Media headlines

September 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

August 2026 broke an all-time heat record

The concerning data on the state of education in Latin America revealed by the latest PISA test

"Livestock are dying of thirst and hunger": the devastating impact of El Niño is already being felt in Central America's Dry Corridor.

More than 450,000 people could die as a result of El Niño over the next six months

The UN warns of an increasingly unpredictable water cycle

Eliminating ultra-processed foods from your diet could have this surprising effect

Earth has lost 12.5 trillion tons of ice from Greenland and Antarctica over 47 years.

UN: Global warming will exceed 1.5 degrees, but it can still be reversed with urgent policies

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

August 2026 broke an all-time heat record r



RT, 09/10/2026

Synopsis: Last August became the warmest on record, the Copernicus Climate Change Service reported this Thursday. The month occurred during a Northern Hemisphere summer marked by several extreme heatwaves in Europe, compounded by low rainfall and severe forest fires.

This August tied with the warmest month ever recorded—July 2023—with a difference of less than 0.01 degrees Celsius between the two. Meanwhile, the average global surface temperature reached nearly 17 degrees. Furthermore, August proved warmer than July, typically the hottest month of the year; temperatures in August were 0.06 degrees higher.

This has occurred only four times since 1940.

The record global temperature affected both sea-surface temperatures (outside of polar regions) and land temperatures, with both reaching unprecedented levels. Compared to pre-industrial temperatures, August 2023 was 1.65 degrees higher.

El Niño reached a record anomaly of 3.03 °C and points to prolonged droughts in the region.



La iguana tv, 09/21/2026

Synopsis: The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (Inameh), citing reports from the specialized account @huracaninfopr, stated that the El Niño phenomenon has reached a record-breaking sea surface temperature anomaly in the region. Temperatures were recorded at 3.03 °C above the pre-industrial average in some parts of our continent, surpassing the previous daily record set on November 19, 2015.

According to meteorological projections, this climate cycle is expected to continue strengthening over the coming months, prompting heightened alerts due to its regional impacts. For the Caribbean, Central America, and southern Mexico, conditions are expected to be significantly drier than usual, increasing the risk of a prolonged drought.

Conversely, for the southeastern United States—including the state of Florida—models anticipate a wetter and stormier autumn and winter than normal, necessitating constant monitoring of atmospheric variables.

Apocalyptic scene: extreme drought in a river leaves thousands of dead fish exposed



RT, 09/04/2026

Synopsis: An unusual phenomenon in Indonesia left millions of fish crowded on the surface following a sharp drop in water levels, which nearly dried up the riverbed. The animals can be seen struggling to survive in the mud, while local residents gather them into baskets—in many cases, to be processed as food for other species.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

September 2026

What lies ahead for Colombia with El Niño: the forecast from those who track it



El Espectador, 09/23/2026

Synopsis: Forecasts from national and international centers indicate that Colombia is facing an El Niño phenomenon with the potential to be historic, with an expected intensity ranging from very strong to extreme between late 2026 and early 2027.

Its primary effects include: a drastic rainfall deficit and heatwaves; strain on reservoirs and the risk of rationing; a crisis in the agricultural sector and shortages of drinking water; emergencies caused by forest fires; and unexpected global climate disruptions.

In response, the Colombian government has declared a national disaster situation for a period of twelve months.

French government offers one billion in aid to farmers amid protests



Prensa Latina, 09/04/2026

Synopsis: In an effort to curb rising prices and safeguard food sovereignty, the French government has announced a one-billion-euro aid package for the agricultural sector to compensate for the effects of the drought.

Following the hottest summer on record, the agricultural industry has seen crop yields decline by nearly 50 percent.

In the vegetable sector, the drop has reached an alarming 80 percent—a situation that could leave many producers facing ruin this season, reported the news channel BFMTV. Furthermore, the lack of rainfall—or its total absence—has severely crippled the production of fodder for livestock and poultry.

