ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

12 November 2026

Snapshot of El Niño, Indian Ocean Dipole & Middle East Crisis

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations · WFP · OCHA · UN WOMEN · FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS · unicef · WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION · World Health Organization

KEY MESSAGES

DROUGHT IS DRIVING NEEDS

Drought and extreme weather are starting to drive humanitarian needs across many parts of Asia and the Pacific, with millions facing increasing food and water insecurity from drought. Preparedness, response and financing should therefore be sequenced ahead of and against national and subnational impact windows.

HIGHEST IMMEDIATE CONCERN

For the next two months, the countries of highest immediate concern are Myanmar, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga, considering both El Niño and price shocks.

IMPACTS WILL UNFOLD IN WAVES

Humanitarian impacts are expected to unfold in three successive waves over the next six months. Forecast confidence decreases with each successive wave, particularly for impacts further into 2027.

CHILDREN AT RISK

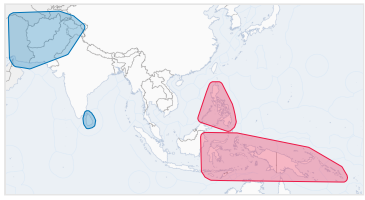
El Niño could compound existing vulnerabilities across Asia and the Pacific, with an estimated **190 million** children exposed to unusually dry or wet conditions and heightened risks to food and water security, nutrition, health, education and protection.

THREE WAVES AND THE SEASONS THEY MEET

Impacts are expected to unfold in three waves as El Niño peaks, persists and then decays. The maps show where each wave is most likely to bite; the bars below show the seasons each wave overlaps across the region.

Wave 1

NOV **2026** | DEC



Rainfall deficits

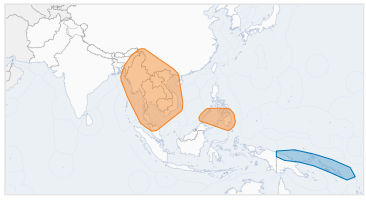
Philippines, eastern Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands

Wetter than average

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kiribati, Naoero and parts of Tuvalu

Wave 2

JAN **2027** | FEB



Dry signal deepens

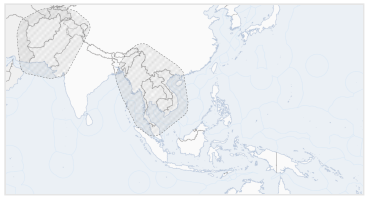
Mainland South-East Asia and the Philippines

Wetter than average

Northern Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Naoero and Tuvalu

Wave 3 PROVISIONAL

MAR | APR →



As El Niño decays

Snowmelt in Afghanistan and Pakistan; pre-monsoon heat in mainland South-East Asia

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3
El Niño phase	Approaching peak · **peak Dec**	Persisting	Potential decay
Forecast confidence	●●● Strongest	●●○ Jan strong · Feb weaker	●○○ Weak · Apr not covered

Pacific	Southwest Pacific wet and cyclone season		
Mainland South-East Asia	Into dry season	Peak dry season	Late dry, pre-monsoon heat
Timor-Leste, Indonesia	Main wet and planting season		
Afghanistan, Pakistan	Winter rainfall and snowfall · wheat season		Snowmelt
Sri Lanka	Northeast monsoon · maha season		First inter-monsoon

The snapshot is structured in five parts and covers the period from November 2026 into early 2027.

A CLIMATE RISK OUTLOOK

Three waves of potential El Niño impact, from November 2026 into 2027.

B CONVERGENCE OF PRESSURES

Where climate shocks meet fuel, fertilizer and food pressures from the Middle East crisis.

C COUNTRY IMPACT ANALYSIS

Where impacts are intensifying in Wave 1 and Wave 2 countries, with spotlights on Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

D THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Gender and age impacts of El Niño.

E PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Anticipatory action and key actions underway in support of national responses.

SECTION A CLIMATE RISK OUTLOOK

El Niño is expected to reach its peak around December 2026, becoming one of the strongest events on record. WMO projections indicate that sea surface temperature anomalies could reach +3.8°C during November 2026–January 2027, substantially exceeding the +0.5°C threshold commonly used to identify El Niño conditions. Meanwhile, the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remains active, with the weekly Dipole Mode Index reaching +0.73°C as of 1 November 2026 and a seasonal mean anomaly for November 2026–January 27 of +0.3°C. The IOD is expected to weaken and potentially return to neutral conditions by late December 2026 or early 2027.

A stronger El Niño does not automatically mean proportionally greater impacts. The severity and timing of drought, extreme heat and flooding will depend on how this warming interacts with seasonal rainfall patterns, the IOD, and existing soil-moisture and water conditions. Importantly, the peak in ocean temperatures does not necessarily coincide with the peak in impacts, which may emerge or intensify in different countries well into 2027.

This is a seasonal outlook: it is strongest for the broad climate signal through January 2027 and progressively weaker for country-scale detail, subnational variation, and periods beyond January 2027. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services should remain the authoritative and operational source for location-specific forecasts and warnings.

WAVES OF POTENTIAL IMPACT

What matters most is timing. As El Niño approaches its expected December 2026 peak, rainfall shortages could carry very different consequences depending on the country and how this timing correlates with the agricultural calendars in the region.

Previous snapshots used the term 'tiers' to identify countries facing the greatest risks at a particular point in time. In this snapshot, we have shifted to 'waves of impact' to better reflect how El Niño evolves and how risks move across Asia and the Pacific over time.

El Niño typically moves through three phases at different times: development, peak and decay. As the event progresses, its impacts do not emerge everywhere at once. Risks may intensify in some countries during the developing phase while easing during the peak phase, depending on seasonal rainfall patterns, agricultural calendars, and local conditions. The waves therefore describe when countries are most likely to experience heightened impacts, rather than ranking which countries are most at risk overall. Countries can go from one extreme to another, experiencing drier conditions in one wave and wetter conditions in the next, or vice versa. For the methodology behind the selection of countries, please refer to Annex 1, and for the countries at risk, please refer to Section B below.

Wave 1: The clearest signal is in November–December 2026, when rainfall deficits are already well established across much of the Pacific dry corridor and maritime South-East Asia. At the same time, wetter-than-average conditions are favoured across South-West Asia and parts of the equatorial Pacific. This is when the signal is clearest and our confidence is highest.

Wave 2: From January to February 2027, forecasts suggest that the dry signal could come into play and deepen across mainland Southeast Asia and the Philippines. Moving to the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands show a possible recovery signal from February 2027; however, impacts are likely to continue, particularly depending on the strength of the next wet season. During this wave, we have lower confidence in the forecast signal, so the analysis should be viewed as likely to shift in the coming months.

Wave 3: March 2027 is the last month covered by the current October 2026 forecast. From March onward, the long-term forecast indicates the potential for additional extreme swings in the outlook for above- and below-average rainfall, with potentially serious impacts. In this wave, we have the lowest confidence in the forecast and it should be used very cautiously and only for preparedness purposes.

KEY FIGURES

190M
CHILDREN EXPOSED TO UNUSUALLY DRY OR WET CONDITIONS
Asia and the Pacific · UNICEF

91M+
GIRLS EXPOSED TO DRIER OR WETTER-THAN-NORMAL CONDITIONS
Asia and the Pacific

5.5M+
PEOPLE EXPOSED OR AT RISK OF DROUGHT
Papua New Guinea

4.6M
FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK ESTIMATED TO BE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT
Philippines

500K+
PEOPLE IN IPC PHASE 3 OR ABOVE UNDER THE WFP DROUGHT SCENARIO
Timor-Leste

SECTION A · CONTINUED

COUNTRIES AT RISK, BY WAVE

1 WAVE 1 · NOV–DEC 2026 | 2 WAVE 2 · JAN–FEB 2027 | 3 WAVE 3 · MAR 2027+

WAVE 1

November–December 2026

El Niño approaching peak

The clearest signal is in November–December 2026, when rainfall deficits are already well established across much of the Pacific dry corridor and maritime South-East Asia. At the same time, wetter-than-average conditions are favoured across South-West Asia and parts of the equatorial Pacific. This is when the signal is clearest and our confidence is highest.

MAP 1: WAVE 1 POTENTIAL EL NIÑO IMPACTS, NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2026



Drier than normal | Wetter than normal | Mixed conditions · monitor | Numbered notes below

DRIER-THAN-NORMAL RAINFALL

1. **Immediate concern:** Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and the Philippines, parts of Indonesia and India
2. **Severe or persistent Pacific rainfall deficits:** Fiji, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, southern Tuvalu, Niue, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Palau and Tonga.
3. **Mixed conditions worth watching closely:** Bangladesh

WETTER-THAN-NORMAL RAINFALL

4. **West and South Asia:** Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
5. **Equatorial Pacific:** Kiribati, Naoero and parts of Tuvalu.

SEASONS TO WATCH

Pacific: Onset of the wet and cyclone season across much of the southwest Pacific. Rainfall deficits during this period could affect water replenishment and crop establishment.

Southeast Asia: Timor-Leste and Indonesia enter their main wet and planting season, while mainland Southeast Asia transitions into the dry season. The Philippines enters the northeast monsoon period, with continued cyclone exposure.

