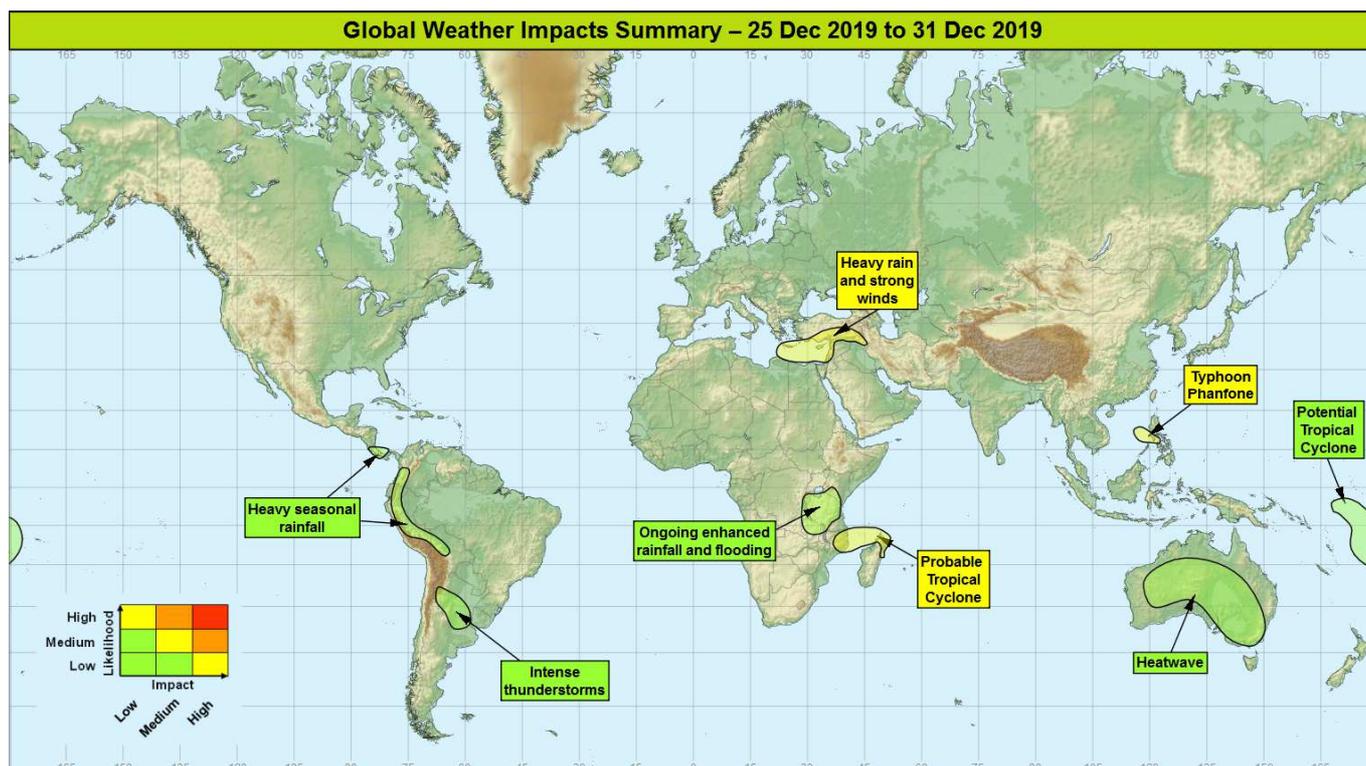


Global Weather Impacts – Wednesday 25th to Tuesday 31st December 2019

Issued on Wednesday 25th December 2019

HEADLINES

- Typhoon Phanfone crossing central Philippines over the next 24 hours.
- Very unsettled across the eastern Mediterranean with strong winds and heavy rain.
- Above average rainfall and flooding continues across parts of eastern Africa.
- Potential further tropical cyclone in the southwest Indian Ocean later this week.



