

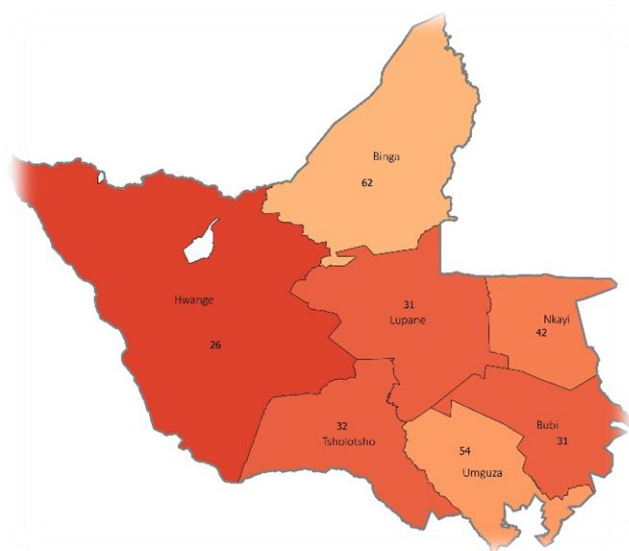
Matabeleland North Province



Purpose of the 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

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 Matabeleland North province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.

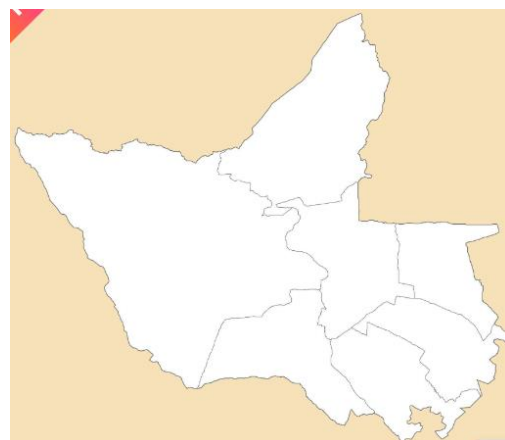
42% Food Insecurity



42% of the households are projected to be food insecure during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024), this translates to about 318,129 individuals requiring **11,771 MT** of cereals in the province.

Context

Matabeleland North is one of provinces of which is predominantly rural. The province gets less rain and is plagued by water scarcity in general. Semi-arid and classified predominantly as agro-ecological region IV with an annual rainfall range of 450mm to 650mm, it also includes agro-ecological region V areas, which receive less than 450mm of rain per year. Drought is a chronic threat in the province, though Tsholotsho district and other low-lying areas are also prone to flooding. The land is also less fertile than other provinces. However, the climatic conditions are favorable for livestock production. The region is relatively rich in coal, gold, limestone, methane gas, and timber. Its substantial wildlife population draws tourists to Hwange National Park. The most famous geographic feature of Matabeleland North, and its most significant tourist attraction, is Victoria Falls.



Matabeleland North Province

2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet

Food Insecure Population & Cereal Requirement

	Cereal Insecure Population			Cereal Requirement (MT)		
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Binga	63,607	84,810	99,587	2,353	3,138	3,685
Bubi	8,560	16,234	22,727	317	601	841
Hwange	8,600	12,207	17,755	318	452	657
Lupane	16,433	23,784	33,730	608	880	1,248
Nkayi	19,191	30,796	46,863	710	1,139	1,734
Tsholotsho	16,081	25,729	36,756	595	952	1,360
Umguza	35,792	48,024	60,710	1,324	1,777	2,246
Mat North	168,264	241,584	318,129	6,226	8,939	11,771

Agriculture

District	Proportion of Households that Grew Cereals					Proportion of Households that Grew Legumes					
	Orange maize	Maize	Sorghum	Finger Millet	Pearl Millet	Cowpeas	Groundnuts	Round nuts	Sugar beans	Nua 45 beans	Soya beans
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Binga	4.4	57	20.9	4.4	30.1	4.8	3.2	0	1.2	0	0
Bubi	4.4	80.1	27.5	0.8	12	32.3	16.7	12	4.4	0.4	0
Hwange	0	68	30	1.2	46.8	7.6	14.8	2.4	0	0	0
Lupane	1.2	75	31.9	0.8	21.4	15.7	12.1	6	1.2	0	0
Nkayi	14.7	94.4	25.4	0.8	13.1	43.7	27	19	0.4	0	0
Tsholotsho	2.4	79	49.2	4.4	75.8	55.2	61.9	47.6	1.2	0	0.4
Umguza	0.4	74.4	20.4	0.4	4	13.2	17.2	8.4	4.4	0	0.8
Mat North	3.9	75.5	29.3	1.8	29.1	24.7	21.9	13.7	1.8	0.1	0.2

Livestock Production

Cattle

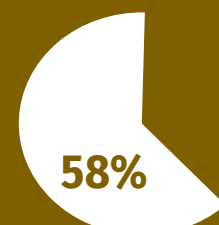
Proportion of households that owned cattle

