



*Information Management Center
for Water and Land*

SOMALILAND EL NIÑO 2026–2027

CLIMATE STATEMENT AND EARLY WARNING ADVISORY



Prepared to support early warning dissemination, humanitarian preparedness, and disaster risk management planning across Somaliland.

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SOMALILAND EL NIÑO 2026–2027: CLIMATE STATEMENT AND EARLY WARNING ADVISORY.

What is Super El Niño?

El Niño is a natural climate pattern that happens when the surface waters of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become warmer than normal for several months.

That warming may be far from Somaliland, but it can change large-scale wind patterns and atmospheric circulation across the world. These changes then influence where moisture moves and where rain is more or less likely to fall.

For the Horn of Africa, including Somaliland, El Niño is often associated with a higher chance of above-normal rainfall during the October–December season. However, El Niño does not guarantee heavy rain everywhere. Some places may receive much more rain, while others may receive near-normal amounts.

El Niño is now firmly established and is expected to strengthen toward the end of 2026. In Somaliland, it may reinforce rainfall activity during the Deyr season, increasing the potential for improved water availability, pasture and agricultural conditions, while also increasing the risk of heavy rainfall, flash floods, water contamination, disease outbreaks, transport disruption and environmental degradation. The magnitude and distribution of these impacts will vary across Somaliland and should be monitored through updated national and regional forecasts

What could El Niño mean for Somaliland?

El Niño does not mean that every part of Somaliland will receive heavy rain. Its effects can vary between regions and from one week to another. However, during an El Niño-influenced season, some areas may experience more rainfall than usual and heavier rainfall events, increasing the possibility of flash floods, waterlogging, soil erosion, and localized impacts on infrastructure, settlements, livestock, and agricultural areas.

The Deyr short rainy season (October–November–December) contributes approximately 25%–35% of the annual rainfall in Somaliland, although its contribution varies by region. The eastern and southeastern parts of Somaliland are particularly dependent on the Deyr season for water availability, pasture, livestock production, and seasonal agricultural activities.

The ongoing El Niño event, particularly if it develops into a very strong event, could contribute to an increase in rainfall intensity and/or rainfall totals during the Deyr (OND) season in parts of Somaliland. Since the Deyr rains have already started in some areas, El Niño may reinforce the prevailing wet conditions and increase the potential for above-normal rainfall, localized heavy rainfall, and flash flooding. However, rainfall impacts are expected to vary across regions and should be monitored through updated seasonal and short-range forecasts.

Somaliland El Niño 2026–2027: Cross-Sector Impact Statement

El Niño may contribute to increased rainfall in some areas, including the potential for heavy rainfall and flash flooding, while rainfall distribution may remain highly variable between locations. These conditions could affect water resources, livestock and pasture, agriculture, disaster risk management, transportation, health, energy, and the environment.

Key Sector Recommendations

Sector	Key recommendations
Water Resources	Protect boreholes, wells and water infrastructure from flooding; monitor groundwater recharge and water quality; prepare for contamination of water sources; maximize safe water harvesting and storage.
Livestock & Agriculture	Prepare for improved pasture and soil moisture; protect livestock from flood-prone areas; monitor livestock diseases; avoid planting decisions based only on seasonal forecasts and follow updated rainfall information.
Disaster Risk Management (DRM)	Strengthen early-warning dissemination; identify flood-prone communities and infrastructure; pre-position emergency supplies; establish clear evacuation and response arrangements where necessary.
Health & WASH	Increase monitoring of waterborne and vector-borne diseases; protect drinking-water sources; strengthen hygiene and sanitation messaging; prepare health facilities in flood-prone areas.
Transport & Infrastructure	Inspect vulnerable roads, bridges, culverts and drainage systems; monitor flood-prone crossings; prepare alternative routes and rapid-response arrangements for damaged infrastructure.
Environment	Monitor soil erosion, flooding and land degradation; protect vulnerable catchments and watersheds; use increased rainfall to support vegetation and land restoration while managing excessive runoff.

Priority recommendation

Government institutions, humanitarian organizations and communities should strengthen preparedness before and during the Deyr season, with particular attention to flood-prone areas, water infrastructure, livestock, agricultural areas, health facilities and critical transport routes. Early action should be guided by updated weather forecasts, rainfall observations and local early-warning information.

NB: Regular updates on the onset, distribution, and cessation of rainfall will be provided by the Somaliland Information Management Center for Water and Land (IMC) through weekly and monthly forecasts as the season progresses. These updates will provide comprehensive insights into any shifts or developments in rainfall patterns, ensuring that stakeholders remain well-informed and able to make timely, evidence-based decisions.