REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
MARSABIT COUNTY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 11-60500, **MARSABIT**, CELL PHONE : +254712375127, +254729783550
E-MAIL: CDMMARSABIT@METEO.GO.KE, JOHNNGUYO67@GMAIL.COM

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE QUOTE:
REF: KMD/MBT/MCO/010

05/10/2026

OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2026 AND REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 2026 FOR MARSABIT COUNTY

1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Outlook for October 2026

October 2026 marks the beginning of the October–December (OND) Short Rains Season across Marsabit County. The season is expected to be influenced by a very strong El Niño event and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which are likely to enhance rainfall amounts across much of the county.

Rainfall onset is expected during the second to third week of October over Moyale, Sololo, Mt. Marsabit, and surrounding highland areas, while parts of North Horr, Laisamis, Loiyangalani, Illeret, Dukana, Maikona, Kargi, Turbi, and Kalacha are expected to receive the onset between the second and fourth weeks of October.

Most parts of the county are likely to experience above-normal to significantly above-normal rainfall during the month. Heavy rainfall events may occur in some areas, increasing the risk of flash floods, flooding of seasonal rivers (laghas), infrastructure damage, and disruption of transport networks.

Morning fog and mist may continue over Mt. Marsabit, Sololo, Moyale, and Hurri Hills during the early part of the month but are expected to reduce as rainfall becomes established.

1.2 September 2026 Weather Review

September 2026 was characterized by predominantly dry conditions across Marsabit County, consistent with the seasonal transition period preceding the OND rains. Most parts of the county remained dry, although isolated light rainfall events occurred over parts of Moyale, Sololo, Mt. Marsabit, Hurri Hills, and areas bordering Ethiopia.

Morning fog, mist, and cool conditions persisted over Mt. Marsabit, Sololo, and neighboring highland areas throughout much of the month. Temperatures remained generally near seasonal averages across the county.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2026

2.1 Rainfall Forecast

The outlook for October 2026 indicates enhanced rainfall across most parts of Marsabit County.

Rainfall Onset Expected During the Second to Third Week of October:

Moyale, Sololo, Mt. Marsabit, Saku, Hurri Hills and Areas along the Kenya–Ethiopia border

Rainfall Onset Expected During the Second to Fourth Week of October:
North Horr, Dukana, Illeret, Maikona, Turbi, Kalacha, Kargi, Loiyangalani, Laisamis, South Horr, Korr and Ngurunit

Rainfall is expected to increase progressively through the month and may occasionally occur as moderate to heavy storms accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds.
Areas vulnerable to flooding and flash floods include:
Moyale, Sololo, Golbo, Butiye, Heilu, Manyatta Jillo, Turbi, Maikona, North Horr, Dukana, Illeret, Loiyangalani, Kargi, South Horr, Korr and Ngurunit

2.2 Temperature Outlook
Mean temperatures are expected to remain near normal to slightly below normal due to increased cloud cover and rainfall.

Maximum Temperatures: 24°C – 34°C
Minimum Temperatures: 12°C – 22°C
The coolest conditions are expected over:
Mt. Marsabit, Sololo, Moyale, Hurri Hills

Warmer daytime temperatures are expected across:
Chalbi Desert, North Horr, Dukana, Maikona, Loiyangalani, Kargi and Laisamis

2.3 Wind Outlook
Moderate easterly and southeasterly winds are expected during the first half of October.
As the rains become established:

- Dust levels are expected to reduce.
- Humidity levels will increase.
- Localized strong winds may accompany thunderstorms.
- Visibility will improve in areas previously affected by blowing dust.

3. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF OCTOBER 2026 WEATHER CONDITIONS
3.1 Water Resources
The expected enhanced rainfall is likely to result in:

- Increased recharge of water pans, dams, boreholes, and shallow wells.
- Improved river and stream flows.
- Increased water availability for domestic and livestock use.
- Replenishment of groundwater resources.
- Improved water security across most livelihood zones.
- Recommended Actions
- Maximize rainwater harvesting opportunities.
- Monitor river levels and flood-prone areas.
- Protect water infrastructure from flood damage.
- Clear drainage systems and water channels.
- Strengthen flood preparedness in vulnerable communities.

3.2 Agriculture Sector
The anticipated rainfall is expected to improve agricultural prospects in agropastoral areas.
Recommended Actions

- Plant immediately after effective rainfall onset.
- Utilize certified seeds and appropriate farm inputs.

- Promote soil and water conservation measures.
- Strengthen water harvesting practices.
- Monitor weather advisories throughout the season.

3.3 Livestock and Pasture Conditions

The anticipated rains are expected to lead to:

- Improved pasture and browse regeneration.
- Better livestock body condition and productivity.
- Reduced livestock trekking distances.
- Improved livestock water availability.
-

However, heavy rainfall may increase the risk of:

- Livestock diseases.
- Flood-related livestock losses.
- Restricted access to grazing areas.
- Recommended Actions
- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance.
- Vaccinate livestock against priority diseases.
- Avoid grazing livestock in flood-prone areas during heavy rainfall.
- Protect strategic grazing reserves.

3.4 Health

The expected wet conditions may increase the risk of:

- Malaria outbreaks.
- Cholera and typhoid.
- Water-borne diseases.
- Mosquito breeding and vector proliferation.
-

Recommended Actions

The County Health Department is advised to:

- Strengthen disease surveillance systems.
- Promote safe drinking water and sanitation practices.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns.
- Enhance preparedness for disease outbreaks.
- Ensure adequate medical supplies in health facilities.

3.5 Disaster Management and Humanitarian Response

The likelihood of flooding and flash floods during October is expected to increase significantly. Communities should remain alert to:

- Flash floods.
- Riverine flooding.
- Damage to roads, bridges, and culverts.
- Disruption of transport networks.
- Displacement of people and livestock.
- Water-borne disease outbreaks.

Recommended Actions

- Intensify dissemination of weather forecasts and advisories.
- Activate county and ward-level preparedness plans.

- Monitor flood-prone settlements and seasonal river crossings.
- Pre-position emergency response resources where necessary.
- Strengthen coordination among county departments, humanitarian agencies, and development partners.

CONCLUSION

October 2026 is expected to mark the onset of the OND rainfall season across Marsabit 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 availability, pasture conditions, livestock productivity, and agricultural production. However, they also increase the risk of flooding, flash floods, infrastructure damage, and disease outbreaks. Communities, county departments, humanitarian agencies, and development partners are encouraged to remain vigilant, strengthen preparedness measures, and continue utilizing weather forecasts, climate outlooks, and early warning information for informed decision-making.

NOTE

This outlook should be used together with:

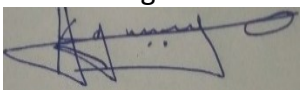
- 24-hour weather forecasts
- 7-day weather forecasts
- Monthly climate updates
- Seasonal climate outlooks
- Flood and heavy rainfall advisories
- Regular updates issued by the Kenya Meteorological Services Authority (KMSA)

KEY OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS

Rainfall performance is categorized as:

- 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 Marsabit Meteorological Office.



JOHN NGUYO
County Director for Meteorological Services