بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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Maldives Meteorological Service

Maldives Monthly Climate Outlook

For January 2026

Summary

Rainfall is likely to be below-normal over most parts of the country with possibility of normal over some parts of northern and central atolls. Temperatures are expected to be above-normal across the country.

Introduction

This consensus outlook on rainfall and temperature for the Maldives has been prepared through assessments of the prevailing and prediction of global climate conditions, and seasonal forecasts from different climate models including WMO Lead Centre for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-LRFMME), North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), multi-model ensemble climate prediction of RIMES, Rainfall and temperature outlook for south Asia, monthly climate anomalies and monthly forecasts of European Centre for Medium- Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

Status and expected condition of major climate drivers.

La Niña condition persists, characterized by below-average equatorial Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Most global models indicate likely condition of remaining La Niña until early 2026 and begin shifting toward ENSO-neutral from January-March 2026 onward.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index has returned to neutral state and most climate models predict high probability for continuing neutral conditions through January 2026.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is currently over Maritime continent and dynamical models suggest the weak MJO to propagate eastwards, reaching to the Western Pacific towards the end of the month.

Calibration of climate models

The Climate Predictability Tool (CPT) was used to downscale global model outputs to a local scale. Most of the calibrated precipitation models indicate a high probability of below-normal rainfall over southern atolls and some part of central atolls, while a low probability of above-normal precipitation is indicated over northern atolls.

Global Producing Centers and WMO Lead Centre Forecasts

The Probabilistic Multi-Model Ensemble from the WMO Lead Centre for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensembles (LC-RFMME) for January indicates below-normal rainfall across the southern and part of central area, with climatological probability over the rest of the country. The temperature outlook shows a higher probability of above-normal temperatures across the country.

