Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

2024

Rural Livelihoods Assessment

Report

Foreword

The 2024 Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) was undertaken against the background of the 2023/2024 El Niño induced drought. This RLA, the 24th since inception, was guided by the urgent need for the Government of Zimbabwe to determine the impact of the El Niño induced drought on households in the rural areas and provide evidence to inform decision making. The assessment will also ensure the timely development of holistic and robust response programmes.

Considering that this was a unique year, the ZimLAC engaged various data collection approaches to enhance ground-truthing of contextual issues affecting food and nutrition security in different geographic areas. In that regard, the household interviews and community Focus Group Discussions were complemented by interviews with selected Chiefs (together with the Headmen and other traditional leaders who fall under their jurisdiction) and district level Key Informant Interviews. This multi-pronged approach contributed towards collation of in-depth insights into pertinent rural households' livelihoods issues which include demographics, health, nutrition, WASH, social protection, food consumption patterns, income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, coping strategies, shocks and food security.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude 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. 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

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- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
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- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
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- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- ZIMSTATS
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- START NETWORK
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- UNDP

- Catholic Relief Services
- Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA)
- World Vision
- Red Cross
- Bindura University of Science Education
- Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Plan International
- CARITAS
- Lower Guruve Development Association
- Mwenezi Development Trust
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- St Daniels Rehabilitation Centre
- JF Kapnek Trust Zimbabwe
- Takunda

- Family Aids Caring Trust (FACT)
- Valley of Hope
- Simukai
- AMALIMA Loko
- Midlands AIDS Service Organisation
- ZVANDIRI
- Aqua Culture Zimbabwe
- CARE International
- Nutrition Action Zimbabwe
- Mavambo Trust
- Mavambo Orphan Care
- Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services
- CIMMYT
- Zimbabwe Council of Churches
- Heather Chimoga Orphan Care
- Harare Rotary Club CBD
- Centre for Agro-Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Livelihoods Trust
- Africa Ahead

Introduction and Background

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 livelihood 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 11 urban and 24 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 in 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.

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 2024/2025 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 services, water, sanitation and hygiene services), assets, income sources, 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 experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.

6. To identify development priorities for communities

Contextual Analysis - Background

- The 2023/2024 El Niño event caused widespread drought conditions across southern Africa, characterized by a late onset of rains, extended mid-season dry spells and extreme high temperatures. The El Niño phenomenon significantly and adversely impacted the seasonal rainfall's spatial and temporal distribution.

- The extended dry conditions have had a widespread, severe impact on crops, as it occurred at a time when cereal crops were generally most susceptible to water deficits, resulting in widespread crop failure.

- Reduced precipitation exacerbates water scarcity, impacting agriculture, hydroelectric power generation and water supply for communities (drinking and sanitation).

- Zimbabwe, like most Sub-Saharan countries was in the grip of the 2023/24 El Niño-induced drought which resulted in massive crop failure, depletion of water resources and pastures.

- According to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development's 2024 2nd Round Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment Report, both agricultural production and productivity for the 2023/ 2024 agricultural season were severely and negatively impacted by, arguably, the worst drought-induced El Niño in 40 years. Statistically, the season had the latest and driest start to a summer season in 40 years.

Contextual Analysis - Background

- The majority of rural households in Zimbabwe rely on rain-fed agriculture which is susceptible to climate change and variability. The dry conditions had an adverse effect on the commencement of planting nationwide, resulting in a substantial decrease in the area planted and crop yields. In addition, the dry conditions resulted in low livestock productivity and poor pastures which ultimately affects food security and livelihood options.

- The delayed onset of the rainfall season resulted in late planting as most farmers started planting in late December following some significant rainfall across the country which also resulted in a trail of destruction to infrastructure and livelihoods. More than 80% of the country received below normal rainfall average by end of February 2024. Prolonged dry weather conditions were again experienced in November and the first half of December 2023. The country further experienced the driest month of February on record.

- Crop failure was also exacerbated by the outbreak of fall armyworm caterpillars with the highest infestation occurring in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Midlands and Matabeleland South provinces. Outbreaks of the African armyworm, quelea birds and armoured crickets were also reported. Control measures were put in place and minimized the damage.

- Livestock was impacted by the El Niño induced dry conditions, which resulted in considerable shortages in pasture and reduced water availability for livestock. In Zimbabwe, over 9 000 drought-related cattle deaths were reported and over 1.4 million cattle were reported as being at high risk of drought conditions and death due to lack of pasture and water.

- The Zimbabwean economy being agro-based has been largely affected notwithstanding mitigatory measures vigorously pursued by Government and partners.

Economic Stabilisation Measures

- Government, through the Ministry responsible for Finance put in place a number of measures which resulted in the following:

  - Government delivered the 2024 Monetary Policy Statement which was expected to ensure lasting stability, certainty and predictability in the exchange rate and inflation.

  - The Reserve Bank introduced a structured currency which was expected to result in the dissipation of inflationary pressures in the short to medium term.

- Against this background, the Monetary Policy Statement primarily focused on immediate measures necessary to boost the demand for local currency in the multicurrency economy, fostering a stable and sustainable exchange rate, rebuilding market confidence and policy credibility and supporting a stable and sustainable economy as enshrined in Vision 2030 and NDS1.

- The foreign currency receipts for January and February 2024 amounted to USD 2.2 billion compared to USD 1.8 billion received during the same period in 2023, representing a 23% increase.

- Month-on-month inflation declined from 4.9% in March 2024 to 2.9% in April 2024.

- However, the EL- Niño-induced drought, which turned out to be more severe than initially anticipated was expected to impact negatively on the domestic economy's growth trajectory.

Government Mitigatory Measures

- In terms of Section 27(1) of the Civil Protection Act [*Chapter 10:06*], His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde Dr E.D Mnangagwa declared a nationwide State of Disaster due to the El Niño induced drought on the 3rd of April 2024. In order to facilitate a coordinated response to the climate-induced drought and allow for resource mobilization and response planning in the short and medium term, Government developed the robust *2024 EL NIÑO INDUCED DROUGHT DISASTER: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE*. In the Appeal, Government focuses on search and rescue, mitigation and resilience building in the following critical areas:

    - Agriculture

    - Food and nutrition security

    - Protection

    - Health

    - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

    - Education

    - Environment and Natural Resources

    - Energy

    - Macro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The impact of the current El Niño induced drought was expected to last until March 2025 for most communities hence it was critical that requisite resources be mobilized urgently to assure communities of sustenance. The Appeal seeks to raise a total of USD 3.9 Billion.

Government Mitigatory Measures

Government remained committed to ensuring that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition and led the implementation of the following measures to ensure food security for all people:

- **Food Mitigation:** Government is targeting 7.7 million people in both rural and urban areas who were projected to be food insecure. Of these, 6 million are in the rural areas. Government is embarking on a blitz three-month phased distribution plan prioritising the worst affected areas and the hard to reach. The blitz is targeting the most vulnerable groups who include the elderly, persons with disabilities, orphaned and child-headed households and chronically ill, among others. Each beneficiary will receive a three-month allocation of grain at once which has been pegged at 7.5kg per person per month translating to 22.5kg per person for three months and 138,171MT countrywide. In urban areas, each beneficiary will be given cash equivalent to procure a 10kg bag of mealie meal via mobile money transfers on a monthly basis.

- Government has also adopted the *Build-Back Better* Strategy to cushion communities and assist them to recover from the El Niño induced drought.

- **Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme:** In order to alleviate the prevailing water scarcity challenges and climate change, Government is implementing the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme. The scheme aims to facilitate the provision of clean water to households and will help to avert the potential threats of waterborne diseases. The solar powered boreholes will also avail the much needed water for consumption and hygiene.

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

Government Mitigatory Measures

On the 12th of March 2024, Cabinet approved the following:

- The Food Security Outlook Report to March 2025 to facilitate winter cereals production planning.

- The consumption of 7.5kg per person per month be used immediately for social welfare and be adjusted after October to 8.5kg per person per month.

- The purchase of local grain at import parity price of USD390 per tonne to mop up excess local grain.

- Duty waiver on the importation of rice and potato seed.

- Importation of Genetically Modified stock feed, under strict supervised milling and distribution.

- Duty free importation of maize, rice and cooking oil by households with effect from July 2024.

- Re-activation of the Grain Mobilisation Committee to monitor private sector imports as well household imports.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design
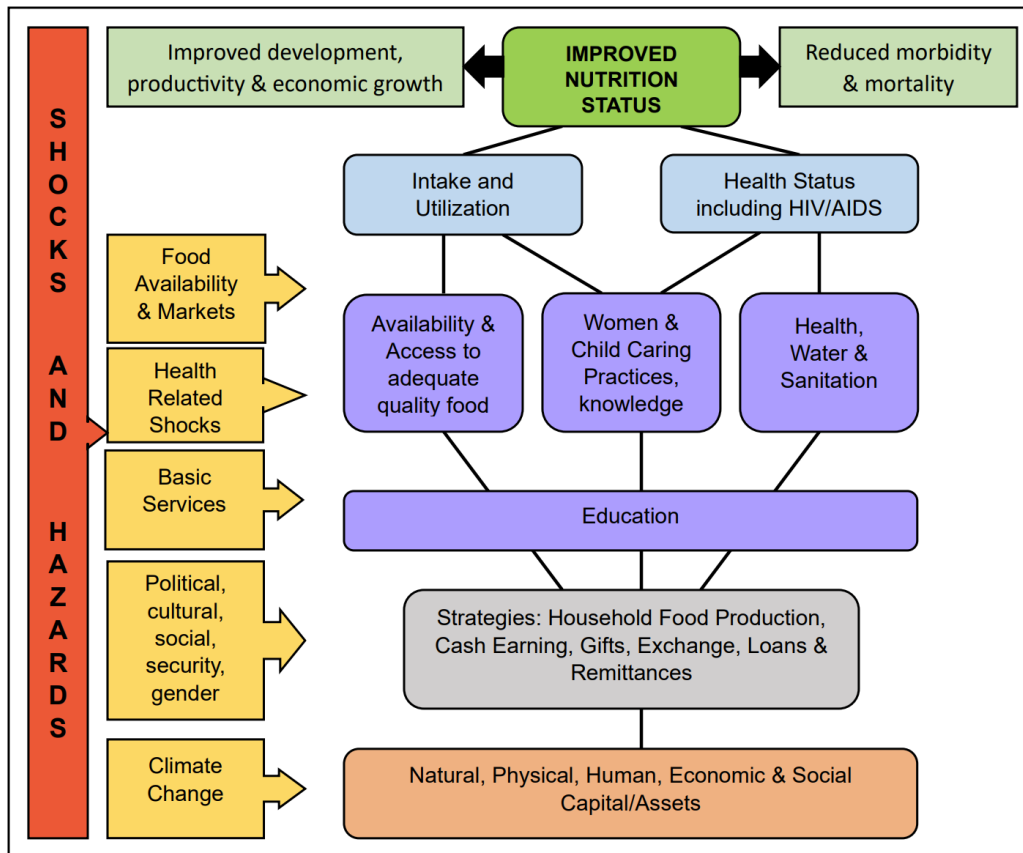
Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

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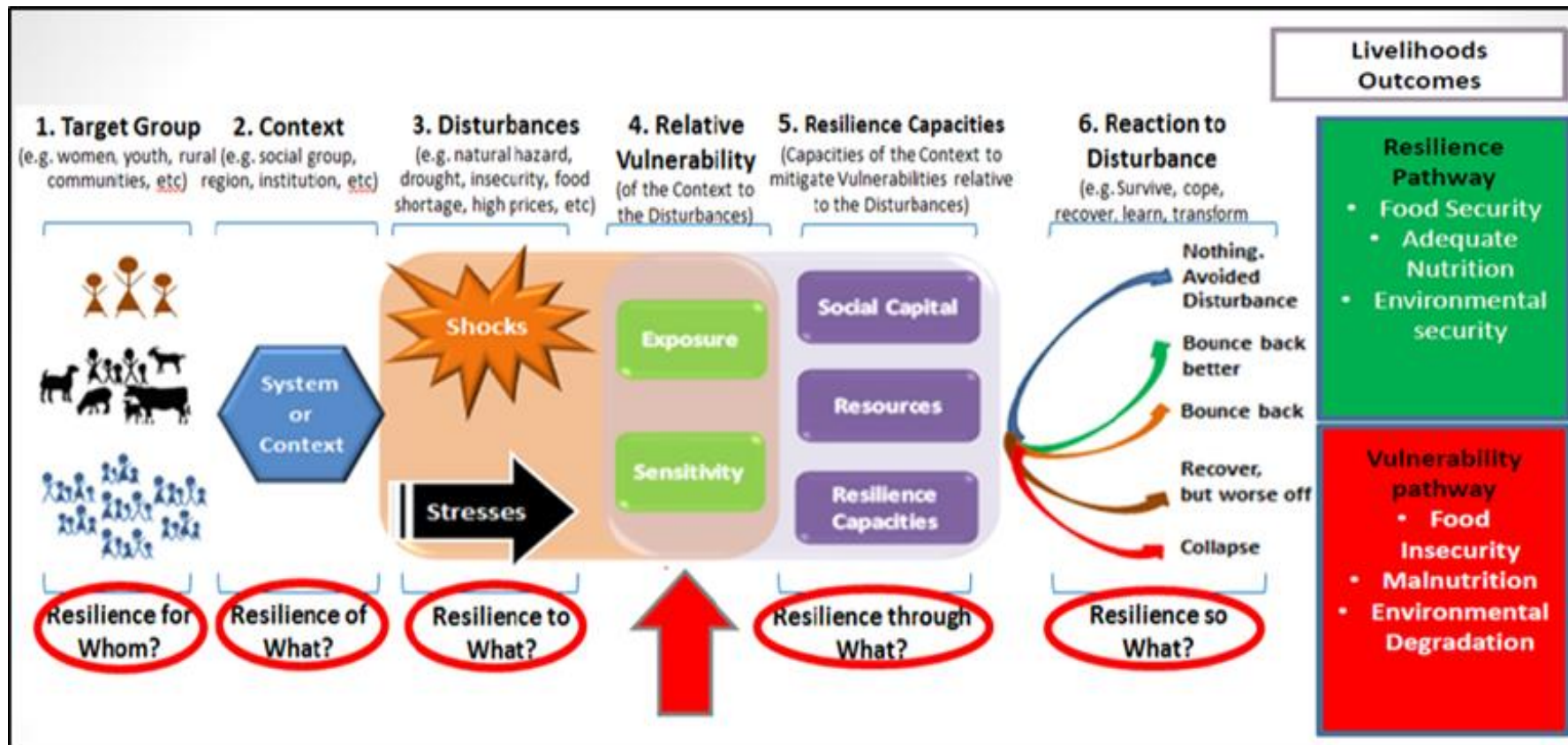
Figure 2: Zimbabwe Resilience Framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

Methodology – Assessment Process

- ZimLAC, through multi-stakeholder consultations, developed an appropriate assessment design concept note and data collection tools informed by the assessment objectives.

- The primary data collection tools used in the assessment were the android–based structured household questionnaire, the community Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide, Irrigation Key Informant Interview and the Chiefs' FGD guide.

- ZimLAC national supervisors (including Provincial Agritex Extension Officers and Provincial Nutritionists) and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. These underwent training in all aspects of the assessment. Training for enumerators was done at district level.

- The Ministry of Local Government coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial supervision and district enumeration vehicles. Three enumerators were selected from each district for data collection and one anthropometrist was responsible for taking anthropometric measurements.

- Primary data collection took place from 4 to 20 May 2024. Data analysis and report writing ran from 27 May to 7 June 2024. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

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 PPS methodology.
  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).
- At least 300 households were sampled per district. A total of 18 001 households were interviewed.
- 600 community FGDs and 60 Chief's FGDs were held across all the districts.

Province	Number of Interviewed Households
Manicaland	2094
Mash Central	2403
Mash East	2705
Mash West	2101
Mat North	2099
Mat South	2099
Midlands	2401
Masvingo	2099
National	18001

Methodology – Sampled Wards
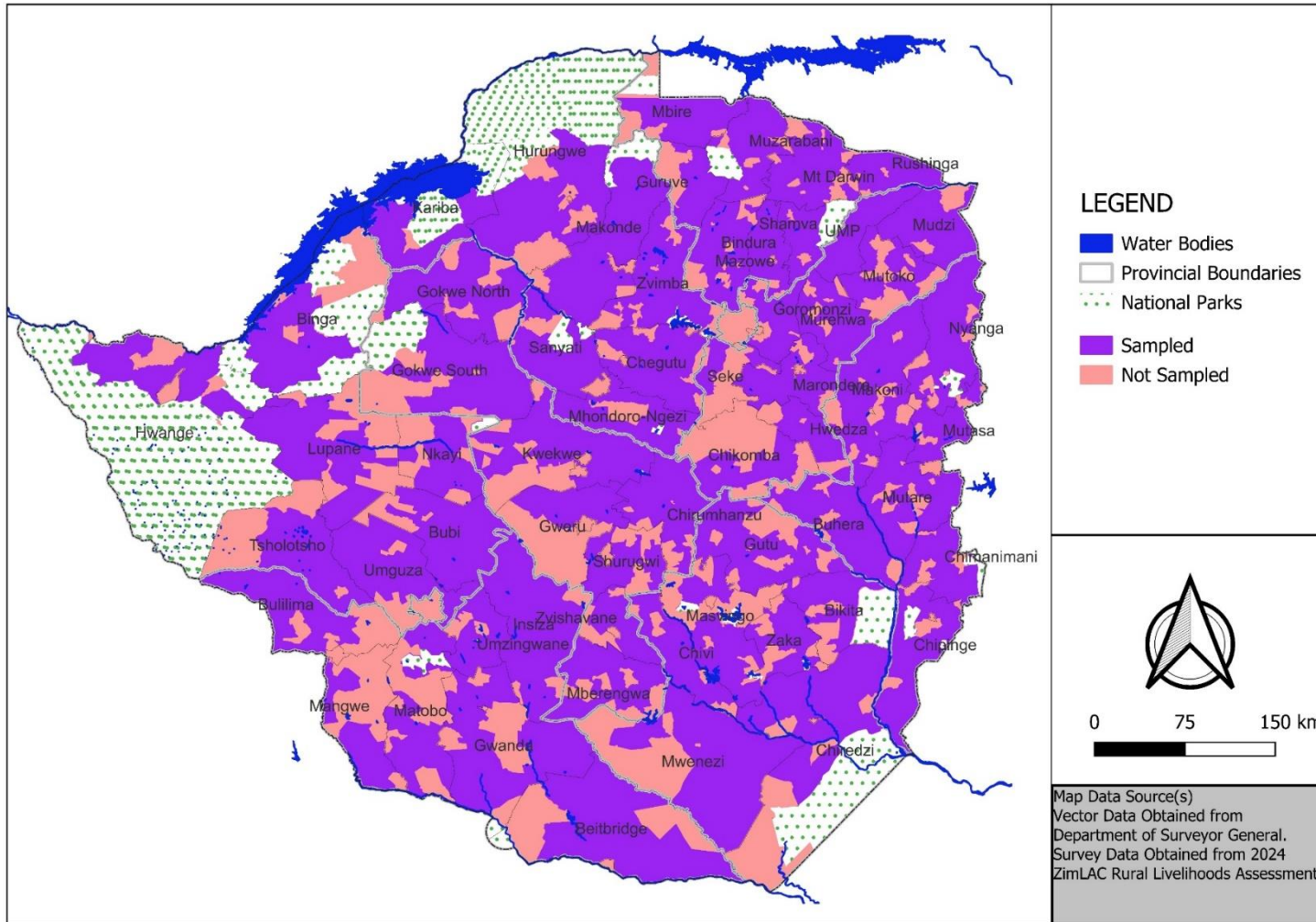
Data Preparation and Analysis

- 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
  - Chief's 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.
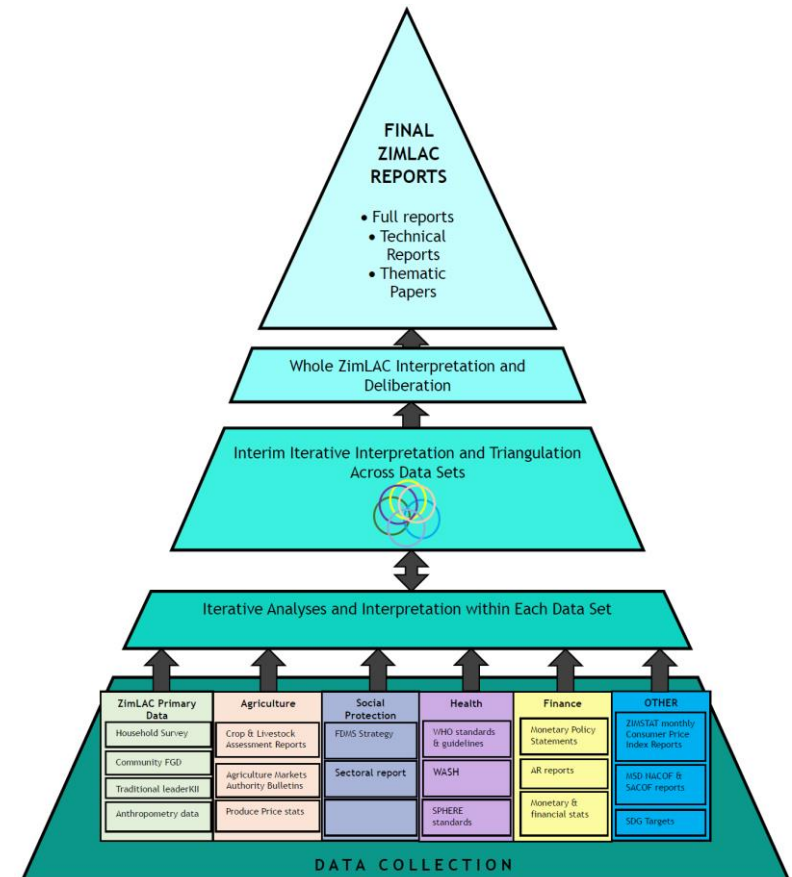
Technical Scope

The 2024 RLA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Health

- WASH

- Nutrition

- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities

- Food security

- Shocks and stressors

- Social protection

- Youth

- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas

- Cross-cutting issues such as gender

Demographic Description of the Sample

Household Characteristics

Characteristics of Respondents

Age of Respondent (years)		Sex of Respondent	
		Male (%)	Female (%)
Manicaland	48.6	30.7	69.3
Mash Central	45.2	33.1	66.9
Mash East	48.3	30.4	69.6
Mash West	44	35.2	64.8
Mat North	50.2	28.3	71.7
Mat South	48.5	27.1	72.9
Midlands	50.1	32.5	67.5
Masvingo	49.3	30.5	69.5
National	**48.0**	**31.0**	**69.0**

- The average age of the respondents was 48 years.

- At least 69% of the respondents were females.

Household Members' Characteristics

Average Household Size		Sex (%)		Household Members (%)						
		Male	Female	0 to 9 Years	10 to 17 Years	18 to 29 Years	30 to 39 Years	40 to 49 Years	50 to 64 Years	65+ Years
Manicaland	4.0	46.6	53.4	26.3	19.8	16.1	10.0	10.0	9.0	8.6
Mash Central	3.9	48.3	51.7	25.3	18.5	17.8	10.8	11.1	8.8	7.5
Mash East	3.9	47.6	52.4	25.5	19.0	16.0	10.5	9.3	9.9	9.8
Mash West	4.3	47.9	52.1	26.8	18.7	18.1	11.5	10.4	8.1	6.3
Mat North	4.0	45.8	54.2	24.6	20.0	15.4	9.4	9.1	10.4	11.0
Mat South	4.3	46.0	54.0	25.6	19.6	16.5	9.4	8.5	9.6	10.8
Midlands	4.3	47.2	52.8	25.3	19.8	16.9	9.3	9.0	9.8	10.0
Masvingo	4.0	46.2	53.8	25.9	20.1	15.1	9.8	10.6	9.0	9.4
National	**4.1**	47.0	53.0	25.6	19.4	16.5	10.1	9.7	9.3	9.2

- The average household size was 4.1.

- Females (53.0%) constituted the majority of the household members.

- Those within the 65+ years category constituted 9.2% of the household members.

Characteristics of Household Head

Province	Household Head Average Age (Years)	Sex of Household Head (%)		Household Head by Category (%)	
		Male	Female	Elderly Headed (65 Years and Above)	Child Headed
Manicaland	54.1	63.6	36.4	23.9	0.5
Mash Central	51.7	67.5	32.5	21.1	0.2
Mash East	54.2	62	38	28.1	0.2
Mash West	51.2	71.4	28.6	18.3	0
Mat North	57.3	55.7	**44.3**	30.1	0.5
Mat South	60.4	57.2	42.8	33.4	0.5
Midlands	55.5	63.1	36.9	29.6	0.3
Masvingo	55.4	57.4	42.6	26.6	0.6
National	**54.9**	**62.3**	**37.7**	**26.4**	**0.3**

- The average age of the household heads was 54.9 years.

- About 37.7% of the households were female-headed and the highest proportion was recorded in Matabeleland North (44.3%).

- Elderly- headed households constituted 26.4% whilst child-headed households were 0.3%

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained
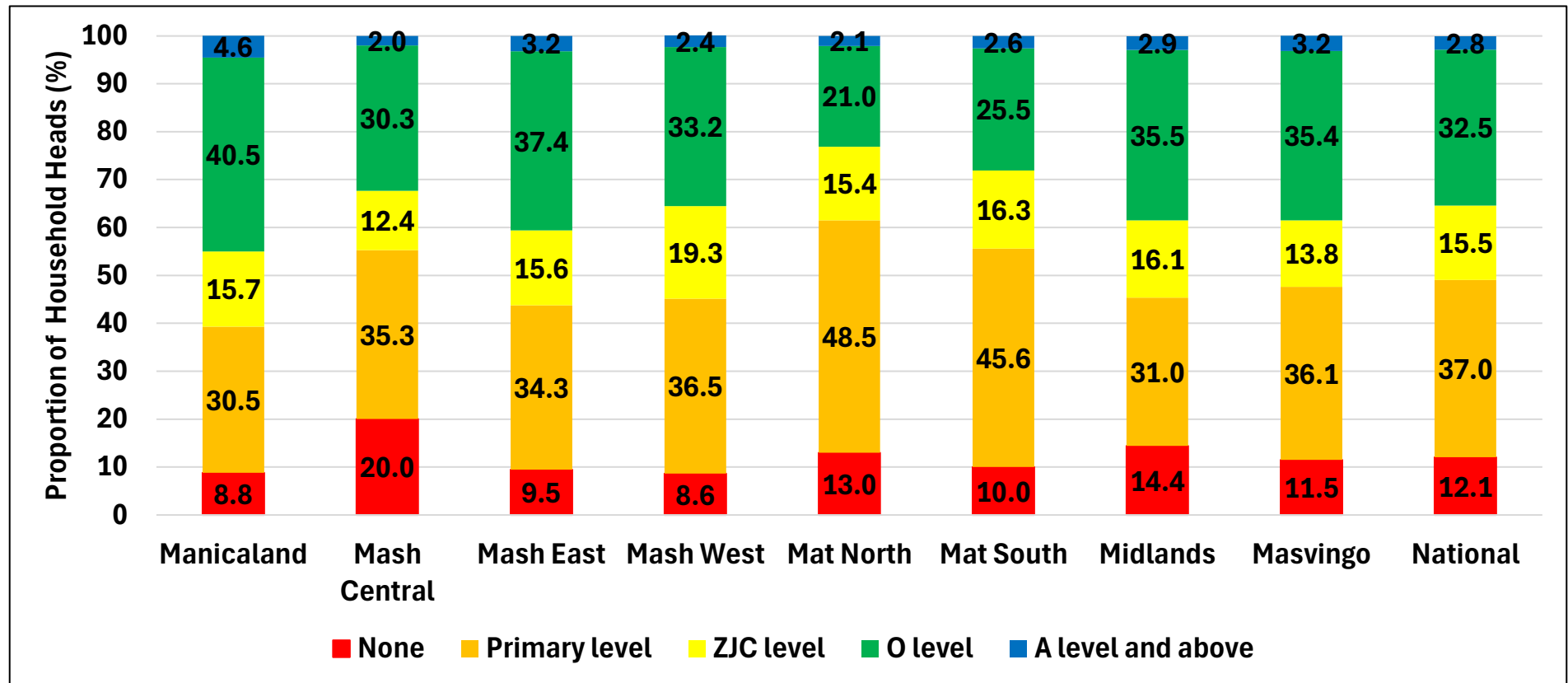
- About 87.9% of the household heads attained some form of education.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status
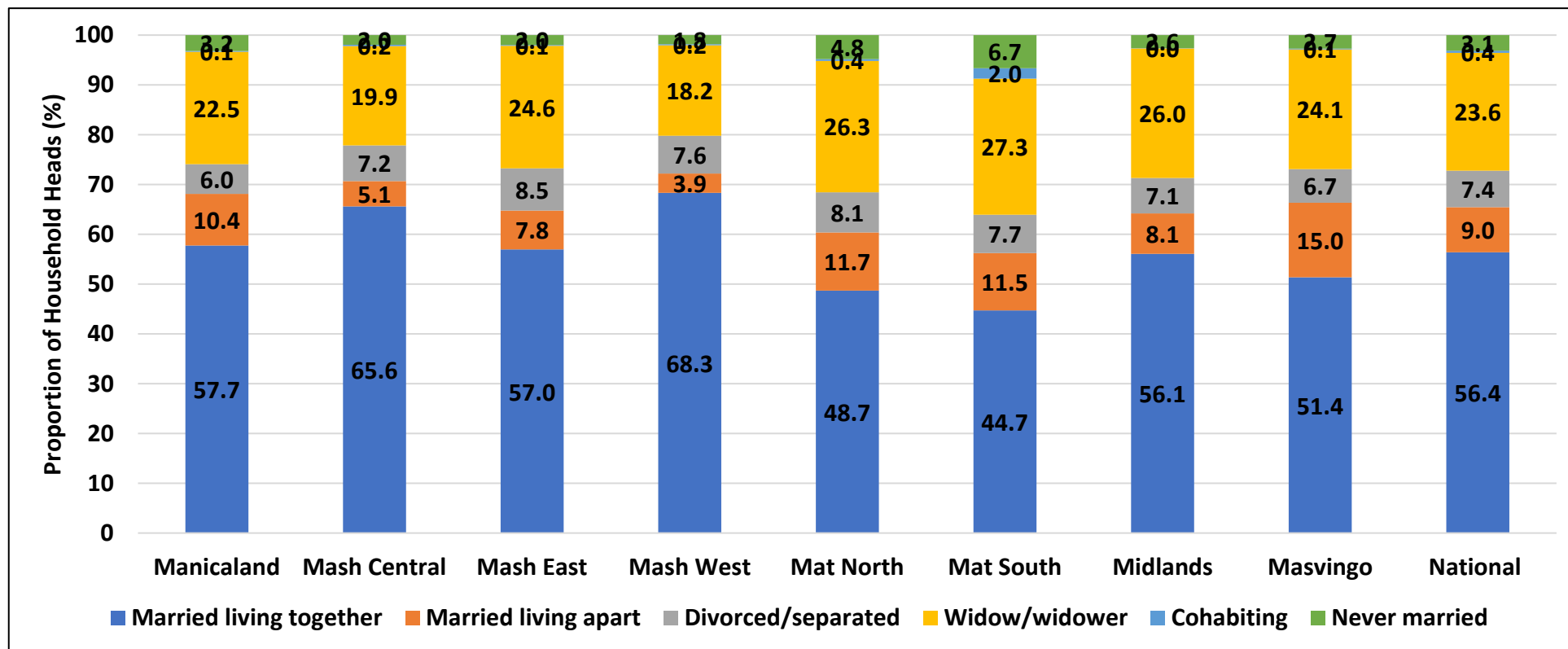
- About 56.4% of the household heads were married and living together.
- Matabeleland South (27.3%) had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed against the national proportion of 23.6%.
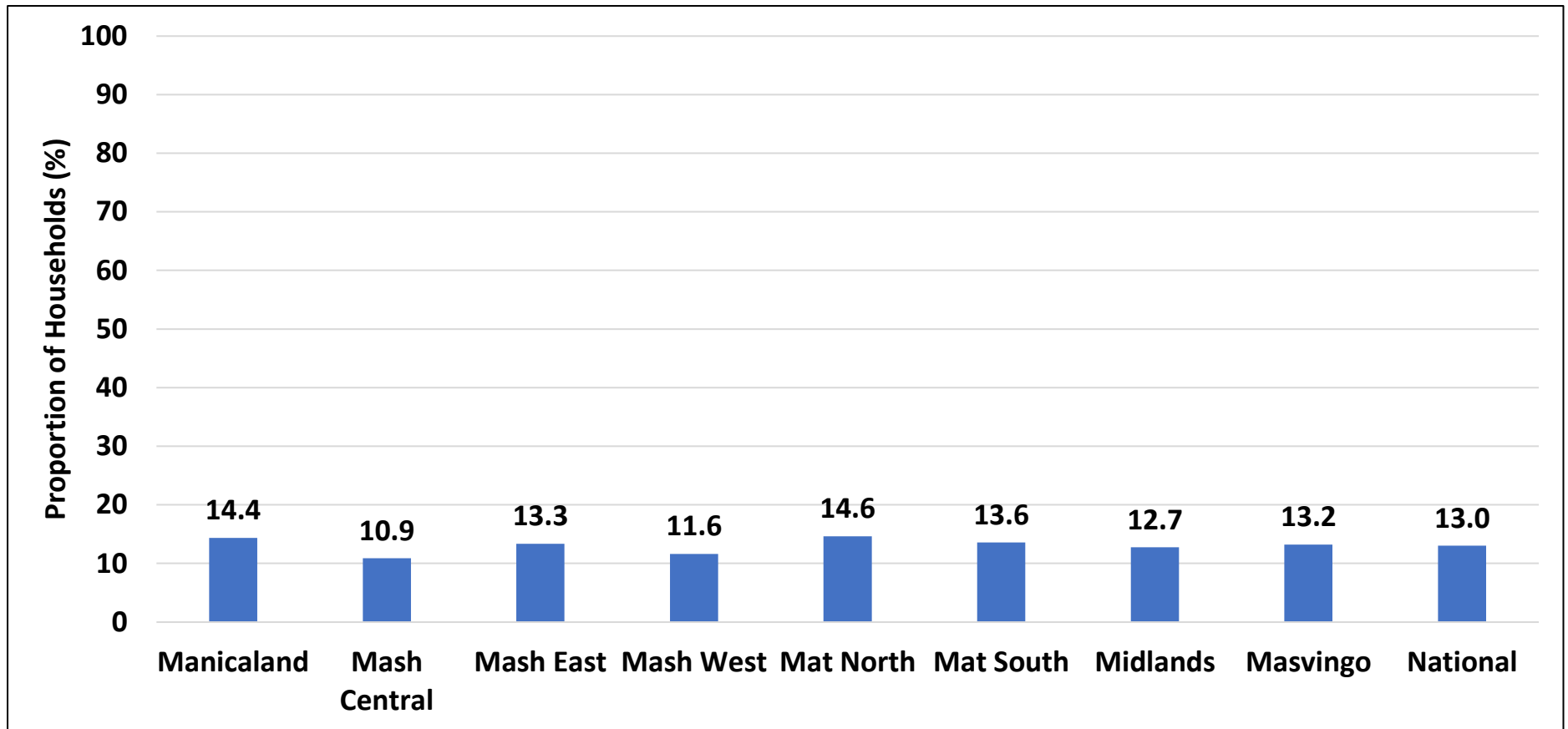
Characteristics of Household Head: Religion
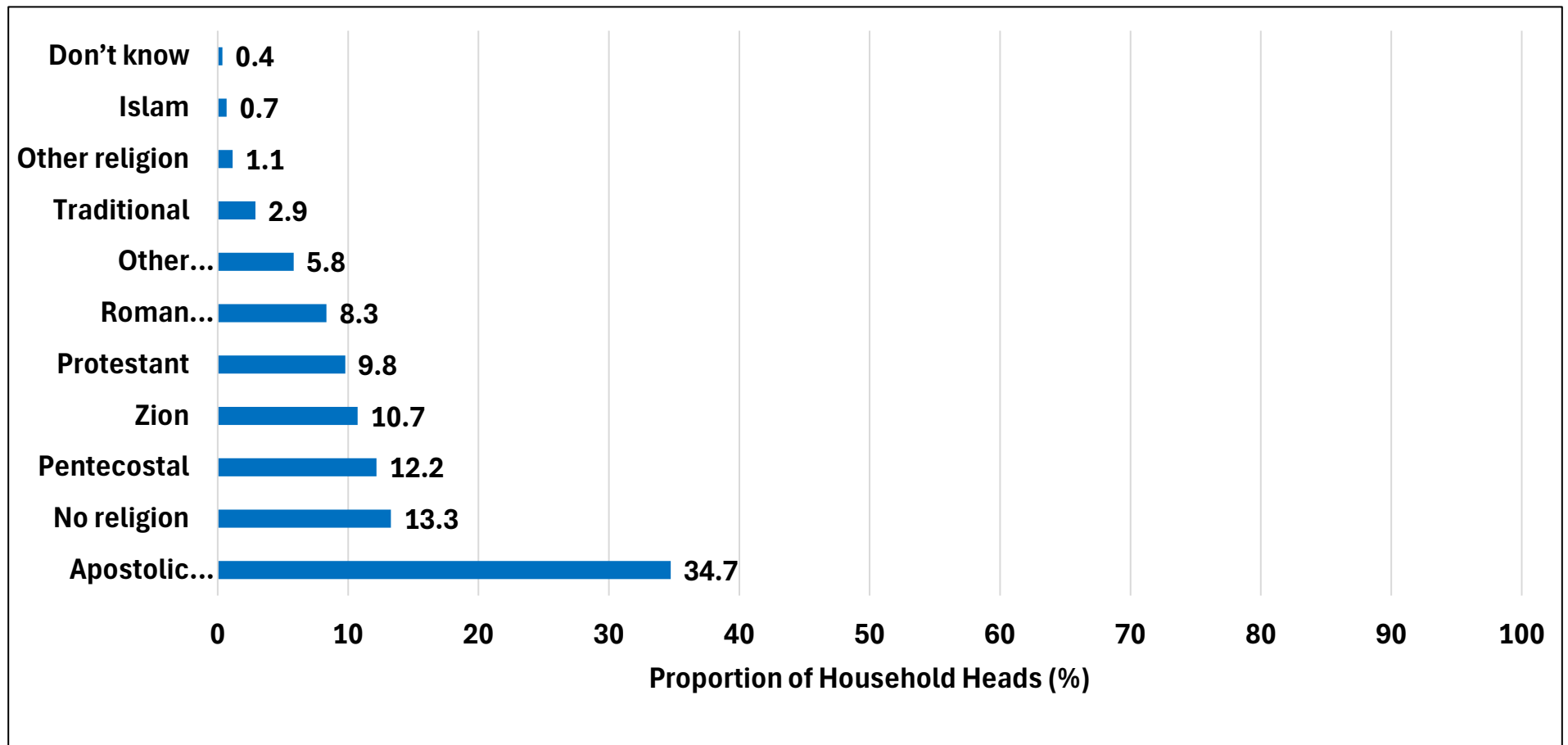
- Most of the household heads were of the apostolic sect (34.7%), 13.3% had no religion and 12.2% were pentecostal.

Orphaned Children

- The proportion of households with orphans was 13%.

Chronic Conditions

Chronic Conditions
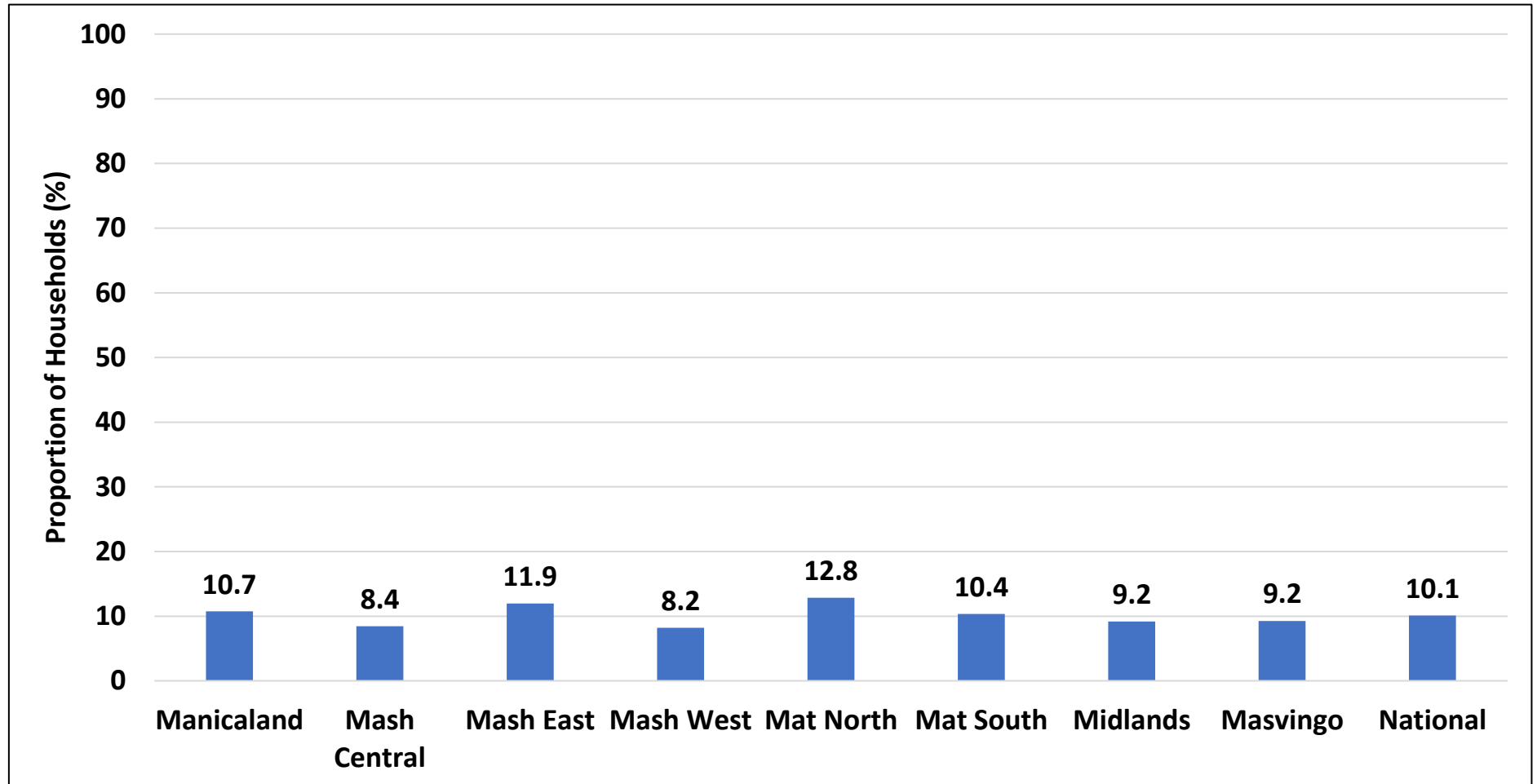
- The proportion of households with a member who had a chronic condition was 10.1%.

Chronic Conditions (10.1%)

Province	HIV /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 (%)	Cerebral palsy (%)	Mental illness (%)	Not willing to disclose (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	2.2	0.7	1.8	0.7	3.8	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.4
Mash Central	1.6	0.6	1.3	0.6	2.8	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
Mash East	2.5	0.5	2.3	0.9	4.6	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.7
Mash West	2.5	0.2	1.7	0.5	2.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.5
Mat North	5.2	0.3	1.7	0.8	3.7	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.9
Mat South	4.1	0.3	1.4	0.5	2.8	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5
Midlands	2.5	0.4	1.5	0.7	3.1	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.6
Masvingo	2.6	0.4	1.8	1.0	2.2	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.6
National	**2.9**	0.4	1.7	0.7	**3.2**	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6

- Hypertension/high blood pressure (3.2%) and HIV/AIDS (2.9%) were the major chronic conditions cited.

Disability

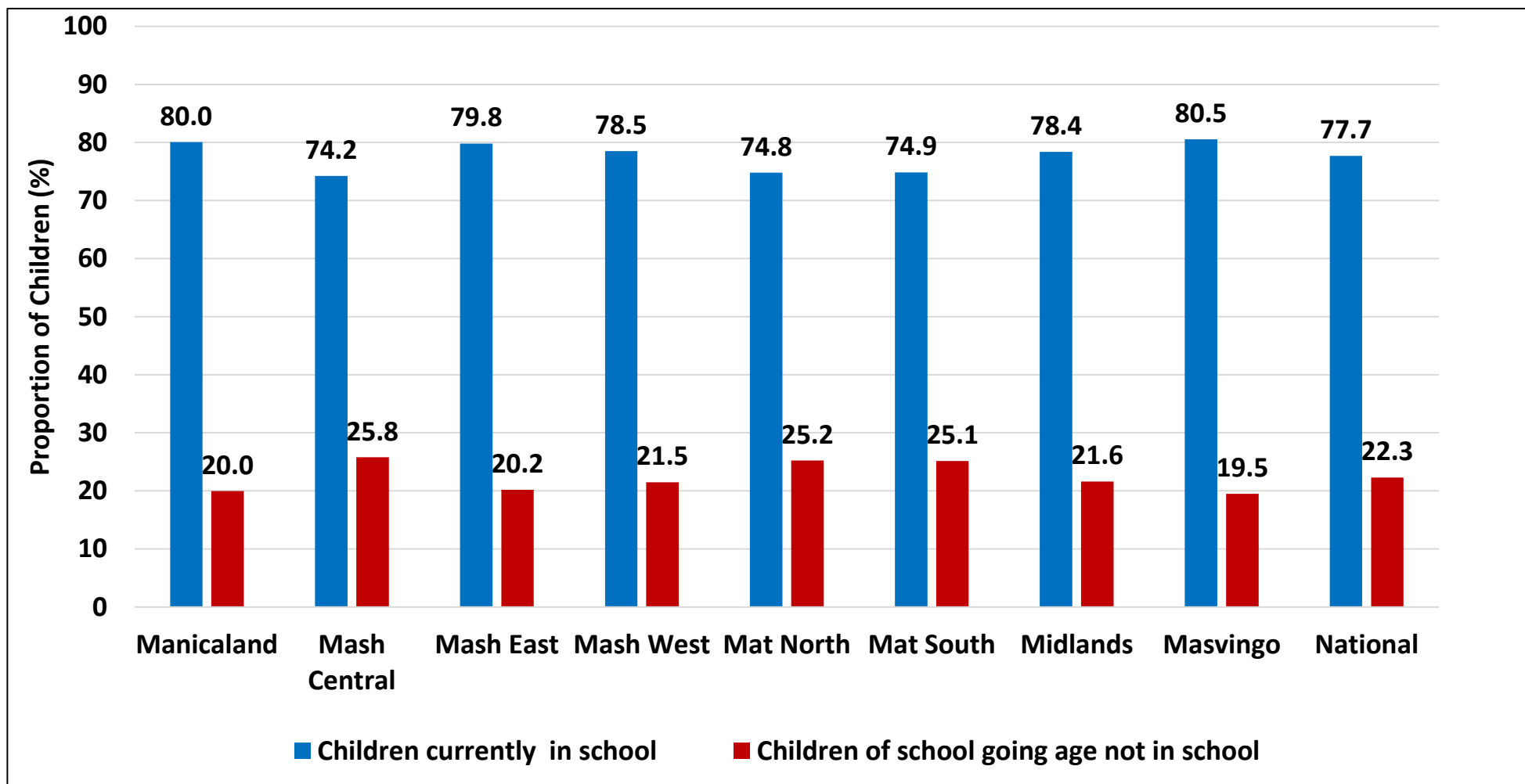# Disability Conditions
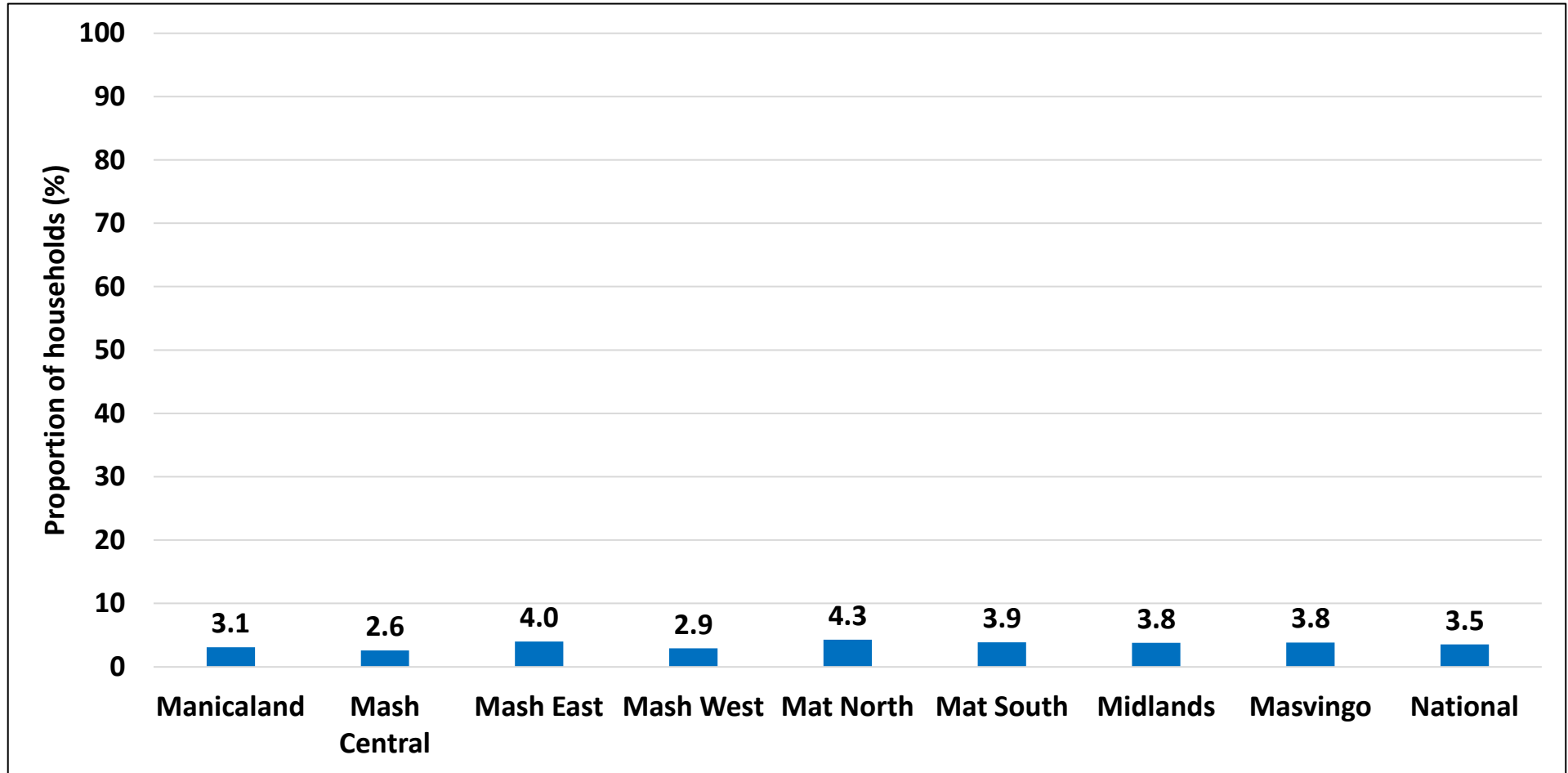
- The proportion of households with at least one person living with any form of disability was 3.5%.

Education

School Attendance

- Nationally, 22.3% of school going age children were not in school at the time of the survey.

Reasons for Being Out of School (22.3%)

Province	Financial Challenges (%)	Child Considered Too Young (%)	Pregnancy/ Marriage (%)	Completed O/A Level (%)	Illness (%)	Help With Household Work (%)	Care For Other Household Member (%)	Not Interested In School (%)	Distance Too Far (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	8.9	2.8	2.8	2.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.7	1.1
Mash Central	12.6	2.6	3.4	2.8	0.3	0	0.1	1.7	1.1	1.3
Mash East	8	2.3	2.1	4.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.9	1	1.2
Mash West	9.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	0.5	0.1	0	0.7	0.5	2
Mat North	13.1	2.9	1.4	3.7	0.3	0.1	0	1.1	0.5	2
Mat South	12.5	2.4	1.6	4.5	0.4	0	0.2	1.3	0.1	1.8
Midlands	9.7	2.2	2.7	3.4	0.3	0.1	0	1.2	0.4	1.6
Masvingo	8.3	2.5	2.3	3.2	0.2	0.2	0	0.8	0.7	1.1
National	10.3	2.6	2.4	3.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	1	0.6	1.4

- Financial challenges (10.3%) were reported to be the main reason why children were out of school.

Children Receiving Hot Meals at School
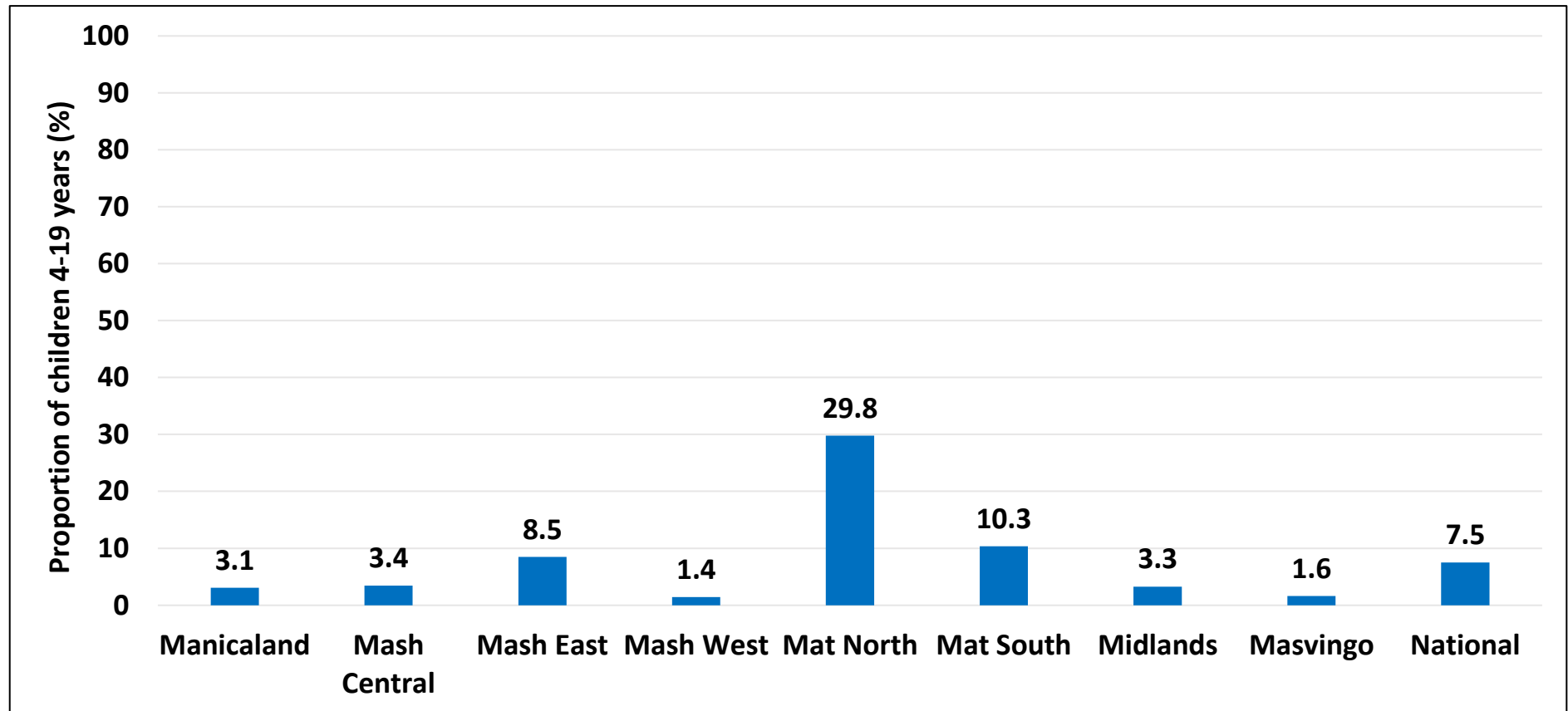
- Nationally, the proportion of children who received a hot meal at school was 7.5%.

- Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of children who received a hot meal (29.8%).

Social Protection

Households which Received Any Form of Support
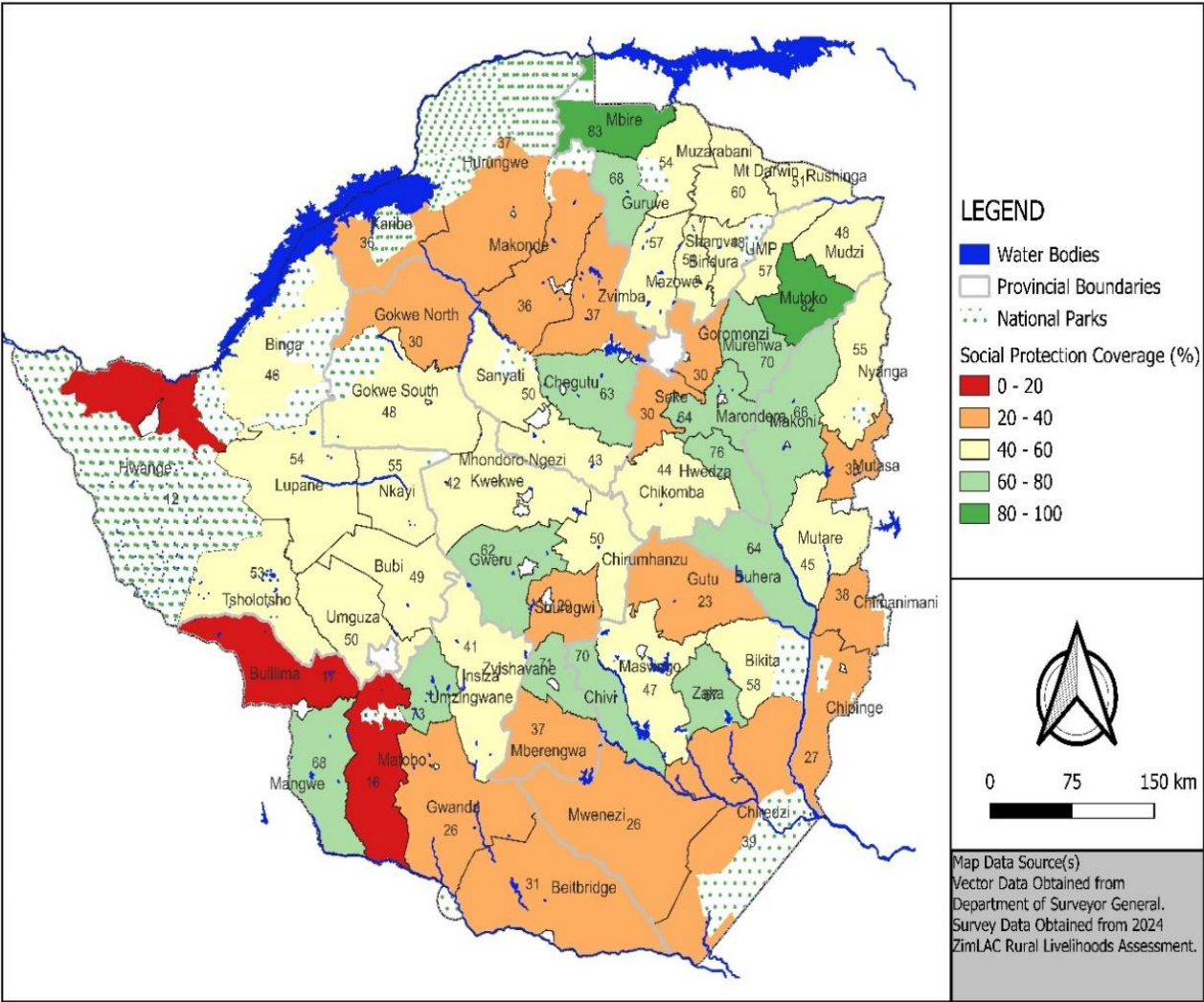
- Mbire (83%) and Mutoko (82%) had the highest proportion of households which received any form of support.

Households which Received Any Form of Support
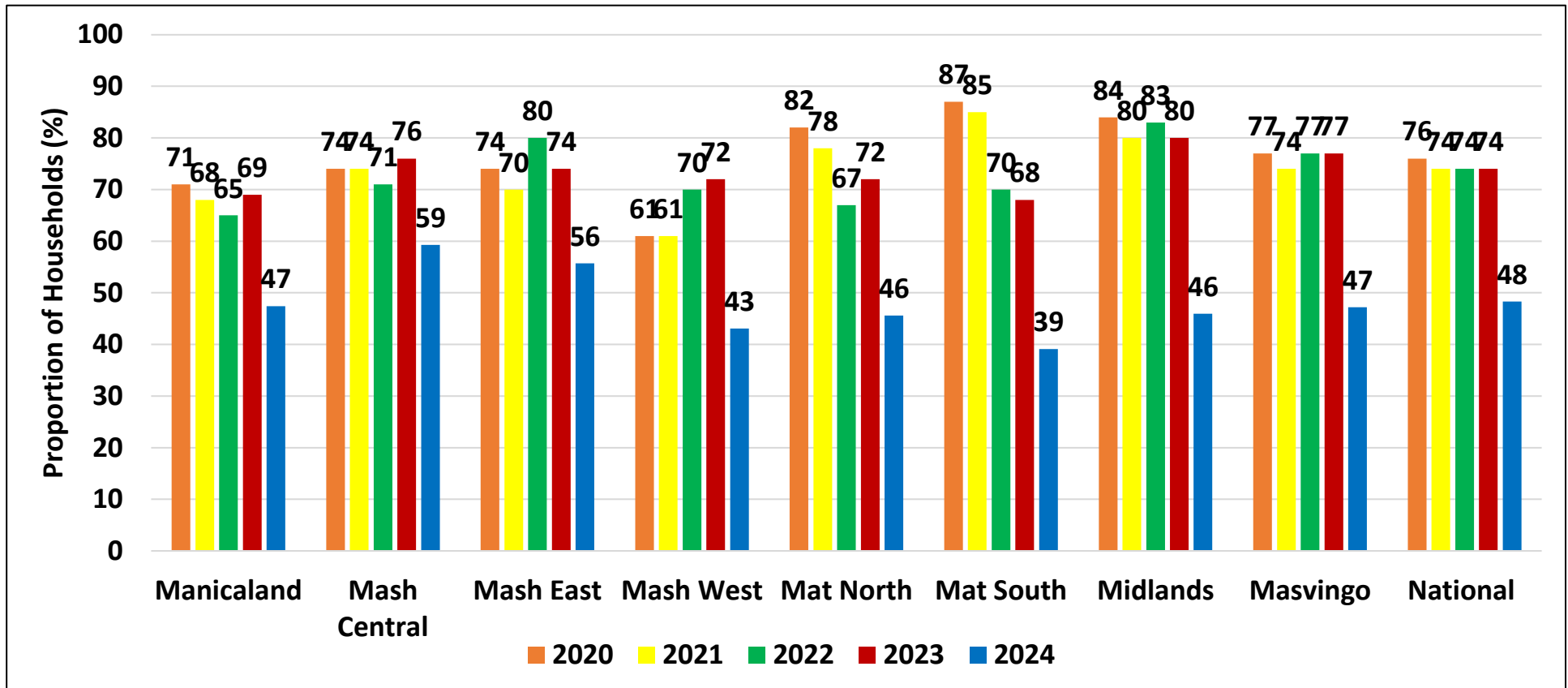
- The burden of support was low for both Government and Development partners. This is attributed to the decline in food insecurity prevalence from 38% during the 2022/23 season to 26% in the 2023/24 season.

- In addition, this also indicates the strengthened communities' adaptive capacities in an environment characterised by climatic, economic, health and social challenges.

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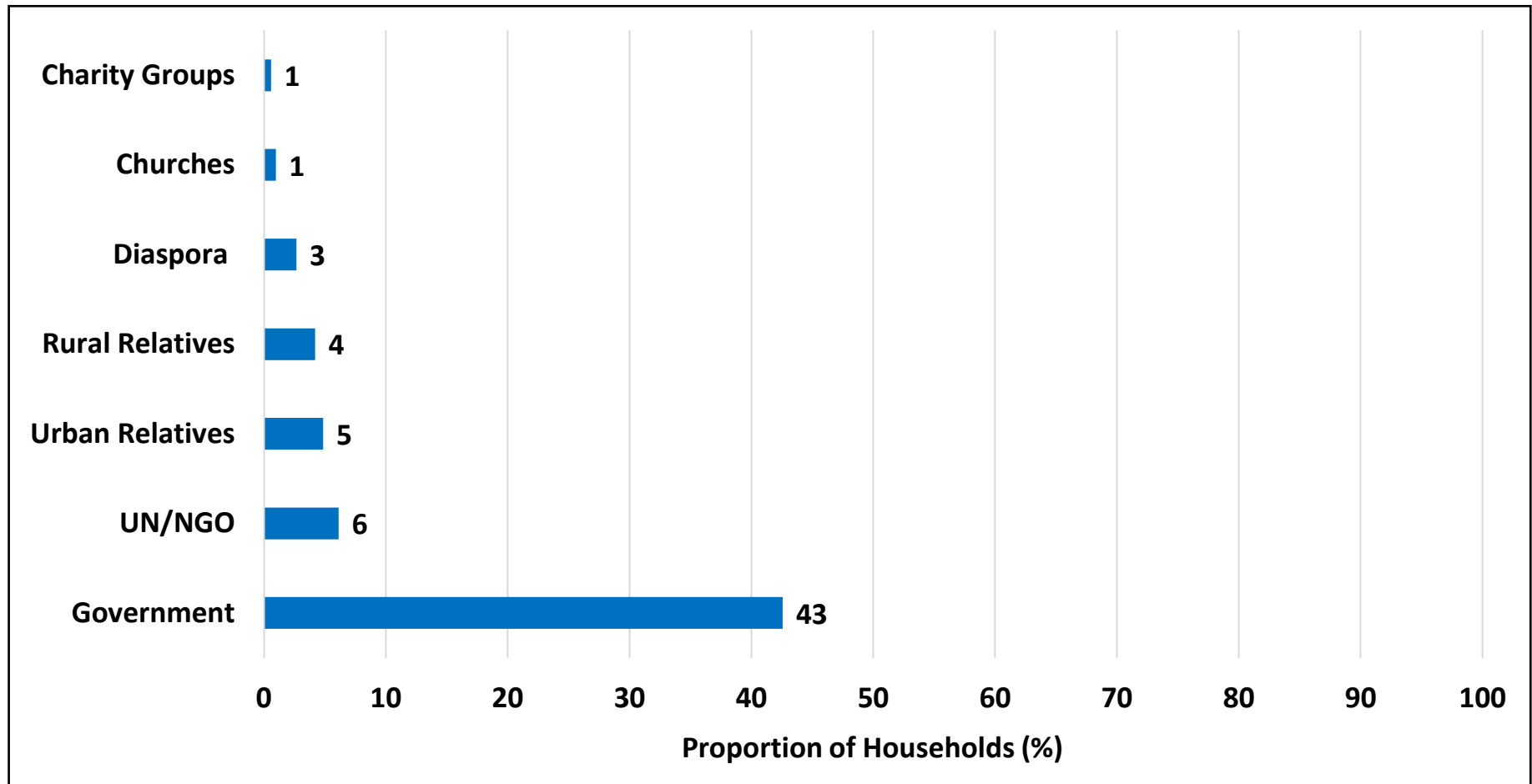
Sources of Support

- The majority of households (43%) reported having received support from Government followed by UN/NGOs (6%) and urban relatives (5%).

Sources of Support

Province	Government (%) 2023	Government (%) 2024	UN/NGO (%) 2023	UN/NGO (%) 2024	Urban Relatives (%) 2023	Urban Relatives (%) 2024	Rural Relatives (%) 2023	Rural Relatives (%) 2024	Diaspora (%) 2023	Diaspora (%) 2024	Churches (%) 2023	Churches (%) 2024	Charity Groups (%) 2023	Charity Groups (%) 2024
Manicaland	63	41	12	7	9	5	6	5	3	2	2	1	0	0
Mash Central	71	56	13	4	5	3	6	5	2	1	2	1	0	1
Mash East	67	51	15	4	12	6	7	5	5	1	2	1	1	1
Mash West	68	42	4	1	6	2	6	1	2	1	2	1	1	0
Mat North	62	35	18	9	9	6	8	6	9	6	1	1	1	1
Mat South	54	31	12	11	10	6	11	5	18	5	1	1	1	1
Midlands	73	43	5	3	10	4	6	1	7	2	1	1	1	0
Masvingo	65	35	17	11	20	8	17	6	11	5	2	0	0	1
National	**66**	**43**	**12**	**6**	**10**	**5**	**8**	**4**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**

- Nationally, the proportion of households that received social assistance from the different sources decreased compared to 2023, except for support from charity groups which remained constant at 1%.

- The proportion of households that received support from the Government decreased from 66% in 2023 to 43% in 2024. Support from UN/NGOs also decreased from 12% in 2023 to 6% in 2024.

Forms of Support from Government

Province	Crop inputs (%)	Food (%)	Education assistance (%)	Other Livestock support (Tick grease, acaricides) (%)	Health Assistance (%)	Cash transfers (%)	Livestock (%)	Other (%)	WASH software (trainings/ messaging) (%)	WASH hardware (inputs) (%)	Vouchers (%)
Manicaland	35.4	9.6	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Mash Central	**48.5**	**23.5**	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
Mash East	45.7	12.3	2.3	2.1	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.2
Mash West	36.6	**7.7**	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mat North	24.7	15.4	1.4	0	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Mat South	**18.2**	14.9	2	2.8	1.3	1	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Midlands	30.7	**23.6**	1	2.9	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
Masvingo	24.0	13.2	3.7	1.9	0.7	0.4	1.2	1	0.4	0.6	0.1
National	**33.6**	**15.2**	**1.7**	**1.4**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.2**

- The majority of households received crop inputs (33.6%) and food (15.2%) from Government.

- Crop inputs support was highest in Mashonaland Central (48.5%) whilst Matabeleland South (18.2%) had the lowest.

- Food support was highest in Midlands (23.6%) and Mashonaland Central (23.5%) and lowest in Mashonaland West (7.7%).

Forms of Support from UN/NGOs

Province	Food (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Cash transfers (%)	WASH software (trainings/ messaging) (%)	Education assistance (%)	Other (%)	WASH hardware (inputs) (%)	Livestock (%)	Health Assistance (%)	Other livestock support (Tick grease, acaricides) (%)	Vouchers (%)
Manicaland	4.5	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1
Mash Central	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Mash East	1.4	0.6	1	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Mash West	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Mat North	3.2	1	0.4	2.1	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.0
Mat South	5.2	0.7	3.2	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.0
Midlands	1.5	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Masvingo	7.4	1.1	0.0	1.2	0.7	1	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0
National	**2.9**	**0.9**	**0.7**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.1**

- Households mostly received food (2.9%) followed by crop inputs (0.9%) from UN/NGOs.

- Masvingo (7.4%) had the highest proportion of households that received food support from UN/NGOs.

- Mashonaland Central (1.5%) had the highest crop input support from UN/NGOs whilst Mashonaland West (0.3%) had the lowest.

Migration

Types of Migration

	Migrated to urban from rural areas (%)	Joined from urban areas (%)	Migrated to stay outside the country (%)	Joined from outside Zimbabwe (%)
Manicaland	13.8	2.9	3.2	0.7
Mash Central	7.8	1	0.5	0.2
Mash East	10.2	3.2	1.6	0.7
Mash West	7.3	1.8	0.9	0.2
Mat North	13.3	2	7.2	1.1
Mat South	9	2.1	10.8	2
Midlands	11.5	1.6	4.9	0.5
Masvingo	13.4	2.3	7.7	1.9
National	**10.7**	**2.1**	**4.4**	**0.9**

- The main type of migration reported was migrating to urban areas (10.7%) and migrating outside the country (4.4%).

Reasons for Migrating to Urban Areas

	Better livelihood options (%)	Employment opportunities (%)	New job (%)	Newly acquired residential land (%)	Request by a relative (%)	Educational purposes (%)	Access to better standards of living (%)	Marriage (%)	Business opportunity (%)	Illness (%)
Manicaland	0.7	7.7	0.5	0.1	1.2	1.5	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6
Mash Central	0.7	3.5	0.7	0	0.8	0.2	0	0.3	1.2	0.3
Mash East	0.5	5.4	1	0	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Mash West	0.9	3.9	0.5	0	0.7	0.6	0	0.5	0	0.2
Mat North	2.6	7.5	0.2	0	0.3	1.3	0	0.4	0.2	0.2
Mat South	0.6	4.2	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.4	0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Midlands	0.7	7.8	0.4	0	0.5	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1
Masvingo	0.5	8.4	0.7	0.1	1.3	1.2	0	0.7	0	0.3
National	**0.9**	**6**	**0.6**	**0.1**	**0.8**	**1**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**0.3**

- The main reason for migrating to urban areas reported was search for employment opportunities (6%).

Food 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
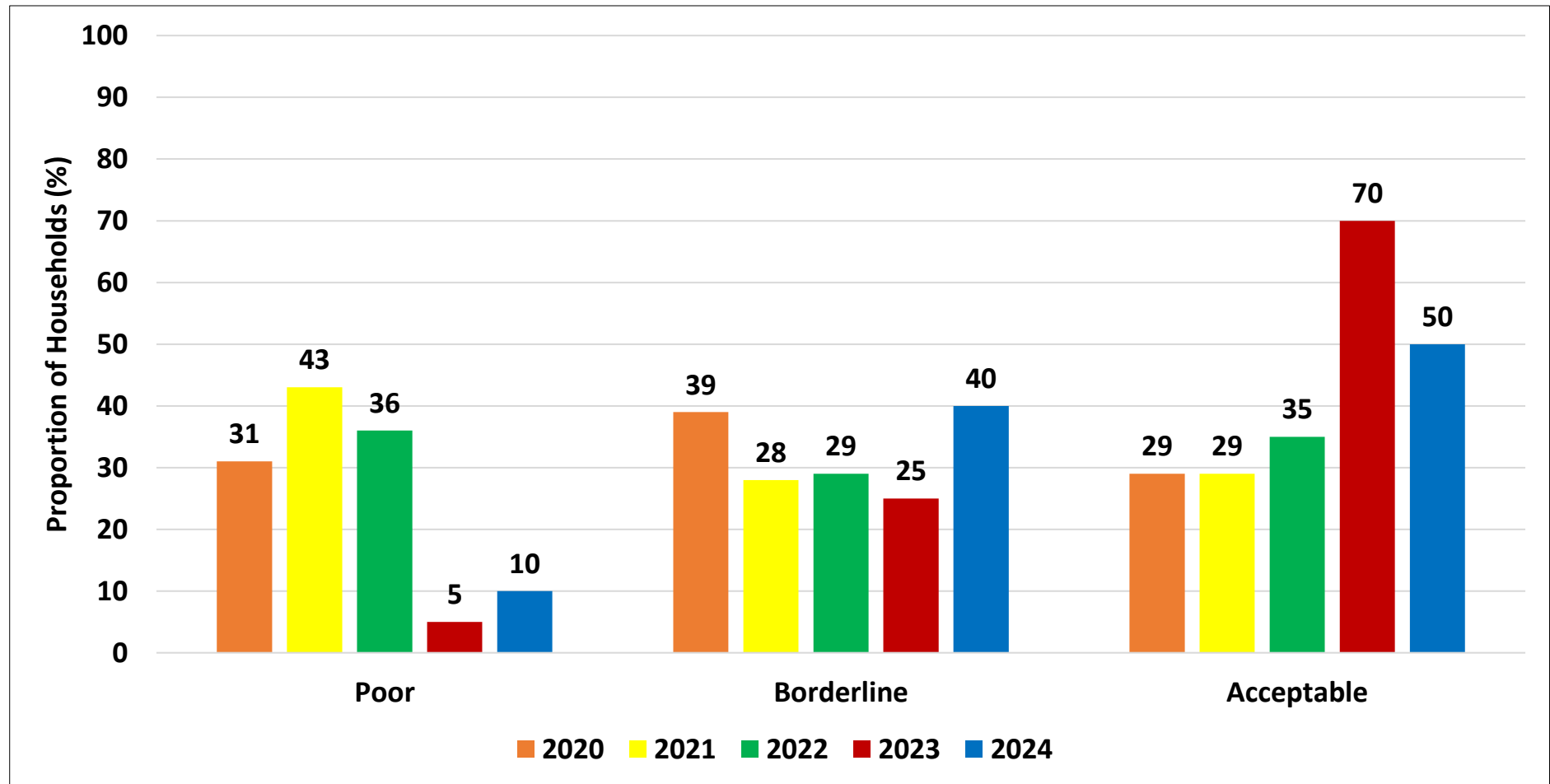
- There was a decrease in acceptable food consumption from 70% in 2023 to 50% in 2024.

