GLOBAL UPDATE | NOVEMBER 2026

AN INTER-AGENCY REPORT OF THE GLOBAL ENSO ANALYSIS CELL

El Niño Status & Humanitarian Outlook

GAPS, READINESS AND FUNDING



Families are facing flooding conditions in a displacement site in Baidoa, Somalia. Photo: IOM 2026/Hanifah Abdikadir Ali.

KEY MESSAGES

01

AN EL NIÑO OFF THE CHARTS

Forecast to peak around December at about +3.8°C; effects will last well into 2027.

02

IMPACTS ARE NOW BEING FELT

Drought and floods flagged in September are materialising; most needs are still ahead.

03

RESPONSE READINESS IS NOW THE PRIORITY

Anticipatory action is under way; sites, pipelines, access and surge must be readied as needs grow.

04

ACT BEFORE THE WINDOWS CLOSE

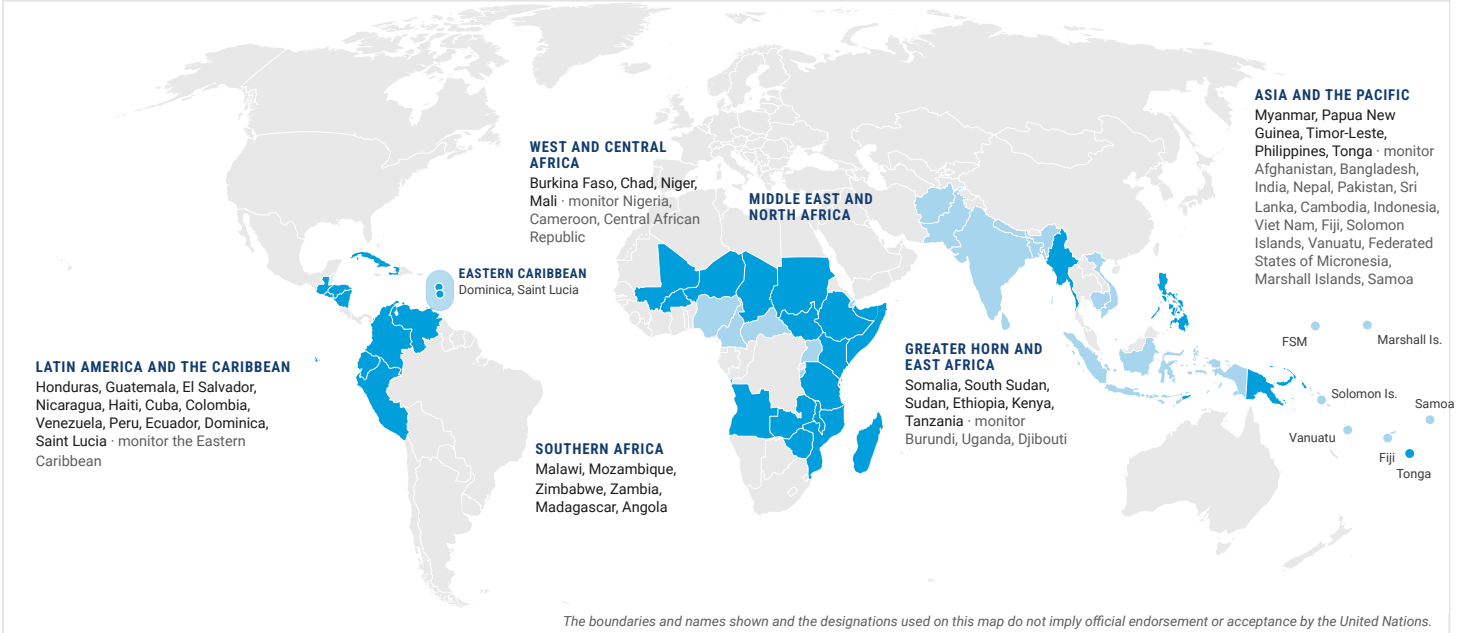
Key decision points fall in the coming weeks; early, flexible funding makes action possible.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

OCHA · FAO · IFRC · IOM UN MIGRATION · MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES · UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency · unicef · WFP World Food Programme · World Health Organization · WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION · Save the Children

PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES TO MONITOR

Priority country · Country to monitor · Small island state



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEADLINE FIGURES

+3.8°C

WMO forecast Niño 3.4 anomaly, Nov 2026–Jan 2027; peak around December 2026 (forecast)

49m+

at least 49 million additional people could face acute food insecurity by end-2027 (modelled projection, WFP) (initial modelling of 45 countries)

US$63.6m

released by OCHA-managed pooled funds for El Niño in 2026 (reported, 4 November), of which US$52.1m for anticipatory action in 12 countries since March.

2027

when most humanitarian needs are expected to peak, as lean seasons follow the climate shock (projection)

KEY MESSAGES

01 AN EL NIÑO "OFF THE CHARTS", STILL BUILDING

WMO forecasts about +3.8°C for November–January, peaking around December; its Secretary-General called the event "literally off the monitoring charts that we have used for the past four decades" (21 October). Effects will last well into 2027.

02 IMPACTS ARE NOW BEING FELT

Drought is hitting the Central American Dry Corridor, Sudan, South Sudan, the Sahel, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific; floods are arriving in Somalia, Peru, Ecuador and Haiti. India's monsoon ended about 12% below normal. Most needs are still ahead and will peak in 2027.

03 RESPONSE READINESS IS NOW THE PRIORITY

Anticipatory action has been triggered in many priority countries. With most impacts still ahead, evacuation sites, pipelines, access (including to health care) and surge capacity must be ready to respond as needs grow.

04 ACT BEFORE THE WINDOWS CLOSE

Key decision points fall in the coming weeks: floods in the Horn of Africa, planting in Southern Africa, water and drought thresholds in Asia and the Pacific, and pre-positioning before the 2027 lean seasons in Central America and the Sahel. Early, flexible funding makes this possible, yet where funding is reported, El Niño appeals and plans have received only part of what they need.

OVERVIEW: WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE SEPTEMBER

THIS MONTH

- **Forecast indicates further strengthening of El Niño.** WMO now forecasts about +3.8°C for November–January, up from +3.6°C for September–November, with the positive Indian Ocean Dipole declining.
- **Risks flagged in September are materialising.** South Sudan is having its driest year on record and Sudan faces famine risk in Darfur and Kordofan. The Dry Corridor's IPC 3+ projection has doubled, 20 of 22 provinces in PNG are in extreme or severe drought, and FEWS NET warns that Famine (IPC Phase 5) could become the most likely outcome in southern Somalia if flooding becomes widespread and severe.
- **Anticipatory action has scaled up.** OCHA-facilitated coordinated anticipatory action, funded by CERF and country-based and regional pooled funds, is under way in 12 countries, with frameworks activated in seven and US$52.1 million allocated. CERF has provided a further US$11.5 million for early action in three countries, bringing OCHA-managed pooled funding for El Niño to US$63.6 million; CERF's own allocations have risen from US$28.4 million in September to US$52.5 million, supporting an estimated 2 million people. UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs have also acted on their own or national triggers, often in the same countries: WFP alone has reached more than 1.3 million people in 17 countries, and FAO has acted in 15.
- **New appeals have been launched,** by WHO (US$35.1 million) and IOM (US$110 million), alongside the FAO–WFP appeal and the Honduras Flash Appeal. In Sudan, the Humanitarian Country Team has set out a dedicated six-month El Niño operational response for 3.86 million people in Darfur and Kordofan (US$359.7 million, to March 2027). UNICEF has issued a global El Niño call to action covering 40 priority countries, which identifies a gap of about US$2.83 billion against its existing 2026 appeals, and an Asia-Pacific investment case of US$121.4 million.

WHAT THIS UPDATE SETS OUT

WHERE	WHO	WHEN	ACTION TAKEN	GAPS	NEEDED
hazards may converge with the highest existing vulnerability	the countries and populations of greatest concern	the main impacts are likely to be felt	anticipatory action, preparedness and response so far	where readiness and response fall short *(new)*	what more is required, and the funding picture

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WHAT TO WATCH BEFORE THE NEXT UPDATE

- **Horn of Africa:** river levels and displacement along the Juba and Shabelle, and flood impacts in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, including the Tana River and Lake Victoria basins.
- **Southern Africa:** rainfall onset and planting progress.
- **Asia and the Pacific:** drought intensity in PNG, Timor-Leste and the Pacific islands, fire and haze in Indonesia, and new early warning signals for early 2027 in mainland South-East Asia and parts of South Asia, and water resources and winter cropping in India after the monsoon deficit.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** postrera crop results and maize prices in the Dry Corridor, and flooding in coastal areas of Peru and Ecuador.
- **Sahel:** results of the Cadre Harmonisé, the regional food security analysis for the Sahel and West Africa (comparable to the IPC), due in late November; crop and pasture conditions, food markets and heat stress across West and Central Africa.
- **All regions:** food, nutrition and WASH pipelines; cholera, dengue and other disease trends; heatwave preparedness; access, including to health care and to vulnerable populations; and funding received against appeals and national plans.

