Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

2019 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report








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Foreword

The Food and Nutrition Council successfully coordinated the 19th Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) in May 2019 in the spirit of strengthening the National Food and Nutrition Security Information System (FNSIS). This assessment was carried out under the auspices of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) which acts as a technical advisory committee. The Committee is comprised of representatives from Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia.

In its endeavour to 'promote and ensure adequate food and nutrition security for all people at all times', the Government of Zimbabwe has continued to exhibit its commitment for reducing food and nutrition insecurity, poverty and improving livelihoods amongst the vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe through operationalization of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP). This report covers and provides updates on pertinent rural livelihoods issues such as education, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns and food security among other issues. The report concludes by giving specific recommendations on each of the thematic areas outlined in the report. Our sincere hope is that this report will give both Government and Development Partners the much needed empirical evidence for planning, programming and decision making which in turn will result in targeted community interventions.

We want to express our profound gratitude to ZimVAC for successfully conducting this survey. In the same spirit, the active role played by the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels is greatly appreciated. Financial support and technical leadership received from the Government of Zimbabwe and its Development Partners is also greatly appreciated. Without this support, the 2019 Rural Livelihoods Assessment would not have been successful. The leadership, coordination and management of the whole assessment displayed by the staff at the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) is also greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the rural communities of Zimbabwe as well as the rural local authorities for cooperating and supporting this assessment.

We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work. We hope it will light your way as you search for lasting measures in addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

George D. Kembo
FNC Director/ ZimVAC Chairperson

Acknowledgements

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

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
- SIRDC
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- SADC RVAC
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement
- Ministry Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
- Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-ZRBF)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP)
- HOCC
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET)
- Rural District Councils
- Save the Children
- Amalima
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- National AIDS Council (NAC)
- World Vision
- Oxfam
- Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- Local Initiatives and Development Agency
- Jointed Hands Welfare Organisation
- Meteorological Services Department (MSD)
- Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA)
- Sizimele
- Institute of Food and Nutrition and Family Sciences (IFNFS, UZ)
- Development Aid from People to People (DAPP
- Cluster Agricultural Development Services (CADS)
- NAZ
- Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger (REACH)
- Red Cross
- CARE International
- Aquaculture Trust
- Plan International

- Tsuro Trust
- ENSURE
- Midlands AIDS Service Organisation (MASO)
- Heifer International Zimbabwe
- Caritas
- Zim Ahead
- Mwenezi Development Training Centre (MDTC)
- Lutheran Development Services
- HDF
- Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT)

Acknowledgement of Support

Acronyms

EA	Enumeration Area
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FNC	Food and Nutrition Council
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
FNSIS	Food and Nutrition Security Information System
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HHS	Household Hunger Score
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
RLA	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
TSP	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Background and Introduction

Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

ZimVAC is a consortium of Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. It 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 malnutrition.
ZimVAC 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 supporting 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 2019 RLA was undertaken to guide the following:

- Evidence based planning and programming
- Early warning for early action
- Evaluation of performance against national priorities (TSP, FNSP, SDGs) and the success and failures of programmes at local levels

Purpose

The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on rural livelihoods for informing 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 2019/20 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity

2. To assess the nutrition status of children aged 6 – 59 months in rural households.

3. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.

4. To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions.

5. To identify development priorities for communities.

6. To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.

7. To measure household resilience and identify constraints to improving their resilience.

8. To assess impact and severity of cyclone Idai on people's livelihoods.

9. To identify early recovery needs in order to determine short to long term recovery strategies.

Background

- The assessment was carried out in an environment where the Government had set in motion a Transitional Stabilization Programme (TSP) in a bid to set the economy on a recovery path after years of stagnation. The TSP has been set to run from October 2018 to December 2020 with the aim of operationalizing Vision 2030 which seeks to transform Zimbabwe into a middle-income country with a per capita income of USD 3 500 per person.

- The programme focuses on the following factors:

  - Stabilizing the macro-economy, and the financial sector;

  - Introducing necessary policy and institutional reforms to translate to a private sector-led economy;

  - Addressing infrastructure gaps and launching quick-wins to stimulate growth.

  - Stimulating domestic production, exports, rebuilding and transforming the economy to an upper middle income status by 2030.

- As Zimbabwe is going through the primary stages of a radical economic transformation that is supposed to see the country becoming middle-income economy by 2030, a number of challenges militate against this positive trajectory.
- The economy performed poorly, characterised by:

  - Lack of decent and secure employment.

  - Liquidity challenges for both local and foreign currency

  - The use of alternative modes of payment

Background

- Fast changing prices of basic commodities resulting in depressed purchasing power of the vulnerable populations in the country which was exacerbated by stagnant salaries and wages.

- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Zimbabwe was worth 17.85 billion US dollars in 2017 and expanded by 4% in 2018. (ZimSTAT, 2018).

- The year on year inflation rate (annual percentage change) for the month of February 2019 as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 59.39%. (ZimSTAT,2019)

- The Food Poverty Line (FPL) for an average household of five persons was $295.00 in March 2019 . This represented an increase of 2.7 percent of the month on month inflation rate.

- Over and above the poor performance of the economy, the 2018/2019 agricultural season performed poorly and this was exacerbated by the unaffordability of agricultural inputs by most of the communal farmers.
- The country also experienced the devastating Cyclone Idai, which made its landfall in Zimbabwe on the 15th of March 2019, affecting areas around the eastern border. The most affected districts were Chimanimani and Chipinge in Manicaland province and Chiredzi and Bikita in Masvingo.
- In Chimanimani, which suffered most of the fatalities, Nyahonde River burst its banks to the demise of many communities and households. Bridges, roads, schools and homesteads, to mention but a few, were completely destroyed thereby affecting essential services provision as well as people's livelihoods (Coote, 17 March 2019).
- The poor performance of the economy and devastating effects of Cyclone Idai negatively affected the livelihoods of both rural and urban households.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology - Assessment Design

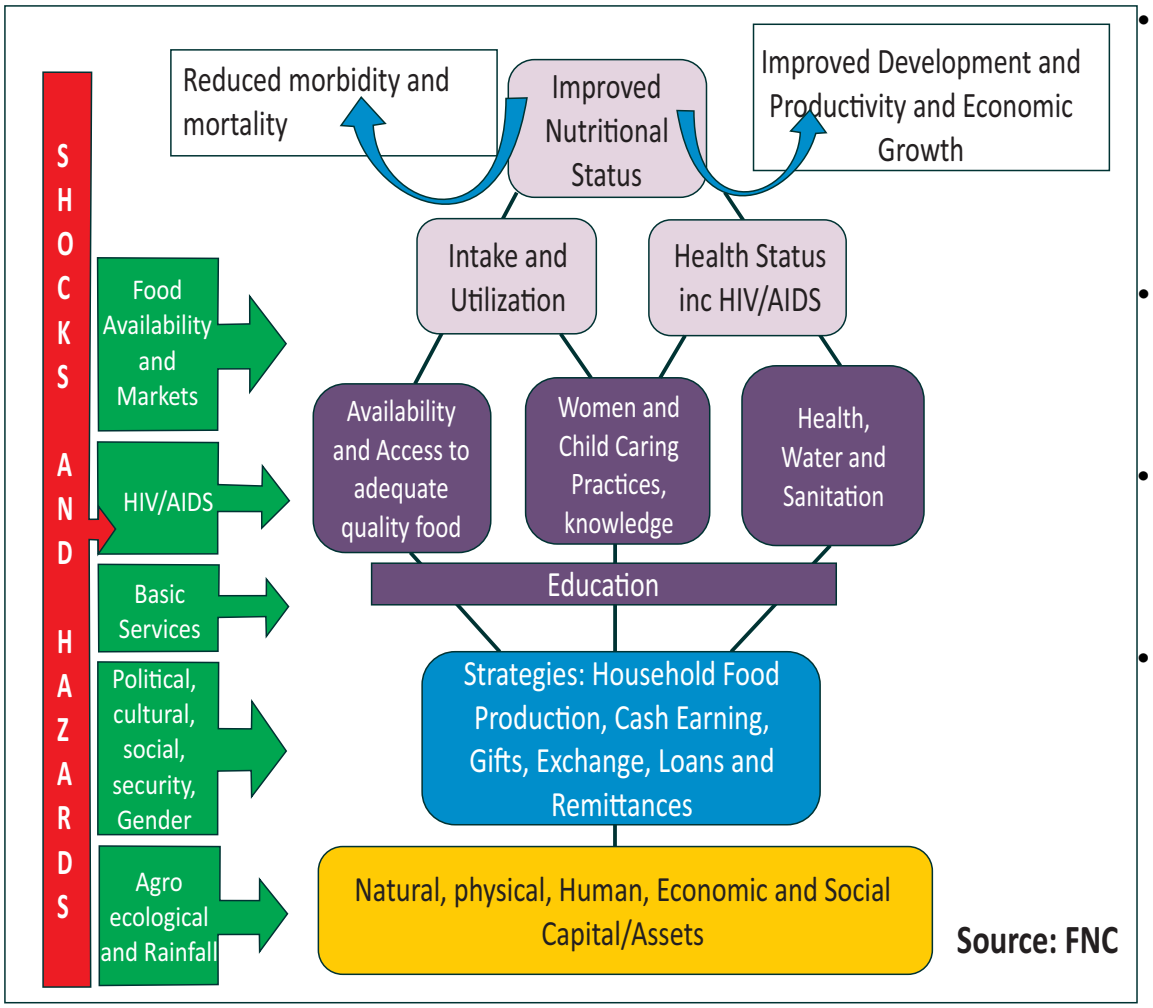


Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

- 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.

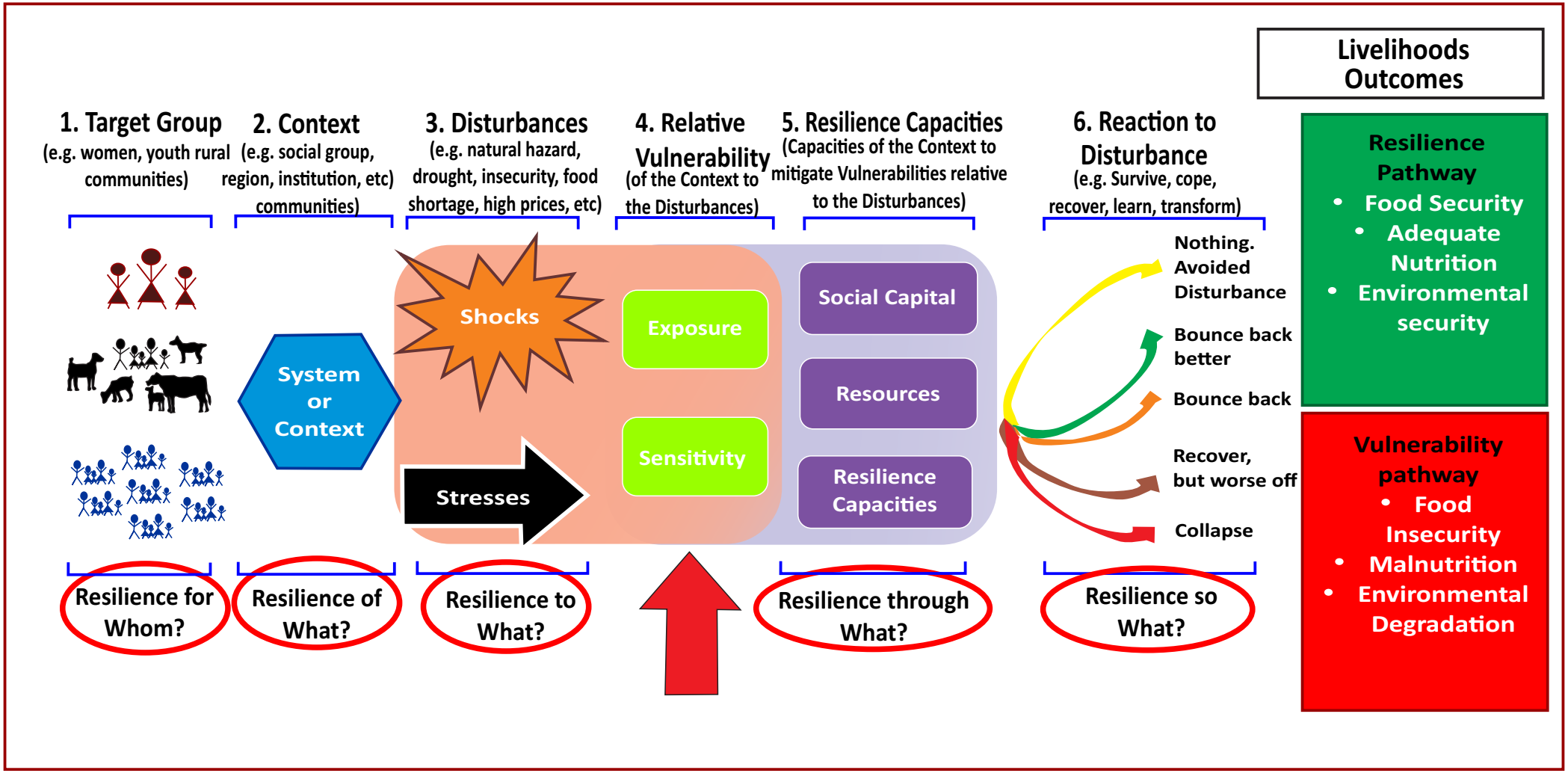


Figure 2: Zimbabwe resilience framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

Methodology - Assessment Process

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

- The assessment used structured household and community key informant Focus Group Discussion (FGD) tools as the primary data collection tools, both of which were android based.

- ZimVAC 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.

- The Ministry of Local Government through the Provincial Administrators' offices coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial and district enumeration vehicles.

- Primary data collection took place from 10 to 24 May 2019.

- Data analysis and report writing ran from 27 May to 4 June 2019. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

Methodology - Sampling and Sample Size

- The sample size (250 households per district) was guided by the joint guidelines for Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions.

- Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample size of 250 households per district to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level.

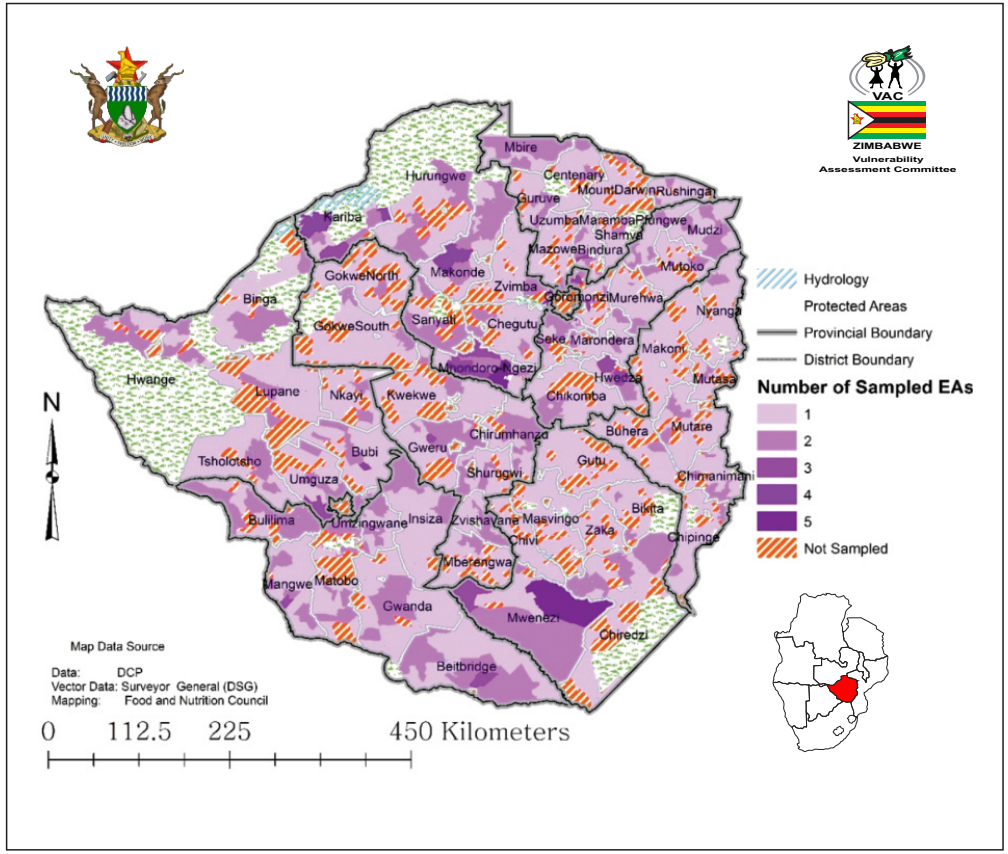
- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of;

  - Sampling of 25 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZimSTAT) 2012 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology

  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA.

Methodology - Sampling and Sample Size

Province	Interviewed Households	Focus Group Discussions	Children Measured
Manicaland	1756	160	1209
Mashonaland Central	1991	177	1746
Mashonaland East	2257	168	2063
Mashonaland West	1745	115	1336
Matabeleland North	1746	135	1402
Matabeleland South	1726	129	1313
Midlands	1981	169	1744
Masvingo	1710	155	1095
Total	**15157**	**1208**	**11908**



Data Preparation and Analysis

- All 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 key informant Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- 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

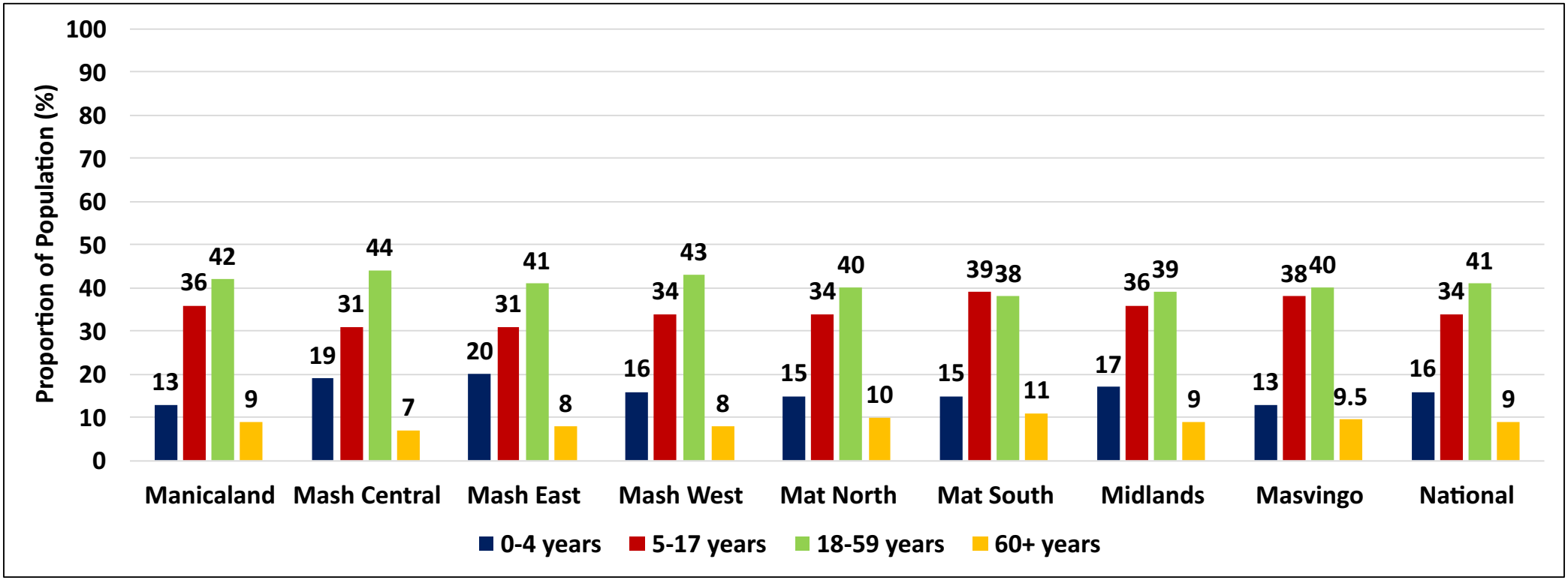
The 2019 RLA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Education
- Health
- WASH
- Nutrition
- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities
- Access to food (food security)
- Shocks and stressors
- Social protection
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender

Assessment Findings

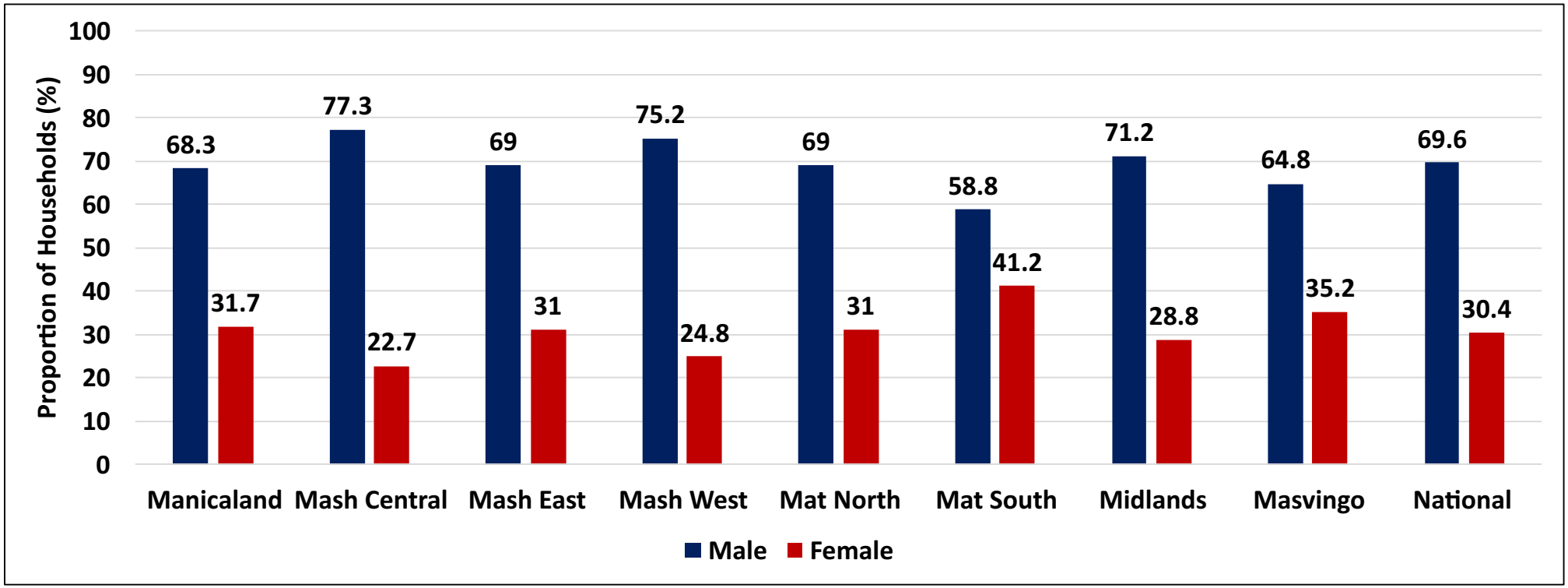
Demographic Description of the Sample

Population Distribution by Age



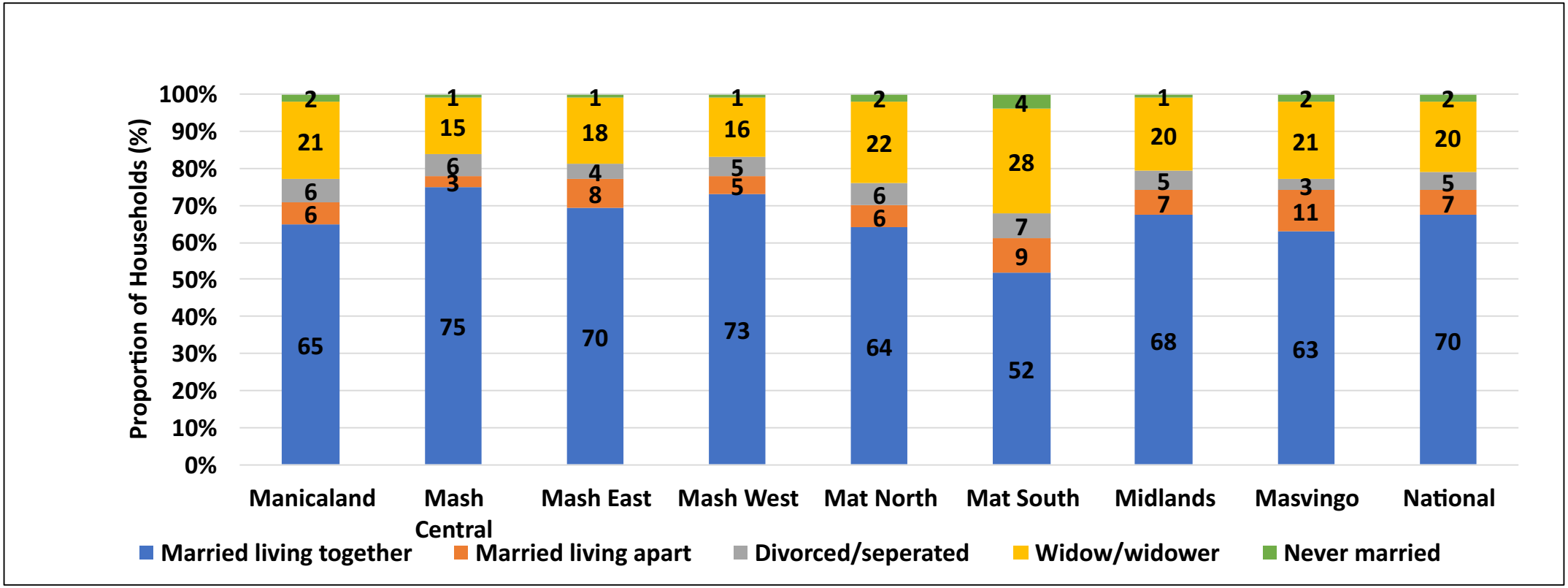
- Nationally, the 18-59 age group had the highest proportion (41%) of the sampled households followed by the 5-17 age group (34%).
- Children aged between 0-4 years constituted 16% of the sample in 2019, which is an increase from 11% recorded in 2018.
- The dependant age groups (0-4, 5-17 and 60+) constituting 59% of the population might be indicative of high economic dependency.

Characteristics of Household Head: Sex



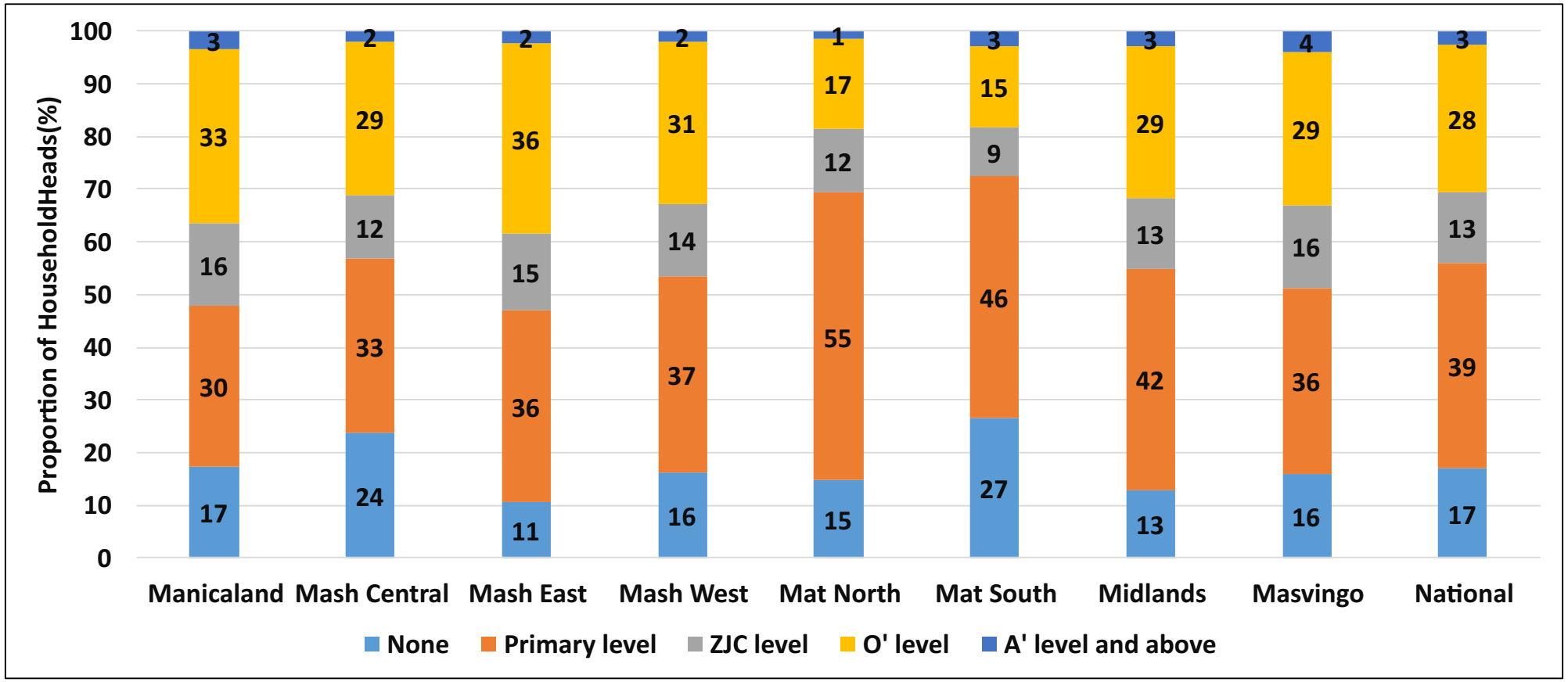
- Across all the provinces, there were more male headed households than female headed households.
- Matabeleland South (41.2 %) had the highest proportion of female headed households.
- The trend still remains that more households are headed by males.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status



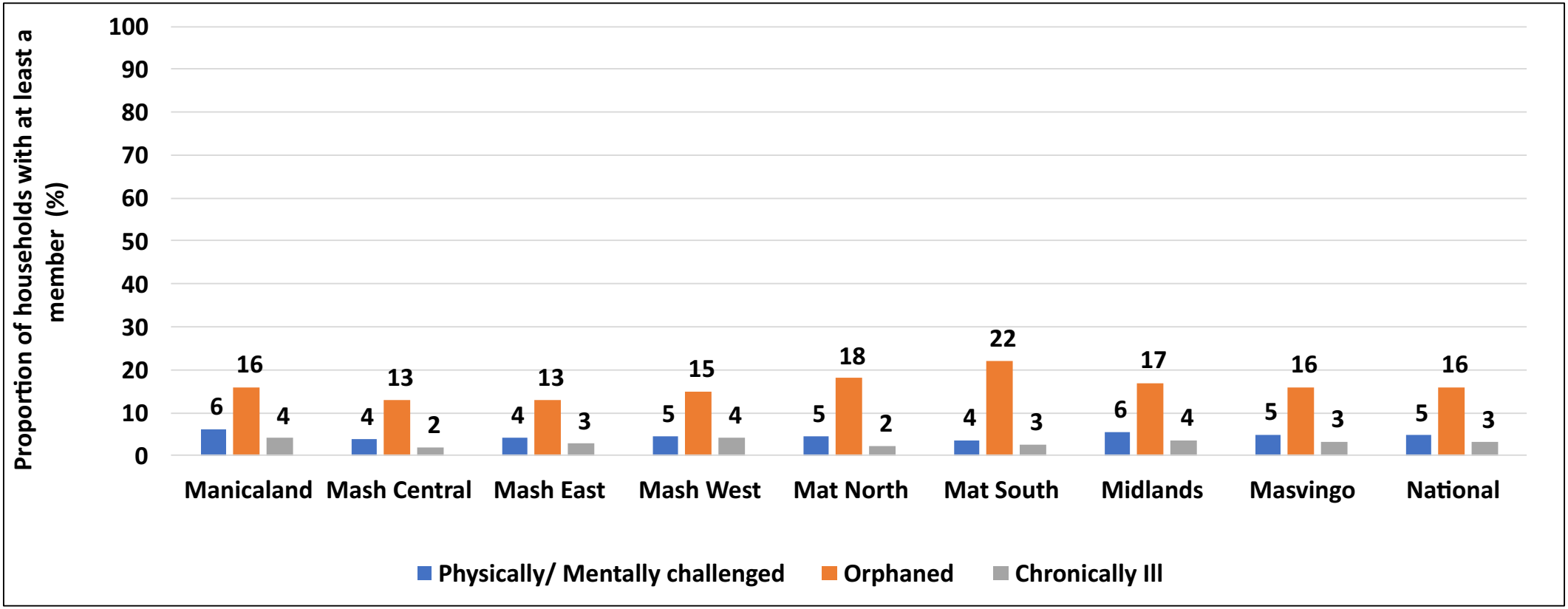
- A greater proportion of household heads (70%) were married and living together with their spouses while 20% were widowed.
- Matabeleland South (28%) had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed.
- Masvingo (11%) has the greatest proportion of household heads married and living apart.

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained



- Nationally, the findings established that 83% of household heads had attained at least primary level education.
- Matabeleland South (27%) and Mashonaland Central (24%) had the highest proportions of household heads who had not attained primary education.

Household Vulnerability Attributes

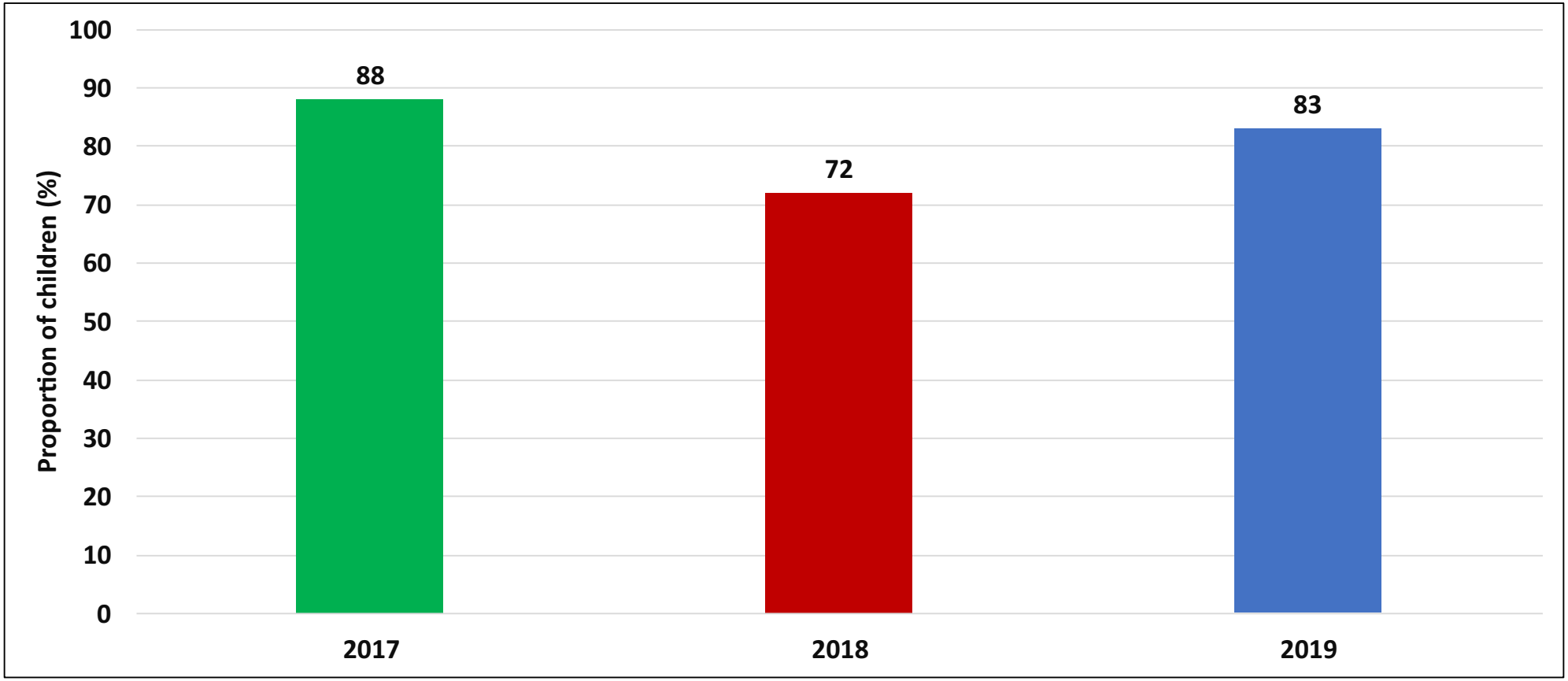


- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households with at least an orphaned child (22%) and Matabeleland North (18%).

- Manicaland and Midlands provinces had the highest proportion of physically/mentally challenged members (6%), whilst Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Midlands had the highest proportion of chronically ill people (4%).

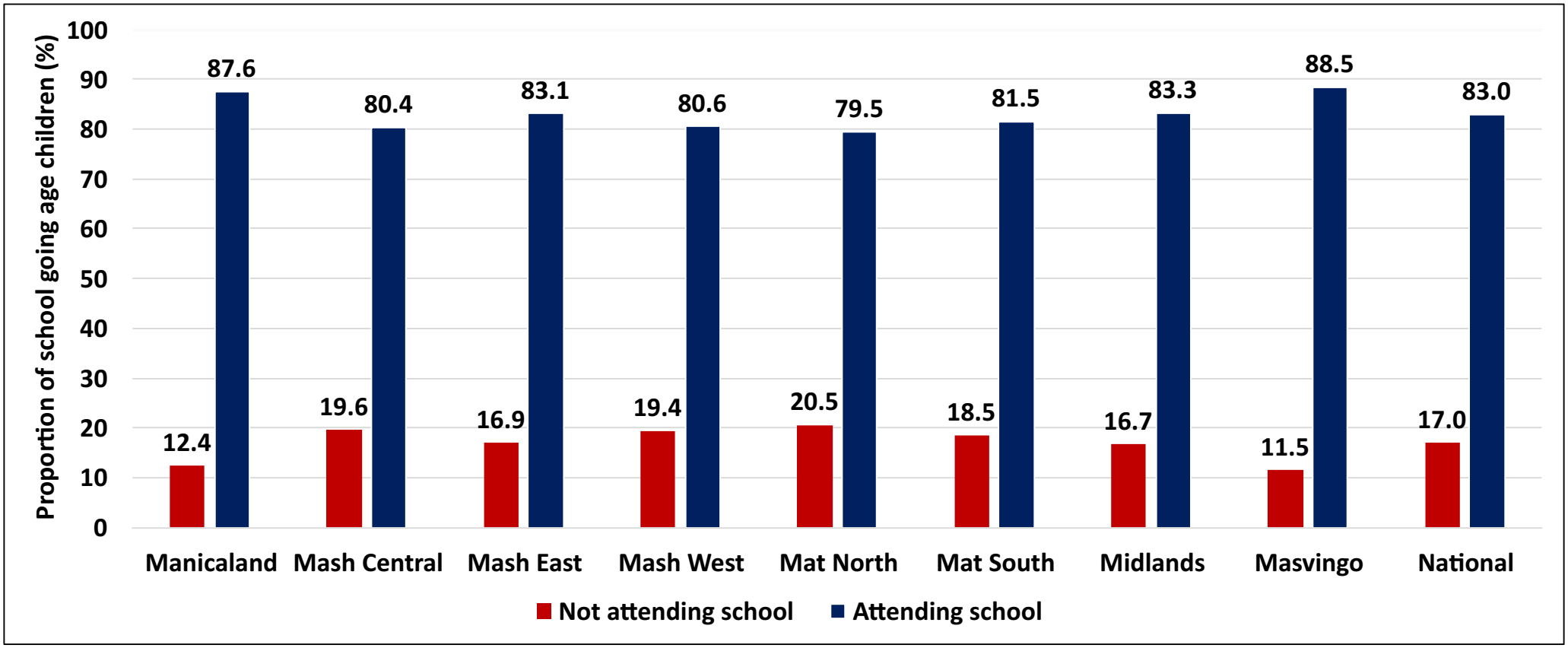
Education

School Attendance



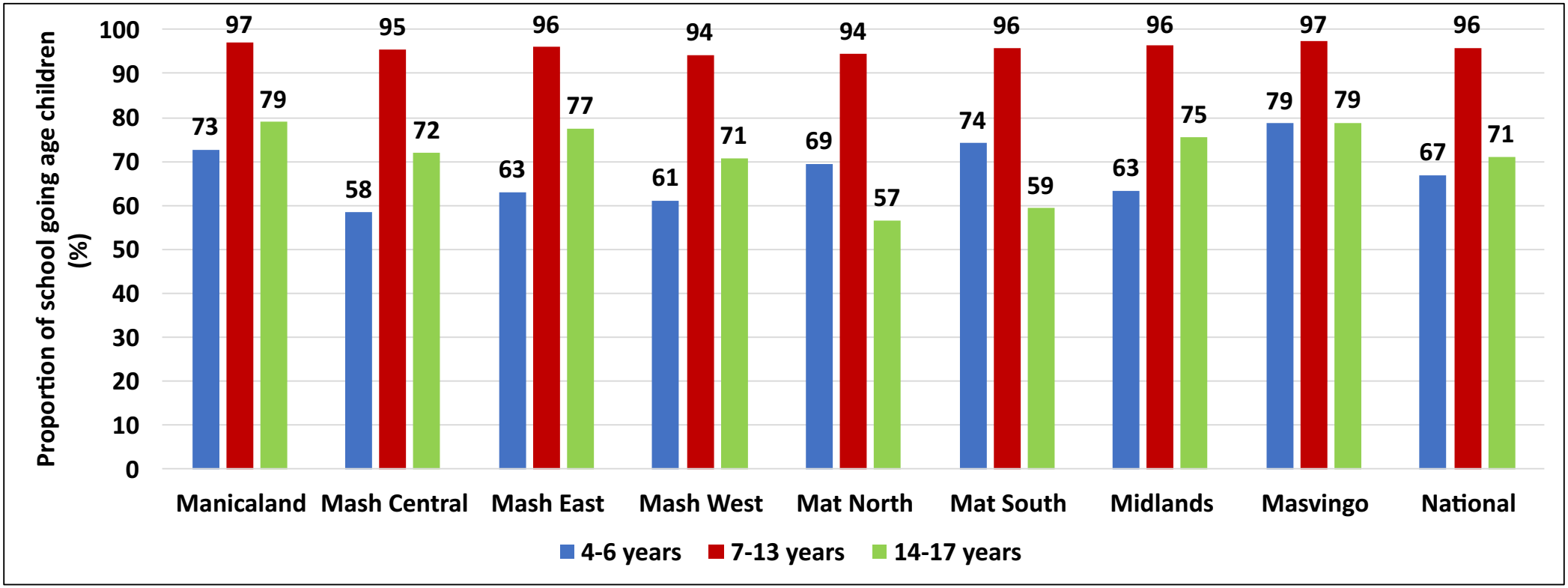
- School attendance improved from 72% in 2018 to 83% in 2019 for children between the age of 4-17 years.

Children in School by Province



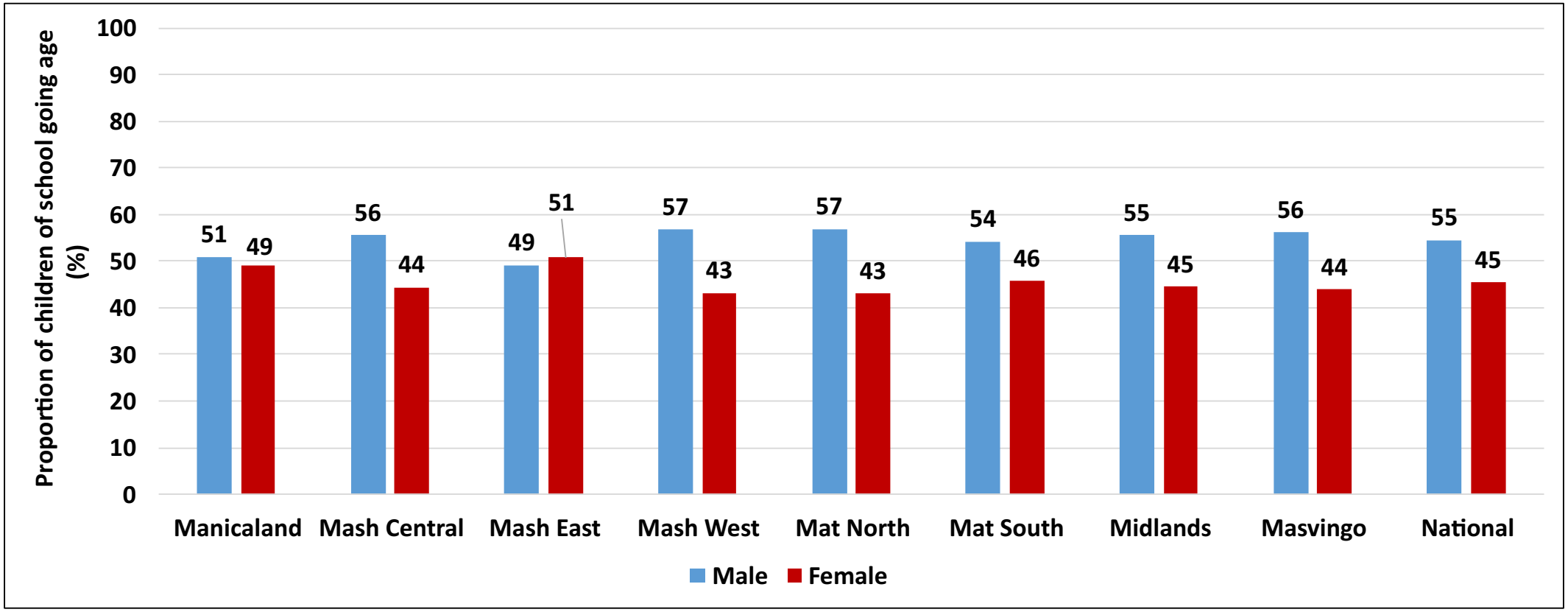
- Matabeleland North had the highest number of children (20.5%) of school going age who were not in school at the time of the survey.
- Masvingo had the highest number (88.5%) of school going age children who were in school.

Children in School by Age



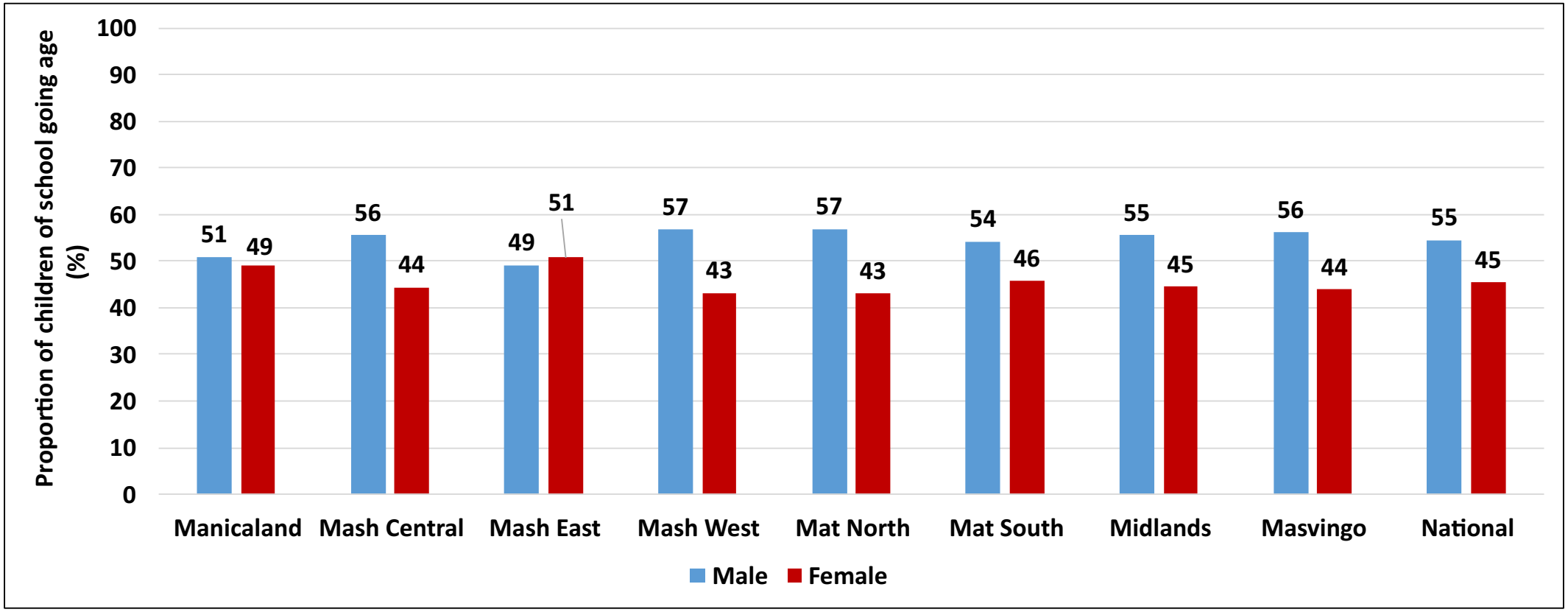
- The proportion of school going children of the 7-13 years age group was higher than the age group of 14-17 years.

Children who were not in School by Sex



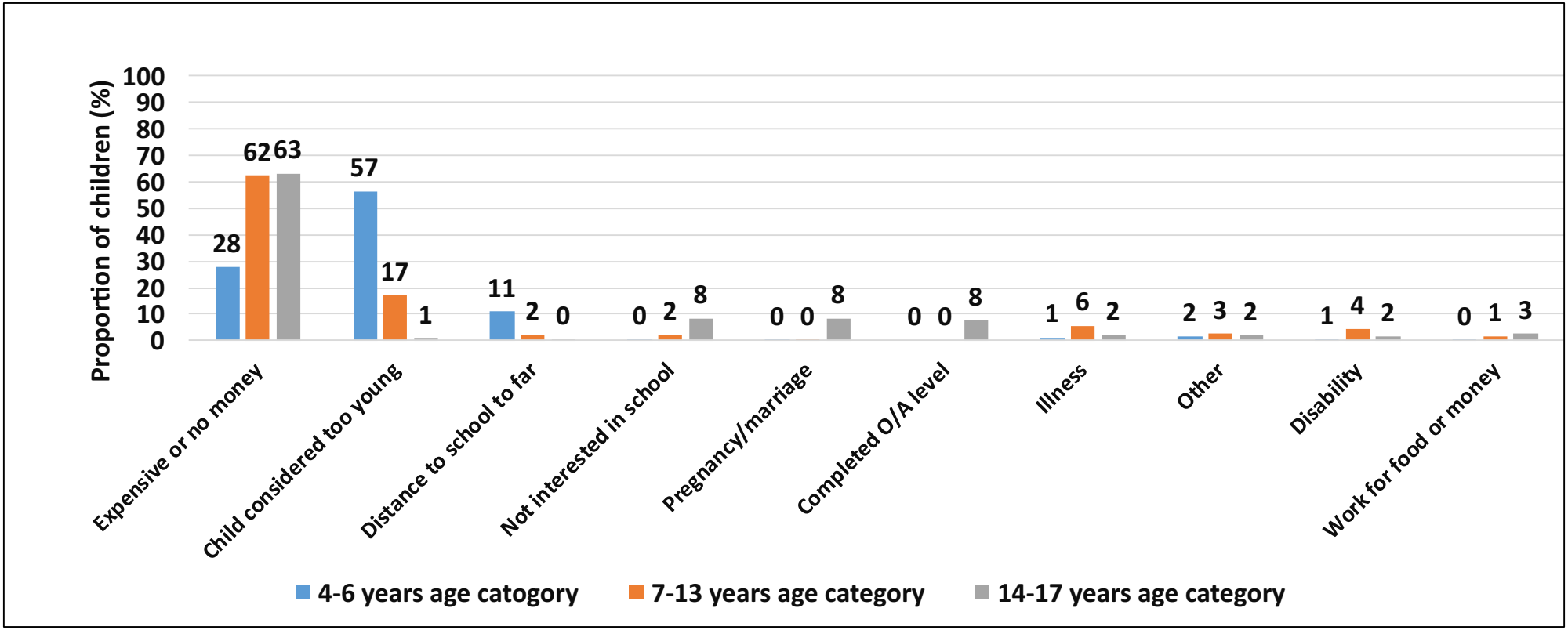
- Of the proportion of children who were not in school, males constituted (55%) and females were (45%).

Children Turned Away from School Due to Non-Payment of Fees



- Though the government has made a pronouncement that no child should be turned away from school, the proportion of children being turned away for non payment of school fees remains high at 61%.

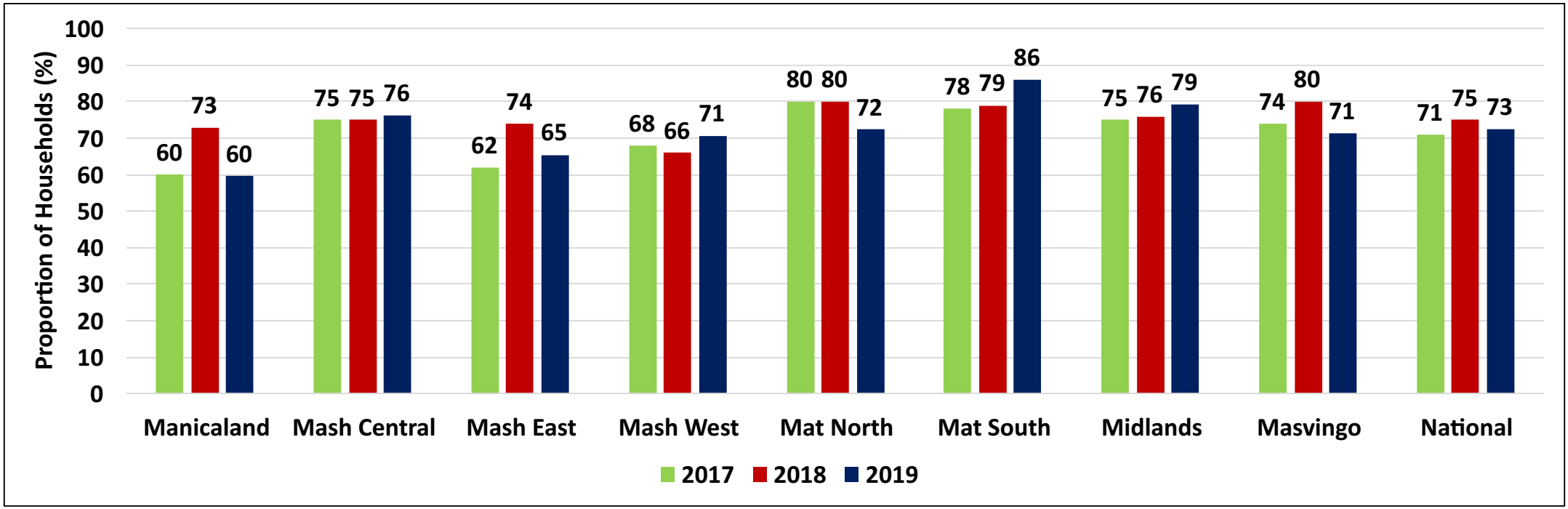
Major Reasons for Children not Being in School by Age Category



- The major reason why children aged 4-5 were out of school was that they were considered to be too young by their parents/guardians (57%).
- Some of the children aged 13-17 were out of school due to pregnancy or marriage (8%) and lack of interest (8%).

