So, what's new?

Sauti za Wananchi

Have your voice heard!
Dear reader,

We all have something to say: about where we live, new things in our lives and what we want to change. We have voices but most of the time our voices are only heard by our friends and families. But we don’t know that the realities of our lives are of interest to many people: our fellow citizens and the leaders who represent us.

When citizens’ voices (Sauti Za Wananchi) are heard, information about the reality of their lives can help to inform changes in the country. In short these voices can help to build the nation and drive forward progress. This booklet is about a new initiative called “Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens)” introduced and implemented by an independent organization called Twaweza. The initiative was implemented at national level from 2015, we now want to implement at county level here in Makueni. Your village or street is one of the 70 areas randomly selected to be in this initiative. In each area, twelve participants are chosen randomly. At least once every two months, Twaweza will call the participants and ask a few questions.

The objective is to learn about the living conditions and opinions of the citizens of Makueni County. Information from all 70 areas will be analyzed and put in a report every month and this will be disseminated to many people (names and phone numbers of participants will be confidential). The reports will also be shared with the media. In this way, many ordinary citizens, leaders, representatives at Makueni county and national level including will know what is happening in communities across Makueni County, and they will be able to hear citizens’ views.

Sometimes leaders make decisions without knowing the realities of the living conditions of ordinary citizens. Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens) is an initiative that will ensure that your realities and voice are heard.
Entrepreneur, the leader of the Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens) initiative in the area

One of the participants

Coordinator of the Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens) team in the area

A citizen who does not have a lot of faith in research

The Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens) research team
Musyoka didn’t come to take his bicycle....

Aah, you didn’t hear? He has visitors....

Where did they come from?
I don’t know, they are young and they came with bags and boxes... What’s going on there? Let’s go check it out...
Mzee, you have been selected to participate in Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens).

Thank you, but what is it about, my children?
Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens) aims at finding out about citizens’ realities.

But I am not an expert!

You don’t need to be. It’s about listening to ordinary citizens.
Mhh, what will I be asked about?

Just simple questions about how your life is and your opinion about things that are happening in the county.
Who is behind this?

This survey is managed by an independent organization called Twaweza.

The overall results will be made public but everyone’s name is kept secret.

Ahaa...
Towards the end of the conversation

Musyoka, we will contact you through this mobile phone one to two times a month.

Ooh, thank you so...

Hello! Hello! Musyoka!
Mr. Mechanic, you have come with the whole gang... welcome...

Yes Mzee, we have come for gifts from our visitors.

Stop joking brother, this is about research.
Why aren’t we part of it or are you discriminating?

We prepared a list of all households in this area and we randomly selected only 12.
So, why are you giving them mobile phones?

This exercise has two phases, this is just the first interview. Later, we will collect information regularly over the phone.
There is no electricity in the village, where will he charge his phone?

Each participant will be given a solar charger.

Aaah, okay.

That's very good.
Meeting of all participants...

Fellow participants, we should select one of us to coordinate the team.

Why when we are each going to be called individually?
Good question! That will help us when you or your neighbor can’t be reached on the phone or you have an emergency.

...Eeh I see there’s a hand.
Members let us now select one of us who will be team leader.

Let’s select Nthenya, right?

Yes, she’s the one. Totally!
What do we get for participating?

Well, this is a unique opportunity to have our voices heard.

Is it really possible?
I don’t understand, how?

Sauti za Wananchi (Voices of Citizens) includes only 840 participants in the county. The responses collected will be put together and made public through media. Your voice will represent your county!
Oh, we forgot to ask.... Will our names be made public?

No, your names will be confidential between you and us.
Is that it?

When you participate in all the survey rounds, we will provide airtime for your phone.

And if you stay in, at the end of the survey, the mobile phone will be yours.
Are there any group incentives?

If all group members participate fully for three months, we will give you even more airtime.
How long does this go on for?

Almost two years.
I won't let this pass me by

For those who will participate regularly without missing any rounds, around 100 of them will be chosen randomly and will be given new radios! Over to you.
If we have more questions, who should we contact?

You can call or send a message to
0725 933249
or
0722 369856
Okay, all the best.

Thank you so much.
I really got lucky. Out of all of people in Makueni, it's my voice that will be heard.

Too true.
Follow these steps for the best communication:

- Answer your phone when you are being called
- Find a quiet place to talk
- Select a good time for you to do the interview
- Remove or stay away from all disturbances
- Hold your phone in such a way that you can hear and be heard
- Listen carefully
- If you haven’t heard the person you are speaking with, ask him/her to repeat
- Ask questions if you don’t understand
- Speak in a moderate tone.

Making sure your phone has enough power:

- Don’t turn your phone on and off all the time
- Don’t put your phone on vibrate mode
- Minimize the brightness on your phone screen
- When listening to the radio use earphones instead of the speakers in your phone
- Minimize torch use.