

# LISTENACT

Listening to women is a radical act.

But acting on what we hear is revolutionary.



Tell us how you are listening and acting on women's and girls' demands:

[whiteribbonalliance.org/whatwomenwant](http://whiteribbonalliance.org/whatwomenwant)



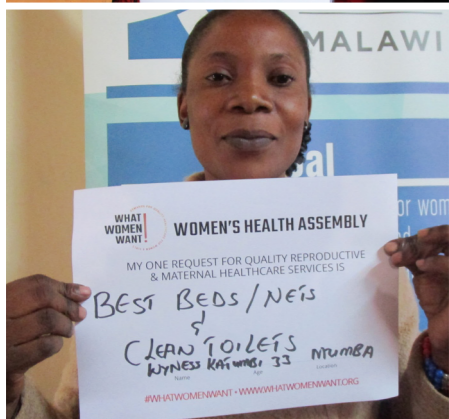
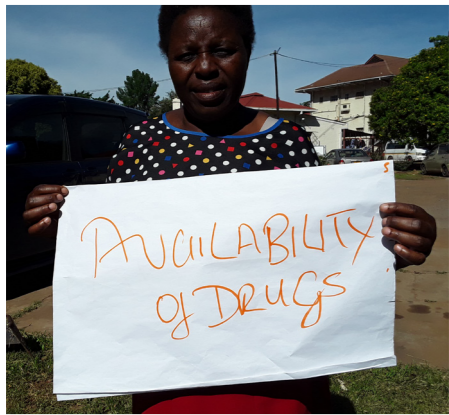
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**WHAT WOMEN WANT!**

*Demands for Quality Reproductive and Maternal Healthcare from Women and Girls*



**LISTEN AND ACT ON THE DEMANDS OF MALAWI'S WOMEN AND GIRLS!**



## What Women Want

### Demands for Quality Healthcare from Malawi's Women & Girls

Approximately 300,000 women and girls die during pregnancy and childbirth every year, with Malawi having among the highest maternal mortality ratios (MMR) in sub-Saharan Africa. Changing this picture begins with women and girls. When women and girls are involved in identifying the barriers and solutions to healthcare, progress accelerates. As quality has a huge impact on whether a woman or girl will seek care, the heart of the *What Women Want* campaign is about understanding quality from women's and girls' perspectives.

Beginning on 11 April 2018, International Maternal Health and Rights Days, and continuing for one year, 359 partners asked nearly 1.2 million women and adolescent girls in 114 countries: **what is your top demand for your maternal and reproductive healthcare?** Led by the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood Malawi (WRASM Malawi), almost 85,000 of these demands were gathered in Malawi alone during citizen hearings. In Malawi, women and girls often collectively decided to put forth a select number of joint asks, believing the more who said the same thing, the more likely the response.

The *What Women Want* campaign is unique in that it asked women and girls in Malawi to set the agenda, as opposed to beginning with a premise of what is important or asking them to decide among a set of options. For example, in one district in Malawi, birthing women described how they were going hungry when it rained because the kitchen where their relatives cooked at the health facility had no roof. They recommend building a more permanent shelter so their families can stay with them and provide support while they are in labor. Theirs' are voices and concerns often lost, but which are vital to providing services which women want and use.

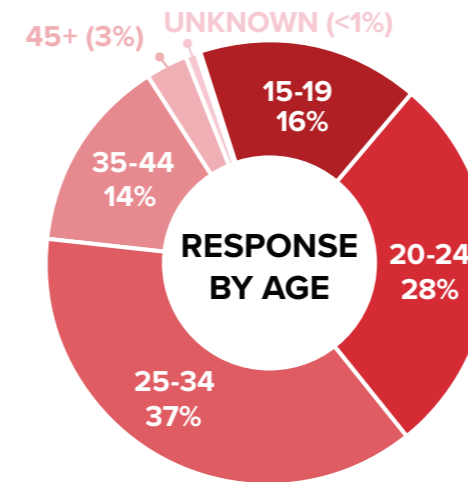
A resounding call for better quality health services as defined by women and girls, this brief provides the top ten demands of those who participated in the *What Women Want* campaign from Malawi. If the hope and expectation is for women and girls to visit health centers, adhere to recommended advice, and collectively pursue better health outcomes, it follows their agenda must become everyone's agenda.

**Women and girls have spoken, now it's time to listen.**

## 6 DISTRICTS

Blantyre, Chitipa, Dedza, Dowa, Lilongwe, Zomba

## 84,058 DEMANDS



To learn more about the methodology and analysis of these results, visit: [whiteribbonalliance.org/whatwomenwant](http://whiteribbonalliance.org/whatwomenwant) to download the complete summary report.

## TOP TEN DEMANDS

1. Respectful and dignified care: **37%**
  - Friendly and courteous health workers\*
  - Informed consent
  - Choice of provider when receiving care
  - Right to companion when receiving care
2. Confidentiality and privacy: **9.1%**
3. Improved health, well-being and maternal, reproductive, or general health services: **9.1%**
4. Water, sanitation, and hygiene: **8.9%**
  - Clean maternity wards
  - Clean toilets in rural facilities
  - Treatment in a clean environment
5. Timely and attentive care: **8.6%**
  - Organized and punctual health workers
6. Medicines and supplies: **6.6%**
  - Availability of quality drugs
7. Increased, competent and better-supported midwives and nurses: **5.9%**
8. Referral system: **5.3%**
9. Transportation infrastructure: **5.3%**
10. Labor and delivery information, personnel, services and supplies: **4.4%**

\* Represent top sub-categories of demands