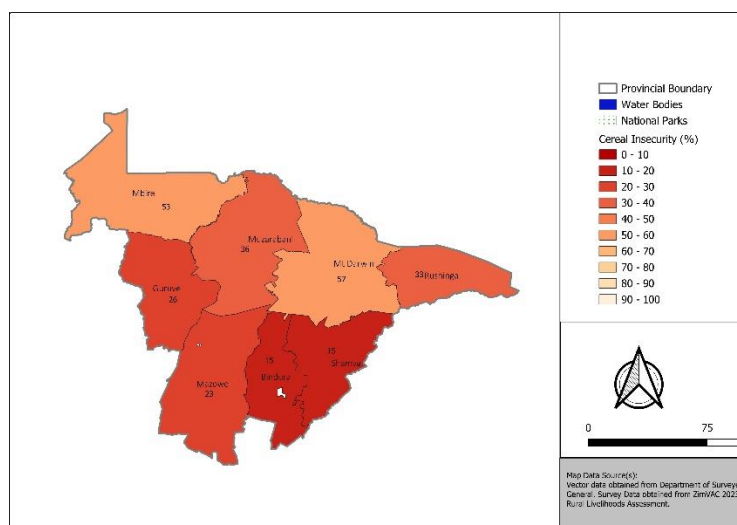


2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet



The overall purpose of the ZimVAC 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. This factsheet presents results of the ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) 2023 for Mashonaland Central province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.

31% Food Insecurity



Context

Mashonaland Central is a province of Zimbabwe. It has an area of 28,347 km² and a population of 1,384,891 (2022 census), representing about 9.12% of the total Zimbabwe population. As the agriculture food crop production hub, the province has consistently contributed to the country's cereal stocks over the years.



HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

- **53.6%** of household heads were mainly of the Apostolic sect.
- **85.3%** of the household heads had attained some level of education.
- **14.3%** of the households had at least an orphan.
- The average age of household heads was **53.1 years**.
- **27.2%** of the households were female headed.
- **29.7%** were elderly-headed households.

Mashonaland Central Province

2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet.

Food Insecure Population

	Cereal Requirement (MT)		
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Bindura	201	503	955
Muzarabani	635	1131	1,806
Guruve	296	955	1478
Mazowe	574	1,368	2,515
Mt Darwin	2,494	3812	5,059
Rushinga	272	635	929
Shamva	470	751	939
Mbire	834	1,257	1,630
Mashonaland Central	5,774	10,411	15,311

Cereal Requirements

	Cereal Requirement (MT)		
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Bindura	201	503	955
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Livestock Production

Cattle

Proportion of households that owned cattle

30%

Goats

Proportion of households that owned goats

31%

Prices of Agricultural Commodities

Cattle

Average
Price Per
Beast



**USD
253**

Goats

Average
Price Per
Beast



USD 24

Maize Grain

Average
Price Per
20L Bucket

**USD
5**

Maize Meal

Average
Price Per
10kg

**USD
6**

Cereal Self Sufficiency

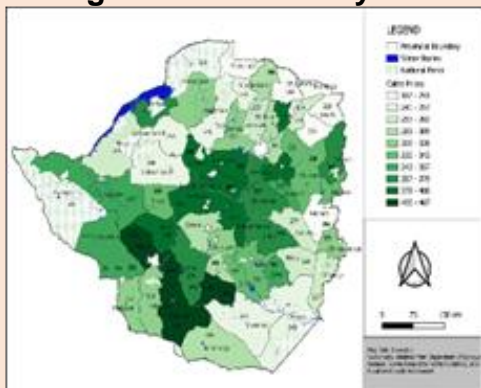
About **27.8%** of the households had more than 12 months' supply of cereal. **39.3%** had 0-3 months cereal supplies.

