

# Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

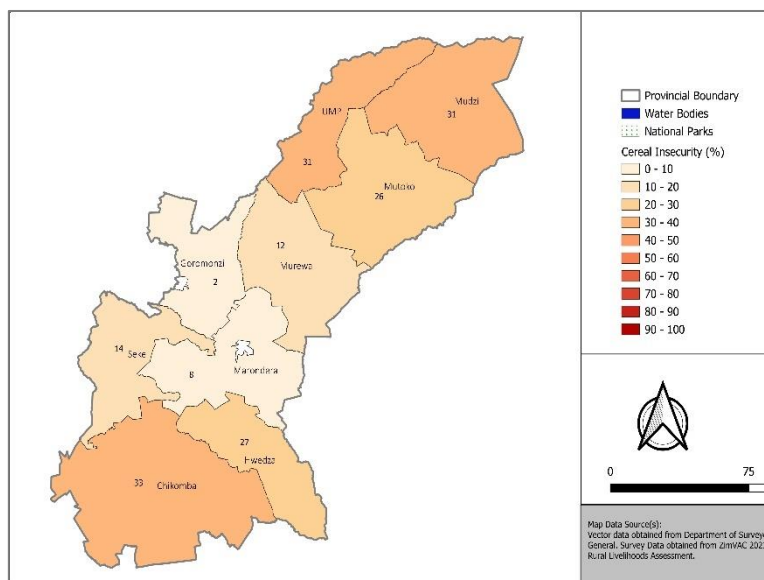
## 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet

### MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE



Mashonaland East Province is located in the North-Eastern side of Zimbabwe. The province has a total of nine (9) districts namely Chikomba, Goromonzi, Hwedza, Mudzi, Murehwa, Mutoko, Seke, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (UMP), and the provincial capital, Marondera. This factsheet presents results of the ZimVAC RLA 2023 for Mashonaland East province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.

#### FOOD INSECURITY PROGRESSION BY QUARTER



**16%** of the households are projected to being food insecure during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024), this translates to about **259,050** individuals requiring **9,585MT** of cereals in the province.

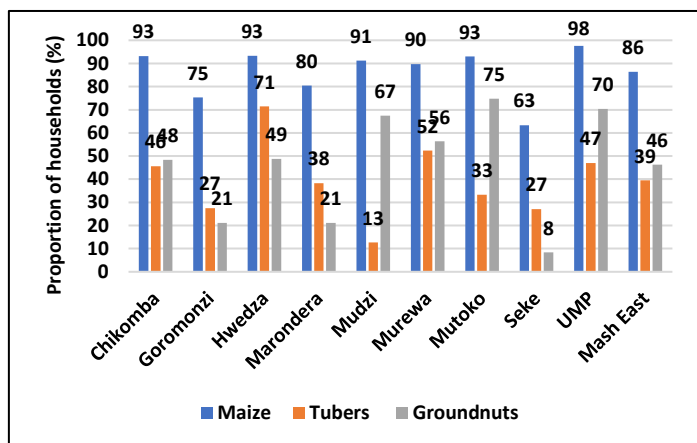
	Cereal Insecure Population			Cereal Requirement (MT)		
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Chikomba	10,411	23,300	40,651	385	862	1,504
Goromonzi	3,077	4,616	7,693	114	171	285
Hwedza	7,725	15,152	20,203	286	561	748
Marondera	3,255	4,883	10,850	120	181	401
Mrehwa	20,754	32,703	49,683	768	1,210	1,838
Mudzi	6,522	13,859	23,642	241	513	875
Mutoko	14,407	24,229	41,255	533	896	1,526
Seke	14,377	21,565	27,156	532	798	1,005
UMP	13,969	24,945	37,916	517	923	1,403
<b>Mashonaland East</b>	<b>94,496</b>	<b>165,252</b>	<b>259,050</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>6,114</b>	<b>9,585</b>

# 1. EFFORTS TOWARDS ADDRESSING FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

## 1.1 AGRICULTURE

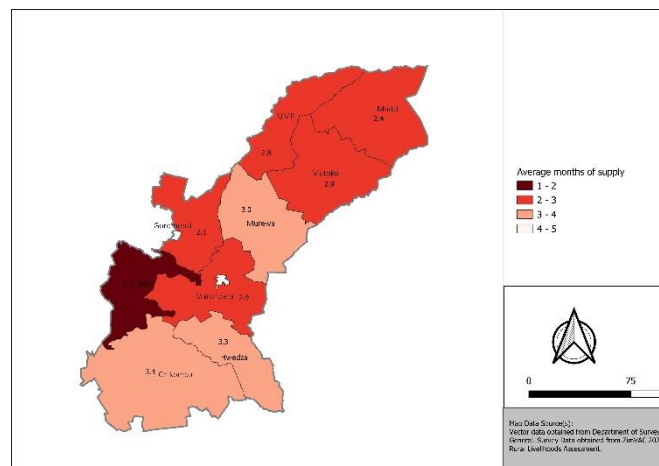
### Cereal Production

**86%** grew maize, **46%** grew groundnuts, and **39%** grew tubers.



### Cereal Sufficiency

About **27%** had more than 12 months' supply of cereal. **33%** had 0-3 months cereal supplies.