DISCUSSION

Tropical Cyclones Typhoon Phanfone Weather

Phanfone tracked across the central Philippines during Tuesday. The typhoon will bring further rain to Mindoro and potentially damaging winds over the next 6-12 hours, before clearing out into the South China Sea. 50-150mm of rain is possible before the typhoon clears away later today (Wednesday).

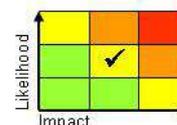
Discussion

Phanfone retained typhoon status as it tracked across the central Philippines. Little change in intensity is expected over the next 24-36 hrs as the system moves into the South China Sea. Strong wind shear should cause a rapid weakening later this week.

Expected Impacts

Potential for flash flooding, this also enhancing the risk of landslides. Strong winds may damage some poorly built structures and hinder travel (especially marine).

The following areas are being monitored for potential development:



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Southwest Indian Ocean – Madagascar and Mozambique

Weather

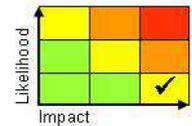
There remains the possibility of tropical cyclone development across the south-western Indian Ocean later this week. Regardless of development heavy rainfall is expected across northern Madagascar with 125-250mm over the next few days. Evidence suggesting that a tropical cyclone will develop in the Mozambique Channel, later this week or over the weekend, is growing. Even if a storm fails to fully develop, there is likely to be a period of torrential rain across northern Mozambique probably from Friday onwards with 200-300 mm, locally 500 mm potentially falling by early next week. For context average rainfall amounts during December typically range from 100-200 mm.

Discussion

While there is consistency across the models for the development of a circulation in this region, there is presently a very large spread as to where, when and to what intensity any system may develop. This region will have to be monitored carefully over the coming days. Of the more concerning possibilities is the development of a potent system in the Mozambique Channel, potentially going on to impact Mozambique itself; there is increasing support from models for this outcome.

Expected Impacts

Over the next 5 days flash flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides for northern Madagascar. Increasing evidence for destructive winds, large waves and very heavy rainfall to cause a multitude of hazards in and around northern Mozambique from this weekend. Widespread and severe flooding is possible.



Southwest Pacific

Weather

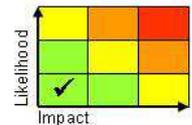
An area of enhanced thunderstorm activity in the south-west Pacific is expected to slowly drift southeast over the coming days. As this occurs a tropical cyclone may form in this region, perhaps affecting Fiji later this week.

Discussion

A Kelvin Wave moving east towards the dateline will likely spawn a pair of ERW over the coming days. The wave in the southwest Pacific will come to sit in an area favourable for development of a tropical cyclone.

Expected Impacts

Locally strong winds and rough seas over a portion of the southwest Pacific. Risk of torrential rainfall and flash flooding across the tiny islands in the region.



Europe

Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Northern Iraq, Lebanon and Israel

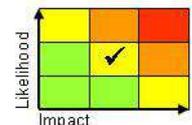
Weather

Further spells of heavy rain and thunderstorms will affect the region throughout this period. Strong winds are also possible at times, especially later this weekend and early next week. Daily rainfall accumulations of 50-80 mm are likely, with 300-400 mm potentially building up in some locations by the start of next week, almost double the average rainfall for December. The most intense and prolonged rainfall is expected to be across southern Turkey, northwest Syria and Lebanon. Heavy snow is also expected across higher parts of southern Turkey and northern Syria.

Discussion

Repeated trough extensions will continue to impact this area over the coming days with a couple of bouts of cyclongenesis likely over the E Med. This will lead to a slowly evolving pattern with several spells of frequent shower and thunderstorm activity lasting well into next week. As the centre of gravity of the upper vortex/trough edges E, cold air will be allowed to flood south, allowing precipitation to increasingly fall as snow over higher parts of Turkey and Syria, mainly above 1200 metres.

Expected Impacts



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Flash-flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides are likely. Strong winds will also likely impact transport and damage some poorly constructed structures. Snowfall could bring travel disruption to some of the mountain passes.

North America

Nil.

