

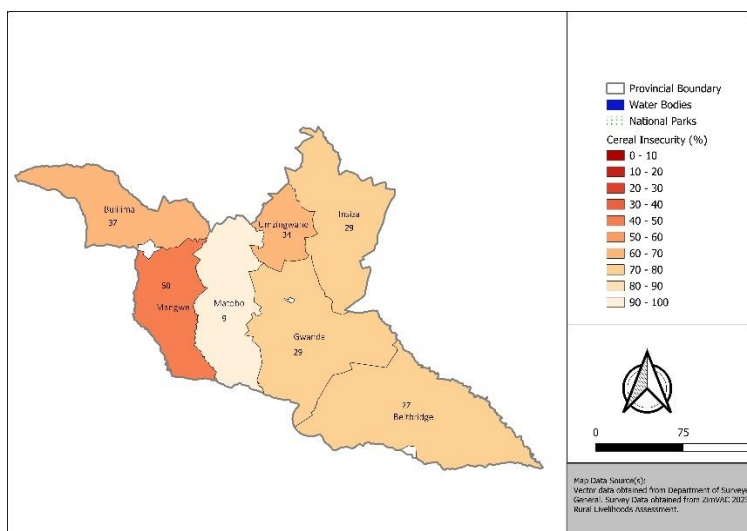
Matabeleland South Province



Purpose of the 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 South province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.

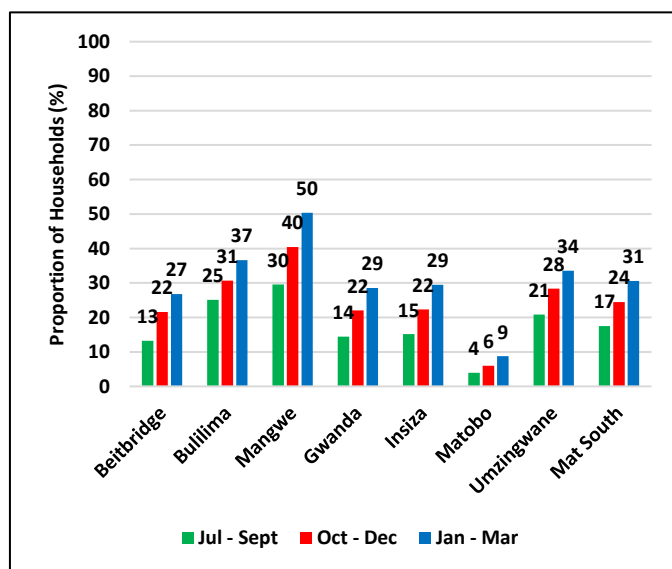
29% Food Insecurity



About **29%** of households will be food insecure during the peak hunger period. At provincial level **7,174 MT** of cereal will be required to feed the food insecure population in Matabeleland South during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024).

Context

Matabeleland South has an area of 54,172 square kilometers (20,916 sq mi), equal to 13.86% of the total area of Zimbabwe. It is the fourth largest of the country's ten provinces in area. Matabeleland South sits on the edge of the Kalahari Desert, giving it an arid climate not hospitable to agriculture. Its economy is largely centered around subsistence farming and livestock farming. Droughts and limited economic opportunities have resulted in widespread poverty and migration out of the province to the neighboring countries.



Cereal Insecurity by Quarter

31% of households will be cereal insecure at peak.

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
Beitbridge	7,896	12,408	20,304	459	751	932
Bulilima	11,936	21,485	26,260	795	972	1,161
Mangwe	12,588	19,406	26,487	718	980	1,223
Gwanda	9,003	18,007	27,511	666	1,018	1,314
Insiza	8,814	18,607	27,421	688	1,015	1,341
Matobo	1,906	3,813	57,19	141	212	310
Umzingwane	9,486	14,947	20,408	553	755	893
Province	61,629	108,673	154,109	4,021	5,702	7,174

Agriculture

Average Cereals Harvested (kgs) per Household

District	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Pearl millet (kgs)
Beitbridge	32.1	25.1	6.1
Bulilima	38.5	5.1	58
Mangwe	19.6	41	24.1
Gwanda	65.6	33	7.1
Insiza	314.4	2	0
Matobo	150.6	27	4.6
Umzingwane	324.6	0	0
Province	107.8	16.6	11

