



Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

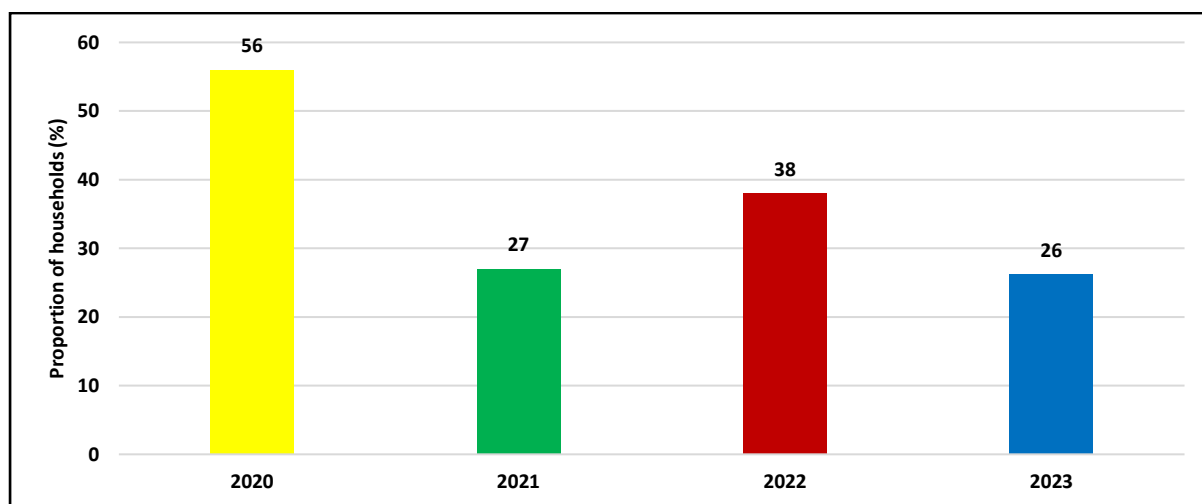


Towards Transformed Livelihoods for Improved Food and Nutrition Security in Rural Areas

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) continues to undertake annual livelihoods assessments in fulfilment of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. The overall purpose of the 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions. Government is commended for implementing the necessary progressive policies and creating a conducive environment that resulted in improvements to rural livelihoods.

