



Kenya Crop Conditions Bulletin

April 2023

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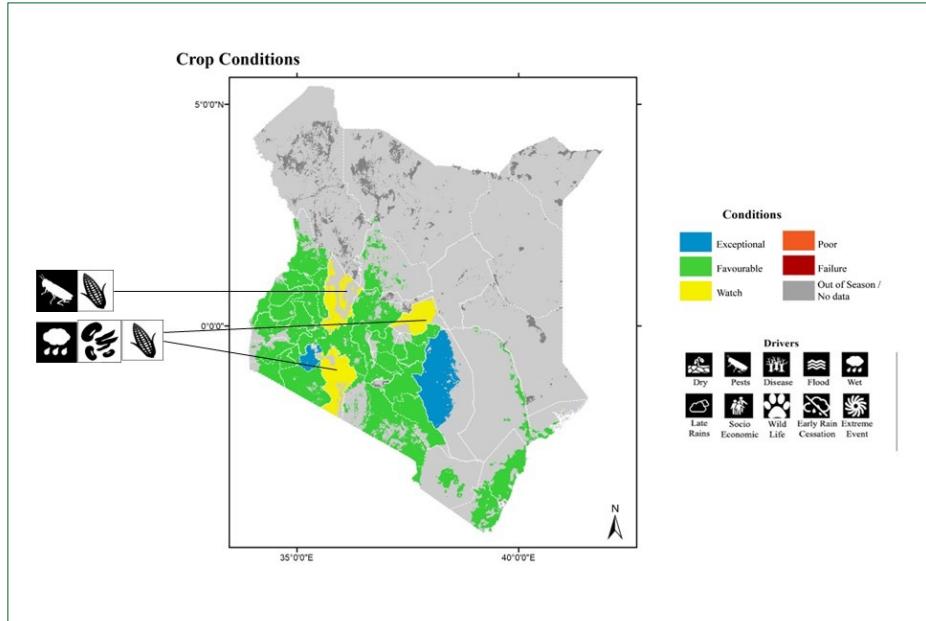
National Synthesis

Overview

- Crop conditions are favourable across the country for maize, wheat, rice and beans due to rains received in April. Kitui reported exceptional crop performance for all crops
- Weeding and topdressing were the main activities with counties in North rift reporting planting as rains were received in April
- Wheat is in early vegetative stages in Narok and Nakuru while in north rift it is expected to begin in May/ June.
- General crop performance is good due to the adequate rains received in most areas. Leaching reported in low lying areas in Meru and FAW in Baringo putting the counties under watch condition
- Good harvests expected in most counties as per current crop condition

In the Bulletin

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| National Synthesis | 1 | Assessment by Crop | 9 | Terms & Definitions | 14 |
| Assessment by Region .. | 3 | Climate outlook | 13 | Partnership | 14 |



Regional crop conditions March 2023

Map showing regional crop conditions information in Kenya for March 2023 for maize, beans, wheat, green grams, cowpeas, rice and sorghum. The crop monitor map is based on a combination of several variables including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national and regional experts. Crops with conditions that are other than favourable are labelled on the map with the driver for the resultant condition. The situation in some areas in the country are under watch due to lack of rains as a result of delayed onset or dry spell in the season.



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OUTLOOK (Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)/State Department for Crops Development (SDCD))

The forecast indicates that several parts of the country are likely to experience near average rainfall. However, the Lake Victoria Basin region, parts of the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Coastal region, parts of northeast and isolated areas over Southeastern lowlands are likely to experience near average to slightly above average rainfall.





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Assessment by Region

North Rift Region

Generally, the main activities were planting at between 80-98% across the counties in the region. In Trans Nzoia, West pokot, Uasin Gishu there was prolonged dry period in the month of April which led to poor germination of maize in some parts of Kwanza and Endebess Sub counties and delayed planting of maize in Cherangani Subcounty due to the dry spell. There was also increased infestation of the Fall armyworm in Trans Nzoia. Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Samburu and Baringo counties reported timely onset. Beans were still being planted in the region and Elgeyo Marakwet reported planting and 1st Earthing up for Ealy planted potatoes. Wheat was yet to be planted as most of the planting is done in May and June. General condition of the germinated crop is good across the region and the outlook for the expected production is good. Due to the good rains being received the targets are high for this year especially for maize and given the high prices received by farmers for last years crop. In Baringo 98 percent of the land had been planted and germinated and farmers were still planting due to a shortage of ploughing tractors. Unprecedented outbreak of FAW has been reported across all the Sub Counties and they are devastating



Reported FAW in Baringo Central

Table 1: North Rift Region Maize Production

| County | Target Area (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Baringo | 46,660 | 1,166,500 | 37,614 | 712,350 | 46 | 911 | 46,706 | 1,050,761 |
| Elgeyo Marakwet | 3,200 | 1,433,600 | 30,970 | 3,153,013 | 131 | 2,695 | 32,131 | 1,010,696 |
| Laikipia | 29,000 | 1,087,500 | 22,031 | 382,938 | 3,303 | 26,424 | 32,303 | 1,005,174 |
| Nandi | 67,500 | 2,040,625 | 63,103 | 2,008,469 | 5,632 | 95,852 | 73,132 | 1,932,414 |
| Samburu | 28,000 | 28,000 | 7,185 | 70,918 | 7,185 | 70,918 | 23,100 | 83 |
| Trans-nzoia | 107,000 | 5,600,000 | 102,896 | 4,794,879 | 0 | 0 | 107,000 | 4,333,500 |
| Turkana | 3,500 | 40,000 | 3,948 | 38,022 | 1,245 | 15,331 | 3,675 | 18,841 |
| Uasin gishu | 106,600 | 5,010,482 | 103,588 | 4,235,958 | 0 | 0 | 106,606 | 4,317,543 |
| West pokot | 50,950 | 1,273,750 | 30,532 | 728,511 | 0 | 0 | 50,950 | 1,146,375 |
| Total | 471,216 | 17,932,457 | 401,867 | 16,125,058 | 17,542 | 212,130 | 475,603 | 14,815,386 |