Draught Power

70% had no draught power

	zero	one	two	three	four	five +
Bindura	90.4	0.4	2.8	0.8	0.8	4.8
Muzarabani	51.2	7.6	6.0	2.8	5.6	26.8
Guruve	58.0	1.6	5.2	2.0	6.0	27.2
Mazowe	93.5	0.8	2.0	0.8	0.8	2.0
Mt Darwin	73.2	3.6	6.4	2.8	4.0	10.0
Rushinga	57.4	6.0	8.4	6.8	2.8	18.7
Shamva	84.3	1.5	3.8	1.9	1.9	6.5
Mbire	50.2	4.4	4.4	3.2	7.6	30.1
Province	69.9	3.2	4.9	2.6	3.7	15.8

Average Cattle Prices by District



Average Cereal Prices by District

	Maize Grain (USD per Bucket)	Maize meal (USD per 10kg)
Bindura	5	4
Guruve	6	7
Mazowe	6	5
Mt Darwin	5	8
Muzarabani	6	6
Mbire	5	7
Shamva	6	5
Rushinga	5	5
Mash Central	5	6

Average Harvested Crops

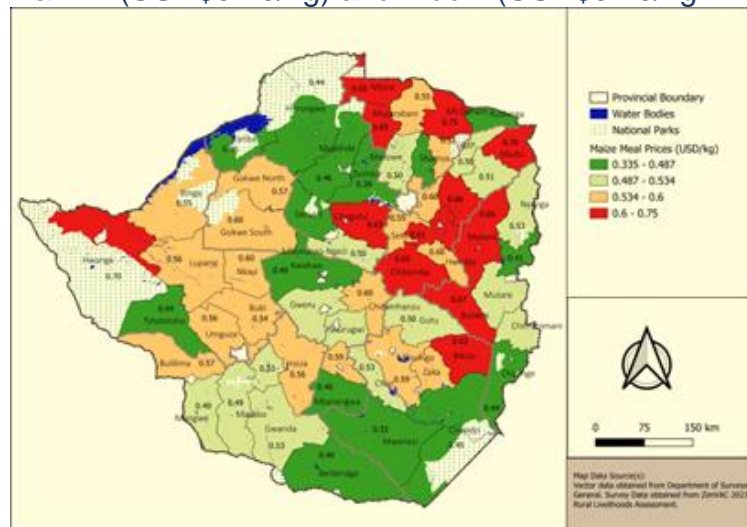
- Average maize harvest was 306.2kg per household

	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Cowpeas (kgs)	Groundnuts (kgs)	Sugar beans (kgs)
Bindura	408.8	0.0	0.0	8.0	1.4
Muzarabani	182.9	84.4	11.2	20.0	1.7
Guruve	443.8	0.0	5.2	21.3	17.5
Mazowe	223.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Mt Darwin	242.2	21.0	5.1	16.9	0.0
Rushinga	480.3	64.6	20.5	75.4	0.0
Shamva	456.3	0.0	0.2	22.3	2.4
Mbire	122.7	177.9	20.2	21.5	0.0
Province	306.2	26.3	6.3	20.2	0.9

Rushinga (480.3kg) had the highest average maize harvest.

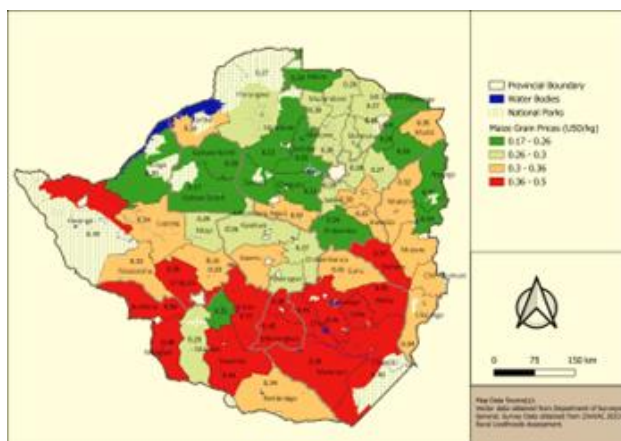
Maize Meal Prices

- The highest prices were reported in Mt. Darwin (USD\$0.75/kg) and Mudzi (USD\$0.70/kg).



Cereal Prices

Maize grain prices ranged from USD\$0.17 to USD\$0.50 per kilogram
Low prices were in Mashonaland Central districts



Income Sources

Casual labour (41%) and food crop production (21%) were the main income sources for the province.

