



Tonga Climate Update & Climate Outlook



August - October 2026

Issued: 17 July 2026

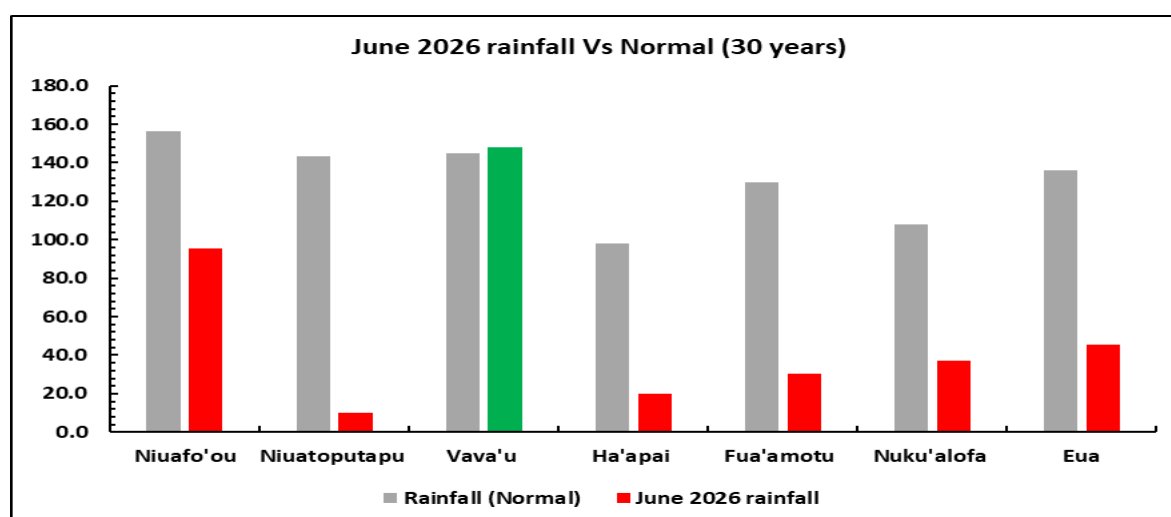
Current warnings and Recent climate updates - June 2026

- El Nino is currently underway in the Pacific and remains in-force for Tonga.***
- Drought declaration is now in-force for Ha'apai***
- Drought warning remains in-force for Niuatoputapu, Tongatapu and 'Eua***
- Drought Alert remains in-force for Vava'u and Niuafo'ou***

- Just above average rainfall recorded in Vava'u and mostly below average rainfall was recorded elsewhere. Refer to Table 1 & graph below.
- Lowest rainfall recorded in June was 1.5mm recorded at 'Atele, in Tongatapu.
- The highest 24 hour rainfall was 62.5mm recorded in Koloa Vava'u on the 16th.
- The mean air temperature was 22.1⁰C which was 2.3⁰C cooler than average.
- Highest maximum temperature was 30.7⁰C recorded at Niuafo'ou on the 18th.

