



POLICY BRIEF 09

Mobilizing Youth-Led Organizations for El Niño Preparedness in Somalia: From Early Warning to Early Action

How can Somalia's youth-led organizations contribute to national preparedness, early warning, anticipatory action, and community resilience ahead of El Niño?

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About the Organization

The Somali Center for Climate Change (SCCC) is a youth-led climate organization established in 2021 and based in Somalia, working to advance climate resilience, climate literacy, environmental awareness, research, innovation, and meaningful youth participation in climate governance. SCCC works with government institutions, civil society, communities, development partners, and young people to promote locally led solutions and strengthen Somalia's capacity to respond to climate change and related risks.

Executive Summary

Somalia remains highly exposed to climate-related hazards, including droughts, floods, and extreme rainfall, which can compound existing humanitarian, economic, and displacement pressures. The 2023 El Niño-associated floods demonstrated the scale of these risks: by December 2023, flooding had affected approximately 2.5 million people, including 1.5 million children, and caused at least 40 reported deaths according to UNICEF. A subsequent Government-led Post-Disaster Needs Assessment estimated that the 2023 Deyr floods caused US\$176 million in damages and losses and displaced more than two million people.

As Somalia strengthens preparedness for potential El Niño-related impacts in 2026, effective disaster risk reduction requires more than forecasting and institutional response capacity. Warnings must reach communities in a timely, understandable, and actionable form, and communities must have the capacity to act before hazards become disasters. Somalia's launch of the national Early Warning for All initiative in June 2026 represents an important step toward strengthening multi-hazard early-warning systems, warning dissemination, and anticipatory action.

Within this emerging preparedness architecture, youth-led organizations represent an underutilized national resource. Their community networks, volunteer capacity, digital communication platforms, local knowledge, and ability to engage young people can help bridge the gap between official early-warning systems and communities at risk. Youth-led organizations can contribute to risk communication, community awareness, local preparedness planning, misinformation management, volunteer mobilization, community-level monitoring, and the dissemination of verified early-warning messages.

This policy brief argues that youth should be recognized not only as recipients of climate information or participants in emergency response, but as active partners in Somalia's disaster preparedness and anticipatory-action system. Their engagement should be institutionalized through clear coordination mechanisms with the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), relevant federal and state institutions, local authorities, humanitarian and development partners, and technical climate-information providers.

The Somali Center for Climate Change (SCCC) recommends that Somalia:

1. Institutionalize youth participation in national, state, and local disaster preparedness and early-warning mechanisms.
2. Establish a Youth Climate and Disaster Early-Warning Network connecting youth-led organizations with relevant government and technical institutions.

3. Train and equip youth-led organizations in early-warning interpretation, anticipatory action, disaster risk reduction, emergency communication, and community preparedness.
4. Develop standardized and accessible Somali-language climate-risk communication materials that youth organizations can use to support official warning dissemination.
5. Support youth-led community preparedness initiatives, particularly in flood- and climate-risk areas.
6. Create small-grant and partnership mechanisms enabling youth organizations to implement localized preparedness and anticipatory-action activities.
7. Integrate youth organizations into post-event learning and assessment, ensuring that community-level experiences inform future preparedness planning.

The central message of this brief is clear: Somalia's investment in early warning will have greater impact when young people are empowered to help turn warnings into early action.

Early warning saves lives only when information reaches people, people understand the risk, and communities have the capacity to act.

Key Policy Message

Youth-led organizations should be formally recognized as partners in Somalia's El Niño preparedness architecture—not simply as volunteers during emergencies, but as actors across the full early-warning-to-early-action cycle.

Introduction

Somalia is highly exposed to climate-related hazards, with droughts, floods, and extreme rainfall repeatedly affecting communities, livelihoods, infrastructure, and essential services. These hazards occur within a context of existing humanitarian needs, displacement, poverty, and limited coping capacity, increasing the vulnerability of communities to climate shocks. El Niño is particularly important in Somalia because its influence can contribute to above-average rainfall and increased risks of riverine and flash flooding during relevant rainy seasons. The severe flooding experienced during the 2023 Deyr season demonstrated the scale of these risks, affecting approximately 2.5 million people across 36 districts and displacing more than one million people.

