Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service

Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for December
&
2026 Dry Season Outlook for Trinidad and Tobago

Produced and Presented by
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Dry Season Forecast Method

Statistical Forecasts :

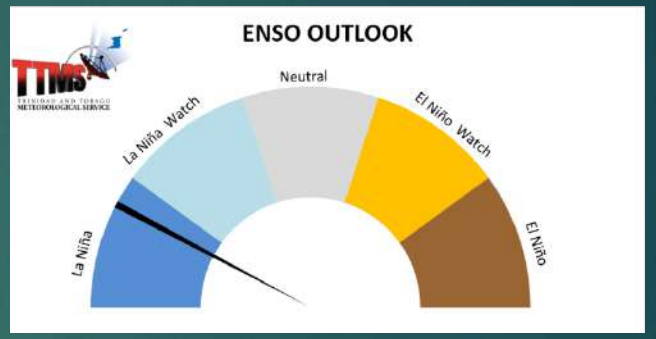
- **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO):** La Niña expected through February 2026, low probability for ENSO-neutral in Central & Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.
- **Historical Precipitation :** Above normal rainfall amounts favoured across northern South America and Guianas during La Nina.
- **Historical Sea Surface Temperatures :** Central and eastern Pacific and Equatorial Atlantic including that portion of the North Atlantic Warm Pool, east and southeast of Trinidad.
- **Atlantic Meridional Mode :** Difference in Sea Surface Temperatures between North and South Atlantic Oceans.
- **North Atlantic Subtropical High :** Migration of the subtropical eastward nearer The Azores.

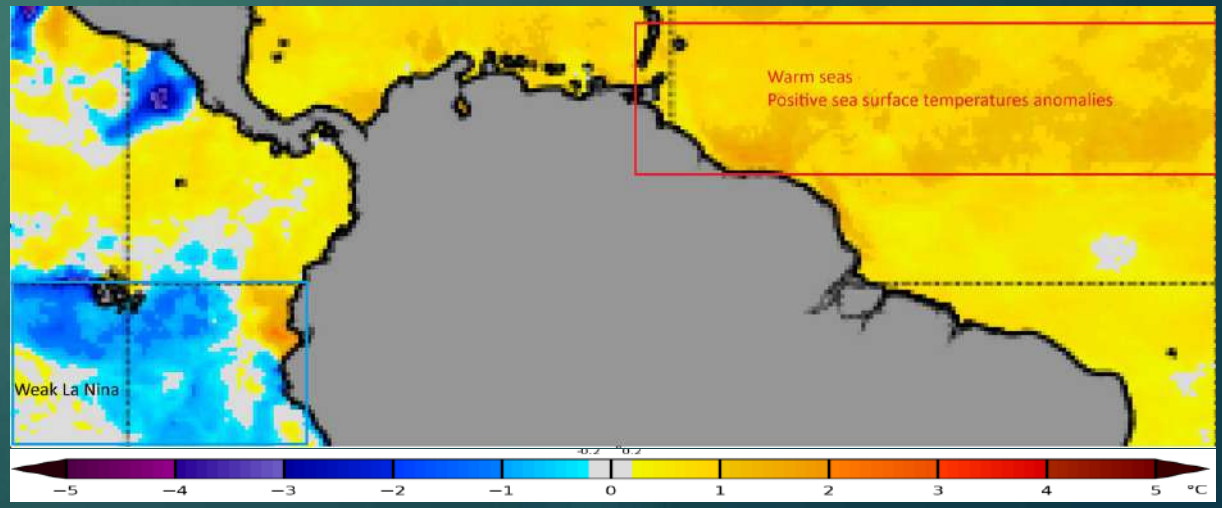
Dynamical Forecasts: Leverage the strengths of multiple climate forecast models to improve forecast skill (North American Multi-Model Ensemble, ECMWF)

Climatological and meteorological knowledge and skill.

State of Key Climate Influencers

- A **Weak La Niña** developed in October 2025 and is expected to positively influence rainfall occurrences over Trinidad and Tobago during the first half of the Dry season (January-February-March).
- **Warm sea surface temperatures** (SST) exist east of Trinidad and Tobago and into the tropical Atlantic ocean and is expected to provide the moisture for cloud development during the Dry season months (January to May).





