



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU/RÉPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

VANUATU METEOROLOGY AND GEO-HAZARDS DEPARTMENT
DÉPARTEMENT DE LA MÉTÉOROLOGIE ET DES GÉORISQUES DE VANUATU

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15th September 2022

Media Release – Vanuatu Climate Update

La Niña Is Here

Key Messages:

- *El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has moved to **La Niña** Status 13 September 2022 meaning La Niña has established in the Tropical Equatorial Pacific.*
- *With established La Niña in the Tropical Equatorial Pacific, Vanuatu should expect **above normal rainfall** for the next three months (**October, November, December 2022**).*
- *La Niña events increase the chances of above normal rainfall for Vanuatu which may trigger **flash flooding, flooding of low-lying areas and land and mudslides**.*
- *All communities are advised to take appropriate preparatory actions, consult relevant local authorities for specific information on this La Niña event.*
- *All people are encouraged to observe **local indicators** around their communities to help them prepared in advance for any adverse impacts on La-Nina.*

ENSO Outlook:

The El Niño Southern (ENSO) has moved to *La Niña* Status. The third such event in our region (2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023). Sea surface temperature in the Tropical Pacific have been cooling since June and have reach La Niña thresholds. Atmospheric indicators including Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), trade wind strength, and equatorial cloudiness are also showing patterns typical of a La Niña event.

(To contact VMGD Divisions directly)

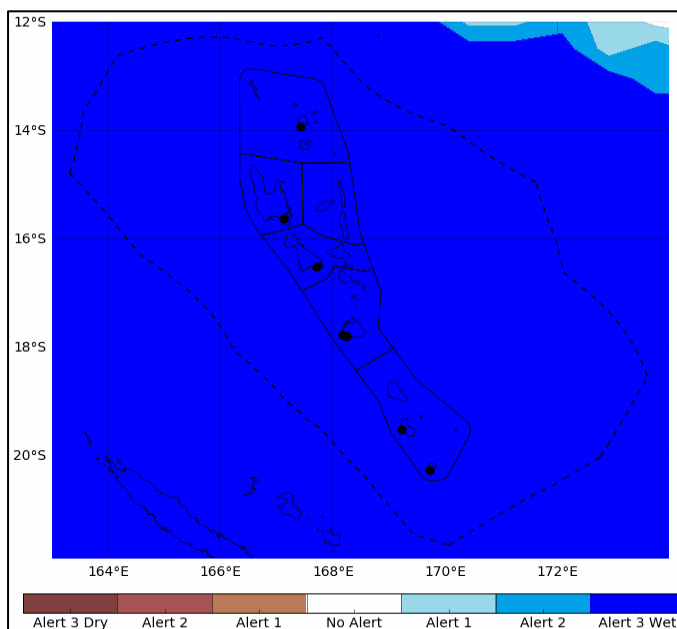
Observations:	Ph: 22433 Email: observers@meteo.gov.vu	Climate :	Ph: 23866 Email: climate@meteo.gov.vu
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Climate Models used by the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazard Department indicate that this La Niña event may peak during October & November and December and likely to return to neutral conditions early in 2023. In Vanuatu, typical La Niña conditions increase the chance of above normal rainfall for most of the country and also enhance tropical cyclones for upcoming 2022/2023 Tropical Cyclone season.

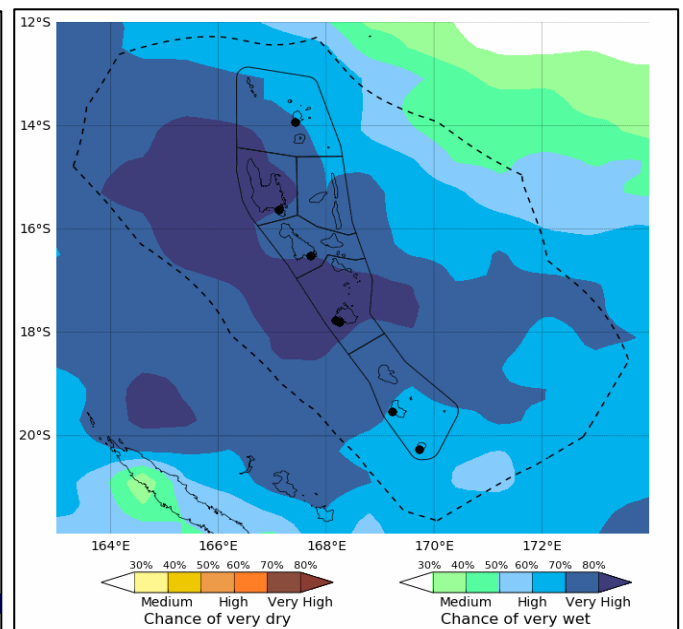
Rainfall Status and Outlook for Vanuatu

Above normal rainfall is expected from October to December 2022. The upcoming 2022-2023 wet season will also be wetter than normal. This is due to higher-than-normal rainfall measurements being recorded at weather observation sites across Vanuatu, as well as VMGD's climate models which also predict above normal rainfall for the rest of 2022 and a wetter than normal wet season into early 2023.

Rainfall Forecast for **October to December 2022**



Chance of Extreme Rainfall for **October to December 2022**



(Source: Bureau of Meteorology, Australia)

Potential Impacts

The potential impacts expected in Vanuatu associated with La Niña like conditions are above normal rainfall which may contribute to flash flooding, flooding of low-lying areas, land and mudslide. La Niña also may increase numbers tropical activities in Vanuatu.

Looking back, some of the impacts of La Niña Vanuatu experienced in 2021/2022: Water logging affecting roots, 5 Tropical cyclones and few tropical disturbances, increase in the number of people with Leptospirosis as a result of flooding, fish poisoning, land and mudslides.

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazard Department (VMGD) will issue the next information on this La Niña event along with the Tropical Cyclone Seasonal Outlook for 2022/2023 Seasonal in early November 2022. In the meantime, all communities are advised to take

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appropriate preparatory actions, consult relevant authorities for specific information and stay up to date with the latest monthly information from VMGD.

For more Information, Contact the Director, Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department.



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