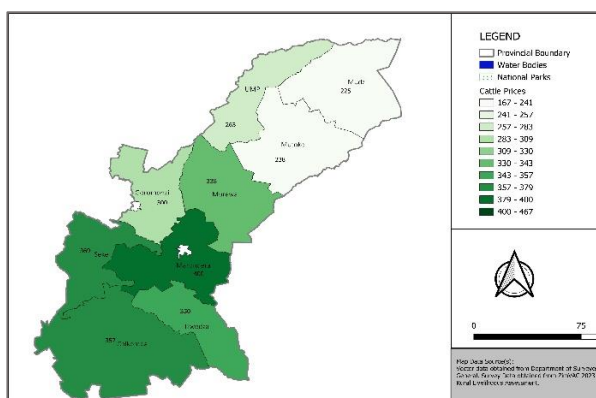


### Livestock Ownership



**32%** owned cattle  
**44%** owned goats.  
**14%** owned draught cattle **65%** owned Poultry

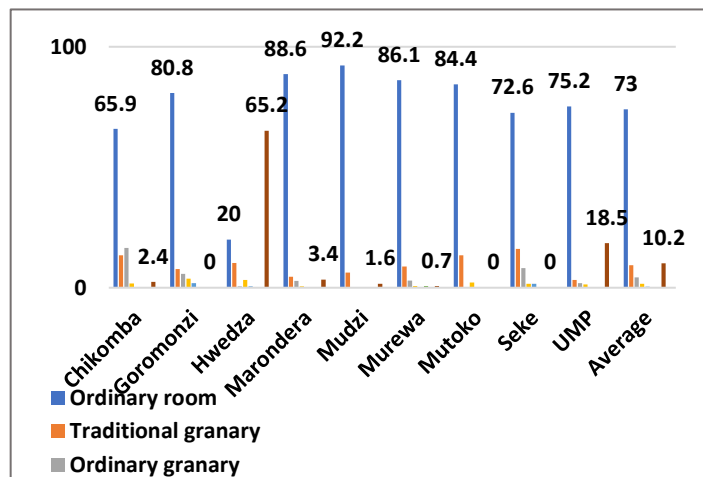
### Livestock Prices



Cattle prices ranged from **USD225** to **USD400** and goat prices ranged from **USD25** to **US39**.

### Post Harvest Management

**73%** of households stored their grain in an ordinary room



### Household Income

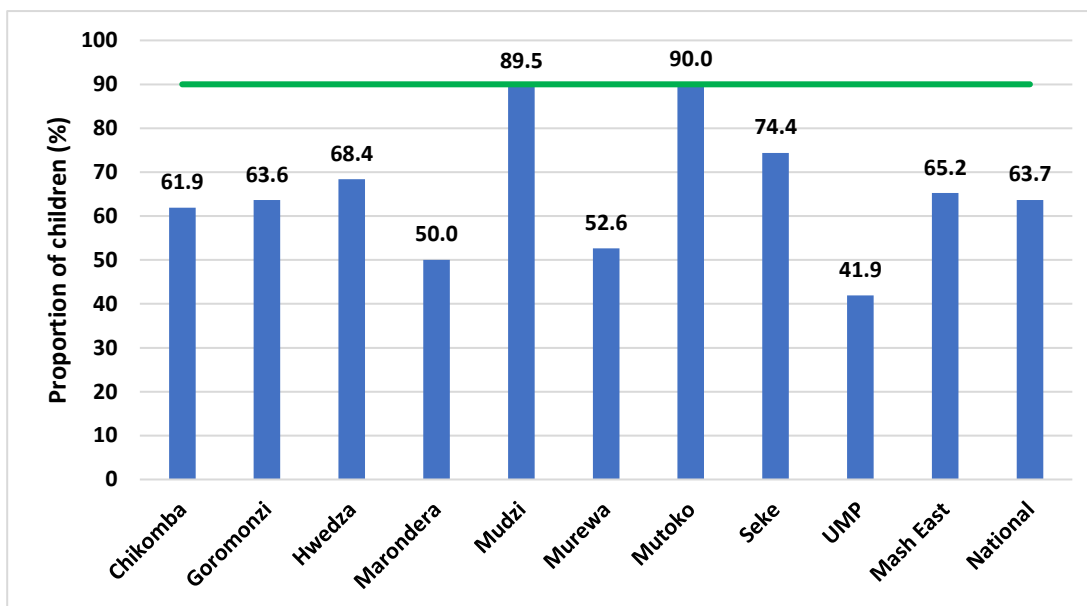


The most important income sources were: **casual labour (34%)**, food crop production/sales (**31%**), cash crop production/sales (**18%**), salary or wages (**16%**).

Average household income **increased** from **USD70** in 2022 to **USD115** in 2023.

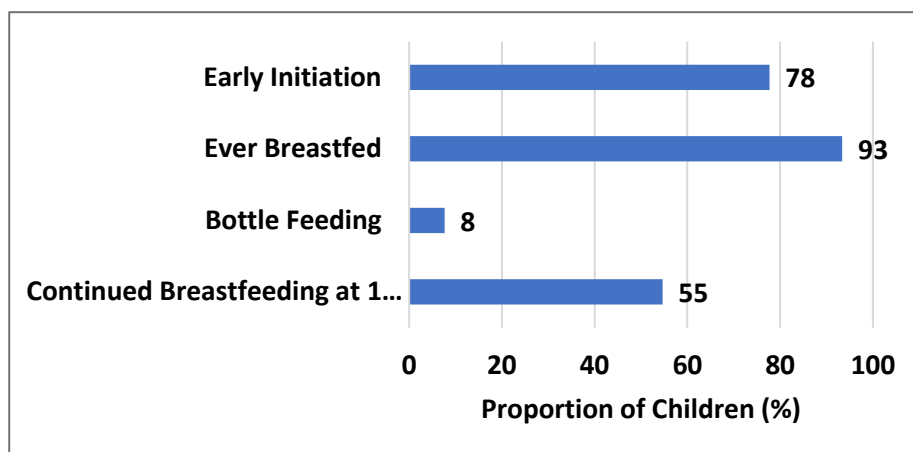
## 1.2. NUTRITION

### Vitamin A Supplementation



**65.2%** of children 12-59 months received the recommended dose of vitamin A for their age, being highest in Mudzi (**89.5%**) and Mutoko (**90%**) districts.