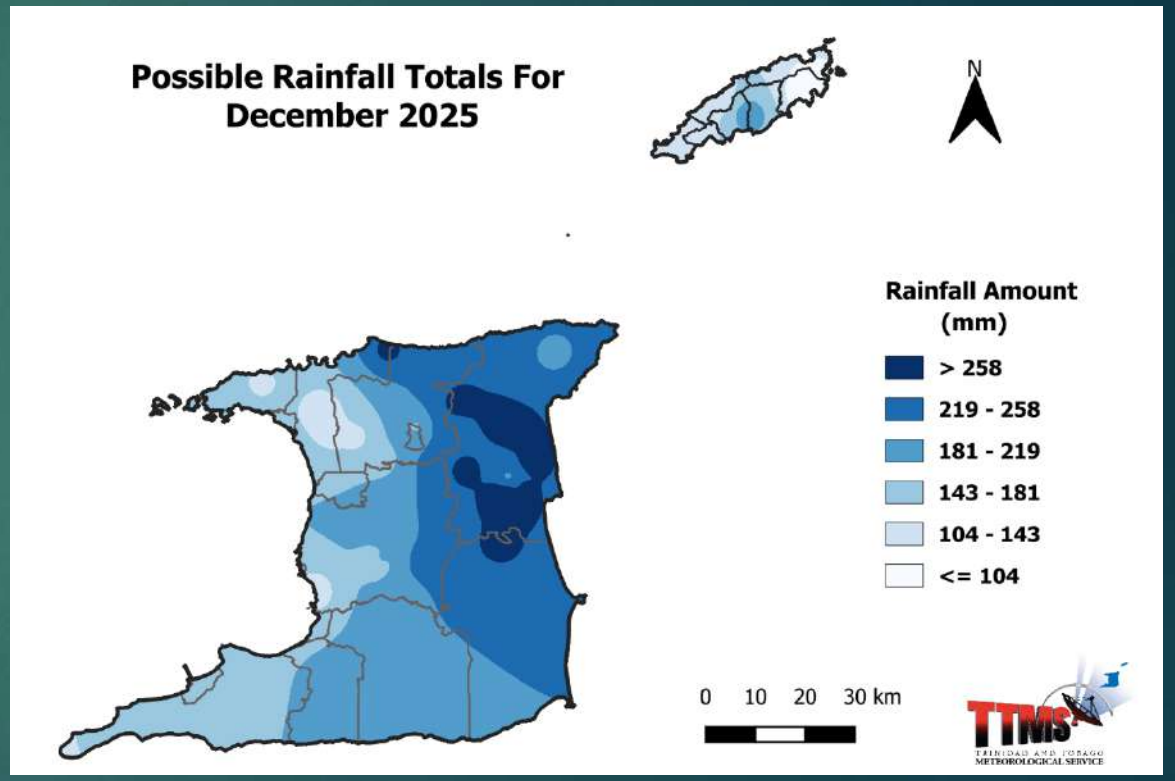
A wet start for the 2026 Dry Season !

Near-Normal to Above Normal Rainfall and Warm Temperatures are Expected For December And the 2026 Dry Season;

Flood Potential Remains moderate for December 2025.

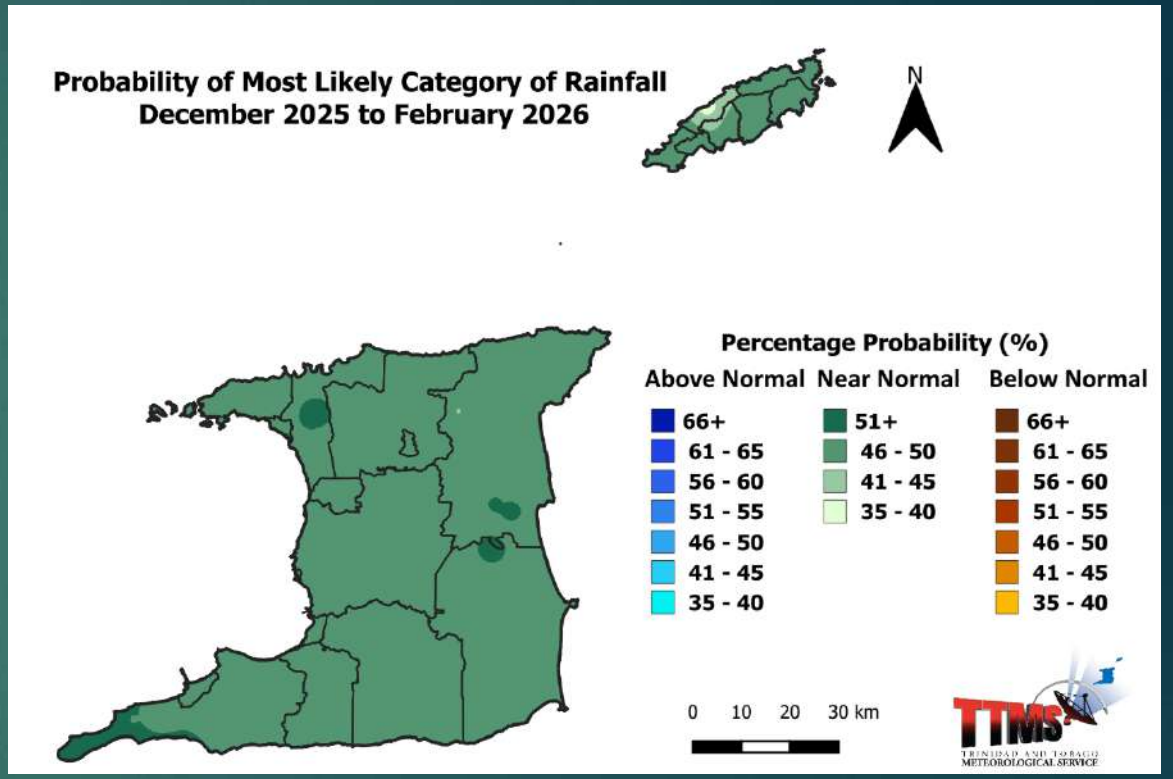
Possible rainfall totals with the highest chances of occurrences during December 2025

- Near-normal rainfall totals are likely for December 2025.
- The areas that are likely to get highest rainfall totals are within the north-eastern areas of Trinidad and central Tobago.
- Few areas in western Trinidad and north-eastern Tobago are likely to get rainfall totals below 66 mm.
- Most areas in Trinidad are favoured to observe rainfall totals above 206 mm, with some areas in northeast Trinidad likely to exceed 310 mm.
- Tobago is likely to get rainfall totals more than 124 mm across most areas.
- Flash flooding, waterlogged soils and water ponding are likely in December 2025.



