



Drought Severity

- Extreme Drought
- Severe Drought
- Moderate Drought
- Mild Drought
- Normal

- County Boundaries
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Ilemi Triangle (Contested Area)

Kenya's ASAL regions are experiencing worsening drought following poor rainfall performance in both 2024 and 2025. The 2024 seasons were mixed—some areas benefited from relatively better long rains, but the October–December short rains underperformed, limiting pasture recovery and water recharge. In 2025, rainfall performance declined further, with weaker, patchy long rains and even poorer short rains, resulting in reduced vegetation recovery, depleted water sources, and stressed pasture. As a result, all 23 ASAL counties are in critical conditions, with Mandera at Alarm phase. Approximately 1.76 million people require assistance, and needs are expected to rise amid constrained humanitarian funding and forecasts of continued dry conditions into mid-2026.

Methodology: The Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) maps were produced using internationally recognized drought-monitoring methods recommended by UN-SPIDER. Satellite data from the MODIS sensor in Google Earth Engine were used to assess how green and healthy vegetation was during Kenya's long rains (March–May) and short rains (October–December) seasons in 2024 and 2025. Current vegetation conditions were compared with a long-term historical record (2001–2020) for the same seasons to show whether plants were performing better or worse than normal. VCI ranges from 0–100, where lower values indicate greater drought stress: **0–10 Extreme drought, 10–20 Severe drought, 20–35 Moderate drought, 35–50 Mild drought, and >50 Normal to above-normal vegetation.**

Data sources:
VCI: Calculated based on MODIS MOD13Q1 NDVI (250m, 16-day), NASA, in Google Earth Engine (Jan. 2026), Administrative Boundaries: Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)
Basemaps: Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue
Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
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Note:
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