Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

Report

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Food & Nutrition Council
Every Zimbabwean Free from Hunger & Malnutrition

Foreword

Under the leadership of FNC, the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) remains committed to providing timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation to inform the development of robust livelihoods response programmes, policies and strategies. The 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment underpins the value of precision sustainable livelihoods planning to provide spatially resolved data to guide efficient targeting of interventions to those populations with the greatest need, to reduce social development disparities and accelerate progress. The results will enable quantification of inequalities and identification of successes and failures of programmes and policies at local level.

The 25th Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report provides updates on pertinent rural household livelihoods issues which include demographics, housing, education, health, nutrition, WASH, energy, social protection, food consumption patterns, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, debts, coping strategies, shocks and food security. The report will assist the country to evaluate its performance against set targets and aspirations; monitoring the continuing implementation of the National Development Strategic policies, Agriculture related policies, Social Assistance and Social Protection related policies, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, as well as the country's progress against regional and global commitments. The assessment is one of the documents that will be useful in providing baseline data critical for the development of the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS 2).

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Government of Zimbabwe and its Development Partners for the financial and technical support which enabled us to undertake the survey in a timely manner. These resources also went a long way in facilitating the collection of data to enable the representation of key indicators at district level.

We remain indebted to the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels for their support. We appreciate the rural communities of Zimbabwe, the local authorities as well as Traditional Leaders for cooperating and supporting this assessment. We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work towards addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

George D. Kembo (Dr.)
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ZIMLAC CHAIRPERSON

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Acknowledgements

The technical and financial support received from the following is greatly appreciated:

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- Rural District Councils (RDCs)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- ZIMSTAT
- START NETWORK
- Community Technology Development Organization
- World Vision
- Red Cross
- Bindura University of Science Education
- Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Harare Institute of Technology
- Plan International
- SOS Children's Village
- Simukaupenye Youth Academy
- UTARIRI integrated Biodiversity, Climate Change and Livelihoods Programme
- CESVI
- Friends for Matibi
- CARITAS
- International Medical Corps
- Lower Guruve Development Association
- LID Agency
- Welthungerhilfe
- AMALIMA Loko
- National AIDS Council
- Insiza Godlwayo AIDS Council
- Aqua Culture Zimbabwe
- Score Against Poverty
- DAAP
- CARE International
- Nutrition Action Zimbabwe
- Bethany Project
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress
- Zimbabwe Project Trust
- Environmental Management Agency
- SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
- CARE/Takunda
- Mercy Corps
- Hope for Kids
- Mavambo Trust
- Tsuro Trust
- Mwenezi Development Trust Centre

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- ZimLAC plays a significant role in operationalising Commitment Six of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (GoZ, 2012), in which the "Government of Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making".
- The information system is critical in informing decision making as it provides evidence for timely response by Government.
- ZimLAC livelihoods assessments' results continue to be an important tool for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation with 12 urban and 25 rural livelihoods updates having been produced to date.

Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

ZimLAC is a consortium of Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia which was established in 2002 and is led and regulated by Government. It is chaired by FNC, a Department in the Office of the President and Cabinet, whose mandate is to promote a multi-sectoral response to food insecurity and nutrition problems in a manner that ensures that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

ZimLAC supports Government, particularly FNC in:

- Convening and coordinating national food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe.
- Charting a practical way forward for fulfilling legal and existing policy commitments in food and nutrition security.
- Advising Government on the strategic direction for improved food and nutrition security.
- Undertaking a "watchdog role" and facilitating action to ensure sector commitments in food and nutrition are kept on track through a number of core functions such as:
  - Undertaking food and nutrition assessments, analysis and research;
  - Promoting multi-sectoral and innovative approaches for addressing food and nutrition insecurity, and;
  - Supporting and building national capacity for food and nutrition security, including at sub-national levels.

Assessment Rationale

The assessment results will be used to guide the following:

- Evidence based planning and programming for targeted interventions.
- Development of interventions that address immediate to long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods.
- Early warning for early action.
- Monitoring and reporting progress towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national and international food and nutrition policies and strategies such as the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger strategy.
- Providing baseline data for NDS 2.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas to inform policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

1. To estimate the rural population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2025/2026 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
2. To assess the nutrition status of the rural population.
3. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene), assets, agriculture, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
4. To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions.
5. To determine the effects of shocks and stressors experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
6. To identify development priorities for communities.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design

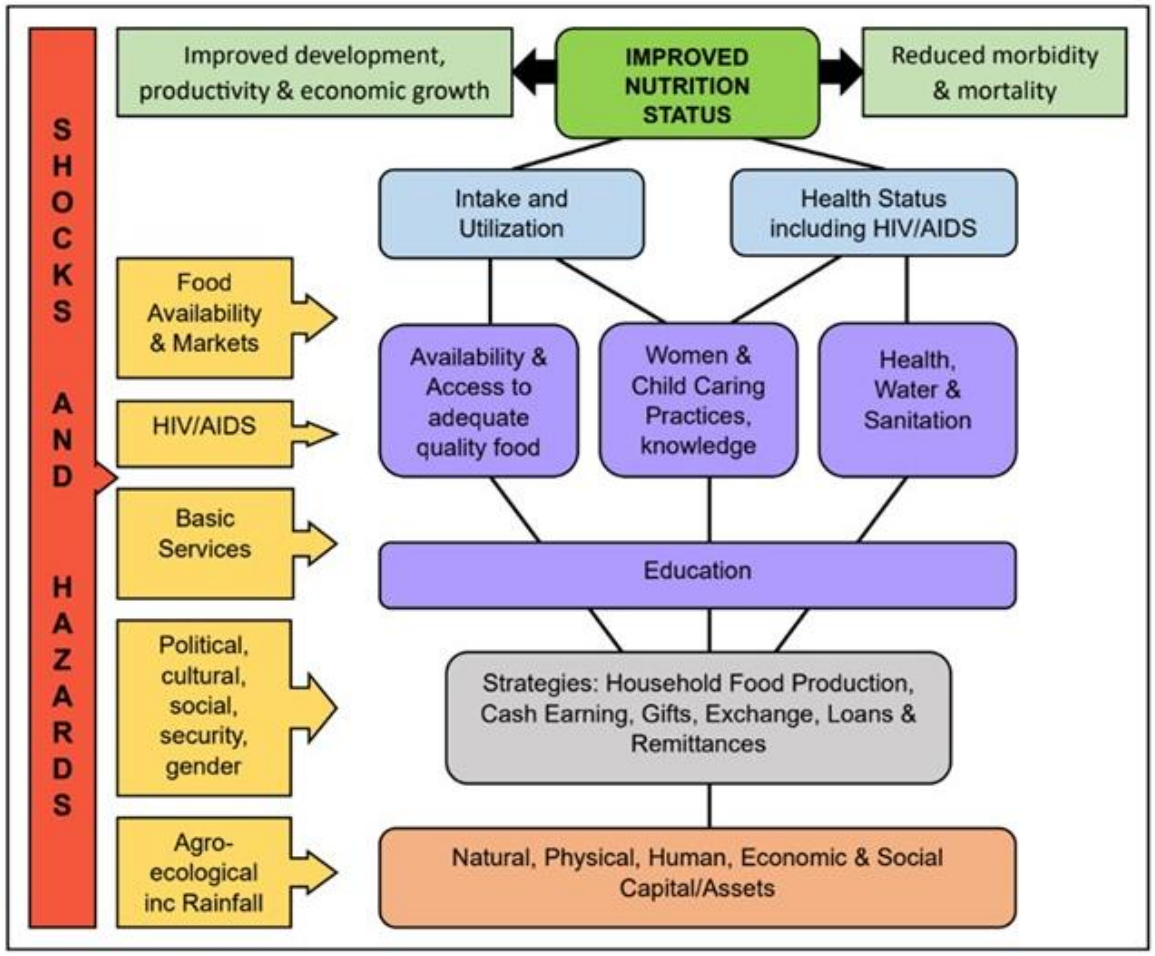


Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

- The assessment was a cross-sectional study whose design was guided and informed by the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework (Figure 1), which Zimbabwe adopted in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012), and the conceptual framework on food security dimensions propounded by Jones et al. (2013).
- The assessment was also guided and informed by the resilience framework (Figure 2) so as to influence the early recovery of households affected by various shocks.
- The assessment looked at food availability and access as pillars that have confounding effects on food security as defined in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012).
- Accordingly, the assessment measured the amount of energy available to a household from all its potential sources hence the **primary sampling unit** for the assessment was the household.
- The frameworks also place nutrition as an outcome of multi sectoral drivers at various levels and its role in driving economic development.

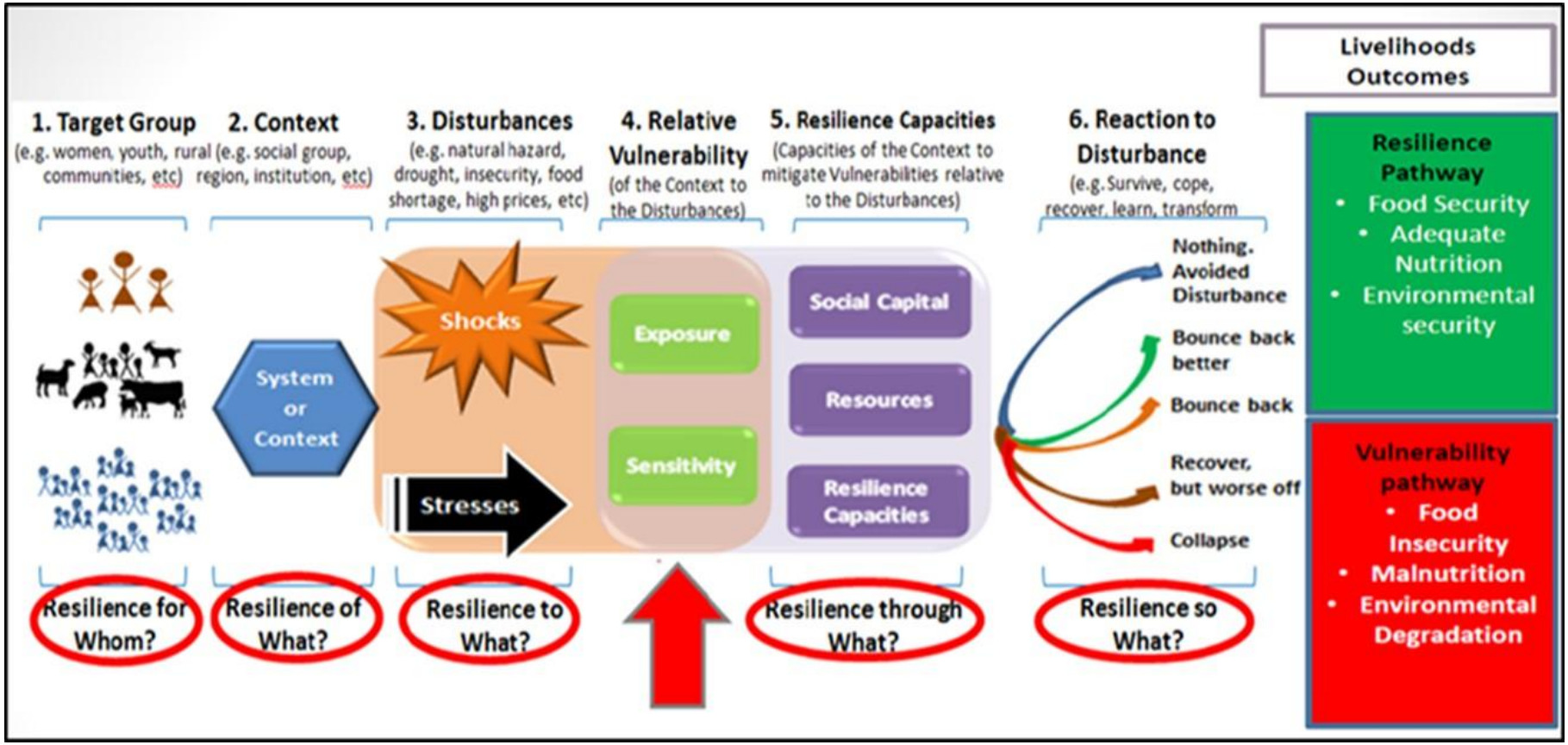
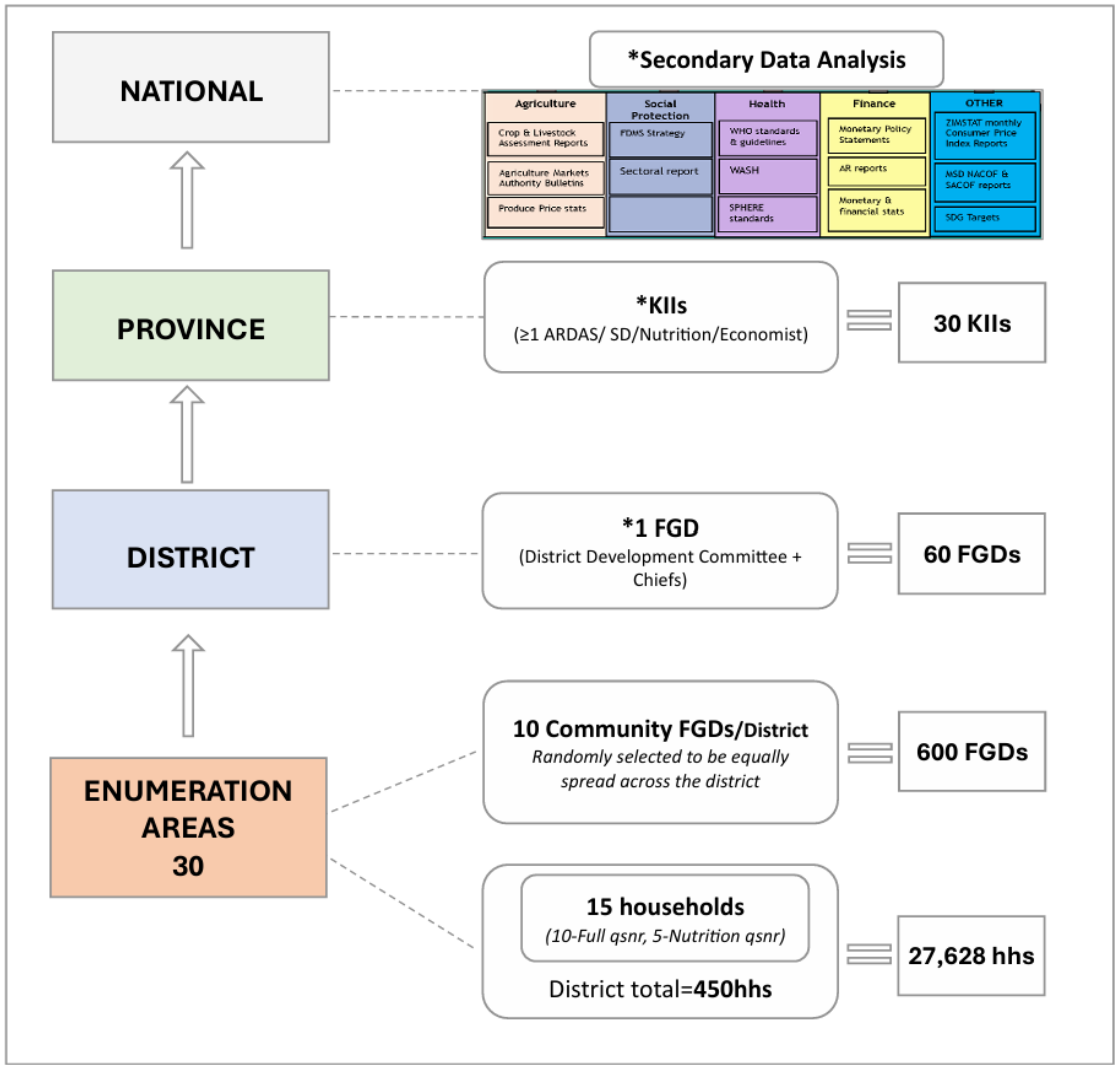


Figure 2: Zimbabwe Resilience Framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

Methodology – Assessment Process

- Recognizing the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in comprehensive assessments, ZimLAC developed an appropriate assessment design and data collection tools through extensive multi-stakeholder consultations. The data collection tools were informed by and aligned with the assessment objectives.
- The primary data collection tool used in the assessment was an Android–based structured household tool. In addition to primary data, secondary data sources (existing sectoral reports, national surveys and relevant literature) were utilized to support iterative analysis and triangulate findings.
- ZimLAC national supervisors and enumerators were recruited from Government entities, United Nations, Technical partners, Academia and Non-Governmental Organisations.
- The Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, through offices of the Provincial Development Coordinators, facilitated the recruitment of domain-level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial and district enumeration vehicles. Enumerators were selected from an existing database of individuals who participated in previous ZimLAC assessments.
- Primary data collection took place from 21 May to 11 June 2025. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

Methodology – Assessment Process



Methodology- Sampling and Sample Size

- Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level.
- The survey collected data from 1 800 randomly selected Enumeration Areas (EAs).
- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of:
  - Sampling of 30 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2022 master sampling frame using the Probability Proportional to Population Size (PPS) methodology.
  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).
- At least 300 households were sampled per district and a total of 17,974 households were interviewed.
- 592 community FGDs were held across all the districts.

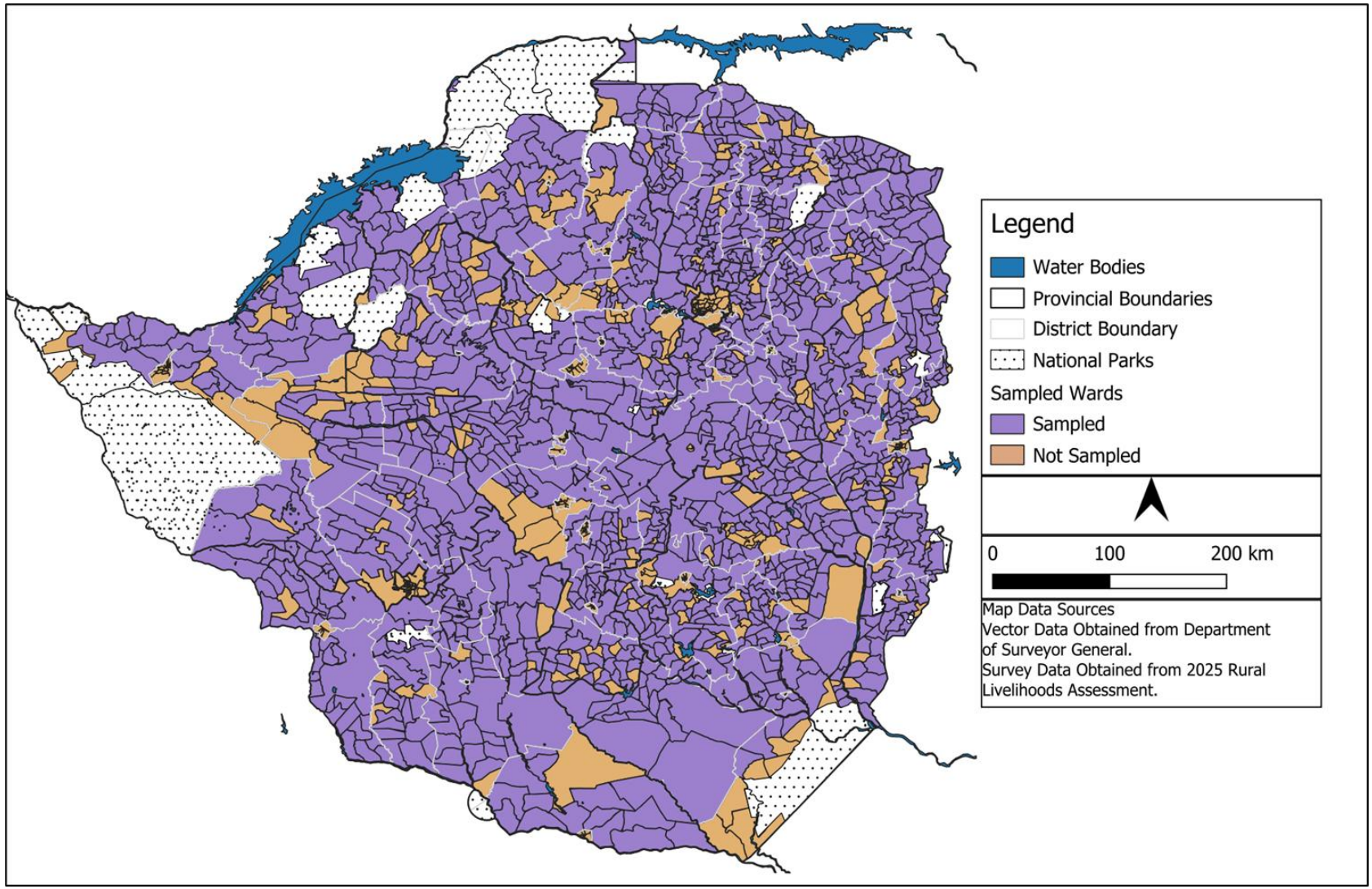
Province	Households
Manicaland	2096
Mash Central	2400
Mash East	2699
Mash West	2092
Mat North	2095
Mat South	2074
Midlands	2402
Masvingo	2116
National	17974

Methodology- Sampling and Sample Size for Nutrition Outcomes

- All members in the households were considered for anthropometric measurements, while adults were considered for non-communicable disease risk factors and individual diets targeted at women and children under 5 years.
- At least 450 households were sampled per district and a total of 27628 households were interviewed.
- Anthropometric measurements were taken from 24506 Children aged 6-59 months, 3573 Children aged 5-9 years, 4807 Adolescents 10-19 years, and 19678 Adults aged 20 years and above.

Province	Total
Manicaland	3168
Mash Central	3642
Mash East	4171
Mash West	3142
Mat North	3176
Mat South	3315
Midlands	3627
Masvingo	3387
National	**27628**

Methodology – Sampled Wards

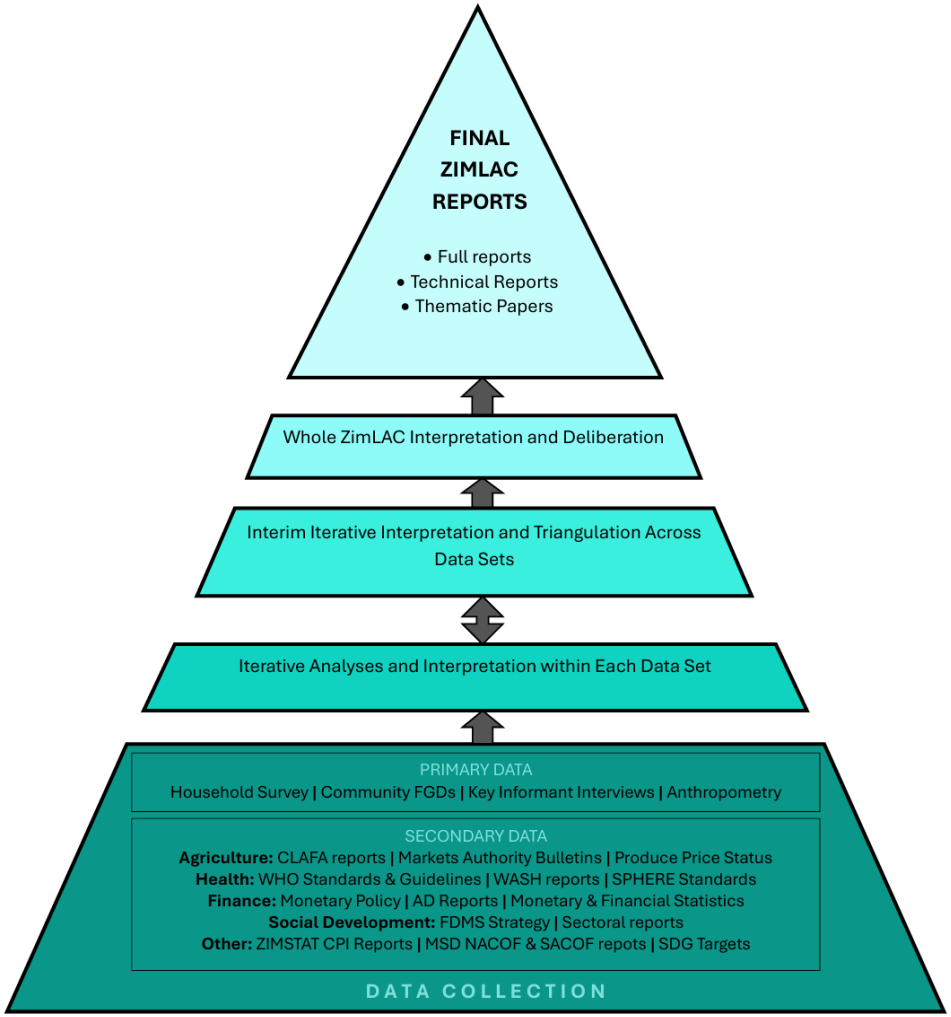


Data Preparation and Analysis

- Primary data was transcribed using CSEntry on android gadgets and using CSPro. It was consolidated and converted into SPSS, STATA and DBF datasets for:
  - Household structured interviews
  - Community Focus Group Discussions
- Data cleaning and analysis were done using SPSS, STATA, ENA, Microsoft Excel and GIS packages.
- Analyses of the different thematic areas covered by the assessment were informed and guided by relevant local and international frameworks, where they exist.
- Gender, as a cross cutting issue, was recognised throughout the analysis.

Analytical Approach

1. **Contextualised Analysis:** Exploring the major economic, social, cultural and resource based issues affecting households.
2. **Vulnerability Context:** Understanding the wider shocks and stresses to which livelihood strategies were subjected to.
3. **Differentiation:** Understanding of social and economic differentiation between households.
4. **Disaggregated Analysis:** Understanding the situation of diverse individuals, gender, and other generational roles and issues within the household.
5. **Integration of Data Sources**: Synthesizing findings from both primary and secondary data to create a comprehensive understanding of the context. It included aligning insights from household surveys, community focus group discussions, and key informant interviews with existing reports and statistical data.
6. **Cross-Sectoral Analysis**: Examining interconnections between different sectors. This analysis aims to identify how changes in one sector may impact livelihoods and resilience in others, fostering a holistic view of household challenges.
7. **Temporal Analysis**: Assessing changes over time by comparing current data with historical trends. This was to identify patterns, shifts in vulnerabilities, and the effectiveness of past interventions, providing context for future planning.
8. **Iterative Analysis**: Continuously refine interpretations based on ongoing data collection and stakeholder feedback, ensuring that insights are responsive to emerging trends and contextual changes.



Contextual Analysis

- The 2024-25 production season generally experienced a delayed start. A normal to below normal rainfall pattern was experienced from October to November 2024, influenced by a weak La Niña. However, a transition into a stronger La Niña phase in the second half of the season resulted in more favourable rainfall, providing optimal conditions for planting and growth of crops.
- According to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development's Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment Report (CLAFA – 2), most Pfumvudza crops were planted during November 2024 (40%) and December 2024 (41%), with a smaller portion of crops planted later in January 2025 (19%).
- There was a 290% increase in food crop production compared to last season. The season also experienced an increased production of sorghum and pearl millet due to improved agroecological tailoring of crops. Maize production is estimated at 2,293,556 MT while Traditional Grains production is estimated to be 634,650 MT. Total cereal production is expected to be 2,928,206 MT. (CLAFA – 2).
- Yield levels from Pfumvudza/Intwasa in maize for the 2024/25 season were slightly higher than those from conventional farming.
- Tobacco production is expected to increase by 15%, Cotton by 52% and Sunflower by 303%. (CLAFA – 2).

Contextual Analysis

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team that conducted the 2025 Article IV Consultation;
- Zimbabwe is experiencing a degree of macroeconomic stability despite lingering policy challenges. During the first half of 2025, better climate conditions and historically high gold prices have boosted agricultural and mining activity, strengthening the current account and contributing to the recovery, with growth projected at 6 percent in 2025.
- On April 5, 2024, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe introduced a new currency called Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG; code: ZWG). which is backed by a composite basket of foreign currency and precious metals (mainly gold) held by the RBZ. This structured currency was designed to foster simplicity, certainty and predictability in monetary and financial affairs. The RBZ aimed to consolidate the currency's stability, maintain low inflation and ensure a stable exchange rate.
- Following the introduction of the new Currency, Banks were required to convert existing Zimbabwe dollar balances into ZWG.
- The monetary policy formulation and implementation pursued by the Reserve Bank since 5 April 2024 created relative price, currency and financial stability in the economy. This stability is evidenced by:
    - ZWG month on month inflation which stabilised to 0.5% in February 2025 and -0.1% in March 2025.
    - Greater exchange rate stability, with foreign exchange parallel market premiums below 20%, resulting in price and currency stability.
    - Increased foreign currency inflows.
    - Increased availability of foreign currency and;
    - Sustained financial sector stability and soundness.

Government Mitigatory Measures

The following people-centered measures were implemented to ensure food and nutrition security for all:

- **Food Mitigation:** Government targeted 6 million people in rural areas with a package comprised of pulses, oils and cereal.

- **Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme:** In order to alleviate water scarcity challenges and climate change, Government is implementing the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme. The scheme aims to increase access to safe drinking water.

- **Strengthening of Multi-Sectoral Structures** in order to operationalise a cohesive response to the food and nutrition challenges.

- **Easing of restrictions on maize grain trade (Statutory Instrument 56 of 2023)** thus increasing maize grain flows and improving availability.

- **Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme** – the Government of Zimbabwe through Statutory Instrument 47 of 2021 declared all roads to be a state of national disaster on 9 February 2021. The second Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP II) was launched and the objectives of the programme are to improve the road network, which was extensively damaged during the rainy season and to harness the potential of the transport system in promoting economic growth.

Government Mitigatory Measures

- The Government of Zimbabwe and the RBZ implemented a range of policy measures:
  - **Monetary Policy Rate:** Set at 35% in September 2024 to curb inflationary pressures.
  - **Money Supply Control:** Established strict controls to prevent excess liquidity from undermining the new currency.
  - **Export Retention Thresholds:** Reduced from 75% to 70% in February 2025 to enhance foreign exchange liquidity in the formal market.
  - **IMF Agreement Delay:** Postponed an IMF staff-level agreement to allow reforms to consolidate before committing to new external programmes.
  - **Public Spending Control:** Maintained tight control over public spending and subsidies.
  - **ZWG Adoption:** Promoted broader use of ZWG across public services and transactions, with over 90% adoption reported by mid-2024. Mandated the use of point-of-sale (POS) systems by all businesses for transactions in both ZWG and USD, making this a pre-condition for business licensing.
  - **Interest Rates:** Upwardly reviewed minimum deposit interest rates, with ZWG savings deposits at 5%, time deposits at 7.5%, and USD savings deposits at 2.5%, time deposits at 4%.
  - **Targeted Finance Facility:** Introduced a facility extended to wholesalers and retailers.
  - **Reporting Currency:** Mandated the use of ZWG as the reporting currency for all entities with immediate effect.

Government Mitigatory Measures

- The 2024 mid-term budget review presented on July 25, 2024 focused on consolidating economic transformation and addressing challenges like the impact of the El Nino-induced drought on agricultural output. While economic growth was projected at 2% for 2024, down from the initial 3.5% projection, measures were being implemented to maintain economic stability and achieve fiscal consolidation.

- The Reserve Bank noted that most banks had stopped charging monthly bank maintenance or service charges for individual bank accounts with a conservative daily balance of USD 100 and below or its equivalent in ZWG for a period of up to 30 days. The exemption for monthly bank maintenance or service charges for accounts with a conservative daily balance of USD 100 or below was extended to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with effect from 1 September 2024.

- To further promote the use of electronic means of payment, the Reserve Bank with effect from 1 September 2024 exempted electronic transactions of less than USD 10 or the ZWG equivalent from bank charges. This measure was aimed at removing the cost of using electronic means of payments by according such transactions a near-cash characteristic, consistent with the Reserve Bank's drive towards digital cash.

- The Reserve Bank reiterated that the country was in a multicurrency environment and all domestic transactions must be settled in either ZWG or foreign currency, except in cases where there were explicit exemptions to sell in US dollars. In this context, all economic agents were expected to adhere to the multicurrency system in place.

Government Mitigatory Measures

- On September 27 2024, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe slashed the value of the ZWG by 43%, taking it from 13.56 ZWG to the US dollar at its launch to ZWG 24.4 to the dollar.

- The Reserve Bank made efforts to ensure that the Monetary Policy stance remained supportive of the envisaged growth of 6% in 2025.

- The Government, through a high-level task force on business malpractices launched a multi-agency initiative in 2024 to clamp down on unethical business practices and smuggling. The task force was led by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and involved collaboration between the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the Consumer Protection Commission and other law-enforcement agencies.

- In addition to reducing smuggling, the operation aimed to regularise imports, ensuring that all importers paid the appropriate duties and taxes. This move was intended to protect consumers from harmful products such as hazardous foodstuffs and cosmetics, while also safeguarding businesses from unfair competition stemming from counterfeit or substandard goods. It further supported legitimate traders by addressing issues such as counterfeiting and intellectual property violations.

RESULTS

Demographic Description of the Sample

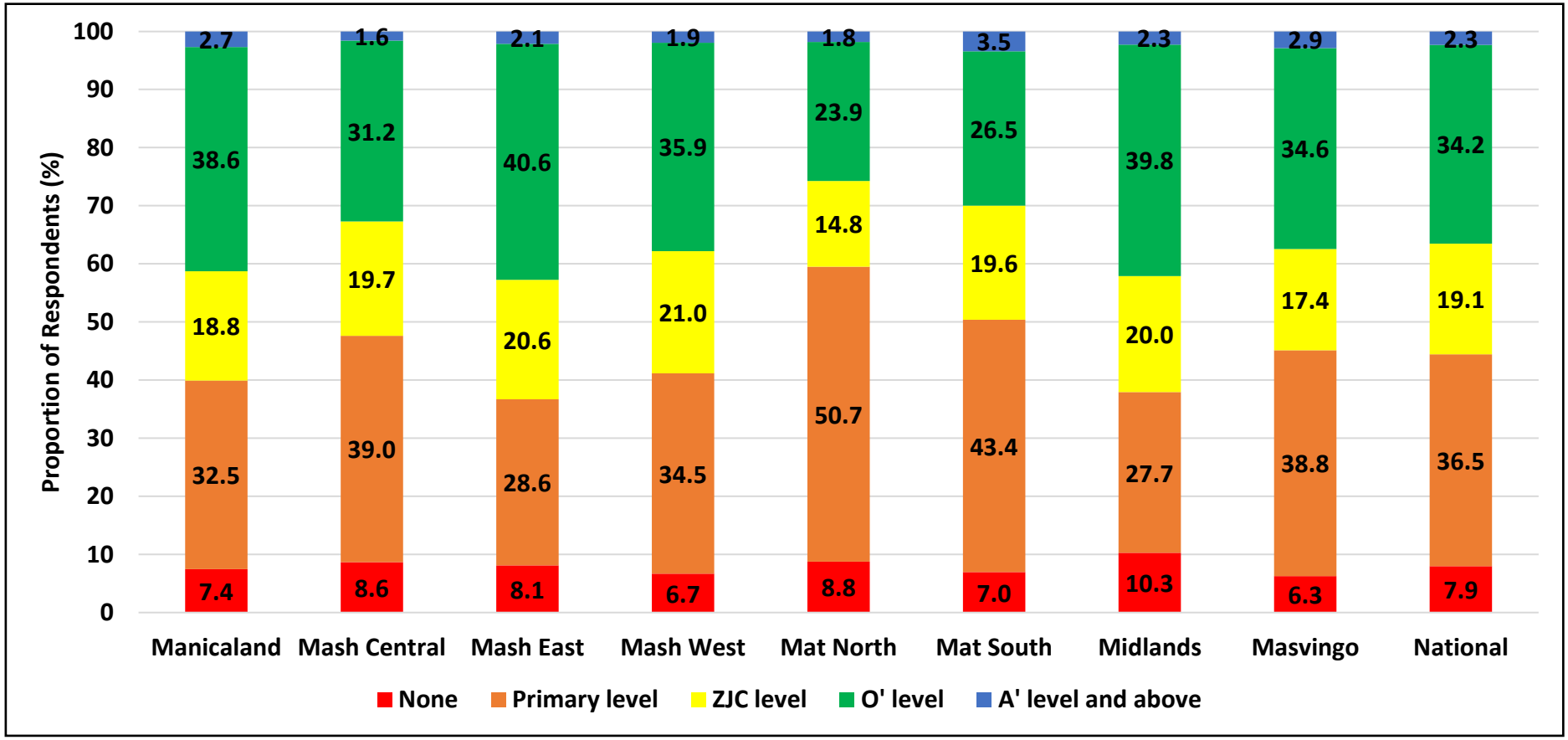
Household Characteristics

Characteristics of Respondents

Average Age of Respondent (Years)		Sex of Respondent	
		Male (%)	Female (%)
Manicaland	41	26.0	74.0
Mash Central	36	21.1	78.9
Mash East	39	22.6	77.4
Mash West	38	30.5	69.5
Mat North	43	24.0	76.0
Mat South	48	32.5	67.5
Midlands	41	26.3	73.7
Masvingo	45	27.2	72.8
National	**41**	**26.1**	**73.9**

- Age is a characteristic used to understand and categorise populations. It is often analysed in conjunction with other socio-economic factors to provide a complete picture of a population's characteristics.
- The average age of the respondents was 41 years.
- About 73.9% of the respondents were female.

Education Level of Respondent



- About 92.1% of respondents had attained at least primary school education. This provides confidence that the respondents were knowledgeable on the subject matter.

Composition of Sampled Households

Average Household Size		Sex (%)		Household Members (%)						
		Male	Female	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 – 17 years	18 - 49 years	50 - 59 years	60 - 64 years	65+ years
Manicaland	4	46.2	53.8	27.1	9.9	13.5	38.0	5.3	1.3	5.0
Mash Central	4	46.3	53.7	27.7	9.1	12.5	41.8	4.2	1.2	3.5
Mash East	3	46.1	53.9	29.2	7.8	11.2	39.9	5.3	1.5	5.0
Mash West	4	47.0	53.0	28.3	8.9	13.0	41.0	4.7	1.0	3.0
Mat North	3	43.2	56.8	25.1	8.4	12.4	38.3	6.0	2.0	7.7
Mat South	3	43.8	56.2	23.7	7.3	10.6	37.4	7.8	3.0	10.2
Midlands	4	45.2	54.8	28.7	8.5	12.6	36.8	6.0	1.7	5.7
Masvingo	4	46.1	53.9	22.5	10.2	16.3	36.1	6.1	1.8	7.0
National	**4**	45.6	54.4	26.7	8.8	12.8	38.7	5.6	1.7	5.7

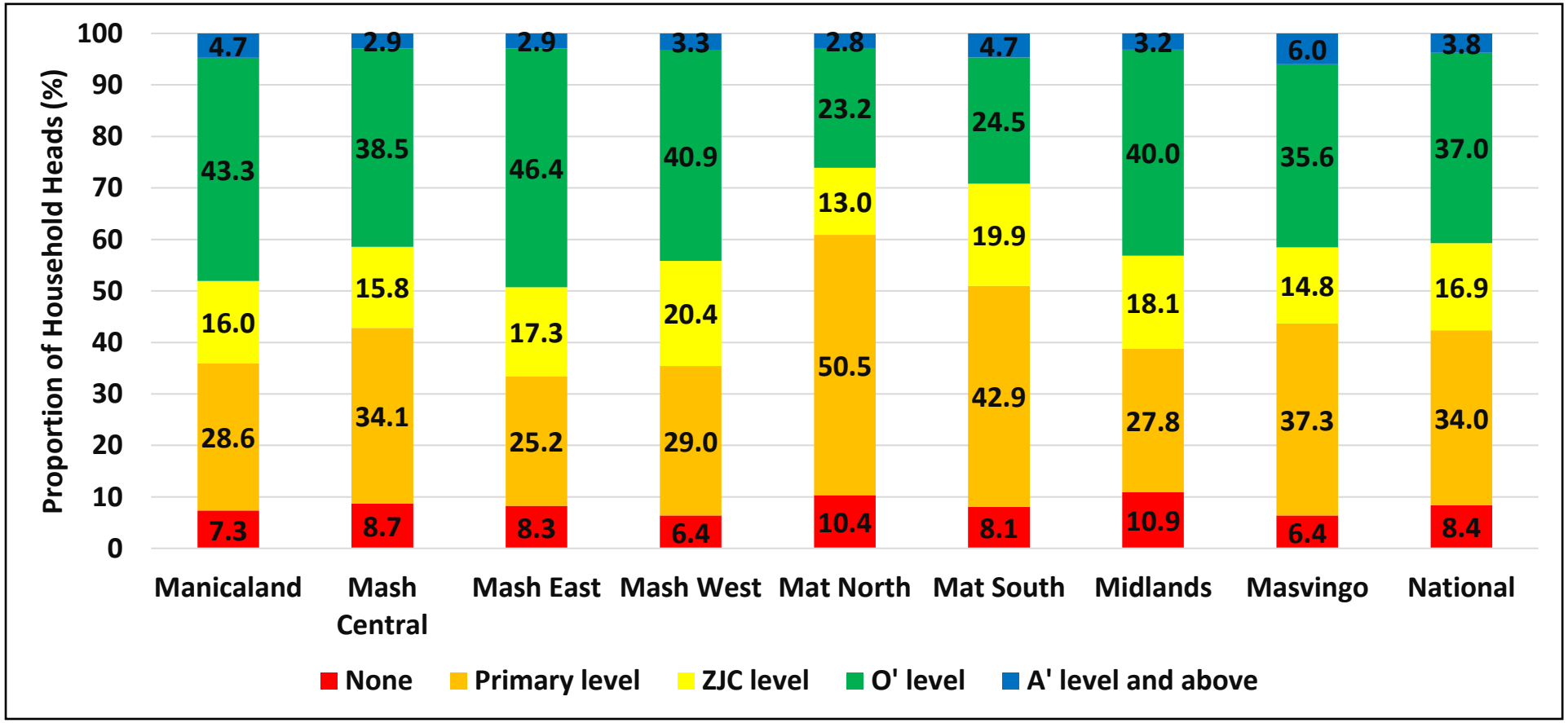
- The average household size was 4.
- Of the sampled households, the majority of household members were female (54.4%) compared to men (45.6%).

Characteristics of Household Head

Province	Household Head Average Age (Years)	Sex (%)		Household Head by Category (%)	
		Male	Female	Elderly Headed 65 Years and Above	Child Headed
Manicaland	45	66.1	33.9	18.7	0
Mash Central	41	70.2	29.8	12.8	0.2
Mash East	44	62.5	37.5	18.3	0.2
Mash West	42	72.7	27.3	11.7	0.2
Mat North	49	58.7	41.3	26.4	0.3
Mat South	55	60.2	39.8	34.7	0.2
Midlands	47	62.0	38.0	20.9	0.2
Masvingo	50	62.6	37.4	27.6	0.4
National	46	64.4	35.6	21.1	0.2

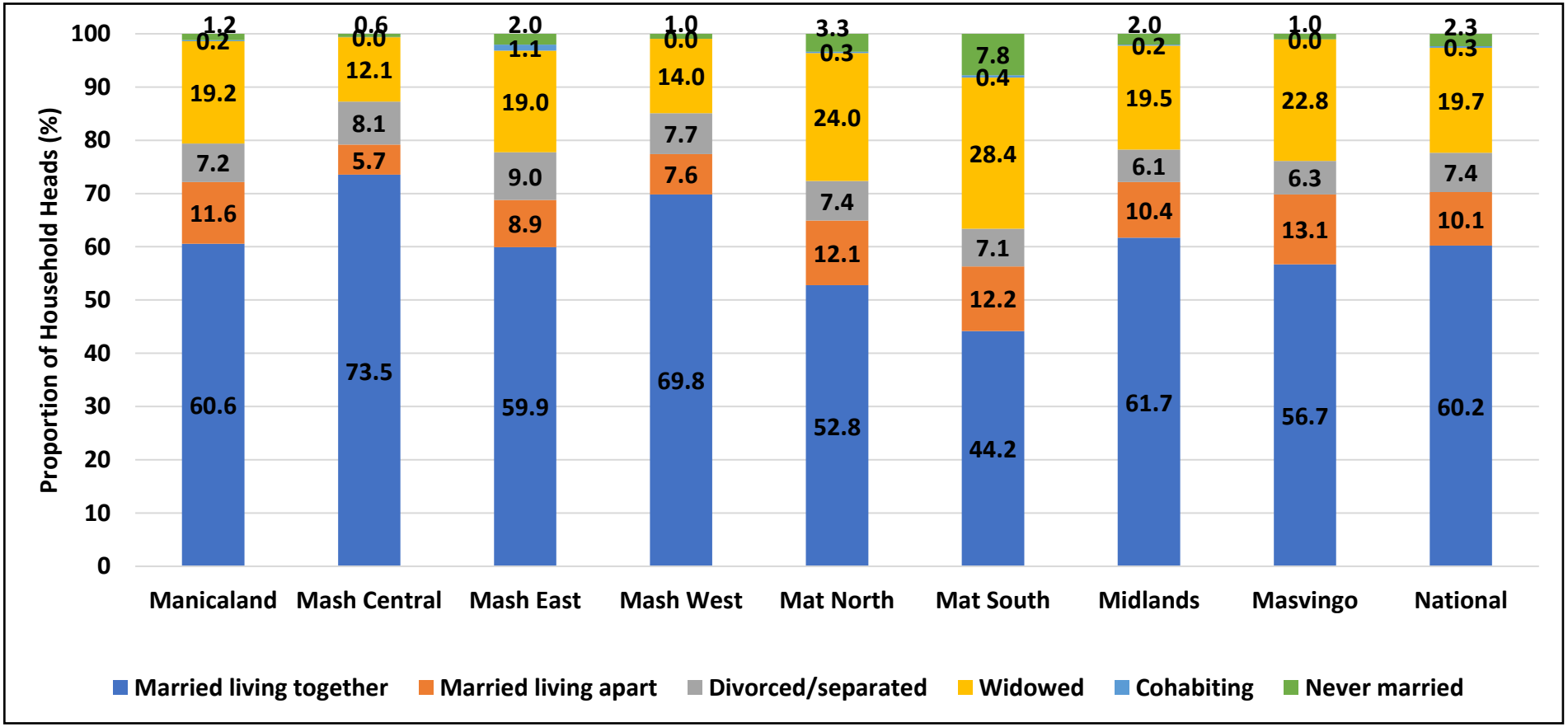
- The average age of household heads was 46 years, which is within the economic productive age group.
- Matabeleland South (34.7%) and Masvingo (27.6%) had the highest proportion of households which were headed by the elderly.

