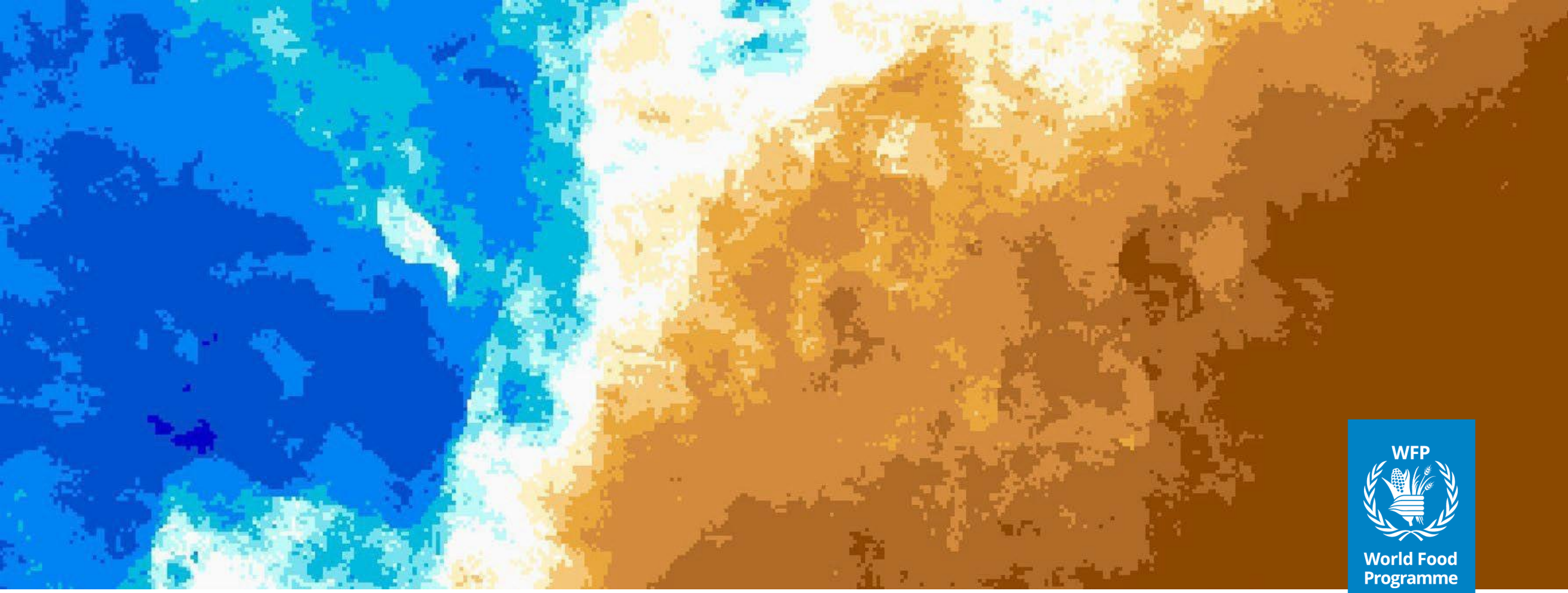


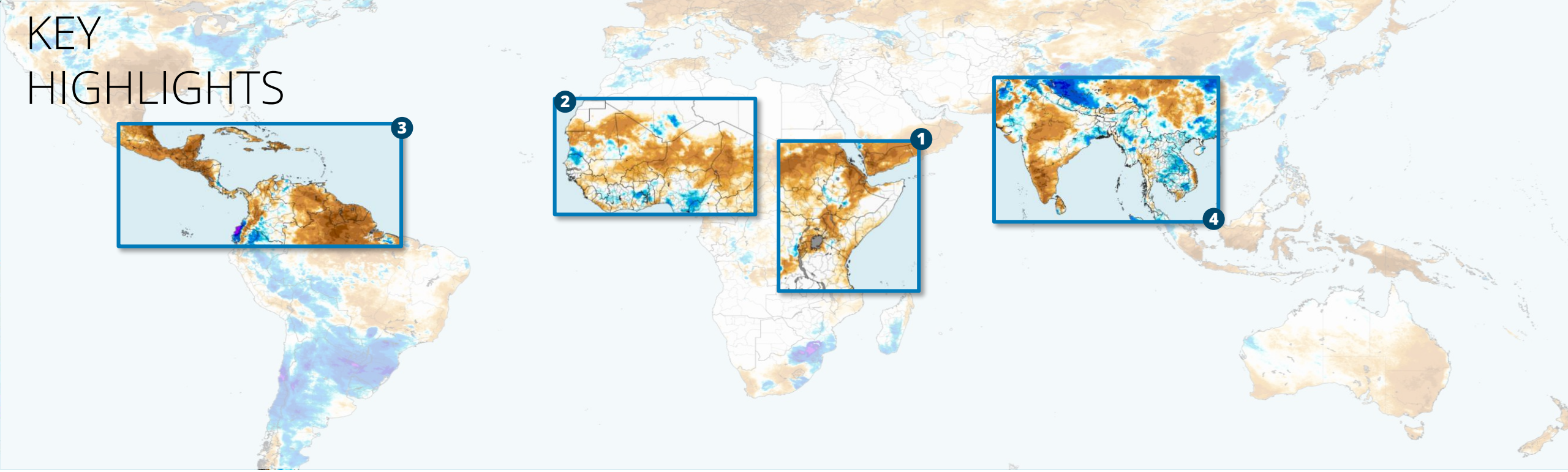
Global Seasonal Outlook

2026 August

WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Regions are ordered to reflect the seasonal progression — from areas currently in-season to those where the rainy season is expected to begin:

1 EAST AFRICA

Drought Flood

Eastern Africa faces growing crop stress due to poor rainfall and exceptionally high temperatures. Forecast dryness through November threatens yields in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya. Later in the year, El Niño, possibly strengthened by a positive Indian Ocean Dipole, is likely to increase heavy rainfall and flood risks across much of Somalia, eastern Kenya, and south-eastern Ethiopia.

2 WESTERN AFRICA

Dryness

West Africa's 2026 rainy season has seen uneven rainfall, with pockets of dryness across the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea. Continued moisture stress is forecast in parts of Chad, Niger, Mali, and Nigeria, making August rainfall critical for crop development. Areas with persistent rainfall deficits warrant close monitoring due to potential impacts on agricultural production.

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3 LATAM

Drought

Severe rainfall deficits across Central America, Hispaniola, and northern South America are constraining crop establishment and increasing water stress. With El Niño-driven dryness forecast to continue through November, production prospects for both Primera and Postrera seasons remain under threat, particularly across the Dry Corridor

