SURVEY REPORT:

YOUTH AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE BUDGET PROCESS IN KENYA.

GATHERED & COMPILED BY THELLESI TRUST.

22ND JULY 2024.

INTRODUCTION.

In the first half of 2024, much of the public debate centred around the Finance Bill 2024, while fewer people discussed the proposed national budget for 2024/2025. Noticing this gap, we launched an online & offline campaign to raise awareness of key budget proposals and posed thought-provoking questions to encourage Kenyans to reflect on the national budget and its implications.

From conversations and online engagement, we realised that few Kenyans understood what the Finance Bill was and how it was connected to the budget. Often, they were thought to be the same thing. This insight suggested a broader need for more awareness among Kenyans about the budget process, its importance, and opportunities for public participation.

As such, we sought to design a long-term campaign that demystifies the budget process, explains its significance, and demonstrates how young people can actively participate in it. However, before designing the campaign, we conducted a survey targeting 350 young people from six counties, to get a feel of just how much they know about Kenya's budget process.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY.

To determine youth awareness and knowledge of the budget process, and their participation in it.

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY.

a. **Locations:** Malindi, Kilifi, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri & Kisumu.
b. **Demographic:** Youths (specifically 23 - 28-year olds).
c. **Date Collected:** 27th June 2024 - 12th July 2024.

METHODOLOGY.

We developed a simple questionnaire and shared it with our contacts in the above-mentioned locations. They then conducted one-on-one interviews with a minimum of 50 individuals per place.

LIMITATIONS.

While this survey aimed to provide an analysis of youth awareness and understanding of the budget process in Kenya, our resources allowed us to sample only 350 individuals across 5 counties. We recognise that a larger sample size and a broader geographical reach across more counties would have provided even more robust and representative data.

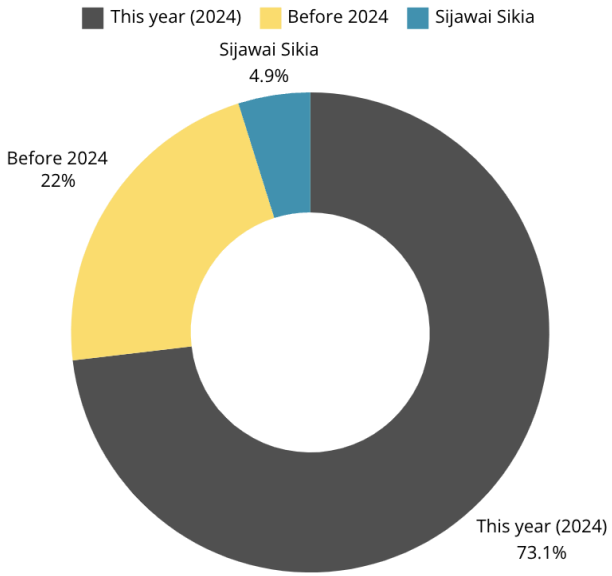
KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

a. Mara yako ya kwanza kusikia “Finance Bill” ni lini?
b. Finance Bill ni nini?
c. Tofauti ya “‘Finance Bill na Budget” ni nini?
d. Ushawai sikia “budget process”? Unajua stages zake?
e. Minister wa Finance Kenya ni nani?
f. Ushawai attend meeting yoyote kudiscuss budget ya Gava ama ya County?

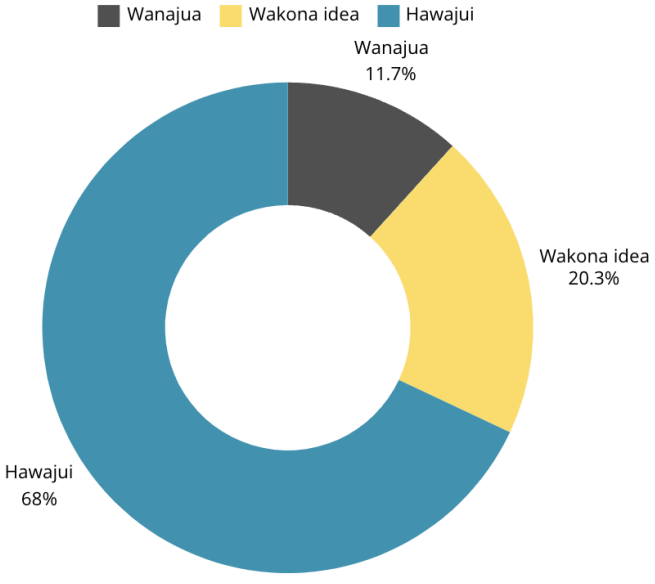
KEY FINDINGS: A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS PER LOCATION.

	Locations	Male	Female	Total
1	Malindi	41	34	**75**
2	Kilifi	38	23	**61**
3	Nairobi	28	30	**58**
4	Nakuru	33	17	**50**
5	Nyeri	22	30	**52**
6	Kisumu	22	32	**54**
TOTAL		**184**	**166**	**350**

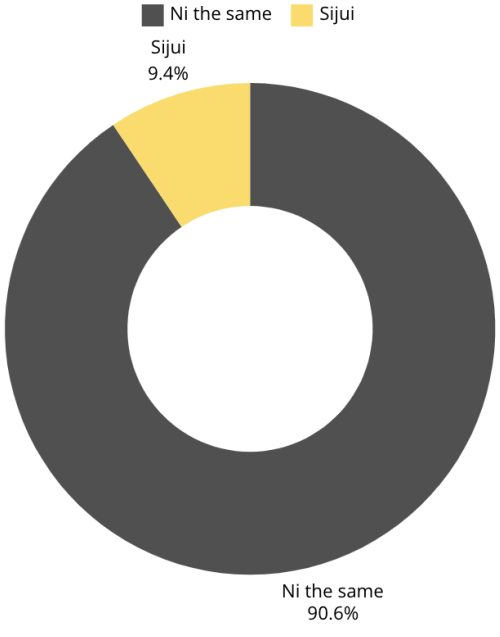
Mara yako ya kwanza kusikia “Finance Bill” ni lini?



