



Tonga Climate Update & Climate Outlook

October - December 2026



Issued: 16th October 2026

Rainfall and Meteorological Drought status over the past months up to the end of September 2026

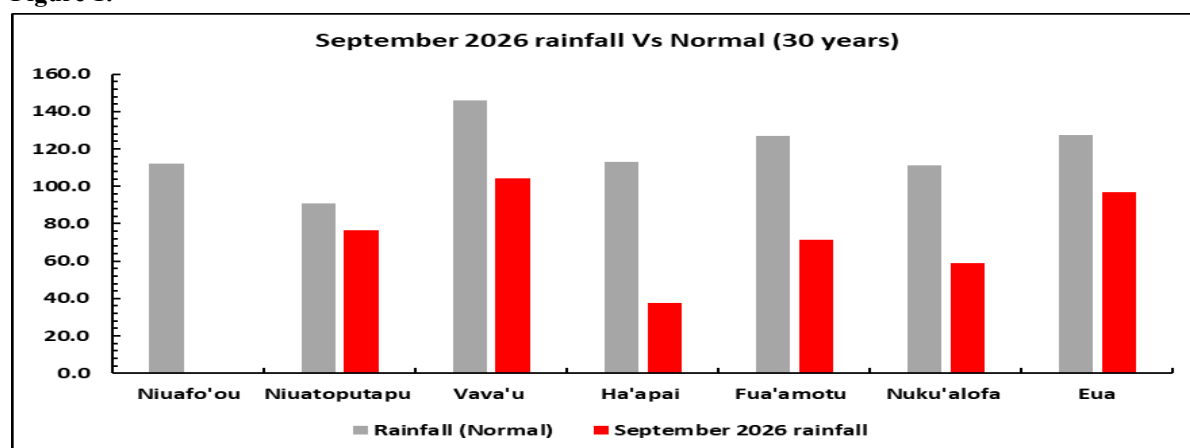
Island Group	Met. Drought Status	Alert Levels
Niuafo'ou	Drought Warning	Drought Alert: Three month rainfall observations within 25 th to 40 th percentile
Niuaotoputapu	Drought Declaration	
Vava'u	Drought Alert	Drought Warning: Three month rainfall observations within 10 th to 25 th percentile
Ha'apai	Drought Declaration	
Tongatapu	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration: Three month rainfall observations less than the 10 th percentile
'Eua	Drought Declaration	

- Below average rainfall recorded across Tonga in September. Refer to Table 1 & graph below.
- The highest 24 hours rainfall was 65.0mm recorded in Longomapu on the 21st.
- The mean air temperature was 21.8^oC which was 1.9^oC cooler than average.
- Lowest minimum temperature was 10.7^oC recorded at 'Atele, 'Eua on the 18th September.
- Highest maximum temperature was 31.2^oC recorded at Nomuka on the 8th.

Table 1.

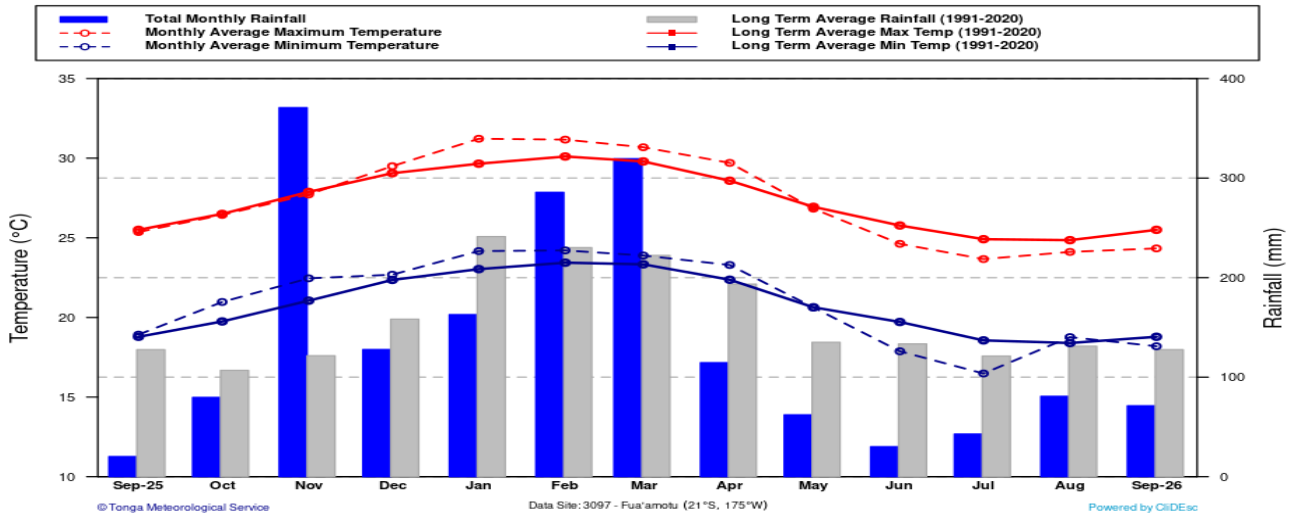
Rainfall totals (mm) for the last six months April to September 2026						
	April	May	June	July	August	September
Niuafo'ou	113.5	440.0	95.5	73.0	16.0	
Niuaotoputapu	47.8	255.9	5.3	70.9	26.5	76.7
Vava'u	224.6	207.2	148.2	40.2	123.3	104.2
Ha'apai	111.4	96.1	19.9	22.0	27.6	37.7
Fua'amotu	114.6	62.2	30.2	42.9	80.8	71.3
Nuku'alofa	127.5	62.5	37.0	39.5	48.5	58.8
'Eua	95.5	137.5	45.5	27.5	60.0	97.0
Below normal		Normal (usual)		Above normal		