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South Rift Region

The onset of the rains in the region was in mid-march and the conditions were favourable for planting of all crops. In the review period planting was on average 60% with some counties in the region reporting first weeding. Kajiado reported 60% of area has been planted and planting is still ongoing during the month. In Bomet planting is at 70%, with most farmers in lower parts of the county plant during the OND season to avoid waterlogging during the MAM Season. In Narok the crops are at planting to early vegetative with watch conditions on beans due to the wet conditions after resumption of rains. Wheat and potatoes are at early vegetative stages in the county of Narok with conditions being favourable. In Kericho, planting and weeding was ongoing and the conditions are favourable and average yields are expected. Maize is at knee high in Nakuru County with increased acreage due to readily availed GOK subsidized fertilizers coupled with the heavy rainfall witnessed in different parts of the county. The prospects in the county of Nakuru is a good harvest in both upper and lower altitude zones. Beans in the county are at four true leaves to flowering and good harvest are expected due to favourable weather. For wheat in the county, the crop is at early vegetative stages and doing well and good yields are expected. Irish potatoes are performing very well due to the rains and is in various developmental stages a lot of activities revolving around control of insect pests and diseases.



Maize crop situation in Ndabibi (Maiella ward) Bean pure stand at
Kapkures Nakuru West Sub County

Wheat in Bahati Subcounty

Table 2: South Rift Region Maize Production

| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bomet | 30,000 | 459,645 | 25,951 | 495,001 | 7,281 | 137,470 | 37,281 | 597,115 |
| Kajiado | 6,913 | 124,434 | 6,780 | 71,895 | 9,831 | 129,778 | 16,744 | 254,212 |
| Kericho | 42,000 | 1,323,000 | 35,397 | 1,138,504 | 0 | 0 | 42,000 | 1,323,000 |
| Nakuru | 90,450 | 3,256,200 | 80,374 | 2,242,768 | 839 | 14,267 | 91,289 | 3,270,467 |
| Narok | 90,000 | 1,215,000 | 83,159 | 1,839,387 | 21,990 | 329,850 | 111,990 | 1,544,850 |
| Total | 259,363 | 6,378,279 | 231,661 | 5,787,555 | 39,941 | 611,365 | 299,304 | 6,989,644 |



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Central Region

The crops in Kiambu and Muranga were from planting to early vegetative stages with conditions being favourable. In Murang'a the major activities going on currently were weeding, gapping, top dressing and pests and disease control in maize which is at 6 leaves to knee high. There was delay in application of basal fertilizer by many farmers because Murang'a depots received government subsidized fertilizer when most farmers had planted and the crop germinated. Yellowing of maize crop due to leaching is seen to about 40% of land under maize and is being addressed through top dressing. In Nyandarua planting and early weeding of the maize crop while for potatoes planting and 1st earthing up was being done. For wheat it was land preparation and field sanitation ongoing in preparation for planting, while planting and weeding for beans was ongoing. In Nyeri rains started during the month of march and most crops are from germination to early vegetative stages including wheat which is grown in Kieni. The Irish potatoes in the county of Nyeri ,25% early planted crop at vegetative to flowering and generally in the county the prospects for all crops are good due to the god rains received in the month. In Kirinyaga, rice is planted in about 40% of the land during the long rains as compared to the short rains which is the main rice production season and the crop is at planting to early vegetative stages and is in good condition.



Maize and bean crop intercropped, Mathioya Sub County



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Maize and cowpea intercrop,
Maragua Sub County



Maize and bean crop intercropped, Gatanga Sub County

Table 3: Central Region Maize Production

| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Kiambu | 13,900 | 250,200 | 20,075 | 309,740 | 10,204 | 88,933 | 24,104 | 339,133 |
| Kirinyaga | 20,371 | 270,162 | 17,809 | 245,692 | 14,348 | 95,629 | 34,719 | 365,791 |
| Muranga | 35,715 | 803,588 | 34,709 | 379,016 | 31,001 | 248,008 | 66,716 | 1,051,596 |
| Nyandarua | 19,000 | 495,900 | 17,212 | 288,128 | 7,350 | 107,000 | 26,350 | 602,900 |
| Nyeri | 16,000 | 230,400 | 16,720 | 232,266 | 13,199 | 78,783 | 29,199 | 309,183 |
| Total | 104,986 | 2,050,250 | 106,525 | 1,454,842 | 76,102 | 618,353 | 181,088 | 2,668,602 |

Lower Eastern Region

Makueni and Machakos received rains in mid-march and Kitui received rains towards the end of the month. Crop conditions in the region are favourable with Kitui reporting exceptional performance. Generally maize was at vegetative stage with early planted having 4-6 leaves and late planted 3-4 leaves in the three counties and beans reported to be at flowering stage. Pigeon peas in Makueni and parts of Kitui and Machakos had been experiencing moisture stress but after resumption of the rains, the crop has rejuvenated and, in some areas, there is harvesting (green) for short duration crop variety is taking place. Cowpeas which are grown for grain and leaves improved the vegetable supply to households and are in plenty. Expected harvests in the region are good for all crops as rains have been adequate with exception of the hill masses where water logging for beans was reported.