The experience of 2023 also demonstrated that disaster preparedness cannot depend solely on emergency response after a hazard occurs. Effective preparedness requires timely climate information, accessible early-warning systems, community awareness, coordinated planning, and the ability to act before risks escalate into disasters. In 2026, Somalia has continued to strengthen this approach through national disaster-risk prevention efforts and the launch of the Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative, which seeks to expand access to multi-hazard early-warning services

and strengthen anticipatory action across the country.

Within this context, youth-led organizations can play an important role in connecting national early-warning systems with communities. Young people represent a significant social and civic force in Somalia and are increasingly engaged in climate action, community awareness, digital communication, volunteering, and local advocacy. Their networks and community presence can help translate technical warnings into accessible messages, counter misinformation, support preparedness campaigns, mobilize volunteers, and strengthen community-level action. Yet, youth-led organizations remain insufficiently integrated into formal disaster preparedness and early-warning mechanisms.

This policy brief therefore examines how youth-led organizations can contribute to Somalia's preparedness for potential El Niño-related impacts and proposes practical measures for integrating them into the country's early-warning, anticipatory-action, and disaster-risk-reduction systems. It argues that youth should be recognized not only as beneficiaries of climate and disaster interventions, but as active partners in preparedness, communication, and early action.

El Niño and Somalia's Climate Risk Context

El Niño is a recurring climate phenomenon associated with unusually warm sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Through its influence on atmospheric circulation, El Niño can alter rainfall and temperature patterns across different parts of the world. Its impacts are not uniform, and the consequences for any country depend on the interaction between El Niño, regional climate systems, seasonal conditions, and local vulnerability.

For Somalia, El Niño is particularly important because changes in regional rainfall can increase the risk of heavy rainfall, riverine flooding, and flash floods, especially during the October–December Deyr rainy season. Somalia is already highly vulnerable to climate shocks due to recurrent droughts and floods, dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods, environmental degradation, displacement, and limited household coping capacity. The World Bank identifies flooding as a major risk affecting housing, health, livelihoods, and food security in both rural and urban areas, while repeated climate shocks have contributed significantly to displacement and economic vulnerability.

The 2023 El Niño event provides a significant warning from Somalia's recent experience. During the October–December 2023 Deyr season, El Niño-associated flooding affected

approximately 2.5 million people, including 1.5 million children, and resulted in at least 40 reported deaths, according to UNICEF. Flooding also disrupted livelihoods, damaged infrastructure, displaced communities, and placed additional pressure on already vulnerable populations.

The risk is particularly relevant in 2026. The World Meteorological Organization reported in July 2026 that a strong El Niño was developing and expected to strengthen during August–October. FAO Somalia, drawing on regional climate forecasts, has warned of an elevated risk of significant riverine and flash flooding during the October–December 2026 Deyr season, particularly around the Juba and Shabelle river basins and other flood-prone areas. FAO reported that current forecasts indicated a greater than 90 percent likelihood of El Niño conditions developing during the 2026 Deyr season.