Prepared by the Global ENSO Analysis Cell with inputs from humanitarian agencies, NGO partners, OCHA regional and country offices and WMO. Sources are given in brackets and linked throughout. [1]

[1] Humanitarian and operational analysis: OCHA regional offices (ROAP, ROLAC, ROSEA, ROWCA) and country offices; FAO, IFRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO (with health inputs from MSF), Save the Children and the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre. Climate analysis: WMO, with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Regional Climate Centres and Forums, AGRHYMET via the ECOWAS Disaster Operation Centre, and ACMAD; this acknowledgement describes WMO's technical contribution and does not imply membership of the IASC. Previous edition: Global Update, September 2026. Regional updates for Latin America and the Caribbean: ReliefWeb Response.

1 CLIMATE OUTLOOK

El Niño is expected to peak around December 2026 and could be the strongest on record: the WMO Secretary-General has described it as "literally off the monitoring charts that we have used for the past four decades". WMO's Global Seasonal Climate Update of 21 October forecasts a Niño 3.4 anomaly of about +3.8°C for November–January, up from +3.6°C forecast in September for September–November. El Niño is expected to persist at least into early 2027, and it is too early to anticipate with confidence the transition to neutral conditions.[2]

Above-normal temperatures are very likely across much of the globe through at least January–March 2027, compounding heat, drought and heavy-rainfall risks, and the positive Indian Ocean Dipole is declining towards neutral. A very strong El Niño does not automatically mean severe impacts everywhere: the strength of the global event does not determine the scale of impact in any one country. The regional outlook is set out below.

WHERE THE GLOBAL SIGNAL STANDS

+3.8°C
WMO forecast of Niño 3.4, Nov 2026–Jan 2027 mean anomaly, very strong El Niño among the strongest on record

December
Expected peak of the event

+2.8°C
Observed Niño 3.4 index, September 2026 (from +2.0°C in July)

+0.3°C
WMO forecast of IOD, Nov 2026–Jan 2027 mean anomaly, positive IOD declining to neutral

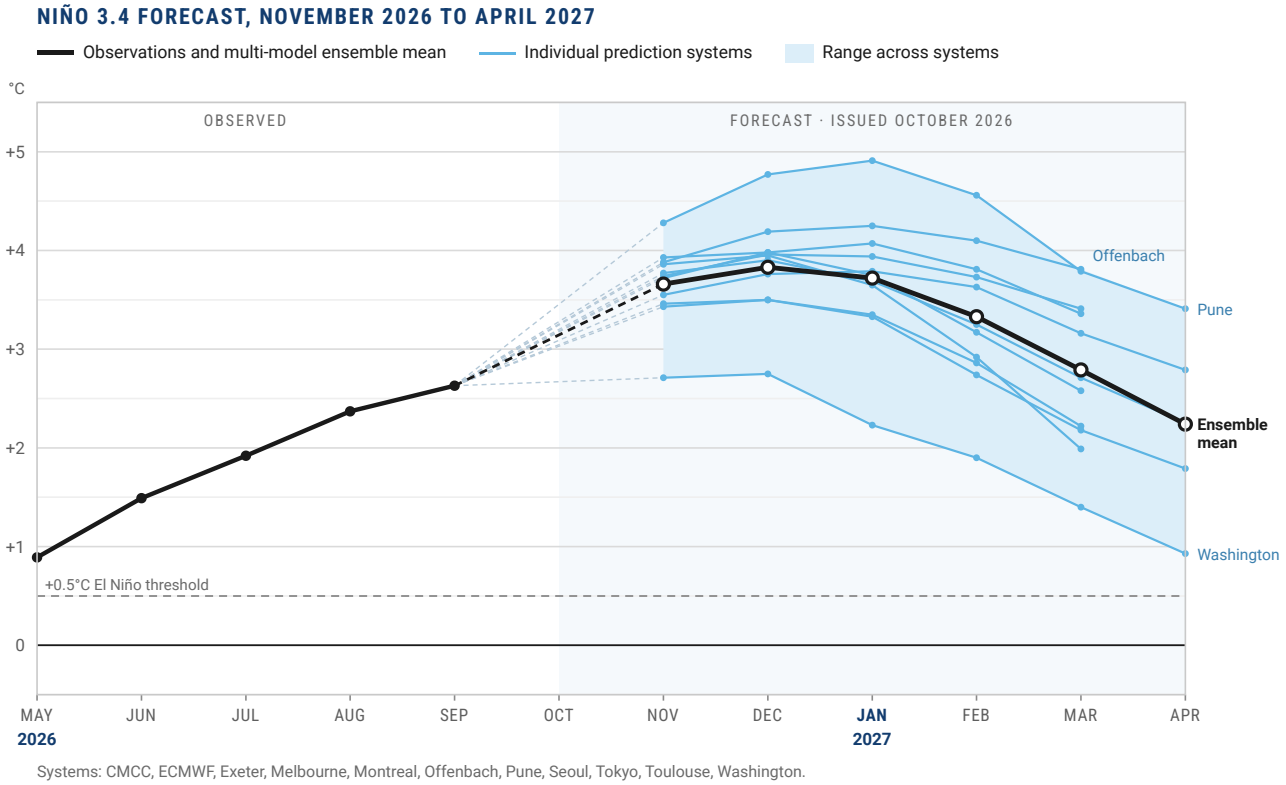


Figure 1. *Niño 3.4 forecast from October 2026 initial conditions. The black line from May to September shows observations; the black forecast line is the multi-model ensemble mean, and the coloured lines are forecasts from individual prediction systems (°C, 1993–2009 baseline). Source: WMO Lead Centre for Seasonal Prediction Multi-Model Ensemble.*

[2] WMO provided the climate analysis and seasonal-outlook expertise underpinning this update, drawing on official global, regional and national prediction systems: the WMO El Niño/La Niña Update, the WMO Global Seasonal Climate Update, the WMO Lead Centre multi-model ensemble and the WCM Global Seasonal Climate Outlook for UN and humanitarian agencies, with contributions from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Regional Climate Centres, Regional Climate Forums and Tropical Cyclone Regional Bodies.

THE SEQUENCE OF RISK

Impacts arrive in broad waves, so planning should follow the next operational deadline in each place, not a single global peak date.

- **Now to January 2027: floods in the Horn of Africa, Peru and Ecuador, drought and heat elsewhere.** Flood risk continues in parts of equatorial East Africa, such as southern Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia and north-eastern Kenya, and the rains could last into February (ACMAD). Southern Africa is planting under drier, hotter conditions, with fewer drought-breaking cyclone rains expected. Deficits persist across the Maritime Continent, especially the southern part, and most Pacific islands, Central America enters its dry season, and flooding continues in coastal areas of Peru and Ecuador.
- **February to late 2027: losses add up.** As deficits accumulate, crop losses, water stress and food insecurity become more visible. Needs peak in the 2027 lean seasons, often months after the climate signal and even as El Niño weakens.
- **Late 2027 into 2028: Southern Africa.** Needs emerge from the April 2027 harvest and are most severe from November 2027 to March 2028.



Photo: UN PNG/Mark Maulit.

Seasonal forecasts express probabilities, not certainty. Read them with regional and national forecasts, observed conditions and agreed triggers. Conditions from week to week may differ from, or even run opposite to, the seasonal signal.

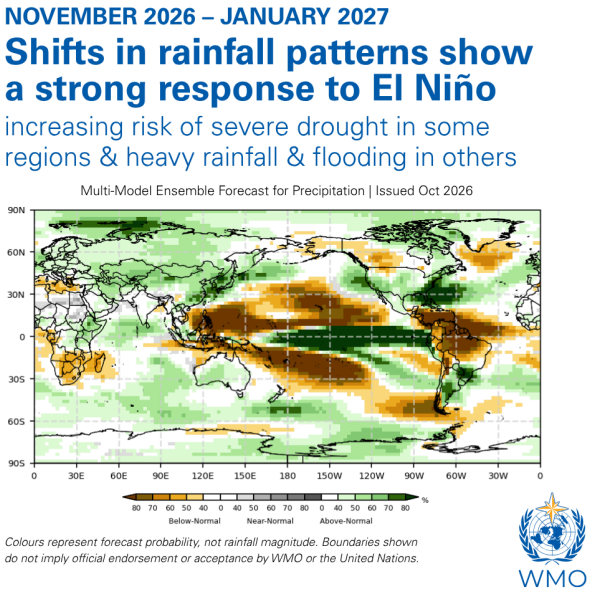
WHAT THE FORECAST MEANS FOR PLANNING

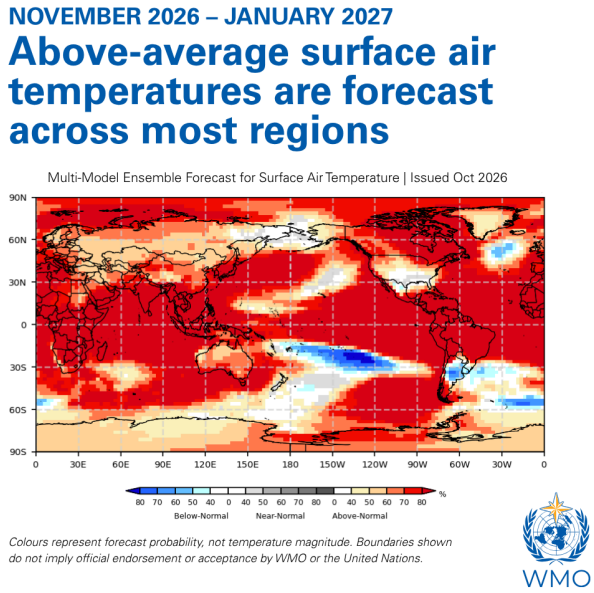
	OCTOBER FORECAST (CHANGE SINCE SEPTEMBER)	IMPLICATION FOR PLANNING
Strength and peak	About +3.8°C for November–January, peaking around December (up from about +3.6°C for September–November)	Accelerate measures that need lead time
Persistence	Influence well into 2027 (September: nearly 100% likely through February 2027)	Plan well into 2027
Rainfall and temperature	El Niño-like seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns retained; warmth most likely in Africa, southern Asia, the Maritime Continent, Central America and tropical South America	Tailor measures to local risks; integrate heat-health measures, including for mass gatherings
Indian Ocean Dipole	Declining, to about +0.3°C for November–January (from about +0.9°C for September–November)	Do not rely solely on historical analogues

