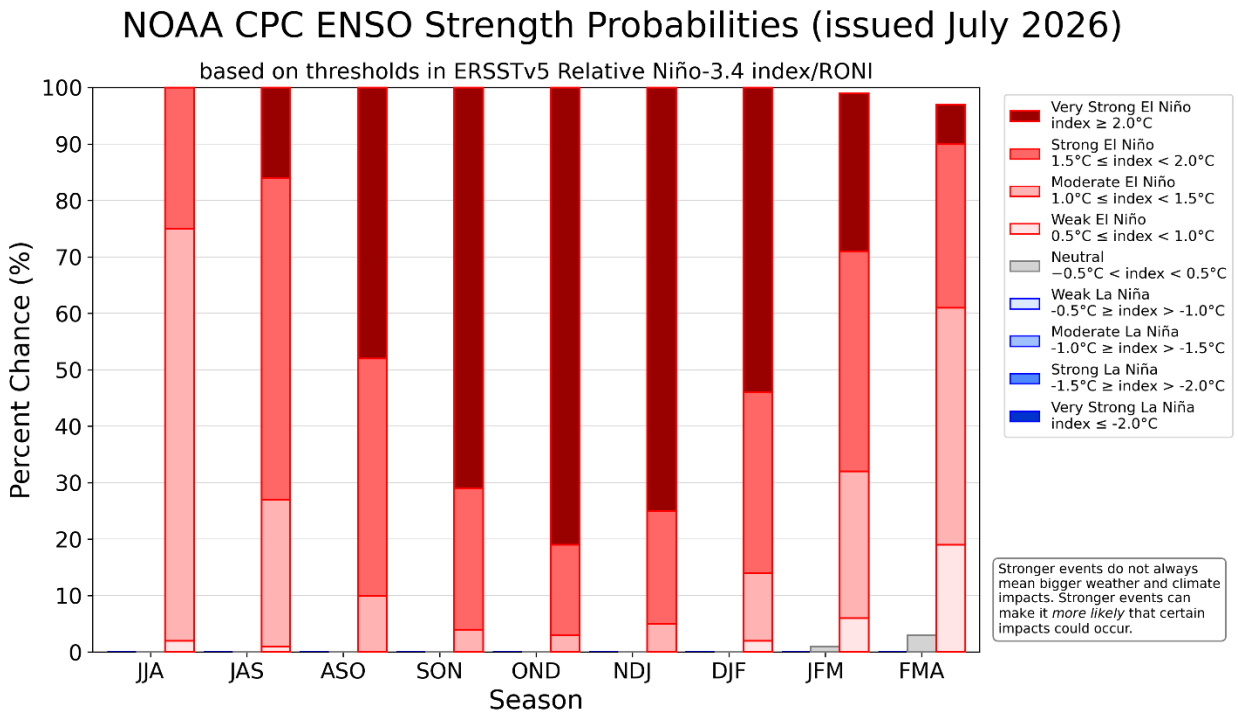
NiMet Seasonal Climate Prediction Update: August 2026, and August-September-October (ASO) 2026 Rainfall Forecast

El Niño and SSTs in the Main Ocean Basins

Analysis of the most recent ocean observations confirms the onset of a strong El Niño event in 2026. El Niño continues to intensify steadily and is expected to dominate global climate patterns during the August to October 2026 season. It is increasing the likelihood of above-normal temperatures across much of the world and driving significant shifts in rainfall patterns. The evolving super El Niño event represents one of the strongest ocean-atmosphere phenomena in recent decades, with significant implications for Nigeria's rainfall patterns.