Near Normal rainfall December-February

- The December to February (DJF) 2025-2026 rainfall outlook indicates that there are enhanced chances for near-normal conditions to occur across Trinidad and Tobago,
- Most of DJF seasonal rainfall will occur in December and January 2026;
- Near-normal is defined as rainfall amounts within the range 75% to 125% of the Long Term Average (1991-2020).

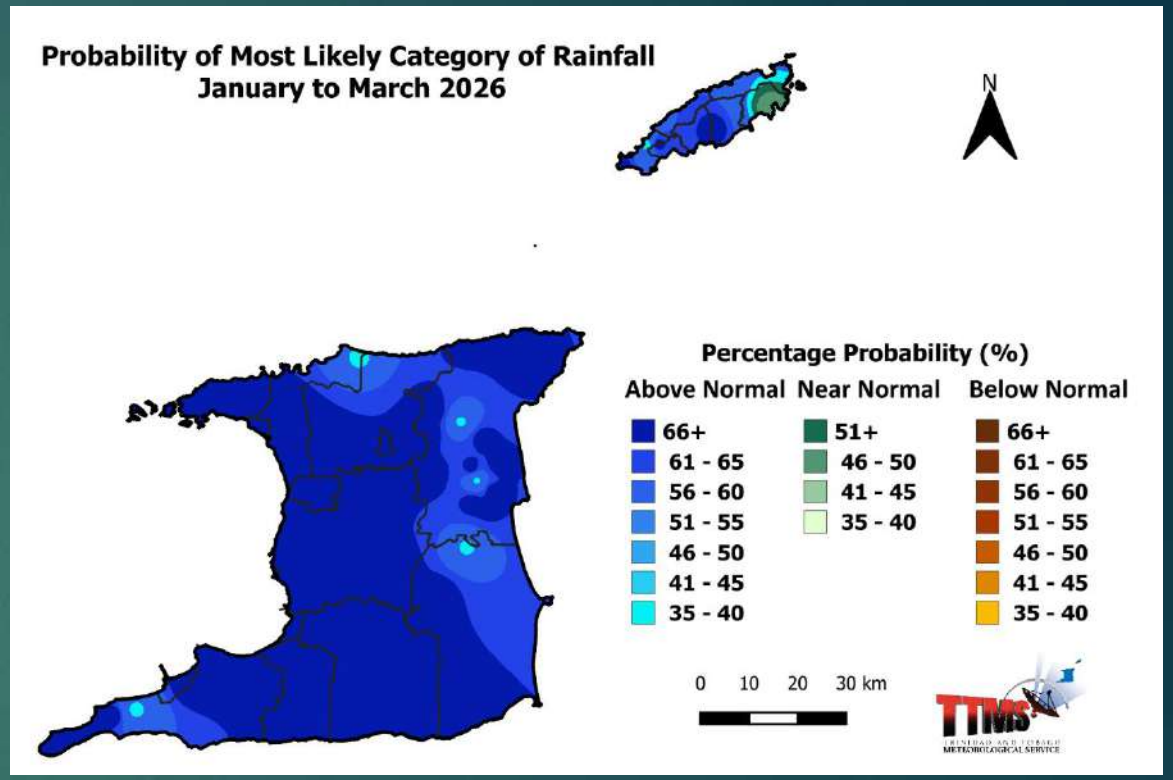


Green areas show an increased chance for near-normal rainfall.

Mostly Above-Normal Rainfall is expected for January to March 2026

- The 3-month period, January to March 2026 has a moderate to high probability (56%-76%) for above normal rainfall amounts over most areas.
- Most of the observable dryness will be seen in the later half of March 2026.