Figure 1.

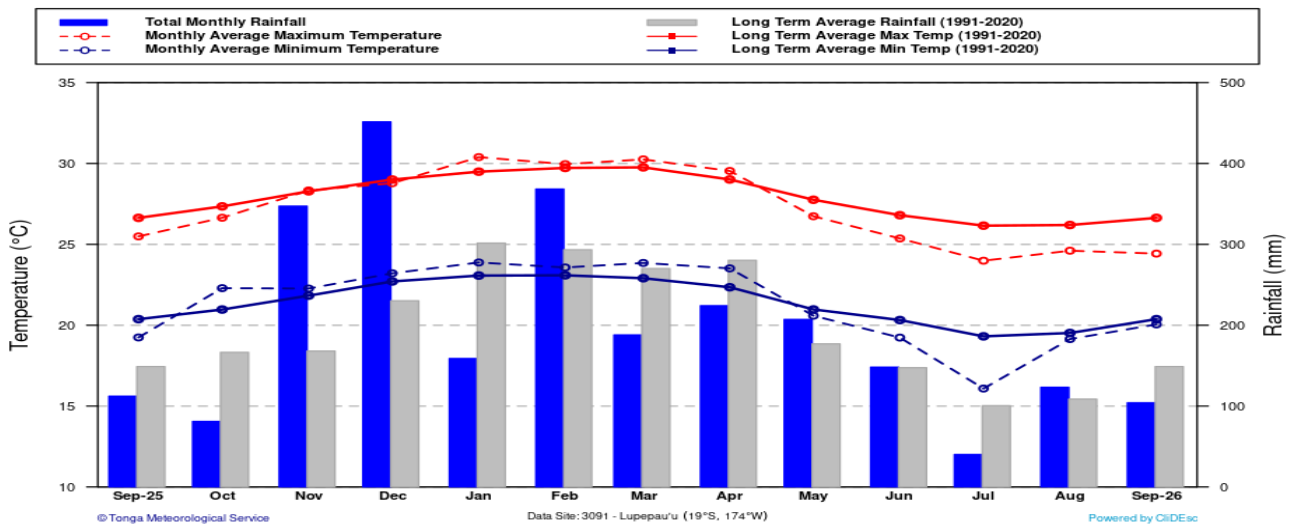


Temperatures & Rainfall for the main islands for the last 13 months

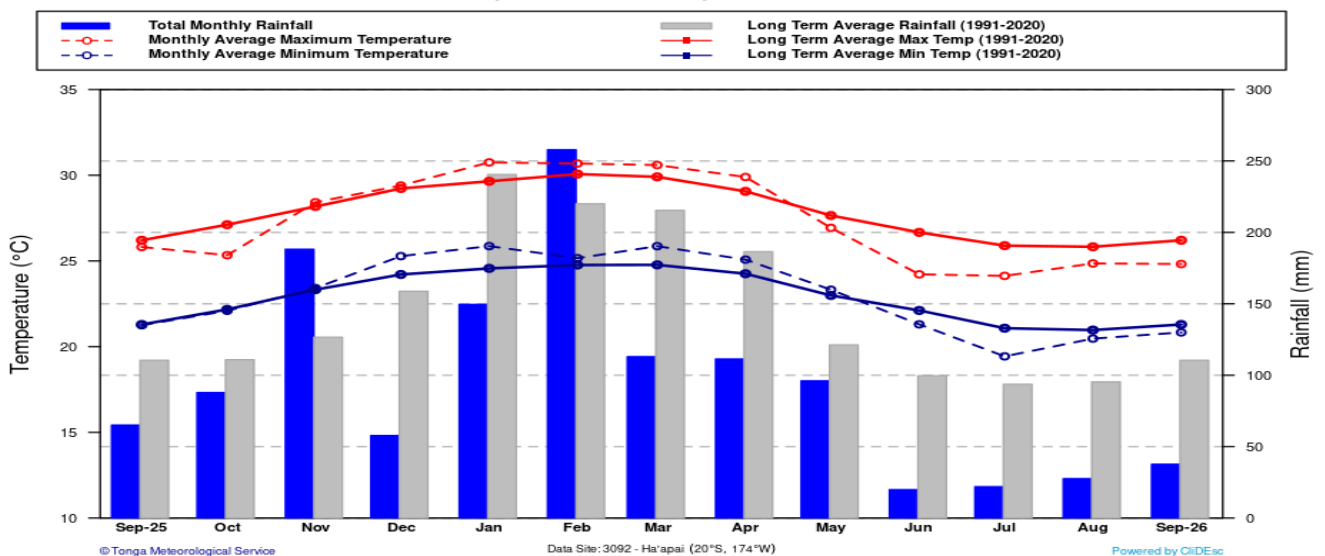
Fua'amotu (3097) - Temperature & Rainfall for the last 13 Months
(September, 2025 - September, 2026)