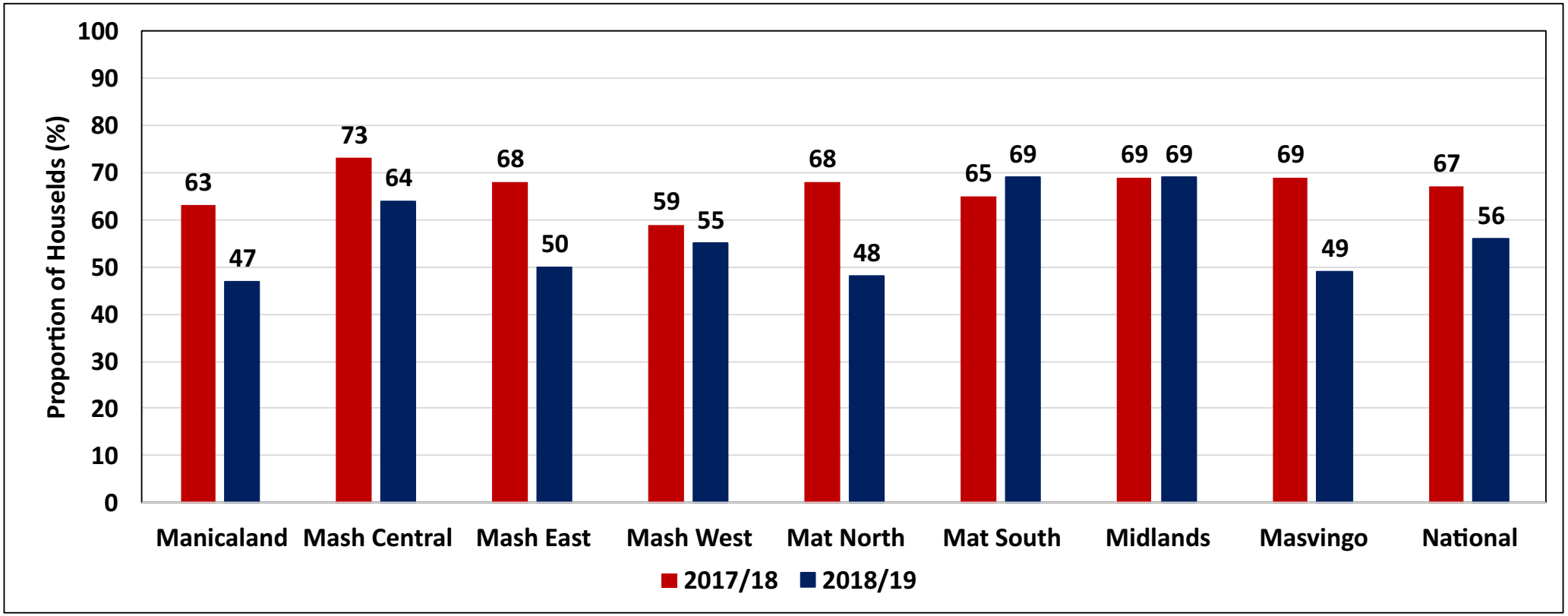
Social Protection

Households which Received Support by Province



- Nationally, the proportion of households which received support from all possible sources in the form of food, cash, crop inputs, livestock inputs or WASH inputs decreased from (75%) in 2018 to (73%) in 2019.
- Matabeleland South reported an increase in support (86%) in 2019 from (79%) in 2018.
- The least support during this consumption year was recorded in Manicaland province (60%).

Households which Received Support from Government by Province



- Government remains the main source of support for all provinces. However, nationally, there was a decline in the proportion of households (56%) that received support from Government in 2018/19 compared to (67%) that received support during 2017/2018 consumption period.
- During the period under discussion, the highest proportion of households that received support from Government was in Midlands (69%) and Matabeleland South (69%). The least was in Manicaland with a total of (47%).
- Matabeleland North and Masvingo province have experienced the highest decrease of proportion receiving support from government compared to 2018.

Households which Received Support from Different Sources

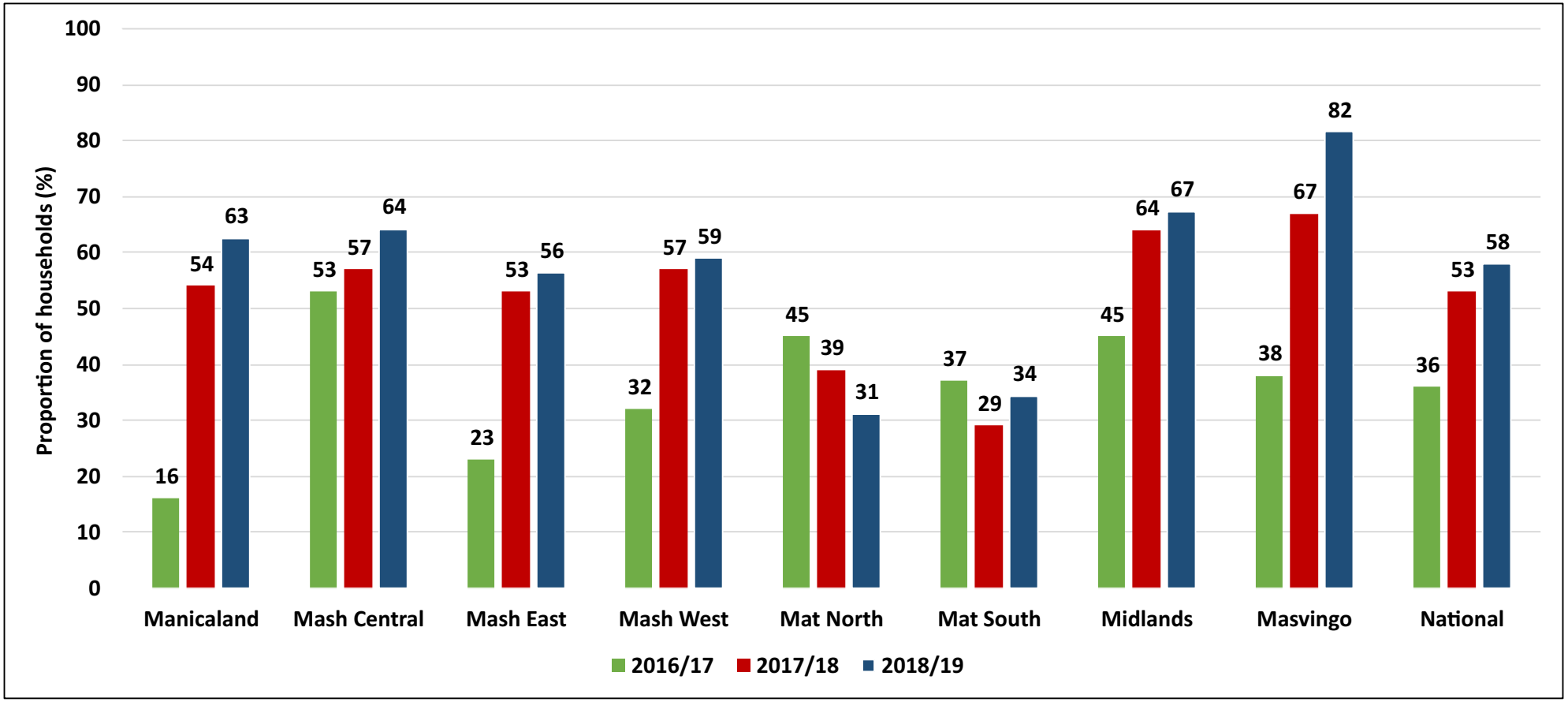
	Government		NGO/UN		Churches		Relatives within rural areas		Relatives within urban areas		Remittances from outside Zimbabwe	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
Manicaland	63	47	10	13	4	4	12	10	14	9	6	3
Mash Central	73	64	8	15	2	3	7	17	8	19	2	2
Mash East	68	50	3	7	2	3	10	14	16	20	4	6
Mash West	59	55	7	6	1	4	7	17	9	19	3	7
Mat North	68	48	16	25	2	2	17	12	12	12	14	16
Mat South	65	68	16	26	2	5	10	20	11	17	21	33
Midlands	69	69	14	7	3	4	12	16	20	24	8	11
Masvingo	69	49	18	14	2	3	16	20	18	19	8	9
National	67	56	11	13	2	3	10	16	14	18	8	11

- There was an increase in support from all other sources except from Government during 2019 consumption period in comparison to the previous year. Matabeleland South (26%) and Matabeleland North (25%) received more support from UN/ NGO compared to other provinces.
- The proportion of households receiving remittances from outside the country was high in Matabeleland South (33%). The proportion of households receiving support from mutual help groups and charitable organisations was (1%). However, support from women/ men's groups was (24%) in Midlands.

Agricultural Production

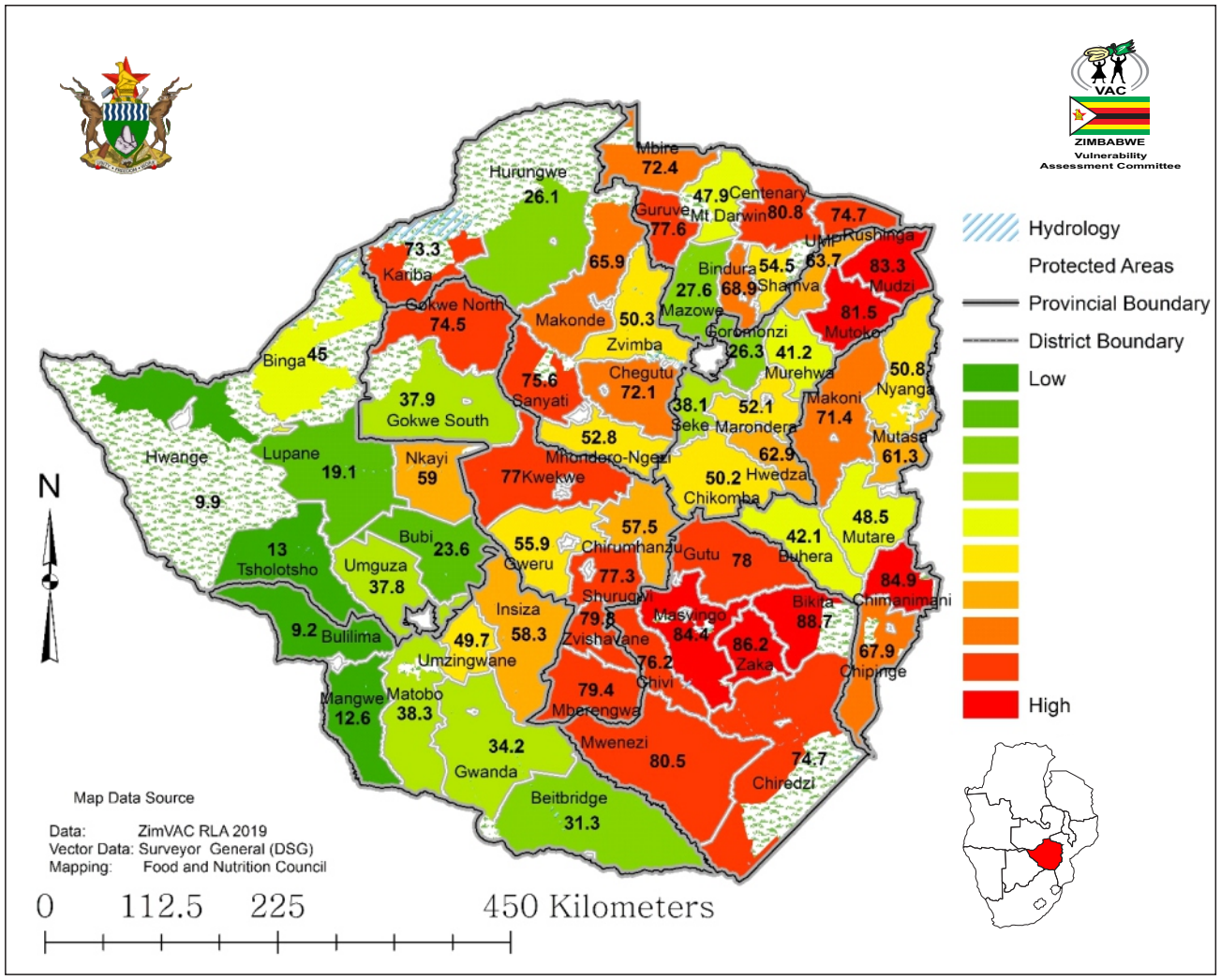
Fall Army Worm (FAW)

Households Affected by FAW



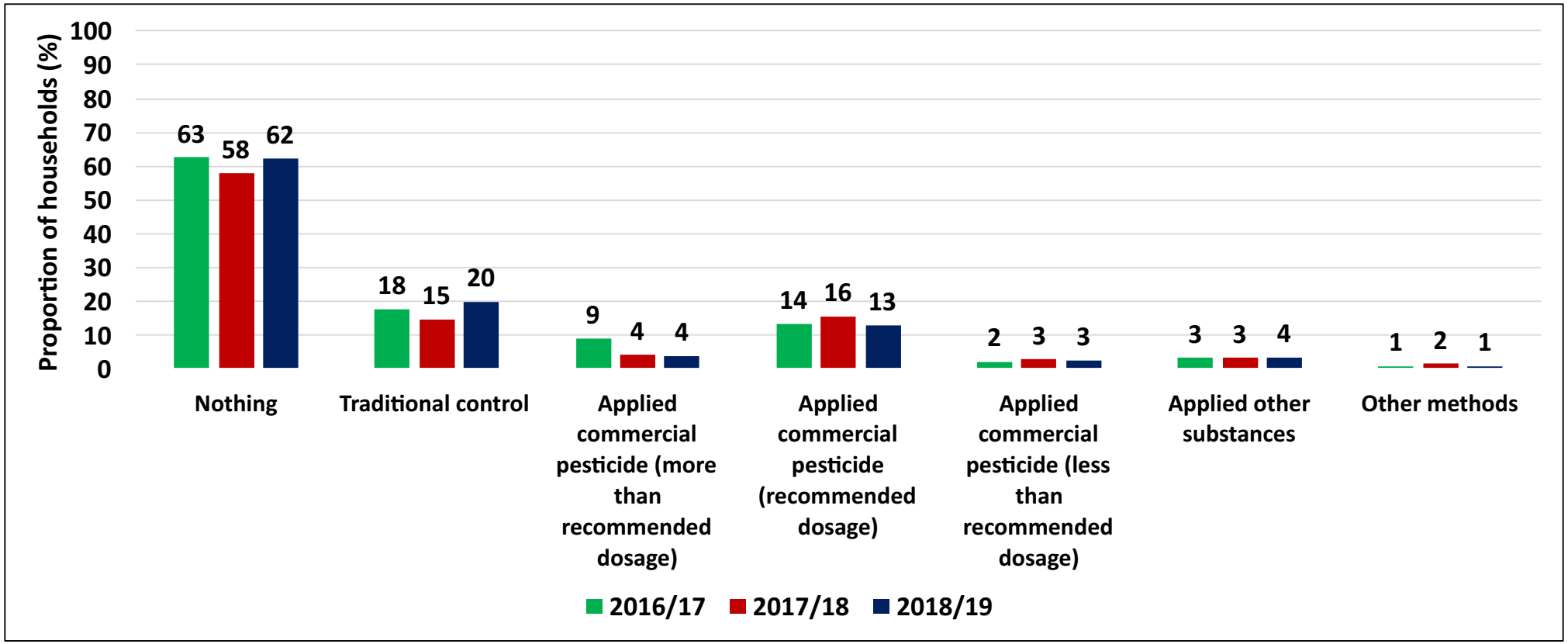
- Nationally, the proportion of households which reported that their crops were affected by fall army worm increased from 36% reported in 2016/17 season to 58% in 2018/19.

Households Affected by FAW by District



- The districts that had the highest proportion of households whose crops were affected byFAW were Bikita (88.7%), Zaka (86.2%),Masvingo (84.4%), Chimanimani (84.9%), Mudzi (83.3%) and Mutoko (81.5%).
- Masvingo province had all its districts having at least 70% of the households having been affected by fall Armyworm.

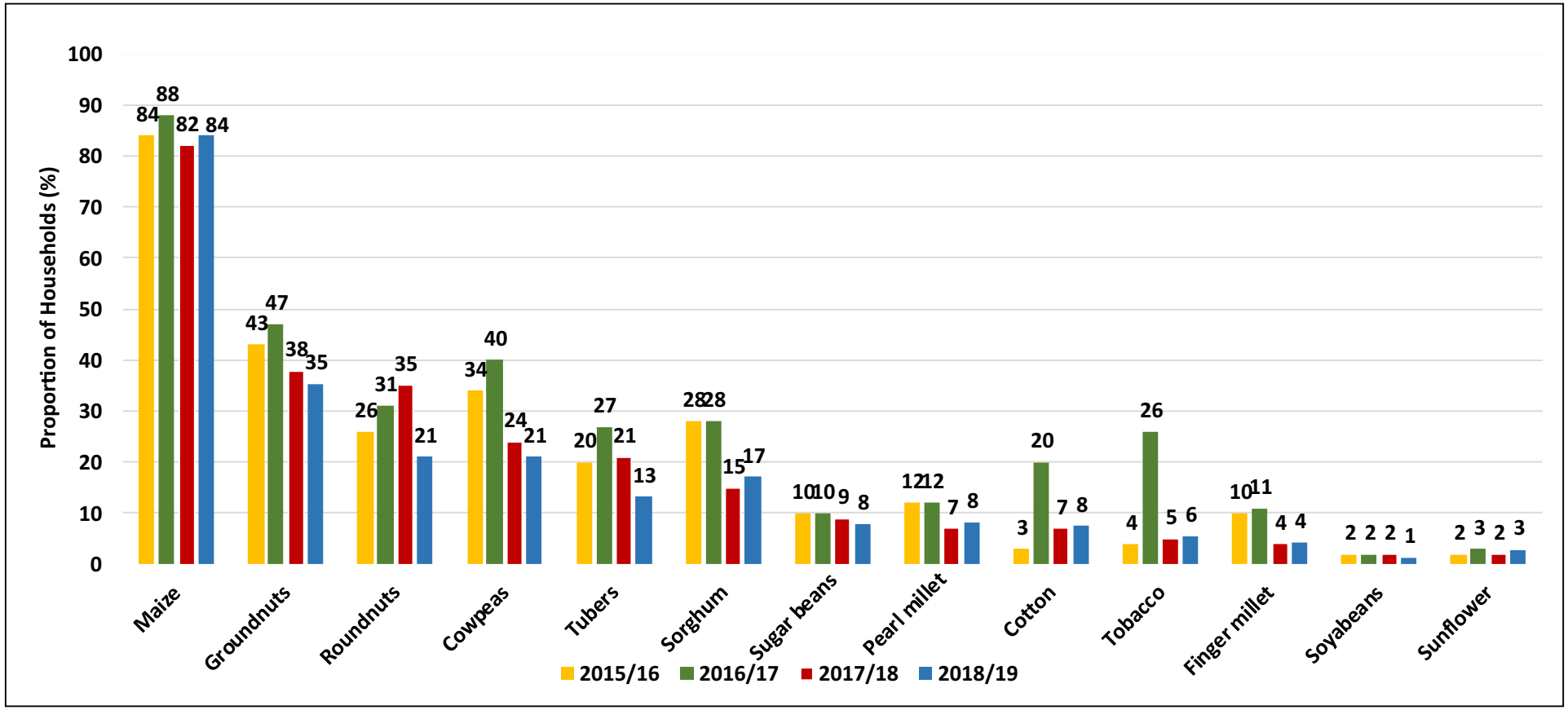
Measures Taken to Control FAW



- Proper timing and method of control is one of the effective ways to manage the fall army worm.
- A significant proportion of households (62%) did not take any control measures against the fall army worm which continues to be a worrisome trend observed in the previous seasons.
- The most common measures taken were traditional control (20%) and applying commercial pesticides at recommended dosage.

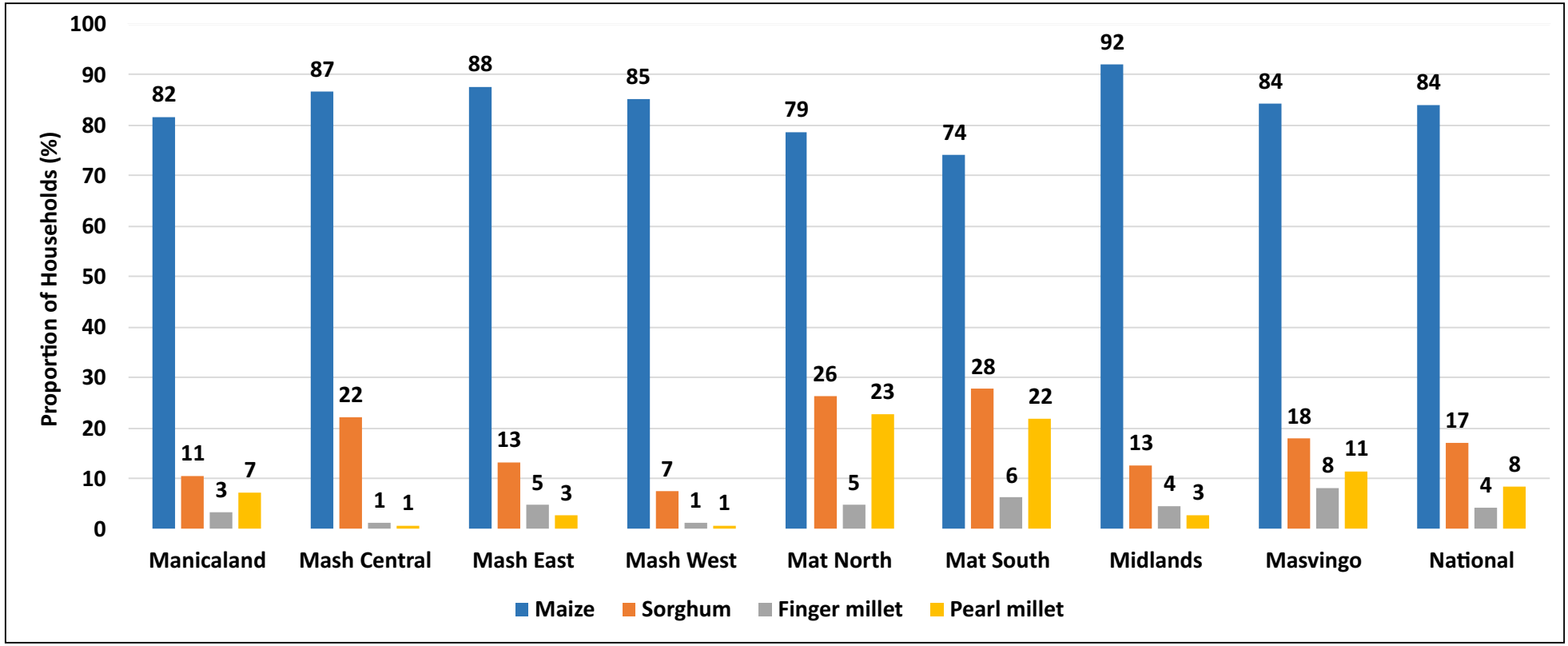
Crop Production

Households which Planted Crops



- Maize remains the crop grown by the majority of households, with over 80% of households having grown it.
- In comparison with last year, the proportion of households growing maize, sorghum, cotton, sunflower and tobacco has increased, whilst all other crops either decreased or remained constant.

Households which Planted Cereals



- As in the previous seasons, Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and Masvingo had the highest proportions of households growing small grains.

Sources of Inputs for Crops

	Maize (%)	Sorghum (%)	Finger millet (%)	Pearl millet (%)	Tubers (%)	Cowpeas (%)	Groundnuts (%)	Round nuts (%)
Purchases	26.8	7.1	7.5	7.8	12.1	12.0	16.8	17.3
Government	**47.7**	21.2	9.3	15.0	0.7	5.2	1.9	1.7
UN/NGO	1.4	5.9	2.8	4.2	0.1	4.1	1.2	0.6
Carryover	4.2	10.6	13.8	11.3	12.9	10.2	10.1	11.4
Retained	13.8	**38.1**	**52.1**	**50.9**	**56.9**	**50.9**	**57.5**	**55.8**
Remittances	3.2	9.5	6.2	4.6	8.9	9.0	6.8	6.3
Private contractors	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1
Gifts	2.4	7.3	8.2	6.1	8.3	8.2	5.6	6.8

- Government was the major source of maize inputs (47.7%), followed by purchases (26.8%) and retained seed (13.8%).
- Retained seed was the major source for all other crops' inputs except maize. The retained seed has reduced vigour and results in poor crop establishment and consequently poor yield.

Average Household Cereal Production by Province

	Maize (kg)			Small grains (kg)		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Manicaland	335.1	274.3	164.6	30.9	11.1	11.5
Mash Central	517.5	329.5	351.2	45.9	13.2	42.5
Mash East	378.7	331.6	297.1	23.7	0.9	16.3
Mash West	739.2	890.6	433.3	1.1	0	8.6
Mat North	240.5	164.8	91.0	88.1	49.5	39.5
Mat South	174.5	126.8	46.5	68.4	24.1	19.7
Midlands	522.9	453.1	261.3	29	8.5	11.9
Masvingo	356.7	378.1	204.8	86.1	33	47.8
National	480.9	334.2	233.1	42.2	14.2	24.4

- Nationally, there was a 26% decrease in average household cereal production, a 30% decrease in average household maize production and a 70% increase in the average household small grains production from last season.
- Average household maize production was highest in Mashonaland West (433.3kg) and least in Matabeleland South (46.5kg).
- Maize production has been on the decline from 2016/17 season in all provinces except Mashonaland West province which saw a increase between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

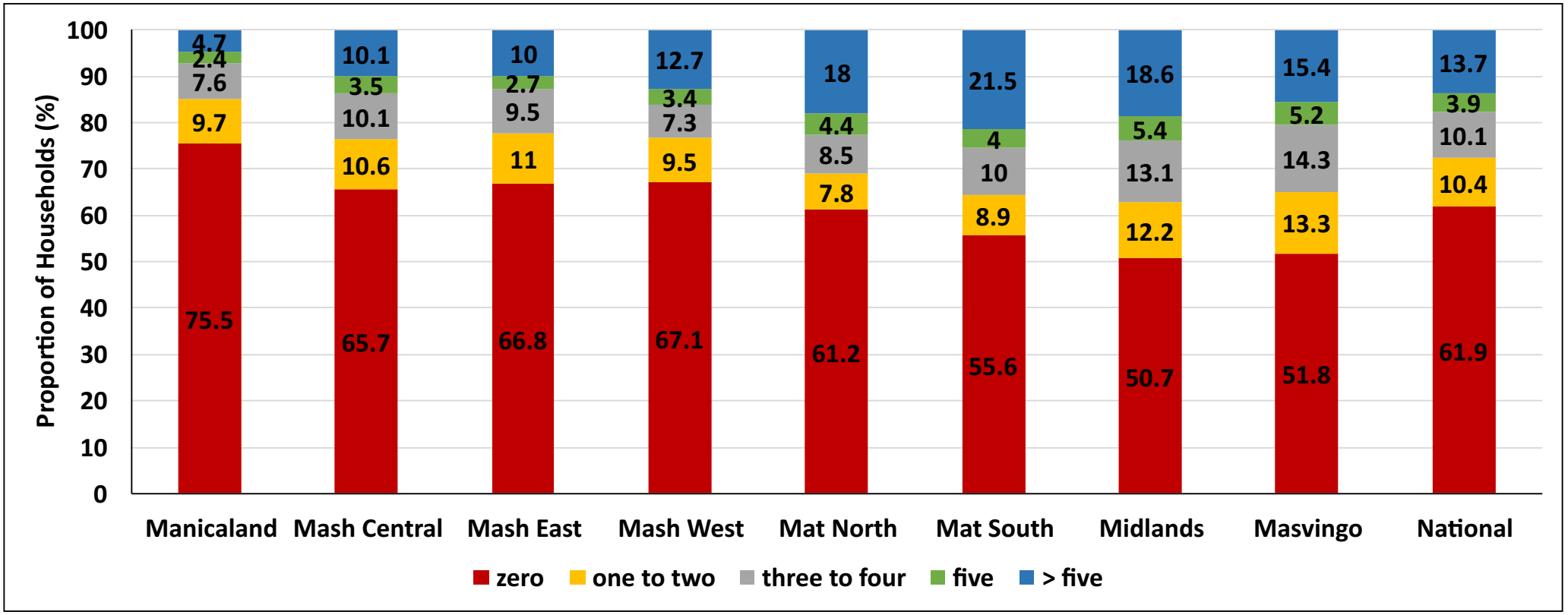
Average Household Cereal Stocks as at 1 April

Province	Cereal stocks (kg)		
	2017	2018	2019
Manicaland	145.7	80.1	33.1
Mash Central	91.3	66.3	42.2
Mash East	99.4	52.6	34.2
Mash West	157.2	57.0	44.9
Mat North	122.9	48.6	20.1
Mat South	57.7	38.4	26.9
Midlands	101.9	61.7	49.1
Masvingo	108.0	81.7	49.9
National	**109.6**	**59.9**	**37.5**

- All provinces recorded decreases in household cereal stocks.
- The nation experienced a 60% decrease in average cereal stocks compared to 2018
- Manicaland (142%) and Matabeleland North (141%) experienced the greatest decrease whilst Midlands (25%) had lowest decrease
- The highest decrease was in Manicaland.
- Matabeleland North had the least average household cereal stocks (20.1kg), whilst Masvingo had the highest (49.9kg).

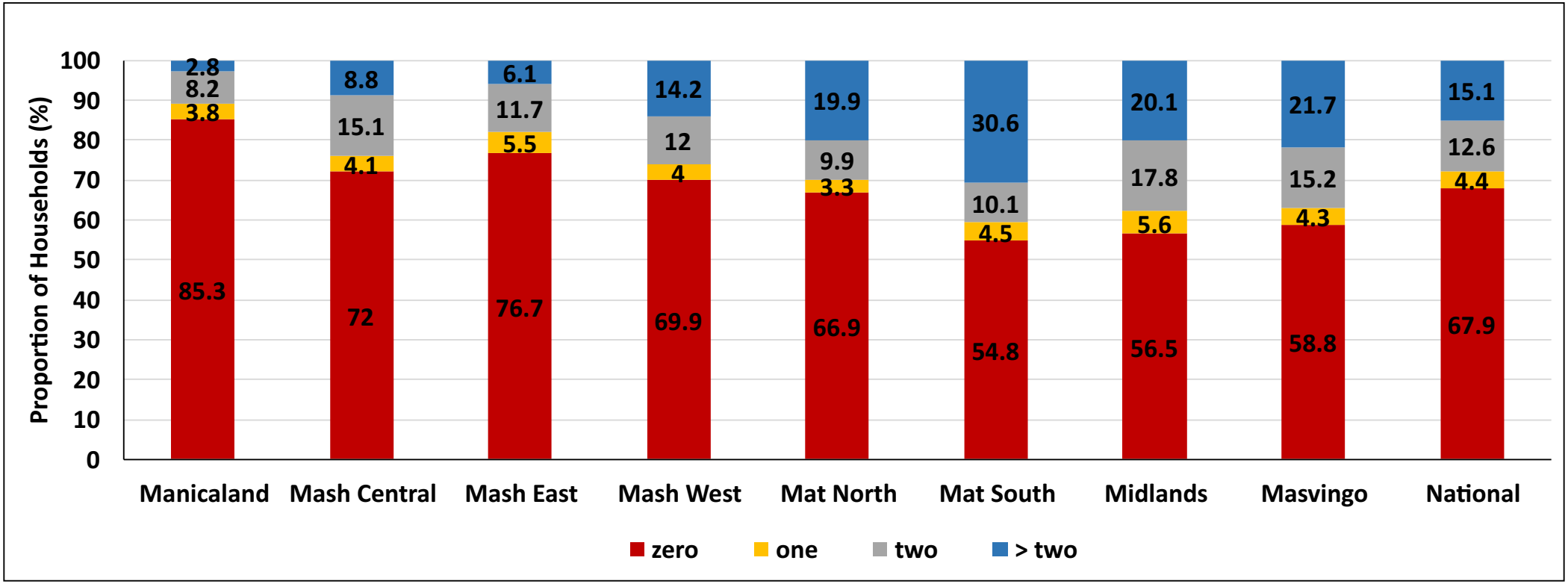
Livestock Production

Households which Owned Cattle



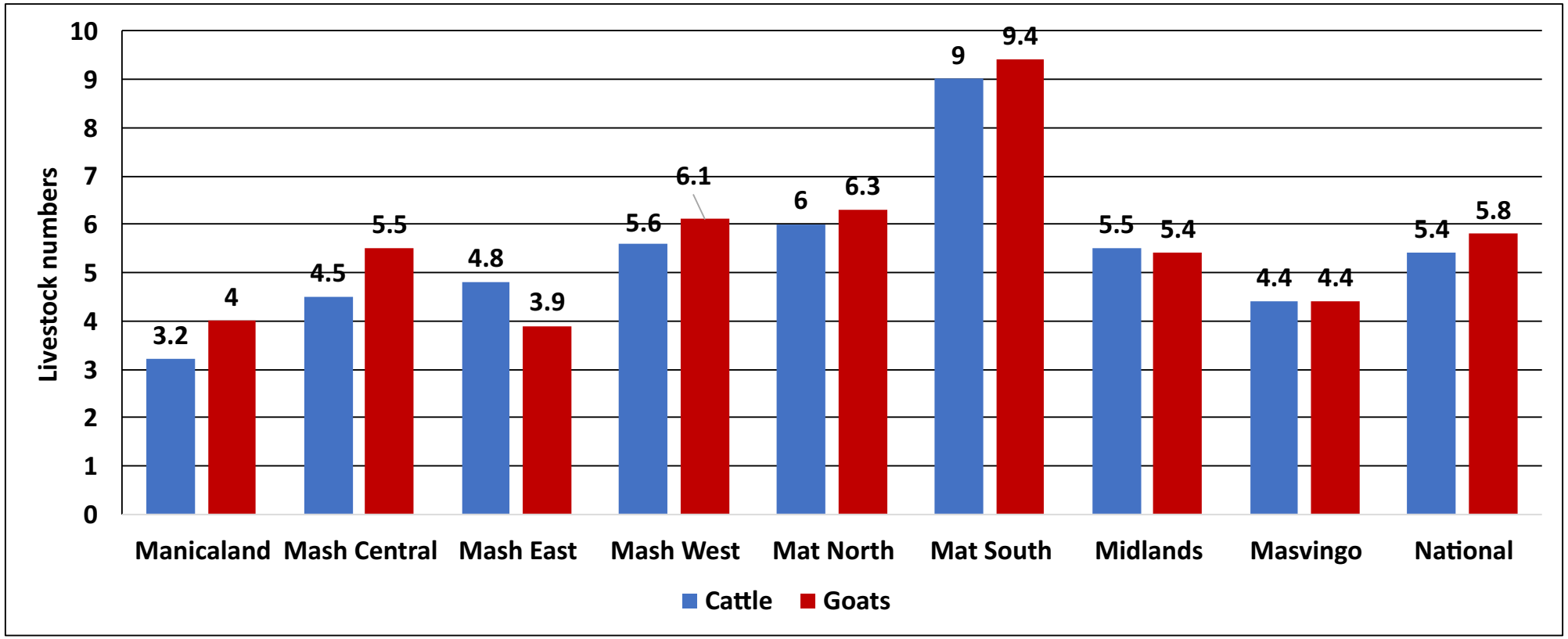
- The proportion of households which did not own cattle remains high.
- There has been a decrease from approximately 69% in 2018 to about 62% in 2019. The decrease in the proportion of those that did not own cattle has been influenced by approximately 7 percentage point decrease in Manicaland.

Households which Owned Draught Cattle



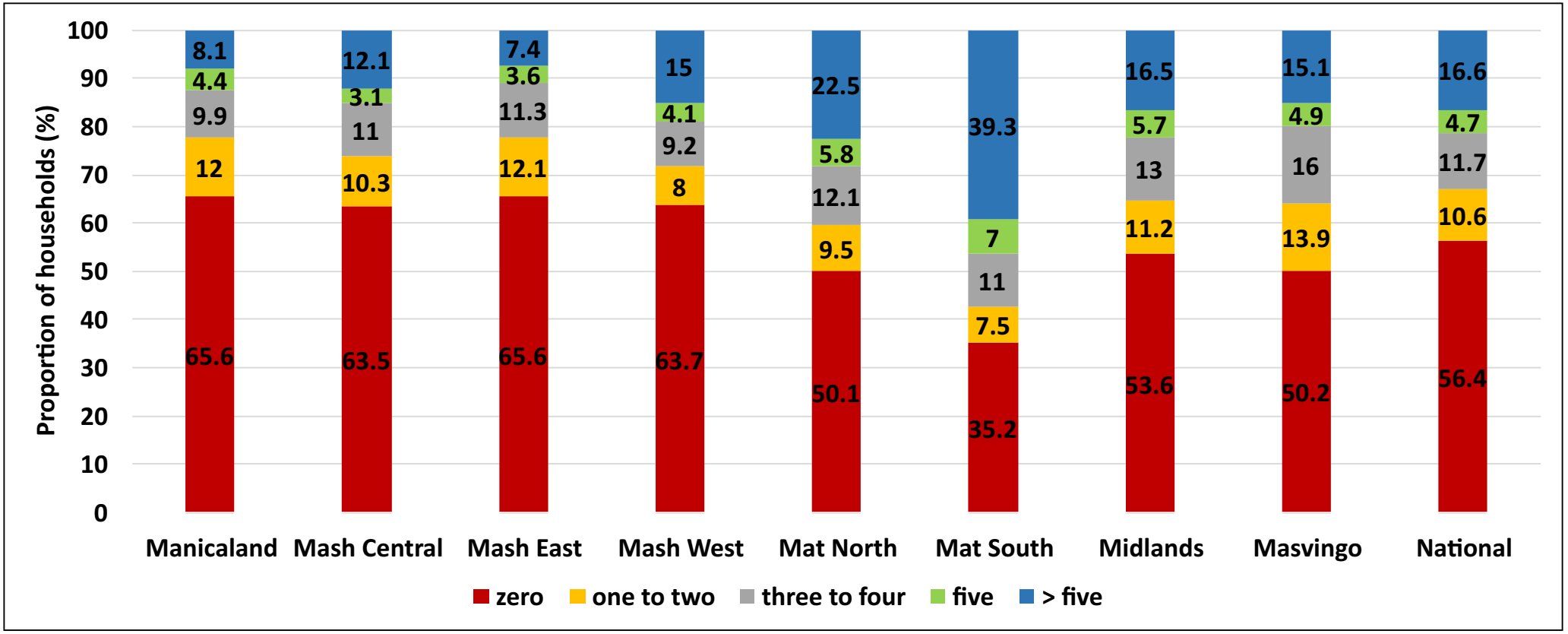
- Approximately 67.9% of rural households did not own draught cattle, which is about 9 percentage points drop compared to last year.
- All provinces exhibited a decrease in the proportion of households which did not own draught power, except for Manicaland which had a 3 percentage point increase compared to last year.

Average Livestock Numbers per Household



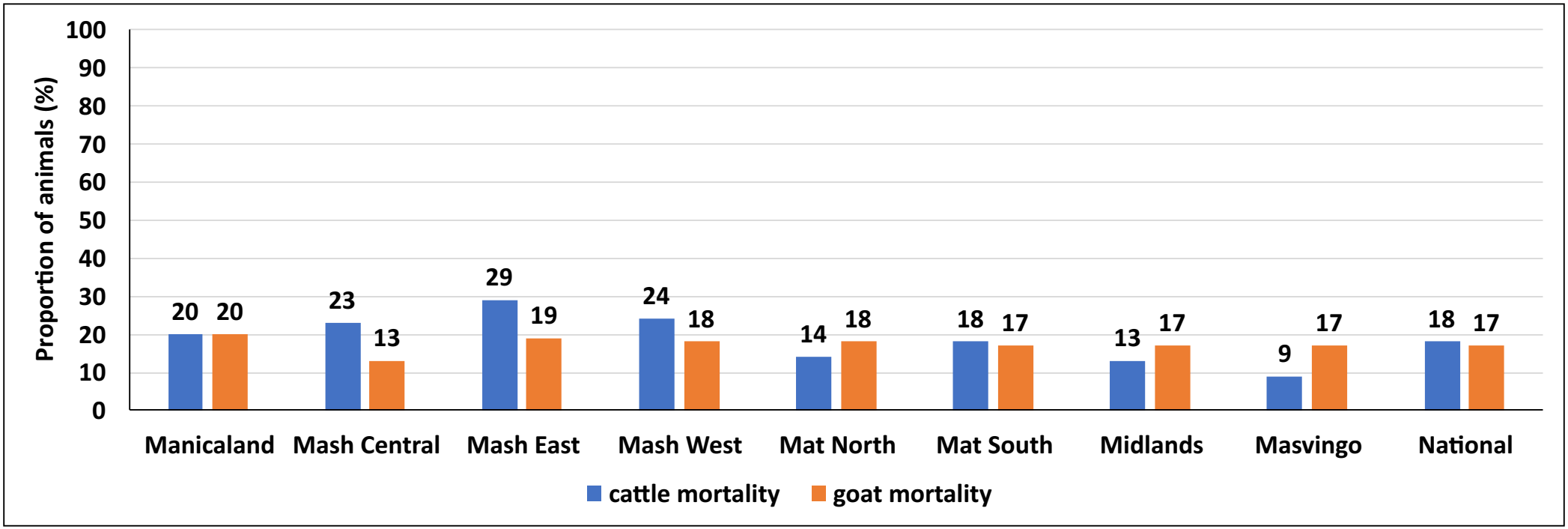
- Nationally, the average cattle herd size per household was 5.4, whilst the average goat flock size per household was 5.8.
- Matabeleland South had the highest number of cattle and goats per household at 9 and 9.4 respectively.
- Manicaland had the lowest number of cattle per household at 3.2 whilst Mashonaland East had the lowest for goats 3.9.

Households which Owned Goats



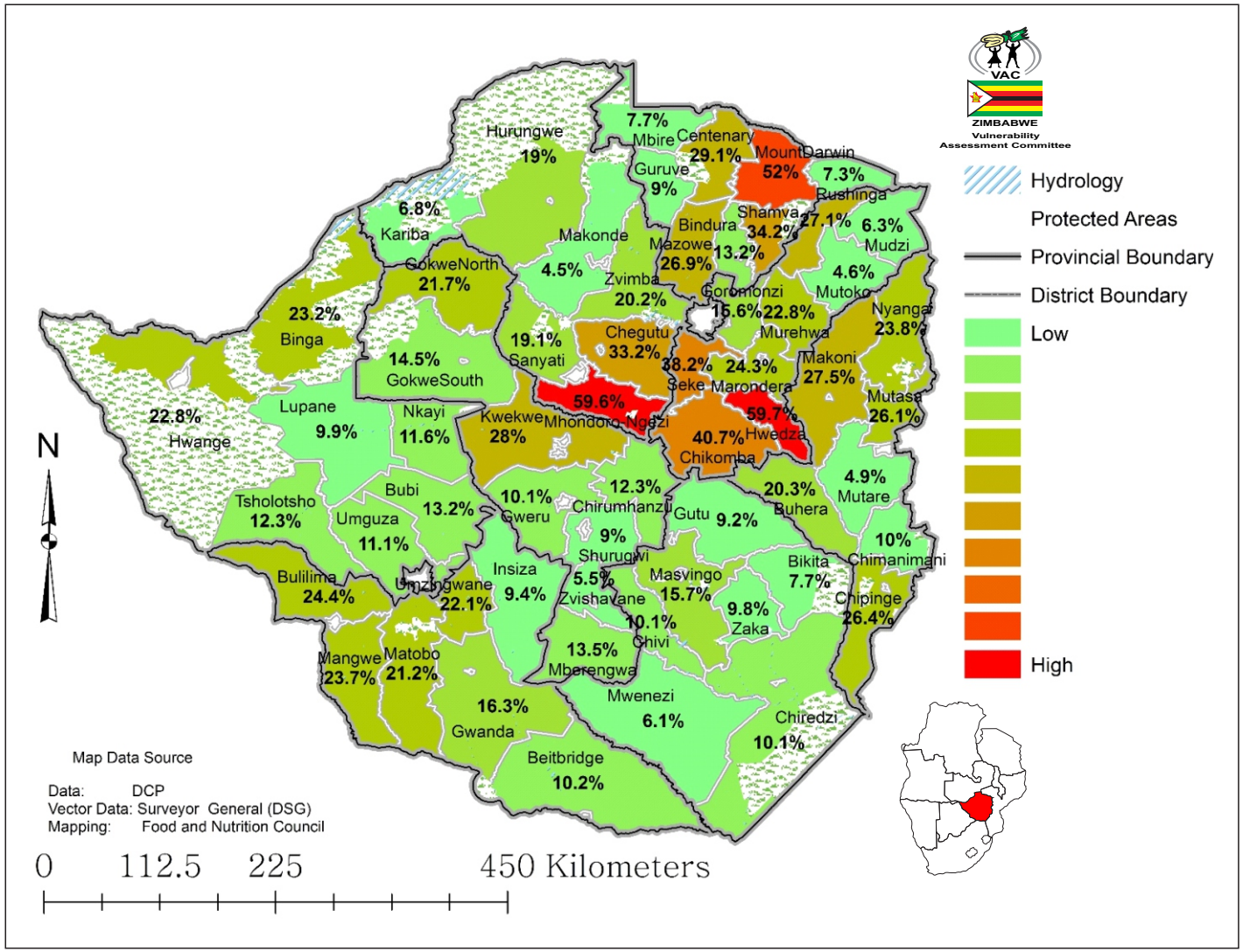
- The proportion of rural households which owned goats was 43.6%.
- The highest proportion of households which owned more than 5 goats was in Matabeleland South (39.3%) and Matabeleland North (22.5%).

Cattle and Goat Mortality Rates for Period April 2018 to March 2009



- Nationally, cattle mortality rate was at 18% which was higher that the acceptable country rates of 3-5%.
- Highest cattle mortalities were recorded in Mashonaland East Province (29%), whilst the lowest rates were recorded in Masvingo (9%).
- Goat mortality rate at 17% was also high compared to acceptable country rates of 8-10%.
- The highest goat mortality rate was reported in Manicaland (20%) whilst Mashonaland Central reported a lower rate of 13%.

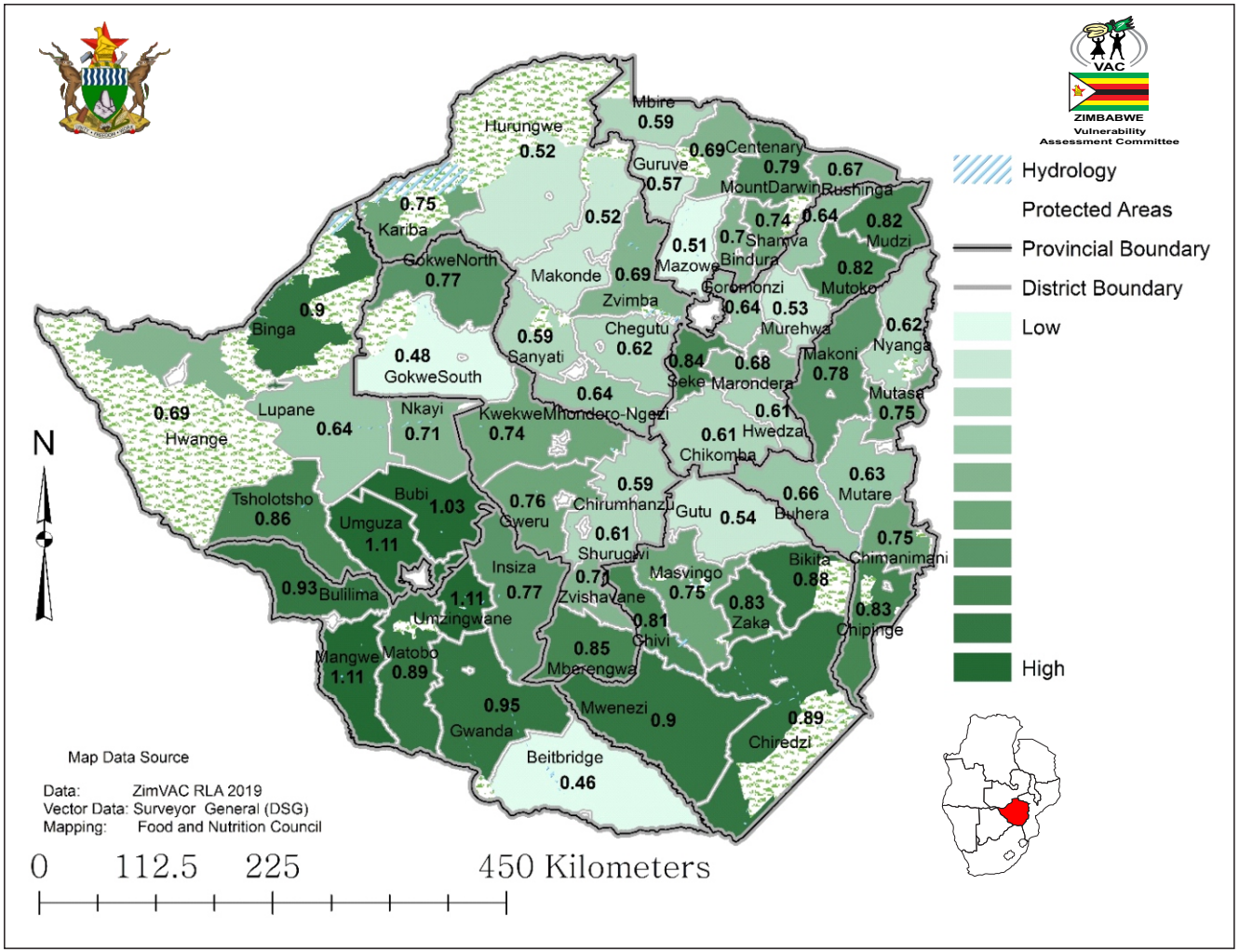
Cattle Mortality by District



- Hwedza and Mhondoro-Ngezi recorded the highest cattle mortality (60%).
- At least 26 Districts recorded mortality rates of 20% and above.
- While other districts were below 20, the cattle mortality rates were still too high.
  The least mortality rates of 4% were recorded in Mutare, Mutoko and Makonde Districts.

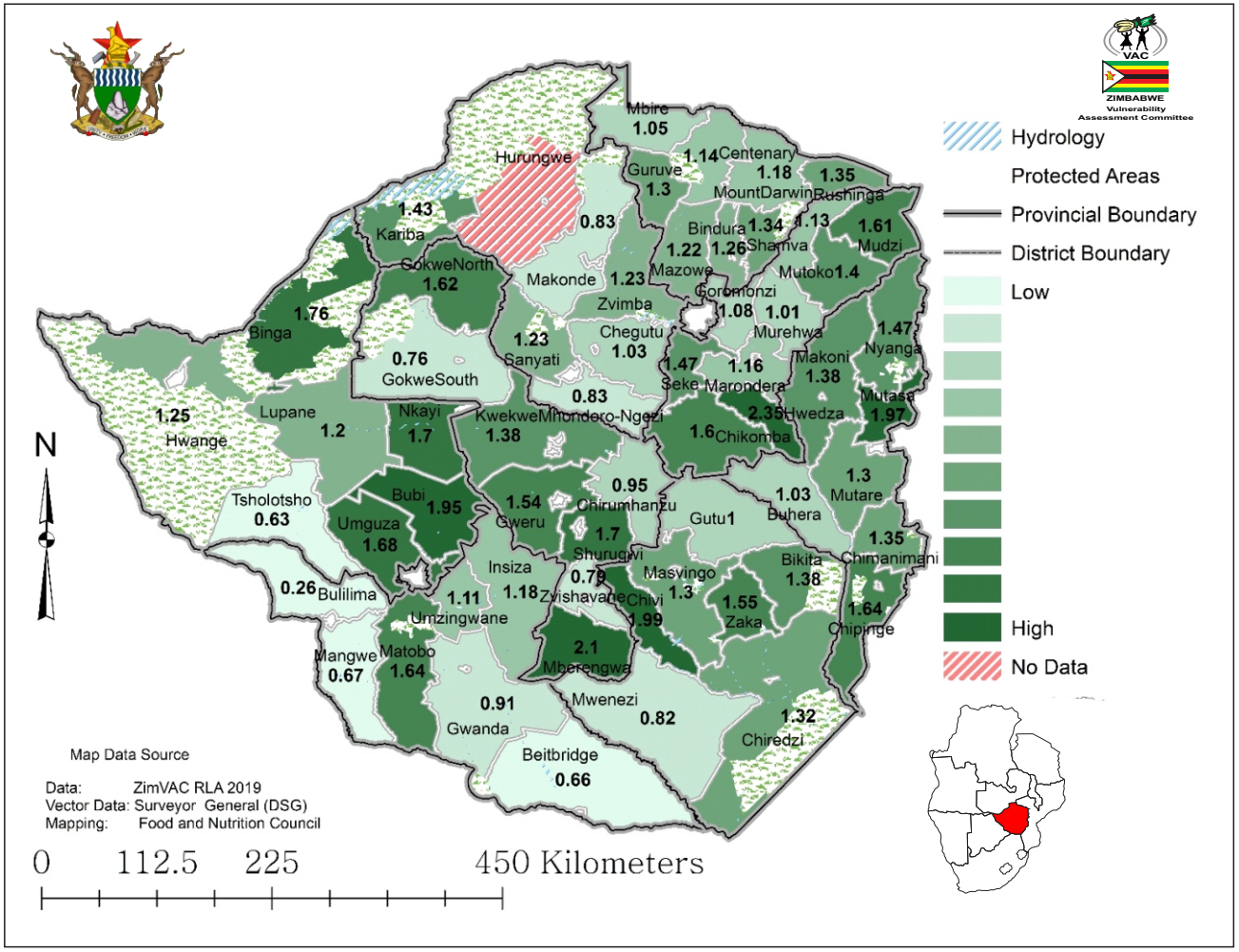
Agricultural Produce Markets

District Average Maize Grain Prices - 2019



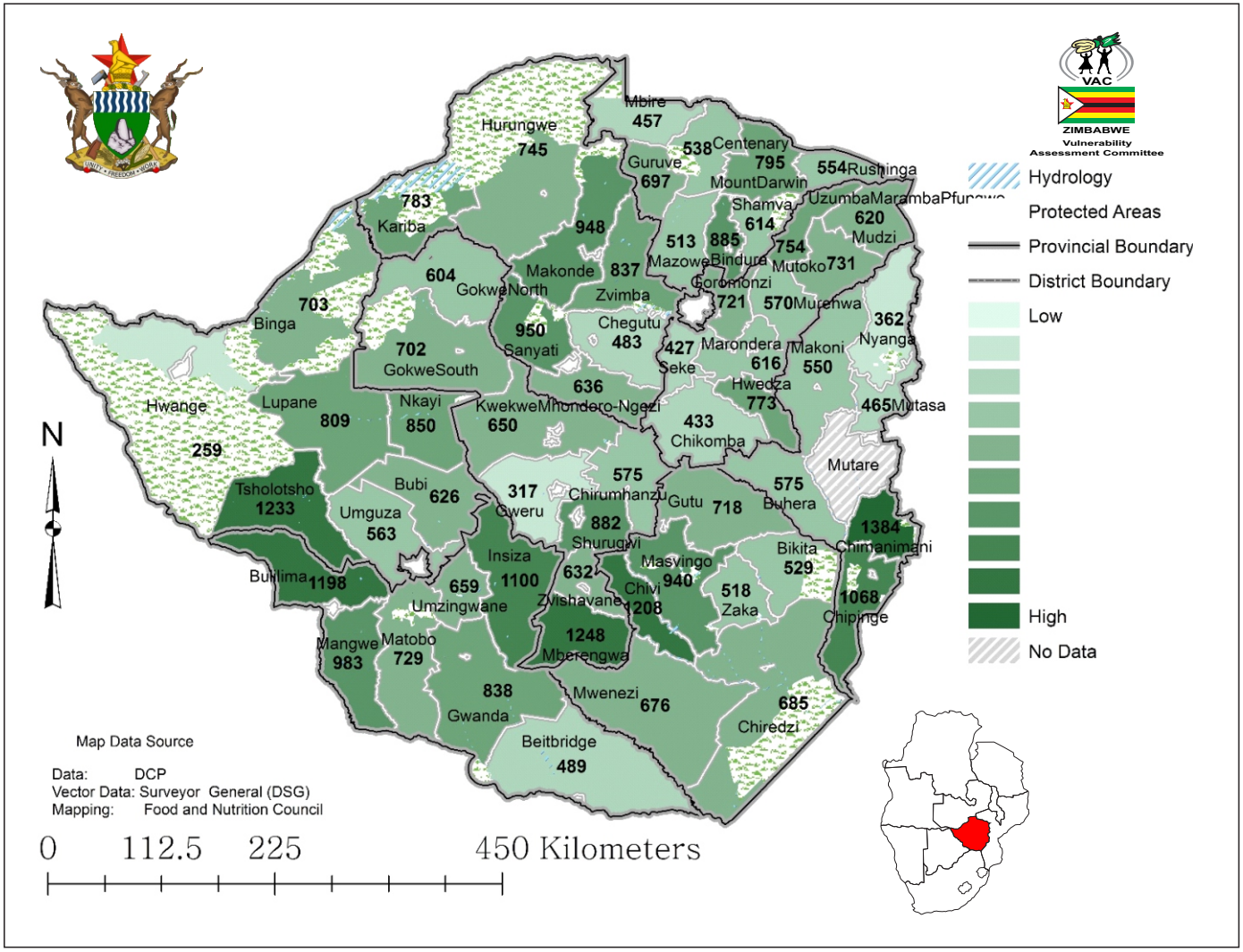
- Maize grain prices ranged from RTGS 0.46/kg to RTGS 1.11/kg in April 2019.
- The lowest maize grain prices were reported in Beitbridge (RTGS 0.46/kg while the highest prices were reported in Mangwe, Umguza and Umzingwane (RTGS 1.11/kg).

