



# 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 on a monthly basis. Contact the Tuvalu Meteorological Service (TMS) for further information.

## SUMMARY

### “La Nina Watch continue to weaken in the Tropical Pacific”

- ✚ The 2025-2026 La Nina continues to weaken.
- ✚ Sea surface temperature in the central tropical pacific have been fluctuating around the La Nina threshold, since late January.
- ✚ All models indicate a return to neutral ENSO conditions later this month or in early autumn. Some models suggest the possibility of El Nino development from June.

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## RAINFALL STATUS:

- ✚ For the month of January 2026, it was **No Extreme** over Tuvalu.
- ✚ November 2025 to January 2026 (3Months), it was **No Extreme** in Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti, and Nukulaeale. **Very Dry** was observed at Niulakita.
- ✚ Over the past six months, August 2025 to January 2026, **No Extreme** most existed across the country.
- ✚ For past 12 months, February 2025 to January 2026 **Very Dry** over Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui and Niulakita. **No Extreme** was existed over Nui, Nukufetau, Funafuti and Nukulaeae, and Niulakita.

## Rainfall OUTLOOK:

- ✚ **Medium chance of very dry** conditions predicted for March 2026 over Nanumea, Nanumaga, Nui, Nukufetau, Funafuti and Niulakita. There is a **Low Chance of Extreme** expected for Niutao and Nukulaeae.
- ✚ March to May 2026, expected to be **Low Chance of Extreme** over Nanumea, Nanumaga, and Niutao. **Medium Chance of Very Dry** at Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti, Nukulaeae and 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, whether a station is in drought or a very wet period (opposite of drought). If a station is in drought warning, this indicates an increased chances 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 January 2026	3-months November 2025 to January 2026	6-months August 2025 to January 2026	12-months February 2025 to January 2026		Tuvalu Islands	March 2026 Chance of extreme	March to May 2026 Chance of extreme
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	Very Dry		Nanumea	Medium Chance of Very Dry	Low Chance of Extreme
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	Very Dry		Nanumaga	Medium Chance of Very Dry	Low Chance of Extreme
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	Very Dry		Niutao	Low Chance of Extreme	Low Chance of Extreme
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	Very Dry		Nui	Medium Chance of Very Dry	Medium Chance of Very Dry
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	Very Dry		Vaitupu	Low Chance of Extreme	Medium Chance of Very Dry
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Nukufetau	Medium Chance of Very Dry	Medium Chance of Very Dry
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Funafuti	Medium Chance of Very Dry	Medium Chance of Very Dry
No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme	No Extreme		Nukulaelae	Low Chance of Extreme	Medium Chance of Very Dry
No Extreme	Very Dry	No Extreme	No Extreme		Niulakita	Medium Chance of Very Dry	Medium 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 period. 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 stops.

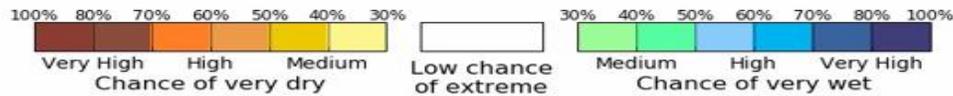
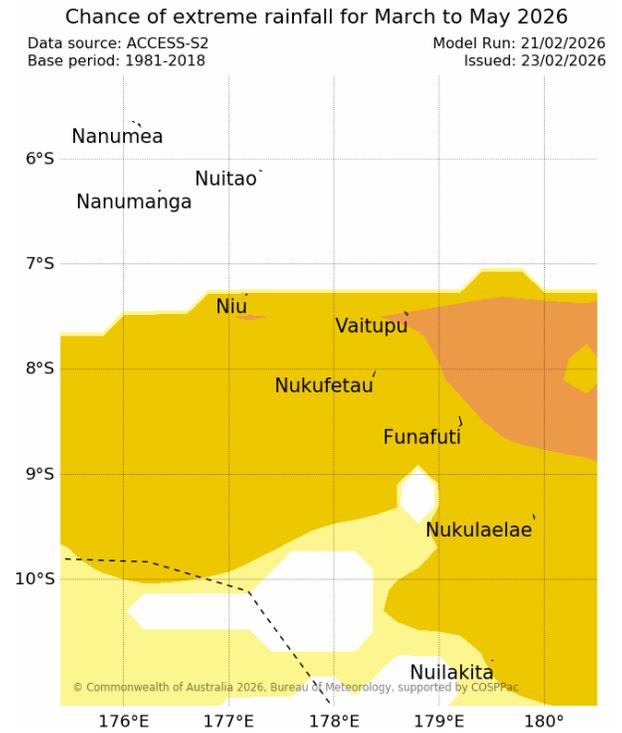
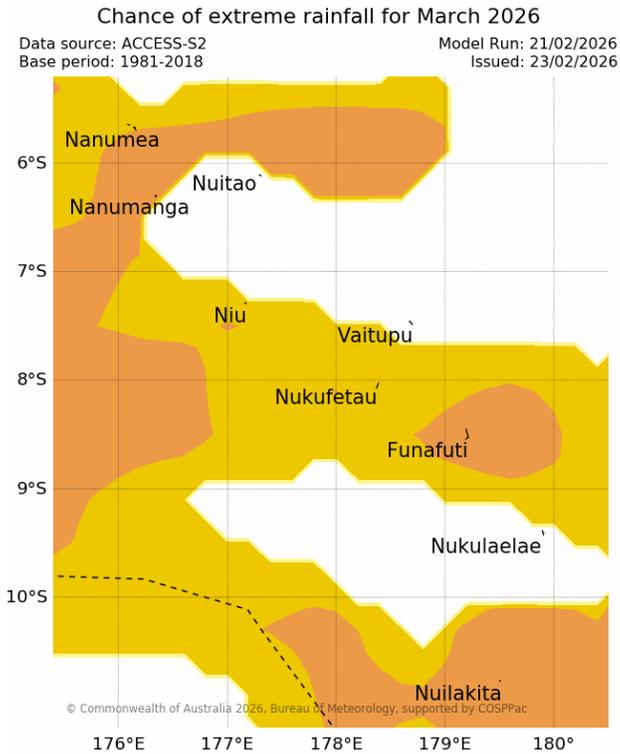
**2 – months** period is most relevant for bottle gourd,pawpaw, banana, chicken, pigs and community cisterns. The following secondary social-economic and health impacts have been associated with drought at the 2-months period. Community gatherings stop, increased in community disputes over water and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

**3 – months** period is most relevant for pumpkin, groundwater and ponds. The following secondary social-economic 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 March, and March to May 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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