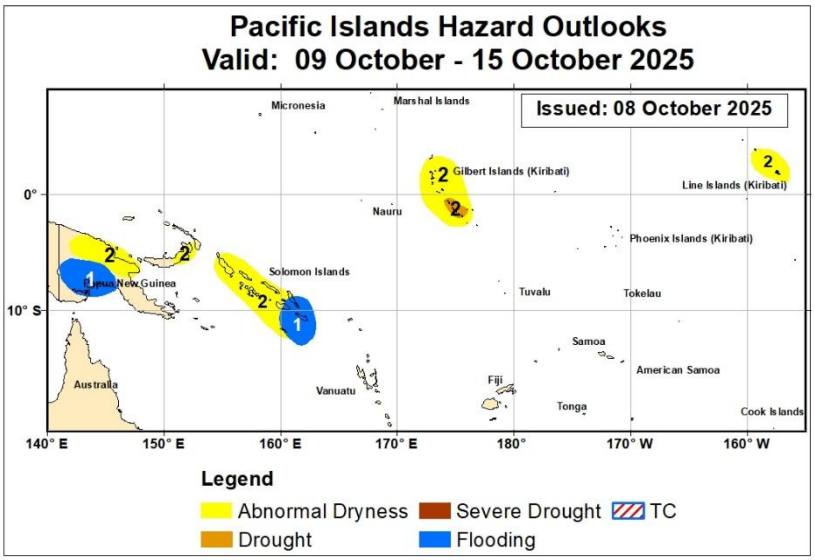
Pacific Islands Hazards Outlook
09 October – 15 October 2025

Heavy Rain and Flood Risks in Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands. Widespread Dry Spells Hit Fiji and Kiribati.



1) Over the past week, heavy rainfall covered the western and southwestern Papua New Guinea, with the Gulf region receiving 100-150 mm according to MSWEP and CMORPH data. The high-resolution estimates showed 150-200 mm. Rainfall was near to above average across the southern mainland. In the Solomon Islands, well-developed storms on Thursday and Friday brought moderate to heavy rain, with most areas recording 50-75 mm according to the MSWEP. The observed precipitation was 10-25 mm above average in the central islands, mildly below average in southern regions according to the CMORPH estimates. In the past 30 days, Papua New Guinea's Central Highlands recorded significant rainfall surpluses exceeding 100 mm, which translates to 120-150% of normal. Central and northern Vanuatu also maintained above-average precipitation, continuing a wetter-than-normal trend. Over the last 90 days, southeastern and southwestern Papua New Guinea saw wetter conditions, with surpluses exceeding 400 mm reported in locations like Alotau and Popondetta. Fiji's far northern, eastern, and southern islands experienced above-average rainfall, with surpluses between 25 and 75 mm (e.g., Yasawa, Tubou-Lakeba, Vunisea). Central and northern Vanuatu sustained large positive anomalies, including surpluses over 300 mm at Luganville. These wetter areas contrast with predominantly dry conditions across much of the broader region. In the coming week, enhanced rainfall in southern Solomon Islands and southwestern Papua New Guinea may result in localized flooding.

2) During the past week, Fiji experienced predominantly dry weather, with mostly shallow clouds and isolated storms over the weekend. MSWEP data showed drier than average conditions across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, with weekly precipitation anomalies between 10-25 mm below normal. Similarly, Kiribati recorded light rainfall totals of 10-25 mm below average across the southern Gilbert and northern Line Islands according to both MSWEP and CMORPH estimates. Over the past 30 days, dry conditions persisted across several regions in the Pacific. Fiji experienced continued below-average precipitation, with the largest deficit of 90 mm recorded at Sigatoka in Viti Levu, while most other stations reported near-average to slightly below-average precipitation. The Gilbert Islands in Kiribati saw substantial cumulative deficits ranging from 40 to 115 mm, with many locations receiving only 5-25% of their long-term average rainfall. Similarly, Papua New Guinea's Sepik and New Ireland regions experienced significant rainfall deficits, receiving less than 80% of normal precipitation. In the Solomon Islands, dry spells reduced rainfall amounts, leading to cumulative deficits of 10 to 35 mm at several stations including Lata and Munda. Southern Vanuatu also saw increasing rainfall deficits during this period, contrasting with the wetter central and northern areas. Over the past 90 days, widespread dry conditions persisted across much of the region. Significant rainfall deficits were observed in western Viti Levu, Fiji, where cumulative shortfalls reached up to 270 mm (e.g., Nadi), and parts of the mainland experienced deficits of up to 130 mm (e.g., Sigatoka). Kiribati faced substantial dryness, with deficits as high as 260 mm at Tarawa and widespread rainfall amounts at only 50-80% of normal. The Solomon Islands also recorded notable deficits across most stations, including a 200 mm shortfall at Buala. Additionally, below-average rainfall continued in the Sepik and eastern New Britain regions of Papua New Guinea, while most eastern islands saw only 50-80% of their typical precipitation. In the coming week, dry conditions will continue in the southern Central Pacific and Kiribati.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about the hazards outlooks may be directed to Dr. Wassila Thiaw, Deputy Director, CPC/NOAA, wassila.thiaw@noaa.gov.

Prolonged Dry Conditions Persist Across Fiji.