Page 2



Goats

Proportion of households that owned goats



Prices of Agricultural Commodities

Cattle

Average
Price Per
Beast



**USD
355**

Goats

Average
Price Per
Beast



USD 35

Maize Grain

Average
Price Per
20L Bucket

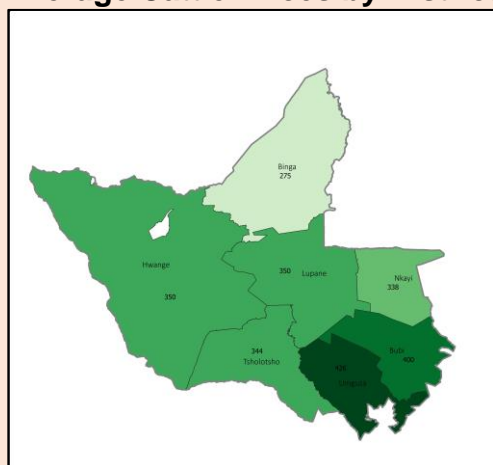
**USD
5.75**

Maize Meal

Average
Price Per
10kg

**USD
5.67**

Average Cattle Prices by District



Average Cereal Prices by District

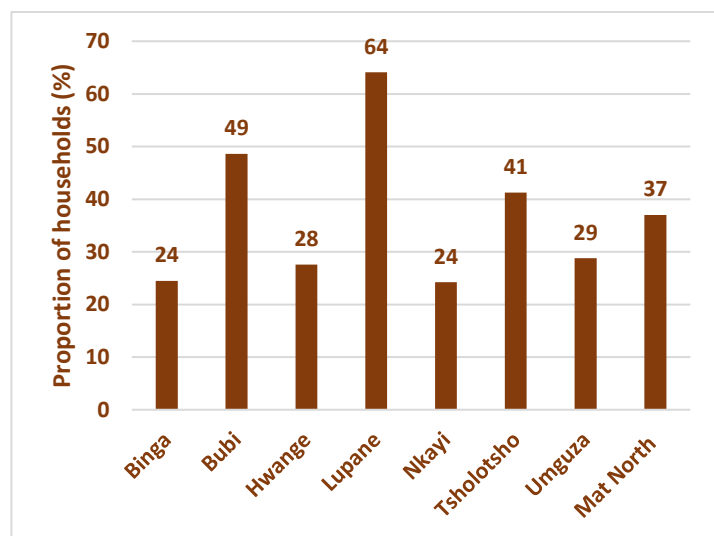
	Maize Grain (USD per Bucket)	Maize meal (USD per 10kg)
Binga	4	6
Bubi	6	5
Hwange	7	7
Lupane	6	6
Nkayi	5	6
Tsholotsho	6	4
Umguza	7	6

Cereal Self Sufficiency

About **16%** of the households had more than 12 months' supply of cereal. **47.9%** had 0-3 months cereal supplies.

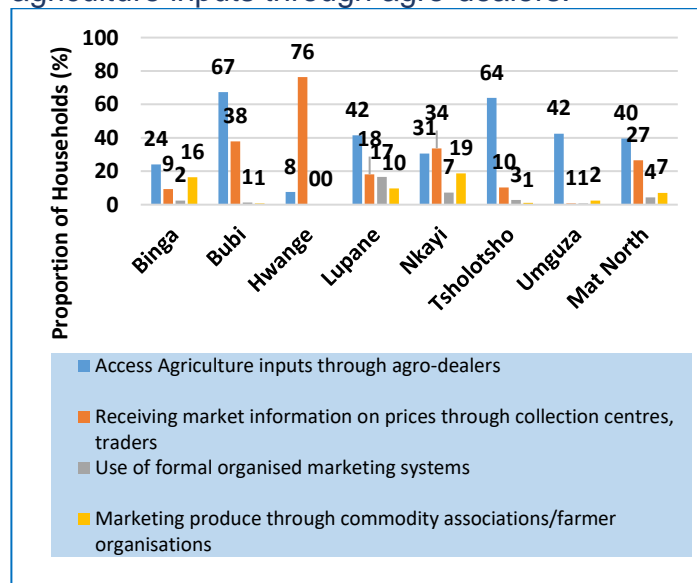
Climate Smart Agriculture

About 37% of households practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa



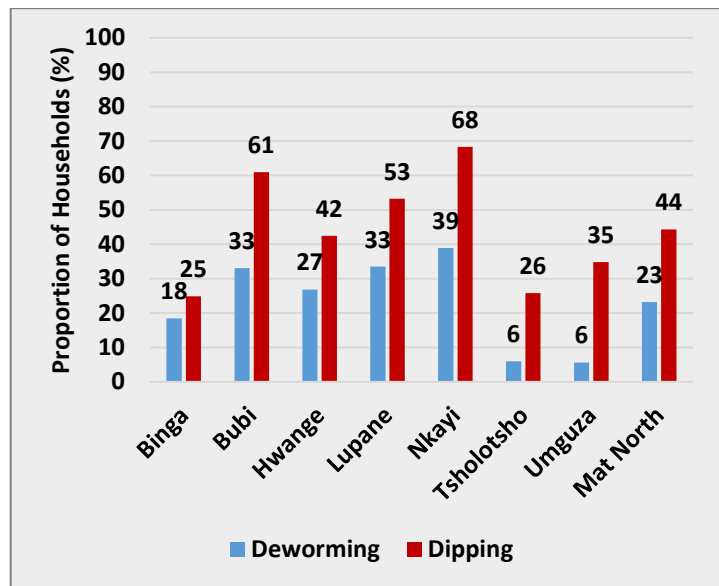
Produce Markets

The majority of households (47%) access agriculture inputs through agro-dealers.



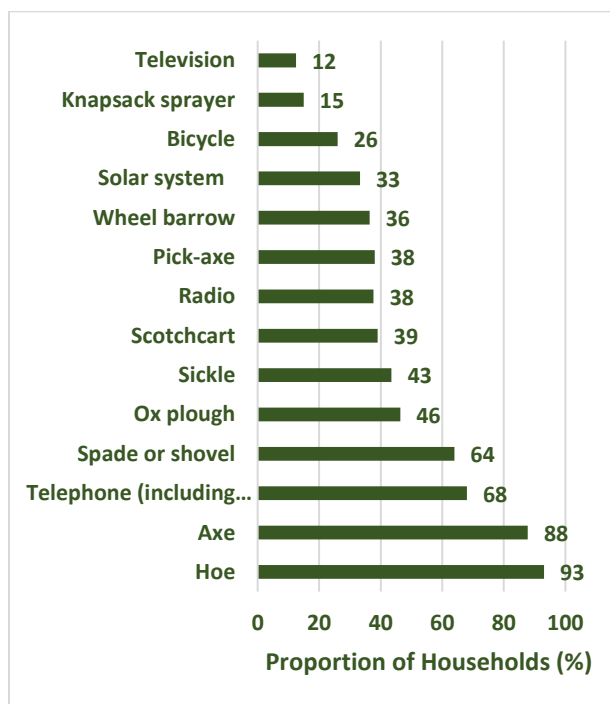
Livestock Deworming & Dipping

About 44% of the households in the province indicated that they dipped their livestock. Nkayi (68%) had the highest proportion of households dipping their livestock.



