

# **Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report**

*Towards Transformed Livelihoods for Improved Food and  
Nutrition Security in Rural Areas*



**ZIMBABWE**  
Vulnerability  
Assessment Committee

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# Foreword

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) continues to undertake annual livelihoods assessments in fulfilment of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. To date, ZimVAC has undertaken 10 Urban and 23 Rural Livelihoods Assessments. The assessment results have become an important tool for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation. The 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment was guided by the Government of Zimbabwe's unwavering commitment to ensuring a national integrated Food and Nutrition Security Information System that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making.

This report provides updates on pertinent rural households' livelihoods issues which include demographics, health, nutrition, WASH, social protection, food consumption patterns, income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, coping strategies, shocks and food security. This Rural Livelihoods Assessment places households and their members at the centre of analysis and decision making, with the implication that household-centred analysis must play a role in developing an understanding of livelihood strategies, programmes, project planning and evaluation. The methodology used in this assessment is contextual and attempts to capture a social phenomena within its social, economic and cultural context, whilst acknowledging the complex nature of rural livelihoods.

We continue to express our gratitude to ZimVAC stakeholders for undertaking the assessment, with tremendous support from the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels. The assessment received financial support and technical leadership from the Government of Zimbabwe and its Development Partners. Without this support, the 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment would not have been successful. We would like to appreciate the rural communities of Zimbabwe, the local authorities as well as Traditional Leaders for cooperating and supporting this assessment. We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work towards addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.



**George D. Kembo (Dr.)**

**FNC Director General/ ZimVAC Chairperson**

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- Food and Nutrition Council
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- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Rural District Councils (RDCs)
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- ZIMSTATS
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- START NETWORK
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- FEWSNET
- UNOCHA
- Save the Children
- Catholic Relief Services
- Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA)
- World Vision
- Redcross
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- Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- University of Zimbabwe
- Midlands State University
- Lupane State University
- Plan International
- CARITAS
- Lower Guruve Development Association
- Green Impact
- AMALIMA Loko
- Midlands AIDS Service Organisation
- ZVANDIRI
- Aqua Culture
- CARE International
- Mercy Corps
- Chemonics Farm Project
- National AIDS Council
- Nutrition Action Zimbabwe
- Rozaria Memorial Trust

# Acknowledgement of Support



ZIMBABWE



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

START  
NETWORK

# Acronyms

<b>EA</b>	Enumeration Area
<b>FNC</b>	Food and Nutrition Council
<b>FNSP</b>	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
<b>HDDS</b>	Household Dietary Diversity Score
<b>NDS 1</b>	National Development Strategy 1
<b>RLA</b>	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>ZimVAC</b>	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

# **Introduction and Background**

# Introduction

- ZimVAC livelihoods assessments' results continue to be an important tool for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation.
- ZimVAC plays a significant role in fulfilling Commitment Six of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (GoZ, 2012), in which the “Government of Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring a national integrated Food and Nutrition Security Information System that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making”.
- It has become mandatory for FNC to coordinate annual livelihoods updates with the technical support of ZimVAC.



# Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

ZimVAC is a consortium of Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. It was established in 2002 and is led and regulated by Government. It is chaired by FNC, a department in the Office of the President and Cabinet whose mandate is to promote a multi-sectoral response to food insecurity and nutrition problems in a manner which ensures that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

ZimVAC supports Government, particularly FNC in:

- Convening and coordinating national food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe.
- Mapping a practical way forward for fulfilling legal and existing policy commitments in food and nutrition security.
- Advising Government on the strategic direction in food and nutrition security.
- Undertaking a “watchdog role” and supporting and facilitating action to ensure sector commitments in food and nutrition are kept on track through a number of core functions such as:
  - Undertaking food and nutrition assessments, analysis and research;
  - Promoting multi-sectoral and innovative approaches for addressing food and nutrition insecurity, and:
  - Supporting and building national capacity for food and nutrition security including at sub-national levels.

# Assessment Rationale

The assessment results will be used to:

- Inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people, given the prevailing situation in the country as well as their long term vulnerability context.
- Inform short, medium and long term interventions that address immediate and long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods.
- Monitor and report towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national food and nutrition policies and strategies among them the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Zero Hunger Strategy.
- Monitor interventions to ensure adherence to the principles spelt out in regional and international frameworks which Zimbabwe has committed itself to, which include the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the SDGs.
- Guide early warning for early action.

# Purpose

The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas, for the purpose of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions.

# Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

1. To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2023/24 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
2. To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
3. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of characteristics such as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
4. To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions in the country.
5. To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
6. To identify development priorities for communities.

# Contextual Analysis - Background

- Rural communities continue to be exposed to both systemic and idiosyncratic shocks. This calls for ongoing monitoring of the food and nutrition situation as it evolves.
- The 2022/2023 season was characterised by an early onset of rains in most parts of the country. However, the Mashonaland provinces experienced a rather late onset of the season.
- The earliest effective rains were received towards the end of November 2022 in the central and northern parts of the country. Most southern parts of the country experienced their onset from the third dekad of December 2022. The bulk of the cereal crops were planted in November and December 2022.
- Cyclone Freddy, which formed in the Indian Ocean in late January 2023, brought heavy rains and strong winds to parts of eastern Zimbabwe, causing damage to crops and infrastructure. The cyclone also triggered landslides and mudslides in some areas, displacing people.
- According to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development's 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment Report, there was a 59% increase in food crops production compared to last season. The total cereal production was 2 579 247 MT against a national cereal requirement of 1 837 742 MT for human consumption and 450 000 MT for livestock.
- Between April and May 2023, food prices generally increased across the country, mainly in ZWL.
- The increasing food prices continue to limit household purchasing power, particularly households that are dependent on market purchases for food.

# Economic Stabilisation Measures

Government, through the Ministry responsible for Finance has also put in place a number of measures which resulted in the following :

- Total foreign currency receipts for the period January to 31 December 2022 amounted to US\$11.6 billion compared to US\$9.9 billion received during the same period in 2021, representing a 17.3% increase.
- Month-on-month inflation declined from 0.7% in January 2023 to -1.6% in February 2023 and 0.1% in March 2023. The month-on-month inflation rate in April 2023 was 2.4 percent gaining 2.3 percentage points on the March 2023 rate of 0.1 percent. Annual inflation also declined from 101.5% in January 2023 to 92.3% in February 2023 and further down to 87.6% in March 2023.
- Economic growth is forecast at 3.8% in 2023, largely premised on the anticipated increase in mining output supported by the favourable international commodity prices. The recovery of the agriculture sector, following the drought-induced fall in outturn thus far, is also expected to contribute significantly to growth in 2023 (RBZ, 2023).
- Government increased access to foreign currency to the formal banking system through the willing-buyer willing-seller policy as well as the Dutch Auction System.

# Government Mitigatory Measures

Government remained committed to ensuring that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition and led the implementation of the following measures to ensure food security for all people:

- a) *Supporting the vulnerable groups*** through the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, distribution of food aid (in-kind) and cash transfers; cash transfer for cereals, harmonised social cash transfers.
- b) *Removing restrictions on food importation (Statutory Instrument 80 of 2023)***: Removal of import duty on cooking oil, maize meal, milk, sugar and rice, among other basic commodities to ensure affordability of essential foodstuffs.
- c) *Easing of restrictions on maize grain trade (Statutory Instrument 56 of 2023)*** thus increasing maize grain flows and improving availability.
- d) *Acceleration of rural industrialisation and rural development***: Eight Presidential Programmes were being implemented to accelerate rural industrialisation and rural development - Presidential Climate-Proofed Inputs Scheme, Presidential Climate-Proofed Cotton Scheme, Presidential Rural Development Programme, Presidential Blitz Tick Grease Scheme, Presidential Community Fisheries Scheme, Presidential Poultry Scheme, Presidential Goat Scheme and Vision 2030 Accelerator Model (V30 Accelerator).

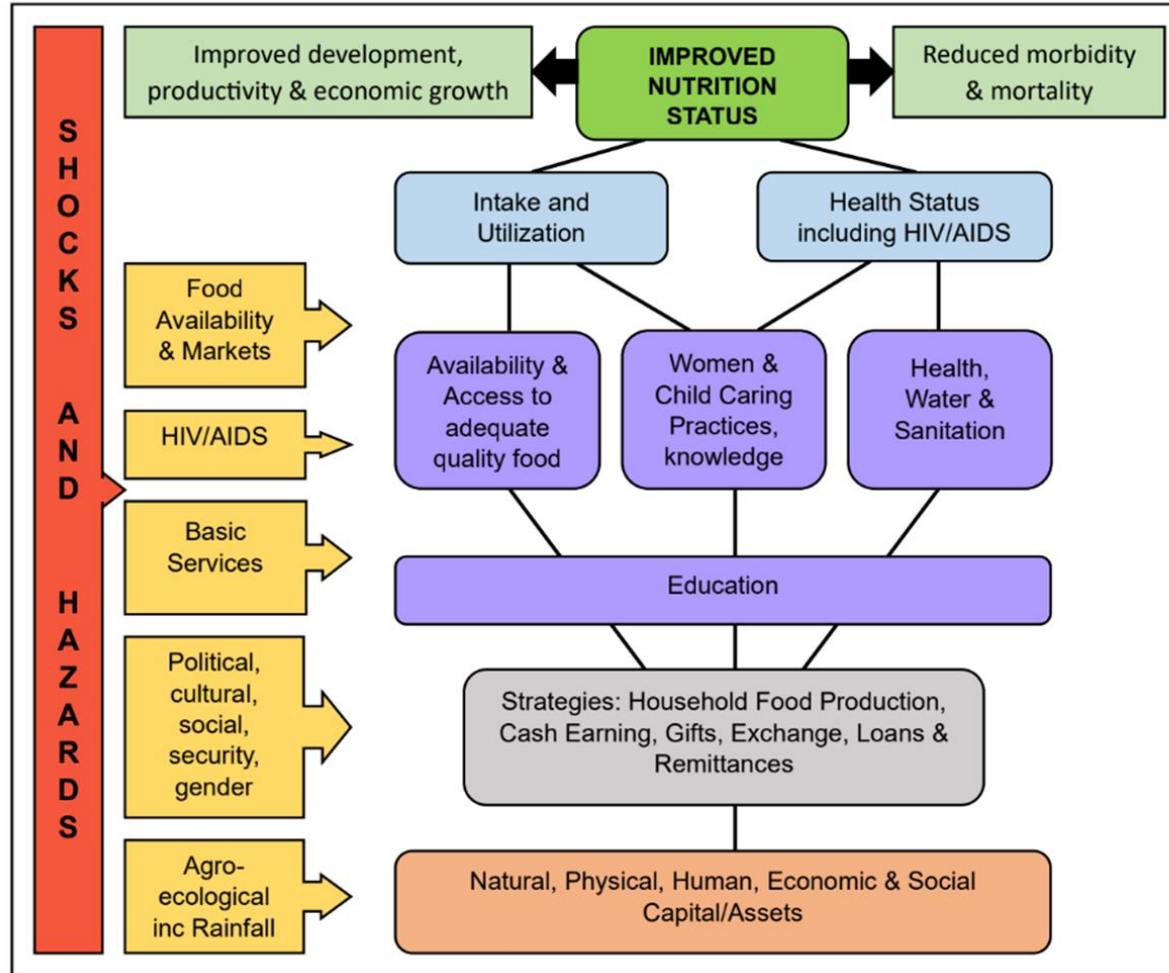
# Government Mitigatory Measures

- e) *Enabling environment-*** Government also opened up space for development partners to contribute and assist.
- f) *National Public Infrastructure Investment Programme*** prioritises and embraces projects identified by communities. Major trunk roads are now being upgraded, new infrastructure being constructed, and additional raw water sources are being delivered to mitigate the impact of climate change.
- g) *Access to consumptive water*** through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation and construction of Headworks for livestock water troughs.
- h) *Strengthening of Multi-Sectoral Structures*** in order to operationalise a cohesive response to the food and nutrition challenges. The structures include the following: Inter-Ministerial Cabinet Committee for Food and Nutrition Security, Inter-Ministerial Grain Importation Committee, Internal Logistics and Distribution of Grain Committee, Working Party of Permanent Secretaries, Food Aid Working Group, National Food and Nutrition Security Committee, District Food and Nutrition Security Committees, District Drought Relief Committees and Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (inclusive of local leadership including local Councilors and Chiefs).



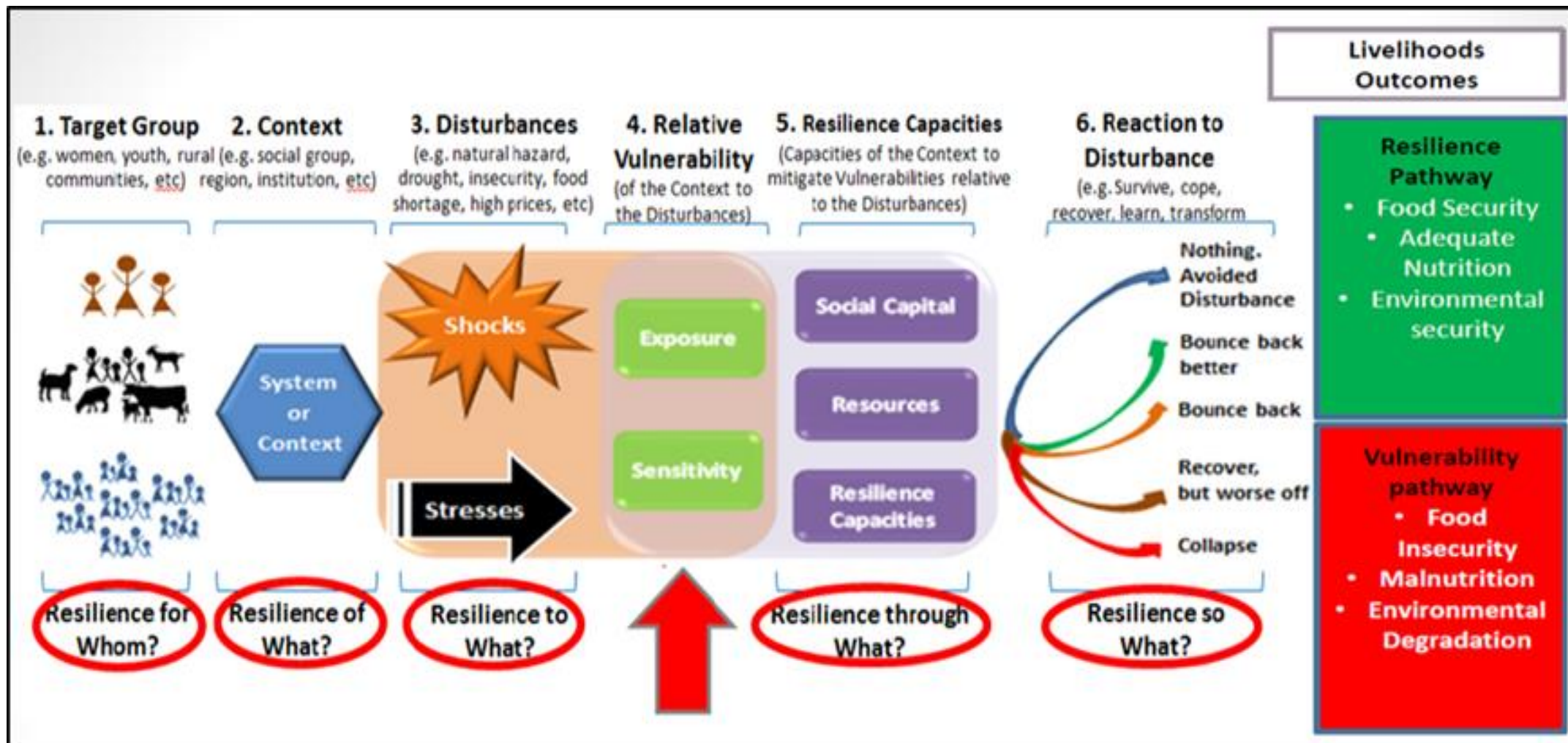
# **Assessment Methodology**

# Methodology – Assessment Design



**Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework**

- The assessment was a cross-sectional study whose design was guided and informed by the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework (Figure 1), which Zimbabwe adopted in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012), and the conceptual framework on food security dimensions propounded by Jones et al. (2013).
- The assessment was also guided and informed by the resilience framework (Figure 2) so as to influence the early recovery of households affected by various shocks.
- The assessment looked at food availability and access as pillars that have confounding effects on food security as defined in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012).
- Accordingly, the assessment measured the amount of energy available to a household from all its potential sources hence the **primary sampling unit** for the assessment was the household.



*Figure 2: Zimbabwe Resilience Framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)*

# Methodology – Assessment Process

- ZimVAC, through multi-stakeholder consultations, developed an appropriate assessment design concept note and data collection tools informed by the assessment objectives.
- The primary data collection tools used in the assessment were the android-based structured household questionnaire, the community Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide and the Chiefs' FGD guide.
- ZimVAC national supervisors (including Provincial Agritex Extension Officers and Provincial Nutritionists) and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. These underwent training in all aspects of the assessment. Training for enumerators was done at district level.
- The Ministry of Local Government coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial supervision and district enumeration vehicles. Three enumerators were selected from each district for data collection and one anthropometrist was responsible for taking anthropometric measurements.
- Enumerator training was held from 4 to 5 May 2023. Primary data collection took place from 6 to 17 May 2023. Data analysis and report writing ran from 22 May to 2 June 2023. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

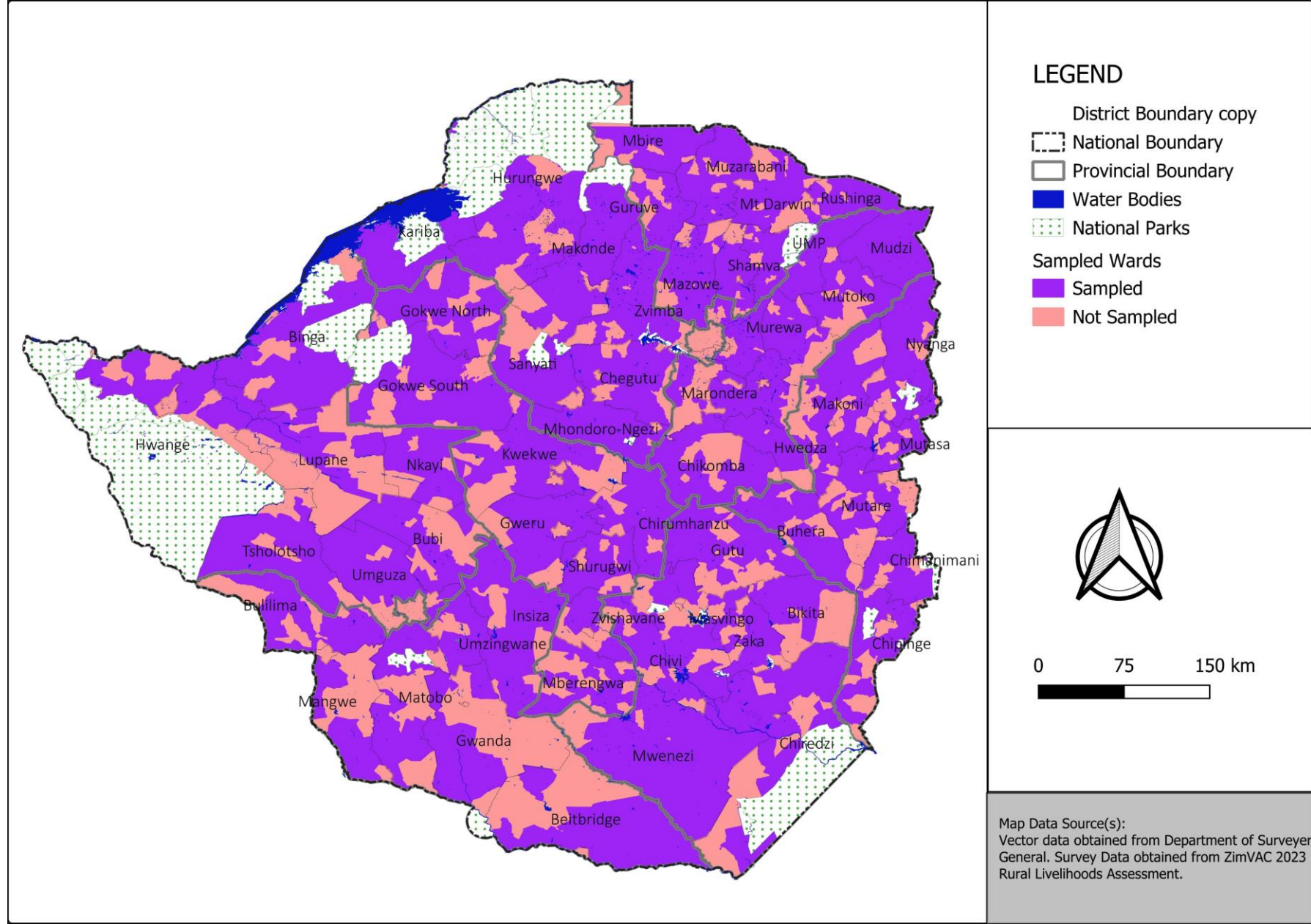
# Methodology - Sampling and Sample Size

- Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level.
- The survey collected data from 1 500 randomly selected Enumerated Areas (EAs).
- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of:
  - Sampling of 25 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2022 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology.
  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).
- At least 250 households were sampled per district. A total of 15 009 households were interviewed.
- Eight FGDs and at least 2 Chief's Focus Group Discussions were held per district.

Province	Number of Interviewed Households
Manicaland	1748
Mash Central	2007
Mash East	2254
Mash West	1759
Mat North	1752
Mat South	1752
Midlands	2007
Masvingo	1730
National	15009



# Methodology – Sampled Wards



# Data Preparation and Analysis

- Primary data was transcribed using CSEntry on android gadgets and using CPro. It was consolidated and converted into SPSS, STATA and DBF datasets for:
  - Household structured interviews
  - Community Focus Group Discussions
  - Chief's Focus Group Discussions
- Data cleaning and analysis were done using SPSS, STATA, ENA, Microsoft Excel and GIS packages.
- Analyses of the different thematic areas covered by the assessment were informed and guided by relevant local and international frameworks, where they exist.
- Gender, as a cross cutting issue, was recognised throughout the analysis.

# Technical Scope

The 2022 RLA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Health
- WASH
- Nutrition
- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities
- Food security
- Social protection
- Youth
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender



# **Demographic Description of the Sample**

# Household Characteristics

# Characteristics of Respondents

Province	Age of Respondent (years)	Sex of respondent (%)	
		Male	Female
Manicaland	45.3	33.8	66.2
Mash Central	46.9	38.3	61.7
Mash East	47.6	37.6	63.0
Mash West	42.4	39.4	60.6
Mat North	49.6	38.0	62.0
Mat South	48.4	30.1	69.9
Midlands	49.4	32.6	67.4
Masvingo	48.5	31.5	65.5
National	<b>47.3</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>64.8</b>

- The average age of the respondents was 47.3 years.
- About 64.8% of the respondents were females.

# Household Members' Characteristics

Province	Household size	Sex		Number of Children (n)		Household Members						
		Male	Female	0-23 Months	24-59 Months	0-9 Years	10-17 Years	18-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-64 Years	65+ Years
Manicaland	4.2	47.2	52.8	247	482	23.7	22.0	16.1	11.2	10.2	9.6	7.1
Mash Central	4.2	48.7	51.3	437	668	26.6	19.1	17.4	11.8	10.1	7.9	7.1
Mash East	4.2	48.5	51.5	483	789	26.0	19.7	16.5	10.4	9.3	9.5	8.6
Mash West	4.3	49.7	50.3	346	615	24.9	18.1	20.0	12.5	9.9	9.4	5.1
Mat North	4.7	47.5	52.5	294	552	23.4	21.7	15.9	10.3	8.7	11.0	8.9
Mat South	4.5	46.4	53.6	320	587	24.6	20.3	16.6	10.0	8.9	10.1	9.3
Midlands	5.0	48.1	51.9	437	801	25.0	20.2	16.9	9.7	9.3	9.9	9.0
Masvingo	4.7	47.6	52.4	300	555	24.3	22.5	15.0	9.4	10.3	9.7	8.8
National	4.5	48.0	52.0	2864	5049	24.8	20.4	16.8	10.6	9.6	9.7	8.1

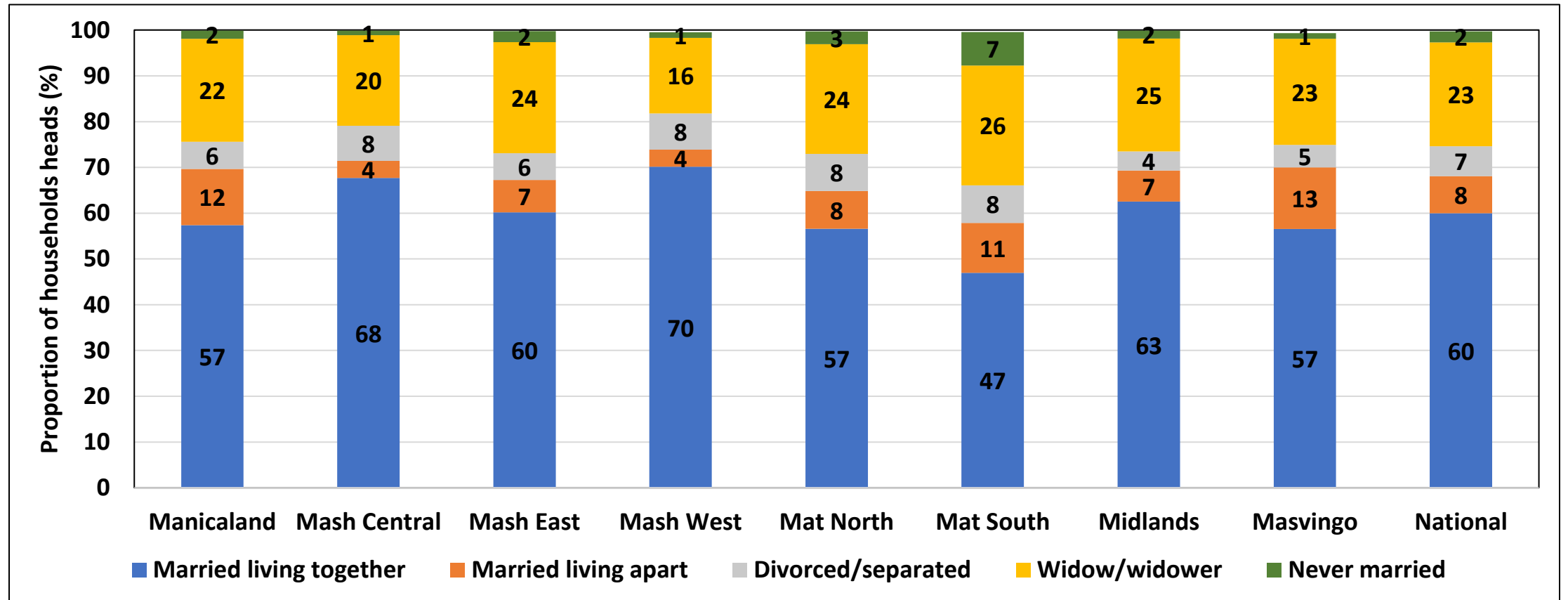
- The average household size was at 4.5.
- Females (52%) constituted the majority of the household members.
- The 65+ years age range constituted 8.1% of household members.

# Characteristics of Household Head

Province	Average Household Head Age (%)	Household Head Sex (%)		Household Head by Category (%)	
		Female	Male	Child Headed	Elderly Headed
Manicaland	50.2	32.6	67.4	0.2	29.7
Mash Central	53.1	27.2	72.6	0.0	27.0
Mash East	51.5	34.1	65.7	0.2	34.3
Mash West	47.5	24.0	75.7	0.1	22.7
Mat North	56.9	34.5	65.4	0.1	40.8
Mat South	57.9	43.6	56.4	0.2	40.8
Midlands	55.9	31.1	68.9	0.1	37.0
Masvingo	53.1	36.4	63.5	0.1	34.1
National	<b>53.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>33.3</b>

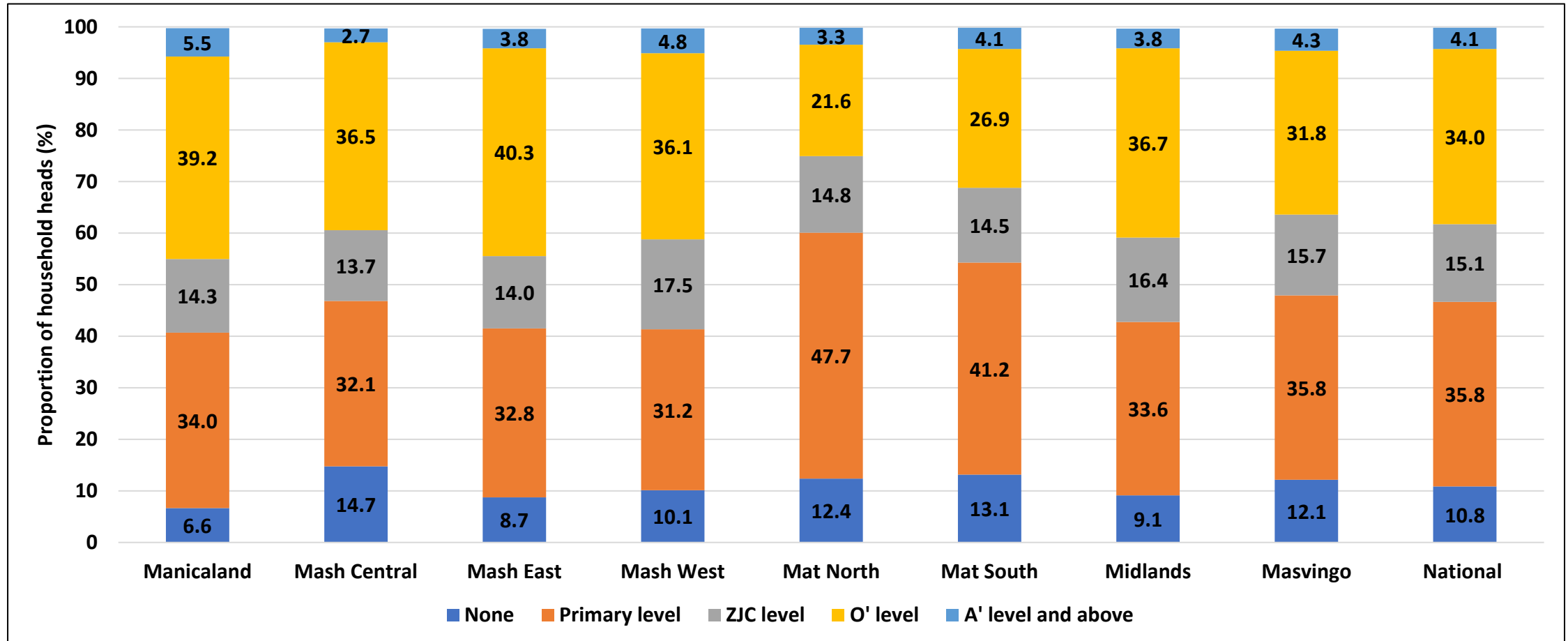
- The average age of household heads was 53.2 years.
- About 32.8% of the households were female headed, with the highest proportion in Matabeleland South (43.6%).
- At least 33.3% of the households were elderly headed while 0.1% were child-headed.

# Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status



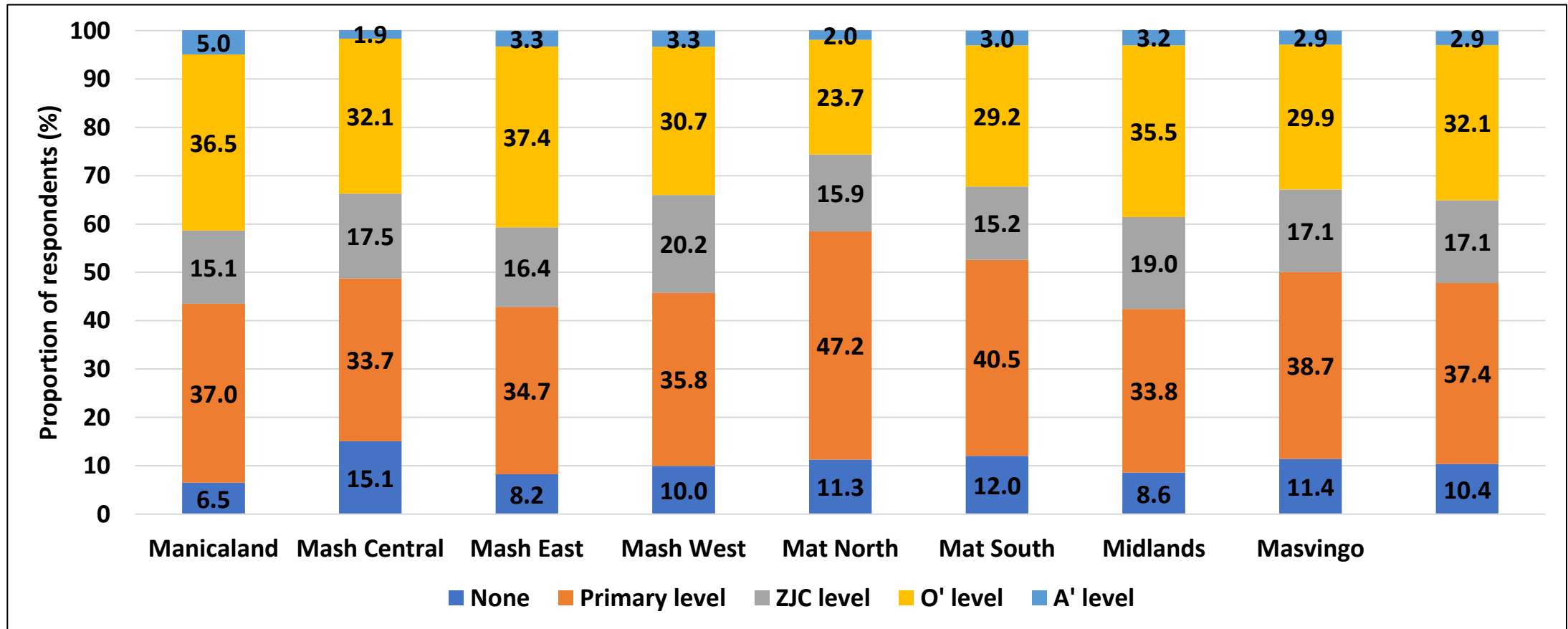
- Nationally, 60% of the household heads were married and living together with their spouse, whilst 23% were widowed.
- Matabeleland South (47%) had the least proportion of household heads who were married and living together with their spouses. The province also had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed (26%).

# Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained



- About 89% of the household heads had attained some form of education.

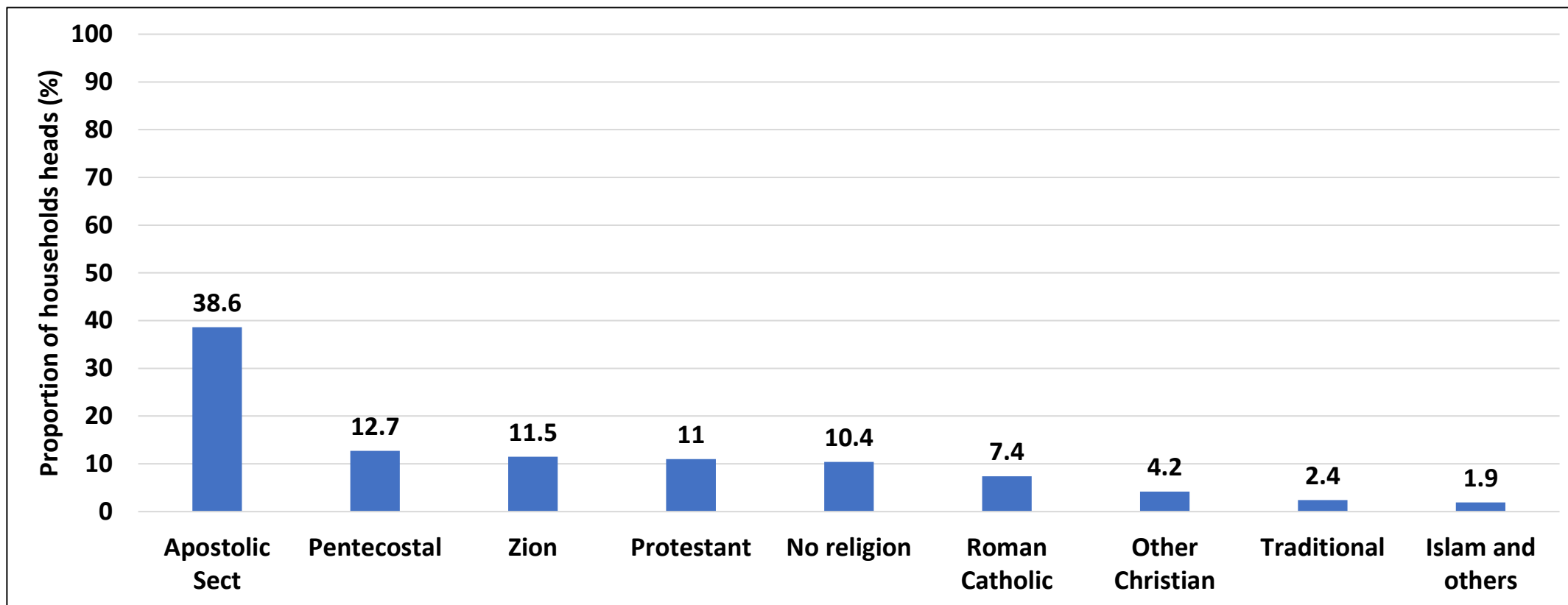
# Characteristics of Respondents: Education Level Attained



- About 89.5% of the respondents had attained some form of education. This reflects their ability to articulate developmental issues that pertain to their households and communities.

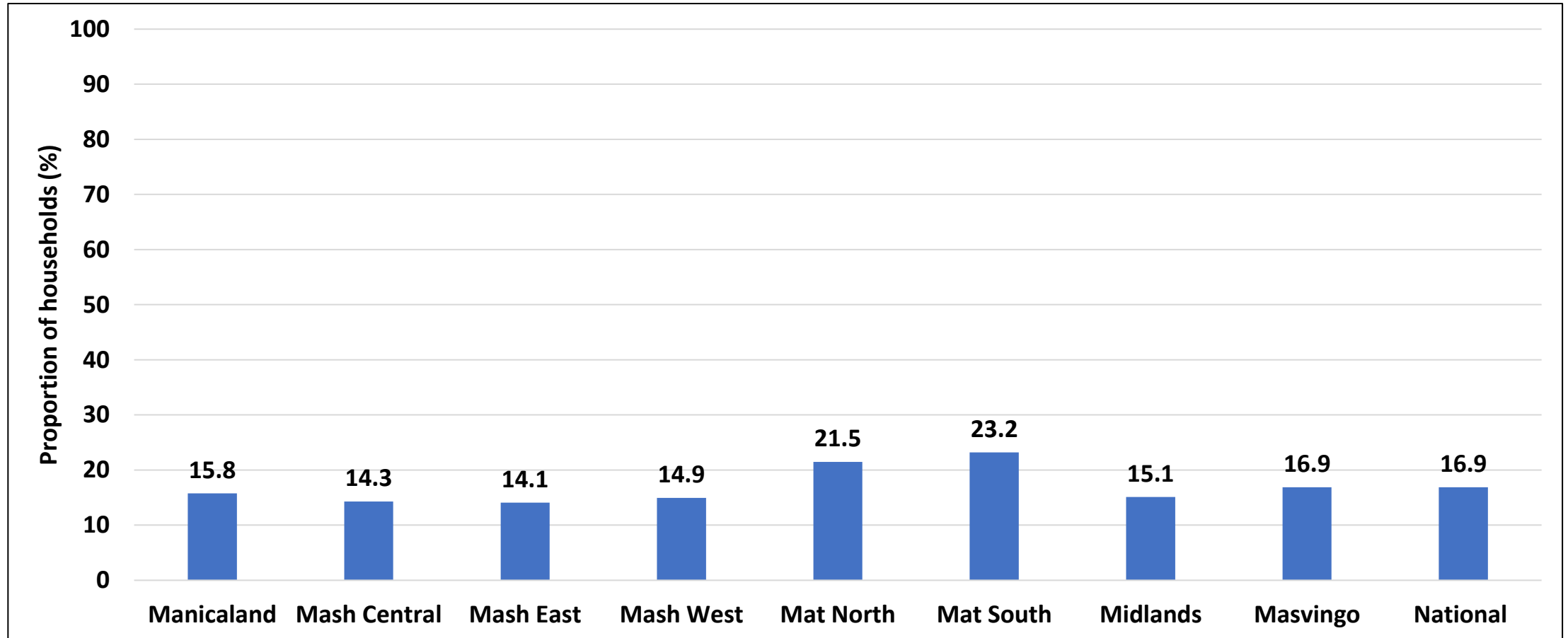


# Characteristics of Household Head: Religion



- The highest proportion of household heads were mainly of the Apostolic sect (38.6%), Pentecostal (12.7%) and Zion (11.5%).

