

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: 12/05/2026

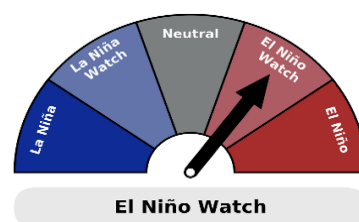
Rainfall Status until April 2026:

- On a 3-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in some parts of Tavua, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Savusavu, Natewa coastal areas, parts of Tavueuni, and Koro Island, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- For the 6-month timescale, **Serously Wet** condition exist in parts of northern Lau Group, **Very Wet** conditions exist from Rakiraki to Ba Corridor, Ovalau, Batiki, Nairai, Gau, Matuku, Moala, Ono-i-Lau, and Vanuabalavu, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- On 12-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist between Tavua and Ba coastal areas, and in parts of the northern Lau Group, **Very 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 May**, there is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions for Rotuma, while there is a medium chance of **Very Dry** conditions for Nadi, Sigatoka, Coral Coast, Monasavu, interior parts of Viti Levu, Vatulevu, Navua, Suva, Koronivia, southern half of Kadavu, Ono-i-Lau and parts of southern Lau Group. **No Extreme** alert is in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- During **May**, there is a medium chance of **Very Wet** conditions for Rotuma, while there is a medium chance of **Very Dry** conditions for Ono-i-Lau. **No Extreme** alert is in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- For **May to July 2026**, there is medium to high chance of **Very Dry** conditions for the Mamanuca Group, Ba to Nacocolevu area, parts of interior Viti Levu, Vatulele, Kadavu and the southern Lau Group. **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status: El Niño Watch is in place.