District Average Maize Maize Prices - April 2019



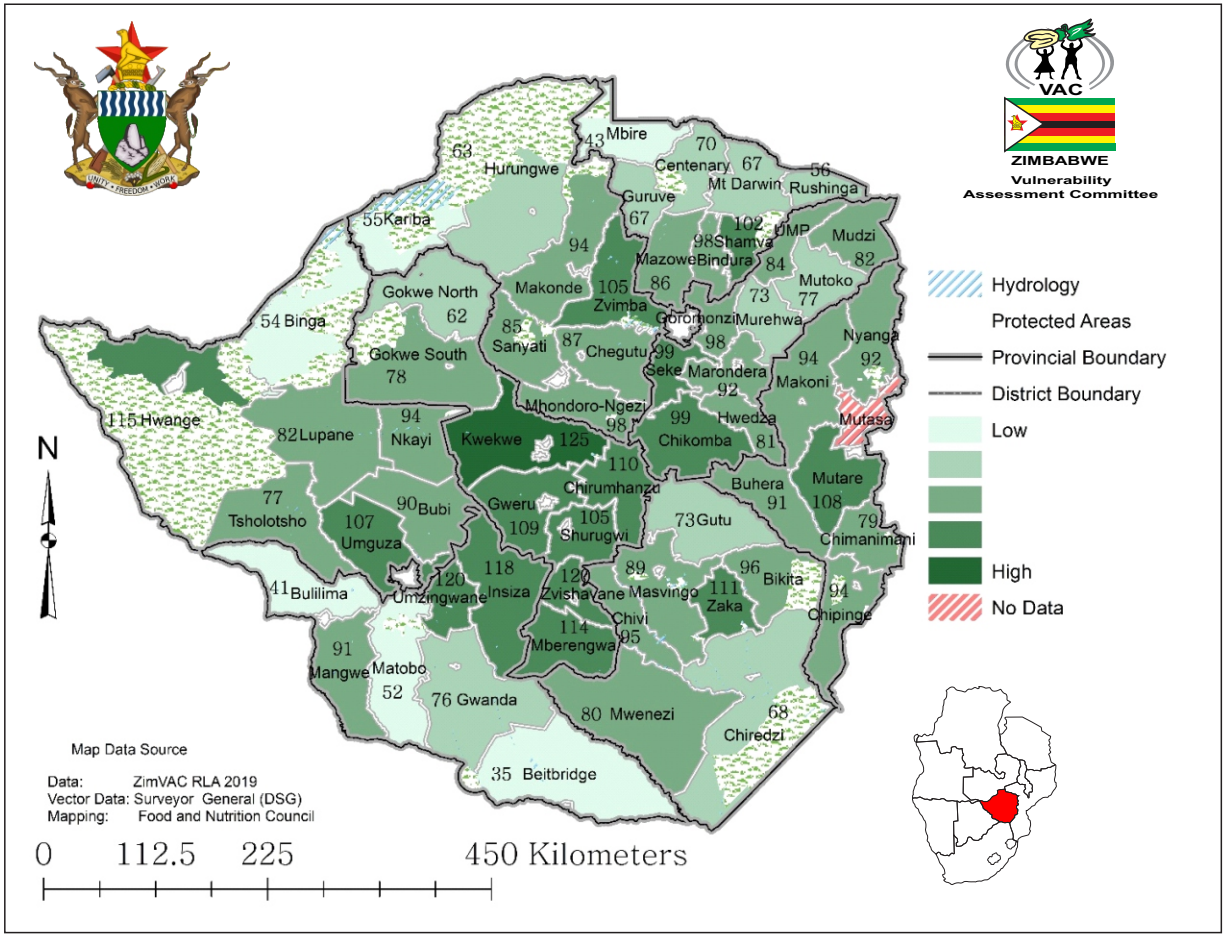
- Maize meal prices ranged from RTGS 0.26/kg to RTGS 2.39/kg in April 2019.
- The lowest maize grain prices were reported in Bulilima (RTGS 0.26/kg) and the highest prices were reported in Hwedza (RTGS 2.39).
- In Hurungwe district, maize meal was not being sold on the market.

District Cattle Prices - April 2019



- Cattle prices ranged from RTGS 317 to RTGS 1384 with the lowest cattle prices of were reported in Gweru (RTGS 317), and the highest prices were reported in Chimanimani (RTGS 1384).

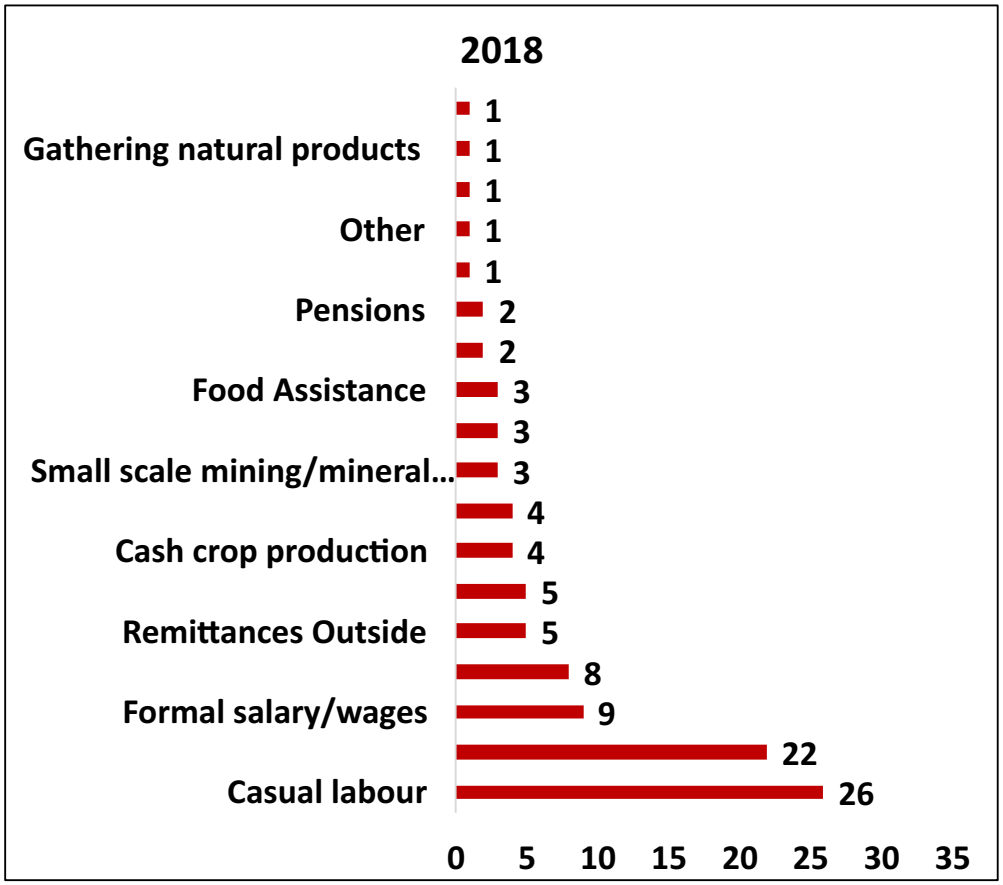
District Average Goat Prices - April 2019

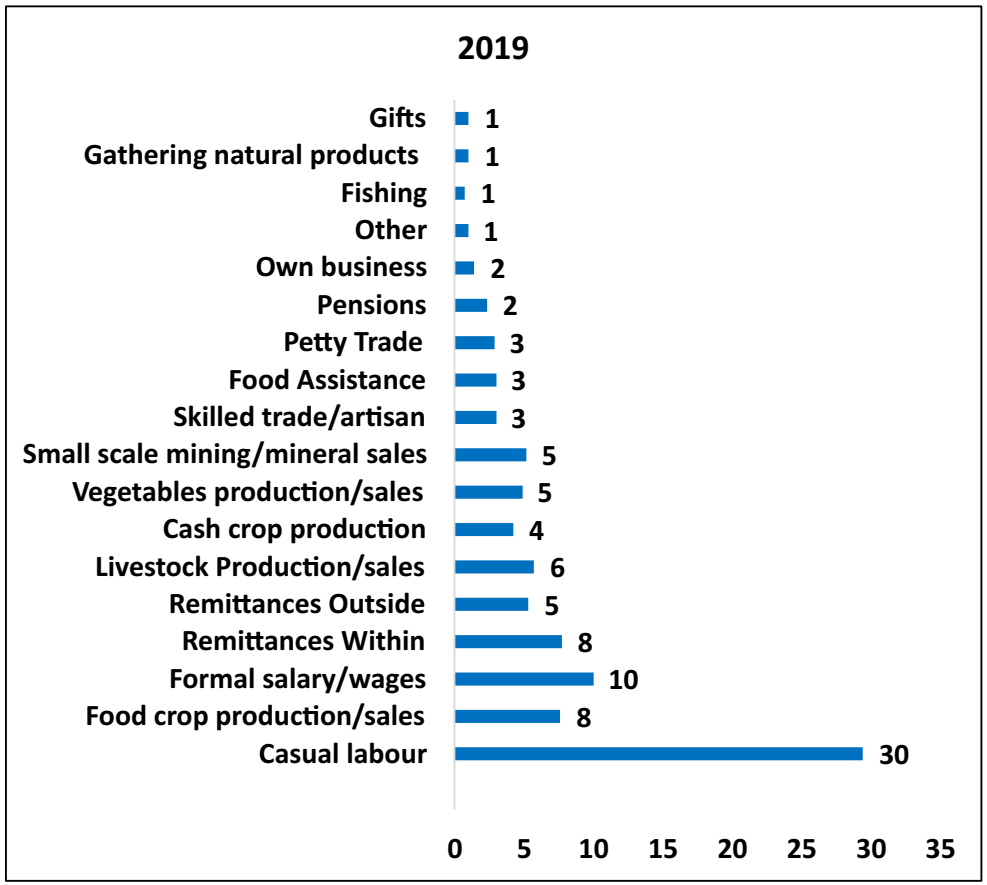


- Amongst the districts, the average price for goats ranged from RTGS 35 to RTGS 125 with the lowest prices reported in Beitbridge (RTGS 35) and the highest goat prices reported in Kwekwe (RTGS 125).

Income and Expenditure

Current Most Important Sources of Income

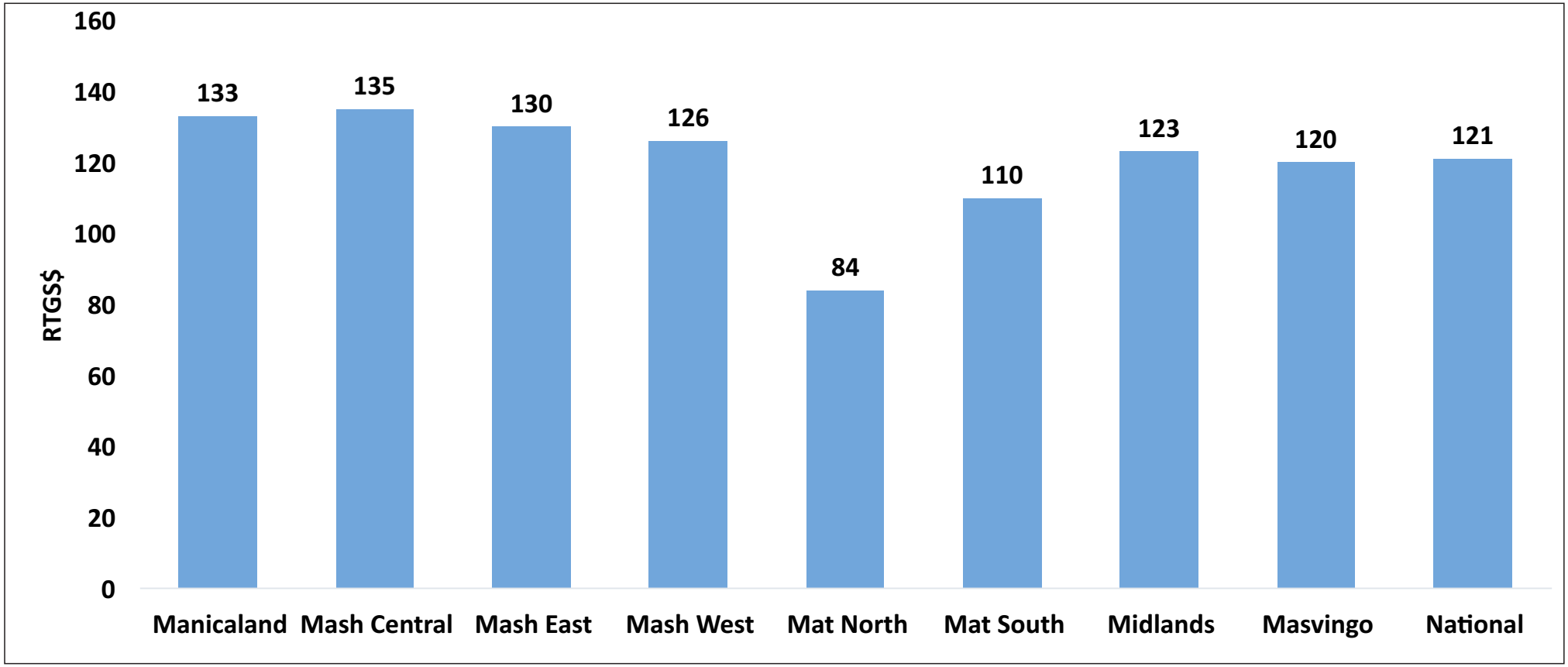




- Most households continue to rely on casual labour as the most important source of income (30%), followed by salary/ wages (10%), remittances within and food crop production/sales both at 8%.

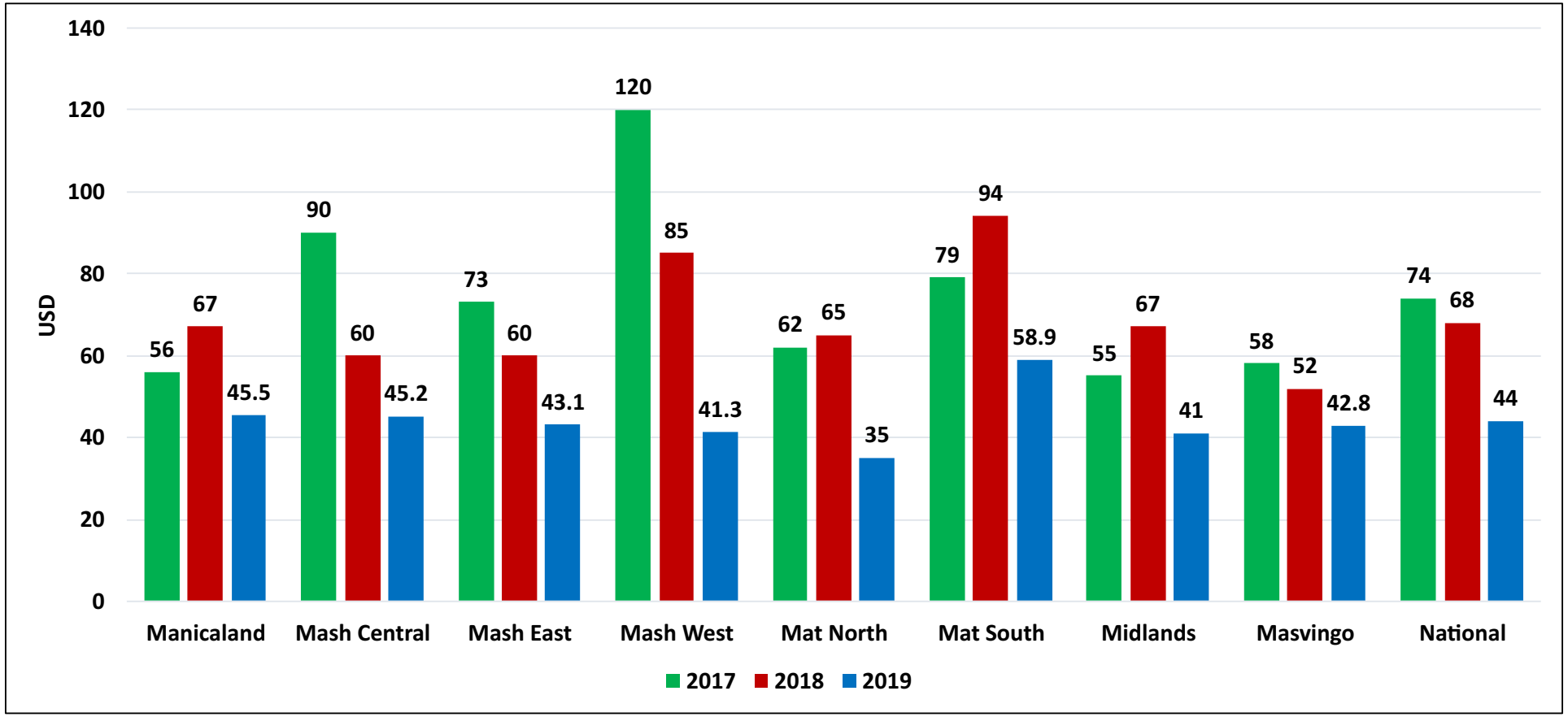
- Proportion of households who reported food crop production/sales as the main source of income has reduced from 22% in 2018 to only 8% in 2019. This could be attributed to the poor performance of the 2018/2019 agricultural season.

Average Household Monthly Income (RTGS) for April 2019



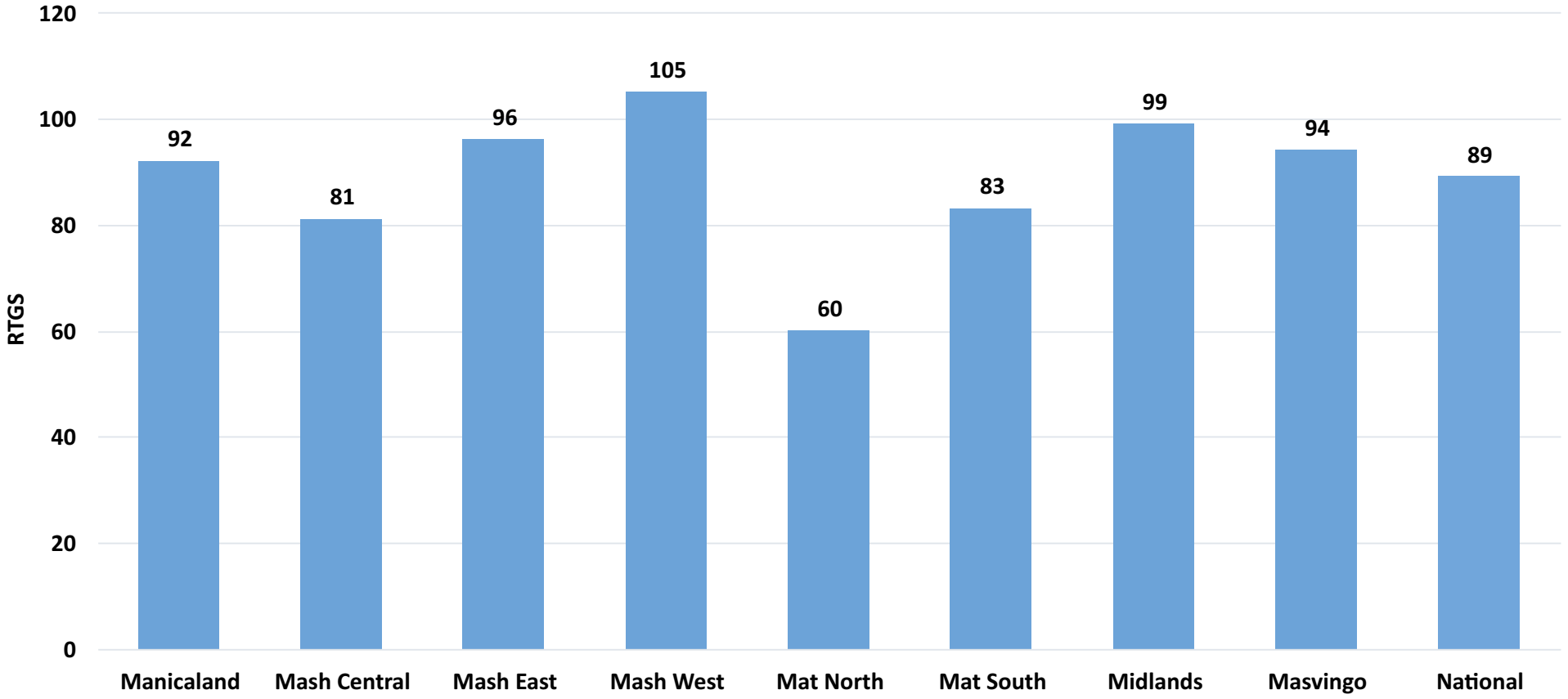
- The average monthly income was RTGS 121.
- The lowest average monthly income was in Matabeleland North (RTGS 84) and Matabeleland South (RTGS 110) while Mashonaland Central reported the highest average monthly income (RTGS 135).

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2019



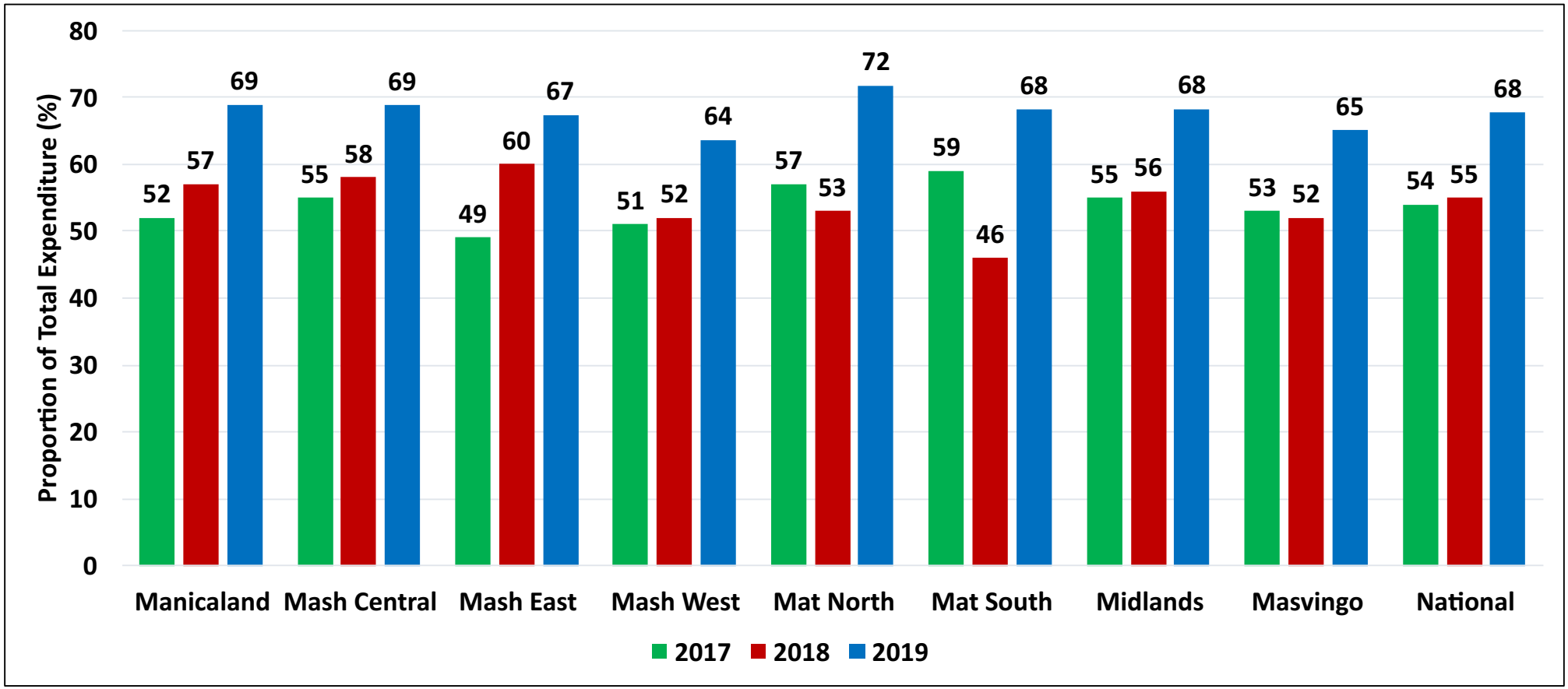
- The average household monthly income was USD 44, a decrease from USD 68 reported in 2018.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (RTGS) for April 2019



- Average expenditure for the month of April was RTGS 89.
- Matabeleland North (RTGS 60) reported the lowest expenditure.

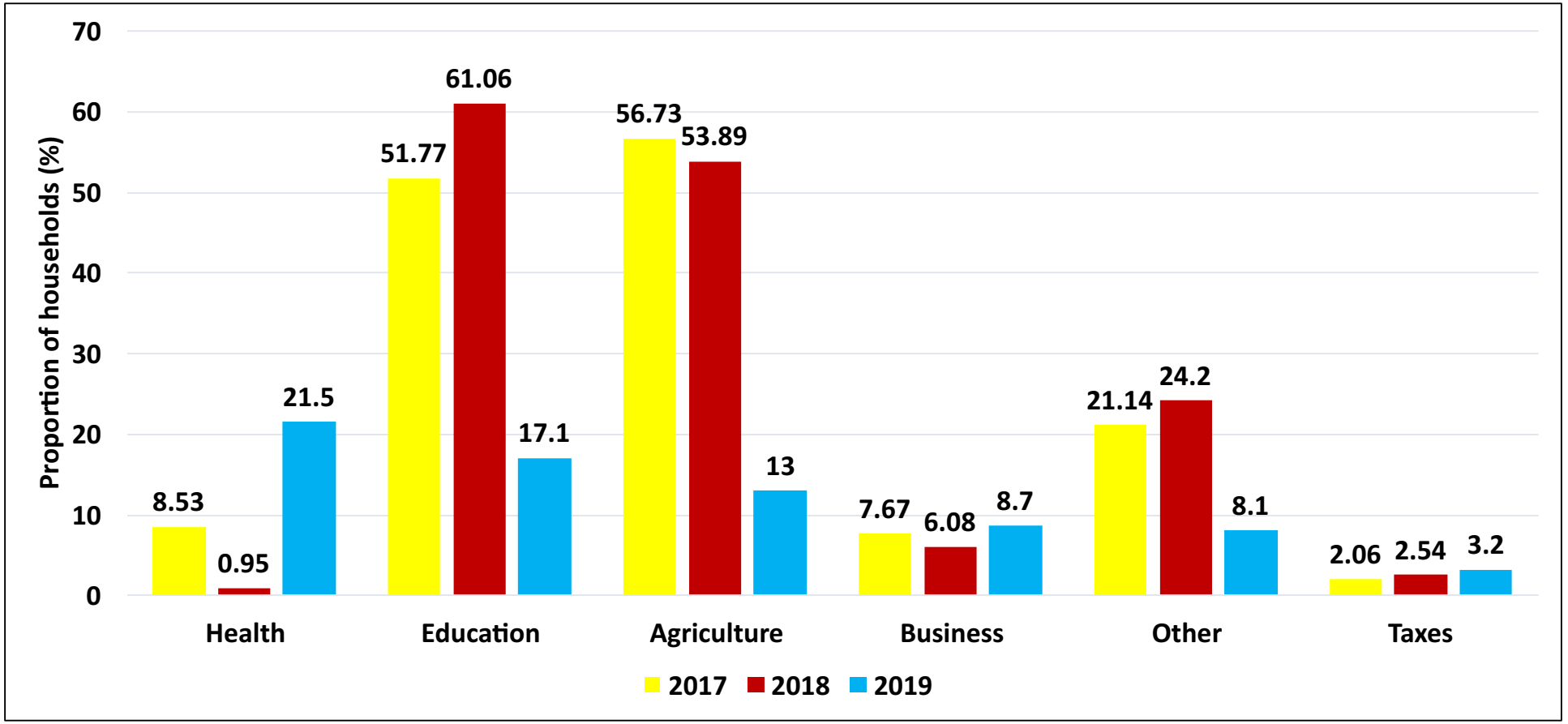
Food Expenditure



- Proportion of food expenditure was 68%; an increase from 55% reported in 2018, indicating possible increase in levels of vulnerability.

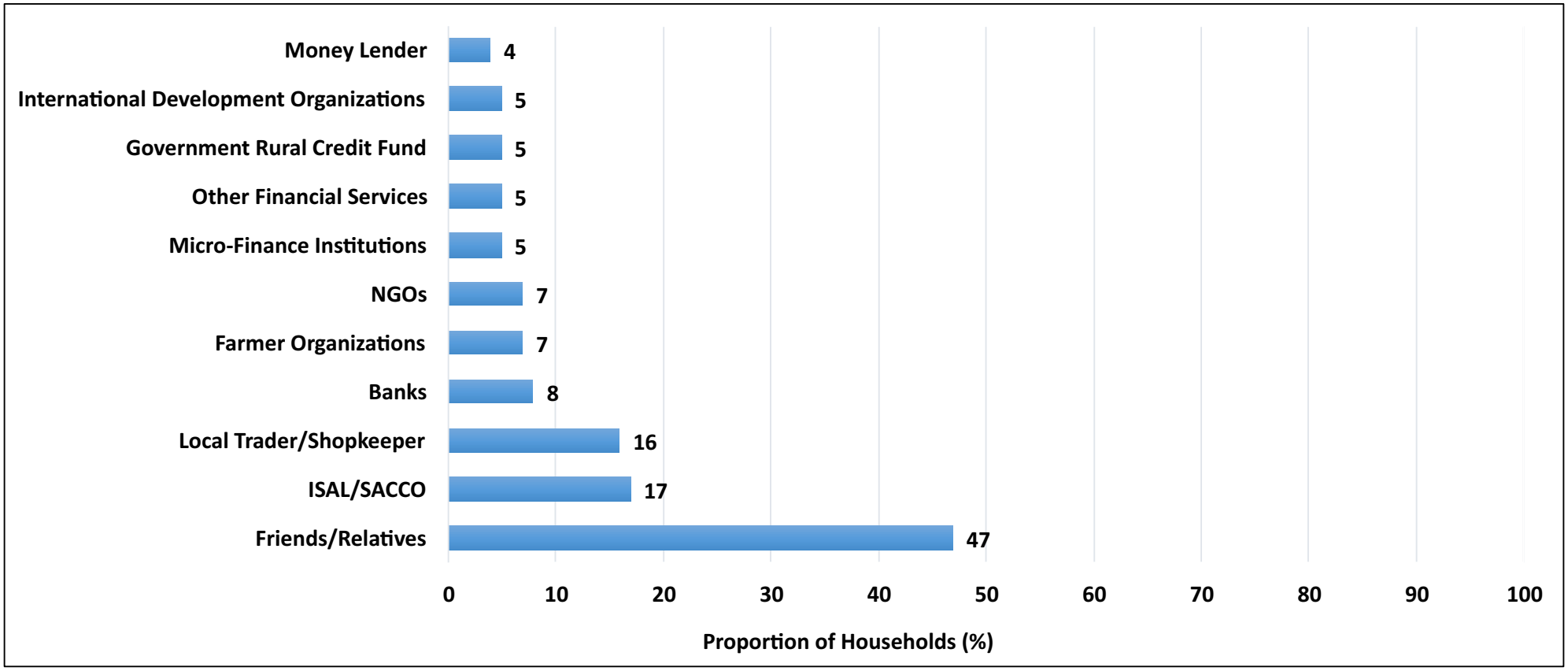
- This implies that households had less to spend on other essential services such as health and education.

Average Household 6 Month Expenditure



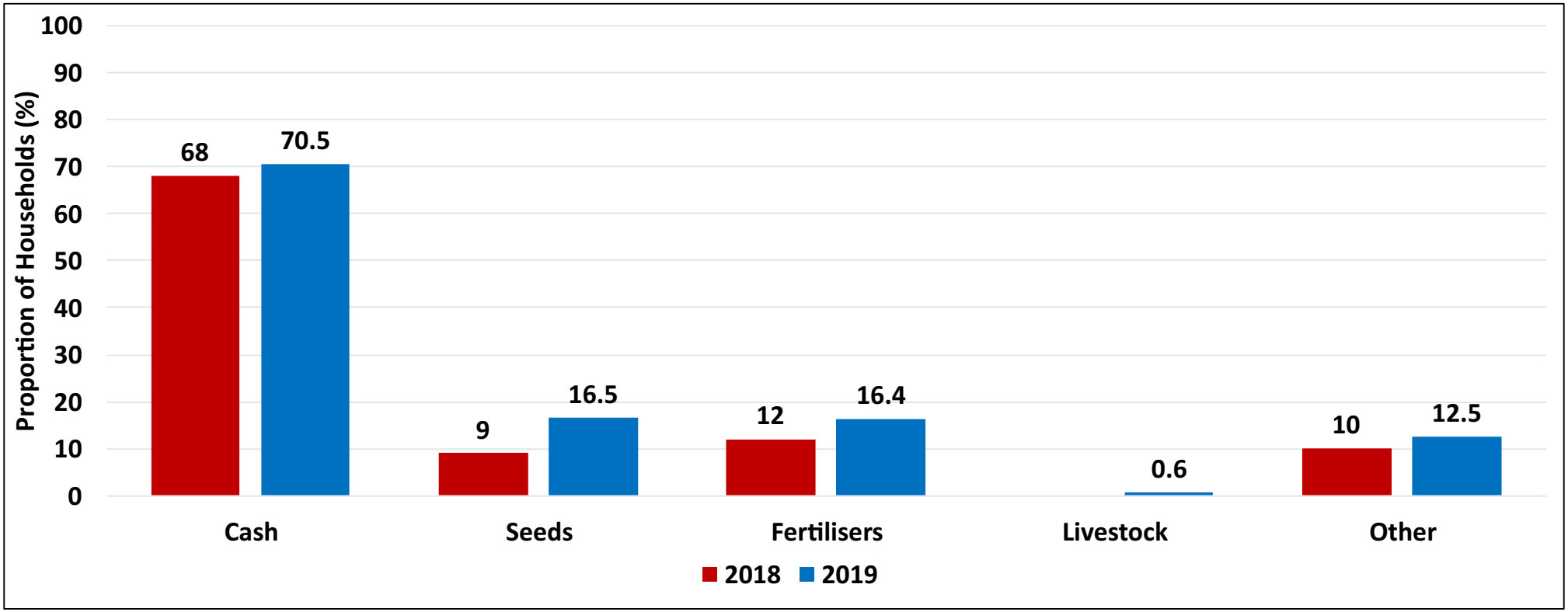
- Compared to the last 2 consumption years, there was a reduction in expenditure on productive sectors such as agriculture (USD 53.89 to USD 13) and education (USD 61.06 to USD 17.1), while non-productive expenditure is on the rise (health USD 21.5 from USD 0.95).

Sources of Loans



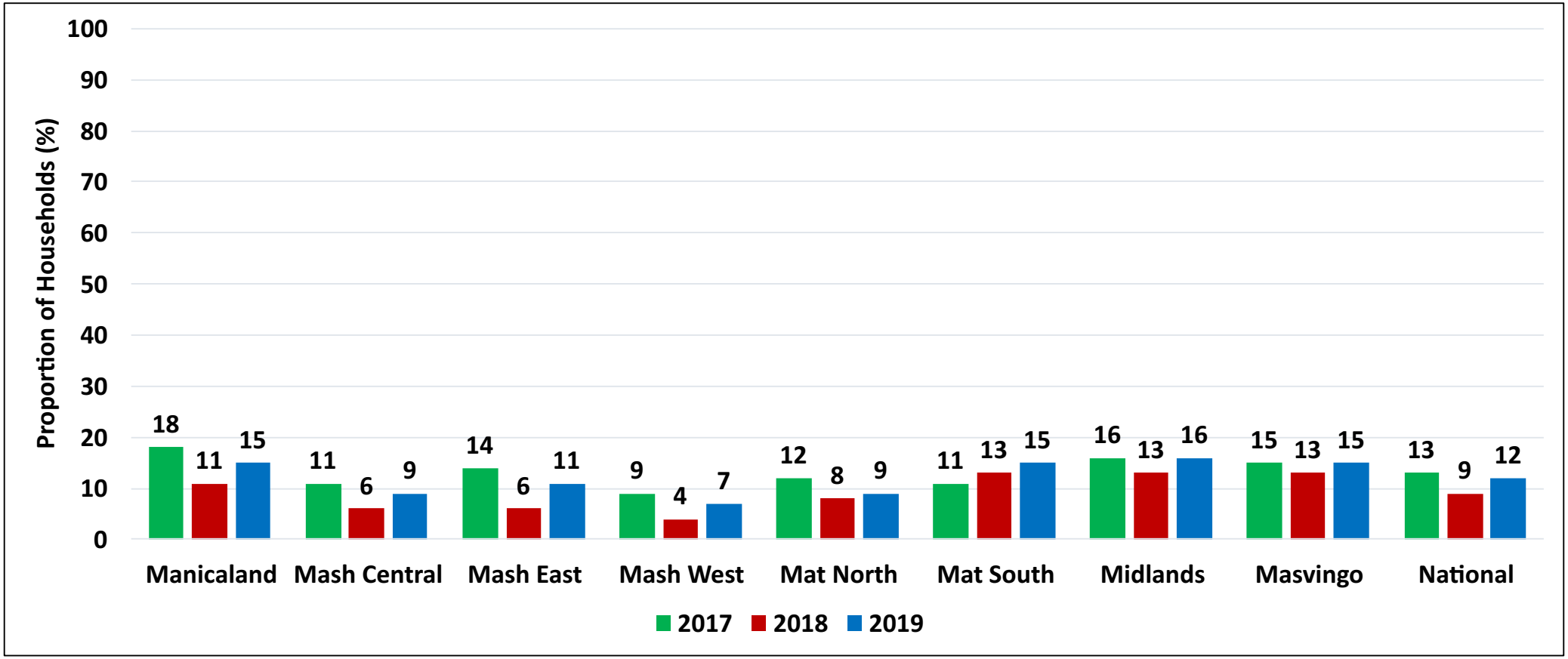
- Of the 4% of households which received loans, the major sources were friends/relatives (47%), ISALS/SACCO (17%) and local traders/shopkeepers (16%).
- This implies that most households continue to rely on social capital and informal safety nets to access loans.

Types of Loans



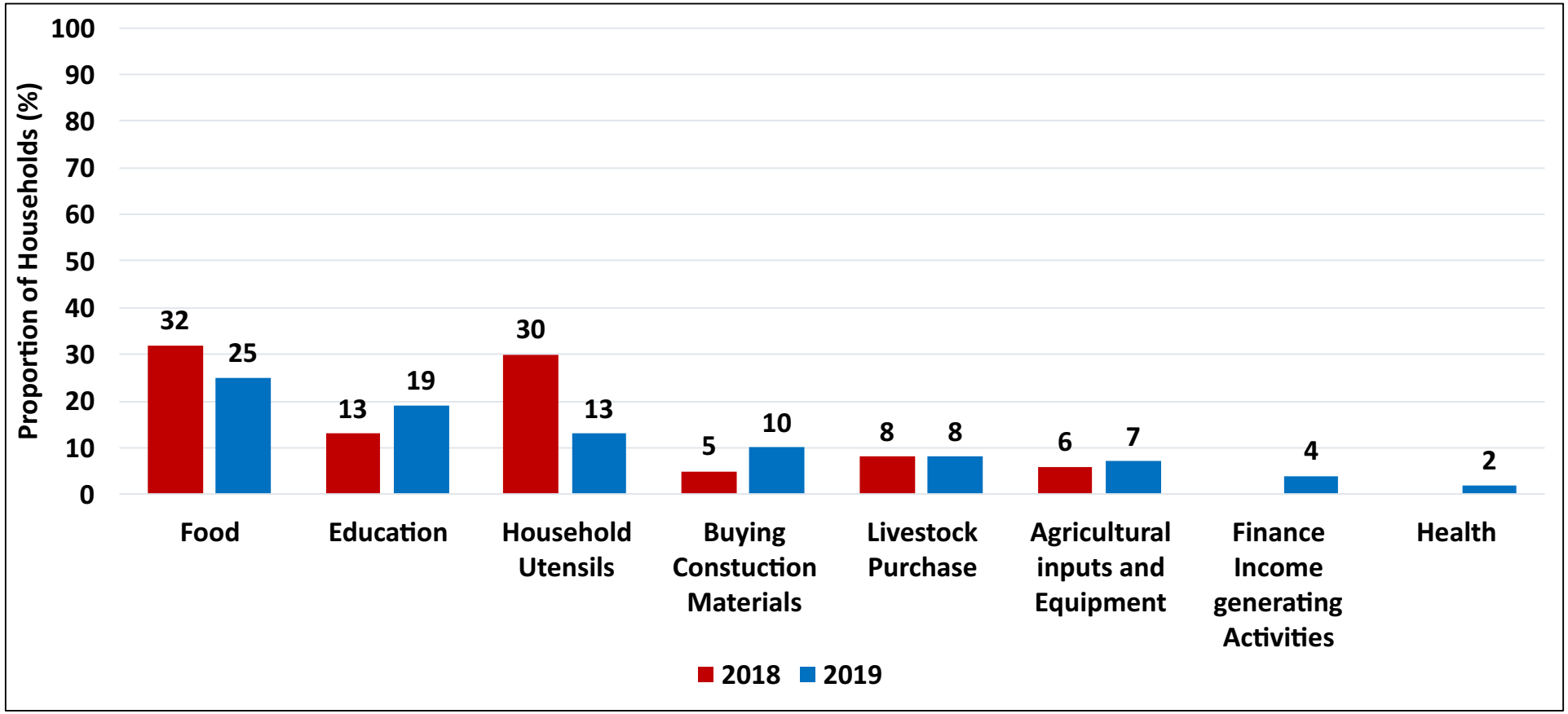
- The most common type of loan remains cash as reported by 70.5% of the households.
- There was an increase in loans in the form of seeds and fertiliser from 9% to 16.5% and from 12% to 16.4% respectively.
- The primary use of loans was mostly for consumption purposes.

Households with a Member in an ISAL/Mukando Group



- Households continue to engage in ISALS/Mukando. There was an increase in proportion of households with a member belonging to an ISAL/Mukando group from 9% in 2018 to 12% in 2019.
- The highest proportion was in Midlands (16%), Matabeleland South, Masvingo and Manicaland, all at 15%.
- The greater proportion of members were mothers (86%).

Use of Share-out from ISAL/Mukando Group



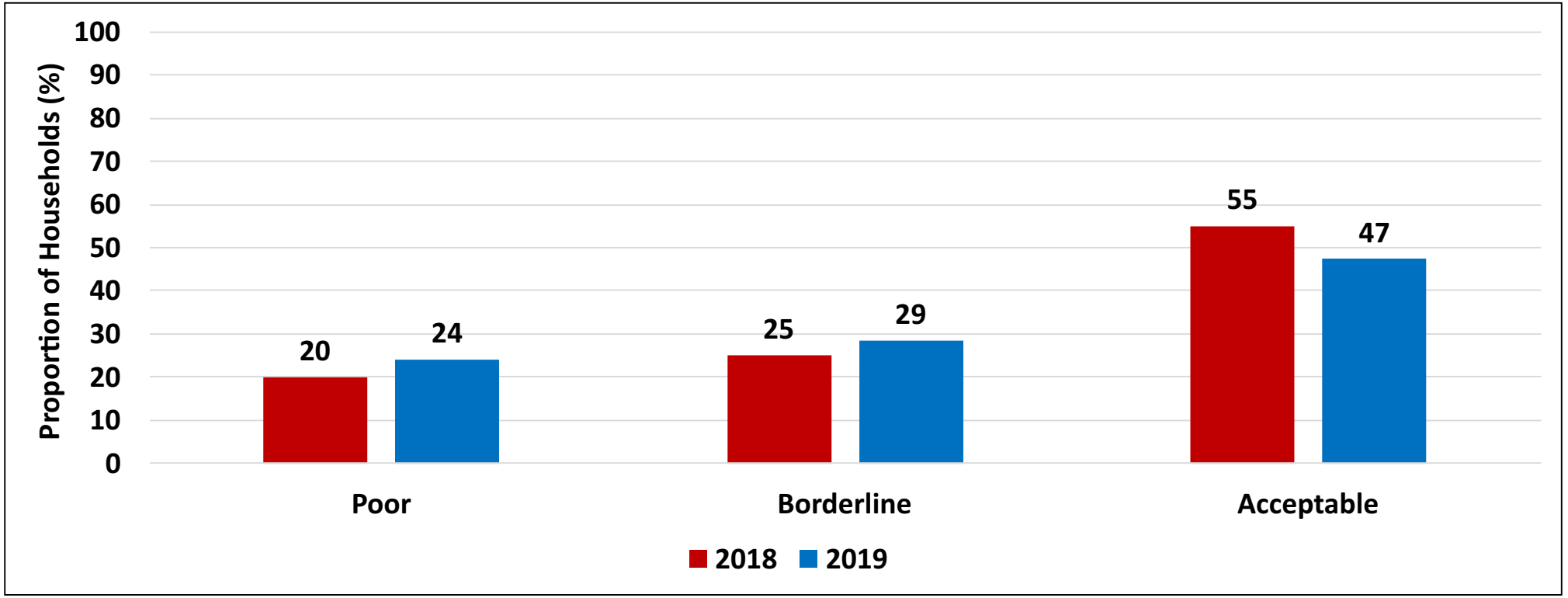
- Consistent with 2018, most of the share-out from ISALS continued to be used for purchasing of food (25%), education (19%) and households utensils (13%). However, investment of ISAL share-out to finance income generating activities (4%) and purchase of construction materials (10%) was also reported.

Food Consumption Patterns and Coping Strategies

Food Consumption Score

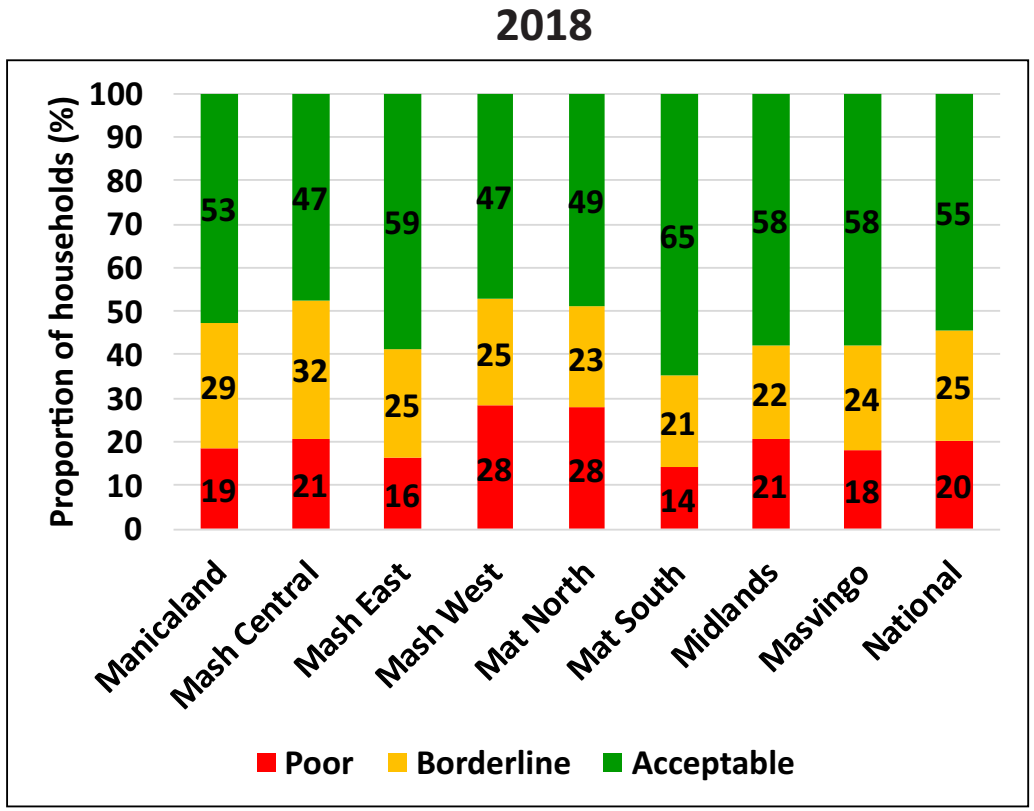
Food Consumption Score Groups	Score
Poor	0-21
Borderline	21.5-35
Acceptable	>35

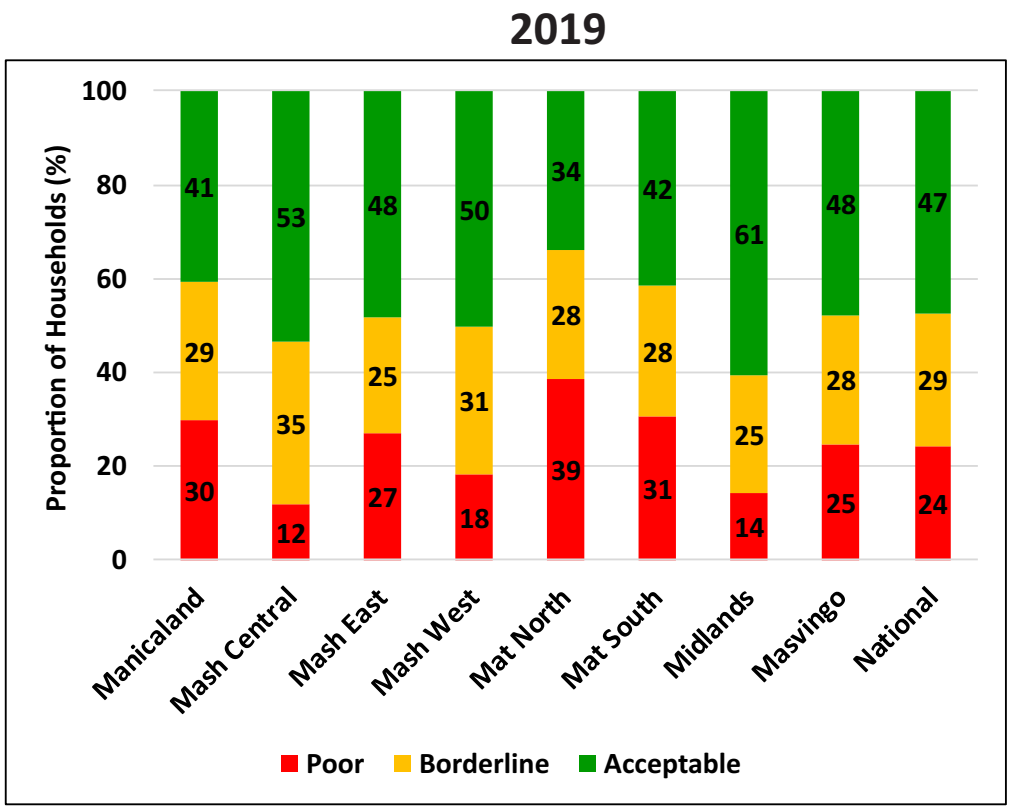
Food Consumption Patterns



- The proportion of households which were consuming an acceptable diet decreased from 55% in 2018 to 47% (2019).
- The proportion of households consuming poor diets increased to 24% from 20% reported in 2018. This points towards deteriorating household food access.
- The majority of the households (53%) were consuming borderline to poor diets which is an 8 percentage points increase form the 45% in 2018 indicative of deteriorating food security status among the rural households

Food Consumption Patterns by Province

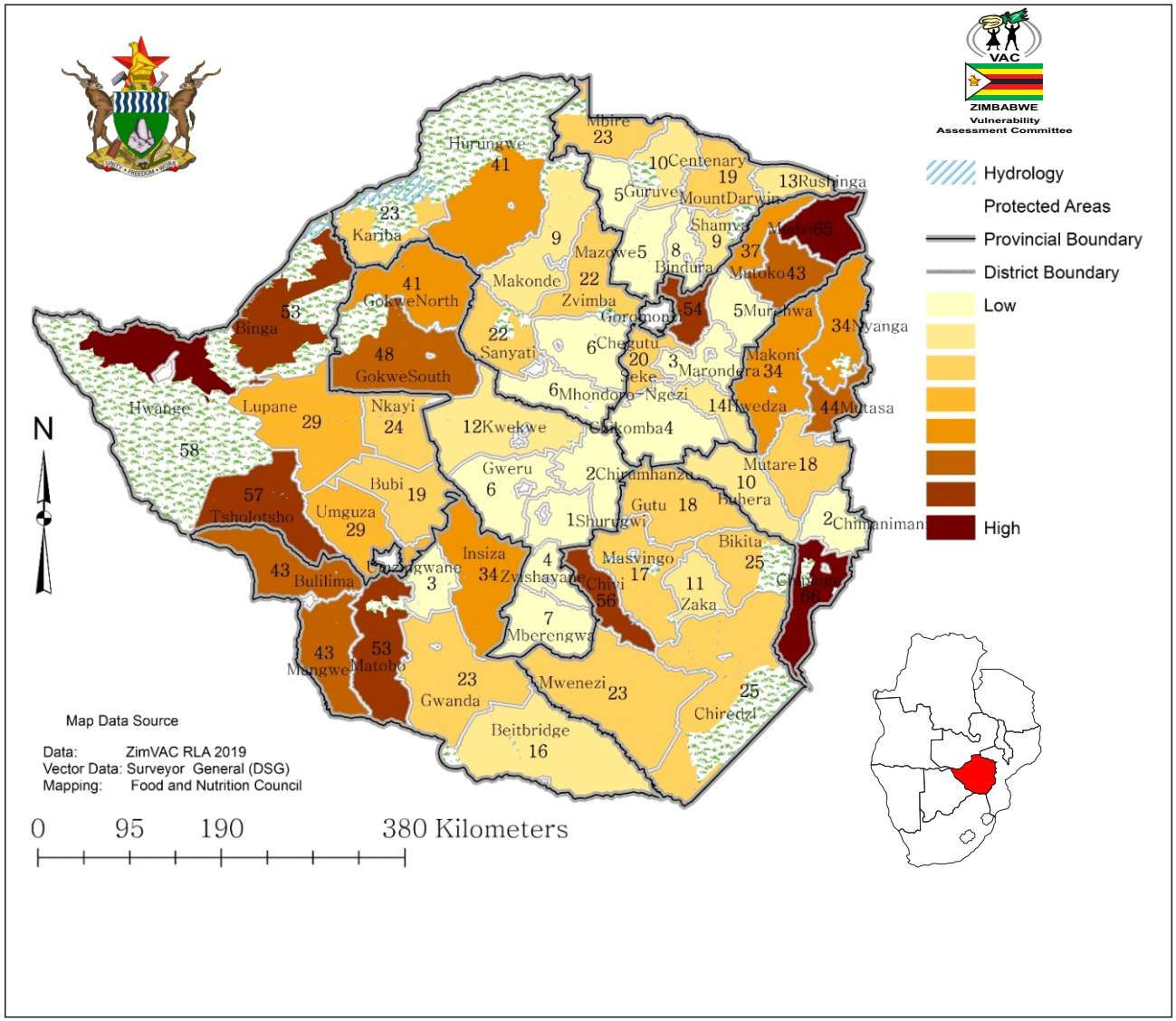




- All provinces , except for Midlands, Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West had a decrease in the proportion of households consuming acceptable diets, an indication of deteriorating household food access.