- The proportion of households which consumed poor diets increased from 5% in 2023 to 10% in 2024.

Food Consumption Patterns
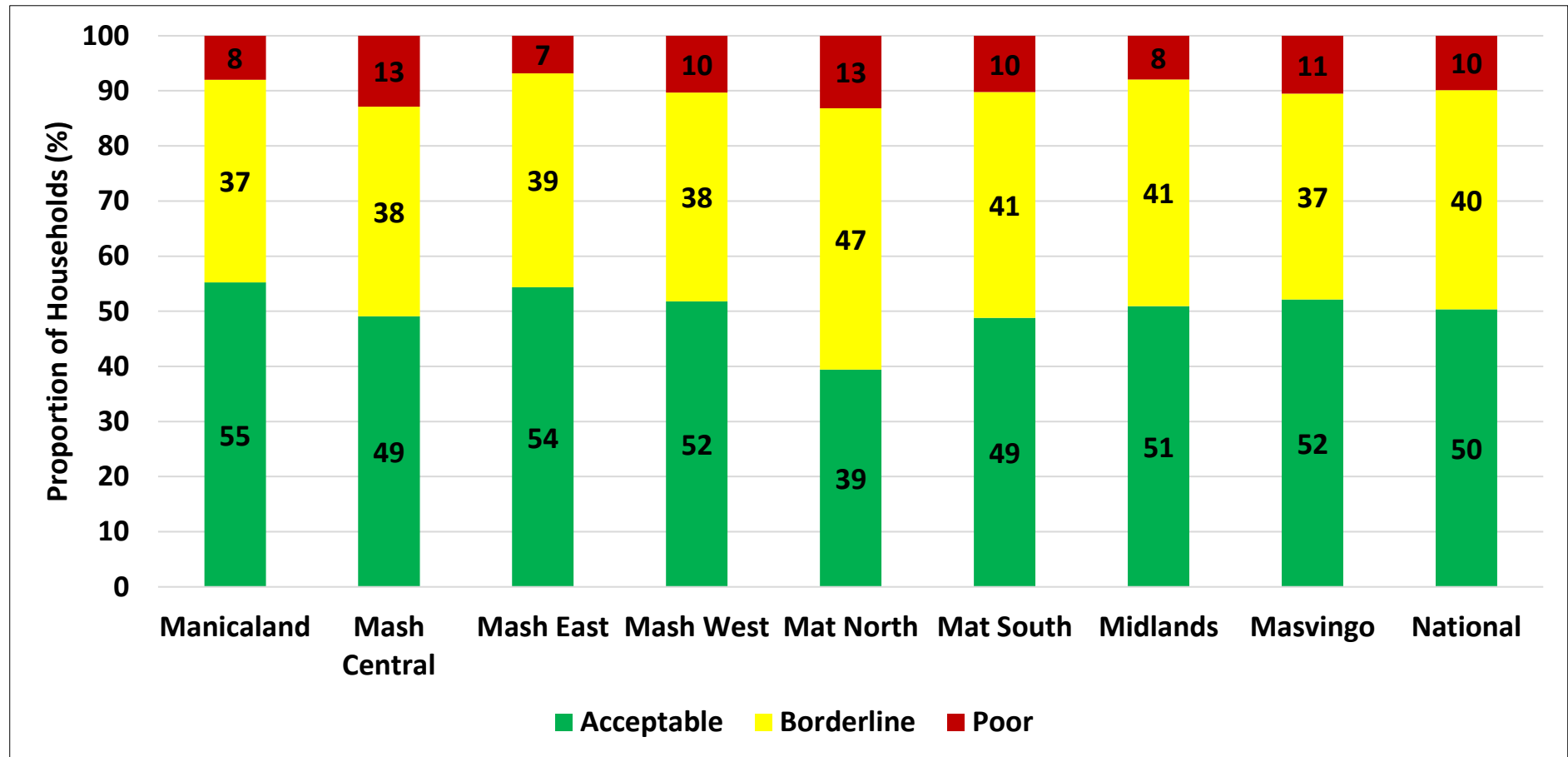
- Provinces with poor consumption patterns from 10% and above include Mashonaland West and Matabeleland South (10%), Masvingo (11%), Mashonaland Central (13%) and Matabeleland North (13%).

Poor Food Consumption Patterns by District

2023

2024
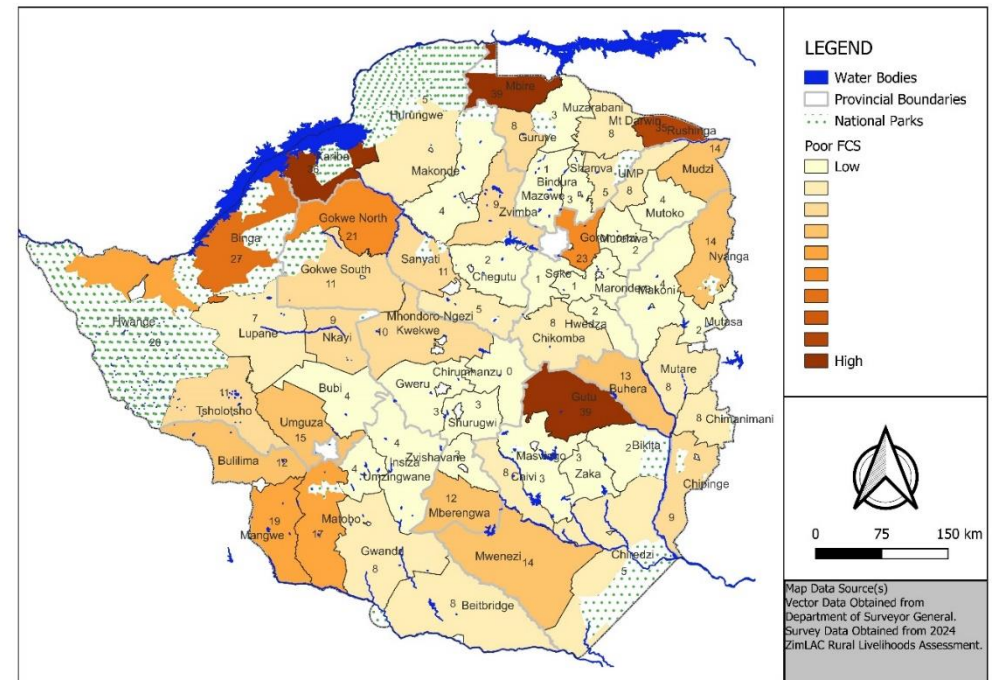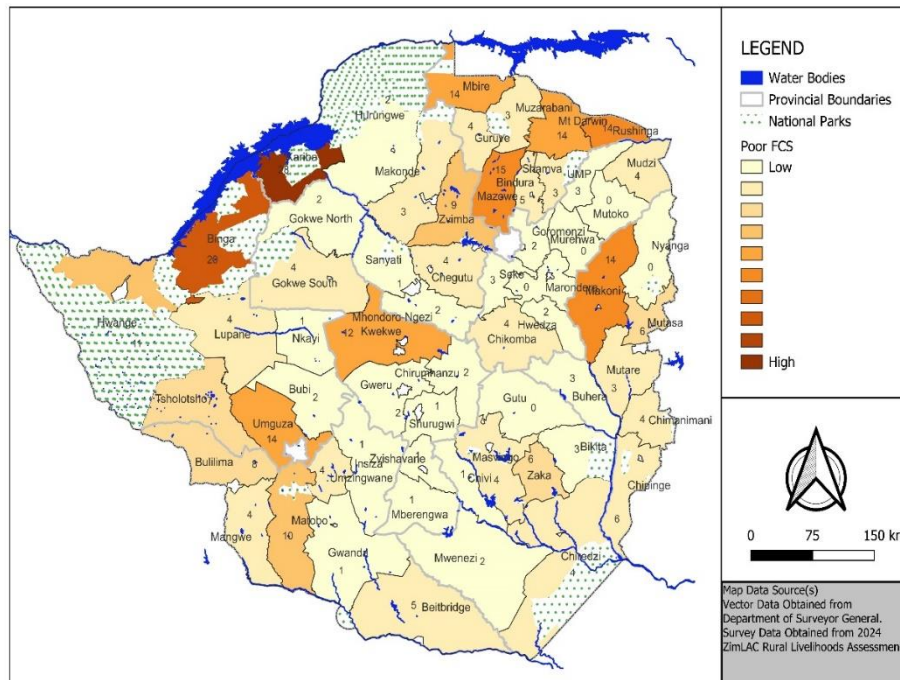
- The proportion of households with poor food consumption increased in most districts in 2024 when compared to 2023.

- Gutu and Mbire (39%), Kariba (36%) and Rushinga (35%) had the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption patterns whilst Chirumhanzu (0%) and Marondera, Mazowe and Seke (1%) had the least.

Household Dietary Diversity

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

Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from the Various Food Groups (Number of Days) by food group and year (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024):

- Milk and dairy products: 2020 = 1.0, 2021 = 1.0, 2022 = 1.0, 2023 = 1.1, 2024 = 0.7
- Pulses: 2020 = 1.0, 2021 = 1.0, 2022 = 2.0, 2023 = 2.2, 2024 = 0.8
- Fruit: 2020 = 1.0, 2021 = 1.0, 2022 = 2.0, 2023 = 2.1, 2024 = 1.9
- Protein-rich foods: 2020 = 1.0, 2021 = 1.0, 2022 = 2.0, 2023 = 2.5, 2024 = 2.0
- Oil: 2020 = 5.0, 2021 = 6.0, 2022 = 6.0, 2023 = 5.5, 2024 = 5.0
- Vegetables: 2020 = 5.0, 2021 = 4.0, 2022 = 5.0, 2023 = 5.5, 2024 = 5.9
- Cereals and tubers: 2020 = 5.0, 2021 = 6.0, 2022 = 6.0, 2023 = 6.8, 2024 = 6.7

- Similar to 2023, the most frequently consumed foods were cereals, vegetables and oil whilst milk and dairy products and pulses were the least consumed food groups.

Average Household Dietary Diversity Score
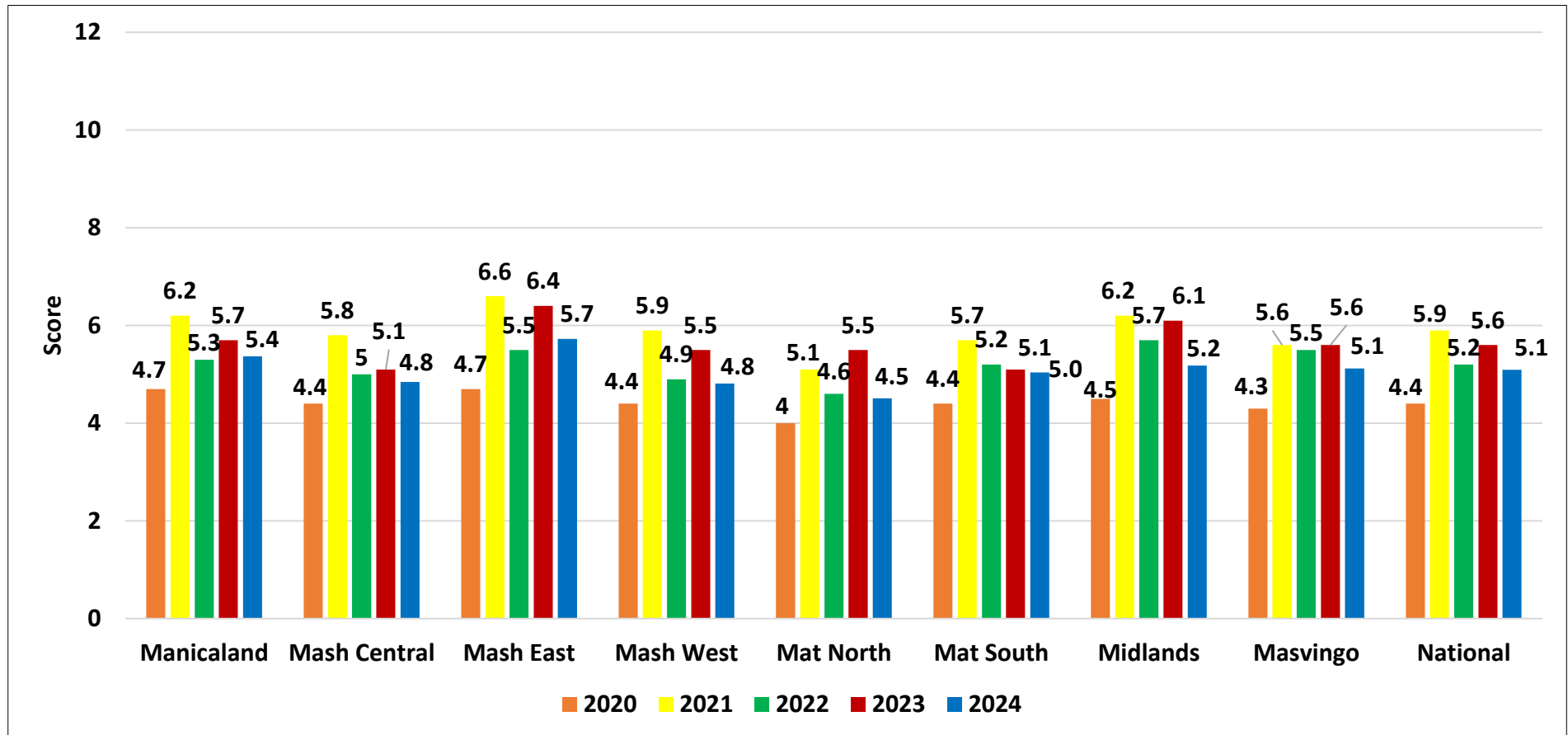
- Nationally, there was a decrease in the dietary diversity score from 5.6 in 2023 to 5.1 in 2024.

- All provinces had a decrease in the dietary diversity score.

HDDS by Food Groups

	Cereals (%)	Tubers (%)	Pulses (%)	Vegetables (%)	Fruits (%)	Meat (%)	Fish (%)	Eggs (%)	Dairy products (%)	Oil (%)	Sugar (%)	Condiments (%)
Manicaland	96.2	**14.9**	13.9	90.3	**36.4**	27.0	8.5	10.9	10.4	83.8	57.0	87.6
Mash Central	96.0	10.7	10.7	87.6	23.1	29.5	11.3	11.7	8.5	69.1	43.9	82.2
Mash East	98.6	**13.3**	13.1	95.4	**35.0**	29.0	8.1	11.4	15.5	88.6	69.1	95.1
Mash West	96.4	5.9	5.6	87.9	13.7	24.2	**11.5**	8.1	10.2	79.3	48.4	90.0
Mat North	93.2	3.5	9.3	84.3	13.0	21.2	5.2	3.5	9.1	67.2	57.4	83.9
Mat South	94.4	7.7	12.8	78.1	20.0	**33.5**	6.9	6.9	**15.2**	68.4	73.1	86.8
Midlands	97.4	9.1	12.2	91.0	24.3	**30.7**	5.5	7.7	**14.9**	79.1	59.1	87.3
Masvingo	98.8	12.0	**21.3**	87.9	20.6	23.6	5.5	4.1	13.0	77.3	59.3	88.5
National	**96.5**	9.8	12.4	**88.1**	23.7	27.5	7.8	8.2	12.2	76.9	58.5	87.8

- Cereals (96.5%) and vegetables (88.1%) were the most consumed food groups.

- Meat consumption was highest in Midlands (33.5%) and Matabeleland South (30.7%).

- Mashonaland East (35%) and Manicaland (36.4%) had highest consumption of fruits.

Household Coping

Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index

2023

2024
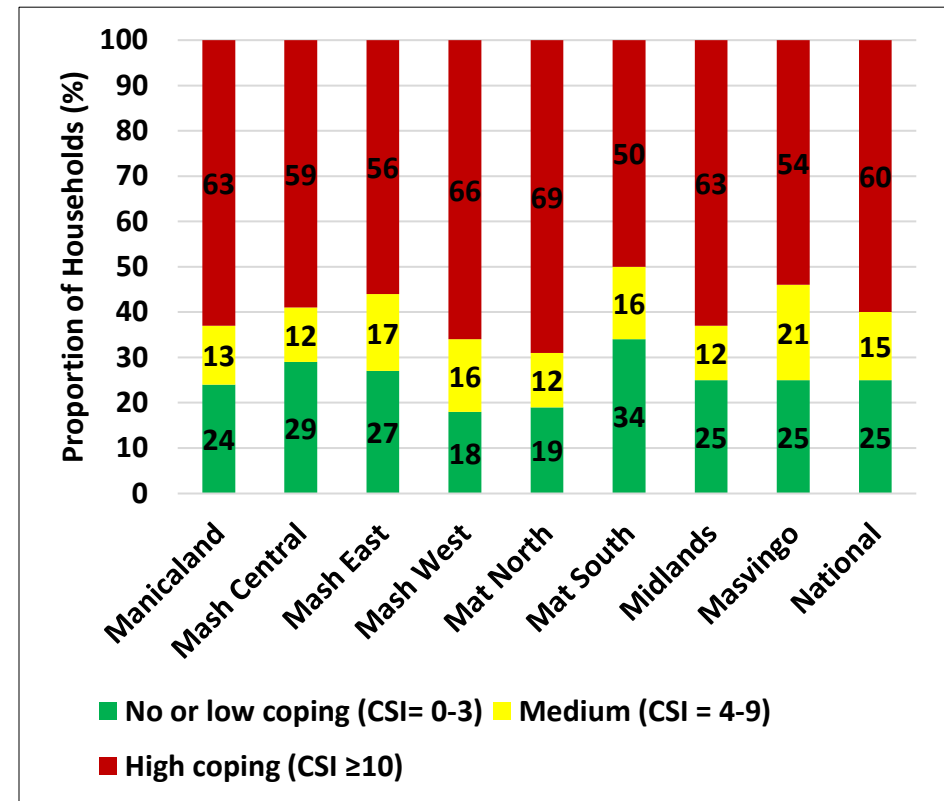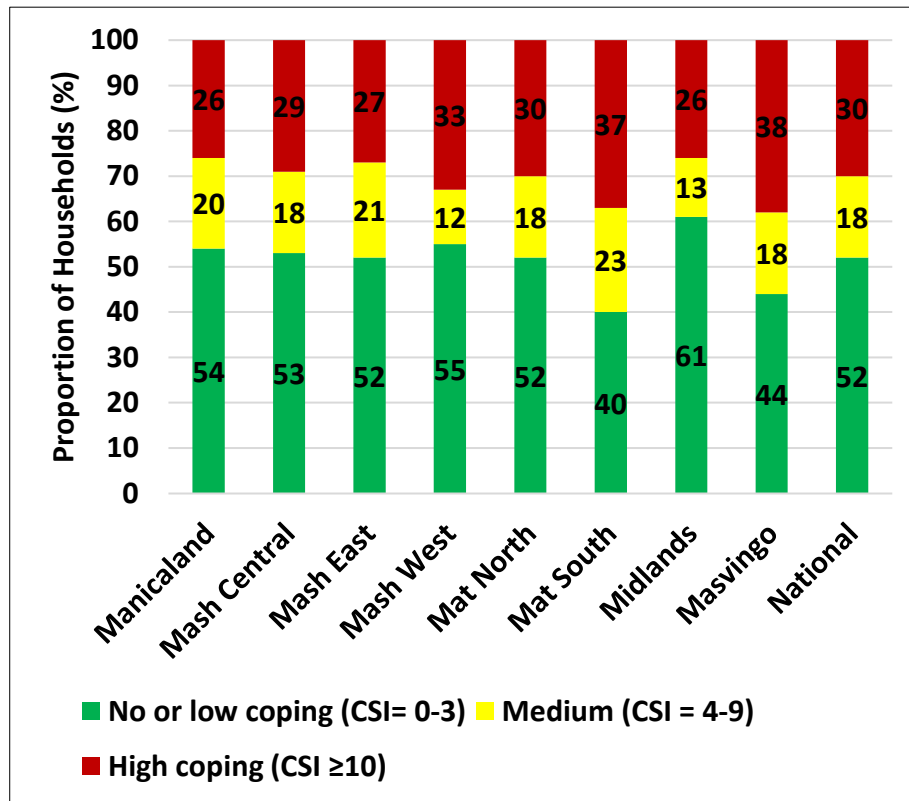
- The proportion of households with high food consumption coping increased from 30% in 2023 to 60% in 2024.

- All provinces had an increase in high food consumption coping.

Household Hunger Scale
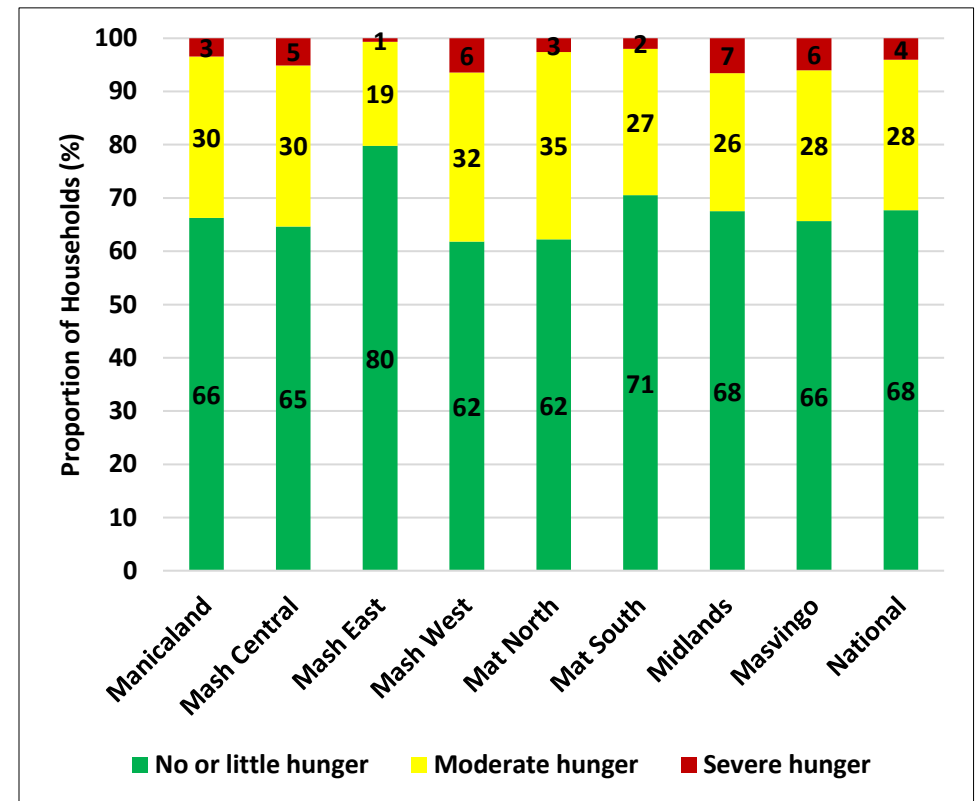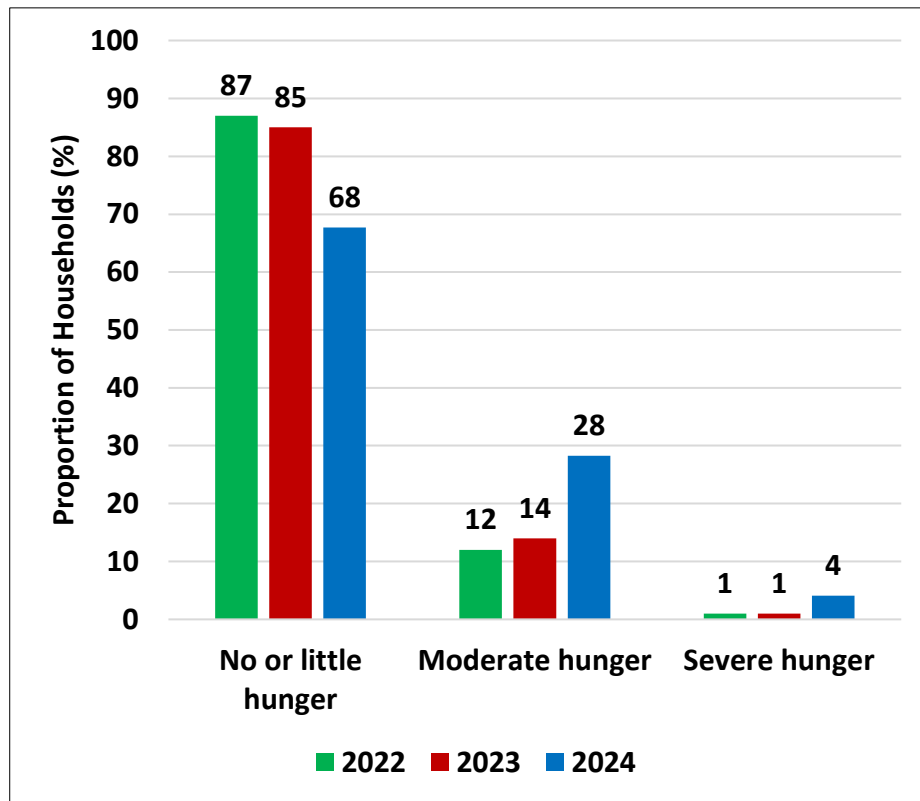
- Nationally, households which experienced no or little hunger decreased from 85% in 2023 to 68% in 2024.

- Mashonaland East (80%) had the highest proportion of households with no or little hunger whilst Midlands (7%) had the highest proportion of households with severe 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	• Selling productive assets, directly reduces future productivity, including human capital formation. • Withdrawing children from school • Reducing non-food expenditure.
Crisis	• Selling productive assets, directly reduces future productivity, including human capital formation. • Withdrawing children from school • Reducing nonfood expenditure.
Emergency	• Selling one's land affects future productivity, strategies are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature. • Begging for food. • Selling the last breeding stock to buy food

Households Engaging in any Form of Livelihoods Coping Strategies
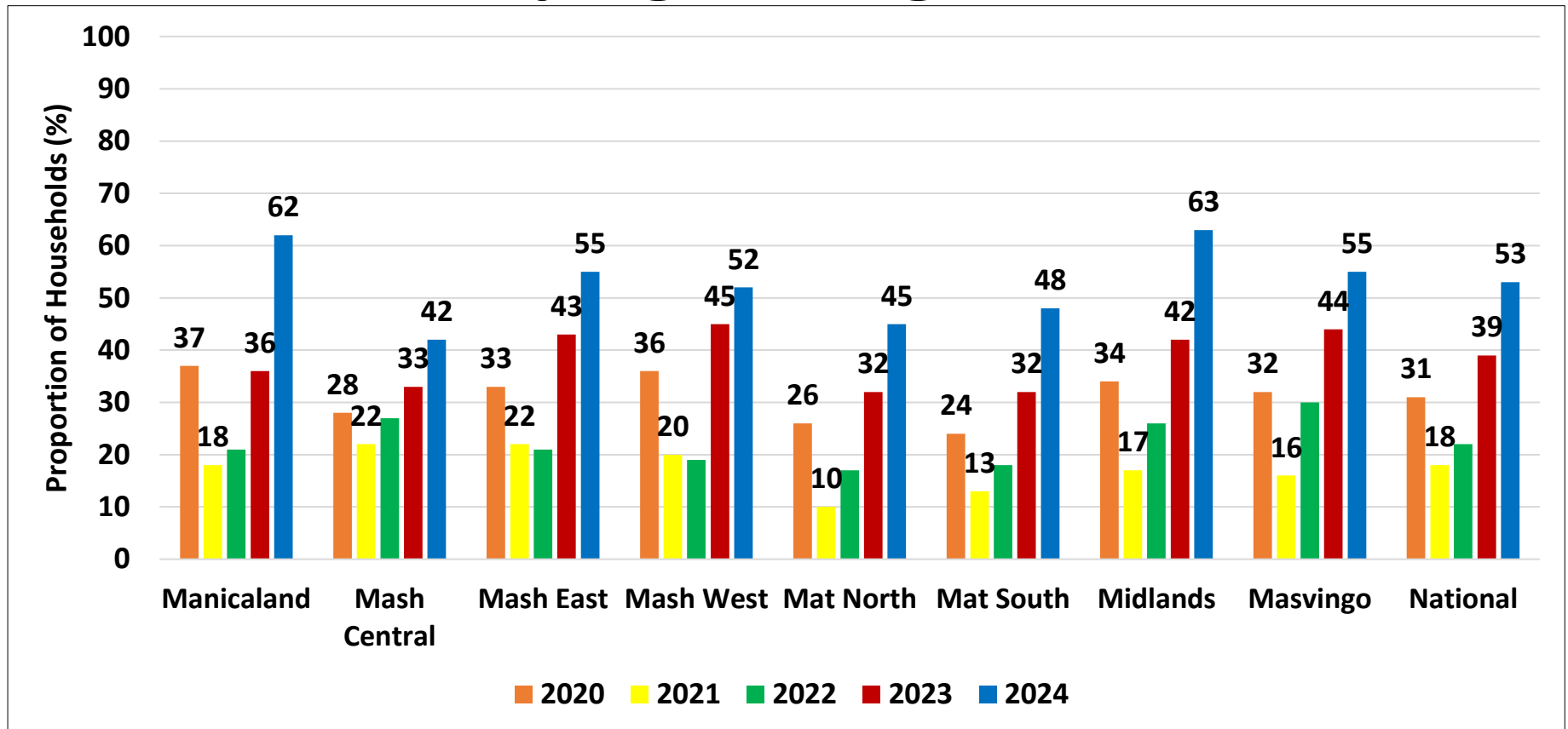
- Nationally, the proportion of households engaging in any form of livelihoods coping increased from 39% in 2023 to 53% in 2024.

- Midlands (63%) had the highest proportion of households engaging in any form of livelihoods coping strategies whilst Mashonaland Central had the least (42%).

Households Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies
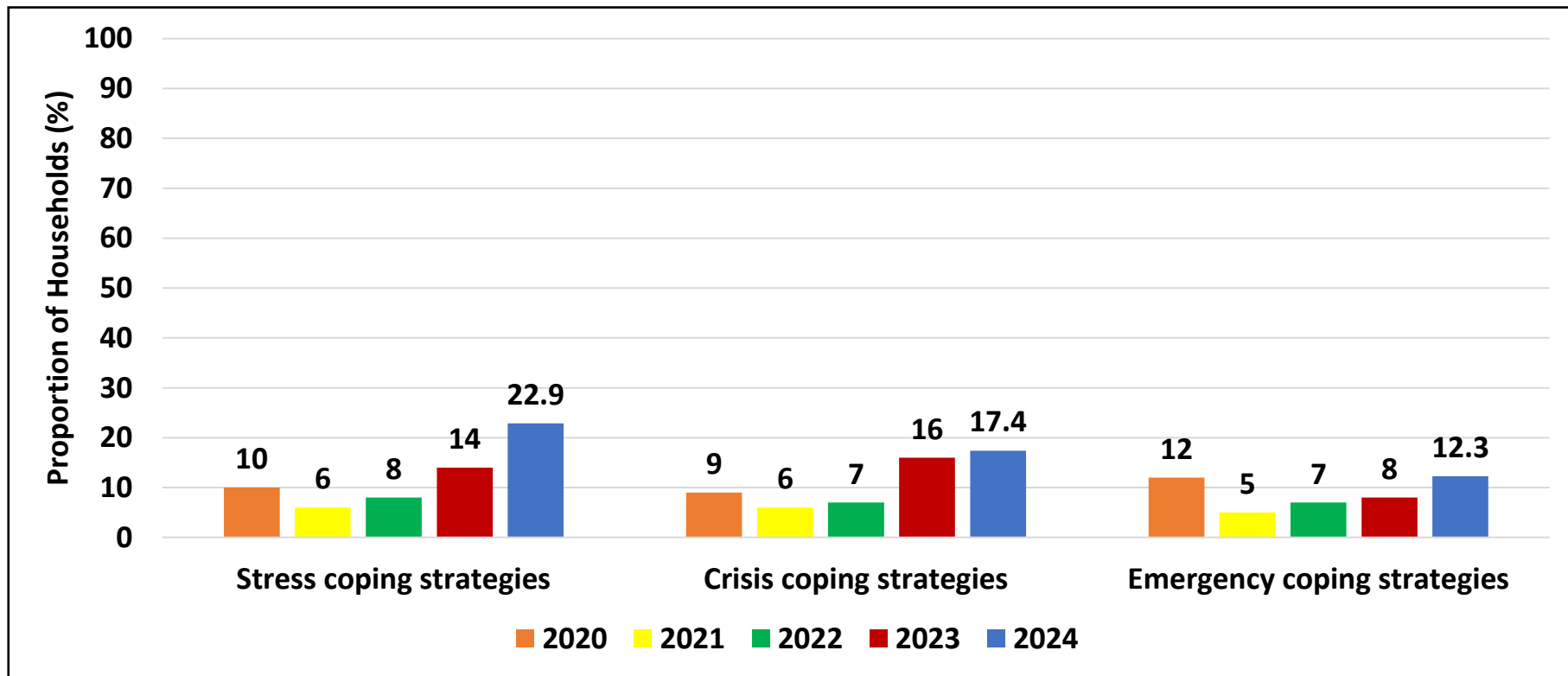
- The proportion of households engaging in emergency coping strategies increased from 8% in 2023 to 12.3% in 2024.

- Households engaging in stress coping strategies increased from 14% in 2023 to 22.9% in 2024.

Food Safety

WHO Five Keys to Safer Food

Ensuring food safety is key to preventing food borne illnesses which are contracted through consumption of unsafe foods:

Five Keys	Key Steps
Keep clean	• **Wash hands before handling food** and often during food preparation • **Wash hands after going to the toilet** • Wash and sanitise all surfaces and equipment used for food preparation • Protect kitchen areas and food from insects, pests and other animals
Use safe water and raw materials	• **Use safe water** *households improved water source*) **or treat it to make it safe** *households treat water)* • Select fresh and wholesome foods • Choose foods processed for safety, such as pasteurised milk • Wash fruits and vegetables, especially if eaten raw • Do not use food beyond its expiry date
Separate raw and cooked	• Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods • Use separate equipment and utensils such as knives and cutting boards for handling raw foods • Store food in containers to avoid contact between raw and prepared foods
Cook thoroughly	• Cook food thoroughly, especially meat, poultry, eggs and fish • Bring foods like soups and stews to boiling to make sure that they have reached 70°C • Reheat cooked food thoroughly
Keep food at safe temperatures	• Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for more than 2 hours • Refrigerate promptly all cooked and perishable food (preferably below 5°C) • Keep cooked food piping hot (more than 60°C) prior to serving • Do not store food too long even in the refrigerator • Do not thaw frozen food at room temperature

Households Which Received Food Safety Information
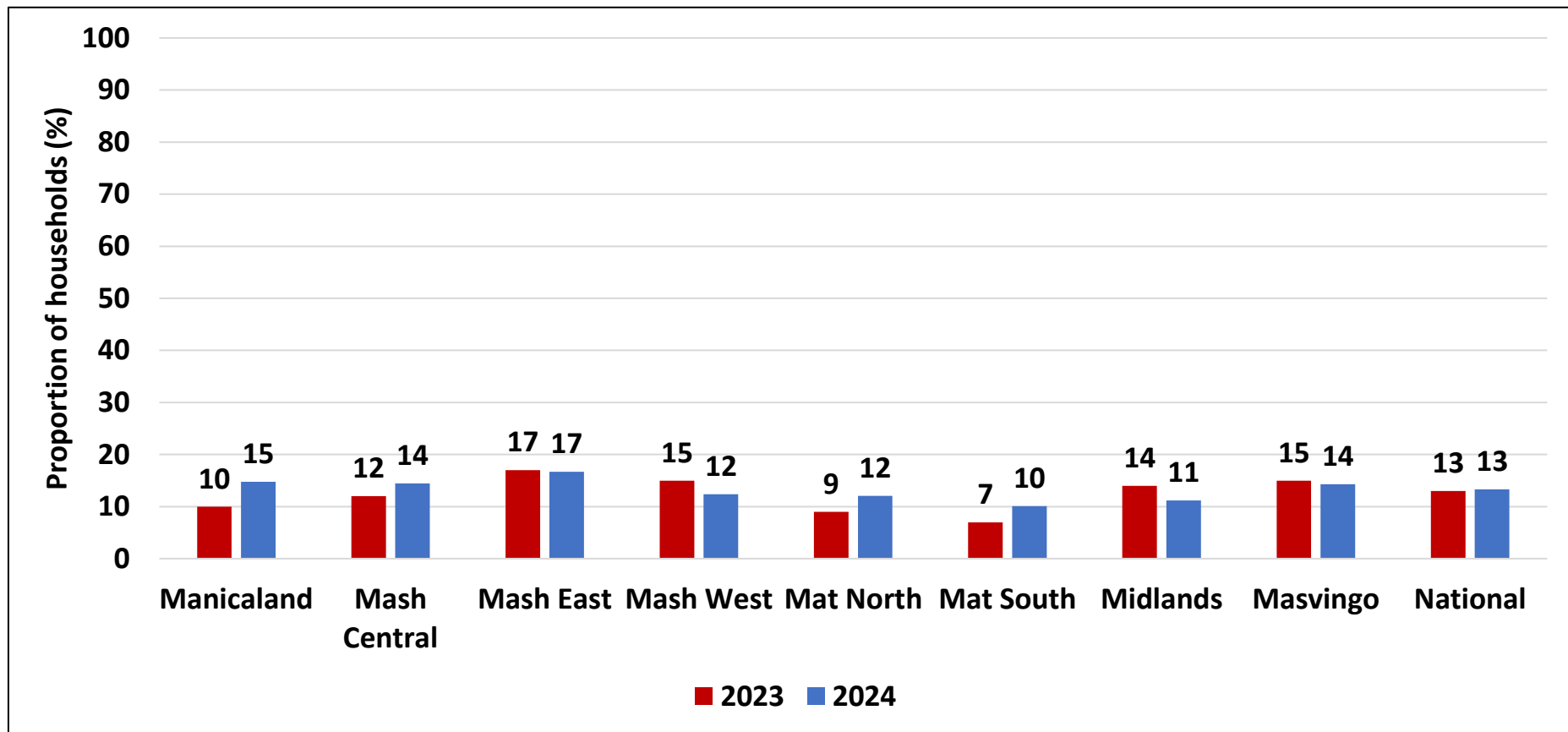
- The proportion of households which received information on food safety issues in 2024 was the same as in 2023 (13%).

Ways to Keep Food Safe
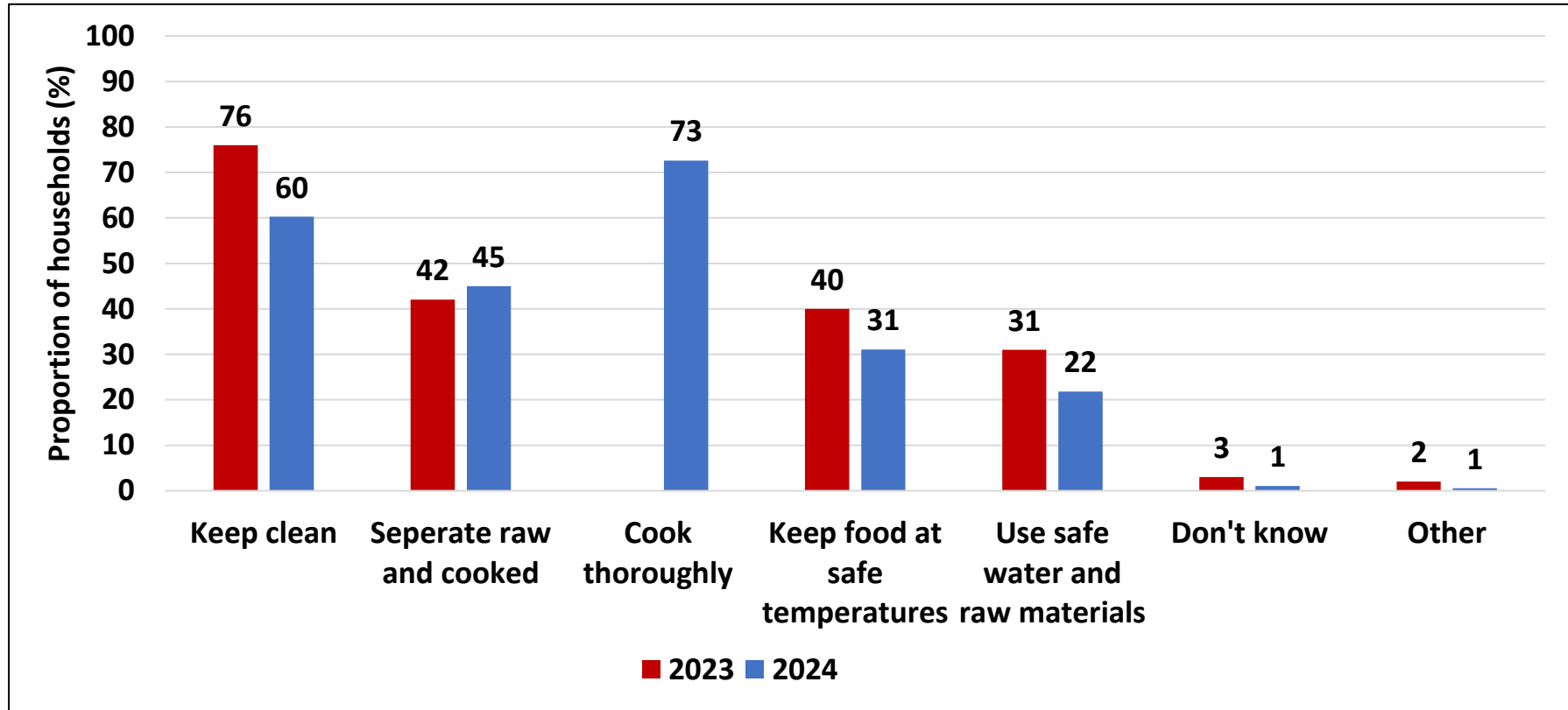
- Most households (73%) reported cooking thoroughly as a method they used to keep food safe.

Factors Considered by Households When Purchasing Food Items

	Brand/Source (%)	Expiry /Best Before Date (%)	Nutritional Content (%)	Allergens (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	39	75	10	1	10
Mash Central	48	63	19	2	10
Mash East	45	70	23	5	9
Mash West	37	58	8	2	19
Mat North	37	52	16	1	24
Mat South	43	80	28	9	11
Midlands	42	64	16	2	11
Masvingo	34	72	19	4	10
National	41	67	17	3	13

- Holding price constant, 67% of households reported that they considered expiry date, the brand (41%) and nutritional content (17%) when purchasing food items.

Households which Read Food Labels When Purchasing Food Items

Proportion of households (%)

	Manicaland	Mash Central	Mash East	Mash West	Mat North	Mat South	Midlands	Masvingo	National
Never	25	40	35	30	34	17	18	25	28
Sometimes	59	48	43	48	50	62	63	55	53
All the time	16	12	22	22	16	21	19	20	19

Legend: ■ All the time ■ Sometimes ■ Never
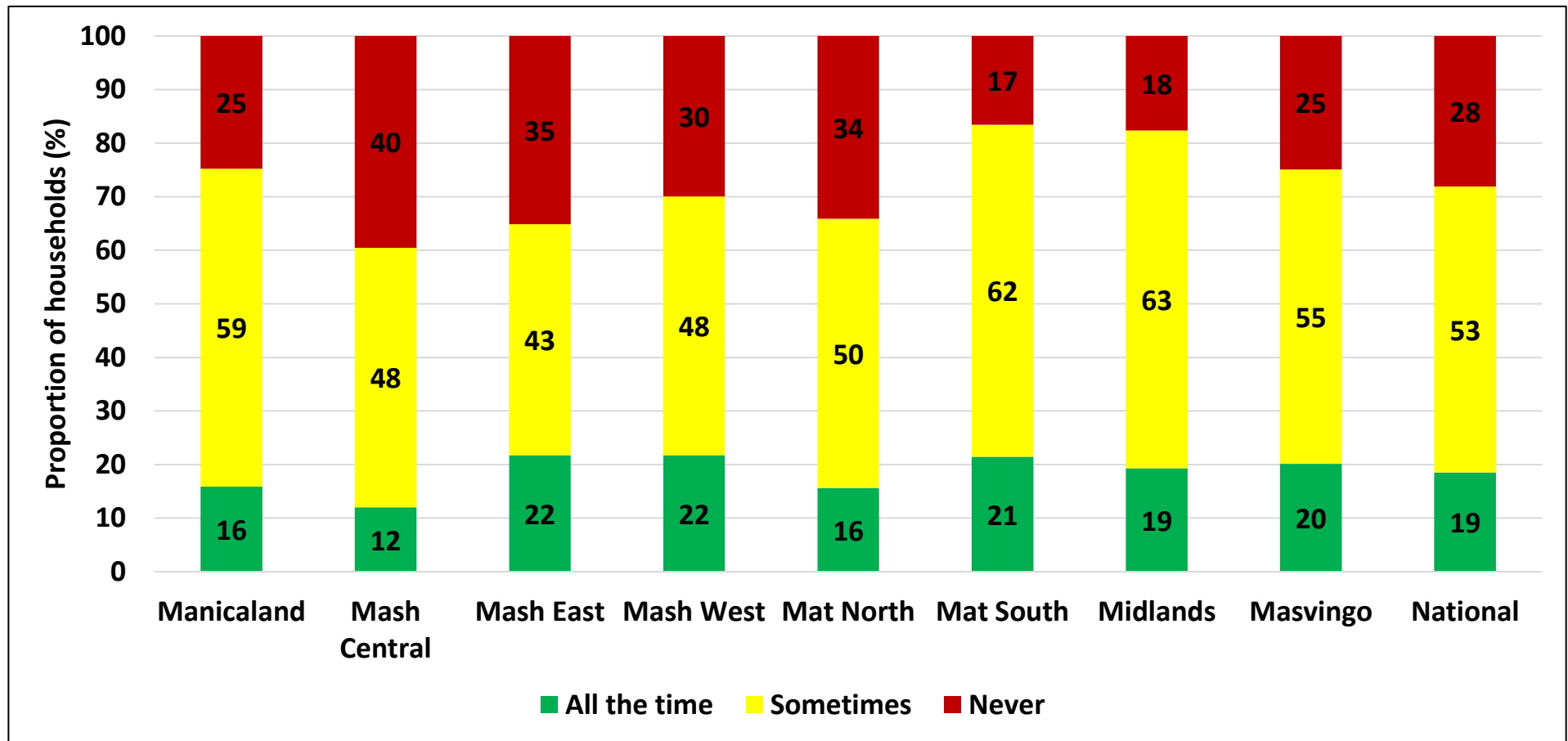
- Nationally, 28% of households reported that they never read labels on food packages when purchasing food items.

Households which Purchased Meat Items from Vendors
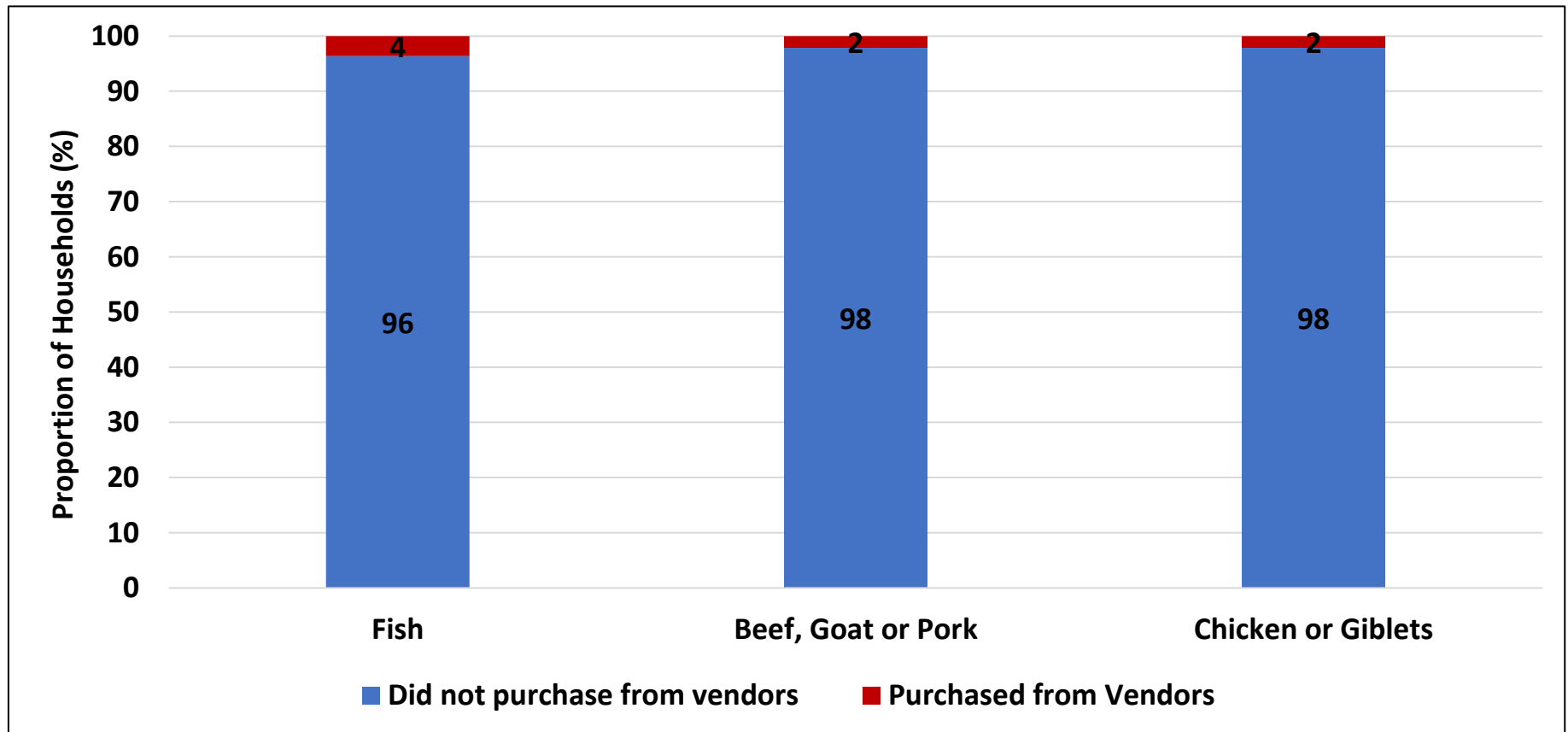
- Most households did not purchase meat items from vendors.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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
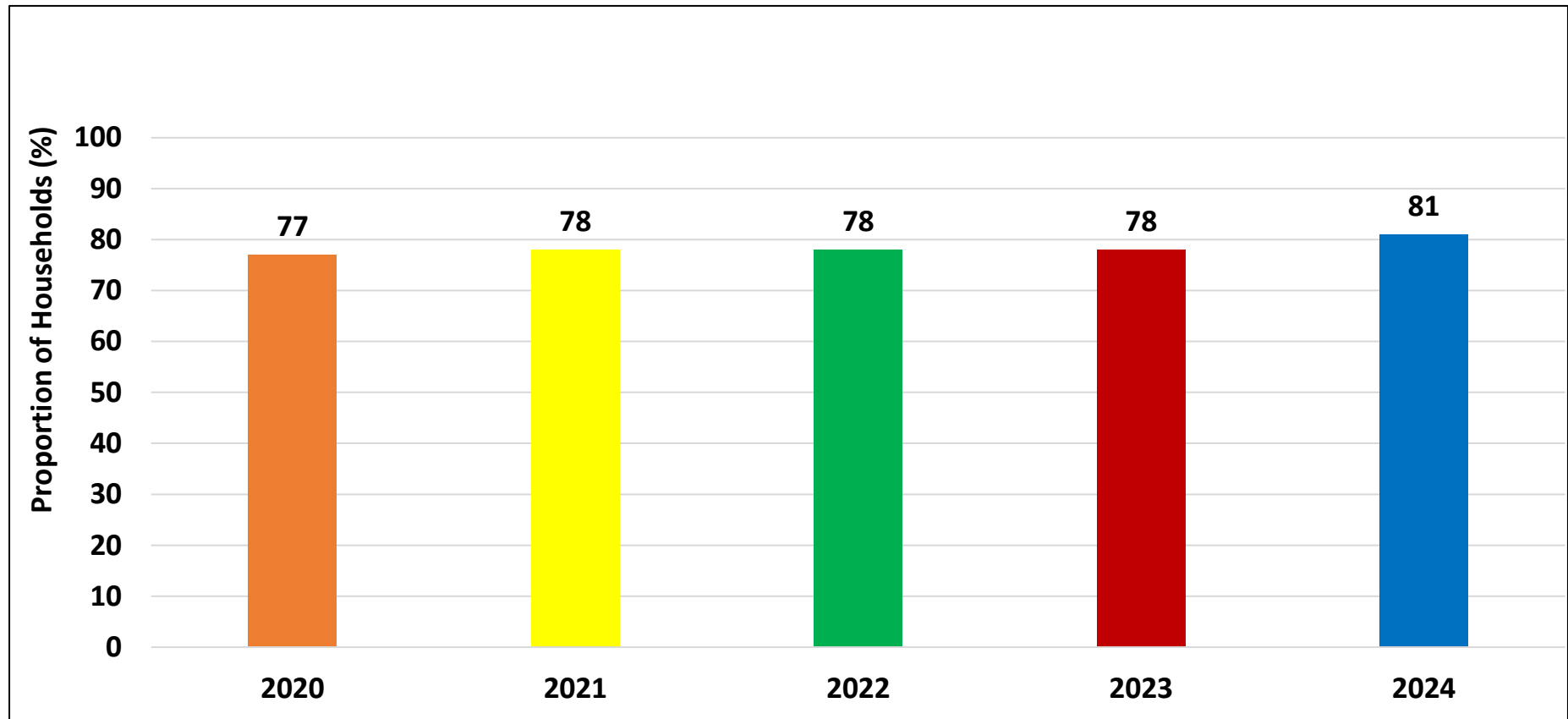
- Access to improved water sources increased from 77% since 2020 to 81% in 2024.

Access to Improved Water Source by Province
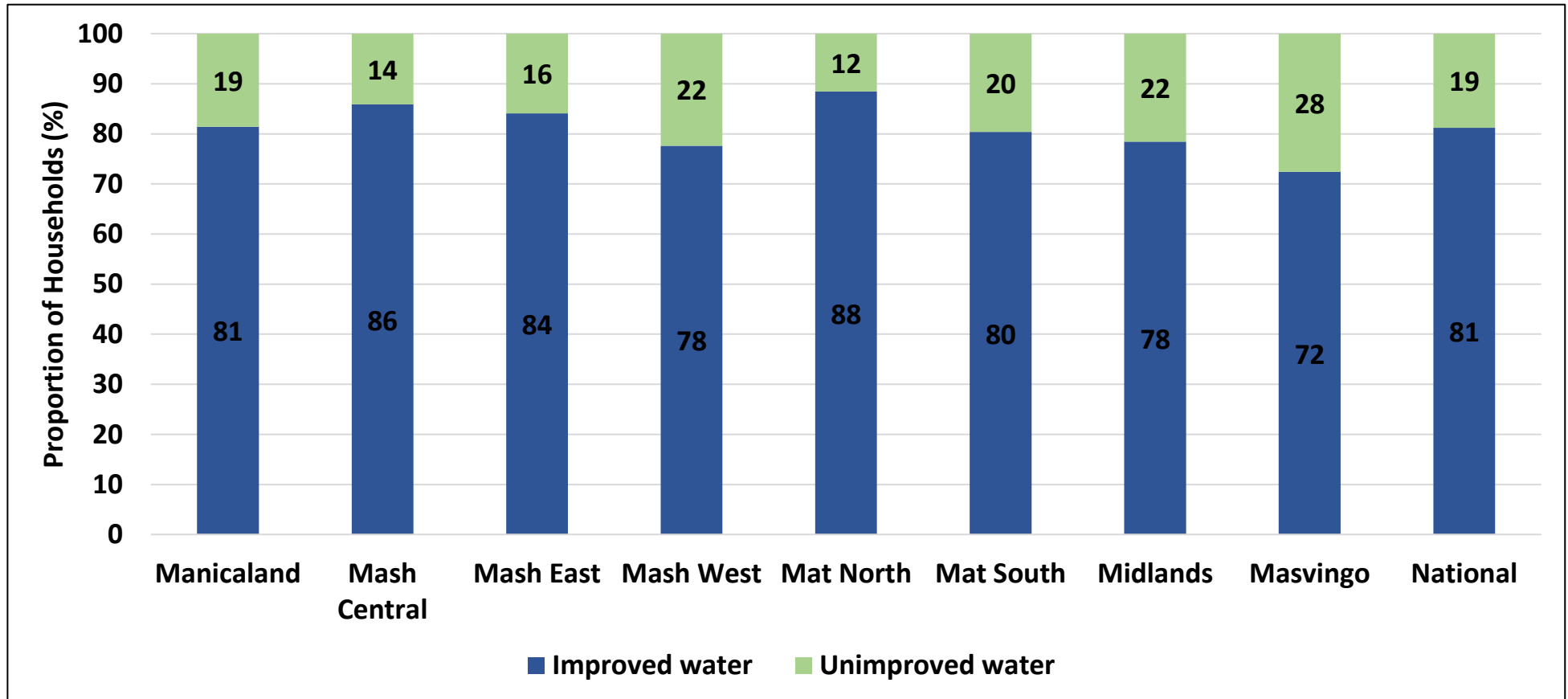
- Matabeleland North (88%), had the highest proportion of households which accessed drinking water from improved water sources.

Main Drinking Water Services
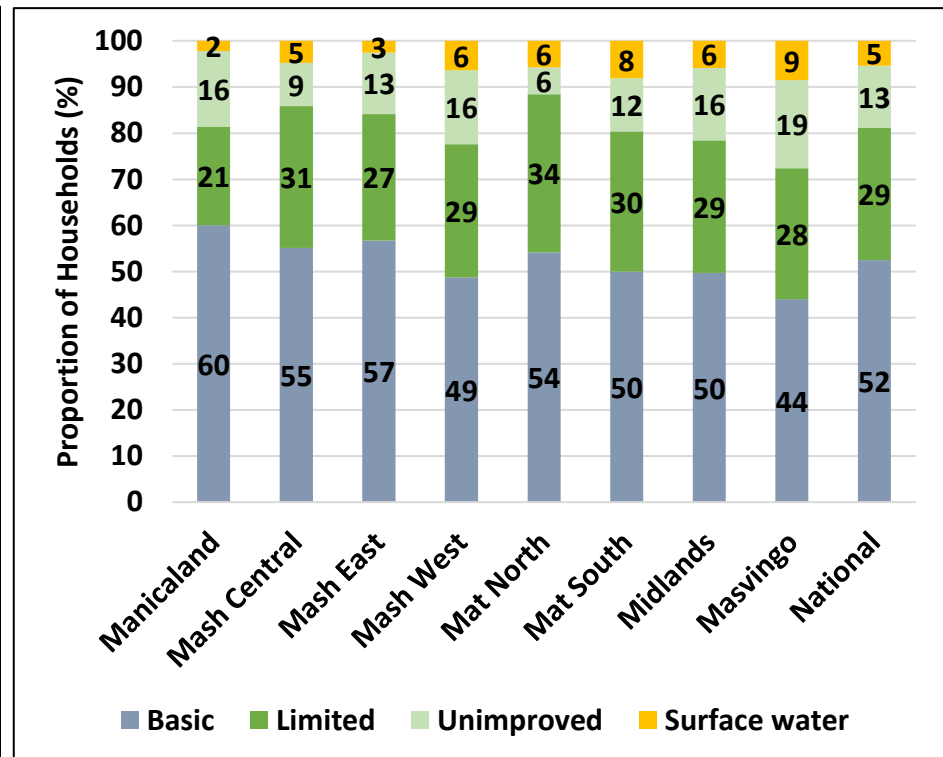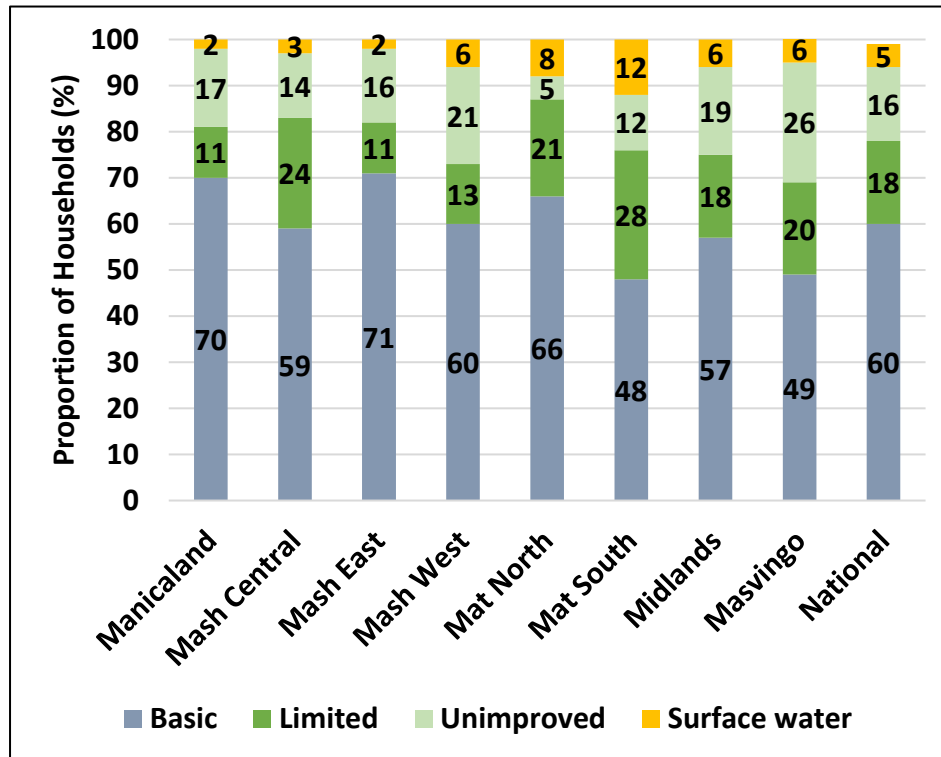
- There was a decrease in the proportion of households accessing basic water services from 60% in 2023 to 52% in 2024.

- Masvingo (19%), had the greatest proportion of households drinking water from unimproved sources as compared to the other provinces.

Households Drinking Surface Water
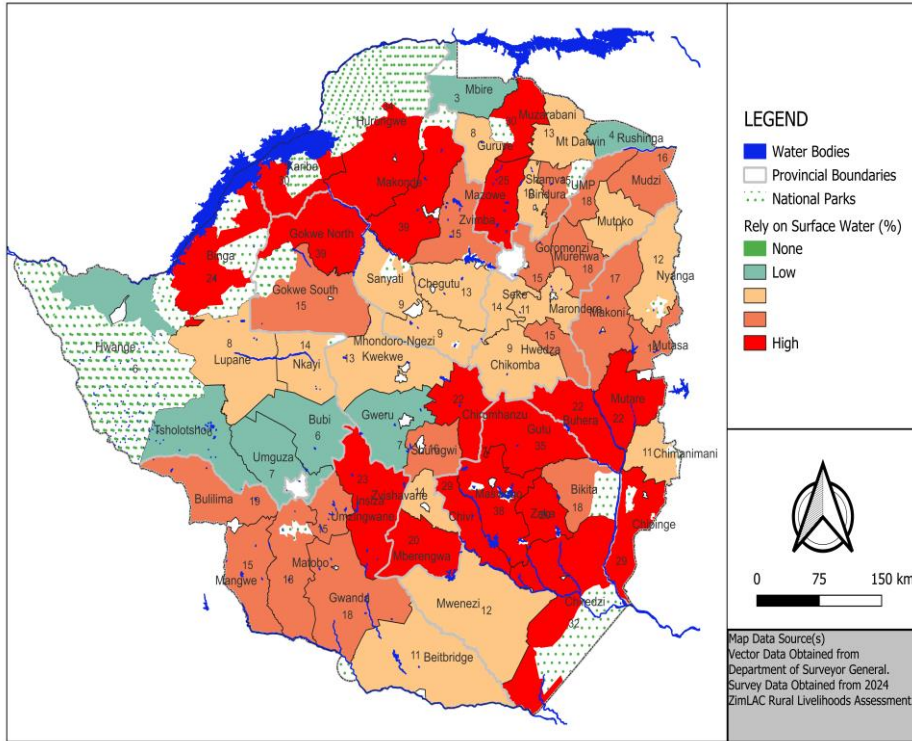
Households Using Unimproved Water
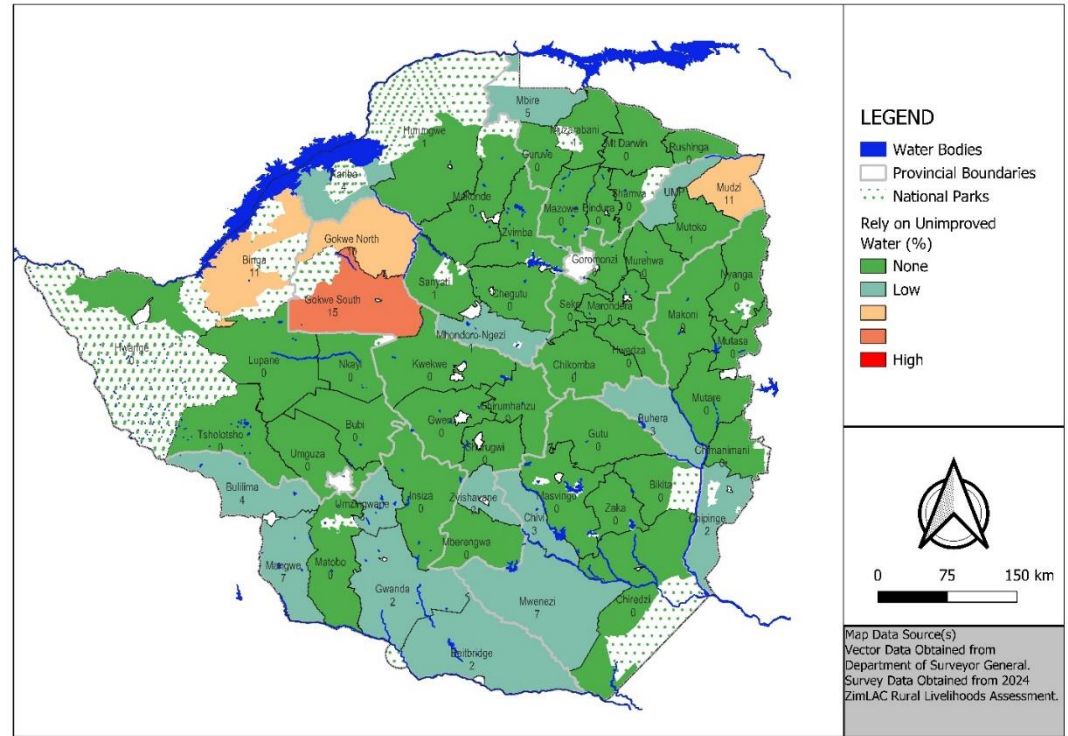
- Gokwe North (39%) and Makonde (39%) had the highest proportion of households which used surface water for drinking.
- Gokwe South (15%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water services.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source
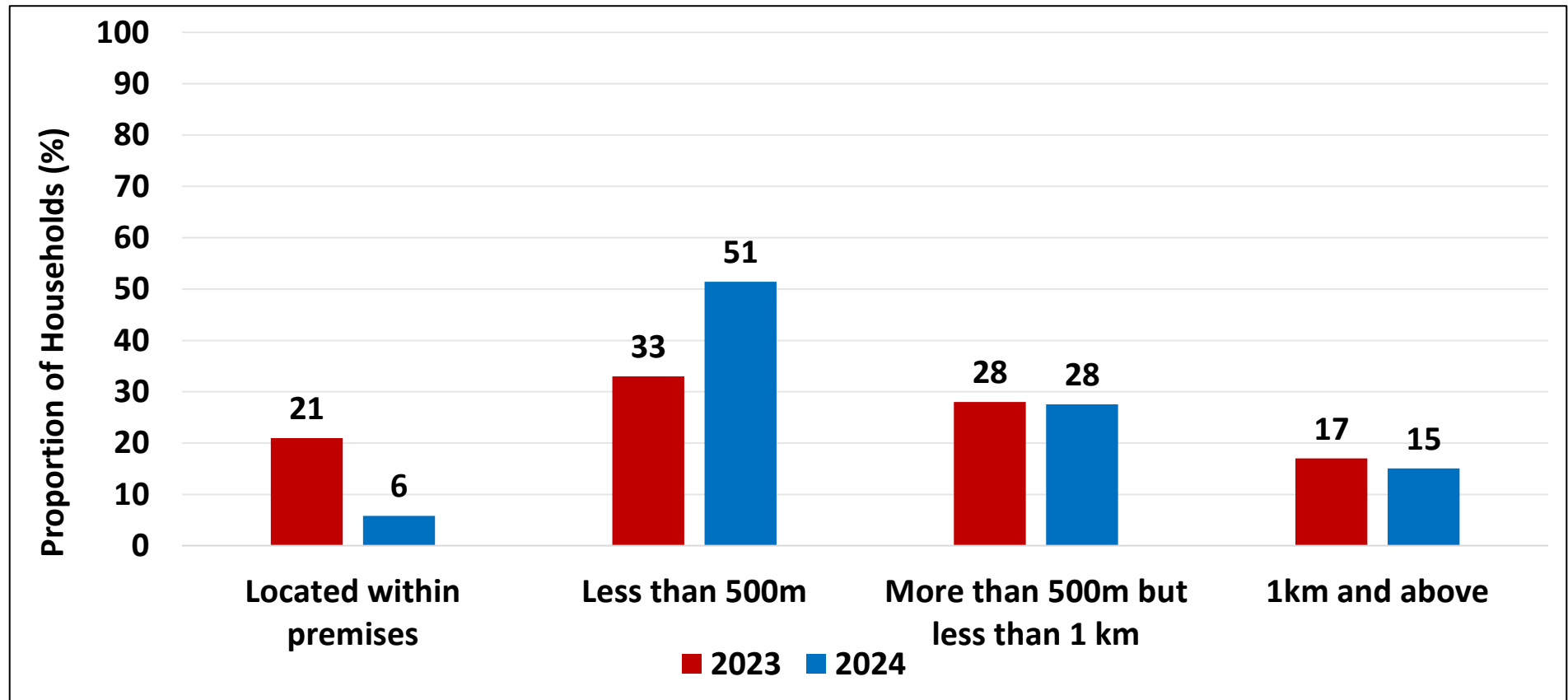
- About 51% of the households accessed water less than 500m from their homes in 2024, an increase from 33% in 2023.

- The proportion of households with their water source located within premises decreased from 21% in 2023 to 6% in 2024.

Time Taken to and from Main Drinking Water Source
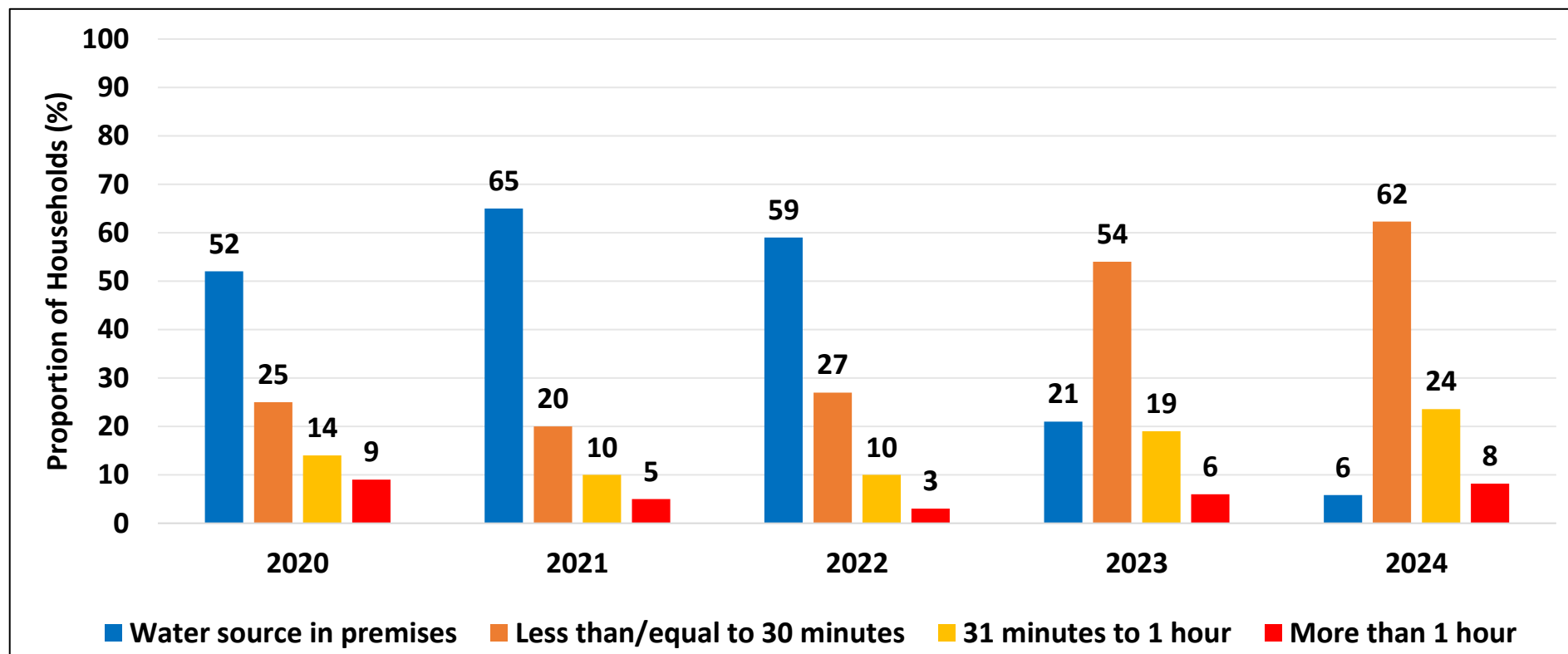
- The proportion of households spending thirty minutes or less for a round trip to collect drinking water increased from 25% in 2020 to 62% in 2024.
- About 8% of households spent more than one hour for a round trip to collect drinking water.

