

Update 2: Mpumalanga, South Africa - Tropical Cyclone 'Eloise' Causes Heavy Rainfall and Floods Resulting in Eight Deaths and Infrastructure Damages, Adding Further Challenges to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

- Five people are missing and eight others have died in floods ravaging Mpumalanga
- The persistent rain has caused damage and flooding since tropical storm Eloise spilled over to South Africa from Mozambique
- Areas including Mbombela, Bushbuckridge, and Nkomazi were severely affected
- The tropical storm, which was accompanied by heavy rains, left a trail of destruction, including damage to infrastructure and housing, the Mpumalanga provincial government said
- The Department of Water and Sanitation has received two reports of damage to water infrastructure as a result of flooding
- The department has said it fears the death toll due to the floods may rise
- At the same time, the South African Weather Service has issued a yellow moderate level two warning as more persistent rainfall was expected in Gauteng this week
- The Joburg Emergency Service has urged residents and motorists to be cautious as flooding was expected in some areas
- The department said communities in the proximity of rivers, dams, and water streams are at risk of drowning should the current levels of water rise
- Most rivers and dams are above 90% full, and communities in those areas remain at high risk of being washed away
- A number of bridges have collapsed and roads have been severely damaged by the heavy rains, in parts of Mpumalanga
- More than 100 housing structures have been severely damaged
- Showers are expected to continue into early next week in North West, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu-Natal
- Eskom, an electricity public utility said it would be implementing Stage 2 load shedding through the week, after heavy rains in Mpumalanga and Limpopo affected the transfer of coal to units
- The power utility's three-month outlook for energy demand and generating capacity, included in the report, indicates an increased likelihood of load shedding for most of 2021
- Additionally, South Africa is also facing challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis
- As of now, South Africa has reported 1,476,135 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 46,290 related deaths, ~3.14% of total reported cases, and 1,360,204 recoveries, ~92% of total reported cases
- When compared to the overall population of the country, confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatality rate stands at 2.4% and 0.08%, respectively
- Supply Wisdom is continuously monitoring the situation and will alert you to any relevant development

Source(s)

<https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-02-07-heavy-rains-in-mpumalanga-claim-lives-of-eight-five-still-missing/>
timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-02-07-heavy-rains-in-mpumalanga-claim-lives-of-eight-five-still-missing/

Targets Affected:

South Africa

Category(s):

Geo-Political Risk

Event:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Incident(s)

Guidance

Actions to consider:

- It is important for SW Subscribers to determine if procedures for evacuating employees to safe locations are in place, if required
- Determine if all staff and travelers in South Africa are monitoring local weather, government warnings, and updates
- Firms with operations in the region should review their measures to mitigate the risk posed by such natural calamities
- Determine if current Business Continuity Plans of third parties/captive units account for sudden shortage or unavailability of resources in the event of several team members being unable to commute to the workplace due to adverse weather conditions
- SW Subscribers should ensure appropriate Business Continuity Plans and Programs are activated
- Evaluate options to migrate critical processes to nearby unaffected regions, to avoid disruption to business operations, in the event of an extended network failure
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plans/Programs to determine the changes/updates required to be better prepared for such incidents, and update the plan accordingly
- Consider implementing suggested actions related to 'Increase in Positive Cases/Deaths' under the 'COVID-19: Actions to Consider' section below / next page

<https://www.iol.co.za/the-star/news/sa-dams-stood-strong-amid-heavy-rains-during-tropical-storm-eloise-2e76a425-8b4c-4022-8d49-3f0b49e60f0e>
<https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/8-dead-five-missing-in-devastating-mpumalanga-floods-20210207>
<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-02-07-eskom-blackouts-blame-it-on-the-rain/>

Related Alerts

Jan. 29, 2021

Medium

Update 1: South Africa - Tropical
Cyclone 'Eloise' Causes Floods
Resulting in Two Deaths, Adding
Further Challenges to the Ongoing
COVID-19 Pandemic

Jan. 25, 2021

Low

South Africa - Weather Warning

Impact level Definitions

Impact Level	Definitions
Immediate	Certain - Supply Wisdom recommends considering prompt action. Examples of Immediate level alert events may include bankruptcy filings, data breaches, unexpected curfews, strikes, power black-outs, major geo-political events etc.
High	Highly likely to occur in the near term (within 3 months) - Supply Wisdom recommends being in a state of readiness to take quick action. Examples of High level alert events may include withdrawal of rating by ratings agencies, hostile takeover, multiple cyber-attacks, new business policies causing significant hardship etc.
Medium	Likely to occur in the mid-term (within 3 to 6 months) - Supply Wisdom recommends reviewing current mitigation steps and being ready to take proactive actions if and when situation deteriorates further. Examples of Medium level alert events may include unplanned C-level exits, suppliers caught in bribery cases, economy slipping into recession.
Low	Possible in the long-term (after 6 months) - Supply Wisdom recommends taking proactive action if situation does not resolve. Examples of Low level alert events may include lawsuits filed against suppliers, client losses, air pollution alerts issued by country's local authorities, unexpected holidays announced for the location etc.
Informational	The event is pertinent information but does not have a risk element associated with it. Examples of Info level alert events may include launch of new solutions, partnerships signed, industry outlook, positive changes in government policies, announcements regarding launch of software parks/ free trade zones/special economic zones etc.