Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

Lean Season Monitoring Report

January 2019

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Foreword

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC), acting as the technical advisory committee on assessments, undertook a Lean Season Assessment focusing on updating the ZimVAC May 2018 results. ZimVAC plays a significant role in fulfilling Commitment Six of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy in which the "Government of Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making."

The 2019 Lean Season Assessment collected data using a 3 pronged approach, that is, review of existing food and nutrition secondary data and district Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and a household survey. This report is a summation of the findings and is packed into the following thematic areas: the 2018/19 rainfall season quality; 2018/19 agricultural season; crop and livestock condition; food and livestock markets; household income sources and livelihoods strategies; domestic and production water situation; child nutrition; food and nutrition interventions, shocks and hazards and food security.

Sincere gratitude and appreciation are being extended to all national, provincial, district level structures and the community at large for their active participation in the whole exercise. We want to acknowledge the financial and technical support received from the Government of Zimbabwe and Development Partners. Without this support, the 2019 Lean Season Assessment would not have been a success.

We submit this report with the hope that it will guide and inform programming and decision making.

George D. Kembo
Director/ZimVAC Chairperson

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
RLA	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Acknowledgements

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

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
- Ministry of Finance
- SADC RVAC
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing
- Mininistry of Primary and Secondary Education
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-ZRBF)
- Meteorological Services Department (MSD)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Interanional Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Plan International
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- Department For International Development (DFID)
- Sikhethimpilo
- ACDT
- NAZ
- Oxfam
- Camfed
- Melana
- IGAC
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Vision
- Enhancing Nutrition Stepping UP Resilience Enterprise (ENSURE)
- Care
- Caritas
- TSURO Trust
- GOAL
- Sabona Trust
- Zvandiri
- Sizimile
- Red Cross
- Amalima
- ADRA
- Bulawayo City Council (BCC
- Harare City Council
- Rural District Councils
- ENTERPRISE
- CTDO
- CCMT
- LID Agency
- Jointed Hands Welfare Organisation
- WHH-Extra Project
- Save the Children
- Sustainable Agriculture Technology

Background and Methodology

Background

- About 28% (2.4 million people) of the rural population was projected to be food insecure during the peak hunger period (January to March 2019) in the 2018 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA).
- The urban population is not spared by the prevailing food and nutrition security challenges. According to the 2018 Urban Livelihoods Assessment (ULA), 37% of the population in the urban areas could not meet their food needs, an increase from 31% in 2016.
- Economic related shocks and challenges such as cash shortages (64%), high food prices (57%), health and funeral expenses (31%), loss of employment (25%) and high fuel / transport costs (17%) were the major issues affecting urban communities (ULA, 2018).
- A number of assumptions were used in developing this most likely scenario, some of which may have changed due to the prevailing economic conditions the country is going through.

Context

- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate was 7.3% in 2017 compared to 2.9% in 2016 (ZimSTAT, 2019). The GDP was USD22,041 billion in 2017, an increase from USD20,549 billion in 2016.

- The economy was projected to grow at around 9 percent annually in the first 4 years from 2019, before moderating to sustained growth rates of over 7 percent over the horizon of Vision 2030 (TSP, 2018).

- The general inflation rate was at 42.09%. This shows that the country was experiencing hyper inflation. The food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate stood at 53.68% compared to 6.17% in 2018 while the non-food inflation rate was at 36.48% compared to 2.29% in January 2018 (ZimSTAT, 2019).

- Casual labour opportunities for the rural population were negatively affected by the late start of the 2018/19 rainfall season.

- The 2018/19 rainfall season is said to be pointing towards an El Nino phenomenon. El-Nino is associated with above average warming of the sea surface temperatures of the Pacific Ocean and in most years is usually associated with reduced rainfall activity over the sub region.

Context

- Cash shortages continued to have negative impact on livelihoods in both rural and urban areas. The use of the 3- tier pricing system contributed to distorted prices of goods and services.

- The macroeconomic situation was expected to continue constraining food access for poor households due to reduced incomes because of depressed livelihood activities.

- The ZimSTAT 2011/2012 Poverty Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey (PICES) estimated 76% of rural households to be poor and 23% were deemed extremely poor. Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

- Poor rainfall distribution was compounded by the unaffordability of key agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilisers and herbicides. Consequently, the area planted to major crops in the 2018/19 season was lower in most areas compared to the same time in the previous season.

- Seven out of the 24 major dams were below 50% capacity and these were Mutirikwi (49.8%), Silalabhuwa (49.7%), Kariba (48.9%), Umzingwane (37.4%), Upper Insiza (32.9%), Harava (12.2%) and Seke (3.3%).

Objectives

The 2019 Lean Season Assessment was conducted with the broad objective of updating the ZimVAC peak hunger period projections as well as broader rural and urban livelihoods in Zimbabwe. The specific objectives were;

1. To update the state of food and nutrition security within the rural and urban areas.

2. To assess market functionality in Zimbabwe in the 2018/19 consumption year.

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

4. To analyse the resilience capacity of households and ability to cope with shocks.

5. To assess the performance in terms of coverage, targeting, adequacy and predictability of the current food and nutrition interventions.

6. To assess the performance of the 2018/19 agriculture season and availability of agricultural inputs at the time of the assessment.

7. To assess the performance of the 2018/19 rainfall season at the time of the assessment.

Timelines

Activity	Timeline
Secondary data collection	21 December 2018 - 21 January 2019
Tool finalisation	2-3 January 2019
Standardisation meeting	4-5 January 2019
District capacitation and data collection	6-15 January 2019
Analysis and report writing	18-21 January 2019
Dissemination	January 2019

Data Collection and Analysis Process

The data collection exercise comprised of two basic components:

- Secondary data review and analysis
- Primary data collection:
  - I. District level Focus Group Discussions
  - II. Household survey in sampled households with representation at provincial and national level.
- All primary data was electronically captured using Microsoft Excel, CS-Pro and SPSS was used as the primary analytical software.
- Data analysis and reporting was done by the ZimVAC national technical team.
- Data analysis was done using SPSS, ENA, complemented by Ms Excel and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) packages.
- Relevant conceptual frameworks informed the analysis of the different thematic areas.
- Secondary data came from various sources to contextualise the results.

Methodology - Sampling and Sample Size

- A guided multi-stakeholder district Focus Group Discussion was conducted in all rural districts of Zimbabwe.
- The district Focus Group Discussions informed the selection of wards for detailed household questionnaire administration.
- Each rural district was divided into three categories i.e. better-off, average and worse-off wards. From the three categories, six wards were randomly selected (two from each category) and one village and EA were then randomly selected from the each of the six wards.
- Fifteen households per EA were randomly selected for household interviews, bringing the total to 90 households per districts.
- In urban areas, 21, 20 and 20 EAs were covered in Harare, Chitungwiza and Bulawayo respectively. In each EA, 12 household questionnaires were administered to randomly selected households.
- In addition to the above, field observations and secondary data review yielded valuable information that was used in the analysis and writing of the assessment report.

Thematic Areas

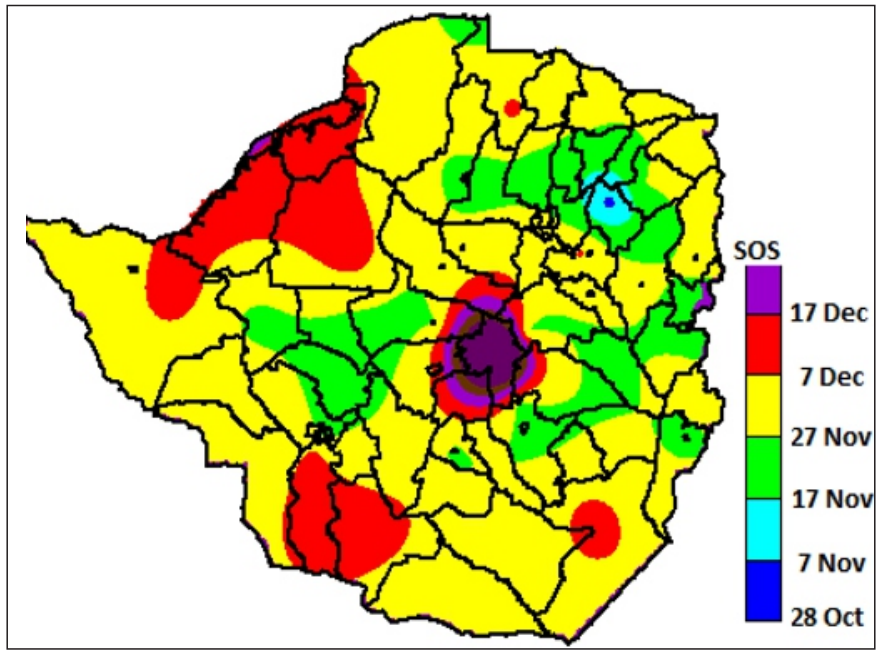
- 2018/19 Agricultural Season
- Livestock and Grazing Conditions
- Water Situation
- Food and Livestock Markets
- Income Sources and Livelihoods Coping Strategies
- Food and Nutrition Security Interventions
- Food Availability and Consumption Patterns
- Child Nutrition
- Shocks and Hazards
- Food Security

Agricultural Season Performance and Crop Production

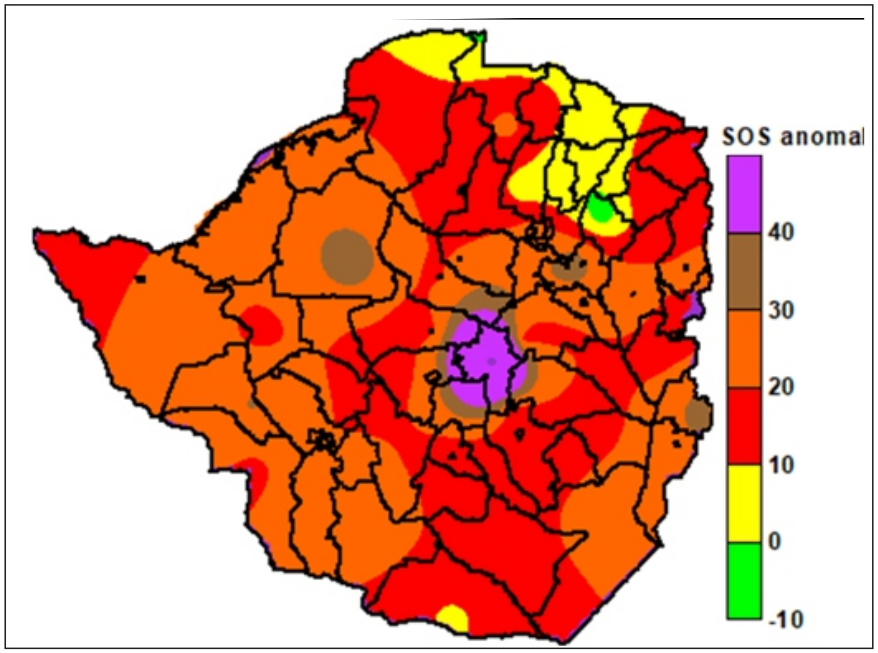
To assess the performance of the 2018/19 rainfall season at the time of the assessment

2018 - 2019 Season Performance

Start of 2018 - 2019 Rainfall Season

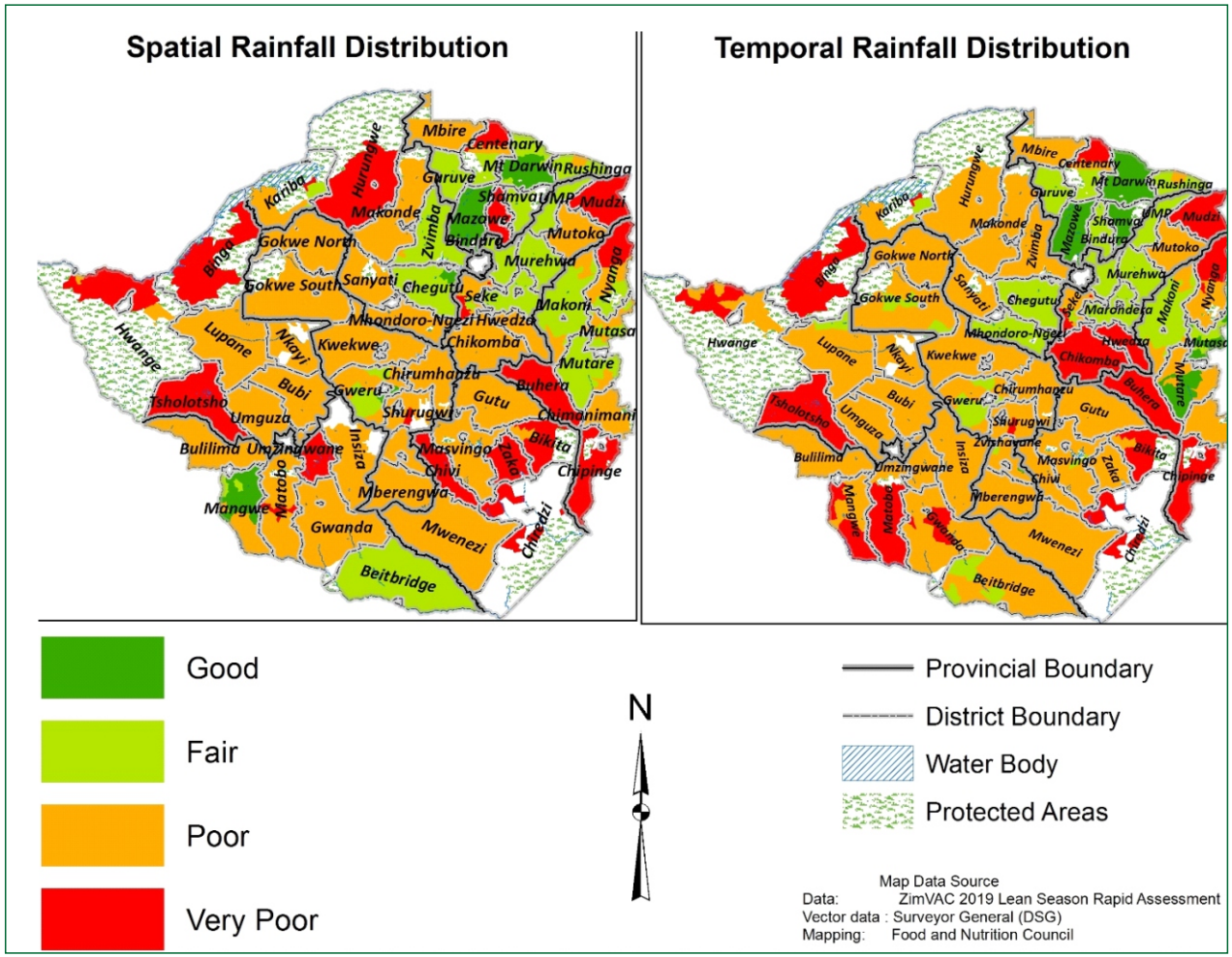


Start of 2018 - 2019 Season Anomaly



- The 2018-2019 rainfall season started later than the normal (10 to 20 days late).

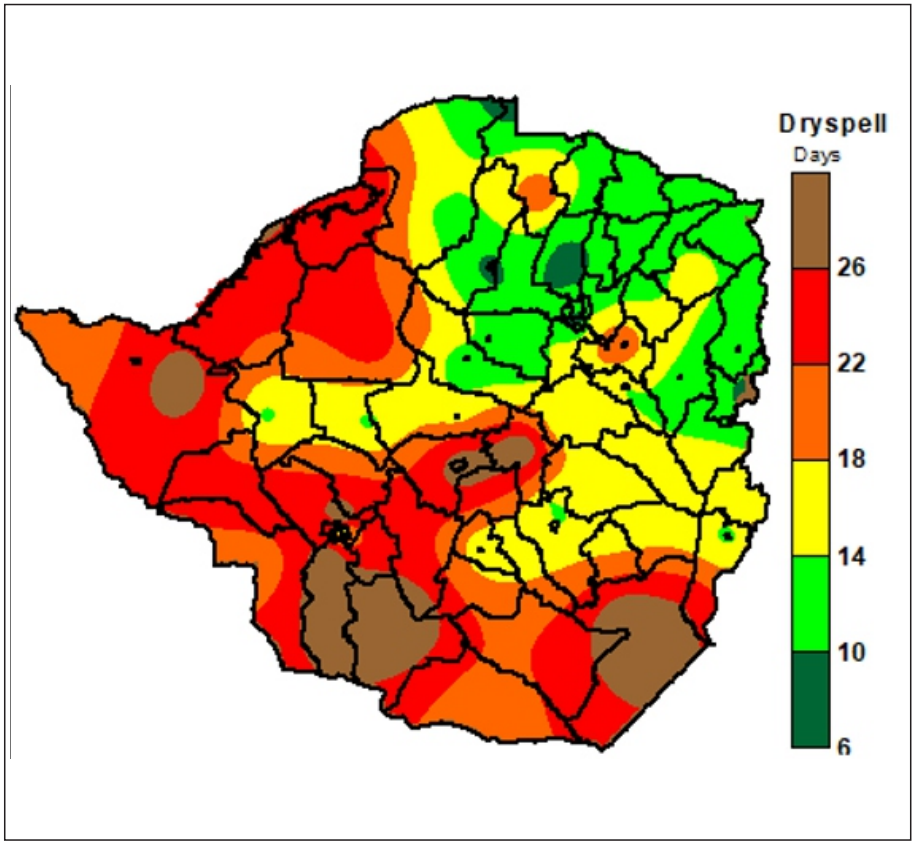
Temporal and Spatial Rainfall Distribution in the 2018 - 2019 Season



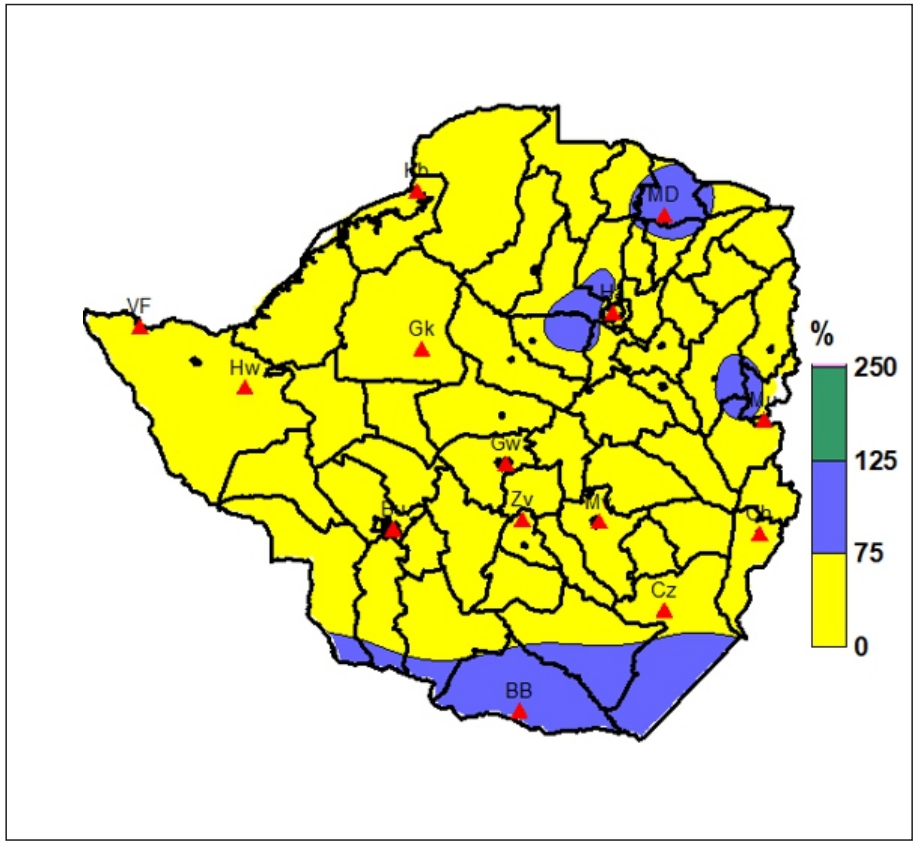
- Rainfall distribution was poor in most parts of the country except for parts of Mashonaland provinces and north of Manicaland.

2018 - 2019 Season Quality

Longest Dry Spell Since Season Onset



Precipitation as Percentage of Normal

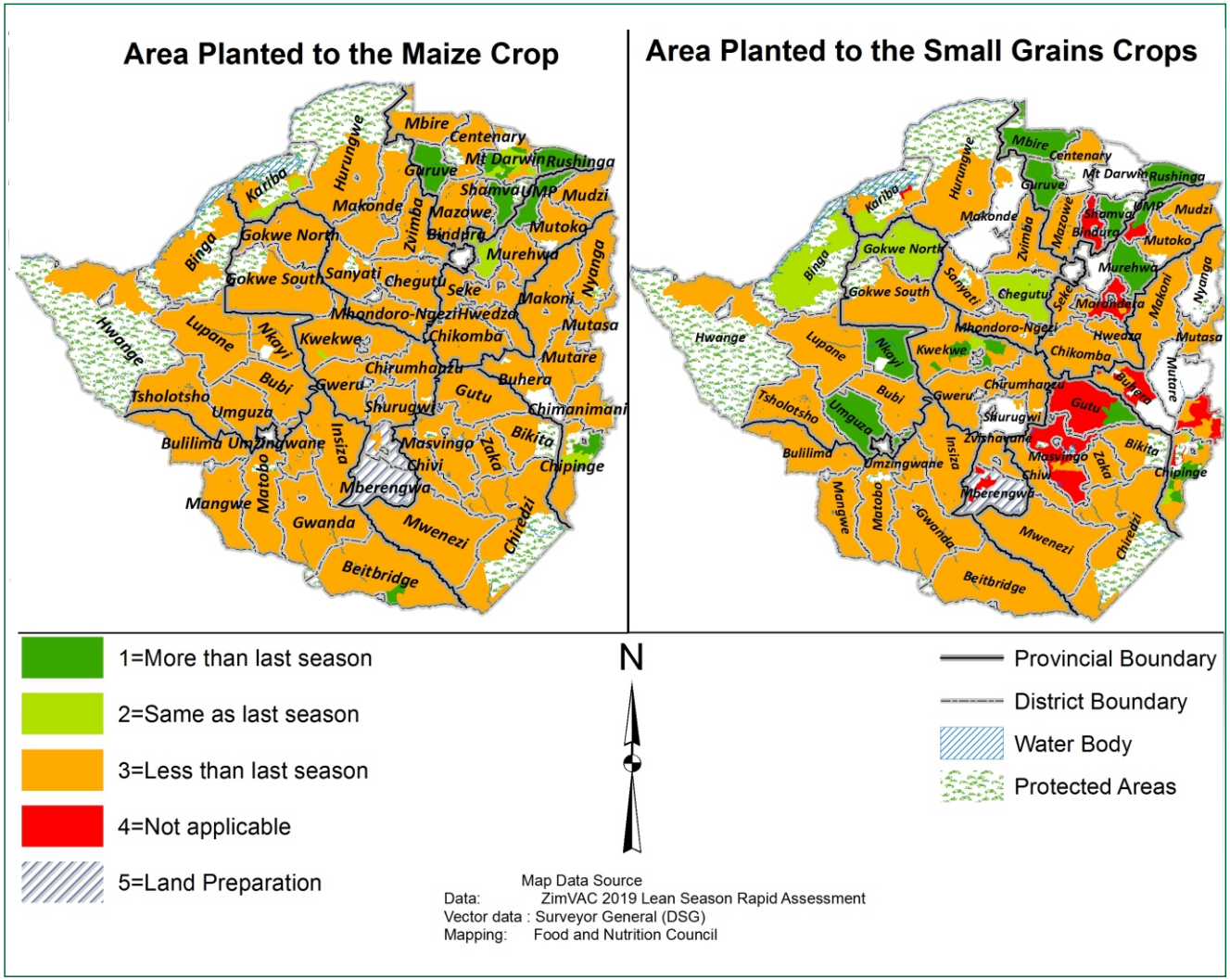


Source: MSD

- Long dry spells were experienced mainly in the south and western parts of the country.
- Precipitation amounts were below normal for the bulk of the country.

