



ISSUE 11 | TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026



EL NINO 2026/27

AFRICA'S NEXT PREPAREDNESS TEST

New climate outlooks, regional preparedness plans and the urgent challenge of financing early action across Africa.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DIMA LENS

El Nino and cascading risks across sectors

AFRICA DRR WATCH

SADC readiness and ECOWAS cooperation

RISK FINANCE WATCH

The price of unfunded preparedness

EVENTS & LEARNING

DMISA 2026: people, systems and response

TRACKING THE RISKS. QUESTIONING THE SYSTEMS.
CONNECTING THE PEOPLE WHO MANAGE THEM.

Cover: DIMA brand illustration; not an event photograph

DIMA LENS / CLIMATE RISK INTELLIGENCE

El Niño 2026/27: Africa's next preparedness test

On 26 October 2026, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a seasonal climate outlook indicating that the established El Niño event could reach exceptional strength. Its model outlook suggests tropical Pacific sea-surface temperature anomalies could reach 3.8 degrees Celsius during November 2026–January 2027. The figure is a projection, not an observed peak or a prediction of specific disasters.

The outlook signals contrasting African risks. Wetter-than-normal conditions are more likely in parts of East Africa during the October–December rainy season, while parts of Southern Africa face greater risk of drier conditions from November. These broad probabilities must be interpreted alongside national meteorological forecasts, local exposure and vulnerability data. Not every locality in a region will experience the same conditions.

The practical concern is the cascade of consequences. Drought may affect harvests, livestock, household purchasing power, water supplies and hydropower. Intense rainfall may simultaneously disrupt roads, clinics, sanitation, markets and school attendance. Emergency planning that considers rainfall alone can miss these second- and third-order effects.

DIMA LENS: The preparedness window is an opportunity to update scenarios, pre-agree activation thresholds, map exposed communities and check whether the responsible institutions can deploy people, supplies and funds before impacts escalate.

Source: WMO Global Seasonal Climate Outlook, 26 October

AFRICA DRR WATCH | SOUTHERN AFRICA

The SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning Workshop took place from 20 to 23 October 2026 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme “From Forecast to Consequence: Anticipating the Cascading Impacts of El Niño 2026/27 in Southern Africa.” Convened by the SADC Secretariat with partners, it brought together disaster risk authorities and humanitarian actors.

Discussions examined preparedness gaps, early warning, sectoral contingency planning, resource mobilisation, logistics and lessons of the 2023/24 El Niño season.



SADC workshop | Johannesburg, October 2026

Three principal technical outcomes were validated: (1) the SADC Multi-Hazard Regional Anticipatory Action Framework 2026–2030; (2) the SHOC Regional Prepositioning Strategy; and (3) the 2026/27 Regional Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan.

Participating institutions emphasised stronger national coordination and anticipatory action. These are technical workshop outcomes, not yet formal ministerial approvals. Their implementation will depend on funded contingency plans, pre-agreed activation triggers and timely communication.

In closing, NDMC's Pumeza Tyali urged participants to convert the commitments into measurable improvements. SHOC Director Anderson Banda stressed that success would be judged by implementation, resource mobilisation and practical action. These are statements of intent; DIMA Connect will track whether the November ministerial process leads to approved, costed and activated measures.

Sources: [SADC workshop conclusion, 23 October](#) | [SADC opening report, 20 October](#)

AFRICA DRR WATCH | WEST AFRICA

ECOWAS examines emergency coordination and logistics systems. In an announcement dated 21 October, the ECOWAS Commission reported on a technical mission to Bonn, Germany, and Brussels, Belgium, held from 12 to 16 October 2026. The delegation, led by Acting Director of Humanitarian and Social Affairs Mohammed Ibrahim, included national disaster-management and hydrometeorological representatives from four pilot countries: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo, alongside technical partners.

The mission examined the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, its Emergency Response Coordination Centre, geospatial information through UN-SPIDER, logistics partnerships and real-time information sharing. Lessons are intended to inform ECOWAS's developing Regional Cooperation and Solidarity Mechanism and the operational strengthening of its Emergency Operations Centre (EDOC). The visit demonstrates technical exchange and planning, not yet independently verified improvements in emergency response performance.

Source: [ECOWAS announcement, 21 October](#)

AFRICA DRR WATCH | EAST AFRICA & THE HORN

ICPAC weekly outlook identifies contrasting rainfall and local flood risks. For 20–27 October, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre forecast above-usual rainfall in parts of western and northern South Sudan, southeastern Ethiopia, central Somalia, southwestern Uganda, western Rwanda and isolated areas of Kenya and Burundi. It also forecast below-usual rainfall across other parts of the region, demonstrating why an "East Africa will be wetter" headline would be misleading.

ICPAC indicated exceptional rainfall potential in southeastern Ethiopia, central Somalia, southwestern Uganda and isolated parts of central Kenya, with possible flooding in portions of Somalia, Ethiopia and Uganda. These are forecast conditions, not verified reports of flooding. Authorities should use updated national alerts and local river-basin information before activating specific measures.

