

2026 FLOOD GUIDE FOR OSUN 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 OSUN IN 2026

Osun State faces serious flooding in 2026, especially in its low-lying areas and urban centers. The state is part of the Western Littoral hydrological zone, which means it shares river systems with Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo, and other South-West states.

Why is Osun vulnerable to flooding? Three main reasons:

First, Osun has several major rivers. The Osun River flows through the state, passing through Osogbo, the state capital. The river is sacred to the Yoruba people, but it is also a major flood risk. The Oba River, the Erinle River, and other waterways also flow through the state.

Second, Osun is in a river basin that drains toward Lagos. Water that falls in Osun flows downstream through Ogun State and into the Lagos Lagoon. When heavy rains fall, the rivers swell and overflow.

Third, Osun has urban flooding problems. Osogbo and other towns have drainage channels that are often blocked with garbage. When heavy rain falls, water pools on roads and enters homes. The AFO lists Osun among states with High Flood Risk in the JAS period.

The Three Flood Periods for Osun:

When?	What to Expect	How Serious?
April, May, June (Early rains)	Rains intensify. Rivers begin to rise. Urban areas with blocked drains see flash floods.	Low to Medium
July, August, September (Peak rainy season)	This is the most dangerous time. Heavy rains fill up rivers. The Osun River overflows. Urban flooding worsens.	Medium to High
October, November (Late flooding)	Flooding continues. Recession flooding affects the state.	Medium to High

WHICH PARTS OF OSUN ARE AT RISK

Osun State falls within **Hydrological Area VI (Western Littoral)** . This means Osun is in the same flood zone as Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti, Edo, Delta, Kogi, and Kwara.

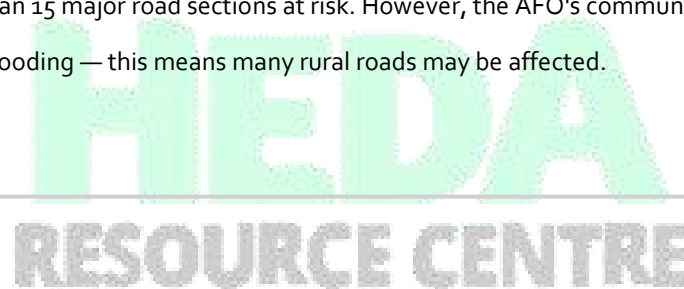
By the numbers (from NIHSA for HA-VI):

Season	Risk Level	Number of Communities (across HA-VI which includes Osun)	What This Means for Osun
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Season	Risk Level	Number of Communities (across HA-VI which includes Osun)	What This Means for Osun
AMJ (April-May-June)	High	849 communities (for Delta, Edo, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Osun combined)	Early flooding begins. Urban areas with blocked drains see flash floods.
JAS (July-August-September)	High	1,195 communities (for Delta, Edo, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo combined)	This is peak flooding. Widespread flooding across the state.
ON (October-November)	High	1,024 communities (for Delta, Edo, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo combined)	Late flooding continues.

Annual total for Osun: Osun is among the states with High Flood Risk in AMJ and JAS (and Medium-to-High in ON). Many communities across the state will see flooding in 2026.

For roads: The AFO's road risk table (Table 4.26) does not list Osun separately. This suggests that Osun has fewer than 15 major road sections at risk. However, the AFO's community risk numbers show significant flooding — this means many rural roads may be affected.



THE OSUN RIVER: YOUR MAIN FLOOD DANGER

The Osun River is the dominant waterway in Osun State. It flows through Osogbo, the state capital, and continues through Ogun State to the Lagos Lagoon.

What you should know about the Osun River:

- It is fed by rainfall from the highlands of Osun and Ekiti States
- When upstream areas get heavy rain, the river can rise quickly
- Low-lying communities along the river, especially in Osogbo, are at highest risk

- The river flows through the middle of Osogbo, putting parts of the city at risk
- The river is sacred, and many cultural sites (including the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove) are located along its banks

What to do if you live near the Osun River:

- Know the nearest high ground. Where will you go if the river rises?
- Pay attention to NIHSA warnings
- Clear the drainage channels in your neighborhood
- If you see the river rising unusually high, do not wait for an official warning. Move to higher ground.

