

Fiji Meteorological Service

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.

Rainfall Status until November 2024:

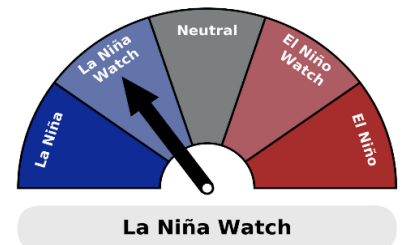
Issued: 13/12/2024

- On 3-month timescale, **Very Dry** condition exist in Rotuma, **Seriously Wet** conditions exist in Matuku, **Very Wet** conditions exist for parts of Kadavu, Ono-i-Lau and some parts of the southern Lau Group, while there are **No Extreme** conditions in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- For the 6-month timescale, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Rotuma, **Very Wet** conditions exist for areas south of Kadavu and Matuku, while there are **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.
- On 12-month timescale, **Very Dry** conditions exist in Rotuma, **Seriously Wet** conditions exist for areas south of Kadavu and Matuku, parts of Lomaiviti Group and Moala, **Very Wet** conditions exist for Navua and some parts of the southern Lau Group, while there are **No Extreme** alert in place for the rest of the Fiji Group.

Rainfall Outlook:

- For **15th to 28th December**, there is a **medium** chance of **Very Wet** condition for Western and Northern Divisions, parts of Lomaiviti Group, Kadavu, Matuku and Ono-i-Lau. There is **No Extreme** conditions in place for rest of the Fiji Group.
- For **December**, there is a **medium** chance of **Very Wet** condition for Western Division and some parts of the Central Division, Savusavu, Labasa, Seaqaqa, Kadavu, Matuku, parts of the Lomaiviti Group, Koro, Moala Group and parts of the southern Lau Group. There is **No Extreme** conditions in place for rest of the Fiji Group.
- For **December 2024 to February 2025**, there is a **medium** chance of **Very Wet** condition for Western, Central and Northern Divisions, and most parts of the Eastern Division. There is **No Extreme** conditions in place for rest of the Fiji Group.

