



# **El Niño – Is South Asia ready?**

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# South Asia

- Typically –
  - Bangladesh
  - Bhutan
  - India
  - Maldives
  - Nepal
  - Pakistan
  - Sri Lanka
- Will also talk about the adjacent region of SE Asia

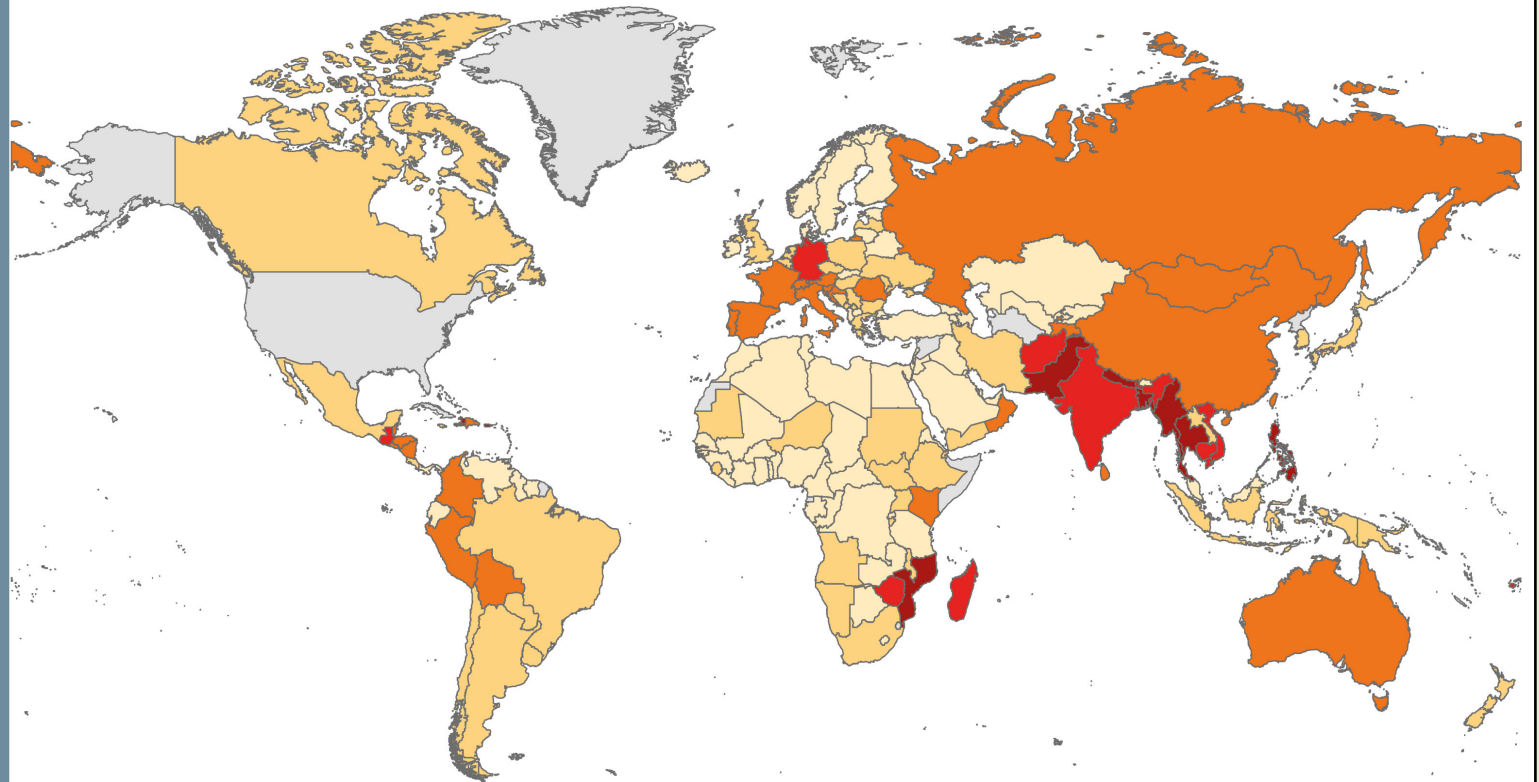


# Extreme Weather Hotspots



## Global Climate Risk Index

[www.germanwatch.org/en/cri](http://www.germanwatch.org/en/cri)



Global Climate Risk Index: Ranking 2000 - 2019





# El Niño – Likely impacts on South Asia

- ▶ In general, drought and extreme heat are of greatest concern
  - ▶ Reduced agricultural yield
  - ▶ Water shortages (gender impacts)
  - ▶ Hydropower
  - ▶ Outdoor labor & public health
  - ▶ Violence?
- ▶ Cyclone activity expected to be weaker or near-normal
- ▶ Less floods (but not everywhere)



# National plans - Bangladesh

- ▶ Natural disaster “basket case” to leader
  - ▶ Focus on floods and cyclones
  - ▶ \$10 bn investments
  - ▶ Cyclone shelters
  - ▶ Embankments
  - ▶ Early warning systems
  - ▶ Evacuation plans
- ▶ National Adaptation Plan (2022)
  - ▶ Builds on less ambitious plans starting in 2005
  - ▶ Addresses drought and extreme heat
  - ▶ Preparing ~ 20 cities/towns for receiving climate migrants



