FIJI MET
FIJI METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES

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: 13/03/2026

Rainfall Status until February 2026:

- On 3-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Matuku, as well as parts of the southern Lau 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 Vanuabalavu, Ono-i-Lau and parts of the northern and southern Lau Group, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- On 12-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Ono-i-Lau and parts of northern and southern Lau Group, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Monasavu and Rotuma, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.

Rainfall Outlook:

- For **14th to 27th February**, there is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions for Nacocolevu, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Vatulele, Mamanuca Group, Ono-i-Lau and some parts of the southern Lau Group. **No Extreme** alert is in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- During **March**, there is a high chance of **Very Wet** conditions for Ono-i-Lau. There is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions for Mamanuca Group, Lakeba, and parts of southern Lau Group. **No Extreme** alert is in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- For **March to May 2026**, there is a high chance of **Very Wet** conditions for Ono-i-Lau, 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 14 – 27 March, March and March to May 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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