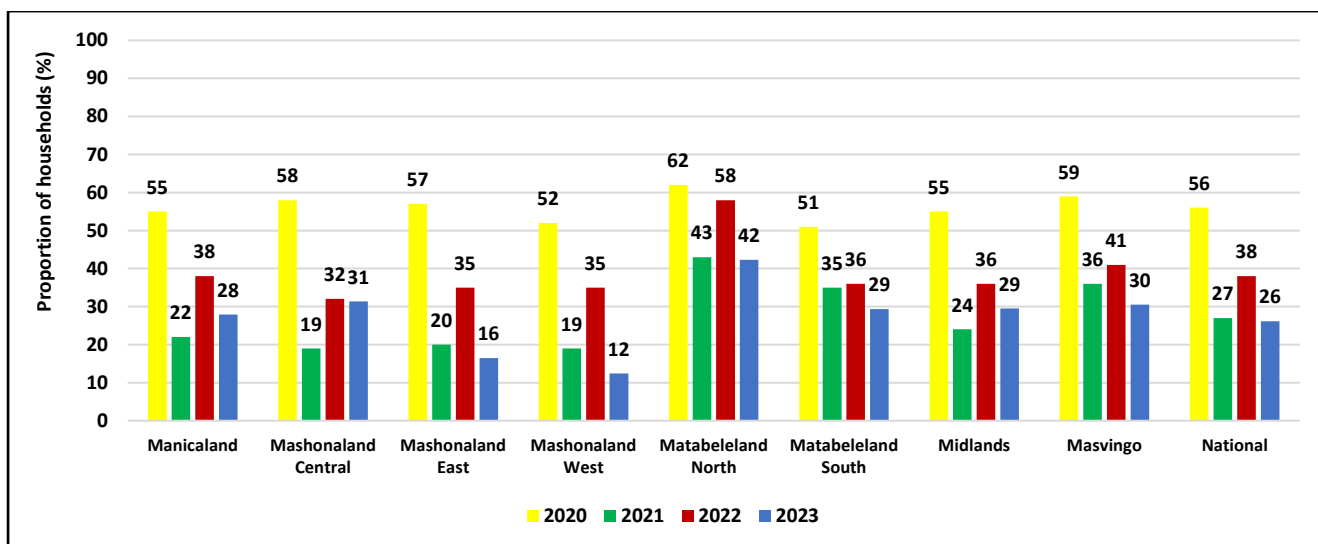
1. Cereal Insecurity

Compared to 2020, cereal insecurity has decreased. This reduction is worth noting and Government is commended for the continued commitment towards achieving one of the country's goals in the NDS1, particularly of ensuring a food surplus economy.



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2023

Compared to 2022, food insecurity has generally decreased across all the provinces except for Mashonaland Central.

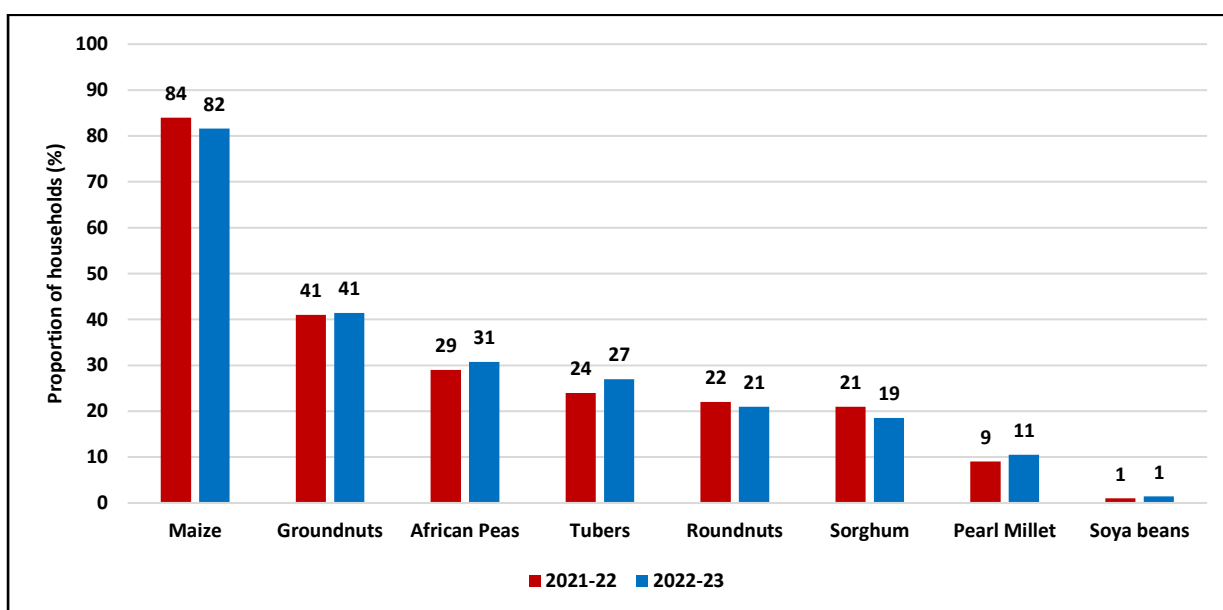


Cereal Insecurity

During the peak hunger period (January to March 2024), 26% of the rural population is projected to be food insecure. This translates to 2,715,717 people. At least 100,482 MT of cereal will be required to feed the food insecure population during the peak hunger period.