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



Time periods and Impacts on the ground

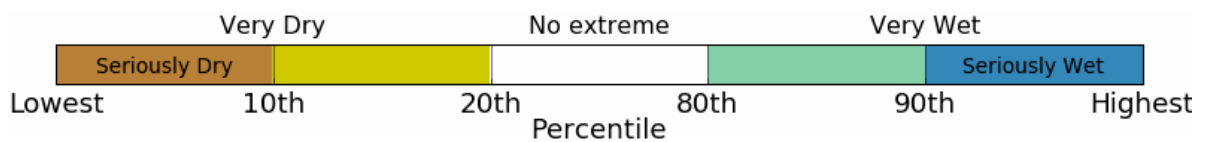
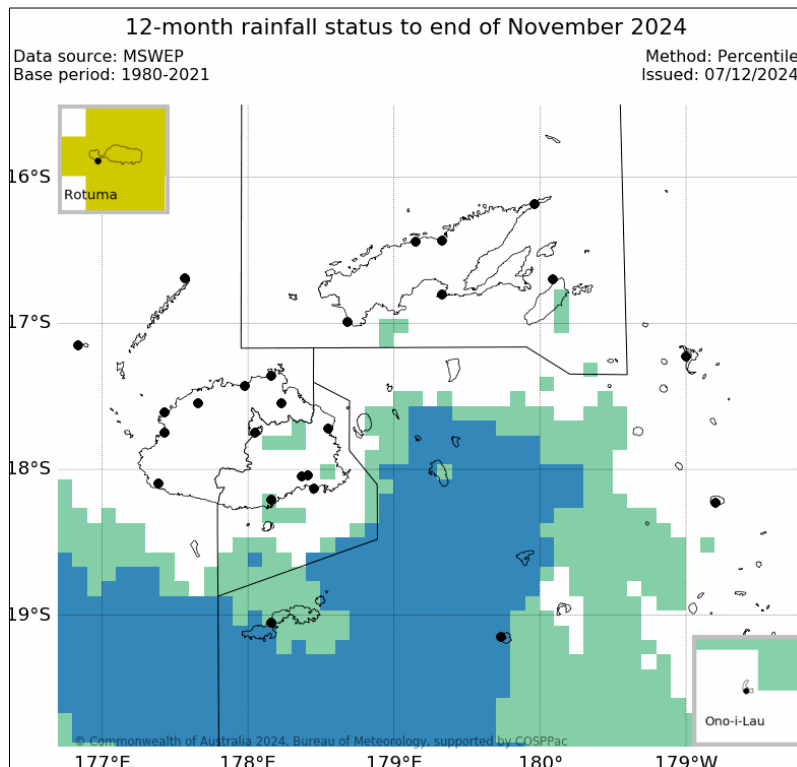
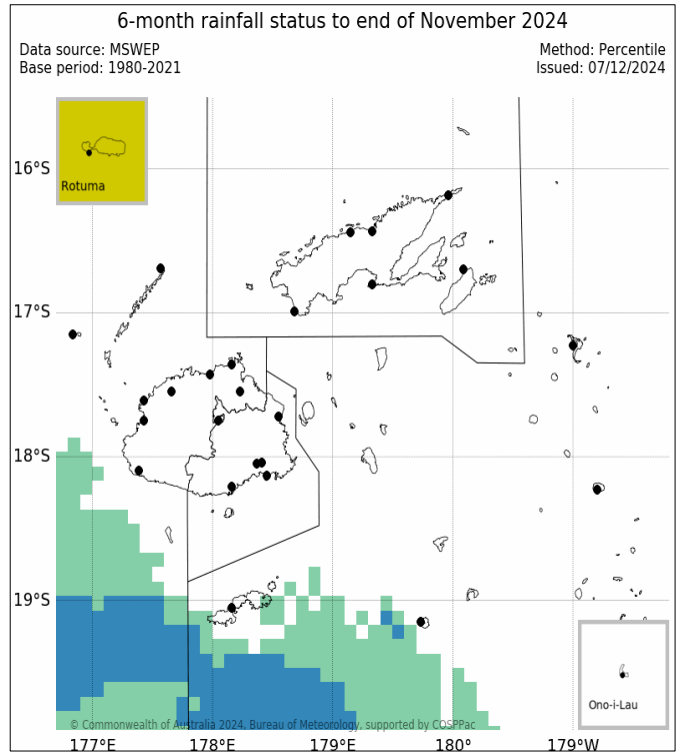
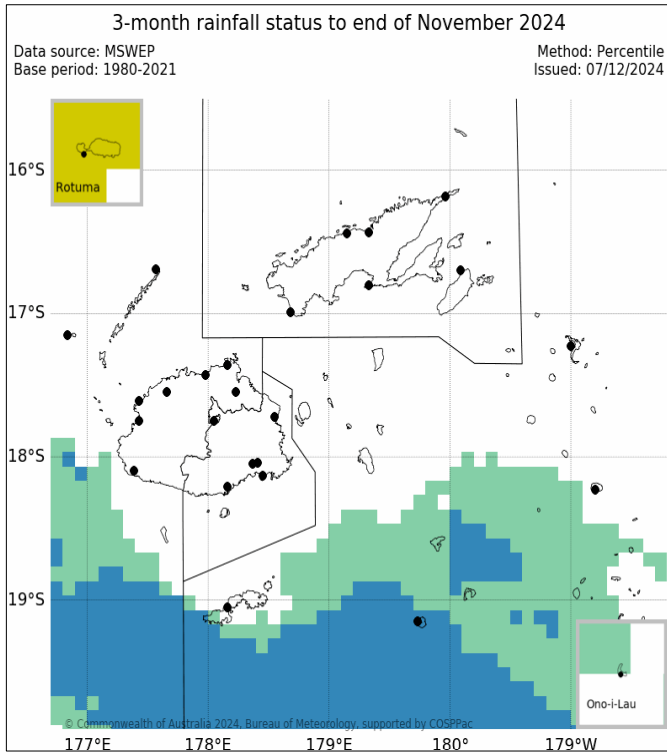
3-months: rainwater tanks, small streams, hand-dug wells, shallow bores, young sugarcane, traditional vegetables (e.g., bele), cabbage, beans, eggplant, okra, tomatoes, watermelon, rice, crops (yam, taro, cassava, pasture)

