

# Early Action Rainfall Watch (EAR Watch)

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

Issued: 12/01/2026

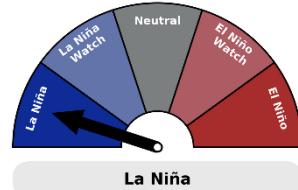
## Rainfall Status until December 2025:

- On 3-month timescale, **Seriously Wet** conditions exist in parts of Northern Lau Goup, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Udu Point, Savusavu, parts of Bua, Rabi, some parts of Taveuni, Vanuabalavu, Lakeba, most parts of Southern Lau Group, Moala Group and Lomaiviti Group, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- For the 6-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Ono-i-Lau, Lakeba, Vanuabalavu and most parts of Northern and Southern Lau Groups, parts of Lomaiviti group, Moala Group, some parts of Kadavu, Nadi and Lautoka, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Rotuma, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- On 12-month timescale, **Seriously Wet** conditions exist in Ono-i-Lau, parts of Northern Lau Group, Nairai and Batiki, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Vanuabalavu, parts of Moala Group, Gau and Wakaya, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.

## Rainfall Outlook:

- For **15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January**, there is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions across the Northern Division, Yasawa-i-Rara, Viwa, Mamanuca Group, and Rotuma. **No Extreme** alert is in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- During **January**, there is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions for some interior parts of Viti Levu as well as most parts of Vanua Levu. There is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- For **January to March 2026**, there is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions for some interior parts of Viti Levu, Monasavu, Dobuilevu, Seaqaqa, Labasa and parts of Northern Vanua Levu, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.

