Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet

Mashonaland West Province

Mashonaland West is the second-largest Province situated in the Northern part of Zimbabwe. It covers about 57 441 km^2 and shares an international border with Zambia in the North. The climatic conditions are best described as humid subtropical climate, hot semi-arid and subtropical highland oceanic climate. Key economic sectors include Agriculture, Mining and Tourism. The overall purpose of the ZimVAC assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas, to inform policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions. This factsheet presents the results of the ZimVAC RLA 2023 for Mashonaland West province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.
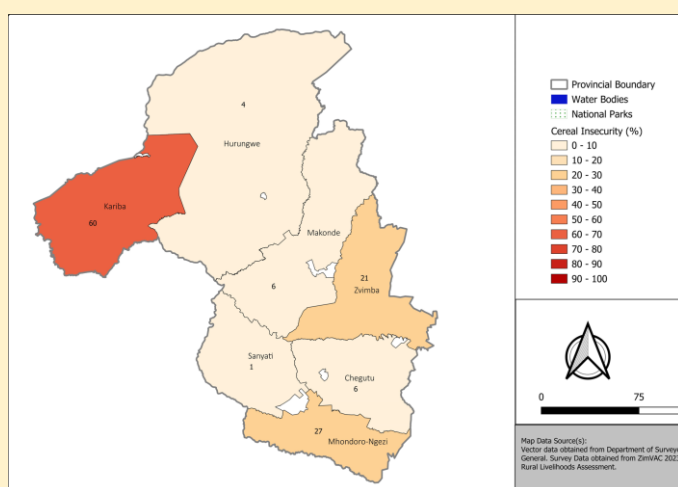

Figure 1: Mashonaland West Province Cereal Insecurity Status at Peak Hunger Period

- Approximately **12%** of the households in Mashonaland West will be food insecure during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024). This translates to about **180,777** individuals requiring **6,689 MT** of cereals in the province.
- Kariba **(60%)** will have the highest proportion of food insecure households during the peak hunger period.

Table 1: Cereal Insecure Population and Requirements by District

District	Cereal Insecure Population				Cereal Requirement (MT)			
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Chegutu	716	4,294	5,725	10,019	26	159	212	371
Hurungwe	0	0	7,818	17,200	0	0	289	636
Kariba	13,208	18,635	23,520	27,501	489	690	870	1,018
Makonde	5,039	5,039	7,558	13,437	186	186	280	497
Zvimba	6,850	27,402	47,953	72,614	253	1,014	1,774	2,687
Mhondoro-Ngezi	4,512	11,843	27,634	38,350	167	438	1,022	1,419
Sanyati	553	553	1,658	1,658	20	20	61	61
Province	**30,876**	**67,765**	**121,866**	**180,777**	**1,142**	**2,507**	**4,509**	**6,689**

1. EFFORTS TOWARDS ADDRESSING FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

### 1.1 AGRICULTURE

An average of **442.9 kgs** of maize per household was harvested in Mashonaland West. Kariba District (122.7kgs) had the least cereal harvest in 2023. There were no pearl millet and finger millet yields recorded.
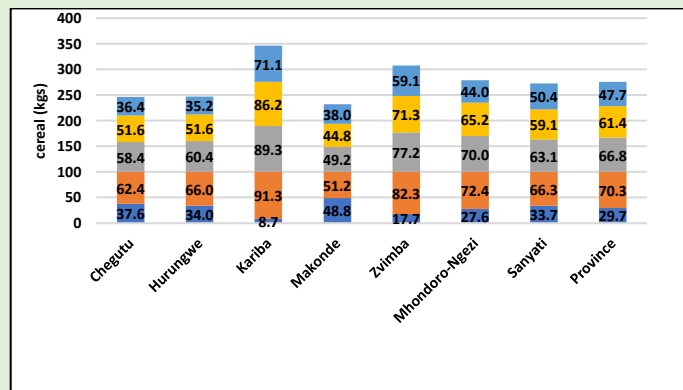
Food Crop Production

District	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Cowpeas (kgs)	Groundnuts (kgs)	Round nuts (kgs)	Sugar beans (kgs)
Chegutu	657.6	0.0	6.6	28.0	1.5	1.8
Hurungwe	567.5	0.0	1.3	31.9	0.0	2.3
Kariba	103.8	18.9	0.4	8.3	0.0	0.0
Makonde	807.9	0.0	0.1	16.3	0.0	9.2
Zvimba	264.3	0.0	0.2	5.3	0.0	1.0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	431.3	0.0	3.2	12.5	1.2	0.1
Sanyati	436.7	0.1	4.8	8.4	0.2	0.0
Province	442.9	0.1	1.8	14.5	0.1	0.7
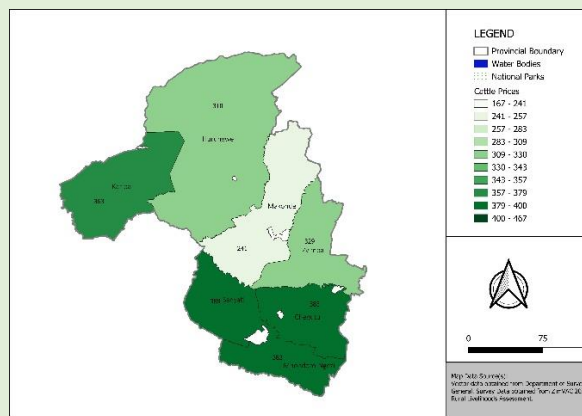
Average cattle price was **USD342.** Average goat price was **USD29.**

Cereal Sufficiency

In the province, **44%** of the households had cereals that would last them 3 months, whilst **30%** had cereals that would last them more than 12 months.