REGIONAL OUTLOOK AND PREPAREDNESS FOCUS, NOVEMBER 2026–JANUARY 2027

REGION	OUTLOOK	PREPAREDNESS
East Africa	Wetter than normal very likely in parts	Flooding, landslides and service disruption; dry spells still possible; cholera and zoonotic disease surveillance; pre-position supplies before floods cut road access
Southern Africa	Drier and warmer very likely	Heat and drought preparedness; below-average tropical cyclone season expected (RSMC La Réunion)
West and Central Africa	Warmer than normal; increased heat stress and reduced water availability	Drought, flooding and heatwaves in the south; risk-informed decision-making
Maritime Continent	Persistent deficits and warmth highly likely	Water storage, drought management, heat-health in the south, fire and respiratory illness risks; dengue and cyclone risks in South-East Asia
Central America and southern Caribbean	Drier and warmer very likely	Water, livelihoods and drought triggers; end of hurricane season; arboviral diseases
Northern South America and Amazon	Drier and warmer, except wetter northwestern coast	Drought, wildfire, water stress; flooding; in wetter areas, confirm facility access and referral routes before floods
Southern South America	Wetter, mostly cooler	Flood preparedness
Near-equatorial Pacific islands	Wetter and warmer very likely	Flooding, water supply, heat-health
Most other Pacific islands	Drier than normal very likely	Drought and water security; tropical cyclone readiness; WASH preparedness and surveillance for waterborne diseases

Tropical cyclones. The season typically peaks in November in the North Indian Ocean and begins in the Southern Hemisphere. The South-West Indian Ocean outlook indicates below-normal activity, but a single storm can still be catastrophic; follow TC information from RSMCs/TCWCs and forecasts/warnings from NMHSs.



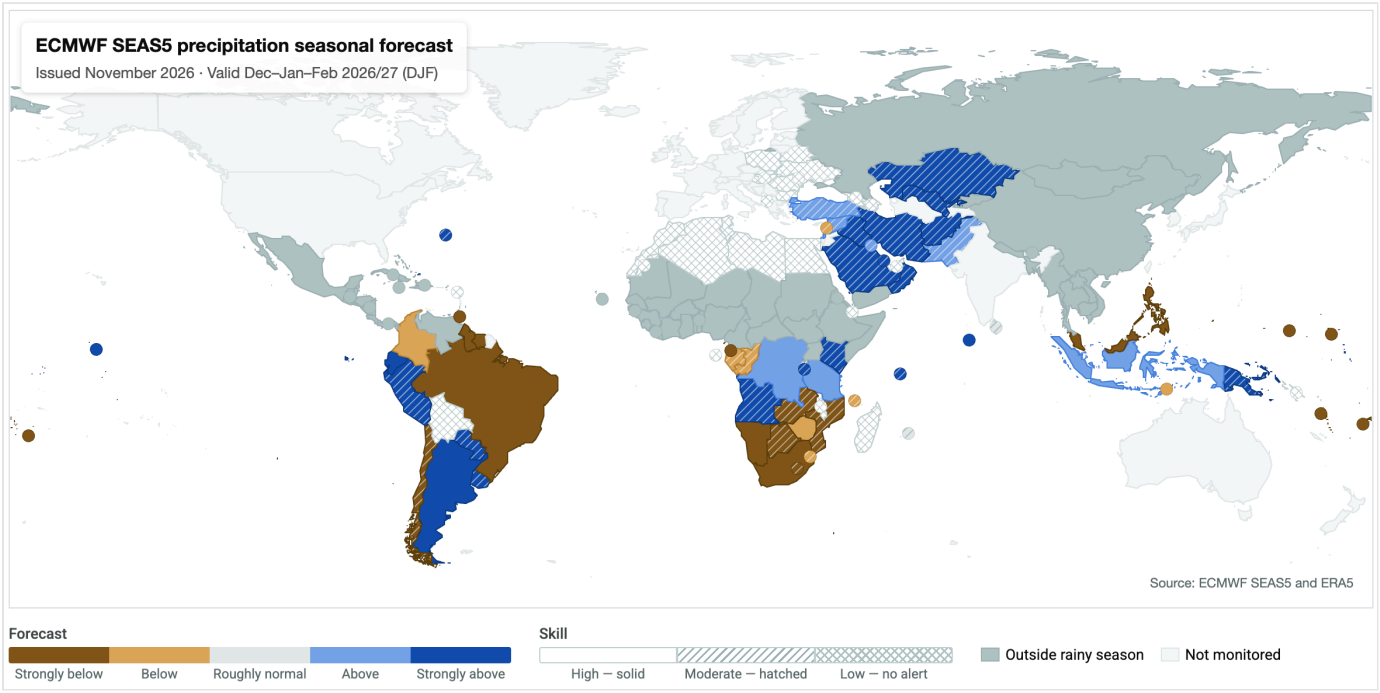


Figures 2 and 3. *WMO probabilistic precipitation and temperature forecasts, November 2026–January 2027. Colours show the most probable tercile category, not the magnitude of rainfall or temperature anomalies; white areas show equal chances. Baseline period 1993–2009. Day-to-day and week-to-week conditions may differ from the dominant seasonal signal. Source: WMO Global Seasonal Climate Update, October 2026.*

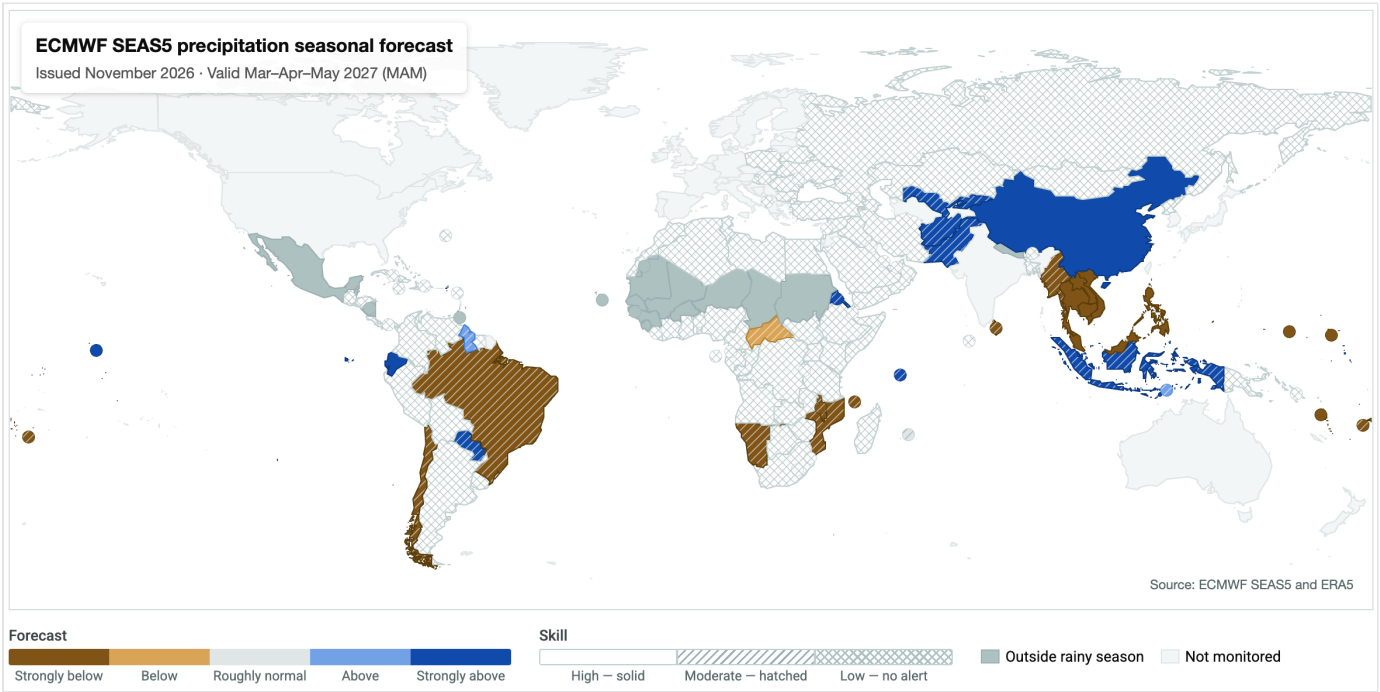
HOW THE OUTLOOK CHANGES FROM LATE 2026 TO EARLY 2027

Read as a sequence, the two forecasts show drier than normal conditions over most of southern Africa, northern and eastern South America, the Philippines and several Pacific islands in **December 2026–February 2027**, with wetter conditions over East Africa, Central Asia, Ecuador and Peru. By **March–May 2027**, drier conditions extend to mainland South-East Asia and persist over Brazil, Mozambique, Malawi and several Pacific islands.

