

# Water, sanitation and hygiene in Laikipia County

## Experiences and opinions of county residents

This brief explores water, sanitation and hygiene in Laikipia county from the perspective of county residents, making comparisons to the rest of Kenya. The data comes from Twaweza’s Sauti za Wananchi survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens’ experiences. Further details are available from [www.twaweza.org/sauti](http://www.twaweza.org/sauti).

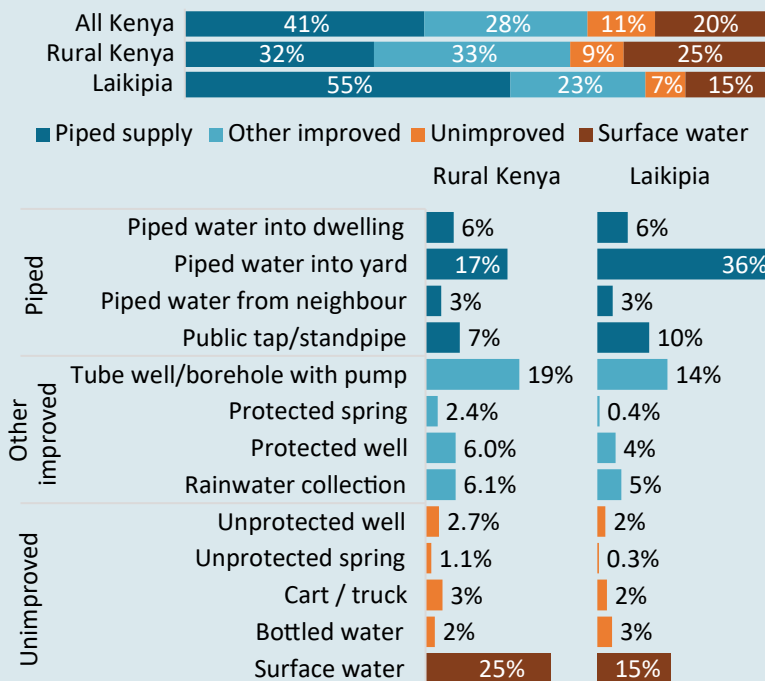
### Insight 1. In Laikipia County, four out of ten households have piped water to their premises

In Laikipia County, 55% of households have access to piped water sources, including four out of ten who have piped water to their premises (42%). This includes a few who have water piped into the building where they live (6%) and others who have water piped into their yard (36%). Some others access piped water from a neighbour (3%) or public standpipe (10%).

Across the county, 23% of households access water from another form of improved water source (such as a borehole or protected well), 7% access water from unimproved sources, and 15% depend on surface water as their main source of drinking water.

Laikipia has higher access to piped water (55%) compared to Kenya overall (41%), and considerably higher than rural areas of the country (32%). Dependence on surface water in Laikipia (15%) is lower than most rural areas of Kenya overall (25%).

What is the main source of drinking water for your household?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 11, Jan-Feb 2024

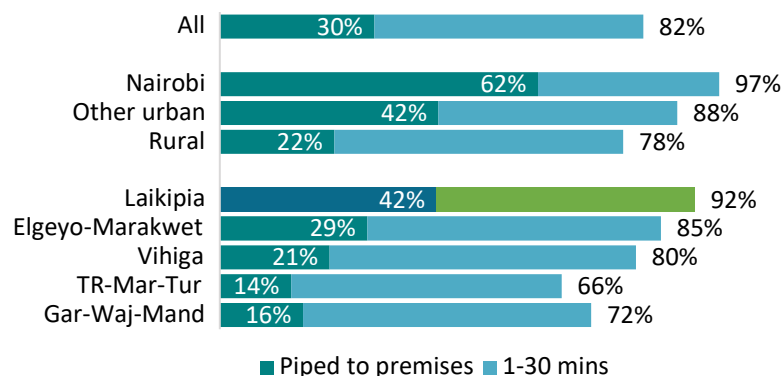
### Insight 2. 9 out of 10 households in the county access their drinking water within 30 minutes

In Laikipia County, 92% of households can access drinking water within 30 minutes—including time for travel to the source, waiting, collecting water and returning home. This includes the 42% who have piped water to their premises.

Again, access to water in reasonable times is better in Nairobi and other urban areas than in rural communities, though Laikipia rates better than most rural parts on the country.

In Laikipia County, the average water collection time is 14 minutes. This is lower than the national average (23 minutes) and the average in rural parts of the country (27 minutes), but slightly higher than the average collection time in Nairobi (8 minutes). (Not shown in charts).

Percentage households that require 30 mins or less to collect water:



Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 11, Jan-Feb 2024



### Insight 3. Half of households in Laikipia County treat their drinking water before consuming it

In Laikipia County, 51% of households treat their drinking water in some way before consuming it.

Across the whole country, six out of ten households (57%) treat their drinking water in some way before consuming it. This is higher in rural areas (58%) than in Nairobi (48%) or other urban areas (55%) – likely due to factors such as the relatively high use of bottled water in Nairobi.

Nationally, the most common forms of water treatment are boiling the water (38%) and use of chemical treatments (33%). The most common reason given for not treating water is a belief that it is already safe for drinking without need for treatment (31%). (Not shown in charts).

