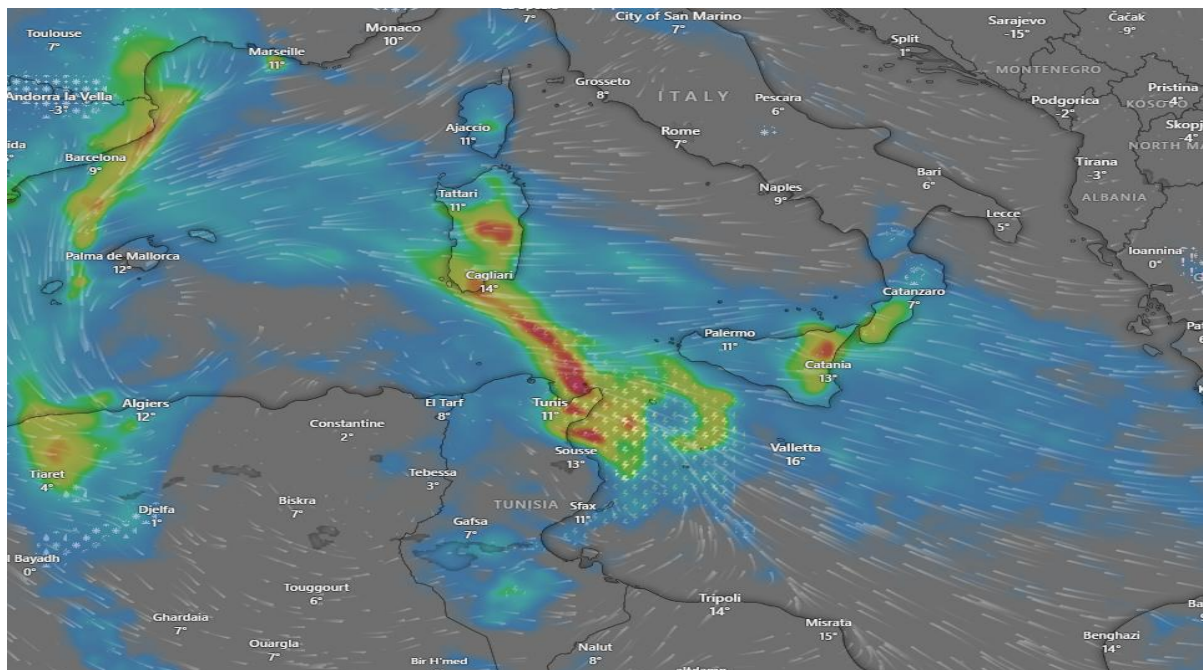




Jan 19, 2026

Heavy Rainfall and Flooding Risk - Central Mediterranean



Affected Areas

Southern Italy (especially Sicily, Sardinia, Calabria, and Ionian/Tyrrhenian coasts), northern Tunisia, and adjacent areas including Malta and parts of northern Algeria. Highest risk in mountainous and coastal regions of Sicily (e.g., Catania, Syracuse, Ionian Messina), Sardinia (e.g., Ogliastra), and southeast Italy.

Duration

January 19–23, 2026

Hazard Types

Heavy to extreme rainfall, thunderstorms

Hazard Summary

A deep surface low-pressure system centered over northern Tunisia, combined with persistent southeasterly flow and abundant moisture advection from warmer air masses, is producing widespread heavy and locally torrential rainfall across the central Mediterranean. This setup is leading to significant orographic enhancement of precipitation, especially over elevated terrain in Sicily, Sardinia, and southern Italy. Accumulations of **200–400 mm** (and locally higher) are possible in the most affected areas through the coming days, increasing the risk of flash flooding, river overflows, landslides, and coastal inundation. Convective activity (thunderstorms) will further intensify rainfall rates, while strong winds and rough seas pose additional threats to maritime activities and exposed coastal infrastructure.