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

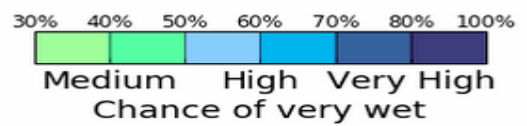
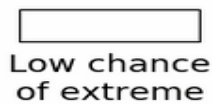
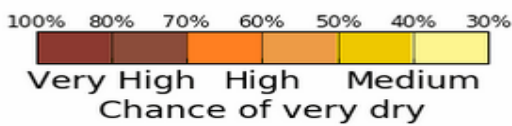
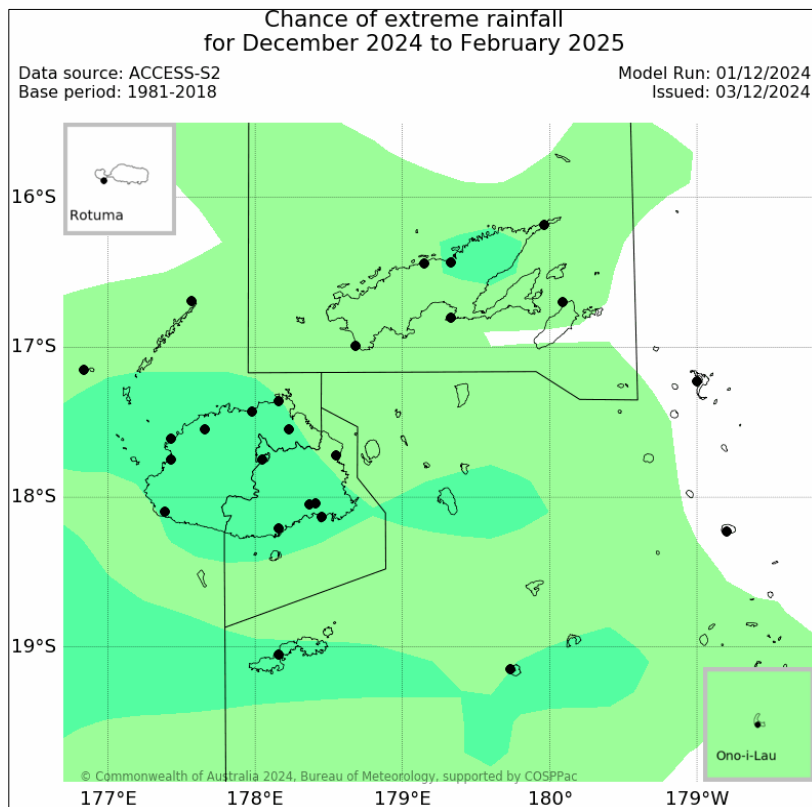
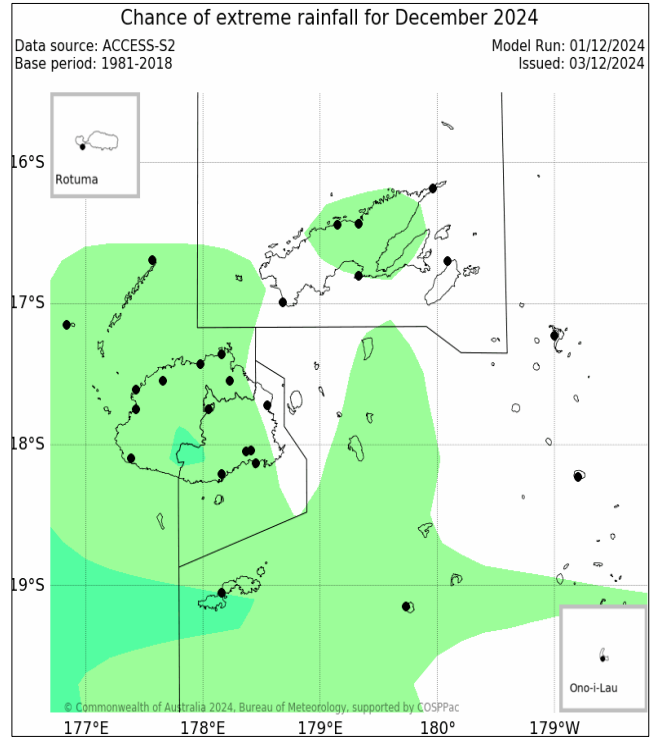
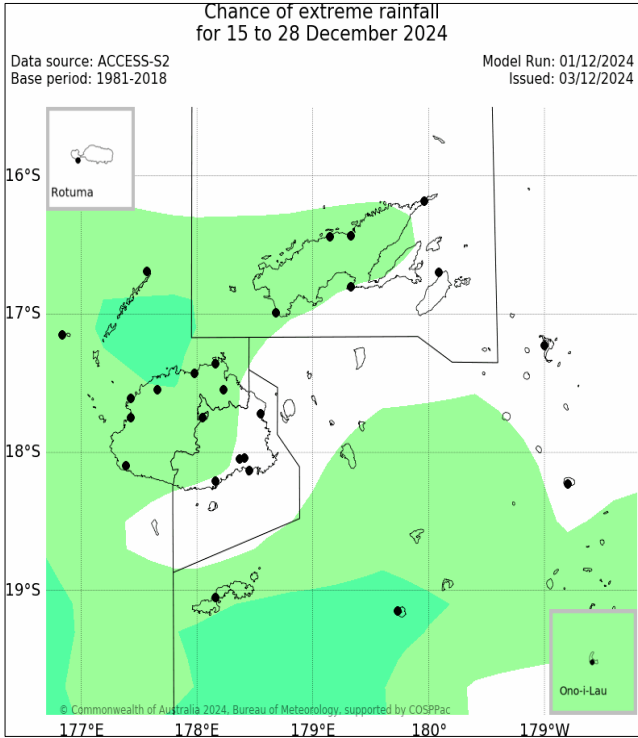
12-months: deep bores/large aquifer system, reservoirs, dams, rivers, tapi, coconuts, breadfruit, mango, kava, banana, vudi, fruit trees (e.g., noni, lemon, orange)