# India



- ▶ Has led the way in Heat Action Plans (HAP)
  - ▶ 2013 (Ahmedabad)
  - ▶ Now 130 cities have or are formulating HAPs
  - ▶ Have already saved lives
- ▶ CPR study revealed significant gaps
  - ▶ Funding not appropriated
  - ▶ Most vulnerable not addressed adequately
- ▶ Agricultural distress
  - ▶ Migration
- ▶ Hydropower



# Myanmar and spillovers

- Myanmar
  - Undergoing extreme violence/repression/insurgency
  - Cyclone activity expected to reduce
  - Rice key crop, yields will fall
  - Impacts on violence?
  - Spillovers to India, Bangladesh



# Transnational cooperation

- ▶ Transnational cooperation needs to be stepped up as we approach 1.5 C
- ▶ Regional organization (SAARC) is moribund
- ▶ Alternative organizations
  - ▶ BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal)
  - ▶ IORA (Indian Ocean)
  - ▶ Quad

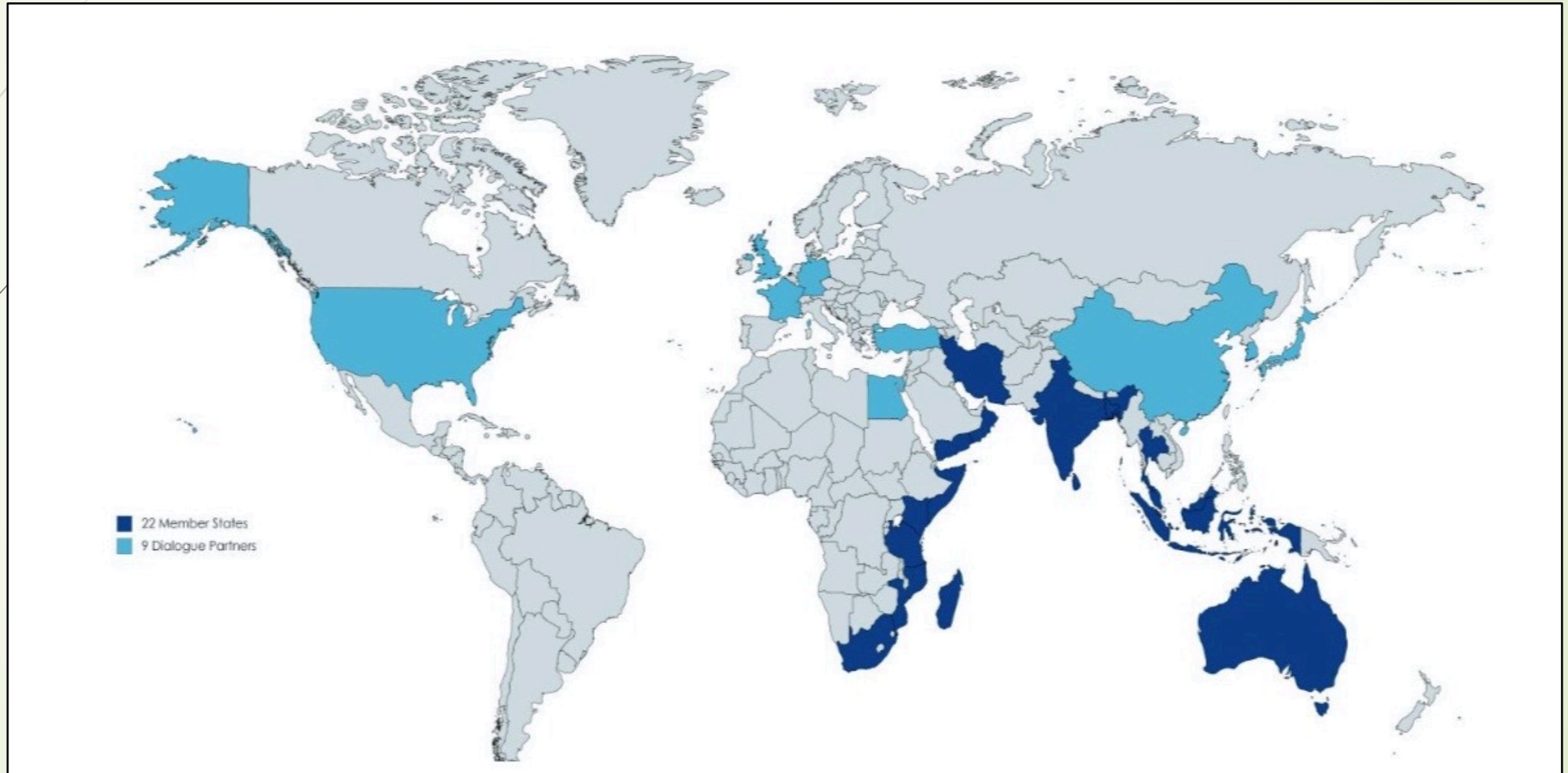




# BIMSTEC

- ▶ Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- ▶ Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- ▶ Founded in 1997, Secretariat in Dhaka
  - ▶ Structure
  - ▶ Track record
  - ▶ Budget
  - ▶ Indian role

# Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)





# Final thoughts

- ▶ South Asia shows major variations in terms of El Niño preparedness (and its increased variability due to climate change)
- ▶ Bangladesh's adaptation efforts have been most innovative on extreme weather and migration, India has led on HAPs.
- ▶ All states are struggling with agricultural distress.
- ▶ Transnational cooperation is far below its potential
- ▶ Regional spillovers from Myanmar need watching.

Thank you!

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## Climate Security and Instability in the Bay of Bengal Region

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