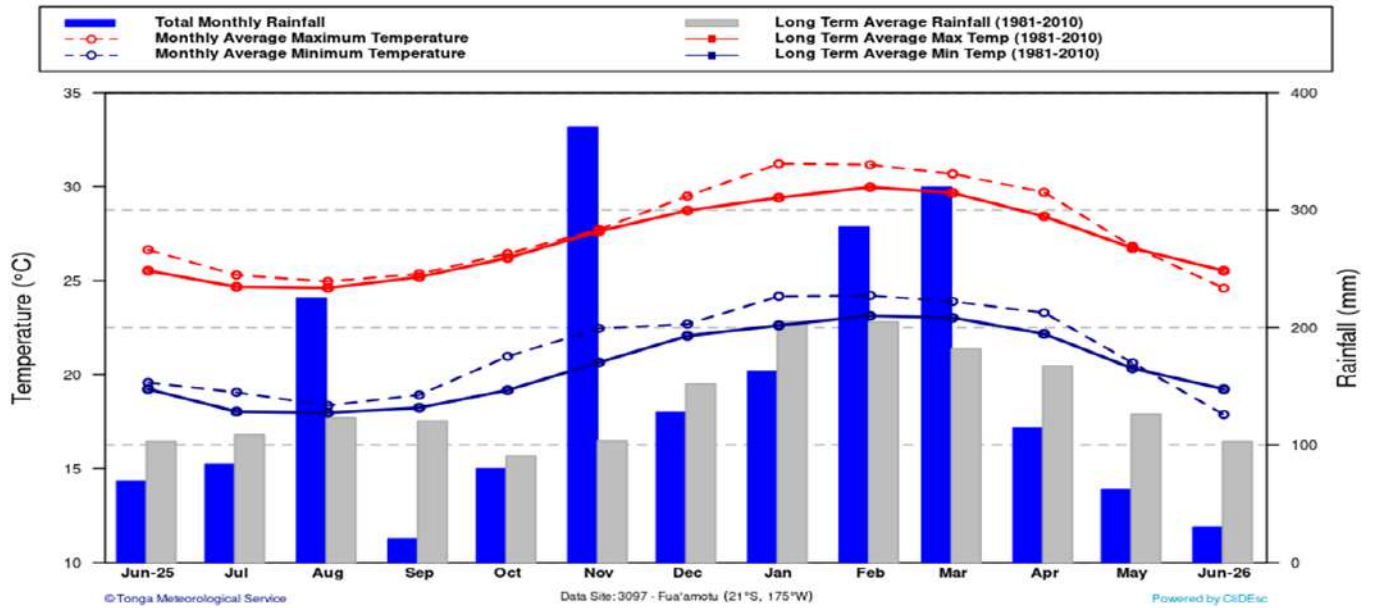
Table 1.

Rainfall totals (mm) for the last six months January to June 2026						
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Niuafo'ou	192.5	253.0	274.0	113.5	440.0	95.5
Niuatoputapu	118.8	263.5	206.0	80.0	255.9	10.0
Vava'u	158.9	328.4	188.0	224.6	207.2	148.2
Ha'apai	149.6	257.9	113.0	111.4	96.1	19.9
Fua'amotu	162.9	285.7	319.5	114.6	62.2	30.2
Nuku'alofa	86.5	154.0	313.5	127.5	62.5	37.0
'Eua	205.0	238.0	318.0	95.5	137.5	45.5
Below normal		Normal (usual)			Above normal	

