

JOINT BRIEFING TO THE MEMBERS

El Niño 2018/19 Likelihood and potential impact

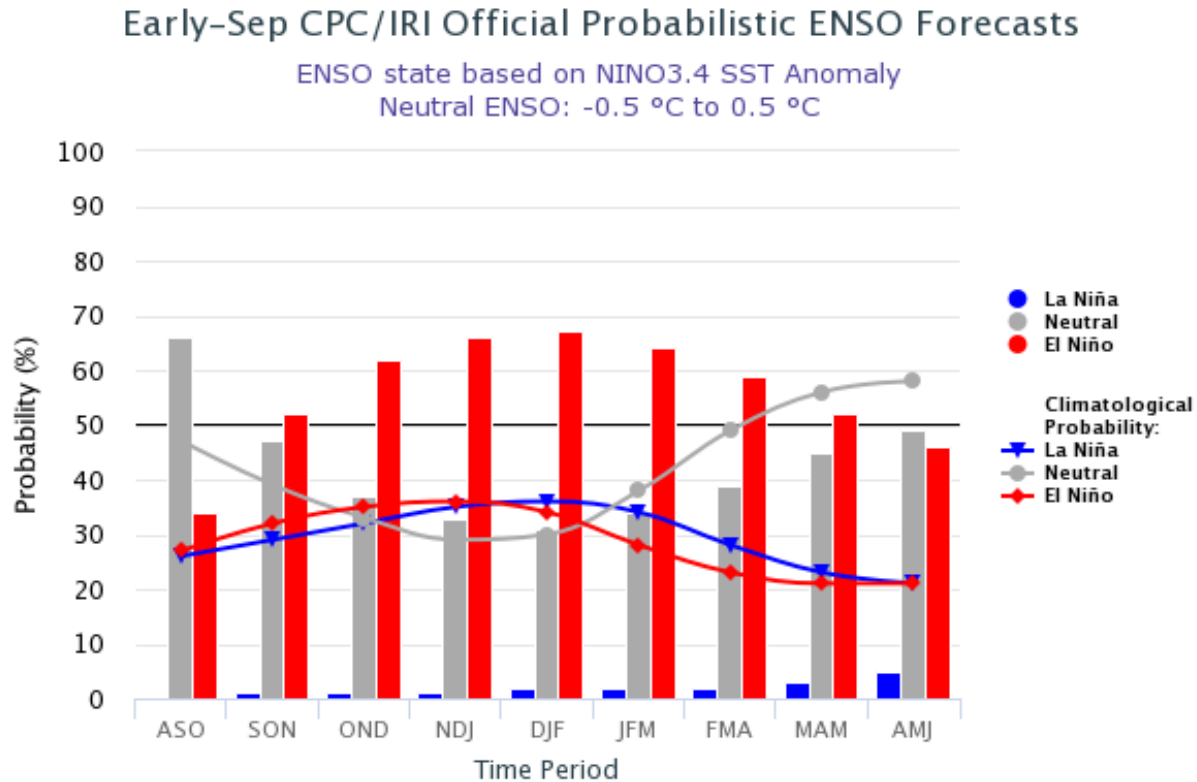


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food Programme

CURRENT EL NIÑO OUTLOOK (SEPTEMBER 2018)

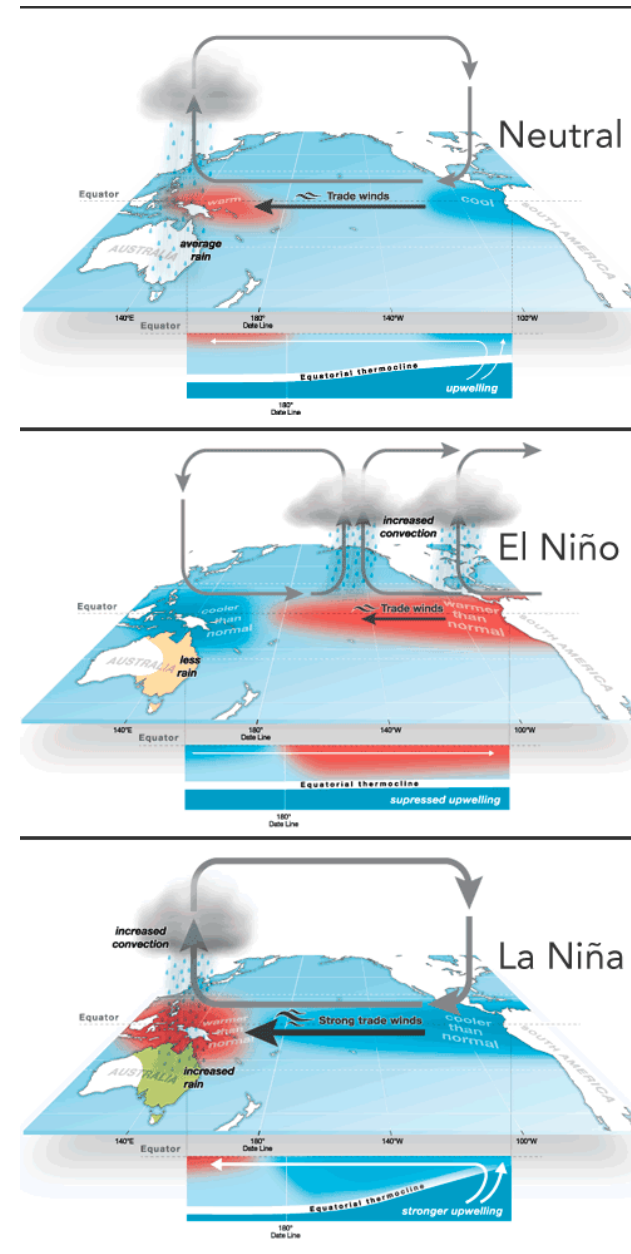


CPC/IRI ENSO Forecast from September. Red bars denote probability of an El Niño developing in the near future

