

# Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – March 2026

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## El Niño STATE

March 19, 2025

As of mid-March 2026, the equatorial Pacific is transitioning from La Niña conditions towards ENSO-neutral. The latest CCSR/IRI ENSO plume forecast favours ENSO-neutral conditions at approximately 90% for March-May 2026, with a slim 9% chance of El Niño development. ENSO-neutral remains the dominant category during Apr-Jun (53%), but with El Niño probabilities increasing rapidly (47%). Starting in May-July, El Niño probabilities become higher than ENSO-neutral and remain in the range of 72% to 80%, with ENSO-neutral the second most likely outcome. (Text Courtesy IRI)

## INDIAN OCEAN STATE

10 – 16 Mar, 2026

0.5°C above average SST was observed around the southern islands; while near-neutral SST was observed around the northern and central islands of Maldives.

## MJO

MJO in phase 2, 6 & 7 will suppress the rainfall over the Maldives from 3rd-14th April.

## Highlights

During 1 - 7 April, the southern regions are predicted to receive 40-70 mm, while the other regions are predicted to receive low rainfall around 0-3 mm. During 17 – 31 March, there was no rainfall recorded across most areas. The highest daily rainfall was in the southern regions on 27, 28 March with a peak of 20 mm. Sea surface temperature (SST) around the Maldives and the Arabian Sea remain normal. As of mid-March, Pacific Ocean is transitioning from a La Niña state towards ENSO-neutral. Winds are mainly coming from the northeast and northwest across the country.

**Monitored:** In March, the central and southern islands received 2 - 5 mm of rainfall and the remaining islands received less. North-Easterly winds prevailed for the northern and central islands; while North-Westerly winds prevailed for the southern islands of Maldives during the month of February.

**Predictions:** A transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is expected in the next month, with ENSO-neutral favored through May-July 2026 (55% chance). In June-August 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (62% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026.

## Summary

### CLIMATOLOGY: Monthly Climatology:

In April, Southern islands usually receive about 150 mm of average rainfall. The wind direction in southern and central islands is easterly and in northern islands, it's south-easterly. Rainfall usually increases up to 200 mm in May in the entire country. The wind direction remains the same but the speed increases. The rainfall in northern islands usually increases up to 250 mm in June, while it decreases to 150 mm in southern islands. Wind direction in June is usually easterly but with low speeds.

## PREDICTIONS

### Daily Rainfall Forecast:

| Date                  | Rainfall         |                 |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                       | Northern Islands | Central Islands | Southern Islands |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 70 mm            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 40 mm            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 40 mm            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 20 mm            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> April | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |

### Biweekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 50% in the northern and central islands; below-normal tercile by 45% central and southern islands between 4<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Apr.

### Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Near-neutral tercile is probable in northern and central islands; below-normal tercile is 40% probable in the southern islands of Maldives from April-May-June 2026 and seasonal rainfall forecast is higher likelihood of near-normal range.

### MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phases 2, 6 & 7 respectively in the next two weeks (3 – 14 Apr 2026). MJO in phase 2, 6 & 7 will suppress the rainfall over the Maldives from 3<sup>rd</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> April.

## MONITORING: Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

| Date                   | Rainfall         |                 |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                        | Northern Islands | Central Islands | Southern Islands |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 10 mm            |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 5 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March | 5 mm             | 5 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March | 10 mm            | 5 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> March | 10 mm            | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 10 mm           | 10 mm            |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 20 mm           | 20 mm            |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 10 mm           | 20 mm            |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | 0 mm             | 0 mm            | 0 mm             |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March | 5 mm             | 10 mm           | 0 mm             |

### Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring

**Monthly Average:** In March, the central and southern islands received 2 - 5 mm of rainfall; while northern islands received 0 - 2 mm rainfall.

### Monthly Temperature Monitoring:

|       | Northern Islands | Central Islands | Southern Islands |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| T Max | 32.0°C           | 33.0°C          | 33.0°C           |
| T Min | 26.0°C           | 24.0°C          | 23.0°C           |

### Dekadal Rainfall Estimates

1-10 Mar, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 0 mm rainfall  
Central Islands: 0 mm rainfall  
Southern Islands: 0 mm rainfall

11-20 Mar, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 0 mm rainfall  
Central Islands: 20 mm rainfall  
Southern Islands: 0 mm rainfall

### Figures in Annexure

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  - Seasonal Predictions from IRI<sup>1</sup>

#### 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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