Education Level of Household Head



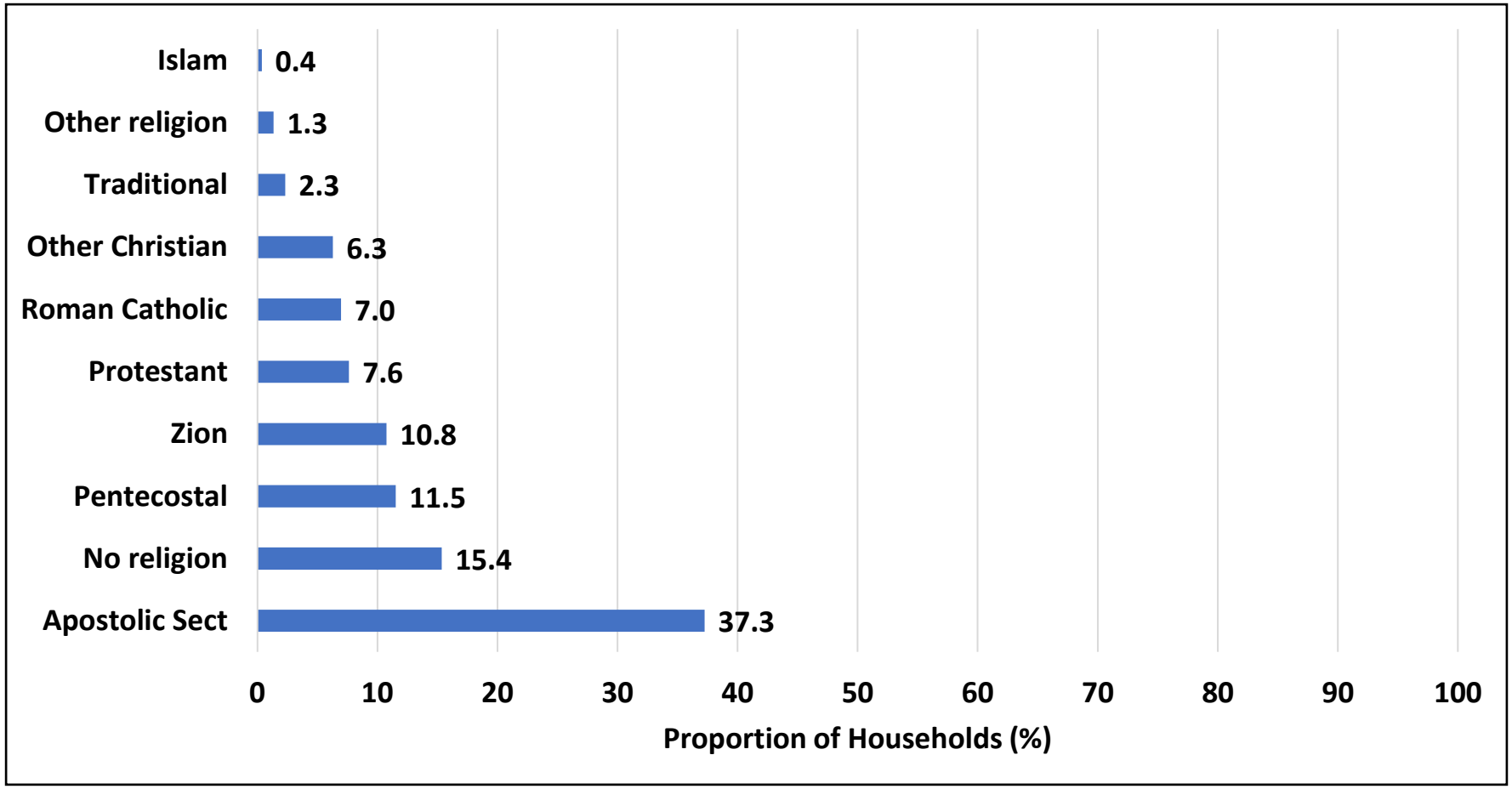
- About 91.6% of the household heads had attained some form of education.
- Education level indicates individuals' knowledge, skills and competencies which are important in making day to day decisions.

Marital Status of Household Head



- The majority of household heads (60.2%) were married and living together.
- Matabeleland South (28.4%) and Matabeleland North (24.0%) had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed.

Religion of Household Head

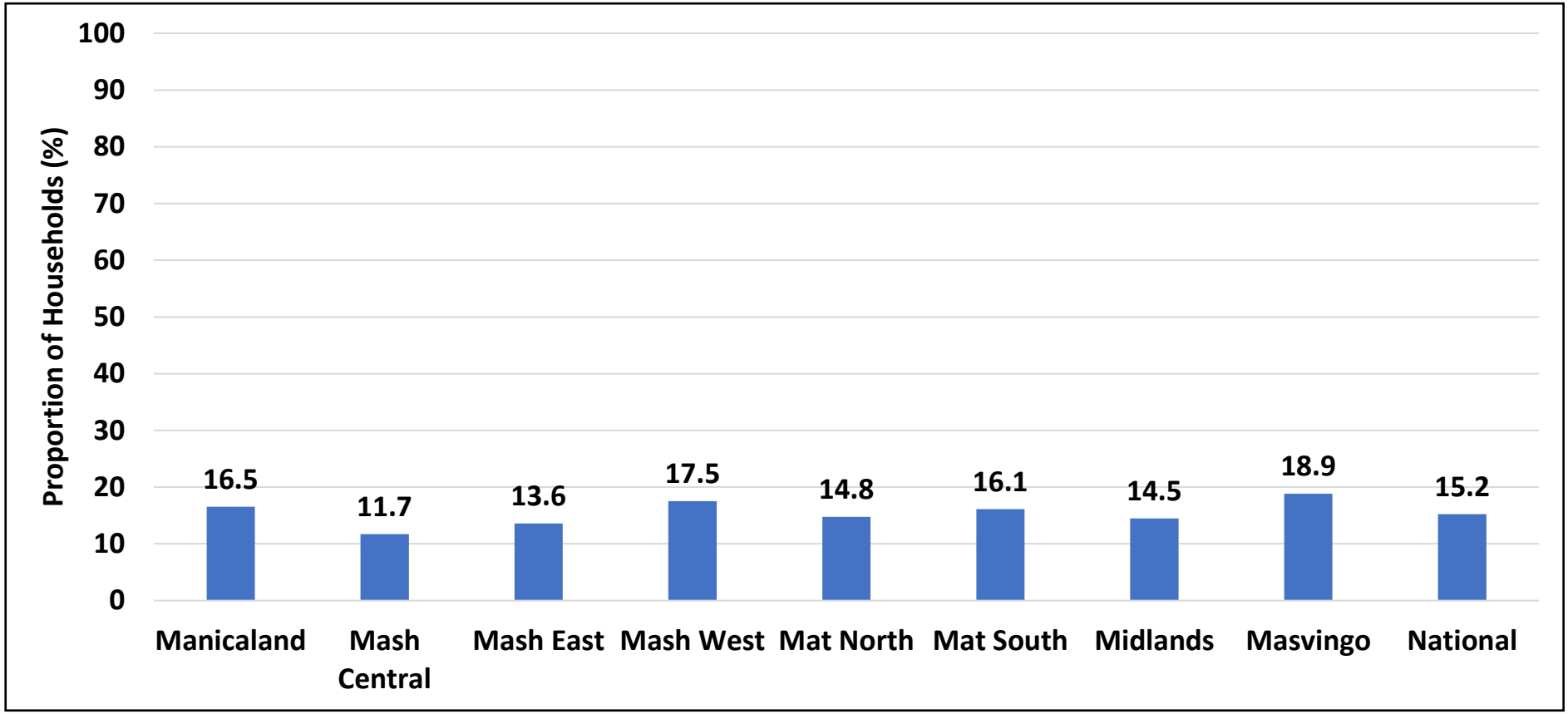


- The majority of household heads were from the Apostolic Sect (37.3%) while 15.4% of the household heads had no religion.

Vulnerability Context

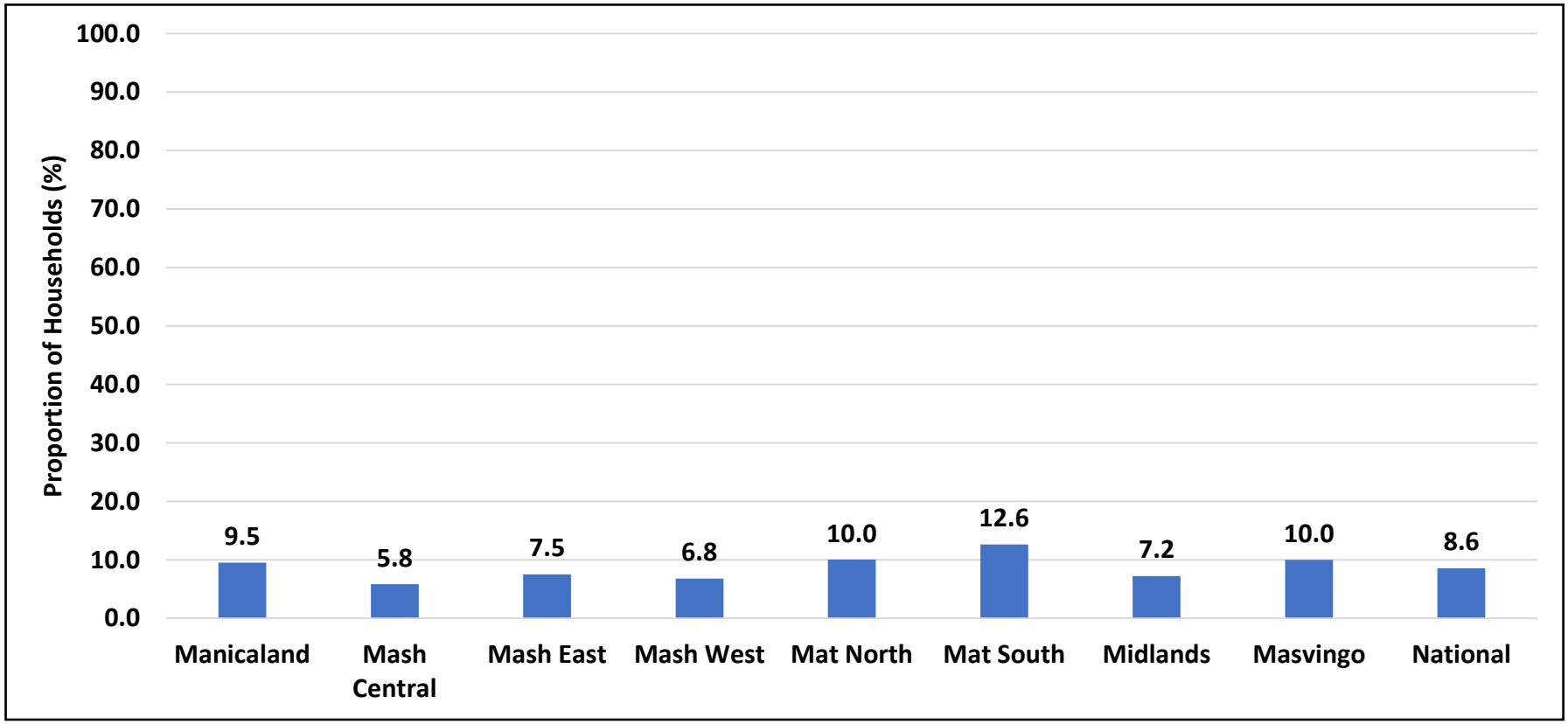
Understanding of Social and Economic Differentiation Between Households

Orphaned Children



- Masvingo (18.9%) and Mashonaland West (17.5%) had the highest proportion of households with orphaned children.
- The presence of orphans increases the burden of responsibility on the households.

Chronic Conditions



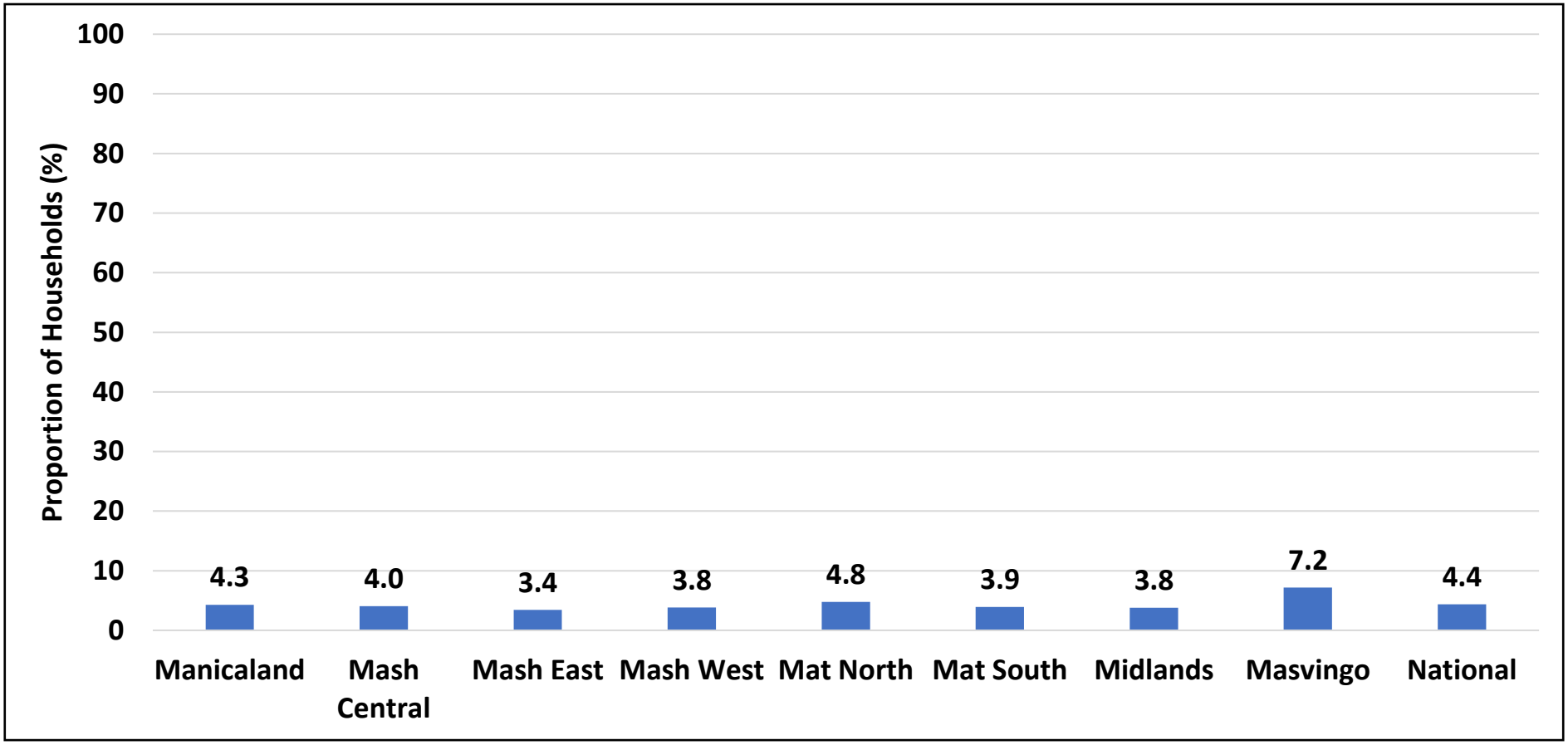
- The proportion of households with at least one member who had a chronic condition was 8.6%.

Chronic Conditions (8.6%)

Province	Chronic Condition												
	HIV infection, AIDS (%)	Heart disease (%)	Diabetes, high blood sugar (%)	Asthma (%)	Hypertension, High blood pressure (%)	Arthritis, chronic body pain (%)	Epilepsy, seizures, fits (%)	Stroke (%)	Cancer (%)	Tuberculosis (%)	Kidney diseases (%)	Ulcer, chronic stomach pain (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	2.7	0.5	1.5	0.6	3.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3
Mash Central	1.2	0.3	1.2	0.6	2.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Mash East	2.1	0.4	1.5	0.7	2.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1
Mash West	1.9	0.3	1.2	0.6	1.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Mat North	4.8	0.2	1.3	0.7	2.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
Mat South	5.4	0.2	2.2	0.8	3.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Midlands	2.4	0.3	1.4	0.4	2.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2
Masvingo	3.3	0.3	1.6	1.2	2.6	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3
National	**2.9**	**0.3**	**1.5**	**0.7**	**2.6**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**0.2**

- The most reported chronic conditions were hypertension/high blood pressure (2.6%) and HIV/AIDS (2.9%).

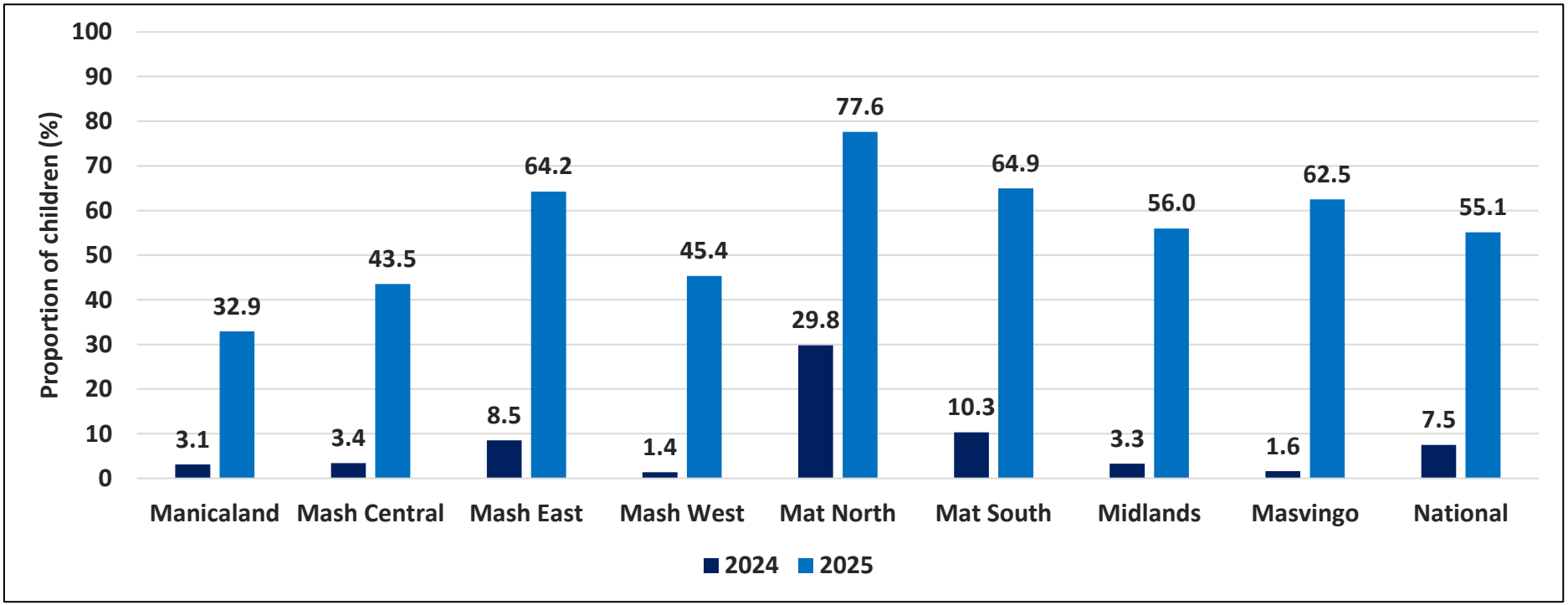
Disability Conditions



- The proportion of households with at least one person with any form of disability was 4.4%.
- Masvingo (7.2%) had the highest proportion of households with at least one person with any form of disability.

Education

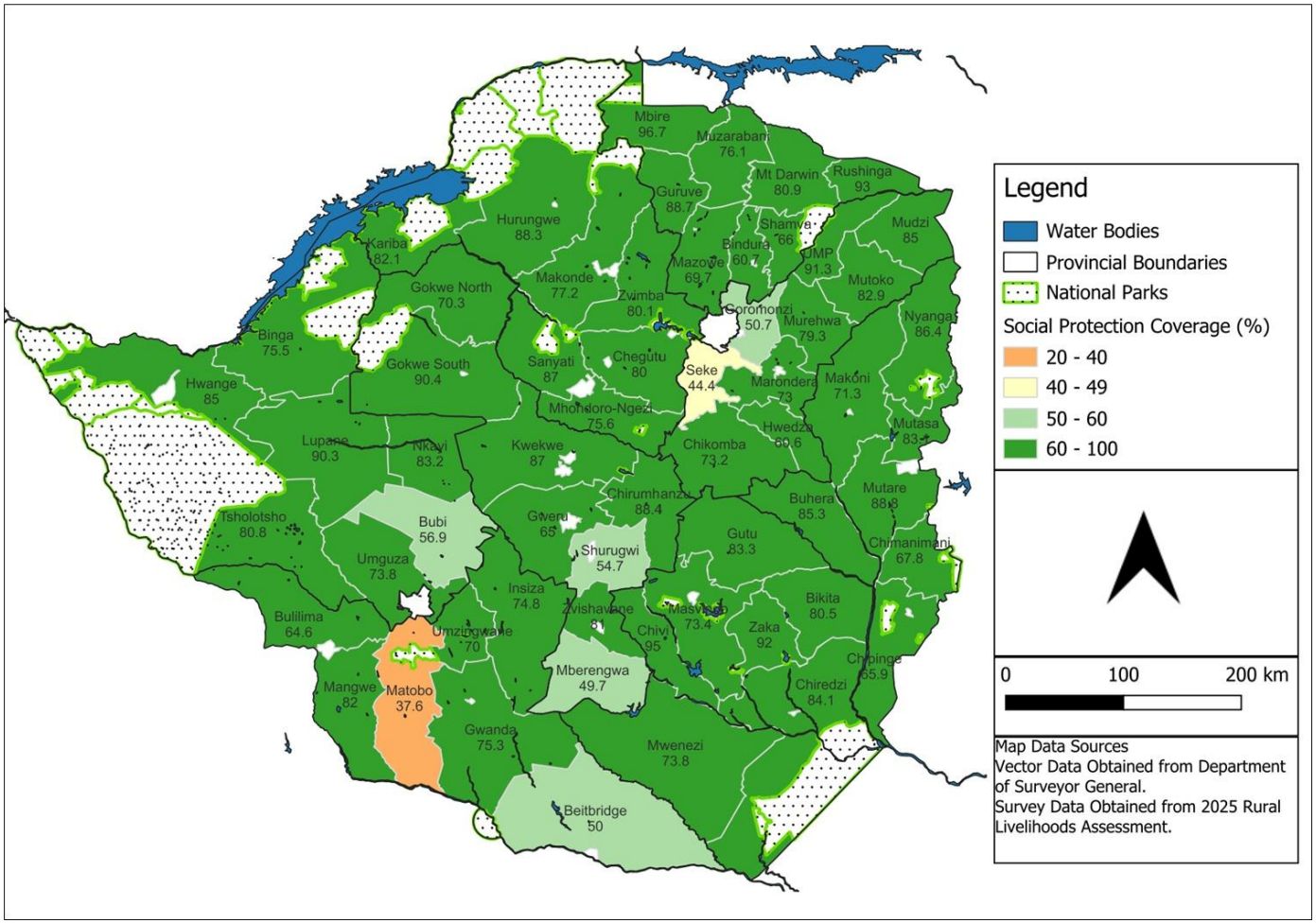
Proportion of Children Receiving Hot Meals at School



- A child or young person who is hungry does not learn well. A healthy diet in sufficient quantity is essential for learning and development.
- There has been an improvement in the proportion of children who received a hot meal at school during the first term of the year from 7.5% in 2024 to 55.1% in 2025.
- Matabeleland North (77.6%) had the highest proportion of children receiving hot meals at school.

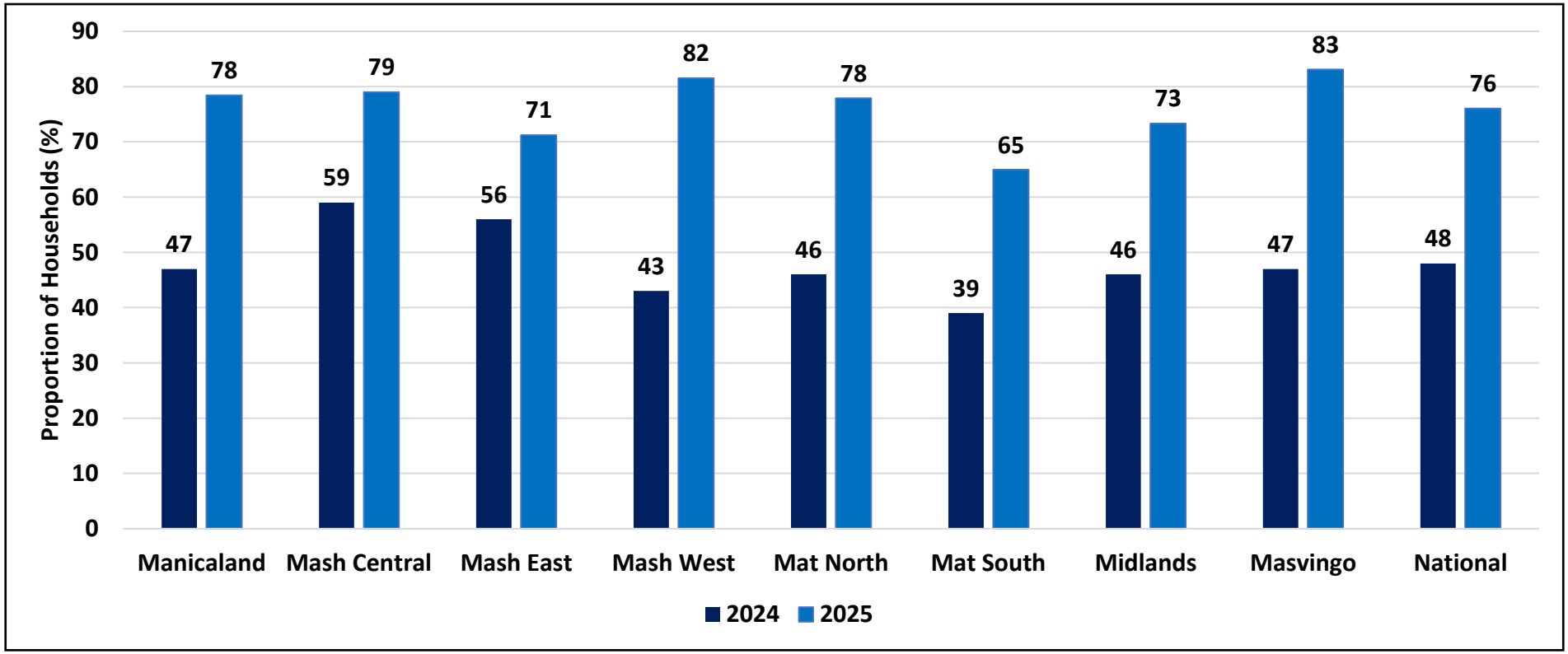
Social Protection

Support from Any Source



- Most districts had at least 50% of their households reporting that they had received support in the previous consumption year.

Support from Any Source



- Support increased from 48% in 2024 to 76% in 2025, a reflection of the Government's ability to coordinate national response in times of need.
- The previous season was characterised by the El Nino-induced drought which had a negative impact on households' food security situation. This resulted in increased burden of responsibilities to Government and its development partners, therefore calling for expanded support.

Sources of Support

Province	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora Relatives (%)		Mutual Groups Support (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Manicaland	41	70	7	14	1	2	5	18	5	23	2	4	0	0
Mash Central	56	72	4	19	1	3	3	11	5	22	1	2	1	1
Mash East	51	61	4	12	1	2	6	13	5	18	1	3	1	0
Mash West	42	73	1	6	1	3	2	10	1	23	1	4	0	1
Mat North	35	64	9	18	1	3	6	16	6	23	6	13	1	3
Mat South	31	48	11	16	1	2	6	11	5	20	5	16	1	0
Midlands	43	64	3	17	1	2	4	16	1	22	2	9	0	1
Masvingo	35	65	11	27	0	6	8	27	6	35	5	13	1	3
National	**43**	**65**	**8**	**16**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**15**	**4**	**23**	**3**	**8**	**1**	**1**

- Government remains the main source of support (65%), followed by rural relatives (23%), UN/NGO Support (16%) and urban relatives (15%).
- Government is complimented for provision of crucial support towards building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.
- The support received from relatives (both rural and urban) reflects a positive enabling economic environment and evidence of social capital.

Forms of Support from Government

Province	Food (%)	Cash transfers (%)	Vouchers (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support - large stock (pass on) (%)	Livestock support - large stock (non-pass on) (%)	Small livestock support (goats, chicken, fish) (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)
Manicaland	59.1	0.7	0.3	44.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.2
Mash Central	55.7	0.5	0.3	46.4	0.8	0.3	1.5	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.6
Mash East	45.1	1.1	0.7	46.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.7	0.7	0.4
Mash West	60.1	0.4	0.3	50.8	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.4	1.2	2.3	0.1
Mat North	55.2	0.9	0.0	30.1	0.1	1.1	2.1	3.2	1.5	2.1	0.0
Mat South	35.1	0.4	0.1	19.0	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.4	1.4	3.0	0.5
Midlands	52.5	1.2	0.4	36.7	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.0	1.7	0.3	0.3
Masvingo	49.0	0.6	0.2	39.0	0.5	2.4	0.5	0.9	3.9	5.0	0.5
National	**51.3**	**0.7**	**0.3**	**39.4**	**0.3**	**1.1**	**0.7**	**0.9**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**0.3**

- Government provided significant support towards recovery efforts (crop inputs: 39.4%)

Forms of Support from UN/NGOs

Province	Food (%)	Cash transfers (%)	Vouchers (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support -large stock (pass on) (%)	Livestock support - large stock (non-pass on) (%)	Small livestock support (goats, chicken, fish) (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)
Manicaland	12.3	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
Mash Central	13.4	0.6	0.3	2.7	0.7	0.4	2.2	3.5	0.5	0.2	0.1
Mash East	11.3	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
Mash West	3.8	0.3	0.0	1.7	0.4	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.4
Mat North	10.8	0.3	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.2	1.0	3.5	1.4	0.9	2.2
Mat South	13.4	1.7	0.3	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4
Midlands	15.9	0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Masvingo	24.0	0.5	0.0	5.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.5
National	**13.1**	**0.6**	**0.3**	**1.9**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.6**	**1.3**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**0.5**

- About 13.1% of households received support from UN/NGOs in the form of food assistance and 1.9% in the form of crop inputs.

Migration

Types of Migration

Province	Migrated to Urban from Rural Areas (%)	Joined from Other Rural Areas (%)	Joined from Urban Areas (%)	Joined from Outside Zimbabwe (%)	Migrated to Stay Outside Zimbabwe (%)
Manicaland	14.3	3.1	2.6	0.3	3.4
Mash Central	4.4	2.1	2.0	0.4	1.0
Mash East	5.8	0.6	2.0	0.3	1.0
Mash West	7.2	4.5	5.3	0.4	1.3
Mat North	12.6	2.2	3.3	1.7	7.8
Mat South	7.0	2.7	3.2	3.8	13.5
Midlands	12.9	0.9	2.0	0.5	6.2
Masvingo	16.5	6.7	6.1	2.4	7.7
National	**9.9**	**2.7**	**3.3**	**1.1**	**5.0**

- The main type of migration reported was migrating to urban from rural areas (9.9%) and migrating to live outside the country (5.0%).

Reasons for Migrating to Urban Areas (9.9%)

	Better livelihood options (%)	Employment opportunities (%)	New job (%)	Newly acquired residential land (%)	Request by a relative (%)	Educational purposes (%)	Access to better standards of living (health, WASH, electricity) (%)	Marriage (%)	Business opportunity (%)	Illness (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	1.4	9.1	1.5	0.1	1.2	1.5	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mash Central	0.7	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.4	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Mash East	0.7	3.8	0.3	0	0.4	0.7	0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
Mash West	1.3	3.4	0.6	0	0.6	0.6	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Mat North	2.7	7.7	1.9	0	0.6	0.6	0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.5
Mat South	0.7	3.8	0.4	0	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4
Midlands	1.1	10.1	1.2	0	0.7	0.4	0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Masvingo	1.9	10.3	1.5	0.1	1.2	1.5	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.3
National	**1.3**	**6.3**	**1.0**	**0.1**	**0.7**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.3**

- The main reason for rural to urban migration was reported to be employment opportunities (6.3%).

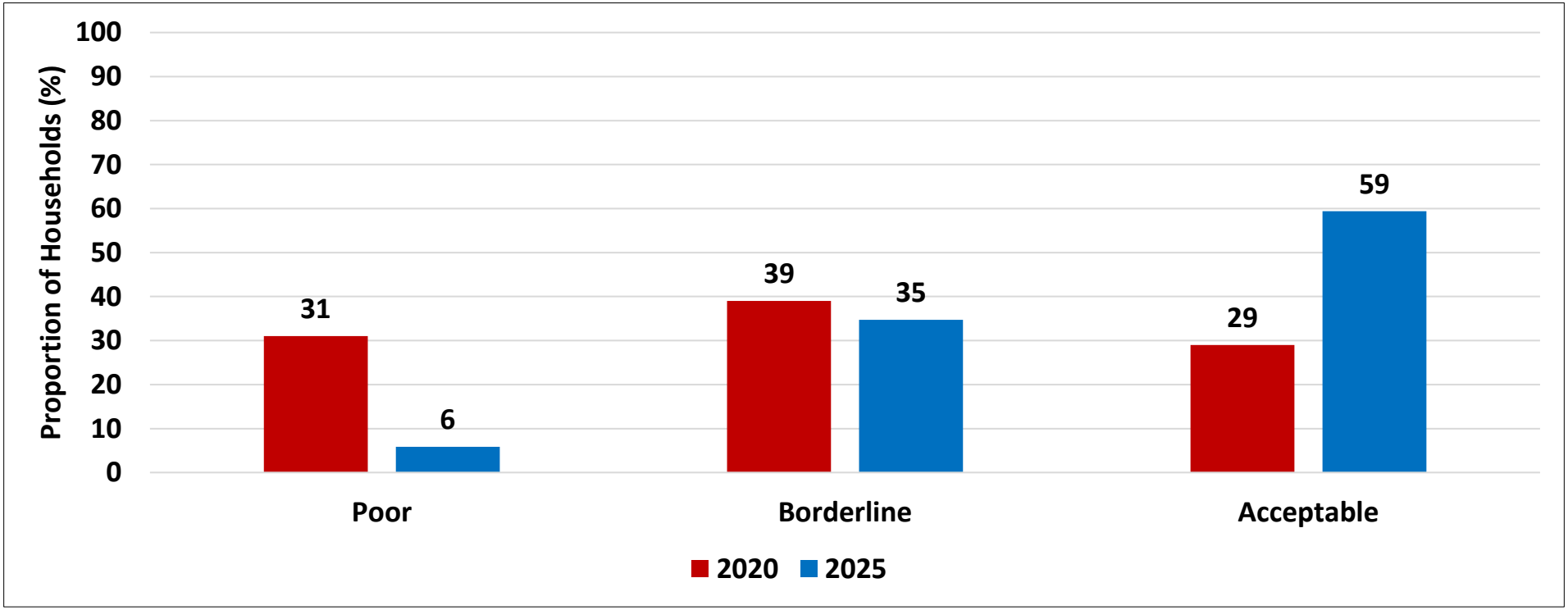
Household Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food Consumption Score

Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
Poor	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
Borderline	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 3 days, meat/fish/egg/pulses 1-2 days a week, while dairy products are totally absent
Acceptable	>35	As defined for the borderline group with more number of days a week eating meat, fish, egg, oil, and complemented by other foods such as pulses, fruits, milk

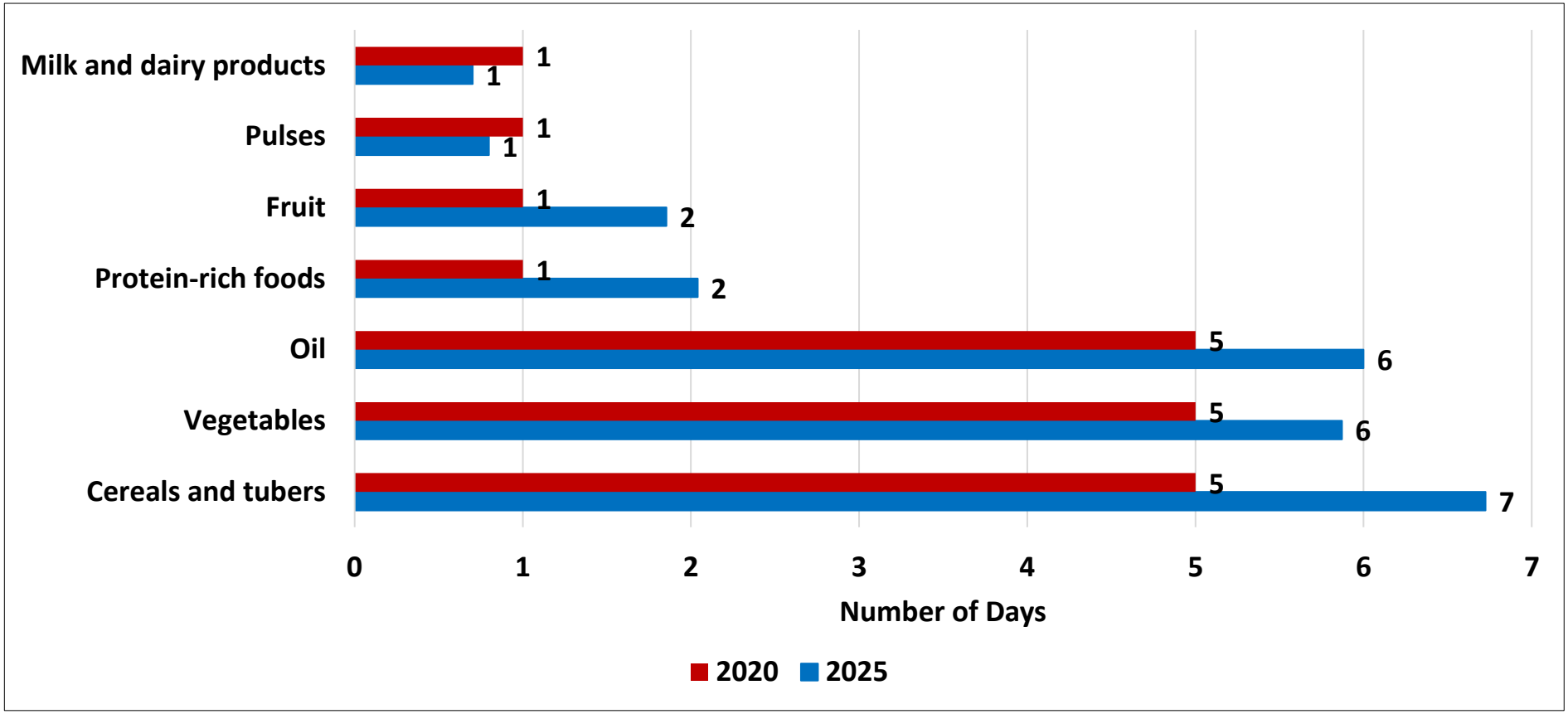
Food Consumption Patterns Trend



- There was an increase in the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption from 2020 (29%) to 2025 (59%).
- The proportion of households which consumed poor diets decreased from 31% in 2024 to 6% in 2025.
- This reflects an improvement in the quality of life for rural households as evidenced by the consumption of more diverse and nutritious food groups.

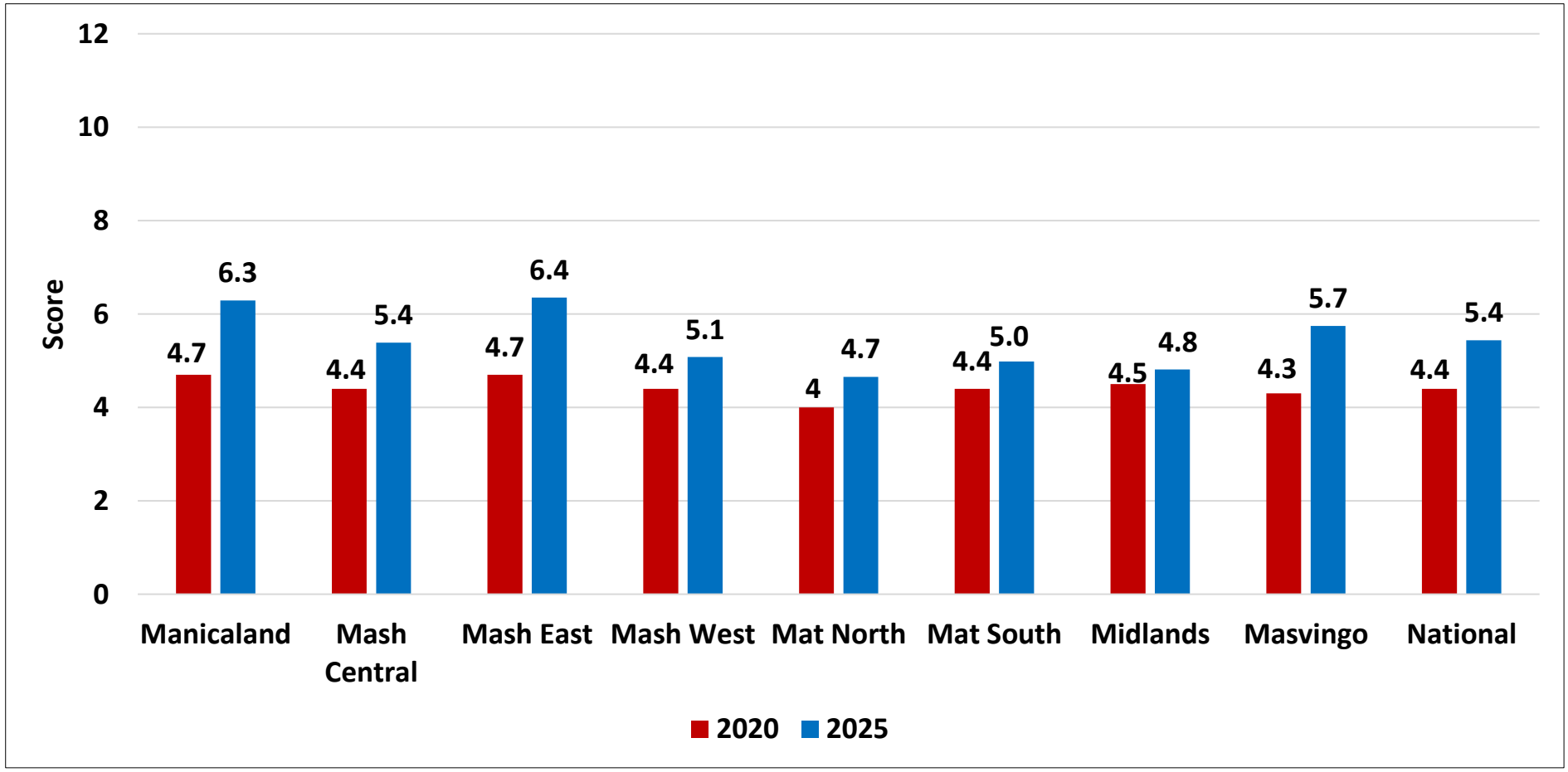
Household Dietary Diversity

Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from the Various Food Groups



- Compared to base year (2020), there was an improvement in the weekly average consumption of cereals, vegetables, oil, protein rich foods and fruits.
- However, milk and dairy products and pulses have been the least consumed food items.

Average Household Dietary Diversity Score



- There was an improvement in the dietary diversity score from 4.4 in 2020 to 5.4 in 2025.

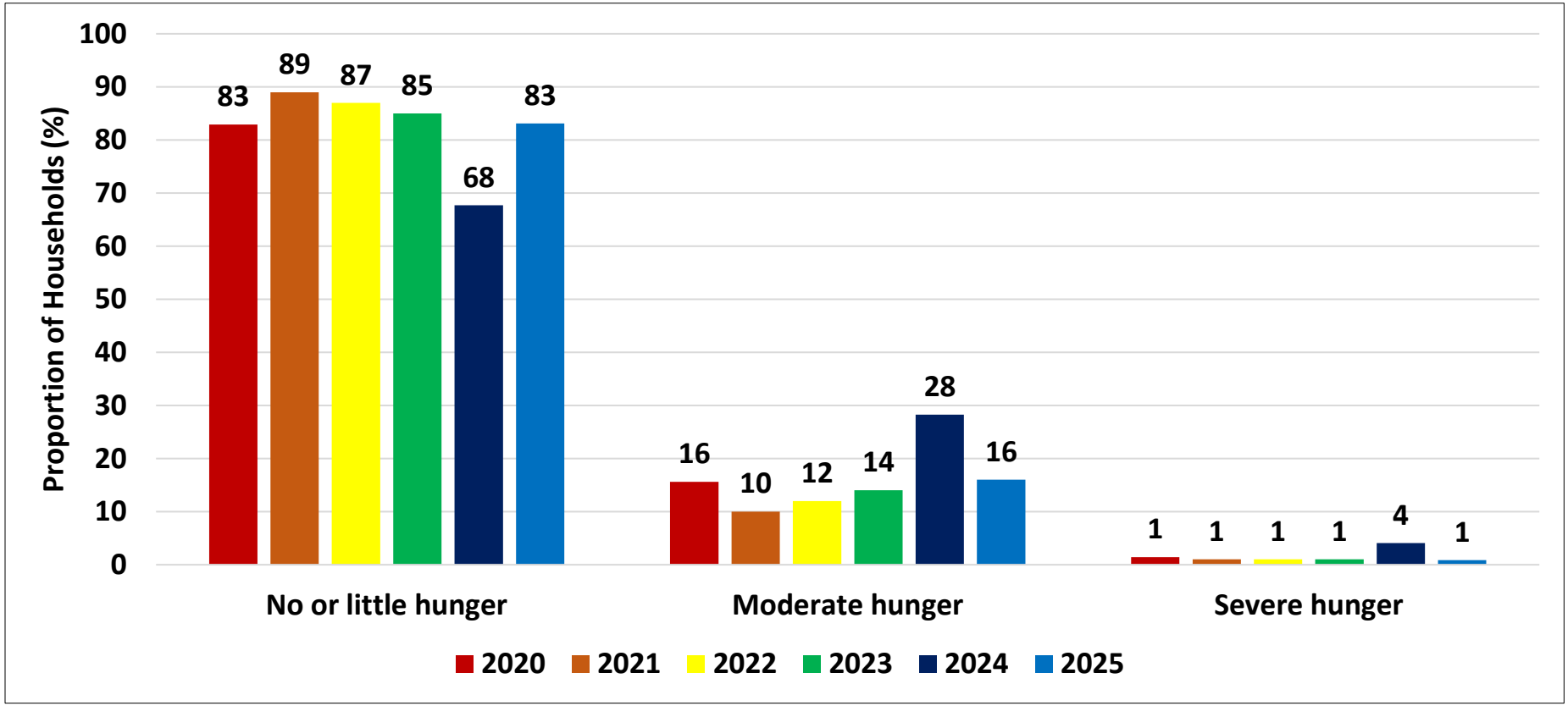
Household Dietary Diversity by Food Groups (24 Hour Recall)

Province	Cereals (%)		Tubers (%)		Pulses (%)		Dairy products (%)		Meat (%)		Fish (%)		Eggs (%)		Vegetables (%)		Fruits (%)		Oil (%)		Sugar (%)		Condiments (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Manicaland	96	98	15	64	14	59	10	67	27	55	9	35	11	59	90	96	36	74	84	98	57	85	88	98
Mash Central	96	98	11	50	11	48	9	53	30	48	11	30	12	42	88	92	23	65	69	95	44	83	82	94
Mash East	99	98	13	64	13	54	16	69	29	59	8	33	11	52	95	97	35	71	89	98	69	92	95	97
Mash West	96	89	6	47	6	43	10	50	24	55	12	36	8	39	88	86	14	70	79	92	48	77	90	90
Mat North	93	96	4	47	10	45	9	66	21	51	5	29	4	47	84	87	13	59	67	92	57	85	84	96
Mat South	94	93	8	52	13	46	15	67	34	61	7	40	7	47	78	89	20	58	68	96	73	90	87	94
Midlands	97	90	9	51	12	51	15	58	31	52	6	22	8	41	91	88	24	55	79	93	59	75	87	91
Masvingo	99	98	12	60	21	55	13	65	24	50	6	30	4	40	88	94	21	66	77	97	59	88	89	96
National	**97**	**95**	**10**	**56**	**12**	**51**	**12**	**62**	**28**	**54**	**8**	**32**	**8**	**47**	**88**	**91**	**24**	**66**	**77**	**95**	**59**	**85**	**88**	**95**

- Cereals (95%), oil (95%) and vegetables (91)% were the most consumed food groups.
- Meat consumption was highest in Matabeleland South (61%) and Mashonaland East (59%).

