Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

2022 RURAL LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT REPORT

MATABELELAND NORTH

ZimVAC is Coordinated by the Food and Nutrition Council
Housed at SIRDC: 1574 Alpes Road, Hatcliffe, Harare
Tel: +263-242-862586/ +263-242-862025. Website: www.fnc.org.zw. Email: info@fnc.org.zw.
Twitter: @FNCZimbabwe. Instagram: fnc_zim. Facebook: @FNCZimbabwe

Foreword

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) undertook the 2022 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) in fulfilment of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP). Through its integrated Food and Nutrition Security Information System, Government through the ZimVAC remains committed to collecting, collating and disseminating up to date, accurate and disaggregated food and nutrition security information for informing policy, programming and tracking of national, regional and global food and nutrition targets in a timely manner. ZimVAC is a technical advisory committee comprised of representatives from Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia.

The 2022 RLA, the 22nd since inception, was motivated by the desire to monitor progress of commitments in the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Sustainable Development Goals and planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people, given the prevailing drought situation in the country.

In order to ensure that we leave no-one and no place behind in all our programming, this report covers the following thematic areas: education, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, food security, COVID-19, WASH, social protection, youth and Gender Based Violence, among other issues. Hence, the findings from this assessment will inform the development of holistic and multi-sectoral response strategies.

We are grateful for the financial and technical support which we received from the ZimVAC and our strategic partners. We applaud the food and nutrition security structures at national, provincial, district and ward levels for successfully carrying out the survey. We also extend our appreciation to Government and Development Partners for the financial support and technical leadership which made the assessment a success. We are indebted to the rural communities of Zimbabwe and all the rural local authorities for their collaboration during the survey. The leadership, coordination and management of the whole assessment displayed by the staff at the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) is also greatly appreciated.

We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work as we strive to ensure that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

George D. Kembo (Dr.)

DIRECTOR GENERAL a.i./ ZIMVAC CHAIRPERSON

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Acknowledgements

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

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Rural District Councils (RDCs)
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Mercy Corps
- Meteorological Services Department
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- START NETWORK
- UNFPA-Spotlight Initiative
- United Nations Development Programme- ZRBF
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Sizimele
- MELANA
- HOCIC
- Save the Children
- Local Initiatives and Development Agency (LID)
- Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA)
- World Vision
- Simukai
- SNV
- Redcross
- National Aids Council
- ALPHA
- Africa Ahead
- CTDO
- Bindura University of Science Education
- Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- University of Zimbabwe
- Care International
- Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- Plan International
- Mwenezi Development Training Centre (MDTC)
- Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ)
- Action Aid
- SAFIRE
- ZINWA
- CARITAS
- Heather Chimonga Orphanage
- Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
- Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT)
- Jointed Hands Welfare Organisation (JHWO)

Acknowledgement of Support

ZIMBABWE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls

START NETWORK

Acronyms

EA	Enumeration Area
FNC	Food and Nutrition Council
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
NDS 1	National Development Strategy 1
RLA	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Introduction and Background

Introduction

- ZimVAC livelihoods assessments' results continue to be an important tool for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation. To date, 22 rural and 9 urban livelihoods updates have been produced.
- ZimVAC plays a significant role in fulfilling Commitment Six of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (GoZ, 2012), in which the "Government of Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring a national integrated Food and Nutrition Security Information System that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making".
- It has become mandatory for FNC to coordinate annual livelihoods updates with the technical support of ZimVAC.

Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

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

ZimVAC supports Government, particularly FNC in:

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

Assessment Rationale

The assessment results will be used to:

- Inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people, given the prevailing situation in the country as well as their long term vulnerability context.
- Inform short, medium and long term interventions that address immediate and long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods.
- Monitor and report towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national food and nutrition policies and strategies among them the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Zero Hunger Strategy.
- Monitor interventions to ensure adherence to the principles spelt out in regional and international frameworks which Zimbabwe has committed itself to, which include the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the SDGs.
- Guide early warning for early action.

Purpose

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

Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

1. To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2022/23 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
2. To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
3. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of characteristics such as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
4. To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions in the country.
5. To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
6. To measure household resilience and identify constraints to improving their resilience.
7. To identify early recovery needs in order to determine short to long term recovery strategies.
8. To identify development priorities for communities.

Background

- The continuous shocks and hazards affecting the rural communities call for ongoing monitoring as the food and nutrition situation continues to evolve.
- The Government came up with the National Development Strategy 1:2021-2025 (NDS1) towards the end of 2020. The overarching goal of NDS1 is to ensure high, accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth as well as socio-economic transformation and development as we move towards an upper middle-income society by 2030.
- One of the priority areas for the NDS1 is Food and Nutrition Security. NDS1 seeks to improve food self-sufficiency and to retain the regional breadbasket status. The main objective is to increase food self-sufficiency from the current level of 45% to 100% and reduce food insecurity from the 59% recorded in 2019 to less than 10% by 2025.
- The 2021/2022 season started late in the second and third dekad of December 2021 in most parts of the country. The season was characterised by poor rainfall distribution in both space and time across the country. There were incessant rains in January followed by a prolonged dry spell in the first week of February to the end of March. The passage of Tropical Storm Ana at the end of January 2022 helped to reduce rainfall deficits in parts of the country, but the tropical storm was characterised by heavy rains, which caused water logging and leaching.
- The false start of the season resulted in failed crop establishment, forcing most farmers to replant several times. The late onset caused late plantings which were later affected by the prolonged dry spell at the reproductive stage causing write offs especially in the central and southern parts of the country. The rainfall season also affected livelihoods strategies which include seasonal on-farm labour, livestock sales, vegetable production and sales, harvesting, and the sale and consumption of wild produce.
- According to the Ministry of Agriculture's 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment, the estimated maize production for the 2021/2022 season stands at 1 557 914 Mt which is a 43% decrease from the 2 717 171Mt produced in the 2020/2021 season. Traditional grains production for the 2021/2022 season is estimated at 194 100MT representing a 44% decrease from 347 968Mt in 2020/2021. The total cereal production is 1 752 014Mt against a national cereal requirement of 2 267 599Mt (1 817 599Mt for human consumption and 350 000Mt for livestock).

Background

- With the majority of the rural population's livelihoods mostly influenced by agriculture (both crops and livestock), the experienced climate related shocks have implications on access to food and the nutrition status of households.
- Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe. According to the ZIMSTAT Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report, 70.5% of the population were poor whilst 29.3% were deemed extremely poor. The macroeconomic situation remains volatile due to parallel market exchange rates that are the main drivers of ZWL price increases in both formal and informal sectors. This is impacting livelihoods and access to food, especially among poor households.
- The health pandemic, due to COVID-19, continues to be the biggest health and human crisis threatening food security and nutrition among the Zimbabwean population. The impact of the pandemic is being felt in all sectors of the economy, including health, education and agriculture. The COVID 19 pandemic, whose effects and devastation have been felt across all parts of the world, has magnified pre-existing differences in economic and social conditions of the vulnerable populations.

Contextual Analysis- Background

The livelihoods of rural households continue to be affected by both systemic and idiosyncratic shocks which include but are not limited to the following:

Systemic Shocks

- Climatic shocks (Drought and prolonged mid-season dry spells, floods, water logging, crop and livestock pests, hailstorms)
- Economic shocks (sharp changes of cereals and livestock prices)
- Crop and livestock diseases

Idiosyncratic shocks

- Health related shocks (COVID-19, chronic illness)
- Death of breadwinner

Government Mitigatory Measures

- Despite the environmental challenges for the period under review, the Government is applauded for being proactive and implementing a number of mitigatory measures.
- Government remained committed to ensuring that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and malnutrition and led the implementation of the following measures to ensure food security for all people:

a) ***COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign-*** The campaign has seen eligible members of the population receiving doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. As of the 10th of June 2022, 6.24 million people (55.6%) had received their first dose and 4.6 million (40.7%) were fully vaccinated. Furthermore, 838 292 people had received the third dose (booster dose).

b) ***Supporting the vulnerable groups*** through distribution of food aid (in-kind) and cash transfers; cash transfer for cereals, harmonized social cash transfers.

Government Mitigatory Measures

c) ***Food Subsidies*** through continued implementation of social protection measures to improve food access (e.g. maize meal subsidies).

d) ***Enabling environment-*** Government also opened up space for development partners to contribute and assist.

e) ***Removing restrictions on food importation*** such as removal of import duty on maize and wheat, cooking oil, among other basic commodities, to ensure affordability of essential foodstuffs and to mitigate the effects of the drought.

f) ***Pfumvudza/Intwasa Programme,*** through programmes which farmers are supported with seed, fertiliser and herbicides.

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

Government Mitigatory Measures

h) ***National Public Infrastructure Investment Programme*** prioritises and embraces projects identified by communities. Major trunk roads are now being upgraded, new infrastructure being constructed, and additional raw water sources are being delivered to mitigate the impact of climate change.

i) ***Access to consumptive water*** through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation and construction of Headworks for livestock water troughs.

j) ***Strengthening of Multi-Sectoral Structures*** in order to operationalise a cohesive response to the food and nutrition challenges. The structures include the following: Inter-Ministerial Cabinet Committee for Food and Nutrition Security, Inter-Ministerial Grain Importation Committee, Internal Logistics and Distribution of Grain Committee, Working Party of Permanent Secretaries, Food Aid Working Group, National Food and Nutrition Security Committee, District Food and Nutrition Security Committees, District Drought Relief Committees and Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (inclusive of local leadership including local Councilors and Chiefs).

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design

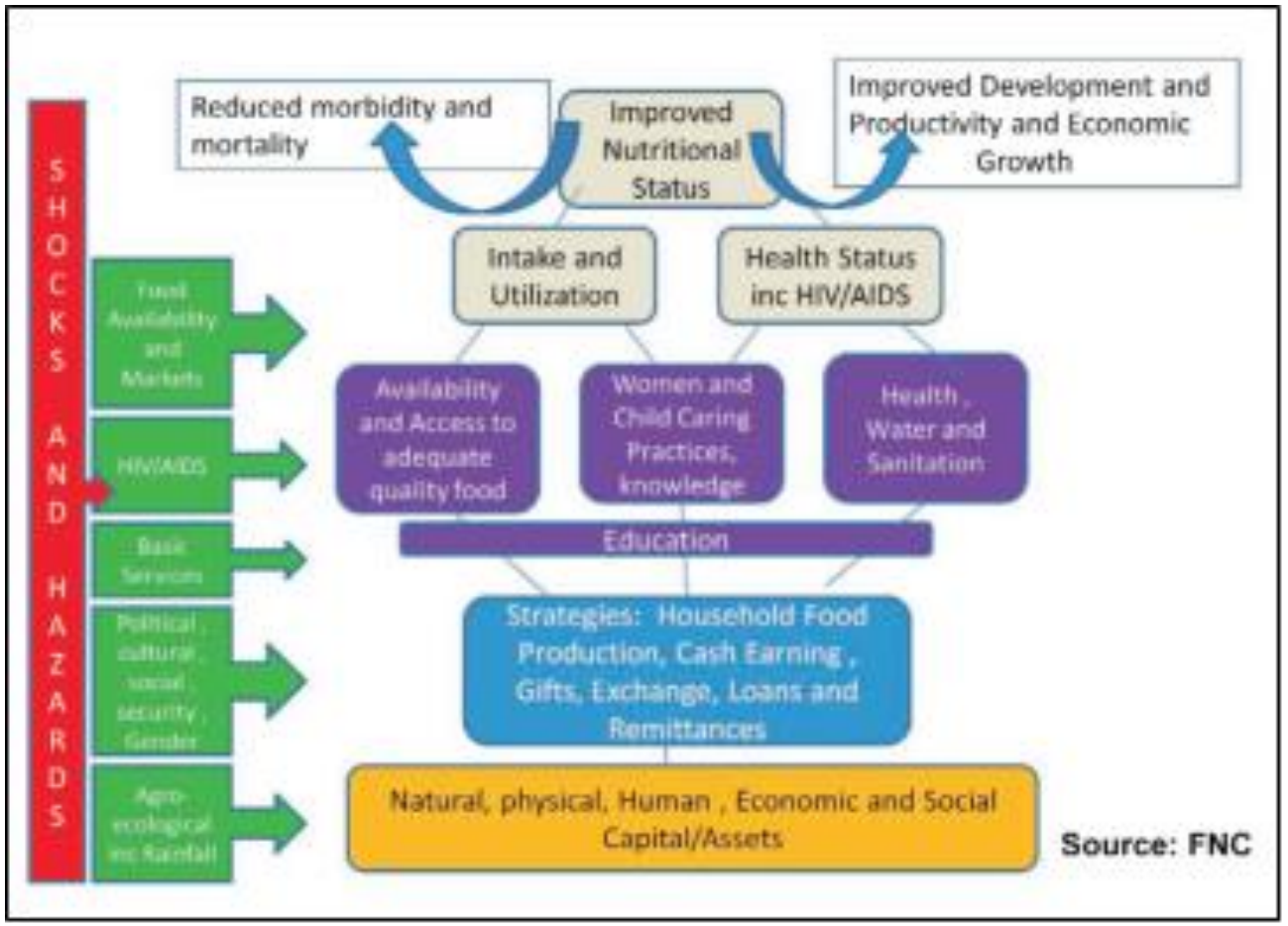

Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

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

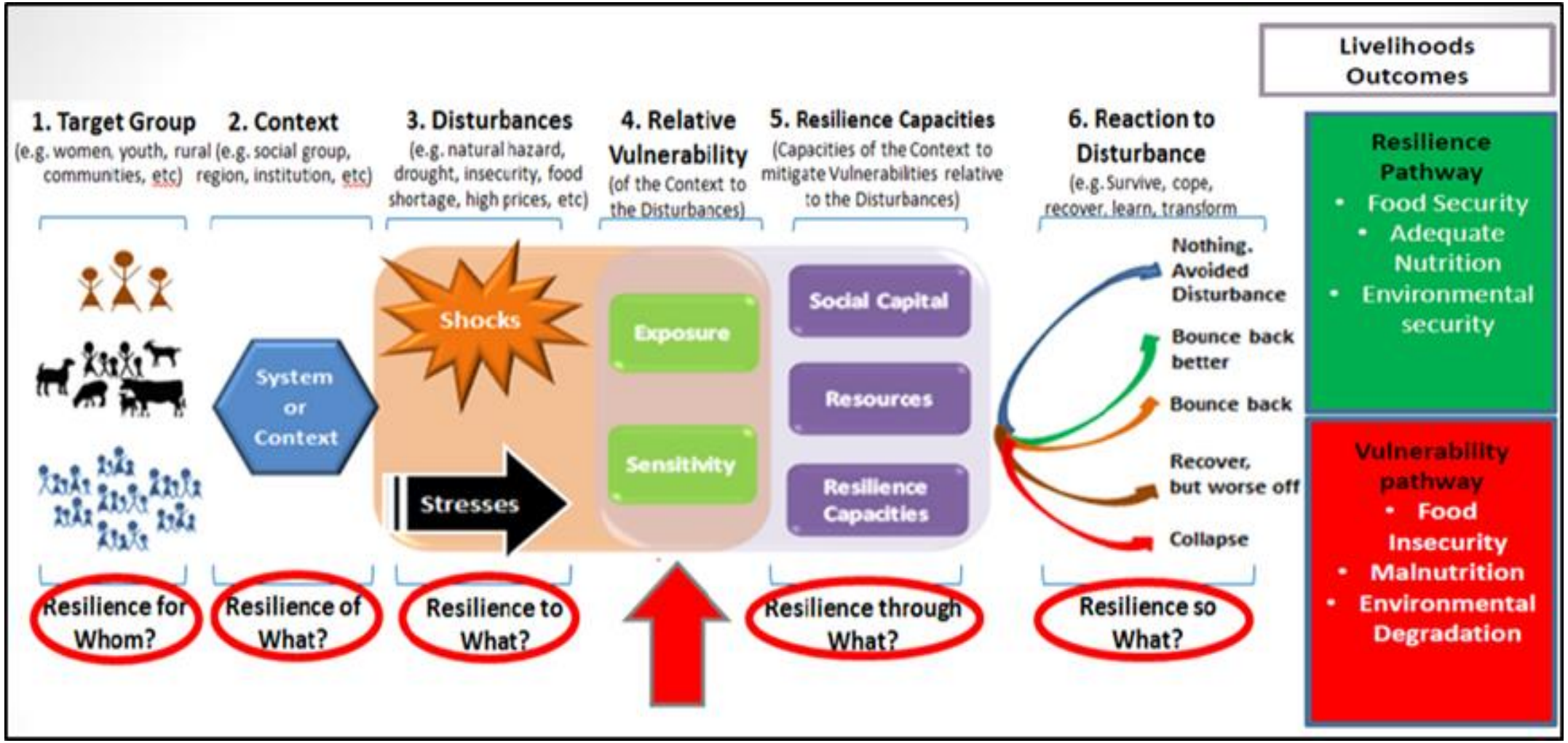

Figure 2: Zimbabwe Resilience Framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

Methodology – Assessment Process

- ZimVAC, through multi-stakeholder consultations, developed an appropriate assessment design concept note and data collection tools informed by the assessment objectives.
- The primary data collection tools used in the assessment were the android–based structured household questionnaire and the community Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide.
- ZimVAC national supervisors (including Provincial Agritex Extension Officers and Provincial Nutritionists) and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. These underwent training in all aspects of the assessment. In order to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19, training for enumerators was done at district level.
- The Ministry of Health and Child Care was the lead ministry in the development of the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines which guided all processes from survey planning to data collection.
- The Ministry of Local Government coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial supervision and district enumeration vehicles. Three enumerators were selected from each district for data collection and one anthropometrist was responsible for taking anthropometric measurements.

Methodology – Assessment Process

- Enumerator training was held from 9 to 10 May 2022. Primary data collection took place from 11 to 23 May 2022. In recognising the risk of spreading COVID-19 during data collection, innovative approaches were used to collect vital information without causing any harm.
- The RLA was guided by global and country specific recommendations and all necessary precautions were taken to avoid potential transmission of COVID-19 between enumerators and community members.
- Data analysis and report writing ran from 4 June to 12 June 2022. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

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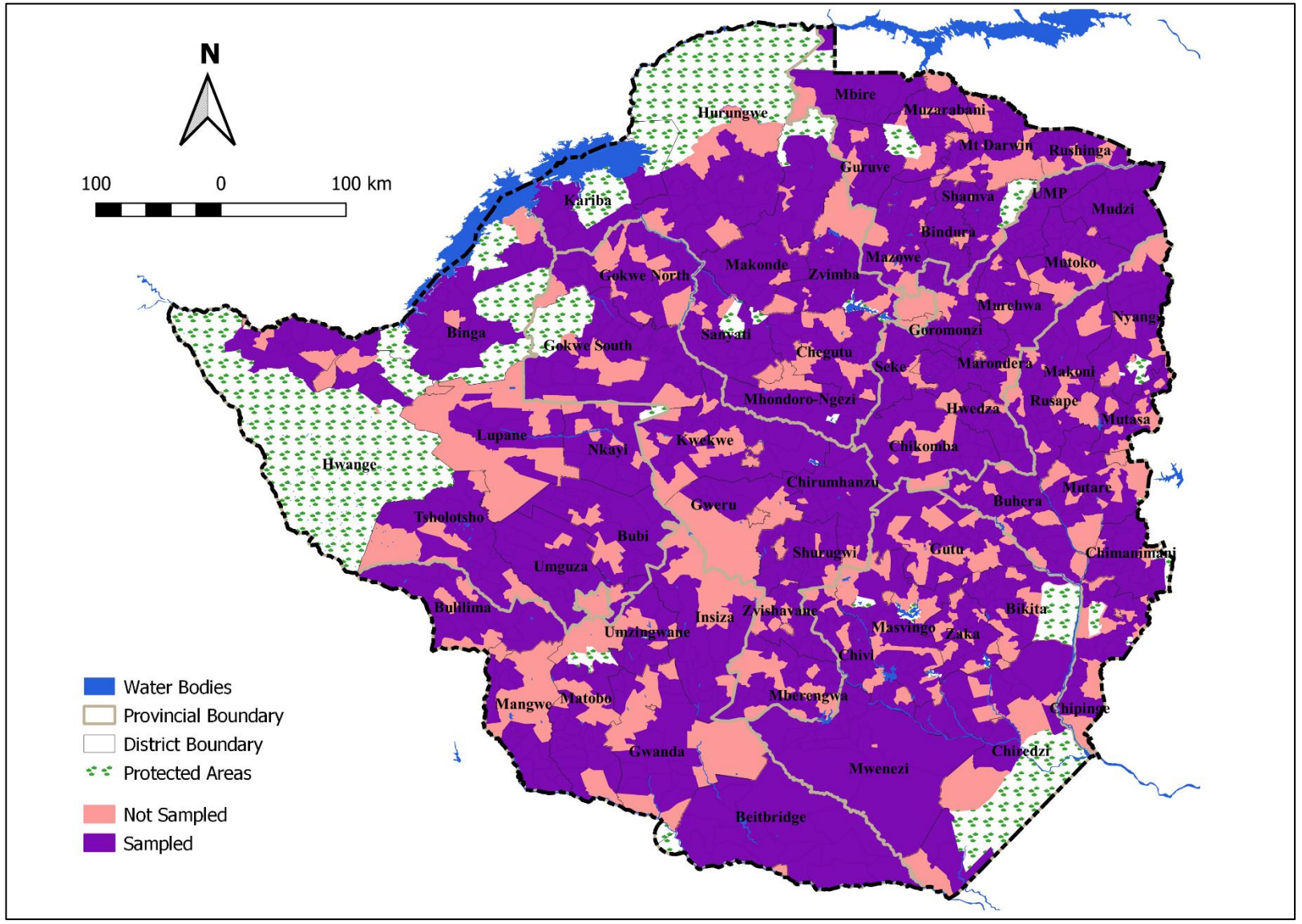
Methodology - Sampling and Sample Size

- Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level.
- The survey collected data from 1 500 randomly selected Enumerated Areas (EAs):
- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of;
    - Sampling of 25 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2012 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology
    - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).
- At most, 250 households were sample per district, bringing the total sampled households to 1750**.**
- Out of the **1750** sampled households, **1739** households were interviewed households, giving a **99.4%** response rate.
- Twelve FGDs and one Key Informant Interview (KII) on irrigation and grazing were held per district.

District	Number of Sampled Households
Binga	248
Bubi	250
Hwange	250
Lupane	237
Nkayi	251
Tsholotsho	249
Umguza	254
Provincial	1739

Methodology – Sampled Wards



Assessment Findings

Demographic Description of the Sample

Household Characteristics

	Average Household size	Males (%)	Females (%)	Child headed (%)	Elderly headed (%)	Mentally challenged Headed (%)	Chronically ill headed (%)
Binga	3.4	45.8	54.2	0.4	26.6	0.8	5.2
Bubi	4.0	50.5	49.5	1.2	29.3	1.2	2.4
Hwange	4.2	49.3	50.7	1.2	30.1	0.8	4.4
Lupane	**5.2**	45.0	55.0	1.3	30.8	0.8	1.7
Nkayi	4.1	48.5	51.5	1.2	30.3	0.4	4.8
Tsholotsho	4.8	47.0	53.0	1.6	33.3	0.0	2.4
Umguza	4.0	47.8	52.2	**2.0**	**26.8**	**2.4**	**9.1**
Mat North	4.2	47.6	52.4	1.3	**29.6**	0.9	4.3

- Of the sampled population 47.6% were males and 52.4% were females.
- The average household size for Matabeleland North was 4.2.
- Lupane district had the highest average household size at 5.2.

Characteristics of Respondents : Age and Sex

District	Respondent's Sex (%)		Respondent's Average Age (years)
	Male	Female	Average
Binga	34.7	65.3	45.9
Bubi	29.6	70.0	48.9
Hwange	31.6	68.4	49.1
Lupane	25.3	74.7	47.7
Nkayi	34.7	65.3	50.0
Tsholotsho	24.9	75.1	48.1
Umguza	29.5	70.5	47.0
Mat North	30.1	69.9	48.1

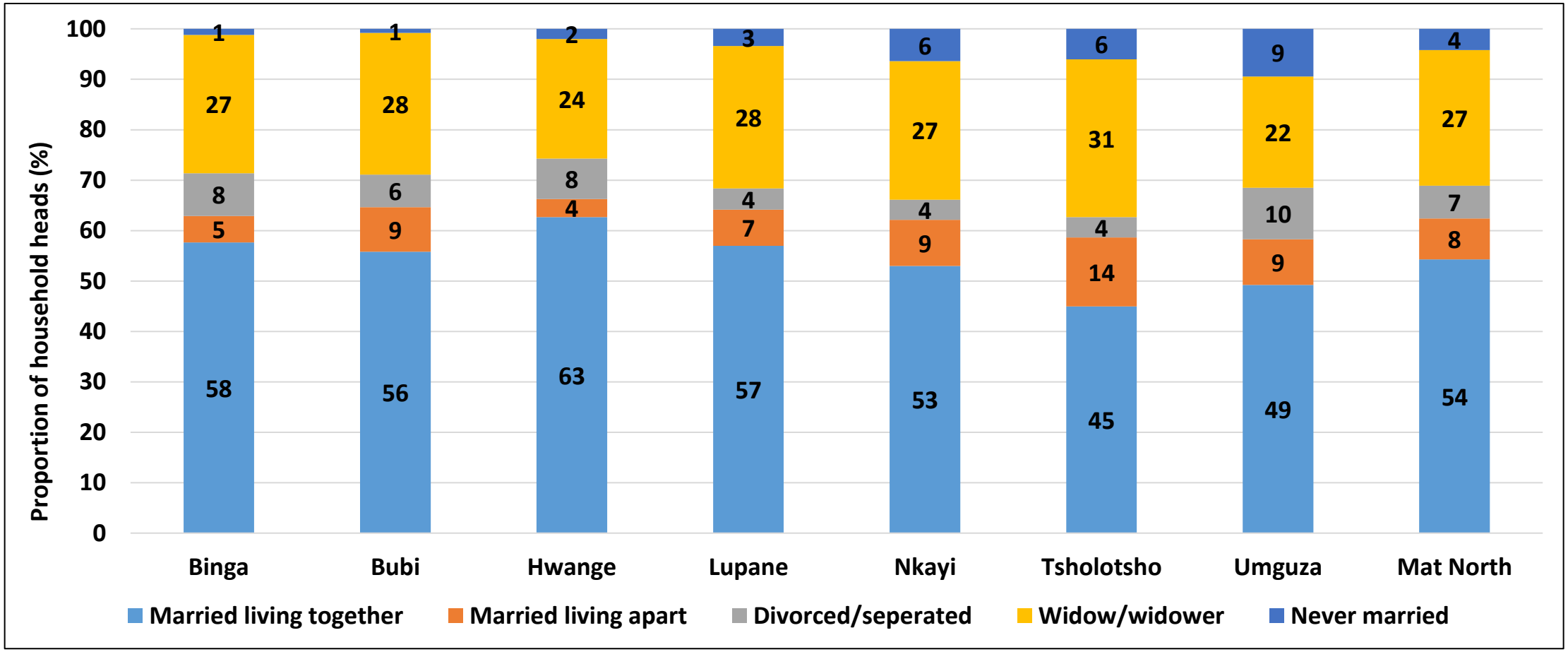
- The average age of respondents was 48.1. Thus, interaction was with the reproductive group responsible for household and economic development.
- About 69.9% of the respondents were female.

Characteristics of Household Head: Sex and Age

District	Household Head sex (%)		Household Head Average Age (years)
	Male	Female	Average
Binga	61.7	38.3	49.5
Bubi	70.0	30.0	55.8
Hwange	63.9	36.1	54.6
Lupane	60.3	39.7	55.1
Nkayi	65.3	34.7	54.6
Tsholotsho	53.0	47.0	56.8
Umguza	59.8	40.2	52.8
Mat North	62.0	38.0	54.2

- In Matabeleland North Province, most of the households were headed by males (62%) as compared to females (38%).
- The average age of household head was 54.2 years which is within the productive age group.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status



- A greater proportion of household heads (54%) were married and living together while the least proportion of household heads were never married (4%).

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level attained

	None (%)	Primary level (%)	ZJC level (%)	O' level (%)	A‘ Level and above (%)
Binga	**23**	38	17	20	2
Bubi	9	63	14	13	0
Hwange	18	48	13	21	1
Lupane	12	47	19	21	0
Nkayi	10	63	11	15	2
Tsholotsho	9	57	19	14	1
Umguza	10	55	8	23	5
Mat North	13	53	14	18	2

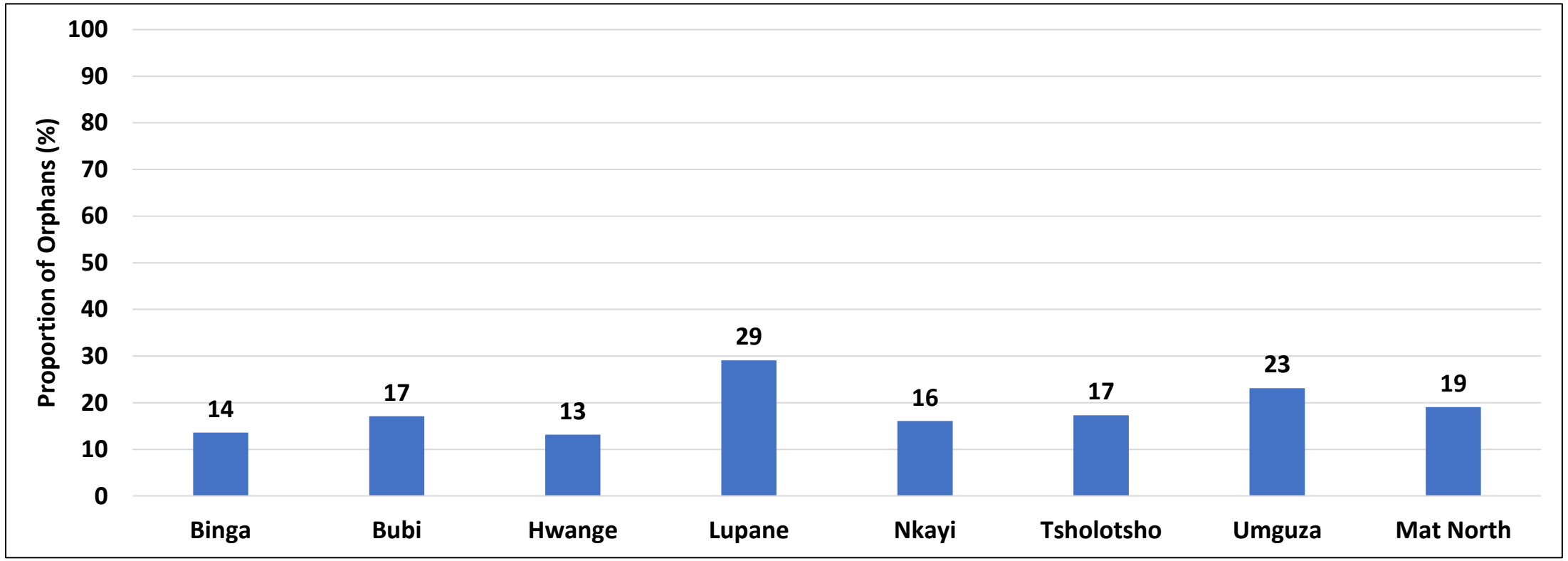
- Binga (23%) had the highest proportion of household heads who had not attained any level of Education.

Characteristics of Household Head: Religion

District	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant Churches (%)	Pentecostal Churches (%)	Apostolic Sects (%)	Zion (%)	Other Christian (%)	Traditional (%)	No religion (%)
Binga	8	8	24	19	8	2	5	24
Bubi	1	15	6	27	14	0	0	36
Hwange	23	4	28	18	12	2	0	12
Lupane	14	5	12	32	19	2	0	16
Nkayi	6	18	10	27	21	0	8	9
Tsholotsho	4	14	8	18	27	7	2	18
Umguza	7	20	16	16	18	3	1	19
Mat North	9	12	15	23	17	3	2	19

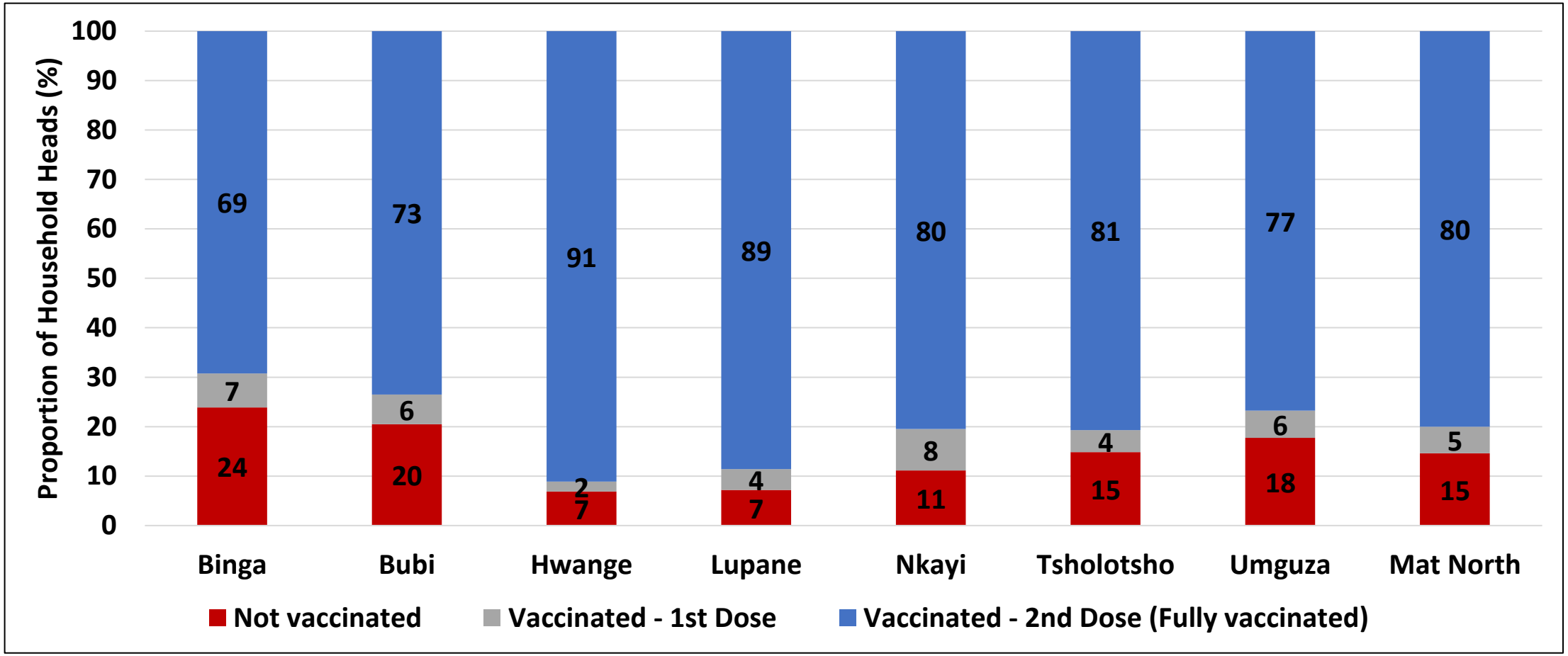
- The majority of household heads (79%) were of Christian religion with most being of the Apostolic Sects (23%).

Orphaned Children



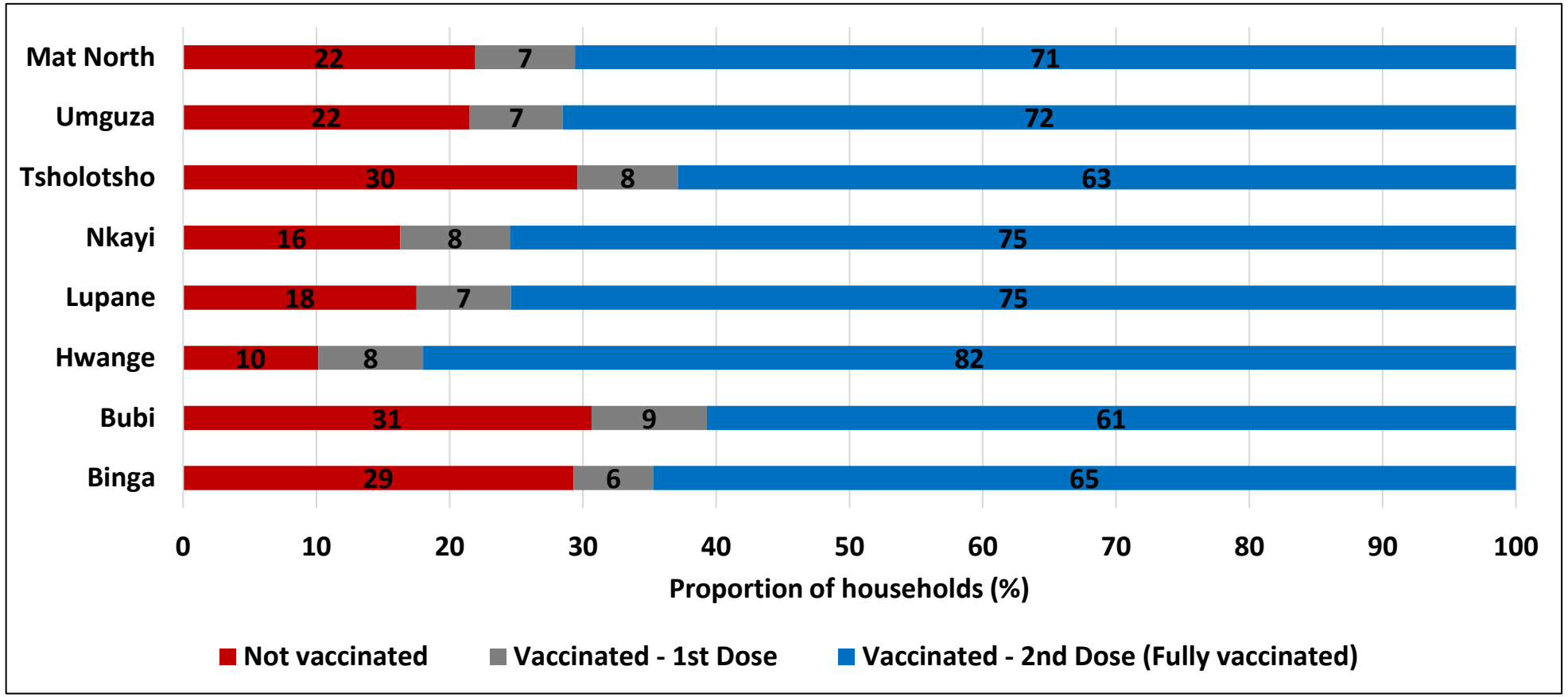
- In Matabeleland North, 19% the children from the sampled households were orphans.
- The highest proportion was in Lupane (29%) and Umguza (23%).

Characteristics of Household Head: Covid-19 Vaccination Status



- A greater proportion of household heads were fully vaccinated across all districts
- On average 80% were fully vaccinated

Covid-19 Vaccination Status: All Household Members



- In Matabeleland North the proportion households with members fully vaccinated was 71%.
- Hwange (82%) had the highest proportion of households with fully vaccinated members whilst Bubi (61%) had the least.

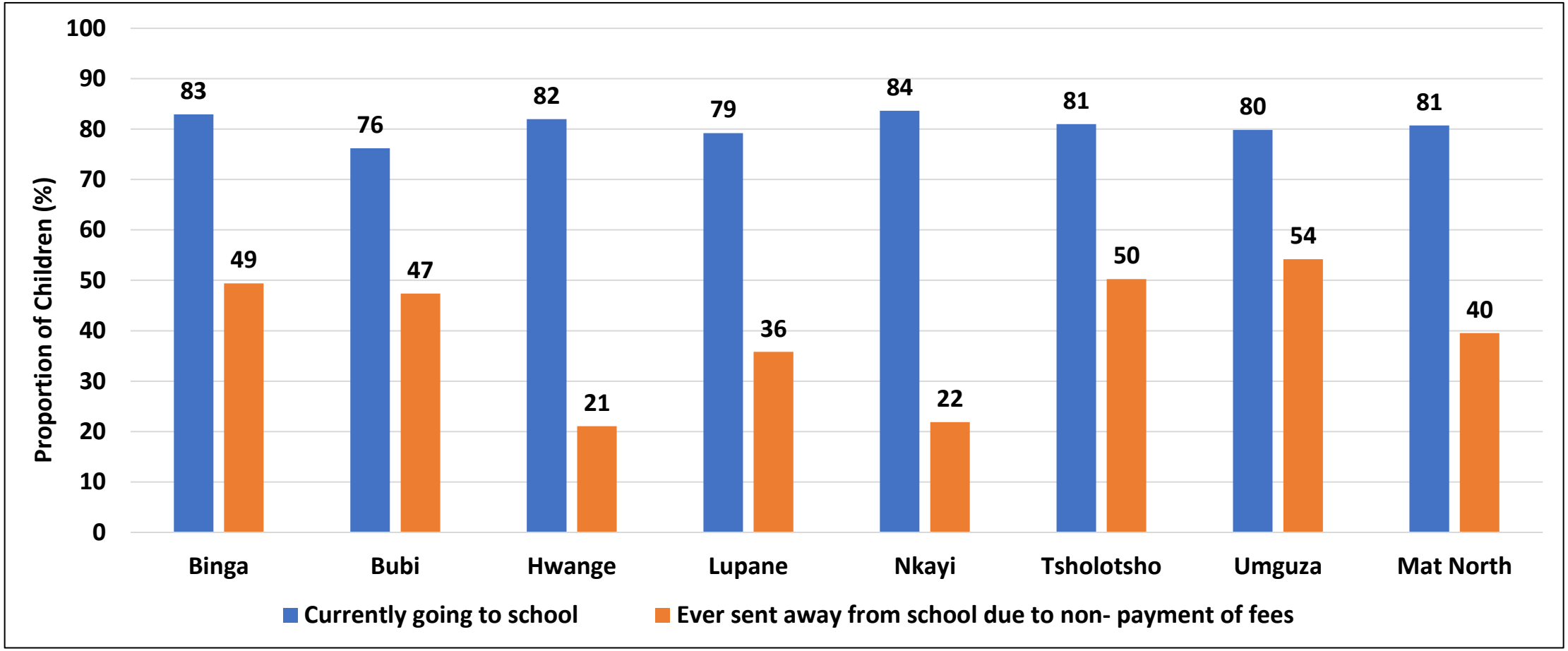
Household Vulnerability Attributes

District	Households with at least 1 orphan (%)	Households with at least 1 parent of the children who does not live in this household (%)	Households with at least 1 member who is chronically ill (%)	Households with at least 1 mentally challenged Households members (%)
Binga	15	26	8	10
Bubi	16	40	4	5
Hwange	17	47	7	9
Lupane	35	51	4	9
Nkayi	22	56	8	7
Tsholotsho	29	66	4	5
Umguza	24	49	16	9
Mat North	**23**	**48**	7	8

- Matabeleland North province had a high proportion of households (48%) with at least 1 parent of the children in the household, who did not live in the household at the time of the survey.
- About 23% of households had at least 1 orphan.

Education

School Attendance



- About 81% of the children of school going age were going to school during the time of the survey.
- Umguza had the highest proportion of children ever sent away during the first term due to non-payment of fees (54%).

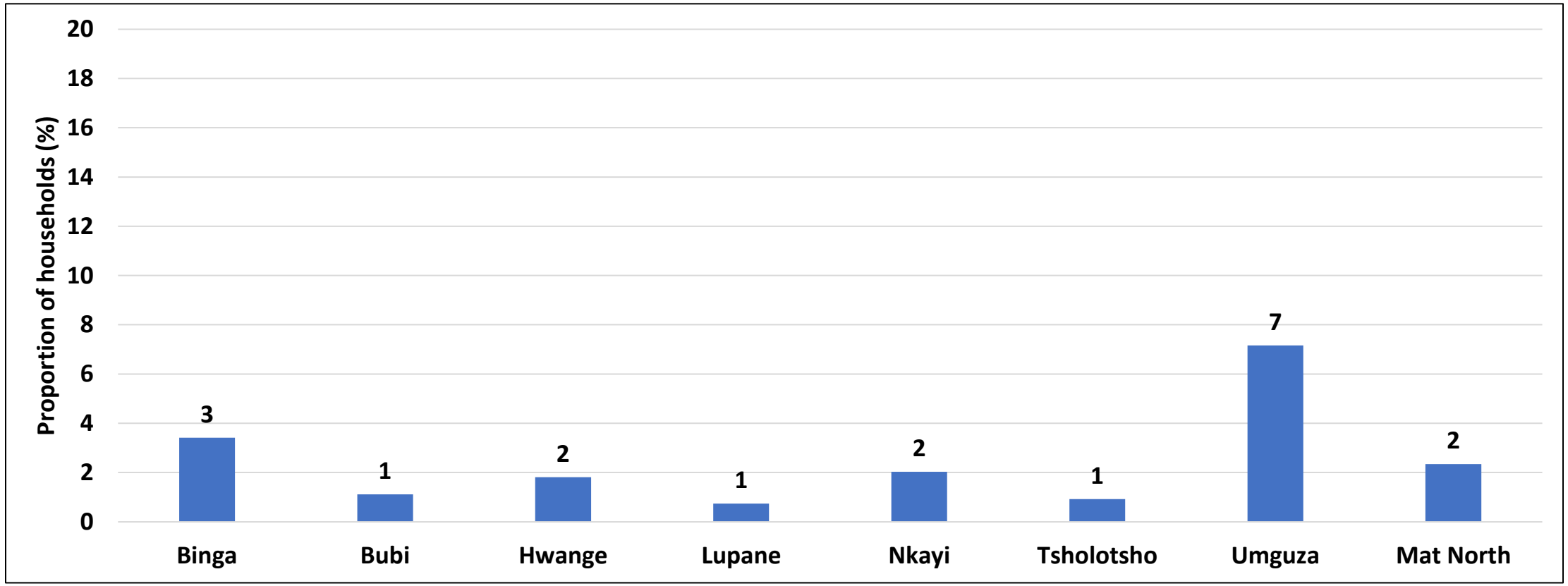
Forms of schooling

District	Home (%)	Physical (%)	Radio lessons (%)	TV lessons (%)	Online lessons (e.g. Learning passport, Edu-connect Zimbabwe) (%)	WhatsApp (%)
Binga	16	81	1	0	0	1
Bubi	0	100	0	0	0	0
Hwange	2	50	2	0	0	46
Lupane	17	80	0	0	0	2
Nkayi	34	62	0	0	1	3
Tsholotsho	0	99	0	0	0	0
Umguza	30	64	3	0	0	3
Mat North	11	85	1	0	0	3

- In Matabeleland North province most the children at the time of the survey attended school physically (85%) and the least through Radio Lessons (1%).

Chronic Conditions

Households with Members that had Confirmed Chronic Conditions



- At least 2% of households in Matabeleland North had members with confirmed chronic conditions.
- Umguza (7%) had the highest proportion.

Household Members who had a Chronic Condition (2%)

District	HIV infection, AIDS (%)	Heart disease (%)	Diabetes, high blood sugar (%)	Asthma (%)	Hypertension, High blood pressure (%)	Arthritis, chronic body pain (%)	Epilepsy, Seizures, fits (%)	Stroke (%)	Cancer (%)	Tuberculosis (%)	Liver diseases (%)	Kidney diseases (%)	Ulcer. chronic stomach pain (%)	Other (%)
Binga	39.0	1.2	6.1	**25.6**	17.1	0.0	4.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2
Bubi	37.3	1.7	**21.2**	3.4	25.4	1.7	0.8	3.4	0.0	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.7
Hwange	21.9	1.4	15.7	10.5	25.7	9.0	1.4	1.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	3.3	8.1
Lupane	45.9	0.9	8.1	5.4	18.9	6.3	1.8	2.7	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1
Nkayi	29.9	0.0	9.2	3.4	**27.6**	4.6	6.9	0.0	1.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	8.0	5.7
Tsholotsho	**47.3**	0.0	4.9	8.4	21.7	10.8	3.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.0
Umguza	36.0	2.8	10.7	6.7	24.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	1.7	0.6	0.0	1.7	4.5	6.7
Mat North	**36.3**	1.2	**11.0**	8.6	**23.3**	5.9	2.8	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.6	2.6	4.9

- In Matabeleland North the highest proportion of household members with chronic conditions had HIV/AIDs (36.3%) followed by hypertension (23.3%) and diabetes (11%).
- The highest proportion of household members who had HIV/AIDS infection was in Tsholotsho (47.3%).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Ladder for Drinking Water Services

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

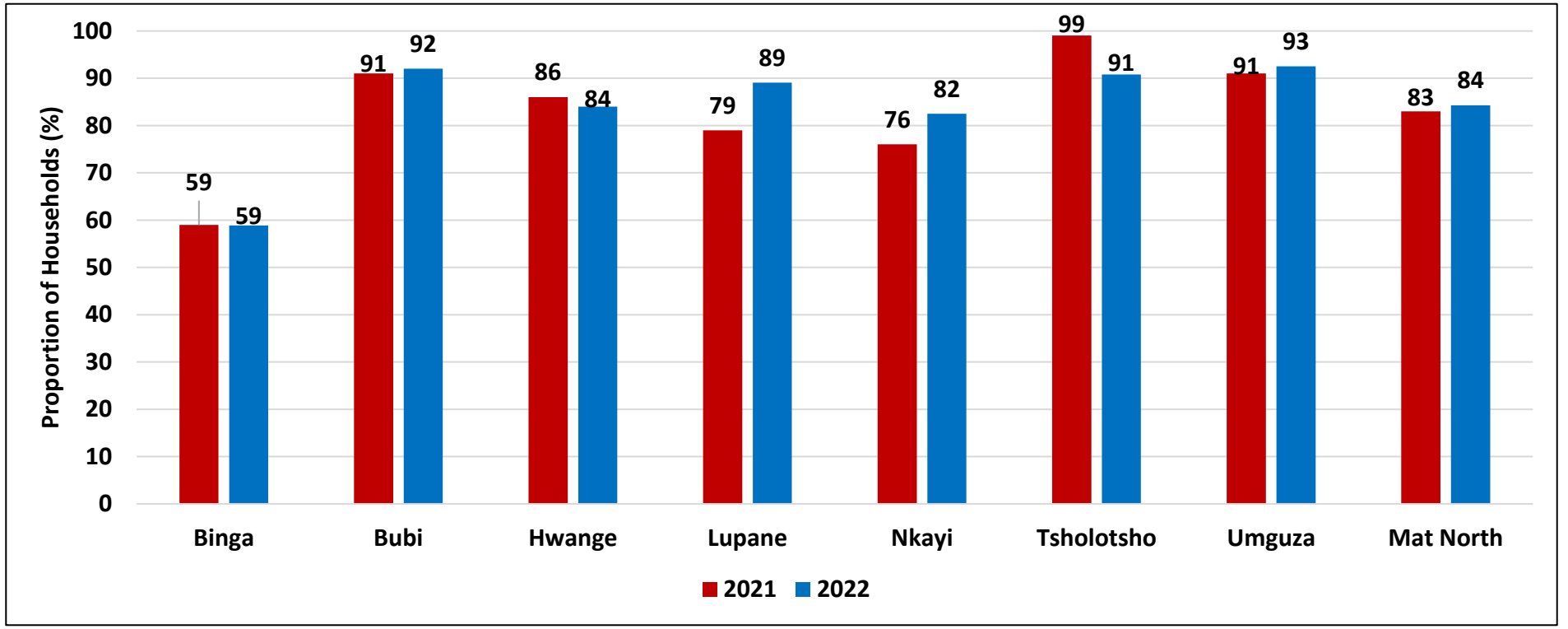
Note :
"Improved" drinking water sources are further defined by the quality of the water they produce, and are protected from faecal contamination by the nature of their construction or through an intervention to protect from outside contamination. Such sources include: piped water into dwelling, plot,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

Main Water Sources

District	Piped into dwelling (%)	Piped into yard or plot (%)	Piped into a public tap or standpipe (%)	Borehole (%)	Protected well (%)	Unprotected well (%)	Protected spring (%)	Unprotected spring (%)	Surface water (river/dam/stream) (%)	Rain water harvester (%)	Water trucking (%)	Sand abstraction (%)	Other (%)
Binga	0.4	2.0	18.5	35.5	1.2	4.0	1.2	0.8	**36.3**	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	1.6	2.4	14.9	59.4	13.7	2.8	0.0	1.2	2.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.2
Hwange	3.2	1.2	18.0	60.4	0.0	4.4	0.4	0.8	8.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	2.4
Lupane	0.4	0.0	14.8	39.8	33.5	3.4	0.8	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
Nkayi	0.8	0.0	0.0	62.8	18.4	4.0	0.8	0.0	**13.2**	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tsholotsho	1.2	2.4	9.2	72.3	5.6	2.8	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
Umguza	6.7	12.2	11.4	58.3	3.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.4	2.4	0.8
Mat North	2.1	2.9	12.4	**55.6**	10.7	3.3	0.5	0.4	10.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8

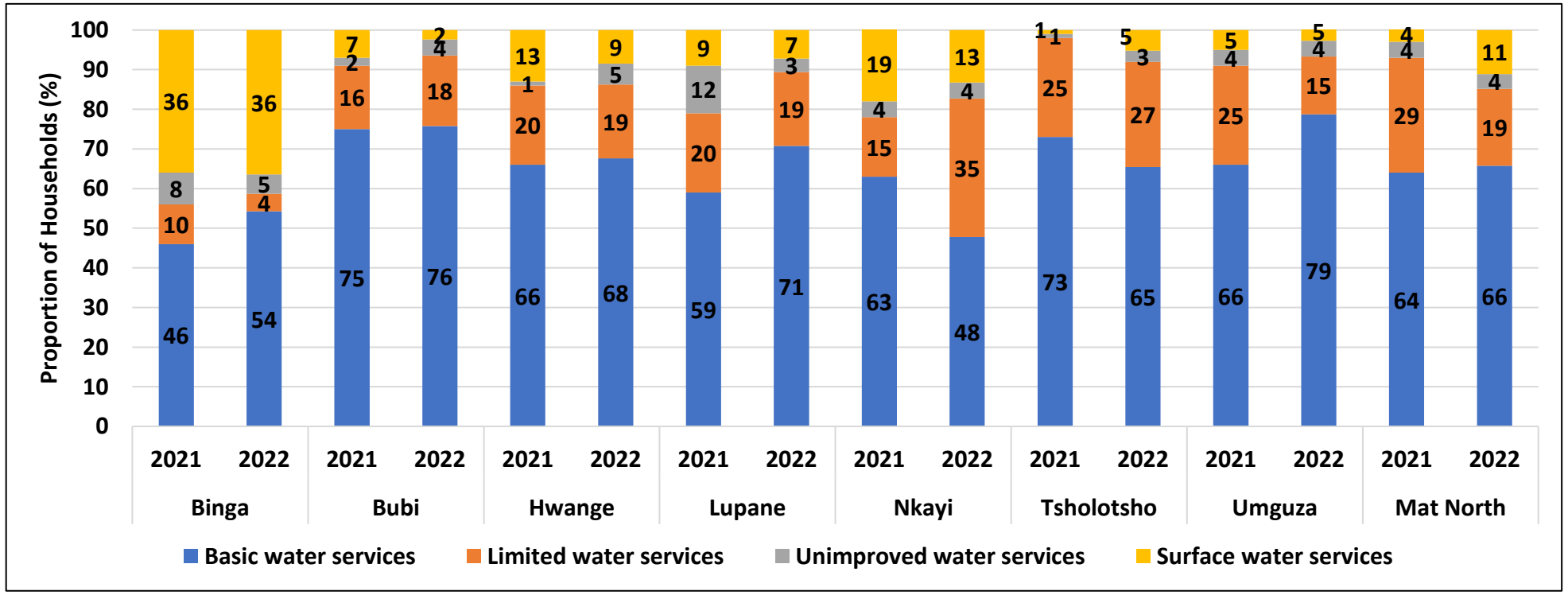
- The highest proportion of households (55.6%) accessed water from boreholes.
- Binga (36%) followed by Nkayi (13.2%) had the highest proportion of households using surface water as the main water source.

Access to Improved Water



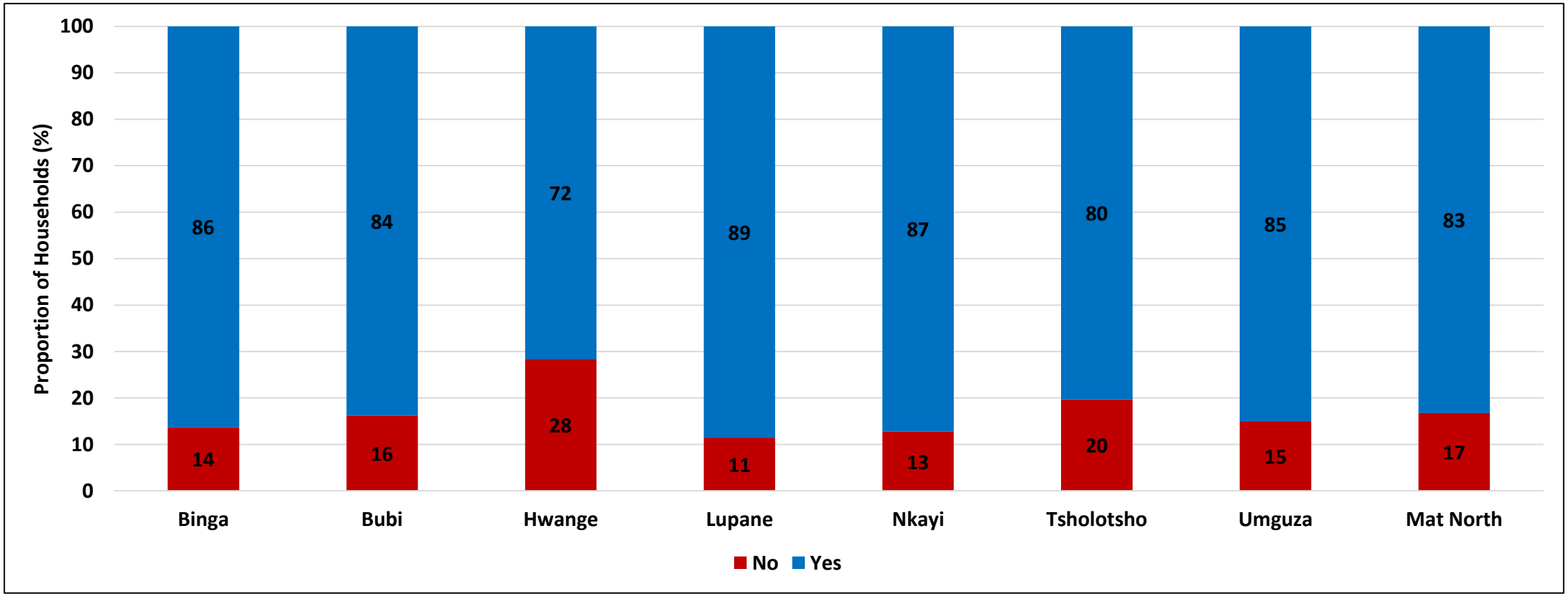
- Government is applauded on ensuring high access to improved water in the rural areas of Zimbabwe.
- There was a slight increase in the proportion of households using improved water sources from 83% in 2021 to 84% in 2022.
- In 2022 Umguza (93%), Bubi (92%) and Tsholotsho (91%) had the highest proportion of households with access improved water, while Binga (59%) had the least proportion.

Main Drinking Water Services



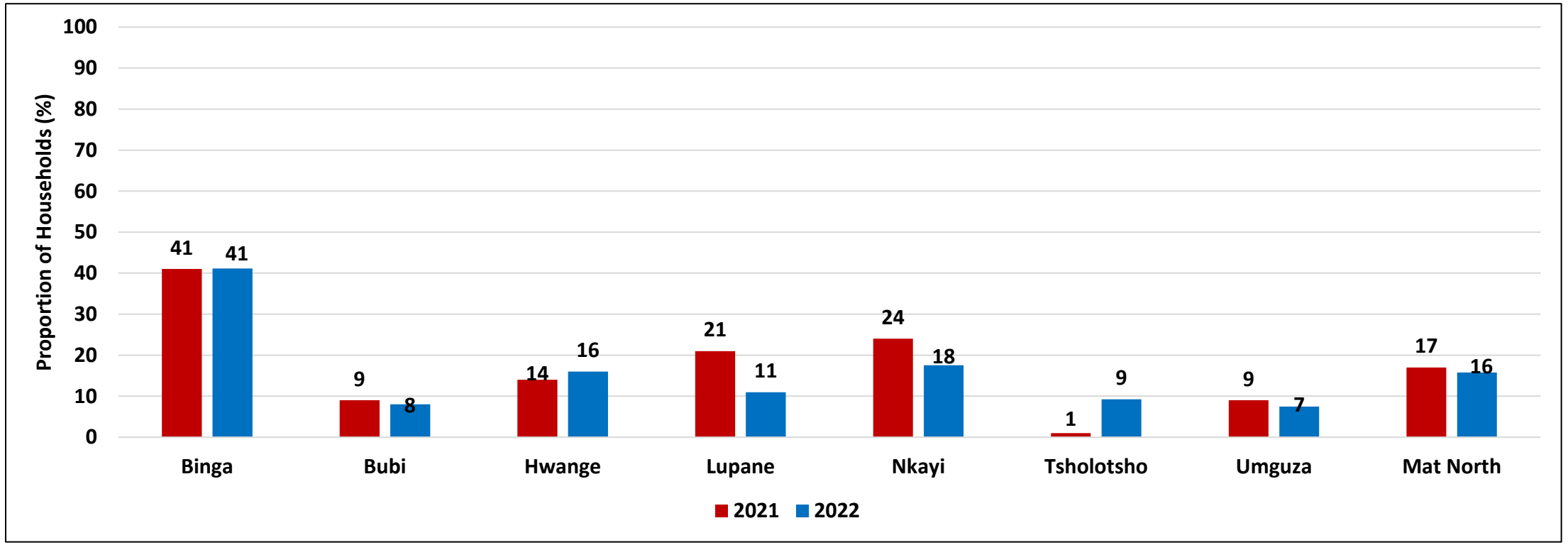
- At Provincial level an increase in the proportion of households accessing basic drinking water services was recorded from 64% in 2021 to 66% in 2022.
- Umguza (79%) in 2022 had the highest proportion of households with access to basic water services.

Access to Adequate Domestic Water



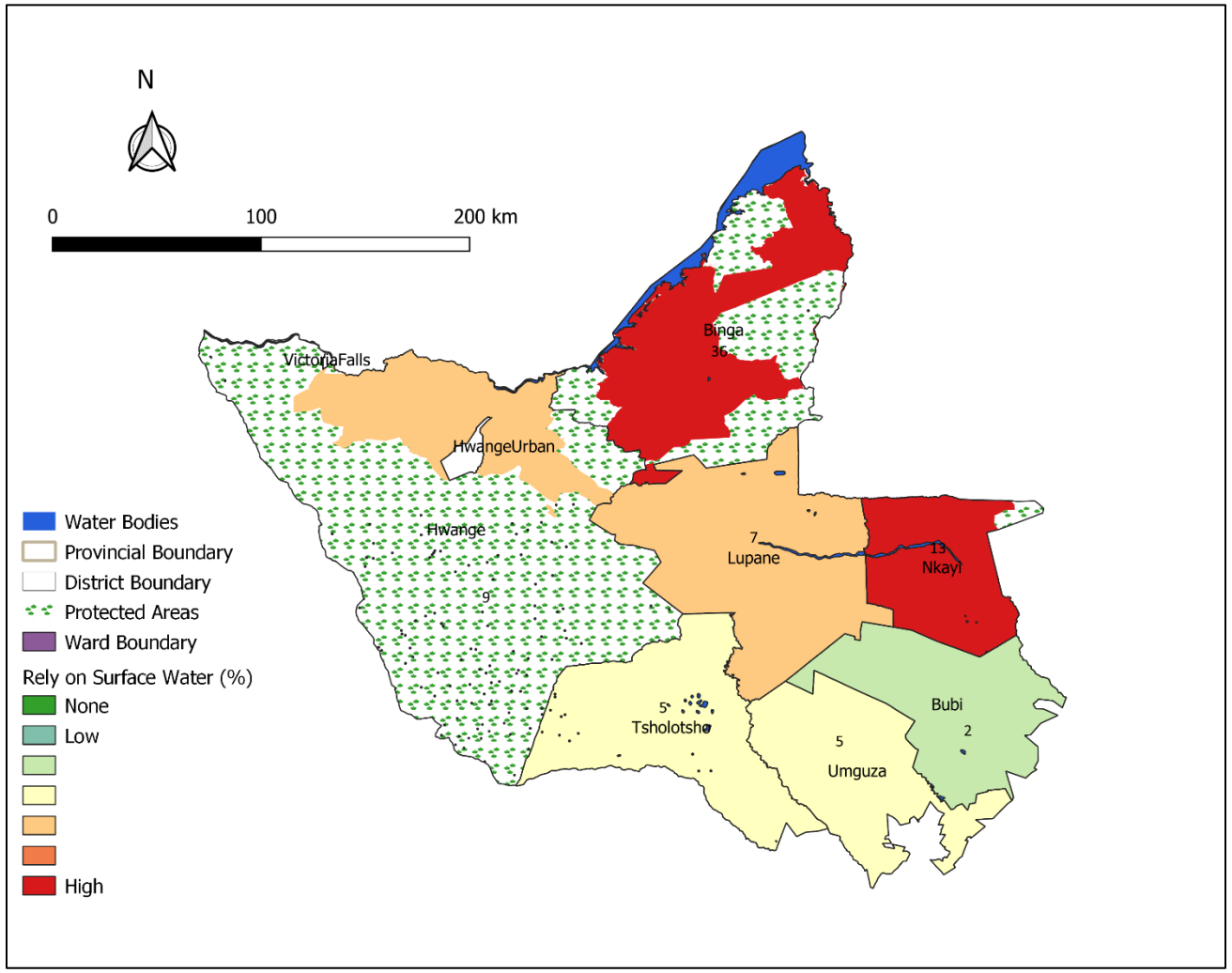
- At provincial level, about 83% of the households reported having access to adequate domestic water.
- Lupane (89%) had the highest proportion of households with access to adequate domestic water while Hwange (72%) had the least.