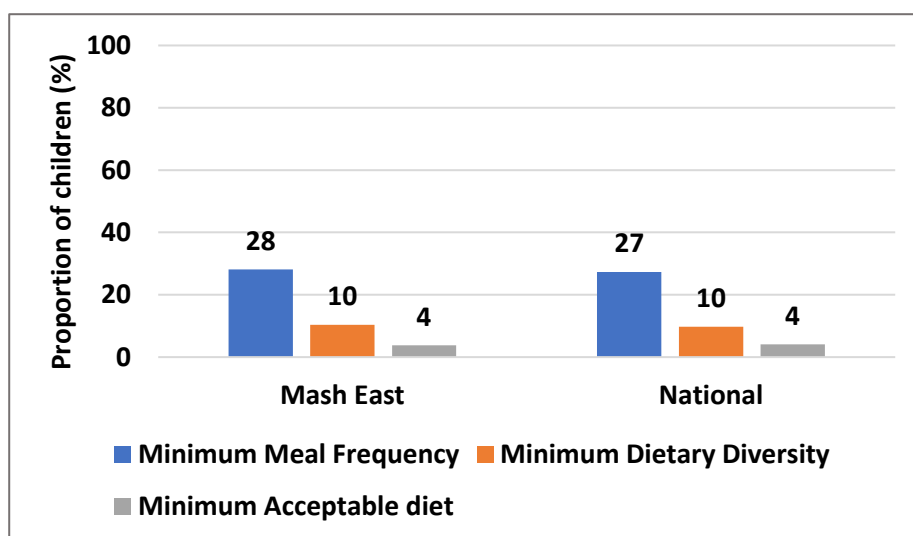
### Infant and Young Child Feeding



**93%** of children had ever been breastfed.

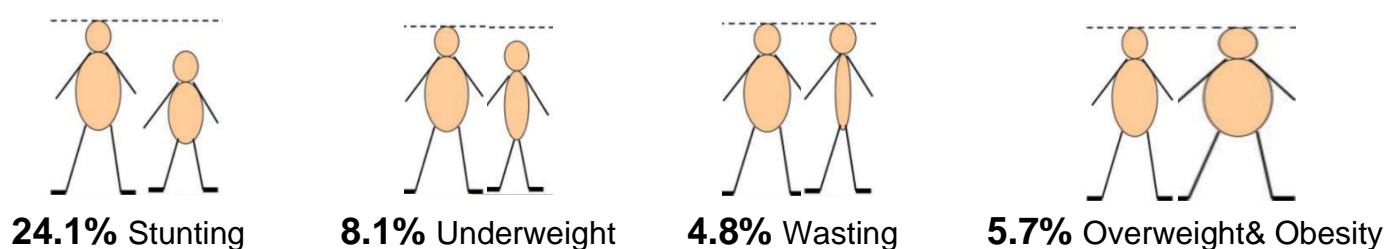
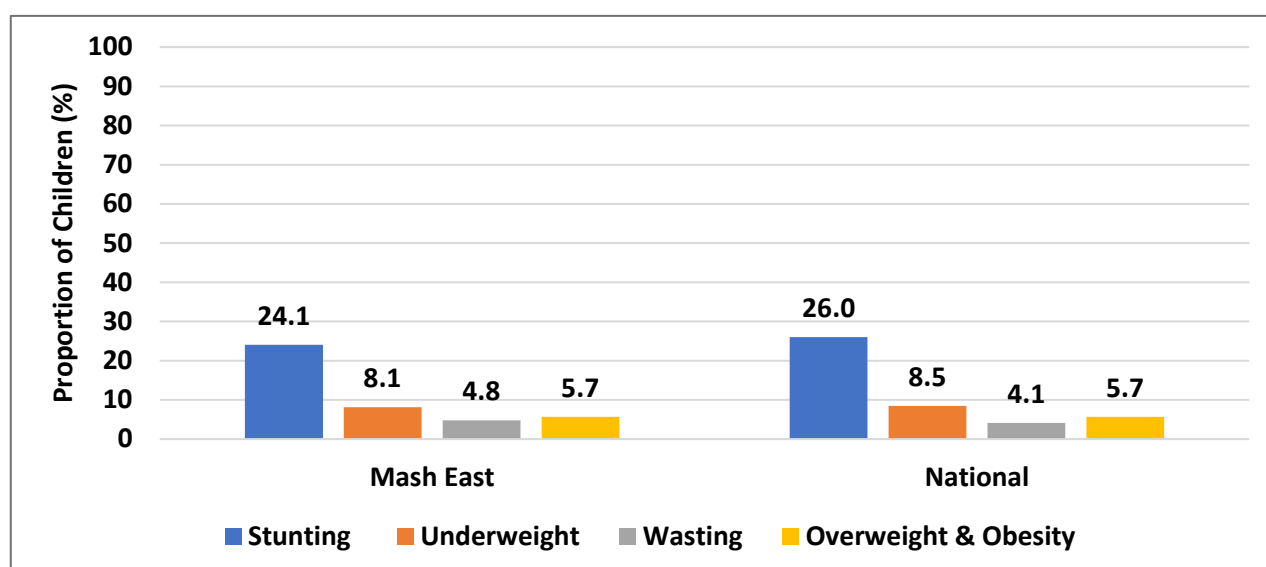
**78%** of children were breastfed within one hour of birth

**55%** of children continued breastfeeding beyond 1 year of age.



Only **4%** of children under five years received adequate age-appropriate diverse diet.

