



**Appeal**

**Date:13-04-2020**

In order to prevent the spread of the deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19) the National Commission for Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons (NCRI) calls for:

1. That we pay particular attention to the most vulnerable citizens, namely IDPs & Refugee-returnees. The living conditions of the displaced people are sometimes quite dire due to the fact that some have no formal accommodation, extended families, and live in very densely populated areas. Besides, if one of the IDPs becomes infected, it can quickly spread to the IDP community and the rest of the city.
2. The Federal Government, the Federal Member States and the Benadir Regional Administration to take IDPs and Refugee-returnees into consideration as part of any plan or fight against COVID-19. It is important to note, however, that IDPs frequently come to affluent urban areas to work and their livelihood is dependent that daily work. Any infection in IDP settlement can quickly spread since the rest of the community has a working relationship with them.

One has to wonder what would happen if COVID-19 reaches IDP settlements. No doubt the outcome would be catastrophic. All government departments at all levels and the private sector would need to work together to plan a way to prevent it.

To that end, the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs urges every party concerned to establish strong partnerships to fight this invisible enemy.

END