- Significant likelihood of an El Niño materializing: **50-55% in October/November** and **65-70% in December/January**;
- Likely to be **weak to moderate in intensity**;
- A weak El Niño event may still have **significant impact**;
- Some regions **particularly vulnerable** due to past droughts or other factors such as conflict;

WHAT IS EL NIÑO?

- **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** events – i.e. El Niño and La Niña – are natural phenomena that occur on average every two to seven years.
- **El Niño:** large-scale **warming** of Pacific Ocean and changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation (i.e. winds, rainfall).
- **La Niña:** large-scale **cooling** of the ocean surface temperatures in the same region, with a reversal of the atmospheric conditions.
- On average, **half** of El Niño events are followed by a La Niña.



Source: IRI



EFFECTS OF EL NIÑO

- El Niño-driven droughts, floods and extreme hot and cold weather can cause **severe damage and losses** across agricultural sectors.
- In some cases, El Niño effects may even have **a positive** impact.
- **2015/16 El Niño**: affected food security of more than **60 million people** worldwide, with **USD 5 billion** spent in humanitarian assistance.
- **UN Resolution 71/227** from 2017 calls for effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon

INTER-AGENCY SOPs

INTER-AGENCY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) FOR EARLY ACTION TO EL NIÑO/LA NIÑA EPISODES

VERSION 1 – FOR FIELD TESTING
March 2018

IASC Reference Group on
Risk, Early Warning and
Preparedness

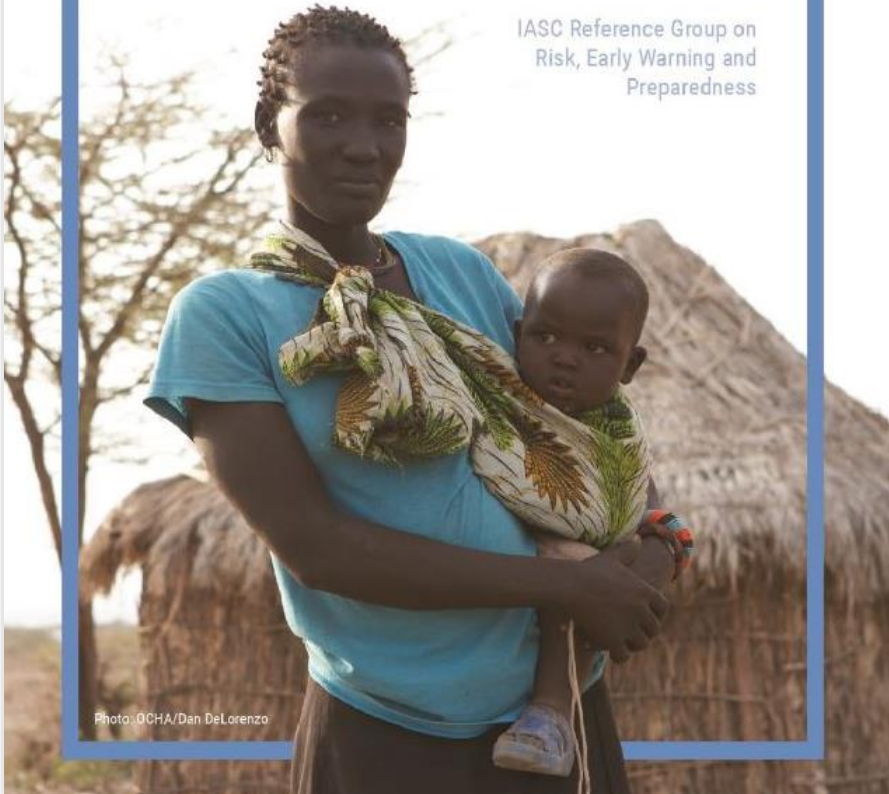


Photo: OCHA/Dan DeLorenzo

- Co-led by **FAO** and **OCHA**, developed with 15 other humanitarian and development partners, endorsed by **IASC Principals** in March 2018;
- The SOPs **catalyze** and **guide** better humanitarian and development practice;
- They present a **structured framework** for the initiation of **mitigating/preventive actions**
- They aim at strengthening **information sharing/analysis**, **coordination** and **preparedness**
- This interagency effort was a lesson learned from the 2015/2016 episode, and **WFP and FAO are taking concrete, collaborative actions** to get ahead of future impact.