## Prevalence of Malnutrition



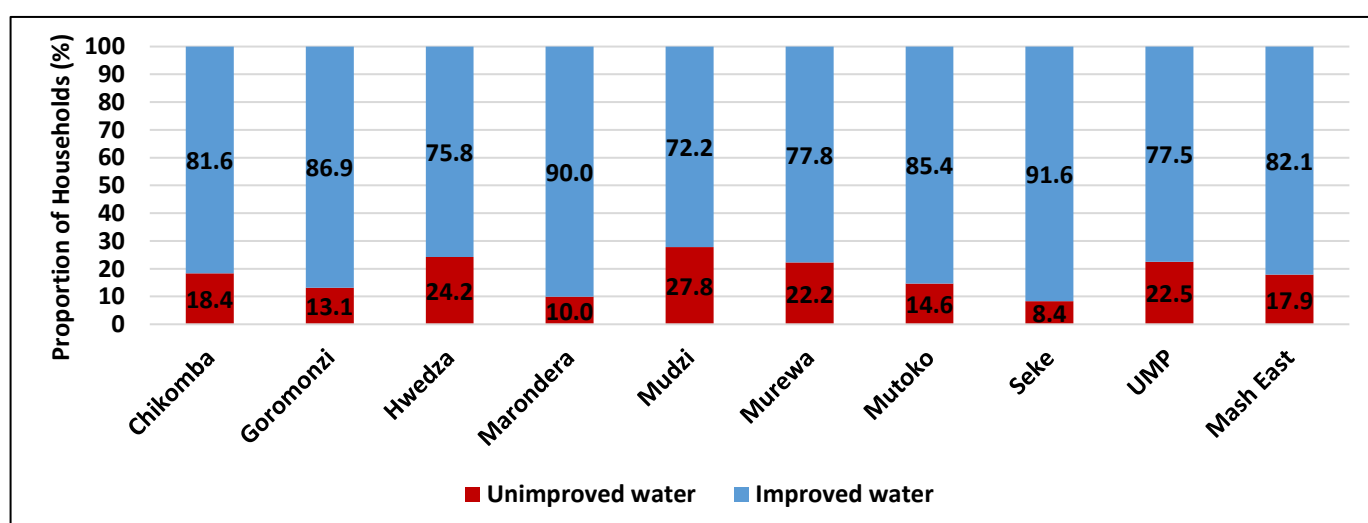
## Water Sanitation and Hygiene



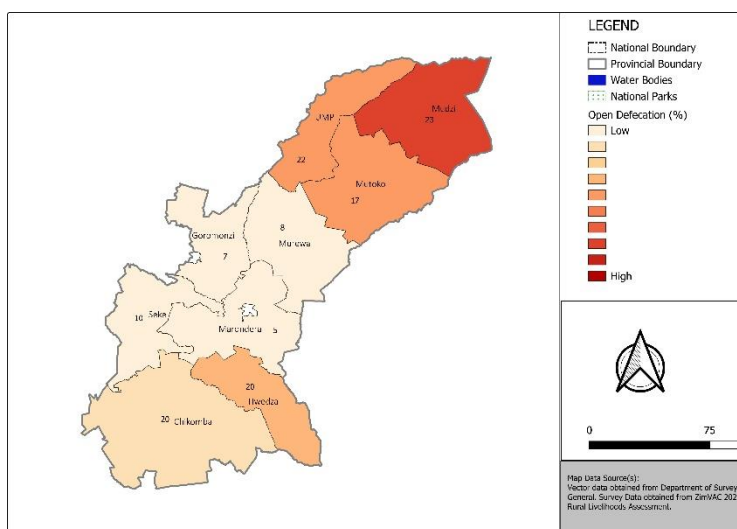
**67%** of households had improved sanitation facilities



Above **75%** reported washing their hands after using the toilet and **74.1%** before and after eating

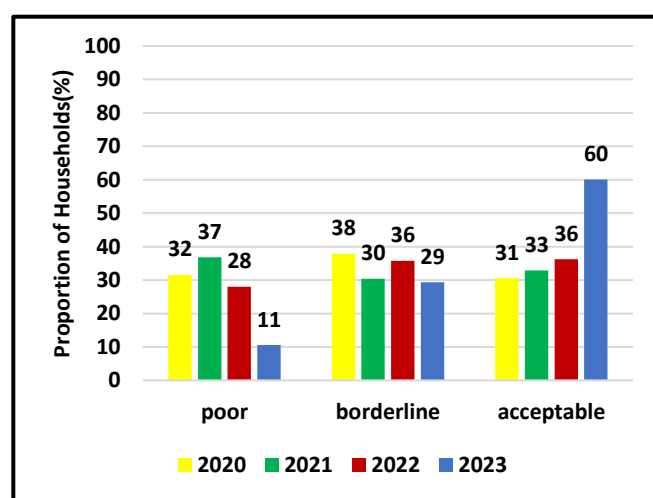
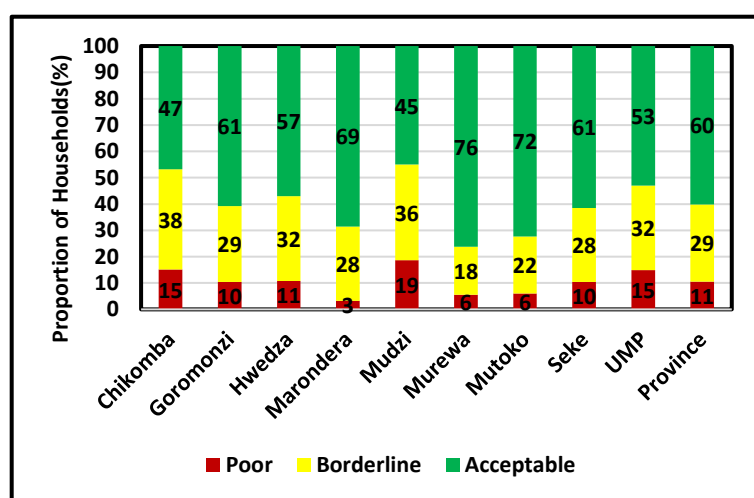