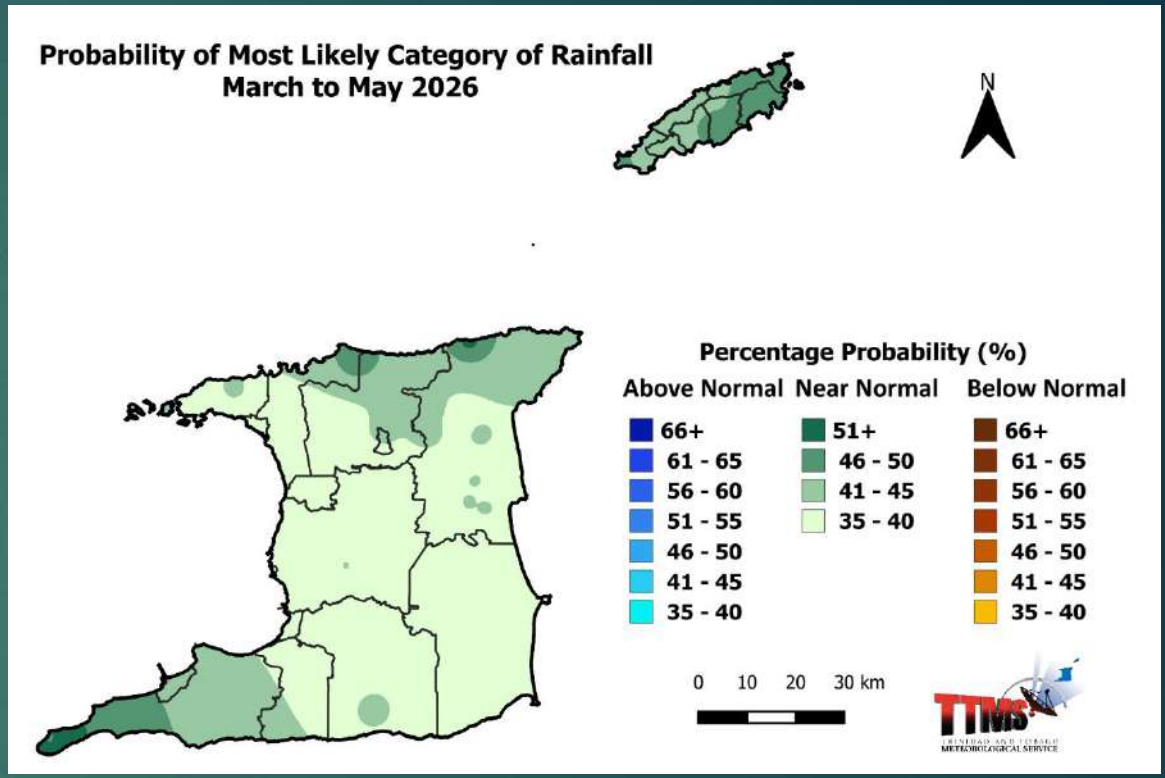
- Above- normal is defined as rainfall amounts ≥ 125% of the Long Term Average (1991-2020).



Category of rainfall likely for January to March (JFM) with highest chances of occurrence expressed as probabilities represented on the map. Blue areas indicate places with an increased chance for above- normal rainfall, while green areas show an increased chance for near normal rainfall.

Near-normal Rainfall is expected March to May 2026

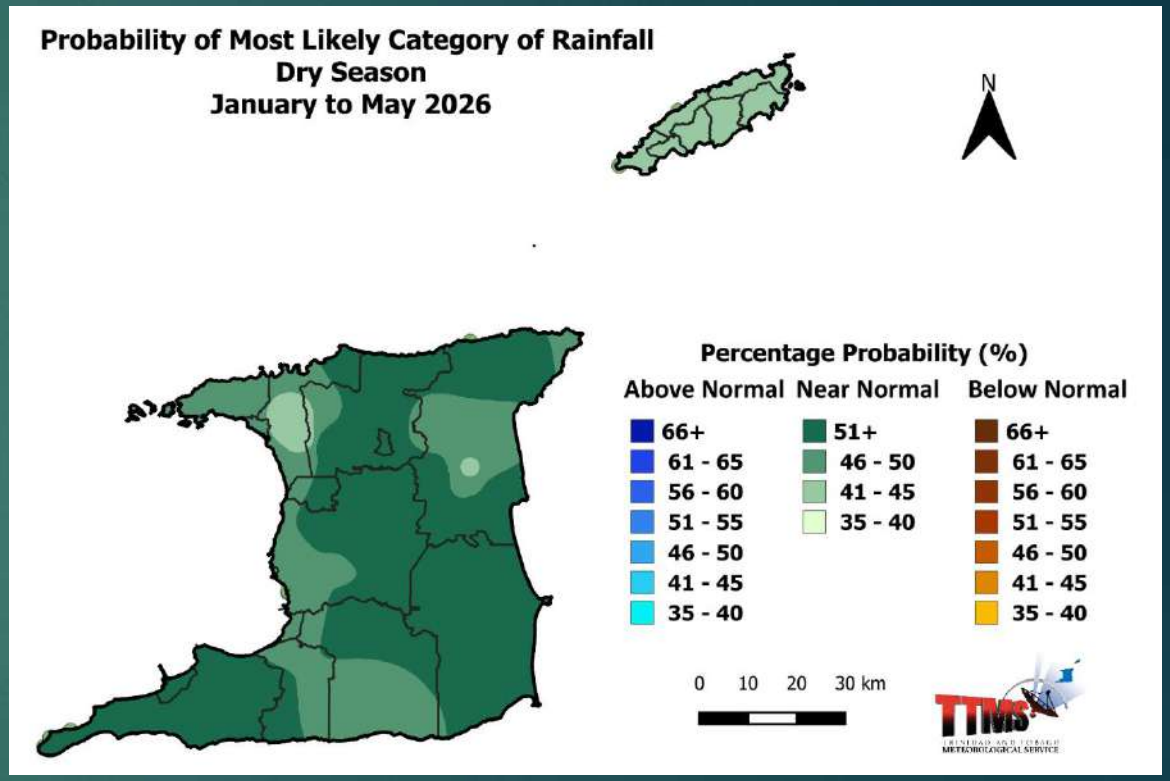
- The March to May 2026 rainfall outlook indicates that near-normal rainfall is likely across Trinidad and Tobago.
- Near-normal is define as rainfall amounts within the range 75% to 125% of the Long Term Average (1991-2020).



Category of rainfall likely for March to May (MAM) with highest chances of occurrence expressed as probabilities. Green areas show an increased chance for near-normal rainfall,.

