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: 26/10/2026



- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is forecast at a strong El Niño, with the oceanic and atmospheric indicators showing near-record El Niño conditions, with further strengthening expected towards the end of 2026.
- The tropical Pacific Sea Surface Temperatures (SST's) week ending 11 October 2026 is +2.81°C, well above the El Niño threshold (+0.80°C)
- 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 pattern

RAINFALL STATUS:

- Past 1- month (September 2026) had no extreme rainfall conditions at Nanumea with 304.3mm, and Nui with 154.8 mm; very wet conditions in Funafuti with 271.0mm, while Niulakita is seriously wet with observed rainfall of 522.9mm
- Past 3- months' rainfall (July to September 2026), there were no extreme conditions over Nui, with 823.5 mm, and Niulakita with 703.5mm, and very wet conditions in Nanumea with 846.8 mm, while Funafuti with 1221.7mm.
- The past 6 months (April 2026 to September 2026) were very wet over Nanumea with 1575.9mm, with no extremes over Nui with 1571.6mm, while Funafuti with 1833.1 mm, and Niulakita with 1216.3mm
- The past 12-month period (October 2025 to September 2026) had no extreme rainfall conditions over Nanumea with 3017.2mm, at Nui with 2925.7mm, Funafuti with 3724.1mm, with seriously dry conditions in Niulakita with total rainfall of 3026.0mm

RAINFALL OUTLOOK:

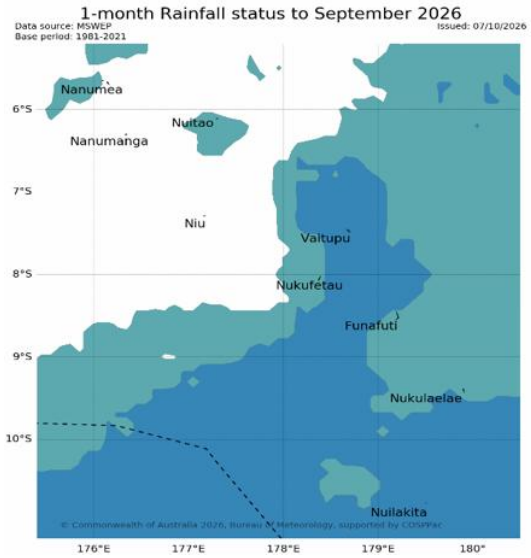
- Medium chance of very wet conditions at Nanumea, Nanumaga and Niutao, while a low chance of extreme rainfall conditions over Nui and Vaitupu.
- A medium chance of very dry conditions at Nukufetau, with a high chance of very dry conditions at Funafuti and a very high chance of very dry conditions at Nukulaelae and Niulakita.
- Rainfall conditions for the November 2026 to January 2027 period are expected to have a very high chance of very wet (>70%) conditions at Nanumea, Nanumaga and Niutao. High chance of very wet conditions at Nui and Vaitupu, with medium chance very wet at Nukufetau and Funafuti, and a medium chance of very dry conditions at Nukulaelae and a very high chance of very dry at Niulakita.

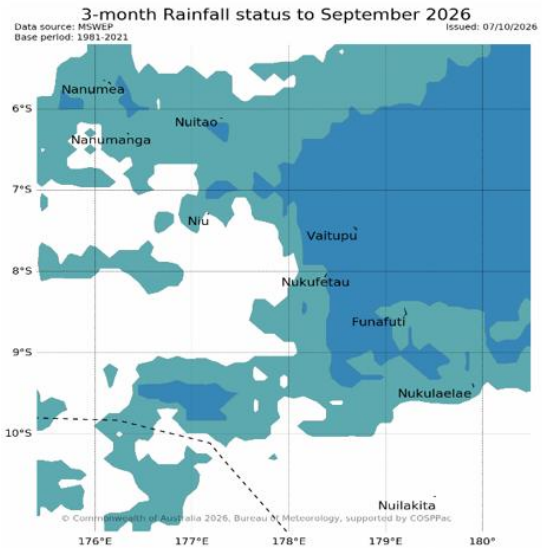
Rainfall observed for the last month, 3-months, 6-months and 12-months

