



**KIRIBATI EARLY ACTION
RAINFALL WATCH
APRIL 2021**

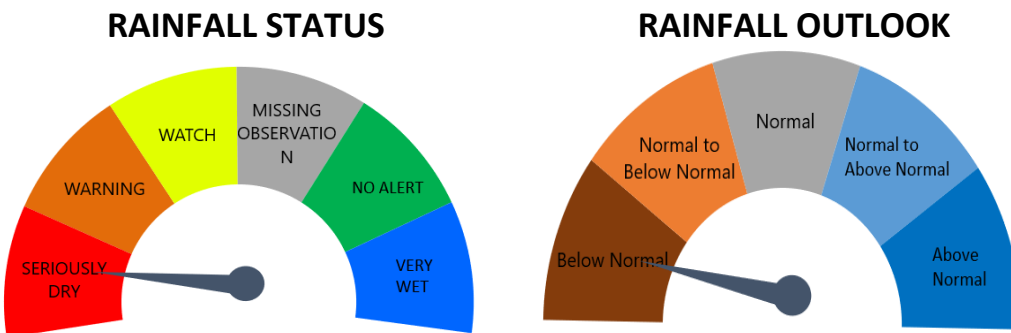
SUMMARY STATEMENT

Rainfall Status Ended March 2021:

- Tarawa and Kiritimati both in seriously dry condition for the 3 and 12 months index. Kiritimati is in warning for the 24 month index while Tarawa is in no alert.
- For outer stations, Beru is in a seriously dry condition for 3-, 6- and 12-months index. Butaritari is in warning for 3- and 6-months index and watch in the 12 months index.

April to June 2021 and April to September 2021 rainfall outlooks:

- All Kiribati Met stations favored Below Normal rainfall for the next 3months. For next 6 months, Beru is most likely to get Below normal rainfall, Butaritari is mixed between normal and below normal and Kanton is most likely to get normal with below normal rainfall next most likely (details on Page 2).



RAINFALL STATUS

Table 1: For the drought monitoring, Tarawa was using only the 3- and 12-months rainfall index for alert levels 1 and 2. Kiritimati on the other hand was using the 3 and 24 months rainfall index. Outer islands were using 3, 6 and 12 months for monitoring.

STATIONS	3 MONTHS RAINFALL INDEX	12 MONTHS RAINFALL INDEX	24 MONTHS RAINFALL INDEX
TARAWA	Red	Red	Green
KIRITIMATI	Red	Red	Orange
OUTER STATIONS:			
STATIONS	3 MONTHS RAINFALL INDEX	6 MONTHS RAINFALL INDEX	12 MONTHS RAINFALL INDEX
BUTARITARI	Orange	Orange	Yellow
BERU	Red	Red	Red

Rainfall Status Key:

Seriously dry	Warning	Watch	Missing observation	No alert	Very wet
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RAINFALL OUTLOOK

3 MONTHS OUTLOOK- APRIL TO JUNE 2021

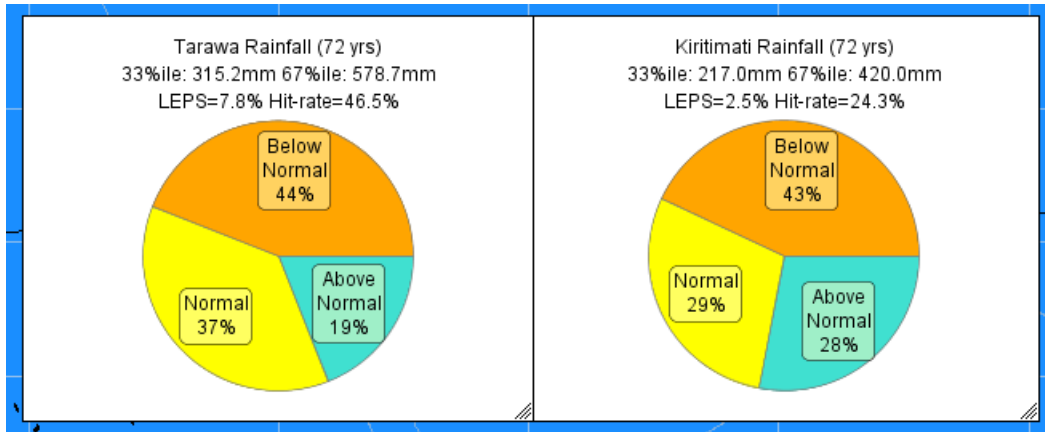


Figure 1: Tarawa and Kiritimati favor below normal rainfall with normal next most likely.

6 MONTHS OUTLOOK- APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2021

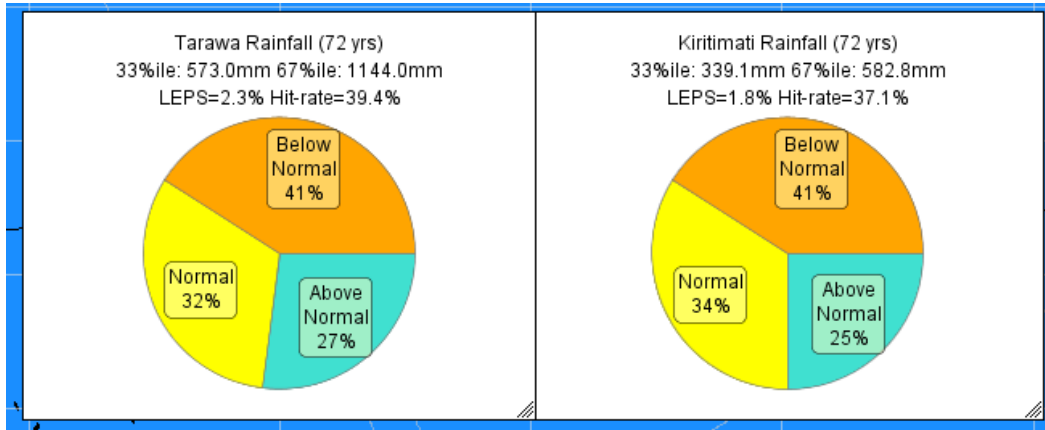


Figure 2: Tarawa and Kiritimati favor below normal rainfall.