Near Normal Rainfall for 2026 Dry Season

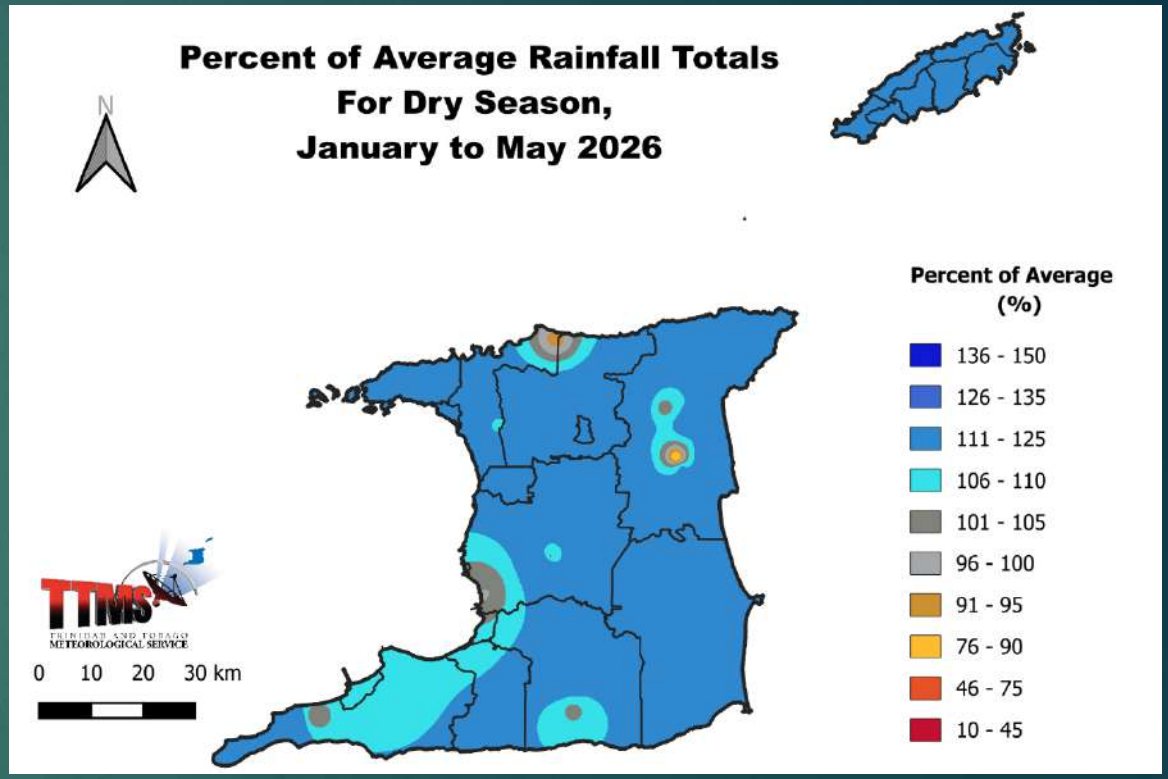
- The 2026 Dry Season rainfall outlook indicates a strong signal for usual rainfall amounts with odds in favour for wet as normal conditions across most areas of Trinidad and Tobago.



Green areas indicate places with an increased chance for near-normal rainfall,

Percentage of average rainfall totals likely for the 2026 Dry Season.

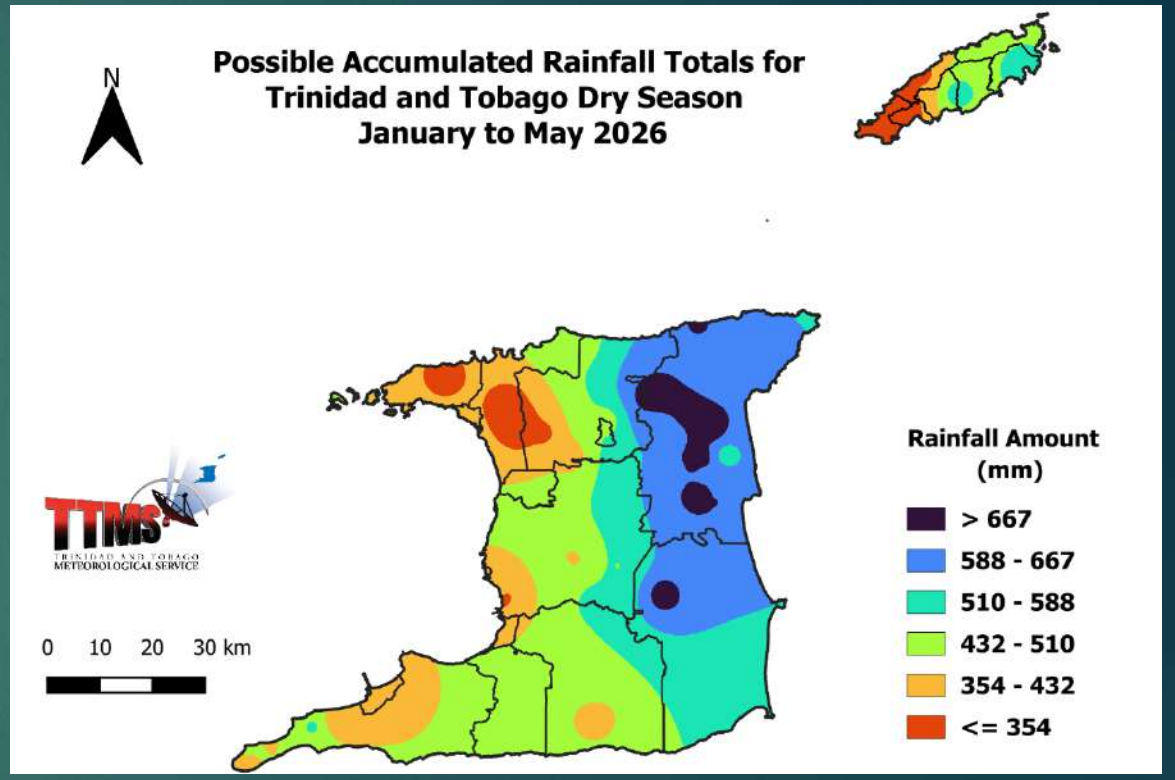
- In general, the dry Season is likely to get a percentage of average seasonal rainfall that is between 84% to 124% of the average;
- The country is likely to get about 97 dry-days during the season, which is below the average of 108 dry-days (a dry-day is defined as a day with less than 1.0 mm of rainfall);
- The country usually receives 3 to 8, 7-day dry spells and 1 to 5, 10-day dry spells in the dry season. For 2026, there is a 57% probability for 5, 7-day dry spells and a 53% probability for 3, 10-day dry spells;