Average Income (USD)

- Average monthly income increased from USD48 (2022) to USD 130 (2023)

Average Expenditure (USD)

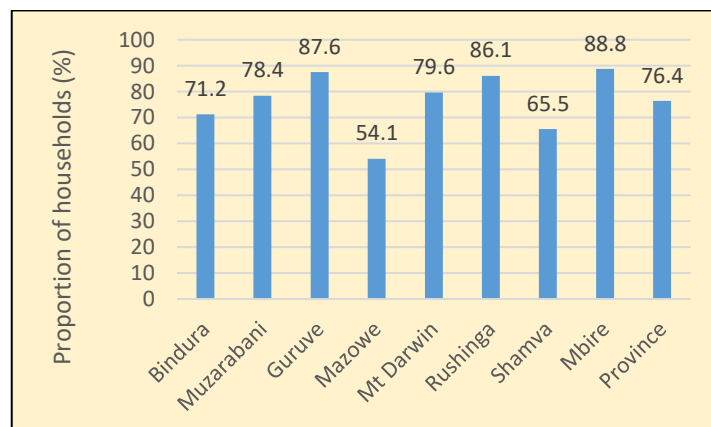
- Average expenditure for the month of April was USD 49.

Food Expenditure Ratio

- Food Expenditure Ratio increased from 51% (2022) to 58% (2023)
- Non-food expenditure share decreased to 42% in 2023 from 49% in 2022

Social Protection & Safety Nets

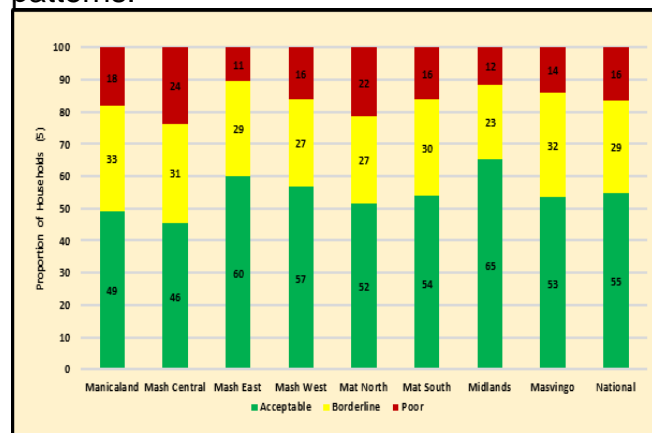
76.4% of households received some form of support.
Mbire had the highest proportion of households receiving support (88.8%)



Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score

24% of households had poor food consumption patterns.



Access to Basic Services

Access to Extension Services

39% households received cropping advice.
20% received livestock support services.
13% training on weather and climate services.

Access to Police Services

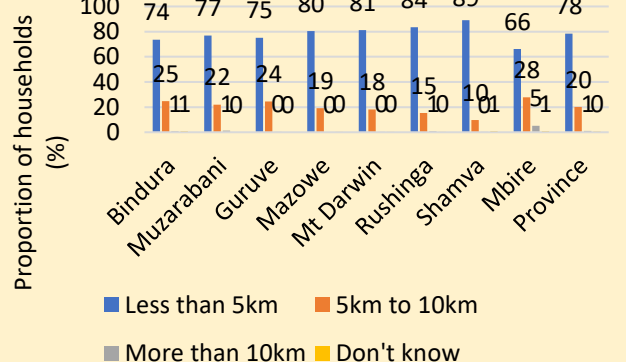
46% of households had access to police services reachable within one hour

Access to Health Facilities

63% had access to health facilities located within a 5km radius.
29% had a health facility within a 5-10km radius.