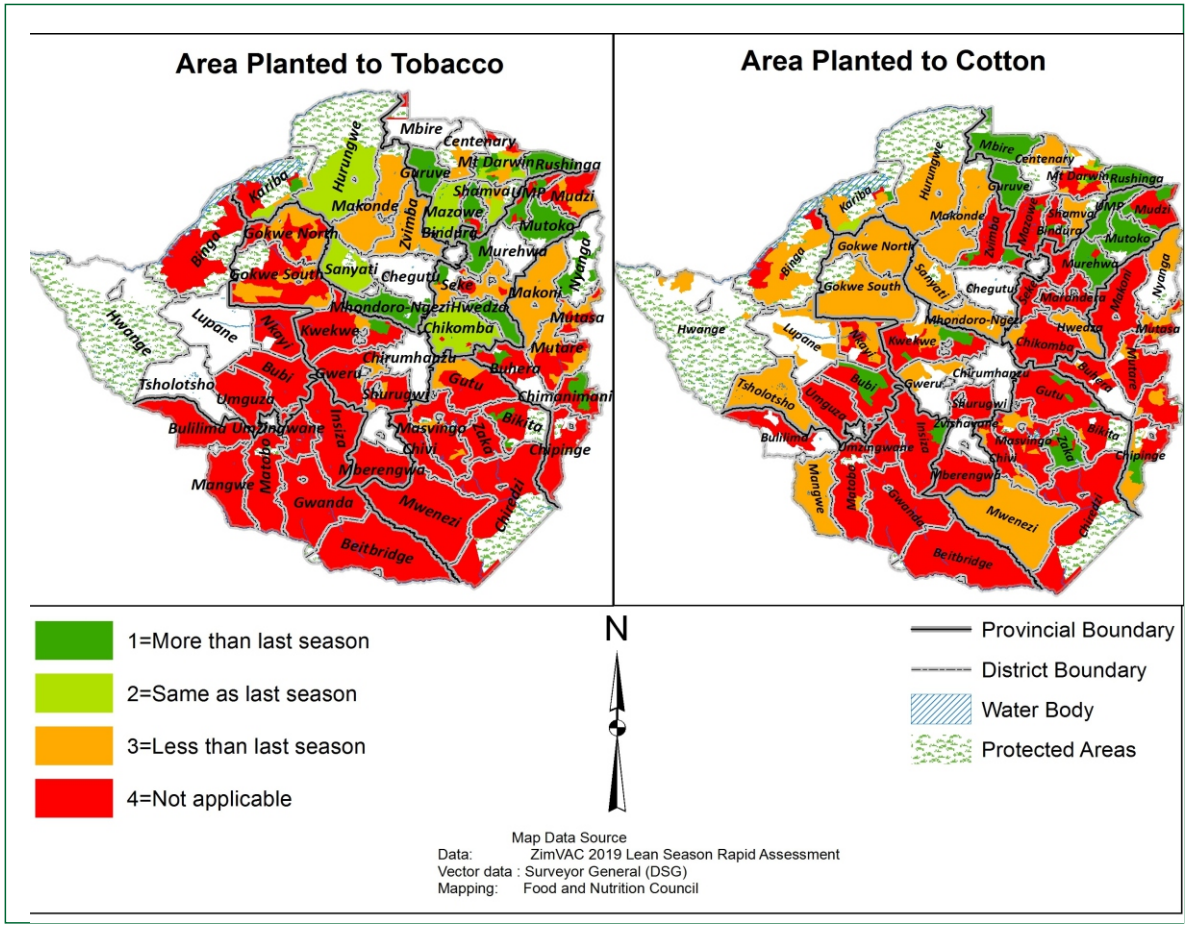
Area Planted, Crop Stage and Condition

Area Planted to Maize and Small Grains



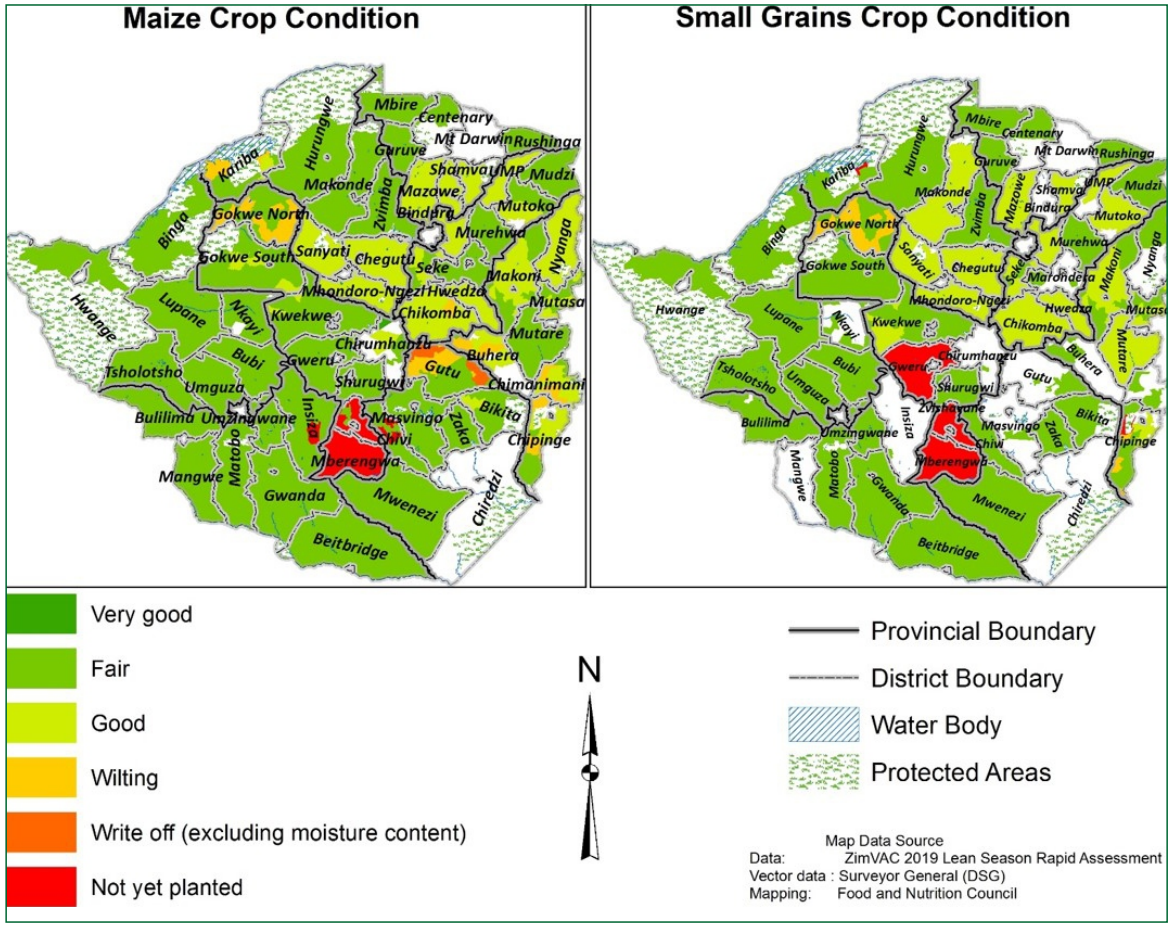
- Compared to the same time last year, area planted to maize and small grains was lower this season.
- This could be attributed to the late start of the rainfall season.

Area Planted to Tobacco and Small Cotton



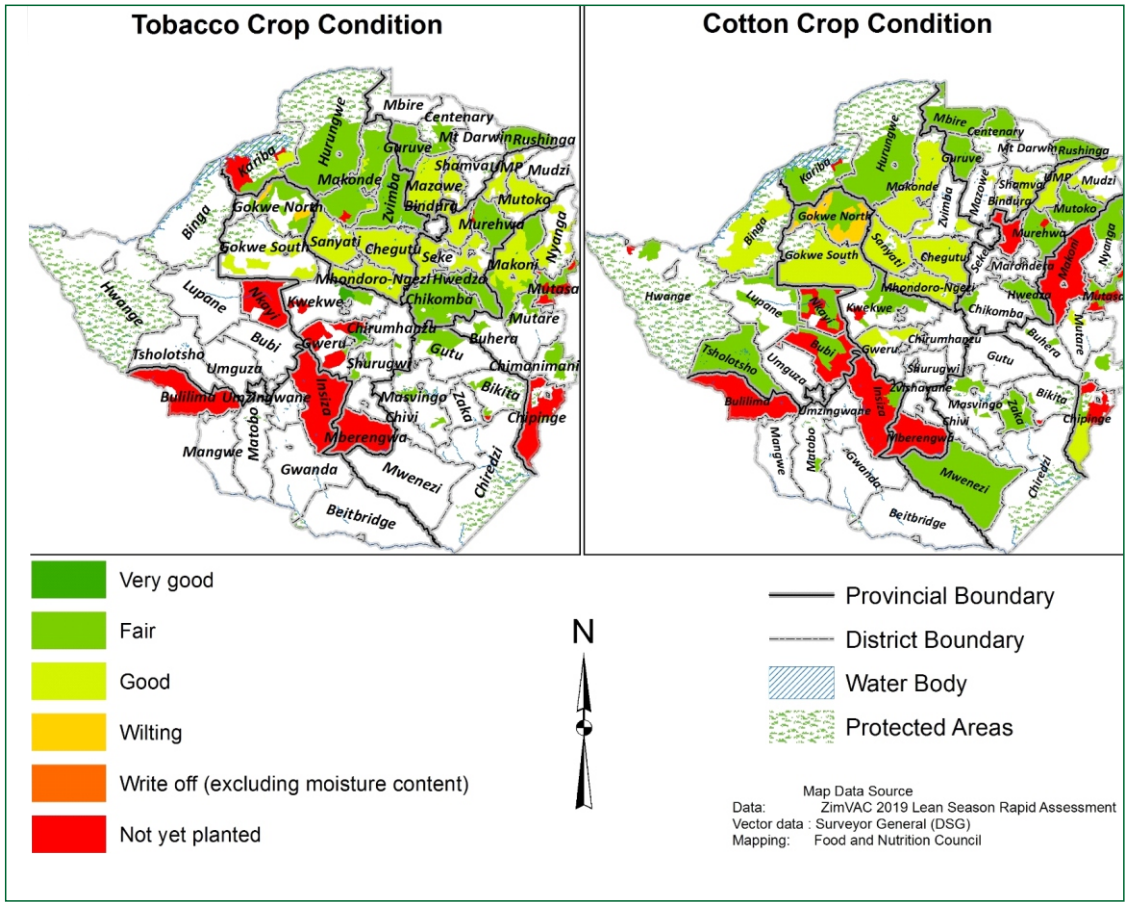
- Area planted to tobacco was the same as that of the 2017/18 season.
- The area planted to cotton was less than the area planted in 2017/18.

Crop Condition - Maize and Small Grains



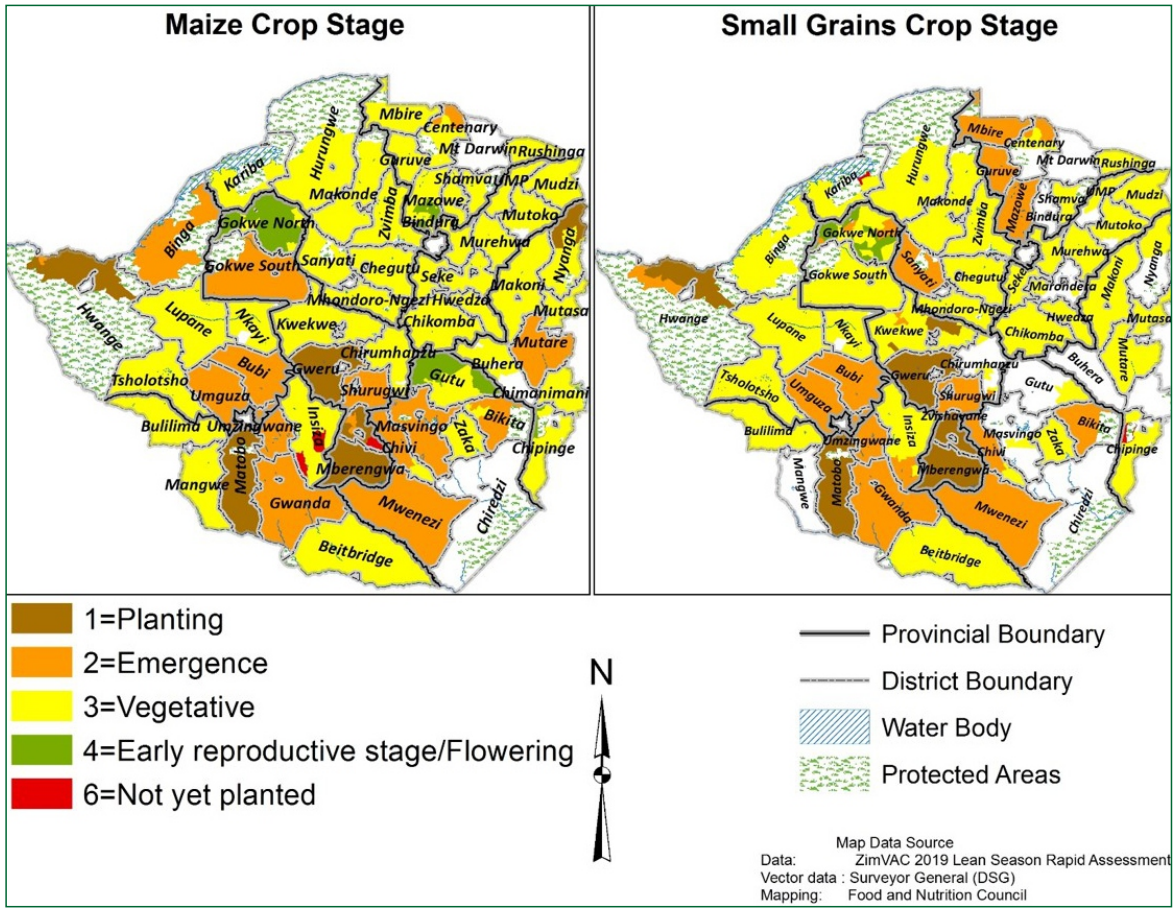
- Crop condition in Mashonaland provinces and northern parts of Manicaland was good and it was fair in rest of the country.
- Write off conditions were experienced in Gutu, Kariba, Gokwe North and some areas in southern parts of Manicaland.

Crop Condition - Tobacco and Cotton



- Tobacco and Cotton condition was fair to good.

Crop Stage - Maize and Small Grains



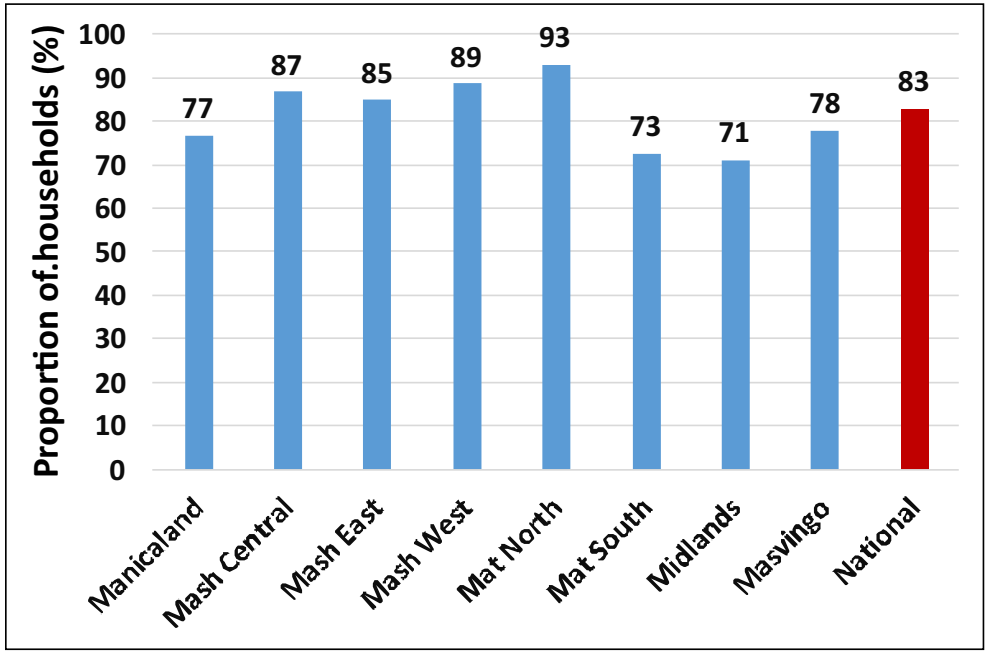
- The bulk of the crop was in the vegetative stage.

Water Situation

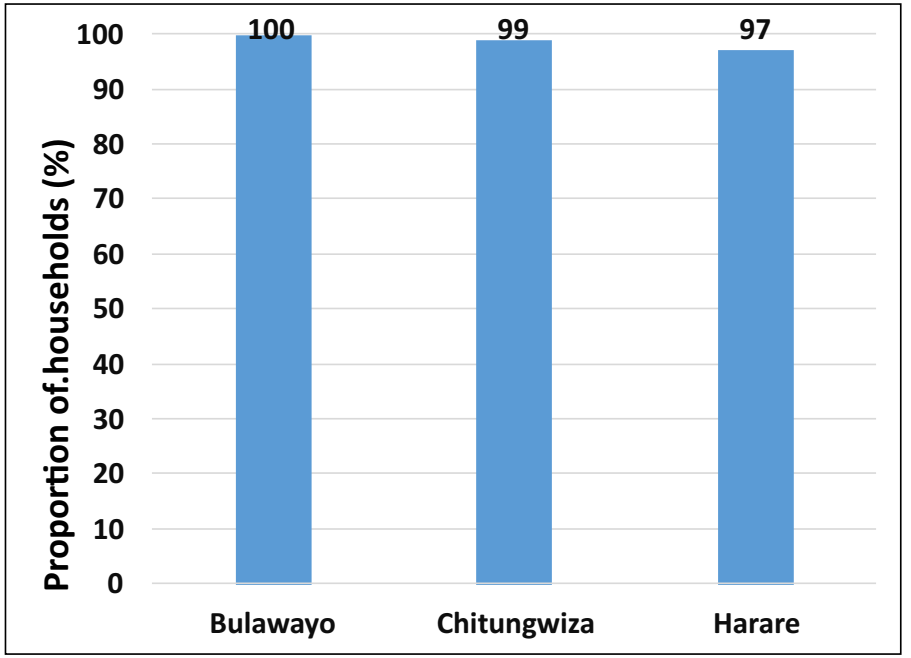
To describe the socio-economic profiles of households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (health and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.

Access to Improved Water Sources

Rural

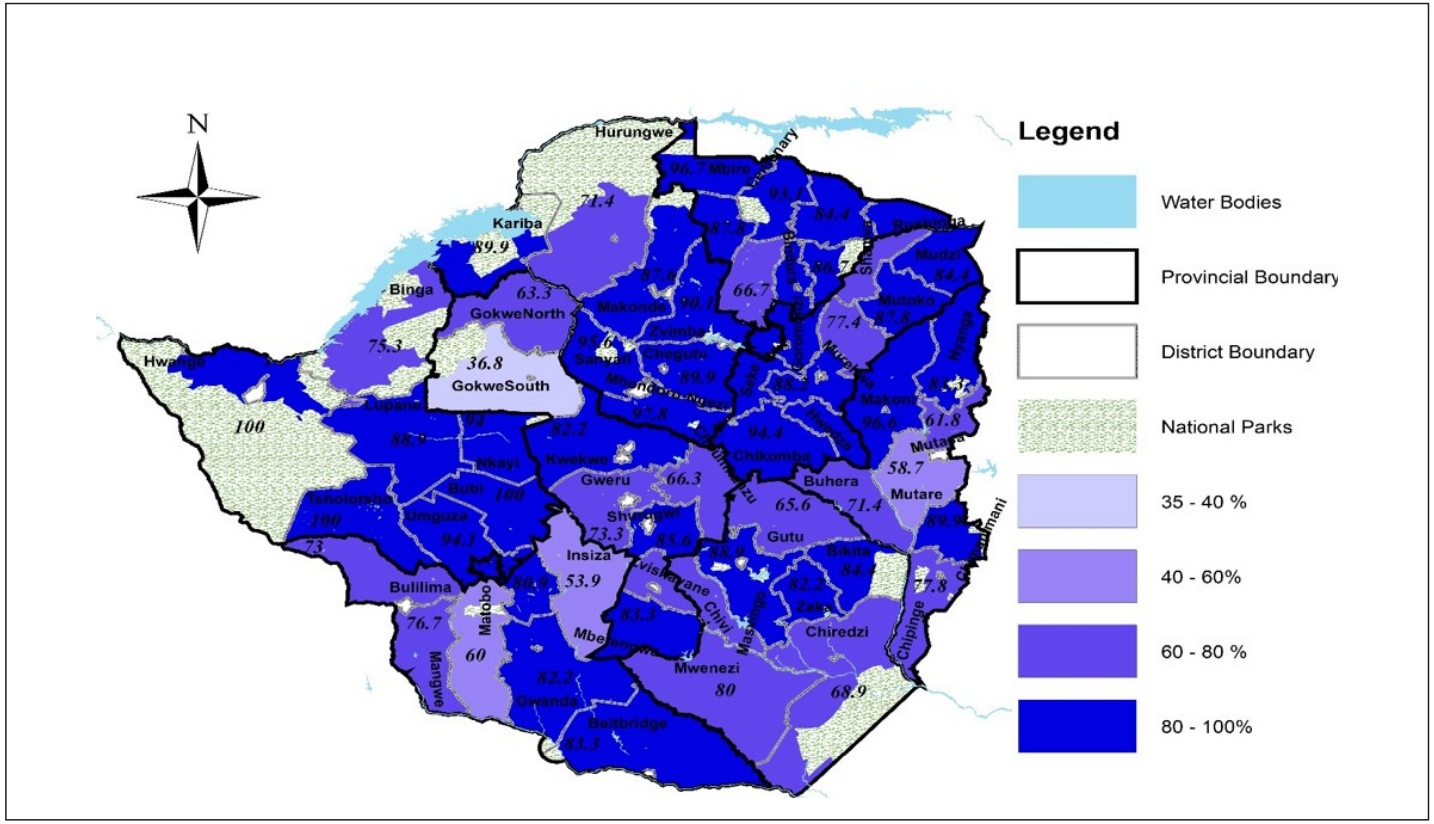


Urban



- Nationally, 83 % of households had access to improved water.
- Urban households had better access to improved water sources than rural households.
- Midlands and Matabeleland South had the least proportion of households accessing water from improved sources (71 % and 73% respectively).

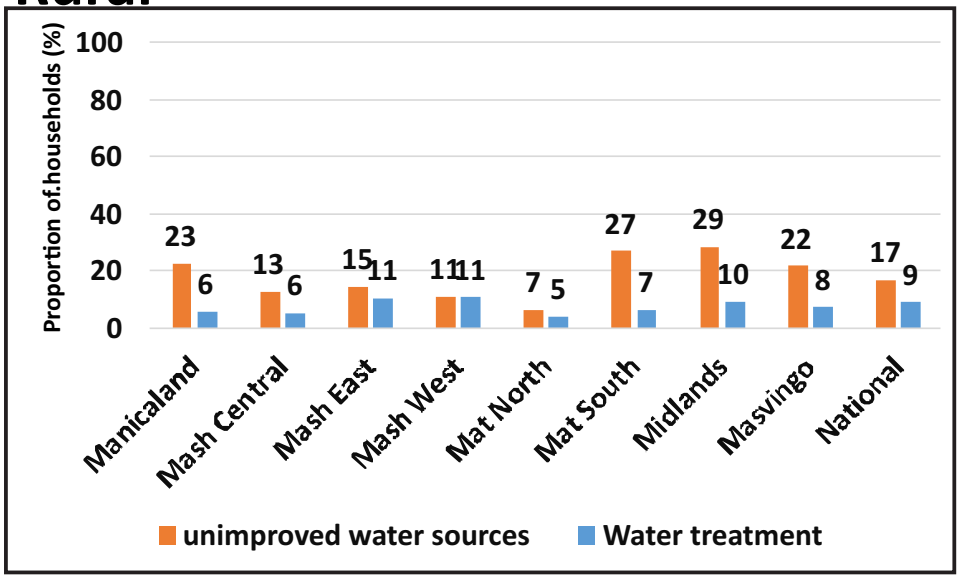
Access to Improved Water District



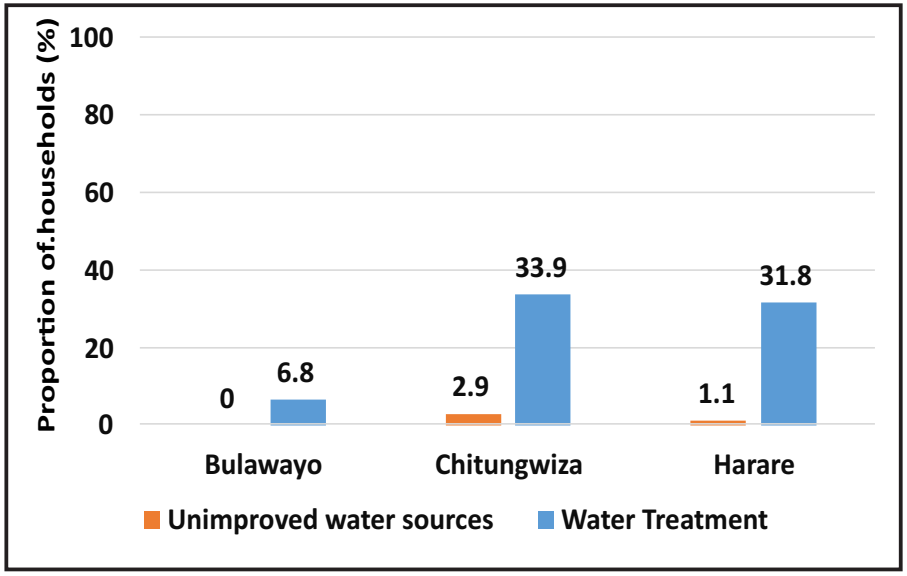
- An improved water source is defined as a type of water source that, by nature of its construction or through active intervention, is likely to be protected from outside contamination.
- Gokwe North (36.8%) had the least proportion of households accessing water from improved sources.

