



GWANDA District

Food and Nutrition Security Profile



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FOREWORD

The Government of Zimbabwe aims to meet national targets under the National Development Strategy 1, Sustainable Development Goals, including Zero Hunger by 2030, with the support of the United Nations World Food Programme and other development partners. Evidence and knowledge are the starting point to ending hunger and improving nutrition. Hence policies and programmes need to be based on accurate and reliable data and information to make a difference in people's lives. In view of the above, the District Profiles were developed to provide evidence-based information for programming by the Government, UN, and development partners. This process was led and hosted by the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC), supported by WFP, and with the participation of Government Ministries and NGOs through a multi stakeholder consultative process.

The country has continued to experience climatic and economic shocks. While recurring droughts, erratic rainfall, and poor harvests have been the drivers of food insecurity in rural areas, economic challenges remain as one of the major drivers of food inaccessibility in urban areas. From, these existing challenges were further compounded by the effects of Covid-19 and the lockdown measures which were put in place to curb its spread. To understand the evolving changes, it was necessary to update all the 60 rural District Profiles to more accurately identify and address the humanitarian and programmatic needs in Zimbabwe. The 2016 District Profiles had reached their full life span of five years.

The District Profiles were compiled using other existing information products such as the ZimVAC Livelihoods Assessment Reports, national Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP), and community action plans, among other key reference documents. The district profiles provide ward-level analysis as well as insights for programmatic needs at sub-district level. These are developed as a public good to support Government, UN and developmental partners in the design, targeting and implementation of humanitarian, resilience and development programmes.

These risk profiles provide a comprehensive sub district level overview focusing on infrastructure, water and sanitation, communication, livelihoods, poverty, climate, crops, livestock, markets, hazards and shocks, development indicators and priorities, food and nutrition security conditions, and recommendations.

It is my greatest hope that all stakeholders will find this updated information useful in further refining their programmes and targeting criteria for the development of Zimbabwe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Sincere appreciation goes to the Provincial Coordinators, District Food and Nutrition Security Committee and District Drought Relief Committee members for participating in the drafting of the profiles and the valuable information provided.

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ACRONYMS & Abbreviations

AARDS	Agricultural Advisory Rural Development Services
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CA	Communal Area
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
DDC	District Development Coordinators Office
DDF	District Development Fund
DFID	Department for International Development
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EMA	Environmental Management Authority
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
Ha	Hectare
HH	Household
LPD	Livestock Production Department
LSCA	Large-Scale Commercial Area
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development
MOHCC	Ministry of Health and Child care
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NR	New Resettlement
RDC	Rural District Council
RWIMS	Rural Wash Information Management System
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SSCA	Small Scale Commercial Area
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme
ZAR	South African Rand
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

1. General Characteristics Of The District

1. Map Of District

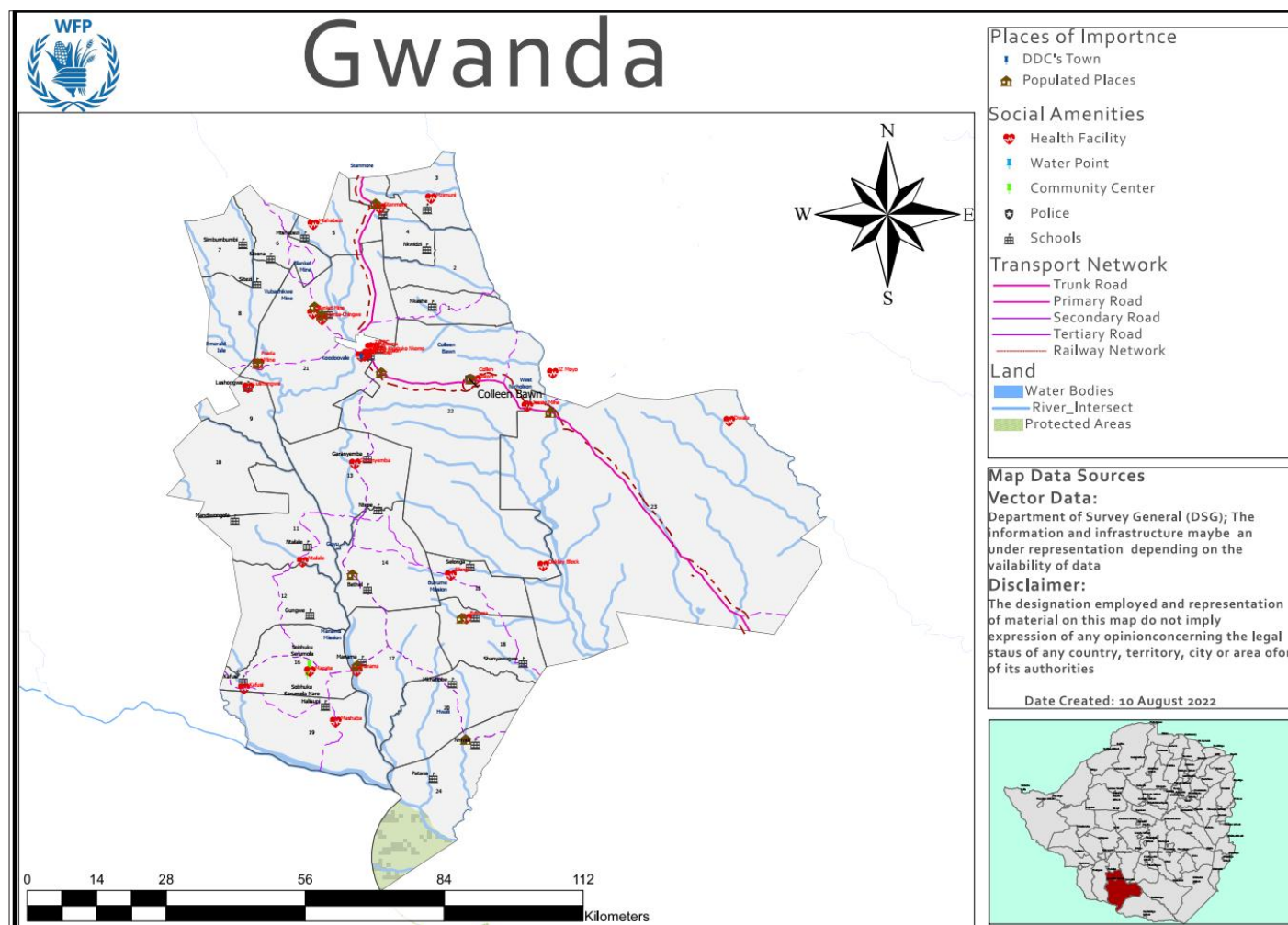


Figure 1: Map Of Gwanda District (OCHA, 2010) (Source: OCHA, 2010)

1.1. Administrative Information

Gwanda District is located in Matabeleland South province, along the Bulawayo - Beitbridge highway and is about one hundred and twenty-six kilometres from Bulawayo. Gwanda District houses the Provincial capital as well as being the administrative Centre of Matabeleland South province. The district shares boundaries with Umzingwane District to the North, Insiza District to the North-East, Mberengwa and Mwenezi to the East, Beitbridge to the south, Botswana to the South-West and Matobo District to the North West. The district has 19 communal wards, one old resettlement ward, 3 A1 and A2 wards and one Small-Scale Commercial Farming Area ward. The majority of the large-scale commercial farms are found in Ward 21, 22 and 23. Gwanda covers a total surface area of 46,276 square kilometers, of which 40,593 square kilometers (88%) is communal land. For administrative purposes it is divided into 3 constituencies namely Gwanda North (Wards 1-11), Central (13, 14, 21, 22 and 23) and Gwanda South (12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 24).

1.1.1. Traditional Leadership

The district has 5 communal areas under the jurisdiction of 5 substantive traditional chiefs namely Mzimuni (Chief Masuku), Wenlock (Chief Mathema), Bolamba (Chief Mathe), Dibilashaba (Chief Marupi) and Garanyemba (Chief Nhlanga) communal lands. The district has 4 major spoken languages, Sotho, Ndebele, IsiJahunda, and Venda.

1.2. Population Information

Table 1: Gwanda Population Projections By Ward

Ward No.	Ward Name	Total Number Of Households (2021)	Population (2012)	Projected 2021 Population
1	Nkashe	1,340	5,155	6,700
2	Datata	945	3,722	4,725
3	Mzimuni	847	3,616	4,235
4	Shake	1,441	4,716	7,205
5	Enyandeni	388	1,299	1,940
6	Mtshazo	1,363	4,902	6,815
7	Simbumbumbu	760	3,135	3,800
8	Mayezane	1,594	5,912	7,970
9	Lushongwe	914	3,729	4,570
10	Shape	101	363	505
11	Ntalale	1,288	4,591	6,400
12	Gungwe	1272	5,096	6,360
13	Garanyemba	2,029	7,811	10, 145
14	Bhalula	1,368	5,867	6,840
15	Selonga	1,283	4,697	6415
16	Kafusi	1271	5,471	6,355
17	Bengo	1,500	5,955	7,500
18	Sukwi	1,467	5,523	7,335
19	Mlambapele	1,251	5,430	6,255
20	Mhaliphe	1,160	4,585	5,800
21	Insindi	536	7,552	2,680
22	Thornwood	748	7,355	3,740
23	Dwala	1,270	6,597	6,350
24	Nhwali	797	2,699	3,985
Total			115, 778	
Source: Zimbabwe Census Report, 2012. 2021 Projected population based on calculation.				
For updated population figures, refer to Zimstat Census report (https://www.zimstat.co.zw)				

1.3. Vegetation Characteristics

Gwanda North is characterised by savanna woodlands with vast (Mangwe) trees and a few *Acacia* species. Wards 21 and 22 also have a good cover of Mopane Woodlands. Gwanda South is mostly characterised by Mopane and a lot of *Acacia* bushes and big *Acacia* trees along the river beds. There are patches of sweet grasses which does not last as livestock prefer it best to the other types of grasses available in the area. Other environmental features common include gullies, invasive species, illegal mining and stream bank cultivation.

1.3.1. Gullies

Gwanda District has gullies covering an estimated area of 531.07 ha. The wards most affected include Wards 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 17, 19 and 14 in that order. The major causes for gully erosion in the district are chemical erosion due to runoff, illegal gold panning, the opening of unwanted paths and access routes by livestock and humans and road culverts.



Figure 2: Village 5 Gully Threatening Homesteads (Left) And Enyandeni Ward 5 In Gwanda District (Right)
(Source: EMA, 2022)

1.3.2. Invasive Species

The invasive alien species found in the district are *Opuntia Fulgida*, *Lantana Camara* and *Jointed Cactus*; *Opuntia Fulgida* being the most dominant species (**Figure 3**). The district was actually the first to record the occurrence of *Opuntia Fulgida* in the province. *Opuntia Umbrikata*, not yet declared an invasive species in the country, is beginning to threaten parts of the district for instance Big Ben Farm in Ward 22 but its levels are insignificant relative to the other species. The total area covered by invasive species in the district is approximately 3075.85 hectares. 95% of these invasive alien species exist on communal land. Affected Wards are 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 (**Figure 3**).

