# 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

***Issued: 16/11/2026***




- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in the El Niño phase and continues to strengthen. The weekly relative Niño3.4 index reached a record +2.88°C for the week ending 25 October 2026.
- Atmospheric indicators remain consistent with a strong El Niño, including weakening trade winds and enhanced cloudiness, with an increase in rainfall on the northern and central islands, including Funafuti.
- All Climate models forecast the warmth in the tropical Pacific to peak around November or December.
- 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 patterns.

## RAINFALL STATUS:

- The past 1 month (October 2026) was seriously wet for Nanumea (344.7mm), Nui (356.6mm), and Funafuti, with 653.4mm of rainfall observed. Niulakita was very wet, with 171.6mm.
- Past 3 months (August to October 2026), all stations were in seriously wet conditions, with accumulated rainfall for the past 3 months for Nanumea at 889.6 mm, Nui at 855.9 mm, Funafuti at 1536.3 mm, and Niulakita at 765.4mm.
- The past 6 months (May 2026 to October 2026) were seriously wet at Nanumea with 1719.8 mm, with no extreme rainfall at Nui with 1636.7 mm, Funafuti at 2342.7 mm, and Niulakita with 1192.6 mm.
- The past 12-month period (November 2025 to October 2026) had no extreme rainfall conditions over Nanumea with 3254.6 mm, at Nui with 3135.6mm, Funafuti with 4077.0mm, and Niulakita with 2863.6mm

## RAINFALL OUTLOOK:

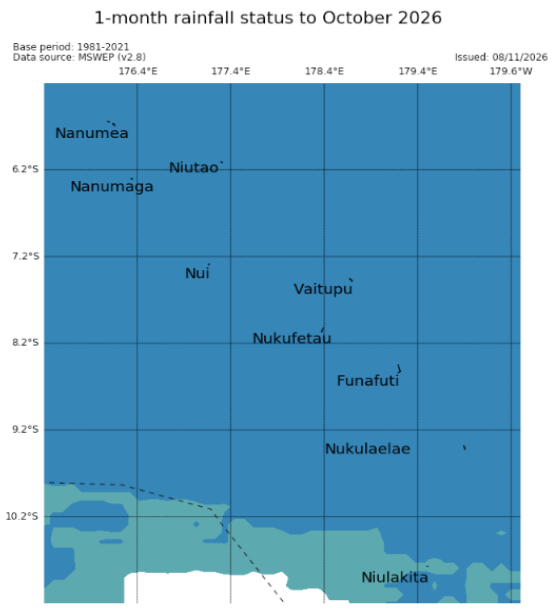
- Next 1 month (December) - Very high chance of very wet conditions at Nanumea, Nanumaga and Niutao, with a high chance of very wet conditions at Nui and Vaitupu. There is a medium chance of very wet conditions for Nukufetau and Funafuti, and there is a medium chance of very dry conditions at Nukulaelae and a high chance of very dry conditions at Niulakita.
- Next 3 months – (December 2026 – February 2027) – There is a very high chance of very wet (>80%) conditions at Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau and Funafuti. There is a high chance of very wet conditions over Nukulaelae, (between >50% and <60%). As for Niulakita, there is a low chance of extreme rainfall conditions.

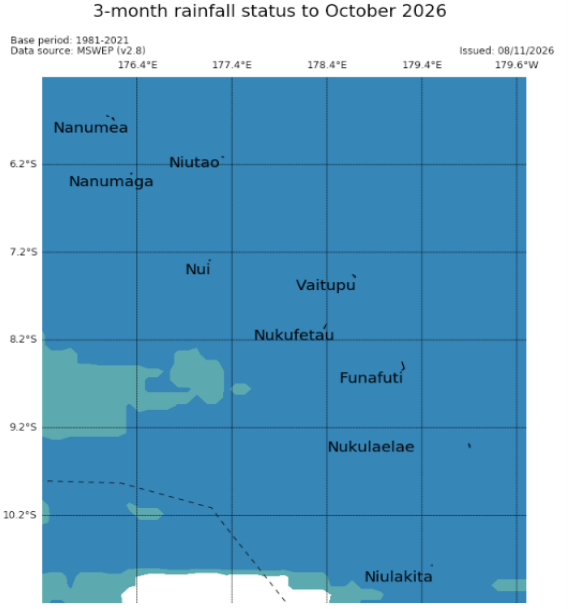
# Rainfall observed for the last month, 3-months, 6-months and 12-months

