



No SF-2026-07-ENSO-IOD

Current condition and forecasts of ENSO and IOD for JAS 2026

Issued on 02nd July 2026 by Seasonal Forecasting Division of the Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka.

1. El Nino and La Nina update

El Niño conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific Ocean are consistent with El Niño. El Niño conditions are expected to strengthen into the Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27. (source-CPC-NOAA).

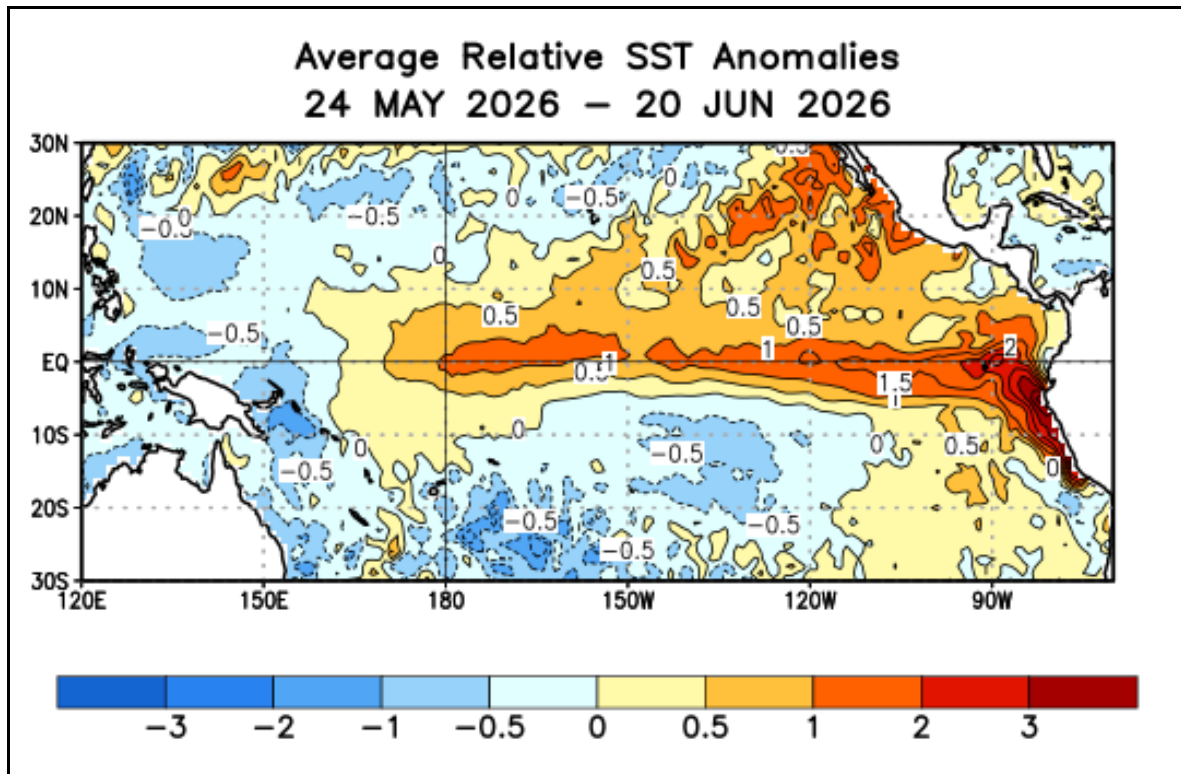


Fig 1: Observed Average Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C)