4 SOUTH & SE ASIA

Dryness Flood

Parts of South and Southeast Asia face agricultural risks as rainfall deficits and above-average temperatures continue to drive moisture stress across key cropping areas. Forecasts indicate that dry conditions are likely to persist through November in some areas, potentially constraining crop development. Heavy rainfall events remain a concern in some areas, increasing the risk of localized flooding

El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook

El Niño has reached moderate strength with a 69% likelihood of an unprecedented El Niño event (> +2.5°C) in October-December.

SPECIAL FOCUS

El Niño Outlook – August 2026

El Niño Very Likely to Strengthen into a Historically Event

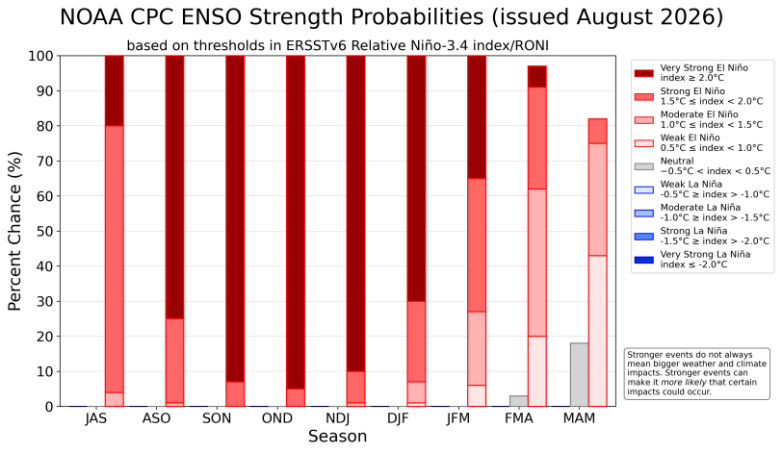


Fig. 1: NOAA ENSO strength probabilities issued in August 2026

El Niño has strengthened and is forecast to intensify further by year-end.

Confidence in a very strong El Niño event (> +2.0°C) is now extremely high, increasing from 81% to 95% for the OND season (Figure 1).

There is a 69% likelihood of an unprecedented El Niño event (> +2.5°C) during October-December 2026, potentially exceeding all observed events since 1950

A historic, very strong El Niño remains highly likely, with El Niño conditions expected to persist through winter before gradually weakening to moderate levels by early spring 2027.

