

2026 FLOOD GUIDE FOR EKITI STATE

EDITORIAL NOTE

Every year, flooding reshapes life across Nigeria — flooding farmlands, endangering agricultural yield, displacing communities, closing schools, and cutting off roads. The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) has mapped what 2026 will look like, and the picture is clear: with the right preparation, communities can absorb what is coming without catastrophe. We know this because 2025 proved it. Early warning and organised community action reduced flood fatalities by 76% and displaced persons by 84% compared to 2024 (ref). The goal for 2026 is to go further.

The flood year follows a predictable rhythm, and that predictability is a gift. The early rains of April through June give communities a window to act — clearing drainage channels, reinforcing riverbanks, and registering households for alerts — before the peak season intensifies in July, August, and September. By the time October and November arrive, the heaviest rains may have eased, but water that fell months earlier in Adamawa and Cameroon is still travelling downstream toward the delta states. Communities in Anambra, Delta, Bayelsa, and Rivers need to stay vigilant well into November, long after they might assume the danger has passed.

The Communities That Need the Most Support:

Ten states face the sharpest risk in 2026: Kogi, Niger, Delta, Anambra, Benue, Kebbi, Rivers, Bayelsa, Adamawa, and Cross River but the threat is not abstract. Across Nigeria, 30,707 communities are at risk, along with 4,792 health facilities and 10,684 schools. When a health centre floods, patients lose access to care. When a school fills with water, children lose months of learning. These are the human costs that preparation can prevent.

In Kogi, where the Niger and Benue rivers meet at Lokoja, riverine flooding can isolate entire communities for weeks. Local governments there should be identifying high ground now,

designating safe assembly points, and making sure every community has a marked escape route. In Benue, the low-lying areas around Makurdi need the same attention before the Benue River crests. In Port Harcourt and other urban settings, where poor urban drainage compounds river and tidal flooding, the single most impactful community action is also the simplest — keeping drains clear of refuse.

With 4.2 million hectares of farmland at risk, agriculture sits at the centre of the 2026 challenge. Planting early-maturing crop varieties and using ridges or mounds instead of flat planting beds reduces both waterlogging damage and the risk of a total harvest loss. Staggered planting — sowing in batches rather than all at once means that if one batch is hit by flooding, others survive. Harvesting before October, and storing produce in elevated spaces away from floodwater, protects what has already been grown.

For northern farming communities, the challenge runs deeper, because the flood season is immediately followed by a severe dry period from December through February. The practical response is to treat flood season not only as a threat but as an opportunity — storing water in tanks, drums, and ponds during the wet months to carry livestock and households through the drought that follows.

The infrastructure of flood resilience is not complicated. It is community flood wardens who know which households have elderly or disabled residents and can reach them first. It is local radio stations broadcasting NIHSA alerts in local languages so that fishermen and farmers in remote areas receive warnings in time to act. It is traditional rulers and community leaders who have identified, in advance, which road out of the community stays passable longest. It is households that keep a small emergency kit — water purification tablets, key documents, basic medicine — packed and accessible before the rains arrive.

None of this requires waiting for government. Communities that prepare themselves reduce their own losses and make it easier for relief to reach those who need it most when flooding does occur.

Where local government is active and well-coordinated, the difference in outcomes is measurable. The priorities for 2026 are straightforward: clear primary drainage channels before April, pre-position food and medical supplies in high-risk areas before July, and ensure that development permits are not issued for floodplain land. These are not expensive interventions. They are largely organisational — a matter of doing in advance what would otherwise be done in crisis.

Nigeria has 30,707 communities, 10,684 schools, and 4,792 health facilities in the path of the 2026 flood season. Each one is also a community that has survived flooding before, that has knowledge of its own landscape, and that can act. The science has been done. The warnings have been issued. What happens next depends on what communities, local governments, and individuals choose to do with this information — starting now, while there is still time.

Source: Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) 2026 Annual Flood Outlook

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN EKITI IN 2026

Ekiti State has a different flood profile from many other states in Nigeria. The good news is that Ekiti is **not listed among states with High Flood Risk** in the 2026 AFO. However, this does not mean there will be no flooding. It means the flooding will be less severe than in high-risk states like Kogi, Benue, or Delta.

Why is Ekiti at lower risk? Two main reasons:

First, Ekiti is on higher ground. The state is located in the upland area of the South-West. Rivers in Ekiti tend to flow quickly downhill rather than sitting and spreading across wide floodplains.

