

## MALAWI: UNODC donates COVID 19 equipment to TIP Victims Shelter

*“This year the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons focuses on the first responders- the social workers, labour inspectors, law enforcement officers and prosecutors, health workers and NGO staff who identify victims, help them on their path to justice and with rebuilding their lives. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime supports the first responders’ mission by channelling funding to help victims; providing protective equipment to anti-trafficking units and shelters; and assisting Member States to mitigate the pandemic’s impact on anti-trafficking responses” – Ghada Wally, UNODC Executive Director.*

This year the UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa in cooperation with Malawi Inter Agency Coordination Committee Against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) commemorated the World Day against TIP by providing so much needed personal protection equipment to Salvation Army Shelter for TIP victims.

Donated equipment included disposable surgical latex gloves, disposable surgical face masks, hand sanitizers, infrared thermometers.



Speaking on behalf of the Shelter, Mr. Haswell Jimu, the District Inter Agency Coordination Committee Against Trafficking in Persons said that the essential role played by first responders in the fight against trafficking in persons has become even more important during COVID-19 crisis. The government launched the Malawi COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan to prevent COVID-19 spread in the country, as well as preparedness and readiness for a timely, consistent and coordinated response in the event of COVID-19 outbreak. However, the Government faces challenges in addressing immediate priorities posed by COVID19 crisis on the population at large so that continuous work of NGOs has significant added value.

UNODC started working with Salvation Army Shelter for TIP victims in 2018 based on the recommendation from Malawi Government to coordinate Mchinji District inter agency activities against trafficking in persons. Since its establishment in 2018, the District structure for coordination of anti-TIP interventions has registered **42** cases of human trafficking which involved **67** perpetrators (**52** Malawians, **13** Zambians and **2** Mozambican) and **169** victims (**132** adults and **37** children).

The shelter, which is located in Mchinji District provides a short-term residential accommodation for victims. It is well known for successfully piloting the Standard Operations Procedure and National Referral Mechanism on TIP, which was developed by national authorities with support from UNODC.