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



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



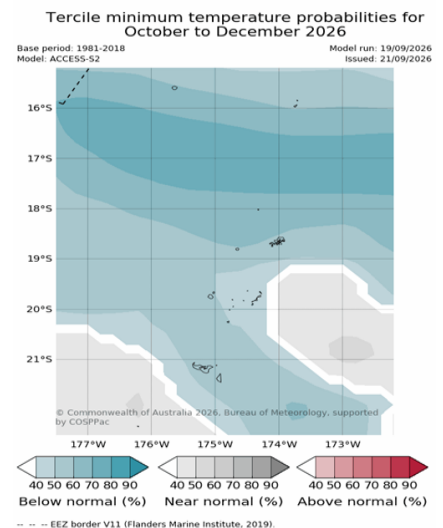
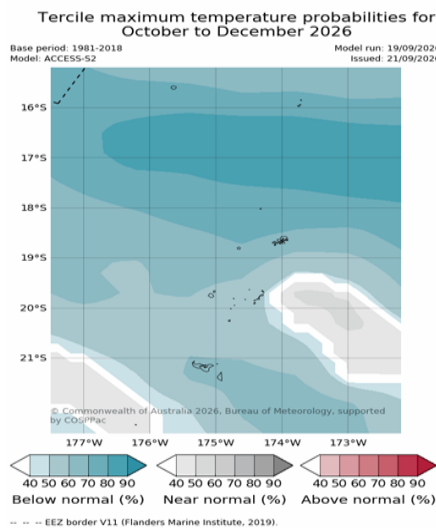
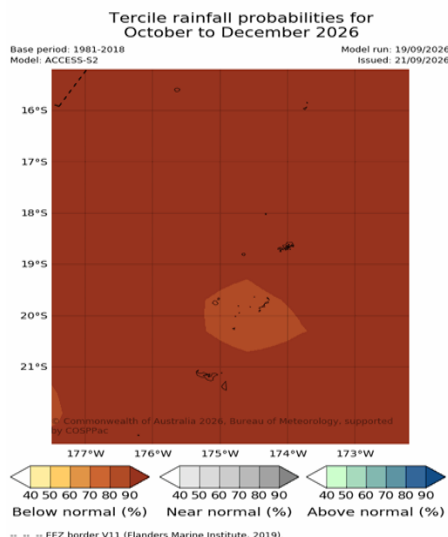
Meteorological Drought Outlook

The current strong El Niño continues to strengthen in the Pacific. Warming will continue in the tropical Pacific over the next three months and is expected to peak in December.

Island Group	Current Met. Drought Status	Outlook for Status by end October	Outlook for Status by end November	Outlook for Status by end December
Niuafu'ou	Drought Warning	Drought Claration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Niutoputapu	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Vava'u	Drought Alert	Drought Warning	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Ha'apai	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
Tongatapu	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration
'Eua	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration	Drought Declaration

Rainfall & Temperature Outlook for October to December 2026 (Part of Tanumanga, 'O'oamofangongo, Lihamu'a, Lihamui).

Location	Rainfall Outlook October — December 2026		% Chance, (This is the % chance that this outlook will occur).
Niuafu'ou	Below normal	545 mm – 813mm	80 - 100
Niutoputapu	Below normal	511mm – 735mm	80 - 100
Vava'u	Below normal	383mm – 618mm	80 - 100
Ha'apai	Below normal	254mm – 421mm	80 - 100
Fua'amotu	Below normal	309mm – 445mm	80 - 100
Nuku'alofa	Below normal	264mm – 424mm	80 - 100
'Eua	Below normal	309mm – 445mm	80 - 100



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 Tanumanga, 'O'oamofangongo, Lihamu'a & Lihamui (Parts of October to December)

Early yam tubers develop. This is the time when secondary yam tubers push their heads above the at which time the farmers covers them with soil. About last half of October to first half of November, careful usage of food and water is very important to avoid problems.

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 November 2026 or earlier

Disclaimer: "This map is used for illustrative purposes only and does not represent any official endorsement or acceptance of those boundaries by the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga".

Contact the Tonga Meteorological Service, Tonga, for further information.

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