STEP 1 DECEMBER 2026–FEBRUARY 2027



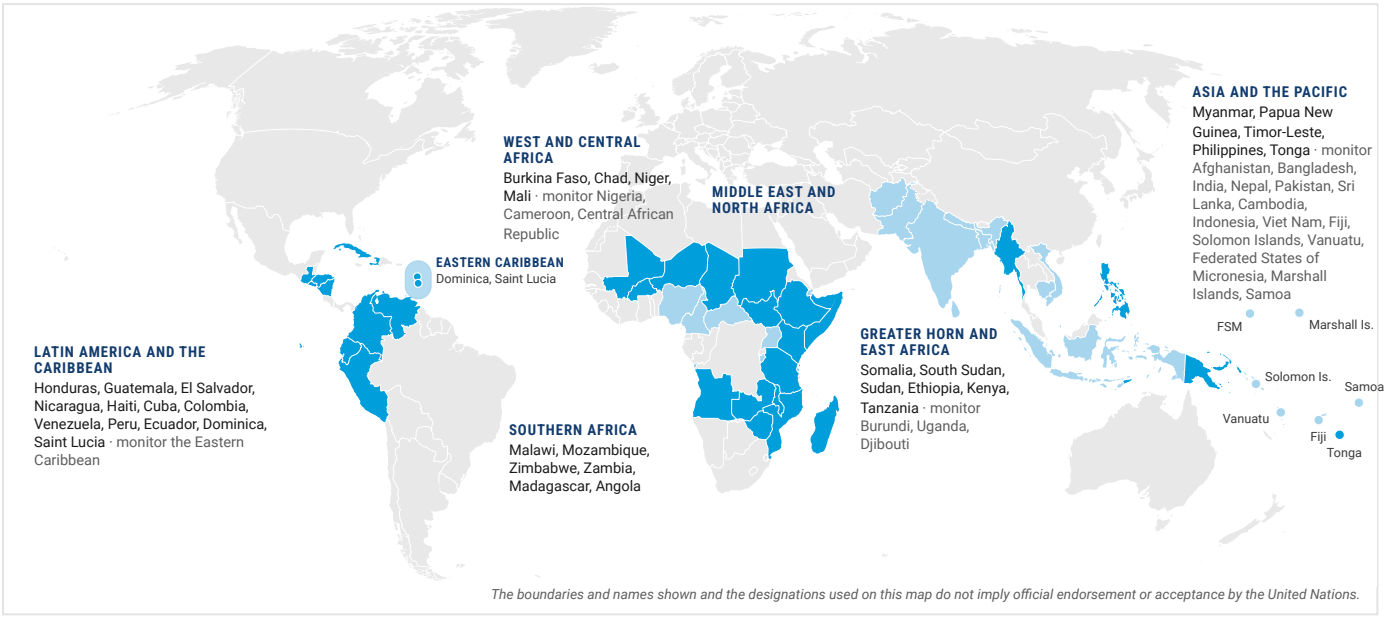
STEP 2 MARCH–MAY 2027



Figures 4 and 5. *ECMWF SEAS5 seasonal precipitation forecasts issued in November 2026. Colours show the forecast category; hatching marks moderate skill and cross-hatching low skill (no alert); grey marks areas outside their rainy season. Colours show the average for each country; parts of a country may see the opposite, for example wetter conditions in southern Brazil. Source: ECMWF SEAS5 and ERA5, via the EWCM.*

2 HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND PRIORITISATION

PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES TO MONITOR



The greatest risks remain where El Niño meets conflict, displacement, economic pressure and repeated shocks, particularly in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, the central Sahel and Haiti (FAO). IFPRI modelling for Kenya, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Malawi, presented at FEWS NET's October briefing, suggests about 2.5 million more people in poverty and 12 million more undernourished in those four countries in 2027. The African Development Bank estimates that the event could cost African countries US$10–20 billion. Conflict, displacement, access constraints, inflation and previous shocks often remain the main drivers of need, with El Niño compounding them; country needs figures reflect all contributing shocks, not El Niño alone.

PRIORITY COUNTRIES: SEPTEMBER LIST AND WHAT HAS CHANGED

How priority countries are identified. OCHA regional offices propose priority countries with partners, combining El Niño risk with underlying humanitarian vulnerability, which is the main criterion. The ENSO Analysis Cell validates the list globally, and countries move between priority and monitor as the regional assessment changes.

REGION	PRIORITY COUNTRIES (MONITOR)	CHANGE SINCE SEPTEMBER
Greater Horn and East Africa	Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, **Tanzania** (Burundi, Uganda, Djibouti)	Added: Tanzania. Eritrea not added for now
Southern Africa	Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar, Angola.	No change.
Latin America and the Caribbean	Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, **Colombia**, **Venezuela**, **Peru**, **Ecuador**, **Dominica**, **Saint Lucia** (Eastern Caribbean).	Added: Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador (from monitor), Dominica and Saint Lucia.
Asia and the Pacific	Myanmar, PNG, Timor-Leste, **Philippines**, **Tonga** (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, FSM, Marshall Islands, Samoa).	Added: Philippines and Tonga. Moved to monitor: Indonesia, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; monitor list widened.
West and Central Africa	Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mali (Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic)	Moved to monitor: Nigeria, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, with no clear El Niño impact
Middle East and North Africa	Country-specific.	No change.

Countries new to the priority list since September are in bold; monitor countries are in brackets.

WHO IS MOST AFFECTED

Children, women and girls, older people, people with noncommunicable diseases and people with disabilities are disproportionately affected. Up to 347.5 million children are likely to be exposed to drier or wetter conditions in 2026, and 94 million children in UNICEF's priority countries were already assessed as needing humanitarian assistance (UNICEF). Drought pushes families towards child labour, early marriage and taking children out of school; in drought-affected Ethiopia, child marriage rose by an average of 119% in 2022.

Children with disabilities are 34% more likely to be stunted and among the first to lose access to services. Displacement, water scarcity, disrupted services and longer, unsafe journeys to obtain water, food or assistance raise protection and gender-based violence risks, particularly for women and adolescent girls (WHO). Early warning, evacuation, cash and social protection must be accessible to all.

