REPUBLIC OF KENYA
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REF: KMD/ISL/ICO/010

05/10/2026

ISIOLO COUNTY CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2026 AND REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 2026

1.0 SUMMARY

October 2026 marks the transition into the October–November–December (OND) Short Rains Season, which is expected to be significantly influenced by a very strong El Niño event and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). As a result, most parts of Isiolo County are likely to experience enhanced rainfall during the month, with rainfall onset expected in many areas between the second and fourth weeks of October.

The onset is expected earlier over Wabera, Bula Pesa, Burat, Ngaremara and Kinna areas, while eastern and southeastern parts of the county including Garbatulla, Sericho, Chari and Cherab are likely to receive the onset later in the month.

The anticipated rainfall is expected to improve water availability, pasture and browse regeneration, recharge water sources, and support agricultural activities. However, the county should remain alert to the increased risk of flooding, flash floods, river overflows, infrastructure damage, and water-borne disease outbreaks, particularly in flood-prone areas along the Ewaso Nyiro River and seasonal drainage channels.

2.0 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2026

2.1 Rainfall Outlook

Most parts of Isiolo County are expected to receive above-normal to significantly above-normal rainfall during October 2026.

Expected Rainfall Onset

Second to Third Week of October 2026

Wabera, Bula Pesa, Parts of Burat, Ngaremara and Kinna

Areas adjacent to Mt. Kenya and Laikipia influences

Third to Fourth Week of October 2026

Oldonyiro, Chari, Cherab, Garbatulla, Sericho, Merti, Malkagalla, Eastern parts of Burat and Southern and eastern rangelands

Rainfall is expected to become more widespread and frequent towards the second half of the month.

Heavy rainfall events may occur in some areas, especially towards the end of October, increasing the likelihood of:

- Flash floods
- Riverine flooding
- Waterlogging in low-lying areas
- Road washouts
- Disruption of transport and communication networks

Areas most vulnerable to flooding include:
Isiolo Town, Bula Pesa, Bula Mpya, Kiwanjani, Burat, Kambi Garba, Ngaremara, Oldonyiro, Kinna, Garbatulla, Merti, Sericho and Settlements along the Ewaso Nyiro River and seasonal laghas

2.2 Temperature Outlook

Cloud cover and rainfall are expected to moderate daytime temperatures during much of October.

Daytime Temperatures

24°C to 32°C across most parts of the county.
Cooler conditions of 22°C to 28°C are expected during rainy days and over elevated western areas.

Night-time Temperatures

15°C to 22°C across most locations.
Humidity levels are expected to increase significantly as the rainy season establishes.

2.3 Wind Outlook

Moderate easterly to southeasterly winds are expected during the first half of October.
As the rains become established :

- Wind speeds are expected to reduce gradually.
- Dust levels will decrease.
- Atmospheric humidity will increase.
- Localized strong winds and thunderstorms may accompany heavy rainfall events.

3.0 REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 2026 WEATHER CONDITIONS

3.1 Rainfall Performance

September 2026 was generally dry across Isiolo County, consistent with the normal transition period between the cool season and the OND rainfall season.
Most parts of the county received little or no rainfall.
Isolated light showers and drizzles occurred over Oldonyiro, Kinna and areas bordering Laikipia and Samburu Counties.
Rainfall amounts recorded were insufficient for meaningful recharge of rivers and groundwater resources.
Conditions remained generally dry across pastoral and agro-pastoral zones.

3.2 Impact of Weather Conditions

The prevailing dry conditions during September resulted in:

- Merti, Sericho and Malkagalla.
- Increased demand for Continued decline of water levels in pans, shallow wells and seasonal streams.
- Reduced flows along the Ewaso Nyiro River.
- Gradual deterioration of pasture and browse conditions in some grazing areas.

- Increased concentration of livestock around permanent water points.
- Elevated dust levels, particularly domestic and livestock water.

3.3 Temperature Conditions

September was characterized by:

- Warm to hot afternoons across most parts of the county.
- Cool mornings and nights.
- Persistent easterly winds.
- Increased evaporation rates and drying of surface moisture.
- Generally near-normal temperatures for the season.

4.0 SECTORAL ADVISORIES

4.1 Water Resources

- Communities should prepare water harvesting facilities to maximize storage of OND rainfall.
- Water pans, dams, boreholes and shallow wells are expected to receive significant recharge.
- Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) should closely monitor river levels and abstraction activities.
- Communities living along rivers and seasonal channels should remain vigilant for possible flooding.

4.2 Livestock Sector

- Improved pasture and browse regeneration is expected following the onset of rains.
- Livestock body conditions and productivity are likely to improve.
- Livestock owners should relocate animals from flood-prone grazing areas when heavy rainfall warnings are issued.
- Disease surveillance should be intensified due to increased risk of vector- and water-related livestock diseases.

4.3 Agriculture Sector

- Farmers should take advantage of the expected favorable rainfall by planting immediately after effective rainfall onset.
- Certified seeds and other farm inputs should be acquired in advance.
- Water harvesting and soil conservation measures should be strengthened.
- Farmers should regularly monitor weather forecasts and advisories.

4.4 Health Sector

- Increased rainfall may elevate the risk of malaria, cholera, typhoid and other water-borne diseases.
- Communities should ensure safe drinking water through treatment and proper storage.
- Health facilities should strengthen disease surveillance and emergency preparedness.
- Public awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene should be intensified.

4.5 Transport and Infrastructure

- County authorities should clear drainage systems, culverts and storm-water channels before heavy rains intensify.
- Motorists should exercise caution during heavy rainfall and flooding events.

- Roads crossing seasonal rivers and laghas should be monitored closely.
- Communities should avoid crossing flooded rivers and water channels.

4.6 Disaster Risk Management

County and Ward Disaster Management Committees should strengthen preparedness and monitoring of:

- Flood and flash flood risks.
- Ewaso Nyiro River water levels.
- Vulnerable settlements and infrastructure.
- Human and livestock movement.
- Water-borne and vector-borne disease outbreaks.
- Community preparedness and response mechanisms.
- Continuous dissemination of weather forecasts, climate outlooks, flood advisories and early warning information should be maintained throughout the OND season.

CONCLUSION

October 2026 is expected to mark the onset of the OND short rains season across Isiolo County, with above-normal to significantly above-normal rainfall anticipated due to the combined influence of a very strong El Niño event and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole. The expected rains are likely to improve water resources, pasture, livestock productivity and agricultural production. However, the increased rainfall also raises the risk of flooding, flash floods, infrastructure damage and disease outbreaks. Communities are therefore encouraged to remain alert, follow official weather advisories, implement preparedness measures, and make full use of weather and climate information for planning and decision-making.

NOTE

This outlook should be used together with:

✓ 24-Hour Weather Forecasts

✓ 7-Day Weather Forecasts

✓ Monthly Climate Updates

✓ Flood and Heavy Rainfall Advisories

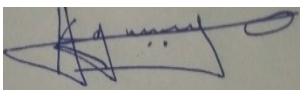
✓ Seasonal Climate Outlooks and Updates issued by Kenya Meteorological Services Authority (KMSA)

KEY OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS

Rainfall Performance Categories
Below 75% of Long-Term Mean (LTM) – Below Normal (Depressed)
75% – 125% of LTM – Near Normal
Above 125% of LTM – Above Normal (Enhanced)
Above 150% of LTM – Significantly Above Normal (Highly Enhanced)

Location-specific forecasts for Isiolo County are available from the County Director of Meteorological Services at the Isiolo Meteorological Office.

Issued by:



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August 2026