THE OBA RIVER, ERINLE RIVER, AND OTHER WATERWAYS

The Oba River flows through Ogbomosho area (though mostly in Oyo) and affects parts of northern Osun. The Erinle River flows through Ede and other areas.

What you should know about these rivers:

- They are smaller than the Osun River but can still flood
- When heavy rains fall locally, these rivers can rise quickly
- Low-lying communities along these rivers are at risk

What to do if you live near the Oba River or Erinle River:

- Know the nearest high ground
 - Pay attention to local rainfall and river levels
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URBAN FLOODING IN OSOGBO AND OTHER TOWNS

Osun's cities and towns face **urban flooding** when heavy rain falls on blocked drainage channels.

What causes urban flooding in Osogbo and other towns:

- Drainage channels blocked with plastic, sand, and garbage (the number one cause)
- Buildings constructed in areas where water naturally flows
- Roads that do not have proper drainage
- The Osun River overflowing its banks
- Rapid development without proper planning

Known flood-prone areas in Osun (based on historical records, consistent with AFO risk assessment):

- **Osogbo** – low-lying areas near the Osun River, especially around Oke-Fia, Oja-Oba, and the city center
- **Ile-Ife** – low-lying areas, areas near streams
- **Ilesa** – low-lying areas (though Ilesa is on higher ground, valley areas flood)
- **Ede** – areas near the Erinle River
- **Iwo** – low-lying areas
- **Ikirun** – low-lying areas

What you can do in Osogbo and other towns:

- **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.

**WEDA
RESOURCE CENTRE**

WHEN IS THE WORST TIME FOR OSUN?

The **JAS period (July, August, September)** is the most dangerous for flooding. This is when:

- Heavy monsoon rains fall across the state
- The Osun River swells and overflows its banks
- The Oba River, Erinle River, and other waterways also flood
- Urban flooding is worst in Osogbo and other towns

The **ON period (October, November)** also carries significant risk. Recession flooding can affect the state, especially in low-lying areas near the Osun River.

ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL FORECAST FOR THE REGION

The PRESAGG 2026 forecast (from AGRHYMET, cited in the AFO) predicts **above-normal river flows** for coastal basins in southern Nigeria. While Osun is inland, its rivers flow to the coast, so above-normal flows upstream affect the entire basin.

What this means for Osun:

- The Osun River and other waterways will carry **more water than usual** in 2026
- Low-lying communities along the river face higher risk of inundation
- The growing season will be wetter than normal

WHAT CROPS ARE AT RISK IN OSUN

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

Crop	When It Is Most at Risk	What to Do
Cocoa (major crop)	Year-round, but disease risk increases in wet conditions	Cocoa is a major cash crop in Osun. The above-normal rainfall and wet conditions increase the risk of black pod disease. Watch your cocoa farms carefully. Remove infected pods promptly. Prune trees to improve air circulation. Ensure drainage channels are clear.

Crop	When It Is Most at Risk	What to Do
Cassava	JAS and ON	Plant on mounds or ridges. Cassava does not like wet feet. With above-normal rainfall, ridges are essential. Choose early to medium-maturing varieties (8-12 months).
Yam	JAS (July-September)	Plant on mounds in March-April. Plant in batches. Harvest before October if possible.
Maize	JAS (July-September)	Plant on ridges. Use early to medium-maturing varieties (90-110 days). Plant in batches.
Rice (lowland areas)	JAS and ON	Rice can handle water, but too much will drown it. Plant early-maturing varieties. Clear drainage channels.
Vegetables (okra, pepper, tomatoes, leafy greens)	JAS and ON	Use raised beds. During heavy rain, watch for fungal diseases. Improve air circulation between plants.
Oil Palm	Year-round	Oil palm can tolerate wet conditions, but young seedlings can be drowned. Ensure drainage channels are clear.

Special note for Osun cocoa farmers:

Cocoa is very important for Osun's economy. The above-normal rainfall and flooding risk in 2026 pose a serious threat to cocoa farms.

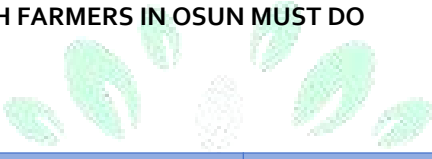
What cocoa farmers should do:

1. **Watch for black pod disease.** This disease thrives in wet conditions. Check your farms regularly.