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
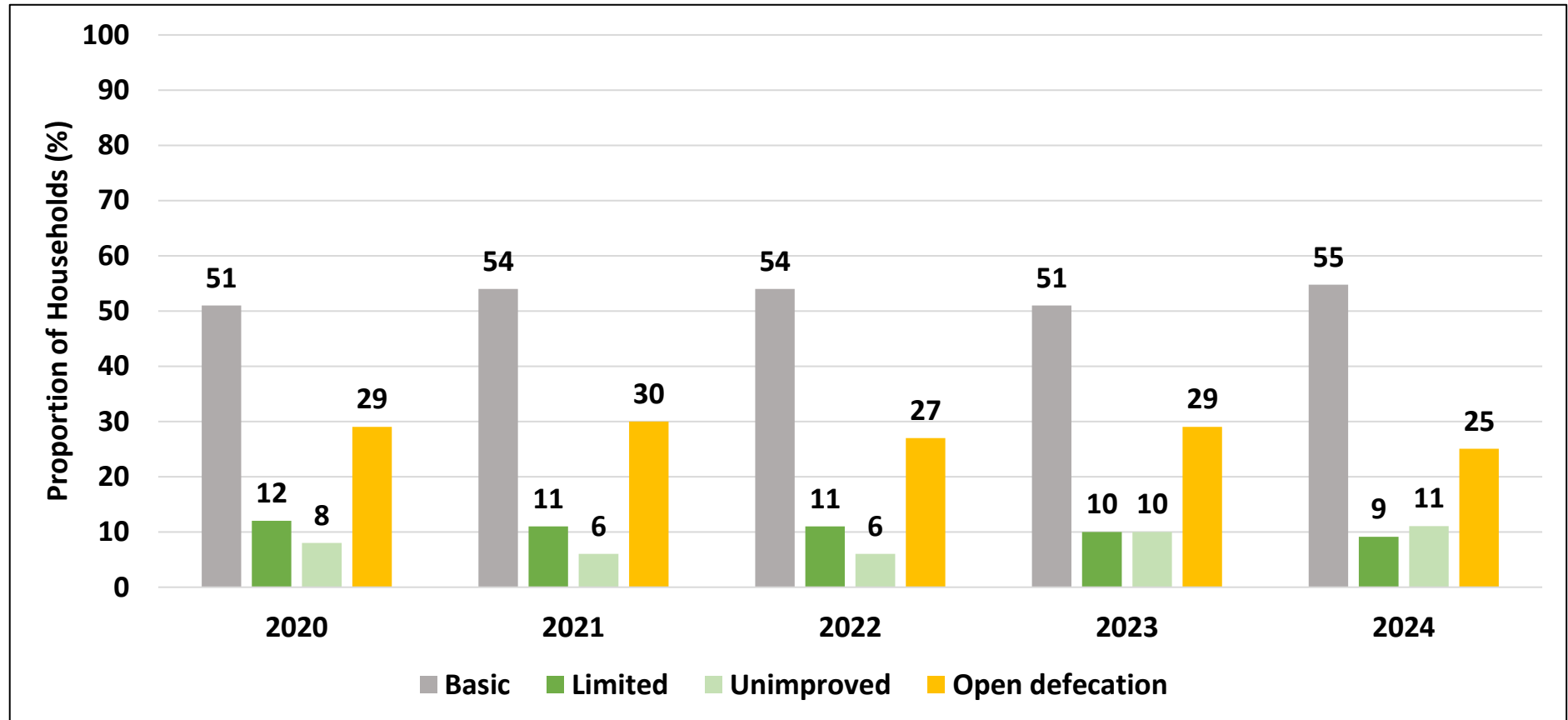
- There has been no significant change in the proportion of households with basic sanitation services as well as those practising open defaecation from 2020.

Access to Improved Sanitation
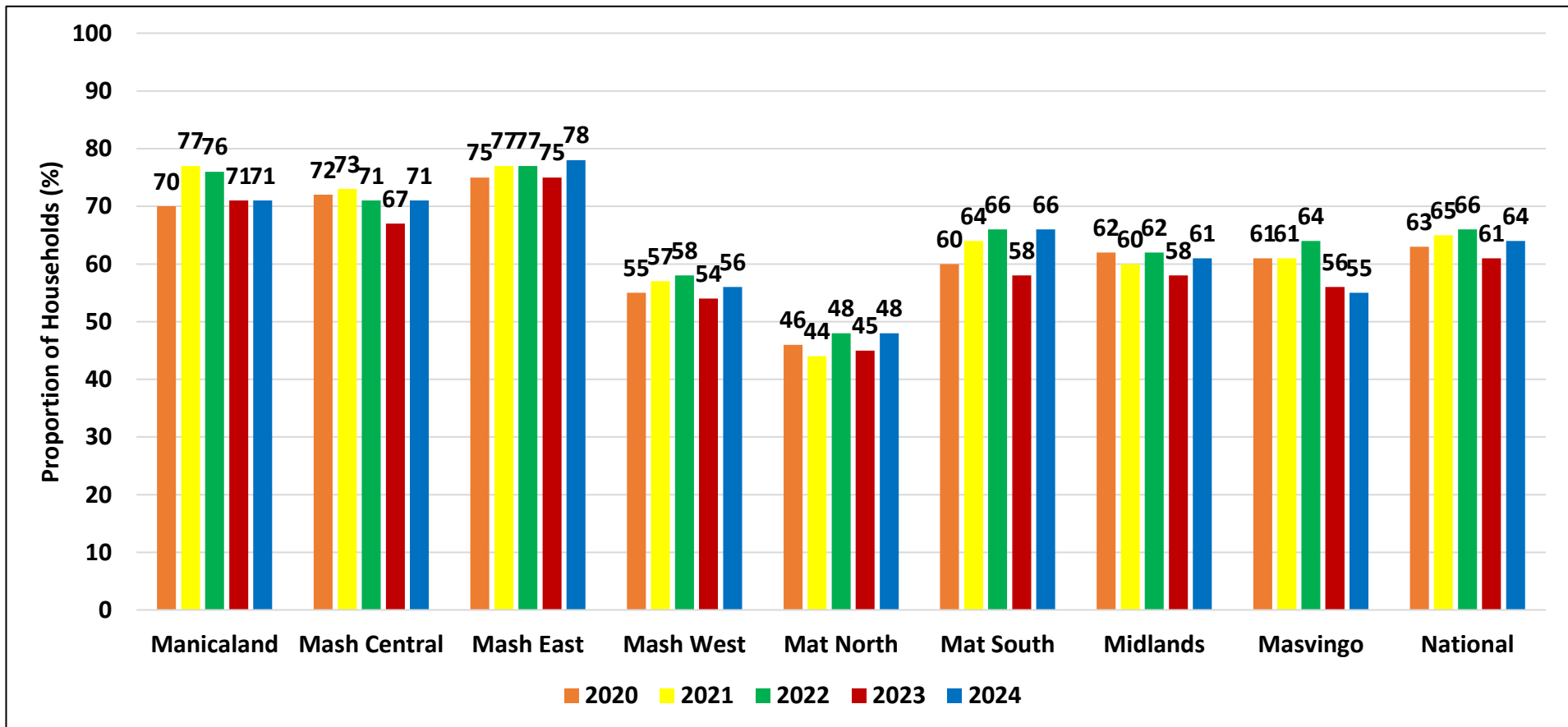
- The proportion of households accessing improved sanitation has not significantly changed from 2020 through to 2024.

- Matabeleland North (48%) had the lowest proportion of households accessing improved sanitation.

Open Defecation by Province
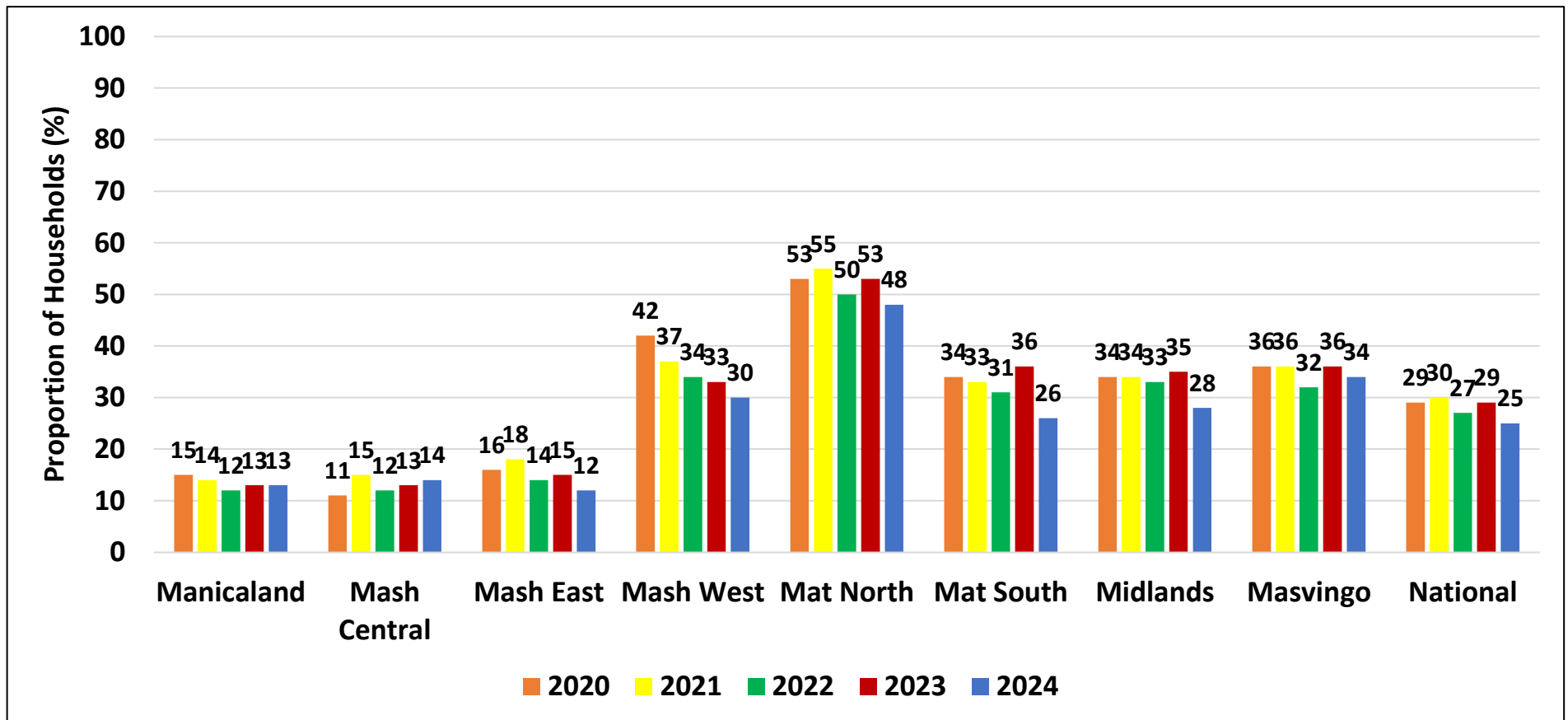
- There has been no significant change on the proportion of households which practised open defecation from 2020 through to 2024.

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

Open Defecation by District
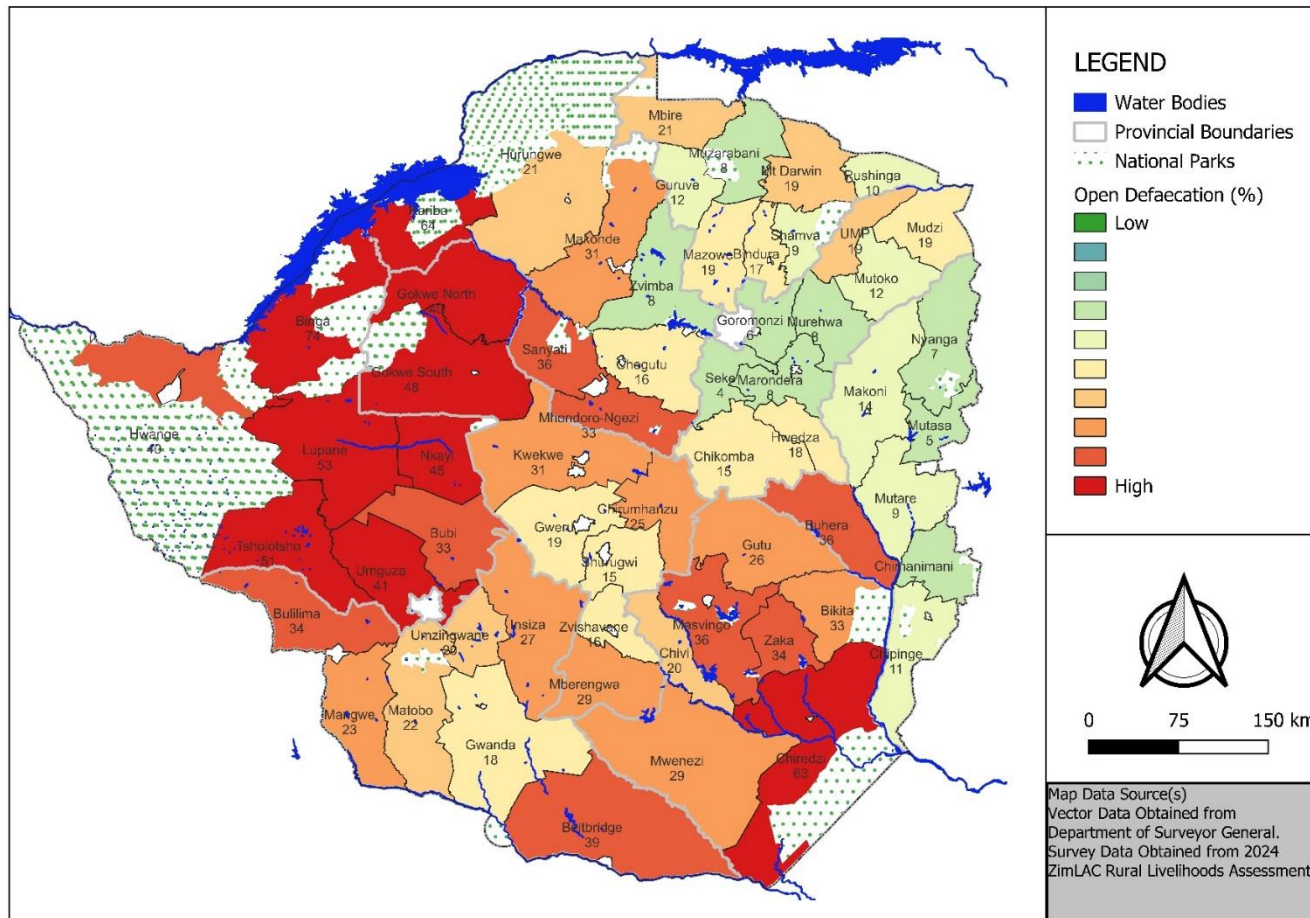
- Open defaecation was high in most districts across the country.
- Binga (74%), Kariba (64%), Chiredzi (63%) and Lupane (53%) had the highest proportion of households which practised open defaecation.

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. Access to Handwashing Services
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

No toilet facility
Handwashing station not available
Handwashing station available
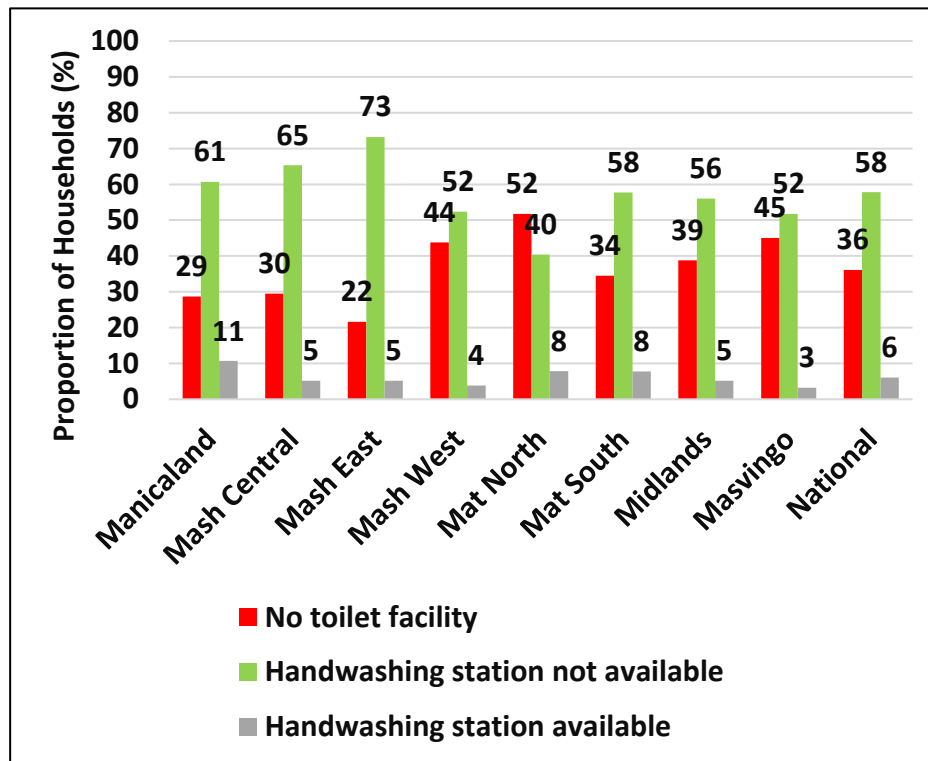
Handwashing at Critical Times
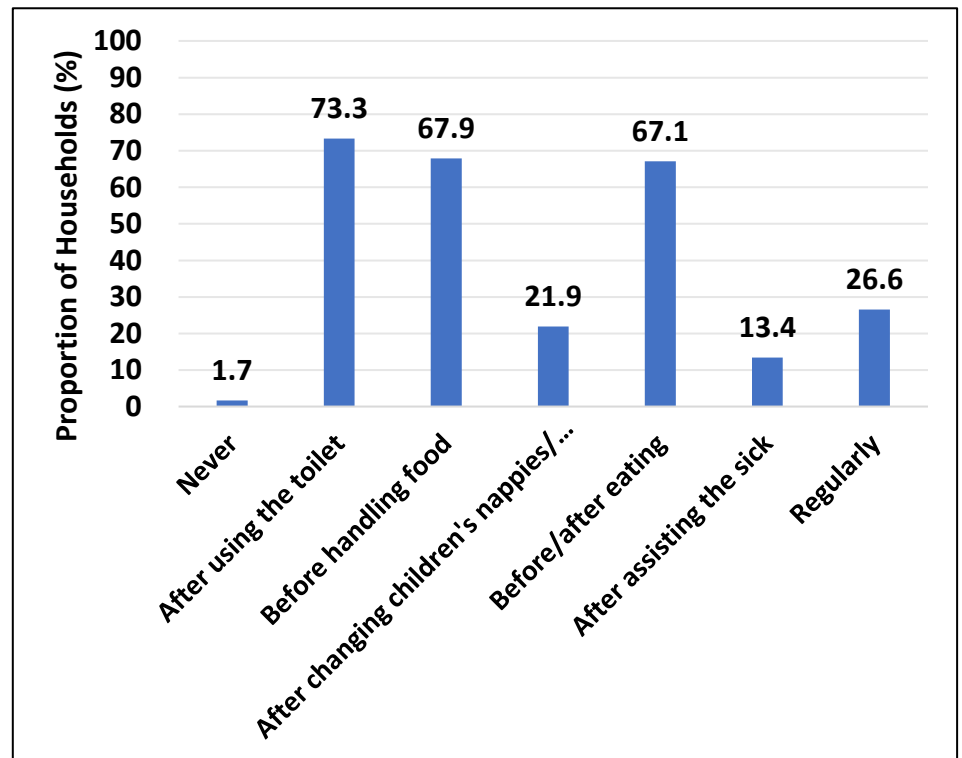
- Nationally, 6% of households had handwashing stations at their toilet facilities.

- The majority of households had no handwashing facilities at their toilets.

- About 73% of the households reported that they washed their hands after using the toilet.

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Shocks and Hazards

Number of Shocks Experienced by Households
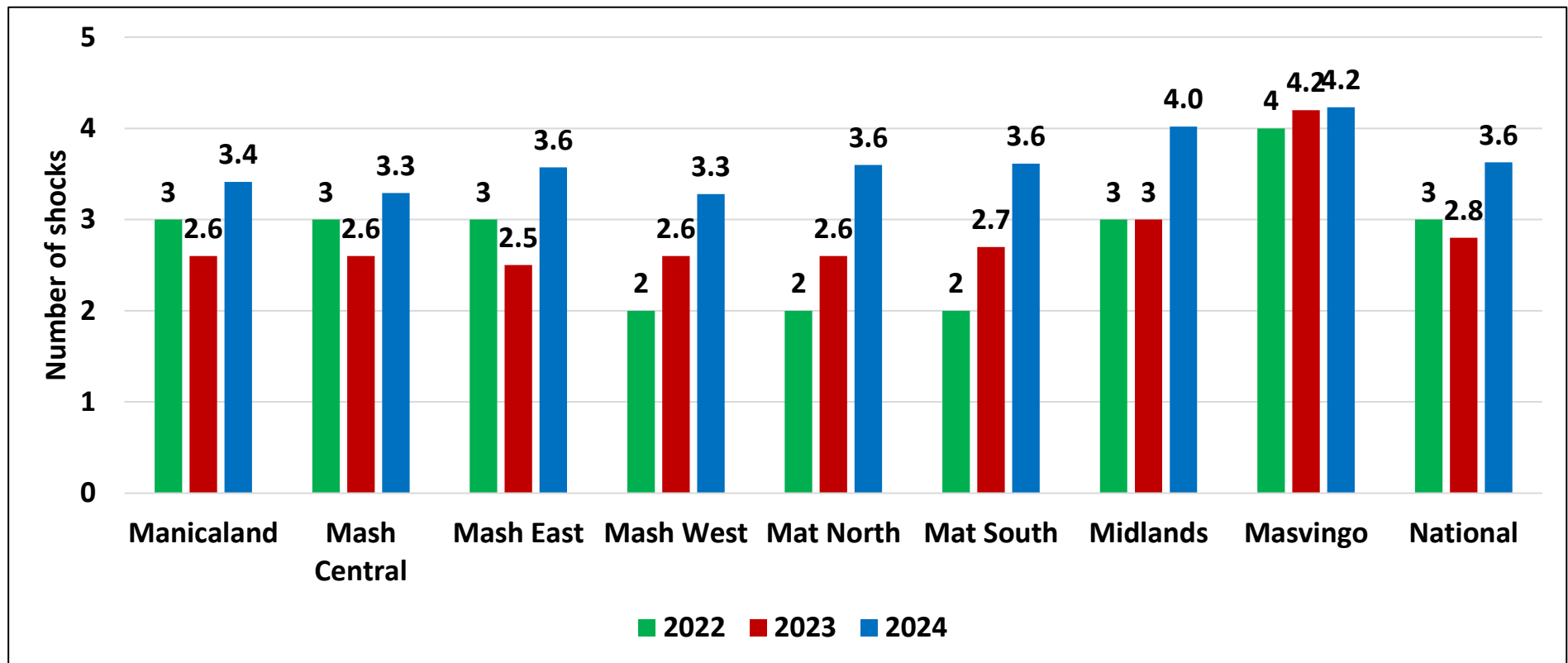
- The average number of shocks experienced by households increased from 2.8 in 2023 to 3.6 in 2024.

Households which Experienced Shocks

Chart title: Proportion of households (%)

Shock	Proportion of households (%)
Floods	0.4
Waterlogging	1.0
Loss of employment by key household member	1.3
Drug and substance abuse	1.3
Death of main income earner in the household	1.8
Gender Based Violence (GBV)	2.8
Divorce/separation	2.9
Other Health related (malaria, measles, etc.)	3.2
Veld fires	3.8
Hailstorm	3.8
Diarrhoea related (Diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid,etc.)	3.9
Stock theft	4.1
Human wildlife conflict	10.8
Chronic illness	14.0
Sharp Drop in Livestock prices	16.6
Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe	17.0
Livestock diseases	17.7
Crop pests	18.0
Livestock deaths	19.6
Cereal price changes-sharp increase	58.7
Cash shortage	69.5
Prolonged mid-season dry spell	88.7

- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (88.7%) and cash shortage (69.5%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by the households.

Health Related Shocks
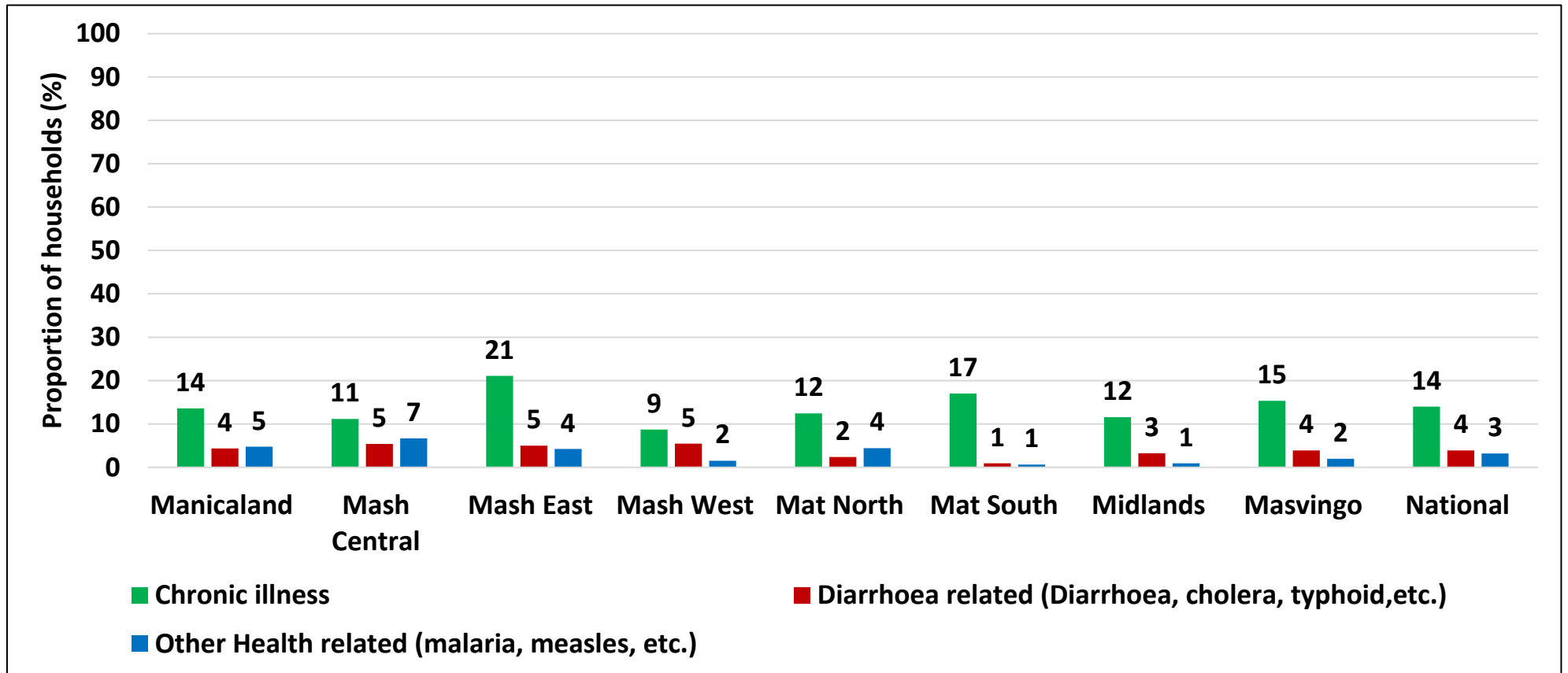
- Chronic illness was the most reported health shock (14%).

- Mashonaland East had the highest proportion of households which reported chronic illness as a shock (21.1%) and Mashonaland West had the lowest (8.7%).

Diarrhoeal Related Shocks
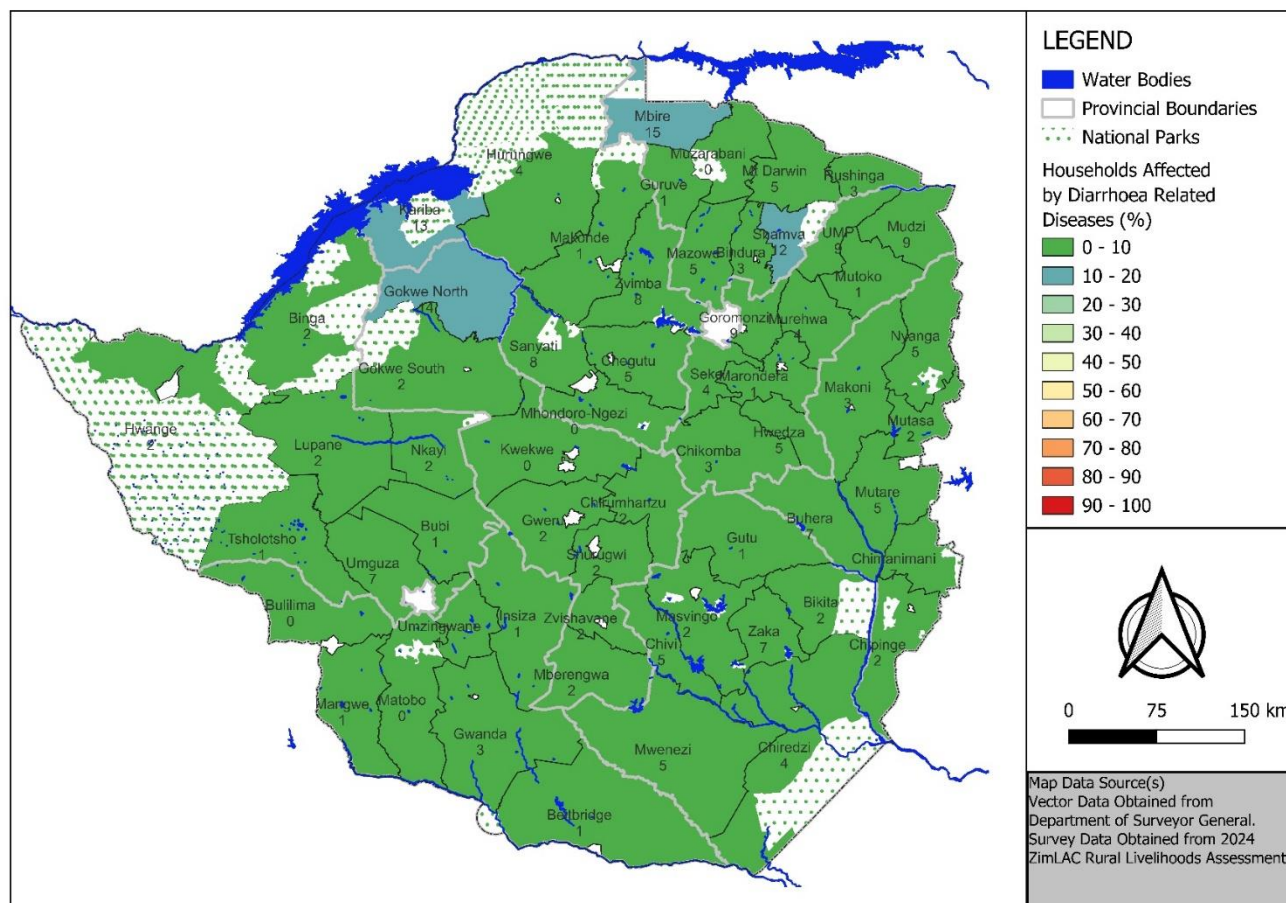
- Mbire (15%), Gokwe North (14%) and Kariba (13%) had the highest proportion of households which reported Diarrheal related shocks (diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid).

Economic and Social Shocks

Shock Type	Manicaland (%)	Mash Central (%)	Mash East (%)	Mash West (%)	Mat North (%)	Mat South (%)	Midlands (%)	Masvingo (%)	National (%)
Cash shortage	70.4	71.9	67.1	62.2	64.4	65.8	77.9	75.7	**69.5**
Sharp increase in cereal prices	53.4	51.6	62.3	57.9	61.6	49.5	67.1	64.6	**58.7**
Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe	10.8	11.9	18.4	10.8	18.3	11.2	20.3	34.1	**17.0**
Human wildlife conflict	8.5	9.9	8.5	12.5	16.2	13.5	4.6	14.2	**10.8**
Divorce/separation	3.2	2.3	2.7	3.0	3.8	2.1	2.1	3.8	**2.9**
Gender Based Violence	2.4	3.1	3.7	4.0	3.0	1.7	1.9	2.3	**2.8**
Death of main income earner in the household	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.9	3.7	1.0	1.6	**1.8**
Drug and substance abuse	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.9	1.6	3.2	1.2	1.1	**1.3**
Loss of employment by key household member	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	3.1	0.3	1.7	**1.3**

- Cash shortage (69.5%) was the most reported economic shock.
- Midlands (77.9%) had the highest proportion of households which reported cash shortage as a shock and Mashonaland West (62.2%) had the least.

Cash Shortage
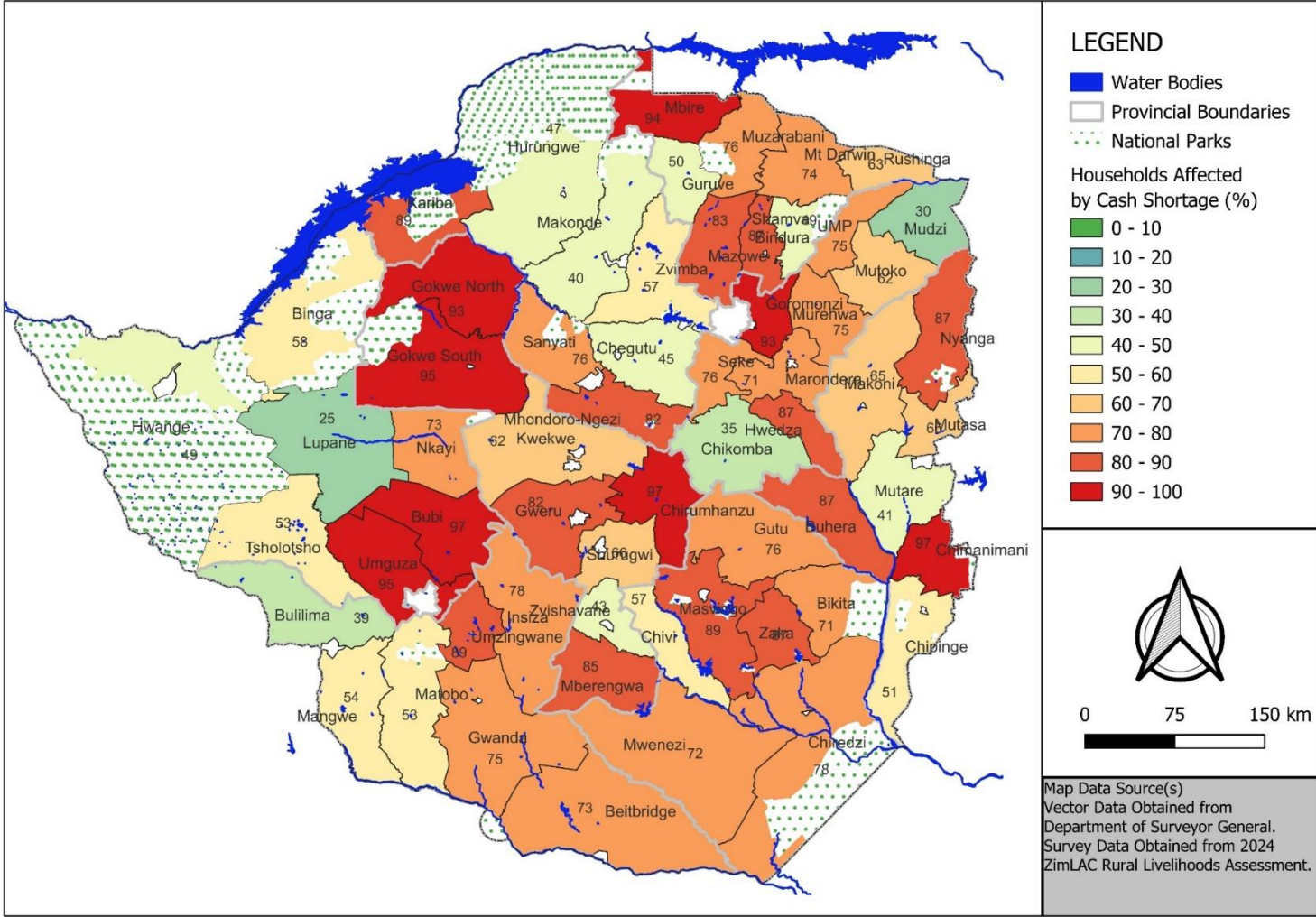
- Chimanimani, Bubi and Chirumhanzu (97%) had the highest proportion of households which reported cash shortage as a shock.

Sharp Cereal Price Increases
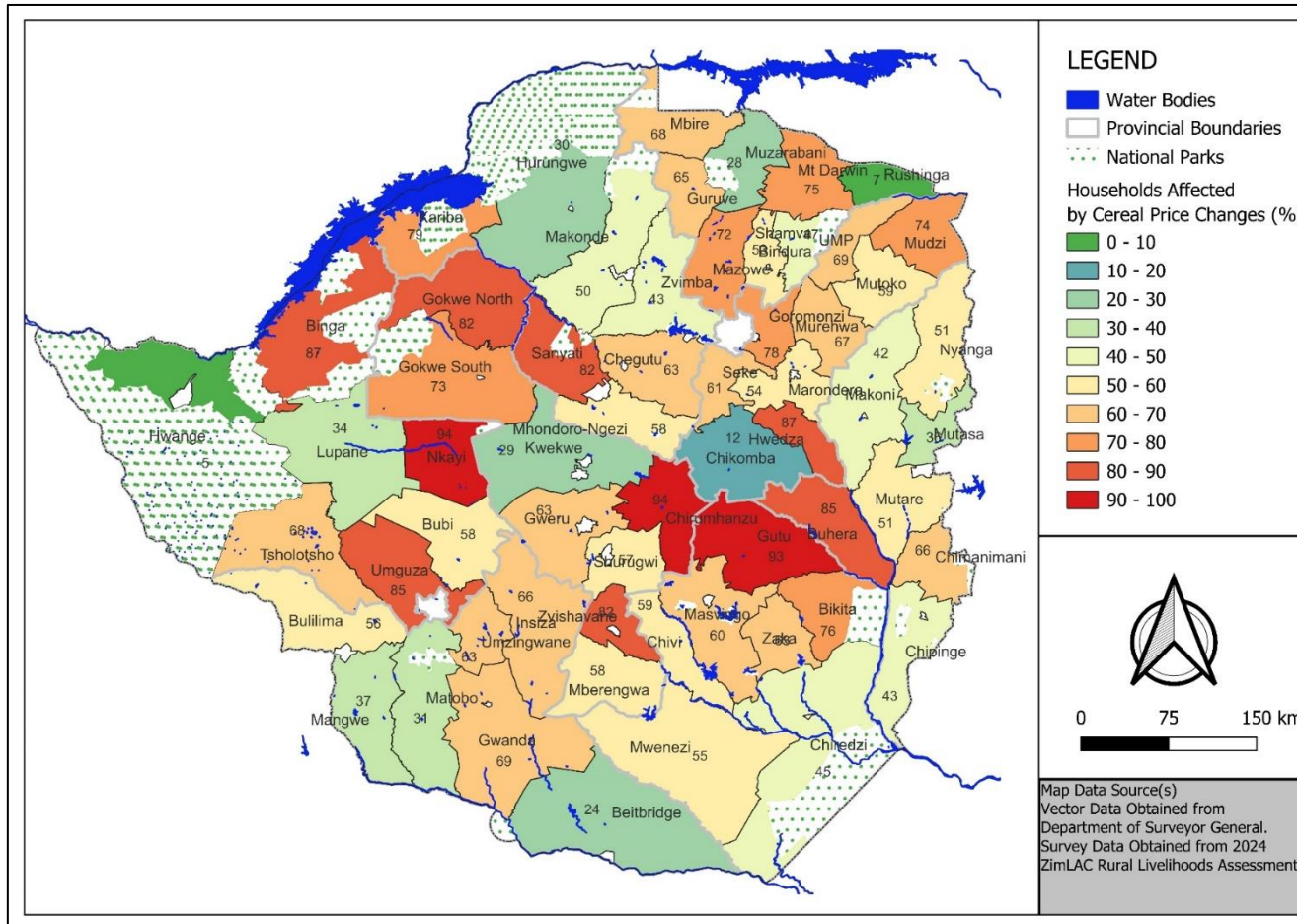
- Chirumhanzu and Nkayi (94%) and Gutu (93%) had the highest proportion of households which reported sharp cereal price increases as a shock.

Being Charged More for Using Mobile Money or Swipe
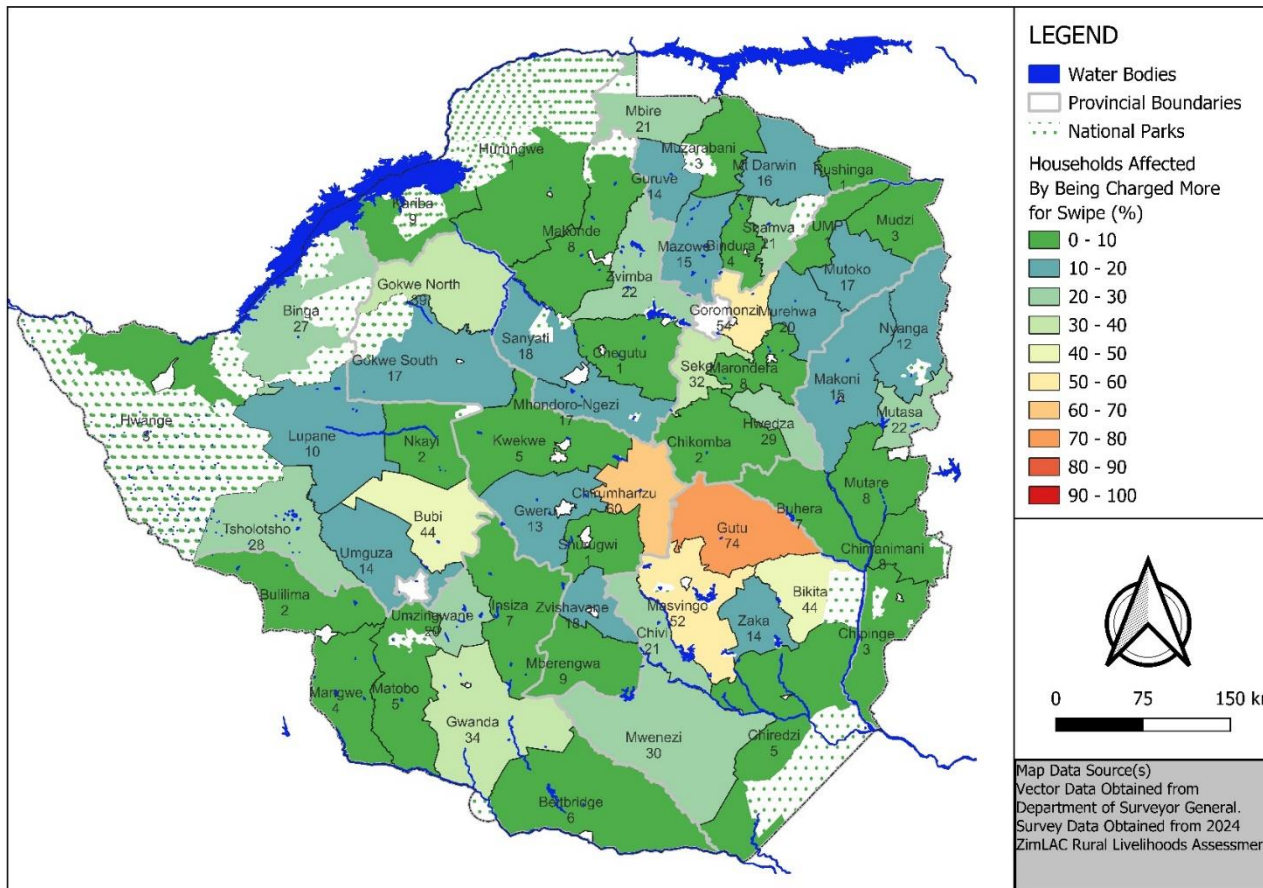
- Gutu (74%) and Chirumhanzu (60%) had the highest proportion of households which reported being charged more for using mobile money or swipe as a shock.

Human Wildlife Conflict
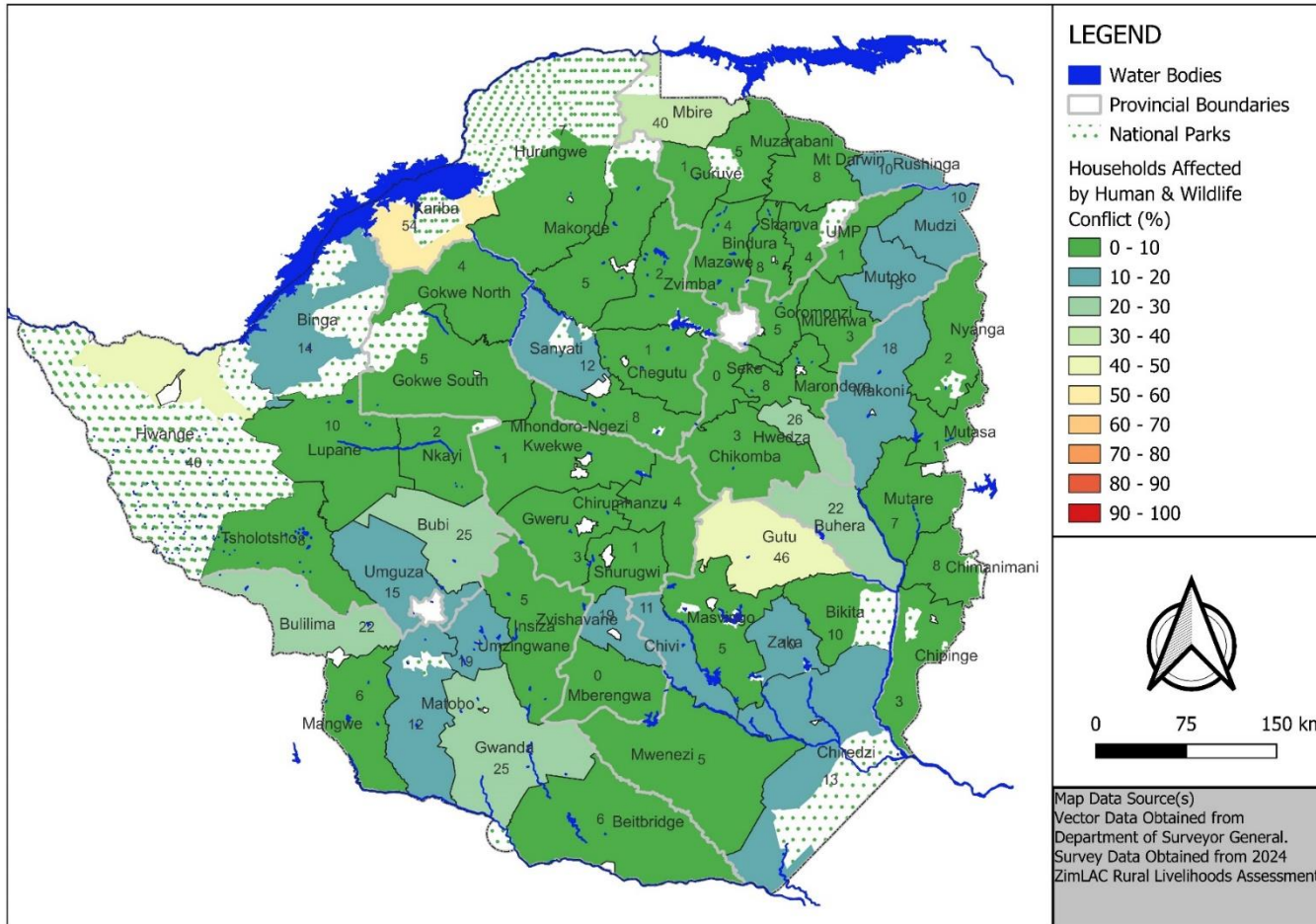
- Kariba (54%), Gutu (46%), Hwange and Mbire (40%) had the highest proportion of households which reported human wildlife conflict as a shock.

Climate Related Shocks

Shock Type	Manicaland (%)	Mash Central (%)	Mash East (%)	Mash West (%)	Mat North (%)	Mat South (%)	Midlands (%)	Masvingo (%)	National (%)
Prolonged mid-season dry spell	86.3	88.1	87.7	88.1	90.7	90.0	90.3	88.5	**88.7**
Hailstorm	2.1	1.5	3.4	4.0	4.6	2.9	8.2	3.7	**3.8**
Veld fires	1.8	3.4	8.5	10.5	1.9	0.8	1.1	1.5	**3.8**
Waterlogging	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.8	4.4	0.7	**1.0**
Floods	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.2	**0.4**

- Prolonged mid-season dry spell (88.7%) was the most reported climate related shock. Flooding was the least reported (0.4%).
- Matabeleland North (90.7%) and Midlands (90.3%) had the highest proportion of households which reported prolonged mid-season dry spells as a shock.

Prolonged Mid-Season Dry Spells
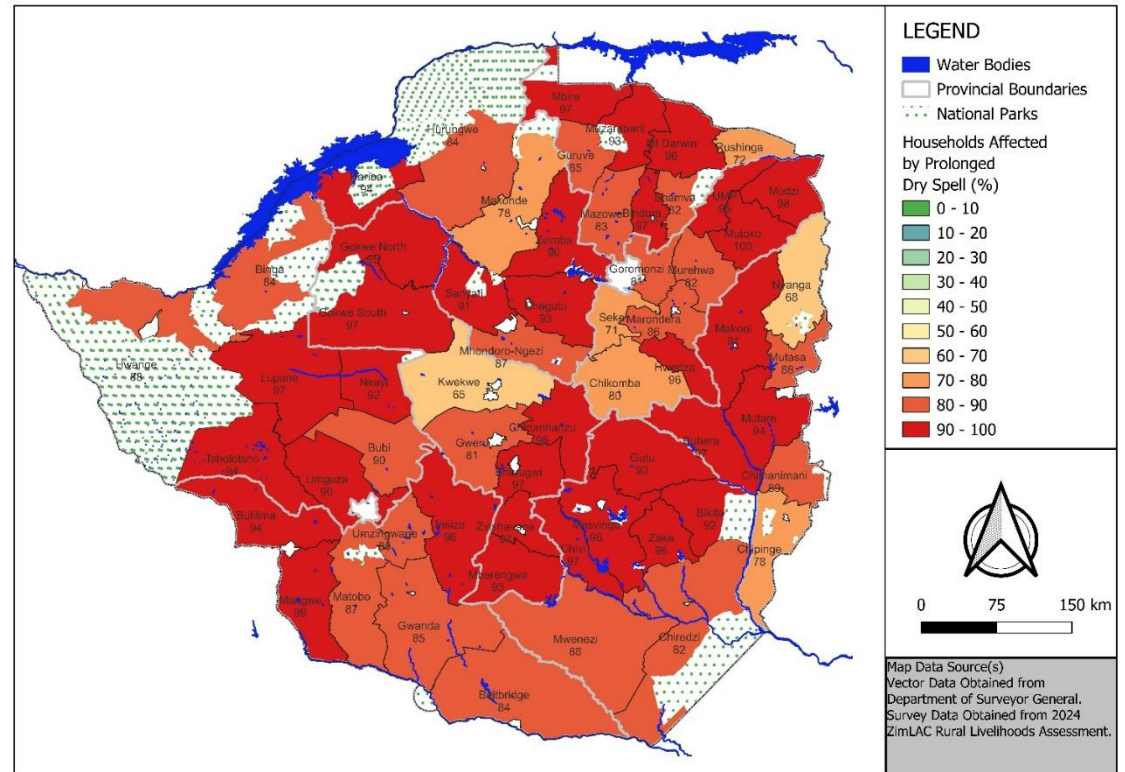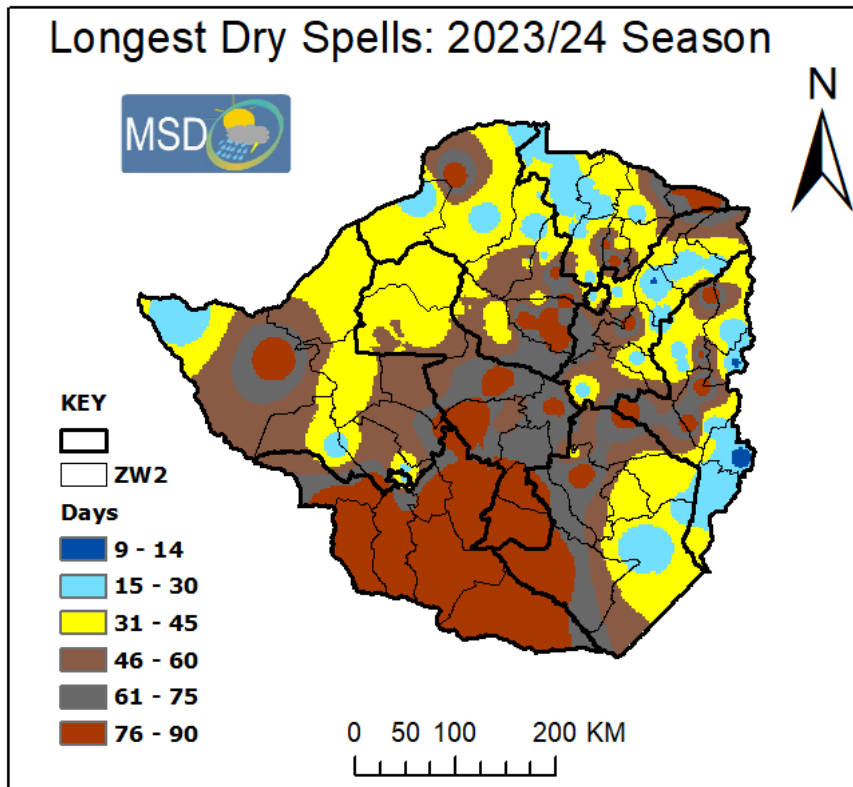
Source: MSD; Longest dry spell for the 2023/2024 rainfall season

Map Data Source: ZimLAC, 2024 RLA

- According to the Meteorological Services Department, dry spells exceeding 45 days were recorded in the greater part of the country.

- Mutoko (100%), Mangwe (99%) and Mudzi (98%) were the districts with the highest proportion of households which reported prolonged mid-season dry spells as a shock.

Agriculture Related Shocks
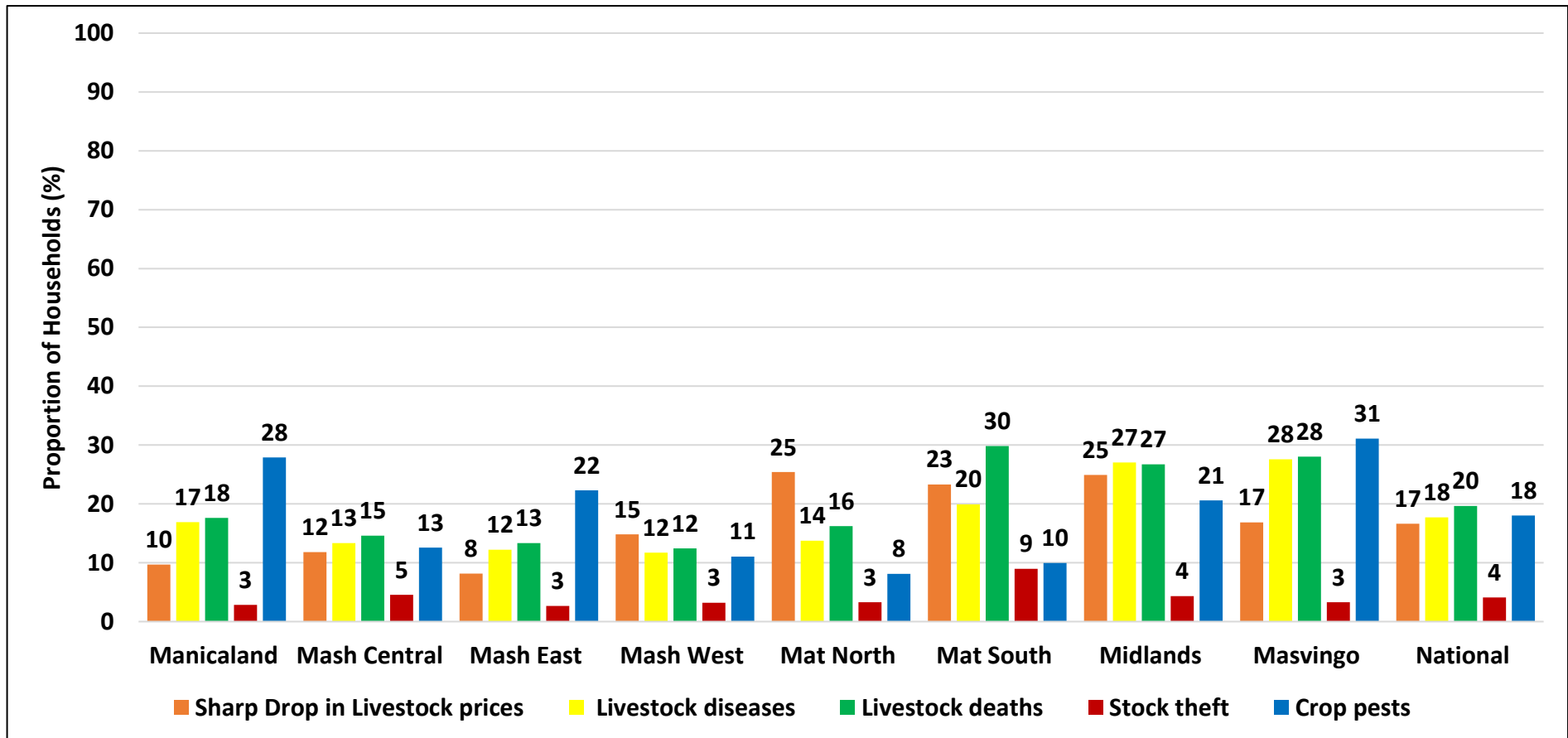
- Livestock deaths (20%) were the most reported agriculture related shock.
- Matabeleland South (30%) had the highest proportion of households which reported livestock deaths as a shock.

Livestock Diseases
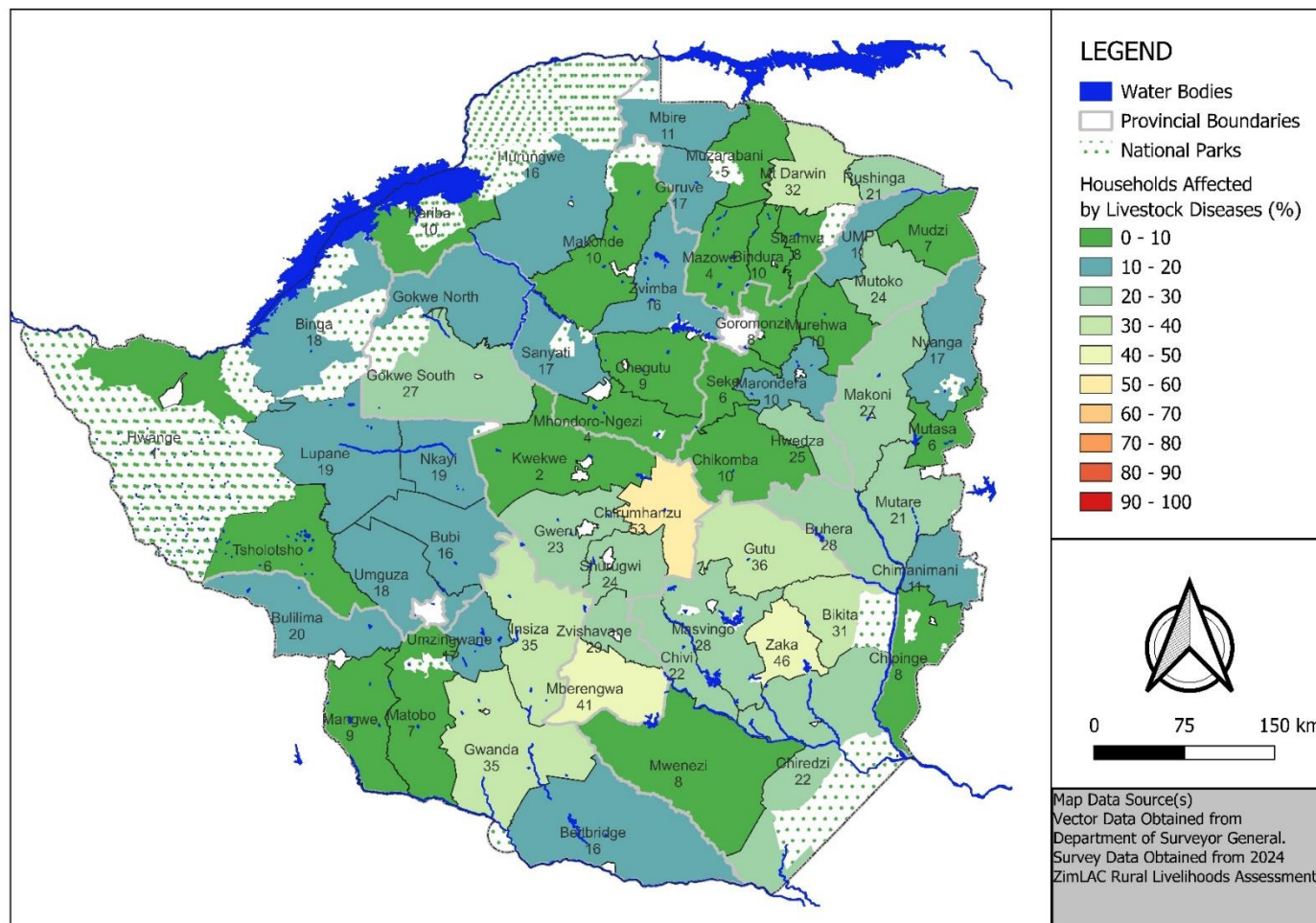
- Chirumhanzu (53%) and Zaka (46%) had the highest proportions of households which reported livestock diseases as a shock.

Livestock Deaths
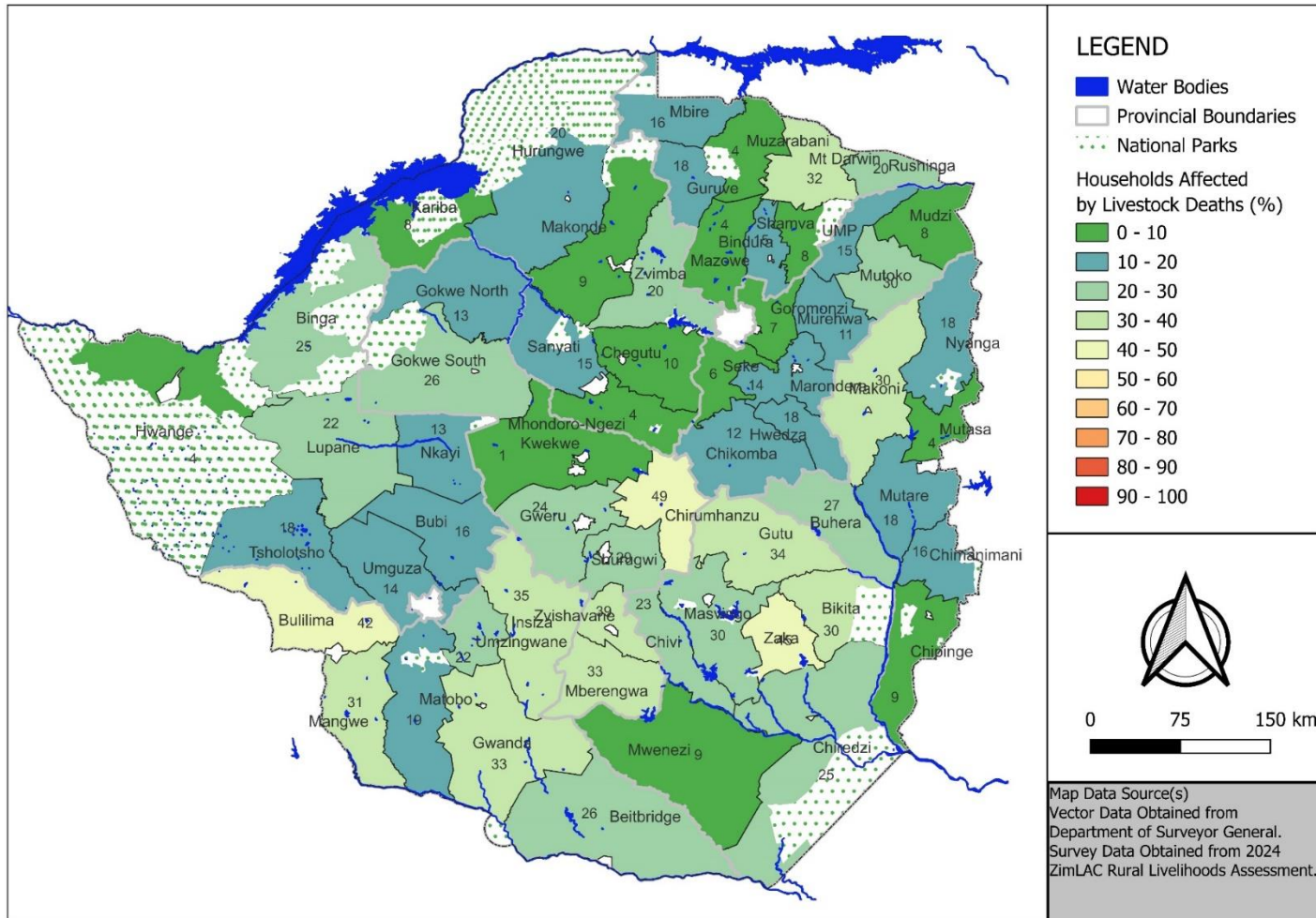
- Chirumhanzu (49%), Zaka (45%) and Bulilima (42%) had the highest proportions of households which reported livestock deaths as a shock.

Sharp Drops in Livestock Prices
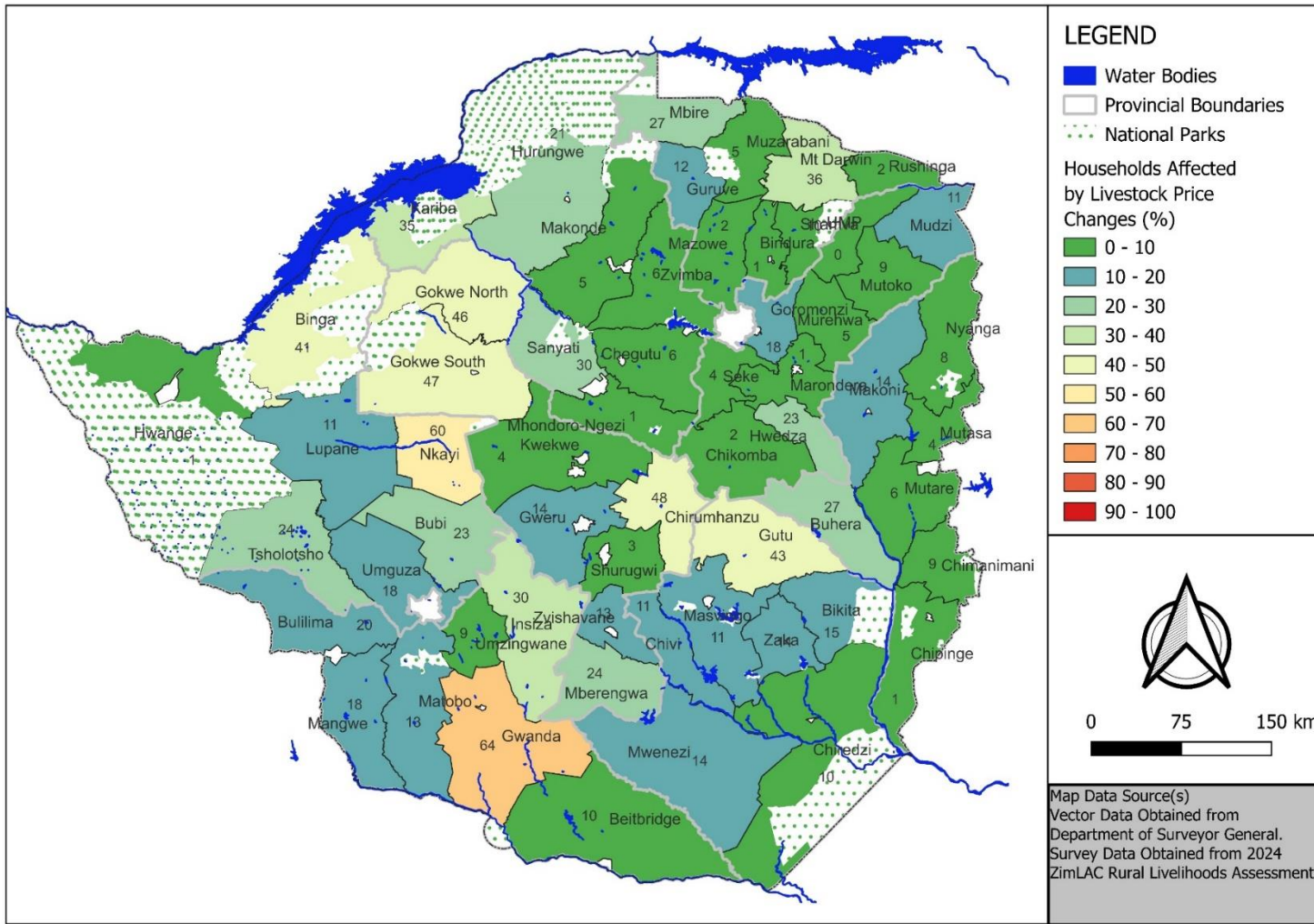
- Gwanda (64%) and Nkayi (60%) had the highest proportions of households which reported sharp drops in livestock prices as a shock.

Crop Pests
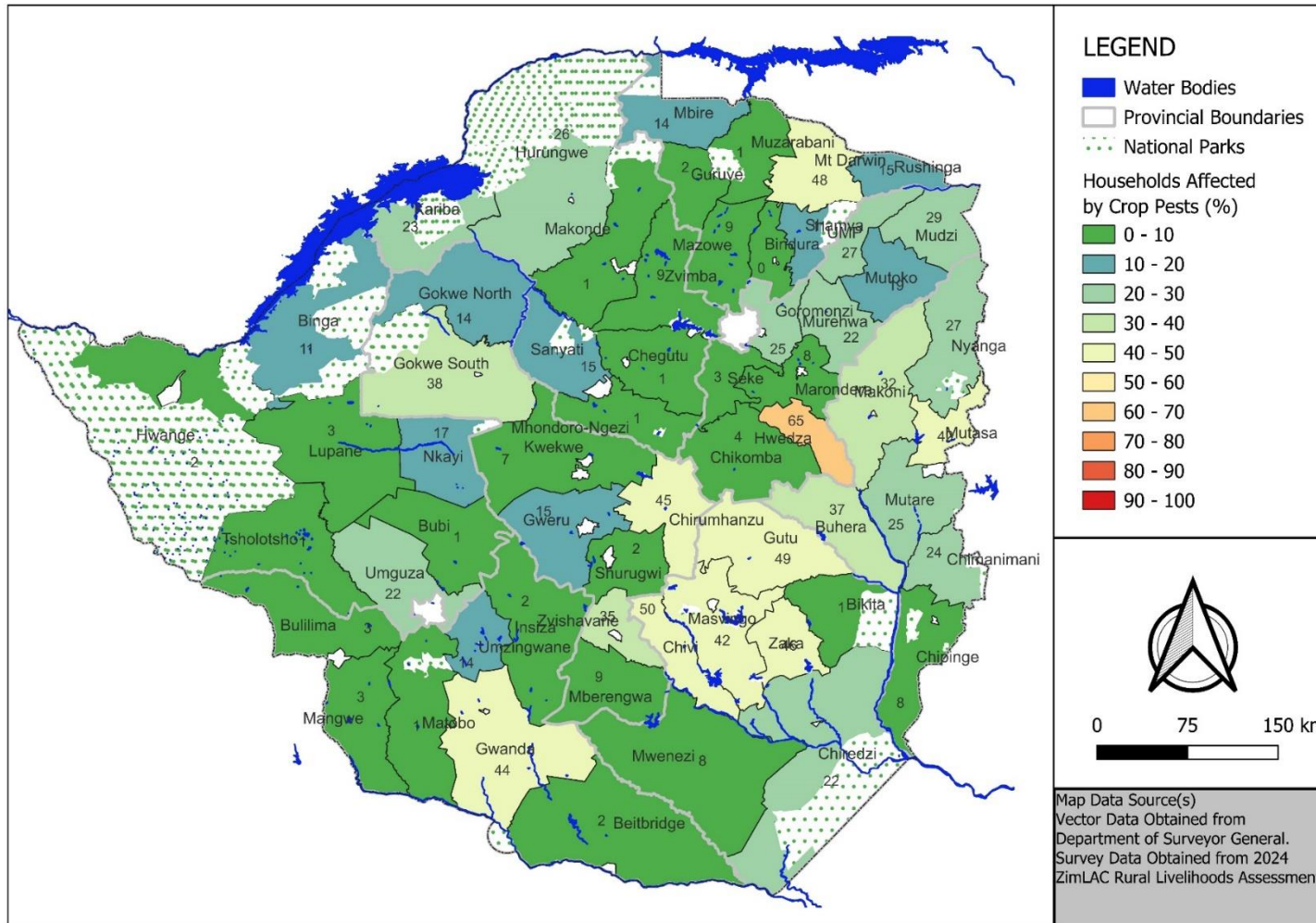
- Hwedza (65%), Chivi (50%) and Gutu (49%) had the highest proportions of households which reported crop pests as a shock.

Average Shock Exposure Index
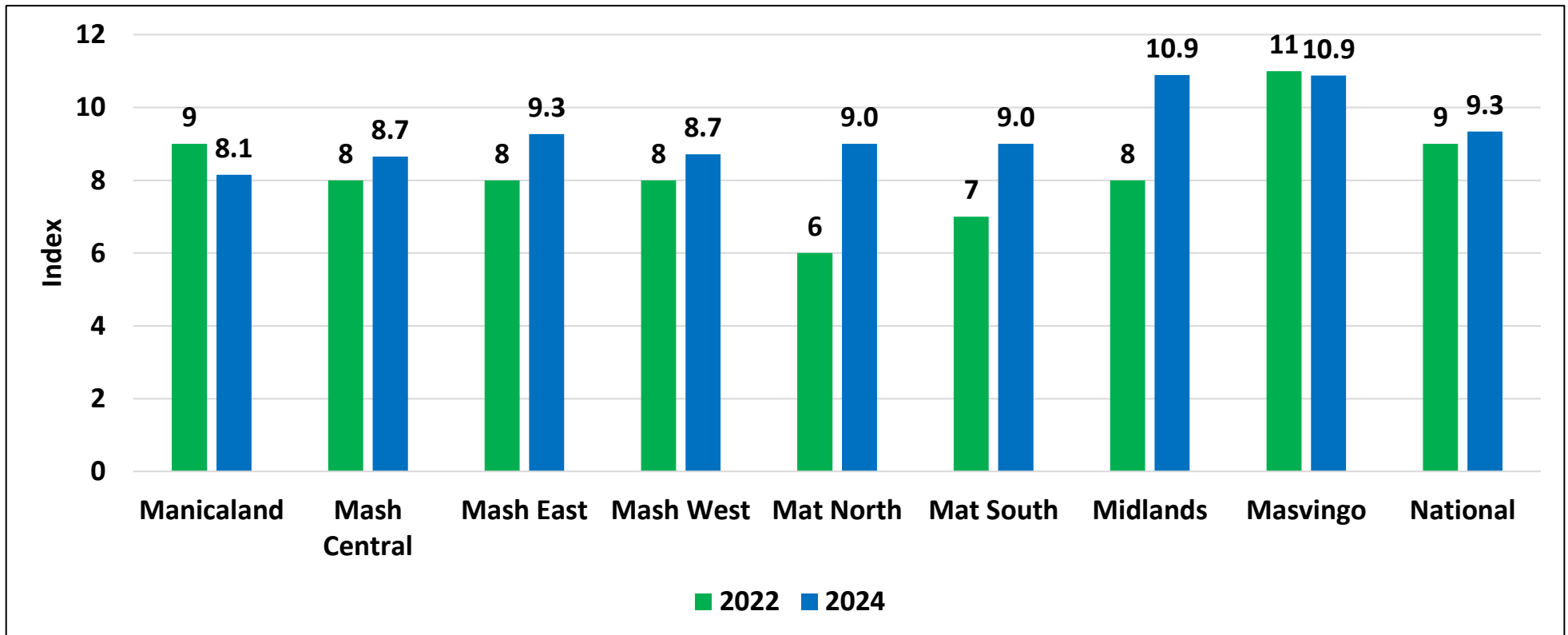
- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with the impact severity of the shock on the household.