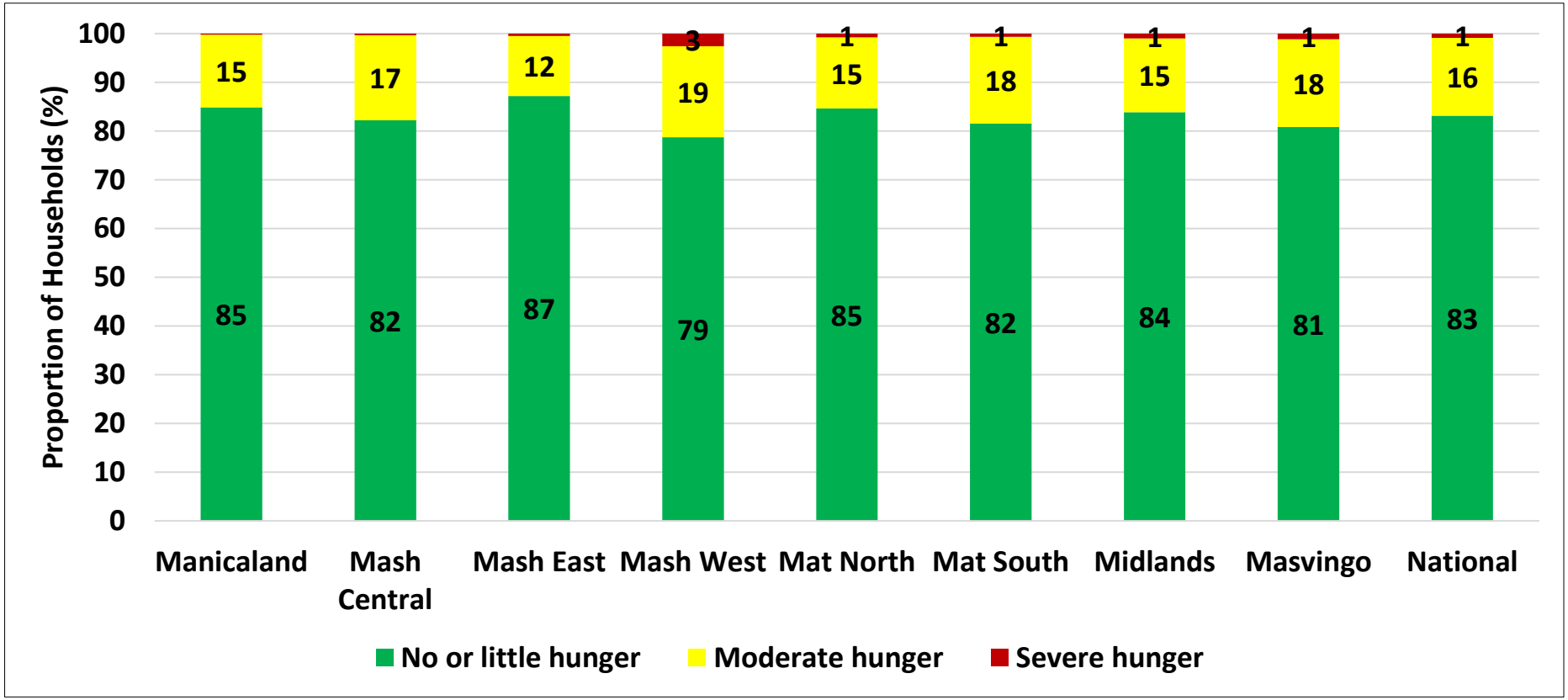
Household Coping

Household Hunger Scale



- There was an improvement in food access as evidenced by an increase in the proportion of households which experienced no or little hunger from 68% in 2024 to 83% in 2025.

Household Hunger Scale



- Mashonaland East (87%) had the highest proportion of households with no or little hunger whilst Mashonaland West (19%) had the highest proportion of households with moderate hunger.

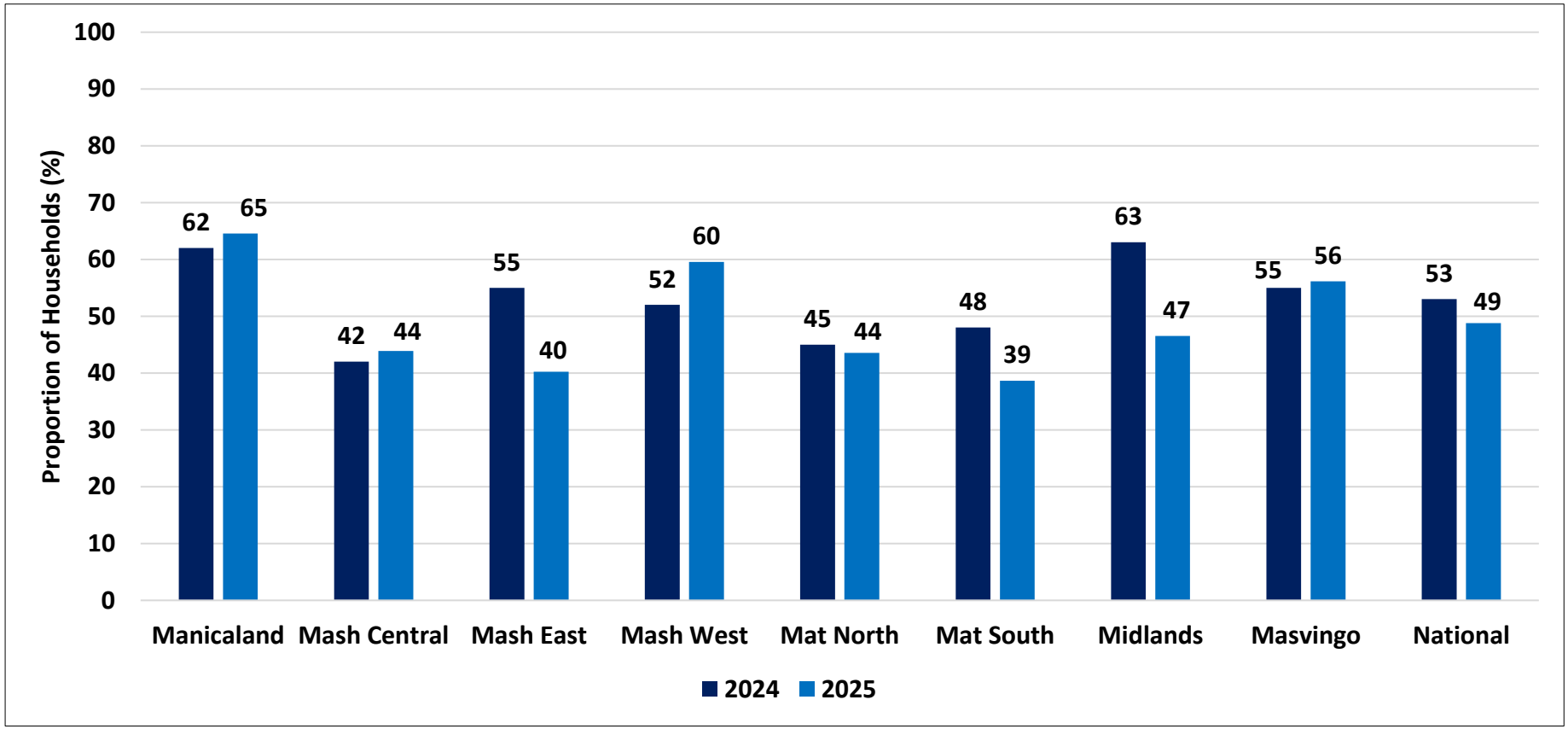
Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies

Livelihoods Coping Strategies

- Livelihood Coping Strategies are behaviors employed by households when faced with a crisis.
- The livelihood scoping strategies have been classified into three categories namely stress, crisis and emergency as indicated in the table.

CATEGORY	COPING STRATEGY
Stress	• Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, television, jewellery etc.) • Sold more animals than usual • Spent savings • Borrowed money
Crisis	• Consumed seed stocks that were to be saved for the next season • Decreased expenditures on fertilizer, pesticide, fodder, animal feed, veterinary care, etc. • Harvest immature crops (e.g., green maize)
Emergency	• Mortgaged/sold the house where the household was permanently living or land • Begged (asked strangers for money/food) or scavenged • Sold last female (productive) animal

Households Engaging in any Form of Livelihood Coping Strategies



- The proportion of households engaging in any form of coping decreased from 53% in 2024 to 49% in 2025.
- Manicaland (65%) had the highest proportion of households engaging in any form of livelihood coping whilst Matabeleland South (39%) had the least.

Differentiation Context

Understanding of Social and Economic Differentiation Between Households

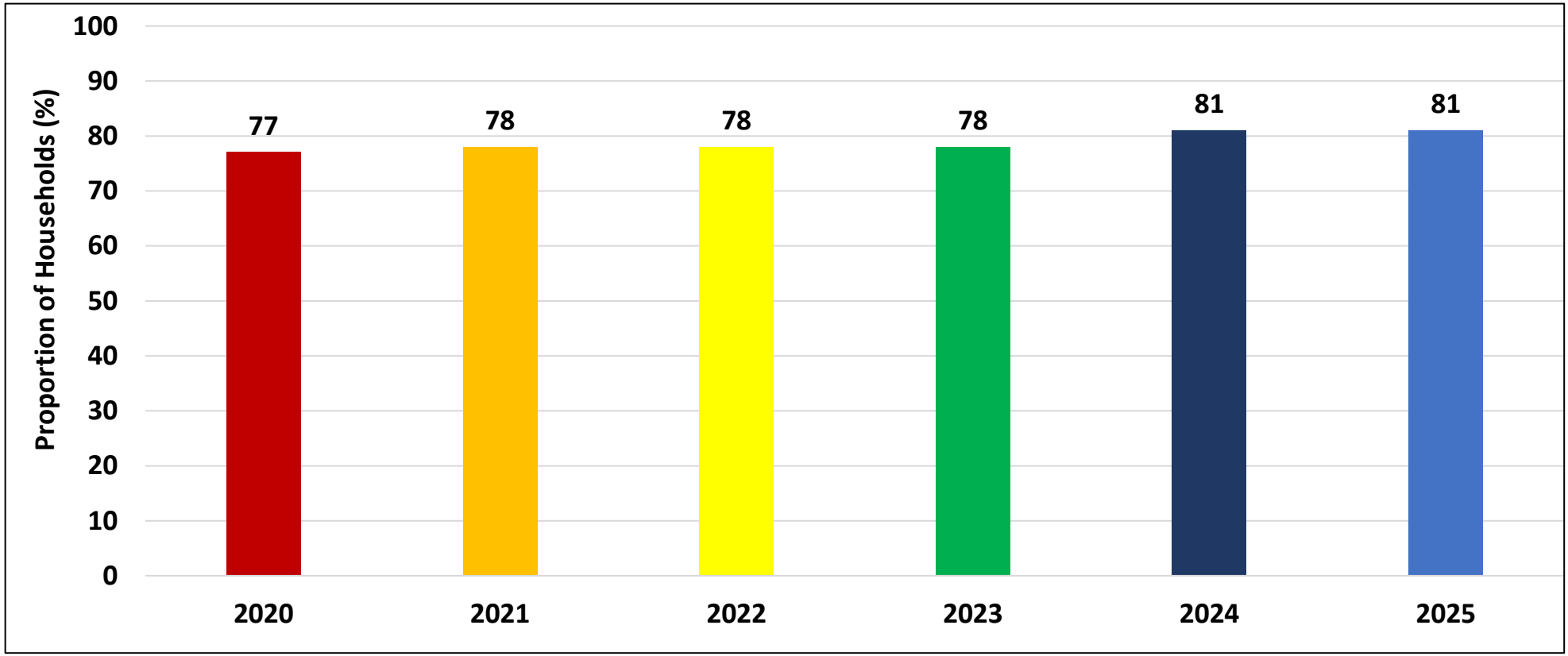
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Ladder for Drinking Water Services

Service Level	Definition
Safely Managed	Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination.
Basic Drinking Water	Basic drinking water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
Limited Drinking Water Services	Limited water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, where collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
Unimproved Water Sources	Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.
Surface Water Sources	Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation channel.

Note :
"Improved" drinking water sources are further defined by the quality of the water they produce, and are protected from faecal contamination by the nature of their construction or through an intervention to protect from outside contamination. Such sources include: piped water into dwelling, plot, or yard; public tap/standpipe; tube well/borehole; protected dug well; protected spring; or rainwater collection. This category now includes packaged and delivered water, considering that both can potentially deliver safe water.

Access to Improved Water Source by Year



- Government is commended for spearheading the Presidential Borehole Drilling Programme.
- Access to improved water sources increased from 77% in 2020 to 81% in 2025.
- This is a reflection of the country's progress towards achieving SDG 6 which is fundamental for human health, economic development and environmental sustainability.

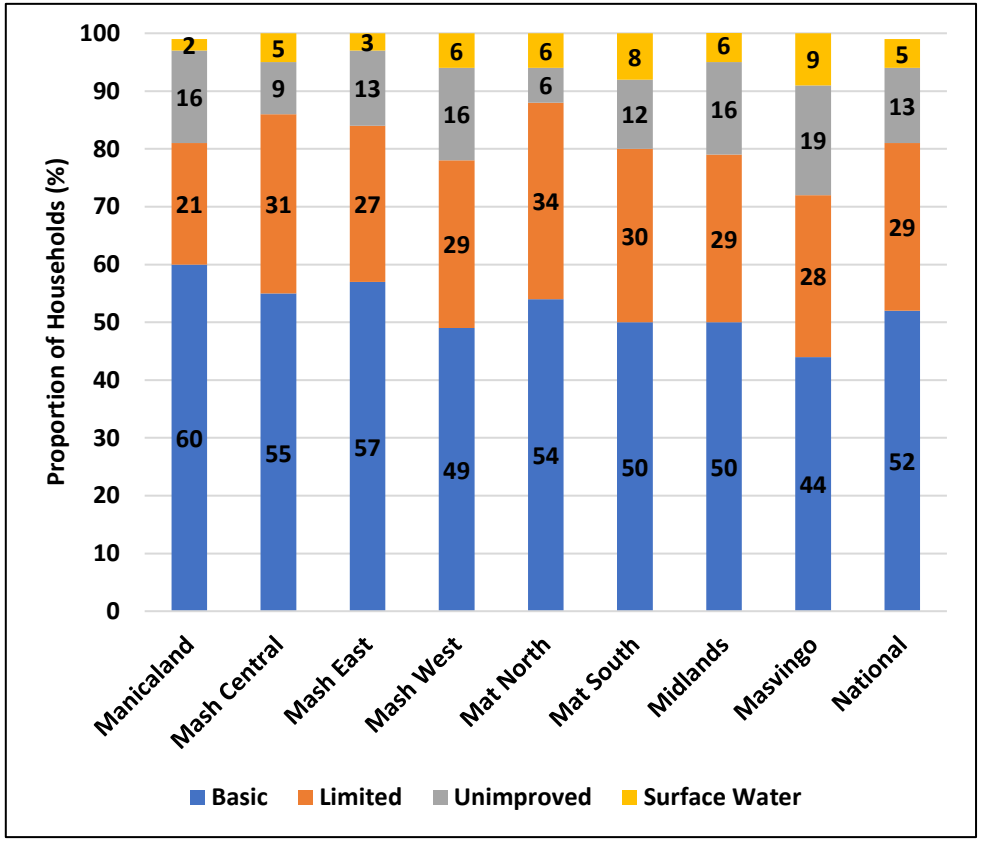
Main Source of Drinking Water

Province	Piped into dwelling (%)	Piped into yard or plot (%)	Piped into public tap or standpipe (%)	Piped into neighbour's yard (%)	Borehole/Tube well (%)	Protected well (%)	Unprotected well (%)	Protected spring (%)	Unprotected spring (%)	Surface water (%)	Sand abstraction (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	1.9	11.6	8.7	1.5	34.4	24.2	9.9	1.7	3.1	2.7	0.2	0.0
Mash Central	0.7	0.9	11.8	0.3	44.9	22.1	11.8	0.2	1.0	5.0	1.1	0.0
Mash East	1.3	2.2	10.0	0.8	27.0	43.1	12.4	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.0	0.0
Mash West	2.2	3.5	12.8	1.1	42.3	17.4	12.4	0.4	0.5	6.5	0.7	0.0
Mat North	2.3	3.6	19.3	3.8	50.6	8.1	3.6	0.1	1.1	6.5	1.0	0.0
Mat South	3.5	3.2	10.4	3.2	50.7	7.0	6.9	0.3	0.6	13.7	0.2	0.4
Midlands	1.7	2.5	6.6	3.6	37.7	24.3	14.9	0.3	0.8	3.7	3.4	0.2
Masvingo	2.2	3.2	9.0	3.0	39.9	17.1	15.1	0.7	1.0	7.5	0.9	0.2
National	**1.9**	**3.7**	**11.0**	**2.1**	**40.4**	**21.4**	**11.0**	**0.6**	**1.2**	**5.6**	**1.0**	**0.1**

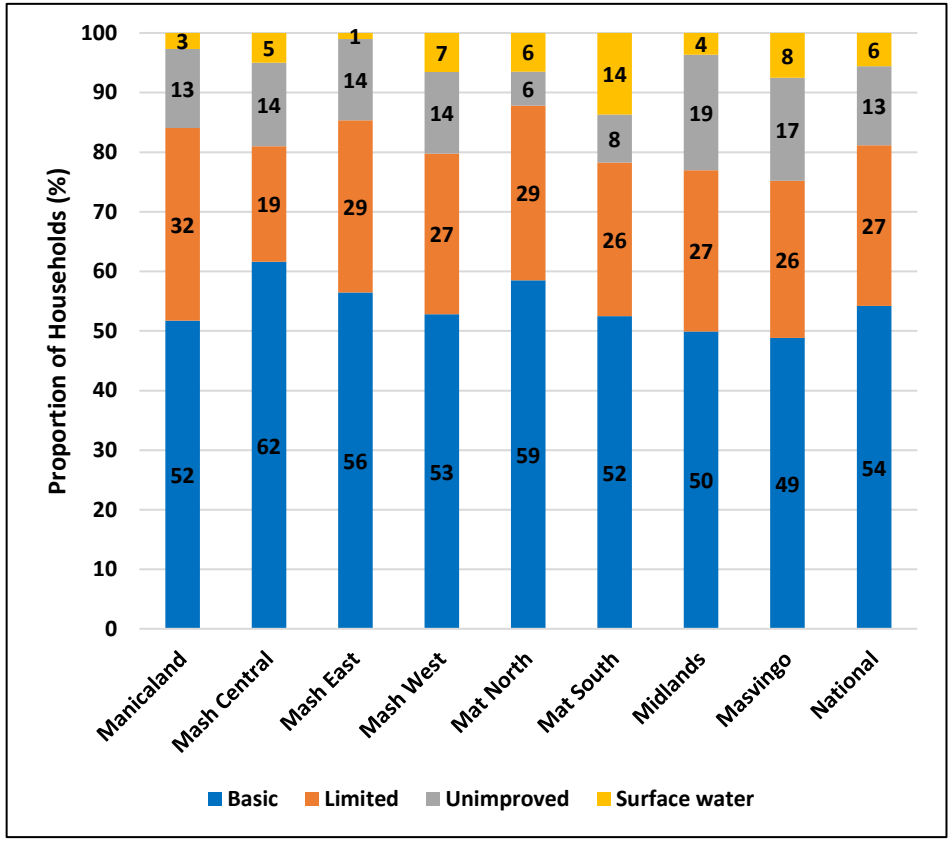
- The majority of households were drinking water from boreholes or tube wells (40.4%).
- About 5.6% of the households were drinking surface water.

Main Drinking Water Services

2024



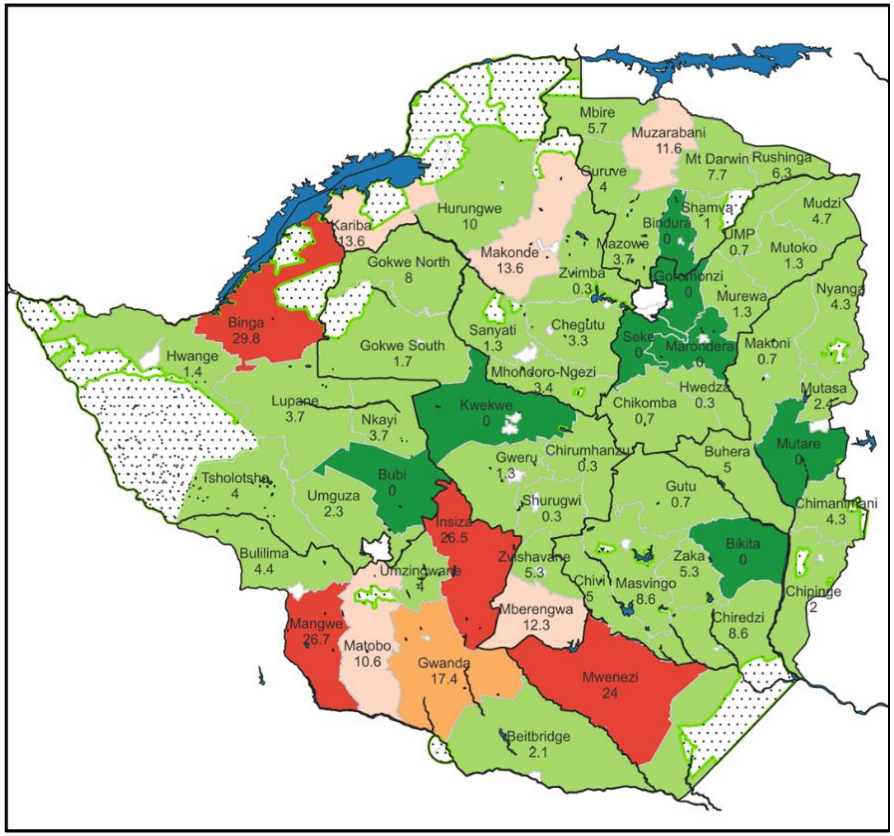
2025



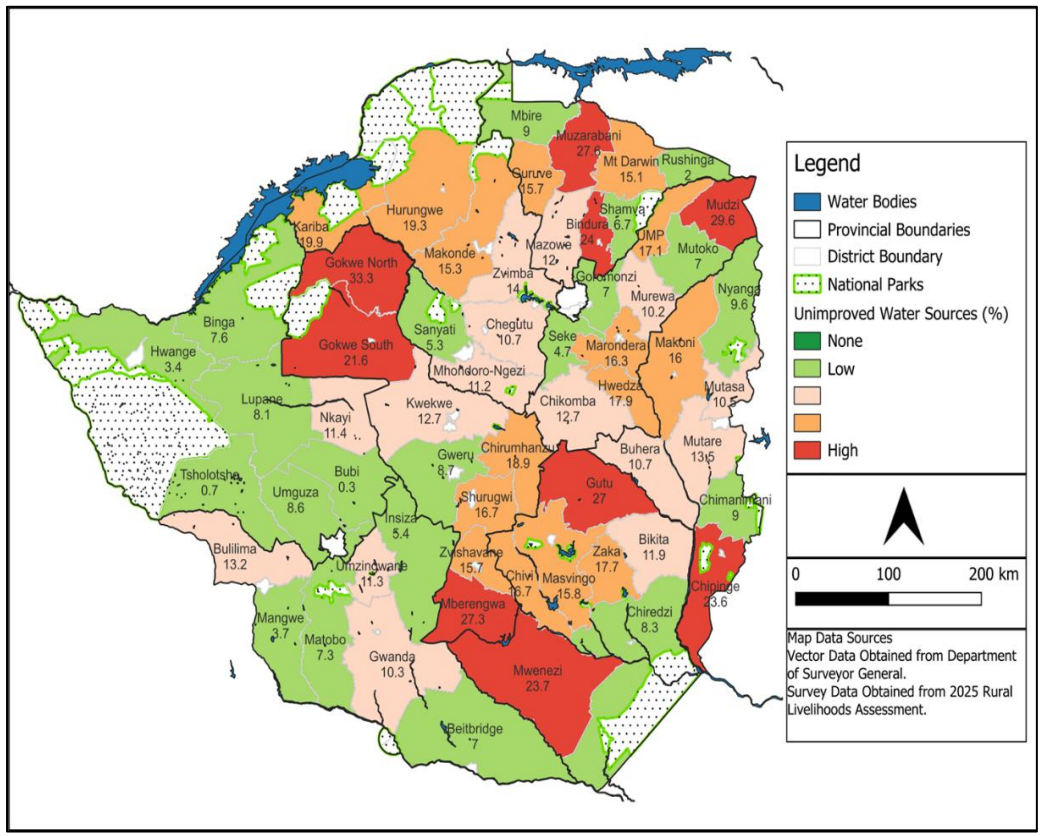
- There was an increase in the proportion of households accessing basic water services from 52% in 2024 to 54% in 2025.
- Attention should be given to the 27% of households who were drinking water from improved sources, but their collection time was exceeding 30 minutes for a round-trip, including queuing.

Water Services

Households Drinking Surface Water

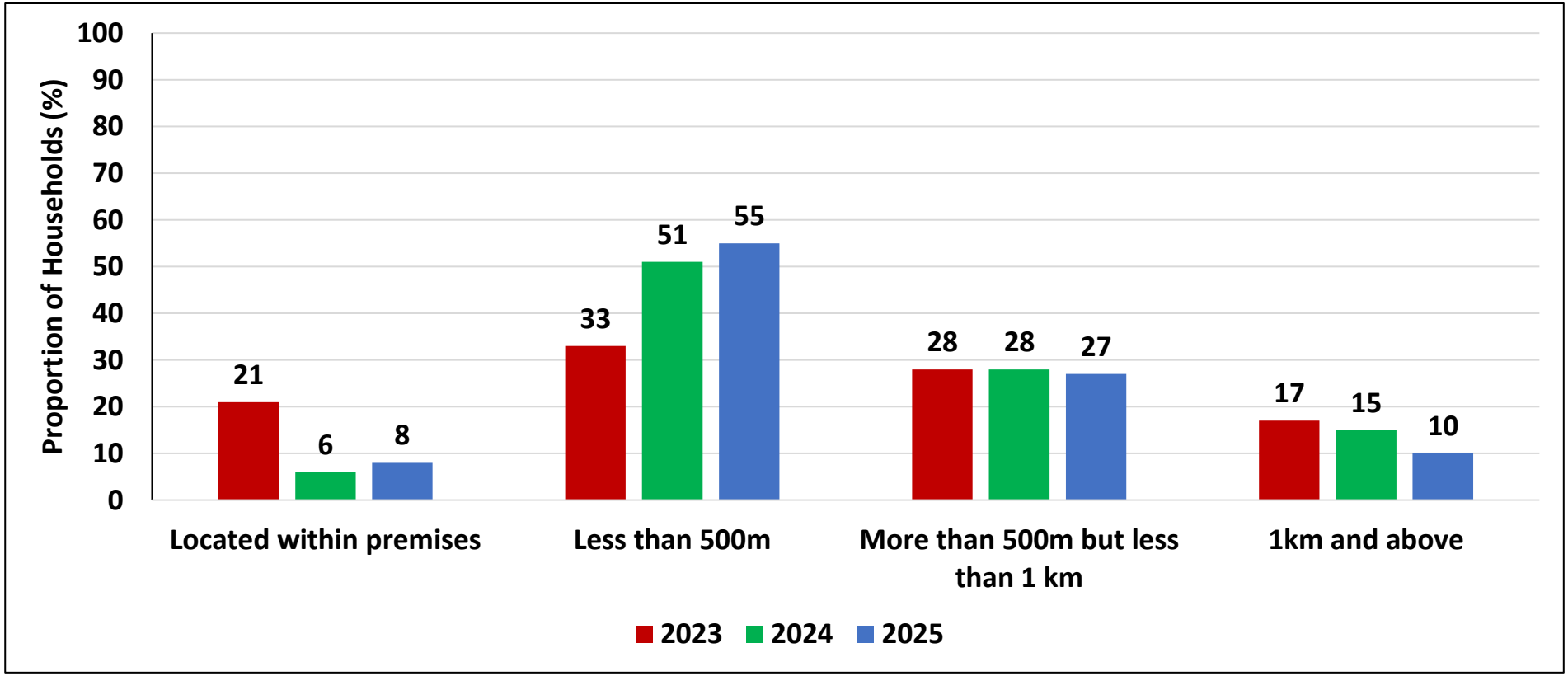


Households Using Unimproved Water



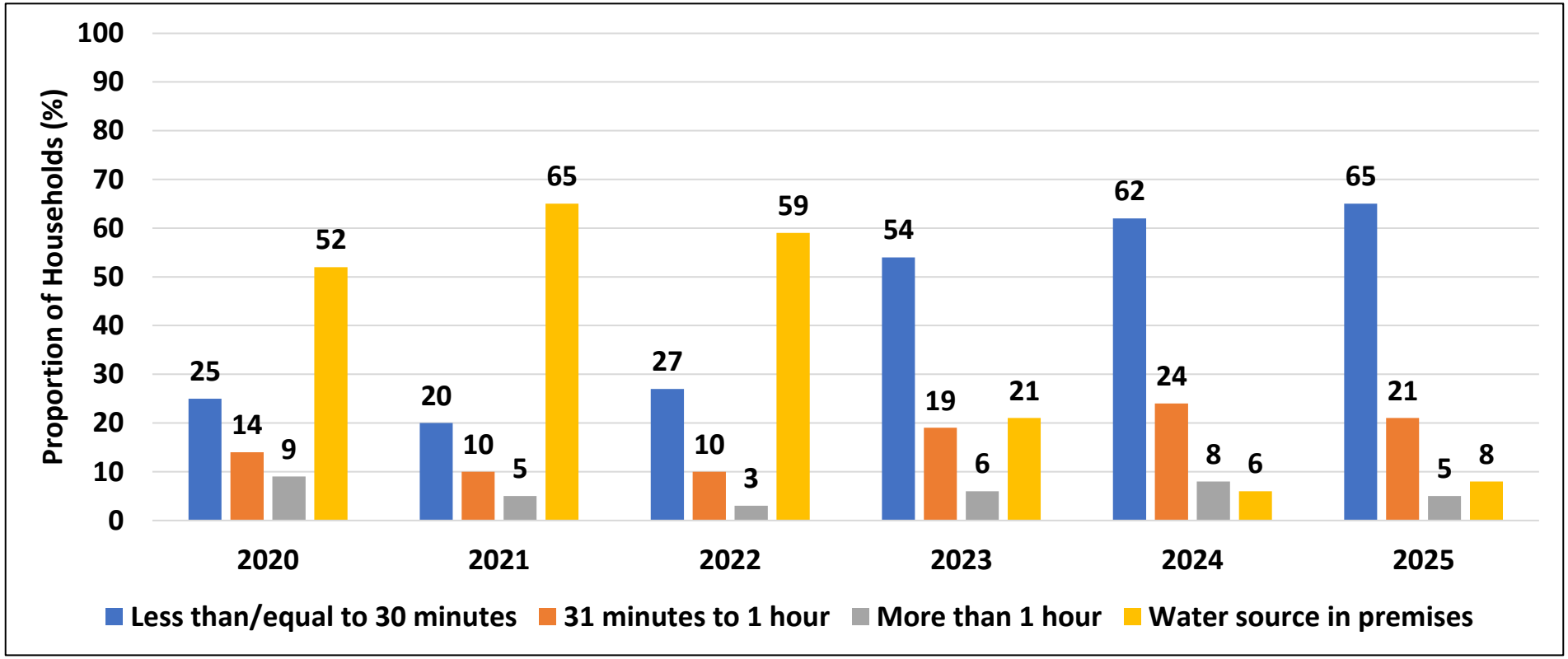
- Binga (29.8%) and Mangwe (26.7%) had the highest proportion of households which were drinking surface water.
- Gokwe North (33.3%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water services.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



- About 90% of the households accessed water within a kilometer.
- However, attention should be given to 10% of the households travelling a distance above one kilometer.

Time Taken to and from Main Drinking Water Source



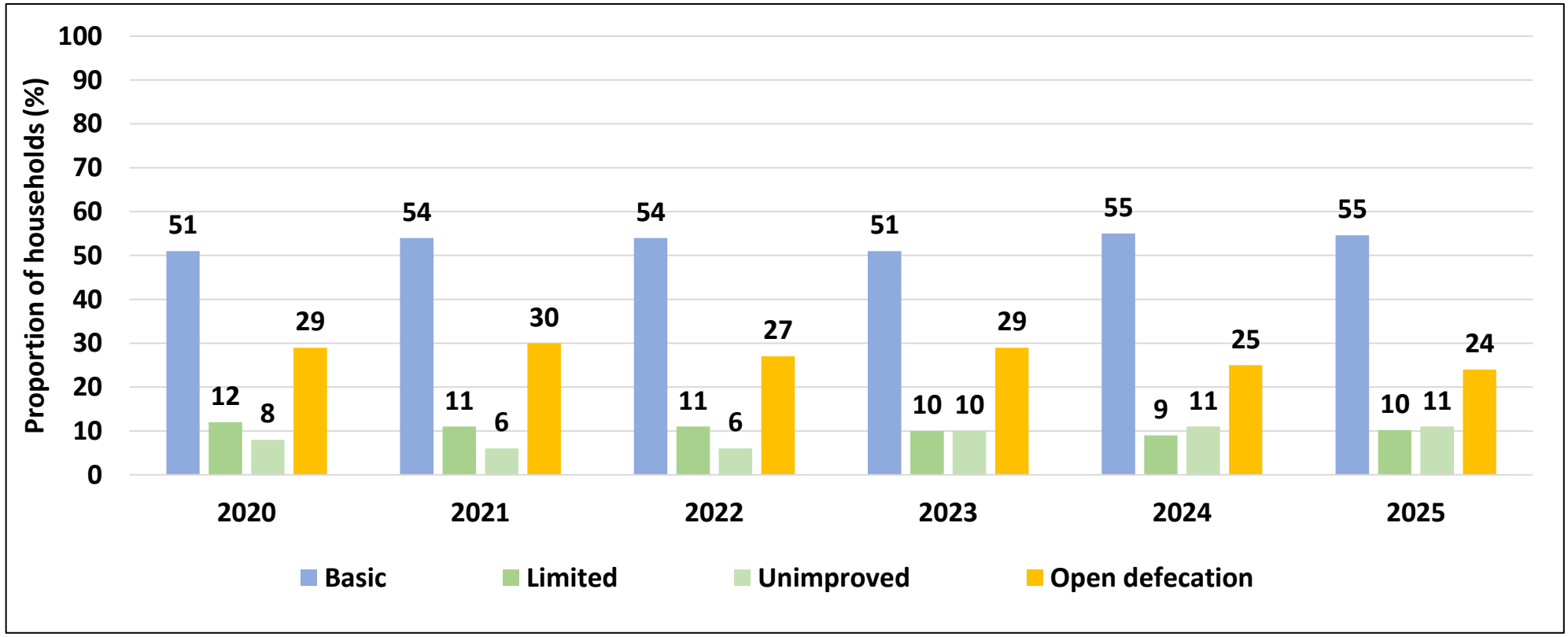
- The proportion of households spending thirty minutes or less for a round trip to collect water from their main drinking water source increased from 25% in 2020 to 65% in 2025.
- About 5% of the households spent more than one hour for a round trip to collect water from the main drinking water source.

Sanitation

Ladder for Sanitation

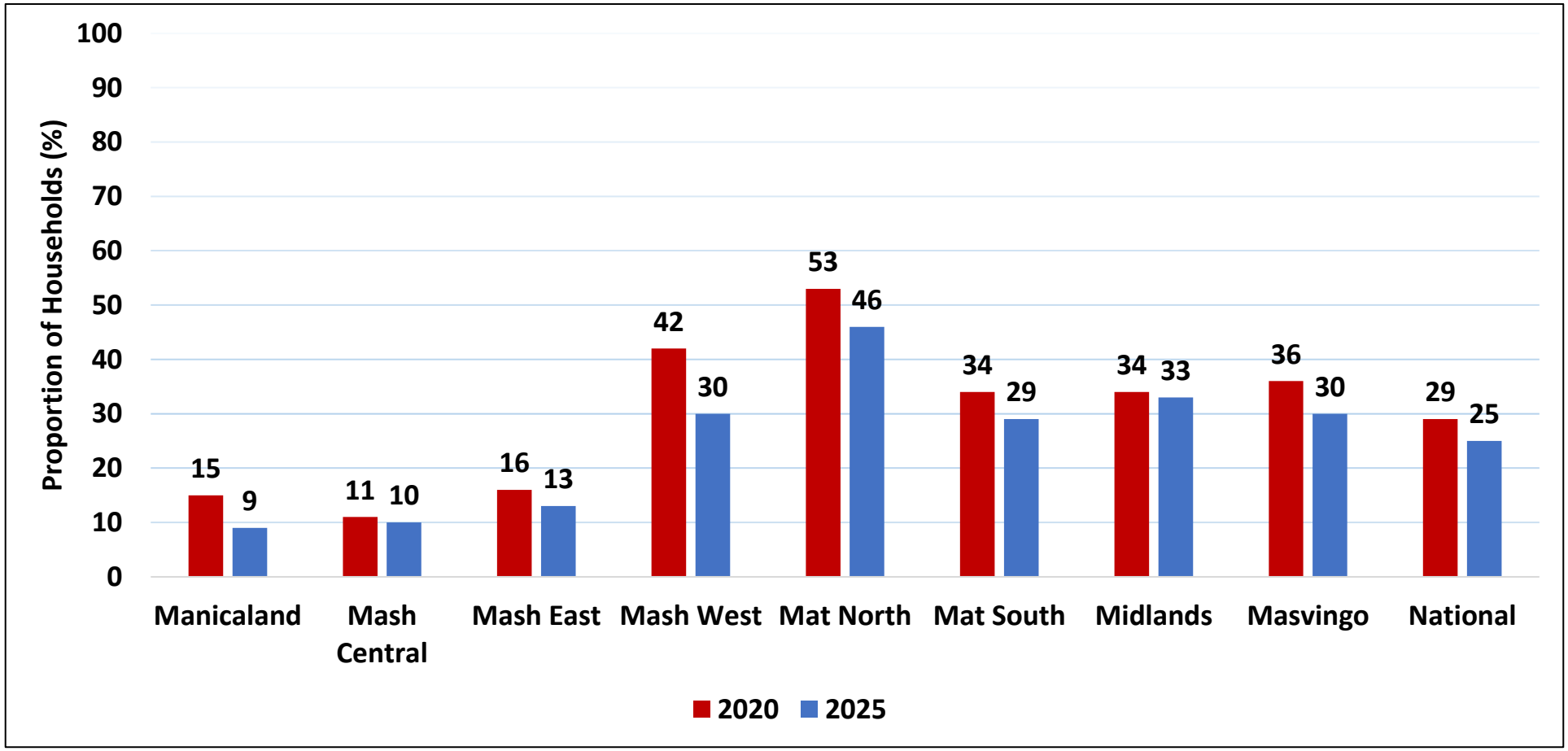
Service level	Definition
Safely Managed	Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite.
Basic Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households.
Limited Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.
Unimproved Sanitation Facilities	Facilities that do not ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. Unimproved facilities include pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines and bucket latrines.
Open Defecation	Disposal of human faeces in fields, forest, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces or with solid waste.
Note: Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include flush or pour flush toilet/latrine, Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP), pit latrine with slab and upgradeable Blair latrine.	

Household Sanitation Services



- There was a slight increase in the proportion of households with basic sanitation services from 51% in 2020 to 55% in 2025.
- There was a decline in the proportion of households practising open defecation from 29% in 2020 to 24% in 2025.

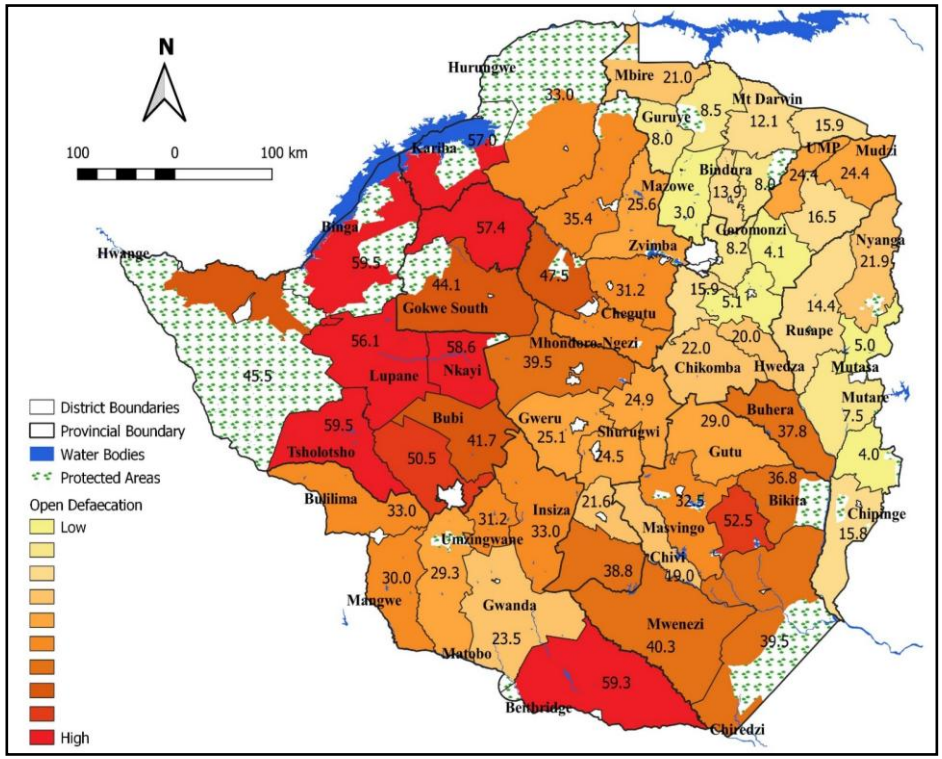
Open Defecation by Province



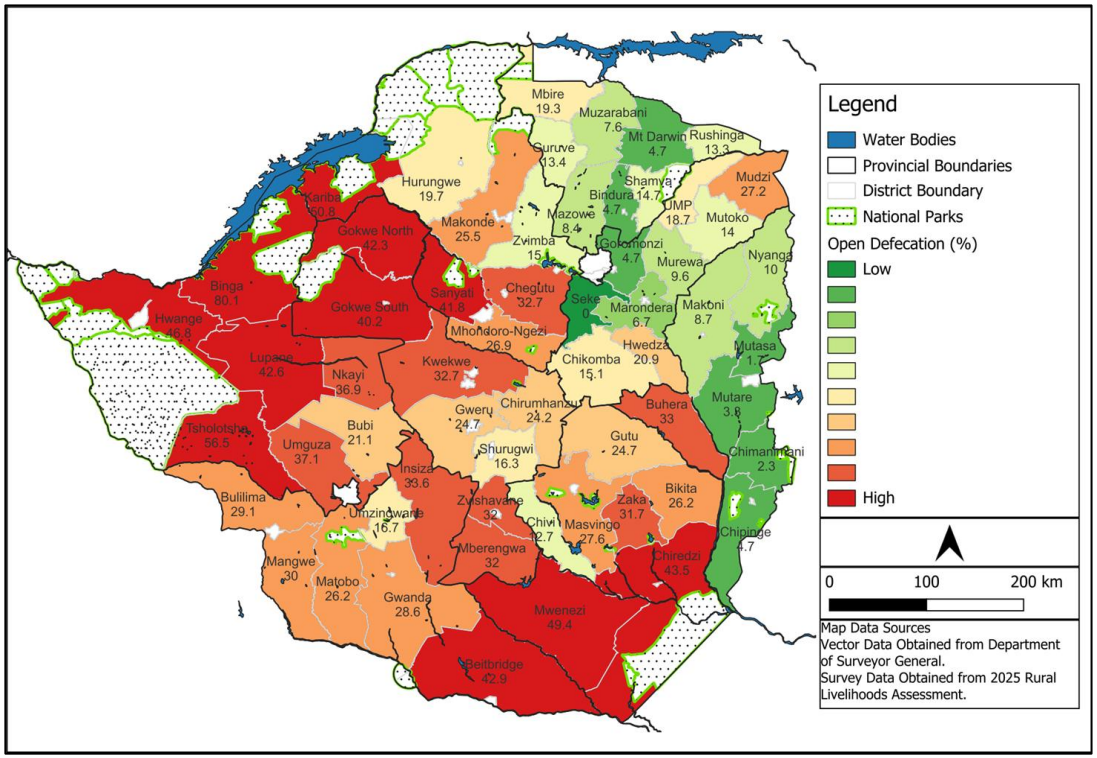
- Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of households which practised open defecation.