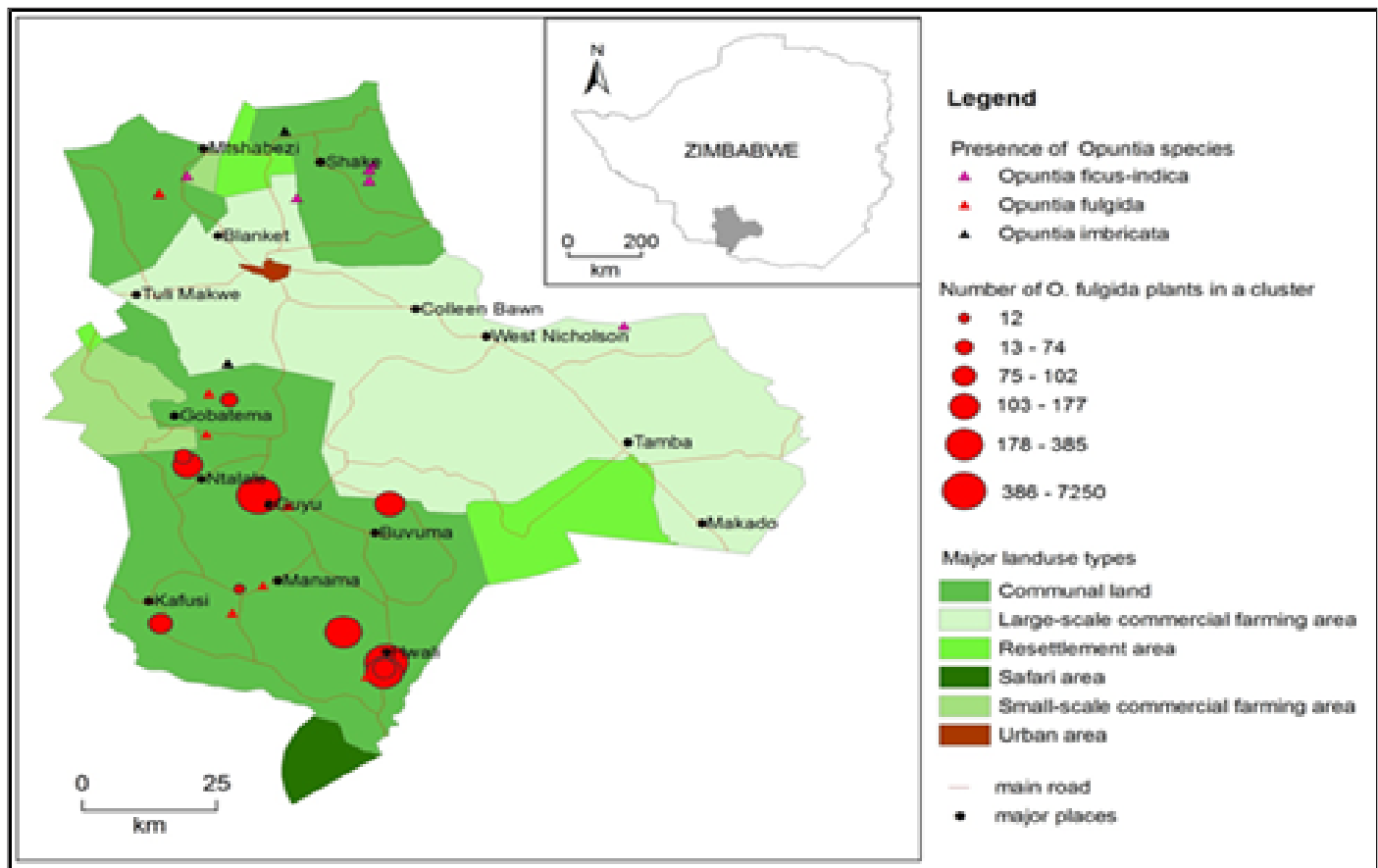


Figure 3: Density Of *Opuntia* Species In Major Land Uses In Gwanda District (EMA, 2022) (Source: EMA 2021)

2. Illegal Panning

Illegal mineral panning of gold, sand, quarry stone and clay is a common activity in the district which has degraded approximately 610 ha in 8 wards (**Figure 4**). The wards most affected by mineral panning are Wards 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 22, 21 and 23.

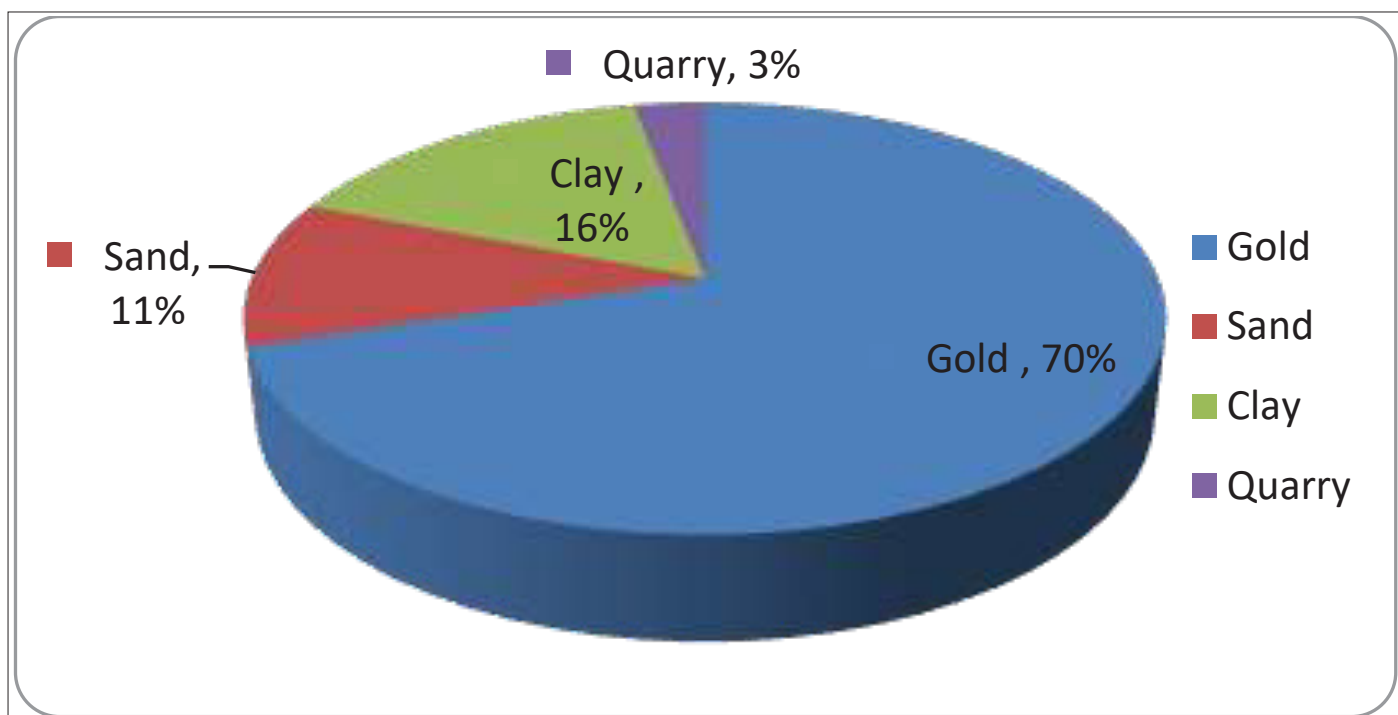


Figure 4: Illegal Mineral Panning In Gwanda District (Source: EMA 2022)

2.1. Stream Bank Cultivation

Stream bank cultivation has also become an issue of concern in the district as communities carry out agricultural activities and projects on stream banks. The driver of stream bank cultivation is mainly drought; which due to the low and erratic rainfall is experienced in the district. Most agricultural activities, due to the aridity of the area, are on stream banks. The total stretch covered by stream bank cultivation in the district is approximately 20.1 kilometres. The most affected water bodies include Tuli River, Umzingwane River, Sibozha River and Kafusi River. The most commonly used fencing material on the gardens is brushwood fence. The wards most affected by stream bank cultivation are Wards 13, 14, 12, 5, 10, 4 and 9.

3. Development Indicators

3.1. Education Information

There are 95 primary schools with 12 satellite primary schools, 26-day secondary schools and 2 boarding schools, 15 secondary schools with Advanced level and 6 satellite secondary schools (**Table 2**). One polytechnic (Joshua Mqabuko) in Gwanda town. Plans are underway to upgrade the institution to a university. There is also one vocational training centre at Guyu and a public service training centre offering formal and informal training. Reasons for school dropouts include lack of resources or cash for food, school fees, appropriate school clothing, teenage pregnancy, long distance to school and also migration of pupils to nearby countries. There is need to scale up support to vulnerable children to enable them to attend school.

Table 2: Schools Data

Ward	Proportion Of Population %	ECD	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	No. Of Dropouts	Electrified Schools	Non Electrified
1	4	5	5	1	5	0	6
2	3	5	5	1	0	0	6
3	3	3	3	1	3	0	4
4	4	4	4	2	3	1	5
5	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
6	4	5	5	2	0	1	6
7	3	4	4	2	0	0	6
8	5	5	5	2	0	0	7
9	3	4	4	2	0	0	6
10	0.3	1	1	0	0	0	1
11	4	6	6	2	5	0	8
12	4	4	4	2	0	0	6
13	7	8	8	1	0	1	8
14	5	5	5	2	6	2	5
15	4	3	3	1	0	1	3
16	5	6	6	2	0	1	7
17	5	6	6	2	10	1	7
18	5	3	3	2	30	0	5
19	5	4	4	1	0	1	4
20	4	4	4	1	0	1	4
21	7	4	4	1	0	2	3
22	6	7	7	1	0	2	6
23	6	5	5	1	5	1	5
24	2	3	3	1	6	1	3
Total	100	105	105	34	73	17	122

Source: Ministry of Education, 2022

3.2. Health Facilities By Type

There are 3 Hospitals, one provincial hospital located in Gwanda Town and two mission hospitals at Manama and Mtshabezi (**Table 3**). There are 18 RDC health centres, 5 Private clinics, 6 government clinic, 2 Poly clinics, ZRP clinic, Prison Clinic and ZNFPC. Gwanda multi-disciplinary school in Gwanda town is providing training services, run by the Ministry of Health and child welfare. The main challenge faced is that of high staff to patients' ratio and more health staff are required in the district for efficient service delivery.

Table 3: Health Facilities In Gwanda

No.	Name Of Health Centre	Ward	Authority (e.g., Council, Government, Private)
1	Silikwe	2	RDC
2	Mzimuni	3	RDC
3	Stanmore	4	Government
4	Mtshabezi Hospital	6	Private
5	Simbumbumbu	7	Government
6	Sitezi	8	RDC
7	Jona Nana	8	Private
8	Makwe	8	Government
9	Lushonkwe	9	RDC
10	Garanyemba	13	RDC
11	Sengezane	14	RDC
12	Ntalale	11	RDC
13	Gungwe	12	Government
14	Mapate	16	RDC
15	Kafusi	16	RDC
16	Mashaba	19	RDC
17	Manama Hospital	17	Private
18	Nhwali	24	Government
19	Buvuma	18	RDC
20	Selonga	15	RDC
21	West Nicholson	23	Private
22	Blanket Mine	21	Private
23	Vumbachikwe Mine	21	Private
24	Collen Bawn Mine	22	Private
25	Jessie Mine	22	Private
26	Gwanda Provincial Hospital	Urban	Government
27	Phakama Poly clinic	Urban	Municipality
28	ZRP Camp Clinic	Urban	Government
29	Prision Clinic	Urban	Government
30	JM Poly Clinic	Urban	Government
31	ZNFPC	Urban	
Source: Ministry of Health			

3.3. Settlement Types

There are nine settlement types in Gwanda. These are Urban, Growth Point, Resettlement area, communal, Estate Farms, Rural Service Centres, Small Scale Commercial Farm and Old Resettlement (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Gwanda Settlement Types

Settlement Type	No. Of Wards
Urban	10
Growth point	0
Resettlement area	3
Communal	19
Estate Farms	1
Rural Service Centres	2
Small scale Commercial Farm	1
Old Resettlement	1
Source: Rural District Council	

4. Other Development Indicators

4.1. Water And Sanitation Information

4.1.1. Water Sources

Gwanda rural has a total of 513 boreholes (374 communities and 149 at institutions), of which 307 (60%) are functioning and 207 are nonfunctional (**Table 5**). Of the nonfunctional 80 have dried up and other reasons such as lack of money to buy spares. There are no projects currently to drill and increase boreholes. Communities need to be trained to perform basic borehole maintenance work.

