



# SOLOMON ISLANDS SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

April— June 2019



This Seasonal outlook is based upon two months average value of January and February 2019 of the Central Eastern and South Western Pacific Ocean sea-surface temperature anomalies. The outlook is presented as the 'probability' or chance of the coming rainfall being in one of the three Tercile Classes – **Below normal, Normal and Above normal**. The lead time is two months.

## Summary:

- December shows normal rainfall in most parts of central and eastern region, below normal in the western part of the country.
- Rainfall Outlook shows below normal for most stations in the country.
- El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook remains at Watch level.

## Monthly Rainfall Updates

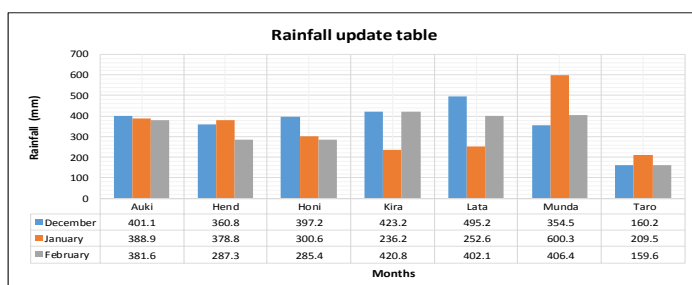
Station (include data period)	February 2019						
	December 2018 Total	January 2019 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Auki (1962 – 2018)	401.1	388.9	381.6	322.1	462.8	392.9	28/58
Henderson (1975 – 2018)	360.8	378.8	287.3	210.0	322.9	241.5	28/45
Honiara (1954 – 2018)	397.2	300.6	285.4	219.0	315.3	274.8	34/65
Kirakira (1965 – 2018)	423.2	236.2	420.8	271.7	366.8	326.3	42/52
Lata (1975 – 2018)	495.2	252.6	402.1	326.5	476.5	396.0	25/45
Munda (1962 – 2018)	354.5	600.3	406.4	294.0	488.0	340.0	34/58
Taro (1975 – 2018)	160.2	209.5	159.6	214.4	305.5	246.2	9/43

Kirakira in the Central region recorded above normal rainfall. Normal rainfall was recorded at Auki, Henderson and Honiara in the central region, Lata in the eastern region and at Munda in the western region. Taro in the western region recorded below-normal.

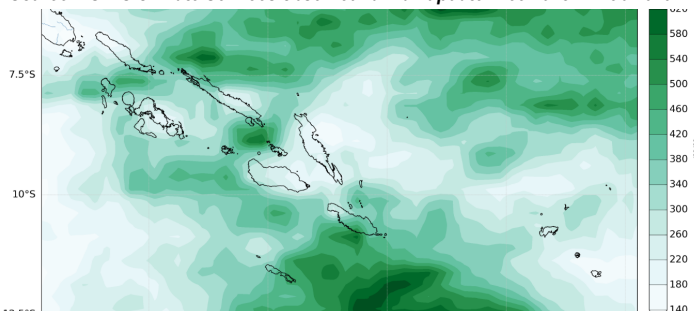
Kirakira in the central region recorded the highest monthly total rainfall of 420.8 mm for the month, an increase of the rainfall recorded in January. Taro in the eastern region recorded the lowest rainfall of 159.6 mm.

We are now moving away from the wet season (October - January) therefore normal to below normal rainfall are expected over the country.

General westerly trade winds flow persists over Solomon Islands during the month at 10 knots.