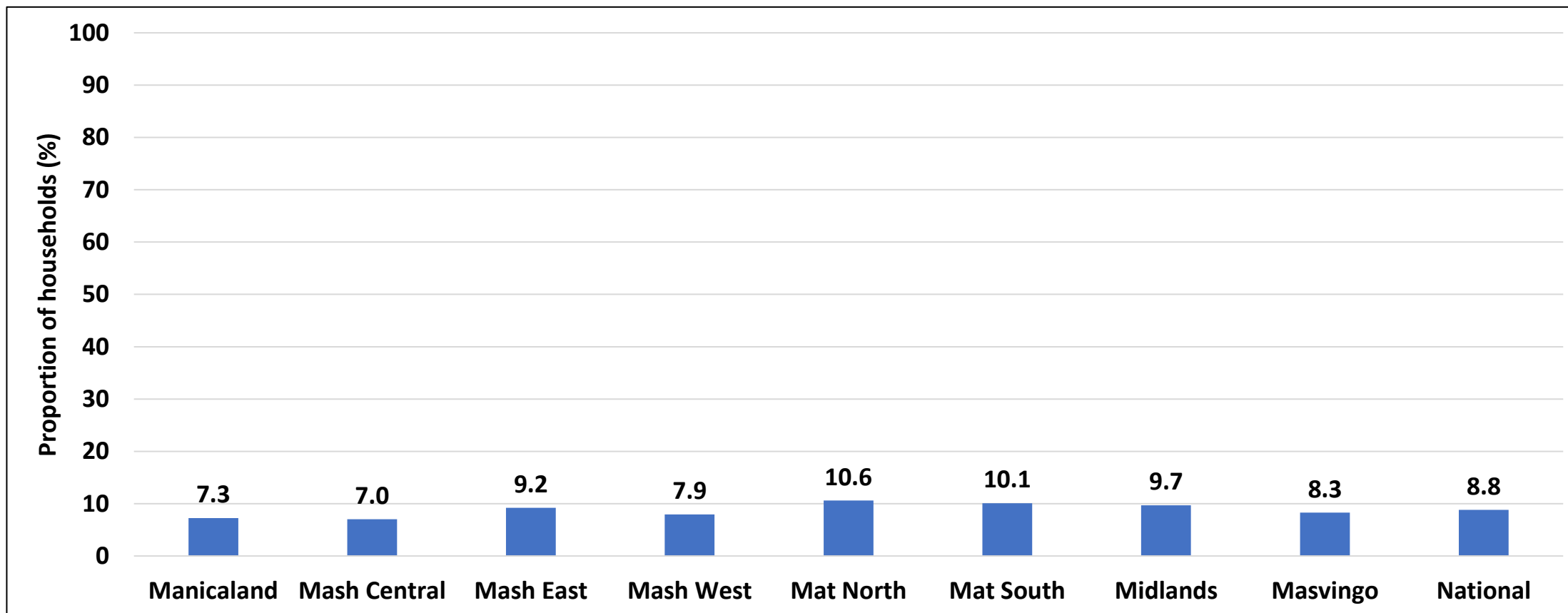
# Orphaned Children



- About 16.9% of the households had at least an orphan.

# **Chronic Conditions**

# Chronic Conditions



- The proportion of households which had a member with a chronic condition was 8.8%.

# Household Members Who Had Chronic Conditions (8.8%)

Province	Members with Chronic Condition (%)	HIV infection, AIDS (%)	Heart disease (%)	Diabetes, high blood sugar (%)	Asthma (%)	Hypertension, High blood pressure (%)	Arthritis, chronic body pain (%)	Epilepsy, seizures, fits (%)	Stroke (%)	Cancer (%)	Tuberculosis (%)	Kidney diseases (%)	Ulcer, chronic stomach pain (%)	Cerebral palsy (%)	Mental illness (%)	Not willing to disclose (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	7.3	1.6	0.2	1.6	0.6	2.8	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2
Mash Central	7.0	1.5	0.4	1.2	0.7	2.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7
Mash East	9.2	2.0	0.5	1.6	0.8	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5
Mash West	7.9	2.2	0.4	1.3	0.6	2.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4
Mat North	10.6	4.9	0.2	1.7	0.8	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3
Mat South	10.1	4.2	0.3	1.3	0.7	2.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.5
Midlands	9.7	2.4	0.4	1.4	0.8	3.2	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.6
Masvingo	8.3	3.0	0.4	1.3	0.7	1.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
National	8.8	2.7	0.4	1.4	0.7	2.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5

- HIV infections/AIDS (2.7%) and hypertension/high blood pressure (2.6%) were the major chronic conditions cited.

# **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

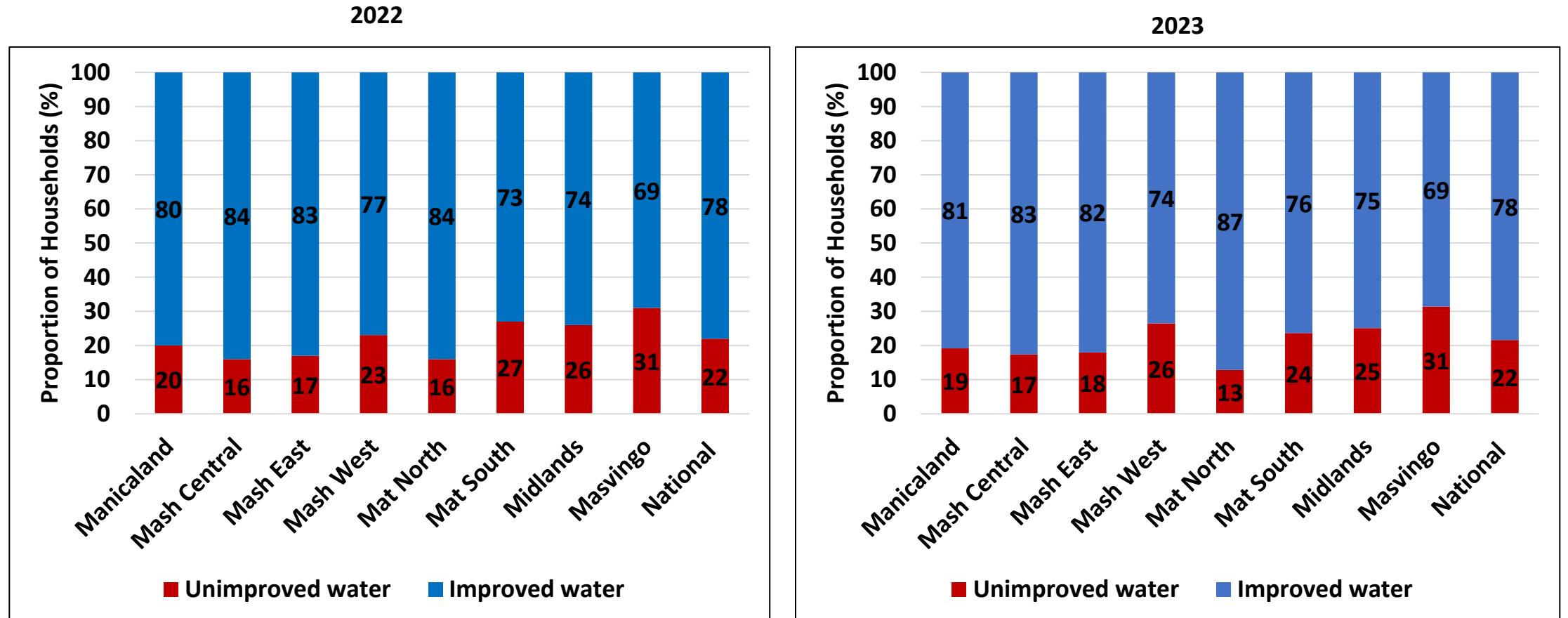
# Ladder for Drinking Water Services

Service Level	Definition
<b>Safely Managed</b>	Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination.
<b>Basic Drinking Water</b>	Basic drinking water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
<b>Limited Drinking Water Services</b>	Limited water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, where collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
<b>Unimproved Water Sources</b>	Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.
<b>Surface Water Sources</b>	Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation channel.

## Note :

“Improved” drinking water sources are further defined by the quality of the water they produce, and are protected from faecal contamination by the nature of their construction or through an intervention to protect from outside contamination. Such sources include: piped water into dwelling, plot, or yard; public tap/standpipe; tube well/borehole; protected dug well; protected spring; or rainwater collection. This category now includes packaged and delivered water, considering that both can potentially deliver safe water.

# Access to Improved Water Source by Year

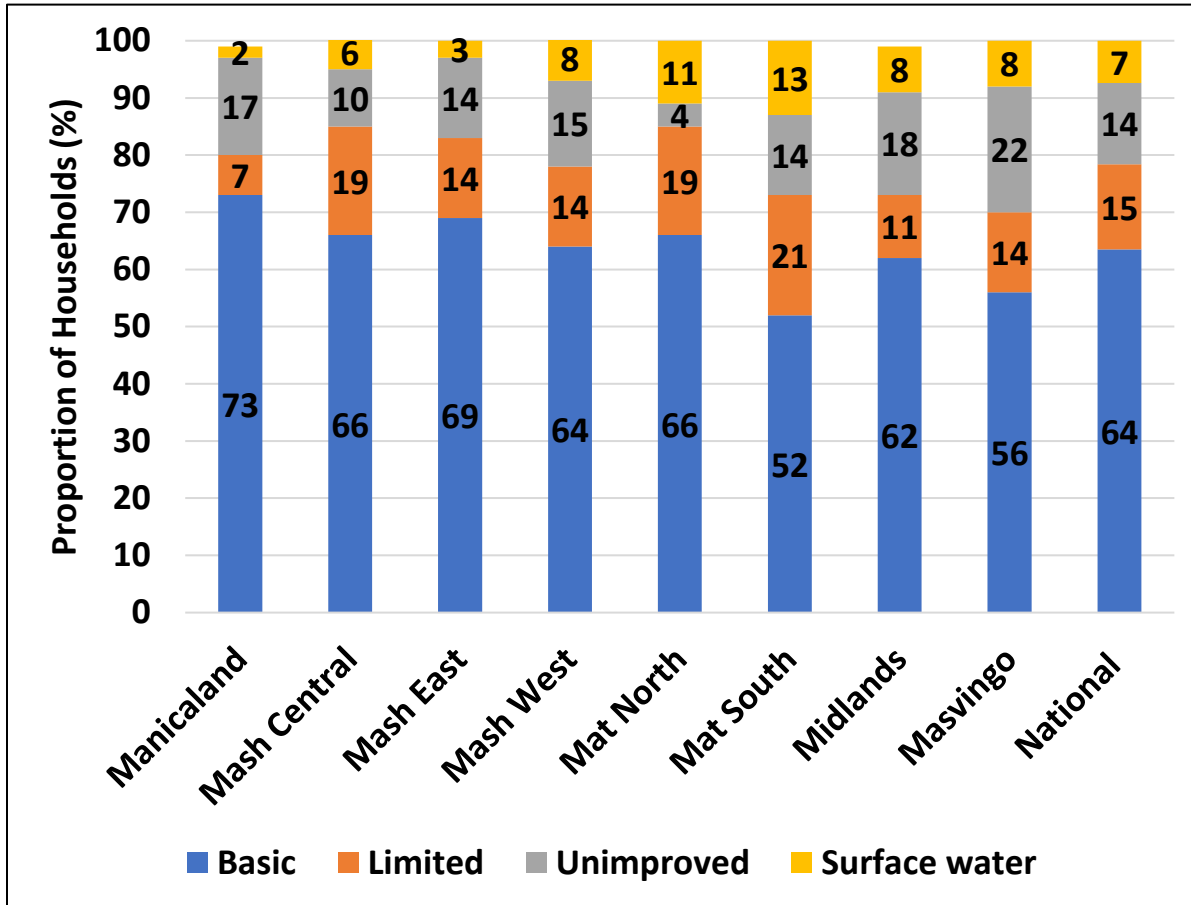


- There was no change in the proportion of households accessing improved water sources in 2022 and 2023.

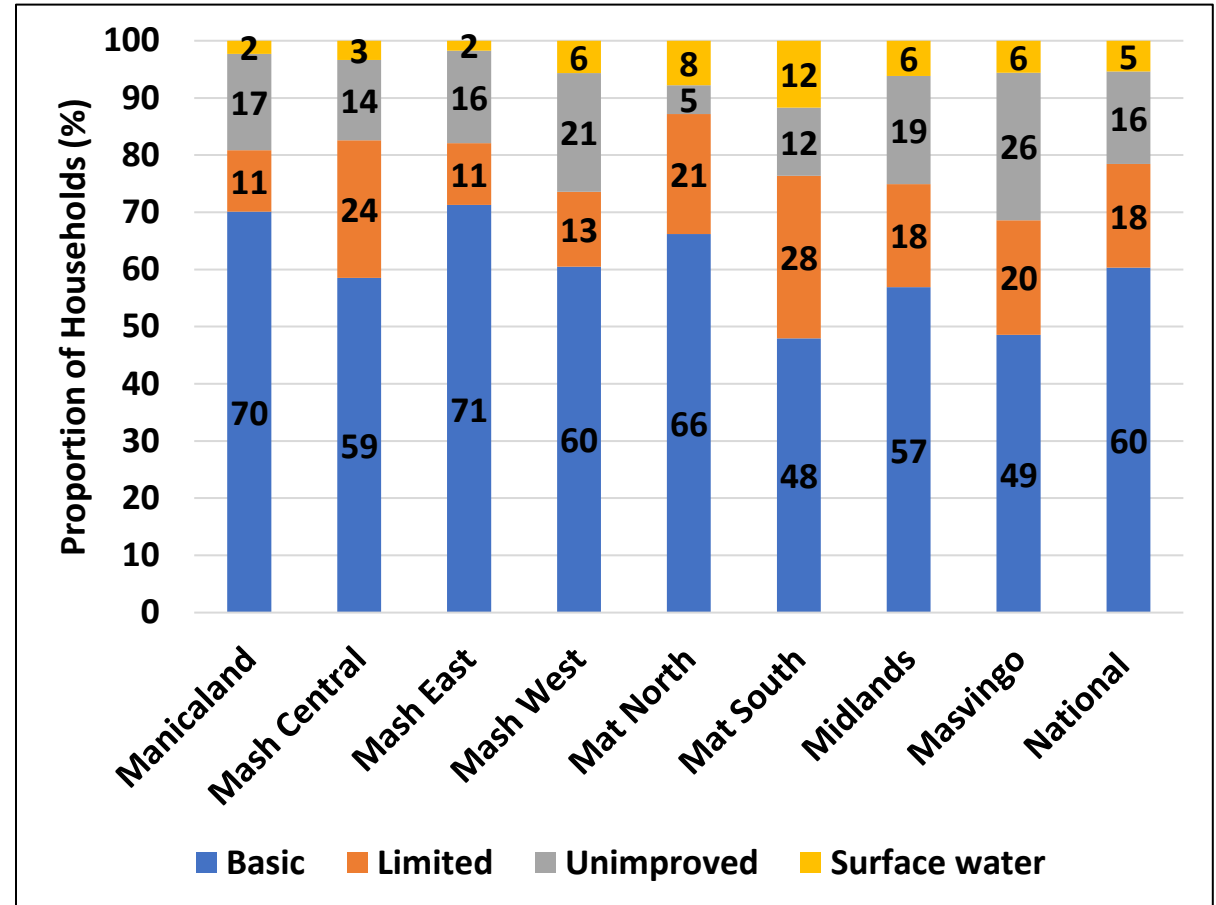


# Main Drinking Water Services

2022



2023



- There was a decrease in the proportion of households accessing basic water services from 64% in 2022 to 60% in 2023.
- Masvingo (26%) had a greater proportion of households drinking from unimproved water sources as compared to the other provinces.

**LEGEND**

- Provincial Boundary
- Water Bodies
- National Parks

**Rely on Surface Water (%)**

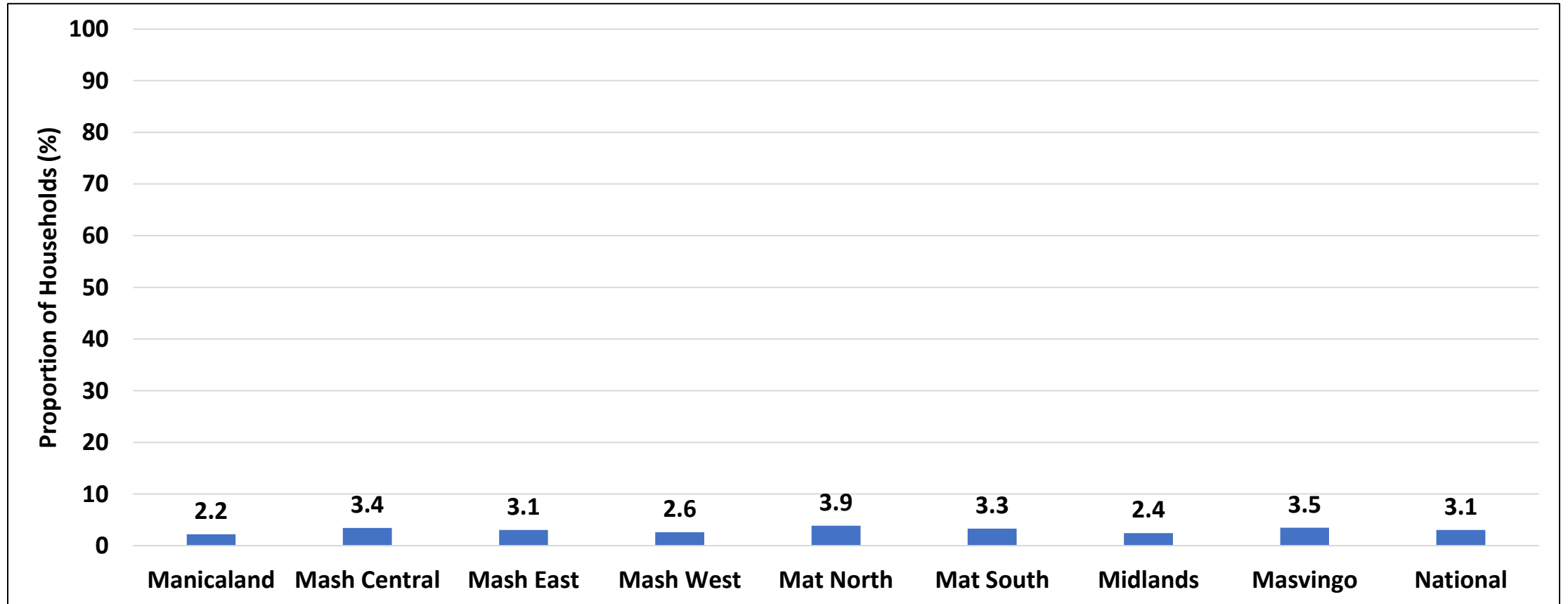
- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

0 75 150 km

Map Data Source(s):  
Vector data obtained from Department of Surveyor General. Survey Data obtained from ZimVAC 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment.

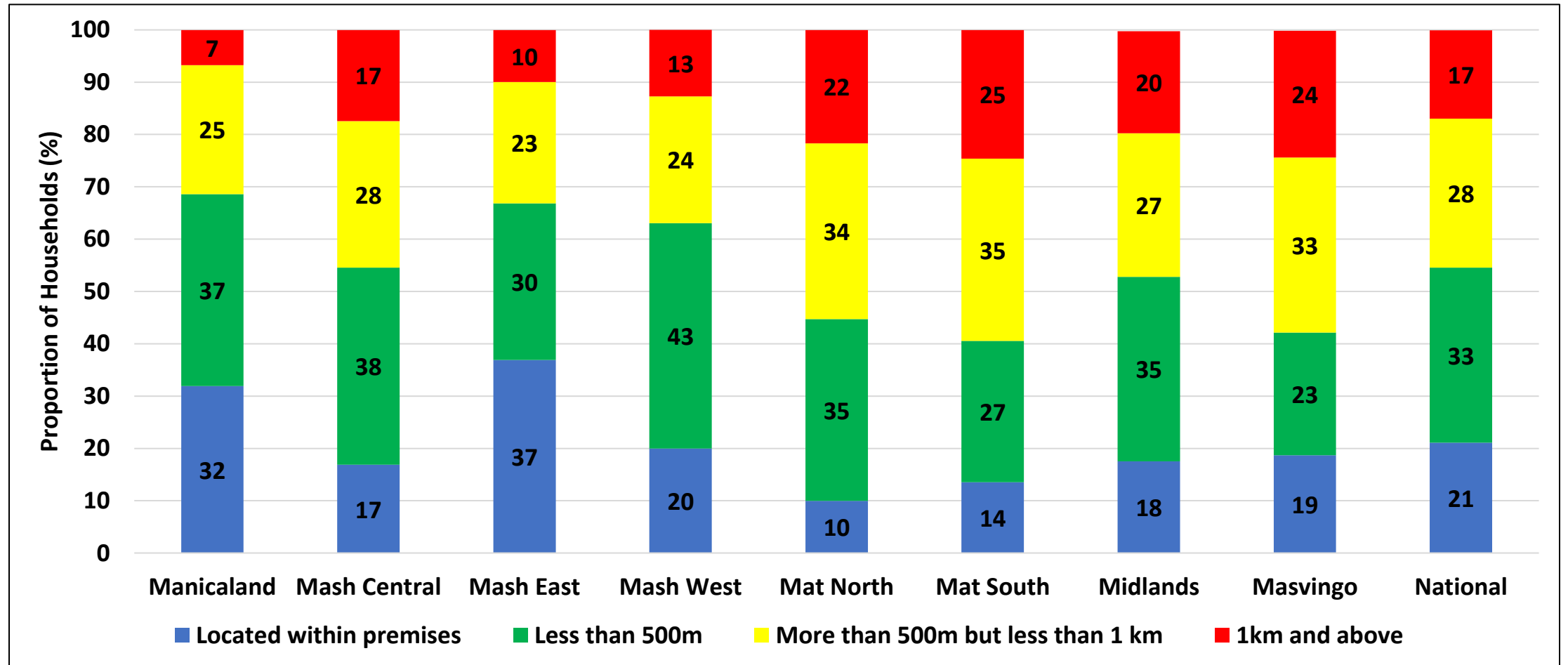
- 42

# Households Treating Drinking Water



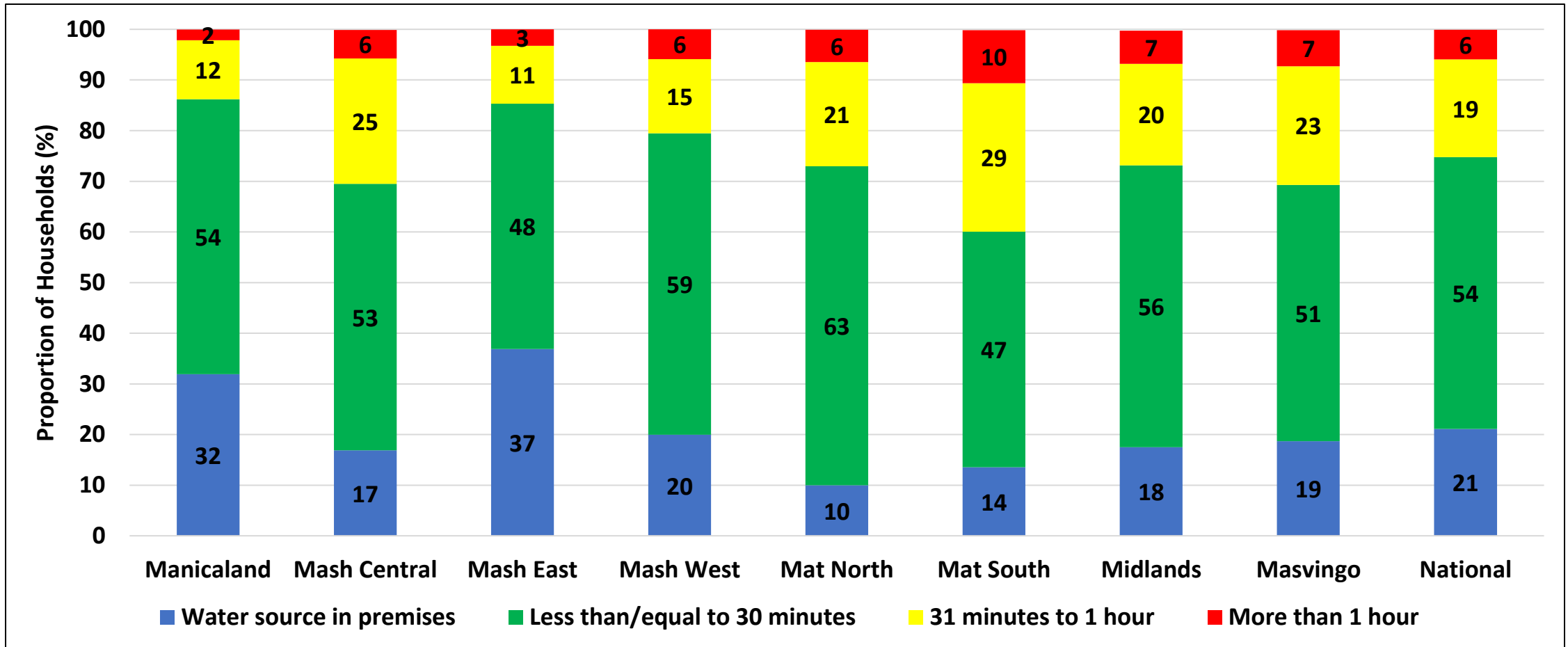
- Only 3.1% of households reported to be treating their drinking water.
- Treating of drinking water protects communities against water borne diseases such as cholera and diarrheal diseases.

# Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



- At least 83% of the households were accessing water within a distance of 1km.
- However, attention needs to be paid to 17% of households which travelled more than 1km.

# Time Taken to and from Drinking Water Source



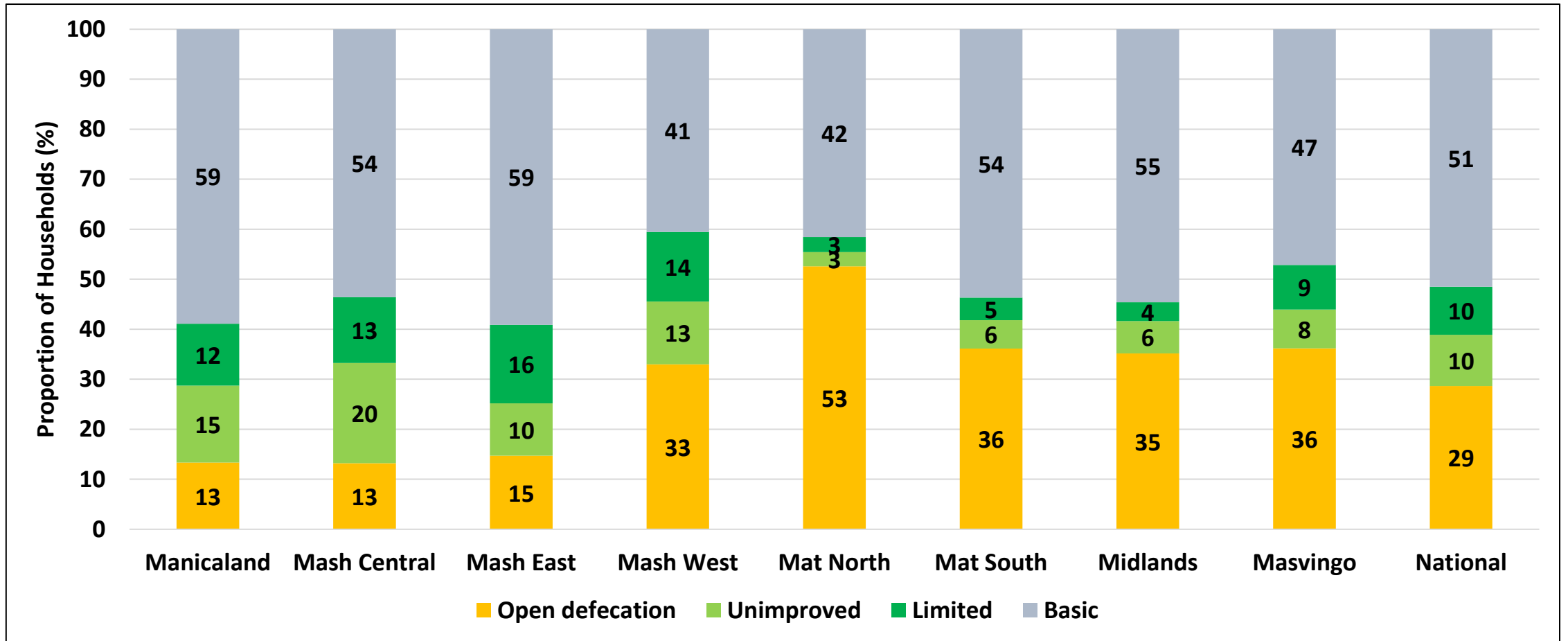
- About 75% of the households spent less than 30 minutes fetching water.
- Attention needs to be paid to the 6% of households which spent more than 1 hour.
- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households (10%) spending more than one hour fetching water.

# Sanitation

# Ladder for Sanitation

Service level	Definition
<b>Safely Managed</b>	Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite.
<b>Basic Sanitation Facilities</b>	Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households.
<b>Limited Sanitation Facilities</b>	Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.
<b>Unimproved Sanitation Facilities</b>	Facilities that do not ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. Unimproved facilities include pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines and bucket latrines.
<b>Open Defecation</b>	Disposal of human faeces in fields, forest, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces or with solid waste.
<b>Note:</b> Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include flush or pour flush toilet/latrine, Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP), pit latrine with slab and upgradeable Blair latrine.	

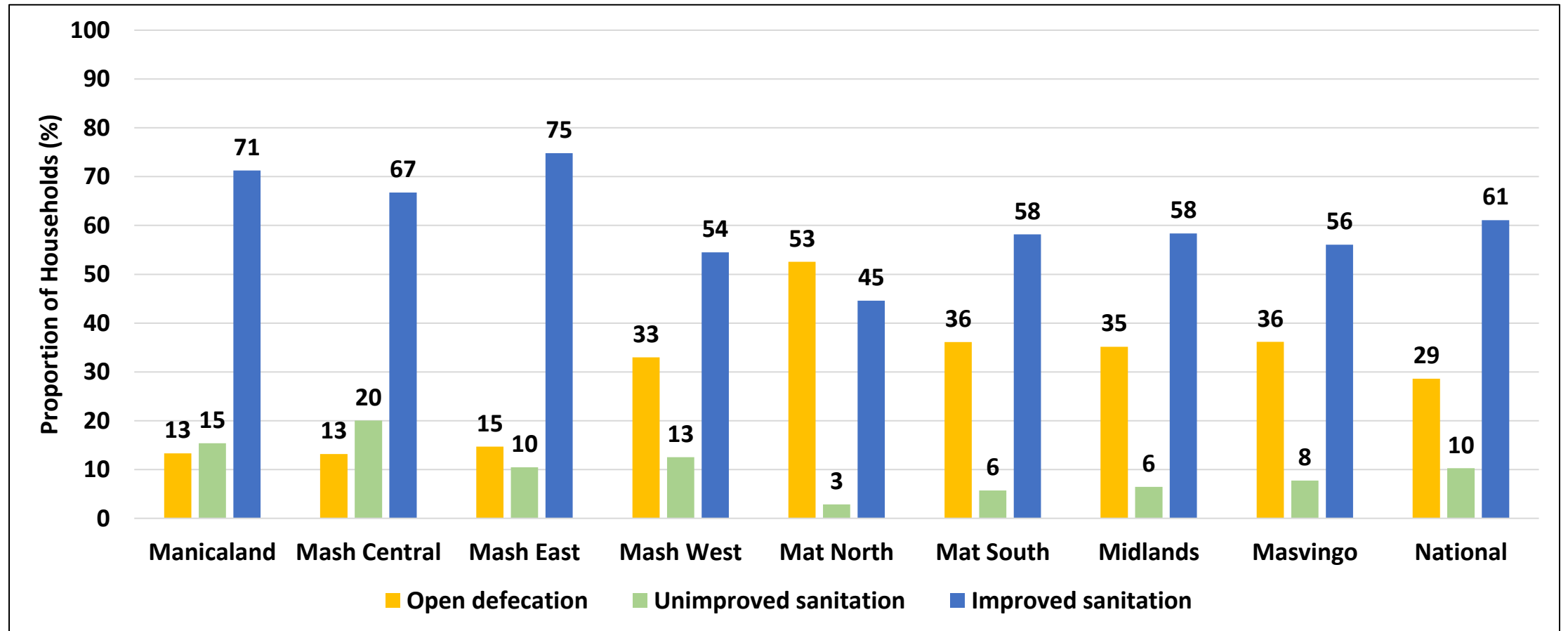
# Household Sanitation Services



- About 51% of households had access to basic sanitation services.



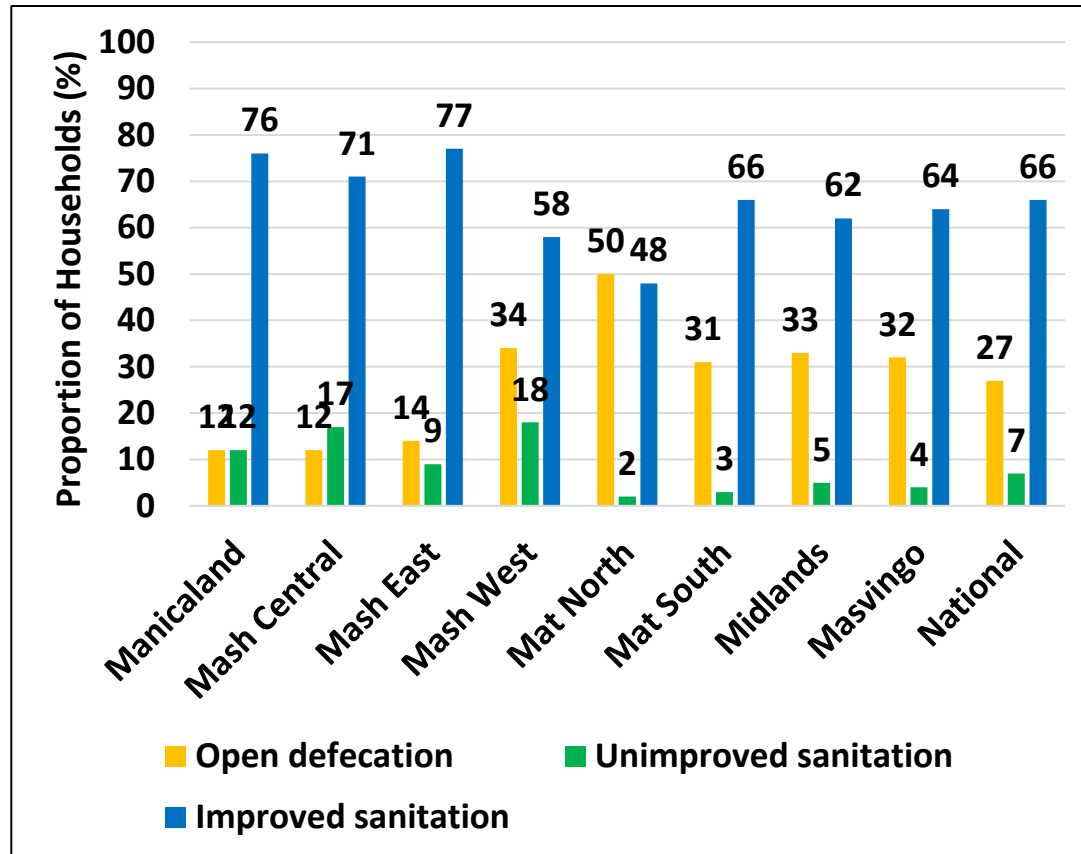
# Access to Improved Sanitation



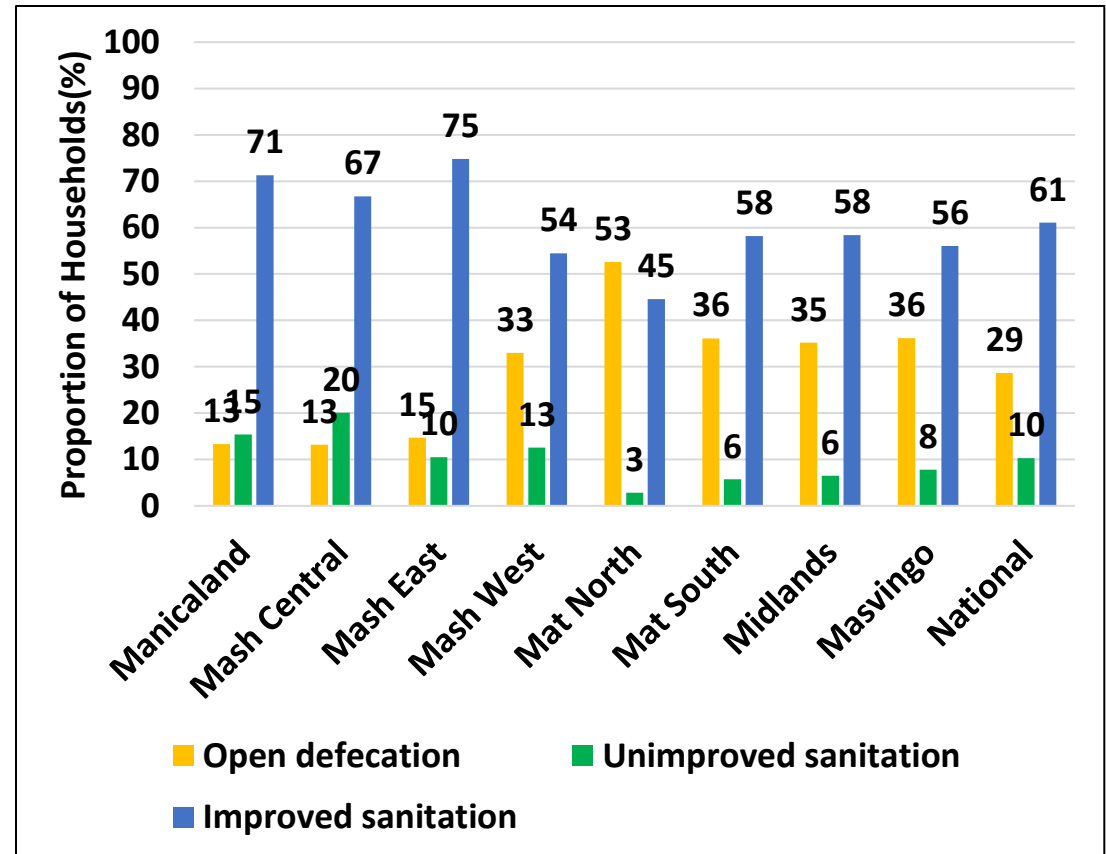
- About 61% of rural households had access to improved sanitation.
- Mashonaland East (75%) had the highest proportion of households with access to improved sanitation.
- Matabeleland North (53%), Matabeleland South (36%) and Masvingo (36%) had the highest proportion of households practising open defecation.