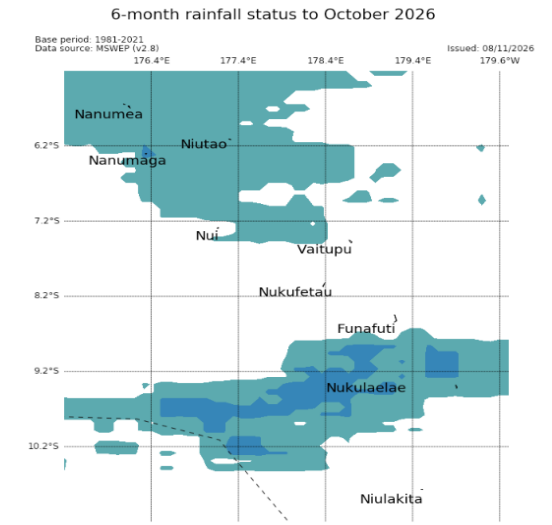
The table below provides information on rainfall received over specific periods in the last 12 months, indicating whether a station is in drought or in a very wet period (the opposite of drought). If a station is in drought warning, this indicates an increased chance of drought in the coming months,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

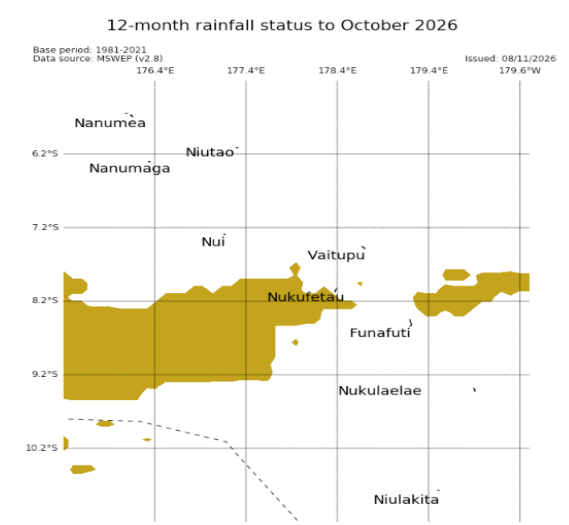
| Past Rainfall Status | | | | | Very Dry/Wet Rainfall Outlook | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1-month October 2026** | **3-months August to October 2026** | **6-months May to October 2026** | **12-months November 2025 to October 2026** | **Tuvalu Islands** | **December 2026 Chance of extreme** | **December 2026 to February 2027 Chance of extreme** |
| Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 344.7mm | Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 889.6mm | Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 1719.8mm | No Extreme<br>Rain: 3254.6mm | **Nanumea** | Very high chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| | | | | **Nanumaga** | Very high chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| | | | | **Niutao** | Very high chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 356.6 mm | Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 855.9mm | No extreme<br>Rain: 1636.7mm | No Extreme<br>Rain: 3135.6mm | **Nui** | High chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| | | | | **Vaitupu** | High chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| | | | | **Nukufetau** | Medium chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 653.4 mm | Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 1536.3mm | No extreme<br>Rain: 2342.7mm | No Extreme<br>Rain: 4077.0mm | **Funafuti** | Medium chance of very wet | Very high chance of very wet |
| | | | | **Nukulaelae** | Medium chance of very dry | High chance of very wet |
| Very wet<br>Rain: 171.6mm | Seriously very wet<br>Rain: 765.4mm | No extreme<br>Rain: 1192.6mm | No extreme<br>Rain: 2863.6mm | **Niulakita** | High chance of very dry | Low chance of extreme |

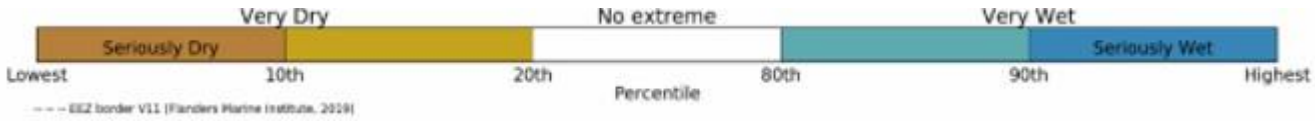
# ACCESS-S Rainfall Summary for October, 2026.