- All provinces except Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Midlands experienced a rise in the proportion of households eating borderline to poor diets.

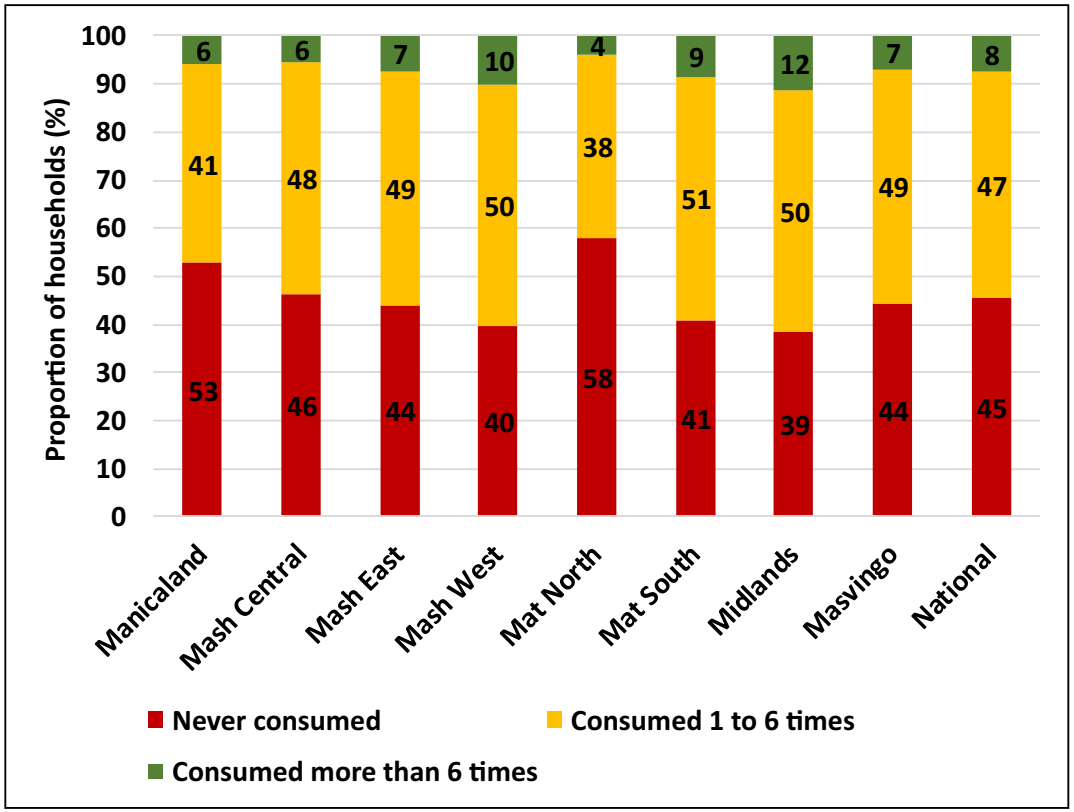
Households with Poor Food Consumption Patterns



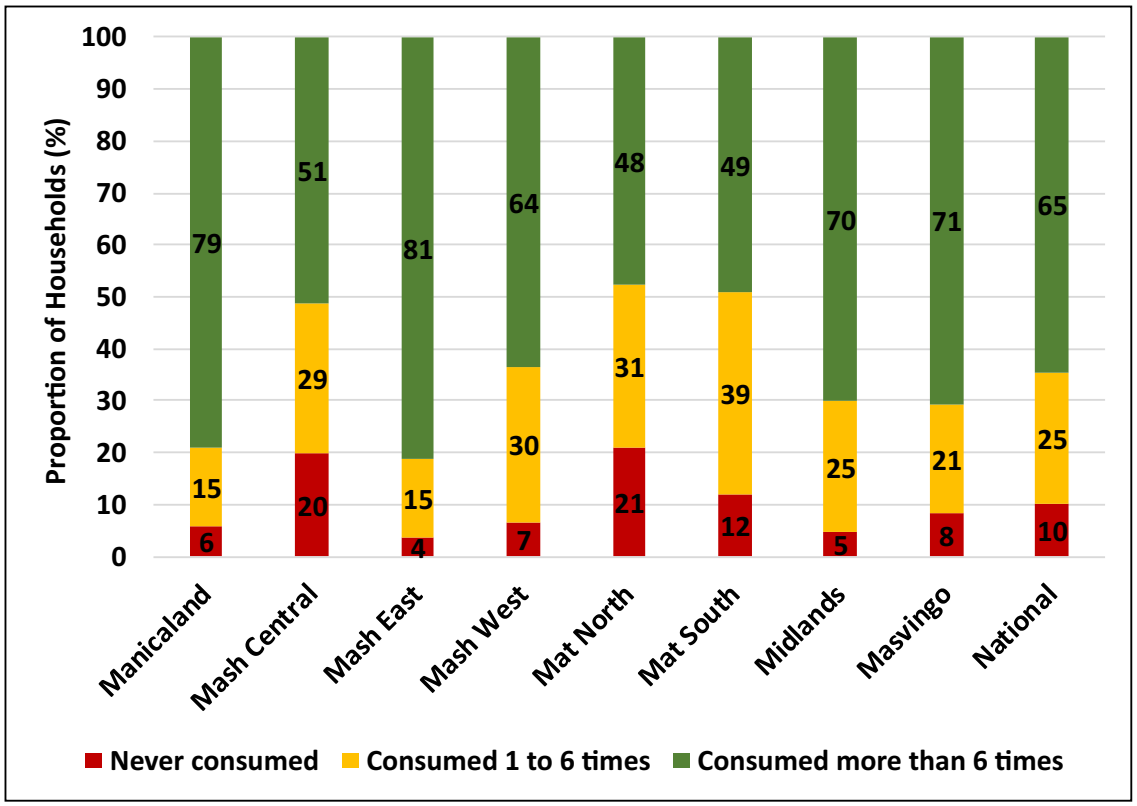
- Of the 60 rural districts, 8 had above 50% of its households having poor food consumption pattern of which Chipinge (66%) and Mudzi (65%) had the highest.
- Midlands, Mashonaland West and Central provinces had no district with more than 50% of its household having poor consumption patterns.
- Matabeleland North had 3 of its districts (Hwange (58%), Tsholotsho (57%) and Binga (53%)) having more than 50% of the households with poor food consumption pattern.
- Mashonaland East had 2 (Mudzi (65%), Goromonzi (54%), Masvingo and Manicaland had 1 each districts with more than 50% households consuming poor diets

Households Consuming Iron and Vitamin A Rich Foods

Iron-rich Foods

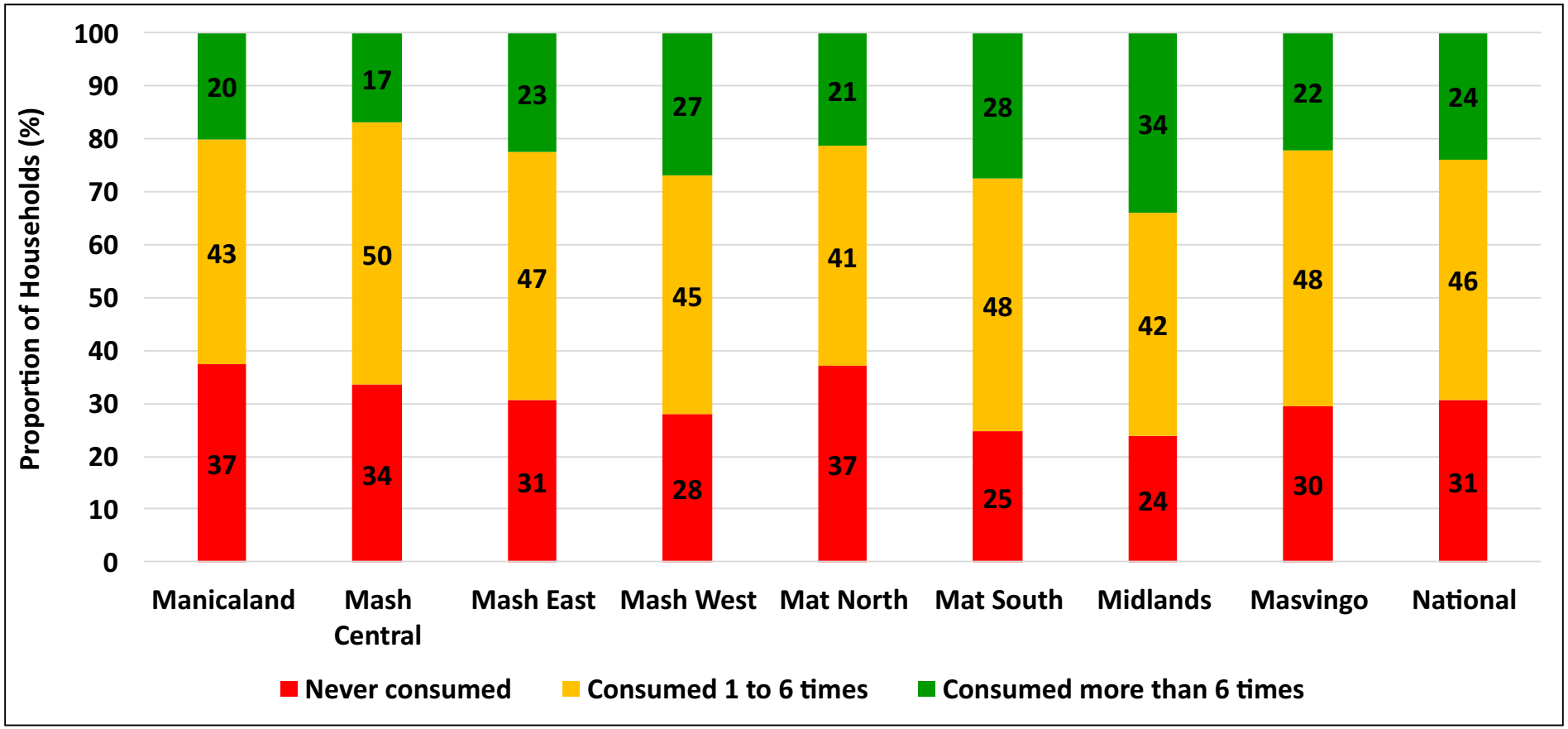


Vitamin A-rich Foods



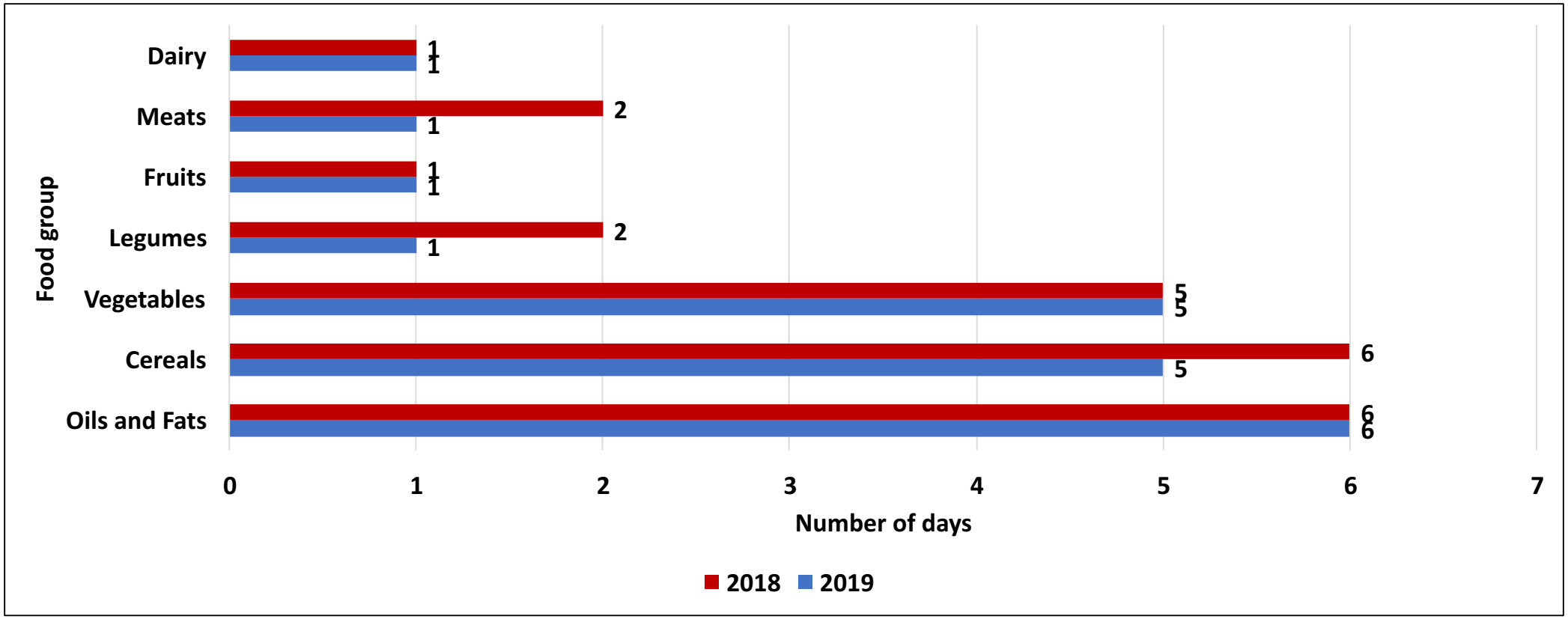
- Only 8% of the households were consuming iron rich foods daily whilst 65% were consuming vitamin A rich foods
- Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of households who did not consume both iron (58%) and vitamin (21%) rich foods.
- Manicaland (53%) had more than half of the households having never consumed iron-rich foods in the seven days prior to the survey.

Households Consuming Protein-rich Foods



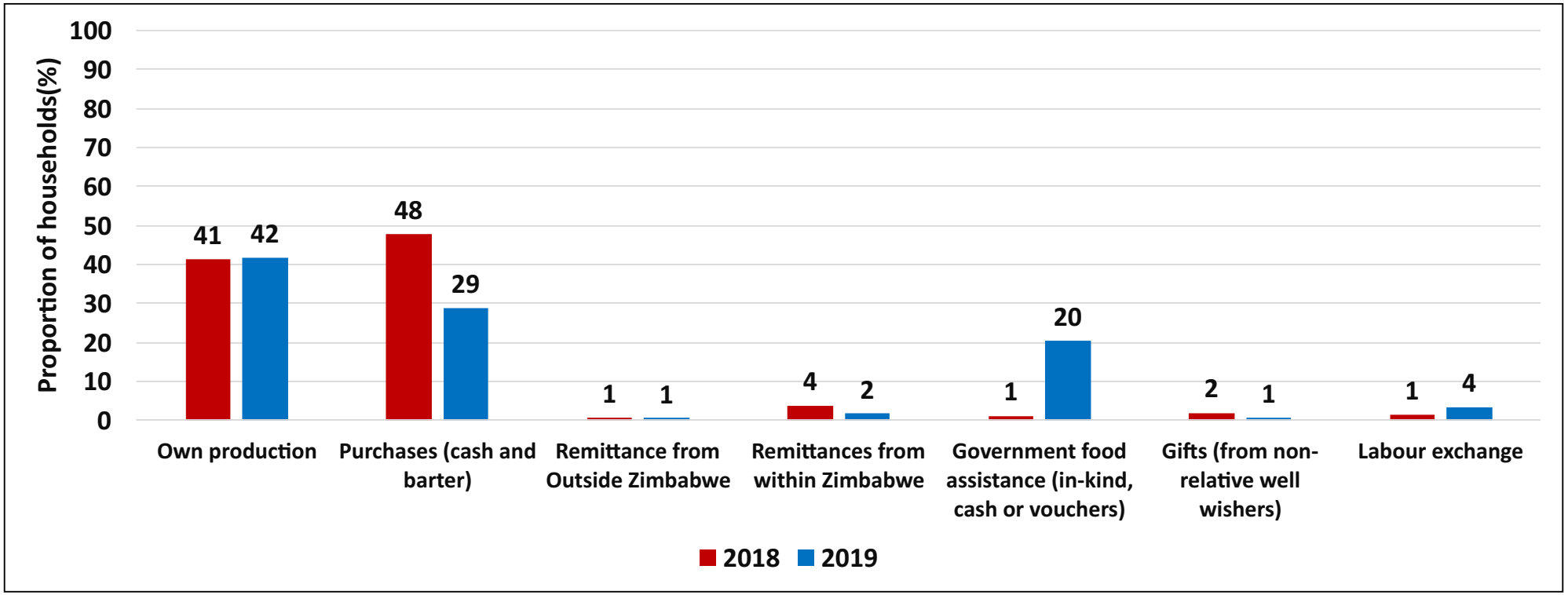
- The proportion of households that never consumed any protein rich foods seven days prior to the survey was 31% nationally with Matabeleland North and Manicaland having the highest proportions at 37%.

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



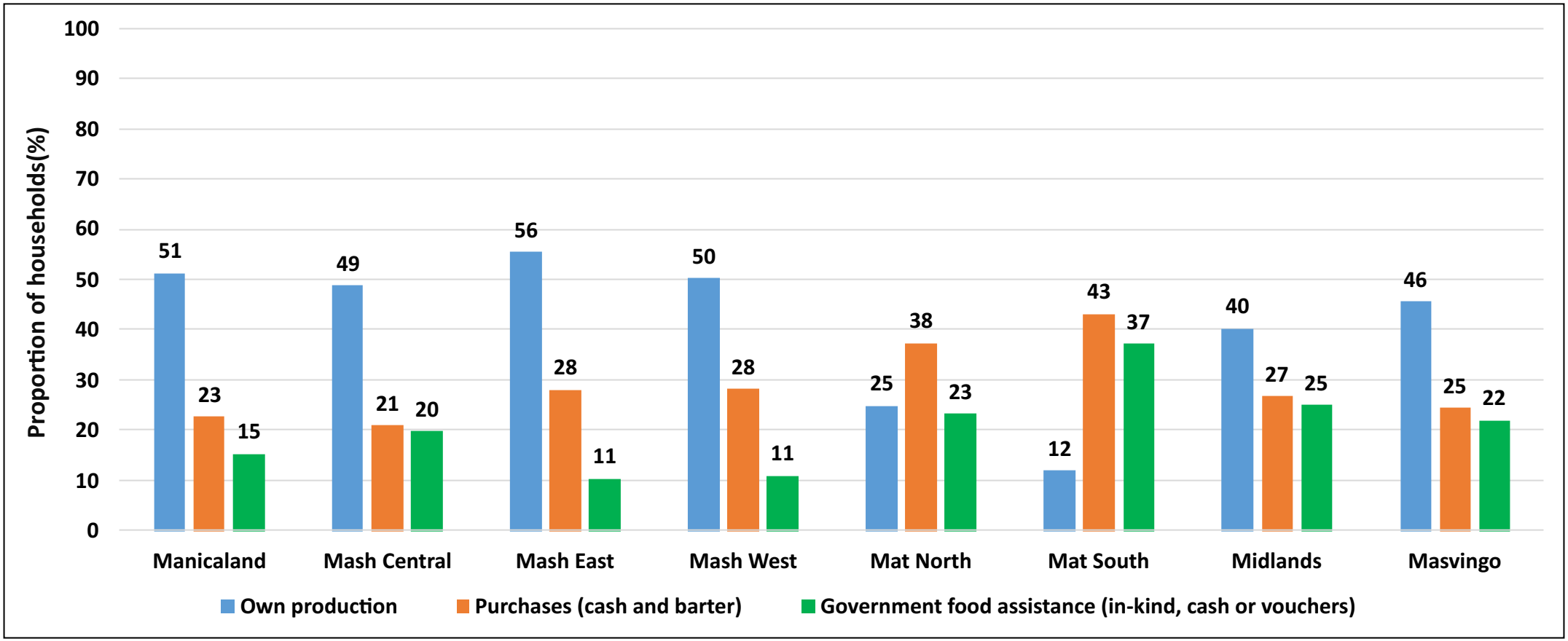
- Consumption of cereals, meats and legumes decreased compared to the previous year.
- This is an indication of deteriorating household food consumption patterns.

Household Main Sources of Cereals Consumed



- Own production (42%) and purchases (cash or barter) (29%) were the main sources of cereals which is the same trend as the previous years.
- The proportion of households depending on purchases (cash or barter) had however decreased from 48% in 2018 to 29% in 2019 probably due to the lower purchasing power affecting most households due to the economic pressures.
- The increase in households reporting government food assistance (1% in 2018 to 20% in 2019) and labour exchange (from 1% in 2018 to 4% in 2019 as main source of cereal is indicative deepening food access challenges.

Household Main Sources of Cereals Consumed



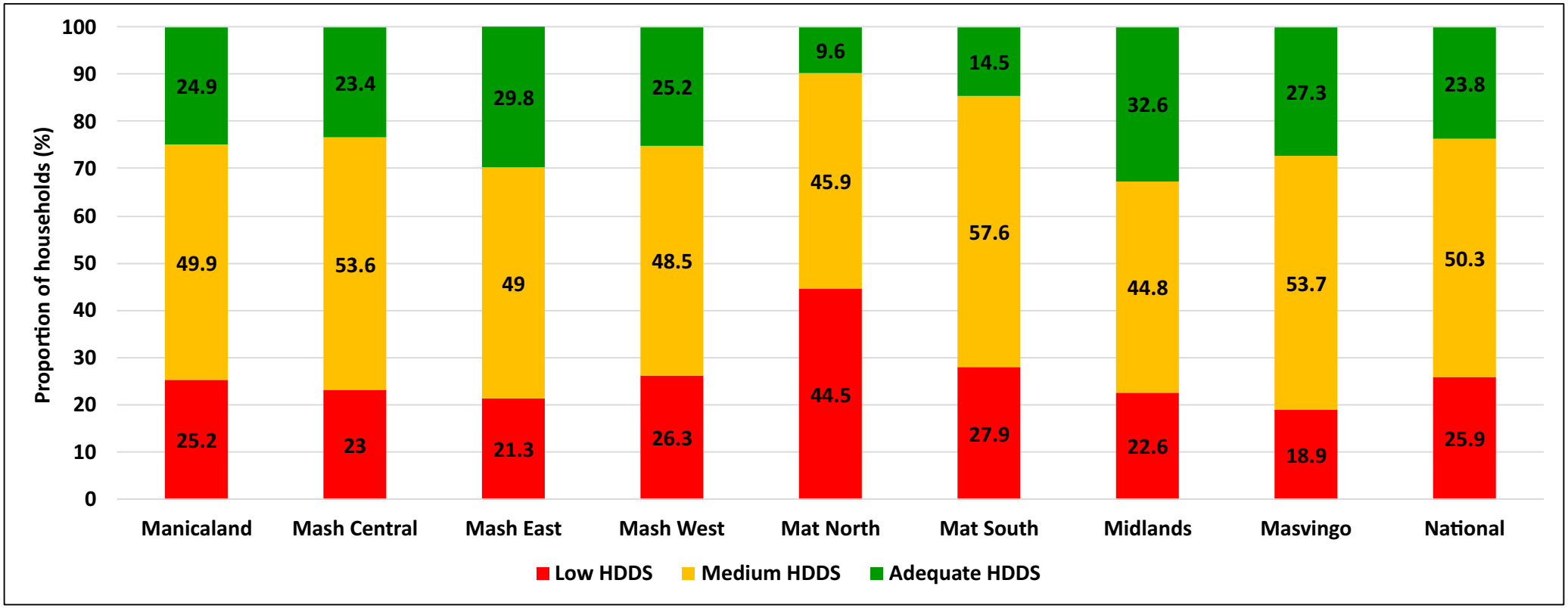
- In all provinces, most households were depending on own production as the main source of cereals except for Matabeleland North and South Provinces which had the main source as purchases.

- Matabeleland South (37%) had the highest proportion of households indicating that government was their main source of cereals followed by midlands (25%), and Matabeleland North (23%).

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

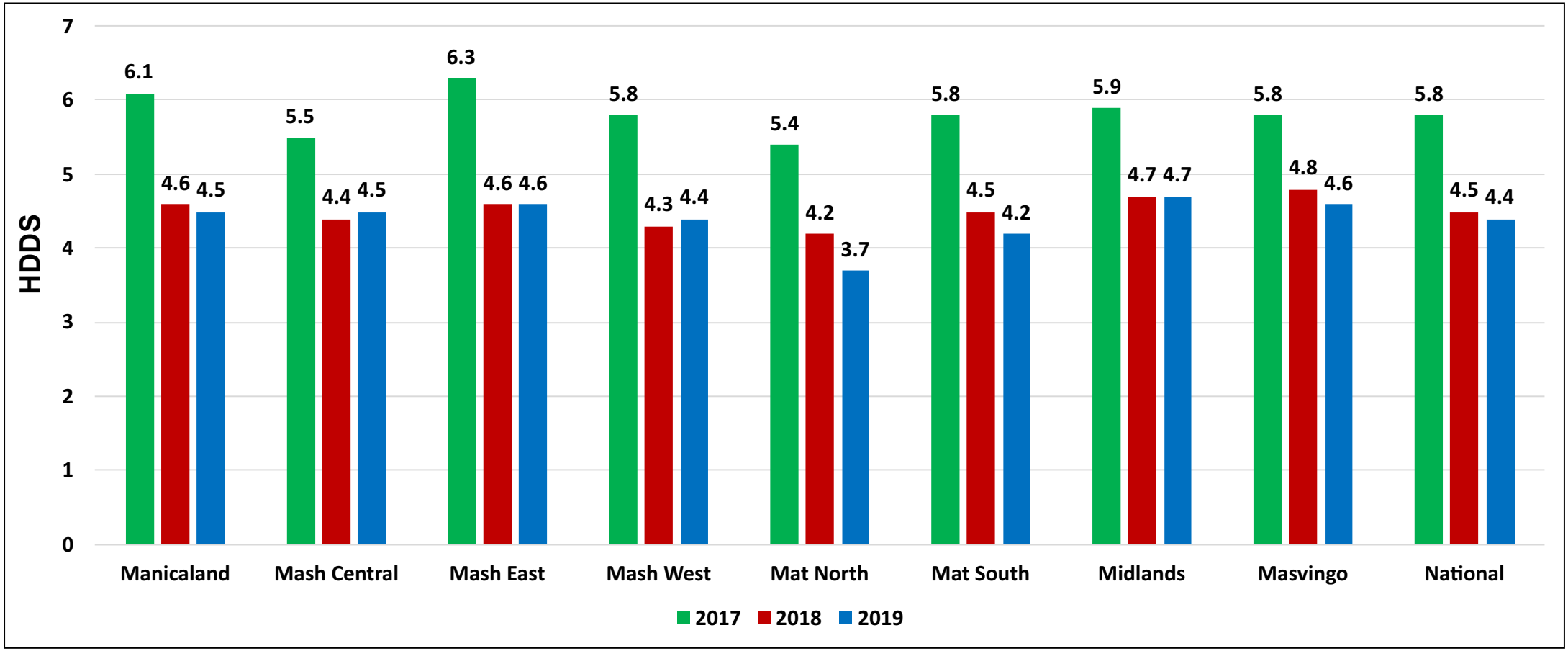
HDDS	Classification
<3	Low
4-5	Medium
>5	Acceptable

Household Dietary Diversity Score



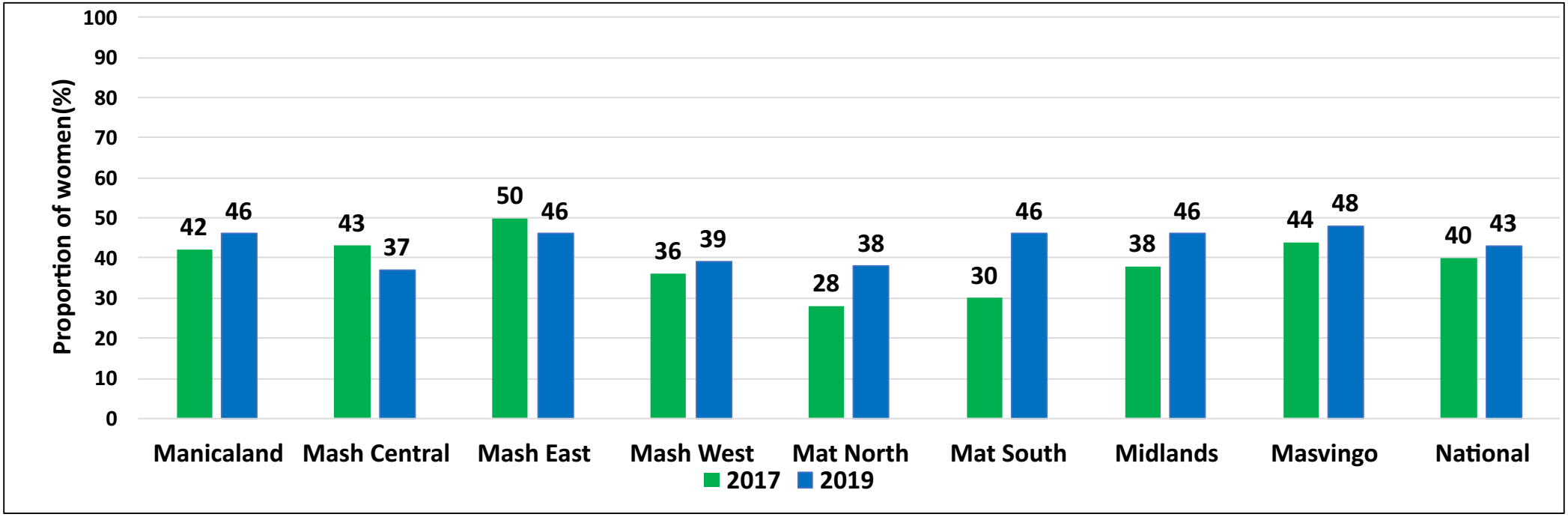
- The highest proportion of households (50.3 %) had medium HDDS whilst those with adequate HDDS were 23.8%.
- Matebeleland North (44.5 %), Matebeleland South (27.9 %), and Mashonaland West (26.3 %) were the provinces with the highest proportion of households with a low HDDS.
- Midlands province (32.6%) had the highest proportion of households with acceptable HDDS.

Average Household Dietary Diversity Score



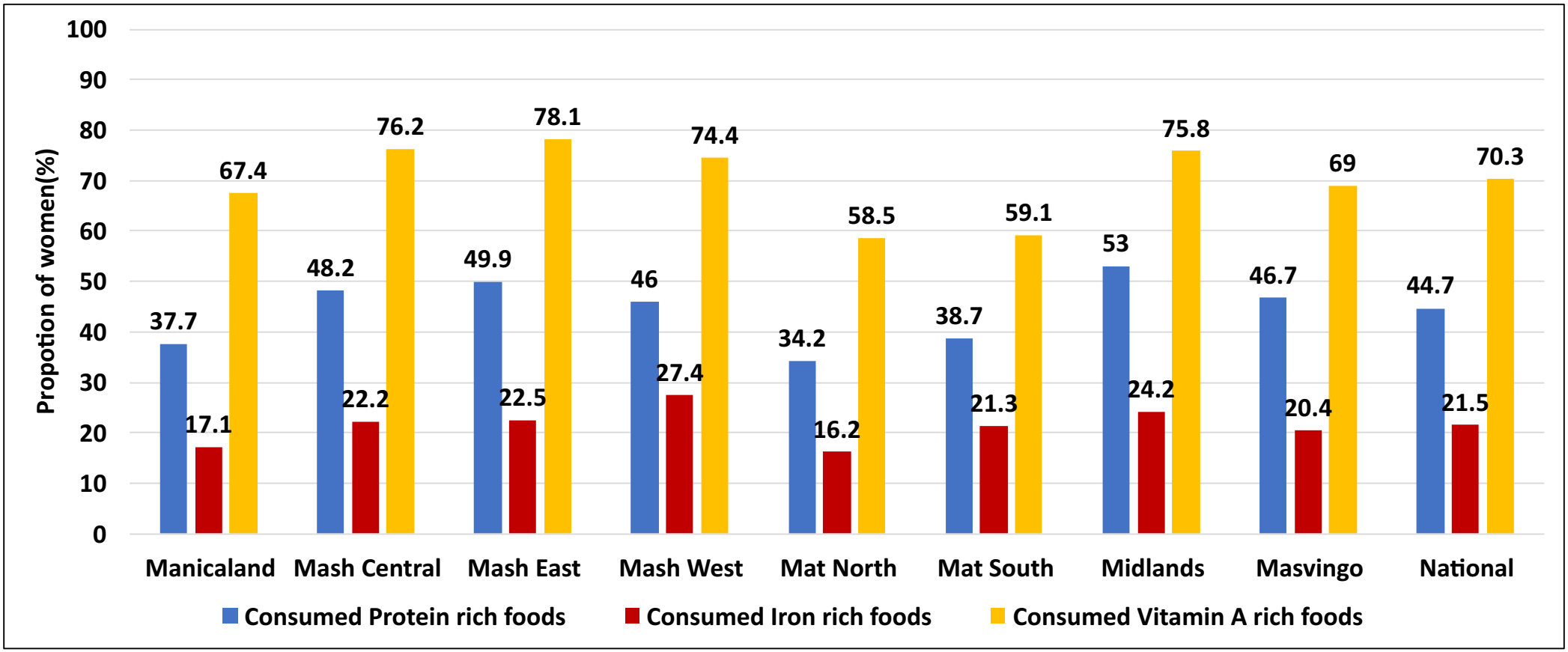
- Nationally, there has been a decreasing trend in HDDS over the past three years from 5.8 in 2017 to 4.4 in 2019.
- Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North had the least average HDDS of 4.2 and 3.7 respectively.

Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women of Child Bearing Age



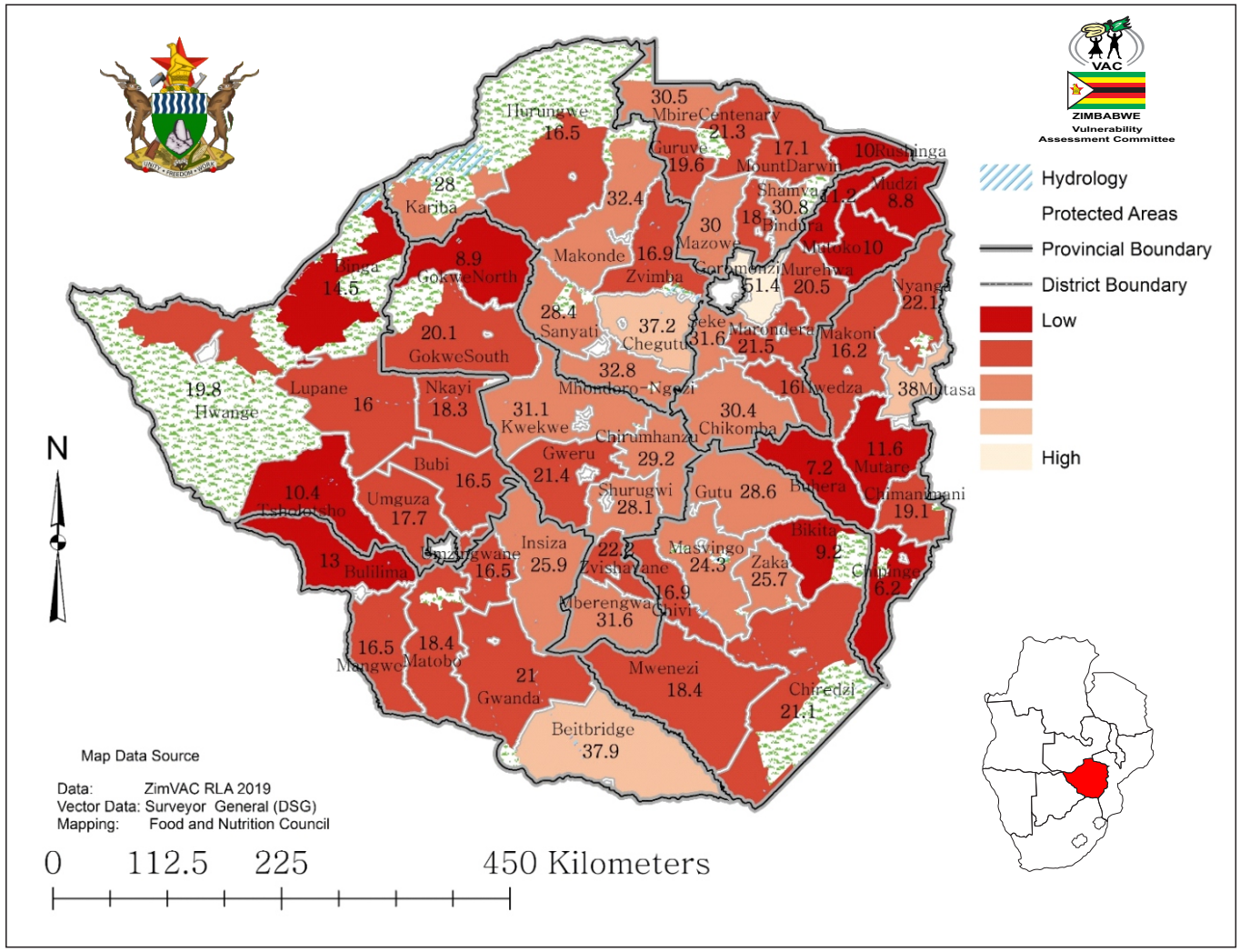
- Nationally, the proportion of women 15 to 49 years consuming at least five food groups increased from 40% in 2017 to 43% in 2019.
- Masvingo(48%) had the highest proportion of women consuming a minimum diversified diet while Mashonaland Central(37%) had the least.
- The deteriorating situation in Mashonaland Central is a cause for concern
- Although the proportion of women consuming at least five food groups increased from 2017 it is still low, as 57% of women were at risk of micronutrient deficiencies.
- The average dietary diversity score for women did not change significantly from 2017 to 2019.

Women Consumption of Protein, Iron and Vitamin A Rich Foods



- Reflective of the household food consumption patterns, less women are consuming iron rich foods which put them at risk iron deficiency complications during pregnancy .

Women Consuming Iron Rich Foods by District

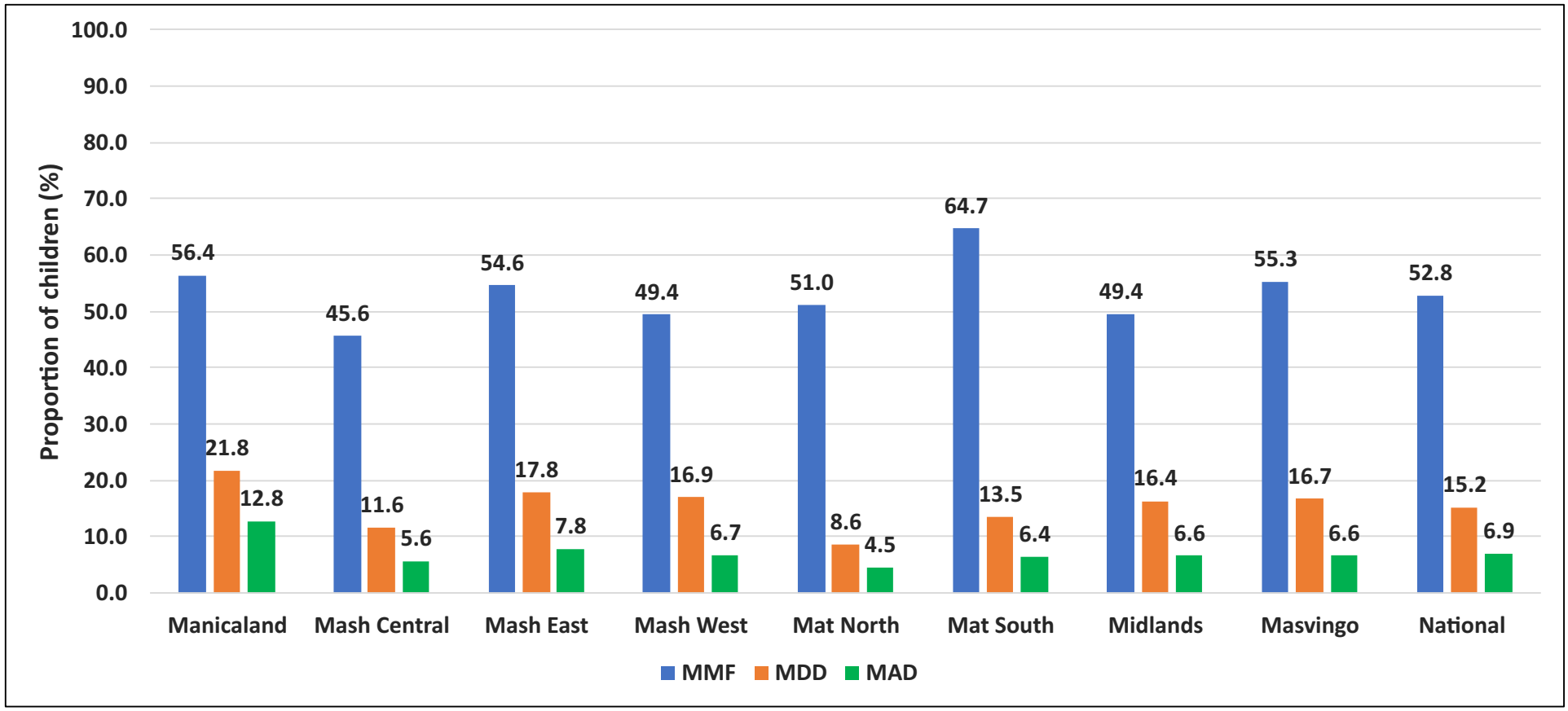


- All districts in the country had less than 50% of its women of child bearing age consuming iron rich foods except for Goromonzi (51.4%).
- Chipinge (6.2%) had the lowest proportion of women consuming iron rich foods, whilst Beitbridge (37.9%) has the highest.

Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

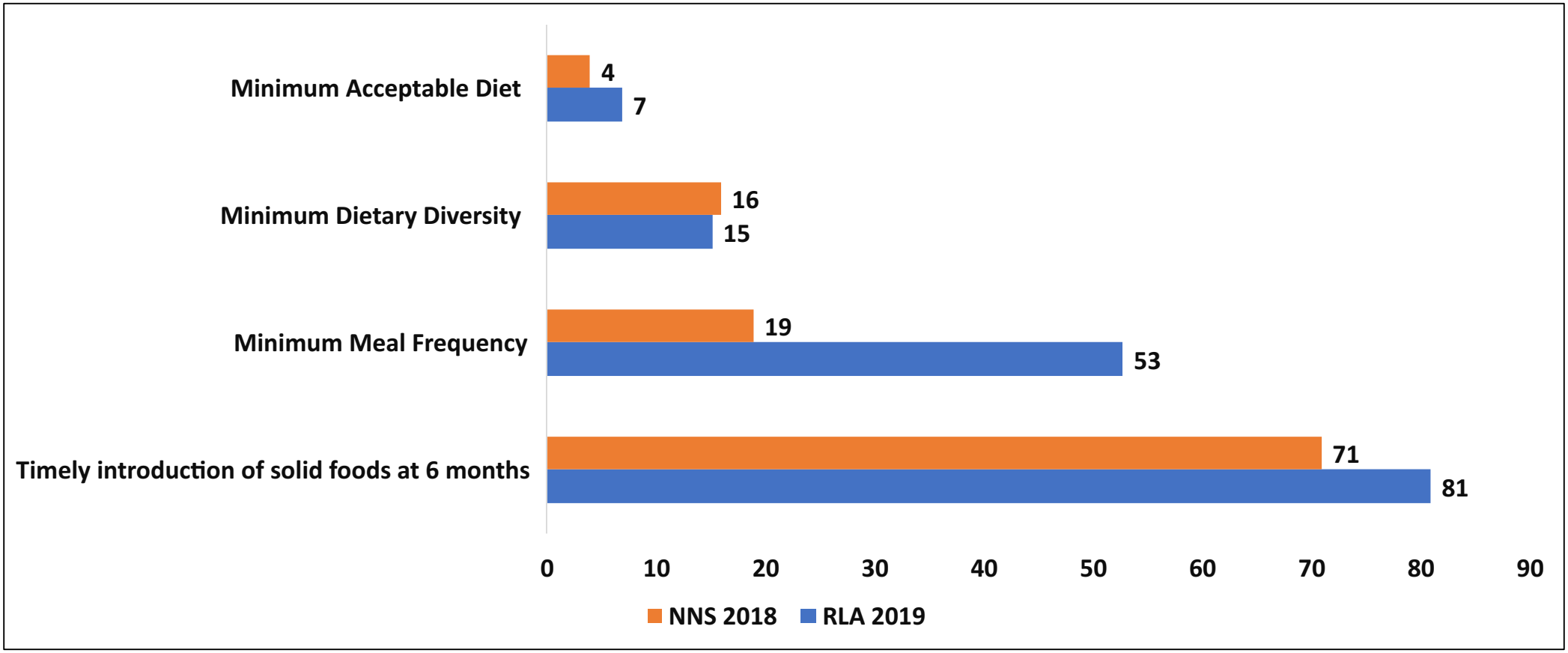
Complementary Feeding

Complementary Feeding Practices by Province



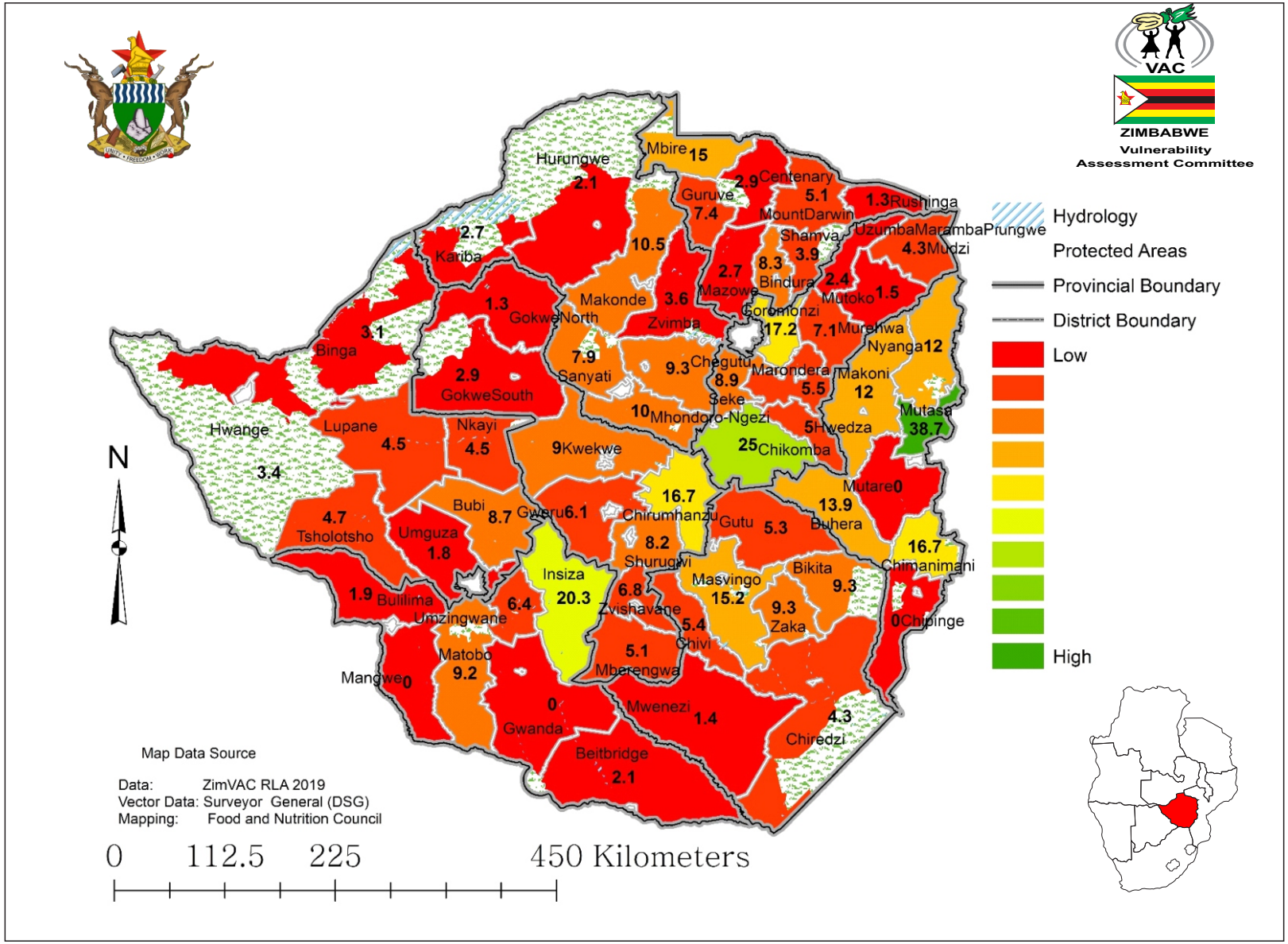
- Only 6.9% of children received a minimum acceptable diet, an increase from 4% in RLA 2018 and 52.8% received a minimum meal frequency (MMF).
- Minimum acceptable diet was highest in Manicaland (12.8%) and lowest in Matabeleland North (4.5%).
- Matabeleland South recorded the highest MMF (64.7%) while dietary diversity was high in Manicaland (21.8%) and Mashonaland East (17.8%).

Complementary Feeding Practices

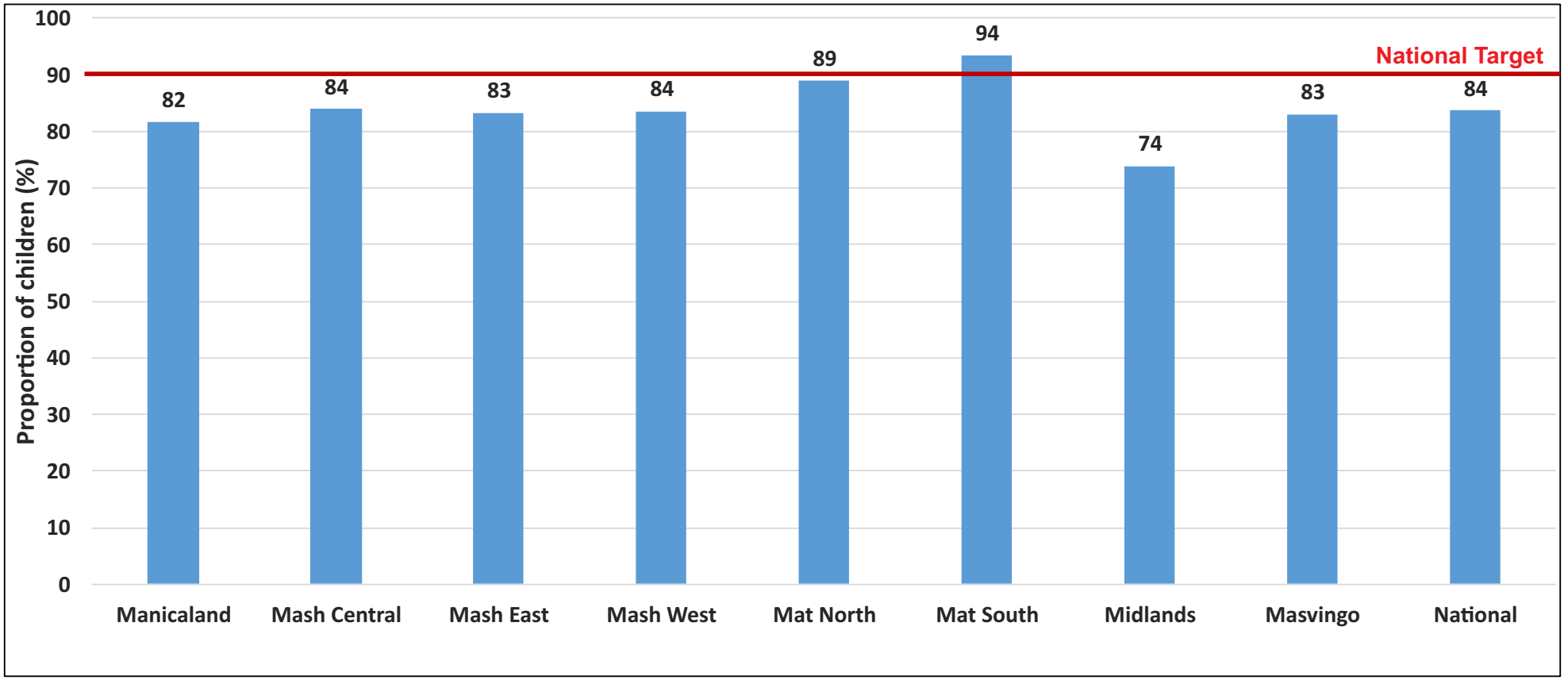


- A high proportion of children 6-8 months (81%) were timely introduced to complementary feeds compared to children (71%) in the 2018 RLA .
- The proportion of children which received a minimum acceptable diet rose from 4% in 2018 to 7% in 2019.

