



Tuvalu Meteorological Service

Early Action Rainfall Watch



Purpose: The Early Action Rainfall Watch provides a summary of recent rainfall patterns, particularly the status of drought and the rainfall outlook for the coming months. The status and outlook will be revised monthly. Contact the Tuvalu Meteorological Service (TMS) for further information.

SUMMARY

- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is forecast at a strong El Niño, with approximately 100% of the climate models indicating El Niño conditions will intensify through the rest of 2026.
- The tropical Pacific Sea Surface Temperatures (SST's) are exceeding the El Niño threshold and continue to warm.
- A strong El Niño signal in the Niño 3.4 region does not necessarily mean strong impacts on Tuvalu's climate. ENSO is one of the many factors that can influence Tuvalu's seasonal weather and climate pattern

Issued: 28/08/2026



RAINFALL STATUS:

- Past 1- month (July 2026) had no extremes at Nanumea, Nanumaga, Nukufetau, Funafuti, Nukulaelae and Niulakita, and was very wet at Niutao, Nui and Vaitupu.
- Past 3- months' rainfall (May to July 2026), there were no extreme conditions over Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti and Nukulaelae, and very dry conditions in Niulakita.
- The past 6 months (February 2026 to July 2026) saw no extremes over Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, and Funafuti. Very dry in Nukufetau and Nukulaelae, and seriously very dry in Niulakita.
- The past 12-month period (August 2025 to July 2026) had no extremes over Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti and Nukulaelae, and seriously very dry conditions in Niulakita.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK:

- High chance of very wet conditions (>50% to <70%) at Nanumea, Nanumaga and Niutao. Medium chance of very wet conditions at Nui and Vaitupu, while a low chance of extreme rainfall conditions over Nukufetau and Funafuti. Medium chance of very dry conditions over Nukulaelae and a very high chance of very dry conditions at Niulakita.
- Rainfall conditions for the September to November 2026 period are expected to have a very high chance of very wet (>70%) conditions at Nanumea and Niutao, and a high chance of very wet conditions at Nanumaga. A medium chance of very wet conditions at Nui and Vaitupu. Low chance of extreme rainfall at Nukufetau, a medium chance of very dry conditions at Funafuti, a high chance of very dry conditions at Nukulaelae, with a very high chance of very dry conditions at Niulakita.

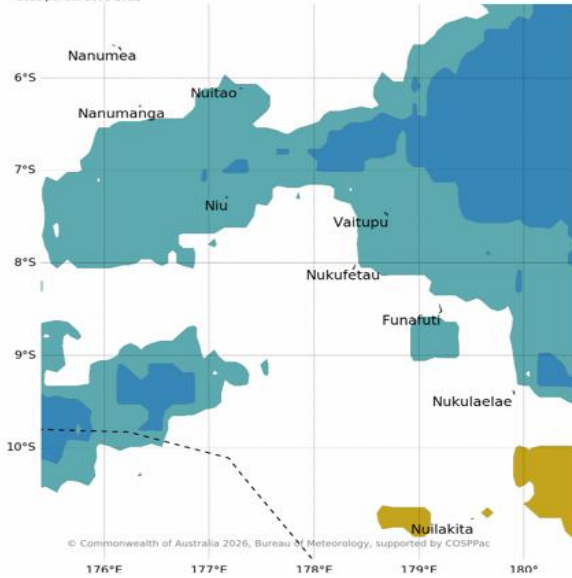
Rainfall observed for the last month, 3-months, 6-months and 12-months

The table below provides information on rainfall received over specific periods in the last 12 months, indicating whether a station is in drought or in a very wet period (the opposite of drought). If a station is in drought warning, this indicates an increased chance of drought in the coming months, especially when approaching the dry season. The time periods are associated with different drought impacts presented below the tables.