- Shock exposure index increased as compared to 2022.

- Masvingo and Midlands had the highest average shock exposure index of 10.9 while Manicaland (8.1) had the lowest.

Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope Indices
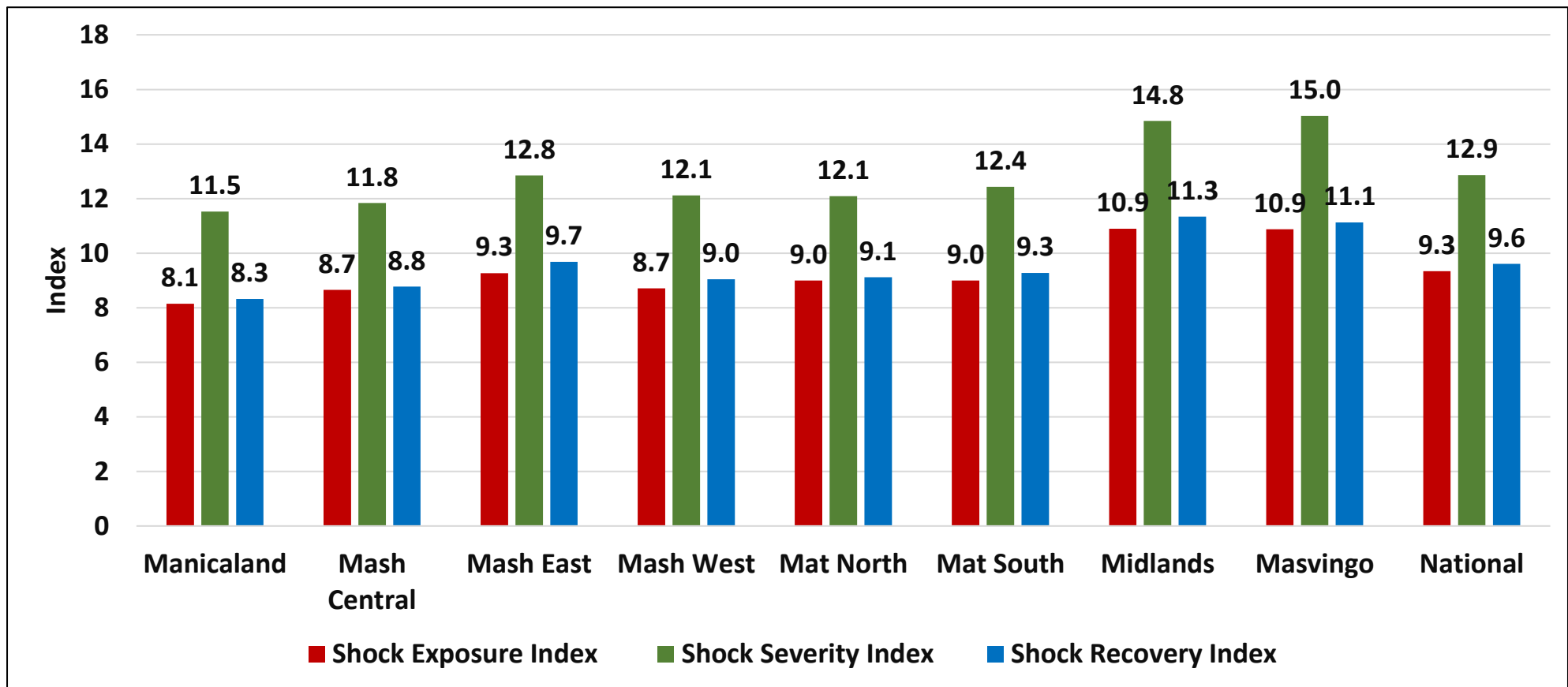
- The average Shock Exposure Index was 9.3. Shock severity Index was 12.9. Average Shock Recovery Index was 9.6.

- The shock recovery index (9.6) was slightly higher than shock exposure index (9.3).
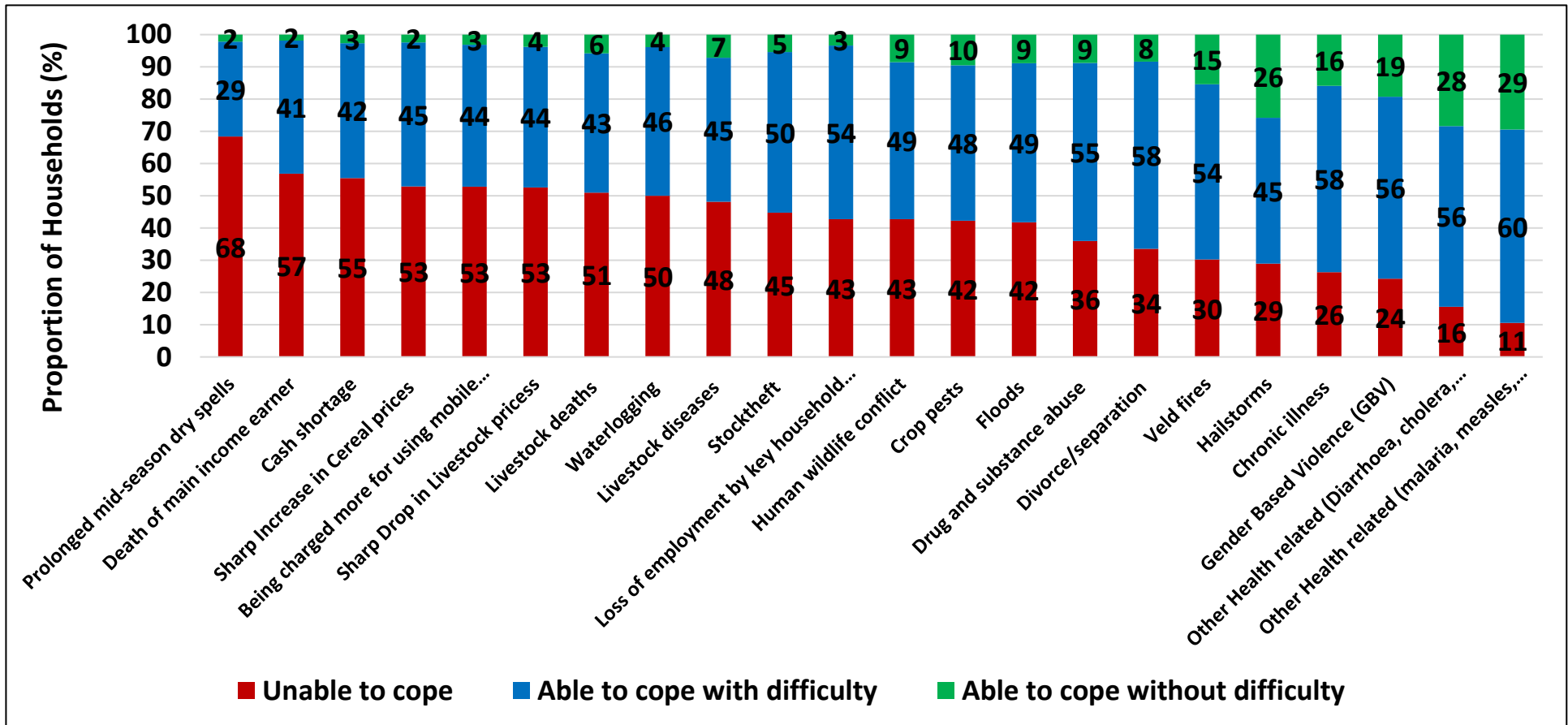
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Severity of Shocks on Households
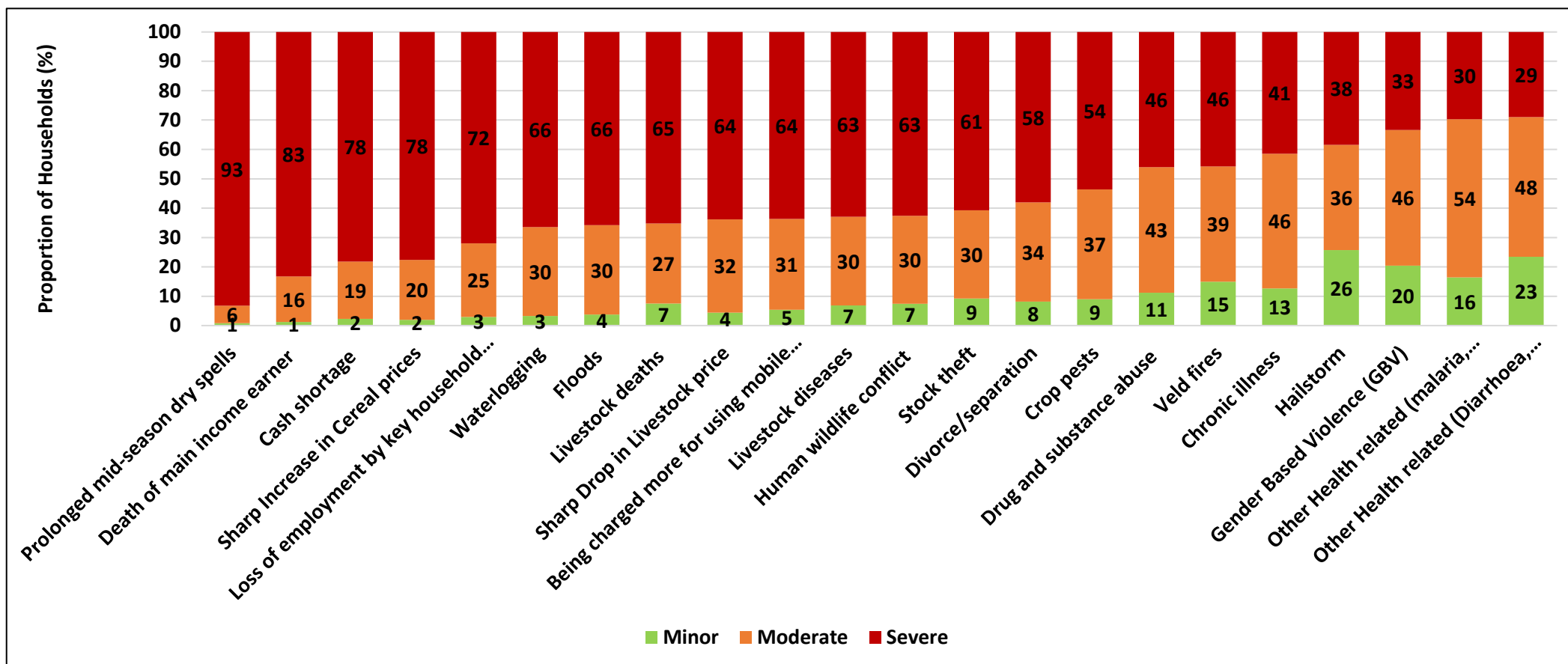
- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (93%), death of main income earner in the household (83%), cash shortage and cereal price changes (78%) were reported to have had the most severe impact on households.

# Households' Perception of their Ability to Cope with Shocks

- Most households perceived that they were unable to cope with prolonged mid season dry spells (68%), death of main income earner (57%) and cash shortage (55%).

Households' Perception of their Ability to Recover from Shocks
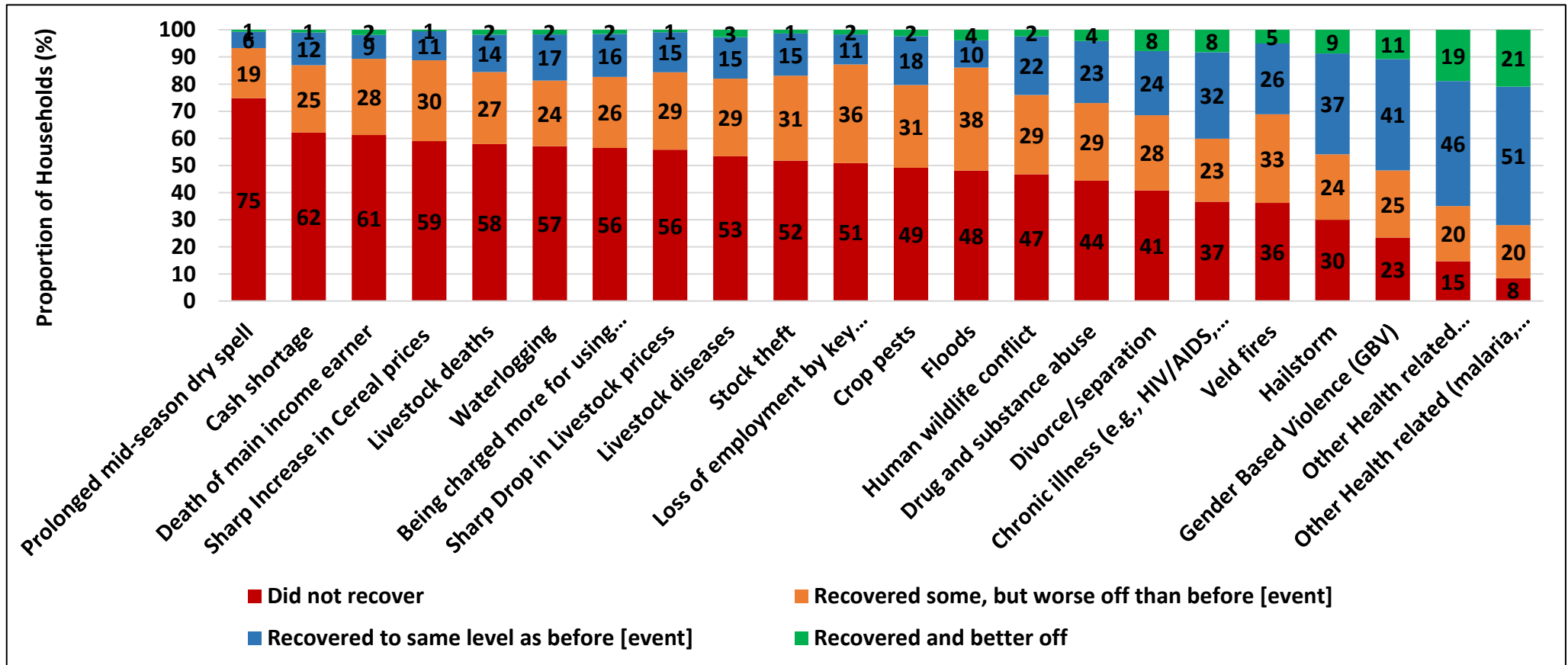
- Most households perceived that they did not have the ability to recover from prolonged mid season dry spells (75%) and cash shortages (62%).

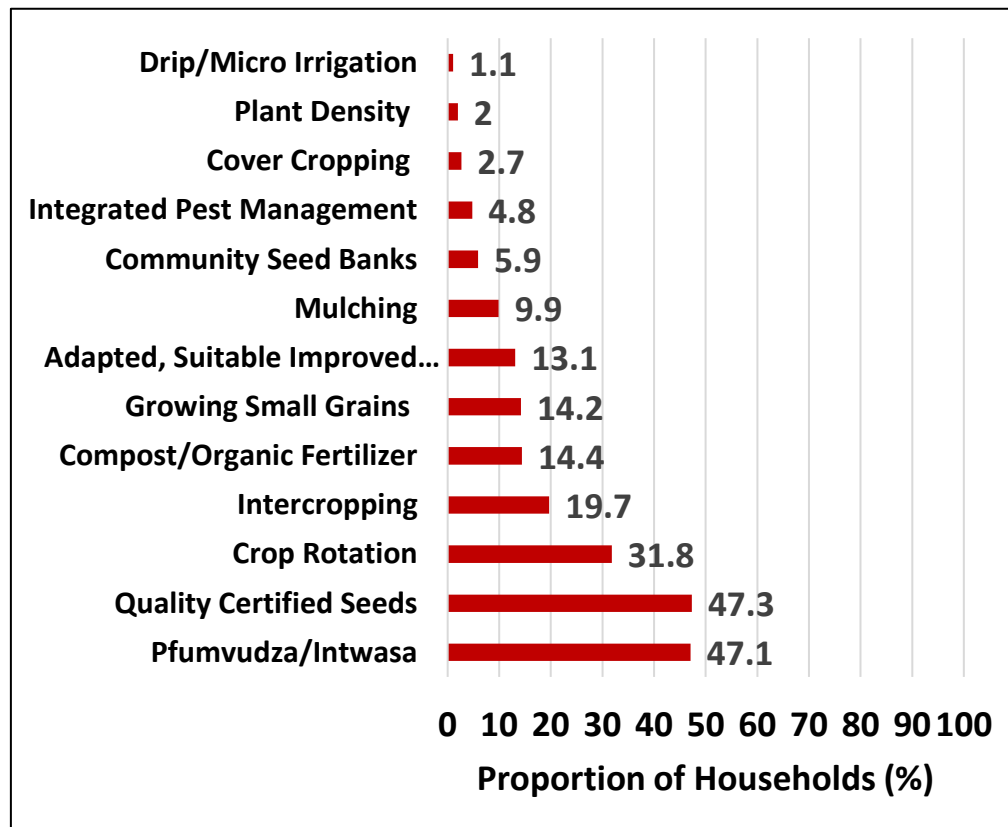# Households' Perception of their Ability to Cope with Future Shocks
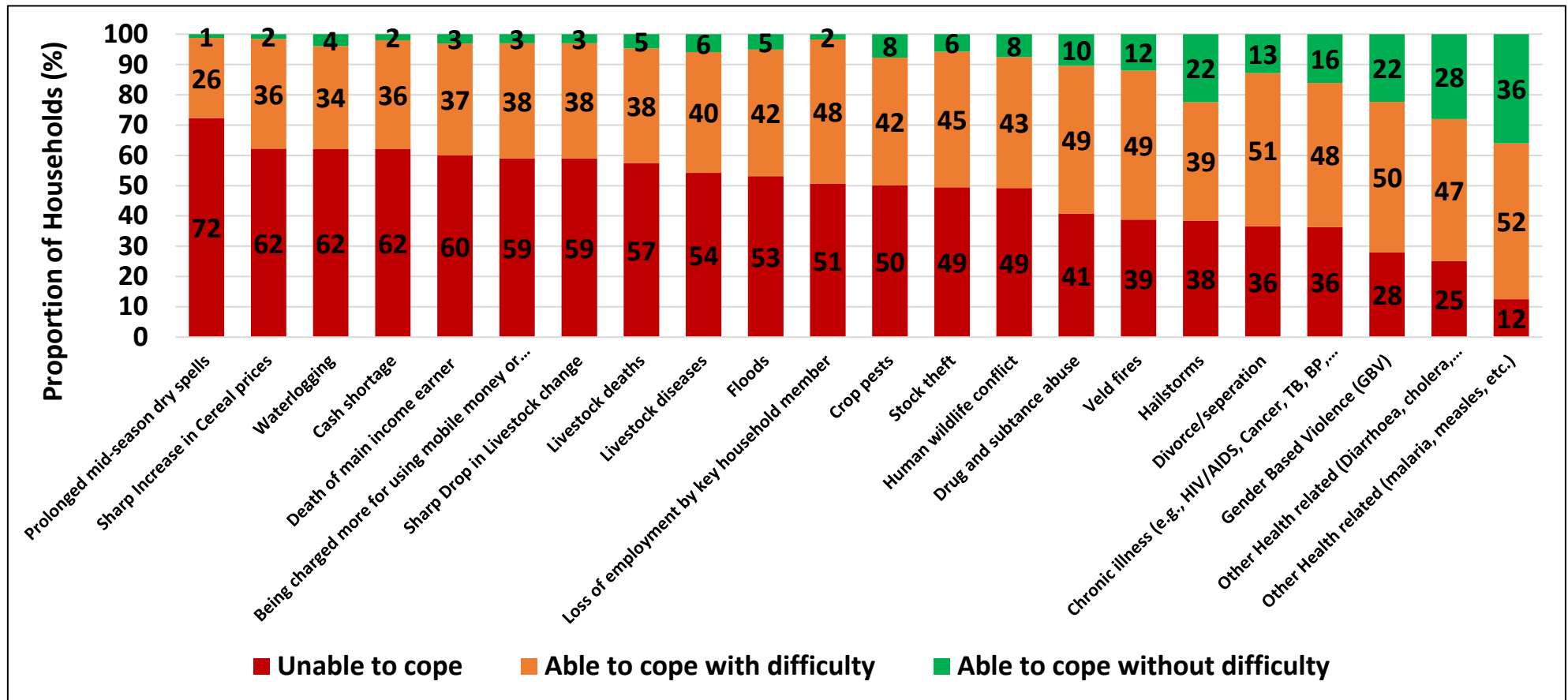
- Most households had a perceived inability to cope with prolonged mid-season dry spell (72%), cereal price changes, water logging, cash shortage (62%).

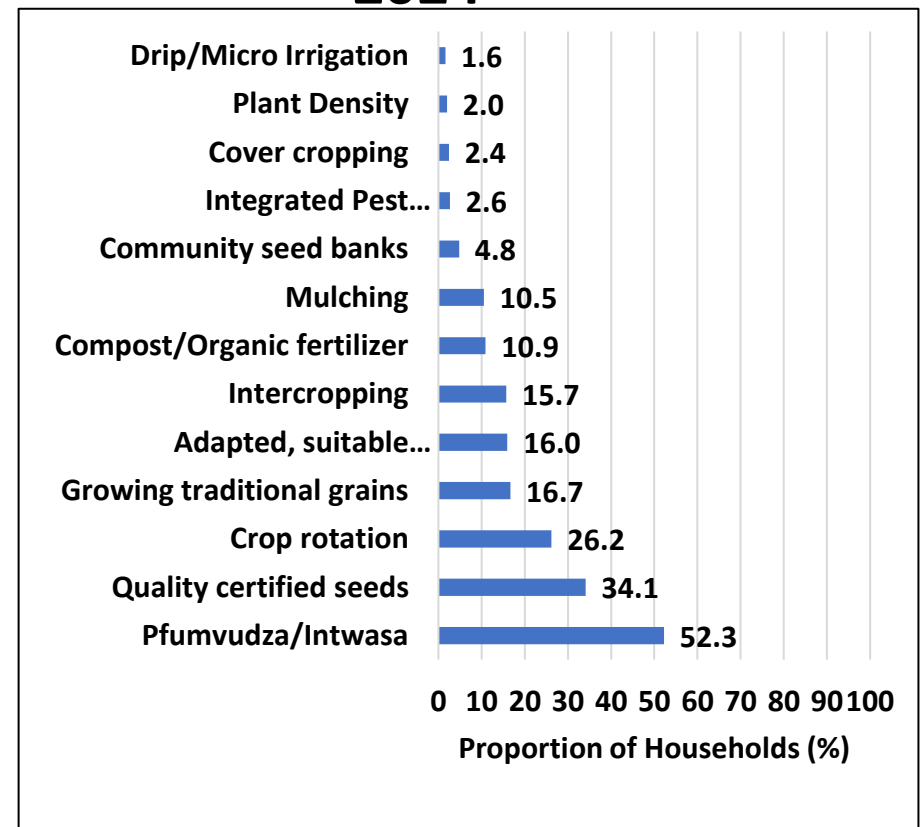# Agricultural Production Technologies

Climate Smart Technologies

2023

Technology	Proportion of Households (%)
Drip/Micro Irrigation	1.1
Plant Density	2
Cover Cropping	2.7
Integrated Pest Management	4.8
Community Seed Banks	5.9
Mulching	9.9
Adapted, Suitable Improved…	13.1
Growing Small Grains	14.2
Compost/Organic Fertilizer	14.4
Intercropping	19.7
Crop Rotation	31.8
Quality Certified Seeds	47.3
Pfumvudza/Intwasa	47.1

2024

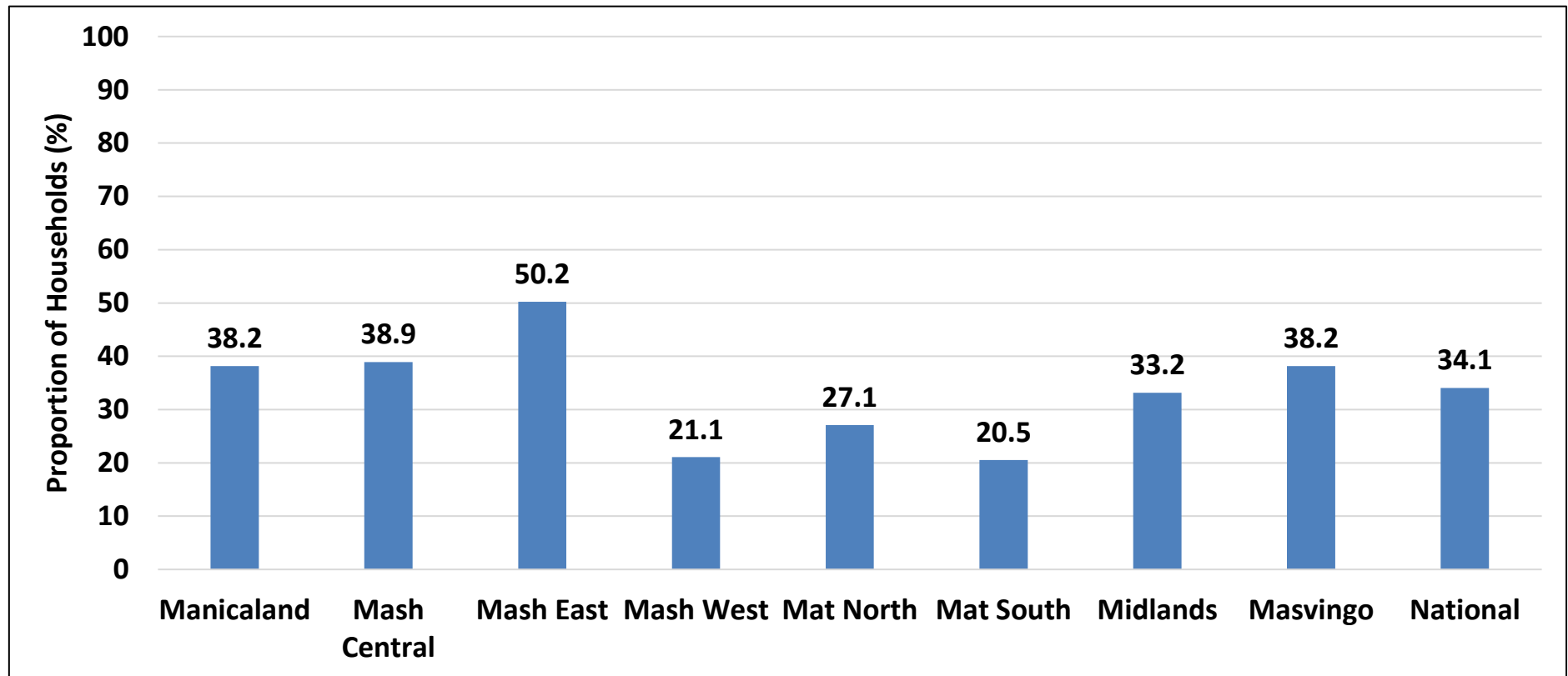| Technology	Proportion of Households (%)
Drip/Micro Irrigation	1.6
Plant Density	2.0
Cover cropping	2.4
Integrated Pest…	2.6
Community seed banks	4.8
Mulching	10.5
Compost/Organic fertilizer	10.9
Intercropping	15.7
Adapted, suitable…	16.0
Growing traditional grains	16.7
Crop rotation	26.2
Quality certified seeds	34.1
Pfumvudza/Intwasa	52.3

- About 52.3% of households practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa in 2024, an increase from 47.1% reported in 2023.

- There was a decrease in the use of quality certified seeds from 2023 (47.3%) to 2024 (34.1%).

Quality Certified Seeds

- Mashonaland East (50.2%) had the highest proportion of households that reported using quality certified seeds, while Matabeleland South had the least (20.5%).
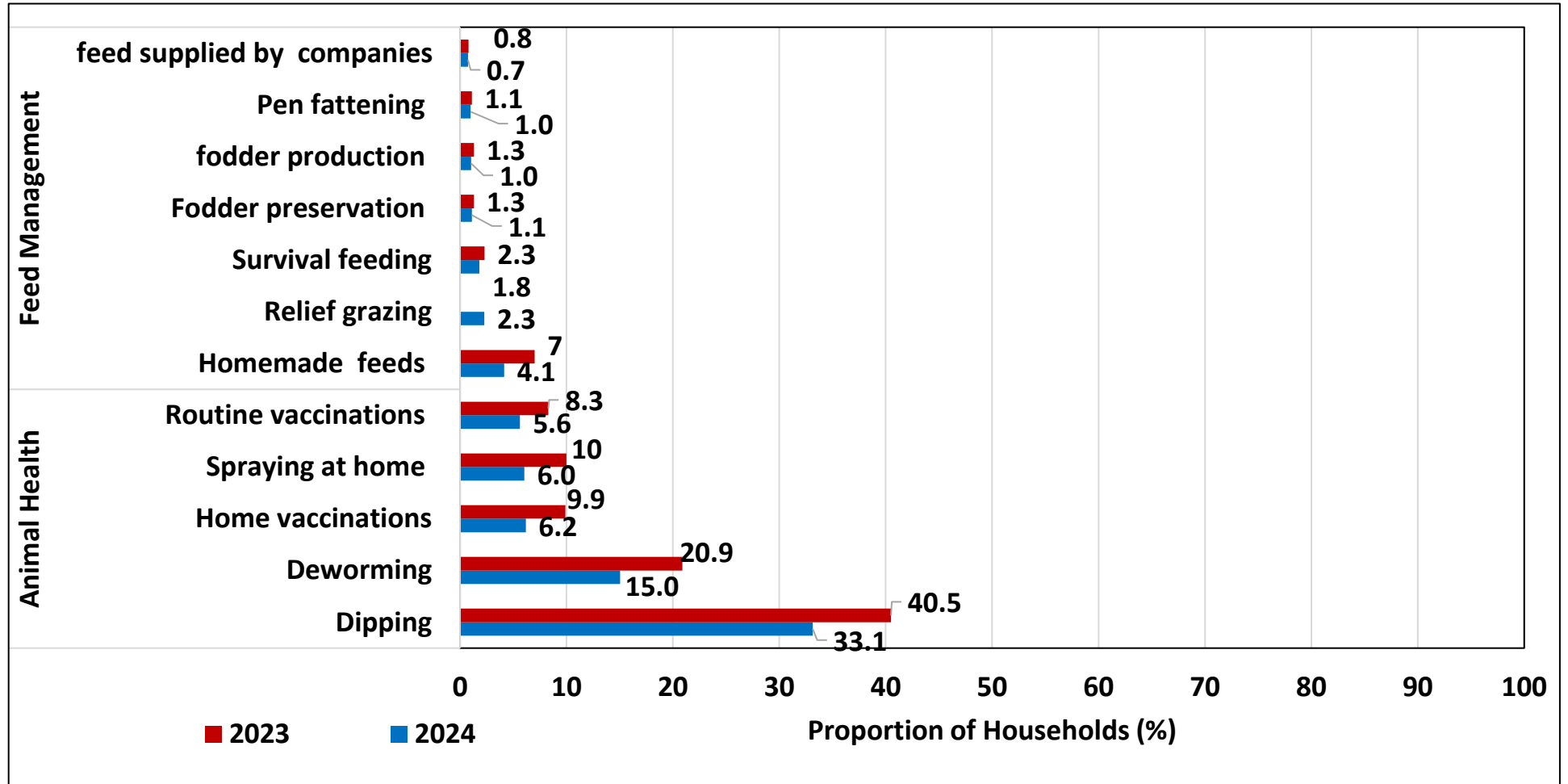
Pfumvudza/Intwasa
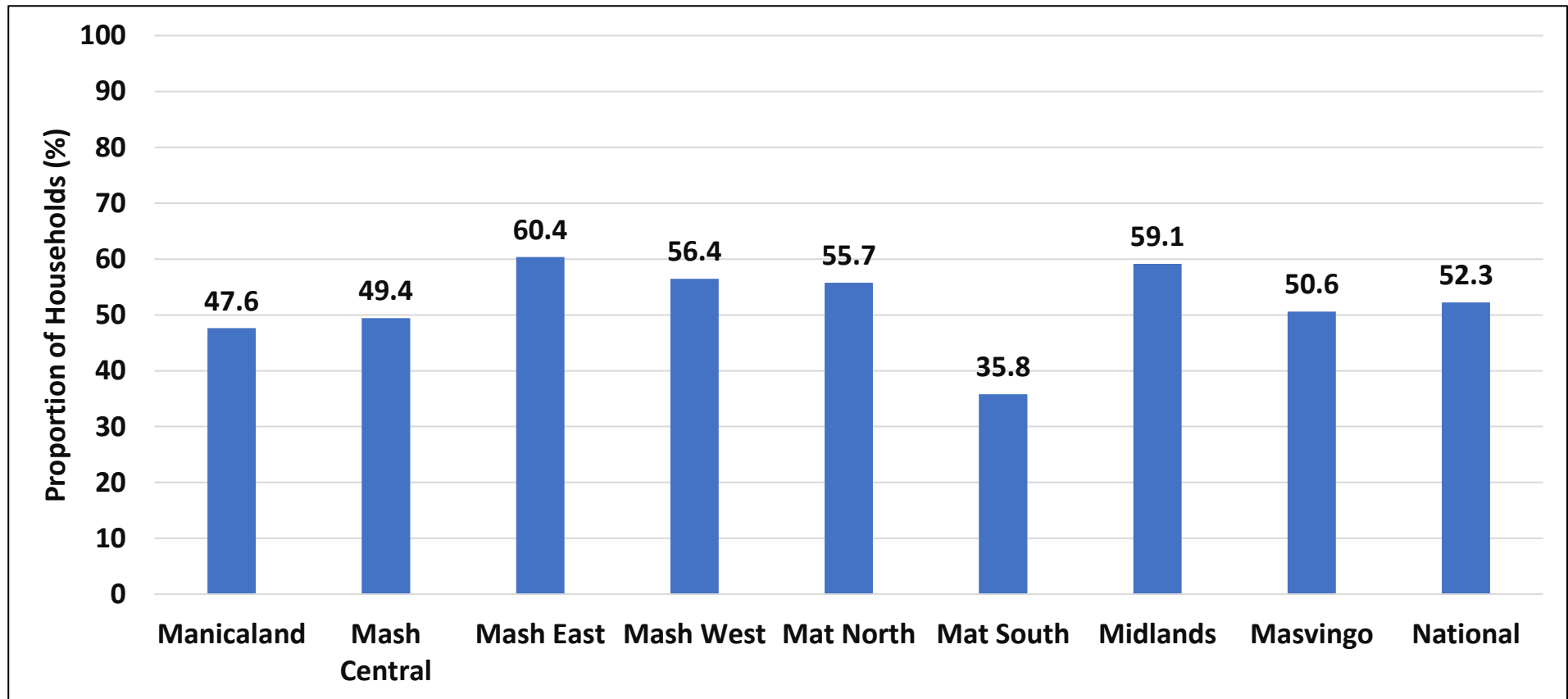
- Mashonaland East (60.4%), Midlands (59.1%), Mashonaland West (56.4%) and Matabeleland North (55.7%) were the provinces that reported high practice of Pfumvudza/ Intwasa.
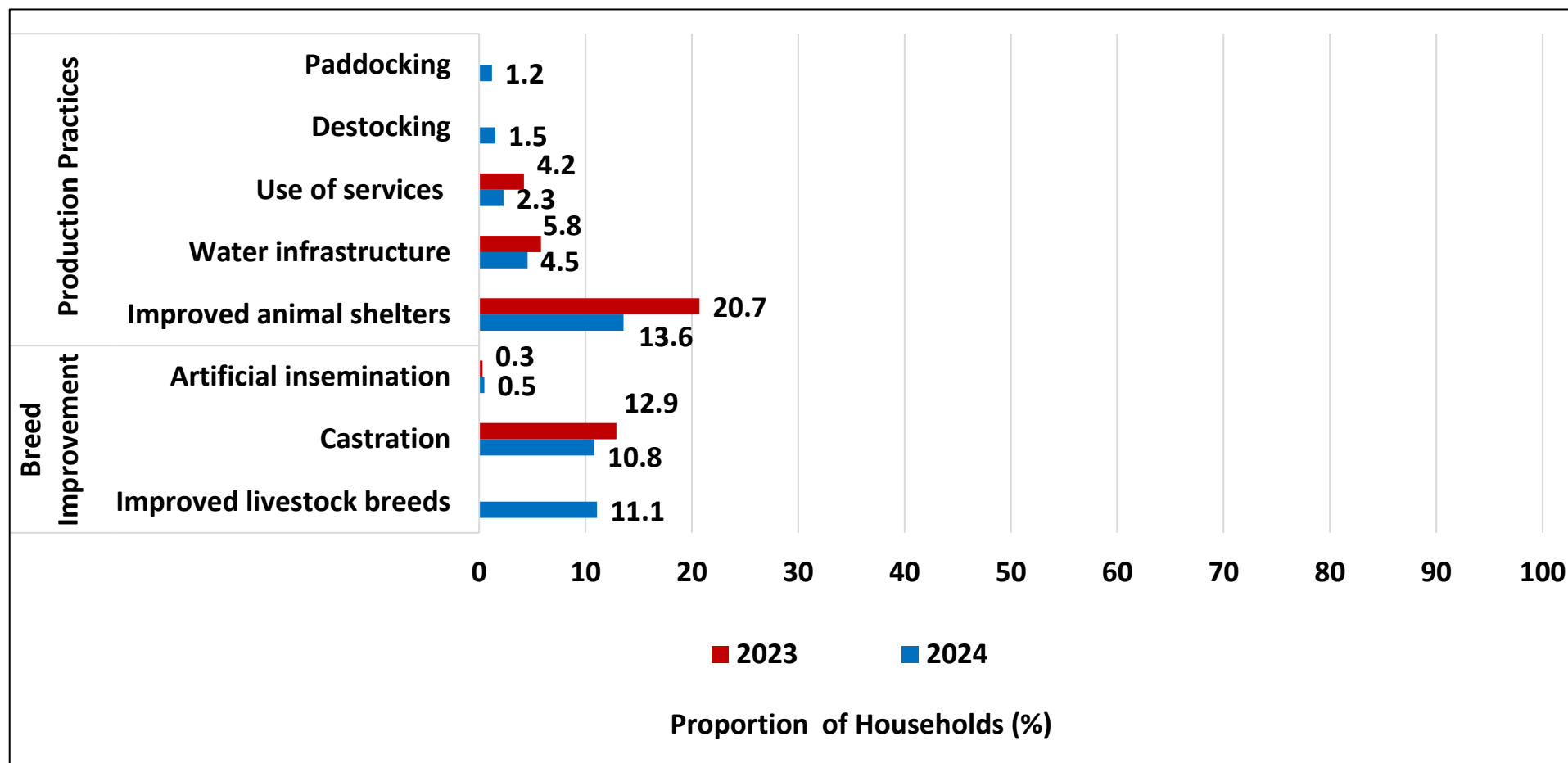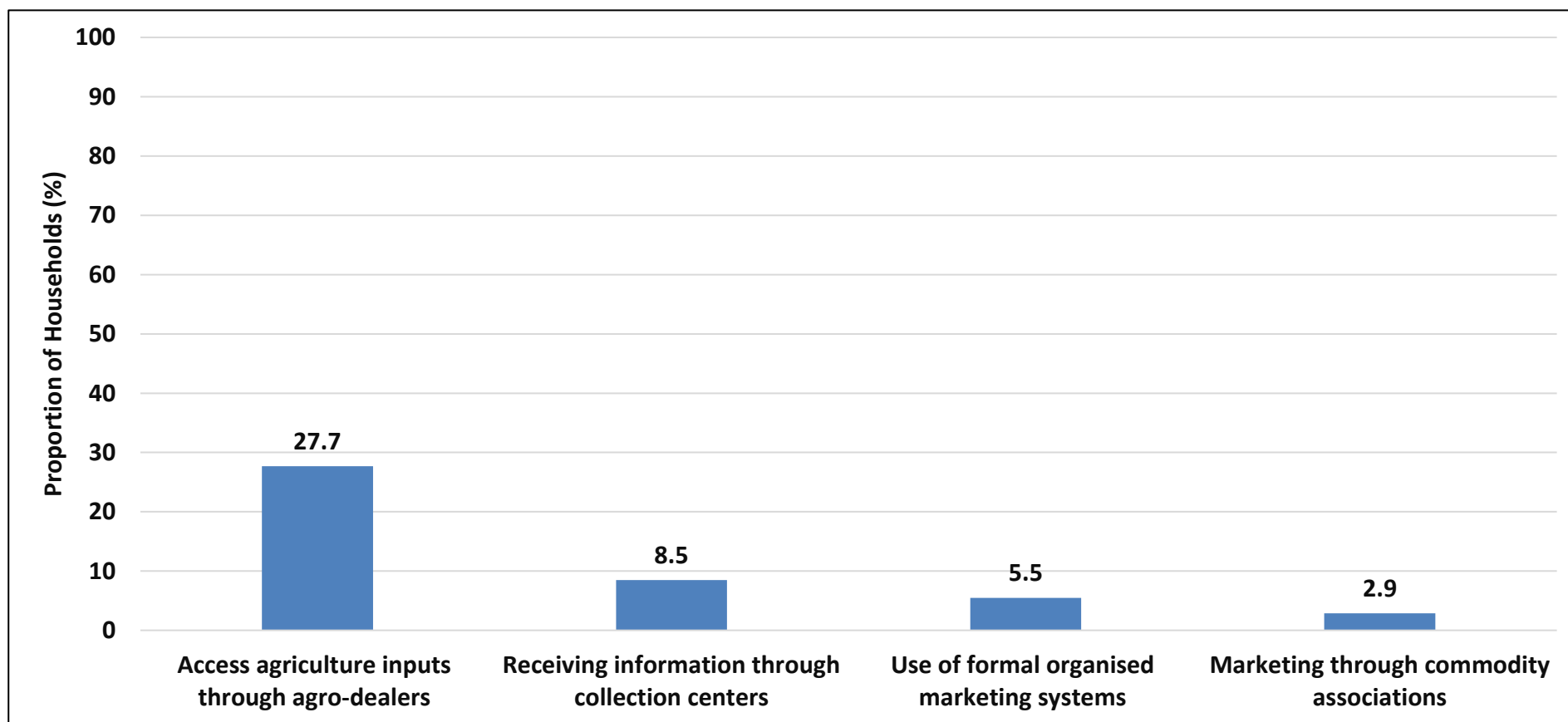
Improved Livestock Practices

- There was a decline in all livestock practices from the year 2023 to 2024.

- Dipping practice decreased from 40.5% in 2023 to 33.1% in 2024.
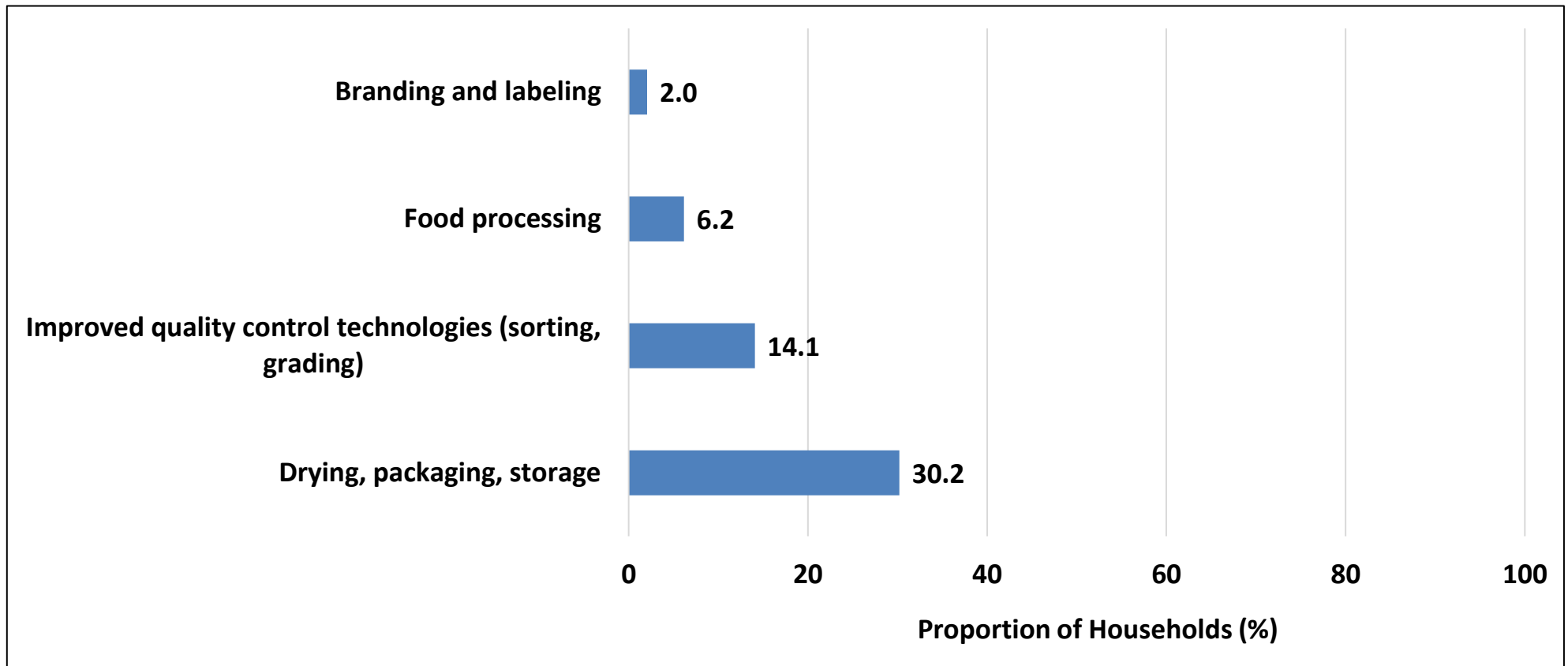
Improved Livestock Practices

- Provision of improved animal shelter decreased from 20.7% in 2023 to 13.6% in 2024.

Improved Agricultural Marketing Practices

- About 27.7% households accessed agriculture inputs through agro-dealers/agriculture cooperatives, contract farming, Government input schemes and loans in kind.

Value Addition

- At least 30.2% of the households were practising drying, packaging and storage and 2% of the households branded and labeled products.
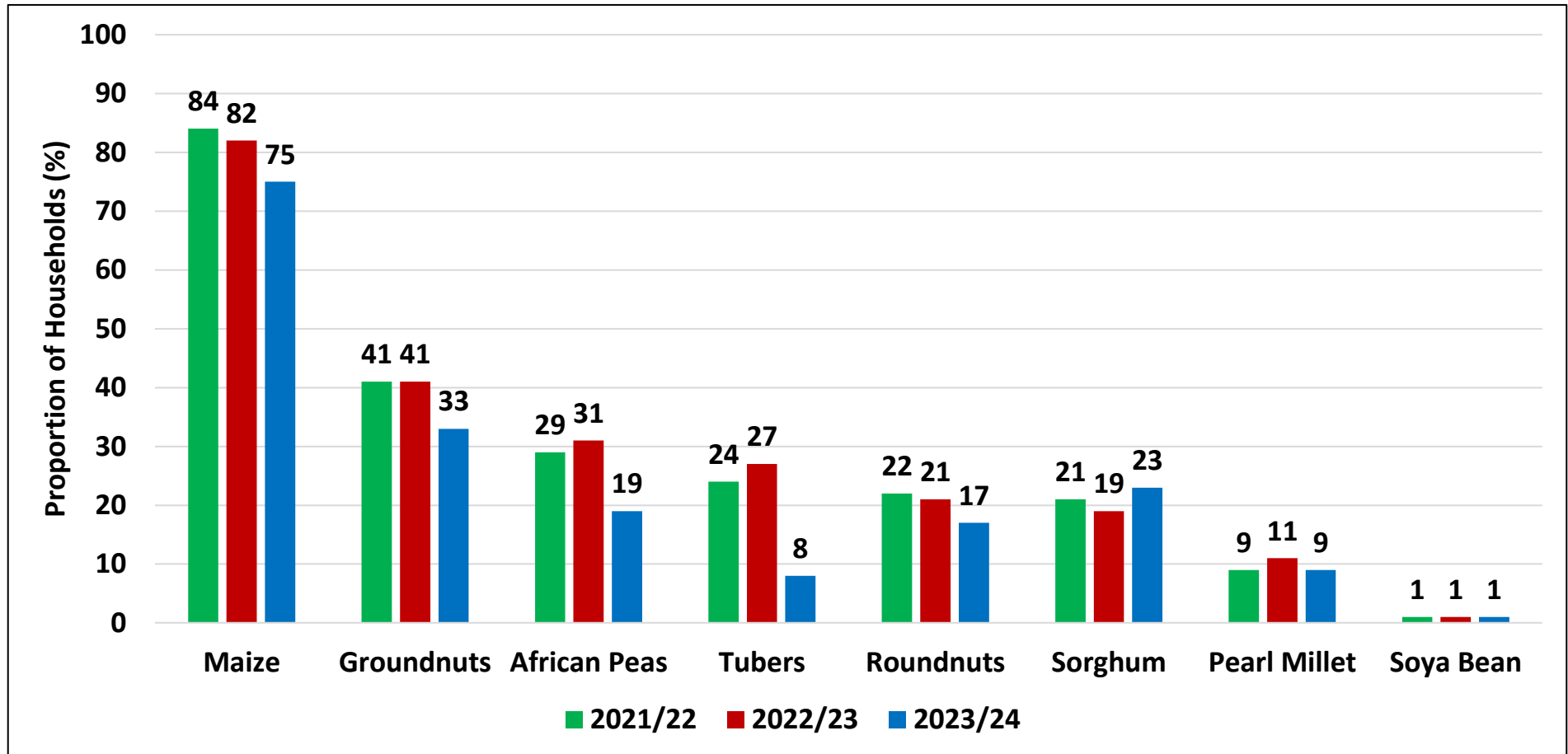
Water and Soil Conservation Strategies
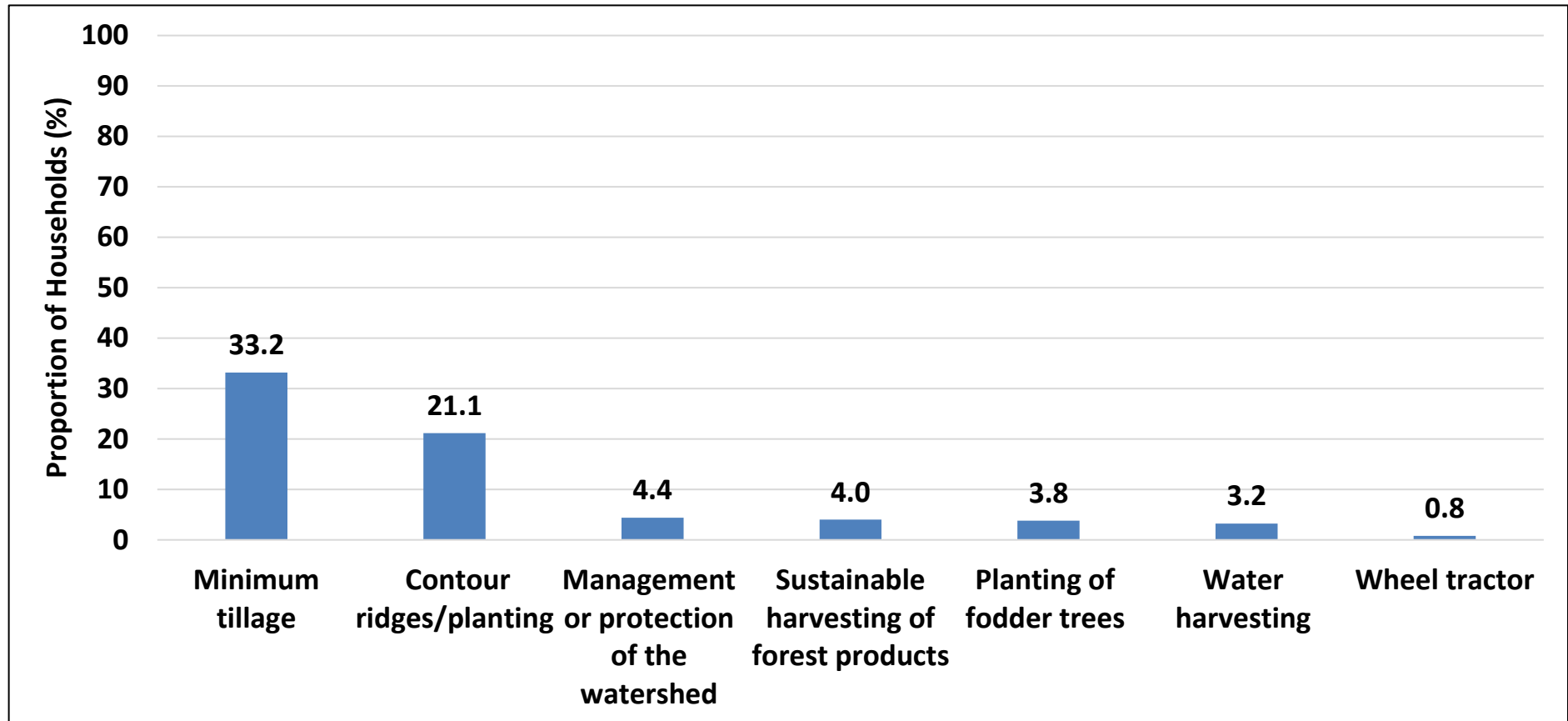
- About 33.2% of the households were practicing minimum tillage followed by 21.1% which practised contour ridging as water and soil conservative strategies.

Crop Production

Households Which Grew Crops

- The proportion of households which grew crops decreased across all crops, except for sorghum which had an increase from 19% in 2022/23 to 23% in the 2023/24 season.

Proportion of Households which Grew Crops

Province	Maize (%)	Sorghum (%)	Finger Millet (%)	Pearl Millet (%)	Tubers (%)	African Peas (%)	Groundnuts (%)	Roundnuts (%)	Sugar Beans (%)	Soya Beans (%)	Tobacco (%)	Cotton (%)
Manicaland	76.1	13.7	3.1	7.6	12.5	14.9	25.5	16.5	10.2	0.3	5.2	0.6
Mash Central	76.1	21.0	0.2	0.7	3.6	14.6	26.1	2.1	6.9	2.2	12.4	3.9
Mash East	85.0	11.8	2.7	1.5	12.9	12.9	38.0	9.9	8.6	0.2	4.5	0.4
Mash West	76.7	14.0	0.6	0.7	8.5	16.3	25.8	8.9	6.7	3.1	10.1	3.9
Mat North	64.6	39.0	1.5	28.8	1.4	16.4	19.3	12.9	1.6	0.3	0.0	0.8
Mat South	55.4	36.1	0.8	19.7	2.3	26.2	35.1	19.2	2.9	0.3	0.1	0.1
Midlands	84.6	21.1	2.4	1.4	4.0	21.9	42.6	20.6	2.7	0.0	0.1	5.4
Masvingo	78.2	31.4	8.9	15.6	21.4	28.3	50.8	46.6	2.8	0.6	0.0	1.4
National	**75.1**	**23.0**	**2.5**	**8.9**	**8.3**	**18.7**	**33.1**	**16.7**	**5.4**	**0.9**	**4.2**	**2.1**

- Nationally, 75.1% of the households grew maize, 33.1% grew groundnuts, 23% grew sorghum and 18.7% grew African Peas.

Cereals From Remittances and Casual Labour

	Maize from Casual Labour (in kgs)	Maize from Remittances (in kgs)
Manicaland	16.8	0.4
Mash Central	6.7	0.0
Mash East	6.7	0.0
Mash West	9.0	0.3
Mat North	2.0	0.6
Mat South	1.1	0.4
Midlands	2.1	0.0
Masvingo	16.4	0.9
National	**6.8**	**0.2**

- On average, households reported to have accessed 6.8 kgs of maize from casual labour and 0.2 kgs from remittances in the previous consumption year.

Household Stocks: 1 April 2024

	Maize (kgs)	Mealie-meal (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Finger Millet (kgs)	Pearl Millet (kgs)	Total Cereal Stocks (kgs)
Manicaland	20.6	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3
Mashonaland Central	6.2	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5
Mashonaland East	18.4	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6
Mashonaland West	3.2	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7
Matabeleland North	0.2	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4
Matabeleland South	0.8	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.1
Midlands	10.7	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.5
Masvingo	11.5	9.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	29.9
National	**8.3**	**7.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**19.9**

- The average stocks were 8.3kgs of maize and 7.4kgs of maize meal.

Season Harvest

Province	Maize Expected (kgs)	Maize Actual (kgs)	Sorghum Expected (kgs)	Sorghum Actual (kgs)	Pearl Millet Expected (kgs)	Pearl Millet Actual (kgs)	Finger Millet Expected (kgs)	Finger Millet Actual (kgs)	Total Cereals Expected (kgs)	Total Cereals Actual (kgs)
Manicaland	1152	105	53	6	6	1	26	3	1236	115
Mash Central	894	107	251	10	0	0	2	0	1147	117
Mash East	809	88	46	2	6	1	2	0	862	91
Mash West	1240	50	99	4	1	0	1	0	1341	54
Mat North	425	30	169	39	5	0	123	30	723	99
Mat South	394	26	109	19	3	0	37	8	542	53
Midlands	1093	136	153	9	6	0	4	0	1257	145
Masvingo	651	61	245	28	17	2	100	16	1013	108
National	837	77	140	14	5	1	35	7	1016	99

- On average, households were expecting to harvest 837 kgs of maize and 140 kgs of sorghum.
- The actual household harvest was 77 kgs for maize and 14 kgs for sorghum.

Measures to Close Cereal Deficit

	Rely on household monthly income to purchase required food (%)	Sell productive assets to purchase the required food (%)	Use savings to buy the required food (%)	Rely on assistance from relatives in towns (%)	Rely on assistance from relatives in diaspora (%)	Rely on assistance from the Government (%)	Rely on assistance from NGO/ donors (%)	Rely on assistance from churches (%)	Rely on assistance from well wishers (%)	Don't know (%)	Don't have any measure in place (%)
Manicaland	24	3	5	6	2	31	13	1	8	3	56
Mash Central	15	4	4	3	1	29	12	0	4	3	47
Mash East	20	4	6	6	1	31	5	0	4	2	53
Mash West	14	2	3	4	1	26	10	2	10	5	51
Mat North	17	5	5	7	6	35	18	4	11	2	55
Mat South	30	8	6	11	11	24	9	0	5	3	60
Midlands	19	3	6	9	6	39	11	0	2	2	58
Masvingo	18	9	8	7	4	23	8	2	4	2	51
National	**20**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**4**	**30**	**11**	**1**	**6**	**3**	**54**

- The majority of the households (54%) had not put any measures in place to close the cereal gap at the time of the assessment.

- About 30% of the households were expecting Government to cover the cereal gap.

- Over 20% of the households reported that they will rely on the market to close the cereal gap.

Maize Grain and Maize Meal Prices

Maize Grain Prices/ kg
Maize Meal Prices/ kg
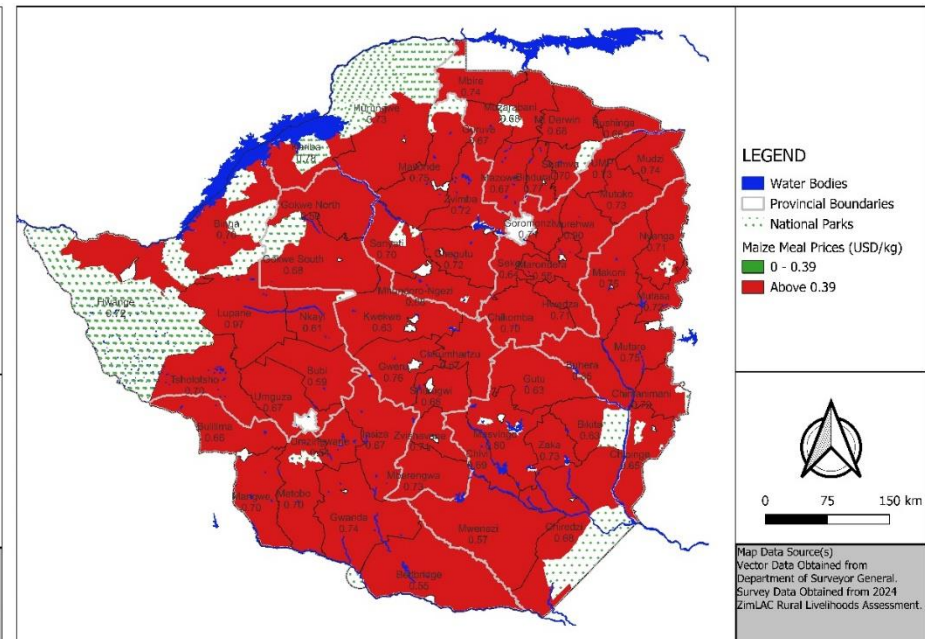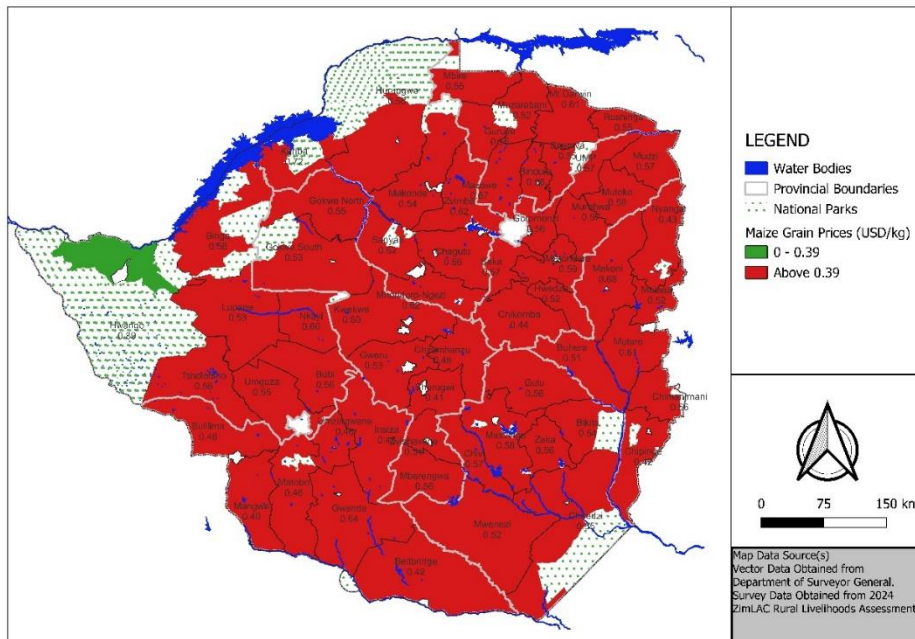
- Maize grain prices ranged from USD 0.39 / kg in Hwange to USD0.72 / kg in Kariba.
- Maize meal prices were highest in Lupane (USD 0.98 /kg) and lowest in Beitbridge (USD0.55/kg).
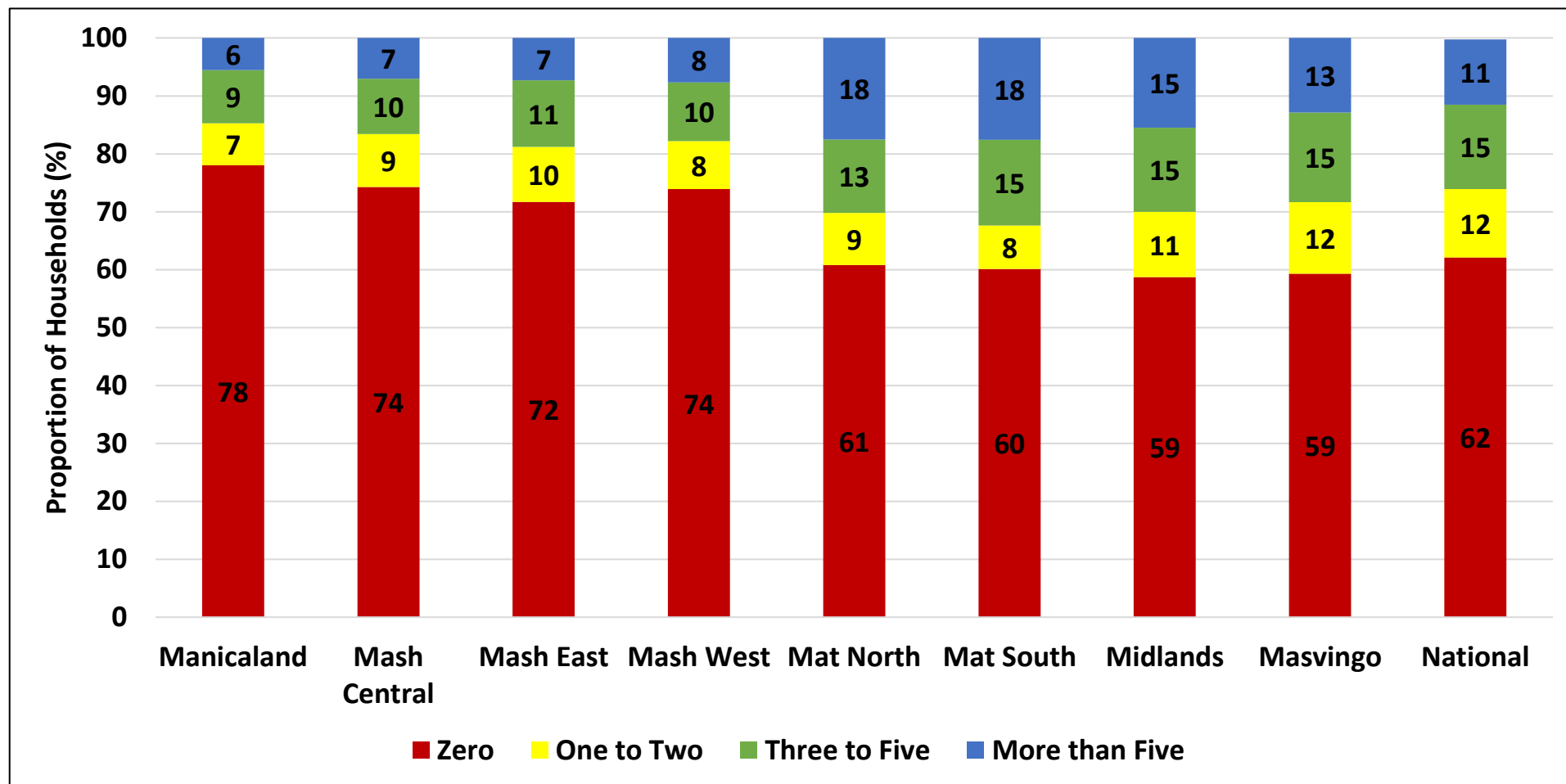
Livestock

Proportion of Households which Owned Livestock

Province	Cattle (%)	Donkeys (%)	Sheep (%)	Goats (%)	Pigs (%)	Poultry (%)	Rabbits (%)
Manicaland	28.4	0.7	1.1	39.5	2.2	65.5	1.9
Mash Central	30.2	0.8	1.2	29.0	2.0	49.4	0.9
Mash East	33.3	0.9	1.3	40.1	1.7	66.5	2.1
Mash West	31.0	3.2	0.5	32.9	2.1	54.6	0.9
Mat North	42.9	15.7	1.0	51.5	2.2	63.5	0.0
Mat South	44.7	34.4	4.2	62.5	1.1	71.6	0.7
Midlands	48.5	5.6	1.0	43.8	2.5	68.1	2.0
Masvingo	45.5	9.2	3.1	43.4	2.7	72.3	3.0
National	**37.6**	**8.3**	**1.6**	**42.5**	**2.0**	**63.8**	**1.5**

- The most common owned livestock species were poultry (63.8%) and goats (42.5%).

- About 37.6% of the households owned cattle.

Cattle Ownership

- About 62% of households did not own any livestock.

- Eleven percent of the households owned more than 5 cattle.
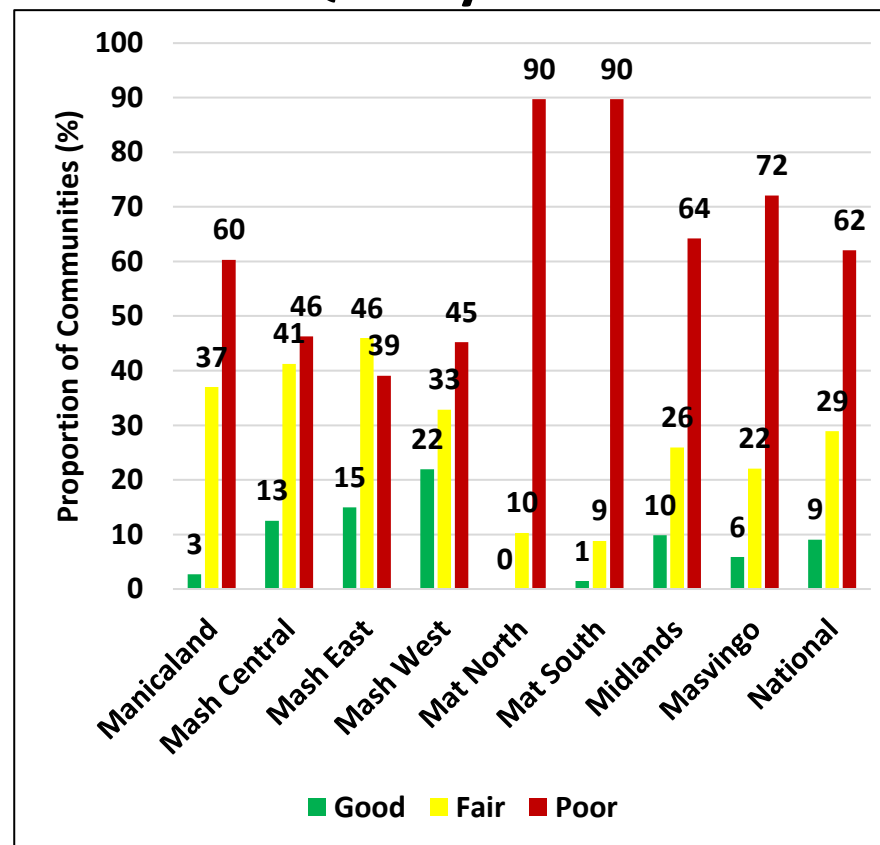
Livestock Condition
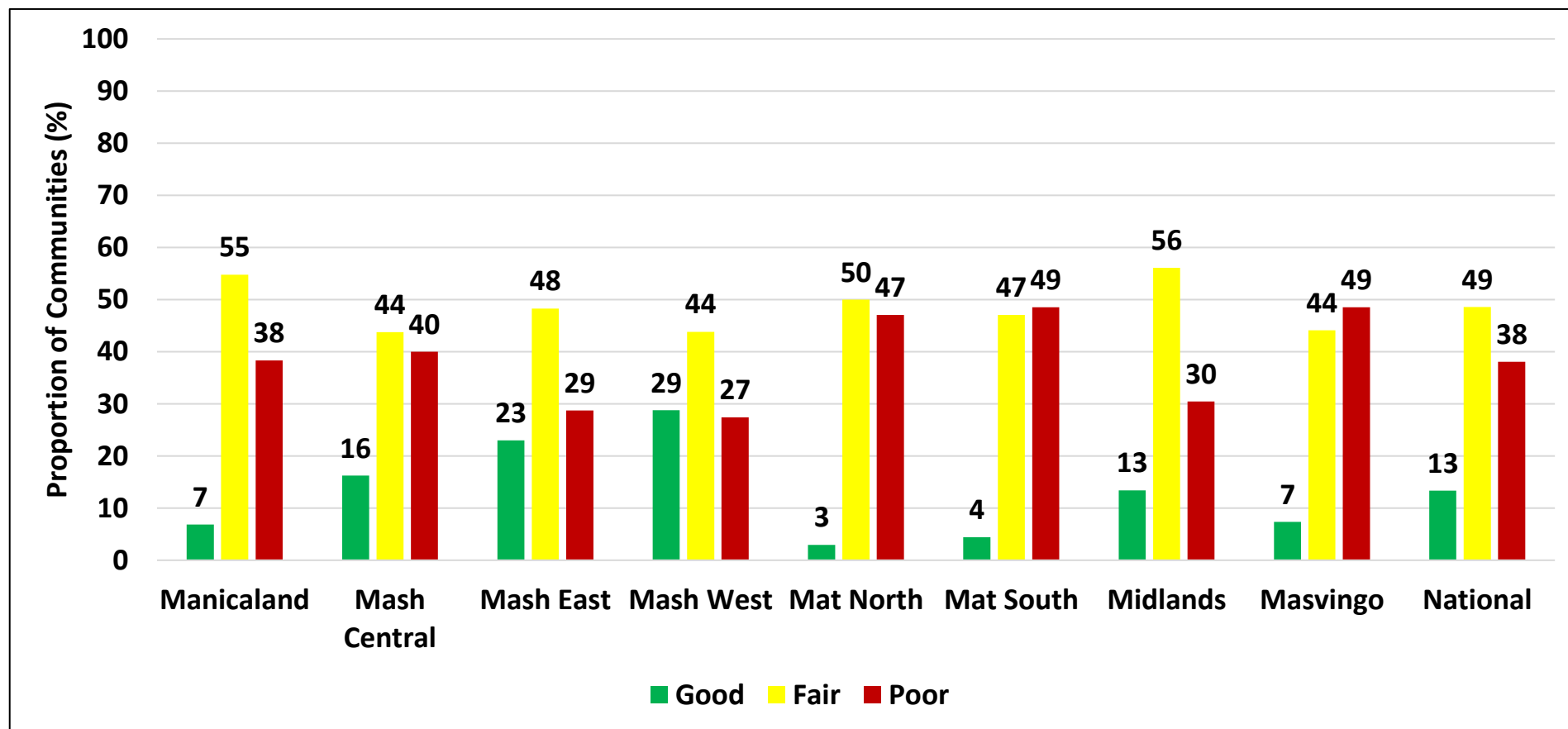
- About 38% of the communities indicated that their livestock were in poor condition and 13% reported that they were in good condition.