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Late maize crop



Greengrams



Maize/beans intercrop

Table 4: Lower Eastern Region Maize Production

| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kitui | 44,352 | 152,878 | 31,095 | 140,873 | 45,694 | 365,552 | 90,046 | 518,430 |
| Machakos | 106,299 | 835,529 | 78,064 | 537,106 | 67,378 | 606,402 | 173,677 | 1,441,931 |
| Makueni | 60,000 | 540,000 | 68,864 | 294,211 | 65,400 | 523,200 | 125,400 | 1,063,200 |
| Total | 210,651 | 1,528,407 | 178,023 | 972,190 | 178,472 | 1,495,154 | 389,123 | 3,023,561 |

Upper Eastern Region

In Meru County the month of April has been relatively wet with several rainy days over the county. This has led to good performance of crops. In low lying areas however there has been a lot of leaching leading to stunting of maize/sorghum and yellowing of beans. The leaching has been compounded with low fertilizer use due to high cost hence stunted crops. Parts of Imenti and Tigania sub counties are ones experiencing very poor crop performance despite the very good rains due to the excessive rains. In Embu, the rains have been uniform and reliable in the whole county and planting was completed of the targeted area. High cost of fertilizer led farmers to reduce the acreage under maize and plant more legumes that do not require a lot of fertilizer. Maize is at 7-8 leaves stage while beans, cowpeas and greengrams are from vegetative to flowering stages. As per the crop at current stage, good production will be expected all factors remaining constant. In Tharaka Nithi, April was a wet month in all Ecological zones favouring crop development. Crop condition in the field is favourable with no major pest incidences. Maize on average is beyond knee high, beans and green grams at flowering stage. Sorghum and millets at booting stage. Wheat production in Meru has been influenced by socio economic factors especially high cost of seed and fertilizer. Short rain is the main season for wheat in Meru. This season (LR) the crop is mainly grown by large scale farmers who practice conservation agriculture.

The crop conditions were favourable due to the adequate rains in the region. The north eastern region acreages under crop usually very low and easily achieved.



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Table 5: Upper Eastern Region Maize Production

| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Embu | 16,950 | 83,639 | 17,595 | 231,734 | 17,835 | 142,680 | 34,785 | 226,319 |
| Garissa | 79 | 79 | 344 | 674 | 59 | 472 | 138 | 1,352 |
| Mandera | 1,600 | 1,600 | 10,644 | 7,473 | 400 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 11,585 |
| Marsabit | 240 | 240 | 233 | 1,485 | 800 | 4,000 | 1,040 | 6,160 |
| Meru | 45,800 | 45,800 | 26,335 | 332,609 | 49,672 | 525,102 | 95,472 | 768,102 |
| Tharaka Nithi | 17,720 | 17,720 | 11,259 | 142,047 | 12,855 | 79,468 | 30,575 | 97,918 |
| Wajir | 30 | 30 | 189 | 3,097 | 210 | 3,989 | 240 | 4,081 |
| Total | 82,419 | 357,806 | 66,599 | 719,119 | 81,831 | 757,711 | 164,250 | 1,115,517 |

Coast Region

The rainfall distribution in some counties in the region has been poor. In Taita Taveta a few pockets of the county received some rains last week of March and for the rest of the county the rains started last week of April. The crop is doing well for the areas that received rainfall earlier. The crops are at early vegetative stage and while other farmers are still planting where rains were received late. The crop condition is generally and based on the prevailing conditions over 80% yield will be realized. For rice the crop is at early vegetative stage and all is planted in irrigation schemes in Taveta subcounty. In Kwale and Kilifi, the month of April has been characterized by rainfall well distributed in the County. Land preparation and planting was in progress. Maize, greengrams and cowpeas are at planting to early vegetative stages with exception of sorghum which is planted in Kinango Sub County where planting is in progress. For rice in Matuga, Msambweni and Lungalunga Sub counties, the crop has been planted. In Tana River, the whole County have experienced some rains though they were erratic and the distribution was generally poor as heavy rains were experienced for a very short time the maize is at early vegetative and planting stages in most farms after the rains received. Planting is still going on in the rain fed areas but in the major and minor Irrigation Schemes crop is at early Vegetative stage. There were no reported cases of any pest attack.

Table 6: Coast Region Maize Production

| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kilifi | 67,689 | 7,686 | 60,647 | 578,820 | 11,852 | 85,027 | 79,541 | 92,712 |
| Kwale | 39,188 | 440,865 | 55,847 | 533,606 | 21,117 | 168,936 | 60,305 | 609,801 |
| Lamu | 41,800 | 564,300 | 19,097 | 314,417 | 5,362 | 63,411 | 47,162 | 647,711 |
| Mombasa | 645 | 3,483 | 584 | 4,835 | 4 | 20 | 649 | 3,503 |
| Taita Taveta | 6,500 | 70,200 | 8,061 | 87,553 | 8,300 | 66,400 | 14,800 | 136,600 |
| Tana River | 7,700 | 117,396 | 3,026 | 42,839 | 1,922 | 17,933 | 9,622 | 135,329 |
| Total | 163,522 | 1,203,930 | 147,262 | 1,562,070 | 48,557 | 421,727 | 212,079 | 1,625,657 |



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Nyanza Region

The region received good rains from the second week of March; however, in Homabay County, the onset of rainfall was delayed. In Kisumu, the long rains season performance has been promising with above average distribution in time and space. So far over 85% of the households have planted. Most of the households in the upper parts (the whole of Kisumu west, upper Nyakach, upper parts of Kisumu east, Seme and Muhoroni) of the county have planted approximately 95% whereas the lower parts (Lower Nyakach, lower parts of Kisumu East, Muhoroni and Seme) have so far planted slightly above 75% of their target. The maize crop is from planting to knee-high while beans are at planting to flowering stages. Sorghum is at planting to knee high with the upper parts of the county achieving approximately 80% whereas the lower parts have achieved 95%. For rice, preparation for long rains crop have started in some schemes whereas the crop on the paddy fields are for short rains' season the crop is at grain formation and harvesting. In Homabay, maize is between 2nd weeding and tasselling and the crop is in good condition though there has been high incidence of Fall Army Worm despite the ongoing rains. Bean crop is between vegetative growth and podding while sorghum is at vegetative stages to booting. General prospects are a good crop this season. Beans were at flowering stages In Nyamira and Kisii, beans are almost at the reproductive stage and in good condition, while maize is from the early vegetative stage and in good condition. In Migori, maize is generally above knee high. Some green maize appeared in the market in the last week of the reporting month. In Siaya, all crops in Siaya are at planting or early vegetative stages and in favourable condition.