Minimum Acceptable Diet

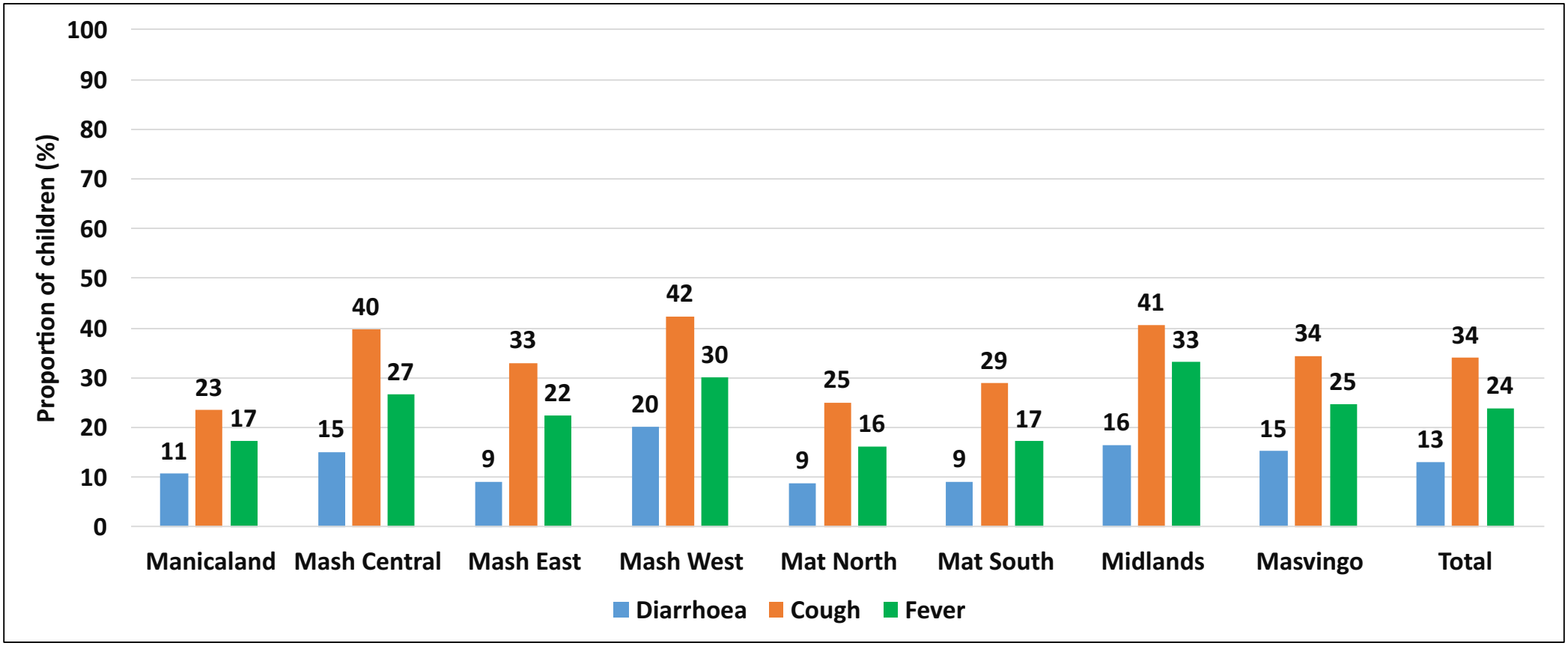


Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6 - 23 Months in the Past 6 Months



- National coverage of vitamin A supplementation was 84%, almost similar to coverage of 2018 (85%).
- Only Matabeleland South (94%) achieved the national coverage target of single dose vitamin A supplementation for children.
- Midlands had the lowest coverage of vitamin A supplementation coverage (74%).

Prevalence of Child illness for Children 0-59 Months



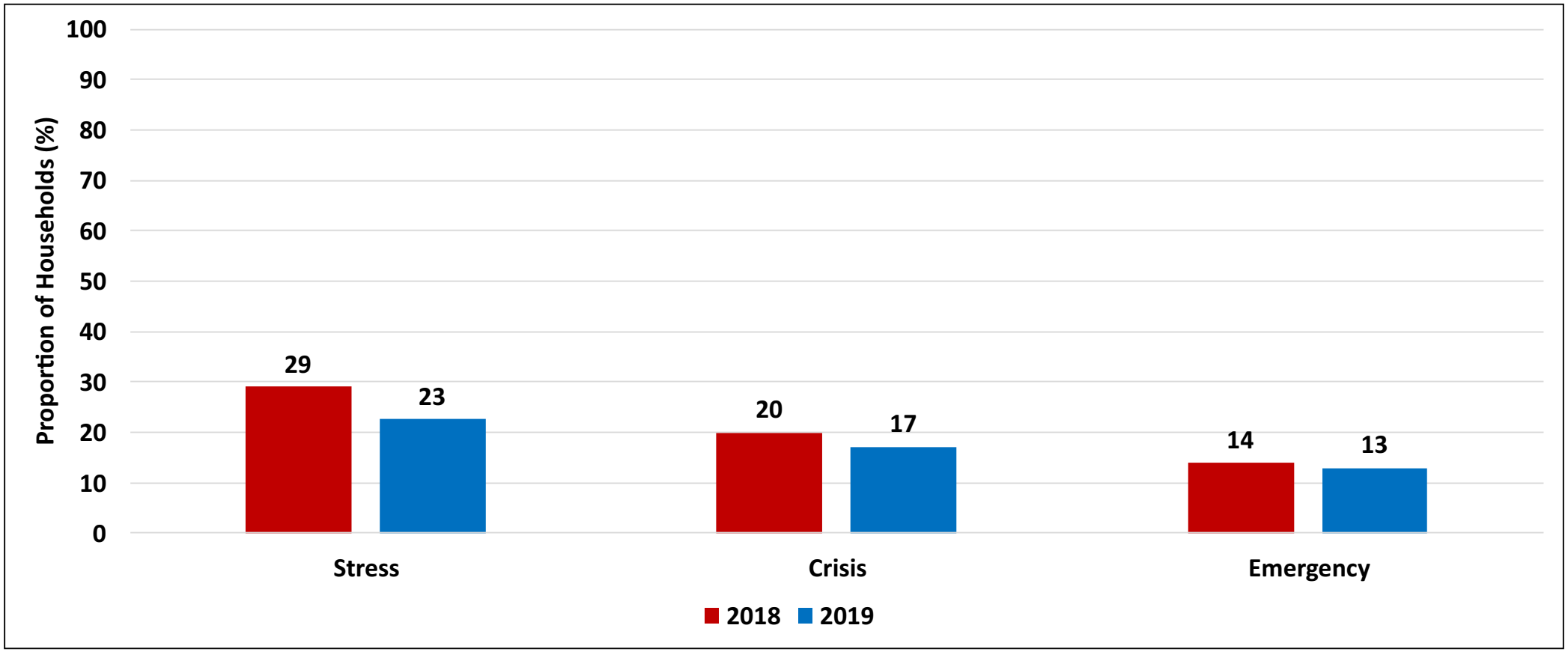
- Childhood illness has an impact on dietary intake, nutrient utilisation among children, hence detrimental to acute undernutrition. Prevalence of child illness was assessed as presence of illness during the two weeks preceding the survey.

- Cough had the highest prevalence nationally at 34%. Prevalence of cough was high in Mashonaland West, Midlands and Mashonaland Central.

Household Livelihood Coping Strategies

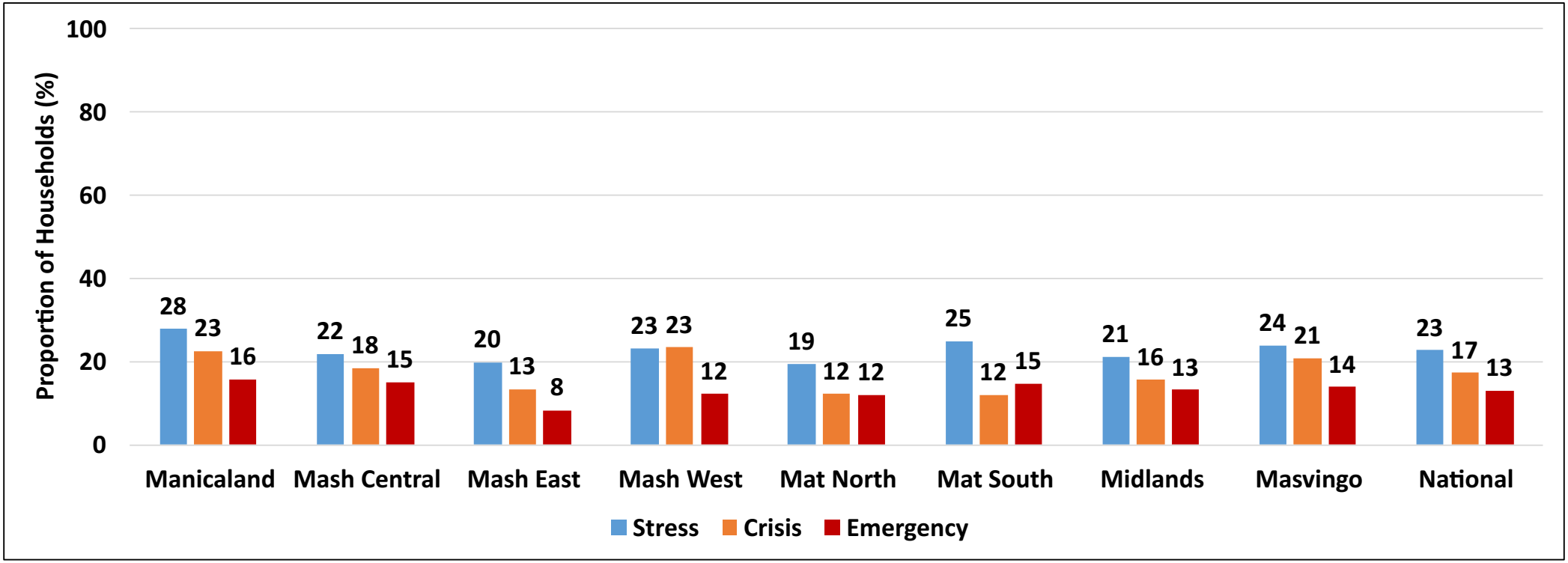
Category	Coping Strategies
Stress	• Borrowing money, spending savings, selling assets and selling more livestock than usual.
Crisis	• Selling productive assets directly reducing future productivity, including human capital formation. • Withdrawing children from school • Reducing non food expenditure.
Emergency	• Selling of one's land thus affecting future productivity, more difficult to reverse /dramatic in nature. • Begging of food. • Selling the last breeding stock to buy food.

Households Engaging in Livelihood Based Coping Strategies by Category



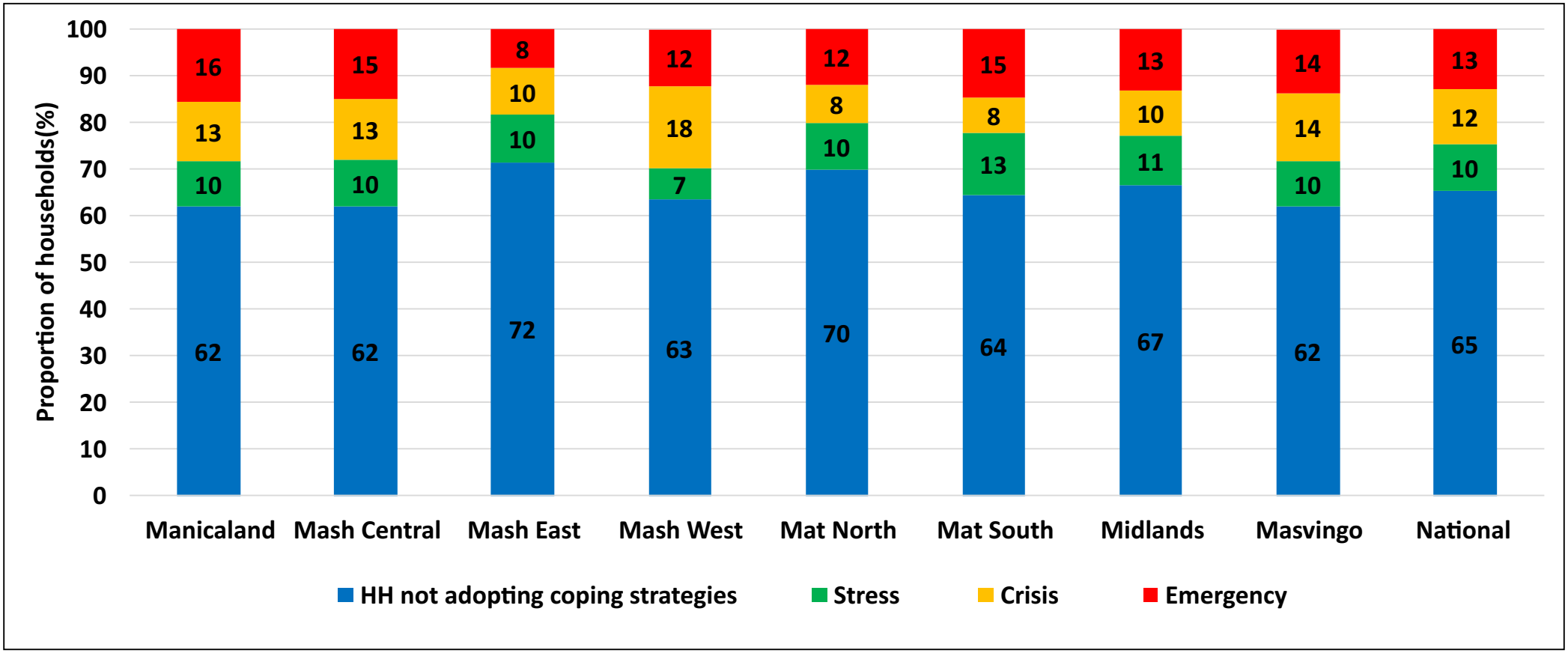
- Approximately 23% of the households employed stress strategies whilst 17% employed crisis strategies and 13% employed emergency strategies which is the same trend as the previous year, albeit at marginally lower coping levels.

Households Engaging in Livelihood Coping Strategies by Province



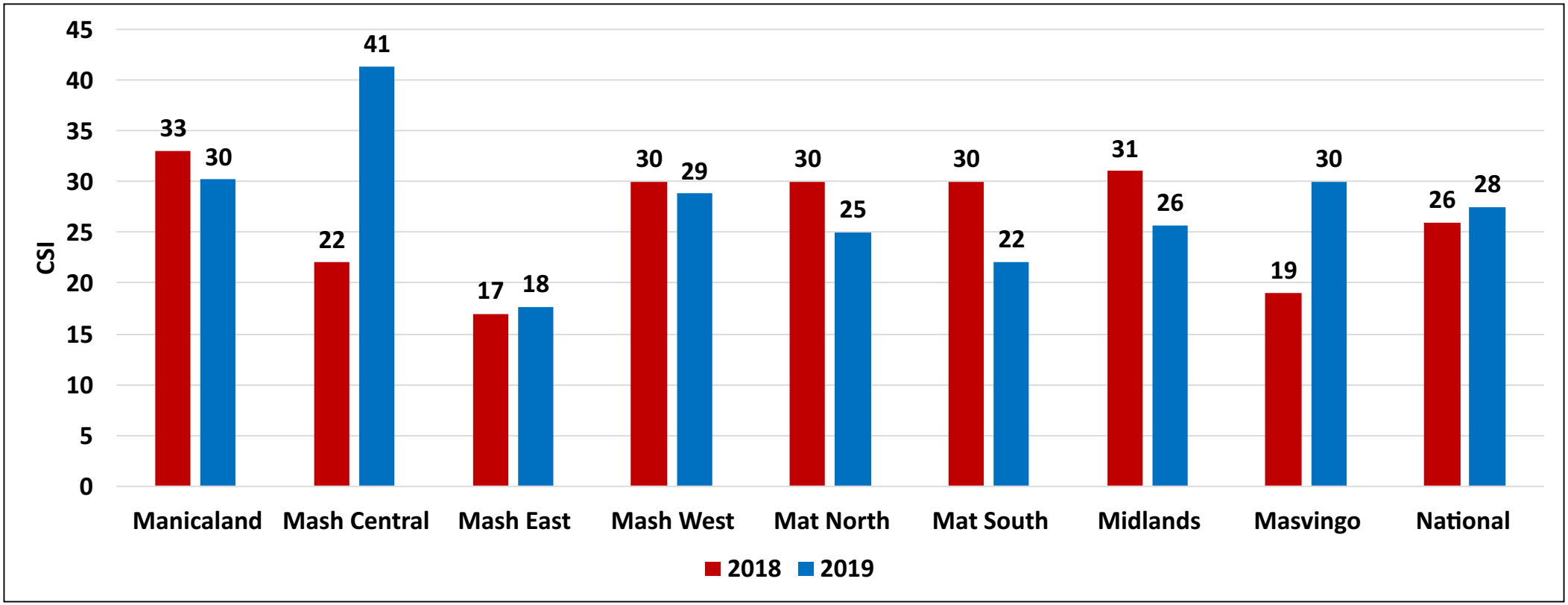
- Manicaland (16%), Mashonaland Central (15%) and Matabeleland South (15%) had the highest proportion of households engaging in emergency coping strategies.
- The highest proportion of households employing stress strategies were in Manicaland (28%).

Households Maximum Coping Strategy



- Nationally, 65% of the households did not adopt any coping strategies, 10% adopted stress strategies whilst 12% and 13% adopted crisis and emergency coping strategies respectively.

Household Food Consumption Based Coping Strategy Index (CSI): Province

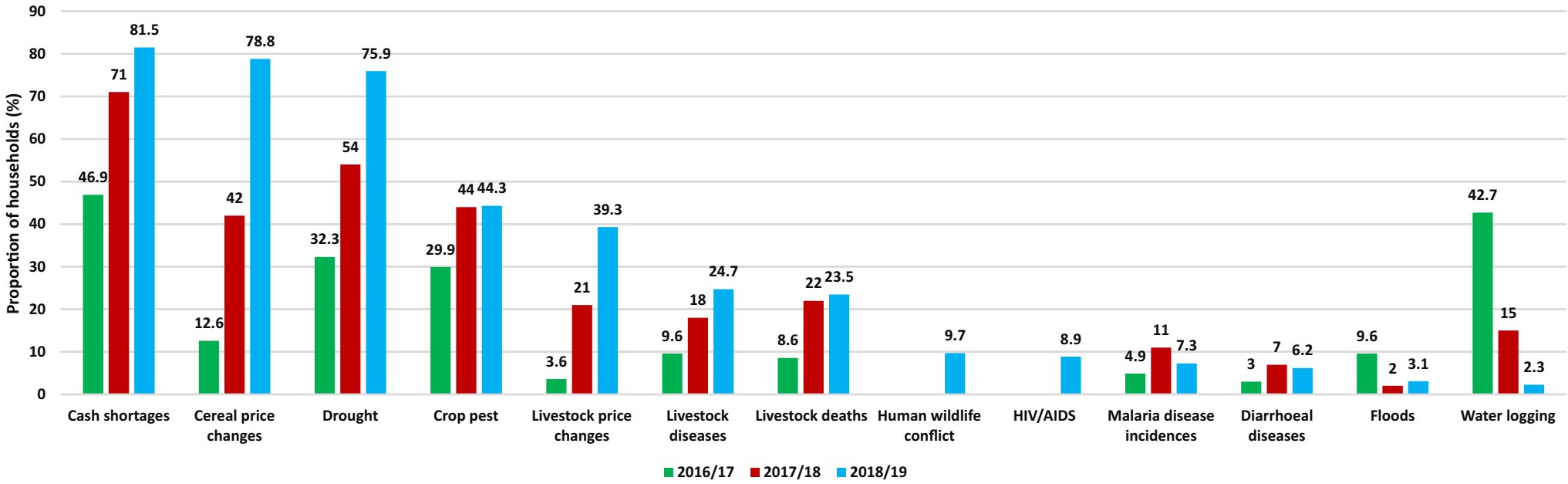


- Mashonaland Central and Masvingo had households employing more consumption bases coping strategies as indicated by the 19 and 11 point increase respectively, compared to the previous year.

- The worsening household food insecurity situation compared to the previous consumption year depicted by 2 point increase at national level was mainly influenced by the increase in Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and a slight increase in Mashonaland East.

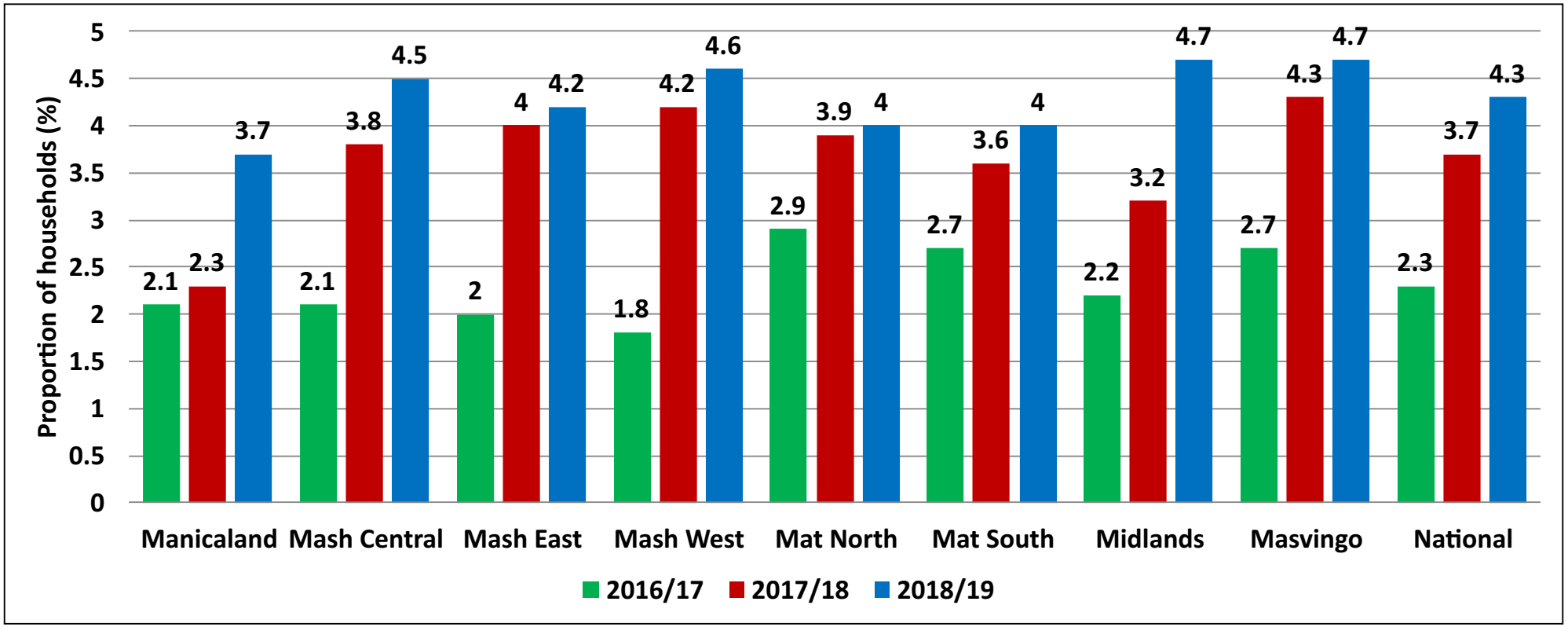
Shocks and Stressors

Households which Reported Experiencing Different Shocks



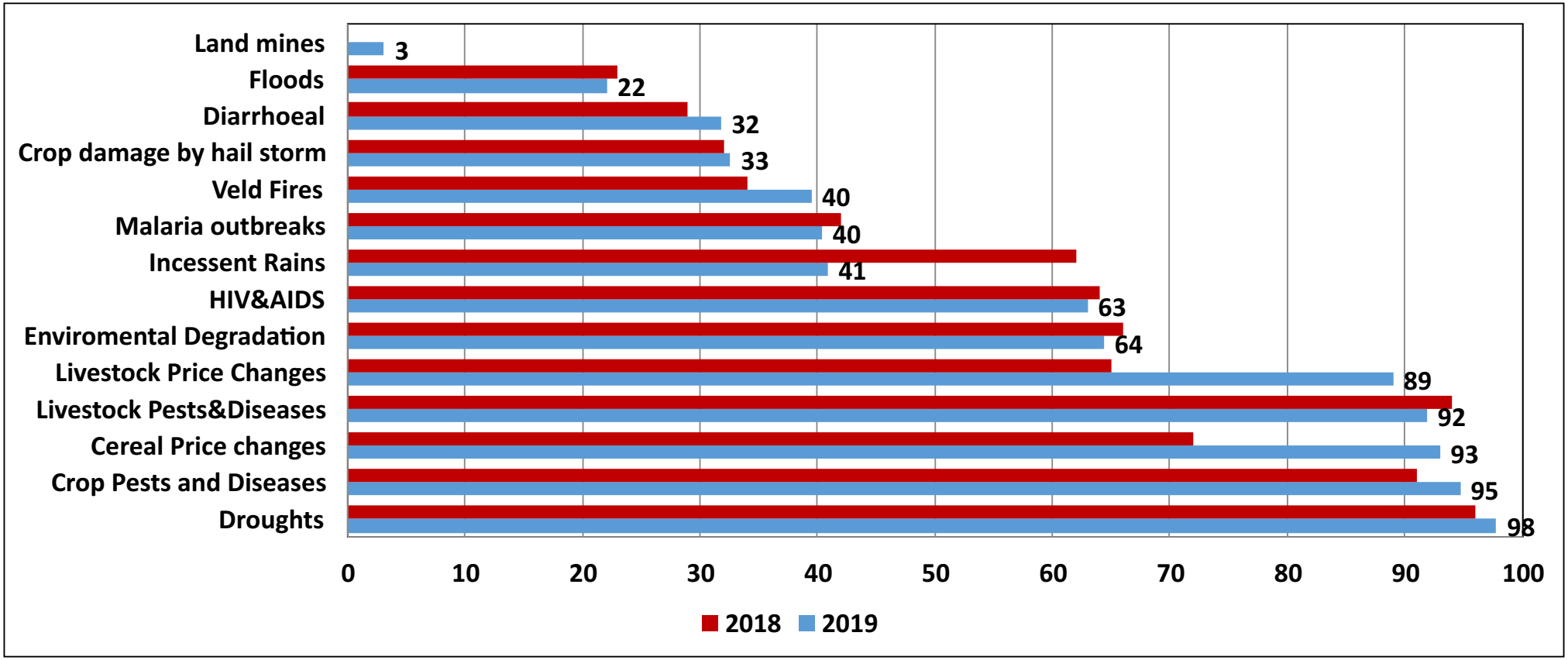
- Twelve months prior the assessment, 97% of the households had experienced at least one shock during the season; an increase from 92% reported in the previous season.
- Cash shortages remained the most prevalent shock experienced by households (81.5%) followed by changes in cereal prices (78.8%) and drought (75.9%).
- The last 12 months had significant proportion of households that experienced human wildlife conflict (9.7%) and households affected by HIV & AIDS (8.9%). These have not been visible in the last two assessments

Number of Shocks/Stressors Experienced by Households



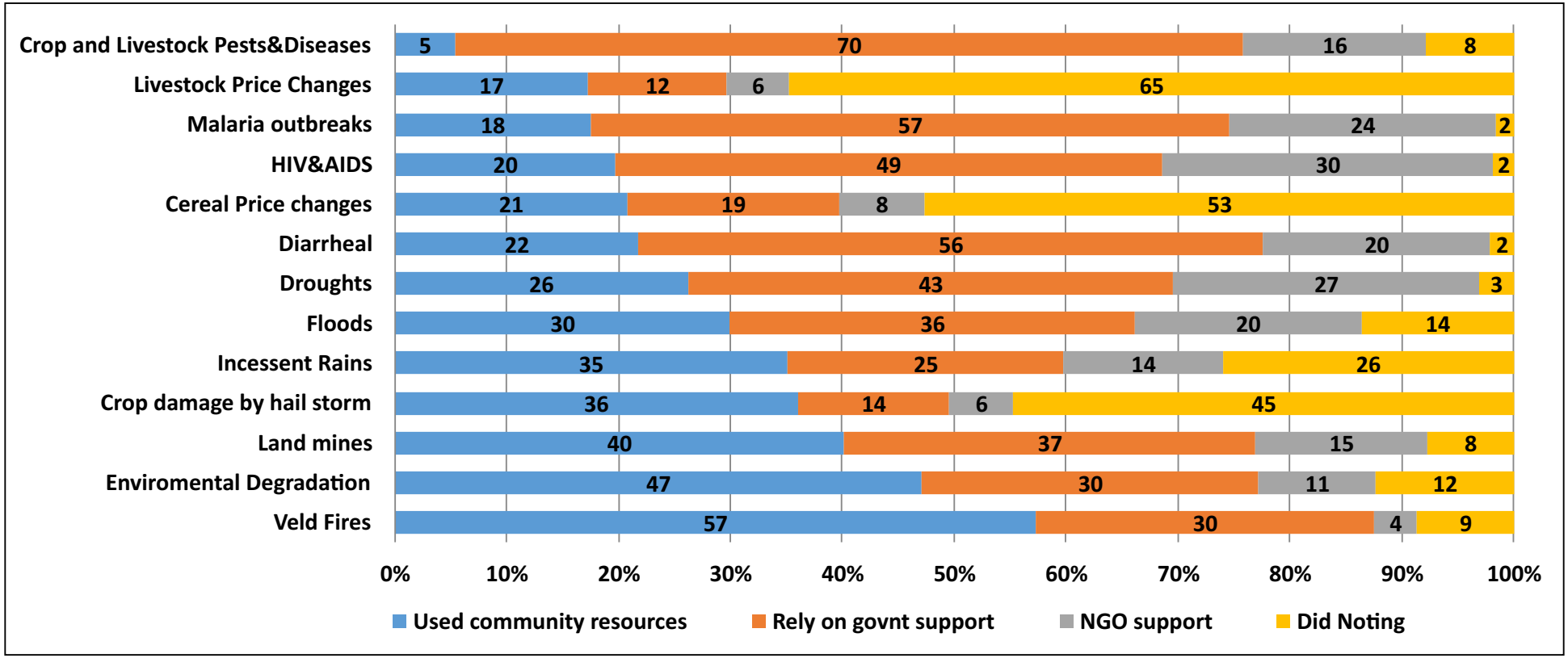
- There was an increase in the number of shocks experienced by households across all province for two years in a row.
- Masvingo (4.7) and Mashonaland West (4.3) had the highest average number of shocks, the same picture obtained last year.

Communities which Reported Experiencing Different Shocks



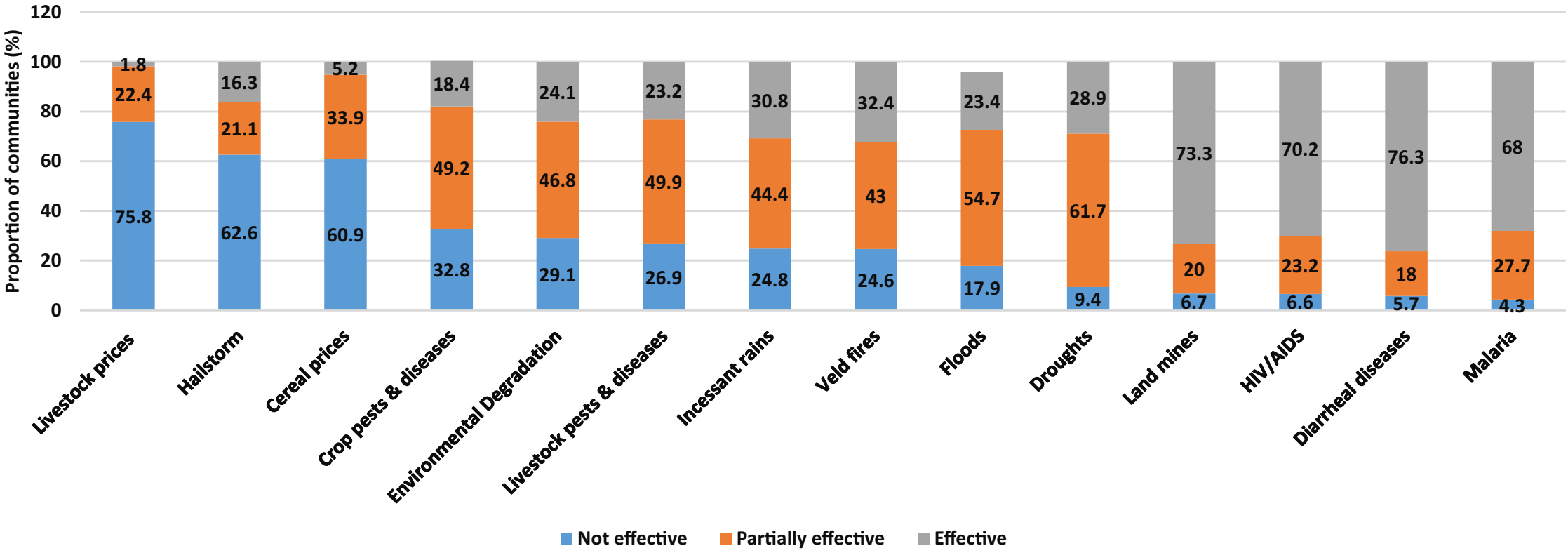
- Droughts (98%) and crop pests and diseases (95%) remained the most prevalent shocks experienced by communities.
- There was an increase in communities reporting challenges of both cereals and livestock price changes.
- Veld fires were also reported to be on the increase.

Community Response Strategies to Shocks and Stressors Experienced



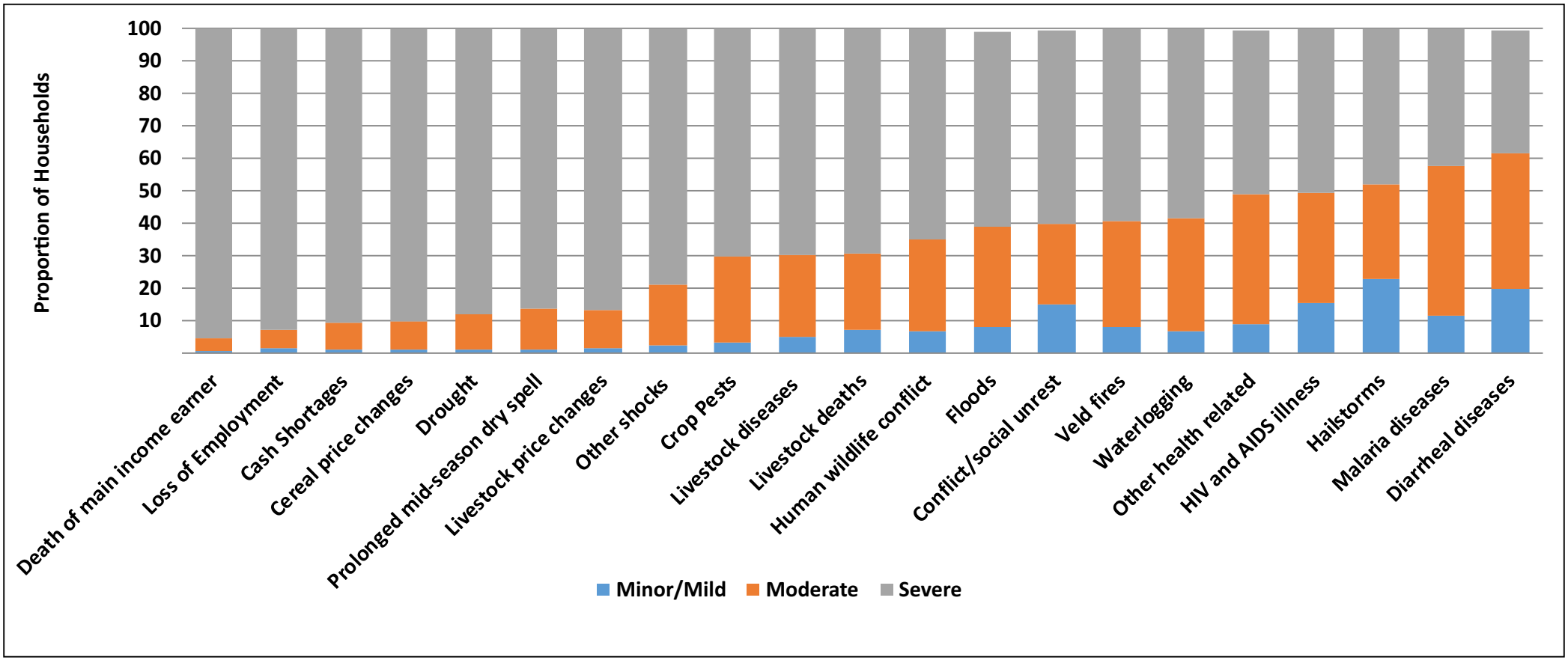
- Communities were relying on government support for response to pests and disease control for both crops and livestock, malaria, HIV/ AIDS, diarrhea and to a greater extend drought.
- Communities remained exposed to price changes and crop damage by hailstorm with no available strategies for dealing with these challenges.

Community Perception on Effectiveness of Response Strategies Used



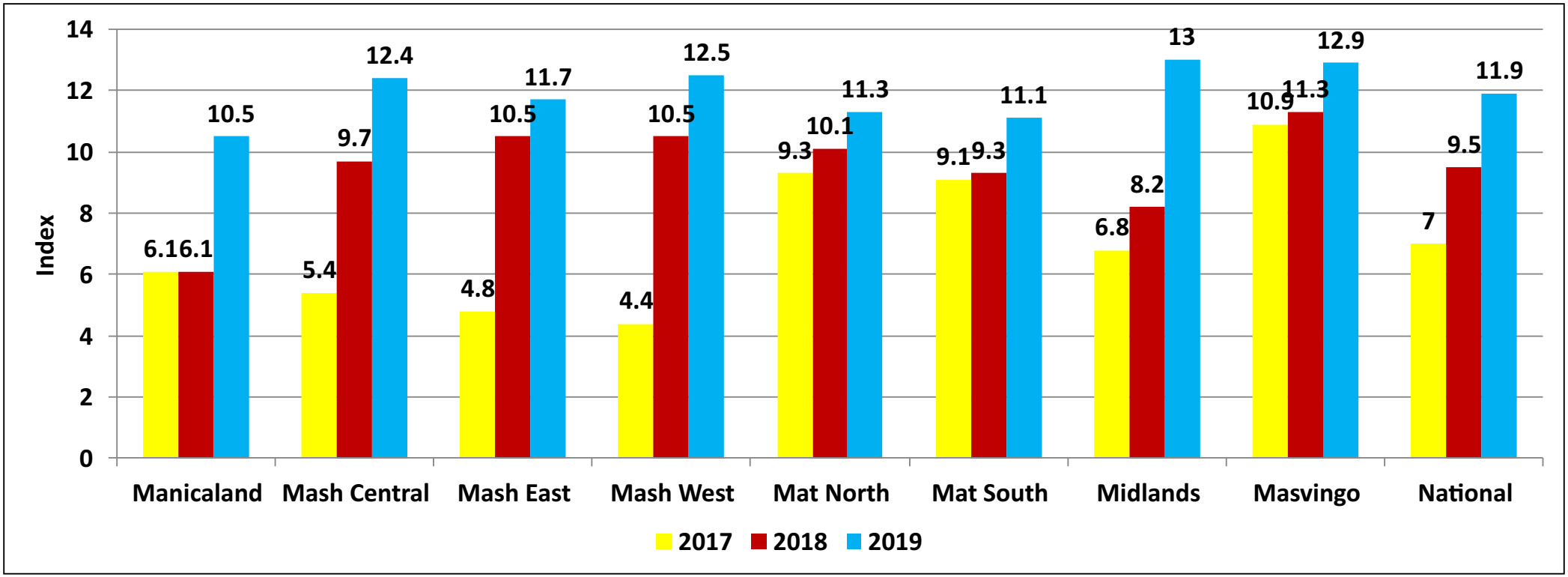
- Response strategies that relied on government support were reported to be effective.
- Response strategies that mainly relied on local resources for response were reported to be partially effective to effective.
- Communities felt there were no effective response strategies for price changes and hailstorm damage.

Severity of Shocks on Households



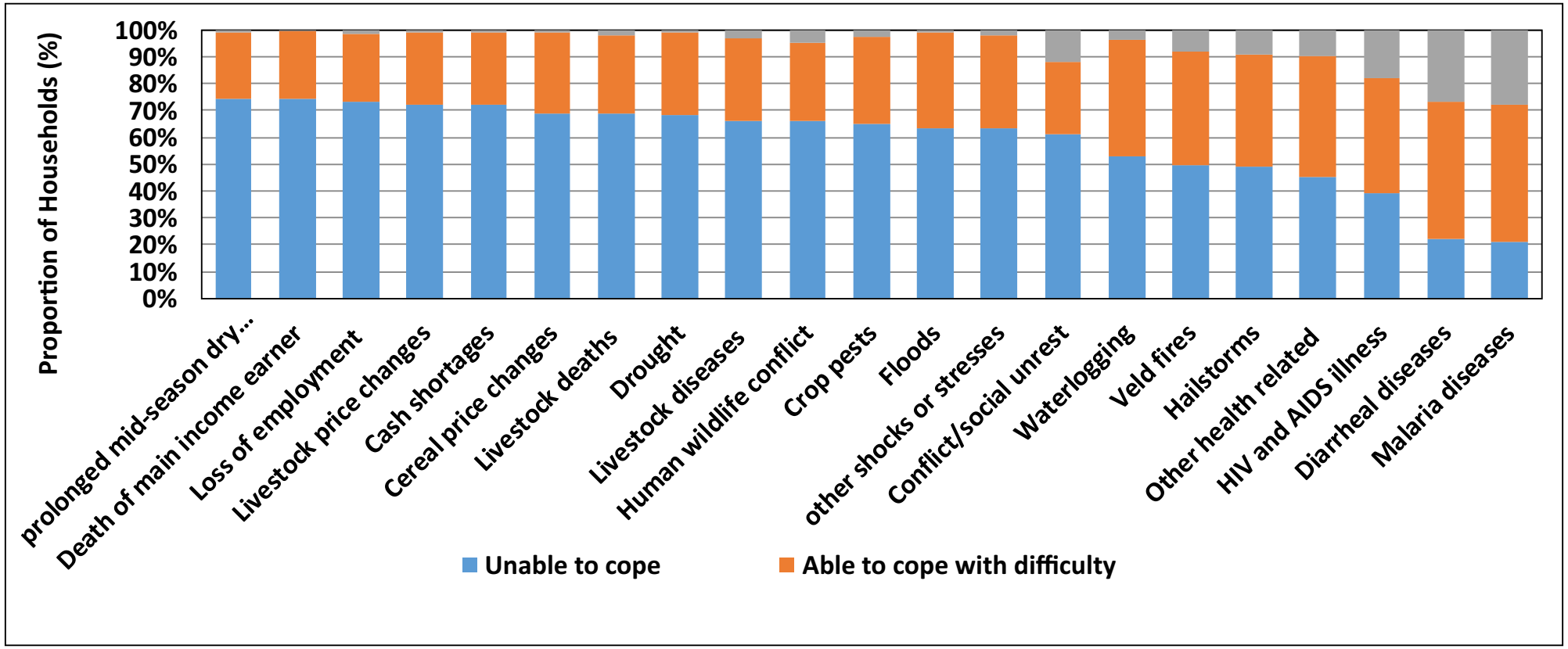
- Death of main income earner, loss of employment, cash shortages and cereal price changes were reported as having the most severe impact on households that experienced them. Of these cash shortages and cereal prices were experienced by majority of households.

Average Shock Exposure Index



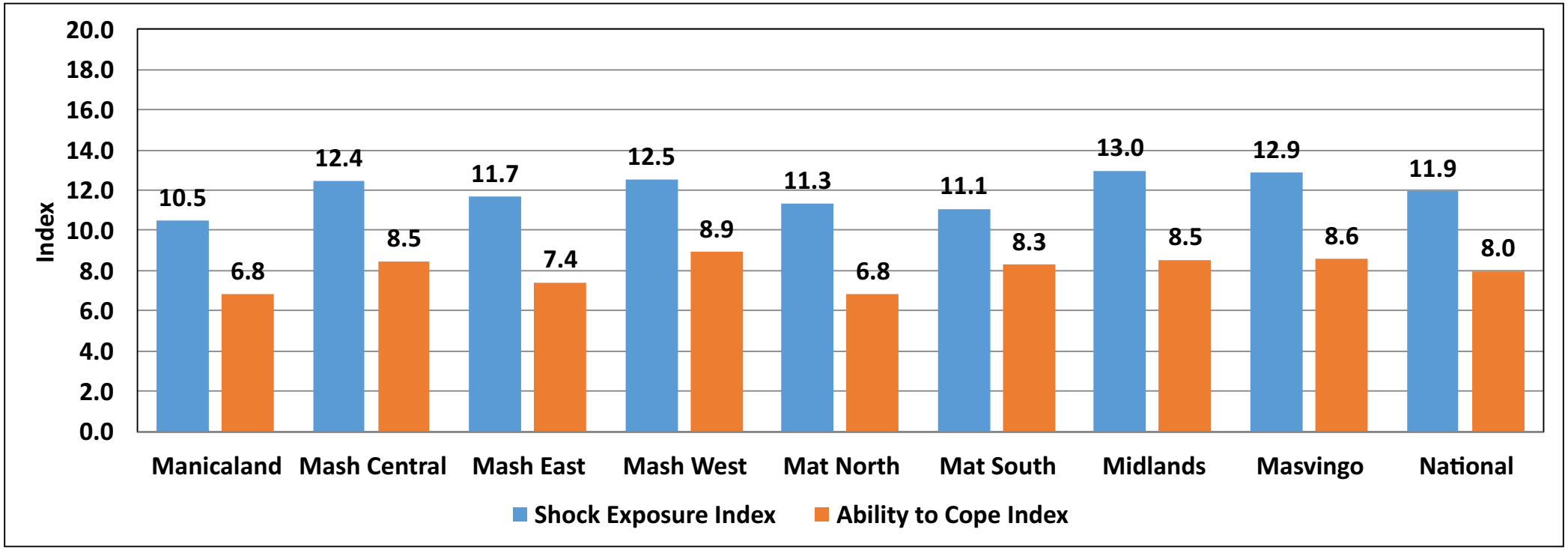
- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying number of shocks experienced with impact severity of the shock to the household.
- Generally there was an increased exposure to shocks across all provinces with Manicaland and Midlands recording the highest increase in shock exposure index.

Households Perception of their Ability to Cope with Future Shocks



- Most households perceived that they were not equipped to deal with most livelihood and economic based shocks such as weather, loss of income source and price changes

Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope

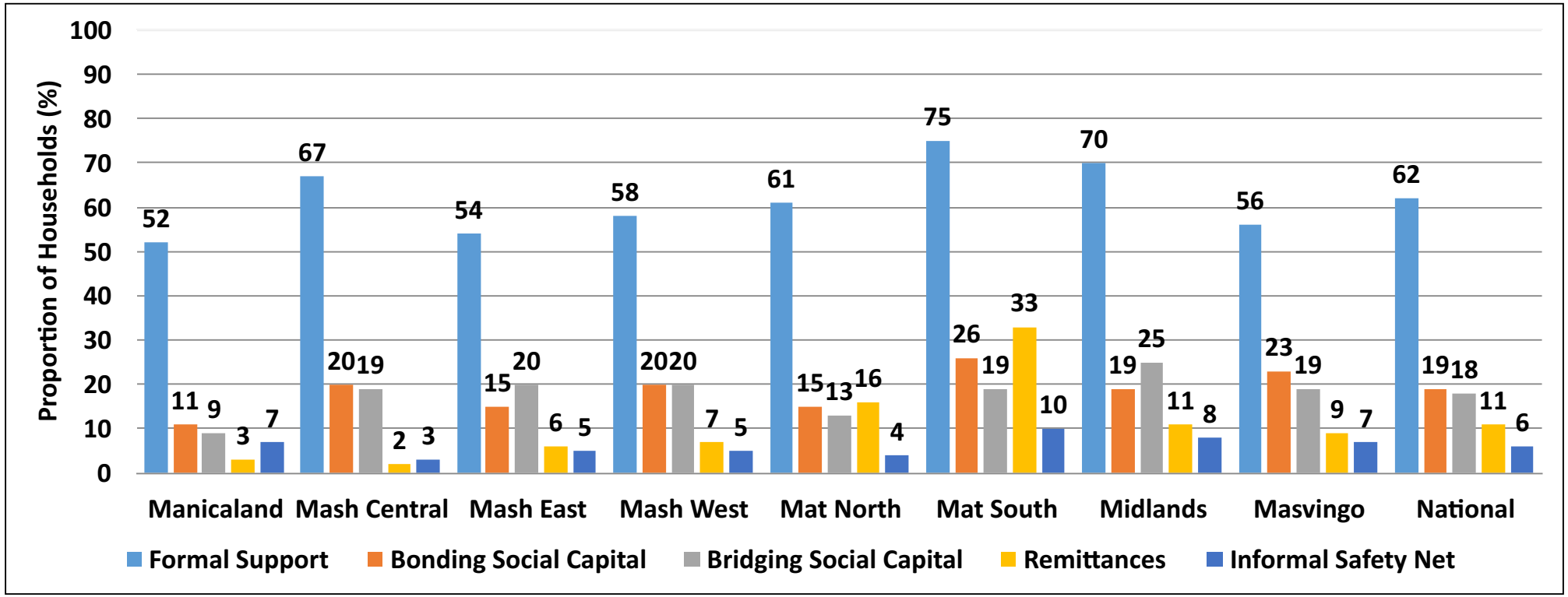


- Shock exposure was higher than the households' ability to cope across all provinces. This means households still remain vulnerable to shocks and stressors and will not be able to cope on their own.

Household Access to Different Social Support Systems

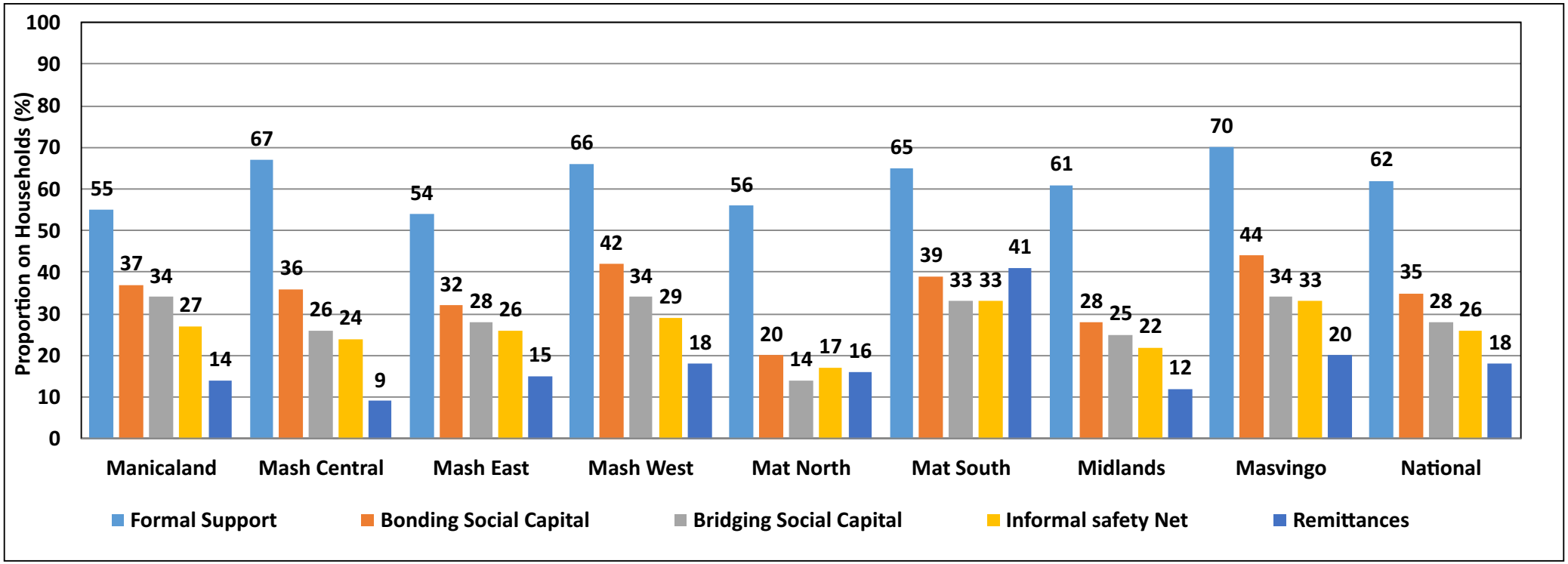
- Households and communities have different opportunities at their disposal which they can use to deal with shocks and stressors they face.
- ZimVAC collected a number of sources of social support:
  - Formal social support – from government and NGOs
  - Bonding Social Capital– support from other community members both relatives and non-relatives
  - Bridging Social capital - support from relatives and non relatives leaving outside the community within Zimbabwe
  - Informal safety net – support from churches and community groups
  - Remittances – from outside Zimbabwe

Household Access to Different Social Support Systems



- Matabeleland South (75%) and Midlands (70%) had highest proportion of households that received support from government and NGOs.
- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households with access to informal safety net and remittances.
- Formal support was the most available social capital, with at least 52% of households across provinces having access to it.
- All other capitals were received by less than 40% of households across provinces

Households' Perception on their Ability to Lean on Different Support Systems to Deal With Future Shocks



- Most households (62%) believed the government and NGOs will assist them if they experience a shock in the future.
- Masvingo had the highest proportion of households who believed that they can receive support from either within the community or from other areas including urban areas within Zimbabwe, while Matabeleland South had the highest number of households relying on remittances.
- Matabeleland North had the lowest proportion of households who believe they can get support from the community or other people within the country.