Second, Ekiti is not on any major river system. Unlike states on the Niger or Benue rivers, Ekiti does not receive floodwater from far upstream. Most flooding in Ekiti comes from local rainfall, not from distant rivers.

However, Ekiti still faces **localized flooding** in low-lying areas and towns with poor drainage.

The Three Flood Periods for Ekiti:

When?	What to Expect	How Serious?
April, May, June (Early rains)	Rains begin. Localized flooding may occur in low-lying areas and towns with blocked drains.	Low
July, August, September (Peak rainy season)	This is when most flooding will happen. Heavy local rainfall causes flash floods and urban flooding.	Low to Medium
October, November (Late flooding)	Flood risk decreases significantly. Some localized flooding may still occur.	Low

WHAT THE AFO SAYS ABOUT EKITI

The AFO provides specific information about Ekiti's flood risk in different seasons.

AMJ Period (April, May, June):

Risk Level	What This Means for Ekiti
High Flood Risk	Ekiti is NOT listed among states with High Flood Risk in AMJ

Risk Level	What This Means for Ekiti
Medium Flood Risk	Ekiti is NOT listed among states with Medium Flood Risk in AMJ (the list says "all states except Ekiti" for Medium Risk - this means Ekiti has no Medium Risk in AMJ)
Low Flood Risk	Ekiti is in Low Flood Risk during AMJ

What this means in simple words: During April, May, and June, Ekiti is in the **Low Flood Risk** category. You will see some localized flooding, but it will not be severe.

JAS Period (July, August, September):

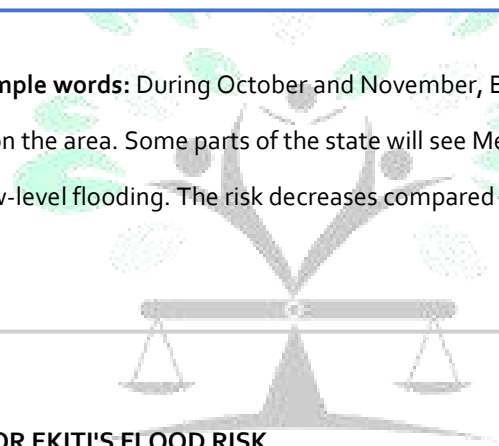
Risk Level	What This Means for Ekiti
High Flood Risk	Ekiti is NOT listed among the 34 states + FCT with High Flood Risk in JAS
Medium Flood Risk	Ekiti IS listed among states with Medium Flood Risk in JAS (the list says "35 states and FCT" including Ekiti)
Low Flood Risk	Not applicable for Ekiti in JAS (since it is in Medium Risk)

What this means in simple words: During July, August, and September, Ekiti moves to **Medium Flood Risk**. This is the most dangerous time for the state. You will see significant flooding in some areas, especially in low-lying communities and towns with poor drainage.

ON Period (October, November):

Risk Level	What This Means for Ekiti
High Flood Risk	Ekiti is NOT listed among states with High Flood Risk in ON
Medium Flood Risk	Ekiti IS listed among states with Medium Flood Risk in ON (the list says "36 states and FCT" including Ekiti)
Low Flood Risk	Ekiti is also listed among Low Flood Risk states in ON (the list includes Ekiti)

What this means in simple words: During October and November, Ekiti is in both Medium and Low Flood Risk depending on the area. Some parts of the state will see Medium-level flooding, while others will see only Low-level flooding. The risk decreases compared to JAS.



THE BOTTOM LINE FOR EKITI'S FLOOD RISK

Season	Risk Level	What You Should Do
AMJ (April-June)	Low	Be aware. Clear drains. Do not throw garbage into waterways.
JAS (July-September)	Medium	This is the main flood season. Prepare for significant local flooding. Know your escape route.
ON (October-November)	Low to Medium	Risk decreases, but some areas may still flood. Stay alert.

WHICH PARTS OF EKITI ARE AT RISK

Ekiti State falls within **Hydrological Area II (Niger Central)** for some areas and **Hydrological Area VI (Western Littoral)** for most of the state.

From the AFO's HA-VI tables (Western Littoral, which includes most of Ekiti):

Season	Risk Level (for HA-VI)	What This Means for Ekiti
AMJ	High Risk: 849 communities across HA-VI (Ekiti is part of this zone)	Some communities in Ekiti may be at High Risk, but the state overall is classified as Low Risk in AMJ
JAS	High Risk: 1,195 communities across HA-VI	More communities at risk during peak season
ON	High Risk: 1,024 communities across HA-VI	Risk continues into ON

Important note: These numbers are for the entire HA-VI zone, which includes Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Delta, Edo, Kogi, Kwara, and Ekiti. Ekiti's share of these numbers is smaller because it is a smaller state with lower flood risk than coastal states.