Pure Beans stand in Bonchari



Maize crop in Bonchari Borabu

Table 7: Nyanza Region Maize Production

| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Homabay | 40,930 | 699,903 | 43,652 | 714,294 | 29,502 | 370,648 | 70,432 | 1,070,551 |
| Kisii | 34,500 | 745,200 | 29,507 | 491,183 | 34,752 | 726,543 | 69,252 | 1,471,743 |
| Kisumu | 48,500 | 1,080,000 | 45,448 | 890,672 | 11,280 | 128,111 | 59,780 | 1,208,111 |
| Migori | 73,700 | 1,619,100 | 46,817 | 748,062 | 35,490 | 418,469 | 109,190 | 2,037,569 |
| Nyamira | 25,000 | 421,200 | 37,801 | 867,098 | 26,456 | 411,406 | 51,456 | 832,606 |
| Siaya | 50,120 | 902,160 | 24,458 | 446,923 | 21,325 | 170,600 | 71,445 | 1,072,760 |
| Total | 272,750 | 5,467,563 | 277,683 | 4,158,232 | 158,805 | 2,225,777 | 431,555 | 7,693,340 |



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Western Region

Most areas in the western region, planting is almost complete at 95% - 98 % except in very few farms, most maize fields are at first weeding to knee height and top dressing. The crops are doing well, the few incidences of AAF that were reported were controlled. Beans are at early vegetative to flowering stages and performance is good. Busia, over 98% of the land has been planted, major activities in maize and sorghum crop fields are at weeding and top dressing and most beans fields are in vegetative to reproductive stage. Vihiga county witnessed hailstones, but they are unlikely to have an impact on production. Average yields expected in the county if the situation remains the same.

Table 8: Western Region Maize Production

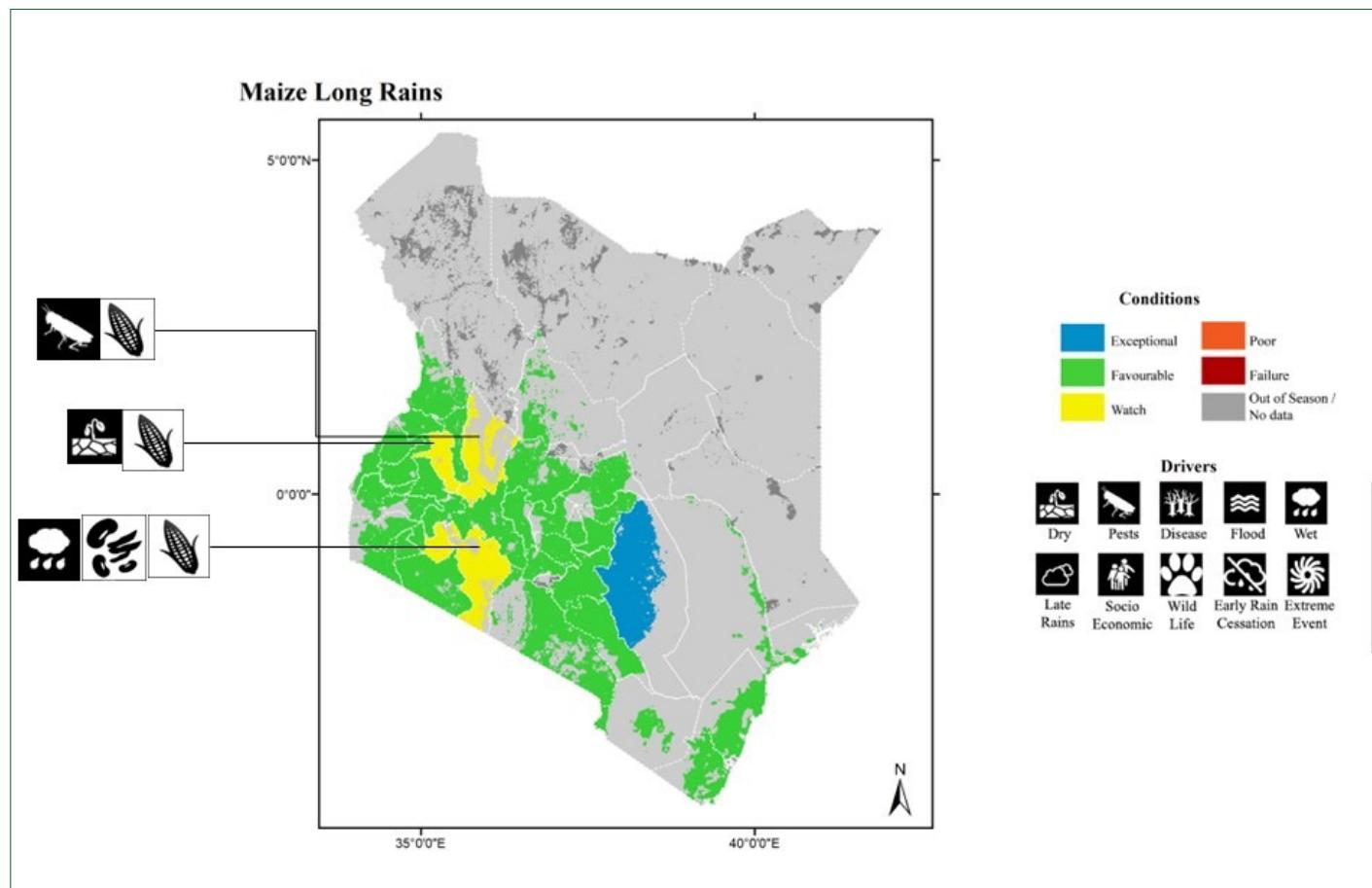
| County | Target Are (Ha) LR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) LR 2023 | LTA Achieved Area (Ha) LR | LTA Achieved Production LR | Target Area (Ha) SR 2023 | Target Quantity (Bags) SR | Target Annual Area (Ha) 2023 | Target Annual Quantity (Bags) 2023 |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Bungoma | 82,629 | 1,949,189 | 2,944 | 55,922 | 85,573 | 2,005,111 | | |
| Busia | 35,000 | 567,000 | 9,795 | 134,756 | 44,795 | 701,756 | | |
| Kakamega | 78,500 | 2,260,800 | 16,010 | 245,708 | 94,510 | 2,506,508 | | |
| Vihiga | 20,000 | 441,000 | 10 | 132,000 | 30,080 | 573,000 | | |
| Total | 216,129 | 5,217,989 | 38,829 | 568,386 | 254,958 | 5,786,375 | | |



