



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FORESTRY**  
**KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**  
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**Monthly Weather Forecast for Makueni County valid 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

**THE OUTLOOK FOR MAY 2024 AND REVIEW FOR APRIL, 2024 IN MAKUENI COUNTY**

**1. HIGHLIGHTS**

**1.1. The Forecast for May 2024**

May marks the cessation of the MAM “Long Rains” season over the county. Occasional rainfall is expected during the month. The outlook for May 2024 indicates that several parts of the county are likely to experience near-average to above-average rainfall. Occasional storms are also likely to be experienced.

**1.2. The Climate Outlook for May, June and July, 2024**

The forecast for the next three months indicates that the county is likely to experience rainfall in May 2024 and remain generally cool and cloudy with occasional light rains in June and July 2024.

Temperatures are expected to be warmer than normal in the entire county within the forecast period.

### **1.3. Rainfall Review for April 2024**

April marked the peak of the Long Rains (March-April-May) 2024 season over the county. The northern sub counties of the county experienced near to above average rainfall during the month while most of the southern sub counties experienced near-average to below average rainfall.

Generally the month was characterized by heavy rainfall events which triggered flooding in the flood prone areas.

Rainfall in the northern sub counties was fairly distributed both in time and space but the southern sub counties received rainfall that was poorly distributed both in time and space.

### **2.0. May 2024 Forecast**

The forecast for May 2024 indicates that the northern sub counties of the county are likely to receive above average rainfall during the month while the southern sub counties are forecast to experience near average to above average rainfall.

#### **2.1. Rainfall Forecast for May 2024**

The county is forecast to receive occasional rainfall during the month. The total amounts of rainfall are likely to be above normal in the northern sub counties but near to above average in the southern sub counties.

#### **2.2. POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

##### **2.2.1. Agriculture and Food Security.**

The expected rainfall is likely to be conducive for agricultural production, especially in the northern sub counties of the county where rainfall distribution both in time and space has been generally fair to good but not very conducive for the southern sub counties where rainfall distribution has been generally poor both in time and space.

Farmers are encouraged to continue liaising with agricultural extension officers to get advice on appropriate land use management and hence maximize their crop yields.

The forecasted near average to above average rainfall in the county is expected to continue improving the pasture and browse condition for the livestock in the county.

Livestock farmers are advised to conserve pasture and fodder as the rain season comes to an end to ensure their livestock have adequate feed to last till the next rainfall season.

##### **2.2.2. Disaster Management**

There is a likelihood of flooding in low-lying areas and riverine areas that are prone to flooding due to the above average rainfall forecasted in our northern sub counties and also in the neighboring counties where some of our rivers emanate.

Relevant authorities are therefore advised to put in place measures to avert possible negative impacts that may arise.

The County Government is advised to clear drainage in good time to avert artificial flooding in urban centers. It is also advised to continue monitoring the status of mostly all earth dams to check possibility of dam breaks and continuously issue water advisories to community members at risk.

The public is advised not to drive or walk through flooded rivers or moving waters including entering stagnant waters especially in the dams and water pans.

### **2.2.3. Water Resource Management and Energy**

The anticipated increase in rainfall is poised to improve water availability, benefiting both domestic and livestock needs.

To capitalize on this resource, the public is encouraged to adopt rain water harvesting and storage techniques.

However, this surge in rainfall may also bring about adverse effects, such as heightened siltation and sedimentation in rivers and dams, as well as the risk of flooding including river channel overflows, urban flooding and flash floods.

To address these challenges, authorities are advised to prioritize dam de-silting efforts and implement strategies for separating storm water and waste water channels.

These measures can help alleviate the impacts of flooding on communities.

As the seasonal rainfall gradually declines in arid and semi-arid areas, effective water management becomes imperative to sustain water resources for both human and animal populations beyond the season. Residents are therefore urged to embrace rain water harvesting to augment their water requirements.

### **2.2.4. Environment and Forestry**

The anticipated increase in rainfall in the county is poised to provide sufficient soil moisture, creating conducive environment for tree growth. Thus, active participation in tree growing initiatives, such the 15 B tree growing initiative, is strongly encouraged to further enhance the National Forest cover. However, it is also crucial to remain mindful of the potential environmental risks associated with excessive rainfall, particularly soil erosion.

To mitigate these risks and ensure environmental sustainability, the public is advised to adopt responsible agricultural practices. These include implementing soil conservation measures to protect against erosion and maintain soil health.

By taking proactive steps to safeguard the environment, community members can contribute to long-term resilience against the impacts of climate change while promoting the growth of healthy, thriving ecosystems.

### **2.2.5. Health**

The risk of water-borne diseases is anticipated particularly in the flood-prone areas of the county. Health authorities are advised to strategically position and re-distribute medical supplies in the affected areas.

Furthermore, public health education efforts focusing on disease prevention, as well as initiatives promoting Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), should be intensified to mitigate the spread of diseases among the vulnerable community members in the county.

### **2.2.6. Transport and Public Safety.**

Flash floods are likely to occur in some parts of the county due to its position in low lying regions. The anticipated floods pose a risk of causing structural damage to infrastructure such as roads, bridges and sub-standard facilities.

Consequently, transportation may be affected, with the possibility of loss of lives and property damage. It is crucial for the public to exercise caution while driving in rainy conditions and to refrain from crossing flooded roads to minimize the risk of accidents emanating from such adverse weather conditions.

***NB: This downscaled forecast should be used in conjunction with the weekly rainfall forecast generated for the county from the County Meteorological Office.***

***For further info.  
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