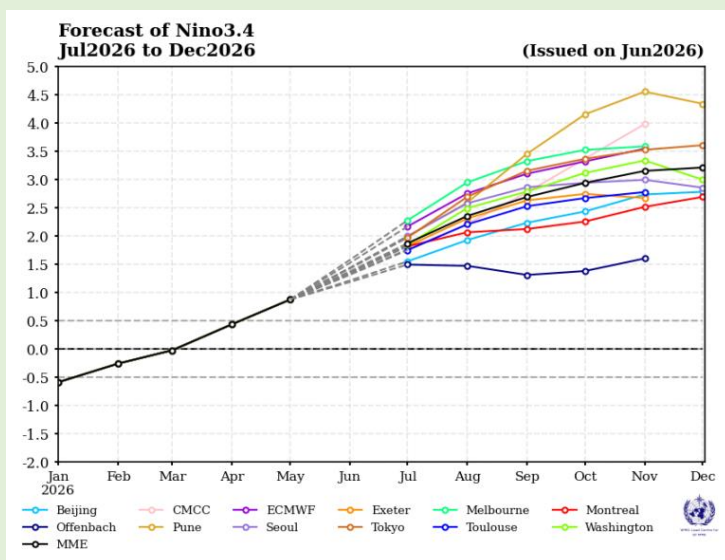
This situation creates both a risk and a preparedness opportunity. Forecast information provides governments, humanitarian agencies, communities, and civil society with a window to act before flooding occurs. Somalia has already begun strengthening this approach through early-warning and anticipatory-action initiatives. The effectiveness of these systems, however, depends not only on producing accurate forecasts but also on ensuring that warnings reach communities, are understood, trusted, and translated into timely action.

For this reason, the El Niño risk should not be viewed solely as a meteorological challenge. It is also a governance, communication, preparedness, and community-resilience challenge. Youth-led organizations can help close the gap between technical climate information

Lessons from the 2023 El Niño Experience

The 2023 Deyr floods provide Somalia with an important evidence base for strengthening preparedness ahead of future El Niño-related hazards. The floods occurred following exceptionally

heavy rainfall associated with the combination of El Niño and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole, affecting an estimated 2.48 million people, displacing more than 1.2 million people, and causing 188 deaths. The Government-led Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment estimated approximately US\$176 million in damages and losses across 16 assessed districts.



and community-level action by supporting awareness, local communication, volunteer mobilization, preparedness planning, and the dissemination of verified early-warning information.

2026 El Niño Forecast Signal

The current international outlook demonstrates why preparedness should begin before the peak of the Deyr season. In June 2026, WMO estimated an 80% probability of El Niño during June–August, increasing to around 90% for the remainder of the forecast period. By July, WMO reported that a strong El Niño was developing and expected to strengthen further.

At the same time, the 2023 experience demonstrated that early warning and anticipatory action can reduce disaster impacts when they are activated early and connected to communities. WFP's anticipatory-action programme, implemented with SoDMA, was activated in October 2023 ahead of significant flooding. A subsequent assessment found that early-warning radio messages reached more than 442,000 people, while cash assistance supported more than 218,000 people to prepare before the floods. More than 154,000 people were evacuated by boat.

Key Lessons for Somalia

1. Early warning must lead to early action.

Forecasts alone do not reduce disaster risk. The 2023 experience demonstrated the value of linking forecasts to predefined preparedness measures, including evacuation, cash assistance, protection of livelihoods, and community-level response. Somalia should continue moving from a predominantly reactive emergency model toward anticipatory action based on agreed triggers and early-warning information.

2. Community communication is a critical part of the warning system. During the 2023 preparedness response, warnings were disseminated through radio, SMS, official channels, and local communication networks. This demonstrates that technical forecasts must be translated into messages that communities can understand and act upon. Communication should also reach people in remote and hard-to-reach areas and use trusted local channels.

3. Local actors should be integrated before a disaster occurs. The 2023 response highlighted the importance of coordination among government institutions, humanitarian organizations, local authorities, and community groups. Preparedness should therefore establish roles and communication channels before warnings are issued, rather than creating coordination mechanisms only after flooding begins.

4. Preparedness must account for existing vulnerability. The 2023 floods occurred after several

years of severe drought, leaving many households with limited assets and coping capacity. Climate hazards therefore cannot be considered in isolation. Preparedness planning must account for displacement, food insecurity, livelihood losses, poverty, and other vulnerabilities that can amplify the effects of flooding.

5. Youth-led organizations can strengthen the “last mile” of preparedness.

The experience demonstrates an important opportunity for youth-led organizations. Young people and their organizations can support community awareness, dissemination of verified warnings, local preparedness campaigns, volunteer mobilization, community reporting, and evacuation awareness. Integrating these organizations into preparedness structures can help connect national warning systems with communities and strengthen the final step from information to action. This is consistent with Somalia's broader efforts to make early warnings accessible and actionable at community level.