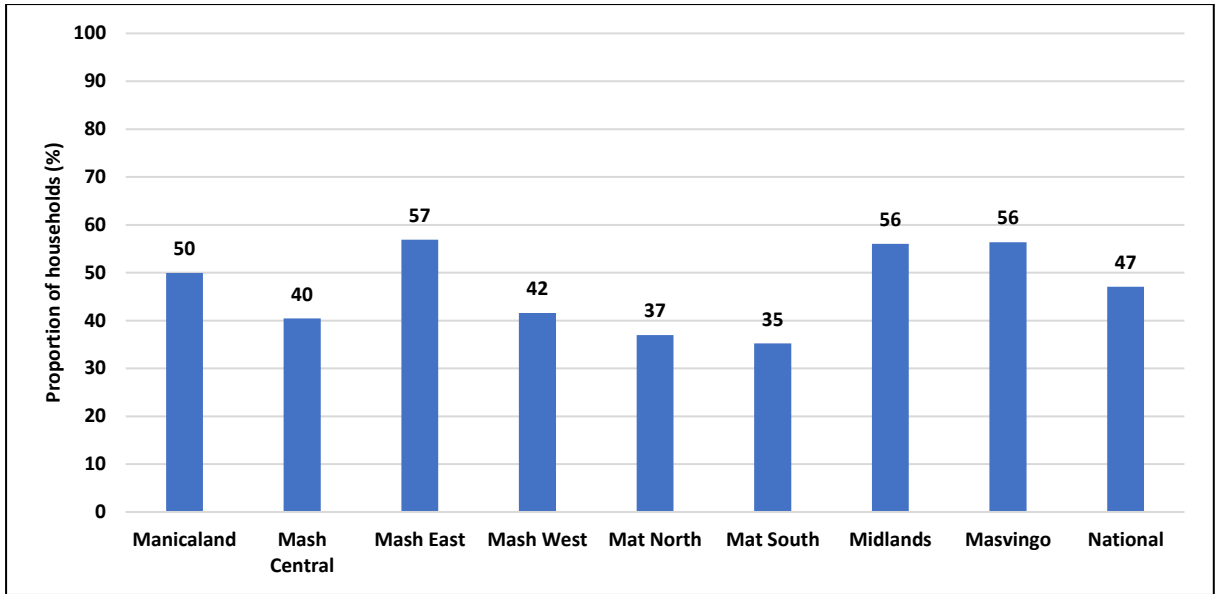
2. Agriculture Production

At least 82% of the households grew maize, 41% grew groundnuts and 27% grew tubers.



Households Which Grew Crops

- a) **Adoption of Pfumvudza/Intwasa:** At least 47% of the households were practising Pfumvudza/Intwasa.



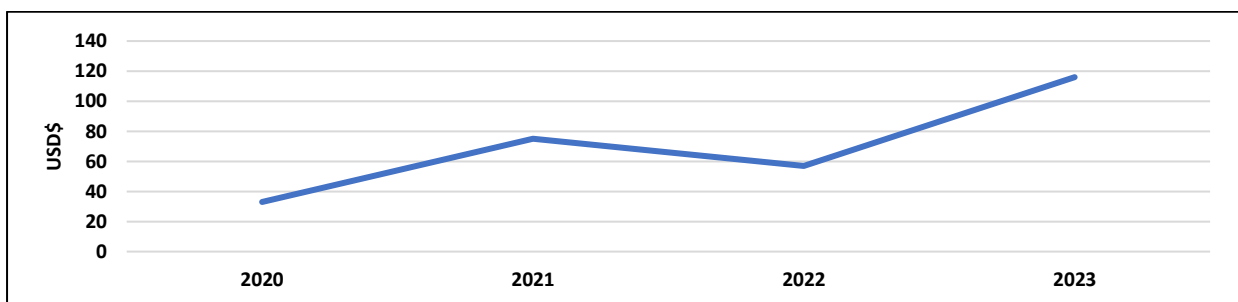
Adoption of Pfumvudza/Intwasa

- b) **Access to Agricultural Training:** About 94% of the households received agricultural training, an increase from 59% in 2022.
- c) **Access to Agricultural Extension Support:** 81% of the households received extension visits, an increase from 55% in 2022.
- d) **Livestock Ownership and Prices**