South and West Asia: Afghanistan and Pakistan enter their winter rainfall and snowfall season. Sri Lanka transitions from the second inter-monsoon into the northeast monsoon, critical for replenishing reservoirs and supporting maha rice cultivation, but with increased flooding risks following earlier rainfall deficits.

SECTION A · CONTINUED

COUNTRIES AT RISK, BY WAVE

1 WAVE 1 · NOV–DEC 2026 | 2 WAVE 2 · JAN–FEB 2027 | 3 WAVE 3 · MAR 2027+

WAVE 2

January–February 2027

Persistent risks and geographical expansion

From January to February 2027, forecasts suggest that the dry signal could come into play and deepen across mainland Southeast Asia and the Philippines. Moving to the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands show a possible recovery signal from February 2027; however, impacts are likely to continue, particularly depending on the strength of the next wet season. During this wave, we have lower confidence in the forecast signal, so the analysis should be viewed as likely to shift in the coming months.

MAP 2: WAVE 2 POTENTIAL EL NIÑO IMPACTS, JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2027



Drier than normal | Wetter than normal | Mixed conditions · monitor | Numbered notes below

DRIER-THAN-NORMAL RAINFALL

1. **Persistent agricultural risks:** Philippines, Timor-Leste, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and Palau, and southern and western parts of India.
2. **Intensifying mainland Southeast Asian risks:** Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam.
3. **Increased monitoring with mixed outcomes in some parts of the country along with heightened coastal/storm-related hazards:** Myanmar (historical correlation with El Niño is weak, but close monitoring is needed) and parts of Indonesia.
4. **Subnational risks:** Southern Papua New Guinea, despite improving conditions in the North.

WETTER-THAN-NORMAL RAINFALL

5. **Persistent wetter signals:** Kiribati, Naoero, and Tuvalu.
6. **Wetter-than-normal conditions start:** Northern Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
7. **Above-normal precipitation relative to seasonal averages:** Parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran may experience increased winter rainfall or snowfall, while parts of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh may receive above-normal precipitation during their predominantly dry season. These anomalies do not necessarily indicate heavy precipitation or elevated flood risk, particularly where seasonal rainfall totals are typically low.

SEASONS TO WATCH

Pacific: Wet and cyclone season continues across much of the southwest Pacific. Persistent deficits during normally wetter months could compound water shortages and agricultural losses.

Southeast Asia: Peak dry season across much of mainland Southeast Asia, increasing irrigation demand and pressure on dry-season crops. This also increases the risk of haze and pollution as drier conditions overlap with the dry season. In Viet Nam, dry-season water stress intensifies, with increasing risks of saltwater intrusion, disruption to household water supplies and essential services, and impacts on agriculture and livelihoods. Timor-Leste remains in its main wet and growing season.

South and West Asia: Winter cropping and precipitation season, with rainfall and mountain snowfall important for soil moisture, wheat production, water storage and subsequent spring runoff.

SECTION A · CONTINUED

COUNTRIES AT RISK, BY WAVE

1 WAVE 1 · NOV–DEC 2026 | 2 WAVE 2 · JAN–FEB 2027 | 3 WAVE 3 · MAR 2027+

WAVE 3

March 2027 onward

Potential El Niño decay and delayed impacts

March 2027 is the last month covered by the current October 2026 forecast. From March onward, the long-term forecast indicates the potential for additional extreme swings in the outlook for above- and below-average rainfall, with potentially serious impacts. In this wave, we have the lowest confidence in the forecast and it should be used very cautiously and only for preparedness purposes.

MAP 3: WAVE 3 POTENTIAL EL NIÑO IMPACTS, MARCH 2027 ONWARD



Drier than normal | Wetter than normal | Mixed conditions · monitor | Numbered notes below

DRIER-THAN-NORMAL RAINFALL

1. **Provisional continuing risks:** Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste.
2. **Potential drier conditions:** Myanmar (historical correlation with El Niño is weak, but close monitoring is needed).
3. **Persistent Pacific watch:** Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji and Vanuatu.
4. **Emerging subnational concerns:** Southern India and Sri Lanka, subject to verification.

WETTER-THAN-NORMAL RAINFALL

5. **Provisional wetter-risk watch:** Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Kiribati, Naoero and Tuvalu. Potential wetter transition: Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

SEASONS TO WATCH

Pacific: Approaching the end of the southwest Pacific wet and cyclone season. Inadequate seasonal rainfall could leave water deficits extending into the following dry season.

Southeast Asia: Late dry season and rising pre-monsoon temperatures across mainland Southeast Asia, increasing agricultural water stress, heat and fire risks. Timor-Leste approaches the end of its main growing season.

South Asia: Winter crops approach maturity and harvest in northern areas; Sri Lanka transitions from the northeast monsoon into the first inter-monsoon.

West Asia: Transition towards spring, with snowmelt and river flows becoming increasingly important for agricultural water availability and potential flooding.

SECTION B

CONVERGENCE OF CLIMATE SHOCKS, MIDDLE EAST AND UNDERLYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The current El Niño is unfolding amid overlapping global shocks, which are already adding to economic and food security pressures in many countries across Asia and the Pacific.

FOOD

Historically, food prices have tended to rise in the year following a strong El Niño episode. WFP Food Basket data also indicate growing price pressures since the onset of the Middle East crisis.

FUEL

Fuel prices across Asia and the Pacific remain well above pre-crisis levels despite government measures to mitigate the impact on households.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizers provide essential nutrients that help crops grow. The fertilizer supply shock has coincided with critical rice-growing periods across South and Southeast Asia, with major harvests scheduled for November–December 2026 in Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand, among other countries. While the full production impacts remain uncertain, reduced fertilizer access or application could affect yields, with consequences for food availability and prices extending into 2027.

HOUSEHOLDS

Rising costs and livelihood losses can reduce household purchasing power, increasing poverty and the use of negative coping strategies, with consequences for children and other vulnerable groups.

TABLE 2: CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN (CLIMATE AND 3FS)

HIGH CONCERN	Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Tonga
ELEVATED CONCERNS	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa
LOWER CONCERN	Bhutan, Maldives, Lao PDR, Thailand, Palau, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

Notes on 3FS: The assessment includes reported fuel and food price increases, dependence on imported fertilizers and changes in real GDP growth since the start of the Middle East crisis.

SOUTH ASIA

COUNTRY	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 1	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 2	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 3	3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
India (parts of)	Drier conditions	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	Mixed conditions requiring monitoring (Southern India)	HIGH	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Afghanistan	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	HIGH	CONVERGENCE IN 2027	ELEVATED CONCERN
Bangladesh	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	N/A	VERY HIGH	MIDDLE EAST CRISIS-DRIVEN	ELEVATED CONCERN
Pakistan	Wetter-than-average conditions	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	HIGH	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Sri Lanka	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Persistent or emerging precipitation deficits	VERY HIGH	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Nepal	Not currently identified as a clear El Nino hotspot	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	N/A	VERY HIGH	POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027	ELEVATED CONCERN

Immediate concern · High concern · Elevated concern · Wetter than normal · Not a hotspot / N/A

SECTION B · CONTINUED

CLIMATE RISK AND 3FS EXPOSURE BY COUNTRY

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

COUNTRY	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 1	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 2	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 3	3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
Philippines	Drier conditions	Drier conditions	Drier conditions - subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	VERY HIGH	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN
Timor-Leste	Drier conditions	Drier conditions	Drier conditions - subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN
Myanmar	Not currently an El Niño hotspot - only seasonal flooding	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	Potential precipitation deficits in some parts of the country or an increase in coastal/storm hazards – requiring closer monitoring	VERY HIGH	MIDDLE EAST CRISIS-DRIVEN	HIGH CONCERN
Indonesia	Drier conditions	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	Mixed conditions requiring monitoring (parts of Indonesia)	ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Cambodia	Transitions into the dry season	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming / Drier conditions – potential low river and reservoir levels constrain dry-season rice	Drier conditions - subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	VERY HIGH	POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027	ELEVATED CONCERN
Viet Nam	Transitions into the dry season	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming / Drier conditions	Drier conditions - water shortages, saltwater intrusion and extreme heat, subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	ELEVATED	POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027	ELEVATED CONCERN
Lao PDR	Transitions into the dry season	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming / Drier conditions	Drier conditions - subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	ELEVATED	POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027	LOW CONCERN
Thailand	Transitions into the dry season	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming / Drier conditions	Drier conditions - subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	HIGH	POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027	LOW CONCERN

Immediate concern · High concern · Elevated concern · Wetter than normal · Not a hotspot / N/A