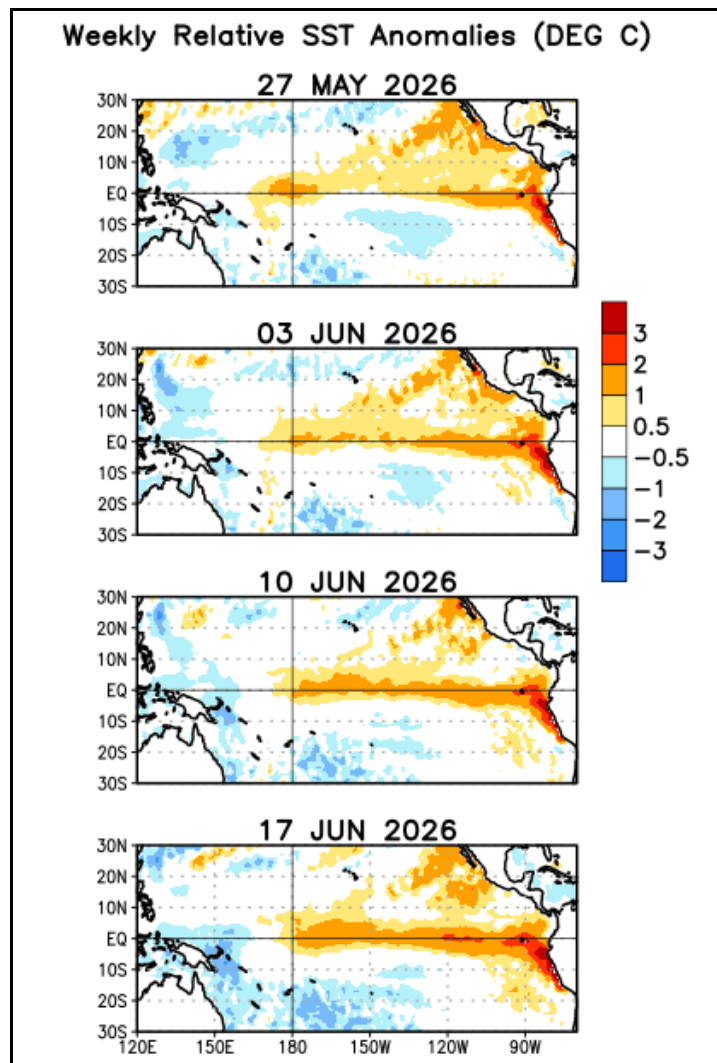


Fig 2: Weekly Observed Average Sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C)

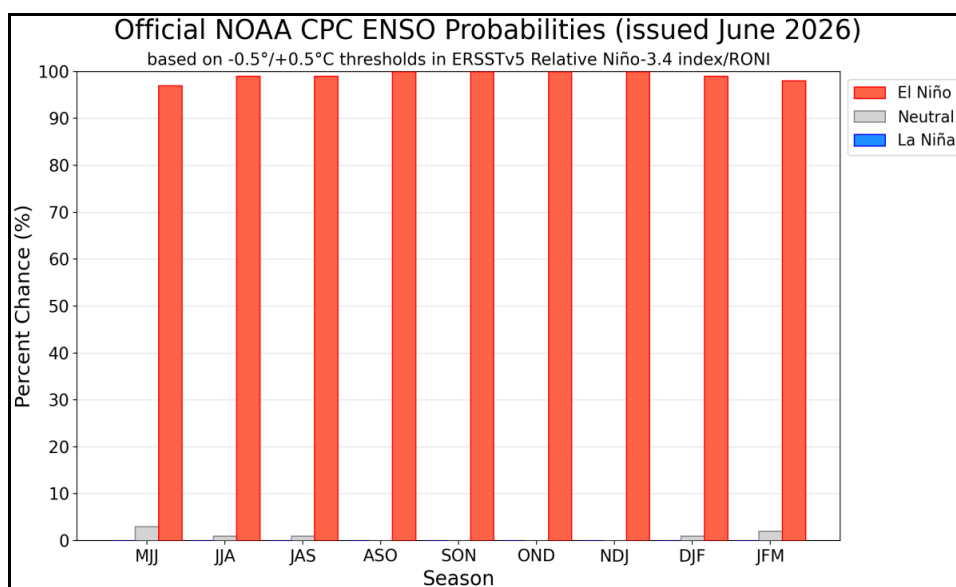


Fig 3a: ENSO forecast from Climate Prediction Center (CPC)/ IRI Forecast

1.1 CPC Probabilistic ENSO Strength Outlook

In November 2026-January 2027, there is a 63% chance of a very strong El Niño. There is a 1-in-3 chance of El Niño remaining weaker than very strong.