- Mashonaland West had the highest proportion of communities (29%) which indicated that their livestock were in good condition.
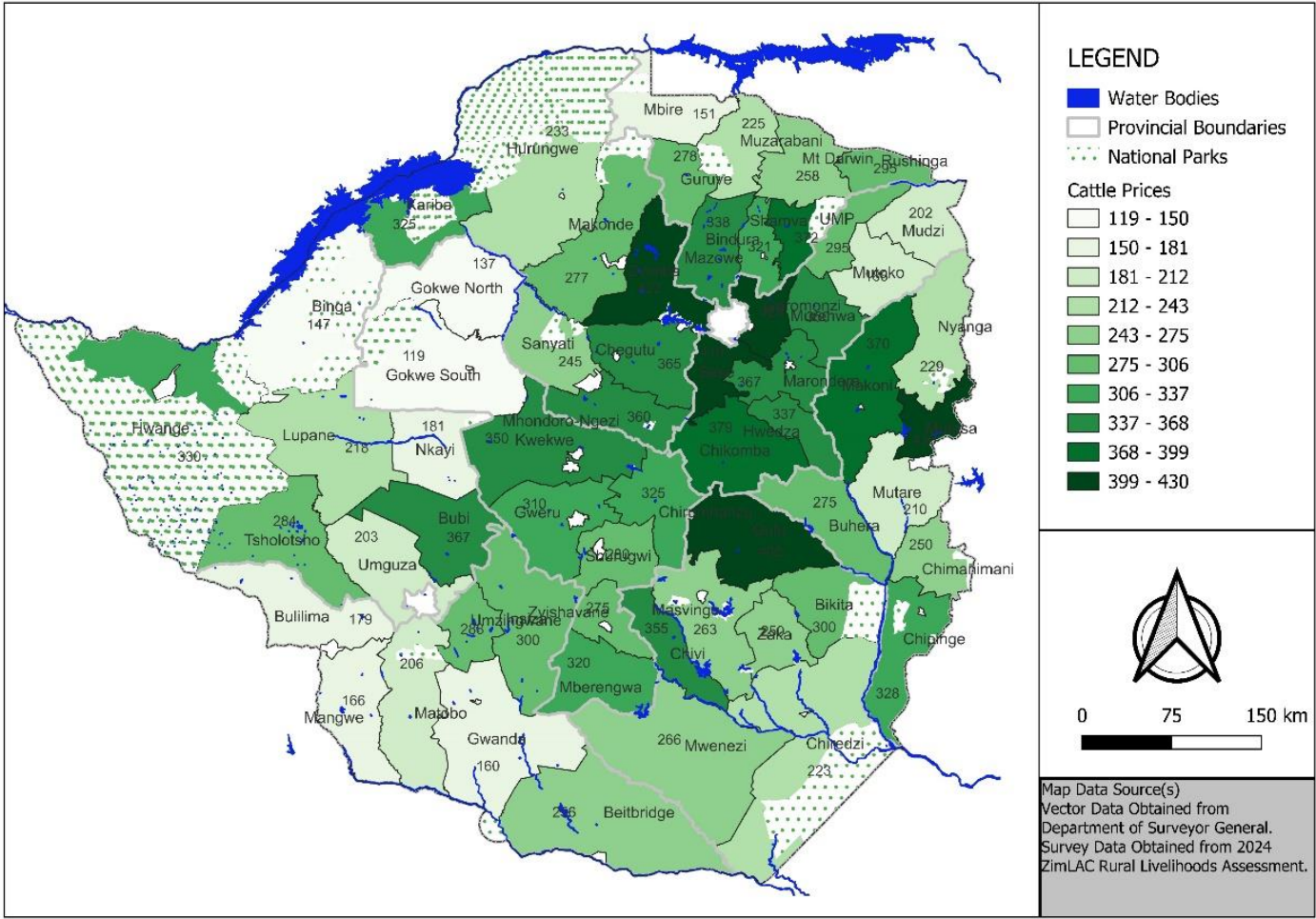
Pastures Availability and Quality

Availability of Pastures
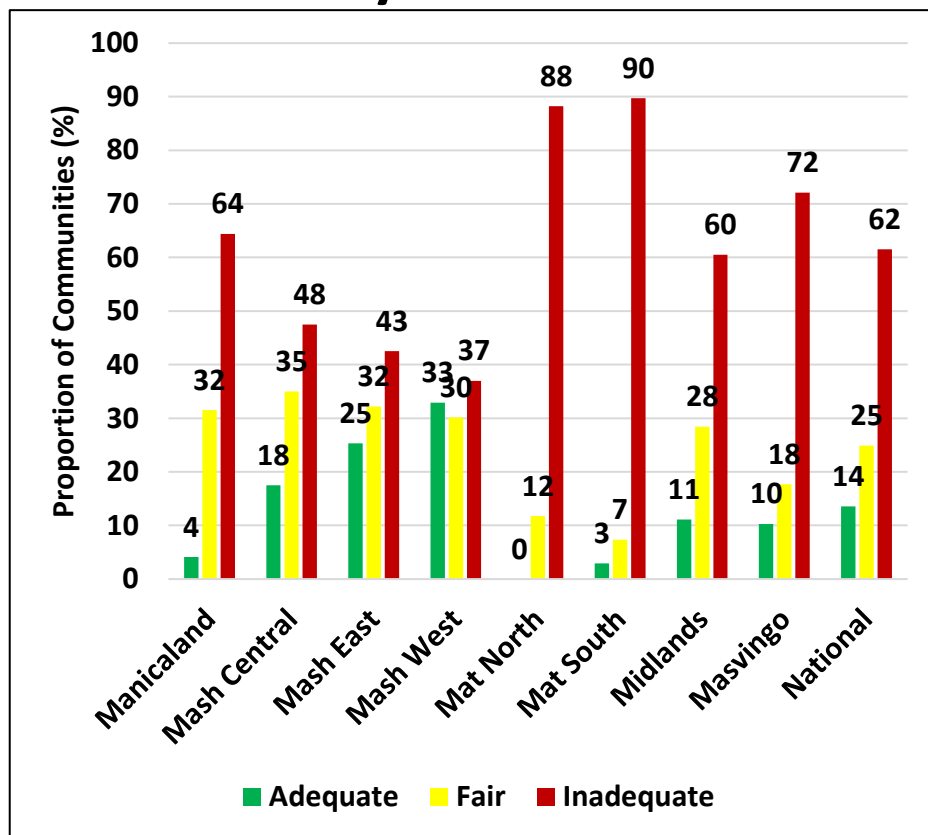
Quality of Pastures

- Most of the communities (62%) indicated that pastures for livestock were inadequate and were of poor quality.

Cattle Prices

- Cattle prices ranged from USD 119 to USD 430 per average beast.
- The highest prices were reported in Mutasa (USD 430), Goromonzi (USD 428), Zvimba (USD 422) and Seke (USD 410) whilst the lowest prices were reported in Gokwe South (USD 119) and Gokwe North (USD 137).

Goat Prices

- Goat prices ranged from USD 11 to USD 70.
- The highest prices were reported in Goromonzi (USD 70) and the lowest prices were reported in Gokwe North (USD 11) and Gokwe South (USD 14).
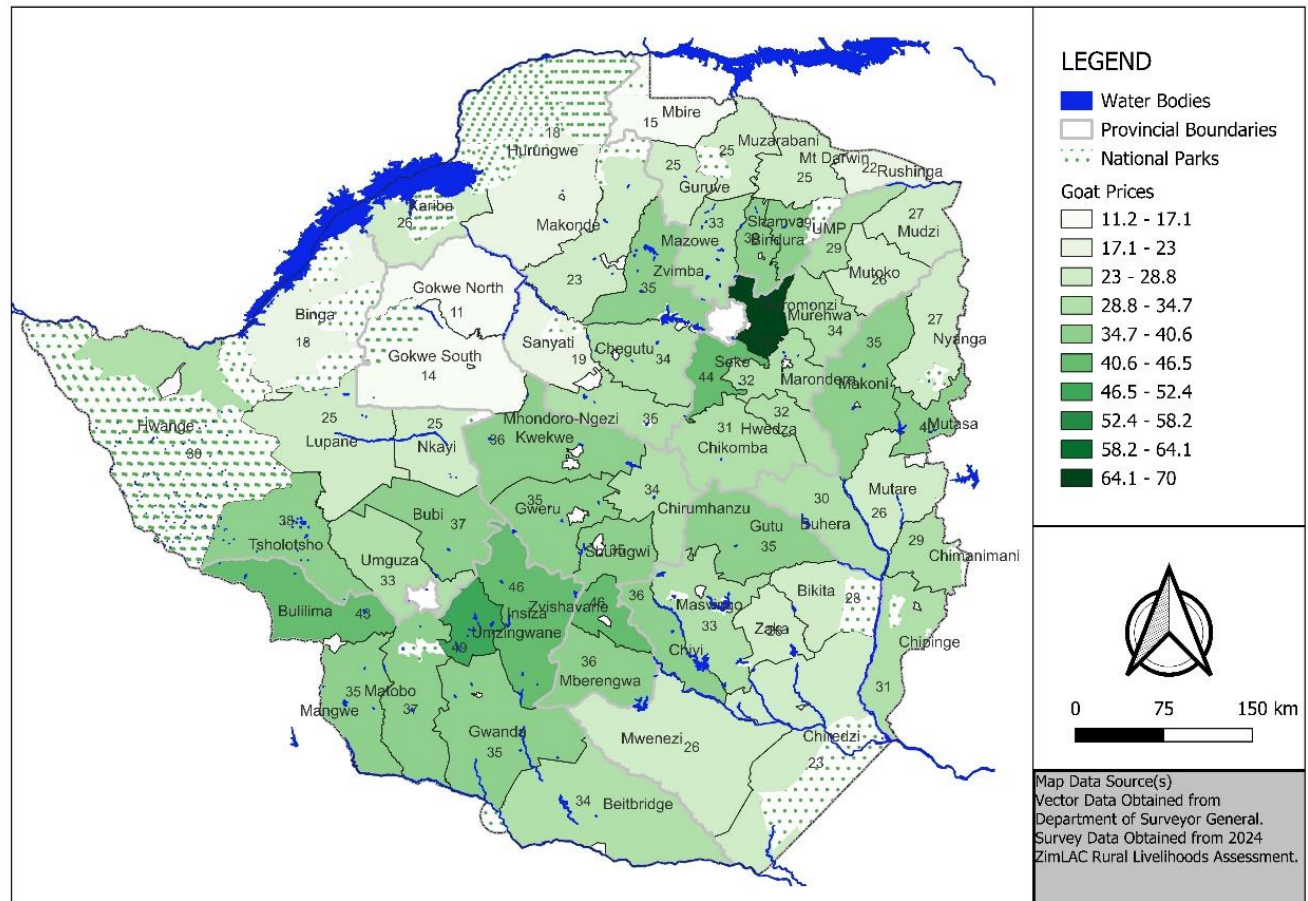
Access to Dipping Facilities & Services

Province	Access to Dipping/ Spraying Facilities (%)	Dipping Times in the last 4 weeks				
		Once a Month (%)	Twice a Month (%)	Three Times a Month (%)	Four Times a Month (%)	Don't Know (%)
Manicaland	95.6	3.0	10.2	5.3	80.4	1.1
Mash Central	94.9	9.7	46.6	4.1	38.7	1.0
Mash East	95.6	4.7	24.1	3.7	65.5	1.9
Mash West	93.4	3.9	10.6	3.4	80.7	1.5
Mat North	94.6	7.9	35.3	8.1	46.4	2.3
Mat South	93.4	3.9	20.3	4.1	71.0	0.8
Midlands	92.5	14.7	15.2	7.6	61.0	1.5
Masvingo	94.9	4.0	22.1	7.2	65.2	1.5
National	94.2	6.8	23.3	5.6	62.8	1.5

- About 94.2% of the households with livestock had access to dipping and or spraying services.

- Nationally, 62.8% of these households had dipped 4 times in the previous month (dipping weekly).

Distance and Functionality of Dip Tanks

Province	Community dip tank currently functional (%)	Approximate distance to the nearest functional dip tank				Reason for non-functionality		
		Less than 5km (%)	5km to 10km (%)	More than 10km (%)	Don't know (%)	No acaricides (%)	No water in the dip tank (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	27.0	16.7	8.8	1.3	1.5	0.4	0.8	0.4
Mash Central	29.8	16.4	11.9	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2
Mash East	32.8	19.8	11.8	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.2
Mash West	29.3	18.8	9.6	0.7	1.9	0.3	0.4	1.0
Mat North	41.4	22.1	17.2	1.3	2.2	0.2	0.6	1.0
Mat South	44.1	26.3	15.2	2.1	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
Midlands	44.0	25.7	15.8	2.5	4.5	2.2	1.8	1.6
Masvingo	44.9	29.8	12.9	1.5	1.2	0.4	0.0	0.3
National	36.5	21.9	12.9	1.5	1.7	0.5	0.5	0.6

- About 36.5% of the households had access to functional dip tanks.
- Of these 21.9% accessed the dip tanks with a 5km radius.

Access to Information and Critical Infrastructure

Access to Agriculture Extension

Province	Received extension support (%)	Training-cropping advice (%)	Training – Livestock (%)	Training-Weather and climate advice (%)	Extension Visit (%)	Extension support: Other training (%)
Manicaland	59.2	51.5	22.3	25.1	28.9	2.0
Mash Central	54.0	41.9	17.1	17.3	34.3	.9
Mash East	58.3	50.3	27.7	21.8	25.4	3.3
Mash West	51.1	43.2	14.9	8.9	19.6	3.8
Mat North	66.0	53.7	27.9	17.7	26.2	8.9
Mat South	57.4	47.1	39.3	31.8	32.4	7.8
Midlands	64.0	54.3	31.8	24.2	28.0	3.2
Masvingo	63.6	54.5	34.1	30.7	31.1	7.5
National	**59.2**	49.5	26.8	22.1	28.2	4.5

- About 59.2% of the households had received extension support.
- The majority of the households (49.5%) had received extension support in form of training in cropping and 26.8% in livestock production.

Access to and Use of Early Warning Information
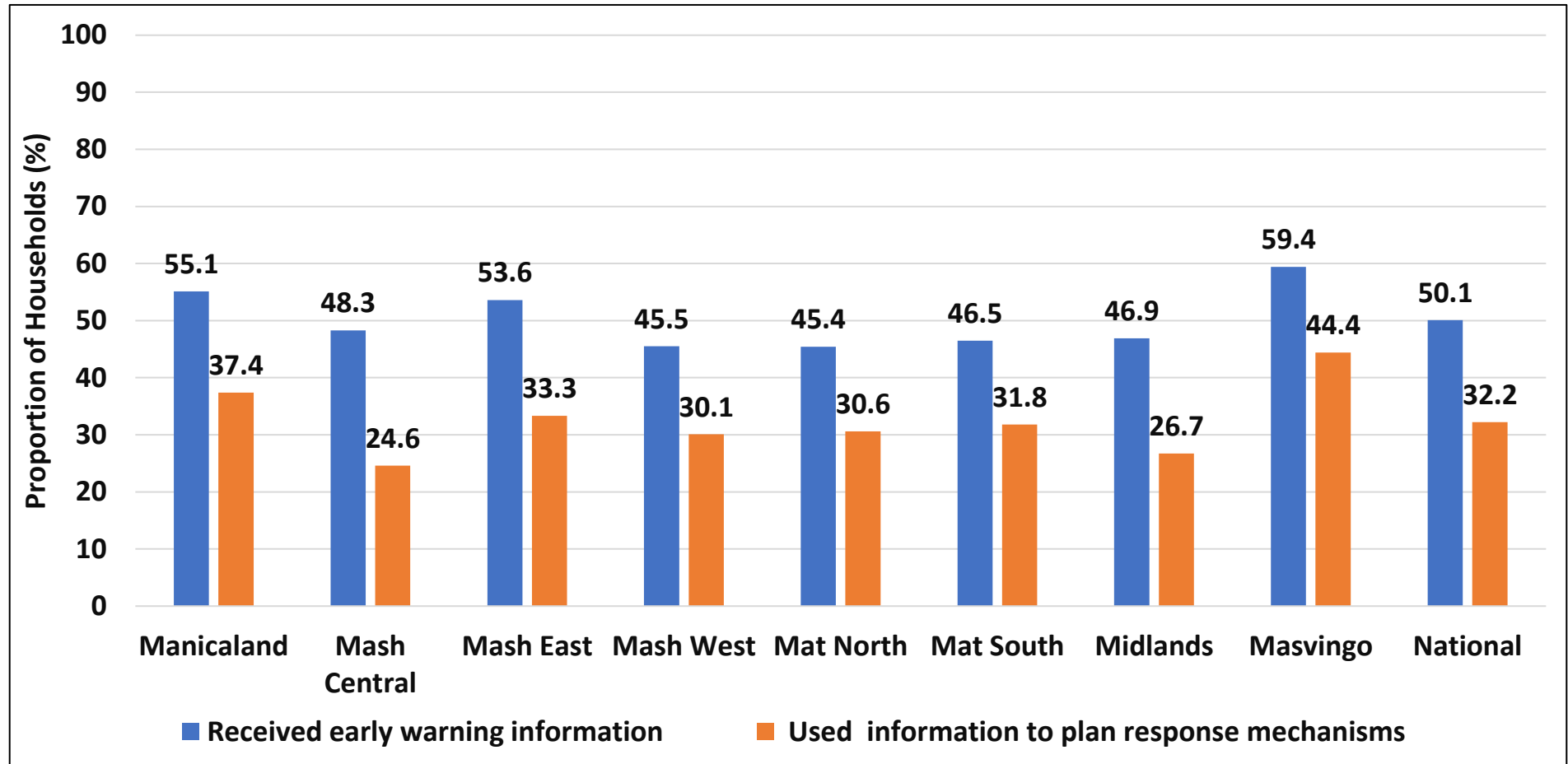
- About 50.1% of the households received information on early warning and only 32.2% of these had used the information to plan response mechanisms.

Access to Health Services
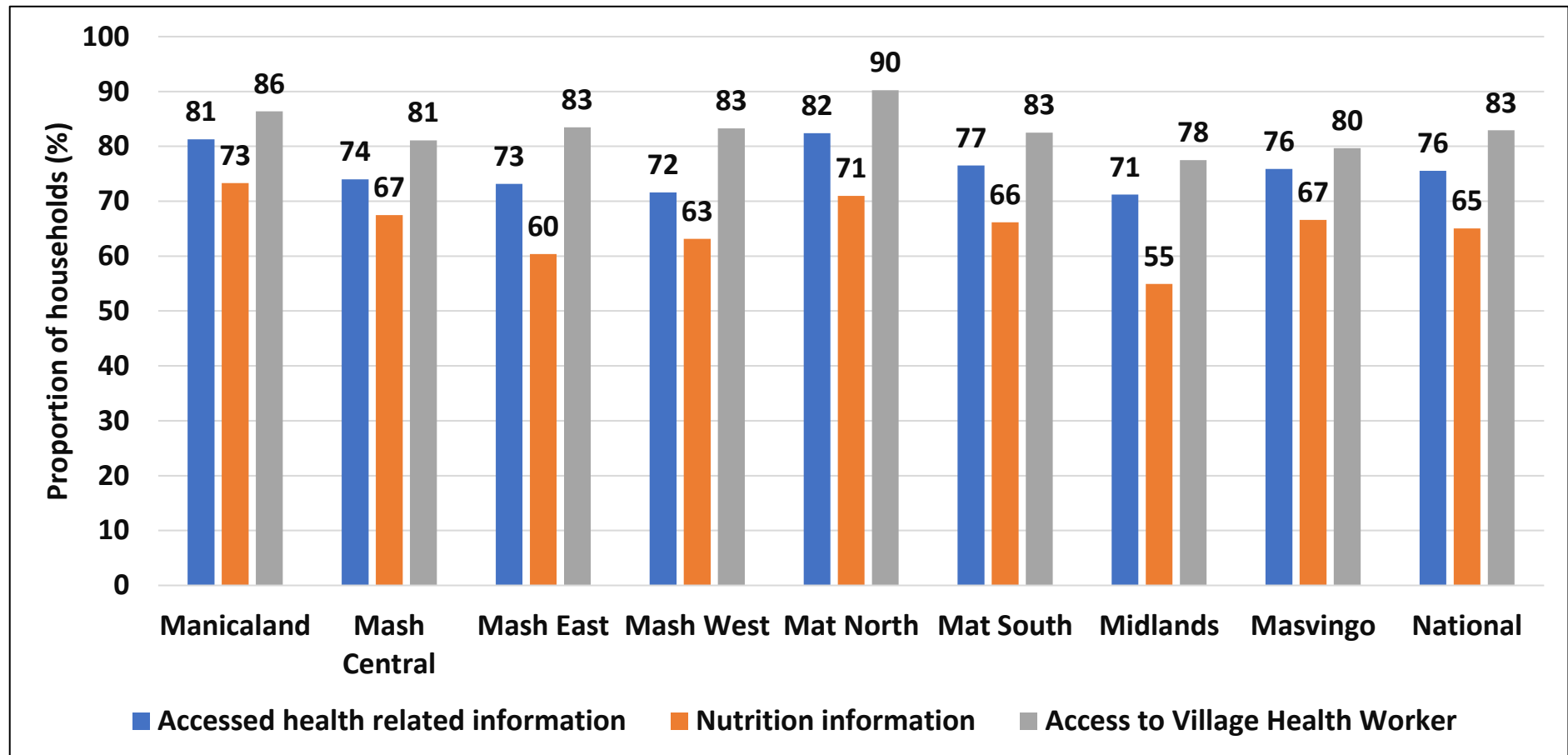
- About 76% of the households had accessed health related information.
- Nationally, 83% of the households had access to a village health worker and 65% had accessed nutrition information.

Distance to the Nearest Health Facility/ Clinic
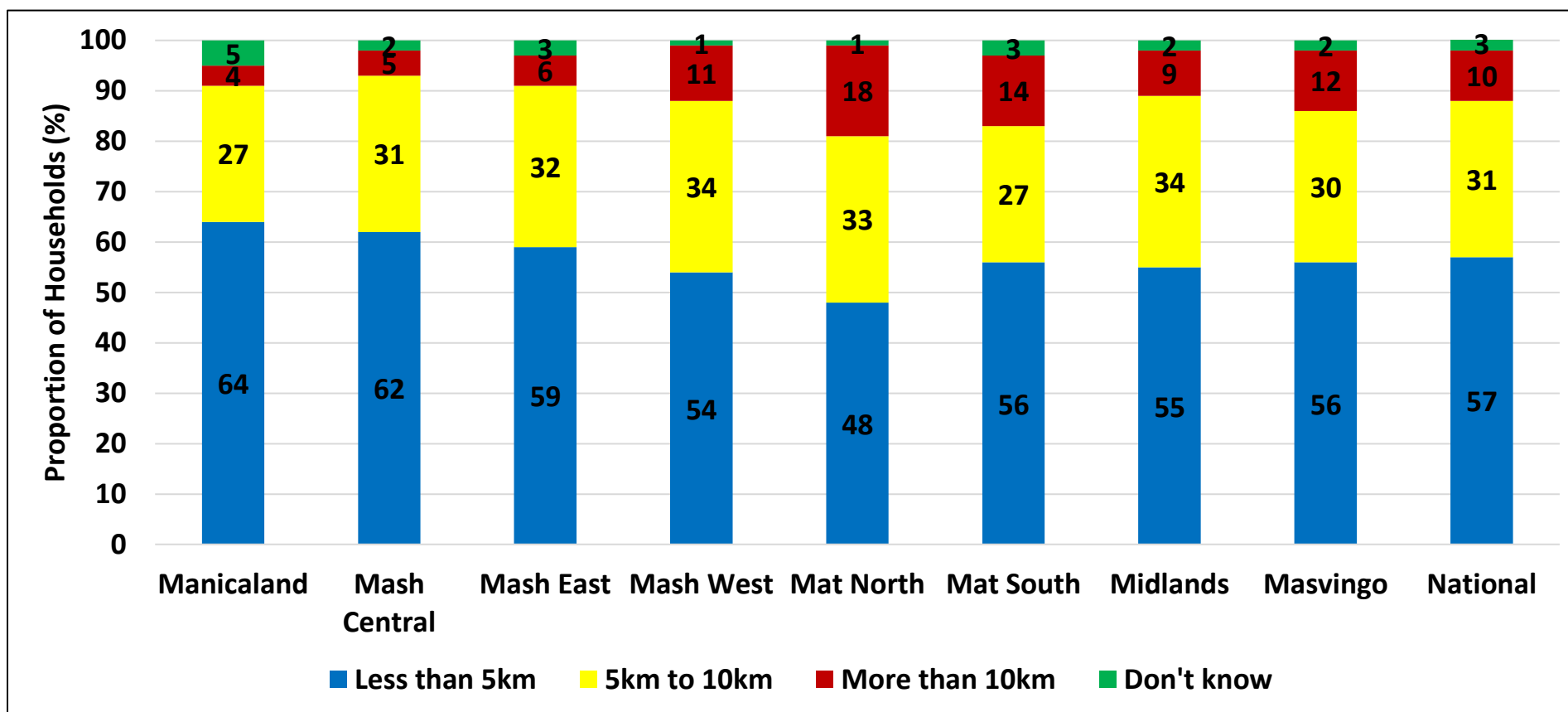
- The majority of the households (57%) had their nearest health facility within a 5 km radius.

- However, there were still about 10% of households that were travelling more than 10km to access a health facility.

Distance to the Nearest Primary School
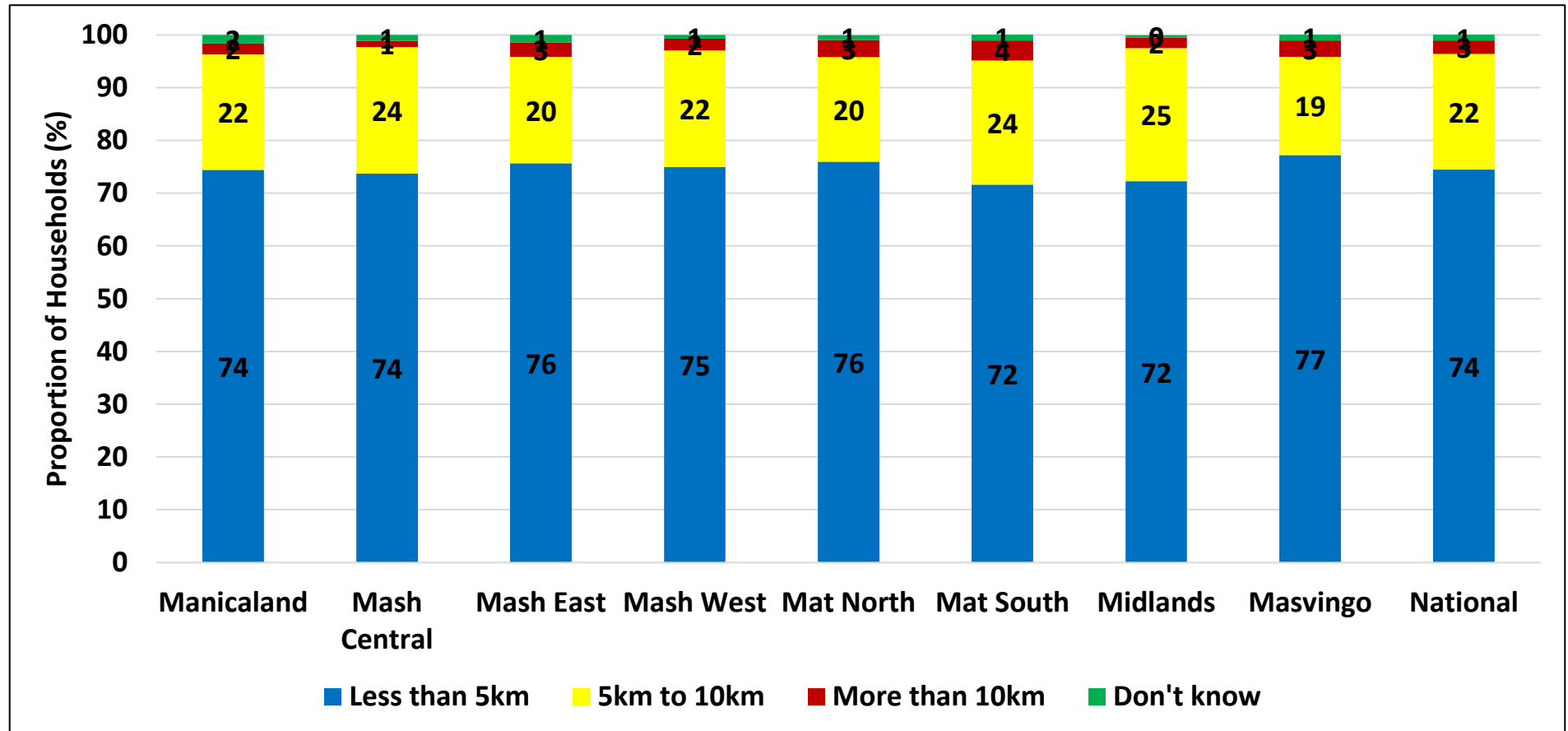
- About 3% of the households had children accessing schools which were more than 10km away.

# Access to Information on Services for Victims of Physical and Sexual Violence
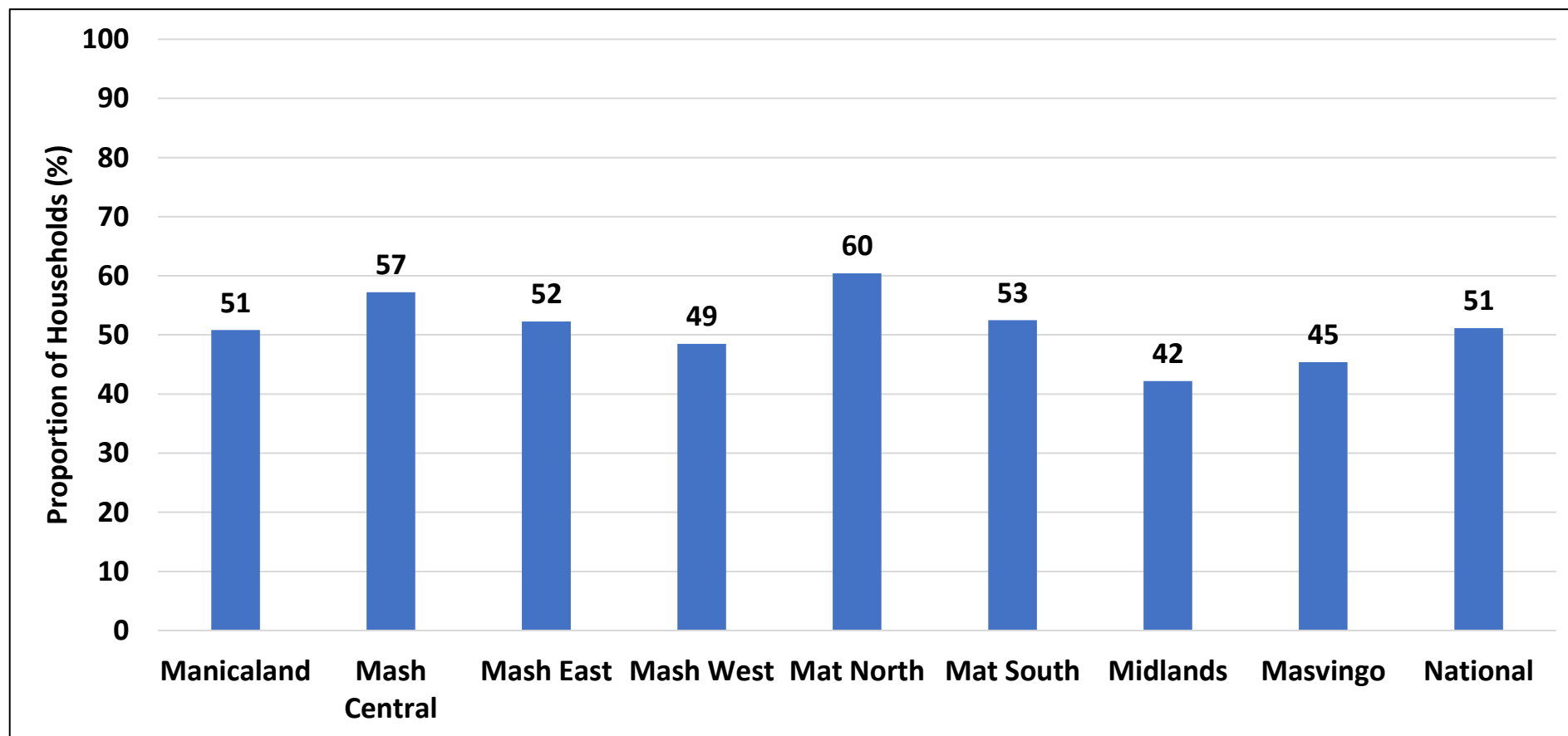
- Nationally, about 51% of the households had access to information on services for victims of physical and sexual violence.

Distance to Facilities Providing Services for Physical and Sexual Violence
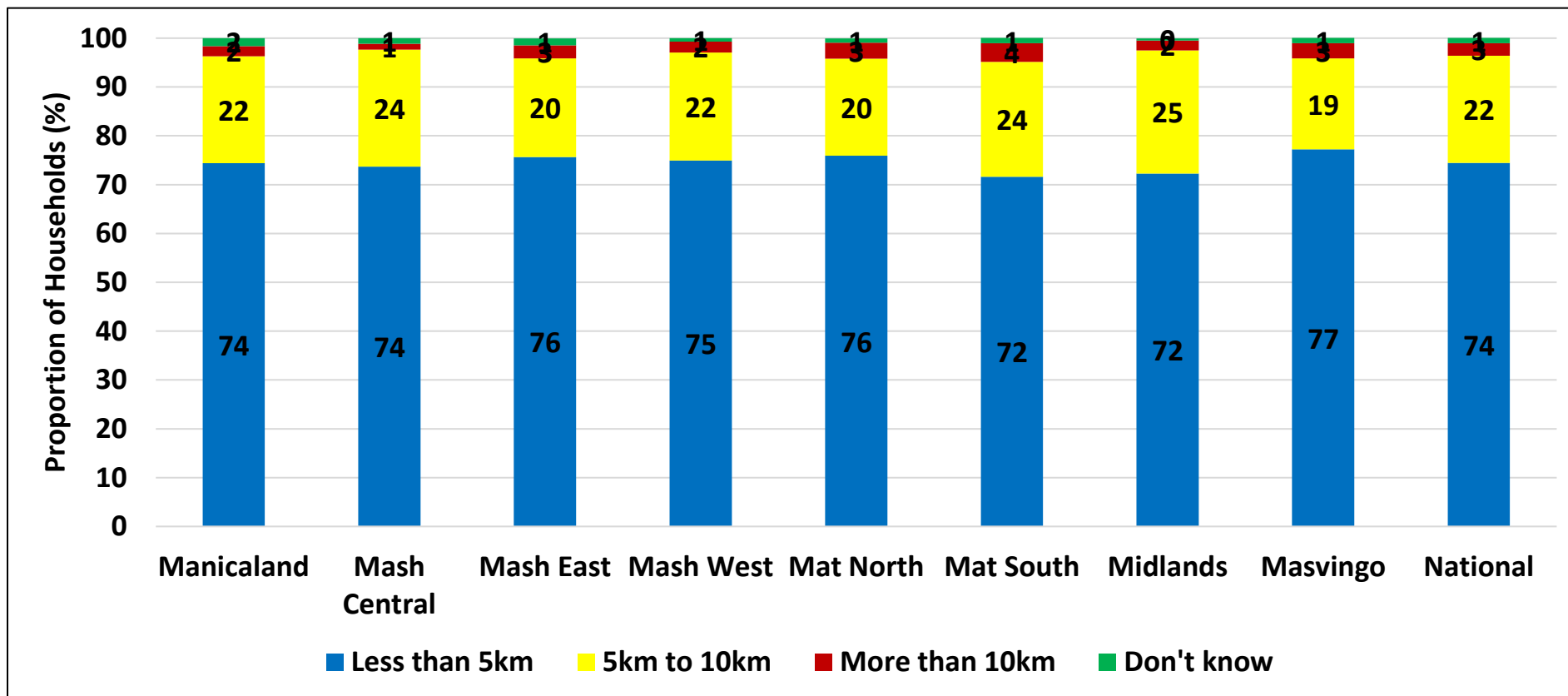
- About 74% of the households could access a facility providing services for physical and sexual violence within a 5km radius.

Access to Police Services
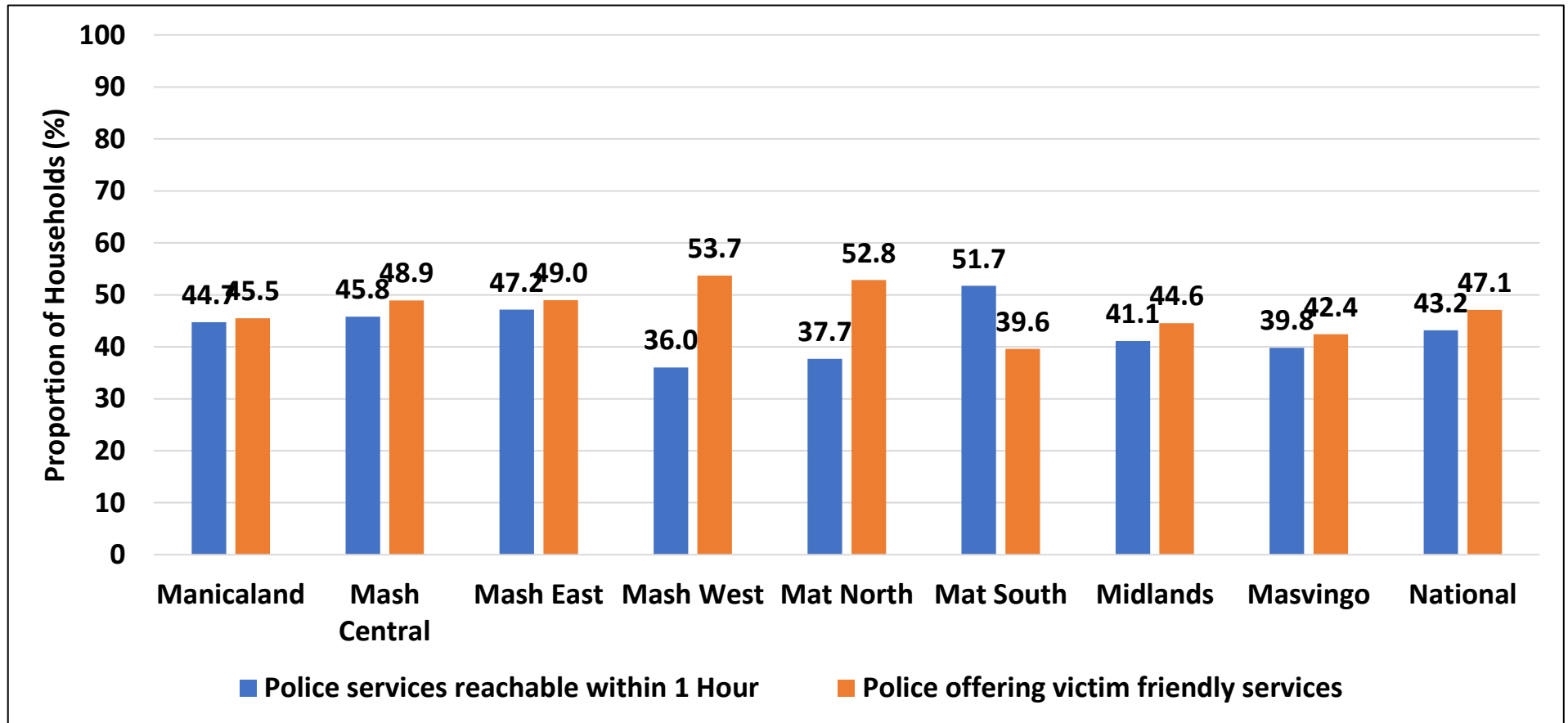
- Nationally, 43.2% of the households were accessing police services within one hour and 47.1% reported that the police services were offering victim friendly services.
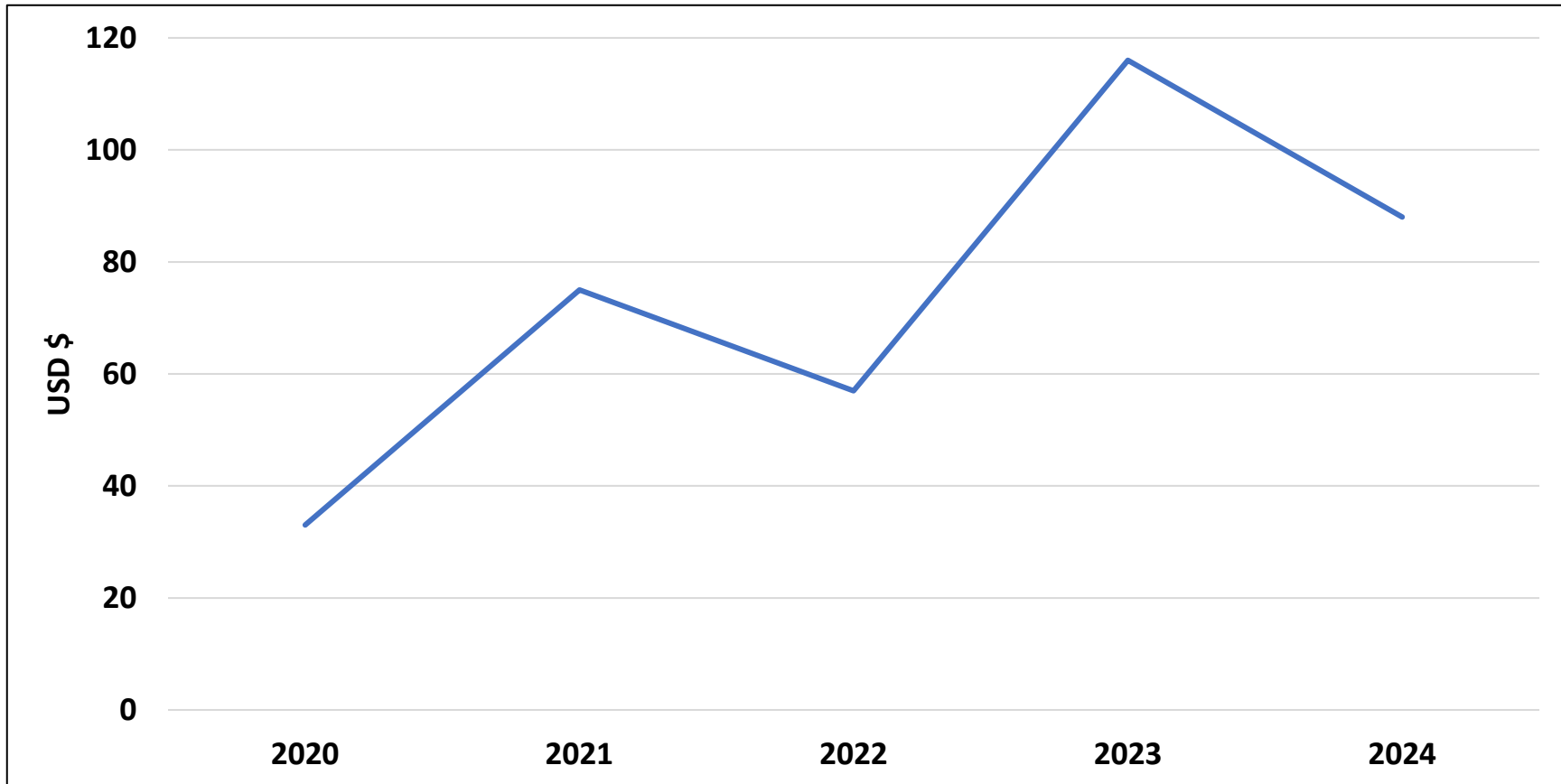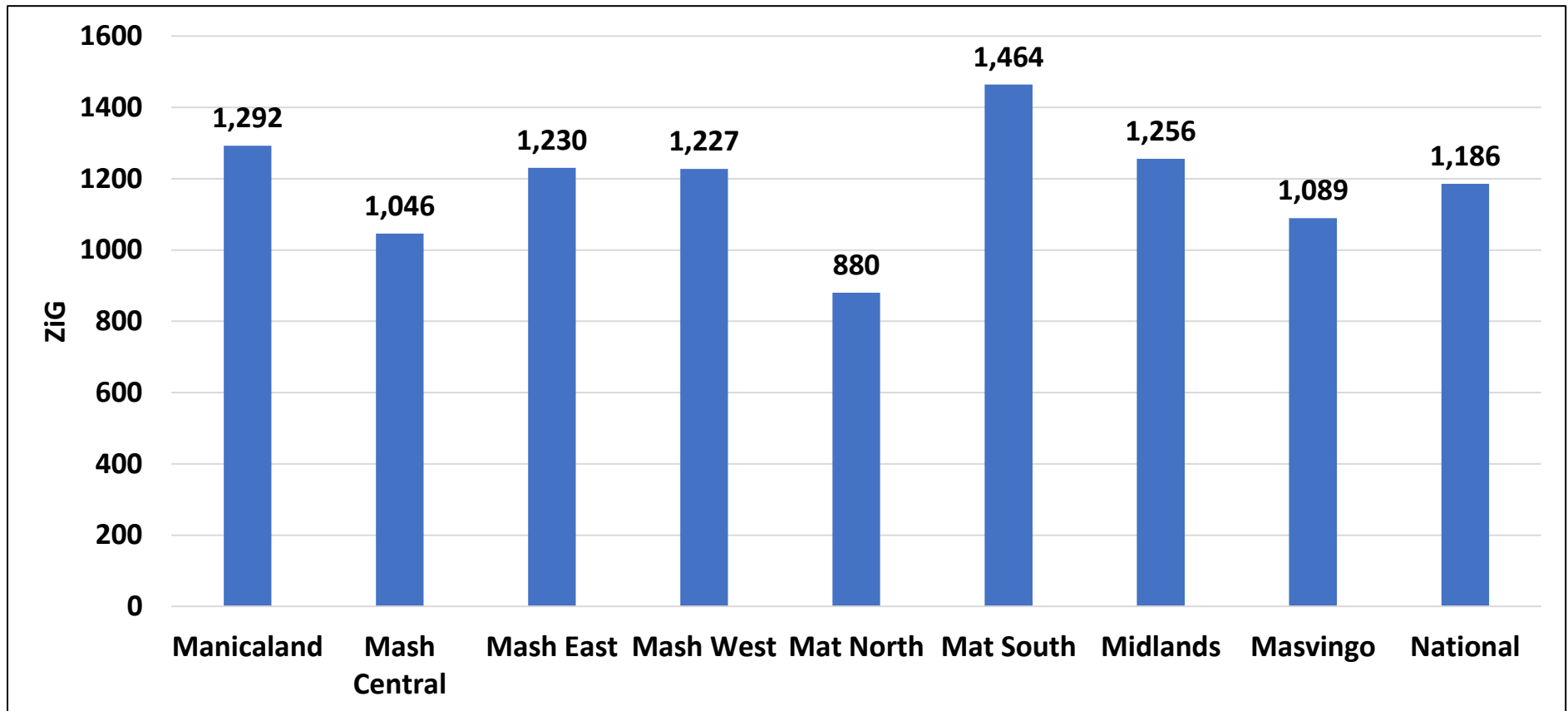
Income and Expenditure

# Income Trends: 2020-2024

- Compared to the base year (2020), incomes for rural households have been increasing.

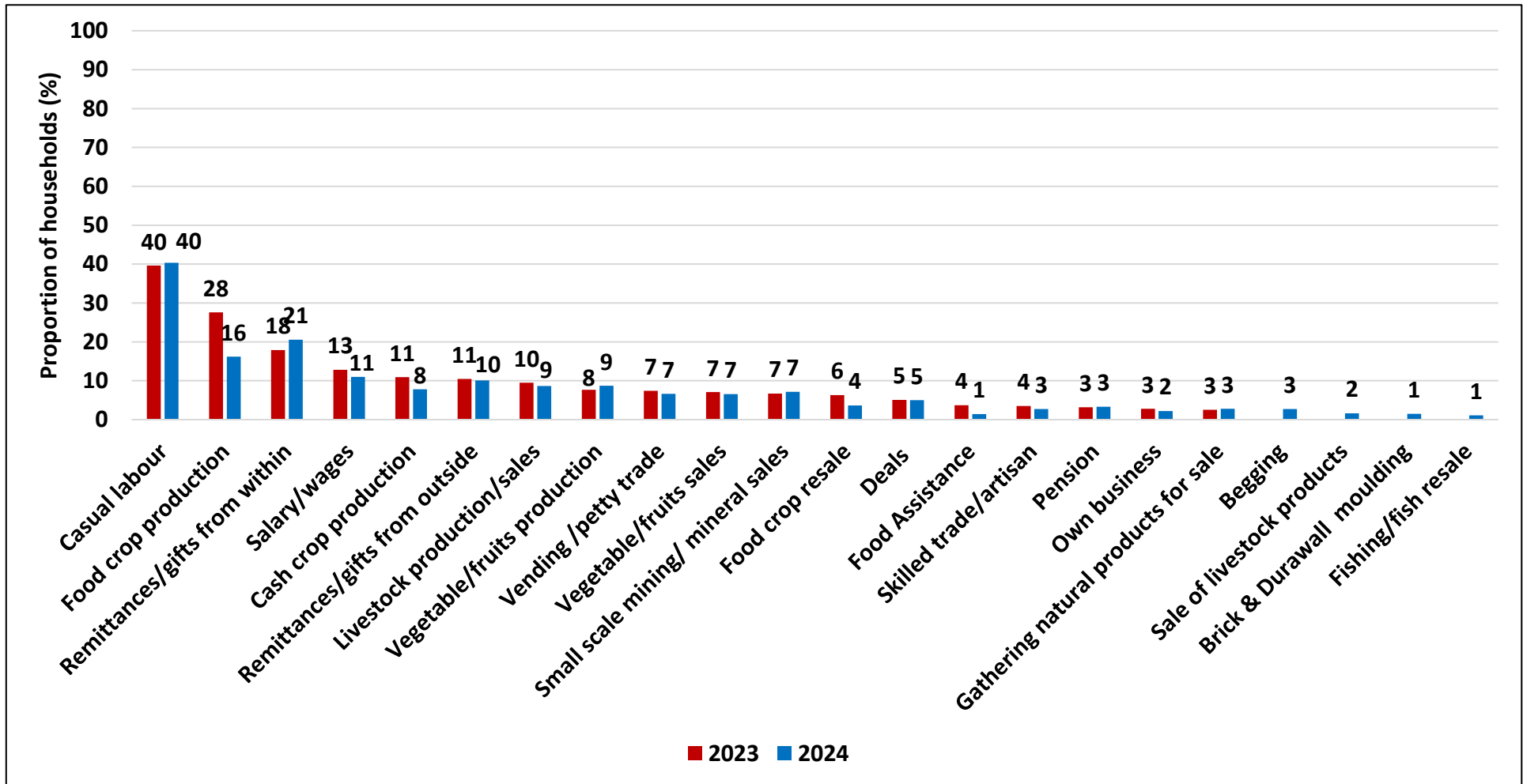# Average Household Monthly Income (ZiG) for April 2024

- Average monthly income was ZiG 1,186.

- Matabeleland North (ZiG 880) had the lowest income.

- **NB: The USD monthly income and expenditure was calculated using the official exchange rate of Tuesday 30 April 2024.**

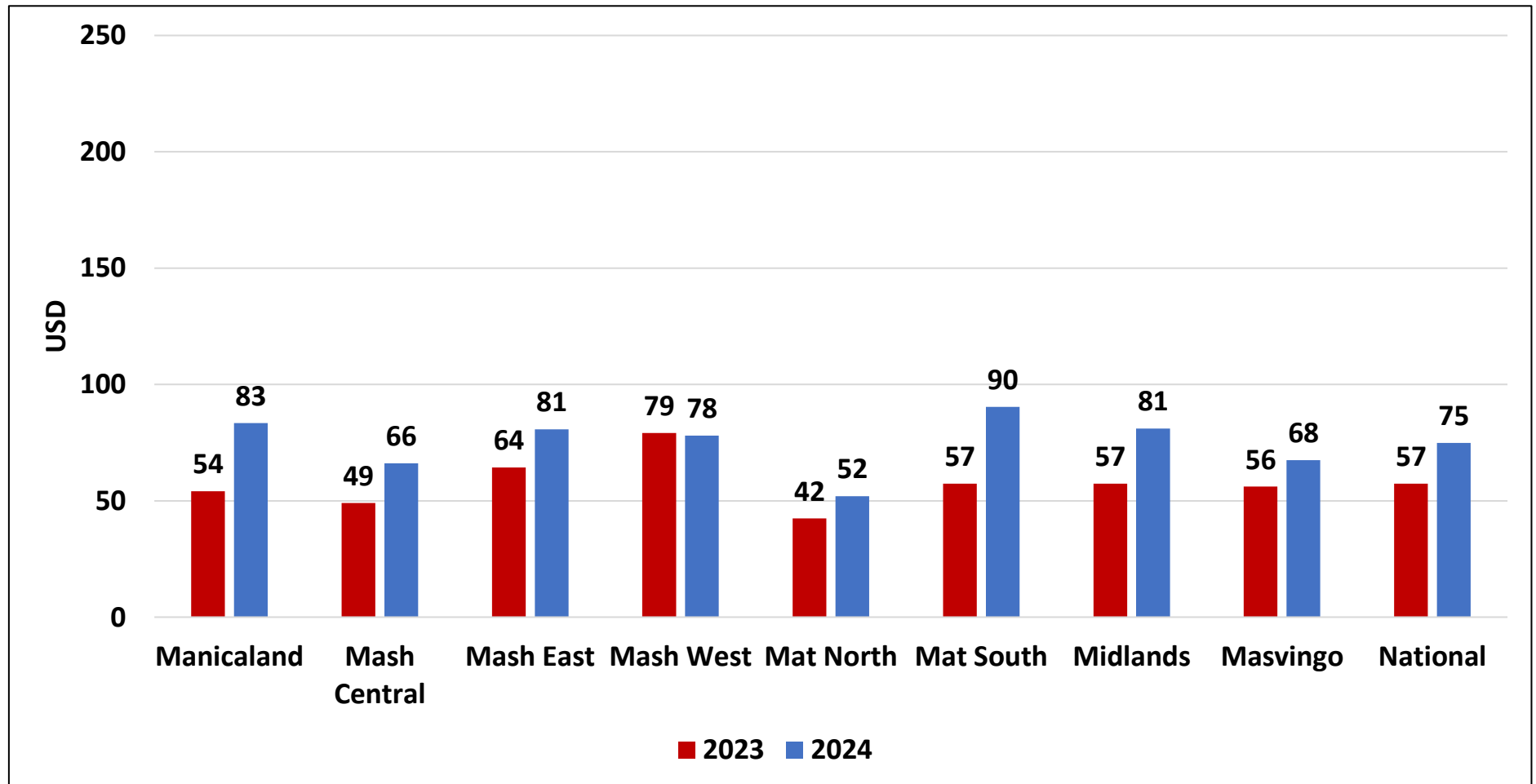# Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2024
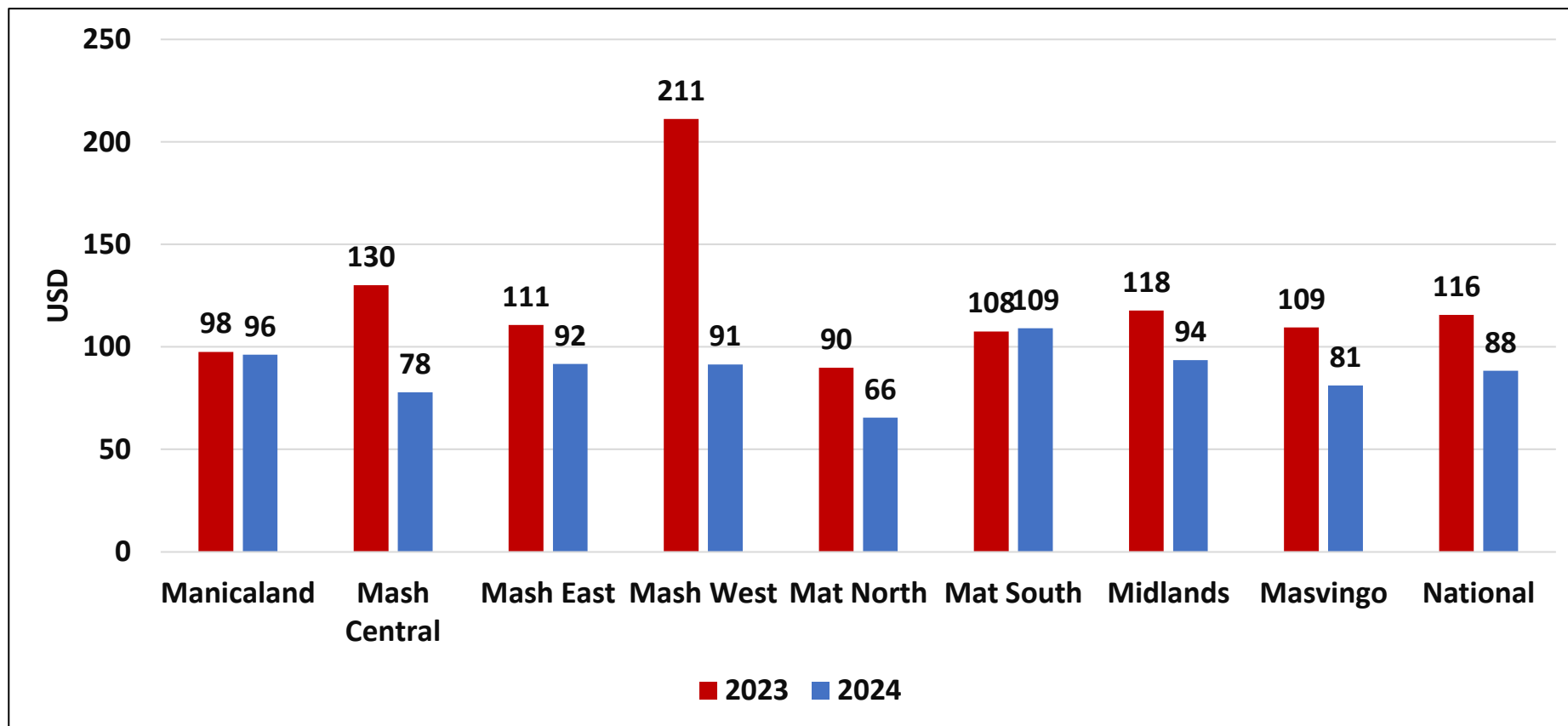
- The household average monthly income decreased from USD 116 in 2022 to USD 88 in 2024.
- The lowest household average monthly income was reported in Matabeleland North (USD 66) and the highest was reported in Matabeleland South (USD 109).

Most Important Income Sources

- Most households relied on casual labour (40%), food crop production (16%) and remittances from within Zimbabwe (21%).

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) for April 2024

- Average expenditure for the month of April 2024 was USD 75.
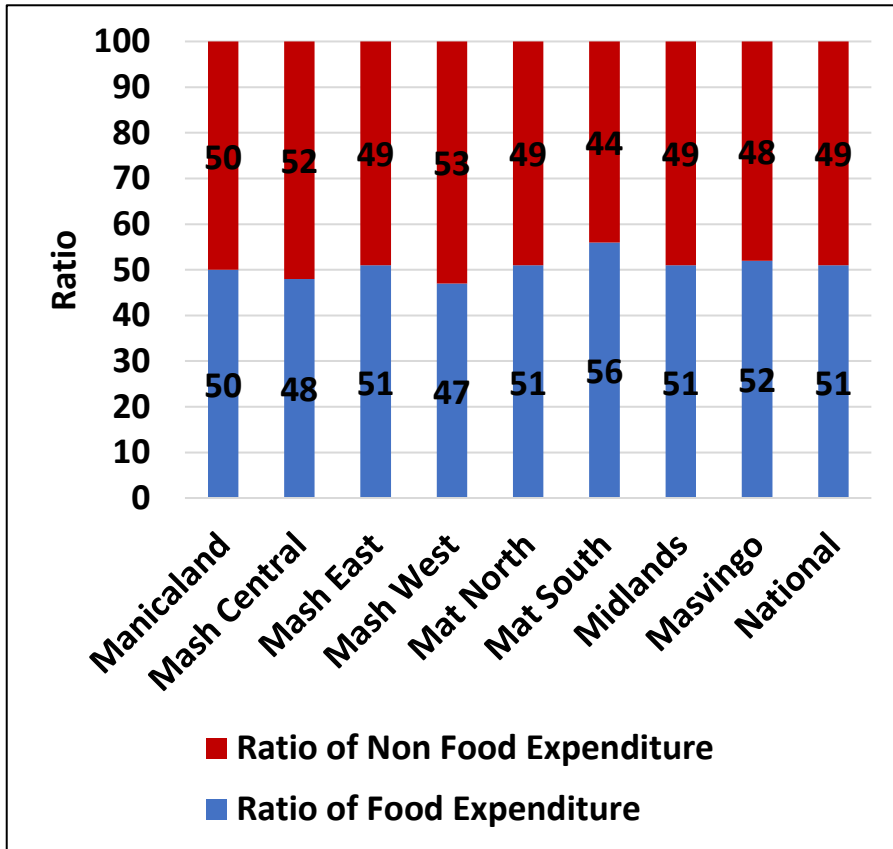- Matabeleland North (USD 52) reported the lowest expenditure.
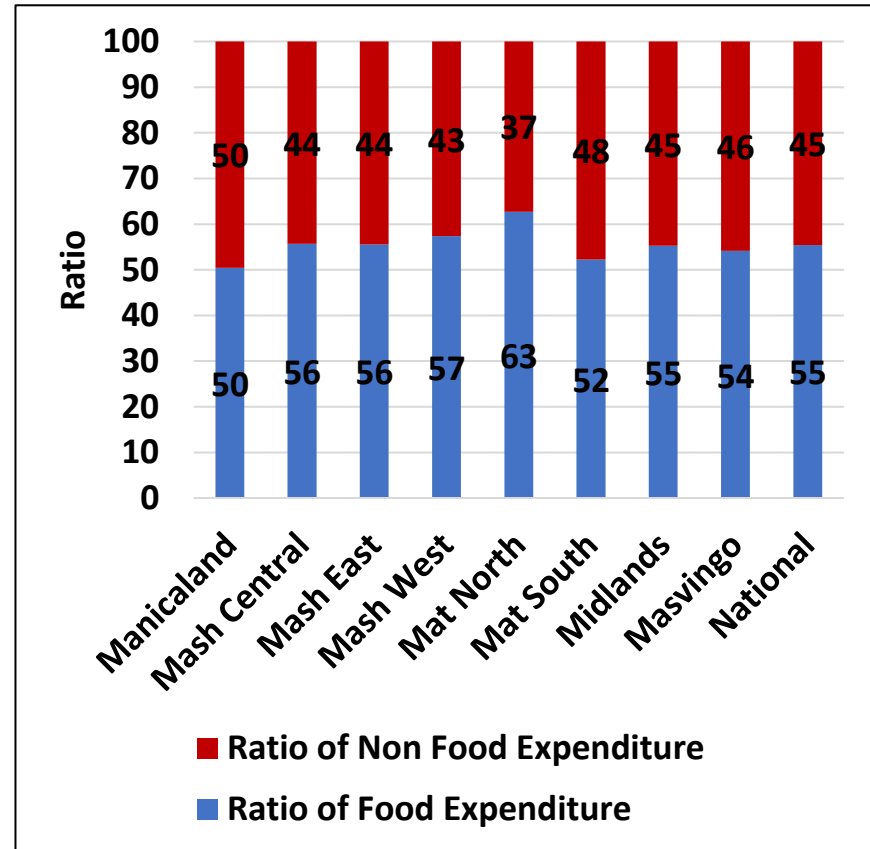
Average Household Monthly Expenditure (ZiG) for April 2024
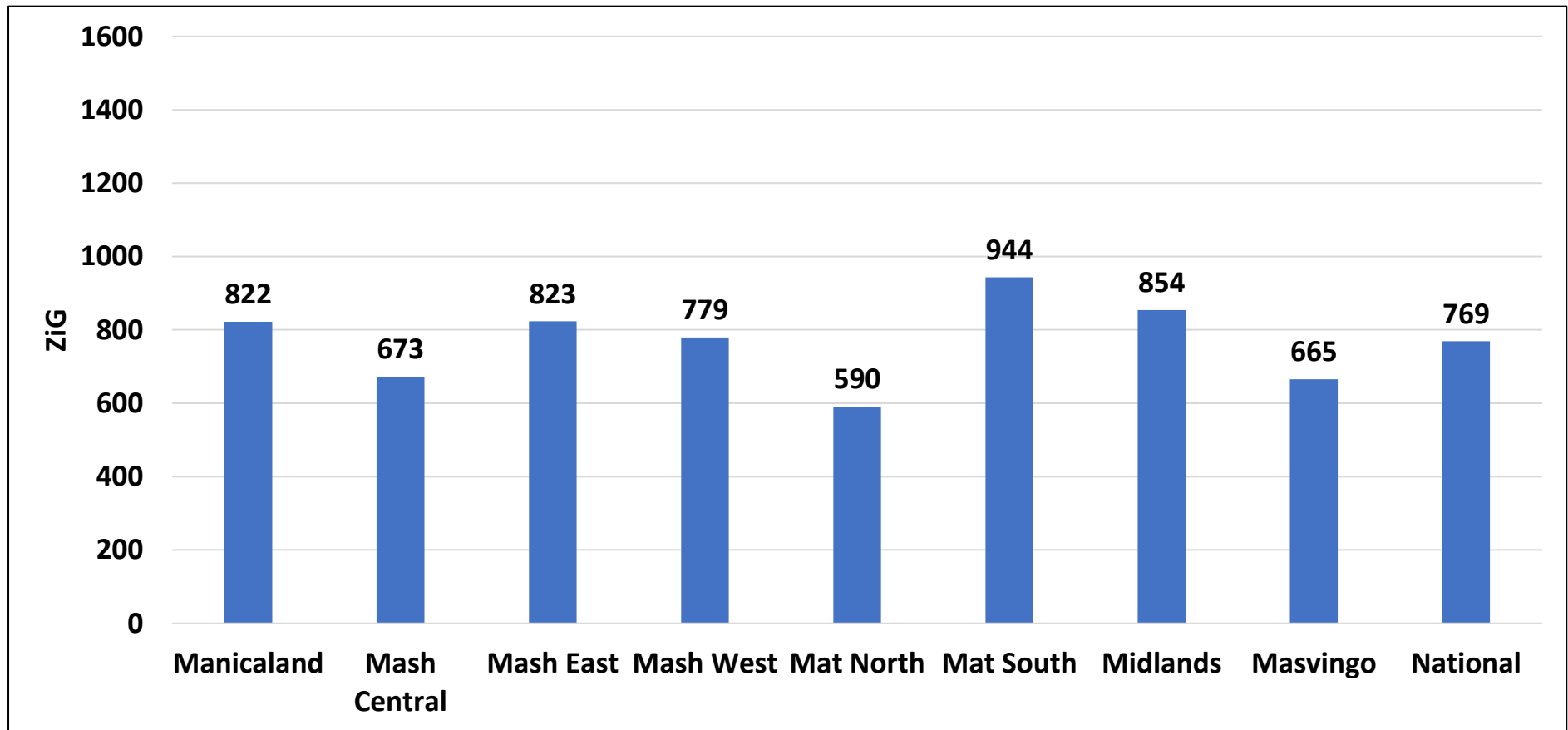
- Matabeleland South (ZiG 944) had the highest expenditure.

Food and Non-Food Expenditure Ratio

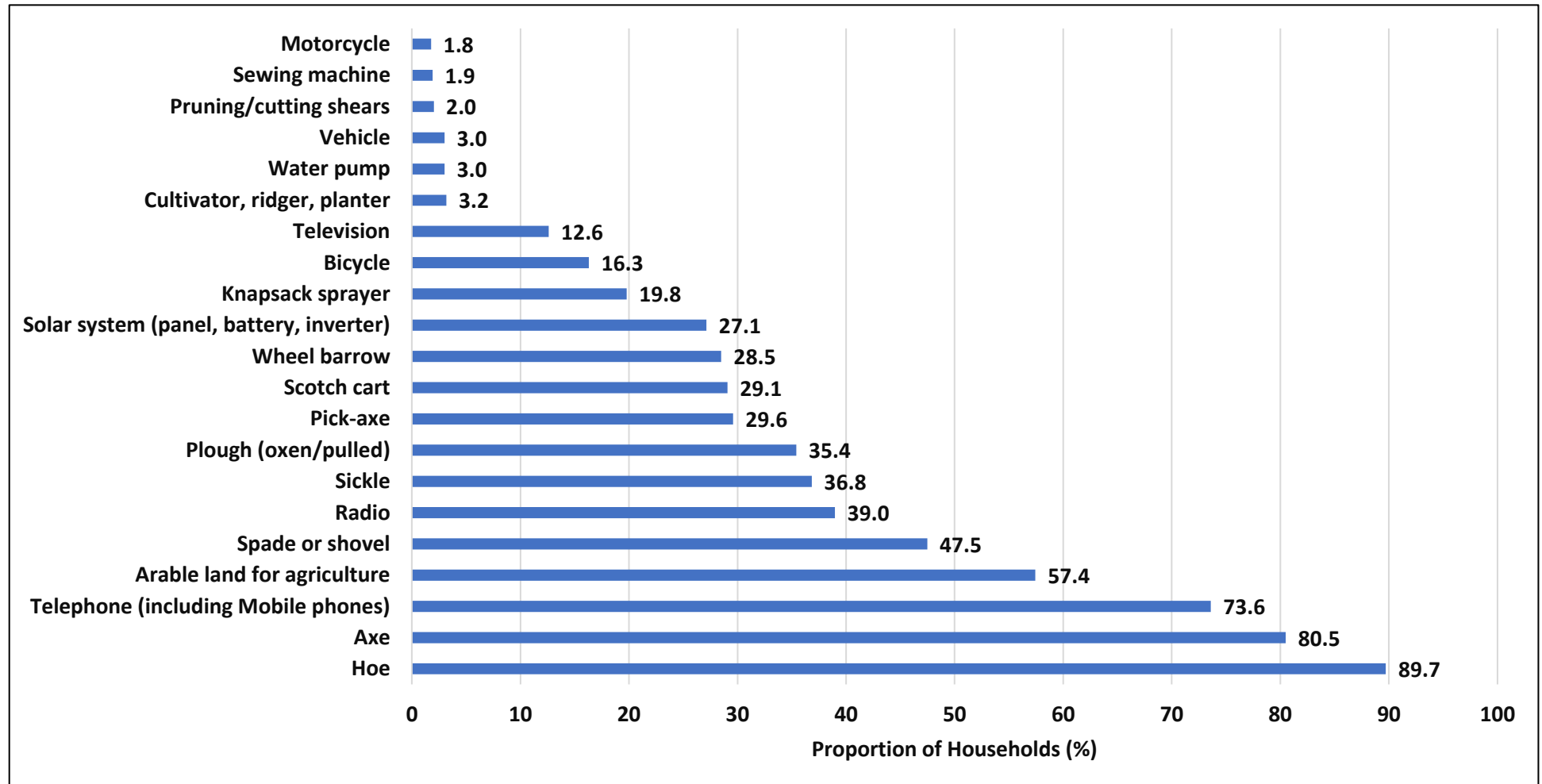

- The food expenditure ratio increased from 51% in 2023 to 55% in 2024.

- The proportion of non-food expenditure was 45%.

Assets, Loans and Remittances

Assets

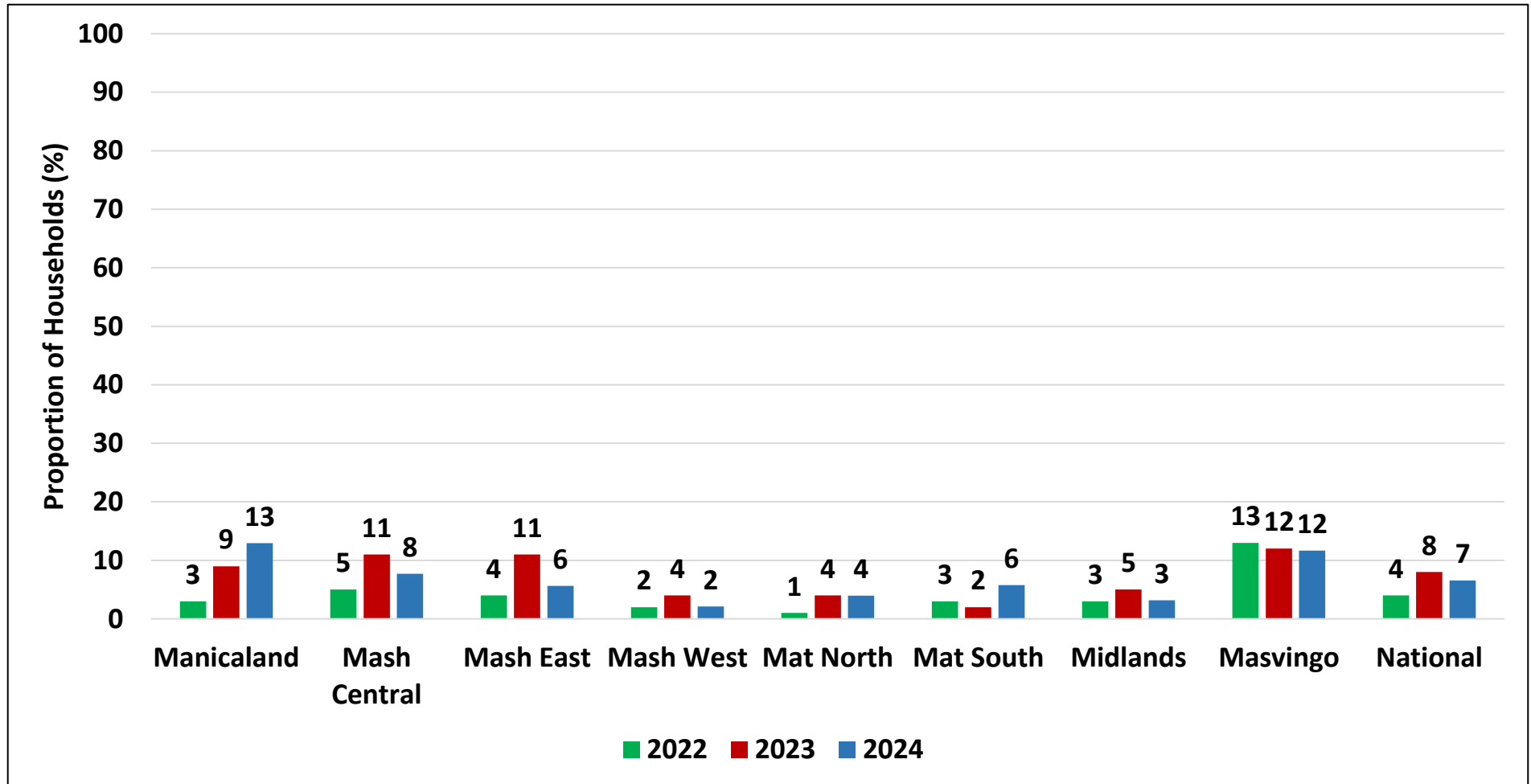| Asset	Proportion (%)
Motorcycle	1.8
Sewing machine	1.9
Pruning/cutting shears	2.0
Vehicle	3.0
Water pump	3.0
Cultivator, ridger, planter	3.2
Television	12.6
Bicycle	16.3
Knapsack sprayer	19.8
Solar system (panel, battery, inverter)	27.1
Wheel barrow	28.5
Scotch cart	29.1
Pick-axe	29.6
Plough (oxen/pulled)	35.4
Sickle	36.8
Radio	39.0
Spade or shovel	47.5
Arable land for agriculture	57.4
Telephone (including Mobile phones)	73.6
Axe	80.5
Hoe	89.7

Proportion of Households (%)

- The most common owned assets by households were hoes (89.7%), axes (80.5%) and telephones (73.6%).