SECTION B · CONTINUED

CLIMATE RISK AND 3FS EXPOSURE BY COUNTRY

PACIFIC

COUNTRY	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 1	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 2	CLIMATE RISK · WAVE 3	3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
Papua New Guinea	Drier conditions	Drier conditions - Southern Papua New Guinea Mixed conditions (monitoring) - Northern Papua New Guinea	Mixed conditions requiring monitoring Wetter-than-normal precipitation (parts)	ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN
Tonga	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Drier conditions	N/A	VERY HIGH	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN
Federated States of Micronesia	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Drier conditions	Persistent or emerging precipitation deficits	HIGH	CLIMATE-DRIVEN	ELEVATED CONCERN
Fiji	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Drier conditions	Persistent or emerging precipitation deficits	HIGH	CLIMATE-DRIVEN	ELEVATED CONCERN
Samoa	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Drier conditions	Persistent or emerging precipitation deficits	HIGH	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Solomon Islands	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Mixed conditions (monitoring)	Mixed conditions requiring monitoring Wetter-than-normal precipitation (parts)	HIGH	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Vanuatu	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Persistent or emerging precipitation deficits	ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Republic of the Marshall Islands	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	N/A	HIGH	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN
Tuvalu	Mixed conditions - north Wetter-than-normal precipitation/south persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	ELEVATED	CLIMATE-DRIVEN	LOW CONCERN
Equatorial Pacific: Kiribati and Naoero (Nauru)	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	Wetter-than-normal precipitation	NO DATA	CLIMATE-DRIVEN	LOW CONCERN
Palau	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	Severe or persistent precipitation deficits presenting and forthcoming	N/A	ELEVATED	CLIMATE-DRIVEN	LOW CONCERN

Immediate concern · High concern · Elevated concern · Wetter than normal · Not a hotspot / N/A

SECTION C COUNTRY IMPACT ANALYSIS

This section focuses on countries prioritized across **Wave 1 (November–December 2026) and Wave 2 (January – February 2027)**, drawing on national government updates and field observations to identify where impacts are intensifying and where anticipatory action is needed.

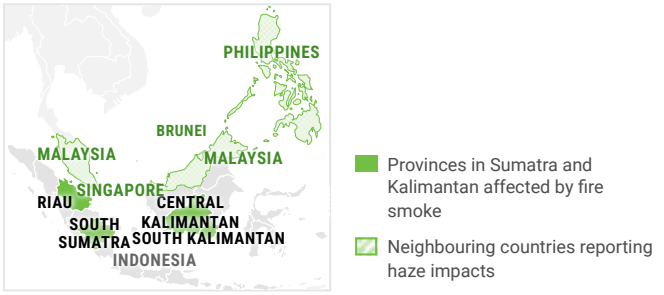
MARITIME SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SPOTLIGHT INDONESIA

401,586
respiratory cases in fire-affected areas (2 Nov), incl. 91,913 children aged 0–5

66,329
education institutions suspended face-to-face learning due to fire smoke

8.39M
students affected by the shift to full online learning



IMPACT PATHWAY

El Niño drought › Forest and land fires › Smoke and haze › Respiratory illness

FERTILIZER SUPPLY, MILLION TONNES, 2026



Indonesia is experiencing one of its most severe forest and peatland fire seasons since the devastating 2015 El Niño event, particularly across Sumatra and Kalimantan. According to Indonesia's Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency (BMKG), the onset of the rainy season has been delayed by approximately 20–30 days across around 61% of Indonesia's land area, amid very strong El Niño conditions expected to persist into early 2027. This delay has pushed back crop establishment in rainfed agricultural areas, particularly in Java and eastern Indonesia, compared with typical seasonal planting schedules. As of 2 November, Ministry of Health reporting recorded 401,586 respiratory cases, in land and forest fire affected areas, including 91,913 cases (22.9%) among children aged 0–5. The Ministry of Health is monitoring pregnant women, given high air-pollution risks including stillbirth, miscarriage and postpartum depression. As of 16–17 October 2026, 66,329 education institutions across 113 districts/cities in 20 provinces had suspended face-to-face learning due to fire smoke. Approximately 8.39 million students were affected by the shift to full online learning arrangements.

The Middle East crisis may affect Indonesia mainly through fuel and agricultural input costs. Fertilizer supply appears buffered, as urea capacity is about 9.4 million tonnes annually, with 2026 production projected at 7.8 million tonnes against domestic demand of 6.3 million, and 9.85 million tonnes of subsidized fertilizer allocated in 2026. Fuel subsidies are cushioning a big part of the shock in Indonesia. The key fuel-related risk is higher energy and production costs coinciding with El Niño-related water stress and the late-2026 rainy and planting seasons, pressuring agricultural livelihoods and food affordability.

PREPAREDNESS, ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND RESPONSE

With a high probability of El Niño increasing wildfire risk across Southeast Asia in 2027, Indonesia's experience highlights the need for regional preparedness and anticipatory action. Other countries with wildfire risk, particularly those in the Mekong sub-region approaching the dry season, are encouraged to review readiness for periods of unhealthy air quality, including surveillance of respiratory and other haze-related conditions, health-facility preparedness, availability of masks, oxygen and essential medicines, and arrangements for timely public health advice. Particular attention should be given to populations at greater risk from wildfire smoke, including children, older people, pregnant women and people with chronic respiratory or cardiovascular conditions.

Timely regional sharing of air-quality hazards, health impacts and response measures can help neighbouring countries anticipate impacts and act early. Coordination across health, environment, agriculture and disaster management can strengthen preparedness and reduce health impacts.

1 WAVE 1	2 WAVE 2	3 WAVE 3	3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
Nov–Dec 2026 El Niño approaching peak	**Jan–Feb 2027** Persistent risks and geographical expansion	**Mar 2027 onward** Potential El Niño decay and delayed impacts			Climate and 3FS
Immediate concern – Drier conditions	Elevated concern – Mixed conditions (monitoring)	Elevated concern – Mixed conditions requiring monitoring Parts of Indonesia	ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	ELEVATED CONCERN

SPOTLIGHT

TIMOR-LESTE

364,000
people (27%) in IPC Phase 3 or above, May–Sep 2024

500,000+
could face IPC Phase 3 or above under severe El Niño (WFP)

44.9%
of children under five stunted; 18.5% wasted (DHS 2025–26)

~70%
of the population depends on agriculture for food and income

Timor-Leste is shifting from El Niño monitoring to coordinated anticipatory action as drought risks intensify ahead of the main agricultural planting season. The latest October 2026 CDI indicates concentrated drought hotspots rather than uniform impacts nationwide, with anticipatory-action thresholds exceeded in parts of western, central and eastern Timor-Leste. Some of these areas overlap with historically drought-vulnerable municipalities, including Baucau, Lautém, Manatuto and Viqueque. However, historical vulnerability does not necessarily indicate that current drought thresholds have been exceeded in all these locations. Late October recorded rainfall deficits of 30–50 percent in parts of central and eastern Timor-Leste.



Previous IPC analysis, from May to September 2024, found 27 percent of the population, around 364,000 people, facing IPC Phase 3 or above, including up to 22,000 in Phase 4. WFP further suggests that severe El Niño conditions could increase the IPC Phase 3 or above population by 40–48 percent to more than half a million people. The 2025–26 DHS reports figures of 44.9% stunting and 18.5% wasting among children under five. Field monitoring already indicates delayed or failed planting and worsening water shortages, including a decline in flow at Dili's Tohumeta-Comoro intake from 166 to 120 litres per second in October, while diesel and gasoline prices have increased by around 27 percent and 39 percent, respectively, adding pressure on household and production costs. Finally, domestic rice prices are already 5 percent higher year-on-year, pointing towards increasing food availability impacts.

DILI TOHUMETA-COMORO INTAKE FLOW, LITRES PER SECOND

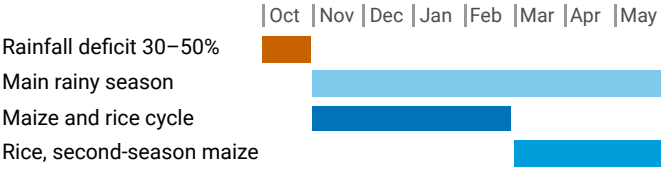


PREPAREDNESS, ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND RESPONSE

In Timor-Leste, around 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture for food and income, leaving rural households highly exposed to rainfall deficits. During the 2023–2024 El Niño, households reduced meals, sold productive assets, and withdrew children from school to cope with worsening conditions. With food insecurity already more severe in 2023 than ahead of the 2015/16 El Niño, another major drought could have faster and deeper humanitarian consequences, particularly for women and children.

Timing is critical. Rainfall deficits during the November–May agricultural season could disrupt successive maize and rice production cycles, with impacts extending well beyond the drought itself. With approximately 60 percent of cereals imported, reduced harvests combined with rising food prices could further undermine household purchasing power and nutrition. Women and girls may face additional pressures through increased unpaid care work and reduced access to food and resources. UNICEF estimates that around 100,000 children under five could face elevated nutritional risks in 2026/27, although this projection requires verification.

RAINFALL DEFICITS AGAINST THE AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR



To get ahead of these risks, Timor-Leste has revised its National Drought Anticipatory Action Protocol (TL-NDAAP). Led by the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) and FAO, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALFF), the National Directorate of Meteorology and Geophysics (DNMG), the National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group and other national stakeholders, the Protocol provides a nationally coordinated framework for drought monitoring, early warning triggers, anticipatory action and resource mobilization. It offers an important opportunity to act ahead of worsening conditions, protect agricultural livelihoods, and reduce the need for harmful coping strategies, particularly among the most vulnerable households.