Open Defecation By District

2020



2025



- Binga (80.1%), Tsholotsho (56.5%), Kariba (50.8%) and Mwenezi (49.4%) had the highest proportion of households which practised open defaecation.

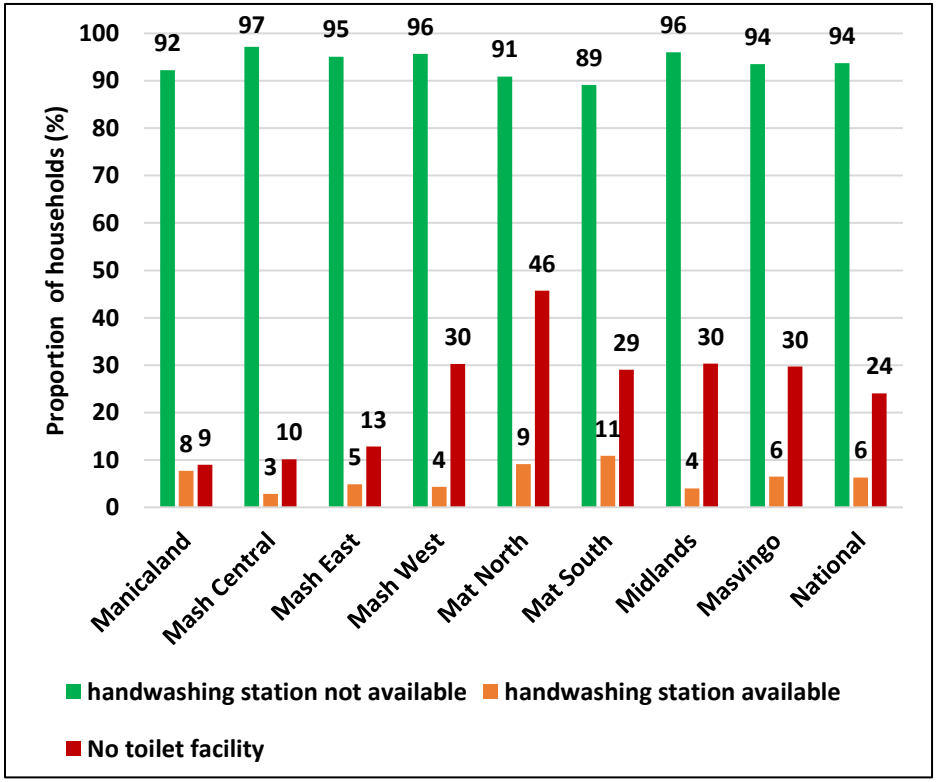
Ladder for Hygiene

Service level	Definition
Basic	Availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water.
Limited	Availability of a handwashing facility on premises without soap and water.
No Facility	No hand washing facility on premises.

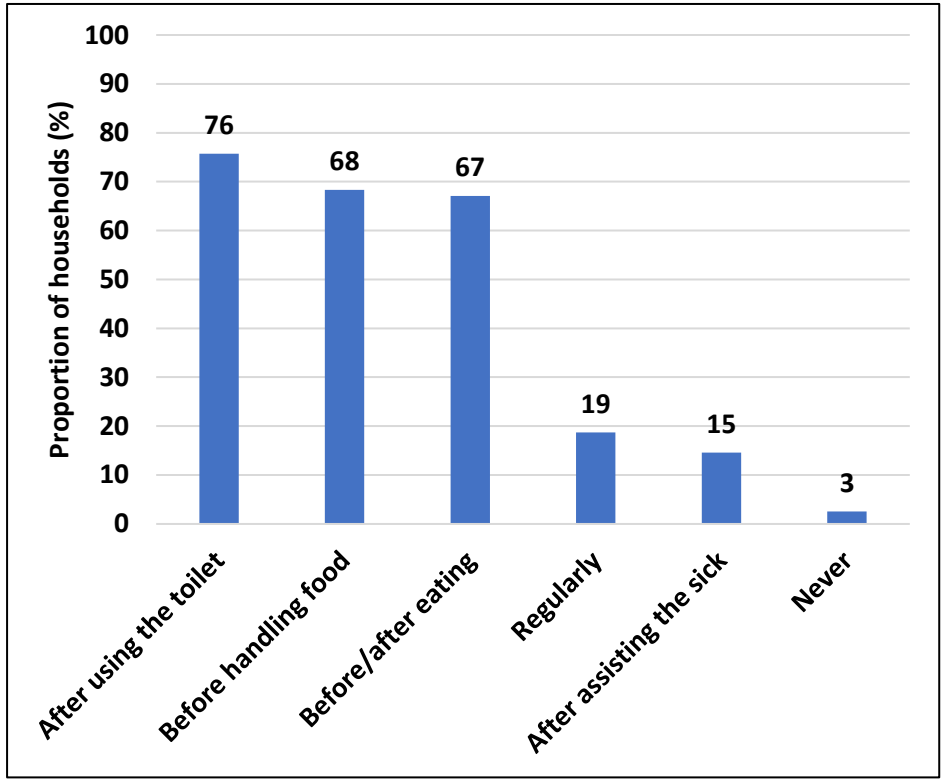
Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

Handwashing

Handwashing Facilities



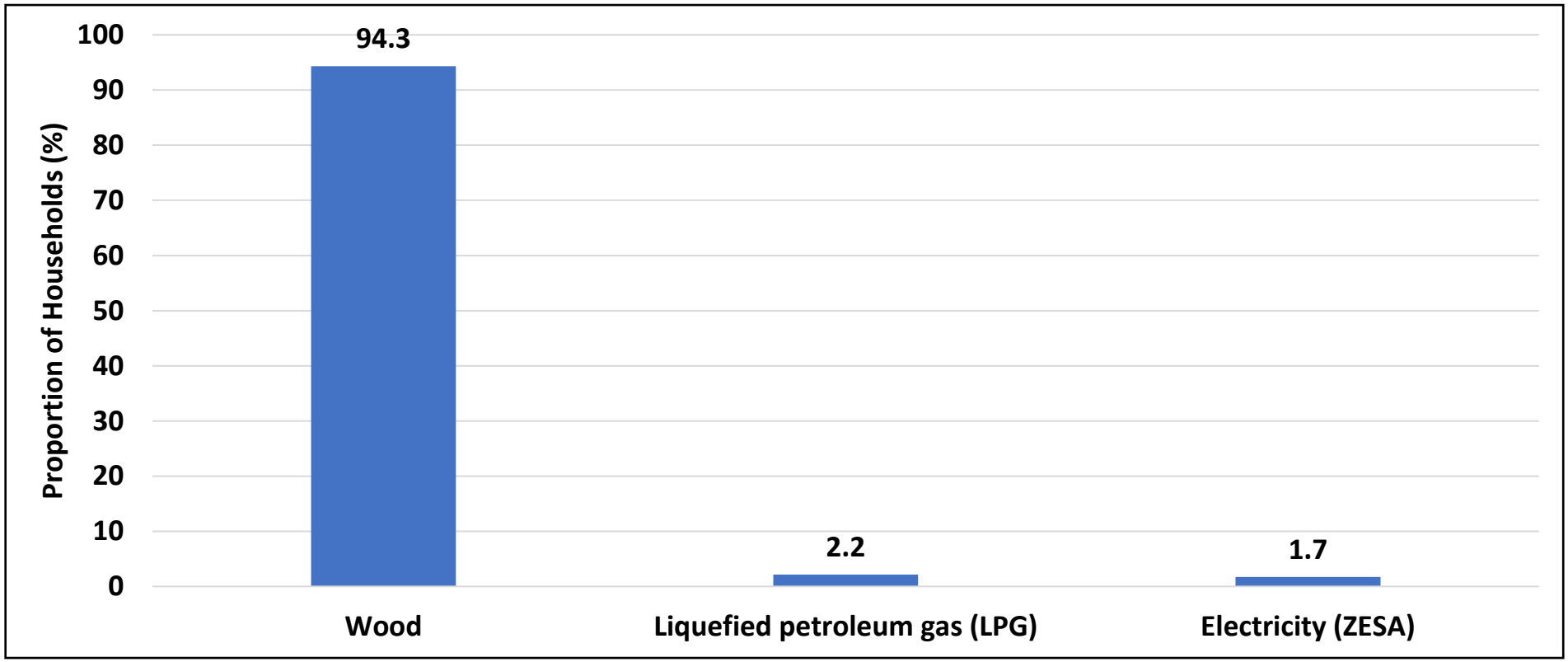
Handwashing at Critical Times



- The proportion of households without handwashing facilities was 94%.
- The majority of households reported that they washed their hands after using the toilet (76%) whilst 3% reported that they never washed their hands.

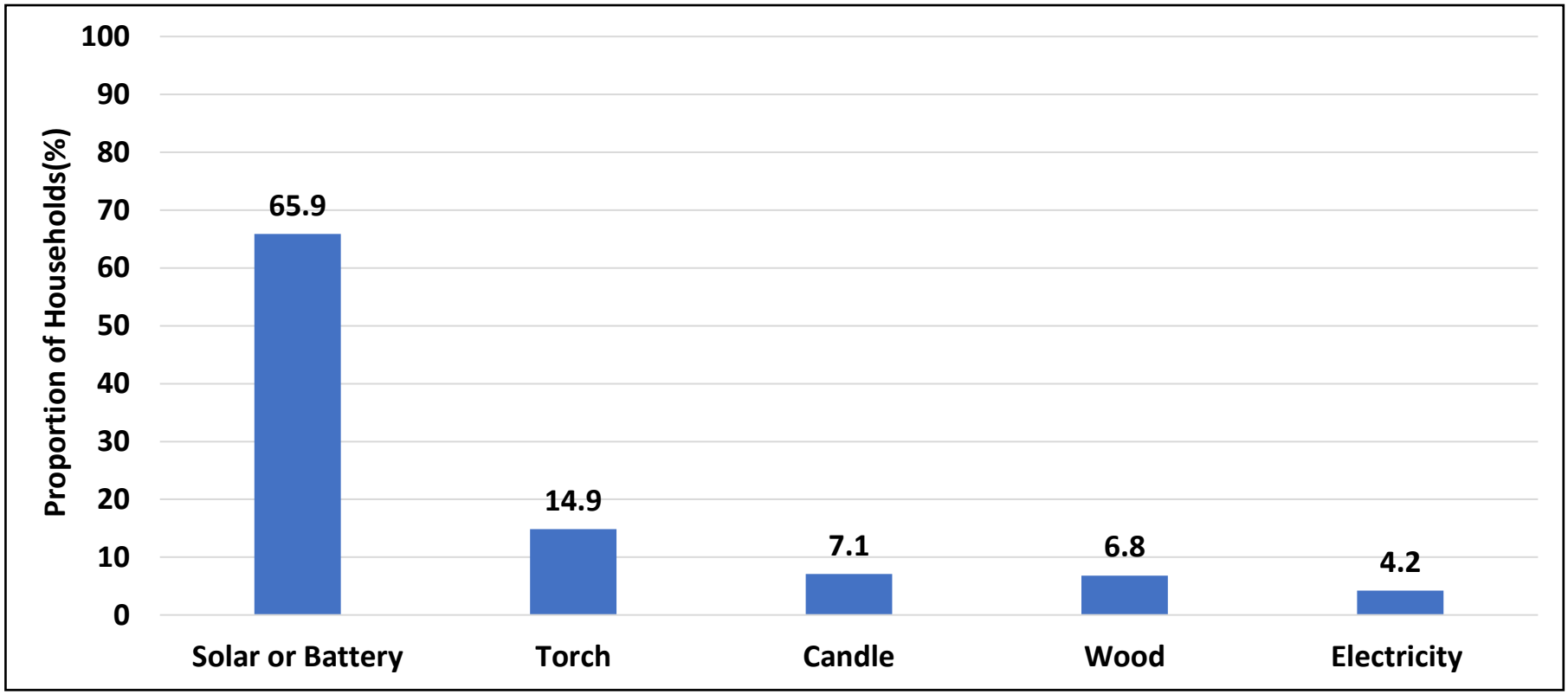
Energy

Type of Energy Used for Cooking



- Wood (94.3%) was the most reported type of energy used for cooking.
- The unsustainable use of firewood may lead to high levels of deforestation.

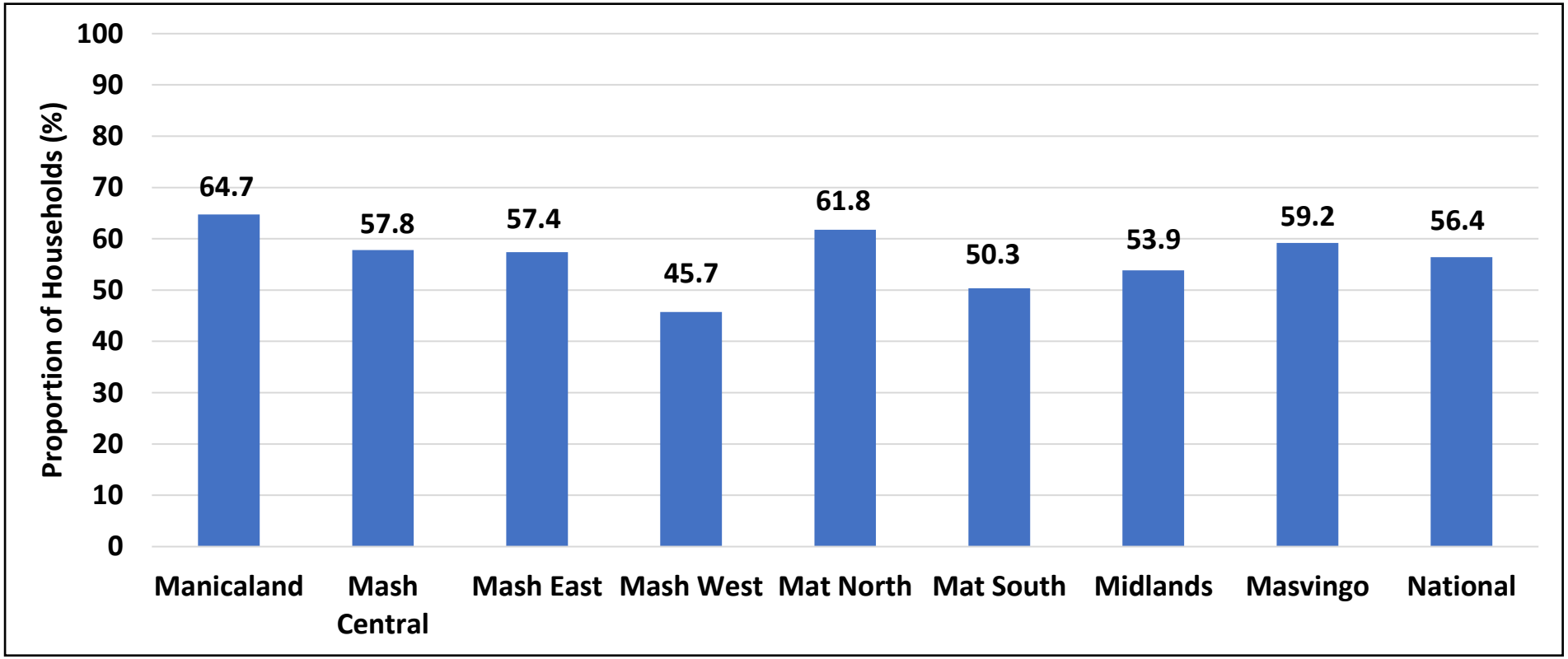
Type of Energy Used for Lighting



- Solar or battery (65.9%) was the most reported type of energy used for lighting.

Climate Change

Household Knowledge on Climate Change



- The proportion of households which reported having knowledge on climate change was 56.4%.
- Manicaland (64.7%) had the highest proportion of households with knowledge on climate change while Mashonaland West (45.7%) had the lowest.

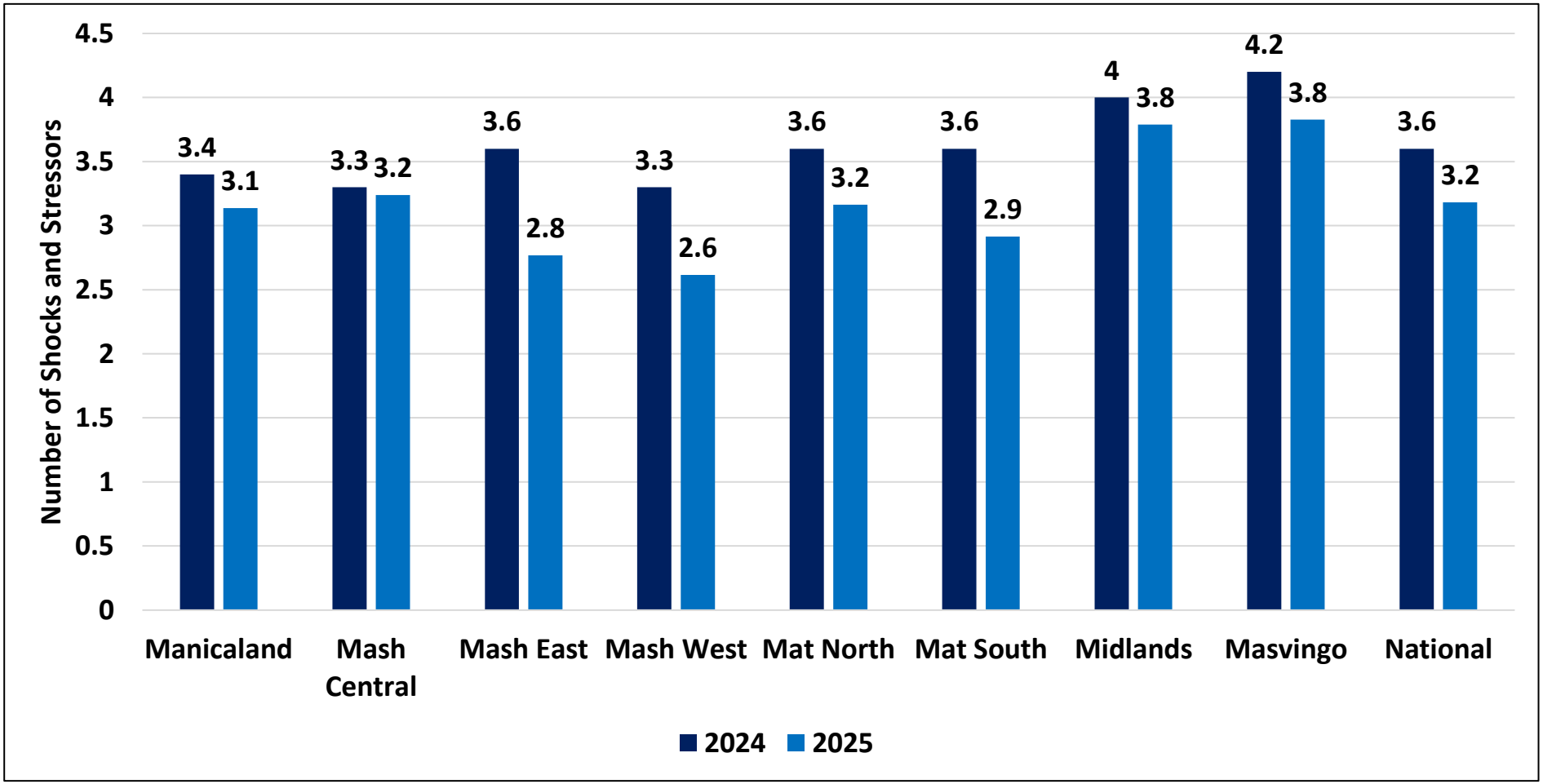
Perceived Effects of Climate Change

Province	Not enough food (%)	Increased droughts (%)	More health risks (%)	Extreme temperatures (%)	Severe storms (%)	Loss of species (%)	Poverty and displacement (%)
Manicaland	32.8	22.3	0.7	5.7	2.0	0.1	1.2
Mash Central	26.8	21.4	1.5	6.5	0.7	0.1	0.9
Mash East	27.4	15.4	3.0	8.8	1.1	0.1	1.6
Mash West	26.1	11.8	2.0	4.1	0.5	0.1	0.7
Mat North	42.1	10.7	1.4	3.7	0.1	0.3	3.3
Mat South	25.3	16.6	0.8	3.5	0.7	0.1	0.9
Midlands	34.4	12.3	1.0	4.4	0.6	0.3	0.8
Masvingo	31.7	17.0	1.1	6.1	1.9	0.7	0.6
National	**30.7**	**15.9**	**1.5**	**5.5**	**1.0**	**0.2**	**1.3**

- Not enough food (30.7%) and increased droughts (15.9%) were the most reported perceived effects of climate change.

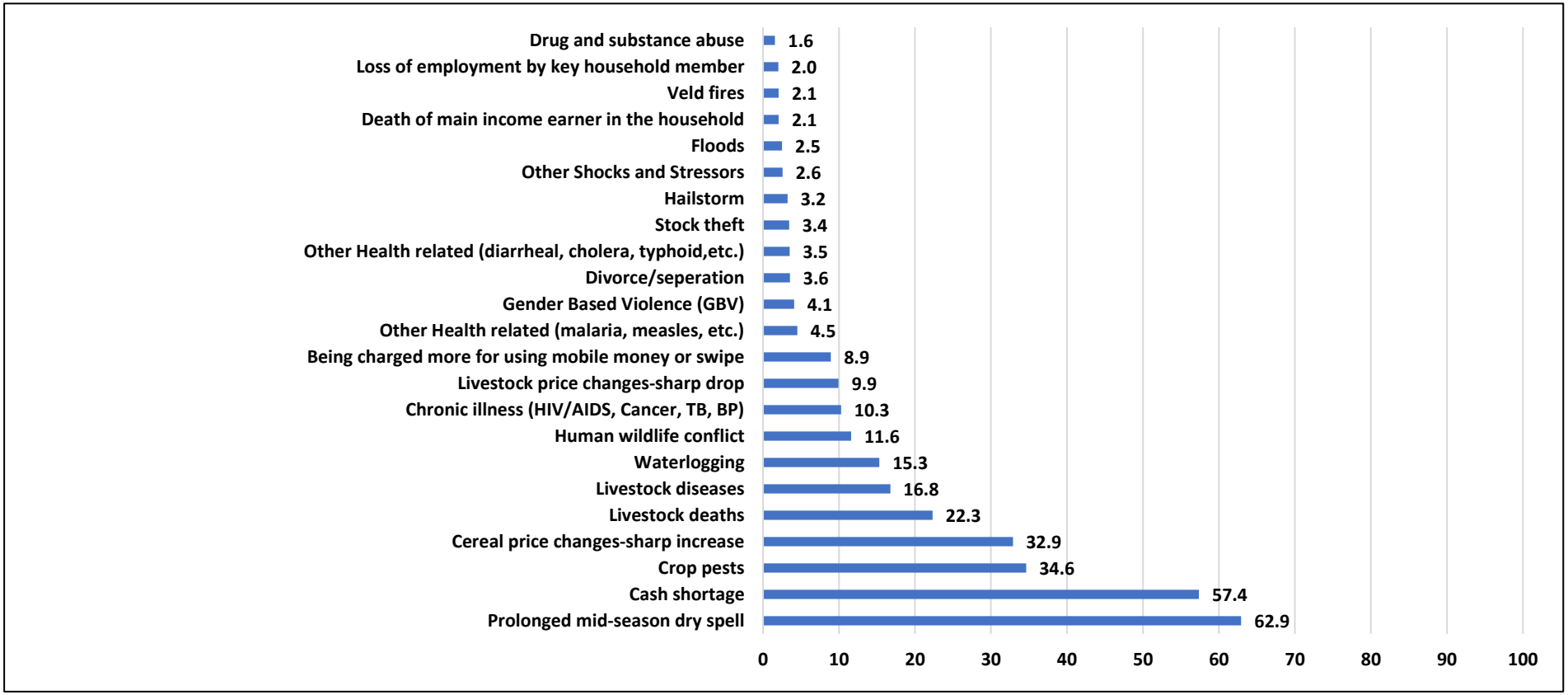
Shocks and Stressors

Number of Shocks and Stressors Experienced



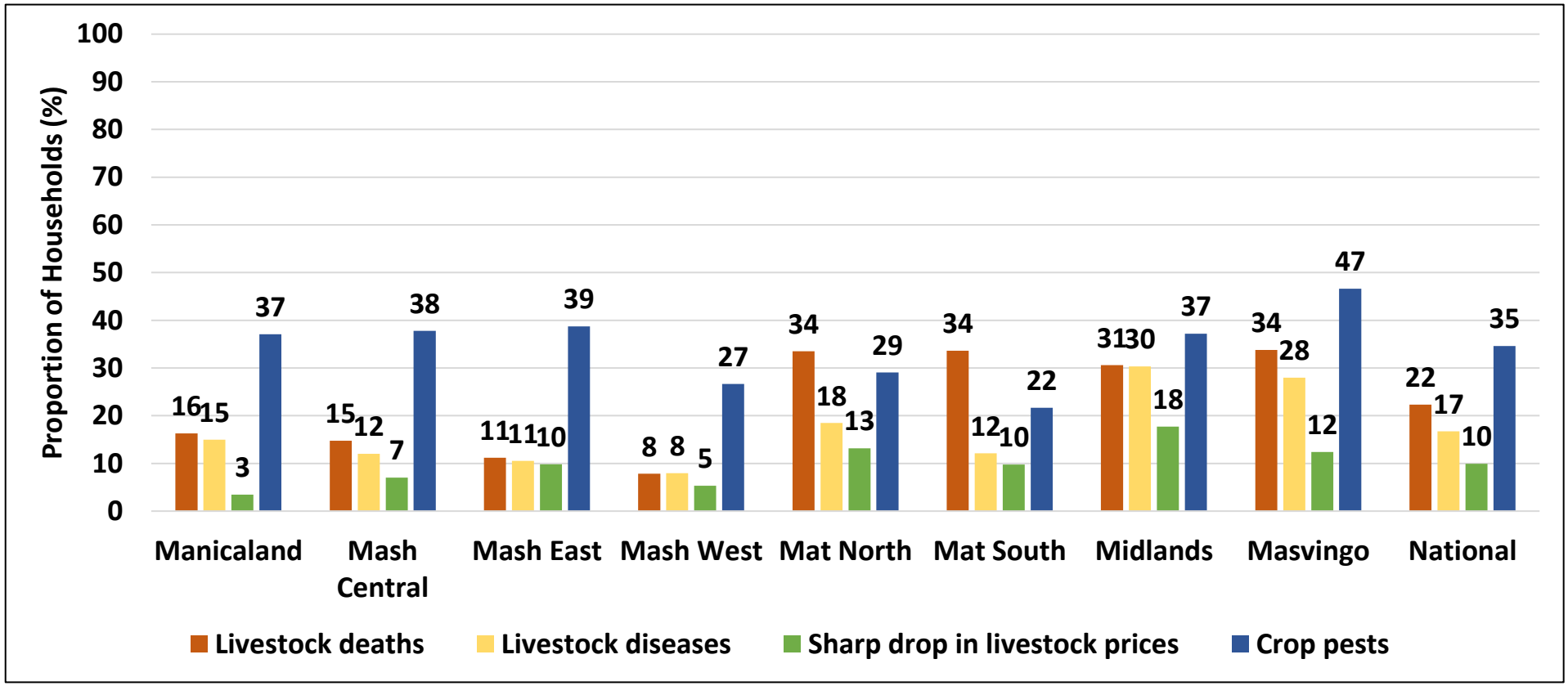
- The average number of shocks and stressors experienced by households decreased from 3.6 in 2024 to 3.2 in 2025.

Shocks and Stressors Experienced by Households



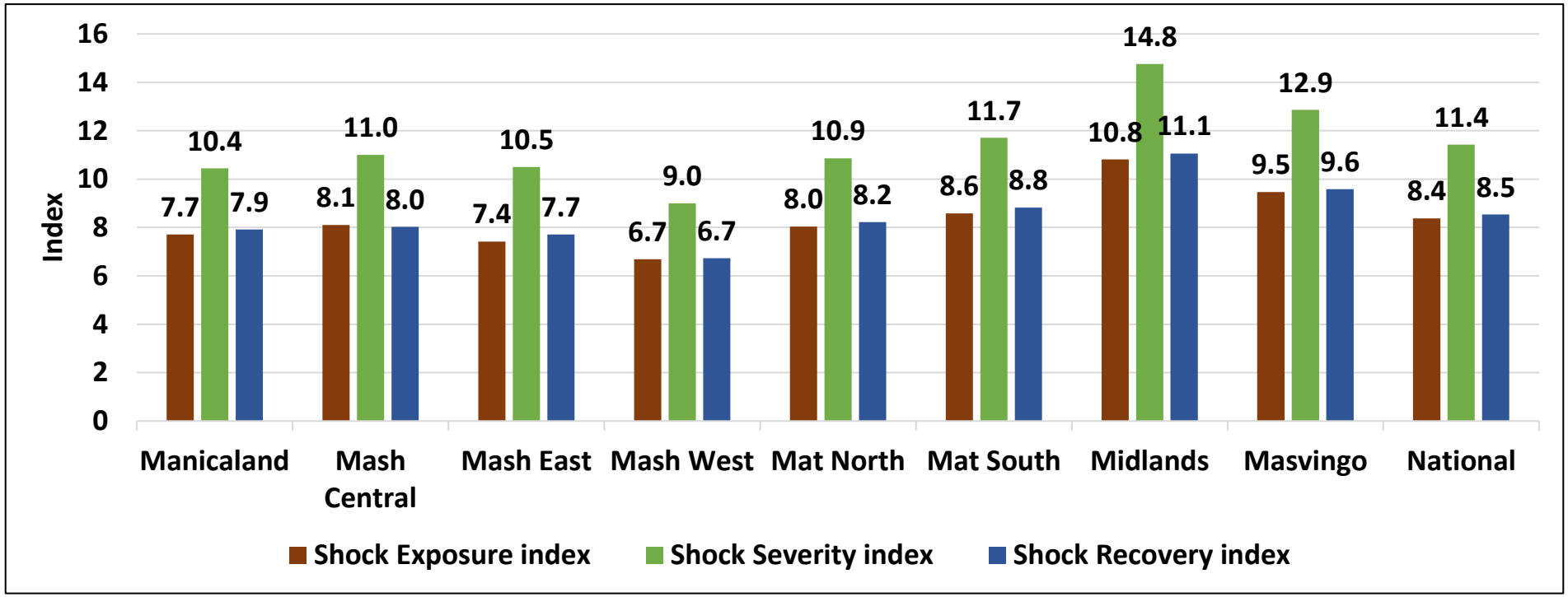
- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (62.9%) and cash shortage (57.4%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by the households.

Agriculture Related Shocks and Stressors



- Crop pests (35%) were the most reported agriculture related shock whilst sharp drop in livestock prices was the least reported (10%).
- Masvingo (47%) and Mashonaland East (39%) had the highest proportion of households which reported crop pests as a shock.

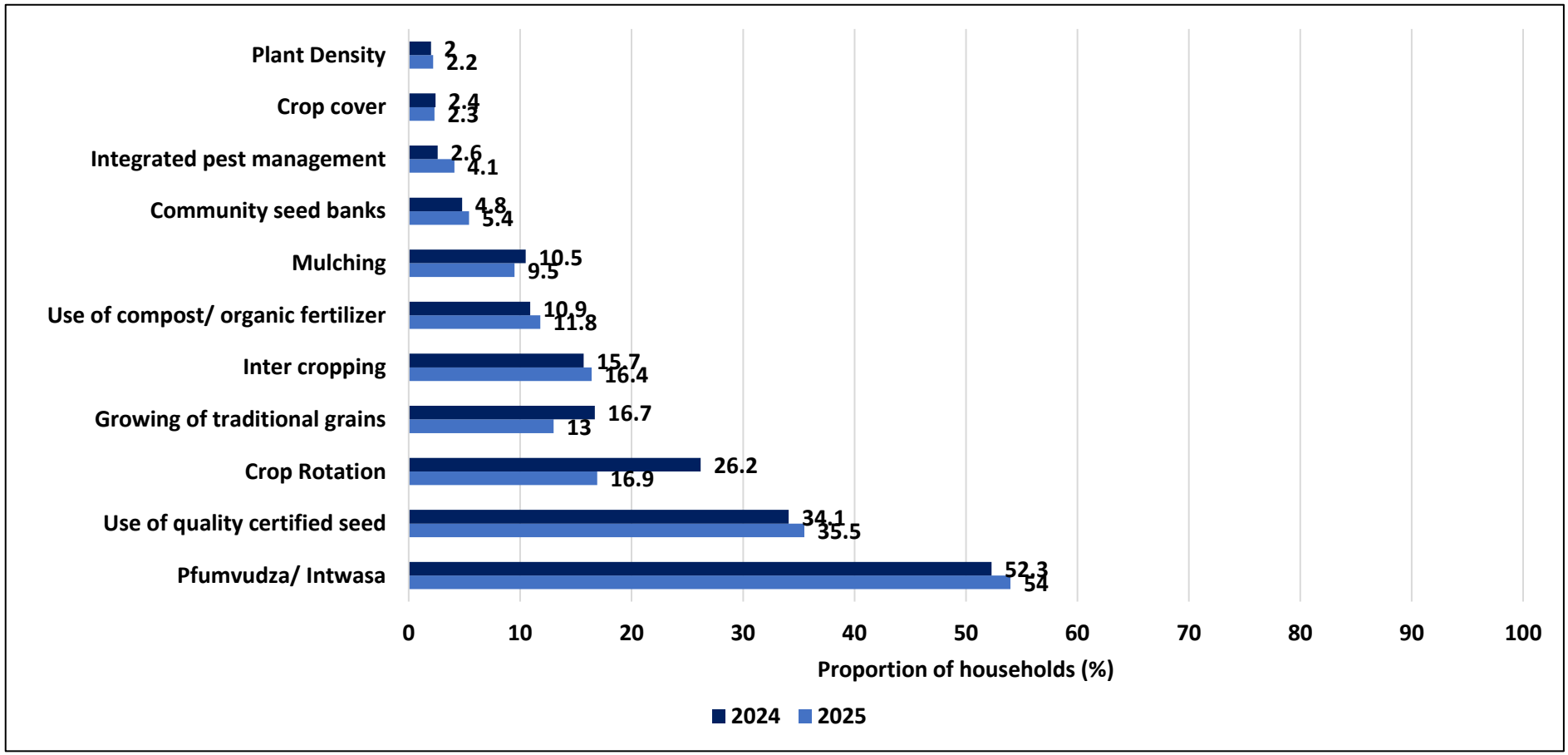
Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope Indices



- The average Shock Exposure Index was 8.4.
- Shock severity Index was 11.4.
- Average Shock Recovery Index was 8.5. This was slightly higher than shock exposure index (8.4).
- The results indicate that while households face significant and severe shocks, they have a notable resilience and ability to adapt and recover from these adversities.

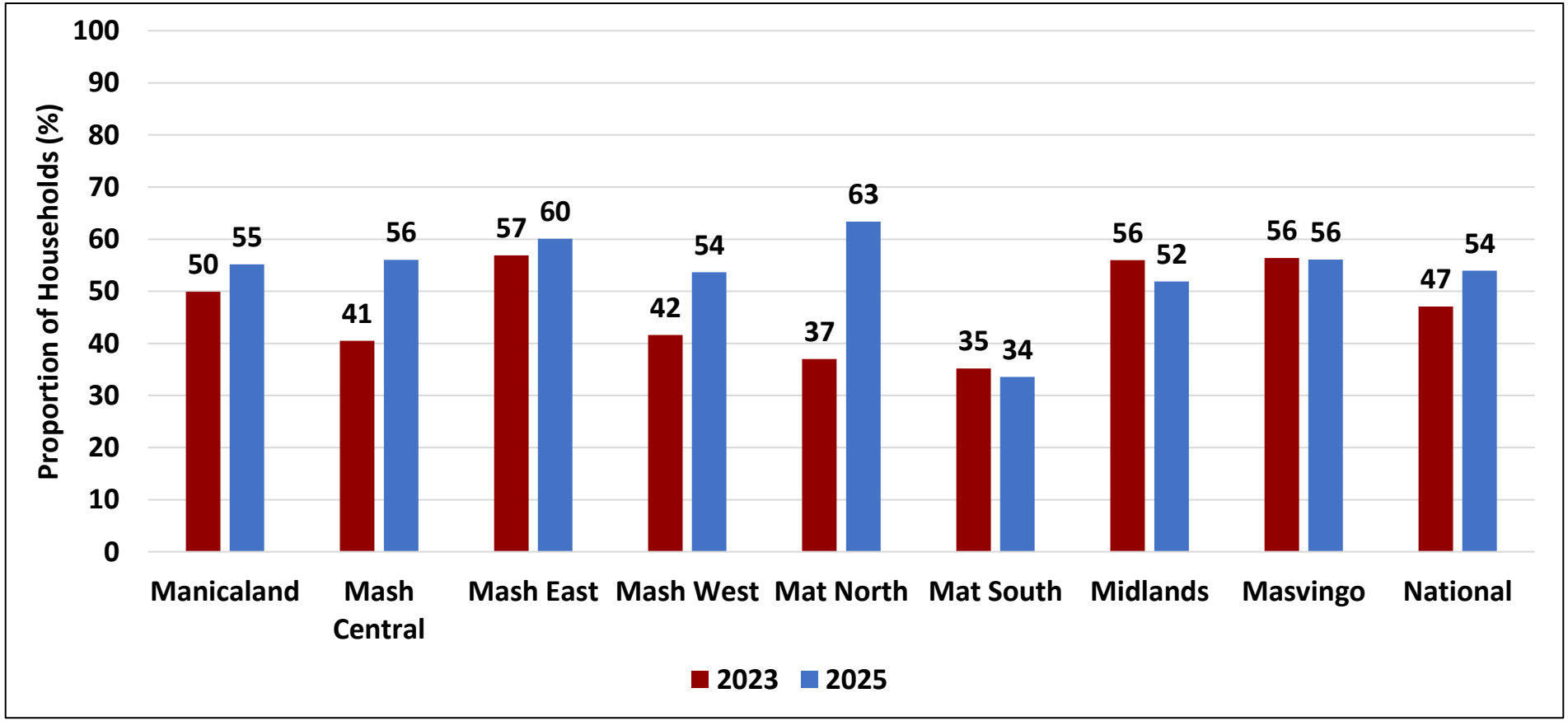
Agricultural Production Technologies

Climate Smart Technologies



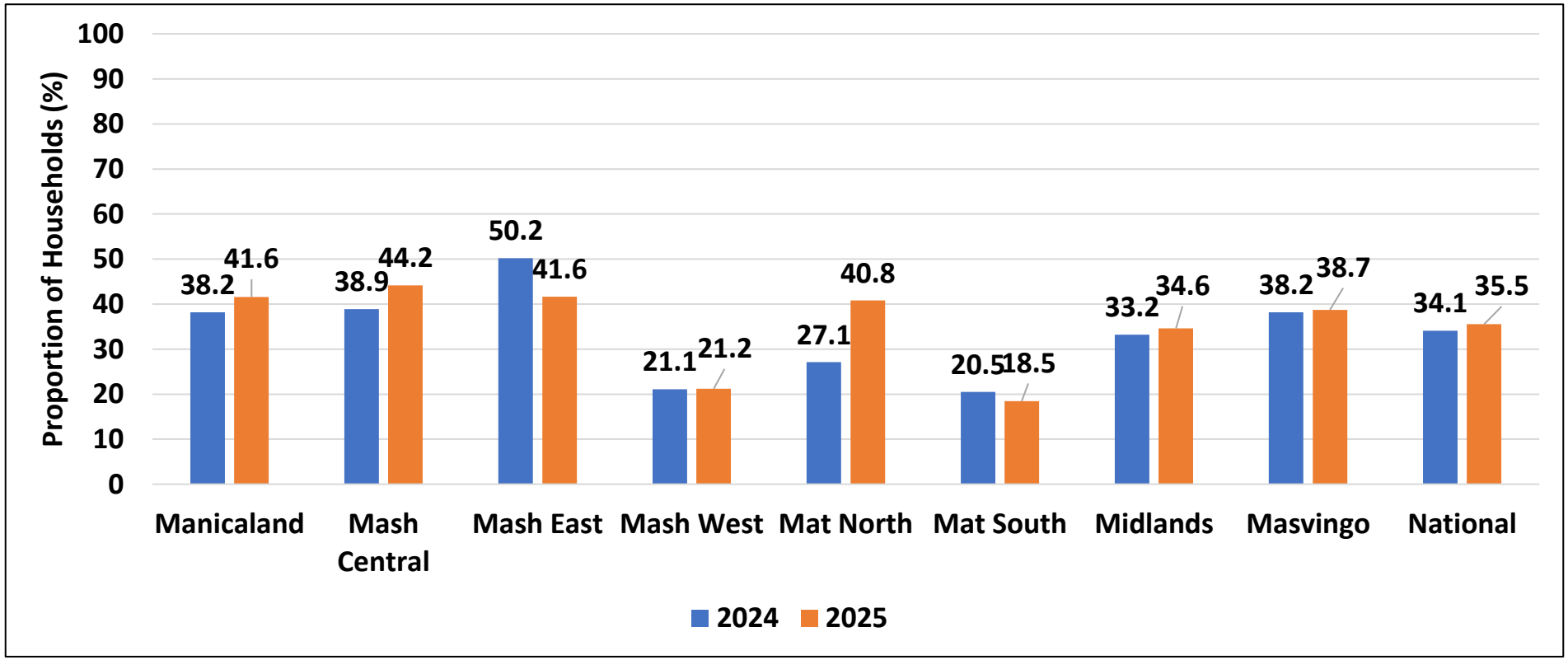
- About 54% of households practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa in 2025, an increase from 52.3% reported in 2024.
- There was a decrease in the proportion of households practising crop rotation from 2024 (26.2%) to 2025 (16.9%).

Pfumvudza/ Intwasa



- There was an increase in the proportion of households which practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa from 47% (2023) to 54% (2025).

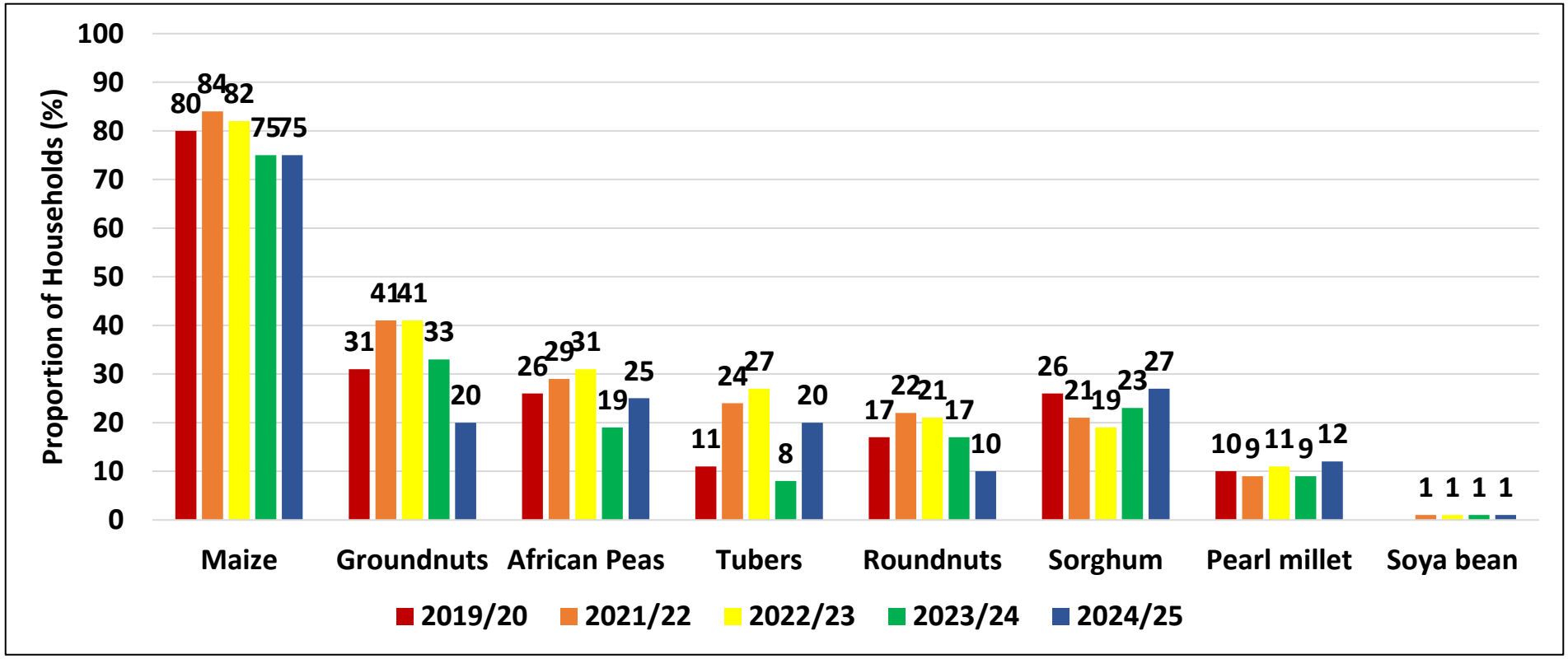
Use of Quality Certified Seed



- Mashonaland East (41.6%) had the highest proportion of households which used quality certified seeds.
- Certified seeds are crucial in crop production as they ensure high quality better yields and increased resistance to diseases and pests.