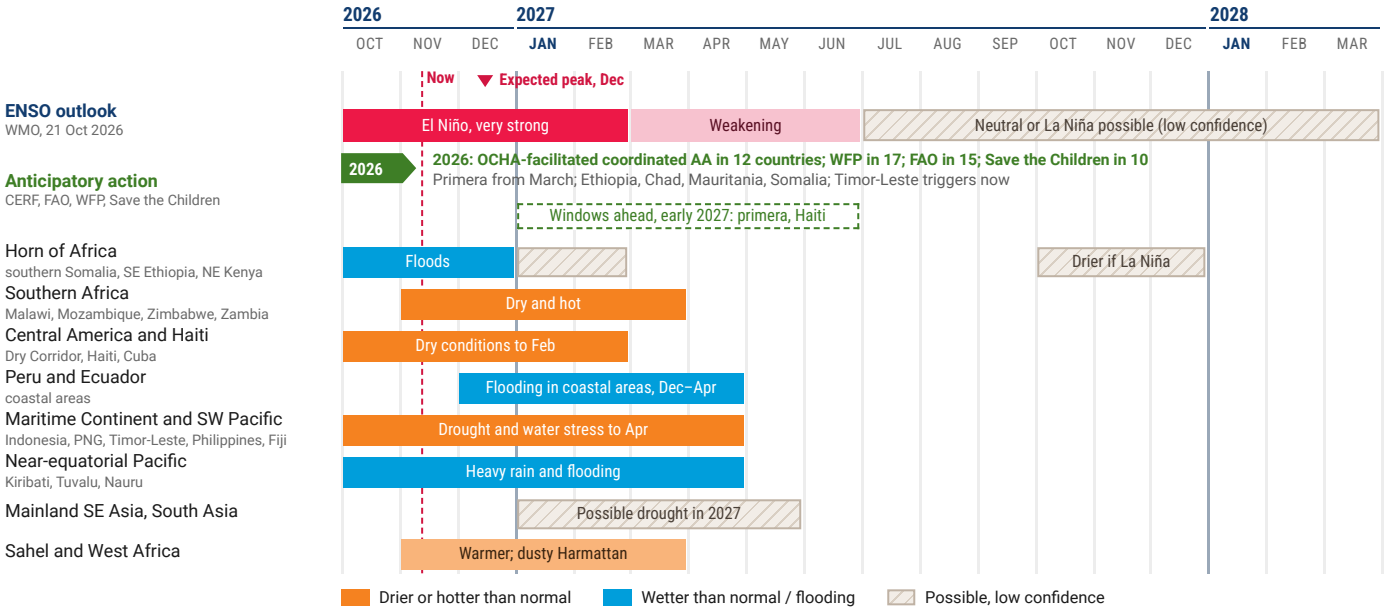
DECISION DEADLINES BY REGION

REGION AND PRINCIPAL RISK	IMPACT WINDOW	DECISION DEADLINE
Greater Horn — floods, then lean season	Floods to December, possibly into February; needs peak May–Sep 2027	NOW
Southern Africa — drought and heat	Rainy season to April; needs most severe Nov 2027–Mar 2028, earlier for marginalised groups as high prices compound losses	NOW, WHILE PLANTING CONTINUES
Central America and Caribbean — crop losses	Most severe food security impacts Mar–Aug 2027	IMMEDIATE; CUBA BEFORE DECEMBER
Andean South America — flooding in coastal areas	December–April	BEFORE DECEMBER
West and Central Africa — Sahel deficits	Lean seasons Mar–Sep 2027	BEFORE THE 2027 LEAN SEASON
South Asia — deficient monsoon	Pakistan needs peak Jan–Mar 2027	BEFORE RABI INPUT DECISIONS
Maritime Continent and Pacific — drought, tropical cyclones	Now to April 2027	NOW, BEFORE STORAGE THRESHOLDS DETERIORATE
Equatorial Pacific — heavy rain	Wetter conditions persisting	MONITOR NOW; PREPARE BEFORE 2027

WHEN HAZARDS AND NEEDS ARE EXPECTED

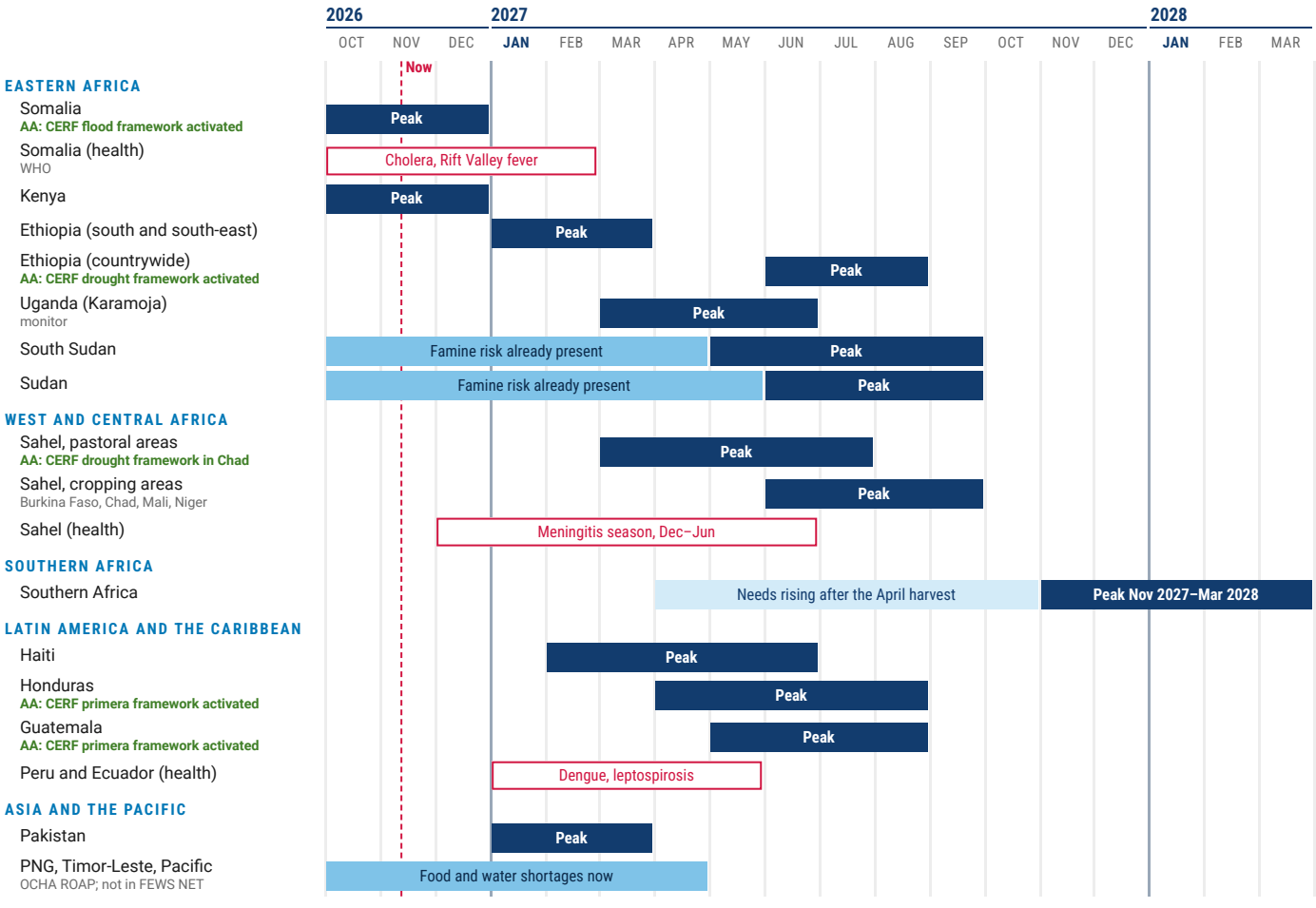
1 CLIMATE SIGNAL AND HAZARD WINDOWS

WMO; ACMAD; OCHA regional offices



2 WHEN NEEDS PEAK, AND HEALTH RISK WINDOWS

FEWS NET; WHO; OCHA ROAP



AA = anticipatory action. FEWS NET covers food assistance needs only; health windows from WHO and seasonality.

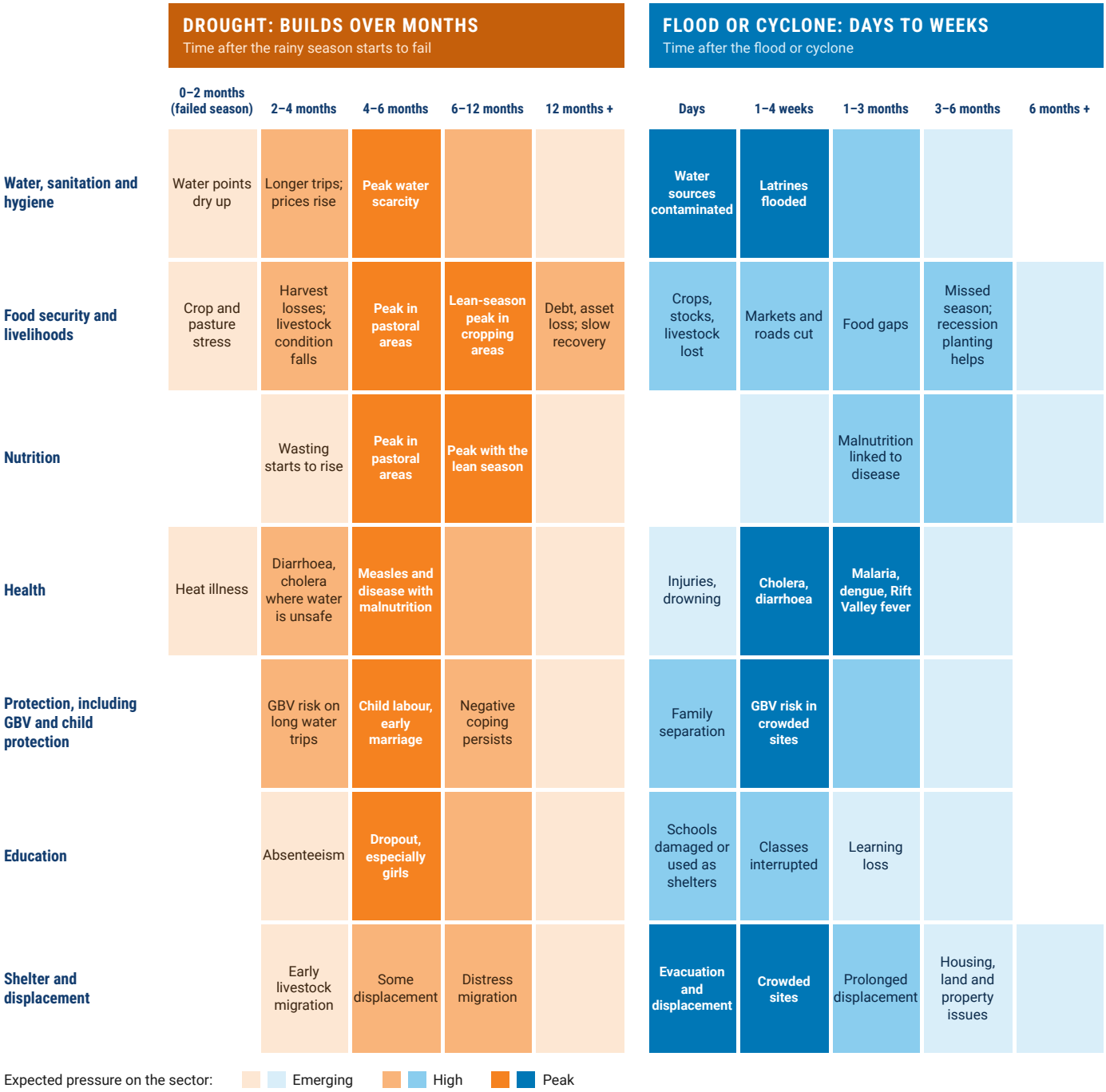
Figure 6. *How El Niño-related hazards and humanitarian needs are expected to unfold, October 2026 to March 2028. Food security peaks: FEWS NET, 2026–2027 El Niño food security impacts (6 October 2026), with Kenya shown through December in line with Somalia (OCHA ROSEA); health risk windows: WHO and typical seasonality; PNG, Timor-Leste and the Pacific, which FEWS NET does not cover: OCHA ROAP; anticipatory action: CERF, FAO, WFP, Save the Children. Timing is indicative and varies within countries. In Sudan and South Sudan famine risk is already present; the bars show when needs are expected to peak, not when they begin.*