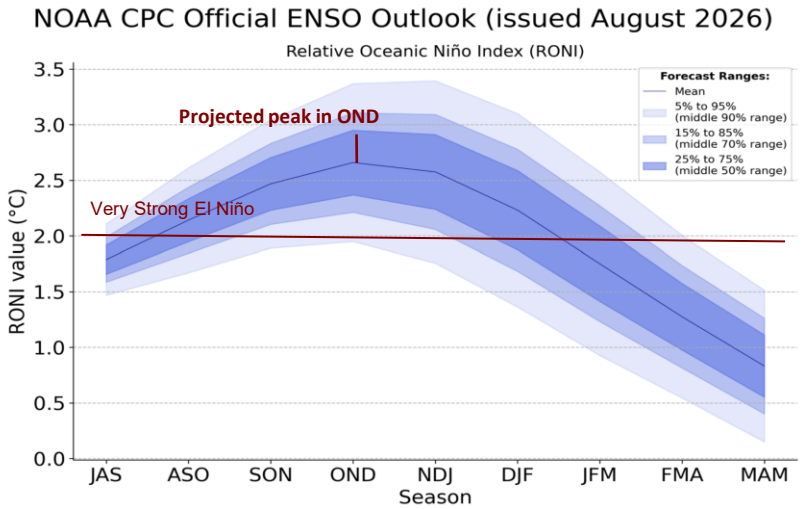


Fig. 2: Official NOAA 3-month sea surface temperature RONI ensemble forecast at the Niño 3.4 region issued August 2026.

The August forecast (Figure 2) points to a rapid intensification of El Niño conditions, with Niño 3.4 SST anomalies expected to reach strong levels by mid-year and continue strengthening thereafter. The event is projected to peak during the October-December (OND) season, with anomalies approaching +2.6°C, well above the threshold for a very strong El Niño and potentially reaching historic intensity. While gradual weakening is anticipated following the peak, positive sea surface temperature anomalies are expected to persist through winter and into spring. The ensemble mean forecast suggests a transition back to moderate to weak El Niño conditions thereafter.

What are the **climate impacts** of El Niño?

Tends to **redistribute rainfall**, causing flooding in some regions and drought in others.

Raise global temperatures, often contributing to the warmest years on record.

Increase the likelihood of climate extremes, such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires, and typically suppresses Atlantic tropical cyclone activity while enhancing activity in the Pacific.

Does **El Niño strength** influence the impact?

The **relationship between El Niño strength and impacts is not linear**, where even weak events have resulted in severe impact.

Stronger events **do not always translate into greater weather or climate impacts**, but they do make certain impacts **more likely to occur.** ENSO is only one of many factors that can influence seasonal weather and climate.

EAST AFRICA

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eastern Africa (Sudans and Ethiopia (Meher))				■	■	■	■	■	■	■		

El Niño-Induced Dry Conditions Persist, Raising Concerns Over Below-Average Agricultural Yields

Across parts of Sudan, Uganda, central-eastern and northern Ethiopia, and western Kenya, rainfall since June has been exceptionally low (Fig. 1), with some areas experiencing rainfall totals among the lowest recorded since 1981. Above-average temperatures (Fig. 2) have further exacerbated moisture deficits, while the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) (Fig. 3) already indicates below-average vegetation greenness across affected areas, reflecting both vegetation stress and the delayed onset of the rainy season.

Forecasts through mid-August suggest that these dry conditions are likely to persist, while seasonal outlooks indicate a high probability of below-average rainfall continuing through November (Fig. 4) across western Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and much of South Sudan. Consequently, opportunities for recovery during the remainder of the season are limited, and crop production prospects are expected to deteriorate significantly. While flooding remains a concern in South Sudan, its extent is expected to be lower than that observed in recent years.

Later in the year, the combined influence of El Niño and a potentially positive Indian Ocean Dipole is expected to increase the likelihood of above-average rainfall between October and January across the south-eastern part of the Horn of Africa. While favourable for soil moisture replenishment and crop growth, these conditions are expected to heighten the likelihood of heavy rainfall events, as well as flash and riverine floods, across most of Somalia, eastern Kenya, and south-eastern Ethiopia.