Time periods and Impacts on the ground

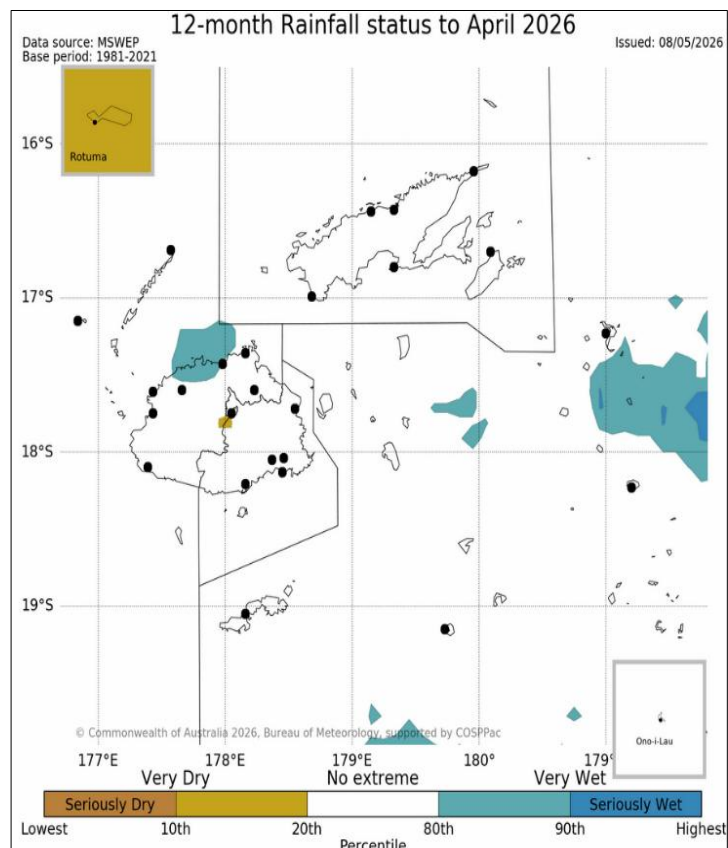
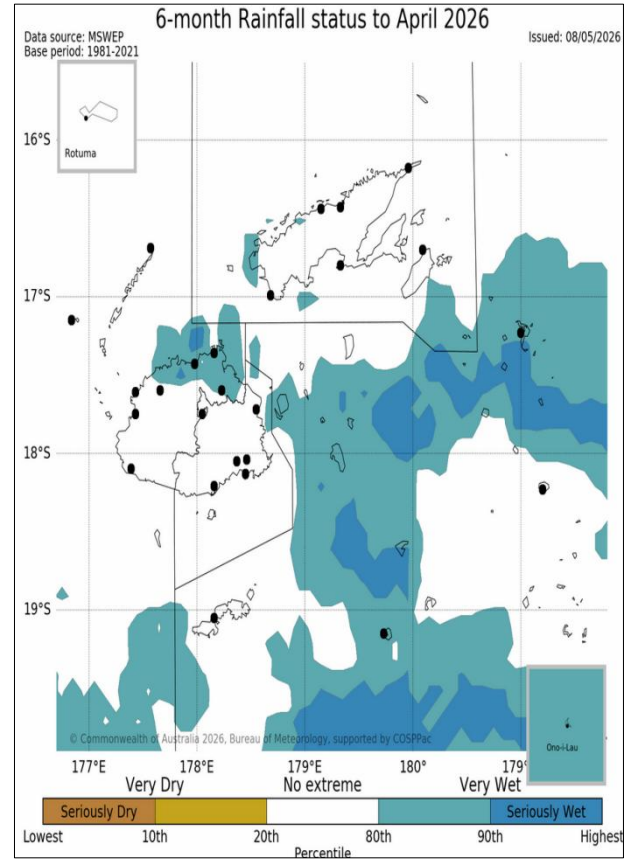
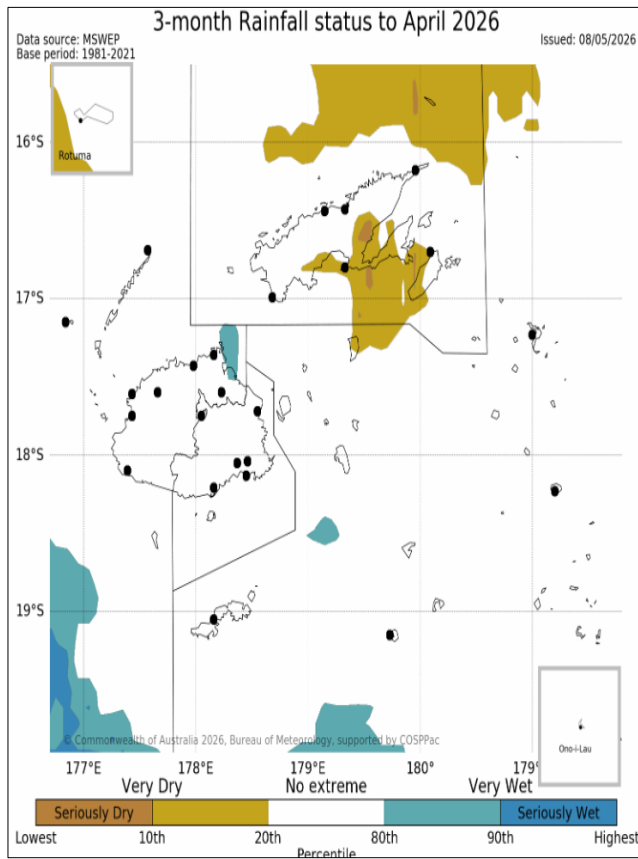
3-months: rainwater tanks, small streams, hand-dug wells, shallow bores, young sugarcane, traditional vegetables (e.g., bele), cabbage, beans, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, watermelon, rice, crops (yam, taro, cassava, pasture)