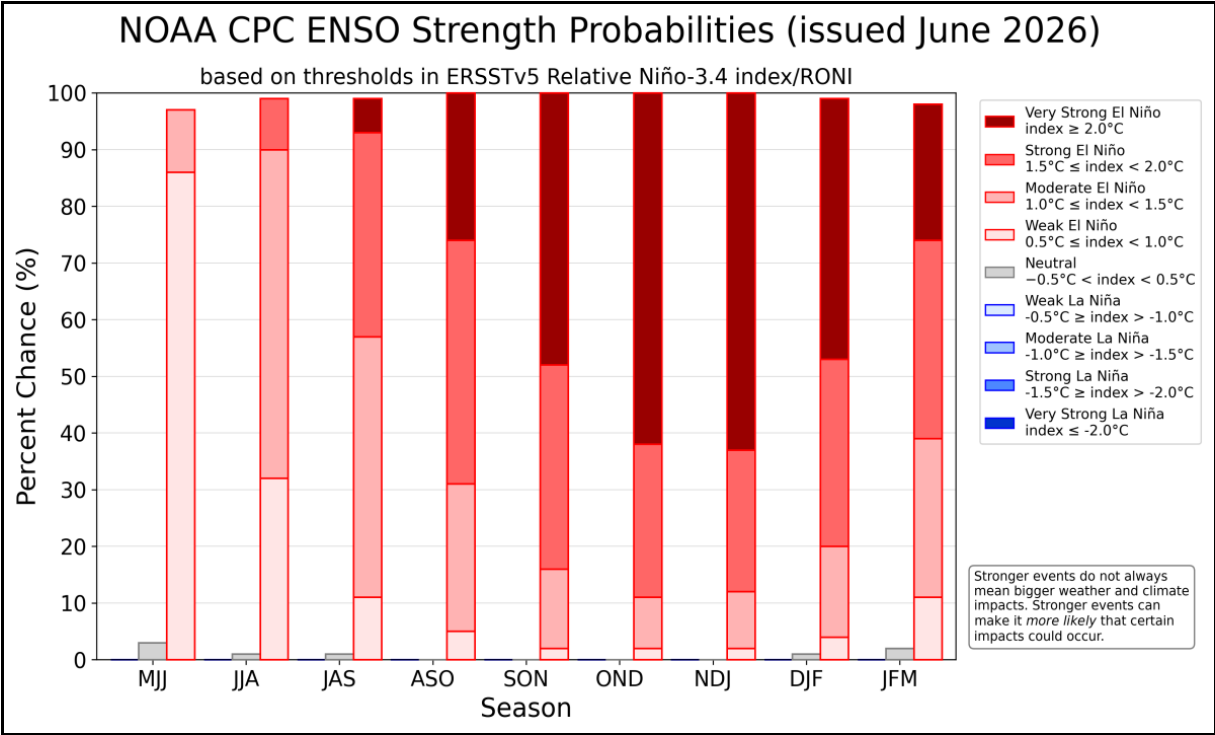


Fig 3b: ENSO strength Probabilities (CPC-NOAA)