From 2023 to 2026: Turning Lessons into Preparedness

The most important lesson from 2023 is that preparedness cannot begin when flooding begins. Somalia had forecasts and early-warning information before the 2023 Deyr floods, and anticipatory-action initiatives demonstrated that acting before the hazard can protect people and livelihoods. The priority for 2026

should therefore be to institutionalize these lessons, strengthen coordination, expand community-level preparedness, and ensure that youth-led organizations are recognized as partners throughout the early-warning and early-action cycle.

The Role of Youth-Led Organizations in Disaster Preparedness

Youth-led organizations can play a strategic role in strengthening Somalia's disaster preparedness by connecting national systems, local communities, and young people. Their value extends beyond mobilizing volunteers during emergencies. With appropriate training, coordination, and institutional support, youth organizations can contribute throughout the disaster-risk-management cycle—from risk awareness and early warning to preparedness, anticipatory action, response, and recovery. UNDRR recognizes young people as important resilience-builders because of their ability to communicate, innovate, mobilize communities, and influence decision-making.

This role is particularly relevant to Somalia's evolving early-warning architecture. The country's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative emphasizes people-centred warning systems in which information must reach communities and enable them to take appropriate action. UNDRR notes

The lesson from 2023 is not simply that Somalia needs better warnings; it is that Somalia needs stronger systems for turning warnings into timely, coordinated and community-led action.

that local actors, civil society organizations, and community networks are increasingly involved in delivering and acting on early-warning information. In July 2026, UNDP also highlighted the work of Somali youth volunteers through the Disaster Volunteer Network, demonstrating the practical contribution that organized youth can make to community preparedness, response, and recovery.

5.1 Risk Awareness and Community Education

Youth-led organizations can organize community awareness campaigns before the onset of high-risk seasons. Through schools, universities, community gatherings, social media, radio, and local networks, they can explain climate risks in simple and locally understandable language. For El Niño preparedness, this can include information on flood risks, household preparedness, safe evacuation routes, protection of essential documents and assets, and the importance of following official warnings.

5.2 Early-Warning Dissemination

A major opportunity for youth organizations is helping close the “last-mile” gap between official warning systems and communities. Youth

networks can disseminate verified warnings through trusted community channels, translate technical information into accessible messages, and help reach people who may not regularly access formal information sources. Somalia's experience demonstrates the value of combining radio, text messaging, community meetings, and local networks to improve access to early-warning information.

5.3 Community Preparedness and Volunteer Mobilization

Youth-led organizations can establish and train community volunteer teams before an emergency occurs. These volunteers can support household preparedness campaigns, identify community-level risks, assist with awareness activities, and help communities understand evacuation and emergency procedures. Such locally organized networks can be particularly valuable in densely populated or underserved areas where government and humanitarian responders may face capacity or access constraints.

5.4 Community Risk Mapping and Local Knowledge

Young people can contribute to identifying flood-prone locations, blocked drainage channels, vulnerable households, evacuation challenges, and other community-level risks. Combining this local knowledge with official hazard and climate information can improve the relevance of

preparedness plans and help authorities identify where early action should be prioritized.

5.5 Countering Misinformation and Building Trust

During rapidly developing climate events, misinformation can create confusion and delay appropriate action. Youth organizations—particularly those with established digital communication networks—can help promote verified information from authorized government and technical sources. Their role should not be to independently issue forecasts, but to support responsible communication and direct communities toward authoritative warnings.

5.6 Supporting Anticipatory Action

Youth organizations can also support actions taken before a forecast hazard occurs. These may include preparedness campaigns, community mobilization, evacuation awareness, protection of vulnerable groups, and coordination with local authorities. Somalia's experience in 2023 showed that anticipatory action can have tangible benefits: early-warning messages reached more than 442,000 people, while anticipatory cash assistance supported more than 218,000 people before flooding occurred.