Average maize grain price was **USD 0.26** per Kilogram. Average maize meal price was **USD0.47** per kilogram

Livestock Ownership

31% owned cattle

31% owned goats

INCOME

The household average monthly income increased from **USD 74** in 2022 to **USD 273** in 2023.

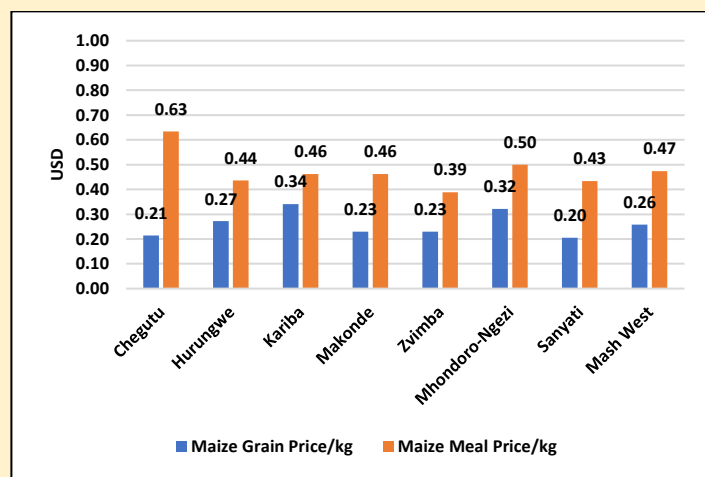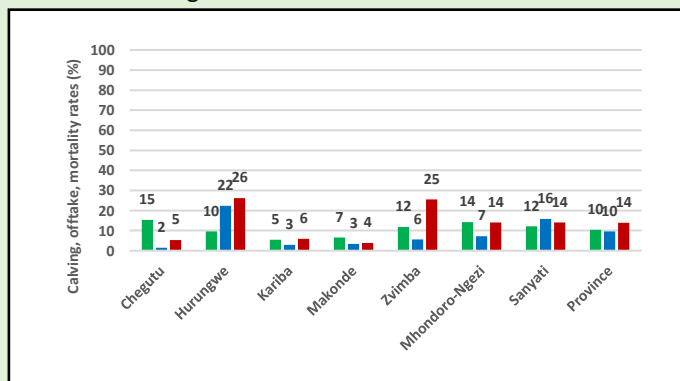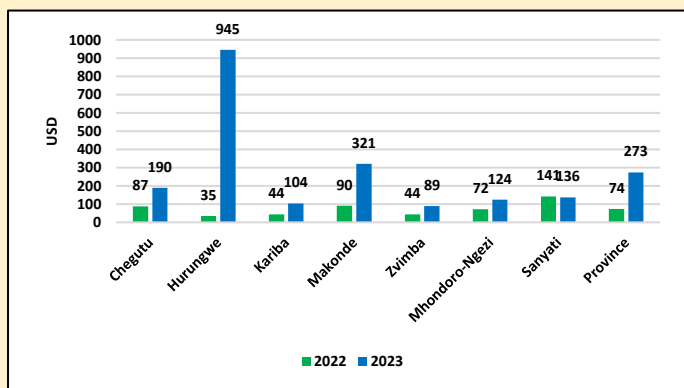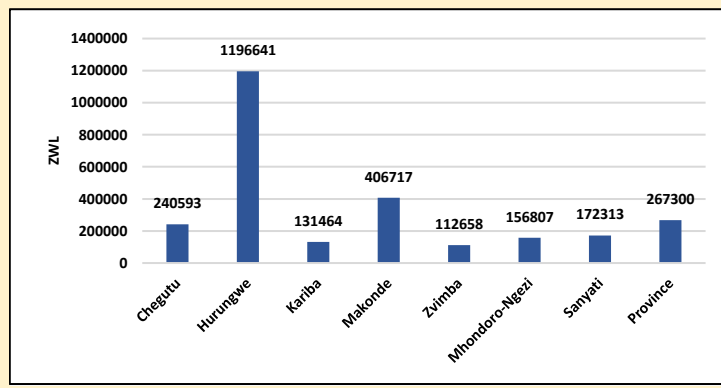- The lowest household average monthly income was reported in Zvimba (USD 89) and the highest was reported in Hurungwe (USD 945).

Cattle Calving, Offtake, and Mortality Rates

The cattle mortality rate was higher than the cattle calving rates.