**El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status:** La Niña in place



## Time periods and Impacts on the ground

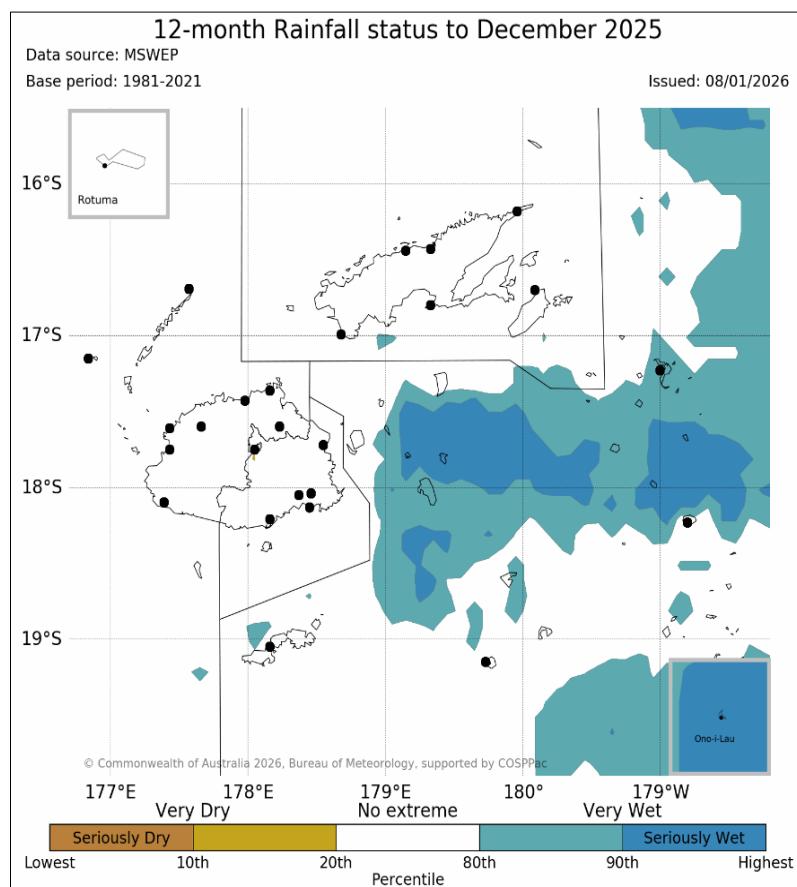
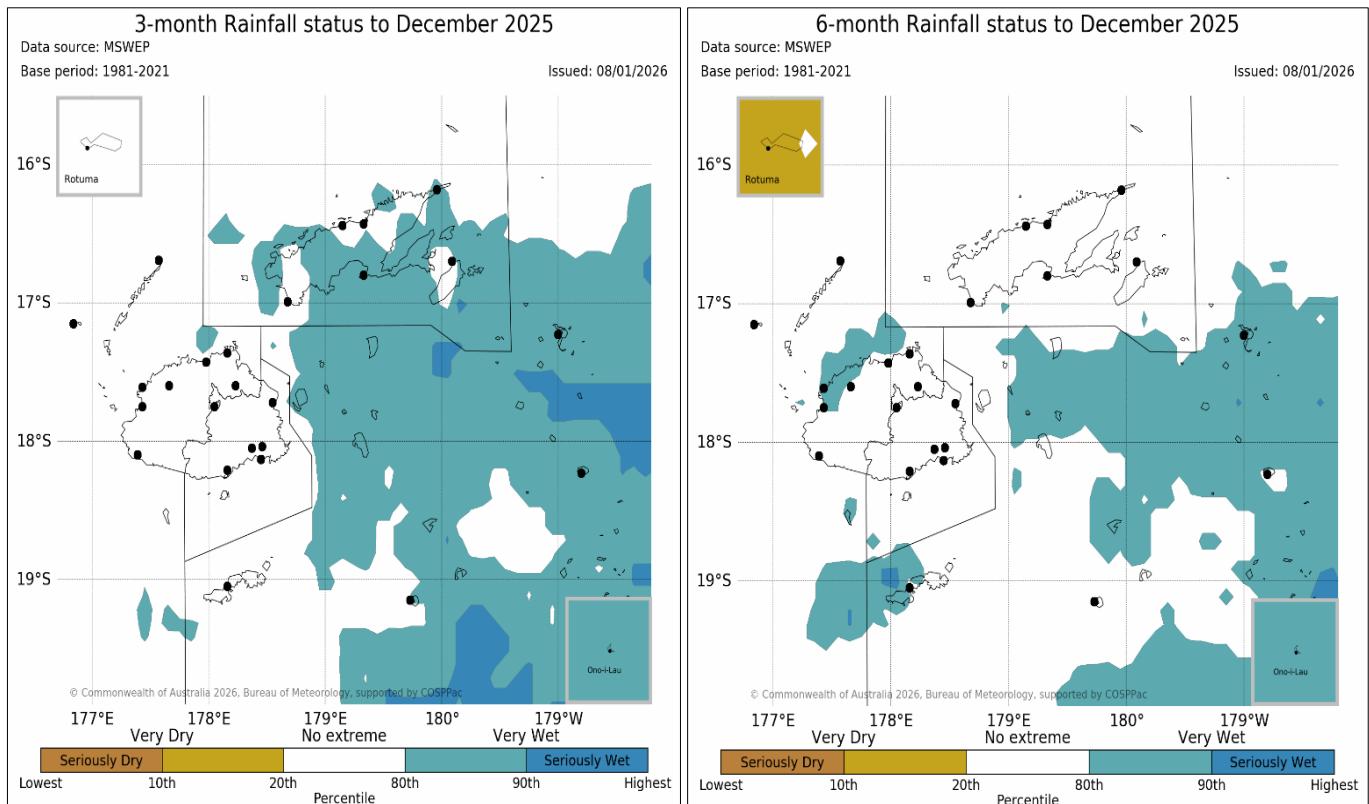
**3-months:** rainwater tanks, small streams, hand-dug wells, shallow bores, young sugarcane, traditional vegetables (e.g., bele), cabbage, beans, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, watermelon, rice, crops (yam, taro, cassava, pasture)

