

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: 10/09/2026

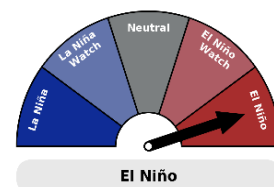
Rainfall Status until August 2026:

- On a 3-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Vatulele, **Very Dry** conditions exist in some parts of Makogai, parts of Koro Island, Gau, across Vanua Levu, Vanuabalavu, northern Lau Group and Ono-i-Lau, **Seriously Dry** conditions exist in Taveuni and Cikobia, 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 Taveuni, while there is **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the country.
- On 12-month timescale, **Very Wet** conditions exist in Batiki, **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 September**, there is a **very high chance** of **Very Dry** conditions across the Western, Central and Northern Divisions, most parts of the Eastern Division, and Rotuma, while there is a **high chance** of **Very Dry** conditions across the rest of the Fiji Group.
- During **September**, there is a **very high chance** of **Very Dry** conditions across the Fiji Group.
- For **September to November 2026**, there is a **very high chance** of **Very Dry conditions** across the Fiji Group.

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



Time periods and Impacts on the ground

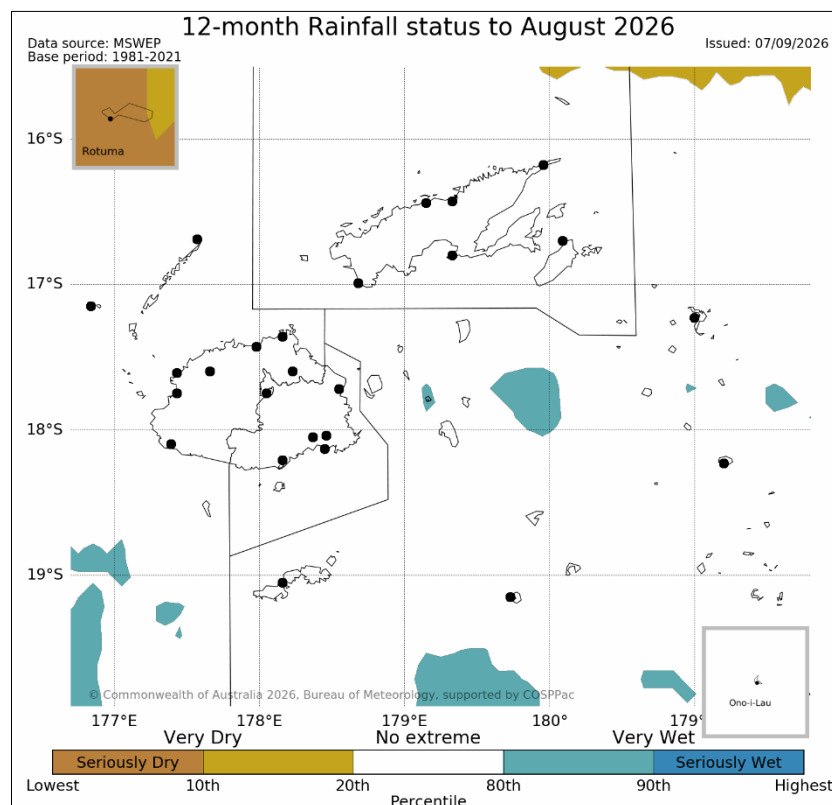
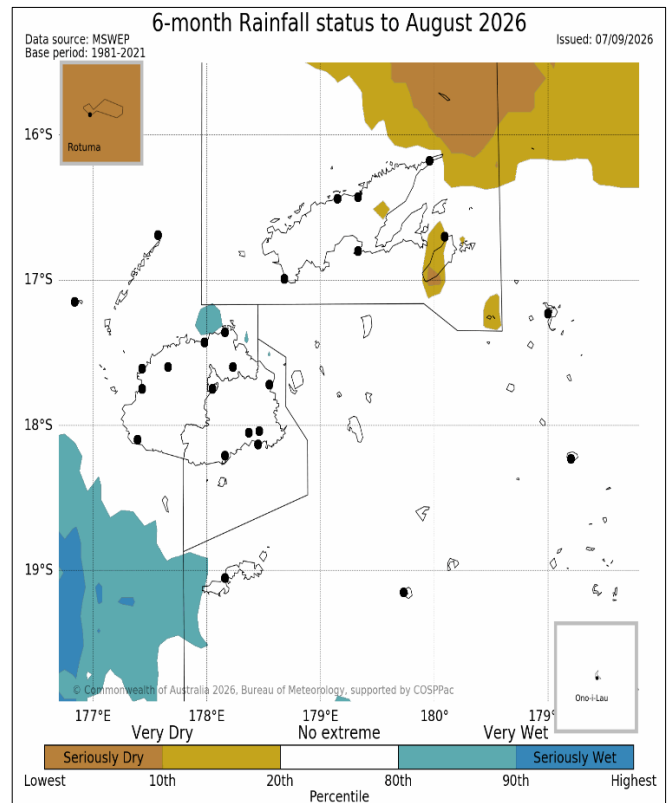
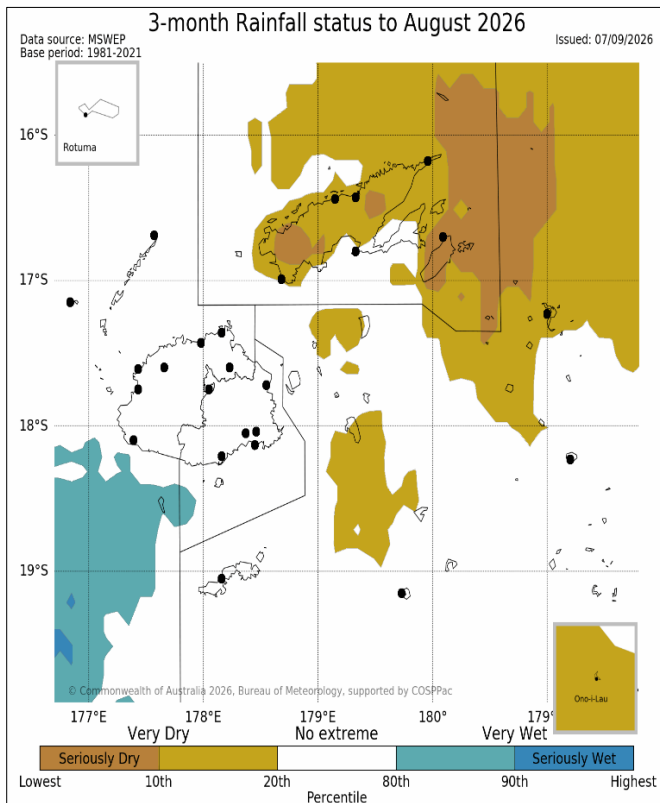
3-months: rainwater tanks, small streams, hand-dug wells, shallow bores, young sugarcane, traditional vegetables (e.g., bele), cabbage, beans, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, watermelon, rice, crops (yam, taro, cassava, pasture)