Crop Production

Crops Grown by Households



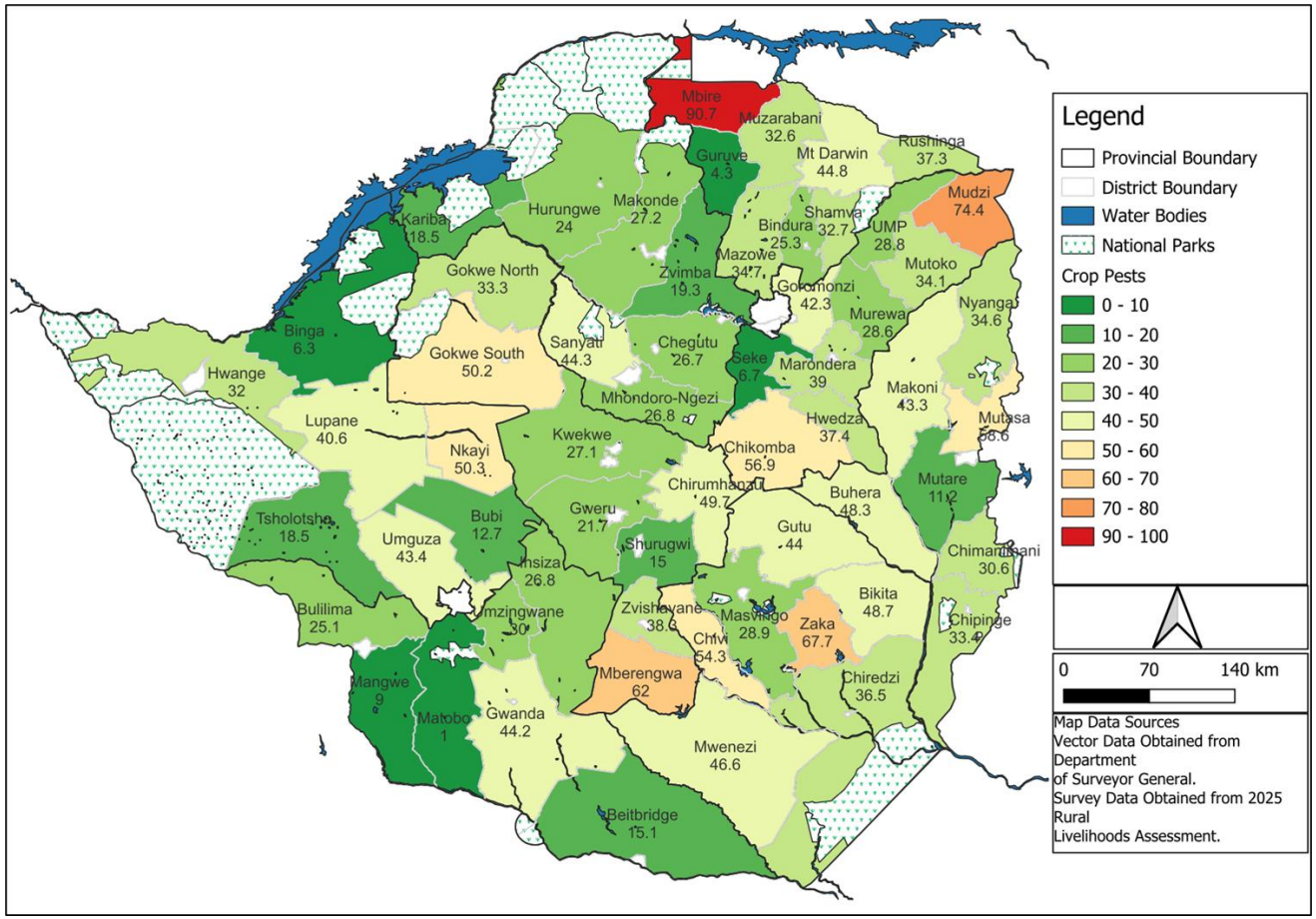
- The proportion of households which grew crops increased for African peas, tubers, pearl millet and sorghum.
- There was a decrease in the proportion of households which grew groundnuts and roundnuts.
- The proportion of households which grew maize remained the same (75%).

Households which Grew Crops

	Maize (%)	Sorghum (%)	Finger Millet (%)	Pearl Millet (%)	Tubers (%)	African Peas (%)	Groundnuts (%)	Roundnuts (%)	Sugar Beans (%)	Soya Beans (%)	Tobacco (%)	Cotton (%)
Manicaland	79	19	6	12	31	19	18	11	14	0	3	1
Mash Central	77	28	1	5	14	29	13	1	6	2	16	3
Mash East	80	16	5	6	33	26	23	6	10	0	7	1
Mash West	73	21	1	2	14	15	12	3	6	3	11	4
Mat North	64	45	1	33	4	23	10	5	2	1	0	0
Mat South	55	33	1	20	4	20	12	7	2	0	0	0
Midlands	89	21	4	3	16	25	28	11	5	0	0	4
Masvingo	82	35	12	18	43	41	45	41	6	1	0	3
National	**75**	**27**	**4**	**12**	**20**	**25**	**20**	**10**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**2**

- Midlands (89%) and Masvingo (82%) had the highest proportion of households which grew maize.
- Masvingo had the highest proportion of households which grew African Peas (41%), groundnuts (45%), roundnuts (41%) and tubers (43%).

Crop Pests



- Mbire (90.7), Mudzi (74.4%), Zaka (67.7%) and Mberengwa (62%) had the highest proportion of households reporting crop pests as a shock.

Cereals from Casual Labour and Remittances

	Cereals from Casual Labour (kgs)		Cereals from Remittances (kgs)	
	2024	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**
Manicaland	16.8	21.3	0.4	8.3
Mash Central	6.7	35.6	0	6.6
Mash East	6.7	17.9	0	5.8
Mash West	9.0	18.1	0.3	6.7
Mat North	2.0	19.2	0.6	8.7
Mat South	1.1	6.3	0.4	2.8
Midlands	2.1	21.1	0	10.6
Masvingo	16.4	39.1	0.9	20.7
National	**6.8**	**22.4**	**0.2**	**8.7**

- Generally, there was an increase in the amount of cereals accessed by households from casual labour and remittances compared to the previous consumption year.
- On average, households reported to have accessed 22.4 kgs of maize from casual labour and 8.7 kgs from remittances.

Cereal Stocks as at 1 April 2025

	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Manicaland	20.6	44.2	0	6.0	0	0.6	0	2.5
Mash Central	6.2	41.8	0	21.2	0	0.0	0	0.8
Mash East	18.4	83.5	0	5.5	0	0.5	0	1.5
Mash West	3.2	61.4	0	15.7	0	0.0	0	0.3
Mat North	0.2	32.7	0	15.2	0	0.2	0	12.8
Mat South	0.8	38.0	0	5.6	0	0.1	0	4.5
Midlands	10.7	98.0	0	7.4	0	0.9	0	1.5
Masvingo	11.5	60.2	0	13.4	0	2.0	0	11.1
National	8.3	58.8	0	11.2	0	0.6	0	4.2

- On average, households had 58.8kgs of maize in stock on the 1st of April 2025, an increase from 8.3kgs reported in 2024.
- Midlands (98kgs) had the highest maize stocks.

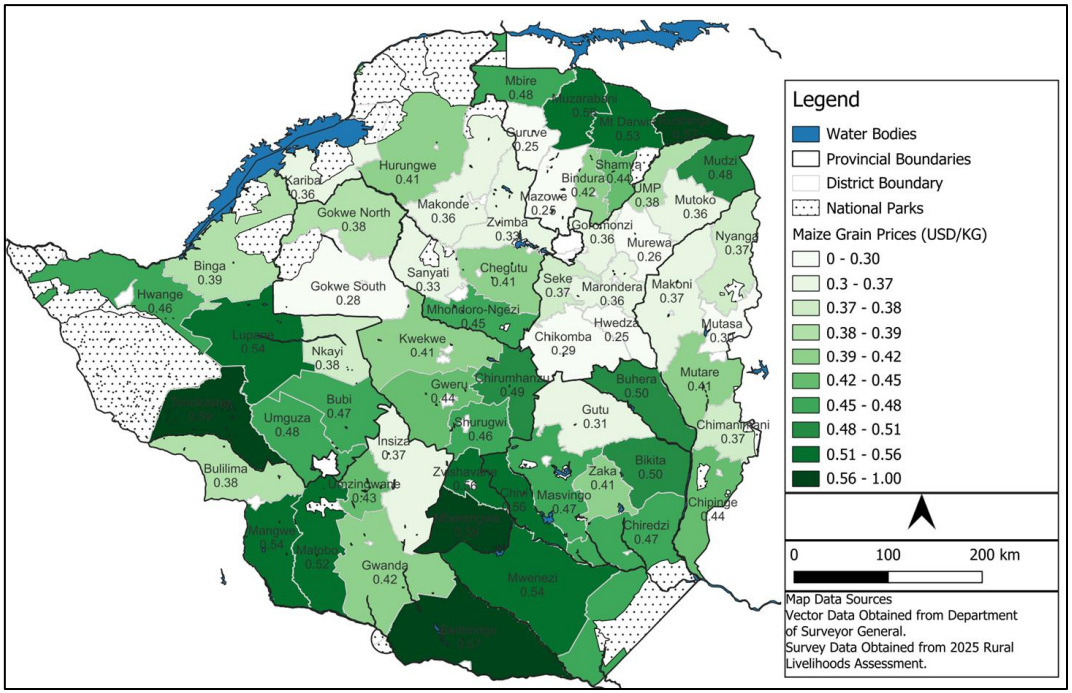
Season Harvest

	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)		Total (kgs)	
	2024	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**
Manicaland	105	316.7	6	37.5	3	6.6	1	18.7	115	379.4
Mash Central	107	326.8	10	128.1	0	0.3	0	9.0	117	464.2
Mash East	88	436.2	2	21.7	0	5.8	1	6.5	91	470.2
Mash West	50	389.0	4	57.6	0	0.4	0	0.6	54	447.6
Mat North	30	168.7	39	152.0	30	0.6	0	135.9	99	457.2
Mat South	26	118.6	19	29.3	8	0.9	0	17.8	53	166.7
Midlands	136	360.9	9	40.8	0	3.4	0	3.6	145	408.7
Masvingo	61	229.1	28	71.5	16	11.3	2	56.6	108	368.4
National	77	**299.9**	**14**	**66.4**	**7**	**3.7**	**1**	**29.5**	**99**	**399.4**

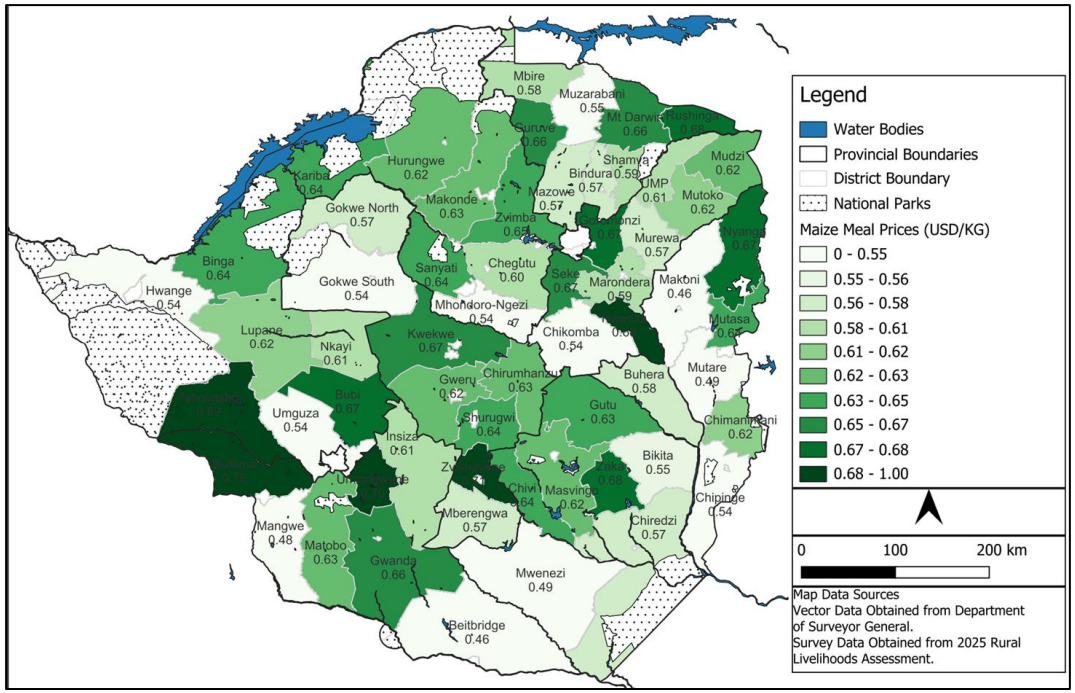
- There was an increase in the amount of cereals harvested by households across all provinces. This may be attributed to a favourable rainfall season.
- On average, households harvested 299.9kgs of maize and 66.4kgs of sorghum.
- Mashonaland East (436.2kgs) had the highest average harvest for maize.

Maize Grain and Maize Meal Prices

Maize Grain



Maize Meal



- Maize grain prices ranged from USD0.25 to USD0.59.
- Maize grain prices were high in Tsholotsho (USD 0.59), Beitbridge (USD 0.57) and Rushinga (USD 0.57).
- Maize meal prices ranged from USD0.46 (Beitbridge) to USD0.78 (Bulilima).

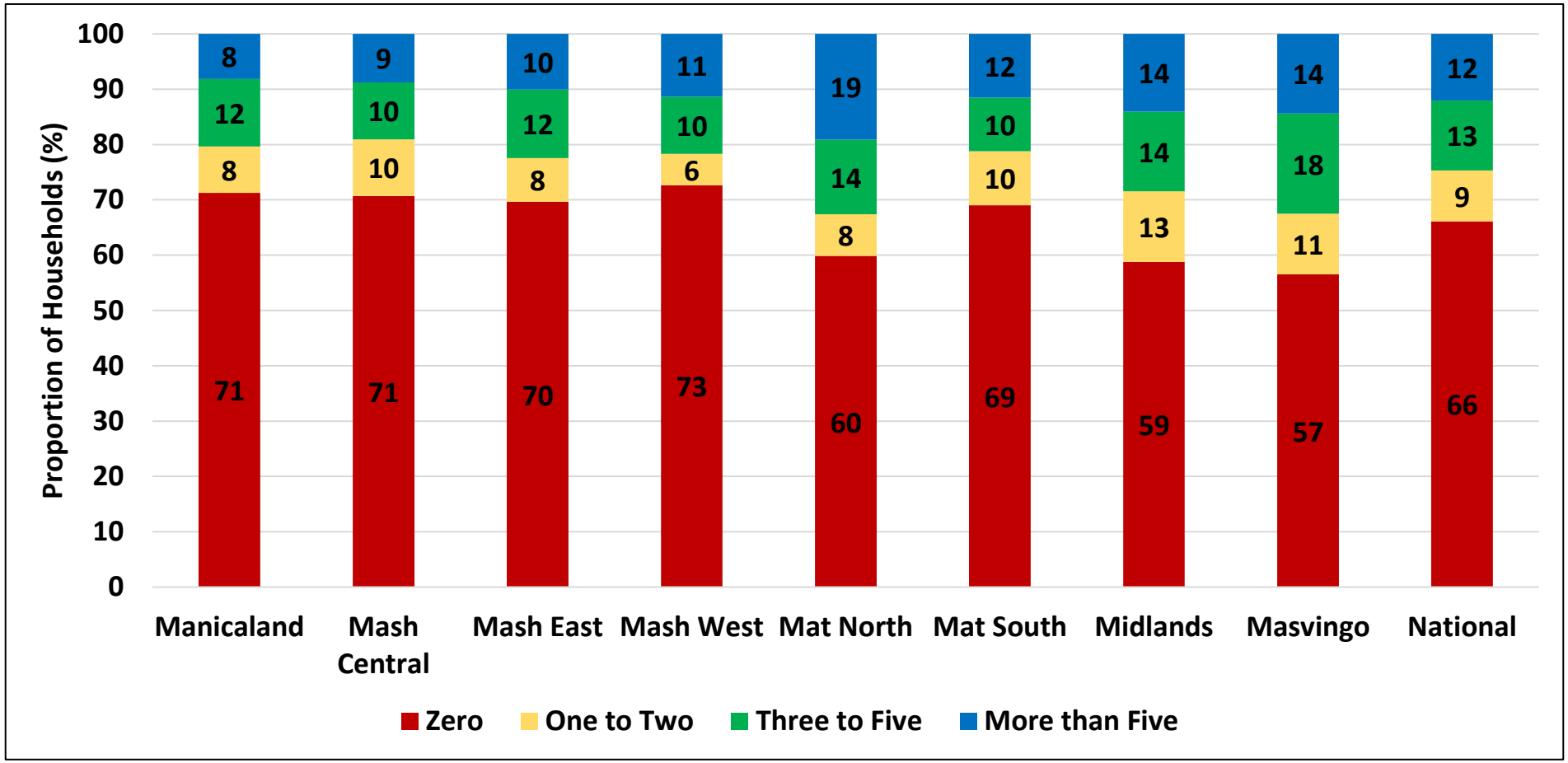
Livestock Production

Households which Owned Livestock

Province	Cattle (%)	Donkeys (%)	Sheep (%)	Goats (%)	Pigs (%)	Poultry (%)	Rabbits (%)
Manicaland	29	1	1	40	2	67	2
Mash Central	29	1	1	33	1	44	0
Mash East	30	1	2	38	1	55	1
Mash West	27	3	1	28	1	50	1
Mat North	40	15	2	48	2	55	0
Mat South	31	23	3	48	0	49	0
Midlands	41	4	0	38	2	58	1
Masvingo	43	9	4	44	2	67	2
National	**34**	**7**	**2**	**39**	**1**	**56**	**1**

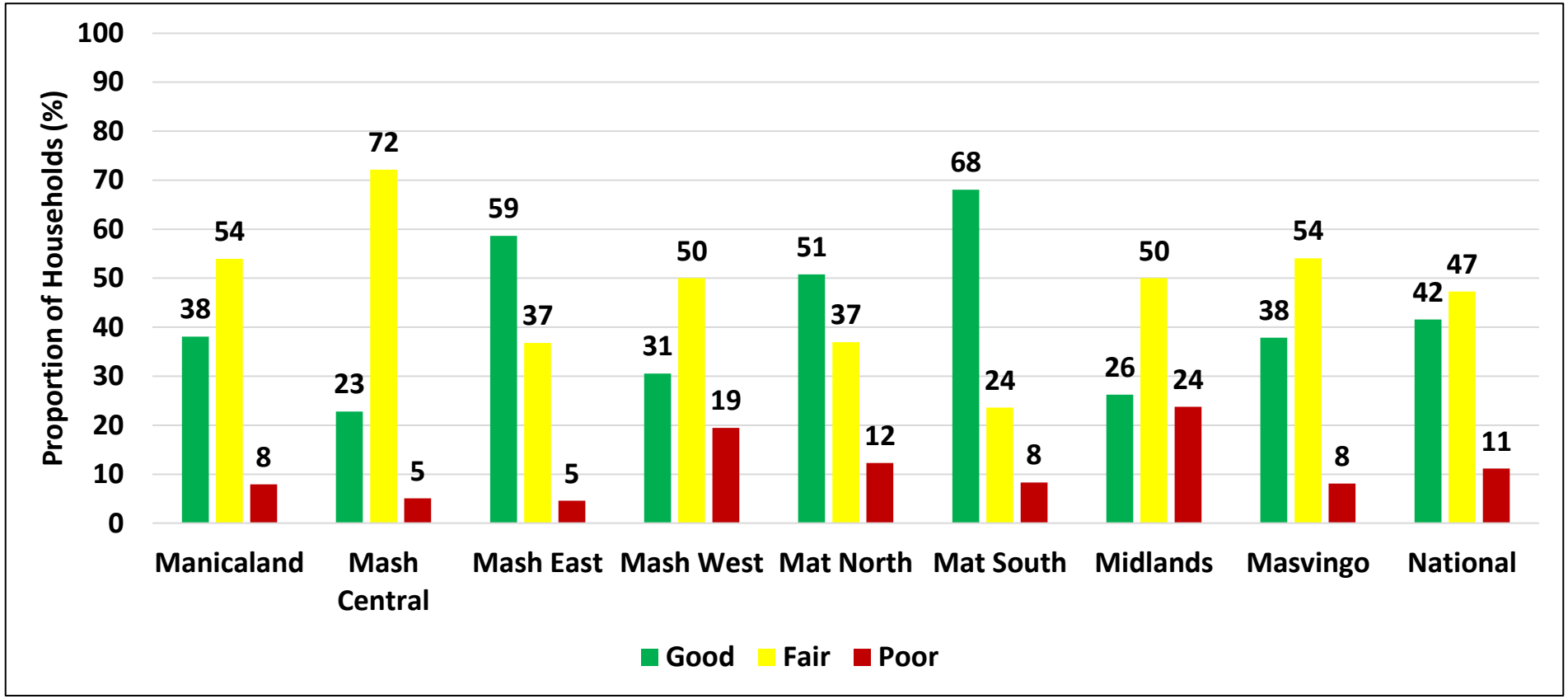
- Nationally, 39% of households owned goats and 34% owned cattle.

Cattle Ownership



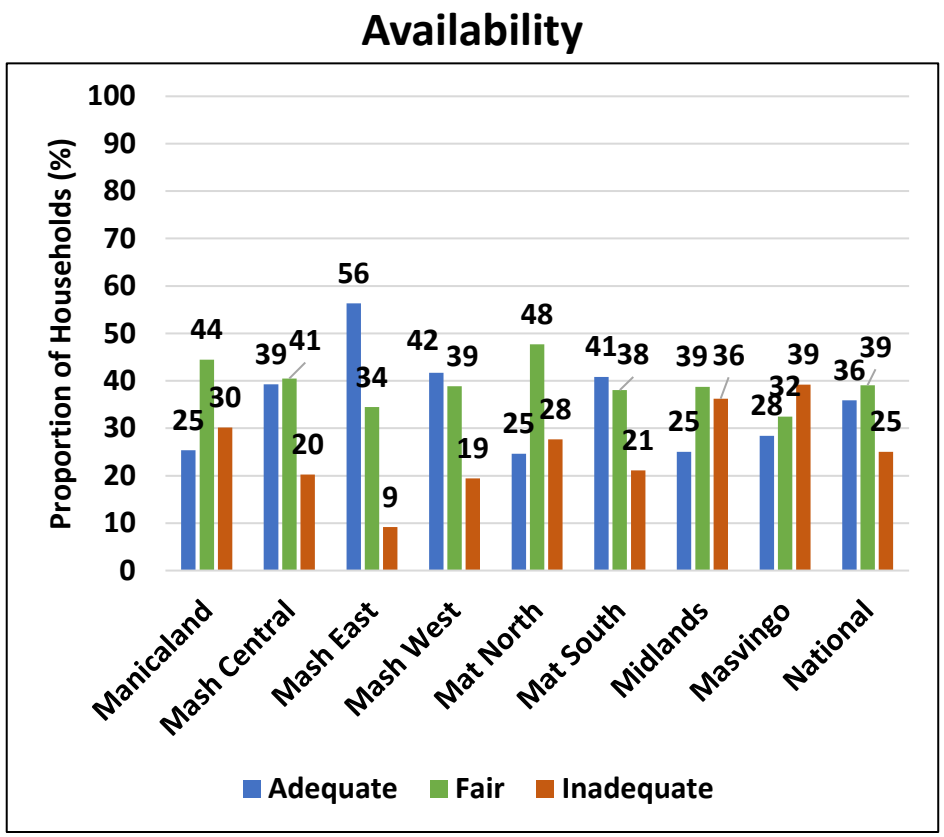
- About 66% of the households did not own any cattle.
- Only 12% of the households owned cattle in excess of 5 animals.

Livestock Condition



- About 11% of the communities indicated that their livestock were in a poor condition.

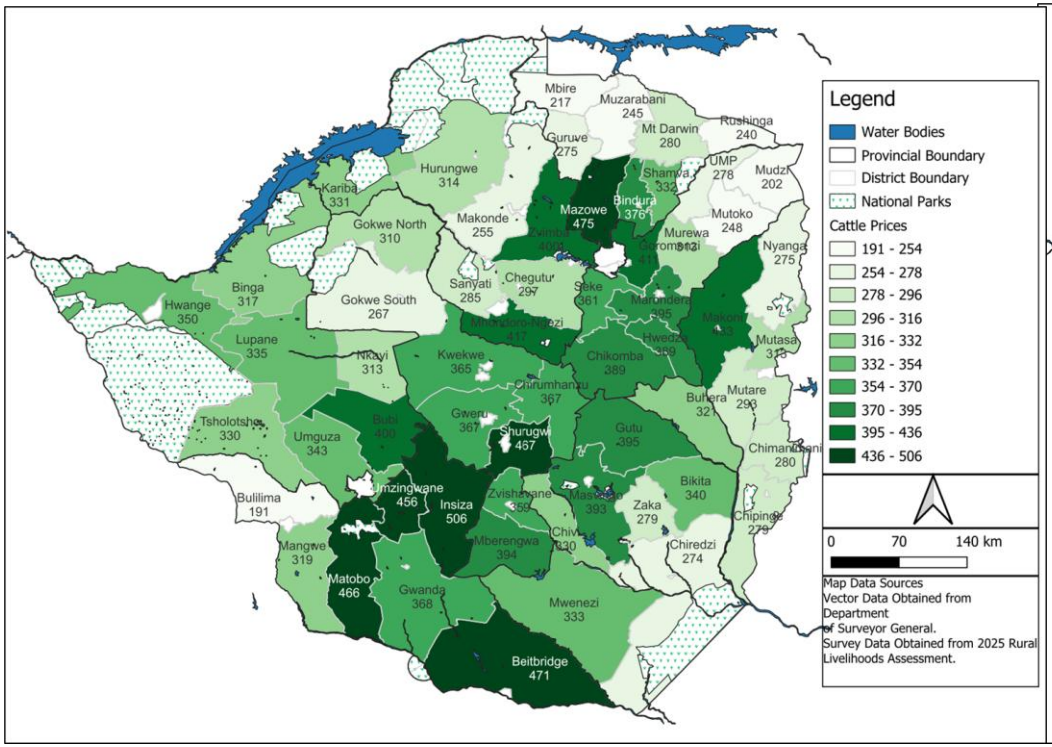
Pasture Availability and Quality



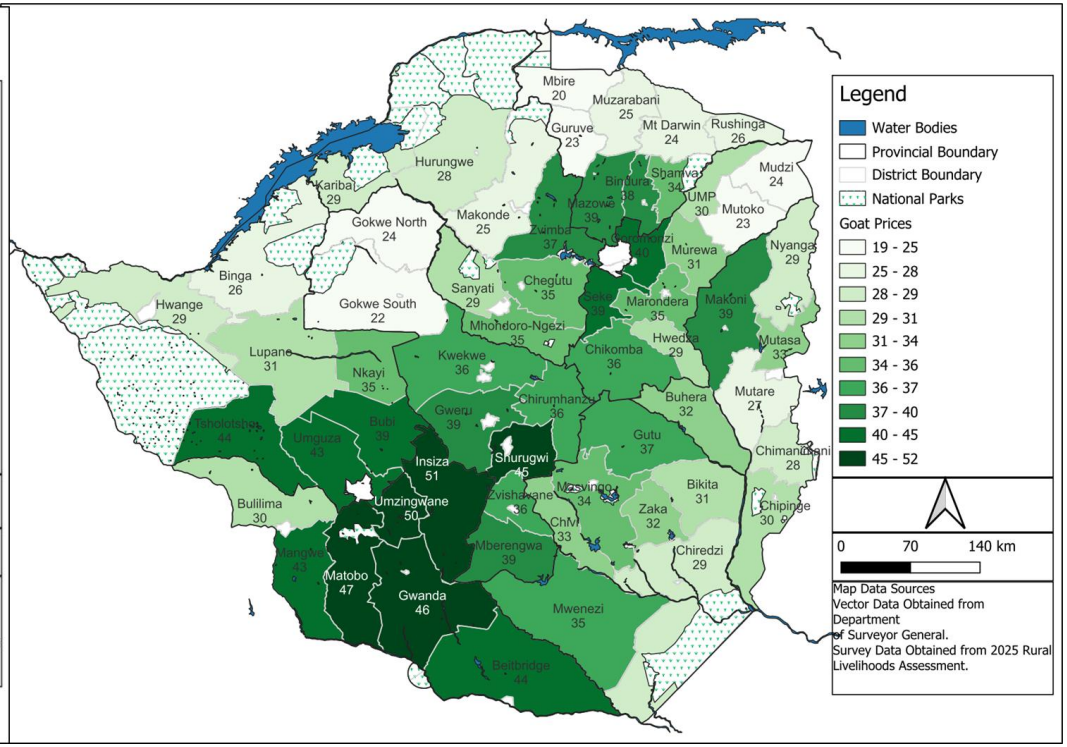
- Most communities indicated that pasture availability (39%) and pasture quality (45%) was fair at the time of the assessment.

Livestock Prices

Cattle Prices



Goat Prices



- The highest cattle prices were reported in Insiza (USD506) and the lowest were reported in Bulilima (USD191).
- The highest goat prices were reported in Insiza (USD51) and the lowest were reported in Mbire (USD20).

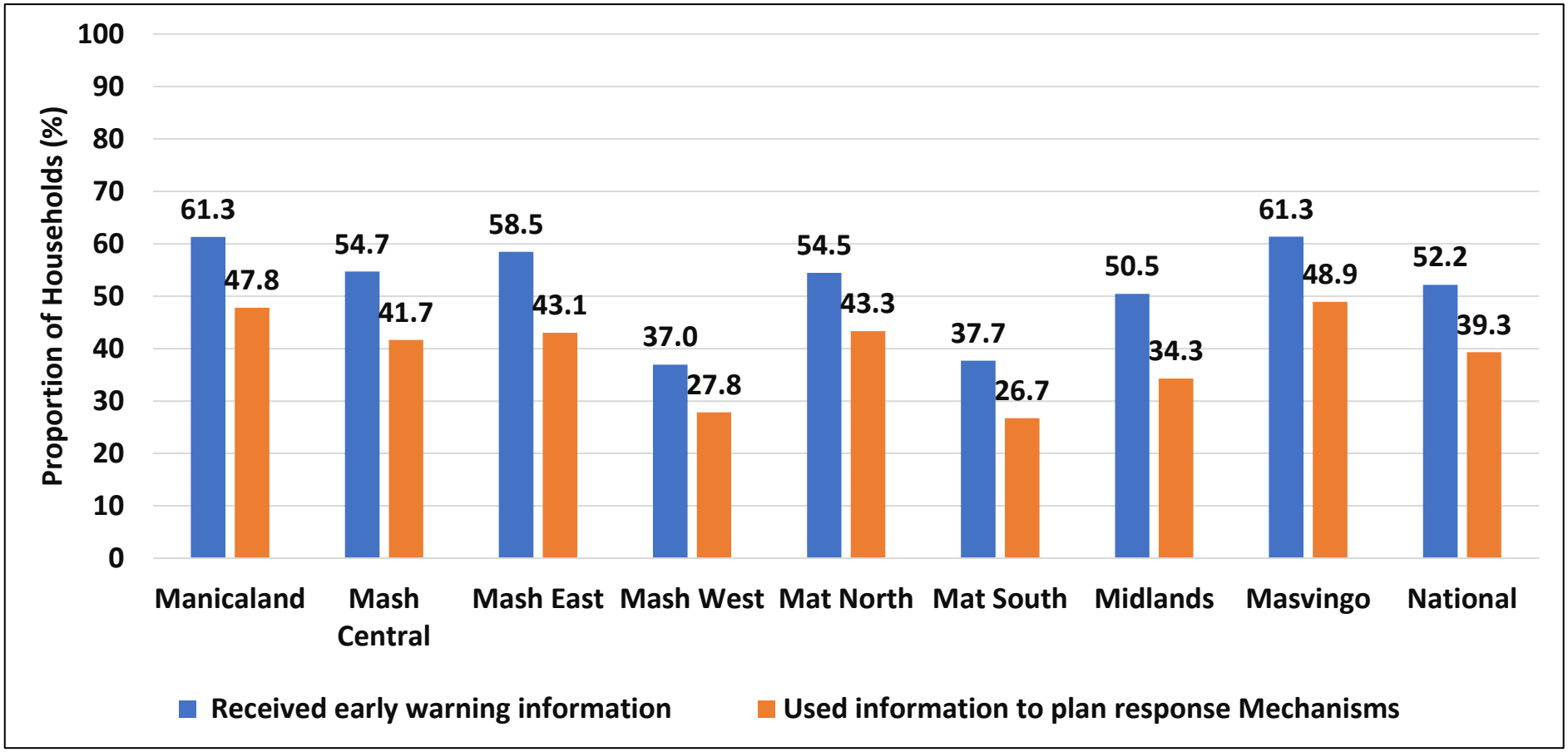
Access to Information and Critical Services

Community Access to Information on Infectious and Contagious Diseases

Province	Rabies (%)	Anthrax (%)	Cholera (%)	Typhoid (%)	Dysentery (%)	Salmonella (%)	Listeria (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	76.2	71.4	68.3	44.4	42.9	14.3	1.6	15.9
Mash Central	74.7	43.0	77.2	54.4	45.6	10.1	3.8	13.9
Mash East	77.0	59.8	78.2	59.8	47.1	23.0	14.9	13.8
Mash West	72.2	68.1	55.6	43.1	26.4	5.6	2.8	13.9
Mat North	76.9	24.6	18.5	9.2	7.7	4.6	3.1	9.2
Mat South	59.7	45.8	43.1	19.4	15.3	11.1	12.5	25.0
Midlands	68.8	57.5	53.8	22.5	16.3	7.5	3.8	28.8
Masvingo	75.7	47.3	68.9	41.9	35.1	5.4	4.1	14.9
National	**72.6**	**52.4**	**59.0**	**37.7**	**30.1**	**10.5**	**6.1**	**17.1**

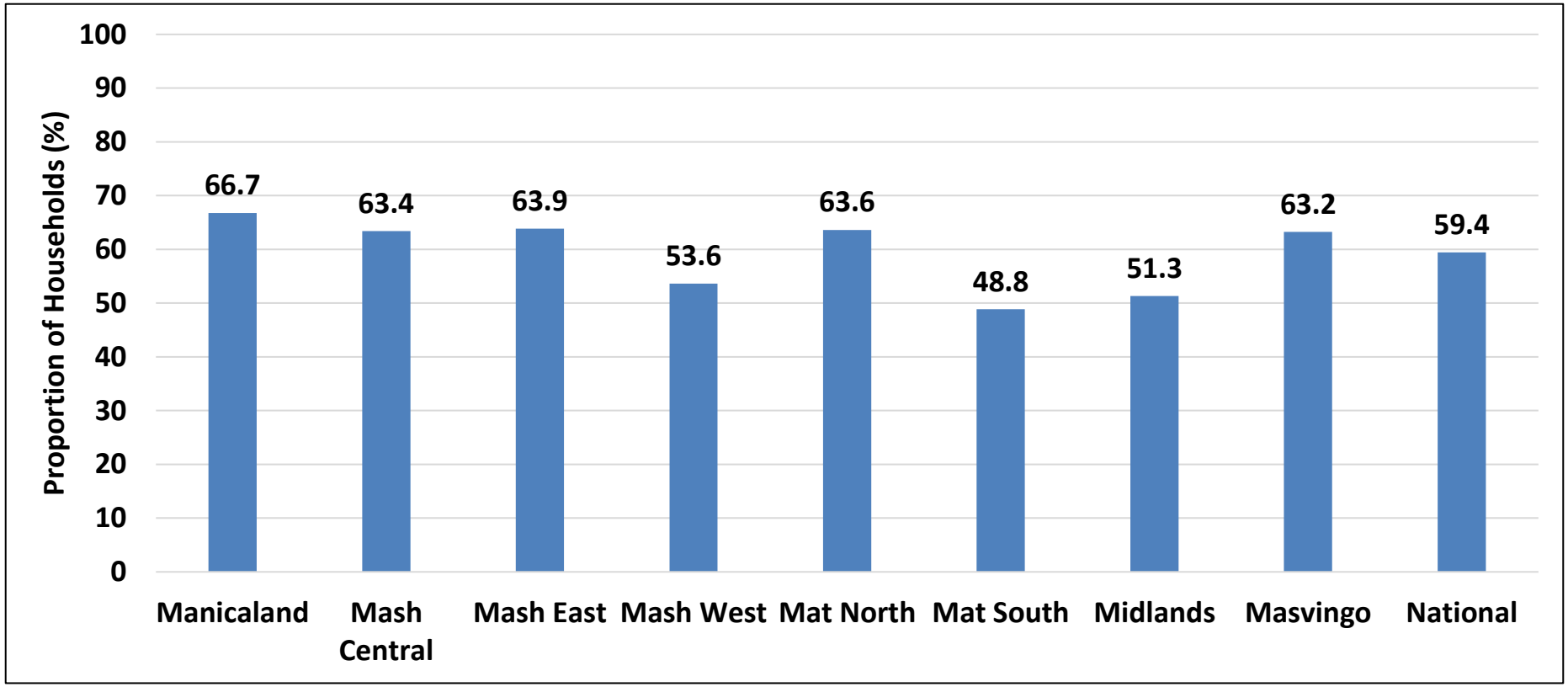
- About 72.6% of the communities had accessed information on rabies.
- Information on listeria (6.1%) was the least accessed by communities.

Access to and Use of Early Warning Information



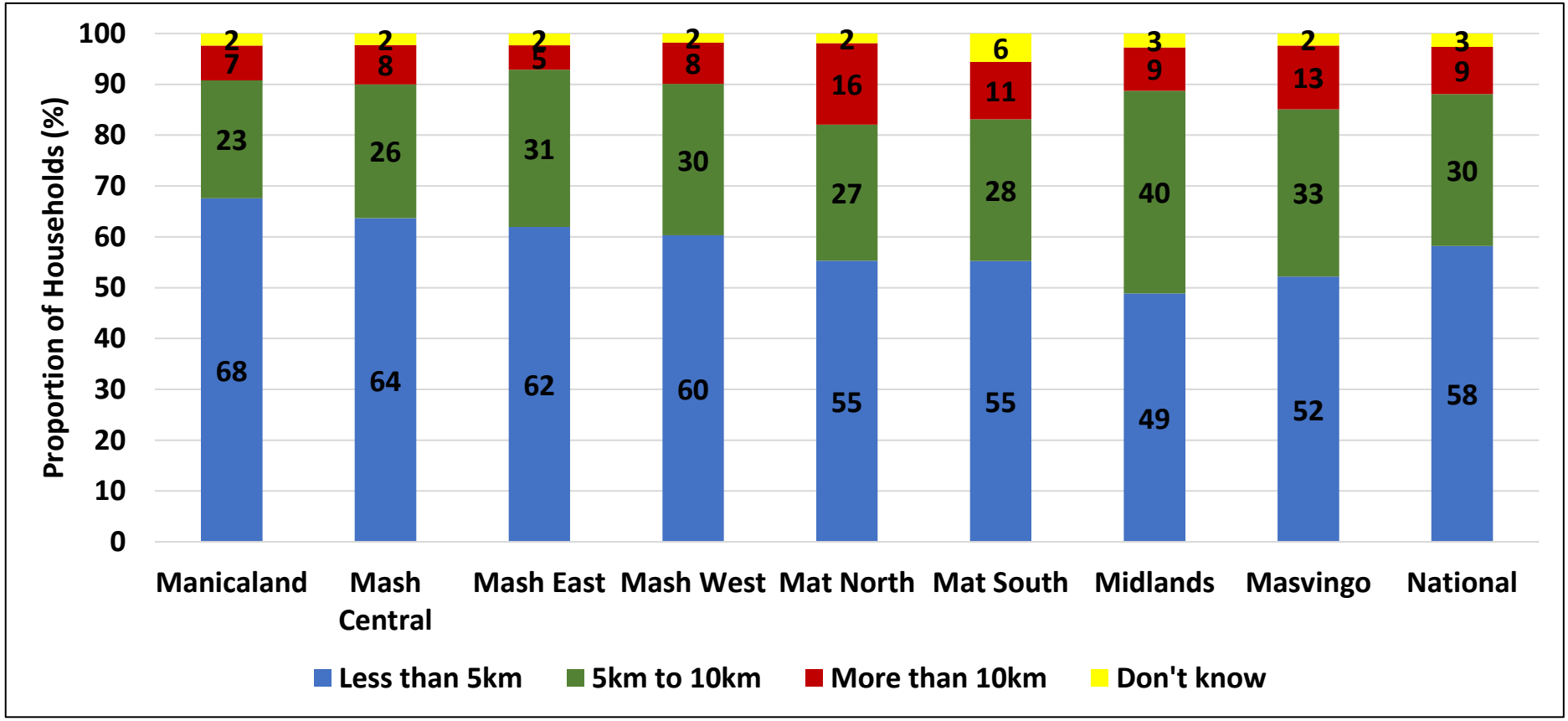
- About 52.2% of the households reported to have received early warning information.
- Only 39.3% of these households had used the information to plan risk and mitigation response mechanisms.

Households which Received Information on Health and Nutrition



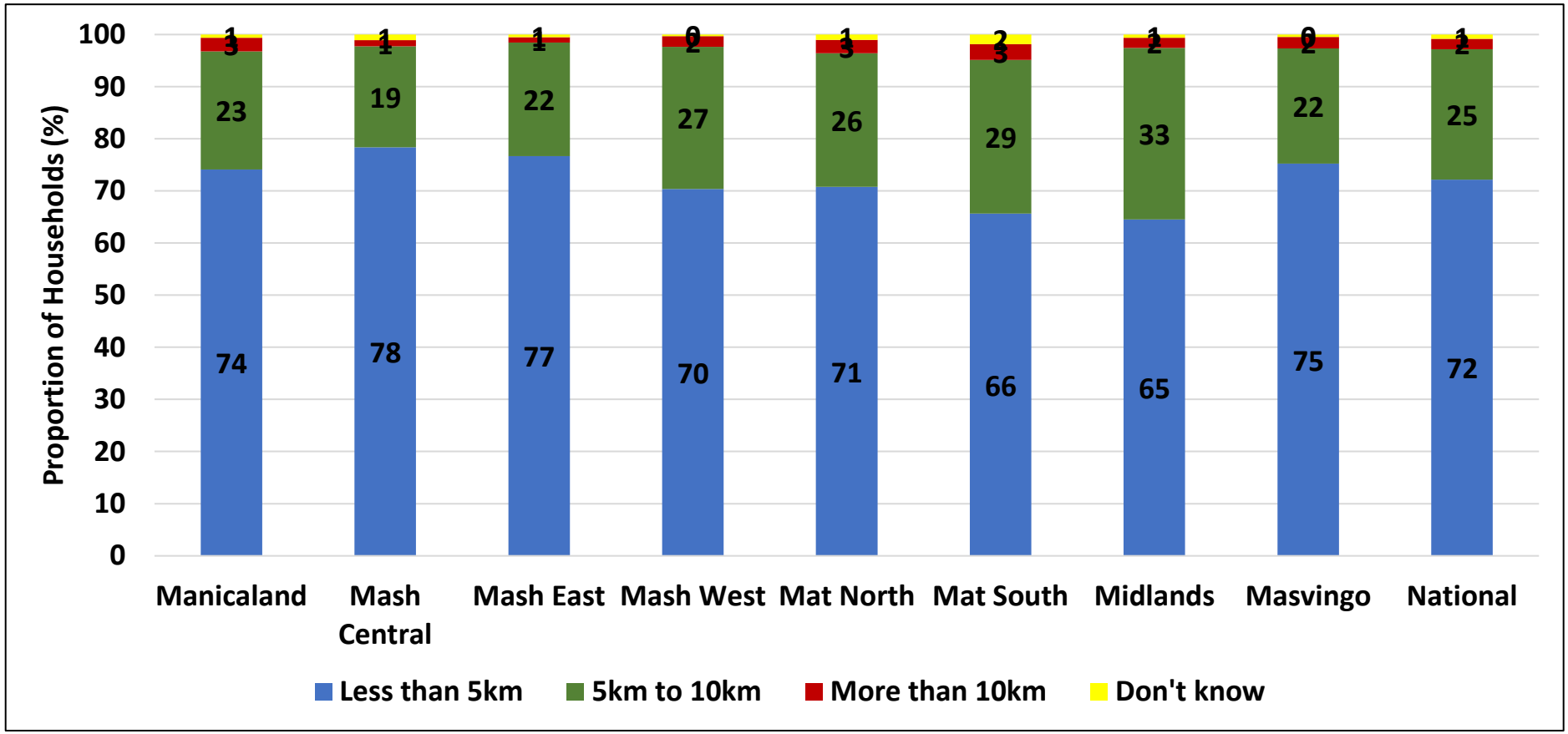
- Access to nutrition and health information empowers communities and influences consumer behavioural changes.
- Nationally, 59.4% reported to have received any information about health and nutrition.

Distance to the Nearest Health Facility/Clinic



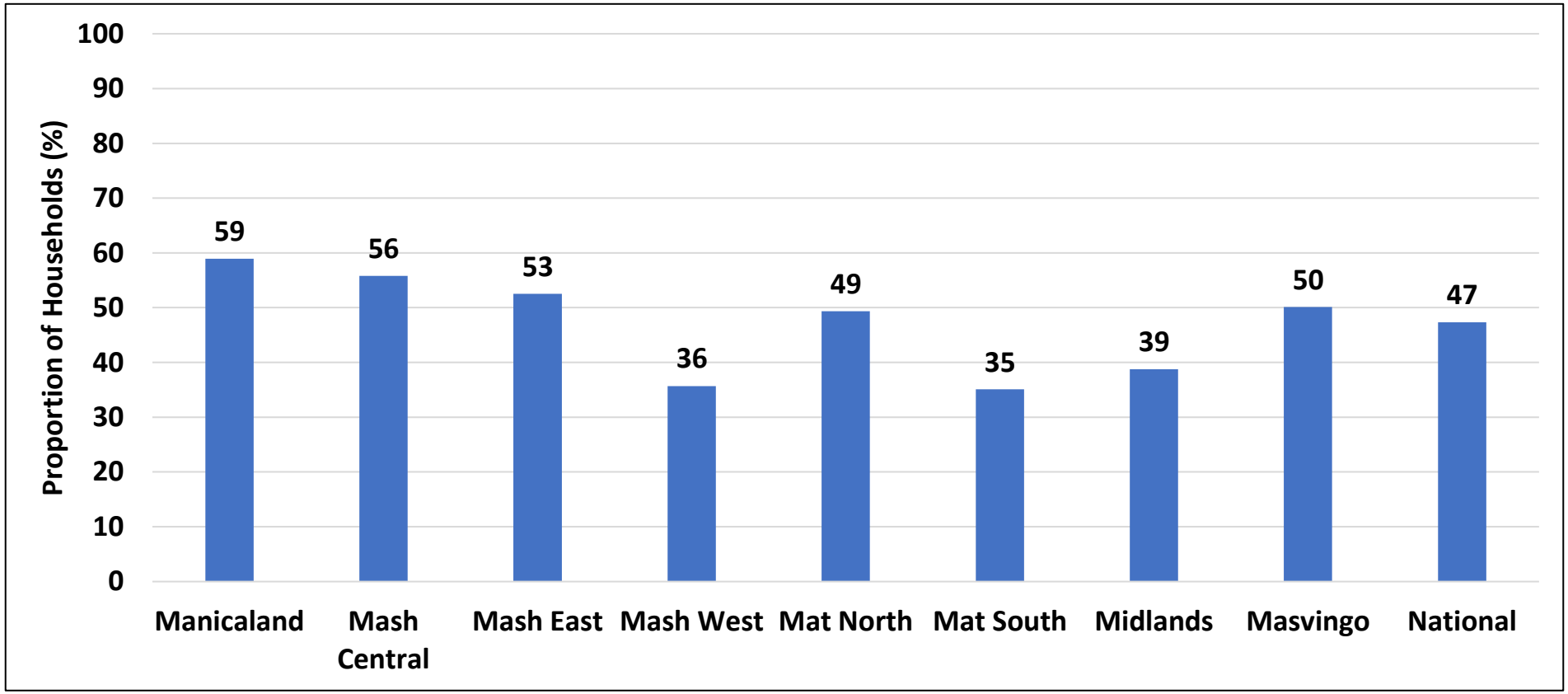
- The majority of the households (58%) had their nearest health facility within a 5km radius, which is the recommended distance for health facilities.
- However, about 9% of households were travelling more than 10km to access a health facility.