3. Household Income

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



Income Trends: 2020-2023

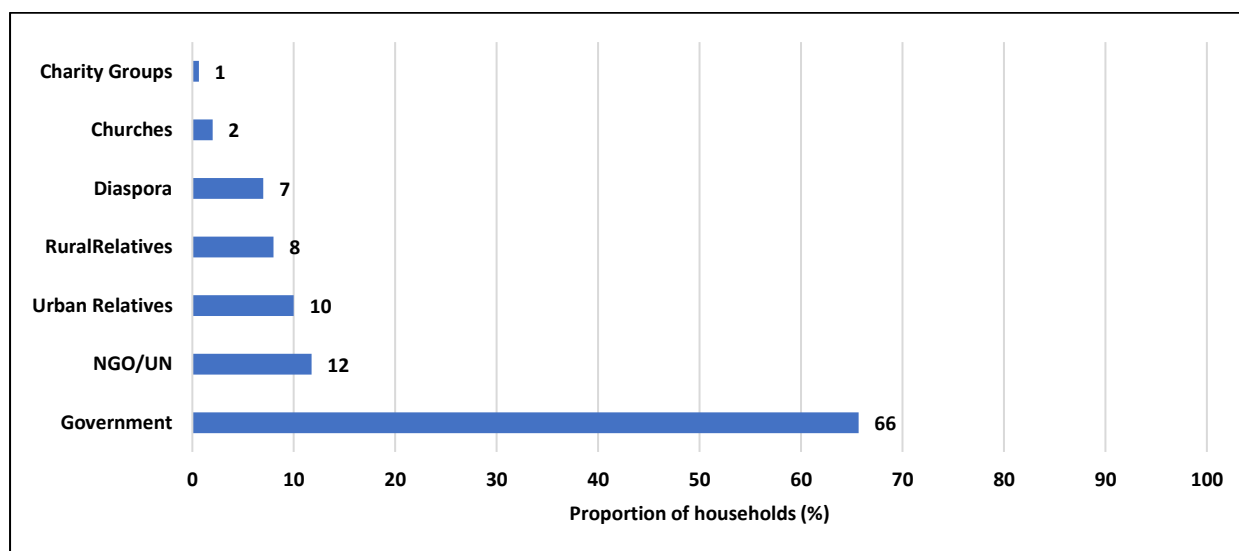
There was an increase in income from USD\$ 57 in 2022 to USD\$ 116 in 2023. Government is encouraged to continue implementing economic stabilization measures which have resulted in this improvement.

Province	Casual Labour (%)	Food Crop Production (%)	Remittances/ gifts from within Zimbabwe (%)	Salary/Wages (%)	Cash Crop Production (%)	Remittances/Gifts from Outside Zimbabwe (%)	Livestock Production/Sales (%)	Vegetable/Fruits Production (%)
Manicaland	48.5	21.3	18.4	15.5	10.9	5.4	7.9	10.6
Mash Central	39.2	33.7	11.4	9.9	28.1	1.2	8.7	7.9
Mash East	39.1	38.6	22.7	15.8	8.7	5.9	8.1	10.5
Mash West	34.4	31.1	11.7	16.0	17.9	2.9	4.9	4.9
Mat North	40.6	21.1	17.0	9.5	1.7	19.2	15.0	3.8
Mat South	32.4	22.3	17.6	13.9	1.4	29.0	10.6	4.5
Midlands	40.7	20.1	18.4	8.7	9.3	9.6	10.1	9.6
Masvingo	41.8	30.1	25.9	13.6	7.9	13.6	11.0	8.7
National	39.6	27.6	17.9	12.8	10.9	10.5	9.5	7.7

Income Sources

4. Social Assistance

Government and development partners are commended for maintaining consistency in their support to the vulnerable population. Government-led social assistance increased from 61% to 66% in 2023, indicating increased coverage of support for vulnerable communities. UN/NGOs also provided complementary social assistance (12%).



Sources of Support

The major forms of support received by households from Government were crop inputs (54.6%) and food (29.2%) while the major forms of support provided by the UN/NGOs were food (9%) and crop inputs (1.6%).