Table 5: Status Of Boreholes

Ward	Main Water Sources	Functional Boreholes	Nonfunctional Boreholes	Reasons For Nonfunctionality
1	Boreholes, shallow wells	28	14	Collapsed rodes/pipes, undiagnosed
2	Boreholes, shallow wells	18	1	Collapsed rodes
3	Boreholes, shallow wells	12	3	Collapsed rodes/pipes
4	Boreholes, shallow wells	18	7	Collapsed rodes/pipes
5	Boreholes, piped sand abstraction, shallow wells	7	9	Collapsed rodes/pipes
6	Boreholes, shallow wells, piped sand abstraction	18	8	Collapsed rodes/pipes undiagnosed
7	Boreholes	6	13	Collapsed rodes/pipes, undiagnosed
8	Boreholes	12	4	Collapsed rodes/pipes
9	Boreholes	19	3	Collapsed rodes/pipes
10	Boreholes	3	1	Collapsed rodes
11	Boreholes, deep wells	20	9	Collapsed rodes/pipes, undiagnosed
12	Boreholes, deep wells	21	36	Collapsed rodes, undiagnosed
13	Boreholes, deep, shallow wells	4	7	Collapsed rodes, undiagnosed
14	Boreholes, deep wells	23	4	Collapsed rodes/pipes
15	Boreholes, deep wells	15	6	Collapsed rodes/pipes, undiagnosed
16	Deep wells, boreholes	36	4	Collapsed rodes/pipes
17	Boreholes, deep wells	40	0	
18	Boreholes, deep wells	25	0	
19	Borehole, deep wells	31	6	Collapsed rodes, undiagnosed
20	Boreholes, deep wells	21	2	Collapsed rodes
21	Boreholes, shallow wells	14	0	Collapsed rodes
22	Boreholes, deep wells	23	0	Collapsed rodes
23	Boreholes	20	5	Collapsed rodes
24	Boreholes, deep wells	12	3	Collapsed rodes
Source: DDF				

4.2. Sanitation Facilities

Sanitation access of improved sanitation facility in the district is rated at 64% (**Table 6**). Households having access to any type of toilet facility is at 69% (ZimVAC 2021). The proportion of households with functional hand washing facilities has greatly improved from 22% (2016) to 65% (2021). There is need to continue to promote a modern home with the following facilities (hand washing, pot rack, refuse pits, toilet) to reduce diarrheal diseases for children which are prevalent in the district.

Table 6: Sanitation Coverage In Gwanda

Ward	Proportion Of HHs With Any Type Of Latrine	Proportion Of HHs With Safe Type Of Latrine In Use	Proportion Of HHs With Hand-Washing Facility In Use
Ward 1	80	80	61
Ward 2	87	86	65
Ward 3	83	82	72
Ward 4	95	89	83
Ward 5	94	68	71
Ward 6	78	73	81
Ward 7	87	87	98
Ward 8	78	64	64
Ward 09	36	31	61
Ward 10	63	37	47
Ward 11	67	67	71
Ward 12	66	53	59
Ward 13	72	69	59
Ward 14	76	66	67
Ward 15	67	62	66
Ward 16	58	55	69
Ward 17	79	47	59
Ward 18	53	36	61
Ward 19	49	38	57
Ward 20	41	31	47
Ward 21	68	46	81
Ward 22	91	85	94
Ward 23	30	27	77
Ward 24	65	63	74
Total	69	60	65
Source: RWIMS			

5. Transport And Communication

There are three types of road service providers in the district namely RDC, DDF and ministry of roads. 52% of the roads are in a bad condition and most of these are maintained by DDF which is facing resource constraints. Wards 11, 12, 14, 19 and 23 are not easily accessible during the rainy season as the roads become very muddy.

Mobile telecommunication network is available in most parts of the district. Wards 1-5 have very good network coverage of all three major network service providers (**Table 7**). In most wards, network is weak and patchy. Landlines (Telone), are available in some wards but its service has greatly deteriorated overtime. There is need for investment injection into the rehabilitation and modernisation of its current infrastructure.

Table 7: Network Coverage By Ward

Ward	Available Network	Comments
1	Telecel ,Econet, Netone	Full coverage of all networks
2	Telecel ,Econet, Netone	Full coverage of all networks
3	Telecel ,Econet, Netone	Full coverage of all networks
4	Telecel ,Econet, Netone	Full coverage of all networks
5	Telecel ,Econet, Netone	Full coverage of all networks
6	Econet and Netone in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
7	Econet and Netone in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
8	Econet and Netone in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
9	Econet and Netone in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
10	Econet	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
11	Econet in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
12	Econet in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
13	Econet	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
14	Econet	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
15	Telecel	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
16	Econet	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
17	Econet	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
18	Econet in some spots	Have to go to the mountain top to access network.
19	Econet in some spots	Use Botswana networks as they have full coverage in the ward.
20	Econet ,Telecel	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
21	Telecel ,Econet ,Netone	Most of the areas in the ward have network coverage
22	Telecel ,Econet ,Netone	Most of the areas in the ward have network coverage
23	Econet and Netone in some spots	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
24	Telecel and Spots of Econet	Some of the areas in the ward do not have network coverage
Source: DDF		

6. Main Livelihood Sources

The district consists of 3 livelihood categories i.e., the Beitbridge South Western communal that supports livestock and artisanal mining activities, the Matabeleland Southern communal that is predominantly mixed farming and Matabeleland middle-veld communal that is characterised by animal husbandry activities as described in **Figure 5** and **Table 8** below.

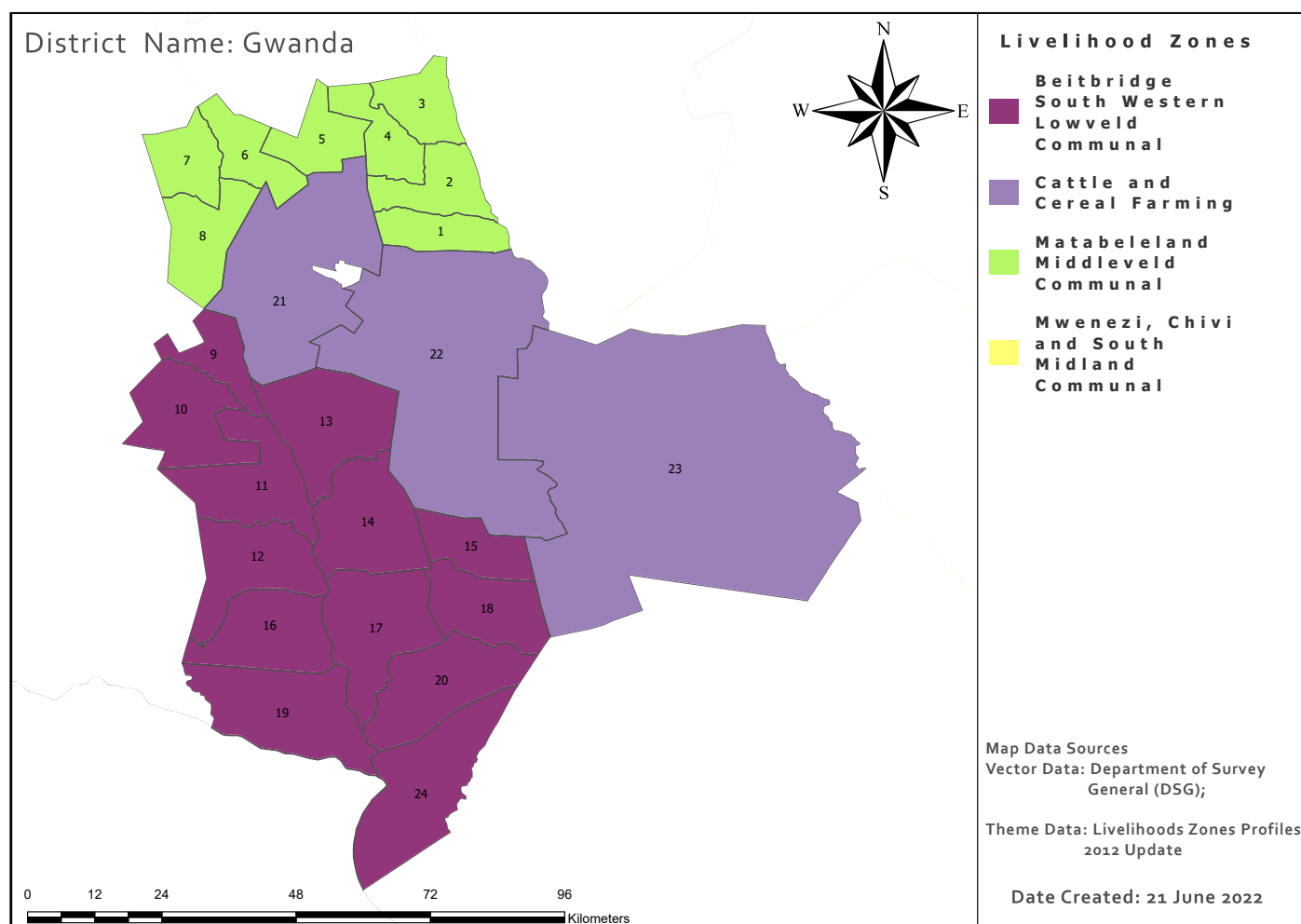


Figure 5: Livelihood Zone Map Gwanda (Source: Livelihoods Baseline Report 2012)

Table 8: Summary Of Economic Zones

Economic Zones	Description	Wards
Beitbridge South Western lowveld communal	This is a semi-arid zone heavily dependent on livestock production. Harsh climatic conditions restrict crop production activities. Employment is also a key source of food and cash income. Proximity to A1, A2 farms and Southern commercial estates and job markets around the border with South Africa and Botswana opens up significant employment opportunities. Sorghum cropping, mopane worm sales and artisanal mining supplement wage earnings of the poor.	10, 21, 22 and 23
Southern Cattle and Cereal farming	This is a predominantly mixed farming area with cereal cropping and cattle ranching. Production of maize, sorghum, millet, fodder gardens and groundnuts, round nuts, cowpeas and sweet potato is moderate. Other economic activities include solarized irrigation artisanal mining, cross border trade, ILSALs, IGP, casual labour and brick moulding. This is a food secure zone.	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 24
Matabeleland middleveld communal	Livelihoods in this zone are characterised by (mainly) cattle husbandry, solarized irrigation and the rain-fed cultivation of maize, sorghum, pulses and sweet potatoes. Farmers subsist partly on their own crop production but, more importantly, on cash income earned from local and cross border employment, beer brewing or artisanal mining on the various rivers.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11

Source: Zimbabwe HEA Baseline Report, 2012

The following are the sources of income in the district:

- The most common source of income for the majority of households is sale of livestock both small and large stock, however 75% of the people do not have livestock, hence have very little to bank on in times of need.
- The area around Gwanda Town is a mining hub with large reserves of gold ore. Blanket and Vumbachikwe Mines are two gold mines found just outside the town. There is also the mining of tantalite at Ward 11. These mines and mineral reserves provide livelihoods through formal employment as well as informal sector as the areas attract a number of illegal gold-panners.
- Vegetable production, casual labour and petty trading are also a source of livelihood for the non-labour constrained households.
- In most of the wards those who are considered to be better off own livestock and are able to sale as a source of income and the poor rely mostly on casual labour.