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

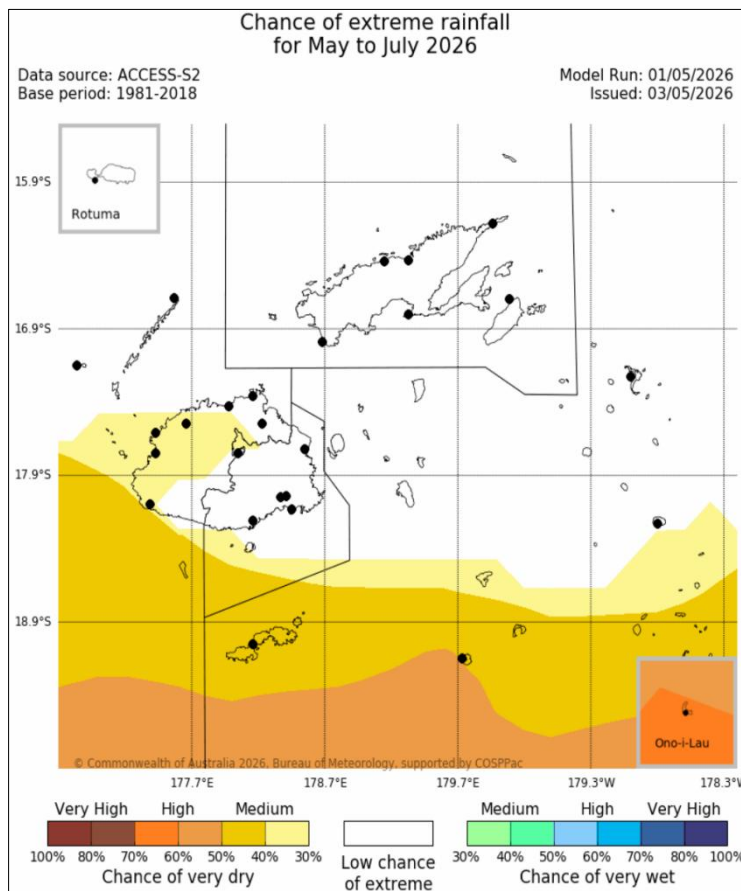
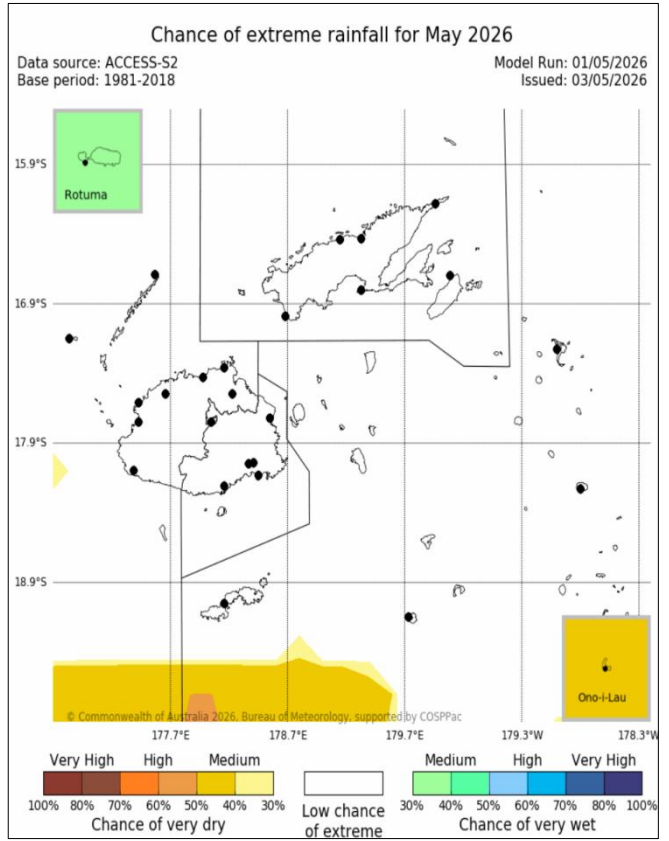
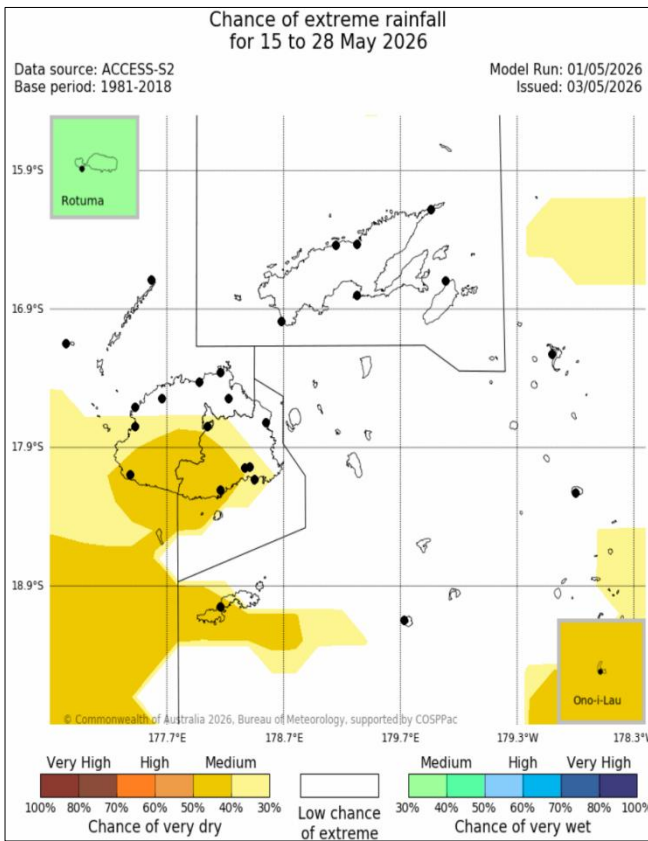
12-months: deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams, rivers, tapi, coconuts, breadfruit, mango, kava, banana, vudi, fruit trees (e.g., noni, lemon, orange).