Livestock Production

Cattle

Proportion of households that owned cattle

39%

Goats

Proportion of households that owned goats

66%

Prices of Agricultural Commodities

Cattle

Average
Price Per
Beast



**USD
371**

Goats

Average
Price Per
Beast



USD 41

Maize Grain

Average
Price Per
20L Bucket

**USD
5.75**

Maize Meal

Average
Price Per
10kg

**USD
5.67**

Average Cattle Prices by District

	Cattle (USD)	Goats (USD)	Sheep (USD)	Donkey (USD)	Chicken (USD)
Beitbridge	305	30	40	105	6
Bulilima	354	36	55	131	6
Mangwe	327	41	44	131	6
Gwanda	456	47	65	118	6
Insiza	374	44		91	7
Matobo	313	37	44	134	6
Umzingwane	467	51		146	7
Province	371	41	50	122	6

Average Cereal Prices by District

	Maize Grain (USD per Bucket)	Maize meal (USD per 10kg)
Beitbridge	4	6
Bulilima	6	5
Mangwe	7	7
Gwanda	6	6
Insiza	5	6
Matobo	6	4
Umzingwane	6	6

Cereal Self Sufficiency

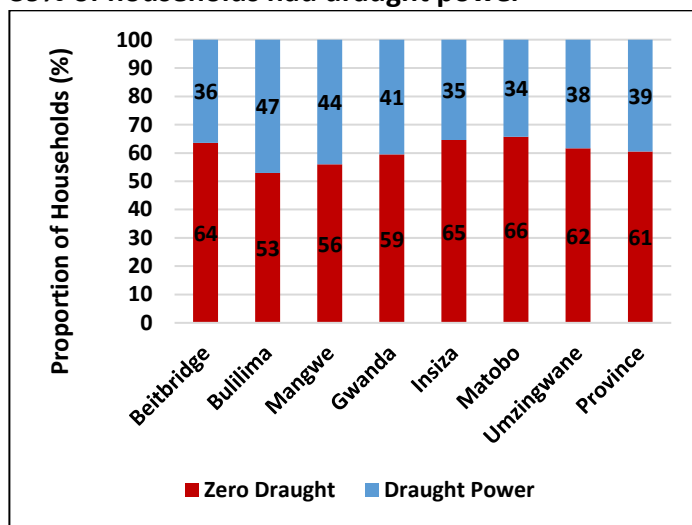
About **16% of households** had more than 12 months' supply of cereal. **47.9%** had 0-3 months cereal supplies.

Climate Smart Agriculture

About **35.2%** of households practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa

Availability of Draught Power

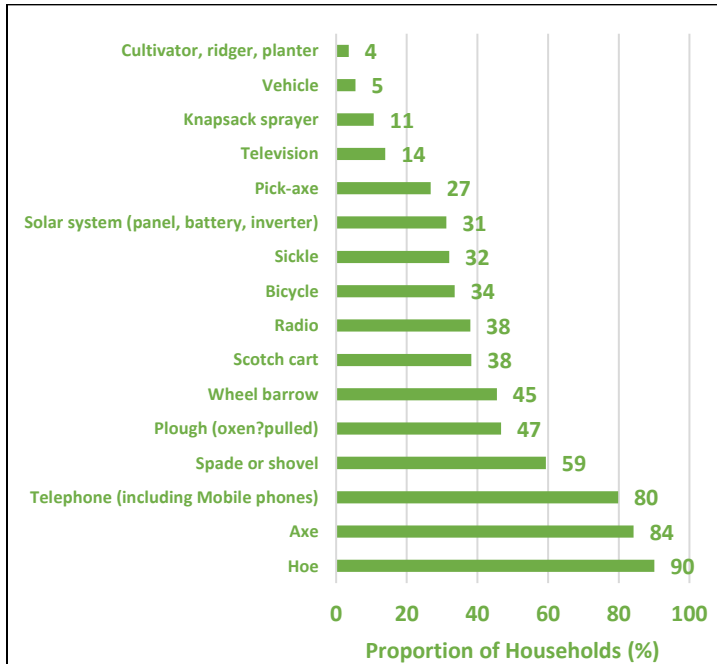
39% of households had draught power



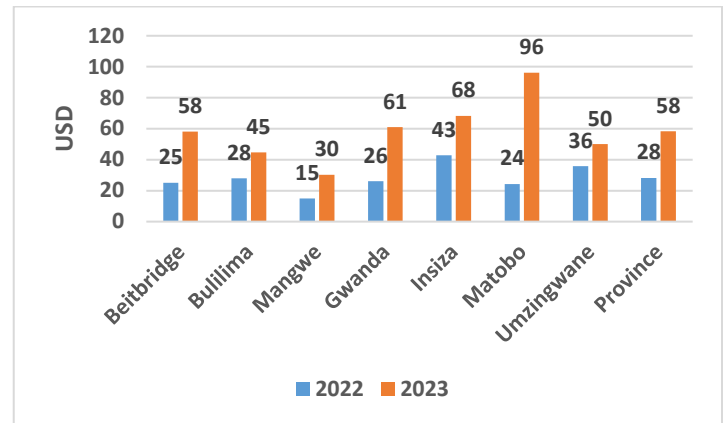
Households that Received Early Warning Information

- **51%** of households received early warning information such as Weather, climate related & seasonal performance.
- Only **36%** of households used the early warning information to plan their response.