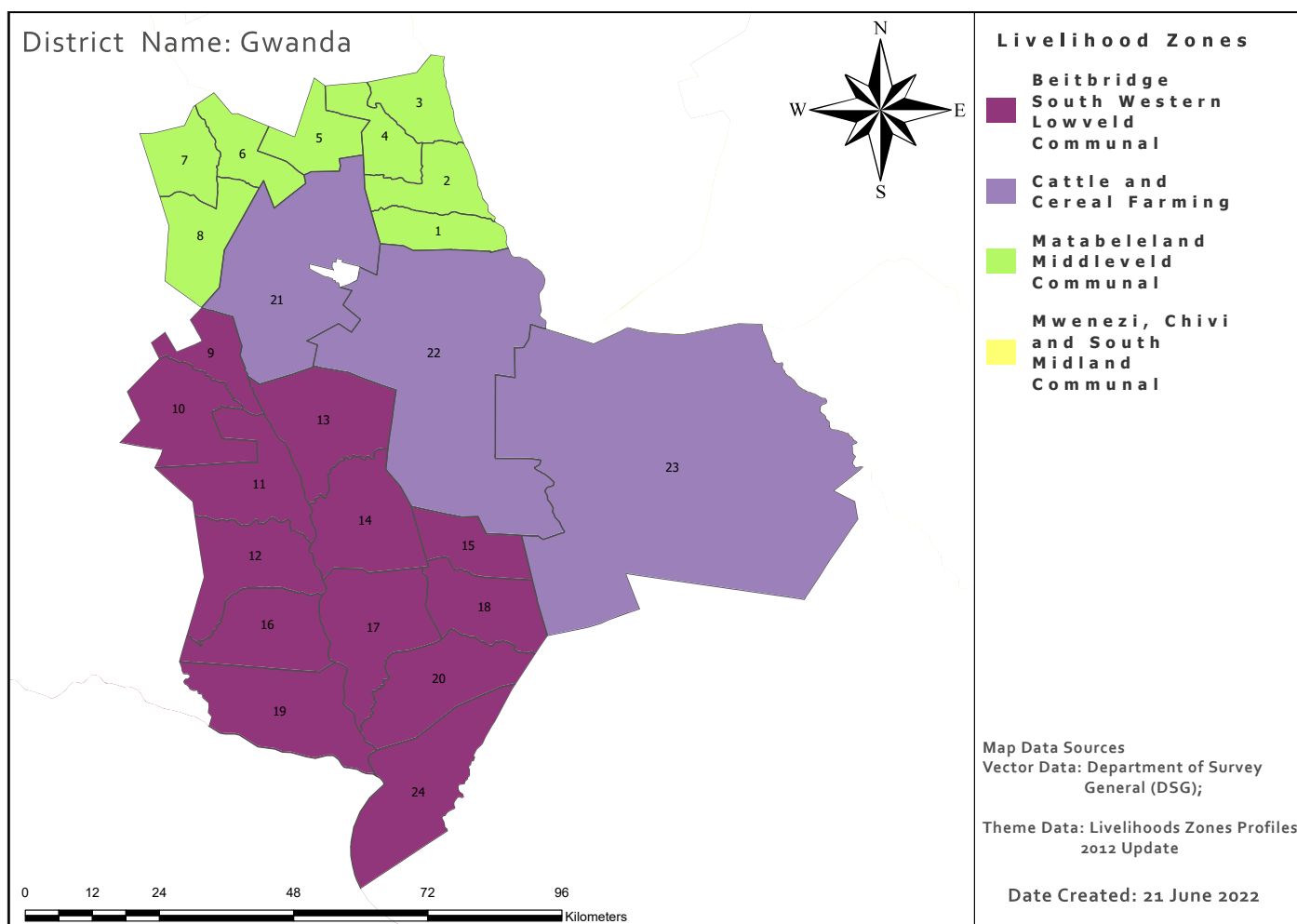


Figure 6: Gwanda Livelihood Zone Map (Source: Zimbabwe HEA Baseline Report, 2012)

Table 9 summarises the livelihood activities by wealthy group.

Table 9: Summary Livelihood Activities By Wealth Group

Livelihood Source	Rich	Middle Class	Lower Class
Gardening, vending, irrigation, panning, sell of livestock, casual labour, NGO funded programs.	Panning, livestock sales, irrigation cropping.	Irrigation, panning, vegetable sales, livestock sales. cropping	Casual labour, irrigation, vegetable selling, panning.
Sell of livestock cropping gardening	Sell of livestock ,vegetable production, crop production;	Sell of livestock ,vegetable production, crop prod;	Casual labour, vegetable production.
Livestock sales, cropping, wildlife.	Livestock sales and wildlife.	Cropping and livestock sales	Cropping, livestock sales.
Livestock sales and cropping. Vegetable production, panning.	Livestock sales cropping, vegetable production. Gold panning.	Small stock sales, Dry land cropping, vegetable gardening, panning, casual labour,	Casual labour, NGO FFA programmes, Govt Social welfare scheme.

Source: Zimbabwe HEA Baseline Report, 2012

6.1. Wealth Group Profiles

Households are classified into wealthy groups according to their asset base and their sources of livelihood and income. There are four generally agreed wealth groups and these are the better off, middle income, poor and very poor groups. The households' classification vary according to different geographical locations. The general definition for each of the 4 wealth groups is as follows:

Better off -: this group has a broad asset base as they own large pieces of land, some own businesses or are formally employed, they also have reliable remittances and they have big herds of livestock. They can employ people or hire labour. They are able to send their children to school and they also assist the poor households in times of need.

Middle class -: they have assets that depreciate, they own livestock but less than the better off, they have reliable remittances. They have medium sized pieces of land and they are able to hire labour. In times of shock they dispose their assets and some can even move to the lower classes.

Poor -: they have limited asset base and do not have reliable remittances. They offer labour to the middle and better off classes. They depend mainly on crop production and are not able to cultivate big pieces of land. They own very few livestock and some do not have draught power for their agricultural activities. They are not able to send all their children to school and they also depend on external assistance.

Very poor -: these are mainly social welfare cases. They are mainly households lead by the elderly, the chronically ill or the disabled. They do not have any assets and they are not able to provide labour. They are neither able to provide for themselves nor to send children to school. They cannot make it in life without external assistance.

7. Poverty Levels

The prevalence of poverty for the district is estimated at 73% compared to the national rural average of 76% (Zimbabwe Poverty Atlas, 2015). This is mostly attributed to limited livelihood options available to most of the population compounded by the low rainfall and high temperature which make agriculture (the main livelihood source for most households) difficult. Ward 9 recorded the highest poverty prevalence of 80 % while Ward 5 had the lowest poverty prevalence of 53%. Wards 5, 21 and 22 had the lowest poverty prevalence and their close location to the Growth Point may influence poverty prevalence rates (**Table 10**). The wards with prevalence above national average are highlighted in red.

Table 10: Prevalence Of Poverty (ZIMSTAT, 2015)

Ward No.	Proportion Of Population %	2012 Households	Poor Households	Poverty Prevalence %
1	4	1,102	813	75
2	3	798	555	72
3	3	785	557	71
4	4	1,017	723	71
5	1	285	149	53
6	4	1,023	767	73
7	3	655	493	77
8	5	1,350	977	73
9	3	773	604	80
10	0.3	98	52	54
11	4	1,079	741	70
12	4	1,148	810	71
13	7	1,644	1,262	77
14	5	1,389	930	68
15	4	1,082	764	73
16	5	1,226	855	72
17	5	1,283	918	73
18	5	1,207	881	75
19	5	1,231	871	73
20	4	968	716	76
21	7	2,229	1,251	59
22	6	1,966	1,063	56
23	6	1,762	1,125	65
24	2	673	515	78
Total	100	26, 773	18, 393	
Source: Zimbabwe Poverty Atlas, 2015				

Figure 7 shows the spatial distribution of poverty across the district. Wards in the southern parts of the district have higher poverty rates compared to the rest of the district.

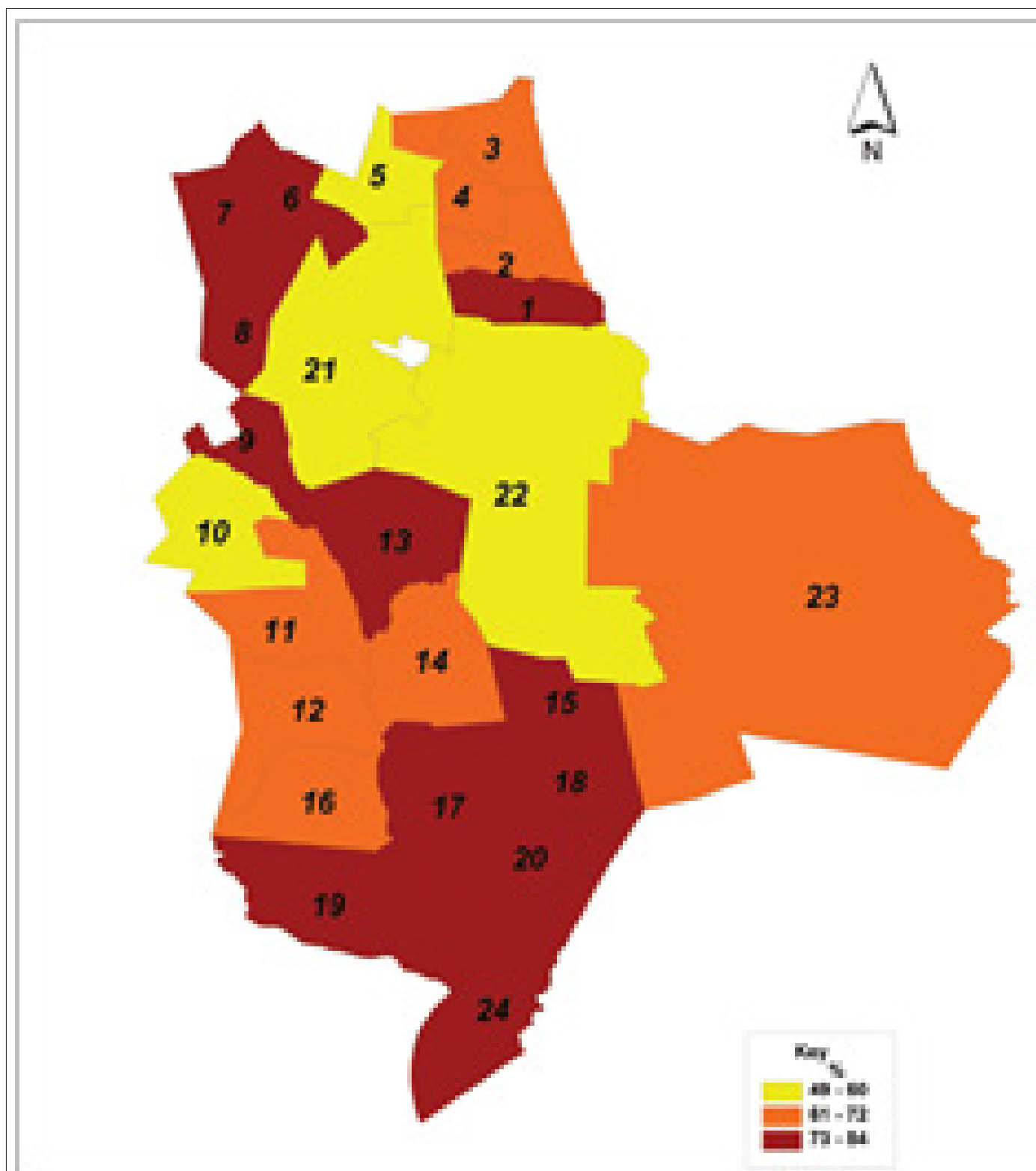


Figure 7: Poverty Map Of The District By Ward (Source: Zimbabwe Poverty Atlas, 2015)

8. Agricultural Information

Gwanda District consists of distinct agro-ecological regions as illustrated and explained below:

8.1. Natural Regions And Climate

The district lies in the semi-arid agro ecological Regions 4 and 5A and 5B (**Table 11**). Region is found in the Northern part of the district covering Wenlock and Matshetsheni communal lands. The Southern part of the district is under Region V and covers Garanyemba, Dibilashaba and Shashi communal lands. It is a semi-extensive to extensive livestock ranching area supported by the production of drought tolerant crops with an emphasis on production of small grains, despite the fact that maize is the staple crop. There is also an abundance of wildlife in the former large-scale commercial farming area which if not well managed can be a threat to agriculture production.