# Households Participating in ISALs/ Mukando/ Ukuqogelela
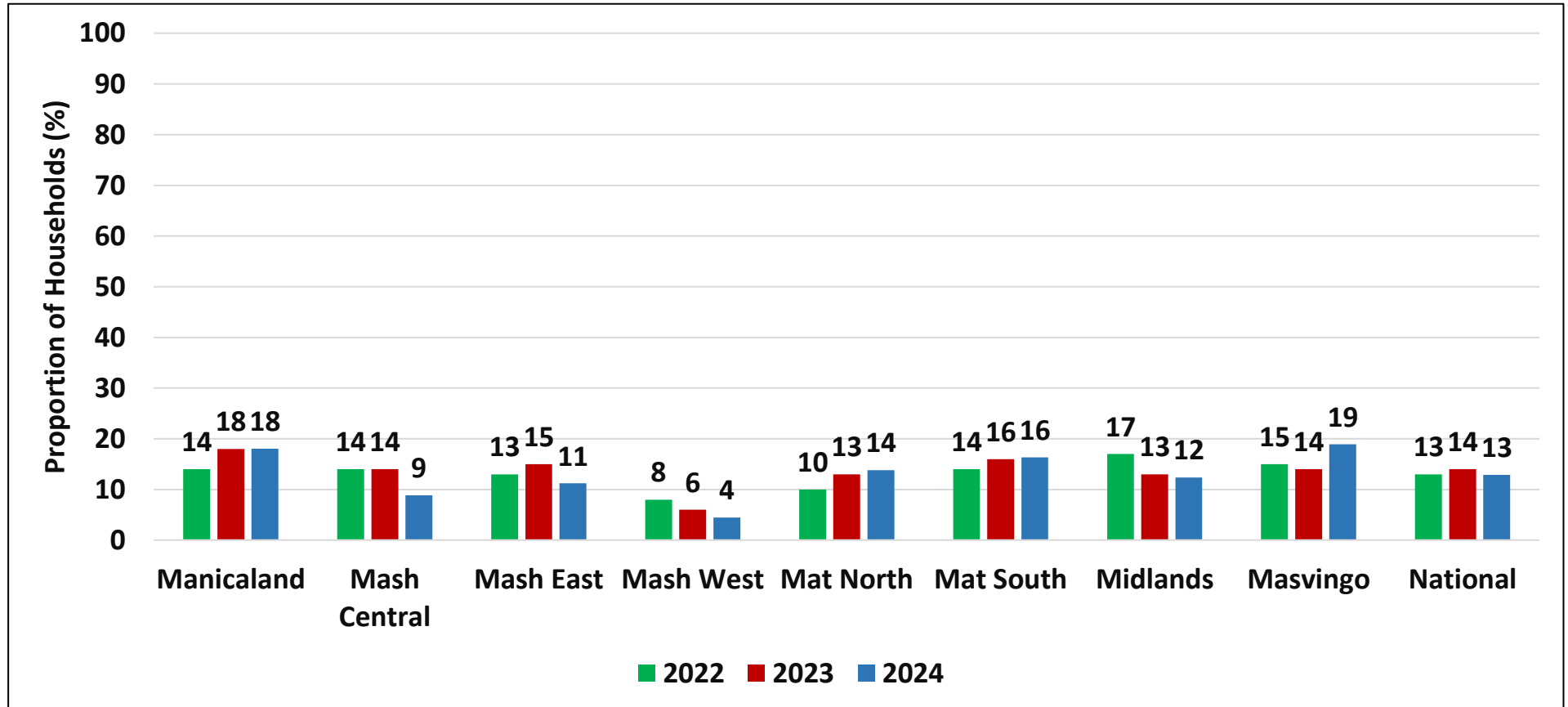
- At least 13% of households had a member participating in ISALs/ Mukando/ Ukuqogelela.
- The trend has remained the same across provinces for households that were participating in ISALs/ Mukando/ Ukuqogelela for the past 3 years.
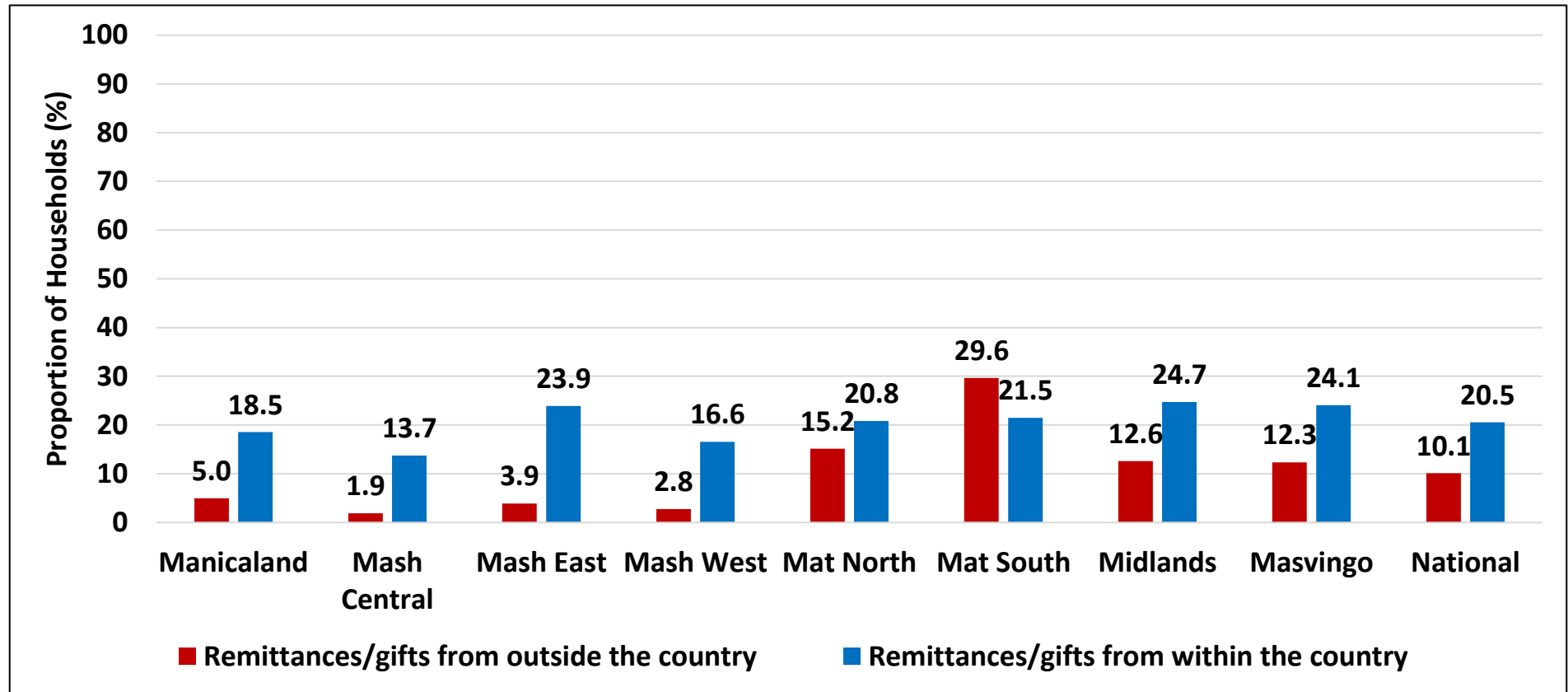
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Households that Accessed Loans

- At least 7% of the households had accessed loans.

- Manicaland (13%) and Masvingo (12%) had the highest proportion of households that had accessed loans.

Sources of Loans
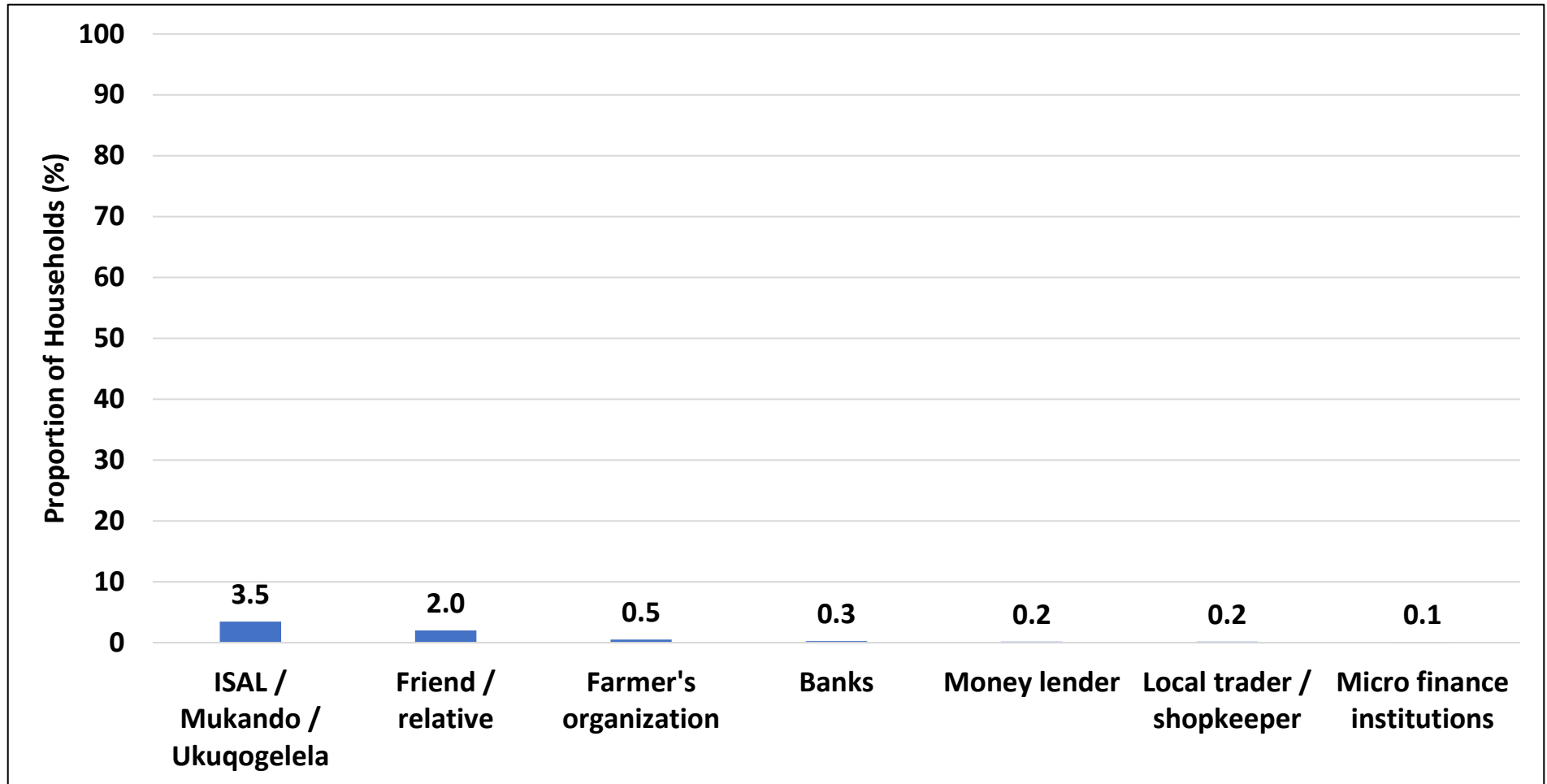
- The main source of loans for households was ISALs/ Mukando/ Ukuqogelela (3.5%).

Households Which Received Remittances/Gifts

- Remittances/gifts received by households were mainly from within the country (20.5%).

- Midlands (24.7%) had the highest proportion of households that had received remittances/gifts from within the country.

- Matabeleland South (29.6%) had the highest proportion of households that had received remittances/gifts from outside the country.

Child Health

Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-59 Months

- The World Health Organisation recommends Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) once every six months for children in the age group of 6 59 months.

- VAS is proven to reduce all causes of mortality, incidence of diarrhoea and measles in children.

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

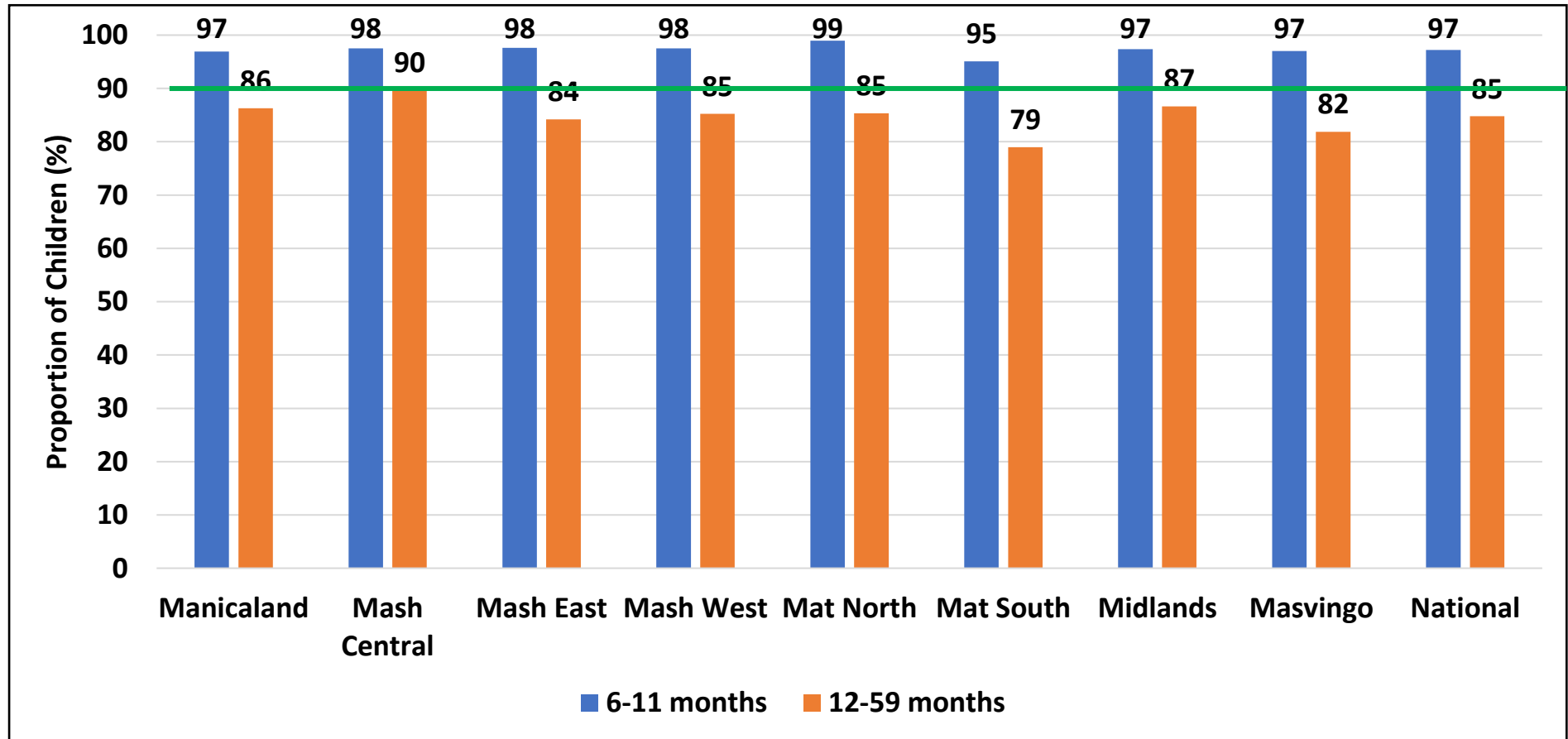# Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-59 Months
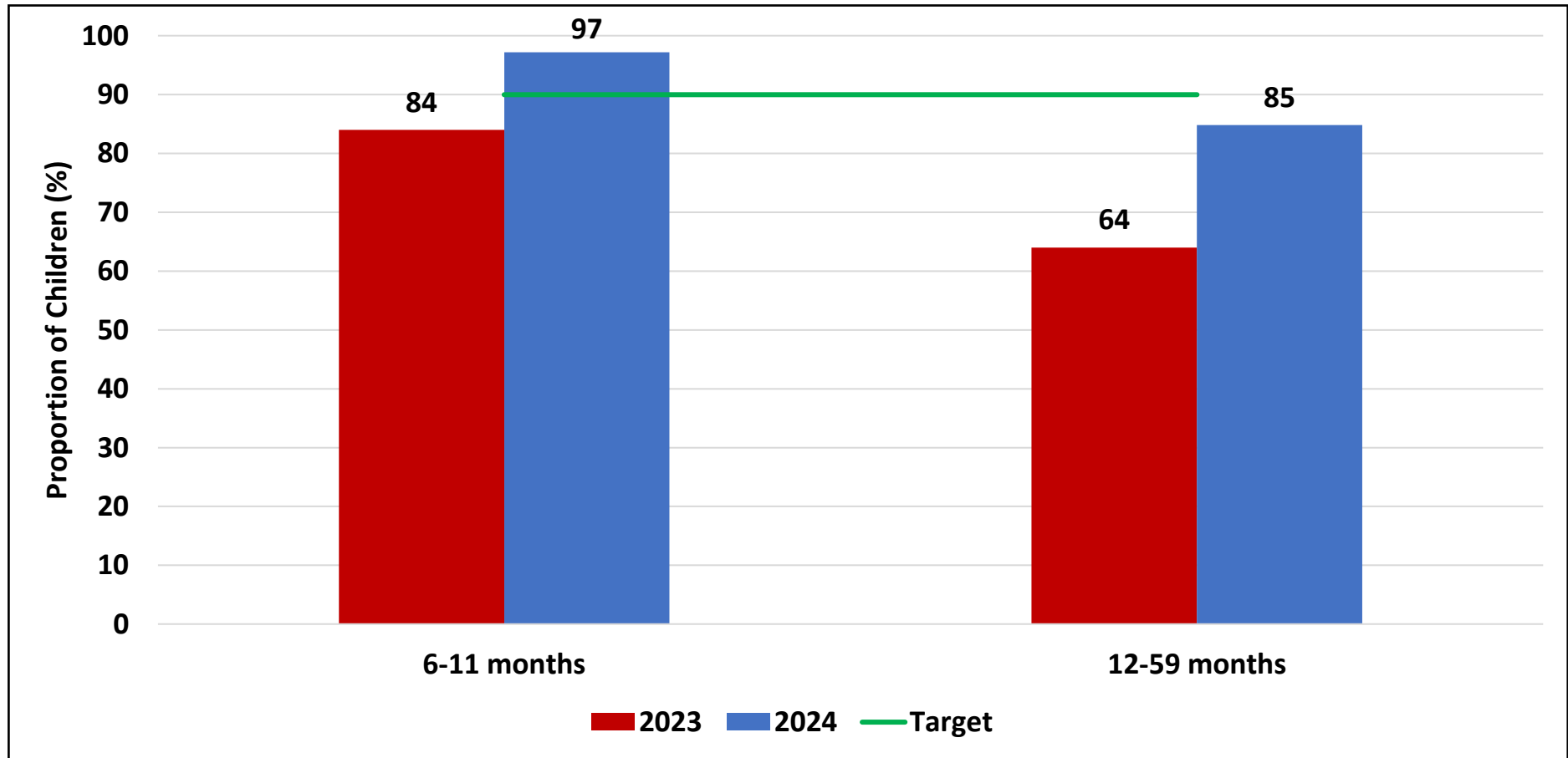
- Vitamin A supplementation for children increased for the two age categories. However, the 12-59 months category remains a cause for concern since it was below the national target of 90% coverage.

Vitamin A Supplementation

- Matabeleland North (99%) had the highest proportion of children 6-11 months who received the required dose of Vitamin A.

Child Illness (6-59 Months)
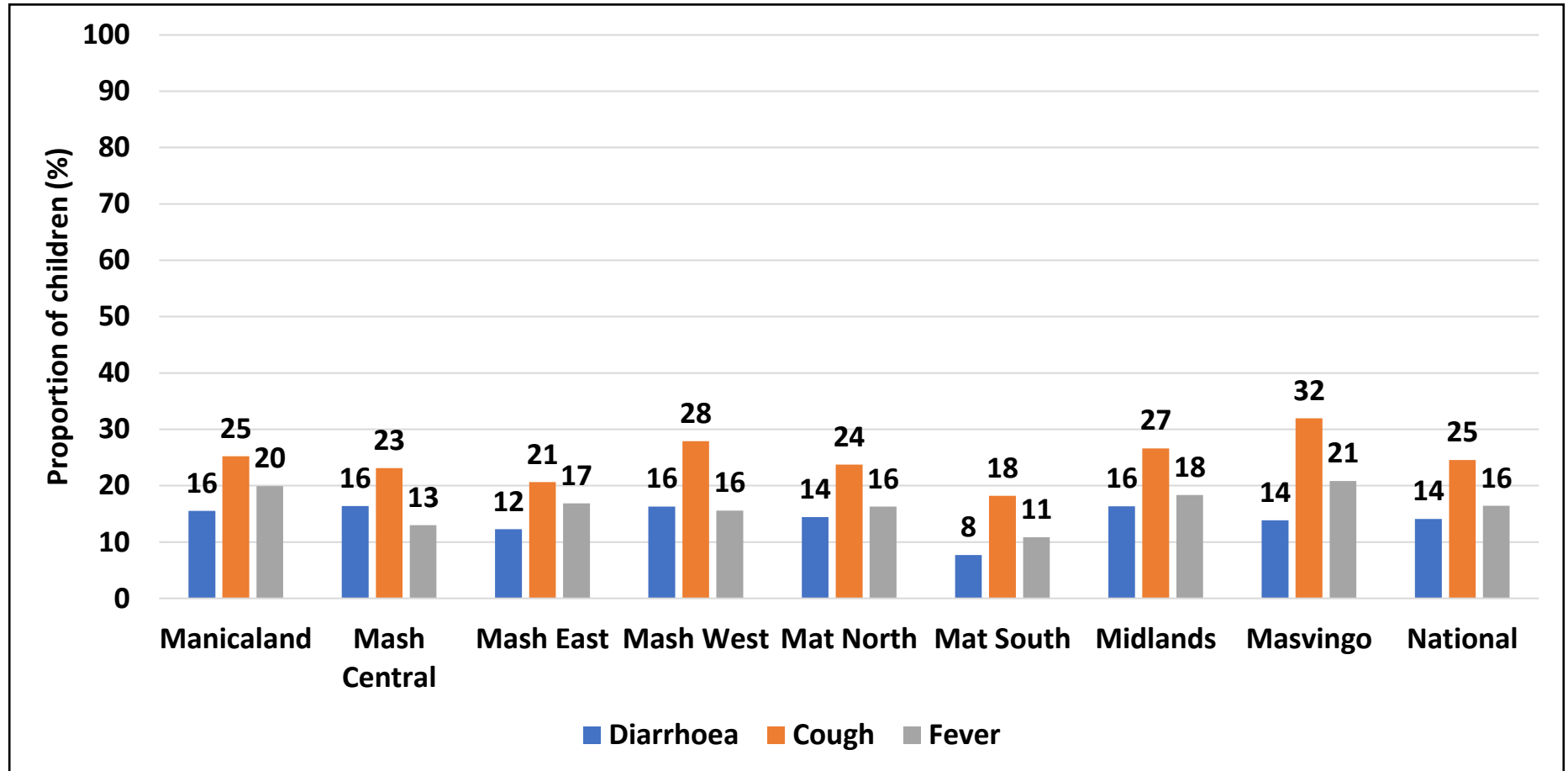
- Cough was the most reported illness for children across all the provinces.

- Masvingo (32%) and Mashonaland West (28%) had the highest proportion of children who experienced a cough in the two weeks preceding the survey.

- Masvingo (21%) had the highest proportion of children who experienced fever while Matabeleland South (11%) had the lowest.

Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding

- Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices directly affect the health, development and nutritional status of children less than two years of age and ultimately, impact child survival. Improving IYCF practices in children 0–23 months of age is therefore critical to improved nutrition, health and development.

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends breastfeeding practices that consist of early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for six months, and continued breastfeeding with complementary feeding for at least two years.

- Exclusive breastfeeding is a low cost, life-saving child survival intervention

- WHO recommends that children aged 6–23 months be fed a variety of foods to ensure that nutrient needs are met. Food group diversity is associated with improved linear growth in young children. 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.

- Poor-quality diets are one of the greatest obstacles to children's survival, growth, development and learning. During the first two years of life, diets lacking in essential vitamins and minerals can irreversibly harm a child's rapidly growing body and brain and increase the risk of stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies. Meanwhile, foods high in sugar, fat or salt can set children on the path to unhealthy food preferences, overweight and diet-related diseases.

Notes

Egg and/or Flesh Food Consumption 6–23 Months (EFF)

- WHO guiding principles for feeding breastfed and non-breastfed children state that "meat, poultry, fish or eggs should be eaten daily, or as often as possible"

- There is evidence that children who consume eggs and flesh foods have higher intakes of various nutrients important for optimal linear growth. Consuming eggs is associated with increased intakes of energy, protein, essential fatty acids, vitamin B12, vitamin D, phosphorus and selenium, and with higher recumbent length

- Introduction of meat as an early complementary food for breastfed infants was associated with improved protein and zinc intake. There is also evidence of low prevalence of egg and flesh food intake across many countries.

- Indicator definition: percentage of children 6–23 months of age who consumed egg and/or flesh food during the previous day.

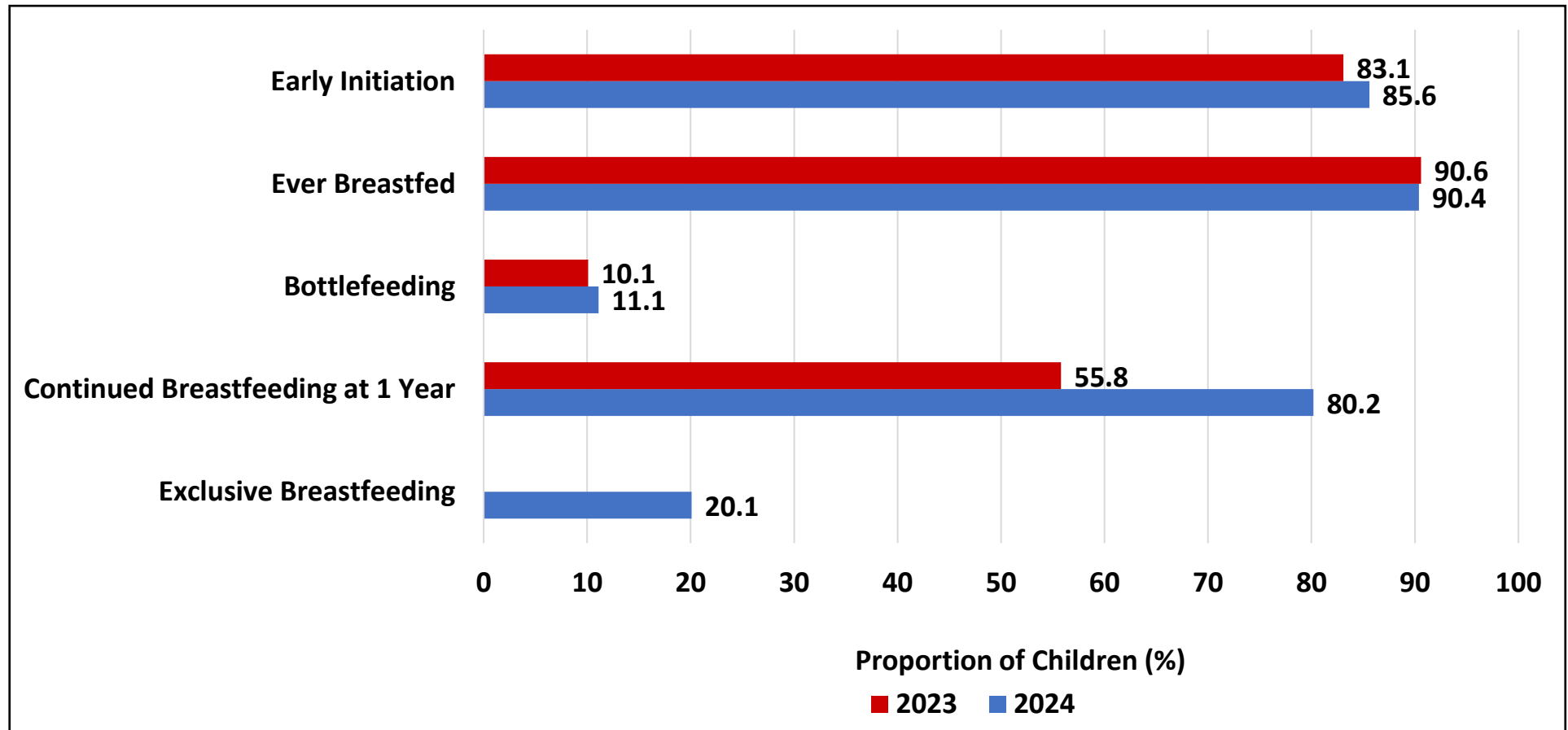**Zero Vegetable or Fruit Consumption 6–23 Months (ZVF)**

- WHO indicates that low vegetable and fruit consumption is associated with increased risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

- Non-consumption of vegetables or fruits on the previous day represents an unhealthy practice.

- Indicator definition: percentage of children 6–23 months of age who did not consume any vegetables or fruits during the previous day.

Notes

**Unhealthy Food Consumption 6–23 Months (UFC)**

- In many low- and middle-income countries, diet patterns are shifting towards higher intakes of added sugars, unhealthy fats, salt and refined carbohydrates.

- A variety of guidance documents indicate the need to avoid or limit these types of foods when feeding IYC.

- Recent national guidance for feeding IYC advises avoidance of foods such as candies, chocolate, chips, French fries, cakes and cookies: Consumption of such foods may displace more nutritious foods and limit the intake of essential vitamins and minerals.

- Recently, unhealthy snack food and beverage consumption has been associated with a higher risk of nutrient inadequacy, and lower length-for-age among one-year-olds.

- Food preferences that begin early in life track into later childhood and adolescence. Such practices, if continued throughout adolescence and adulthood, can increase the risk of becoming overweight or obese, and of related chronic diseases later in life.

- Indicator definition: percentage of children 6–23 months of age who consumed selected sentinel unhealthy foods during the previous day.

- *"sentinel unhealthy foods" are foods or categories of foods (e.g. "sweets" or "candies") that are likely to be consumed by IYC and are high in sugar, salt and/or unhealthy fats.*

Breastfeeding Practices

Proportion of Children (%)

- Early Initiation: 2023 83.1, 2024 85.6
- Ever Breastfed: 2023 90.6, 2024 90.4
- Bottlefeeding: 2023 10.1, 2024 11.1
- Continued Breastfeeding at 1 Year: 2023 55.8, 2024 80.2
- Exclusive Breastfeeding: 2024 20.1

■ 2023 ■ 2024

- Exclusive breastfeeding is a low cost, life-saving child survival intervention. The exclusive breastfeeding rate was reported to be 20.1%.

- The proportion of children who continued to be breastfed beyond one year increased from 55.8% to 80.2%

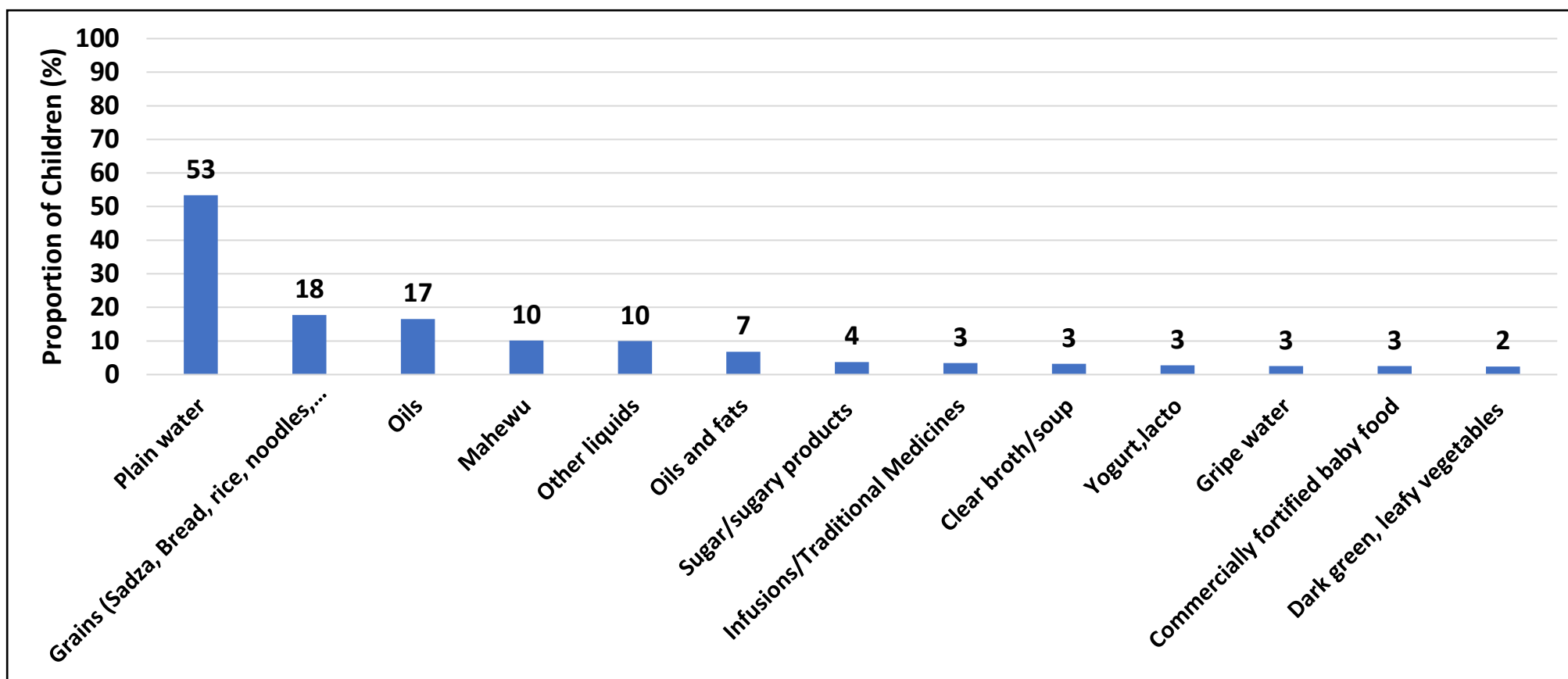- At least 90.4% of the children were ever breastfed.

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Early Initiation of Breastfeeding
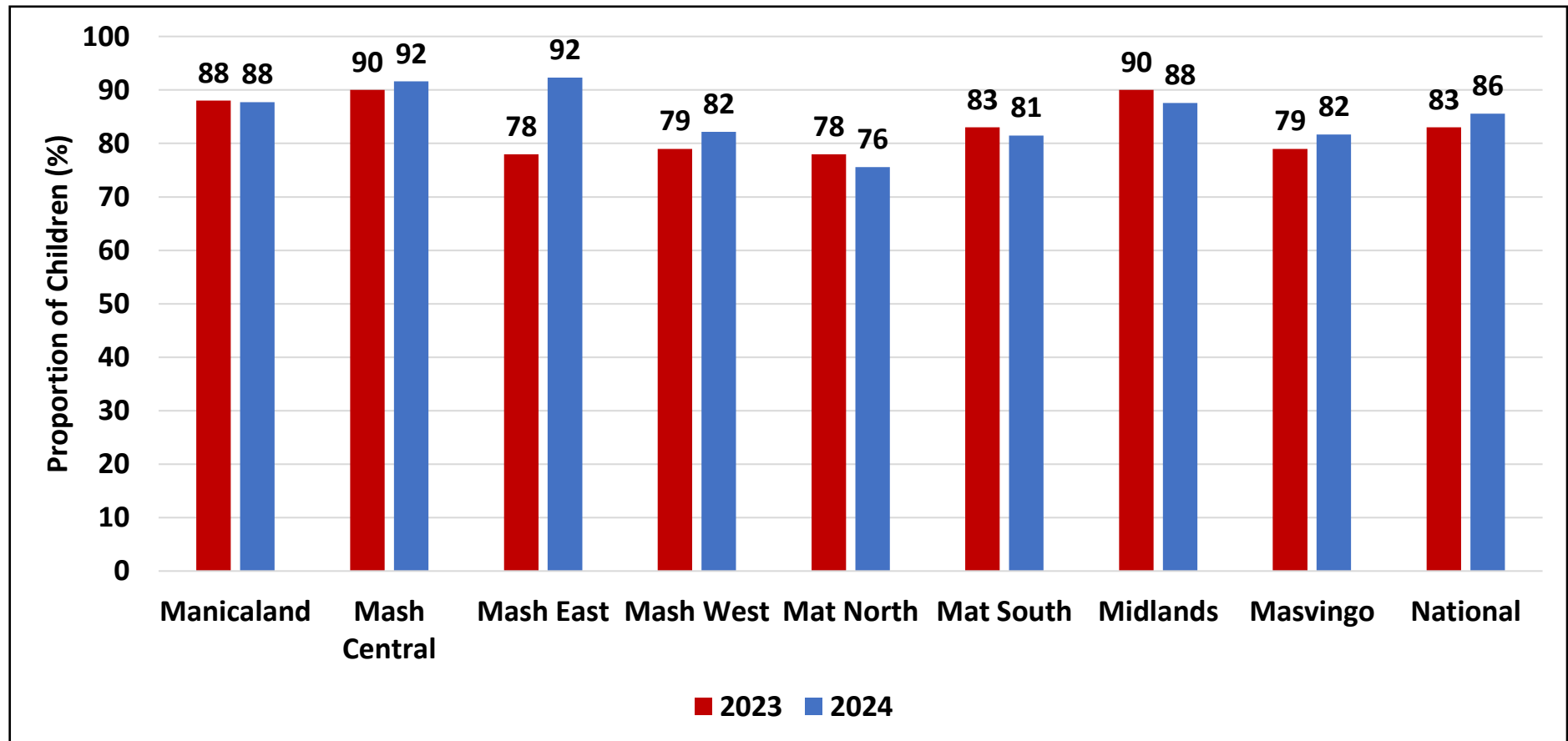
- Nationally, 86% of children were put on the breast within an hour of birth.
- Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East (92%) recorded the highest proportions.

Foods Given to Children Less than 6 Months in Addition to Breastfeeding

Proportion of Children (%)

| Food	%
Plain water	53
Grains (Sadza, Bread, rice, noodles,...	18
Oils	17
Mahewu	10
Other liquids	10
Oils and fats	7
Sugar/sugary products	4
Infusions/Traditional Medicines	3
Clear broth/soup	3
Yogurt,lacto	3
Gripe water	3
Commercially fortified baby food	3
Dark green, leafy vegetables	2

- Plain water (53%), grains (18%) and oils (17%) were the most common foods given to children less than 6 months, interfering with exclusive breastfeeding.

Continued Breastfeeding Beyond 1 year
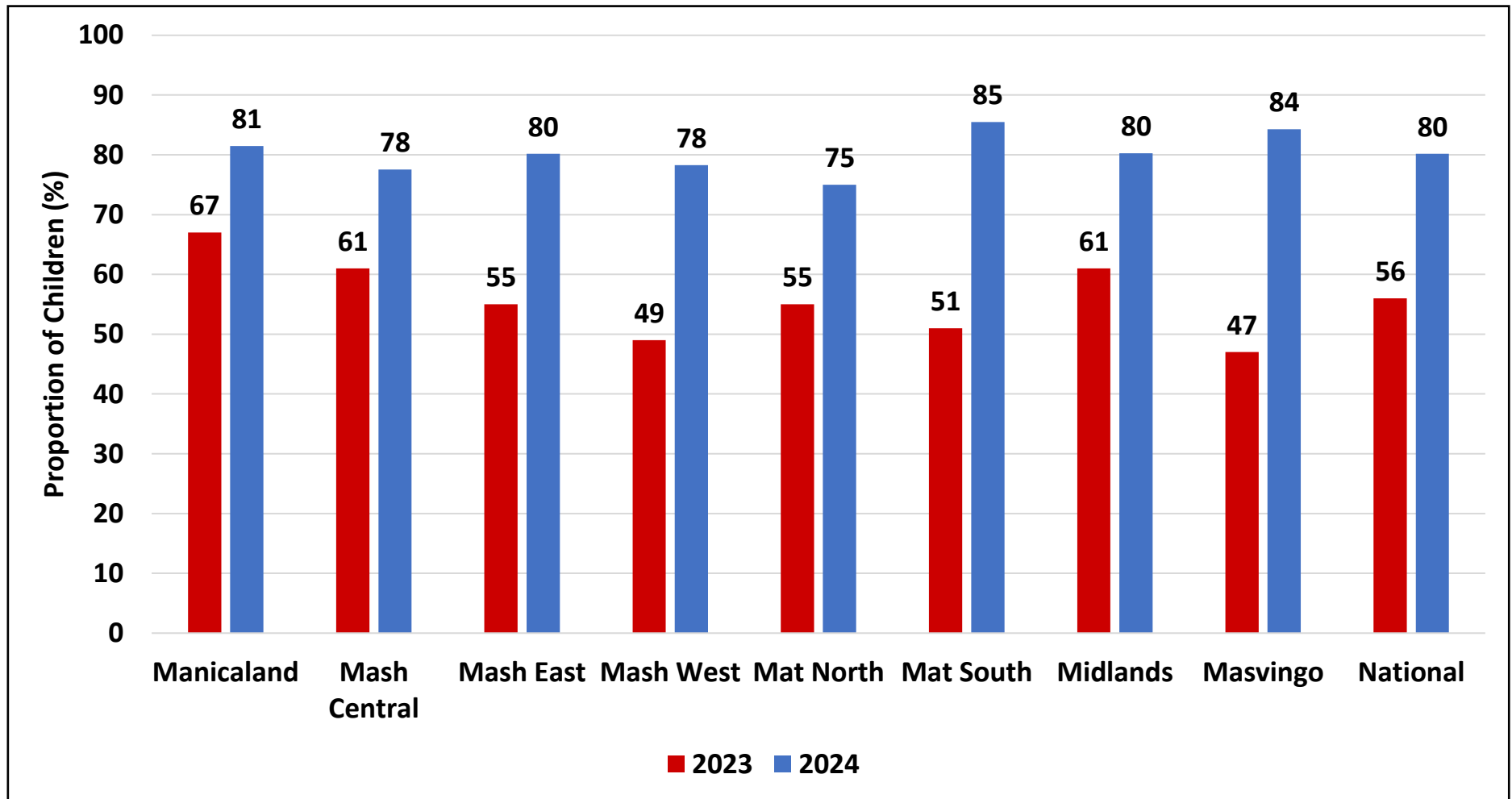
- Breastfeeding provides one third of energy needs between 12 and 24 months.

- The proportion of children who continued to be breastfed beyond one year increased across all provinces.

- Eighty percent of children were breastfed beyond one year and Matabeleland South (85%) reported the highest.

Bottle Feeding
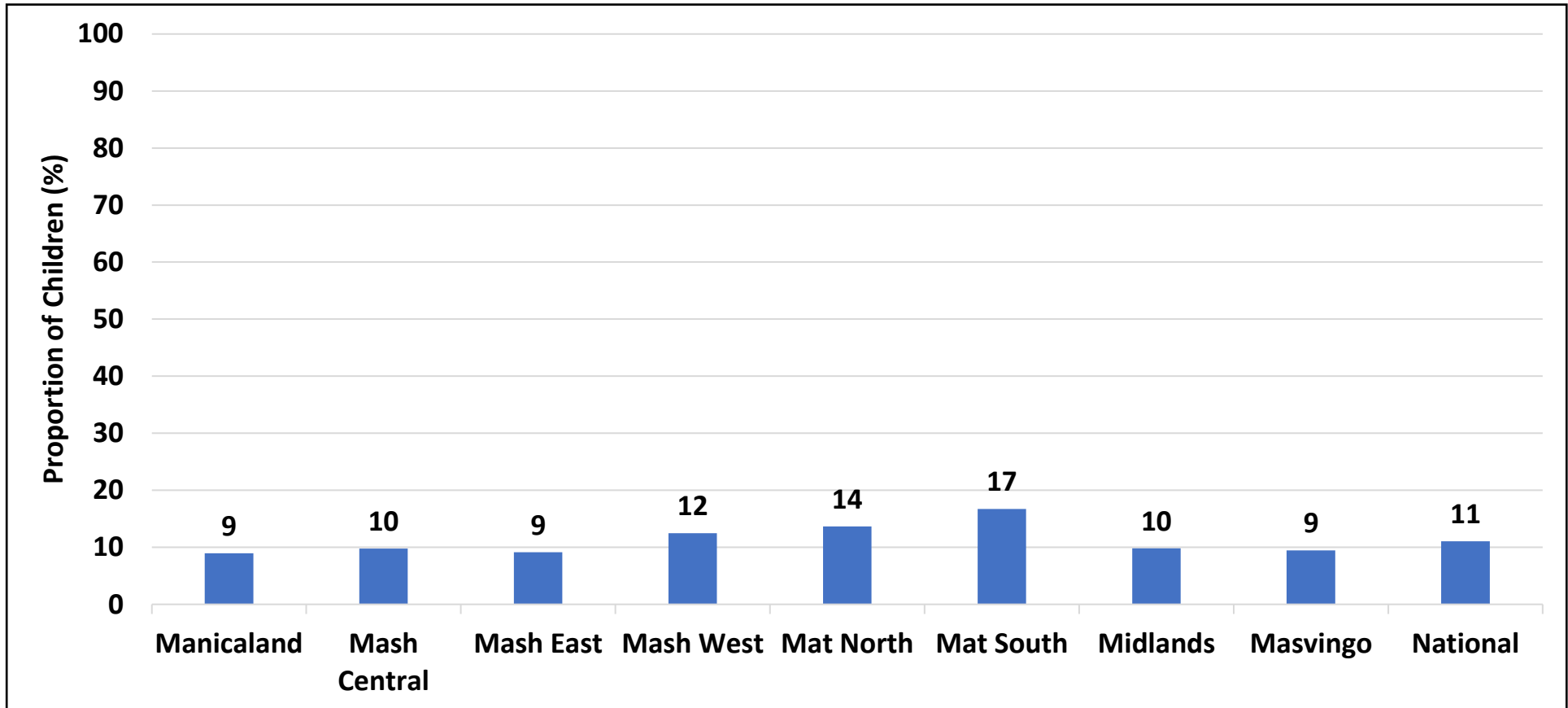
- Bottle feeding interferes with breastfeeding and predisposes infants to diarrhoeal diseases, especially in an environment with compromised WASH services.
- Matabeleland South (17%) and Matabeleland North (14%) reported the highest rates of bottle feeding.

Complementary Feeding

- **Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)** is a proxy indicator for adequate micronutrient density. Both breastfed and non-breastfed infants are expected to consume at least five of the seven food groups that are recommended by the World Health Organisation.

- **Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF)** is a proxy for a child's energy requirements and is the proportion of breastfed and non-breastfed children 6 to 23 months of age who receive solid, semi-solid, or soft-foods or milk feeds the minimum number of times or more.

- **Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)** is a composite indicator of minimum meal frequency and dietary diversity. It represents minimum standards of IYCF practices.

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality
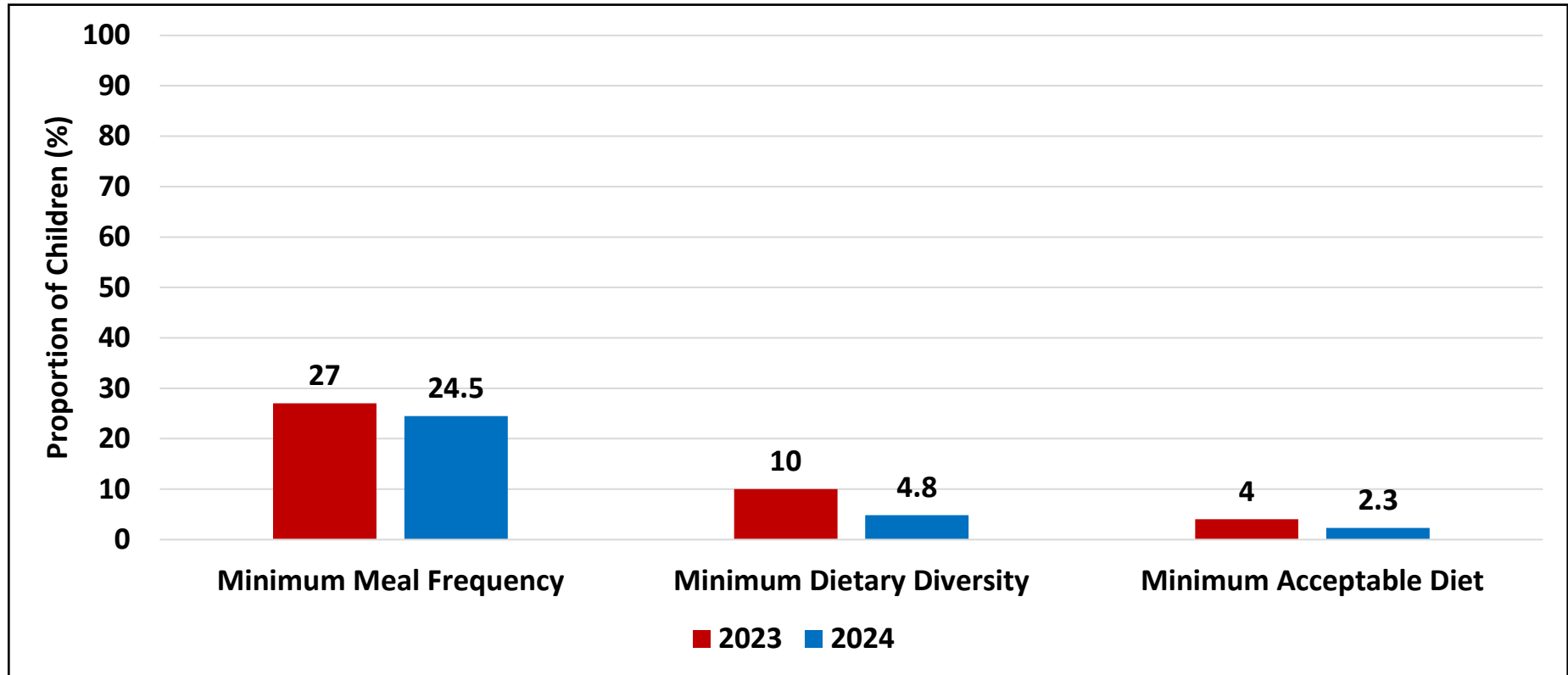
- A Minimum Acceptable Diet indicator reflects the proportion of children who receive adequate diverse age-appropriate foods. Adequate nutrition is essential for growth and development of children aged 6-23 months.
- Nationally, 2.3% of children achieved a minimum acceptable diet, a decrease from 4% in 2023. This remains below the national target of 25%.
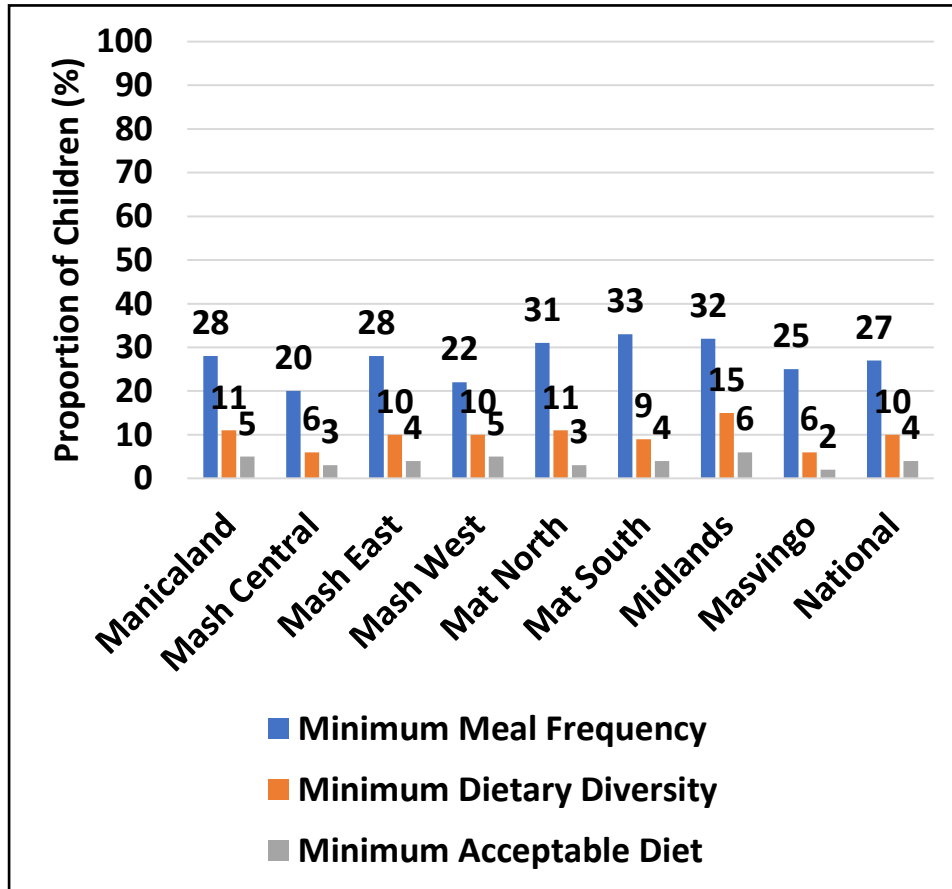- Dietary diversity was also low with only 4.8% of children consuming diversified diets.

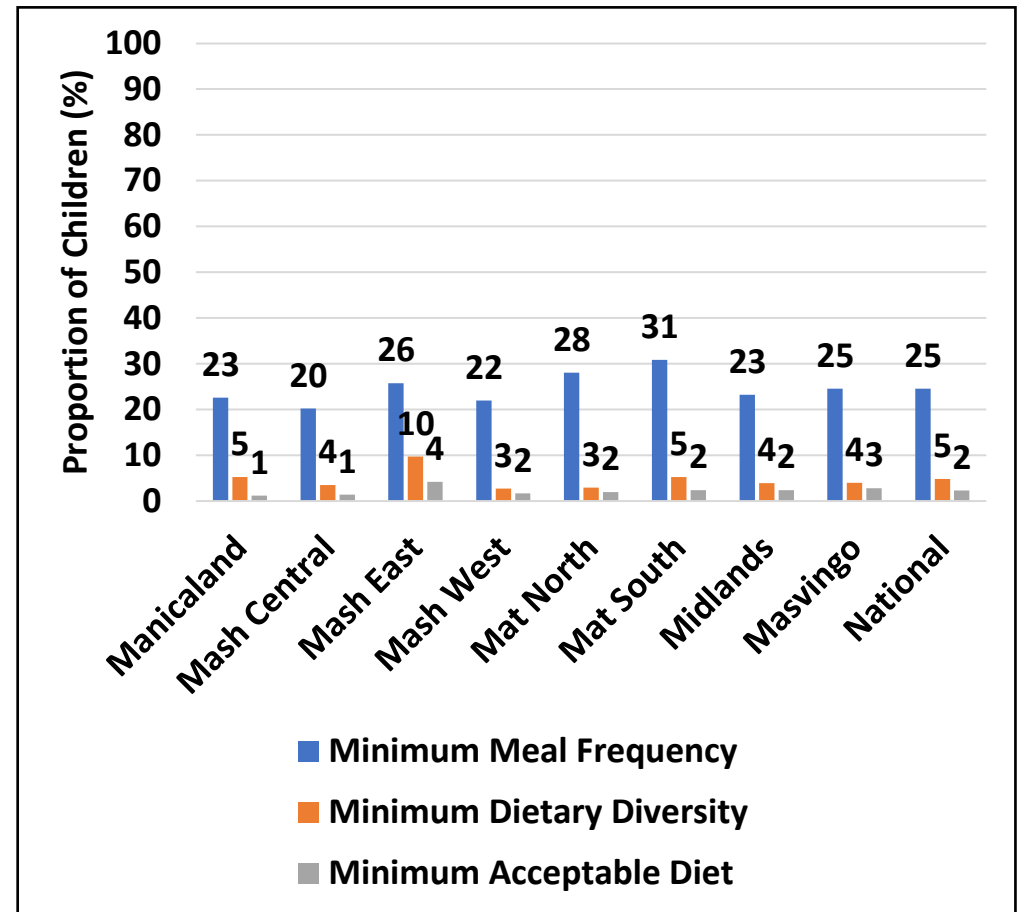# Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality: By Sex
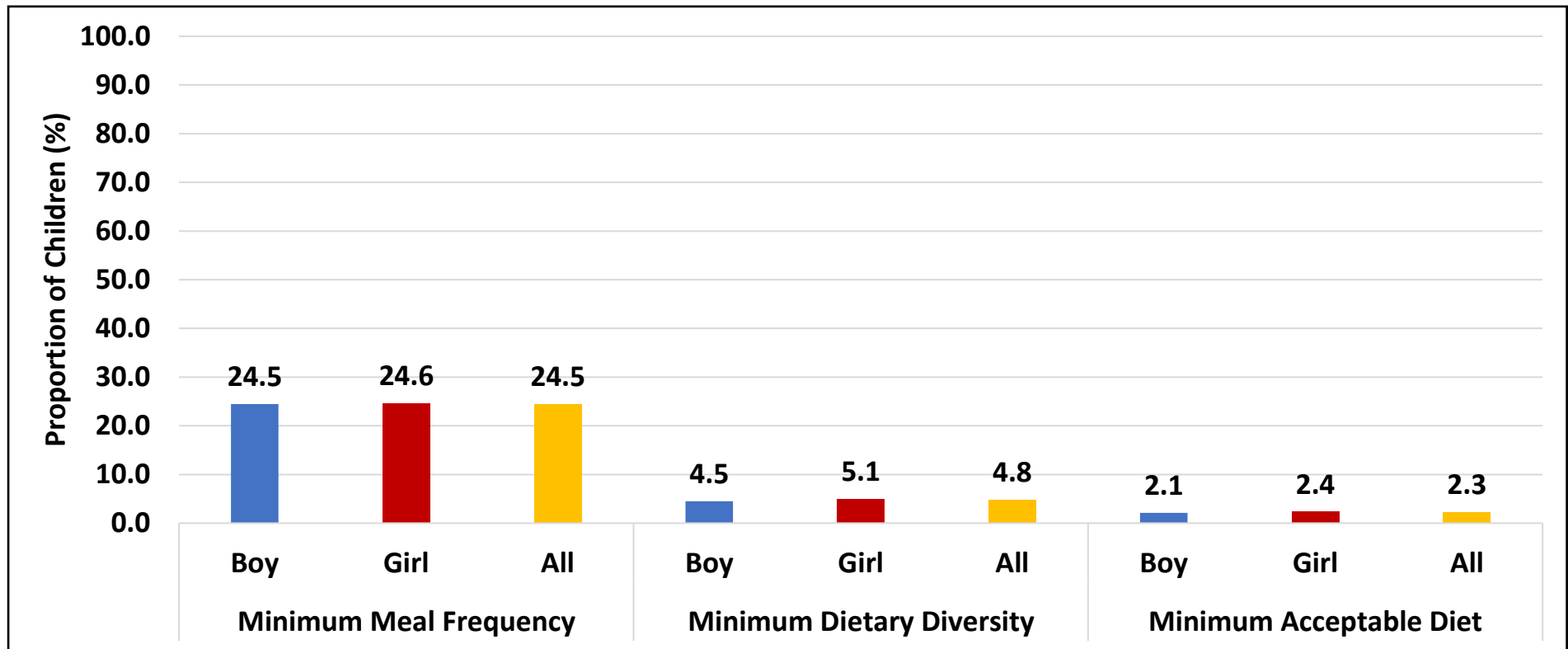
- There was no major difference on diet quality by sex.

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

2023

2024

- There was a decline in Minimum Acceptable Diet across most provinces.

Foods Consumed by Children 6-23 Months

	Breastmilk (%)	Grains, roots, tubers and plantains (%)	Pulses (beans, peas, lentils), nuts and seeds (%)	Dairy products (milk, infant formula, yogurt, cheese) (%)	Flesh foods (meat, fish, poultry, organ meats) (%)	Eggs (%)	Vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables (%)	Other Fruits and vegetables (%)
Manicaland	43.5	94.8	5.2	11.0	11.3	4.3	**49.6**	27.5
Mash Central	46.1	90.6	3.8	9.2	11.3	6.2	38.0	22.6
Mash East	44.4	91.2	8.1	20.1	14.8	9.5	47.0	39.6
Mash West	41.4	88.2	3.3	9.3	11.2	2.5	40.5	18.9
Mat North	41.7	92.5	6.8	16.6	6.8	1.3	44.0	23.1
Mat South	44.2	94.2	9.9	19.5	**18.9**	2.6	34.0	26.7
Midlands	37.8	92.7	1.0	18.5	9.6	1.8	40.4	26.3
Masvingo	47.9	90.8	6.7	16.9	12.3	2.5	37.4	26.4
National	43.3	91.8	5.6	15.2	12.1	4.0	41.5	26.8

- Manicaland reported high proportion of children (49.6%) consuming vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables.

- Matabeleland South reported a high proportion of children consuming meat (18.9%).

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality Indicators by Year
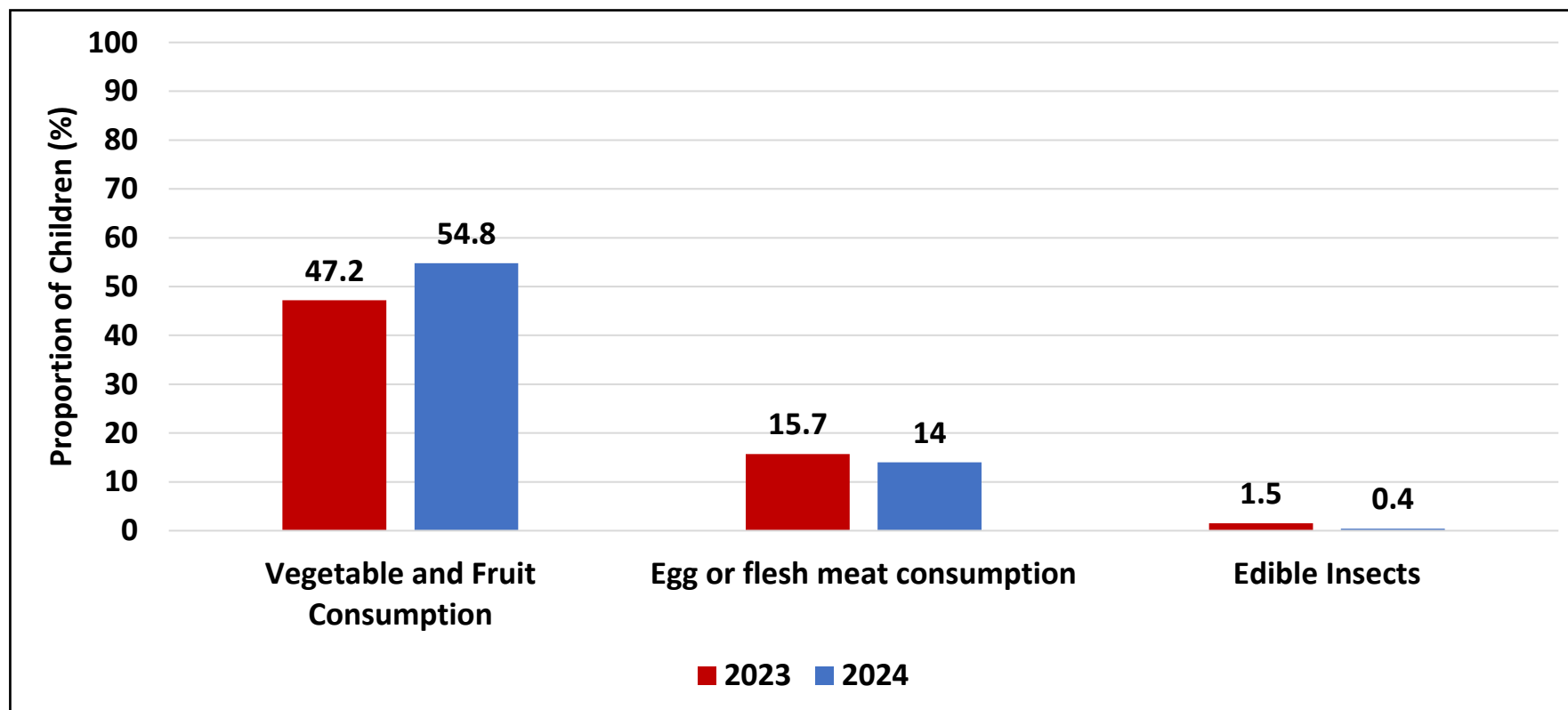

- Vegetable, fruit, egg and flesh meat consumption provides the much-needed nutrients required for optimum growth and development during the window of opportunity (first 1 000 days).

- About 54.8% of the children 6 to 23 months consumed vegetables and fruits 24 hours prior to the survey.

- Consumption of edible insects by children 6-23 months was low (0.4%).

Non-Vegetable or Fruit Consumption 6–23 Months (ZVF)
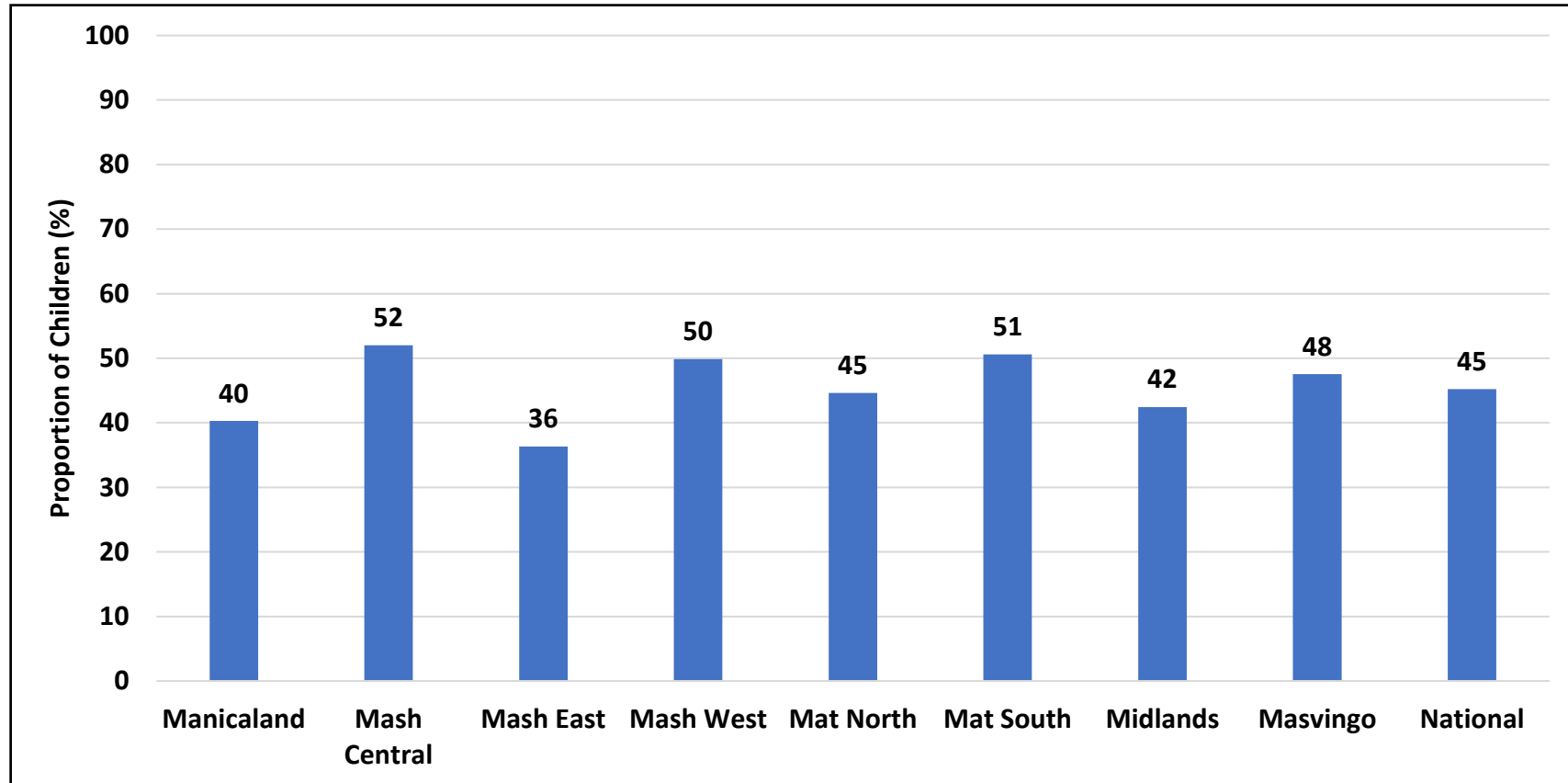
- Nationally, an estimated 45% of children 6-23 months were neither consuming vegetables nor fruits, with Mashonaland Central (52%), Matabeleland South (51%), Mashonaland West (50%) and Masvingo (48%) recording proportions above the national average.

Egg and/Flesh Meat Consumption
6–23 Months (EFF)
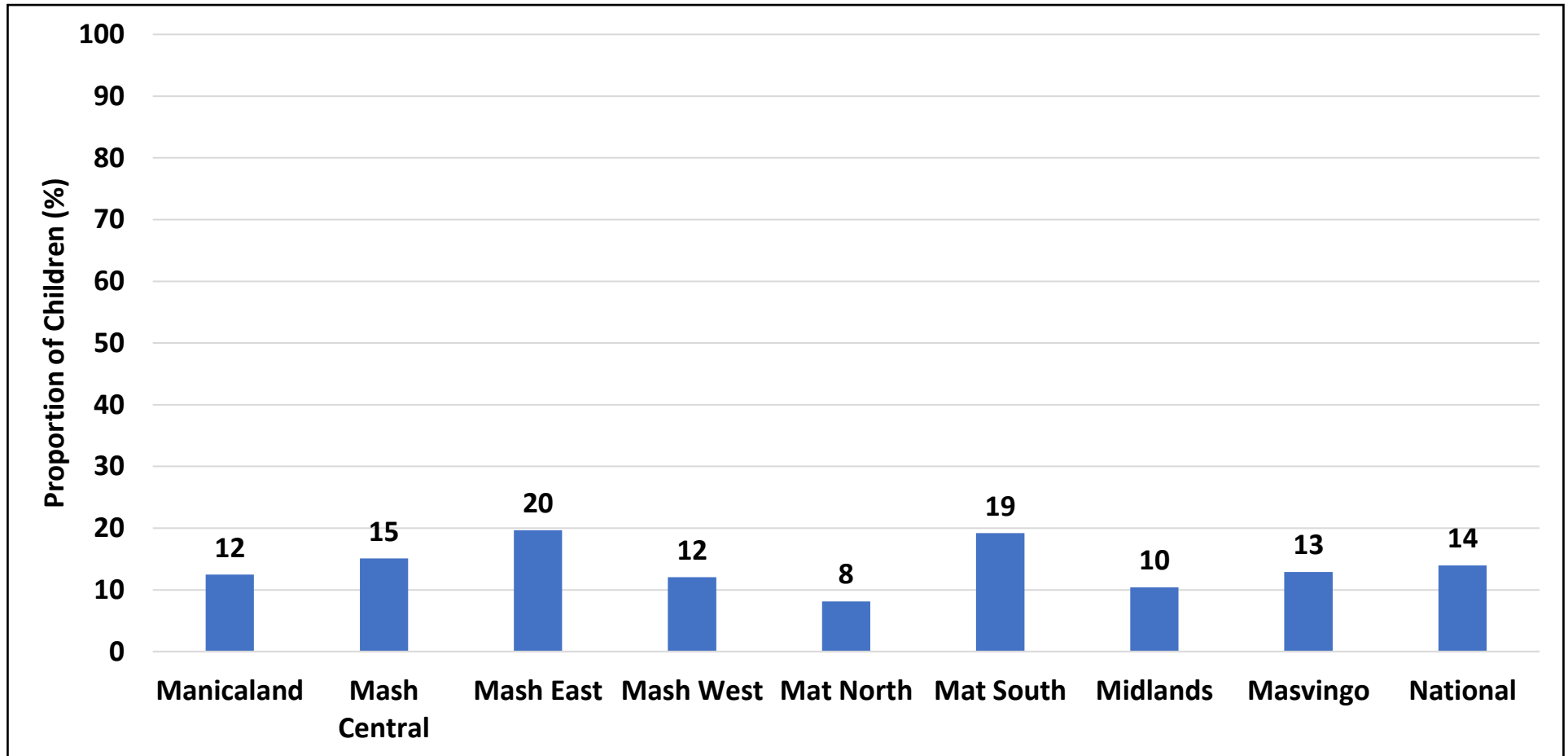
- Nationally, 14% of children 6-23 months were consuming egg and/ flesh meat with Matabeleland North and Midlands recording the least (8% and 10% respectively).

Chronic Conditions by Age

	15-49 WCBA (%)	18-59 Years (%)	60 Years and Above (%)
Arthritis, chronic body pain	0.2	0.4	4.8
Asthma	0.7	0.8	1.9
Cancer	0.1	0.1	0.7
Cerebral palsy	0.1	0.1	0.0
Diabetes, high blood sugar	0.9	1.1	8.4
Epilepsy, seizures, fits	0.2	0.3	0.3
Heart disease	0.3	0.3	1.6
HIV infection AIDS	3.8	4.3	4.2
Hypertension, High blood pressure	1.6	1.9	16.4
Kidney diseases	0.0	0.0	0.2
Liver diseases	0.0	0.0	0.1
Mental illness	0.3	0.6	0.6
Not willing to disclose	0.1	0.1	0.4
Stroke	0.1	0.1	1.2
Tuberculosis	0.1	0.2	0.4
Ulcer, chronic stomach pain	0.3	0.3	0.9

- Hypertension (16.4%) was reported as a medically confirmed chronic condition amongst the 60 years and above age group.

Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women of Child Bearing Age

Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women of Child Bearing Age by Year
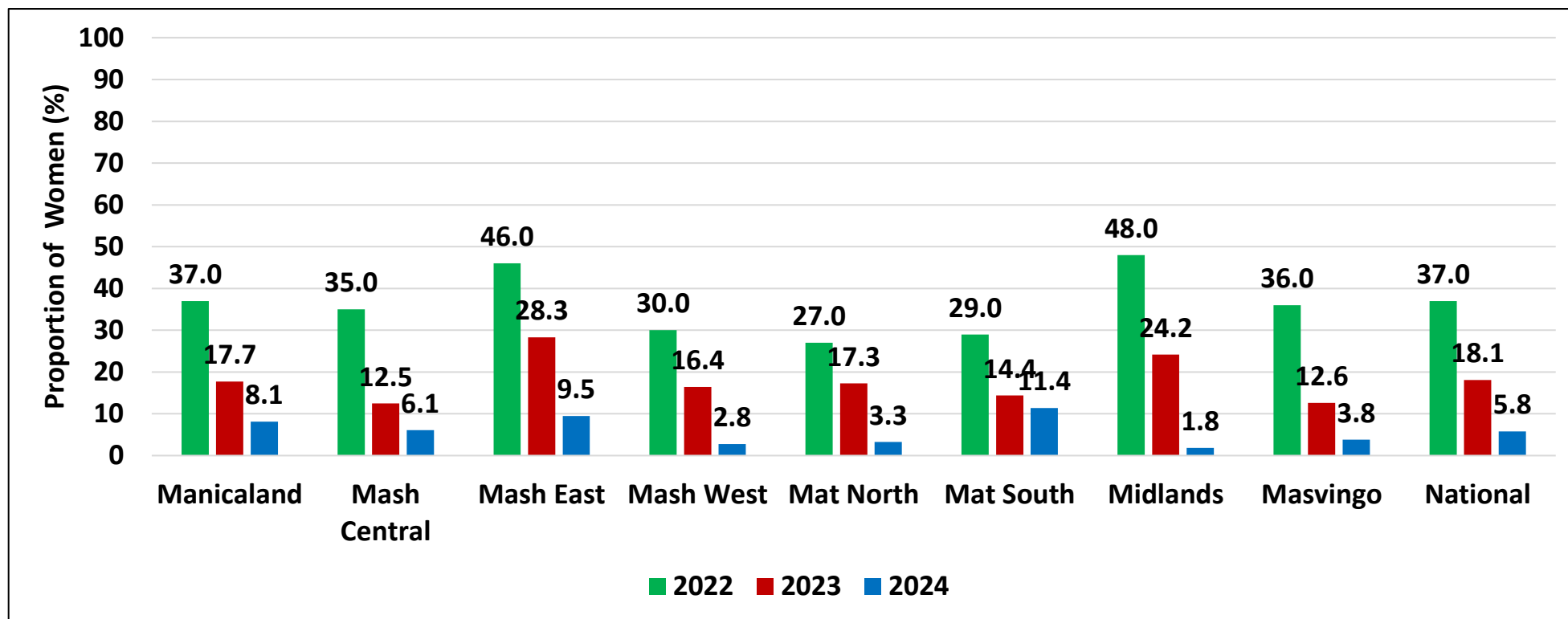
- The proportion of Women of Child Bearing Age(WCBA) consuming at least 5 food groups from the possible 10 has declined from 18.1% in 2023 to 5.8% in 2024.
- The observed decrease in quality of diets amongst WCBA is reflective of household food access challenges being faced over the past three seasons across all provinces.