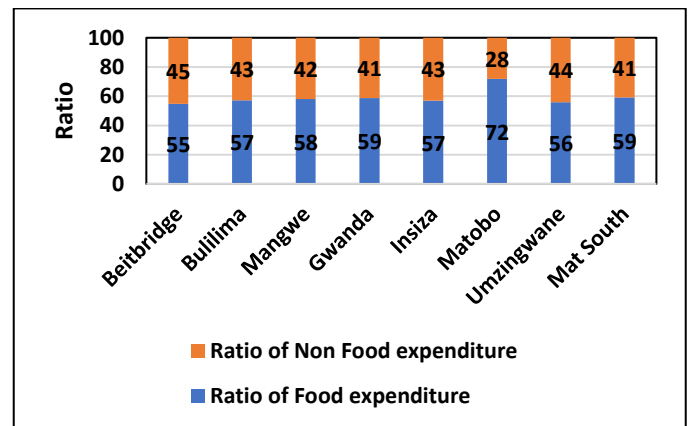
Assets



Average Expenditure April 2023 (USD)



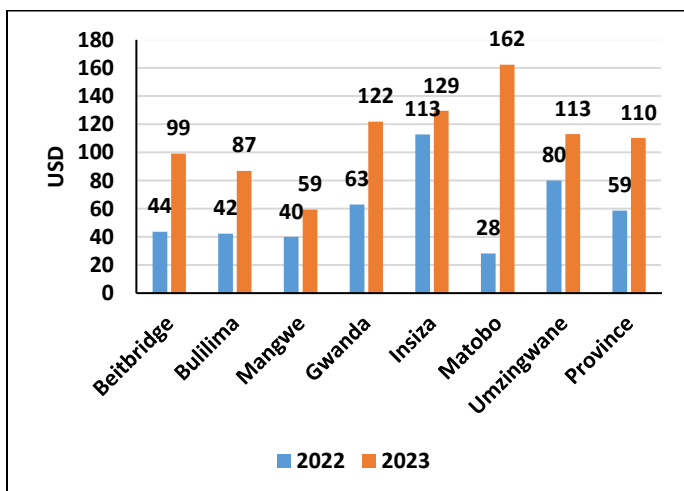
Food Expenditure Ratio



Income Sources

Casual labour (32%) and Remittances and gifts (28%) were the main income sources for the province.

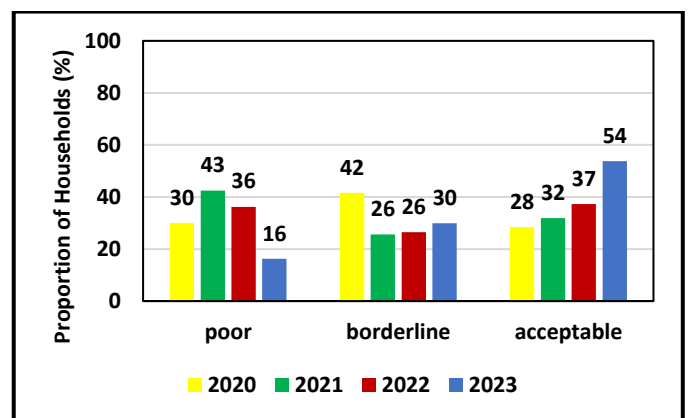
Average Income (USD) April 2023



Average household income was **USD110**.

Consumption Patterns

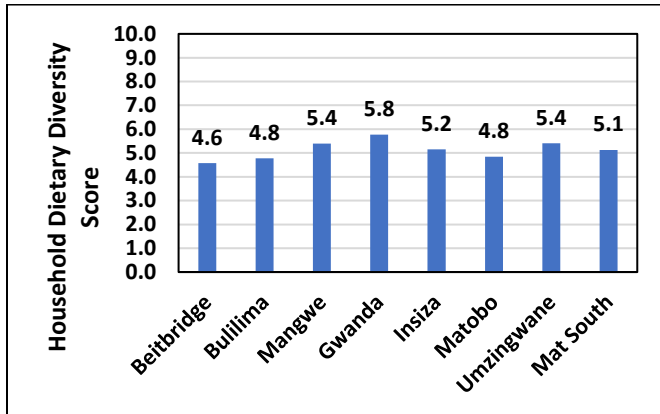
Food Consumption Score



54% of households had acceptable FCS in 2023.