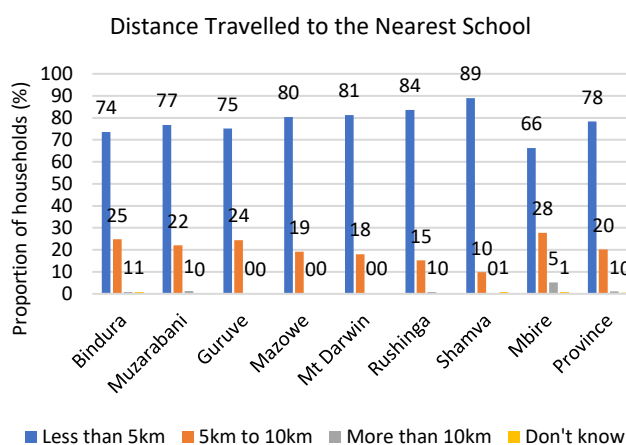
Access to Education Infrastructure

78% of households had access to a primary school within a 5km radius.



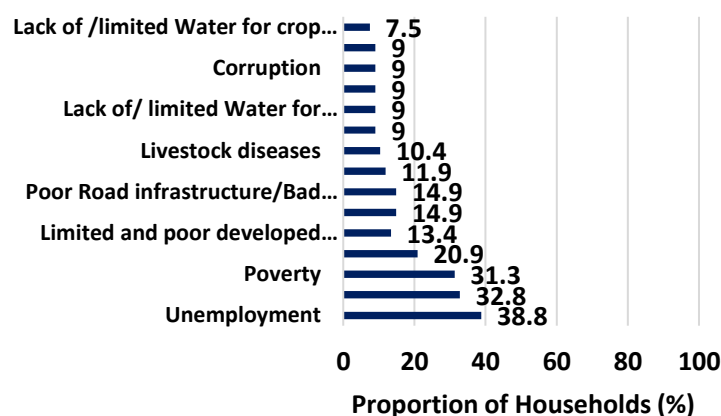
Access to Education: School Attendance

About 77.4% of children aged 4-17 years were going to school at time of the assessment.



Community Development Challenges/Priorities

Unemployment (38.8%) and lack of income generating projects (32.8%) were the major community development Challenges.