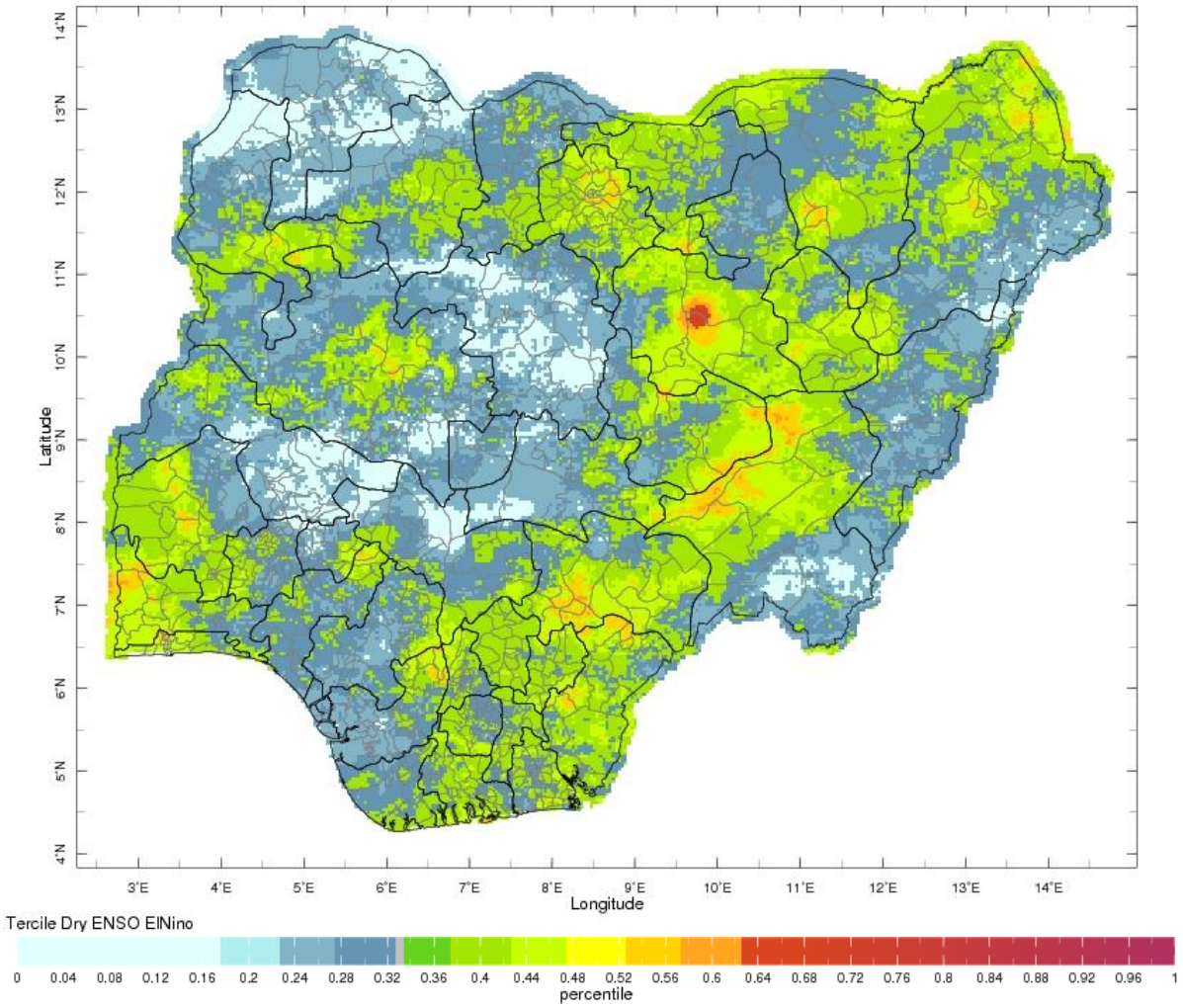
Multi-model ensemble forecasts from leading global producing centres show that sea-surface temperatures in key monitoring regions are expected to rise above 2.9°C above average, reaching their peak in November.



Historical analogues of El Niño suggest heightened risks of reduced rainfall, particularly in northern Nigeria, and flooding risks in the south, with potential to lead to cascading impacts across multiple sectors. While super El Niño events

provide strong predictive signals, local factors such as Sea Surface Temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, local topography and land-use patterns, and intraseasonal variability (e.g., the Madden-Julian Oscillation) can modulate impacts.

Proactive adaptation measures and enhanced monitoring and dissemination of NiMet's forecasts will be vital for building resilience and minimizing adverse impacts on vulnerable populations and economic activities.



Overview of August-September-October (ASO) 2026 Forecast

Although a Super El Niño is anticipated to prevail during the ASO season and raise temperatures across different parts of the world particularly the United States of America and Europe, its impact on temperatures in Nigeria may not be significant