Assets

The most common asset was the hand hoe (93%).

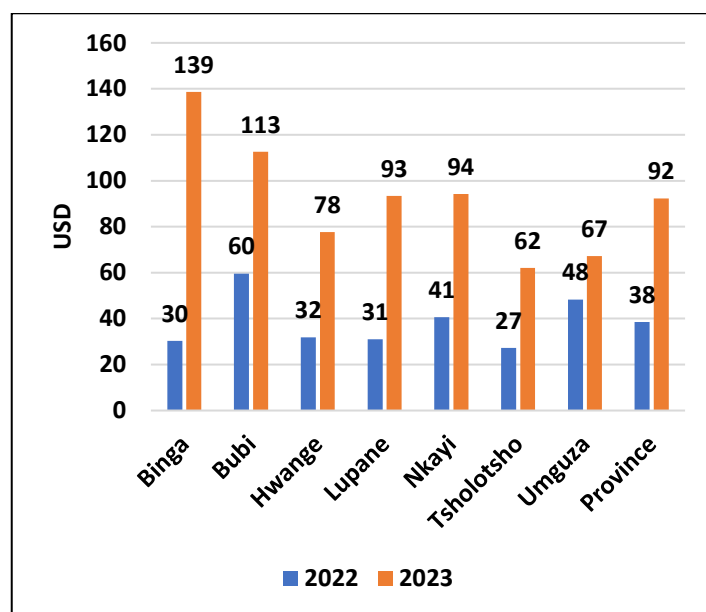


Income Sources

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

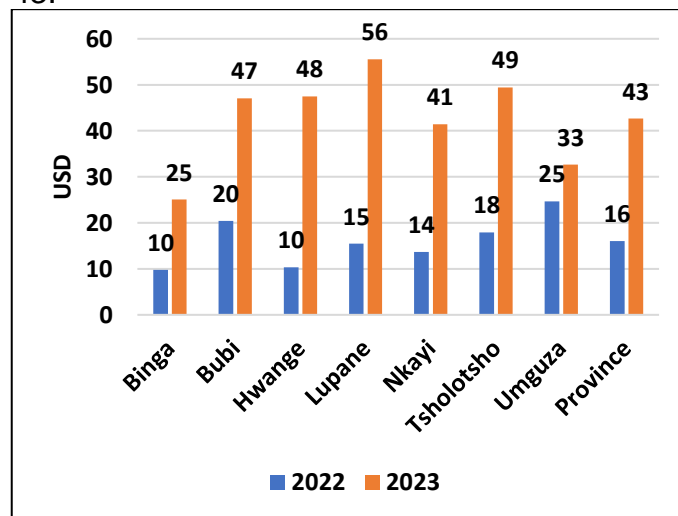
Average Income (USD)

The average income was USD 92, an increase from USD 38 in 2022.



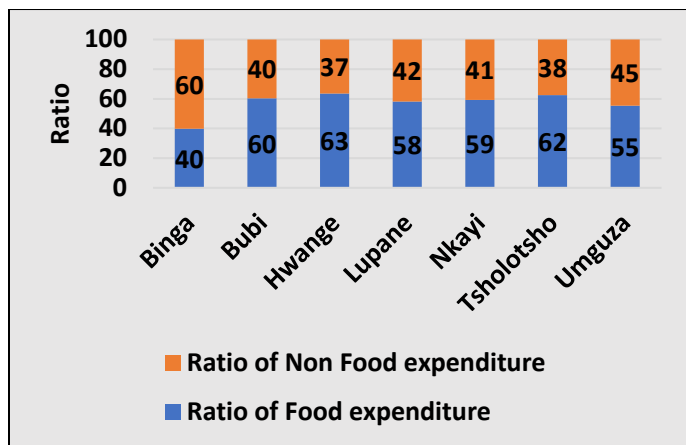
Average Expenditure (USD)

The average household expenditure was USD 43.



Food Expenditure Ratio

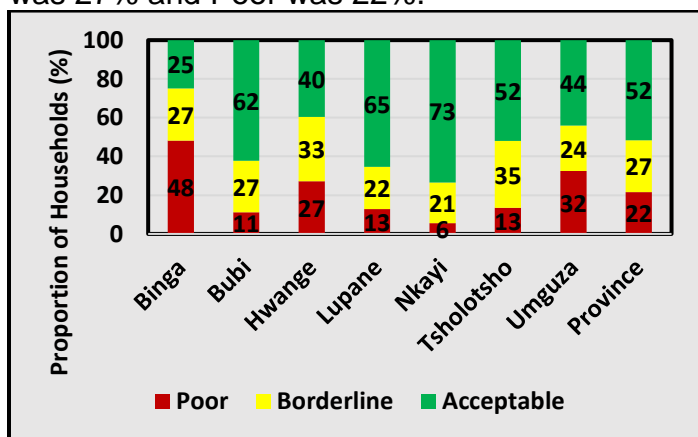
The food expenditure ratio was 55%.