# Access to Improved Sanitation by Year

2022



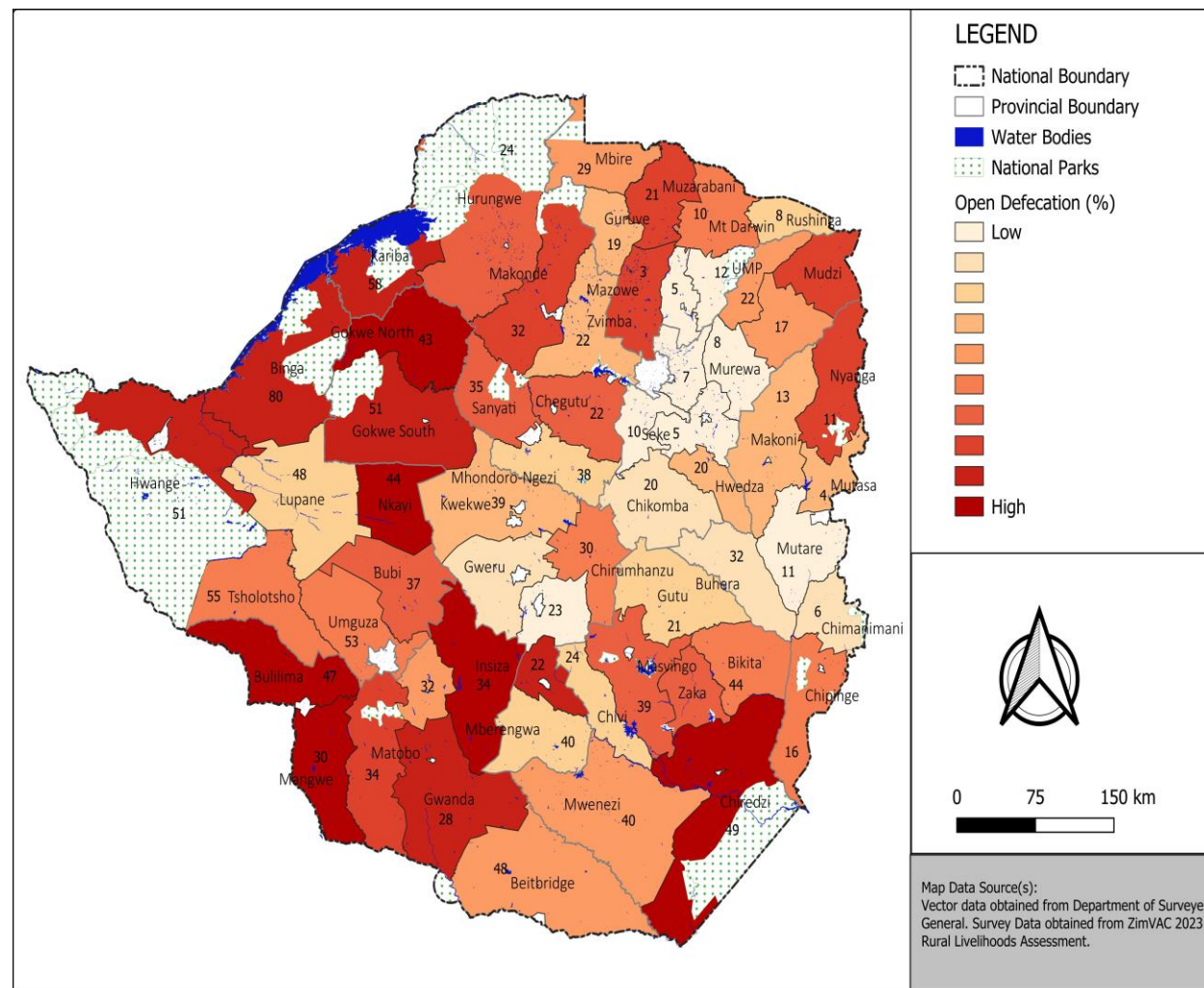
2023



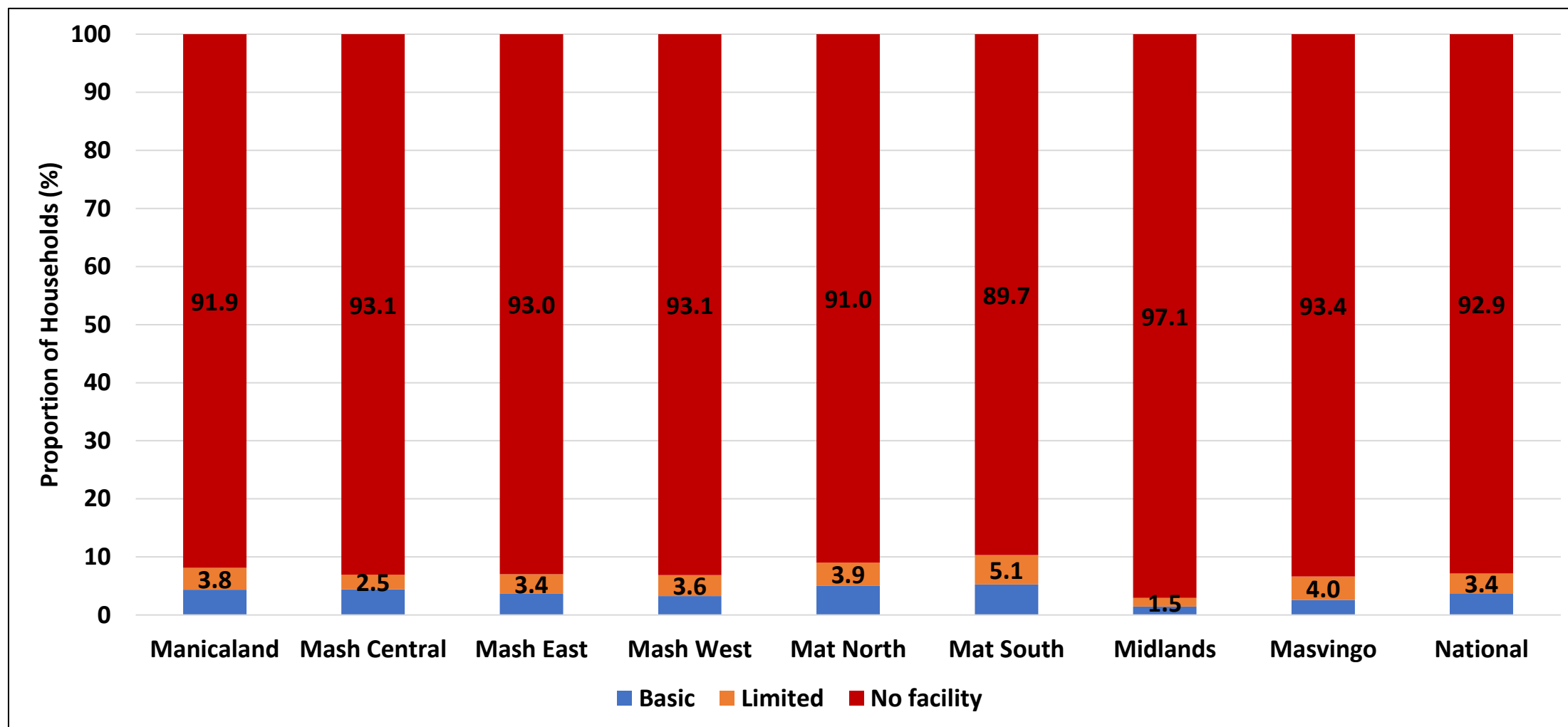
- Access to improved sanitation has slightly decreased across all provinces.
- Of concern is the increased proportion of households practising open defecation in all provinces.

# Open Defecation by District

- Most districts in Matabeleland North had over 40% of the households practising open defecation.
- Binga district had 80% of households practising open defecation.
- Open defecation in Matabeleland North has been consistently high over the years.

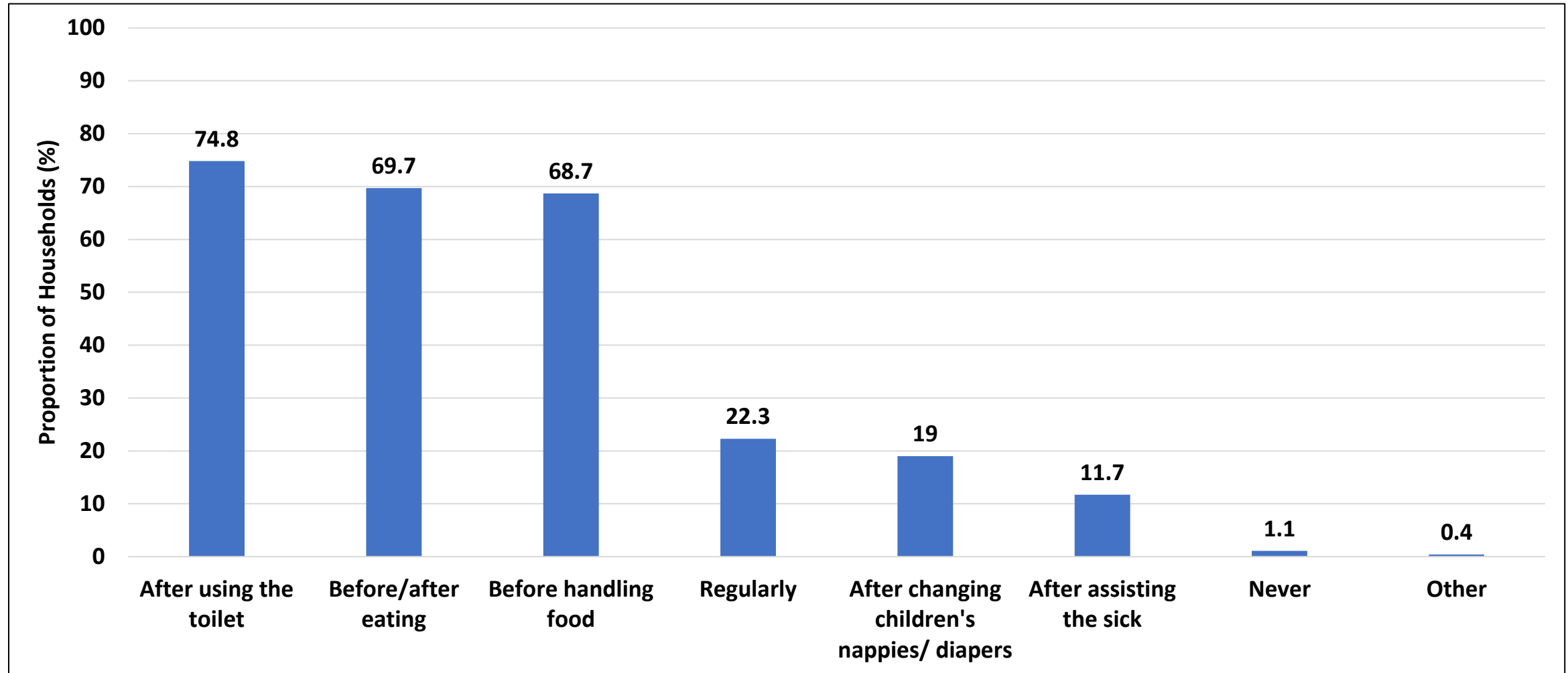


# Access to Handwashing Facility



- The majority of households (92.9%) had no handwashing facility.

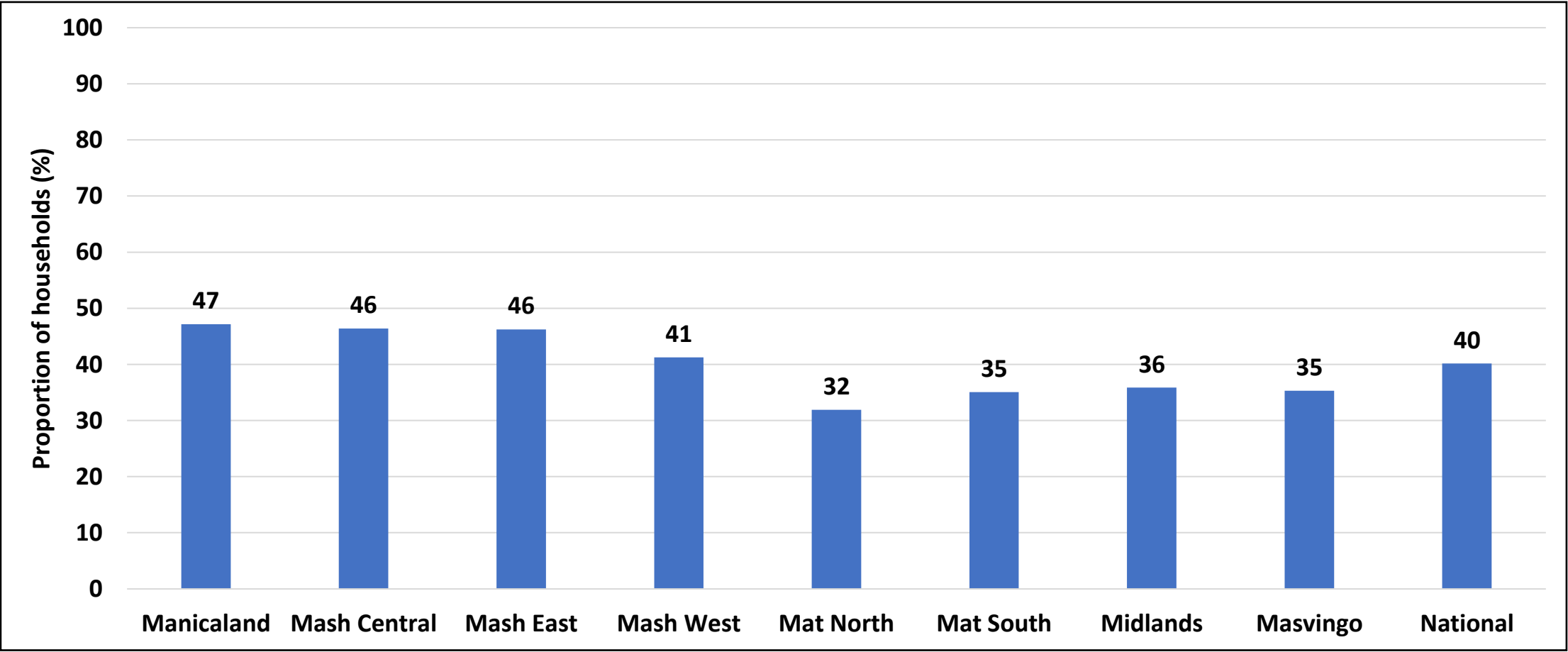
# Handwashing at Critical Times



- Most households practised handwashing after using the toilet (74.8%), before /after eating (69.7%), and before handling food (68.7%).

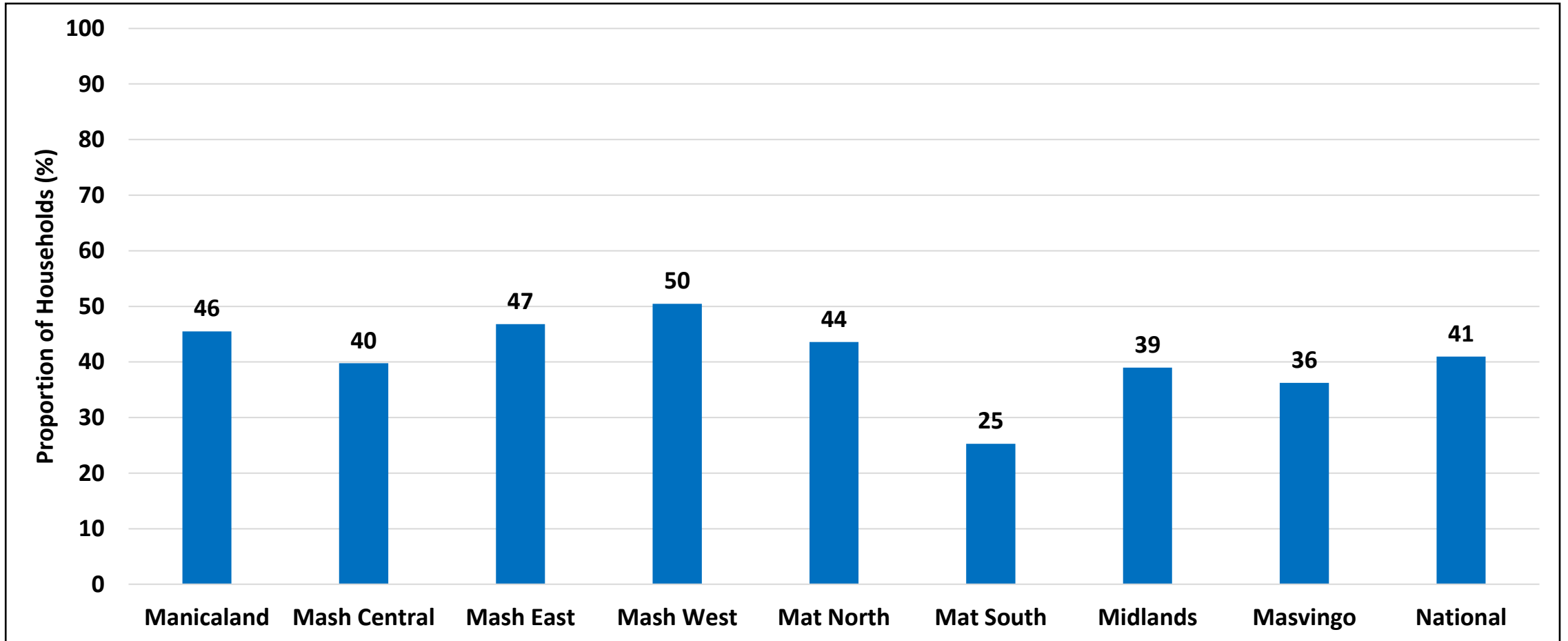
# **Access to Critical Infrastructure and Services**

# Households Accessing Police Services Within One Hour



- About 40% of the households had access to Police services within an hour.

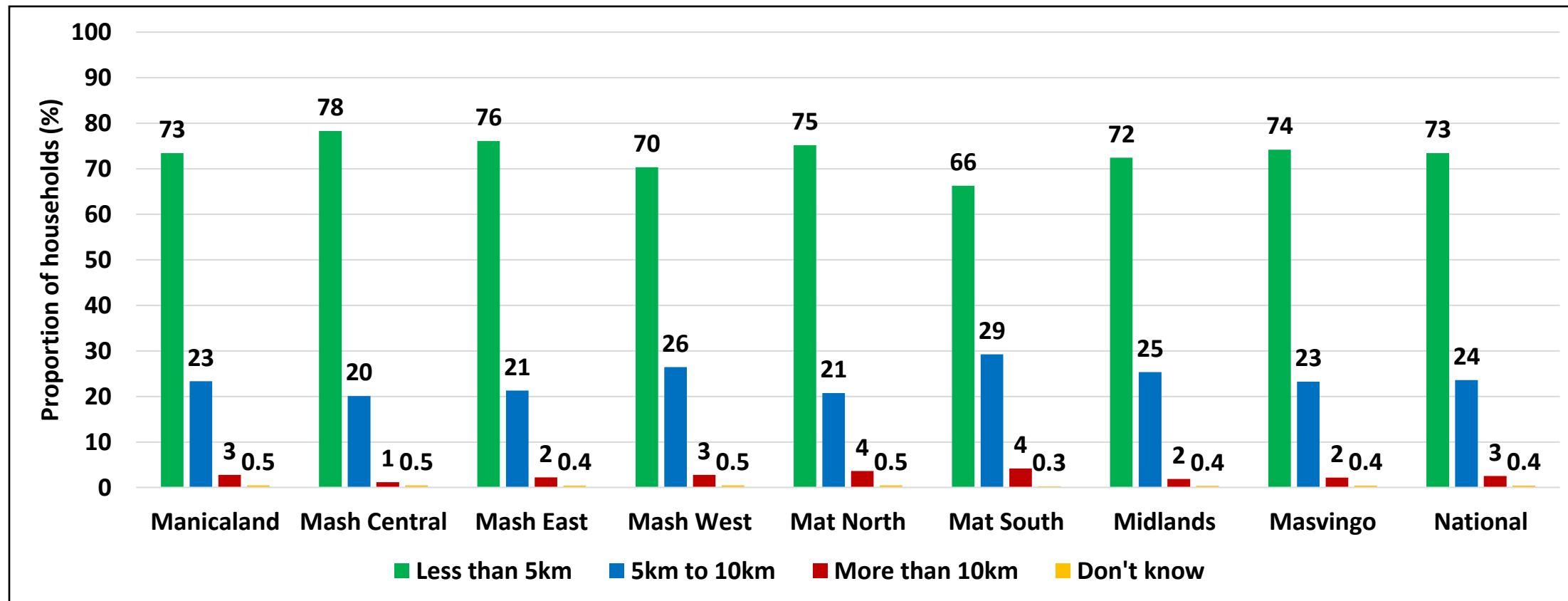
# Households' Awareness of Victim-Friendly Services



- About 41% of households were aware of the Police victim-friendly services.

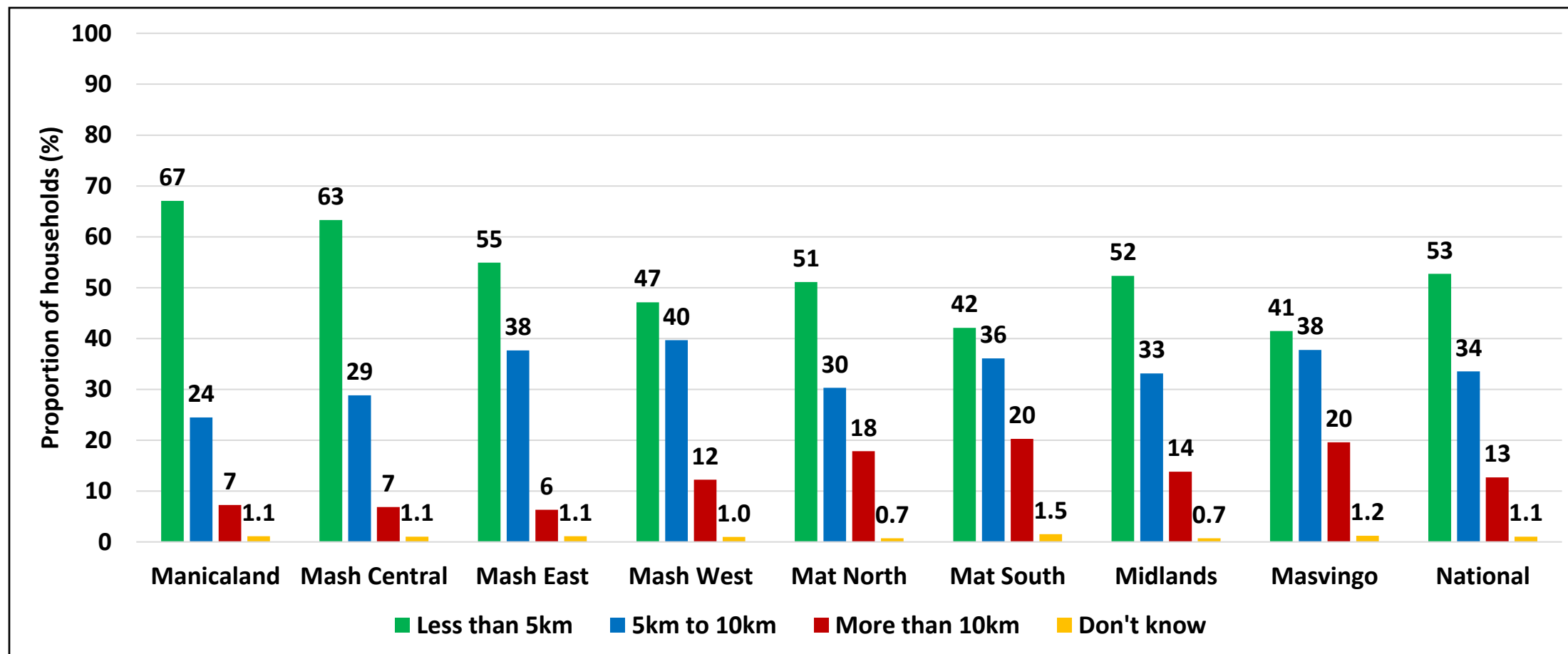


# Approximate Distance to the Nearest Primary School



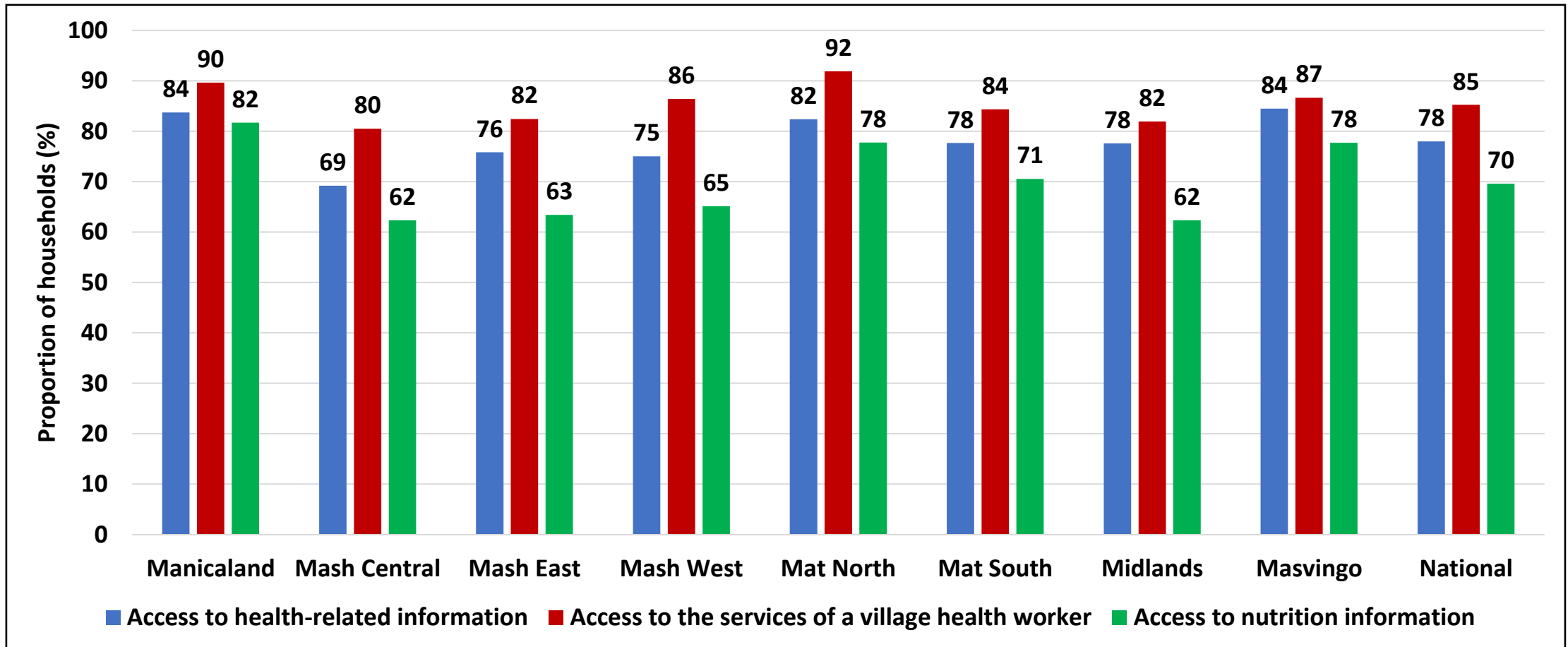
- Seventy three percent of households had access to a primary school within a radius of 5km.
- About 3% travelled more than 10km.

# Approximate Distance to the Nearest Health Facility



- Nationally, 53% of households traveled less than 5km to the nearest health facility, while 34% traveled between 5 – 10 km.
- Matabeleland South and Masvingo had about 20% of households which travelled more than 10 km to the nearest health facility.

# Access to Health Information and Services

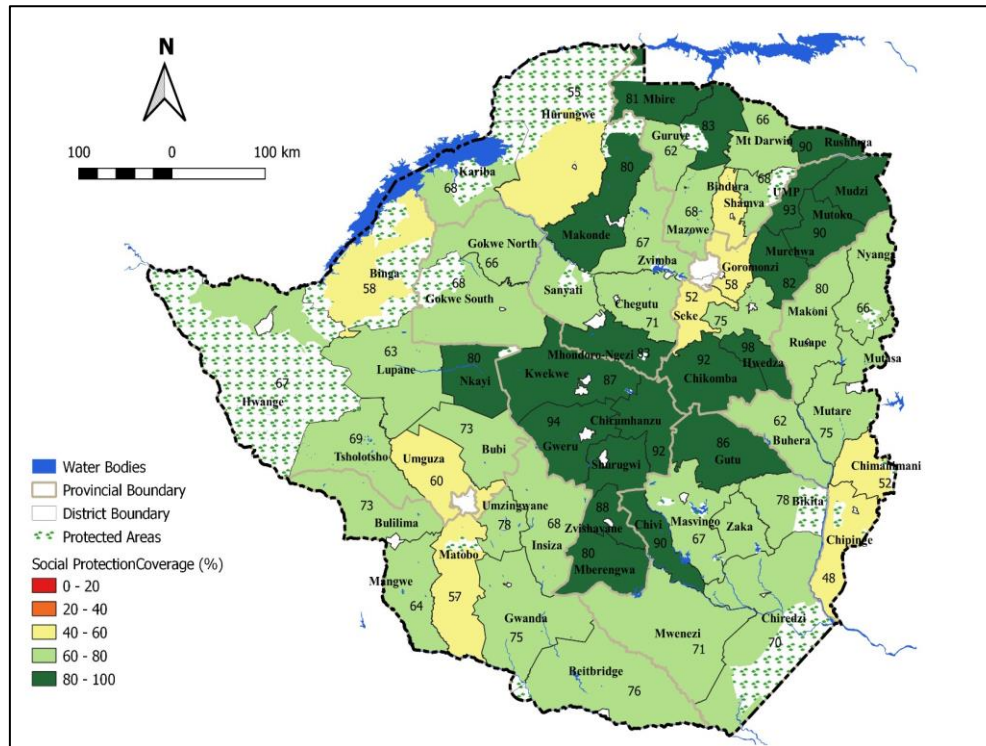


- All provinces had over 60% of their households with access to health information, nutrition information and services of Village Health Workers.

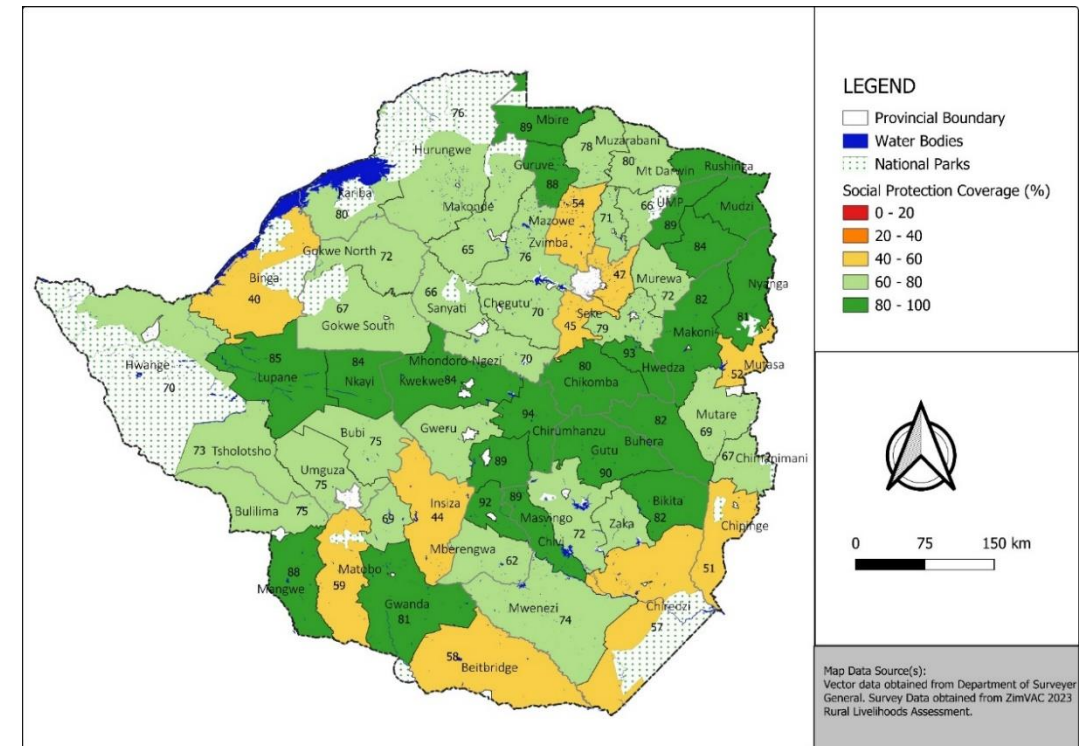
# **Social Protection**

# Households which Received Any Form of Support

2022

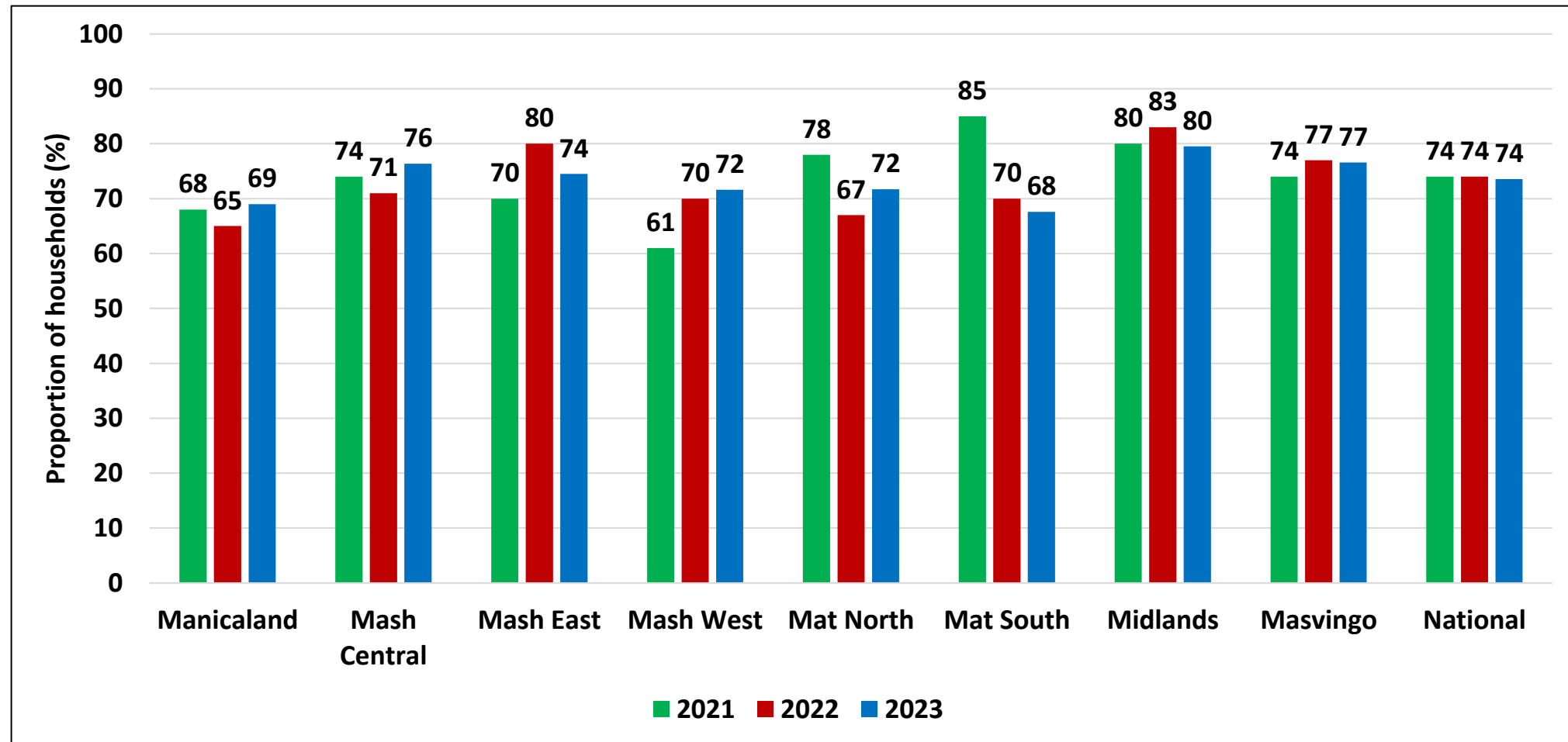


2023



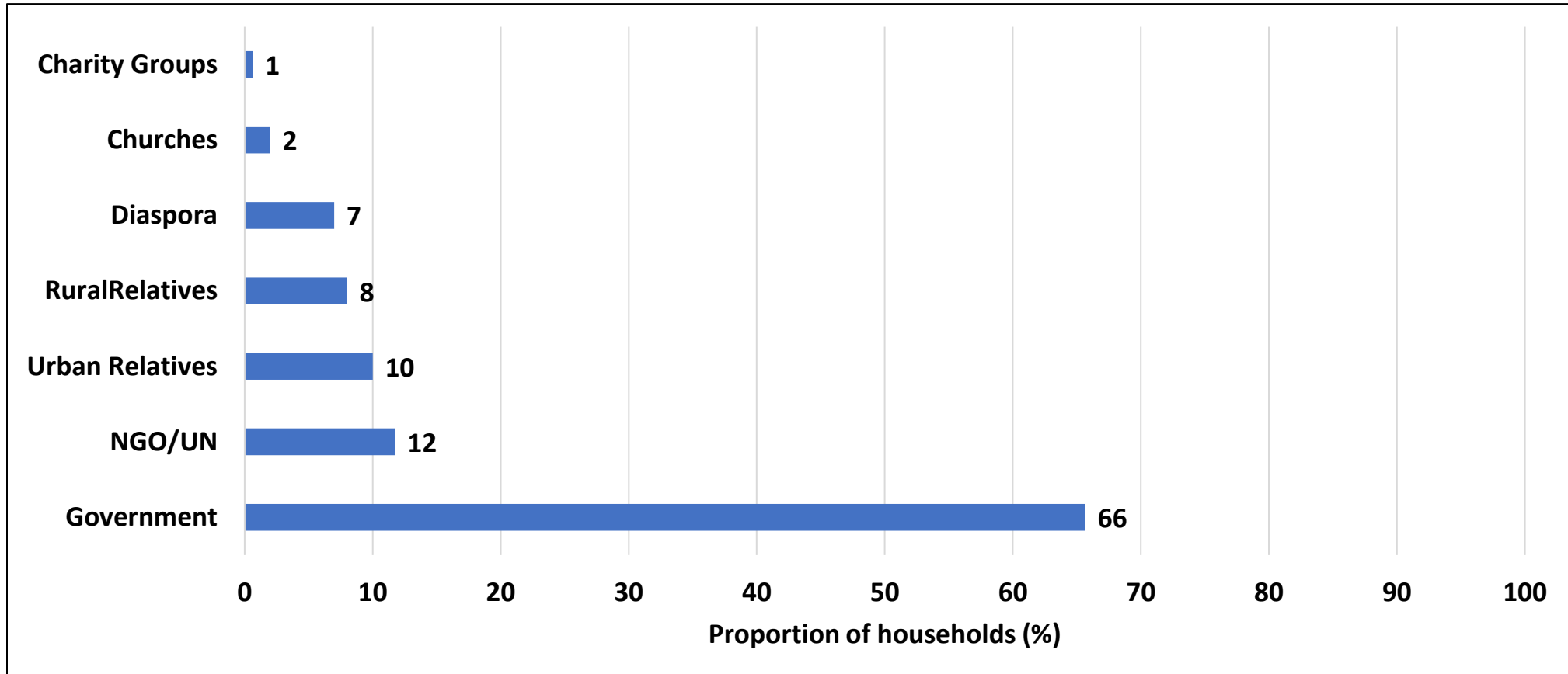
- Chirumhanzu (94%), Hwedza (93%) and Zvishavane (92%) had the highest proportion of households which received any form of support.

