



ANGLICAN MISSIONS

El Niño: Preparedness in Wetter Conditions

Wetter conditions are likely in communities in Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Northern Cook islands, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Palestine

What is El Niño?

El Niño is a natural phenomenon that occurs when Pacific trade winds shift and redirect warm waters toward the eastern Pacific. An El Niño event occurs every 2-7 years, usually lasting between 12-18 months. El Niño is not a singular, short-term weather event; rather, it is a long-term climate signal that can lead to changes in typical weather patterns. These patterns can be worsened by climate change. **A 'super El Niño' event has been declared and is projected to be the strongest in living memory, lasting through early 2027.**

Depending on where your community is in the Pacific, it might experience generally wetter or generally drier conditions than normal. It is important to note that different communities in the same country might have different microclimates, meaning that your community might experience the impacts of El Niño differently.

Possible effects of El Niño in wetter conditions:

Severe flooding and landslides

Very high levels of rainfall can quickly overwhelm local drainage systems, causing flooding, mudslides, and landslides.

Agriculture and livestock damage

Excessive flooding can ruin crops and drown pastures, interrupting agriculture livelihoods and impacting local markets and wider economies.

Infrastructure strain and collapse

Regular flooding can weaken and damage bridges, roads, and buildings.

Sea level rise

Alongside increased ocean temperatures, average sea level can rise, increasing risk of coastal flooding. This can also change fish movement and impact fishing livelihoods.

Increased disease

Conditions which favour mosquito borne diseases and other sicknesses might increase, raising the number of cases of Dengue, Zika, and Malaria. Floodwaters carry bacteria and can lead to severe disease, particularly in children.

For more information visit:

<https://anglicanmissions.org.nz/el-nino/>

Key Community Preparedness Activities

Knowing how to prepare your community for the potential effects of El Niño will reduce its impact



STAY INFORMED AND MOBILISE

Monitor local weather advisories. Contact your emergency management office. Meet as a community to discuss what you will do to prepare, including women and youth groups.



CLEAR DITCHES AND DRAINS

Ensure all paths where water flows are cleared of rubbish, debris, and overgrown plants.



STORE AND DRINK WATER SAFELY

Repair and maintain water catchment systems and storage containers. Where possible, test water for contaminants. Boil any water that is not known to be safe. Raise water tanks and secure them tightly.



WASH HANDS AND MAINTAIN PERSONAL HYGIENE

The effects of El Niño result in a substantial increase in disease risk. Wash your hands frequently and maintain personal hygiene.



DO NOT ENTER FLOOD WATERS

Do not wade through flooding water; unpredictable currents flow fast and carry dangerous debris and disease. Keep children away from areas impacted by flood water.



SECURE COASTAL BUILDINGS

Be aware of flood and erosion risk for buildings near river banks or coasts. Reinforce vulnerable structures and ensure drainage is cleared. Evacuate if local authorities suggest that you do so, or if waters are approaching your home.



HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN AND A GRAB BAG

Have a family and community evacuation plan. Know where the elevated evacuation point is, and maintain the path. Keep a grab bag on hand which includes food, water, a lighting source, power source, first aid kit, and warm clothes.



PROTECT LIVESTOCK AND CROPS

Move livestock to higher ground. Secure harvested food away from excess moisture and mould.

HIGHER RISK GROUPS

Be aware of who might be most impacted by the effects of El Niño, and do what you can to support them.



Women. Several factors make women more vulnerable to the effects of El Niño in both wetter and drier conditions, including: burden of care for children and older people, menstrual hygiene needs, cooking and nutrition responsibility, exposure to gender-based violence, and limited land ownership and voice in decision-making.



Children. Children rely heavily on caregivers, are often excluded from decision-making, and are at heightened risk of injury and disease if left unattended.



Older people and people with disabilities. These groups face additional obstacles to mobility, are often excluded from decision-making and disaster preparedness planning, and rely on care-givers.