Households using Unimproved Water Sources



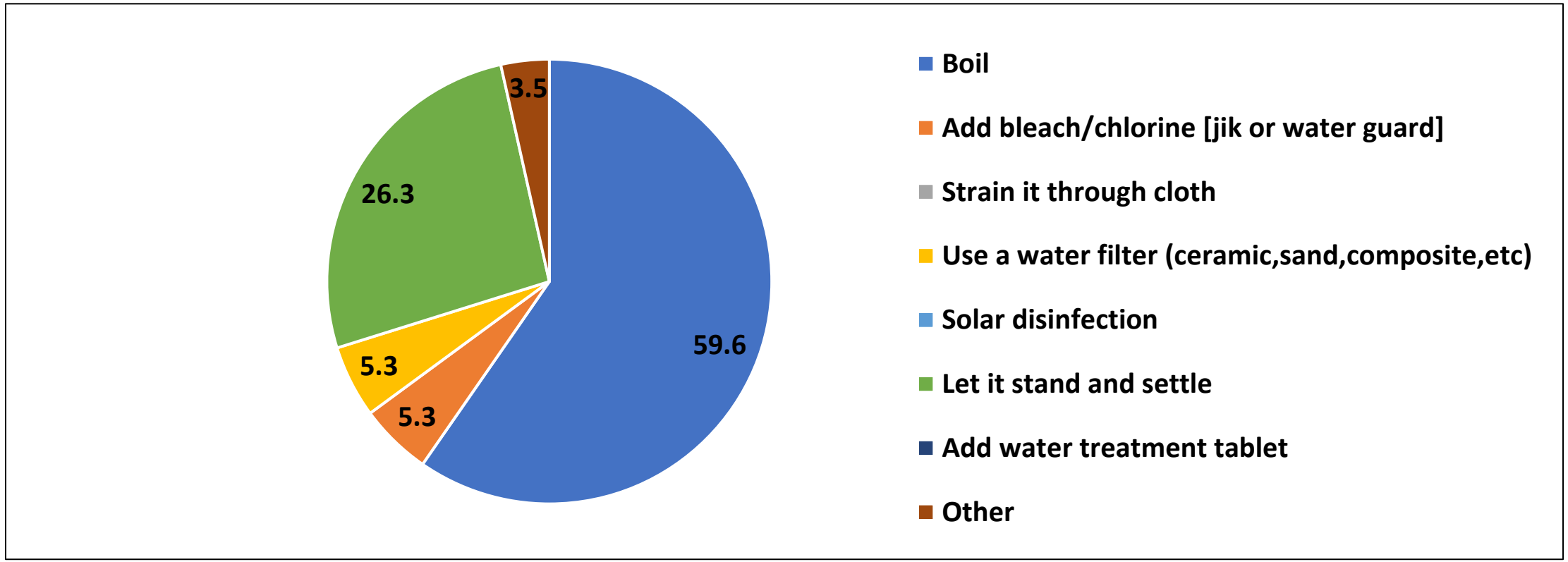
- At provincial level a slight decrease in the proportion of households using unimproved water sources was observed from 17% in 2021 to 16% in 2022.
- In 2022 Binga (41%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water sources.
- Tsholotsho recorded the greatest increase in the proportion of households using unimproved water sources from 1% in 2021 to 9% in 2022.

Households Drinking Surface Water by District



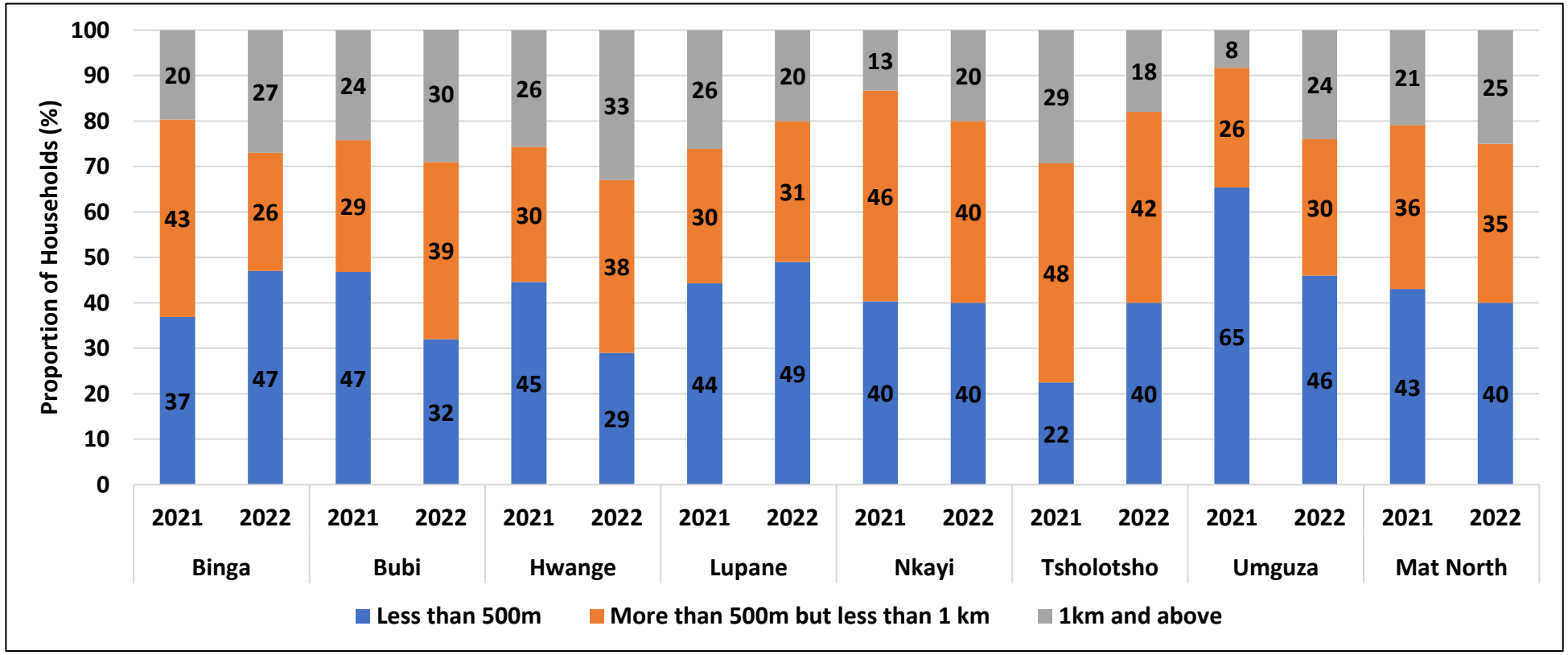
- Surface water is described as drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation channel.
- Binga District (36%) followed by Nkayi (13%) had the highest proportion of households drinking surface water which is not safe.

Water Treatment Methods (4.2%)



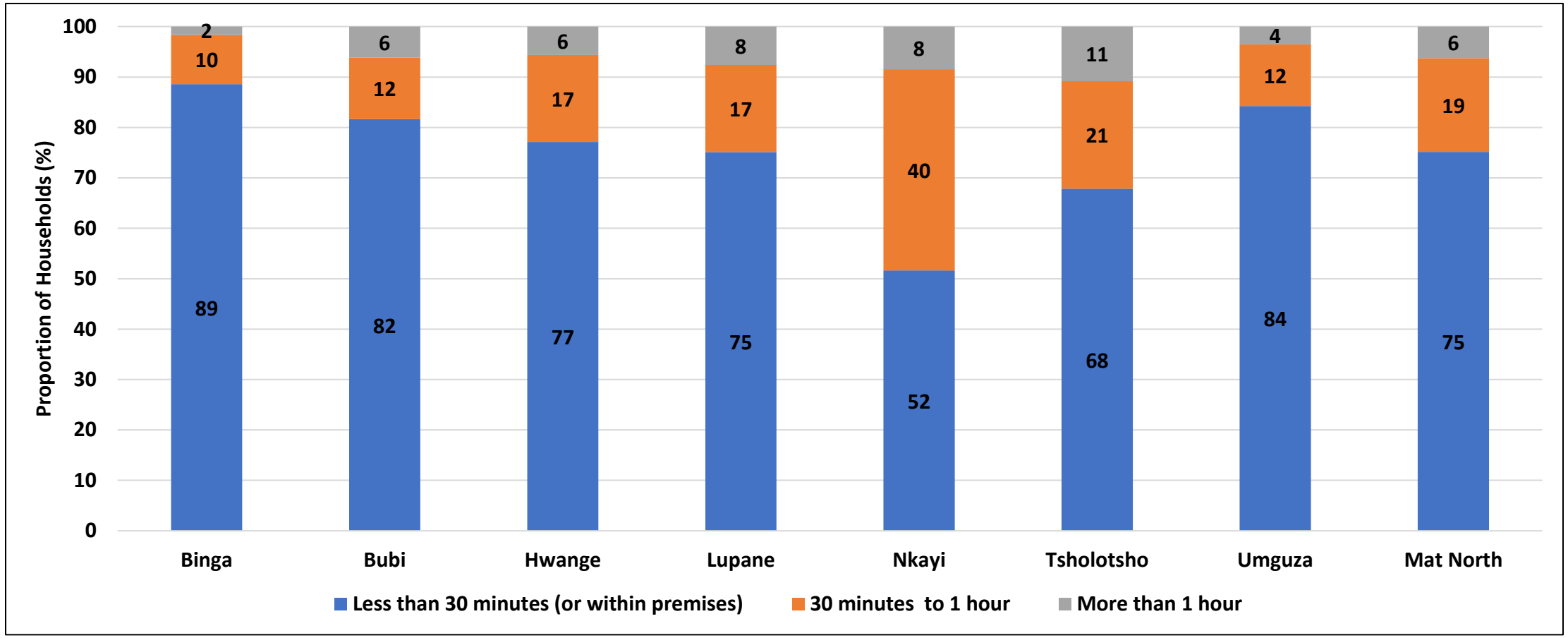
- At provincial level 4.2% of households indicated that they used some form of treatment for their drinking water.
- Boiling (59.6%) was the most commonly used treatment method.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



- The majority of Households (75%) travelled less than 1km to access water.

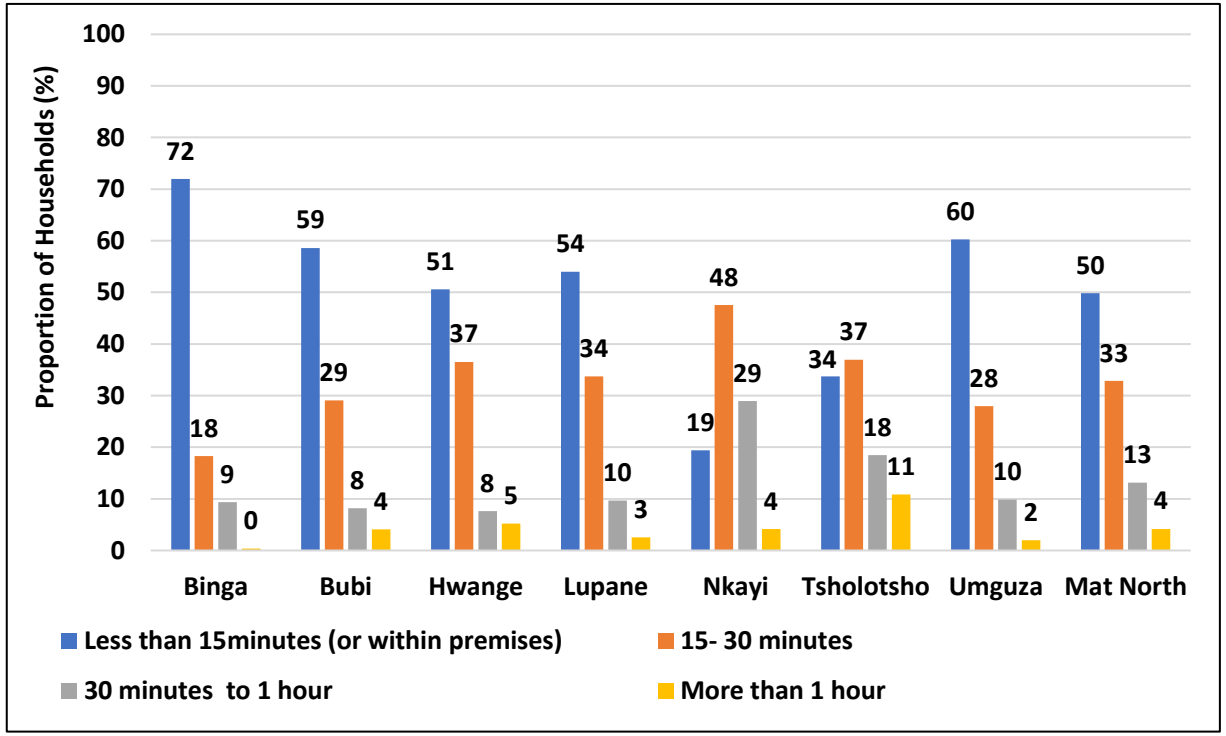
Time Spent travelling to and from Main Water Source



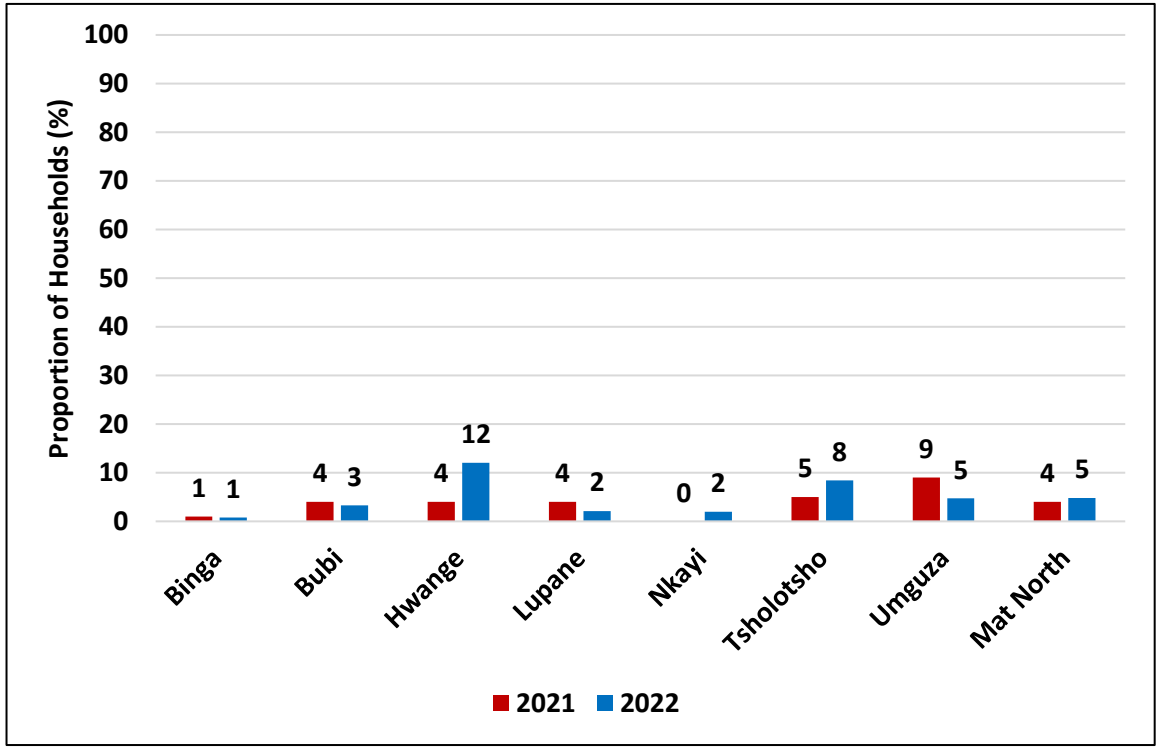
- The greatest proportion of households in Matabeleland North (75%) spent less than 30 minutes travelling to main water source.
- Nkayi had the highest proportion of households (40%)travelling for 30 minutes to 1 hour to the main water sources.
- Tsholotsho had the highest proportion of households (11%) spending more than an hour to get to a water source.

Time Spent Queuing at Water Source and Violence at Water Source

Time Spent at Water Source

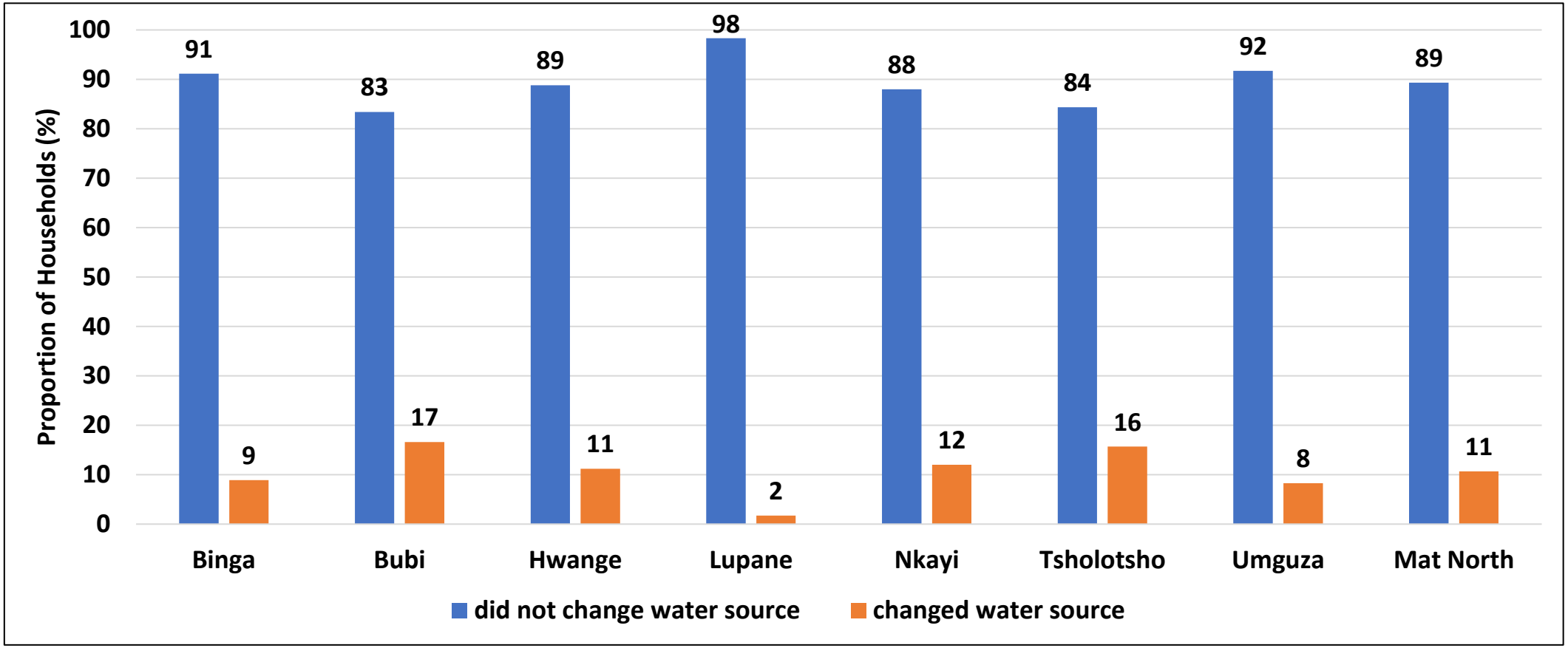


Violence at Water Source



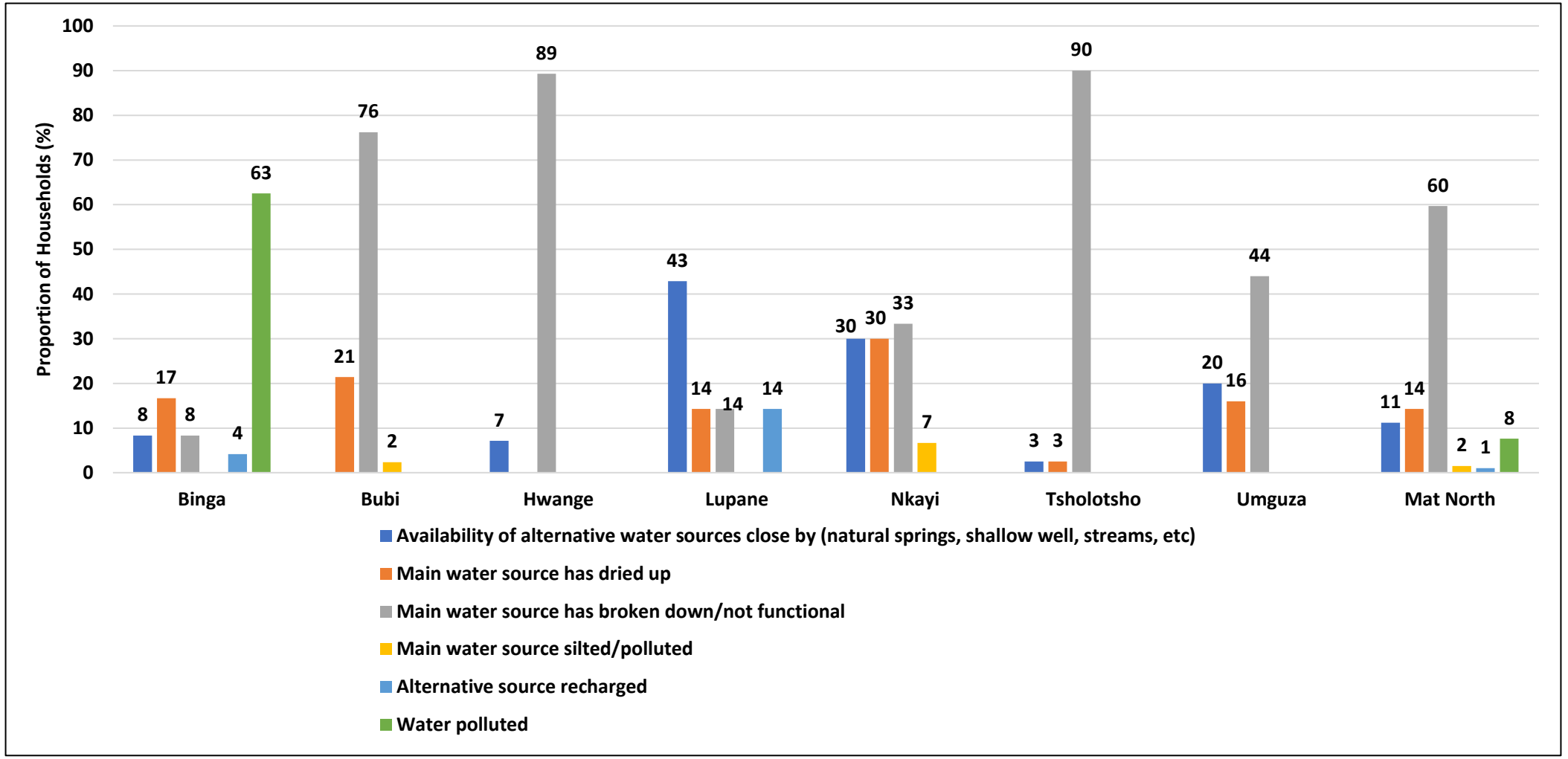
- About 96% of households spent less than 1 hour queuing for water with the highest proportion (83%) accessing their water in less than 30 minutes.
- Tsholotsho had the highest proportion (11%) of households queuing for more than an hour to access water at main water source.
- In 2022 at least 5% of households reported having experienced violence at a water source.

Proportion of Households that changed main Water Source



- Over 89% of households reported that they did not change their water source in the three months preceding the survey period.
- Bubi (17%) followed by Tsholotsho (16%) had the highest proportion of households reporting having changed their water source.

Reasons for Changing Water Source



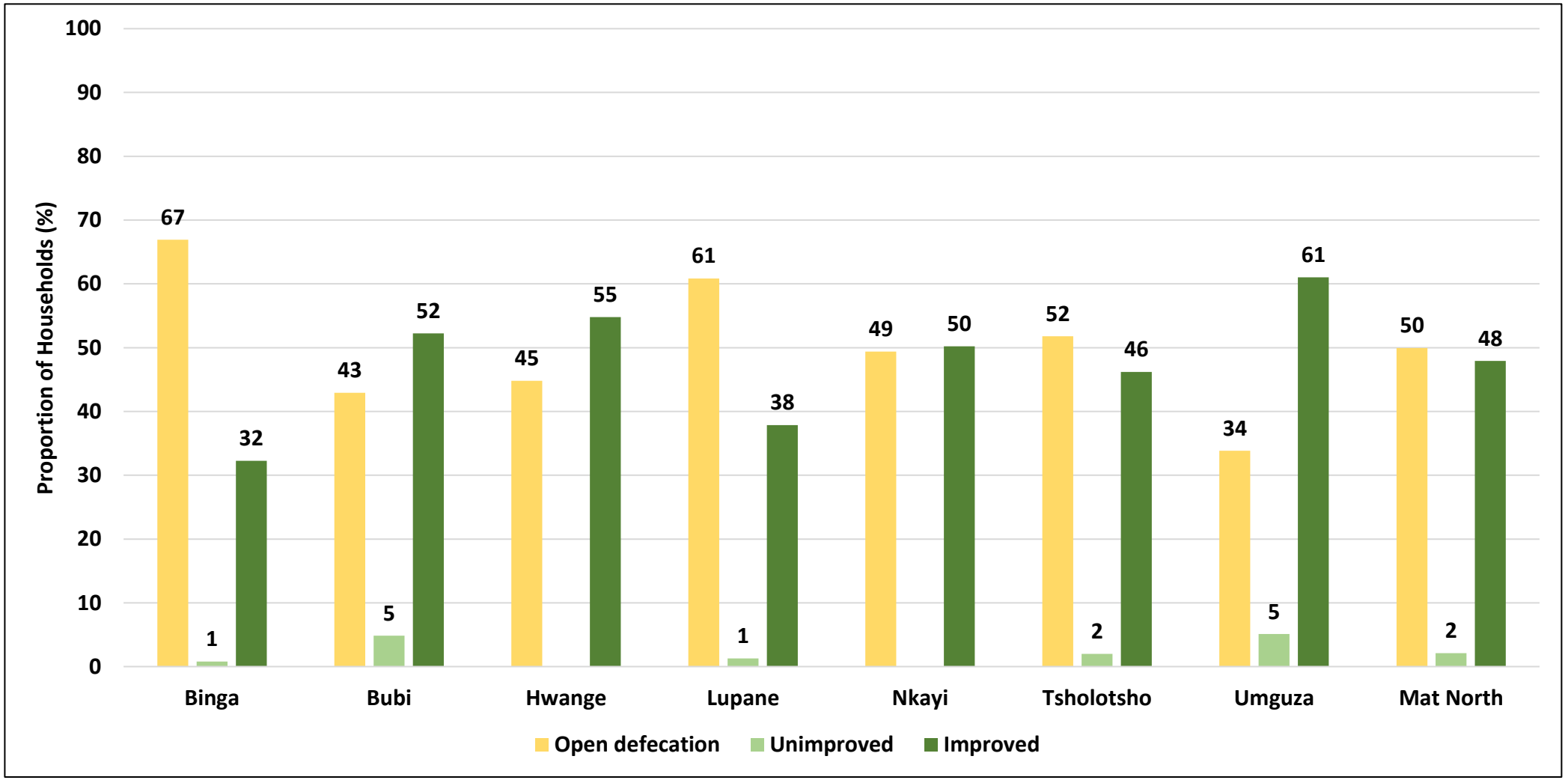
- The major reason for changing main water source was breakdown or non functionality of the water source.

Ladder for Sanitation

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

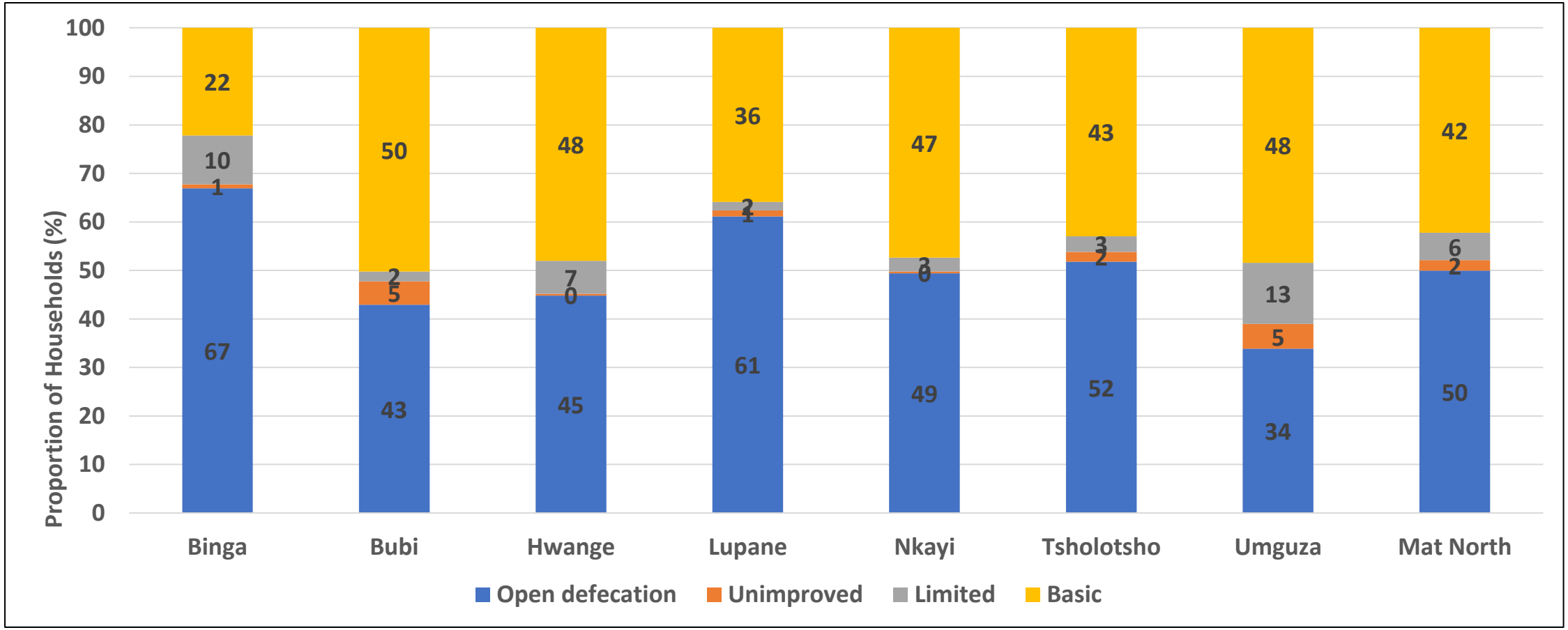
Note: Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include flush or pour flush toilet/latrine, Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP), pit latrine with slab and upgradeable Blair latrine.

Access to Improved Sanitation



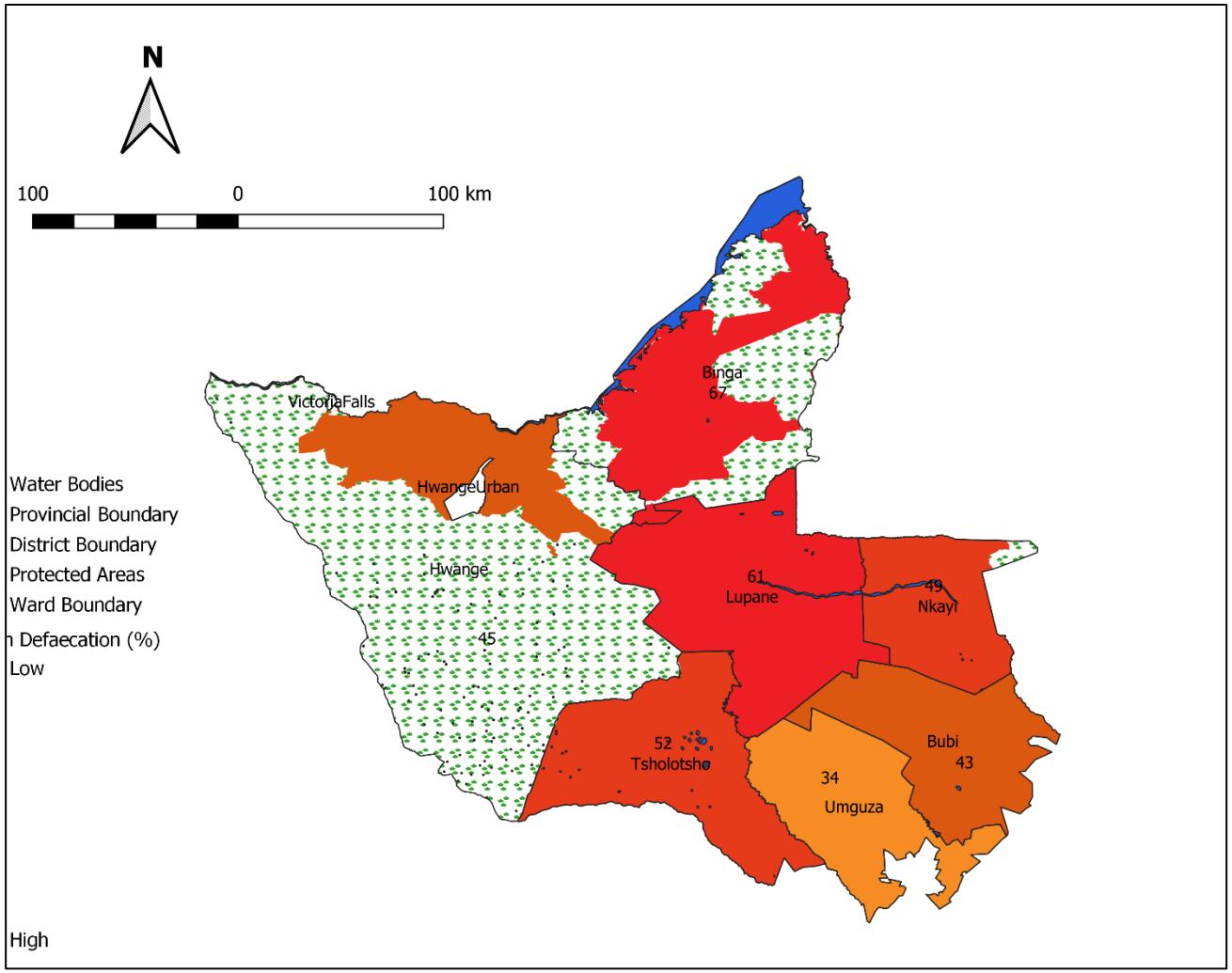
- In the province, 48% of households had access to improved sanitation facilities while 50% practised open defecation, increasing the risk of water borne diseases. Binga (67%) followed by Lupane (61%) had the highest proportion of households practising open defecation.

Household Sanitation Services



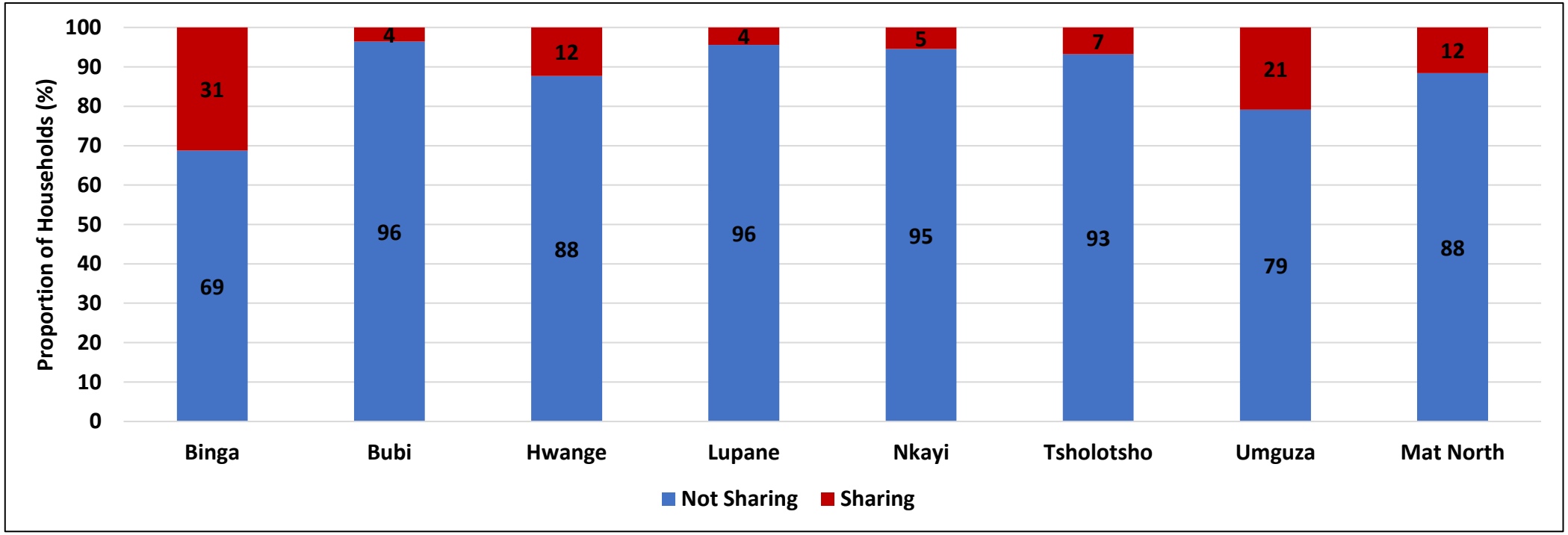
- In the province, 42% of households had access to basic sanitation services, 6% to limited water services, 2% to unimproved sanitation services and 50% practised open defaecation.
- Umguza (13%) had the highest proportion of households using improved facilities.

Open Defecation by District



- Most of the districts in Matabeleland North had more than 40% of the households practising open defecation.
- Binga (67%) followed by Lupane (61%) had the highest open defecation rate.
- Umguza (34%) had the lowest open defecation rate.

Sharing of Toilet Facilities



- The proportion of households that shared toilet facilities was 12%.
- Binga (31%) followed by Umguza (21%) had the highest proportion of households sharing toilet facilities.

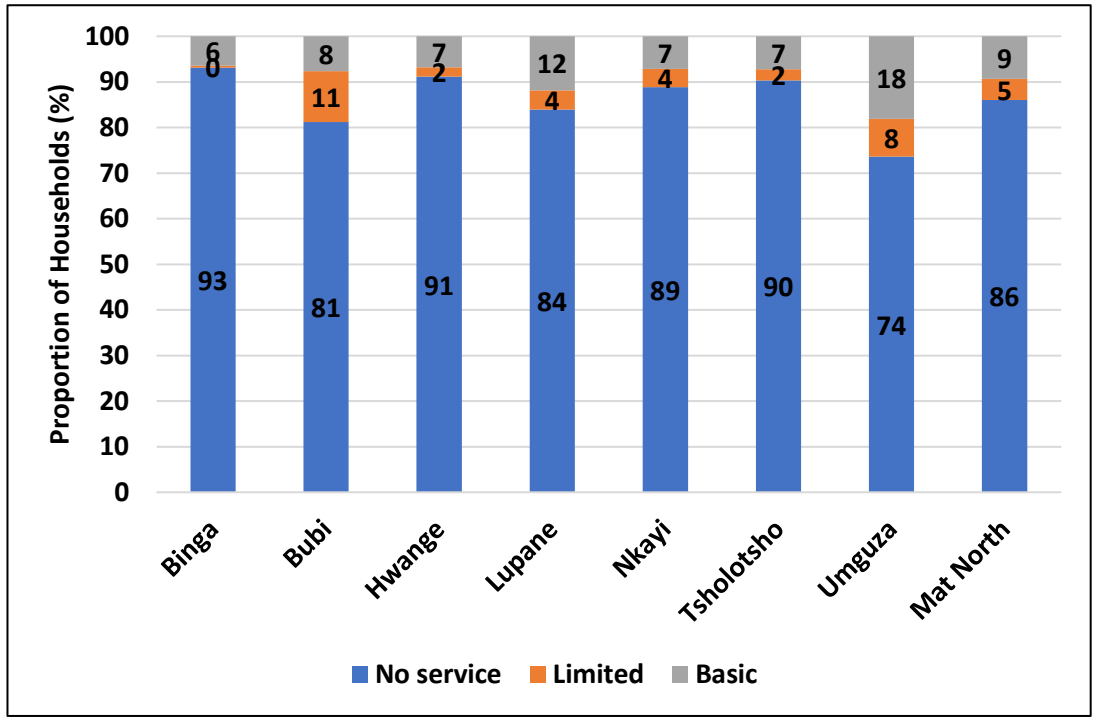
Ladder for Hygiene

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

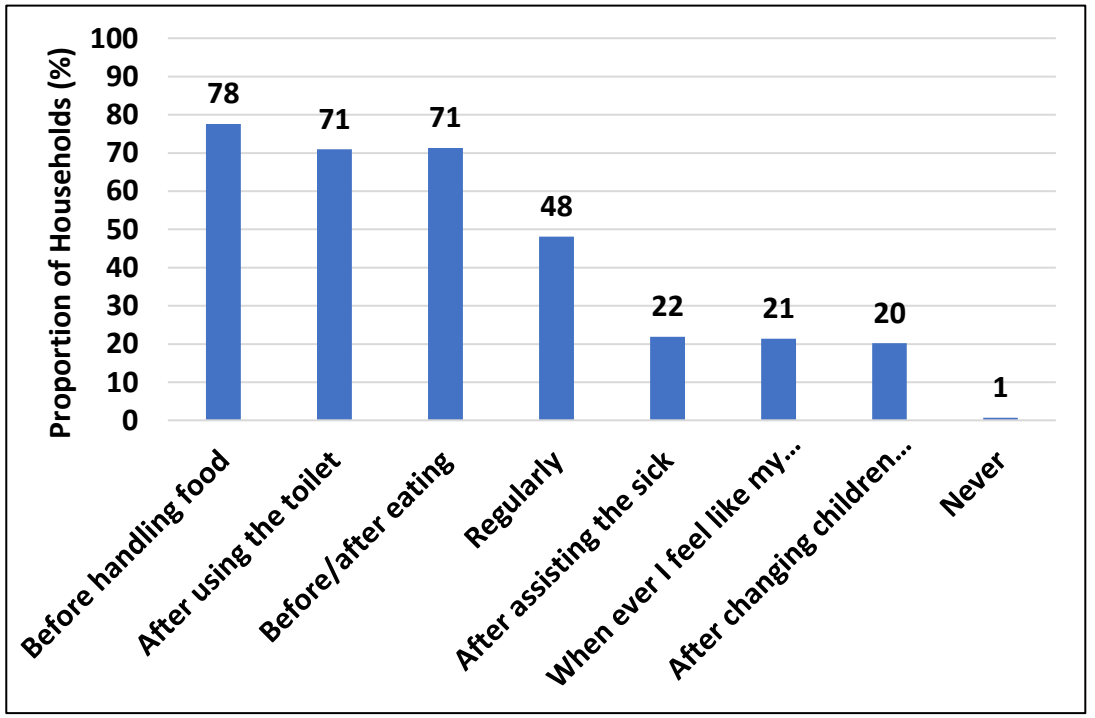
Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

Access to Hand Washing Facilities and Hand Washing at Critical Times

Access to Hand Washing Facilities

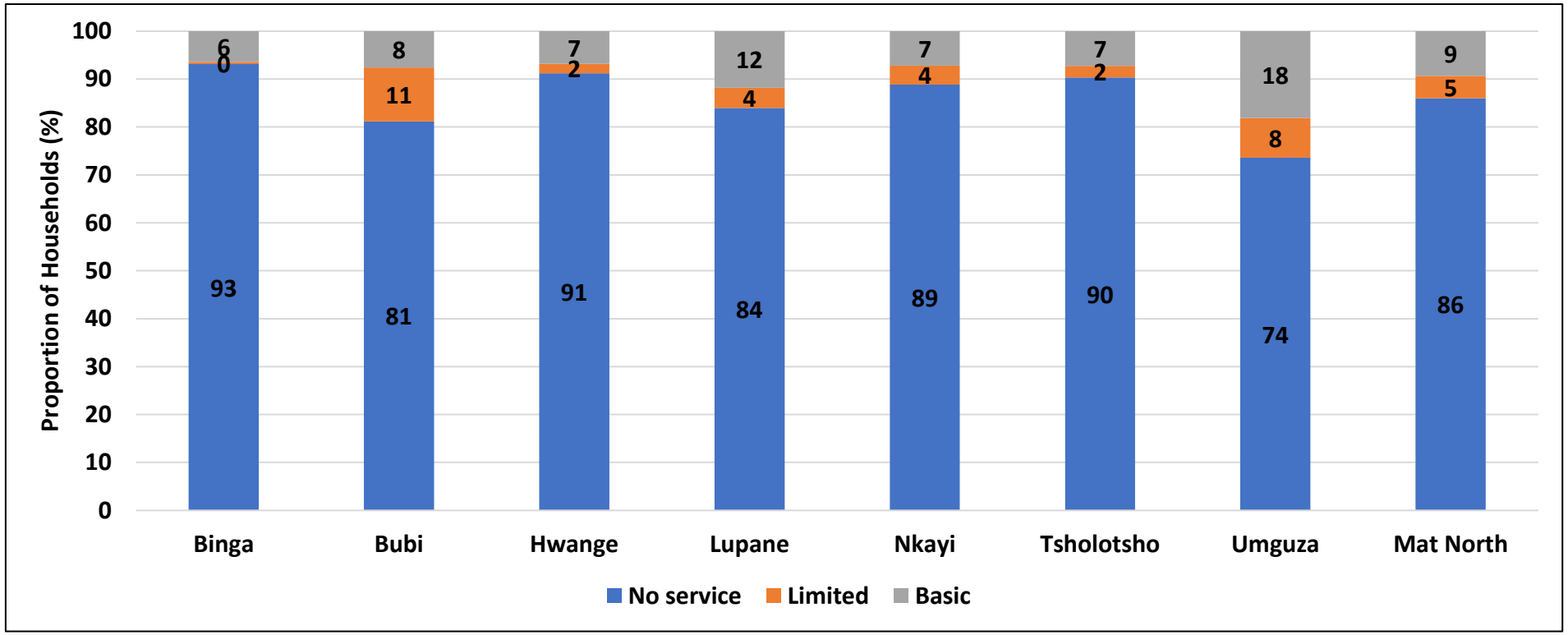


Hand Washing at Critical Times



- In general most of the households in Matabeleland North (86%) did not have a hand washing facility.
- Umguza (18%) had the highest proportion of households with basic hand washing facilities.
- The highest proportion of households in Matabeleland North (78%) reported washing hands before handling food.

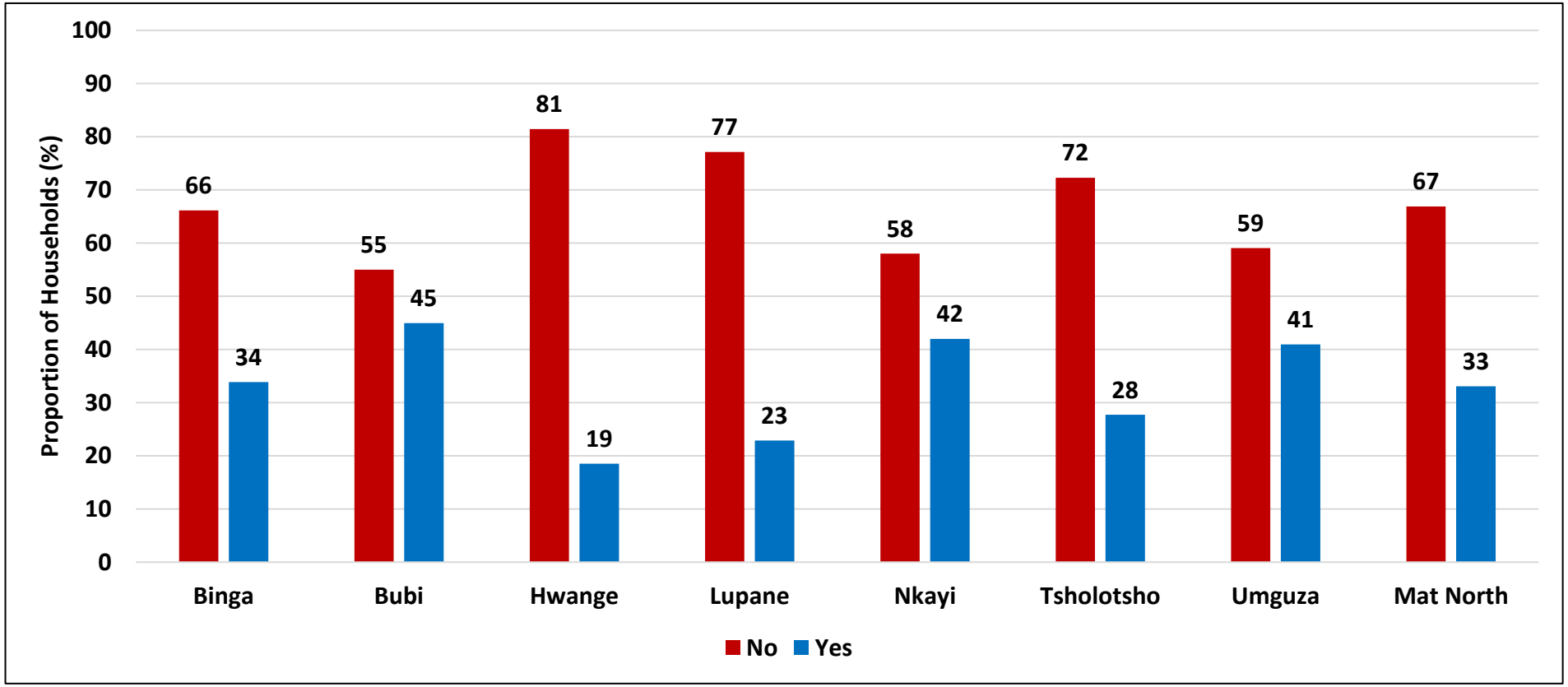
Access to Hand Washing Services



- In general most of the households in Matabeleland North (86%) did not have a hand washing facility.
- Umguza (18%) had the highest proportion of households with basic hand washing facilities.

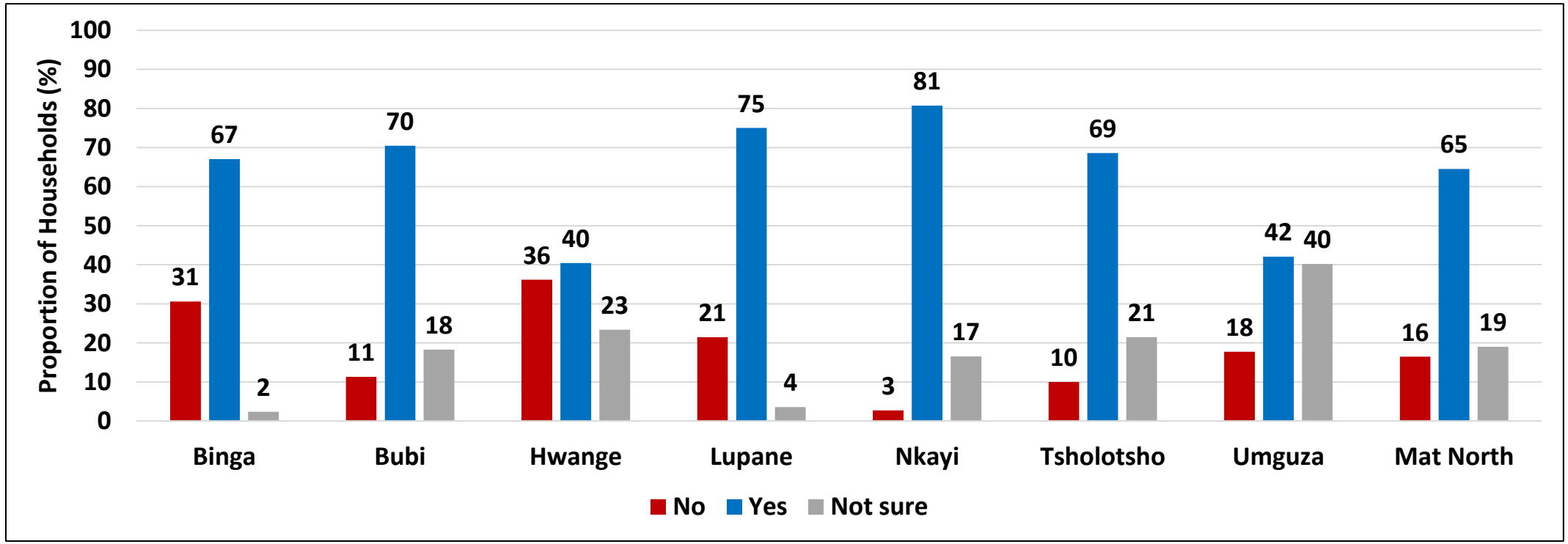
Access to Information Services

Access to Police Services within One Hour



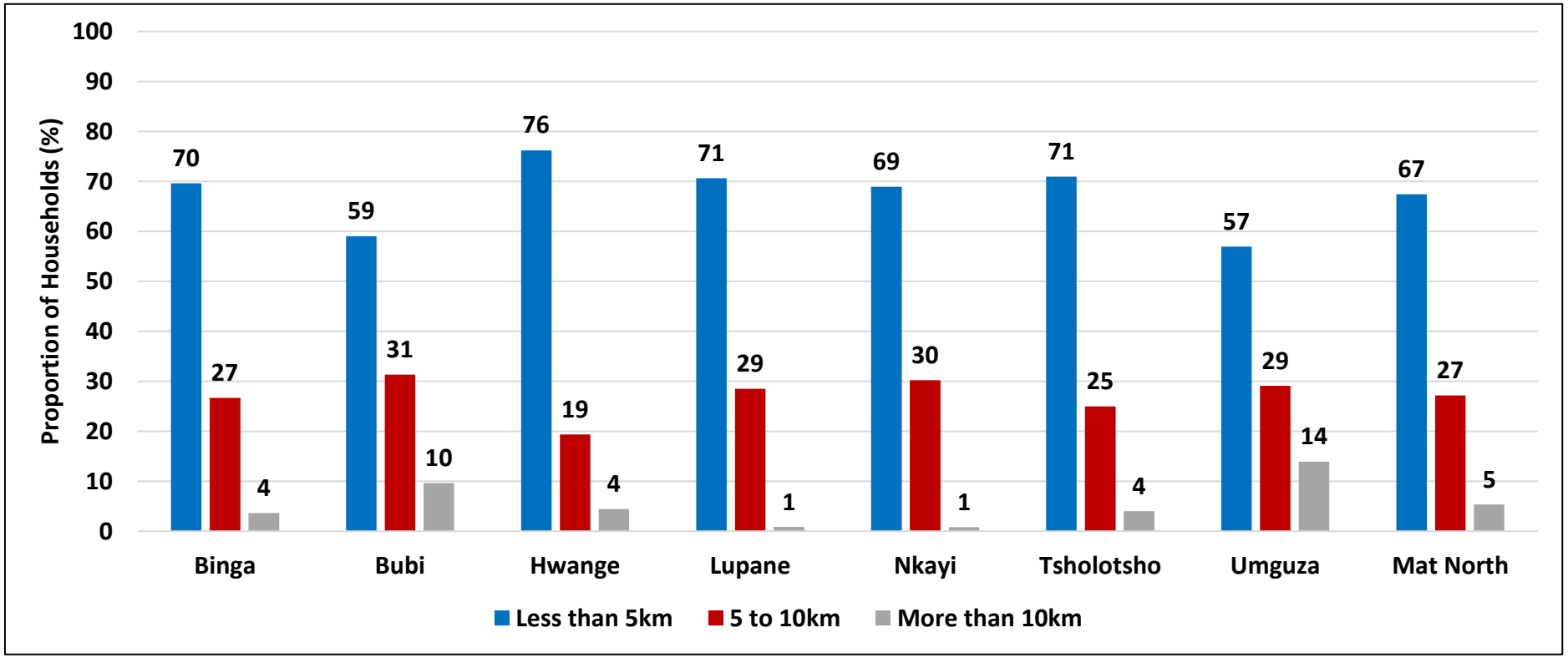
- Only 33% of households reported to have access to police services within one hour.

Access to Victim Friendly Services



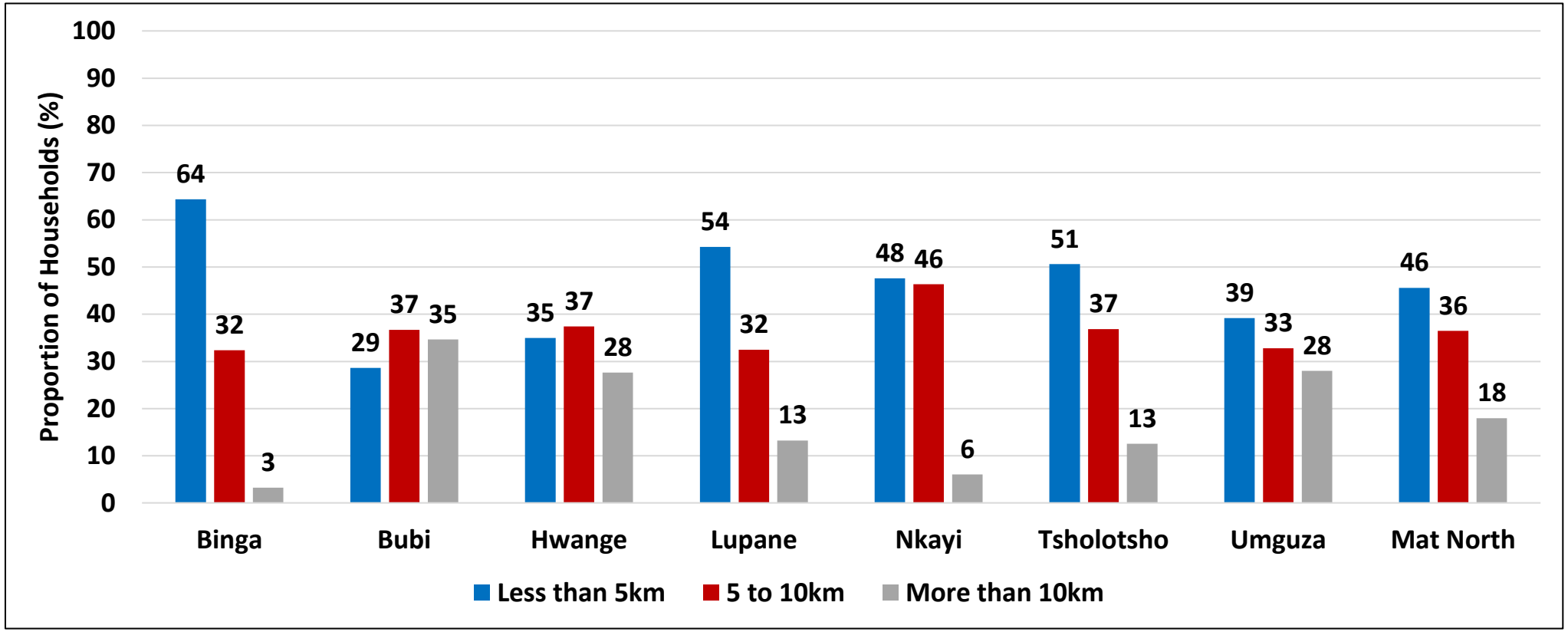
- Access to Victim Friendly Services was high across all districts.
- On average 65% of households in the Province reported having access to the victim friendly unit.

Approximate Distance of the Nearest Primary School



- Most of the households (67%) had their nearest primary school within a distance of less than 5km whereas 5% reported having the nearest primary school more than 10km away.

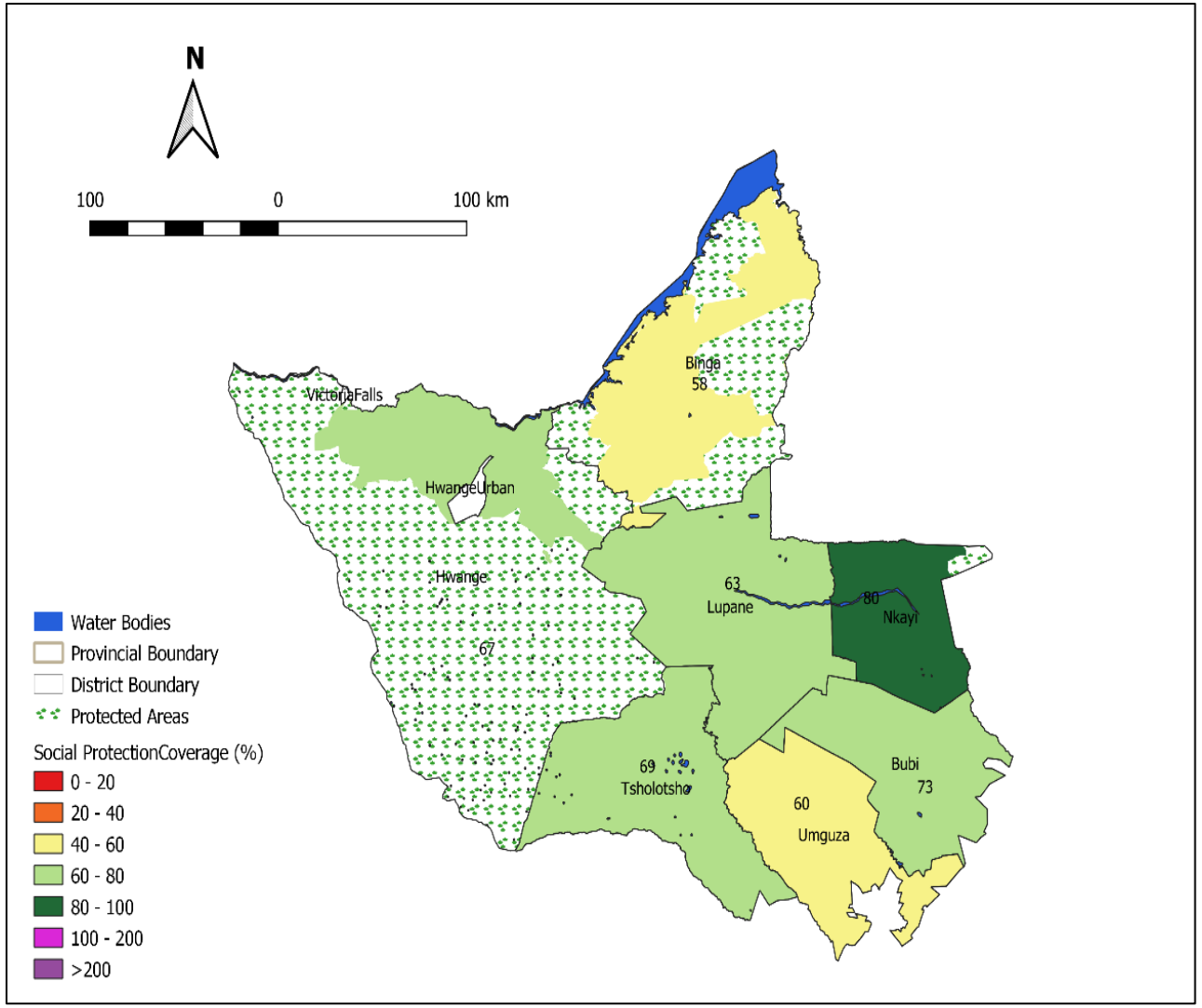
Approximate Distance of the Nearest Health Facility/Clinic



- About 46% of households were within a 5km radius from the nearest health facility whilst 18% were more than 10km from their nearest facility.
- Bubi (35%), Hwange (28%) and Umguza (28%) had the highest proportion of households located more than 10km from the nearest health facility.