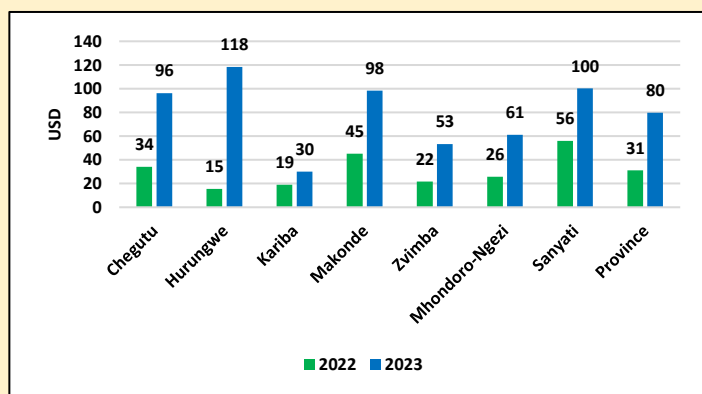## Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2023

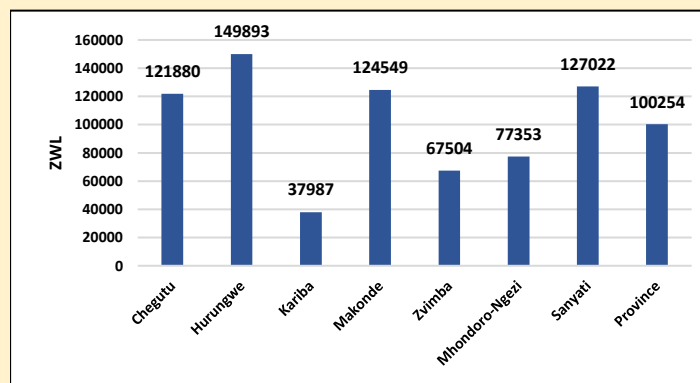## Average Household Monthly Income (ZWL) for April 2023

EXPENDITURE

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) for April 2023
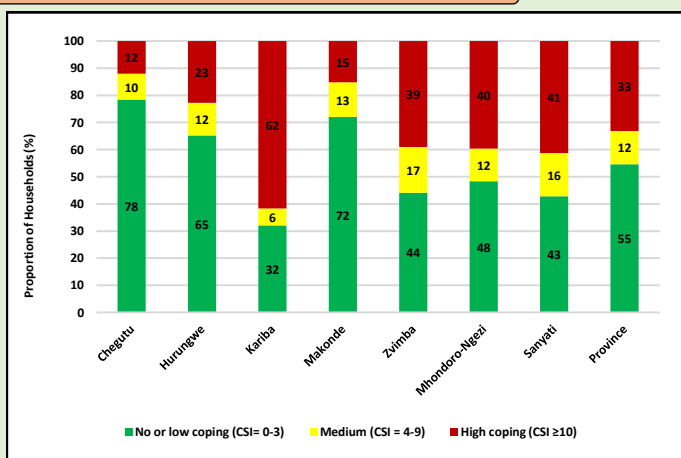

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (ZWL) for April 2023

- The household average monthly expenditure increased from **USD 31** in 2022 to **USD 80** in 2023.

- The lowest household average monthly expenditure was reported in Zvimba (**USD 53)** and the highest was reported in Hurungwe **(USD 118).**

COPING STRATEGIES

About **33%** of the households had a high coping strategy index.

FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS
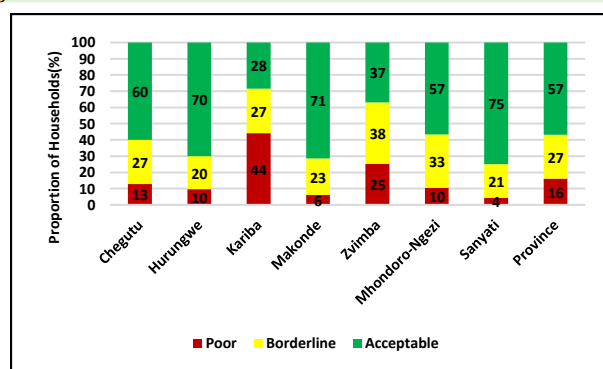
About **16%** of the households had a poor food consumption score, which was low as compared to 2020-2022.

1.2 Household and Child Nutrition

Household Nutrition

Overweight & obesity **3%** | Stunting **27%** | Underweight **12%** | Wasting **3%**

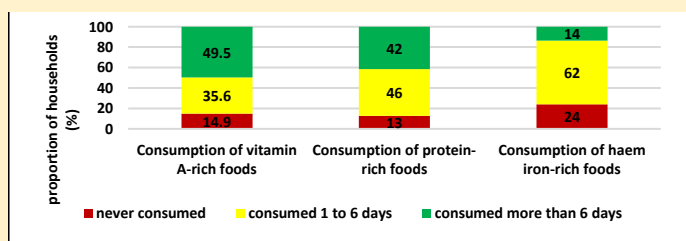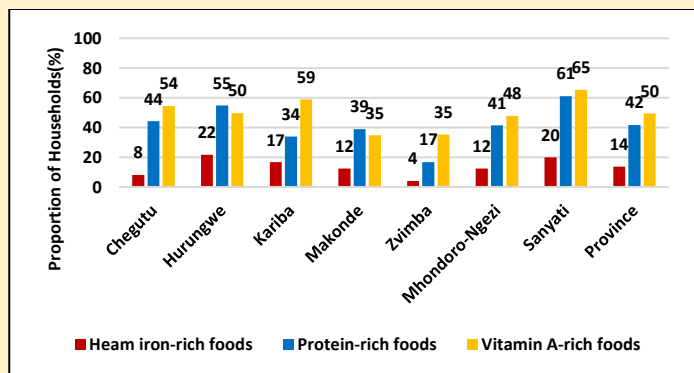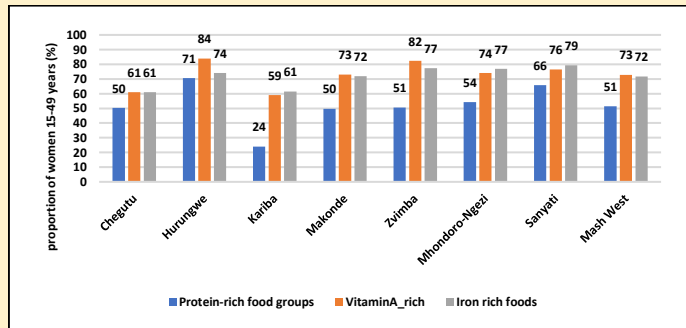### Food Consumption Score Nutrition