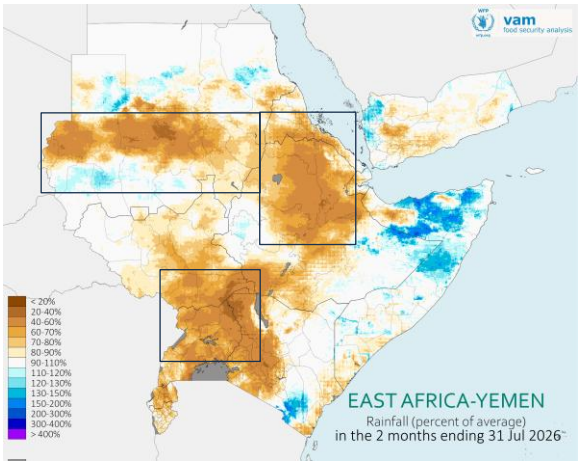


Fig 1. Observed rainfall for the 2-month **ending 31 Jul 26** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

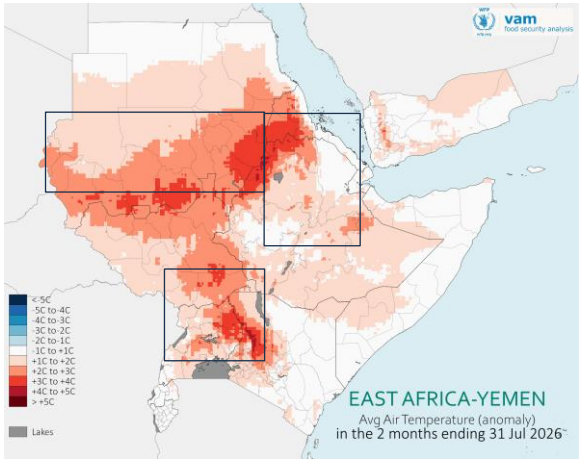


Fig 2. Observed Air temperature for the 2-month **ending 31 July 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue (red) shades correspond to above (below) average temperature.

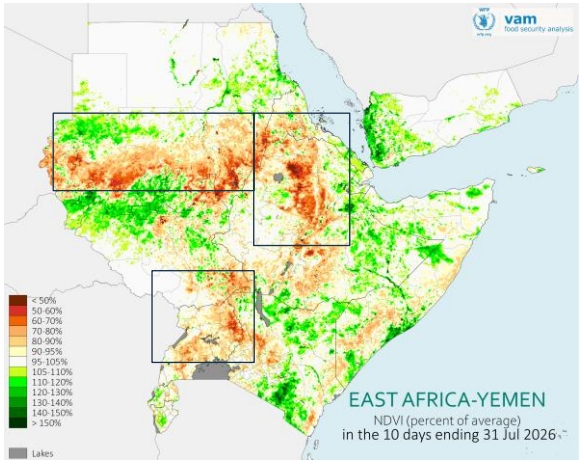


Fig 3. Observed Normalized Difference Vegetation Index for the 10 days **ending 31 July 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Green (red) shades correspond to above (below) vegetation greenness.

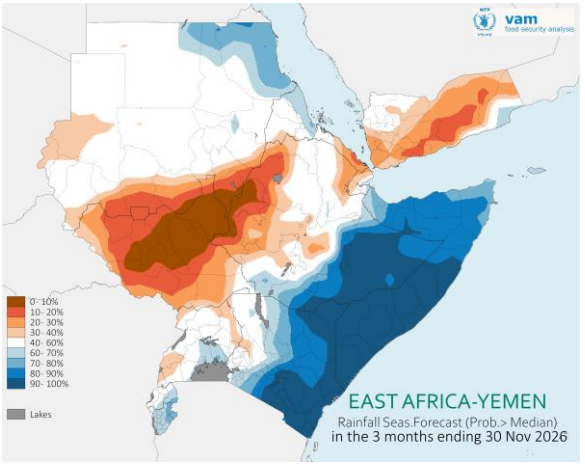
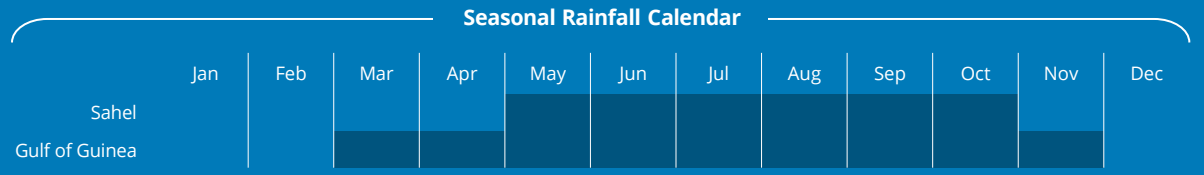


Fig 4. Rainfall forecast for the 3-month period **Sep-Nov 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

WESTERN AFRICA



Mixed Seasonal Rainfall Conditions Across West Africa, with Pockets of Dryness Across the Sahel

The 2026 rainy season is currently underway across West Africa. Rainfall distribution through the end of July has been mixed across the Sahel, with localized pockets of dryness in Mali, Niger, northern Nigeria, and Chad that have delayed planting activities and slowed crop development (Fig. 1). Short-range forecasts through 20 August indicate a likelihood of below-average rainfall across large parts of the Sahel. This raises concerns about potential moisture stress in areas that have already experienced rainfall deficits.