1 WAVE 1	2 WAVE 2	3 WAVE 3	3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
Nov–Dec 2026 El Niño approaching peak	**Jan–Feb 2027** Persistent risks and geographical expansion	**Mar 2027 onward** Potential El Niño decay and delayed impacts			Climate and 3FS
Immediate concern – Drier conditions	Immediate concern – Drier conditions	Immediate concern – Drier conditions Subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN

Philippines

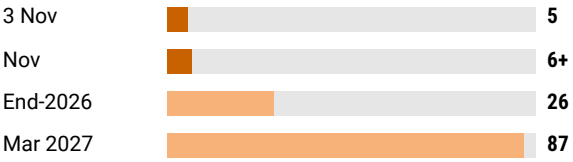
CONVERGENCE

4.6M
farmers and fisherfolk potentially affected

PHP 8.57B
agricultural losses across 14 regions

109+
cities and municipalities under a state of calamity

AREAS IN DROUGHT, OBSERVED AND PROJECTED



FUEL PRICES VS PRE-CRISIS



EL NIÑO ACTION PLAN, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Drought conditions are intensifying and expanding across the Philippines. As of 3 November, five provinces were experiencing drought, with at least six areas expected to be affected during November. Projections indicate that this could increase to 26 areas by the end of 2026 and 87 by March 2027, potentially affecting 4.6 million farmers and fisherfolk. At least 109 cities and municipalities have declared states of calamity. Agricultural losses have already reached PHP 8.57 billion across 14 regions, affecting 288,058 farmers and 291,154 hectares of farmland, with 220,307 tonnes of production lost. Overall, 191,251 families (490,430 people) have been affected across six regions. As of October 2026, the Philippines had developed a Strategic National Action Plan for El Niño 2026–2027, coordinating preparedness and response. The Department of Agriculture has outlined a PHP 61.99 billion (approximately USD 1.05 billion) action plan, including PHP 6.2 billion already released for agricultural and livelihood support, while PHP 371 million in proposed interventions remains unfunded. The Department of Health has also strengthened anticipatory action through its Anticipatory Preparedness and Response Plan for Very Strong El Niño, prioritizing protection of vulnerable populations, health and WASH preparedness, and continuity of essential services.

The Philippines is among the clearest potential cases of converging El Niño and food, fuel and fertilizer (3F) pressures. Since late February 2026, diesel and gasoline prices have risen by approximately 70 percent and over 50 percent, respectively, increasing transport and production costs. Elevated fertilizer prices earlier in the 2026 production cycle and reliance on imported nitrogen fertilizers have added pressure, although urea prices fell below pre-crisis levels from June, making impacts dependent on procurement timing (prices peaked in April). Headline inflation reached 7.8 percent in October 2026, its highest since February 2023, further eroding purchasing power. Local organizations warn that women, children, older persons, farmers, fisherfolk and conflict-affected communities face heightened risks, with limited services, livelihoods and resources undermining their ability to cope with these compounding shocks.

Early action is essential to help prevent affected populations from resorting to negative coping mechanisms as the drought reaches its peak and the holiday season begins, potentially driving prices even higher. Immediate priorities include supporting farmers facing crop losses and preparing irrigation systems, water supplies and livelihoods for worsening conditions. Malnutrition is expected to rise from early 2027 as crop and income losses constrain food access, particularly among low-income households. Women report reducing meals from three to two daily, with parents skipping meals to feed their children. Extreme heat could also come into play, affecting health and livelihoods. Some women begin fieldwork at 3–4 AM to avoid peak temperatures, shifting household tasks to later in the day. Boys' involvement in water collection and supplementary work is also disrupting school attendance.

MARITIME SOUTH-EAST ASIA · COUNTRIES BY RISK PATHWAY



Convergence

1 WAVE 1	2 WAVE 2	3 WAVE 3	3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
Nov–Dec 2026 El Niño approaching peak	**Jan–Feb 2027** Persistent risks and geographical expansion	**Mar 2027 onward** Potential El Niño decay and delayed impacts			Climate and 3FS
Immediate concern – Drier conditions	Immediate concern – Drier conditions	Immediate concern – Drier conditions Subject to local agricultural exposure and precipitation conditions	VERY HIGH	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN

CONTINENTAL SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Myanmar

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS-DRIVEN

12.4M
people expected to face acute hunger in 2026

4M+
people internally displaced, end-October

17.9M
people (32.6%) multidimensionally poor

FOOD AND FUEL PRICES VS PRE-CRISIS



The Middle East crisis is compounding Myanmar's already severe humanitarian emergency, adding further pressure to households struggling with conflict, economic contraction, widespread poverty and climate-related shocks. By October 2026, the cost of a standard food basket was approximately 30 percent above pre-crisis levels, while nationwide diesel prices had risen by 82 percent. These overlapping pressures are deepening food insecurity, with an estimated 12.4 million people expected to face acute food insecurity in 2026. As of end-October, more than 4 million people were internally displaced. Underlying vulnerabilities are equally severe: approximately 17.9 million people (32.6 percent of the population) are multidimensionally poor, while a further 19.5 million are vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, leaving more than two-thirds of the population poor or at risk of falling into poverty. Elevated fuel and agricultural input costs may also affect production, harvesting and market transport, potentially transmitting the current shock into food availability and prices in 2027, particularly if climatic conditions become less favourable.

El Niño's relationship with rainfall in Myanmar is mixed, creating uncertainty around the location and severity of potential impacts. While forecasts increasingly favour drier conditions from early 2027, particularly as the dry season progresses, both above- and below-average rainfall risks require close monitoring, with forecasts to be reassessed in early 2027 as confidence improves. Higher temperatures and potential drought could further constrain agricultural production and livelihoods, reducing food access and dietary quality while increasing the risk of malnutrition and harmful coping strategies. Extreme heat and unreliable water supplies may also increase water costs and the risk of disease outbreaks, including acute watery diarrhoea (AWD). At the same time, excess rainfall, flooding and seasonal cyclone risks during April–May remain important concerns, underscoring the potential for multiple, overlapping shocks to further strain already vulnerable communities. The humanitarian consequences of any additional climate shock could be disproportionate in conflict-affected and displacement areas, where livelihoods, market access, basic services and household coping capacity are already severely constrained.



Cambodia

POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027

302,000 ha
rice affected by dry spells in 2026 (NCDM)

1.3M
children potentially at risk

3,872
schools and 401 health centres vulnerable

FUEL PRICES VS END-FEBRUARY



AGRICULTURE'S SHARE



In Cambodia, climate-related pressures are already affecting agricultural production, with prolonged dry spells and flooding in 2026 impacting more than 302,000 ha of rice affected by dry spells (NCDM); 156,000 ha of paddy flooded (MAFF). Delayed rainfall and localized crop losses have also been reported. Approximately 5.1M people (29%) live in high drought-risk areas. Looking ahead, 2027 could see further drying, with much of El Niño's potential influence on rainfall expected to emerge during this period, increasing the risk of additional agricultural losses and livelihood disruption. These risks extend beyond agriculture, with approximately 1.3 million children, 3,872 schools and 401 health centres identified as vulnerable to drought and flooding.

Furthermore, by October 2026, diesel and gasoline prices were 49 percent and 42 percent above end-February levels, respectively, while food inflation reached 5.3 percent year-on-year in September. Joint FAO and WFP assessments show food basket costs remained broadly stable (−1.5 percent, June–September 2026), but non-agricultural wages fell 9.5%, eroding purchasing power. With agriculture accounting for 16.1 percent of GDP and 33.4 percent of employment, further drought-related production losses, combined with elevated fuel and input costs, could erode farm incomes, reduce household purchasing power and deepen food insecurity, particularly among poor rural households. In response to the Multi-Crises, the Government launched the US$1.2 billion Comprehensive Intervention in September 2026, including cash transfers through December.

Viet Nam

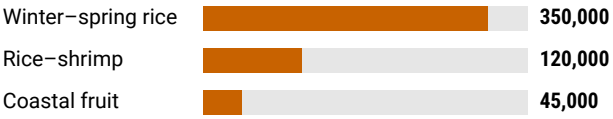
POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027

444,000+
rural households could face drinking-water shortages

50–70 km
inland reach of the 4 g/litre salinity boundary, Jan–Apr 2027

10–75%
below-average flows in 12 major river basins, Jun–Aug

AGRICULTURAL LAND AT RISK, HECTARES



The greatest risk period for Viet Nam is expected during the 2027 dry season (January–June), particularly in the Central Highlands, South Central Coast and Mekong Delta, where prolonged drought, extreme heat, water shortages and saltwater intrusion could significantly affect agricultural production and livelihoods. Early signs of water stress are starting to emerge, with river flows across 12 major basins falling 10–75 percent below average between June and August 2026. Rainfall in the South Central Coast, Central Highlands and southern Viet Nam is also forecast to remain 20–40 percent below average through the end of 2026. In the Mekong Delta, saltwater intrusion could approach levels experienced during the 2015–2016 crisis, with the 4 g/litre salinity boundary potentially extending 50–70 km inland between January and April 2027.