5.7 Youth Participation in Decision-Making

Perhaps most importantly, youth-led organizations should have a seat at the

table when disaster-preparedness policies and plans are developed. Their participation should move beyond being invited to awareness campaigns or emergency volunteering toward meaningful participation in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. This approach is consistent with the Sendai Framework's emphasis on inclusive participation and UNDRR's recognition of young people as actors in disaster-risk reduction.

From Early Warning to Early Action: A Youth-Led Approach

Early warning systems are most effective when they lead to timely and coordinated action. For Somalia, strengthening El Niño preparedness therefore requires moving beyond the production and dissemination of forecasts toward a system in which communities understand warnings, trust the information they receive, and have the capacity to act before a hazard becomes a disaster. Somalia's Early Warning for All initiative provides an important national framework for strengthening this connection between risk information and early action.

Youth-led organizations can serve as an important bridge between technical early-warning systems and communities. Their networks, digital platforms, volunteers, local knowledge, and ability to communicate with young people provide an opportunity to strengthen the final mile of early-

warning delivery. However, their role should complement—not replace—the responsibilities of government authorities and technical institutions. Official forecasts and warnings should remain the basis for public communication, while youth organizations help ensure that these messages reach and are understood by communities.

6.1 Before the Warning: Building Preparedness

Youth-led organizations should be engaged before an El Niño-related hazard is imminent. This includes training youth volunteers, conducting community awareness activities, identifying vulnerable communities, mapping local flood risks, promoting household preparedness, and developing communication networks that can be activated when official warnings are issued.

SCCC proposes that youth-led organizations establish local preparedness teams in high-risk communities. These teams could receive basic training in disaster risk reduction, early-warning communication, first aid, evacuation awareness, and responsible information sharing. Their purpose would be preparedness and community support rather than replacing professional emergency responders.

6.2 When a Warning Is Issued: Turning Information into Action

When an official early warning is issued, youth-led organizations can

rapidly activate their communication networks. They can help translate technical information into clear and understandable messages in Somali and local languages, distribute verified information through social media, radio, community networks, universities, and other trusted channels, and encourage households to take appropriate preparedness measures.

A simple warning should answer three questions:

What is happening?
Who may be affected?
What should people do now?

This approach can help transform a technical forecast into practical community action.

6.3 Community-Based Anticipatory Action

Youth organizations can support anticipatory action by helping communities prepare before flooding occurs. Depending on official warnings and locally agreed preparedness plans, this could include supporting evacuation awareness, identifying safe routes and locations, helping households protect essential documents and assets, checking on vulnerable households, and mobilizing community volunteers.

The 2023 Somalia floods demonstrated the value of acting before the peak of a disaster. Anticipatory-action interventions provided assistance to vulnerable communities before

flooding, while early-warning messages reached hundreds of thousands of people.

6.4 The Role of Digital Youth Networks

Somalia's young population and growing use of digital communication provide an opportunity to strengthen climate-risk communication. Youth-led organizations can use social media and messaging platforms to distribute verified warnings, explain climate risks, counter misinformation, and direct communities toward official information.

However, digital communication should follow a clear principle: youth organizations should amplify authoritative warnings, not create or modify forecasts themselves. This protects communities from misinformation and ensures consistency with official disaster-management and meteorological authorities.

6.5 Community Feedback and Local Reporting

Early warning should not be a one-way process. Youth volunteers can also provide information from communities back to authorities and humanitarian partners. They can report emerging local conditions, barriers to evacuation, community information gaps, and the needs of vulnerable groups through established coordination channels.

This creates a two-way system:

Forecast → Warning → Community
Action → Community Feedback →
Improved Response

Such a feedback mechanism can help decision-makers understand whether warnings are reaching communities and whether people are able to act on them.

6.6 Building a Youth Early-Action Network

SCCC recommends establishing a Youth Climate and Disaster Early-Action Network that brings together youth-led organizations working across Somalia. The network could serve as a coordinated platform for training, information sharing, preparedness campaigns, volunteer mobilization, and community-level early action.