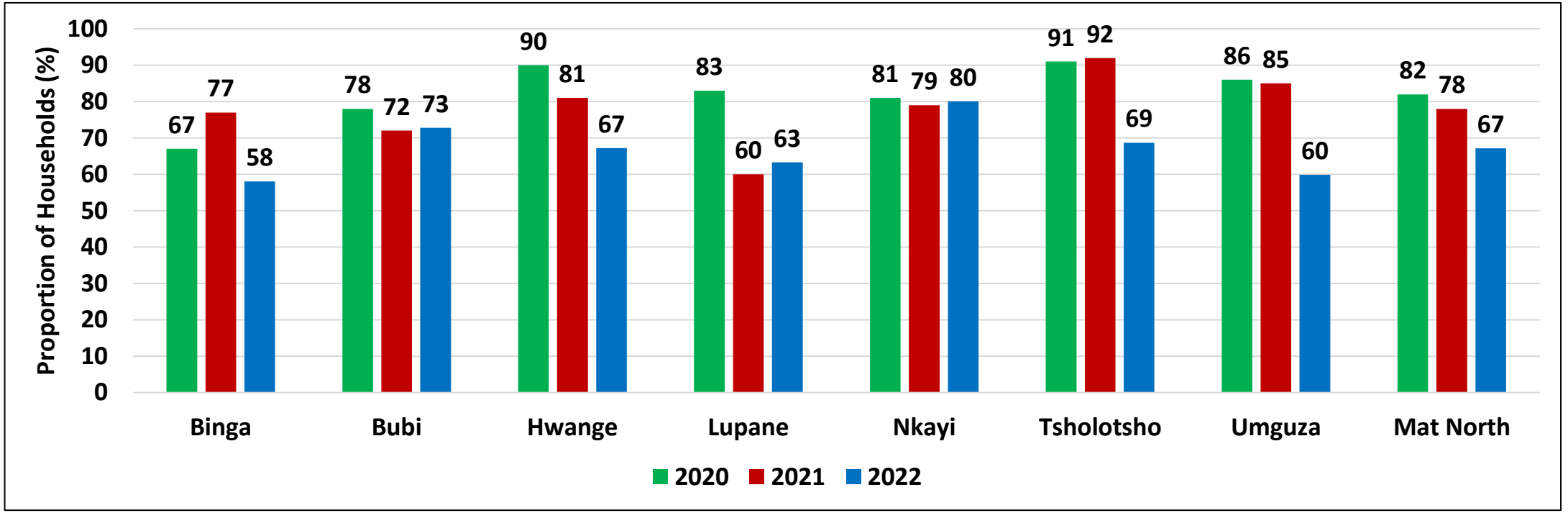
Social Protection

Combined Social Protection Programmes



- All districts in Matabeleland North received some form of support from different sources.
- The highest coverage was in Nkayi (80%) and the lowest coverage was in Binga(58%).

Households Which Received any Form of Support



- Government is commended for maintaining consistency in its support for the vulnerable population.
- There was a decrease in the proportion of households that received any form of support from 78% in 2021 to 67% in 2022.

Sources of Any Form of Support

	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Churches Support (%)		Rural relatives (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Diaspora (%)		Charitable groups (%)	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Binga	44	21	41	45	16	0	11	1	6	0	2	0	26	0
Bubi	57	61	5	6	2	1	19	13	20	17	15	10	0	0
Hwange	50	38	49	41	2	1	16	4	12	4	5	3	24	0
Lupane	46	53	15	35	2	0	4	0	3	5	8	9	0	0
Nkayi	53	60	44	34	1	1	12	4	10	16	7	18	2	0
Tsholotsho	55	31	47	40	15	3	31	18	27	4	47	31	7	6
Umguza	58	53	21	3	4	1	24	7	20	5	19	6	1	1
Mat North	52	45	32	29	6	1	17	7	14	8	15	11	9	1

- Government (45%) remains the major source of support in all the rural districts followed by UN/NGO(29%) during the period April 2021 to March 2022.

Forms of Support from Government (45%)

District	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support - large stock (pass on) (%)	Livestock support - large stock (non-pass on) (%)	Small livestock support (%)	Livestock support: Tick grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH (%)	Weather and climate (%)	COVID-19 Support (%)
Binga	32	0	45	0	0	0	22	0	1	0	0
Bubi	43	1	50	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
Hwange	22	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lupane	42	3	54	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Nkayi	4	2	91	0	0	0	1	0		0	2
Tsholotsho	9	0	66	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	11
Umguza	42	5	48	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Mat North	31	2	61	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2

- Crop inputs (61%) and food (31%) were the main forms of Government assistance received across all districts.
- Nkayi (91%) had the highest proportion of households that received crop inputs.

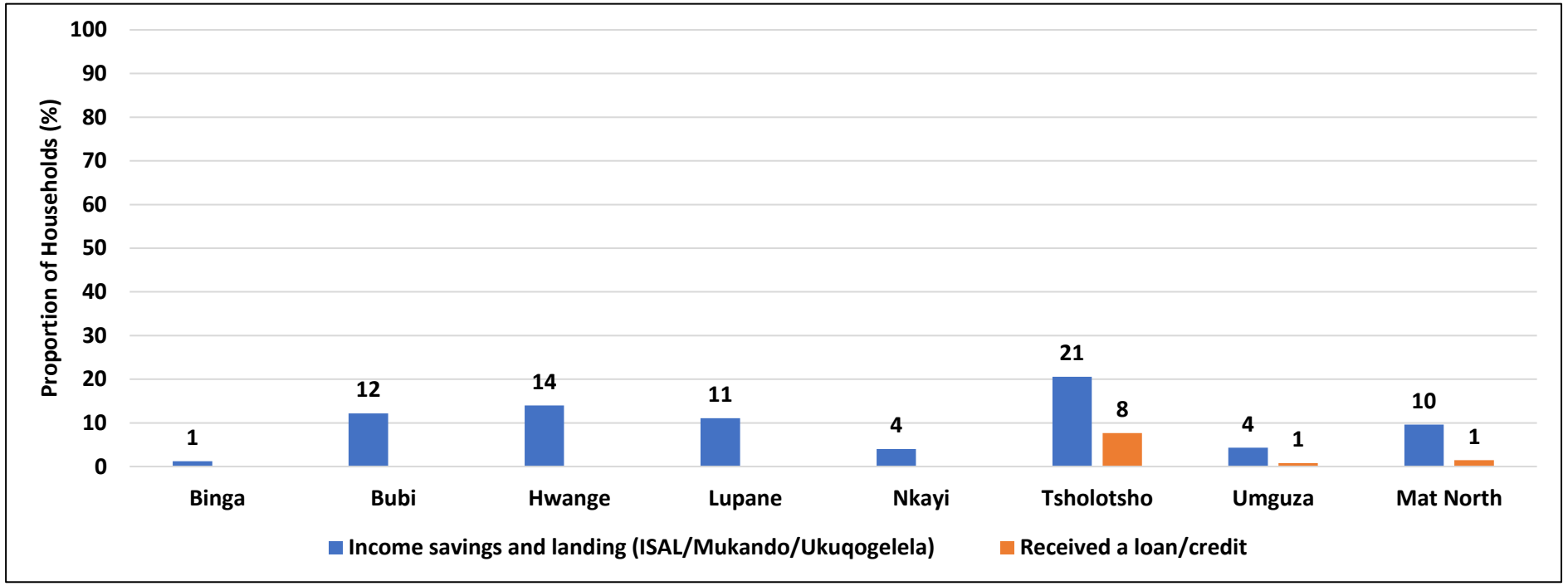
Forms of Support from UN/NGOs (29%)

District	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support - large stock (pass on) (%)	Livestock support - large stock (non-pass on) (%)	Small livestock support (%)	Livestock support: Tick grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)	COVID-19 Support (%)
Binga	89	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bubi	9	0	27	0	0	0	18	9	18	0	18
Hwange	89	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lupane	85	3	9	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Nkayi	71	3	10	3	0	0	4	7	2	0	1
Tsholotsho	89	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Umguza	54	15	15	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0
Mat North	83	2	11	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1

- UN/NGOs support was largely in the form of food across most districts.

Loans

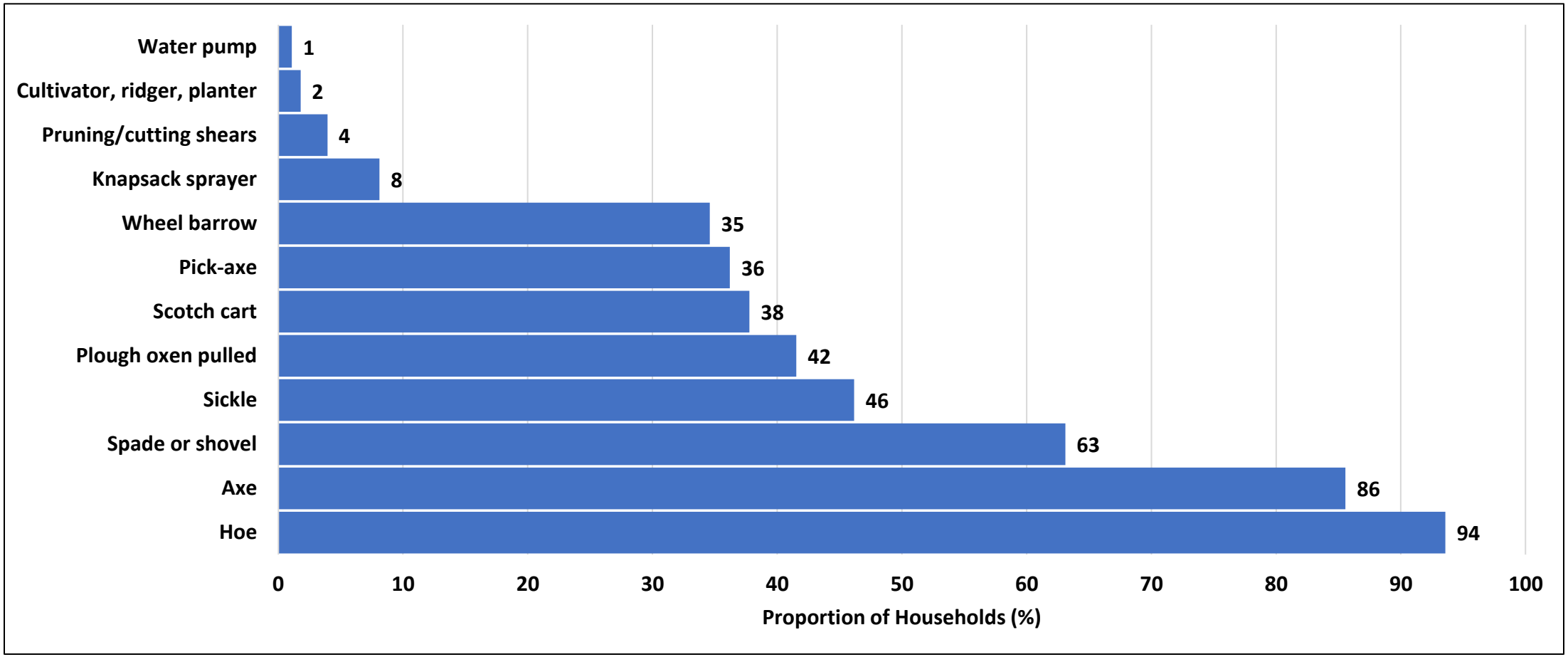
Household which Received Income Savings Share Out and Loans



- About 1% of households in the province received loans.
- Income savings and landing share outs were received by 10% of the interviewed households.

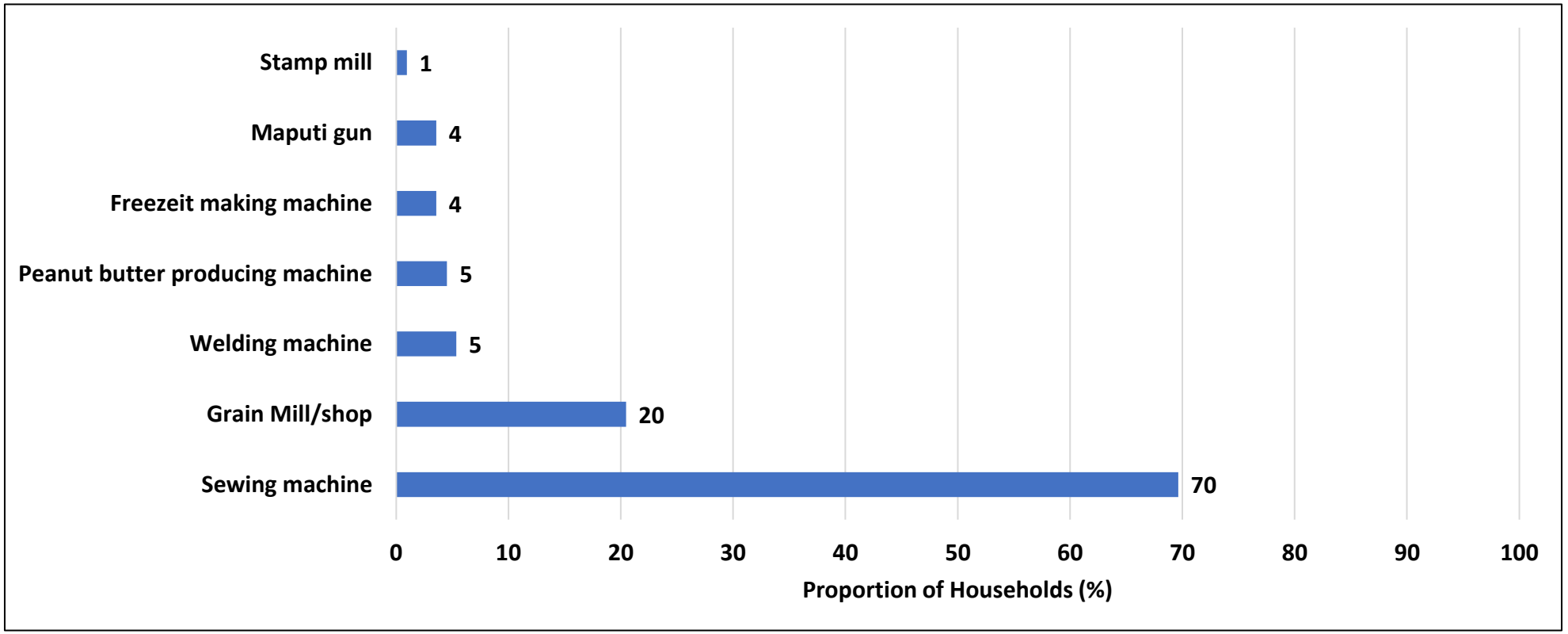
Assets

Productive Assets



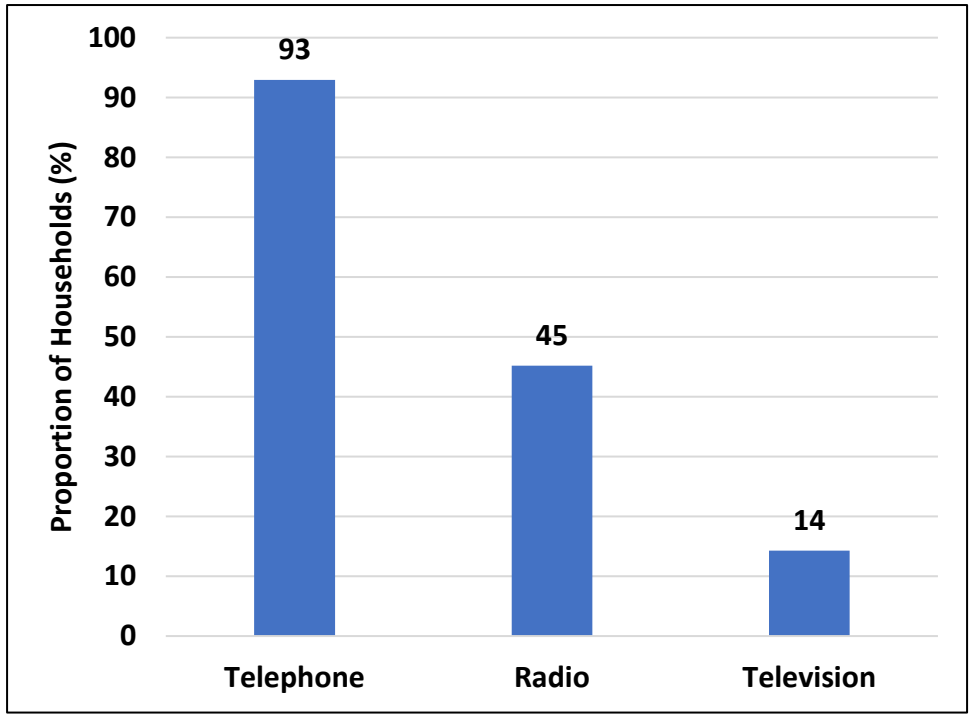
- The majority of households interviewed own hoes (94%), axes (86%) and a spade or shovel (63%).

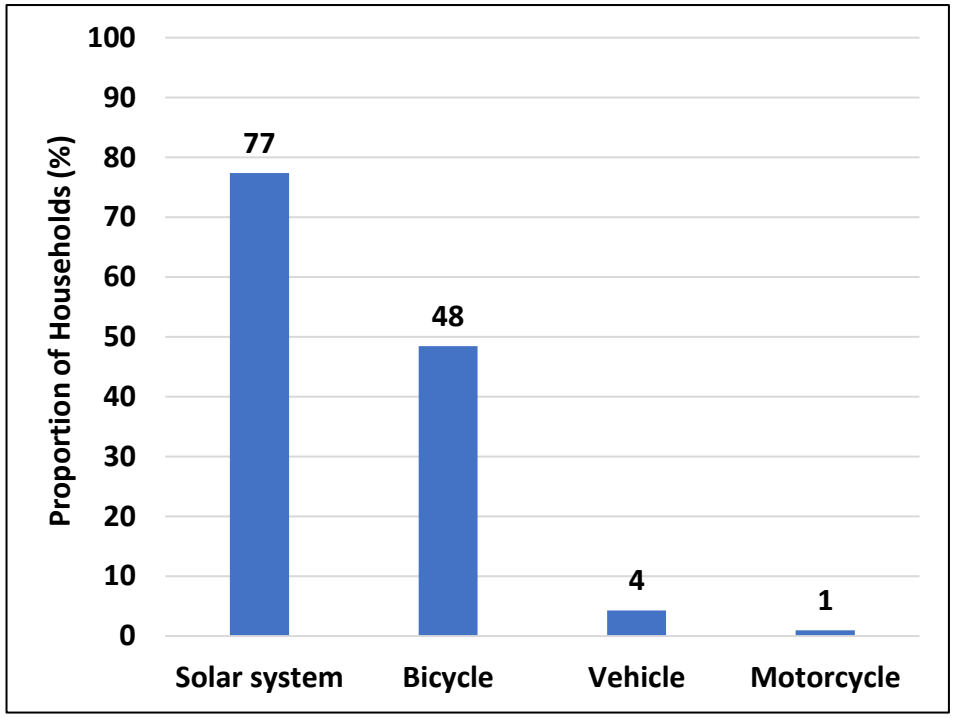
Entrepreneurial Assets



- Of the entrepreneurial assets. the greatest proportion of households (70%) had a sewing machine.

ICT and Other Assets

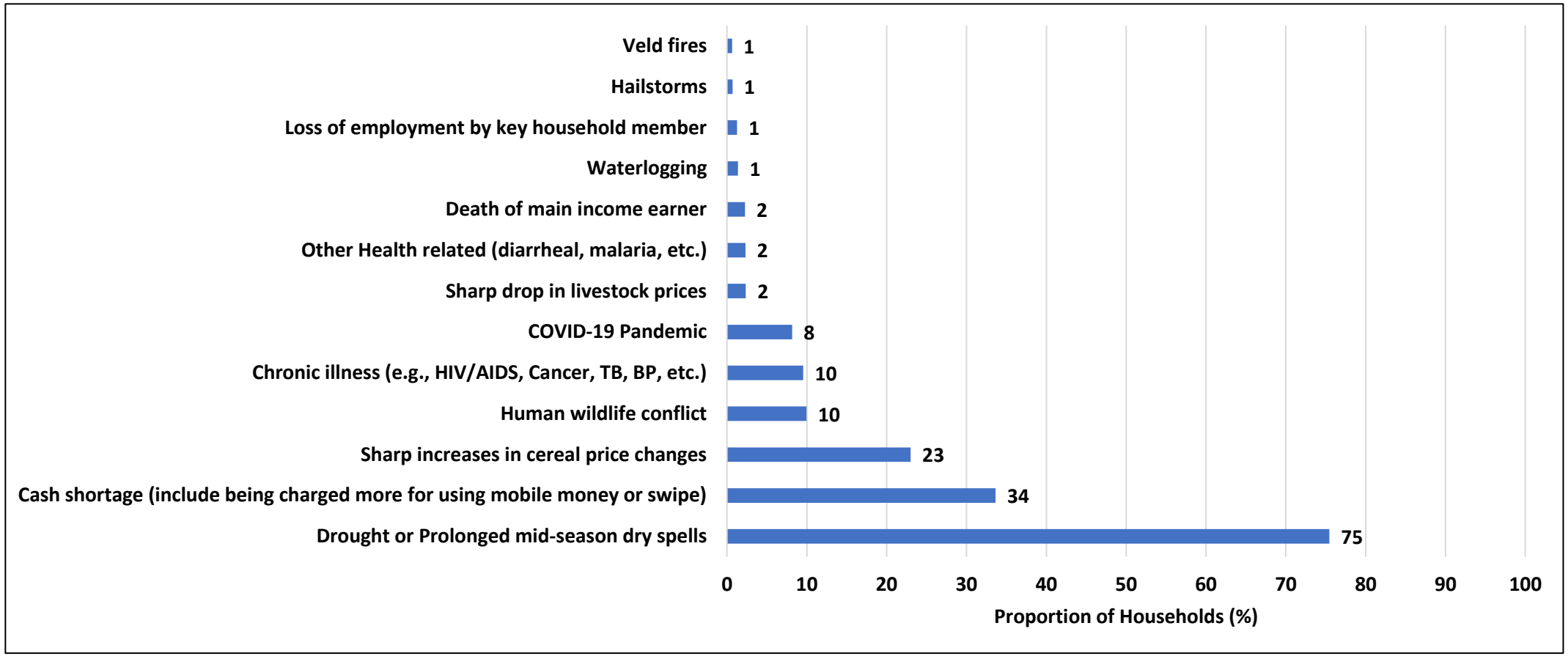




- Almost all households interviewed had a telephone (93%) at home and that includes mobile phones.

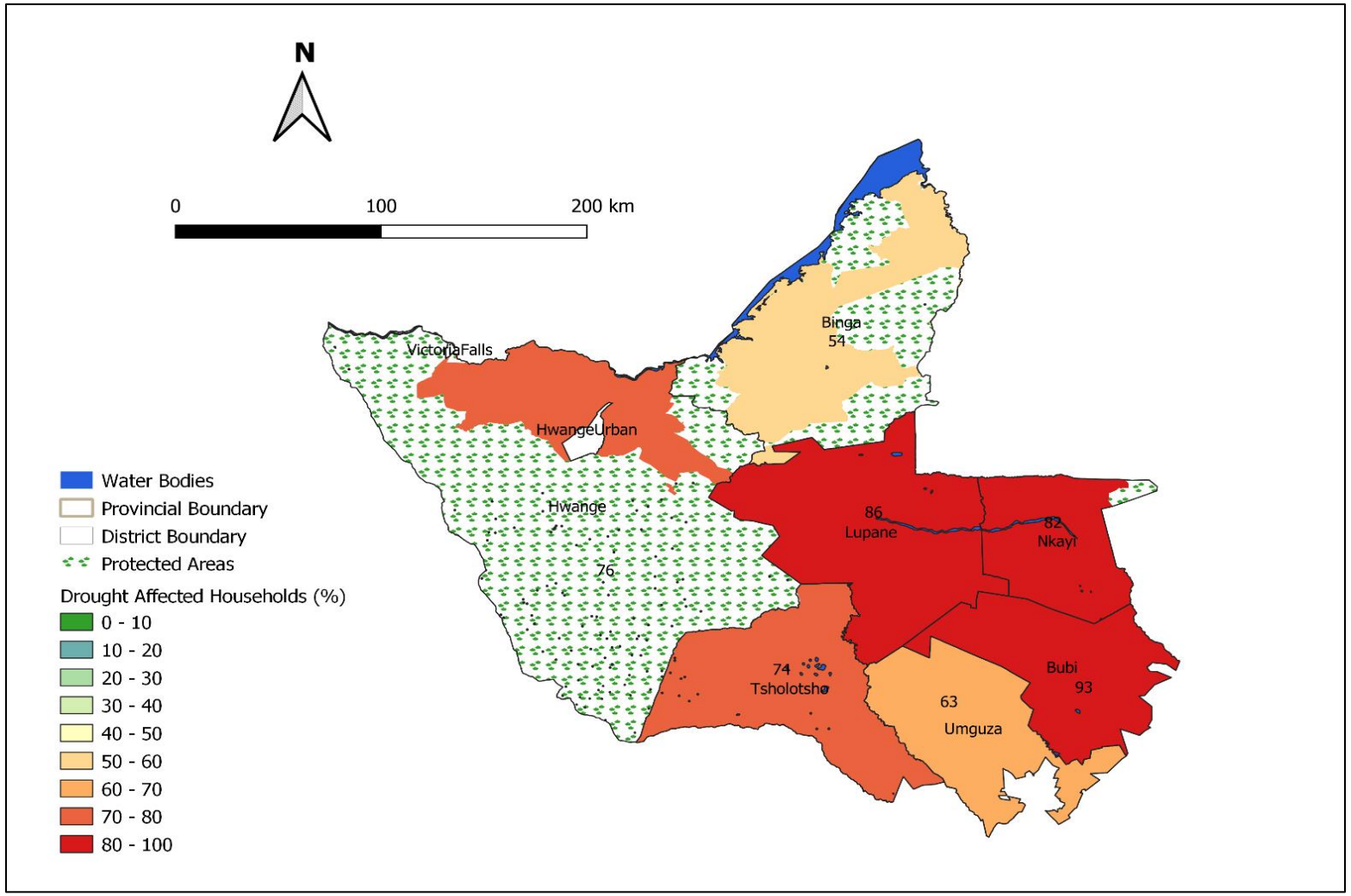
Shocks and Hazards

Proportion of Households which Experienced Shocks



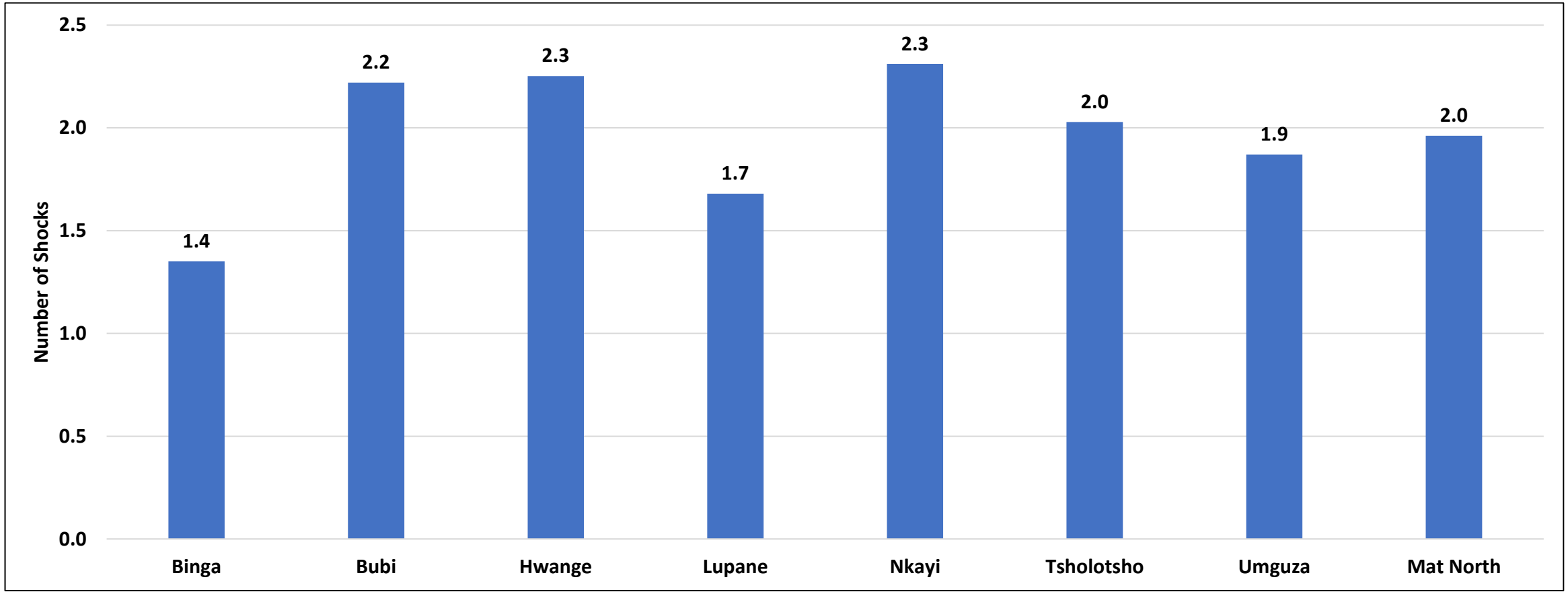
- The highest proportion of households in Matabeleland North were affected by drought / prolonged mid season dry spells (75%) during the 2021/2022 farming season.

Proportion of Households which Reported Drought as a Shock



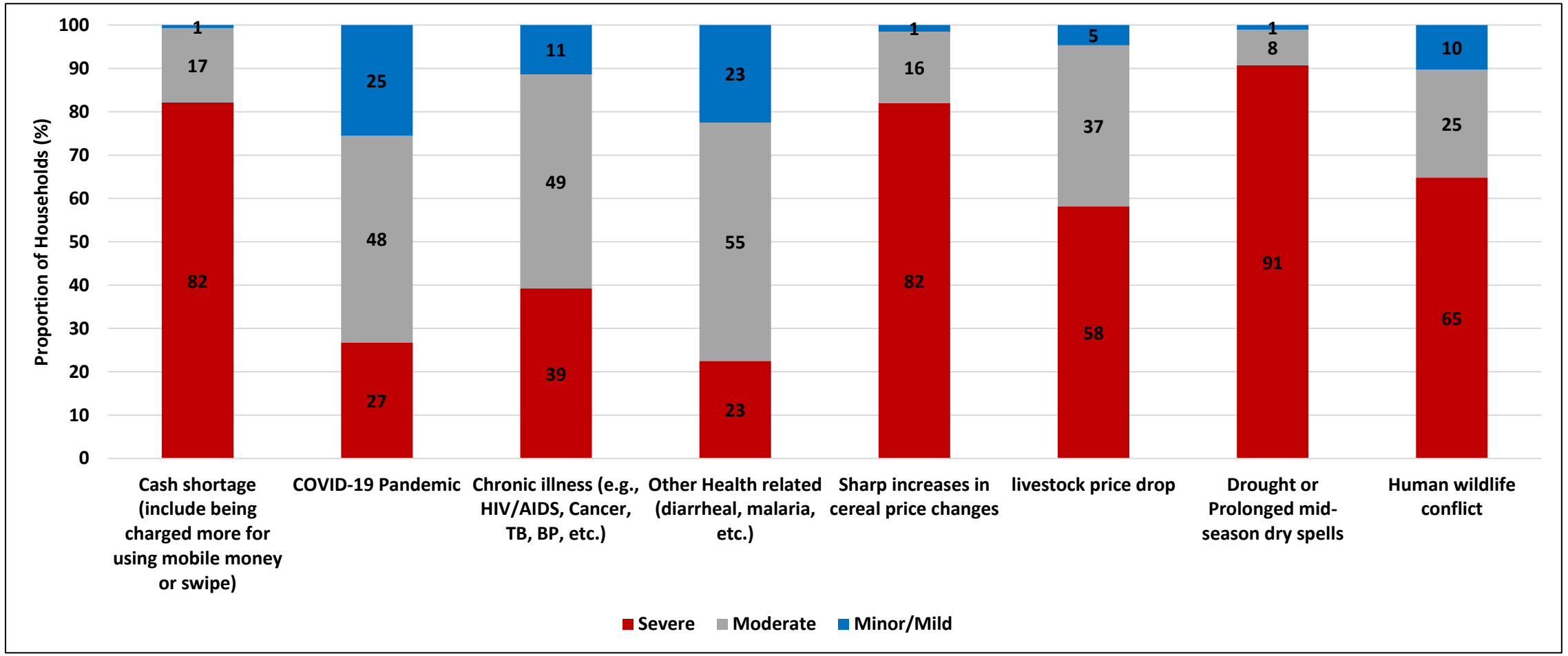
- Bubi (93%), Lupane (86%) and Nkayi (82%) had the highest proportion of households affected by drought.

Number of Shocks Experienced by Households



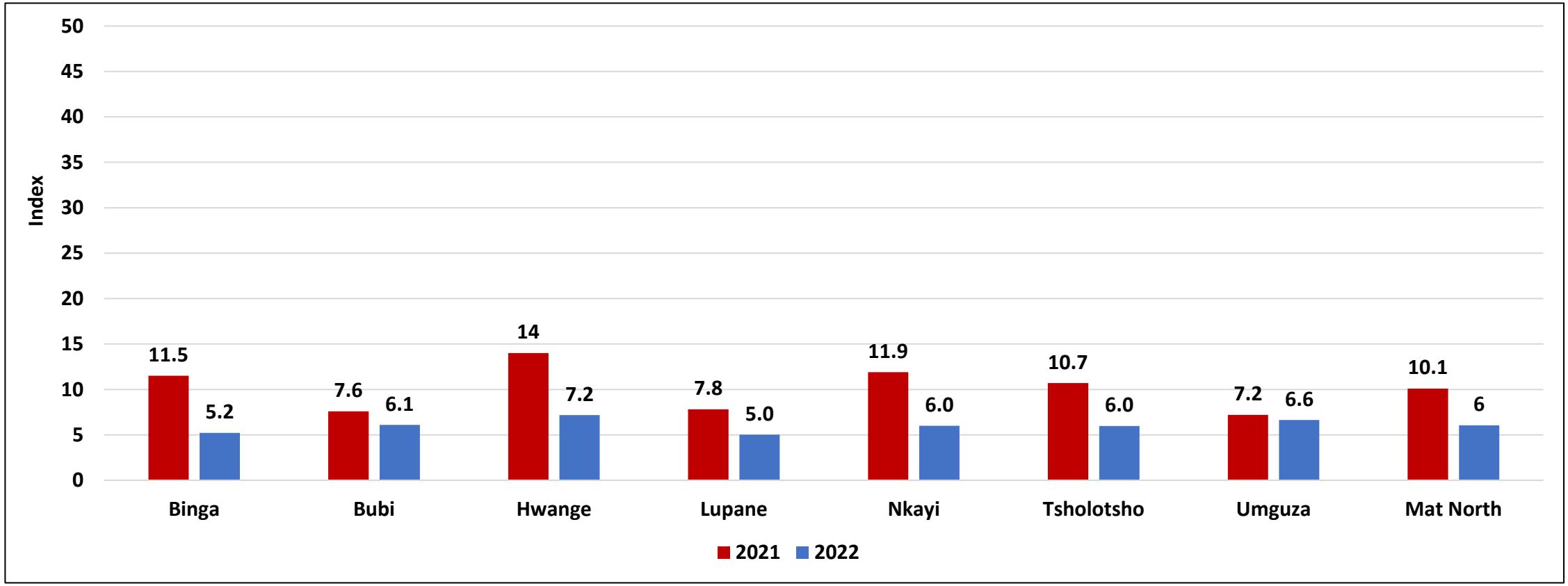
- The average number of shocks experienced for Matabeleland North was 2.
- Hwange (2.3), Nkayi (2.3) and Bubi (2.2) had the highest average number of shocks.

Severity of Shocks on Households



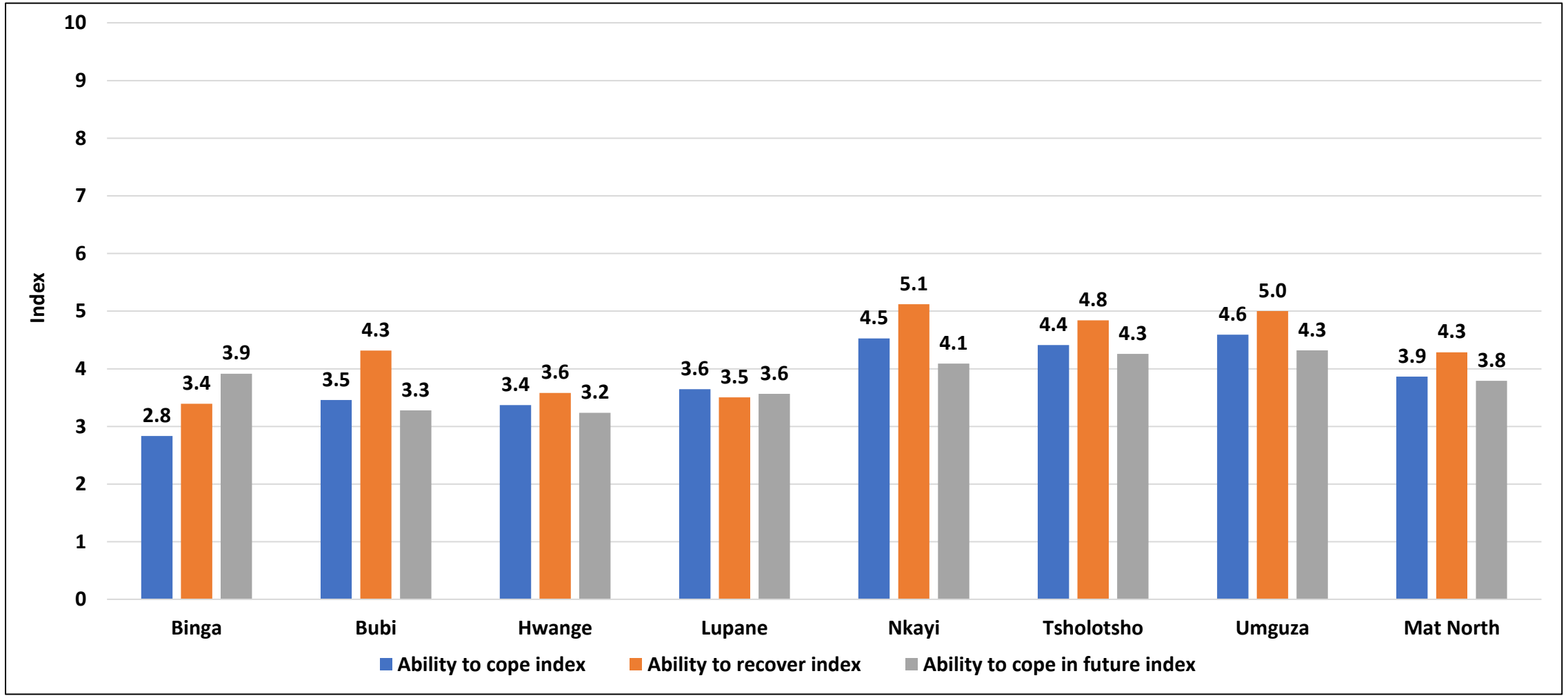
- Drought (91%), a sharp increase in cereal prices (82%), cash shortages (82%) and human wildlife conflict (65%) had the most severe impact on households.

Average Shock Exposure Index



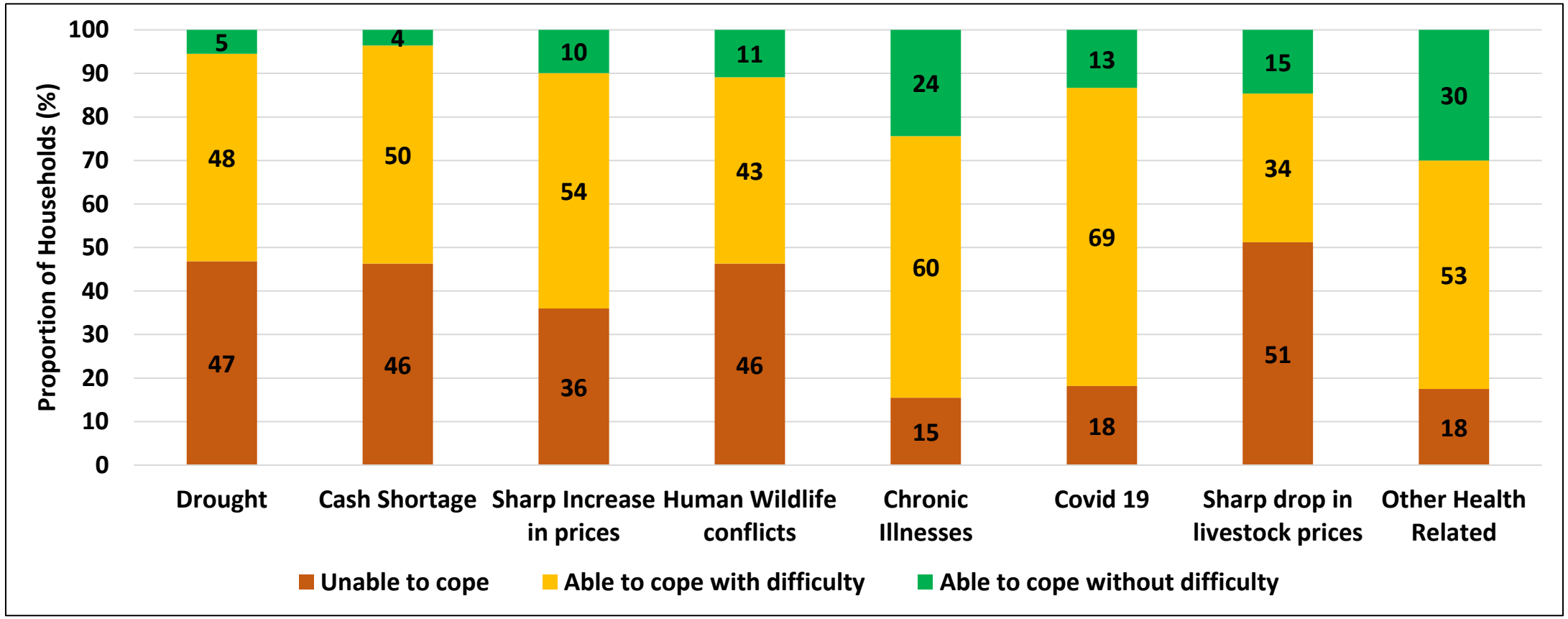
- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with impact severity of the shock to the household.
- Compared to 2021, the average shock exposure index dropped from 10.1 to 6 in 2022.

Households' Ability to Cope, Ability to Recover and Ability to Cope in Future Indices



- The average ability to cope index was 3.9, average ability to recover index 4.3 and average ability to cope index 3.8

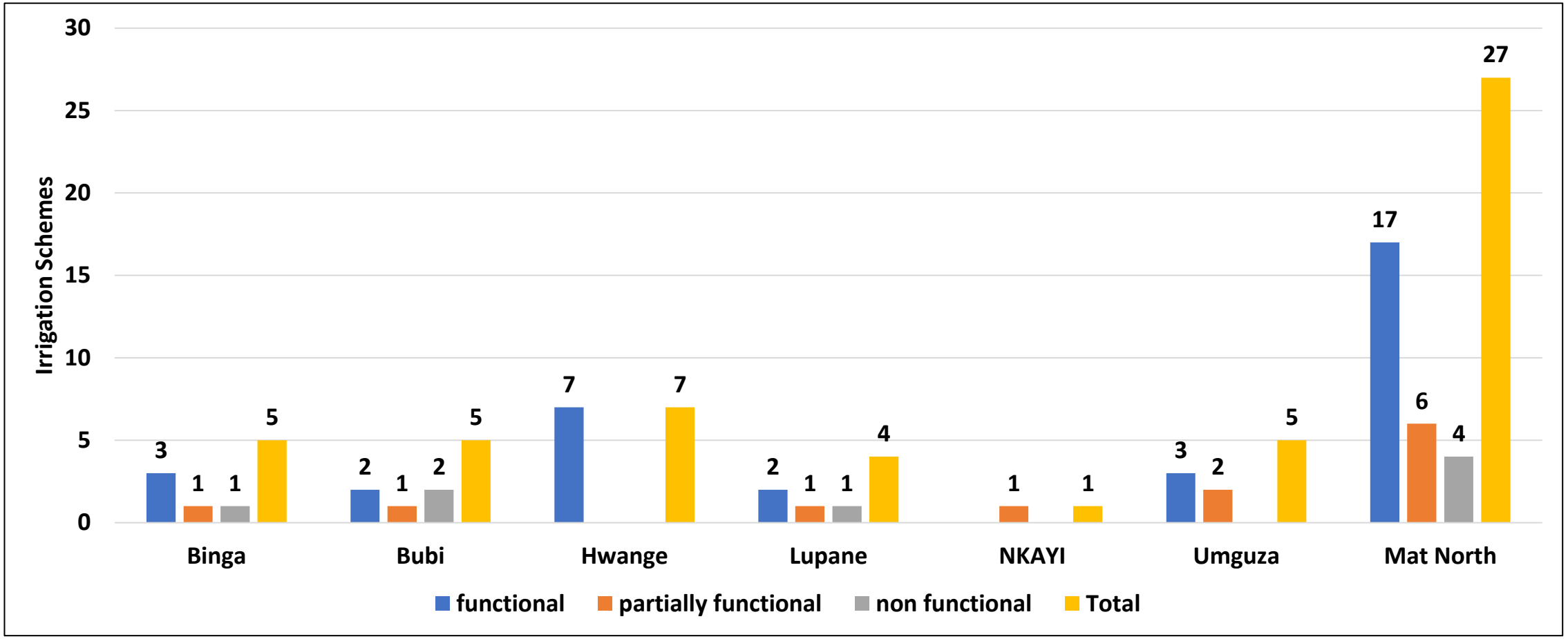
Households Perception on their Ability to Cope with Shocks in the Future



- The majority of households perceived inability to cope with sharp drops in livestock prices (51%), drought (47%), cash shortages (46%) and human wildlife conflict (46%).

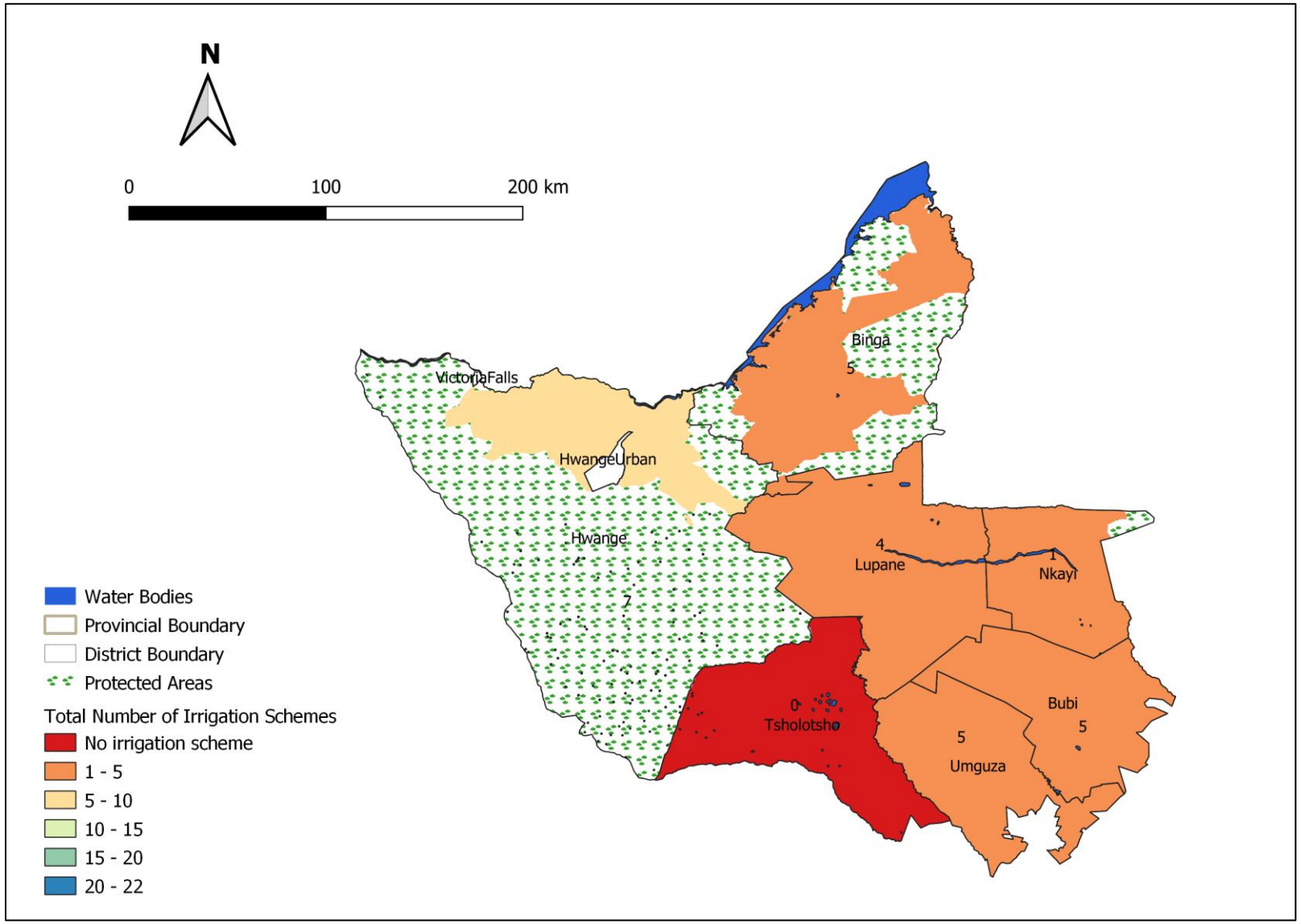
Infrastructure-Irrigation Schemes

Irrigation Schemes



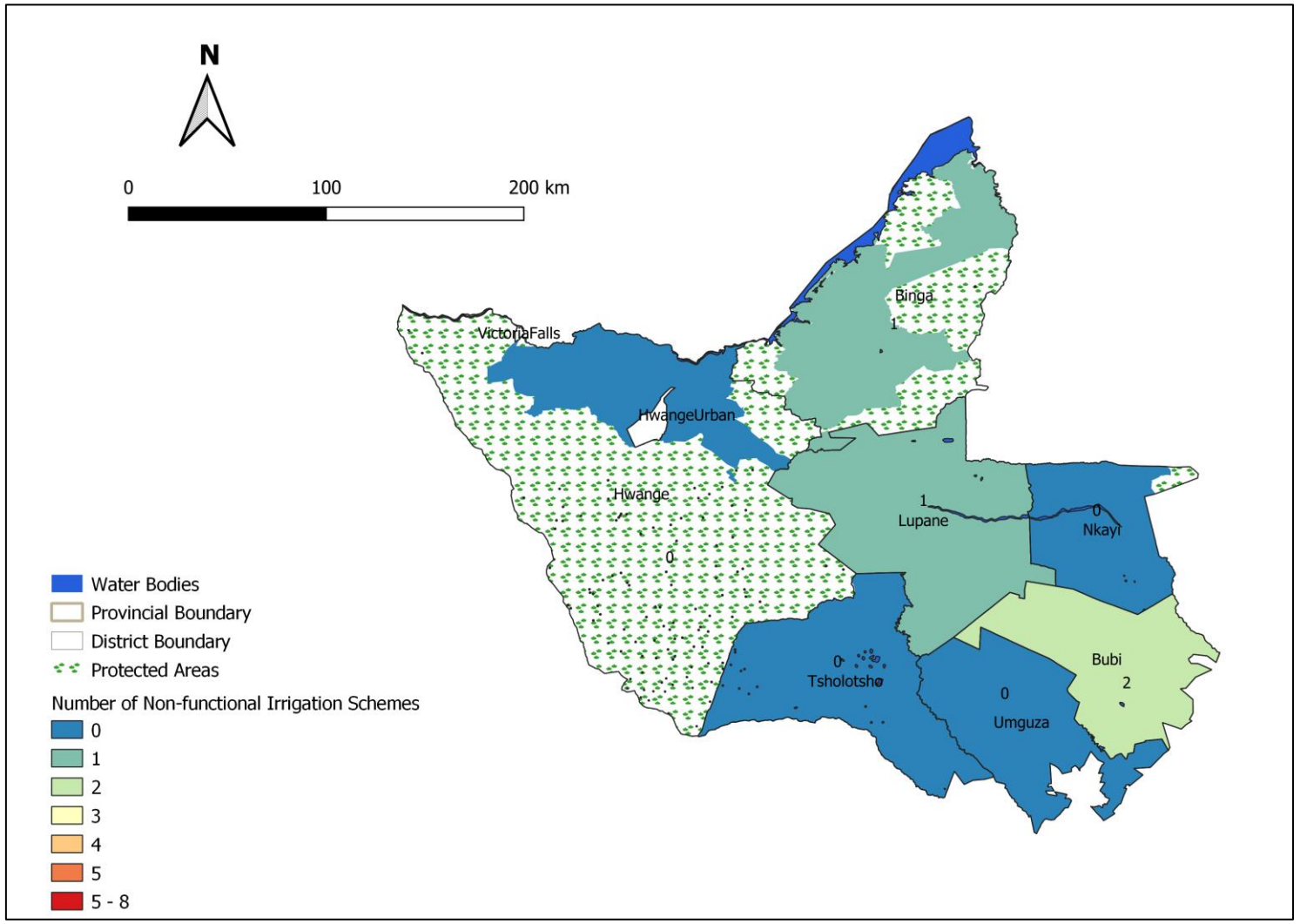
- The province has a total of 27 irrigation schemes, 17 functional, 6 partially functional and 4 non functional.
- Tsholotsho was the only district without an irrigation scheme.

Total Irrigation Schemes



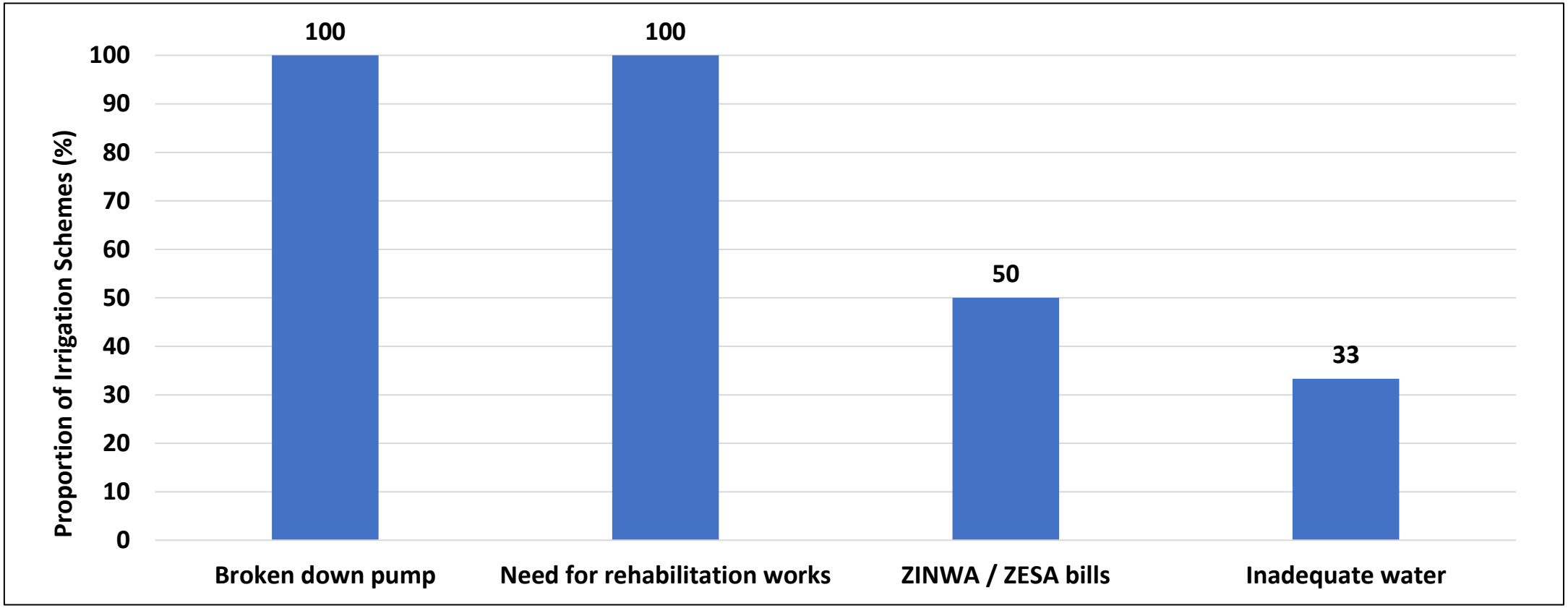
- The province had a total of 27 irrigation schemes.
- Tsholotsho district did not have any irrigation schemes.

Functionality of Irrigation Schemes



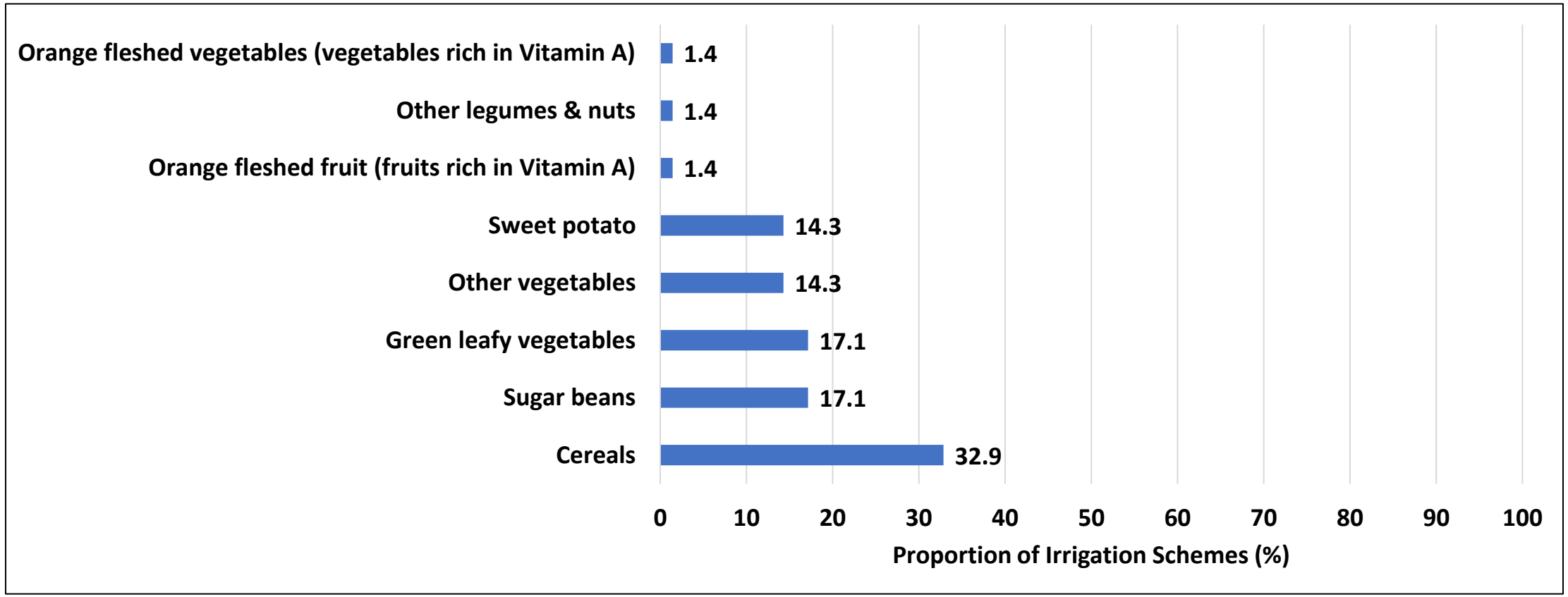
- Of the 5 irrigation schemes in Bubi, 2 were non-functional.
- Binga and Lupane each had 1 irrigation scheme that was not functional.

Reasons for Non Functionality



- The majority of non functional irrigation schemes require rehabilitation and have pumps repaired or replaced.
- Some were reported to be not functioning because of unpaid ZINWA/ZESA bills (50%) and inadequate water supply (33%).

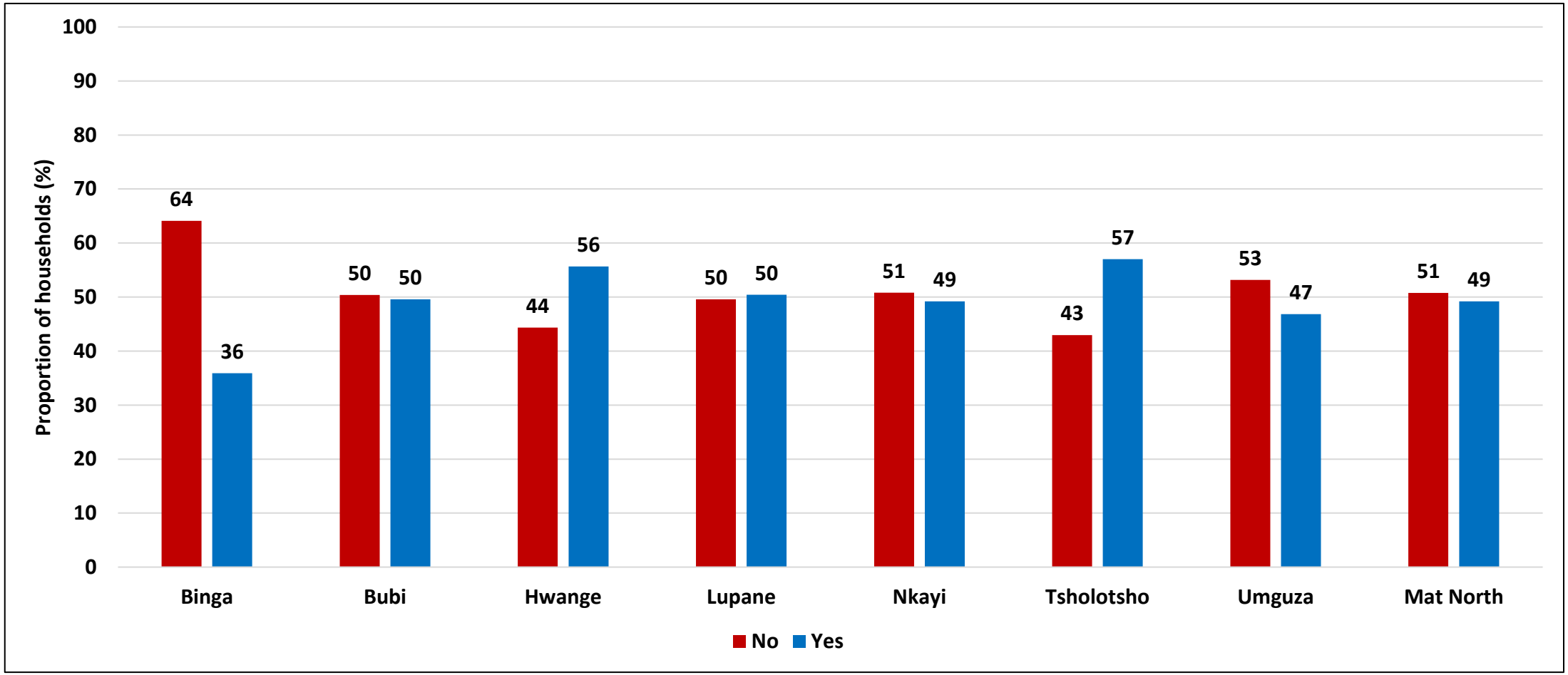
Crops Grown in Irrigation Schemes



- Cereals (32.9%), sugar beans (17.1%) and green leafy vegetables (17.1%) were the mostly grown crops in the irrigation schemes.
- Orange fleshed fruits and vegetables (1.4%), as well as other legumes and nuts (1.4%) were the least grown in irrigation schemes.