Most of Trinidad and Tobago is expected to receive rainfall in the POA ≥110%

Possible accumulated rainfall totals with the highest chance of occurrence during the 2026 Dry Season

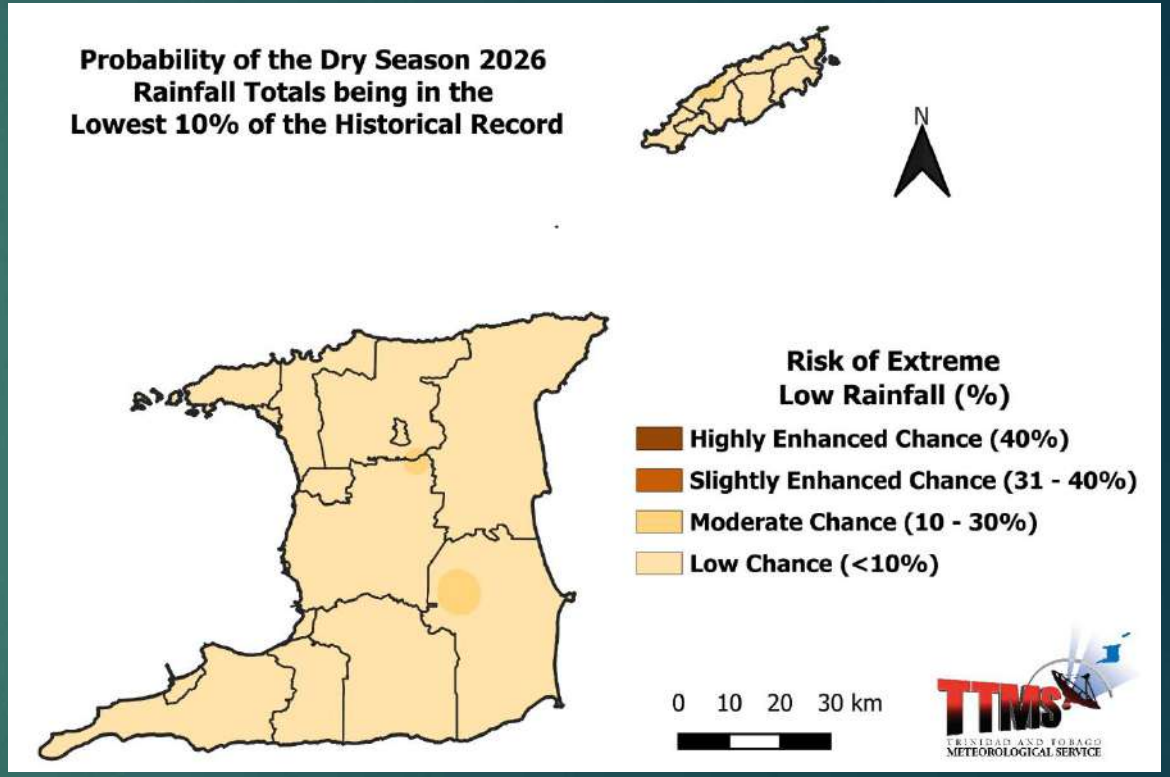
- The dry season accumulated rainfall totals for 2026 in Trinidad and Tobago are likely to be the highest in northern and eastern areas in the vicinity of Valencia, North Oropouche, Sangre Grande in Trinidad and Charlotteville, Speyside, Roxborough and Glamorgan in Tobago, where the totals could range between 540 mm and 769 mm.
- The lowest dry season totals are likely in northwestern parts of Trinidad, such as St. Joseph, San Juan, Port of Spain, Diego Martin and Claxton Bay, and southwestern Tobago such as Scarborough, Mason Hall, Crown Point and Plymouth where totals are expected around 266 mm are possible.



Chances for extremely dry conditions over the 2026 Dry Season.