Table 11: Summary Of Agro Ecological Regions By Ward

Old Agro Ecological Region	Characteristics	Wards
IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought prone areas characterized by erratic rainfall, poor to fair crop production, poor grass cover. It is also characterized by continuous dry spills, flash floods Semi intensive livestock ranching It has sandy soil and loom soils 	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 21, 22 and 23
VA & VB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought prone area characterized by erratic rainfall poor crop production, little or no vegetation cover, high temperature, flash floods, thunder storms and hailstorms. There is prevalence of pests such as fall army worm, locusts, quelea birds, grain borer, stalk borer Intensive livestock ranching which is supported by production of drought tolerant crops 	9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24 and part of 8, 21 and 22

Source: ZINGSA

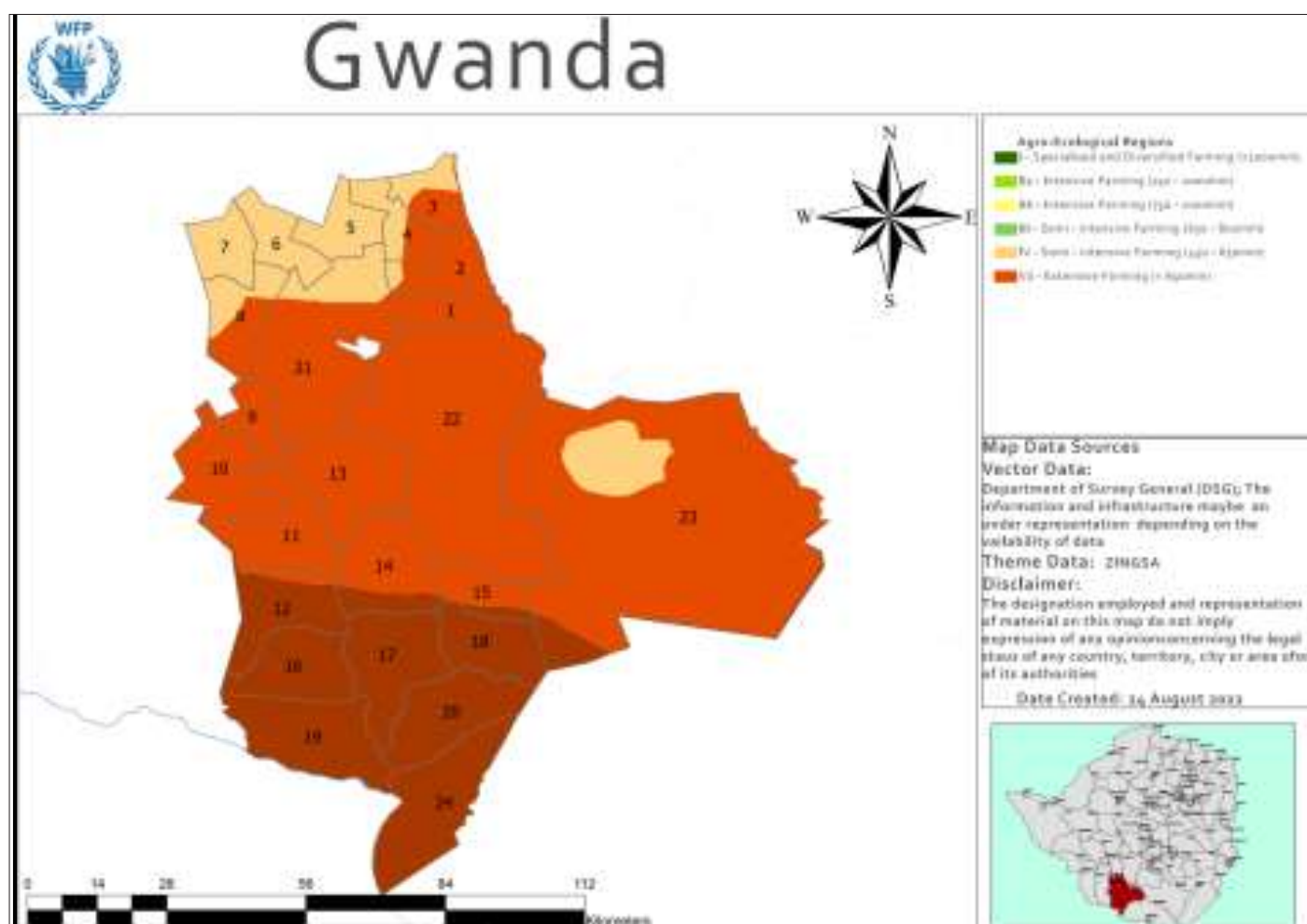


Figure 8: New Agro-Ecological Zones (Source: ZINGSA)

8.2. Mean Annual Rainfall

The district's annual average rainfall is between 350mm-650mm starting from November to March/April. The rainfall pattern is very erratic with regular and persistent droughts. The quantity of rains that fall per year decreases from the north to the South as we move from Region 1V to Region V. The table below illustrates the rainfall trends.

Table 12: Mean Annual Rainfall Amounts

Ward	2018	2019	2022
1	375	97.5	393
2	356	154	417
3	365	165	414.1
4	327	110.5	585
5	329	246	345
6	607	115.5	720
7	613	142	665
8	440	114	518
9	235.7	88	333.5
10	211	79	231
11	229	122	274
12	208	220	324
13	266	66	291
14	242.5	160	296.5
15	269	94	382
16	193	120	252.5
17	-	-	232
18	354	98	410
19	393.5	108	351
20	303	225	339
21	363	78	454
22	552	135.6	633
23	90	52.5	215
24	353	194	283

Source: Meteorological Department

8.3. Drought Prone Areas

According to the National Integrated Context Analysis (2021), Gwanda is moderately prone to drought (**Figure 11**). It is usually affected in the Southern part (Wards 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 24) and pastures dry up forcing farmers to move their livestock to the resettlement areas for relief grazing. Other Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are also affected but to a lesser extent. Below is a map illustrating drought prone areas.

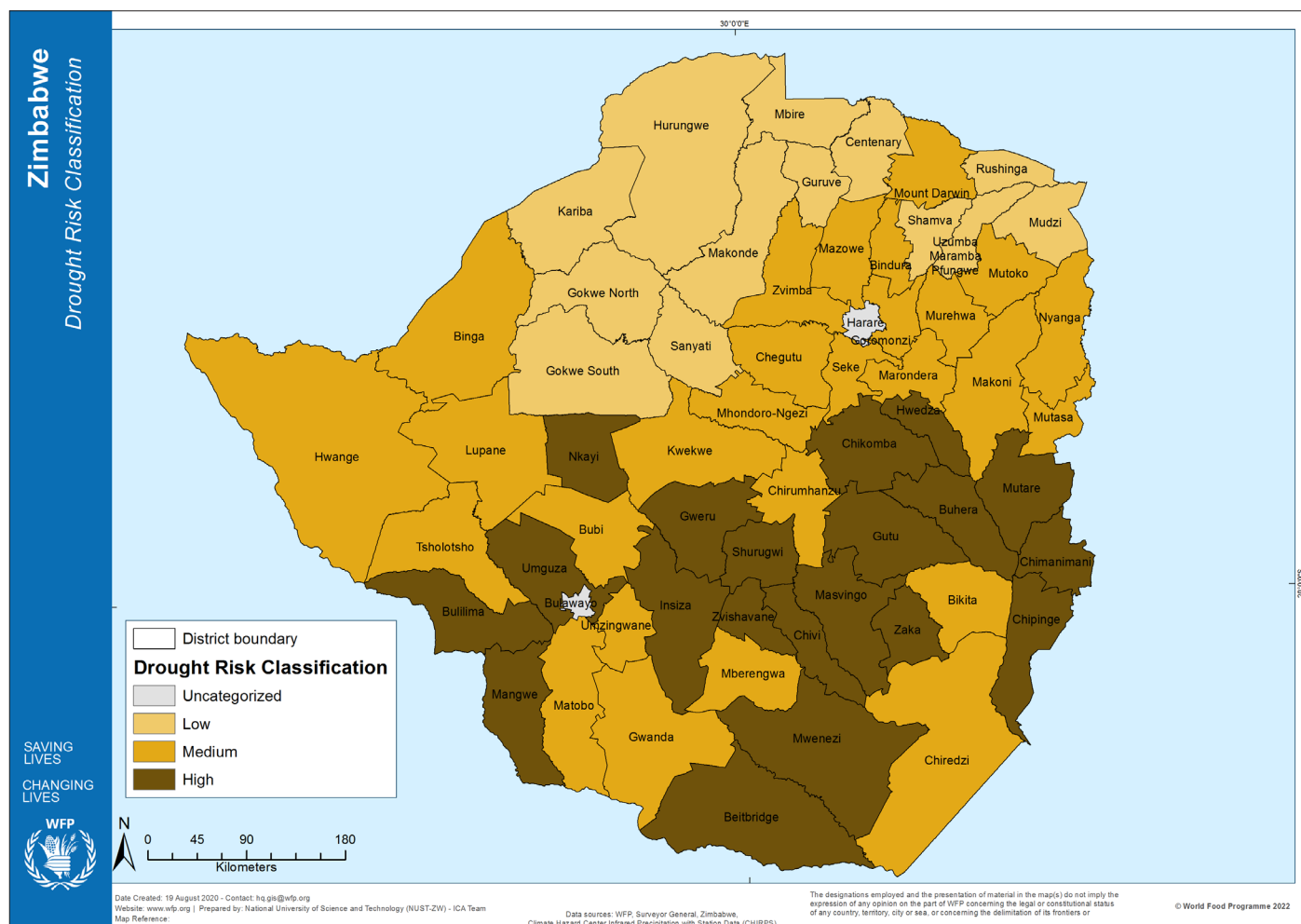


Figure 9: Drought Prone Areas (Source: ICA 2021)

8.4. Flood prone areas

The District is not at risk of flooding according to WFP Integrated Context Analysis (2021) (**Figure 10**), although hailstorms have been experienced in Wards 5, 7, 22 and 23.

