



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FORESTRY  
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT  
CDMS – MERU COUNTY**

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## **THE OUTLOOK FOR MAY 2024 AND RAINFALL REVIEW FOR APRIL 2024**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

**The Forecast for May 2024** May marks the cessation of the “Long Rains” season over several parts of the county except for the higher grounds sector of the county where rainfall continues into June. 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.

**The Climate Outlook for May, June and July, 2024** The forecast for the next three months indicates that Meru county is likely to experience rainfall in May and remain generally cool and cloudy with occasional light rains in June and July. Temperature is expected to be warmer than normal over the whole county during the forecast period with higher probabilities for warmer than average temperatures expected over the northern and eastern parts of the county.

**Rainfall Review** for April 2024 April marked the peak of the Long Rains (March-April-May) season over all most parts of county . Most parts of the country experienced near to above average rainfall during the month of April . The month was characterized by severe storms over most parts of the country. Meru meteorological station recorded 688.9mm during the month of April against the LTM of 248.0mm see figure 1

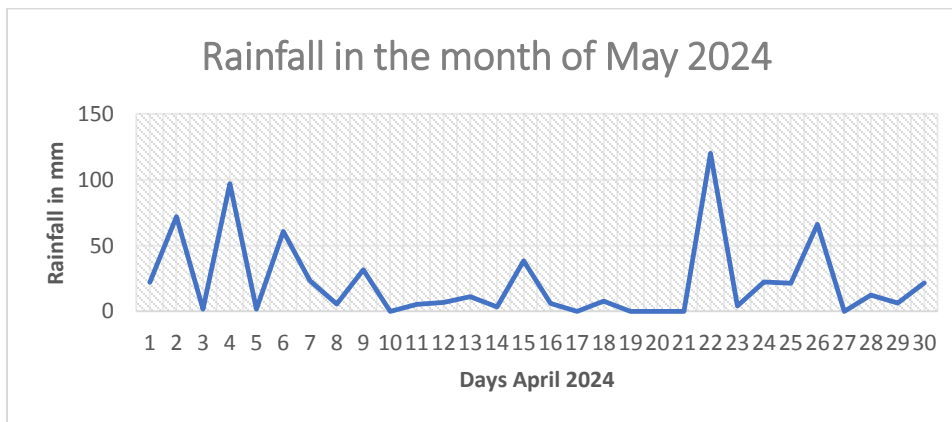


Figure 1: Temporal distribution of Rainfall in April at Meru County

**May 2024 Forecast** The rainfall forecast for May 2024 is based on regression of sea surface temperatures (SSTs), SST gradients, and the expected evolution of global SST patterns as well as upper air circulation patterns on Kenyan rainfall. Therefore Meru County is expected to receive above normal rainfall .The first week of May is expected to record higher amount and the intensity is expected to be higher in the higher grounds than in the lower zones. The cessation is expected to occur earlier in lower zone . The public are advised to use this forecast together with other forecast issued by KMD. See figure 2