Actual Food Groups Consumed by WCBA

	Foods made from grains (%)	Orange fleshed Vegetables or root (%)	White roots and tubers s (%)	Dark green leafy vegetables (%)	Fruits that are dark yellow or orange inside (%)	Other fruits like bananas, apples, citrus fruits (%)	Other vegetables like onion, tomato (%)	Meat made from animal organs (%)	Other types of meat or poultry, (%)	Eggs (%)	Fish or seafood, (%)	Beans or peas, (%)	Nuts or seeds, (%)	Milk or milk products, (%)	Oils/fat/ butter (%)	Condiments and seasonings (%)	Other beverages and foods (%)
Manicaland	98.3	22.0	4.1	62.9	2.8	15.9	28.4	3.1	8.9	5.2	5.0	5.4	1.8	5.5	35.8	16.1	8.3
Mash Central	99.1	19.4	3.3	58.2	3.1	7.8	32.2	3.3	8.5	5.9	8.5	4.1	2.6	4.6	39.4	17.0	5.4
Mash East	95.2	16.3	7.7	57.8	1.0	7.8	46.1	3.9	15.2	7.1	3.8	3.5	2.7	10.1	57.9	27.3	24.4
Mash West	98.8	12.9	1.7	46.4	1.0	2.4	29.4	0.9	5.0	3.8	13.9	3.3	0.3	6.6	39.5	7.5	8.2
Mat North	99.1	9.6	2.4	61.2	0.3	1.5	17.0	4.0	8.9	3.1	2.2	5.0	0.9	6.4	33.0	29.0	21.5
Mat South	97.3	18.1	9.4	50.4	4.0	12.7	32.5	7.9	27.5	5.9	6.4	11.7	2.5	13.2	34.5	13.1	21.4
Midlands	98.0	13.5	4.6	49.1	2.3	4.9	32.3	3.2	11.4	1.5	2.4	4.4	1.4	4.9	29.0	10.3	11.0
Masvingo	96.7	10.5	3.2	50.1	1.0	9.0	30.4	3.8	15.6	1.8	3.7	4.2	3.7	9.2	45.6	9.7	16.0
National	97.7	15.1	4.7	54.3	1.9	7.6	31.4	3.8	12.9	4.2	5.5	5.2	2.0	7.7	39.5	16.3	15.0

- Women of Child Bearing Age (WBCA) because of their physiological demands of pregnancy and lactation require a more nutrient-dense diet. Requirements for most nutrients are higher for this group than for adult men.

- The results show that generally, WCBA were mostly consuming foods made from grain (97%), dark green vegetables (54.3%), oils(39.5%), other vegetables (32.4%), condiments (16.3%) and orange fleshed vegetables (15.1%).

- Insufficient nutrient intakes before and during pregnancy and lactation can affect both women and their infants.

Nutrition Status

Child Nutrition Status

|		
Child Stunting		The share of children under the age of five who are short for their age (having a low height-for-age), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
Child Wasting		The share of children under the age of five who are too thin for their height (low-weight-for-height), reflecting acute undernutrition.
Child Underweight		The share of the children under the age of the five who are too thin for their age (low weight-for-age).
Overweight /Obesity		The share of children under the age of five who are too heavy for their height (high weight-for-height).

Child Nutrition Status

| Indicator	Indicator definition (WHO standards, 2006)	National prevalence (%)	Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance
Stunting	Height/Length for age <−2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	27.4	<2.5%: Very Low 2.5-<10%: Low 10-<20%: Medium 20-<30%: High ≥30%: Very High (DeOniset al., 2019)
Global Acute Malnutrition	Weight for height <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema	4.9	<5% Acceptable 5–9.9%: Poor 10–14.9%: Serious >15%: Critical
Severe Acute Malnutrition	Weight for height <−3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	1.7	0% = acceptable >0%: Unacceptable
Underweight	Weight for age <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema	9.8	
Overweight	Weight for height >+2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	3.9	<2.5%: very low 2.5 to <5%: low 5 to <10%: medium 10 to <15%: high ≥15%: very high
obesity	Weight for height >+3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	2.3	

Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months
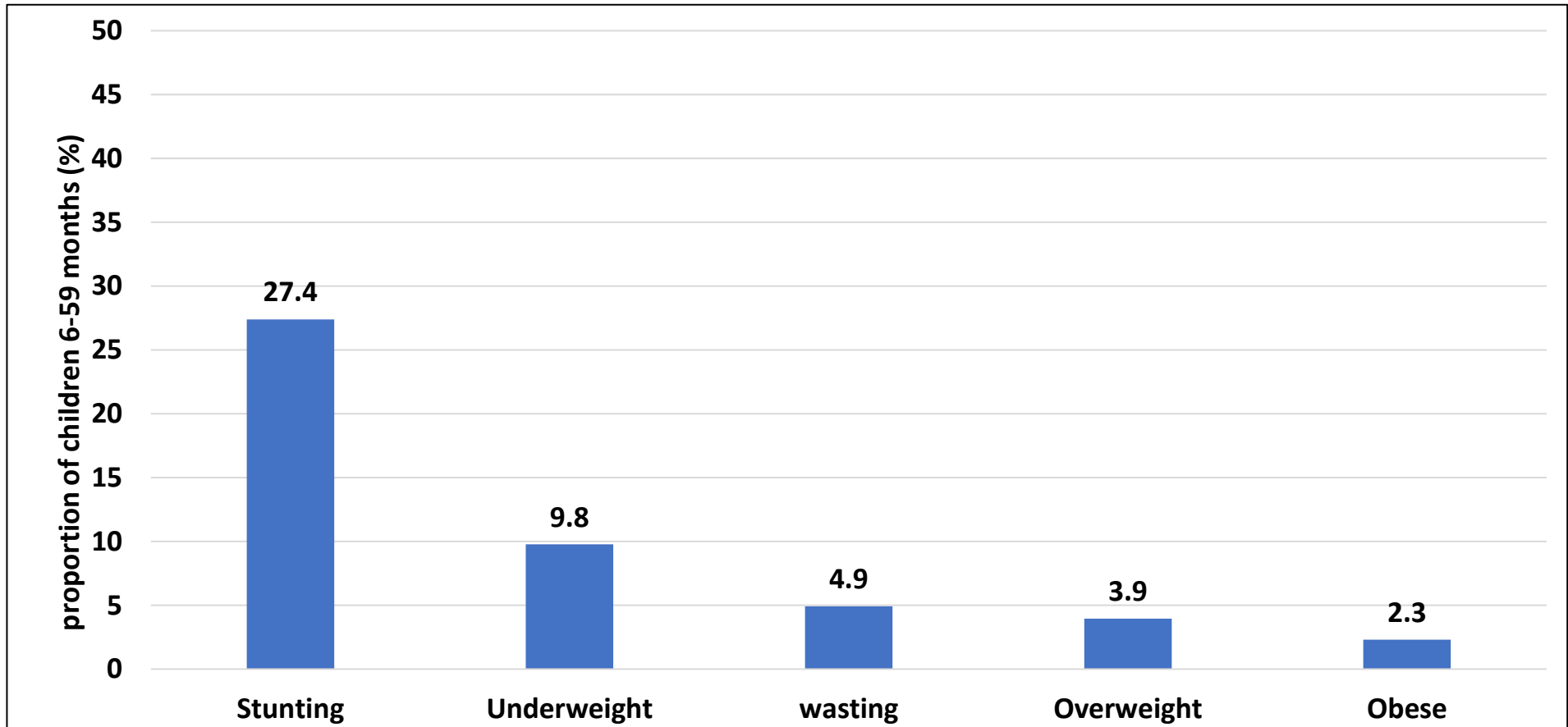
- Stunting prevalence (27.4%) remains high according to the World Health Organisation classification.

Stunting by Sex of Child
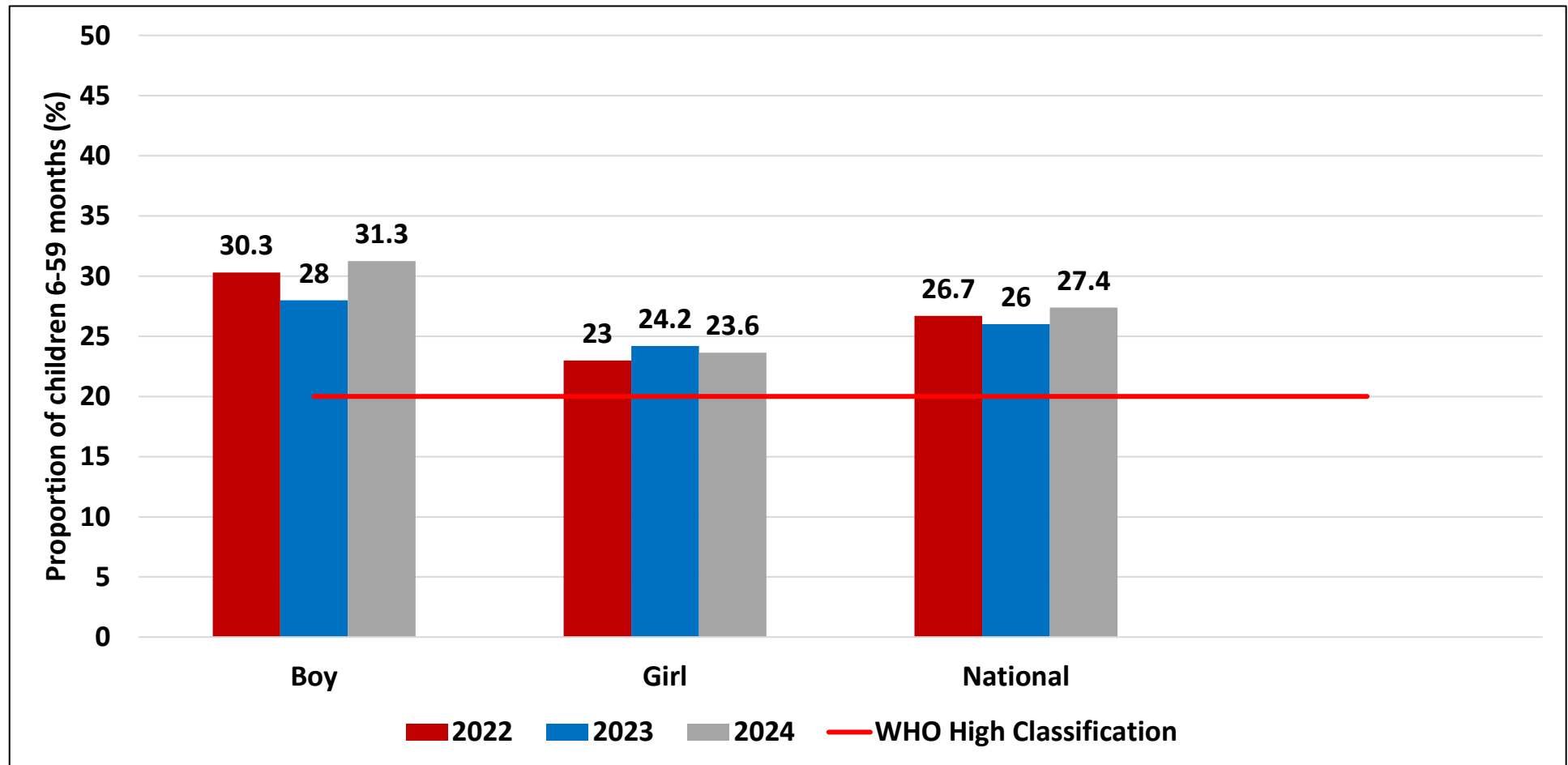
- Stunting prevalence remained higher amongst boys 6-59 months than amongst girls over the years.

Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition for Children Aged 6-59 Months (WHO)
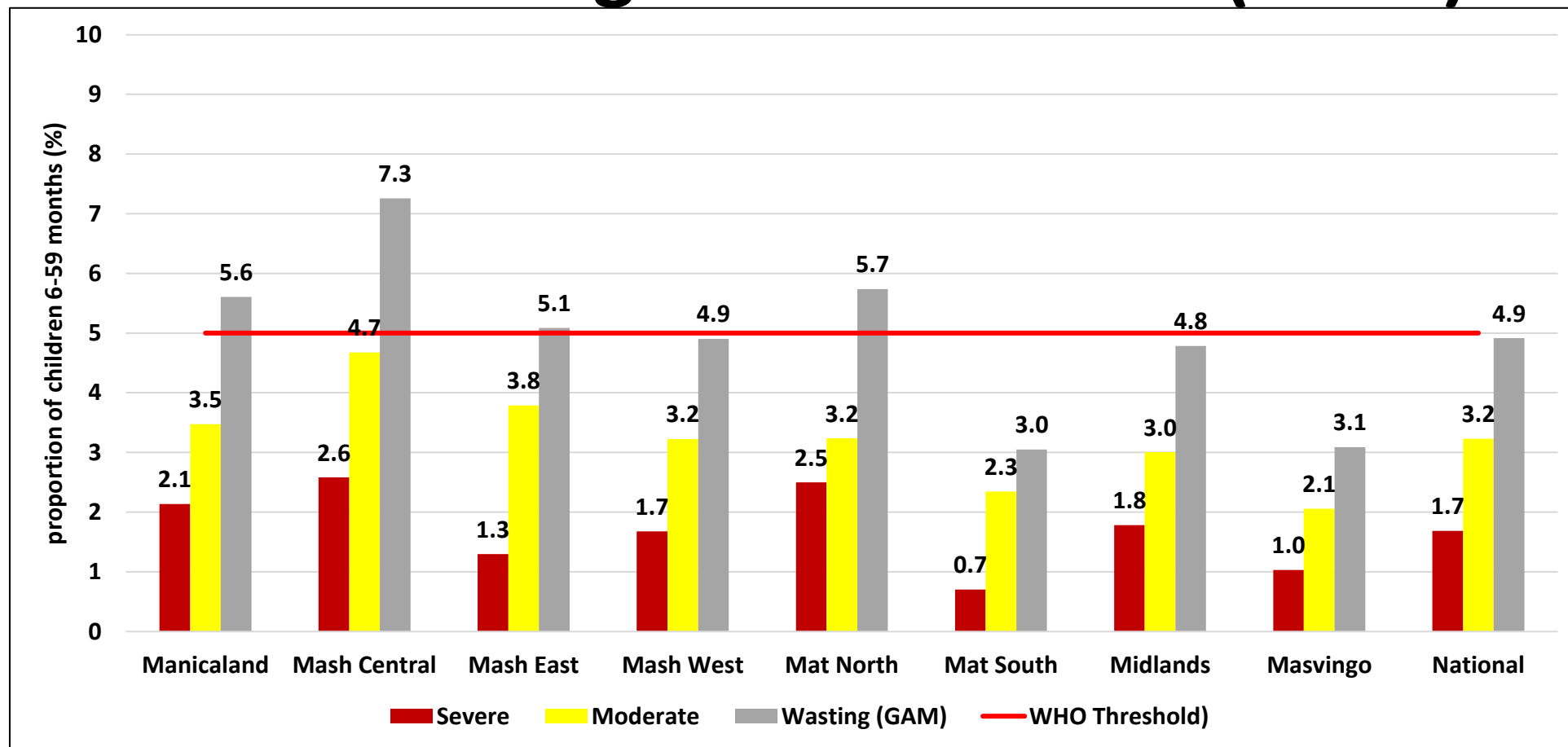
- Nationally, prevalence of GAM was 4.9%.
- Most provinces except Matabeleland South, Midlands and Masvingo had a GAM prevalence above the national average.

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Nutrition Status of Children 5-9 Years
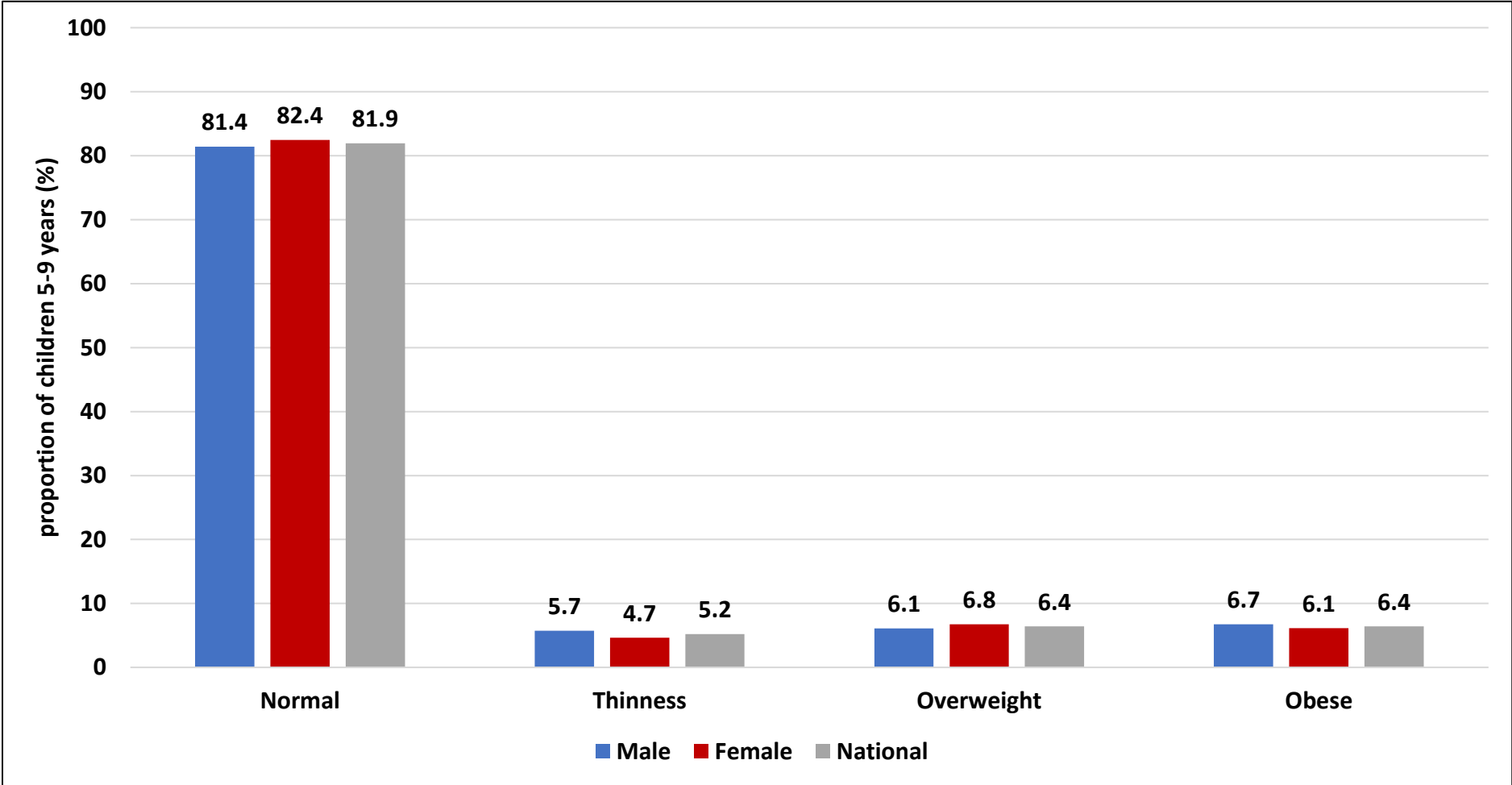
- Nationally, 6.4% of the children aged 5 to 9 years were obese and overweight.

Nutrition Status of Children 5-9 years
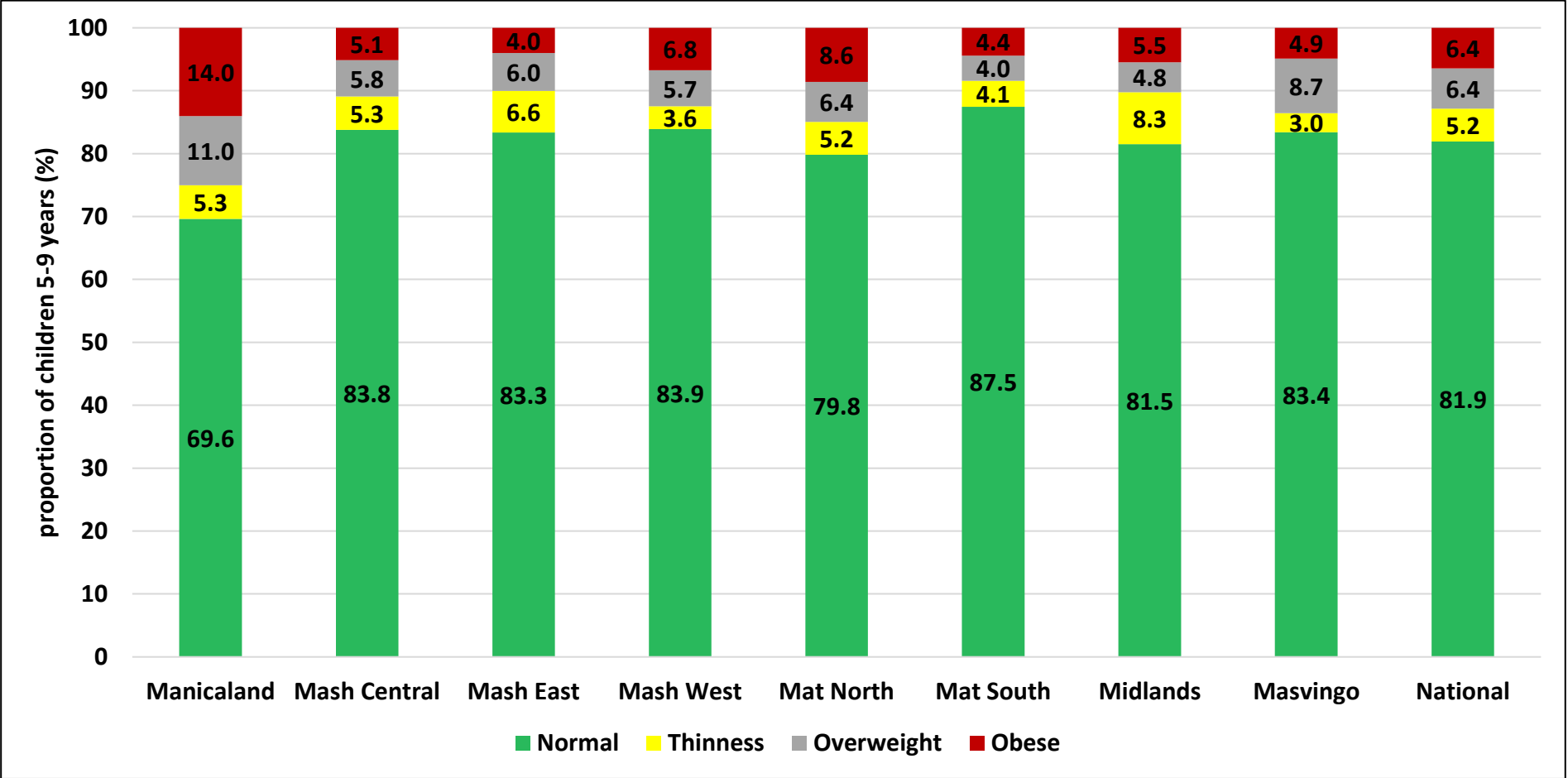
- Manicaland (14%) had the highest proportion of children 5-9 years who were obese.

Nutrition Status of Adolescents (10-19 Years)
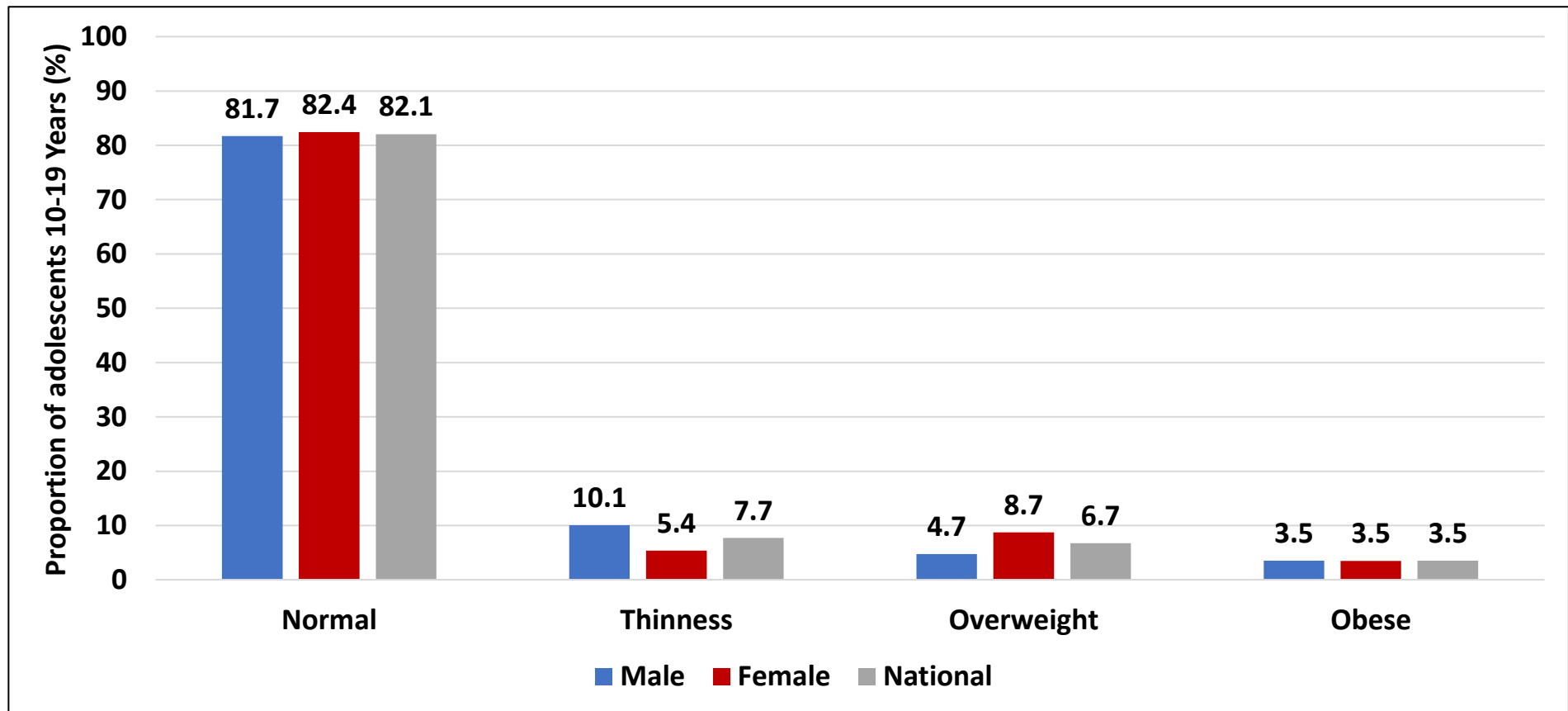
- Thinness was higher within males than within females among the adolescents.

Nutrition Status of Adolescents (10-19 Years)
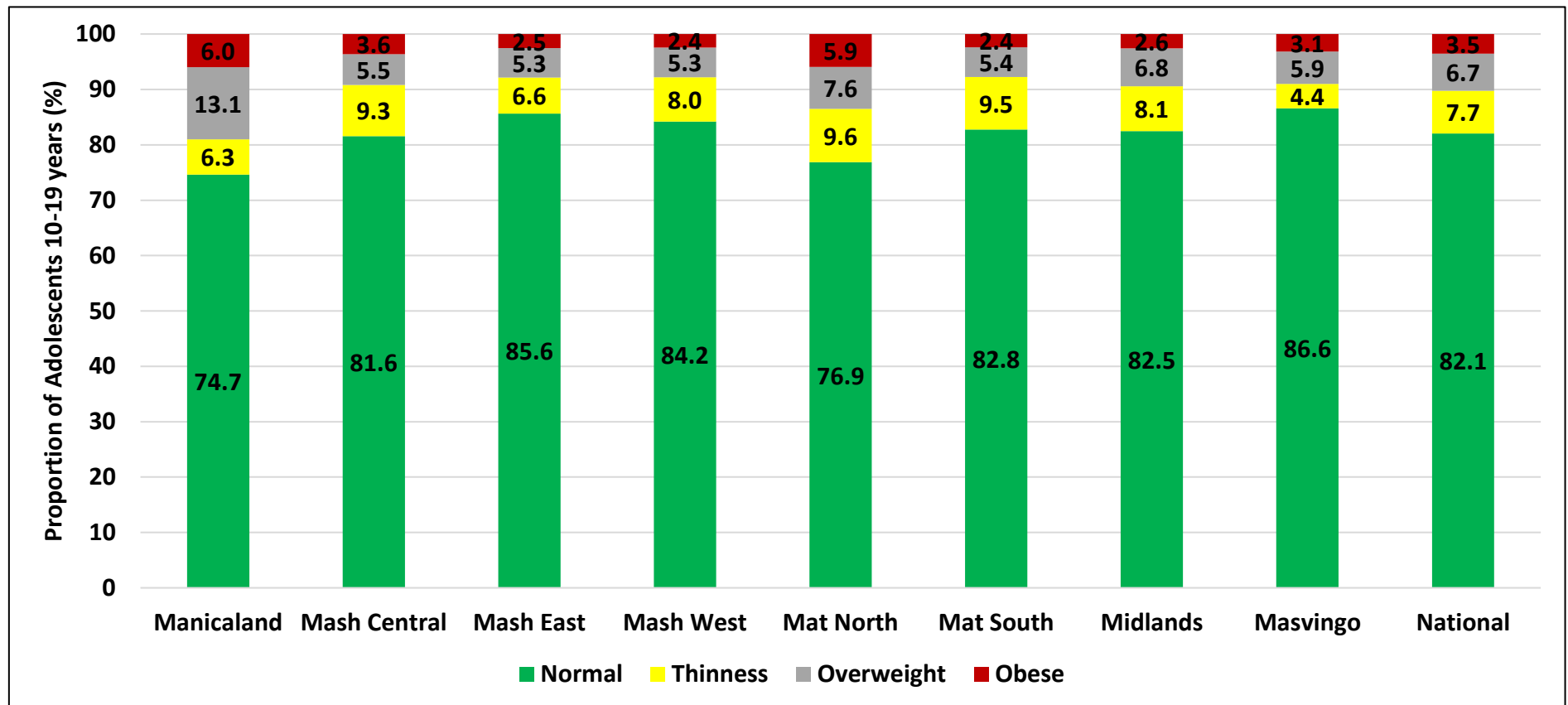
- About 10.2% of the adolescents were overweight and obese.

Nutrition Status of Adults (18-59 Years)
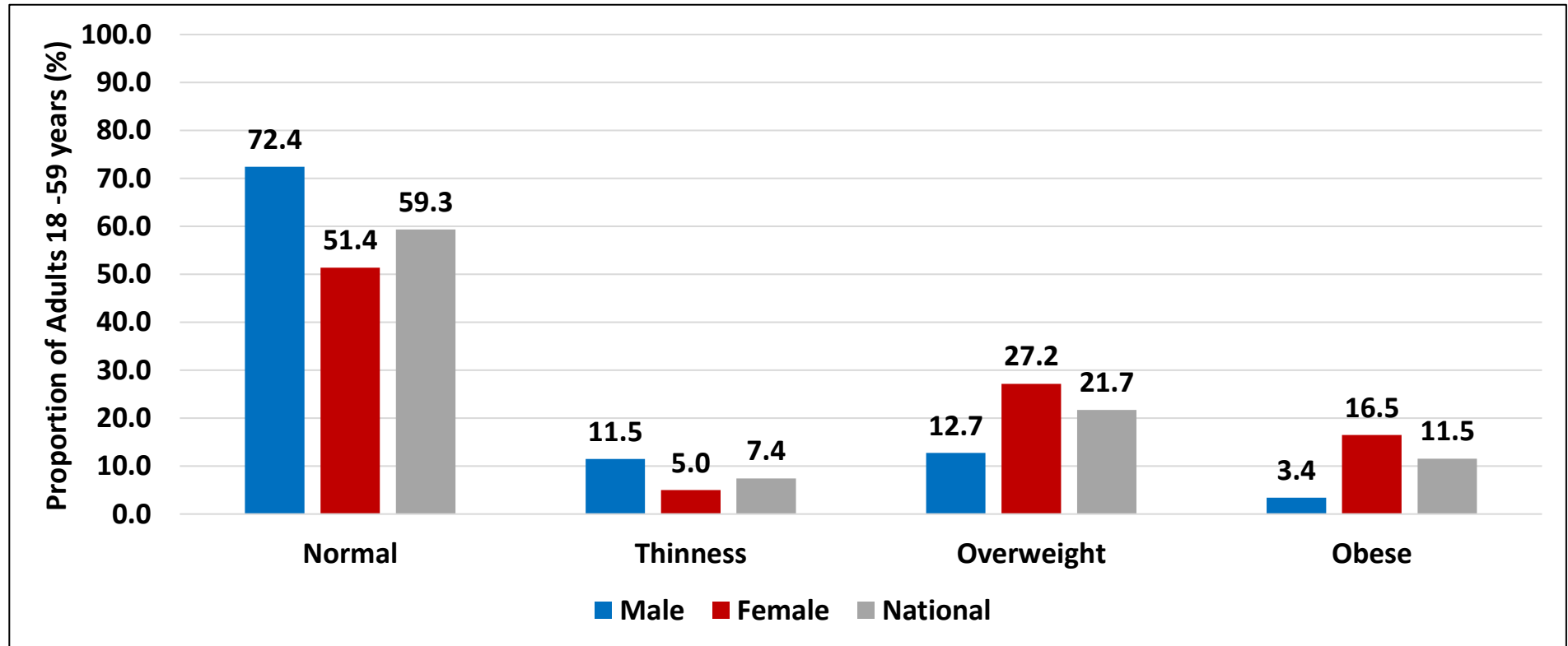
- Body Mass Index was used to classify adults aged 18 years and above. Having excess fat deposits in the body leads to serious health consequences such as cardiovascular disease (mainly heart disease and stroke), type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis and some cancers (endometrial, breast and colon).
- Nationally, 33.2% of the adults aged 18-59 years were overweight and obese.

Nutrition Status for Adults
(18-59 Years)
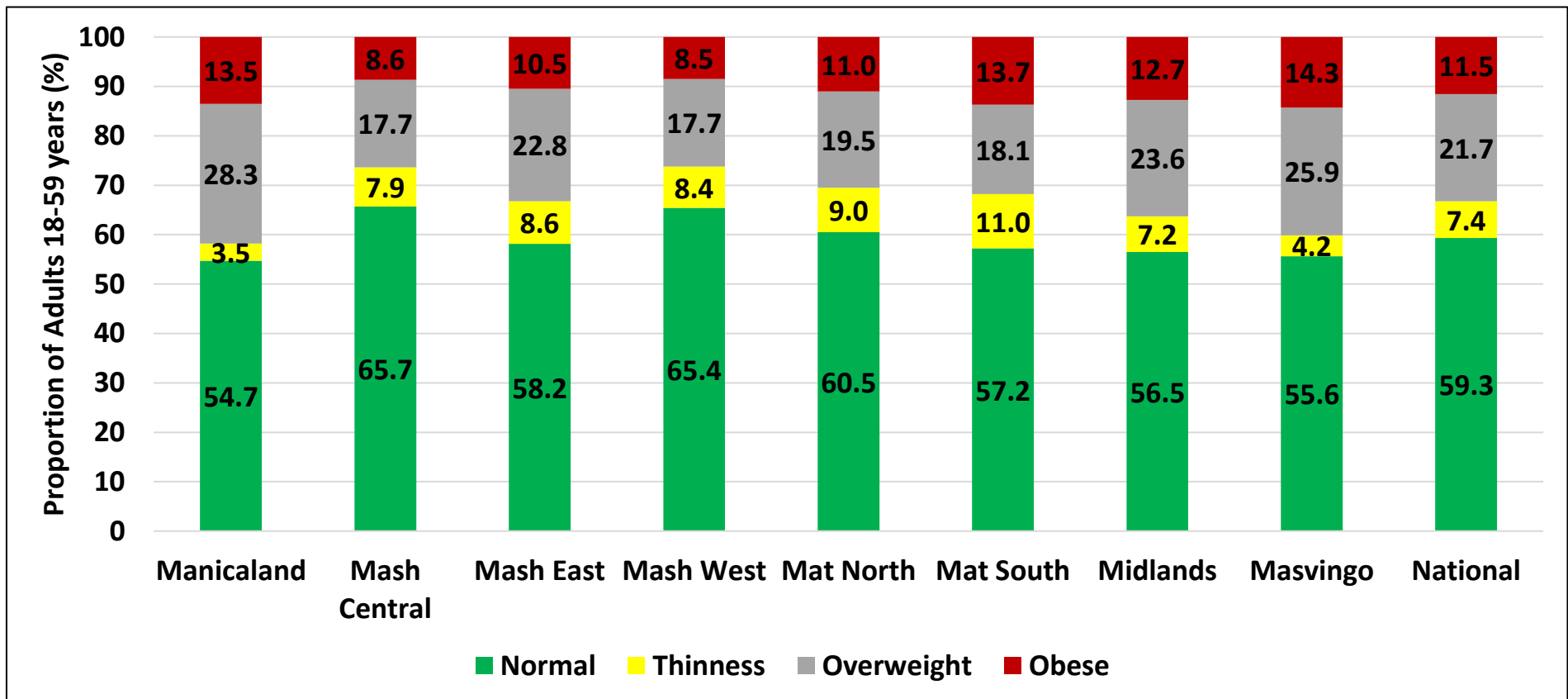
- Manicaland had the highest proportion of adults who were overweight and obese (41.8%).

Nutrition Status of Adults 60 Years and Above
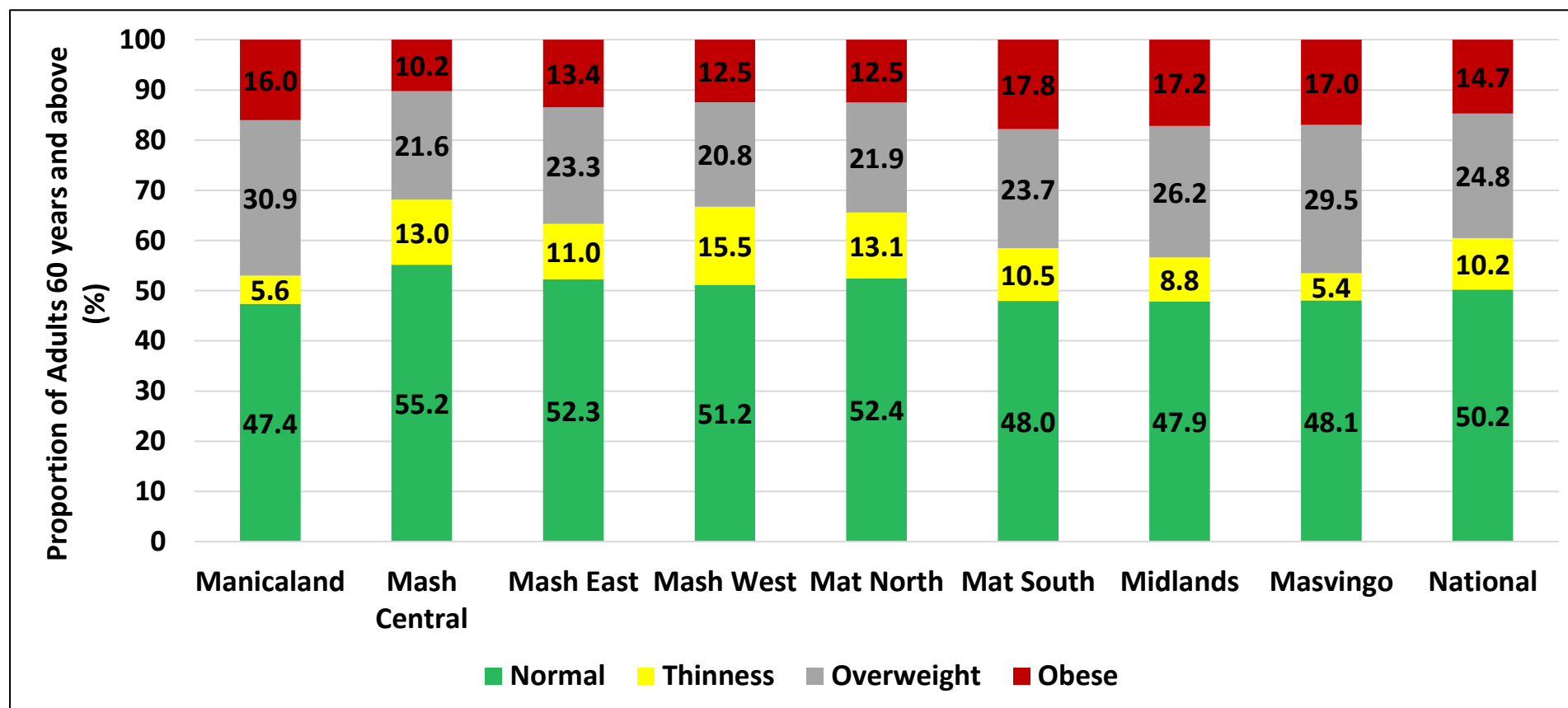
- The proportion of adults aged 60 years and above who had normal nutrition status was 50.2%.

Nutrition Status of Adults
60 Years and Above
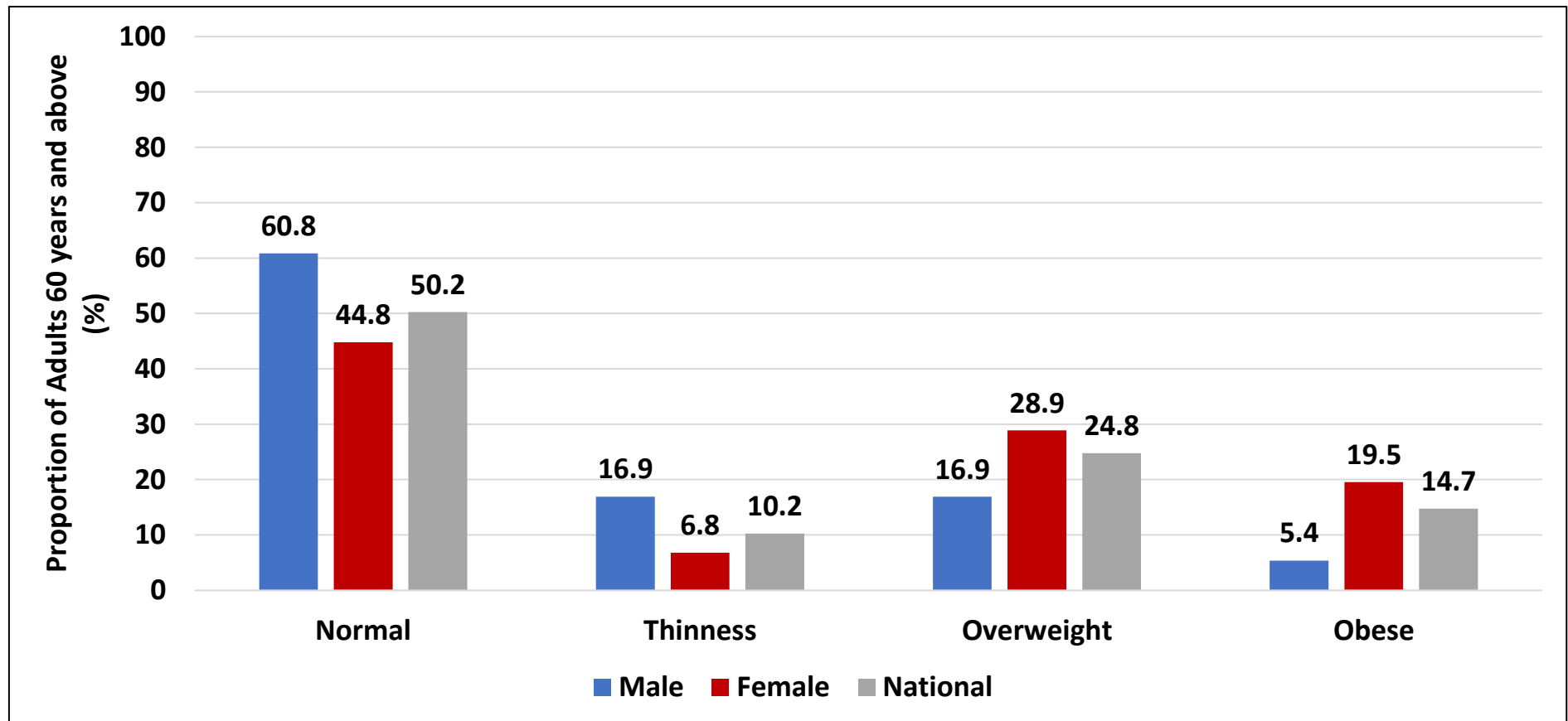
- More females were overweight and obese compared to males among the adults aged 60 years and above.

Climate Change

Perceived Household Knowledge on Climate Change
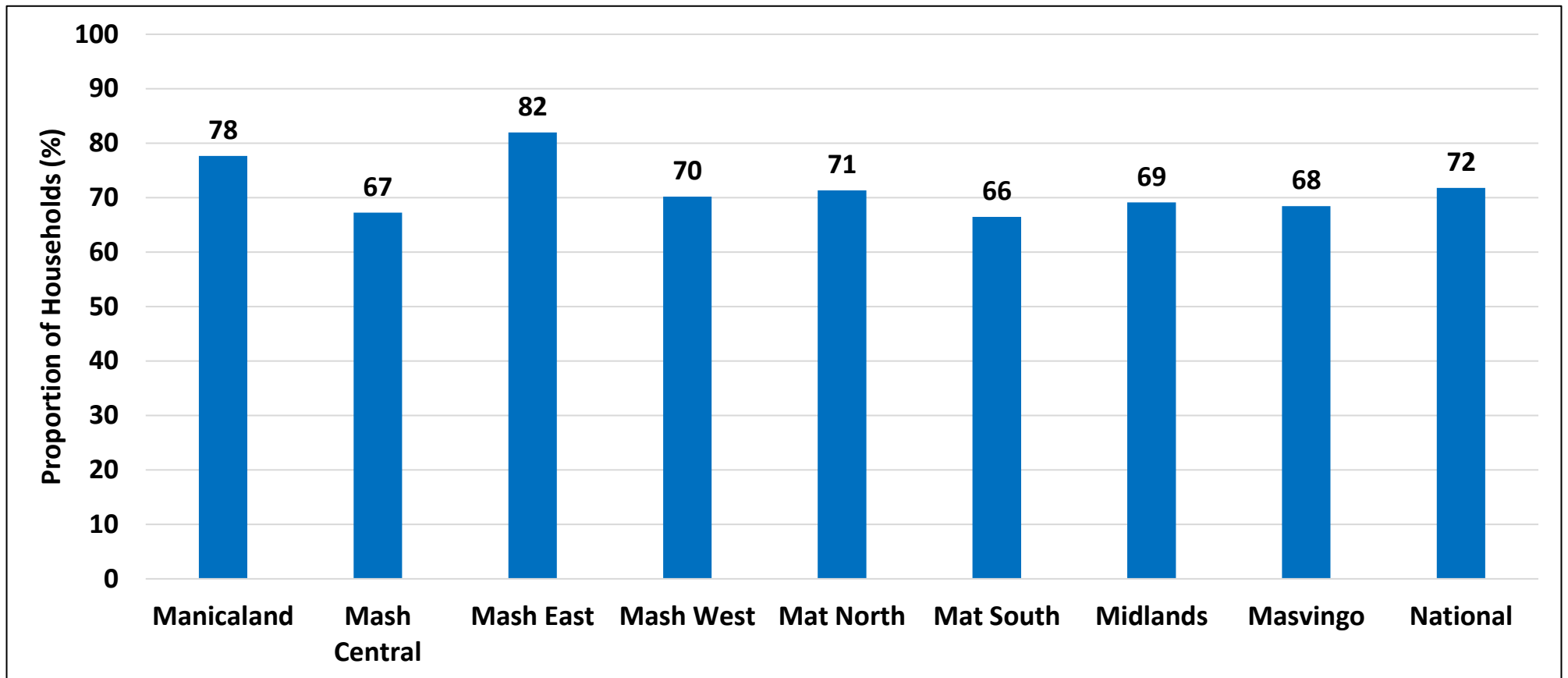
- The proportion of households that reported having knowledge on climate change was 72%.
- Mashonaland East (82%) had the highest proportion of households with knowledge on climate change while Matabeleland South (66%) had the lowest proportion.

Perceived Effects of Climate Change on Households

Province	Reduced food diversity for children (%)	Reduced number of times children are fed (%)	Reduced food quantity for children (%)	Reduced hectarage or planted area (%)
Manicaland	68	66	65	62
Mash Central	64	59	61	52
Mash East	66	65	66	57
Mash West	73	74	73	64
Matabeleland North	67	67	66	58
Matabeleland South	62	61	62	53
Midlands	68	68	66	61
Masvingo	76	74	75	69
National	**68**	**67**	**67**	**59**

- Reduced food diversity for children (68%) was the most reported perceived effect of climate change while reduced hectarage or planted area (59%) was the least.

Sources of Climate-Related Information

Province	Radio (%)	Government Extension Worker (%)	Friends and relatives (%)	Other household members (%)	Internet/Social media (%)	Environmental Workers (%)	Television (%)	Other (%)	Newspapers (%)	Academic journals/special publications (%)
Manicaland	47.5	35.8	21.4	8.8	9.6	8.5	9.7	3.4	2.4	1.0
Mash Central	41.9	26.8	27.6	9.9	3.5	2.9	3.7	0.2	0.6	0.3
Mash East	54.6	28.5	25.5	8.9	5.1	1.6	5.5	5.4	1.0	0.4
Mash West	41.7	26.2	21.5	10.1	8.3	5.4	3.9	1.1	0.3	1.6
Matabeleland North	30.3	45.5	23.1	13.1	7.4	10.2	4.8	1.5	2.4	2.0
Matabeleland South	20.2	44.2	16.6	9.0	11.7	10.1	5.4	0.8	4.0	1.6
Midlands	38.6	32.4	18.4	3.2	9.8	3.1	4.5	0.8	1.0	0.3
Masvingo	29.8	42.1	17.5	7.6	5.6	4.2	2.7	0.2	1.4	1.0
National	**38.7**	**34.8**	**21.6**	**8.8**	**7.5**	**5.5**	**5.0**	**1.8**	**1.6**	**1.0**

- Radio (38.7%) and Government extension workers (34.8%) were the most reported sources of climate related information.

Food Security

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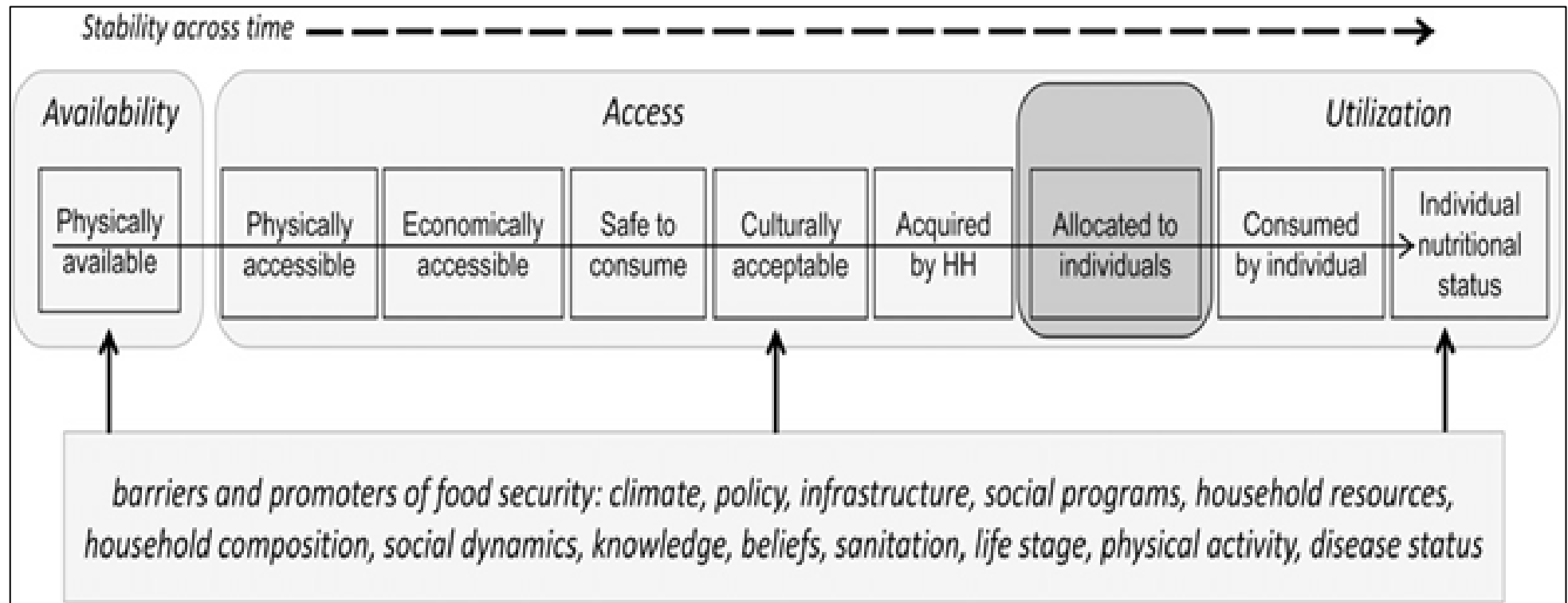
Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

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 2024 to 31 March 2025.

- 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 2024/25 consumption year from the following possible income sources;

  - Cereal stocks from the previous season;

  - Own food crop production from the 2023/24 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 Security Status at Peak Hunger

- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2025) it was estimated that approximately **57%** of the rural households will be cereal insecure.

- The 57% of rural households translated into approximately **5,894,368** individuals requiring a total of **592,733 MT** of cereal (maize grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.

Cereal Insecurity by Pillars
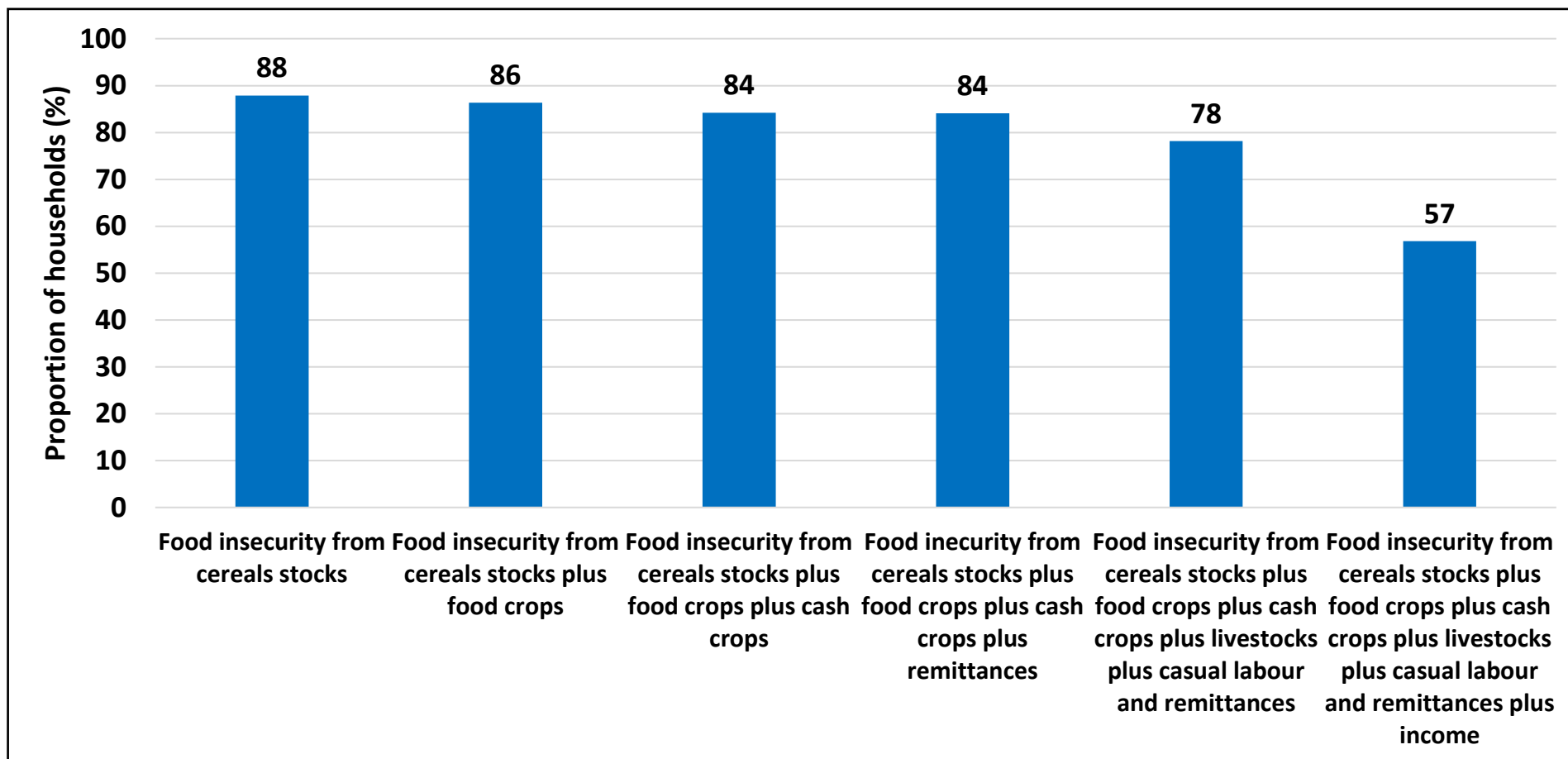
- Considering all sources of potential income, the cereal insecurity prevalence is projected to be 57% during the peak hunger period in the 2024/25 consumption year.

Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020-2024
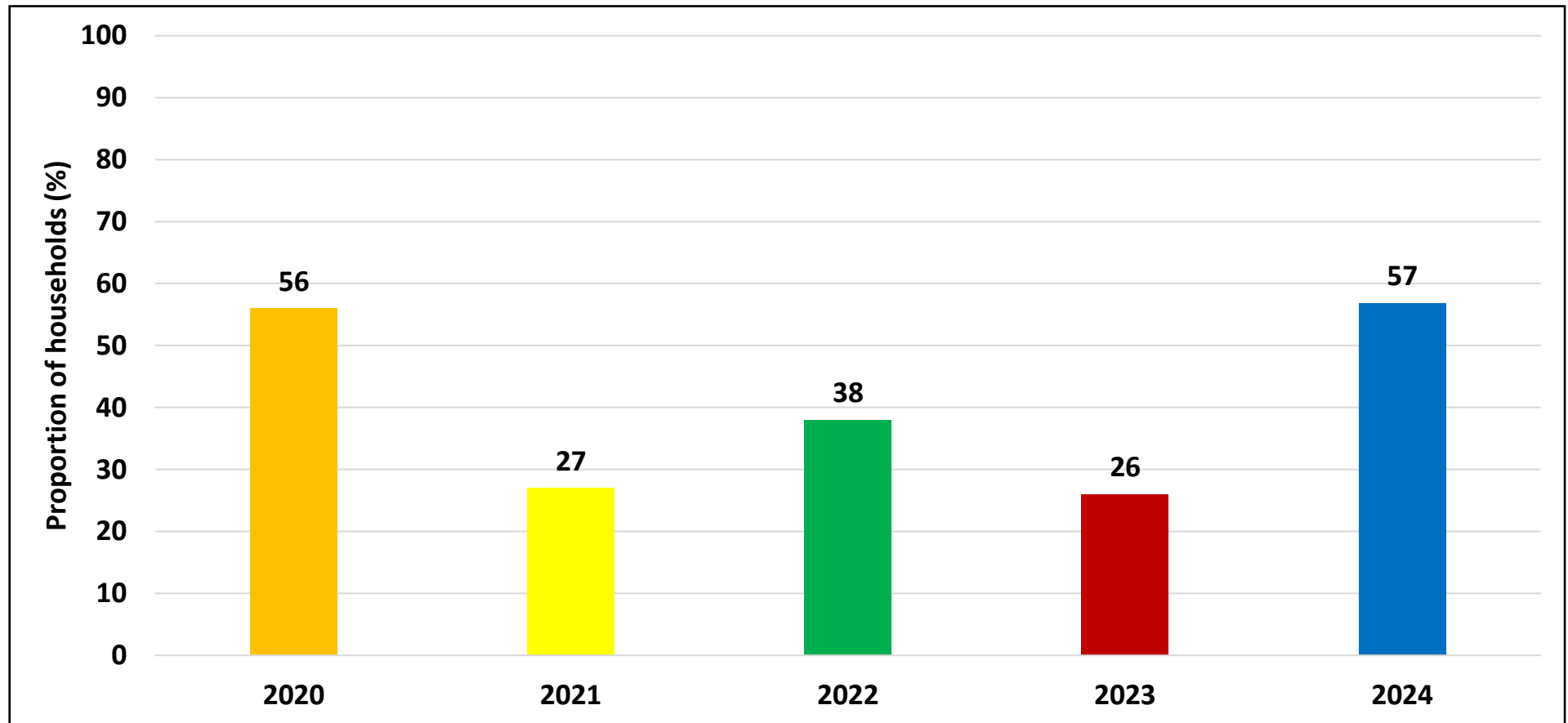
- Generally, the household cereal insecurity has deteriorated across all provinces due to poor rains.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter
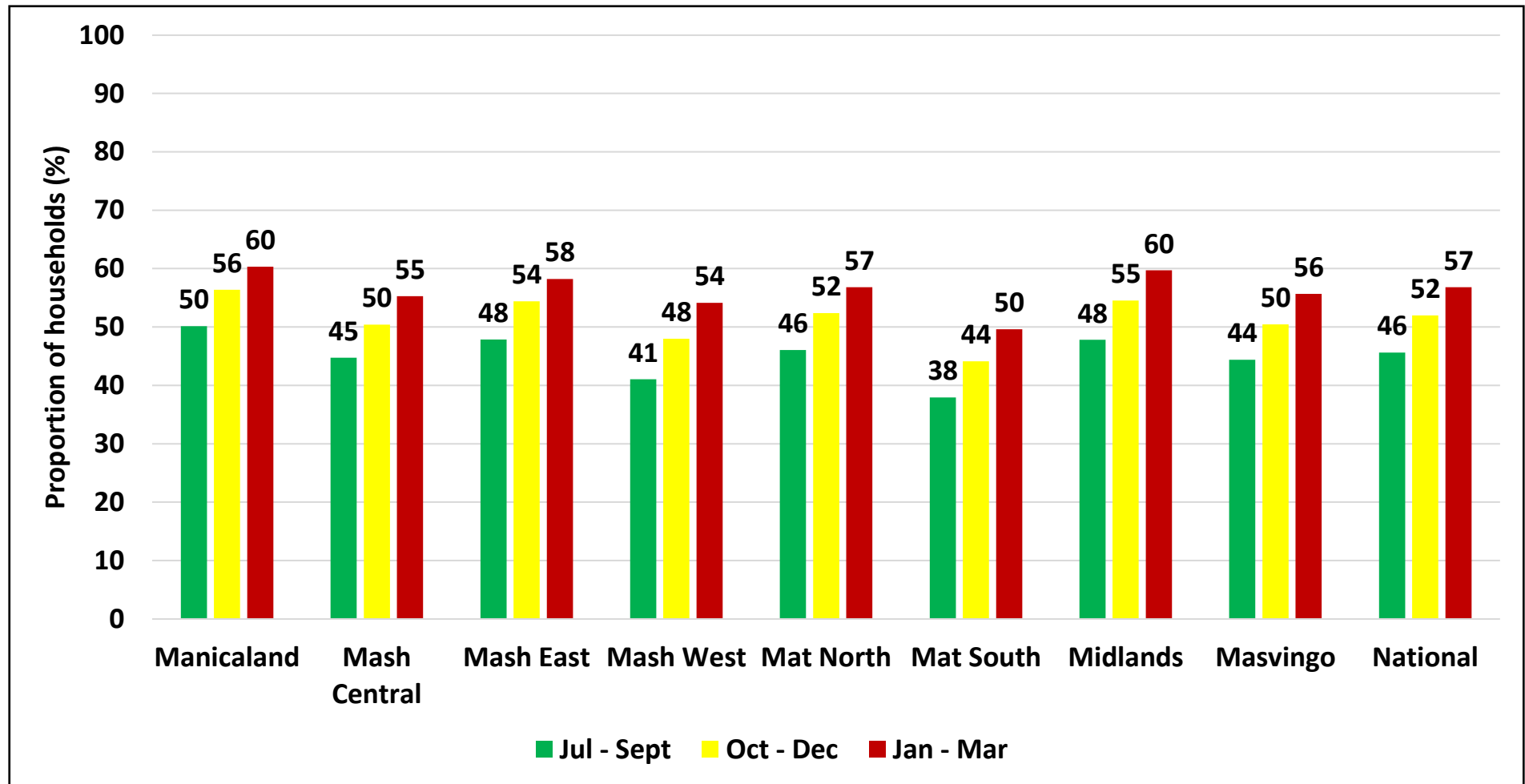
- About 46% of the rural households were projected to be facing food access challenges in the July to September quarter.

Cereal Insecurity (Peak Hunger)
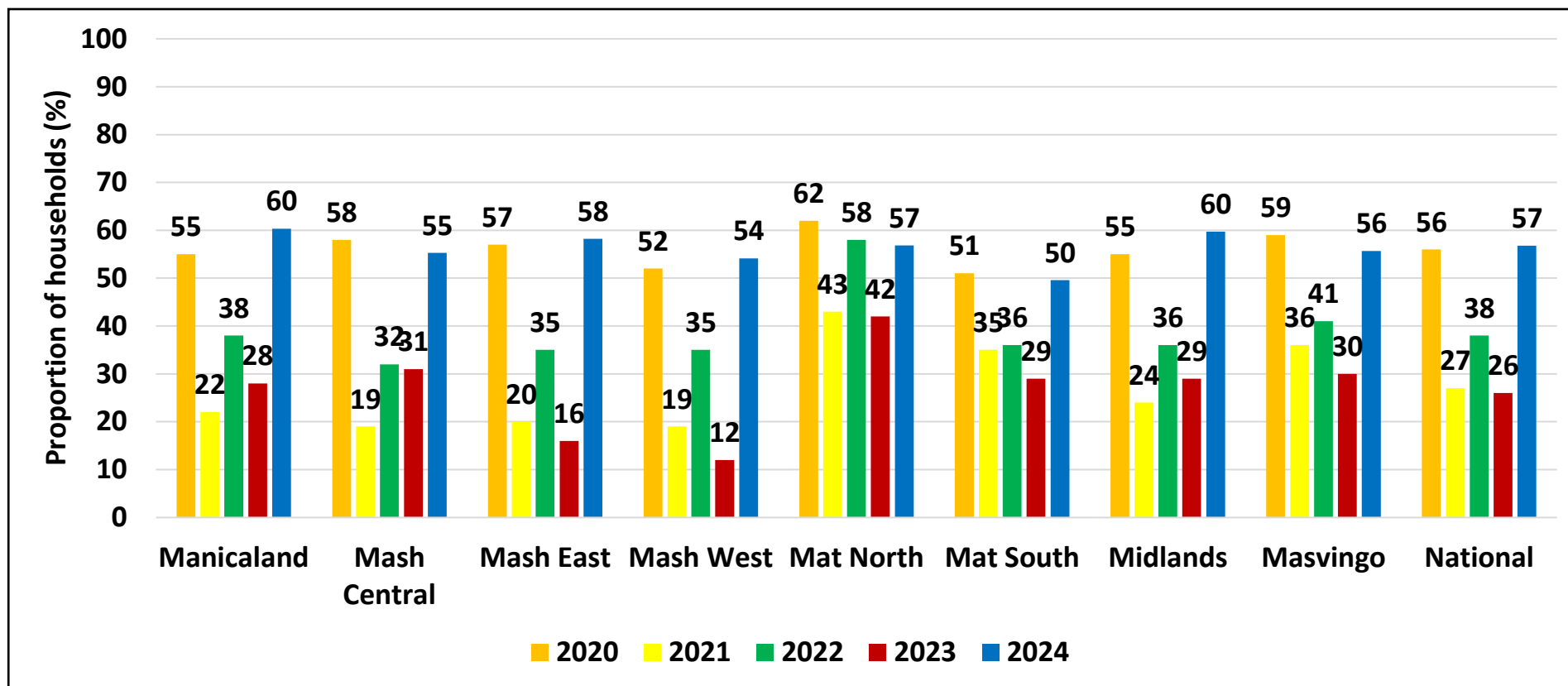
- The proportion of food insecure households during the peak hunger period is projected to be high across all provinces.
- Manicaland (60%), Midlands (60%), Mashonaland East (58%) and Matabeleland North (57%) were projected to have the highest proportion of cereal insecure households.
- Matabeleland South (50%) and Mashonaland West (54%) were projected to have the least.