Annual total for Ekiti: Ekiti is NOT among the states with High Flood Risk in the annual summary. This means your overall risk is lower than states like Kogi, Benue, or Delta.

For roads: The AFO's road risk table (Table 4.26) does not list Ekiti separately. This suggests that Ekiti has fewer than 10 road sections at risk (the table only lists states with 15 or more).

THE URBAN FLOODING DANGER IN EKITI

Even though Ekiti is not a high-risk state, **urban flooding** is still a problem in towns and cities like Ado-Ekiti.

What causes urban flooding in Ekiti:

- Drainage channels blocked with plastic, sand, and garbage (this is the number one cause)
- Buildings constructed in areas where water naturally flows
- Roads that do not have proper drainage
- Rapid construction without proper planning

What the AFO says about urban flooding:

The AFO's Urban Flood Hotspots table (Table 4.27) does not list any city in Ekiti among the top 10 hotspots. This means Ekiti's urban flooding is less severe than in Lagos, Benin City, or Makurdi.

What you can do in your town or city:

- **Do not throw garbage into drains.** This is the most important thing you can do.
- Clear the drainage channel in front of your home before the rains begin.
- If you see a blocked drain that needs government help, report it to your local government.
- If your home is in a low-lying area, prepare sandbags to divert water away from your door.
- Do not build structures on top of drainage channels or natural waterways.

WHAT CROPS ARE AT RISK IN EKITI

Ekiti is a major agricultural state, known for yam, cassava, maize, and cocoa. Here is how different crops will be affected.

Crop	When It Is Most at Risk	What to Do
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Crop	When It Is Most at Risk	What to Do
Yam	JAS (July-September)	Yam is a major crop in Ekiti. Plant on mounds in March-April. Plant in batches. Ensure good drainage in yam fields. With Medium Flood Risk in JAS, some low-lying yam farms may experience waterlogging.
Cassava	JAS (July-September)	Plant on mounds or ridges. Cassava does not like wet feet. Choose early to medium-maturing varieties (8-12 months). In low-lying areas, ensure good drainage.
Maize	JAS (July-September)	Plant on ridges. Use early to medium-maturing varieties (90-110 days). Plant in batches.
Cocoa	Year-round, but disease risk increases in wet conditions	Cocoa is a major cash crop in Ekiti. The Medium Flood Risk and wet conditions in JAS increase the risk of black pod disease. Watch your cocoa farms carefully. Remove infected pods promptly. Ensure drainage channels in cocoa plantations are clear.
Vegetables (okra, pepper, tomatoes, leafy greens)	JAS (July-September)	Use raised beds. During heavy rain, watch for fungal diseases. Improve air circulation between plants.
Plantain and Banana	Year-round	Ensure good drainage around the base of each plant. In low-lying areas, plant on mounds.

Special note for Ekiti farmers:

Because Ekiti is in **Medium Flood Risk** during JAS, you will see more water than usual, but not the severe, widespread flooding of high-risk states. The main dangers are:

1. **Waterlogging** in low-lying fields (standing water that drowns crops)
2. **Soil erosion** on sloping land
3. **Fungal diseases** in cocoa and other crops

What to do about waterlogging: Dig drainage channels in your fields to let excess water escape.
Plant on ridges or mounds for crops that do not like wet feet.

What to do about erosion: Plant cover crops to hold the soil. Use contour ridges on sloping land (ridges that go across the slope, not up and down).

What to do about fungal diseases: In cocoa, remove infected pods promptly. Improve air circulation by pruning trees. In vegetables, space plants properly so air can flow between them.

WHAT LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN EKITI MUST DO

For all livestock owners:

Action	When to Do It	Why
Vaccinate all animals	February-March (before rains start)	Wet ground spreads diseases faster
Deworm all animals	Start of rains, then again mid-season	Worms and parasites increase in wet conditions
Provide raised housing	Before April	Animals must have dry ground to stand on. Wet ground causes foot rot and pneumonia.

Action	When to Do It	Why
Prepare for heat	March-May (hot months)	Provide shade and plenty of water

For poultry farmers in Ekiti:

- Reduce the number of birds per cage. Do not overcrowd.
- Open the sides of your poultry house for ventilation.
- Feed birds early in the morning and late in the evening (cooler hours).
- Add vitamins and electrolytes to drinking water.
- Never leave birds without water. Check twice every day.
- During heavy rains, ensure housing is leak-proof.
- Watch for **coccidiosis** — wet litter increases this disease. Keep litter dry.