Source: [ICPAC weekly forecast archive](#)

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS | CONTINENTAL WATCH

Across the continent, DIMA's weekly monitoring covers AU and AMHEWAS initiatives; North African climate and civil-protection developments; ECCAS and Central African disaster risk systems; IGAD/ICPAC and the East African Community; ECOWAS/CILSS/AGRHYMET; SADC/SARCOF; and Indian Ocean climate services. Regional monitoring supports the identification of cross-border hazards, institutional developments and opportunities for cooperation.

RISK FINANCE WATCH | THE FUNDING GAP

When preparedness plans outrun available finance. SADC states that only 17% of a reported US\$6.5 billion appeal related to the 2023/24 El Nino response was mobilised. Its 23 October statement also reports that most anticipatory actions planned for 2026/27 remain unfunded. These figures should not be conflated: the first concerns a historical appeal; the second describes current planned actions. The percentage alone does not establish why the financing gap occurred.

A credible financing arrangement requires more than an indicative budget. Decision-makers need pre-agreed hazard or impact triggers, designated authority to release funds, a financing source available before disaster impact, procurement and logistics arrangements, and transparent reporting of who was reached. SADC participants specifically called for costed contingency plans, pre-arranged financing and direct engagement with ministries of finance.

DIMA FINANCE QUESTION: Of the proposed actions for the coming season, which are already funded, which are contingent on new pledges, and which have disbursement triggers that can operate before a crisis?

Source: SADC financing and preparedness conclusions

GLOBAL DRR WATCH | INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

The WMO's 26 October update connects a potentially exceptional El Niño event with the need for anticipatory humanitarian action. Its message is not that every projected anomaly will cause a disaster, but that governments and humanitarian actors still have opportunities to reduce exposure and prepare for probable impacts. The same outlook points to different regional patterns in Southeast Asia and the Americas, underlining that El Niño is global in influence but local in consequence.

The transferable lesson for African practitioners is to combine seasonal outlooks with impact-based warnings, preparedness protocols, trusted community communication and monitoring that records whether actions occurred in time. A seasonal forecast is a planning input, not a substitute for national forecasts or operational decisions.

Source: WMO global seasonal climate outlook

EVENTS & LEARNING | DMISA CONFERENCE 2026

At the DMISA Conference on 21–22 October 2026 in Centurion, Francis Hoets, CEO of Disaster Risk Management NPC, presented “Resilience Starts With Us: Institutionalising Community Risk Management as the Frontline Tier of South Africa’s Reformed Disaster Management System.”

The presentation focused on community participation as a frontline component of disaster management.



DMISA Conference | Centurion, October 2026

The Gravitazz Institute’s presentation, “From Managing Disasters to Governing Risk: How Institutional Positioning Shapes Disaster Risk Governance in Africa,” examined the placement, authority and connections of disaster risk institutions across government.

The Al-Imdaad Foundation’s search-and-rescue exhibition illustrated an operational dimension of preparedness. Together, the sessions and exhibition highlighted the connection between communities, institutions and response capabilities.

PRACTITIONER QUESTIONS | FIVE TESTS FOR THE SEASON

Risk: Are drought, flood and heat scenarios linked to impacts on food, health, water, energy and transport? **Trigger:** Who authorises action when thresholds are reached? **Finance:** Are funds available before losses occur? **Inclusion:** Will warnings reach vulnerable communities? **Accountability:** How will timely action and reduced exposure be measured?

EVENTS & LEARNING | WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

SADC preparedness instruments are expected to go before ministers in November 2026. Follow national meteorological agencies, WMO and regional climate centres for updated seasonal outlooks, training and preparedness bulletins; confirm event registrations with organisers.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES | CURRENT NOTICES

Selected opportunities from regional institutions, UN agencies and development banks. Check the linked official notices for eligibility, deadlines and submission procedures.

29 OCT | SADC | Individual consultant

Climate and disaster risk financing facilitator; ref. SADC/3/5/4/139. [Official notice](#)

5 NOV | SADC | Consulting firms

End-of-project evaluation, DRM Strengthening in Southern Africa; ref. SADC/3/5/2/468. [Official notice](#)

6 NOV | SADC | Individual consultant

National multi-hazard early warning systems roadmaps; ref. SADC/3/5/2/475. [Official notice](#)

4 NOV | UNDP Botswana | Individual consultant

National ESG Strategy implementation support; ref. UNDP-BWA-00311. [Official notice](#)

15 DEC | AfDB | Individual consultant

Groundwater vulnerability and climate risk assessment, South Sudan. [Official notice](#)

17 NOV | ECOWAS | Consultant

GEF project preparation: Fouta Djallon Highlands programme. [Official notice](#)

9 NOV | ECOWAS | Specialist

Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management. [Official notice](#)

14 NOV | ECOWAS | Individual consultant

Post-flood assistance documentary production. [Official notice](#)

GRAVITAZZ / DIMA CONNECT | ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

DIMA Connect is the weekly disaster risk intelligence publication of the Gravitazz Institute for Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management. It tracks African disaster risk developments, institutions, anticipatory action, climate services, recovery, financing and professional opportunities.

Published Tuesdays | Issue 11 | 27 October 2026 | Photography © Gravitazz Institute, 2026