HOW THE RISKS TRANSLATE INTO HUMANITARIAN NEED

SECTOR	OBSERVED AND PROJECTED IMPACTS	ACTION UNDER WAY AND PLANNED
Food security and livelihoods	Cereal shortfalls across the northern Horn; severe primera and postrera crop losses in the Dry Corridor; the largest risks are still ahead in Southern Africa (FAO).	FAO anticipatory action in 15 countries; WFP anticipatory action in 17 countries; next windows are the Dry Corridor primera and Haiti's spring season in early 2027.
Nutrition	1.6 million acutely malnourished children in Niger and nearly 2 million at risk in Chad; child deaths from acute malnutrition and measles in Guatemala (WHO); increased risk of malnutrition in Nicaragua (UNICEF); 8 million children could be pushed into acute hunger across East and Southern Africa by early 2027 (Save the Children).	Screening, referral and pre-positioned supplies; shock-responsive school feeding for 300,000+ children in Nicaragua (WFP), with essential micronutrient supplements and lifesaving medicines for 4,000 children and adolescents there (UNICEF); Global Nutrition Cluster position paper on acting early for nutrition.
Health	Cholera: 169,880 cases and 2,671 deaths in 19 AFRO countries (1 January–27 September); dengue and leptospirosis rising in Peru; respiratory illness from fires in Indonesia and the Amazon; extreme heat across West Africa, the Sahel and parts of Southern Africa (WHO, ACMAD, Save the Children).	WHO internal Grade 3 emergency response; to March 2027: surveillance, facility readiness, pre-positioned supplies and essential services.
WASH	Water sources failing in PNG, the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Central American Dry Corridor; Somalia evacuation sites without safe water; strategic reservoirs critically low in Burkina Faso.	Pre-positioned WASH supplies in Somalia, Niger, Cuba, the Pacific and Nicaragua, where supplies cover 4,000 people (UNICEF); WASH works in Dry Corridor health facilities and communities (WHO).
Education and child protection	Resourcing constraints and insufficient integration of education and child protection in anticipatory action planning limit preparedness and activation for children and marginalised groups (Save the Children); child protection risks are rising in Nicaragua (UNICEF).	Save the Children–UNICEF education guidance; 31 Save the Children activation windows monitored into 2027; Malawi's Ministry of Education alerting schools to adapt schedules and activities for heatwaves; heatwave anticipatory action in Balaka and Zomba, Malawi, under Save the Children's ECHO-supported ARISE programme; UNICEF is supporting continuity of education and child protection services in the Pacific.
Displacement and protection	About 900,000 people could be newly displaced by floods in Somalia (IOM) and up to 607,000 in Kenya; floods had displaced 595,000 people in West and Central Africa by 30 September (OCHA); higher protection and GBV risks (WHO, UNICEF).	IOM preparedness in 11 countries, displacement monitoring and pre-positioning; child-protection preparedness; UNHCR preparedness for 935,000 people in eight country operations in East Africa (contingency planning, pre-positioned relief items, coordination and capacity strengthening).
Markets and operations	FAO Food Price Index at its highest since November 2022; Central American maize prices above average; supply lead times of up to three months to Niger (FEWS NET, UNICEF).	Contingency stocks and pre-positioning; WFP flood action or PSNP expansion in Ethiopia's Somali region.

HOW IMPACTS SPREAD ACROSS SECTORS

Impacts spread from one sector to the next in a broadly predictable order. Figure 7 shows the usual sequence after a drought and after a flood.



SEEN NOW, NOVEMBER 2026

Drought: water and food shortages in PNG and the Pacific; child malnutrition and measles in Guatemala; Southern Africa planting under dry conditions.

Flood: flood risk and displacement along the Juba and Shabelle in Somalia, with cholera and Rift Valley fever risk; dengue and leptospirosis in Peru.

Enablers throughout: logistics, telecommunications, access and pre-positioned supplies before, during and after the hazard.

Figure 7. *How El Niño impacts typically spread across sectors after a drought or a flood. Illustrative, based on past events and the Kenya anticipatory action drought framework; timing varies by context.*

3 ACTION TAKEN AND REMAINING GAPS

Anticipatory action has been triggered across most priority regions and national preparedness has advanced since September. With most impacts still ahead, the focus now moves to response readiness, and to the funding needed before the next windows close.

ACTION TAKEN SO FAR

Anticipatory action. Agencies acting on their own triggers, collective frameworks and pooled funds have all contributed.

- **Agency action.** Many agencies have acted under their own protocols. WFP has reached more than 1.3 million people with anticipatory action in 17 countries, with advance financing for readiness in Kenya, Somalia and El Salvador. FAO has launched anticipatory action in 15 countries covered by the joint FAO–WFP appeal, and the two agencies have triggered drought anticipatory action in 11 countries, from Ethiopia, Madagascar and Zimbabwe to the Dry Corridor, Colombia and Venezuela. Save the Children reports activations in 10 countries, and IFRC, the Start Network and World Vision have also acted.
- **Collective frameworks.** OCHA-facilitated coordinated anticipatory action is under way in 12 countries. Frameworks have been activated in seven of them, releasing US$31 million from CERF, co-funded in Somalia and Ethiopia by country-based pooled funds: for floods in Somalia; for drought in Ethiopia, Chad and Mauritania; and for drought projected during the primera season in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
- **Other pooled funding.** CERF has made anticipatory allocations outside frameworks for drought in Madagascar (US$6 million) and Zimbabwe (US$4 million). Country-based pooled funds have allocated, or are allocating, funds for flood anticipatory action and early response, including in Somalia (US$2 million), Uganda (US$7.7 million, of which US$4.5 million for anticipatory action) and Kenya (US$4 million, of which US$2.6 million for anticipatory action). Beyond anticipatory action, CERF has also released some US$11.5 million for early action for droughts in Djibouti, Eritrea and South Sudan, complemented by early action funding from country-based and regional pooled funds. In total, CERF allocations and pooled-fund anticipatory action amount to US$63.6 million across 14 countries, of which US$52.1 million is for anticipatory action in 12 countries.
- **Risk financing.** WFP-supported disaster risk financing provides about US$124 million of cover for 3.3 million people in 29 countries, in place or to be confirmed by the end of 2026.

National preparedness. Coordination structures are in place in 13 of 14 SADC Member States and 9 national contingency plans are costed. Mozambique, Ecuador and South Sudan have new or updated plans; PNG has committed PGK 1.65 billion; El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru and Ecuador have declared national or municipal Red Alerts. OCHA ROWCA supported Senegal and Mauritania to develop costed preparedness and response plans.

Operational readiness and response. A phased review of inter-agency response readiness in priority countries is being initiated. IOM is supporting preparedness in 11 countries, WHO has activated an internal Grade 3 emergency response, and UNICEF has pre-positioned supplies in several contexts. The Honduras Flash Appeal, which requests US$60 million to assist close to 538,000 people affected by drought, and Sudan's operational response for Darfur and Kordofan are under way. The Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean has allocated about US$29.2 million in Honduras for people affected by El Niño-related drought, and allocations for Guatemala and El Salvador are under way. In Kenya, partners have pre-positioned shelter and household items for about 78,600 people, and anticipatory action for about 180,000 people is ready to release on trigger (WFP, Kenya Red Cross, DRC, WHH and GiveDirectly).

FROM FORECAST TO ACTION: EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD

- **Somalia, floods.** River monitoring and forecasts triggered the national and OCHA-coordinated flood frameworks, releasing pre-arranged funding that includes US$7 million from CERF alongside the Somalia Humanitarian Fund. FAO, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and Save the Children are providing cash, safe relocation of people and livestock, health services, water treatment, shelter and protection for about 600,000 people at high risk of riverine flooding. Evacuation sites still lack basic services.
- **El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, drought.** March seasonal forecasts triggered the OCHA-facilitated drought framework, releasing US$10.5 million in pre-arranged CERF funding. FAO, WFP, WHO and UNICEF have provided cash, agricultural and livestock assistance, and nutrition, health and WASH services to about 120,000 people in the Dry Corridor. Between 70% and 90% of households assisted ahead of the primera drought in early 2026 said the help reduced their losses and protected their livelihoods (FAO).
- **Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Sudan.** Save the Children worked with governments, communities, schools and partners to act before forecast impacts: warning 197,000 people and helping 1,743 households evacuate in Bangladesh; protecting children's nutrition, safety, education and family livelihoods in drought-hit Ethiopia; and reaching 32,710 people, including 14,000 children, ahead of flooding in Sudan.