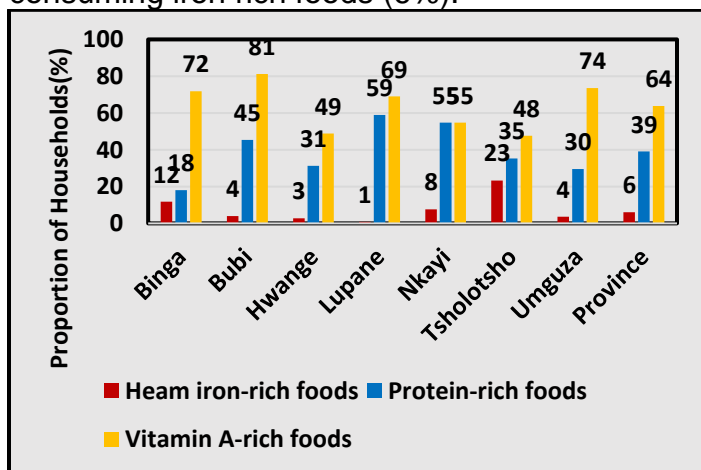
Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score

The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score was 52%, Borderline was 27% and Poor was 22%.

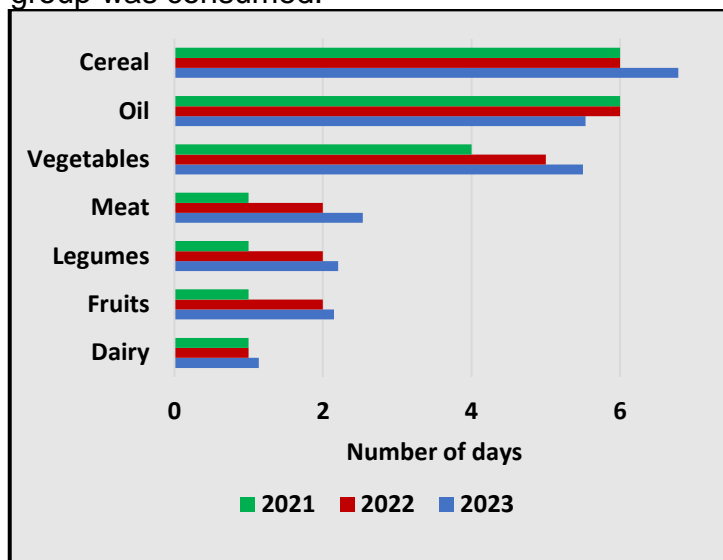


There was a low proportion of households consuming iron rich foods (6%).



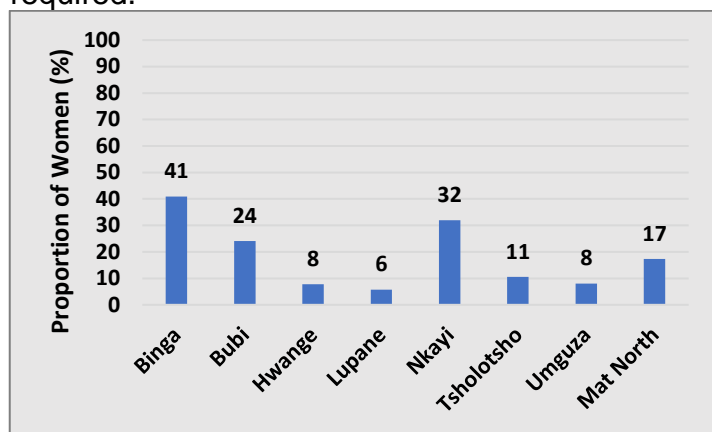
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

The average HDDS was 5.5. The graph below shows the average number of days each food group was consumed.



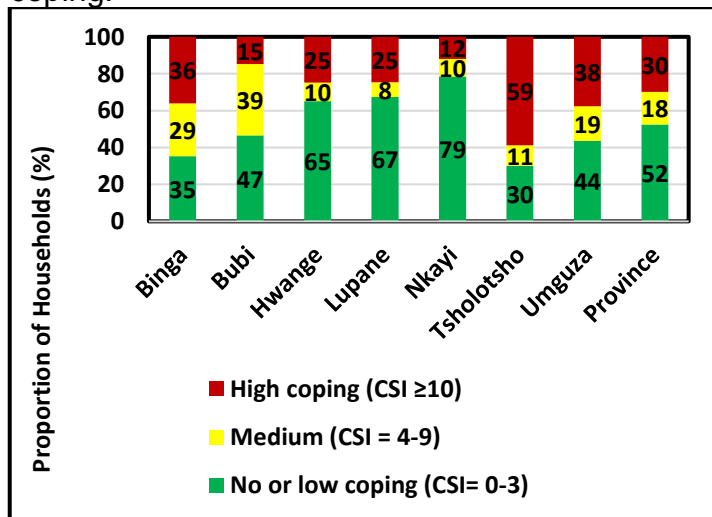
Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (15-49 years)

About 17% of women aged 15-49 years consumed the minimum dietary diversity required.



Reduced Coping Strategy

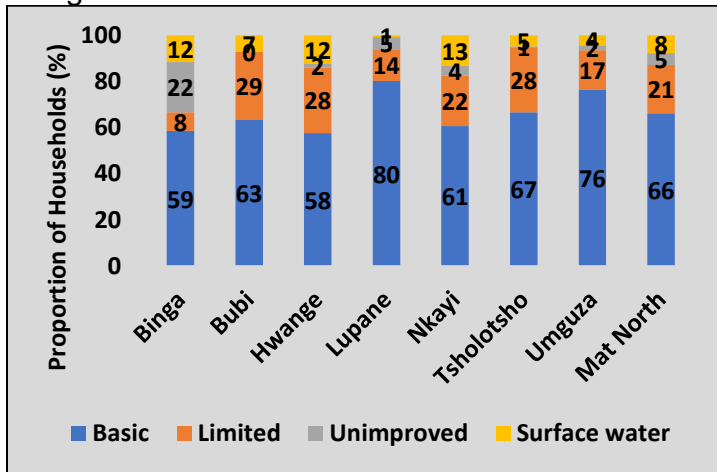
About 30% of households had high consumption coping.



