Pacific Regional Forecast: Total Rain and Snow for December 2012 – February 2013

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

Forecast Update: The forecast signals this month are not very strong, as we are no longer in La Niña or El Niño phases.

IRI Global Forecast Map: Colours on this map indicate areas where we have increased confidence that the next three months will be unusually wet or dry. The darker the colour, the more confident we are.

Areas of Concern
There is moderately increased confidence that parts of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia will be unusually wet this December-February.

What can I do?
To anticipate impacts, monitor local rainfall forecasts to see when and where rainfall events might occur. Some regional resources include: El Niño update, Pacific Island Updates.

If above-normal rainfall does occur, the following sectoral impacts are possible:
- Increased chances of flooding
- Health: enhanced transmission rates of infectious diseases
- Food security: change in planting/harvesting times, crop drying/storage

For more information to help interpret the forecast, see accompanying document called: ‘Important Forecast Guidance and Resources’.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the IFRC Helpdesk at IRI: ifrc@iri.columbia.edu.