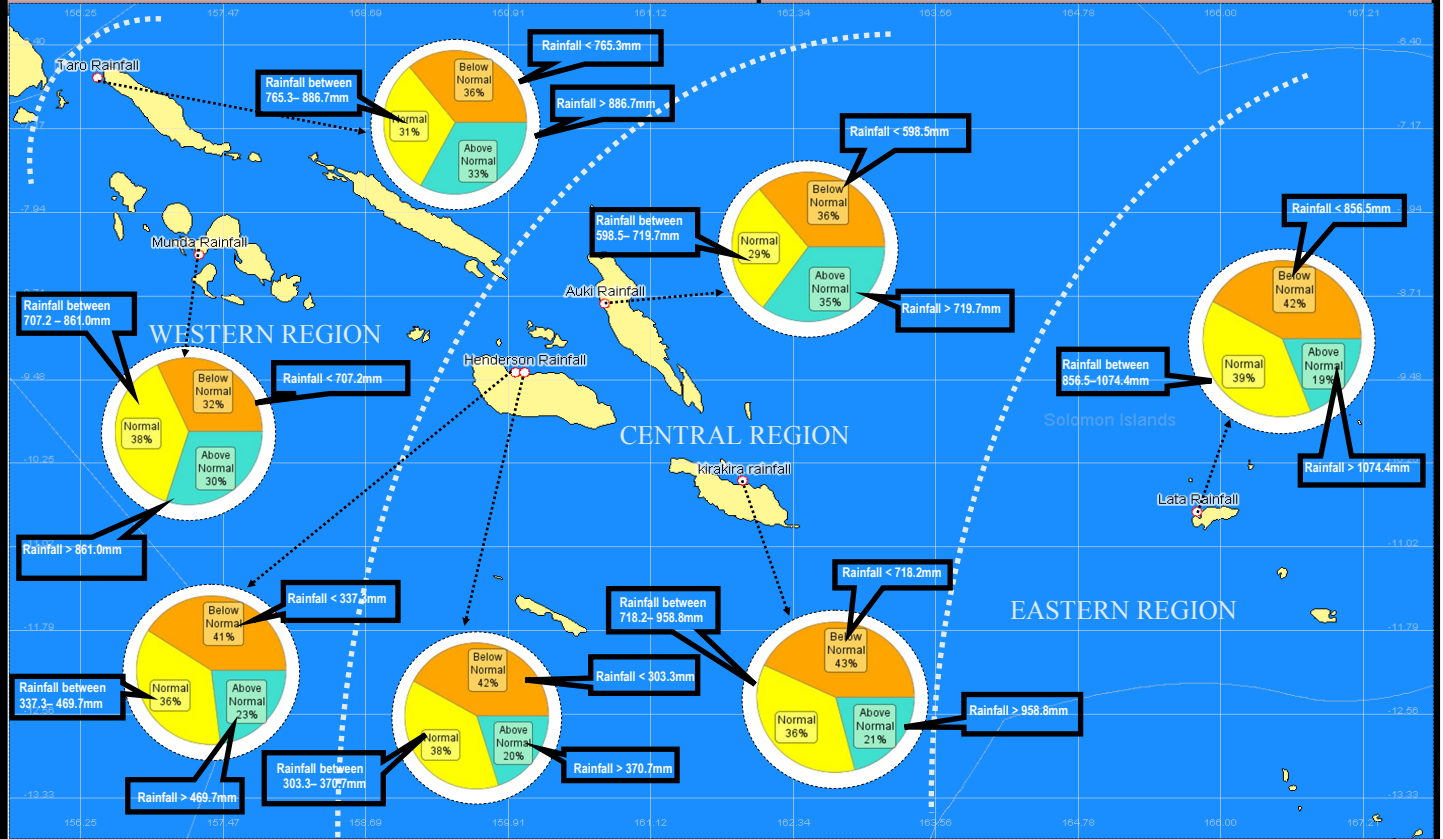


Source - SIMS Climate Services observed rainfall update: Dec 2018 — Feb 2019



Source - TRMM/TMPA-RT rainfall observed—February 2019

## Rainfall Outlook for April to June 2019



### Rainfall Outlook

**Below normal:** Henderson Rainfall, Honiara Rainfall, Kirakira Rainfall  
**Below normal & normal:** Lata Rainfall  
**Climatology:** Auki Rainfall, Munda Rainfall and Taro Rainfall

### Skill

**Range:** very low - moderate  
**Average:** very low

The outlook shows below-normal rainfall for Henderson, Honiara and Kirakira as the most likely outcome, with normal as the next most likely outcome. Above-normal is the least likely. For Lata, the outlook shows a near-equal likelihood of below normal and normal. Above normal is the least likely. The outlook offers little guidance for Auki, Munda and Taro as the chances of above-normal, normal and below-normal are similar.