Water Treatment and Unimproved Water Sources

Rural



Urban



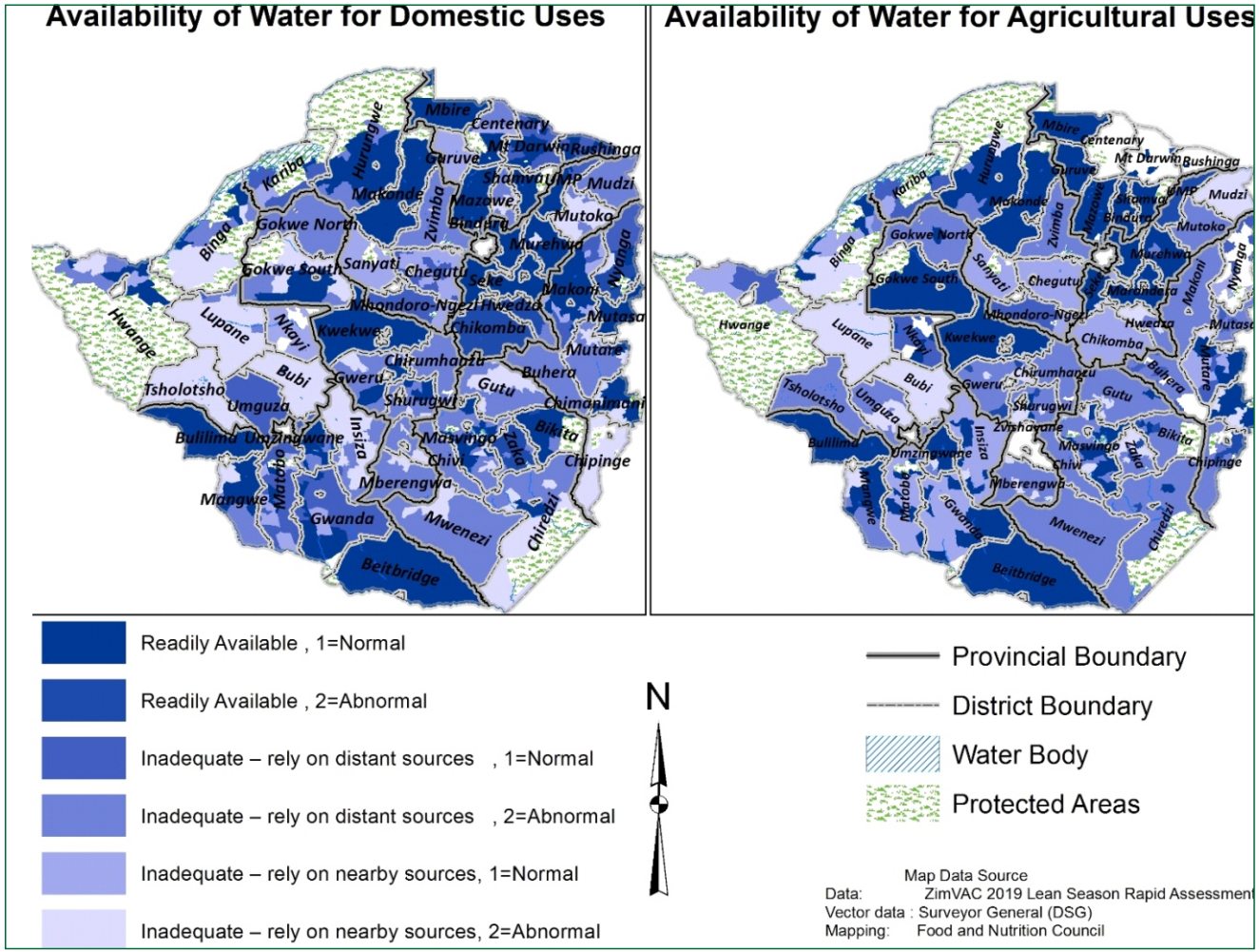
- More rural households compared to urban households drink water from unimproved water sources without treating.
- This was more common in Midlands (29%) and Matabeleland South (27%).

State of Major Dams as at 18 January 2019

Dam Name	Full Supply Capacity	% Full
	(millions of cubic metres)	
Kariba	64800	48.9%
Tugwi Mukosi	1802.6	62.5
Mutirikwi	1378.08	49.8
Manyame	480.23	88.6
Osborne	401.64	70.9
Mazvikadei	343.815	91.4
Manyuchi	309.06	77.2
Manjirenji	274.17	76.6
Sebakwe	265.733	72.2
Chivero	247.18	80.6
Insiza	173.49	66.2
Zhovhe	130.46	74
Siya	105.45	62.3
Inyankuni	74.52	64.4
Mtshabezi	51.99	90.5
Upper Ncema	43.57	Information not available
Mzingwane	42.17	37.4
Mazowe	39.35	74.7
Bubi-Lupane	39.09	74.1
Silalabuhwa	23.22	49.7
Lower Ncema	14.87	Information not available
Harava	**9.02**	**12.2**
Upper Insiza	**7.81**	**22.9**
Seke	**3.38**	**3.3**

- A number of dams are below 50% full with Seke (3.3%), Upper Insiza (22.9), and Harava (12.2%) with the lowest capacities. (Source ZINWA 2019)

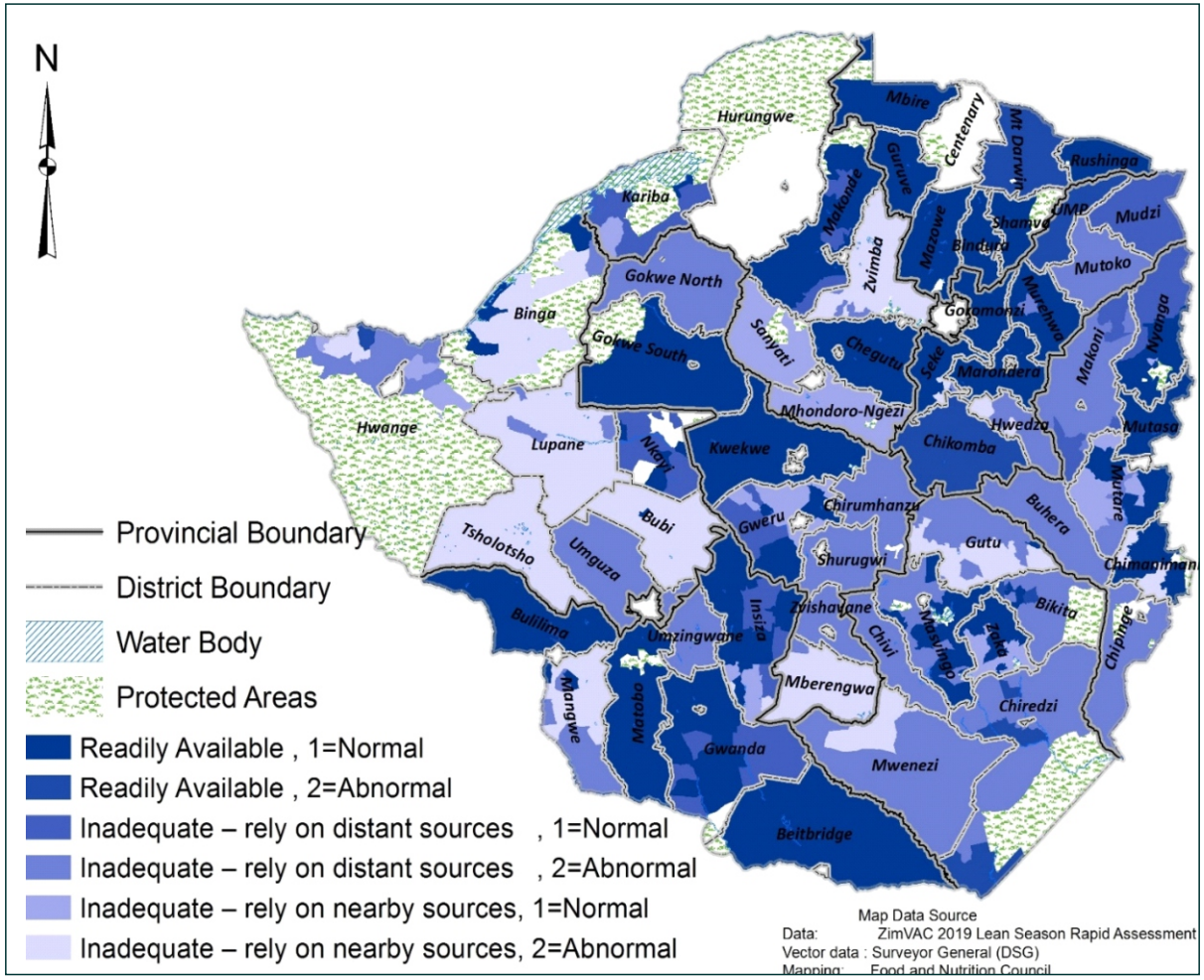
Water Availability for Domestic and Agricultural Use



- Water for both domestic and agricultural activities was readily available in Beitbridge, Kwekwe, Makonde, Hurungwe, Mazowe, Mbire and Bulilima.

- Gokwe North, Mwenezi, Mberengwa, Buhera, Umguza, Gwanda, some parts of Kariba, Mhondoro-Ngezi, Hwange and Zvimba had inadequate water for both domestic and agricultural use.

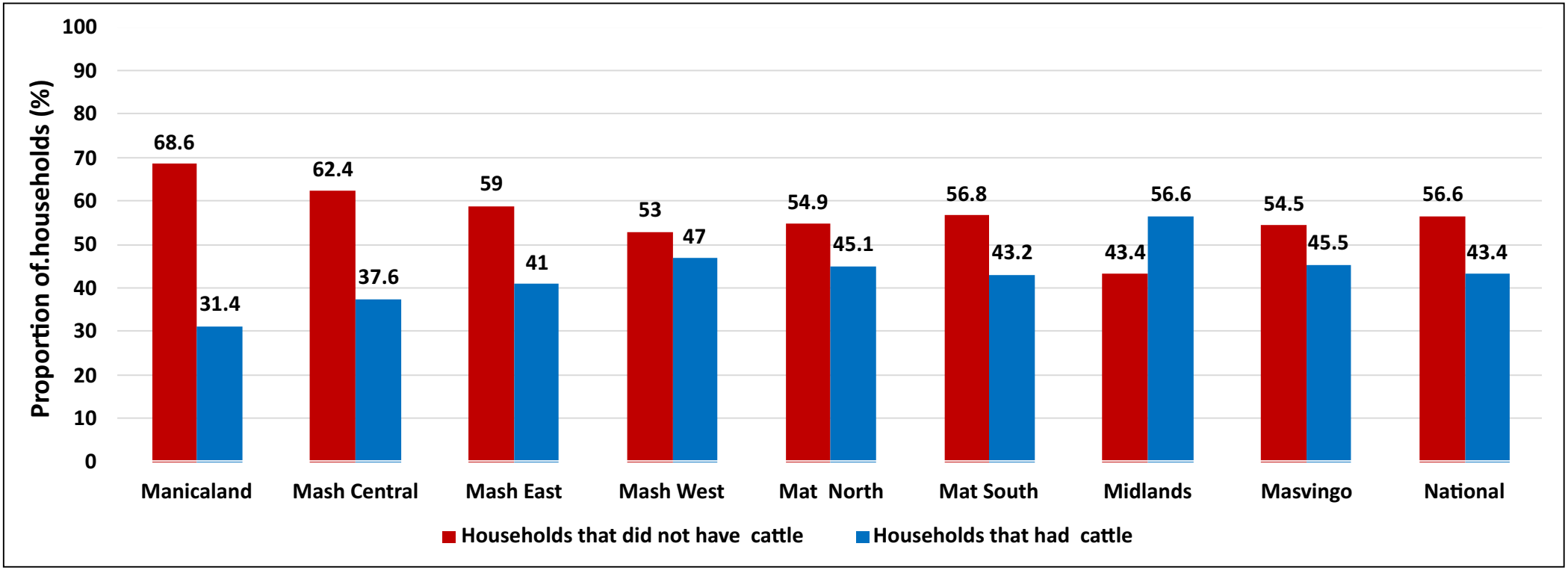
Availability of Water for Livestock



- Midlands, Matabeleland South, Manicaland and Mashonaland East had more districts with inadequate water for livestock and were relying on distant water sources.
- Chikomba, Mt Darwin, some parts of Chiredzi and Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe had water for livestock readily available though this was abnormal when compared to the same time in the previous season.

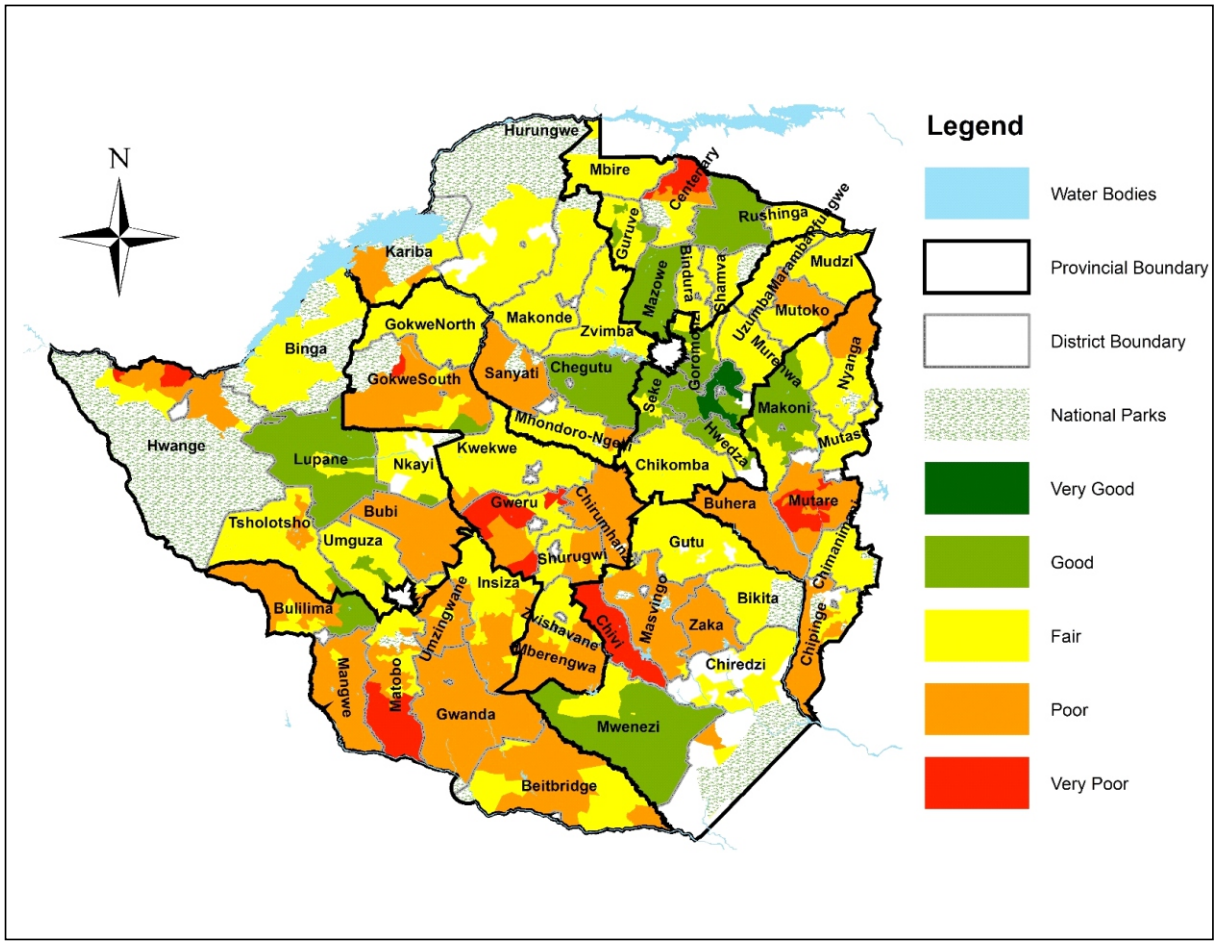
Livestock Grazing and Condition

Proportion of Households that had Cattle



- About 43.4% of the households sampled during the survey had cattle.
- The highest proportion of households that had cattle was in Midlands (56.6%) whilst the lowest proportion was recorded in Manicaland (31.4%).

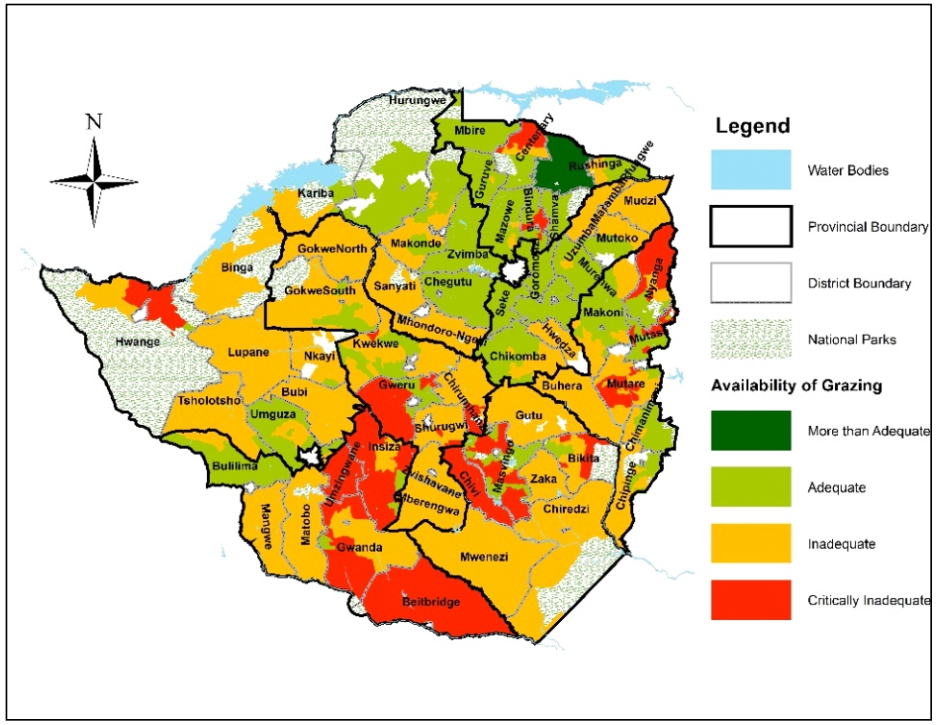
Livestock Condition



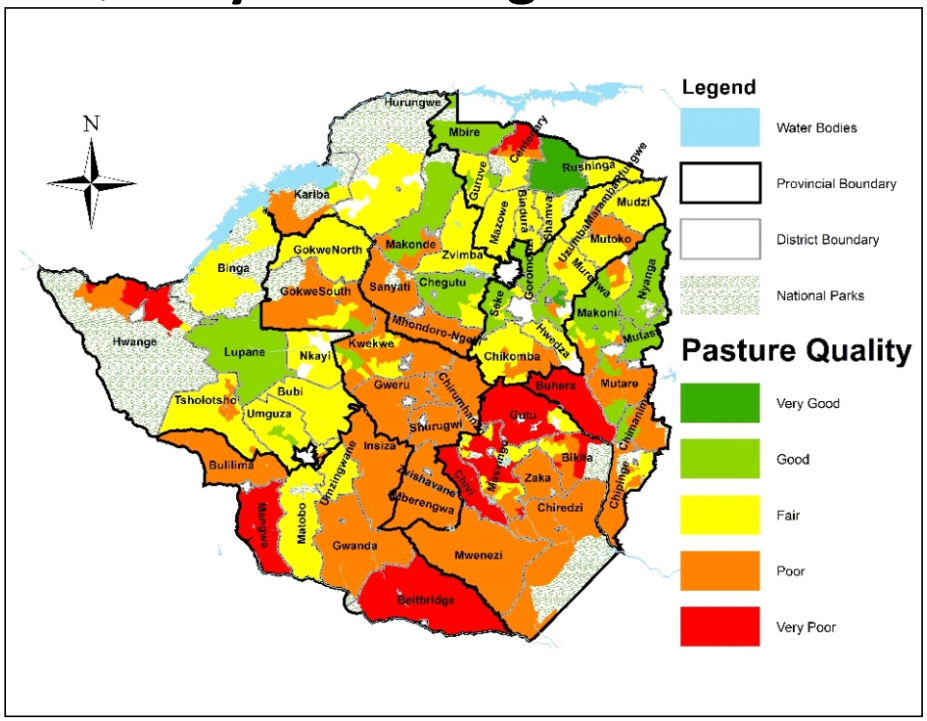
- Generally the condition of livestock ranged from poor to fair in all districts and was poorer in the southern parts of the country.

Grazing Pastures

Adequacy of Grazing Pastures

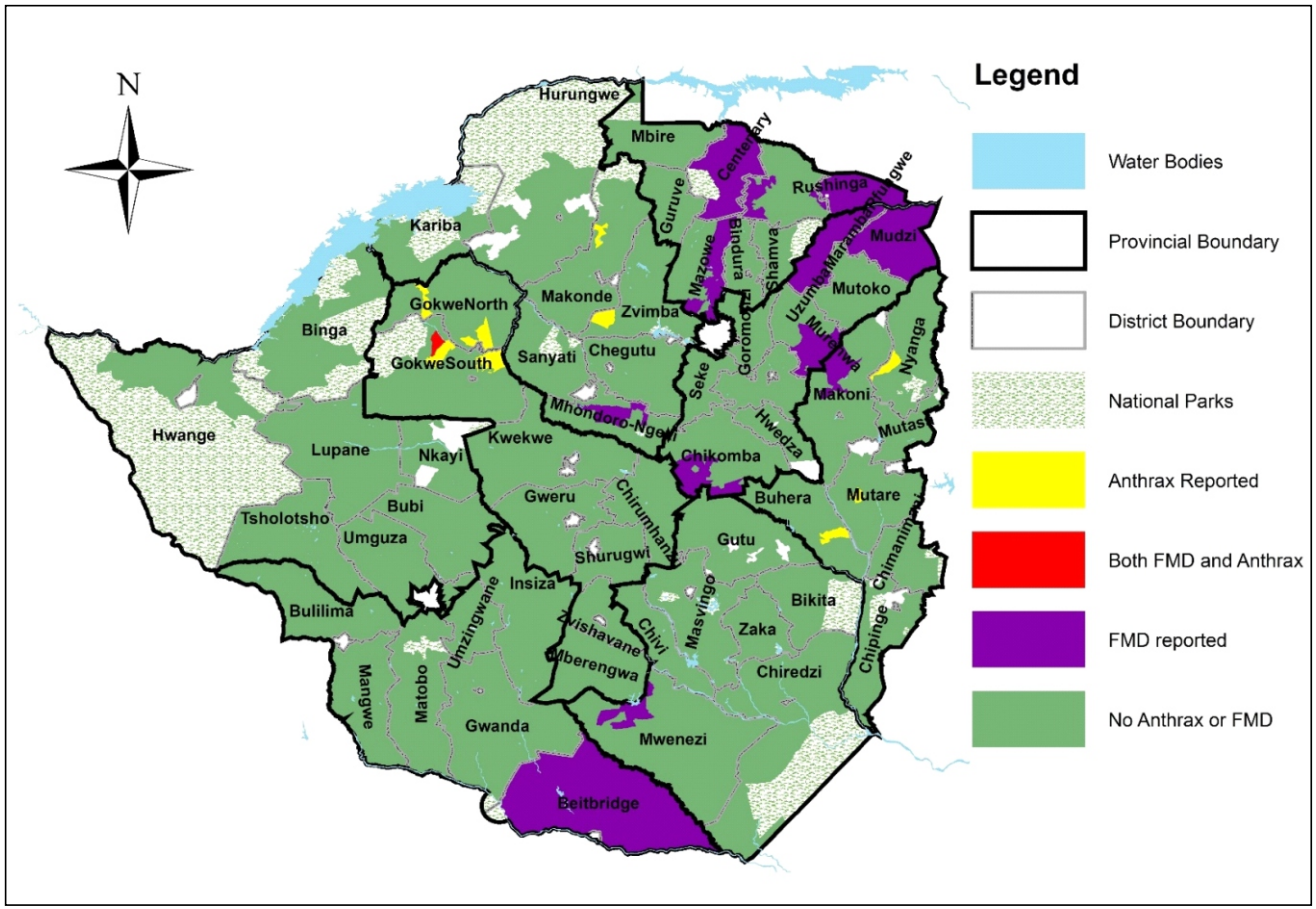


Quality of Grazing Pastures



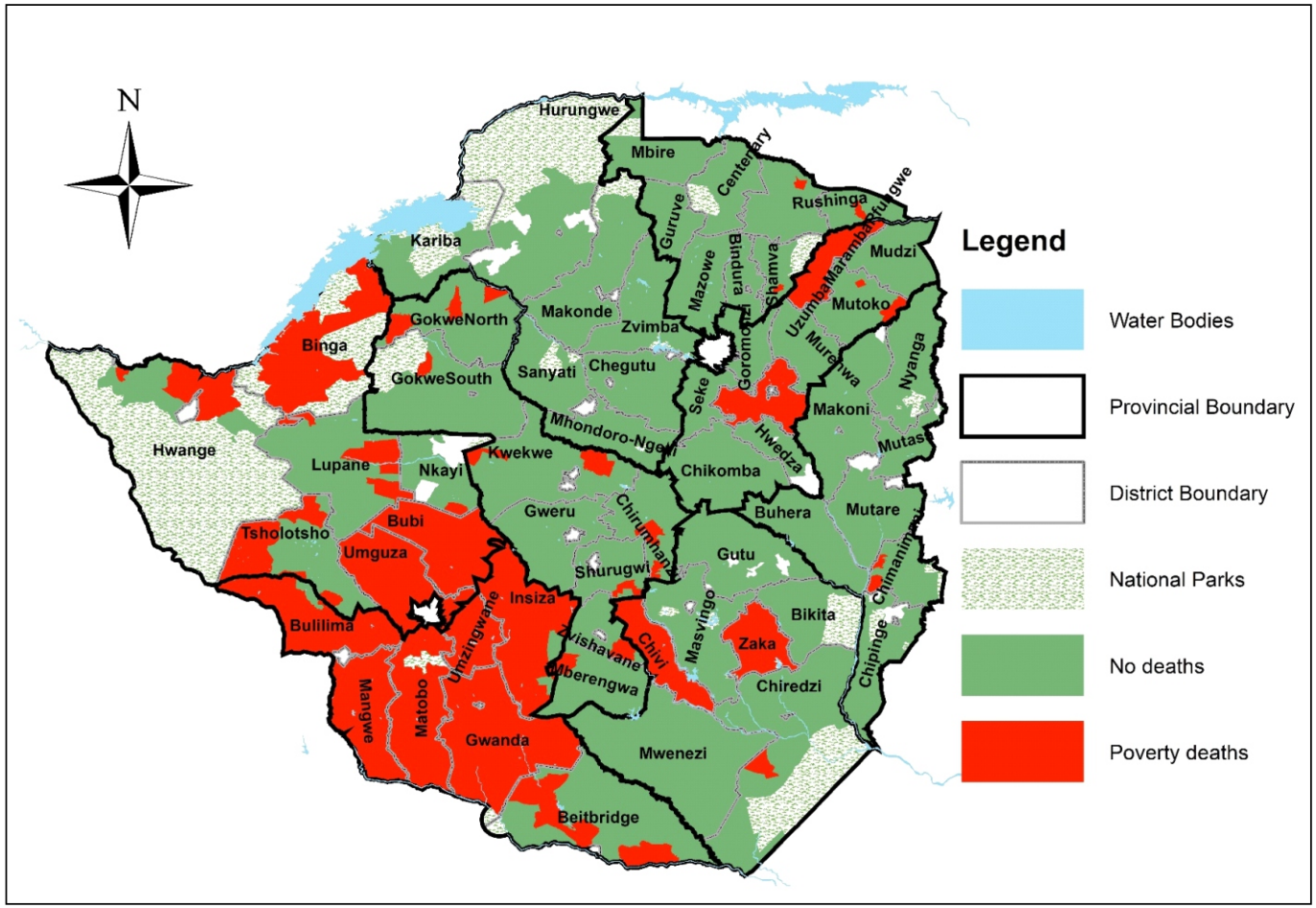
- Generally, grazing was inadequate in most districts and most critical in the southern districts.
- Quality was generally poor even in districts which had adequate grazing

