

**SOMALI DISABILITY
EMPOWERMENT
NETWORK
(SODEN)**



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"Disability Rights are Human Rights"

PRESS RELEASE:

MOGADISHU 19/3/2020:

Somali Disability Empowerment Network (SODEN) is extremely concerned about the global epidemic coronavirus (COVID-2019). According to the Somalia Minister of health, Dr. Fawziya Abikar Nur, there is one confirmed case so far on 16 March 2020. **SODEN** is significantly worried about this virus to spread entire people, especially the vulnerable people and people with disability who do not have any kind of protection and suitable healthcare services.

According to **SODEN**' 2019 report about the livelihoods of the disabled people in Somalia, people with all kind of disabilities already face health inequalities and may this virus spread within the Somali societies unless the Federal Government of Somalia executes additional measures to protect the civilians, it will be additional burden to PWDs and they may end up in healthcare services inequalities compared to other people. **SODEN** is extremely worried about not only the very real risk of becoming infected and spreading **COVID-19**, but the consequences on the mental and emotional wellbeing of people with disabilities in Somalia.

Working with Somalia Federal Government - the Ministry of Health, quality healthcare services for the protection and disinfection of COVID-19 suspects is essential for the people of Somalia, in particular for PWDs. **SODEN** is following all the instructions and guidance of the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) about reducing the risk of infection and spread of the virus and will make all PWDs head and practice all instructions. The current situation is unlike anything as the whole country experiences lack of COVID-19 test and protection kits.

Therefore, Somali Disability Empowerment Network (**SODEN**) is calling for the Somalia Federal Government, in particular the Ministry of Health to designate a special care unit for the

people with disabilities for the provision of adequate and quality healthcare services during this very critical time. **SODEN** will continue its support and advocacy towards the people with disabilities in order to promote and uplift the wellness of people with disability.

For more information and updates please contact info@somalidisability.org or visit www.somalidisability.org and twitter <https://twitter.com/SODENOrg>.

Yours sincerely

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Chairperson

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