**82.1%** of households had access to improved water sources



**14.7%** practised Open Defaecation, being highest in Mudzi (23%) and UMP (22%)

## Household Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity



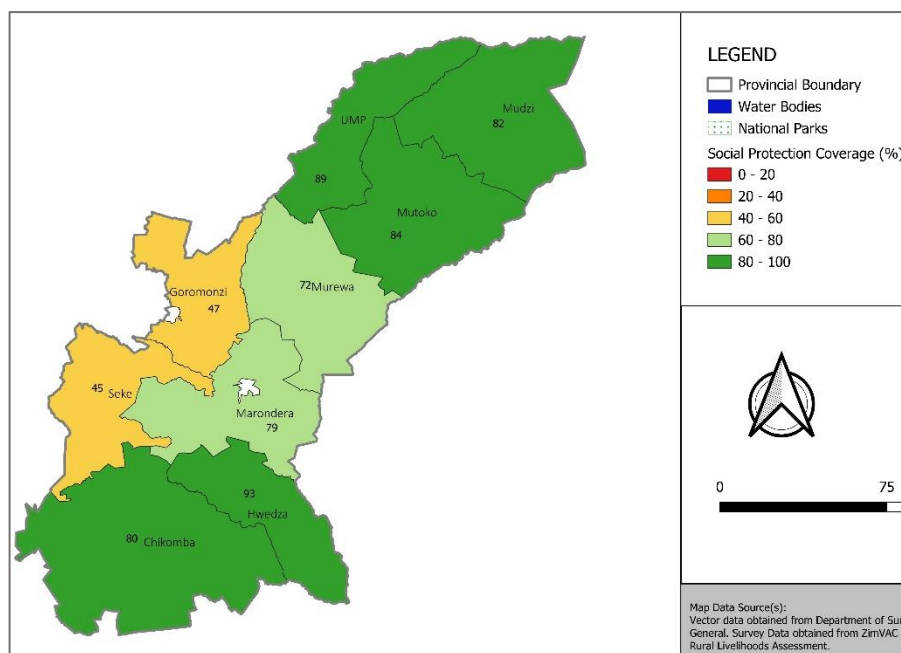
**60%** of households had acceptable food consumption patterns, an increase from **36%** reported in 2022.

The average Household Dietary Diversity Score was **6.4**, indicating increased quality of household diets.

## 1. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY NETS



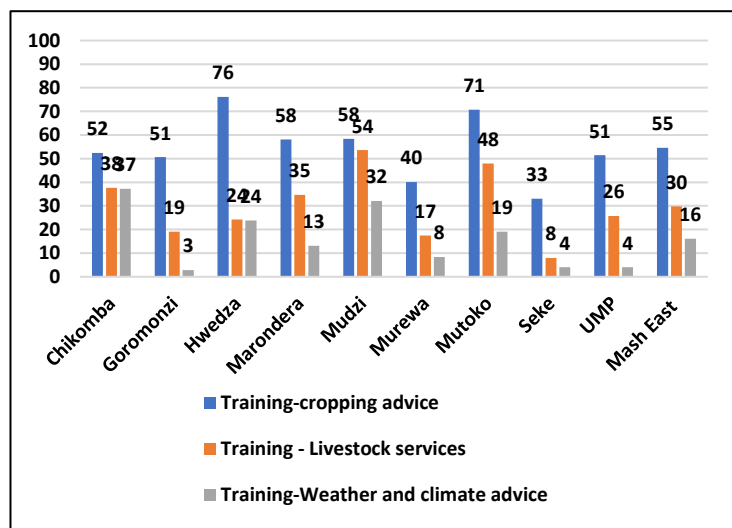
**74.5%** of households received some form of support. Major forms of support received by households from Government were crop inputs **61.5%** and food assistance **21.9%**. UN/NGO partners supported with food assistance **13.5%** and crop inputs **1.5%**.



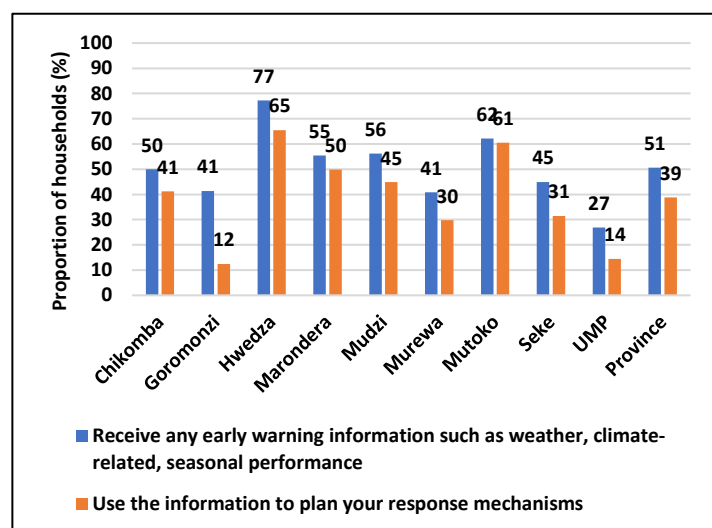
Social protection coverage was **above 70%** in majority of districts except Goromonzi (47%) and Seke (45%)