# Households which Received Any Form of Support



- Nationally, the proportion of households which received some form of social assistance has remained high.

# Sources of Support



- Government is applauded for being the major source of support in rural areas as reported by 66% of the households.
- UN/NGOs (12%) provided complementary support towards Government efforts.
- Government and development partners are commended for maintaining consistency in their support to the vulnerable population.

# Sources of Any Form of Support

	Government (%)		NGO/UN (%)		Churches (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora (%)		Charity (%)	
Province	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Manicaland	57	63	12	12	1	2	6	9	13	6	4	3	0	0
Mash Central	65	71	6	13	3	2	16	5	10	6	2	2	1	0
Mash East	69	67	9	15	2	2	21	12	28	7	8	5	0	1
Mash West	64	68	9	4	2	2	11	6	10	6	3	2	1	1
Mat North	45	62	29	18	1	1	10	9	9	8	11	9	1	1
Mat South	47	54	19	12	1	1	10	10	12	11	22	18	1	1
Midlands	73	73	15	5	2	1	16	10	21	6	11	7	2	1
Masvingo	63	65	15	17	3	2	24	20	24	17	14	11	3	0
National	61	66	14	12	2	2	14	10	16	8	9	7	1	1

- Government support increased from 61% in 2022 to 66% in 2023.
- Support from UN/NGOs decreased from 14% in 2022 to 12% in 2023.



# Forms of Support from Government

Province	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Vouchers (%)	Crop Inputs (%)	Tick Grease (%)	Other Livestock Support (%)	WASH Hardware (inputs) (%)	Non-food Items (%)	Education Assistance (%)	Health Assistance (%)
Manicaland	25.8	0.6	0.2	52.1	1.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.5	0.1
Mash Central	21.8	0.3	0.2	66.6	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.9	0.9
Mash East	20.0	0.6	0.2	61.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	3.8	0.1
Mash West	26.7	0.4	0.3	61.6	2.2	0.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.9
Mat North	40.5	0.7	0.1	37.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.6	0.4
Mat South	30.2	1.1	0.3	38.6	5.3	0.3	0.1	1.1	4.1	1.8
Midlands	39.9	0.5	0.1	62.4	3.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.3
Masvingo	30.9	0.9	0.2	51.6	6.6	0.1	0.1	0.6	5.1	1.7
National	29.2	0.6	0.2	54.6	2.6	0.1	0.3	0.4	2.8	0.7

- The major form of support received by households from Government was crop inputs (54.6%) and food (29.2%).
- Food support from the Government was high in Matabeleland North (40.5%) and low in Mashonaland East (20%).
- Mashonaland Central (66.6%) had the highest proportion of households that received crop inputs support from the Government whilst Matabeleland North (37.6%) had the least.

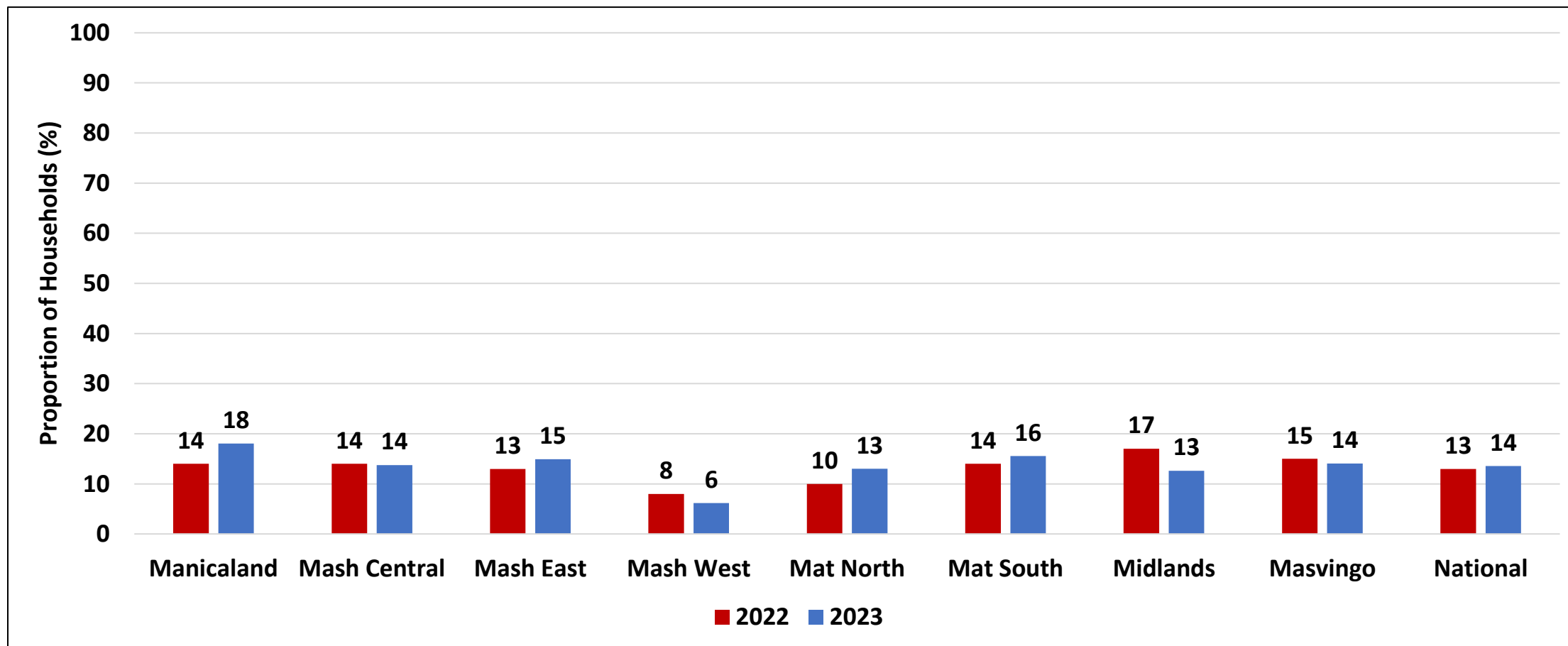
# Forms of Support from UN/NGOs

	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Vouchers (%)	Crop Inputs (%)	WASH Hardware (inputs) (%)	WASH Software (trainings/messages) (%)	Weather and Climate (%)	Non-Food Items (%)	Education Assistance (%)	Health Assistance (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	8.3	0.2	0.2	1.7	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.5
Mash Central	8.2	0.1	0.1	3.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1
Mash East	13.6	0.2	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
Mash West	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.1	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mat North	14.8	0.6	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.3
Mat South	9.6	0.5	0.0	1.5	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.2
Midlands	1.5	0.8	0.0	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.4	0.1
Masvingo	14.7	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3
National	9.0	0.4	0.1	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2

- The major form of support provided by the UN/NGOs was food (9%) followed by crop inputs (1.6%).
- Matabeleland North (14.8%) had the highest proportion of households that received food support from UN/NGOs whilst Mashonaland West (1.3%) had the least.
- Mashonaland Central (3.9%) had the highest crop input support from UN/NGOs whilst Mashonaland West (0.5%) had the least.

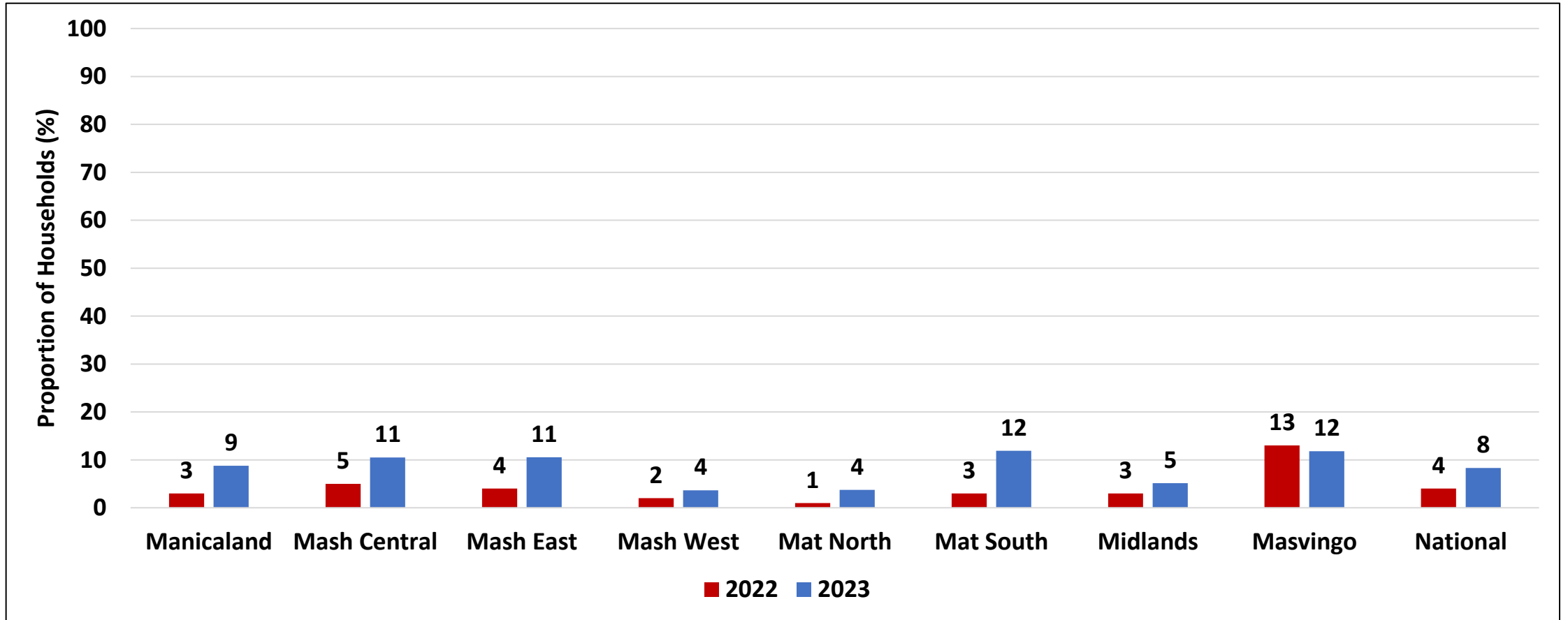
# Loans

# Households Participating in ISALs/ Mukando



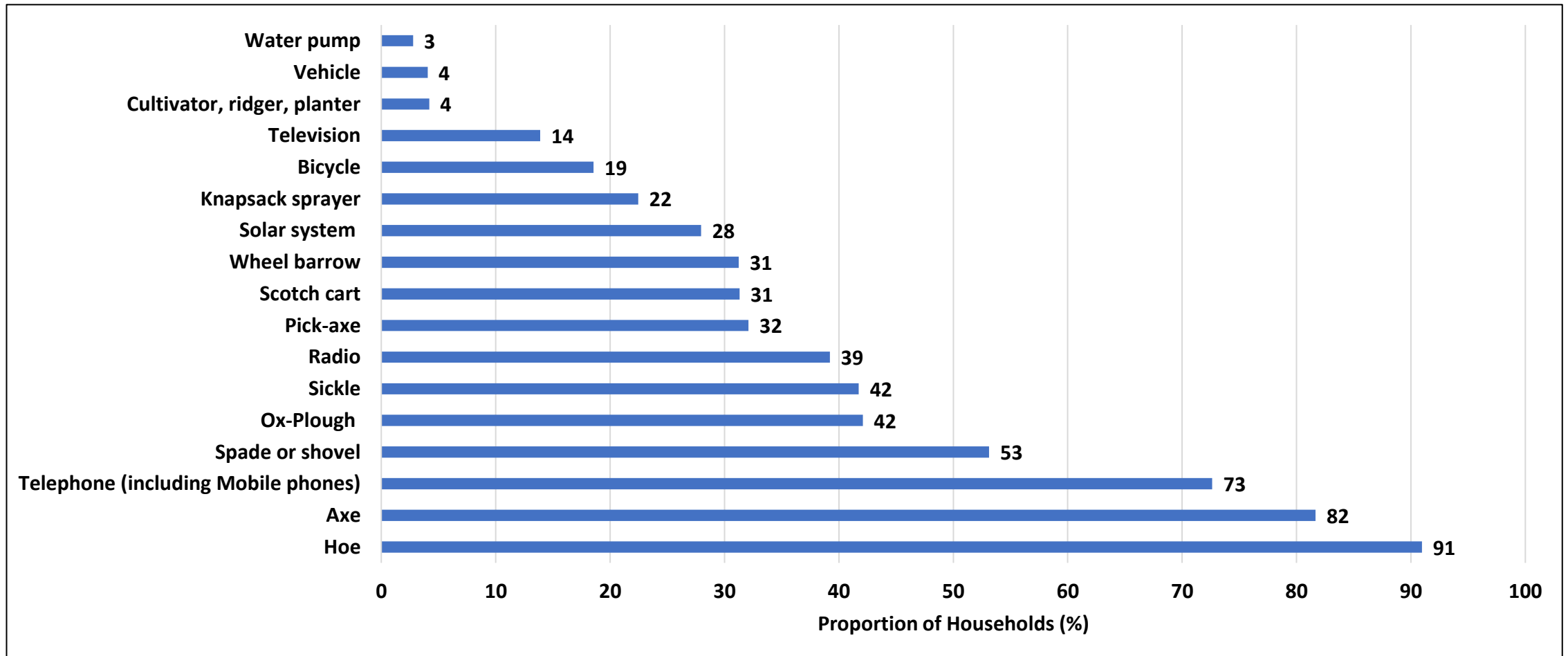
- At least 14% of the households had a member participating in ISALs.

# Households that Accessed Loans



- At least 8% of the households had accessed loans.
- Masvingo and Matabeleland South (12%) had the highest proportion of households that had accessed loans.

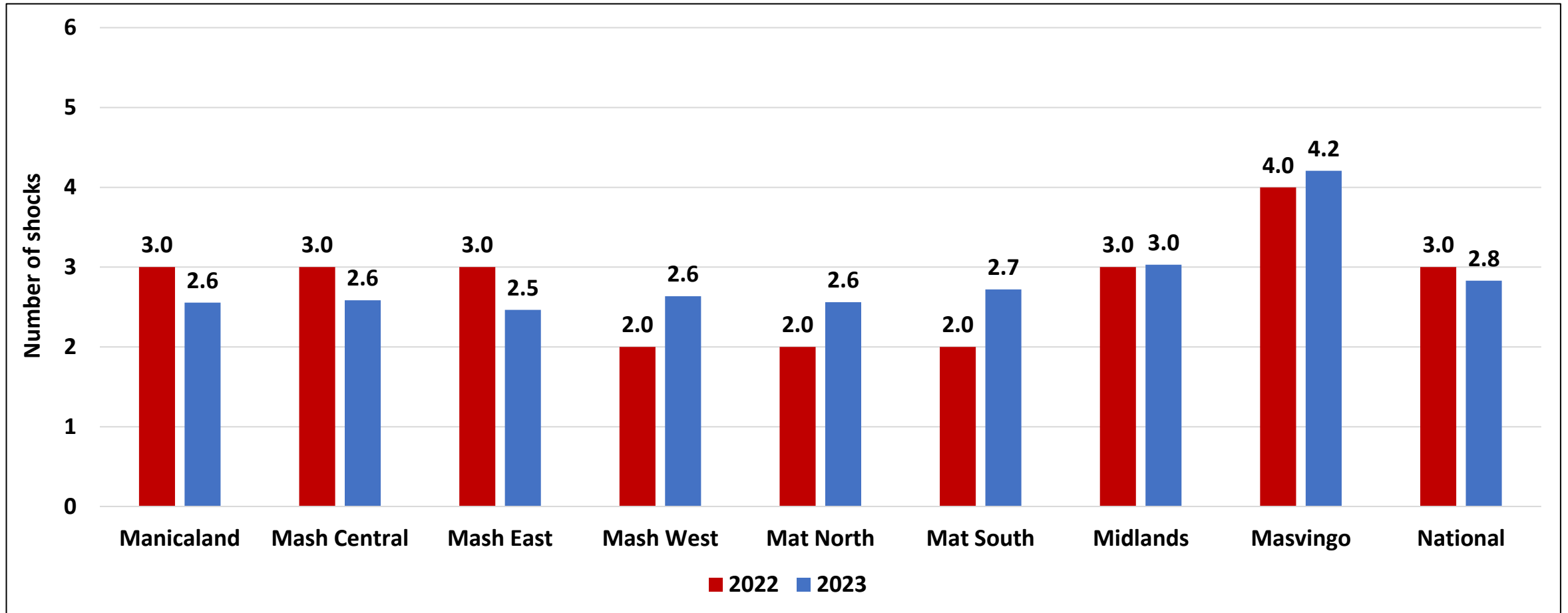
# Households Assets



- The most commonly owned assets were hoes (91%) followed by axes (82%) and phones (73%).

# **Shocks and Hazards**

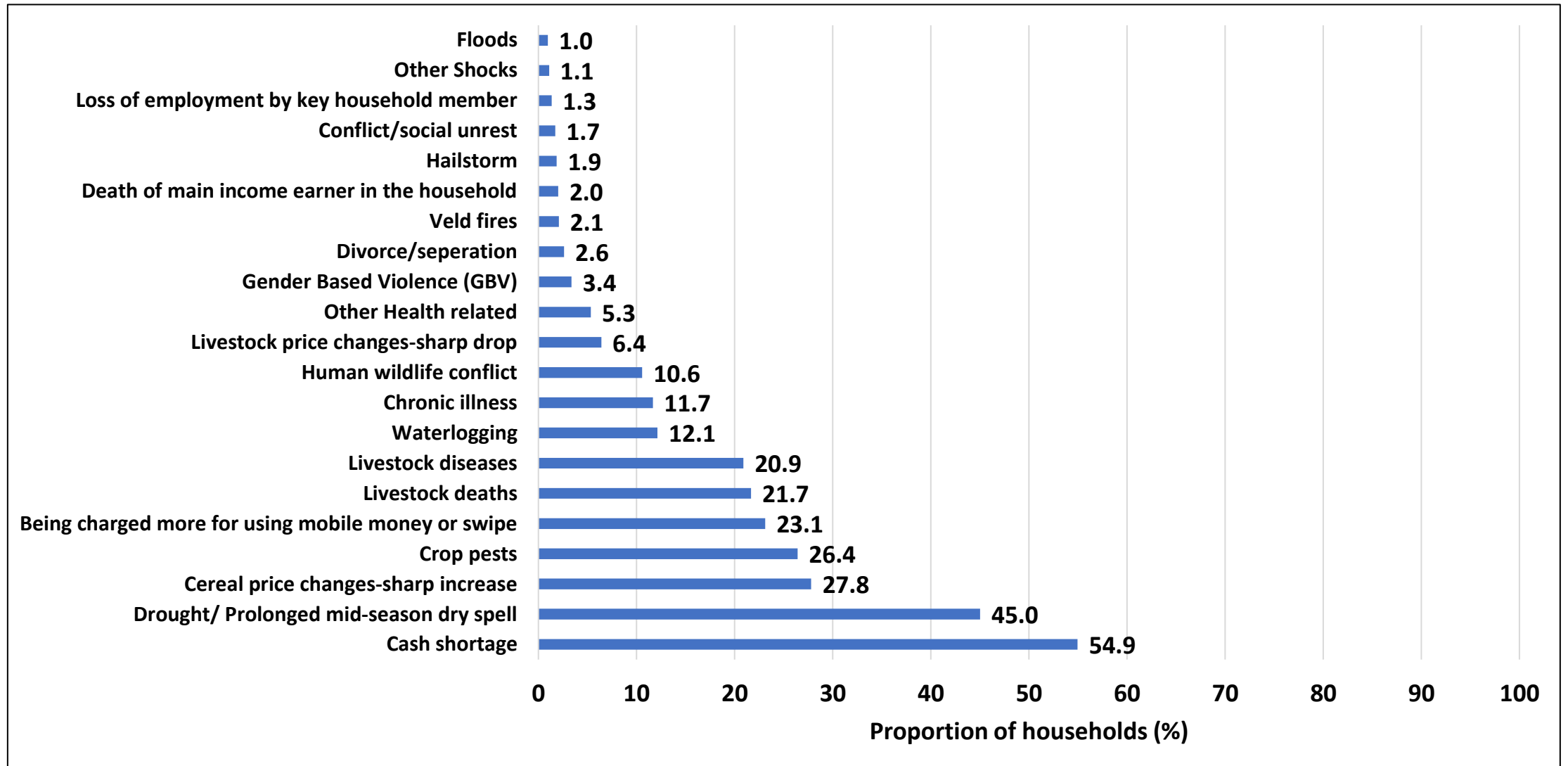
# Number of Shocks Experienced by Households



- The average number of shocks experienced by households was 2.8.

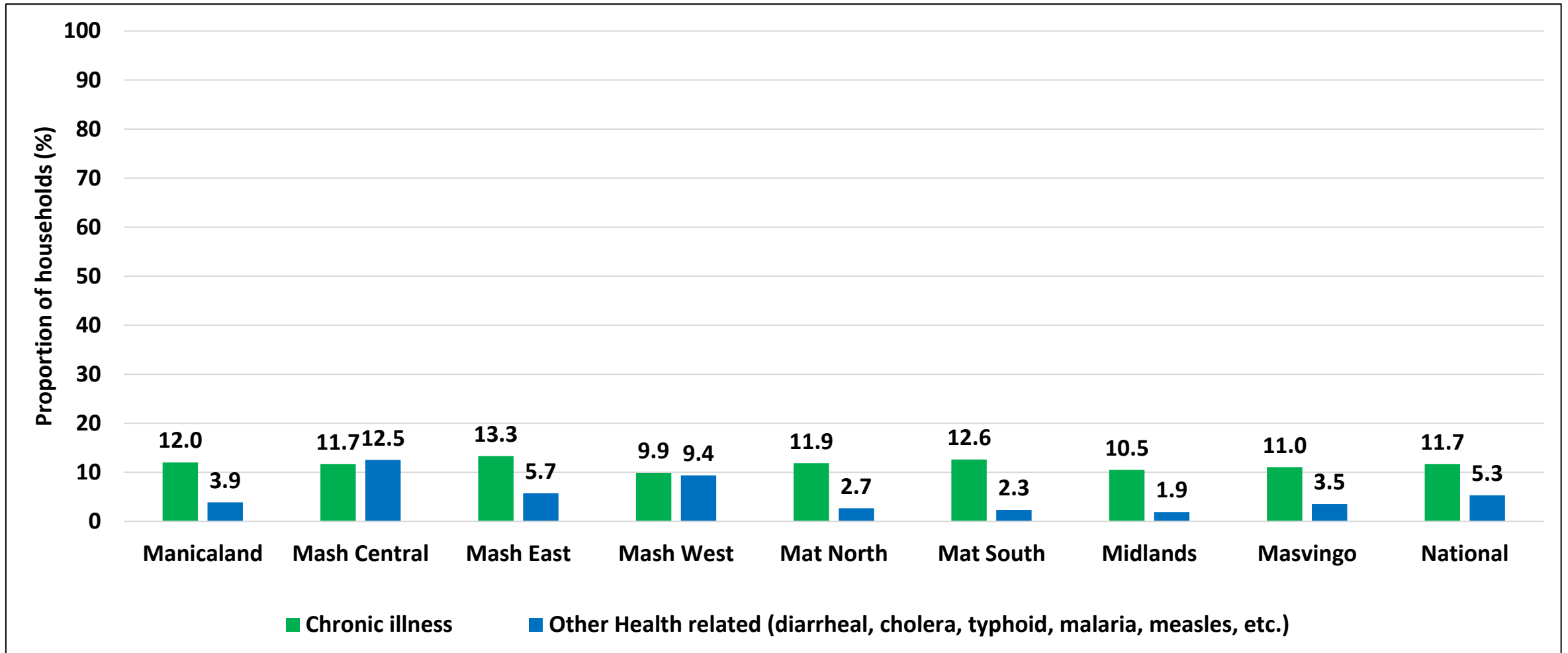


# Proportion of Households Experiencing Shocks



- Cash shortages (54.9%) and prolonged mid-season dry spells (45%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by the households.

# Health Related Shocks



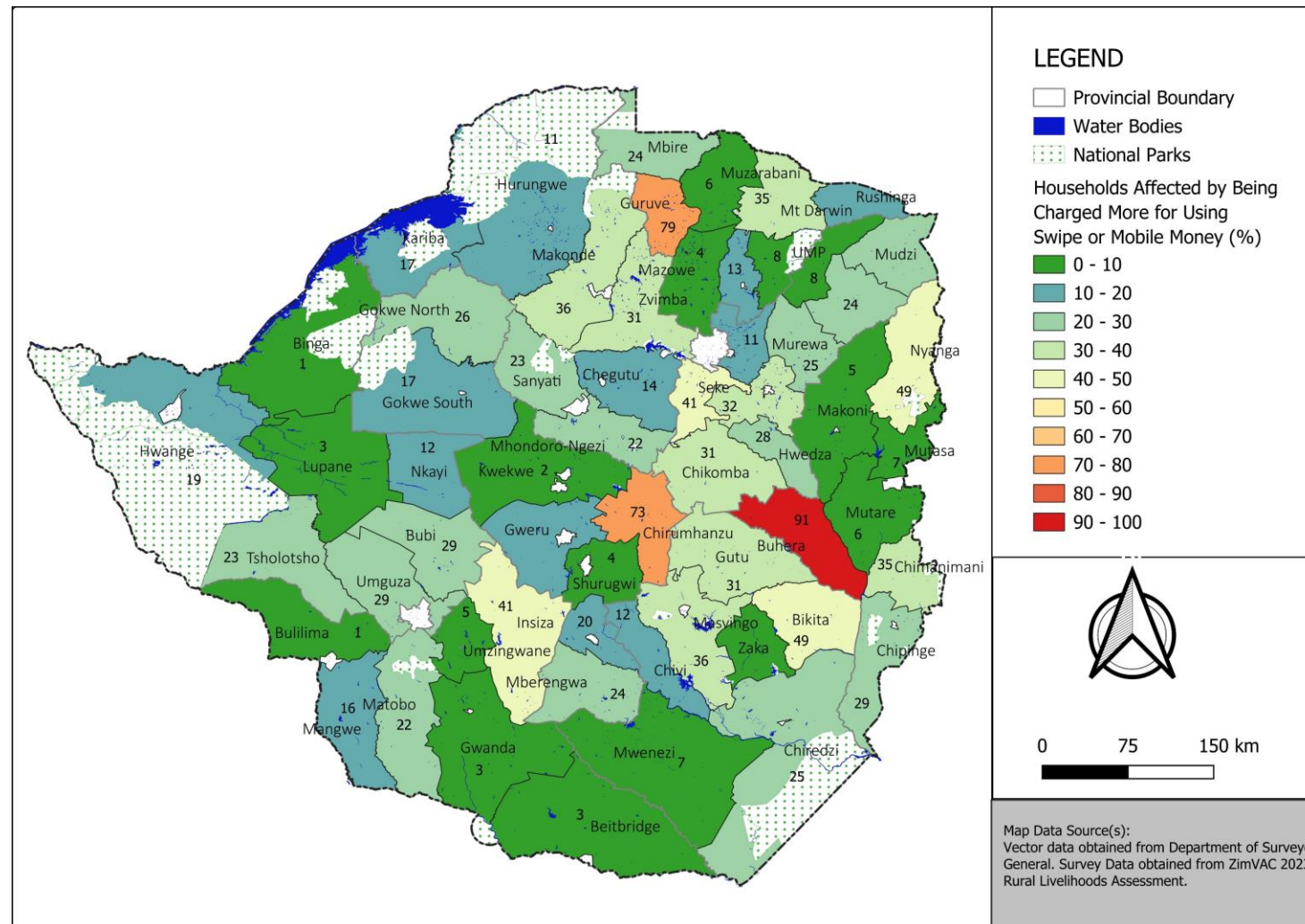
- Chronic illness was the most reported health shock (11.7%).

# Economic and Social Shocks

Shock Type	Manicaland (%)	Mash Central (%)	Mash East (%)	Mash West (%)	Mat North (%)	Mat South (%)	Midlands (%)	Masvingo (%)	National (%)
Cash shortage	49.8	57.1	56.3	51.8	50.8	47.3	56.7	69.1	<b>54.9</b>
Cereal price changes-sharp increase	26.8	20.0	20.1	20.1	29.5	32.1	24.1	53.8	<b>27.8</b>
Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe	32.0	23.1	24.8	20.4	14.6	13.1	28.3	27.5	<b>23.1</b>
Human wildlife conflict	12.2	10.7	5.2	11.0	9.6	14.6	8.2	15.1	<b>10.6</b>
Livestock price changes-sharp drop	5.4	5.9	3.8	2.7	5.8	8.2	7.4	12.7	<b>6.4</b>
Gender Based Violence (GBV)	2.6	4.3	4.7	4.9	2.5	2.6	2.0	3.1	<b>3.4</b>
Divorce/separation	2.1	3.2	3.2	3.9	2.0	1.8	2.3	2.1	<b>2.6</b>
Death of main income earner in the household	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.0	2.6	3.0	1.7	2.0	<b>2.0</b>
Conflict/social unrest	1.3	0.5	1.2	3.6	1.5	2.3	2.4	1.0	<b>1.7</b>
Loss of employment by key household member	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.6	1.5	2.5	0.6	1.4	<b>1.3</b>

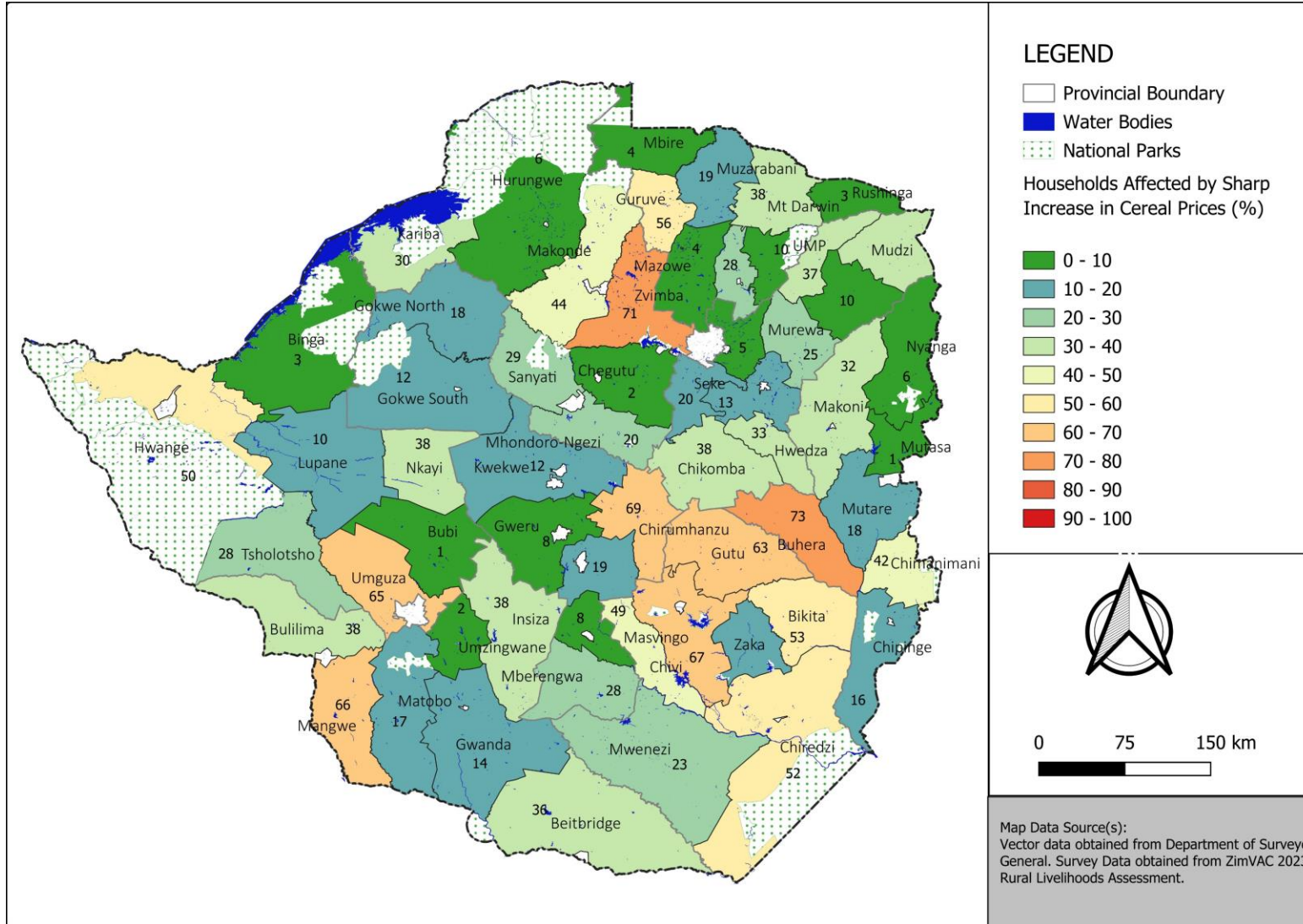
- Cash shortage (54.9%) was the most reported economic shock.

# Households which Reported Being Charged More for Mobile Money or Swipe



- Buhera (91%), Guruve (79%), and Chirumhanzu (73%) had the highest proportion of households which reported being charged more for mobile money or swipe as a shock.

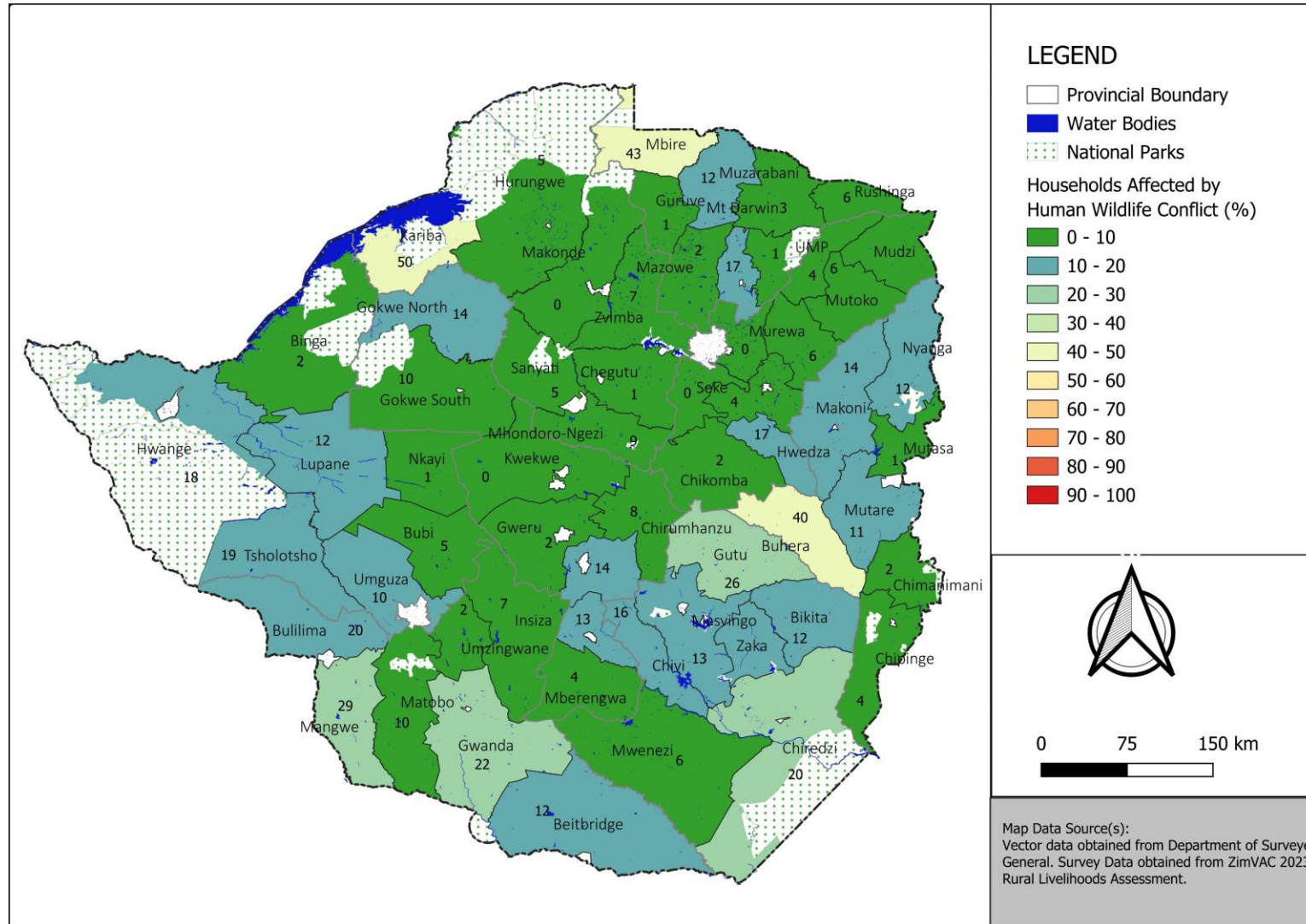
# Households which Reported Sharp Cereal Price Increases



- Buhera (73%) and Zvimba (71%) had the highest proportion of households which reported sharp cereal price increases as a shock.

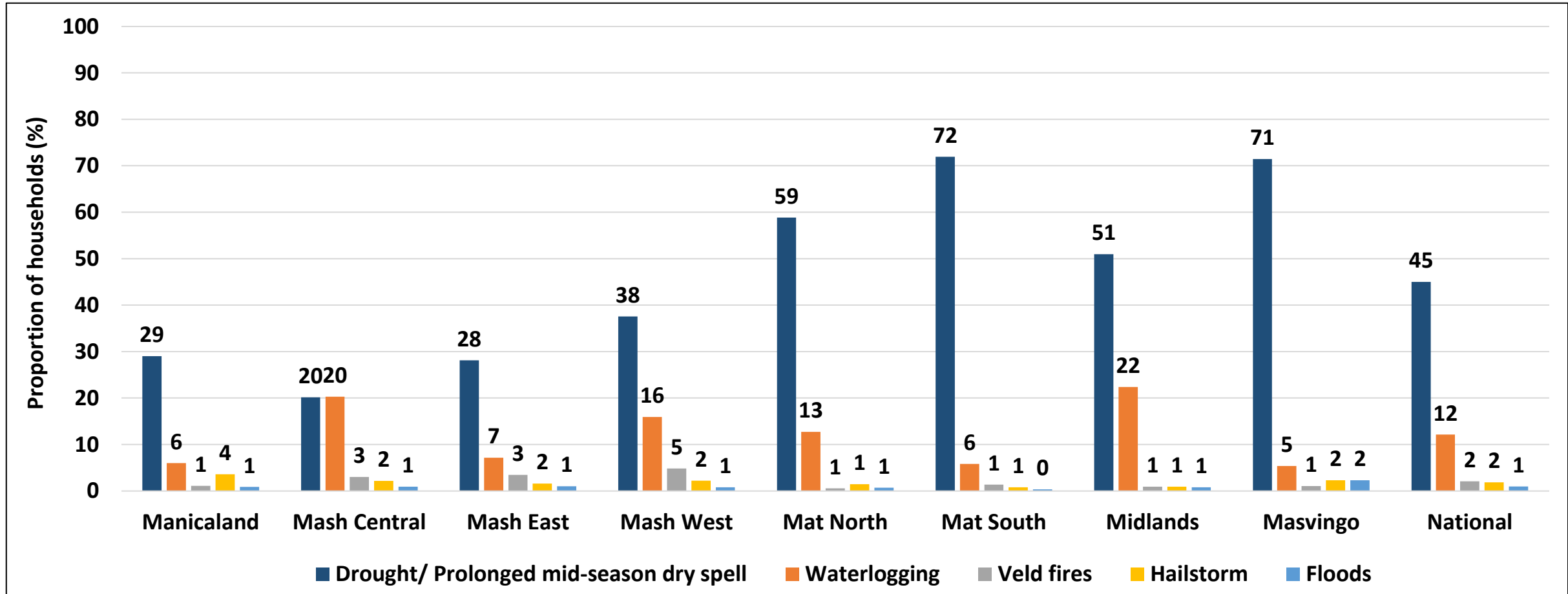


# Households which Reported Human Wildlife Conflict



- Kariba (50%), Mbire (43%), and Buhera (40%) had the highest proportion of households which reported human wildlife conflict as a shock.