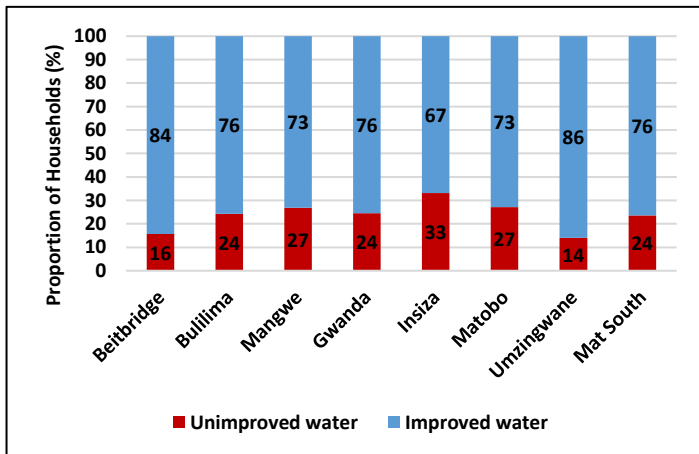
Household Dietary Diversity Score

The average HDDS was 5.1.

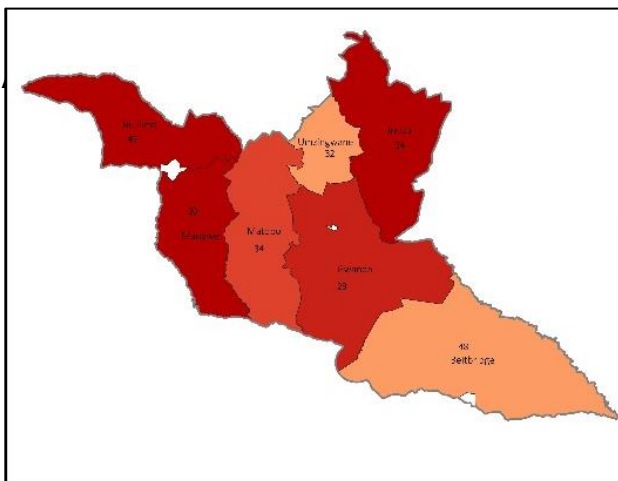


WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Access to Improved Water Sources



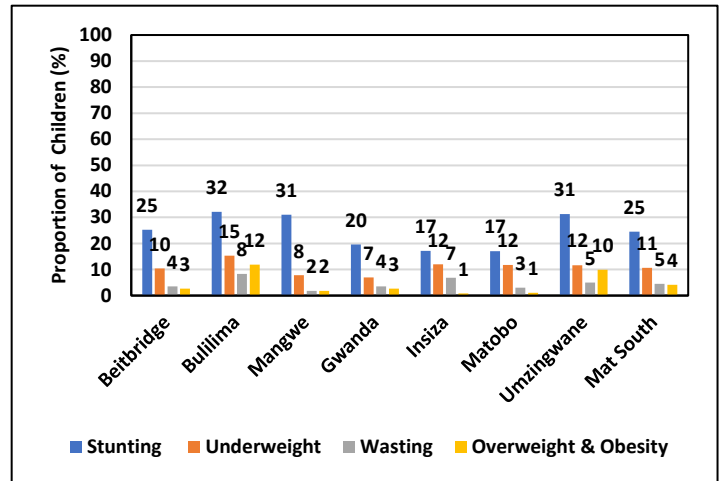
Open Defecation



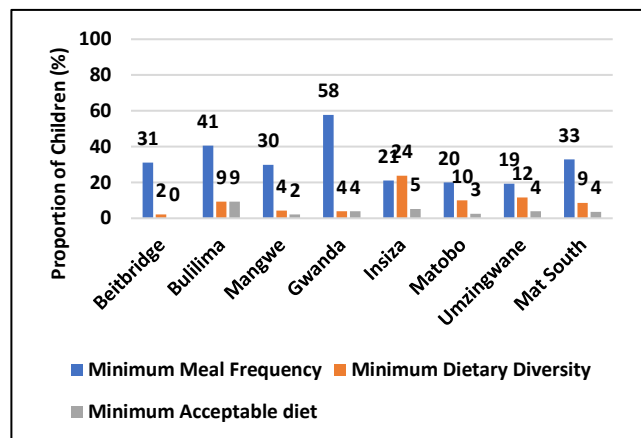
NUTRITION STATUS

Nutritional Status of Children (0-59 Months)