Foot and Mouth Disease and Anthrax



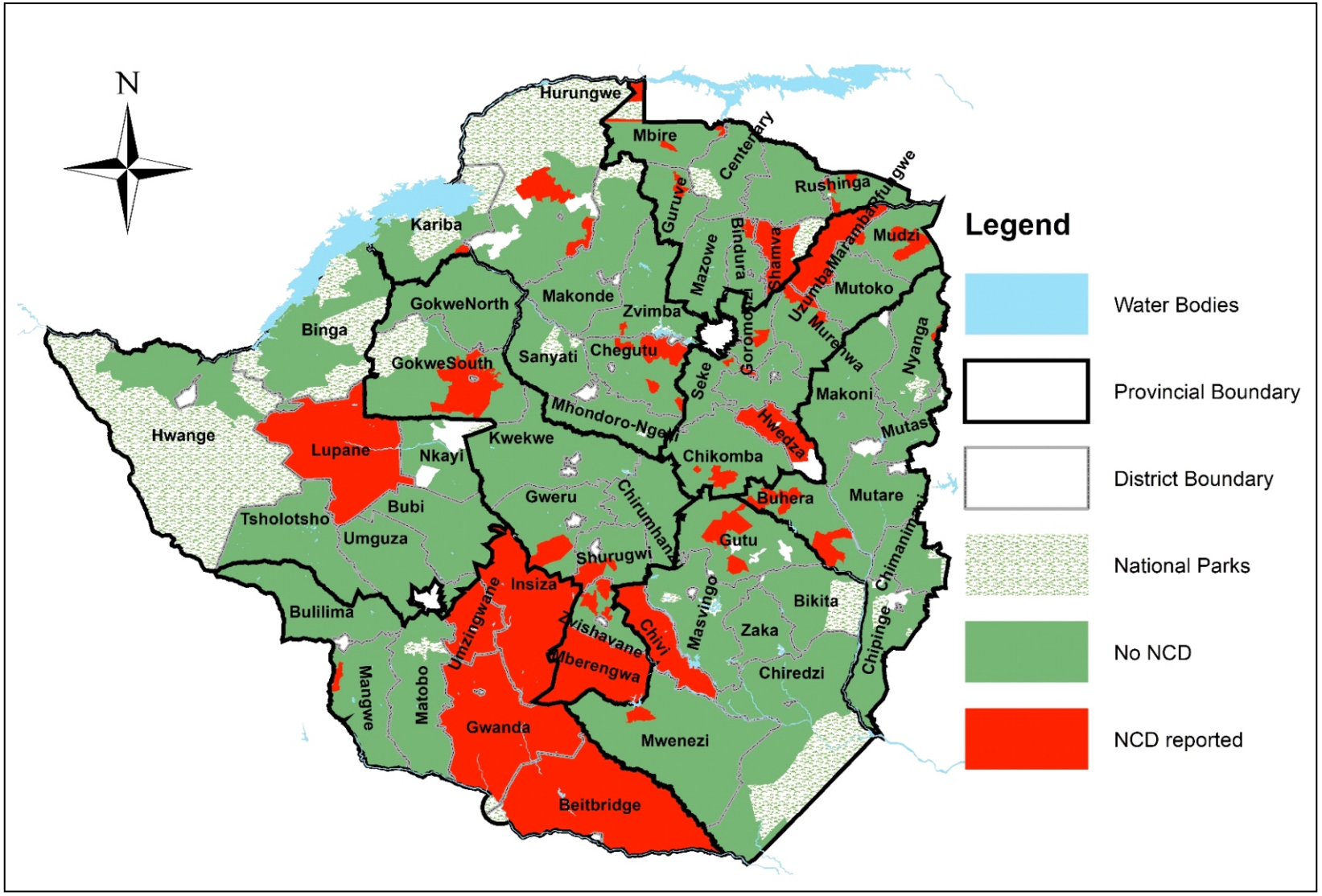
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was most prevalent in the border districts of Beitbridge, Centenary, Rushinga and Mudzi.
- However, other districts that reported FMD were Chikomba, Mhondoro Ngezi, Murehwa, Mazowe and parts of Mwenenzi.

Poverty Deaths



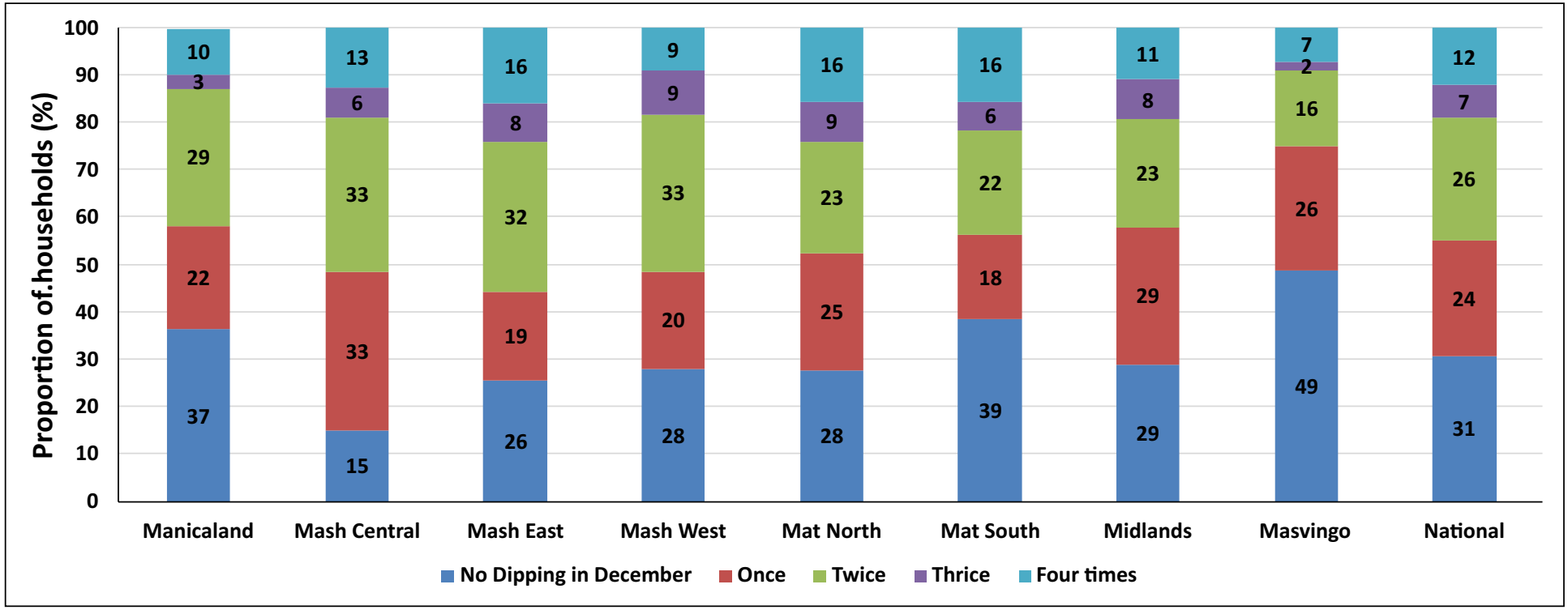
- The districts most affected by poverty deaths were in Matabeleland and parts of Masvingo.

Newcastle Disease



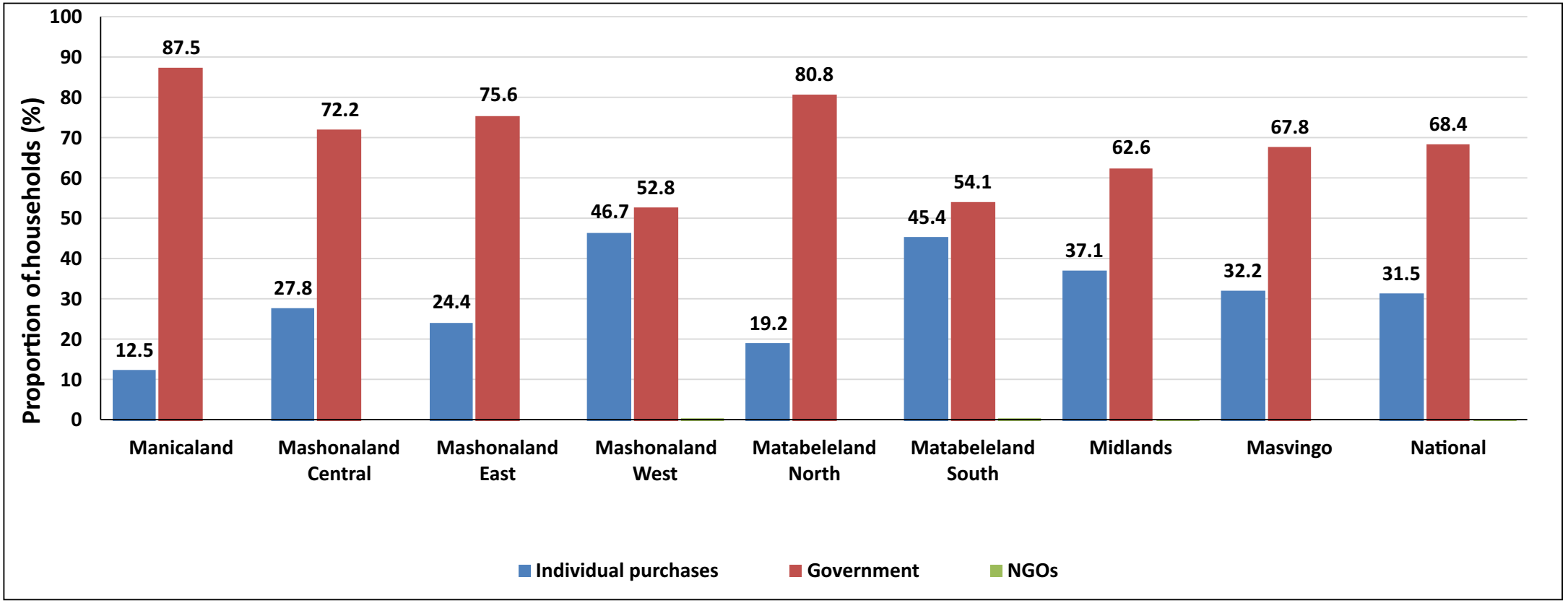
- Newcastle disease mostly affected the southern parts of the country.

Dipping Frequency



- The recommended dipping frequency in summer was weekly. However, only 12% of the households nationally could manage to dip their cattle weekly during the month of December 2018.
- About 31% of the households did not dip their cattle in December, whilst 24% dipped once, 26% dipped twice and 7% dipped 3 times.
- Mashonaland East (16%), Matabeleland South (16%) and Matabeleland North (16%) had the highest proportion of households dipping at the recommended frequency.

Sources of Acaricides

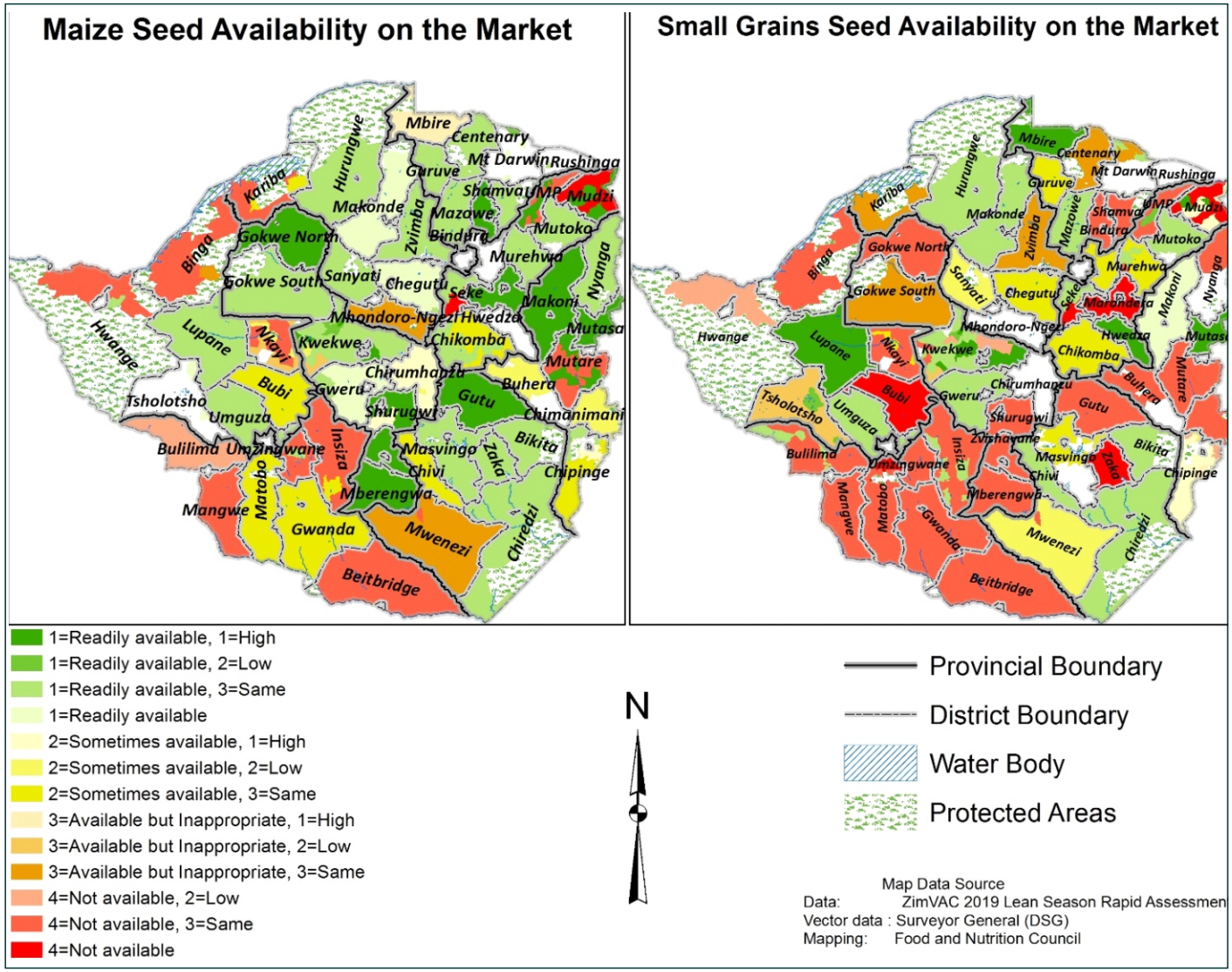


- Most farming households relied on Government for acaricides. However, the government has not been supplying enough dipping chemicals and this explains the inadequate dipping frequency reported in 88% of the households interviewed.

Food and Livestock Markets

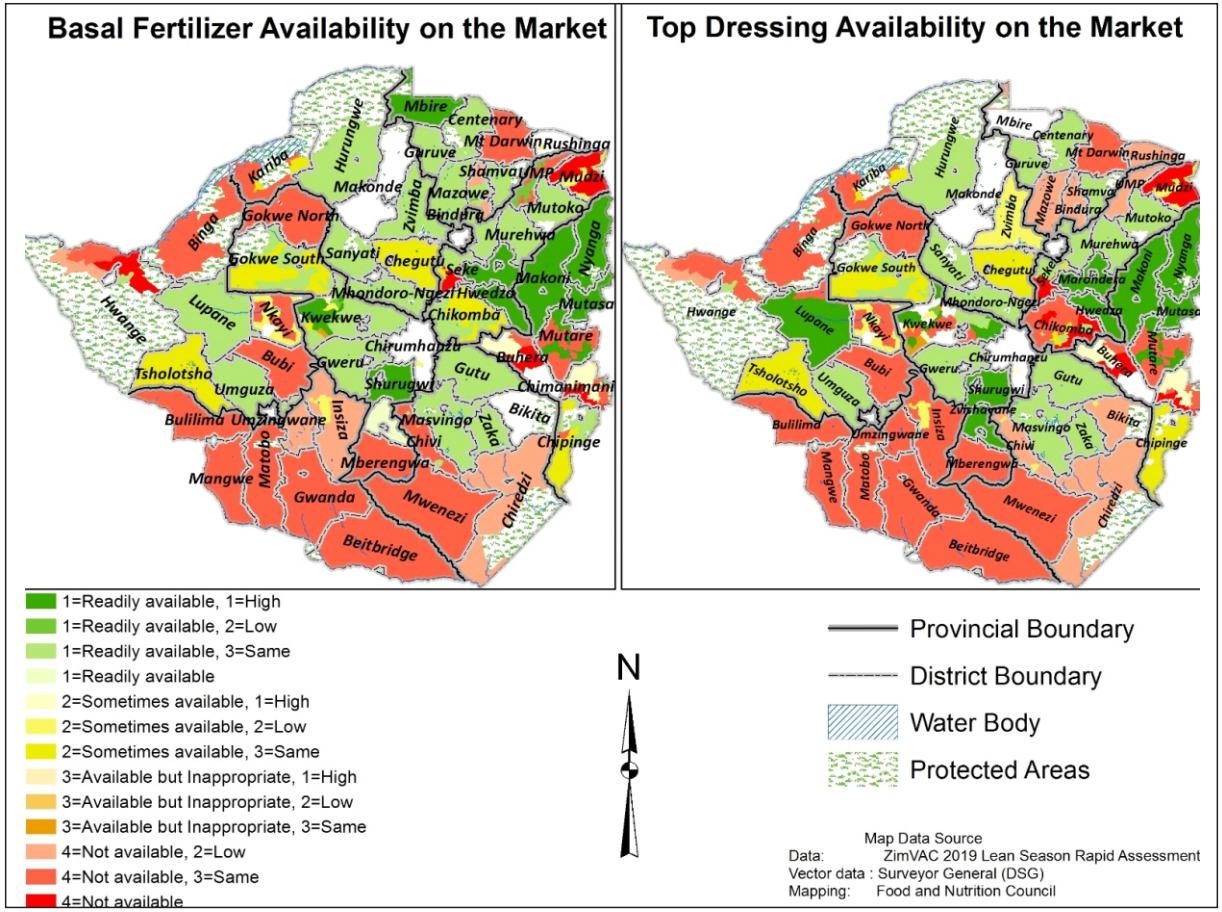
To assess the performance of the 2018/19 agriculture season and availability of agricultural inputs at the time of the assessment

Availability of Appropriate Cereal Seed



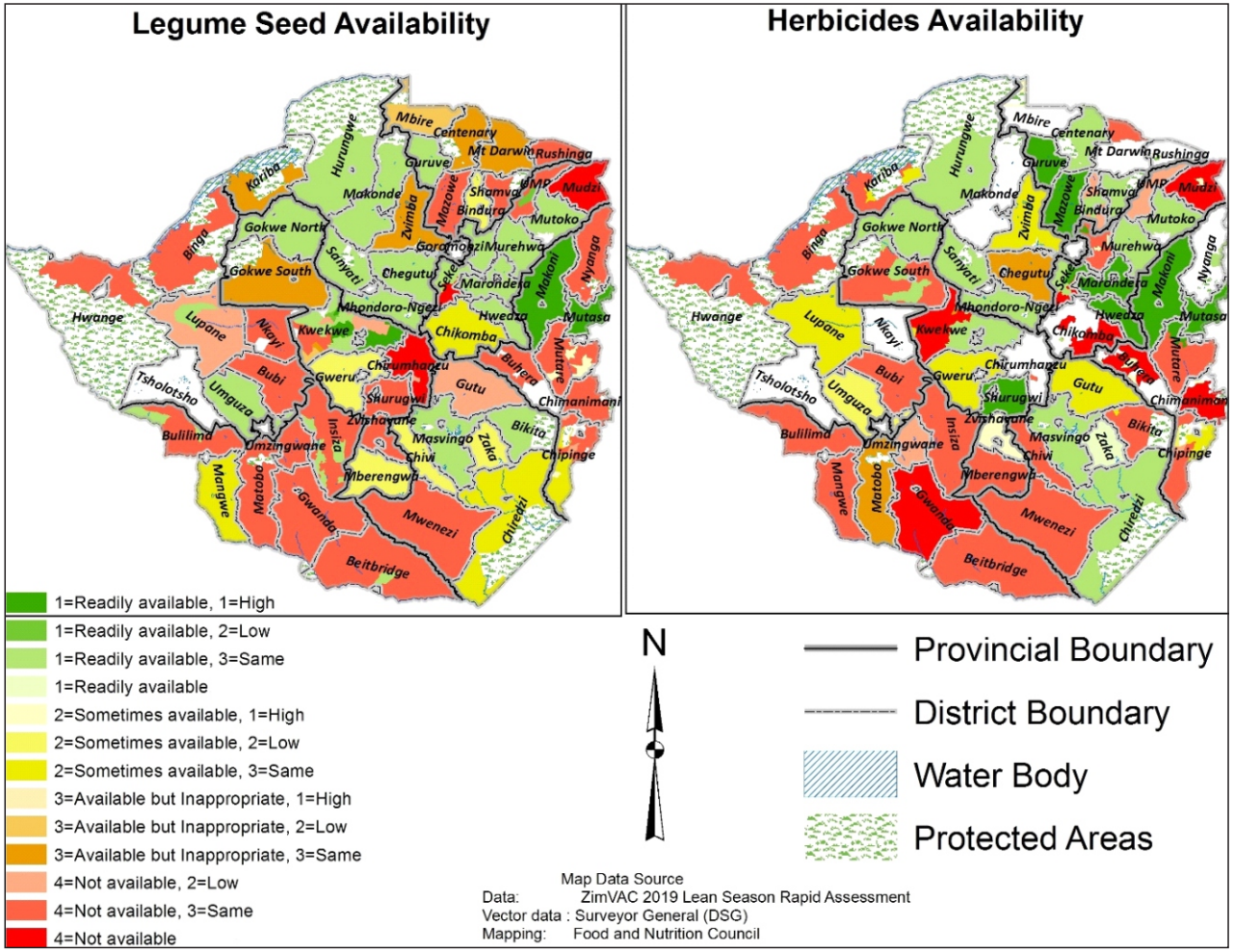
- Appropriate maize seed varieties were readily available in most districts.
- Small grain seeds were not available on the market in most districts.

Availability of Appropriate Fertilisers



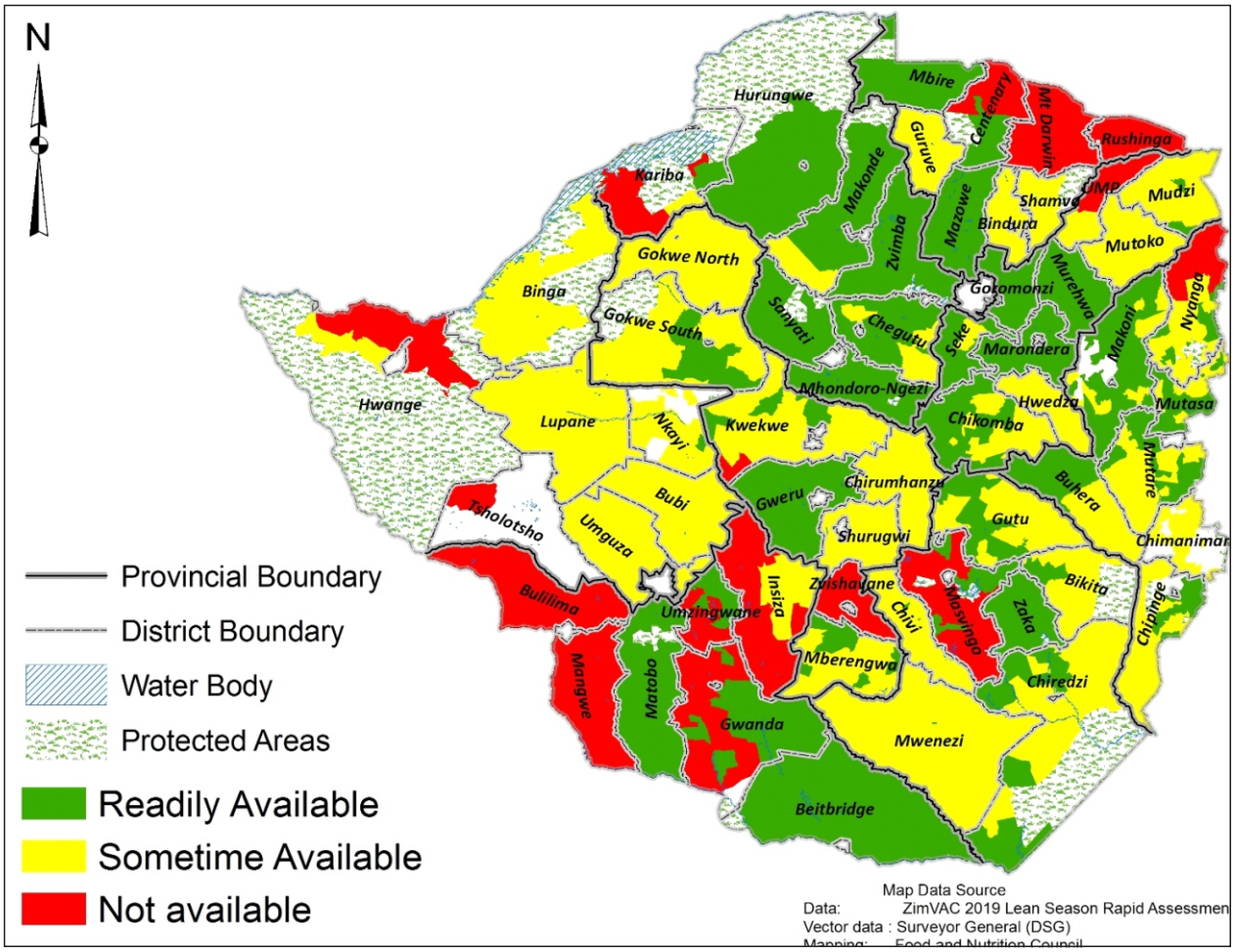
- Basal fertiliser was readily available in the northern districts of the country.
- Top dressing fertiliser was not readily available on the market in most districts and this is similar to the same time last year.

