



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



11th August 2026

EL NIÑO UPDATE No. 2

EL NIÑO PERSISTS ACROSS THE TROPICAL PACIFIC ***EXPECTED IMPACTS FOR SAMOA: BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL, ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURE AND INCREASED DROUGHT & TROPICAL CYCLONE RISK***

The Samoa Meteorology Division (SMD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) advises vulnerable sectors, village communities, and the general public that El Niño conditions have been well-established across the tropical Pacific Ocean.

This declaration is based on the latest oceanic and atmospheric observations, together with seasonal climate forecasts from the Samoa Meteorology Division, in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and other regional Pacific meteorological partners.

Recent observations from Samoa's national climate monitoring network indicate that rainfall has decreased and recorded below-average rainfall in several locations over the past month. These emerging dry conditions are consistent with the expected impacts associated with the onset of El Niño. It reinforces the importance of seasonal outlook indicating the increased likelihood of continued below-normal rainfall in the coming months.

Climate Outlook (August 2026 – January 2027)

Current climate guidance indicates that El Niño is expected to persist through the remainder of 2026, with:

- **60–70% probability** of below-normal rainfall across Samoa.
- **40–60% probability** of above-normal daytime and nighttime air temperatures.
- Increased likelihood of prolonged dry periods and drought conditions.

Expected Impacts

If these conditions continue, Samoa may experience:

- Reduced water availability, declining river flows and groundwater recharge.
- Increased pressure on village and urban water supplies.
- Reduced agricultural production and increased stress on livestock.
- Higher risk of dehydration, heat-related illnesses and wildfire.
- Increased stress on forests, coral reefs and marine ecosystems.
- Reduced hydropower generation and increased electricity demand.
- Potential impacts on tourism, fisheries and rural livelihoods.

Although El Niño generally brings drier conditions to Samoa, the risk of tropical cyclones is elevated. Samoa may still be affected by severe tropical cyclones during the 2026–2027 Tropical Cyclone Season.

Historical El Niño events, particularly 1997–1998, 2009–2010, and 2023–2024, resulted in drought, water shortages, agricultural losses and increased wildfire activity, highlighting the importance of early preparedness.

MNRE strongly encourages all sectors to begin preparedness measures immediately by conserving water, repairing leaks, storing water where possible, avoiding unnecessary burning during dry conditions, monitoring crops and livestock, protecting vulnerable people from extreme heat, and reviewing drought and emergency response plans.

The Samoa Meteorology Division will continue to monitor El Niño conditions through Samoa's Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) and provide regular Climate Outlooks, El Niño Updates, Drought Advisories, Weather Warnings, and Tropical Cyclone Advisories.

Early preparedness is the most effective way to reduce the impacts of El Niño.

For further information, please contact the Samoa Meteorology Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Telephone: (+685) 20855.

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