THE THREE EL NIÑO PHASES

- **Phase 1: El Niño/La Niña WATCH** – Greater than 55% chance of an El Niño/La Niña developing
Actions: Awareness/ Risk monitoring/ Preparedness
- **Phase 2: El Niño/La Niña ALERT**– 75% or greater chance of an El Niño/La Niña developing.
Actions: Risk monitoring/ Planning/ Early implementation
- **Phase 3: El Niño/La Niña DECLARED** – An El Niño/La Niña episode has been declared and is underway. Impacts may be felt at different times in different parts of the world.
Actions: Full implementation of early actions/ Prepare for scale up

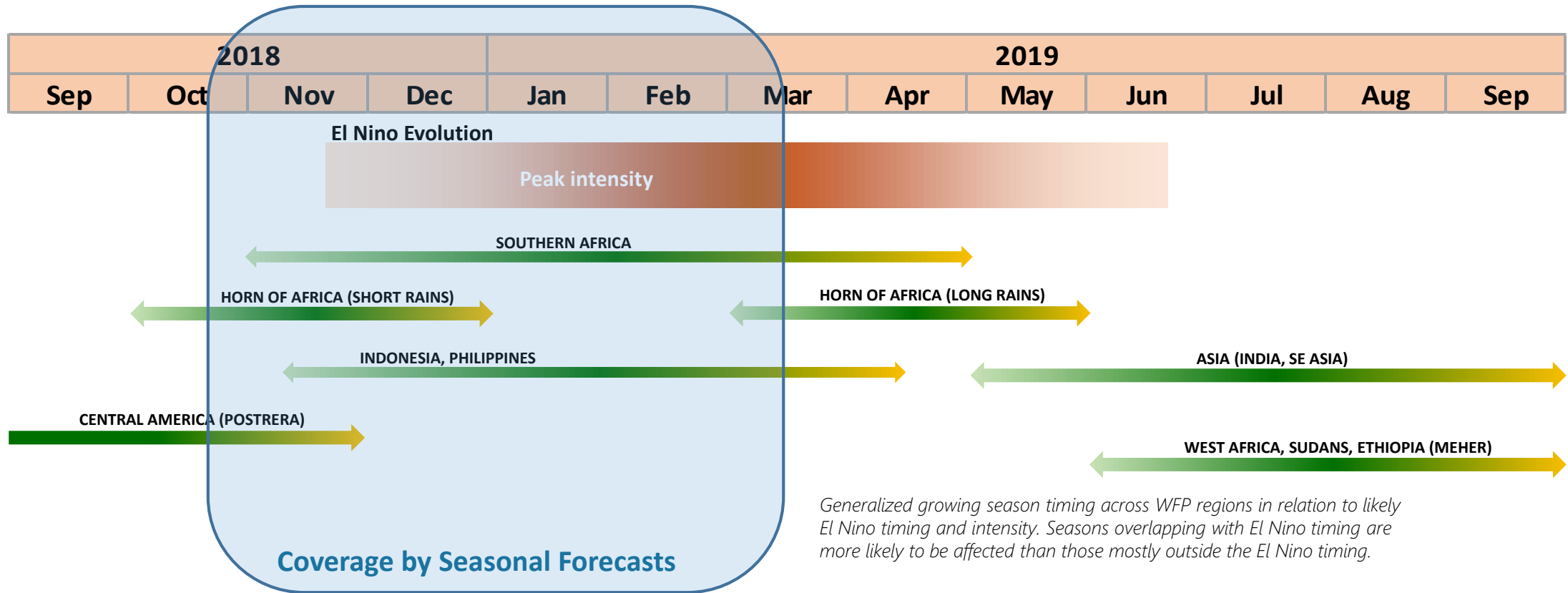
Within each phase, the SOPs define specific actions/tasks to be conducted at **global, regional and country level**.

IA PROCESS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- June-August: El Niño developing & declared On Watch
- 14 September: **Global Analysis Cell** activated
- 21 September: Note sent to UN Secretary General
- 4 October: Preliminary list of **high risk countries**
- 8-12 October: Consultation with the **Regions at risk**
- 15-19 October: High risk countries final – **note from EDG to HCs/RCs**. This leads to:
 - At regional level: Coordination, awareness raising, fundraising;
 - At country level: Early action planning and implementation.

→ Helping the system act *before* the brunt of the impact on food security

EL NIÑO AND GROWING SEASONS



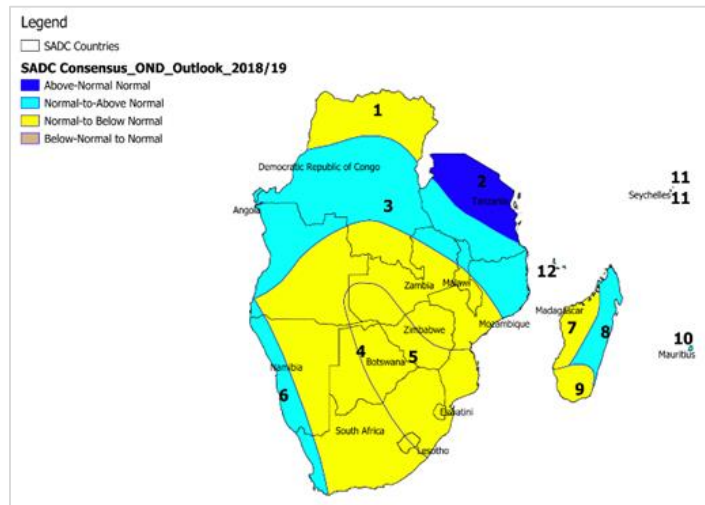
Growing Seasons Potentially Impacted by El Niño:

- Southern Africa
- East Africa (Short Rains and Long Rains to a lesser degree)
- Indonesia and Philippines (to a lesser degree)
- Central Asia

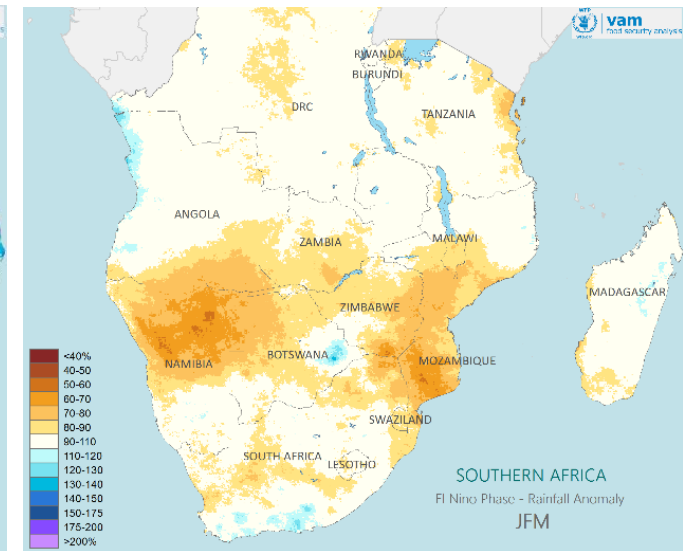
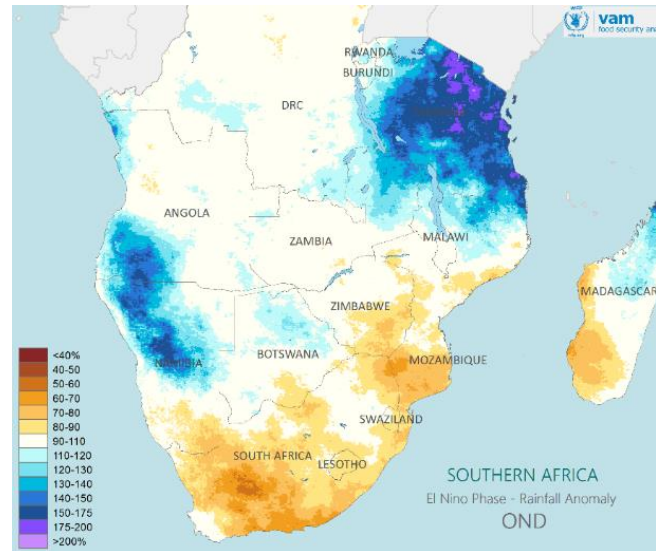
Less likely impacts unless situation changes:

- Central America (early season)
- West Africa (early season)
- SE Asia (early season)