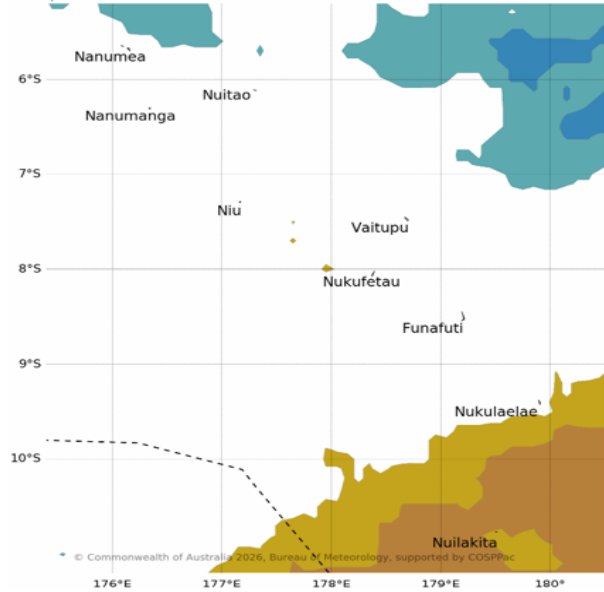
Past Rainfall Status						Very Dry/Wet Rainfall Outlook	
1-month July 2026	3-months May to July 2026	6-months February to July 2026	12-months August 2025 to July 2026		Tuvalu Islands	September 2026 Chance of extreme	September to November 2026 Chance of extreme
No extreme	No extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Nanumea	High chance of very wet	Very high chance of very wet
No extreme	No extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Nanumaga	High chance of very wet	High chance of very wet
Very wet	No extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Niutao	High chance of very wet	Very high chance of very wet
Very wet	No extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Nui	Medium chance of very wet	Medium chance of very wet
Very wet	No extreme	No extreme	No extreme		Vaitupu	Medium chance of very wet	Medium chance of very wet
No extreme	No extreme	Very dry	No extreme		Nukufetau	Low chance of extreme	Low chance of extreme
No extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Funafuti	Low chance of extreme	Medium chance of very dry
No extreme	No extreme	Very Dry	No extreme		Nukulaelae	Medium chance of very dry	High chance of very dry
No extreme	Very dry	Seriously Dry	Seriously dry		Niulakita	Very high chance of very dry	Very High chance of very dry

ACCESS-S Rainfall Summary for JULY, 2026.

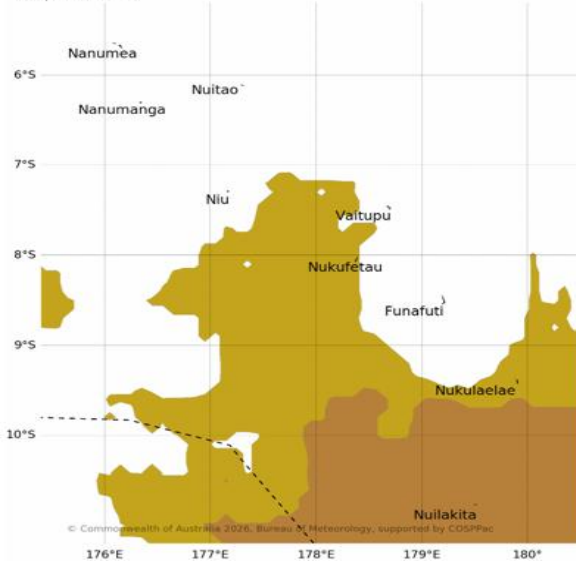
1-month Rainfall status to July 2026
Data source: MSWEP
Base period: 1981-2021
Issued: 07/08/2026



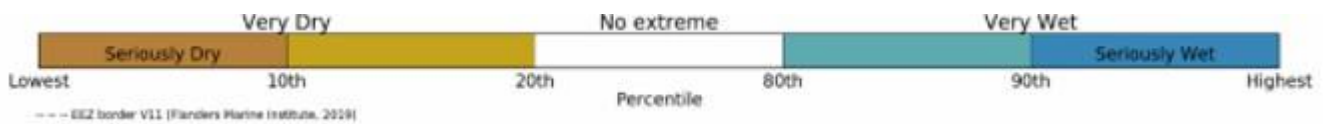
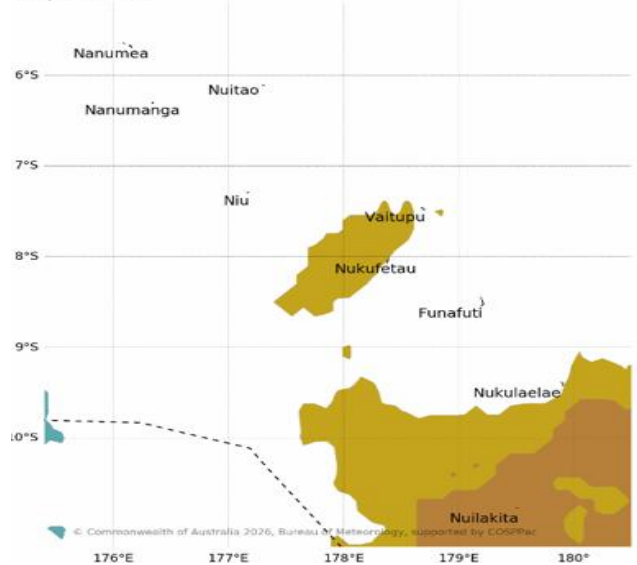
3-month Rainfall status to July 2026
Data source: MSWEP
Base period: 1981-2021
Issued: 07/08/2026



6-month Rainfall status to July 2026
Data source: MSWEP
Base period: 1981-2021
Issued: 07/08/2026



12-month Rainfall status to July 2026
Data source: MSWEP
Base period: 1981-2021
Issued: 07/08/2026



Time periods and impacts:

1 – **month** period is most relevant for shallow-rooted crops (e.g. eggplant, cabbage, tomatoes, spring onions, watermelons, cucumber), small water tanks (e.g. 1000galloons) and household water cisterns. The following secondary health and social-economic have been associated with drought at the 1 month. Diarrhoea, skin rash, cough and fever, red eye, desalination plant (increased power demand and higher water costs for households), health of babies and elderly people declines, schools close and construction stop.