Nevertheless, across the Sahelian belt, adequate rainfall during August will be essential to sustain crop development. Areas experiencing rainfall deficits should remain under close monitoring due to the risk of impacts on agricultural production.

Looking further ahead, the September to November seasonal outlook indicates an increased likelihood of above-average rainfall across much of the coastal areas of West Africa. In contrast, below-average rainfall is forecast for parts of Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and southern Cameroon, raising concerns over the persistence of rainfall deficits and potential constraints on crop development in these areas (Fig. 2).

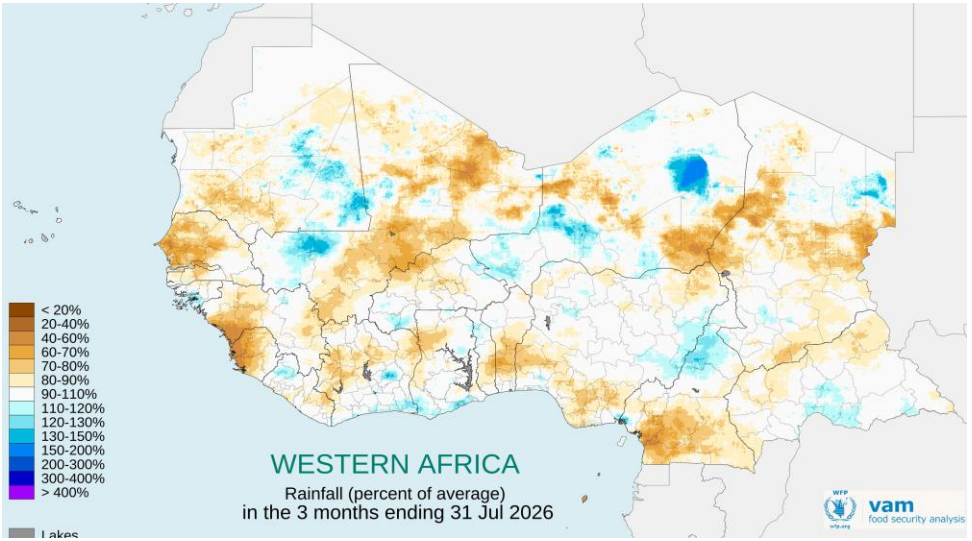


Fig 1. Observed Rainfall for the 3-month **ending 31 July 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

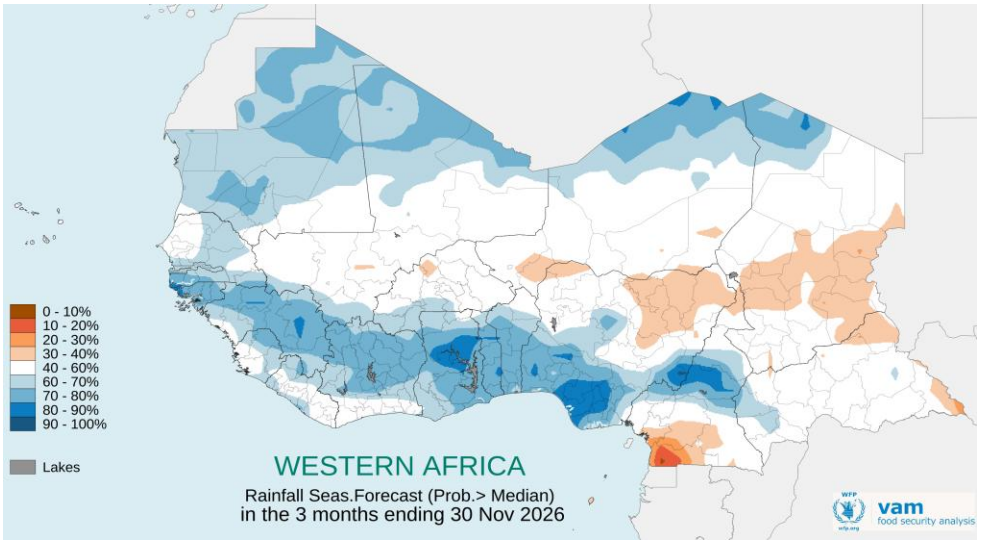
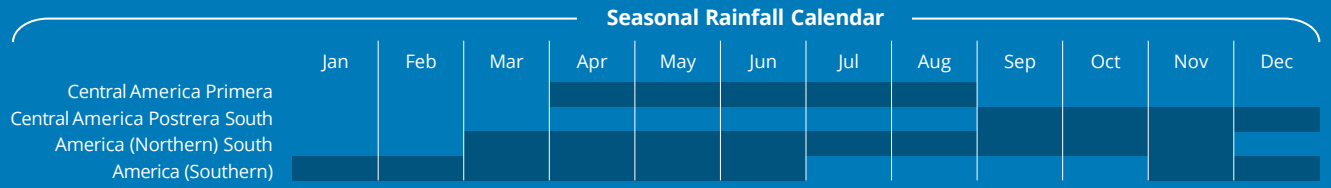