Venezuela: Barinas unveils its climate change risk map



Diario El Universal, 09/06/2026

Synopsis: The Executive Health Secretariat of Barinas translated theory into community practice during an intensive week of field-based work, aimed at continuing training and the development of projects dedicated to defending biodiversity. Teams were deployed to apply their expertise in collaboration with the "Popular Power" (grassroots community organizations), ensuring that communities are prepared for the challenges of climate change.

At the Maternal and Child Hospital, 101 individuals received training on the prevention of high blood pressure (hypertension); additionally, 40 health screenings and 80 anthropometric assessments were conducted. Furthermore, training in Psychological First Aid was provided through an inter-institutional partnership that promotes mental health as a cornerstone of overall well-being.

"The water is up to our knees": climate-related dangers left millions of children without school in 2025



Noticias ONU 10/09/2026

Synopsis: For millions of children, climate-related hazards do more than just interrupt lessons; they destroy schools, uproot families, and push the most vulnerable out of the classroom for good. The consequences are lifelong.

According to a new UNICEF report, the schooling of nearly 171 million students worldwide was disrupted by climate-related hazards in 2025—roughly one in ten students, ranging from preschool through the end of secondary education.

Storms were the most common cause of these disruptions, affecting 109 million students, followed by floods and heatwaves.

These extreme events, driven by climate change, led to the suspension of classes, damage to school facilities, a shift to remote learning, reduced instructional time, lower school attendance, and an increased risk of students dropping out entirely.

Three-quarters of those affected live in low- and lower-middle-income countries, according to UNICEF, as the education systems in these nations often lack the resources necessary to safeguard learning during climate emergencies.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

The concerning data on the state of education in Latin America revealed by the latest PISA test



BBC News Mundo, 09/11/2026

Synopsis: The bleak picture presented by the latest report from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)—a global test that measures the skills of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, and science every three years—reveals that today's students struggle to comprehend what they read and to perform certain mathematical operations with the same proficiency as their peers did just a few years ago.

"Learning outcomes have stagnated or continued to decline in many countries," states the report, prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

In Latin America region, none of the 13 countries from the region that participated in the assessment—which included 760,000 students worldwide—reached the OECD organisation average.

Argentina experienced one of the sharpest declines in the region regarding mathematical proficiency. Only 24% of its students who were assessed reached the minimum level of competence, compared to an average of 65% across OECD countries.

However, Argentina was not an isolated case. Chile, Mexico, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay also recorded significant drops compared to the previous assessment.

Maximum alert in Central America | More than 10 million people affected by the 'Super El Niño' drought



Telesur, 09/18/2026

Synopsis: More than 10 million people in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica are facing the worst drought the region has seen in decades—a climate shock that has sounded alarm bells among farmers and threatens to escalate into a large-scale food catastrophe.

Temperatures have climbed as high as 42°C (108°F), scorching the land and making it impossible to sustain the crops upon which millions of families depend.

Corn and beans—the two pillars of the Central American diet—have suffered severe losses, leaving rural communities without the foundation of their daily sustenance.

At the root of this emergency is the "Super El Niño" phenomenon, which is set to reach its peak by the end of the year, signaling that conditions will likely worsen in the coming months.

The local population, though accustomed to living with extreme weather events, is witnessing a level of severity unprecedented in living memory.

The lack of water has hit the agricultural sector hard. Livestock are dying or losing weight due to the absence of pasture and water sources; in rural Central America, farmers are being forced to sell their animals for a pittance before they perish—effectively sacrificing their own livelihoods.

The drought is also dismantling the household economies of those who depend on the land.

Farmers report that the climate crisis is compounded by food and economic hardship. Without their own harvests, many families have had to reduce the number of meals they eat each day, or are now forced to purchase items in the market that they once produced themselves.

The emergency in the Central American Dry Corridor highlights a brutal paradox: the communities that contribute the least to global warming are the first to suffer its consequences, yet they lack the resources to cope with them.

ASOCIACIÓN PRO SOBERANÍA, INTEGRACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

September 2026

"Livestock are dying of thirst and hunger": the devastating impact of El Niño is already being felt in Central America's Dry Corridor.



