

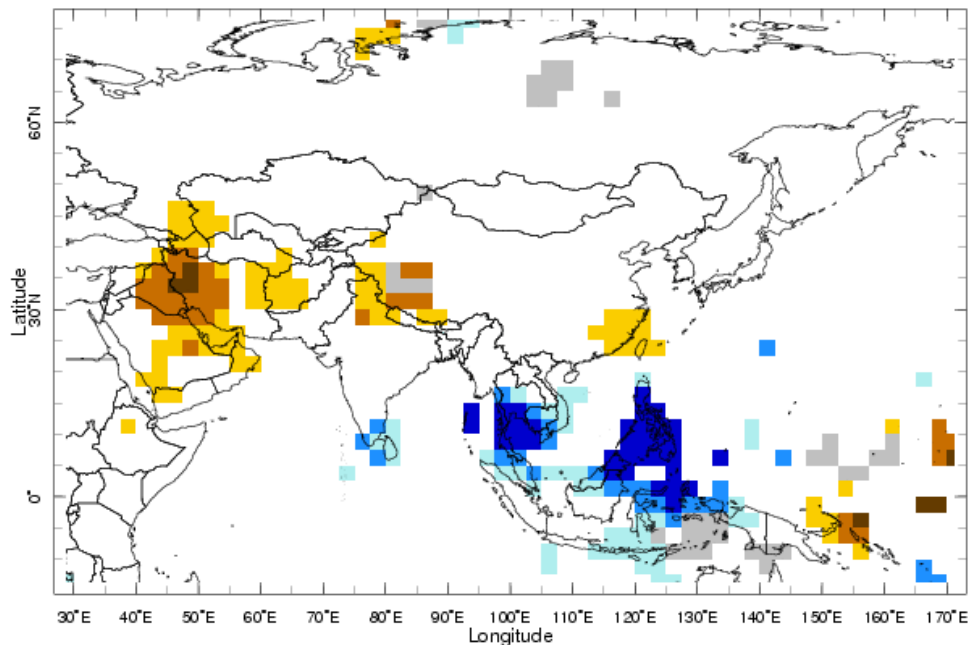
## 19 December 2011 –Regional La Niña Update - Asia

Produced by the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society

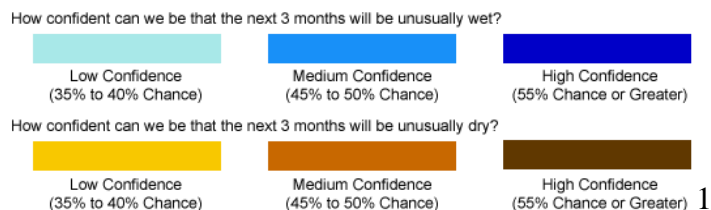
**Forecast Update:** A la Niña redeveloped in August and is now of weak to moderate strength. It is likely to affect rainfall patterns in some areas.

### IRI Global Forecast Map:

Colours show whether the total precipitation (rain and snow) from January-March 2012 will be unusually wet or dry in Asia.



Forecast for Jan-Mar 2012, Forecast Issued Dec 2011



### What does this forecast mean?

Will this be the same as the last la Niña?

**No. Every la Niña event is a little different**, so it is a good idea to check the forecast every month. Please note that unusual rainfall patterns are forecast for some regions (see map). Also, it is important to monitor short-range weather forecasts (see attached Guidance/Resources Document).

### What do these colours mean?

Unusually wet or dry seasons typically each occur about once every three years (probability of 33%), so the colours on this map show **areas that have a greater chance of having an unusually wet or dry season**. Blue is for unusually wet and yellow is for unusually dry (the darker the colour is, the more confident we are). For more information to help interpret the forecast, see accompanying attachment labelled: 'Important Guidance and Resources for Forecast-Based Decision Making.'

### If my country is in blue, will it flood?

**Not necessarily**, but chances of flooding occurring are increased in the blue areas (chances are higher the darker the blue is). Floods can happen if there is exceptionally heavy rainfall over only a few days, but this is a forecast of total rainfall for 3 months. "Good" rains spread out over a three-month period might not produce any flooding at all.

## Forecast Interpretation/Highlighting Areas of Concern for January - March 2012

### Asia

**Southeast Asia:** There is medium-high confidence that parts of **Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, the Andaman Islands (India), Myanmar, and Brunei Darussalam** will be **unusually wet** this January-March. The risks of flooding events and landslides are therefore increased.

**East Asia:** There is medium confidence that parts of **western China** will experience **unusually dry** snowfall this January - March.

**West Asia:** There is a medium-high confidence that parts of **Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Syria, Azerbaijan, and Armenia** will be **unusually dry** this January-March.

### What can I do? – Monitor this!

Given increased flood risk in several countries in **Southeast Asia**, we strongly recommend making contact with national met service and monitoring weather forecasts on shorter timescales over the course of the season to anticipate the specifics in terms of where, when and how severe rainfall events might be. You may also want to consider advanced planning for implications of above-normal rainfall on disaster management, health, WATSAN and livelihoods for instance.

*If you have questions, please e-mail the IFRC Helpdesk at IRI: [ifrc@iri.columbia.edu](mailto:ifrc@iri.columbia.edu).*

**For additional guidance** on forecast interpretation, connecting forecasts with appropriate actions, and resources for forecast monitoring and decision-making support, please see the accompanying attachment labelled: 'Important Guidance and Resources for Forecast-Based Decision Making.'