2. **Remove infected pods immediately.** Do not leave them on the ground. Bury them or burn them.
3. **Prune your cocoa trees.** Good air circulation helps prevent fungal diseases.
4. **Ensure good drainage.** Dig drainage channels in your cocoa plantation so water does not pool around the trees.
5. **Harvest pods as soon as they ripen.** Do not leave ripe pods on trees in wet weather.

WHAT LIVESTOCK AND FISH FARMERS IN OSUN 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.
Prepare for heat	March-May (hot months)	Provide shade and plenty of water
Have an evacuation plan for animals	Before flood season	Where will you take your animals when water rises?

For poultry farmers in Osun:

- 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 and raised off the ground.
- Watch for **coccidiosis** — wet litter increases this disease. Keep litter dry.

For goat and sheep farmers in Osun:

- Raised housing is essential. 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.
- During heavy rains and flooding, move animals to higher ground.

For pig farmers in Osun:

- 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.
- In flood-prone areas (near the Osun River), have a plan to move pigs to higher ground.

For fish farmers in Osun:

Fish farming is practiced in many parts of Osun.

Action	When to Do It	Why
Strengthen pond walls and embankments	Before heavy rains (March-June)	Floodwaters can wash away weak walls. Your fish will escape.

Action	When to Do It	Why
Clear drainage channels	Before April	Prevent overflow into your ponds from surrounding water
Install screens or netting at water inlets	Before April	Stop debris from entering and stop fish from escaping
Raise pond walls higher than normal	Before flood season	With above-normal rainfall, water levels will be higher than usual
Have harvest nets ready	Before JAS period	If flooding threatens, you may need to harvest quickly



THE AUGUST DRY SPELL (LITTLE DRY SEASON)

Osun 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.

WHAT TO DO IF FLOODING COMES

When NIHSA or NEMA sends a High Flood Risk warning:

1. **Leave immediately.** Do not wait to see the water.
2. Move to the designated safe place in your community (high 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.
8. **For livestock:** Move animals to higher ground before the water arrives. Do not wait.

If you are in Osogbo near the Osun River: Pay attention to the river level. If you see it rising unusually high, do not wait for an official warning. Move to higher ground.

If you are near the Oba River or Erinle River: Pay attention to local rainfall and river levels.

WHAT TO PREPARE BEFORE THE FLOODS COME

Every household in a flood-risk area should prepare:

- 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 your escape route. Where is the nearest high ground?
- Register with your local government flood officer to receive alerts by phone or radio.
- Raise important belongings (mattresses, electronics, food stores) above the expected flood level.
- 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. Clear drainage channels. Watch for black pod disease.

For livestock owners: Identify high ground where you can move animals during flooding.

THE GOOD NEWS FOR OSUN

Unlike northern states, Osun does not face severe drought during the dry season.

Dry season outlook (October 2026 - March 2027):

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

This means you do not need to worry about rivers stopping or severe water scarcity.



WHO TO CALL FOR HELP IN OSUN

Agency	What They Do	Contact
NIHSA	Issues flood warnings	0800-NIHSA-NG
NEMA	Disaster response and relief	0800-NEMA-NG
Osun 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 OSUN

- **You will see significant flooding in 2026.** Osun is in High Flood Risk during AMJ and JAS, and Medium-to-High risk during ON.
- **The worst months are July, August, and September (JAS).** This is the peak flood season for the state.
- **The Osun River is your main flood danger.** Low-lying communities along the river, especially in Osogbo, are at highest risk.
- **Osogbo faces urban flooding** when the Osun River overflows and drains are blocked. Keep drains clear. Do not throw garbage into drainage channels.
- **The Oba River and Erinle River can also flood** in parts of the state.
- **Cocoa farmers:** This is very important. Above-normal rainfall increases the risk of black pod disease. Watch your farms carefully. Remove infected pods promptly.
- **Farmers:** Plant on mounds or ridges. Clear drainage channels. Watch for fungal diseases.
- **The good news:** You do not face severe drought like northern states. Your dry season will have Normal to Slightly Wet conditions.
- **Do not wait until water arrives.** Prepare your emergency kit, know your escape route, watch your cocoa farms, keep your drains clear, and stay alert through November.

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

PREPARE NOW. DO NOT WAIT.