Fig 2. Rainfall forecast for the 3-month period **Sep-Nov 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Persistent Dryness Raise Concerns for Primera and Postrera Crop Production

The 2026 rainfall season has been marked by widespread below-average precipitation across Central America, Hispaniola, and northern South America. Persistent dryness has delayed planting, hindered crop establishment, and increased moisture deficits across the region (Fig. 1). In contrast, only localized areas, including Costa Rica and Caribbean-facing portions of Honduras and Nicaragua, have received above-average rainfall. Across much of Central America, Primera season rainfall has been well below average, resulting in wide-spread poor vegetation conditions. Sustained water stress is raising concerns for crop development and agricultural production, particularly over the Dry Corridor areas. Early field assessments point to a potentially poor harvest, with yield outcomes expected to rank among the weakest of the past decade.

Forecasts through 20 August continue to favor below-average rainfall (Fig. 2), indicating a longer and more intense than normal mid-season dry spell (Canícula) and limiting the potential for recovery from current moisture deficits. Looking ahead, the September to November (Fig. 3) outlook also favors below-average rainfall consistent with El Niño conditions, suggesting dryness may persist through the remainder of the growing season and adversely affect both Primera crops and the subsequent Postrera season. El Niño is also expected to suppress Atlantic tropical cyclone activity, resulting in fewer storms and major hurricanes.

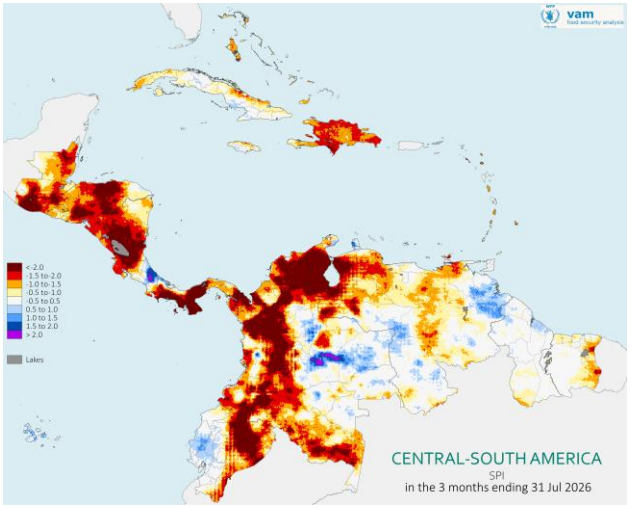


Fig 1. Rainfall anomalies for 3 months ending **30 Jul 2026** using the Standardized Precipitation Index. Blue and purple (yellow and red) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

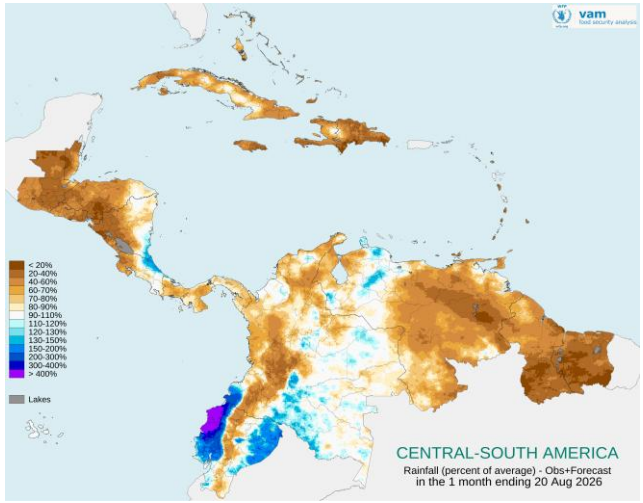


Fig 2. Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **ending 20 Aug 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