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 May, May and May to July 2026



Information on the Maps

Rainfall Monitoring maps

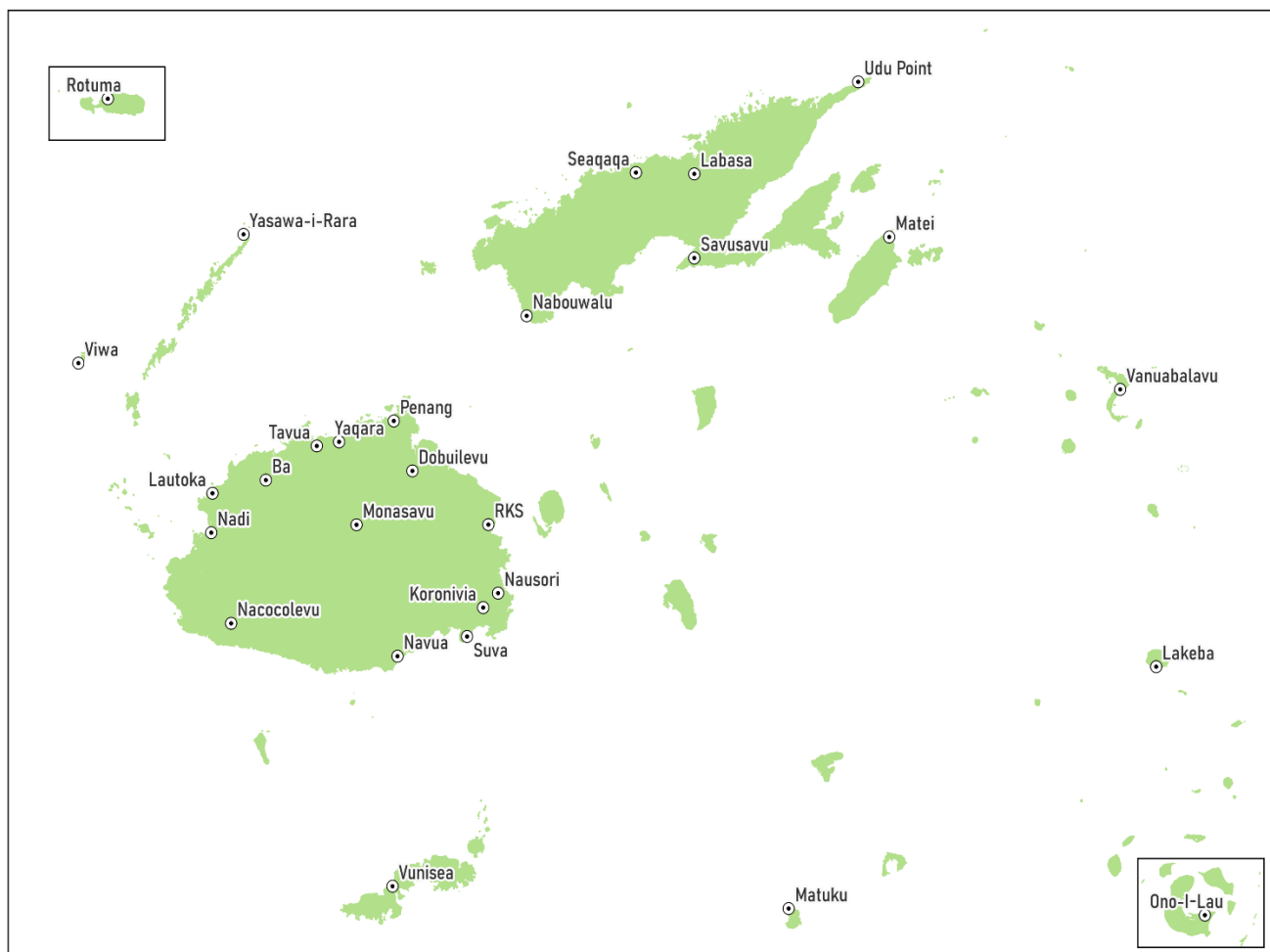
Fiji's rainfall status is assessed using the MSWEP dataset available via <http://www.gloh2o.org/mswep/>. MSWEP is a global precipitation dataset at 0.1° resolution, available from 1979 that combines data from rain gauges, satellite observations and reanalysis. The data is processed and presented in Percentile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