Child Nutritional Status

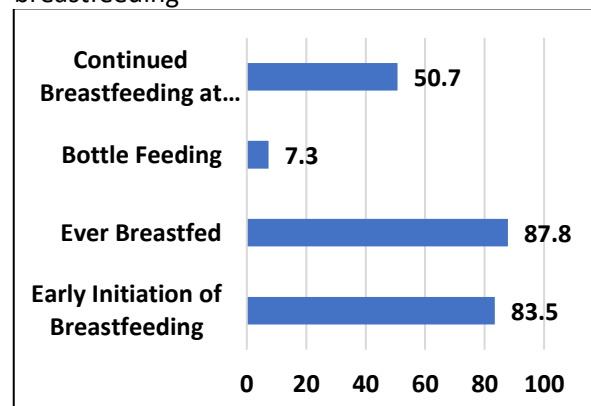


Child Feeding Practices



Breastfeeding Practices

83.5% of children were initiated early to breastfeeding



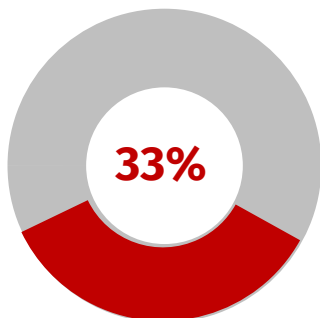
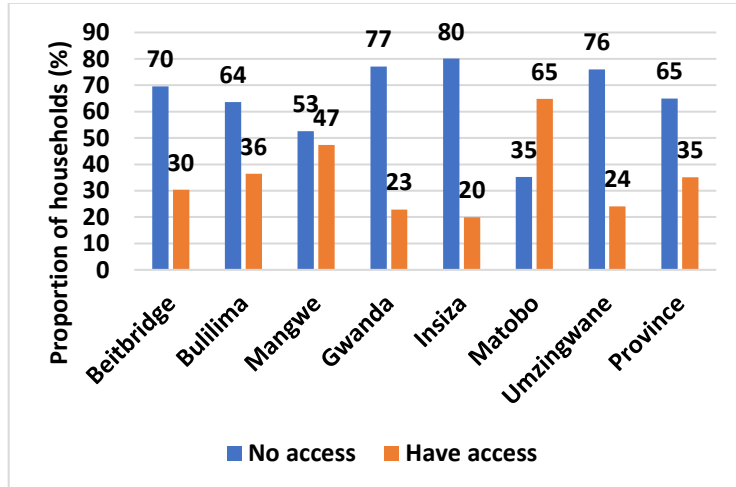
Social Protection

68% of households received some form of support. 54% of the support was received from the Government, 18% from diaspora and 12% from UN/NGOs.



Access to Services & Infrastructure

Access to Police Services Within One Hour

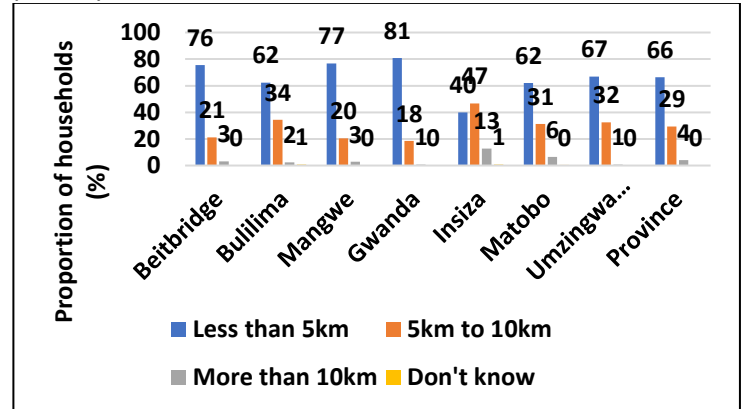


Households that reported that they had no knowledge of the existence of the Police Victim Friendly Unit.

Access to Critical Infrastructure

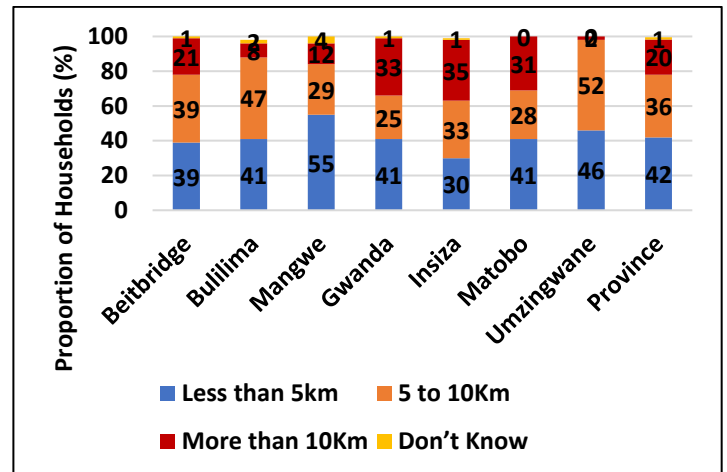
Approximate Distance to the Nearest Primary School

66% of households travelled less than 5km to the nearest primary school.