Heam iron-rich foods ■ Protein-rich foods ■ Vitamin A-rich foods

never consumed ■ consumed 1 to 6 days ■ consumed more than 6 days

Infant and Young Child Feeding

Proportion of children 0-23 months (%)
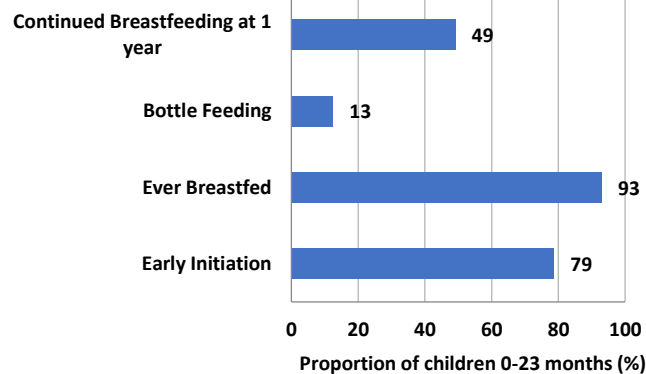
80% of the children (6-11 months) and **50%** of the children (12-59 months) received age-appropriate Vitamin A supplementation.

- Minimum Meal Frequency **27%**
- Minimum Dietary Diversity **10 %**
- Minimum Acceptable Diet **5%**

Women Dietary Diversity

■ Protein-rich food groups ■ VitaminA_rich ■ Iron rich foods

The proportion of women of childbearing age who met the minimum dietary diversity was **16.4%,** a reduction from **30%** in 2022.

Food Fortification

- **4.2%** of the households consumed biofortified NUA45 beans.
- **50%** of the households had presence of sugar, salt and cooking oil which had a fortification logo/ inscription on the package.

Food Safety

2.8% of the households unknowingly purchased spoiled food/expired food from shops. This exposes vulnerable groups like children under 5 to foodborne illnesses, which are usually infectious or toxic in nature and some form of cancers.

- Mhondoro-Ngezi **(13.6%)** and Chegutu **(7.6%)** had the highest proportion of households that slaughtered a sick/unwell animal for consumption or sale which predisposes the households to zoonotic diseases.

2. ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

2.1 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (WASH)
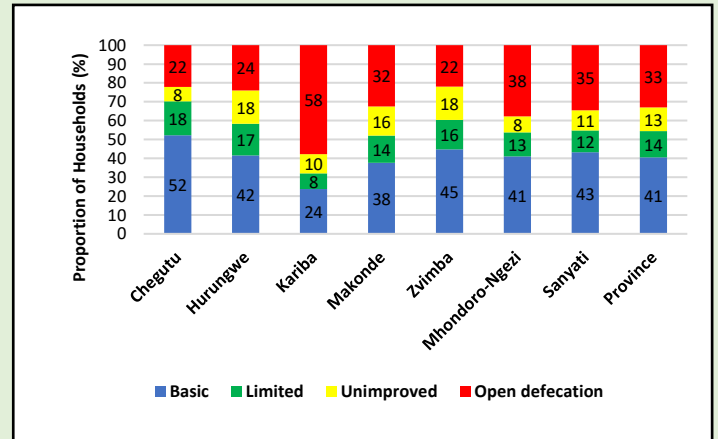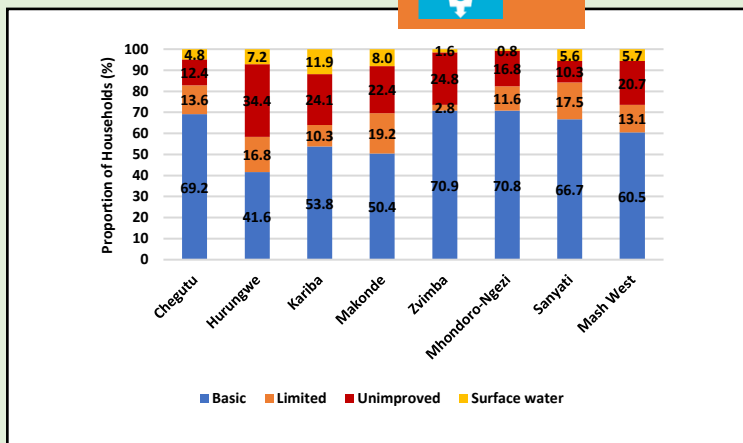
Open defecation by District
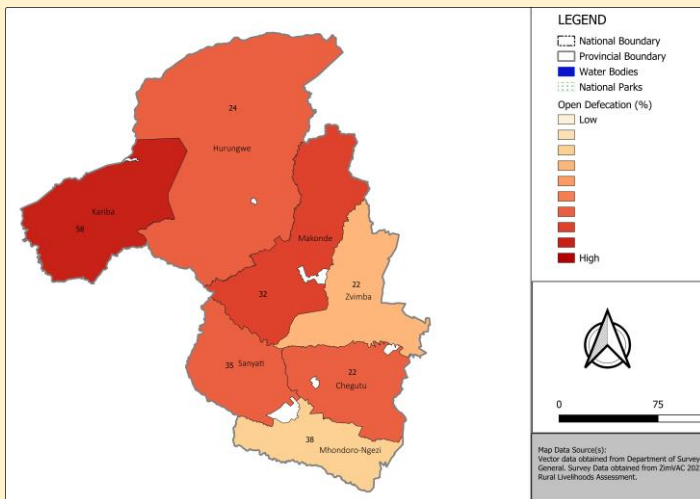
Access to handwashing facility
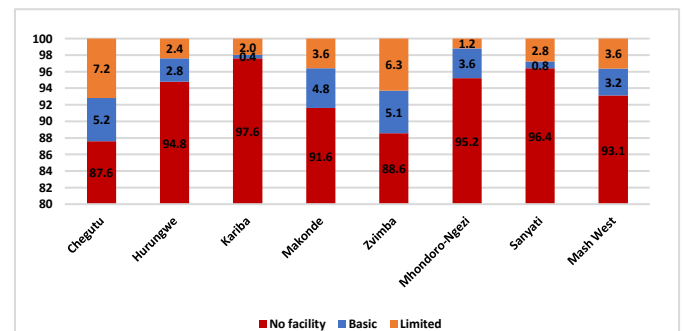
- About **60.5 %** of households had access to an improved water source
- Kariba District had a high proportion of households practising open defecation **(58%).**
- About **93.1%** of the households had no access to a handwashing facility.