Central America

Panama and Costa Rica – see *South America section*

South America

Ecuador, western Colombia, Peru and Bolivia, Panama and Costa Rica

Weather

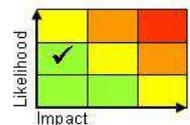
Frequent heavy showers and thunderstorms will continue across these regions through the next 7 days, with the showers each day bringing 50-75mm in just a few hours, with some locations receiving over 200mm (around the December average rainfall). As is the nature of showers, spatial coverage on any one day will be highly variable.

Discussion

With the South American Monsoon now extending well southward, daily rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected to form to the west of the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador, and to the east of the Andes further south. The region highlighted has seen above average rainfall during the past weeks, and is also forecast to receive the highest rainfall totals.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding likely, with increased likelihood of landslides.



Northern Argentina

Weather

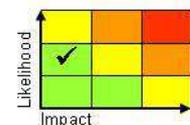
Potential for daily intense thunderstorms to break out early next week, bringing torrential rain, large hail and frequent lightning in places. Around 50-100 mm of rain could fall in a few hours.

Discussion

The airmass over northern Argentina will become increasingly unstable next week. Very large CAPE ~3000J/kg will allow some very intense pulse storms with large hail, frequent lightning and strong winds to develop. These storms are unlikely to be long-lived, but the intense nature of them is likely to generate impacts.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding along with the potential for property and crop damage from strong wind and large hail. Lightning strikes could lead to power outages in places.



Africa

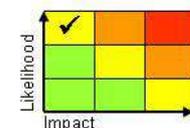
Parts of eastern/central Africa

Weather

Continued heavy showers and thunderstorms associated with the seasonal rains are expected, with a further 100-150 mm of rain falling in places over the next week. Whilst the area affected and severity of showers and thunderstorms is beginning to ease, further heavy showers and antecedent conditions mean further impacts are likely.

Discussion

Enhanced seasonal rainfall in association with the strong positive Indian Ocean Dipole event which, although declining, is still influencing the large scale shower distribution. Large tracts of eastern Africa have seen well above average rainfall over the past few months. The combination of all these factors dramatically increases the likelihood of further flash and river flooding along with further deadly landslides. There are signs that the area of enhanced rainfall is slowly waning, with totals offered by extended models also slowly reducing.



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Expected Impacts

A continued increased threat of flash flooding and landslides in the region, with further river flooding likely.

Madagascar and Mozambique Channel – See *Tropical Cyclones* section

Middle East

Levant – see *Europe* section

Asia

Philippines – see *Tropical Cyclones* section

Australasia**Parts of central/southern Australia****Weather**

Following the recent extreme heatwave experienced across much of Australia, conditions are now near normal across the majority of the large population centres around the coasts. The heatwave will become displaced to the north and centre of the continent, where it is still possible that some all time station maximum temperature records could be broken. There is an emerging signal for the heat to return to southern and south-eastern Australia once again as we head toward the New Year, probably from Friday onwards.

Discussion

Temperatures have now reduced across the main population centres as a weak cold front has pushed inland across southern Australia. The hot air will remain across the continent, but has been displaced away from the main population centres for now. Recent model runs are suggesting that this may extend into southern and south-eastern Australia later this week and through the weekend, perhaps again threatening local records.

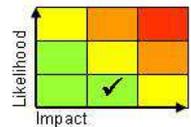
Expected Impacts

Continued enhanced risk of bushfires and heat health impacts on vulnerable demographics.

Fiji – see *Tropical Cyclone* section

Additional Information**Southern and eastern Australia**

Numerous bush fires continue across parts of Victoria, eastern New South Wales, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory with dry conditions persisting across much of the region. However, across north-eastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland, showers are likely to develop during the next week. Whilst fire weather conditions have improved relative to recent days, the sheer size of many ongoing fires will continue to produce large amounts of small particulates that will contribute to very poor air quality for several weeks to come.



Issued at: 250430 UTC **Meteorologists:** Brent Walker / Mark Sidaway

Global Guidance Unit

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