Temperature and Rainfall Climatology over the Maldives during January

- Temperature

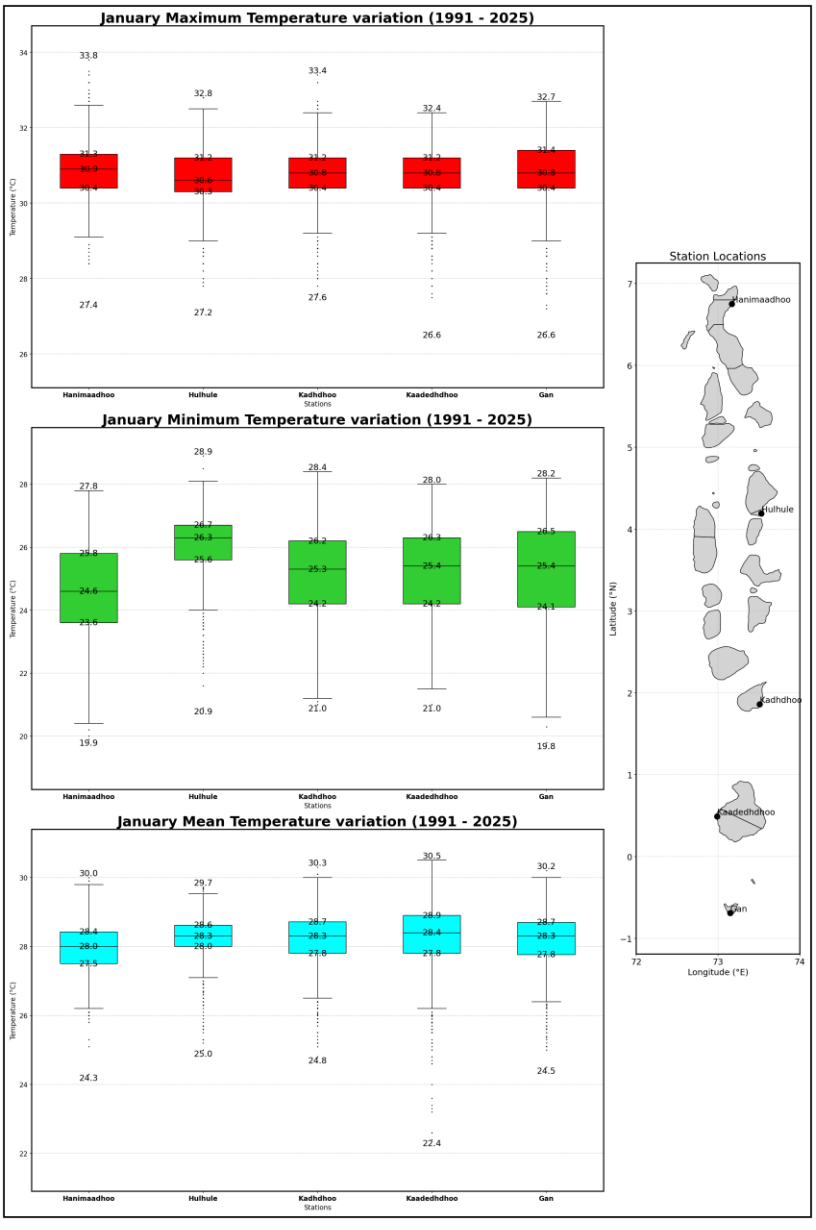

Figure 1 The image presents the distribution of daily maximum, minimum and mean temperatures recorded at five meteorological stations for the period 1991 – 2025. The small map on the right highlights the geographical location of these stations. The distribution of temperature shows maximum temperatures between 30.5°C and 31.0°C with highest maximum temperature of 33.8°C in Hanimaadhoo area. Minimum temperatures between 24.5°C and 26.4°C with lowest minimum of 19.8°C in Gan area. Mean temperatures between 27.9°C and 28.5°C with highest mean temperature of 30.5°C in Kaadedhdhoo area.

- Rainfall

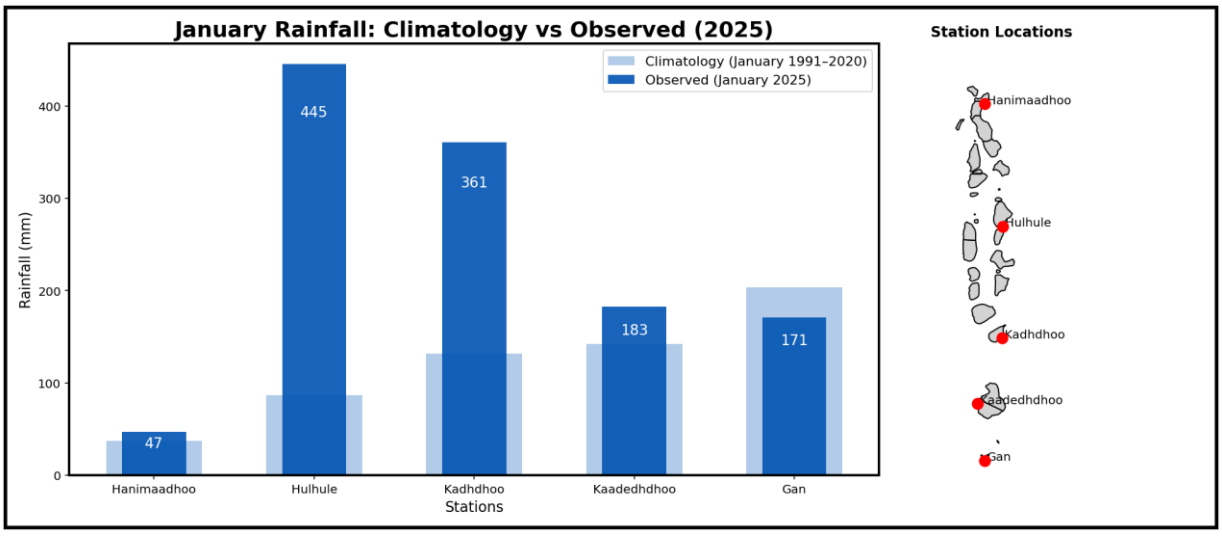

Figure 2 The image presents the comparison of January rainfall climatology for the period 1991-2020 with observed rainfall in January 2025 for five stations across Maldives and the map on the right side, highlights the geographical locations of the rainfall stations. The light-colored bars represent the long-term climatology and darker bars show rainfall observed in January 2025, with values labeled on each bar. Hanimaadhhoo, Hulhule, Kadhdhoo and Kaadedhdhoo received above average rainfall, while Gan station received lower than the climatological average.

Conclusion

Considering the expected conditions of major climate drivers, seasonal climate predictions from global and regional centers, and local climate data, slightly wetter than normal conditions are likely in some parts of the country during the first half of the month, followed by drier conditions across most parts of the country during latter half of the month. Above-normal average temperatures are likely throughout the country for the month.

Note:

Normal: Amount of rainfall between 90% - 110% of the average for the period.
Above normal: Amount of rainfall more than 110% of the average for the period.
Below Normal: Amount of rainfall less than 90% of the average for the period