2026 FLOOD GUIDE FOR OYO 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

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UNDERSTANDING WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN OYO IN 2026

Oyo State faces serious flooding in 2026, especially in its low-lying areas and urban centers. The state is part of the Western Littoral and Niger Central hydrological zones, which means it shares river systems with other South-West states and the Niger River basin.

Why is Oyo vulnerable to flooding? Three main reasons:

First, Oyo has several major rivers. The Ogun River rises in Oyo State (in the Oyo town area) and flows through Ibadan and other towns before continuing to Lagos. The Oba River, the Ofiki River, and other waterways also flow through the state. When heavy rains fall, these rivers swell and overflow.

Second, Oyo has a very large urban center. Ibadan is one of the largest cities in West Africa. The city has grown rapidly, and many drainage channels are blocked with garbage. Natural waterways have been built over. The AFO specifically mentions Oyo in the context of urban flooding.

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

The Three Flood Periods for Oyo:

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 Ogun 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 OYO ARE AT RISK

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

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

Season	Risk Level	Number of Communities (across HA-VI which includes Oyo)	What This Means for Oyo
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.

From the AFO's HA-II tables (Niger Central, for northern parts of Oyo):

Season	Risk Level	What This Means for Oyo
AMJ	High	Oyo is part of HA-II High Risk communities (1,147 communities for FCT, Kaduna, Kogi, Kwara, Niger)
JAS	High	Oyo is part of HA-II High Risk communities (1,832 communities for FCT, Kaduna, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Oyo, Plateau, Zamfara)
ON	High	Oyo is part of HA-II High Risk communities (1,405 communities for FCT, Kaduna, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Oyo, Plateau, Zamfara)

Annual total for Oyo: Oyo is among the states with High Flood Risk across all three seasons. Many communities across the state will see flooding in 2026.

For roads: The AFO's road risk table (Table 4.26) does not list Oyo separately. This suggests that Oyo has fewer than 15 major road sections at risk. However, given Ibadan's size and the AFO's urban flood warnings, many local roads will be affected.

THE OGUN RIVER: YOUR MAIN FLOOD DANGER

The Ogun River rises in Oyo State (near Oyo town) and flows through Ibadan and other towns before continuing to Ogun State and the Lagos Lagoon.

What you should know about the Ogun River:

- It is fed by rainfall from the highlands of Oyo State
- When upstream areas get heavy rain, the river can rise quickly
- The river flows through Ibadan, putting parts of the city at risk
- Low-lying communities along the river are at highest risk

What to do if you live near the Ogun 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 AND OTHER WATERWAYS

The Oba River flows through Ogbomoso and other parts of northern Oyo. The Ofiki River also flows through the state.

What you should know about these rivers:

- They are fed by rainfall from the Oyo highlands

- When heavy rains fall, 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 Ofiki River:

- Know the nearest high ground
- Pay attention to local rainfall and river levels

URBAN FLOODING IN IBADAN (A MAJOR CONCERN)

Ibadan is one of the largest cities in West Africa. Urban flooding is a major problem in the city.

What causes urban flooding in Ibadan:

- Drainage channels blocked with plastic, sand, and garbage (the number one cause)
- Buildings constructed in areas where water naturally flows (stream channels, low-lying areas)
- Roads that do not have proper drainage
- The Ogun River overflowing its banks
- Rapid development without proper planning
- The city's hilly terrain means water flows quickly downhill into low-lying areas

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

- **Ogunpa River area** – this is the most famous flood-prone area in Ibadan. The Ogunpa River has flooded many times, causing loss of life and property.
- **Bashorun** – low-lying areas
- **Challenge** – low-lying areas
- **Dugbe** – low-lying areas, poor drainage
- **Molete** – low-lying areas
- **Apata** – low-lying areas near the river
- **Bodija** – some low-lying areas
- **Ring Road area** – poor drainage

- **Gbagi** – low-lying areas

What you can do in Ibadan 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.
- **Do not build in the Ogunpa River floodplain.** This area floods repeatedly.

WHEN IS THE WORST TIME FOR OYO?

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

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

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

WHAT CROPS ARE AT RISK IN OYO

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

Crop	When It Is Most at Risk	What to Do

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. 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.
Cocoa	Year-round, but disease risk increases in wet conditions	Above-normal rainfall increases the risk of black pod disease. Watch your cocoa farms carefully. Remove infected pods promptly. Prune trees to improve air circulation.
Rice (where grown, in lowland areas)	JAS and ON	Rice can handle water, but too much will drown it. Plant early-maturing varieties. Clear drainage channels.
Vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, leafy greens)	JAS and ON	Use raised beds. During heavy rain, watch for fungal diseases.
Cashew	Year-round	Cashew trees do not like standing water. Ensure good drainage.

WHAT LIVESTOCK AND FISH FARMERS IN OYO 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 Oyo:

- 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 Oyo:

- 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 Oyo:

- 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 Ogun River), have a plan to move pigs to higher ground.

For fish farmers in Oyo:

Fish farming is practiced in many parts of Oyo.

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.
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

Action	When to Do It	Why
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

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THE AUGUST DRY SPELL (LITTLE DRY SEASON)

Oyo 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.

THE ROAD DISRUPTION WARNING

The AFO's road risk table does not list Oyo separately, meaning fewer than 15 major road sections are identified. However, this does not mean roads will not flood — especially in Ibadan.

What you should do:

- Stock up on essential supplies before the flood peak
- If you need to travel for work or market, plan your trips before September

- Listen to NIHSA and NEMA warnings about road closures
- In Ibadan, be aware that heavy rain can flood major roads within minutes

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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 Ibadan near the Ogunpa River: This is very important. The Ogunpa River has a history of deadly floods. If you see the river rising, do not wait for an official warning. Move to higher ground immediately.

If you are near the Ogun River or Oba River: Pay attention to the river level. If you see it rising, move to higher ground.

If you are on a flooded road in Ibadan: Do not attempt to drive through floodwater. Turn back or find another route.

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 OYO

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

Dry season outlook (October 2026 - March 2027):

Zone	Forecast	What This Means
South-West (including Oyo)	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 OYO

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

- **You will see significant flooding in 2026.** Oyo is in High Flood Risk during AMJ, JAS, and ON.
- **The worst months are July, August, and September (JAS).** This is the peak flood season for the state.
- **The Ogun River is your main flood danger.** Low-lying communities along the river are at highest risk. The river rises in Oyo State and flows through Ibadan.
- **Ibadan faces serious urban flooding.** The Ogunpa River is the most famous flood risk. Do not build in the floodplain. Keep drains clear. Do not throw garbage into drains.
- **The Oba River and Ofiki River can also flood** in northern Oyo (Ogbomoso area).
- **Cocoa farmers:** 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, 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.