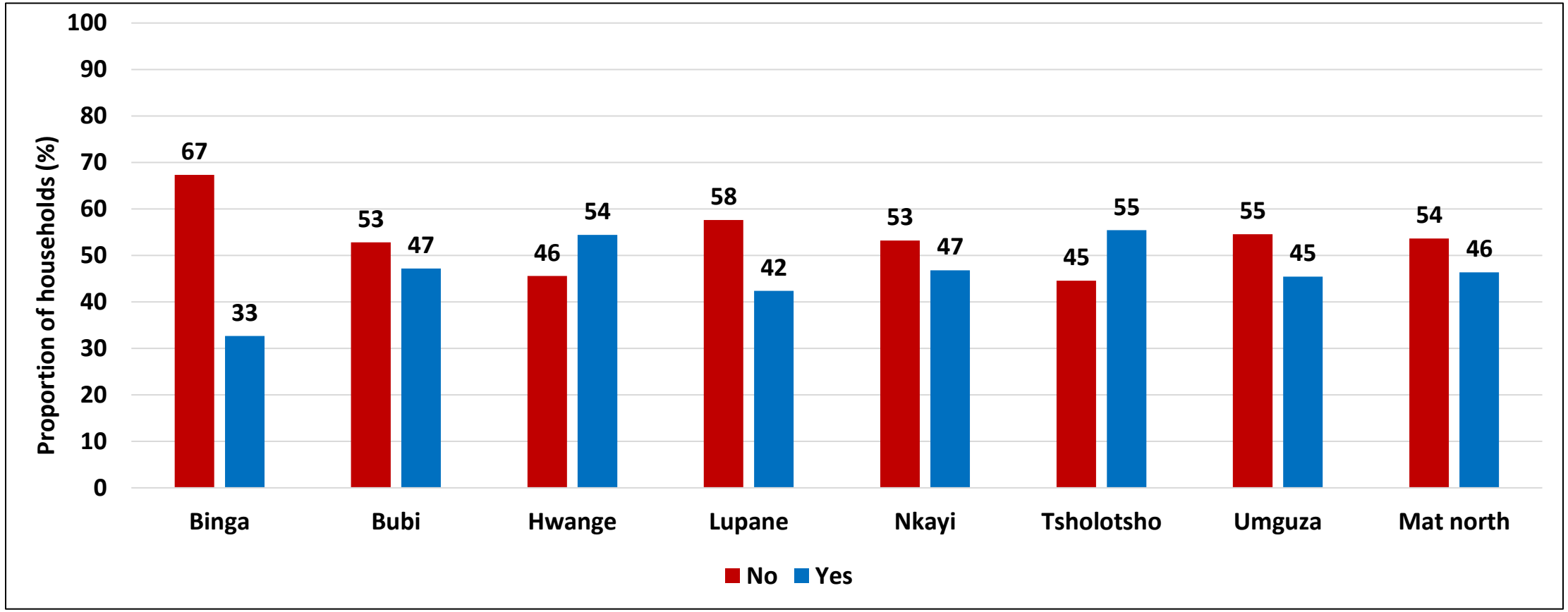
Agricultural Production

Household Access to Agricultural Extension Services



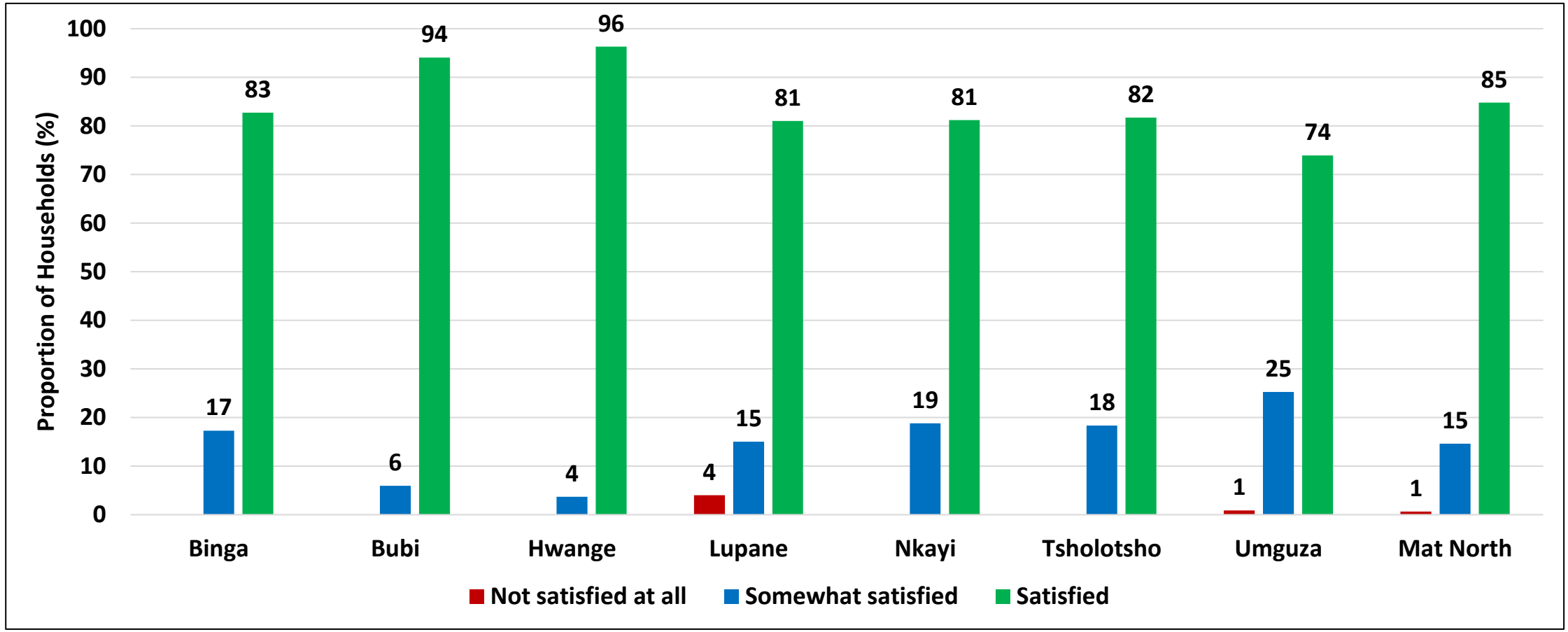
- Throughout the province, the proportion of households that were reached with extension services was 49%.
- Tsholotsho (57%) and Hwange (56%) had the highest proportion of households reached.

Household Access to Agricultural Training



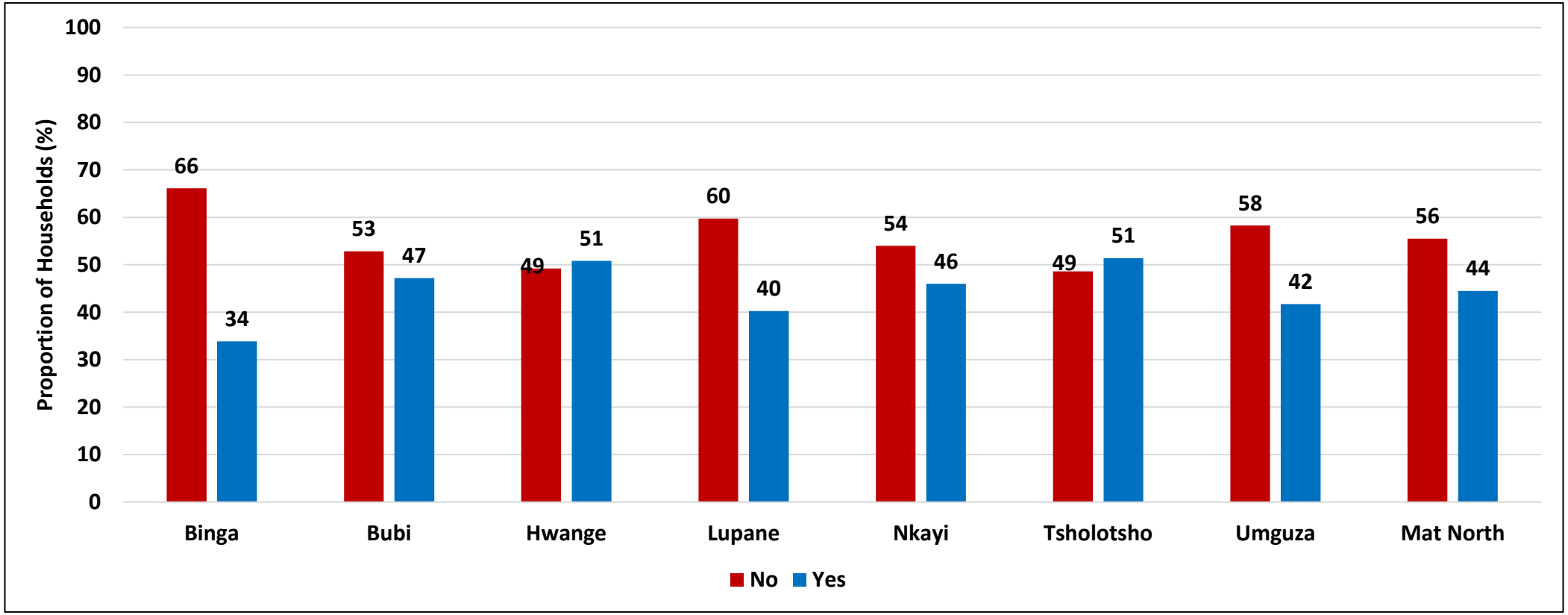
- Tsholotsho (55%) and Hwange (54%) had the highest proportion of households with access to agricultural training.

Satisfaction with the Agricultural Training Received



- An average of 85% of households reported being satisfied with the agricultural advice received.

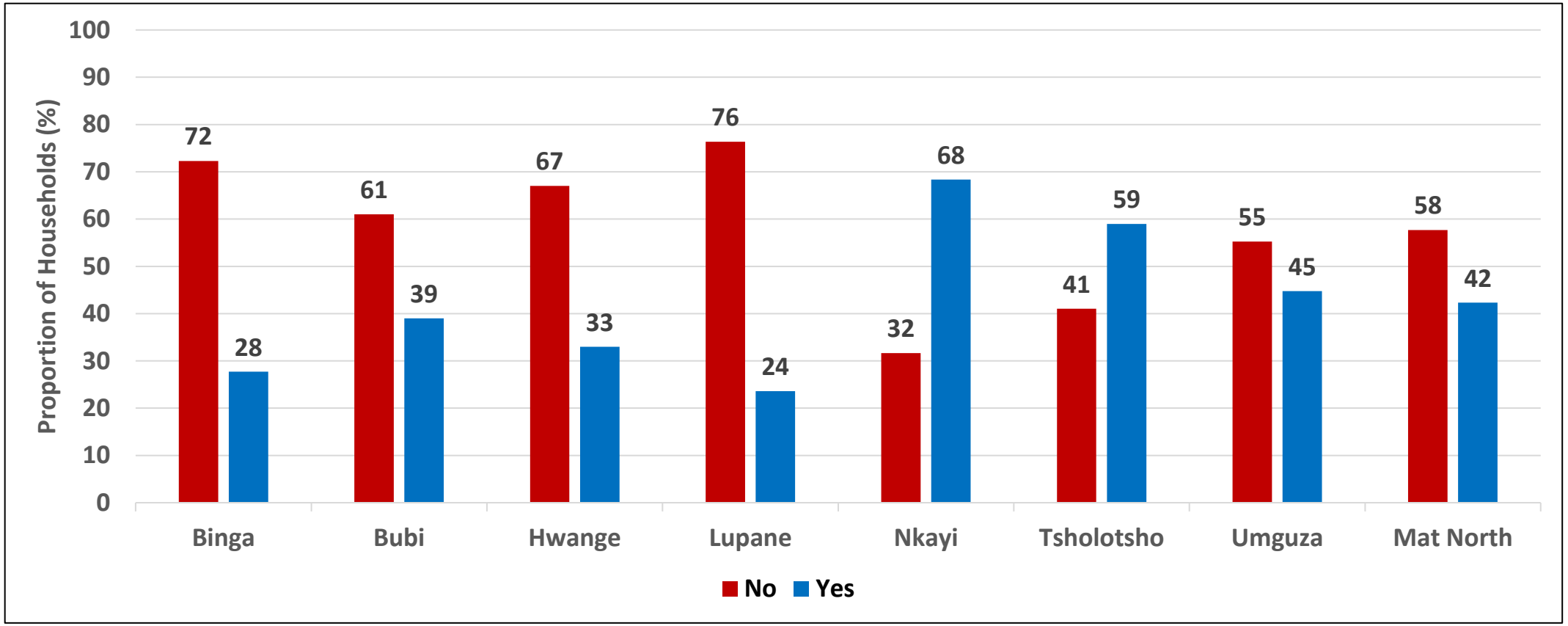
Households which Received Agriculture Extension Visits from Extension Officers



- Only 44% of households received agricultural extension visits from Extension Officers.

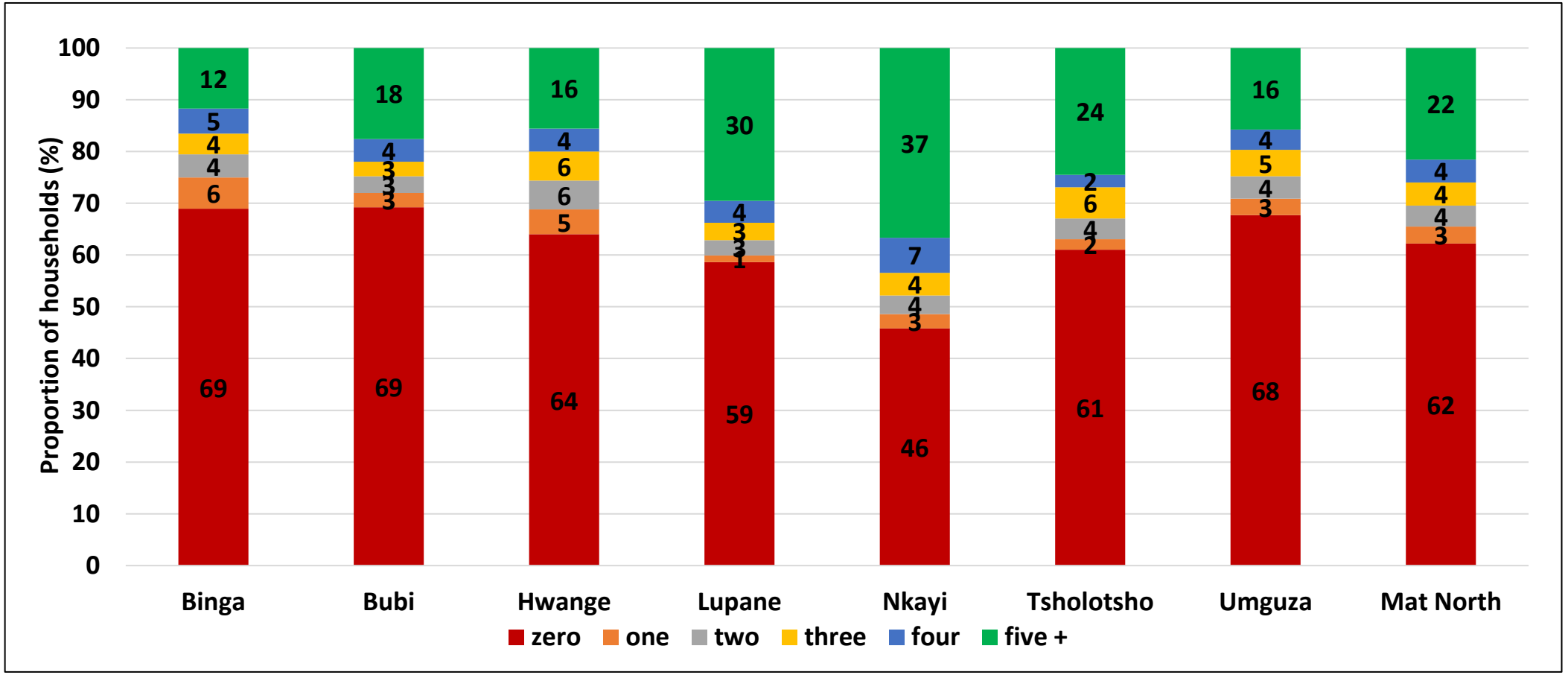
Livestock

Access to Animal Health Centres



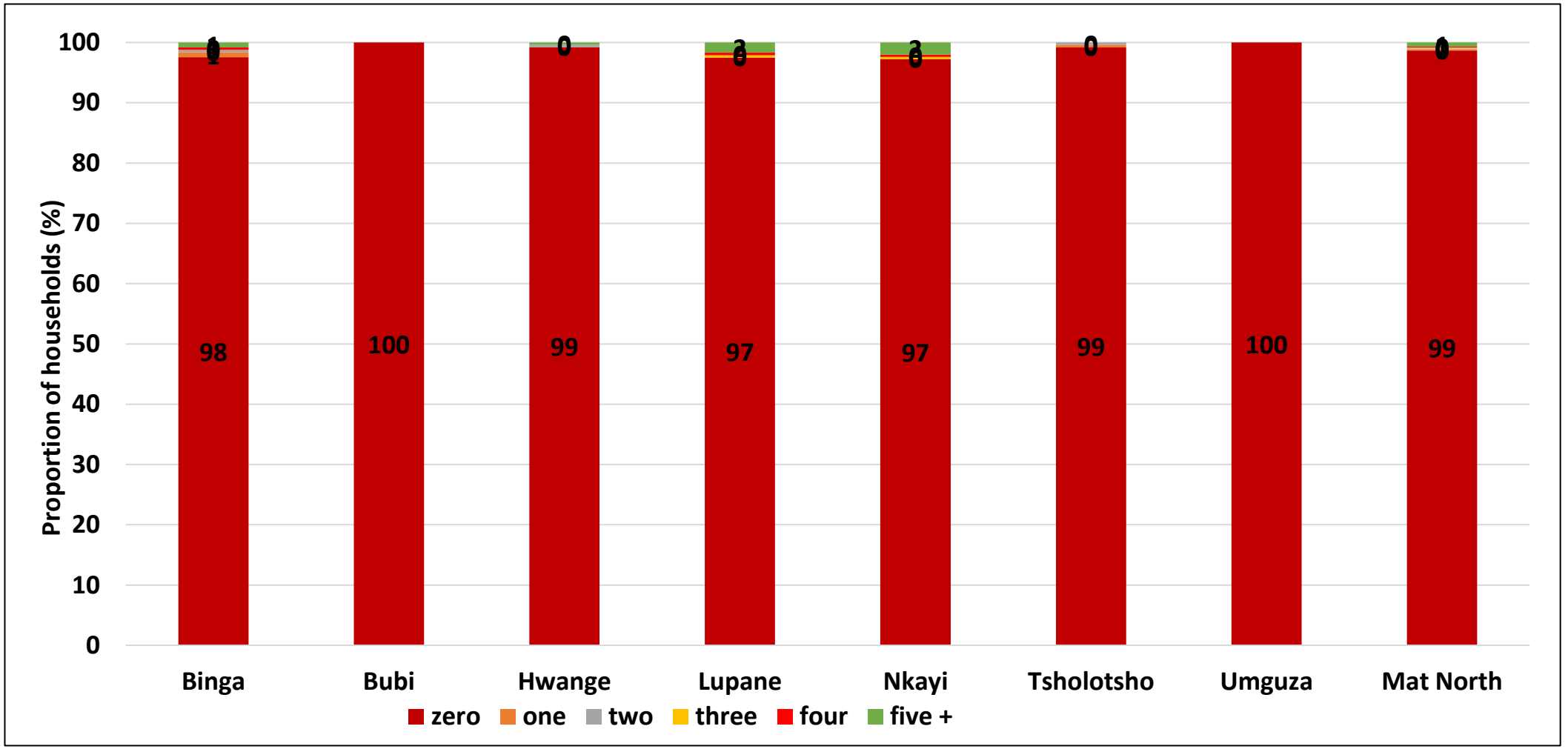
- About 42% of households had access to animal health centres.
- Nkayi (68%) had the highest proportion of households with access to animal health centres while Lupane (24%) had the least.

Households which Owned Cattle



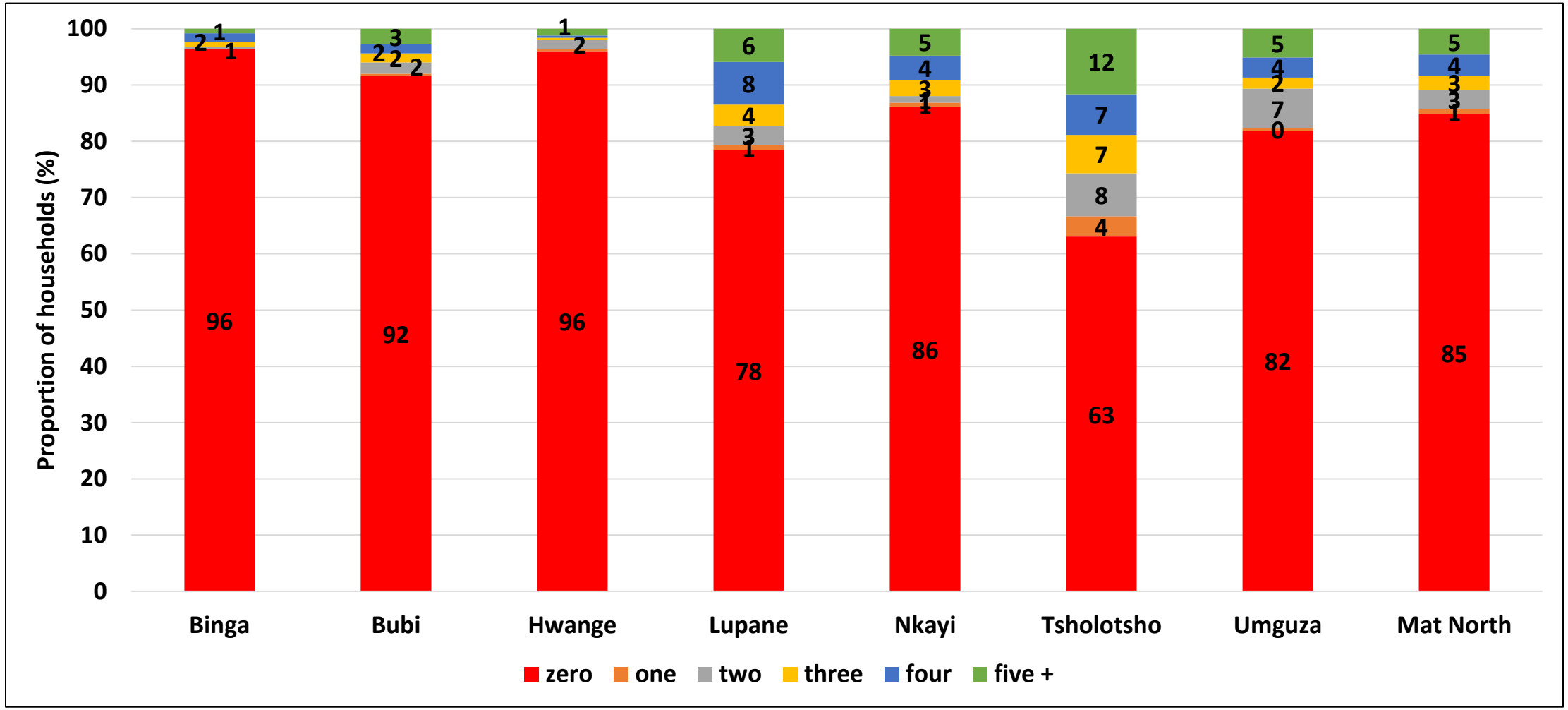
- The proportion of households which did not own cattle remained high (62%).

Households which Owned Sheep



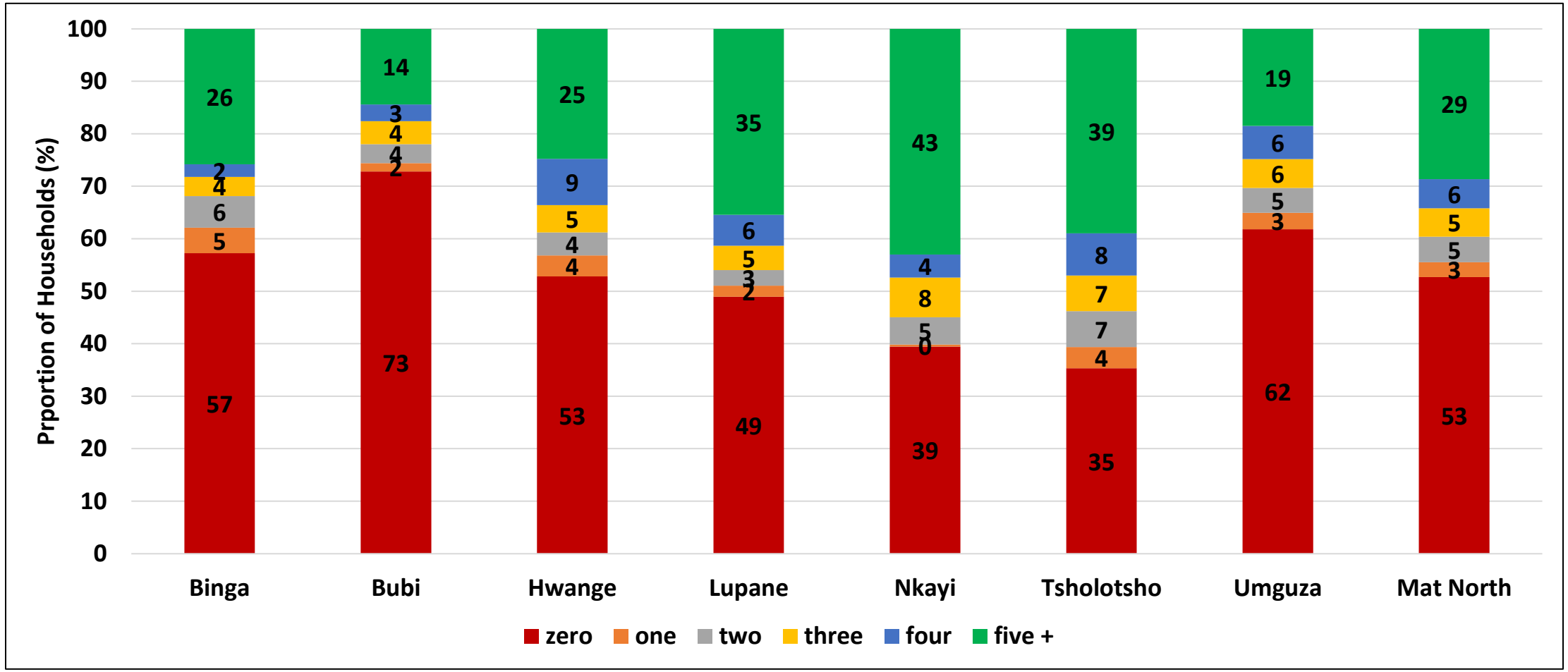
- The proportion of households that did not own sheep in the province was (99%).

Households which Owned Donkeys



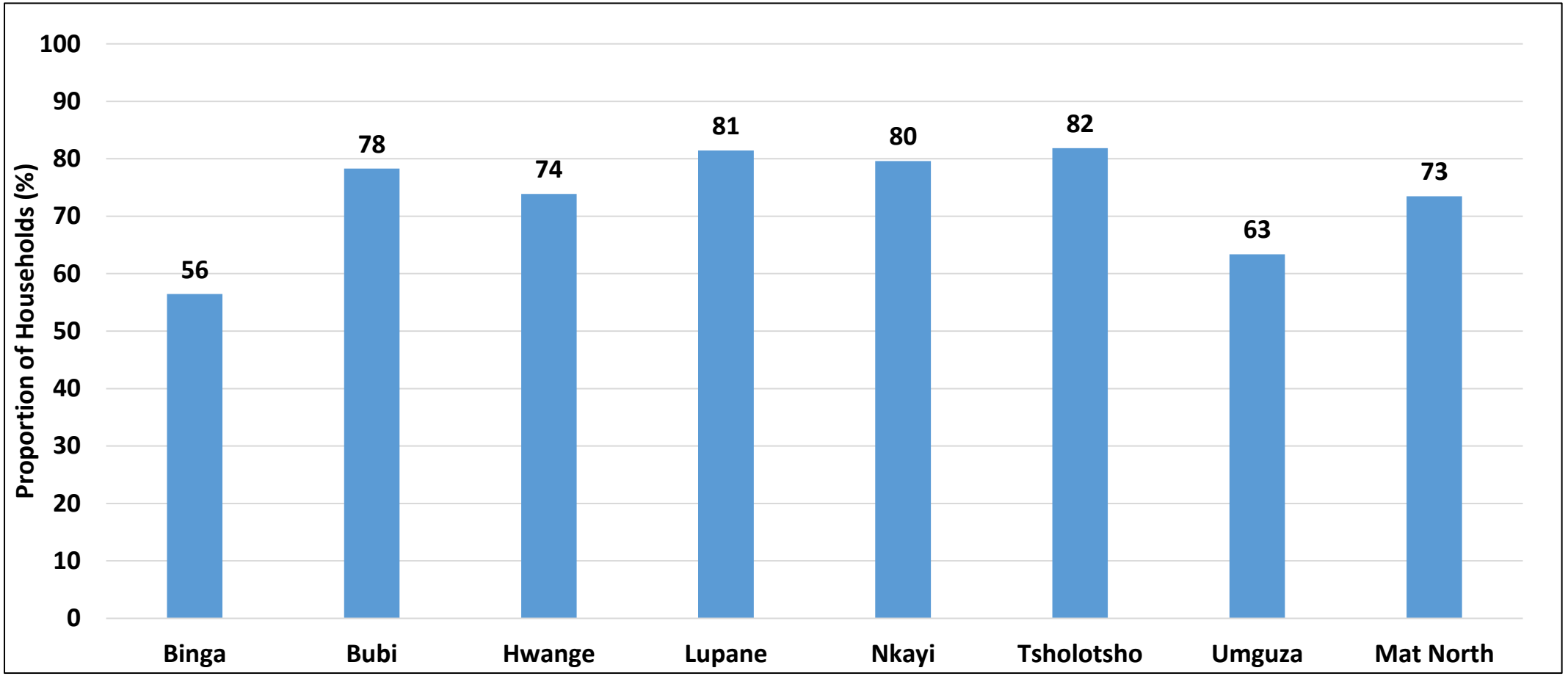
- The highest proportion of households in the province (85%) did not own donkeys.

Households which Owned Goats



- The proportion of households that did not own goats in the province was 53%.

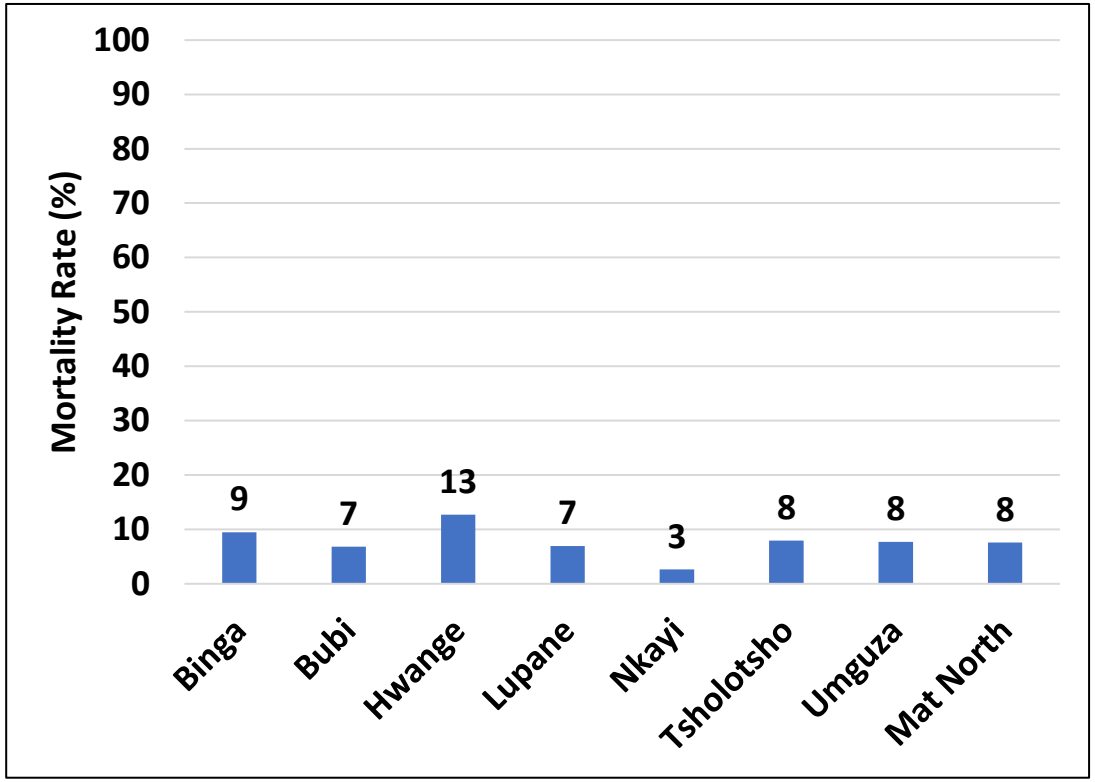
Households which Owned Poultry



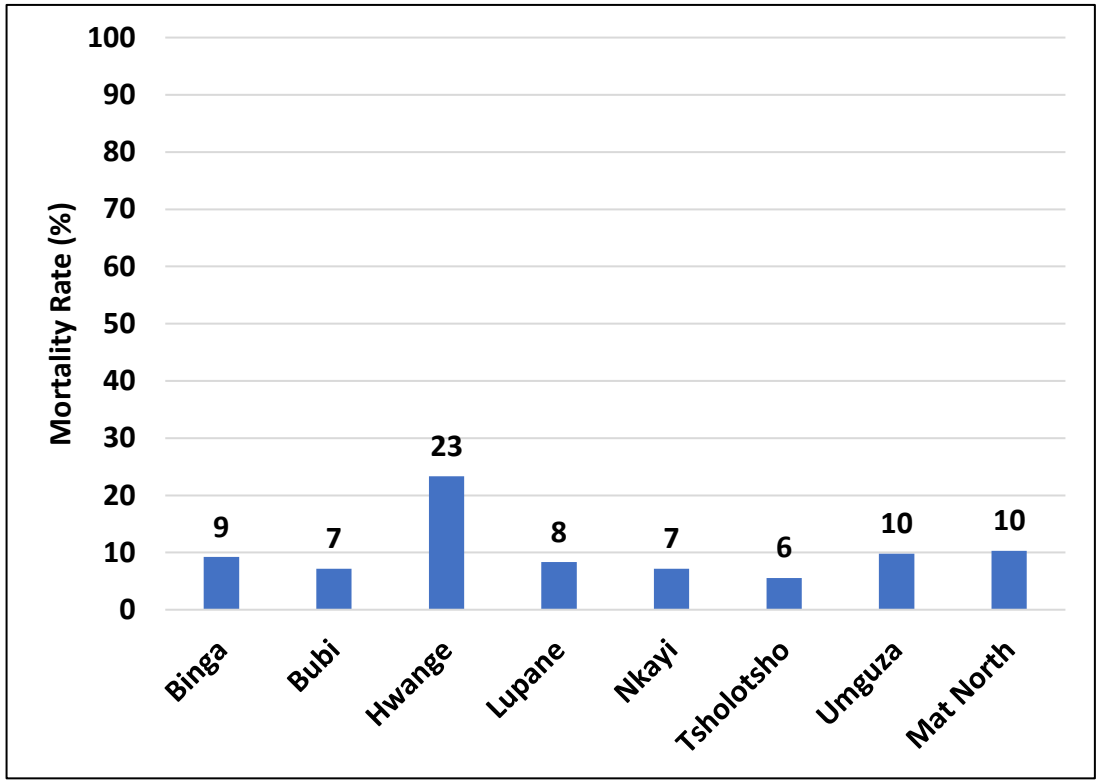
- The proportion of households which owned poultry in the Matabeleland North was 73% with Tsholotsho having the highest (82%) and Binga (56%) having the lowest.

Livestock Mortality Rates

Cattle

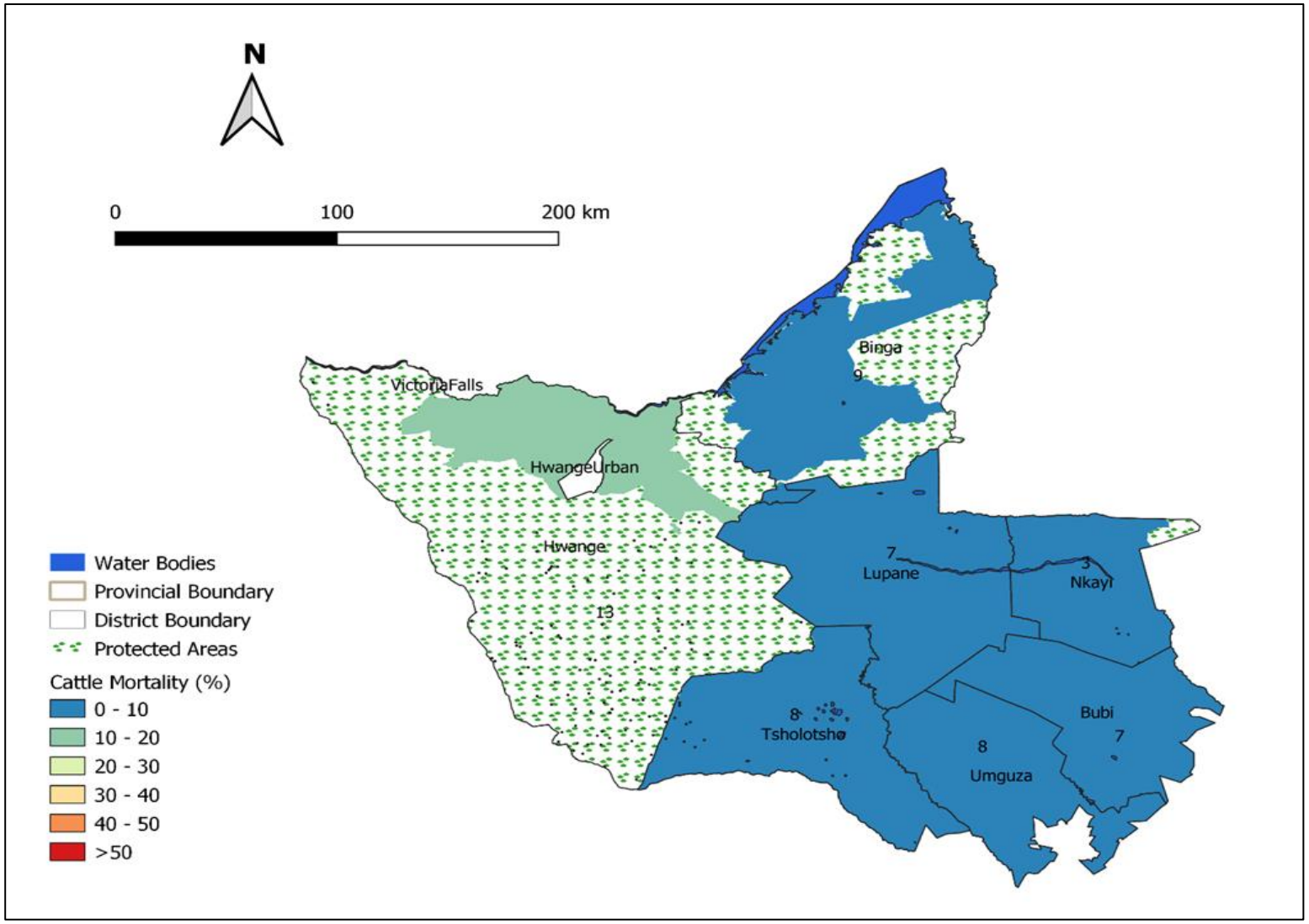


Goats



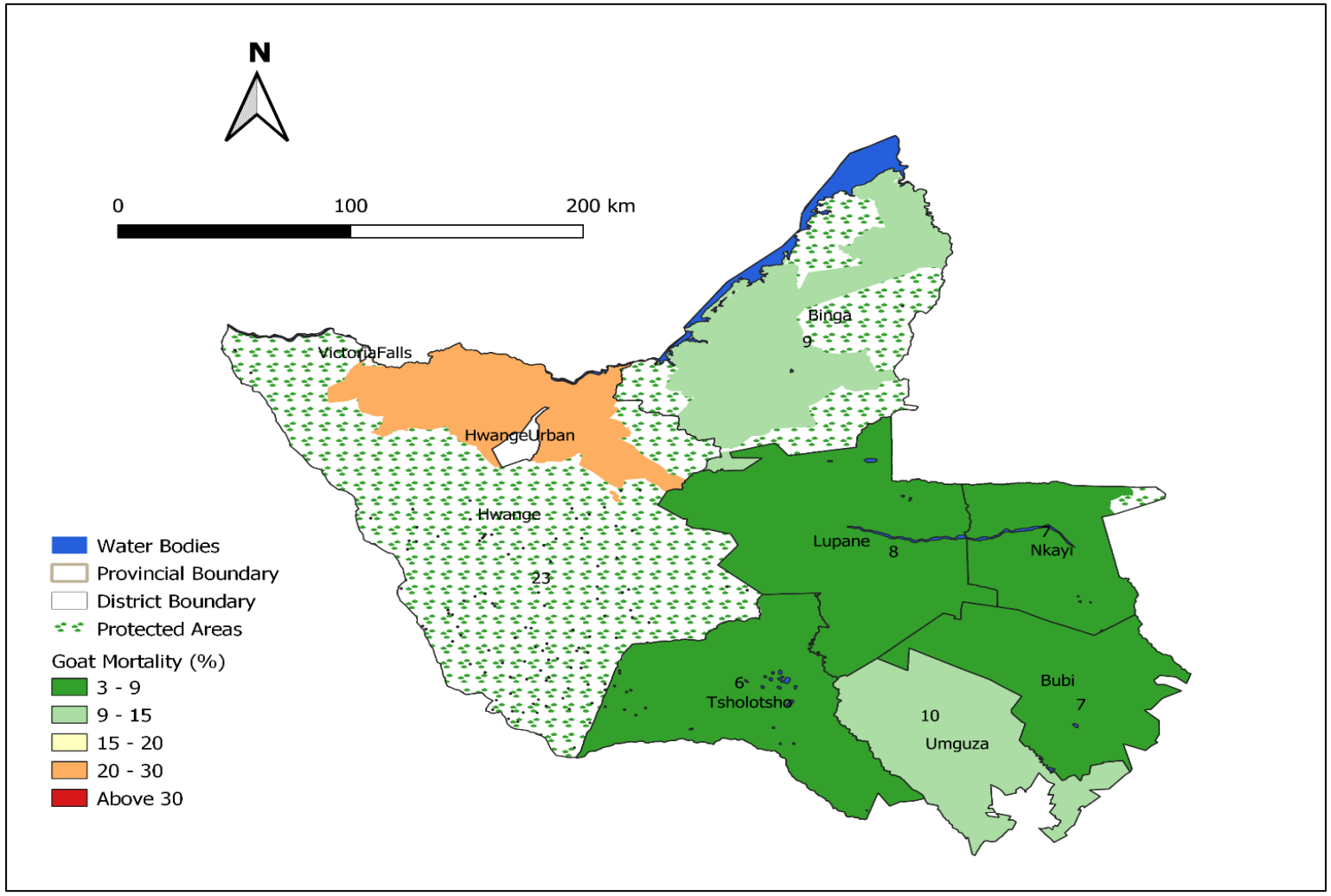
- Mortality refers to the frequency of death over a specified time interval.
- The national target is to lower the mortality rate to 5% for cattle and 8% for goats.
- Mortality rates for both cattle and goats were generally high across all districts, above the national targets.
- The provincial cattle mortality rate was 8%, while goat mortality rate was 10%.
- Hwange had the highest cattle mortality rates (13%) as well as the highest goat mortality rates (23%)

Cattle Mortality by District



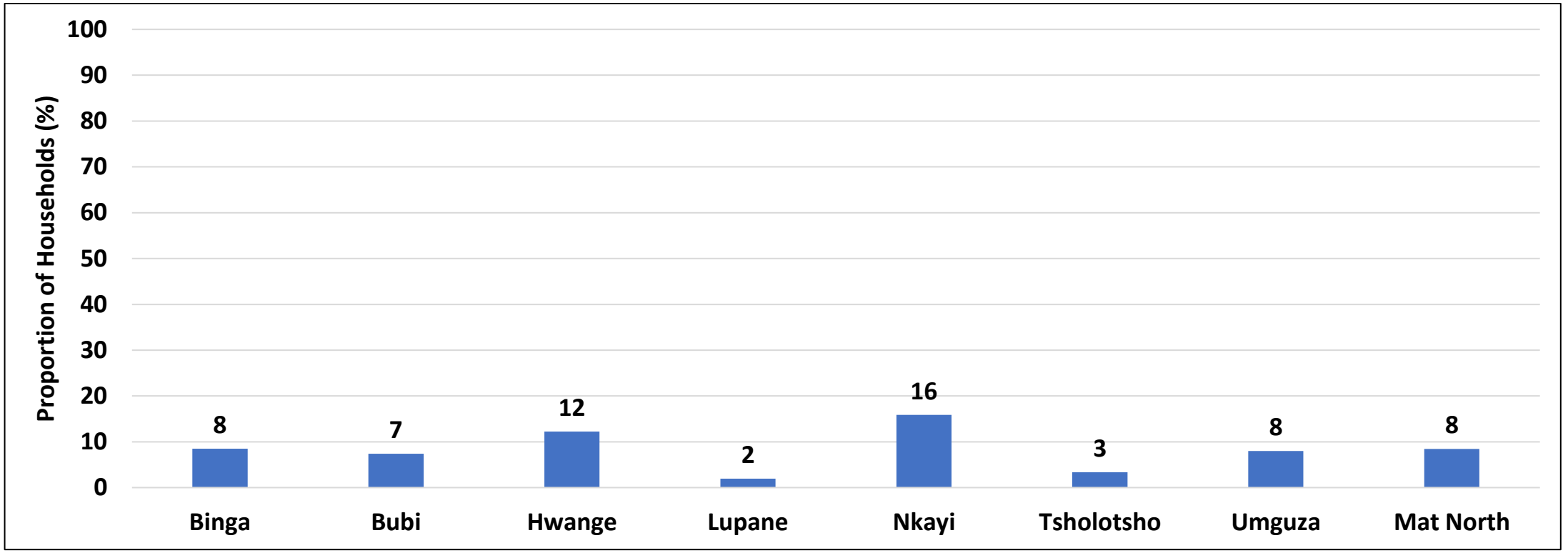
- Cattle mortality was generally high in the province ranging from 3% in Nkayi to 13% in Hwange.

Goat Mortality by District



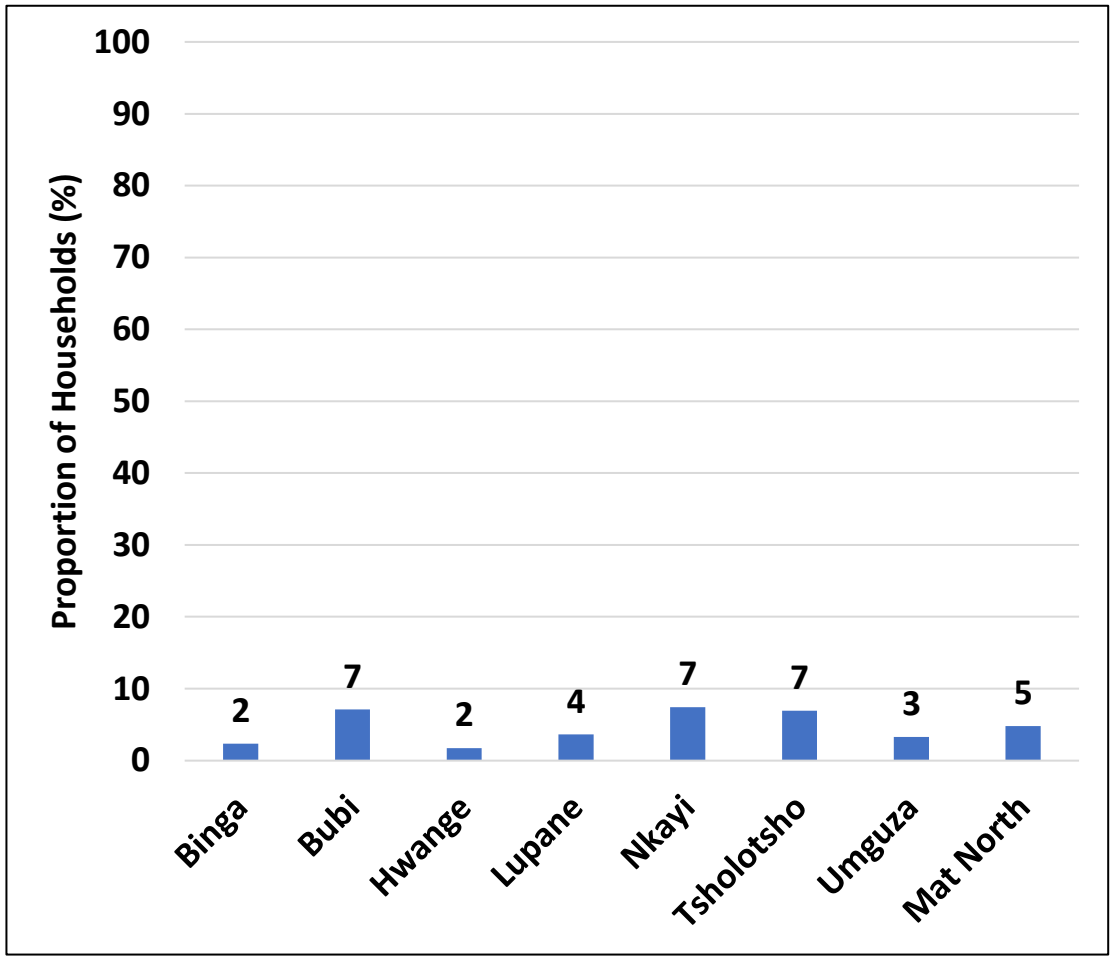
- Goat mortality was generally high in the province ranging from 6% in Tsholotsho to 23% in Hwange.

Improved Livestock Breeding Practices

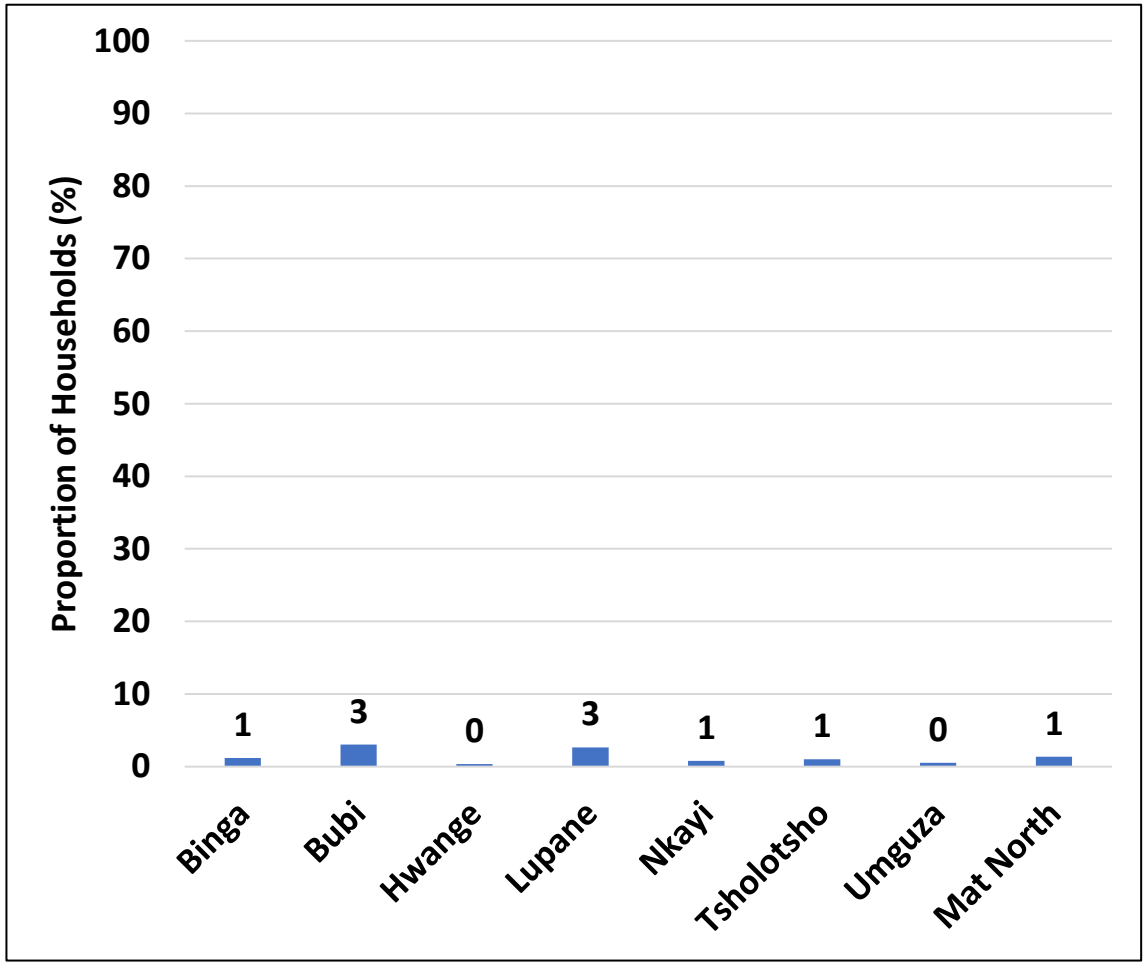


- Only 8% of households indicated that they used improved livestock breeds.
- Nkayi (16%) and Hwange (12%) had the highest proportion of households using improved breeding practices.

Improved Animal Housing



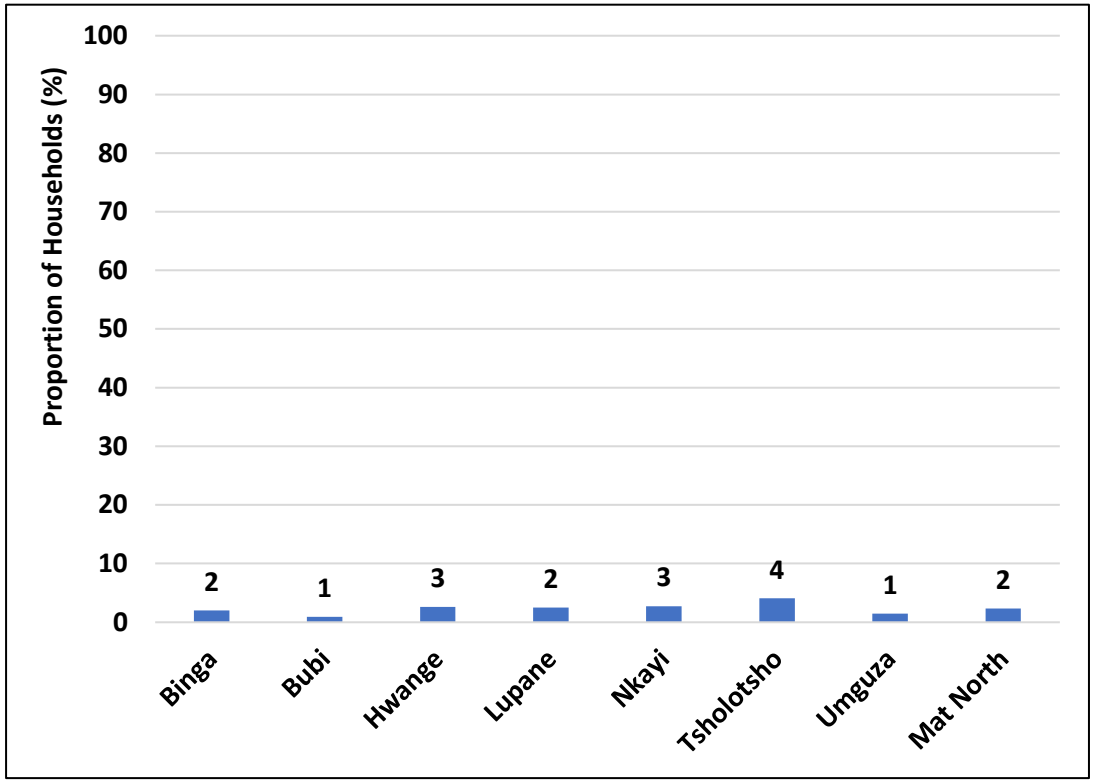
Water Infrastructure for Livestock



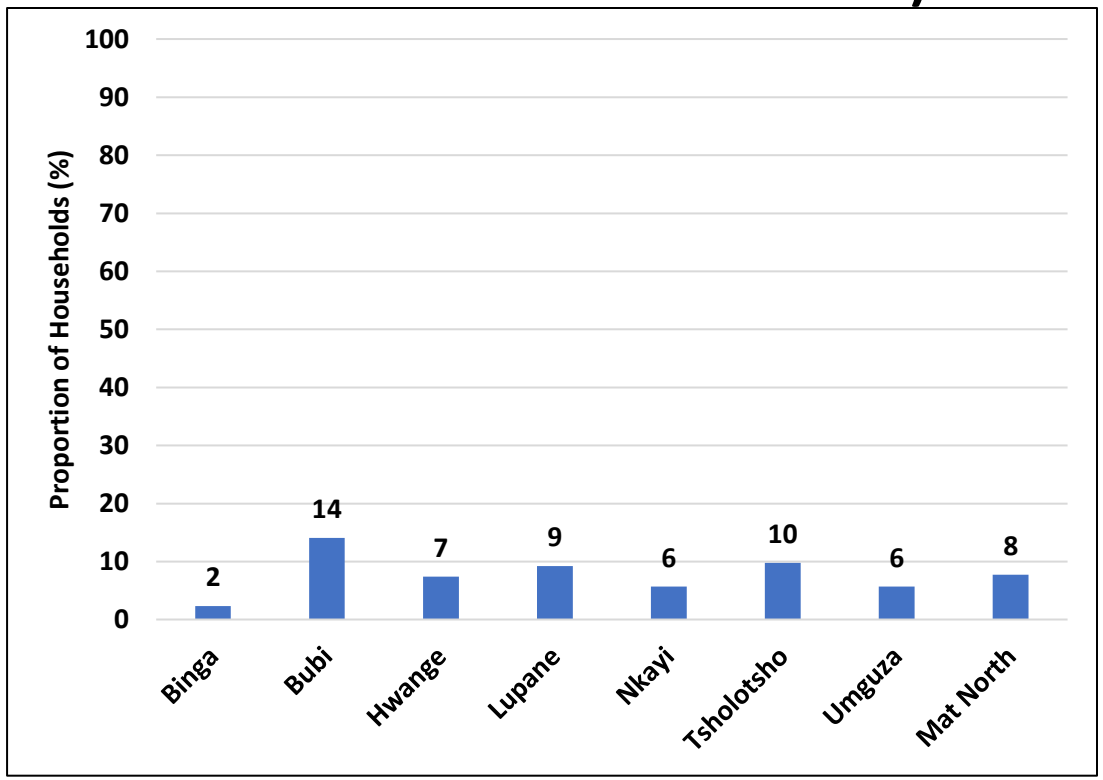
- About 5% of households had improved housing whilst only 1% had water infrastructure for livestock.

Livestock Vaccinations

Routine Vaccinations (by Veterinary officer or Paravet)



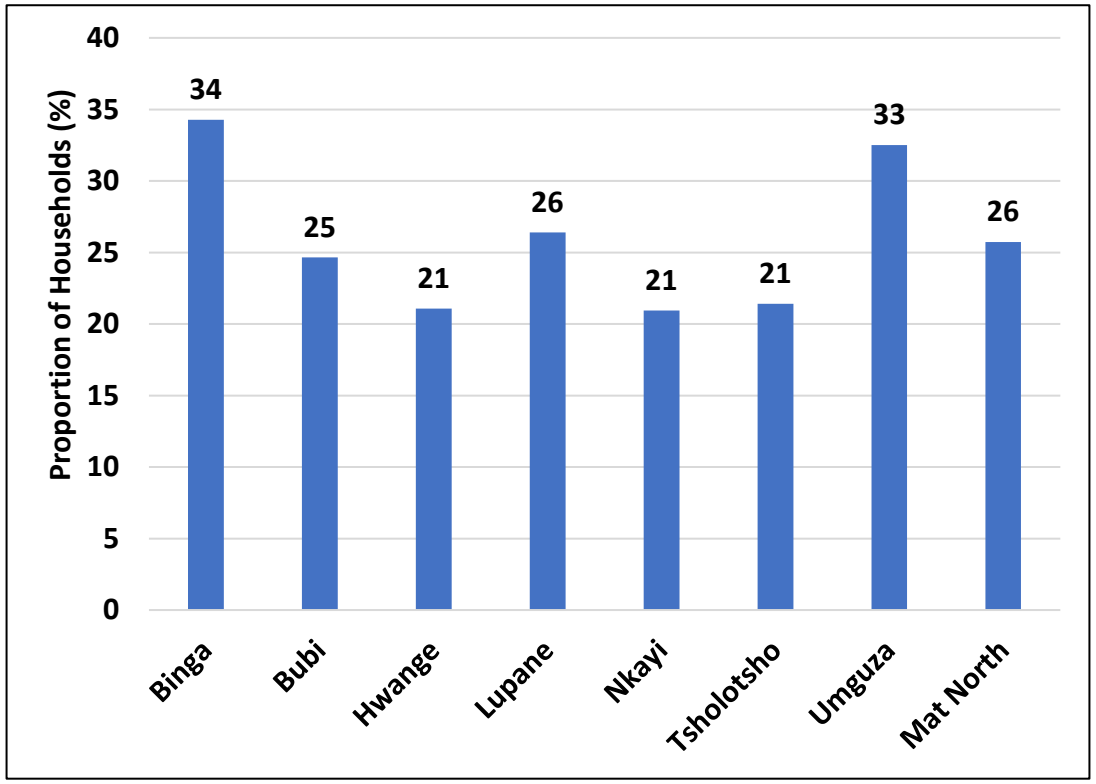
Home Vaccinations (Farmer administered vaccinations)



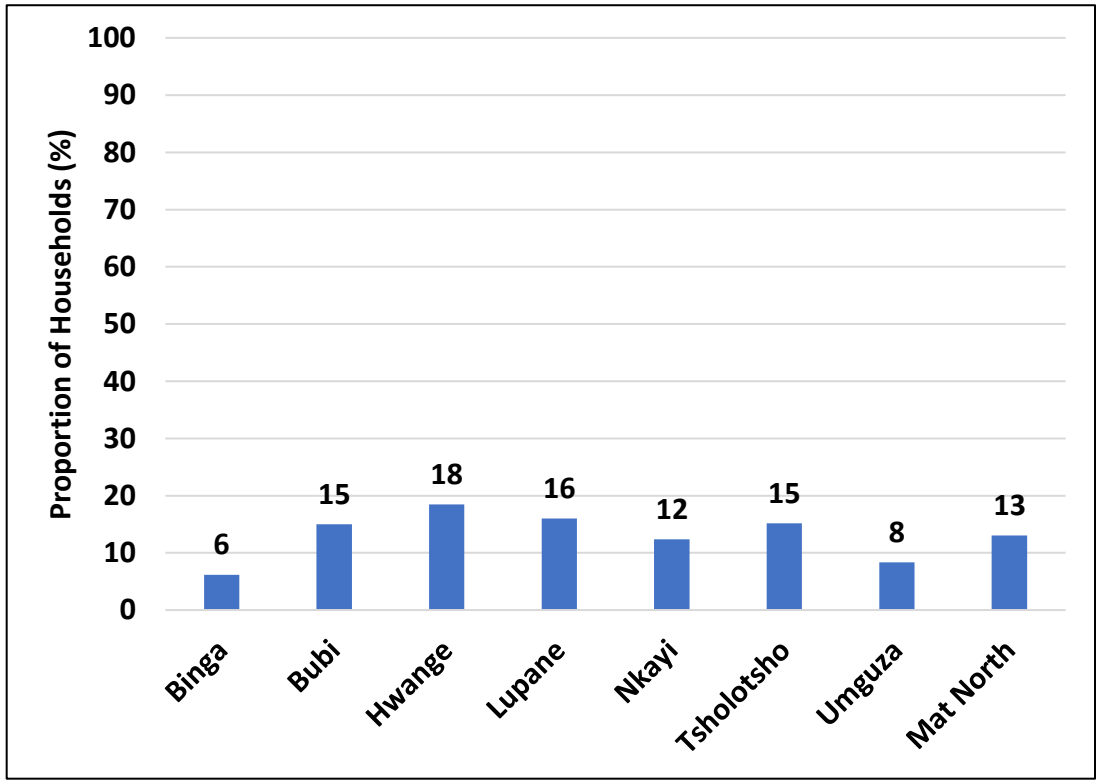
- Only 2% of households accessed routine vaccinations whilst about 8% carried out home vaccinations.