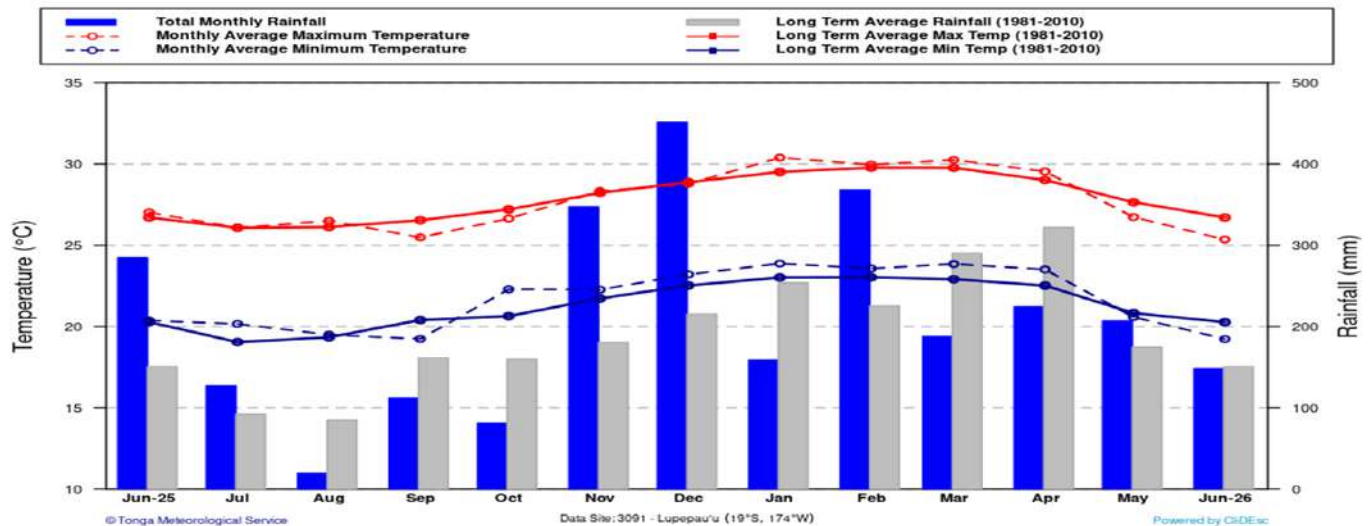


Temperatures & Rainfall for the main islands for the last 13 months

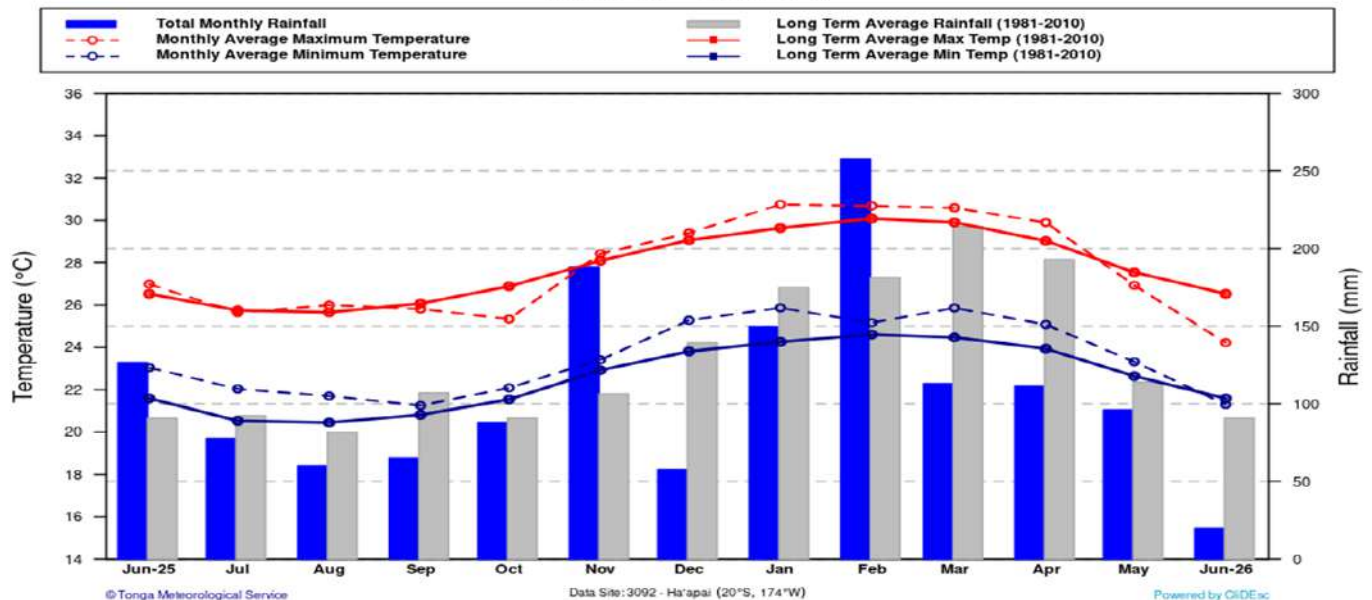
Fua'amotu (3097) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(June, 2025 - June, 2026)



Lupepau'u (3091) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(June, 2025 - June, 2026)



Ha'apai (3092) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(June, 2025 - June, 2026)