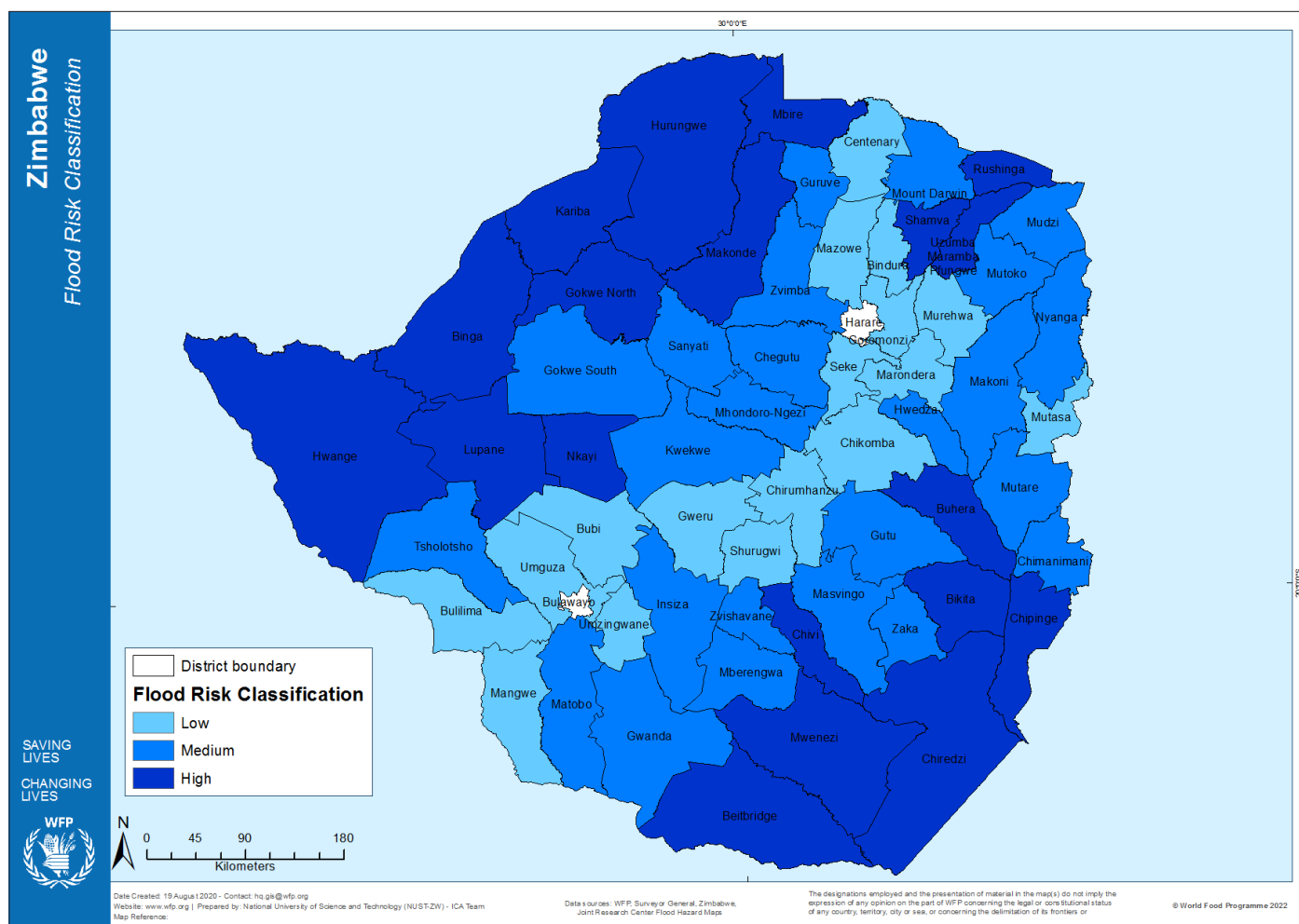


Figure 10: Flood Prone Areas (Source: Integrated Context Analysis, 2021)

8.5. Hydro-Geological Conditions

The district has a good number of dams as illustrated by the **table 13** below ward by ward.

Table 13: Distribution Of Major Dams By Ward

Ward	Major Dam	Use	Seasonality	Reason
1	Masholomoshe Dam	Livestock, Irrigation Domestic use	Seasonal	Silted
2	Silikwe	Irrigation Domestic use Livestock	Perennial	
4	Nkwidze	Domestic use Nutrition Garden	Perennial	
4	Shake	Domestic Nutrition Garden	Perennial	
6	Mtshabezi	Domestic Nutrition	Perennial	
8	Tuli Makwe	Domestic use Nutrition	Perennial	
13	Garanyemba	Livestock Nutrition Garden Domestic use	Perennial	

Table 13: Distribution Of Major Dams By Ward (continued)

15	Selonga	Domestic use Nutrition Garden Livestock Small scale fishing	Perennial	
15	Makapakapa	Domestic use Nutrition Garden Livestock Small scale fishing Boat Canoeing	Perennial	
18	Sukwi	Irrigation Domestic use Livestock Nutrition Gardens	Perennial	
12	Gungwe	Community Gardening Livestock Domestic		Silted and swepted by cyclone Dineo
12	Ntswangu	Livestock Wildlife Domestic use	Seasonal	Silted
16	Mapate	Community Garden Livestock Domestic use	Seasonal	Silted
18	Sukwi	Irrigation Domestic use Livestock	Seasonal	Silted, Drought
18	Buvuma	Nutrition Gardens Domestic use Livestock	Livestock	Livestock
19	Mlampapeli	Community Gardens Domestic use Livestock	Irrigation	Irrigation
21	Insindi	Livestock Irrigation Wildlife Domestic use	Wildlife	Wildlife
22	Bata	Wildlife Livestock Domestic use	Perennial	
23	Dwala	Domestic use Livestock Wildlife	Perennial	

Source: ZINWA

8.6. Distribution By Major Rivers

Gwanda District hydrology also consists of the following major rivers mainly Mtshabezi, Umzingwane, Shashe Thuli, Hovi, Maleme, Mwewe, Kafusi and Sengezane rivers. We have minor rivers such as Pelele, and Pendi. These rivers are characterized by seasonal flows, however retain the bulk of water on the riverbank during the dry season. The main usage of these rivers is irrigation, domestic usage. Irrigation is done through sand abstraction systems and major schemes such as Sebasa, Mankonkoni and Rustlers gorge are watered using the same system from Thuli and Shashe rivers respectively

Some rivers like Umzingwane and Thuli are now facing challenges such as the presence of illegal artisanal, in search of alluvial gold. This has affected downstream irrigation activities, as these artisan use harmful chemicals, gullies and cause siltation of dams downstream.

9. Crop Information

The main crops grown in the district includes maize (both dry and irrigated), sorghum, pearl millet, round nuts, melons and watermelons, cowpeas, pumpkins and vegetable crops (**Table 14**). Winter wheat is also grown in some irrigations where water is not a limiting factor. Produce from dry land farming is mainly for household consumption while irrigated wheat is mainly sold to GMB. Below is the tabulation ward by ward.

Table 14: Major Crops Grown In The District

Ward	Main Crops Grown	Soil Type
1, 2 ,3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 21 and 23	Maize, sorghum, cowpeas, groundnuts	Sandy loam
6 and 13	Maize, , cowpeas, groundnuts	Sandy loam
12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 24	Maize, sorghum , cowpeas, groundnuts, pearl millet	Sandy loam

Table 15: Major Farming Sectors In The District

Farming Sector	Area (Sq Km)	Percentage Of Land %	Population	Percentage Of Population %
Communal	40,593	87.7	42, 623	87.7
Old Resettlement	180	0.4	189	0.39
Large Scale Commercial Farming	56	0.1	59	0.12
Small Scale Commercial Farming	110	0.2	116	0.23
A1	4,887	10.6	5,132	11
A2	425	0.9	463	0.95
Urban	25	0.1	27	0.05
Total	46,276	100	48, 609	100
Source: AARDS				

9.1. Irrigation Schemes

There are 23 communal irrigation schemes, 19 A1 schemes and 25 A2 irrigation schemes which assist communities to raise income, although the schemes were mainly designed for food security purposes (**Table 16**), however, most of the schemes are operating at below 50% capacity due to lack of maintenance, repair of infrastructure, silting of dams, high water and ZESA bills. There are 15 by 1ha solar powered irrigation schemes in Wards 4, 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 4 fodder gardens in Wards 1, 2, 3 and 14. For the sustainability of the schemes it is important to train communities to perform basic repairs and maintenance of the schemes. Financial management training might go a long way in assisting communities to meet some of their financial obligations.

Table 16: Distribution Of Irrigation Schemes By Ward

Ward	Name Of Irrigation Schemes	Total Area (Hectares)	Status
1	Masholomoshe	38,8	Functional - Flood System
2	Silikwe	19,3	Functional - Food System
8	Makwe	194	Non Functional
8	Tuli Lushongwe	25	Functional - Drip /Sprinkler
14	Guyu	64	Under rehabilitation - Sprinkler
18	Sukwi	20	Functional - Flood System
19	Rustlers Gorge	20	Functional - Flood System
19	Mankonkoni	32	Functional - Flood System
24	Sebasa	50	Functional - Flood System

9.2. Challenges In Crop Production

The major cropping challenges are:

- Lack of markets
- Pests and diseases
- Lack of draught power

9.3. Crop Production Trends

Crop production in the district is low due to the climatic conditions which are not favourable for crop production (**Table 17**). Produce from the dry land is mainly for household consumption and irrigated wheat is sold to the Grain Marketing Board. Most vegetables are sold in Gwanda town. Winter wheat is grown in some irrigation schemes where water is not a limiting factor.

Table 17: Main Production Trends

Crop	2018/2019 Season			2019/2020 Season			2020/2021 Season		
	Area Planted (ha)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (t)	Area Planted(ha)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (t)	Area Planted (ha)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (t)
Maize	31,505	0.43	13,547	10,566	0.3	3,170	4,374	0.12	525
Sorghum	12,785	0.56	7,159	3,321	0.35	1,162	3,694	0.26	960
Millet	7,169	0.5	3,584	1,025	0.35	359	1,778	0.18	320

Source: AARDS

Consistent droughts and erratic rainfall in the last 10 years had a negative impact on crop production in the district and the area has continued to receive food assistance since 2002. Cereal reserves usually last 12-15 months for the better-off households, while for the middle class it is 6-8 and the poor who is the majority is 1-4. **Table 18** shows the estimated cereal adequacy from own production per ward.

Table 18: Average Cereal Adequacy Per Ward

Ward	Cereal Adequacy (Months)
1	1-4
2	1-4
3	1-4
4	1-4
5	1-4
6	1-4
7	1-4
8	1-4
9	1-4
10	1-4
11	1-4
12	1-4
13	1-4
14	1-4
15	1-4
16	1-4
17	1-4
18	1-4
19	1-4
20	1-4
21	1-4
22	1-4
23	1-4
24	1-4
Source: AARDS	

10. Livestock

10.1. Main Types Of Livestock Ownership – Based On Secondary Data From Surveys/Assessments

The main types of livestock reared in the district include cattle, goats, sheep and chickens. About 75% of the households in the district own cattle and 95% own goats (**Table 19**).

Table 19: Livestock Holding

	Number Of Households	% Who Own Cattle	% Who Own Goats
All Households	16, 261	75	95
Farm Households	390	95	70
Non-Farm Households	15, 871	75	90
Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda			

Most of the households (55%) own more than 5 cattle and goats (**Table 20**).

Table 20: Distribution Of Herd Size

Number Of Livestock Per Household	Cattle %	Goats %
0	20	5
<5	45	40
>5	55	60
Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda		

Most of the livestock is kept by communal farmers and livestock production forms part of their main livelihood activities **(Table 21)**.

Table 21: Average Livestock Holding Per Ward

Ward (Or Diptank)	Average Cattle Holding	Average Goats Holding	Average Sheep Holding	Average Chicken Holding
Communal	8,300	214, 000	43, 000	124, 000
A1	14, 500	10, 000	2,000	19, 000
A2	17, 000	5,500	600	3,000

Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda

10.2. Main Livestock Diseases

The main livestock diseases in the district include Rabies, Lumpy Skin and Heart Water **(Table 22)**.

Table 22: Major Livestock Disease

Livestock Disease	Wards Mostly Affected (Number And Name Of Wards Affected)
Rabies	All
Newcastle disease	All at risk
Anthrax	20, 24, 4 and 2
Foot and Mouth	At risk Ward 3, 4 and 23
Lumpy skin	All
Heart water	All
Theileriosis	Nil

Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda

10.3. Dipping Facilities

All the wards have some dipping facilities although access to chemicals is sometimes a challenge **(Table 23)**.

Table 23: Dipping Facilities

Number Of Dip Tanks	Number Of Functional Dip Tanks	Number Of Dip Tanks Currently Under Rehab	Number Of Dip Tanks Requiring Rehab
91	91	Nil	All each has its component that need attention

Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda

10.4. Animal Health Centres

Table 24: Animal Health Centres

Number of functional Animal Health centres	19
Number of Non-functional animal health centres	1 Buvuma needs an Extension worker (currently saved by Selonga)
Number of Community Animal Health Workers/Paravets	135 estimated.

Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda

10.5. Other Livestock Establishments

Table 25: Other Livestock Establishments

Type Of Establishment	Number Of Establishments
Aquaculture (Capture fisheries)	
Apiculture	5
Dairy Farms	2
Feedlots	4

10.6. Challenges Faced By Livestock Farmers

The following are challenges faced by livestock farmers:

- Diseases outbreaks
- Markets
- Water for livestock to drink and dip cattle
- Drought leading to shortages of pastures
- Predators and theft

11. Produce Markets

11.1. Crop Markets

The district has both private and formal markets (GMB and other Wholesalers) who are the buyers of cereal produced although production is low. Prices of cereals fluctuate from time to time due to demand and supply and prices of other commodities are very stable across the entire district as shown in **Table 26**.