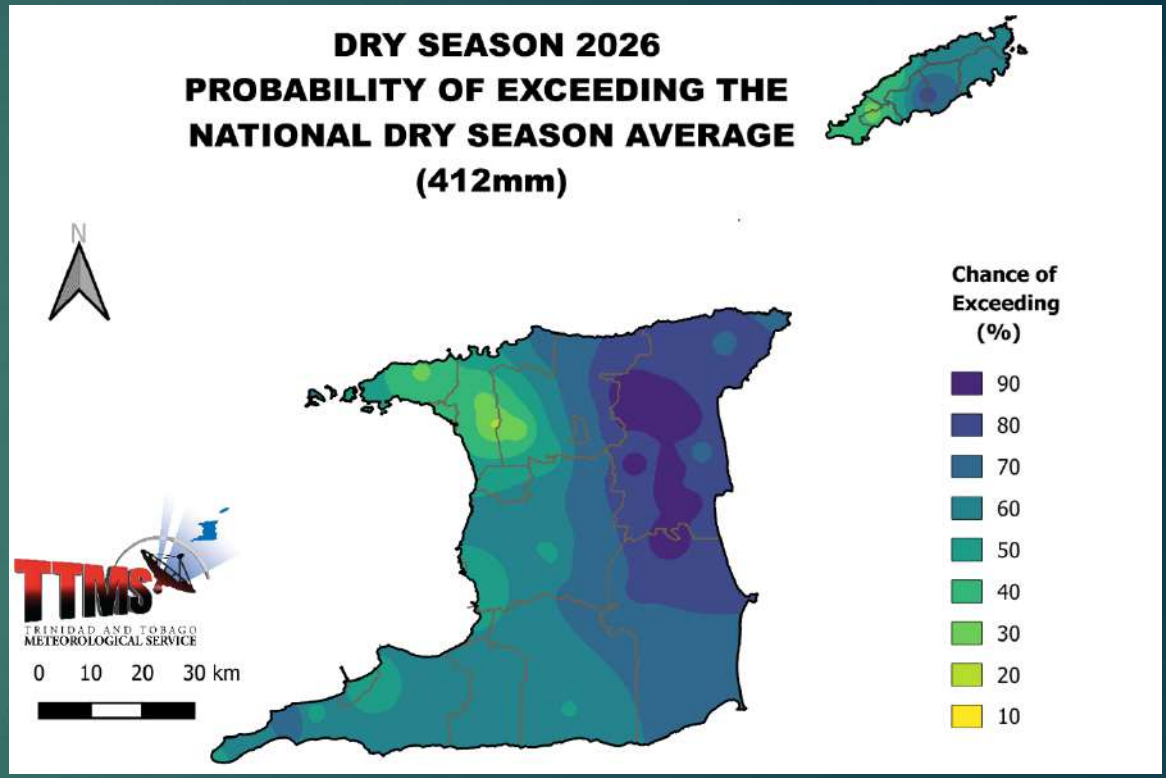
- Extremely dry conditions refer to the lowest 10% of Dry Season total rainfall amounts in historical records.

- The probability for totals to be in the lowest 10% of all dry season rainfall totals is low to moderate (3%-15%);



Probability of the 2026 Dry Season rainfall totals exceeding the National Average of 412 mm.

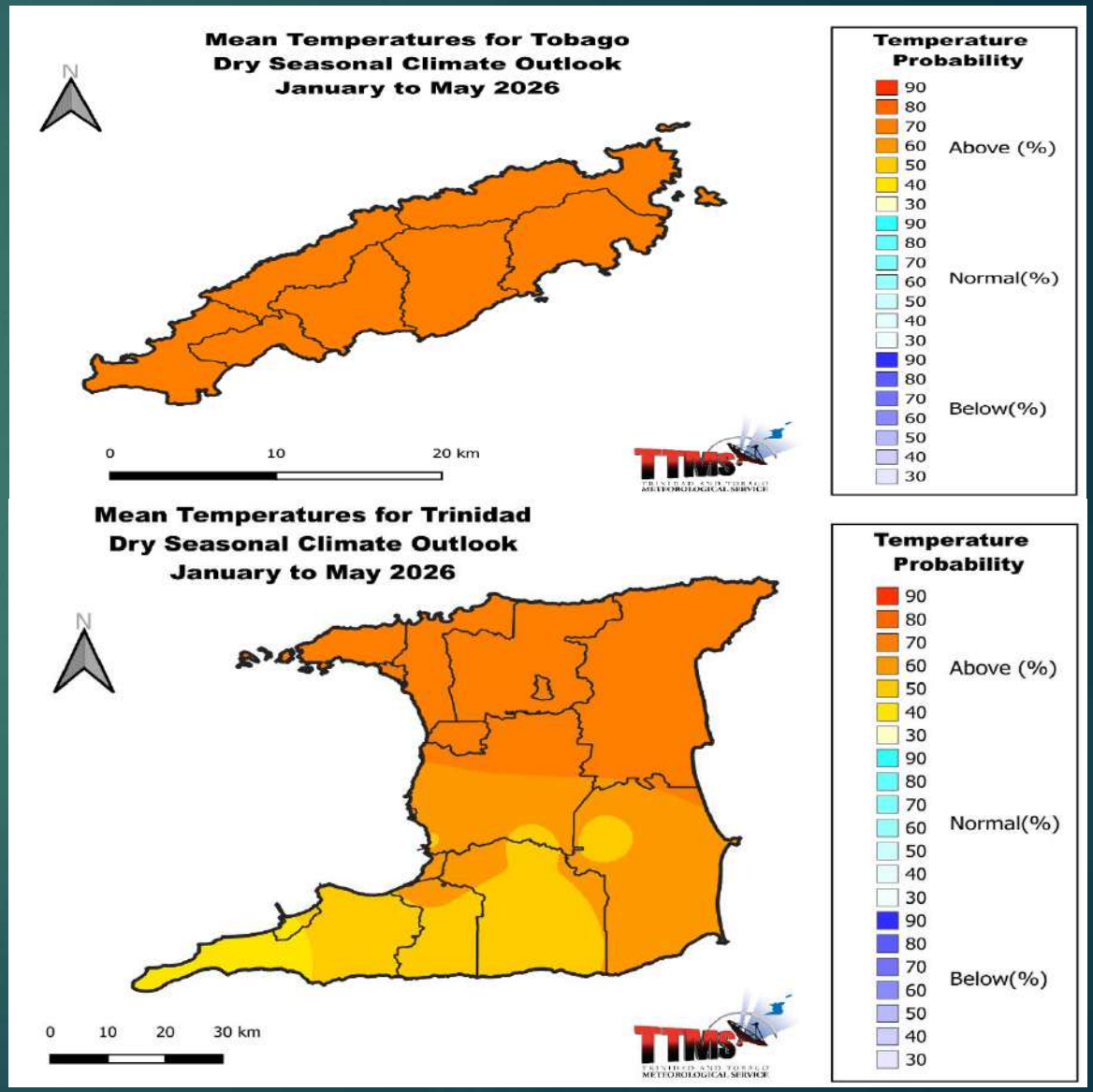
- The outlook indicates a low to high probability (18%-89%) that the national average of 412 mm will be surpassed;
- Areas in eastern Trinidad and central Tobago have the highest probability of exceeding the national average, while small areas in northwest Trinidad and southwest Tobago have lowest probabilities of surpassing the national average;