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

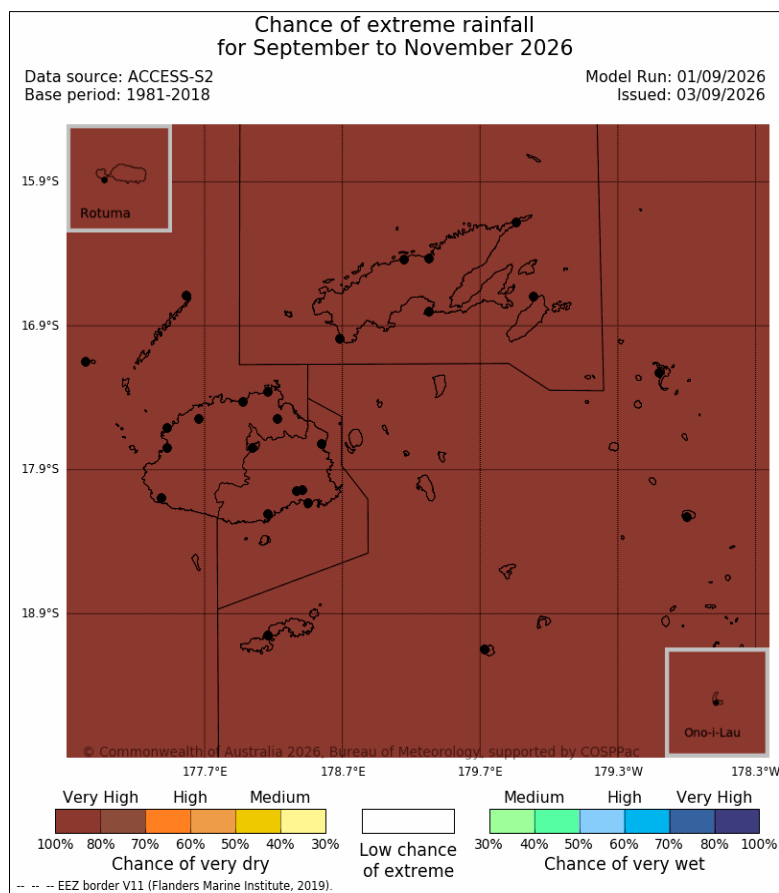
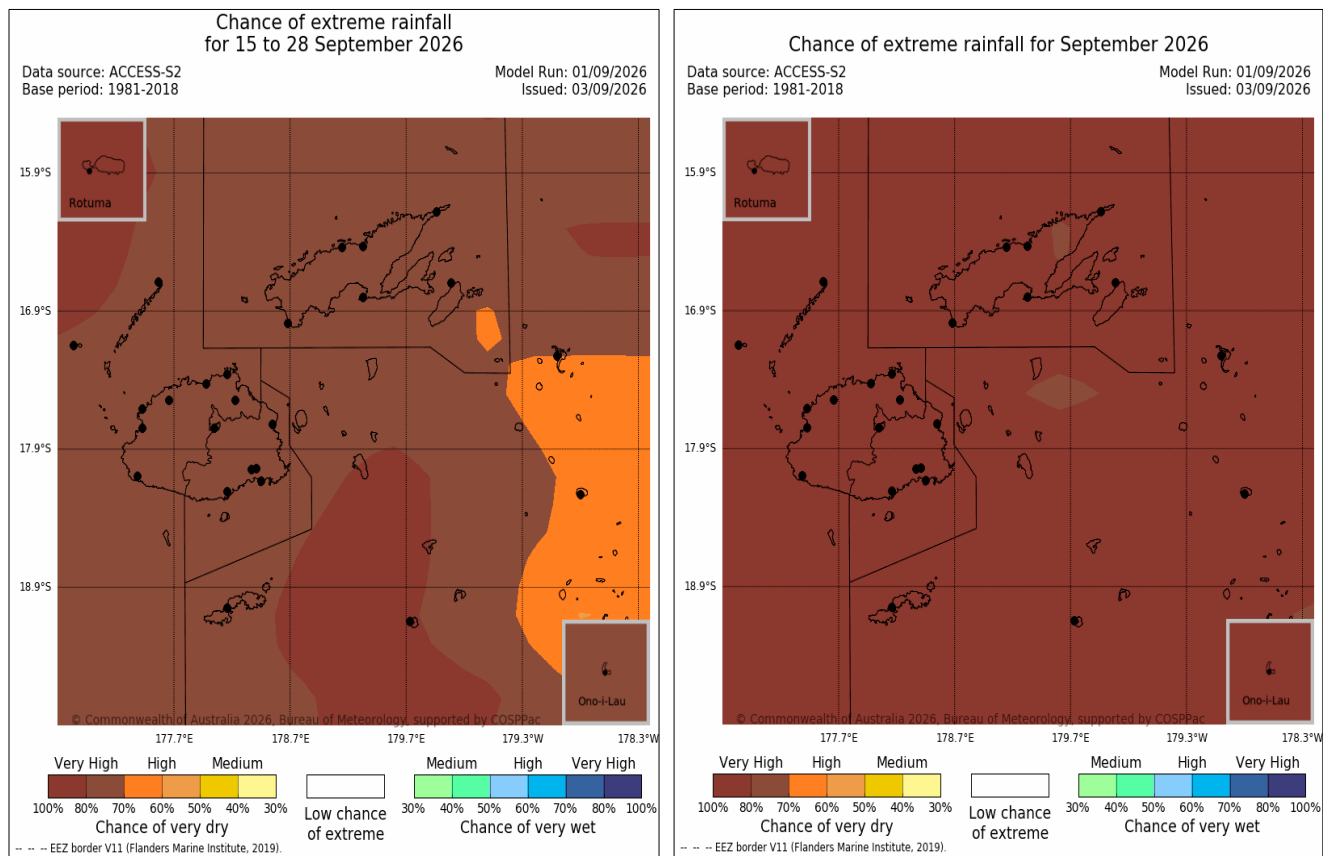
12-months: deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams, rivers, tapi, coconuts, breadfruit, mango, kava, banana, vudi, fruit trees (e.g., noni, lemon, orange).