The potential agricultural and humanitarian consequences are substantial. Approximately 350,000 hectares of winter–spring rice, 120,000 hectares of rice–shrimp production, and 45,000 hectares of coastal fruit crops are at risk, while more than 444,000 rural households could face drinking water shortages. These projections raise concerns of a recurrence of the 2015–2016 El Niño, which effected over 2 million people and contributed to Viet Nam's worst drought and saltwater intrusion crisis in approximately 90 years. In response, the Government issued Prime Minister's Directive No. 39/CT-TTg on 30 October 2026, prioritising preparedness and anticipatory action, including impact-based early warning, household water storage, continuity of essential services, protection of vulnerable households, and strengthened provincial and commune readiness.

CONTINENTAL SOUTH-EAST ASIA · COUNTRIES BY RISK PATHWAY



SOUTH ASIA

India (parts of)

CONVERGENCE

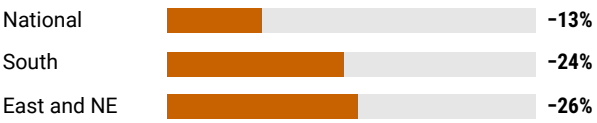
-13%
June–Sept monsoon rainfall vs average

388
mandals declared drought-affected

SOUTHERN RESERVOIR STORAGE, % OF CAPACITY



MONSOON RAINFALL VS AVERAGE, JUN–SEP 2026



El Niño-induced drought impacts are still emerging after India's weakest southwest monsoon since 2015. June–September 2026 rainfall was 13 percent below average, with deficits of 24 percent in southern India and 26 percent in eastern and northeastern India. Drought declarations cover parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Telangana, with 388 administrative areas (mandals) declared drought-affected. By 22 October, southern reservoirs held 42 percent of capacity, against a ten-year average of 78 percent, threatening irrigation and crop establishment. With below-average rainfall forecast through December, priorities are targeted irrigation, drought-tolerant seeds and agricultural advisories to protect winter crops, alongside preparedness for February–March 2027 heat stress.

Fertilizer availability remains broadly adequate, but high international fertilizer and liquefied natural gas prices had absorbed around 56 percent of the Government's annual fertilizer subsidy allocation by mid-August 2026. Supply and price pressures eased ahead of the Rabi season when India secured 1.7 million tonnes of urea at reduced prices in August. The main convergence risk is rainfall deficits combined with still-elevated input costs and continued pressure on phosphatic and complex fertilizer. State and national governments are leading anticipatory action in the context of El Niño-driven shocks and stresses. Recognition of monsoon rainfall deficits has led the governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Gujarat to declare drought across large parts of their territories, including about 85 percent of Maharashtra and 95 percent of Karnataka. State governments are responding with direct cash and input subsidies, relief funds, crop insurance and loan support, fodder and cattle-shelter assistance, water-supply repairs, and extended rural employment of up to 150 days.

Bangladesh

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS-DRIVEN

18.1M
people projected in IPC Phase 3 or above (Sep–Dec 2026)

~4M
children aged 6–59 months projected to be acutely malnourished in 2026

–68%
national rainfall vs long-term average, October 2026

OCTOBER 2026 RAINFALL VS LONG-TERM AVERAGE



FERTILIZER IMPORTS SOURCED FROM THE GULF



53% Gulf Other sources

Rainfall deficits are uneven across Bangladesh. The latest rainfall data for October 2026 indicate a national rainfall deficit of approximately 68 percent relative to the long-term average. Notably, Chattogram Division experienced an estimated 80 percent rainfall deficit, which is considerably more significant than the September situation. Forecasts indicate below-normal rainfall and slightly above-average temperatures during October–December 2026. Farmers in Kushtia and Thakurgaon report greater reliance on supplementary irrigation for aman rice, while early water recession in Sunamganj raises concerns about soil moisture ahead of the boro season. These pressures coincide with 18.1 million people projected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September and December 2026, largely driven by reduced purchasing power and existing livelihood pressures rather than drought alone. IPC-AMN projects that approximately 4 million children aged 6–59 months will experience acute malnutrition in 2026, with six districts classified as Critical (Phase 4) and 30 as Serious (Phase 3) during September–December. High underlying child climate vulnerability and exposure to fuel and fertilizer disruptions could compound overlapping climate hazards through early 2027.

The Middle East crisis adds agricultural input and energy risks. Bangladesh sources 53 percent of its fertilizer imports from the Gulf and relies heavily on imported phosphate fertilizers. Domestic fertilizer production is also vulnerable to disruptions in imported natural gas supplies. These pressures coincide with the critical Aman and Boro rice seasons: higher input costs or reduced fertilizer availability could affect yields and food prices into 2027.

Sri Lanka

CONVERGENCE

131,788
people affected by drought, 12 districts

800,000 ha
maha paddy targeted for 2026/27

1.4M
safety centre capacity, 25 districts

DROUGHT-AFFECTED, TOP DISTRICTS



INFLATION, SEP 2026 (Y-O-Y)



El Niño historically creates a two-phase agricultural and water-security risk, with wetter conditions during November–December 2026, potentially followed by drier conditions in early 2027. Above-average rainfall is forecast during October–November 2026, during the transition period from the second intermonsoon to the northeast monsoon, which can increase the risk of localized flooding and landslides – and may be more intense following the prior, drier southwest monsoon season. Authorities have recommended advancing maha paddy cultivation to maximize available water, with approximately 800,000 hectares targeted for the 2026/27 season. The immediate priority is to protect the ongoing maha planting season and manage flood risks while conserving water ahead of potentially drier conditions in early 2027. As of 25 October 2026, the Disaster Management Centre reported 39,825 families (131,788 people) affected by drought across 12 districts, particularly Matale (37,512), Batticaloa (33,861) and Badulla (22,214). The immediate priority is to protect Maha cultivation, manage flood risks and conserve water ahead of potentially drier conditions in 2027.

The convergence of climate and economic pressures could further strain agricultural livelihoods and household purchasing power. National headline inflation reached 8.1 percent year-on-year in September 2026, with food inflation at 6.9 percent, while elevated fuel and agricultural input costs continue to put pressure on production and household expenditure. WFP assessments show increasing challenges in households' economic access to food, with 20.1 percent unable to afford essential food needs. Vulnerability is expanding, particularly among urban and estate communities, Cyclone Ditwah-affected households, casual labourers, and increasingly, middle-income households.

Sri Lanka is also exposed to fertilizer imports and international wheat markets, while elevated fertilizer prices during 2026 increased pressure on agricultural production. The Government, supported by the Humanitarian Country Team, is strengthening national readiness for the forecast late-2026 floods and possible 2027 dry conditions, with a focus on water security, irrigation and cultivation planning, continuity of health and other essential services, and early warning linked to timely anticipatory action. The Government has also identified safety centres across 25 districts, with a combined capacity of approximately 1.4 million people. This complex climate outlook is also compounded by pre-season dry conditions, which have affected 39,825 families (131,788 people) across 12 districts and 32 Divisional Secretariats as of October 25th. Heavy rain and associated hazards have also affected nearly 6,000 families.

Afghanistan

CONVERGENCE IN 2027

19.2M

people in Crisis or worse, Nov 2026–Apr 2027

4.04M

children expected to be acutely malnourished in 2027 (+9%)

SHARE OF POPULATION IN IPC PHASE 3 OR ABOVE



Forecasts indicate above-average precipitation across much of Afghanistan during November–December 2026. The timing, intensity and form of precipitation will be critical. Heavy rainfall could increase flash-flood risks in vulnerable catchments, while above-average snowfall in the Hindu Kush and northern highlands could increase snow accumulation and the potential for flooding during the spring 2027 melt season. Recent monitoring points to significant deterioration in rangeland conditions and increasing livestock feed shortages. While improved precipitation could support pasture regeneration later in the season, the immediate winter period remains challenging for livestock households, particularly where feed reserves are already depleted.

These climate risks come amid severe food insecurity, with the latest IPC assessment projecting 19.2 million people (38 percent of the population) in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between November 2026 and April 2027. The immediate concern is high underlying food insecurity combined with rising wheat and transport costs, declining humanitarian assistance, weak purchasing power, returnee pressures and market disruption, rather than an adverse climate impact alone. Acute malnutrition is expected to increase from 3.7 million children in 2026 to 4.04 million in 2027 (+9%), including a 16% increase in SAM cases (IPC August 2026- July 2027). El Niño may improve rainfall and agricultural production, but nutrition impacts remain uncertain amid persistent food insecurity, poor dietary diversity, disease, inadequate WASH and reduced humanitarian assistance. Reported data indicate that wheat grain and flour prices increased in March and April 2026 and remained significantly above year-earlier levels, reflecting anticipated rainfed production shortfalls, elevated transport costs and reduced informal trade. The ongoing Pakistan-Afghanistan border crisis and the closure of the border is also impacting commodity prices and reducing market availability for key items. In later waves, El Niño-related flooding could damage water and sanitation infrastructure and contaminate wells, springs and networks with faecal matter. Reduced safe water and sanitation access, especially in flood-prone rural communities, informal settlements and displacement areas, would raise Acute Watery Diarrhoea and waterborne disease risks and disrupt WASH in schools and health facilities.