## Forecast Verification for December 2018 to February 2019

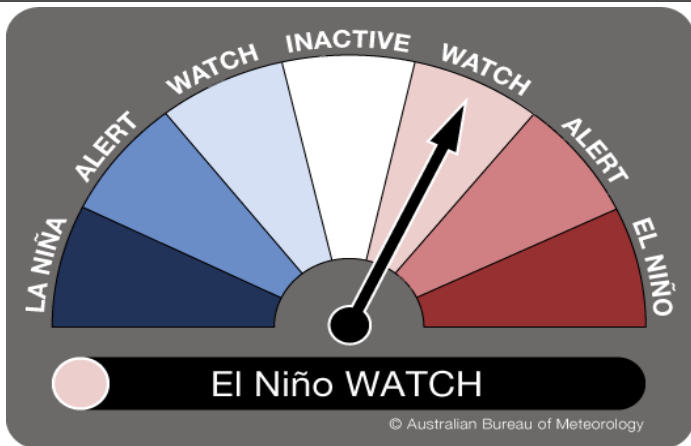
**Three months Rainfall Table**—The three months total rainfall recorded across Solomon Islands with their forecasted rainfall over the period and its verification.

Amount of Rainfall below the 33% percentile is **Below Normal** and the amount of rainfall above 66% percentile is **Above Normal**. Rainfall amount between 33% and 66% percentile is **Normal**.

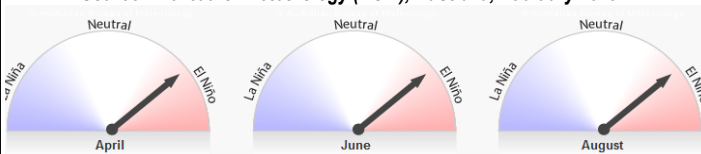
STATIONS	TOTAL Rainfall (mm)	Forecasted Rainfall	Forecast Verification (Consistent, inconsistent, near consistent)	33% Rainfall (mm)	66% Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)
Auki	1171.6	Normal	Consistent	903.9	1193.6	1031.8
Henderson	1026.9	Above normal	Inconsistent	588.8	839.4	759.6
Honiara	983.2	Above normal	Inconsistent	631.4	885.8	706.7
Kirakira	1080.2	Normal	Near-consistent	795.8	1088.6	966.5
Lata	1149.9	Normal	Near-consistent	1034.8	1253.0	1136.2
Munda	1361.2	Above normal	Near-consistent	936.9	1229.7	1099.6
Taro	529.3	Below normal	Consistent	621.2	774.4	670.2

Normal rainfall was recorded for Auki and Kirakira in the central region, and Lata in the eastern region. Above-normal rainfall was observed at Henderson and Honiara in the central region, and Munda in the western region. Taro in the western region recorded below normal rainfall. Auki and Taro were consistent with their outlooks. Kirakira, Lata and Munda were near-consistent and Henderson and Honiara were inconsistent. Taro recorded the sixth lowest December to February on record.

## El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Update



Source—Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), Australia, February 2019



**El Niño**—Associated with Below normal rainfall.

Source— BOM, ENSO model Outlook - April to August 2019

**NEUTRAL**—Associated with Normal rainfall.

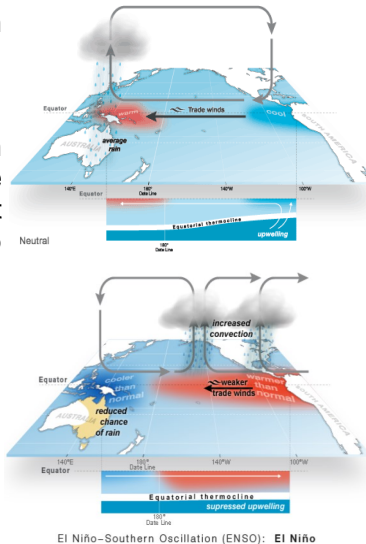
**LA NIÑA**—Associated with Above normal rainfall.

**Current status:**

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains at WATCH.

**Outlook:**

The Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean have continued to warm indicating that there is approximately 50% chance of it occurring in late 2019.



**Disclaimer:**

Whilst Solomon Islands Meteorological Service takes all measures in providing accurate information, it does not guarantee 100% accuracy of the forecast provided in this summary. The division should be consulted for expert advice, clarification and further information when necessary. The users take all risk resulting indirectly or directly from the use of the information provided.

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