The network should operate in coordination with SoDMA, relevant government institutions, local authorities, technical climate-information providers, humanitarian organizations, and other partners. Its purpose would be to strengthen existing systems rather than create a parallel structure.

6.7 A Practical Youth-Led Early-Action Cycle

The proposed approach can be summarized as:

Understand the risk → Prepare communities → Receive official warning → Communicate clearly → Mobilize local action → Support vulnerable

groups → Report community conditions → Learn and improve.

The key policy shift is therefore from viewing young people primarily as recipients of disaster information to recognizing them as partners in delivering, interpreting, and acting upon that information.

Early warning becomes early action when communities are informed, prepared, connected, and empowered to act.

Key Policy Gaps

Somalia has made important progress in strengthening disaster-risk management, climate information, and early-warning systems. However, the experience of recent climate shocks, particularly the 2023 Deyr floods, demonstrates that important gaps remain between early warning, community preparedness, and early action. One of these gaps is the limited and inconsistent institutionalization of youth-led organizations within disaster preparedness and early-warning mechanisms.

7.1 Limited Institutionalized Youth Participation

Youth organizations are often engaged as volunteers or participants during awareness campaigns and emergency responses, but their involvement is not consistently integrated into disaster-risk reduction planning and decision-making. There is a need for clearer mechanisms through which qualified youth-led organizations can participate

in preparedness planning at federal, state, and local levels.

7.2 Weak Last-Mile Communication

Producing an accurate warning does not guarantee that it will reach every person at risk. Communities may face barriers related to language, access to technology, literacy, connectivity, or trust in information sources. Existing communication systems therefore require stronger community-level networks capable of translating official warnings into clear and actionable messages.

7.3 Limited Capacity of Youth-Led Organizations

Many youth-led organizations have strong community networks but limited access to technical training, disaster-preparedness resources, climate information, and financial support. Without adequate capacity, their potential contribution to anticipatory action and disaster preparedness cannot be fully realized.

7.4 Insufficient Coordination and Information Sharing

Coordination between government institutions, technical agencies, humanitarian actors, civil society, and youth organizations remains an area requiring further strengthening. Youth organizations may receive information late or lack clearly defined channels through which they can communicate community needs back to authorities.

7.5 Limited Localized Preparedness

National forecasts and disaster plans need to be translated into actions that reflect local realities. Flood risks, evacuation challenges, vulnerable populations, and available resources differ between communities. Youth organizations can contribute valuable local knowledge, but there are limited formal mechanisms for incorporating this knowledge into preparedness planning.

7.6 Limited and Flexible Financing

Youth-led organizations frequently operate with limited and short-term resources. Small, flexible preparedness grants could enable them to conduct community awareness, volunteer training, risk mapping, and other preventive activities before hazards occur.

7.7 From Participation to Partnership

The central policy gap is therefore not the absence of young people from climate and disaster activities, but the absence of systematic mechanisms that recognize youth-led organizations as preparedness partners. Closing this gap would allow Somalia to better connect national early-warning investments with community-level preparedness and action.

The policy challenge is clear: Somalia needs to move from occasional youth participation toward structured, adequately resourced, and accountable youth engagement across the entire early-warning-to-early-action cycle.

Policy Recommendations

To strengthen Somalia's preparedness for El Niño-related risks and future climate hazards, the Somali Center for Climate Change (SCCC) recommends the following policy actions:

1. Institutionalize Youth Participation in Disaster Preparedness

SoDMA, relevant government institutions, Federal Member States, and local authorities should establish clear mechanisms for the participation of qualified youth-led organizations in disaster-risk reduction, early-warning, and preparedness planning.

2. Establish a Youth Climate and Disaster Early-Action Network

A coordinated national network of youth-led organizations should be established to support climate-risk communication, community preparedness, volunteer mobilization, and anticipatory action. The network should operate in coordination with SoDMA and relevant technical and government institutions.

