

Malawi's Healthcare Challenge



Overview



The country of Malawi, located in Eastern Africa, has been a major focus for journalists in recent years. This is attributed to the country's poor public health care infrastructure, especially for disabled pregnant women. The following are based on true and reliable sources.

The Misfortune of Victims



Lynes Manduwa

When she miscarried, the nurses who attended her decided to confront her husband. They blamed him for impregnating a disabled woman, despite the miscarriage's biological causes, which said otherwise.



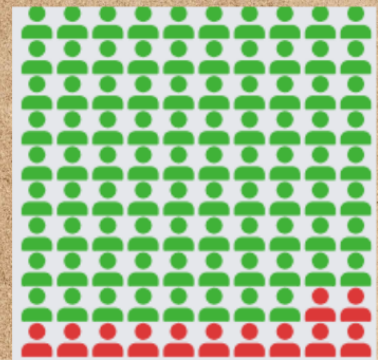
Fanny Malemia

While pregnant, she experienced bleeding and abdominal pain. But due to poor communication, health workers failed to decipher what she was really trying to say, until a friend accompanied her to a hospital, where a scan revealed she had a life-threatening pregnancy condition. So, she had to undergo surgery and endure a tragic loss.



Many other disabled women have gone through similar experiences while having to endure very unfair treatment. For example, a woman was slapped during labor due to poor communication. In other instances, even some of these women passed away due to pregnancy-related causes and miscommunication.

12 out of every 100 Malawians, aged 5 and older, have a disability.



(This is confirmed by Malawi's Population and Housing Census.)

What do the people leading the system have to say?

The people in charge of the public health sector were heavily questioned over this poor infrastructure. So, they have admitted there was no special training for health workers on assisting people with disabilities. In addition, some of these health workers lacked compassion towards disabled patients.

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Disabled Women
Struggle for Dignified
Care During Pregnancy



Dehumanizing Hospitals
Fail Mothers With
Impairments in Africa