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

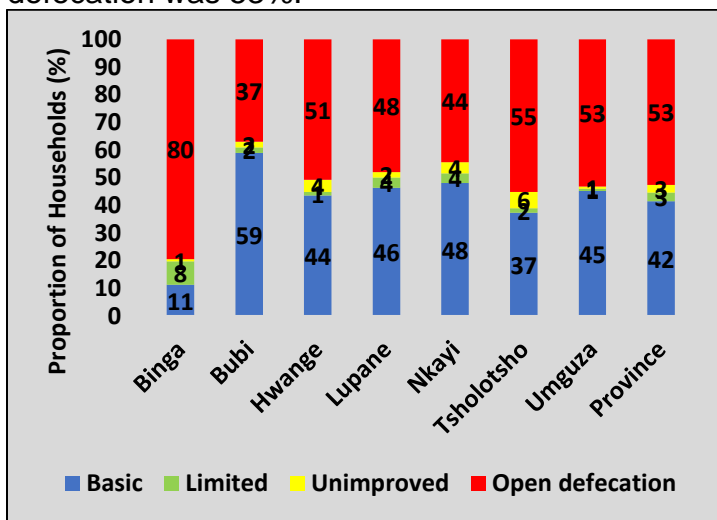
Drinking Water Services

The proportion of households with basic water services was 66% while the proportion of those using surface water was 8%.



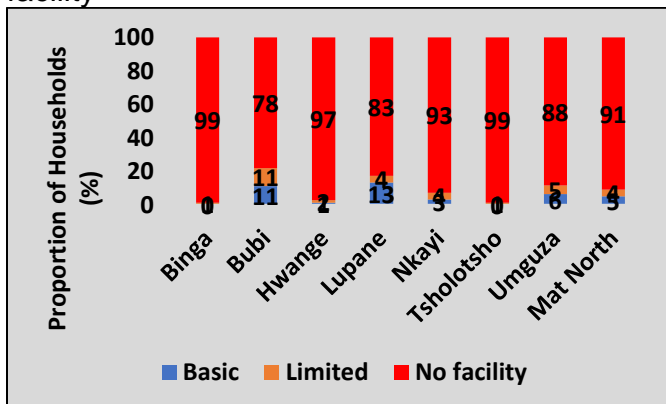
Household Sanitation Services

The proportion of households practising open defecation was 53%.



Access to Hand Washing

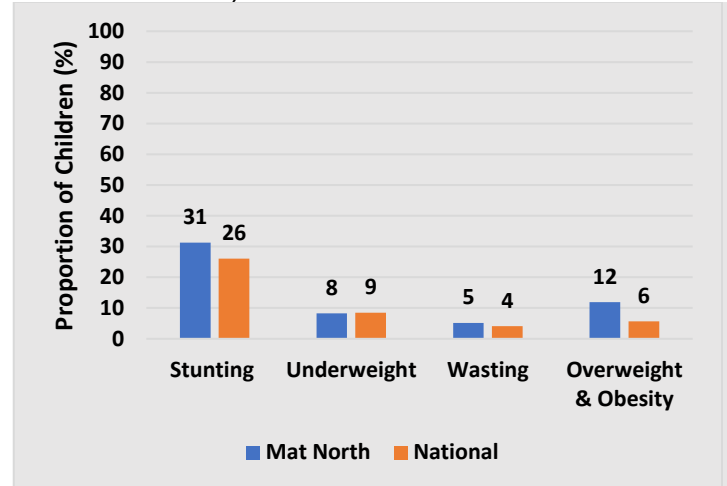
About 91% of households had no hand washing facility



NUTRITION STATUS

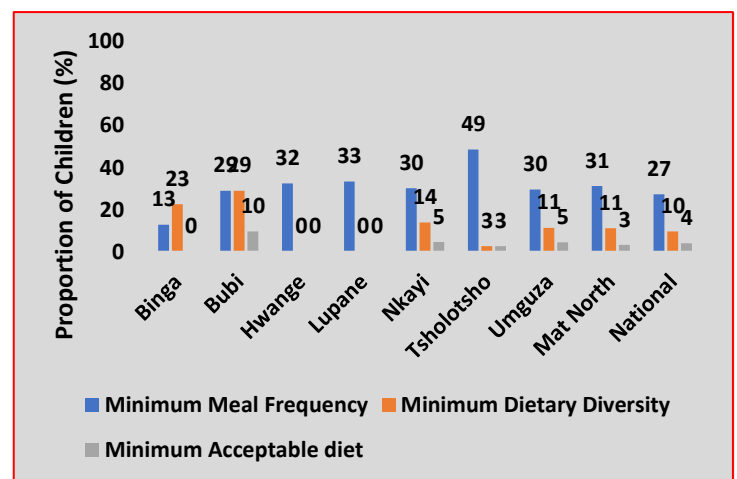
Nutritional Status of Children (0-59 Months)

The proportion of children who were Stunted was 31% (classified as high according to WHO Standard).

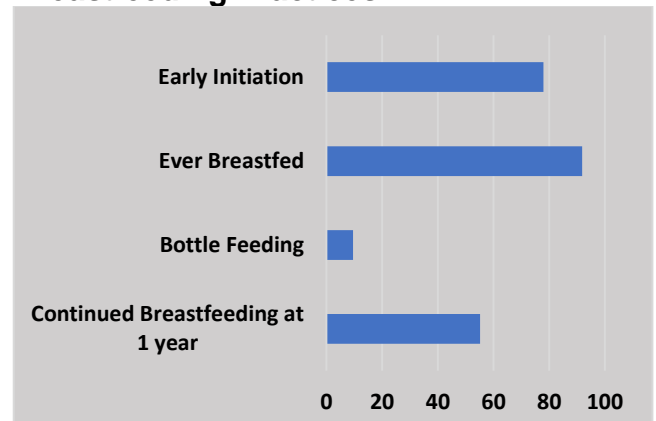


Child Feeding Practices

The proportion of children that consumed Minimum Acceptable Diet was 3%.