National average was calculated from 45 stations across Trinidad and Tobago.

Mean Temperatures most likely to occur across Trinidad and Tobago for the 2026 Dry Season

- Both daytime and night temperatures are likely to be above-normal over both islands;
- The greatest odds for warmer than average nights and days are over cities, urban and build up areas;
- A moderate chance (40%) exists for short duration warm spells during the month of May 2026 with maximum temperatures averaging around 33.5 °C in Trinidad and 32.5 °C Tobago;



Map shows the colour-coded category (below-normal, near-normal and above-normal) of maximum and maximum Temperatures

Key Messages for 2026 Dry Season: (Page 1 of 2)

- December 2025 is likely to get near-normal rainfall across many areas of Trinidad and Tobago;
- The 2026 Dry Season (January-May) rainfall outlook indicates moderate chances for near-normal rainfall, wetter than usual conditions during the first half, and near normal in the second half of the season for both islands.
- In general, the Dry Season outlook is likely to get a percentage of average seasonal rainfall that is between 84% to 124% of the average;
- The country is likely to get about 97 dry-days during the season, which is below the average of 108 dry-days (a dry-day is defined as a day with less than 1.0 mm of rainfall);
- The country usually receives 3 to 8, 7-day dry spells and 1 to 5, 10-day dry spells in the dry season. For 2026, there is a 57% probability for 5, 7-day dry spells and a 53% probability for 3, 10-day dry spells;

Key Messages for 2026 Dry Season: (Page 2 of 2)

- The outlook indicates relatively moderate to high probabilities (18%-89%) across most areas for seasonal rainfall totals to exceed the national dry season average of 412.0 mm;

- There is a low to moderate (3%-15%) probability for totals to be in the lowest 10% of all dry season rainfall totals;

- The December and the 2026 Dry Season temperature outlook indicates that above-normal seasonal mean, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely, but at least three (3) to seven (7) cool nights when temperatures can fall below 20.0 °C in Trinidad and 22.0 °C in Tobago are possible in January and February 2026.

Likely Impacts for 2026 Dry Season

- Recent rainfall events during December 2025 have already positively influenced surface water flows, river levels, reservoir and groundwater recharge. The expected wetter-than-usual conditions in the first half of the dry season will positively affect surface and groundwater recharge rates and stream flow rates;
- Initial wetter than usual conditions and warmer than usual conditions in the beginning of the dry season may lead to an increase in breeding areas for insect vectors such as mosquitoes;
- The earlier part of the dry season is expected to be wetter than usual and will likely decrease bush, forest and landfill fire potential. This will likely improve air quality and positively affect persons with existing respiratory and other ailments.
- The latter half of the dry season is expected to be dry as normal, therefore, the probability of bush, forest and landfill fires potential is likely to increase.

2026 Dry Season
Early Actions & Preparedness

- Review household water plan. Conserve, store and manage water safely and adequately.
- Sensitize vulnerable communities on negative impacts of the forecast and actions to be taken.
- Raise awareness on dry season agriculture, pest and disease control measures and bushfires risk.
- Ramp-up contingency plans to mitigate the possible occurrence of landfill fires.
- Review contingency plans to manage dry season spikes in vector-borne diseases such as gastroenteritis and leptospirosis; and dust/smoke-related respiratory ailments.

THANK YOU

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