

EL NIÑO KEY MESSAGES (UN INDONESIA FOCUS GROUP ON EL NIÑO)

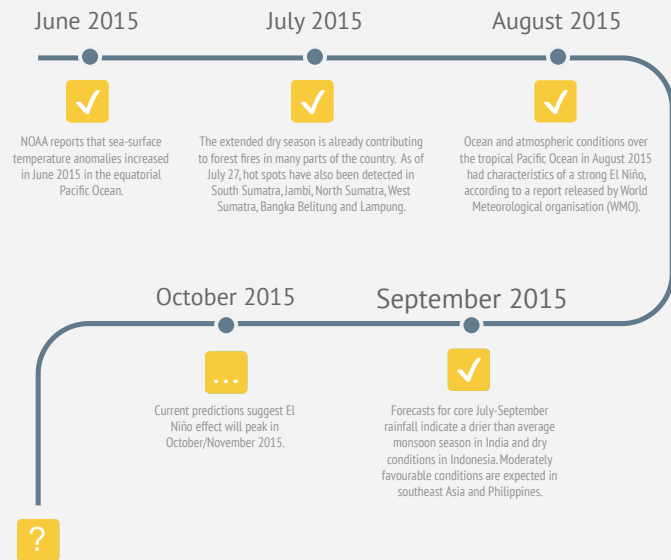
DROUGHT

El Niño related drought has been reported in 11 out of 33 provinces across Indonesia with the National Disaster Management Agency reporting that 84 out of 500 districts are affected.



TIMELINE

Current predictions indicate that the El Niño effect will peak in the last quarter of 2015, resulting in a high probability that the onset of the 2015-16 rainy season will be delayed in large parts of Indonesia south of the equator by as much as 2 months. This may impact the next main crop season as well as the 2016 secondary season. Historically, a strong El Niño episode is followed by a strong La Niña, associated with heavy rain, flooding and landslides.



SECTORS

El Niño touches the whole economy. It is important that all sectors exchange information and prepare to minimize/mitigate the impact on people's health and livelihoods (including food security and nutrition) throughout Indonesia.

EFFECT

El Niño has exacerbated the impact of peat land and forest fires, with haze affecting over **50 million** people in Indonesia and adjacent countries. The fires have significant impacts in terms of human health, loss of livelihoods, environmental and economic damage.



Some **22 million** people rely directly on agricultural production in the affected districts but many more people are likely to also be affected by factors related to the El Niño phenomenon.

HUMAN IMPACT

The impact of El Niño on people includes:



- greater health risks, particularly from the severe haze now afflicting Sumatra and Kalimantan, as well as from water-borne diseases as rivers recede;
- decreased access to food, with reduced yields and increased prices;
- increased malnutrition, as clean water and nutritious food become more scarce;
- late planting for the 2016 rice season which, in previous years, has led to lower yields;
- increased poverty, particularly among the urban poor, if food and water prices increase dramatically.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The United Nations stands ready to provide technical assistance to the Government in preparing for and responding to this situation. Such assistance could include:

- Enhanced real-time price monitoring (FAO, WFP, Global Pulse)
- Nutritional monitoring (UNICEF, WHO, WFP)
- Addressing water and sanitation needs (UNICEF)
- Prevention & mitigation of haze and fire risks (UNORCID)
- Analytical studies on multiple impacts (ALL, including WB, IMF, ADB)
- Analysis on impact on most vulnerable populations
- Analysis of possible impact of La Niña (2016-17)