2.2 Access to Infrastructure

Distance to the Nearest Primary school

Distance to the Nearest Health Facility
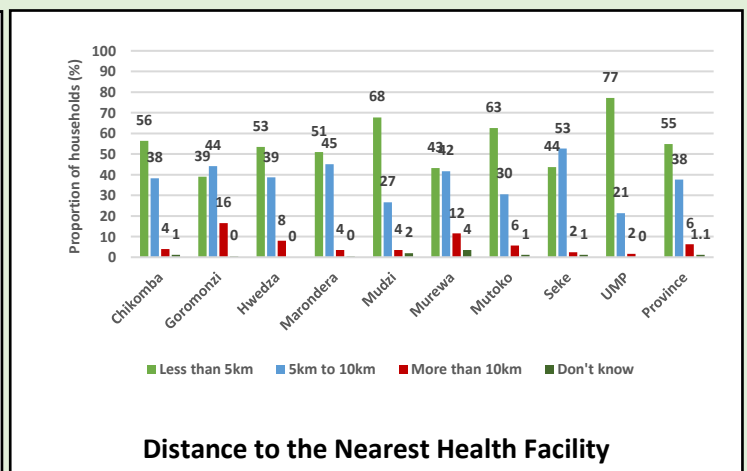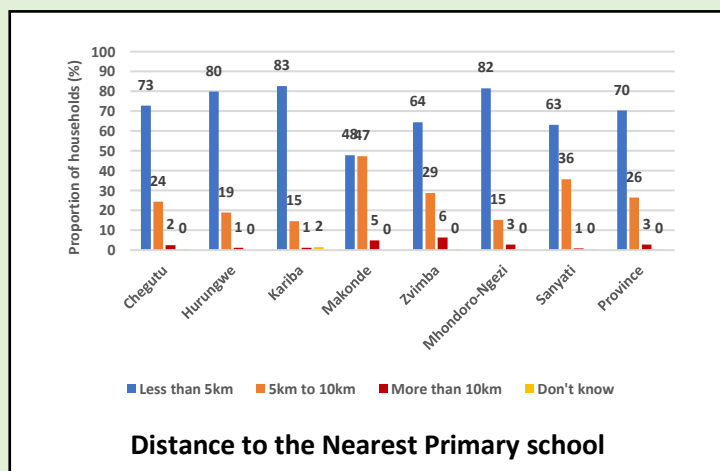
2.3 Access to Education services

- Provincially, about **26%** of school going age were **NOT** in school at the time of the assessment.
- About **56.5%** of the children were reported to have been **turned away** from school due to **non-payment** of school fees during the first term of 2023.

3. SOCIAL PROTECTION

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY NETS

Districts	Government (%)	NGO/UN (%)	Churches (%)	Urban relatives (%)	Rural relatives (%)	Diaspora (%)	Charity (%)
Chegutu	61.6	8.0	**5.2**	**16.8**	2.4	**4.0**	**2.4**
Hurungwe	**73.6**	5.2	0.4	4.8	2.4	2.4	0.4
Kariba	76.3	**9.5**	0.8	0.8	2.0	0.4	0.0
Makonde	61.6	0.0	1.2	2.8	2.4	0.0	0.0
Zvimba	**73.6**	0.8	1.6	7.9	1.6	2.8	0.8
Mhondoro-Ngezi	67.2	0.0	2.4	1.2	10.4	2.4	0.0
Sanyati	59.1	1.2	1.2	9.5	**17.5**	2.8	0.4
Province	67.6	3.5	1.8	6.3	5.5	2.1	0.6

67.6% of households received some form of support from Government.
Food assistance from Government was mostly in Kariba **(76.3%)**, Hurungwe and Zvimba (**73.6%).**

6.2% of the household had a member in an Income Savings and Lending (ISAL) group.