Pakistan

CONVERGENCE

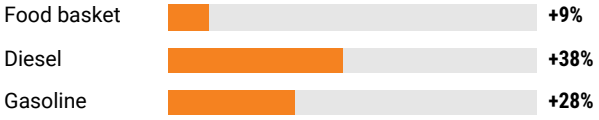
+50–70%

wheat flour prices year on year (May)

+8.7%

standard food basket vs pre-crisis

FUEL AND FOOD PRICES VS PRE-CRISIS



The October–December outlook focuses on how winter precipitation could affect vulnerable catchments, agricultural infrastructure and winter wheat. Above-normal rainfall in early 2027 could favour desert locust breeding, particularly in Balochistan during the February–June spring breeding season. The standard food basket is around 8.7 percent above pre-crisis levels, while diesel and gasoline have increased by approximately 37.8 percent and 27.6 percent. Wheat flour prices in May were 50–70 percent higher year-on-year, partly reflecting transport costs constraining movement from surplus-producing areas. The Middle East crisis adds to production and household costs, with domestic wheat flour prices approximately 27 percent higher year-on-year. The latest IPC acute malnutrition analysis projected that 2.71 million children aged 6–59 months across 45 rural districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh remain acutely malnourished through September 2026, including about 706,000 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at risk of death. Twenty-eight districts are classified as Critical (IPC Phase 4), requiring urgent, scaled-up nutrition response.

Women cotton pickers, agricultural labourers and smallholders have lost Kharif and cash-crop labour days and income. Livestock-dependent women have lost rangeland fodder and livestock income. Longer trips for water, livestock feed preparation and firewood collection increase unpaid care work and limit time for paid employment. Higher fuel and fertilizer costs reduce cultivated area and purchasing power, particularly for poorer and women-headed households. Priorities are social protection and cash support for women labourers and farmers, input and alternative livelihood support, and gender-responsive anticipatory action if triggers are met.

Nepal

POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE IN 2027

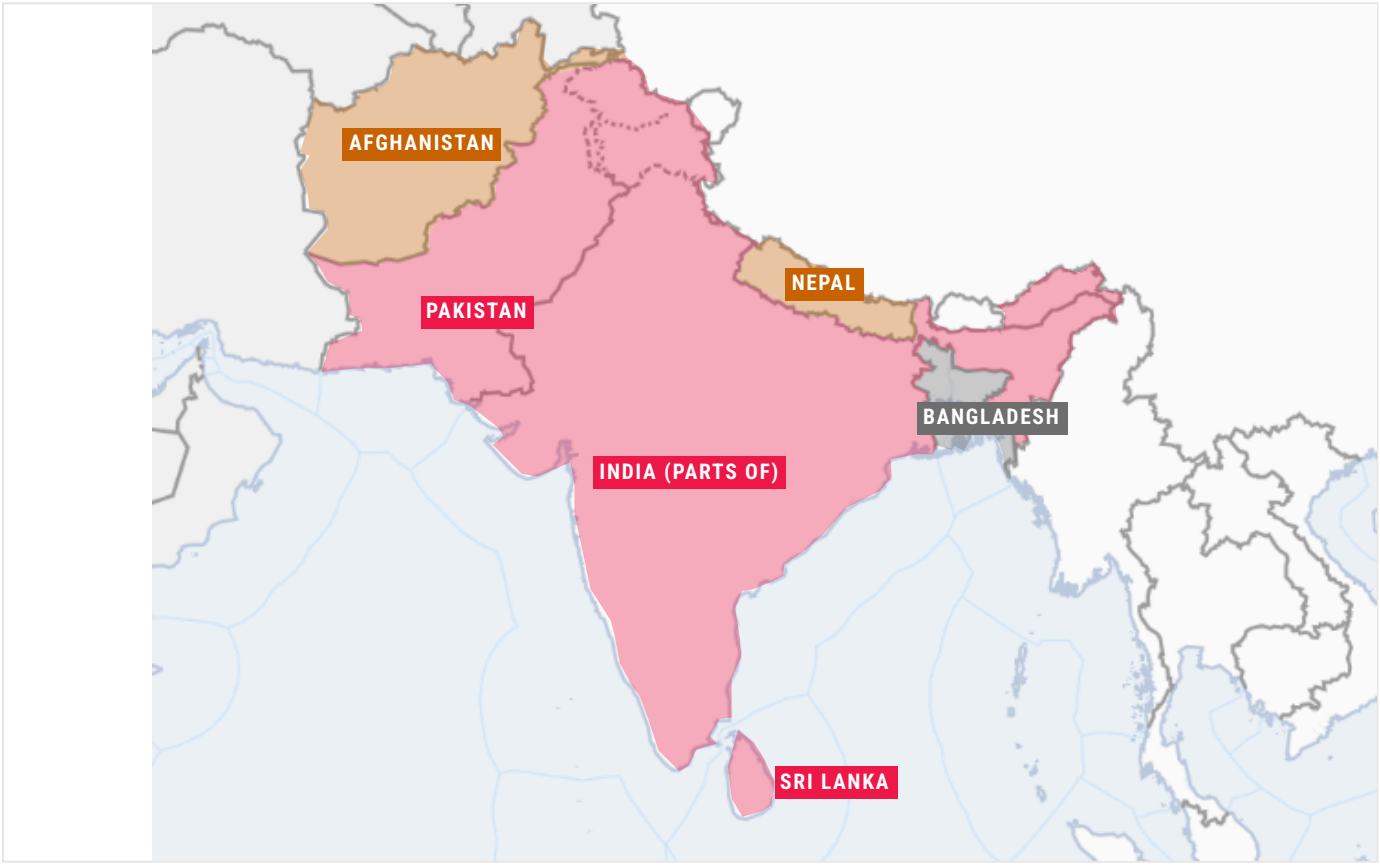
6.8%
food inflation year on year, August 2026

1.6M
tonnes of cereal imports forecast for 2026/27 (FAO)

+25%
cereal imports above average

While Nepal is not presently identified as facing immediate major El Niño impacts, the outlook remains uncertain and later phases could produce mixed conditions, with both drier and wetter anomalies possible across different seasons and locations. This uncertainty comes as the country is recovering from the Rasuwa Flood and remains exposed to overlapping food, fuel and fertilizer pressures. Higher import and transport costs could increase food prices and restrict access to agricultural inputs, while any disruption to rainfall, water availability or crop production would place additional pressure on smallholder livelihoods, remote markets and already vulnerable households. Nepal is also increasingly exposed to the interconnected food, fuel and fertilizer shock: food inflation reached 6.8 per cent year-on-year in August 2026, while rising fuel costs risk feeding through into food and transport prices. This exposure is compounded by Nepal's dependence on cereal imports, with FAO forecasting 1.6 million tonnes of cereal imports in 2026/27, around 25 per cent above average.

SOUTH ASIA · COUNTRIES BY RISK PATHWAY



PACIFIC

Papua New Guinea

CONVERGENCE

5.5M+
people exposed or at risk

850,000
children projected to be affected

1.99M
people in the humanitarian caseload

PROVINCES THAT COULD BE AFFECTED

20 of 22

FUEL AND FOOD PRICES VS PRE-CRISIS

Diesel	+67%
Petrol	+36%

PORT MORESBY PUMP PRICES FROM 8 NOVEMBER 2026

Petrol	PGK 6.19 · +5%
Diesel	PGK 6.69 · +13%
Kerosene	PGK 6.57 · +11%

On 7 October 2026, Papua New Guinea declared a national humanitarian emergency in anticipation of worsening drought conditions worsening, warning that 20 of the country's 22 provinces could be affected and more than 5.5 million people exposed or at risk. In Southern Highlands, approximately 300,000 people lack reliable access to safe drinking water and an estimated 400,000 face moderate to severe food insecurity, with sweet potato yields reportedly down by 60–75 percent. In North Bougainville, eight in ten surveyed communities have reached critical drought thresholds, while around 70 percent of assessed areas are already showing signs of agricultural stress.

The impacts are increasingly affecting essential services and amplifying protection risks. A joint UNICEF-WHO rapid assessment of health facilities in-country reaffirmed the urgency of safe water provisions among 71% of the 189 assessed health facilities. Health facilities facing water shortages are asking pregnant women to bring water for delivery, while early facility closures will increase home births without skilled care, endangering the lives of mothers and babies. Responders expect gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence, to rise as household stress grows. Specifically, sorcery accusation-related violence has increased following frost-related crop losses and deaths in the Highlands, with women and girls the main victims. Evidence suggests emerging cases of women and girls exchanging sex for food or water. Water shortages and school closures increase risks of child labour, early marriage, and dropout. Evidence shows bride price is increasingly used as a coping strategy, with adolescent girls aged 13–17 at particular risk, especially in the Highlands and Gulf. When gardens fail, girls are often the first to be withdrawn from school to work or provide support for their family. Overall, an estimated 850,000 children are projected to be affected by the drought, within a broader humanitarian caseload of approximately 1.99 million people.

