

Early Action Rainfall Watch (EAR Watch)

The Early Action Rainfall Watch provides the Fiji National Disaster Risk Management Office and the Disaster Management Actors with a brief summary of recent rainfall patterns and the rainfall outlook for the coming months.

Issued: 12/08/2026

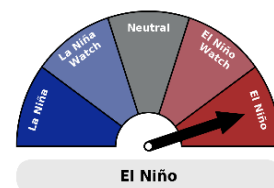
Rainfall Status until July 2026:

- On a 3-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in southern Kadavu, southern Vatulele, and Oneata, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Rotuma, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- For the 6-month timescale, **Seriously Dry** conditions exist in Cikobia and Rotuma, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Savusavu, Taveuni, and parts of coastal Natewa, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- On 12-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in areas between Ba and Tavua, Batiki, Nairai and in parts of the northern Lau Group, **Seriously Dry** conditions exist in Rotuma, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.

Rainfall Outlook:

- For **15th to 28th August**, there is a **high chance** of **Very Dry** conditions across the Northern Division, Yasawa Group, Viwa, Nausori to Navua, the eastern interior Viti Levu, northern Kadavu, Moala, Totoya, Lau Group and Rotuma, while there is a **medium chance** of **Very Dry** conditions across the rest of the Fiji Group.
- During **August**, there is a **very high chance** of **Very Dry** conditions for Rotuma, a **high chance** of **Very Dry conditions** for parts of the southern Lau Group, while there is a **medium chance** of **Very Dry** across the Western, Central and Northern Divisions, Lomaiviti Group, Moala Group, and the northern Lau Group.
- For **August to October 2026**, there is a **very high chance** of **Very Dry conditions** for the southern Yasawa Group, Viwa, Mamanuca Group, Ba to Nadi coastal area, Udu Point, Rabi, Qamea, Gau, Nairai, the Moala Group and the Lau Group and Rotuma. There is a **high chance** of **Very Dry conditions** across the rest of the Fiji Group.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status: El Niño is currently underway.