Livestock Deworming and Dipping

Deworming

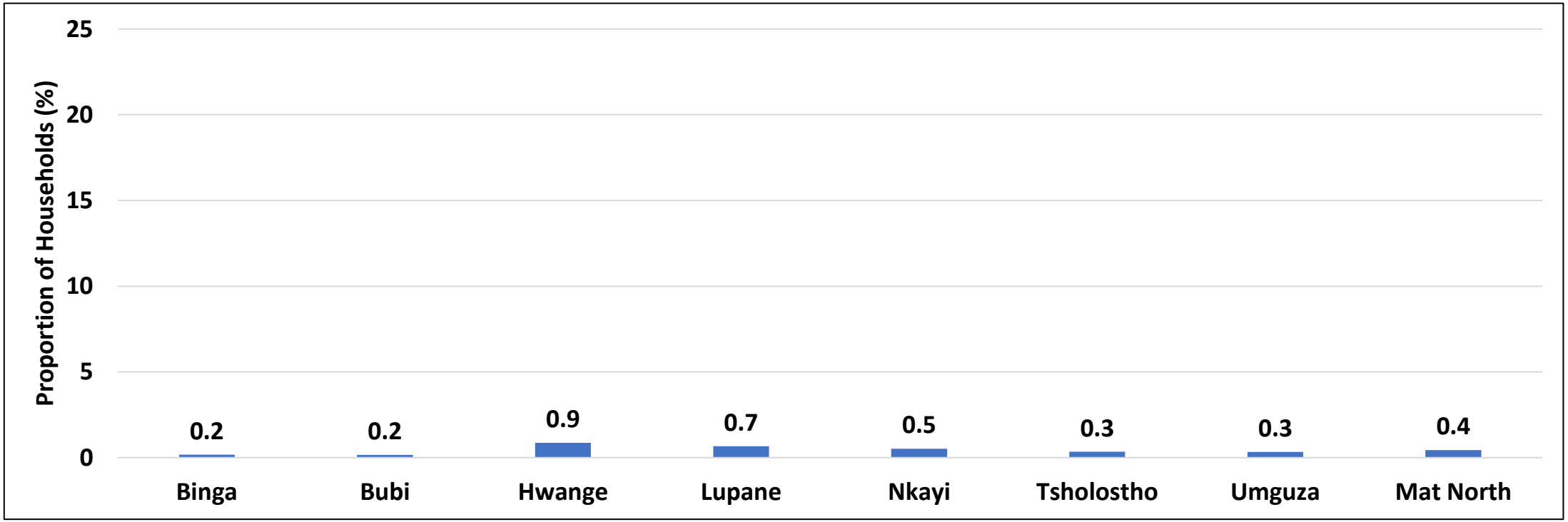


Dipping



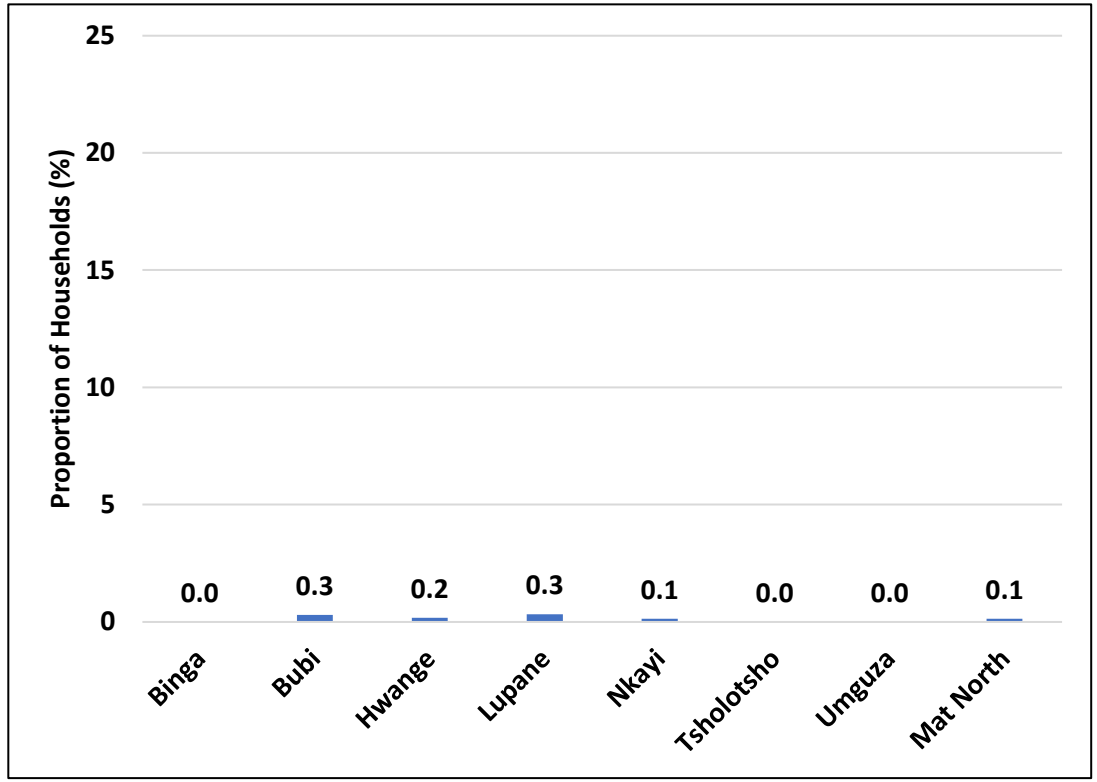
- About 26% of households had dewormed their livestock whilst only 13% dipped their livestock

Use of Locally Available Ingredients of Make Homemade Animal Feeds

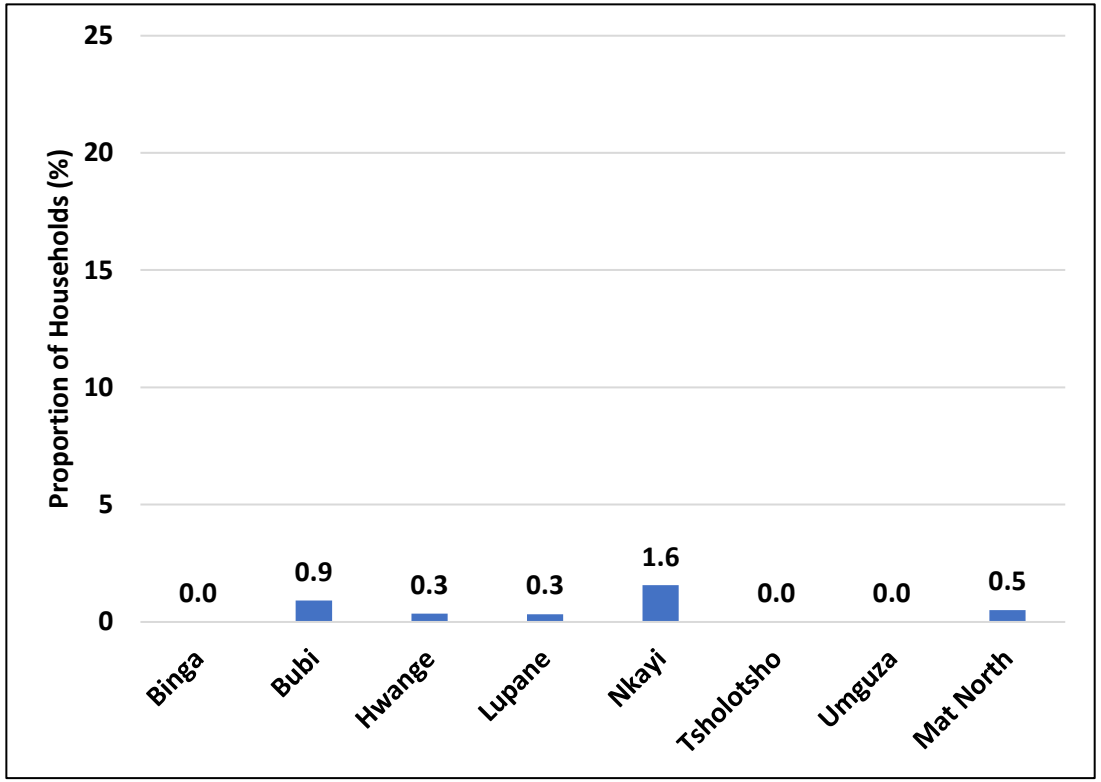


- Only 0.4% of households in Matabeleland North used locally available ingredients to make home made animal feeds.

Supplementary Animal Feeding Using Commercial Stock Feeds



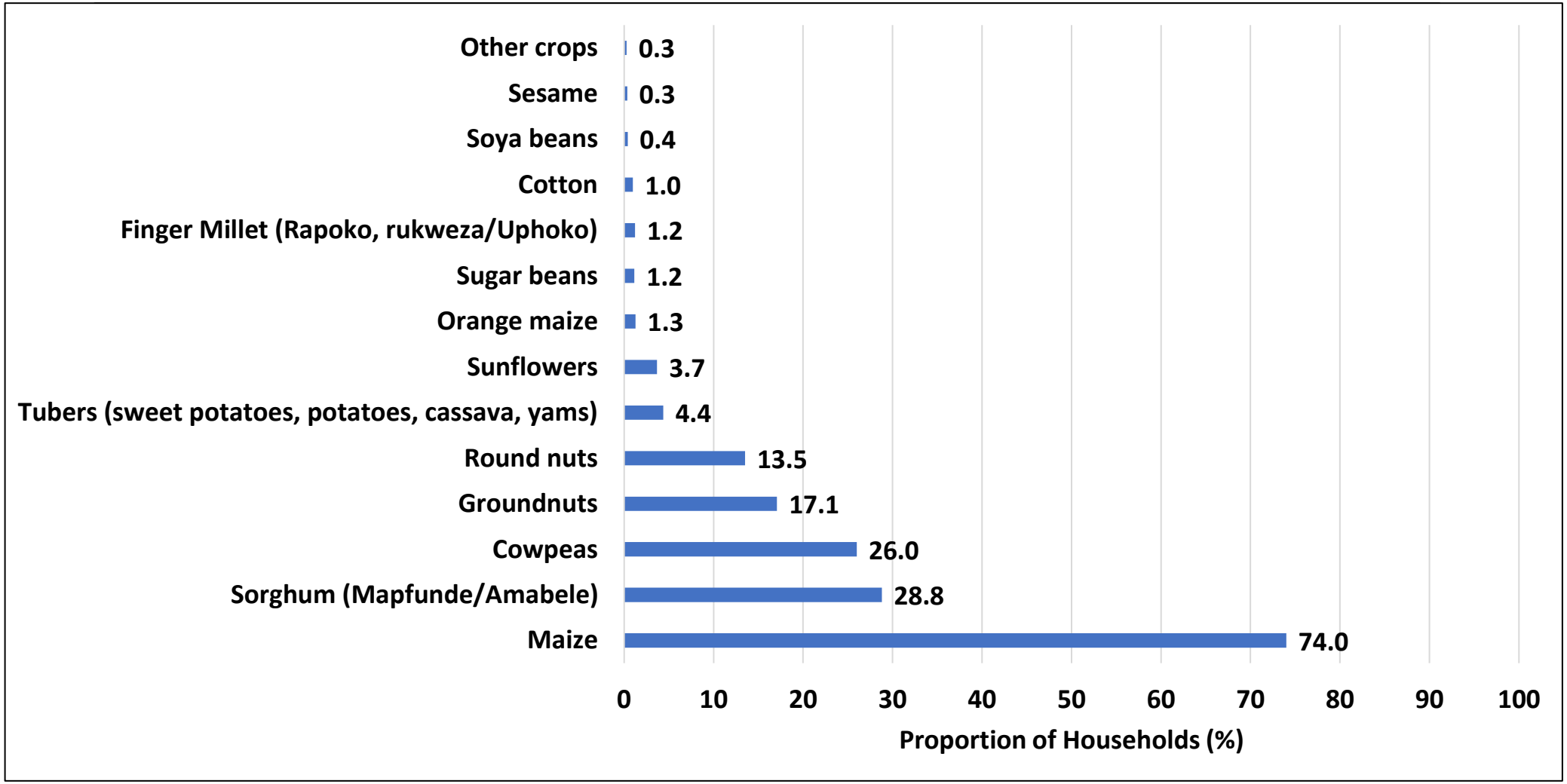
Survival Feeding of Productive Livestock During Lean Season



- Only 0.1% of households had given their animals supplementary feeds in the form of commercial stock feeds and only 0.5% had given their productive livestock survival feeding during the lean season.

Crops

Households Which Grew Different Crops



- Maize (74%) was the most grown crop in the province followed by sorghum (28.8%), cowpeas (26%) and groundnuts (17.1%).

Average Cereal Production

District	Cereal Production (kg)	
	2020/21	2021/22
Binga	428	313
Bubi	711.5	98
Hwange	332.1	148
Lupane	949.7	156
Nkayi	405.7	174
Tsholotsho	444.5	185
Umguza	667.1	103
Mat North	562.8	168

- The provincial average cereal production decreased from 562.8kg in the 2020/21 season to 168kg in the 2021/22 season.
- In the 2021/2022 season the highest production was reported in Binga (313kg) and the lowest in Bubi (98%).

Cereal Sufficiency

District	Months of cereal supply				
	0 to 3 months	4 to 6 months	7 to 9 months	9 to 11 months	12 and above
Binga	48	18	13	4	17
Bubi	74	16	7	0	4
Hwange	73	16	4	2	5
Lupane	72	13	8	2	5
Nkayi	55	26	13	3	2
Tsholotsho	65	20	6	1	7
Umguza	86	6	4	0	4
Mat North	68	16	8	2	6

- Only 6% of households are projected to have cereal supply that will last 12 months and above.

Cereals from Casual Labour and Remittances

District	Casual Labour (Kgs)	Remittances (Kgs)
Binga	26.8	11.0
Bubi	24.3	10.0
Hwange	29.7	6.4
Lupane	9.4	10.6
Nkayi	33.6	3.8
Tsholotsho	18.8	40.2
Umguza	62.6	27.2
Mat North	29.5	15.6

- In Matabeleland North most households reported that they had about 29.5 kgs of cereals received from casual labour and about 15.6 kgs from remittances.

Average Household Stocks

District	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Finger millets (kgs)	Pearl millets (kgs)	Wheat (kgs)	Shelled groundnuts (kgs)	Unshelled groundnuts (kgs)	Shelled roundnuts (kgs)	Unshelled roundnuts (kgs)	Cowpeas (kgs)	Beans (kgs)
Binga	67.5	17.7	2.3	20.5	0.4	2.0	2.8	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.3
Bubi	29.3	2.7	0.1	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Hwange	23.1	19.5	0.0	29.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Lupane	50.9	5.6	0.2	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
Nkayi	92.3	7.9	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.3	6.1	0.1	0.5	3.3	0.1
Tsholotsho	53.2	24.0	2.6	38.1	0.2	3.7	1.2	10.9	0.6	2.9	0.0
Umguza	55.7	6.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mat North	**53.2**	**12.0**	**0.7**	**15.1**	**0.1**	**0.9**	**1.7**	**1.8**	**0.3**	**1.3**	**0.1**

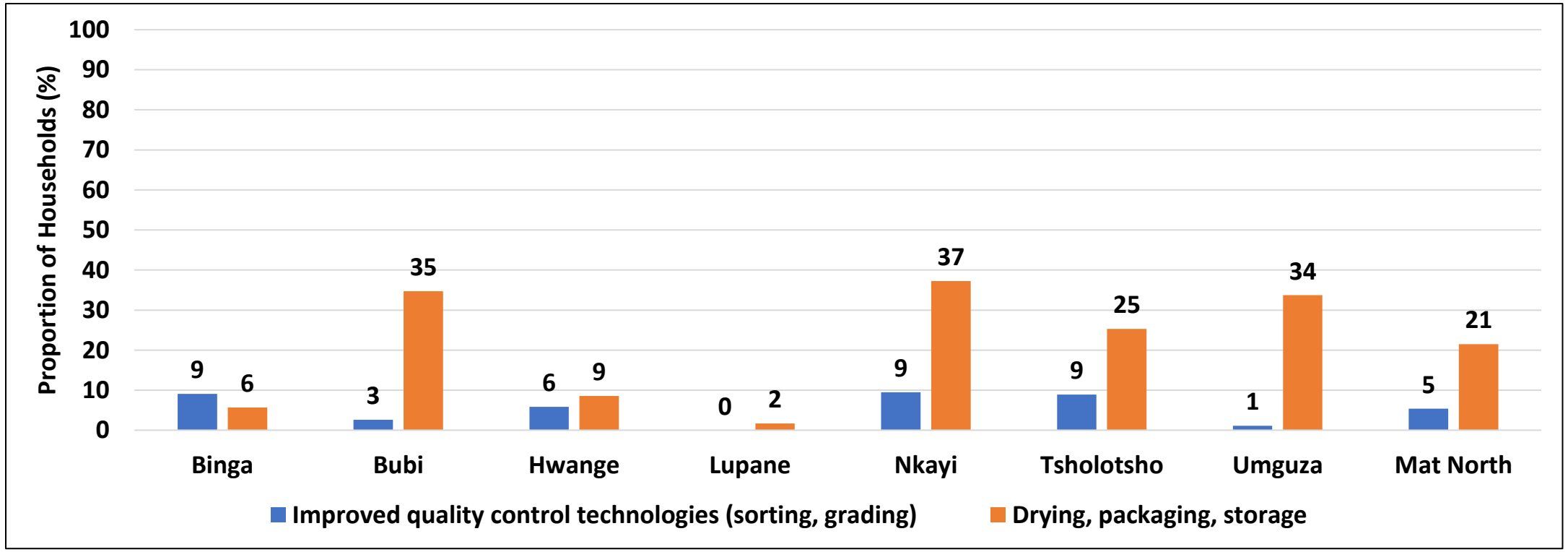
- The highest household cereal stocks were maize 53.2kgs per household, followed by pearl millet 15.1kgs. Tsholotsho (38.1kgs) had the highest average pearl millet whilst Umguza (0.1kgs) had the least.

Structures Used to Store Grain

	Ordinary Room (%)	Traditional Granary (%)	Ordinary Granary (%)	Improved Granary (%)	Bin/Drum (%)	Crib (%)	Hermetic Bags (%)	Metal Silos (%)
Binga	41	33	13	1	11	0	0	0
Bubi	51	38	4	7	0	0	0	0
Hwange	23	49	9	0	18	0	0	1
Lupane	4	64	8	4	4	16	0	0
Nkayi	31	43	9	1	8	0	8	0
Tsholotsho	44	47	1	3	1	0	4	0
Umguza	18	39	23	0	18	1	1	0
Mat North	32	44	9	2	9	2	2	0

- The most common structures used to store grain at household level were traditional granaries (44%) followed by ordinary rooms (32%).
- Low usage of improved granaries (2%) and hermetic bags (2%) which are reliable methods that reduce post harvest losses was reported.

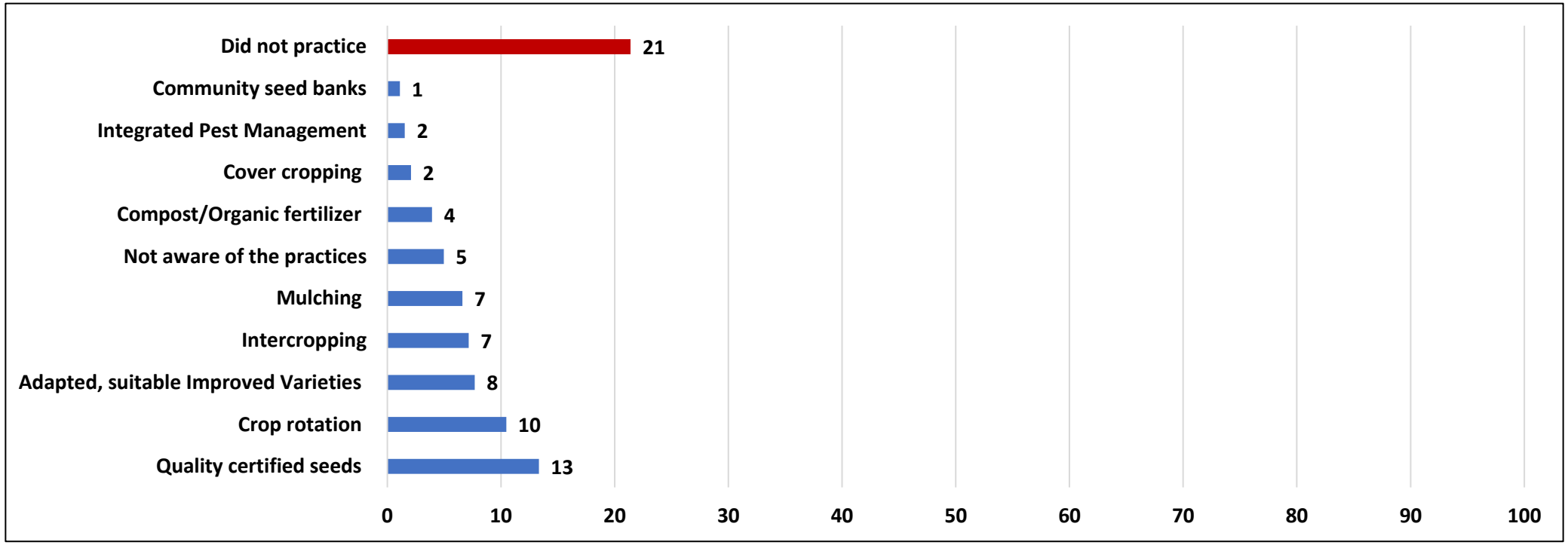
Value Addition-Sorting, Grading, Drying and Packaging



- Only 5% of households were using quality control technologies (sorting, grading) whilst 21% were involved in drying and packaging their produce.

Climate Smart Agriculture

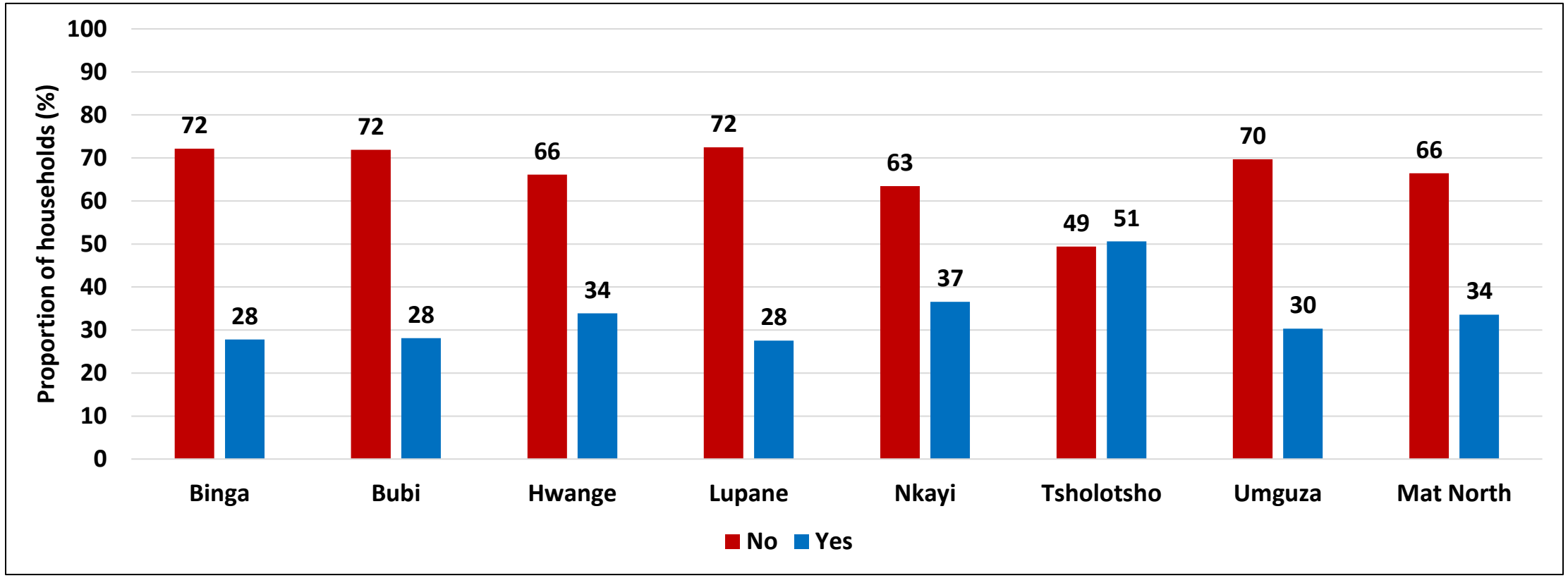
Proportion of farmers practicing Climate Smart Agriculture



- The highest proportion of farmers (21%) were not practising climate smart agriculture. However, most of them were using quality certified seeds (13%) and doing crop rotation (10%).

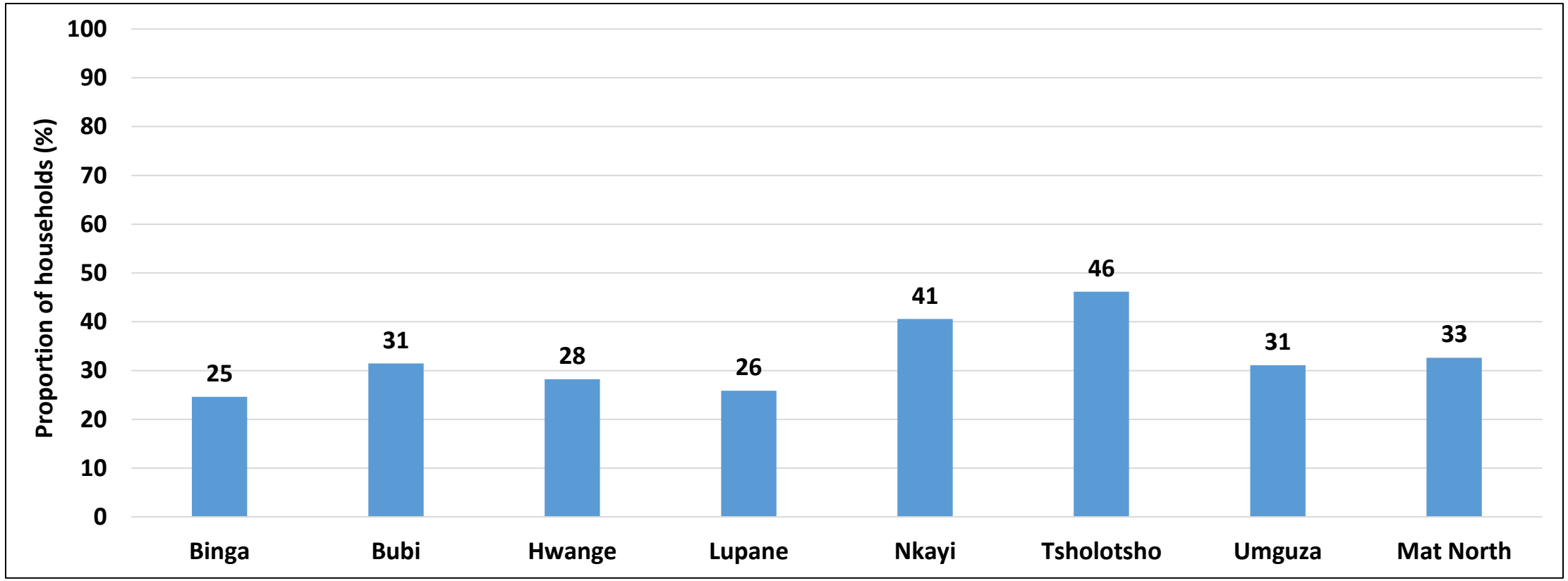
Access to Infrastructure and Services

Households which Received Extension Support on Weather and Climate



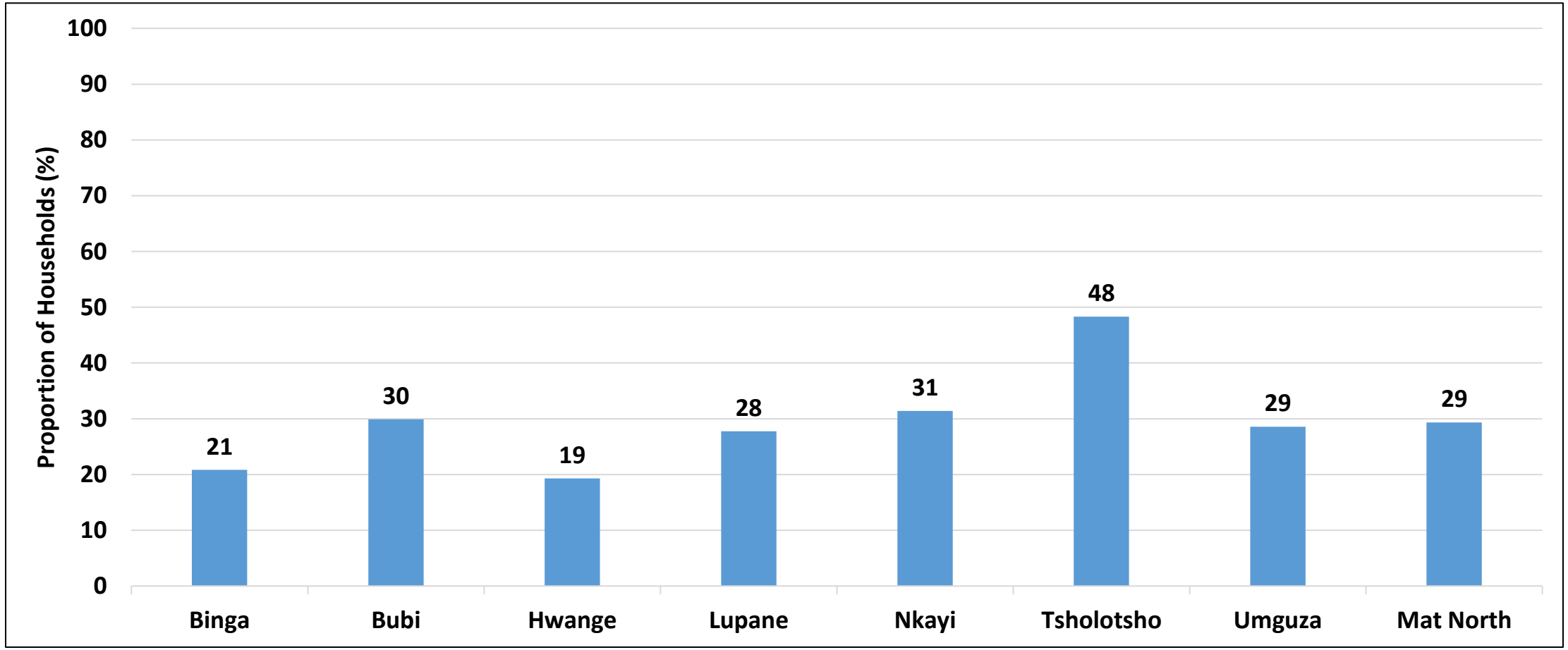
- Only 34% of households received extension support on weather and climate in the province.
- Tsholotsho (51%) had the highest proportion of households which received extension support.

Households which Received Extension Support on Fall Army Worm



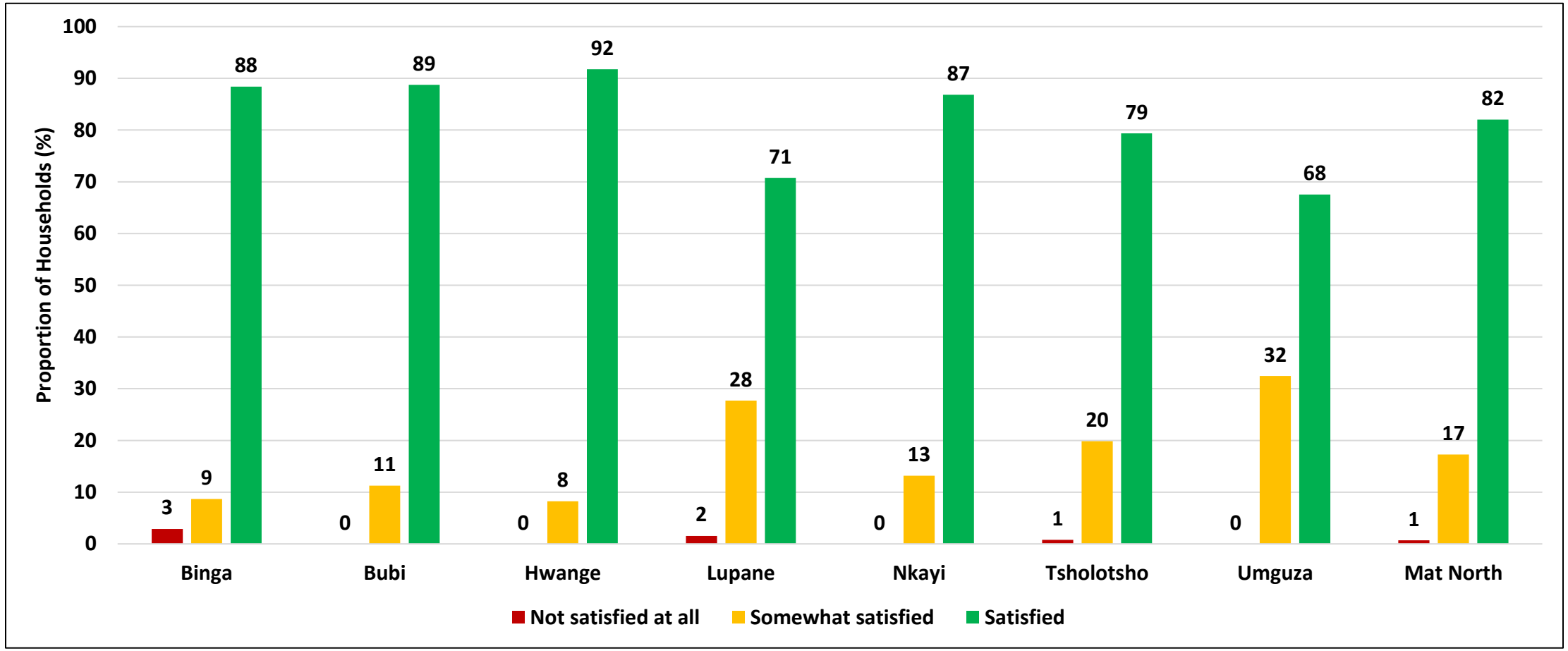
- Throughout the province, the proportion of households that were reached with extension support towards fall army worm was 33%.
- Tsholotsho (46%) and Nkayi (41%) had the highest proportion of households reached.

Households which Received Extension Support on January Disease



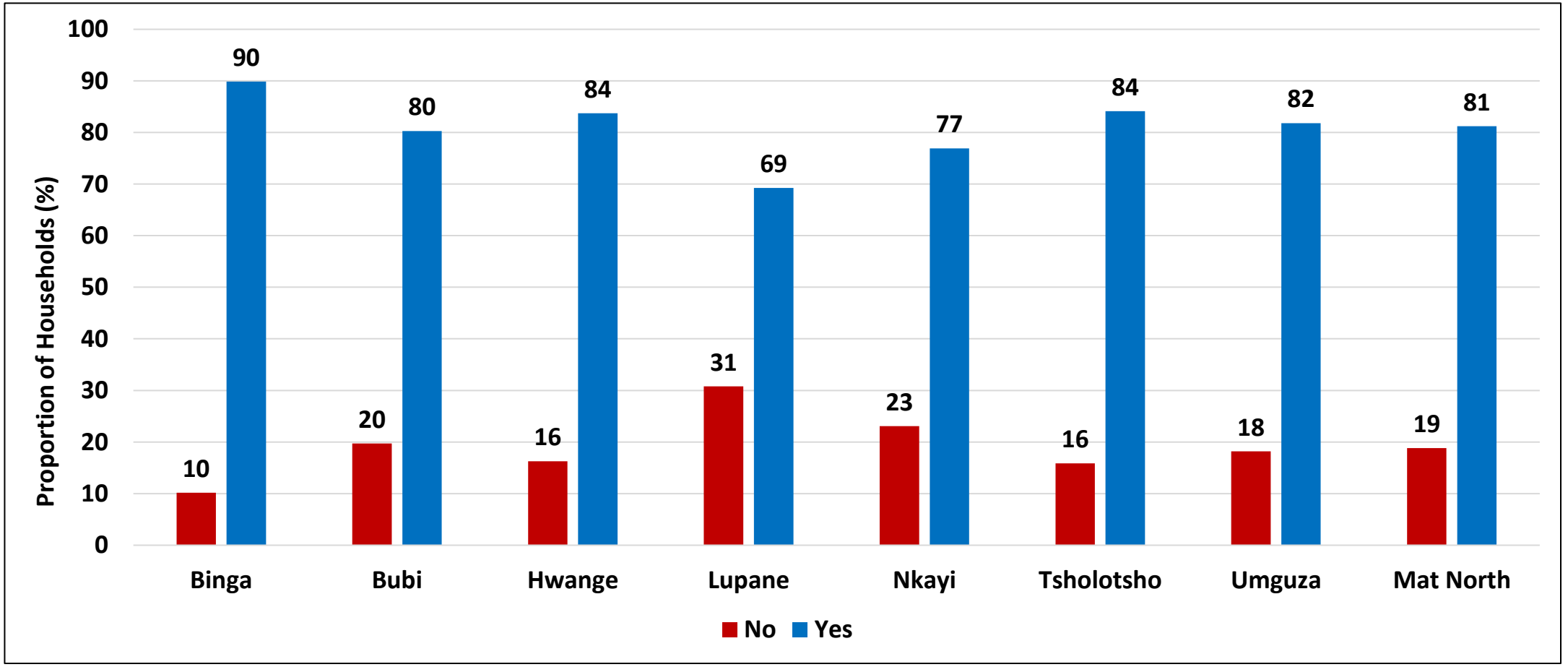
- On average, 29% of households owning livestock had received extension support on January disease.

Extension Support on Weather and Climate



- A high proportion (82%) of the households in Matabeleland North reported to be satisfied by extension support received on weather and climate.

Households which Received Early Warning Information



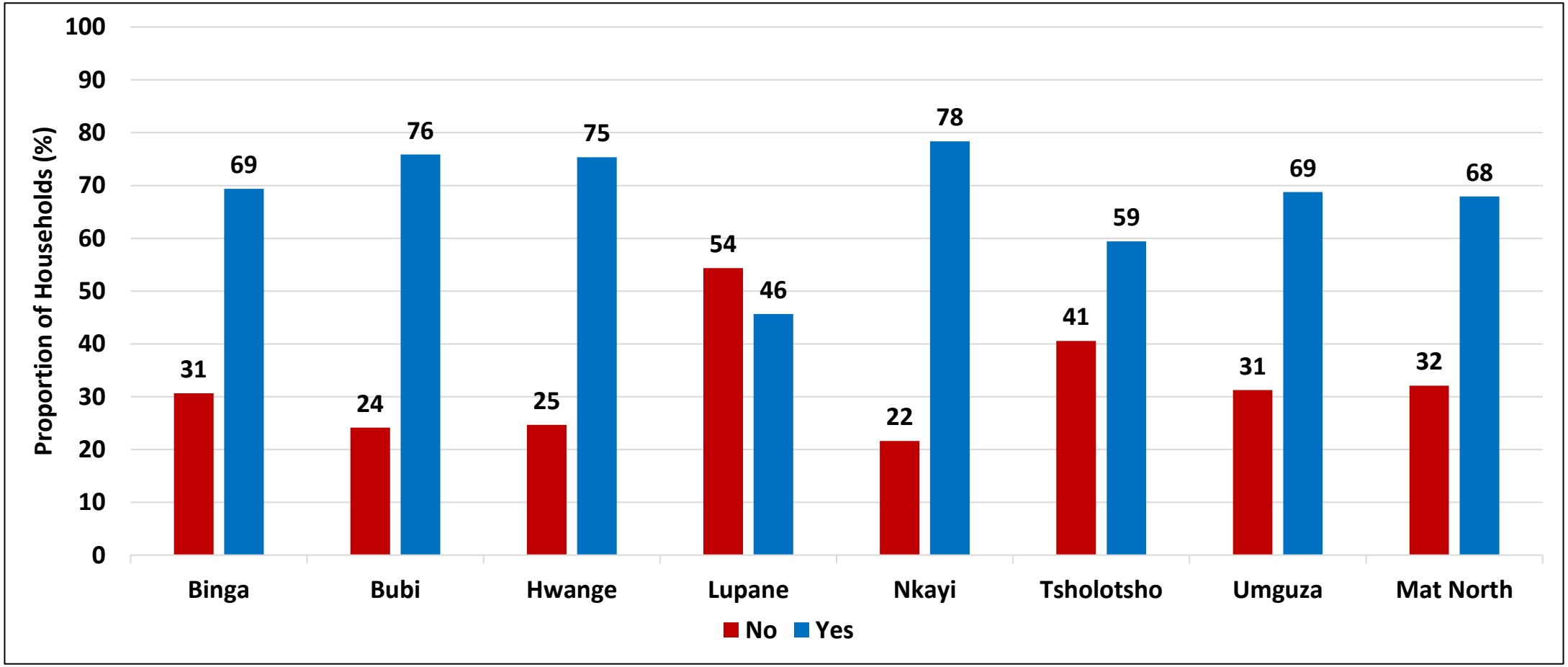
- Hwange (90%) had the highest proportion of households which received early warning information.

Sources of information on Early Warning

District	Radio (%)	Neighbours/Friends/Other Households (%)	Television (%)	Print media (Newspapers (%)	Social media (%)	Internet browsing (%)	Government Extension Workers (%)	UN/NGOs (%)	Other (%)
Binga	65	26	3	10	8	6	**92**	29	2
Bubi	21	28	4	0	9	5	**89**	32	0
Hwange	13	18	0	0	1	0	**93**	0	0
Lupane	40	2	0	4	20	4	**89**	7	0
Nkayi	21	3	0	0	6	1	**99**	10	0
Tsholotsho	17	33	0	0	4	0	**79**	3	0
Umguza	21	22	5	0	11	3	**97**	0	0
Mat North	**26**	**20**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**3**	**90**	**10**	**0**

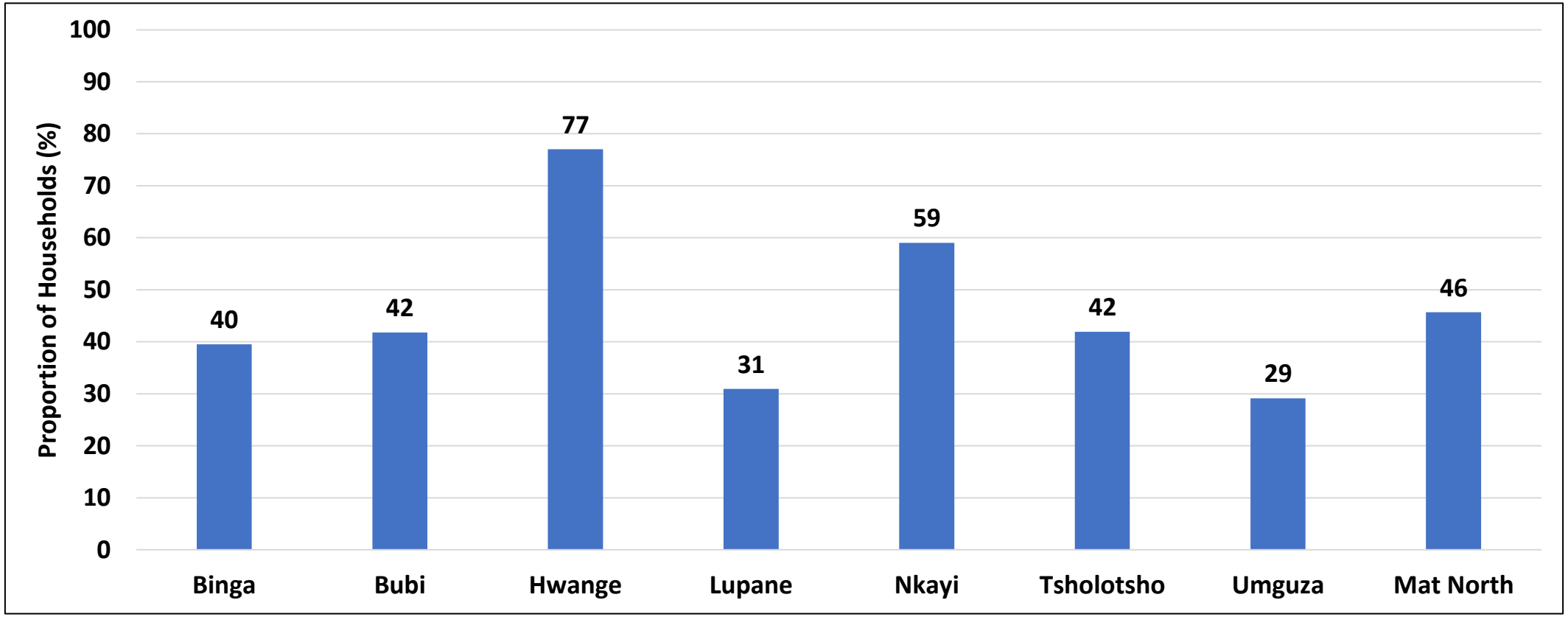
- Government Extension Workers were the most common source of information on early warning.

Households which used Early Warning Information to Plan Response Mechanism



- Across the province, 68 % of households used early warning information to plan response mechanisms.

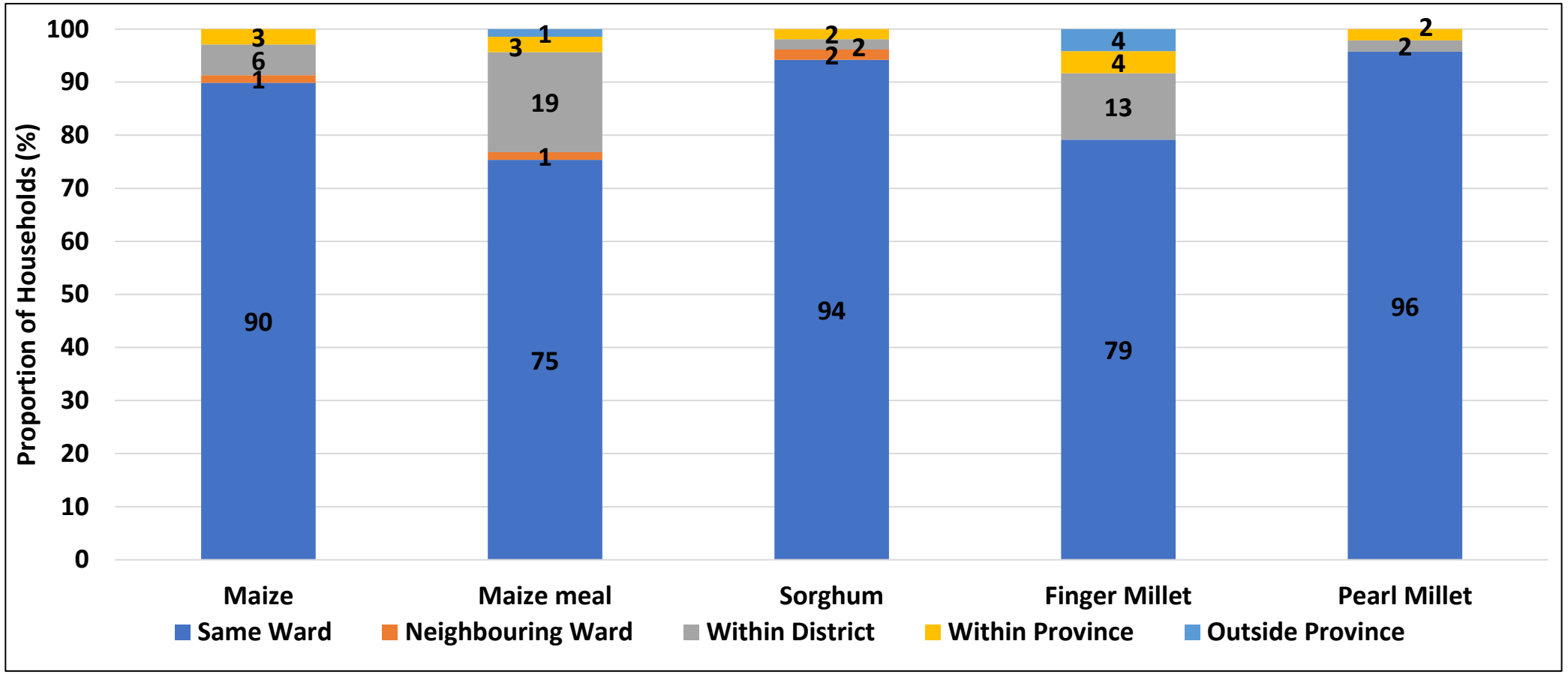
Access to Grain Storage Facility



- Hwange (77%) had the highest proportion of households with access to a grain storage facility.

Agricultural Produce Markets

Cereal Markets

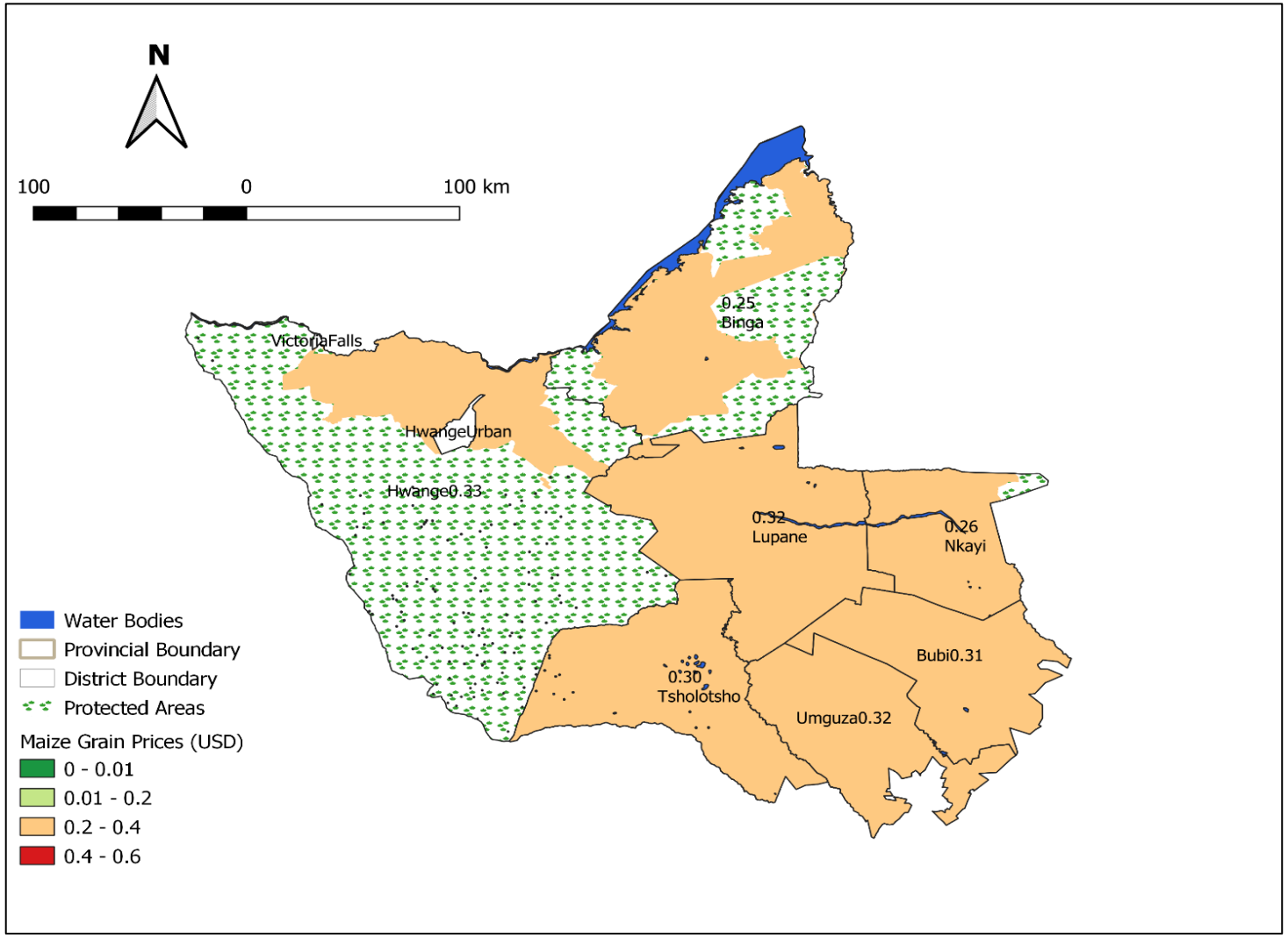


- The highest proportion of households accessed cereals from within their wards.

Type of Market for Cereals

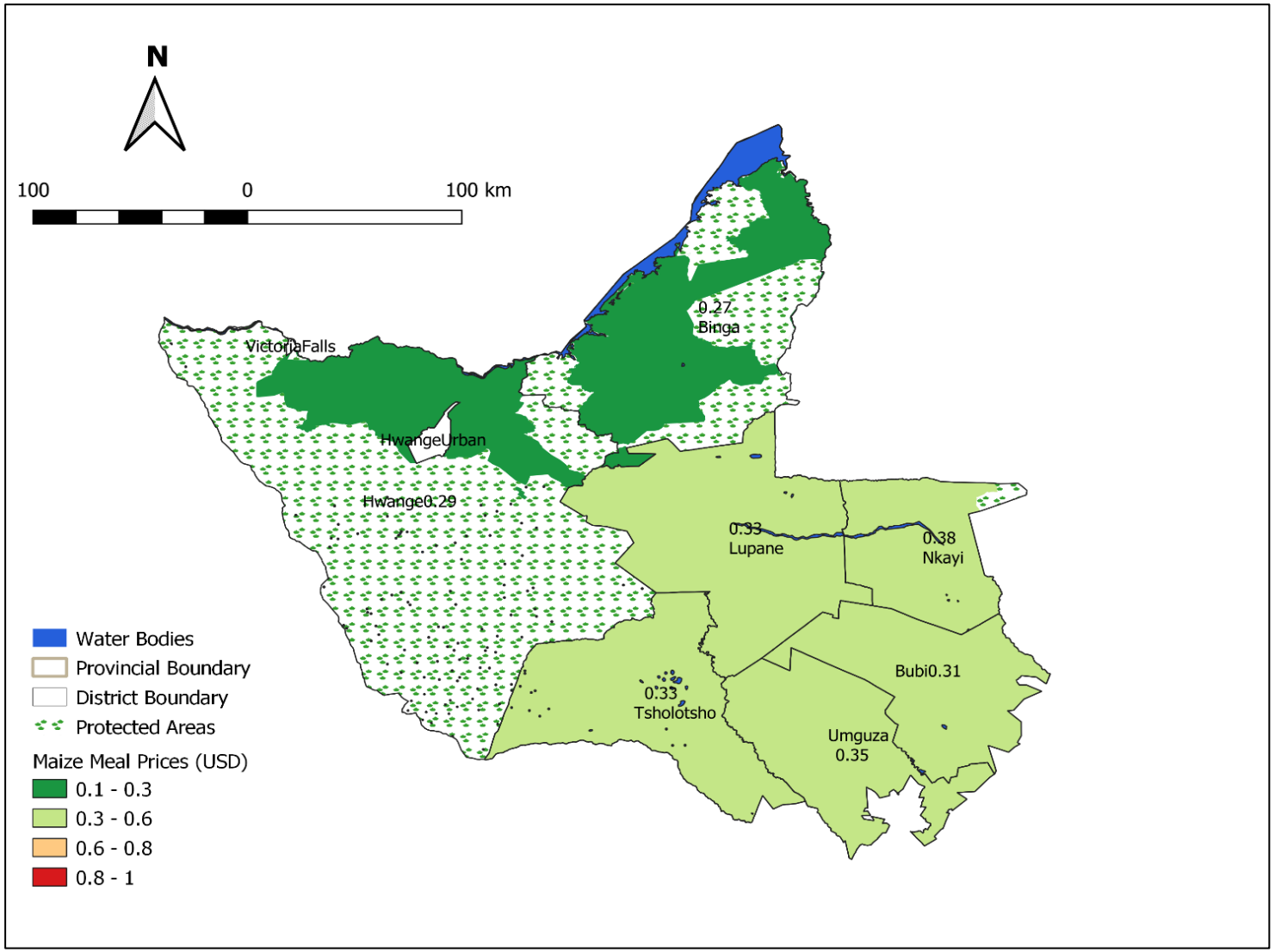
- Households accessed cereals mainly from other households in the area except for maize meal which was also being accessed from private traders.

District Average Maize Grain Prices (USD)



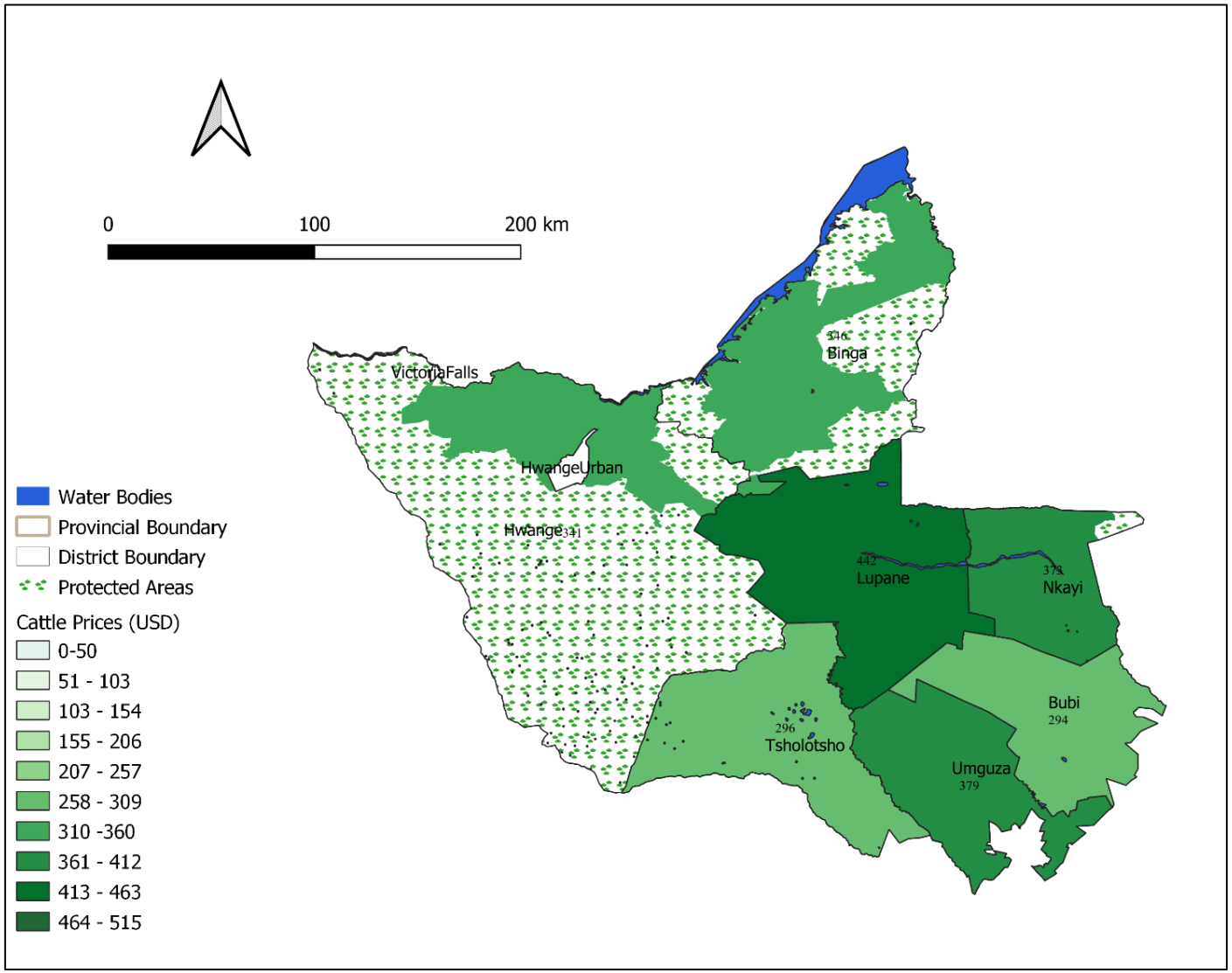
- The highest prices were reported in Hwange (USD 0.33/kg) and the lowest were reported in Binga (USD 0.25/kg)

District Maize Meal Prices (USD)



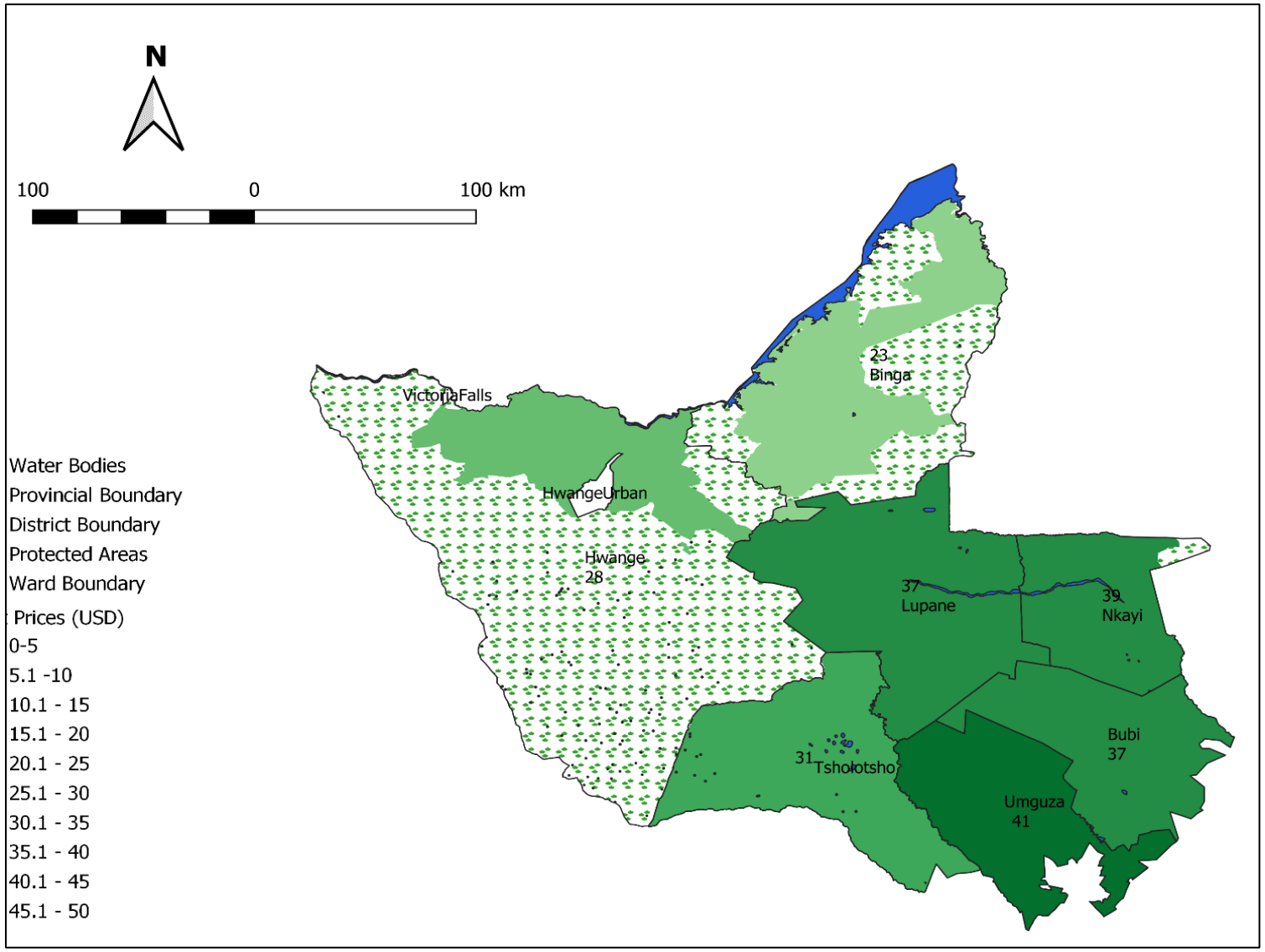
- The lowest prices were reported in Binga (USD 0.27) and the highest prices in Nkayi (USD 0.38).