3.7% of households received a loan.
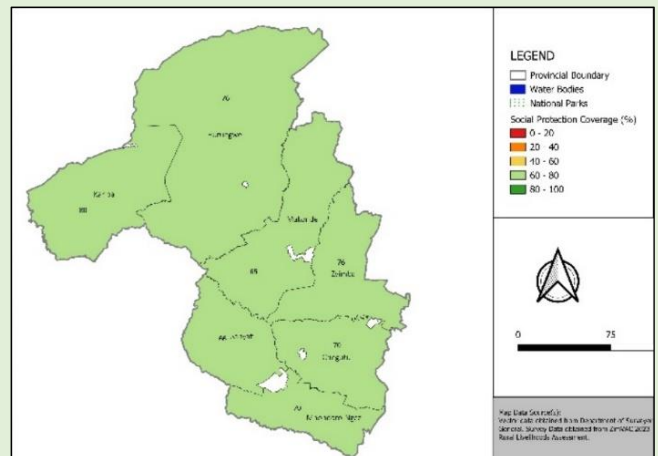
4. SHOCKS AND HAZARDS

The most prevalent shock was cash shortage **(51.8%)** and drought/ prolonged midseason dry spell **(37.5%).**

District	Cash shortage (%)	Drought/ Prolonged mid-season dry spell (%)	Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe (%)	Crop pests (%)	Cereal price changes-sharp increase (%)	Livestock diseases (%)	Livestock deaths (%)	Waterlogging (%)	Human wildlife conflict (%)
Chegutu	30.4	14.0	13.6	7.2	1.6	13.2	12.8	22.8	1.2
Hurungwe	50.0	23.2	11.2	21.2	6.4	28.0	28.4	12.4	4.8
Kariba	**83.0**	**81.4**	17.4	**41.1**	30.4	17.8	14.2	10.7	**49.8**
Makonde	54.4	43.6	35.6	26.4	**44.4**	16.4	9.6	19.2	0.0
Zvimba	55.9	21.3	19.7	5.9	8.3	**31.5**	**32.3**	**36.6**	7.1
Mhondoro-Ngezi	49.2	34.4	22.0	20.0	20.4	14.0	11.6	6.4	9.2
Sanyati	39.7	44.8	**23.0**	19.0	29.0	18.7	19.8	3.2	4.8
Mashonaland West	51.8	37.5	20.4	20.1	20.1	19.9	18.4	15.9	11.0
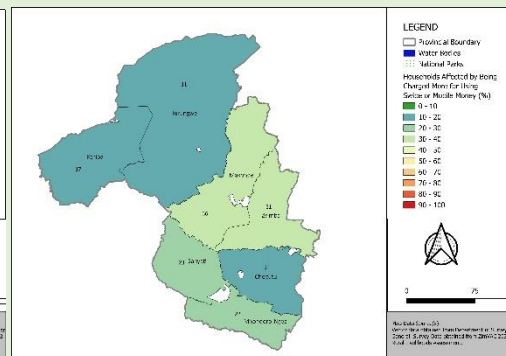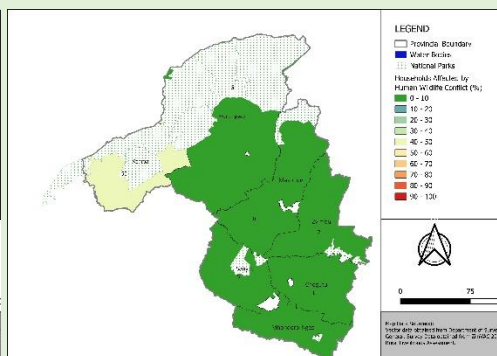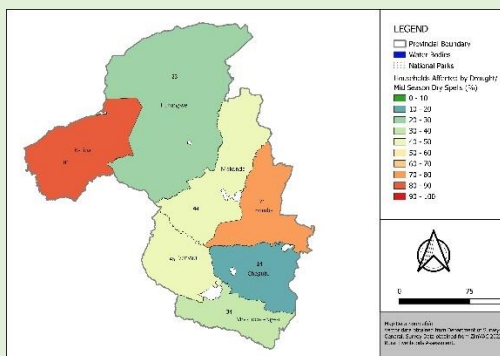
Prolonged mid-season dry spell **37.5%**   Human wildlife conflict **11.0%**   Sharp cereal price increases **20.1%**

Resilience

The average Shock Exposure Index was **2.6**. Shock severity Index was **7.7**. Average Shock Recovery Index was **5.4**.