Time periods and Impacts on the ground

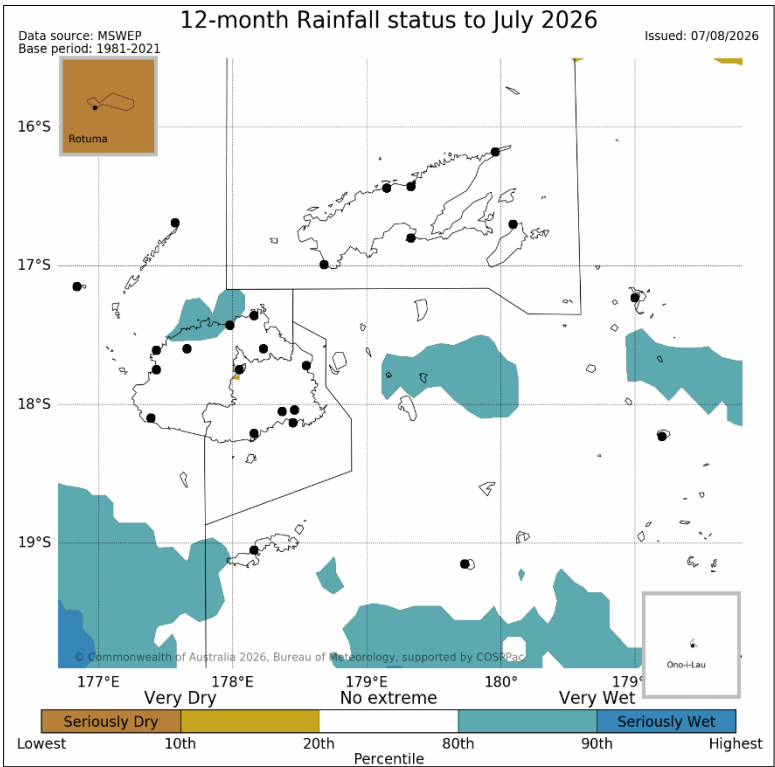
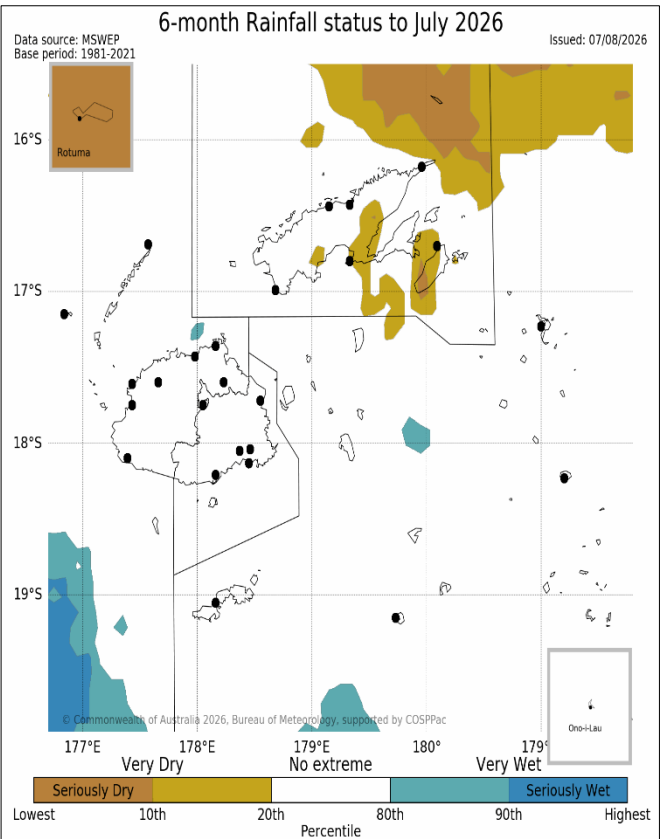
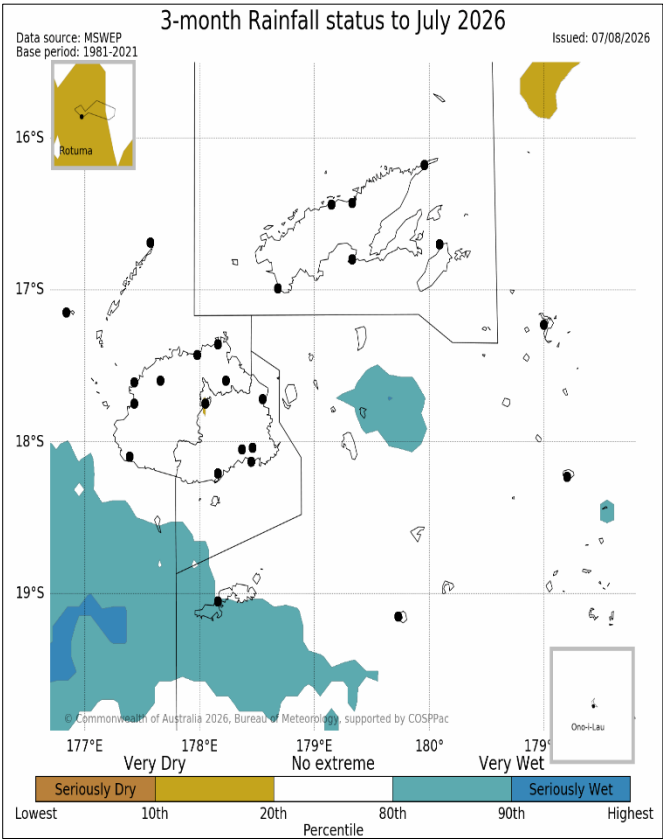
3-months: rainwater tanks, small streams, hand-dug wells, shallow bores, young sugarcane, traditional vegetables (e.g., bele), cabbage, beans, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, watermelon, rice, crops (yam, taro, cassava, pasture)

