



Press Release

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Tanzanians are optimistic about their future Citizens think the country will become middle-income by 2025

4 December 2014, Dar es Salaam: More than half of citizens (54%) think their lives will be better in 2025. This is true among young and old, men and women, and rural and urban residents. This is in stark contrast to the United States and Europe where almost seven out of ten (65%) think that their children will be financially worse off than they are.

These findings were released by Twaweza and the Society for International Development (SID) in a research brief titled *Tanzania in 2025: are Tanzanians optimistic about their future?* The brief is based on data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa's first nationally representative high-frequency mobile phone survey that interviews households across Tanzania Mainland (Zanzibar is not covered in these results). The main findings are based on data collected from 1,408 respondents in August 2014.

Looking at the country in general, two out of three citizens believe that Tanzania will be a good place to live in 2025. This holds true regardless of levels of wealth; 64% of the wealthiest citizens and 68% of the poorest citizens see the future positively. Both personally and nationally, citizens are deeply optimistic about what is in store for the country.

However, some citizens are worried. Almost one out of five citizens (18%) fear that their lives will be worse in 2025 than today, and there are those who think the country will be a bad place to live in 2025. Here there are some differences between rich and poor; one out of four wealthy citizens (25%) and one out of five poor citizens (18%) are pessimistic about the future.

Whichever view citizens hold, they are certain that the outcome will be in Tanzanian hands. Nine out of ten citizens believe that Tanzanian leaders (54%) or citizens (37%) will have the most control over important decisions in the country. When it comes to their own lives, citizens are even more confident about their own agency; six out of ten think they themselves will have the most influence over their own future. However, while one out of five rural citizens believe that the Government will have the strongest influence over their future welfare, no urban citizens mention the Government as an important influence. Aside from themselves, urban respondents mention their family (20%) and friends or peers (19%) as having influence over their future.

Looking more specifically, almost three out of four citizens (72%) are confident that Tanzania will be a middle-income country by 2025. Seven out of ten (68%) also think that there will be a female president by 2025 and six out of ten (64%) foresee a growth in manufacturing and reduction in agriculture. On the other hand, many citizens predict religious conflict (62%) and half (51%) expect a split of the United Republic of Tanzania. Whatever the future holds, citizens see big changes, with six out of ten predicting that the opposition will win the presidency and that elephants will disappear by 2025. Interestingly the two least likely scenarios are thought to be Tanzania qualifying for the World Cup (38%) and the formation of the East African Federation with one president (34%).

Citizens' main concerns for the future are improvements in the quality of social services (28% see this as the main future priority) and economic growth (16% prioritise this).

Aidan Eyakuze, Associate Director of the Society for International Development, commented on the findings *"Tanzanians are largely optimistic about their personal future, especially when compared with their peers in developed economies in the United States and Europe. This resilience and positivity is a huge asset. It enhances the country's potential to move forward with confidence, It also places a burden on each one of us to ensure that we realize this positive vision for our country."*

Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza, said *"In a time of significant global and national change, citizens of all wealth classes, locations and gender, are optimistic about what the future holds for them in Tanzania. The challenge, for the Tanzanian Government, local elites and citizens themselves, is to ensure that this optimism is harnessed through good policy making and implementation, to promote equitable development and building social cohesion, so that citizens' aspirations for a brighter future are met."*

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Notes to Editors

- This brief and the data contained can be accessed at www.twaweza.org, or www.twaweza.org/sauti
- Twaweza is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action, and seeks to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account.
- You can follow Twaweza's work

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