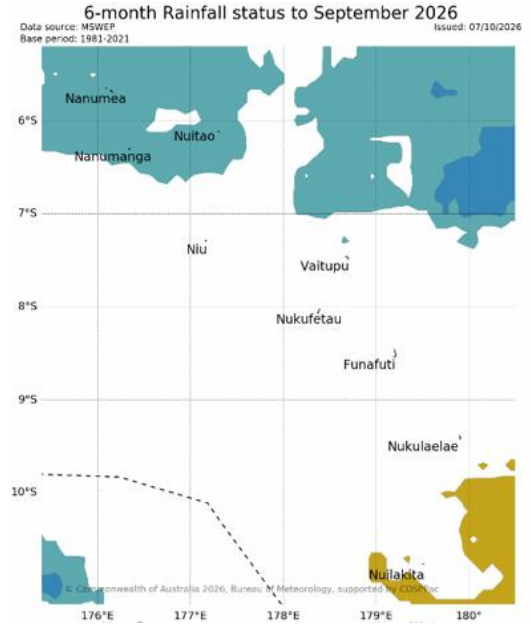
The table below provides information on rainfall received over specific periods in the last 12 months, indicating whether a station is in drought or in a very wet period (the opposite of drought). If a station is in drought warning, this indicates an increased chance of drought in the coming months,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

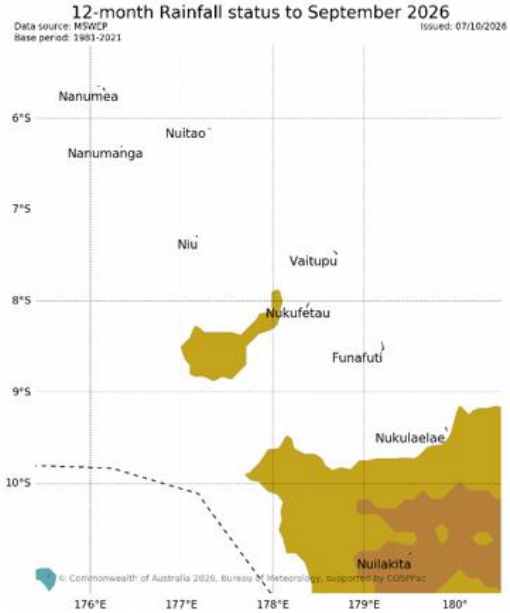
Past Rainfall Status						Very Dry/Wet Rainfall Outlook	
1-month September 2026	**3-months July to September 2026**	**6-months April to September 2026**	**12-months October 2025 to September 2026**		**Tuvalu Islands**	**November 2026 Chance of extreme**	**November 2026 to January 2027 Chance of extreme**
No extreme Rain: 304.3mm	Very wet Rain: 846.8mm	Very wet Rain: 1575.9mm	No Extreme Rain: 3017.2mm		**Nanumea**	Medium chance of very wet	Very high chance of very wet
					Nanumaga	Medium chance of very wet	Very high chance of very wet
					Niutao	Medium chance of very wet	Very high chance of very wet
No extreme Rain: 154.8mm	No extreme Rain: 823.5mm	No Extreme Rain: 1571.6mm	No Extreme Rain: 2925.7mm		**Nui**	Low chance of extreme	High chance of very wet
					Vaitupu	Low chance of extreme	High chance of very wet
					Nukufetau	Medium chance of very dry	Medium chance of very wet
Very wet Rain: 271.0mm	Very wet Rain: 1221.7mm	No Extreme Rain: 1833.1mm	No Extreme Rain: 3724.1mm		**Funafuti**	High chance of very dry	Medium chance of very wet
					Nukulaelae	Very High chance of very dry	Medium chance of very dry
Seriously wet Rain: 522.9mm	No extreme Rain: 703.5mm	No extreme Rain: 1216.3mm	Seriously dry Rain: 3026.0mm		**Niulakita**	Very high chance of very dry	Very High chance of very dry

