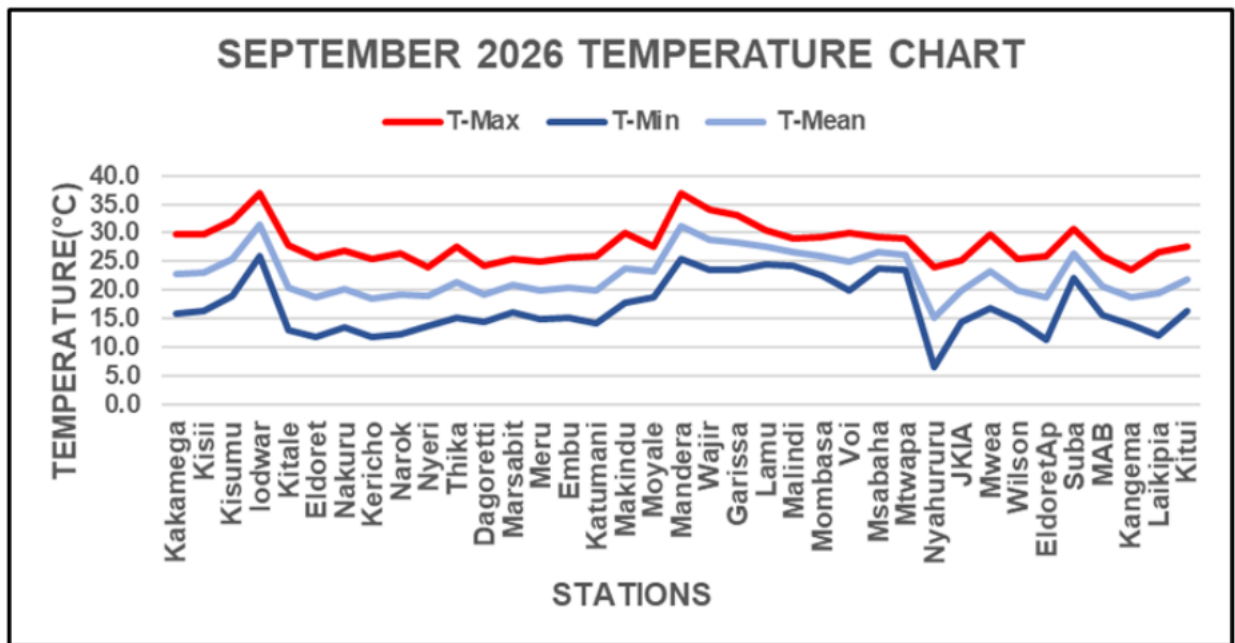


Figure 4: Observed Temperatures for September 2026

2.1.1 Soil Moisture

The distribution of rainfall during August resulted in contrasting soil moisture conditions across the country. Adequate to improved soil moisture conditions were maintained in areas that received substantial rainfall, particularly Kericho, Kisii, Kakamega, Eldoret and Nakuru, supporting crop development, pasture regeneration and livestock production.

Conversely, persistent dry conditions over the Eastern, Northern and parts of the Central regions resulted in declining soil moisture reserves. The situation was particularly pronounced in Lodwar, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, Mandera, Katumani and Makindu, where limited rainfall combined with relatively high temperatures increased moisture stress and reduced pasture availability. The conditions also increased livestock water requirements in the ASAL areas.

3.0 REGIONAL WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

3.1 Western and Nyanza Region

Rainfall was variable across the region, with Kisii recording 231.2 mm, Kakamega 111.2 mm, Suba 32.5 mm and Kisumu 25.3 mm. The substantial rainfall received in Kisii and Kakamega improved soil moisture conditions and supported crop and pasture development. However, the relatively low rainfall recorded in Kisumu and some surrounding areas resulted in comparatively lower soil moisture availability.

3.2 Rift Valley Region

Rainfall varied considerably across the region. Kericho recorded 268.1 mm, Eldoret 114.8 mm, Eldoret Airport 145.0 mm, Nakuru 119.1 mm and Kitale 79.4 mm. The rainfall generally maintained favorable soil moisture conditions and supported crop development. However, excessive rainfall in some areas, particularly Kericho, may have increased the risk of waterlogging and fungal diseases. Maize and other crops were mainly at maturity and harvesting stages.

3.3 Central and Nairobi Region

Rainfall varied considerably across the Rift Valley. Kericho recorded 160.0 mm, Eldoret Airport 87.2 mm, Laikipia 79.3 mm, Kitale 51.1 mm and Nakuru 47.2 mm, while Eldoret recorded only 17.5 mm and Narok 2.9 mm. The rainfall received in the wetter parts generally supported soil moisture conditions, while dry conditions in areas such as Narok and Eldoret resulted in declining moisture availability. Excess rainfall in wetter areas may also increase the risk of waterlogging and moisture-related crop diseases.

3.4 Eastern Region

The Eastern region experienced variable rainfall, with Embu recording 57.5 mm, Meru 20.8 mm, Kitui 28.5 mm, Voi 19.1 mm, Katumani 9.1 mm and Makindu 6.5 mm. The rainfall provided localized improvement in soil moisture, particularly in Embu and parts of the region. However, low rainfall in Katumani and Makindu resulted in continued soil moisture deficits and increased moisture stress,

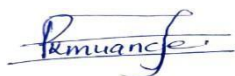
particularly where temperatures remained relatively high.

3.5 Coastal Region

Rainfall remained generally low and unevenly distributed across the region. Nyahururu recorded 64.2 mm, Kangema 79.5 mm and Nyeri 33.9 mm, while Dagoretti, Kabete and Wilson recorded approximately 15.8 mm, 15.9 mm and 15.8 mm, respectively. Thika and JKIA received only 4.3 mm and 2.8 mm. The limited rainfall in several locations resulted in declining soil moisture, although localized rainfall provided some improvement. The relatively dry conditions supported field operations but increased moisture stress in areas with limited rainfall.

3.6 North Eastern Region

The North Eastern region experienced variable rainfall, with Moyale recording 53.7 mm, Garissa 49.9 mm and Mandera 45.9 mm, while Marsabit and Wajir recorded 15.7 mm and 9.6 mm, respectively. Lodwar recorded no rainfall. The rainfall received in some parts provided localized improvement in pasture and water availability; however, dry conditions persisted in several areas. Warm temperatures, particularly in Lodwar, Mandera and Wajir, resulted in relatively high evapotranspiration and continued livestock water demand. Pasture and browse availability therefore remained variable across the region.



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