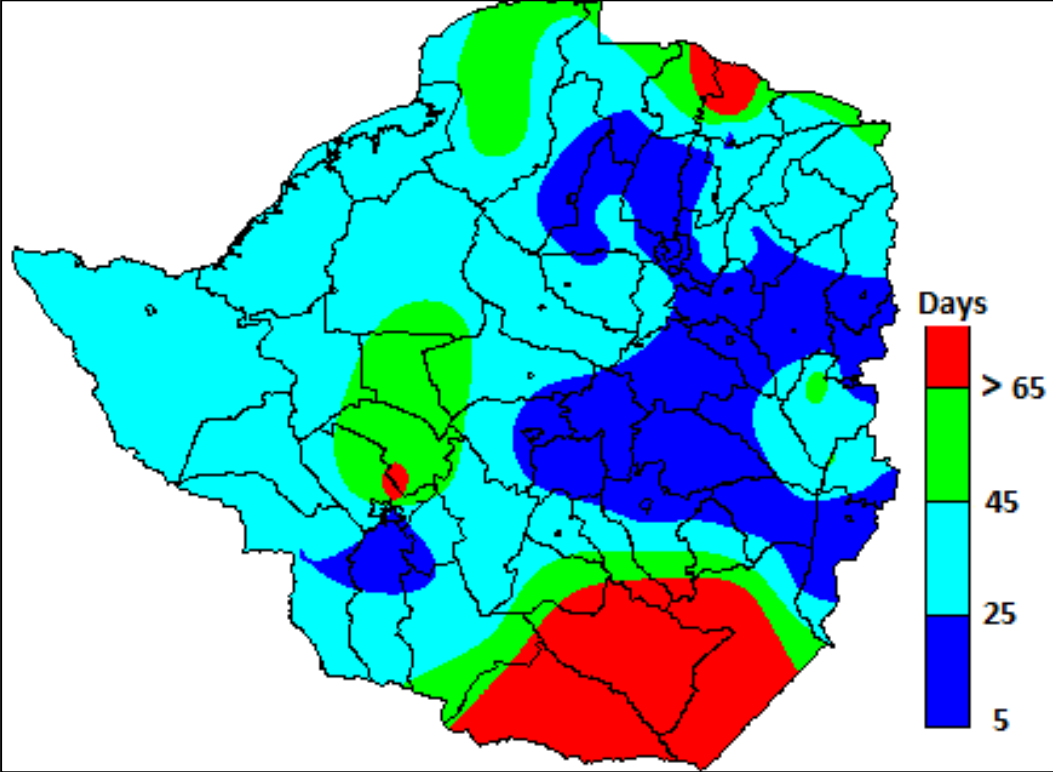
# Climate Related Shocks



- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (45%) was the most reported climate related shock. Flooding was the least reported (1%).

# Households which Reported Mid-season Dry Spells

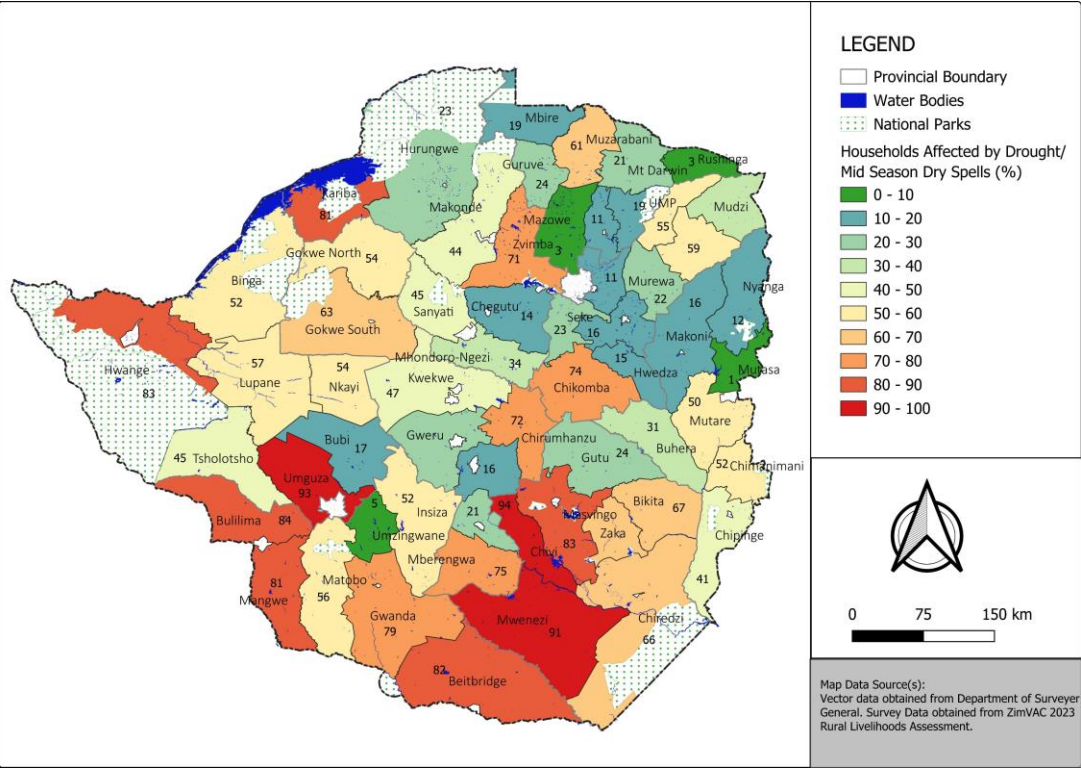
Length of Dry Spells (MSD)



Source: MSD; Longest dry spell for the 2022/2023 rainfall season.

Longest dry spells of more than 60 days were experienced in Mwenezi, Chiredzi and Beitbridge.

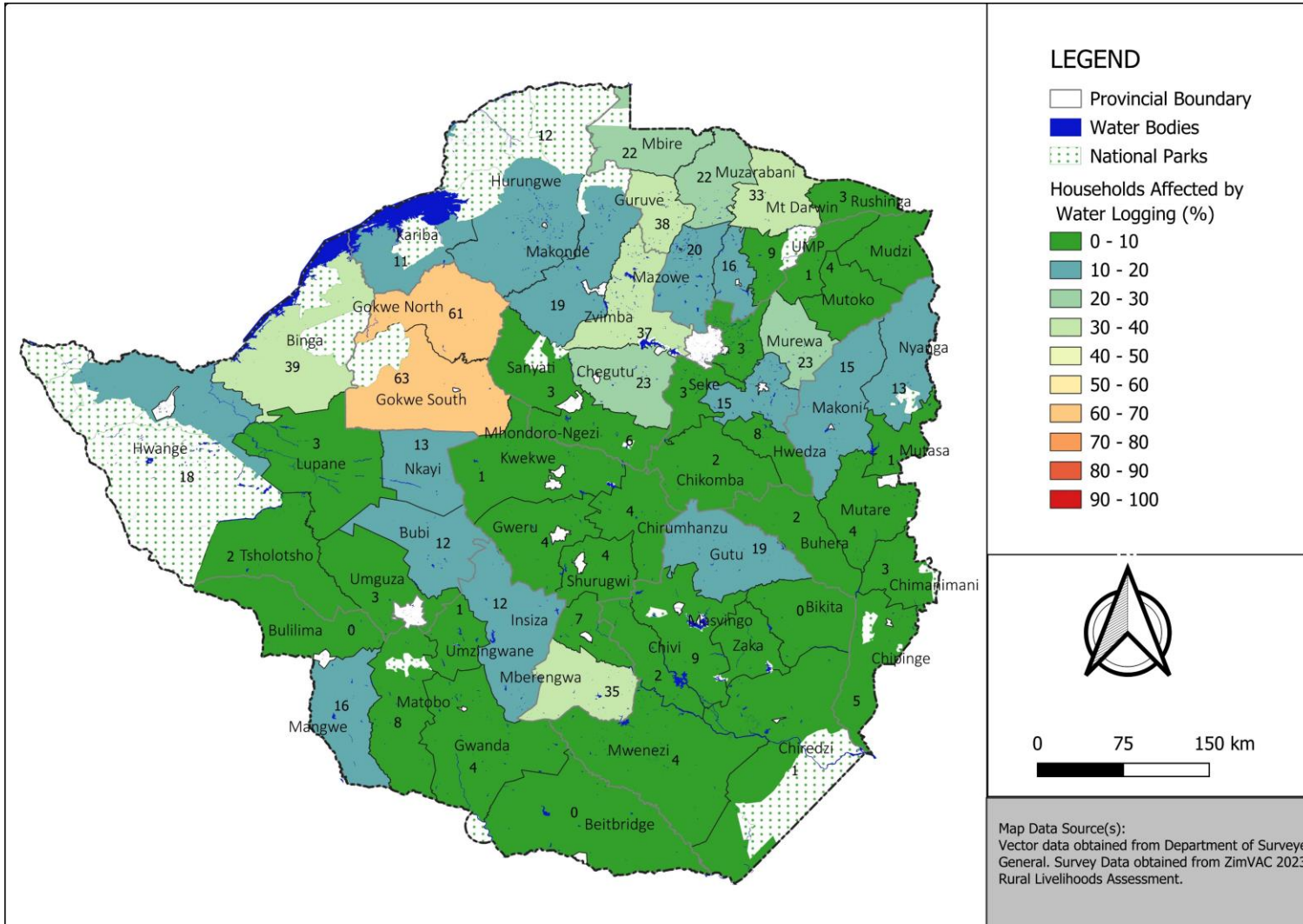
Proportion of Households Affected by Long Dry mid-season Dry Spells or Drought



Map Data Source: ZimVAC

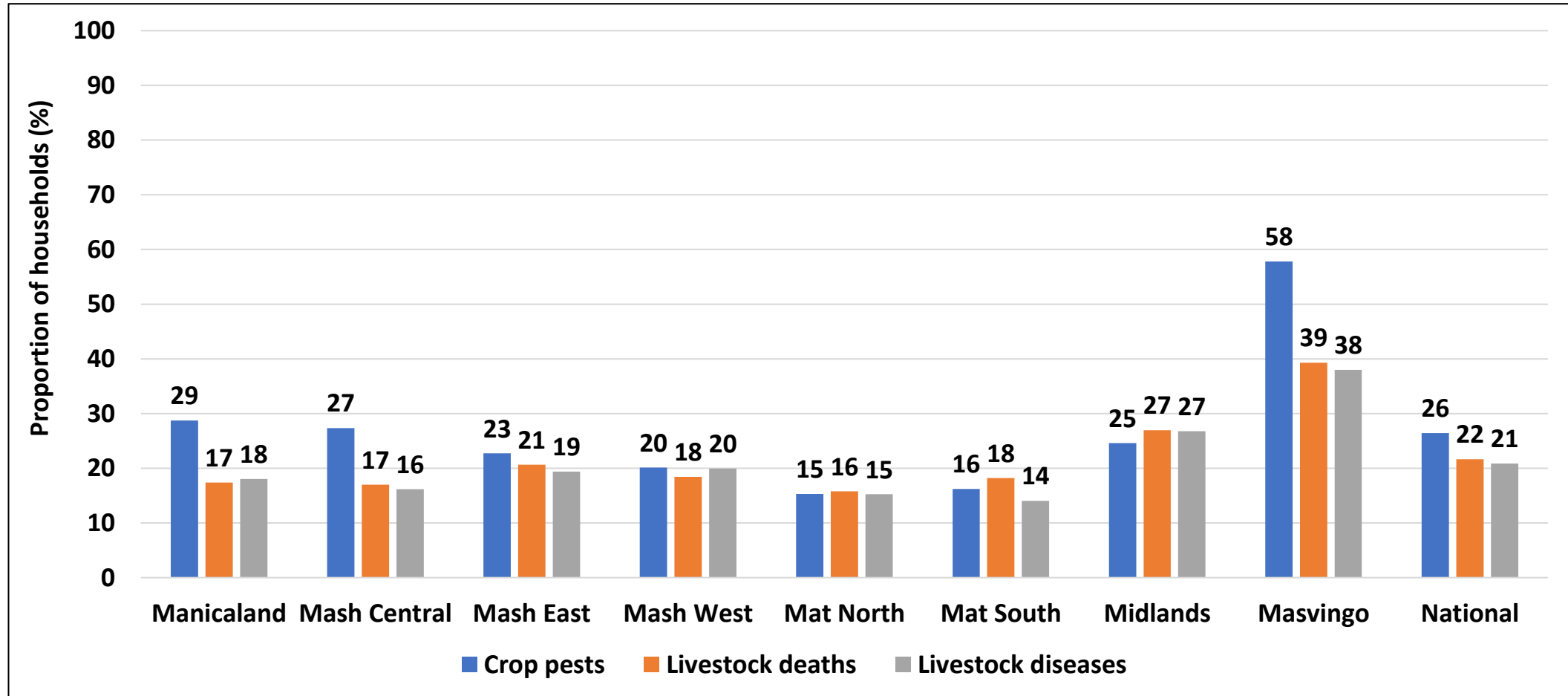


# Households which Reported Water Logging



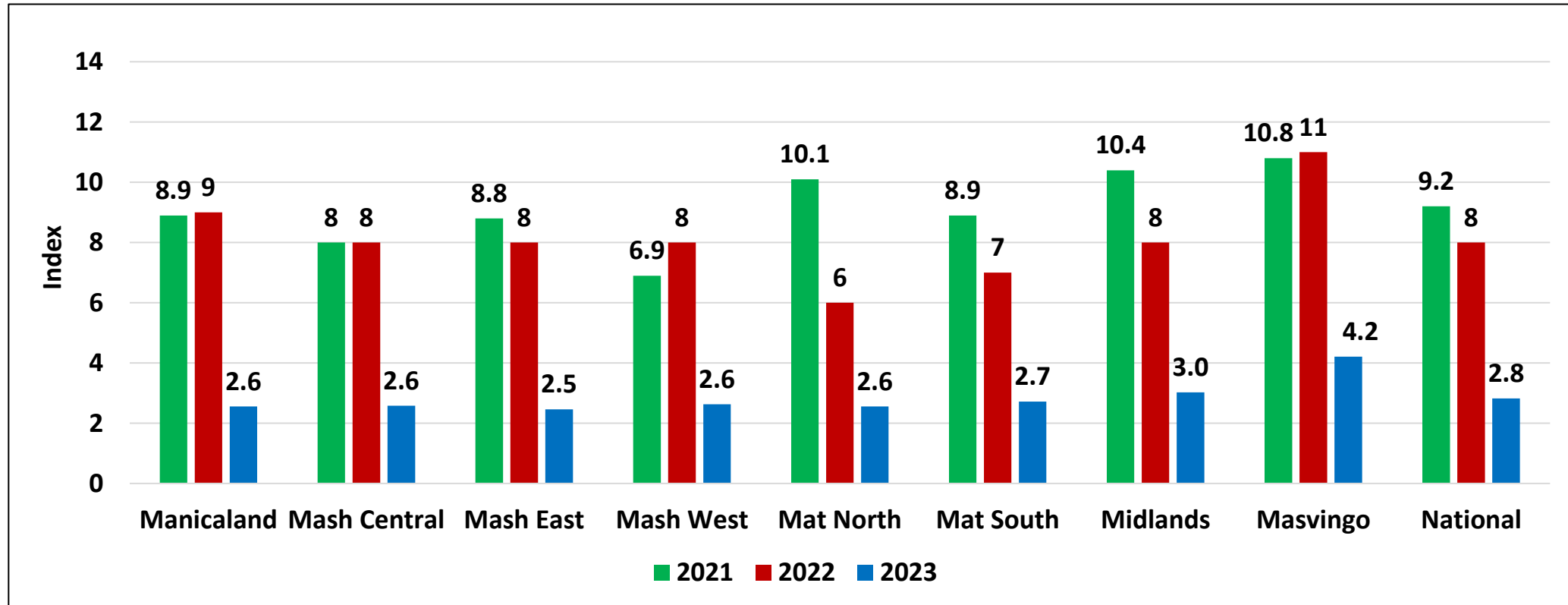
- Gokwe South (63%), Gokwe North (61%), Guruve (38%), Zvimba (37%) and Mberengwa (35%) had the highest proportions of households which reported water logging as a shock.

# Agriculture Related Shocks



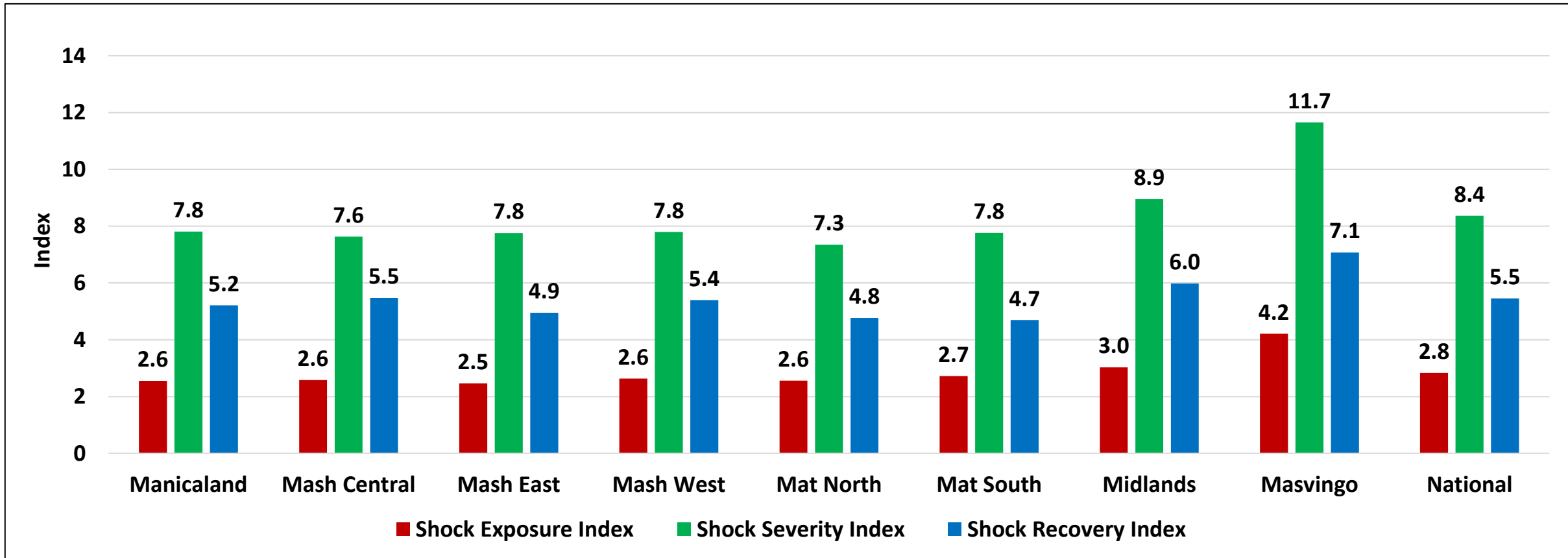
- Crop pests (26%) were the most reported agriculture related shock.
- Masvingo had the highest proportion of households which experienced all the agriculture related shocks.

# Average Shock Exposure Index



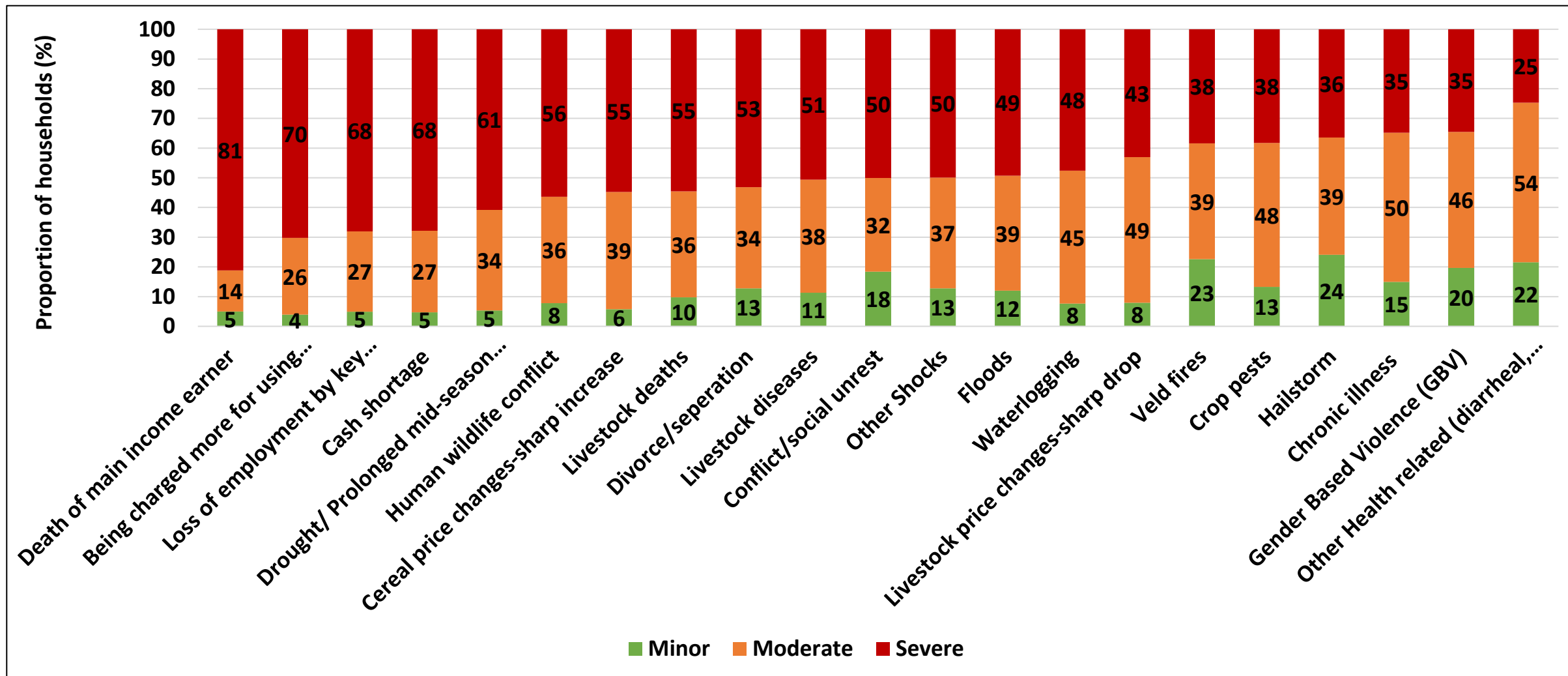
- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with the impact severity of the shock on the household.
- Shock exposure index decreased as compared to 2021 and 2022.
- Masvingo had the highest average shock exposure index of 4.2 while Mashonaland East 2.5 had the lowest.

# Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope Indices



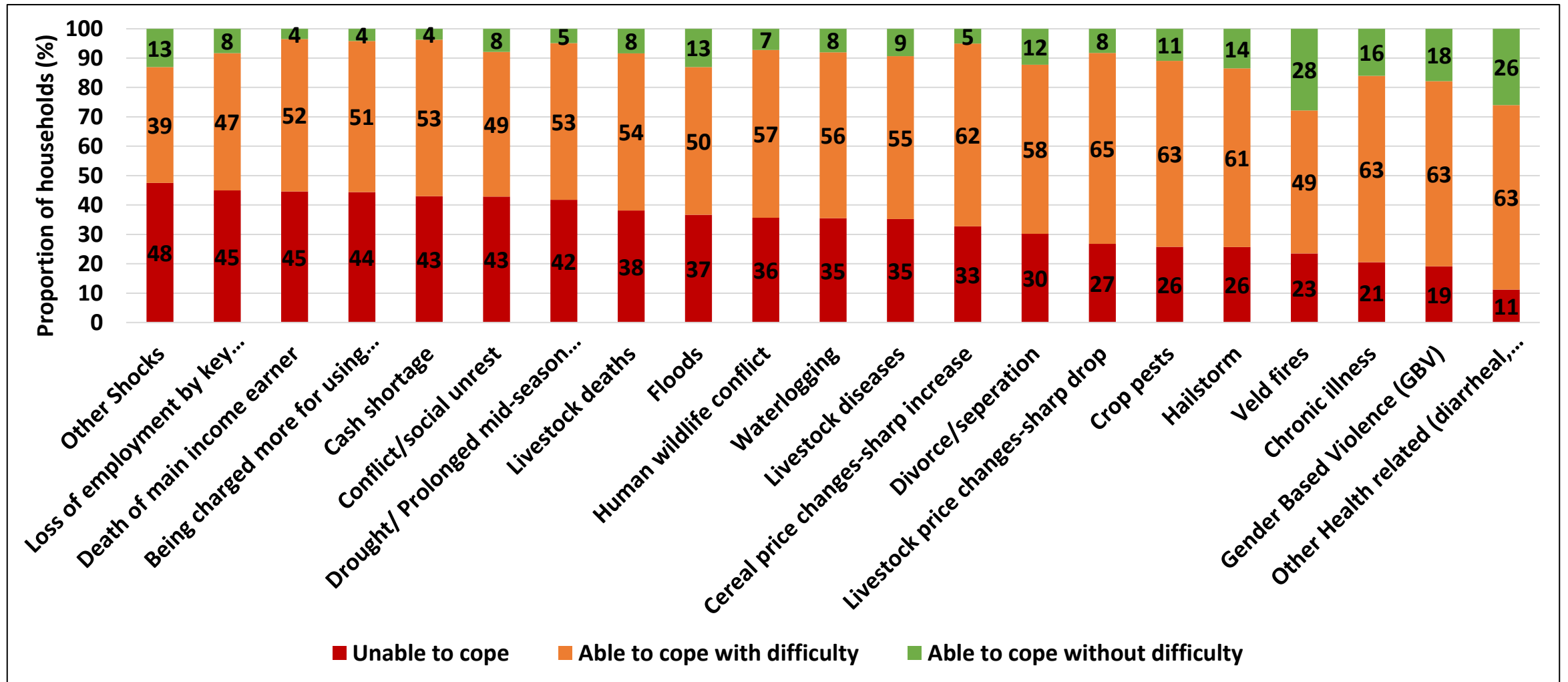
- The average Shock Exposure Index was 2.8. Shock Severity Index was 8.4. Average Shock Recovery Index was 5.5.
- Shock exposure index was lower than the shock recovery index meaning households were more able to cope on their own.

# Severity of Shocks on Households



- Death of main income earner in the household (81%) and being charged more for using mobile money or swipe (70%) were reported to have had the most severe impact on households.

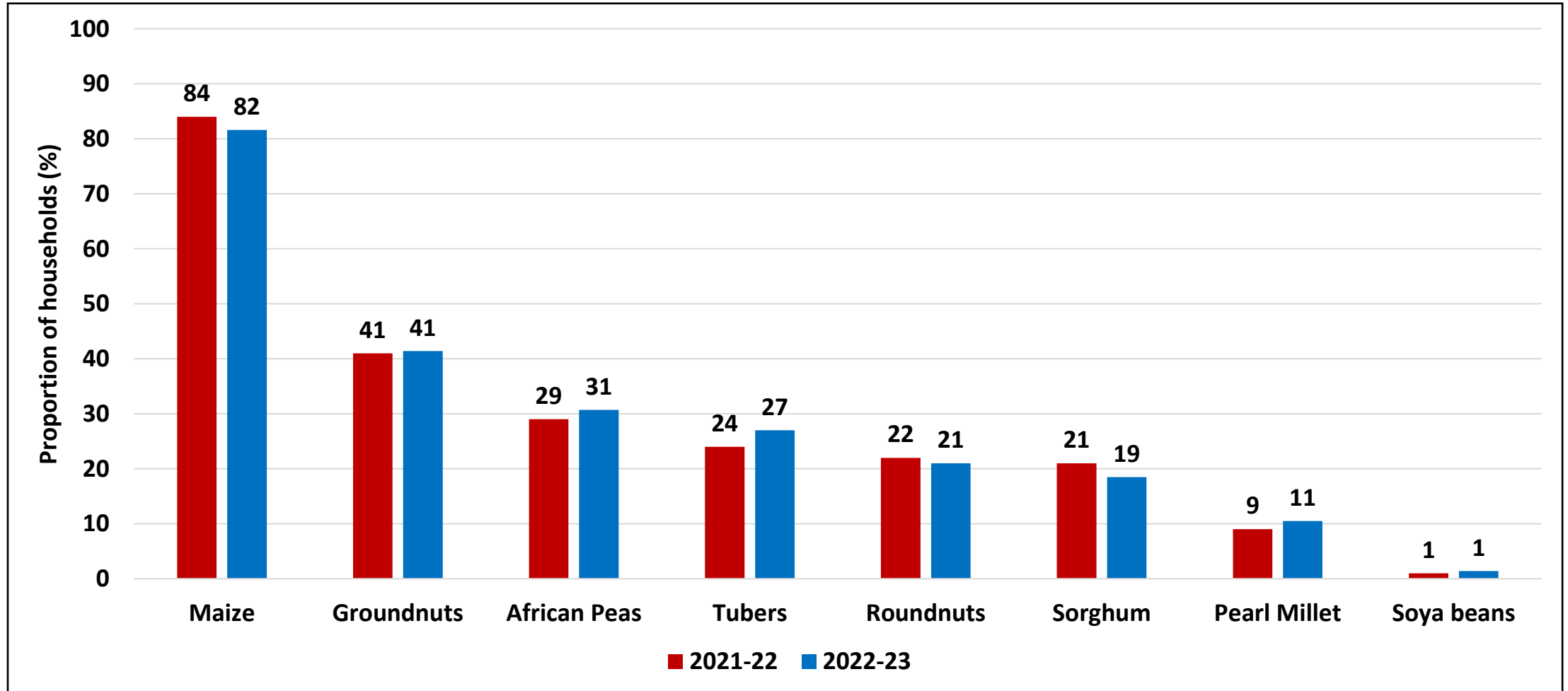
# Households' Perception of their Ability to Cope with Future Shocks



- Most households had a perceived inability to cope with economic, livelihoods and weather-related shocks.

# **Agricultural Production**

# Households Which Grew Crops



- The proportion of households that grew crops is almost similar to last year, although with marginal increases for African Peas (31%), tubers (27%) and pearl millet (11%).



# Average Household Stocks as at 1 April 2023

	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Finger Millets (kgs)	Pearl Millets (kgs)	Wheat (kgs)	Shelled Groundnuts (kgs)	Unshelled Groundnuts (kgs)	Shelled Roundnuts (kgs)	Unshelled Roundnuts (kgs)	African Peas (kgs)	Sugar Beans (kgs)
Manicaland	52.0	6.9	0.6	1.5	1.3	1.8	7.1	0.5	1.8	2.1	1.9
Mash Central	39.0	7.9	0.2	0.4	0.0	2.2	10.2	0.2	0.3	2.1	2.0
Mash East	44.8	2.2	0.8	0.4	0.2	1.8	10.1	0.4	1.1	1.6	2.5
Mash West	52.8	4.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	4.9	12.8	0.3	2.6	3.2	3.1
Mat North	37.3	6.3	0.7	10.7	0.1	2.0	4.0	0.8	1.8	2.6	0.3
Mat South	28.7	9.0	1.1	4.4	0.4	1.4	8.1	0.5	3.7	2.6	0.6
Midlands	46.0	3.3	1.2	1.7	0.2	3.3	17.4	1.0	5.7	5.7	2.2
Masvingo	46.4	5.1	1.6	4.6	0.2	2.4	13.6	1.1	7.3	2.7	1.9
National	43.4	5.5	0.8	2.8	0.3	2.5	10.5	0.6	3.0	2.8	1.8

- Maize (43.4kg) and groundnuts (10.5kg) were the highest quantities in stock for households as at 1 April 2023.

# Average Harvested Crop (kgs) Per Household

	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Finger Millet (kgs)	Pearl Millet (kgs)	African Peas (kgs)	Groundnuts (kgs)	Roundnuts (kgs)	Sugar Beans (kgs)
<b>Manicaland</b>	245.3	5.5	0.0	4.0	4.7	10.2	4.7	3.1
<b>Mash Central</b>	306.2	26.3	0.0	0.0	6.3	20.2	0.0	0.9
<b>Mash East</b>	344.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	22.6	2.2	1.8
<b>Mash West</b>	442.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	14.5	0.1	0.7
<b>Mat North</b>	147.2	18.2	0.0	24.0	2.8	2.2	1.2	0.0
<b>Mat South</b>	107.8	16.6	0.0	11.0	4.2	8.3	5.1	0.0
<b>Midlands</b>	463.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	11.9	25.6	11.5	1.3
<b>Masvingo</b>	187.3	10.0	2.0	11.4	8.6	18.6	26.8	0.5
<b>National</b>	<b>277.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>

- Average maize harvest was 277.1kg per household. Midlands (463kg) had the highest average maize harvest and Matabeleland South had the least (107.8kg).

# Cereals from Casual Labour and Remittances

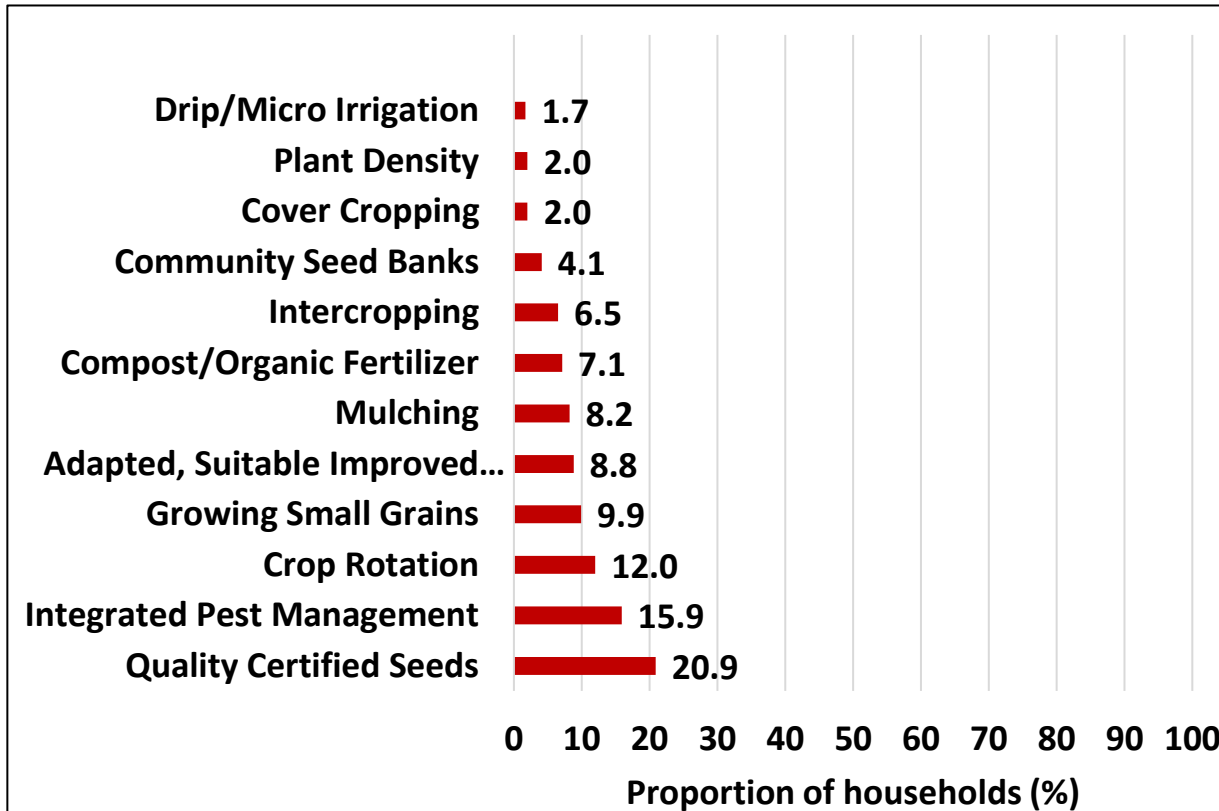
Province	Cereals from Casual Labour (kgs)		Cereals from Remittances (kgs)	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Manicaland	49.6	27.7	8.3	0.6
Mash Central	58.7	23.2	7.8	0.1
Mash East	42.3	17.5	8.8	0.7
Mash West	50.3	19.8	4.7	0.6
Mat North	29.5	7.8	15.6	0.3
Mat South	21.3	9.2	13.9	2.0
Midlands	45.4	15.9	13.9	1.7
Masvingo	55.2	20.6	13.7	2.4
National	44.2	17.7	10.8	1.0

- On average, households received 17.7kgs of cereals from casual labour and 1 kg from remittances.