Quiché, Guatemala. Staff weigh and measure children at a health and nutrition brigade in Cotzal, checking for early signs of acute malnutrition as drought cuts into harvests. Brigades run by WFP with UN Volunteers also screen children and adults for temperature, blood oxygen and blood pressure, with support from the Guatemala Humanitarian Fund (GHF). Photo: WFP/Nelson Pacheco.

GAPS REPORTED SO FAR

Contributors have reported the gaps below. They are examples, not a full inventory; the phased review of response readiness will provide a more complete picture.

Stocks and pipelines. For example, nutrition stock-outs in up to 70% of facilities in parts of Burkina Faso, very low stocks in Grand'Anse, Haiti, shortages of seeds, feed, water treatment and nutrition supplies in Ethiopia, and possible food pipeline breaks in Sudan after mid-2027 (WFP). In Kenya, shelter stocks cover only about 13% of projected flood displacement needs.

Evacuation sites. For example, sites in Gaalkacyo, Gedo and Kismayo, Somalia, lack water, sanitation, shelter and health services.

Logistics and access. For example, lead times of up to three months to Niger, insecurity in Mozambique, cross-border and cross-line access in Sudan, conflict in northern Ethiopia and fuel shortages in Cuba.

Operational capacity. For example, more than 200 health and nutrition facilities have closed in Somalia; in Niger, WFP can reach about a third of the 1.5 million most vulnerable people; and few SADC contingency plans have been tested. Health facilities are also exposed to extreme weather: in Kenya, for example, 5,660 have been identified as at risk of flooding (WHO).

Where frameworks fell short. Central American Dry Corridor primera losses exceed what the anticipatory framework was designed for; Burkina Faso and Niger did not reach their triggers despite observed drought; and Cameroon and CAR have no confirmed frameworks.

Money to act on triggers. For example, Zimbabwe's anticipatory action resources cover 8 of 18 triggered districts; Mozambique has activated 28 districts but can fund anticipatory cash for only about 14,000 households; and Lesotho is ready but needs financing before the planting window closes (WFP). Costed SADC plans have 11% of requirements.

Analysis. For example, there is no IPC in Nicaragua, Cuba or Peru, few impact assessments in Caribbean small island states, and assessments are still pending in Chad.

4 WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, AND BY WHEN

The emphasis now moves from triggering anticipatory action to readying and funding the response through 2027, led by national governments with support from Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, and with clusters and sectors coordinating preparedness and response. The priorities below apply across regions. Acting before impact remains the cheaper option: UNDP estimates that pre-arranged support delivers the same protection for 50% to 80% of the cost of responding after the event. The examples come from contributors' inputs and illustrate each priority; they are not a ranking. Decision deadlines by region are in Section 2.

1. **Scale up response alongside anticipatory action** where shocks exceed what frameworks were built for, with food, livelihood, WASH and health support. *For example, in the Dry Corridor.*

2. **Keep anticipatory action moving** as thresholds are reached, and prepare for the next windows. *For example, floods in East Africa, drought in the Philippines and Timor-Leste, and early-2027 windows in the Dry Corridor and Haiti.*

3. **Close operational readiness gaps** in evacuation sites, stocks, pipelines and surge capacity, and pre-position wherever lead times are long. *For example, Somalia's evacuation sites, Cuba's prepositioning before December and water supplies in PNG and the Pacific.*

4. **Protect livelihoods and essential services before losses deepen,** including seeds, livestock and the continuity of health, nutrition, WASH and education services.

5. **Fund readiness while windows are open, and front-load 2027 resources.** Once planting or pre-flood windows close, money can no longer prevent the same losses, and lean-season needs peak through 2027.

6. **Secure and sustain access** where conflict and insecurity limit it. *For example, in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the central Sahel.*

7. **Work through existing government-led plans and systems,** linking monitoring of rainfall, crops, prices, nutrition and disease to decisions, and engaging Member States and international financial institutions on financing costed national plans.

5 APPEALS AND FUNDING OVERVIEW

Where funding is reported, El Niño appeals and plans have received only part of what they need: the joint FAO–WFP appeal still has a gap of about US$132 million of US$202 million and costed national contingency plans in Southern Africa have 11% of what they need. This is a round-up of what contributors reported, not a tracking table.

CERF and country-based pooled funds

CERF has allocated **US$52.5 million to 12 countries** for El Niño in 2026 (as of 4 November). With US$11.1 million for anticipatory action from country-based pooled funds, OCHA-managed pooled funding for El Niño stands at US$63.6 million across 14 countries, of which US$52.1 million is for anticipatory action in 12 countries. Other country-based pooled fund allocations are listed under Appeals and plans.

CHANNEL	COUNTRIES AND AMOUNTS	TOTAL
Collective anticipatory action frameworks	Chad US$8m · Somalia US$7m · Guatemala US$4m · Honduras US$4m · Ethiopia US$3m · El Salvador US$2.5m · Mauritania US$2.5m	**US$31m (7 countries)**
Outside OCHA-coordinated frameworks	Madagascar US$6m · South Sudan US$6m · Zimbabwe US$4m · Eritrea US$3.5m · Djibouti US$2m	**US$21.5m (5 countries)**
Total		**US$52.5m (12 countries)**

Requests from PNG and Timor-Leste are in preparation. Nine El Niño priority countries are also among those selected in CERF's 2026 Underfunded Emergencies round (US$150 million); how far this flexible funding will address El Niño-related needs, rather than needs from other crises, remains to be seen.

APPEALS AND PLANS

APPEAL, PLAN OR ALLOCATION	REQUIRED OR ALLOCATED	STATUS
Joint FAO–WFP Anticipatory Action Appeal (global), Jun 2026–Mar 2027	**US$202 million (FAO US$100 million)**	Remaining gap about US$132 million: FAO about US$76 million, WFP about US$56 million (early November)
IOM, Acting Early on El Niño-Related Mobility Risks (global), Aug 2026–Jul 2027	**US$110 million**	US$1.1 million mobilised (1%)
WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (global), to Mar 2027	**US$35.06 million**	Launched 2 November 2026 (published plan); covers preparedness and early response needs across all WHO regions
UNICEF El Niño appeals: Eastern and Southern Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean; Asia-Pacific investment case	**US$173 million; US$53.8 million; US$121.4 million**	Not reported
Save the Children El Niño initiative (25 countries)	**US$10 million target**	US$4.3 million available for anticipatory action in 2026 from Save the Children's Humanitarian Fund; nearly US$3 million released
Sudan: HCT six-month El Niño operational response for Darfur and Kordofan, to Mar 2027	**US$359.7 million**	3.86 million people targeted
Kenya: anticipatory action funding (Kenya Humanitarian Fund, Kenya Red Cross, WFP, DRC, WHH)	**US$6.4 million**	Confirmed; more than 180,000 people targeted

APPEALS AND PLANS, CONTINUED

APPEAL, PLAN OR ALLOCATION	REQUIRED OR ALLOCATED	STATUS
South Sudan: South Sudan Humanitarian Fund	**US$9 million**	Allocated, alongside CERF (US$6 million)
Southern Africa: 9 costed national contingency plans (SADC)	**US$1.47 billion**	US$164.5 million available (11%)
Malawi: national El Niño response plan	**US$282 million**	US$187 million gap (September)
Mozambique: Mozambique Humanitarian Fund	**US$2 million**	Allocated to national NGOs
Honduras: Drought Flash Appeal	**US$60 million**	Ongoing
El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras: US contribution to the Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund	**US$95 million**	US$29.18 million allocated in Honduras
Chad: regional pooled fund reserve allocation	**US$7 million**	Allocated, 19 October

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

COUNTRY	NATIONAL COMMITMENT
Papua New Guinea	PGK 1.65 billion
Zimbabwe	US$500 million reserve
Philippines	PHP 7.86 billion
Guatemala	US$65.4 million food plan
Jamaica	J$50 million

6 REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK

RISK TYPE Dryness, heat and wildfire | Flooding, water and cyclones | Disease, displacement and hunger | Monitor only

Each region sets out who is most at risk and when, the country picture, action already under way and the priorities now. Country figures reflect all contributing shocks, not El Niño alone.

GREATER HORN AND EAST AFRICA

FLOODING | DROUGHT AND CROP FAILURE | DISEASE AND DISPLACEMENT

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania; monitor Burundi, Uganda and Djibouti.

HOW AND WHEN PEOPLE MAY BE AFFECTED

A record dry June–September cut harvests across the north, and record October rains now bring flood risk to the south and east, especially along the Juba and Shabelle; the rains peak in November. Hunger peaks in the lean season, between May and September 2027.