OUTER STATIONS NEXT 3- AND 6-MONTHS RAINFALL PREDICTIONS:

3 MONTHS (April to June 2021):

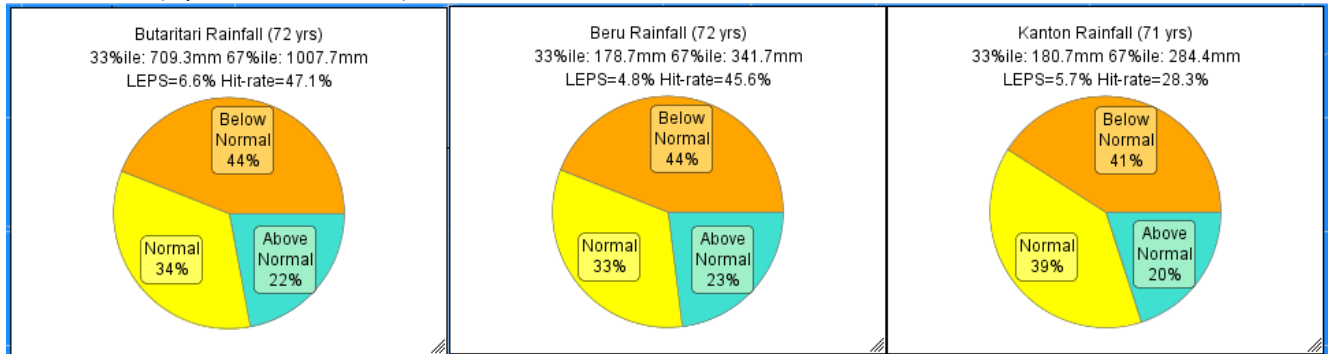


Figure 3: Below normal is the most likely outcome at all stations with normal next most likely.

6 MONTHS (April to September 2021):

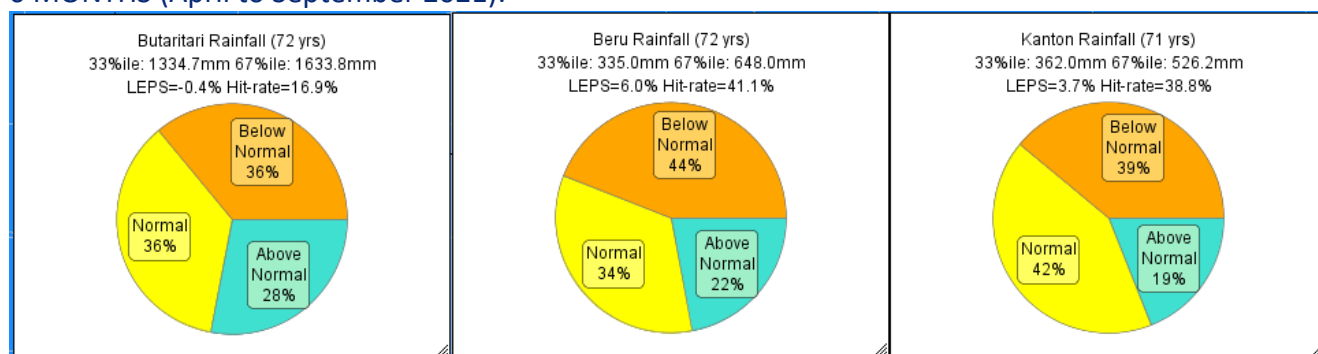


Figure 4: Beru is expecting below normal, Butaritari is mixed between normal and below normal as chances are equal. Kanton is expecting normal with below normal rainfall for next 6 months from April to September 2021.

Time periods and possible impacts

Sector	3 month period most relevant for	6 month period most relevant for	1 year period most relevant for	2 year period most relevant for
Water	Household rainwater tanks and wells quality decrease Slight increase salinity of trunk main at Bonriki water reserve Brackish wells near coastline Increase water demand	Increase salinity of trunk main at Bonriki water reserve Solar pump systems in outer islands over extraction Decrease quality of wells	Individual domestic wells such as smaller freshwater lenses between Bonriki and Buota, large community water tanks. Water Quality decrease (e.g algae)	Groundwater monitoring budget increases for monthly monitoring. Increase cost to operate the desalination plant. National water rationing
Fisheries/ Aqua-culture			Increase in salinity killing farm fish e.g milkfish in Kiritimati Growth of mangroves affected.	
Agriculture	Shallow rooted crops (e.g. tomato, lettuce, kumala, eggplant) pawpaw and pumpkin	Impact on livestock & production decreases (e.g pigs—heat stress) Crop pest outbreak	Size of fruits gets smaller Bush fires (e.g coconut tress) Toddy production decreases	Deep rooted trees e.g. coconuts, breadfruit
Health	Influenza, Eye diseases e.g red eye Diarrhoea Water borne diseases	Skin diseases		Non-communicable diseases
Socio-economic	Increase burden in fetching water	Increase cost of living (use of gas, kerosene stoves)	Domestic violence (extra load of task de-watering) Conflict with water sharing in communities	Domestic violence (Extra load of task dewater) Copra production decreases

[END]