EL NIÑO IMPACTS: SOUTHERN AFRICA GROWING SEASON



Forecasts

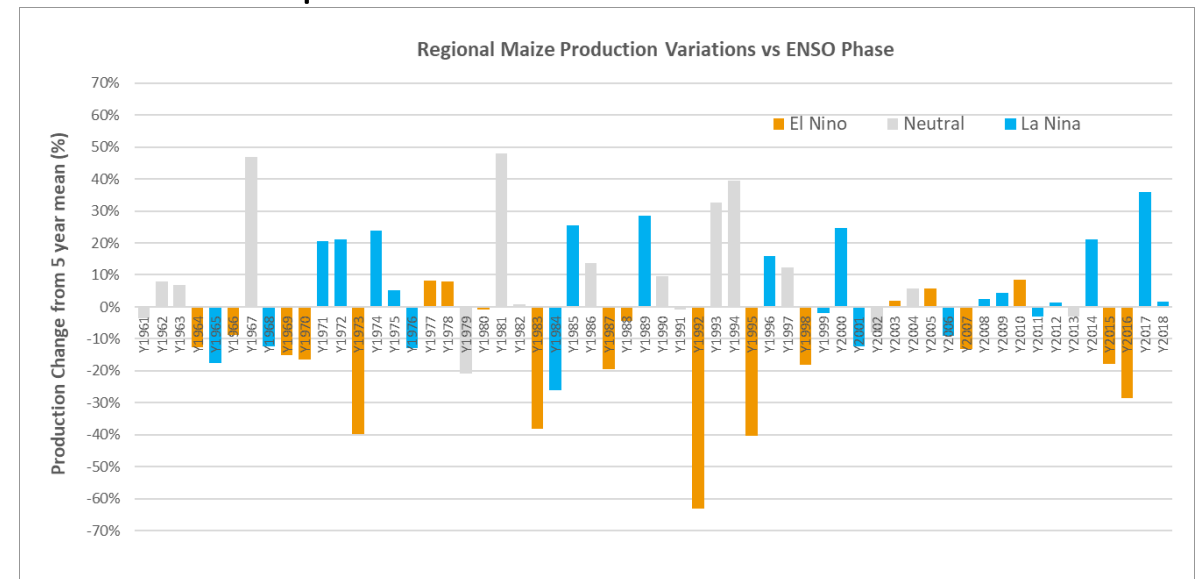


Historical Impacts: Oct-Dec and Jan-Mar rainfall

Forecasts **not yet showing a strong signal.**

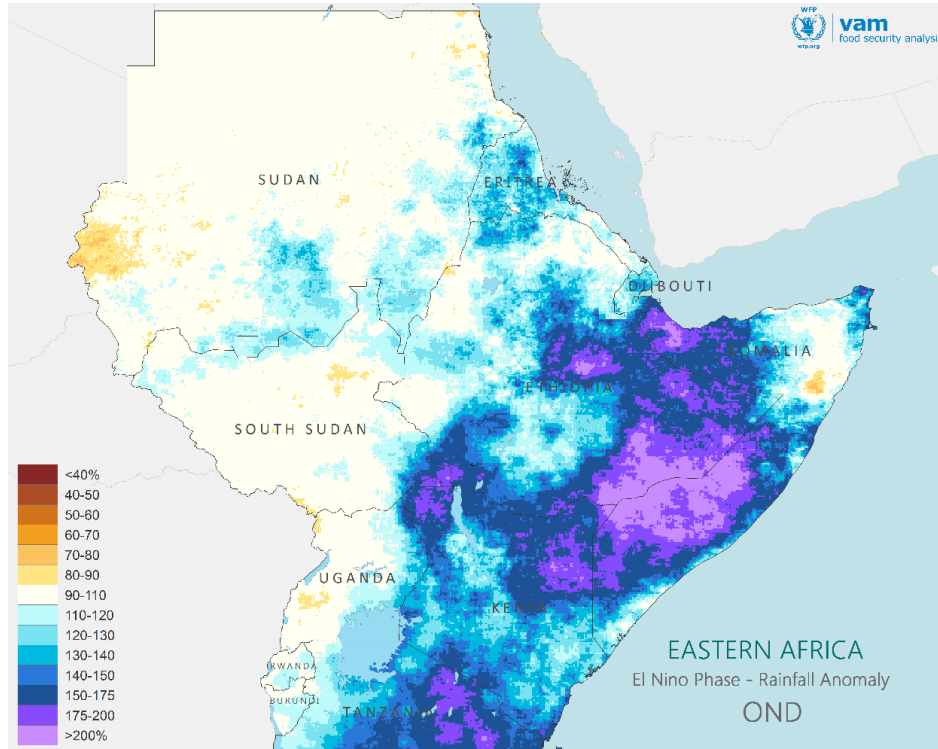
Except for Northern Mozambique, historical data shows El Niño **leads to lower rainfall** and **possible droughts** across the region, particularly during the core growing season (Jan-Mar)

El Niño is also associated with **significant drops in regional maize production**