## 2. ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

### Access to Agricultural Extension Services

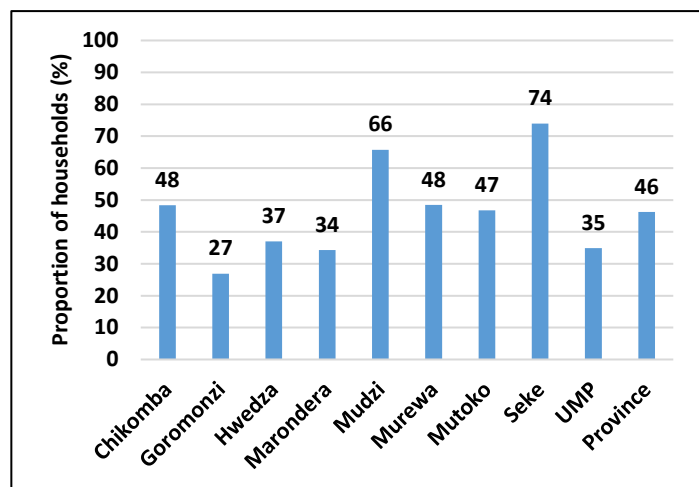


**55%** of households received agricultural extension support services through training on cropping advice.



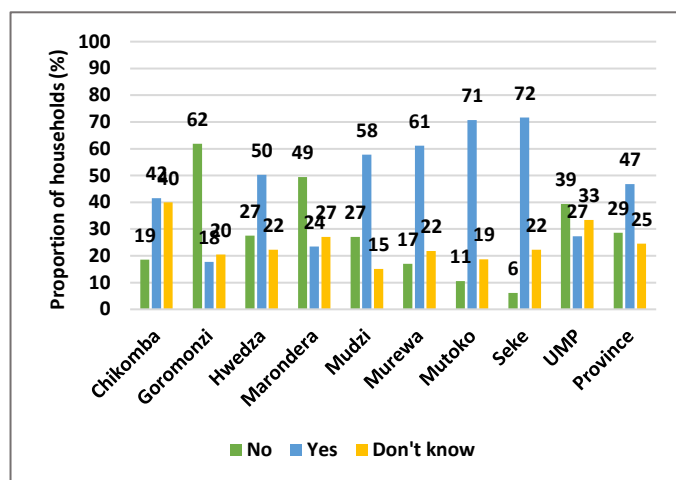
Only **51%** of households received early warning information.

## Access to Police Services



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

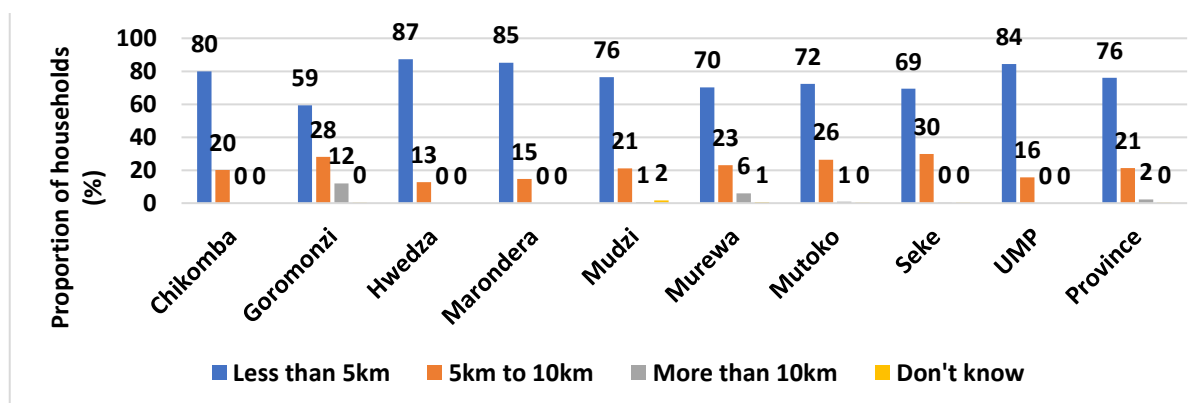
## Access to Victim Friendly Services



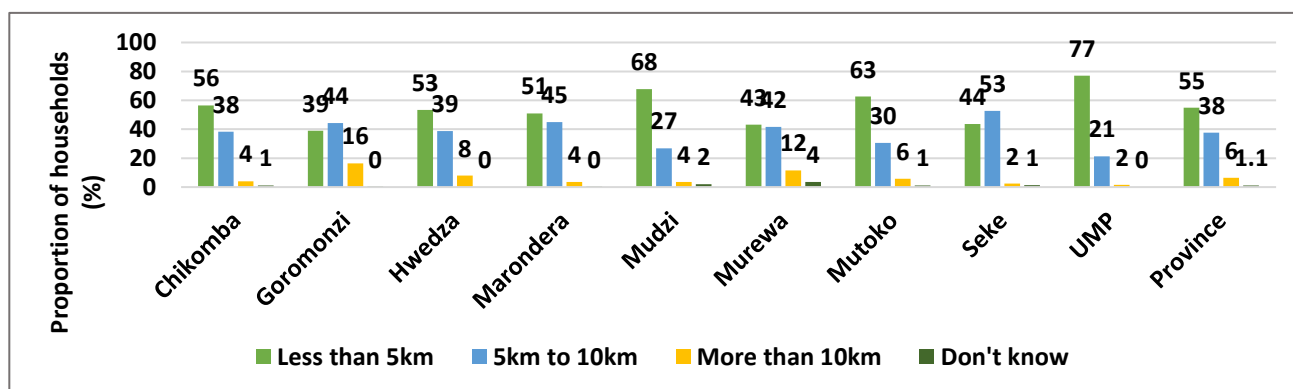
**47%** of households were aware of victim-friendly services offered by the police