3. Develop a Youth Early-Warning Partnership Mechanism

Government and technical institutions should establish formal channels for sharing verified early-warning information with participating youth organizations. These organizations can then support the dissemination of warnings through community, educational, media, and digital networks.

4. Invest in Youth Capacity Building

Youth-led organizations should receive practical training in disaster-risk reduction, early-warning systems, anticipatory action, emergency communication, community risk assessment, misinformation management, and basic emergency preparedness.

5. Support Community-Based Preparedness

Youth organizations should be supported to implement localized preparedness activities in flood- and climate-risk areas, including community awareness campaigns, risk mapping, evacuation awareness, volunteer mobilization, and identification of vulnerable households.

6. Create Small Grants for Youth-Led Preparedness

Government institutions, donors, UN agencies, and development partners should establish accessible and flexible small-grant mechanisms that allow qualified youth-led organizations to implement locally relevant preparedness and anticipatory-action initiatives.

7. Strengthen Two-Way Communication

Youth organizations should not only disseminate warnings but also provide structured community feedback to authorities. Information on local conditions, barriers to preparedness, emerging risks, and community needs

should be incorporated into disaster-management decision-making.

8. Promote Somali-Language Climate-Risk Communication

Official climate and disaster information should be translated into simple, accessible Somali-language messages that communities can understand and act upon. Youth organizations can support the development and dissemination of these materials through trusted local channels.

9. Integrate Youth into Post-Disaster Learning

Youth-led organizations should participate in post-event assessments, documentation, and lessons-learned processes. Their community-level experiences can help improve future early-warning and preparedness systems.

10. Make Youth Engagement a Long-Term Investment

Youth participation should not be limited to periods when an El Niño event or other emergency is approaching. Somalia should invest in long-term youth leadership, climate literacy, disaster preparedness, and community resilience so that youth-led organizations remain prepared to act when warnings are issued.

SCCC's central recommendation is to establish a structured partnership between government, technical institutions, development and humanitarian partners, and youth-led

organizations that transforms youth networks into a recognized component of Somalia's early-warning and early-action system.

Conclusion

El Niño presents Somalia with a significant climate and disaster-risk challenge, but it also provides an opportunity to strengthen the country's approach to preparedness. The experience of the 2023 Deyr floods demonstrated the severe consequences that climate hazards can have on communities, livelihoods, infrastructure, and humanitarian conditions. It also demonstrated the value of early warning and anticipatory action when information is delivered in time and connected to practical measures before a disaster occurs.

As Somalia continues to strengthen its early-warning and disaster-management systems, youth-led organizations should be recognized as important partners in this process. Their community networks, volunteer capacity, digital reach, local knowledge, and ability to engage young people position them to help bridge the gap between national warning systems and communities. Their role can extend from climate-risk awareness and early-warning communication to community preparedness, anticipatory action, local reporting, and post-disaster learning.

However, meaningful youth participation requires more than invitations to awareness campaigns or

emergency volunteer activities. It requires institutional recognition, technical capacity, access to information, coordination mechanisms, and appropriate resources. Youth-led organizations should be integrated into preparedness systems before disasters occur, with clearly defined responsibilities and strong links to government and technical authorities.

The Somali Center for Climate Change therefore calls for a shift from youth participation to youth partnership in Somalia's disaster-risk governance. Establishing a structured Youth Climate and Disaster Early-Action Network, investing in youth capacity, strengthening last-mile communication, and creating accessible financing mechanisms would allow young people to contribute more effectively to national resilience.

Ultimately, Somalia's ability to manage El Niño and future climate hazards will depend not only on the quality of forecasts, but on the country's ability to turn information into timely, coordinated, and locally led action.

A warning becomes meaningful when people can understand it, prepare for it, and act on it. Empowering Somalia's youth to help make that possible is an investment in national resilience.

The Somali Center for Climate Change (SCCC) remains committed to supporting evidence-based climate policy, youth leadership, community resilience, and locally led climate action across Somalia.

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