



TONGA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Climate Update



June—August 2022 Rainfall Outlook

Issued: 23 May 2022

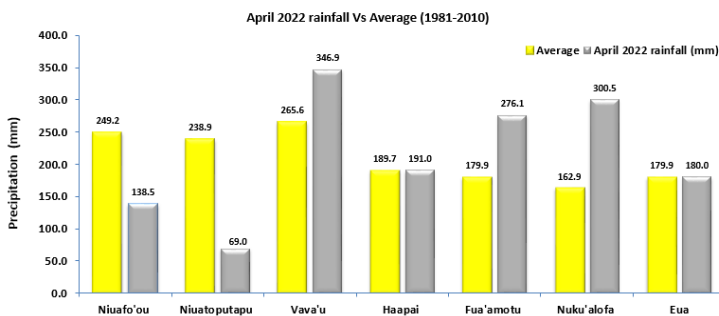
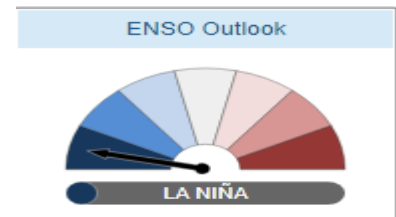
La Niña slow to weaken.

Some La Niña indicators have indicated La Niña has regained strength in the past fortnight. Most models show a return to neutral conditions in the last quarter of the year. Due to La Niña being slow to weaken, more or above rainfall is expected in the next 3 months.

Recent

April 2022:

Average to above average rainfall was received in April in Vava'u, Ha'apai Tongatapu and 'Eua while below average rainfall was recorded in the Niua. Niuatoputapu recorded its 3rd lowest April rainfall. The previous lowest April rainfall recorded in Niuatoputapu was 52.0mm in 1959 and 57.3mm recorded in 1983. The highest one day rainfall was 137mm recorded at Lapaha on the 4th. The mean temperature was 26.4°C which was 0.1°C cooler than average. Highest maximum temperature was 33.5°C recorded on the 14th in Nuku'alofa. The lowest minimum temperature was 17.5°C at Hango, 'Eua on the 24th.



	February	March	April
Niuafo'ou	344.5	209.0	138.5
Niuatoputapu	661.5	138.5	69.0
Vava'u	406.0	285.5	346.9
Ha'apai	233.5	420.5	191.0
Fua'amotu	510.4	594.0	276.1
Nuku'alofa	356.0	384	300.5
'Eua	267.5	358.5	180.0
Below average	Average (usual)	Above average	

Note:

It is the dry season which started on 1st May 2022 and will last till end of October 2022. It is also called the cool dry season. The cooler spells we are experiencing now usually happens as we transition from the warm to the dry season also the days are shorter meaning less sunlight and temperatures get colder as winter nears. On average, during this period we receive less rainfall than during the wet season.

According to the rainfall outlook and the current ENSO status, public are advised to ensure that you stay alert at all times and get the latest weather forecast and warnings from the Met service. It is also advisable to seek advice from relevant authorities of sensitive sectors, e.g. Agriculture, Water, Health and the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) on the best practices to save lives and property and minimize the effects of natural disaster.

Forecast

Table 1: Forecast for the next 3months

	June-August 2022 (%) chance	September–November 2022 (%) chance
Niuafo'ou	50-60	40-50
Niuatoputapu	50-60	40-50
Vava'u	50-60	40-50
Ha'apai	60-70	40-50
Fua'amotu & 'Eua	40-50	40-50
Nuku'alofa	40-50	40-50
Below average	Average (usual)	Above average

Rainfall Outlook for June—August 2022
Rainfall is forecast to be average or above average across the country during this period.

Rainfall outlook for September—November 2022
Rainfall is forecast to be average across the country.

Refer to Table 1.

Traditional knowledge indicators for the dry season.

- Shorter days and cooler temperatures act as a signal to the trees and plants around us to get ready for winter.
- When leaves of trees falls it indicates that winter is coming. Leaves fall off trees so that the trees can survive the winter.
- Rooster crows at night before 12 midnight is an indication that it will be a very cold night.
- Millipedes observed inside the house, expect cooler temperatures.
- Mostly clear skies during day and night, expect cooler temperature and fine weather.
- If you see rain has just started and you see roosters/hens hiding or finding shelter then its indicating that the rain will last long.

The next Climate update will be issued early June 2022

Disclaimer:

This summary is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once climate data is received from recording stations around Tonga. Delays in data collection, communication and processing occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data, the Tonga Meteorological Service makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of, and you should not rely on, any information contained in this report. Despite our best efforts, TMS makes no warranties that the information in this publication is free of numerical errors. TMS disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason. This information should be used as a guidance only. For further information about this forecast should be directed to the Director of the Tonga Meteorological Service, at P.O. Box 1380, Nuku'alofa. Or email at metstaff@met.gov.to. Tel: (676) 35 123/740062 or our website; <http://www.met.gov.to> for more information.