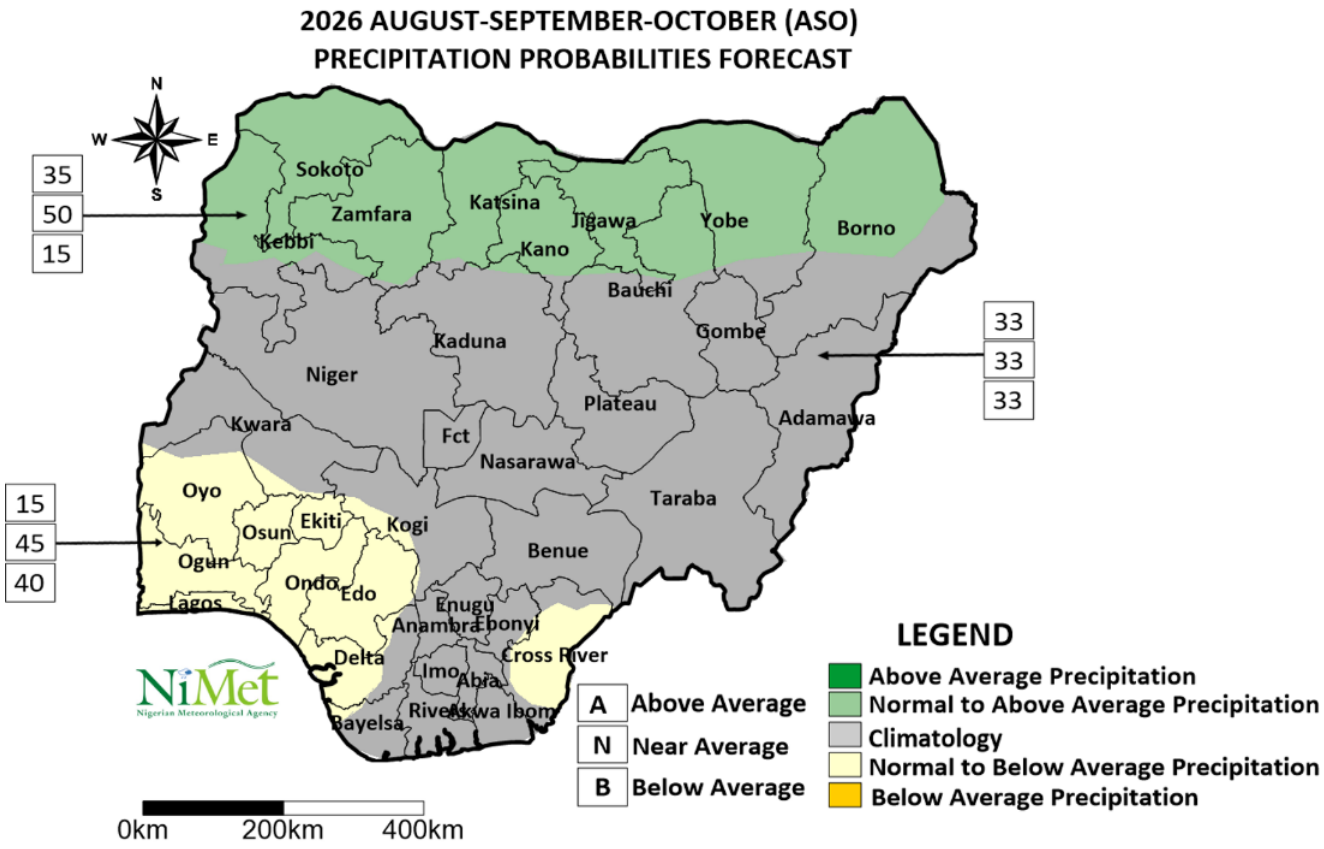
during the August-September-October season, while impact on rainfall may be significant especially on the rainfall cessation and length of season particularly in northern Nigeria

The August-September-October season is expected to bring:

🌡️ Normal to above-average temperatures across Nigeria

🌧️ During the August- September- October season, wetter-than-normal conditions are expected across the north, especially Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Yobe, Borno, Bauchi and Jigawa states.

🌞 For the August to October season, drier-than-normal conditions is expected over southern Nigeria, especially Oyo, Ogun, Lagos, Osun, Ekiti, Edo, and Delta. These drier-than-normal conditions are likely to affect Kogi and parts of Benue states.



The rainfall forecast for Nigeria during the ASO 2026 season shows spatial variations in expected rainfall patterns across different regions of the country. The rainfall forecast for August-September-October (ASO) 2026 shows that normal to above-normal rainfall is expected in the northern regions of the country, while in the southwest and Cross River State, rainfall totals are expected to be normal to below normal. The rest of the country is likely to experience normal rainfall.

Sectoral Implications of ASO 2026 Forecast

Agriculture:

a. The normal to below-normal rainfall in August for Borno and Yobe states may likely increase the risk of reduced crop yields, particularly during flowering and grain filling stages.
b. Farmers should avoid unnecessary fertilizer applications during dry spells to reduce crop stress, especially where normal to below-normal rainfall was predicted in August 2026.
c. It is recommended to apply after effective rainfall to maximize nutrient uptake.
d. Farmers should monitor fields for increased weeds, pests, and disease outbreaks associated with wetter conditions.
e. Keep drainage channels clear to reduce flood damage in areas expecting above-normal rainfall (Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, Kebbi and Sokoto states)
f. Farmers should work closely with agricultural extension officers for advice and improved farm management.

Water Resources:

a. Reduced surface water availability leading to decrease inflows into rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and dams, potentially reducing water available for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and hydropower uses.
b. Declining groundwater recharge particularly where groundwater abstraction is high
c. Lower reservoir and dam levels affecting water supply schemes, and irrigation systems.
d. Increased concentration of pollutants and nutrients in water bodies, while reduced river flows may limit the natural dilution of contaminants.

Energy:

a) Hydroelectric power generation suffers from reduced inflow
b) Increased reliance on thermal power generation
c) Energy security implications for the national grid
d) Increased reliance on fossil fuels raises costs and emissions.

Health:

a. Heatwaves and temperature extremes are less likely during this period
b. Vector-borne diseases (malaria, typhoid) may spread faster due to altered rainfall and stagnant water.
c. It could trigger widespread droughts, floods and erratic rainfall that threaten food production and lead to malnutrition.
d. It could cause high cases of skin rashes/disease during the dry season as unusual increase temperature is expected.

Adaptation and Preparedness Measures

Given the super El Niño evolving, stakeholders should consider:

i. Enhanced monitoring and dissemination of NiMet's forecasts
ii. Promotion of drought-resistant crop varieties and early maturing cultivars for the minor season
iii. Strategic reservoir management and water conservation measures
iv. Pre-positioning relief supplies in areas that are vulnerable to extreme weather events.
v. Scaling up irrigation infrastructure and rainwater harvesting