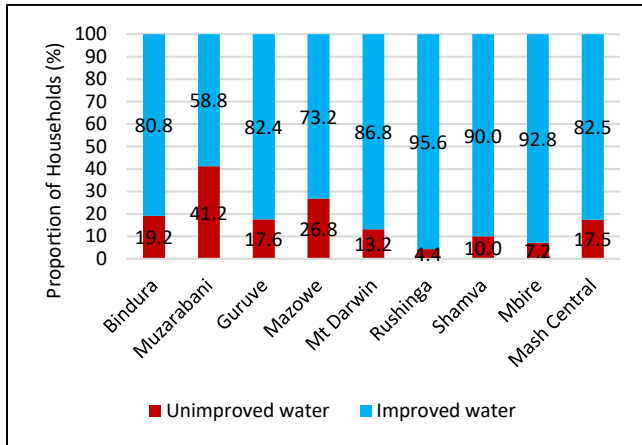


WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

NUTRITION

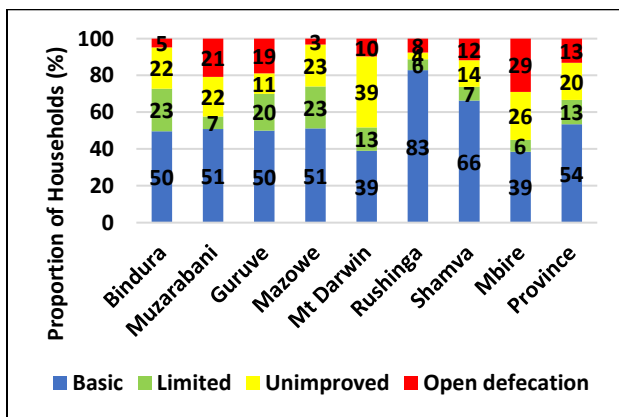
Drinking Water Services

82.5% of households had access to improved water sources



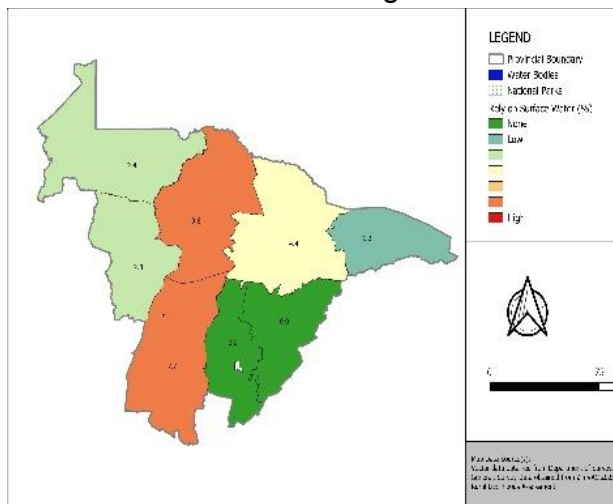
Household Sanitation Services

67% had access to improved sanitation.
13% were practising open Defecation.



Surface Water

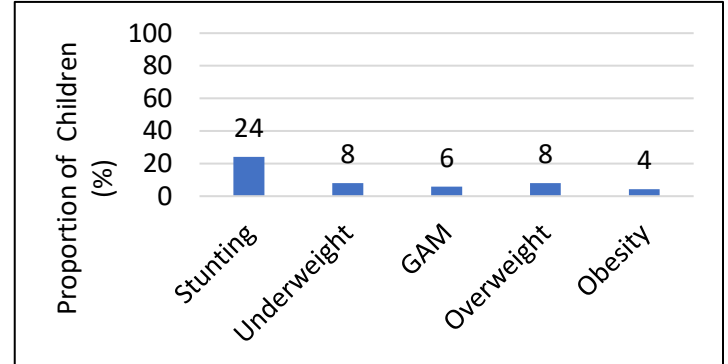
Muzarabani (**9.6%**) and Mazowe (**7.7%**) households were accessing surface water.



Nutritional Status of Children (0-59 Months)

24% of Children aged 6-59 months were stunted

6% had GAM

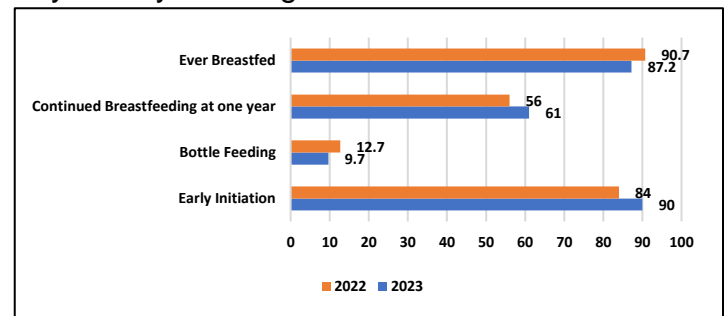


Child Feeding Practices

87.2% of children had ever been breastfed.

90% of children were breastfed within one hour of birth.

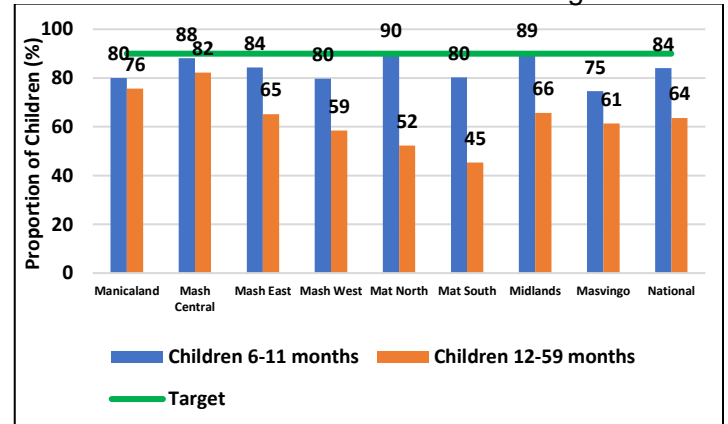
61% of children continued breastfeeding beyond 1 year of age.



Breastfeeding Practices

88% of children 6 to 11 months received the recommended dose of vitamin A for their age.

