



## Malawi: Human Trafficking

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The Salvation Army welcomed the creation of Malawi's 2015 Trafficking in Persons Act and the creation of the National Plan of Action 2017-2022.

However, from our perspective more work needs to be done to implement the Trafficking in Persons Act, fully operationalise the National Plan of Action and to make sure more people know about the Plan and the legislation. Specifically, to go further in tackling trafficking in human beings The Salvation Army recommends that the Malawian Government:

- 1. Build capacity of Police and Judicial system, Social Referrers, Child Protection Officers, Immigration officials and staff at the Labour Office and Ministry of Homeland through delivering training programmes on trafficking in persons, how to identify it and the powers and duties created in the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Act.***

In The Salvation Army's experience key officials listed above often lack knowledge and information on trafficking in persons. We have found that conducting training for Prosecutors in the judicial system to be very effective in improving support available for victims and in increasing prosecution rates, and therefore suggest that more trainings could improve the country's response to trafficking in persons.

- 2. Raise awareness and build capacity of key persons in the community such as village leaders and taxi drivers.***

The Salvation Army is aware anecdotally that traffickers approach village chiefs saying that they want to recruit tenants for their farm estates. Traffickers will explain they are looking for large families with lots of children and in reality the families do not end up with a tenancy; instead they are trafficked for labour exploitation. Locally based awareness campaigns and training for village leaders would equip them with the knowledge to recognise the signs and tactics of traffickers.

Secondly, The Salvation Army is aware that taxi drivers are often involved in transporting trafficking victims. If taxi drivers became more aware of the signs of trafficking in persons and what to do in these cases, it could help prevent further exploitation.

***3. Remove barriers for anti-trafficking organisations applying for funding and create plans for developing sustainable funding streams for anti-trafficking projects delivering victim support.***

Currently there are not enough projects that are dedicated to delivering support to survivors of trafficking. There are very little resources. The Government are currently only able to fund the administration of the National Organisational Committee which was charged with creating the National Plan of Action.

Secondly in The Salvation Army's experience, the Government not awarding anti-trafficking NGOs (including ourselves) an official certificate has meant they are unable to apply for Government funding or to work with police services without being charged.

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The Salvation Army in Malawi runs a short term recovery centre in the border town of Mchinji for children who have been trafficked. The Salvation Army is also vice chair, with the UNODC, of the District Technical Working Group in Mchinji on Trafficking in Human Beings.

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