### Insight 4. More Laikipia residents say their access to drinking water has improved in the past year than say it has deteriorated

In Laikipia County for the past 12 months, 40% say their access to drinking water has improved while 20% say it is getting worse. Additionally, 41% are satisfied with the county government's provision of water services while 35% are dissatisfied.

These figures are broadly similar to those for Kenya overall and for rural areas of the country, though satisfaction with county provision of water services is higher in Laikipia than the national averages.

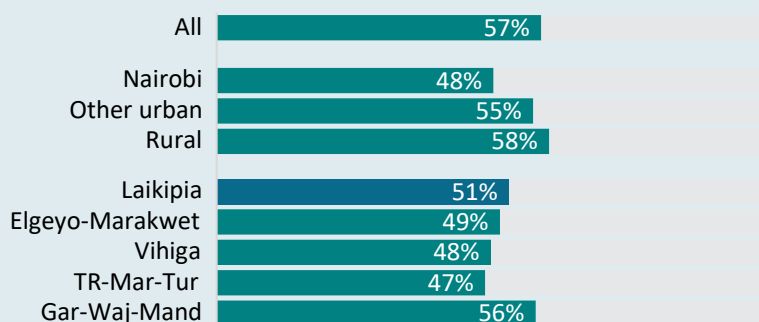
### Insight 5. 8 out of 10 households in Laikipia County use an improved latrine facility

In Laikipia County, two out of ten households (21%) have access to a flush toilet connected to a sewer or septic tank while six out of ten (62%) have access to another type of improved latrine facility. This includes half of all households in the county that have a pit latrine with a washable slab: the most basic form of latrine that is classed as improved.

Two out of ten households in the county (17%) use unimproved facilities, and 1% have no access to any latrine facility.

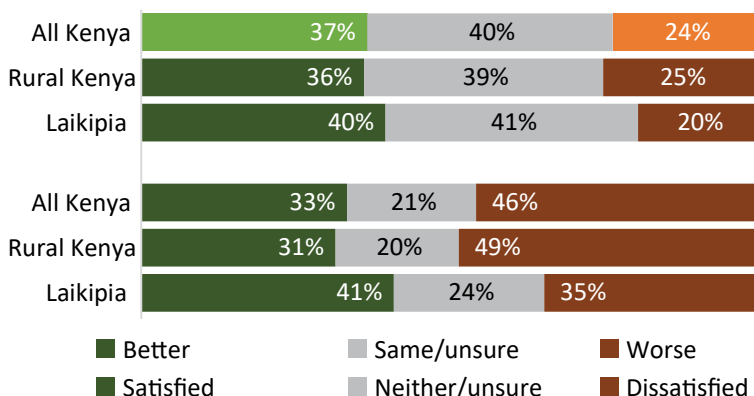
These figures put Laikipia County a little ahead of the national average, and well ahead of the average for rural parts of the country.

Do you do anything to your water to make it safer to drink?  
(Percentage answering "yes")



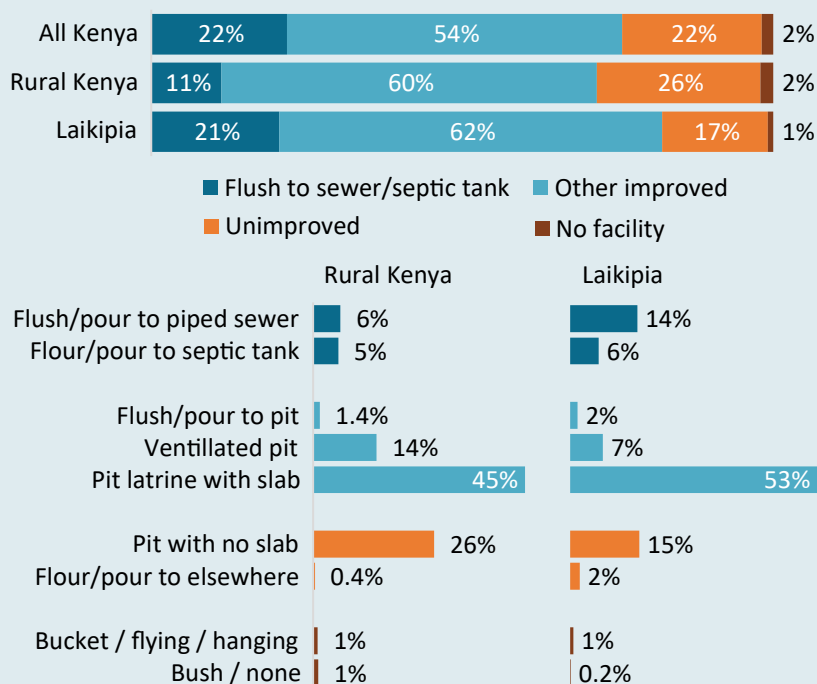
Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 11, Jan-Feb 2024

In the last year, has your access to water got better or worse?  
How do you rate your county government at providing water services?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 11, Jan-Feb 2024

What main type of toilet facility do members of your household use?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 11, Jan-Feb 2024