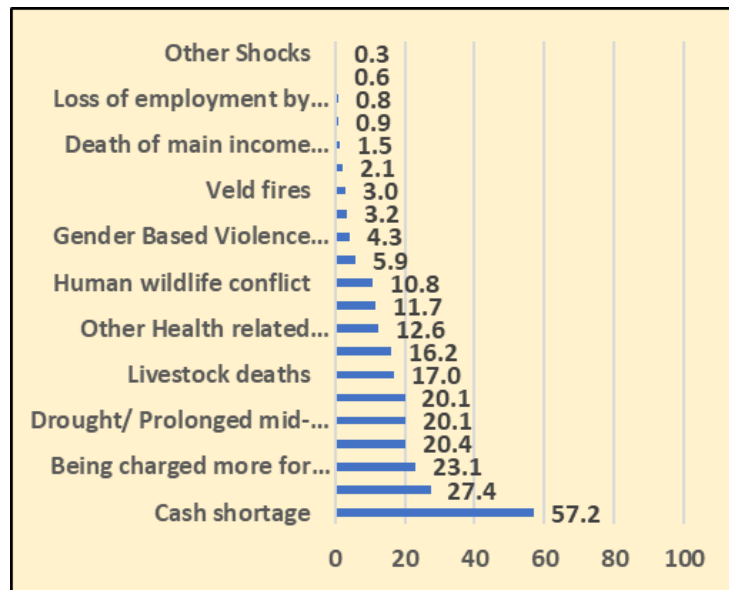
82% of children 12 to 59 months received the recommended dose of vitamin A for their age.



Shocks & Hazards

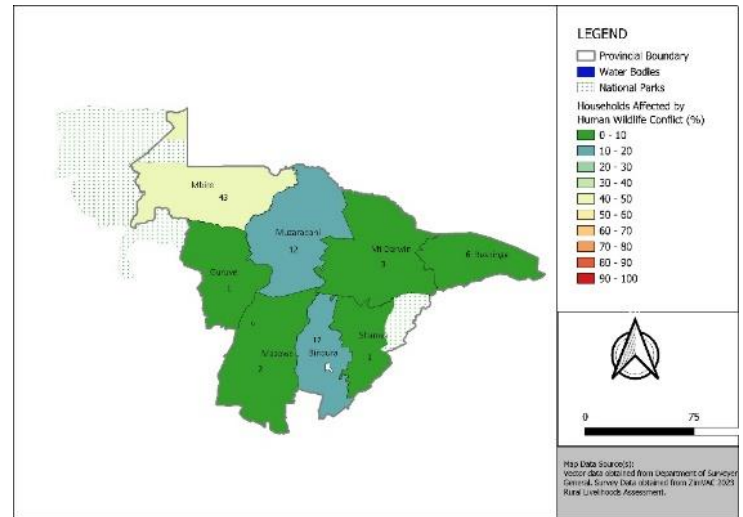
Common Shocks and Hazards

The most prevalent shock that was experienced by households was cash shortage (**57.2%**).



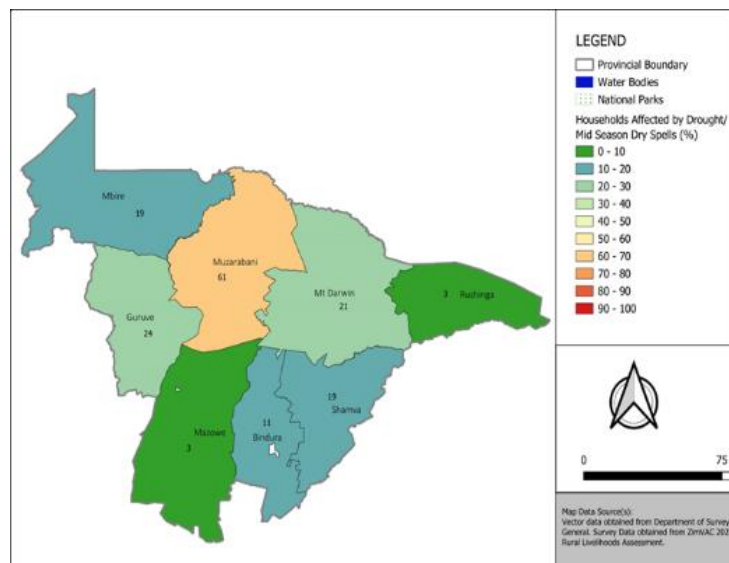
Households Affected by Human and Wildlife Conflict

Mbire (**43%**) had the highest proportion of households affected by human and wildlife conflict.