Assessment by Crop

Maize Conditions Long Rains Summary

Maize conditions are favourable in whole country where the crop is from planting in some areas where rains were received in April to early vegetative stage to tasselling in pockets in Nyanza. Main activities for the crop were weeding and topdressing which was critical for areas where planting fertilizer was not available in good time. Conditions are under watch in Narok and Bomet due to excessive rains while in Uasin Gishu it was due to extended dry conditions. Samburu and Kitui where conditions were under watch in March due erratic rains and in coast where the onset was not fully realised have since improved after resumption of rains. Migori reported some green maize being consumed from the early crop. In Baringo 98 percent of the land had been planted and germinated and farmers were still planting due to a shortage of ploughing tractors. Unprecedented outbreak of FAW has been reported across all the Sub Counties and they are devastating. Based on the current conditions the outlook is good for the crop due to the good rains being received and the reported good crop performance.





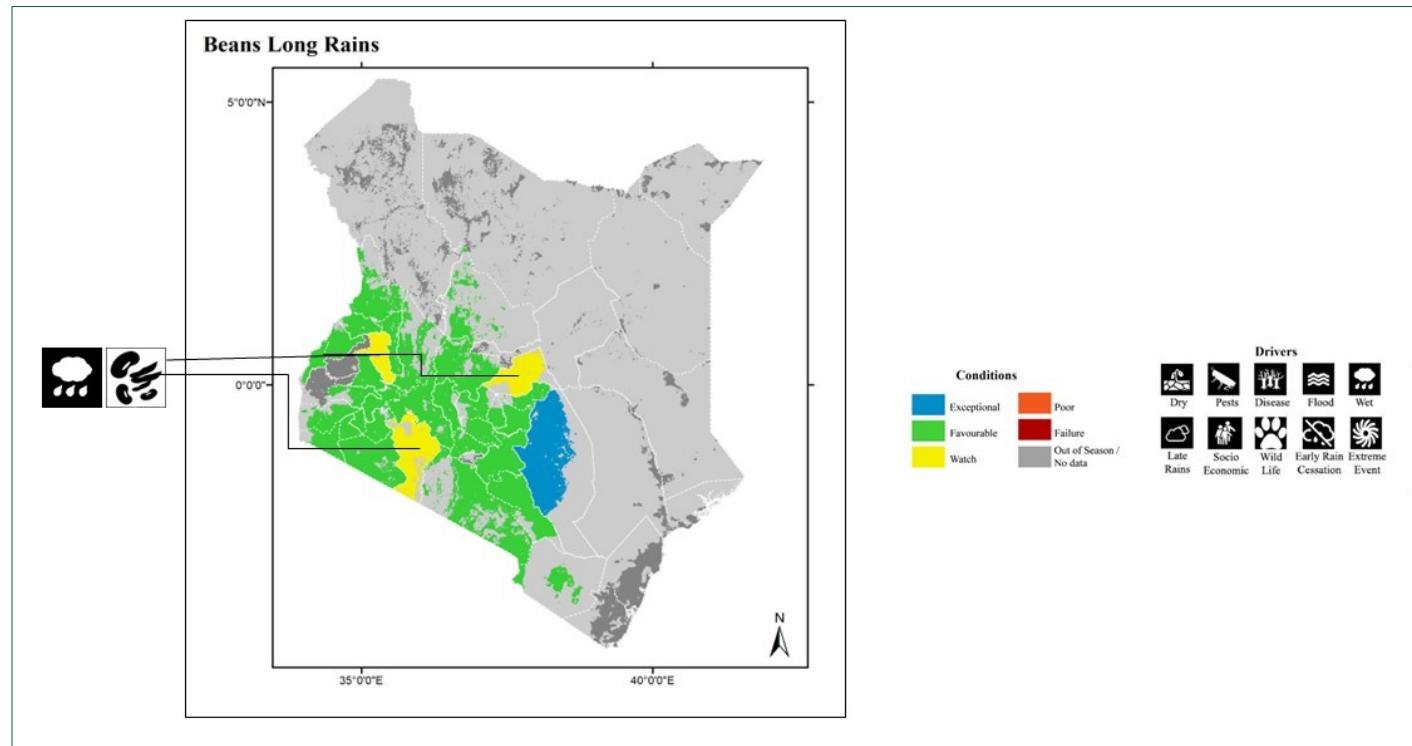
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Bean Conditions Long Rains

Beans conditions are favourable in the whole country where the crop is from early vegetative stage to flowering with a few counties reporting initiation of podding. Conditions are under watch in Narok, Samburu where the rains are erratic whereas in coast and Kitui where the onset is not fully realised.