6-months: small rivers, bores, streams/rivers, mature sugarcane, kumala, uvi, hybrid dalo, corn, pineapple, pawpaw, dalo (vuci), tapi, kumala (carrot variety)

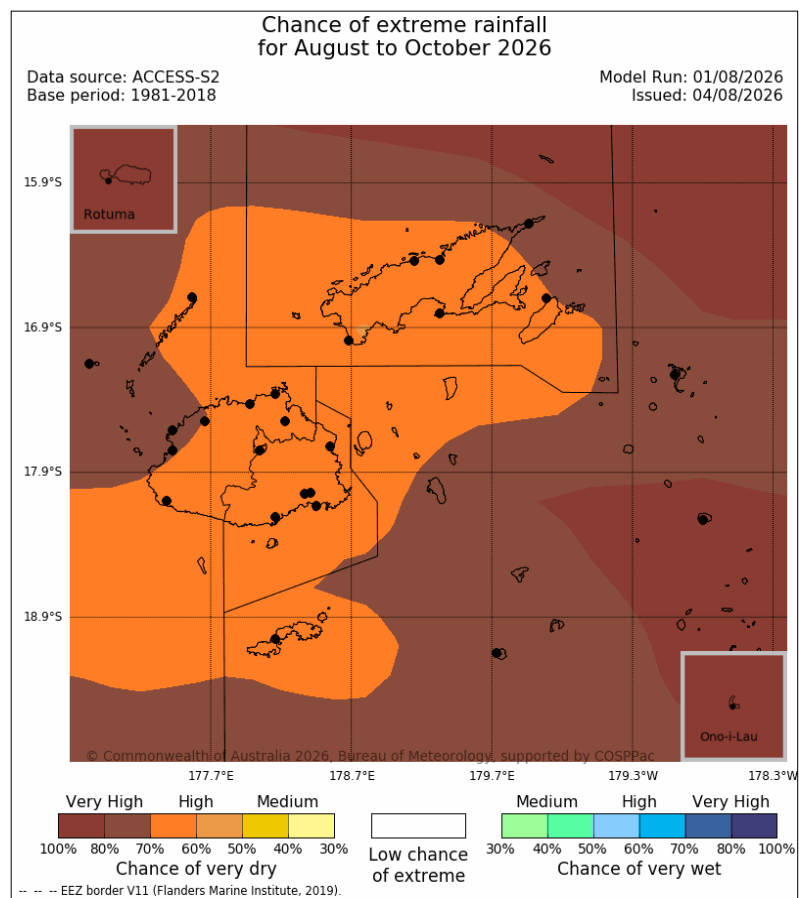
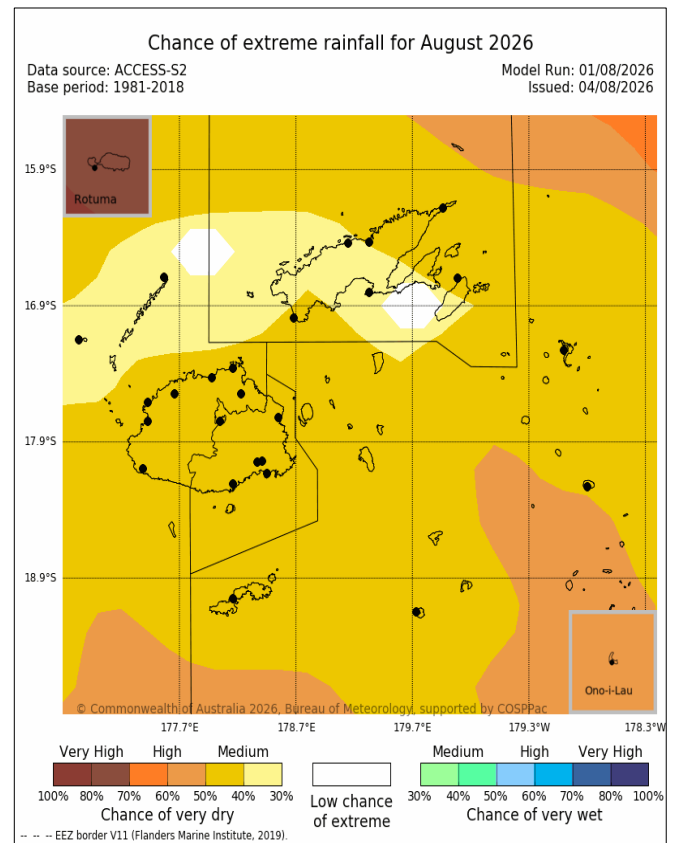