BBC News Mundo, 09/28/2026

Synopsis: The Dry Corridor is a strip of land that cuts across parts of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

More than 10 million people live in this area, where over 70% of the rural population lives in poverty and more than a million children suffer from stunted growth due to malnutrition, according to the UN.

In this already vulnerable region, the El Niño phenomenon—compounded by climate change—has exacerbated water shortages, pushing thousands of families into emergency situations and despair.

Across Central America, the WFP (World Food Programme) has estimated that 4.2 million people could fall into food insecurity due to El Niño. In Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, the WFP stated that at least 16 million additional people could face food shortages as a result of this climate phenomenon.

Chile has lost nearly 40,000 hectares of surface water.



MapBiomas Agua Chile, 09/24/2026

Synopsis: Since the onset of the current mega-drought in 2010.

This was revealed by the first dataset from MapBiomas Agua Chile, a satellite-based initiative developed jointly by the University of Chile, the University of Concepción, and the University of La Frontera.

The country's distressing water balance, analyzed for the period between 1998 and 2025, highlights the following key figures: Surface water—by 2025, inland water bodies covered 1,228,652 hectares (1.62% of the national territory). Regarding glaciers, there has been a massive reduction of 344,278 hectares of exposed glacial surface area over 28 years. Notably, the regions between Valparaíso and Maule have experienced the greatest proportional retreat in the country, losing 50.19% of their glacial cover since 1998.

"Fifth River": Ecuador marches once again in defense of water and against mining



EXTRA.ec, 09/17/2026

Synopsis: On September 16, for the second consecutive year, a demonstration took place in the Ecuadorian city of Cuenca—located in the country's southern Andean region—to defend the Quimsacocha lagoons against mining, which participants view as a threat to the lagoons' existence.

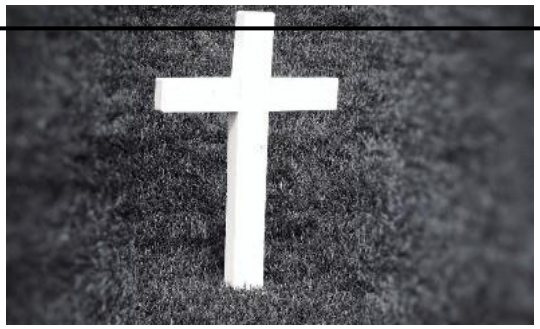
Quimsacocha is an extensive Andean *páramo* (high-altitude moorland) ecosystem in the province of Azuay. Its water sources supply numerous local communities, including Cuenca—the country's third-largest city. In the vicinity of Cuenca, the "Loma Larga" mining project is planned by the Canadian company Dundee Precious Metals (DPM).

Opposition to mining in this territory has also been expressed through several public consultations—held in 2011, 2019, and 2021—in which a majority of citizens voted against extractive activities in these areas. Consequently, the Loma Larga gold, silver, and copper project has faced a strong wave of public rejection and opposition.

Social, Indigenous, environmental, and university organizations gathered in Cuenca to once again form "the fifth river"—a human stream of people wearing blue T-shirts that wound its way through the Andean city, which is already defined by the four rivers that flow through its urban landscape.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

More than 450,000 people could die as a result of El Niño over the next six months



Sputnik, 09/23/2026

Synopsis: This is the conclusion of a study by the scientific research organization Climate Impact Lab. According to their projections, the average land surface temperature will exceed typical levels by 1.2 degrees Celsius over the coming months—a threshold scientists had not expected to see for another 20 years.

"We forecast that 451,000 lives will be lost due to heat during the first half of this El Niño event. Furthermore, given that this so-called 'super El Niño' is set to persist until the first half of 2027—a period not included in the current forecast—the total death toll is expected to continue rising."

In total, El Niño will affect more than 50 countries, with Nigeria, Indonesia, Sudan, India, and Brazil among the hardest hit, the researchers noted.