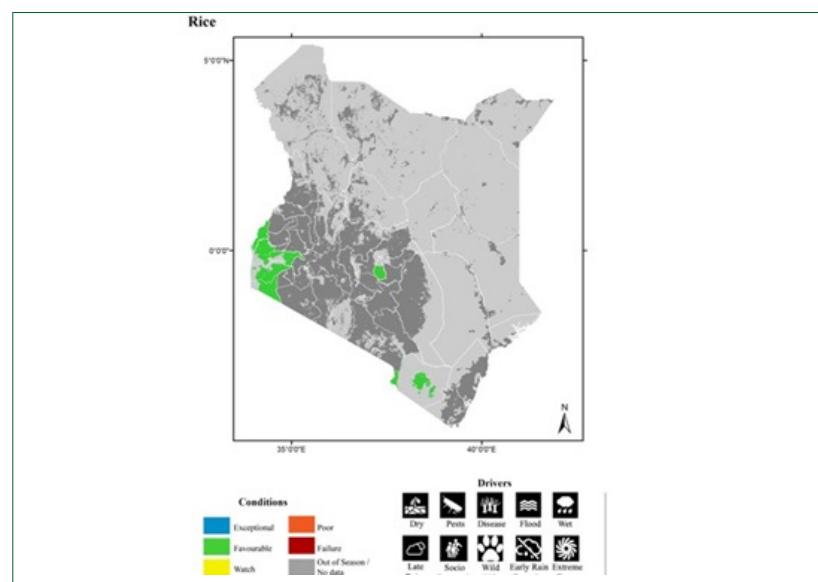
Based on the current conditions the outlook is good for the crop due to the good rains being received and the reported good germination especially if the dry planted crop where it was over 95%.



Rice Conditions Long Rains

In rice growing areas the crop is in good condition as it grown under irrigation. In Kisumu preparation for long rains crop have started in some schemes whereas the crop on the paddy fields is for short rains' season. The crops were at stages grain formation, and harvesting. However, most of the short rains' season crops have been harvested Normal production expected. Rice in Taita Taveta is doing well and is in good condition and 95% of the targeted yield will be realized. Kirinyaga crop at this period is 40% during the long rains with main crop being planted in July to be harvested in November December.

The crop is in good condition



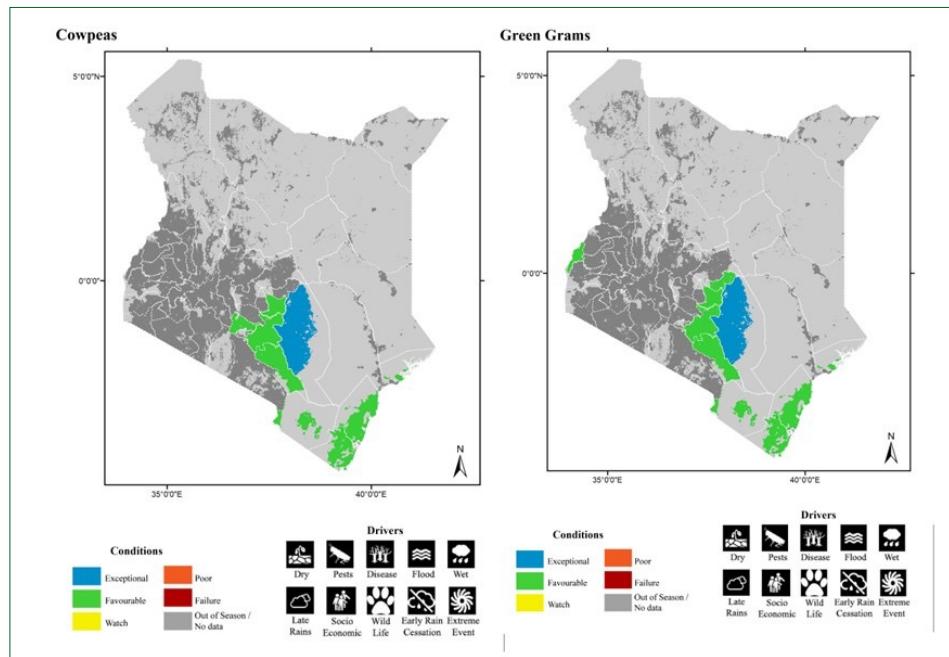


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Cowpeas and Greengrams Conditions Long rains

The main growing areas of these crops for grain are in Upper and Lower Eastern and to a lesser extent Coast. In other parts of the country, cowpeas are grown for leaves. In the main growing areas, the crop is from at late vegetative to reproductive stages and was being eaten green. Performance was good across all reporting counties. Kitui reported exceptional performance due to the good rains this season.