District Cattle Prices (USD)



- The highest average cattle prices were reported in Lupane (USD 442) and the lowest average cattle prices were reported in Bubi (USD 294).

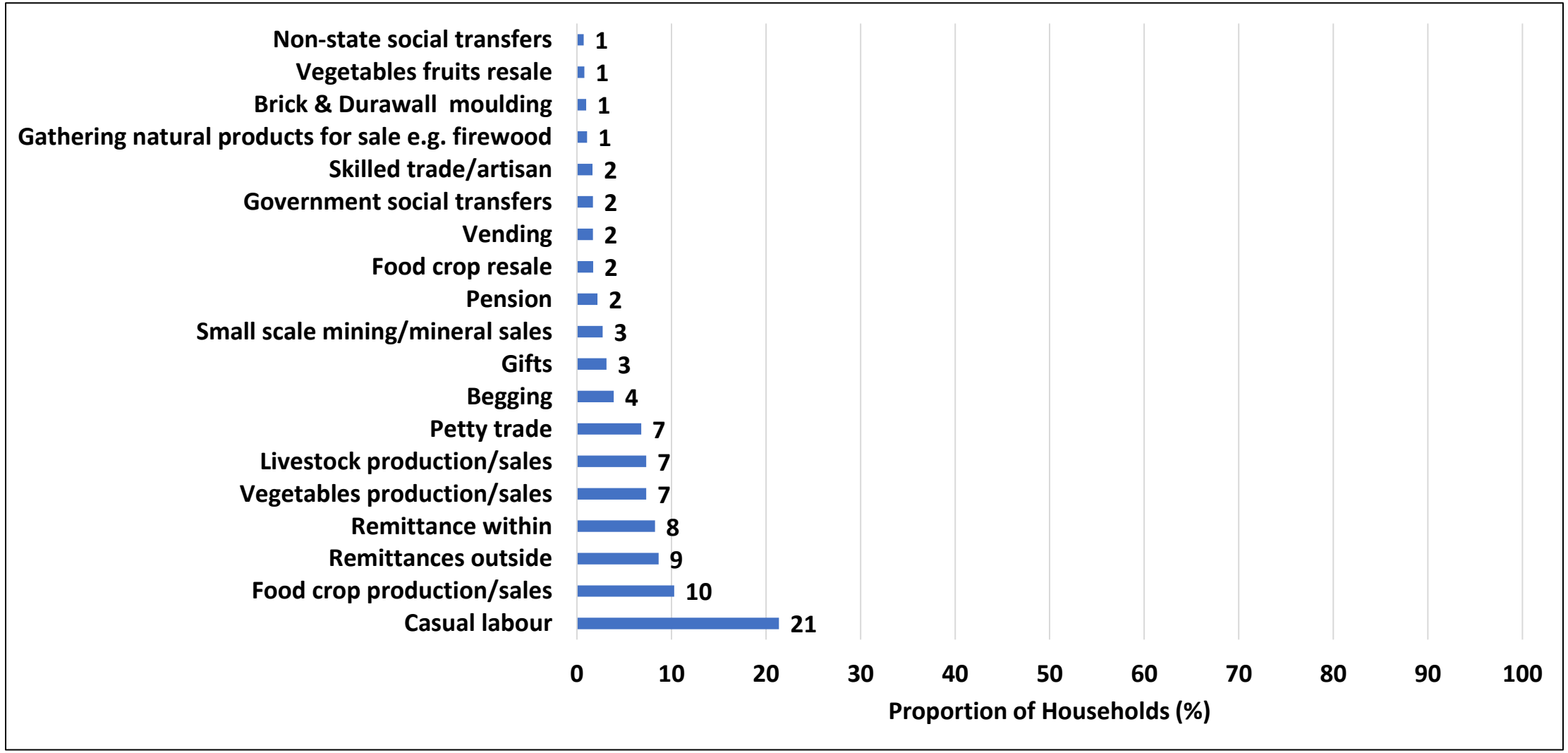
District Goat Prices (USD)



- The highest prices were reported in Umguza (USD 41) and the lowest in Binga (USD 23).

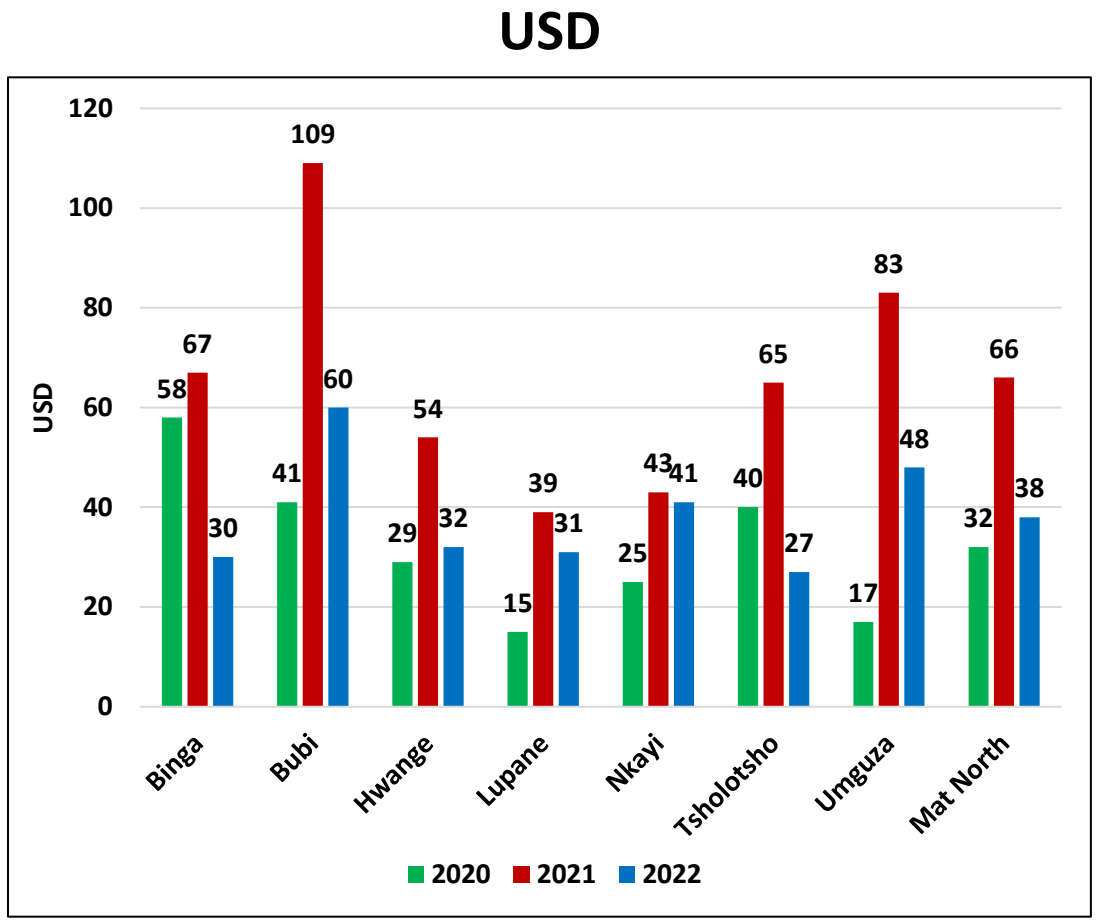
Incomes and Expenditure

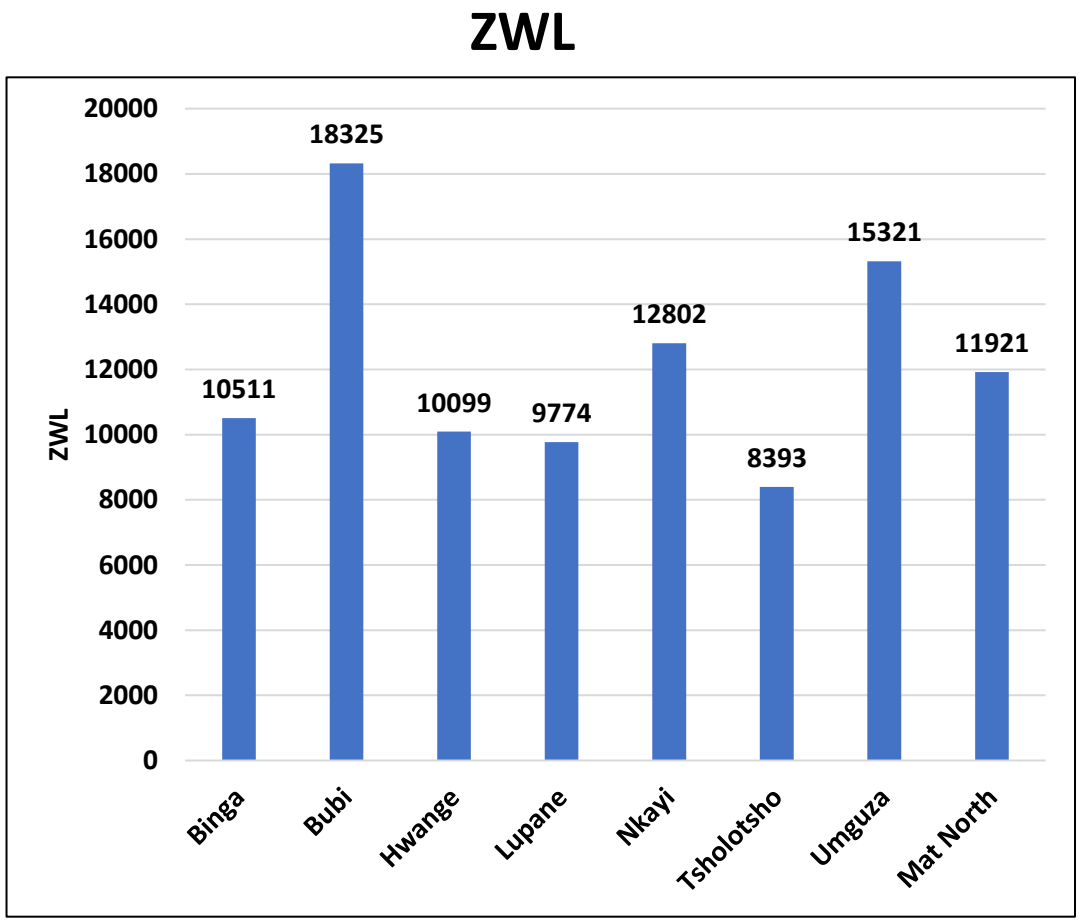
Current Most Important Sources of Income



- Most households relied on Casual Labour (21%) as the most important source of income.

Average Household Monthly Income for April 2022

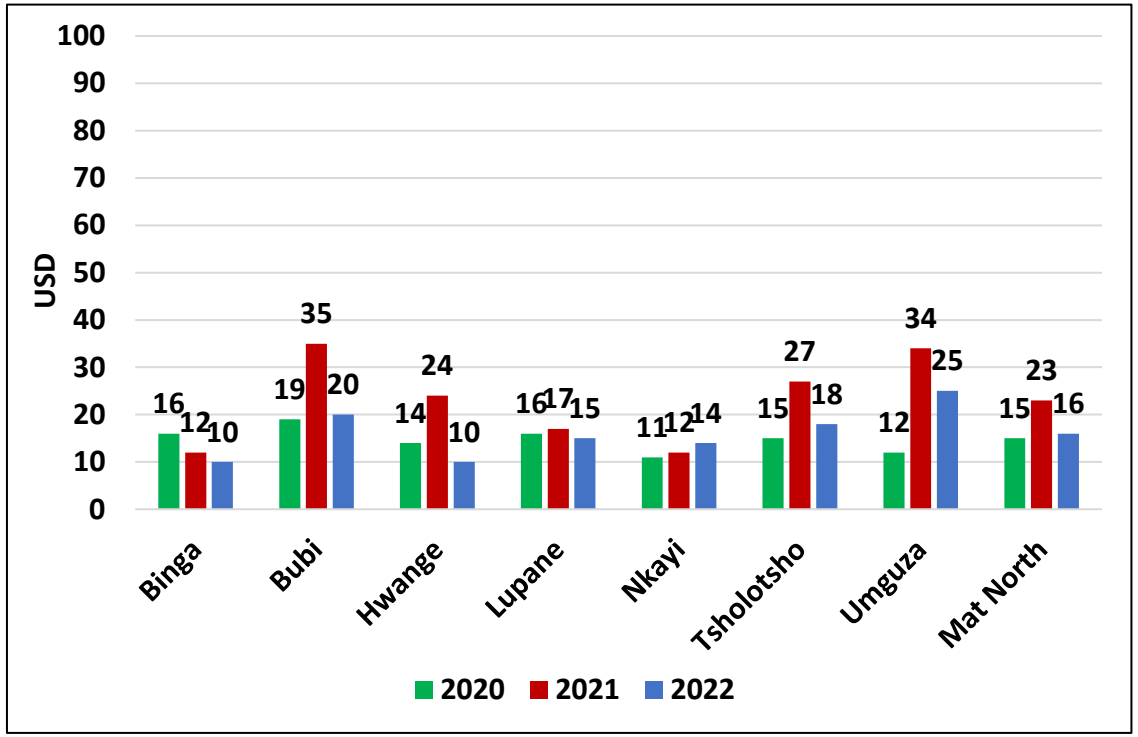




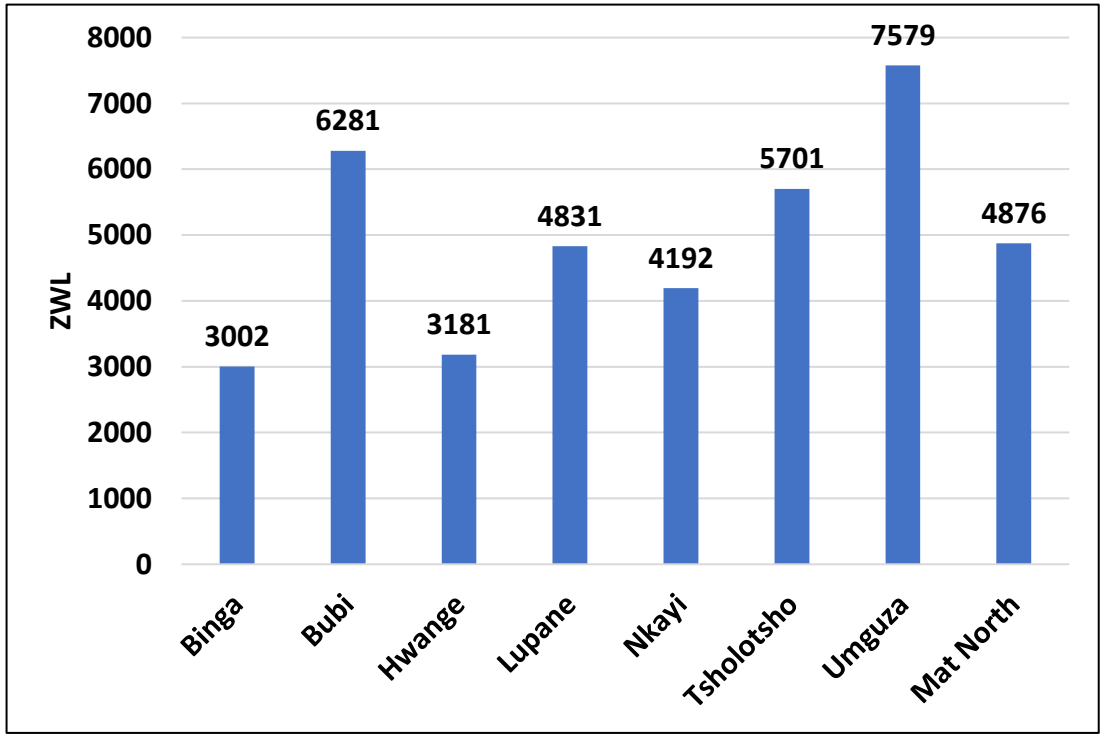
- Average monthly Income for April 2022 was USD$38. Bubi (USD$60) reported the highest monthly average income whilst Tsholotsho (USD$27) reported the lowest.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure for April 2022

USD

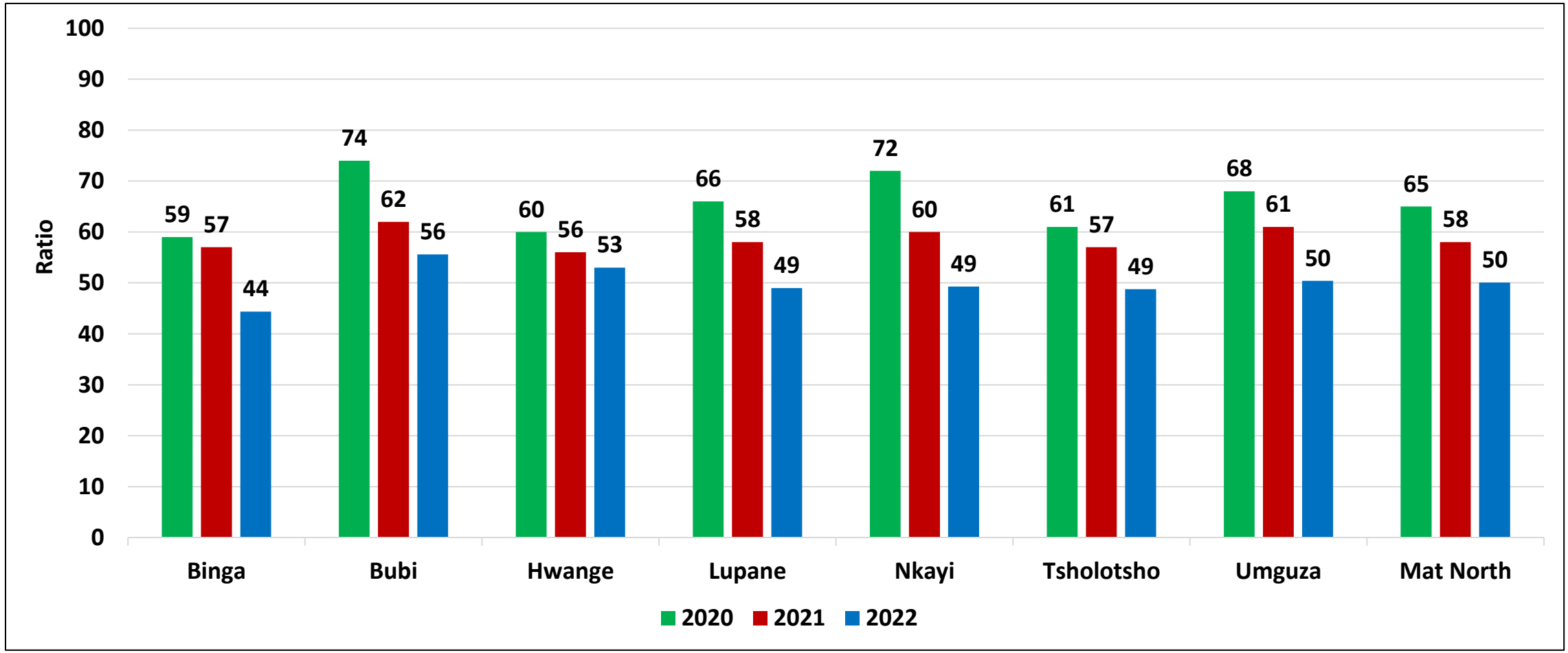


ZWL



- The average monthly expenditure for April 2022 was USD$16. Umguza (USD$25) recorded the highest expenditure whilst Binga (USD$10) and Hwange (USD$10) recorded the least expenditure.

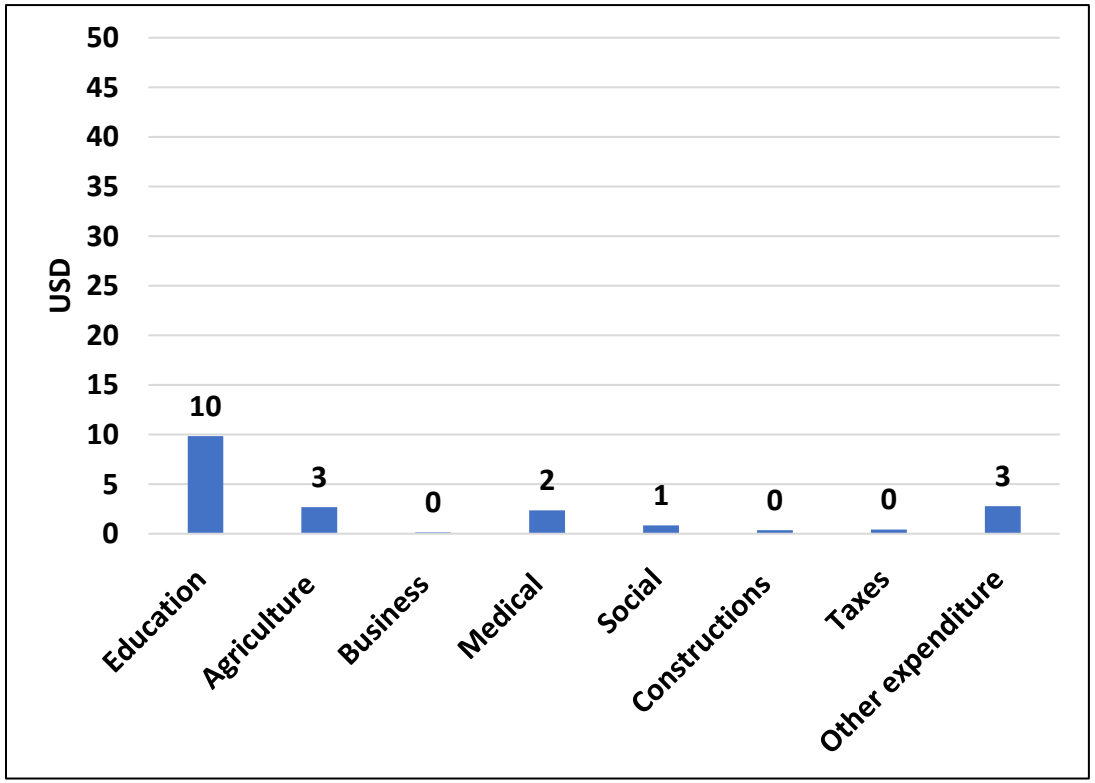
Food Expenditure Ratio



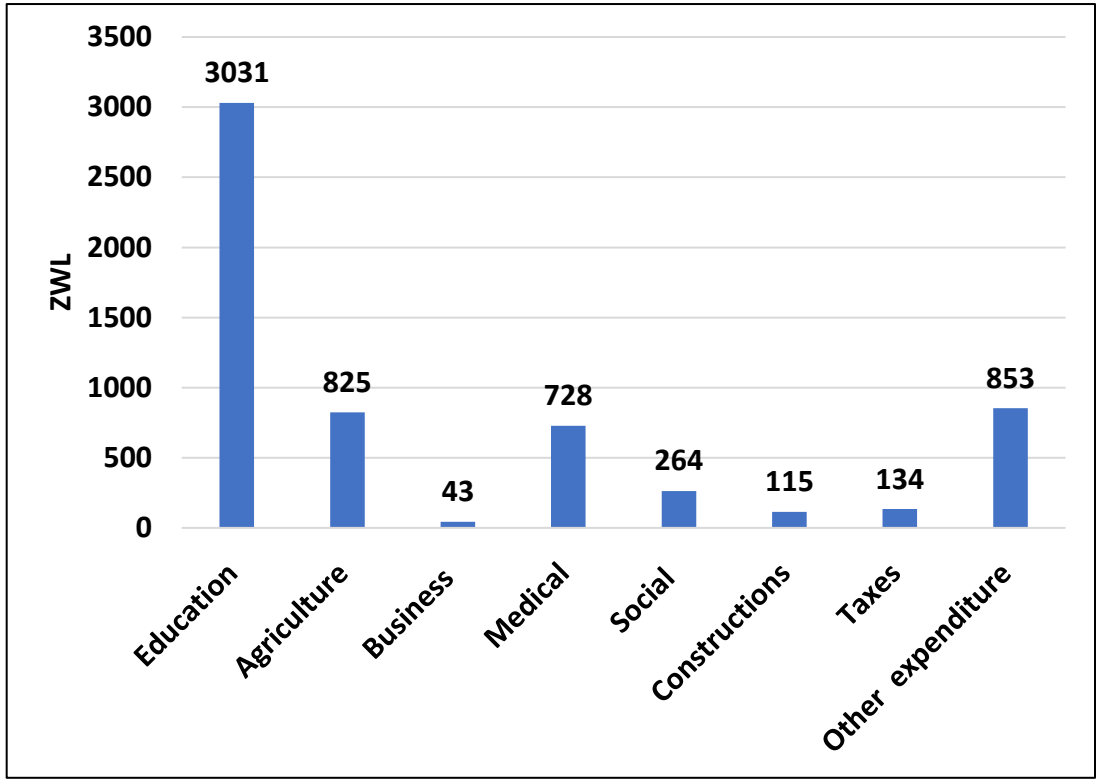
- The average Food Expenditure ratio for 2022 was 50%. A decrease in the ratio across all districts was recorded.

Average Household Six Months Expenditure

Expenditure in USD

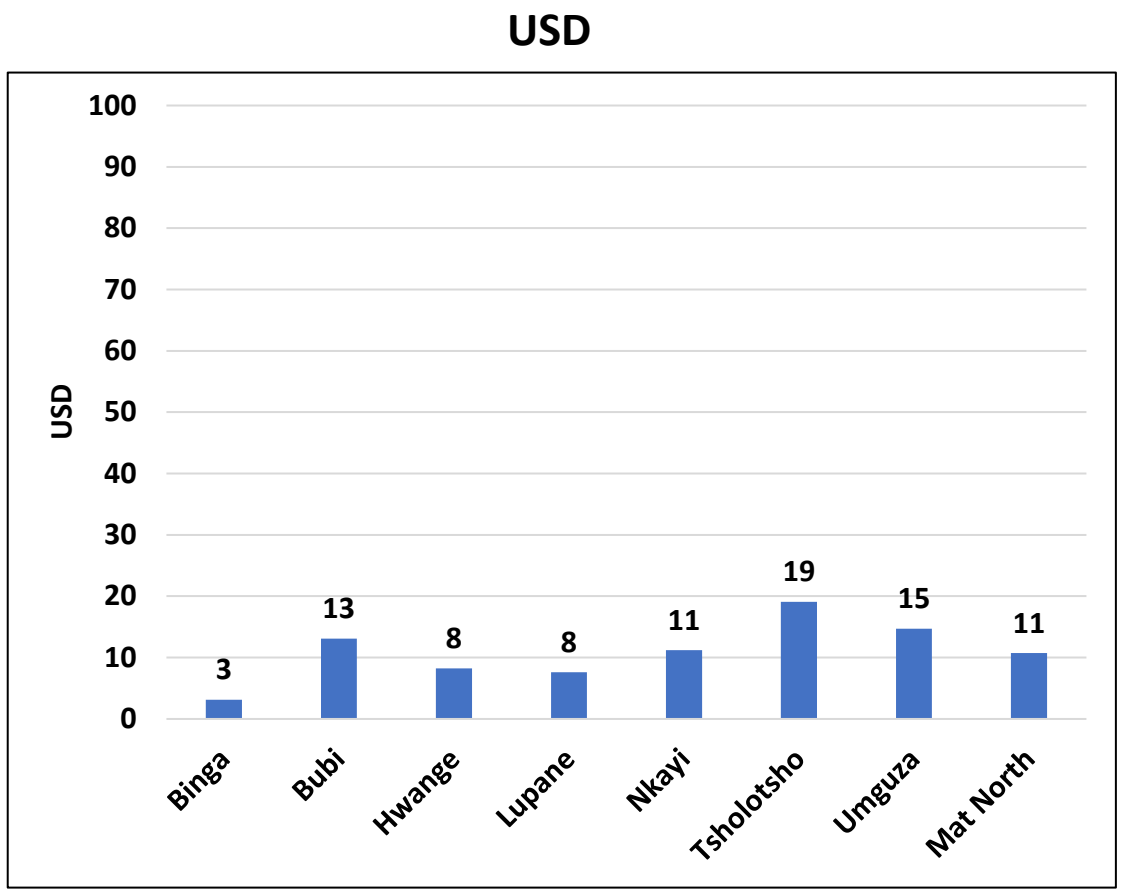


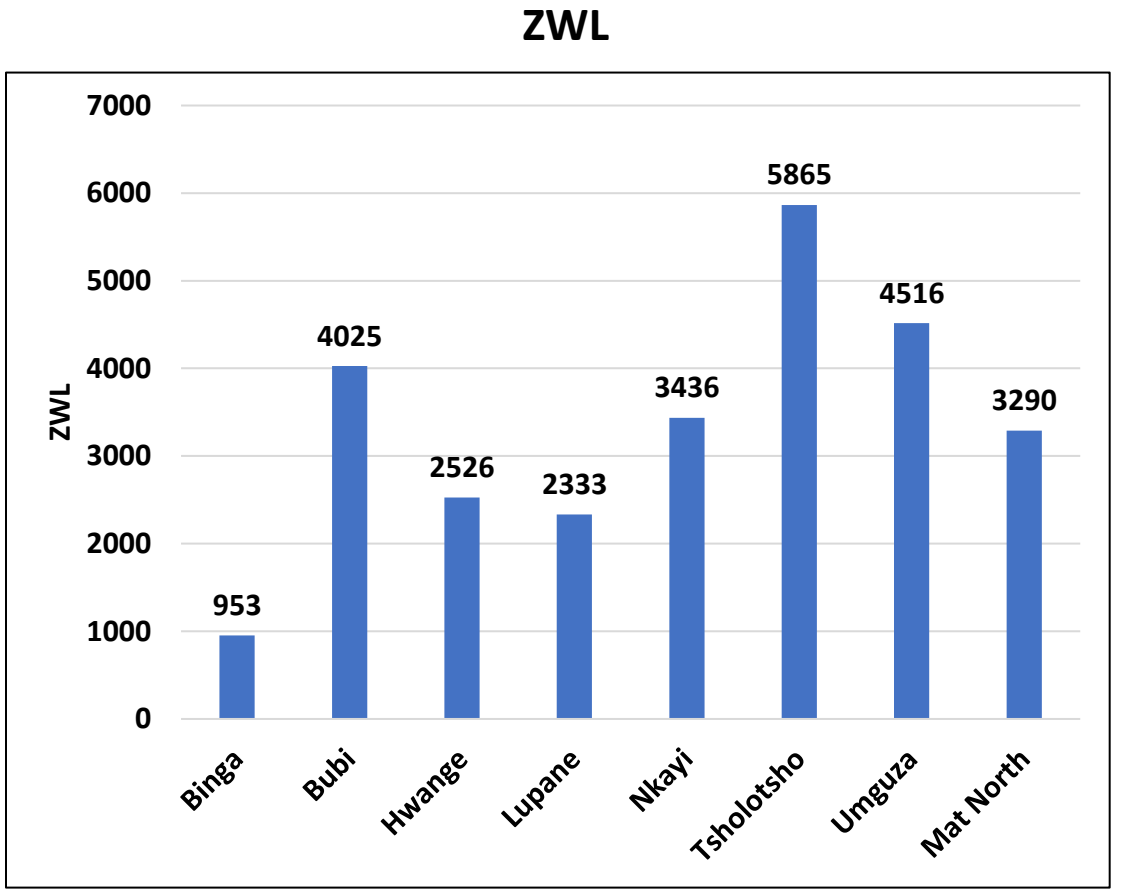
Expenditure in ZWL



- The highest six month expenditure was on Education (USD 10) followed by Agriculture (USD 3) and Medical (USD 2).

Average Household 6 Month Expenditure

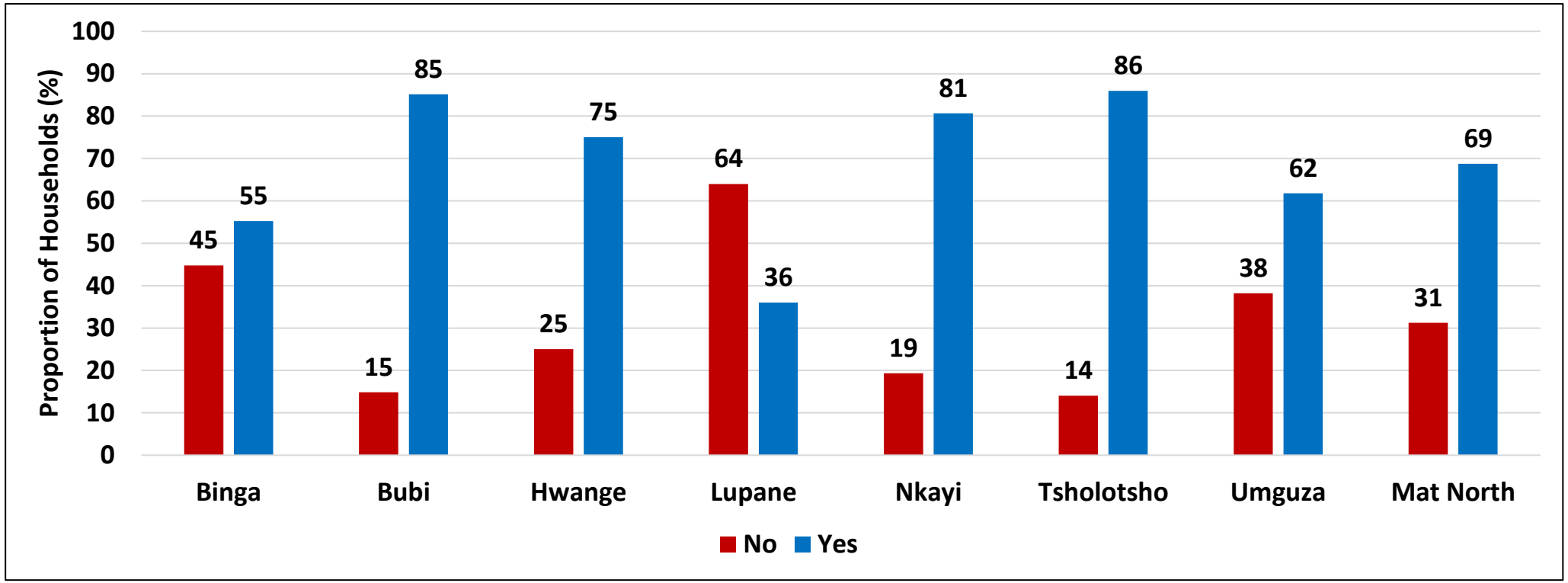




- The highest expenditure was in Tsholotsho (USD 19) followed by Umguza (USD 11).

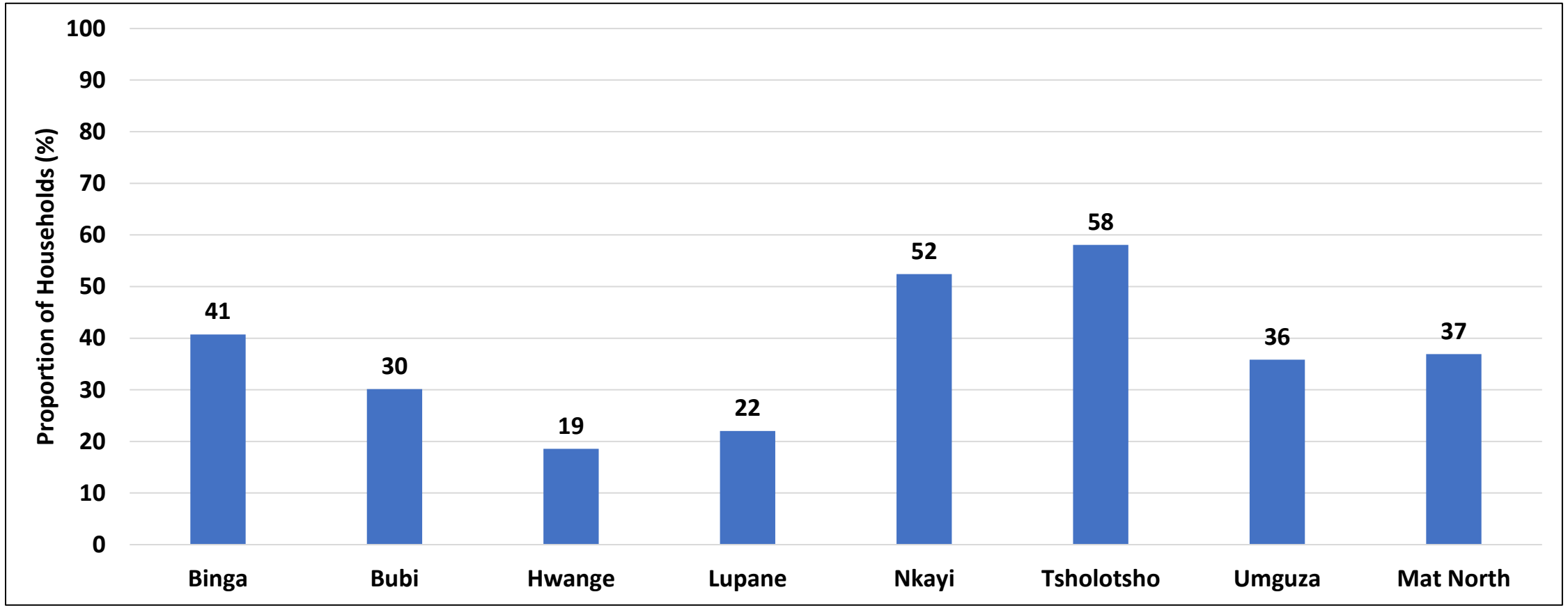
Nutrition and Diets

Household Access to Health-Related Information



- A proportion of 69% of households in the province had access to health related information.
- Tsholotsho (86%) had the highest proportion while Lupane (36%) had the least proportion.

Households which Received Nutrition Education



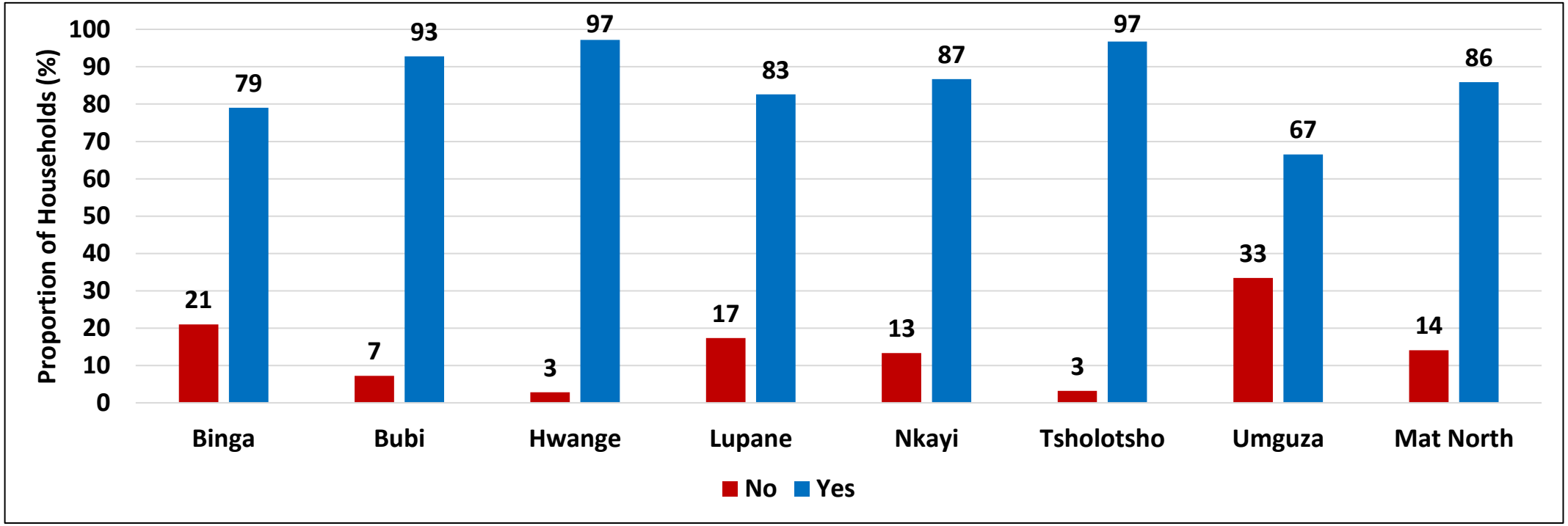
- Only 37% of households received nutrition education in the past 12 months.

Sources of Nutrition Education

District	Government (%)	UN/NGOs (%)	Care group (%)	IYCF support group (%)	Village Health Workers/Volunteers (%)	Other (%)
Binga	51	66	63	48	98	0
Bubi	28	14	18	1	53	4
Hwange	39	4	9	0	89	0
Lupane	25	8	6	12	83	4
Nkayi	24	5	5	3	94	1
Tsholotsho	20	27	8	3	78	1
Umguza	62	1	5	2	74	0
Mat North	34	20	17	10	82	1

- The main sources of Nutrition Education were Village Health Workers/Volunteers (82%) followed by Government (34%).

Access to Services of a Village Health Worker



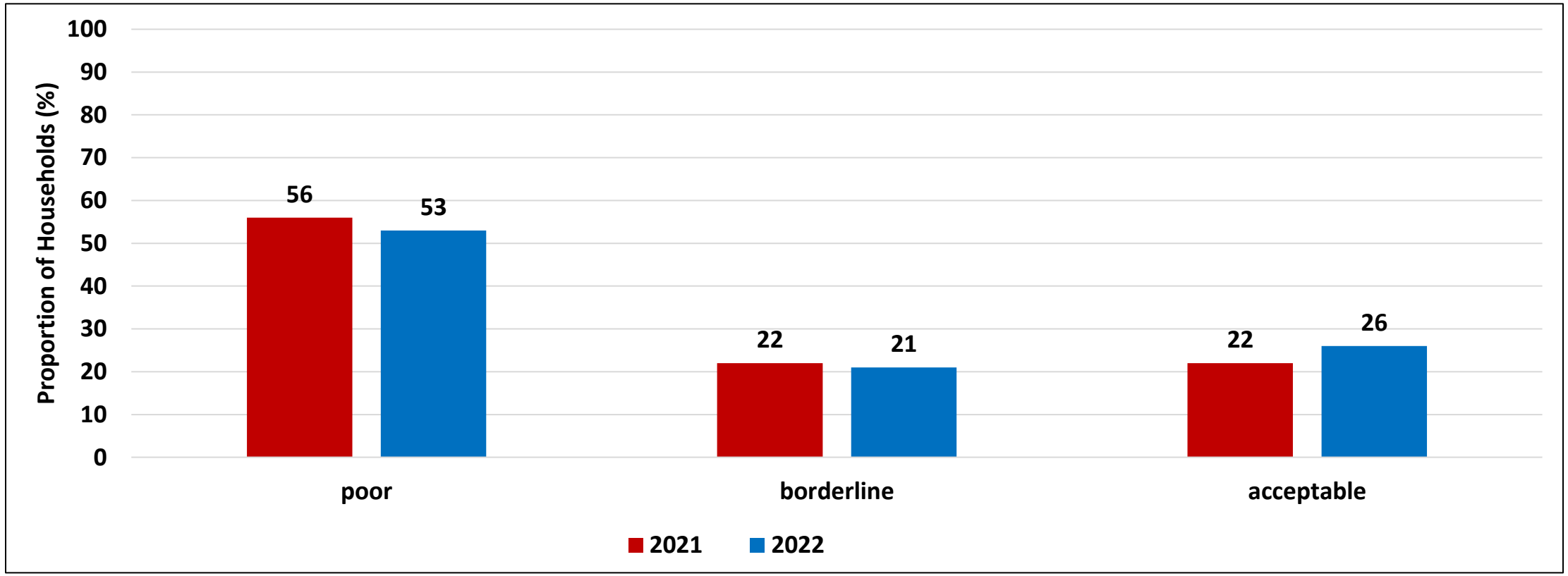
- On average 86% of households in the province had access to the services of a Village Health worker.
- Tsholotsho (97%) and Hwange (97%) had the highest proportion of households with access while Umguza (67%) reported the least proportion of household with access to services of a Village Health Worker.

Household Food Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score

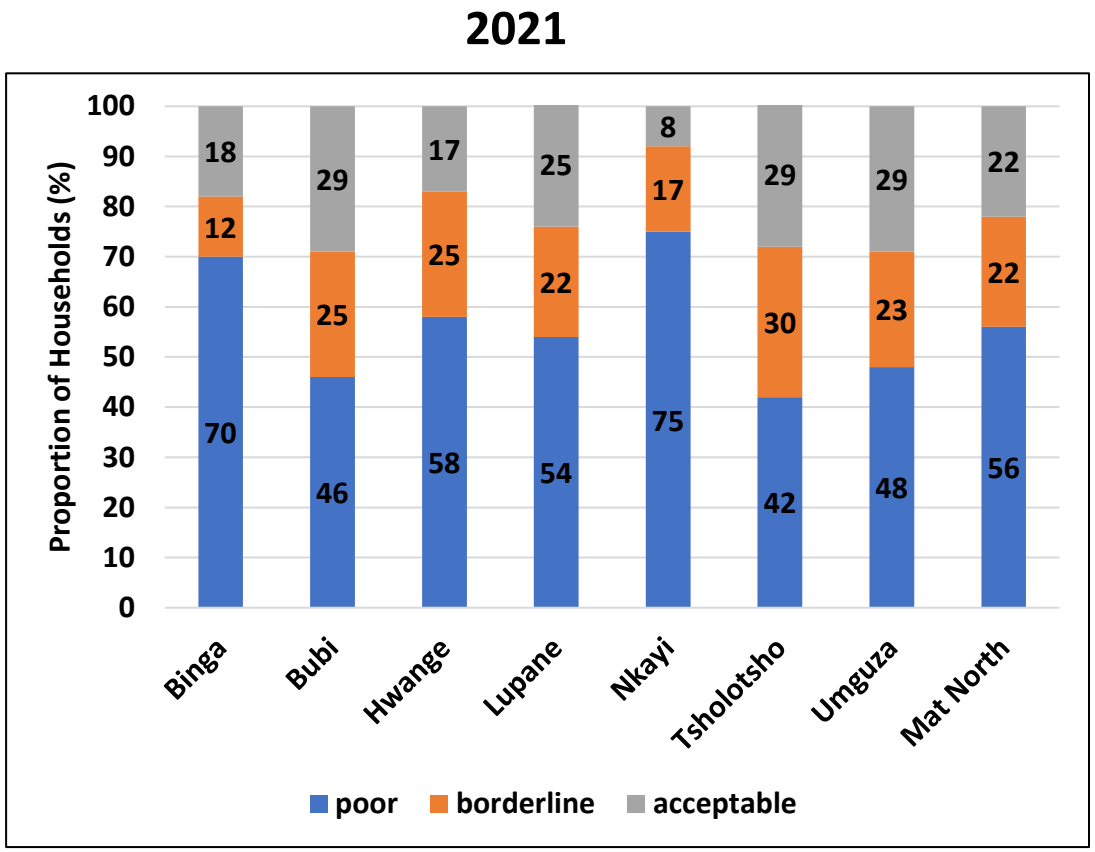
Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
POOR	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
BORDERLINE	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 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

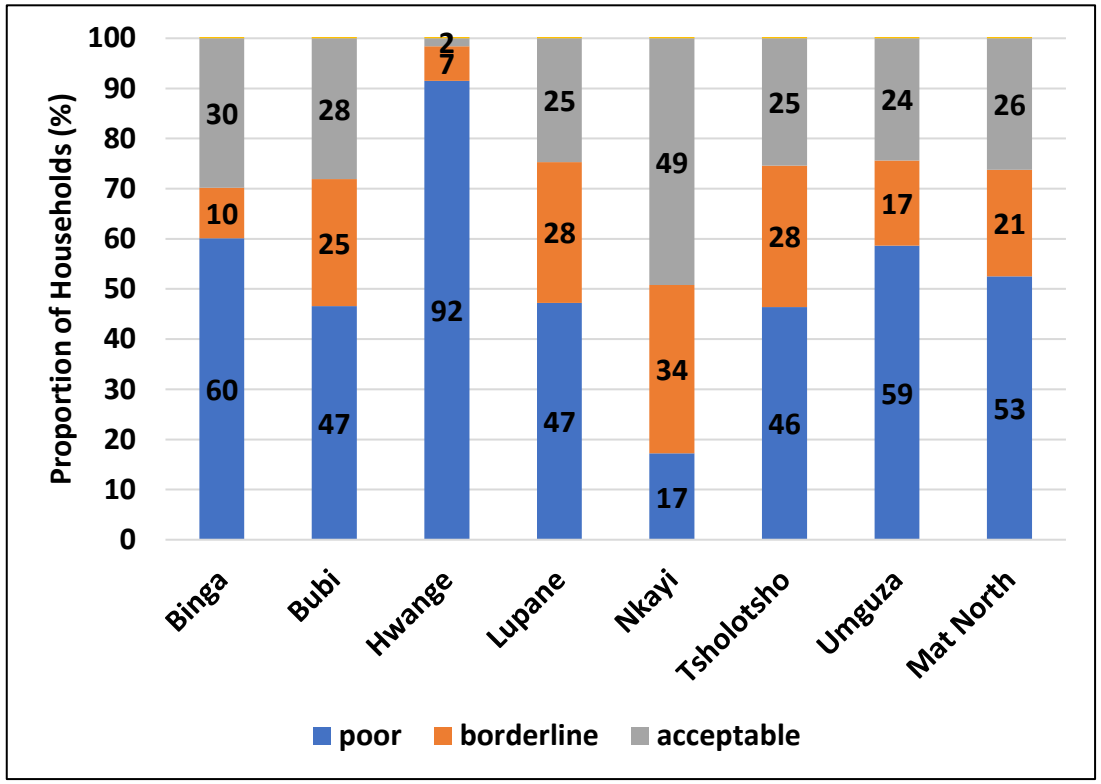
Food Consumptions Patterns Trend



- The proportion of households with poor food consumption patterns remains high in the province at 53%.

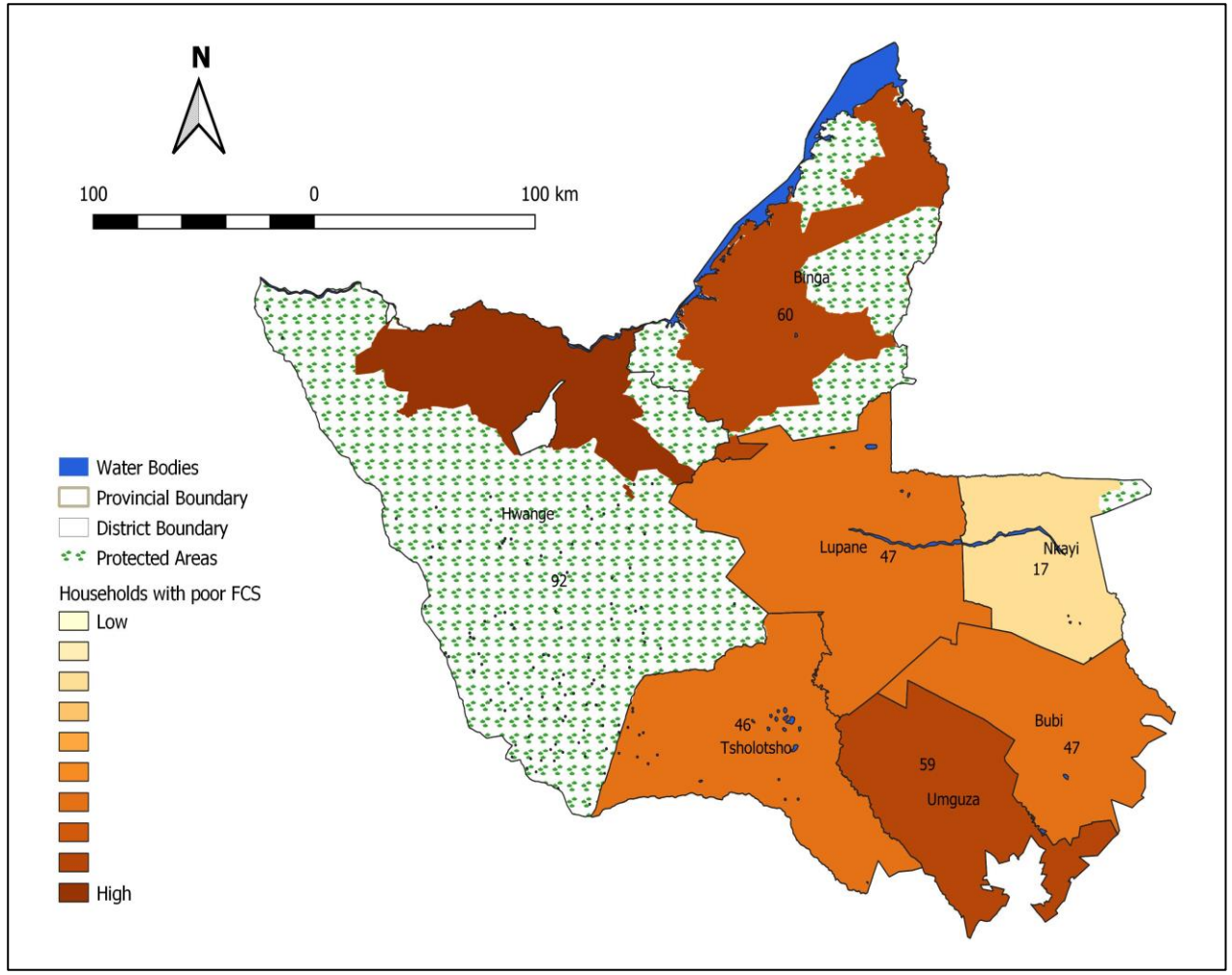
Food Consumption Patterns





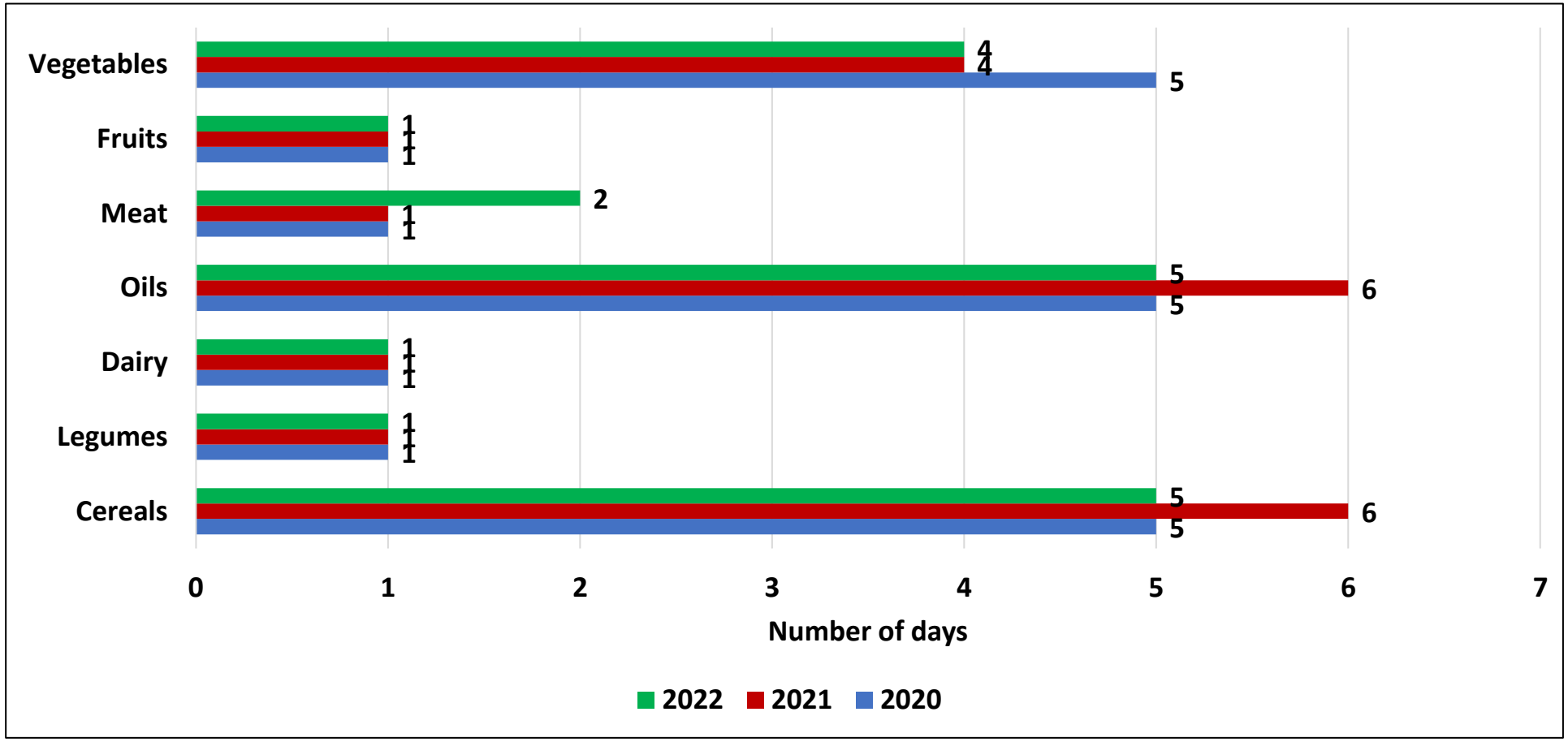
- The proportion of households consuming poor diets decreased slightly from 56% in 2021 to 53% in 2022.
- Hwange (92%) had the highest proportion of households with poor consumption patterns.
- The proportion of households with poor consumption patterns in Nkayi decreased significantly from 75% in 2021 to 17% in 2022.

Poor Food Consumption Patterns by District



- Hwange (92%) had the highest proportion of households consuming poor diets.

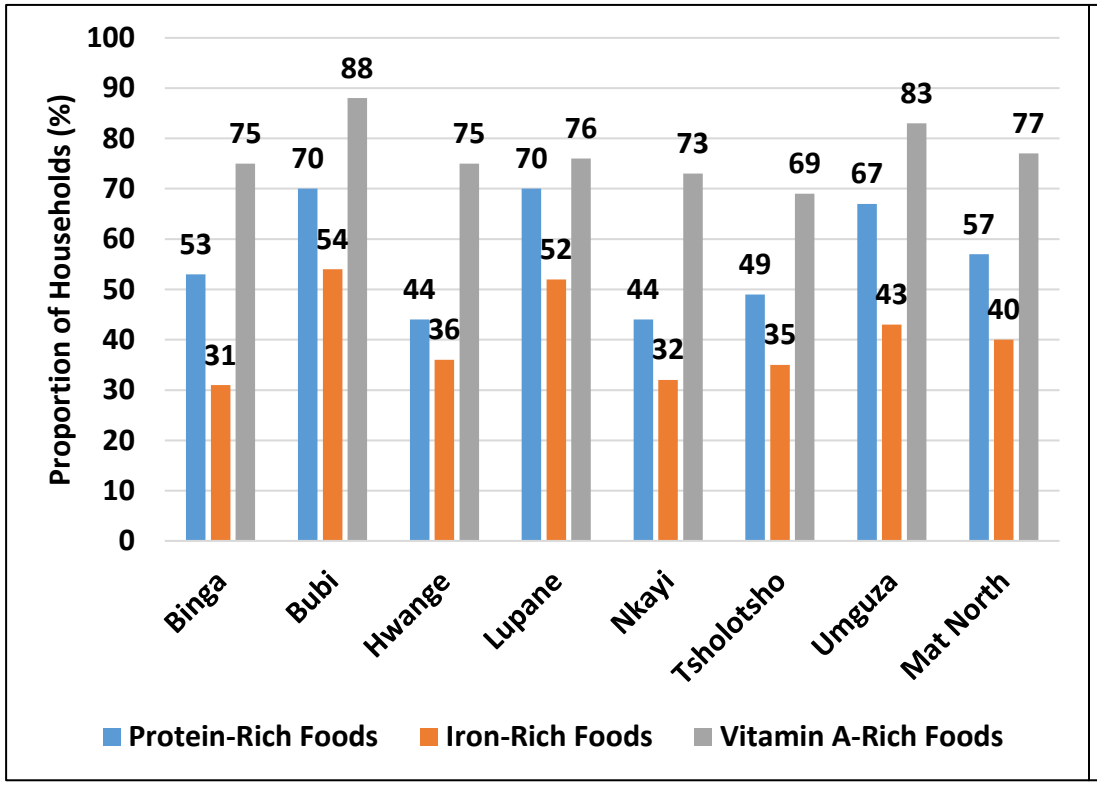
Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from the Various Food Groups



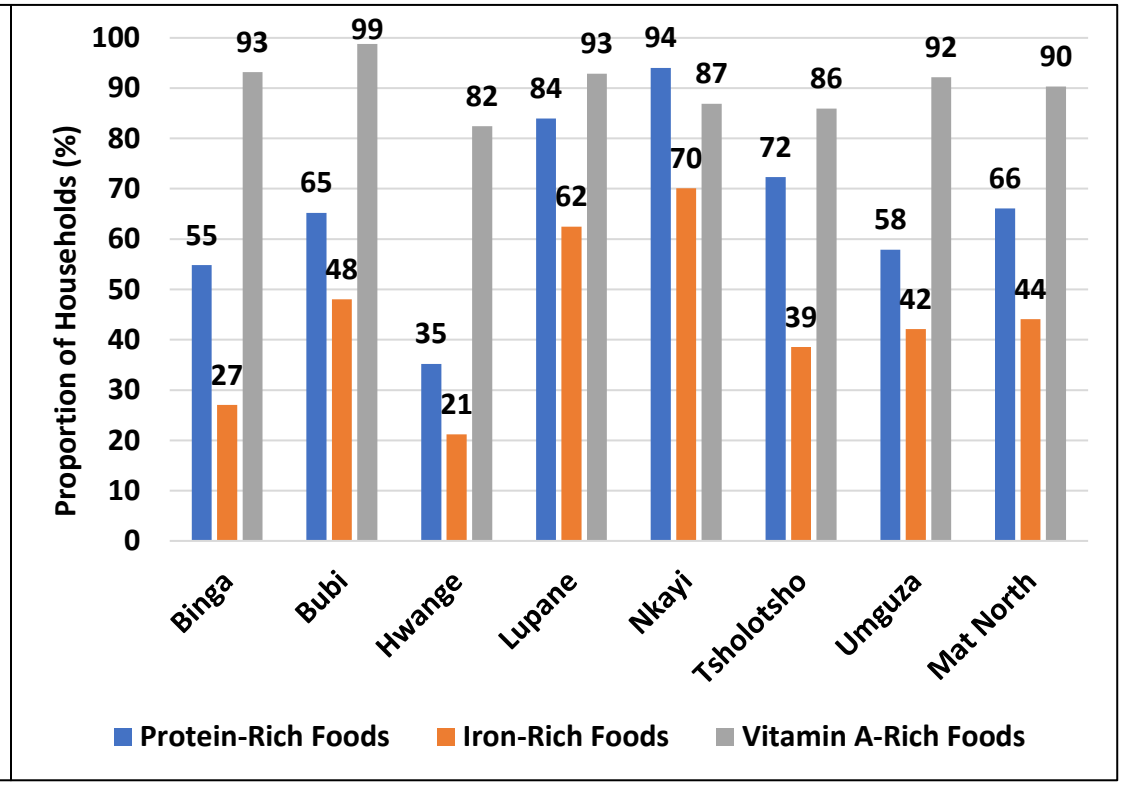
- The diversity of diets consumed in the province remained poor, with households consuming mostly cereals, oils and vegetables.
- Consumption of meat, dairy, legumes and fruits remained unchanged.
- Poor diets have a negative implication on the health and nutrition status of the vulnerable such as children and women.