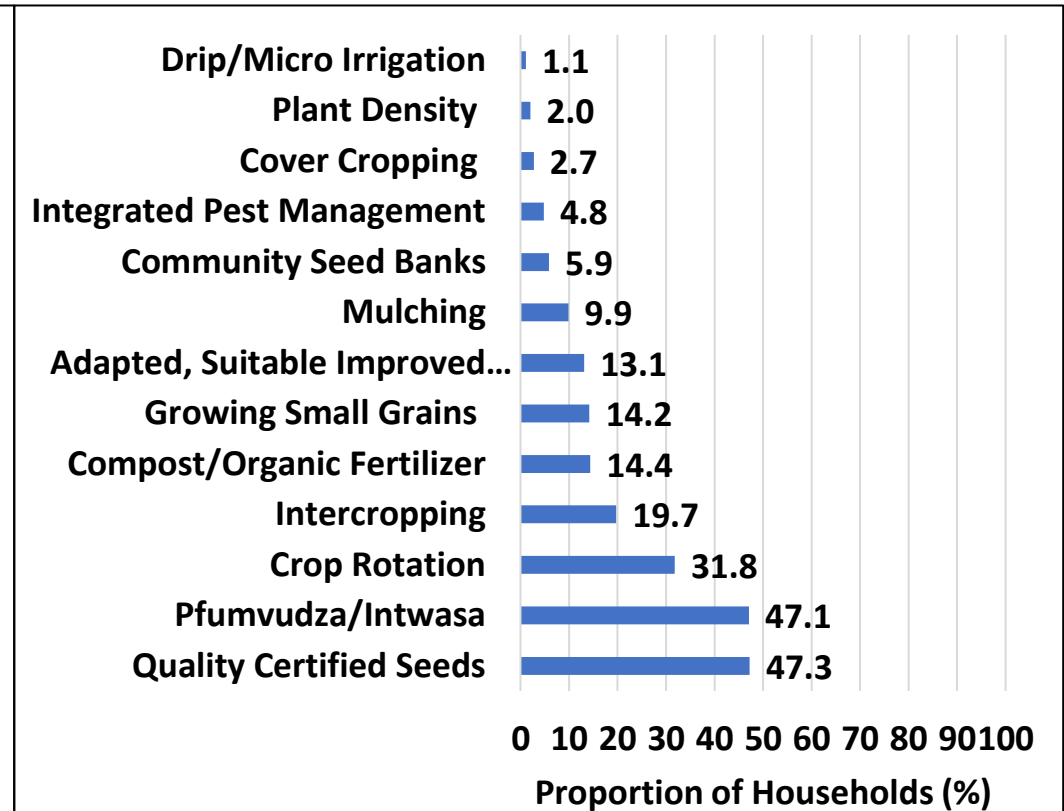
# **Agricultural Production Technologies**

# Adoption of Climate Smart Technologies

2022

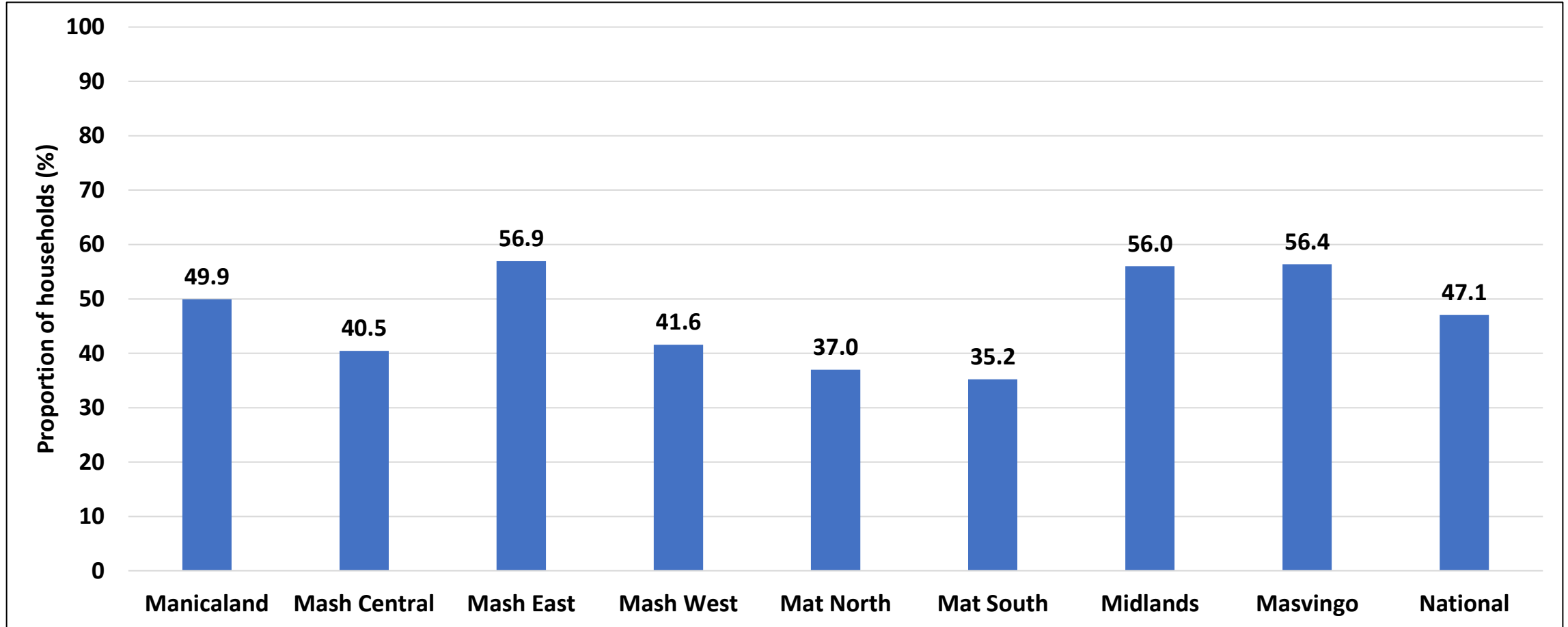


2023



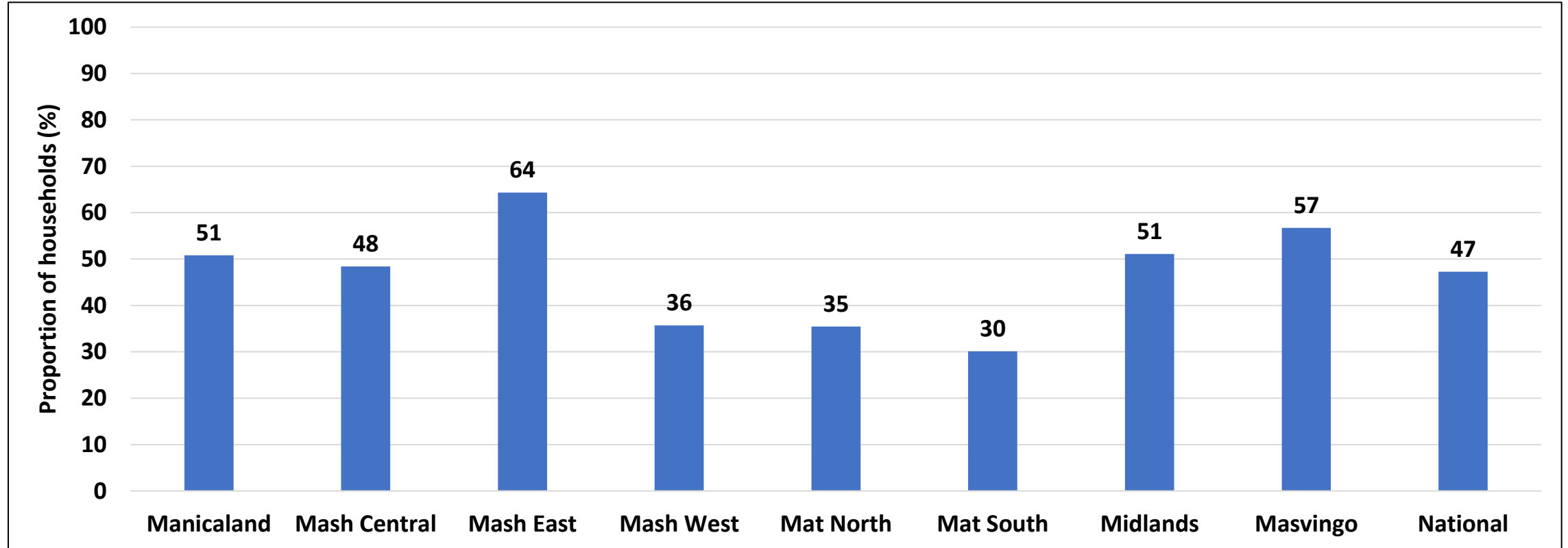
- There was high adoption of Pfumvudza/ Intwasa by households in 2023 (47%).

# Adoption of Pfumvudza/Intwasa



- Mashonaland East (56.9%), Masvingo (56.4%) and Midlands (56%) were the provinces that reported higher adoption of Pfumvudza/ Intwasa.

# Adoption of Quality Certified Seeds

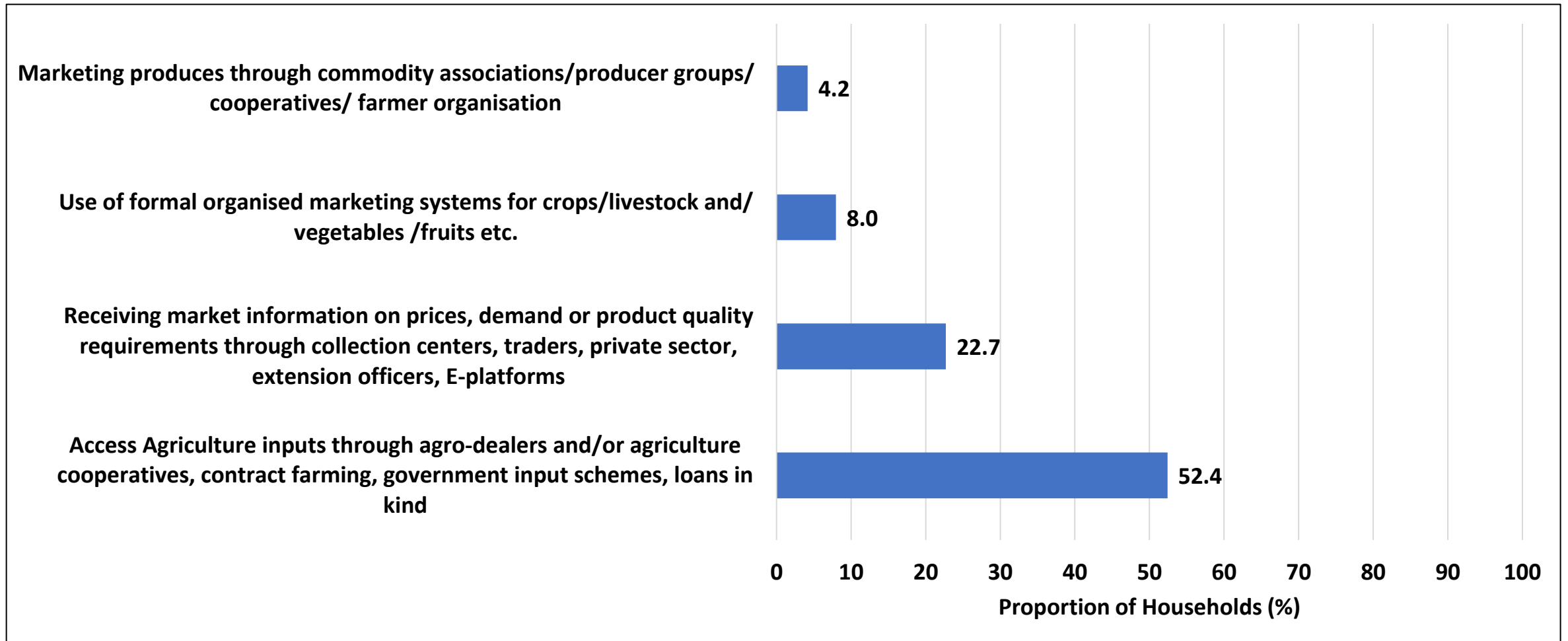


- Mashonaland East (64%), Masvingo (57%), Midlands (51%) and Manicaland (51%) were the provinces that reported higher adoption and use of quality certified seeds.

# **Value Chain Practices**

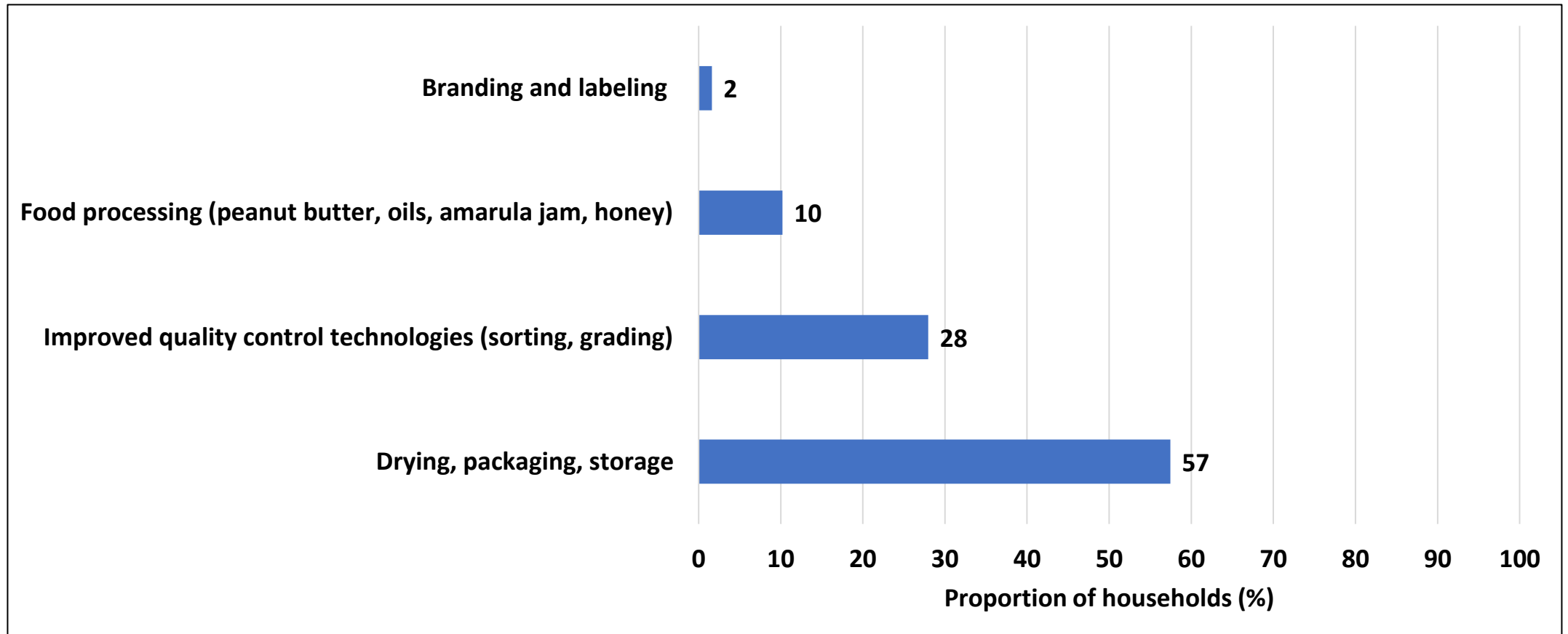


# Adoption of Improved Agricultural Marketing Practices



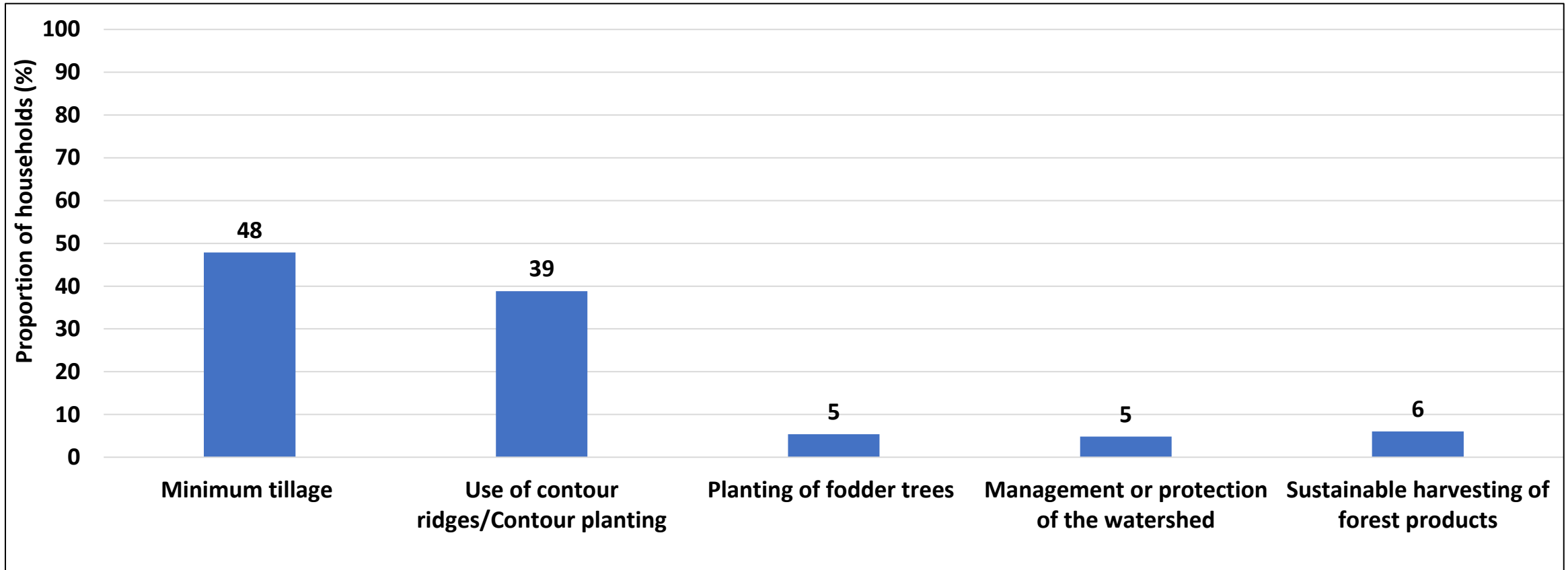
- About 52.4% of households accessed agriculture inputs through agro-dealers and/or agriculture cooperatives, contract farming, Government input schemes and loans in kind.

# Adoption of Value Addition



- At least 57% of the households practised drying, packaging and storage.

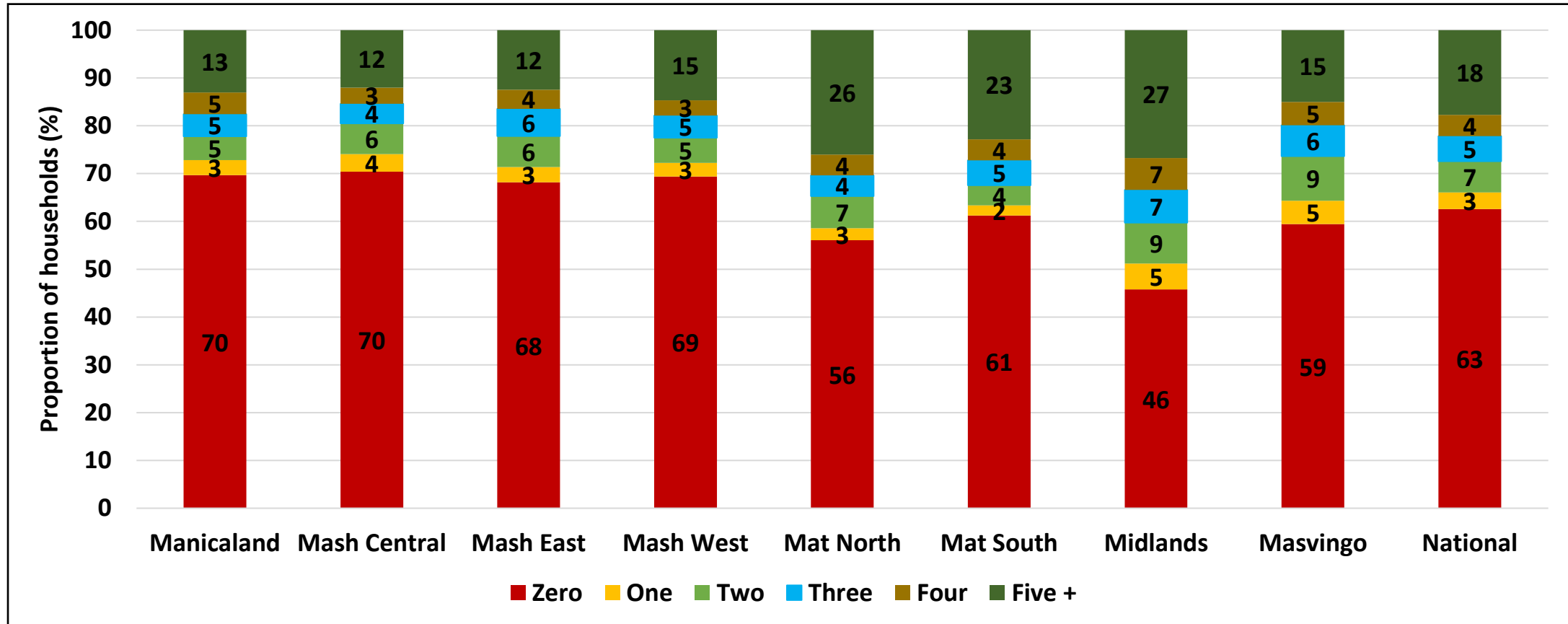
# Adoption of Water and Soil Conservation Strategies



- About 48% of households practised minimum tillage.

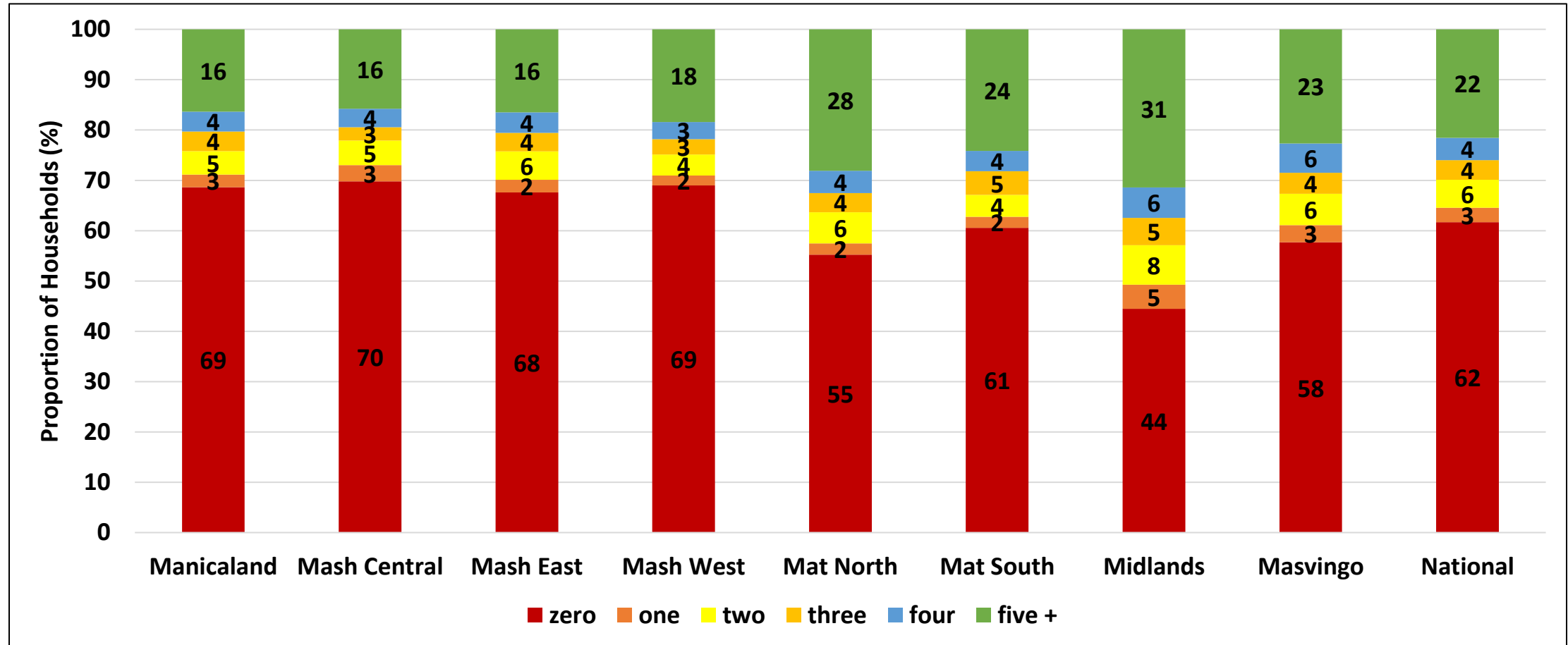
# Livestock

# Households which Owned Cattle



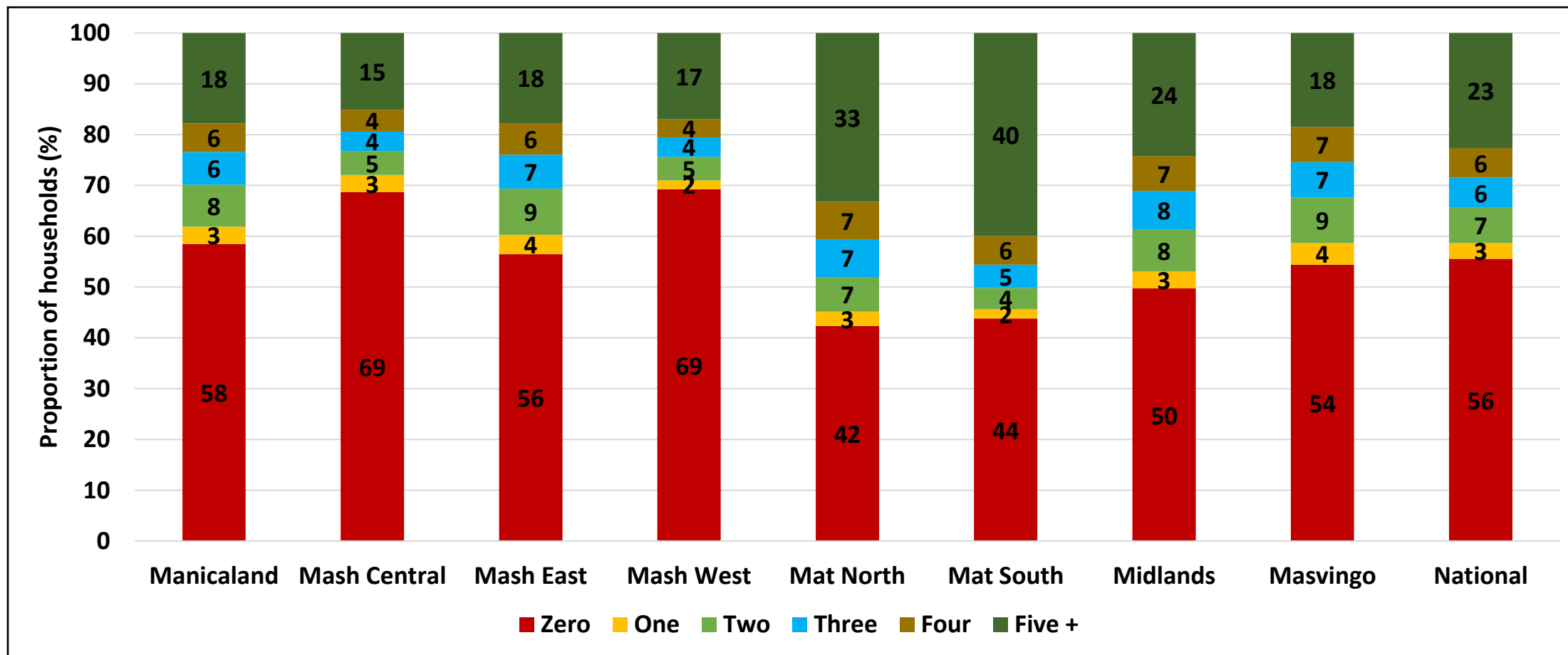
- The proportion of households that did not own cattle was 63%.
- Manicaland (70%) and Mashonaland Central (70%) had the highest proportion of households that did not own cattle.
- Nationally, about 18% of households had at least 5 cattle.

# Households which Owned Draught Animals



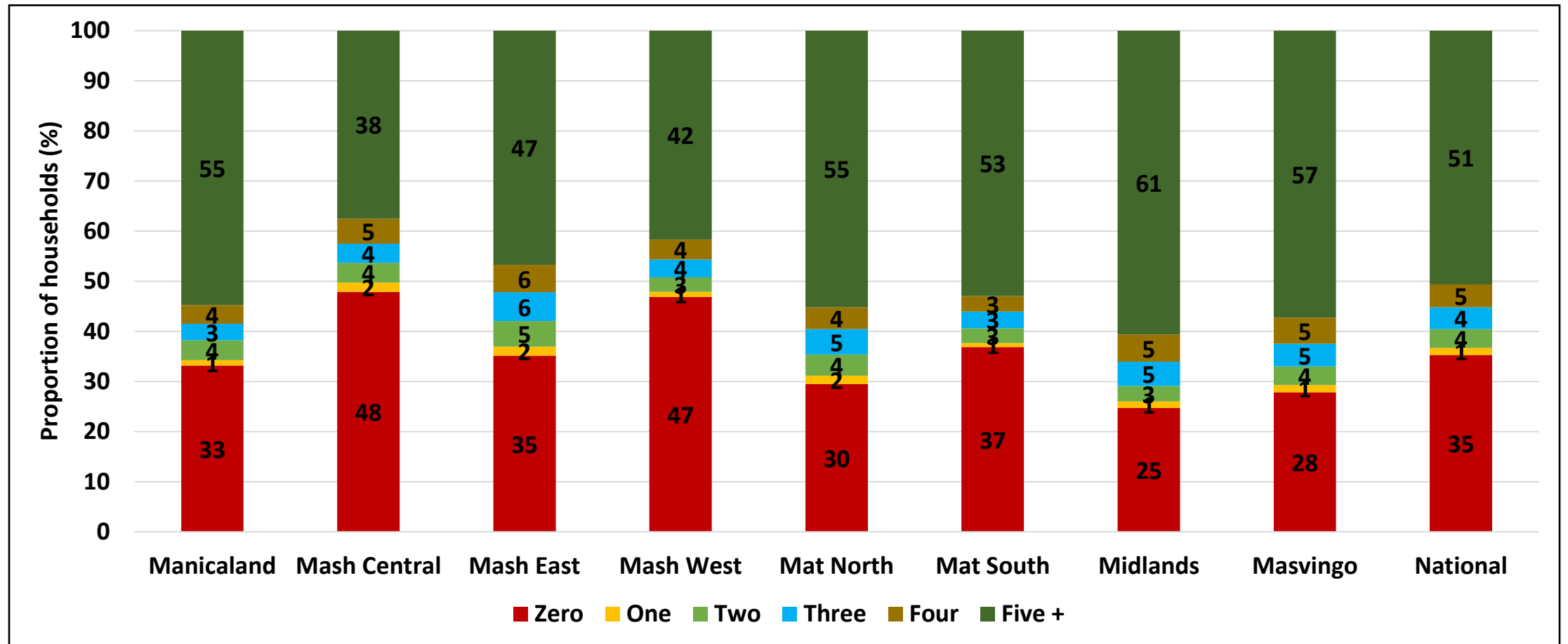
- A high proportion of households (62%) did not own draught animals (cattle and donkeys).
- Mashonaland Central (70%) had the highest proportion of households that did not own draught animals.

# Households which Owned Goats



- About 56% of households did not own any goats while 23% owned at least 5 goats.

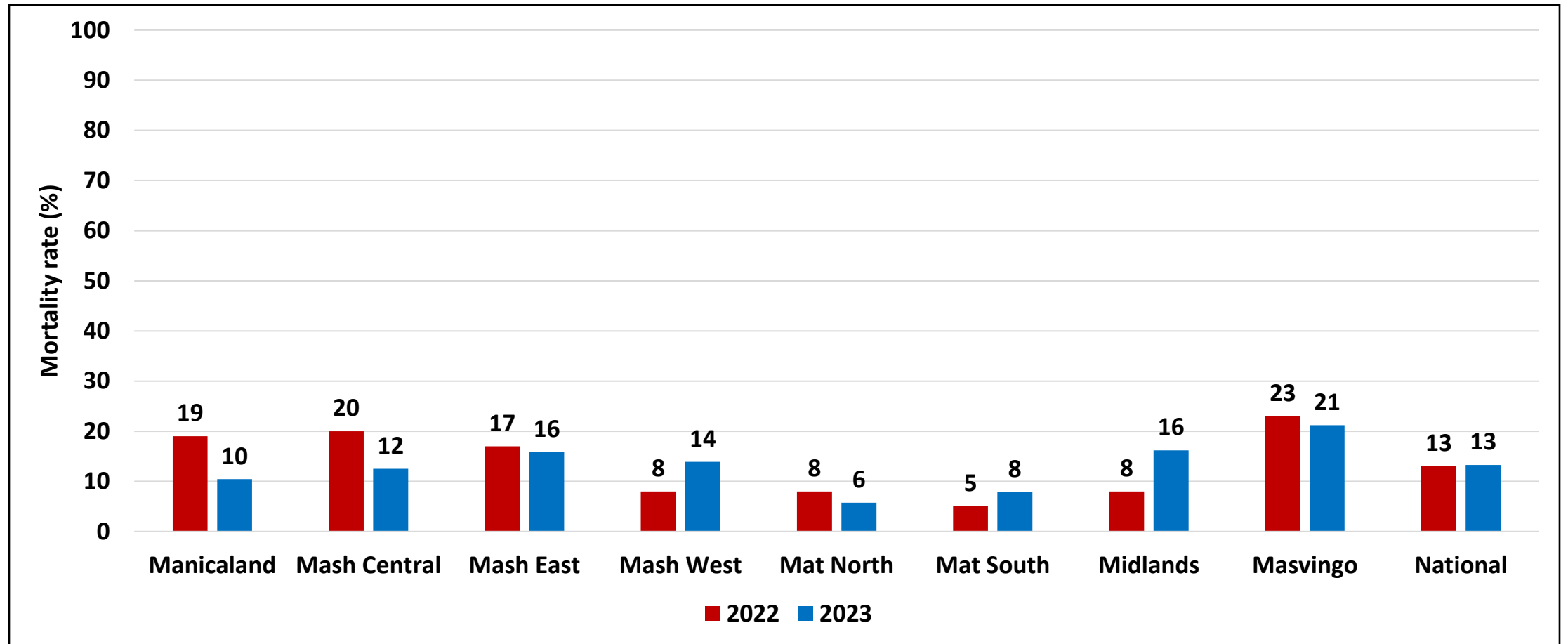
# Households which Owned Poultry



- About 51% of households owned at least 5 birds.

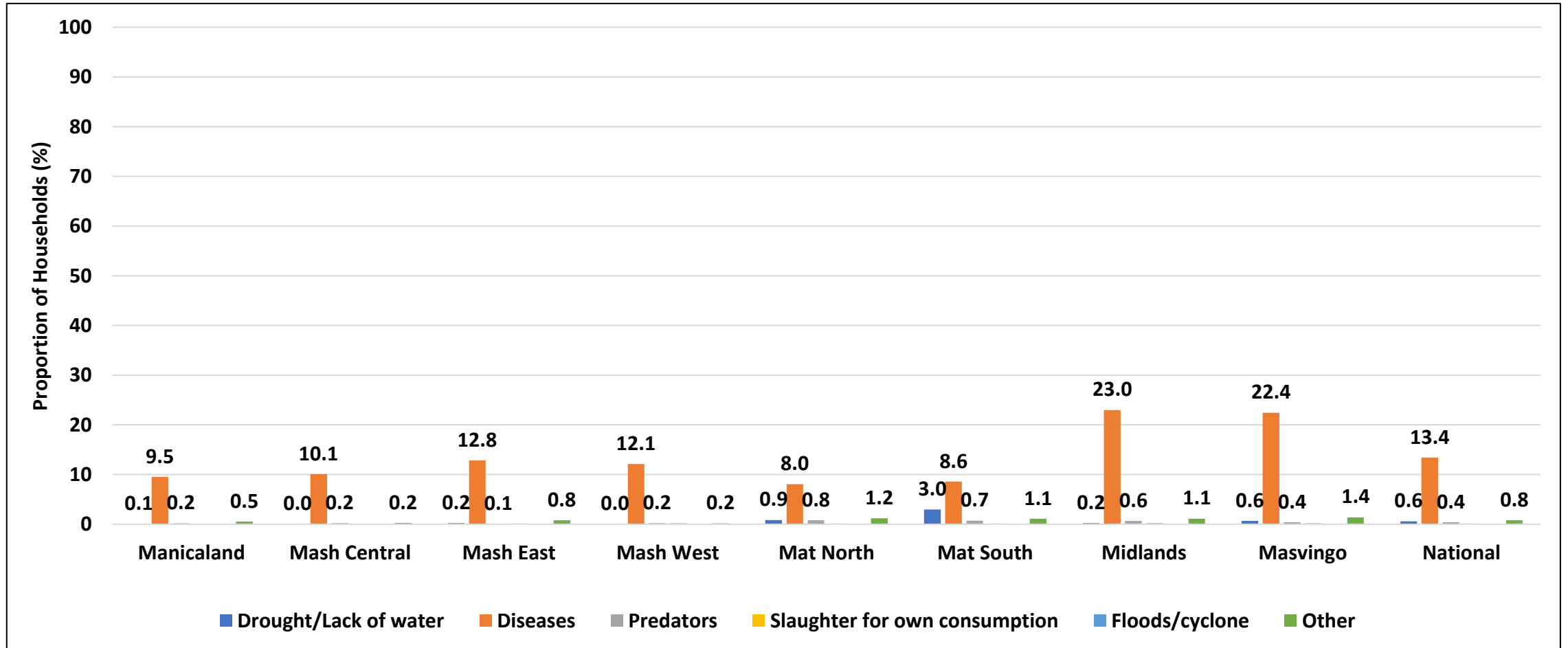


# Cattle Mortality Rates



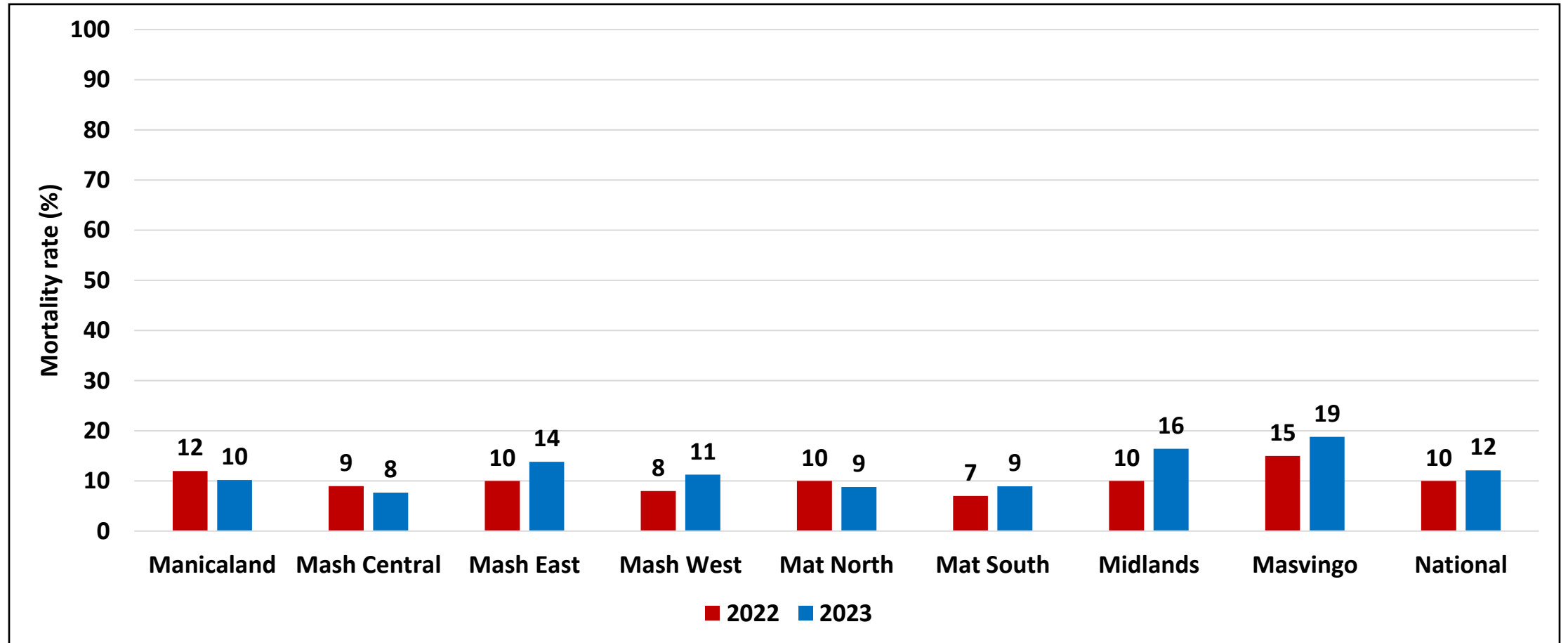
- The average cattle mortality rate has remained at 13%.
- Mashonaland West (14%), Midlands (16%) and Matabeleland South (8%) reported an increase from last year.

# Causes of Deaths for Cattle



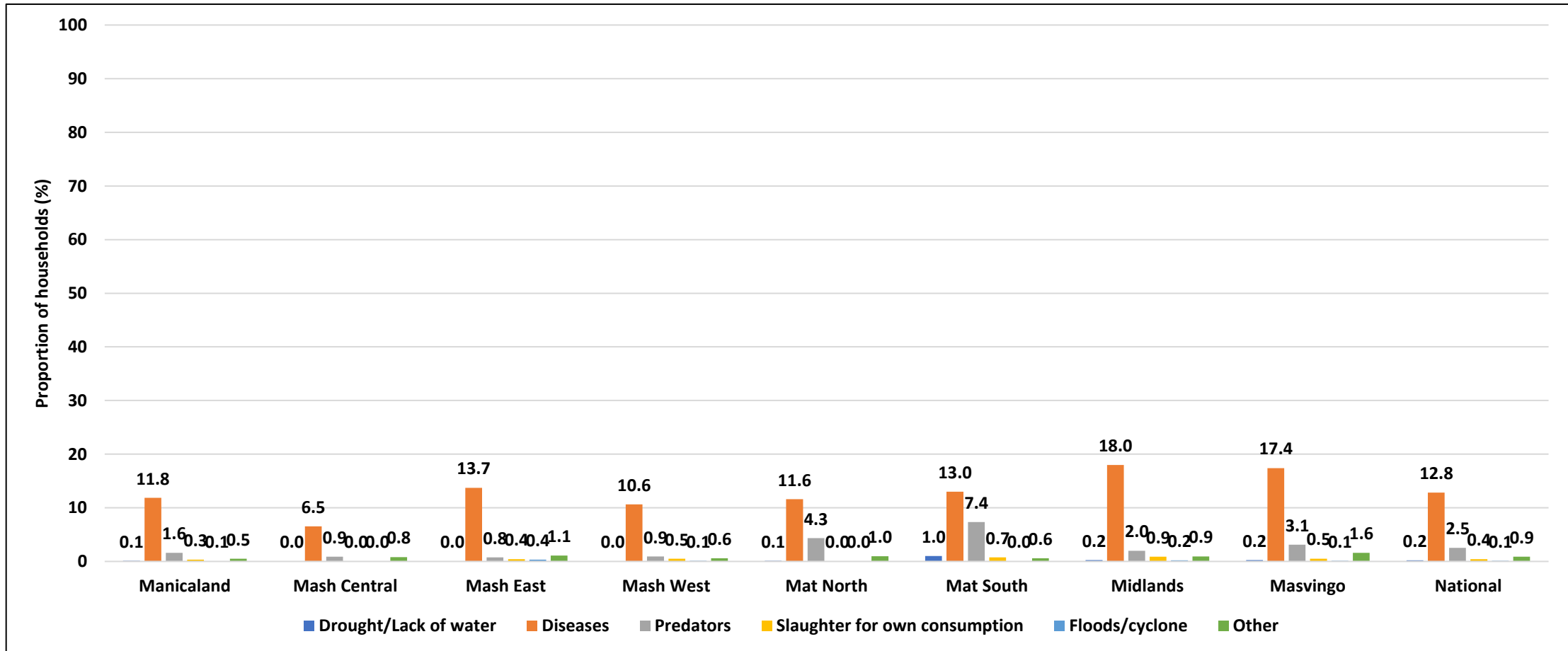
- At least 13.4% of households reported diseases as the major cause of cattle deaths.