Table 26: Typical Commodity Availability And Prices Per Ward

Ward	Commodity						Price				
	Maize Meal	Maize Grain	Cooking Oil	Beans	Other Small Grain	Rice	Maize Meal	Maize Grain	Cooking Oil	Beans	Other Small Grain
							\$/10Kg	\$/Bucket	\$/2Ltre	\$/500G	\$/Bucket
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
3	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$12.00
4	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$12.00
5	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
6	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
7	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
8	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
9	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
10	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
11	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
12	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
13	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
14	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
15	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
16	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
17	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
18	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
19	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
20	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
21	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
22	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-
23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$12.00
24	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	\$10.00	-	\$4.00	\$1.50	-

Source: District Food and Nutrition Committee

The crop produce markets are readily available for farmers. Below is the table showing the two main markets **Table 27**.

Table 27: Crop Produce Markets

Market Name	Ward Number	Commodity	Source Of Commodity	Availability
Gwanda Market	1, 2, 8, 14, 17 and 9	Horticultural commodities	local gardens, irrigation schemes, private gardens, commercial farmers	Available
GMB	12, 21, 22 and 23	Cereals	A1 and A2 farmers, Contract farmers	Available
Gwanda Market	21 and 24	Dairy products	A1 and A2 farmers	Available

11.2. Livestock Markets

Livestock marketing takes place at organized Rural District Council cattle sales and through sale to individual private buyers. Currently livestock prices have been reported to have gone down yet most livestock are in very good condition. There are four feedlots in the district in Wards 4, 2, 12 and 11 where farmers fatten their stock and sell to abattoirs from the district. **Table 28** shows the average livestock prices.

Table 28: Livestock Prices

Livestock Type	Average Price (US\$) 2016	Average Price (US\$) 2022	Type Of Market
Cattle	\$350	\$400	Farmer to farmer, local butcheries, private buyers, public auctions, abattoirs
Sheep	\$35	\$60	Farmer to farmer, local restaurants, public auctions
Goats	\$25	\$50	Farmer to farmer, local restaurants, public auctions, local butcheries
Donkey	\$120	\$150	Farmer to farmer, local buyers
Fish	\$3.50	\$3.50/KG	Farmer to farmer, private buyers
Guinea Fowls	\$5	\$7	Farmer to farmer private buyers
Indigenous Chickens	\$5	\$7	Farmer to farmer, local restaurants, private buyers
Pigs	\$50	\$80	Farmer to farmer, local butcheries
Source: Department of Livestock Gwanda			

11.3. Labour Markets

The district has labour opportunities readily available from within the wards as shown in the **table 29**.

Table 29: Labour Markets

Labour Opportunity	Ward Offering This Opportunity	Wards Providing Labour
Casual labour	All wards	Within resident wards
Artisanal Mining	6, 8, 9, 11, 21 and 22	All wards
Skilled Labour	19, 21 and 14	All wards
Construction	All ward	Wards interchange
Farm labour	21, 22 and 23	6, 21, 22, 14, 15, 18 and 23
Sole traders	All wards	Within the ward
Cross border trade	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 24	With the ward
Source:		

11.4. Calendar Of Food Purchases- Normal Years

ITEM	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Food purchases												
Lean/Hungry Period												

Calendar Of Food Purchases- Drought Period

ITEM	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Food purchases												
Lean/Hungry Period												

11.5. Market Challenges

The district is not spared from the many agricultural challenges bedeviling the country. Services providers, traders and buyers face a number of challenges as explained below:

- Fluctuation of commodity prices
- No legislation to regulate livestock prices
- During drought years' prices of cattle significantly drop
- Few buyers on the market which affects pricing of commodities and livestock
- Poor road network into the entire district
- The district has no by- laws to enforce the extraction of local resources, e.g. Mopani Worms (Amacimbi) and gold mining
- Few markets sites for daily commodity in the wards.
- Communication challenges (very limited network coverage and radio signals)
- Use of foreign currency (Gwanda uses of mostly Rands)

12. Common Hazards And Shocks

The district is always affected by onset hazards and chronic hazards. Amongst the hazards are continuous droughts and prolonged mid-season dry spells resulting in poor crop production, unavailability of water and grazing land for livestock (**Table 30**). Pest diseases, Aids and Covid-19 affects farming activities. Artisanal mining activities has led to serious land degradation and losses of human lives in disused mines.

Table 30: Common Hazards And Shocks

Ward Number And Name	On Set Hazards	Chronic Hazards
1 Nkashe	Flash floods, hail storms, low water tables, land degradation	Drought, Covid- 19
2 Datata	Crop and livestock pests, low water tables	Drought, Covid- 19
3 Mzimuni	Crop and livestock pests, low water tables	Drought, Covid- 19
4 Stanmore	Hailstorm, Crop and livestock pests, low water tables	Drought
5 Enyandeni	Water logging, crop and livestock pests	Drought, Land degradation
6 Mtshazo	Water logging, crop and livestock pests	Drought, Land degradation
7 Simbumbumbu	Water logging, crop and livestock pests	Drought, Land degradation
8 Makwe	Human and wildlife conflict, floods	Drought
9 Lushonkwe	Crop and livestock pests	Drought, Land degradation
10 shape	Crops and livestock pests	Drought
11 Ntalale	Stream bank cultivation, crops and livestock pests, lightning	Drought, land degradation, Invasive species, floods
12 Gungwe	Siltation, crops and livestock pests, flash floods	Drought
13 Garanyemba	Human and wildlife conflict, siltation, crops and livestock pests	Drought
14 Bhalula	Crops and livestock pests/diseases	Drought, Land degradation, invasive species
15 Dombo	Human and wildlife conflict, Crops and livestock pests/ diseases	Drought, Livestock theft
16 Mapate	Stream bank cultivation, Crops and livestock pests/diseases	Drought, Invasive species, Malaria, Livestock theft
17 Bengo	Crop and livestock pests	Drought, Land degradation, Malaria, Livestock theft
18 Lote	Human and wildlife conflict,	Drought, Invasive species, Livestock theft
19 Mlambapeli	Human and wildlife conflict	Drought, Land degradation, Malaria, Livestock theft
20 Mkhalipe	Floods, Crop and livestock pests /diseases	Drought, Malaria
21 Corner Sizenzi	Mining accidents, crops and livestock pests/ diseases	Land degradation
22 Jonsly	Human and wildlife conflict, Hailstorms	Land degradation
23 Dwala	Human and wildlife conflict, crops and livestock pests/diseases	
24 Nhwali	Livestock theft, Crops and Livestock pests/diseases	Drought, Invasive species, Malaria
Source: Civil Protection Unit		

13. District Development Priorities

The following are the district development priorities (**Table 31**).

Table 31: District Development Priorities

Thematic Area (NDS1)	Development Priority	Wards Targeted	Comment
Economic growth and stability	Establishment of rural centers	All wards except 6, 8, 14 and 17	Planning for and establishment of Rural service centers will promote rural industrialization and enhance economic growth at local level
Food and nutrition security	Solarisation of nutritional gardens	1, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22 and 23	Solarisation of gardens (climate smart agriculture) will enhance production and productivity through use of renewable effective alternative forms of energy.
Digital economy	Rural electrification and Information Communication Technology	All wards	Improved ease of transaction and ease of doing business will be enhanced by the availability of ICT at ward level.
Infrastructure and utilities	Construction of dams and boreholes	All wards	Infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth. All wards in the district have insufficient number of dams and this negatively affects economic activities and livelihood options.
Infrastructure and utilities	Construction of more secondary schools and VTCs	All wards for schools	
2 VTCs	The district lacks adequate schools leading to students to walk between 15-20km to school. This situation has led to creation of low-cost boarding facilities, which have some disadvantages in terms of the safety of the students.		
Infrastructure and utilities	Land reclamation programmes	5, 6, 7, 18 and 16	Regreening of grazing land, Construction of gabions to hold water.
Infrastructure and utilities	Improvement of roads and bridges	1-24	Most roads in the district are poor and constantly need attention especially during the rainy season. The poor state of roads has stifled development in rural areas.

Source: DDC

14. Food Security

14.1. Food Insecurity Trends

Gwanda District is generally a food insecure district with food insecurity prevalence usually above the national average except for the year, 2016-17 and 2020 - 2021. Where the food insecurity was estimated to be below the national average. The food insecurity for the district has been on an upward trend since 2016 to 2017, and it reached its maximum in 2019 to 2020 at 55 compared to the national average of 19%. Currently the food insecurity for the 2021/2022 consumption year was estimated at 40% at the peak of the hunger season compared to the national average of 27%.

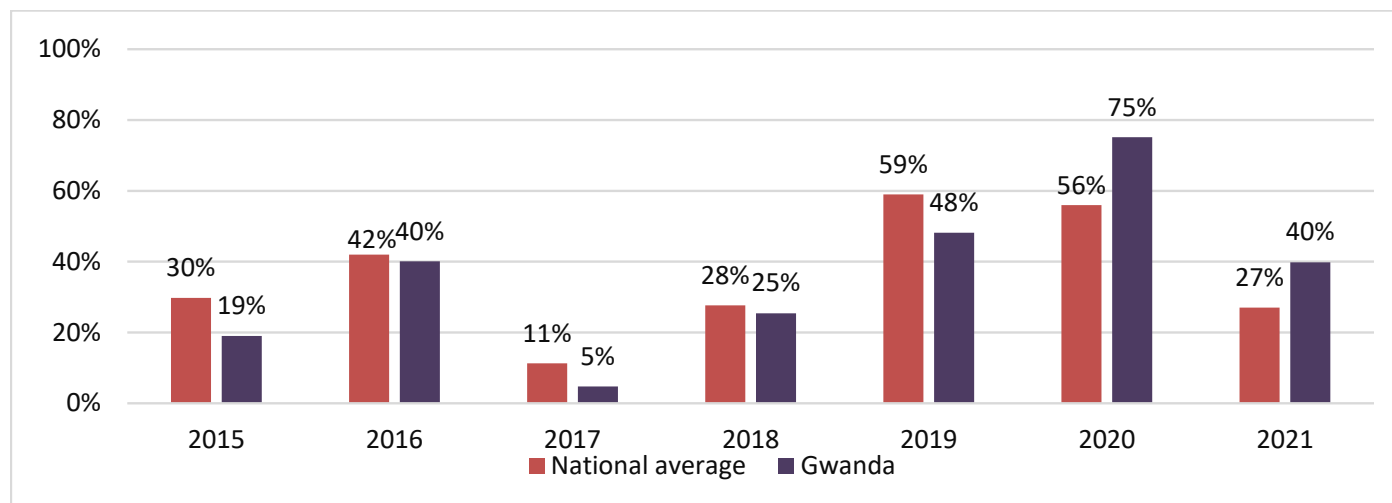


Figure 11: Food Insecurity Trends (Source: ZimVAC Reports (2015 - 2021))

