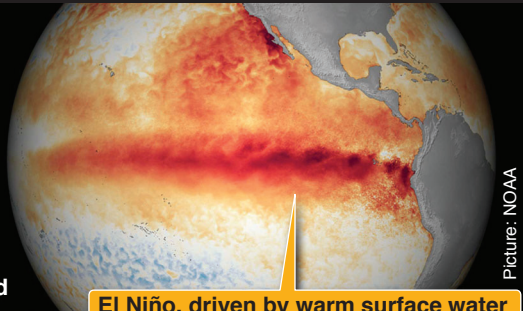


Countries worst hit by El Niño

The El Niño weather phenomenon – which has already impacted millions around the world – is forecast to continue through the winter and become one of the strongest on record



El Niño, driven by warm surface water in Pacific, disrupts climate patterns worldwide every seven years

1 Central America: Below average rainfall in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua leads to reduced harvests. **UN says around 2.3 million people will need food assistance due to crop losses**

2 Mexico: *Patricia* – strongest ever hurricane in Western Hemisphere, prompts mass evacuations in October. **El Niño contributes to very active tropical cyclone season in Pacific**

3 Guatemala: 500 people killed in mudslides caused by torrential rain on outskirts of Guatemala City in October

4 Peru: State of emergency declared in 14 provinces, where 2 million are vulnerable to flooding and mudslides

5 Argentina: Tens of thousands evacuated in Buenos Aires province following unseasonal torrential rain in August

6 Papua New Guinea: Worst drought since 1997 causes poor harvests

7 Indonesia: Prolonged dry season causes forest fires across archipelago in October and November

8 Malawi: More than 2.8 million people face hunger in coming months following severe floods and drought

9 Ethiopia: Worst drought in decades decimates food crops and leads to poor harvests. **Around 8.2 million people need food aid**

 Nations affected by El Niño

