

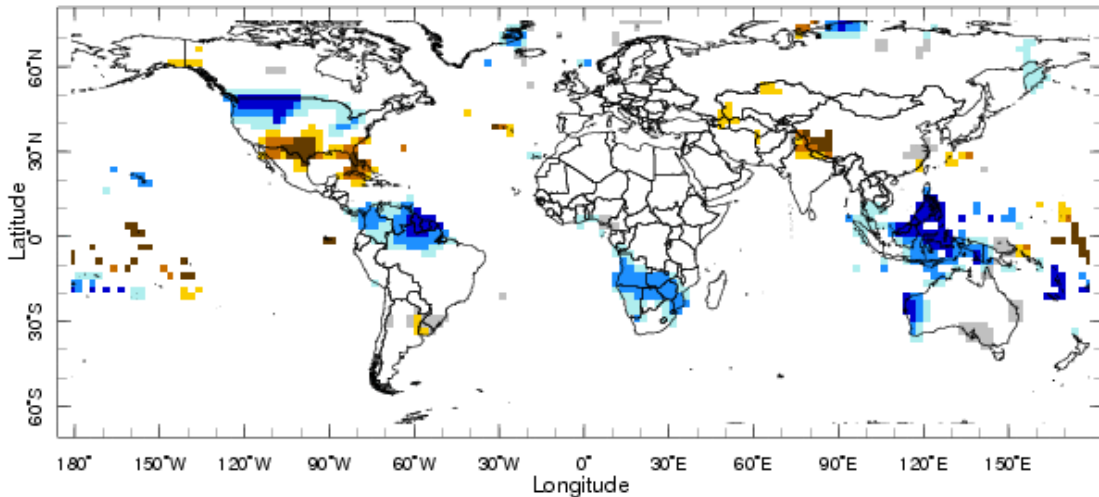
17 November 2011 –Global La Niña Update

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

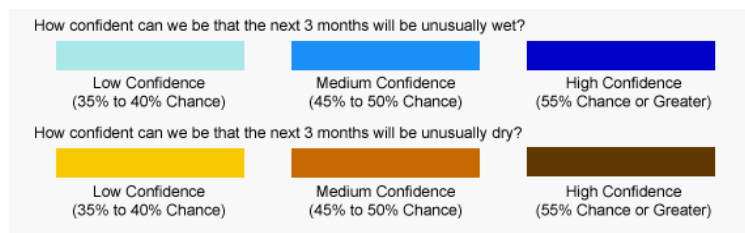
La Niña redeveloped in August and is now of weak to moderate strength, and so is likely to affect rainfall patterns in some areas. The La Niña is likely to remain until about February 2012. In some regions, unusual rainfall patterns related to this weak-moderate La Niña event are forecast (see map and forecast interpretation below). No two La Niña events are exactly the same, and so one should not automatically expect impacts this year to be similar to last year. We recommend monitoring seasonal forecasts on a monthly basis for updates on areas where there are enhanced chances of receiving too much or too little rainfall. IRI's next forecast update is scheduled for 21 December 2011 and can be found at: <http://iri.columbia.edu/ifrc/forecast/3munusualprecip> It is also important to monitor shorter-range weather forecasts to anticipate specific weather events (see accompanying attachment for some regional monitoring resources).

The map below shows the IRI forecast for the total amount of rainfall that is expected from December 2011 to February 2012. The map shows whether this three-month period as a whole is expected to be *unusually* wet or dry.

Global Forecast Map: IRI Seasonal Forecast for Precipitation (rain and snow) over December 2011-February 2012, issued on 17 November 2011.



Forecast for Dec 2011 - Feb 2012, Forecast Issued Nov 2011



How to read this forecast map: Colours over the map correspond to how confident we can be that the total amount of rain/snow over the period December 2011-February 2012 will be either be in the category of unusually wet (indicated by shades of blue; "above-normal") or unusually dry (indicated by shades of yellow; "below-normal") for the given area and time of year. Above-normal and below-normal rainfall/snowfall typically each occur about once every three years (i.e., with a probability of 33%), and so shaded areas indicate increased risks of an unusually wet or dry season. Areas with higher confidence levels have darker shades (see colour bar above). For more guidance on interpreting the forecast, see accompanying attachment labelled: 'Important Guidance and Resources for Forecast-Based Decision Making.'

Note: The forecasts are not a direct indication of flooding risks because floods can occur as a result of exceptionally heavy rainfall over only a few hours or a few days, and because prolonged "good" rains over a three-month period may not produce any flooding at all. However, the map does provide a reasonably good indication of areas that might be at increased risk.

Forecast Interpretation/Highlighting Areas of Concern for December 2011-February 2012

-Asia-

Southeast Asia: There is medium-high confidence that parts of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam will be unusually wet this December-February. The risks of flooding events and landslides are therefore increased.

South Asia: There is medium-high confidence that parts of northern India will be unusually dry this December-February, implying enhanced drought risk.

East Asia: There is medium-high confidence that parts of western China will experience below-normal snowfall this December-February.

-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
- Papua New Guinea
- Tonga
- Vanuatu

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

- Galapagos
- 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, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, 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.

-Americas-

There is medium-high confidence that parts of Canada and the United States (along their shared western border), and northern South America (including parts of Brazil (north) Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Venezuela, and Suriname), will experience an unusually wet December-February.

There is medium-high confidence that parts of the Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico (north), and the United States (south) will experience unusually dry conditions this December – February. 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.

*If you have questions related to seasonal forecasts, you can 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.'