

The biggest El Niño in history is forming **right now.**

NOAA puts the odds at **75%** that this becomes the strongest El Niño ever measured. It peaks in **December**, about three months from today. Hundreds of millions of people will feel it in their power, their water, and their livelihoods.

A DISASTER YOU CAN SEE COMING IS A DISASTER YOU CAN PREVENT.

“The models are forecasting something outside the envelope of anything we have ever observed.”

Zeke Hausfather · climate scientist, Berkeley Earth · July 2026

01 WHAT THE FORECASTS SAY

+4.0 °C

The Pacific is forecast to hit **+4.0 °C or more**, nearly a full degree beyond anything ever measured. 91 of every 100 model runs break the all-time record.

49 million

More people without enough to eat by the end of next year, joining 225 million already going hungry. Central America is hit hardest.

100,000

Indonesia is already burning, with more fires this year than any year on record. The last time a super El Niño dried out the peat, an estimated 100,000 people died from the smoke.

Epidemics

They follow the shifted rains. Malaria, dengue, and cholera have come after every major El Niño.

2027

Forecast to be **the hottest year humans have ever lived through**, by a wide margin.

\$17.6 trillion

The projected cost to the world over the five years that follow. Most of it is still preventable.

02 WHY THIS IS DIFFERENT

These deaths are the preventable kind.

Smoke, hunger, disease, and heat kill on a delay, weeks to months after a forecast that already exists. People die when the warning doesn't reach them, when the money arrives after the disaster instead of before, and when the plan stays in the drawer.

Between Climate Week and the peak there are roughly three months. That is not long enough to stop it. It is exactly long enough to prepare for it.

THREE THINGS SAVE LIVES. ALL THREE REWARD ACTING BEFORE THE PEAK.

1 Warnings reach people.

In time, in their language, with something to do attached.

2 Money moves early.

A dollar of food, water treatment, or backup power staged before the disaster beats a dollar of relief after it.

3 Systems hold.

Grids hardened for heat, water stored where drought and flood risk is rising, contingency plans rehearsed instead of filed.

03 WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM

- ☐ **Tell someone.** Post the forecast. Put it in your newsletter. Bring it up at the next event you attend this week. Every share is a warning reaching someone it hadn't reached.
- ☐ **If you host an event this week:** give El Niño two minutes from the main microphone. Sign up and we'll send you five talking points.
- ☐ **If you work in power, water, food, health, insurance, or emergency response:** your organization has three months. Ask what it is doing before December, not after.
- ☐ **Have an idea, a contact, a venue, or an hour?** Drop it in the ideas form on the site. It goes straight to the organizers.

Sign up for updates and the running list of El Niño events

elninoready.earth

04 EL NIÑO AT CLIMATE WEEK NYC

Climate Week has more than a thousand events. **Four** are about El Niño. Here they are in the order they happen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

12–1 pm

ET · in person + Zoom

El Niño 2026: How Big Could It Get?

Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia Climate School · Hogan Hall, Room Hogan A, 566 W 114th St. The quarterly ENSO briefing from the people who make the forecast: how strong this gets, and which regions face drought, floods, and heat next.

1–2 pm

ET · in person

A Postcard from the Future: The Heat Toll of the 2026–27 Super El Niño and What We Can Still Do

University of Chicago Institute for Climate & Sustainable Growth, with C2ES · Glasshouse on Bryant Park, 9th floor, 54 W 40th St. First look at Climate Impact Lab's projection of how many people this El Niño's heat could kill, where, and what still saves lives.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8–9:30 am

ET · in person

Frontline Resilience: Adapting Smallholder Agriculture to El Niño & Extreme Climate

Climate Action for Smallholders Coalition · 200 Park Ave (MetLife Building). How El Niño is hitting smallholder farmers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and what agribusiness is doing to keep those supply chains standing.

2–3:30 pm

ET · in person

Beyond the Forecast: What El Niño Reveals About Science, Society, and Action

Columbia Climate School · The Forum at Columbia University, 601 W 125th St. What happens after the forecast: why people and institutions act on the same warning so differently, and what makes a community ready. Reception follows.

Registration links, and any events added after this was printed:

elninoready.earth

El Niño Ready is an independent, grassroots, volunteer effort. It is not affiliated with or endorsed by Climate Week NYC, The Climate Group, or Columbia University. Questions or ideas: use the ideas form on the site, or reply to any email from us.

Sources. Hausfather, Carbon Brief · WFP/FAO via UN News · Hendrix, PIIE · Hausfather, The Climate Brink · Mongabay · Koplitz et al. 2016, Environmental Research Letters · WHO experts via Mongabay.

For whoever opens the event. This takes about a minute at a normal speaking pace. Read it as written, or put it in your own words. Every fact in it is on the front page, and the sources are on page 2.

Before we start, one minute on El Niño. Climate Week has more than a thousand events, and only a handful are about it.

The biggest El Niño in history is forming right now. NOAA puts the odds at **75 percent** that this becomes the strongest El Niño ever measured. It peaks in **December**, about three months from today.

Hundreds of millions of people will feel it. **49 million** more people are forecast to go hungry by the end of next year.

People die when the warning doesn't reach them, when the money arrives late, when the plan stays in the drawer. These are preventable deaths. They come weeks to months after a forecast that already exists.

Three months is not enough time to stop it. It is exactly enough time to prepare.

Spread the message to be El Niño Ready. If your organization works in power, water, food, or health, ask what it is doing before December. And sign up at **elninoready.earth**.

Thank you.

≈ 165 words · about 60 seconds Gave the minute? Tell us at elninoready.earth and your event goes on the list.