Protecting Journalists and the Media

East African citizens’ views on media freedom

Across East Africa, more citizens generally support media freedom than government control, though support for media freedom has fluctuated

7 out of 10 East Africans believe it is important for the news media to investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption

East Africans currently feel less free to say what they think than in previous years

This data packet presents citizens’ views on media freedom in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The data presented here comes from two main sources:

i) Twaweza’s Sauti za Wananchi survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens’ experiences

ii) the Afrobarometer surveys of public opinion across the continent.

Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti and Afrobarometer.org.
Most East Africans do not think the media deliberately deceive people.

Kenyans and Tanzanians see media freedom as a very important component of democracy.

In Tanzania and Uganda, most citizens believe they have the right to criticise leaders, but cannot always exercise this right in practice.

Close to half of Tanzanians say powerful people always or often influence the police to silence journalists.