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 September, September and September to November 2026



Information on the Maps

Rainfall Monitoring maps

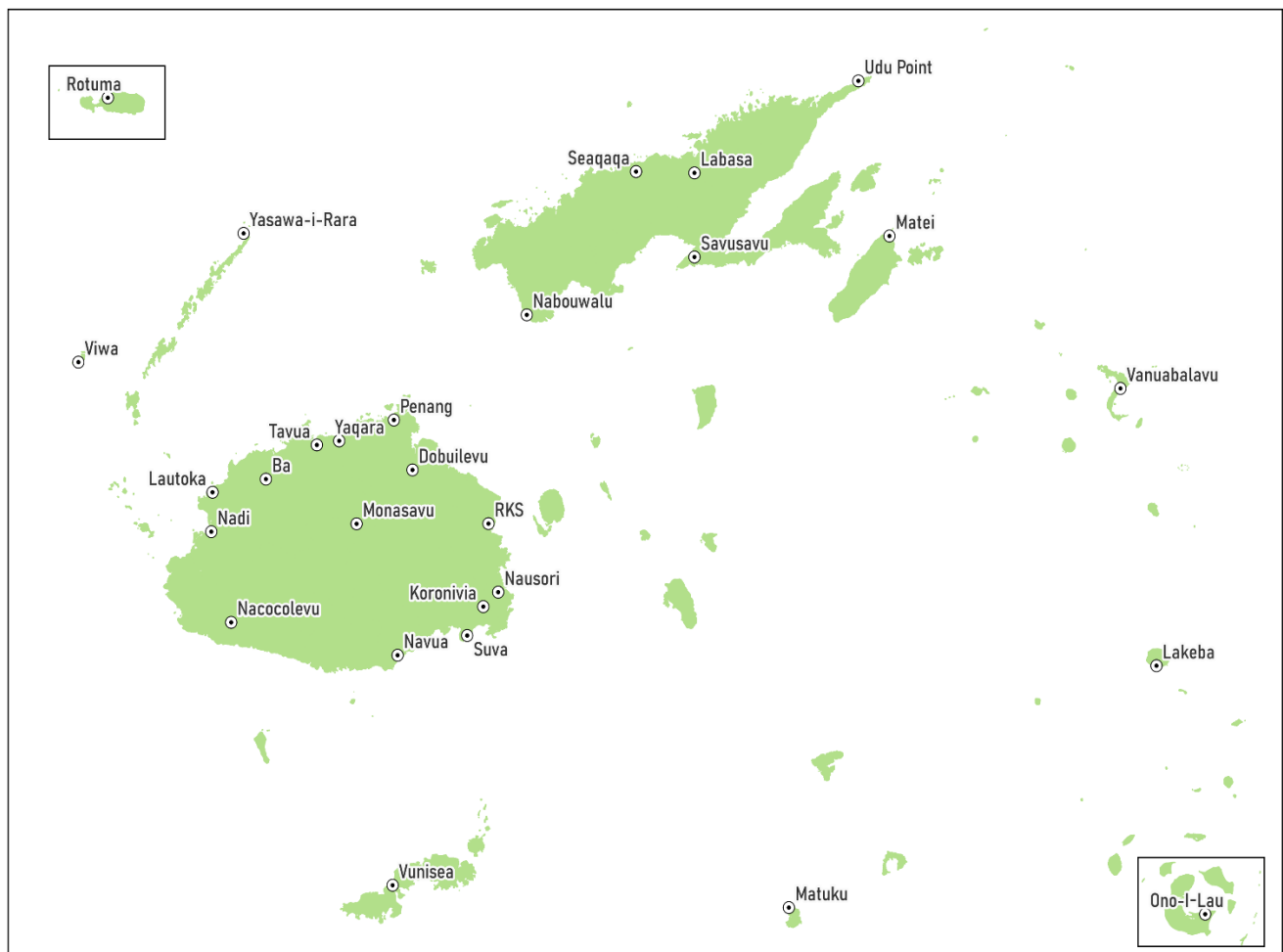
Fiji's rainfall status is assessed using the MSWEP dataset available via <http://www.gloh2o.org/mswep/>. MSWEP is a global precipitation dataset at 0.1° resolution, available from 1979 that combines data from rain gauges, satellite observations and reanalysis. The data is processed and presented in Percentile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