Legend: ■ Shock exposure index ■ Shock Severity Index ■ Shock Recovery Index

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Challenges

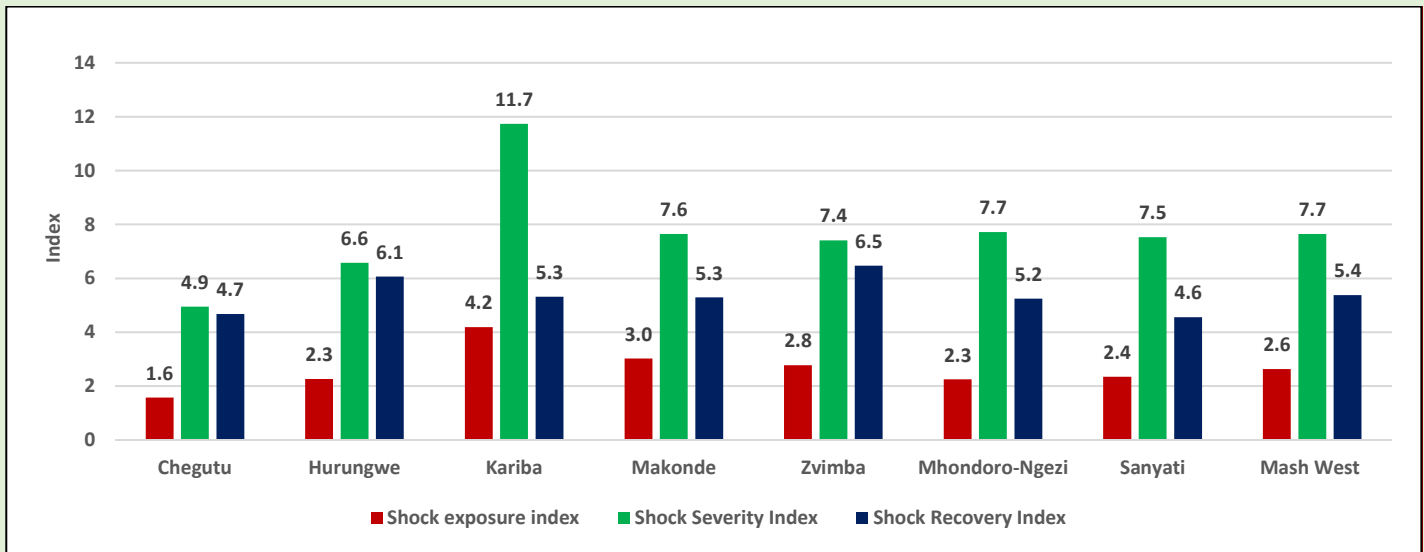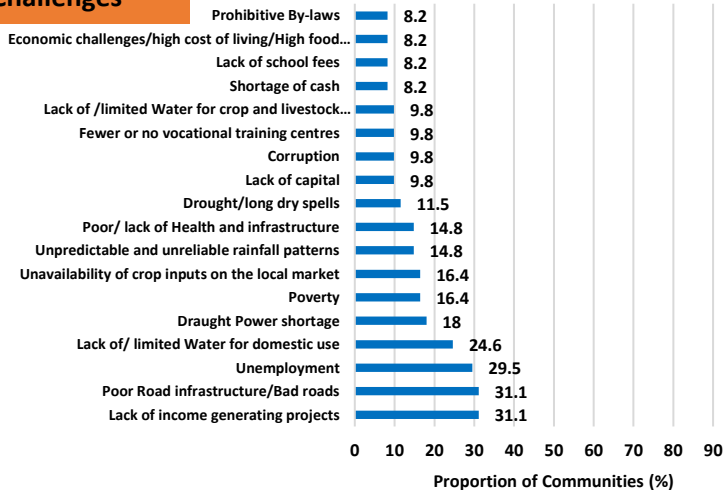| Challenge	Proportion of Communities (%)
Prohibitive By-laws	8.2
Economic challenges/high cost of living/High food…	8.2
Lack of school fees	8.2
Shortage of cash	8.2
Lack of /limited Water for crop and livestock…	9.8
Fewer or no vocational training centres	9.8
Corruption	9.8
Lack of capital	9.8
Drought/long dry spells	11.5
Poor/ lack of Health and infrastructure	14.8
Unpredictable and unreliable rainfall patterns	14.8
Unavailability of crop inputs on the local market	16.4
Poverty	16.4
Draught Power shortage	18
Lack of/ limited Water for domestic use	24.6
Unemployment	29.5
Poor Road infrastructure/Bad roads	31.1
Lack of income generating projects	31.1

Priorities

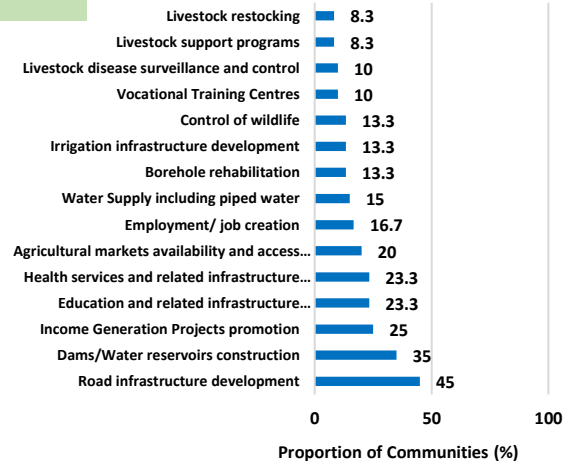| Priority	Proportion of Communities (%)
Livestock restocking	8.3
Livestock support programs	8.3
Livestock disease surveillance and control	10
Vocational Training Centres	10
Control of wildlife	13.3
Irrigation infrastructure development	13.3
Borehole rehabilitation	13.3
Water Supply including piped water	15
Employment/ job creation	16.7
Agricultural markets availability and access…	20
Health services and related infrastructure…	23.3
Education and related infrastructure…	23.3
Income Generation Projects promotion	25
Dams/Water reservoirs construction	35
Road infrastructure development	45

Youth Development Priorities

- The majority of the households listed income generating activities (79%), job creation (78.8%), vocational trainings (58.8%) and start up capital/ loans (47.2%) as major development priorities for youth.