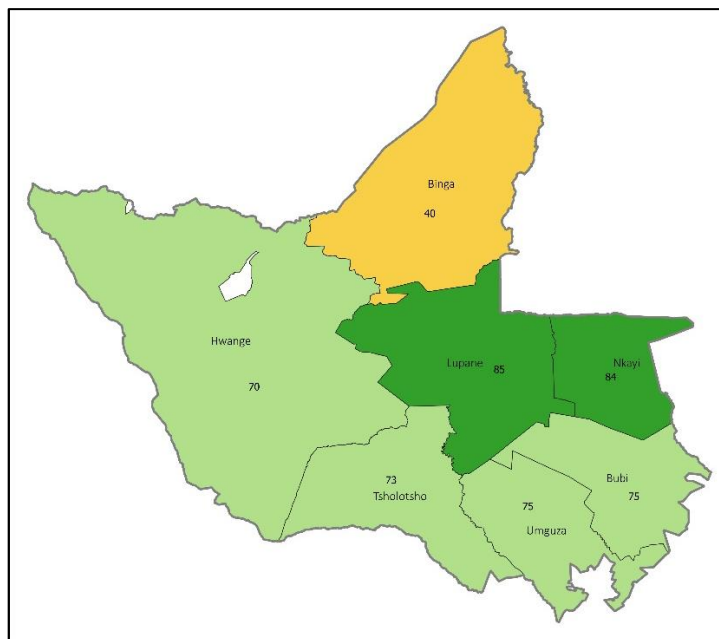


Breastfeeding Practices



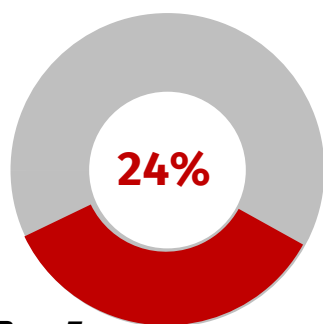
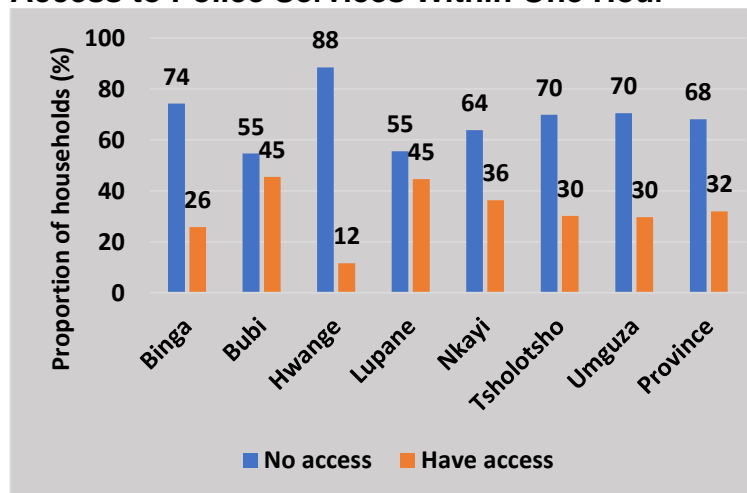
Social Protection

71.7% of households received some form of support.



Access to Critical Infrastructure

Access to Police Services Within One Hour

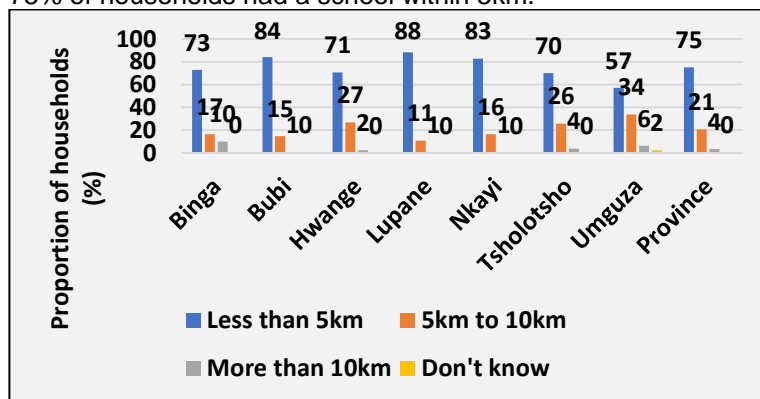


Households that reported that they had no knowledge of the existence of Police Victim Friendly Unit.

Access to Services & Infrastructure

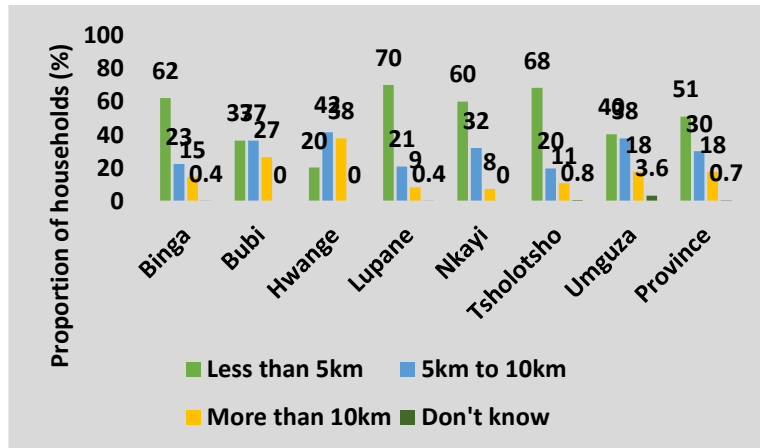
Approximate Distance to the Nearest Primary School

75% of households had a school within 5km.