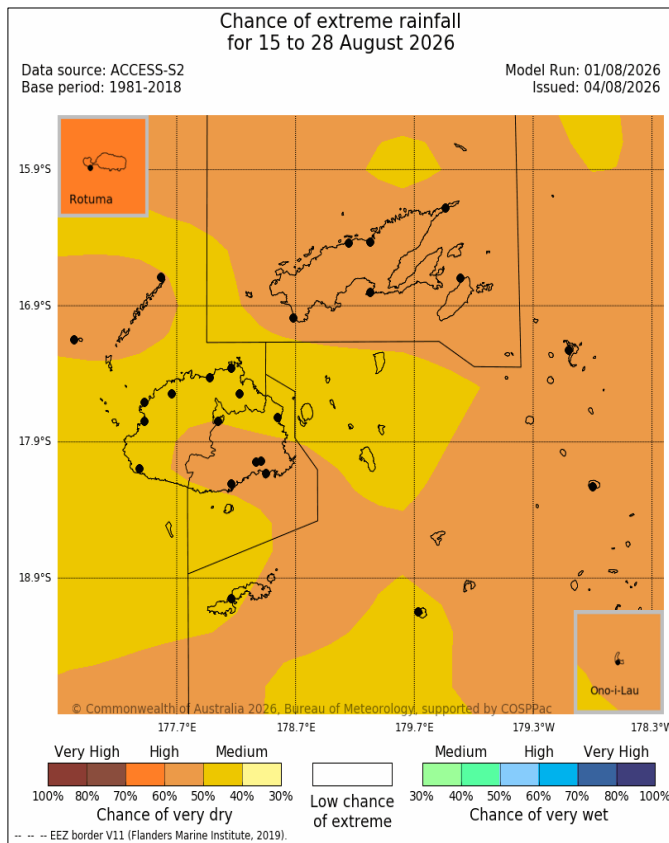
12-months: deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams, rivers, tapi, coconuts, breadfruit, mango, kava, banana, vudi, fruit trees (e.g., noni, lemon, orange).