Food Security

Food Security Dimensions

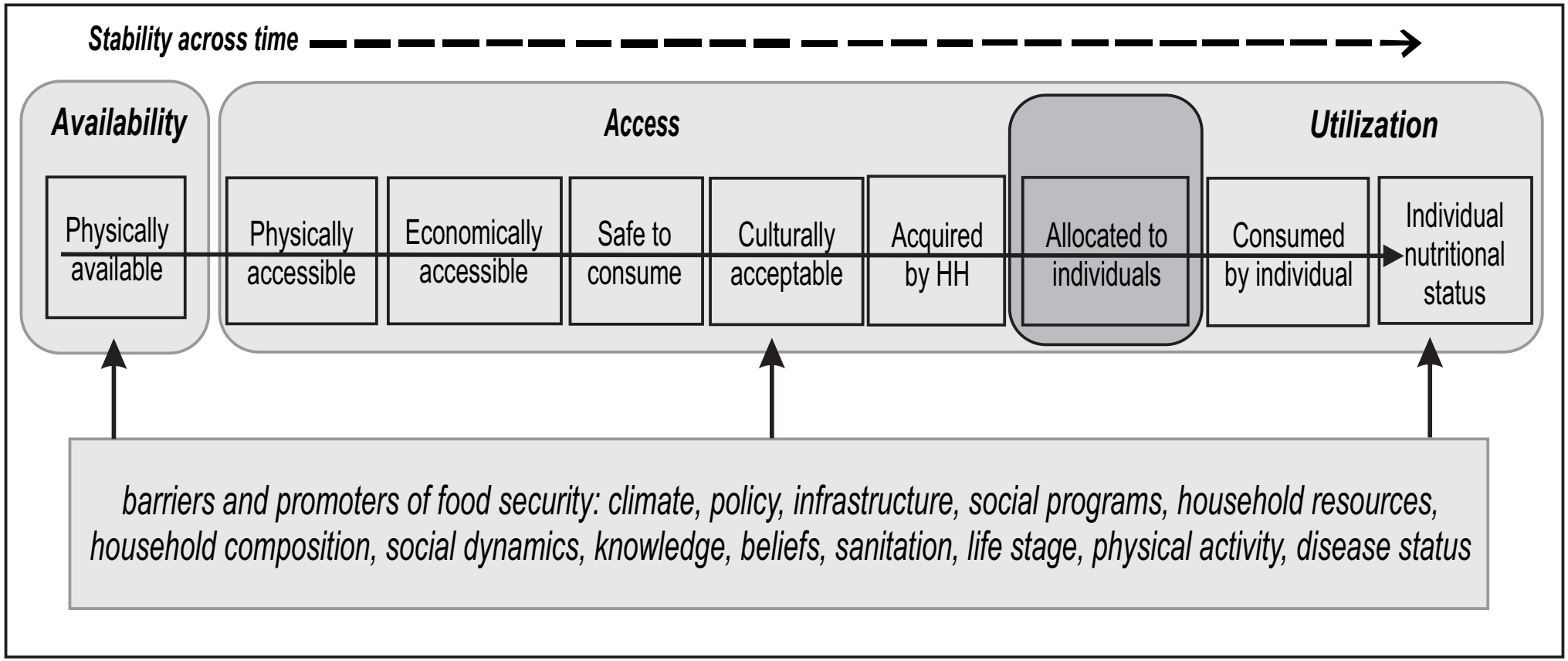


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

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 give in Figure 3 are:

  - **Availability** of food

  - **Access** to food

  - The safe and healthy **utilization** of food

  - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilization

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire minimum expenditure food basket (Figure 3) was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income (both cash and non cash) in the 2019/20 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
    - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
    - Own food crop production from the 2019/20 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

- **Household Cereal Security Status**

  - From the total minimum expenditure food basket, the total energy that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest available sources using its potential disposable income was also extracted and compared to the household's minimum energy requirements.

  - When the potential energy 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 is below its minimum energy requirements.

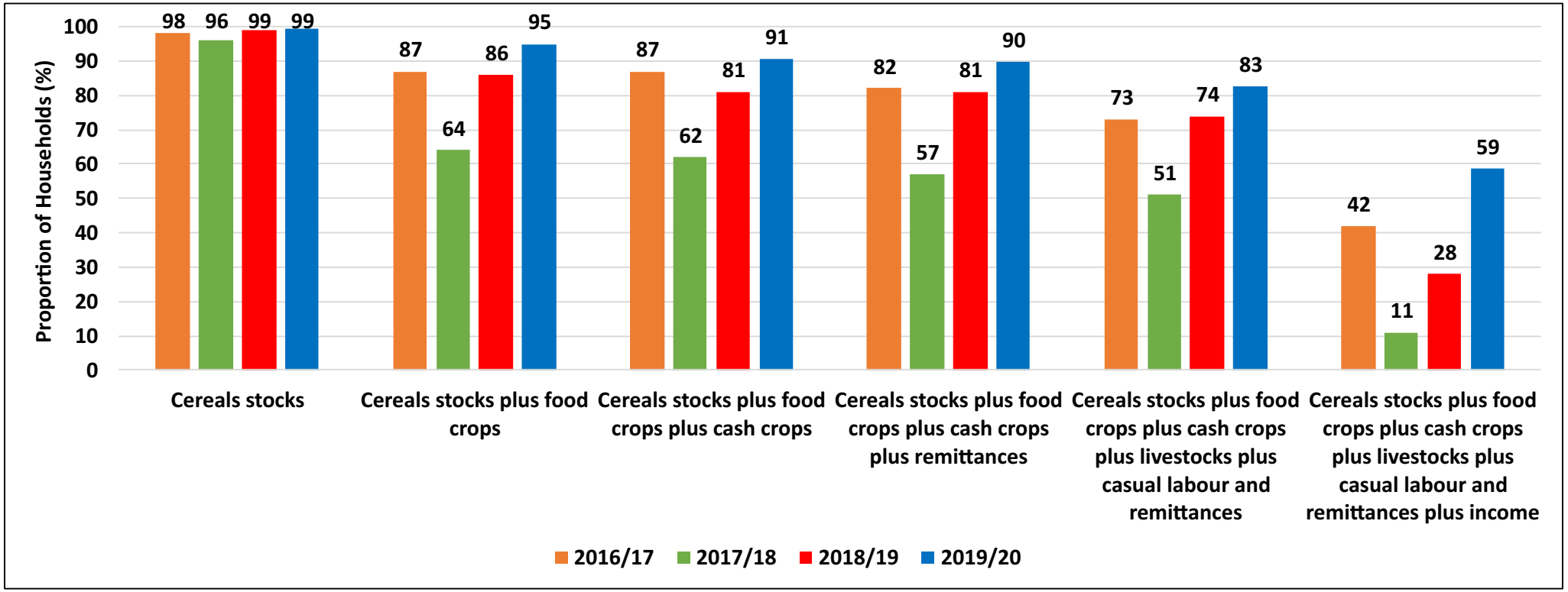
Summary of Food Security Status Findings

- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2019) it is estimated that approximately **59%** of the rural households will be cereal insecure.

- The 59% of rural households will translate into approximately **5,529,209** individuals requiring **818,323MT** of cereal (Maize Grain) costing about **USD217,659,752.00** at peak.

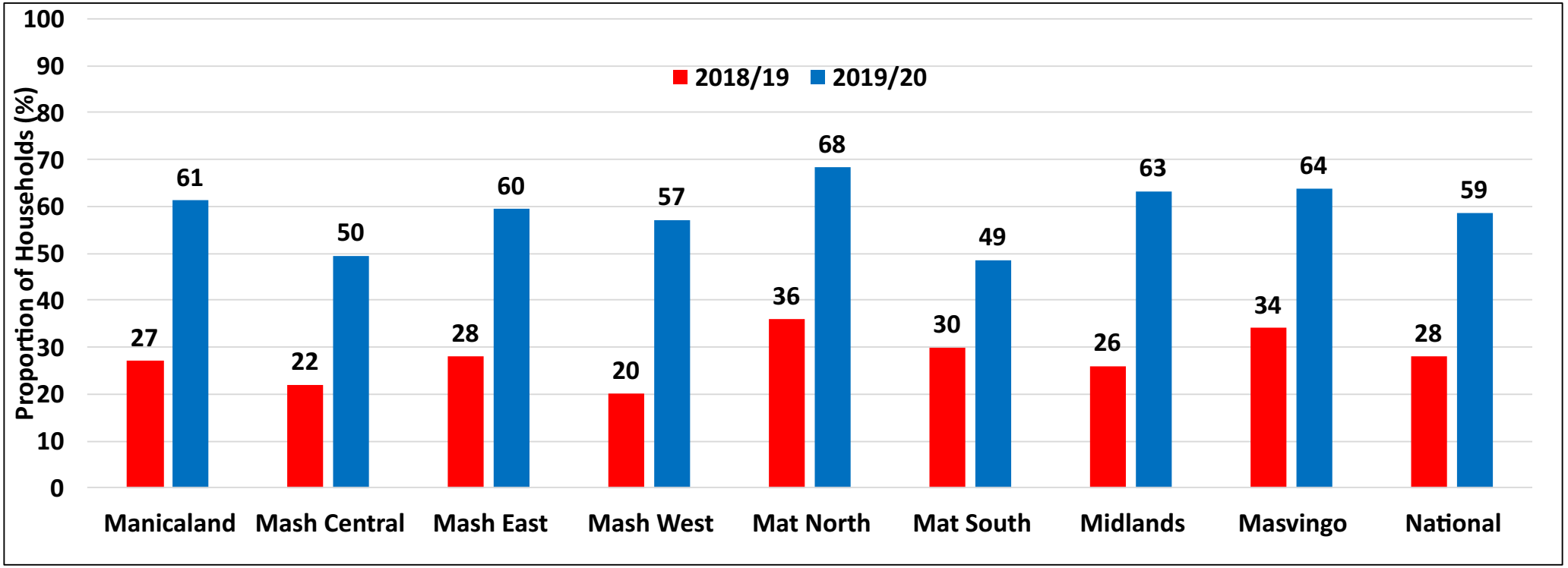
- As we move into the 2nd quarter of the 2020/19 consumption year, approximately **38%** of rural households, translating to **3,550,851** persons, will require emergency cereal assistance amounting to about **525,000MT.**

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Income Source



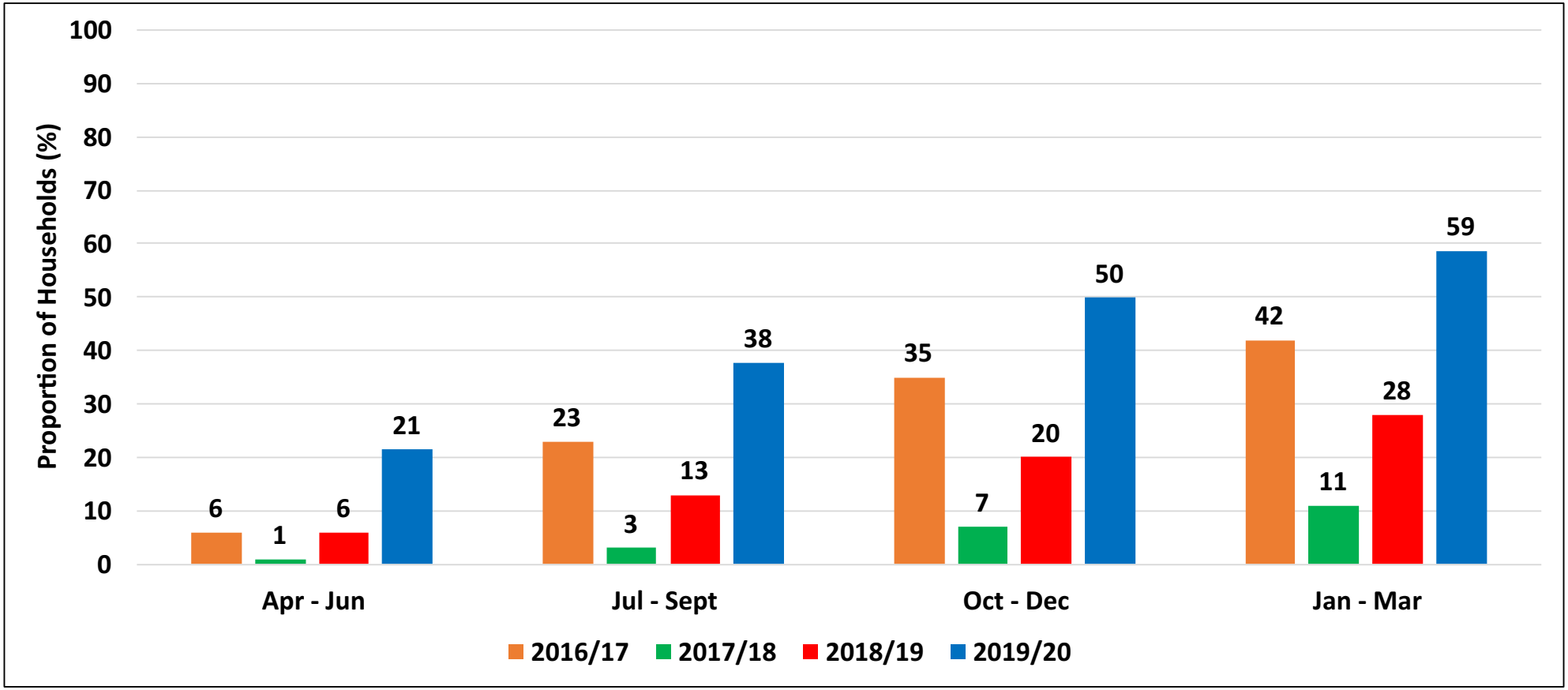
- Considering all incomes, the food insecurity prevalence is projected to be 59% during the peak hunger in the 2019/20 consumption year.
- The effect of stocks remained stagnant when comparing 2018/19 and 2019/20 consumption years.
- The incremental effect of an extra source of income became weak during the 2019/20 consumption year with income effected having reduced from 46 to 24 points and food crops from 13 to 4 points .
- These two have had the greatest increment effect on cereal security status.

Cereal Insecurity by Province



- Matabeleland North, Midlands and Masvingo were projected to have the highest proportion of cereal insecure households. Even though the 3 provinces have the highest proportion of cereal insecure households, Mashonaland West province had the highest increase of 185% and 142% for Midlands
- Matabeleland South and Mashonaland Central were projected to have the least.
- Matabeleland South had a change of 63% whilst Mashonaland Central had an increment of 127%.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- At the time of the assessment, 21% of the rural households were already facing food access challenges.

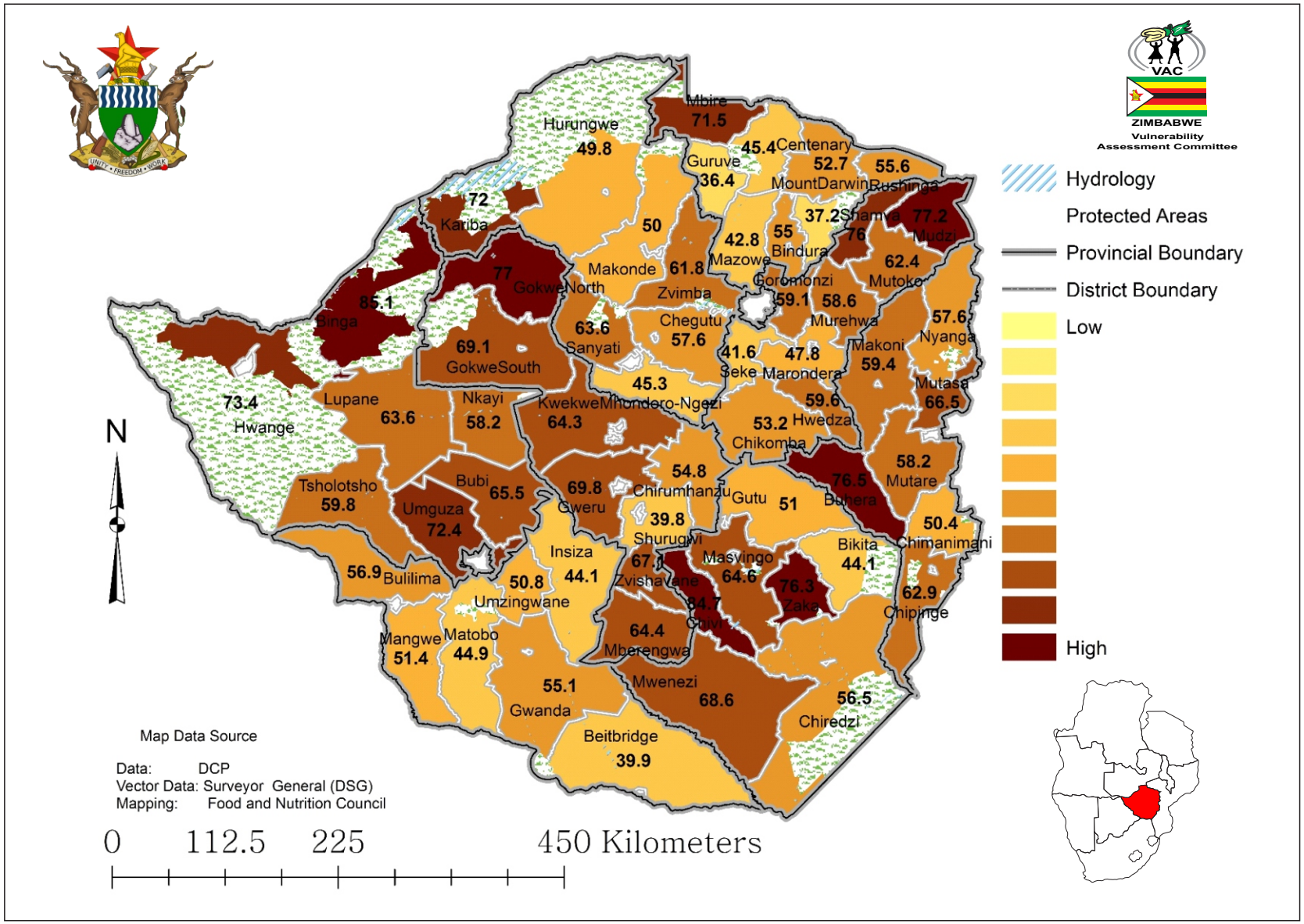
Cereal Insecurity Population by Province by Quarter

Province	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	387,808	650,605	836,753	981,839
Mashonaland Central	148,734	309,765	461,427	577,954
Mashonaland East	247,256	480,679	646,669	774,044
Mashonaland West	211,334	427,600	579,761	703,039
Matabeleland North	248,879	358,073	441,307	491,166
Matabeleland South	115,623	202,341	265,736	314,022
Midlands	277,926	514,360	702,717	825,215
Masvingo	396,223	648,211	821,294	925,652
National	**2,021,866**	**3,550,851**	**4,701,941**	**5,529,209**

Cereal Requirements (MT) by Province by Quarter

Province	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	57,396	96,290	123,839	145,312
Mashonaland Central	22,013	45,845	68,291	85,537
Mashonaland East	36,594	71,141	95,707	114,558
Mashonaland West	31,277	63,285	85,805	104,050
Matabeleland North	36,834	52,995	65,313	72,692
Matabeleland South	17,112	29,946	39,329	46,475
Midlands	41,133	76,125	104,002	122,132
Masvingo	58,641	95,935	121,551	136,997
National	**299,236**	**525,526**	**695,887**	**818,323**

Cereal Insecurity Prevalence



Food Basket and Cereal Requirements Cost

Province	Proportion of Households (%)	Food Insecure Population at Peak	Cereal Requirements at Peak	Total Cost at Peak	
				Cereals (USD)	Basket (USD)
Manicaland	61	981,839	145,312	38,650,519	139,309,272
Mashonaland Central	50	577,954	85,537	22,751,428	65,245,876
Mashonaland East	60	774,044	114,558	30,470,570	92,461,816
Mashonaland West	57	703,039	104,050	27,675,440	75,908,290
Matabeleland North	68	491,166	72,692	19,334,947	71,223,701
Matabeleland South	49	314,022	46,475	12,361,620	48,948,884
Midlands	63	825,215	122,132	32,484,960	100,190,056
Masvingo	64	925,652	136,997	36,438,710	133,503,132
National	**59**	**5,529,209**	**818,323**	**217,659,752**	**722,111,673**

Food Basket and Cereal Requirements Cost

				Total Cost at Peak						Total Cost at Peak	
District	Proportion of Households (%)	Food Insecure Population	Cereal Requirements (MT)	Cereals (USD)	Basket (USD)	District	Proportion of Households (%)	Food Insecure Population	Cereal Requirements (MT)	Cereals (USD)	Basket (USD)
Binga	85.1	125,709	18,605	4,948,596	18,545,431	Mutasa	66.5	119,178	17,638	4,691,500	16,544,005
Chivi	84.7	149,365	22,106	5,879,803	20,737,641	Bubi	65.5	43,002	6,364	1,692,790	6,125,592
Mudzi	77.2	109,199	16,161	4,298,673	13,192,846	Masvingo	64.6	144,916	21,448	5,704,665	20,381,755
Gokwe North	77.0	196,498	29,082	7,735,222	24,093,597	Mberengwa	64.4	126,987	18,794	4,998,900	15,505,610
Buhera	76.5	199,725	29,559	7,862,268	28,514,285	Kwekwe	64.3	119,343	17,663	4,698,002	13,889,342
Zaka	76.3	146,894	21,740	5,782,546	22,055,466	Sanyati	63.6	76,220	11,281	3,000,426	8,371,930
UMP	76.0	90,850	13,446	3,576,332	12,090,916	Lupane	63.6	67,621	10,008	2,661,945	9,541,249
Hwange	73.4	48,821	7,226	1,921,865	6,583,120	Chipinge	62.9	199,545	29,533	7,855,186	28,294,564
Umguza	72.4	68,928	10,201	2,713,385	11,987,177	Mutoko	62.4	96,793	14,325	3,810,293	11,313,986
Kariba	72.0	31,618	4,679	1,244,660	3,707,436	Zvimba	61.8	172,679	25,556	6,797,567	17,539,441
Mbire	71.5	62,513	9,252	2,460,854	7,185,129	Tsholotsho	59.8	73,124	10,822	2,878,573	9,866,550
Gweru	69.8	67,982	10,061	2,676,140	8,494,926	Hwedza	59.6	44,899	6,645	1,767,471	5,123,299
Gokwe South	69.1	224,364	33,206	8,832,189	27,070,693	Makoni	59.4	171,863	25,436	6,765,471	25,536,363
Mwenezi	68.6	121,639	18,003	4,788,369	17,596,161	Goromonzi	59.1	141,252	20,905	5,560,467	17,452,306
Zvishavane	67.1	51,633	7,642	2,032,547	6,014,174	Murewa	58.6	124,239	18,387	4,890,718	14,013,950

Cereal Insecurity by District

				Total Cost at Peak						Total Cost at Peak	
District	Proportion of Households (%)	Food Insecure Population	Cereal Requirements (MT)	Cereals (USD)	Basket (USD)	District	Proportion of Households (%)	Food Insecure Population	Cereal Requirements (MT)	Cereals (USD)	Basket (USD)
Mutare	58.2	161,932	23,966	6,374,537	22,474,392	Chimanimani	50.4	72,129	10,675	2,839,379	10,257,131
Nkayi	58.2	67,386	9,973	2,652,690	9,448,369	Makonde	50.0	81,493	12,061	3,208,004	7,965,129
Nyanga	57.6	77,407	11,456	3,047,166	10,842,027	Hurungwe	49.8	174,023	25,755	6,850,489	18,673,707
Chegutu	57.6	93,950	13,905	3,698,389	10,262,526	Marondera	47.8	59,370	8,787	2,337,120	7,100,701
Bulilima	56.9	54,709	8,097	2,153,662	10,510,791	Muzarabani	45.4	59,153	8,755	2,328,568	6,850,678
Chiredzi	56.5	165,247	24,457	6,505,032	25,136,732	Mhondoro - Ngezi	45.3	50,224	7,433	1,977,077	5,669,426
Rushinga	55.6	43,699	6,467	1,720,222	6,436,556	Matobo	44.9	44,772	6,626	1,762,465	6,979,174
Gwanda	55.1	58,731	8,692	2,311,989	8,720,307	Insiza	44.1	54,236	8,027	2,135,005	7,817,116
Bindura	55.0	73,081	10,816	2,876,862	8,206,783	Bikita	44.1	76,034	11,253	2,993,119	11,443,374
Chirumhanzu	54.8	46,741	6,918	1,839,989	6,062,286	Mazowe	42.8	106,063	15,697	4,175,236	11,096,338
Chikomba	53.2	67,852	10,042	2,671,008	7,607,124	Seke	41.6	44,493	6,585	1,751,490	5,426,797
Mt Darwin	52.7	118,897	17,597	4,680,428	11,612,970	Beitbridge	39.9	33,935	5,022	1,335,879	5,444,394
Mangwe	51.4	36,134	5,348	1,422,427	5,590,810	Shurugwi	39.8	32,738	4,845	1,288,763	3,868,273
Gutu	51.0	109,988	16,278	4,329,731	14,614,097	Shamva	37.2	48,889	7,236	1,924,546	5,096,670
Umzingwane	50.8	33,972	5,028	1,337,315	4,601,896	Guruve	36.4	47,929	7,093	1,886,731	5,073,640

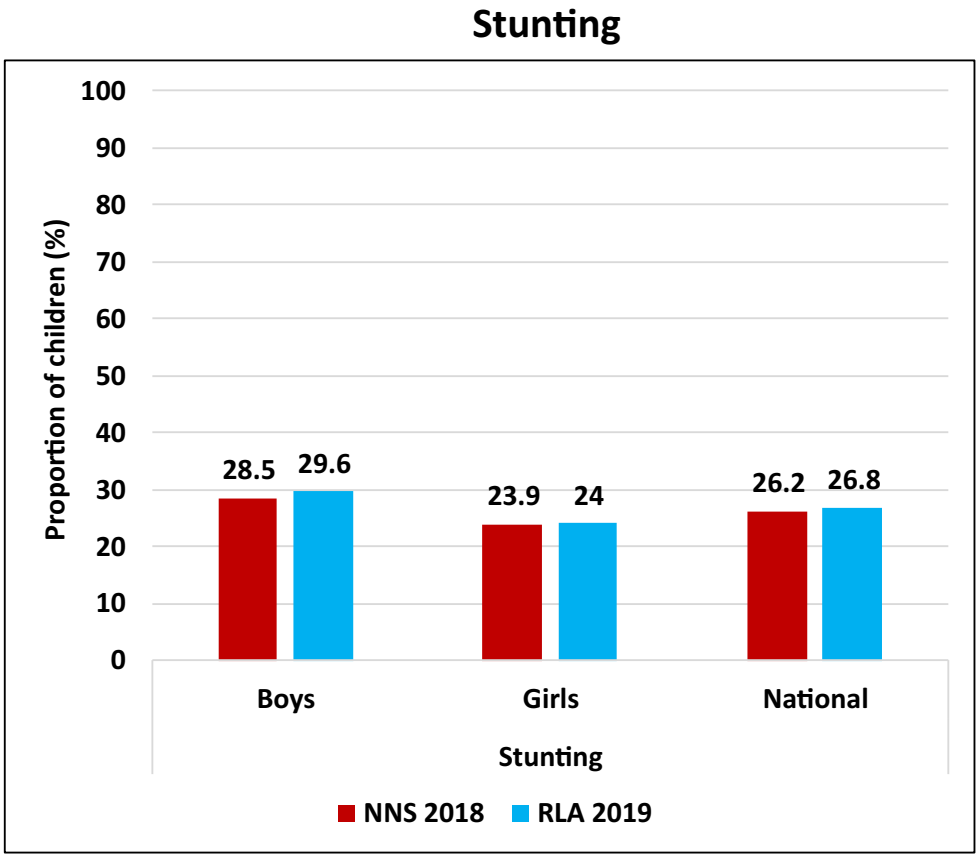
Child Nutritional Status

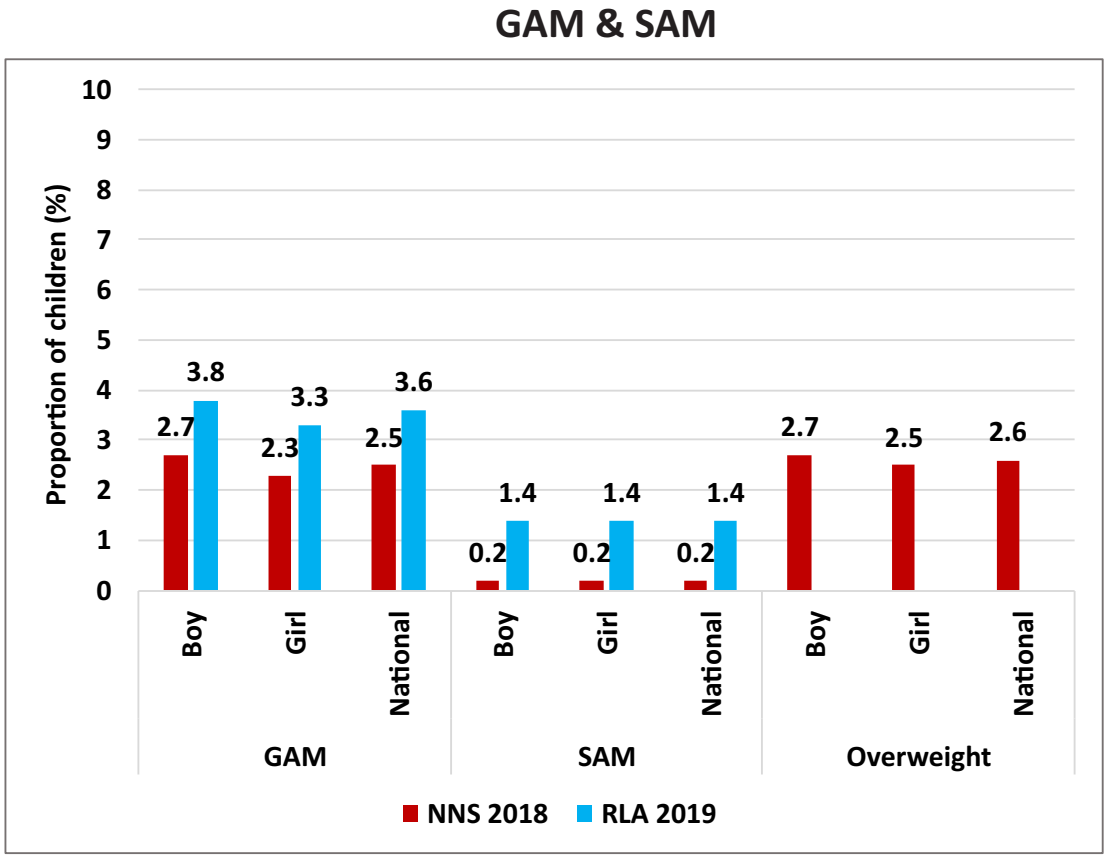
Child Nutrition Status

Malnutrition Prevalence thresholds for children under 5 years:

Indicator	Definition	National Prevalence (%)	Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance
Stunting	Height/Length for age <–2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)	26.8%	<2.5%: Very Low 2.5-<10%: Low 10-<20%: Medium 20-<30%: High ≥30%: Very High (De Onis et al., 2019)
Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)	Weight for height <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oredema (WHO, 2006)	3.6%	<5% Acceptable 5–9.9%: Poor 10–14.9%: Serious >15%: Critical (WHO, 2000)
Severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	Weight for height <–3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)	1.4%	0% = acceptable >0%: Unacceptable
Overweight	Weight for height > +2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)		<2.5%: Very Low 2.5-<5%: Low 5-<10%: Medium 10-<15%: High ≥15%: Very High (De Onis et al., 2019)

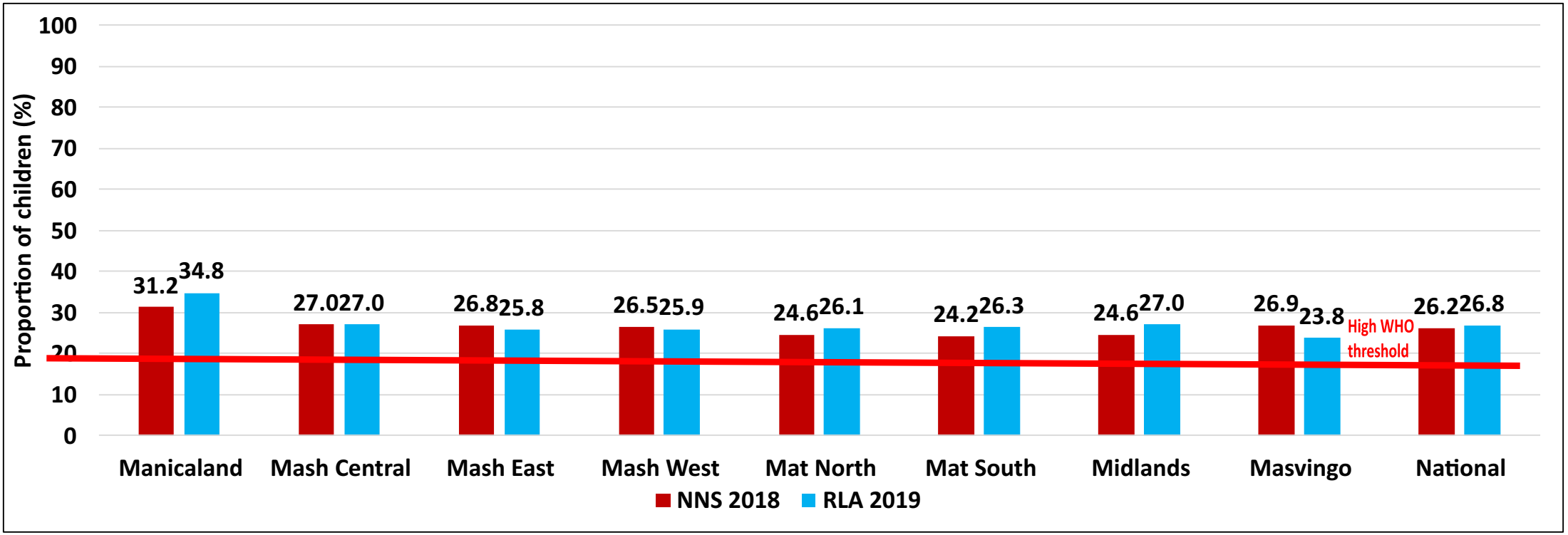
Nutrition Status by Sex of Child 2018 and 2019





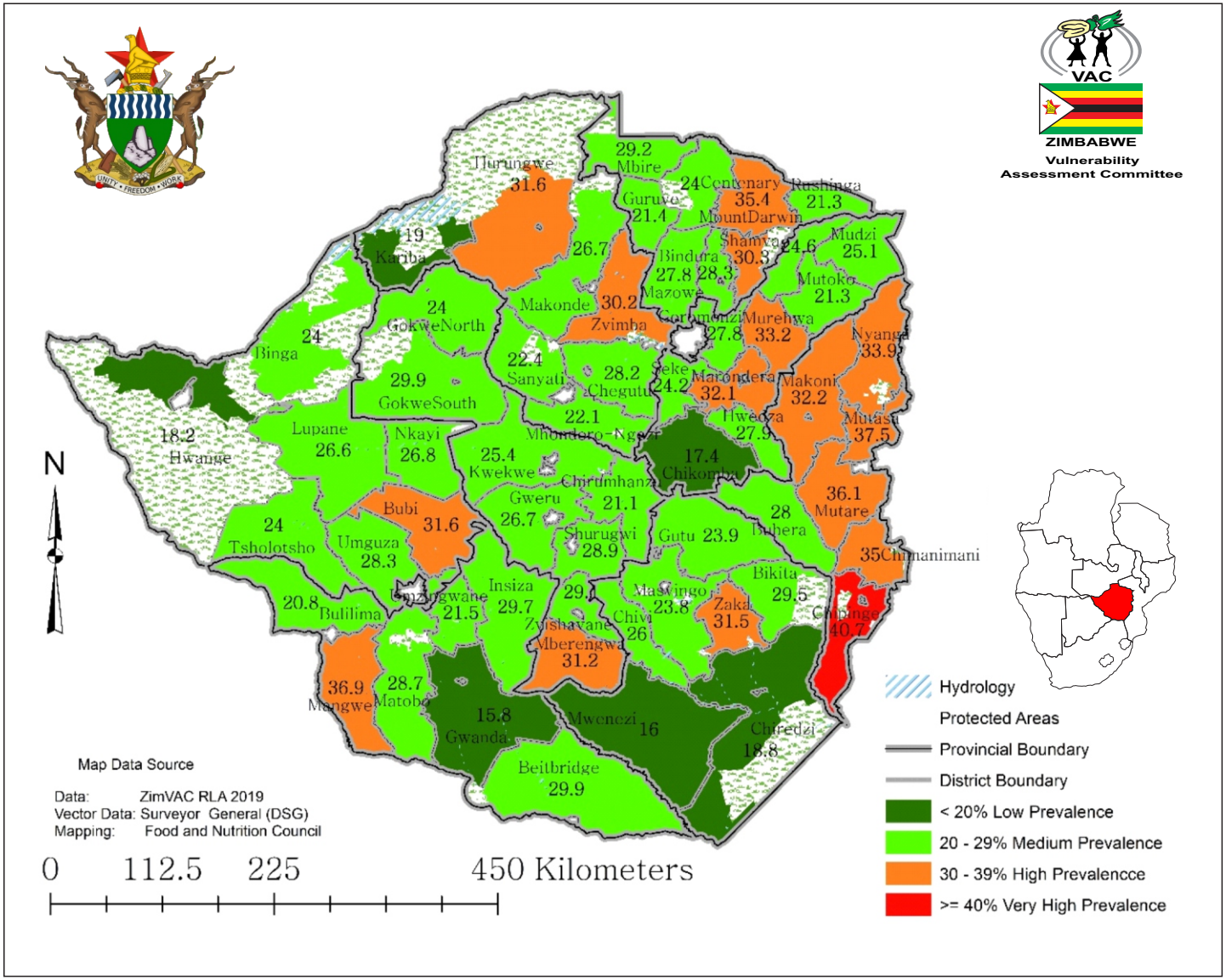
- Stunting (26.8%) remains high and the leading form of malnutrition, affecting 1 in 3 children less than 5 years.
- Wasting and underweight increased between 2018 and 2019 in both sexes.

Stunting Rates by Province 2018-2019 (WHO Standards)



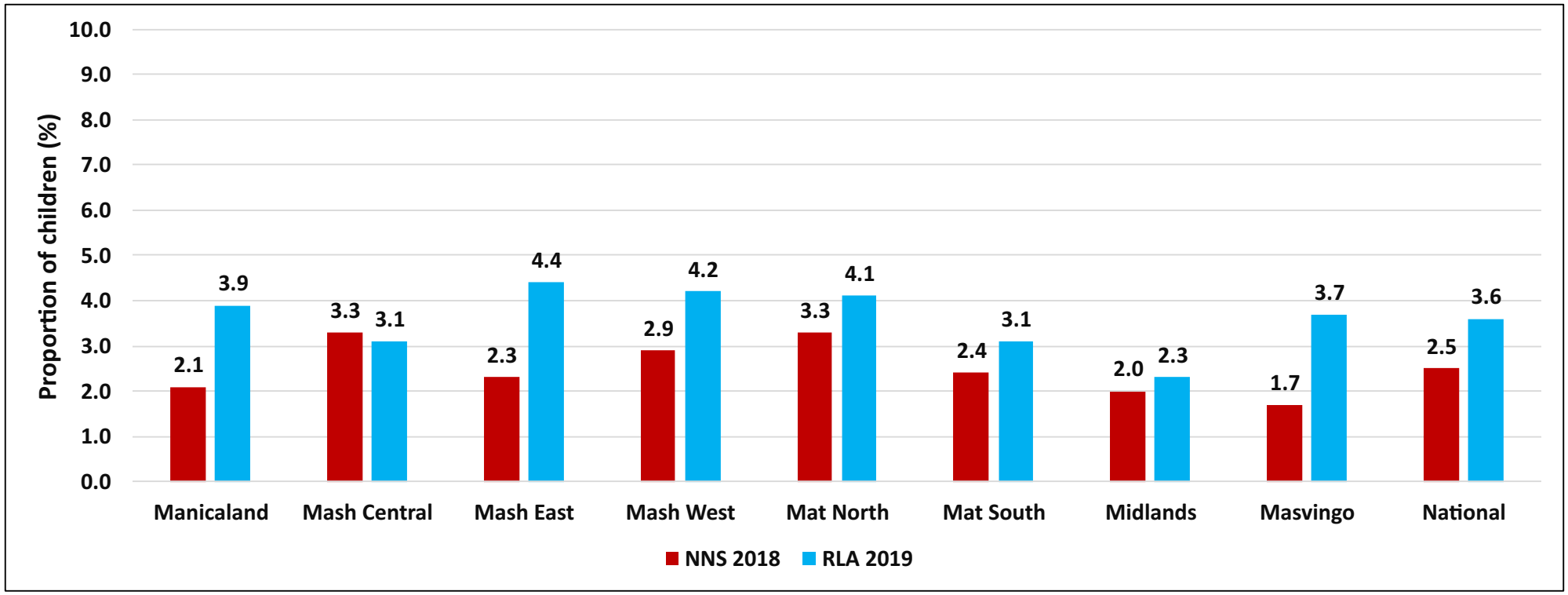
- All provinces had stunting rates above the WHO threshold of 20%, with Manicaland (34.8%) recording the highest and Masvingo (23.8%) having the lowest.
- The high stunting rates in Manicaland remain high and cause for concern.

Stunting Levels by District



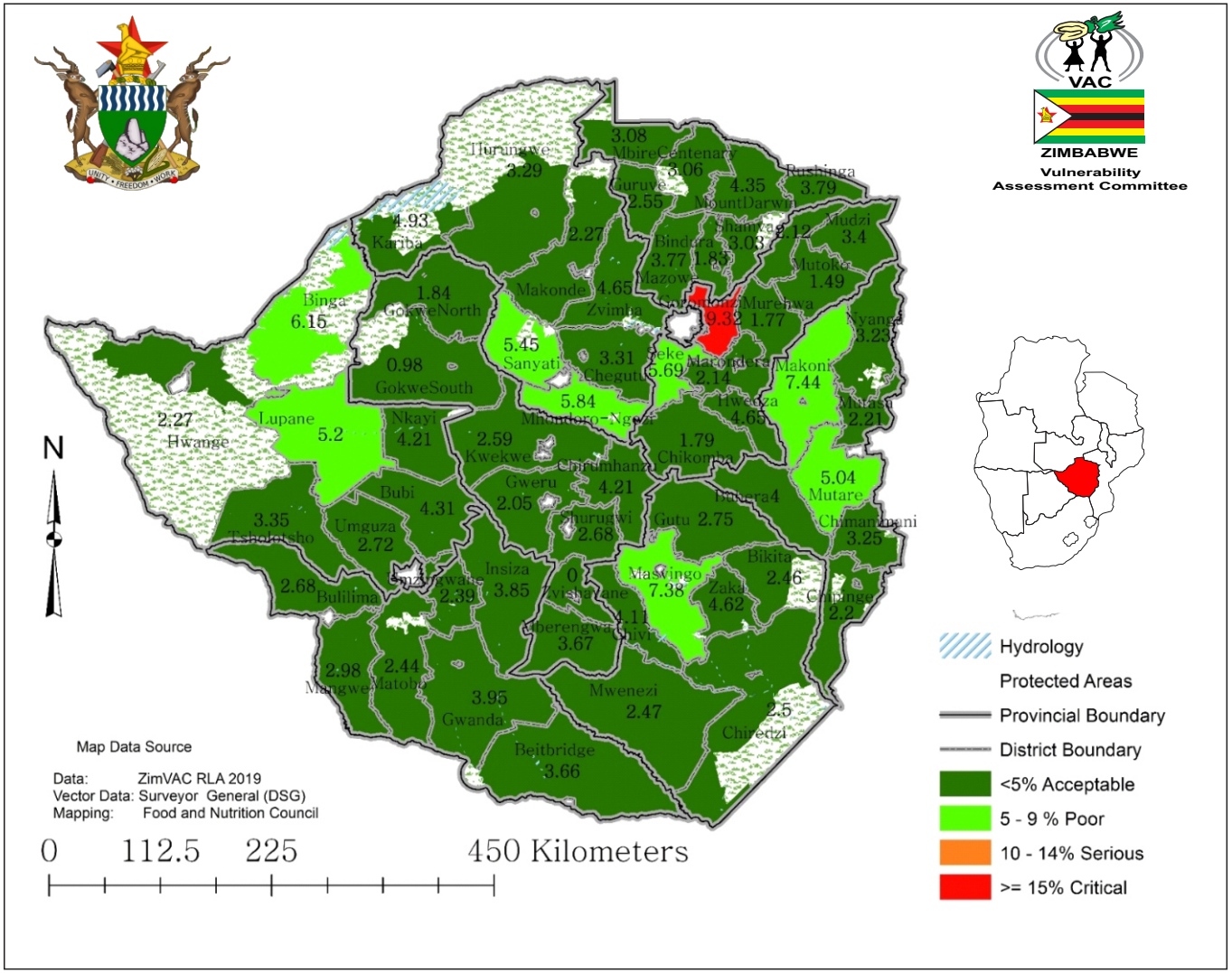
- Fifteen districts were in the very high (>30%) and 38 have high (>20%) stunting levels.
- Districts from Manicaland have consistently very high stunting levels.

Global Acute Malnutrition by Province 2018 and 2019 (WHO Standards)



- In 2019, at national level, global acute malnutrition was 3.6%, an increase from 2.5% in 2018.
- The highest prevalence was in Mashonaland East (4.4%) and lowest in Midlands (2.3%).

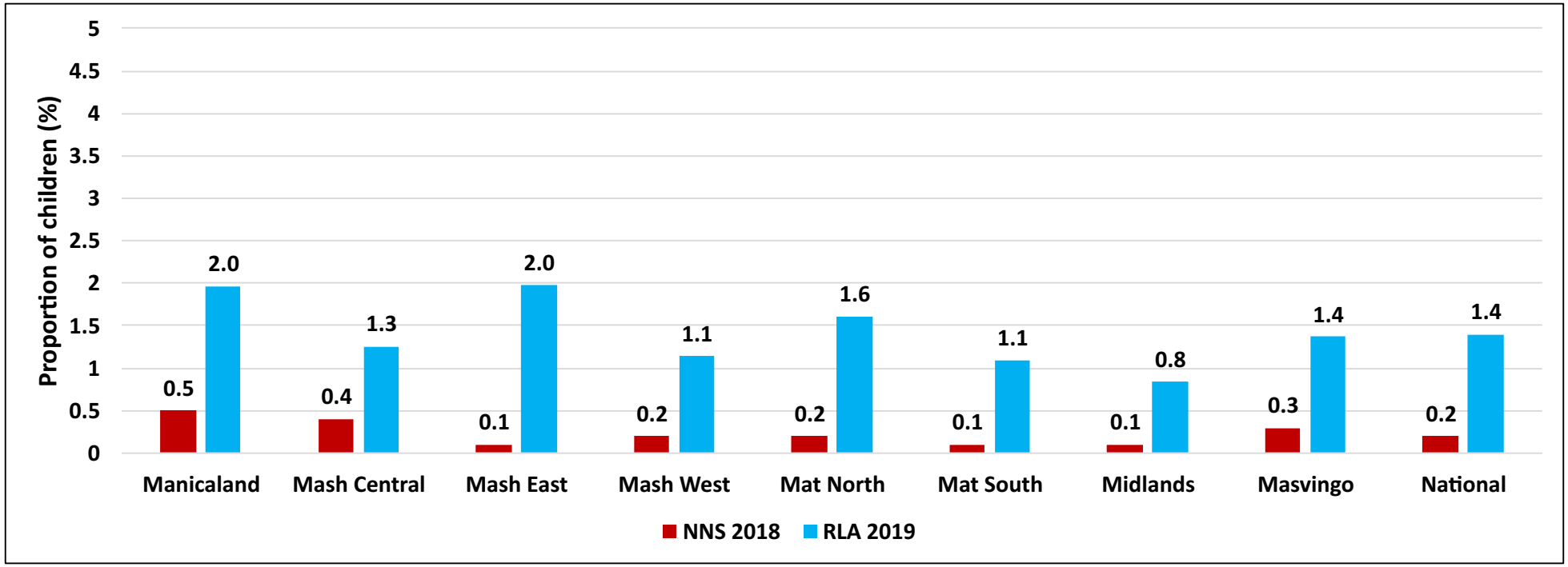
Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) by District



- High prevalence of GAM exceeding acceptable thresholds was recorded in Makoni (7.4%), Mutare (5%), Seke (5.7%), Mhondoro-Ngezi (5.8%), Sanyati (5.5%), Binga (6.1%), Lupane (5.2%), Masvingo (7.4%) and Goromonzi (19.3%)

* *Data Quality for Goromonzi District was problematic based on plausibility Test.*
All other districts had acceptable plausibility Tests

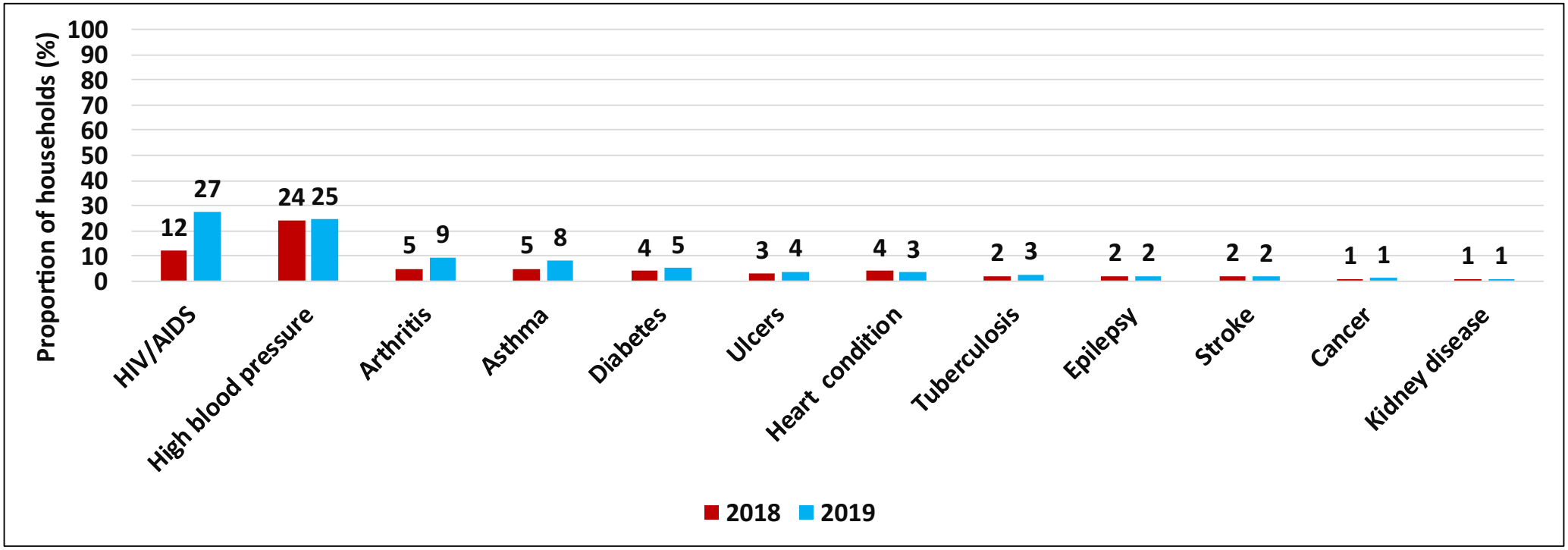
Severe Acute Malnutrition by Province 2018 and 2019



- Severe acute malnutrition cases increased from 0.2% to 1.4% at national level between 2018 and 2019
- The same trend was observed across provinces, with Mashonaland East (2%) and Manicaland (2%) recording the highest and lowest in Midlands

Health Services

Households with at Least One Member Living with a Chronic Condition



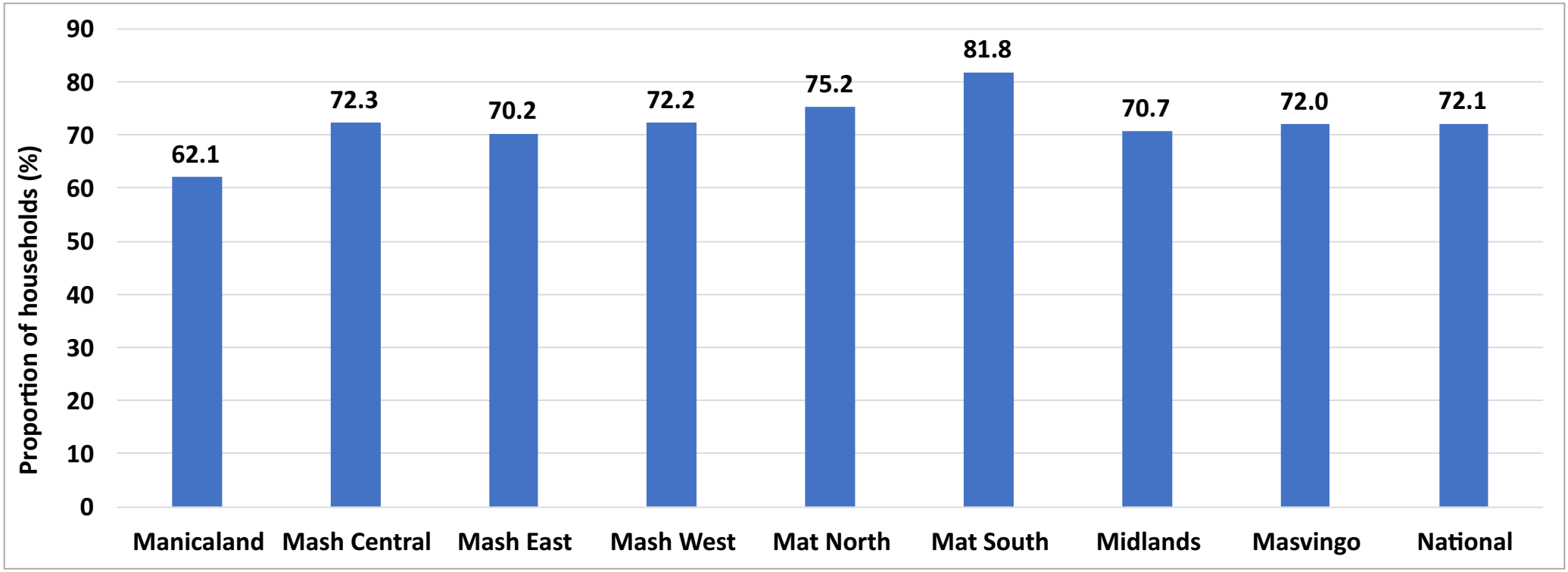
- There was an increase in the proportion of households with at least one member living with HIV/AIDS from 12% (2018) 27% (2019).
- Presence of a member living with a chronic condition is likely to increase the household's financial burden.