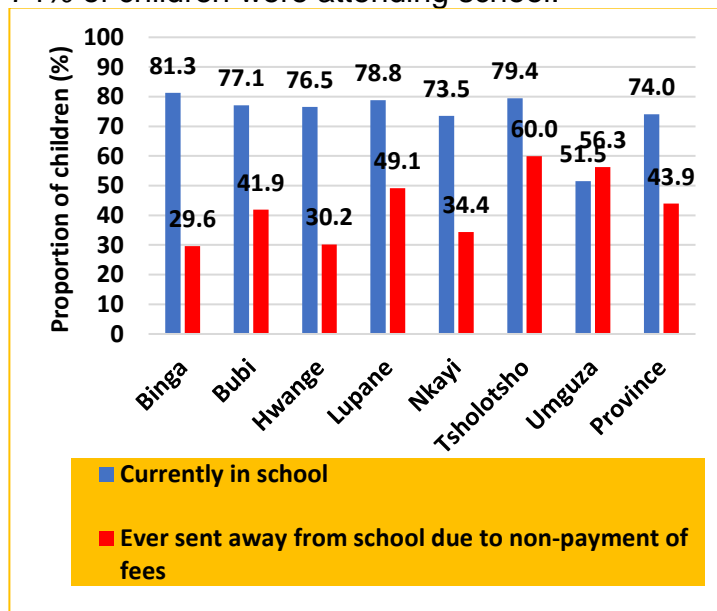
Approximate Distance to the Nearest Health Facility

51% of households had a health facility within 5 km.



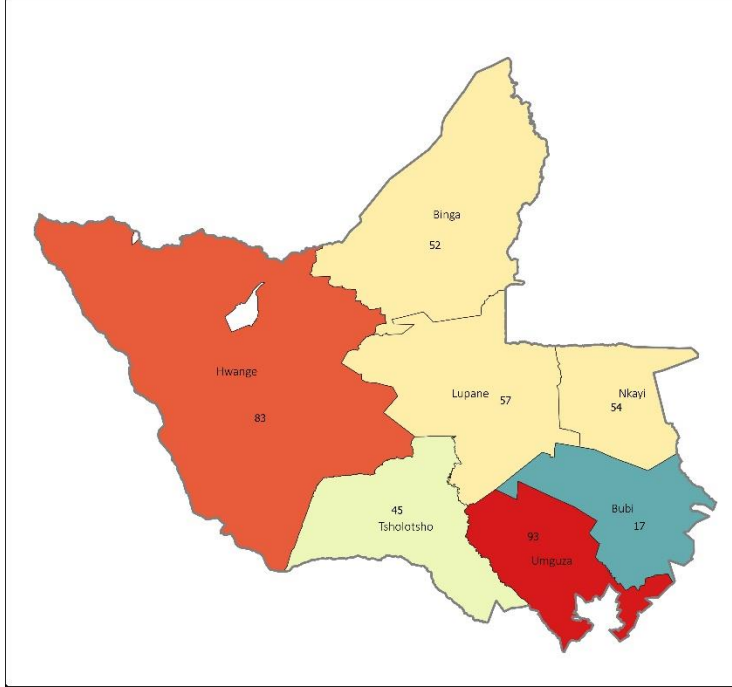
Access to Education: School Attendance

74% of children were attending school.



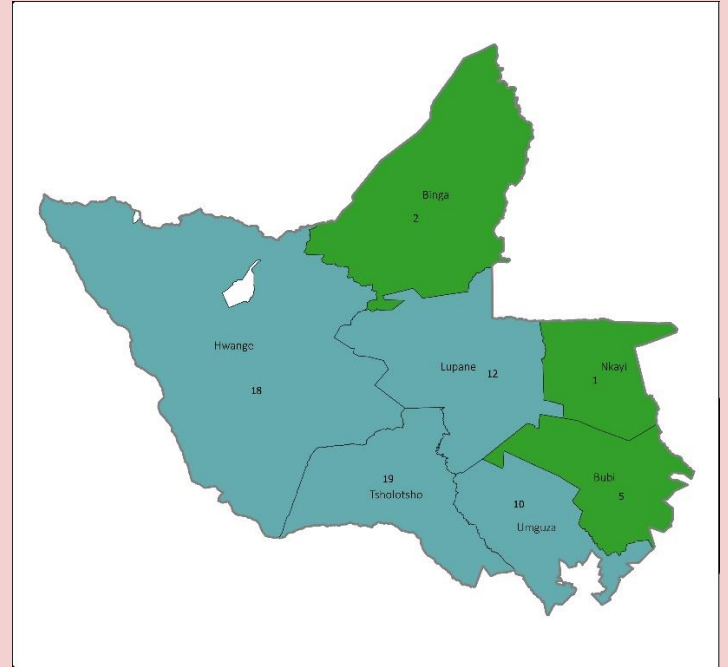
Households Affected by Drought/Prolonged Dry spells

The district which had the highest proportion of households that reported being affected by prolonged dry spells was Umguza (93%).