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

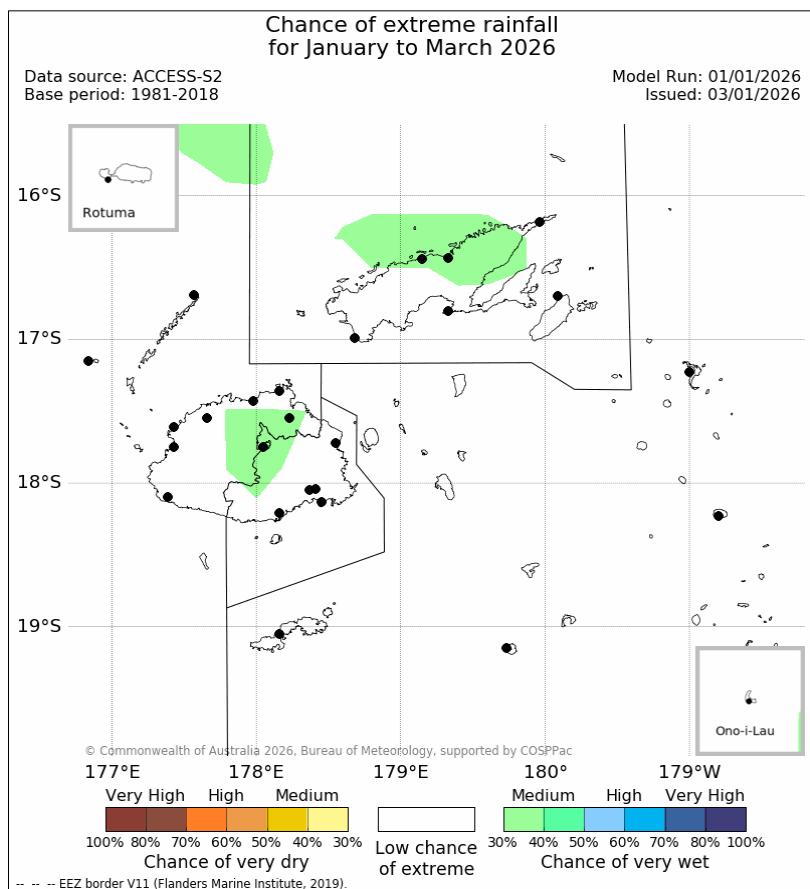
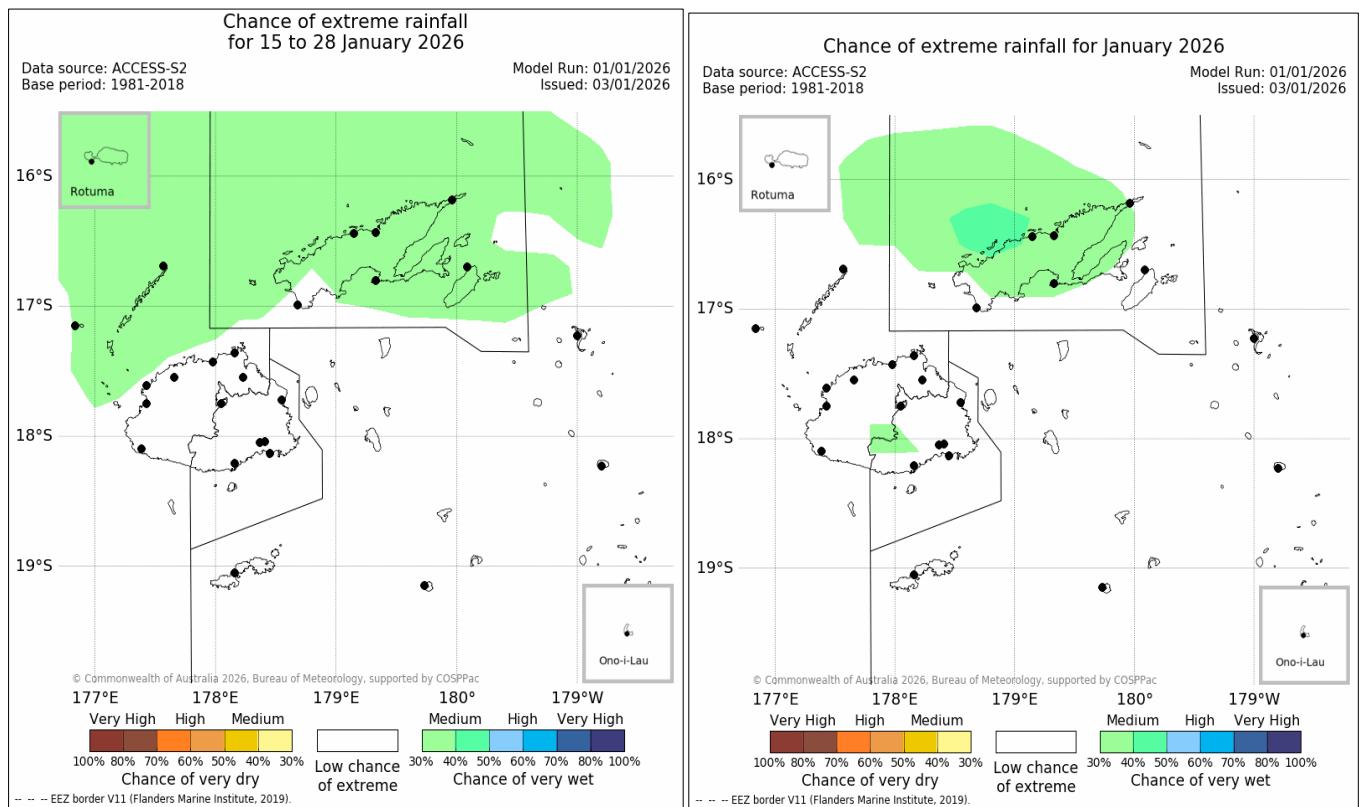
**12-months:** deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams, rivers, tapi, coconuts, breadfruit, mango, kava, banana, vudi, fruit trees (e.g., noni, lemon, orange)