Proportion of Households with at least one Person Living with a Chronic Condition by Province

	High blood pressure	Heart disease	Diabetes	Asthma	HIV/AIDS	Arthritis	Epilepsy	Stroke	Cancer	Tuberculosis	Liver disease	Kidney disease	Ulcers	Other
Manicaland	22.4	4.3	9.1	6.4	17.6	14.5	2.2	1.9	1.2	2.6	0.2	0.3	5.1	12.2
Mash Central	26.0	4.1	4.8	8.2	29.4	5.6	3.5	1.7	1.1	2.0	0.1	1.1	5.0	7.7
Mash East	29.7	5.0	5.7	8.6	20.6	10.0	1.6	1.9	1.0	1.9	0.3	0.6	5.9	7.0
Mash West	25.5	3.2	6.1	8.3	26.6	8.5	2.6	1.2	0.8	2.0	0.1	1.2	2.6	11.3
Mat North	21.4	2.0	3.8	9.3	36.8	8.1	2.9	1.6	1.2	2.4	0.2	1.0	2.4	7.0
Mat South	26.2	1.2	4.7	8.8	36.4	6.3	1.4	1.6	1.2	2.6	0.1	0.8	1.7	6.9
Midlands	23.0	3.1	4.5	5.4	27.3	11.0	2.0	1.8	1.5	3.2	0.3	0.8	3.8	12.3
Masvingo	21.5	3.6	4.3	10.7	25.7	8.9	1.2	2.2	1.4	4.2	0.3	1.1	3.6	11.3
National	**24.6**	**3.4**	**5.3**	**8.1**	**27.4**	**9.2**	**2.1**	**1.8**	**1.2**	**2.6**	**0.2**	**0.8**	**3.8**	**9.5**

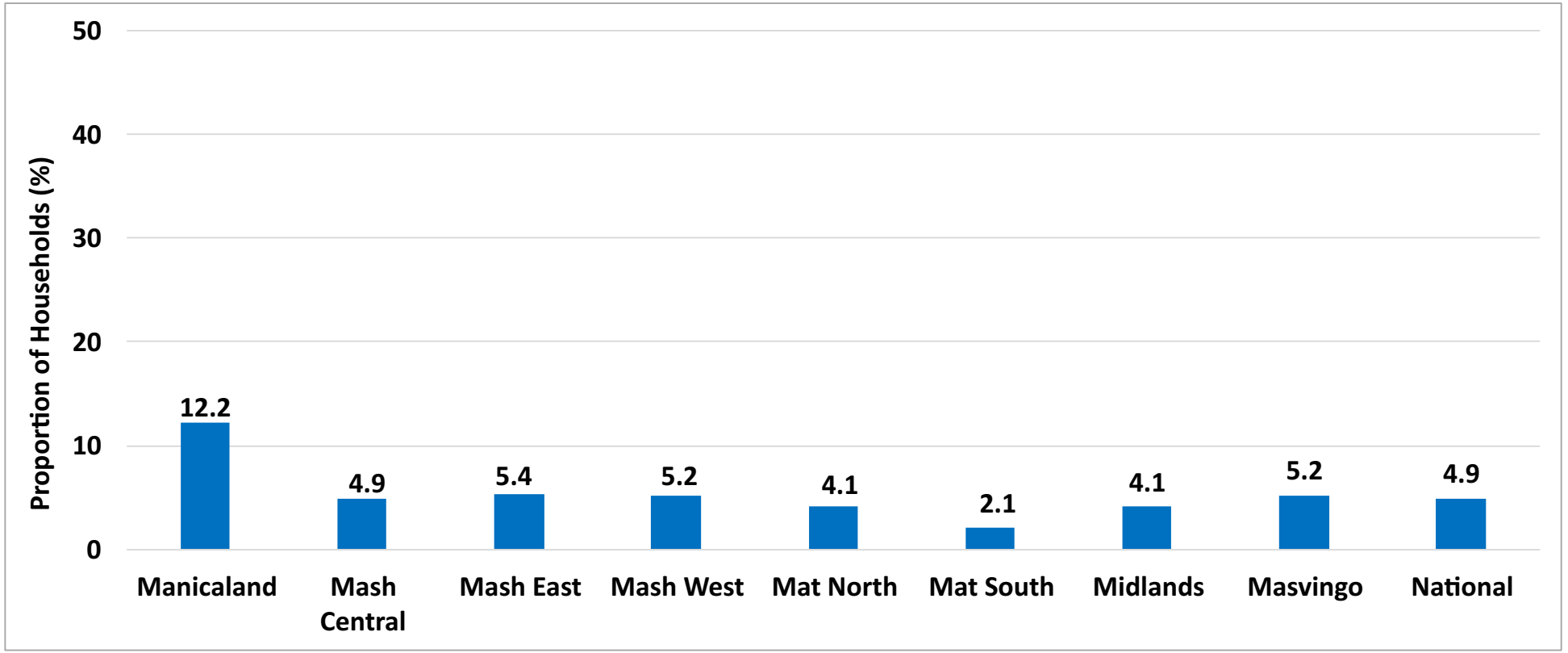
- HIV/AIDS (27.4%) and High blood pressure (24.6%) were the most reported chronic condition in households.
- Other chronic diseases at approximately 10% require further investigation
- All provinces had at least 70% of their households receiving treatment for the chronic disease reported except for Manicaland province with 62% of its households who housed at least one member with a chronic condition receiving treatment.

Access to Treatment Services among Households with at Least One member Living with a Chronic Condition



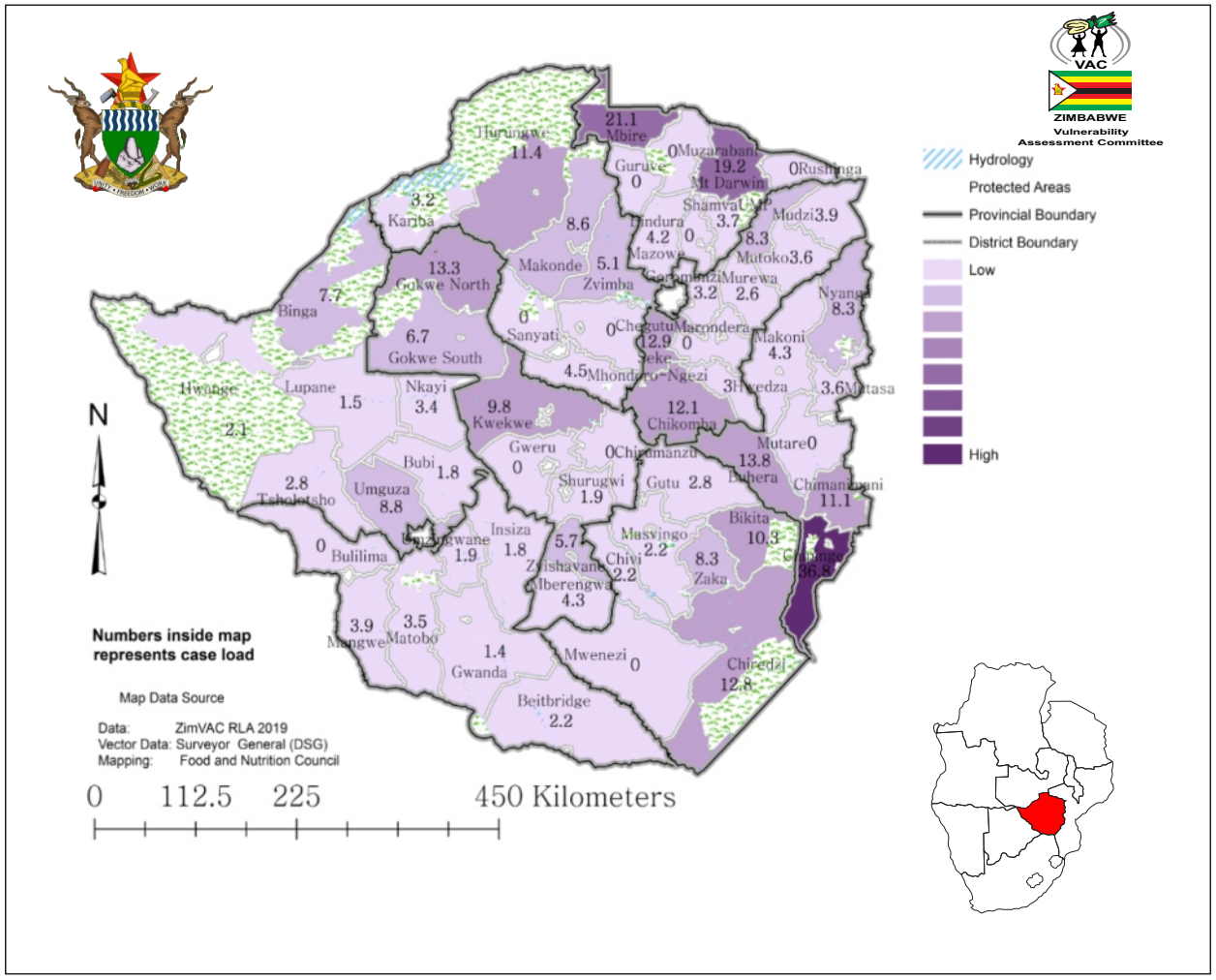
- Approximately a third (27.9%) of households consisting of at least one member living with a chronic condition, reported failure to accessing treatment services.
- Failure to accessing treatment services for chronic health conditions was high in Manicaland (37.9%).

Proportion of Households with at least one Member who Missed an ART Dose



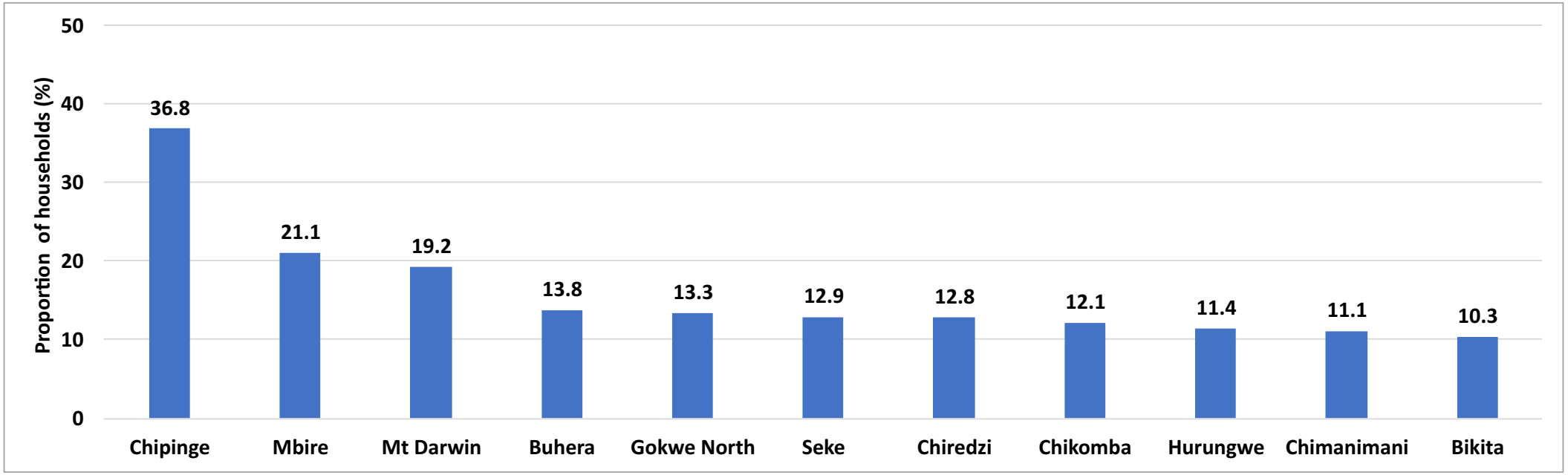
- Of those households who reported housing a member living with HIV/AIDS 4.9% of households reported that at least one member missed an ART dose.
- Of those households who reported housing a member living with HIV/AIDS in Manicaland 12.2% reported that at least one member missed a dose, which is unusually high compared to all other provinces which had less than 5.5% of households who reported missed medication.

Proportion of Households Members living with HIV who Missed ART doses by District



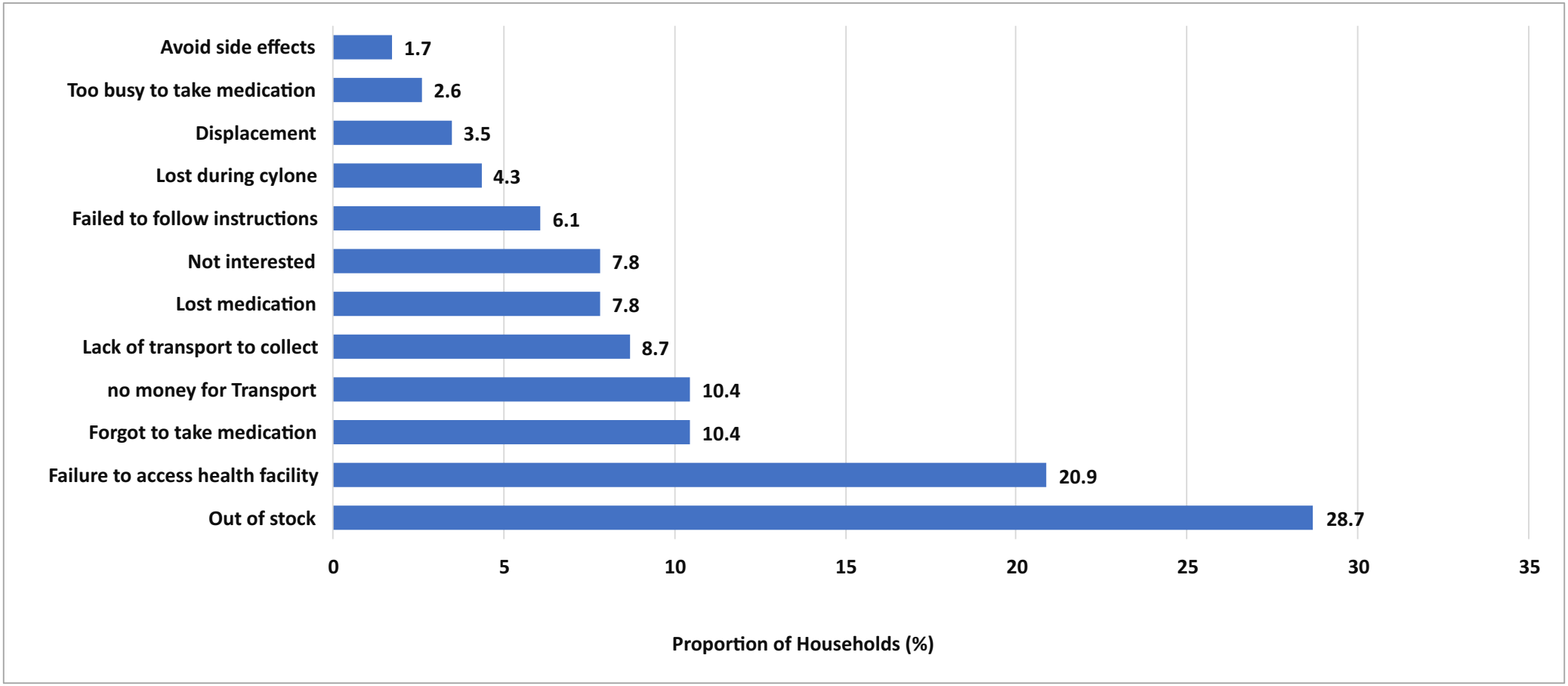
- Eleven districts in the country had over 10% of households with at least one member living with HIV/AIDS reporting missed ART doses. The 11 districts are Chipinge (36.8), Mbire (21.1), Mt Darwin (19.2), Buhera (13.8), Gokwe North (13.3), Seke (12.9), Chiredzi (12.8), Chikomba (12.1), Hurungwe (11.4), Chimanimani (11.1), Bikita (10.3)
- Chipinge had an unusually high proportion of households (36.8%) with members who missed doses.
- All districts in the Matabeleland provinces had proportions of less than 10% Bindura, Bulilima, Chegutu, Chirumanzu, Guruve, Gweru, Marondera, Mutare, Muzarabani, Mwenezi, Rushinga, Sanyati had no households reporting an missed doses.

Districts with >10% of Households with Members who Missed their ART Dose



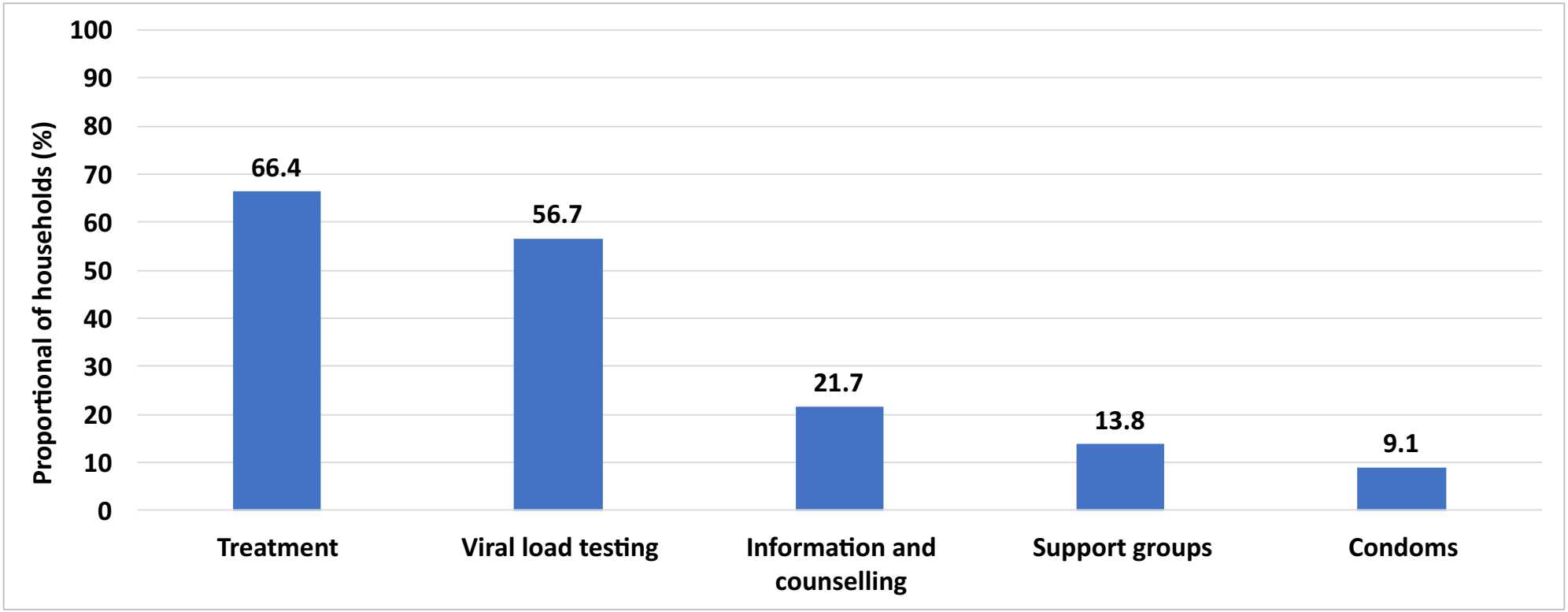
- The graph above gives a list of the districts that had the highest proportion of households who indicated that a member living with HIV had missed their dose.
- Of the top 10 districts, 6 were affected by cyclone Idai and these were Chipinge (36.8%), Buhera (13.8%), Chiredzi (12.8%), Chikomba (12.1%), Chimanimani (11.1%) and Bikita (10.3%).

Reasons for Missing ART Dose



- The most reported reasons for missing ART dose included medication being out of stock in health facilities (28.7%), failure to access health facilities (20.9%), inadequate transport money to travel to health facilities (10.4%) and forgetting to take medication by members living with HIV (10.4%).

HIV-Related Services Accessed from the Health Facilities



- About 96% of households which reported housing a member living with HIV/AIDS were accessing medication from primary health facilities.
- Treatment was the most accessed service by 66.4% of household members living with HIV.
- Reduced access to basic HIV treatment and care services such as condoms, psychosocial support, information and counselling often leads to defaulting of medication and treatment failure.

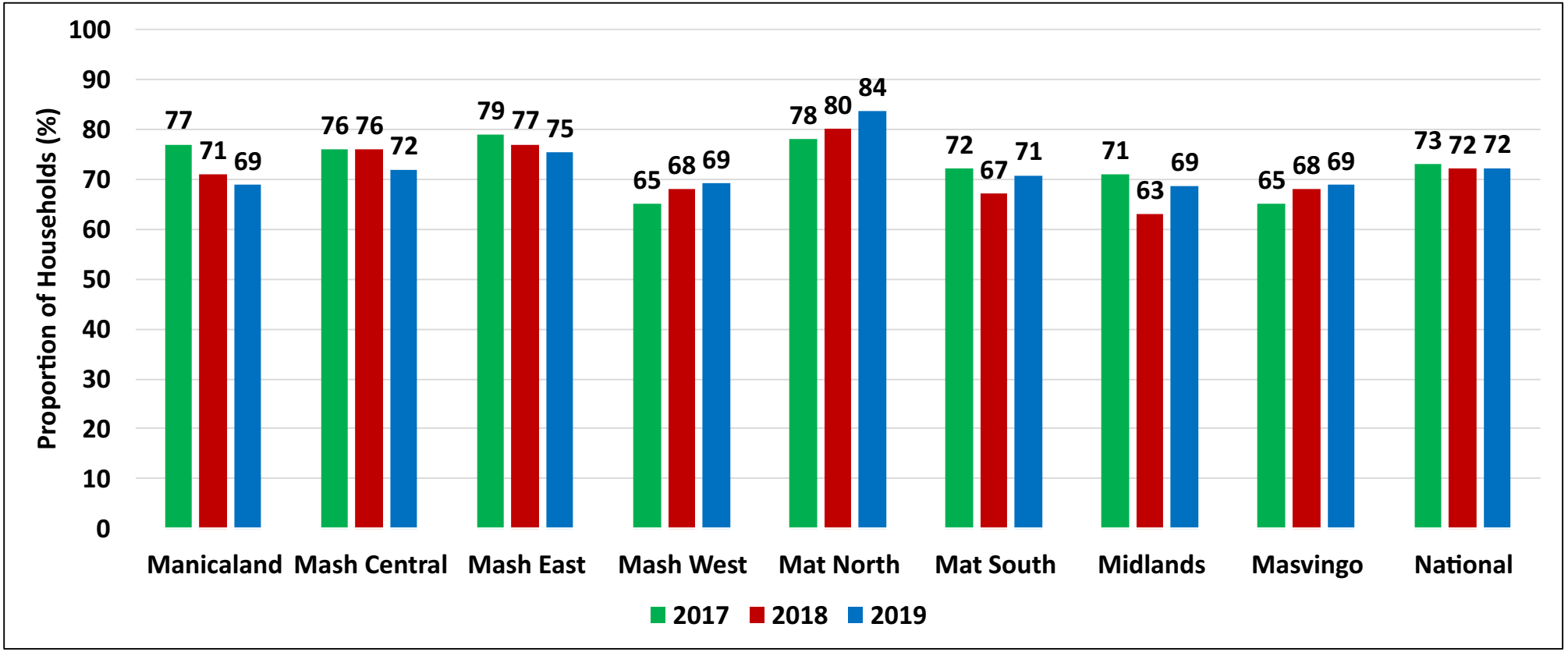
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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.

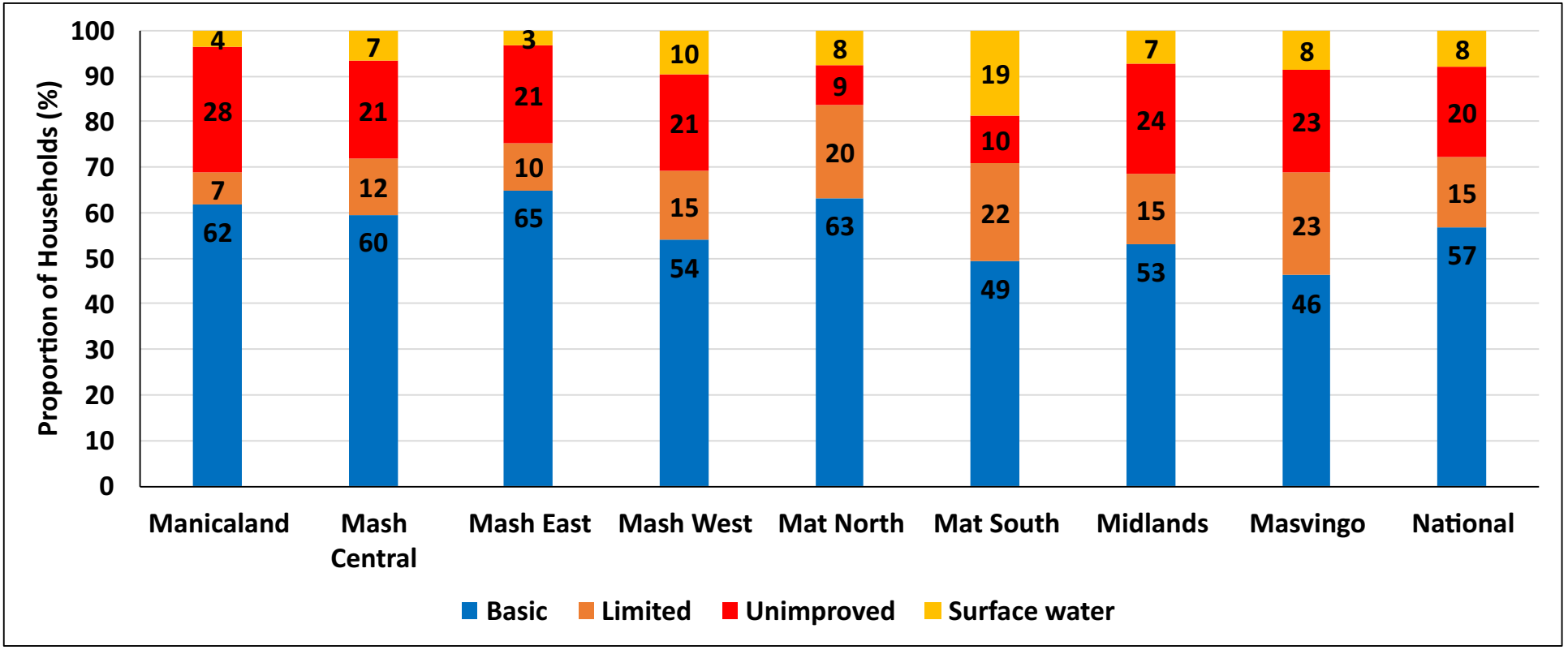
Note :
"Improved" drinking water sources are further defined by the quality of the water they produce, and are protected from faecal contamination by the nature of their construction or through an intervention to protect from outside contamination. Such sources include: piped water into dwelling, plot, 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



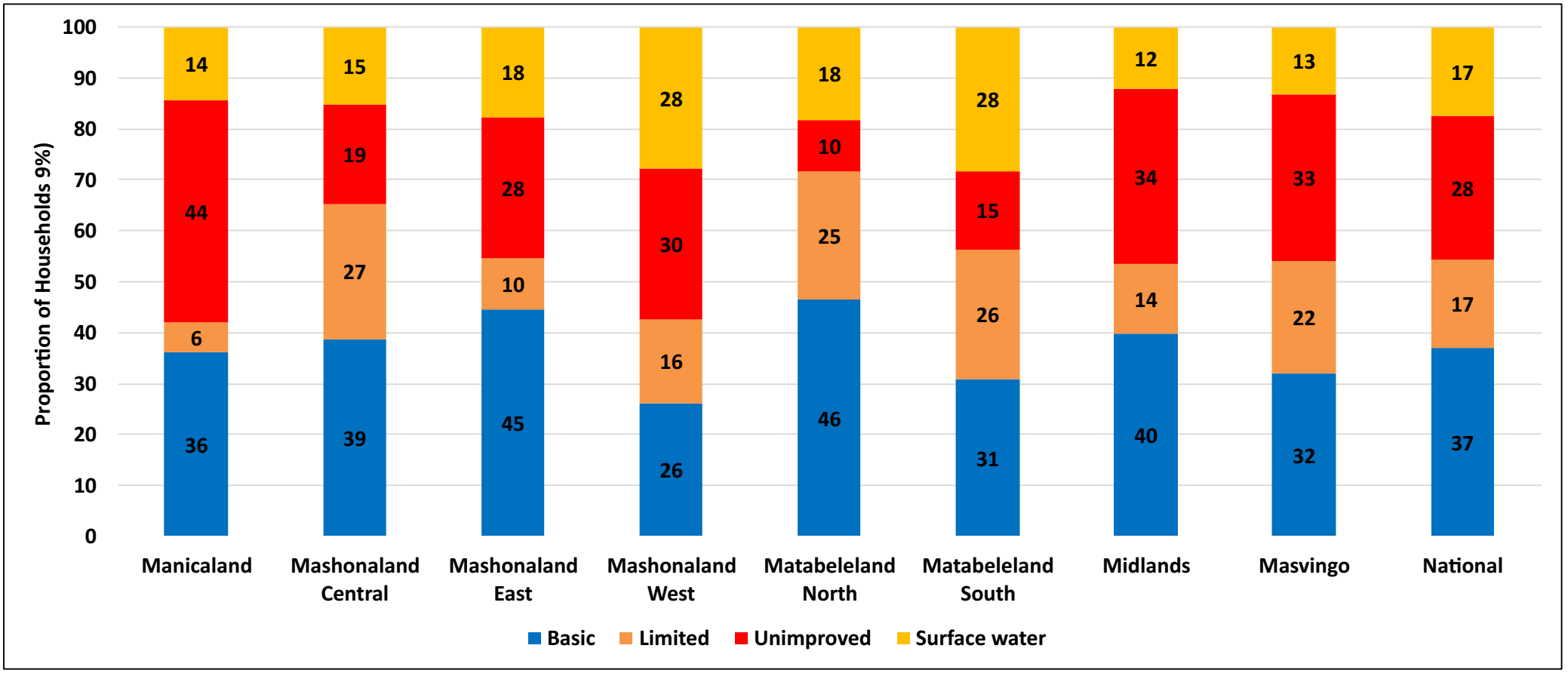
- Improved water incorporates water sources from safely managed, basic and limited water services.
- Access to improved drinking water has remained constant over the past 3 years , 2017 (73%), 2018 (72%) and 2019 (72%).
- Twenty-eight percent of households continue to utilise unimproved water sources for their drinking water.

Main Drinking Water Services



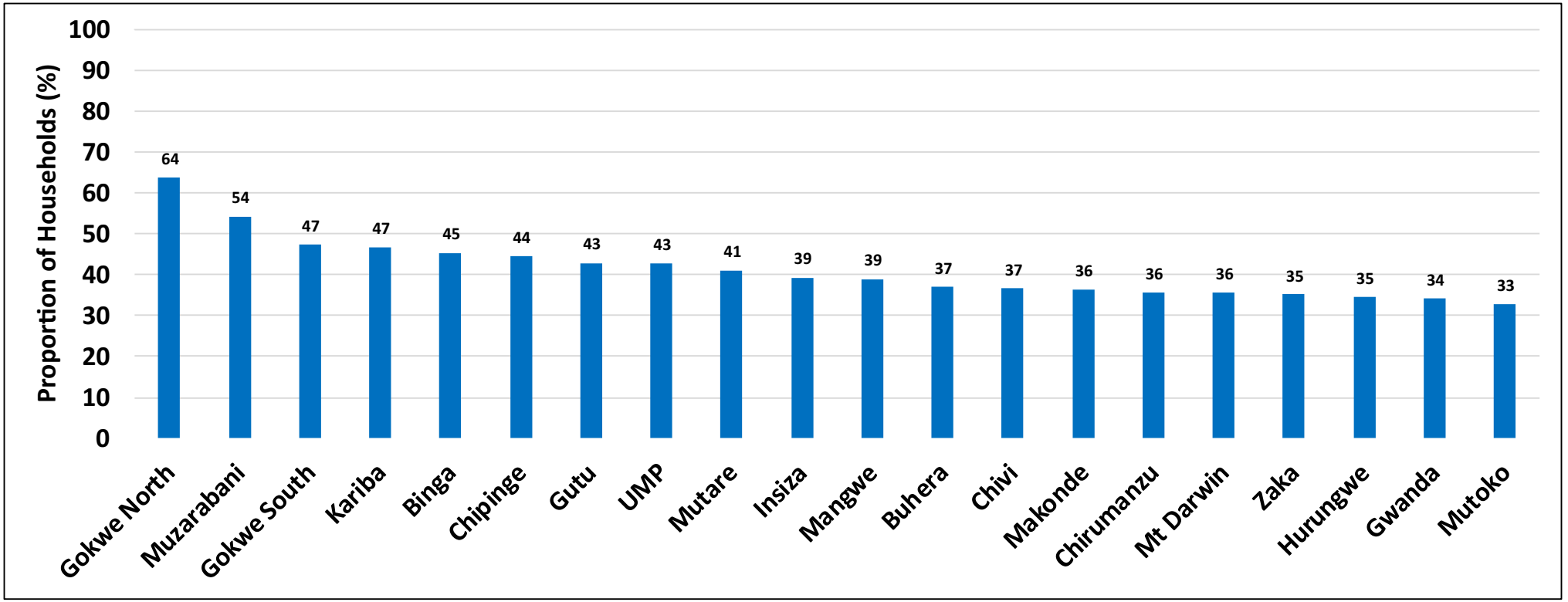
- Mashonaland East had the highest proportion of households (65%) using basic water services.
- Manicaland had the highest proportion of households (28%) using water from unimproved services.

Alternative Water Services



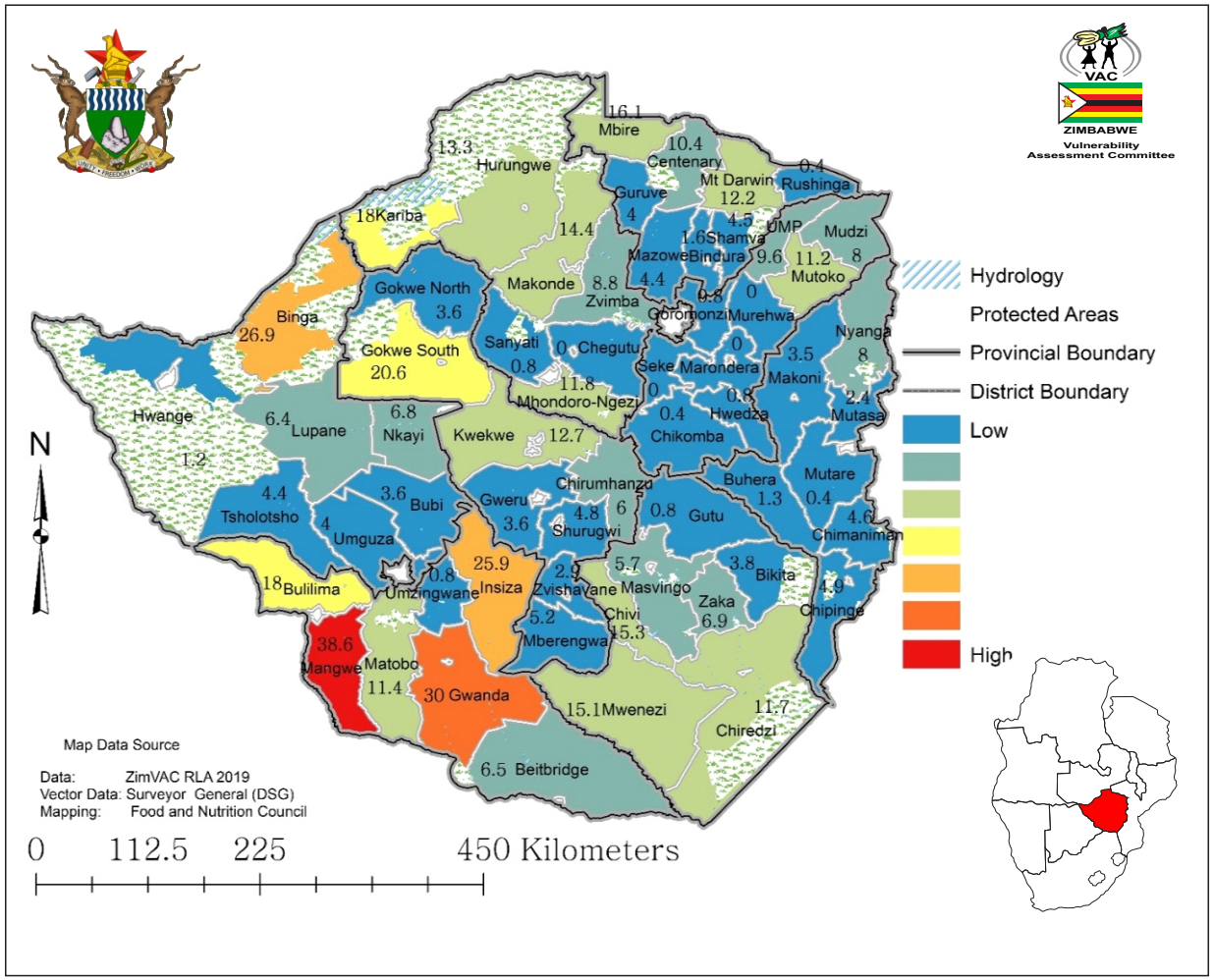
- Nationally 37% of households utilized basic water services as their alternative source of drinking water.
- The proportion of households utilizing surface water increases from 8% to 17% when households adopt an alternative source of drinking water, thereby increasing the population at risk of waterborne diseases

Top 20 Districts with Households Using Unimproved Water Sources



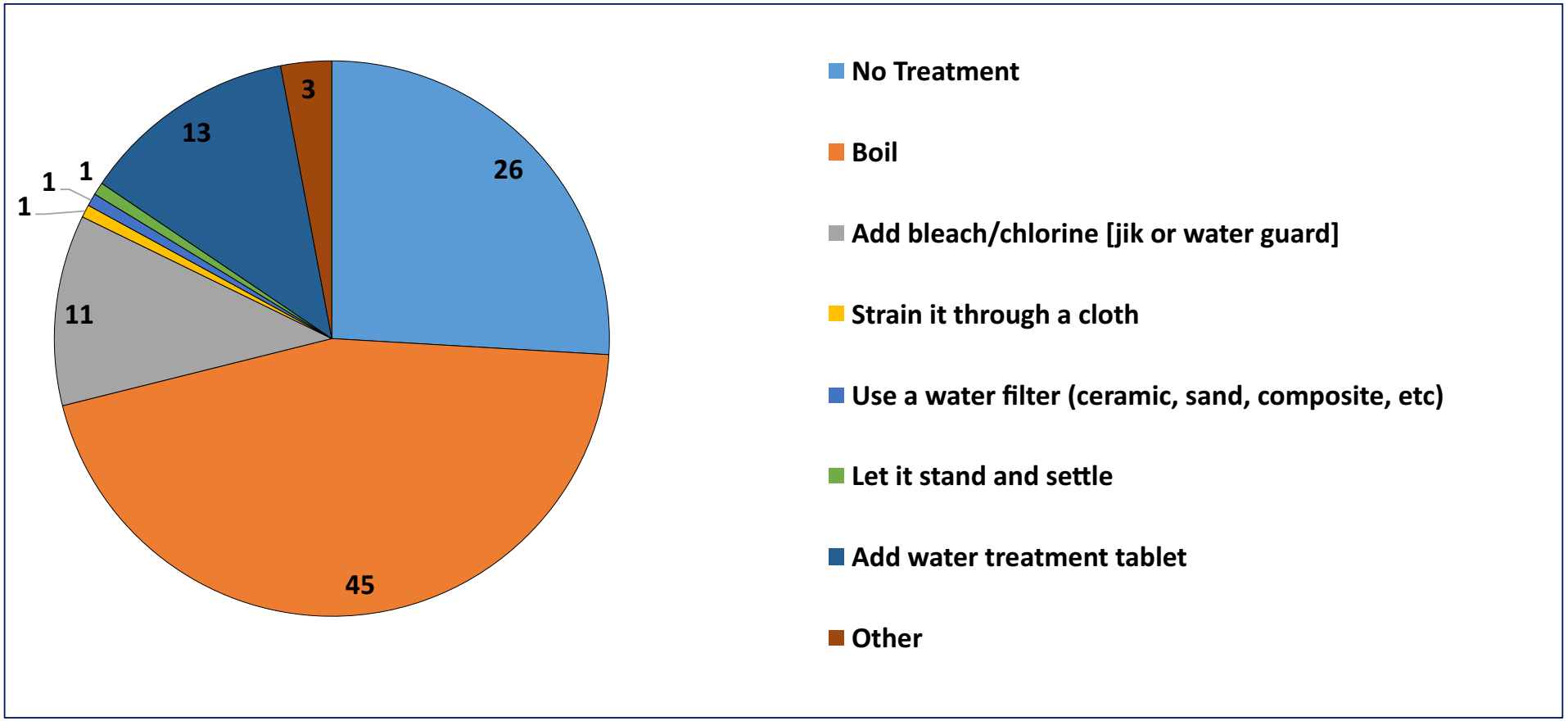
- The proportion of households using unimproved water is highest in Gokwe North (64%), Muzarabani and Gokwe South (54% and 47% respectively).

Households Drinking Surface Water by District



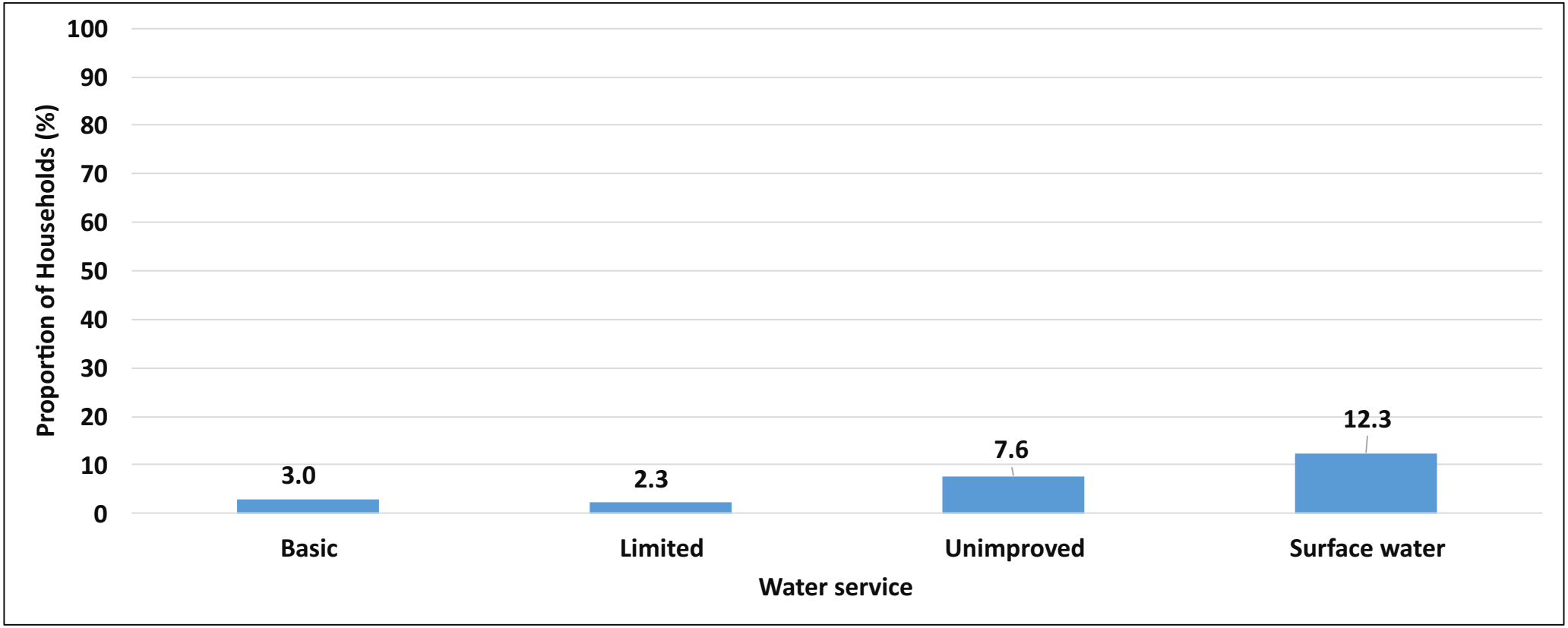
- Mangwe District had the highest proportion of households (38.5%) that utilized surface water as a source of drinking water.
- Other districts with relatively high usage of surface water included Gwanda (30%); Binga (26.9%) and Insiza (25.9%).
- Surface water sources are easily polluted or contaminated with chemicals, faecal matter and microorganisms that cause waterborne diseases.

Methods of Drinking Water Treatment



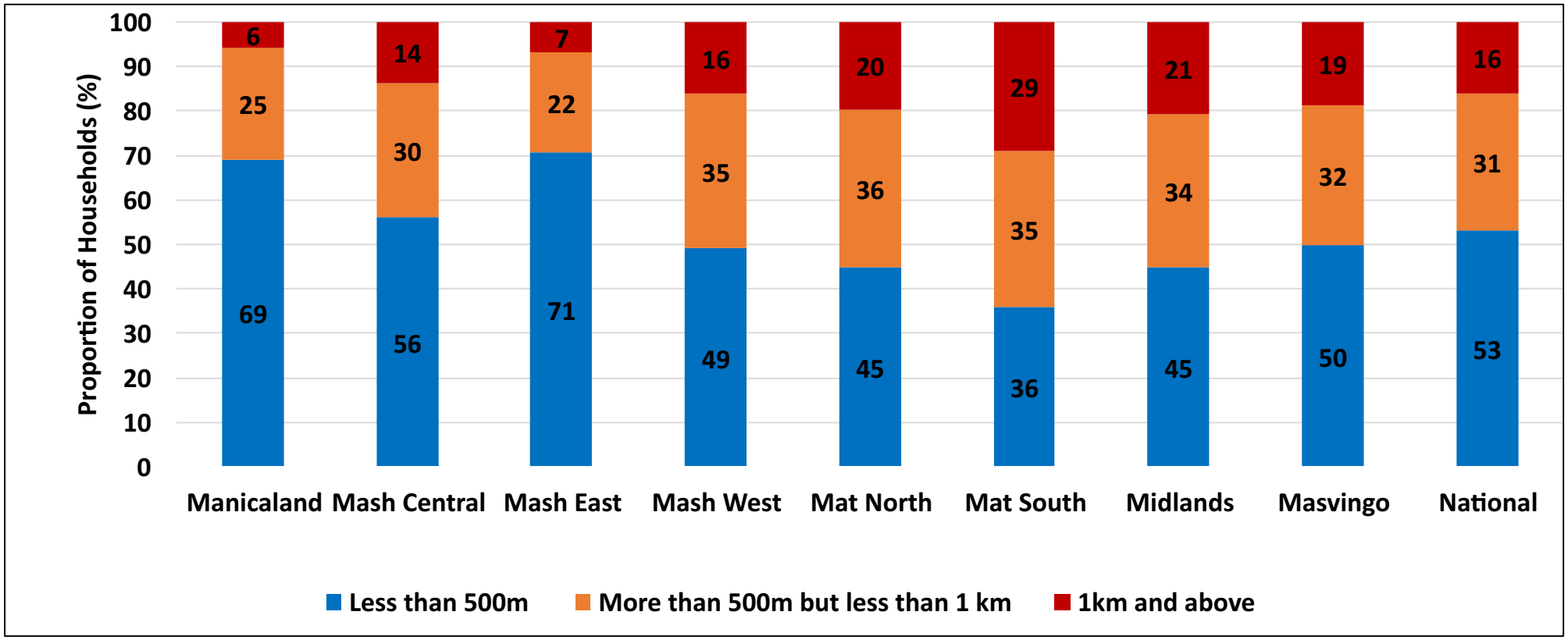
- Boiling water to make it safer before drinking was practised by 45% of households.
- Addition of water treatment tablets (aquatab) was the next most popular method of water treatment at 13%.

Water Treatment According to Water Sources



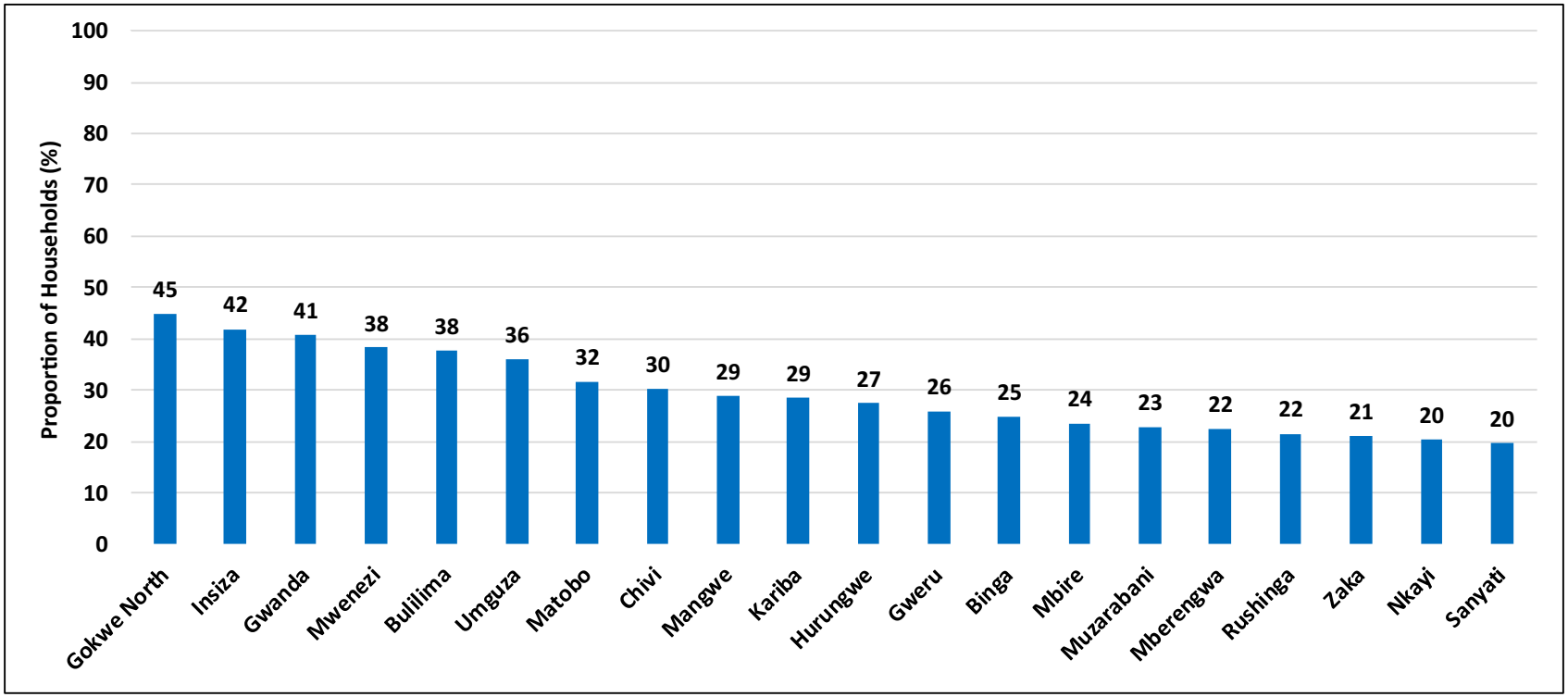
- Only 12.3% of households using surface water were treating it.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



- According to the Sphere Standards, the maximum distance that any household should travel to the nearest water point is 500m.
- At least 53% of households travelled less than 500m to the nearest water source, with 16% travelling more than 1 km.
- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households travelling more than 1km to access water

Top 20 Districts Travelling more than 1km to Water Points



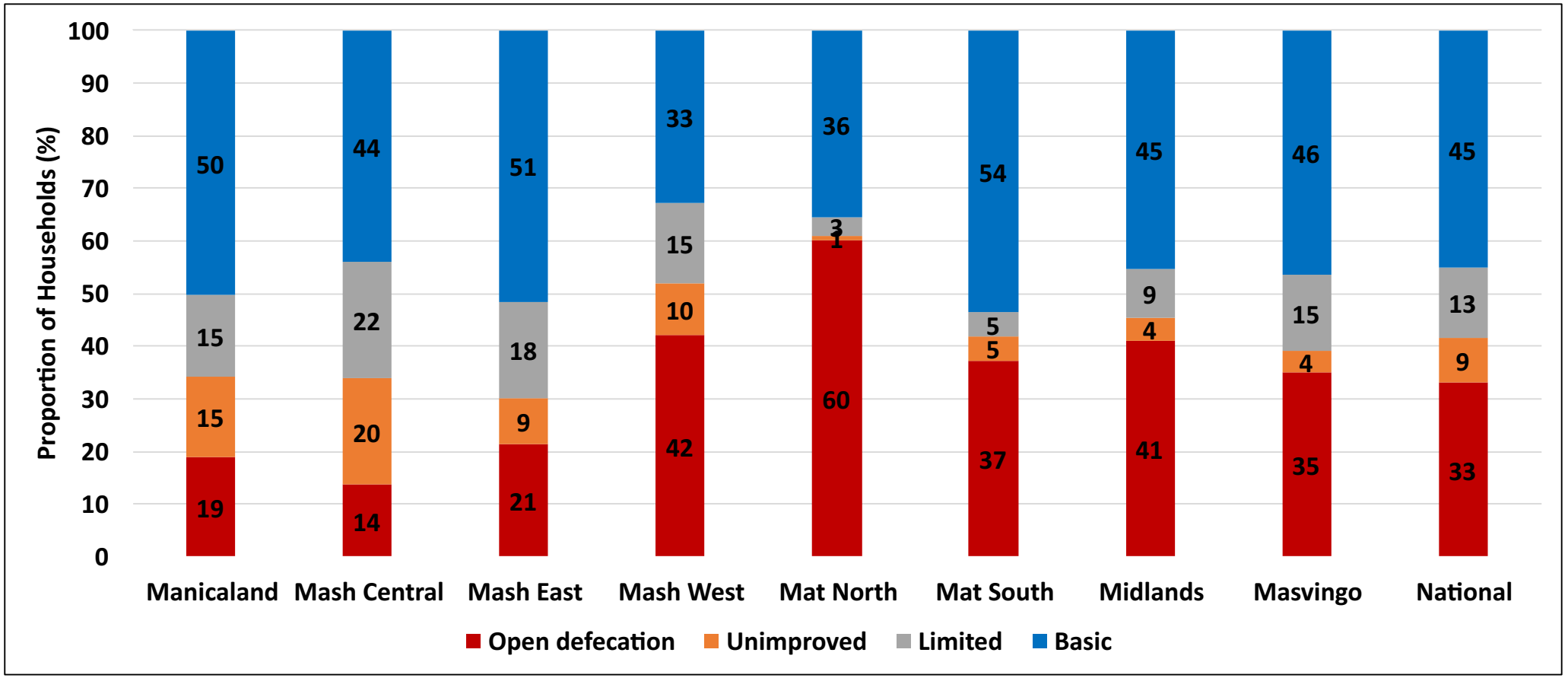
- Gokwe North had the highest proportion of households (45%) travelling for more than 1 kilometre to access water points.

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.