Distance to the Nearest Primary School



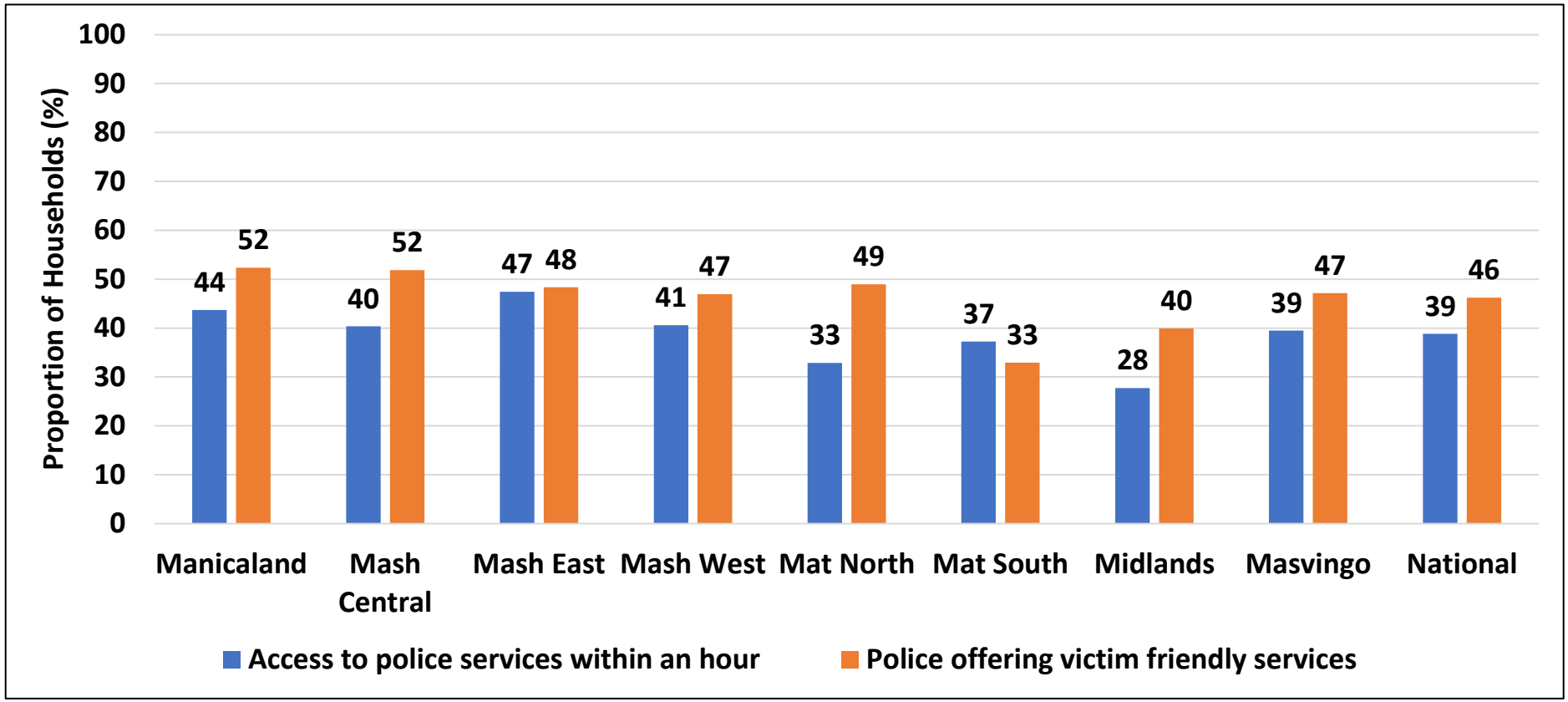
- About 72% of the households had a primary school that was within a 5km radius.

Access to Information on Services for Victims of Physical and Sexual Abuse



- About 47% of the households had access to information on services available for victims of physical and sexual abuse.

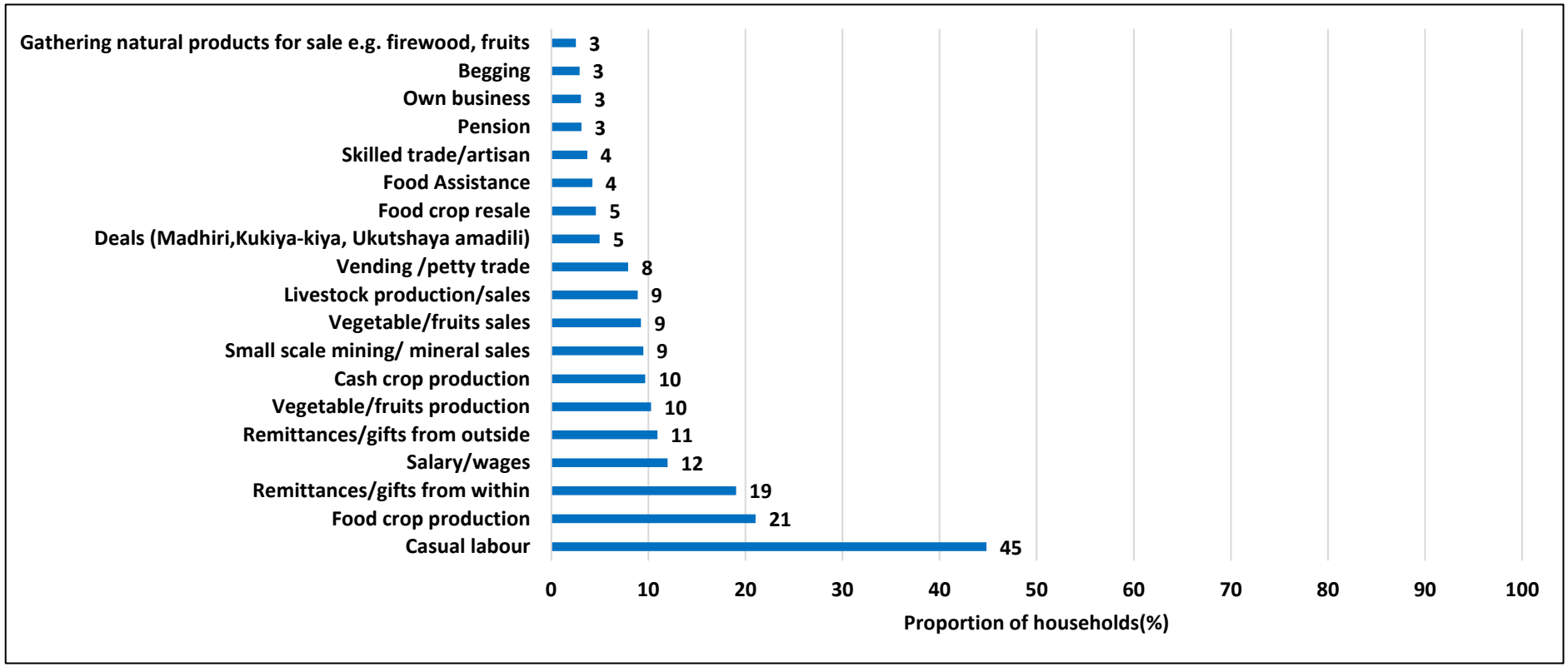
Access to Police Services



- Nationally, 39% of the households were accessing police services within one hour and 46% reported that the police services were offering victim friendly services.

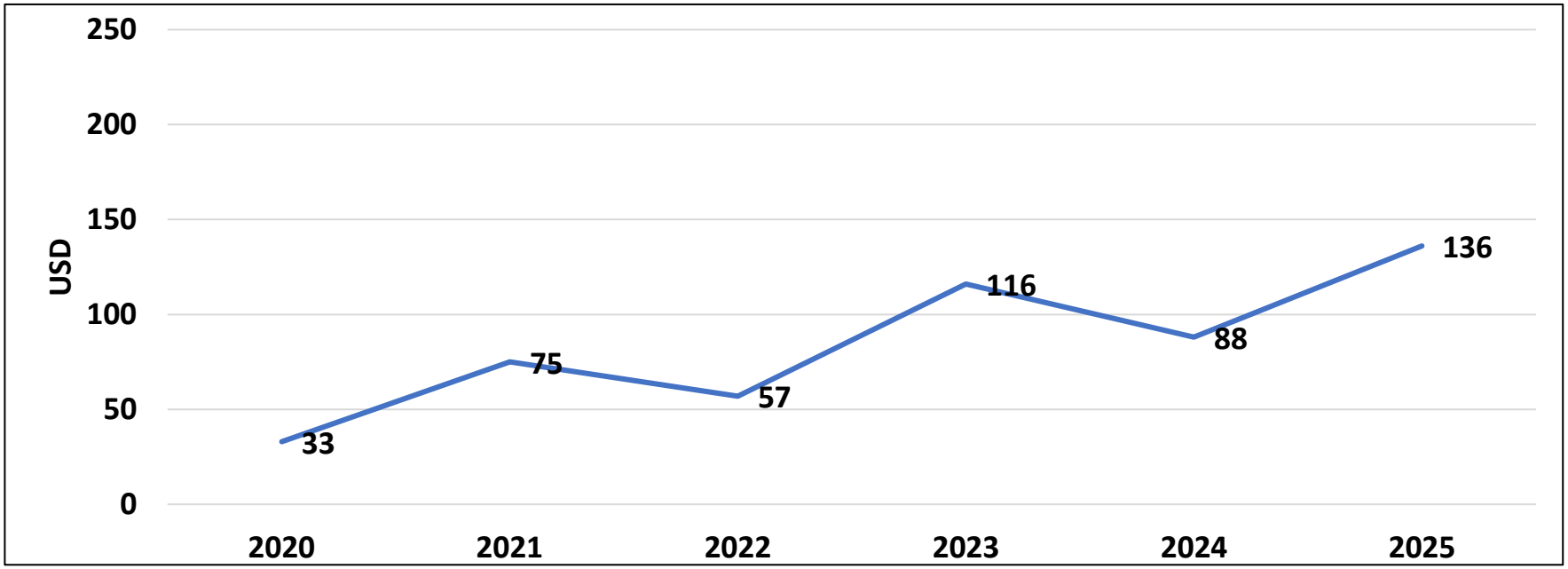
Income and Expenditure

Household Main Income Sources



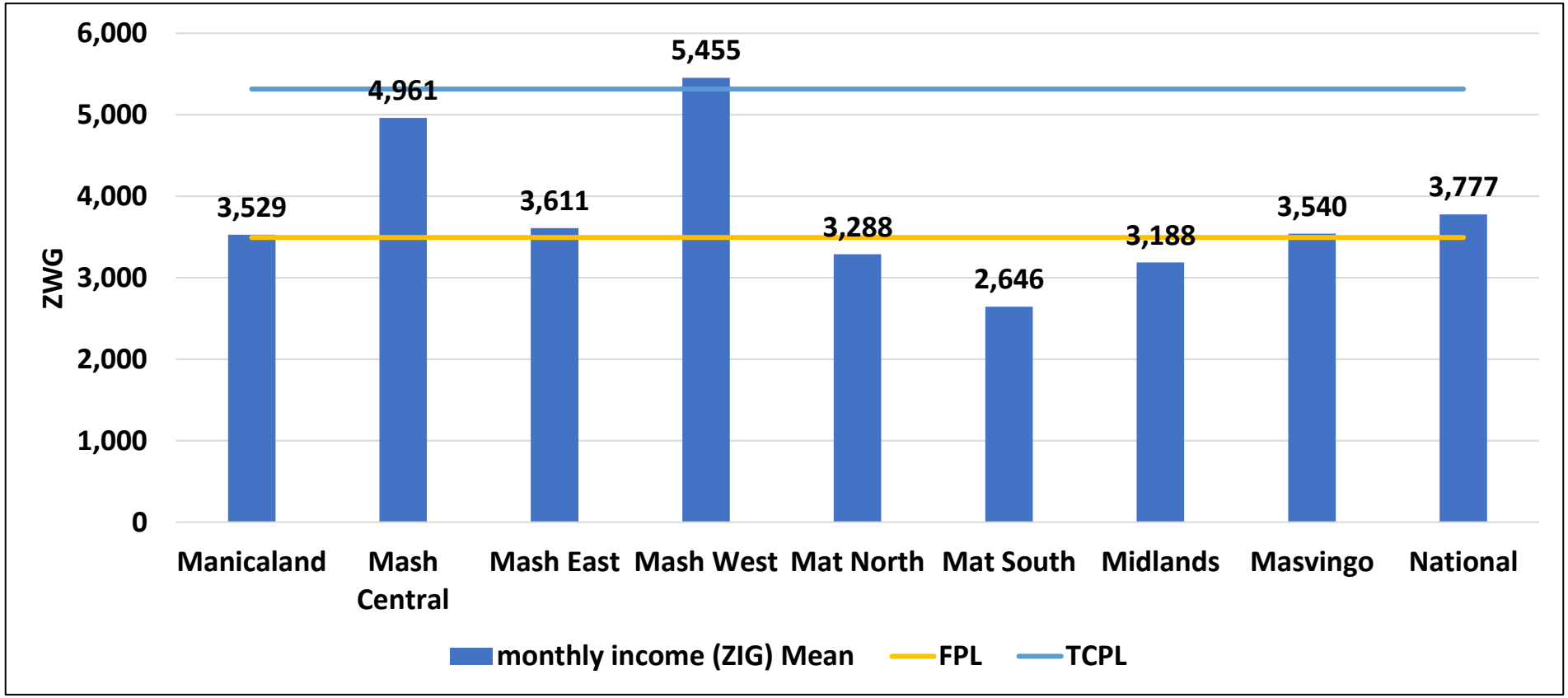
- Income is a proxy for economic status, living standards and wellbeing.
- Most households relied on casual labour (45%), food crop production (21%) and remittances from within Zimbabwe (19%) in 2025.

Income Trends (USD): 2020-2025



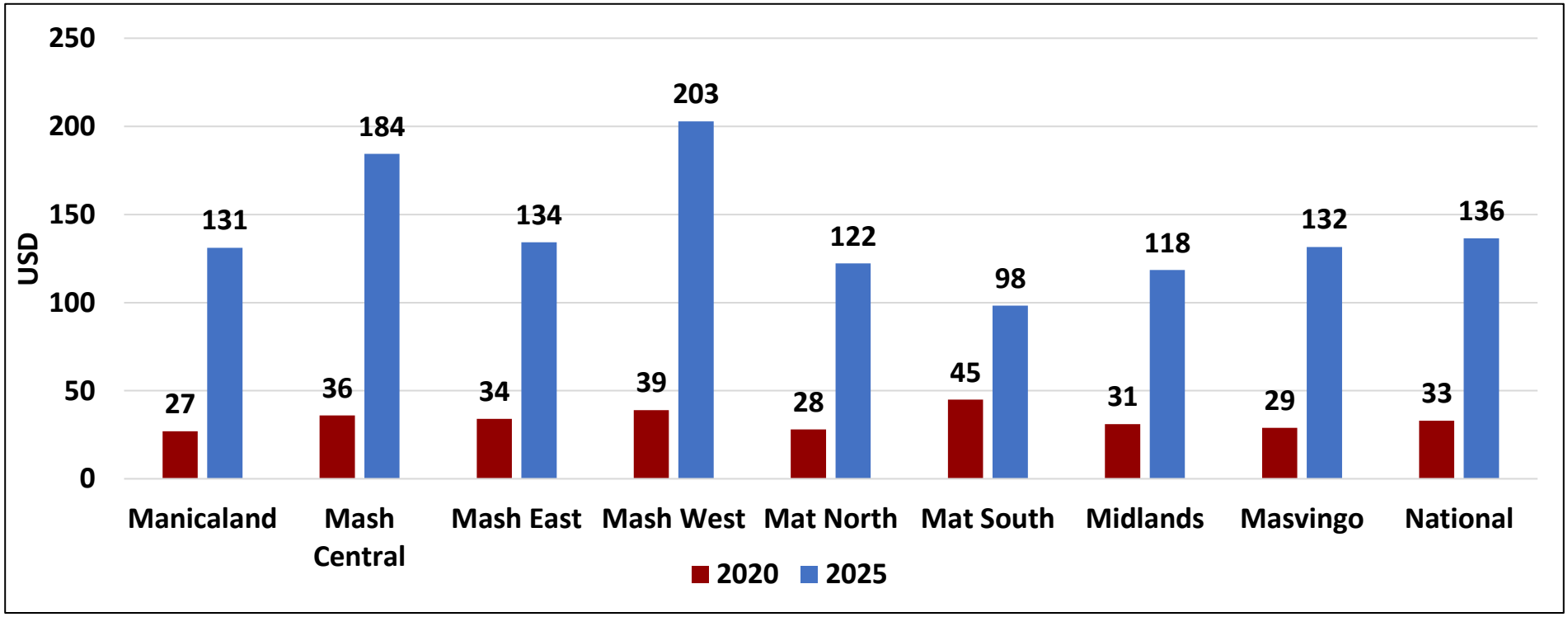
- Compared to base year 2020, there has been a positive impact on the economy as evidenced by rural incomes which have been increasing.
- There was 312% increase in households' purchasing power as evidenced by average household incomes increasing from USD 33 in 2020 to USD 136 in 2025.
- This is expected to continue contributing to a higher material quality of life, broadly contributing to increased consumer spending, economic growth, higher savings and investments, improved standard of living and reduced inequality.

Average Household Monthly Income -April 2025 (ZWG)



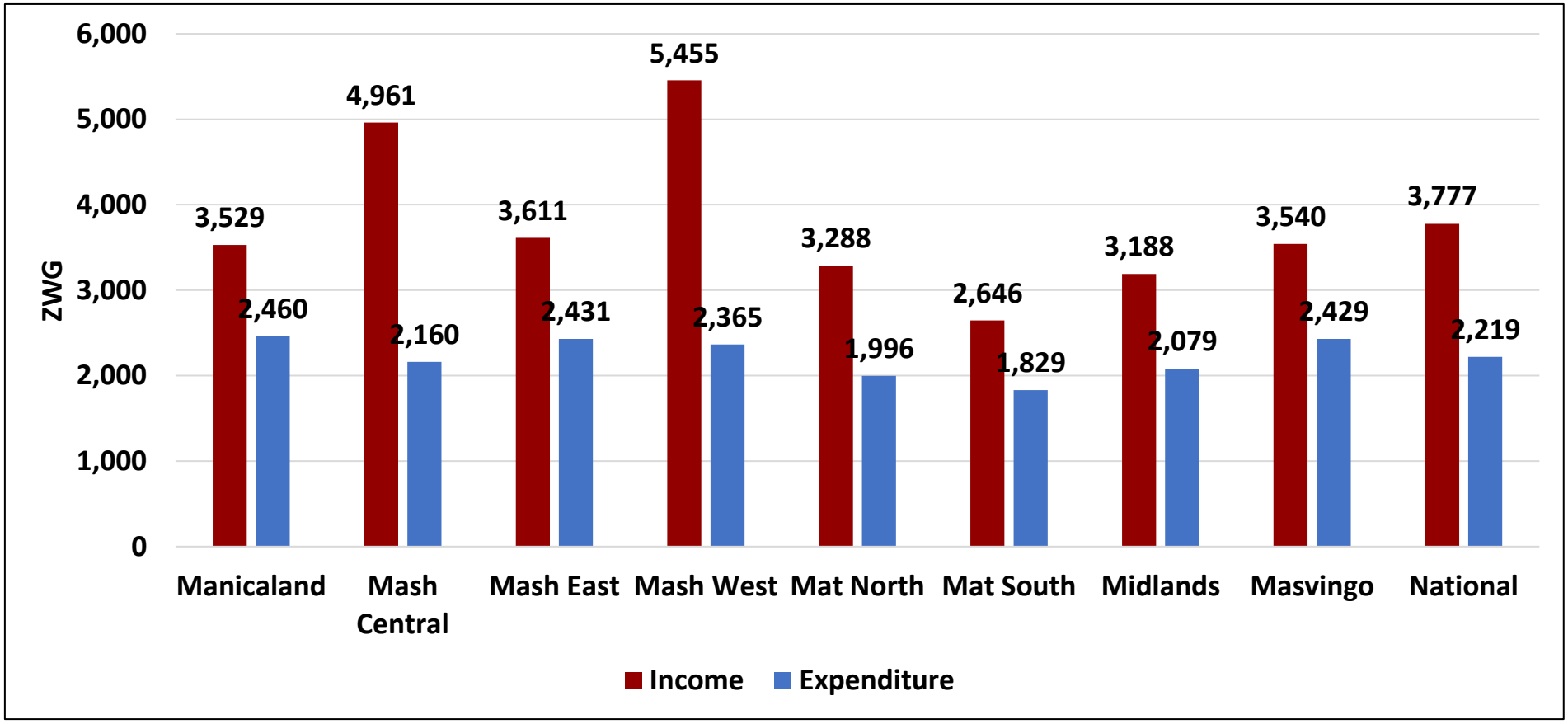
- Average monthly income for the Month of April 2025 was ZWG 3,777. This was above the Food Poverty Line.
- Mashonaland West (ZWG 5,455) had the highest income.

Average Household Monthly Income-April 2025 (USD)



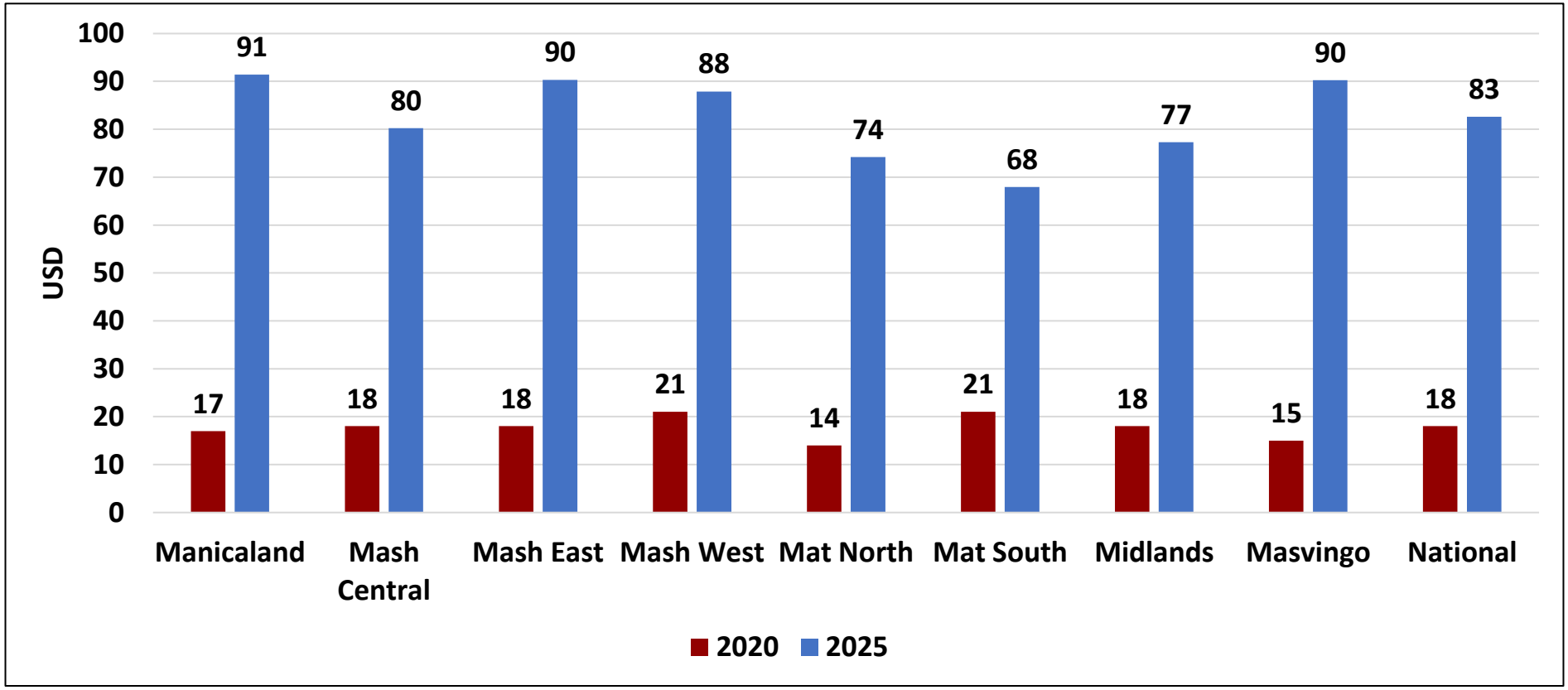
- Mashonaland West had the highest average household monthly income (USD 203) for April 2025 while Matabeleland South (USD 98) had the lowest.
- Government is commended for facilitating an enabling environment as reflected in an increase in the average monthly income for January 2025. Increased income levels in an economy are vital for overall economic wellbeing and societal progress.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure-April 2025 (ZWG)



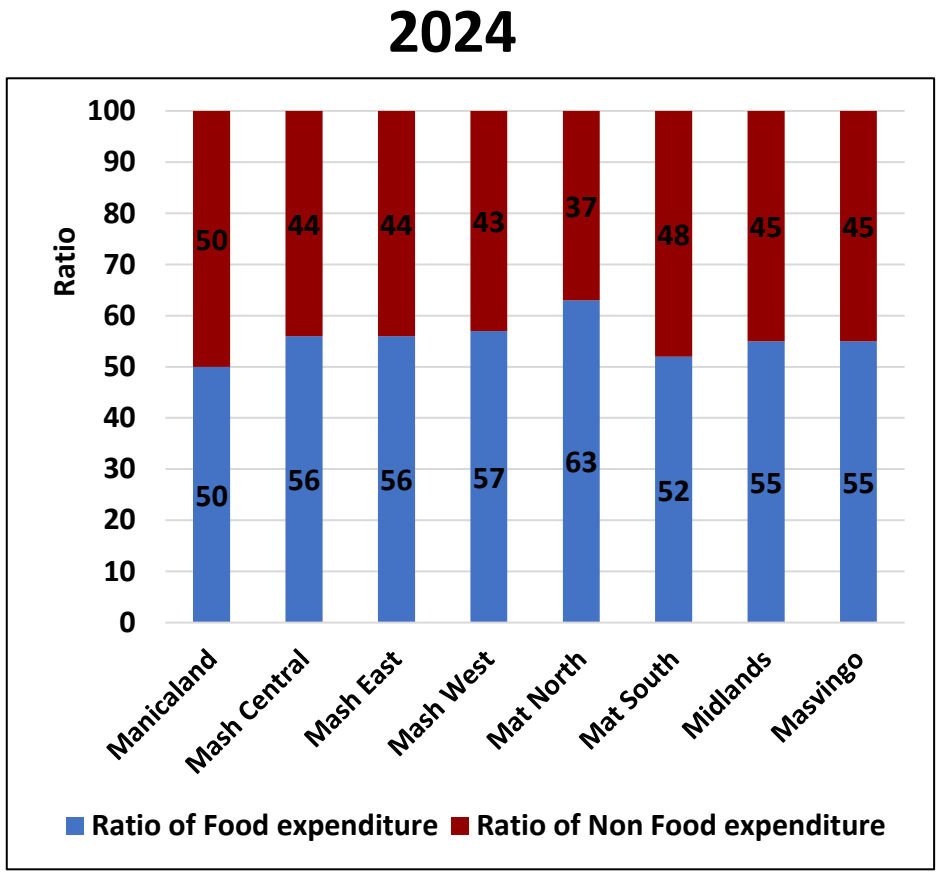
- The average household monthly expenditure was ZWG 2,219 in April 2025.
- Matabeleland South (ZWG1,829) had the lowest monthly expenditure.

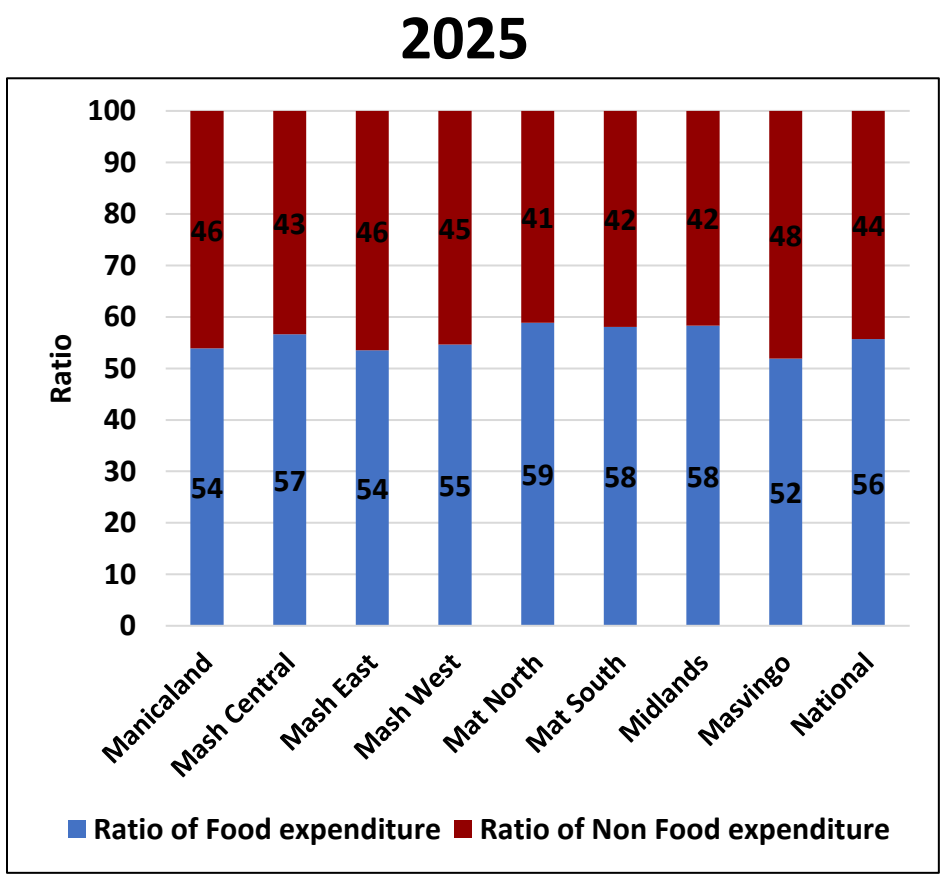
Average Household Monthly Expenditure-April 2025



- The average household monthly expenditure for the month of April 2025 was USD83, an increase from USD 18 in 2020.
- Matabeleland South (USD 68) reported the lowest expenditure.

Food and Non-Food Expenditure Ratio

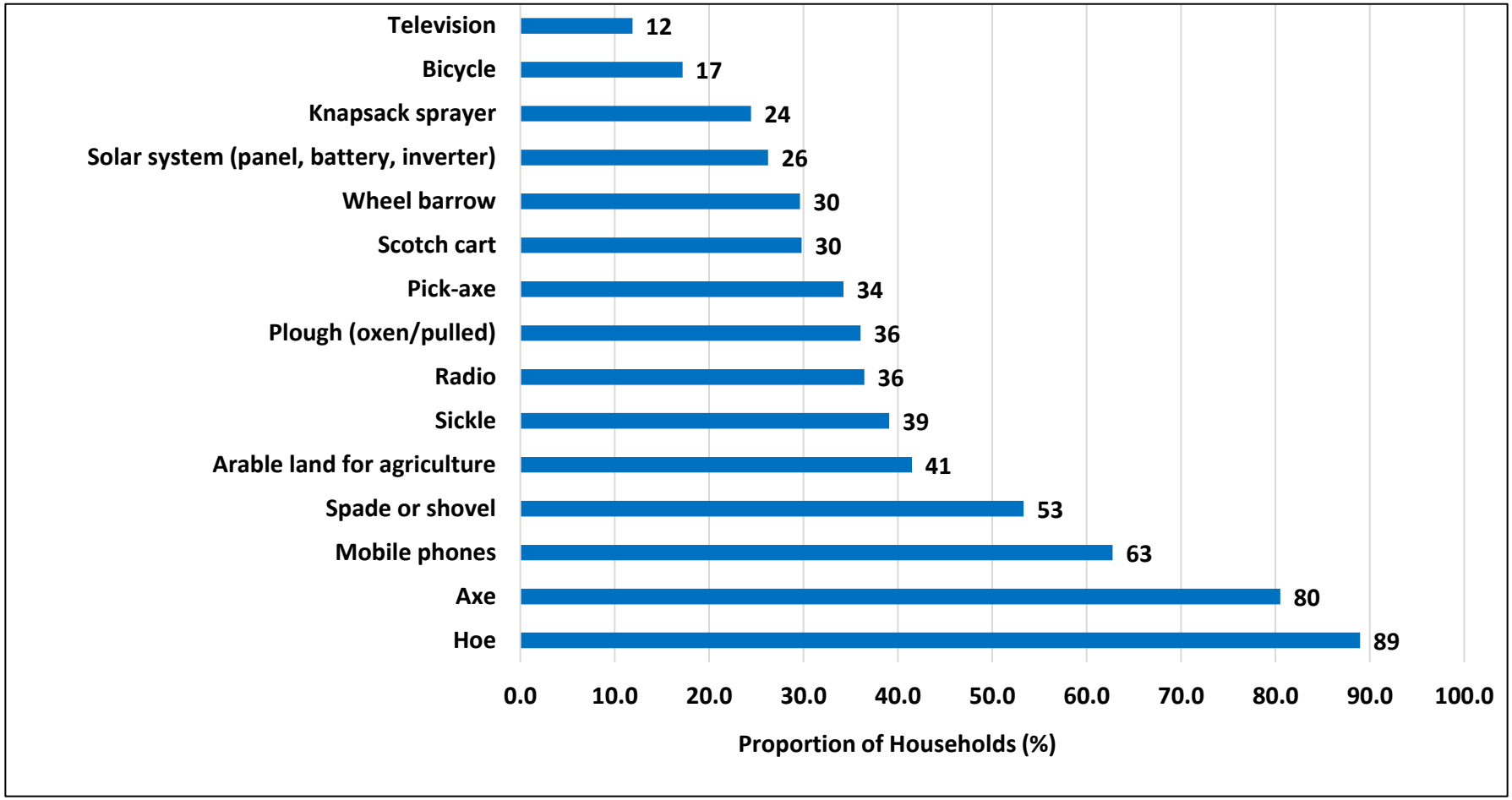




- The food expenditure ratio was 56.

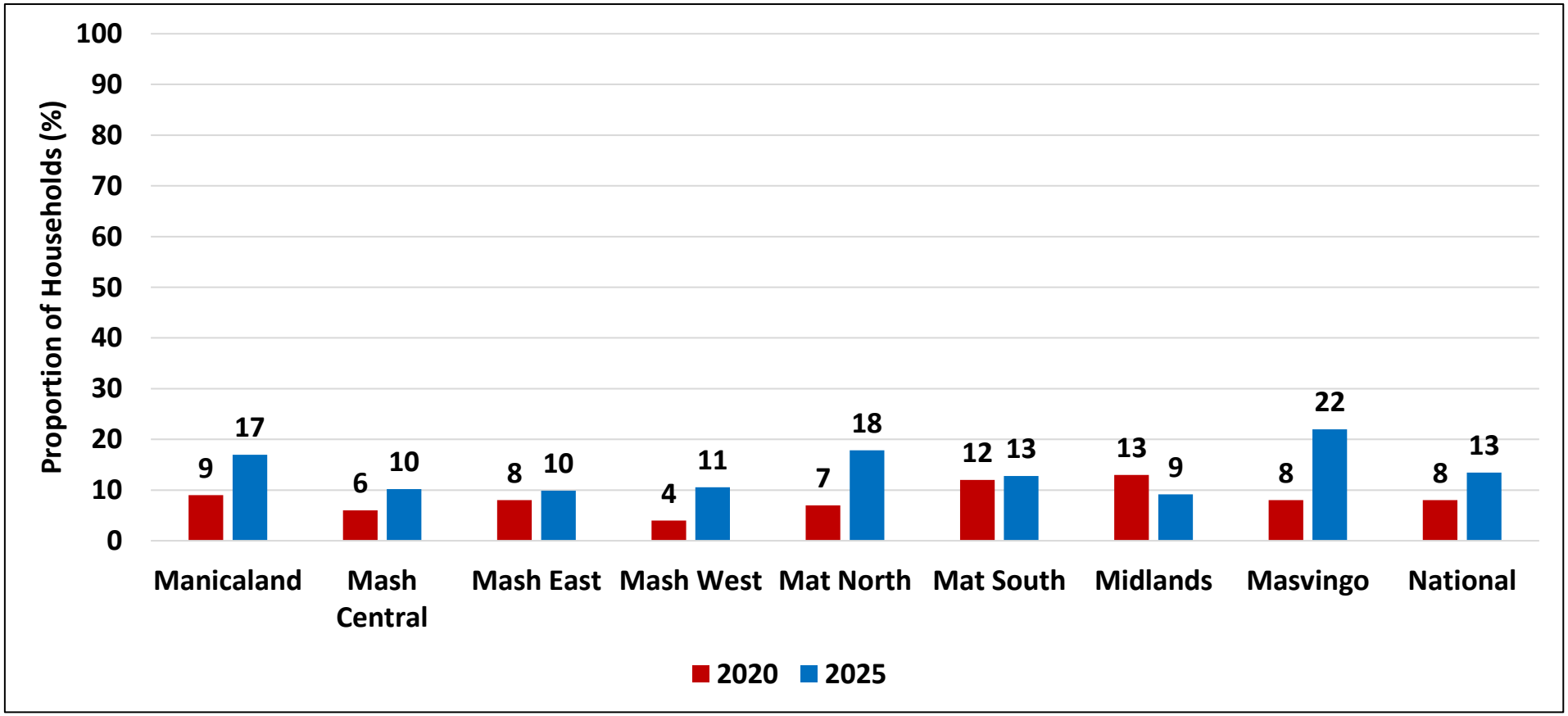
Assets, Loans and Remittances

Assets



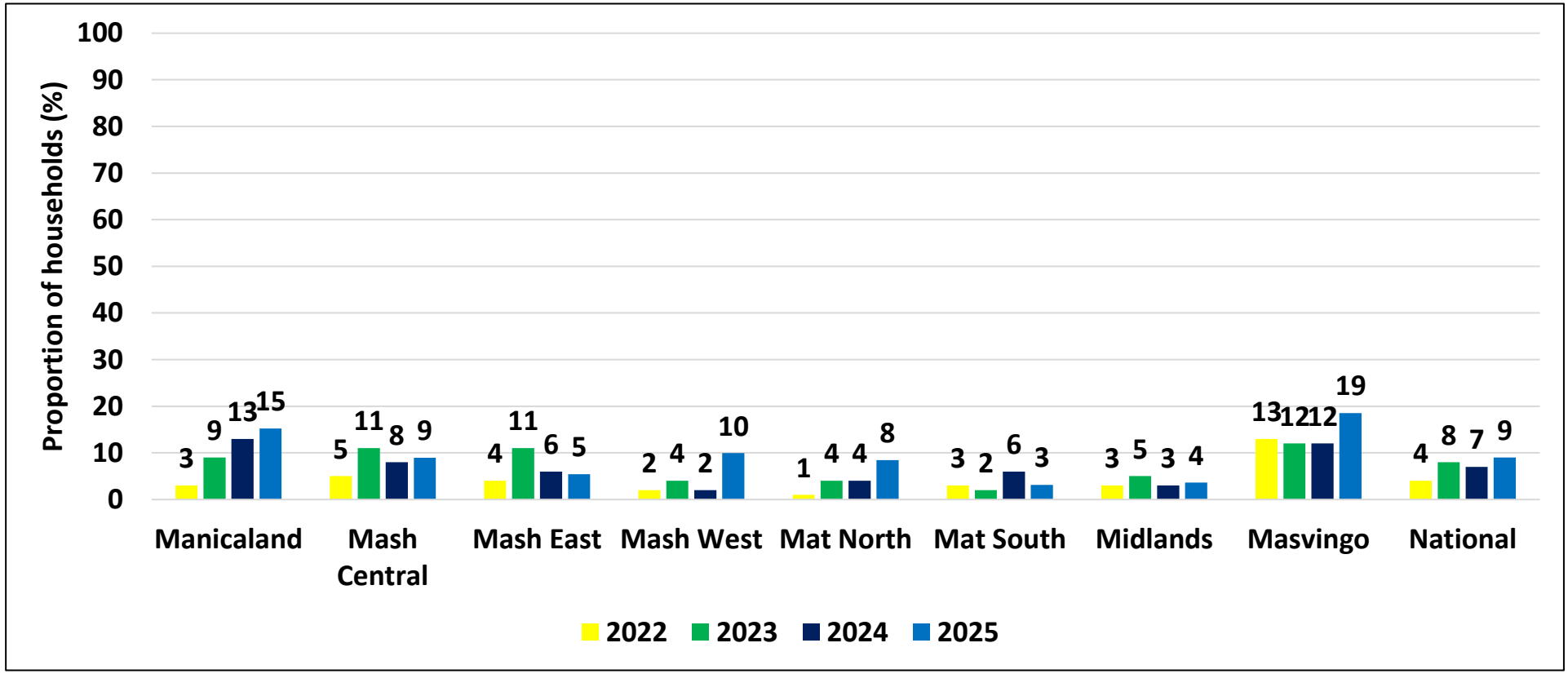
- The most commonly owned assets by households were hoes (89%), axes (80%) and mobile phones (63%).

Households Participating in ISALS/Mukando/Ukuqogelela



- There was an increase in the proportion of households participating in ISALS/Mukando/Ukuqogelela from 8% in 2020 to 13% in 2025.

Households that Accessed Loans



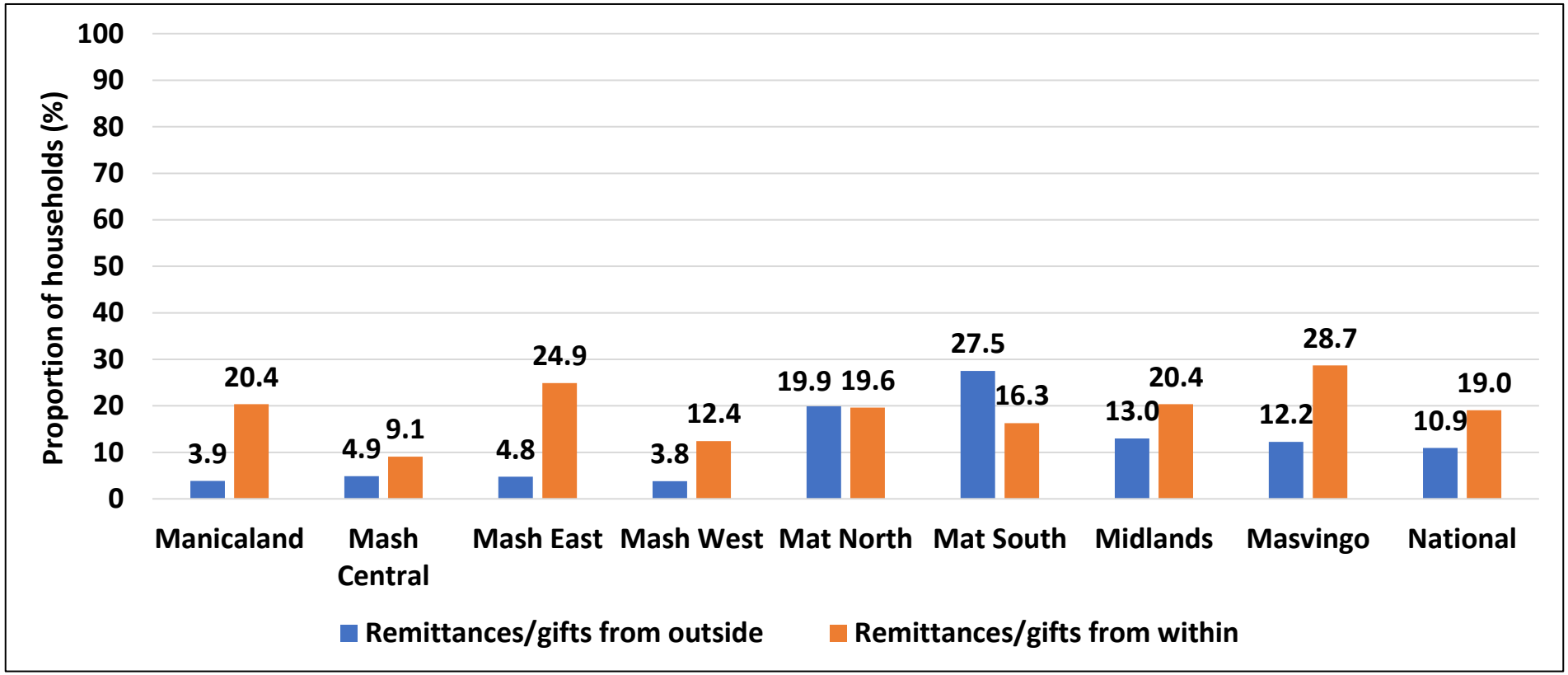
- The proportion of households that accessed loans was 9% in 2025, an increase from 4% in 2022.
- Masvingo (19%) had the highest proportion of households that accessed loans in 2025.

Sources of Loans

Province	Friend/relative (%)	Money lender (%)	Banks (%)	Micro finance institutions (%)	Other Financial Services (%)	ISAL/Mukando/ Ukuqogelela (%)	Farmer's organization (%)	Local trader/ shopkeeper (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	3.9	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	9.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mash Central	1.9	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	5.3	1.0	0.1	0.2
Mash East	2.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.6	0.4	0.0	0.1
Mash West	3.1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	3.0	1.0	0.1	1.3
Mat North	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	6.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Mat South	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Midlands	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.1	0.0
Masvingo	5.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.1	12.1	0.3	0.3	0.0
National	**2.2**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**5.4**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.2**

- The main source of loans for the households was ISAL/Mukando/Ukuqogelela (5.4%).