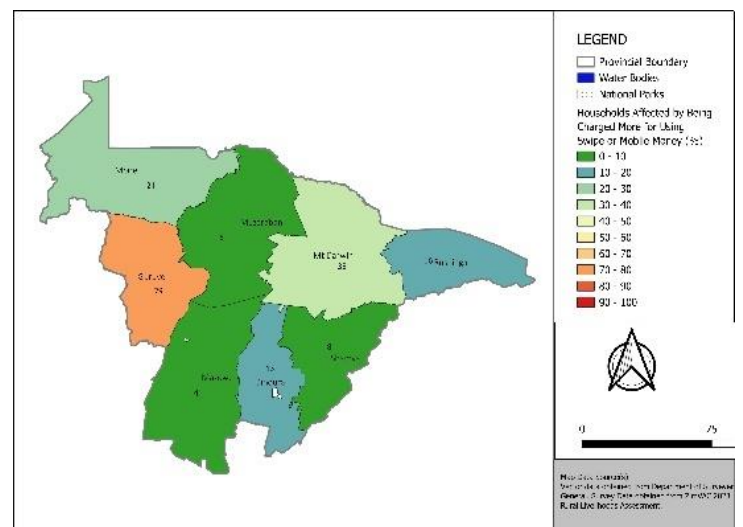
Households Affected by Drought or mid-season dry spells

Muzarabani had the highest proportion of households that reported being affected by drought or prolonged mid-season dry spells (**61%**).



Households Affected by Livestock Diseases

The district which had the highest proportion of households that reported being affected by livestock diseases was Gurube (**74%**).



Recommendations

Thematic Area	Area needing attention	Recommendations
Crop Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39.3% of households had cereal supply that would last for only 3 months. Production of traditional grains remains low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt stress-tolerant, high-yielding crop varieties. Expand the climate-proofed Presidential input support scheme to support more vulnerable households in the province. Distribution of traditional grain seed pack input programmes. Government to move cereals from areas of surplus (Guruve, Rushinga and Shamva) to districts with insufficient supplies (Mazowe, Mbire and Muzarabani)
Livestock Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of households that did not own cattle remained high at 70%. 70% had no draught power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the Presidential rural livestock pass-on scheme to target households that do own livestock. Capacity building for youth in livestock production.
Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of households accessing unimproved water sources was 17.5%. The proportion of households which were practising open defecation was 13%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate the provision of basic water services to rural communities Community initiatives such ISALS to support pass-on of building materials for the construction of low-cost latrines
Nutrition & Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stunting remains in the unacceptable range at 24% Global Acute Malnutrition (6%) was above WHO threshold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish nutrition Gardens in all districts Presidential Horticulture scheme for drought prone districts Strengthen active case identification in Shamva and Muzarabani Establish case referral linkages with other food and nutrition stakeholders
Shocks and Hazards	Province was affected by different shocks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.7% wildlife conflict 23.1% being charged more for using mobile money/swipe 20% experienced drought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensify resilience-building programmes that build the transformative capacity of rural communities and households
Vitamin A Supplementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of children 6-11months received Vitamin A 82% of children 12-59 months received two doses of Vitamin A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen Community Vitamin A Supplementation through Village Health workers.

Thematic Area	Area needing attention	Recommendation
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of children who were sent away from school because of non-payment of school fees was 55.8%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the policy that recommends that no child should be sent away from school over non-payment of school fees.
Community Development Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment (38.8%) was ranked high in Mashonaland Central followed by lack of income generating projects (32.8%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise devolution strategies and investments that are centered on transforming the infrastructural and livelihood capacities of communities

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