"In effect, El Niño is pushing us into the future—exposing us to temperatures that would otherwise not become the norm for another two decades—before we have had time to adapt and protect ourselves," they added.

Germany reports 16,300 deaths due to high temperatures in 2026



Telesur, 09/04/2026

Synopsis: The Robert Koch Institute confirmed that 16,300 people died in Germany during the summer of 2026 due to health complications linked to extreme temperatures. This toll makes the recent summer season the deadliest for the European nation in the last ten years, occurring amidst a severe heatwave that also affected Spain, France, Greece, Italy, and Portugal.

The elderly population bore the brunt of this climate crisis.

Of the total number of victims recorded up to September 3, approximately 8,200 were individuals aged 85 or older, making this age group the most vulnerable to the extreme weather conditions experienced during that period.

Colombia is, once again, the country where the highest number of environmental leaders were murdered: Global Witness



El Espectador, 09/15/2026

Synopsis: In its latest report, the NGO Global Witness reveals that, in 2025, at least 124 land defenders were killed worldwide—39 of them in Colombia. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the country has held the top spot.

Since 2012, the murders of 2,375 environmental leaders have been reported globally.

For the fourth year in a row, Colombia is the country with the highest number of murdered environmental leaders, according to the most recent report from Global Witness, published on September 15.

Of the 124 killings of land defenders reported worldwide, 39 took place in Colombia.

"We found that the country accounts for one-third of the total global figure," notes the British-based NGO, which has been documenting cases of murders of land and environmental defenders across more than 20 countries since 2012.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

Eliminating ultra-processed foods from your diet could have this surprising effect



RT, 09/ 28/2026

Synopsis: Researchers warn that giving up these products is not easy: they are designed to be highly appealing and to stimulate a desire to keep consuming them,

according to a preliminary study from the University of California, San Francisco (USA).

The results showed that those who reduced their intake of ultra-processed foods by more than 85% experienced moderate to significant improvements across three different measures of depression.

The author, Nyasha Chagwedera, explained that these products "trigger dopamine—the 'pleasure hormone'—which fuels cravings. Food companies work with scientists to determine the precise amount of sugar, salt, and fat that makes you want to eat more and more."

The UN warns of an increasingly unpredictable water cycle



DW, 09/17/2026

Synopsis: The WMO's annual report warns that global freshwater reserves continue to decline—a trend that has persisted for a decade.

The water cycle is becoming increasingly unpredictable, and the El Niño phenomenon is expected to exacerbate this long-term trend, the United Nations has cautioned.

In 2025—one of the warmest years on record—glaciers shrank across all regions, while groundwater levels in many parts of the world have been falling for several years.

WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo expressed concern over the decline of "slow-release" reserves, such as groundwater and glaciers.

These have traditionally served as a "buffer that absorbs bad years, ensuring that a single drought or dry season does not immediately translate into a water crisis," she told the press.

Trump administration removes emissions limits for gas and coal-fired power plants

EFE, 09/14/2026

Synopsis: The administration formalized the decision during a G20 meeting of energy officials in Houston.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump announced the removal of various limits on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants that run on coal or gas.

The official also argued that this regulatory change would result in economic savings of more than $310 billion for households in the United States.



In this context, the head of the EPA projected that coal production destined for the power generation sector would increase to more than ten times its current volume.

Revitalizing coal mining is one of the commitments made by the current federal administration, marking a departure from the climate-related regulations adopted by previous administrations.

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

Earth has lost 12.5 trillion tons of ice from Greenland and Antarctica over 47 years.



Redacción T21, 09/22/2026

Synopsis: According to a study published in the journal *Scientific Data*, this volume is equivalent to covering the entire contiguous United States with a layer of ice approximately 1.5 meters thick.