*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 January, January and January to March 2026



## Information on the Maps

### Rainfall Monitoring maps

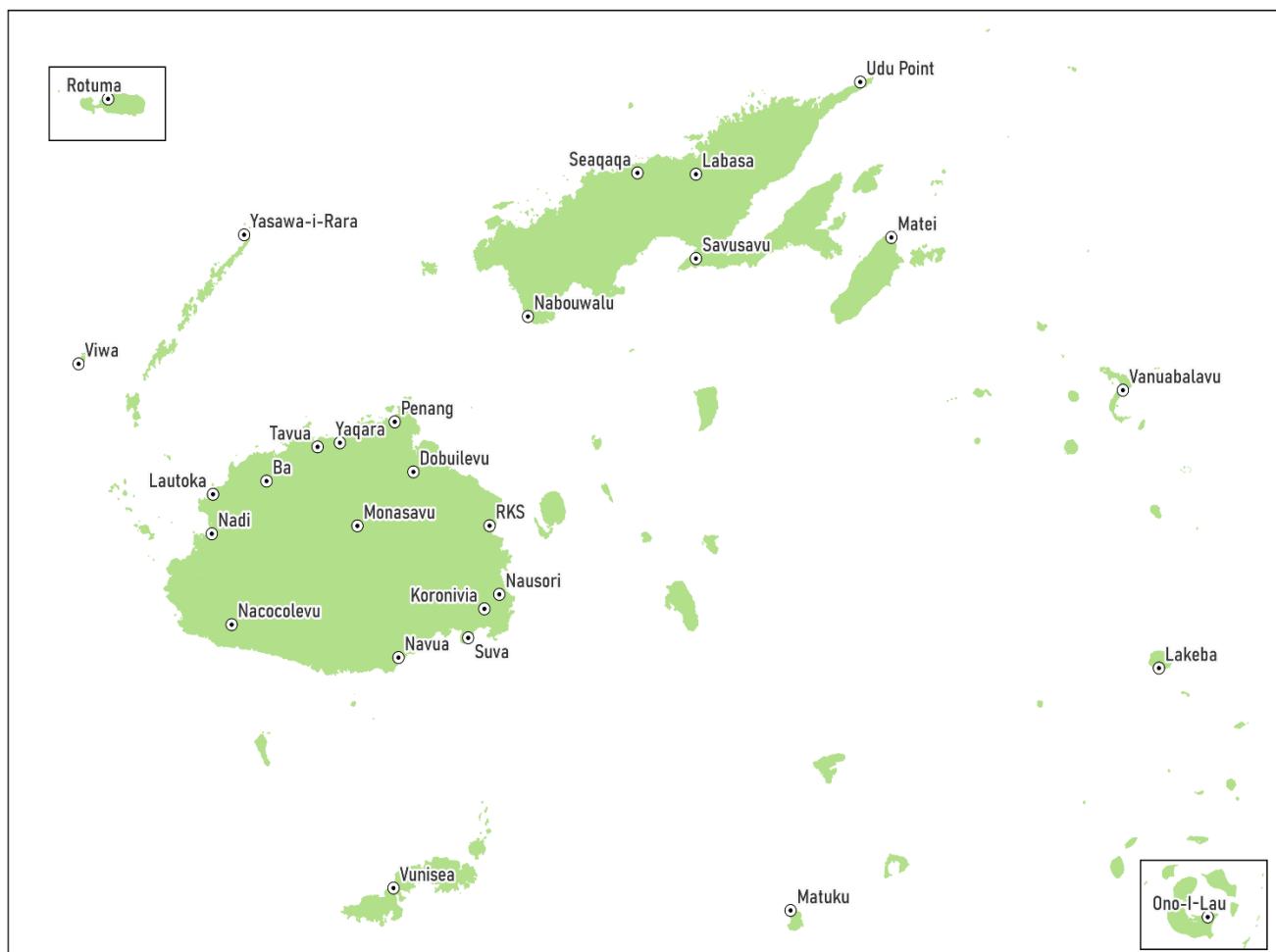
Fiji's rainfall status is assessed using the MSWEP dataset available via <http://www.gloh2o.org/mswep/>. MSWEP is a global precipitation dataset at 0.1° resolution, available from 1979 that combines data from rain gauges, satellite observations and reanalysis. The data is processed and presented in Percentile 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> 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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