ADDRESSING THE DANGERS POSED TO THE HUMAN POPULATION DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS CAUSED BY EFFECTS OF THE 'SUPER' EL NIÑO

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Issue Description:

El Niño is a naturally recurring weather pattern that has been transforming the Earth's climate for what scientists believe to be hundreds of millions of years. It typically lasts between nine and 12 months. The surface waters of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become unusually warm. The term "Super El Niño" is not an official scientific term. It is generally used to describe an exceptionally strong El Niño event. These can have disastrous events. For example, the most recent super El Niño from 2015 to 2016 cause a record-breaking hurricane season, water shortage, drought and the hottest global surface temperature at that time. (Nationalgeographic, 2026)

Why has this issue not been resolved?

The issue has not been fully resolved because El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon that cannot be prevented. It is difficult for scientists to understand why an individual El Niño begins. They can predict the development when an El Niño has started. Furthermore, the effects of an El Niño are not everywhere the same. This makes it difficult to predict the consequences for countries and communities. Climate change also makes El Niño harder to predict. Scientists are unsure whether it is making El Niño stronger or more frequent, and it may cause new, unexpected effects. (salatainstitute.harvard, 2026)

Important stances on the issue

Countries facing extreme heat and drought are likely to focus on protecting food supplies, healthcare and vulnerable populations. Also, countries facing flooding may prioritize disaster preparedness and infrastructure. Nigeria is one of the countries projected to experience many additional heat-related deaths. Indonesia is also expected to be heavily affected. El Niño can cause reduced rainfall and drought, while extreme heat can increase health risks. India is particularly vulnerable to changes in rainfall because El Niño can weaken the Indian monsoon. Reduced rainfall can affect agriculture and increase food and water insecurity. Countries in Southern Africa have strong concerns about drought, agriculture and food security. The FAO reports that the region faces a significant likelihood of strong El Niño conditions during the 2026/27 season, which could worsen drought, food insecurity and economic losses. The United States is also affected, although its risks differ from those of many tropical countries.

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

The World Meteorological Organization coordinates global climate updates and works with international networks to issue early warnings. World Food Programme activates early action Figure 1plans and provides pre-arranged funding to help vulnerable nations prepare for droughts and floods. *(wmo, 2026) (wfp, 2026)*

Sources

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