## Access to Education Infrastructure

**76%** of households travelled less than 5km to the nearest primary school

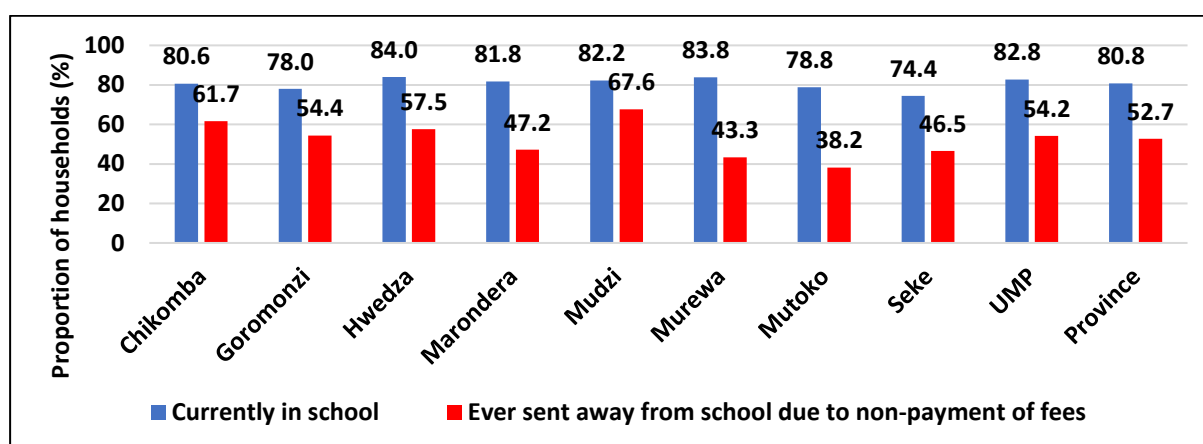


## Access to a Health facility



**6%** of households travelled more than 10km the nearest health facility.

## Access to Education: School Attendance

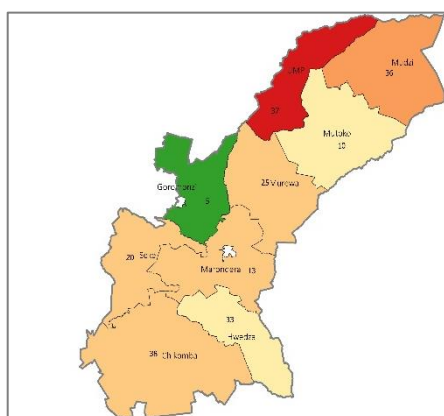


**80.8%** of children aged 4-17 years were going to school at time of assessment.

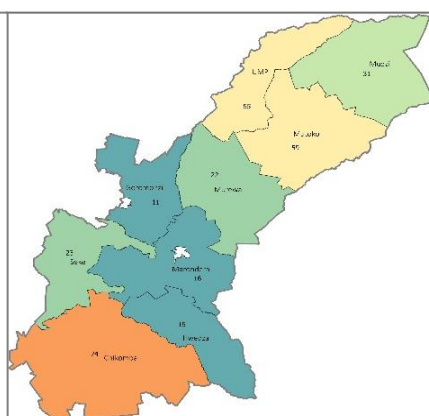
## 3. SHOCKS AND HAZARDS

The most common shocks experienced were cash shortages **56.2%**, and drought/prolonged midseason dry spells **28.2%**.

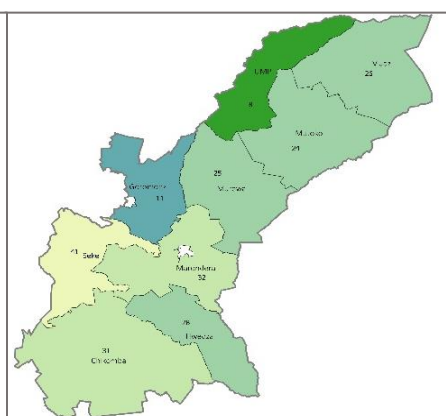
	Cash shortage (%)	Drought/ Prolonged mid-season dry spell (%)	Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe (%)	Crop pests (%)	Livestock deaths (%)	Cereal price sharp increase (%)	Livestock diseases (%)	Chronic illness (%)	Waterlogging (%)
Chikomba	60.4	74.0	31.2	34.8	14.8	38.0	20.4	1.6	2.4
Goromonzi	9.6	10.8	10.8	2.4	8.0	4.8	7.6	4.4	3.2
Hwedza	54.0	14.7	28.2	42.1	28.2	32.5	23.8	29.4	7.5
Marondera	67.7	15.5	32.3	3.2	19.1	12.7	18.7	15.1	14.7
Mudzi	71.0	30.6	25.8	63.1	15.1	36.1	13.5	18.7	6.0
Murewa	69.8	21.8	24.6	15.9	33.3	25.4	30.6	16.3	22.6
Mutoko	57.7	58.9	24.0	29.7	28.0	9.8	28.9	6.5	3.7
Seke	64.1	22.7	41.0	5.6	10.0	19.9	10.4	10.8	3.2
UMP	51.8	4.8	4.8	7.6	29.3	1.6	20.9	16.9	0.8
Mash East	56.2	28.2	24.7	22.7	20.6	20.1	19.4	13.3	7.1



Cash Shortage **56.2%**



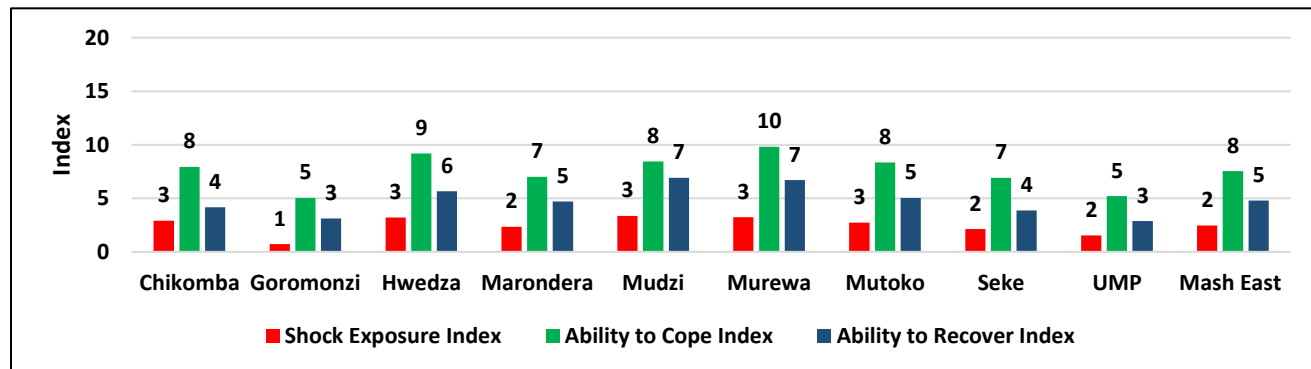
Drought **28.2%**



Mobile money overcharges **24.7%**

## Resilience

The average Ability to Cope Index was **8**. Average Ability to recover Index was **5**



