

Signal → State

Kenya's short rains:
the forecast is only the first decision

RECORD	KE-OND-2026-001
STATE	Decision window open
LAST REVIEWED	11 September 2026
REVISION	1.2

A source-linked record of what follows an authoritative climate signal: responsibility, finance, execution, public consequence and the evidence still absent.

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CURRENT DECISION BRIEF

The seven facts a reader should establish first.

ACTIVE SIGNAL

Kenya - October-December 2026 short rains

National and regional seasonal outlooks favour wetter-than-normal conditions across much of Kenya, with opportunity and flood-related risk.

LATEST REVIEW

Legal mandates and financing rules added

The forecast itself has not changed.

NEXT DECISION

Publish and finance dated preparedness measures

Operational horizon: before October onset; no common statutory deadline has been evidenced.

RESPONSIBLE NOW

Meteorological Service, Drought Authority, Treasury and counties

The functions are mapped; a named decision owner remains open evidence.

VERIFIED ACTION

Zero downstream preparedness actions

Three forecast publications are verified as evidence production.

EVIDENCE OPEN

Preparedness, finance, health and water

Submissions must be public, dated and source-verifiable.

FOLLOW OR CONTRIBUTE

RSS, low-data, WhatsApp and evidence submission

The public record changes only after review.

DECISION TRACE

Six tests from signal to public outcome.

A status records the maturity of evidence at each stage. It does not grade institutional performance.

T0 SIGNAL Verified Regional and national October-December outlooks are dated and source-linked.	T1 TRIGGER Open Evidence No formal or operational trigger tied to this outlook has entered the record.
T2 AUTHORITY Mapped Regional, national and county functions are mapped; named decision ownership remains to be evidenced.	T3 COMMITMENT Open Evidence No forecast-linked appropriation, procurement or operational instruction has entered the record.
T4 EXECUTION Open Evidence No downstream preparedness or service action has entered the record.	T5 OUTCOME Not Yet Assessable The seasonal decision window precedes the outcome period.

TO - SIGNAL

What authoritative information was issued?

Publication date and forecast validity are kept separate. A weekly forecast is not treated as a seasonal conclusion.

REGIONAL SEASONAL	ICPAC - GHACOF 74 Issued 18 August; valid October-December 2026	Wetter-than-normal conditions are favoured across much of the equatorial and southern Greater Horn, including Kenya.
NATIONAL SEASONAL	Kenya Meteorological Department Issued 31 August; valid October-December 2026	Above-average rainfall is expected across most counties, with heavy-rainfall risk and opportunities for recharge, pasture and production.
REGIONAL WEEKLY	ICPAC weekly forecast Valid 8-15 September 2026	Light rainfall in central-western and coastal Kenya; parts of eastern Kenya are within an extreme-caution heat-stress area.
NATIONAL DAILY	Kenya Meteorological Department Published 9 September; valid 10 September 2026	Retained as the shortest forecast horizon for immediate conditions, not as a seasonal conclusion.

SCOPE RULE

This is a Kenyan decision record. Greater Horn forecasts enter only when they materially inform the Kenyan outlook or a cross-border consequence.

T2 - AUTHORITY

Responsibility is distributed, but it is not indeterminate.

Forecast ownership, readiness, public finance and local execution are separate functions.

REGIONAL EVIDENCE	ICPAC and IGAD systems Issue regional outlooks and update cross-border forecast guidance.	GHACOF 74 technical statement
NATIONAL EVIDENCE	Kenya Meteorological Service Authority Provide and regulate meteorological services.	Meteorology Act, 2026
DROUGHT READINESS	National Drought Management Authority Operate drought early warning and facilitate contingency processes.	NDMA Act, section 5
PUBLIC FINANCE	National Treasury and county treasuries Connect risk information to contingency finance, budgets and reporting.	Disaster Risk Financing Strategy 2026-2030
COUNTY EXECUTION	County health, water, roads, livestock and preparedness functions Translate evidence into local priorities, service continuity and documented action.	Constitution, Fourth Schedule

OPEN ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

The record does not yet contain a named decision owner, dated readiness instruction or published intergovernmental action plan tied to the outlook.

T3 - COMMITMENT

Has authority become funded or operational?

The enabling framework is separated from evidence that money has moved for this signal.

MAPPED Enabling framework Kenya's Disaster Risk Financing Strategy 2026-2030 establishes a risk-layering and pre-arranged-finance direction. It is not proof of a release for this signal.	OPEN EVIDENCE Appropriation No forecast-linked allocation or contingency release has entered the record.
OPEN EVIDENCE Procurement No tender, purchase order or mobilisation tied to this signal has entered the record.	OPEN EVIDENCE Delivery No dated delivery or field-execution evidence tied to this signal has entered the record.

NEXT CONSEQUENTIAL DECISION

Publish and finance dated preparedness measures before forecast onset windows begin.

For Garissa, Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit and Isiolo, KMD places expected onset in the second to third week of October. No common statutory deadline has been evidenced.

T4 - EXECUTION

What action has been verified?

Forecast publication is evidence production. It is not relabelled as preparedness or delivery.

DATE	RECORD	ACTOR	STAGE	STATUS
18 Aug	Regional OND outlook published	ICPAC	Evidence	Verified
31 Aug	Kenya OND outlook published	KMD	Evidence	Verified
9 Sep	Daily forecast valid 10 September	KMD	Evidence	Verified
Open	Dated preparedness measure	Counties / national sectors	Commitment	No evidence entered
Open	Forecast-linked finance or procurement	Finance authorities	Commitment	No evidence entered
Open	Health or water readiness action	Health / water authorities	Execution	No evidence entered

EVIDENCE STILL OPEN

- Preparedness: a dated plan or public instruction linked to the outlook.
- Finance: an appropriation, contingency release or procurement tied to the signal.
- Delivery: dated proof of field action in health, water, drainage, roads, livestock or a related system.

Absence rule

No evidence in this file is not proof that no action occurred. It is a bounded statement about the reviewed public record.

PUBLICATION HISTORY AND SOURCES

Previous editions and principal sources

v1.2	11 September 2026	Added primary legal and policy sources, specified the next operational horizon, and introduced the public catalogue and open record specification.
v1.1	10 September 2026	Added the immediate weekly horizon and the six-stage Decision Trace. A complete preserved snapshot is available online.
v1.0	9 September 2026	Opened the record. A change note survives; a complete opening snapshot was not retained.

PRIMARY SOURCES

- ICPAC GHACOF 74 technical statement
- KMD October-December 2026 seasonal outlook
- ICPAC weekly forecast, 8-15 September 2026
- Meteorology Act, 2026
- National Drought Management Authority Act, section 5
- Kenya Disaster Risk Financing Strategy 2026-2030
- Constitution of Kenya, Fourth Schedule

CITATION

Ahmed Nadhir Omar, 'Kenya's short rains: the forecast is only the first decision', Signal to State, KE-OND-2026-001, revision 1.2, reviewed 11 September 2026.

[Open the canonical record](#)