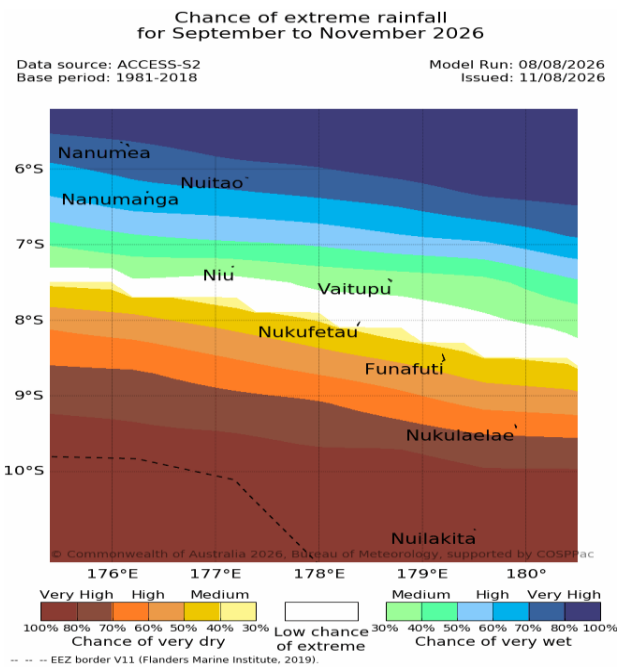
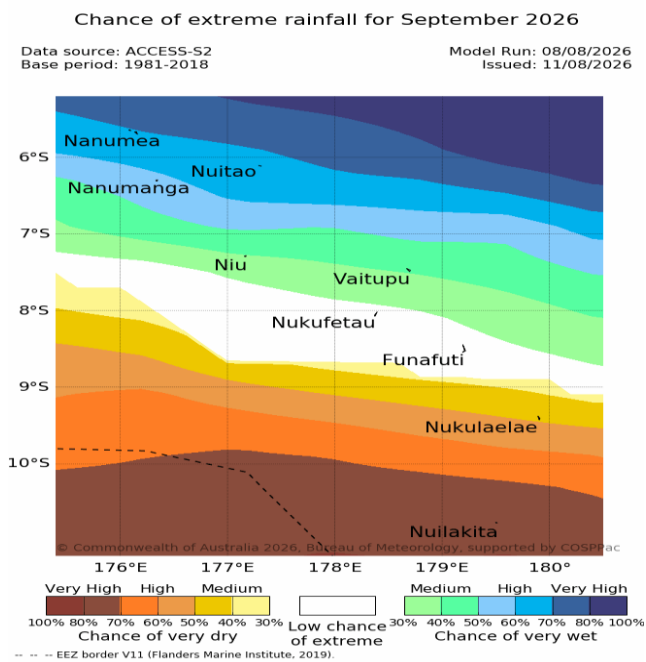
2 – **months** period is most relevant for bottle gourd, pawpaw, banana, chicken, pigs, and community cisterns. The following secondary social-economic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 2 months period. Community gatherings stop, increased in community disputes over water and limited or no employment.

3 – **months** period is most relevant for pumpkin, groundwater and ponds. The following secondary socioeconomic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 3-months period. Crimes increase e.g. water stealing, government offices close and national events postponed.

6 – months period is most relevant for large trees (e.g. breadfruits, pulaka, taro). The following secondary social-economic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 6-months periods. Meteorological balloon flights stop, interislands shipping delays, entry of visitors to Tuvalu restricted.

12- months period is most relevant for felo, dragon fruits, pandanus, coconuts and ofega.

Very Dry/Wet Rainfall Outlooks for September, and September to November 2026



Outlook Status

The outlook provides the likelihood of receiving above normal to normal rainfall over the next three months and the following three months. The outlook does not indicate the amount of rainfall that may be received, how intense the rain may be in any one event, nor how it may vary from month to month.

Rainfall Status

- Estimates of moisture/water stress is based on recent rainfall compared with historical observations using the Percentile (Decile) Index.
- *Definitions:* “Very Dry” = rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and season, “Very Wet” = rainfall in the highest 20% for that location and season, “Seriously Dry” = rainfall in the lowest 10% of the historical record for that location and season, “Seriously Wet” = rainfall in the highest 10% for that location and season.

Contact Tuvalu Meteorological Service for further information:

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