## 4. Areas for Improvement

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
Agriculture	Agriculture production	- Timely distribution of climate proofed agriculture inputs.
	Postharvest management <b>Major storage facility type used was ordinary rooms (34.5%), does not support proper and long-term postharvest storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scale up post-harvest management trainings to all communities.</li> <li>- Scale-up training communities on fabrication of moisture and temperature control storage technologies.</li> <li>- Scaling up of value addition activities including, sorting, grading, product development, packaging, and branding; to ensure farmers receive improved economic value from the crops being produced, unlocking agricultural business production.</li> </ul>
	Livestock <b>High cattle mortality rates, 16% for Province, UMP highest with (34%). Livestock diseases worrisome as main reason for cattle and goat mortality.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intensify trainings on vaccination and dipping of animals.</li> <li>- Engage local leaders and communities to come up with community-centered monitoring and control systems to ensure comprehensive adherence coverage of implemented animal disease-control measures.</li> </ul>
	Cereal sufficiency <b>25.5% of the household reported having more than 12 months' supply of cereal while almost half (37.4%) had</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is need for the Government to identify pockets of cereal need before movement of grain across districts whilst working towards cushioning food insecure households with livelihood-based food assistance.</li> <li>- Retargeting measures to be put in place to identify those chronic and acutely food insecure in order to provide the appropriate response mechanisms.</li> </ul>

	<b>cereal supplies to last 0-3 months</b>	
<b>Nutrition</b>	Food consumption <b>11% of households had poor food consumption patterns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scale-up food and nutrition awareness on diversification of food groups.</li> <li>- Food and Nutrition Security Committees at relevant levels should be continuously strengthened to support nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and that might include; promotion of traditional foods, food fairs, home and school nutrition gardening and good food handling and processing practices from farm to fork.</li> </ul>
	WASH <b>93% of households did not have handwashing facilities. 10.5% had unimproved sanitation facilities and 14.7% practicing open defecation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize access to consumptive water through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation, construction of headwork's as well as piped water schemes</li> <li>- Re-invest in programming in this critical area for example strengthening community trainings emphasizing on hygiene.</li> <li>- Integrated messaging through community model home initiatives</li> </ul>
	Nutrition outcomes <b>The provincial GAM rate was 4.8% which was higher than the national rate of 4.1%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong capacitation of community caregivers on standard case management to curb malnutrition coupled with messaging on appropriate IYCF practices.</li> <li>- Scale up active screening and mobilize for management of acute malnutrition in respective districts.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Protection &amp; Safety nets</b>	Social protection and safety nets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilize resources for supporting vulnerable households.</li> <li>- Scale up community capacity building for self- sustenance.</li> <li>- The targeting criteria for vulnerable populations need to be sensitive and precise in identifying the needy pockets within communities with support from local government structures.</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Basic Services</b>	Access to education <b>19.2% of children 4-17 years were not in school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen existing strategies and policies aimed at attainment of the Government's efforts to ensure universal access to education.</li> <li>- Strengthen structures and processes for the identification of the most vulnerable children under the BEAM module.</li> <li>- Scale up interventions aimed at keeping the girl-child in school for longer; for example, persecution of perpetrators, engagement of influential people like traditional leaders in the society.</li> <li>- Province to develop and implement multi-sectorial platforms that specialize in Specialized Protection Systems for children.</li> </ul>
	Access to Services and Infrastructure <b>64.3% of the communities indicated road infrastructure as a</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize provision of such services like health facilities, particularly in the ne resettlement areas with strong engagement and participation of local authorities</li> <li>- Increase the provision of mobile social infrastructure with considerations to scale-up infrastructure sharing if information is to reach communities in real-time</li> </ul>

	<p><b>key development priority. 7% and 3% of households were located more than 10km from the nearest health facility and primary school. Provision of roads was highlighted as one of the top 3 development priorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize capacity enhancement for maintenance of rural feeder roads including use of local funding innovations where possible</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shocks and Hazards</b></p>	<p>Shocks and Hazards</p> <p><b>The most commonly occurring shocks were cash shortages, long dry spells/drought and being charged more using mobile money.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen and coordinate stakeholder coordination to build social cohesion particularly to cushion communities against the high Average Shock Exposure Index.</li> <li>- Adoption of climate smart technologies and sensitization of communities on new approaches.</li> <li>- Multisectoral platforms should create inclusive and sustainable livelihoods diversification opportunities for the vulnerable households such that they do not dispose of their acquired wealth but use it for development related expenses in turn building household and community resilience and development.</li> <li>- There is need for strengthened policy monitoring and evaluation for economic-related shocks, especially the practice of adaptive policy mechanisms for coping with uncertainties such as cash shortages.</li> </ul>

**FNC is housed at SIRDC: 1574 Alpes Road, Hatcliffe, Harare**

**Tel: +263-242-862586/ +263-242-862025. Website: [www.fnc.org.zw](http://www.fnc.org.zw). Email: [info@fnc.org.zw](mailto:info@fnc.org.zw).**

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