Availability of Appropriate Legume Seed Herbicides



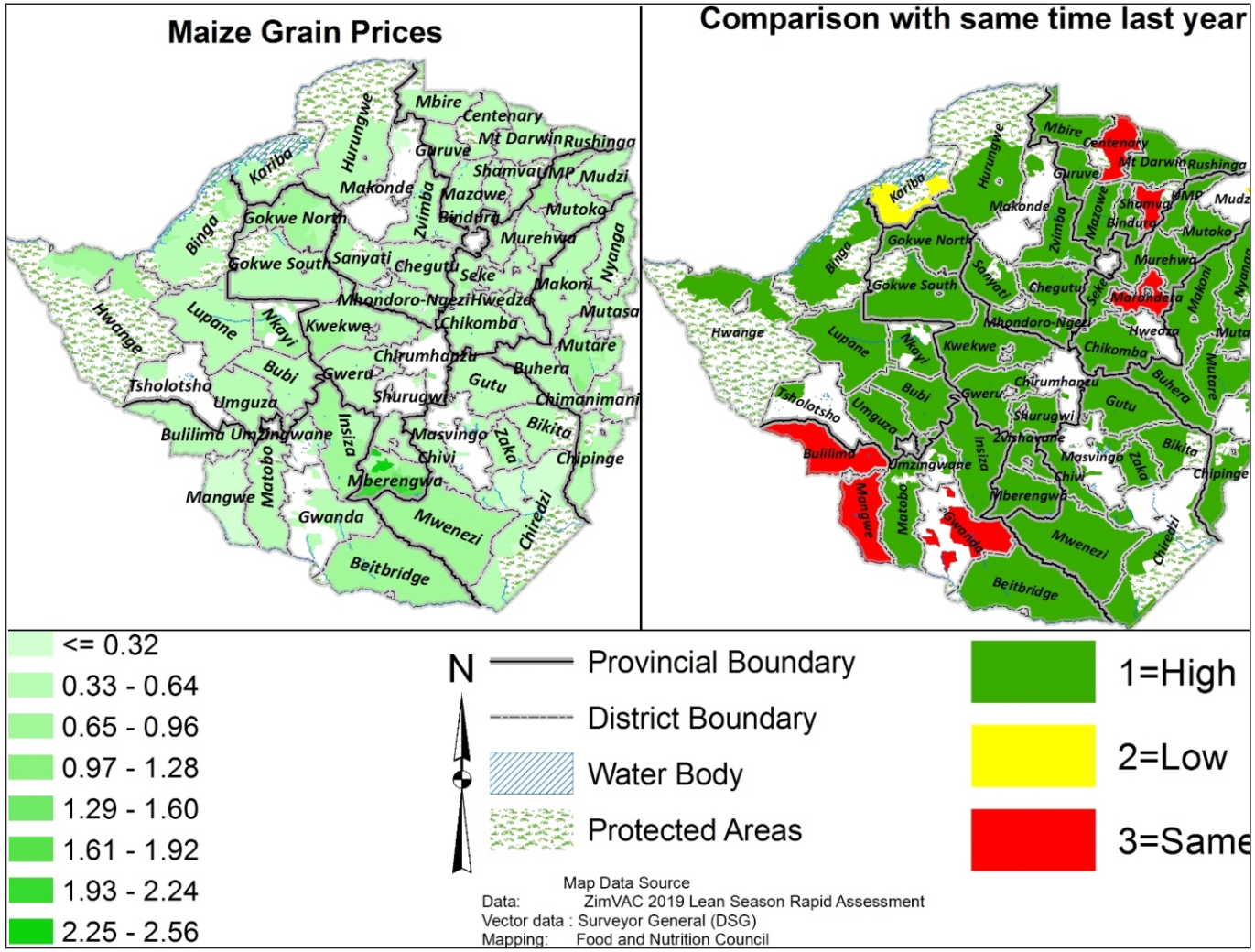
- Legume seed was not available in the south western districts while readily available in most districts of Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East.
- Herbicides were not available in the south western districts while readily available in the Mashonaland provinces and Masvingo.

Availability of Maize Grain



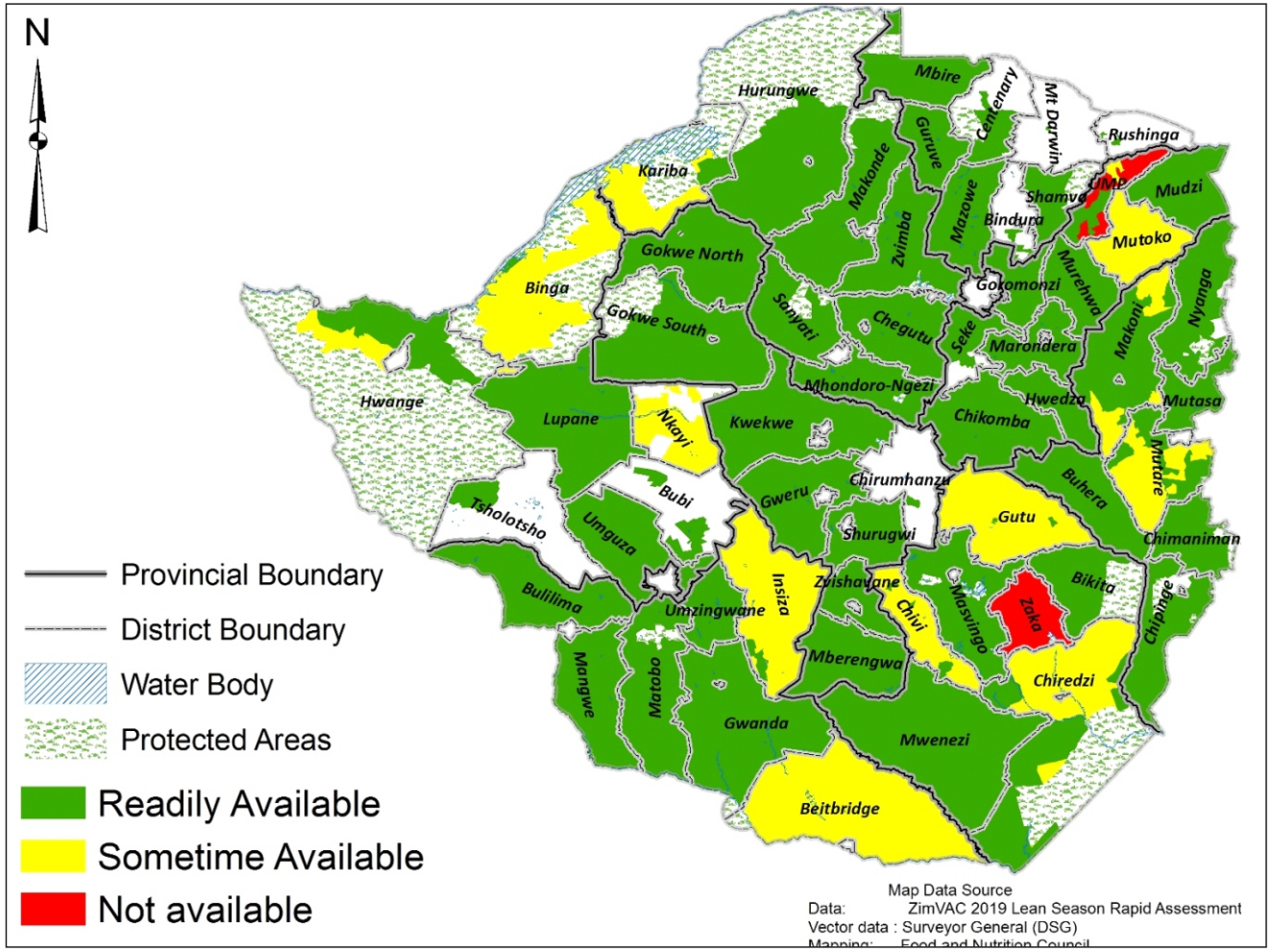
- Maize grain was not readily available in the north eastern and south western parts of the country.

Maize Grain Prices



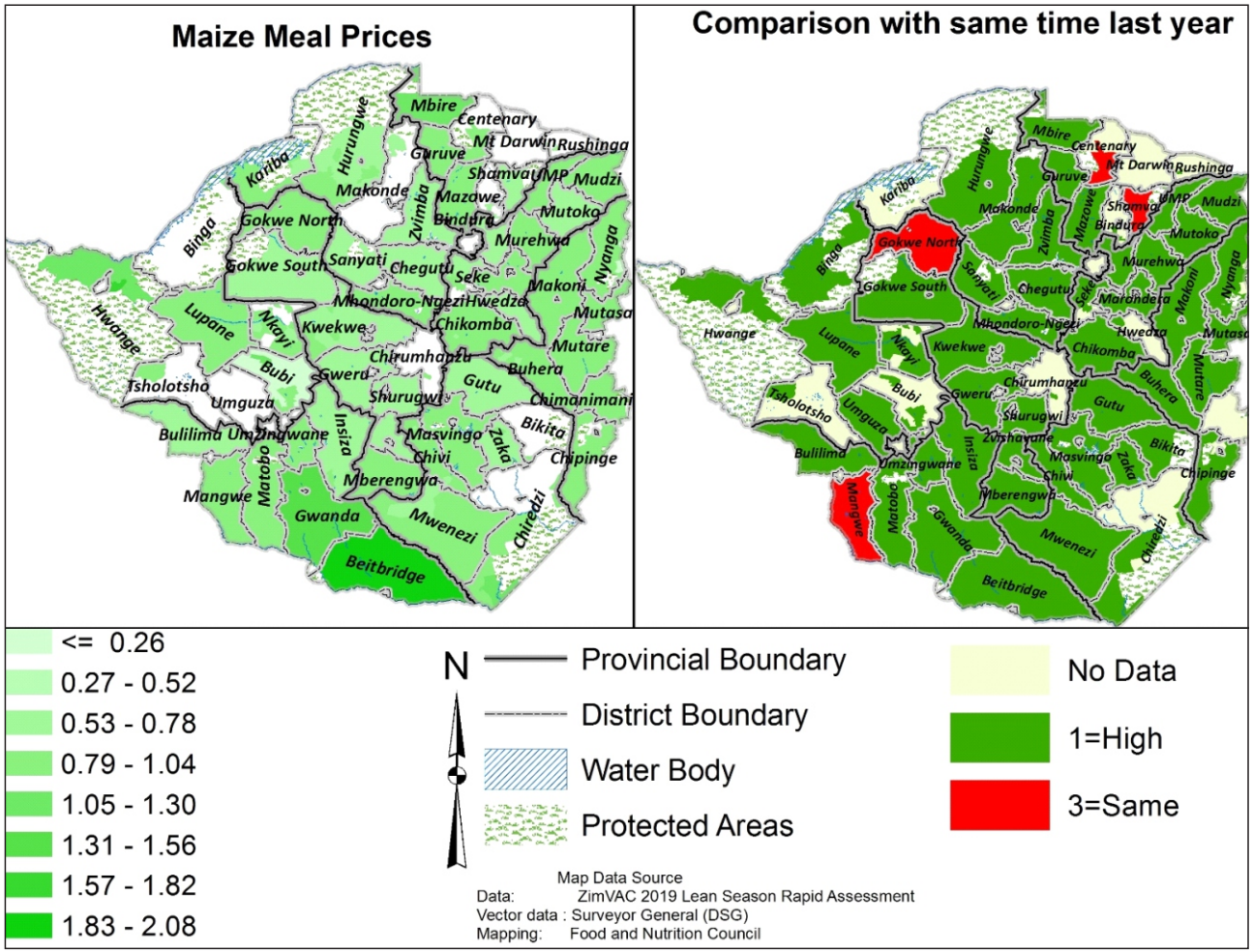
- Average maize grain prices ranged from $0.27 to $1.02 per kilogram.
- The highest maize grain prices were reported in Mberengwa

Maize Meal Availability



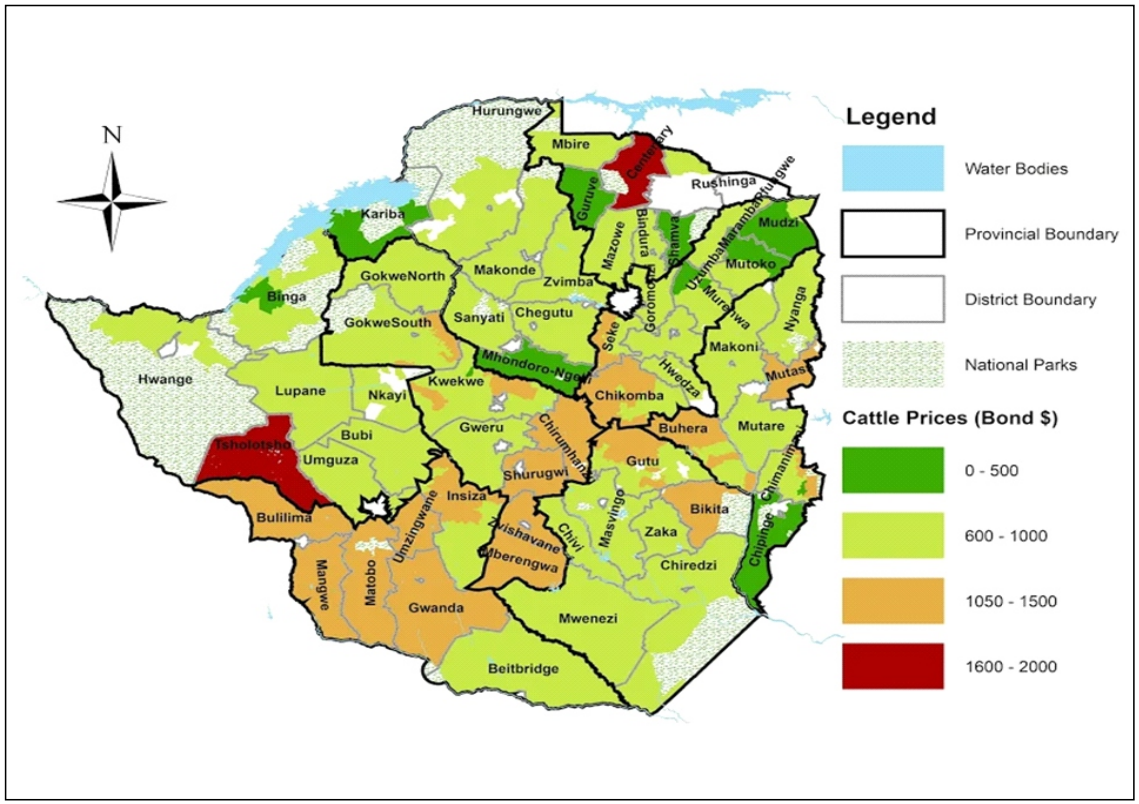
- Maize meal was readily available across the whole country except for Zaka where maize meal was only available at the district centre and some parts of UMP where it was not available.

Maize Meal Prices



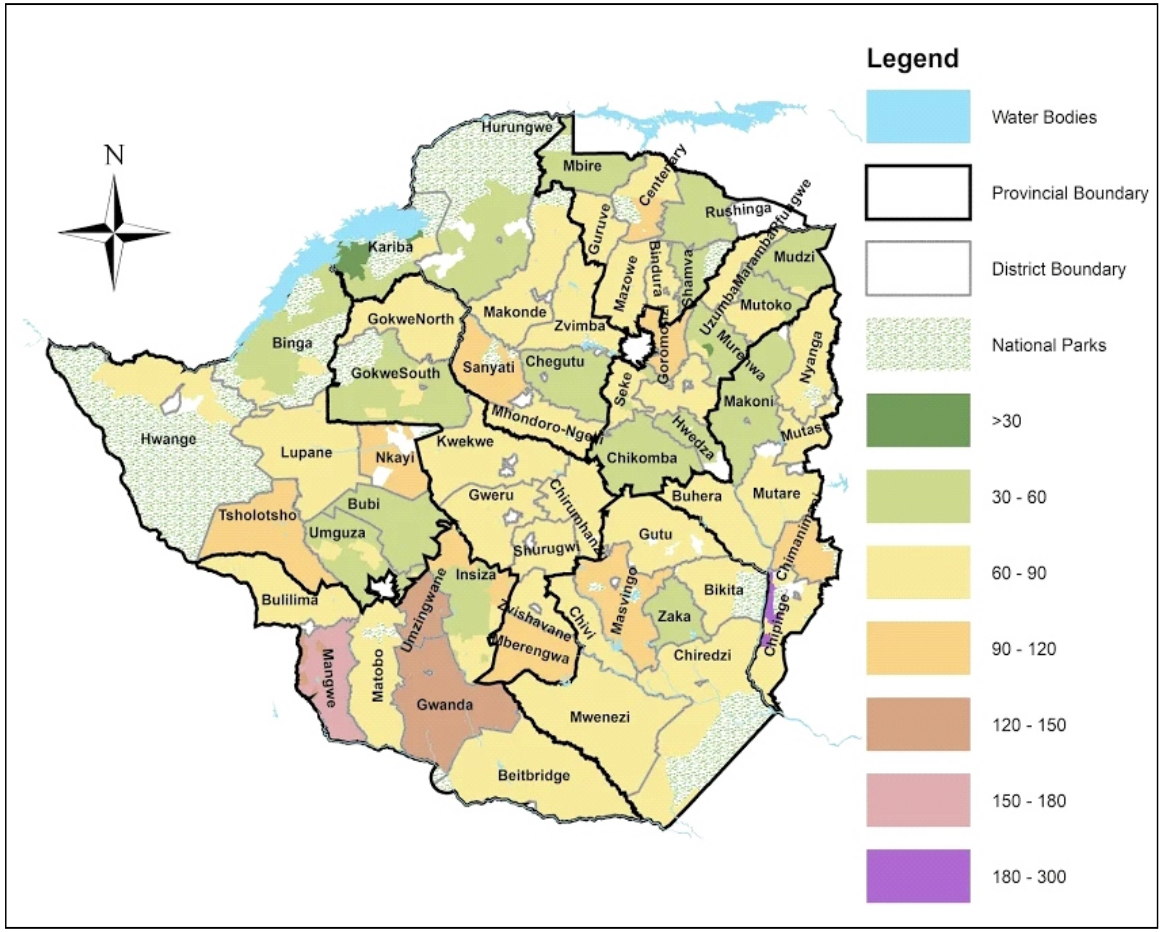
- Maize meal prices ranged from $0.52 to $1.02 per kilogram.
- The highest prices were reported in Mbire, Hwange and Gwanda which were over $1.20 per kilogram.

Cattle Prices



- Cattle prices ranged between $500 and $1 000 per average beast.
- The highest prices were reported in Tsholotsho and Muzarabani where an average beast was being sold between $1 500 and $ 2 000.
- Some districts reported depressed prices due to disease outbreaks. These included Mhondoro Ngezi.

Goat Prices



- Most districts reported goat prices between $60 and $90 per average sized goat.
- The highest prices were reported in Mangwe ($150 - $180).
- The lowest prices of less than $30 were reported in Kariba.

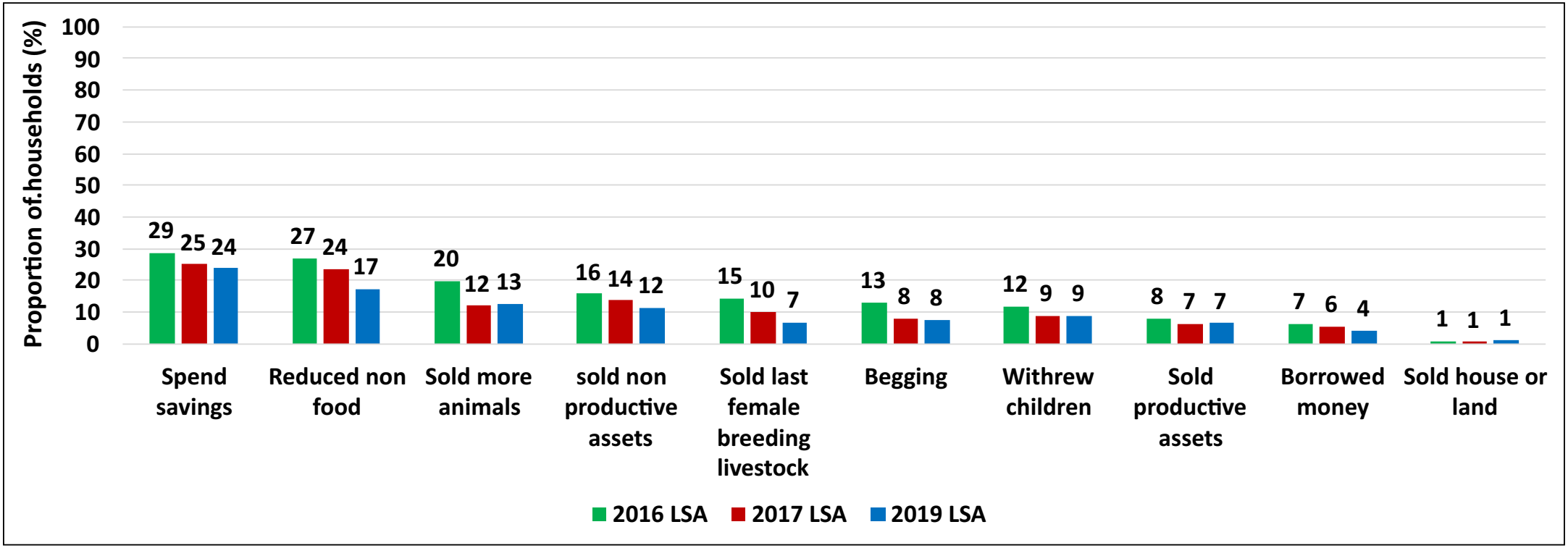
Casual Labour and Livelihood - Coping Strategies

Categorization of Livelihood Coping Strategies

The livelihood coping strategies have been classified into three categories namely stress, crisis and emergency as according to the WFP Technical Guidance note 2015.

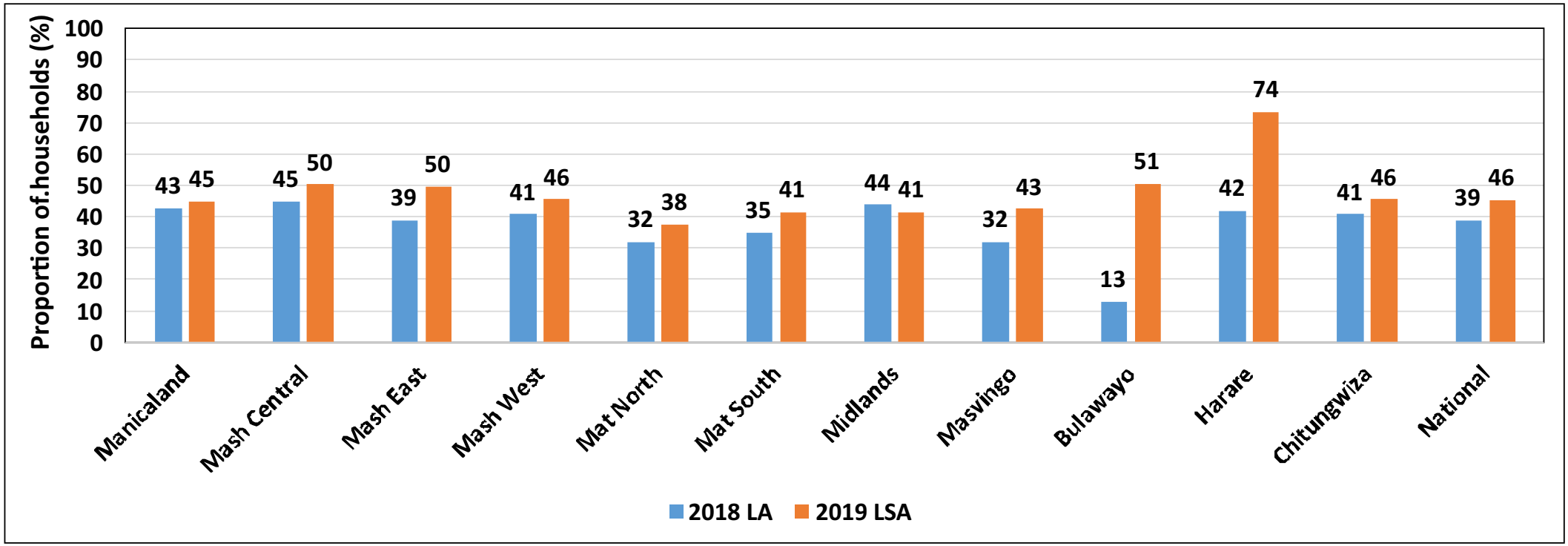
Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	• Borrowing money, spending savings, selling assets and selling more livestock than usual.
Crisis	• Selling productive assets directly reducing future productivity, including human capital formation. • Withdrawing children from school. • Reducing non food expenditure.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

Livelihood Coping Strategies



- Spending of savings on food continues to be the most common livelihood coping strategy adopted by most households and this is consistent with the previous years.