During the past week, Fiji experienced predominantly dry weather, with only brief interruptions from shallow clouds and isolated storms over the weekend. Rainfall anomalies ranged between 10-25 mm below average across both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, according to MSWEP data. These conditions align with the broader seasonal trend, as October typically marks a transition out of Fiji's dry season, with the median monthly rainfall accounting for 5-7% of the annual total in most areas—up to 9% in some locations. Over the past 30 days, below-average rainfall persisted across much of the country. Most showers remained light to moderate, and were insufficient to meet climatological norms. The largest 30-day deficit, 90 mm, was observed at Sigatoka in Viti Levu, while Nabouwalu in Vanua Levu recorded a marginal surplus precipitation. Overall, most mainland stations reported near to below-average precipitation. On a 90-day timescale, Fiji remains in a dry state despite intermittent wet spells. Western Viti Levu experienced the most severe deficits, with cumulative rainfall shortfalls exceeding 100 mm and reaching up to 270 mm in Nadi. This is partly due to a slightly higher climatological amount during the August–October period. Elsewhere, deficits of up to 130 mm were observed, especially around Sigatoka. However, some far northern, eastern, and southern islands, such as Yasawa, Tubou-Lakeba, and Vunisea, received 25–75 mm more than their average rainfall. Overall, many areas in the Fijian mainland have received less than 80% of their long-term average rainfall, reinforcing concerns of sustained dryness. In the coming week, a dry weather will prevail. In the coming week, dry weather will dominate. As the country remains in a climatologically dry season, no dryness polygon has been posted.

Prolonged Dry Conditions Persist Across Kiribati with Significant Rainfall Deficits.

Over the past week, Kiribati experienced light rainfall, with both MSWEP and CMORPH estimates showing 10–25 mm below average totals across the southern Gilbert and northern Line Islands. October typically contributes only 3–7% of the annual rainfall, and this month's observations have continued to fall short of that norm. Over the past 30 days, rainfall deficits have become increasingly pronounced. Most stations in the Gilbert Islands recorded significant shortfalls ranging from 40 to 115 mm, with many areas in the Gilbert and Phoenix Islands receiving just 5–25% of their long-term average rainfall. These deficits reflect persistent dry conditions that have extended through much of the season. The August–October period is climatologically drier for much of Kiribati, particularly in the Phoenix Islands and the southern parts of the Gilbert and Line Islands. Still, the current dryness is well below normal. Over the past 90 days, cumulative rainfall deficits reached up to 265 mm at Butaritari and 260 mm at Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. With early July's rainfall no longer included in the 90-day average, the shortfalls have become more severe. Many stations across Kiribati have received only 50–80% of their average rainfall, signaling an ongoing and intensifying dry spell. In the coming week, drier-than-average conditions are expected to persist. As a result, the abnormal dryness polygons remain in place over much of the Gilbert and Line Islands.

Persistent Dryness Dominates Despite Brief Midweek Storms

During the past week, well-developed storms moved across the Solomon Islands on Thursday and Friday, bringing moderate to heavy rainfall. According to MSWEP estimates, most parts of the country received between 50–75 mm of rain, while CMORPH data showed locally higher totals in the central islands, with anomalies of 10–25 mm above average. However, southern parts of the country continued to experience below-average precipitation. Over the past 30 days, recent light to moderate rainfall slightly improved conditions in a few locations. Surpluses increased at Tulagi, while rainfall deficits at Munda and Lata were reduced by as much as 50 mm. Current deficits range from 10 mm at Buala and Lata to 35 mm at Tigoa. Surpluses between 10 mm and 35 mm were observed at Auki, Tulagi, and Taro. Nevertheless, 6 of the 10 monitored stations continued to report monthly rainfall deficits. On a seasonal timescale (August to October), which normally accounts for 20–30% of the annual rainfall, the Solomon Islands faced widespread dryness. Over the past 90 days, significant cumulative deficits of 25–195 mm were recorded across most stations. The highest shortfall, 200 mm, occurred at Buala in Santa Isabel Province. Most locations received only 50–80% of their long-term average rainfall, indicating persistent and concerning dryness across the region. In the coming week, enhanced weather in southern parts of the island may result in isolated flooding.

Hazards Outlook for the Fiji Islands

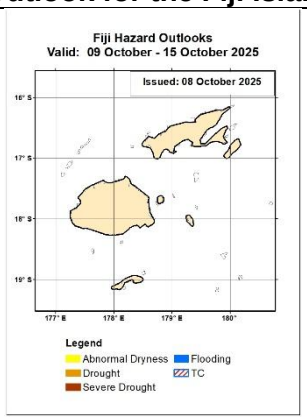


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Hazards Outlook for Kiribati

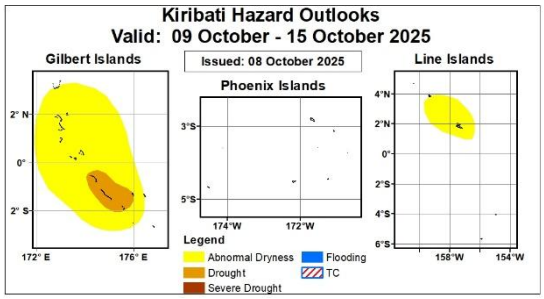


Figure 2: Source NOAA / CPC

Hazards Outlook for the Solomon Islands

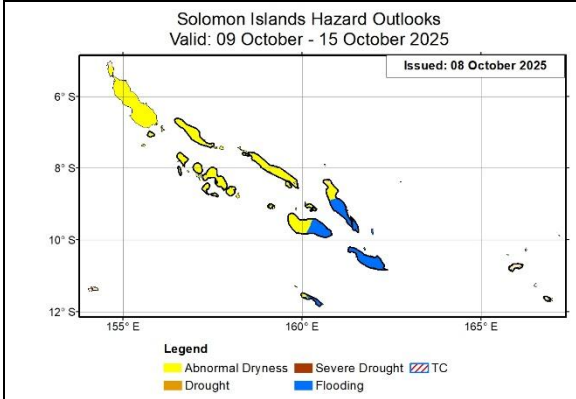


Figure 3: Source NOAA / CPC