14.2.1. Socio- Economic Groups And Vulnerability Classification (Update Table)

Vulnerability Group Profiles And Characteristics	Proportion
<p>GROUP A Already resilient</p> <p>These households are food secure and resilient, already benefiting from growth and development through their own efforts. They are likely to manage difficult seasons and shocks without requiring emergency assistance, and would benefit from social programmes – such as health, education, further capacity development, early warning, etc.</p> <p>The committee observed that this group is employed, having salaries and can have reliable remittances, could have business ventures or are traders, have access to irrigated lands/schemes, own 20 or more livestock, could own tractors, have reserve stocks, bigger houses, and employ others.</p>	<p>62, 800 people</p> <p>(51%)</p>
<p>GROUP B Food secure under no major shocks</p> <p>These households are moderately resilient and vulnerable to not meeting food needs during difficult seasons or in the event of shocks, without compromising assets or livelihoods through negative coping strategies. On top of social programmes, this group may require seasonal support or emergency assistance during crises to safeguard assets. It was identified that for households that lost significant assets in recent years are at risk to sliding downwards (into Group C or D) if not supported with development and asset creation programmes. The committee identified that these households could have access to seasonal irrigation schemes, and small arable farms with adequate farming equipment and household labour. During harvest periods they can hire others, yet will work as casual labourers during lean season. They have 10 cattle or more, own ploughs and have draught power (adequate farm power), and own more small animals. Some have remittances.</p>	<p>22, 900 people</p> <p>(19%)</p>
<p>Group C Highly food insecure from last or consecutive shocks</p> <p>These households have become highly food insecure as a result of eroded coping strategies from the continuous drought spells, coupled with constant exposure to difficult seasons and shocks, hindering their ability to recover by rebuilding lost assets and livelihoods. They would benefit from recovery and resilience building interventions whilst simultaneously improving their access to food, together with other complementary support (e.g. social programmes). Without such support, they risk sliding downwards into eventual destitution (Group D). This group has no reliable sources of income, works as casual labourers, and may receive irregular remittances. Have limited livestock (around 5 or less goats), limited draught power which they share with others, small plots of land (less than 4 ha) with inadequate farming equipment, and rely on small gardens. Households are larger with more dependents – tend to be more polygamous. Caring for extended families overburdens their resources.</p>	<p>19, 900 people</p> <p>(16%)</p>
<p>Group D Highly food insecure, including destitute</p> <p>These are highly food insecure households – including the destitute – are the most vulnerable groups, with little or no asset ownership, they are labour-constrained, and are likely to be supported by the community. This group is likely to be persistently (chronically) food insecure and require a different set of programming support (e.g. social protection and alternative livelihoods). Identified by the committee as those households with few means for self-support, they are labour-constrained, are dependent on others, and receive little, irregular, or no remittances. They have few or no assets, and will own only chickens (but no cattle and goats) and agricultural equipment. They have limited food stocks and no reserves and own less than 1 ha of land.</p>	<p>16, 800 people</p> <p>(14%)</p>
<p>Source: Seasonal Livelihood Programming</p>	

14.3. Visible Vulnerabilities For Socio Economic Groups

Poor households (group D and C)

- One hut-two huts
- No livestock for group D
- Group C sometimes own one goat and at least three fowls.
- No reasonable arable plot
- Not able to pay fees at school

Better off households (group B and A)

- Arable plot size reasonable
- Hardworking
- Have livestock
- Their children are normally at school
- Have coping mechanisms
- Can be affected by livelihood hazards such as droughts.

14.4. Coping Strategies

The community of Gwanda has lived with food insecurity since time immemorial and has developed some mechanisms to cope with the problem over the years. The following are the main coping strategies:

- Poor households resort to skipping of some meals (from the usual three to one or two)
- Eating roots of wild trees
- Consumption of dried indigenous vegetables as meals
- Sale of livestock in order to purchase grain exchanging livestock for grain (barter trade)
- Drying of melons for consumption during the dry season
- Illegal gold panning to get money to purchase food
- Casual labour to neighbour in exchange for food rations
- Food handouts by some donor organizations
- Engaging in prostitution in order to get money to buy food especially in Wards 8, 17, 22 and 23 where cross-border trucks park overnight
- Migration to neighbouring countries in search of employment.
- Remittances from relatives in the Diaspora and within the country have also constituted a greater part of the medium to rich class incomes.
- Stock theft within the district and from Botswana
- Begging from neighbours
- Informal borrowing money
- Reduced spending on none food items like health

14.4.1. By Seasonality:

- Wild fruits consumption is dominant in the district. Wild fruits are eaten at the same time as dry land crops; in times of severe drought.
- Fishing is done from August up to November. Increased petty trading and casual labour activities supplement household incomes to buy food and basic needs.

14.5. Ranking Of Food Insecure Wards

The ranking of food insecurity is based on poverty, production, livelihoods options and other factors that contribute towards food security in the district. **Table 32** shows the ranking of wards according to food insecurity and according to the ranking done by the district.

Table 32: Ranking Of Wards By Food Insecurity Levels

Ward	Proportion Of Population %	2012 HHs	Poverty Prevalence %	Ward Ranking
1	4	1,102	75	14
2	3	798	72	10
3	3	785	71	11
4	4	1,017	71	8
5	1	285	53	15
6	4	1,023	73	12
7	3	655	77	7
8	5	1,350	73	9
9	3	773	80	19
10	0.3	98	54	21
11	4	1,079	70	4
12	4	1,148	71	2
13	7	1,644	77	1
14	5	1,389	68	13
15	4	1,082	73	16
16	5	1,226	72	3
17	5	1,283	73	5
18	5	1,207	75	17
19	5	1,231	73	20
20	4	968	76	6
21	7	2,229	59	22
22	6	1,966	56	23
23	6	1,762	65	24
24	2	673	78	18
Total	100	26, 773		
Source: District Food and Nutrition Committee				

15. Nutrition

15.1. Malnutrition

The prevalence acute malnutrition (**Table 33**) in children 6-59 months in Gwanda is 1.6%. Stunting is moderate (17.8%). Overweight and obesity is 1.7%.

Table 33: Prevalence Of Malnutrition

Indicator	2016 Prevalence	2021 Prevalence
Moderate Acute Malnutrition		0.8
Severe Acute Malnutrition	2	0.8
Stunting	26	17.8
Overweight and Obesity		1.7
Low Birth weight		17
Source: NNS, 2018		

15.2. Feeding Practices In Children Under 2 Years Of Age

The proportion of children receiving Minimum Acceptable Diet in Gwanda is 7%. Exclusive Breast feeding is at 71% (Table 34). The prevalence of bottle feeding is 10%.

Table 34: Feeding Practices

Feeding Practice	Percentage
Minimum Meal Frequency	27
Minimum Dietary Diversity	15
Minimum Acceptable diet	7
Exclusive Breastfeeding	71
Bottle Feeding	10
Source: NNS, 2018	

15.3. Household Food Consumption Score

The “Food Consumption Score” (FCS) is a score calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the 7 days before the survey. There are standard weights for each of the food groups that comprise the food consumption score. Based on this score, a household’s food consumption can be further classified into one of three categories: poor, borderline, or acceptable. The food consumption score is a proxy indicator of household caloric availability.

15.4. Food Consumption By Women And In The Household

The proportion of women aged 15-49 years consuming a minimum acceptable diet was 61%.

Table 35: Food Consumption For Women (ZimVAC RLA, 2021)

Indicator	Percentage
Minimum dietary Diversity -women	61
Iron rich foods	62.2
Vitamin A rich foods	79.3
Protein rich foods	84.9
Source: ZimVAC 2021	

15.5. Top 10 Common Diseases

The top ten diseases in the district are:

1. Acute Respiratory Infection
2. Diarrhea
3. Dental
4. Ear infections
5. Injuries
6. Hypertension
7. Diabetics
8. Asthma
9. Rheumatic Heart Disease
10. Mental illness

16. Food Aid Trends

The district is served by one GMB depot, located in the Gwanda town. Maize grain supply is very erratic. Non-beneficiaries of the humanitarian aid organizations are given preference to purchase the subsidised maize grain when it was available. The food insecure households have been getting food assistance from a number of organizations operating in the district since 2002 and the government through the social welfare department (**Table 36**).

Table 36: Food Aid Trends

Ward No.	Type Of Assistance Provided	Organization Agency	Target Group	No. Of Beneficiaries	No. Of Households	Years Assistance Received
1-24	Social safety Net	Social development	Vulnerable	45, 303	7,550	October 2021
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 24	Safety Net	Amalima	Under 2yrs and PLW			2017-2019
1-20 and 24	Safety Nets	AFRICARE	Vulnerable			2020
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9	Safety Nets	CRS- iVoucher	Vulnerable			2020

Source: DDC

17. Development Partner Profiling

Organisation	Category (E.g. Food Assistance, FFA, WASH Etc)	Area Of Intervention (More Details On The Activities Undertaken By The NGO)	Wards Of Operation	GOZ Departments Working With NGO	MOU Operational Period
Zimbabwe Women Beauru		Nutrition Garden, Value Chain	14	AARDS	Valid
World Vision	WASH Area Development Programme	Child learning and social protection Nutrition Gardens Small livestock projects	1, 2, 3,4, 11, 12 and 16	Education AARDS Social Welfare Health	Valid
IFAD	Irrigations Rehabilitations	Rehabilitation of Irrigation scheme, PPE	8, 14 and 24	AARDS Women Affair	Valid
OPHID	HIV Interventions	Covid-19 HIV interventions	All Health Centres	MOHCC	Valid
ZHI		HIV Interventions	All Health Centres	MOHCC	Valid
DAN Church AID	Disaster response	Covid 19 Mental health	All wards	MOHCC	Valid
Dubane Trust	Livelihoods	Sand Dam constructions	13, 14 and 20	AARDS	Valid
Hand In Hand	Livelihoods	Livelihood support ISALS Garden	7, 8, 12, 13 and 14	AARDS Ministry of Women Affairs	Valid
ILIR	Environmental management	Rangelands, Fodder Gardens	14 and 15		Valid
SAT- ERVHZ	Conversation Farming	Fodder Production	8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18	AARDS	Valid
Practical Action	Value addition Livelihoods	Irrigation gardens WASH	6, 7, 8, 13, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 24	MOHCC AARDS	Valid
Zimbabwe Women in Land	Livelihoods Value addition	Irrigation Seed distribution	Ward 9	AARDS	Valid
Source: DDC					

18. Summary Of Ward

Ward No.	Hhs	Health Facility	Access To Safe Water	Access To Toilets	Poverty Level	Agro-Ecological Zones	Source Of Income	Coping Strategies	Cereal Adequacy	Drought Prone	Flood Prone	Food Insecurity Rankings
1	1,340		Low	Medium	74.7%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	14
2	945	Yes	Low	High	72.1%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping, Petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	10
3	847	Yes	Low	High	71.4%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	11
4	1,441	Yes	Low	High	71.5%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	8
5	388	Yes	Low	High	52.9%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	15
6	1,363		Low	High	72.6%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	12
7	760	Yes	Low	High	76.9%	Region IV, 450 - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	7
8	1,594	Yes	Low	Medium	73.5%	Region IV and V, less than 450 mm - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	9

18. Summary Of Ward (continued)

9	914	Yes	Low	Low	80.2%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping, Petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	19
10	101		Low	Medium	54.5%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	21
11	1,288	Yes	Low	Medium	69.9%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	4
12	1,272		Low	Medium	71.2%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	2
13	2,029		Low	Medium	77.4%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	1
14	1,368		Low	Medium	68.4%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	13
15	1,283		Low	Medium	72.6%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, Gold panning, Consumption of wild fruits, Reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, Reduced meals, Petty trading, Border jumping	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	16
16	1,271		Low	Medium	72.0%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	3

18. Summary Of Ward (continued)

17	1,500	Low	Medium	73.1%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	5
18	1,467	Low	Low	74.5%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	17
19	1,251	Low	Low	72.8%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	20
20	1,160	Low	Low	76.3%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	6
21	536	Low	Low	59.4%	Region IV and V, less than 450 mm - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	22
22	748	Low	Low	56.0%	Region IV and V, less than 450 mm - 650mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	23
23	1,270	Low	Low	65.4%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	24
24	797	Low	Low	77.70%	Region V, less than 450mm, extensive agriculture, cattle rearing and game	Livestock production, gold panning, consumption of wild fruits, reduction of number of meals and portion sizes	Consumption of wild foods, reduced meals, petty trading, border jumping, petty trading	1-4	Moderate	Moderate	18

19. District Team

District Team		
Name	Designation	Organisation
Jubilent Jacha	Nutrition Assistant	MOHCC
Zimphlephe Ndlovu	DAEO	AARDS
Thulani Moyo	A/DDC	MLG
Tendai Chance	Program Manager	World Vision
Simansele Ncube	SDO	MPSLSD

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GWANDA District

Food and Nutrition Security Profile

2022