These pressures are compounded by higher living and energy costs in urban and peri-urban areas. The Middle East crisis triggered a sharp fuel-price shock in April 2026, with unsubsidized pump prices rising by approximately 36 percent for petrol and 67 percent for diesel. Fuel prices in Papua New Guinea increased on 8 November 2026 following the Government's complete phase-out of direct fuel subsidies, although the GST exemption will remain in place until 31 December 2026. In Port Moresby, petrol prices rose to PGK 6.19 per liter (+5 percent), diesel to PGK 6.69 (+13 percent) and kerosene to PGK 6.57 (+11 percent). The increases reflect both the removal of subsidies and rising international oil prices linked to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, adding further pressure on transport, agricultural production, and household costs.



Convergence Climate-driven

1 WAVE 1
Nov–Dec 2026
El Niño approaching peak

Immediate concern – Drier conditions

2 WAVE 2
Jan–Feb 2027
Persistent risks and geographical expansion

Immediate concern – Drier conditions
Southern Papua New Guinea

Elevated concern – Mixed conditions (monitoring)
Northern Papua New Guinea

3 WAVE 3
Mar 2027 onward
Potential El Niño decay and delayed impacts

Elevated concern – Mixed conditions requiring monitoring

Elevated concern – Wetter-than-normal precipitation
Parts of the country

3FS	RISK PATHWAY	CONVERGENCE OF CONCERN
		Climate and 3FS
ELEVATED	CONVERGENCE	HIGH CONCERN

Solomon Islands

CONVERGENCE

7
provinces reporting impacts

73,000
children potentially affected

87
schools affected by drought

MONITORING STATIONS BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL

8 of 8

On 20 October 2026, a nationwide meteorological drought warning was issued following below-normal rainfall between July and September, with rainfall at all eight monitoring stations falling within the 10th–30th percentile of historical observations. Impacts have already been reported across seven provinces: Western, Temotu, Central, Makira-Ulawa, Choiseul, Rennell and Bellona, and Malaita. Water shortages are disrupting schools, health facilities and essential services, particularly in isolated island communities dependent on rainwater harvesting and shallow wells. An estimated 73,000 children are potentially affected, particularly in Malaita, Western Province, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, and Rennell & Bellona, due to prolonged water shortages, school disruption, food insecurity and disease risks. An emergency water-security mission to Rennell and Bellona commenced on 18 October, while significant shortages are also being reported in Western and Choiseul provinces. Importantly, agricultural impacts are emerging, with reports of wilting food gardens, declining production of staple crops including cassava, taro and sweet potato, and reduced household food availability and incomes in several provinces.

Forecasts indicate that dry conditions will likely continue through the remainder of 2026, and monitoring of wet-season rains will be key. Severe water shortages on Bellona Island have disrupted essential services and resulted in temporary school closures, affecting communities heavily reliant on rainwater harvesting. The Government in Solomon Islands reported that 87 schools have been affected by drought due to the lack of sustainable water sources in schools. Preparedness includes deployment of mobile desalination units and other emergency water solutions to drought-affected outer islands to ensure continued access to safe drinking water for children, schools, health facilities, and vulnerable households.

The principal convergence pathway is through imported fuel and food. Country-specific 3FS price data are limited, so the concern is primarily structural exposure rather than a documented large domestic price shock.

Fiji

CLIMATE-DRIVEN

633,929
people at high risk of being affected by dry conditions

202,857
children could be directly affected

21 of 40
assessed health facilities with water scarcity

NORTHERN DIVISION WATER SOURCES AT CRITICAL LEVELS

6 of 14

FUEL AND FOOD PRICES VS PRE-CRISIS

Diesel up to +56%

Prolonged dry conditions are placing increasing pressure on water supplies, agriculture and livelihoods across Fiji, with forecasts indicating a very high likelihood of continued dry conditions through October–December 2026. Water shortages are already affecting rural and maritime communities, particularly in the Lomaiviti Group, where drying water sources are limiting access to safe water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. In the Northern Division, six of 14 monitored water sources have reached critical levels, while depleted rainwater supplies and rising diarrhoea cases on Batiki Island have prompted an emergency health response. In response, the Government has activated dry-weather contingency arrangements across all three water authorities, including supplementary pumping, enhanced monitoring and emergency water deliveries to affected communities.

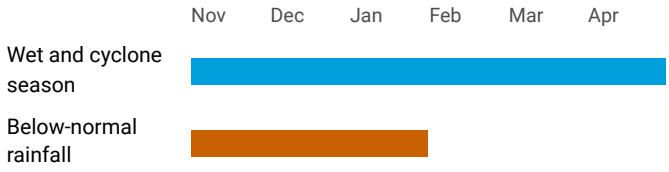
According to the National Disaster Risk Management Office, approximately 633,929 people across the Western, Eastern and Northern Divisions are at high risk of being affected by dry conditions. Water scarcity has already been reported in 21 of 40 assessed health facilities, raising concerns over the continuity of essential services, health facility infection prevention and control measures, and the risk of waterborne and skin diseases. An estimated 202,857 children could be directly affected. Agricultural losses are also a growing concern, with sugarcane growers reporting that drying wells and rivers are threatening land preparation, replanting and the 2027 harvest. Sugarcane farmers warn that prolonged drought could disrupt agricultural production for up to two years.

These climate-related pressures are increasingly converging with the economic impacts of the Middle East crisis. Fiji's dependence on imported fuel has heightened its exposure to global energy price shocks, with diesel prices rising by as much as 56 percent during April–May 2026, while food inflation reached 7.6 percent. Higher fuel and food costs risk further increasing the cost of agricultural production, transport and essential goods, reducing household purchasing power and compounding the impacts of drought on food security and rural livelihoods.

Vanuatu

CONVERGENCE

BELOW-NORMAL RAINFALL MEETS THE WET AND CYCLONE SEASON



Forecasts indicate a very high likelihood of below-normal rainfall nationwide during November 2026–January 2027, coinciding with the onset of the normally wetter and cyclone season, when rainfall is critical for replenishing water supplies and supporting agricultural production. Meteorological drought declared for Torba and parts of Sanma, Penama and Malampa Provinces. In rural Efate, including Etas and Teouma, declining rainwater storage is forcing households to seek alternative water sources, while farmers report increasing difficulties maintaining vegetable crops and livestock. In September 2026, communities also reported dying island cabbage, poor-quality banana production and deteriorating water quality, with some children missing school to help collect water. Emergency water trucking, water treatment supplies, and longer-term resilience measures are being implemented by national authorities. Concurrent health concerns include reported Influenza A on Tanna Island, dengue in Efate and Santo, pertussis in Abmae and Penama, watery diarrhoea in Sanma and Tafea Provinces, and – for additional context – volcanic activity in Penama and Malampa. Fuel, freight and imported food are important transmission channels from the Middle East crisis for Pacific Island economies. Higher transport and fuel costs can increase the cost of distributing food and water across dispersed islands and raise agricultural and fishing costs. If rainfall deficits increasingly affect local staple production and water availability, households may become more reliant on imported food at the same time that import costs remain elevated.

Dry conditions: Samoa, Tonga and Niue

CONVERGENCE

60–70%
probability of below-normal rainfall in Samoa

4
Tongan island groups under drought declaration

HOUSEHOLDS RELYING ON RAINWATER TANKS FOR DRINKING WATER, TONGA



Samoa, Tonga and Niue are experiencing or facing increasing dry conditions, with the most significant immediate risks around water availability, agriculture and fire. In Samoa, below-average rainfall has been recorded at several locations, with a 60–70 percent probability of below-normal rainfall and a 40–60 percent probability of above-normal temperatures during August 2026–January 2027.

Conditions are more advanced in Tonga, where Tongatapu, Ha'apai, 'Eua and Niuatoputapu are under drought declarations, while Niuafo'ou is under a drought warning and Vava'u a drought alert. Water quality and security are particularly important because household rainwater tanks provide the main source of drinking water for 99 percent of households in the Niuas and 96 percent in Ha'apai and 'Eua. Monitoring tank and groundwater depletion and agricultural conditions across the outer islands is therefore a priority as drought conditions develop.

Niue is also experiencing significant rainfall deficits, compounded by strong winds and elevated fire danger. A nationwide Yellow Alert for imminent drought threat was declared on 6 October 2026, while wildfires have already damaged water infrastructure and agricultural plantations. Continued rainfall deficits could further increase pressure on water security, agriculture and fire conditions.

Tuvalu

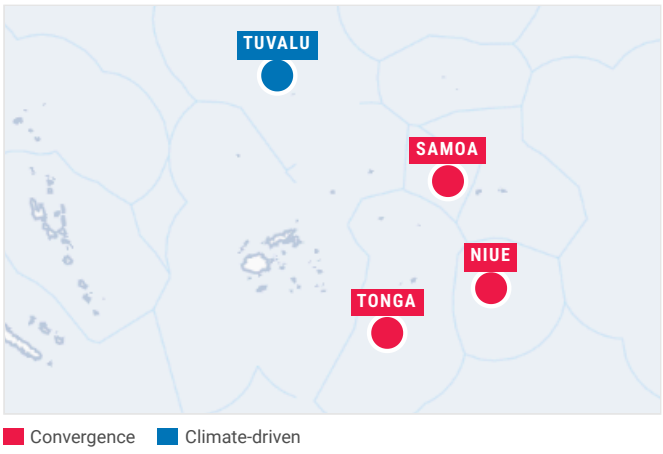
CLIMATE-DRIVEN

RAINFALL OUTLOOK, NOV 2026–APR 2027

Northern and central islands
Normal to above normal · drainage preparedness

Southern islands
Below normal or prolonged dry spells · freshwater conservation

Forecasts indicate wetter conditions across northern Tuvalu, with rainfall risks varying between island groups. The national outlook for November 2026–April 2027 suggests normal to above-normal rainfall across much of the country, particularly northern and central islands, while southern islands may experience below-normal rainfall or prolonged dry spells. This creates two potential operational priorities: heavy-rainfall and drainage preparedness in northern and central islands, and freshwater conservation in southern islands.