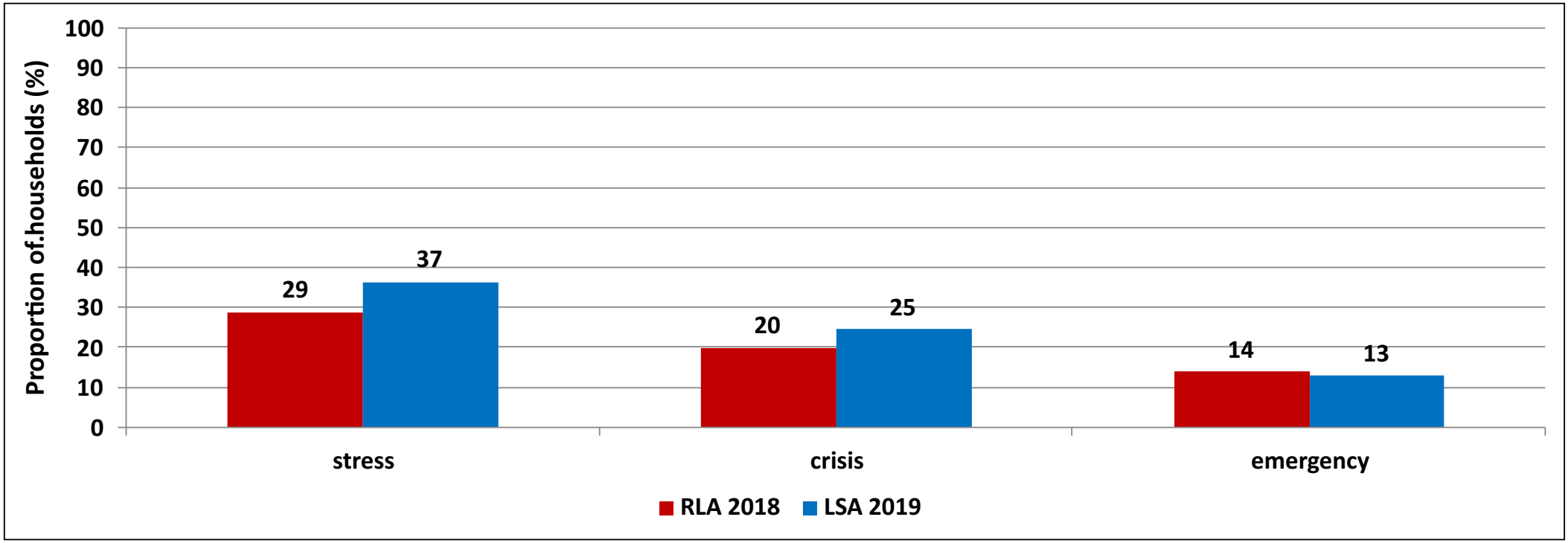
Proportion of Households Employing at Least One Livelihoods Based Coping Strategy



- There has been a general increase in the proportion of households that engaged in at least one livelihoods based coping strategy from 39% to 46% in 2019. This indicates a deteriorated food access situation which led to more coping than the previous year.

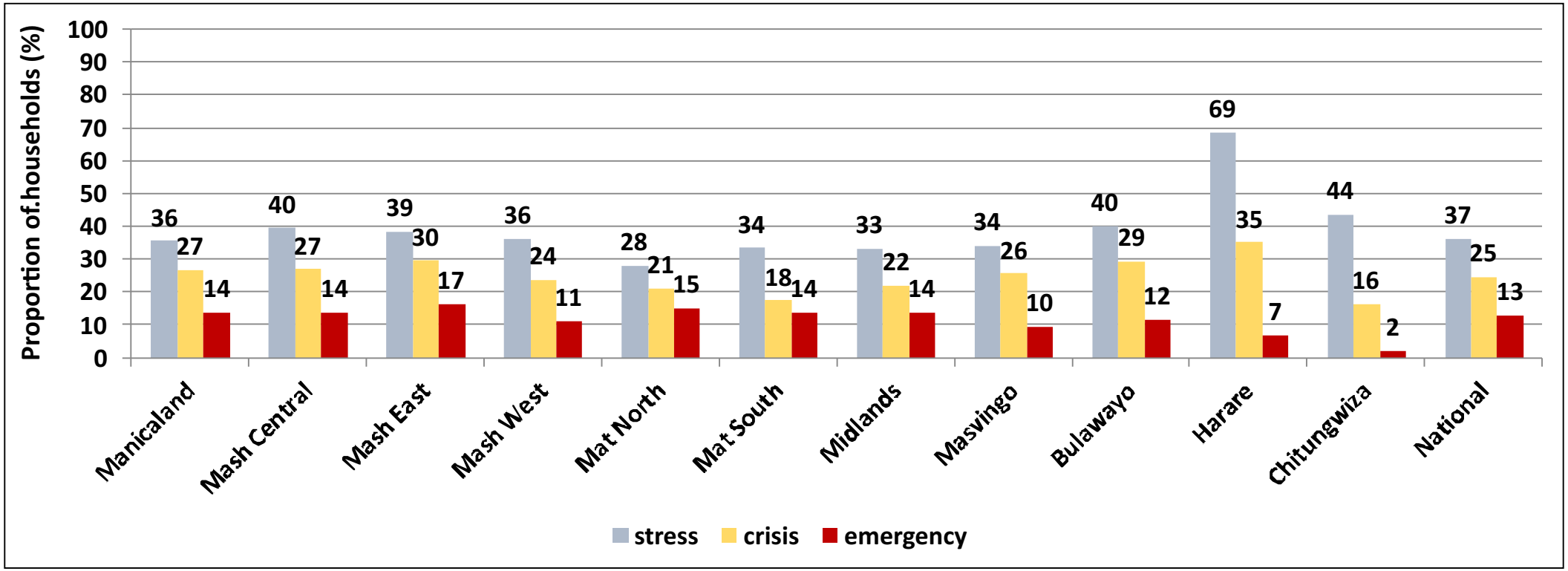
- Four of the provinces namely Harare (74%), Bulawayo (51%), Mashonaland Central (50%) and Mashonaland East (50%), had above half of the households engaging in at least one livelihood-based coping strategy.

Proportion of Households Engaging in Livelihood Based Coping Strategies by Category



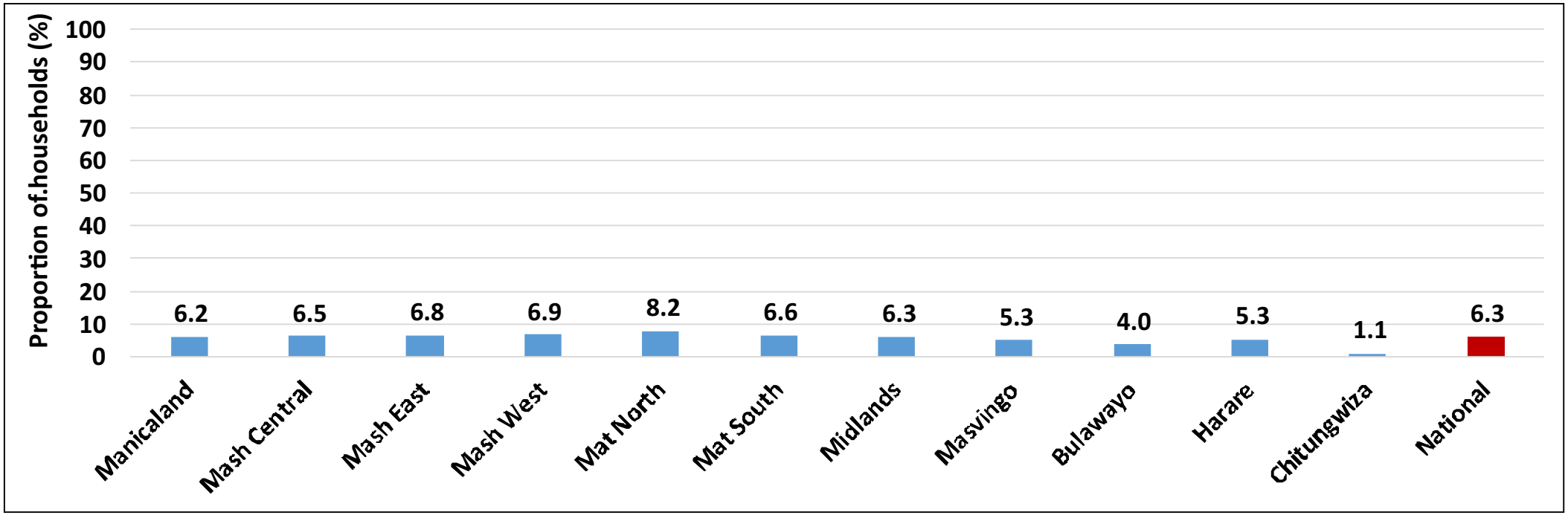
- About 37% of the households employed stress coping strategies, an increase from 29% compared to May 2018 (RLA) which indicates a decreased ability to invest in future livelihoods.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of households employing crisis strategies from 20% in 2018 to 25% hence they had accelerated depletion of strategies and assets that will likely lead to high food consumption gaps.
- The 13% of households that employed emergency strategies experienced extreme depletion and liquidation of assets and strategies which could lead to huge consumption gaps in the future.

Households Engaging in Livelihood Based Coping Strategies by Province



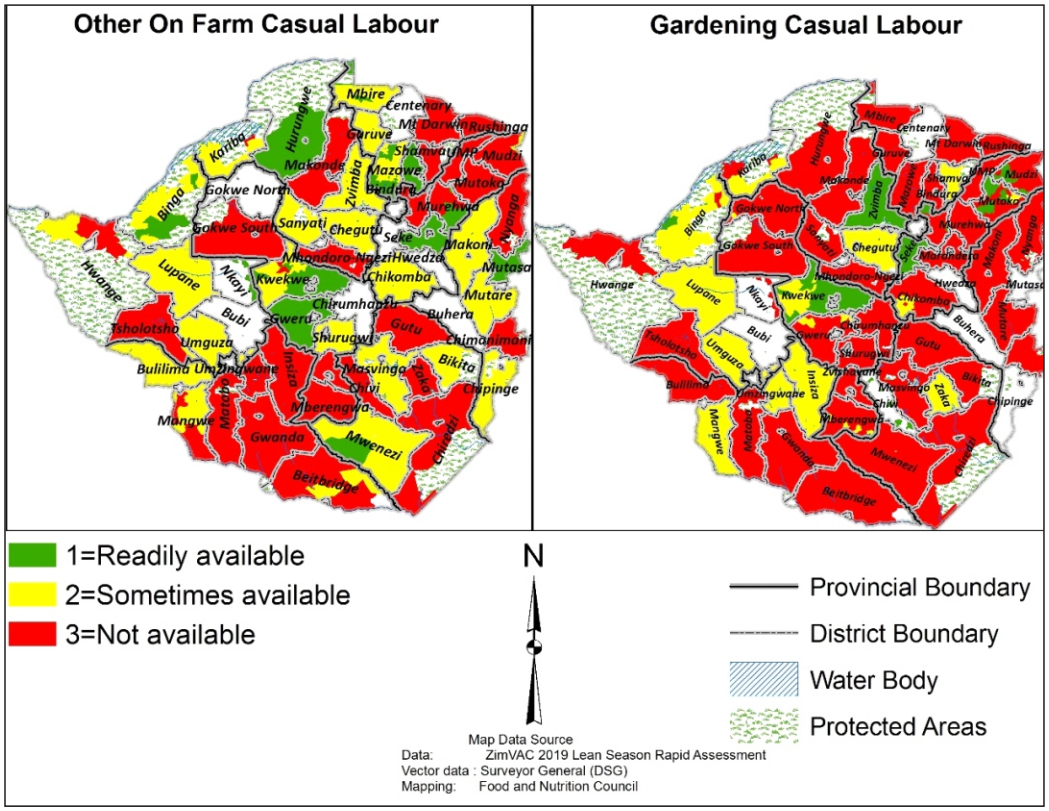
- Mashonaland East (17%) had the highest proportion of households engaging in emergency coping strategies whilst Chitungwiza had the least proportion (2%).
- The highest proportion of stress strategies were in urban areas Harare (69%) and Chitungwiza (44%).
- These provinces therefore have the highest proportion of households that are likely to face livelihood protection deficits and were in danger of becoming food insecure and less resilient to future shocks.

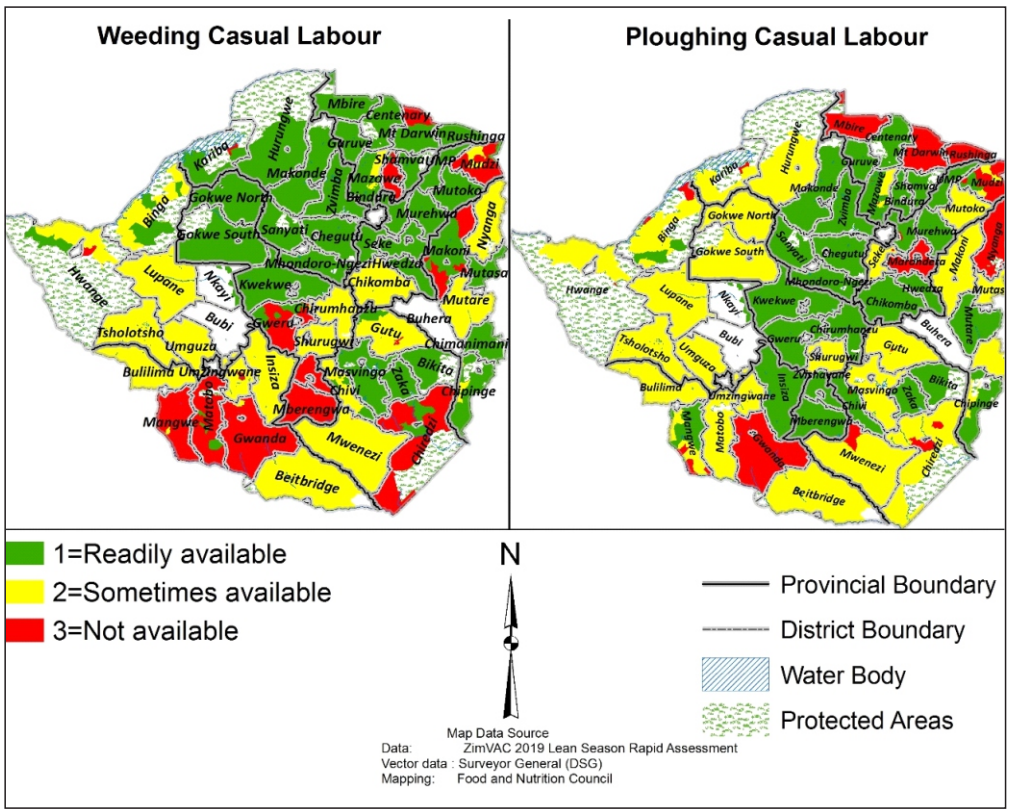
Households Engaging in All Livelihood Coping Strategies



- The proportion of households engaging in all livelihood-based coping strategies was 6.3%.
- Matabeleland North (8.2%) had the highest proportion of households that engaged in all the three categories.
- For urban areas, Harare (5.3%) had the highest proportion of households that engaged in all three strategies.

Casual Labour Opportunities

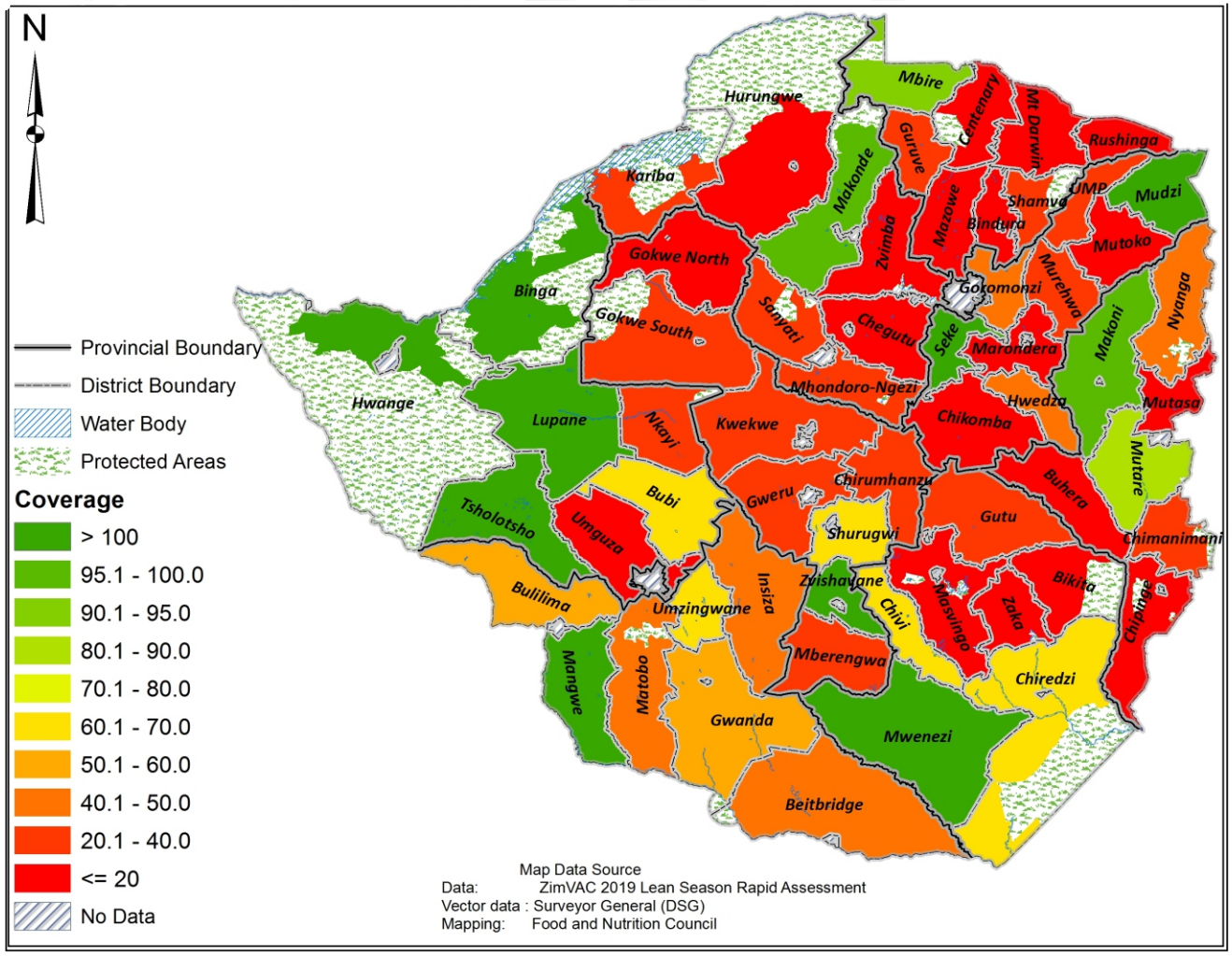




Social Protection

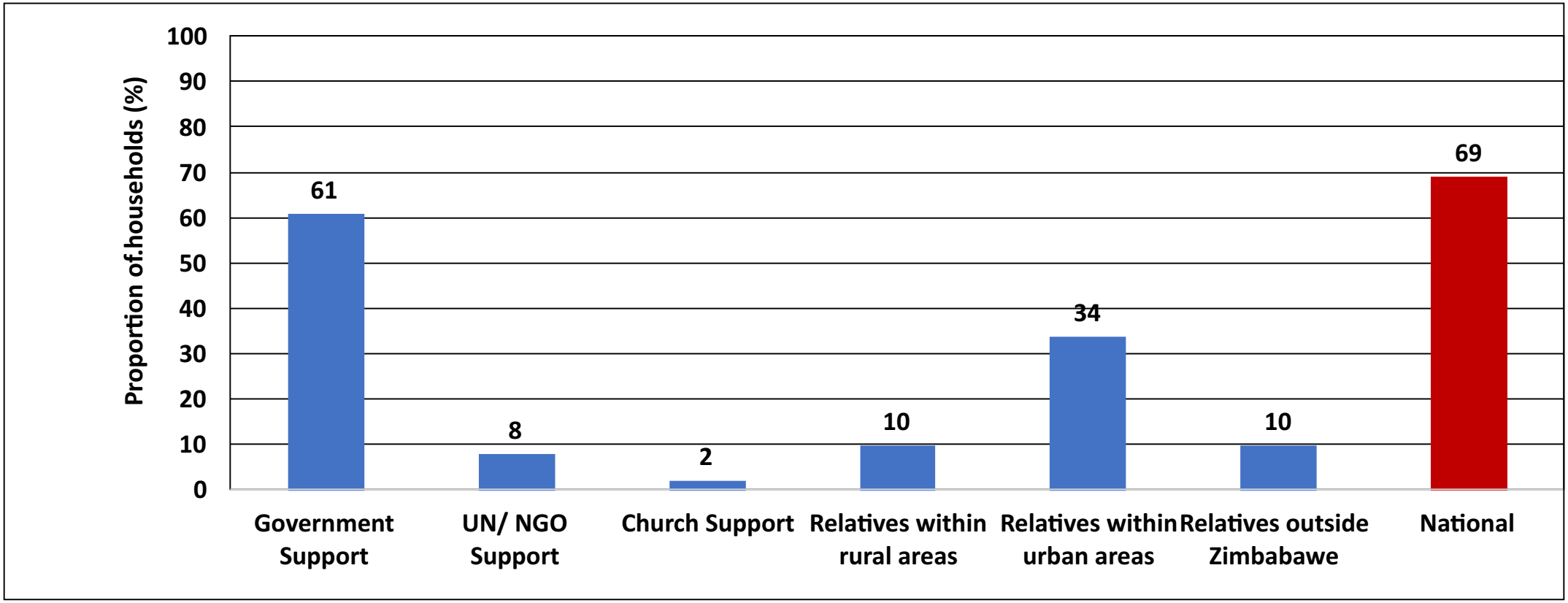
To assess the performance in terms of coverage, targeting, adequacy and predictability of the current food and nutrition interventions.

Coverage of Social Assistance



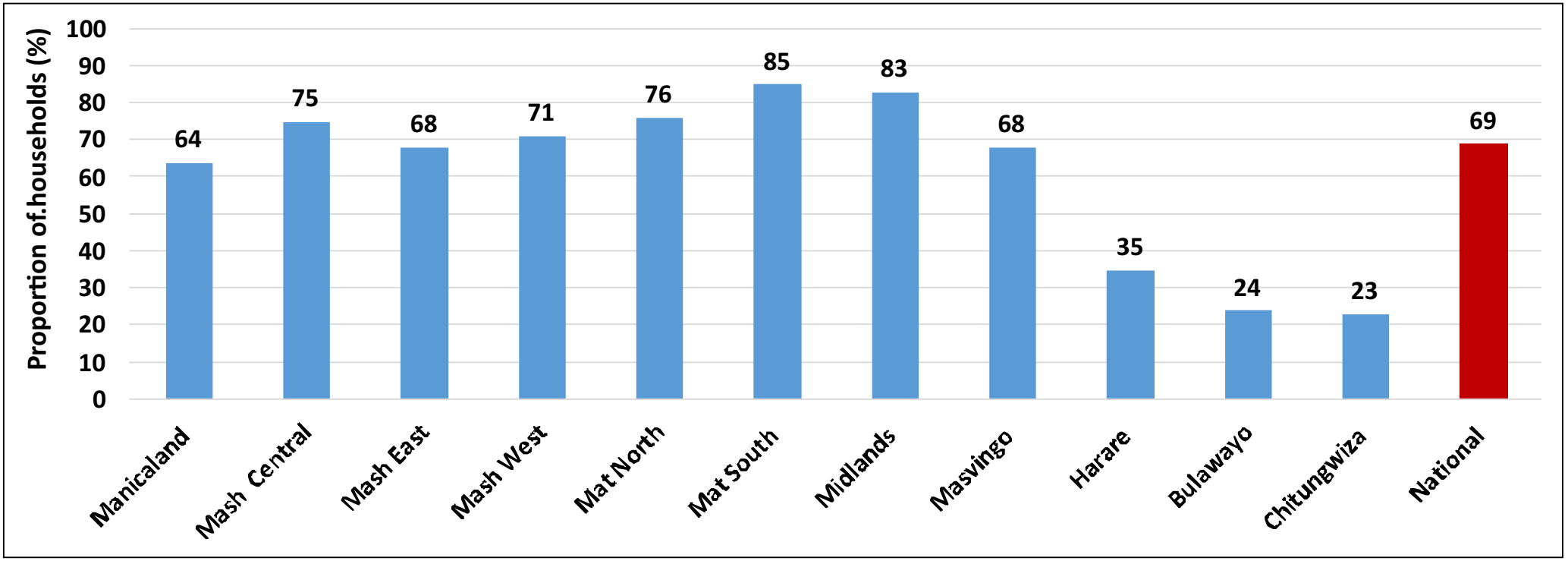
- All districts were receiving assistance from Government.
- Only 15 districts had a coverage of at least 80% and above.
- The lowest coverage was reported in Hurungwe.

Source of Support



- Nationally, 69% of the sampled households received social assistance from different sources.
- Government was the major source of social assistance reaching out to 61% of the households and the church being the least with a coverage of 2%.

Households which Received Support October - December 2018



- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households (85%) that received support. The least amongst the rural provinces was Manicaland (64%).
- Households in urban areas received the least support.