Household Consumption of Protein. Iron and Vitamin A Rich Foods

2021

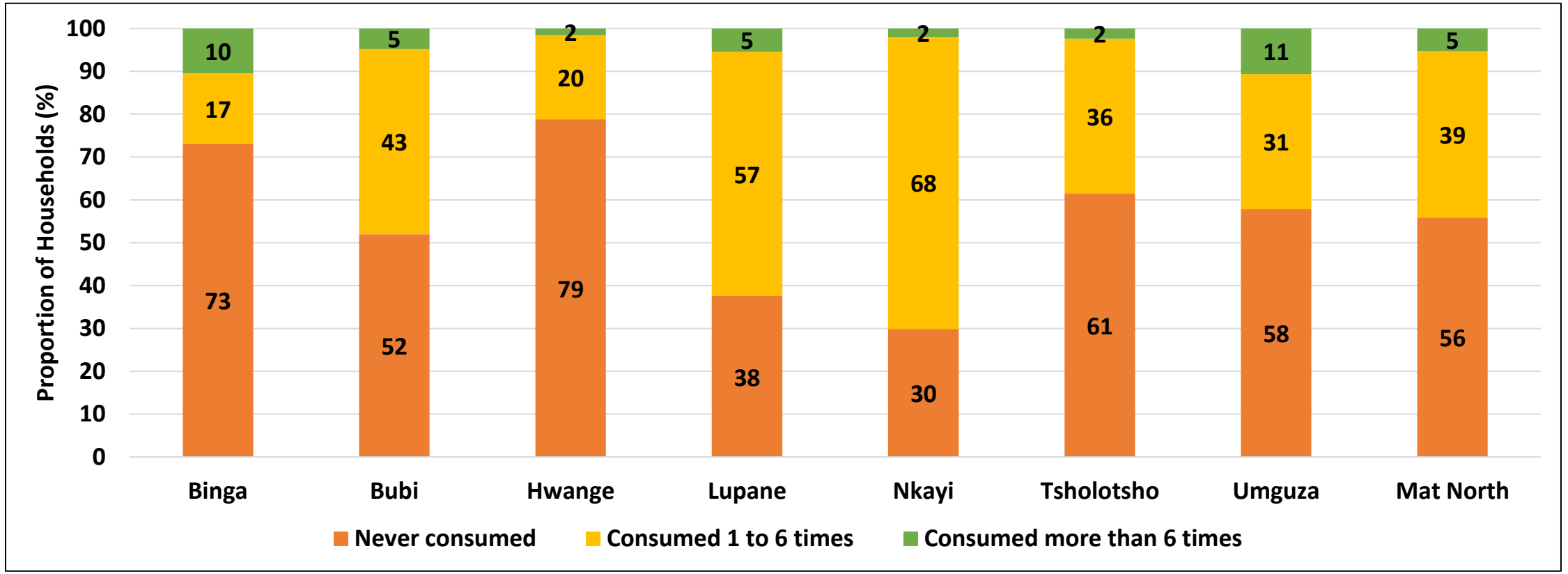


2022



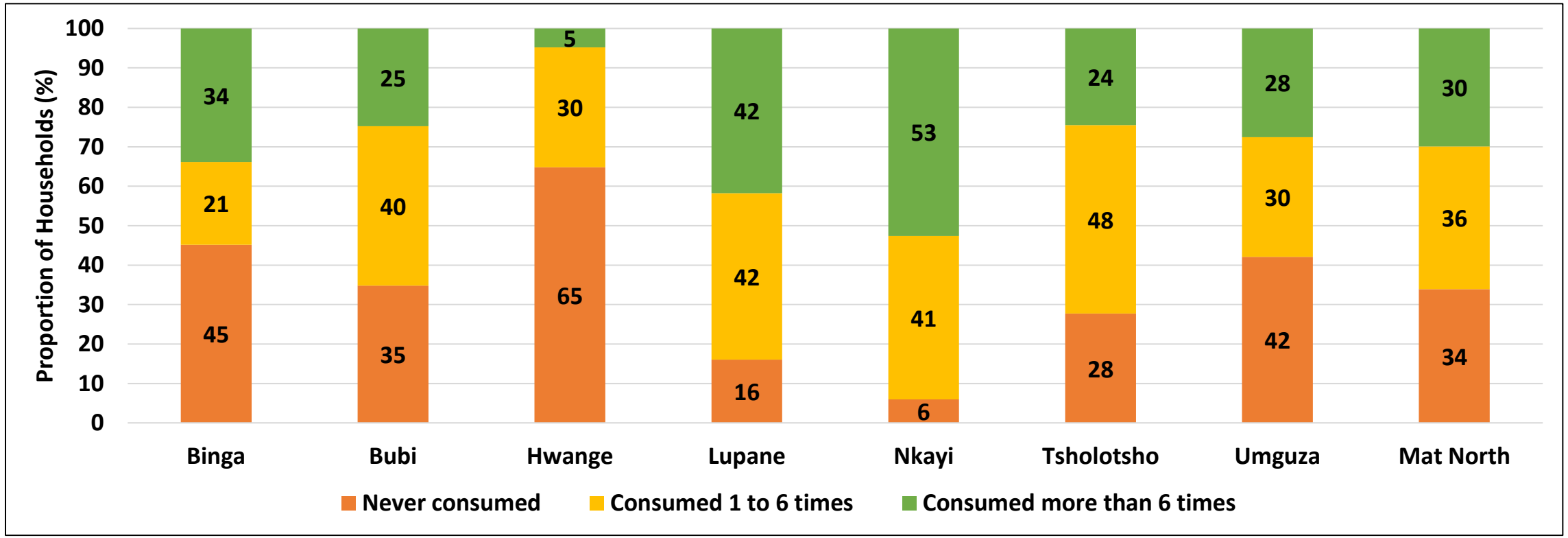
- Vitamin A rich foods (90%) were the most consumed in the province whereas iron rich foods (44%) were the least consumed.
- The proportion of households consuming iron, protein and vitamin A rich foods increased in 2022 as compared to 2021.

Households Consuming Iron Rich Foods



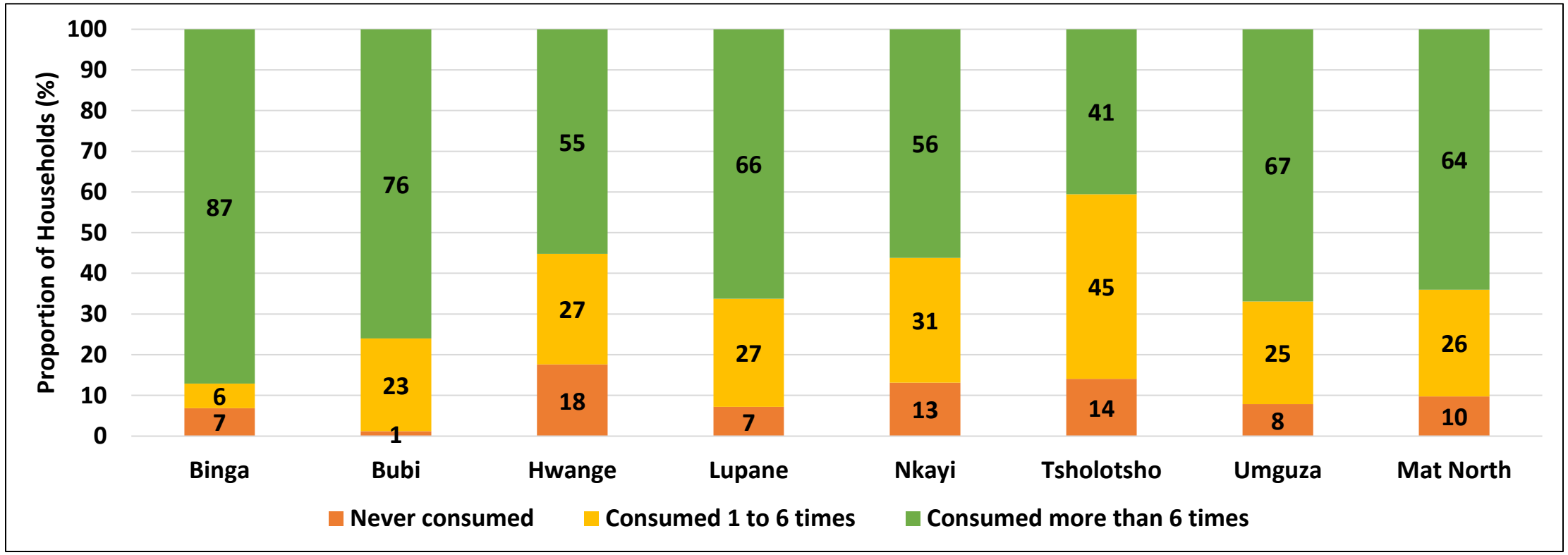
- Iron is an essential mineral which is required by the body during the formation of blood cells. Iron deficiency can cause fatigue and reduced ability by the body to fight infections.
- In Matabeleland North 56% of households never consumed iron rich foods in the seven days preceding the survey.

Households Consuming Protein Rich Foods



- Inadequate protein intake compromises the body's ability to build, repair worn-out tissues and fight against infections.
- In Matabeleland North 34% of households never consumed protein rich foods in the seven days preceding the survey.

Households Consuming Vitamin A rich Foods



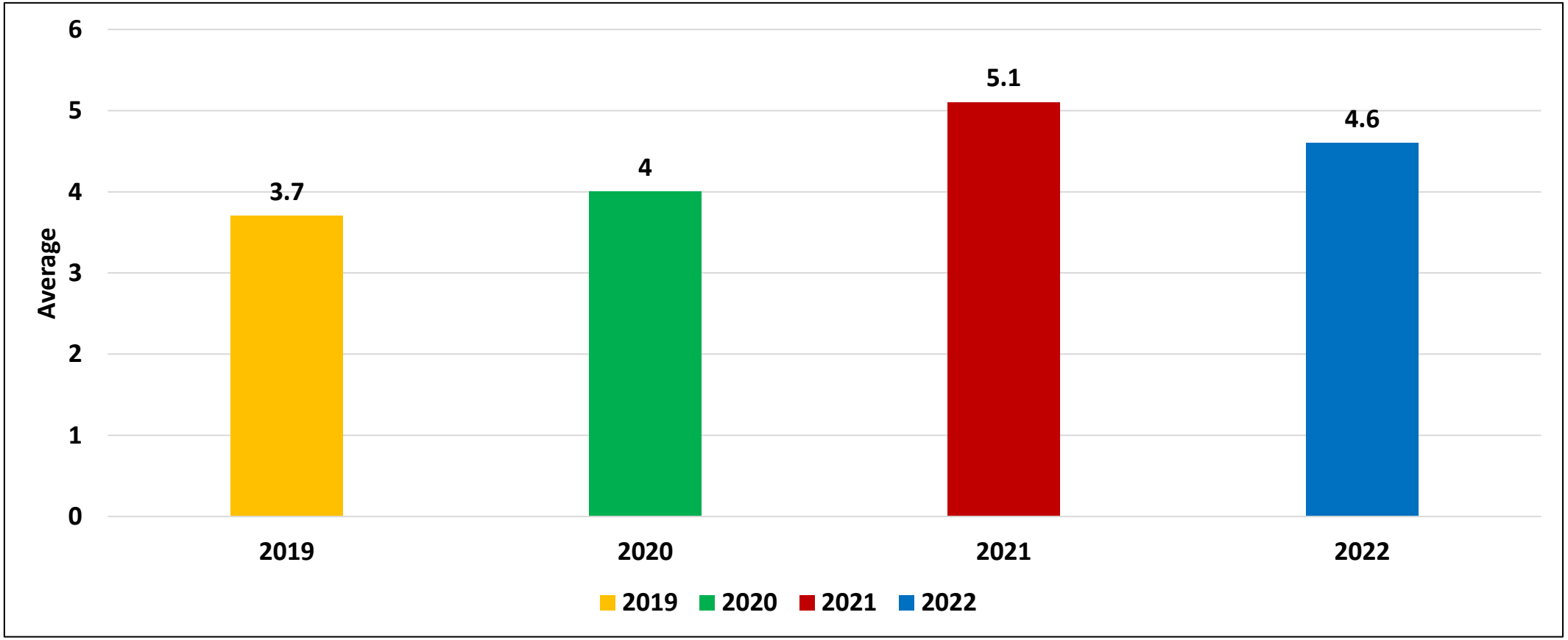
- Vitamin A is important for normal vision, the immune system functions and reproduction. Its deficiency causes night blindness, harms the immune system and may contribute to maternal mortality.
- In Matabeleland North Province 10% of households never consumed Vitamin A rich foods in the seven days preceding the survey.

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

- The household dietary diversity score (HDDS) is used a proxy measure of the quality of household food consumption
- HDDS measures the number of unique foods consumed by a household over a 7 day without measuring the quantity of food consumed hence it reflects household access to a variety of foods over a given period
- Based on the HDDS, a household may be classified as follows

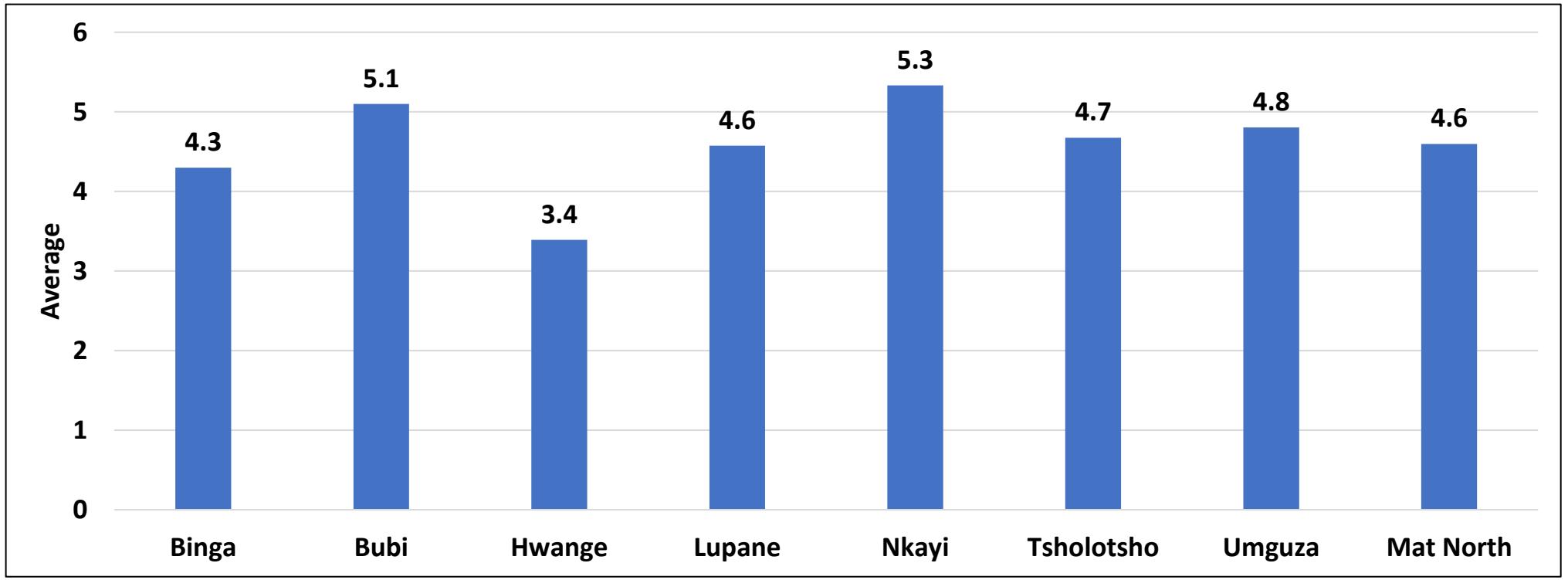
HDDS	**Classification**
<3	Low
4-5	Medium
>5	Acceptable

Average Household Dietary Diversity



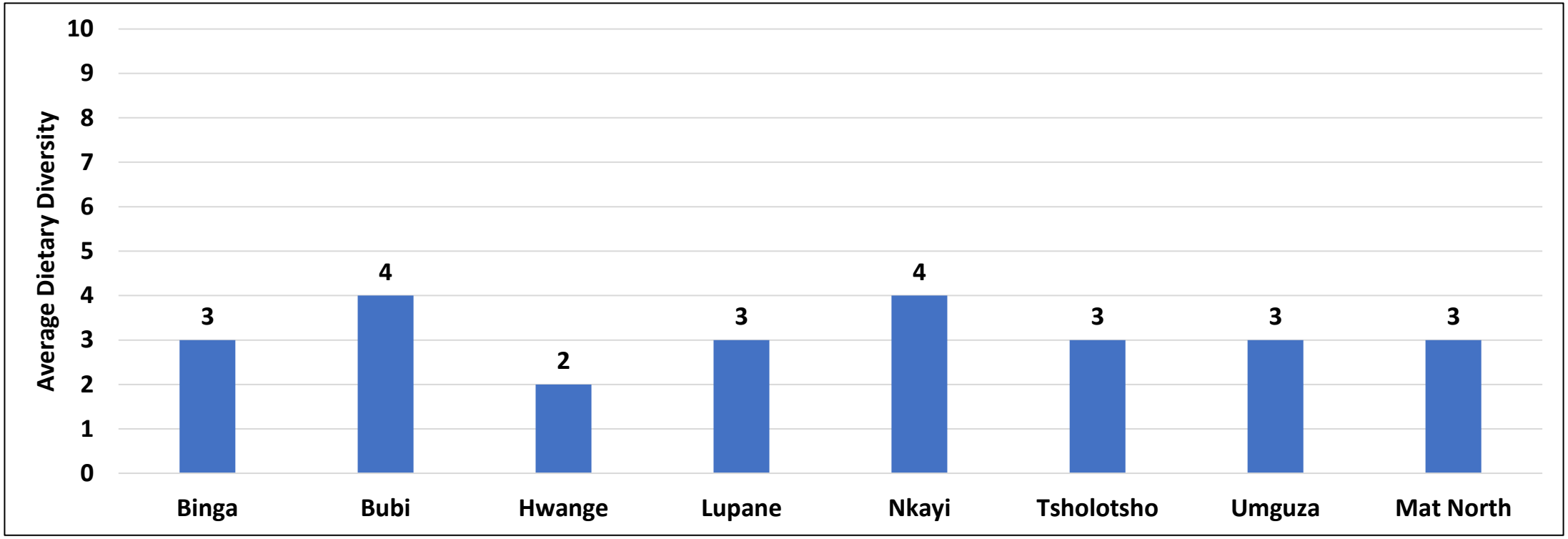
- On average the households is Matabeleland North had a HDDS score of 4.6 which is an indication of limited access to a variety of foods by households.

Average Household Dietary Diversity by District



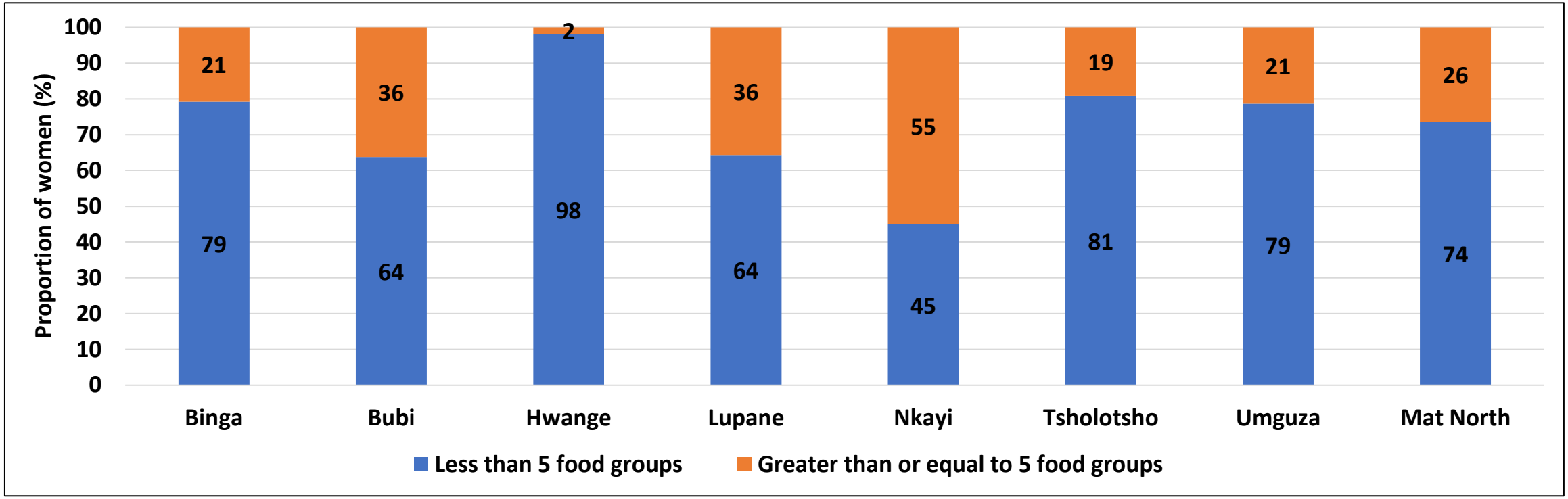
- On average households in Matabeleland North were consuming 5 food groups out of the expected 12. This means that households were consuming poor less varied diets which is an indication of reduced access to food by households.
- Nkayi (5.3) had the highest score while Hwange (3.4) had the lowest score.

Women Dietary Diversity Score (WDDS)



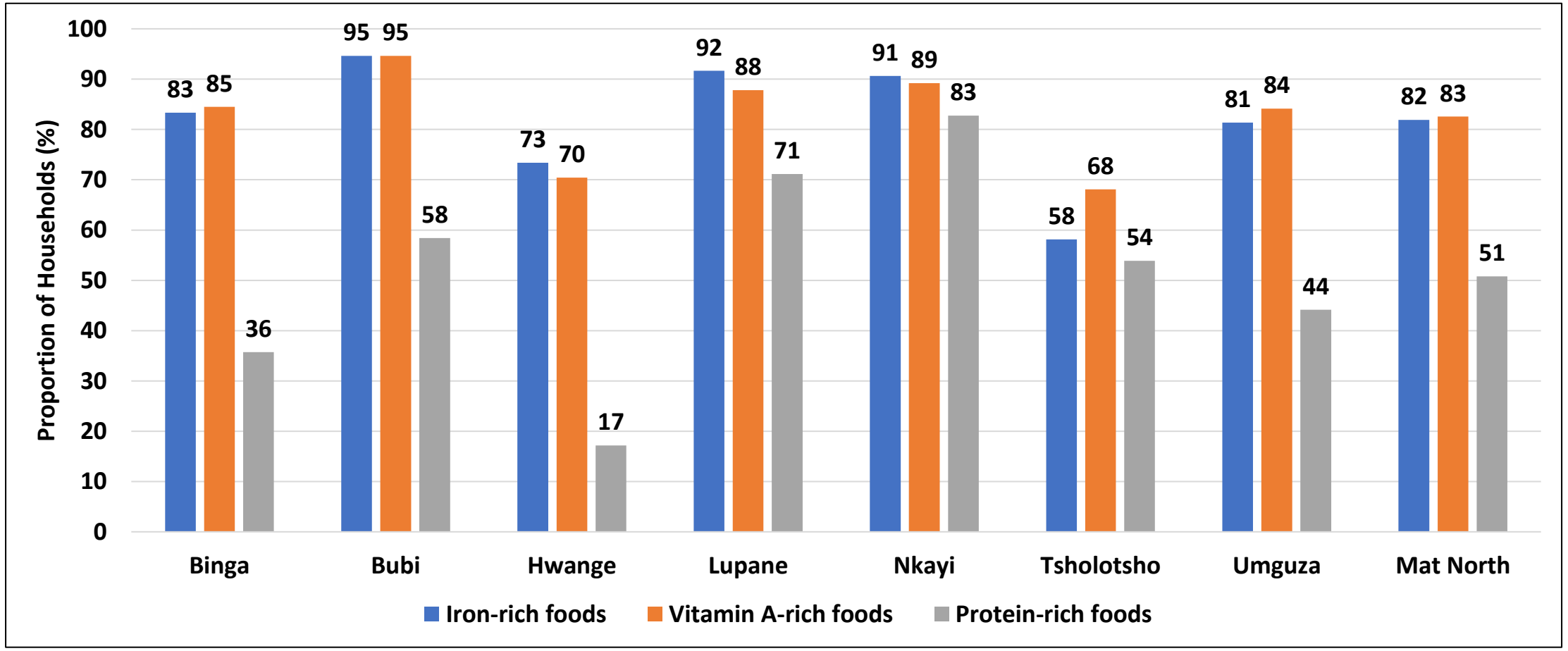
- WDDS is the average number of different food groups consumed by women of reproductive age (15 - 49 years) the previous day and night.
- The highest proportion of women consumed 3 out of 9 food groups. The low WDDS indicates micronutrient inadequacy of diets consumed
- This has an implication on the productive and reproductive outcomes of women of child bearing age.

Minimum Dietary Diversity of Women of Child Bearing Age (MDD-W)



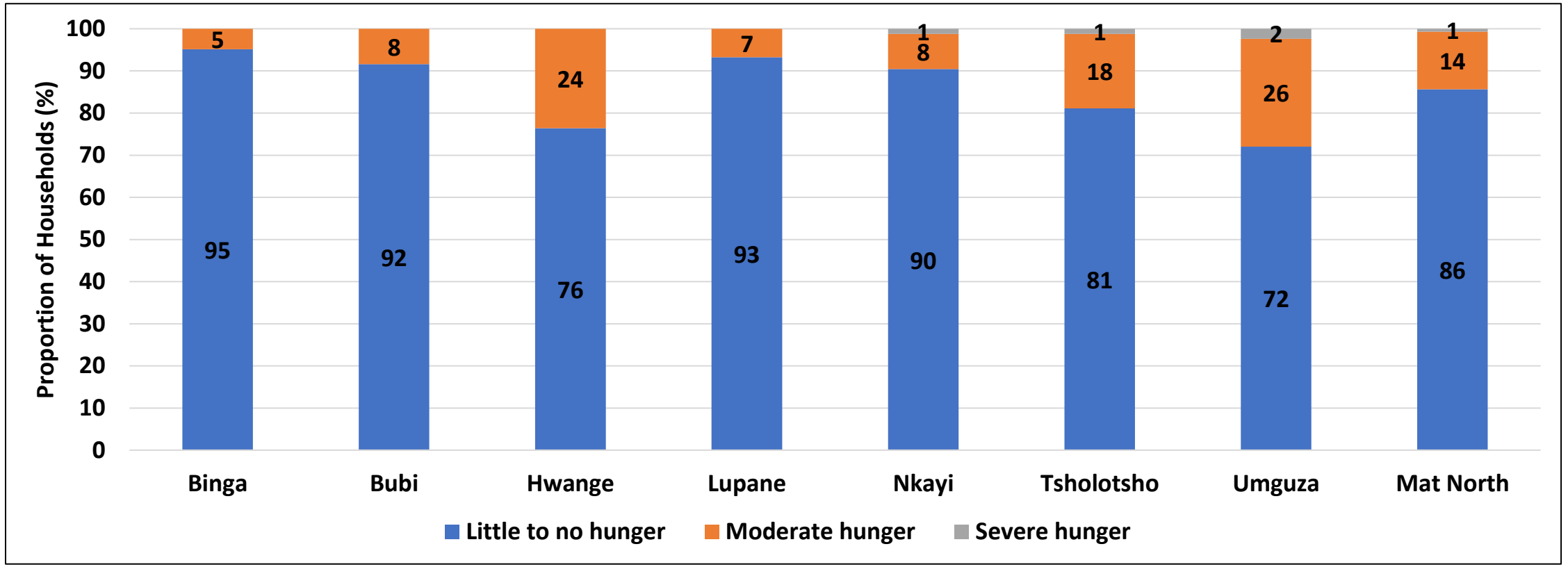
- At least 26% of women of child bearing age consumed a minimum diverse diet 24 hours prior to the survey.
- Hwange (2%) had the least proportion of women consuming a diverse diet.
- MDD-W is a proxy indicator of micronutrient adequacy in the diet of a woman in the ages 15-49. It is measured through assessing whether a woman consumed at least 5 out of the 10 defined food groups the previous day and night.

Consumption of Protein. Iron and Vitamin-A Rich Foods by WCBA



- On average 51% of women of child bearing age consumed iron rich foods, 83% consumed vitamin A rich foods and 82% consumed iron rich foods.

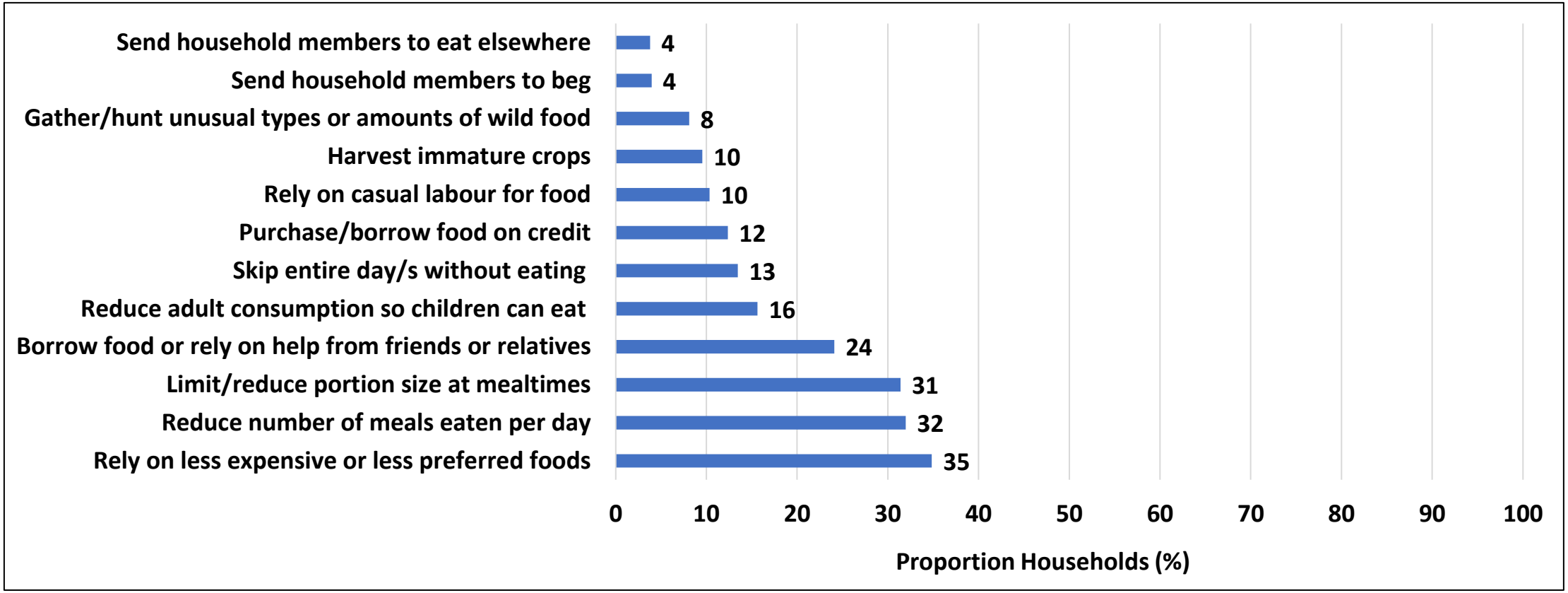
Household Hunger Score



- In Matabeleland North, 86% of the households experienced little to no hunger in the 30 days prior to the assessment.
- Amongst those that had experienced moderate to severe hunger, Umguza (28%), Hwange (24%) and Tsholotsho (19%) were the highest.

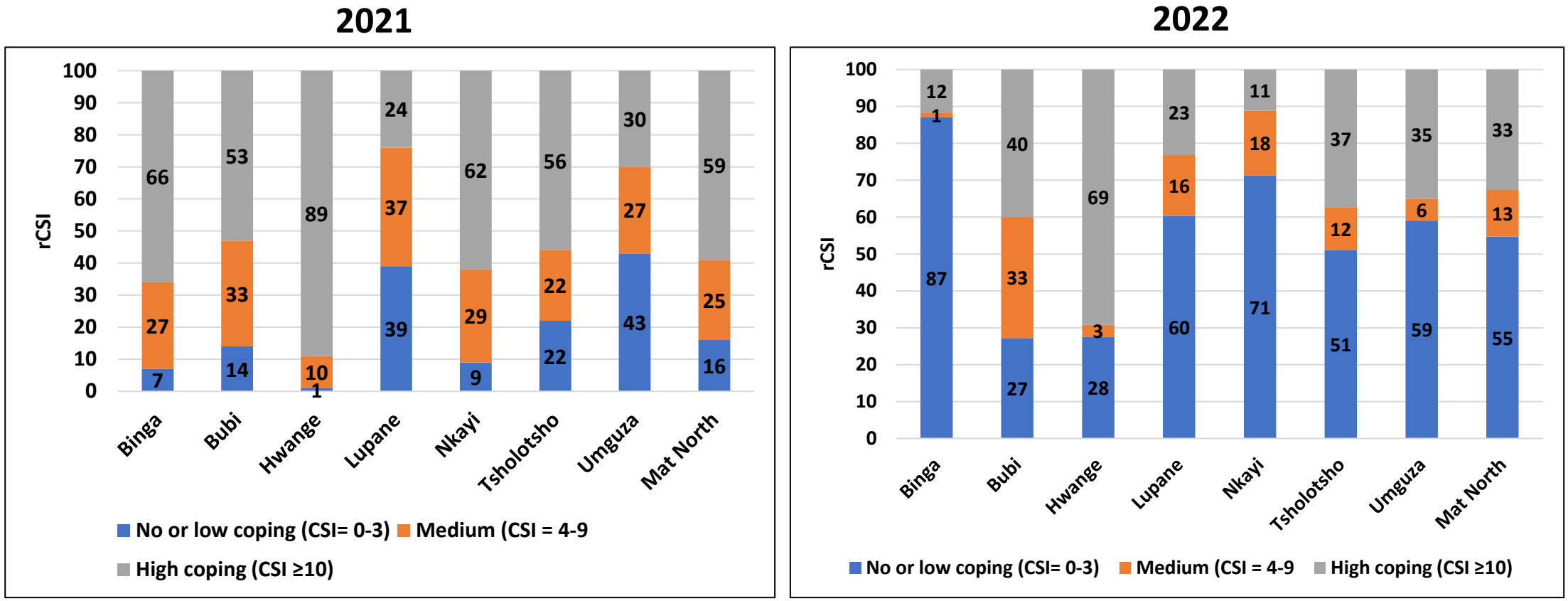
Household Consumption and Livelihoods Coping Strategies

Household Consumption Coping Strategies



- The main coping strategies included relying on less expensive or less preferred food (35%), reducing number of meals eaten per day (32%) and reducing portion size at meal times (31%).

Household Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index (r CSI)



- In Matabeleland North province the proportion of households employing high consumption coping strategies decreased from 59% in 2021 to 33% in 2022.
- Coping remained high for districts such as Bubi (40%) and Hwange (69%).

Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies

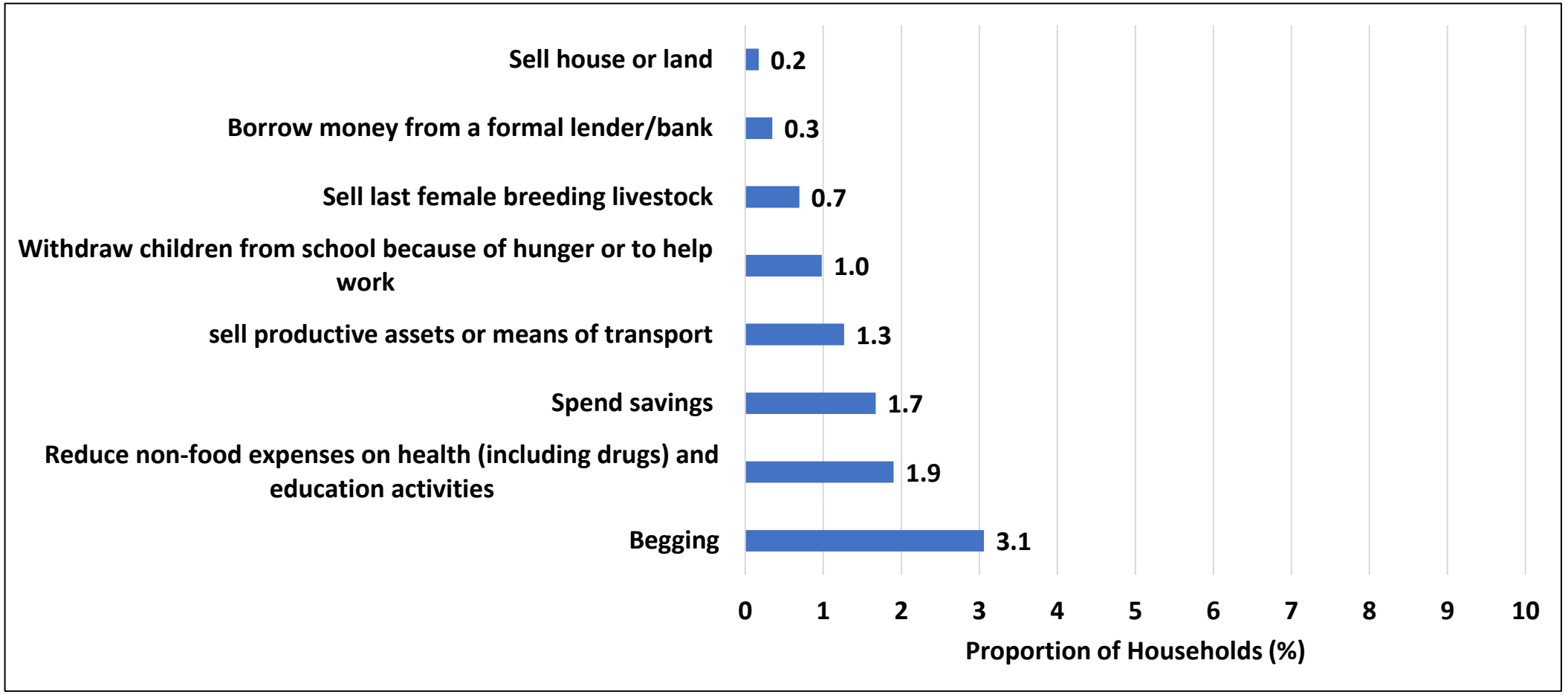
Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies

- Livelihood Coping Strategies are behaviors employed by households when faced with crisis and measures longer-term coping capacity of households.

- The Livelihoods Coping Strategies have been into three categories namely, Stress, Crisis and Emergency as indicated in the table below.

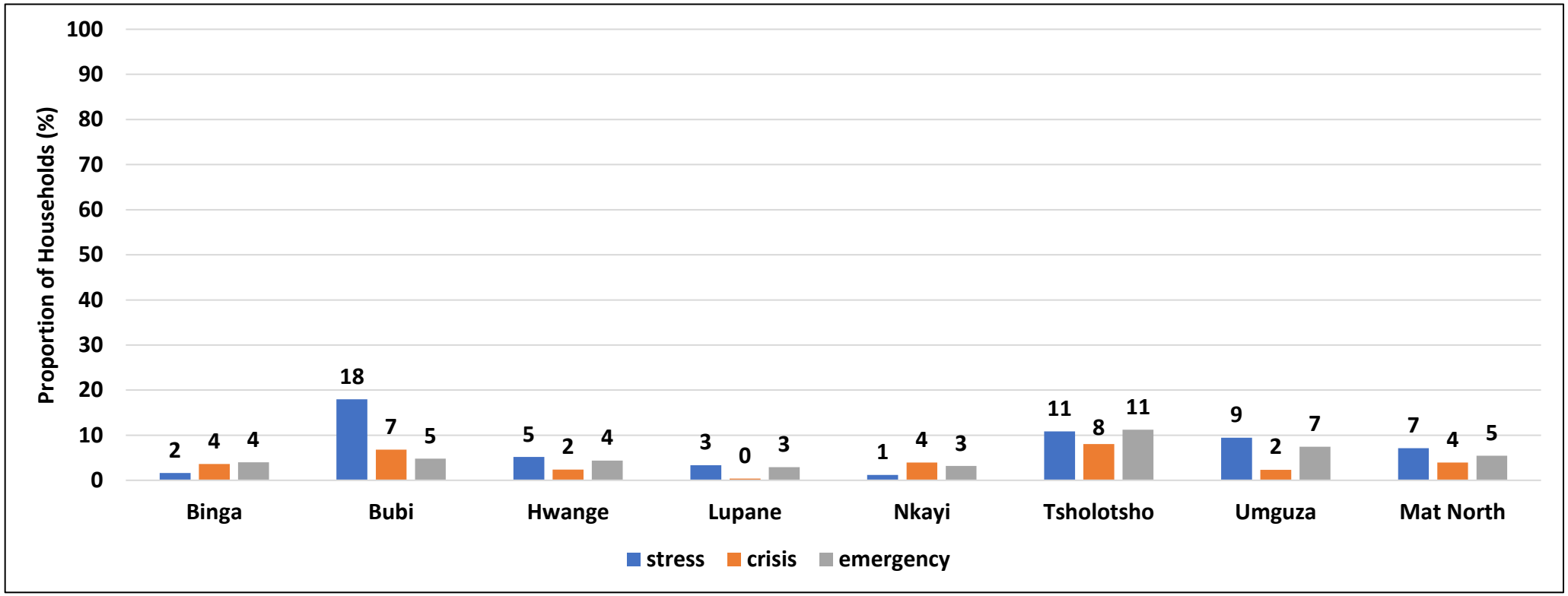
Category	**Coping Strategy**
Stress	Borrowing money Spending savings Selling more non-productive livestock than usual Selling household assets
Crisis	Selling productive assets Withdrawing children from school Reducing non-food expenditure
Emergency	Selling land Begging for food Selling the last breeding stock to buy food.

Households Engaging in Livelihoods based Coping Strategies



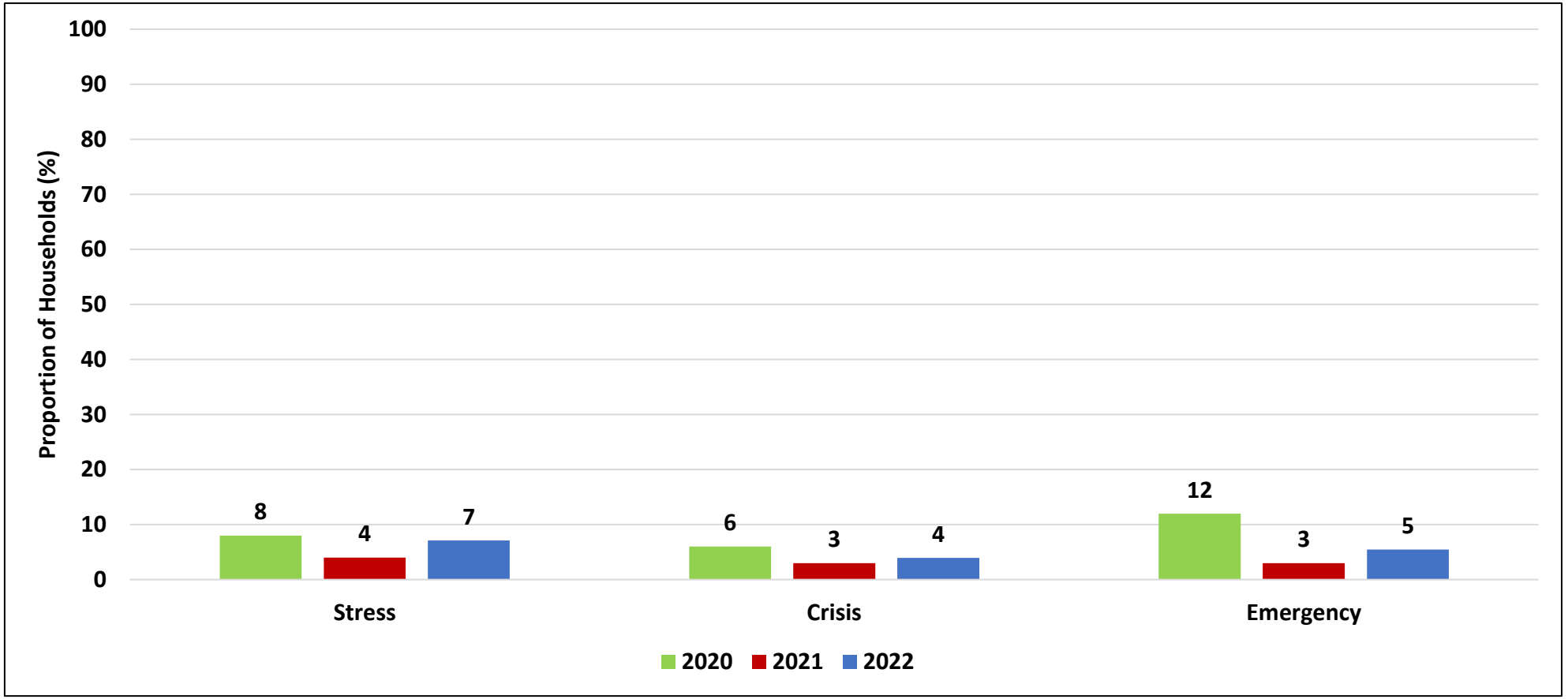
- Households reported to be engaging in mostly begging (3.1%), reducing non-food expenses (1.9%) and spending their savings (1.7%).

Households engaging in Livelihood Coping Strategies



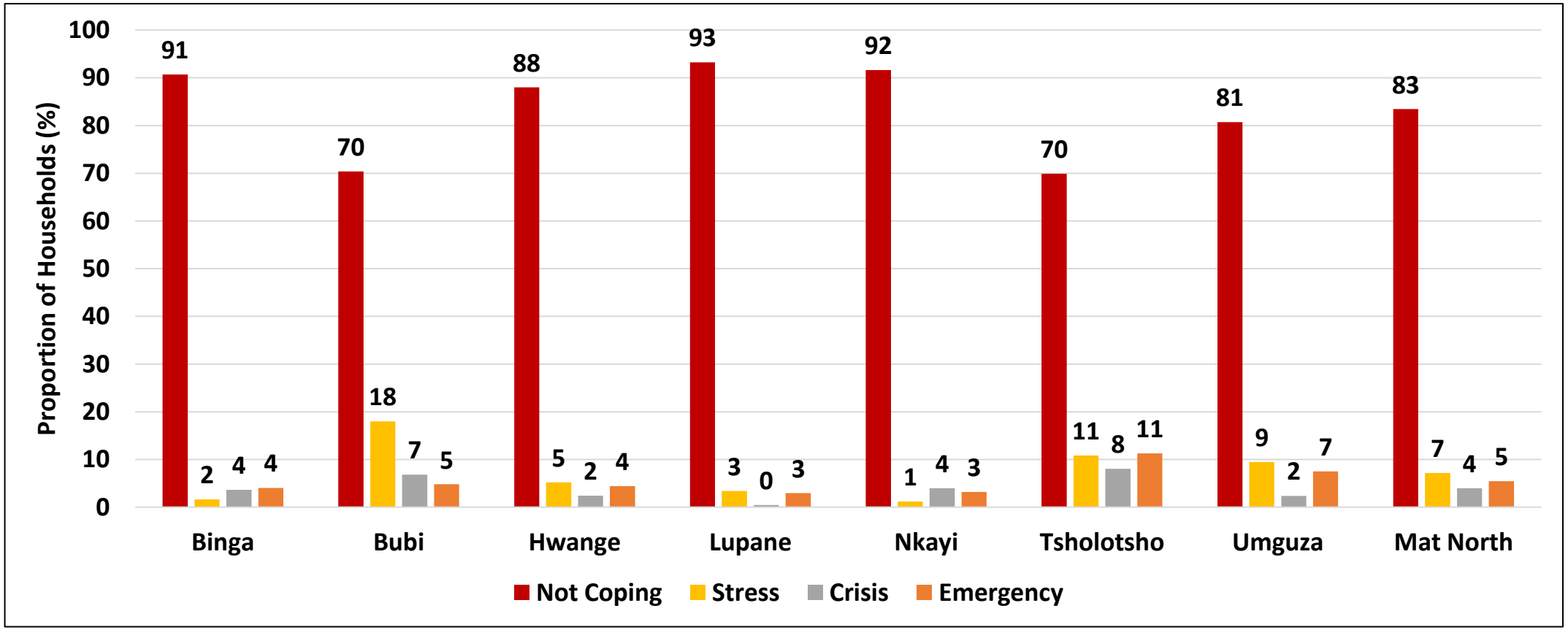
- At provincial level, 5% of households resorted to emergency coping mechanisms.
- The proportion of households employing emergency coping strategies was highest in Tsholotsho (11%) followed by Umguza (7%).

Households Engaging in Livelihoods Coping Strategies



- There was a general increase in the proportion of households engaging in all livelihood coping strategies.

Households Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies

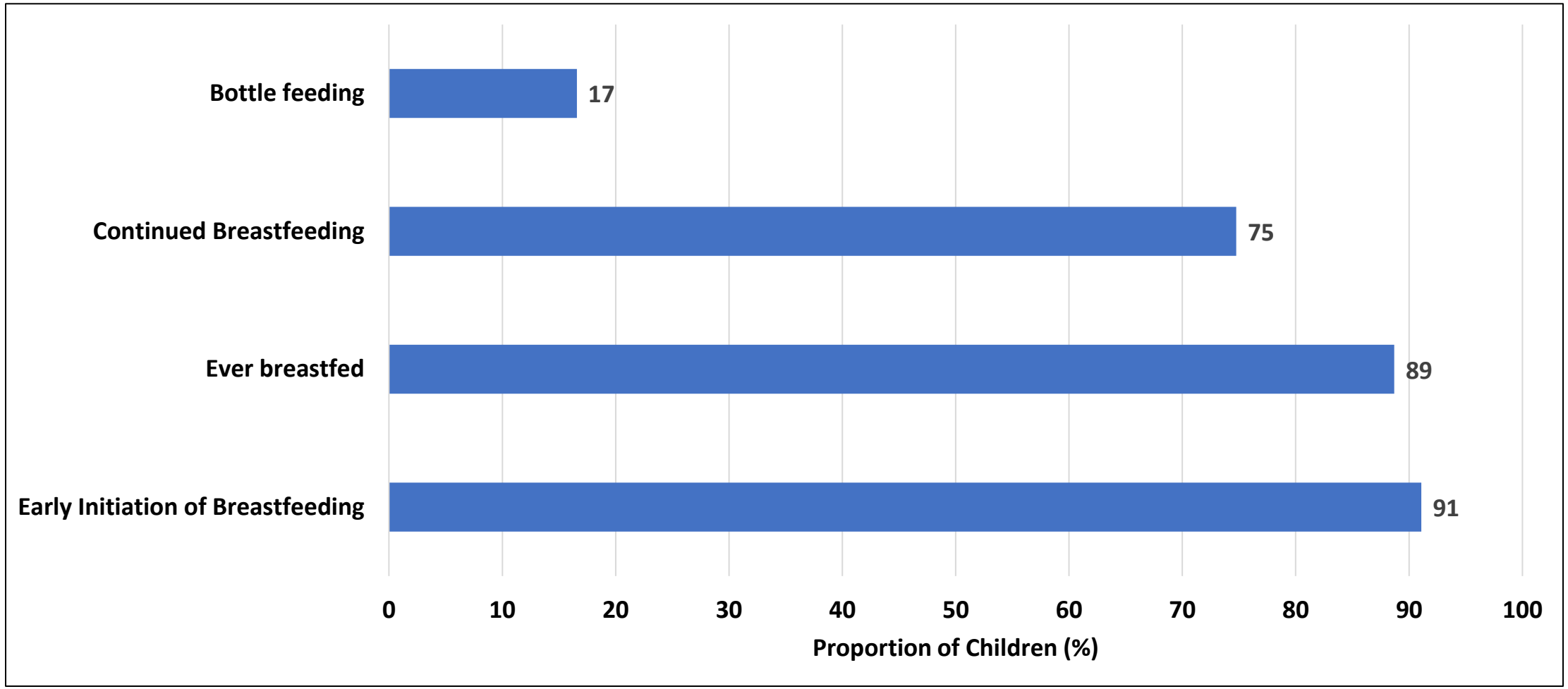


- More than half of the households reported to be not coping with Lupane recording the highest proportion at 93%.
- Tsholotsho (11%) had the highest proportion of households that were employing emergency coping strategies.

Child Nutrition

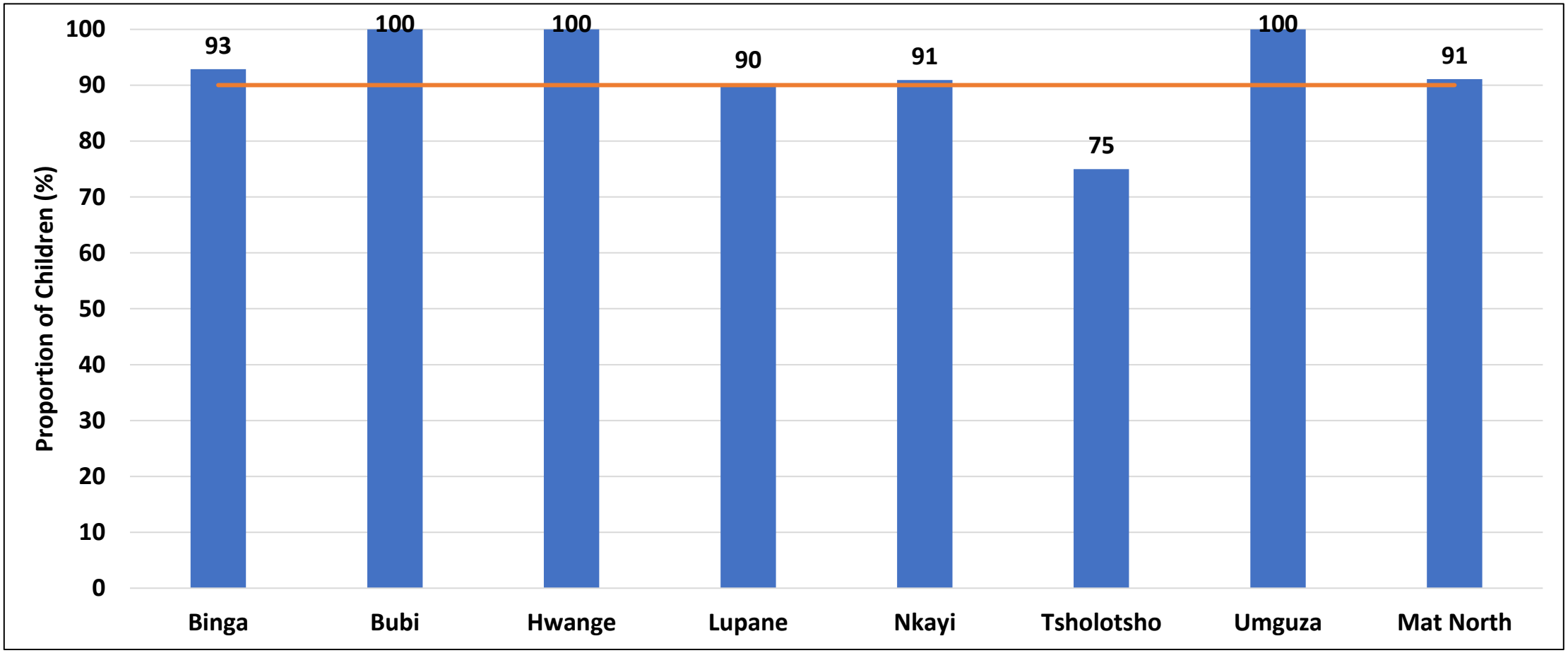
Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Breastfeeding Practices



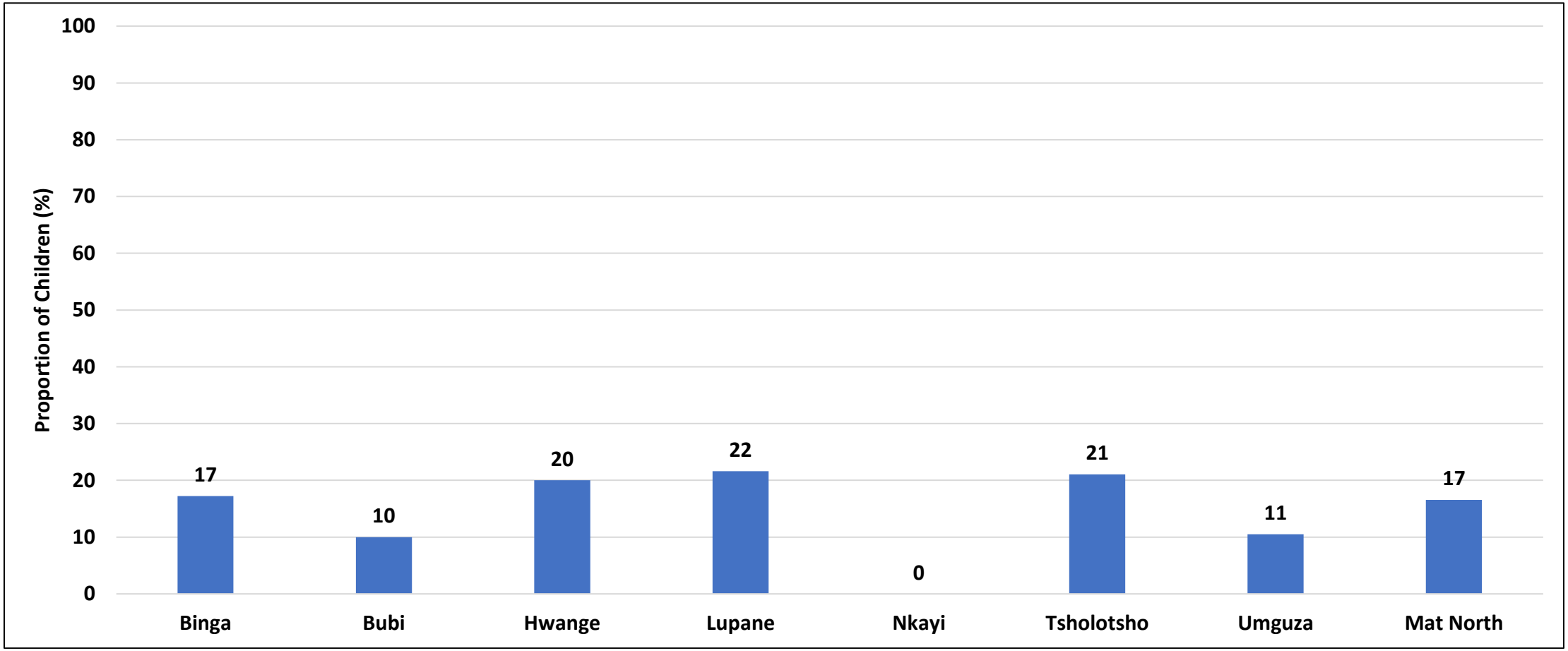
- The proportion of children that were initiated breastfeeding within one hour was 91% and those ever breastfed was 89% against a target of 90% for both indicators.

Early Initiation of Breastfeeding



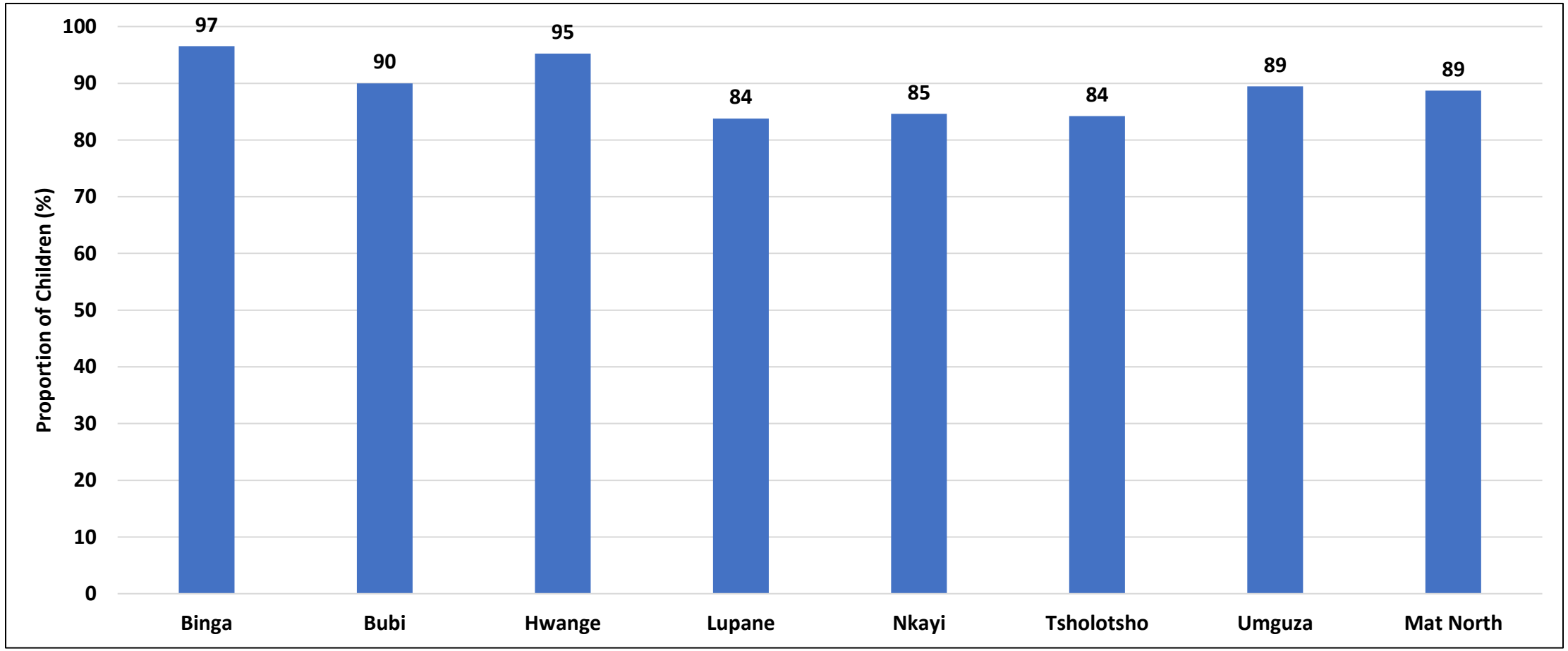
- The proportion of children that were initiated breastfeeding as per recommended practices was 91%.
- Almost all the districts exceeded the 90% target except for Tsholotsho which recorded an early initiation rate of 75%.

Bottle Feeding



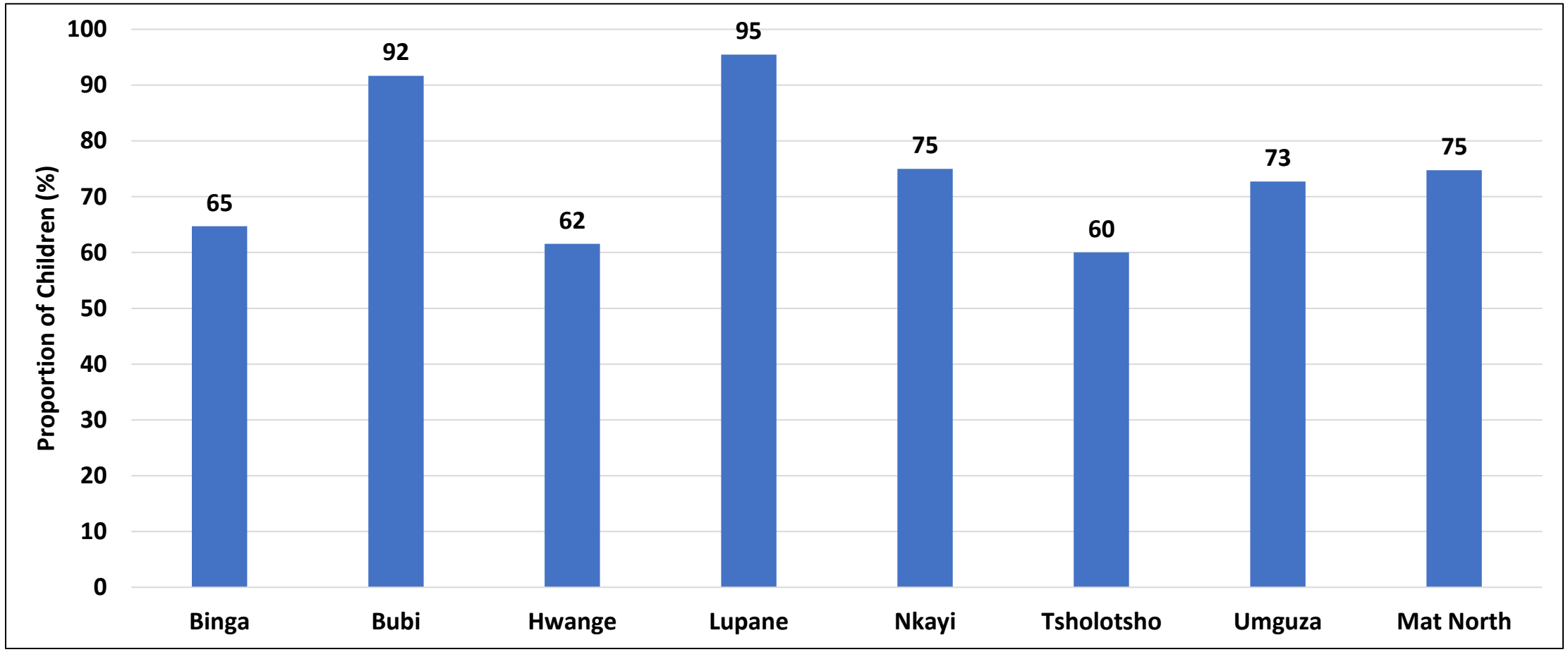
- About 17% of children were bottle-fed in Matabeleland North Province.
- The highest proportions were reported in Lupane (22%), Tsholotsho (21%) and Hwange (20%).