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 December, December and December to February 2025



Information on the Maps

Rainfall Monitoring maps

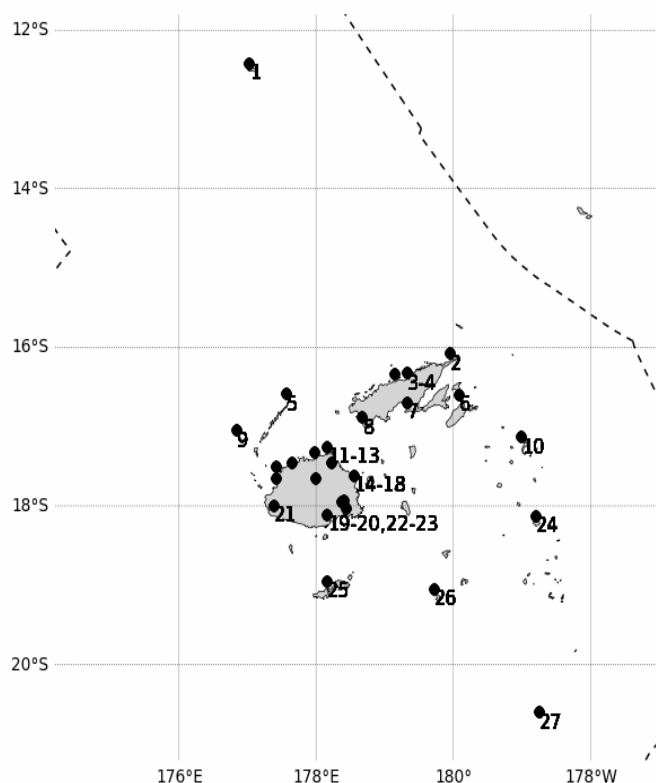
Fiji's rainfall status is assessed using the MSWEP dataset available via <http://www.gloh2o.org/mswep/>. MSWEP is a global precipitation dataset at 0.1° resolution, available from 1979 that combines data from rain gauges, satellite observations and reanalysis. The data is processed and presented in Percentile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



Rotuma 1. ,Udu Point 2. ,Labasa 3. ,Seaqaqa 4. ,Yasawai 5. ,Matei 6. ,Savusavu 7. ,Nabouwalu 8. ,Viwa 9.
Vanuabalavu 10. ,Pengmil 11. ,Yawara 12. ,Dobuilevu 13. ,Rarawai 14. ,Lautmil 15. ,R.K.S. Lodon 16. ,Nadi 17. ,Monasavu 18.
Nausori 19. ,Koronivia 20. ,Nacocolevu 21. ,Laucala 22. ,Tokotoko 23. ,Lakeba 24. ,Vunisea 25. ,Matuku 26. ,Ono-i-Lau 27.

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