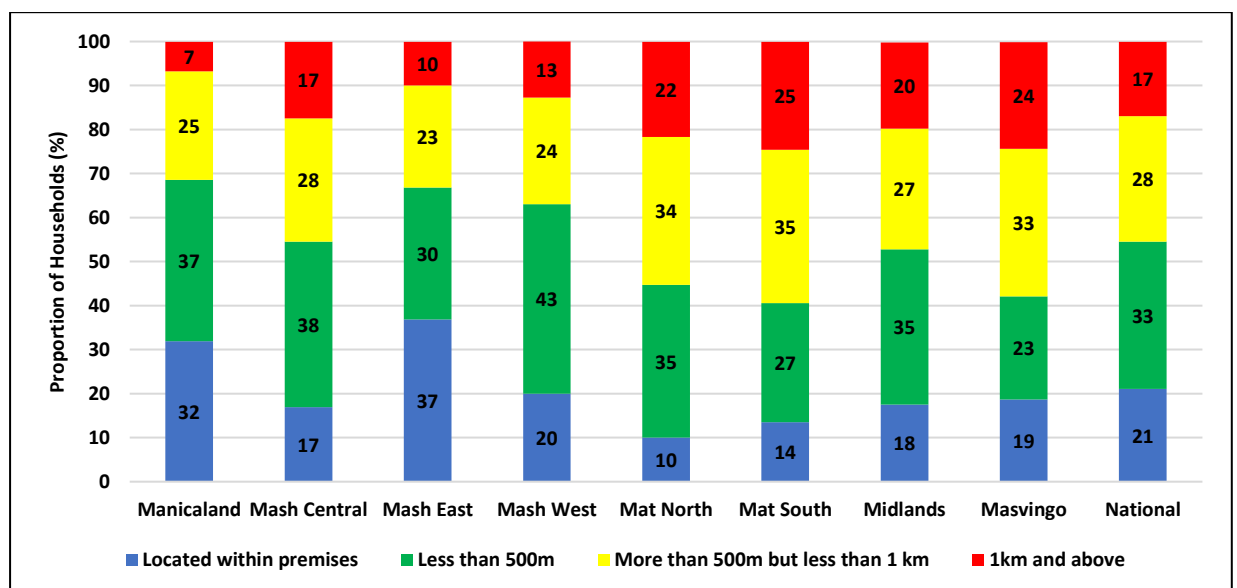
5. Access to Critical Infrastructure

Government continues to ensure that households have access to critical education and health infrastructure as well as health information.

- a) **Distance Travelled to the Nearest Primary School:** 73% of the sampled households had access to a primary school within a 5km radius.
- b) **Distance Travelled to the Nearest Health Facility:** 53% of households traveled less than 5km to the nearest health facility.
- c) **Access to Health Information and Services:** Over 60% of the households had access to health information, nutrition information and services of Village Health Workers.

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

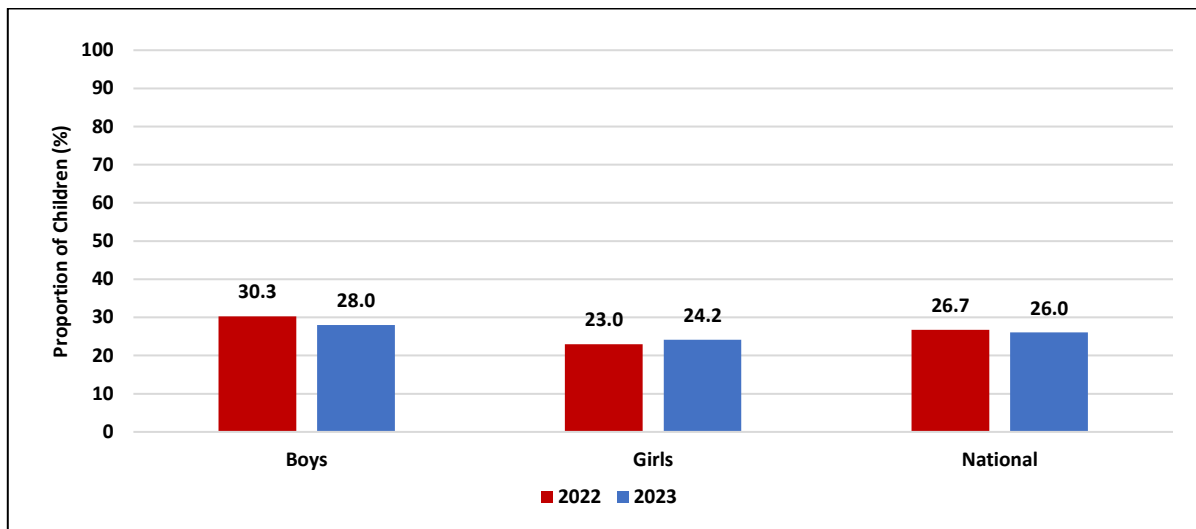
The majority of sampled households (83%) were accessing water within a distance of 1km.



Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

Sanitation: About 61% of the households had access to improved sanitation.

7. Child Nutrition Status

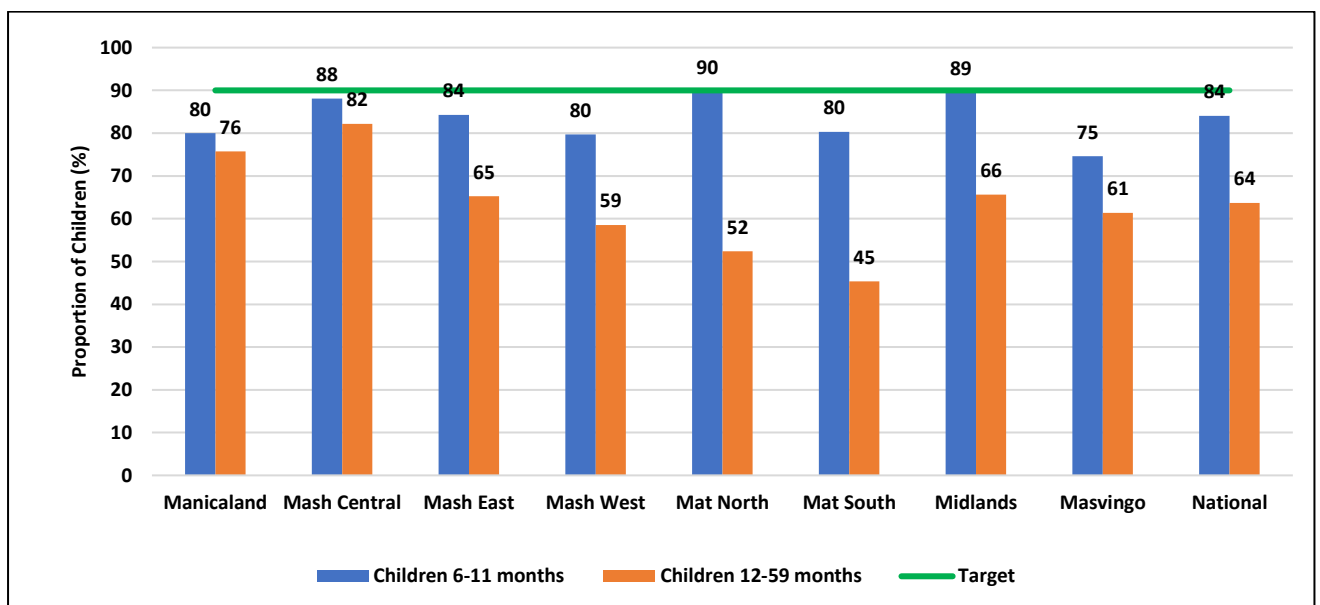


Stunting

Stunting prevalence (26%) remains high according to the World Health Organization classification