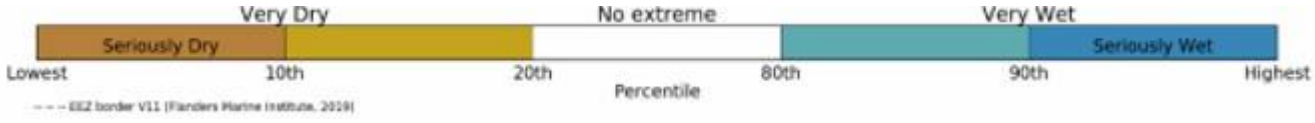
ACCESS-S Rainfall Summary for September, 2026.











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.

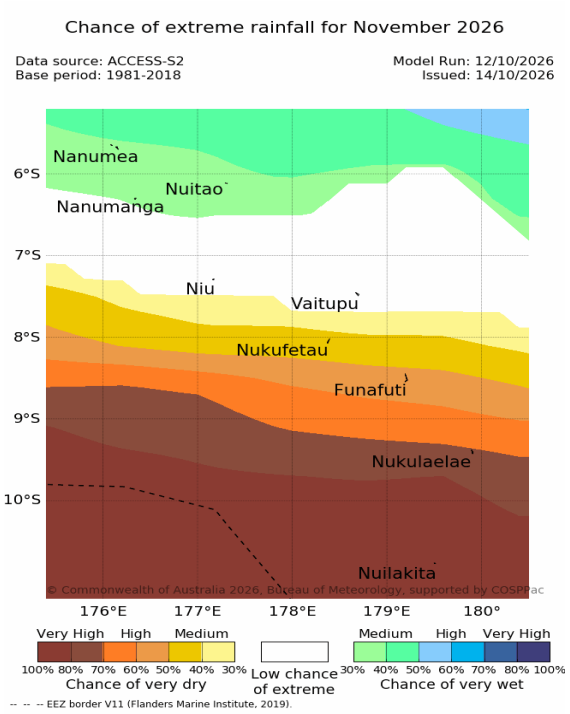
2 – months period is most relevant for bottle gourd,pawpaw, banana, chicken, pigs, and community cisterns. The following secondary social-economic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 2months period. Community gatherings stop, increased in community disputes over water and limited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

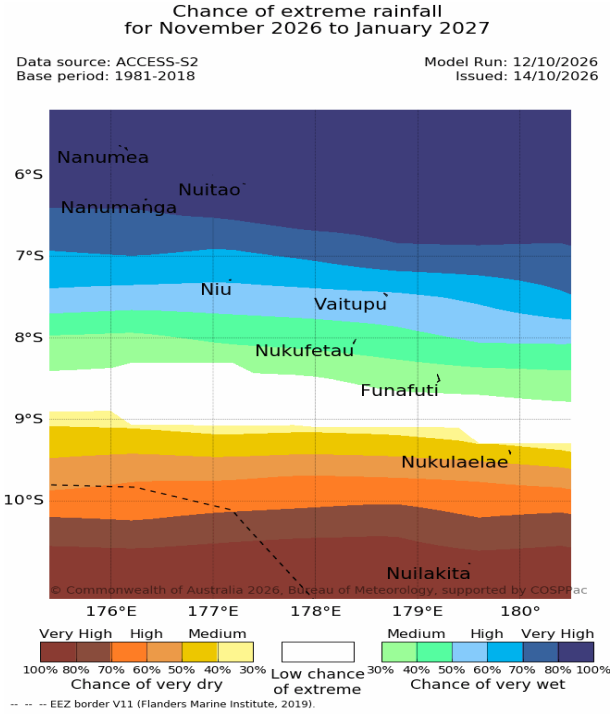
3 – months period is most relevant for pumpkin, groundwater and ponds. The following secondary socialeconomic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 3-months period. Crimes increase e.g.
water stealing, government offices close and national events postponed.

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 November and November 2026 to January 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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