Approximate Distance to the Nearest Health Facility

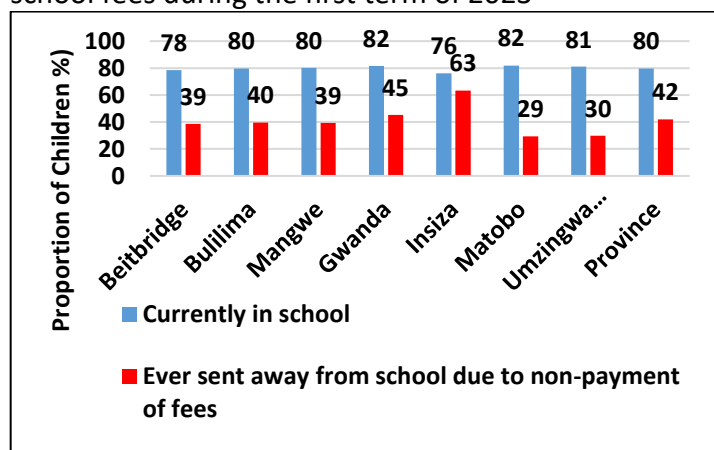
42% proportion of households travelled less than 5km to access the nearest health facility. Insiza (35%) had the highest proportion of households which travelled more than 10km to the nearest health facility.



Access to Education: School Attendance

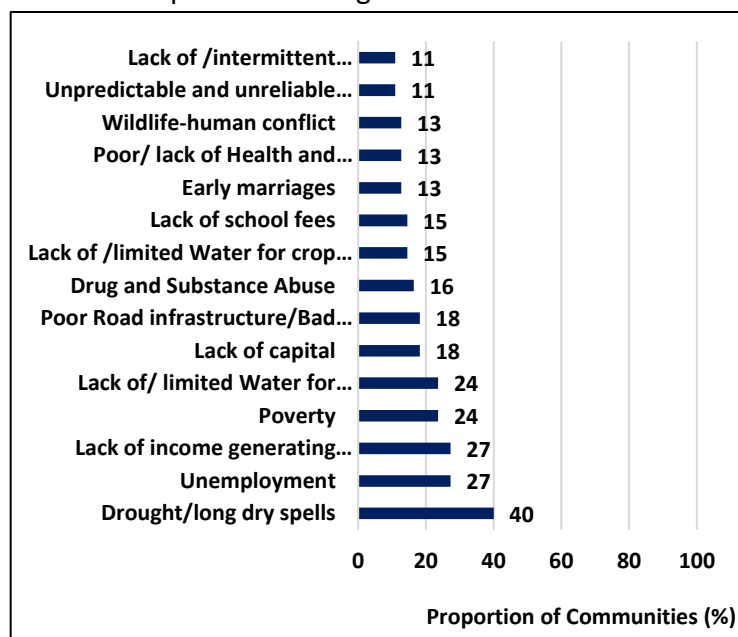
About **79.8%** of school-going age children were in school at the time of the assessment.

About **41.9%** 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



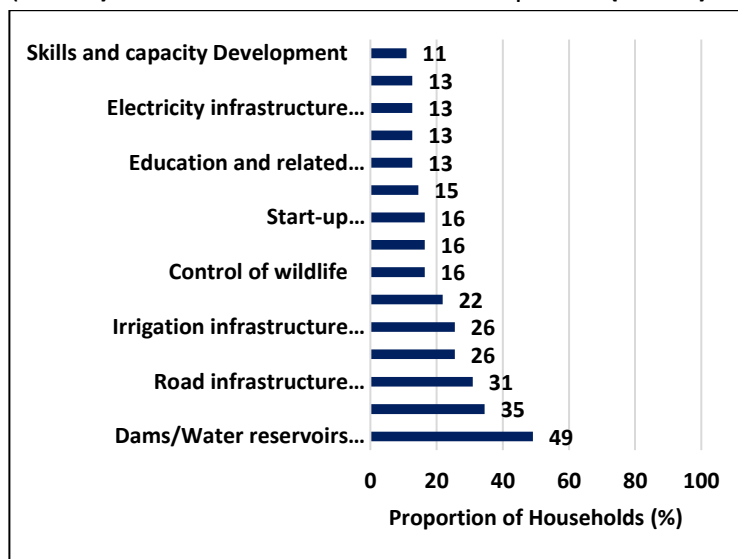
Community Development Challenges

Most communities in Matabeleland South identified long dry spells (**40%**) followed by unemployment, and lack of income generating projects (**27.3%**) as the main development challenges.