For goat and sheep farmers in Ekiti:

- Raised housing is recommended. Do not let animals sleep on wet ground.
- Watch for foot rot. If an animal starts limping, treat immediately.
- Cut and store grasses in June and July. Use these during the August dry spell when grass may be scarce.

For pig farmers in Ekiti:

- Pigs must have dry sleeping areas. Wet conditions cause pneumonia.
- Provide shaded mud holes for pigs to cool themselves (pigs do not sweat).
- During hot May, ensure plenty of clean drinking water.

THE AUGUST DRY SPELL (LITTLE DRY SEASON)

Ekiti may experience a reduction in rainfall around August (the "August Break").

What to do during the August dry spell:

- Store water in tanks, drums, or ponds during July for use in August
 - If you have vegetable farms, be prepared to water them if rain stops
 - Use stored fodder for livestock if grasses dry up
 - Do not assume the dry spell means the flood season is over. Flooding can return in September.
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WHAT TO DO IF FLOODING COMES

When NIHSA or NEMA sends a flood warning (even for Medium Flood Risk):

1. If you are in a low-lying area or near a river, be prepared to move.
 2. Move important belongings to higher ground.
 3. **Do not try to walk through moving floodwater.** It can sweep you away.
 4. If it is safe, switch off electricity at the mains before leaving.
 5. Take your emergency kit, important documents, and any medicines you need.
 6. Make sure all family members are accounted for — especially children and elderly people.
 7. Report to your local government flood officer or community flood warden.
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WHAT TO PREPARE BEFORE THE FLOODS COME

Every household should prepare (even in low-risk states like Ekiti):

- An emergency kit containing: water purification tablets, first aid supplies, copies of important documents (in a waterproof bag), and enough food for at least three days.
- Know the nearest high ground in your area.
- Register with your local government flood officer to receive alerts by phone or radio.
- Clear the drainage channels around your home before the rains begin.
- Do not throw garbage into drains.

For farmers: Store harvested crops in elevated storage. Dig drainage channels in low-lying fields.

For cocoa farmers: Prune trees to improve air circulation. Remove infected pods promptly. Ensure drainage channels are clear.

THE GOOD NEWS FOR EKITI

Compared to other states, Ekiti has several advantages in 2026:

1. **You are not in High Flood Risk.** The AFO lists 34 states + FCT in High Risk. Ekiti is not one of them.
2. **You are not on a major river.** You do not receive floodwater from distant states like Adamawa or Cameroon.
3. **You do not face severe drought.** Unlike northern states, your dry season will have adequate water.

Dry season outlook (October 2026 - March 2027):

Zone	Forecast	What This Means
South-West (including Ekiti)	Normal to Slightly Wet	You will have adequate water throughout the dry season. No drought vulnerability.

RESOURCE CENTRE

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP IN EKITI

Agency	What They Do	Contact
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Agency	What They Do	Contact
NIHSA	Issues flood warnings	0800-NIHSA-NG
NEMA	Disaster response and relief	0800-NEMA-NG
Ekiti State SEMA	State-level emergency response	Contact your LGA Agriculture Officer or LGA Chairman for local numbers
NiMet	Weather forecasts	www.nimet.gov.ng

THE BOTTOM LINE FOR EKITI

- **You are NOT in High Flood Risk.** This is good news. But it does not mean no flooding.
- **The worst months are July, August, and September (JAS)** when the state moves to Medium Flood Risk.
- **During AMJ (April-June), you are in Low Flood Risk** — just localized flooding.
- **During ON (October-November), risk decreases** but some areas may still flood.
- **Urban flooding is the main danger in towns and cities.** Keep drains clear. Do not throw garbage into drainage channels.
- **For farmers:** The main dangers are waterlogging, soil erosion, and fungal diseases (especially black pod disease in cocoa). Dig drainage channels. Plant on ridges. Prune cocoa trees.
- **Cocoa farmers:** Watch for black pod disease. Remove infected pods promptly. This is your biggest risk in a wet year.
- **The good news:** You do not face severe flooding like Kogi or Benue. You do not face severe drought like Borno or Yobe.

- **Do not ignore the warnings just because you are not in High Risk.** Medium Flood Risk still means significant flooding in some areas. Prepare your emergency kit and know your escape route.

This information comes directly from the NIHSA 2026 Annual Flood Outlook.

PREPARE NOW. DO NOT WAIT.