Households which Received Remittances/Gifts

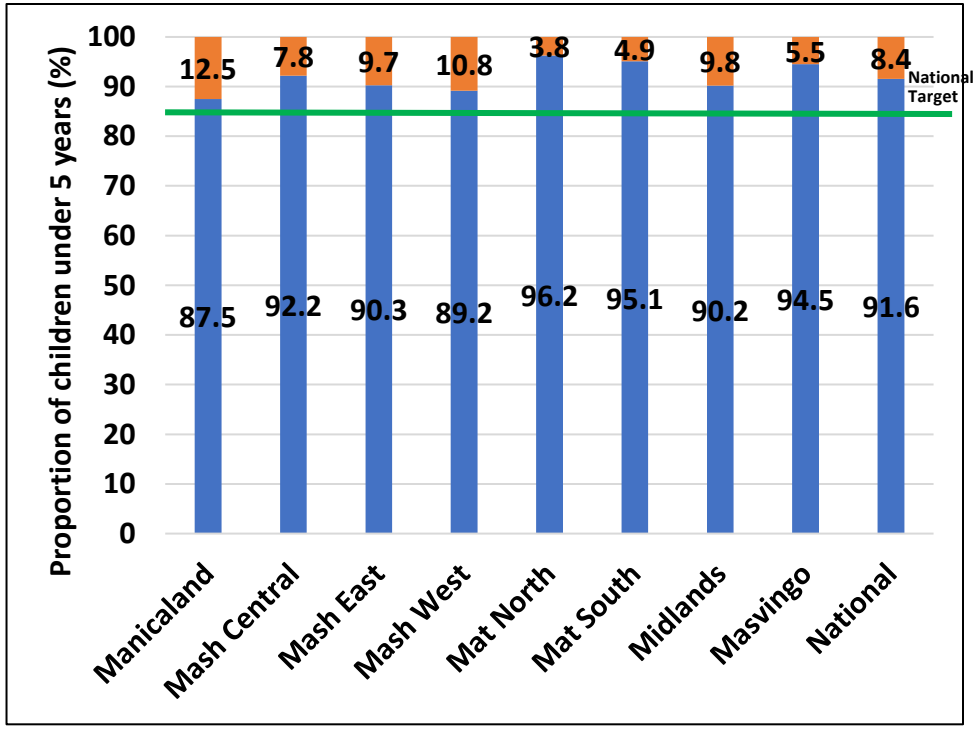


- Remittances/gifts received were mainly from within the country (19%).
- Masvingo (28.7%) had the highest proportion of households which received remittances/gifts from within the country
- Matabeleland South (27.5%) had the highest proportion of households which received remittances from outside the country.

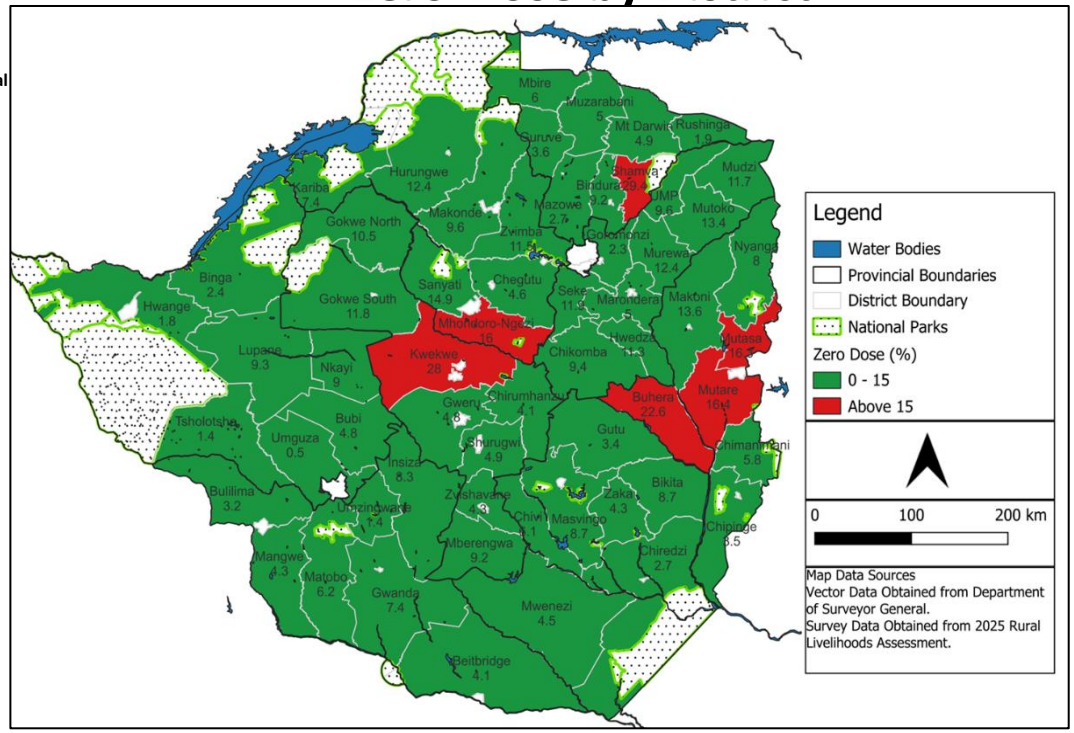
Nutrition

Vaccination Status of Children (0-59 Months)

Vaccination Since Birth



Zero-Dose by District



- Immunization allows children everywhere to live lives free of many forms of disability and illness. The Government is commended for successfully reaching the national target of 85% for children that had received vaccination since birth. However, attention should be given to districts with low vaccination whose zero dosage was above 15 % (Shamva, Kwekwe, Buhera, Mutare, Mutasa and Mhondoro-Ngezi).

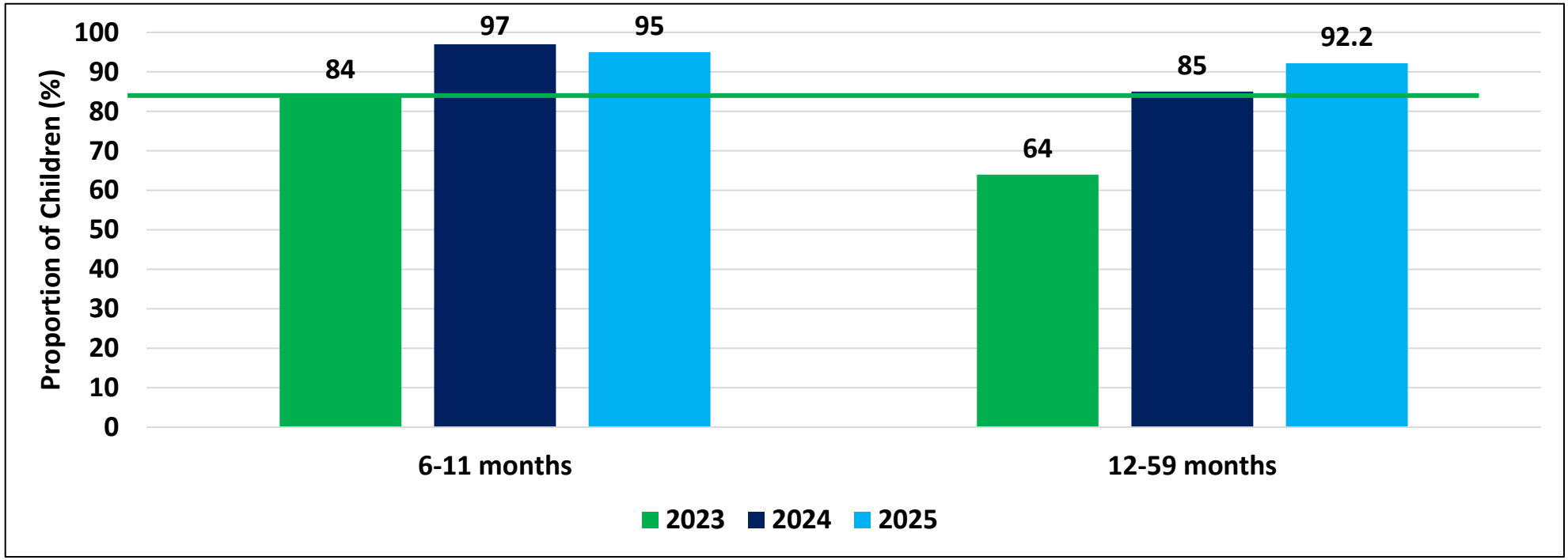
Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-59 Months

- The World Health Organization recommends Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) once every six months for children in the age group of 6 59 months.
- Vitamin A supplementation has been proven to lower the risks of mortality, incidence of diarrhoea and measles in children, particularly those aged 6 months to 5 years.

The Zimbabwe VAS schedule

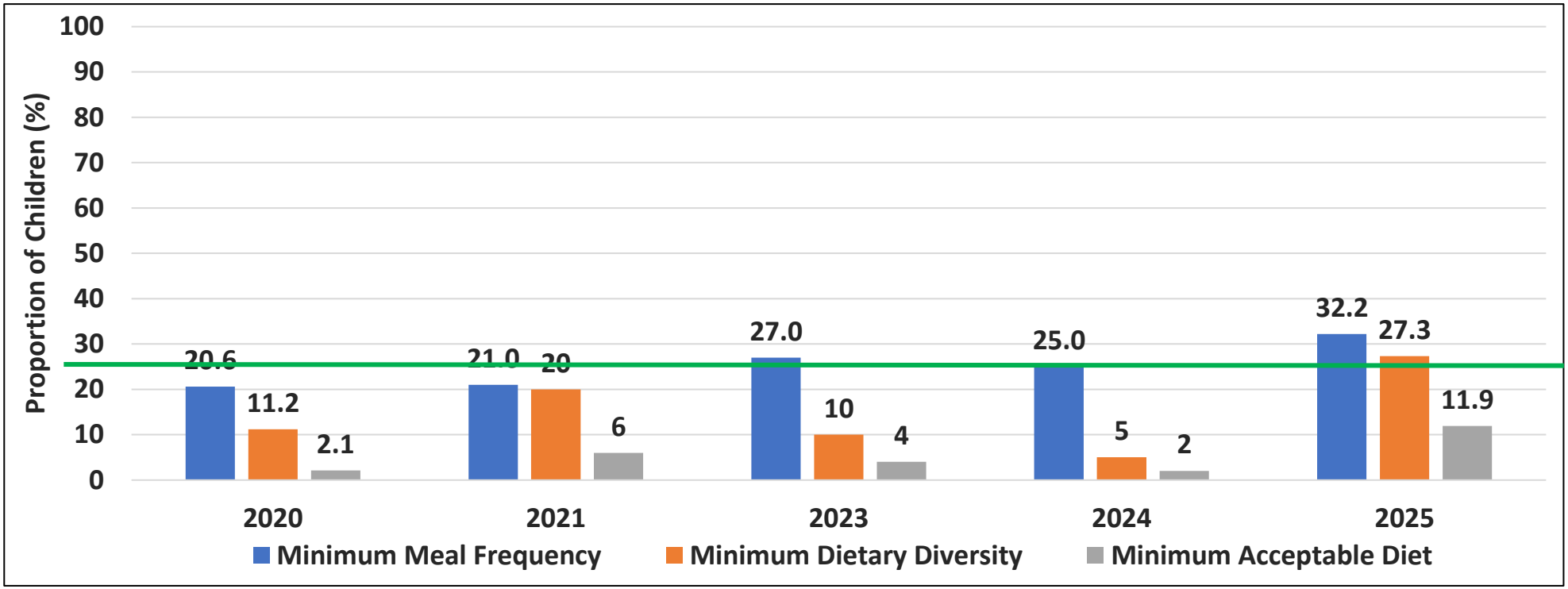
Age Group	Vitamin A Dosage	Timing for Administration
Below 6 months	Do not give	N/A
6-11 months	100 000 IU	Once at age 6 months
12-59 months	200 000 IU	Once every 12 months from age 6 months, until child reaches 5 years

Vitamin A Supplementation (6-59 Months)



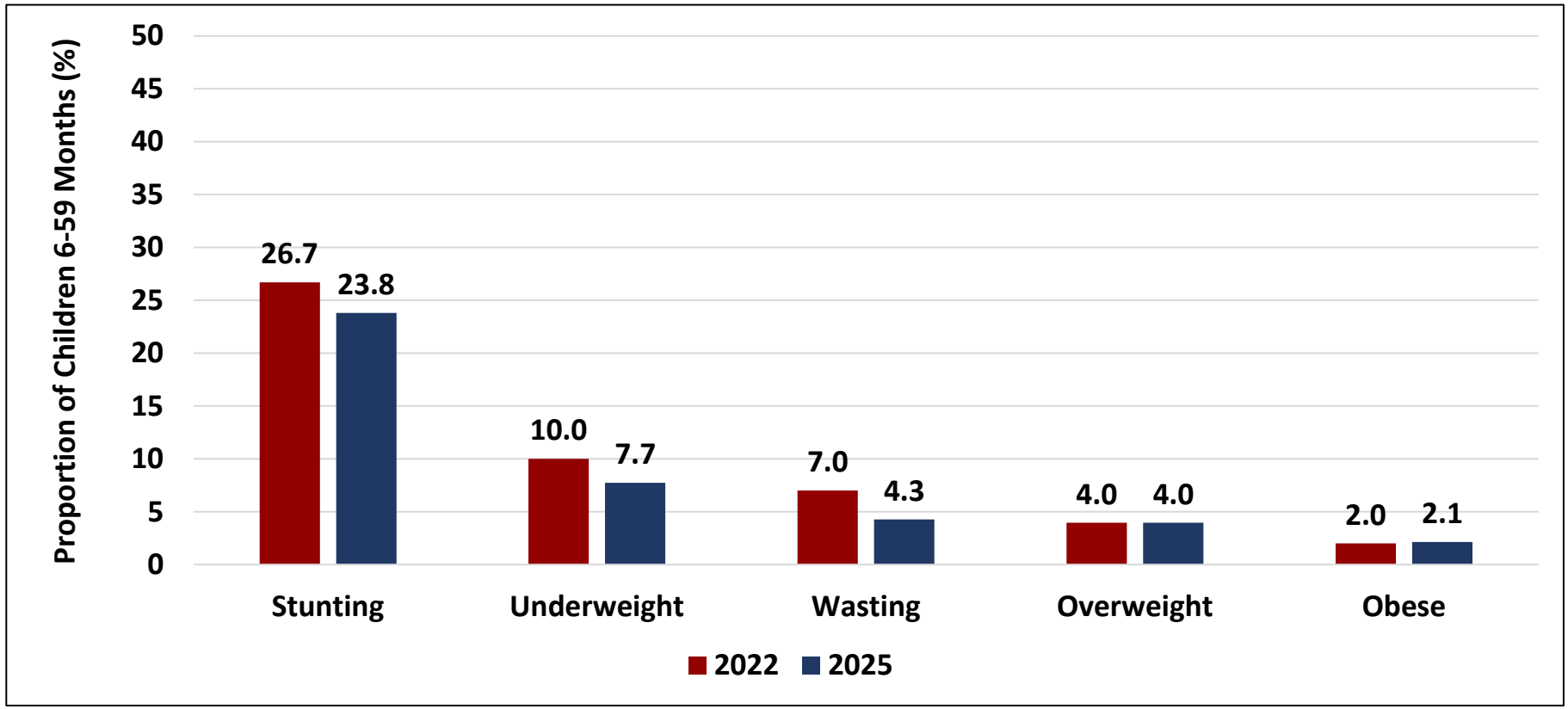
- The Government is complimented for attaining its aspiration as outlined in the NDS1 to reach a target of 90% for vitamin A supplementation for children 6-59 months.
- Vitamin A is essential for the functioning of the immune system and the healthy growth and development of children. Provision of vitamin A supplements every six months is an inexpensive, quick, and effective way to improve vitamin A status and reduce child morbidity and mortality in the long term.

Children 6-23 Months Diet Quality



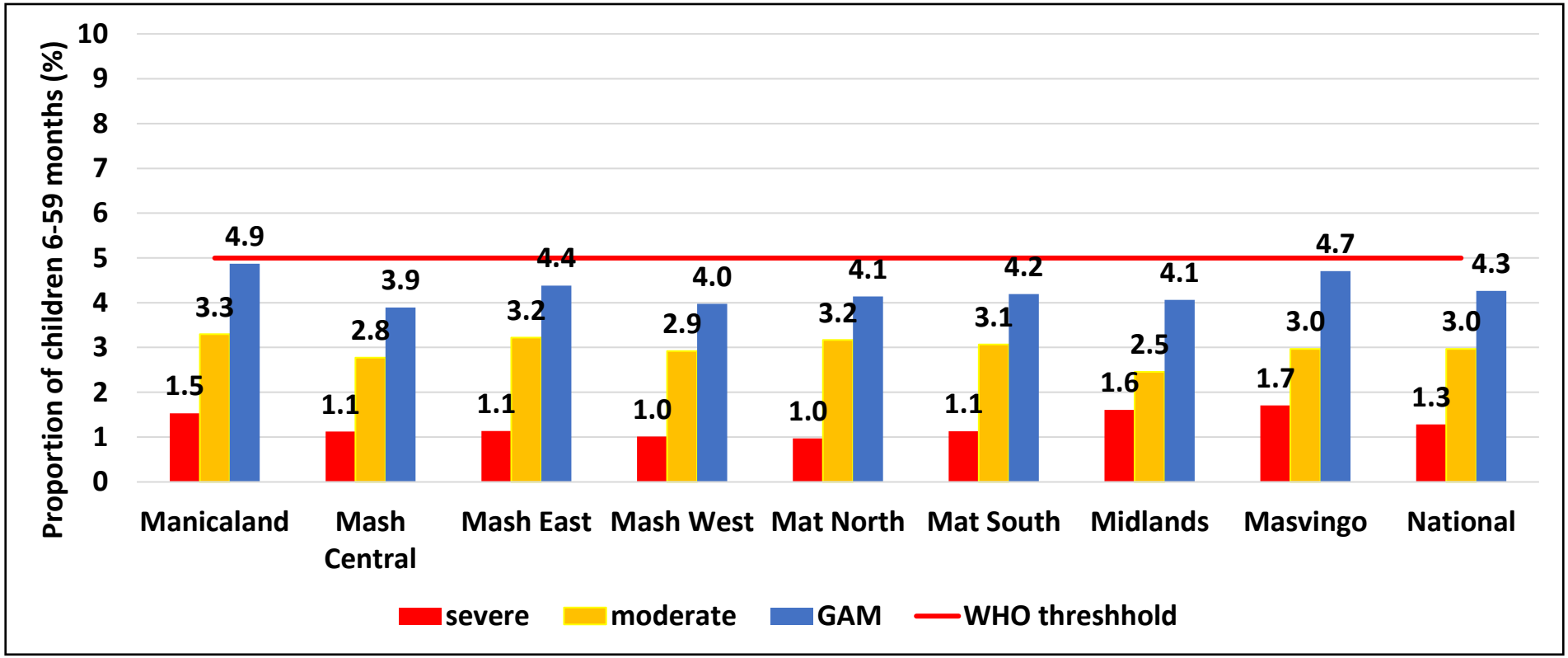
- Children aged 6–23 months should be fed meals at an appropriate frequency and in a sufficient variety to ensure, respectively, that energy and nutrient needs are met.
- The proportion of children fed a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) improved from 2.1% in 2020 to 11.9% in 2025, though falling short of the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy target of 25%.
- The improvement in MAD from 2.1% to 11.9% could be related to increased consumption of egg /flesh and vegetables groups amongst children 6-59 months.

Nutrition Status Indicators
Children 6-59 Months



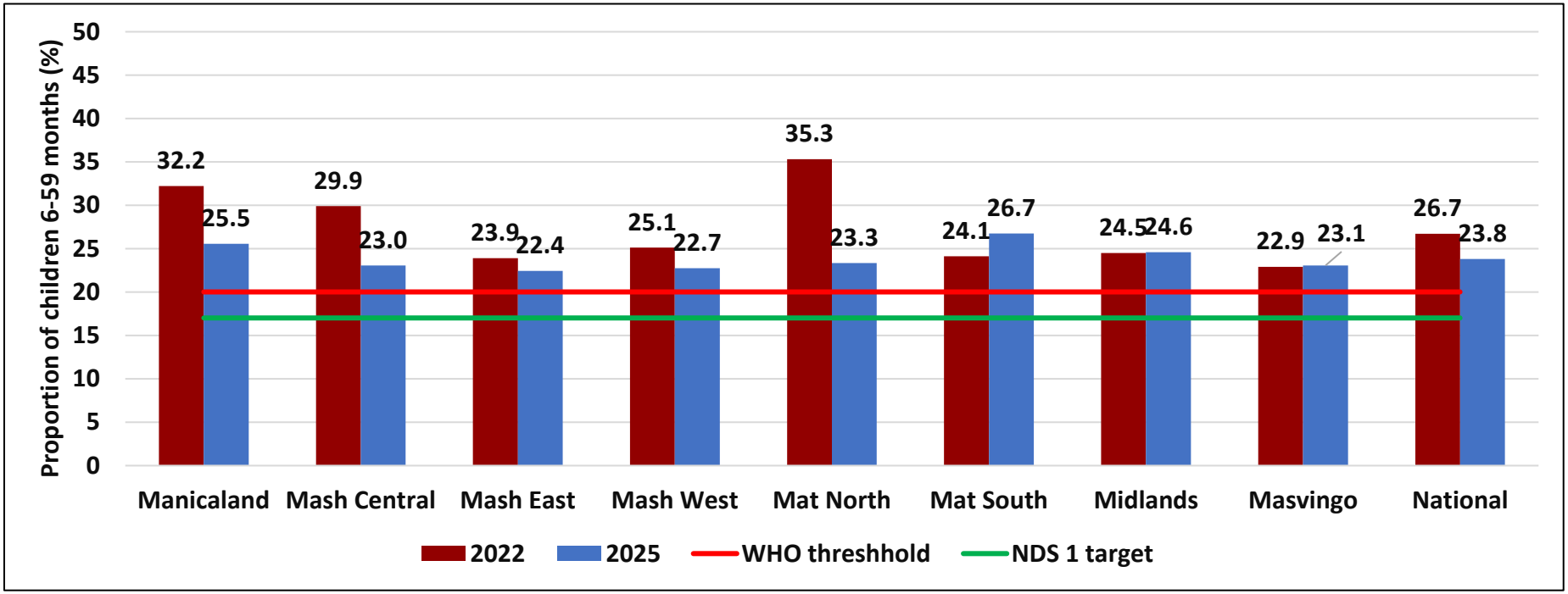
- Nationally, the prevalence of GAM (wasting) was 4.3% which is acceptable and is below the WHO threshold of 5%.
- Stunting prevalence remains high (23.8%) according to the World Health Organization classification. It also falls short of the NDS1 target of 17%.

Prevalence of Wasting
Children Aged 6-59 Months



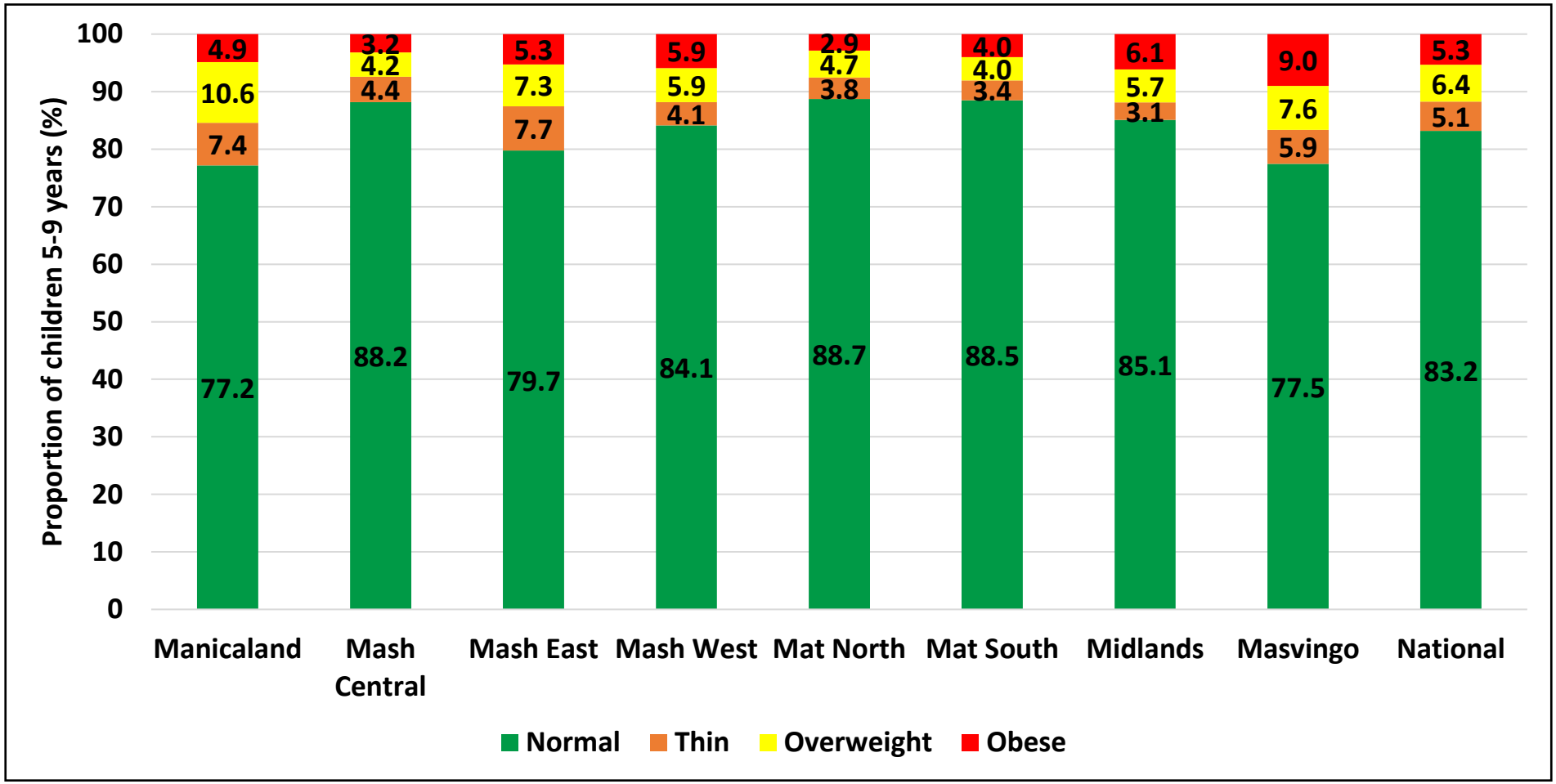
- The national prevalence for Global Acute Malnutrition (wasting) (GAM) was 4.3%, with Manicaland (4.9%) and Masvingo (4.7%) reporting the highest.
- The national Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) prevalence (1.3%) was in line with the national target for SAM of 2.5%.

Prevalence of Stunting for Children 6-59 Months (WHO Classification)



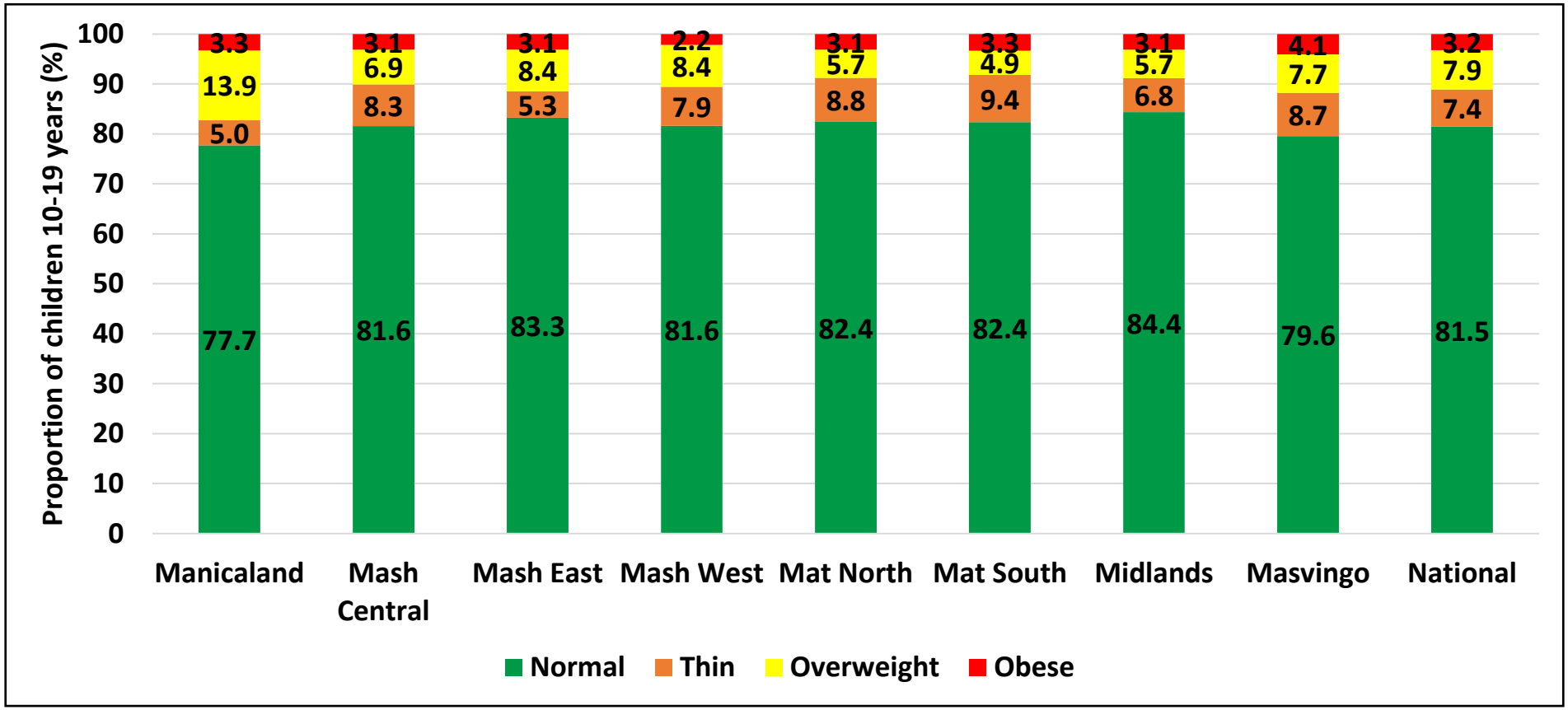
- The target of NDS1 is to reduce the national prevalence of under-five stunting from 23.5% to 17% by 2025.
- The proportion of children 6-59 months who were stunted was 23.8%, which is still higher than the NDS1 target of less than 17%.
- All provinces recorded stunting levels above the WHO threshold of at least 20% classified as high (20-30%).
- Stunting levels were highest in Matabeleland South (26.7%) and Manicaland (25.5%).

Nutrition Status of Children 5-9 Years (BMI-for-Age)



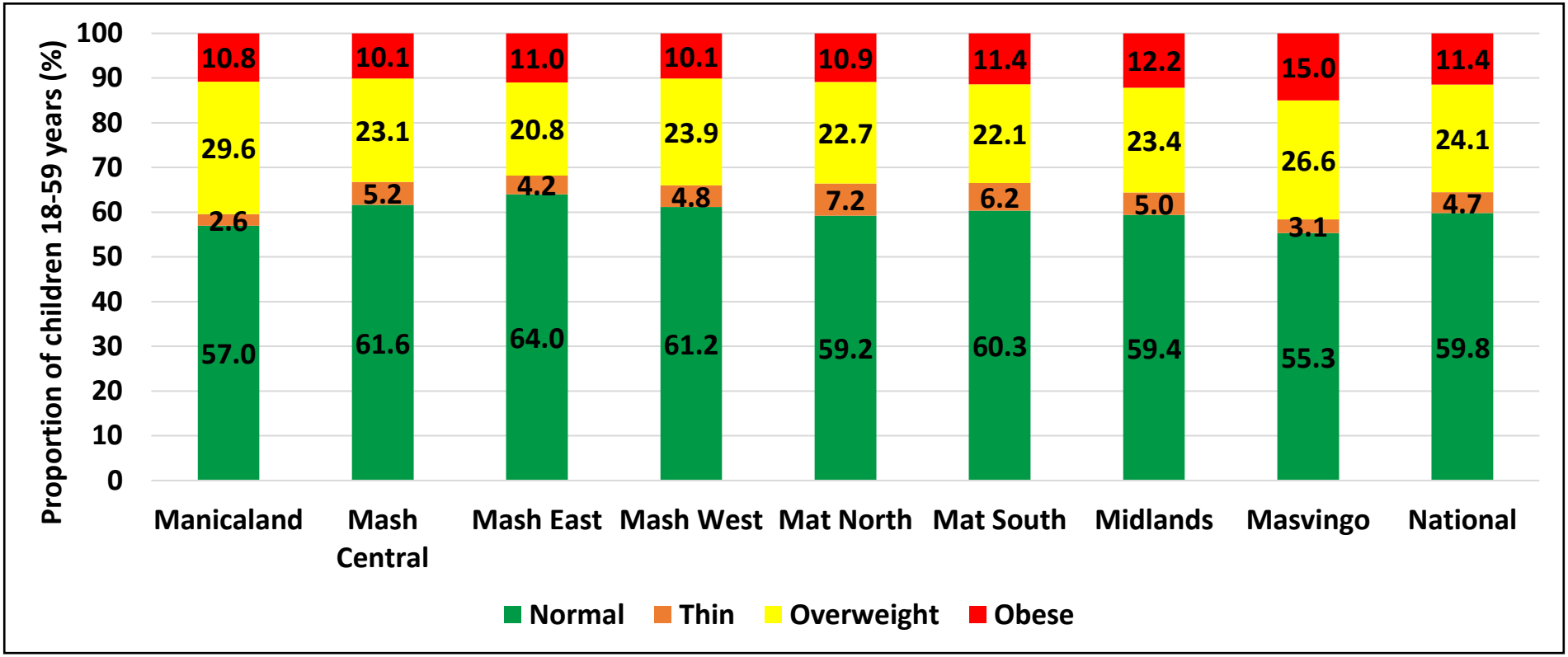
- Nationally, 5.3 % of the children aged 5 to 9 years were obese and 6.4 % were overweight, whilst 83.2% were normal.

Nutrition Status of Adolescents 10-19 Years



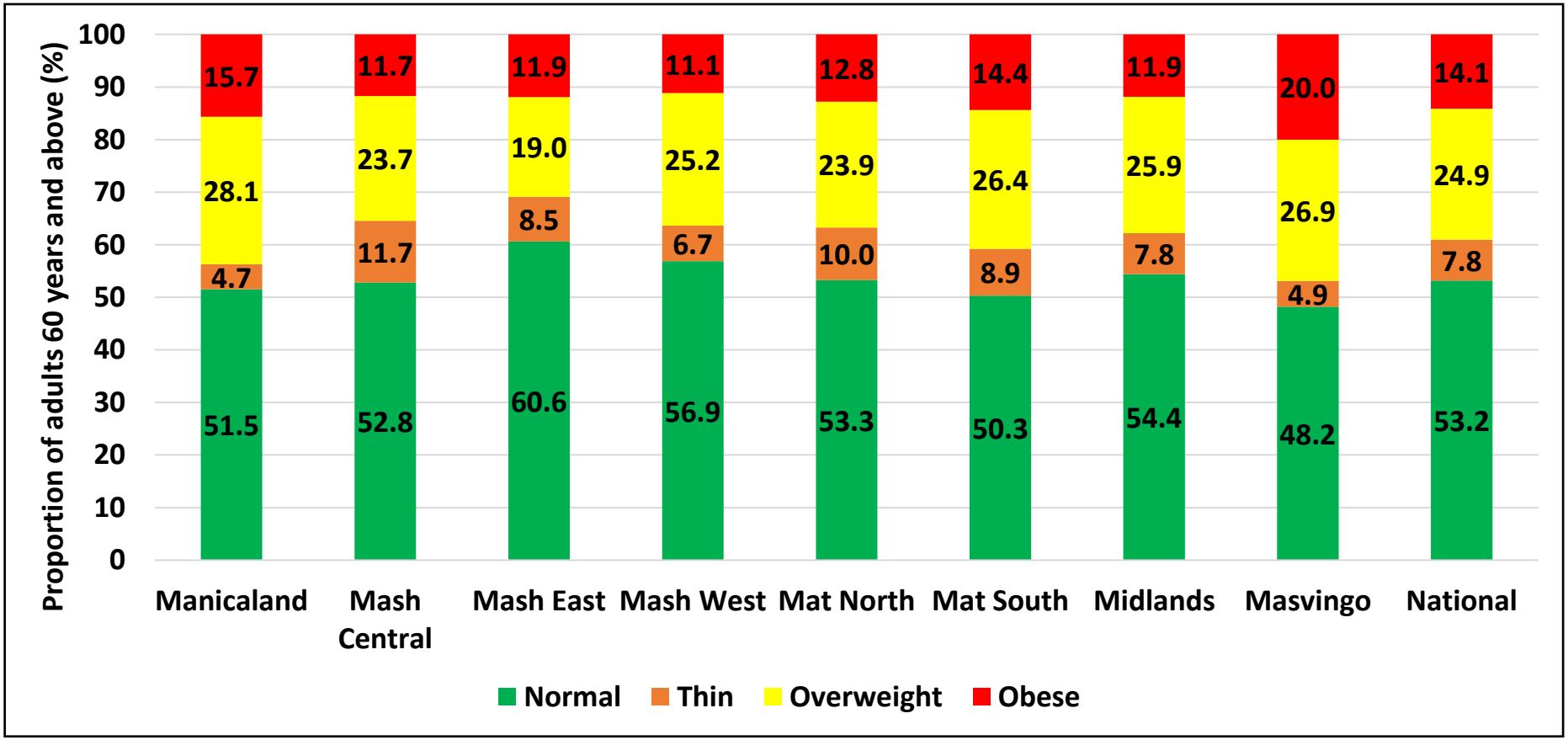
- At least 11.1 % of the adolescents were overweight and obese.

Nutrition Status for Adults 18-59 Years (BMI)



- Nationally, 35.5% of the adults aged 18-59 years were overweight and obese.
- Body Mass Index was used to classify adults aged 18 years and above. Having excess fat deposits in the body leads to serious health consequences such as cardiovascular disease (mainly heart disease and stroke), type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis and some cancers (endometrial, breast and colon).

Nutrition Status for Adults 60 Years and above by Province (BMI)



- Nationally, 39% of adults above 60 were overweight and obese, whilst 53.2% were normal.

Food Security

Food Security Dimensions

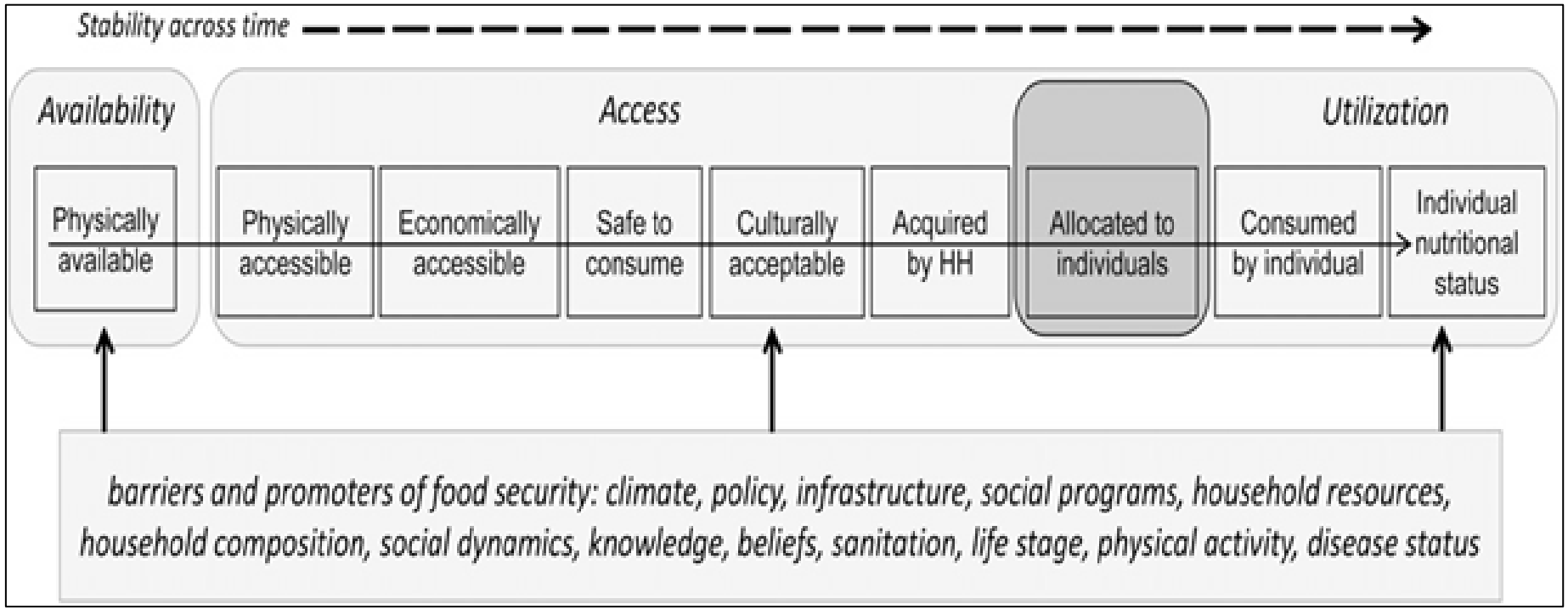


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Food security exists when all people at all times, have **physical, social and economic** access to food which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and it is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care allowing for a healthy and active life (Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2012).
- The four dimensions of food security as given in Figure 3 are:
    - **Availability** of food
    - **Access to food**
    - The safe and healthy **utilisation** of food
    - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilisation

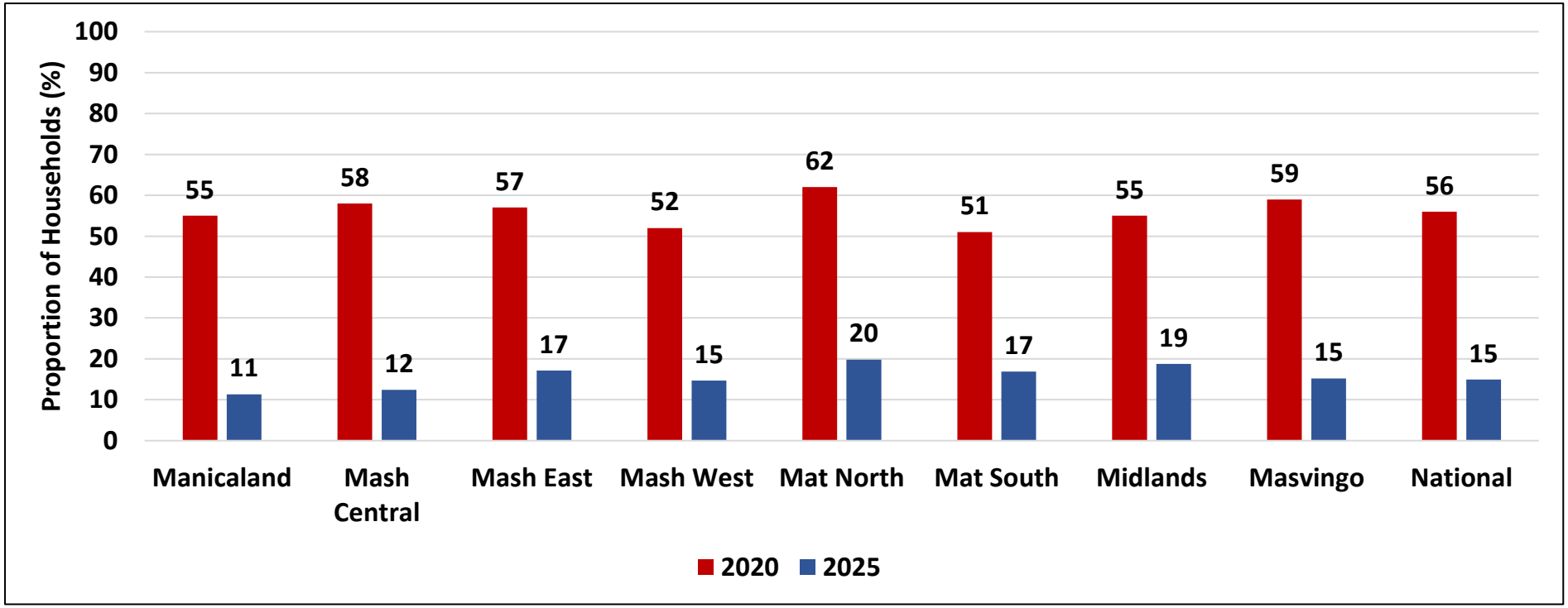
Food Security Analytical Framework

- Household cereal security was determined by measuring a household's potential access to enough cereal to give each member 2100 kilocalories per day in the consumption period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire minimum expenditure food basket was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income (both cash and non cash) in the 2025/26 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
    - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
    - Own food crop production from the 2024/25 agricultural season;
    - Potential income from own cash crop production;
    - Potential income from livestock;
    - Potential income from casual labour and remittances; and
    - Income from other sources such as gifts, pensions, gardening, formal and informal employment.

Food Security Analytical Framework

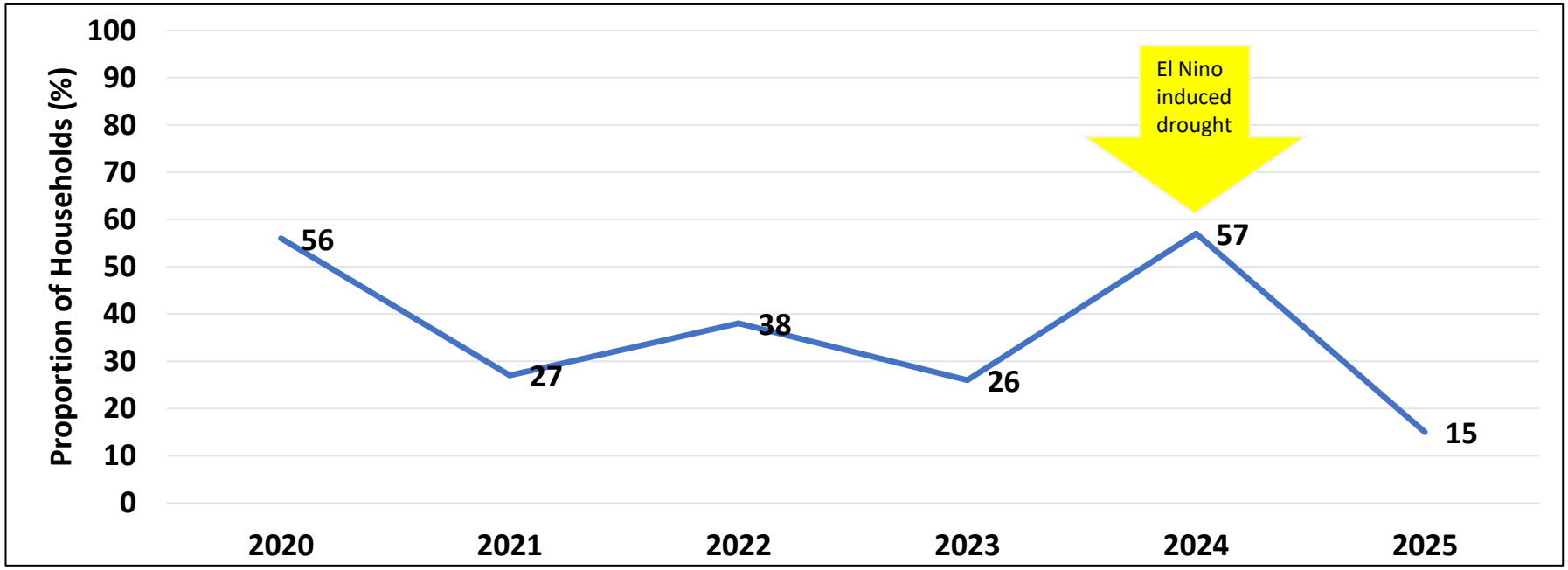
- The total energy that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest energy source using its potential disposable income was then computed and compared to the household's minimum energy requirement.
- When the potential energy that a household could acquire was greater than its minimum energy requirements, the household was deemed to be food secure. When the converse was true, the household was defined as food insecure.
- The severity of household food insecurity was computed by the margin with which its potential energy access was below its minimum energy requirements.