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

Province	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	872,817	980,800	1,049,770
Mashonaland Central	589,623	664,423	728,640
Mashonaland East	751,828	854,404	914,643
Mashonaland West	596,581	697,741	787,053
Matabeleland North	346,258	393,879	427,389
Matabeleland South	250,472	291,199	327,386
Midlands	656,232	749,023	819,984
Masvingo	669,297	760,863	839,503
National	**4,733,107**	**5,392,332**	**5,894,368**

- Manicaland (1,049,770) and Mashonaland East (914,643) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Requirements (MT) by Province by Quarter

Province	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	32,294	36,290	38,841
Mashonaland Central	21,816	24,584	26,960
Mashonaland East	27,818	31,613	33,842
Mashonaland West	22,073	25,816	29,121
Matabeleland North	12,812	14,574	15,813
Matabeleland South	9,267	10,774	12,113
Midlands	24,281	27,714	30,339
Masvingo	24,764	28,152	31,062
National	**175,125**	**199,516**	**218,092**

- Manicaland (38,841MT) and Mashonaland East (33,842MT) were projected to have the highest cereal requirements during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Insecurity

July to September

October to December

Cereal Insecurity at Peak
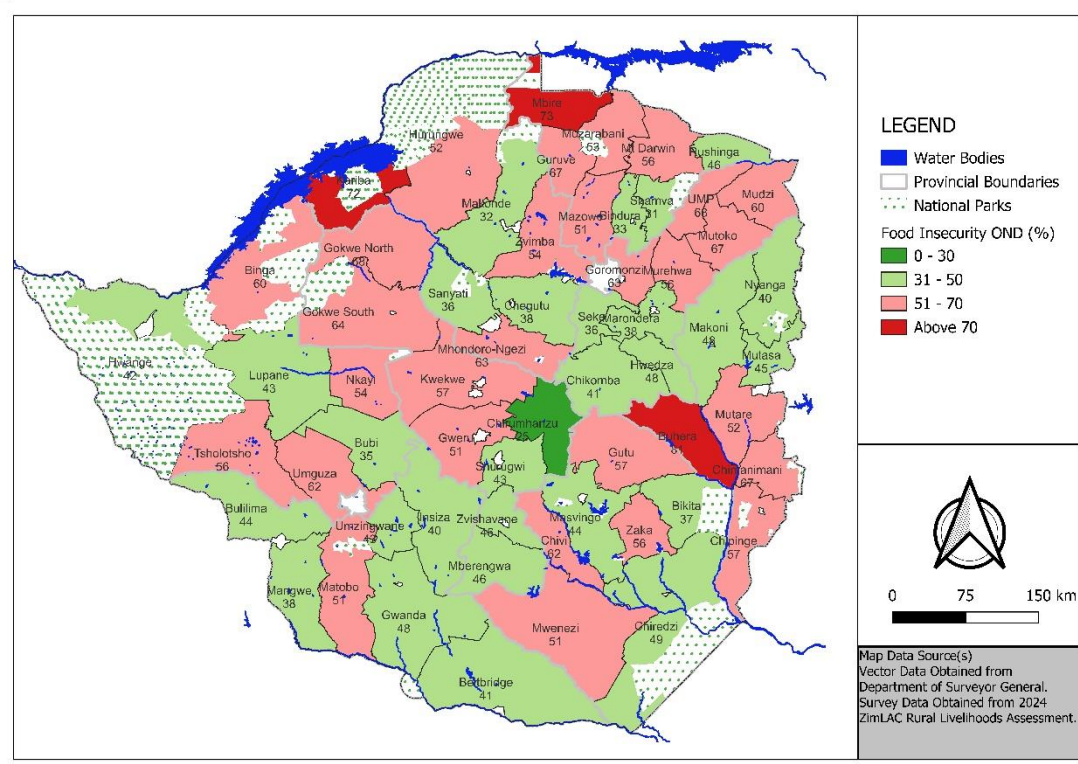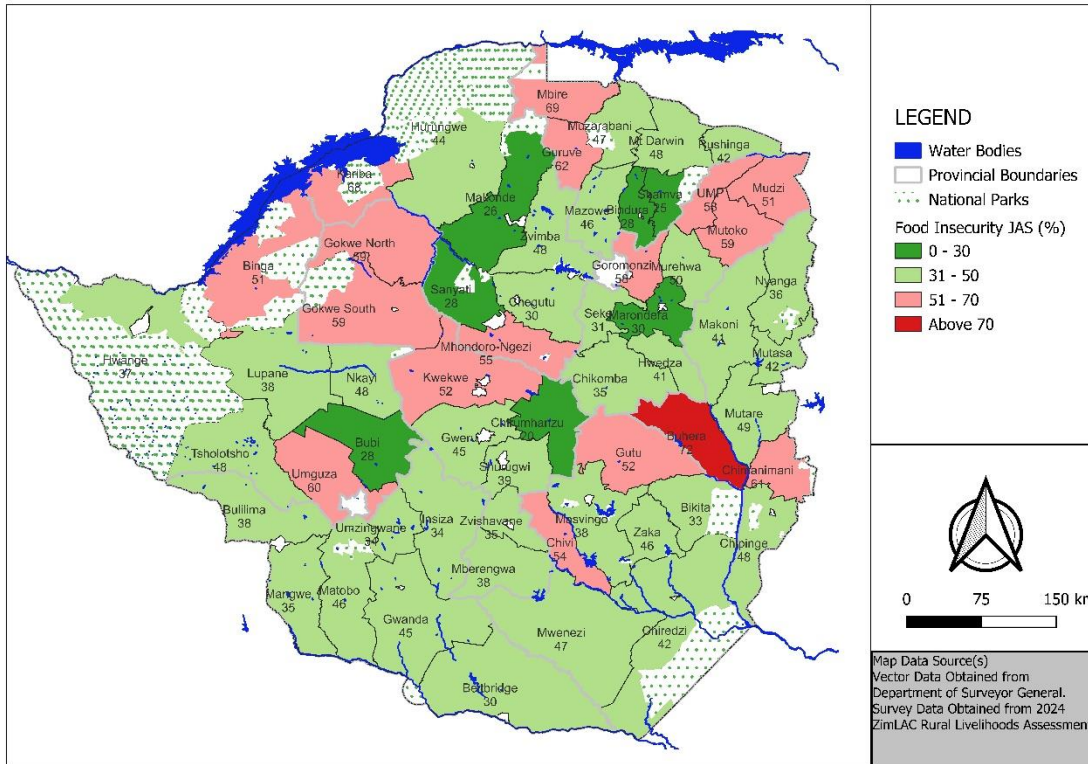
Cereal Insecurity by District
(Top 30 at Jul - Sept)
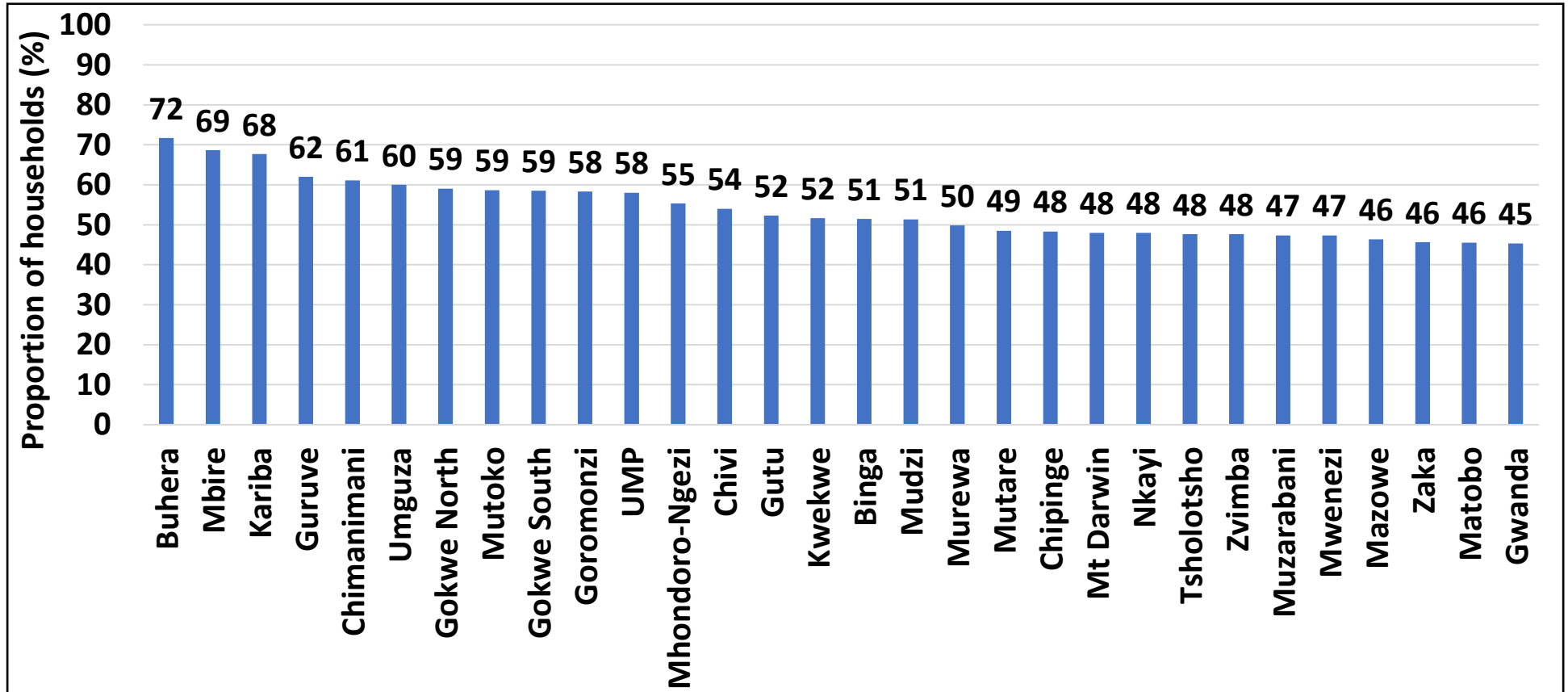
- In the July to September quarter, Buhera (72%) will have the most food insecure households followed by Mbire (69%) and Kariba (68%)

Cereal Insecurity by District (Bottom 30 at Jul - Sept)
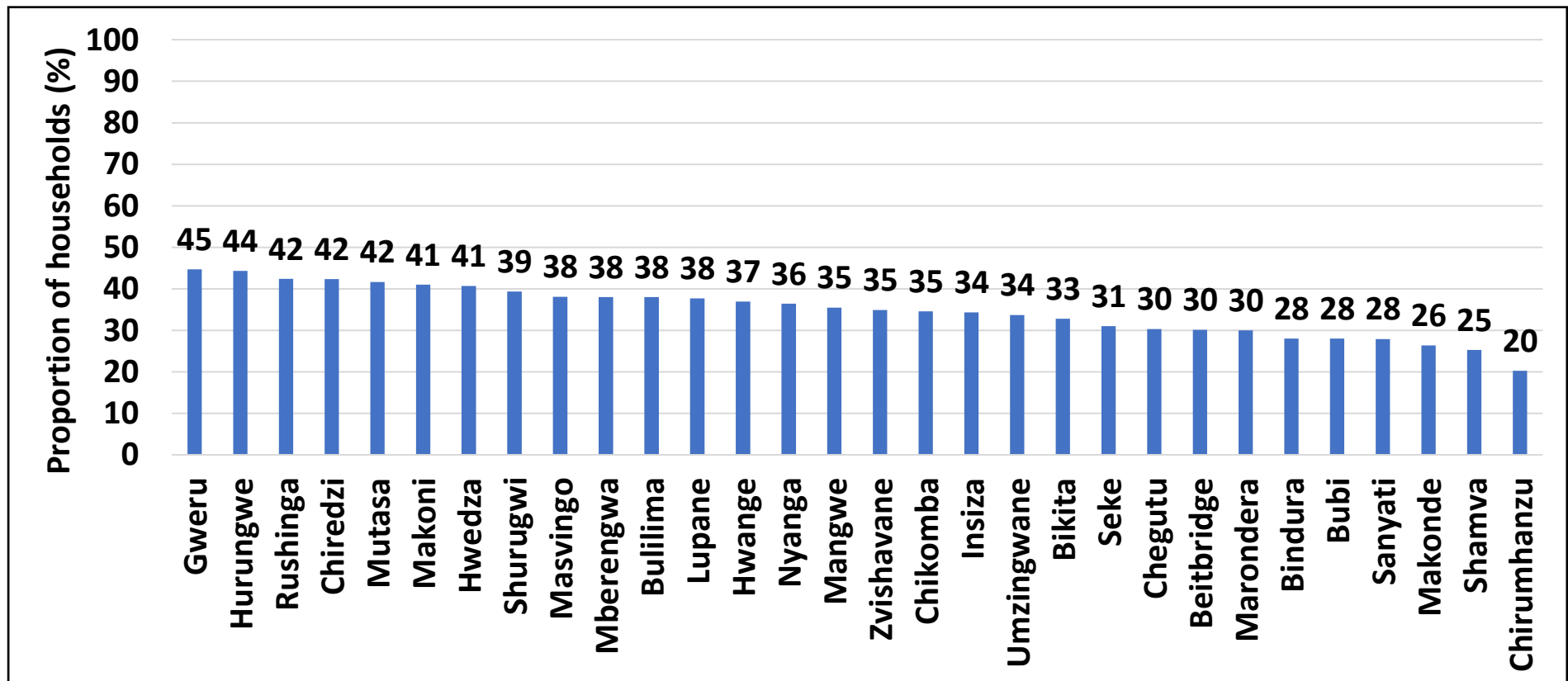
- The least cereal insecurity prevalence is projected in Chirumhanzu (20%), Shamva (25%) and Makonde (26%) in the July to September quarter.

Cereal Insecurity by District
(Top 30 at Oct - Dec)
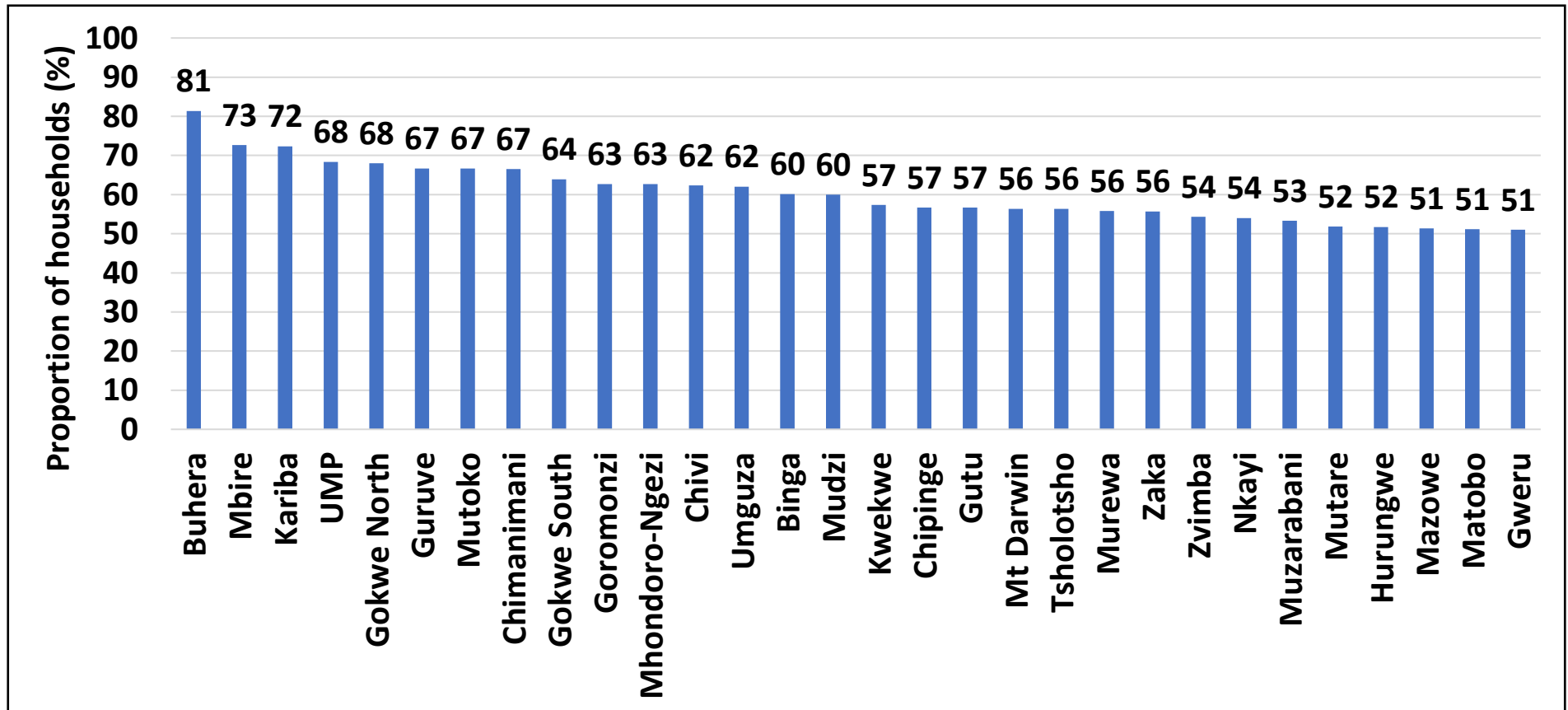
- In the October to December quarter, Buhera (81%) will have the most food insecure households followed by Mbire (73%) and Kariba (72%).

Cereal Insecurity by District (Bottom 30 at Oct - Dec)
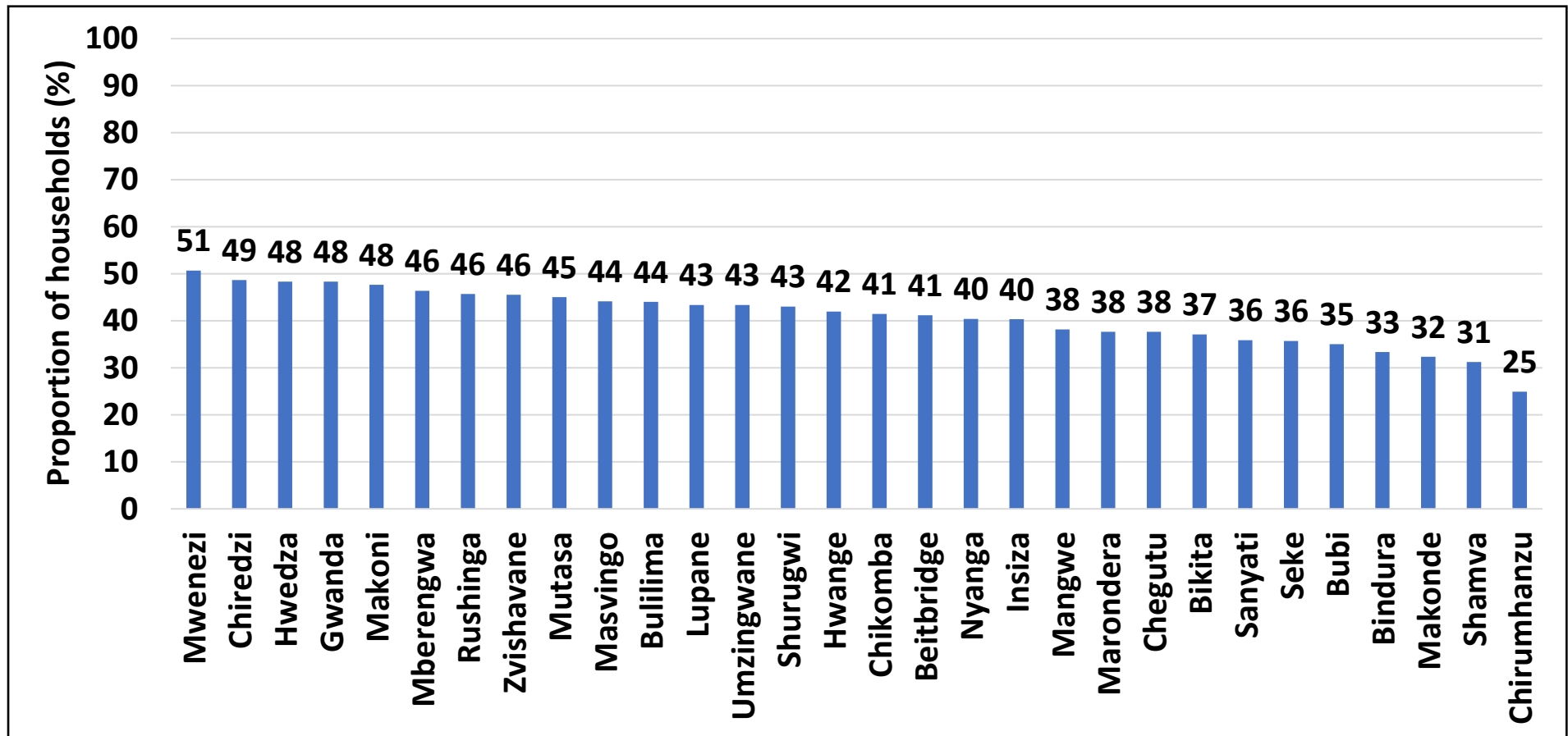
- The least cereal insecurity prevalence is projected in Chirumhanzu (25%), Shamva (31%) and Makonde (32%) in the October to December quarter.

Cereal Insecurity by District
(Top 30 at Peak)
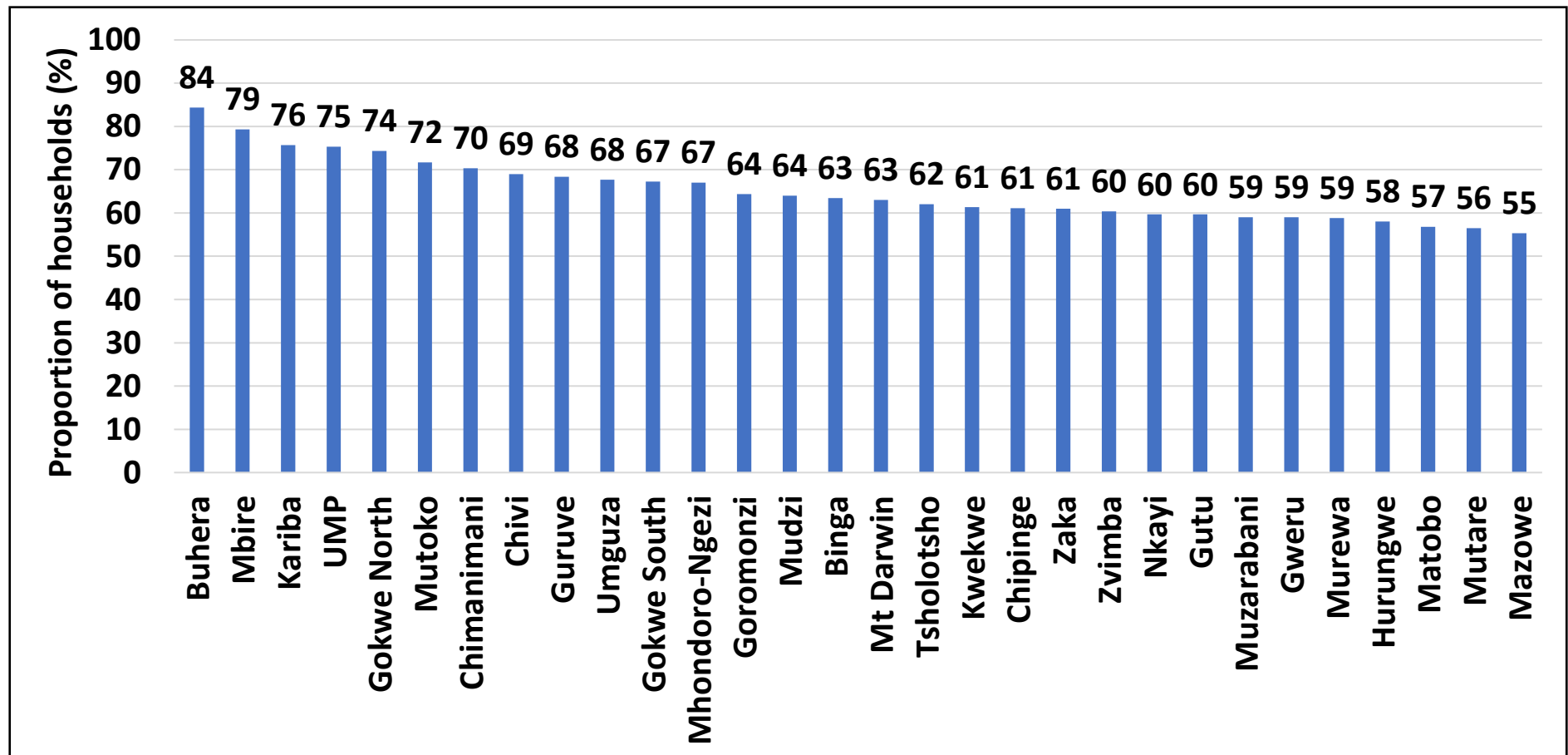
- At the peak of the hunger season, Buhera (84%) will have the most food insecure households followed by Mbire (79%) and Kariba (76%).

Cereal Insecurity by District (Bottom 30 at Peak)
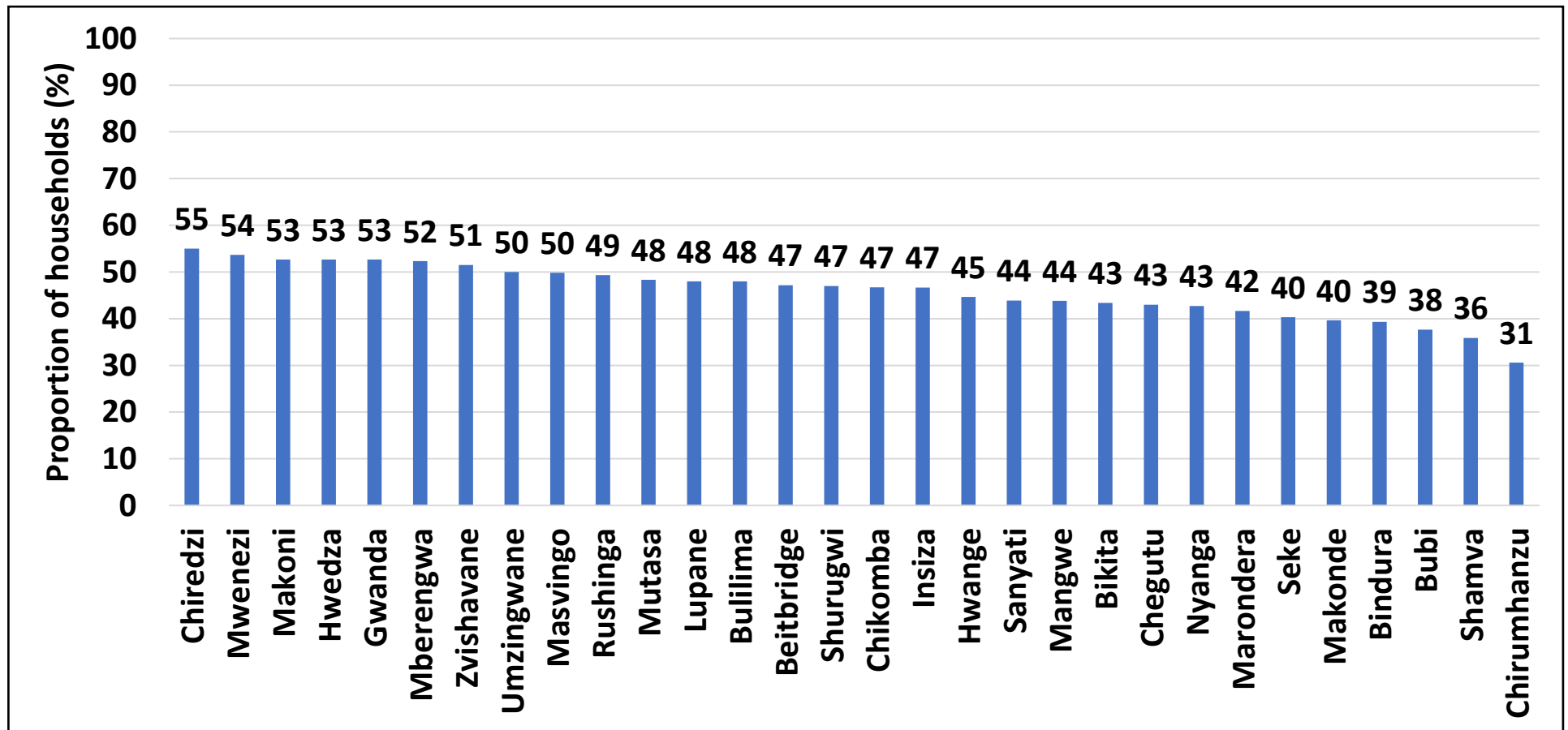
- The least cereal insecurity prevalence is projected in Chirumhanzu (31%), Shamva (36%) and Bubi (38%) at peak.

Cereal Sufficiency, Rainfall and Food Insecurity

District Cereal Sufficiency vs Food Insecurity at Peak
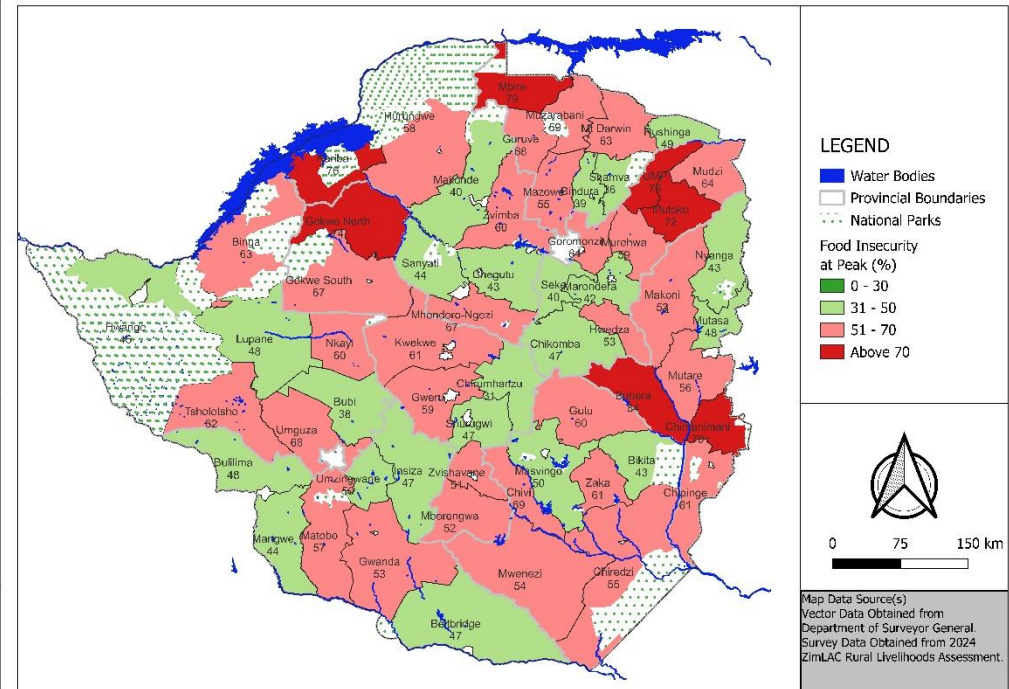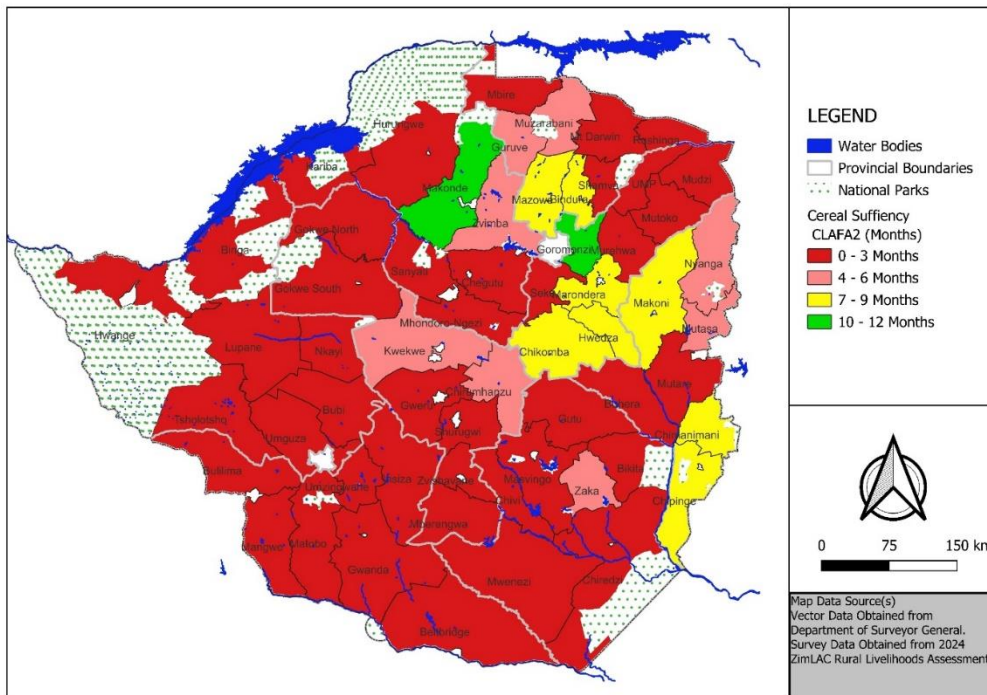
Crop, Livestock & Fisheries Assessment (2ⁿᵈ Round, 2024)
Map Data Source: Table 11: Cereal (Maize and Traditional Grains) Sufficiency For Districts [pg35]

ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Ward Cereal Sufficiency vs Food Insecurity at Peak
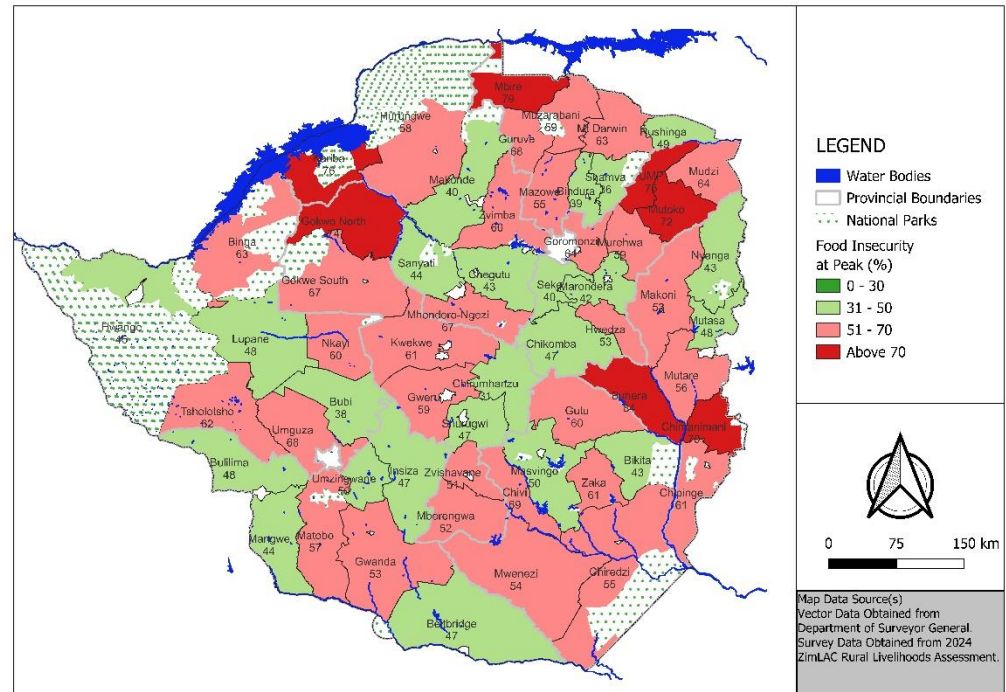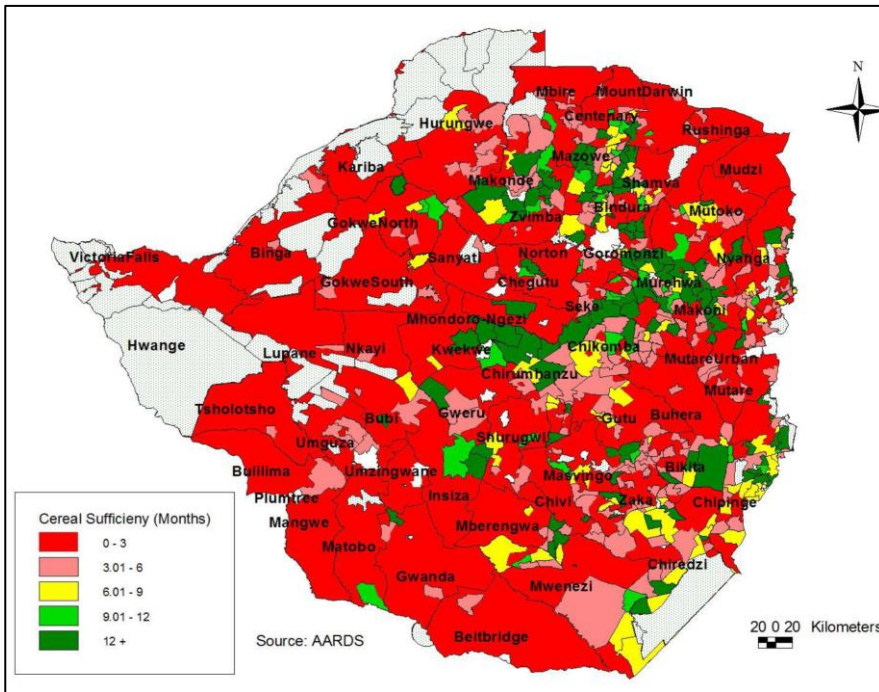
Crop, Livestock & Fisheries Assessment (2nd Round, 2024)
Map Data Source: Figure 12: Cereal (maize and traditional grains) sufficiency for rural wards [pg36]

ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Longest Dry Spell vs Food Insecurity at Peak
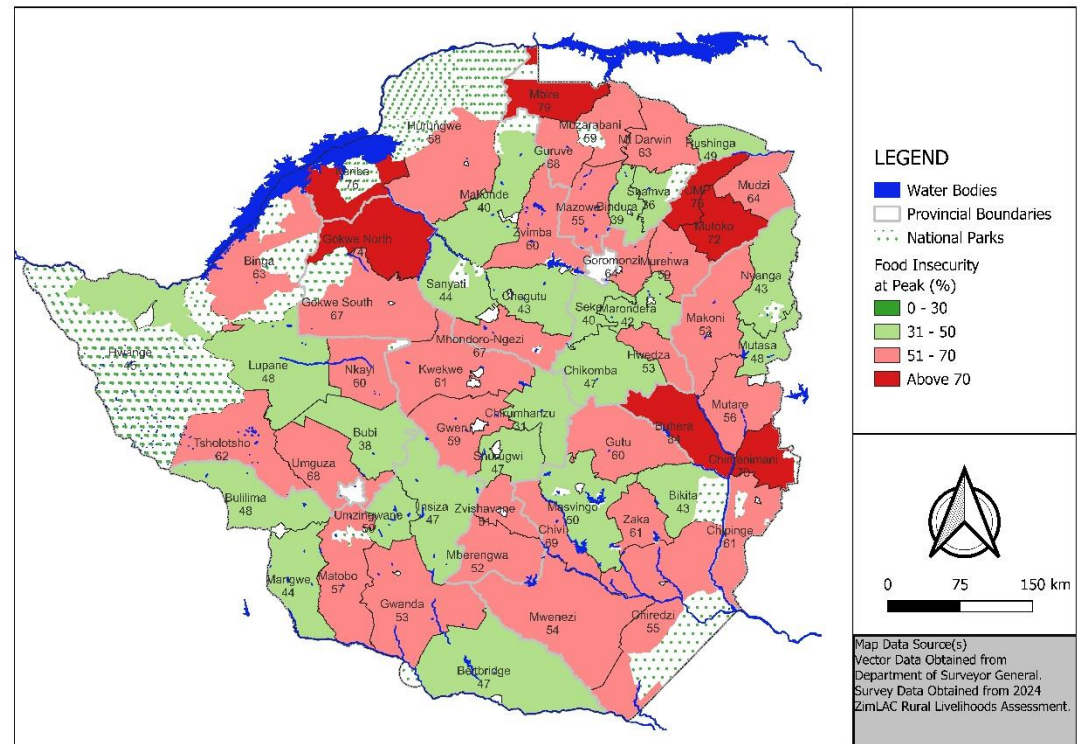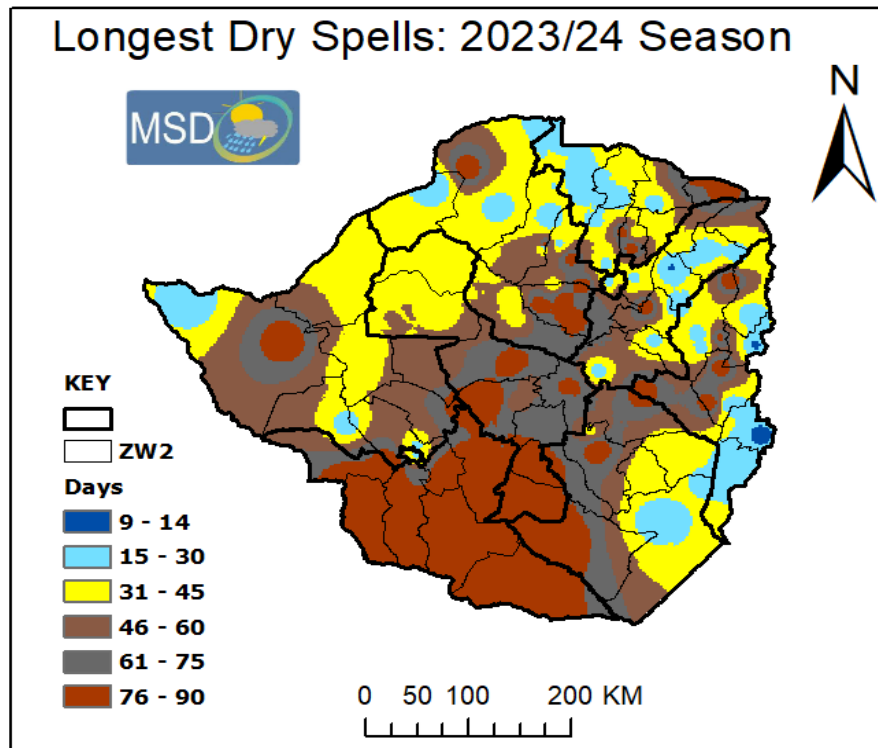
Source: Meteorological Services Department, 2024

ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Percentage of Normal Rainfall (JFM) vs Food Insecurity at Peak
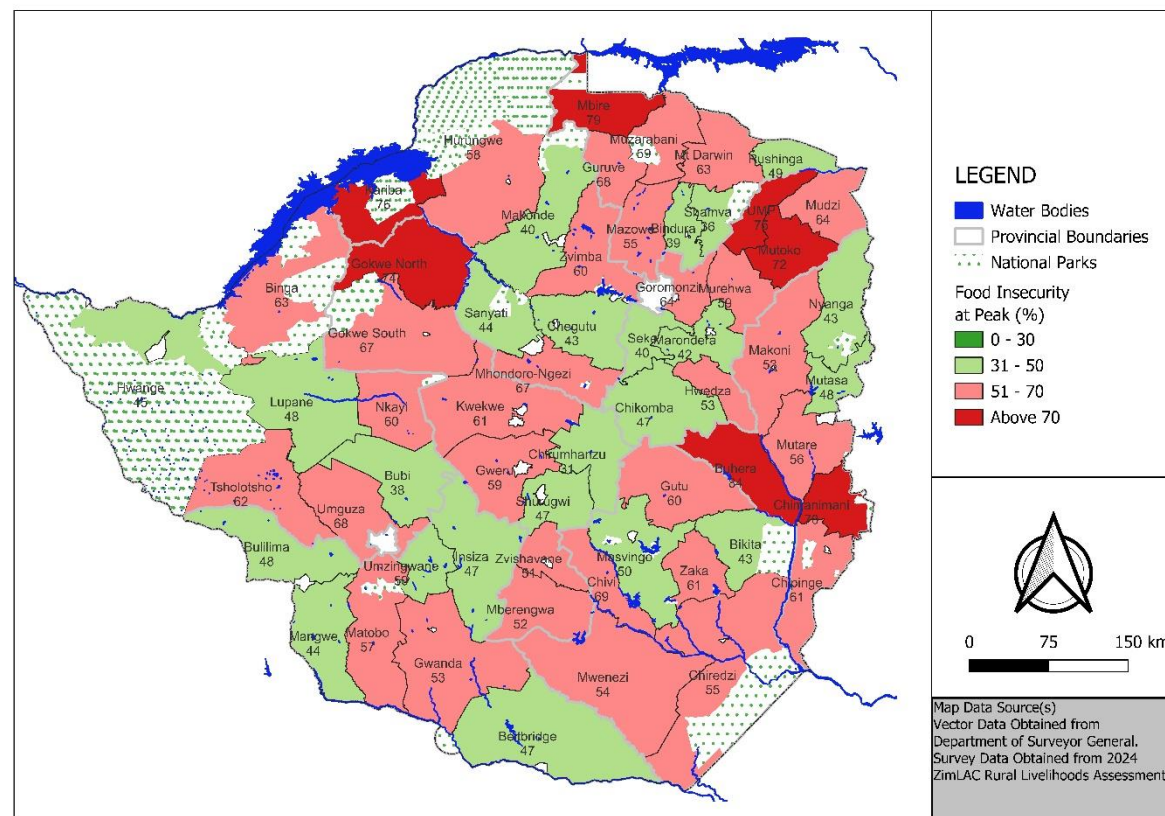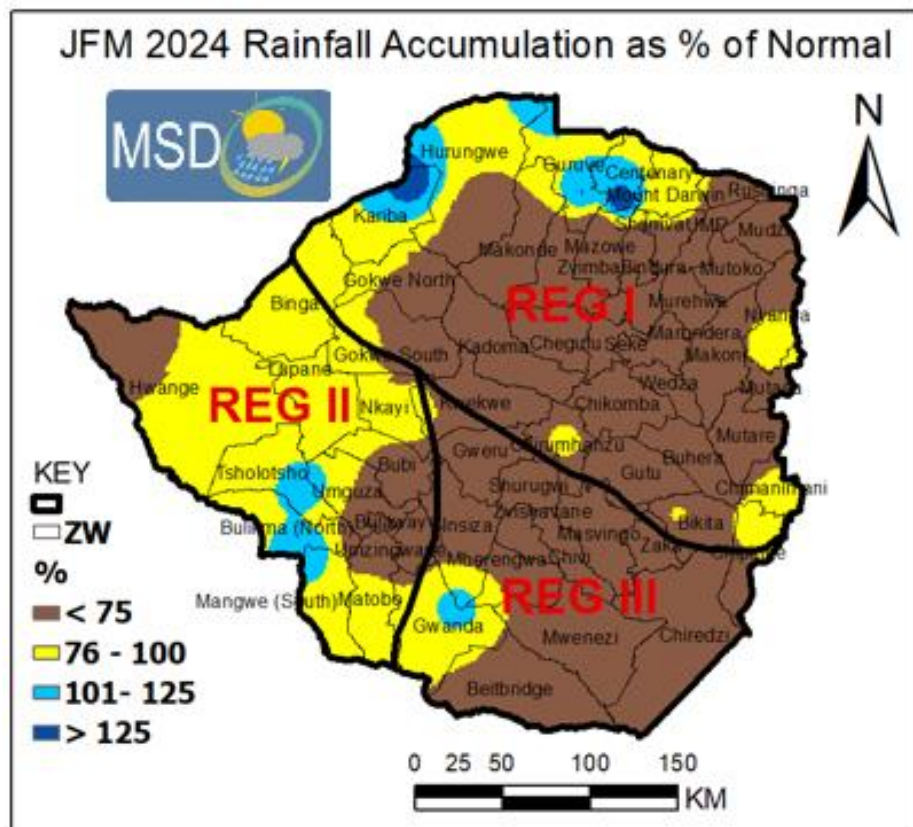
Source: Meteorological Services Department, 2024

ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Accumulated Rainfall (JFM) vs Food Insecurity at Peak
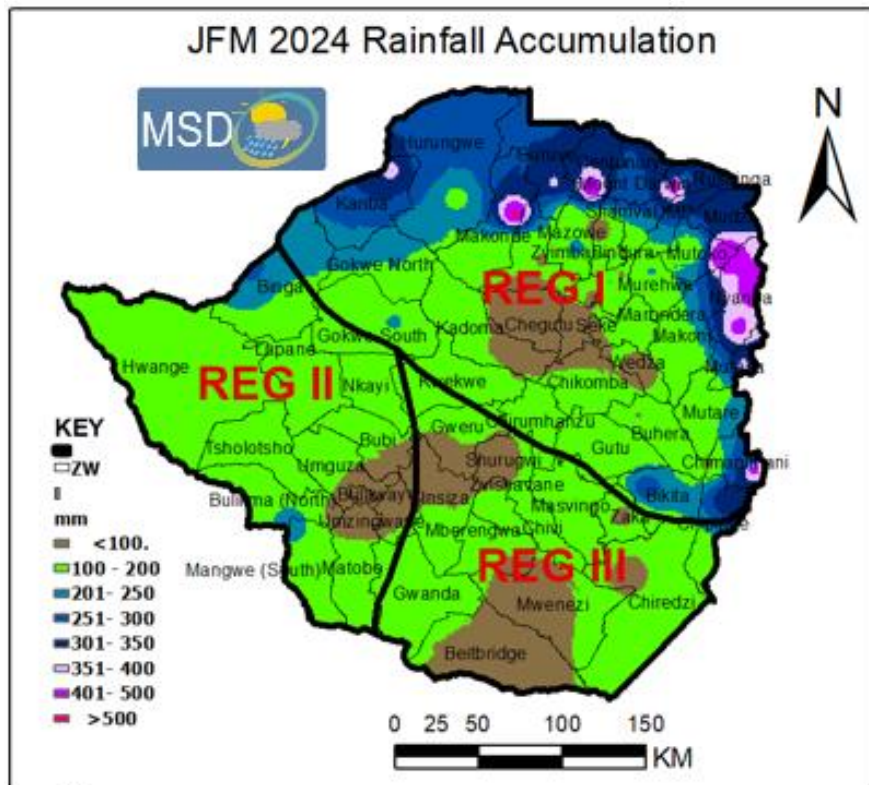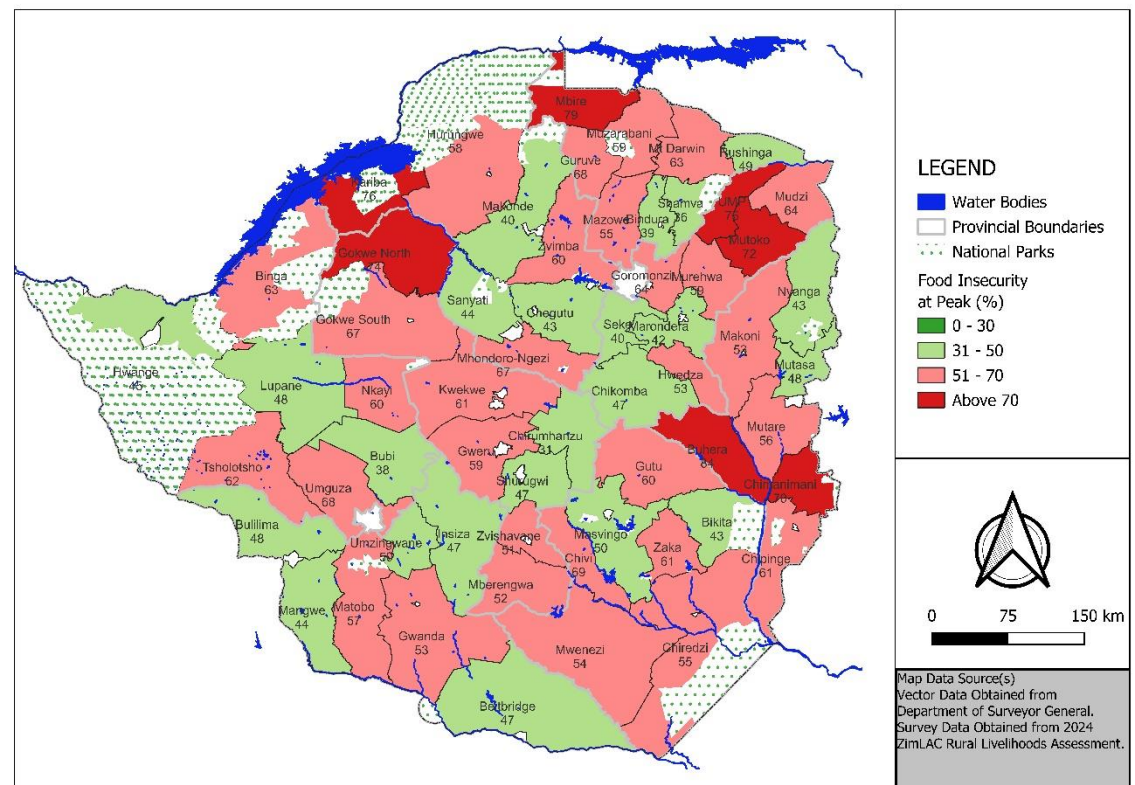
Source: Meteorological Services Department, 2024

ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Percentage of Normal Rainfall (JFM) vs Food Insecurity at Peak
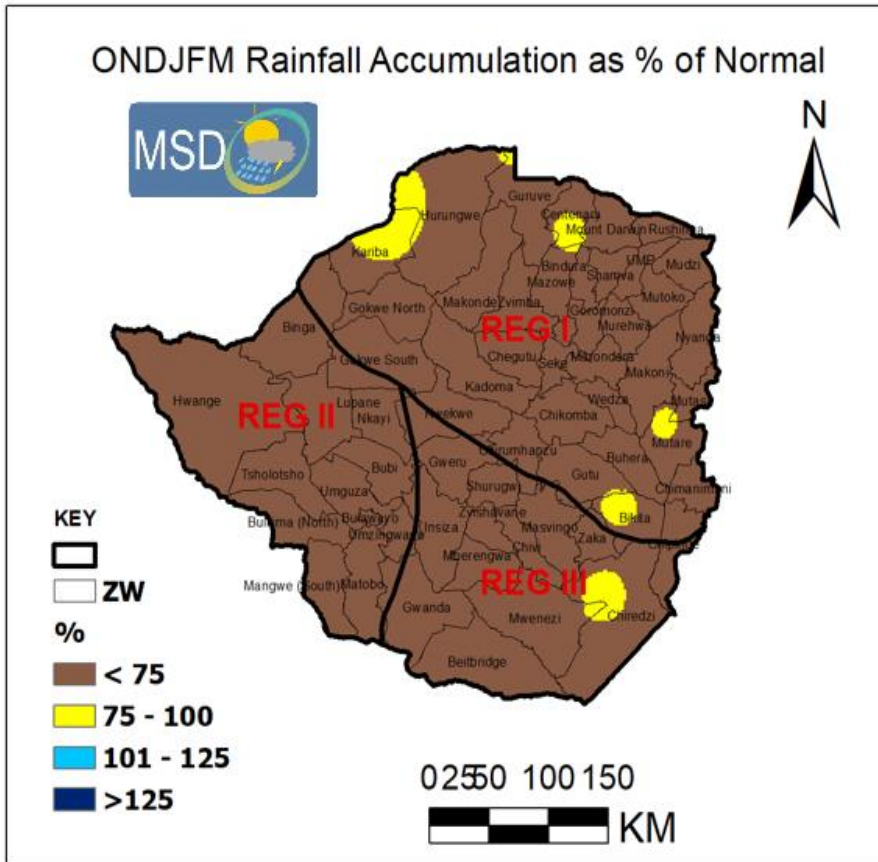
Source: Meteorological Services Department, 2024
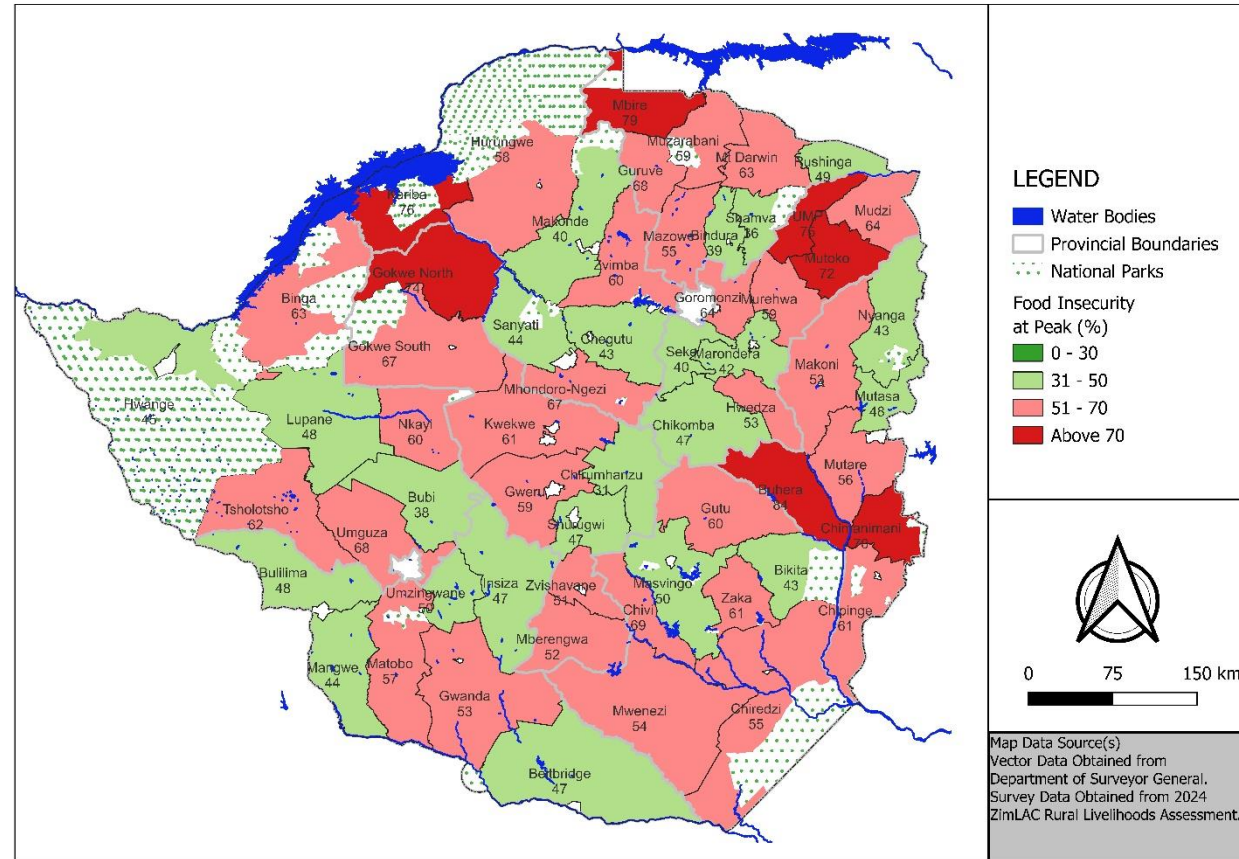
ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Start of Season vs Food Insecurity at Peak

Source: Meteorological Services Department, 2024

ZimLAC RLA, 2024

End of Season vs Food Insecurity at Peak
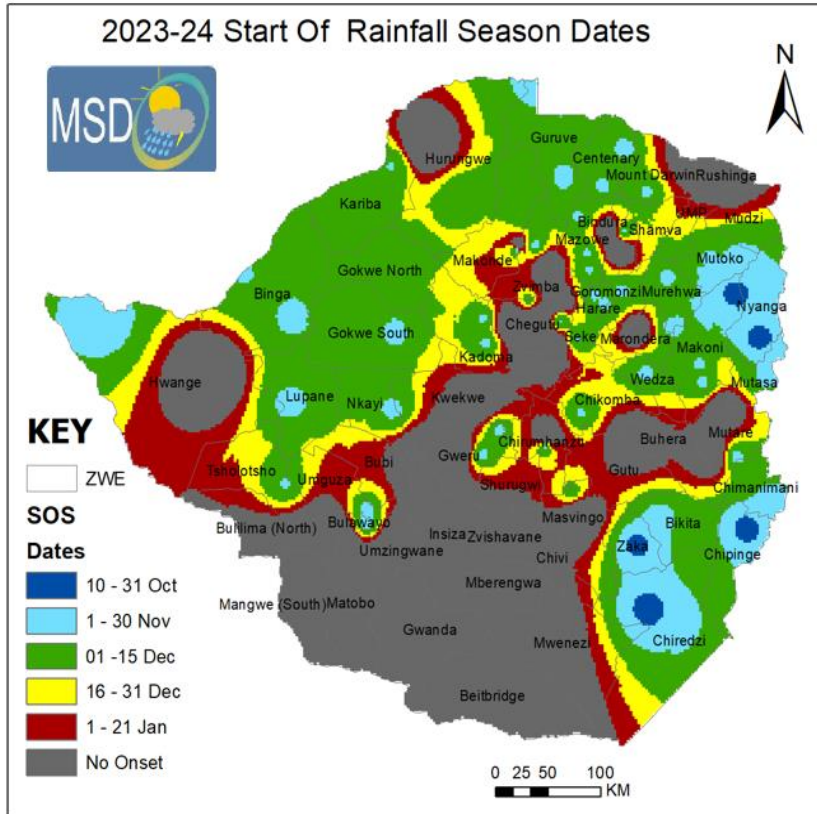
Source: Meteorological Services Department, 2024
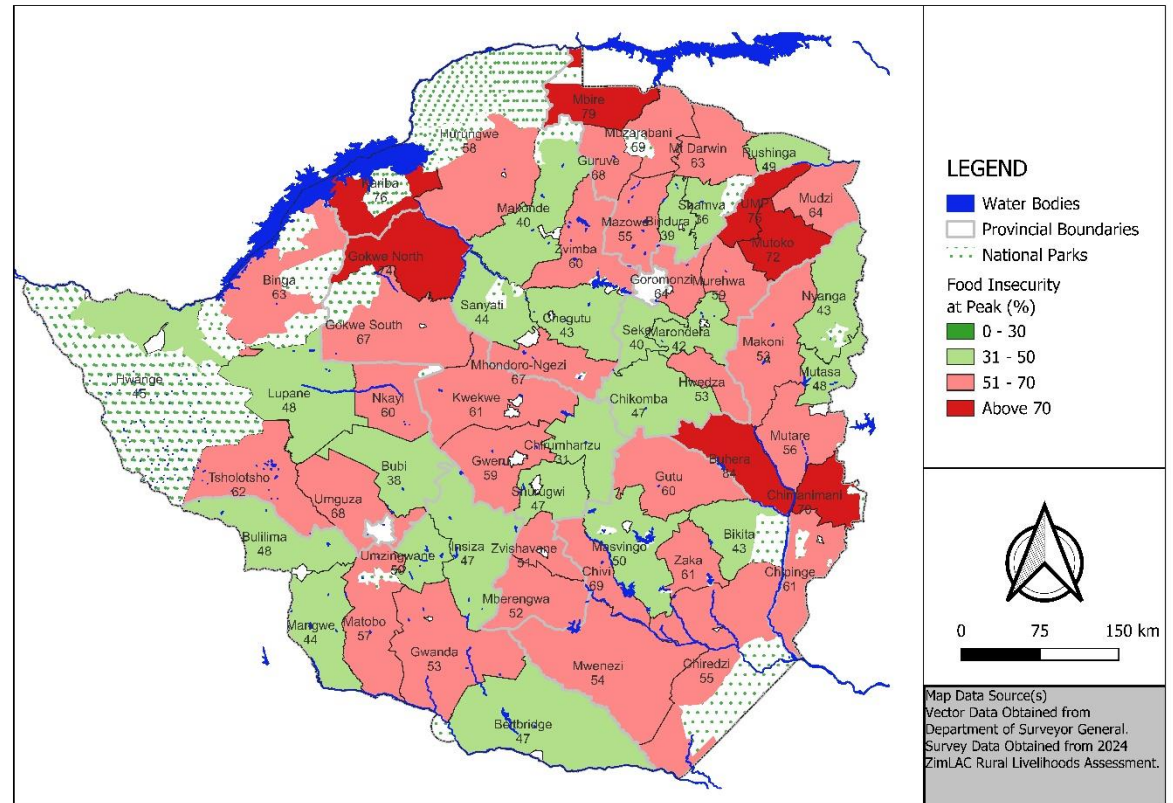
ZimLAC RLA, 2024

Youth Challenges and Priorities

Youth Challenges

Proportion of Communities (%)

Politics 1.3
1.8
Other 2.3
4.7
Shortages of clinics 5.0
6.1
Bad roads 7.5
9.1
Economic challenges/high cost of living 16.4
17.4
Lack of capital 19.8
21.3
Lack of life survival/entrepreneurial skills 27.1
39.5
Prolonged mid-season dry spells 39.5
41.7
Drug and substance abuse 57.6
63.8
Unemployment 79.2
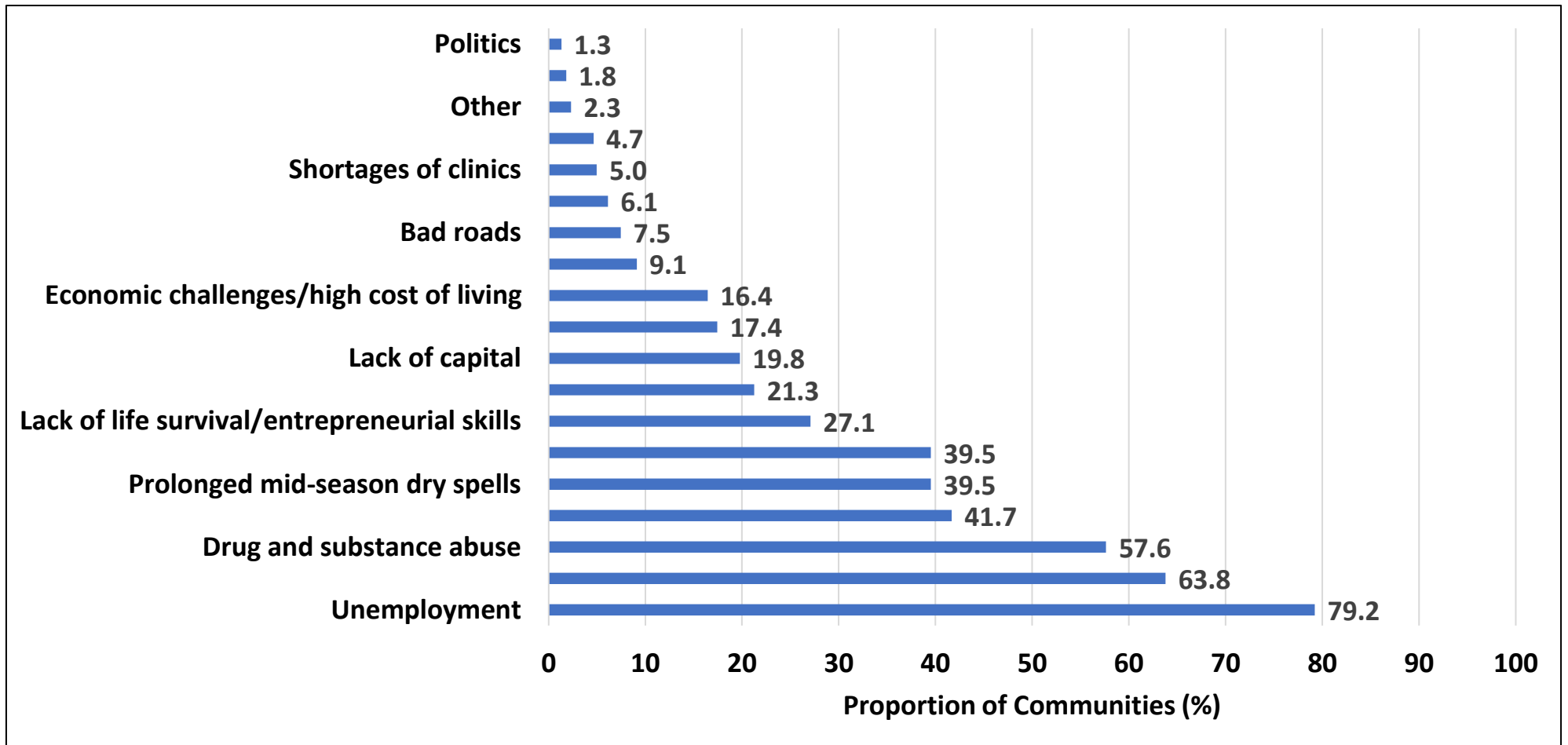
- Unemployment (79.2%), lack of income generating projects (63.8%) and drug and substance abuse (57.6%) were reported as the major challenges affecting youths.

Youth Priorities

Chart — Proportion of Communities (%):

Priority	Proportion of Communities (%)
Markets linkages	10.0
Irrigation schemes	16.4
Piped water schemes	17.1
Livestock support programs	21.1
Access to land for agriculture	21.9
Youth friendly centres (Social centres)	23.4
Dam construction	26.2
Borehole rehabilitation	26.6
Education support (social assistance)	33.2
Start-up capital/loans	46.3
Vocational trainings (skills development)	62.6
Job creation	77.2
Income generating activities	83.6

- Income generating activities (83.6%), job creation (77.2%), vocational training and skills development (62.6%) and start-up capital/loans (46.3%) were reported as the major development priorities for youths.

Community Development Challenges and Priorities

Community Development Challenges

Proportion of Households (%)

Challenge	Value
Lack of /intermittent Electricity supply	2.0
	2.3
Wildlife-human conflict	2.5
	2.5
Poor sanitation facilities	3.0
	3.0
	3.2
Prohibitive By-laws	3.3
Land degradation and pollution	3.3
	4.0
	4.3
Lack of life survival/entrepreneurial skills	4.7
	4.7
Economic challenges/high cost of living/High food prices	5.3
	5.3
Fewer or no vocational training centres	5.6
Corruption	5.8
	6.0
	7.1
Livestock diseases	7.3
School dropouts	8.3
	9.0
Draught Power shortage	9.1
	9.6
Unpredictable and unreliable rainfall patterns	11.5
	11.5
Lack of /limited Water for crop and livestock production	13.1
	14.1
Shortage of cash	15.3
	16.4
Poor Road infrastructure/Bad roads	23.1
	24.8
Lack of income generating projects	34.1
	36.2
Prolonged mid-season dry spells	40.2
	60.3

- On development challenges at national level, prolonged mid-season dry spell (60.3%), unemployment (40.2%) and lack of income generating projects (36.2%) were ranked high by the communities.

Community Development Priorities

Chart: Proportion of Communities (%)

Priority	Proportion of Communities (%)
Revival and development of Industries	0.3
	2.7
Skills and capacity development	3.7
	4.7
Other	5.5
	6.5
Control of wildlife	6.8
	7.1
Livestock disease surveillance and control	9.5
	10.3
Livestock restocking	11.1
	12.5
Vocational Training Centres	13.0
	14.0
Education and related infrastructure improvement	14.3
	15.1
Health services and related infrastructure improvement	20.8
	27.1
Borehole rehabilitation	30.4
	32.4
Road infrastructure development	32.4
	39.5
Dams/Water reservoirs construction	43.5
	49.8

- Most communities prioritised dams/water reservoirs construction (49.8%), income generation projects promotion (43.5%) and road infrastructure development (39.5%) as development priorities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

Education

- Nationally, 22.3% of school going age children were not in school at the time of the assessment. The main reason reported was financial challenges. Government through the Ministries responsible for Education and Social Protection and development partners should strengthen targeting mechanisms and increase resources to ensure that eligible vulnerable children benefit.

- The proportion of children who received a hot meal at school was 7.5%. Studies have shown that the benefits of school feeding include alleviation of short-term hunger, increasing school enrolment, reducing school dropouts and absenteeism. Considering that there was an increase in the proportion of household food insecurity and the prevailing El Nino-induced drought, there is need to scale-up implementation of the Home Grown School Feeding Programme to ensure that children receive adequate and nutritious diets. The Ministry responsible for Education ought to intensify school attendance enforcement and follow up on strategies aimed at keeping children in school. Furthermore, the sector needs to intensify rollout and operationalisation of the school health and nutrition programme.

Disability

- The proportion of households with at least one person living with any form of disability was 3.5%. The Government, through relevant Ministries and Stakeholders should upscale and resource projects that assist persons living with disabilities in setting up their own businesses along all stages of the value chain, from production to processing and to markets. Resourcing of social safety nets for disabled people should also be strengthened.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Social Protection

- Social assistance decreased from 74% to 48% due to the low food insecurity levels prevailing in the previous consumption year. The 2024 ZimLAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment has provided enough evidence for the need to upscale support to vulnerable communities, especially in the face of the El Nino induced drought and future shocks and stressors. The support should consider vulnerability attributes of population groups. Labour endowed households are recommended to engage in public works and food for assets programmes for resilience building to prevent donor dependency.

- The 2024/25 Presidential support is recommended to be distributed early to allow farmers to bounce back better from the losses experienced during the El Niño induced drought. This should be coupled with adequate extension support which will assist farming households to improve their production next season.

Migration

- The main reason for migrating to urban areas reported by households was search for employment opportunities (6%). There is need for Government through the Ministries responsible for Agriculture, Local Government, Women Affairs, Youth and Local Authorities to strengthen and upscale strategies to improve agricultural productivity, promote rural development and encourage entrepreneurship. Promotion of small to medium businesses in rural areas should also be scaled-up.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Food Safety

- The proportion of households which received information on food safety was low (13%). Improving food safety is an essential element of improving food security. There is need to scale-up consumer education and awareness on food safety issues to enable households to make healthy food choices.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- There has been no change in terms of sanitation over the past five years and the proportion of households practising open defecation was high (25%). There is need for a multi-sectoral approach to strengthen behaviour change interventions aimed at creating awareness on the dangers of open defecation on health and nutrition outcomes and stimulate demand-led sanitation and hygiene. The role of Traditional Leaders in enforcing the implementation of sanitation programmes must be enhanced through implementation of local by-laws and fines for actions such as settling at new homesteads without toilets and open defecation. There is need to continue adopting community initiatives at household level which promote construction of toilets to ensure use of improved sanitation facilities by all.

- There is need for the Rural Infrastructure Development Authority, the National Institute of Health Research and the Innovation hubs in local tertiary institutions to conduct exploratory studies in high prevalence districts to come up with innovative models suitable in areas with unstable soils.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Shocks and Hazards

- In addressing climate-related shocks which include prolonged dry spells (88.7%), the Government should continue to accelerate drought-proofing and drought relief programmes effective at mitigating the impact of drought on crops. The Ministry responsible for Agriculture should continue advocating for and implementing climate-smart agricultural practices; channeling investments in indigenous knowledge systems; supporting the widespread adoption of traditional grains and commercialising rural agriculture.

- In addressing the reported increase in human-wildlife conflict which has mainly affected populations in Kariba (53.7%), Gutu (45.5%), Hwange (40.3%) and Mbire (40%) (areas that are proximal to protected nature reserves) it is recommended to ensure the capacity and resourcing of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, particularly strengthening implementation of the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE).

- The proportion of households engaging in livelihood coping strategies which undermine the future productivity of the household, increased from 39% to 53%. The Government and its partners are urged to boost implementation of policies and strategies focusing on livelihood diversification and resilience building of households to deal with economic and natural shocks to ensure sustainable livelihoods and economic growth in rural areas.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Household Income

- The majority of rural households rely on agriculture-based livelihood options which are susceptible to climate change and variability. Average household monthly income declined from USD 116 in 2023 to USD 88 in 2024, a reflection of how rural livelihoods were negatively impacted by the poor performance of the season. There is need for continued enhancement of rural livelihoods options that are resilient to agriculture related shocks.

Agriculture Production and Technologies

- Adoption of climate-smart technologies was prominent in the use of quality-certified seeds (34.1%) and Pfumvudza/Intwasa (52.3%), alongside the promotion of effective natural resource management practices. There is need to scale up production of mechanisation technologies for climate smart agriculture and make them affordable, as well as have an integrated approach to implementing Pfumvudza/Intwasa.

- The most common improved livestock practices were deworming (15%) and dipping (33.1%). Significant investments should be made towards ensuring a good animal health industry for good animal health management for the delivery of key outcomes. The investments should focus on creating policy enabling environments, sustainable production, livestock risk management, including pests and diseases and research and technological transfers to drive efficient practices.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Infant and Young Child Feeding

- Breastfeeding up to two years and beyond is one of the high impact child survival strategies. While a high proportion of children (90%) were ever breastfed, only 20.1% of infants under six months of age were exclusively breastfed, falling short of the World Health Assembly's target of 50% by 2025. Innovative Baby Friendly Initiatives (community and institution based) such as localised on-job mentorship should be expanded to cover all institutions offering delivery services to improve optimal breastfeeding practices. In addition, strengthening of community Care Groups, community synergy initiatives and attendance of ante-natal care sessions initiatives is recommended to ensure continuum of care during the window of opportunity (first 1000 days). Under the technical leadership of the Ministry responsible for Health and Child Care, this should be augmented by task-sharing with other relevant Ministries such as those responsible for gender and women affairs and agriculture, bringing in the multi-sectoral approach to realise optimal IYCF practices at community level.

- The Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) remained low at 2.3%, below the national target of 25%. Only 4.8% of children were consuming diversified diets. Additionally, children consuming unhealthy foods (18%) and those not consuming fruits and vegetables (45%) further impacts negatively on children's diet quality outcomes. There is need to standardise and co-ordinate dissemination of nutrition messaging using various platforms including use of existing community structures, community radios, text messages, churches and local gatherings. The multi-sectoral approach should be strengthened to facilitate the operationalisation process of the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (MFNSS), holding sectors accountable for their actions towards improving the quality of diets of children.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Nutrition Status

- Child wasting (Global Acute Malnutrition) was 4.9 % at national level with Mashonaland West (7.3%), Matabeleland North (5.7%), Manicaland (5.6%) and Mashonaland East (5.1%) having proportions above the 5% WHO threshold for emergency response. Child wasting carries a high risk of death if left unmanaged. The nutrition sector must remain alert and actively monitor the caseload of severe wasting especially towards the lean season between September 2024 and March 2025. It is recommended to set up sentinel site surveillance mechanisms in provinces 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.

- Children are always first affected when household food security deteriorates due to their high nutrient requirements to support growth and development. It is recommended to include nutrient-dense and protein-rich food for children 6 months to 2 years of age in the Government Lean Season Assistance food baskets.

- Treasury ought to avail resources to secure and maintain the pipeline of essential nutrition commodities required to prevent child mortality and treat the rising proportion of children with life-threatening wasting (acute malnutrition).

- The Ministry responsible for Health and Child Care through community health workers should support increased community-based screening for surveillance and monitoring as well as early identification and referral to treatment for children with wasting.

- The findings have shown that most of the rural communities are engaged in exercise or physical activity on a daily basis. The health benefits of physical activity include reduced risk of developing chronic conditions and cancers. The Ministries responsible for Health, Youth and Education should continue scaling-up the implementation of a group of interventions that work in synergy to promote healthy behaviours and adoption of regular physical activity across all age groups.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- In the face of high overweight and obesity among adults 18-59 years (33.2%) and adults 60 years and above (39.5%), policies and legislation are needed to promote healthy food environments, both formal and informal and to empower consumers to make nutritious food choices. The Ministry responsible for Health and Child Care needs to scale-up nutrition education and awareness to prevent risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Nutrition education can raise awareness about the consequences of poor dietary behaviours. More locally tailor-made nutrition education campaigns and awareness efforts are needed to educate the communities about healthy nutritional behaviours.

Food Security

- Over 20% of the households which did not have adequate cereal to complete the consumption year indicated that they would use savings, incomes and remittances to purchase cereal on the market. There is need for the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and the private sector to ensure that staple cereals will be available on the market for cereal deficit households with the means to purchase to do so throughout the consumption year. This assumption is based on the Government maintaining the liberalised maize trade regime.

- At peak (January to March 2025), 57% of the rural households (approximately 5,894,368 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The quarterly cereal requirements from the National Strategic Grain reserve will be 175,125MT for the July to September 2024 period; 199,516MT for the October to December 2024 period and 218,092MT for the January to March 2025 period. The total cereal requirement for the July 2024 to March 2025 period will be 592,733 MT.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Community and Youth Development Issues

- Communities reported that unemployment, lack of income generating projects and drug and substance abuse were the major challenges affecting youth development. Prolonged mid-season dry spells, unemployment and lack of income generating projects were the most reported community development challenges. Communities identified dam construction, income generating projects promotion and road infrastructure as their development priorities.

- There is need for Government through the responsible ministries and departments (RIDA, ZINWA, Ministries responsible for Agriculture, Transport, Youth and Women Affairs) and its development partners to increase investment in the development of water resources, income generating activities and road infrastructure establishment and rehabilitation. Initiatives by the Government, private sector and development partners to enhance economic opportunities for the youth are recommended. These may include promotion of income generating activities, vocational training and skills development and improved access to start-up capital and loans. Efforts by the Ministry responsible for Public Service on drug and substance abuse also need to be strengthened.