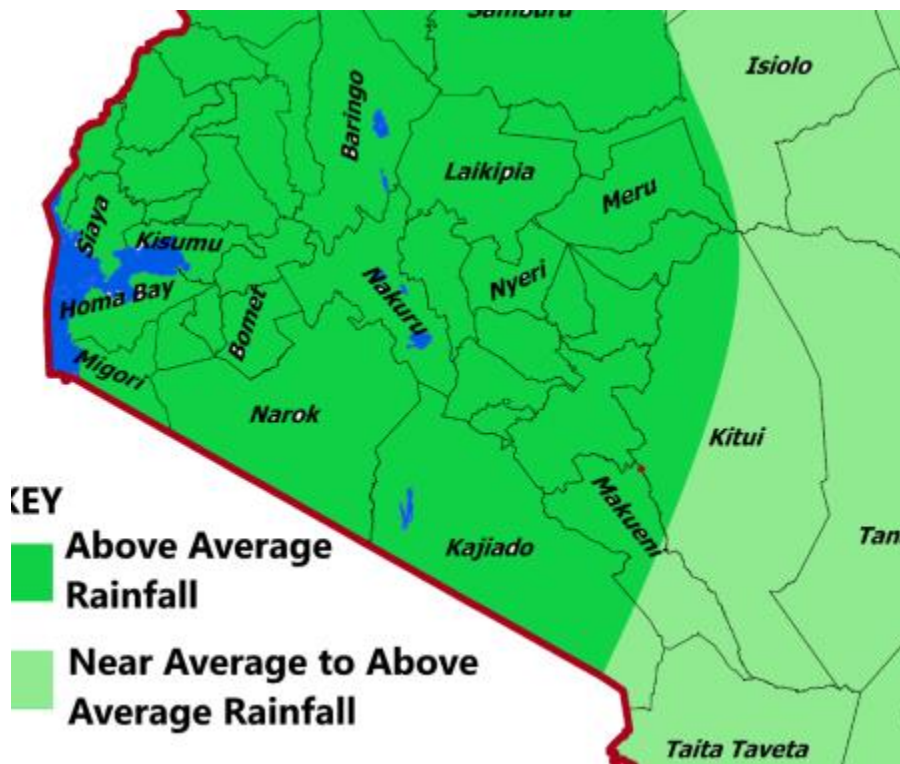


Figure 2 : May Forecast map

**Potential impacts agriculture and food security** The expected rainfall is likely to be conducive for agricultural production, especially in the high-potential parts of the county. Farmers in these areas are encouraged to continue liaising with agricultural extension officers to get advice on appropriate agronomical management and hence maximize their crop yields. The above average rainfall expected over the ASAL areas and lower parts of the county is expected to improve pasture and browse. However, pastoralists and relevant authorities are advised to conserve pasture as the season comes to an end to ensure their livestock have adequate feed to last till the next rainfall season.

**Disaster Management** There is a likelihood of flooding in low-lying areas and flood plains especially over the lower parts and in poorly drained urban centers where rainfall is expected. Relevant authorities are therefore advised to put in place measures to avert possible negative impacts that may arise. County Governments are also advised to clear drainages in good time to avert artificial flooding of the urban areas. The public are advised not to drive or walk through flooded rivers or moving waters. Cases of lightning strikes are still likely. The public are advised not to shelter near metallic structures or under trees to avoid the risk of lightning strikes, which could lead to loss of life.

**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 rainwater 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 desilting efforts and implement strategies for separating storm water and wastewater channels. These measures will help alleviate the impact of flooding on communities. Nonetheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that increased rainfall may lead to disruptions in power supply, posing socio-economic risks. Thus, there is a critical need to enhance power transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure reliable electricity supply. 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 urged to embrace rainwater harvesting to augment their water requirements.

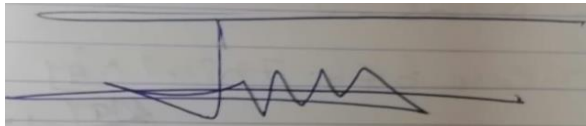
**Environment and Forestry** Available sufficient soil moisture, creating conducive environments for tree growth. Thus, active participation in tree maintaining initiatives, is strongly encouraged to further enhance the national forest cover. However, it is crucial to remain mindful of the potential 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, communities can contribute to long-term resilience against the impacts of climate change while promoting the growth of healthy, thriving ecosystems.

**Health The risk of vector-borne diseases**, notably Malaria, is anticipated, particularly in regions such as lower parts of the county. Additionally, flood-prone areas, particularly in the urban and

lower zones may experience outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Health authorities are advised to strategically position and redistribute medical supplies and insect-treated nets in the affected areas. Furthermore, public health education efforts focusing on disease prevention, as well as initiatives promoting Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), should be intensified to mitigate the spread of diseases among these vulnerable communities.

**Transport and Public Safety** Flash floods are expected to be a concern in various regions, including along the main .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 property damage and loss of lives. 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 resulting from such adverse weather conditions.

*NB: This outlook should be used with the 24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, special forecasts and regular updates/advisories issued by this Department. Weekly County forecasts are available from County Meteorological Offices.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Justin Murithi'.

Justin Murithi

**County Director of meteorological services -Meru**