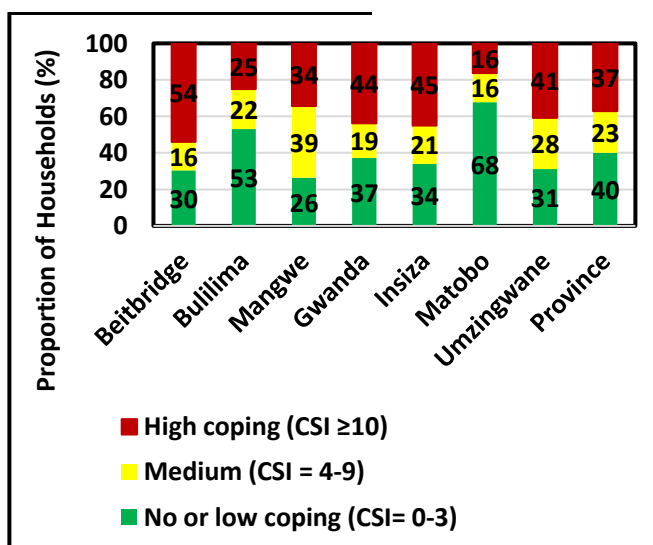


Community Development Challenges

Most communities prioritized construction of dams/water reservoirs (**49.1%**), employment creation (**34.5%**) and road infrastructure development (**30.9%**).