1.2 Impacts of El-Nino on monthly rainfall anomaly during July, August and September

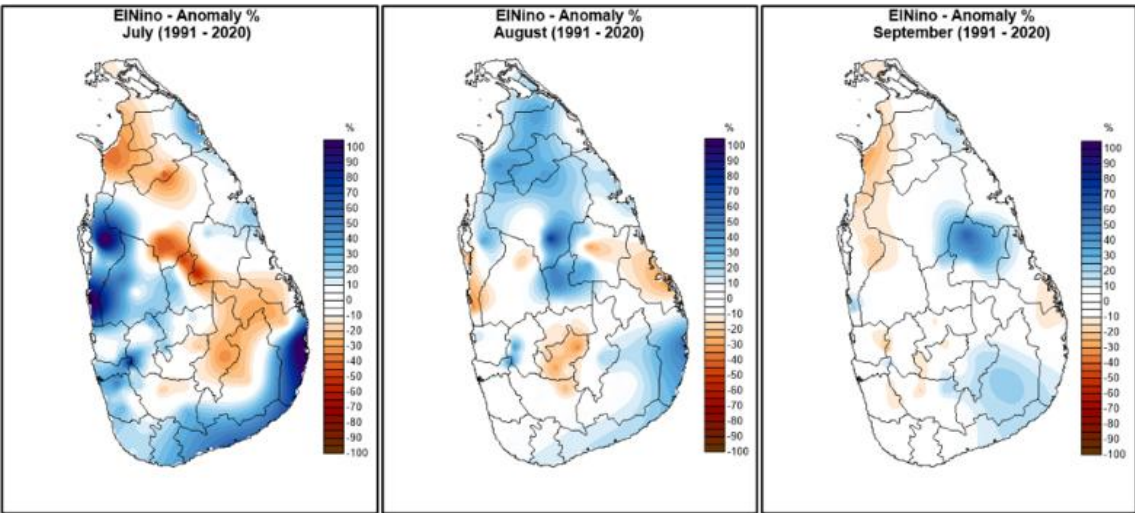


Fig 3c: Monthly Rainfall Anomaly maps of the months of July(A), August (B) and September (C) during El-Nino years (Department of Meteorology-Research Division)

Research conducted by the Department of Meteorology, it has been found that, above normal rainfalls were experienced over Western, Southern and Northwestern Provinces and some areas in Sabaragamuwa province, and Ampara and Mathale districts. Near or below normal rainfalls were observed over remaining parts of the country during the month of July. During the month of August above normal rainfalls were received over some areas in Killinochchi, Mannar, Vavuniya,

Mulativu, Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Mathale, Ampara, Monaragala and Hambantota districts and near or slightly below normal rainfalls were experienced over remaining parts of the country. During the month of September slightly above normal rainfalls were received over Polonnaruwa and Monaragla districts and slightly below normal rainfalls over Puttalam districts. Long term average rainfalls were experienced over remaining areas of the country while the El-Nino conditions were prevailed. (Fig 3c).

2. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) update

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. As of 14 June 2026, the IOD index is -0.13°C . Models suggest a positive IOD event is likely in the southern hemisphere winter-spring. However, model forecasts show a large variation in both the timing and strength of this potential event. (source- BOM, Australia).

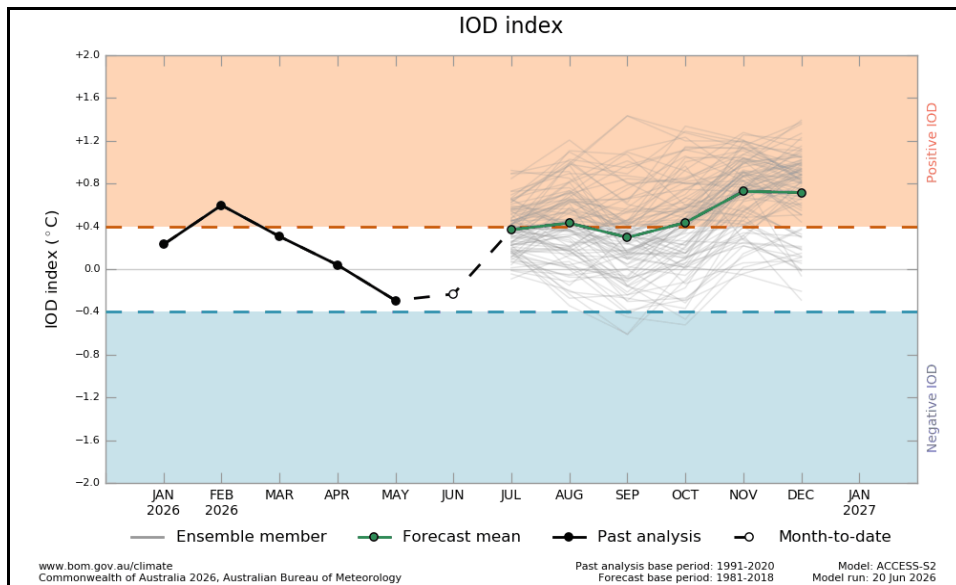


Figure 4a: IOD forecast from Australian Bureau of Meteorology