## 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.

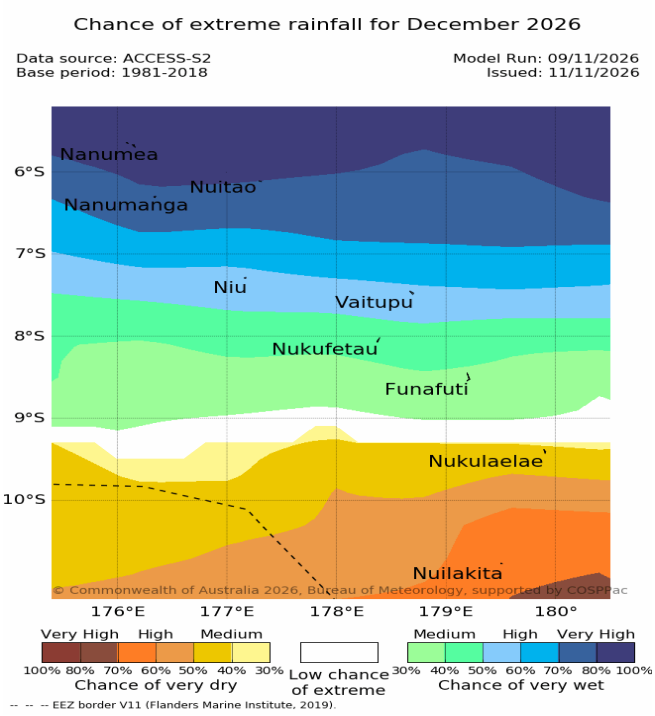
**2 – months** period is most relevant for bottle gourd,pawpaw, banana, chicken, pigs, and community cisterns. The following secondary social-economic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 2months period. Community gatherings stop, increased in community disputes over water and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

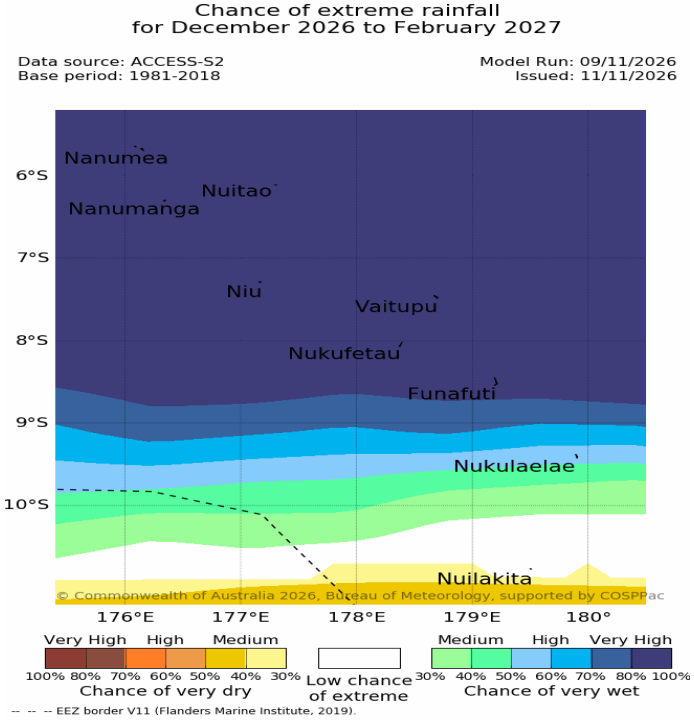
**3 – months** period is most relevant for pumpkin, groundwater and ponds. The following secondary socialeconomic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 3-months period. Crimes increase e.g.
water stealing, government offices close and national events postponed.

**6 – months** period is most relevant for large trees (e.g. breadfruits, pulaka, taro). The following secondary social-economic and heath 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 (Extreme Rainfall) Outlooks for December and December 2026 to February 2027




**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,
- "**Seriously Dry**" = rainfall in the lowest 10% of the historical record for that location and season,
- "**Very Wet**" = rainfall in the highest 20% 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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