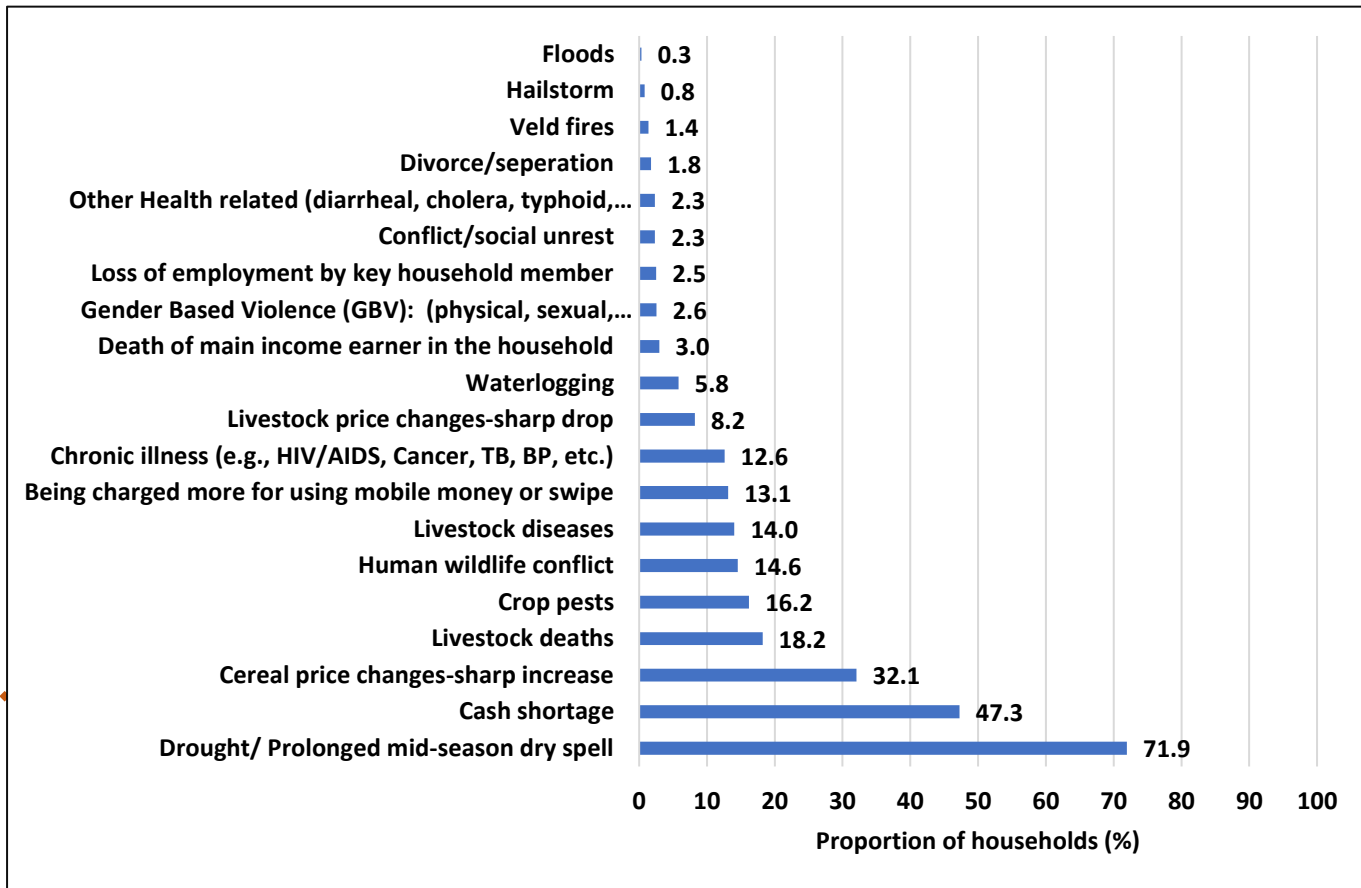


Reduced Coping Strategy Index



40% of households were not employing any negative coping strategy.

Shocks & Hazards



- Drought/prolonged mid-season dry spell (**71.9%**) and Cash shortages (**47.3**) were the main shocks experienced by the households.

Recommendations

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
Agriculture	Livestock Livestock deaths (18.2%) and livestock disease (14%) were reported as major shocks in the province.	<p>The Government Department of Veterinary Services need to Intensify trainings on good animal husbandry, vaccination and dipping of animals.</p> <p>The livestock extension officers to engage local leaders and communities to come up with community-centered monitoring systems to ensure everyone adheres to implemented animal disease-control measures being promoted by the province veterinary department.</p>
	Cereal sufficiency 67.8% of households had cereal supplies to last 0-3 months only	The Government and partners are recommended to plan providing support to the most vulnerable in the province. 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 The provincial stunting rate was 25% and this is classified as high according to the WHO standards.	Strengthen the coordination role of Food and Nutrition Security Committees and scale up support of nutrition-sensitive interventions and that include home and school nutrition gardening, mechanization of Intwasa with diversified inputs. The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare needs to Scale-up nutrition education focusing on diversification of food groups.
WASH	WASH 53% of households were practising open defecation. 89.7% of households did not have handwashing stations at households.	The Ministry of Health and Child Care needs to scale up interventions targeting communities to establish latrines, using the demand led model. Promote establishment of Community Health Clubs which will be instrumental in the promotion of hygiene messaging, and active support to locals to establish low-cost handwashing stations using local resources.
	23.6% were using unprotected water sources	The Government's relevant departments and local authorities need to prioritize access to consumptive water through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation, construction of headwork's as well as piped water schemes.
WASH	Nutrition outcomes The provincial GAM rate was 5%, Bulilima 8% and Mangwe 8% had the highest Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in the province which was above the WHO cut-off (5%) that warrants public health alert for intervention.	The Ministry of Health and Child Care needs to scale up active screening using community initiatives such as mother-led MUAC and mobilize for management of acute malnutrition in respective districts. In addition, scale up community approaches which encourage community participation which include the care group model coupled with standard case management and appropriate IYCF practices.

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
Social Protection & Safety nets	29% of households will be cereal insecure at peak of hunger period.	The Government through the relevant ministries needs to mobilize resources for supporting vulnerable households. Scale up of community capacity building for self- sustenance, training on climate smart agriculture, complemented by timely support with agricultural inputs is also required. 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.
Access to Basic Services	Access to Education 41.9% 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.	The Government through the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to Strengthen existing strategies and policies aimed at attainment of the Government's efforts to ensure universal access to education. There is need to strengthen structures and processes for the identification of the most vulnerable children under the BEAM module.
	Access to Services and Infrastructure 30.9% of the communities indicated road infrastructure as a key development priority.	The Local authorities to prioritize capacity enhancement for maintenance of rural feeder roads including use of local funding innovations where possible. In addition, capitalize on conditional social support assistance by both Government and NGO partners to carry cash/food for work to rehabilitate feeder roads.
	58% of households travelled more than 5km to the nearest health facility.	The Ministry of Health and Child Care needs to increase mobile health services and complemented by scaling up investments in selection and training of community health workers at village level to complement formal health workers.
Shocks and Hazards	Shocks and Hazards The most common shock was long dry spells/drought (40%).	The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development needs to promote the adoption of climate smart technologies and sensitization of communities on new approaches; scale up Pfumvudza /Intwasa interventions, ensure timely supply of agricultural inputs; construct new irrigation schemes and rehabilitate the old ones; desilt dams and construct new dams.

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

Tel: +263-242-862586/ +263-242-862025. Website: www.fnc.org.zw. Email: info@fnc.org.zw.

Twitter: @FNCZimbabwe. Instagram: [fnc_zim](https://www.instagram.com/fnc_zim). Facebook: @FNCZimbabwe. WhatsApp: +263 0776 990 479

