



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

- El Niño is firmly established. Both oceanic and atmospheric indices reflect values consistent with a strong El Niño.
- The latest relative Niño3.4 index value for the week ending 13 September 2026 is +2.51 °C, well above the El Niño threshold (+0.80 °C)
- All models, including the bureau's, forecast the tropical Pacific to continue warming through the southern hemisphere.
- A Strong El Nino signal in the Nino3.4 region does not necessarily mean strong impacts on Tuvalu climate. ENSO is one of the many factors that can influence Tuvalu's seasonal weather and climate pattern.

Issued: 07/10/2026



RAINFALL STATUS:

- August 2026 (1-month) was **seriously wet** with **240.6 mm** in Nanumea, while no extreme, with **344.5mm, 356.7 mm** over Nui and Niulakita. Funafuti was very wet with **611.9 mm**.
- June-August 2026(3-months), Nanumea also **seriously wet** with **940.0 mm**, while no extreme at Nui, Funafuti and Niulakita, with their total rainfall **960.9 mm, 1261.3 mm and 609.3 mm**.
- The 6- months (March to August) was **no extreme** over Nanumea, Nui, and Funafuti with **1716.8 mm, 1613.6 mm, 1964.1 mm**. Niulakita has **very dry** (warning) with **609.3 mm**.
- 12 months (September 2025 to August 2026) months period were within **no extreme category**.

Note: The table does not show observed rainfall values for Nanumaga, Niutao, Vaitupu, Nukufetau and Nukulaelae, so their past rainfall status should not be inferred from the blank cells. Stations represent three groups of Tuvalu (North, Central and South).

RAINFALL OUTLOOK:

- The October 2026 outlook indicates a **high chance of very wet** conditions at Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, and Vaitupu, while **medium chance of very wet** conditions around Nui, Nukufetau, Funafuti, and Nukulaelae. **Very high chance of very dry** conditions over Niulakita.
- For October–December 2026, the wet signal remains strongest in the north, while at the central group low chance of extreme, whereas the southern islands, particularly Niulakita and Nukulaelae, have an increased likelihood of **very dry conditions**.

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

The table indicates whether a station is in drought or in a very wet period (the opposite of drought). If a station is in drought watch or warning, this indicates an increased chance of drought in the coming months. The time periods are associated with different drought impacts presented below the tables.

Past Rainfall Status					Very Dry/Wet Rainfall Outlook	
1-month August 2026	3-months June to August 2026	6-months March to August 2026	12-months September 2025 to August 2026	Tuvalu Islands	October 2026 Chance of extreme	October to December 2026 Chance of extreme
Seriously Wet Rain: 240.6 mm	Seriously Wet Rain: 940.0 mm	No extreme Rain: 1716.8 mm	No extreme Rain: 3023.3 mm	Nanumea	High chance of very wet	High chance of very wet
				Nanumaga	High chance of very wet	Medium chance of very wet
				Niutao	High chance of very wet	Very high chance of very wet
No extreme. Rain: 344.5 mm	No extreme Rain: 960.9 mm	No extreme Rain: 1613.6 mm	No extreme Rain: 2963.2 mm	Nui	Medium chance of very wet	Low chance of extreme
				Vaitupu	High chance of very wet	Low chance of extreme
				Nukufetau	Medium chance of very wet	Low chance of extreme
Very wet Rain: 611.9 mm	No extreme Rain: 1261.3 mm	No extreme Rain: 1964.1 mm	No extreme Rain: 3464.8 mm	Funafuti	Medium chance of very dry	Medium chance of very dry
				Nukulaelae	Medium chance of very dry	High chance of very dry
No extreme Rain: 356.7 mm	No extreme Rain: 609.3 mm	Very dry. <i>Warning</i> Rain: 1210.8 mm	Seriously dry. <i>Watch</i> Rain: 3023.7 mm	Niulakita	Very high chance of very dry	Very High chance of very dry

Time periods and impacts:

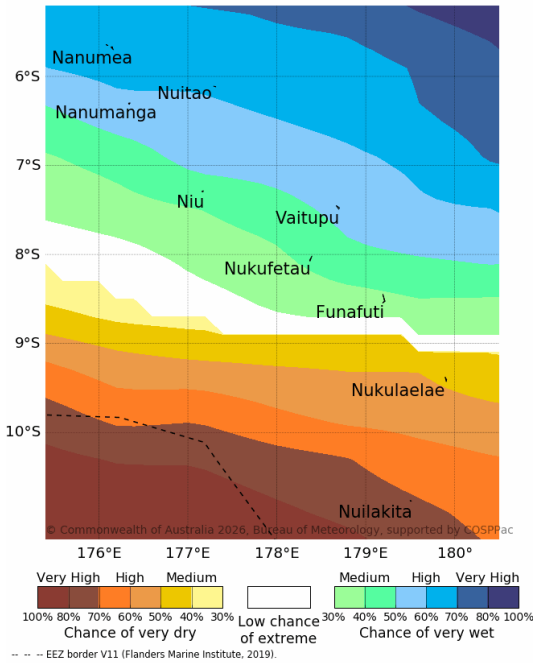
- 1** – **month** period is most relevant for shallow-rooted crops (e.g. eggplant, cabbage, tomatoes, spring onions, watermelons, cucumber), small water tanks (e.g. 1000galloons) and household water cisterns. The following secondary health and social-economic have been associated with drought at the 1 month. Diarrhea, 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 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, interisland 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 October, and October to December 2026

Chance of extreme rainfall for October 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

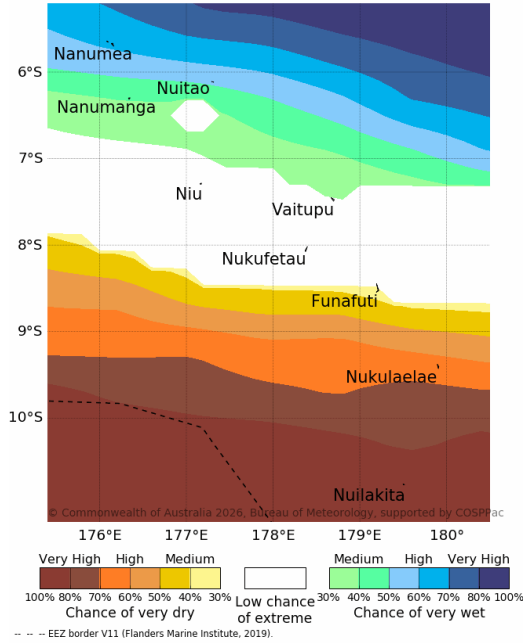
Model Run: 14/09/2026
Issued: 16/09/2026



Chance of extreme rainfall
for October to December 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

Model Run: 14/09/2026
Issued: 16/09/2026



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 at 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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