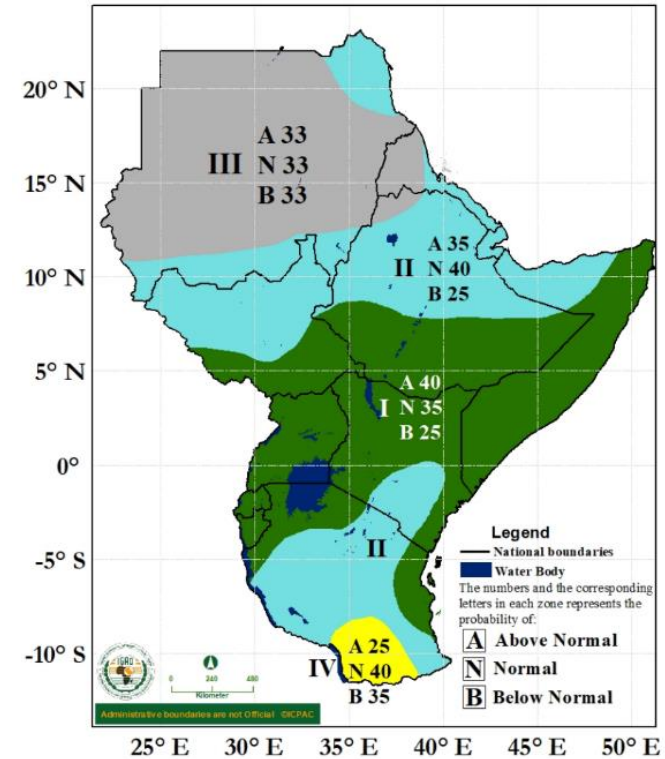


Maize Production Variations and El Niño

EL NIÑO IMPACTS: EAST AFRICA SHORT RAINS



Historical Impacts: Oct-Dec rainfall



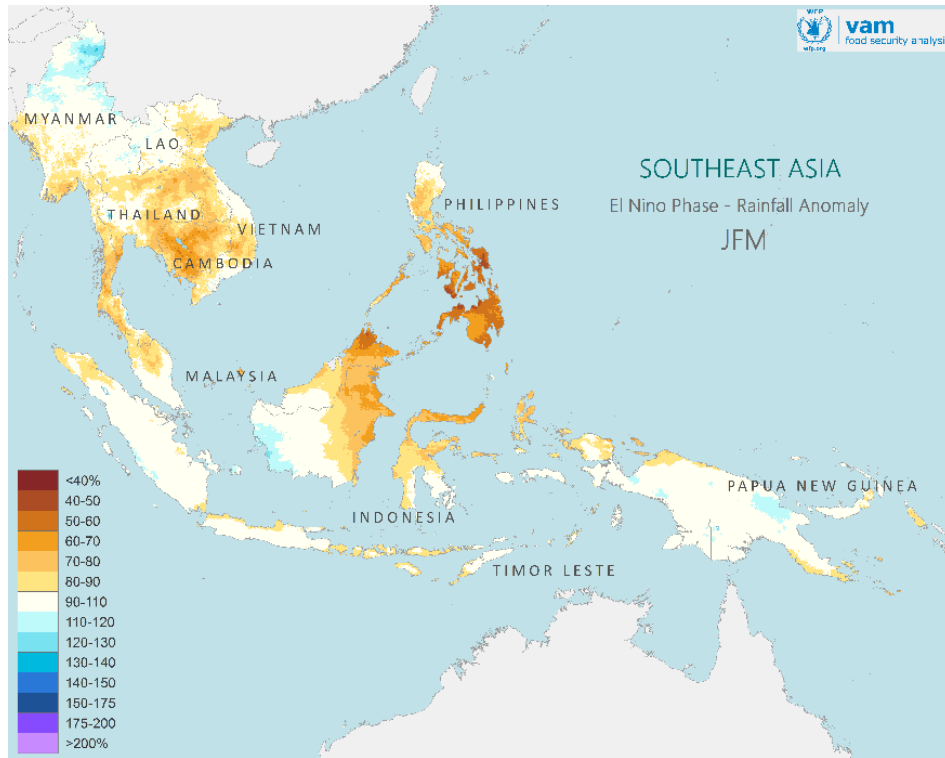
Forecasts

Historical data shows El Niño leads to higher than usual rainfall during the Short Rains season (Oct-Dec) across **Somalia, Kenya and SE Ethiopia**.

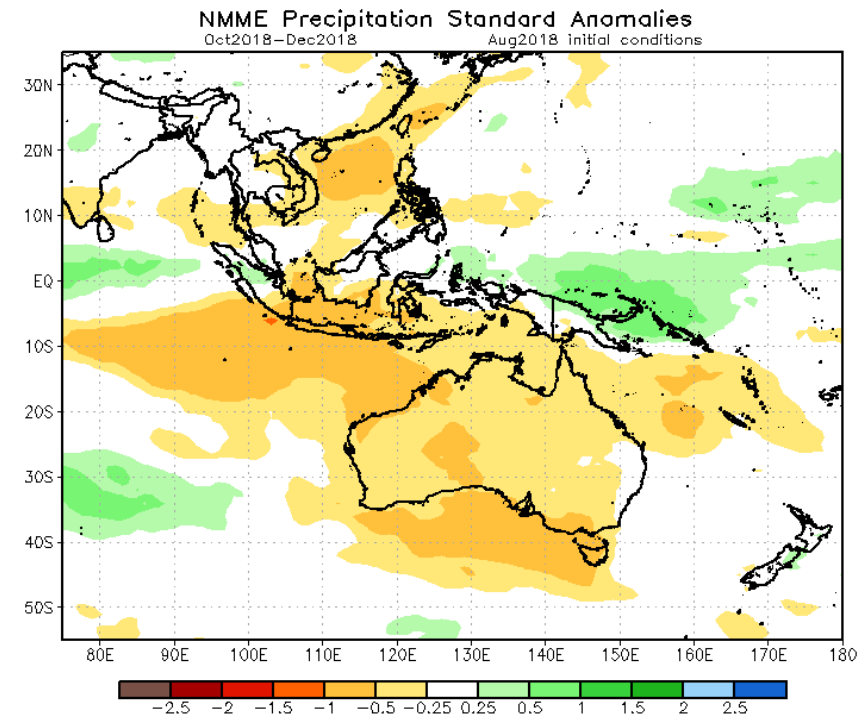
Forecasts highlight above average rainfall for this season.

This will **benefit pastoralist** communities and rain fed agriculture, but raises the possibility of large scale **flooding and landslides**