Dry conditions: Federated States of Micronesia and Palau

CLIMATE-DRIVEN

17,171
people in critically vulnerable areas of Yap and Chuuk

4 of 4
states with moderate-to-critical drought vulnerability

The Federated States of Micronesia and Palau face an increasing risk of dry conditions through early 2027. In the Federated States of Micronesia, persistent rainfall deficits are forecast, although conditions are expected to vary across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. FSM faces overlapping risks from El Niño-related water shortages, existing disaster recovery needs, and higher food, fuel, and transport costs. FSM's National Drought Preparedness and Response Plan 2026 identifies moderate-to-critical drought vulnerability across all four states. Yap's main and outer islands and Chuuk's outer islands are classified as critically vulnerable, with a combined population of approximately 17,171 people in these areas. Limited water storage, dependence on rainwater and subsistence livelihoods, and geographic isolation increase exposure to prolonged dry conditions. Higher islands also face reduced stream flows and spring discharge, pressure on water systems, and increased wildfire risks. The Government's plan prioritizes water security and community-led drought management, linking rainfall monitoring and early warnings to preparedness and response. Key actions include improving water storage and alternative supplies, strengthening community contingency plans, promoting conservation, and coordinating through the Department of Environment Climate Change and Emergency Management, states and local leaders.

Palau is also expected to experience particularly severe rainfall deficits, which are forecast for Hatohobei and Helen Reef in November. Abnormally dry conditions were already observed in September, although most major water sources remained near optimal levels at the time of the latest update. Protecting water reserves and closely monitoring rainfall and water availability will become increasingly important if the forecast deficits intensify.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands

CONVERGENCE

13,855
people in 16 high-risk local government areas

4,439
people in five moderate-risk areas

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) declared a state of emergency on 8 October due to El Niño conditions and a dengue outbreak. RMI faces a convergence of drought risk in Wave 2, imported food and fuel cost pressures, and existing public health needs. The Drought Response Plan FY27 anticipates below-normal rainfall from late 2026 through April or May 2027. Its risk profile identifies 16 high-risk local government areas containing 13,855 people and five moderate-risk areas containing 4,439 people, based on the plan's 2021 Census figures. Dependence on rainwater collection and limited freshwater reserves could leave communities exposed to prolonged shortages and crop losses. Government priorities include reverse-osmosis desalination units, water storage, equipment maintenance, community preparedness, and transport to outer islands. Higher fuel costs could increase the expense of desalination, inter-atoll transport, and emergency distributions, while reduced local harvests could increase reliance on purchased food. These pressures coincide with an ongoing dengue outbreak, further stretching services and government resources. Children and vulnerable households may face worsening access to nutritious food, safe drinking water, hygiene, and uninterrupted education.

Wet conditions: Kiribati and Naoero

CLIMATE-DRIVEN

1,000–1,200 mm
rainfall forecast across much of Kiribati, Oct–Dec 2026

Kiribati and Naoero are expected to experience above-normal rainfall through the end of 2026 and potentially into early 2027. Kiribati has experienced very wet to seriously wet conditions over the preceding three months. Approximately 1,000–1,200 mm of rainfall is forecast across much of the country during October–December 2026, with unusually wet conditions expected to continue across most island groups into November 2026–January 2027.

Naoero is similarly expected to receive above-normal to well-above-normal rainfall during October–December 2026, potentially continuing into early 2027. These conditions coincide with the country's wet season and the wetter conditions typically associated with El Niño. Increased rainfall may improve freshwater availability, but it also raises the risk of waterlogging, drainage problems and deterioration in freshwater quality and exacerbation of ongoing influenza and dengue outbreaks.



Climate-driven

SECTION D

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

GENDER AND AGE IMPACTS OF EL NIÑO

91M+

UNICEF estimates that over 91 million girls in the region are exposed to drier or wetter-than-normal conditions associated with El Niño, the largest number of girls in any region globally.

There are overarching consequences of El Niño on women and girls that will have immediate impacts and long-term consequences:

CARE BURDENS AND UNPAID WORK

El Niño significantly increases care burdens and unpaid work. Across Asia and the Pacific, women and girls are already primarily responsible for securing water for their households and livestock. During drought and extreme heat, women and girls will walk longer distances or queue for hours to access water, and there are already reports of this in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and other Pacific Island countries. Women are forced to make difficult trade-offs between paid employment, income-generating activities, and household responsibilities. For girls, these pressures directly affect school attendance and increase the likelihood of dropping out; evidence shows that girls in the region are twice as likely not to return to school following climate-related shocks. Shortages of clean water in health facilities and heat stress are threatening the lives of pregnant women, newborns, and patients requiring essential care, as seen in parts of Papua New Guinea.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

El Niño-related shocks are increasing the risk of gender-based violence while weakening access to essential services. Water scarcity, crop failures, and rising food prices have already intensified, and will continue to intensify, economic insecurity and household stress. These pressures are already increasing intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, child marriage, and forced marriage. Sorcery accusation-related violence against women and girls has increased in some countries following crop losses and livestock deaths due to the climate shocks.

INTERSECTING IDENTITIES

It is essential to understand and recognize the intersecting identities of affected people, because they compound the impacts, making the same hazards hit marginalized groups significantly harder. Evidence in Nepal shows how well-off families were able to recover from disasters in 6–12 months; however, marginalized communities, including low-income female-headed households, took over 4 years to recover. Efforts must place women and adolescent girls at the centre of decision-making and action, creating meaningful opportunities for their participation, leadership, and influence.

El Niño preparedness and response should actively engage local and women-led organizations, making sure they are included in planning and response and receive direct financing to support their communities. Protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response should be prioritized and funded throughout El Niño response plans and anticipatory action.

Sources: UN Women (2023), Gendered impacts of climate change: evidence from Asia; UNICEF, Learning interrupted; UN Women (2026), Gender-responsive action for women's food security and nutrition; UN Women (2024), A review in the context of El Niño.

SECTION E

PREPAREDNESS, ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND RESPONSE

Across Asia and the Pacific, governments, UN agencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, NGOs and local partners are scaling up preparedness, anticipatory action and response as the 2026/27 El Niño event intensifies. Collective effort to prepare, anticipate and respond to the compounding shocks exacerbated by El Nino are ongoing across the region, with anticipatory and early drought responses in particularly ongoing the most affected countries.

Key actions that are being rolled out across countries include:

EARLY WARNING AND MONITORING

Strengthening drought, cyclone or flood monitoring, investing in community-based early warning systems and risk communication, alongside the development and refinement of triggers to guide timely action.

WATER SECURITY

Pre-positioning water storage tanks, rehabilitating community water systems, improving rainwater harvesting and promoting water conservation for household consumption, agriculture and livestock.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Disease surveillance; rapid assessments and malnutrition screening; pre-positioning of essential medicines and therapeutic nutrition supplies; continuity of essential health and nutrition services.

CHILD PROTECTION

Strengthening child protection services through capacity development, referral and case management; psychosocial support; prevention of violence, exploitation and family separation; safeguarding and PSEA.

EDUCATION

School disaster-risk reduction; contingency planning and school WASH preparedness; pre-positioning of emergency supplies; climate-resilient learning environments; learning continuity and psychosocial support.

CASH

Preparing and delivering anticipatory cash transfers or cash for work activities to protect household purchasing power, maintain food consumption and reduce negative coping strategies before conditions deteriorate.

AGRICULTURE

Provision of drought-tolerant crop varieties, quality seeds and essential agricultural inputs; supplementary livestock feed, fodder conservation and veterinary support, improved post-harvest handling, food storage and seed conservation; and promotion of climate-resilient agronomic practices, including soil moisture conservation, mulching, shading, water-efficient irrigation and adjusted cropping calendars to minimise drought-related production losses.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE READINESS

Updating contingency plans, strengthening local response capacities, identifying priority communities and pre-positioning essential supplies. Multi-hazard planning is also underway to account for potential cyclones, floods and extreme heat.

PRE-ARRANGED FINANCING

Mobilising contingency and anticipatory action funds, preparing coordinated humanitarian response packages and establishing insurance mechanisms that can release financing when predefined drought thresholds are reached.

While activities are expanding, geographical coverage remains uneven, and preparedness does not always translate into funded, operationally ready action. Greater coordination and investment are needed to close gaps, strengthen locally led implementation and ensure timely action before impacts intensify, particularly in areas exposed to compounding climate and economic shocks.