COUNTRY PICTURE

- **Somalia:** up to 3.4 million people could be affected by flooding across 44 districts and about 900,000 newly displaced (IOM); FEWS NET warns that Famine (IPC Phase 5) could become the most likely outcome in the south if flooding becomes widespread and severe.
- **South Sudan:** the driest year on record; up to four million people may have been affected (government estimate), with famine risk already present in four counties.
- **Sudan:** failed rains, with famine risk already present in Darfur and Kordofan.
- **Ethiopia:** drought in 291 woredas, with 3.9 million people needing food assistance in Tigray and 3.5 million needing support in Amhara; conflict in the north disrupts assistance.
- **Kenya:** up to 1 million people could be affected and 607,000 displaced by floods, 81% of them in Tana River, Garissa, Mandera and Wajir (Kenya ISWG, 27 October); 2.55 million people are projected in IPC Phase 3+ for November 2026–January 2027, and an Ebola outbreak and about 35,000 new arrivals from Ethiopia in Moyale add to needs.
- **Across the region:** ACMAD flags Rift Valley fever and desert locust breeding risks.

ACTION UNDER WAY

- Flood frameworks have been triggered in Somalia, with US$7 million from CERF alongside the Somalia Humanitarian Fund, and the CERF drought framework in Ethiopia (US$3 million); CERF has also allocated funds in South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea, where most areas received less than 60 per cent of normal rainfall between June and August and the US$3.5 million allocation supports early action in 25 sub-zobas.
- Sudan's six-month El Niño operational response (US$359.7 million) targets 3.86 million people in Darfur and Kordofan.
- In Kenya, anticipatory action for 180,000 people is ready to release on trigger, and stocks are being redeployed to Moyale.
- In Uganda, the Humanitarian Fund has allocated US$7.69 million for El Niño-related floods: US$4.5 million for anticipatory action and US$3.19 million for early response.

PRIORITIES NOW

Prepare evacuation sites in Somalia, close nutrition and supply gaps in Sudan and Ethiopia, sustain access and front-load 2027 funding.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

DROUGHT AND HEAT | LOCALIZED FLOOD AND CYCLONE RISK | CHOLERA

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar and Angola.

HOW AND WHEN PEOPLE MAY BE AFFECTED

Below-normal rain and heat threaten the 2026/27 season as planting begins, with flood and cholera risk in the north-east. Below-average tropical cyclone season according to RSMC La Réunion; however, a catastrophic cyclonic event can occur even during a season with low activity. The region's largest maize surplus in a decade cushions supplies, but needs emerge from the April 2027 harvest and are most severe from November 2027 to March 2028.

COUNTRY PICTURE

- **Across the region:** national planning estimates from 12 SADC Member States put 29.3 million people at risk.
- **Madagascar:** a record 1.6 million people in IPC Phase 3+ in the Grand Sud.
- **Mozambique:** the government projects 2.22 million people affected; access is constrained in the north.
- **Malawi:** 2.6 million people at risk in the 2026/27 lean season (WFP).

ACTION UNDER WAY

- Agency anticipatory action is under way in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi. CERF has allocated US$10 million for drought anticipatory action in Zimbabwe and Madagascar.
- Nine national contingency plans are costed at US$1.47 billion, with 11% available.

PRIORITIES NOW

Finance national plans while planting continues; maintain cyclone readiness to April.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

DROUGHT AND CROP FAILURE | WATER STRESS | FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE RISK

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Dominica and Saint Lucia; monitor the Eastern Caribbean.

HOW AND WHEN PEOPLE MAY BE AFFECTED

Record April–October deficits caused near-total primera losses for many smallholders in the Dry Corridor, and dry conditions continue to February. Coastal El Niño brings flooding to Peru and Ecuador through the December–April season. The most severe food security impacts are expected in March–August 2027.

COUNTRY PICTURE

- **Central American Dry Corridor:** 187,000 people in IPC Phase 3+ in July–October 2026 in the Río Lempa border region, with 183,000 projected for November 2026–March 2027, more than double the earlier projection.
- **Haiti:** 1.1 million people are highly exposed, and floods have hit the Grand Sud.
- **Cuba:** risk shifts to December–March flooding.
- **Peru and Ecuador:** Peru has declared a state of emergency and closed its anchoveta fishery, with rising dengue and leptospirosis; Ecuador faces flooding and landslides.
- **Colombia:** maize output is projected about 20% below average, and low river levels are raising transport costs.
- **Venezuela:** a 50–80% chance of below-normal rainfall in November–January, with warmer-than-usual conditions, especially along the coast.

ACTION UNDER WAY

- The OCHA-facilitated drought framework was activated in March for El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, with US$10.5 million allocated from CERF; the Honduras Drought Flash Appeal (US$60 million) and US$95 million for the regional pooled fund are supporting response.
- Ecuador has updated its ENSO contingency plan and IFRC has launched anticipatory flood measures; WFP's and FAO's drought protocols have triggered in Colombia and Venezuela.

PRIORITIES NOW

Scale up response and anticipatory action in the Dry Corridor; enhance Cuba's pre-positioning and readiness and confirm flood readiness in Peru and Ecuador before December.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

DROUGHT AND WATER STRESS | WILDFIRE AND HAZE | FLOODING | TROPICAL CYCLONES

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Myanmar, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Tonga; monitor Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, FSM, the Marshall Islands and Samoa (OCHA ROAP).

HOW AND WHEN PEOPLE MAY BE AFFECTED

Drought is now observed, not only forecast, across much of the Pacific, the Philippines, eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, while wetter conditions are favoured across Iran, Afghanistan, parts of Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Mainland South-East Asia and parts of South Asia could face drought in 2027. Above-normal temperatures are expected to persist into 2027, raising heatwave risk, and wetter conditions are favoured in Central Asia (WMO). Earth Sciences New Zealand expects 7–11 named cyclones in the Southwest Pacific in 2026/27, at least four of Category 3 or above, and the season could start early.

COUNTRY PICTURE

- **Papua New Guinea:** the National Disaster Centre classifies 20 of 22 provinces as in extreme or severe drought, with about 5.5 million people affected, exposed or at high risk (National Disaster Centre, reported 7 October) and up to 1.2 million needing food assistance.
- **Timor-Leste:** anticipatory action drought triggers reached in several areas, with up to half a million people at risk of severe food insecurity.
- **Indonesia:** the worst fire season in 11 years, with more than 170,000 respiratory infections.
- **Philippines and Myanmar:** 106 areas of the Philippines are under a state of calamity; Myanmar faces above-average temperatures, erratic rainfall and possible localized drought (WFP).
- **Pacific islands:** worsening drought and falling water supplies, with drought on all major islands of Tonga; heavy rain, flooding and water contamination in the near-equatorial Pacific.
- **South Asia:** India's monsoon ended about 12% below normal, after June rainfall about 40% below normal, with more than 705,000 people affected (WMO); Afghanistan has 19.2 million people projected in IPC Phase 3+ for November–April; Pakistan's needs peak in January–March 2027; Cox's Bazar faces rising dengue.

ACTION UNDER WAY

- PNG has committed PGK 1.65 billion; a response plan and CERF requests for PNG and Timor-Leste are in preparation.
- Coordinated anticipatory action frameworks are operational in Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Myanmar, Fiji and Vanuatu.

PRIORITIES NOW

Launch and consolidate drought and flood response plans; set clear drought triggers where there are no frameworks; protect water supplies; and prepare for possible further waves of drought and flooding in new areas in 2027.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

MIXED DROUGHT | PASTORAL DEFICITS | FOOD INSECURITY

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mali; monitor Nigeria, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

HOW AND WHEN PEOPLE MAY BE AFFECTED

Rainfall was more than 40% below average in places across the Sahel, with Chad most affected; conflict and economic pressures remain the main drivers. AGRHYMET expects mostly near-normal November–January rainfall, drier in south-eastern Nigeria, with warmer-than-normal conditions; the Harmattan season raises meningitis and respiratory risks. Impacts peak in the 2027 lean seasons: pastoral from March to July, cropping from June to September.

COUNTRY PICTURE

- **Chad:** more than 3.1 million people acutely food insecure and nearly 2 million children at risk of acute malnutrition.
- **Niger:** at least 1.5 million people affected or at risk in Tahoua and Diffa.
- **Burkina Faso:** 220,820 ha of crops water-stressed, and several strategic reservoirs critically low.
- **Across the region:** September was hotter than 99% of past Septembers across most of West Africa and the Sahel, and floods had affected 1.5 million people in 15 countries by 30 September (ACMAD; OCHA); warmer, wetter conditions raise concern over the cholera outbreak around the Lake Chad Basin (WHO).

ACTION UNDER WAY

- CERF-funded drought frameworks have been activated in Chad and Mauritania, and early action in Chad has assisted more than 170,000 people; Burkina Faso and Niger did not reach their triggers.

PRIORITIES NOW

Mobilise funding and pre-position supplies before the 2027 lean season, given lead times of up to three months; Cadre Harmonisé results are due in late November.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

LOCALIZED WATER, FLOOD AND HEAT RISK | MONITOR

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Country-specific. Yemen remains the main concern; the region is not a priority area for El Niño.

HOW AND WHEN PEOPLE MAY BE AFFECTED

There is no common regional direction, and conflict, displacement and economic stress remain the dominant drivers. Yemen is close to triggering its World Bank-led Preparedness Plan for exceptional food and nutrition crises, with a global roundtable likely in early December. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, El Niño winters tend to be wetter: nine of 14 since 1979 ranked in the wettest third in both Gaza and the West Bank, and Gaza sees about twice as many moderate early-season storms as in other winters.

PRIORITIES NOW

Use country-specific thresholds and maintain readiness.