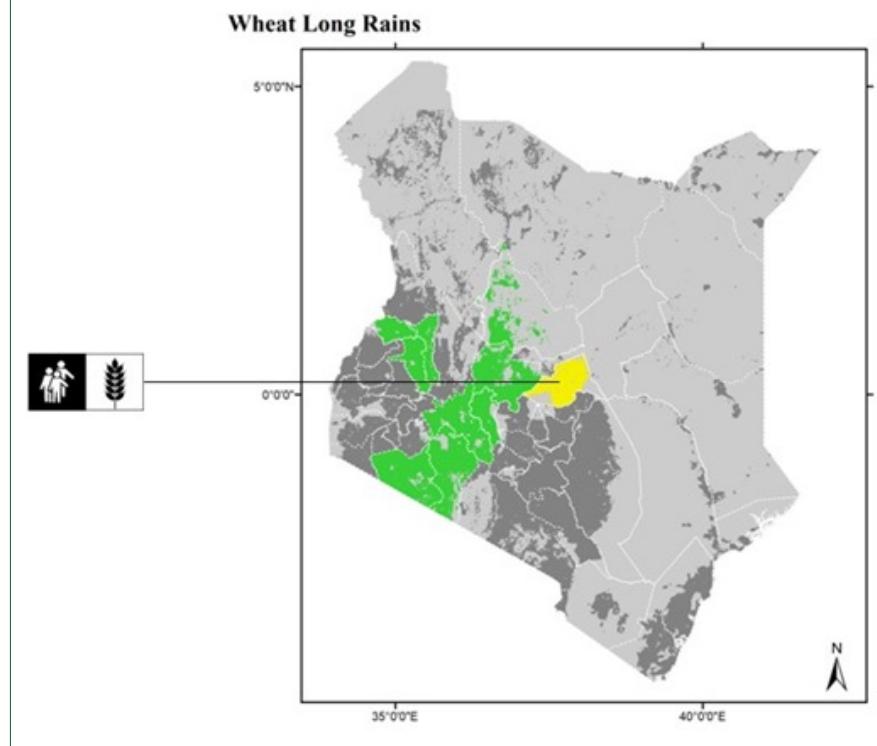
Wheat Conditions Long Rains

Wheat is mainly grown in Narok, Meru, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia, Laikipia, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nyandarua counties. Wheat is at early vegetative stage in Narok and Nakuru and in the northern rift counties are at land preparation and minimal planting stages. Planting in North rift is mainly May to June.



Wheat Crop at Bahati Subcounty

Wheat Long Rains





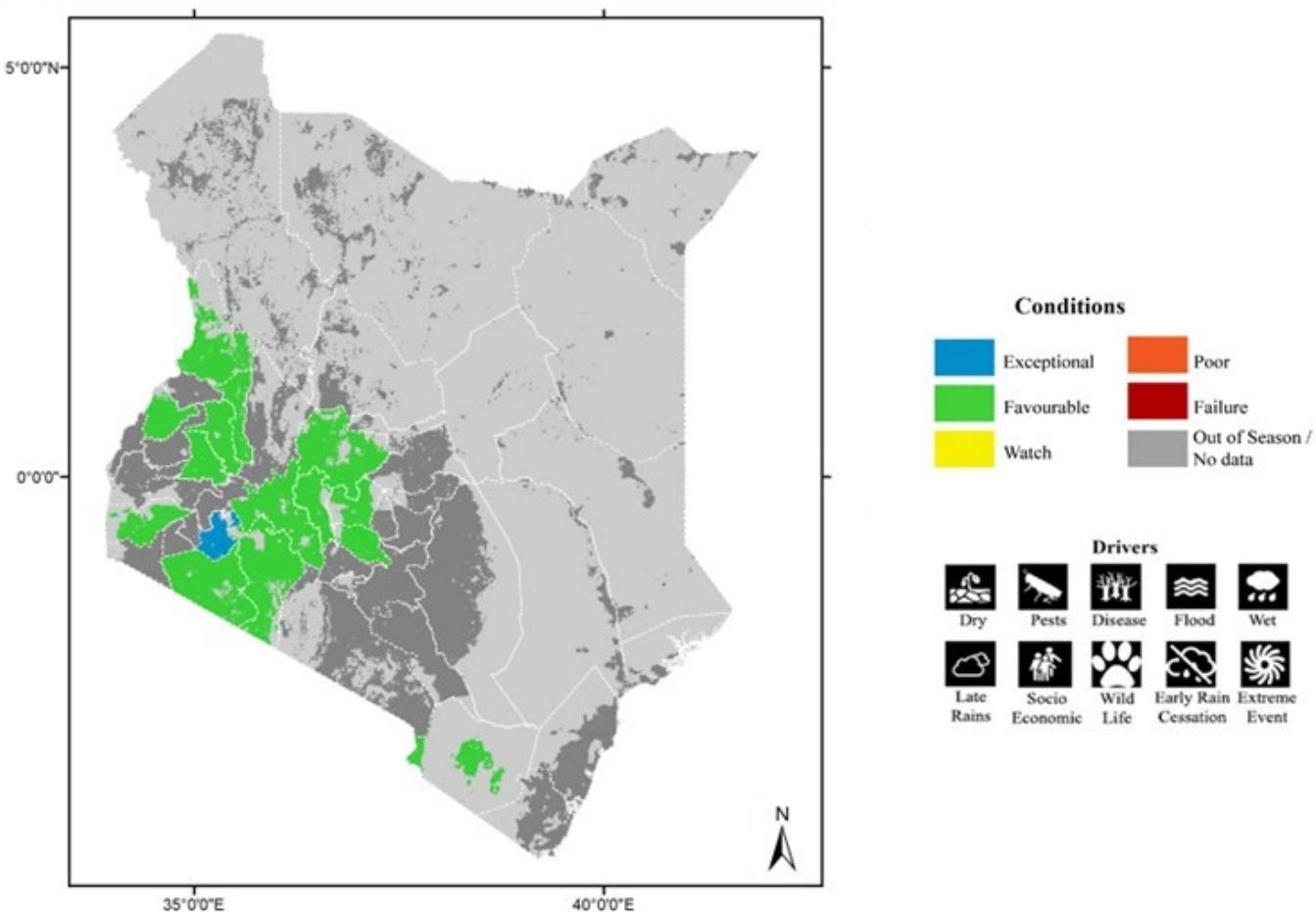
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Irish Potatoes

Irish potatoes are sprouting to early vegetative stages in all potato growing regions. Main activities are from weeding to first earthing up. The crop is in good condition. The current rains continuing will ensure a good yield.