EL NIÑO IMPACTS: SOUTHEAST ASIA



Historical Impacts: Jan-Mar Rainfall

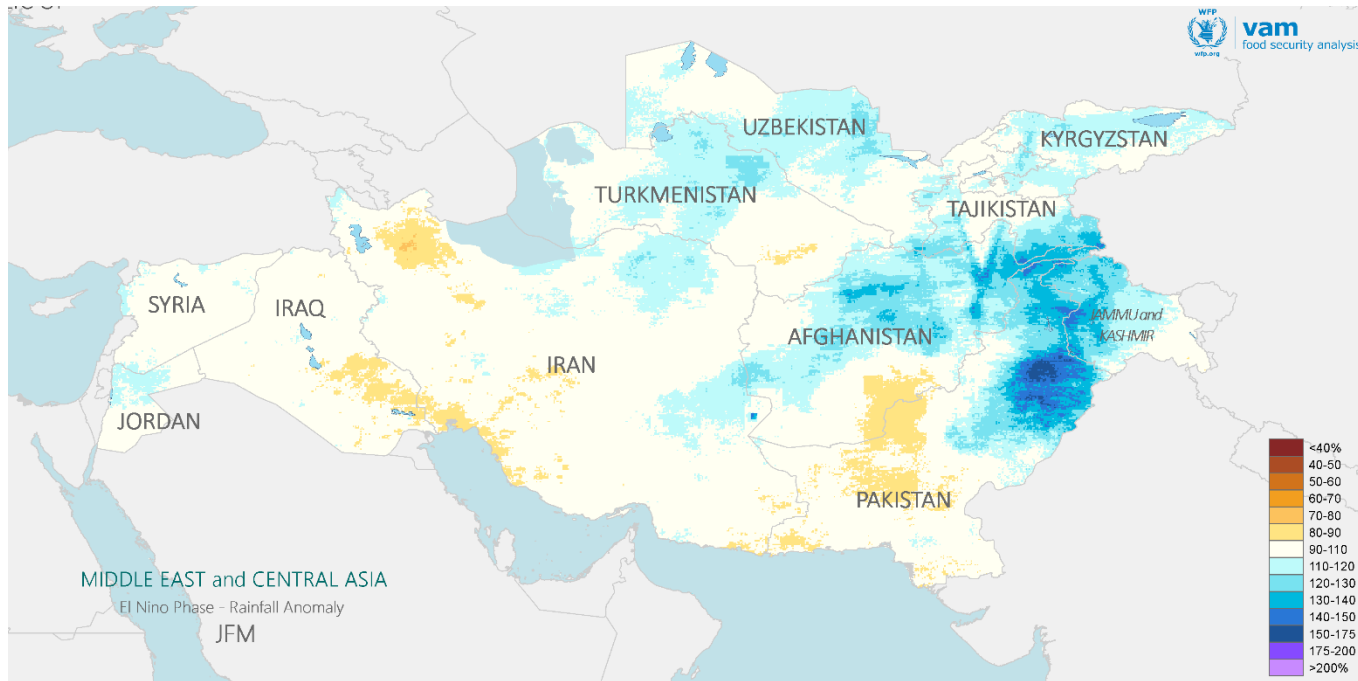


Forecasts

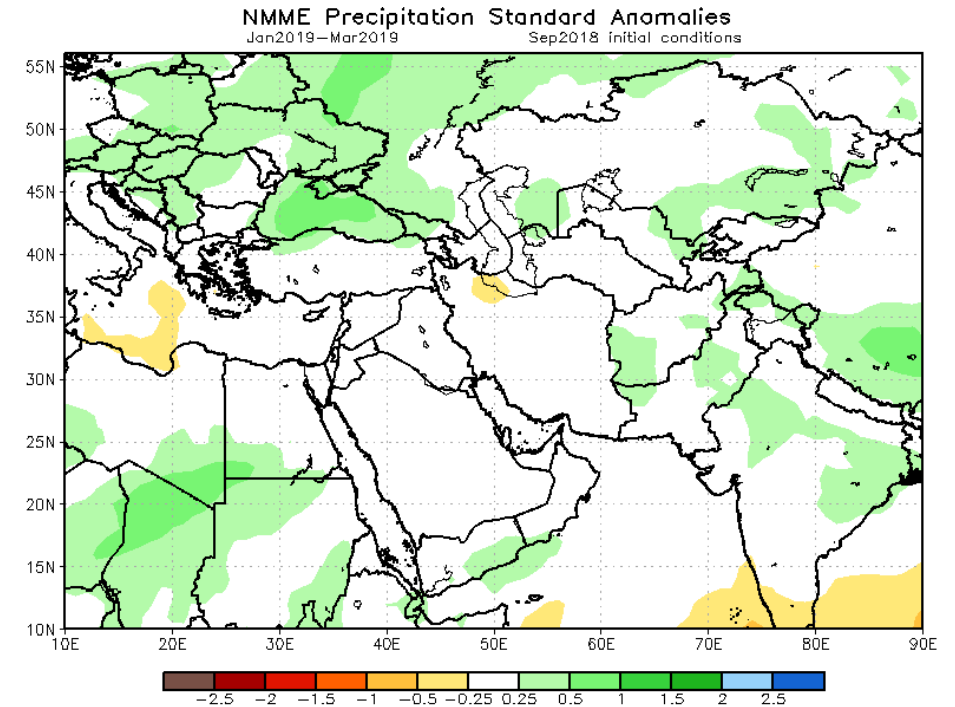
Historical data shows El Niño leads to **lower rainfall and possible droughts** across the region, throughout the coming growing season (Nov-May).

Forecasts **already point to below average rainfall** for the coming season.