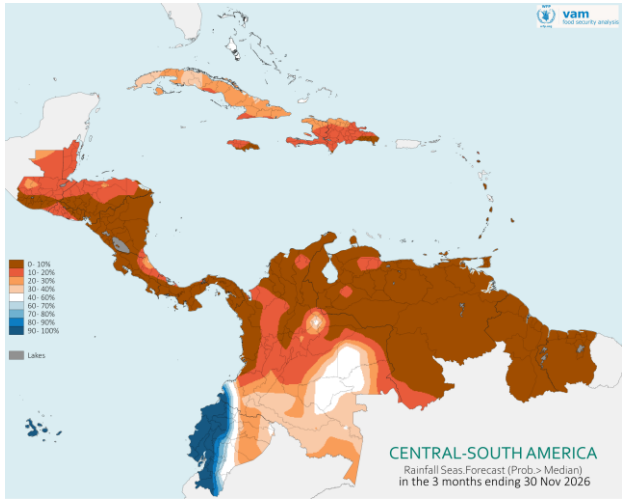


Fig 3. Rainfall forecast for **Sep-Nov 2026** as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual condition.

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Seasonal Rainfall Calendar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
South Asia					■	■	■	■	■	■		
Southeast Asia					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

Persisting Moisture Deficits Amid Mixed Monsoon Conditions

Recent above-average rainfall in northern Pakistan, central and western India, Cambodia, and parts of the Philippines has helped alleviate earlier rainfall deficits. However, below-average seasonal rainfall continues across southern Pakistan, much of India, northern Sri Lanka, Nepal, and localized areas of Southeast Asia. Above-average temperatures have further intensified moisture stress, particularly in Cambodia and Thailand, while the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) (Fig. 1) indicates below-average vegetation greenness across parts of India and Pakistan. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall events have triggered localized flooding.

Forecasts through 20 August indicate the persistence of dry conditions across much of South Asia, while rainfall patterns in Southeast Asia are expected to remain mixed (Fig. 2). Seasonal outlooks for September to November suggest an increased likelihood of below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures across most of South Asia and eastern S-E Asia, with the exception of Sri Lanka and western Pakistan (Fig. 3). These conditions could further constrain crop development and agricultural production prospects in affected areas. Tropical cyclone activity is forecast to remain below average during the 2026 season, although high-impact storms and associated risks remain possible.

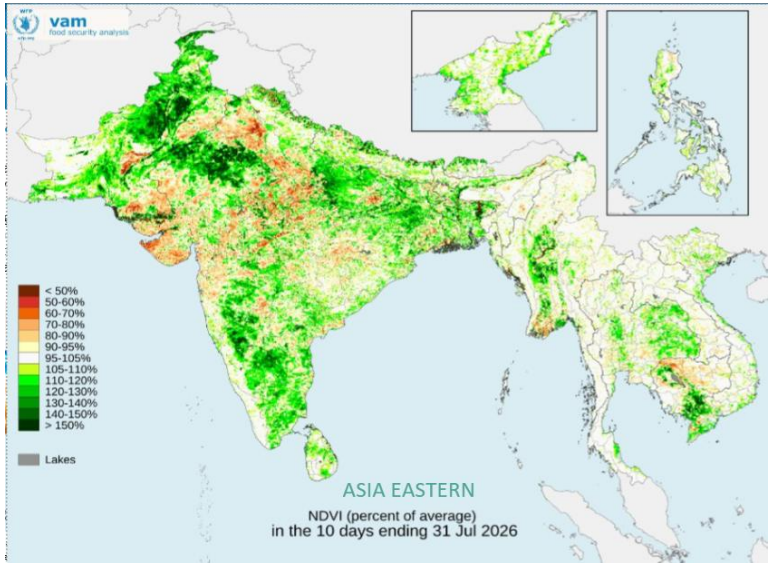


Fig 1. Observed Normalized Difference Vegetation Index for the 10 days **ending 31 July 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Green (red) shades correspond to above(below) vegetation greenness

