

18th SESSION OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM PICOF - 18

23 - 24 April, 2026 | Nadi, Fiji





Session 2ii. Impacts

Melanesia Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Caledonia.

Classification glossary

- Meteorological hazards are caused by short-lived, micro- to meso-scale extreme weather and atmospheric conditions that last from minutes to days.

Lightning / Thunderstorms, Low visibility,

Heat wave, Tropical cyclone, Storm, Tornado / Waterspout

- Hydrological hazard are caused by the occurrence, movement, and distribution of surface and subsurface freshwater and saltwater.

Mass movement (landslide, rockfall, sudden subsidence, mudslide), Flood (coastal, flash, riverine)

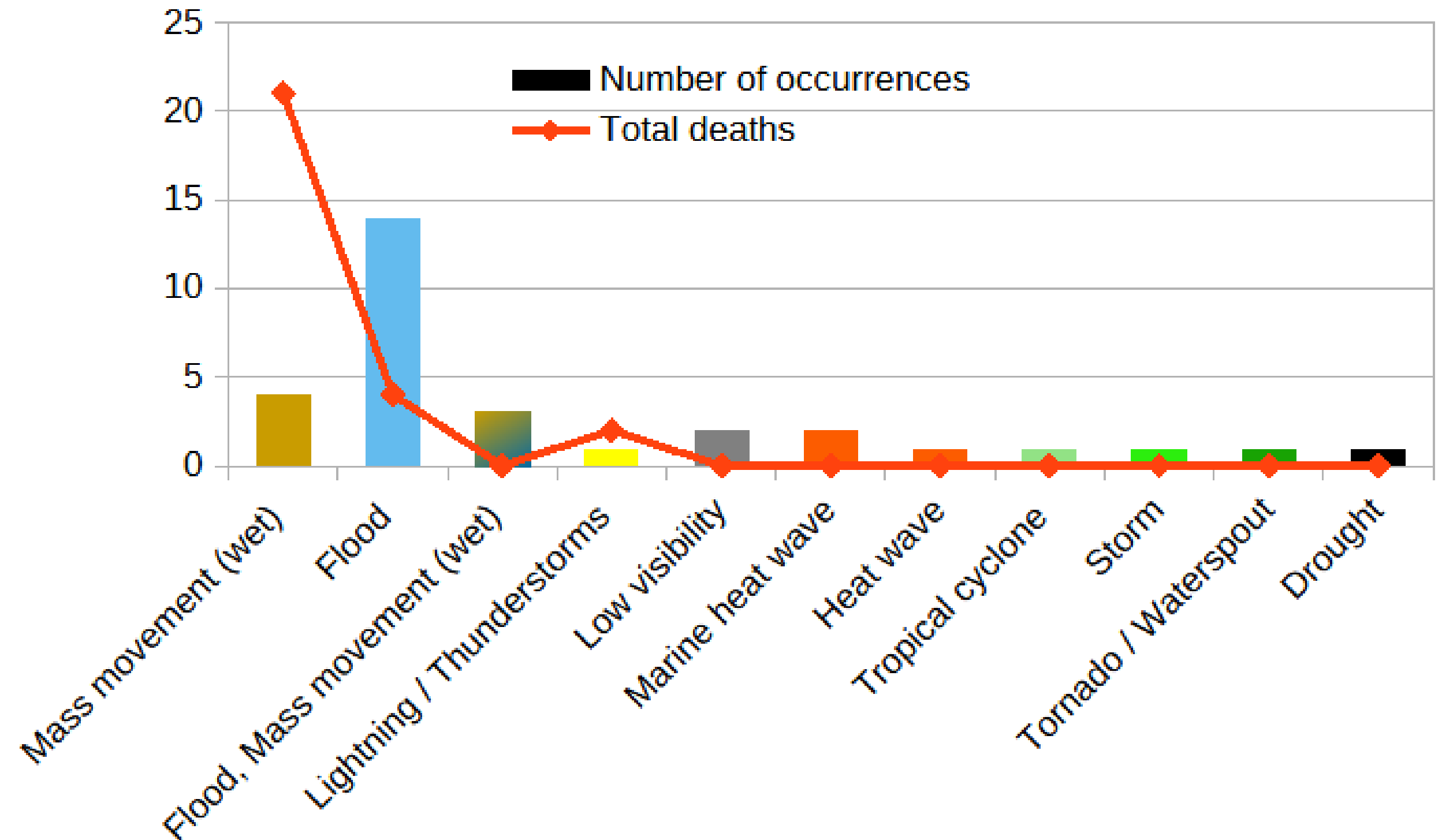
- Climatological hazards are caused by long-lived, meso- to macro-scale atmospheric processes ranging from intra-seasonal to multi-decadal climate variability.

Drought

Country reports

- 31 disaster events were reported thanks to Jasneel Chandra (FIJ), Kasis Inape (PNG), John RUBEN (VUT) and Martin Tugumana (SLB)
- Over the past six months, the La Niña conditions, combined with the peak wet season, have contributed to an increased frequency of extreme rainfall events across Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Caledonia.
- These intensified weather patterns have had widespread and significant impacts across multiple sectors.

Analysis



Conclusions

- Heavy rains have been the cause of most of the deaths over the past six months.
 - 21 deaths from Kukas landslide (PNG)
 - 6 fatalities from flooding in Madang (PNG), Vanuatu and Fiji
- Transport and infrastructure were the most consistently affected sectors, with cascading impacts on livelihoods, housing, and local economies.
- A wide range of vulnerabilities and types of areas susceptible to heavy rain and flooding: cities and their stormwater drainage systems, and the most remote rural areas, which are left without utilities (power, food) and without access to essential

Extensive damage to a house in Fiji following a waterspout (Korolevu Village, Sigatoka, FIJ – 09/01/2026)



A flooded city center on January 3, 2026 (Solomon Islands)



It started out as a pothole ! (VTU)

Broken bridge due to flooding in Madang (PNG), 2026



A day of extreme heat at the Les Trois Rivières nursing home in Koumac, New Caledonia. ©NC la 1ere (01/2026)