8. Vitamin A Supplementation

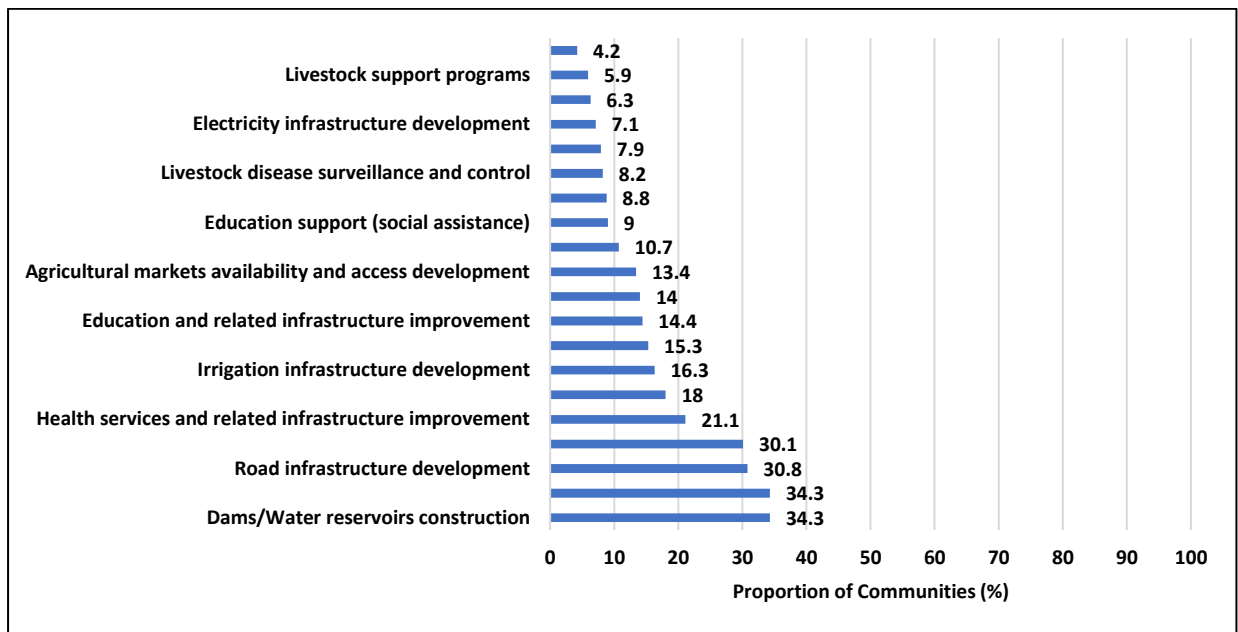
The proportion of children who received the recommended dose of Vitamin A in the preceding 12 months was 84% and 64% for the 6-11 months age group and 12-59 months age group, respectively.



Vitamin A Supplementation for Children Aged 6-59 Months

Only Matabeleland North (90%) reached the recommended WHO target of 90% for children aged 6-11 months who received Vitamin A.

9. Community Development Priorities



Community Development Priorities

Most communities prioritised construction of dams/ water reservoirs (34.3%) and employment/job creation (34.3%) and road infrastructure development (30.8%).

10. Government and its Development Partners are recommended to continue implementing measures and strategies in the following areas:

- a) **Access to Critical Infrastructure:** While the majority of households were within a 5km radius from the nearest primary school, attention needs to be paid to about 3% of households which travelled more than 10km. Attention also needs to be paid to 13% of households which travelled more than 10km to the nearest health facility.
- b) **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Attention needs to be paid to 17% of households which travelled more than 1km to access water, 5% which were drinking surface water and 29% which were practising open defecation.
- c) **Agriculture Production:** Considering that about 63% of households did not own cattle and 56% did not own goats, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development should continue implementing various livestock development programmes aimed at increasing the proportion of households owning livestock and improve access to draught power.
- d) **Vitamin A Supplementation:** There is need to scale-up efforts in all the remaining provinces to reach the WHO target of 90%.
- e) **Development Issues:** There is need for Government to increase investment in the development of water resources and road infrastructure.

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