Irish Potato





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Climate Outlook

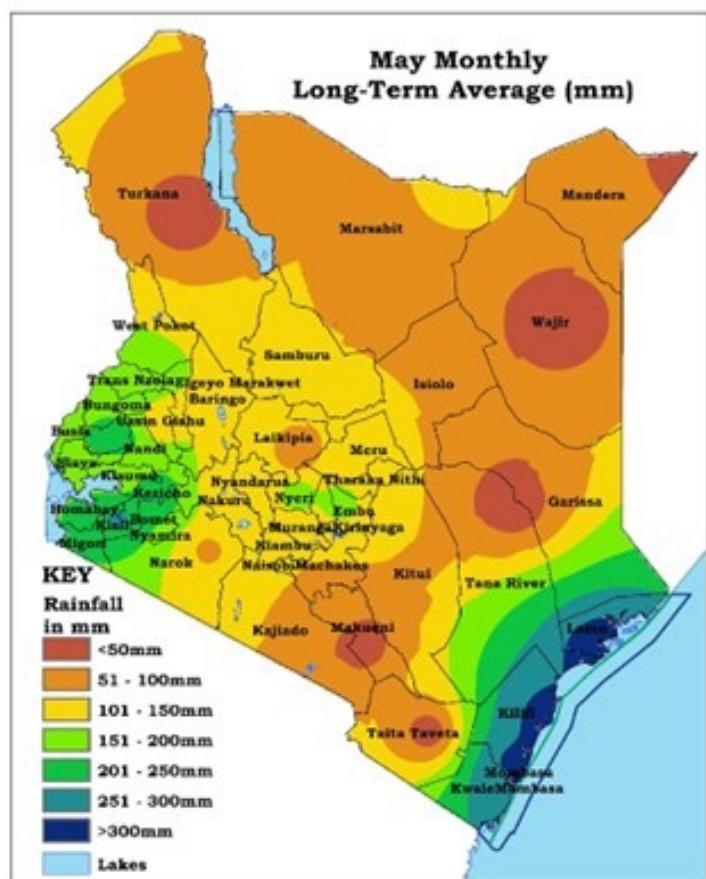
Review of April and Outlook for May 2023

Weather Review for April 2023

April marks the peak of the Long Rains (March-April-May) season. Most parts of the country experienced rainfall during the month except over Northwest and parts of Highlands West of the Rift Valley (Trans Nzoia and West Pokot) which remained dry for most of the month save for the beginning and towards the end of the month when rainfall was experienced. The rainfall recorded during the month ranged from near to above the April Long Term Mean (LTM) over several parts of the country except over Embu, Moyale, Nyahururu, Voi, Eldoret, Kakamega, Nyeri, Kericho, Narok, Garissa and Kitale where below average rainfall was recorded. The month was characterized by severe storms over several parts of the country.

The Rainfall Forecast for May 2023

The forecast indicates that several parts of the country are likely to experience near average rainfall. However, the Lake Victoria Basin region, parts of the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Coastal region, parts of northeast and isolated areas over Southeastern lowlands are likely to experience near average to slightly above average rainfall.



Rainfall Forecast for May 2023



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Terms and Definitions

Crop Condition Classes

| | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| | Exceptional | Conditions are much better than average at time of reporting. This label is used only during the grain-filling through harvest stages |
| | Favourable | Conditions range from slightly below to slightly above average at reporting time |
| | Watch | Conditions are not far from average but there is a potential risk to final yields. There is still time and possibility for the crop to recover to average conditions if the ground situation improves. This label is only used during the planting-early vegetative and the vegetative-reproductive stages |
| | Poor | Crop conditions are well below average. Crop yields are likely to be 10-25% below average. This is used when crops are stunted and are not likely to recover, and impact on yields is likely |
| | Failure | Crop conditions are extremely poor. Crop yields are likely to be 25% or more below average |

Driver Definitions

These represent the key climatic drivers that are having an impact on crop condition status. They result in production impacts and can act as either positive or negative drivers of crop conditions.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Higher than average wetness that results in destruction ie due to water logging and leaching of nutrients | | This is a catch-all for all other climate risks (i.e. frost, hailstorms, mudslides etc.) |
| | Late start of the season | | Area is flooded |
| | Rains end earlier than expected in the season | | Destructive insects, birds or animals |
| | Destructive plant diseases | | Drier than average |
| | Social or economic factors that impact crop conditions (i.e. policy changes, agricultural subsidies, government intervention, etc.) | | Crop destruction by wildlife |

Conflict: Armed conflict or civil unrest that is preventing the planting or harvesting of the fields by the farmers

Acronyms

The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) is a measurement of plant health based on how a plant reflects light (usually sunlight) at specific frequencies.

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|--------|--|------------|--|
| RCMRD | Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development | SDCD | State Department for Crops Development |
| SERVIR | Joint development initiative of NASA and USAID | MoALF | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries |
| UCSB | University of California Santa Barbara | MLND | Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease |
| UMD | University of Maryland | GHACOF | Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development | ICPAC IGAD | Climate Prediction and Application Centre |
| FAW | Fall Army Worm | | |

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