



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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**Brief on the current weather conditions and the expected weather for the remainder of the seasonal rainfall (MAM).
15th April, 2019**

1.1 Current Weather Conditions

Generally dry conditions have persisted during March and part of April 2019. The start of the seasonal rains was delayed over most parts of the country and even in areas where rains came on time there have been prolonged dry spells. This coupled with the poor performance of the 2018 short rains season (October-November-December) has led to the current deterioration of food security particularly in the pastoral and marginal agriculture livelihood zones.

1.2 Updated forecast

The forecast update issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department on 18th March, 2019 indicated that delayed start of rainfall was expected in most parts of the country especially over the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Northwestern parts of the country. In most areas the onset of the rainy season was expected between the 4th week of March to the 1st week of April, while in the northern parts the onset of the rains was expected towards the second week of April. The month of April was expected to mark the peak of the rainfall season. However, below average rainfall was expected with poor distribution over most of the areas.

2.2 Rainfall performance up to mid of April, 2019

During the month of March 2019 most parts of the country were generally dry with high temperatures. However, some parts of Western Kenya, especially the Lake Victoria basin, received substantial amounts of rainfall during the first and last week of the month. Moderate to heavy rainfall was also recorded over some parts of Northeastern Kenya and the central Highlands towards the end of the month.

The rainfall received during the month of March constituted less than 50% of the long term mean for the same period in most places. Only few stations recorded significant

totals of over slightly 50 % of the long term mean for March including Kisii, Kisumu, Kericho, Meru, Thika, Kakamega and Kitale stations.

Most parts of the country continued to experience dry conditions during the first two weeks of April. Only few stations over the western parts of the country have reported rainfall however the amounts are not sufficient for agricultural activities.

3.0 Expected Weather for the Remainder of the Season

The forecast for the remainder of the season indicates that most of the country is expected to continue to be dry for the month of April 2019. The western part of the country is however expected to receive isolated rainfall over few places. The rainfall is expected to be characterised with long dry spell in between episodes and the amounts are still expected to be minimal. The month of May marks the end of seasonal rains over most areas apart from the western and coastal strip where the rains go into early June. The projection for the month of May indicates that most parts of the country will receive below average rainfall apart from the western areas of the country. However in early May, there are chances of isolated storms that may cause flush floods over low lying areas. Western and coastal strip may continue to experience isolated rainfall over few places up to the beginning of June.

4.0 Conclusion

Analysis of the rainfall received in various parts of the country up to mid April 2019 fall far below the long term average for the period. The projected below normal rainfall for the remainder of April and for the month of May, 2019 will not improve on the rainfall performance of the season. The months of June to August are normally dry over most of the country. However, Western parts of the country receive significant rains during the month of August.

Based on the current conditions and the projected weather conditions, dry conditions are expected to dominate most parts of the country leading to further deterioration of food security and water resources. Areas affected by the drought conditions will require interventions to support livelihoods. Conditions are expected to improve if the expected October to December short rains season perform well.



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