Ever Breastfed



- The proportion of children that were ever breastfed was 89%.
- Binga (97%) had the highest proportion of children ever breastfed.

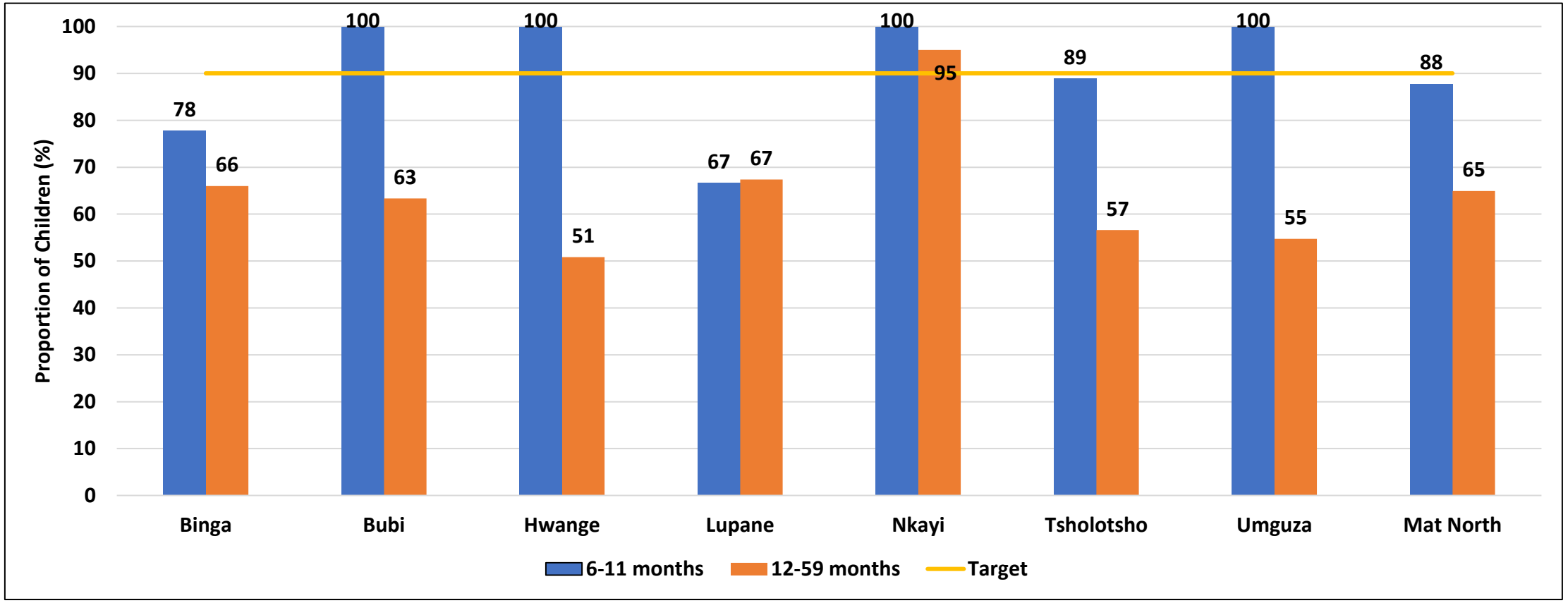
Continued Breast Feeding at 1 Year



- In Matabeleland North, 75% of children were breastfed beyond 1 year.
- Lupane (95%) had the highest proportion while Tsholotsho (60%) had the least.

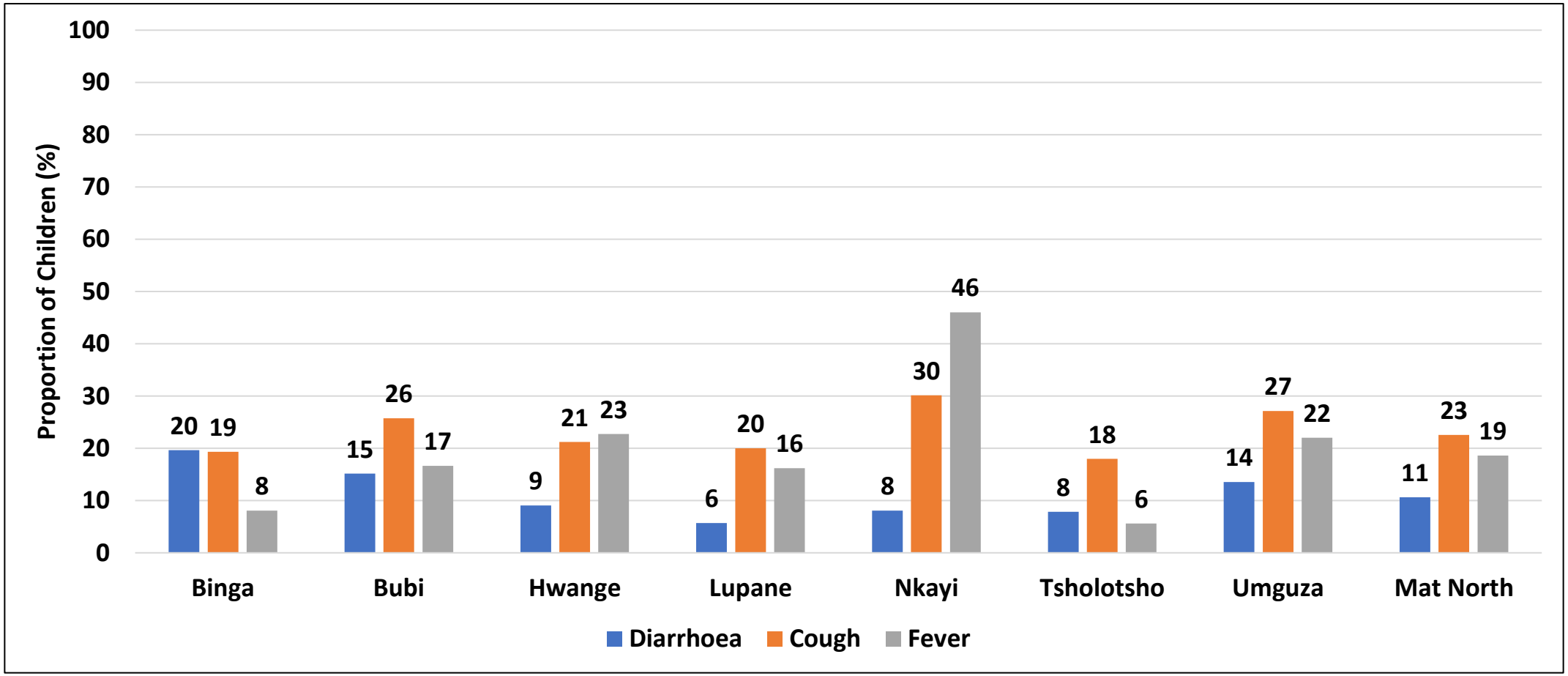
Vitamin A Supplementation and Child Illness

Children aged 6-59 Months who Received the Recommended Dose of Vitamin A



- The proportions of children who received the recommended dose in the past 12 months were: 88% for 6-11 months and 65% for 12-59 months age group.
- Coverage for both age groups was below the national target of 90%, with the 12-59 months coverage (65%) being very far from the target.

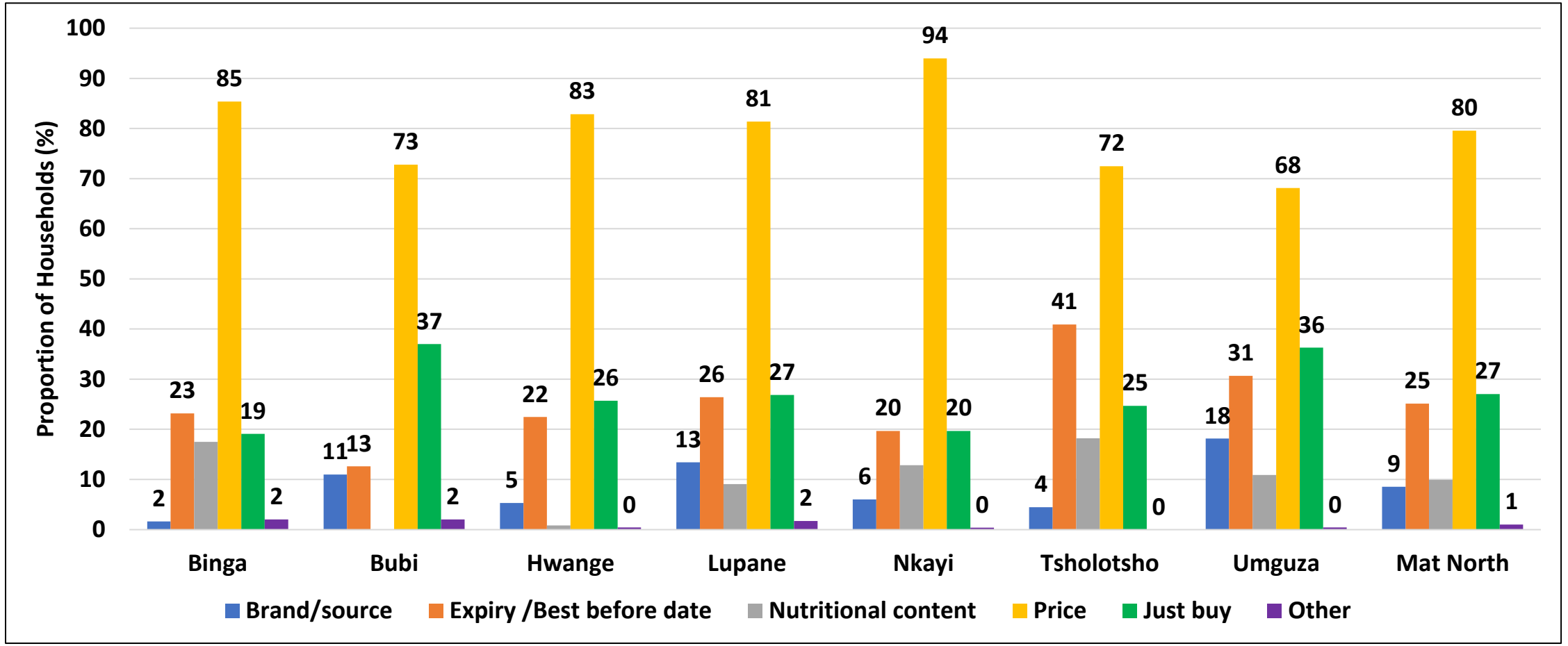
Child Illness in the Two Weeks Preceding the Survey



- Nkayi (46%) had the highest proportion of children with fever and the highest with cough at 30%.
- Binga (20%) had the highest proportion with diarrhoea.

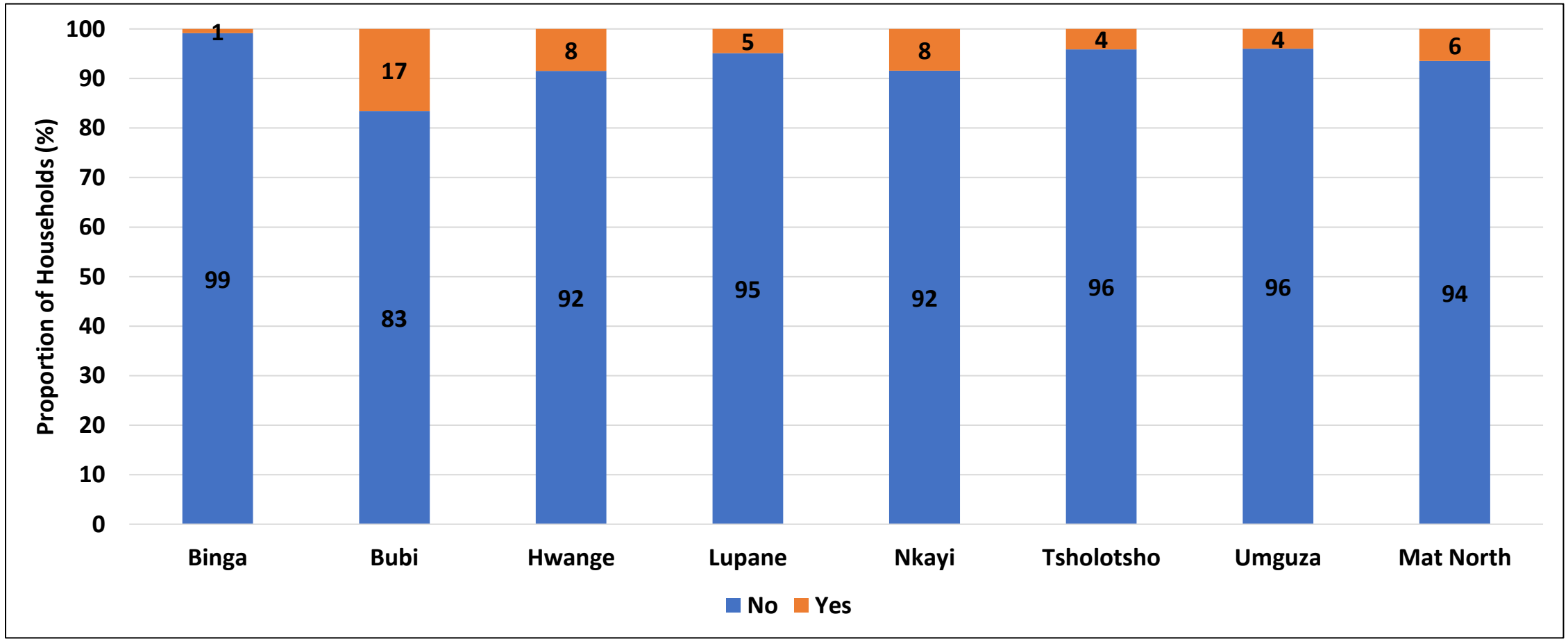
Food Safety

Household Considerations when Purchasing Food



- Most people considered the price (80%) when purchasing food.
- However, about 27% of households do not consider anything but the they just bought.

Households that Purchased Expired Food



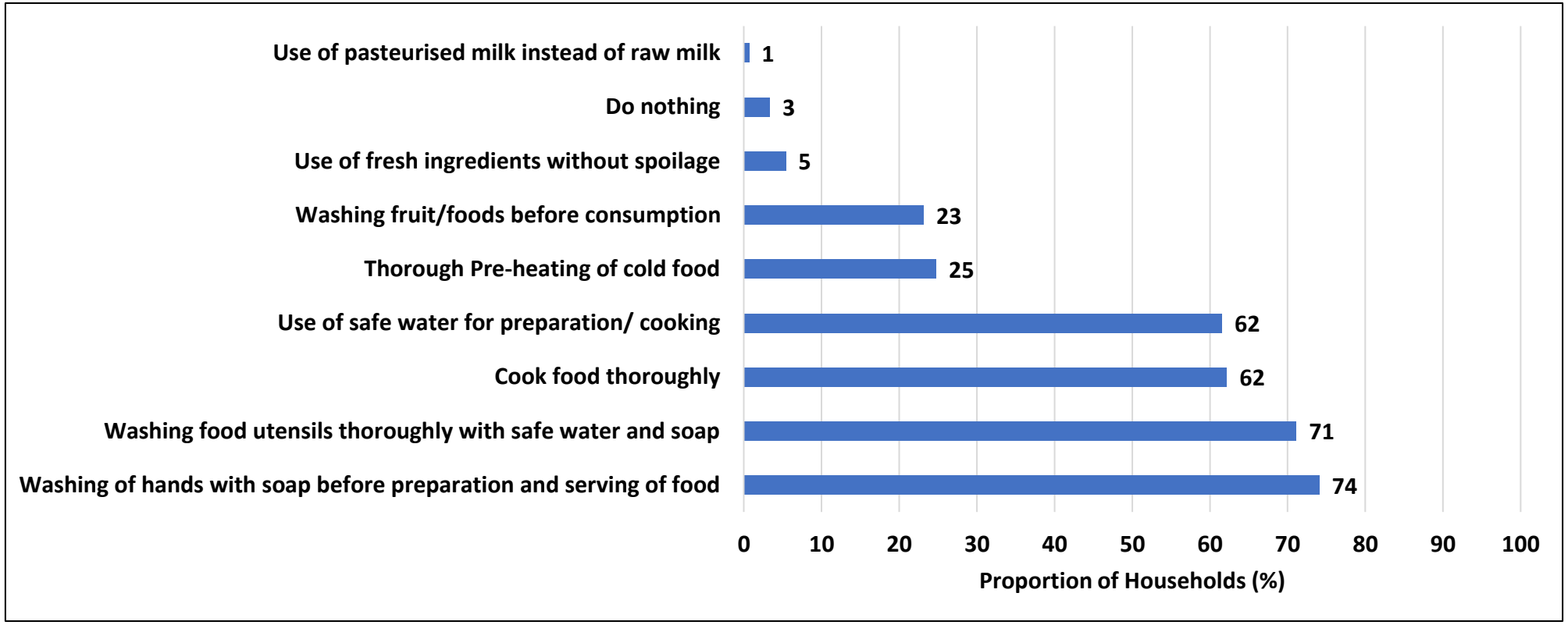
- Generally across the province a high proportion (94%) of households did not purchase expired food or food undergoing spoilage due to its reduced price.

Ways to Keep Food Safe

District	Proper storage of food at correct temperatures (%)	Avoid contamination of cooked food by keeping it closed (%)	Keeping cooked food separate from raw food (%)	Other (%)
Binga	53	90	67	3
Bubi	50	72	49	7
Hwange	54	90	85	1
Lupane	53	68	55	19
Nkayi	71	74	45	2
Tsholotsho	43	68	47	3
Umguza	57	83	51	4
Mat North	55	79	58	5

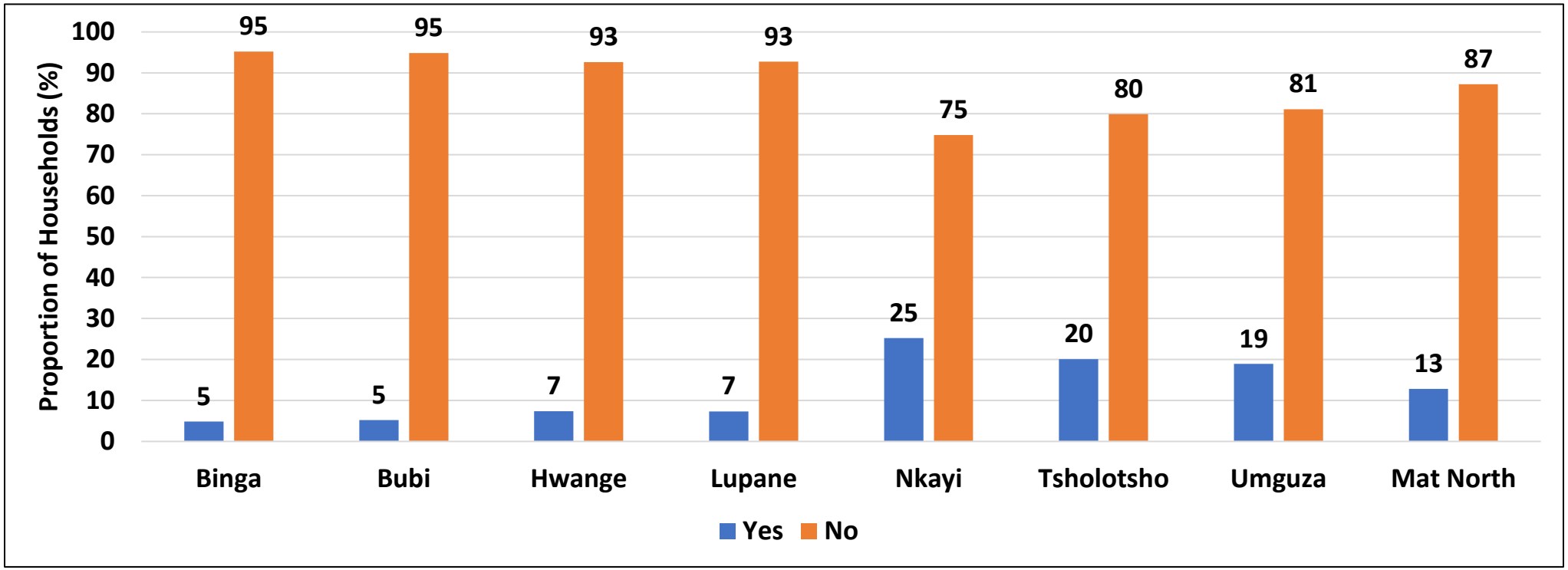
- Keeping food closed to avoid contamination (79%) was the frequently mentioned method of keeping food safe.

Safe Preparation of Food



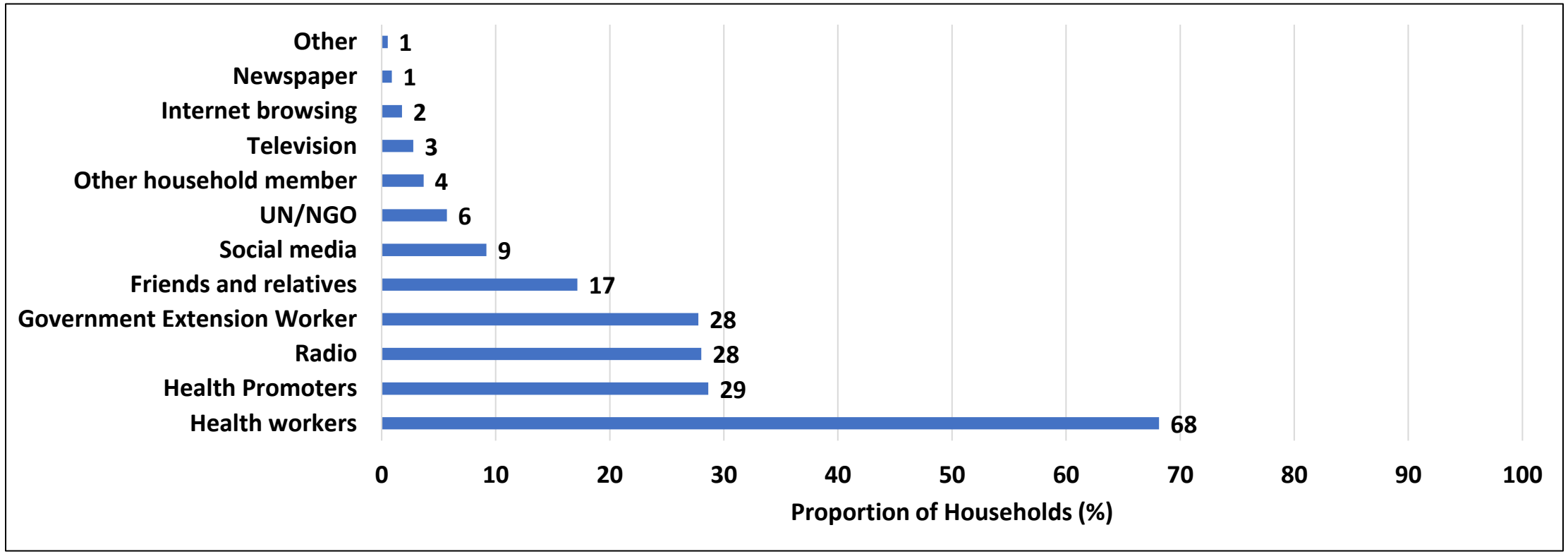
- Provincially, 74% of households reported that washing hands with soap before preparing and serving food was important in safe food preparation.
- Only 3% of households did nothing to ensure food safety during preparation of food.

Household that Received Information on Food Safety Issues



- Only 13% of households received information on food safety issues.
- Nkayi (25%) had the highest proportion of households that received information on food safety issues while Binga (5%) and Bubi (5%) both had the least proportion.

Source of Food Safety Information



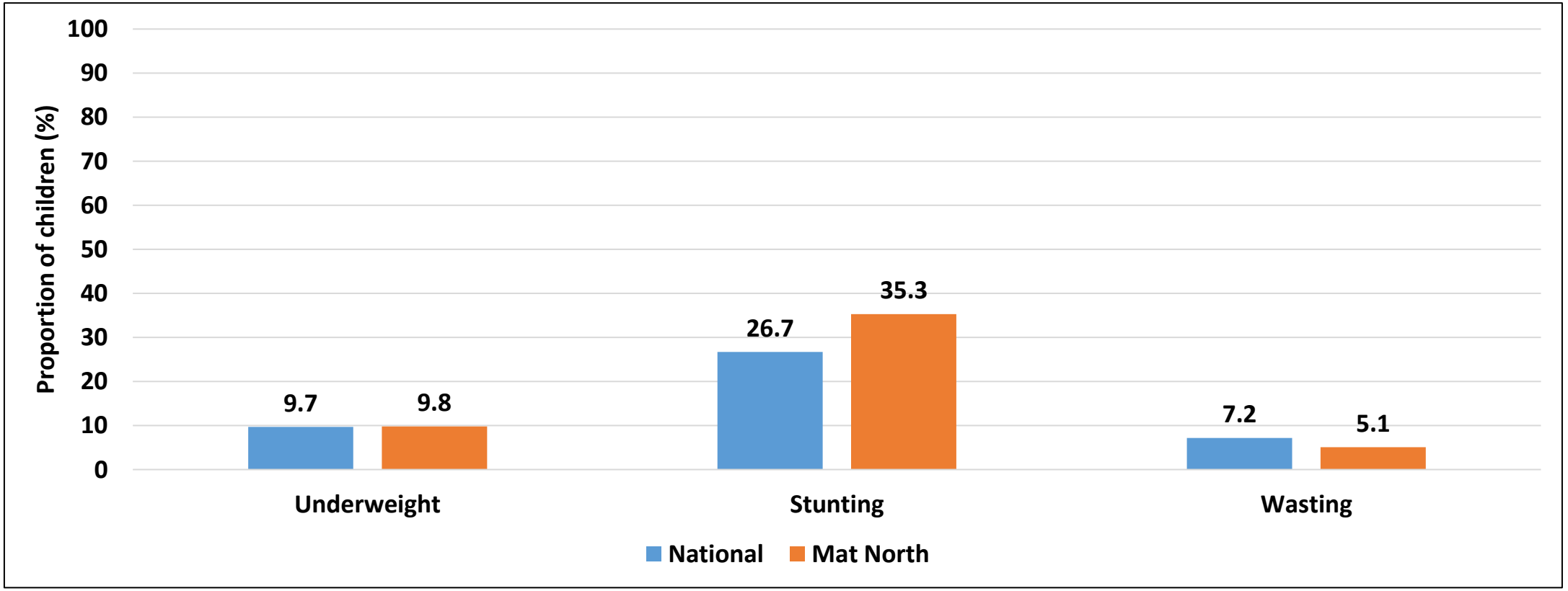
- Of the 13% of households that received food safety information the highest proportion received it from health workers (68%) followed by health promoters (29%), radio (28%) and Government extension workers (28%).

Child Nutrition Status

Prevalence of Underweight .Stunting and Wasting Cut-off values

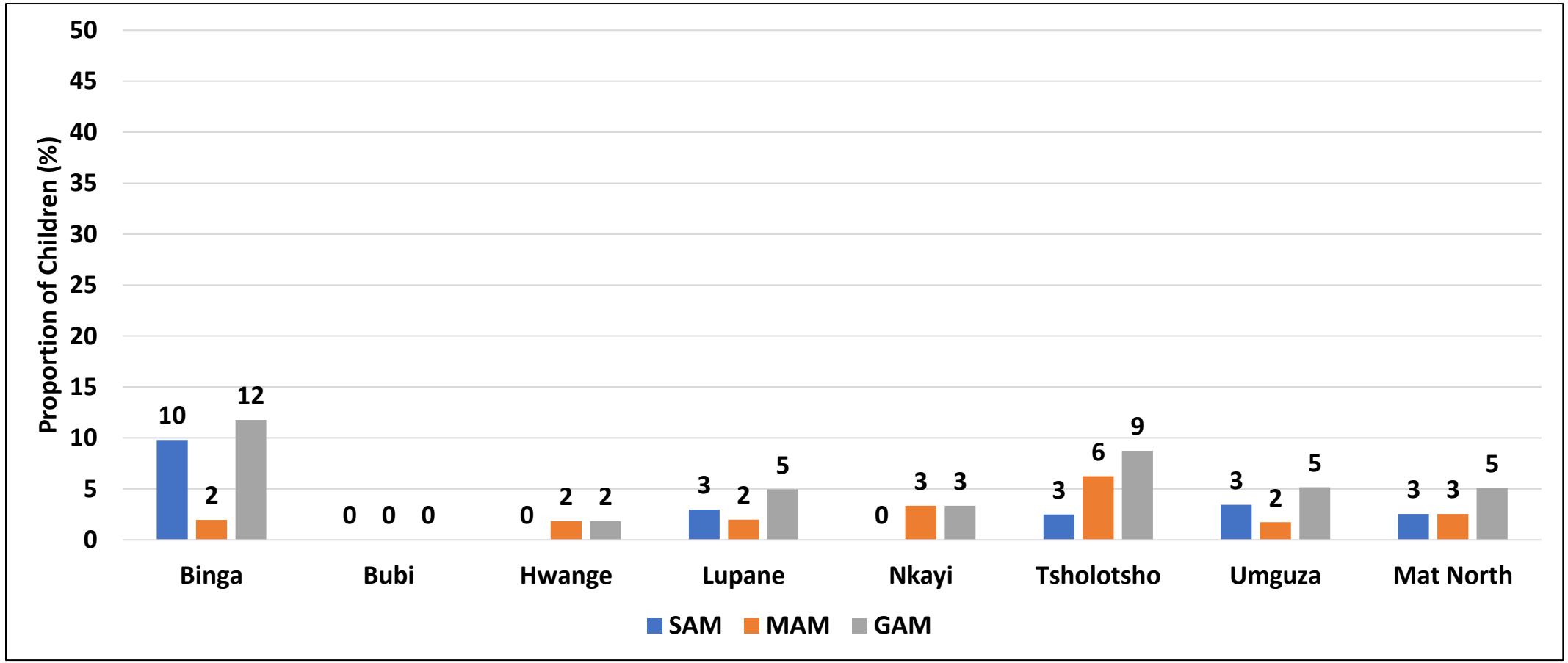
Indicator	WHO Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance
Underweight	< 10% Low Prevalence 10-19% Medium Prevalence 20-29 % High Prevalence > 30% Very High Prevalence
Stunting	<20% Low Prevalence 20-29% Medium Prevalence 30-39 % High Prevalence > 40% Very High Prevalence
Wasting	<5 % Acceptable 5-9% Poor 10-14 % Serious > 15% Critical

Child Nutrition Status



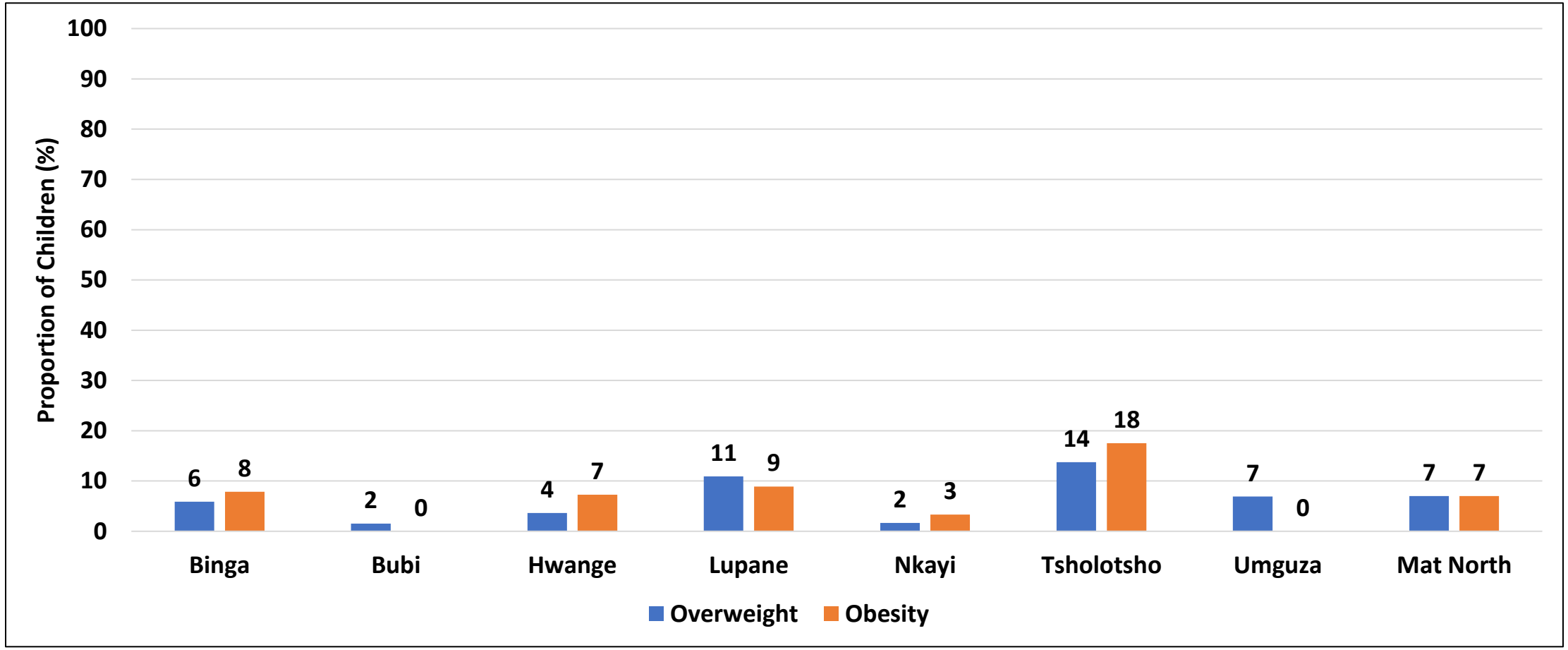
- Prevalence of underweight for Matabeleland North was low at 9.8%.
- Stunting (35.3%) was higher that the national average. Prevalence is categorised as high based on the WHO cut offs.
- Wasting (5.1%) was poor based on WHO cut off.

Acute Malnutrition by District based on Weight for Height



- GAM prevalence was 5%.

Overweight and Obesity



- The prevalence of overweight and obesity in the province were both 7%.

Food Insecurity

Food Security Dimensions

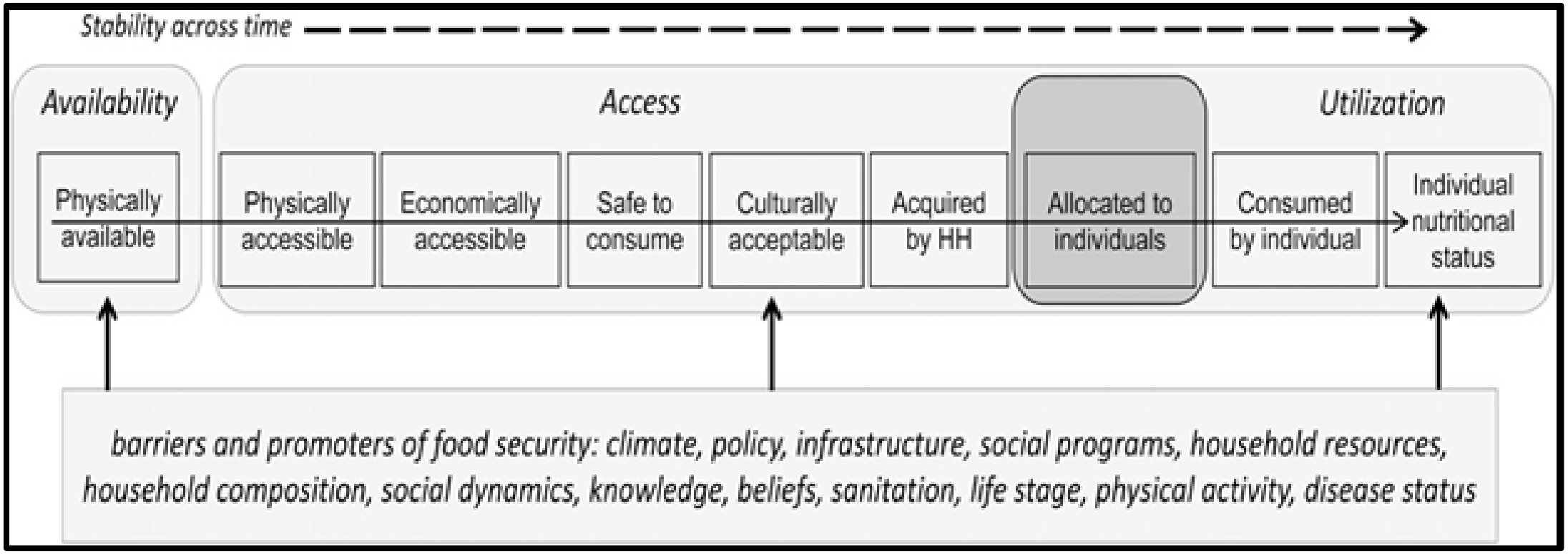


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al.. 2013)

Food Security Analytical Framework Food

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

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Household cereal security was determined by measuring a household's potential access to enough cereal to give each member 2100 kilocalories per day in the consumption period 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023.
- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire cereals was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income income (both cash and non cash) in the 2022/23 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
    - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
    - Own food crop production from the 2021 /22 agricultural season ;
    - Potential income from own cash crop production;
    - Potential income from livestock;
    - Potential income from casual labour and remittances and
    - Income from other sources such as gifts, pensions, gardening, formal and informal employment.

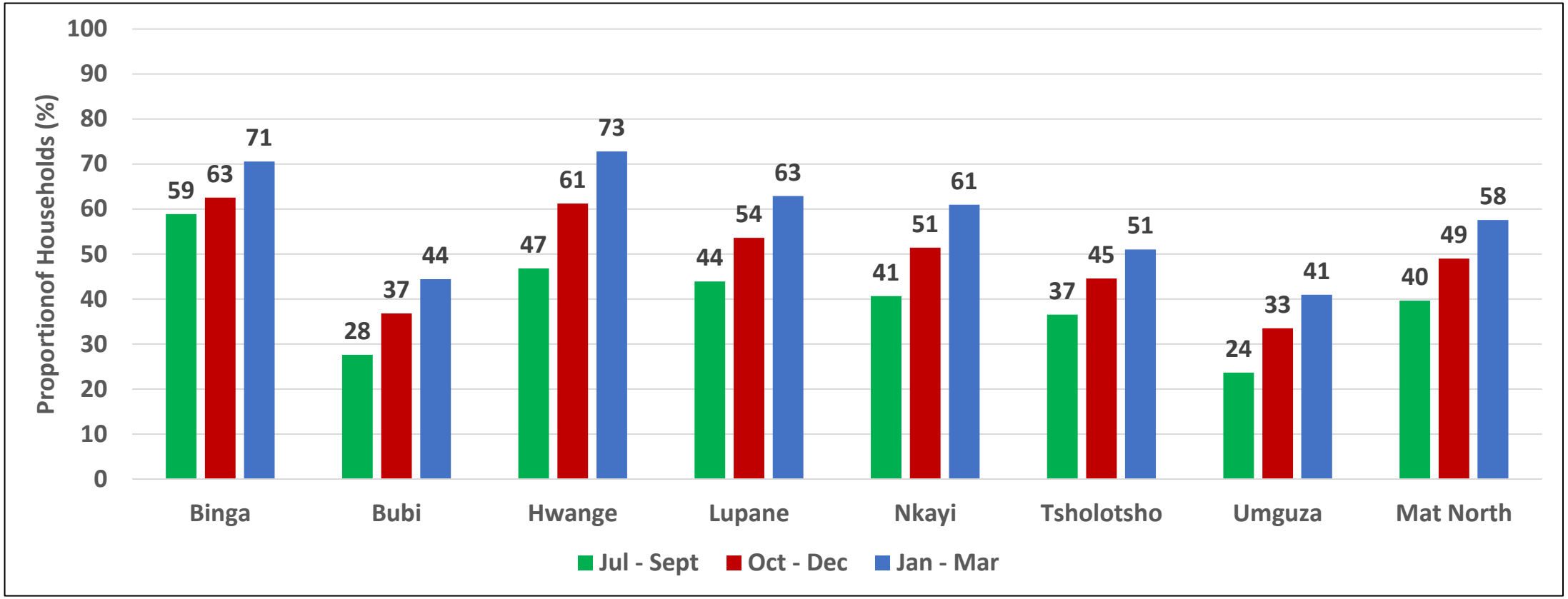
Food Security Analytical Framework

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

Food Security Status at Peak Hunger

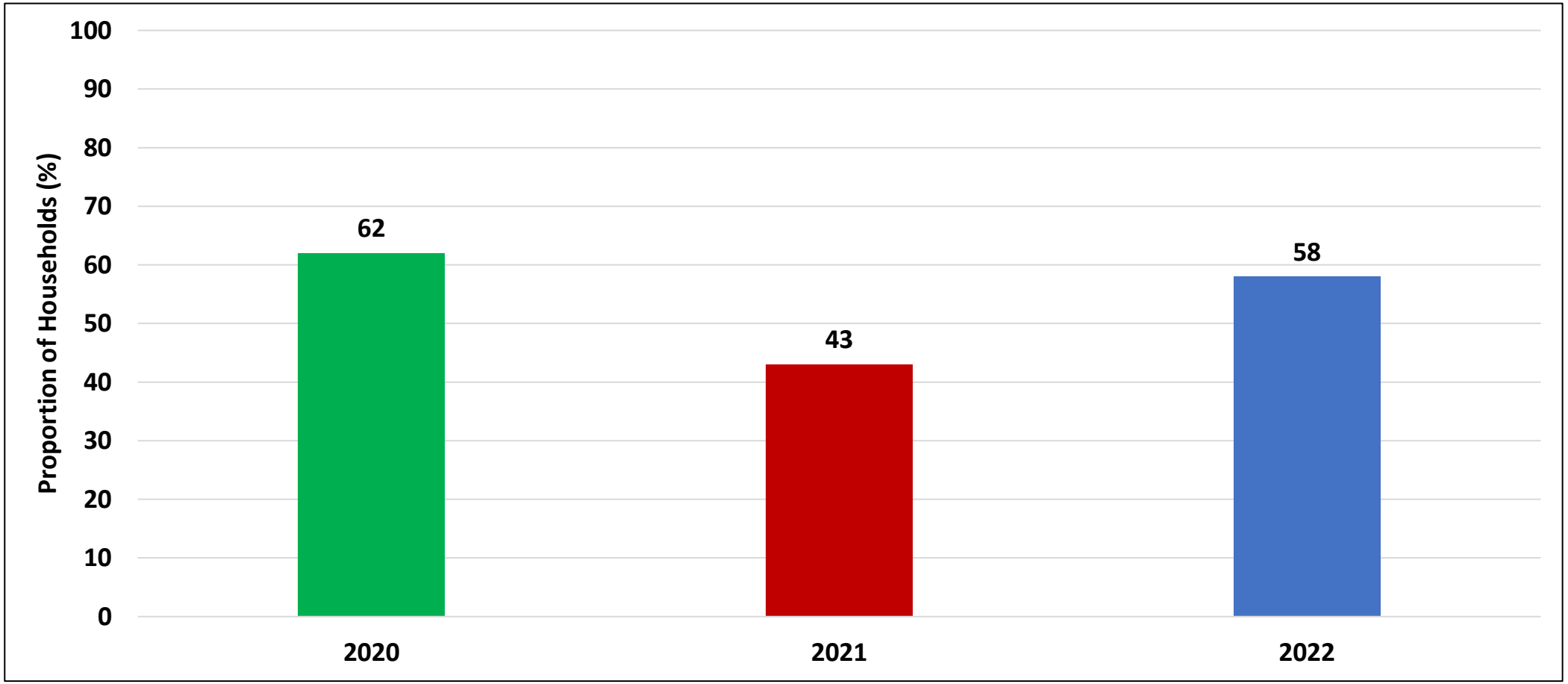
- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2023) it was estimated that approximately 58% of Matabeleland North rural households will be cereal insecure.
- The 58% of the households translated into approximately 439549 individuals requiring 41300 MT of cereal (Maize Grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- There was an increase in the proportion of households which will be cereal insecure by quarter.
- Hwange (73%) and Binga (71%) were projected to have the highest proportions of households who will be cereal insecure in the first quarter of 2023.

Cereal Insecurity (Peak Hunger Period)



- There was an increase in the proportion of households that will be cereal insecure during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

District	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Binga	92259	97946	110584
Bubi	19244	25658	30957
Hwange	33045	43213	51404
Lupane	49521	60473	70948
Nkayi	49968	63195	74953
Tsholotsho	47402	57820	66154
Umguza	23870	33816	41375
Mat North	302547	374122	439549

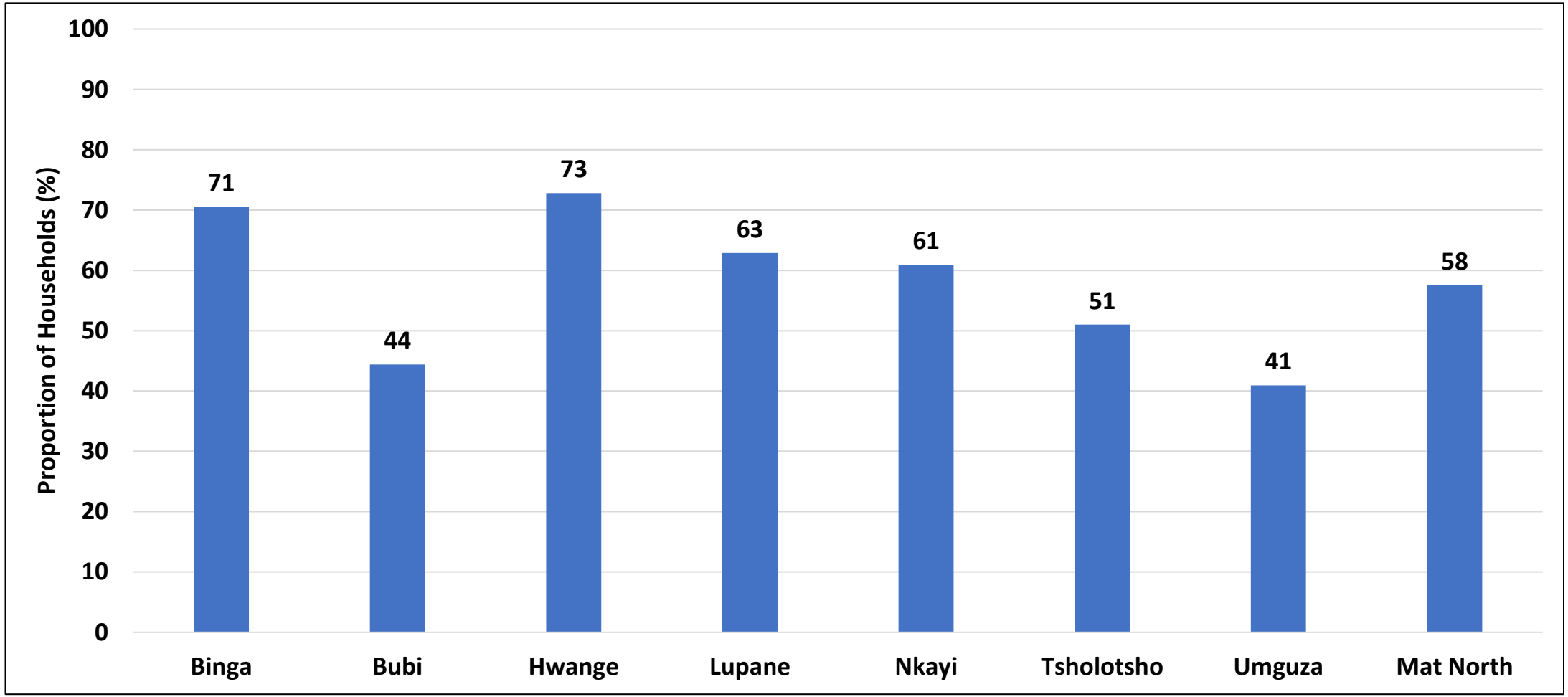
- Binga (110 584) and Nkayi (74 953) were projected to have the highest population that will be cereal insecure during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Requirement (MT) by Province Quarter

District	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Cereal Requirement (MT)
Binga	3414	3624	4092	11129
Bubi	712	949	1145	2807
Hwange	1223	1599	1902	4724
Lupane	1832	2237	2625	6695
Nkayi	1849	2338	2773	6960
Tsholotsho	1754	2139	2448	6341
Umguza	883	1251	1531	3665
Mat North	11194	13842	16263	41300

- The cereal requirement for Matabeleland North province is 41300MT.

Cereal Insecurity by District



- Hwange (73%) will have the highest proportion of households that will be cereal insecure and Umguza (41%) will have the least proportion.

GBV and Spousal Violence

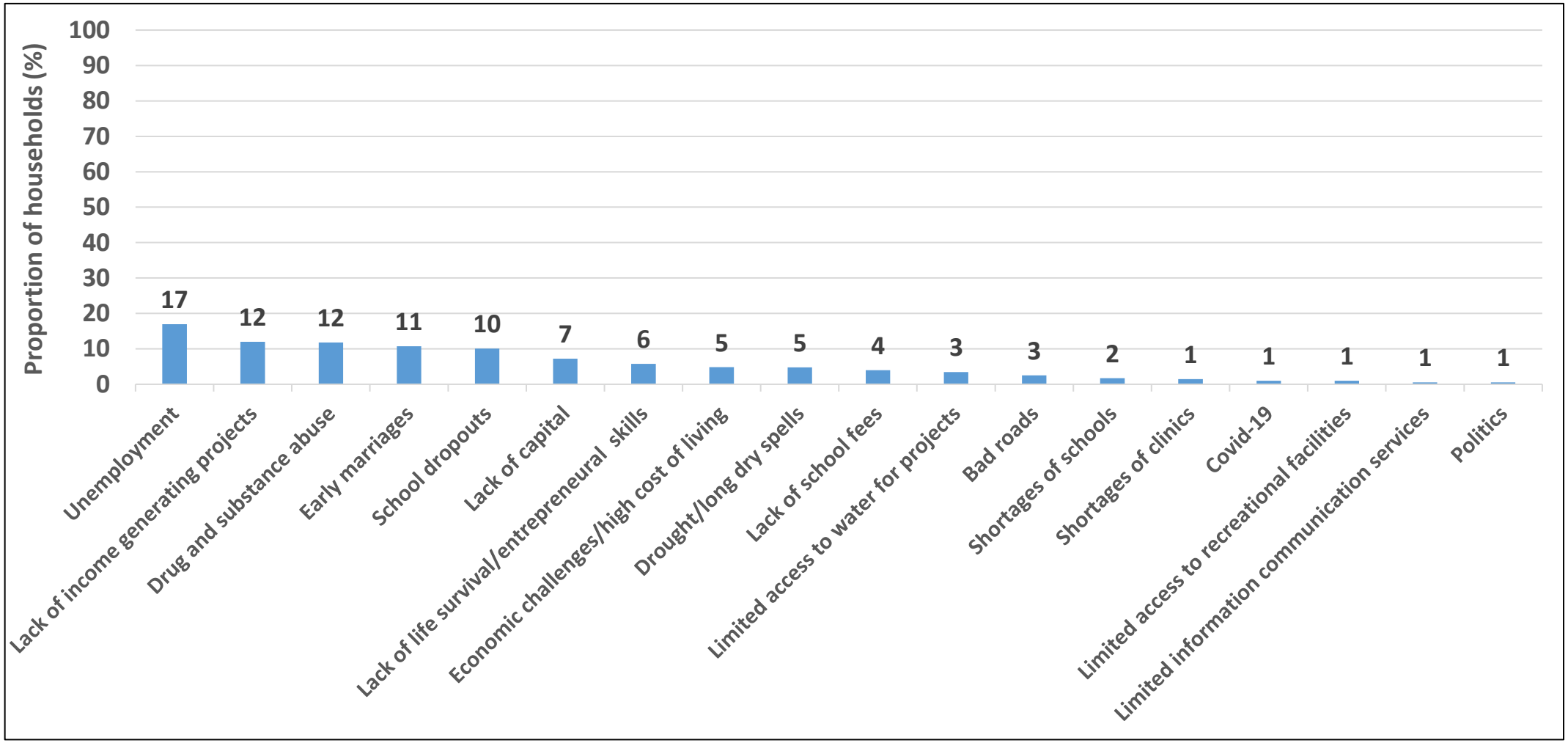
Forms of Gender Based Violence

	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse	
	Yes (%)	Refused to answer/no answer (%)	Yes (%)	Refused to answer/no answer (%)
Binga	1	**2**	1	**5**
Bubi	**2**	0	**2**	0
Hwange	0	0	0	0
Lupane	**2**	0	0	0
Nkayi	1	**2**	0	**2**
Tsholotsho	**2**	1	1	0
Umguza	1	0	0	0
Mat North	1	1	1	1

- About 1% of respondents reported having experienced physical abuse while 1% reported to have experienced sexual abuse.

Youths

Youths Challenges



- The main youth challenges were unemployment (17%), lack of income generating projects (12%) drug and substance abuse (12%), early marriages (11%) and school drop-outs (10%).

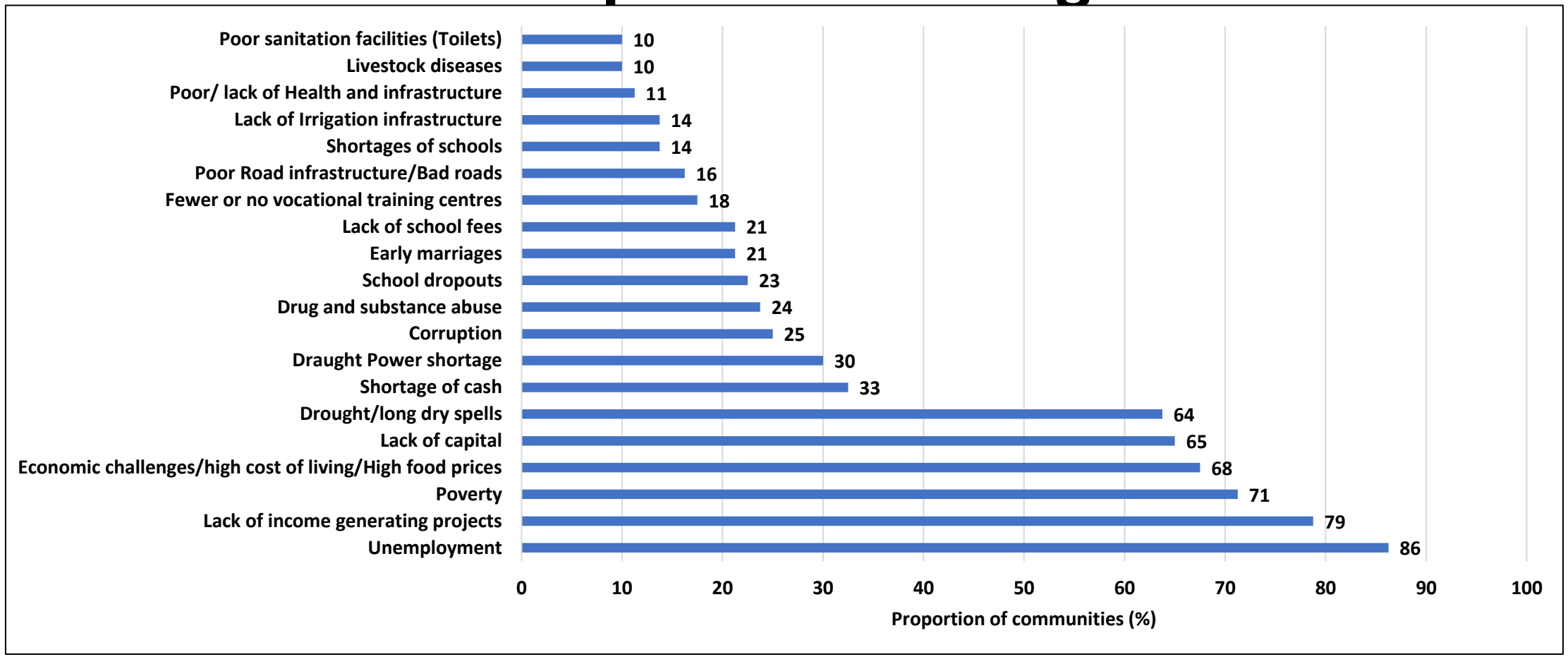
Youths Priorities

District	Job creation (%)	Vocational trainings (skills development) (%)	Access to land for agriculture (%)	Income generating activities (%)	Start-up capital/loans (%)	Education support (social assistance) (%)	Piped water schemes (%)	Livestock support programs (%)	Borehole rehabilitation (%)	Dam construction (%)	Youth friendly centres (Social centres) (%)	Markets linkages (%)	Irrigation schemes (%)
Bubi	23	11	8	18	14	5	2	5	1	0	3	1	8
Hwange	15	12	4	14	8	8	6	4	8	8	3	1	8
Lupane	25	16	8	18	9	12	1	1	1	1	5	0	3
Nkayi	17	13	6	16	12	6	6	5	3	4	2	2	7
Tsholotsho	16	13	8	15	12	8	2	6	5	2	4	5	3
Umguza	23	15	6	14	12	9	3	2	1	2	8	4	1
Mat North	19	13	7	15	11	8	4	4	4	3	4	2	5

- Youth priorities included job creation 19%, income generating activities 15% and vocational trainings 13%.

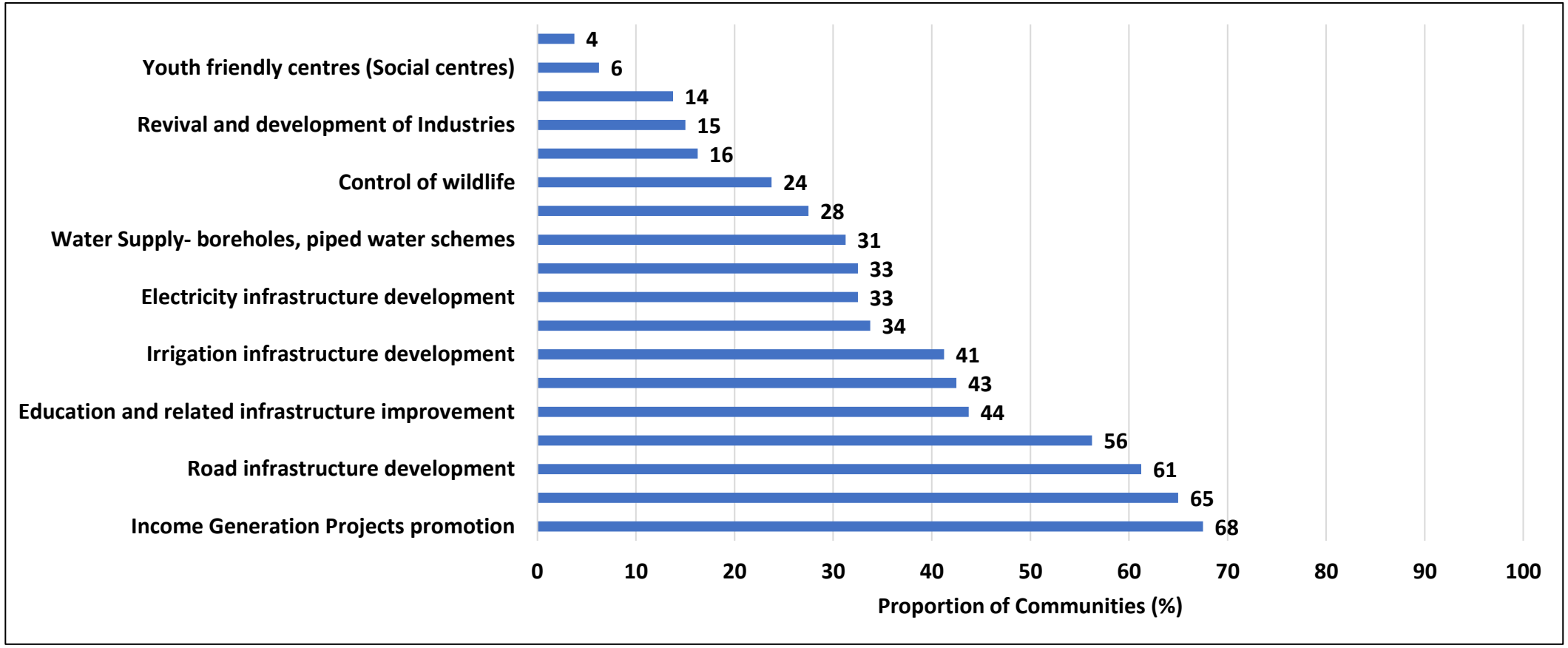
Developmental Issues

Development Challenges



- Unemployment (86%), lack of income generating projects (79%) and poverty (71%) were the most reported development challenges.

Development Priorities



- Income generation projects promotion (68%), dams/water reservoirs construction (65%) and road infrastructure development (61%) were the most reported community development priorities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Success of Government Interventions**- Government (45%) and development partners (29%) remain the main source of support in the province.
- **Social Protection-** A combination of efforts by Government and development partners has seen the majority of districts receiving food aid. It is however worrisome that the aid is decreasing despite the increasing vulnerability of the communities due to shocks such as COVID-19 as well as economic hardships. There is therefore need to increase the support given to households and build their resilience to shocks and hazards.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Crop production-** A greater proportion of households (74%) grew maize, a crop not suitable for region IV while a lesser proportion 28.8% grew sorghum. The low uptake of traditional grains might be attributed to labour intensive processing, hence the need to upscale production and distribution of non labour intense processing technology. There is need for farmers to practise value addition so that they get more income from their produce.
- **Agricultural extension services-** Throughout the province, only 49% of households were reached with extension services. There is still need for continual provision of adequate resources for extension work and employment of extension officers.
- **Livestock Production-**The Province had high livestock deaths particularly for goats at 8%. There is need for strengthening animal health management, survival and supplementary feeding. The proportion of households which did not own cattle remained high (62%). Overall the highest proportion of households in the province (85%) did not own donkeys. The province should be prioritized in a broader strategy to improve cattle and goats productivity.
- **Access to infrastructure and services-** Generally there were few communities with irrigation schemes. Non-functionality of about 33% of irrigation schemes as a result of inadequate water supply was reported. This means the majority of communities across the province still rely largely on rain –fed crop and livestock production. Government should increase investment in the setting up of irrigation schemes to ensure communities have improved access to reliable sources of water for agricultural production.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- **WASH**- Communities continue to utilise unimproved water sources (16%), drink surface water (11%), practice open defecation (50%) and about 86% do not have hand washing facilities at their dwellings. There is need to strengthen partnerships between Government and its developments partners in-order to capacitate as well as support the WASH sector.
- **Food Consumption** – Multi-sectoral Community based interventions to improve dietary diversity for women and children should be scaled-up as child feeding practices and women's consumption of nutritious diets remain poor.
- **Child Nutrition** – The province recorded high GAM rate (5.7%), an indication of poor dietary intake and possible increase in childhood illnesses. There is need for the Ministry responsible for health to promote and scale up programmes to support screening, early identification and treatment of childhood illness and community management of childhood illnesses. Support for nutrition interventions is also recommended so as to strengthen active screening, medical and therapeutic management of malnutrition.
- **Infant and Young Child Feeding** - Social behaviour Change communication needs to be prioritised through the implementation of programmes that promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices such as the care group approach and community infant and young child feeding. This is against the background that about 1 in every three children in the province is stunted (35.3%) which is as a result of exposure to suboptimal feeding practices and care over an extended period of time.

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