# Goat Mortality Rates



- The average goat mortality rate increased to 12%.

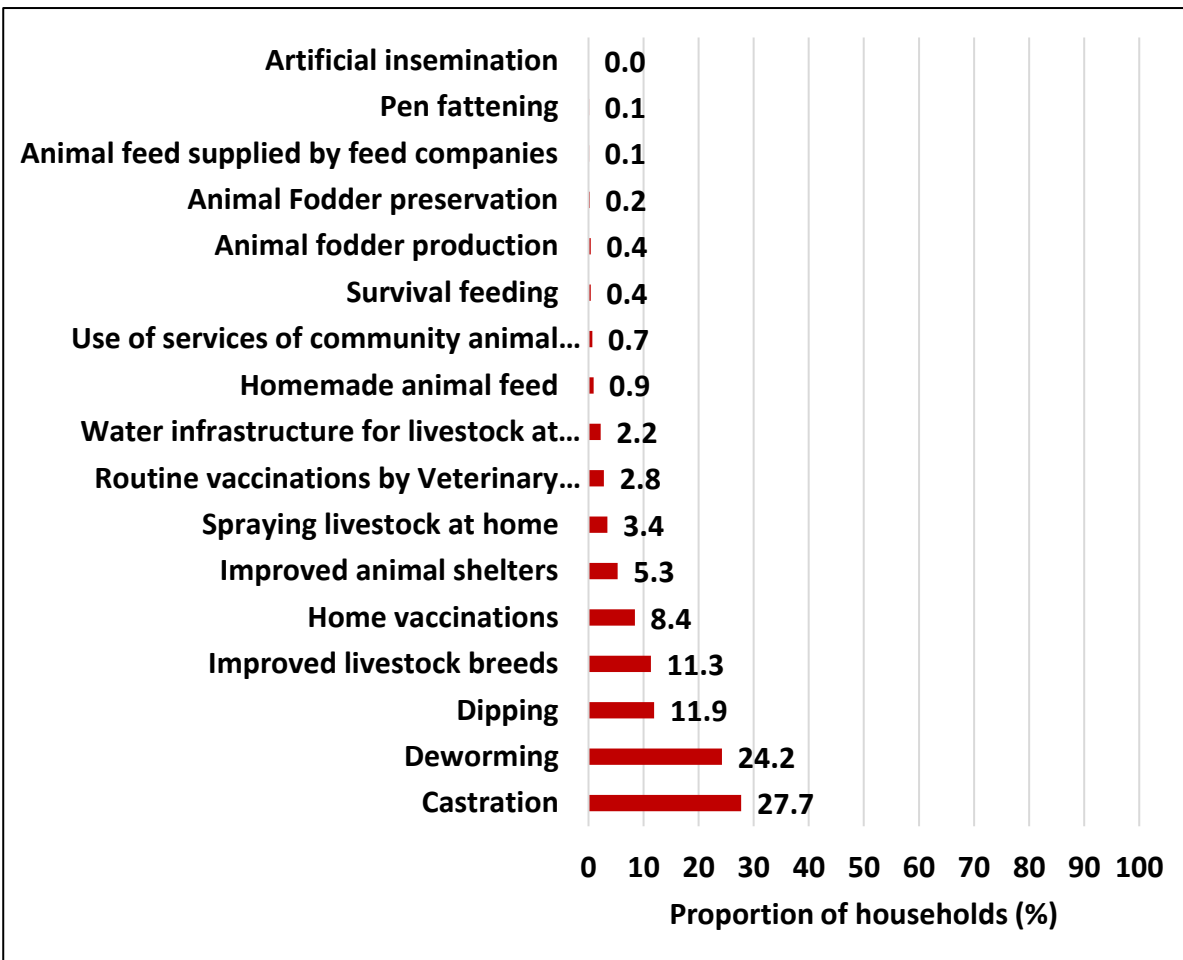
# Causes of Death for Goats



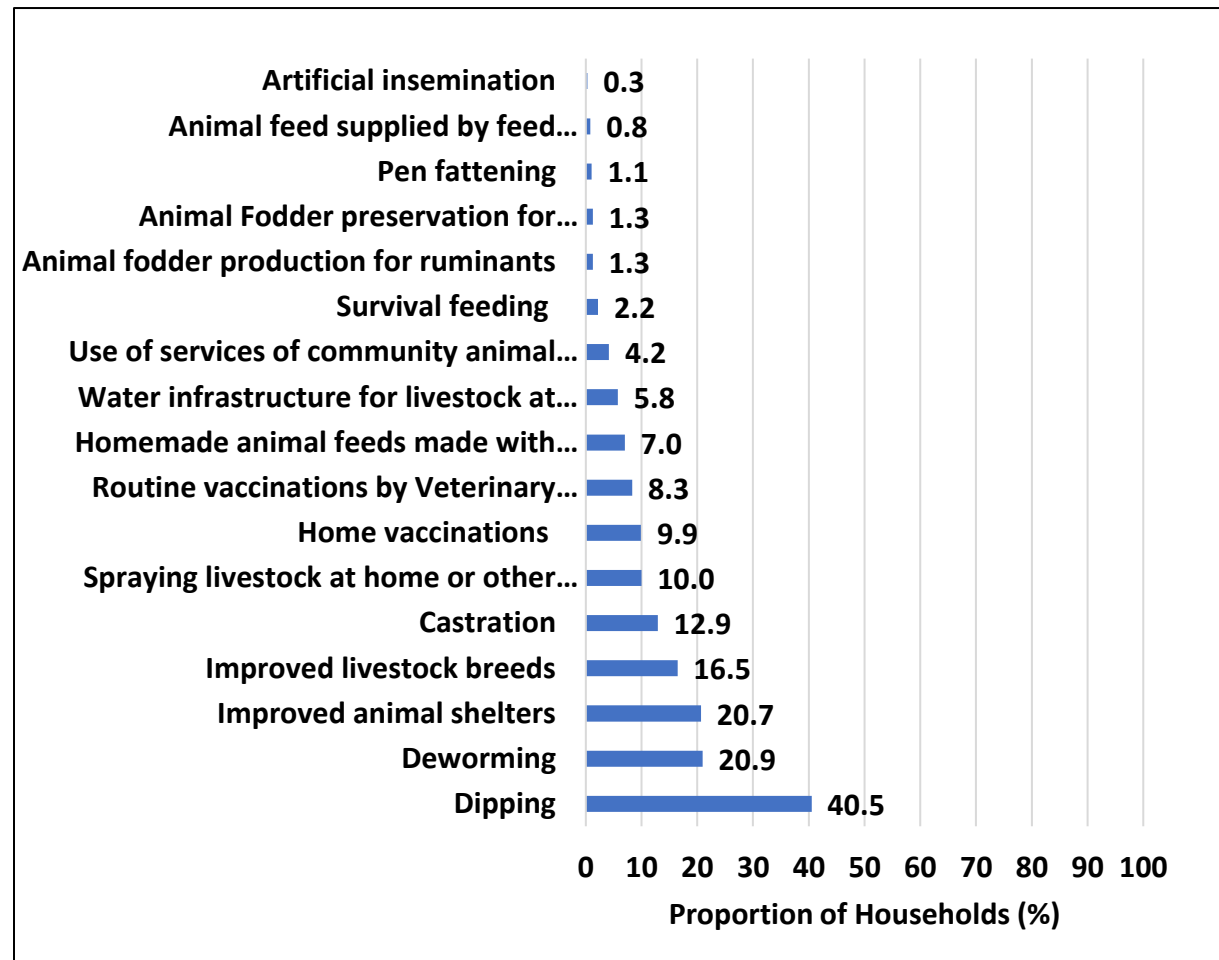
- Diseases continued to be the leading cause of death for goats.

# Adoption of Improved Livestock Practices

2022



2023

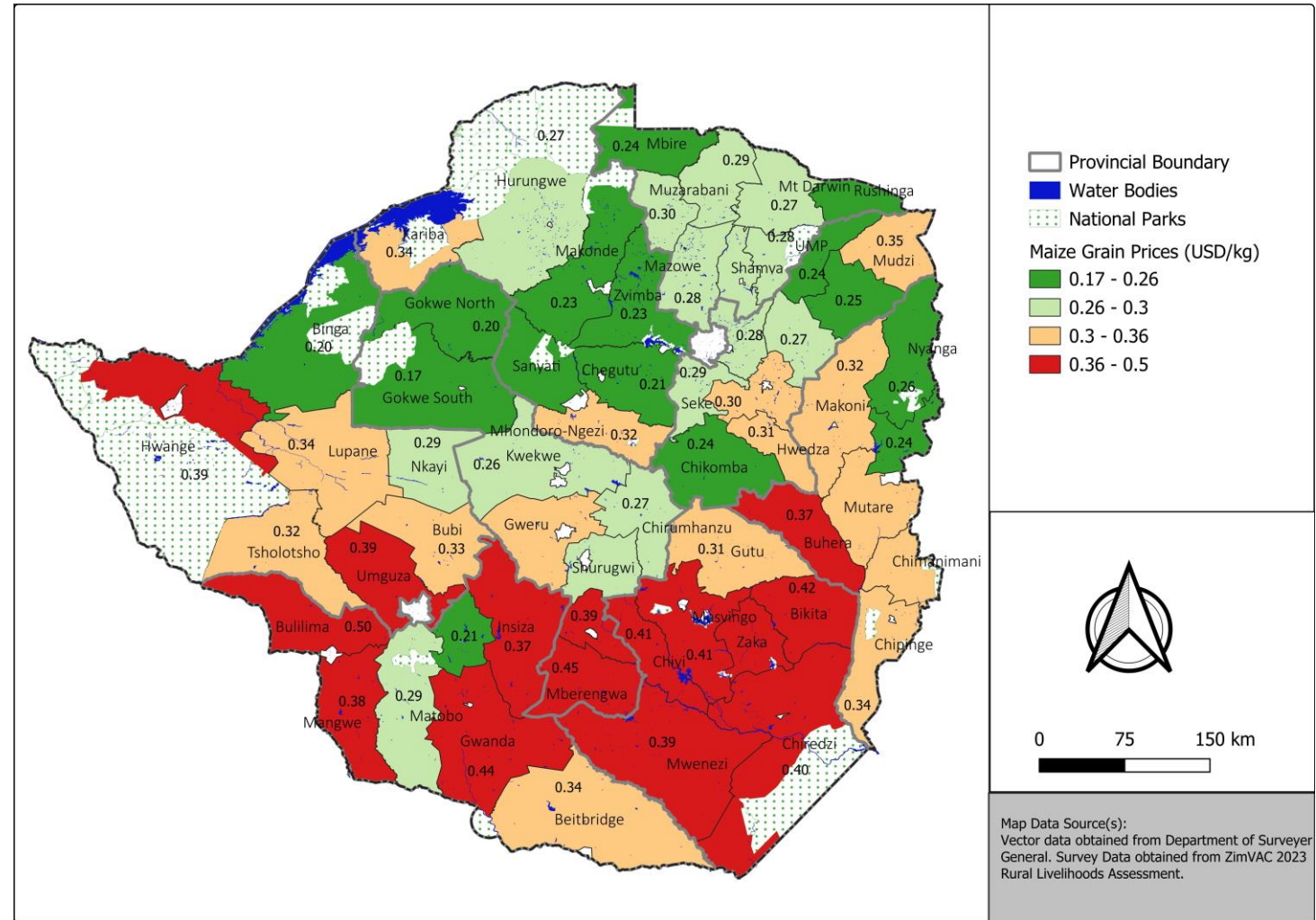


- The most practised livestock improvement strategies were dipping (40.5%) and deworming (20.9%).

# **Agricultural Produce Markets**

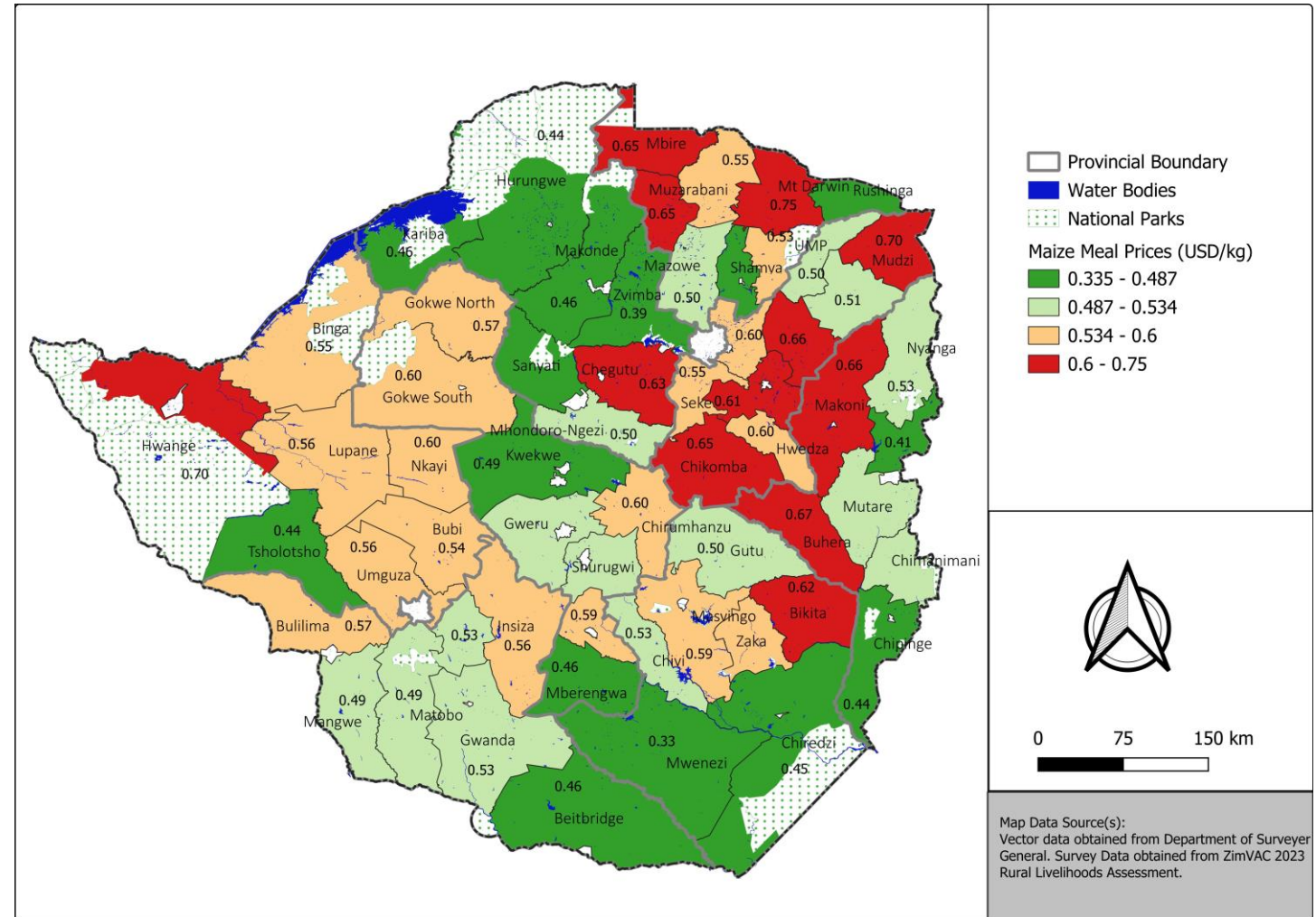
# Maize Grain Prices

- Maize grain ranged from USD\$ 0.17 to USD\$ 0.50 per kilogram.
- High prices were reported in Masvingo and Matabeleland South provinces, whilst low prices were reported in Mashonaland Central.



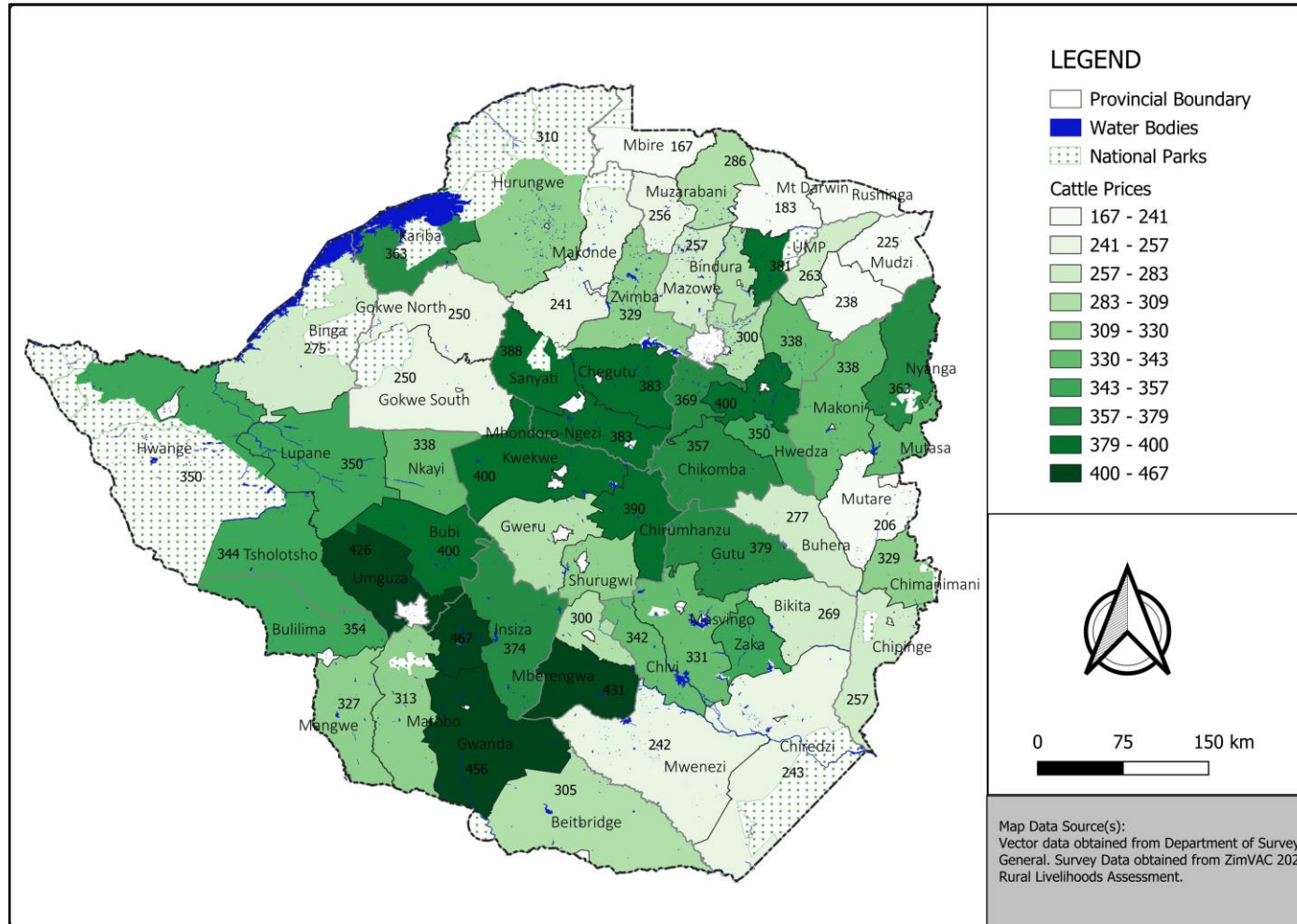
# Maize Meal Prices

- The prices for maize meal ranged from USD\$0.33 to USD\$ 0.75 per kilogram.
- The highest prices were reported in Mt. Darwin (USD\$ 0.75), Hwange (USD\$ 0.70) and Mudzi (USD\$ 0.70).
- Low prices were reported in Mwenezi (USD\$ 0.33) and Zvimba (USD 0.39).



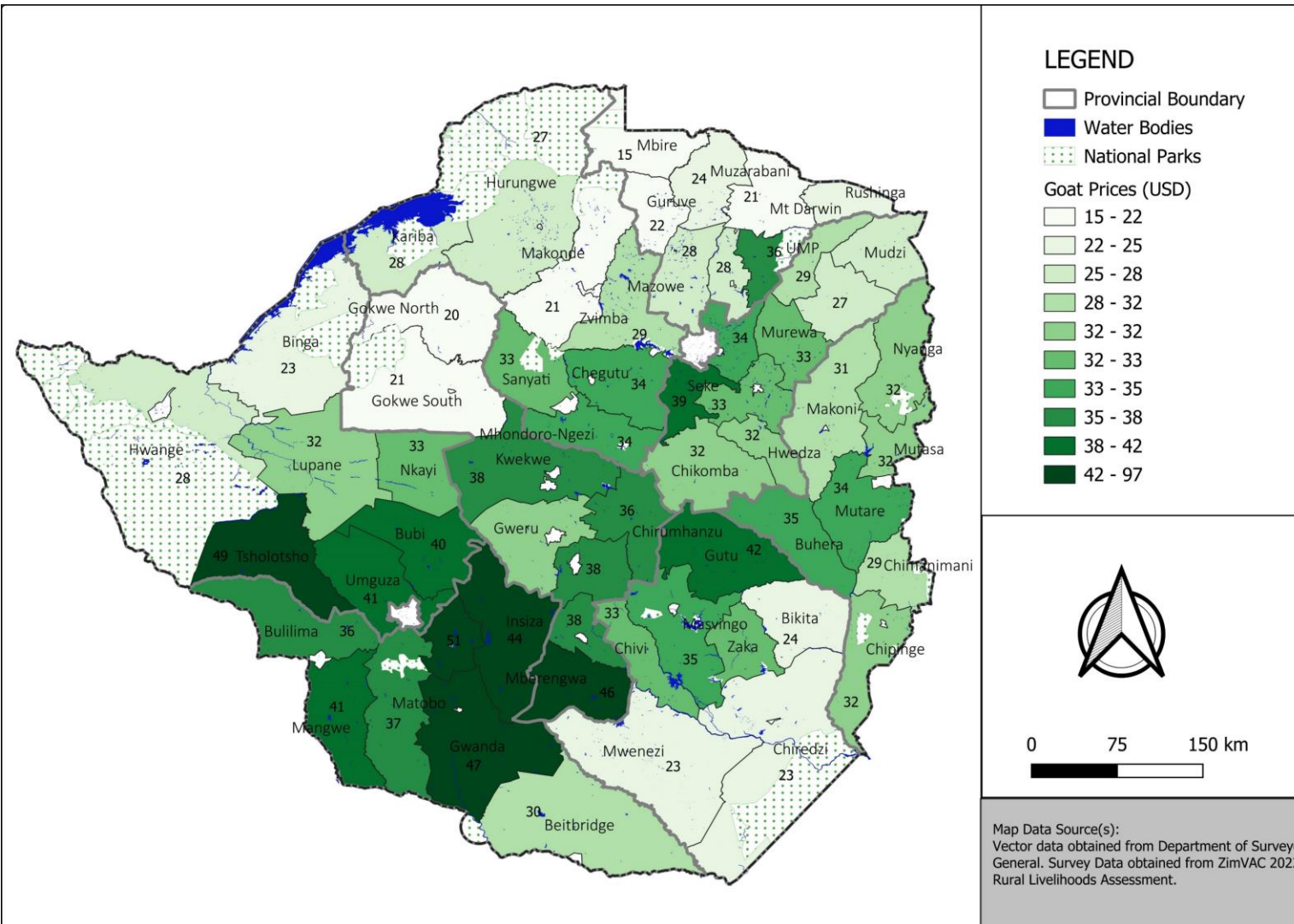


# Cattle Prices



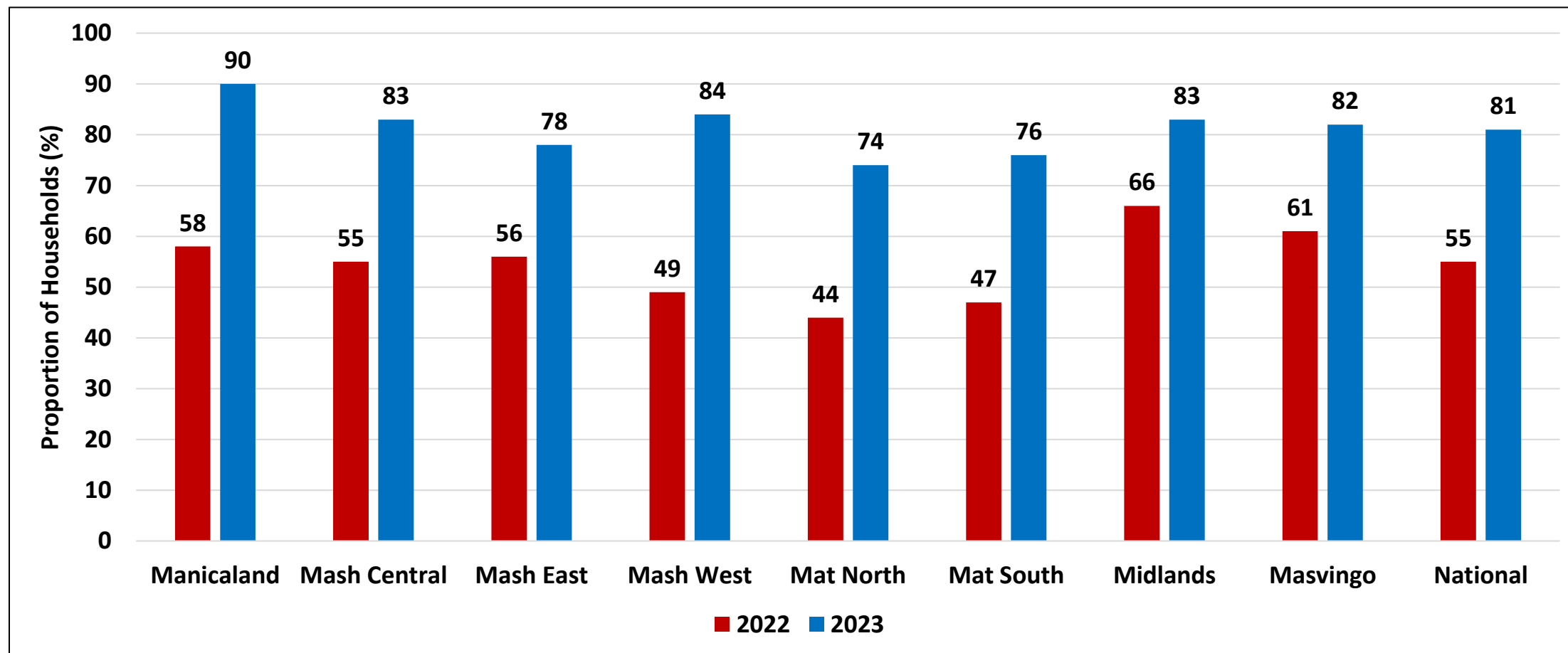
- Cattle prices ranged from around USD\$ 167 to USD\$ 467.
- Umzingwane had the highest price of USD\$ 467.
- Mbire (USD\$ 167) and Mt Darwin (USD\$ 183) had the lowest cattle prices.
- Low livestock prices could be attributed to the restrictions in cattle movements, thus sales were confined to local areas.

# Goat Prices



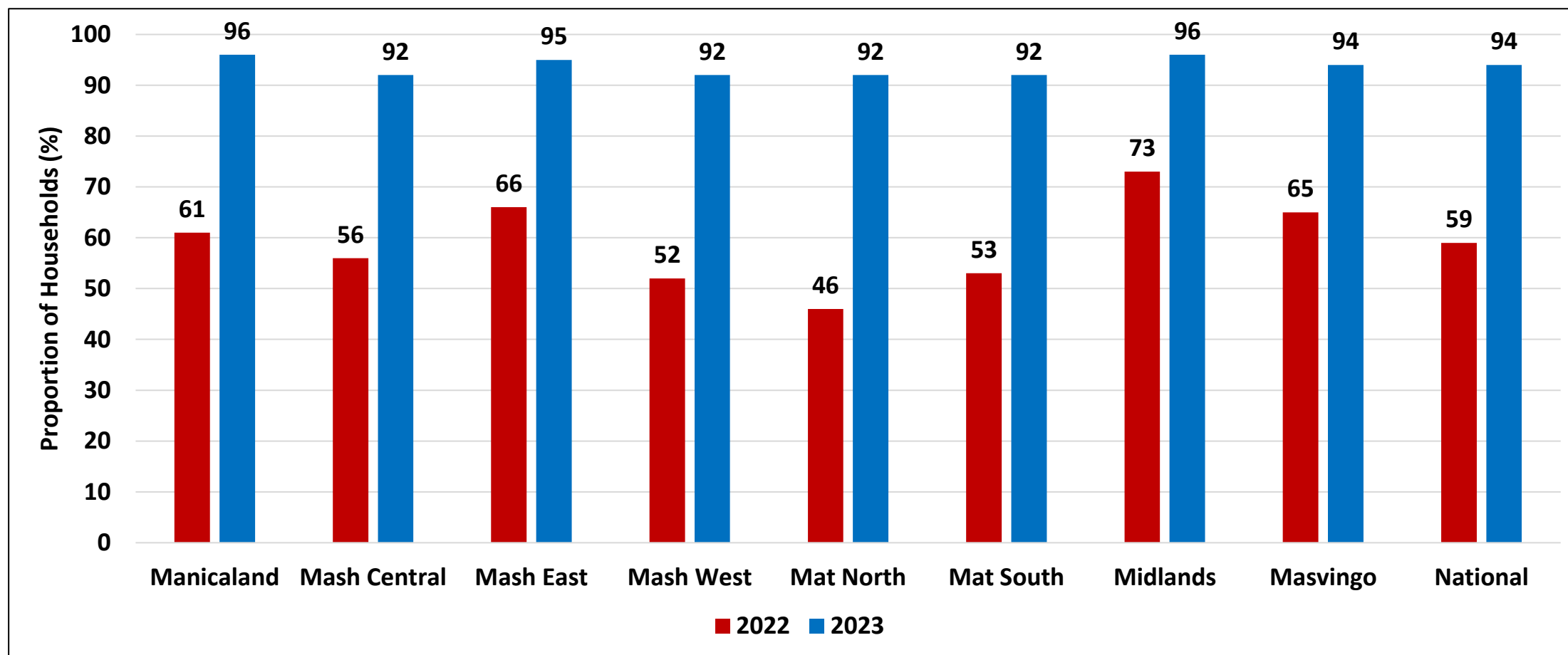
- Goat prices ranged from USD\$ 15 to USD\$ 51 across the whole country.
- Umzingwane (USD\$ 51) had the highest price of goats. Mbire (USD \$15) had the lowest.

# Agricultural Extension Visits



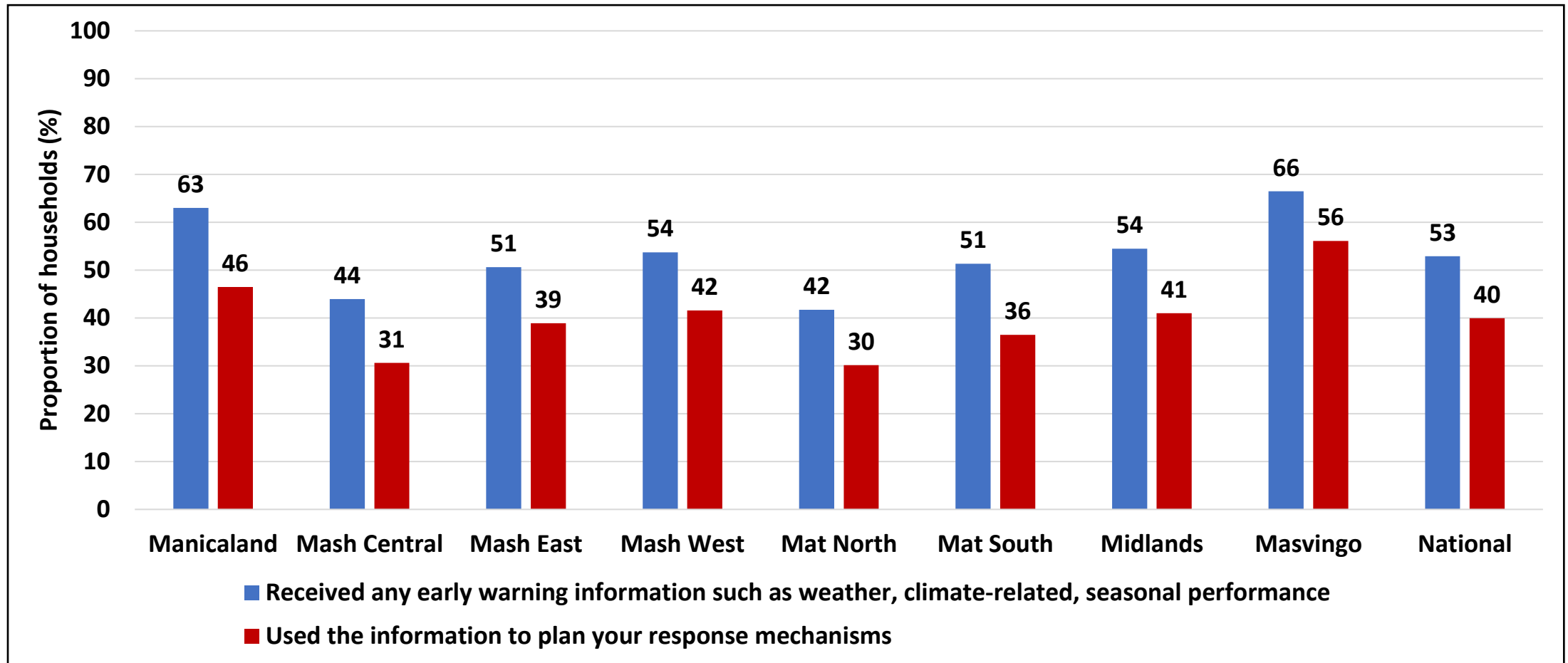
- About 81% of the households received extension visits.

# Access to Agricultural Training



- Nationally, 94% of the households received agricultural training.

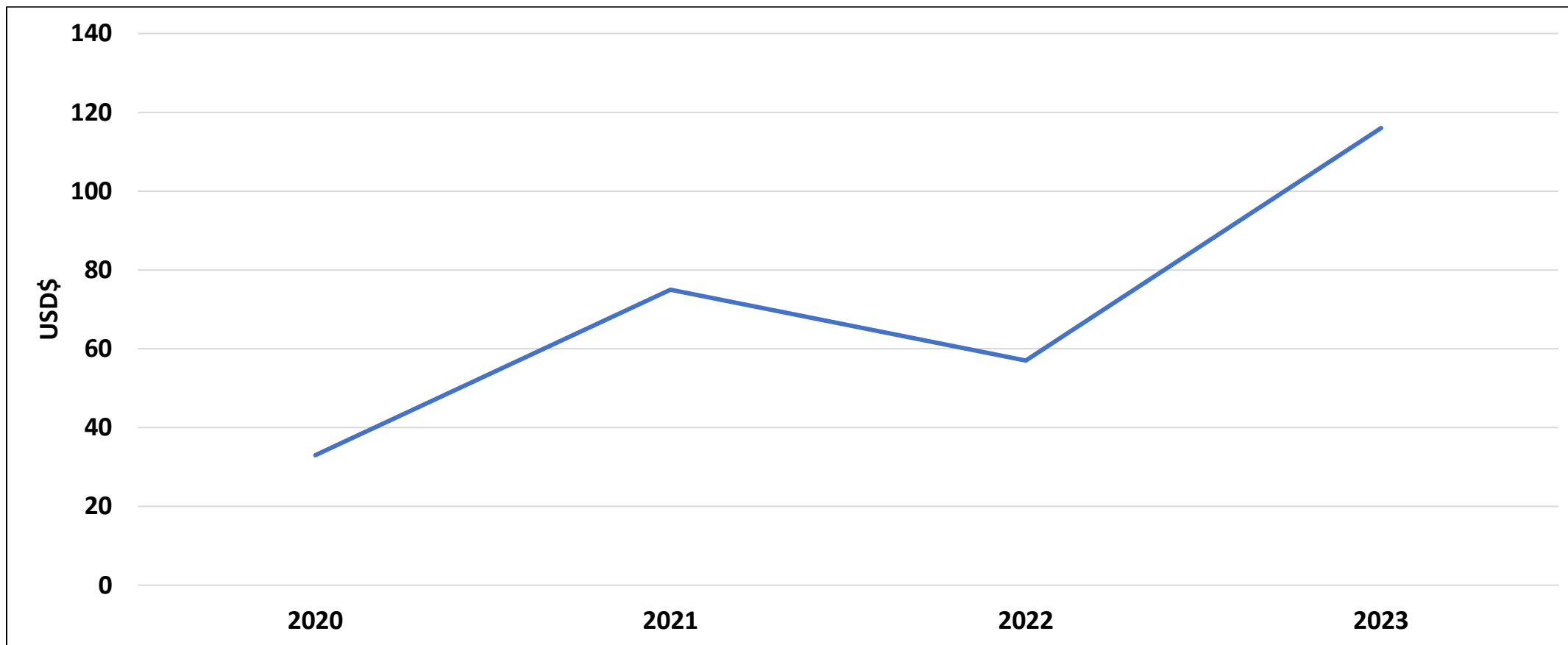
# Households which Received Early Warning Information



- About 53% of households received weather and climate-related early warning information.
- Only 40% of households used the information to plan response mechanisms.