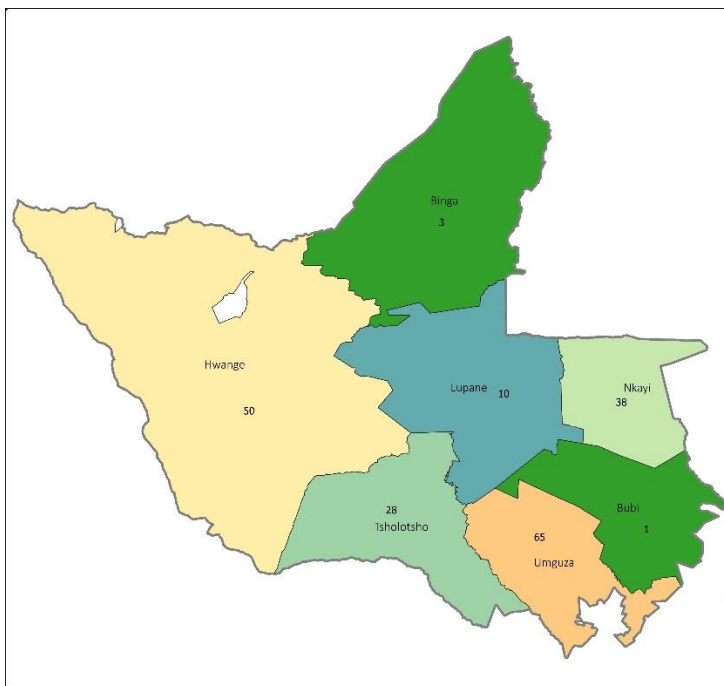
Households Affected by Human Wildlife Conflict

Hwange (18%) and Tsholotsho (19%) had the highest proportion of households affected by human and wildlife conflict.



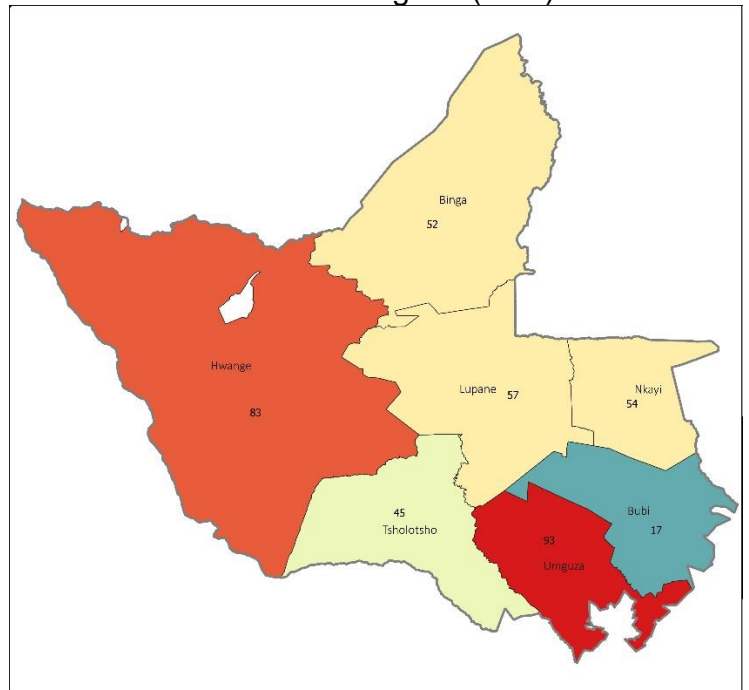
Households Affected by Sharp Cereal Price Increases

The district which had the highest proportion of households that reported being affected by sharp cereal price increases was Umguza (65%).



Households Affected by Livestock Diseases

The district which had the highest proportion of households that reported being affected by livestock diseases was Umguza (93%).



Recommendations

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
Agriculture	Agriculture production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The uptake of quality seeds and growing of small grains remains relatively low at 35.4% and 26.1% respectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Input Support Programmes need to timeously provide agro-ecologically suitable seed for rural farmers.
	Livestock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 50.7% of households were severely affected by livestock deaths. About 43.2% of households were severely affected by livestock diseases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Livestock Production needs to intensify trainings on good animal husbandry, vaccination and dipping of animals. Furthermore, the Department of Livestock production needs engage local leaders and communities to come up with community-centered monitoring systems to ensure everyone adheres to implemented animal disease-control measures.
	Cereal sufficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16% of the households reported having more than 12 months' supply of cereal while almost half (47.9%) had cereal supplies to last 0-3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government and Development Partners are commended for providing support to food deficit households. There is need to continue targeting the most vulnerable groups with the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS)/Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme.
Nutrition	Food consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22% of households had poor food consumption patterns. Average household dietary diversity was 5.5 out of a possible 12 food groups. The provincial stunting rate was 31% and this is classified as high according to the WHO standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scale-up of nutrition education focusing on consumption of diverse of food groups. Strengthen the coordination role of Food and Nutrition Security Committees and scale up support of nutrition-sensitive interventions that include home and school nutrition gardening and mechanization of Intwasa with diversified inputs.
	Nutrition outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial Underweight prevalence was 8% and wasting 5% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale up active screening using community initiatives. Scale up community approaches which encourage community participation which include care group model coupled with standard case management and appropriate IYCF practices.

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
Social Protection & Safety nets	Social protection and safety nets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of households will be cereal insecure at peak. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize resources for supporting vulnerable households. Scale up community capacity building for self-sustenance, training on climate smart agriculture, complemented by timely support with agricultural inputs. 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.
Access to Basic Services	Access to education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43.9% 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 25% travel above 5km to the nearest school in the province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen existing strategies and policies aimed at attainment of the Government's efforts to ensure universal access to education. Strengthen structures and processes for the identification of the most vulnerable children under the BEAM module. Province to develop and implement multi-sectoral platforms that specialize in Specialized Protection Systems for children.
	Access to Services and Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30.9% of the communities indicated road infrastructure as a key development priority. 49% of households travelled more than 5km to the nearest health facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize capacity enhancement for maintenance of rural feeder roads including use of local funding innovations where possible. Capitalize on conditional social support assistance by both Government and NGO partners to carry cash/food for work to rehabilitate feeder roads.

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Shocks and Hazards	Drought/Dry spells <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of households affected by human and wild life conflict was 58.8%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry responsible for Agriculture to promote the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture practices. Additionally, promotion of off farm livelihood interventions which are adaptable within the province, e.g., formalization of small-scale miners.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of households affected by human and wild life conflict was 9.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is need to promote conservation and utilization of wildlife resources as well as compensating households that have suffered losses due to wildlife.

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