Food Insecurity Status at Peak Hunger Period (January-March 2026)



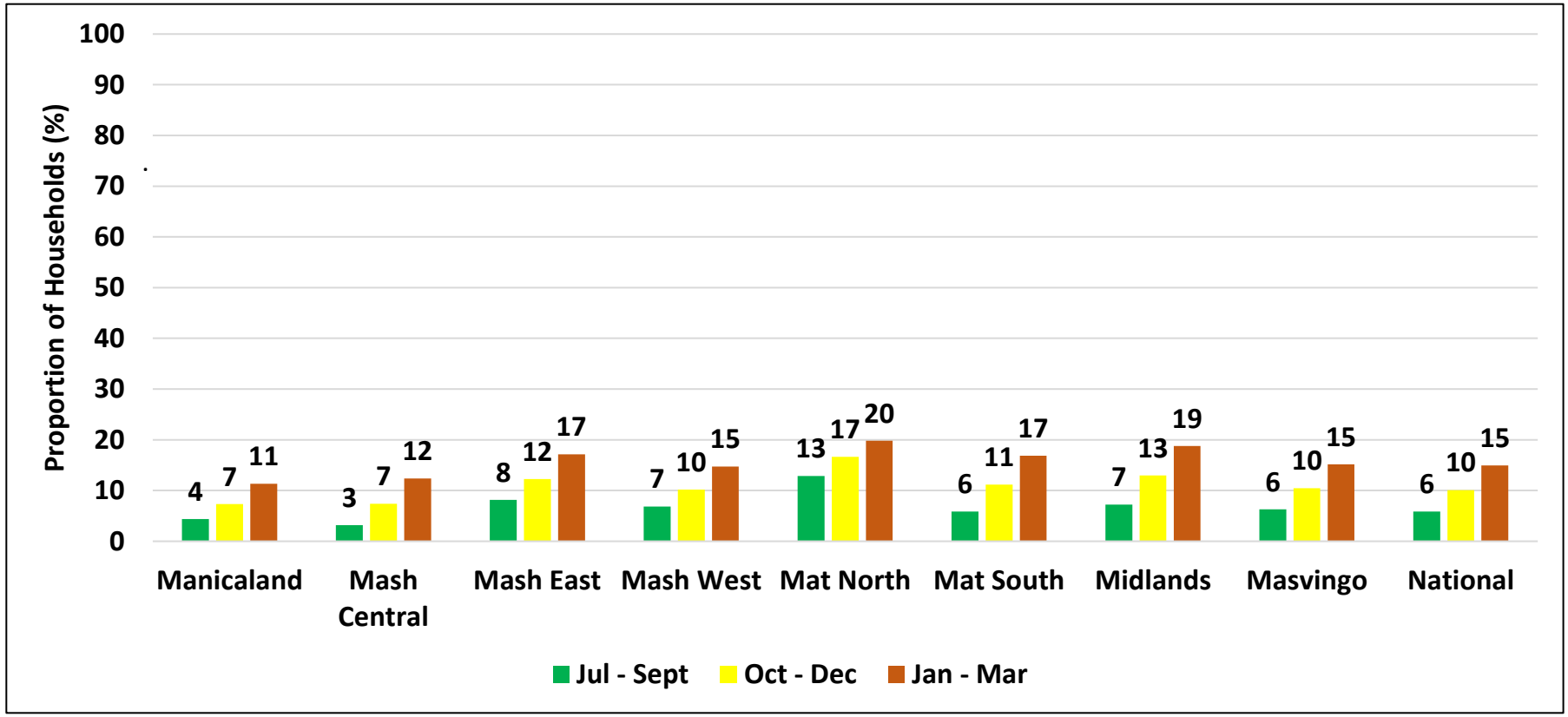
- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) it was estimated that approximately **15%** of the rural households will be cereal insecure.
- The 15% of rural households translated into approximately **1,548,432** individuals requiring a total of **118,563 MT** of cereal (maize grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.
- The proportion of food insecure households during the peak hunger period is projected to be low compared to 2020.

Cereal Insecurity Trends 2020 - 2025



- There was a 73.2% drop in cereal insecurity from 56% in 2020 to 15% in 2025.
- Government is complimented for implementing shock responsive interventions that resulted in improved food security.
- Improved food security significantly contributes to overall development by fostering human capital, boosting economic growth and enhancing social stability thereby impacting positively on the health, education and social well-being of a society. In addition, it contributes to the local economy and reduces the burden and costs associated with filling the food deficit gap.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- About 6% of the rural households were projected to be facing cereal access challenges in the July to September 2025 quarter.
- Matabeleland North (20%) and Midlands (19%) had the highest proportion of households at peak.

Cereal Insecure Populations by Quarter

	Jul – Sept 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan – Mar 2026
Manicaland	66,628	137,074	223,213
Mashonaland Central	48,383	83,432	135,084
Mashonaland East	47,902	108,225	184,853
Mashonaland West	67,578	114,410	180,152
Matabeleland North	62,460	90,493	126,475
Matabeleland South	77,013	100,361	120,514
Midlands	93,278	176,157	264,725
Masvingo	105,017	186,654	272,154
National	**609,087**	**1,046,895**	**1,548,432**

Cereal Requirements by Quarter

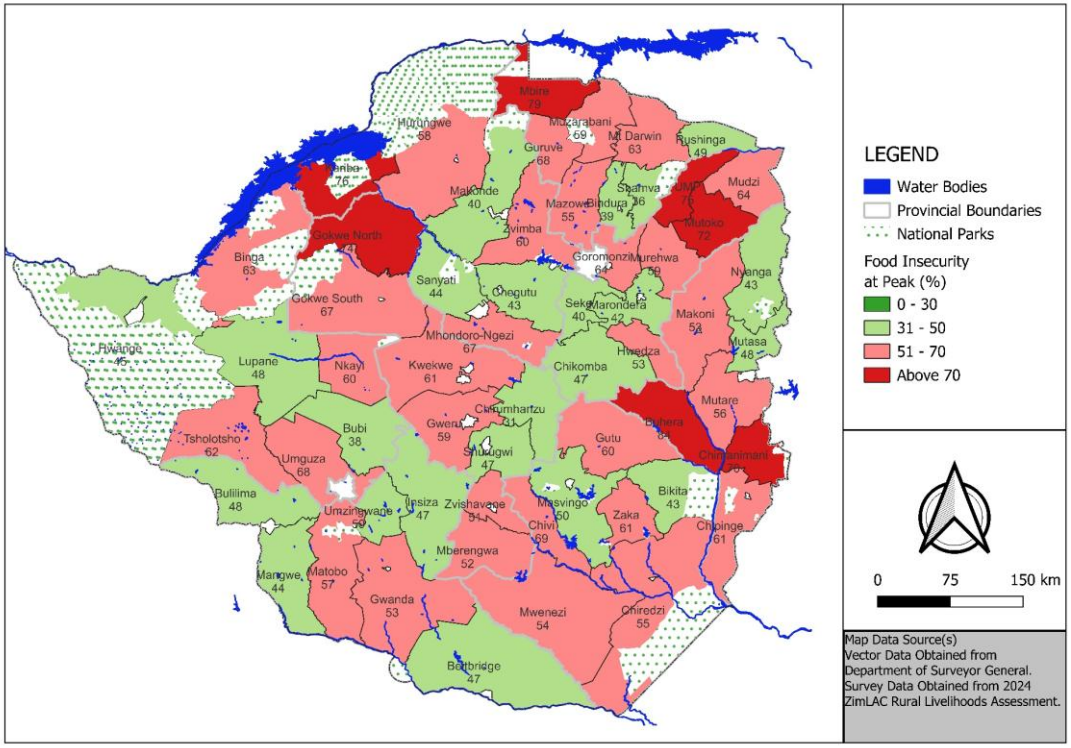
	Jul – Sept 2025 MT	Oct – Dec 2025 MT	Jan – Mar 2026 MT	July 2025 to March 2026 Total MT
Manicaland	2,465	5,072	8,259	**15,796**
Mashonaland Central	1,790	3,087	4,998	**9,875**
Mashonaland East	1,772	4,004	6,840	**12,616**
Mashonaland West	2,500	4,233	6,666	**13,399**
Matabeleland North	2,311	3,348	4,680	**10,339**
Matabeleland South	2,849	3,713	4,459	**11,021**
Midlands	3,451	6,518	9,795	**19,764**
Masvingo	3,886	6,906	10,070	**20,862**
National	**22,536**	**38,735**	**57,292**	**118,563**

Cereal Insecure Proportions by Quarter

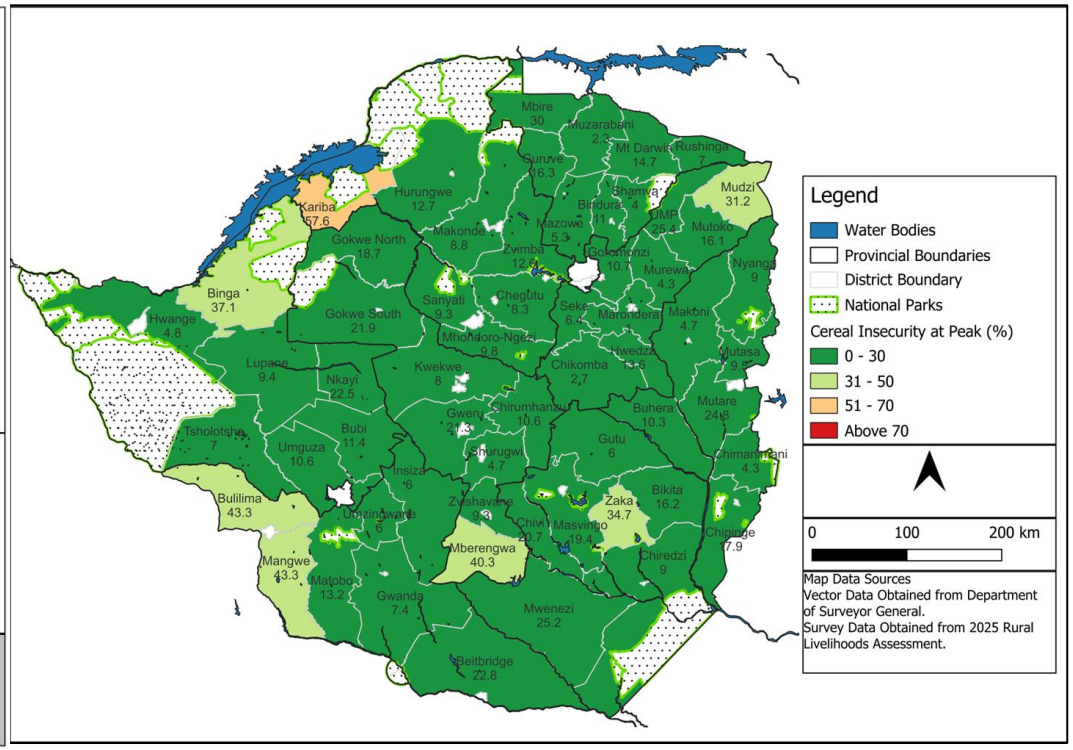
	Jul – Sept 2025 (%)	Oct – Dec 2025 (%)	Jan – Mar 2026 (%)
Manicaland	4	7	11
Mashonaland Central	3	7	12
Mashonaland East	8	12	17
Mashonaland West	7	10	15
Matabeleland North	13	17	20
Matabeleland South	6	11	17
Midlands	7	13	19
Masvingo	6	10	15
National	**6**	**10**	**15**

Food Security Status: Peak Hunger Period (January to March)

2024

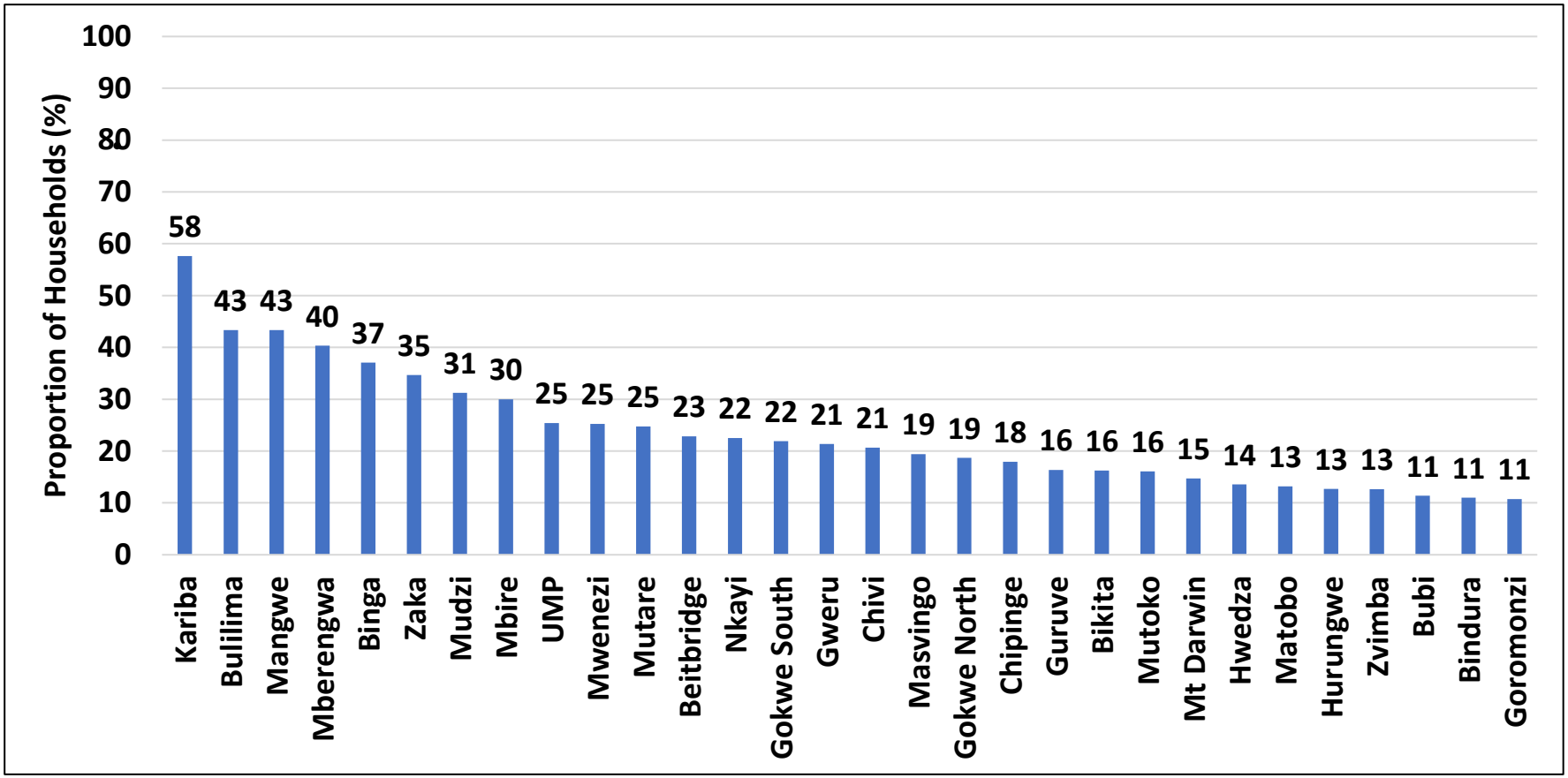


2025



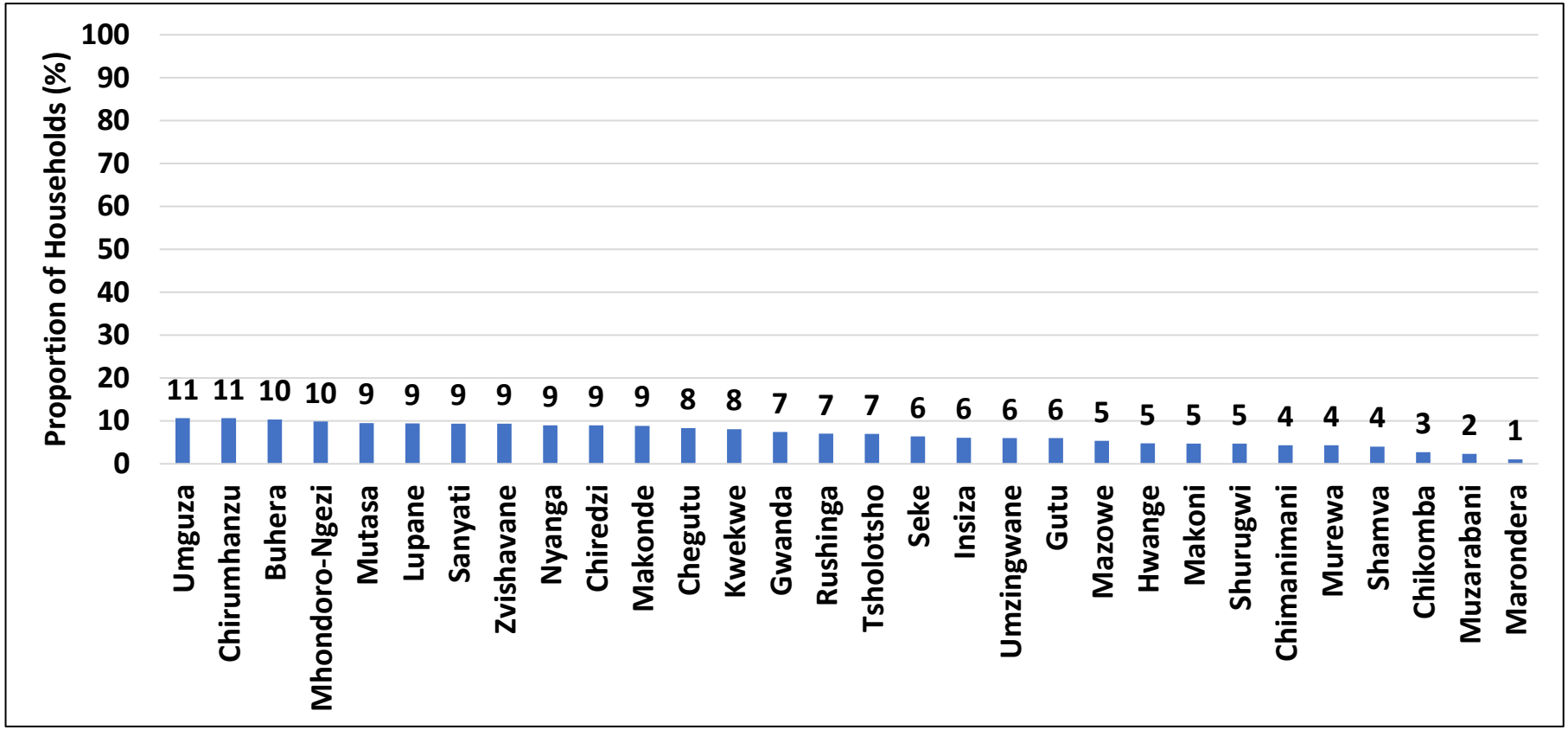
- Kariba (57.6%), Mangwe (43.3%) and Bulilima (43.3%) have the highest proportions of people who will be food insecure during the peak hunger period.
- Marondera (1%) and Muzarabani (2.3%) have the least proportion of people who will be food insecure during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Insecurity -Top 30 Districts January- March 2026



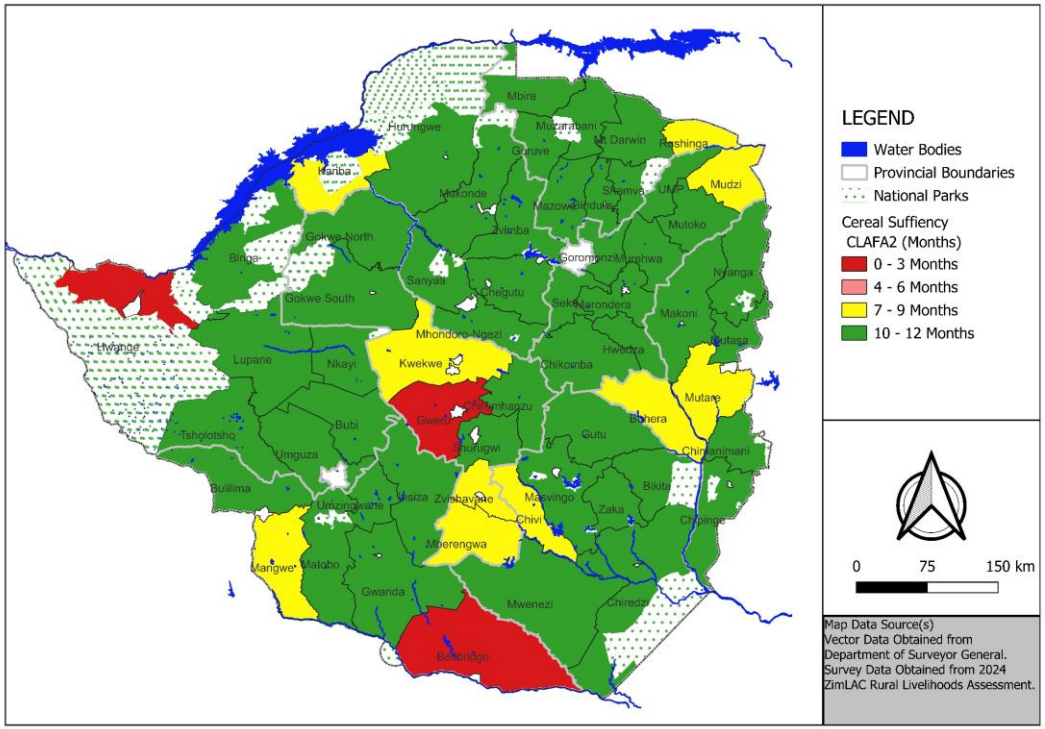
- At the peak of the hunger season, Kariba (58%) will have the most food insecure households followed by Mangwe (43%) and Bulilima (43%).

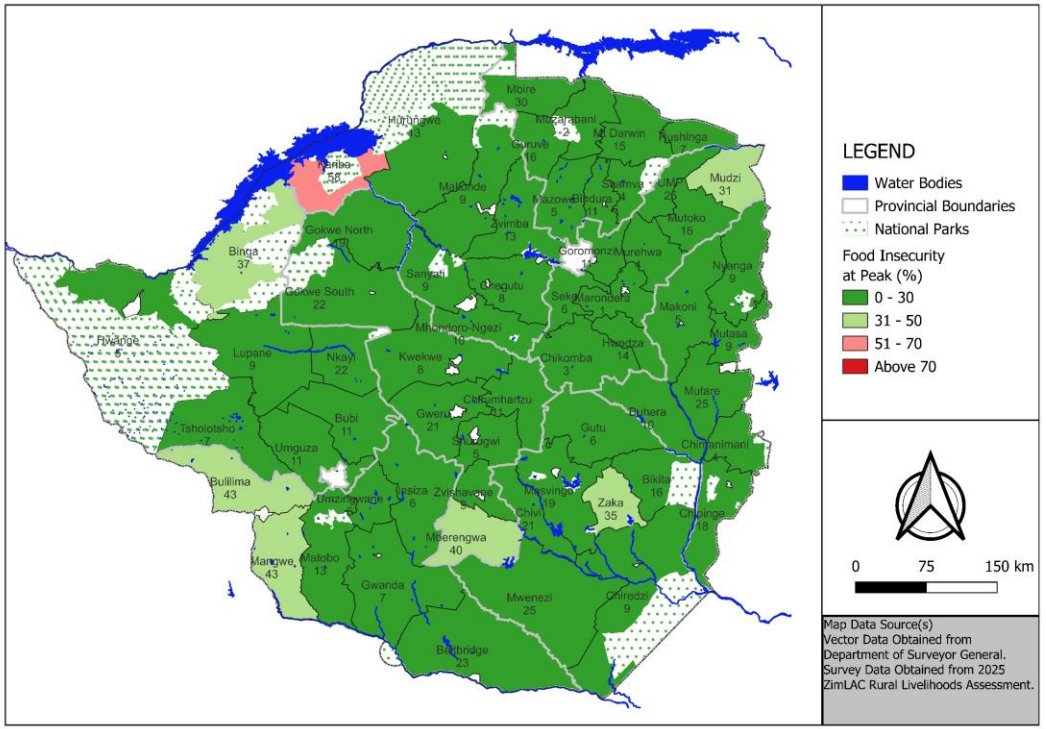
Cereal Insecurity -Bottom 30 Districts January- March 2026



- The least cereal insecurity prevalence is projected in Marondera (1%) and Muzarabani (2%) at peak.

District Cereal Sufficiency vs Food Insecurity at Peak



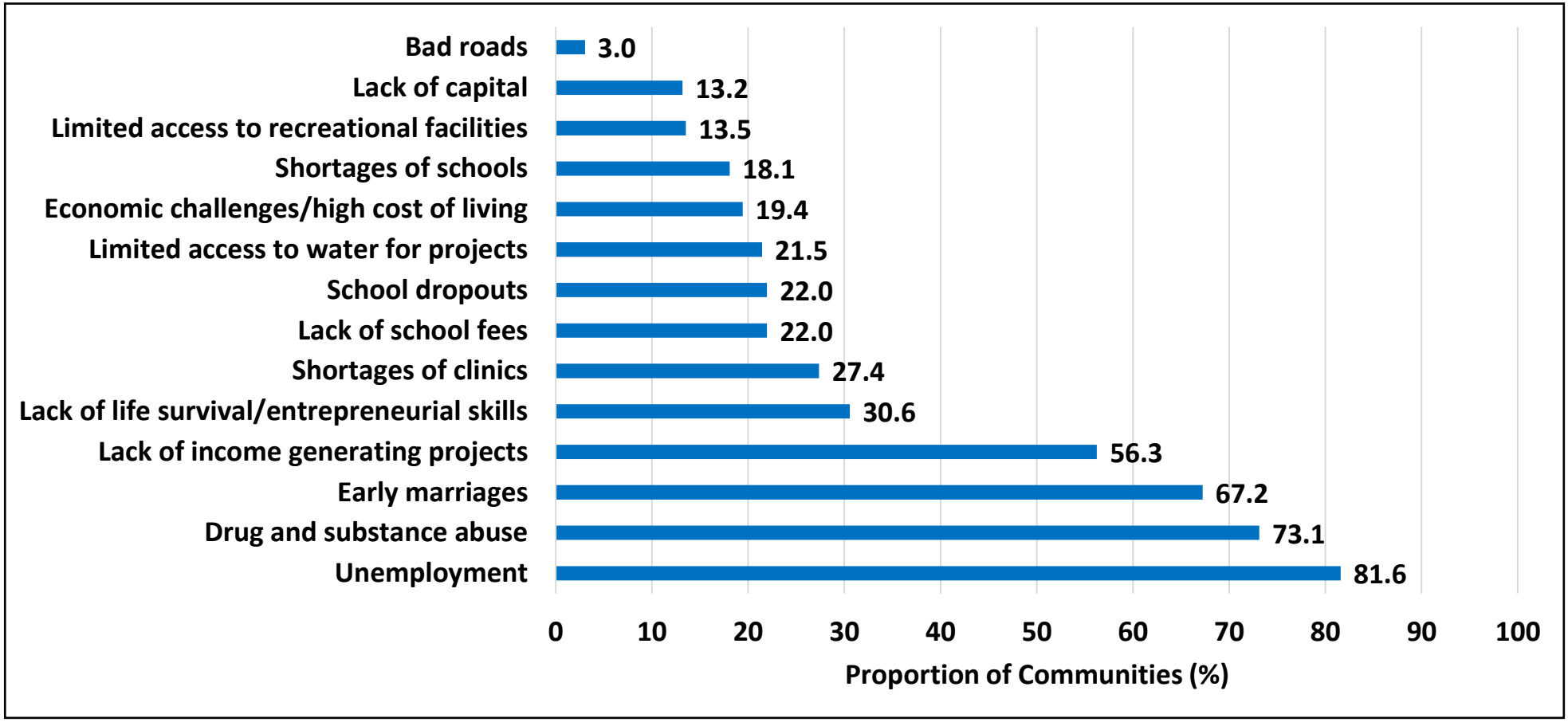


Crop, Livestock & Fisheries Assessment (2nd Round 2025)
Map Data Source: Table 3 Cereal Sufficiency by District [page 7]

ZimLAC, 2025

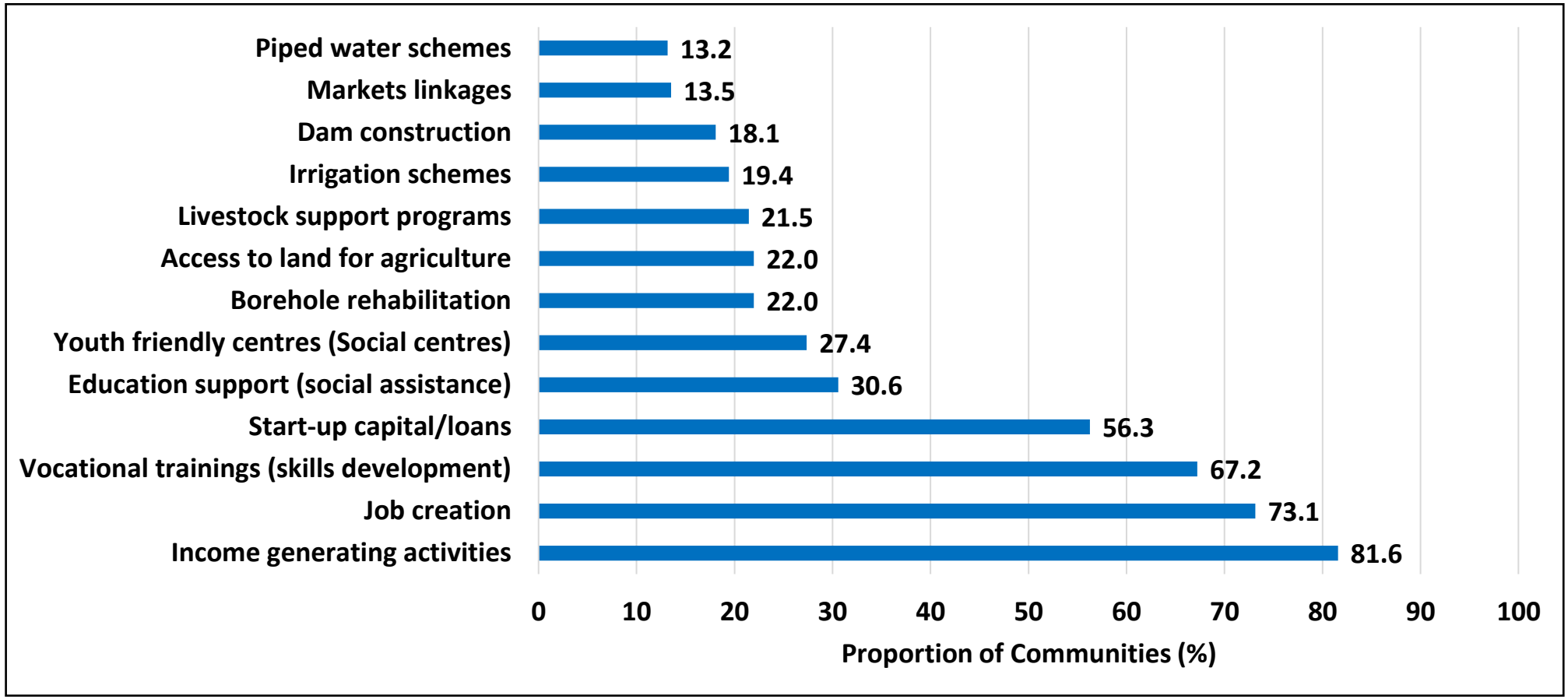
Youth Development Challenges and Priorities

Youth Development Challenges



- Unemployment (81.6%), drug and substance abuse (73.1%) and early marriages (67.2%) were reported as major challenges affecting youths.

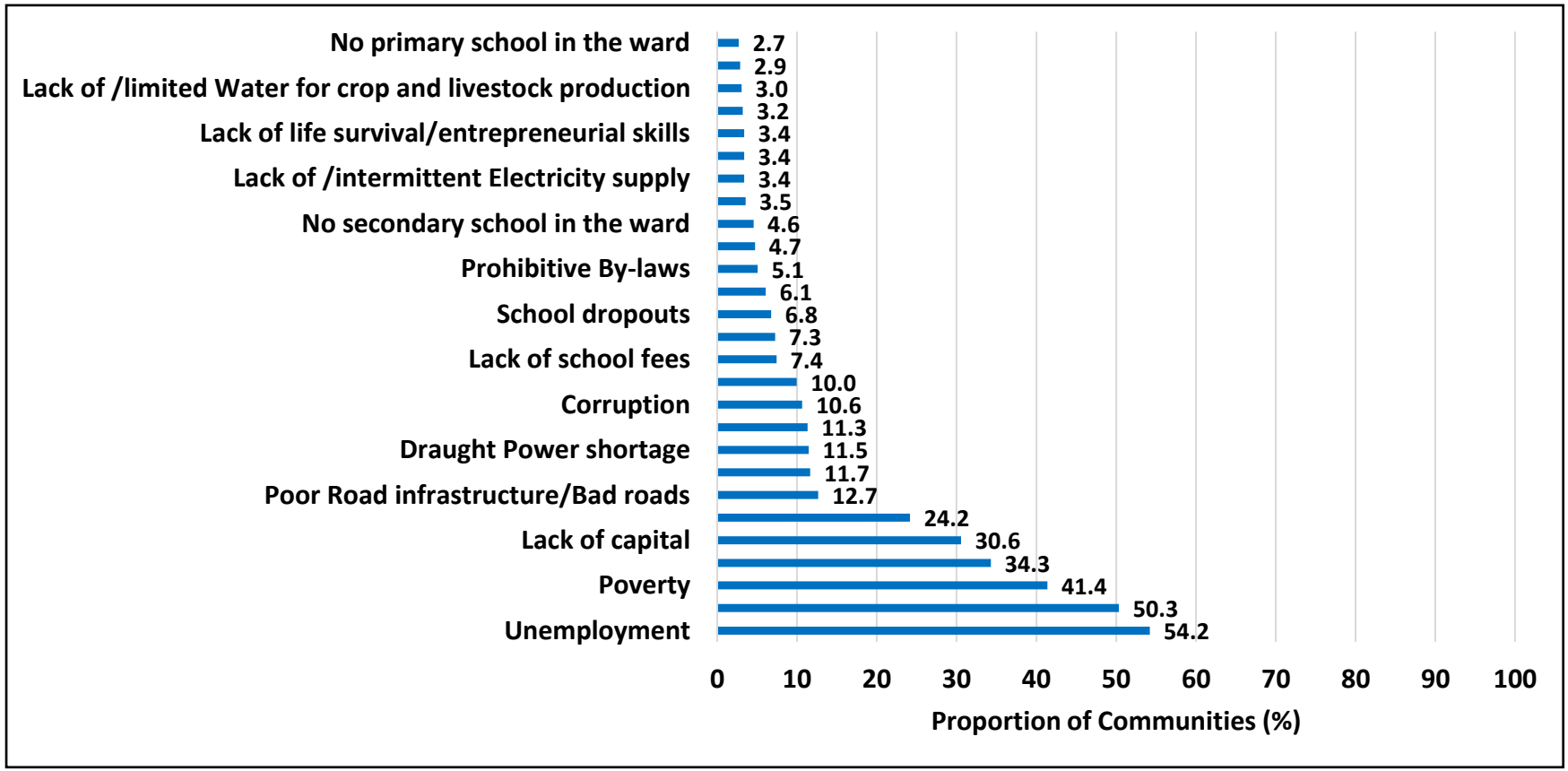
Youth Development Priorities



- Income-generating activities (81.6%), job creation (73.1%) and vocational training and skills development (67.2%) were identified as the major development priorities for youths.

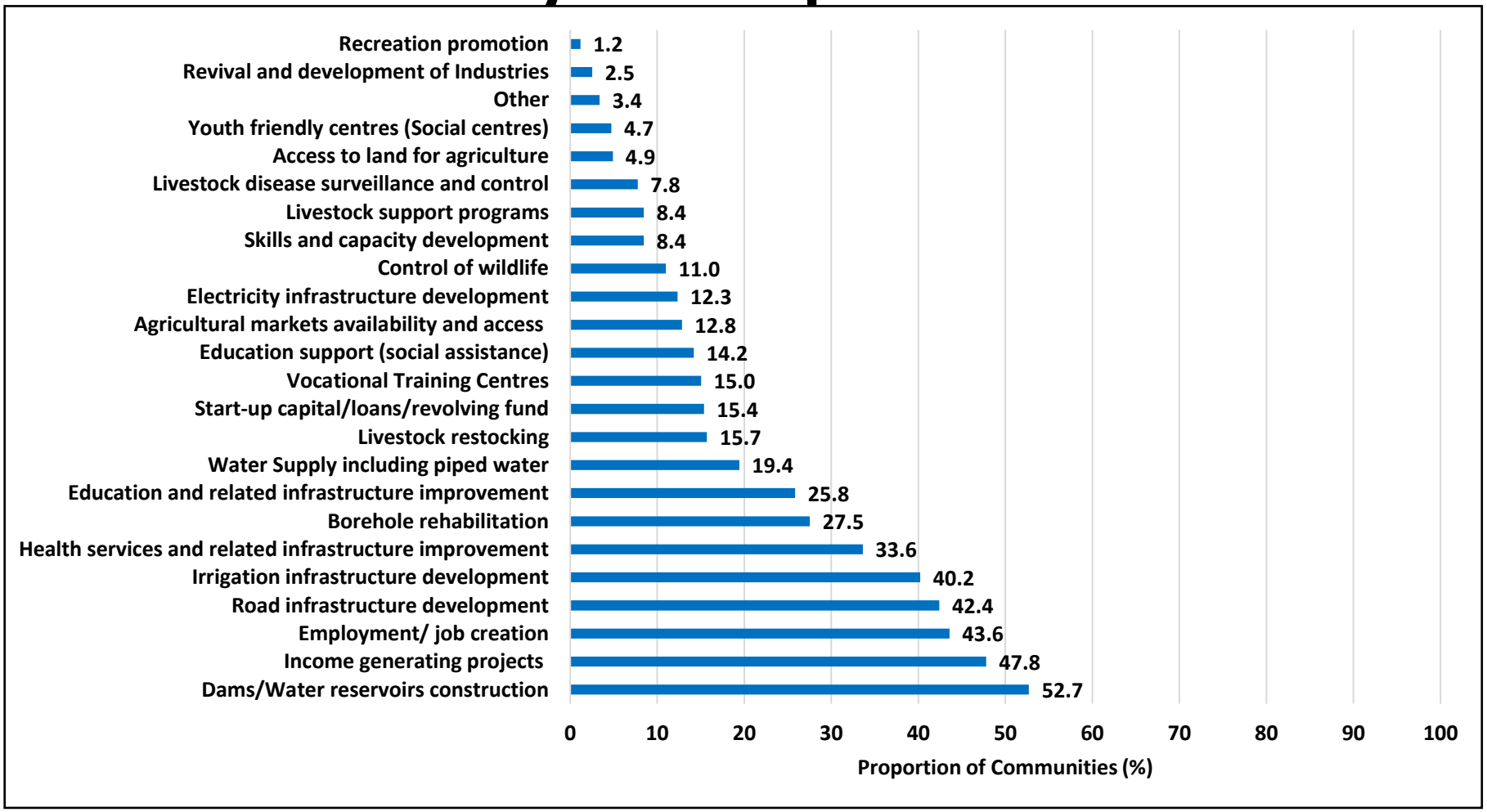
Community Development Challenges and Priorities

Community Development Challenges



- Unemployment (54.2%) and lack of income generating projects (50.3%) were the most reported community development challenges.

Community Development Priorities



- Dams/ water reservoirs construction (52.7%), income generating projects promotion (47.8%) and employment/job creation (43.6%) were the most reported development priorities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

Education

- The proportion of primary school pupils who received a hot meal at school was 55.1%, an increase from 7.5% in 2024. Government is commended for scaling up support towards the school feeding programme. Studies have shown that the benefits of school feeding include alleviation of short-term hunger, increasing school enrolment, reducing school dropouts and absenteeism. Furthermore, the sector needs to intensify rollout and operationalisation of the school health and nutrition programmes through Commercial Ventures and School Business Units.

Social Protection

- Support from Government increased from 43% in 2024 to 65% in 2025 due to low harvests caused by the El-Nino induced drought. The Ministry responsible for Finance is encouraged to continue with Sovereign Insurance to strengthen disaster risk management systems and access rapid and predictable financing to protect the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations.
- About 39.4% of the households received crop inputs from Government. Government is commended for providing this support to households and is urged to continue equipping farmers with inputs, skills and knowledge so as to increase productivity and resilience while decreasing dependency on food assistance.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- There was a decline in the proportion of households practising open defecation from 29% in 2020 to 24% in 2025. There is need for the Ministry responsible for Health to scale up targeted campaigns to strengthen behaviour change interventions aimed at creating awareness on the acute dangers of open defecation on health and nutrition.
- The consistent high rates of open defecation in some districts (Binga 80.1%, Tsholotsho 56.5%, Kariba 50.8% and Mwenezi 49.4%) call for a multi-sectoral approach to deal with this challenge. These initiatives need Traditional Leadership and Local Authorities to lead and enforce sanitation programmes through the implementation of local by-laws and punitive fines for actions such as practising open defecation and setting up new structures without toilets.

Shocks and Stressors

- In addressing climate-related shocks and stressors which include prolonged dry spells (62.9%), the Ministry responsible for Agriculture should continue to accelerate implementation of the Rural Development 8.0 Strategy which focuses on drought-proofing, resilience building programmes and drought relief programmes effective at mitigating the impact of drought on households' livelihoods.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Agriculture Production and Technologies

- Adoption of climate-smart technologies was prominent in the practising of Pfumvudza/Intwasa (54%). There is need to scale up production of labour-saving machinery for climate smart agriculture and make them affordable, as well as have an integrated approach to implementing Pfumvudza/Intwasa to improve uptake.
- The Government of Zimbabwe is commended for its ongoing efforts to rehabilitate and expand irrigation schemes across the country, which are vital for building climate resilience and improving food and income security in vulnerable communities. There is need for the Ministry responsible for Agriculture to scale up irrigation and water harvesting infrastructure in semi-arid districts to reduce dependence on erratic rainfall and enhance year-round agricultural productivity.
- A key challenge that needs urgent attention is the limited availability of certified seeds for traditional grains on the market, which may impede uptake and scaling of these climate-resilient crops. About 35.5% of the households were using quality certified seed. Therefore, there is need for the Ministry responsible for Agriculture to spearhead the development and production of drought-tolerant and early maturing crop varieties, including traditional grains and legumes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Energy

- About 94.3% of the households reported using firewood as their main source of energy for cooking. There is need to maintain the country's biodiversity and wildlife in a good state. The Ministry responsible for Environment needs to ensure that programmes and strategies on re-afforestation ensure the sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products. There is also need to promote renewable energy options to reduce households' reliance on unsustainable and inaccessible energy sources.

Household Income

- Rural households' incomes have been on an increase since 2020. Government is commended for implementing robust economic stabilisation measures which have contributed to this improvement. However, the major income sources (casual labour (45%) and food crop production (21%)) are susceptible to climate related shocks. Therefore, there is need to up-scale rural development programmes which promote livelihoods diversification and enhance resilience through the expansion of school-based, village-level and youth-led business units as anchors for local economic growth and employment generation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Child Health

- Vitamin A supplementation for children 6 to 59 months was above the NDS1 target of 90%. The Ministry responsible for Health should continue with the strategies applied, that is task sharing with community health workers, integrating with campaign blitz and child health and nutrition support groups/ care groups. However, there is need for the Ministry responsible for Health to strengthen routine surveillance and documentation of Vitamin A supplementation efforts at community level.

Infant and Young Child Feeding

- The quality of diet practice which is measured by the proportion of children consuming a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) has improved from 2% (2024) to 11.9% in 2025. This however remains below the WHO target of 25%. There is compelling evidence that supports the provision of nutritional counseling to caregivers through local multi-sector support group platforms, one-on-one and feeding demonstrations as potential interventions to improve complementary feeding practices and ultimately the nutritional status of children in developing countries. The Ministry responsible for Health should scale up caregiver access to care groups that are linked with other multi-sector interventions.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Nutrition Status

- Child wasting (Global Acute Malnutrition) was 4.3% at national level with Mbire (9.1%), Mudzi (9%), Bikita (9%) and Shurugwi (9%), having the highest proportions of children above the 5% WHO threshold for emergency response. Child wasting carries a high risk of death if left unmanaged. It is recommended that the Ministry responsible for Health sets up sentinel site surveillance mechanisms in districts with high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates to define and monitor early warning indicators and trigger levels that will facilitate implementation of anticipatory actions and an appropriate timely response in the event of a continued deterioration of the nutritional status in children under-five.
- WHO guiding principles recommend that children aged 6–23 months be fed a variety of foods to ensure that nutrient needs associated with improved linear growth are met. A diet lacking in diversity can increase the risk of micronutrient deficiencies, which may have a damaging effect on children's physical and cognitive development. About 27% of children were reported to be consuming a diverse diet. Food-based strategies involving dietary diversification (homestead nutrition gardening, animal husbandry, and nutrition education) as the long-term sustainable strategies are recommended. The Ministry responsible for Agriculture should create an enabling environment that supports sustainable agriculture for practicing dietary diversification with behavior change communication as an integral segment.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Food Security

- At peak (January to March 2026), 15% of the rural households (approximately 1,548,432 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The quarterly requirements will be 22,536MT for the July to September 2025 period, 38,735MT for the October to December 2025 period and 57,292MT for the January to March 2025 period. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.

ZIMBABWE

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