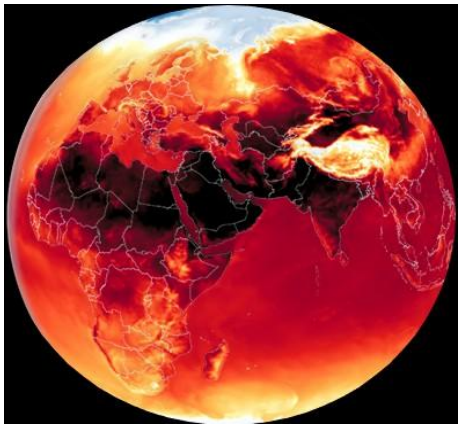
This figure is the result of reconstructing the evolution of the two major ice sheets from the 1970s through 2023.

The cumulative result indicates that both ice masses have contributed approximately 31.4 millimeters to the rise in the global mean sea level.

The acceleration becomes clear when examining the trends by decade.

In Greenland, the study estimates losses of 60 gigatons per year during the 1980s and 57 gigatons during the 1990s. The rate tripled in the 2000s, reaching 192 gigatons per year, and climbed to 264 gigatons in the 2010s.

UN: Global warming will exceed 1.5 degrees, but it can still be reversed with urgent policies



Noticias ONU, 09/09/2026

Synopsis: The planet is expected to exceed the 1.5-degree global warming limit in the coming years. However, it is still possible to lower temperatures and return below that threshold, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) warned in a report.

The most optimistic scenario projects that the temperature increase will peak at 1.8 degrees.

Other scenarios point to warming exceeding two degrees.

The report warns that every additional fraction of a degree above 1.5 degrees will intensify extreme weather events and increase the risk of crossing irreversible tipping points.

These include the destabilization of major ice sheets, the degradation of the Amazon, and the disruption of a key Atlantic ocean current system, which is essential for regulating the climate.

"We can still bring warming back down to below 1.5°C by the end of the century," reiterated UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "We must ensure that any overshoot is as small and as brief as possible—limiting both how high temperatures rise and how long they remain above 1.5°C."

This requires "greater ambition," Guterres noted, through accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels, driving a renewable energy revolution, drastically reducing methane pollution, and protecting land, forests, seas and oceans.

Spain: Environmental activists put on trial



Climática, 09/24/2026

Synopsis: The trial of 11 Greenpeace activists, which began in Valencia (Spain) in September 2026, involves the harshest prison sentences ever sought against environmental activists in Europe for a case of this nature.

The prosecution is requesting a five-year prison term for each of the defendants—totaling 55 years in combined sentences for having peacefully

SYNOPSIS OF MEDIA HEADLINES

blocked access to the port of Sagunto (Valencia) for 12 hours. The blockade was intended to prevent the entry of the gas tanker *Merchant*, which was carrying 138,000 cubic meters of liquefied gas from the United States—gas obtained via fracking, an extraction method prohibited in Spain.

Absence of damages: During the trial proceedings, witnesses for the prosecution itself admitted that the protest caused neither material damage nor personal injury.

Editor's Note: And the Spanish government has the audacity to claim that its country is "progressive."

Torrential rains leave dozens dead and more than a thousand homes damaged in India



RT, 09/ 27/2026

Synopsis: At least 56 people have died and another 46 have been injured amid the incessant rains that struck the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on September 25 and 26, reports The Times of India, citing figures from the authorities.

The rainfall damaged 1,021 homes and resulted in the death of 107 animals.

Over a 48-hour period, the state received an average of 66.5 millimeters of rain—compared to the usual 7.6 millimeters—which is 775% above normal. In 56 of its 75 districts, rainfall levels significantly exceeded the norm.

In China, solar energy surpasses coal in installed capacity



RFI.fr, 09/01/2026

Synopsis: Solar energy has just reached a historic milestone in China: its installations can now supply more electrical power than the country's combined coal-fired power plants.

However, this theoretical capacity does not correspond to the actual electricity produced, and the Chinese system remains largely organized around coal.

By the end of July, photovoltaic panels accounted for an installed capacity—defined as the maximum active power that a generation or storage unit can deliver to the electrical grid—slightly higher than that of coal-fired power plants, reaching 1,286 million kilowatts. Solar energy now represents nearly a third of the country's total electrical capacity, marking a rapid and dramatic advancement.