Note: Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

Rainfall monitoring for the last 3-months, 6-months and 12-months



Rainfall Outlooks for 15 – 28 August, August and August to October 2026



Information on the Maps

Rainfall Monitoring maps

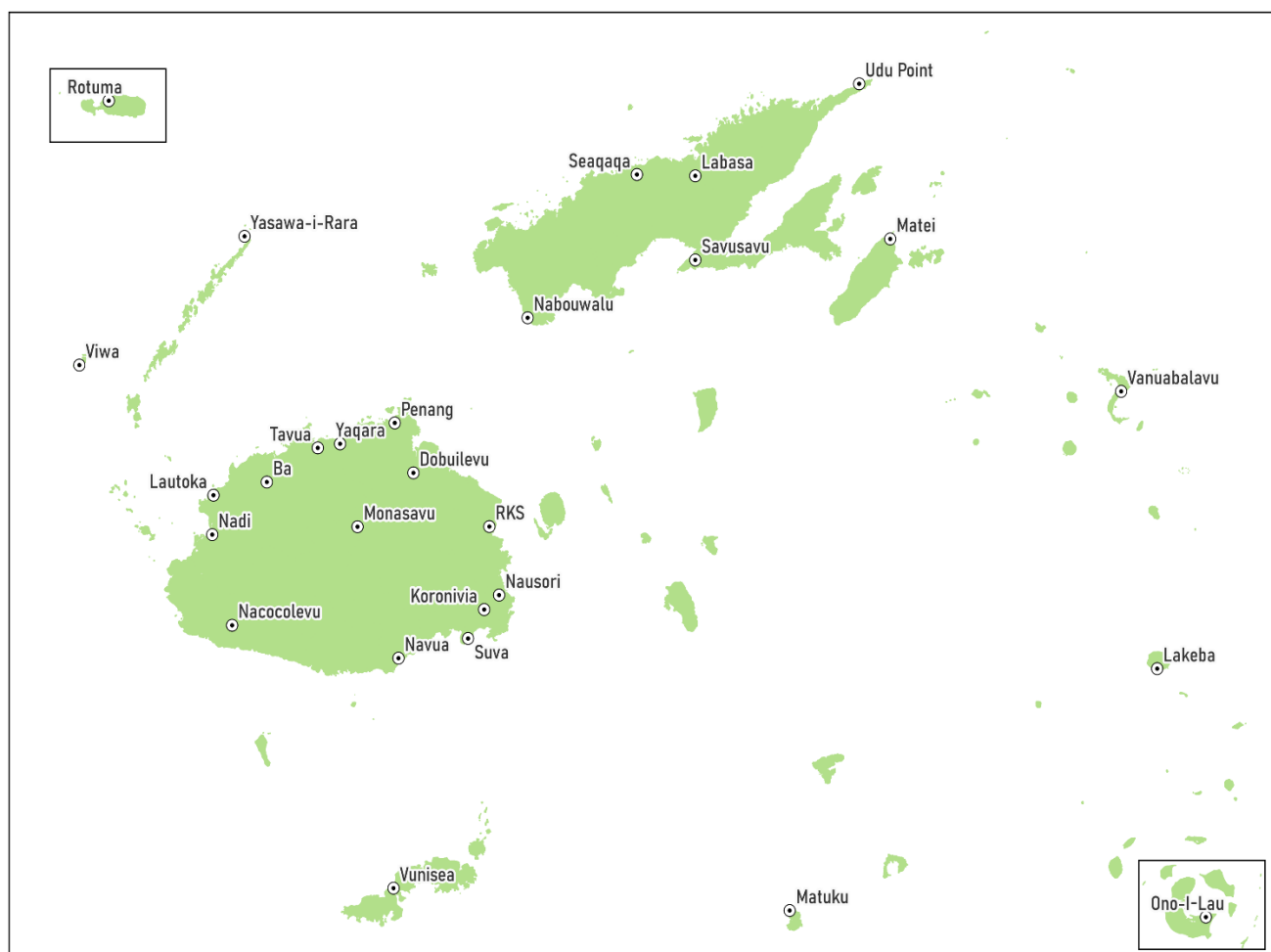
Fiji's rainfall status is assessed using the MSWEP dataset available via <http://www.gloh2o.org/mswep/>. MSWEP is a global precipitation dataset at 0.1° resolution, available from 1979 that combines data from rain gauges, satellite observations and reanalysis. The data is processed and presented in Percentile Index form by the Australian and New Zealand DFAT Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific. 'No Alert' is assigned where rainfall was between the 20th and 80th percentile for the period in question.

Forecast for Extreme Rainfall maps

The chance of extremes outlook maps present the likelihood of very wet or very dry conditions. They are displayed by the chance that the outlook will result in rainfall or temperature in the top or bottom 20% of historical observations for the selected outlook period. Where there is white shading it is less likely there will be either very wet or very dry conditions, rainfall is likely to be close to normal in this case. An alert 3 for very dry (very wet) conditions is associated with a very high probability of rainfall being in the lowest (highest) 20% on record. An alert 1 for very dry (very wet) conditions is associated with a moderate/medium chance of rainfall being in the lowest (highest) 20% on record. Confidence in the forecast is greatest for alert 3.

The outlooks have been produced using the Australian Bureau of Meteorology ACCESS-S2 model <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/about/model/access.shtml>.

Fiji Reference Map



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