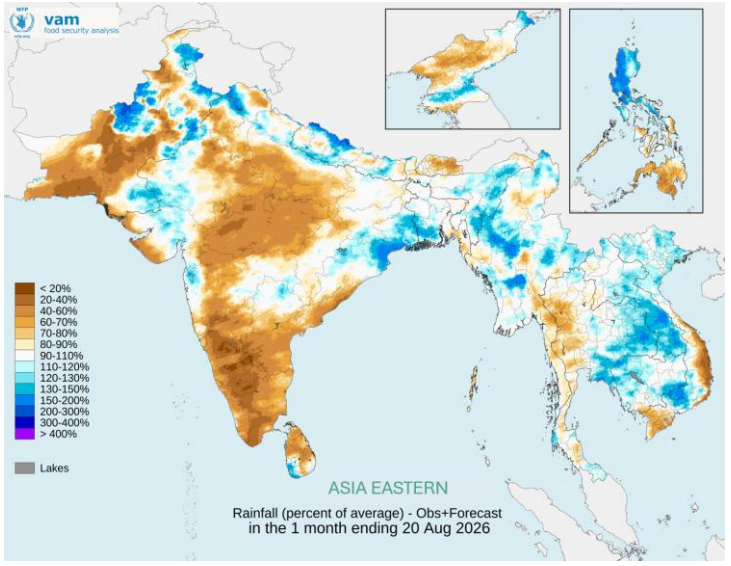


Fig 2. Observed and Rainfall forecast for the 1-month **ending 20 Aug 2026** as a proportion of the long-term average. Blue and purple (orange and brown) shades correspond to above (below) average rainfall.

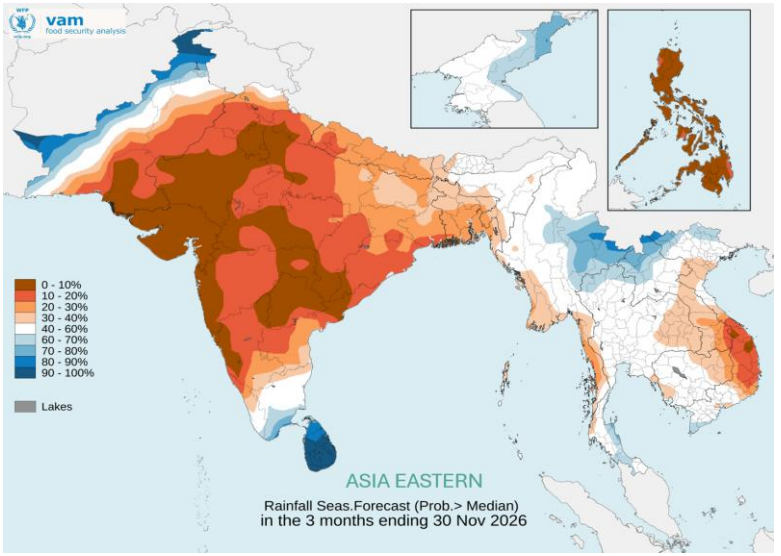


Fig 3. Rainfall forecast for the 3-month period **Sep-Nov 2026**, as the likelihood of exceeding the long-term median. Blue (orange) shades for likely wetter (drier) than usual conditions.

NOTES

All satellite data (rainfall, vegetation index and land surface temperature) both current and historical are stored and processed at the WFP-HQ Humanitarian Data Cube AWS cloud system.

Rainfall: Primary dekadal data (CHIRPS) from Univ California St Barbara Climate Hazards Centre (https://www.chc.ucsb.edu/data/chirps)
Various accumulations are computed on a dekadal basis and anomalies derived relative to a 25 year-long mean (1994-2018).

Land Surface Temperature: Primary data from MODIS-AQUA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled, both daytime and nighttime images. Thermal amplitude derived from difference between the two. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

Vegetation Index: Primary data from MODIS-AQUA and TERRA (NASA), cloud cleared and gap-filled. Long term averages 2002-2018 used to derive anomalies

Seasonal Forecast: ECMWF seasonal forecasts **(SEAS5) |** The forecast anomalies are presented as the probability of exceeding the median, indicating the likelihood that seasonal precipitation will be above the median of the 24-year climatological distribution. These anomalies are derived from a 51-member forecast ensemble and are calculated relative to a 24-year model climatology (based on a 25-member ensemble reforecast) spanning 1993–2016

What is ENSO? ENSO is a recurring climate pattern in the equatorial Pacific, alternating between El Niño, La Niña, and Neutral phases. Shifts in ocean temperatures and atmospheric pressure during these phases influence global weather, affecting rainfall, temperatures, and the risk of extremes such as droughts, heavy rains, and tropical cyclones.
(https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/)

Water level in reservoirs: G-REALM data from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

Flood Forecast: GLOFAS-Copernicus and GOOGLE Flood Hub

WFP World Food Programme

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