

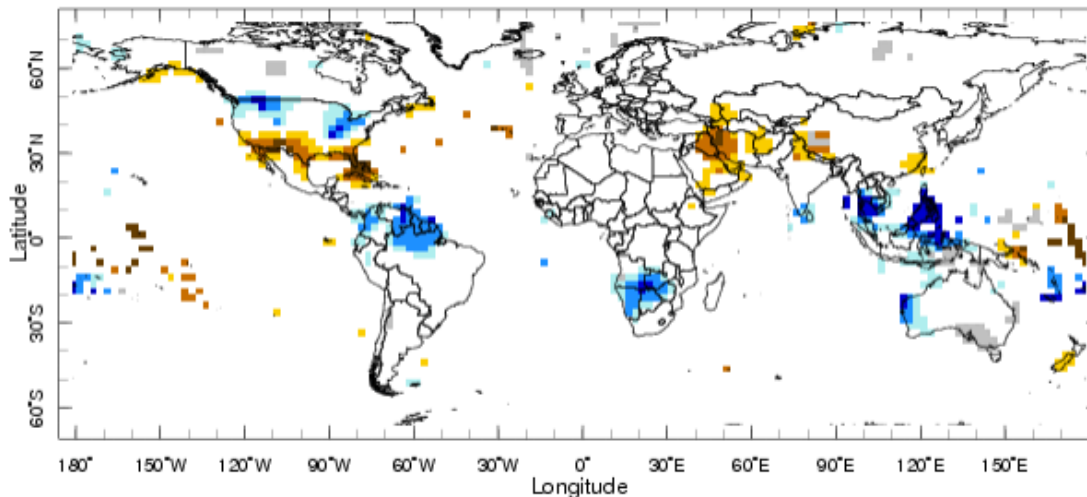
19 December 2011 –Global La Niña Update

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

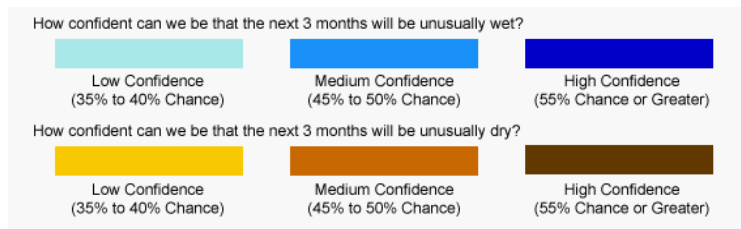
Forecast Update: A la Niña redeveloped in August and is now of weak to moderate strength. It is likely to affect rainfall patterns in some areas.

IRI Global Forecast Map:

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



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.

Americas

There is medium-high confidence that parts of the **northern and midwestern United States** and northern South America (including parts of **Brazil (north) Colombia, French Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Venezuela, and Suriname**), will experience an **unusually wet** January - March.

There is medium-high confidence that parts of the **Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico (north), and the United States (southwest and southeast)** will experience **unusually dry** conditions this January - March. Drought risk is enhanced in these areas, and drought conditions already affecting northern Mexico, the southern United States have an enhanced chance of continuing over the next three months.

Pacific

IRI's forecast shows substantially increased chances of **unusually wet** conditions, implying enhanced flood risk for parts of:

- **Australia (western)**
- **Fiji**
- **New Caledonia**
- **Niue**
- **Tonga**

IRI's forecast shows substantially increased chances of **unusually dry** conditions, implying enhanced drought risk for:

- **Kiribati (main and east)**
- **Nauru**
- **Tuvalu** (already facing a water shortage emergency due to drought)

Africa

Southern Africa: There is a medium confidence forecast for **unusually wet** conditions over Southern Africa, including parts of **Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**. The forecast for an unusually wet coming three-months in the region coincides with southern Africa's rainy season, meaning that flood risk is heightened there, particularly during the early part of 2012.

If you have questions, please e-mail the IFRC Helpdesk at IRI: 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.'