Forms of Support by Province

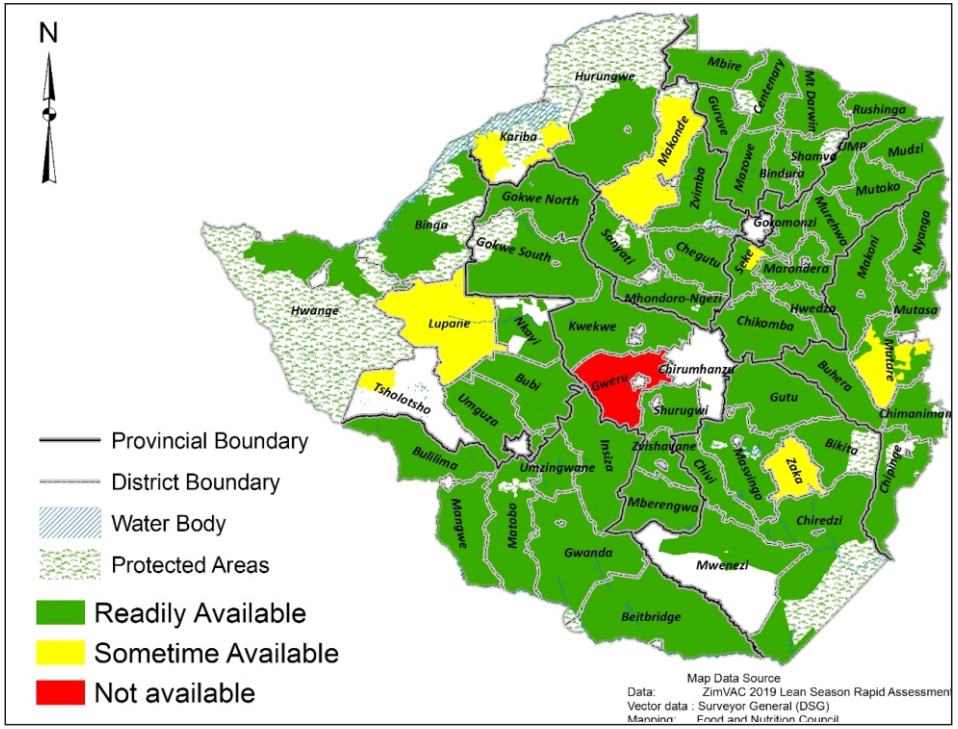
	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock Inputs (%)	Wash Inputs (%)
Manicaland	37	16	53	2	5
Mash Central	49	10	64	3	8
Mash East	42	19	58	3	8
Mash West	48	13	63	3	6
Mat North	59	26	66	5	7
Mat South	75	33	75	8	13
Midlands	55	20	76	2	7
Masvingo	51	24	52	2	9
Harare	37	21	1	1	7
Bulawayo	20	14	2	1	1
Chitungwiza	25	18	2	0	6
National	50	29	58	4	8

- Matabeland South had the highest proportion of households receiving all forms of support except for crop inputs.
- Midlands Province had the highest proportion of households receiving crop inputs (76%).
- Generally, urban provinces received less food and cash support as compared to rural provinces.

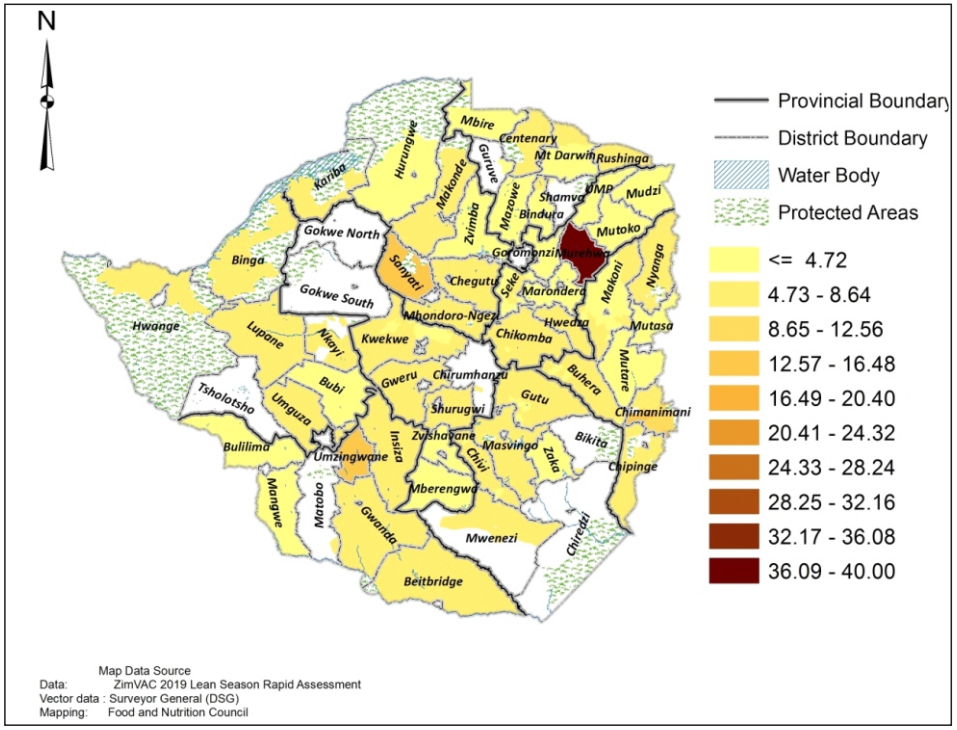
Food Availability, Consumption Patterns Nutrition

Availabiliy of Food Commodities

Cooking Oil Availability



Cooking Oil Prices

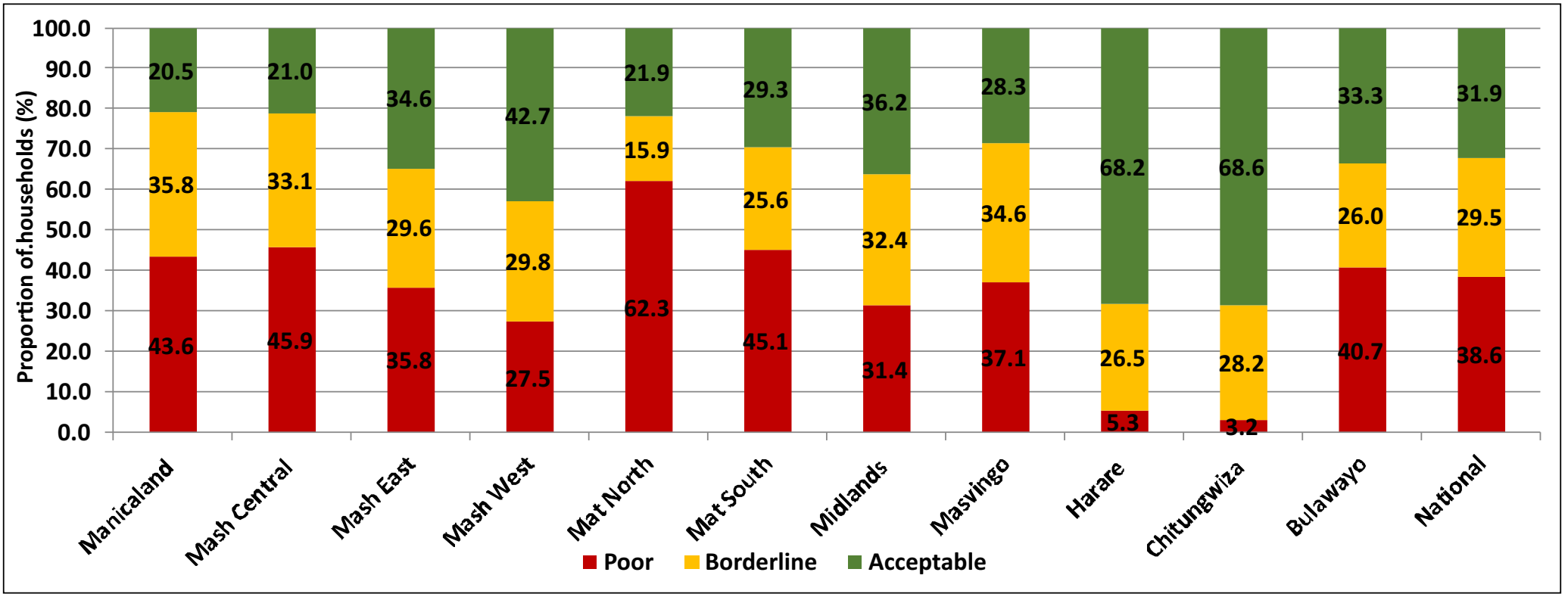


- Cooking oil was readily available across most districts.
- The prices were reported to be higher than the same time last year ranging from $ 4.72 to $ 40.00 per 2 litre bottle.

Food Consumption Score

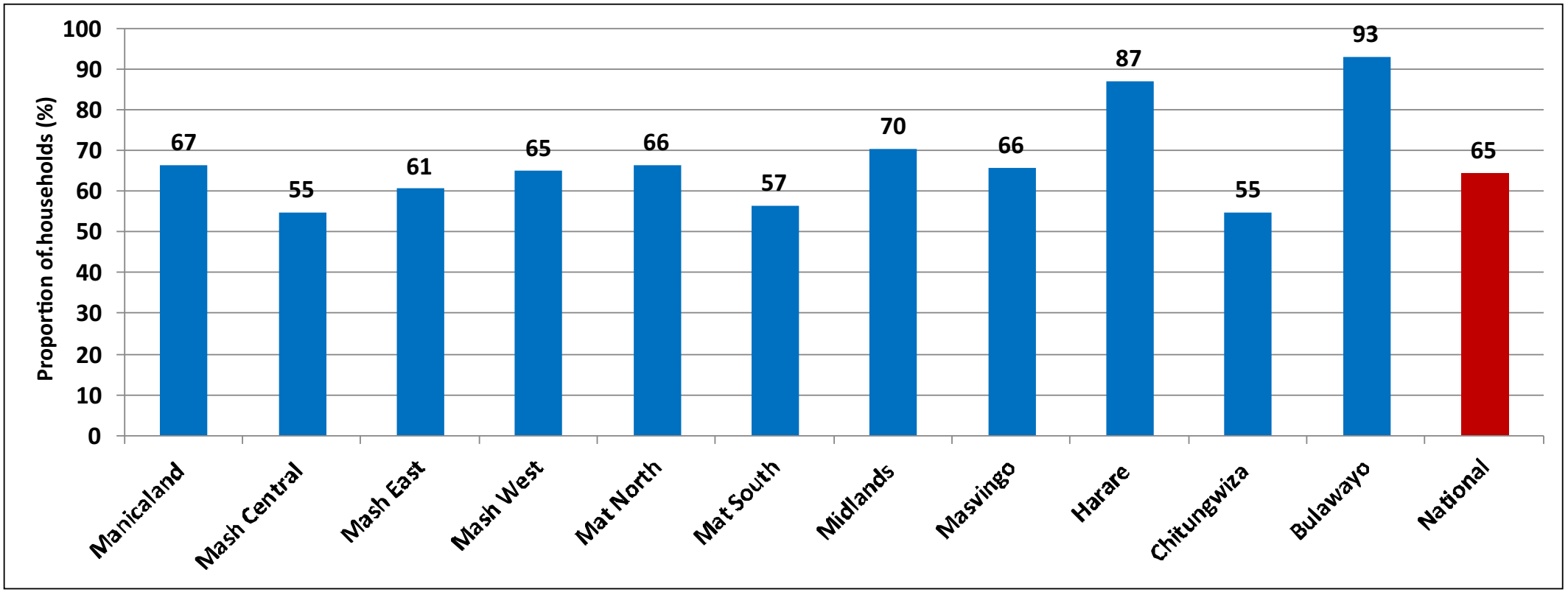
Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
Poor	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
Borderline	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat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

Food Consumption Categories by Province



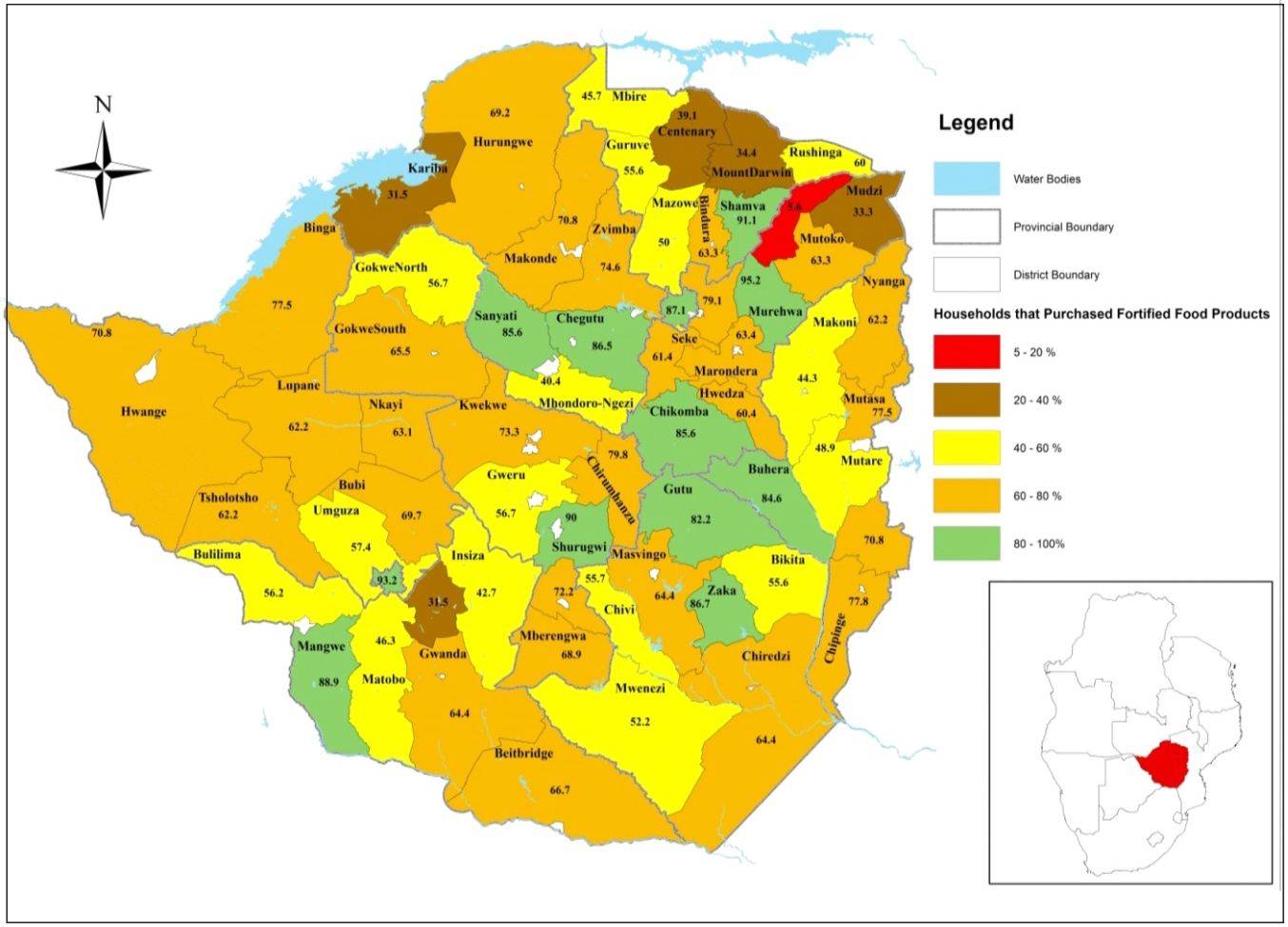
- The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption scores was 31.9%, borderline 29.5% and poor consumption 38.6%.
- Matabeleland North (62.3%) had the highest proportion of households consuming poor diets.

Households that Accessed Fortified Foods



- Access to fortified food products is a proxy to prevention against micronutrient deficiencies and cushions households from hidden hunger.
- Nationally, 65% of the households accessed fortified products. Bulawayo (93%) and Harare (87%) had the highest number of households.
- Approximately 10% of the households could not be ascertained whether they were accessing fortified foods during the time of the survey.

Access to Fortified Products by District



- Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe (5%) had the least proportion of households with access to fortified foods.
- Households living in districts with limited access to fortified foods are at an increased risk of micronutrient deficiences and lack the cushion provided through fortification of staples.

FORTIFIED FOOD
PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVES

National Strategic Grain Reserves

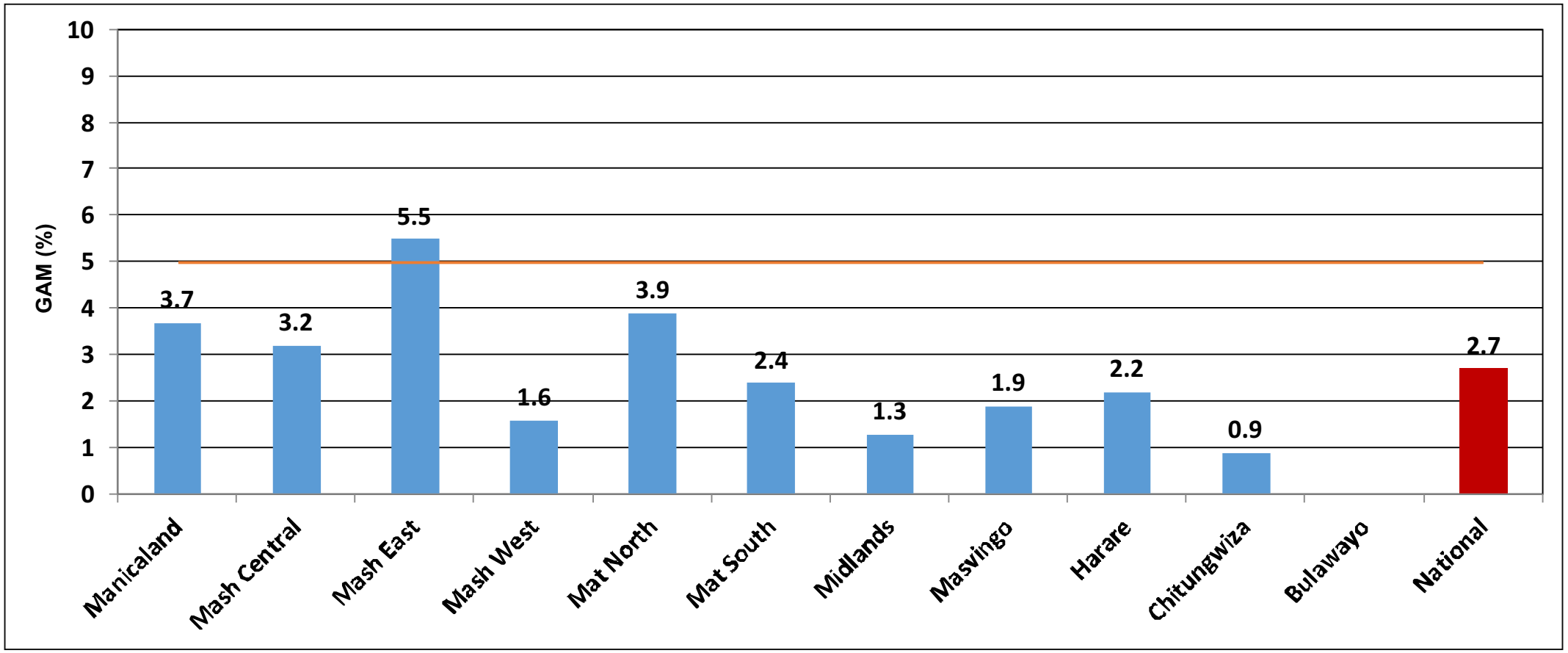
Cereal Stocks In Strategic Grain Reserves at 03/01/19

Province	White Maize (MT)	Yellow Maize (MT)	Total Maize (MT)	Wheat (MT)	White Sorghum (MT)	Red Sorghum (MT)	Pearl Millet (MT)
Harare	18 059	1 436	18 801	27 325	956	7 807	6 763
Mashonaland Central	173 969	207	174 176	21 661	21 630	263	9
Mashonaland West	477 111	3 453	480 550	37 596	2 684	3 286	7 375
Mashonaland East	75 831	222	76 044	14 343	4 343	16 619	34
Manicaland	109 833	483	110 313	15 645	5 972	9 405	8 829
Masvingo	48 996	226	49 222	544	858	2 942	5 116
Midlands	109 863	212	109 669	2 726	398	250	1 493
Bulawayo	52 309	1	21 309	7 954	205	2 755	13
Matabeleland South	5 499	9	5 508	30	4	70	261
Matabeleland North	22 779	3	22 782	17	217	171	371
National	**1 094 249**	**6 252**	**1 100 501**	**127 841**	**37 267**	**43 568**	**30 264**

(Source: GMB)

- Total cereal stocks amount to **1 339 441 MT** against a cereal requirement of **29 890.672MT** for a projected **2 423 568 people** (from 2018 ZimVAC assessment) who will be food insecure during the peak hunger period January to March 2019.
- Cereal stock in strategic grain reserves was therefore enough to meet cereal requirements during the peak hunger period.

Provincial Global Acute Malnutrition by MUAC

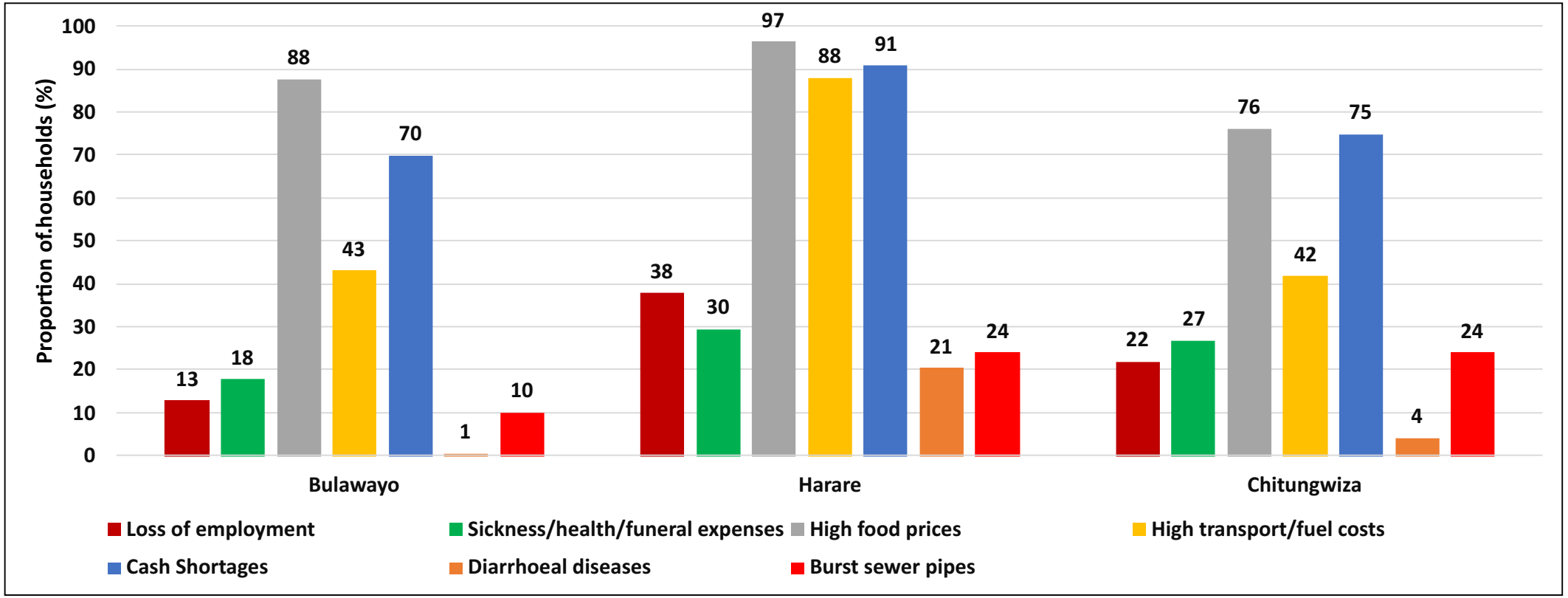


- Nationally, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) by MUAC was at 2.7%.
- Mashonaland East (5.5%) was the only province with a GAM above the 5% cut-off to trigger emergency response.