6.   AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
Agriculture	***Postharvest management*** *Major storage facility type used was ordinary rooms (62%), which does not support long-term postharvest storage*	- *Scale-up training communities on the fabrication of moisture and temperature control storage technologies* - *Scaling up of value addition activities can also be done, for example, sorting, grading, product development, packaging and branding; to ensure farmers get better economic value from the crops that they are growing; and they take up agriculture as a business.*
	Livestock *About 31% of households owned cattle 31% owned goats. Cattle mortality was at 14% and the major cause was diseases.*	- *The Department of Veterinary Services should intensify disease surveillance and control at the village level whilst augmented by livestock improvement interventions like restocking.* - *Intensify trainings on vaccination and dipping of animals.* - *Engage local leaders and communities to come up with community-centred monitoring systems to ensure everyone adheres to implemented animal disease-control measures.*
	Food Security *Approximately 12% of the households will be food insecure during the peak hunger season (January-March 2024) with the highest proportion in Kariba district (60%).* *In the province, 44% of the households had cereal that would last them 3 months, whilst 30% had cereal that would last them more than 12 months.*	- *The Department of Social Development ought to continue strengthening the already existing retargeting modalities in place to identify those with chronic and acute food insecurity to provide the appropriate response mechanisms. Interventions should aim at cushioning food-insecure households with livelihood-based food assistance.*
Nutrition	***Food consumption*** *About 57% of the households were consuming acceptable diets however 16% were consuming poor diets.* *33% of the households were engaging in high consumption-based coping strategies with most days being composed of starches, vegetables and oils.*	- *Scale-up food and nutrition awareness on diversification of food groups.* - *Food and Nutrition Security Committees at relevant levels should be continuously strengthened to support nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and that might include; the promotion of traditional foods, food fairs, home and school nutrition gardening and good food handling and processing practices from farm to fork.*
	Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) *About 61% of the households were accessing*	- *Stakeholders in the water, sanitation and hygiene system ought to intensify integrated messaging through community model home initiatives to avert the spread of diseases such as cholera/typhoid.* - *Implement demand-led approaches (behaviour change and mindset shift) to water supply (Financial contribution by communities to*

	basic water services, however, 33% were practising open defecation. Kariba District had a high proportion of households practising open defecation (58%). *About 93.1% of the households had no access to handwashing facilities.*	*services) augmented by local leadership by laws that empower policing the mandatory construction of latrines by rural households.*
	Nutrition Status *The provincial Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was 3.3%, an improvement from 7%. Kariba and Chegutu (4.3%) had the highest proportions.*	- *Strong capacitation of community caregivers on standard case management to curb malnutrition coupled with messaging on appropriate IYCF practices.* - *Targeted supplementary feeding for children under five with moderate/severe acute malnutrition is recommended and where such a programme already exists, scaling up should be considered. Active case-finding (screening) efforts should be scaled up to ensure early detection and referral of malnourished children for treatment and referral facilities and referral systems should be capacitated with skills for management of acute malnutrition.*
Social Protection & Safety Nets	*67.6% of households received some form of support from Government*	- *Scale up community capacity building for self-sustenance.* - *The targeting criteria for vulnerable populations needs to be sensitive and precise in identifying the needy pockets within communities with support from local government structures.* - *Increase coverage for those rendered vulnerable like labour constrained individuals*
	Resilience *The average shock exposure index was 2.6 with shock severity of 7.7*	- *There is need to come up with livelihood diversification options coupled with scale-up of rural finance investments like access to loans, and ISALS for household self-sustenance.* - *Scale-up climate-smart technologies and multistakeholder integrated disaster mitigation approaches*
Access to Basic Services	***Access to Services and Infrastructure*** *16% of households travelled more than 10km to the nearest health facility.*	- *Prioritize the provision of such services as health facilities, particularly in the new resettlement areas with strong engagement and participation of local authorities*
Shocks and Hazards	*Shocks and Hazards* *The most prevalent shocks were cash shortage **(51.8%)**, and drought/ prolonged midseason dry spell **(37.5%)** with human wildlife conflict affecting **11.0%** of the households.*	- *Strengthen and coordinate stakeholder coordination to build social cohesion, particularly to cushion communities against the high Average Shock Exposure Index.* - *Adoption of climate-smart technologies and sensitization of communities to new approaches* - *Multisectoral platforms should create inclusive and sustainable livelihood diversification opportunities for 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.*
Incomes	***Income sources*** *Casual labour (34%) and food crop production (31%) were the main sources of income.*	- *The Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development should intensify the climate-proofed agriculture production.*

	The household average monthly income increased from USD 74 in 2022 to USD 116 in 2023. *The lowest household average monthly income was reported in Zvimba (USD 89) and the highest was reported in Hurungwe (USD 945) in 2023.*	− *Since the activities are agro-based and prone to shocks and hazards, there is need to come up with strategies that provide income alternatives as well as livelihood diversification for the households.*
Community Development Priorities	***Community development priorities*** *Road infrastructure development (45%) and dam/reservoirs construction (35%) were the main development priorities indicated by the province*	− Mi*nistry of Roads and Infrastructure Development and Local authorities to continuously maintain roads including the use of local funding innovations where possible.* − *The provincial irrigation department needs to revive and direct resources towards irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation whilst working on long-term strategies of de-siltation and dam construction to ensure the availability of water for human consumption, livestock and irrigation activities.* − *Boreholes can be drilled to supply water for small-scale sustainable irrigation schemes.*

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