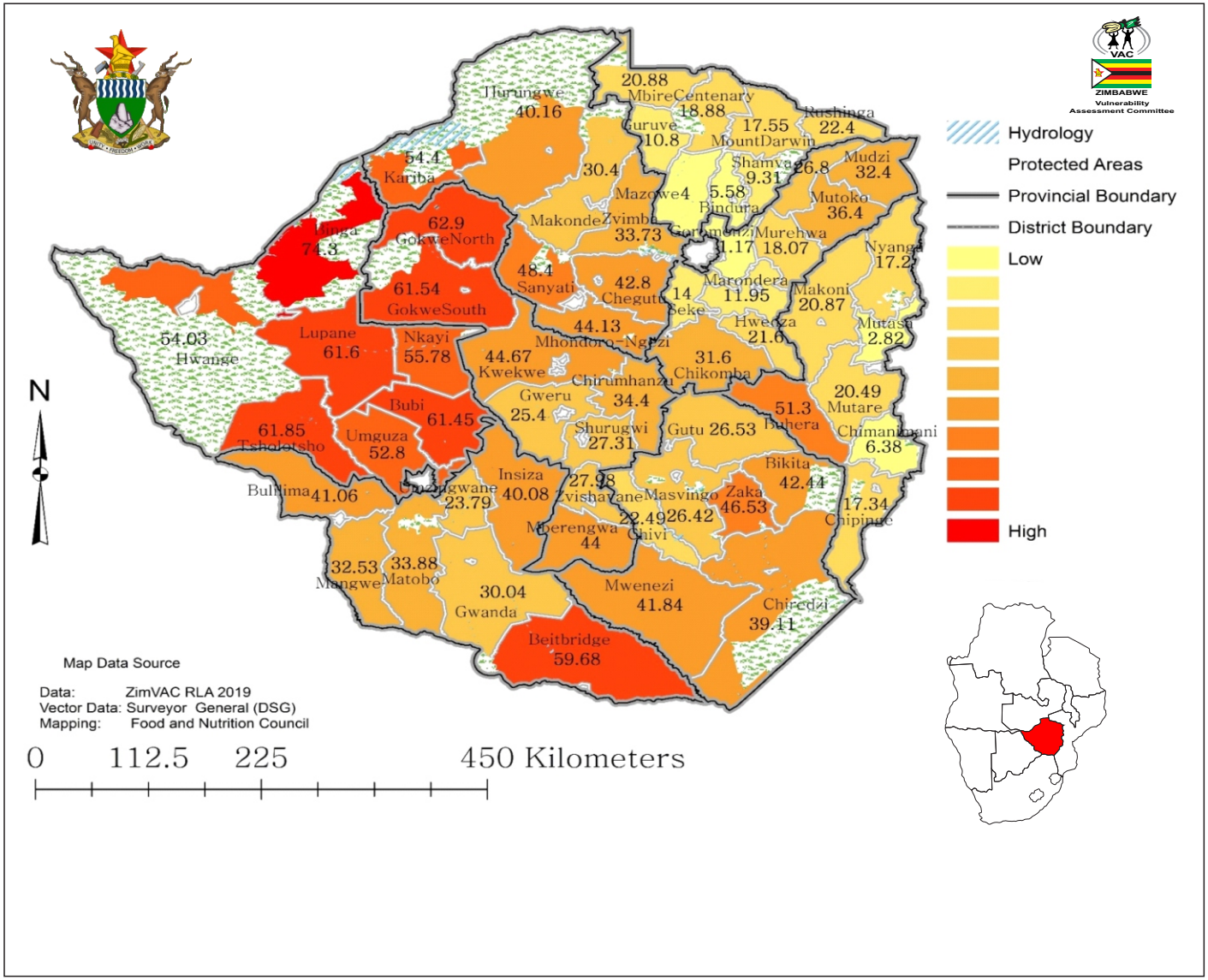
Note: Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include flush or pour flush toilet/latrine, Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP), pit latrine with slab and upgradeable Blair latrine.

Household Sanitation Services



- The proportion of households which accessed basic sanitation services was 45%
- Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of households (20%) using unimproved sanitation services.
- Open defecation was practiced by 33% of households nationally, with the highest proportion being in Matabeleland North (60%).

Open Defecation by District



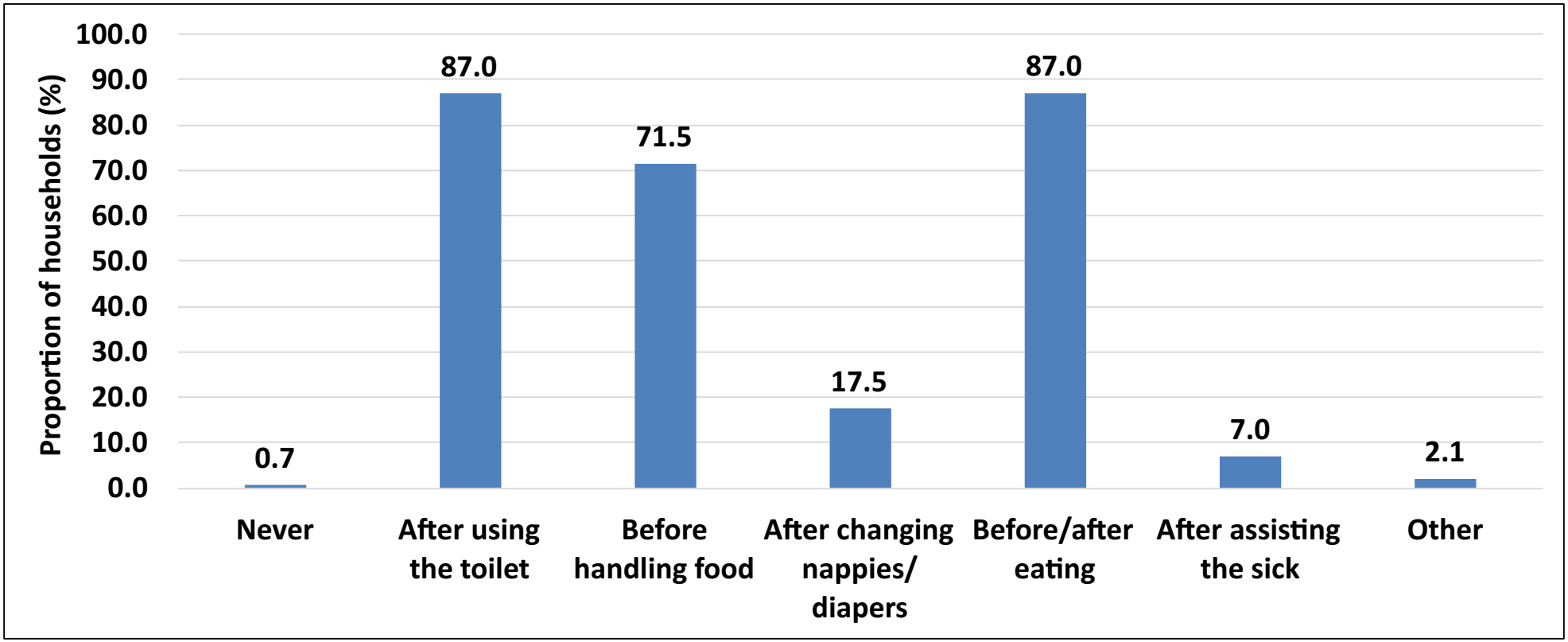
- Open defecation was most prevalent in Matabeleland North.
- Binga had the highest proportion of households (74.3%) practising open defecation.
- Twelve districts had more than 50% of households practising open defecation at the time of the assessment.
- Open defecation increases the risk of the spread of infectious diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera.

Ladder for Hygiene

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

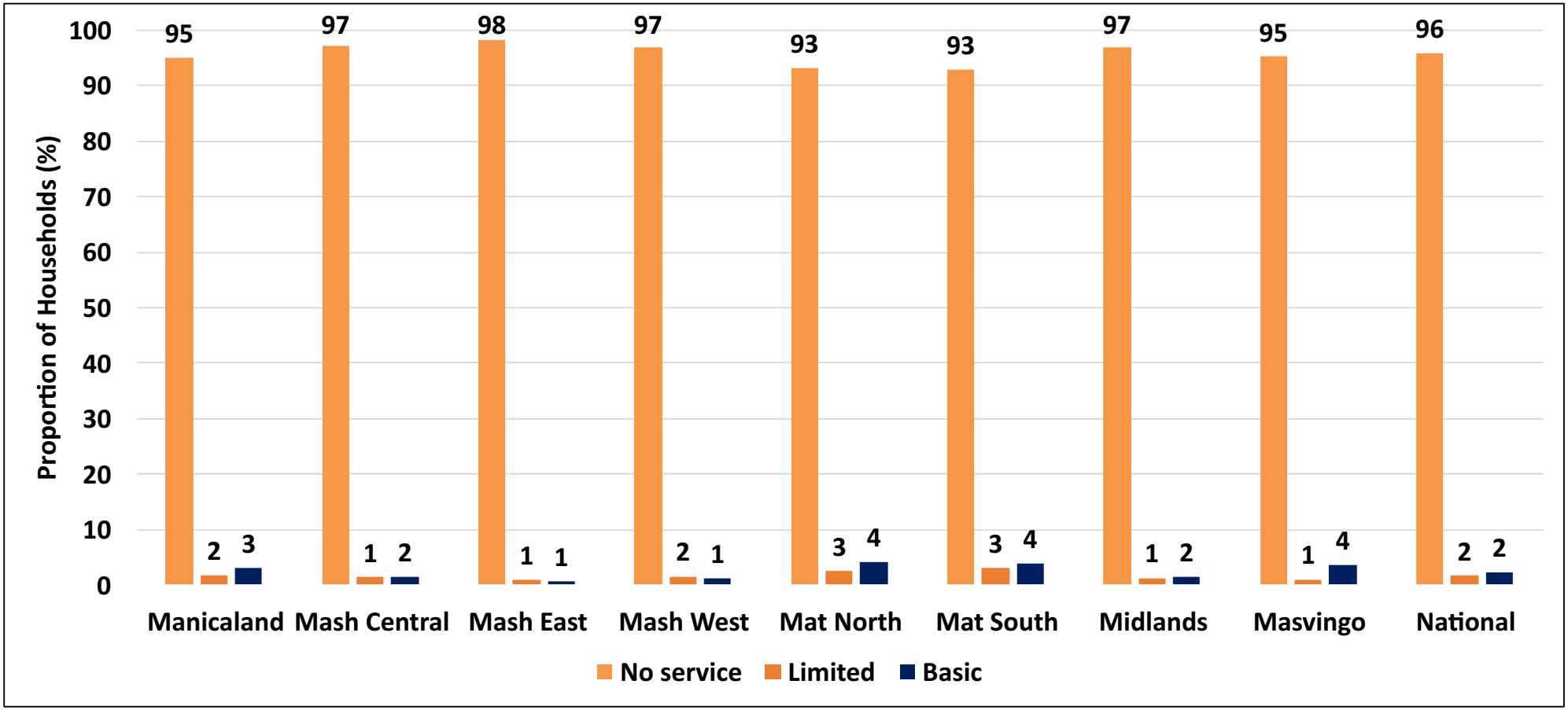
Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

Handwashing Practices at Critical Times



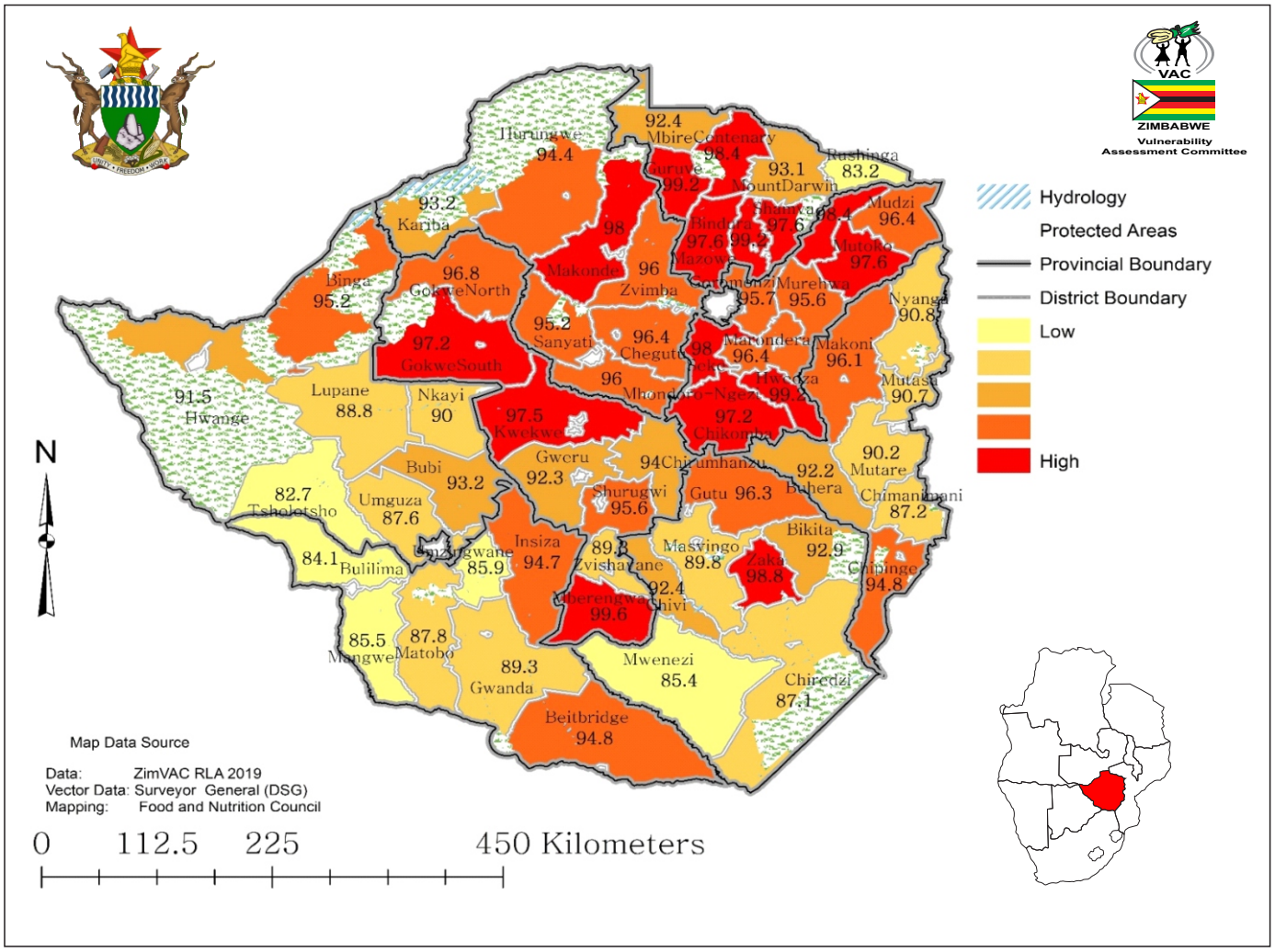
- The most observed critical times for handwashing were after using the toilet and before eating food (87%); followed by before handling food (71.5%).

Availability of Hygiene Services



- Nationally 98% of households did not have basic hygiene services.
- Presence of a hygiene services at the toilet has been proven to increase the likelihood of washing hands immediately after toilet use.

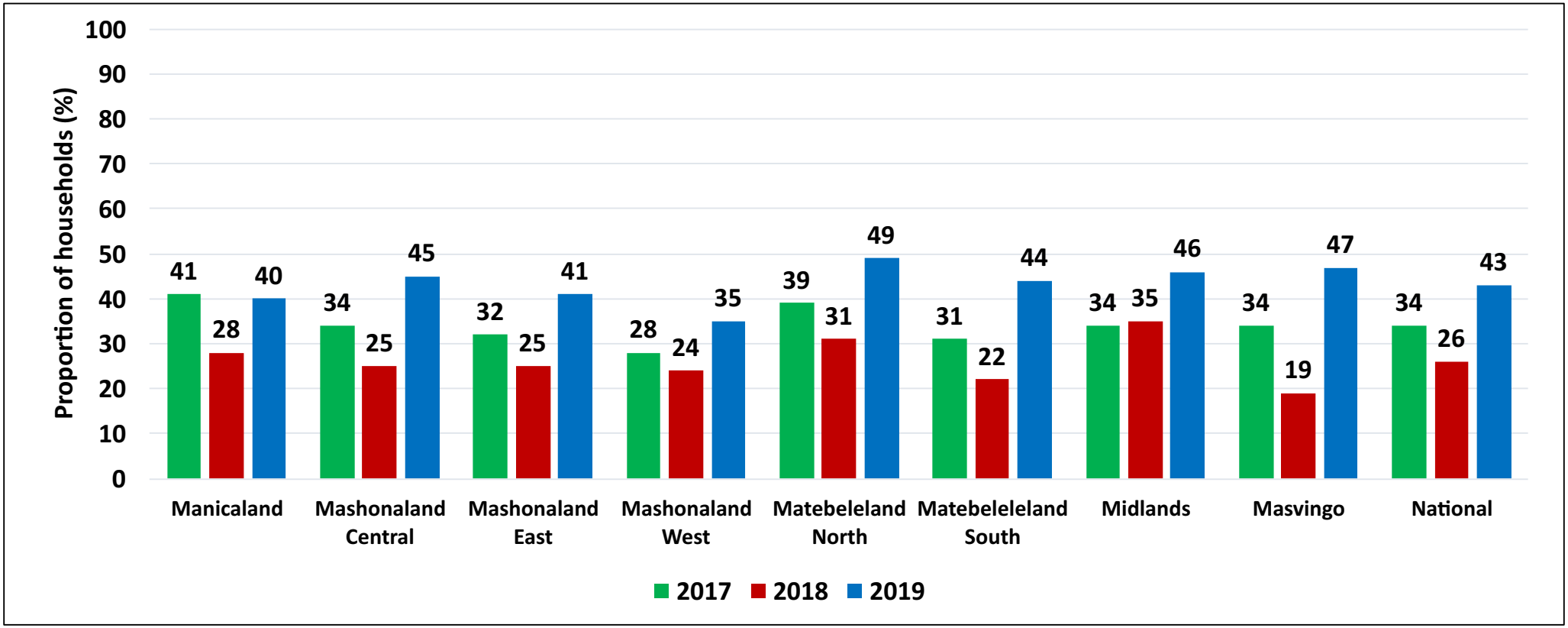
Non-availability of Hygiene Services by District



- The proportion of households without handwashing facilities at their toilets was more than 80% in all districts of the country
- In order to meet the SDG 6 target, there is need for accelerated actions towards handwashing facilities

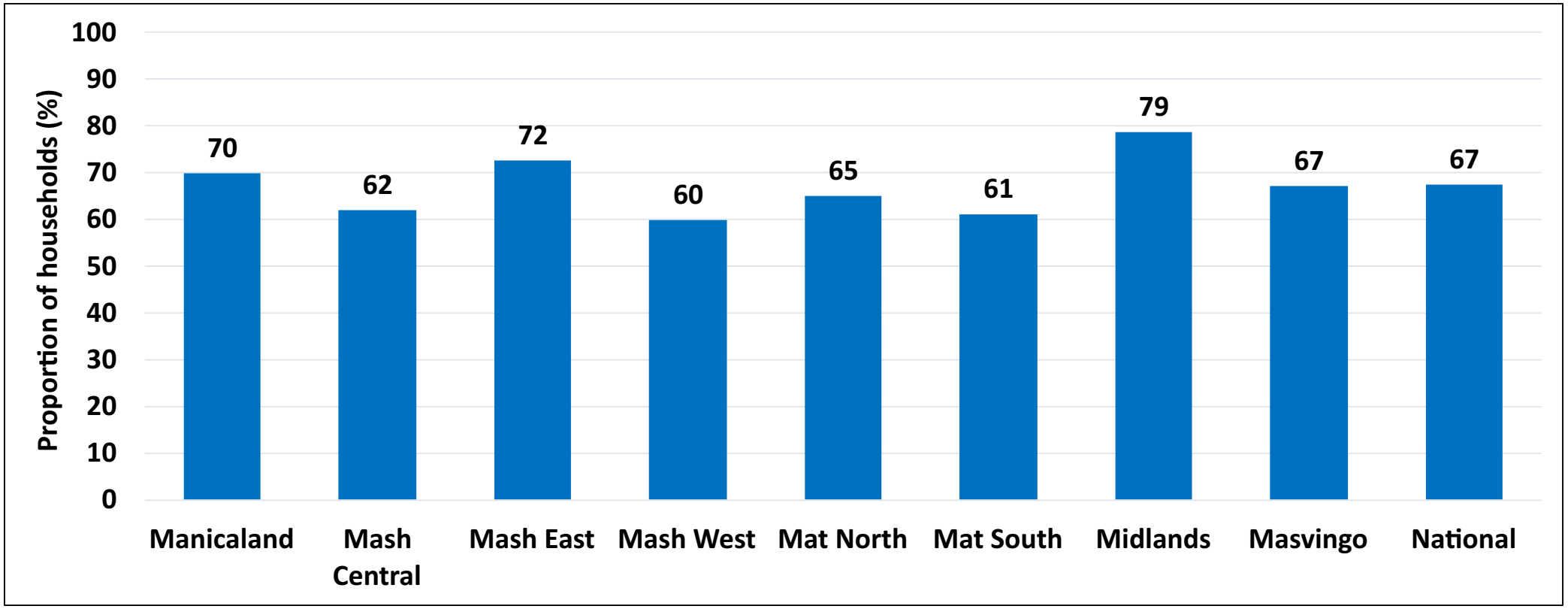
Access to Infrastructure, Services and Markets

Access to Agricultural Extension Services by year



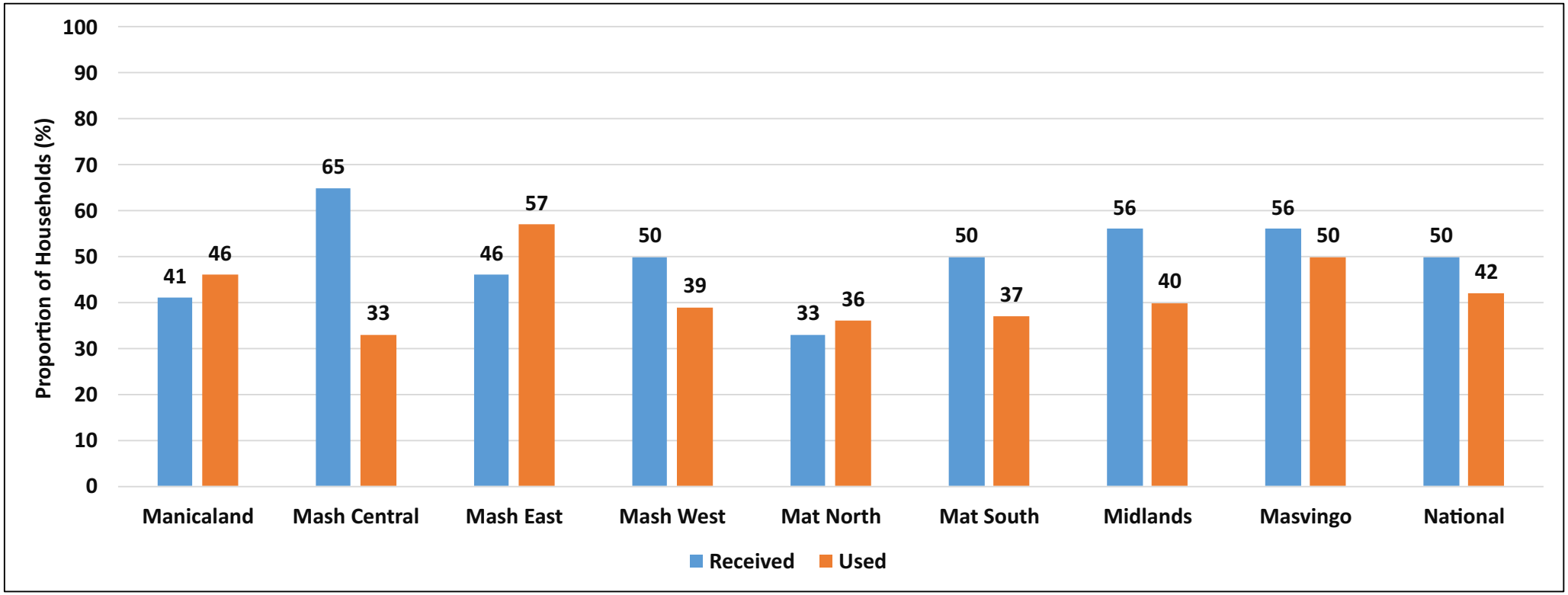
- There was a general increase in access to extension services across all provinces as compared to the last two years, with Matabeleland North recording the highest proportion of households with access to extension services at 49%.
- Seventy eight percent of households indicated they were satisfied with the extension services offered.

Households which Accessed Information on Fall Army Worm



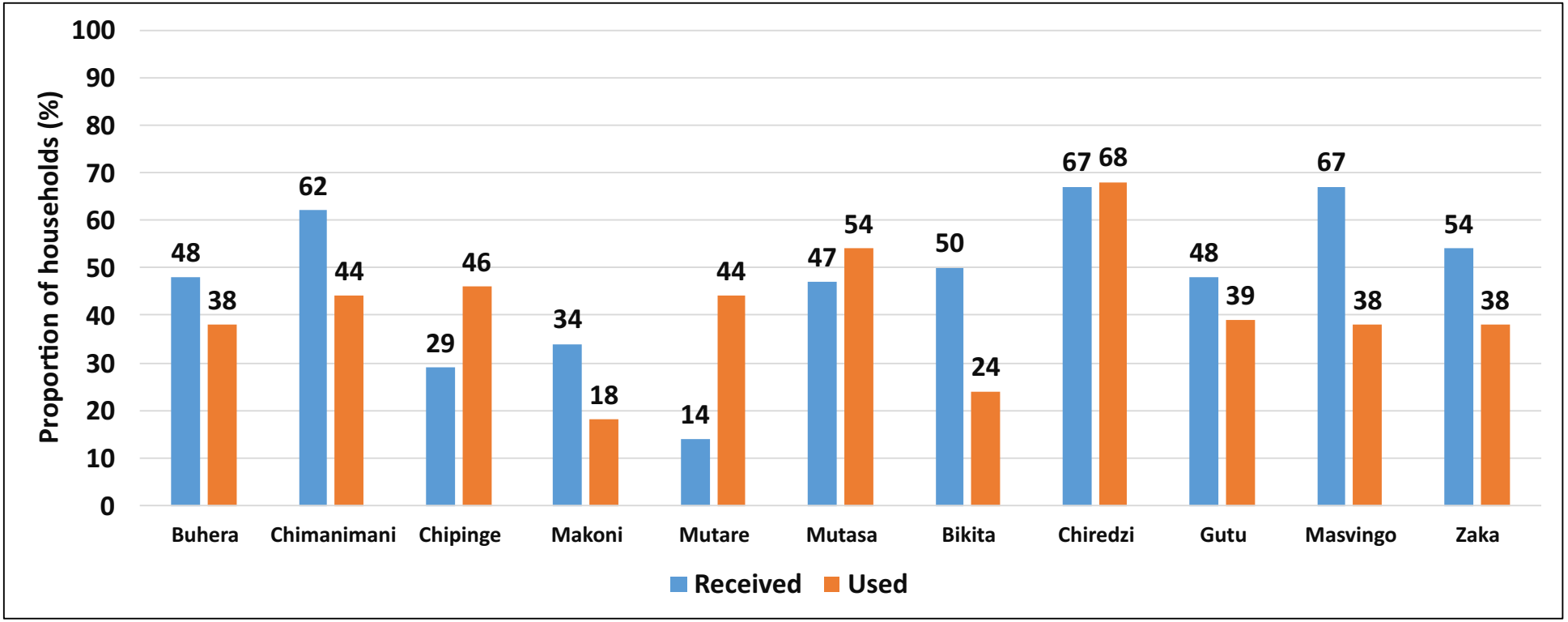
- Midlands (79%), recorded the highest proportion of households that had access to information on Fall Army Worm.
- Access to fall army worm information was generally good across all provinces.
- Ninety seven percent of the households that accessed information of fall army worm reported being satisfied.

Households which Received and Used Early Warning Information for Planning Response Mechanisms



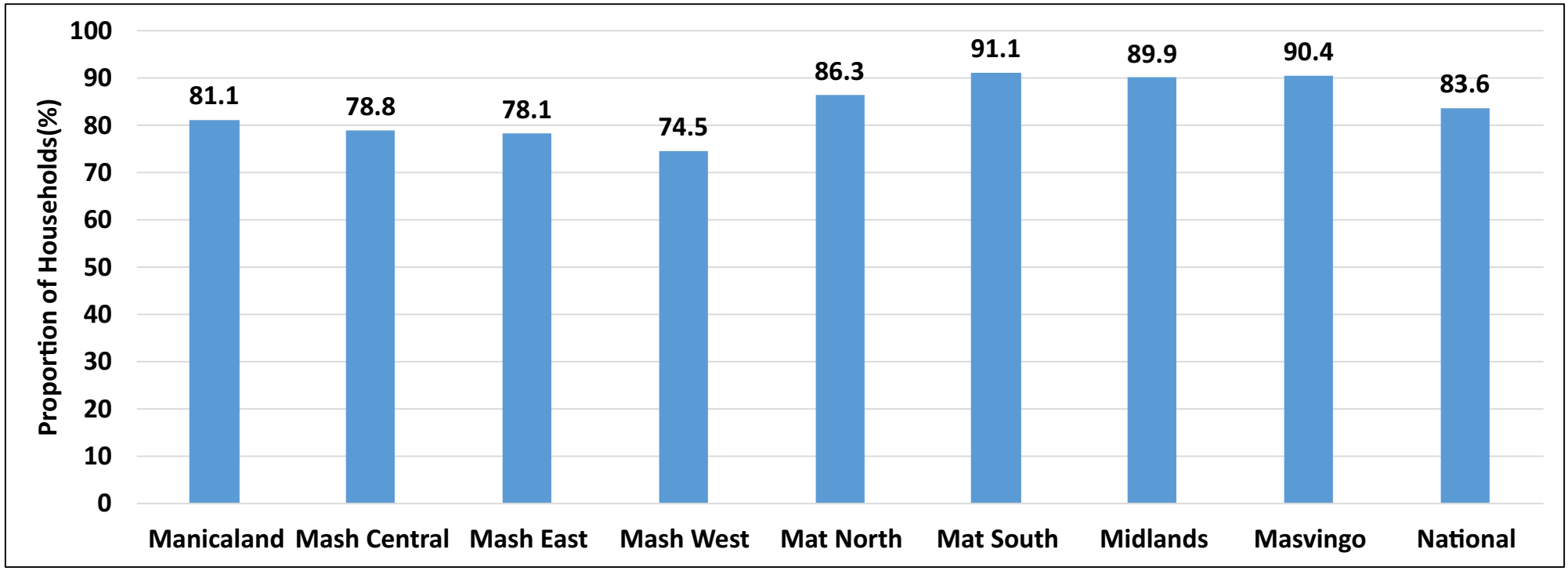
- Of the households that received early warning information, only 42% (nationally) used it for planning response mechanisms.
- The highest proportion of households that used the information was from Mashonaland East at 57%.

Households in Cyclone Idai Districts that Used Early Warning Information for Planning Response Mechanisms



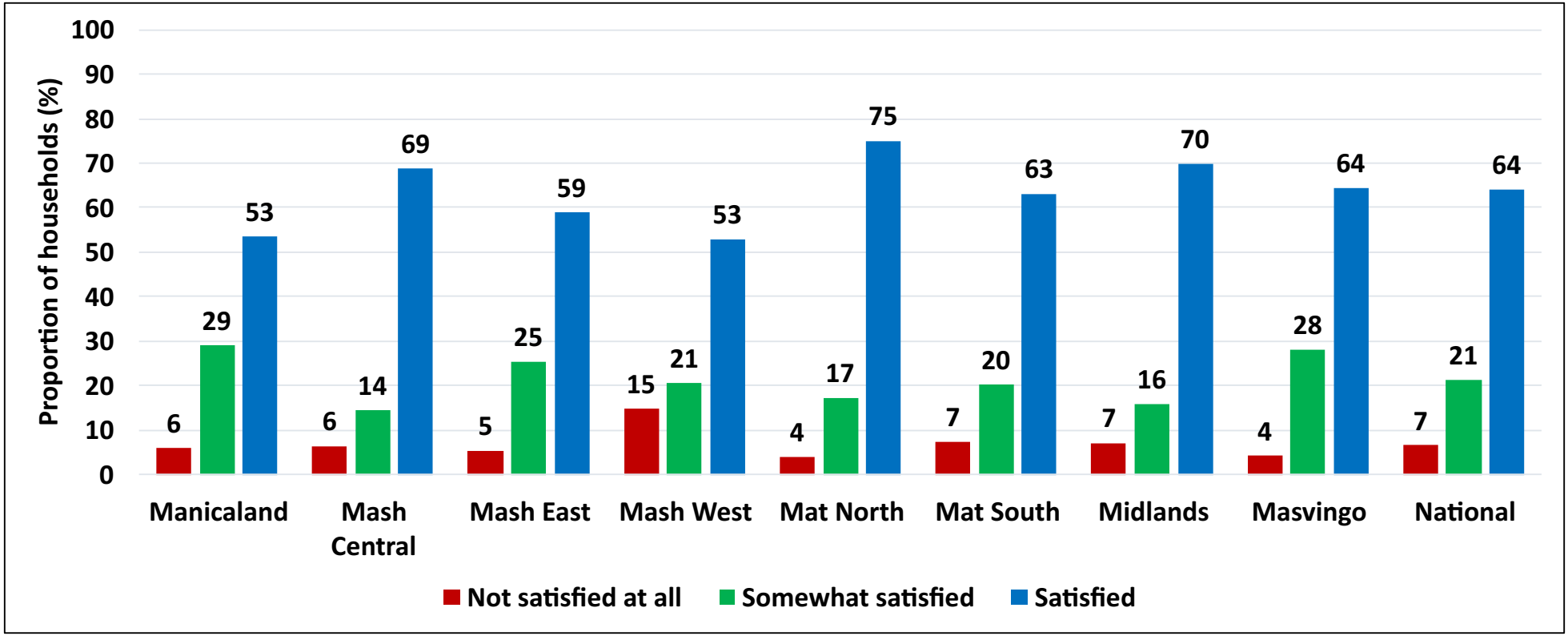
- Chiredzi had the highest proportion of household that used early warning information for planning response mechanisms

Access to Veterinary Services



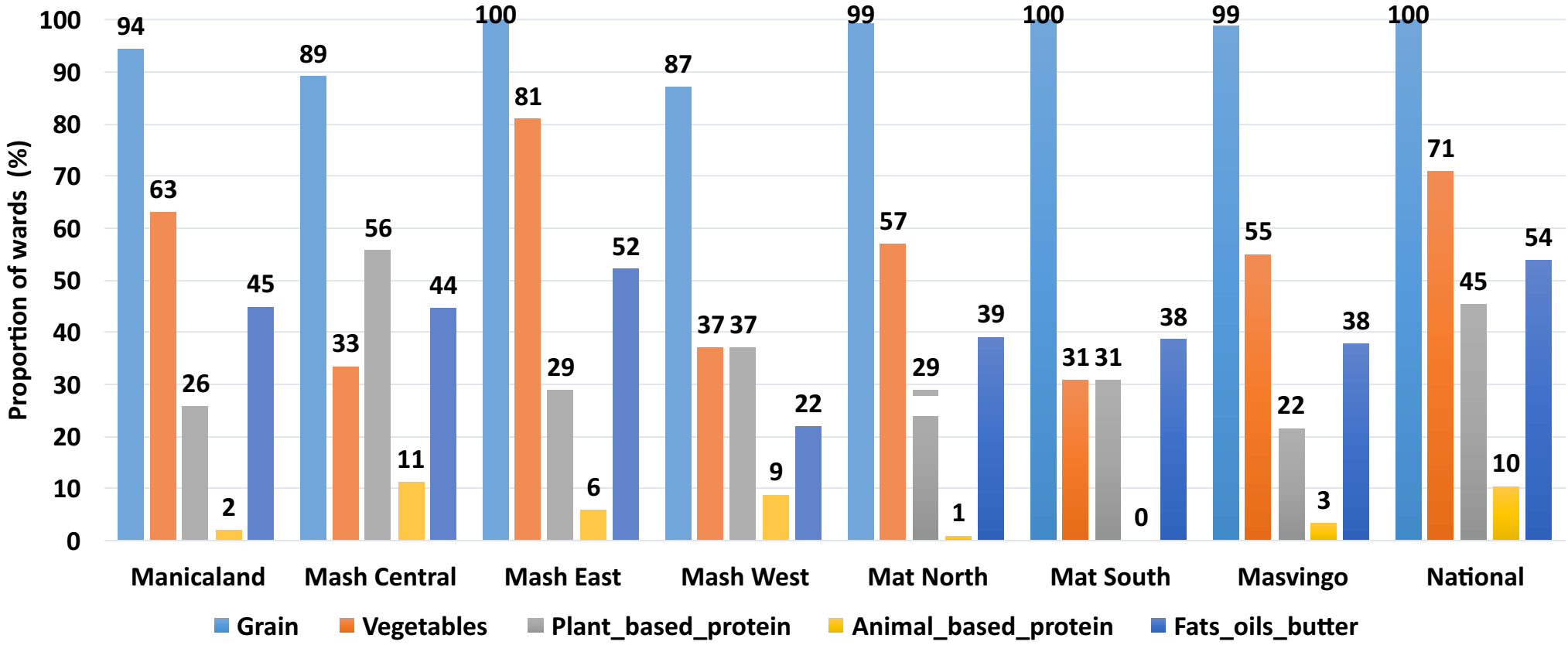
- Approximately 84% of rural households that own livestock across all the provinces have access to veterinary services.
- The Mashonaland provinces had less than 80% of households who own livestock accessing veterinary services

Households Satisfied with Veterinary Services Received



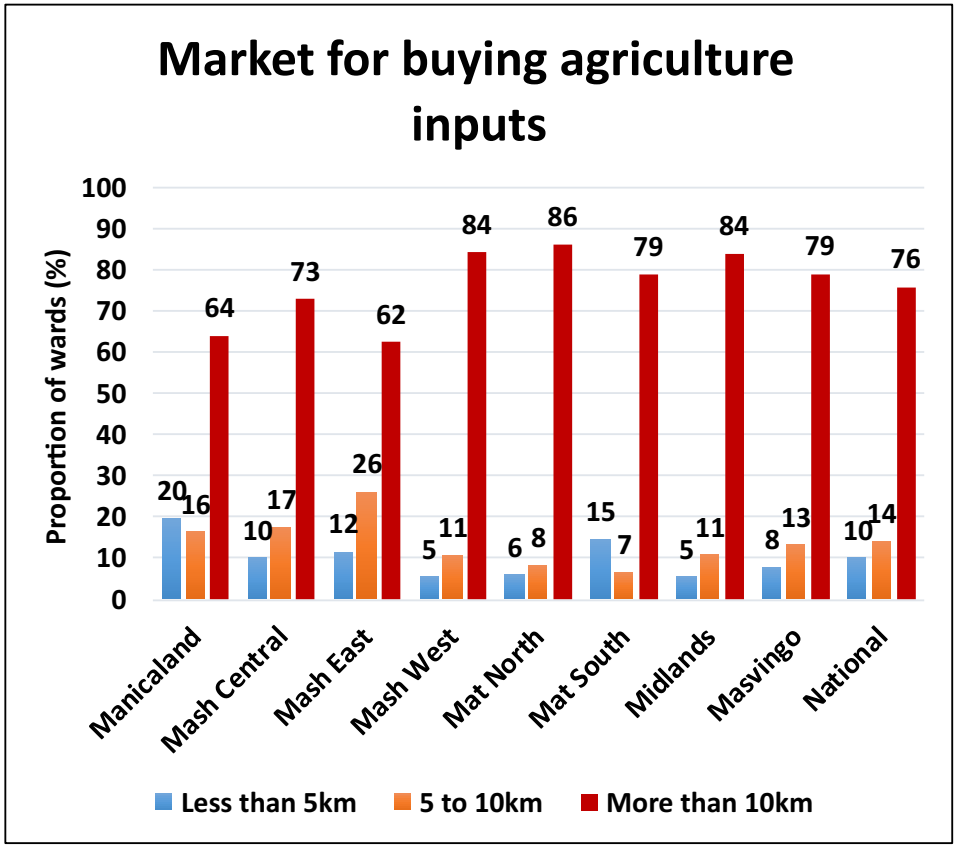
- Matabeleland North (75%) had the highest proportion of households that were satisfied with veterinary services provided.
- The least proportion was recorded in Manicaland and Mashonaland West at 53%.

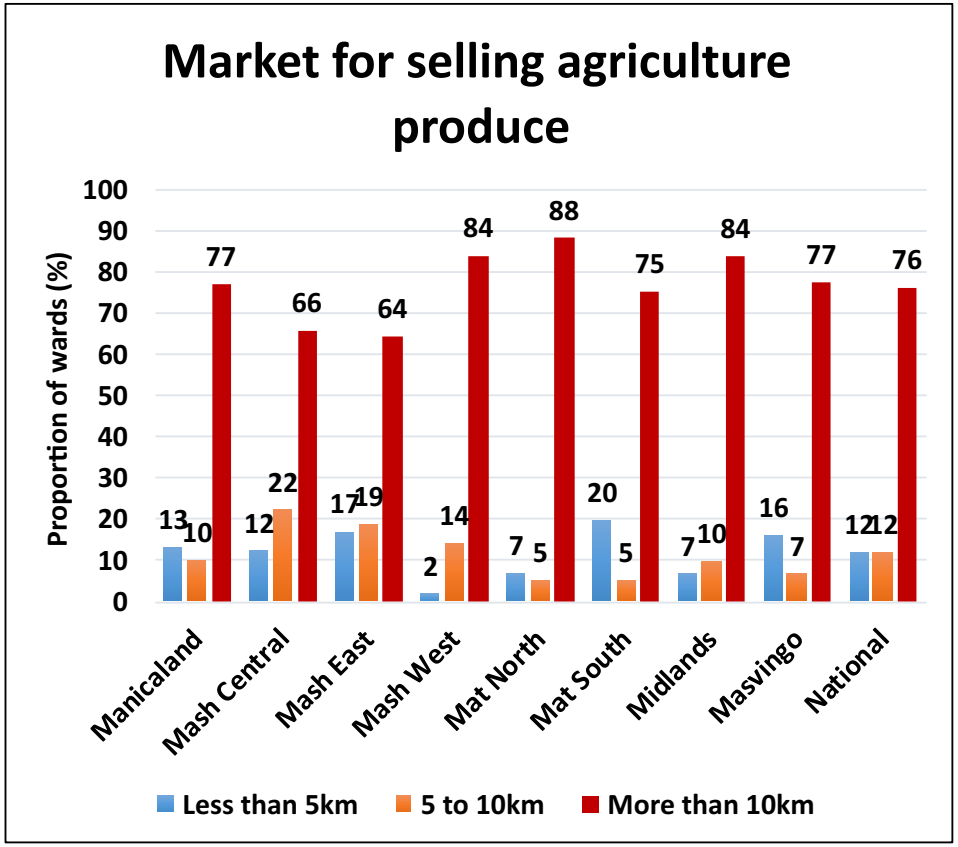
Primary School Feeding Basket



- All communities interviewed indicated that their school feeding basket was dominated by grain and vegetables.
- Nationally, only 10% of the communities included animal based protein in their school feeding basket .

Access to Markets

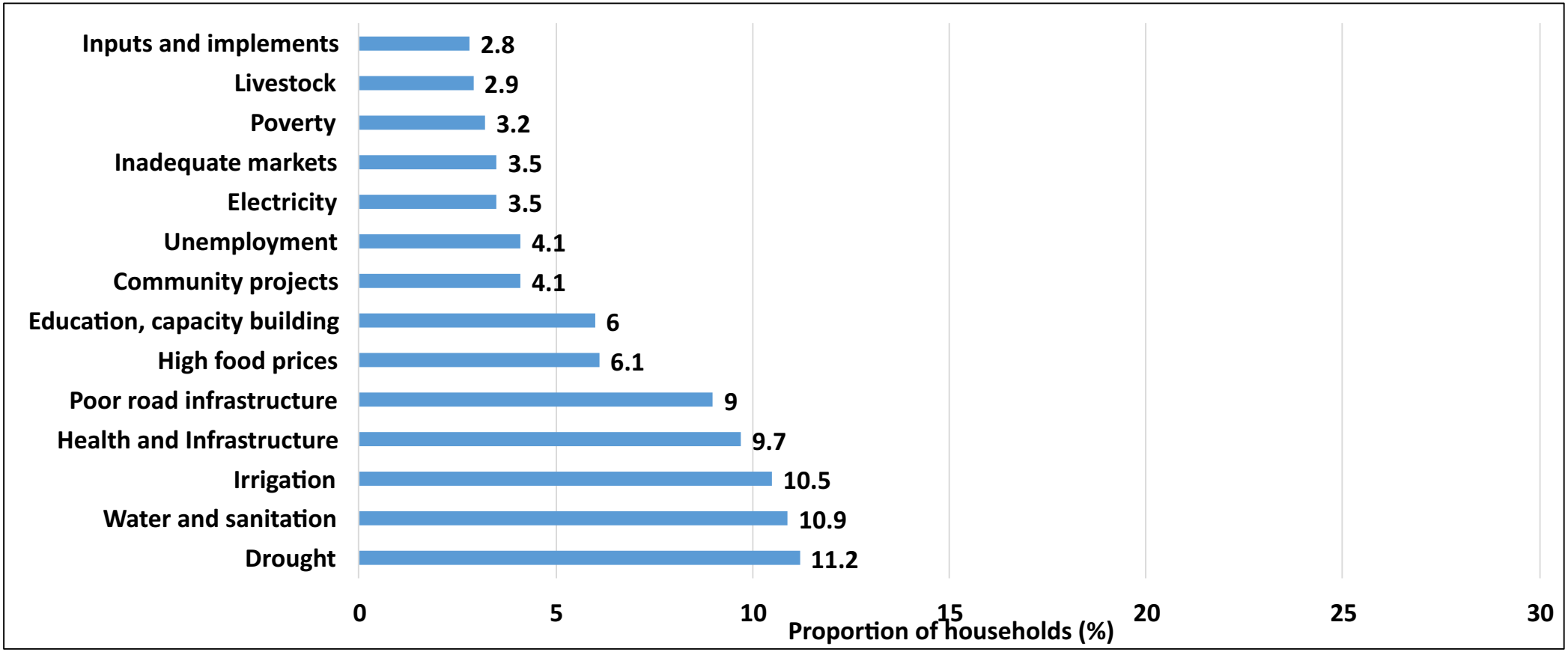




- Greatest proportions of communities interviewed indicated that both markets for buying agricultural inputs and those for selling agricultural produce were found more than 10km away.

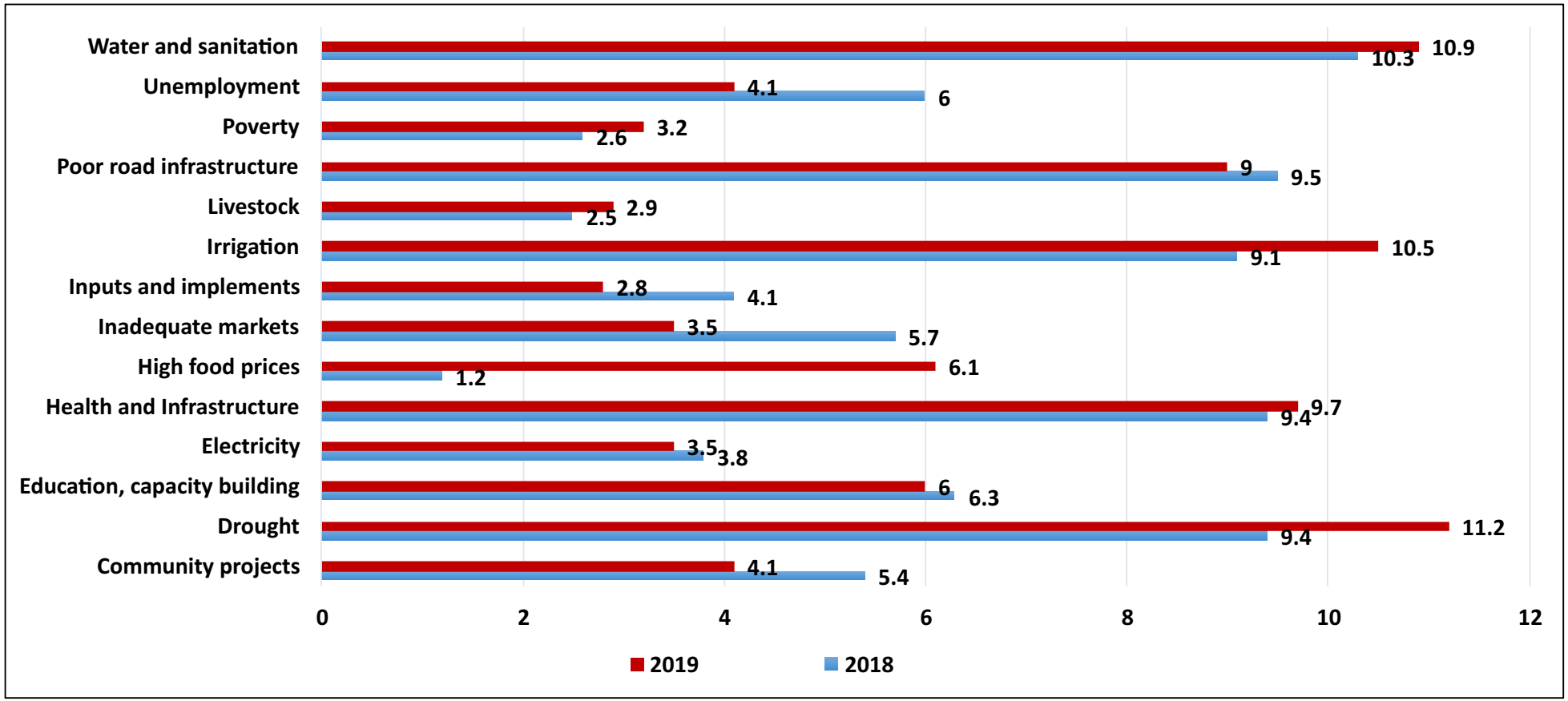
Community Challenges and Development Priorities

Community Development Challenges



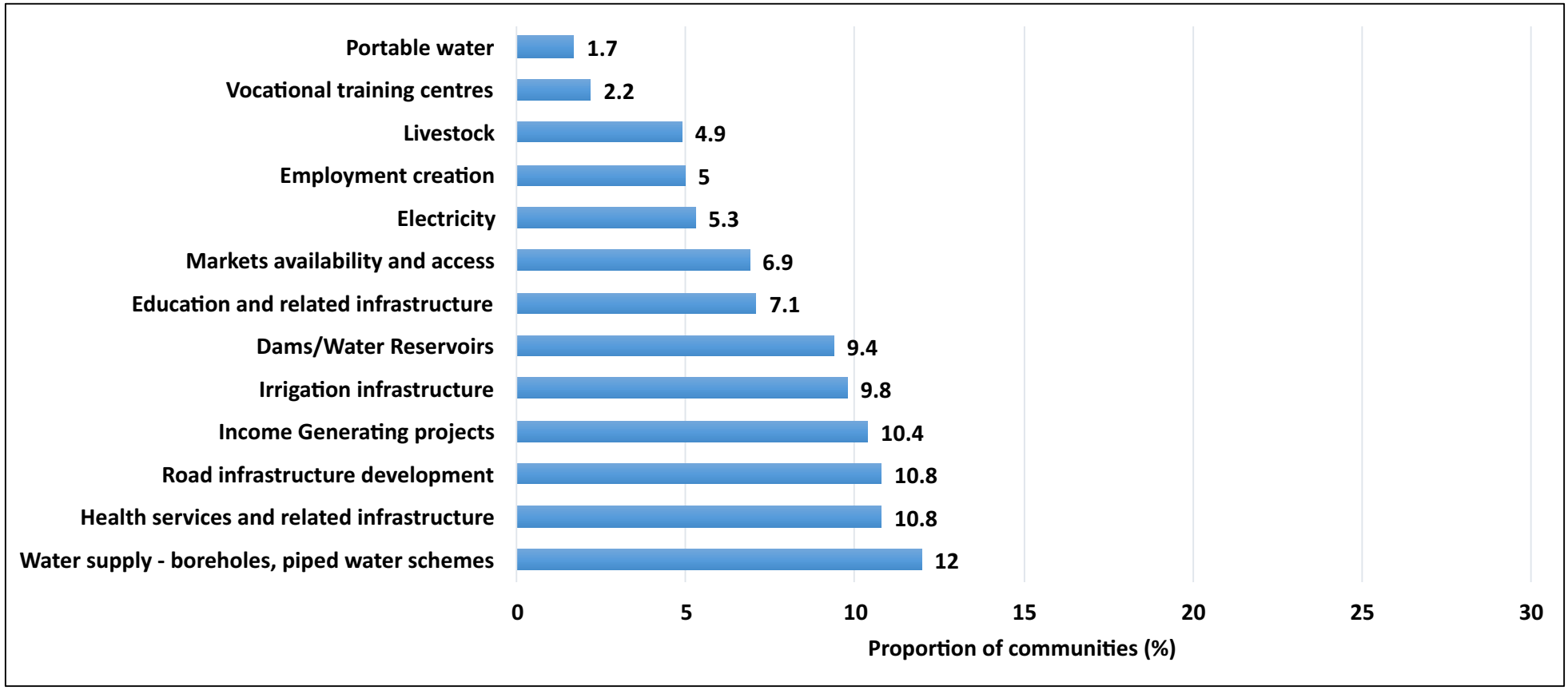
- The major development challenges cited by most communities were Drought (11.2%), Water and Sanitation (10.9%) and Irrigation (10.5%).

Community Development Challenges by Year



- Water and Sanitation , Health and Infrastructure, Irrigation , Poor road Infrastructure and Drought remained the most development challenges communities are facing throughout the two years.

Community Development Priorities



- Communities identified Water Supply (borehole and piped water schemes), road infrastructure development and Health Service and related Infrastructure (12%, 10.8% and 10.8% respectively) as their major development priorities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The proportion of children being turned away for non-payment of school fees remains high in all provinces (61%). There is need to enforce implementation and enhance monitoring of existing policies within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education which promote universal access to education

2. Government remains the main source of support in all provinces. However, there is need for Government and Development Partners to increase their coverage considering the deteriorating food and nutrition security situation.

3. Most households used retained seed for crop production which can potentially reduce plant vigour and results in poor crop establishment and consequently poor yield. Coupled with the low production levels, there is urgent need for Government and Development partners to avail a robust input support scheme to support smallholder farmers.

4. There is need for increased investment in the livestock sector by Government and its partners, especially targeting areas with high mortality rates for restocking, irrigation infrastructure for fodder production, capacity building for extension personnel and improve availability of affordable drugs locally and disease surveillance.

5. High expenditure on food (68%) and cash shortages continue to be a rising shock in rural areas compelling the population to use alternative forms of payment. There is need to raise the 2% transaction tax above the current RTGS 10 in line with inflation to cushion the vulnerable.

6. The Minimum Dietary Diversity for women and Minimum Acceptable Diet for children were reported to be low. Furthermore consumption of iron rich foods and vitamin A rich foods by households was low, which further exposes the women and children to poor health and nutrition outcomes. Community based interventions to improve child and maternal dietary intake particularly to improve the nutrition outcomes should be scaled up if targets to reduce stunting and other forms of malnutrition are to be achieved.

Conclusions and Recommendations

7. Open defecation was reported across all provinces, and is high in the Matabeleland region requires further in-depth investigations, including identification of social-cultural barriers to the uptake of optimum sanitation facilities and practices.

8. Elimination of open defecation through availing of resources (both software and hardware) for the construction of latrines using locally available resources is recommended. Customized service standards should reconcile with technology choice and service levels with the economic capacity of user groups

9. Rural food insecurity in June 2019 was estimated at 21% and is projected to reach 59% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2020). This food insecurity prevalence translates to about 5, 5 million rural people. The cereal requirements at peak will be 818,323MT at an estimated cost of USD 217,659,752.

10. There is need for urgent food distribution or cash based transfers (to promote the local economy where feasible) to food insecure households in order to avoid a worsening situation.

11. Matabeleland North (68%), Masvingo (64%) and Midlands (63%) provinces are projected to have the highest proportions of food insecure households at peak hunger period. Matabeleland South province is projected to have the least proportion of food insecure households (49%). Two districts have proportions of food insecurity above 80% (Binga and Chivi), nine have proportions over 70%, 36 between 50%-70% and 13 have less than 50% of their populations having inadequate means to meet their food needs without resorting to severe livelihoods and consumption coping strategies.

12. Considering that most shocks which affected households were agro-based, there is need for multi stakeholder efforts are necessary to address challenges related to weather and climate, pests and food and nutrition security. These strategies should focus on building the resilience of communities.

13. There is need to scale up community based resilience building programs to enable communities to cope with future shocks and hazards. Particular focus should be put on diversifying livelihoods including off-farm income generating activities.

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