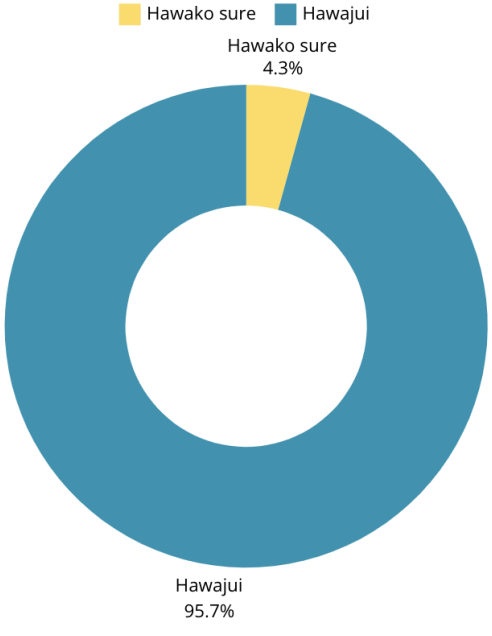
Finance Bill ni nini?



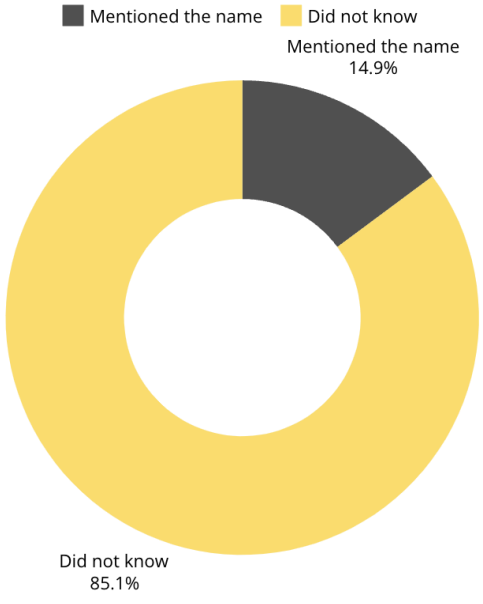
Tofauti ya "Finance Bill" na "Budget" ni nini?



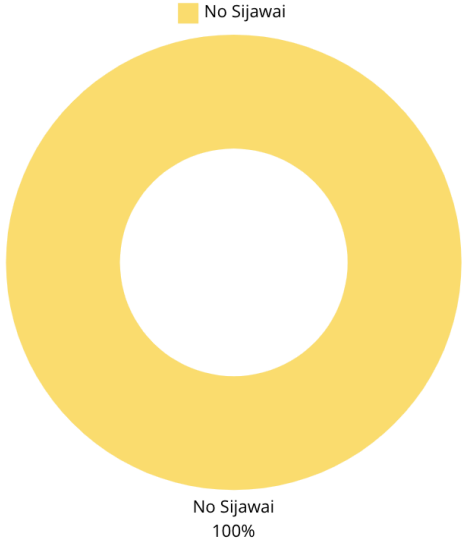
Ushawai sikia “budget process”? Unajua stages zake?



Minister wa Finance Kenya ni nani?



Ushawai attend meeting yoyote kudiscuss budget ya Gava ama ya County?



IMPORTANT FINDINGS FROM THE DATA.

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a. Most youths became aware of the 'Finance Bill' in 2024, especially during the #RejectFinanceBill 2024 campaigns.

b. Most of the respondents who had heard about the Finance Bill before 2024 said they most likely heard about it in the news and/or social media.

c. Even though many youths are now familiar with the word 'Finance Bill', there is still a lack of understanding of what it is about. Most of the comments we got revolved around *'si ni ya kuongeza tax?'.* Furthermore, most of the respondents had never seen an actual Finance Bill document.

d. Some of the people who were familiar with the Finance Bill were involved in one way or another with Community-based organisations of CSOs.

e. Whereas more youths now know about the Finance Bill, there is little knowledge about the Budget Process within which it falls. More than 95% of the respondents could not tell us the key stages of the budget process.

f. The prevailing perception is that the Finance Bill and the Budget are the same thing. This could be because they were being discussed at the same time, often interchangeably.

g. None of the respondents had ever attended a Public Participation meeting or a gathering where county or national budgets were discussed. They told us that they see no real reason to attend public participation meetings because their views will not be considered - the meetings are mere formalities.

h. 85% of the respondents were unable to name the Minister of Finance at the time this research was conducted. Combined with other findings, this underscores a low level of interest and engagement among youths in matters related to public finance and governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Even though youth awareness and engagement with public finance is still low, the Government, Civil Society and the Media should invest in educational campaigns to improve in-depth understanding, especially on how the Finance Bill relates to their everyday lives.