Shocks and Hazards

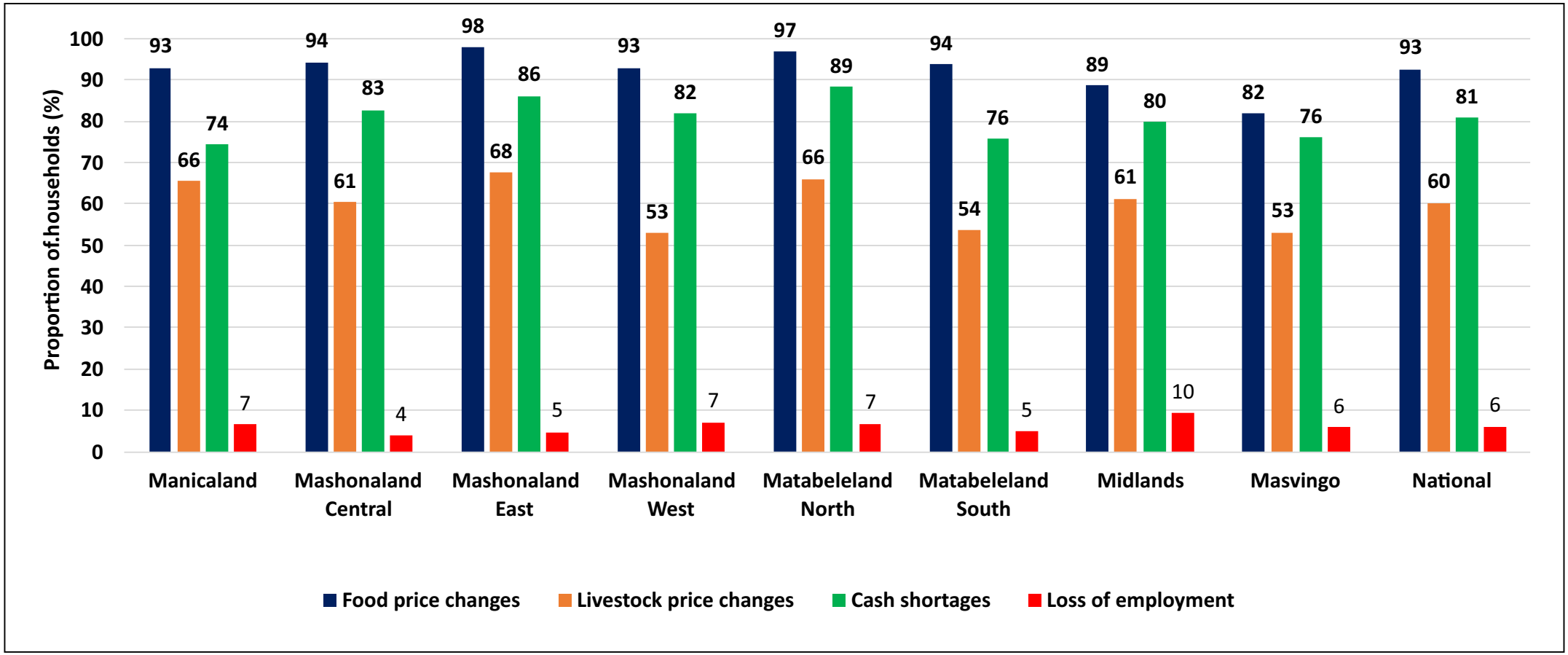
To analyse the resilience capacity of households and ability to cope with shocks

Shocks and Hazards in Urban Areas



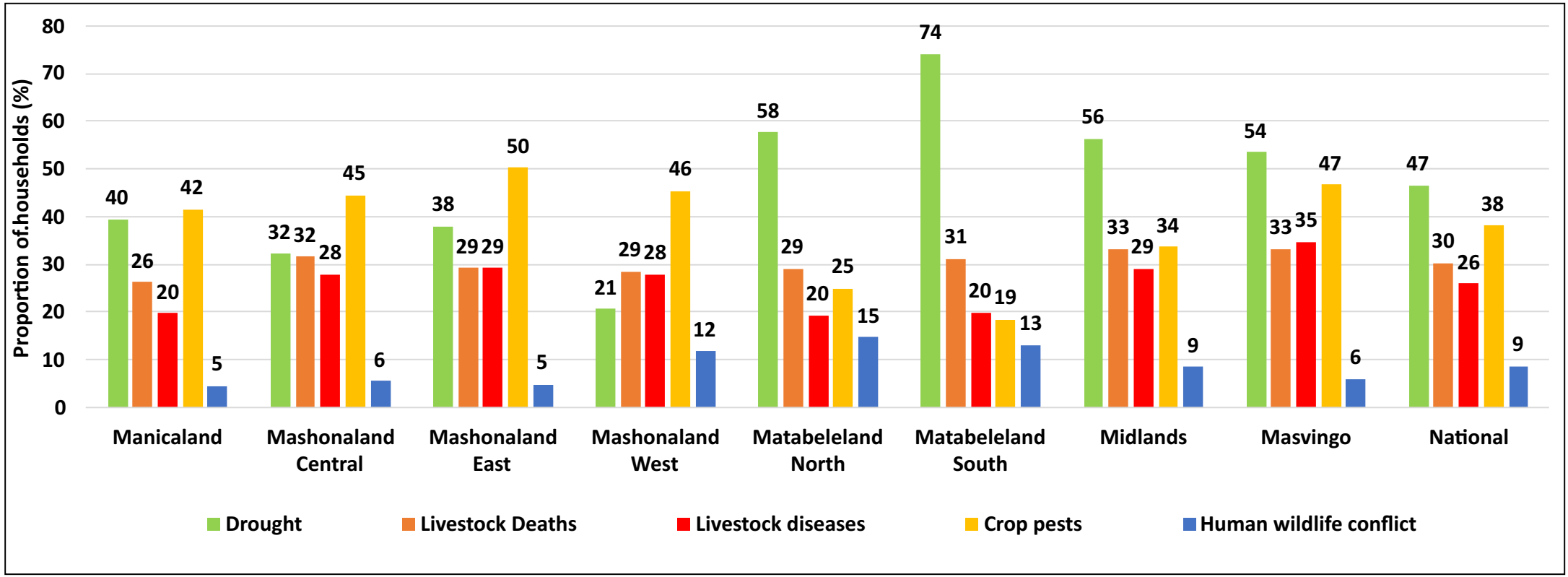
- Economic shocks remain the most prevalent shocks affecting households in urban areas.
- High food prices and high transport/fuel costs were the most common shocks reported by the majority of sampled households.
- Burst sewer pipes and diarrheal diseases were also reported by sampled households.

Economic Related Shocks in Rural Areas



- The most prevalent economic shocks reported by rural households were food price changes (93%) and cash shortages (81%).
- Nationally, 60% of sampled households reported to have experienced livestock price changes with the highest being Mashonaland East (68%) Manicaland and Matabeleland North both (66%).

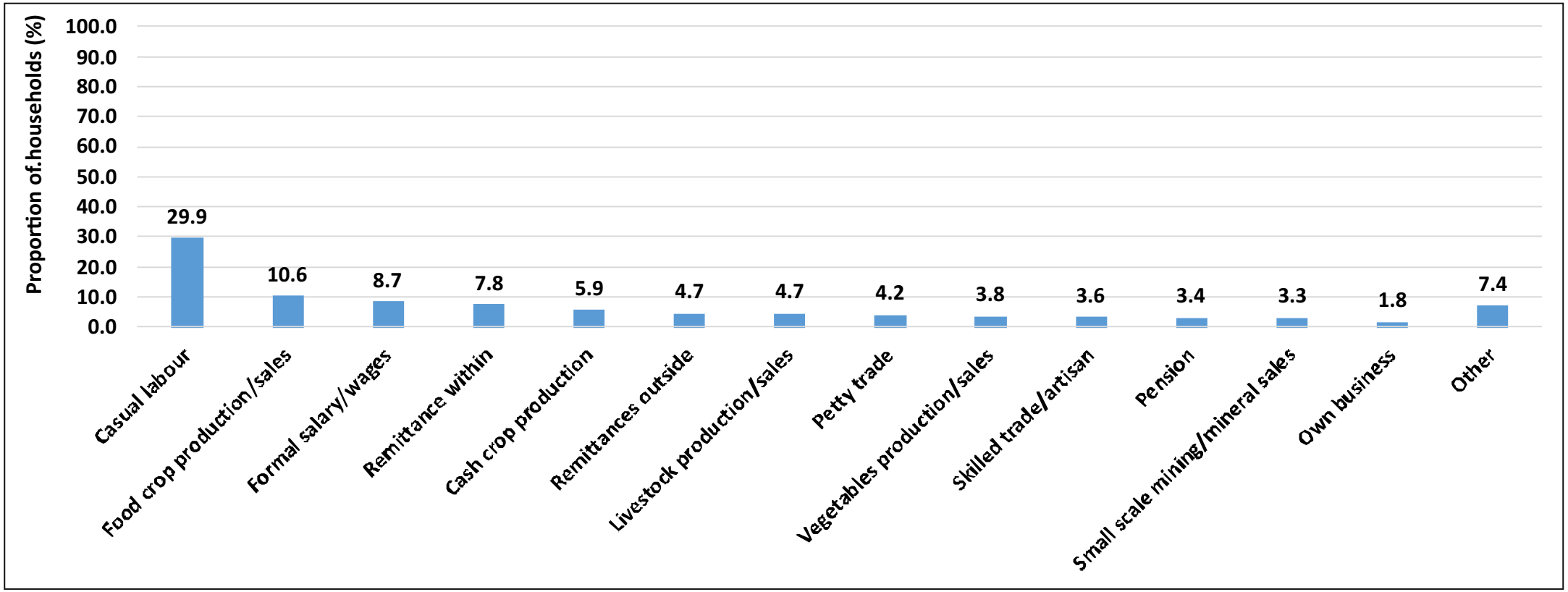
Other Shocks and Hazards in Rural Areas



- Nationally, the most prevalent shocks and hazards were drought (47%), crop pests(38%) and livestock deaths (30%).
- Provinces impacted most by drought were Matabeleland South (74%), Matabeleland North (58%), Midlands (56%), Masvingo (54%) and parts of Manicaland (40%).
- The prevalence of crop pests and livestock diseases remains a threat to household food security. Mashonaland East had the highest prevalence of crop pests (50%) and Masvingo had the highest prevalence of livestock diseases (35%).
- Matabeleland North reported the highest occurrence of human-wildlife conflict (15%).

Income and Expenditure

Sources of Income



- Nationally, casual labour was reported as the most important income source by 29.9% of the households followed by food crop production (10.6%).
- About 8% of households reported other sources as the most important. These includes beer brewing, rentals and fishing among others.

Food Security

To update the state of food and nutrition security within the rural and urban areas.

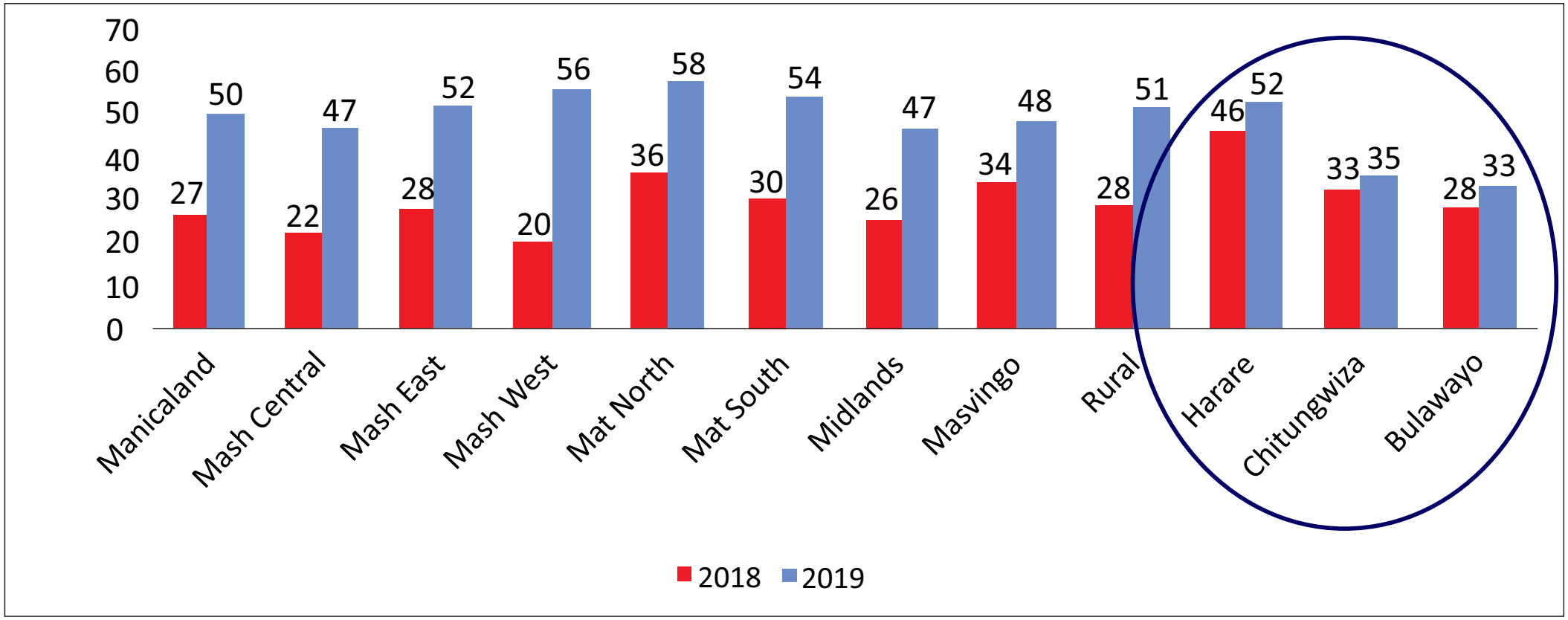
Analytical Approach

- The food insecurity analysis was an update of the Urban and Rural livelihoods assessment undertaken in January and April 2018.

- The update was based on the food basket cost of November 2018.

- The update was done in such a way that the food basket used in January and April 2018 for the aforementioned assessments was replaced with the district food basket cost that obtained during the month of November 2018.

Food Insecurity Update



- The food insecurity prevalence is 51% for the rural households, an increase from 28% projected in 2018.
- Matabeleland North (58%) has the highest proportion of food insecure households while Mashonaland Central and Midlands (47%) have the lowest.
- Food insecurity prevalence in urban areas has also increased. In Harare it increased from 46% to 52%, Chitungwiza from 33% to 35% and in Bulawayo from 28% to 33%.

Cereal Requirements - Rural

	Food Insecure Proportion	Food Insecure Population	Monthly Cereal Requirements	Monthly Cereal Costs	13 Months Cereals (MT)	13 Months Cereal Cost USD
Manicaland	50.2	767151	9459	3,688,999	122,967	47,956,992
Mashonaland Central	46.8	520048	6412	2,500,753	83,358	32,509,795
Mashonaland East	51.8	551410	6799	2,651,566	88,386	34,470,352
Mashonaland West	56.3	658956	8125	3,168,724	105,624	41,193,407
Matabeleland North	57.9	370584	4569	1,782,026	59,401	23,166,342
Matabeleland South	53.8	330346	4073	1,588,532	52,951	20,650,922
Midlands	47.1	585611	7221	2,816,026	93,868	36,608,338
Masvingo	48.4	667575	8231	3,210,166	107,006	41,732,158
National	**51.4**	**4496268**	**55439**	**USD 21,621,203**	**720,707**	**USD 281,075,637**

- Cumulatively, the food insecure rural households require a total of **720,707** MT of cereal to meet their needs over 13 months.

Cost of Pulses and Oils (USD) - Rural

Province	Food Insecure Proportion	Food Insecure Population	Monthly Cost of Pulses and Oils (USD)	13 Months Cost of Pulses and Oils (USD)
Manicaland	50.2	767,151	7,671,511	99,729,640
Mashonaland Central	46.8	520,048	5,200,477	67,606,204
Mashonaland East	51.8	551,410	5,514,101	71,683,308
Mashonaland West	56.3	658,956	6,589,564	85,664,332
Matabeleland North	57.9	370,584	3,705,838	48,175,894
Matabeleland South	53.8	330,346	3,303,455	42,944,917
Midlands	47.1	585,611	5,856,107	76,129,386
Masvingo	48.4	667,575	6,675,746	86,784,698
National	**51.4**	**4,496,268**	**USD 44,962,678**	**USD 584,514,811**

- The cost of pulses and oils for the rural households, is **USD 584,514,811.**

Cereal Requirements - Urban

City/Town	Food Insecure Proportion	Food Insecure Population	Monthly Cereal Requirements	Monthly Cereal Costs	13 Months Cereals (MT)	13 Months Cereal Cost USD
Bulawayo	33.2	230,252	2,839	1,107,213	36,907	14,393,772
Mutare Urban	40.3	142,788	1,761	686,625	22,887	8,926,124
Rusape	25.2	14,427	178	69,375	2,313	901,880
Bindura Urban	39.4	32,496	401	156,265	5,209	2,031,447
Marondera Urban	47.9	56,081	691	269,678	8,989	3,505,820
Chinhoyi	31.9	183,965	2,268	884,634	29,488	11,500,248
Kadoma	55	96,043	1,184	461,840	15,395	6,003,925
Chegutu Urban	58.8	56,176	693	270,131	9,004	3,511,708
Kariba Urban	44.4	22,178	273	106,649	3,555	1,386,441
Norton	60.2	76,841	947	369,503	12,317	4,803,544
Karoi	56.3	30,414	375	146,251	4,875	1,901,262
Hwange Urban	53.5	37,909	467	182,294	6,076	2,369,825
Victoria Falls	36.2	23,071	284	110,940	3,698	1,442,225
Gwanda Urban	38.1	14,553	179	69,983	2,333	909,773
Beitbridge Urban	32.2	25,623	316	123,212	4,107	1,601,754
Plumtree	61.2	13,437	166	64,612	2,154	839,959
Gweru Urban	28.2	84,070	1,037	404,267	13,476	5,255,468
Kwekwe Urban	34.1	64,976	801	312,449	10,415	4,061,832
Redcliff	42.5	28,836	356	138,665	4,622	1,802,646
Zvishavane Urban	30.9	26,393	325	126,917	4,231	1,649,915
Shurugwi Urban	27.3	11,293	139	54,305	1,810	705,964
Gokwe Town	41.9	19,033	235	91,524	3,051	1,189,810
Masvingo Urban	26.1	43,318	534	208,302	6,943	2,707,925
Chiredzi Urban	27.3	15,697	194	75,484	2,516	981,291
Harare Urban	47.7	1,337,882	16,496	6,433,473	214,449	83,635,147
Chitungwiza	35.2	237,204	2,925	1,140,642	38,021	14,828,343
Epworth	62.1	196,387	2,421	944,367	31,479	12,276,776
All Urban	**40.6**	**3,006,238**	**38,486**	**USD 15,009,602**	**500,320**	**USD 195,124,828**

- Cumulatively, the food insecure urban households require a total of 500,320 MT of cereal to meet their needs over 13 months.

Cost of Pulses and Oils (USD) - Urban

City/Town	% food Insecure	Food Insecure Population	Monthly Cost of Pulses and Oils (USD)	13 Months Cost of Pulses and Oils (USD)
Bulawayo	33.2	230,252	2,302,521	29,932,772
Mutare Urban	40.3	142,788	1,427,881	18,562,448
Rusape	25.2	14,427	144,271	1,875,518
Bindura Urban	39.4	32,496	324,963	4,224,525
Marondera Urban	47.9	56,081	560,814	7,290,578
Chinhoyi	31.9	183,965	1,839,654	23,915,503
Kadoma	55	96,043	960,427	12,485,548
Chegutu Urban	58.8	56,176	561,756	7,302,823
Kariba Urban	44.4	22,178	221,784	2,883,194
Norton	60.2	76,841	768,406	9,989,279
Karoi	56.3	30,414	304,138	3,953,796
Hwange Urban	53.5	37,909	379,092	4,928,202
Victoria Falls	36.2	23,071	230,708	2,999,200
Gwanda Urban	38.1	14,553	145,533	1,891,931
Beitbridge Urban	32.2	25,623	256,227	3,330,951
Plumtree	61.2	13,437	134,365	1,746,749
Gweru Urban	28.2	84,070	840,699	10,929,083
Kwekwe Urban	34.1	64,976	649,757	8,446,841
Redcliff	42.5	28,836	288,363	3,748,718
Zvishavane Urban	30.9	26,393	263,931	3,431,104
Shurugwi Urban	27.3	11,293	112,931	1,468,097
Gokwe Town	41.9	19,033	190,330	2,474,287
Masvingo Urban	26.1	43,318	433,177	5,631,304
Chiredzi Urban	27.3	15,697	156,974	2,040,658
Harare Urban	47.7	1,337,882	13,378,819	173,924,652
Chitungwiza	35.2	237,204	2,372,038	30,836,491
Epworth	62.1	196,387	1,963,872	25,530,342
All Urban	**40.6**	**3,006,238**	**30,062,377**	**390,810,903**

Total Urban and Rural Requirements

	Food Insecure Proportion	Food Insecure Population	Monthly Cost of Cereals (USD)	Monthly Cost of Pulses and Oil (USD)	Monthly Food Basket Cost	13 Months Food Basket Cost
Rural	51.4	4496268	21,621,203	44,962,678	66,583,881	865,590,448
Urban	40.6	3006238	15,009,602	30,062,377	45,071,979	585,935,731
Total		**7,502,505**	**USD 36,630,805**	**USD 75,025,055**	**USD 111,655,860**	**USD 1,451,526,179**

- A total of USD 1.452 billion was required to procure cereal and other complementary food items for the food insecure rural and urban households.

Food Insecurity By District - Rural

Masvingo	Food Insecure Proportion (%)	Mashonaland West	Food Insecure Proportion (%)
Bikita	54.2	Chegutu	51.3
Chiredzi	47.9	Hurungwe	59.1
Chivi	38	Kariba	54.8
Gutu	45.3	Makonde	59.7
Masvingo	54.1	Zvimba	48.1
Mwenezi	59.8	Mhondoro-Ngezi	57.1
Zaka	39.2	Sanyati	64
Mashonaland East	**Food Insecure Proportion (%)**	**Manicaland**	**Food Insecure Proportion (%)**
Chikomba	46.7	Buhera	64.2
Goromonzi	54.8	Chimanimani	42
Hwedza	51.9	Chipinge	47.4
Marondera	51.7	Makoni	47.2
Mudzi	63.9	Mutare	47.4
Murewa	44.3	Mutasa	52.3
Mutoko	55	Nyanga	50.8
Seke	47		
UMP	50.5		

Food Insecurity By District - Rural

Midlands	Food Insecure Proportion (%)	Mashonaland Central	Food Insecure Proportion (%)
Chirumhanzu	47.5	Bindura	42.4
Gokwe North	56.3	Muzarabani	49.2
Gokwe South	39.7	Guruve	50.6
Gweru	43.3	Mazowe	48.8
Kwekwe	46.3	Mt Darwin	47.9
Mberengwa	52.3	Rushinga	52.5
Shurugwi	51.5	Shamva	37.1
Zvishavane	40.2	Mbire	46
Matabeleland North	**Food Insecure Proportion (%)**	**Matabeleland South**	**Food Insecure Proportion (%)**
Binga	66.4	Beitbridge	53.4
Bubi	52.2	Bulilima	63.4
Hwange	56.6	Mangwe	58.3
Lupane	46.7	Gwanda	50.4
Nkayi	54.8	Insiza	42.7
Tsholotsho	64.6	Matobo	52.6
Umguza	64	Umzingwane	55.4

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Considering the proportion of households drinking water from unimproved sources without treating , the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) should scale up Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) activities complemented by unfreezing of health personnel posts critical in implementing this.

- Scaling-up of innovative approaches like use of renewable energy sources (solar) is recommended for improved communal water points and improved piped water into households.

- There has been a general increase in the market prices for food and livestock. The government of Zimbabwe should consider enforcing strategies that cushion the communities from the prevailing high prices of basic food commodities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Mashonaland East (5.5%) was the only province with a GAM above the 5% cut-off to trigger emergency response. The Government of Zimbabwe and its partners should consider intervening with high impact strategies such as early detection interventions to prevent further deterioration of the nutrition status of children under five in the province.

- The Government of Zimbabwe and partners should initiate and strengthen programmes for the identification and treatment of both severe and moderate malnutrition in both urban and rural areas to maintain rates below global thresholds.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Casual labour (29.9%) and food crop production (10.6%) were reported as the most important sources of income for rural households whilst formal salary/wages was reported as the most important source of income for urban households (25.3%).

- As these sources are vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change and variability, there is need to promote income diversification for both urban and rural households.

- There is need to direct efforts towards formation of ISALs and strategies to improve financial inclusion to improve the level of household income. The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation should take a leading role in supporting formation of ISALs and accessibility of loans to communities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- There has been a general increase in the proportion of households that engaged in at least one livelihoods based coping strategy from 39% to 46% in 2019 with the highest proportions being in urban areas. This indicates a deteriorated food access situation which led to more coping than the previous year. The government should consider innovative resilience strategies that are pro-urban to be adopted and employed to cushion urban populations from ongoing food consumption gaps.

- The livelihood coping strategies in rural areas remain a cause for concern as depletion of assets directly reduces future productivity and affects household's ability to cope with future shocks which may lead to future food consumption gaps. Resilient livelihood activities are therefore recommended for all rural households.

- Nationally, 65% of the households had access to fortified products. The Government should intervene to increase the access to fortified foods by households in order to mitigate against the effects of hidden hunger.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption scores was 31.9%, borderline 29.5% and poor consumption 38.6%. There was a notable decline in the proportion of households consuming acceptable diets and an increase in households having poor food consumption which shows deterioration in household food security in Jan 2019 compared to May 2018. There is need for the Government to implement both nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions that promote quality diets.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Performance of the 2018/2019 rainfall season between October 2018 and January 2019 was characterized by poor and erratic rainfall. Most parts of the country experienced at least one dry spell of more than 10 days. Rainfall totals for the country have been less than 75% of the long term average. The rainfall forecast for the last half of the season- January, February and March (JFM) is normal to below normal. If all provinces were to experience on average below normal rainfall, rain-fed maize crops in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Masvingo would receive on average less water than required for maize crop. Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, and Mashonaland Central provinces would also be at risk of not meeting their water requirements for rain-fed maize.

- Basal and top dressing fertilizers were generally not readily available on the local markets across the country during the time of the assessment and this could negatively affect crop yields this season. Efforts to urgently avail fertilizer for the market should be made.

- In most parts of the country small grain and legume seed was not readily available on the local market. In this regard, Seed Associations should also be included in agricultural input programmes to ensure the availability of appropriate inputs on local markets.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Livestock make a significant contribution to the livelihoods of many households, particularly in the southern districts. Grazing across the whole country is generally poor and inadequate. Significant and unusual livestock deaths due to drought have been recorded in several districts in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Masvingo.

- There is an urgent need to strengthen and expand current livestock support programmes to prevent further deterioration of livestock condition and deaths. These include- community feedlot facilities, support to farmers with hay cutting and bailing equipment at subsidized prices, subsidized feed sales and sale points close to farmers. In addition livestock support programmes should be intensified to ensure that all critical facets (food, water and drugs) are adequately covered.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Communities are faced with a host of shocks and hazards both natural and anthropogenic impacting negatively on their ability to access their food and non-food requirements. The situation is being compounded by the recurrent under performing macro- economic situation with price increases and cash shortages being one of the immediate areas requiring the attention of Government and stakeholders.

- Government sectors and departments need to continually update databases on the impact of shocks and hazards in order to continue monitoring and advocating for more attention to be given to reducing the impact of shocks and hazards on the livelihoods of communities (SENDAI Framework for disaster risk reduction).

Conclusions and Recommendations

- There is a need to monitor the evolution of the season and its implication on the food security situation between this assessment and the 2019 Rural and Urban Livelihoods Assessments .

- Although all the districts in the country benefitted from food assistance interventions, these are not covering all the people in need and often the level of assistance is not completely covering the food gap at household level. It is therefore recommended that the coverage and adequacy of food assistance programmes be scaled up in accordance with revised food insecurity projections.

- An increasing trend in food insecurity levels in urban areas calls for an urgent intervention from both government and partners to avert the situation from deteriorating.

- There is need to ensure multi-sectoral participation of all relevant Government structures during all stages of implementation. All emergency food assistance programming should include elements that support resilience building activities, including community works programmes.

- There is an urgent need to revive and improve the Grain Marketing Board district depots and selling points, especially in all districts to prevent any possible reductions in access to and availability of staple cereals.

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