

Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – December 2025

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Highlights

PACIFIC SEAS STATE

December 19, 2025

As of mid-December 2025, the equatorial Pacific is in a La Niña state. The CCSR/IRI ENSO plume forecast places the probability of La Niña at 56% for Jan-Mar 2026 onwards. From January-March 2026 onward, conditions the forecasts begin shifting towards ENSO-neutral, which is forecast to become the dominant category. Neutral probabilities rise to 64% at the start of the year and remain the leading state through the forecast period ending in Aug-Oct 2026. El Niño probabilities stay very low, below 10% through Mar-May 2026, but gradually increase thereafter, reaching 14% in April-June, 26% in May-Jul, 35% in Jun-Aug, and 38% by Jul-Sep 2026. (Text Courtesy IRI)

During 2 – 7 January, the southern regions are expected receive moderate rainfall (20-40 mm), while the other regions are expected to receive less. On 8 January, rainfall over the northern and central regions is expected to intensify significantly, with daily totals reaching up to 130 mm. During 16 – 30 December, the highest daily rainfall was in the southern regions on 19 December with a peak of 100 mm. Sea surface temperature (SST) around the Maldives and the Arabian Sea remain normal. As of mid-December, Pacific Ocean is in a La Niña state. Winds are mainly coming from the northwest across the country.

Monitored: In December, the central and southern islands received up to 12 mm of rainfall and the remaining islands received less. North-Westerly winds prevailed for the Maldives during the month of November.

Predictions: La Niña is favored to continue for the next month or two, with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely in January-march 2026 (68% chance).

Summary

CLIMATOLOGY: Monthly Climatology:

In January, northern islands typically receive up to 50 mm of rain while central and southern islands receive up to 100 mm and 250 mm of rain respectively. Wind is north easterly. Usually in February, northern islands receive rainfall less than 50 mm while central islands receive up 50 mm rain and southern islands receive up to 100 mm of rain. Wind is north easterly. In March, northern and central islands receive rainfall up to 50 mm while southern islands receive up 100 mm of rain. Wind is north easterly.

PREDICTIONS

Daily Rainfall Forecast:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
2 nd January	0 mm	0 mm	40 mm
3 rd January	0 mm	0 mm	20 mm
4 th January	0 mm	0 mm	10 mm
5 th January	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
6 th January	0 mm	10 mm	10 mm
7 th January	70 mm	10 mm	0 mm
8 th January	130 mm	130 mm	40 mm

Biweekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 40% in the northern and southern islands; by 45% in the central islands between 10th- 23rd January.

Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Below-normal precipitation tercile 40% probable in southern islands; 45% probable in central islands; near-normal precipitation tercile is probable in northern islands of Maldives from January-February-March 2026 and seasonal rainfall forecast is higher likelihood of below-normal range.

MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phases 1, 2, 3 respectively in the next two weeks (1 – 15 January 2026). MJO in phase 1, 2 & 3 will enhance the rainfall over the Maldives from 1st- 15th January.

INDIAN OCEAN STATE

9 – 15 Dec, 2025

Near-neutral SST was observed around the Maldives.

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MONITORING: Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
16 th December	0 mm	0 mm	5 mm
17 th December	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
18 th December	30 mm	80 mm	0 mm
19 th December	5 mm	5 mm	100 mm
20 th December	5 mm	5 mm	10 mm
21 st December	10 mm	80 mm	10 mm
22 nd December	0 mm	10 mm	0 mm
23 rd December	0 mm	10 mm	5 mm
24 th December	0 mm	5 mm	5 mm
25 th December	30 mm	60 mm	0 mm
26 th December	0 mm	0 mm	30 mm
27 th December	0 mm	0 mm	10 mm
28 th December	0 mm	20 mm	0 mm
29 th December	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
30 th December	0 mm	5 mm	40 mm

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring

Monthly Average: In December, the central and southern islands received up to 12 mm of rainfall; while northern islands received up to 10 mm rainfall.

Monthly Temperature Monitoring:

	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
T Max	31.0°C	32.0°C	32.0°C
T Min	25.0°C	25.0°C	24.0°C

Dekadal Rainfall Estimates

11-20 Dec, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 60 mm rainfall
 Central Islands: 150 mm rainfall
 Southern Islands: 70 mm rainfall

21-31 Dec, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 0 mm rainfall
 Central Islands: 40 mm rainfall
 Southern Islands: 70 mm rainfall

Figures in Annexure

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Key Terms:

- ENSO – El Niño–Southern Oscillation
- IOD – Indian Ocean Dipole
- MJO – Madden–Julian Oscillation
- GFS – Global Forecast System
- NOAA – U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- MMS – Maldives Meteorological Service

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