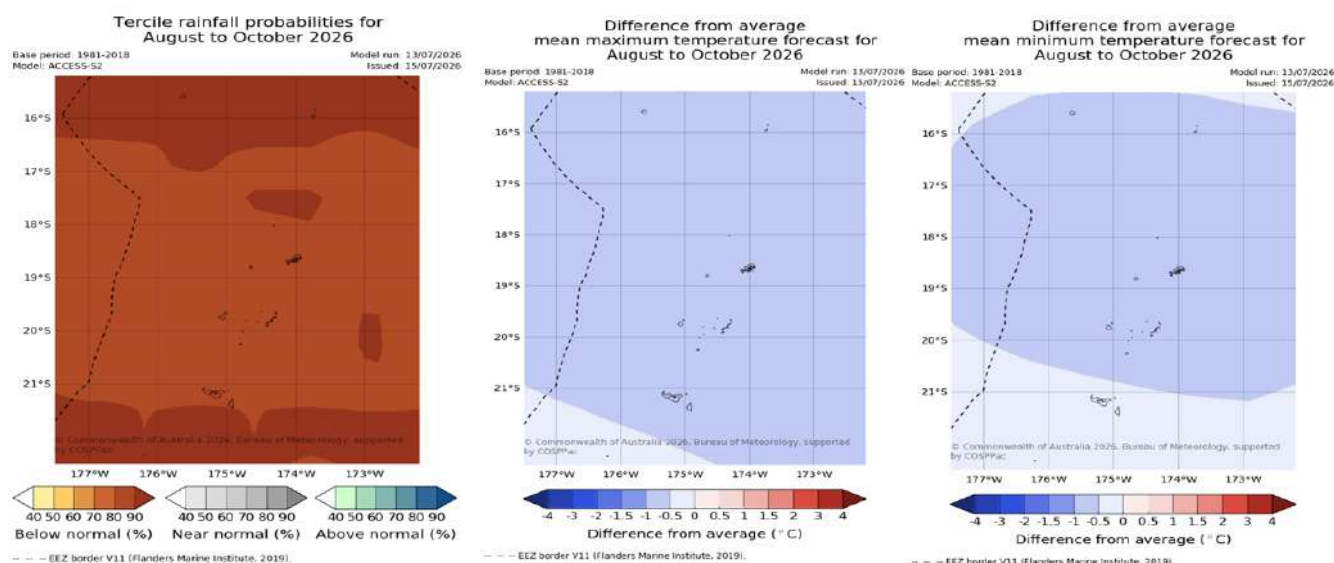


Climate outlook for August to October 2026 (Part of Hilingame'a, 'Ao'ao ki masisiva, Tanumanga, Fufunekinanga).

- **Drought declaration is now in-force for Ha'apai**
- **Drought warning remains in-force for Niuatoputapu, Tongatapu and 'Eua**
- **Drought Alert remains in-force for Vava'u and Niuafo'ou**
- **There is 100% chance that El Nino will continue in the forecast period, August—October.**
 - The rainfall outlook generally indicates below average across Tonga.
 - Cooler than average daytime maximum and night time minimum temperatures across the country.

Table 2. Rainfall Outlook August — October 2026

Location	Rainfall Outlook August — October 2026		% Chance (This is the % chance that this outlook will occur).
Niuafo'ou	Below normal	365 mm – 467mm	80 - 90
Niuatoputapu	Below normal	270mm – 506mm	80 - 90
Vava'u	Below normal	330mm – 474mm	80 - 90
Ha'apai	Below normal	236mm – 355mm	80 - 90
Fua'amotu	Below normal	280mm – 403mm	80 - 90
Nuku'alofa	Below normal	272mm – 376mm	80 - 90
'Eua	Below normal	267mm – 397mm	80 - 90



Traditional knowledge indicators for the winter 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.
- When millipedes are observed inside the house, expect cooler temperatures.

Tongan Calendar and traditional knowledge (Yam):

Parts of Hilingamea'a, 'Ao'ao ki masisiva, Tanumanga, Fufunekinaga (Parts of August to October)

This is the time when soil on the yams fall off and time to take home. It is the time of dry conditions or drought and yams become dry dusty on its skin.

Important Note:

- It is the dry season which started on 1st May to end of October 2026. On average, during this period, Tonga receive less rainfall than during the wet season.
- Expect cool night time and day time temperature.
- Collect water when it rains and use it wisely.
- Public are advised to ensure that you stay alert at all times
- Get the latest climate & 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 Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) on the best practices to save lives and property and minimize the effects of natural disaster.

"We advise all stakeholders to keep monitoring their environment for signs of drought, and look out for our monthly updates"

The next Climate update will be issued second week of August 2026 or earlier

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) 0800638/ 7400062 or our website: <http://www.met.gov.to> for more information.