EL NIÑO IMPACTS: CENTRAL AMERICA



Historical Impacts: Jan-Mar Rainfall

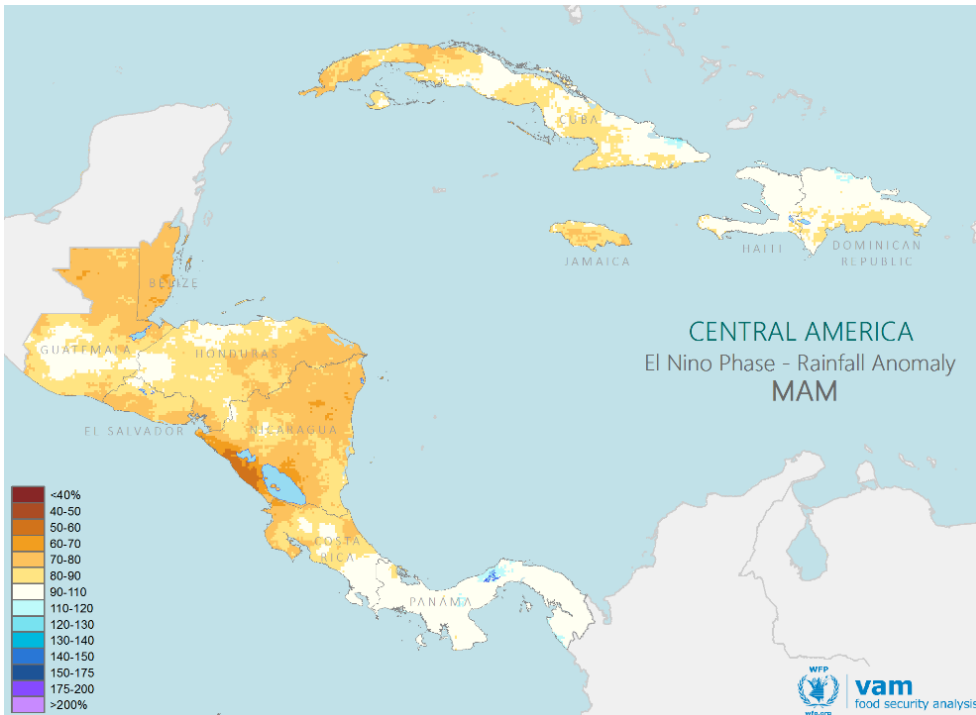


Forecasts

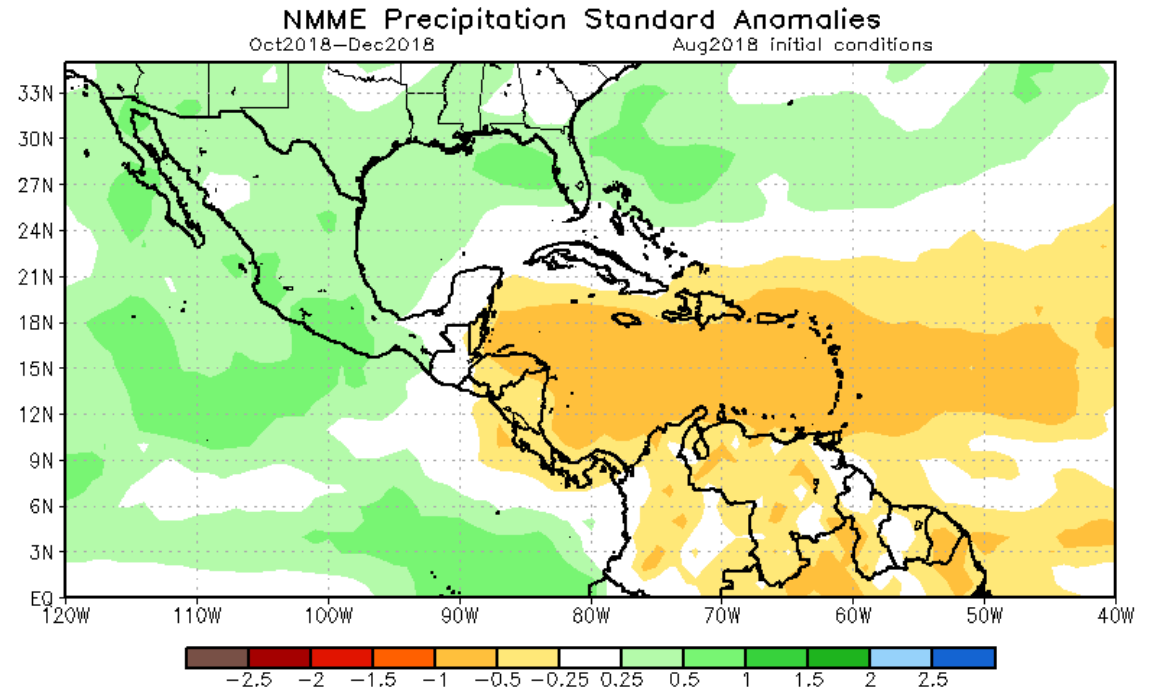
An El Niño event is favourable for seasonal rainfall in Central Asia. This should lead to enhanced productions, tempered by a higher risk of floods and landslides.

Afghanistan has faced a major drought in the previous season.

EL NIÑO IMPACTS: CENTRAL AMERICA



Historical Impacts: Mar-May Rainfall



Forecasts

An El Niño event is likely to **prolong current dryness** until the early stages of next growing season. This is expected to result in a **delayed** start and **unfavourable** early stages of the **2019 Primera season**.

The region has faced **significantly dry conditions since July 2018**.

ACTING EARLY

WFP and FAO working together – at global and country levels - **to plan, prepare and implement actions early** to mitigate the effects of El Niño.

Early actions in the current phase (planning/awareness) include:

- Use of official forecast to get an indication of the early season outlook;
- Identification of the geographical areas likely to be impacted by the El Niño event and the most vulnerable communities;
- Coordination on early action identification and implementation;
- Assessments on current status of agricultural livelihoods and value-chains (e.g. Seed security, markets, strategic reserves);
- Assessing country office capacities for timely implementation of early actions;
- Strengthening government capacities for monitoring and preparedness (eg. risk analysis and monitoring, food security and market monitoring);