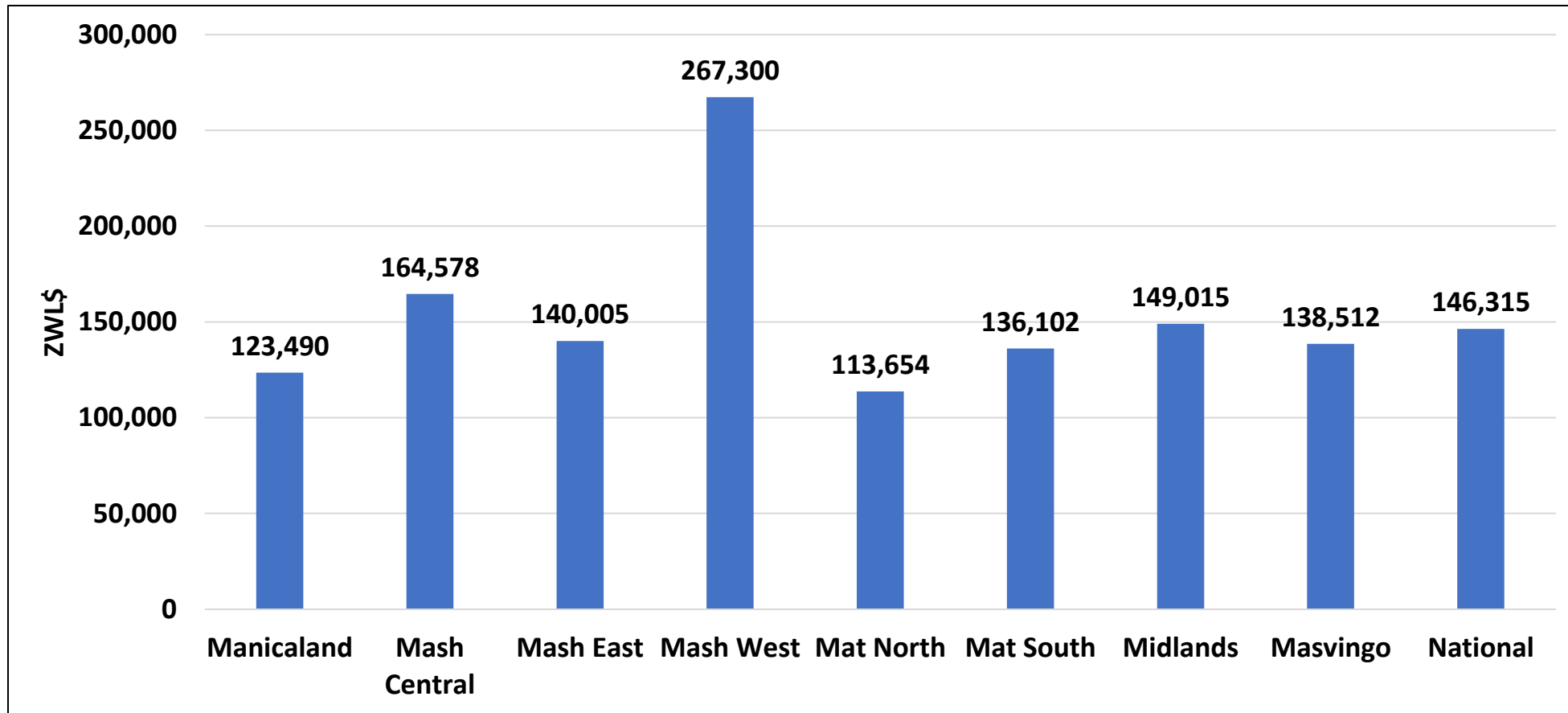
# **Income and Expenditure**

# Income Trends: 2020-2023



- Compared to the base year (2020), incomes for rural households have been increasing.

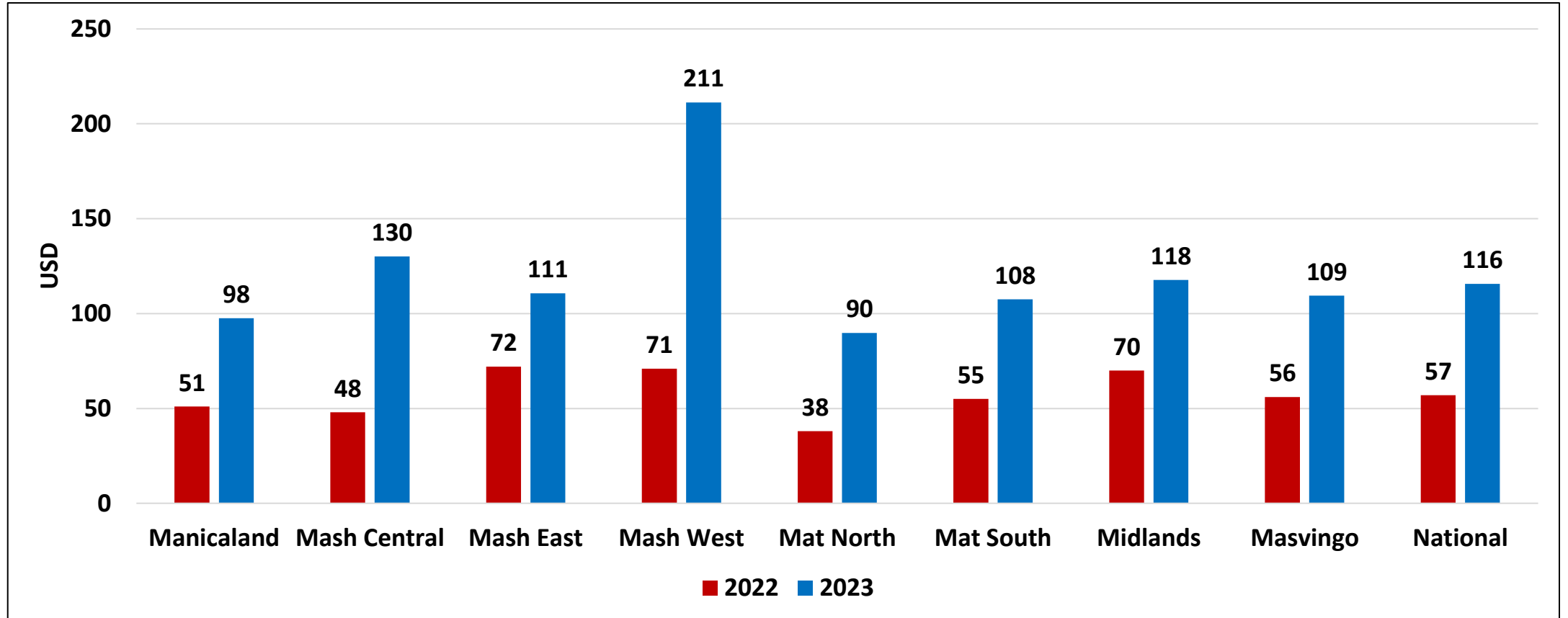
# Average Household Monthly Income (ZWL\$) for April 2023



- Average monthly income was ZWL\$ 146,315.
- Matabeleland North (ZWL\$ 113,654) had the lowest income.



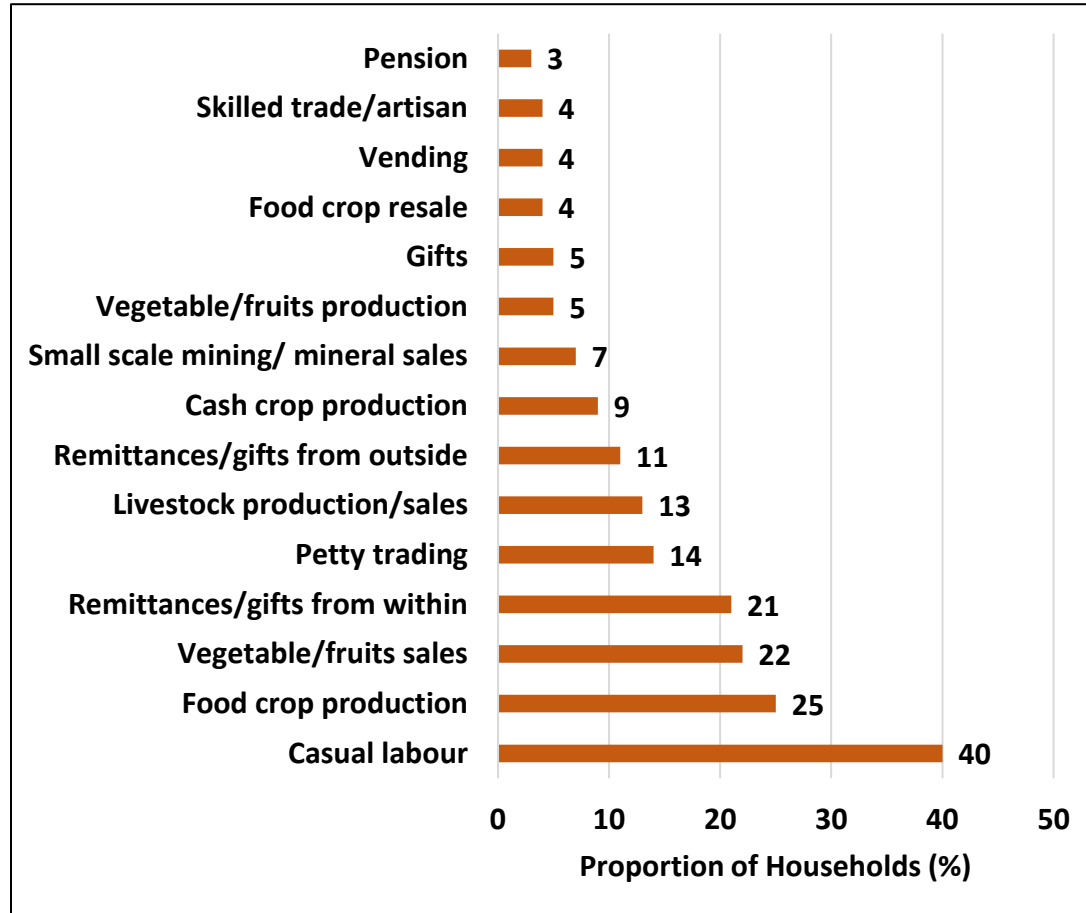
# Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2023



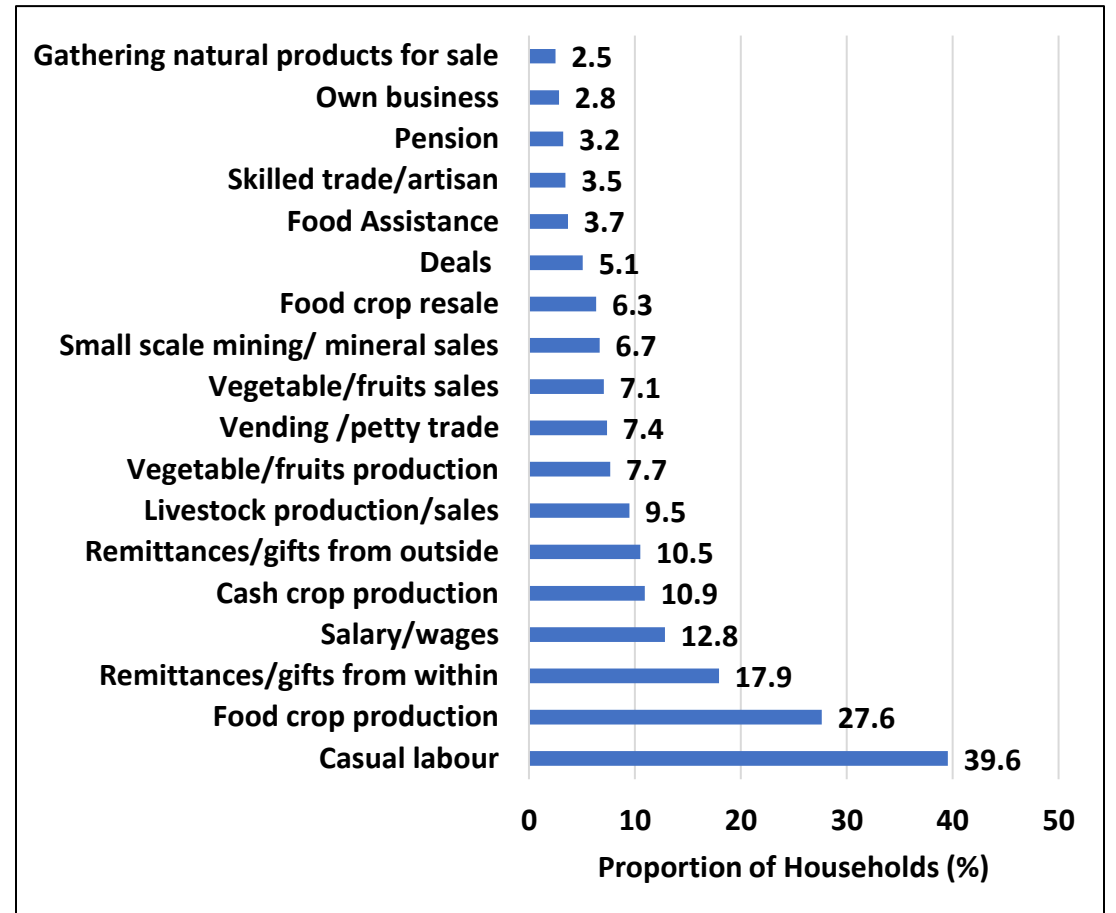
- The household average monthly income increased from USD\$ 57 in 2022 to USD\$ 116 in 2023.
- The lowest household average monthly income was reported in Matabeleland North (USD\$ 90) and the highest was reported in Mashonaland West (USD\$ 211).
- **NB: The USD monthly income and expenditure was calculated using the RBZ Auction rate of Tuesday 16 May 2023.**

# Current Most Important Income Sources

2022



2023



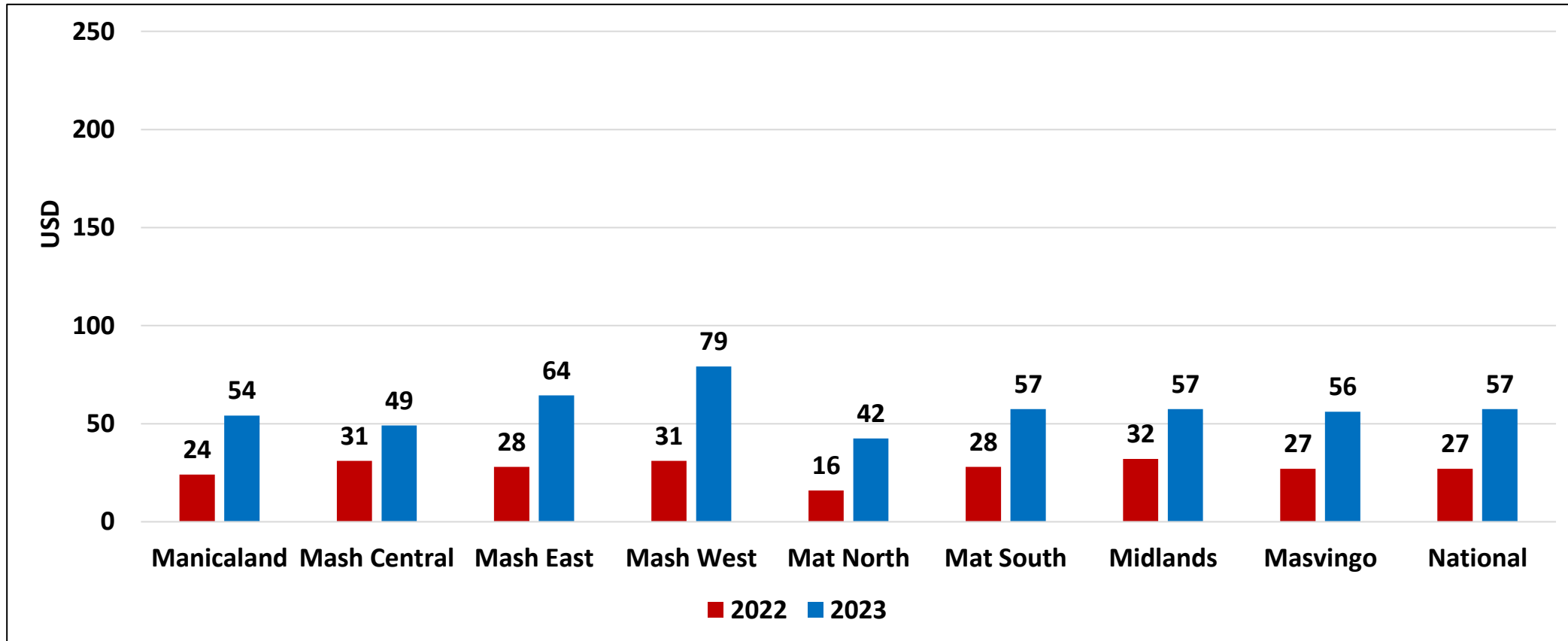
- Most households relied on casual labour (39.6%), food crop production (27.6%) and remittances from within Zimbabwe (17.9%).

# Income Sources

Province	Casual Labour (%)	Food Crop Production (%)	Remittances/ gifts from within Zimbabwe (%)	Salary/Wages (%)	Cash Crop Production (%)	Remittances/Gifts from Outside Zimbabwe (%)	Livestock Production/Sales (%)	Vegetable/Fruits Production (%)
Manicaland	48.5	21.3	18.4	15.5	10.9	5.4	7.9	10.6
Mash Central	39.2	33.7	11.4	9.9	28.1	1.2	8.7	7.9
Mash East	39.1	38.6	22.7	15.8	8.7	5.9	8.1	10.5
Mash West	34.4	31.1	11.7	16.0	17.9	2.9	4.9	4.9
Mat North	40.6	21.1	17.0	9.5	1.7	19.2	15.0	3.8
Mat South	32.4	22.3	17.6	13.9	1.4	29.0	10.6	4.5
Midlands	40.7	20.1	18.4	8.7	9.3	9.6	10.1	9.6
Masvingo	41.8	30.1	25.9	13.6	7.9	13.6	11.0	8.7
National	39.6	27.6	17.9	12.8	10.9	10.5	9.5	7.7

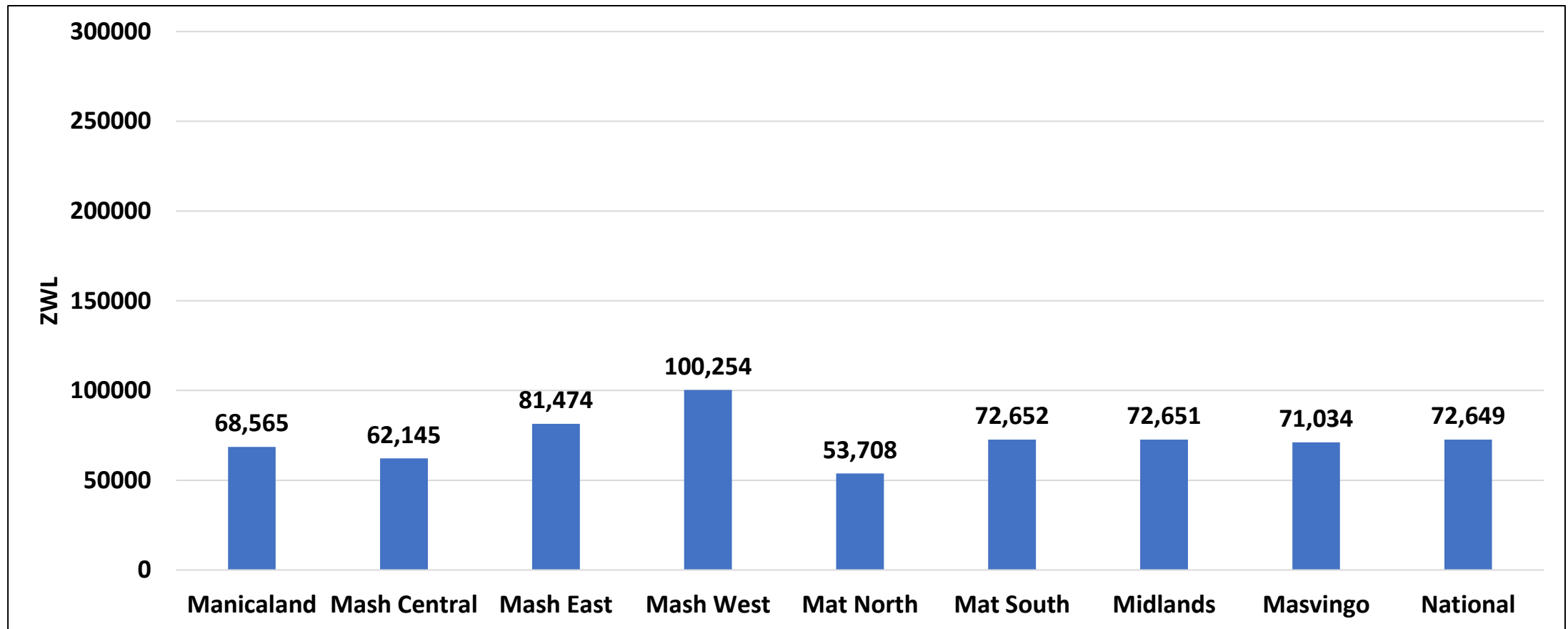
- Casual labour (39.6%) was the most important source of income while vegetable/ fruits production was the lowest (7.7%).

# Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) for April 2023



- Average expenditure for the month of April was USD 57.
- Matabeleland North (USD 42) reported the lowest expenditure.

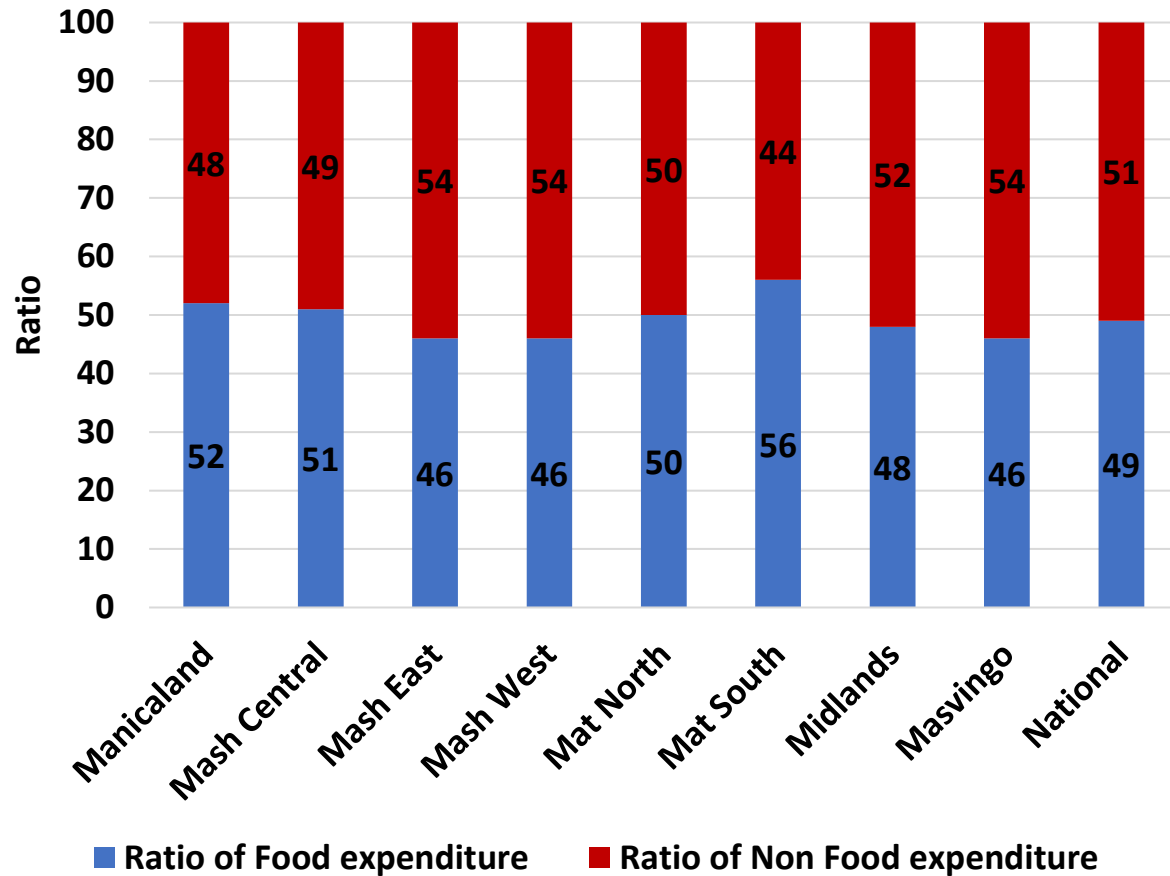
# Average Household Monthly Expenditure (ZWL\$) for April 2023



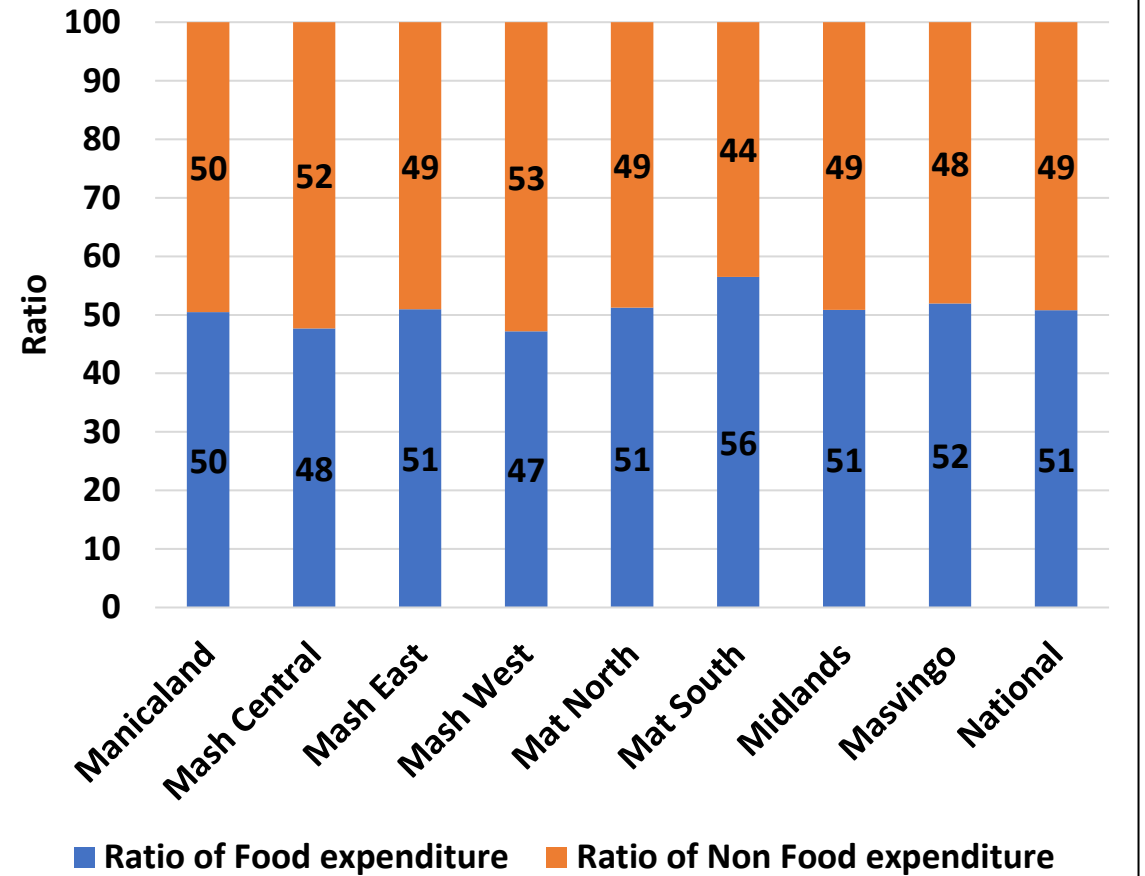
- Mashonaland West (ZWL\$ 100,254) had the highest expenditure.

# Food and Non-Food Expenditure

2022



2023



- There was no significant statistical change in food expenditure ratio between 2022 and 2023.

# **Food Consumption Patterns**

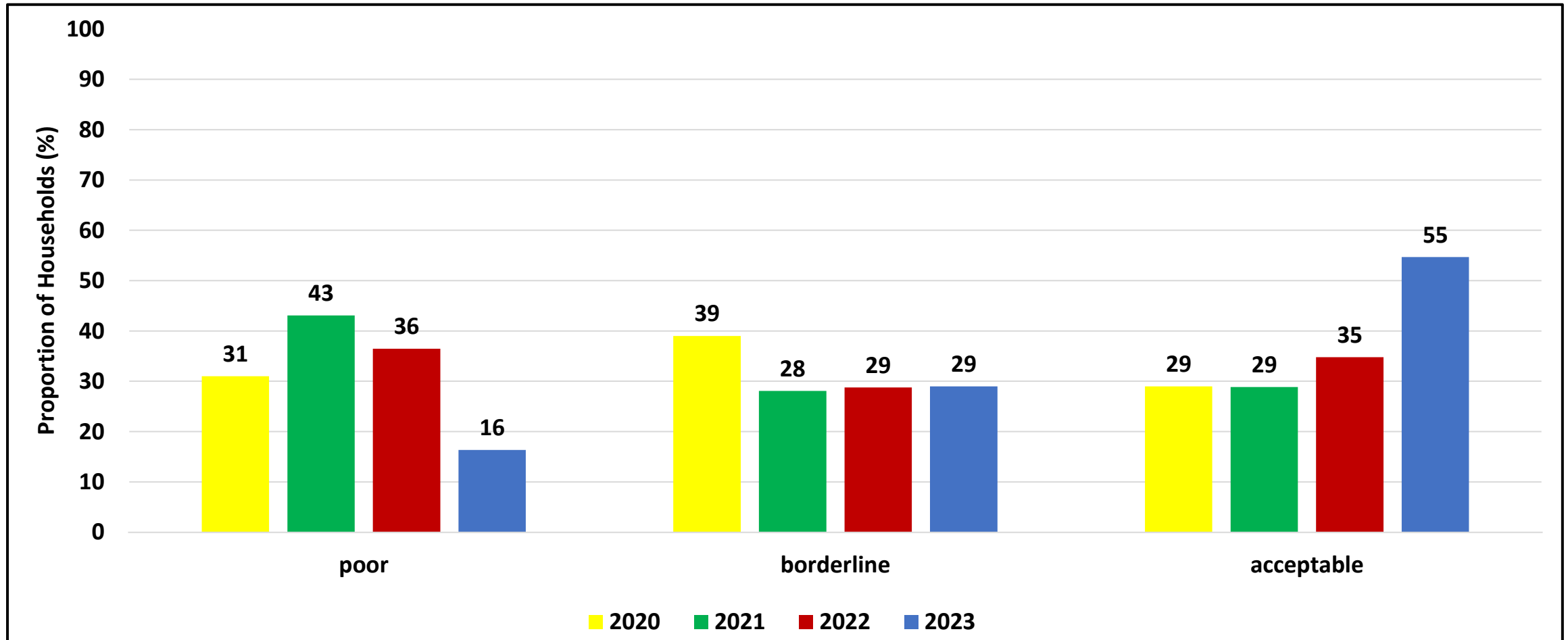
# **Food Consumption Score (FCS)**



# Food Consumption Score Groups

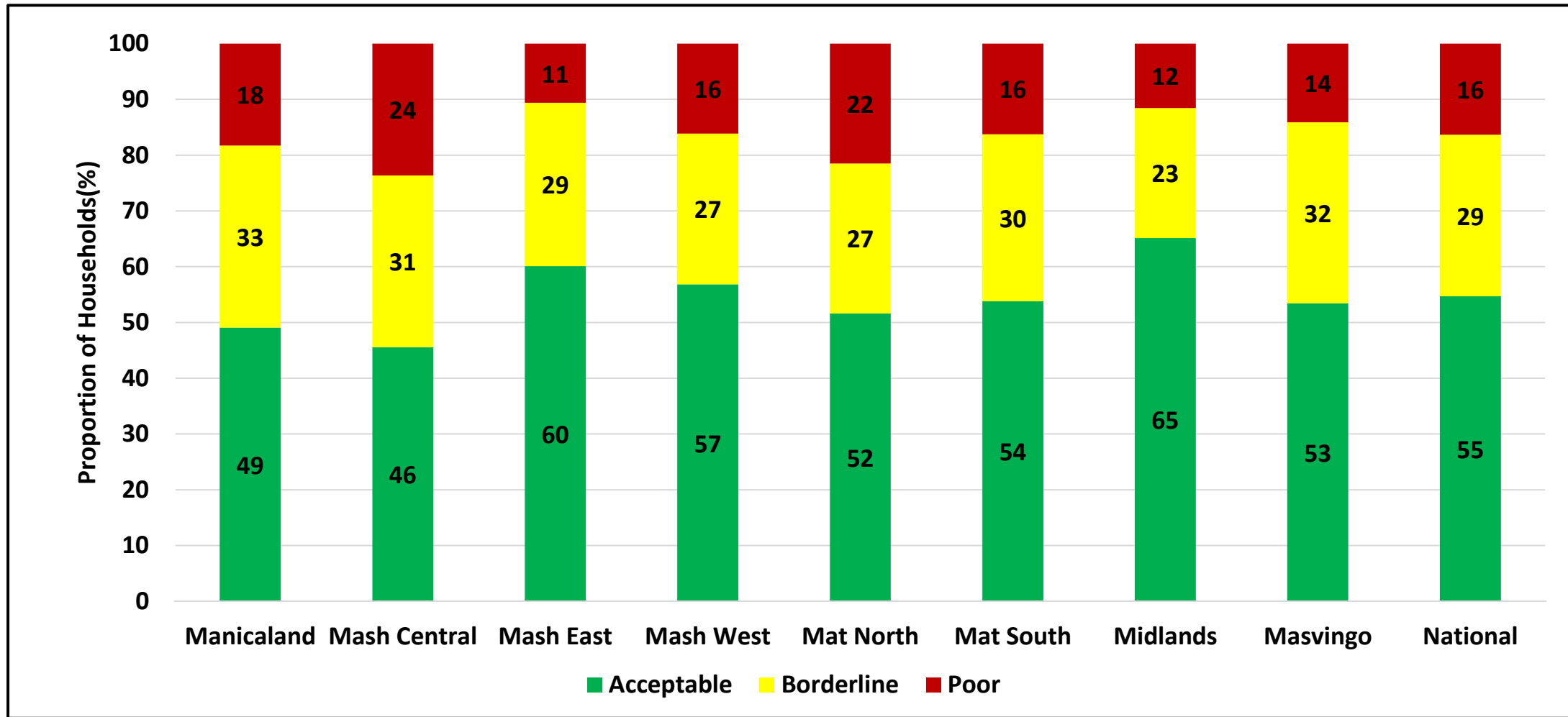
Food Consumption Score Group	Score	Description
Poor	0-28	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
Borderline	28.1-42	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4days, oil/fat 3 days, meat/fish/egg/pulses 1-2 days a week, while dairy products are totally absent
Acceptable	>42	As defined for the borderline group with more number of days a week eating meat, fish, egg, oil, and complemented by other foods such as pulses, fruits, milk

# Food Consumption Patterns Trend



- The proportion of households which consumed acceptable diets increased from 35% to 55% whilst those with poor diets decreased from 36% to 16%.

# Food Consumption Patterns

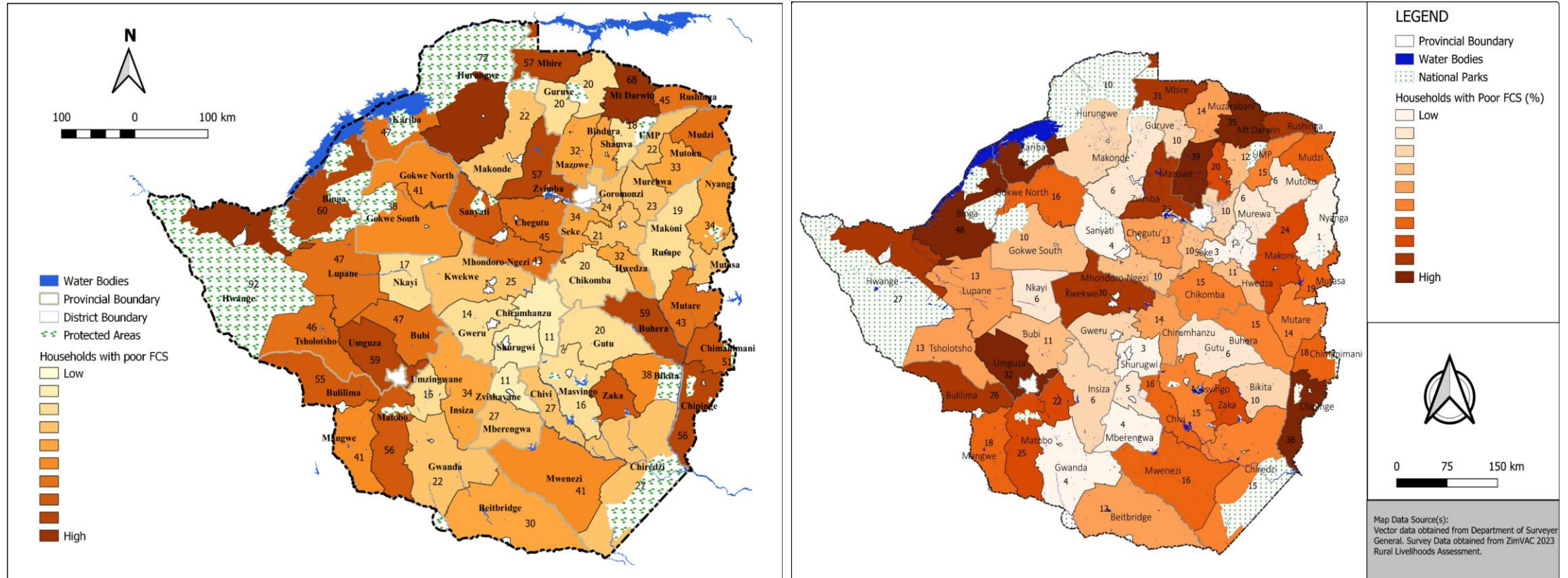


- Most provinces had above 50% of households consuming acceptable diets.
- Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of households consuming poor diets (24%).

# Poor Food Consumption Patterns by District

2022

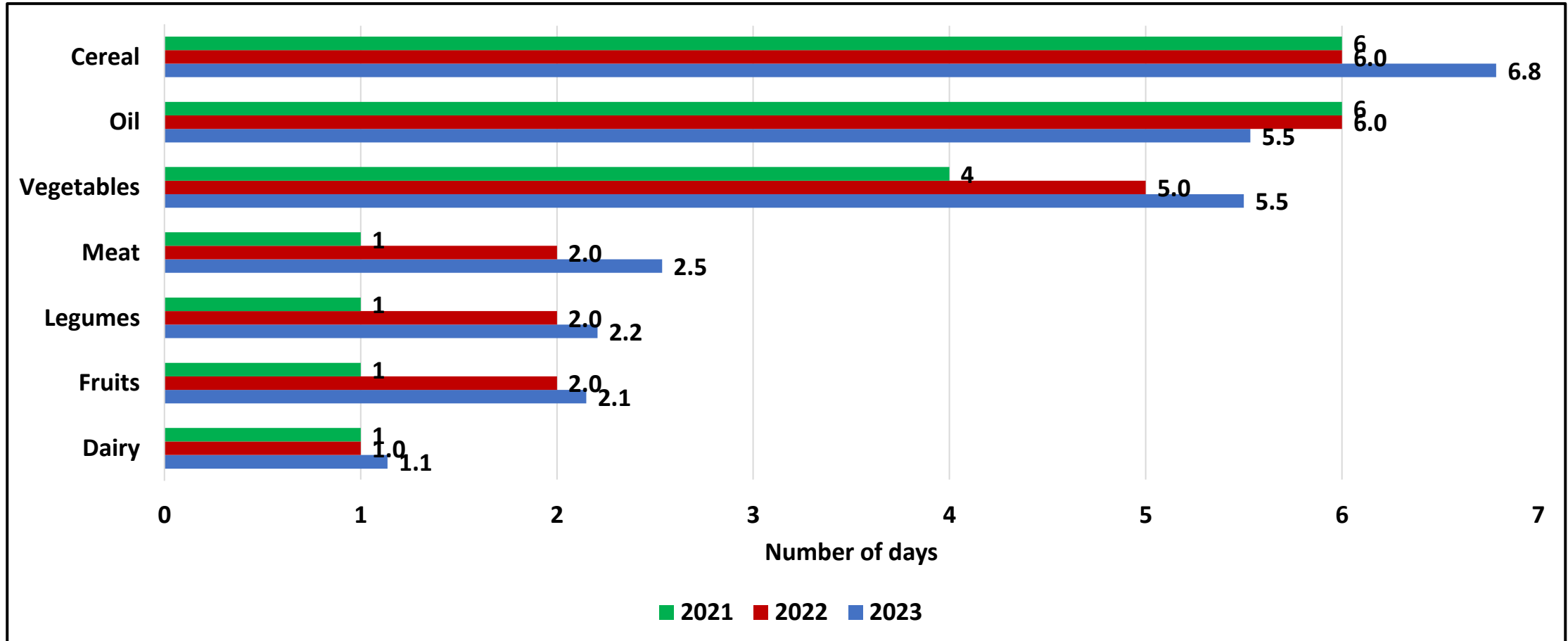
2023



- Nyanga (1%), Seke (3%) and Shurugwi (3%) had the least proportion of households consuming poor diets.

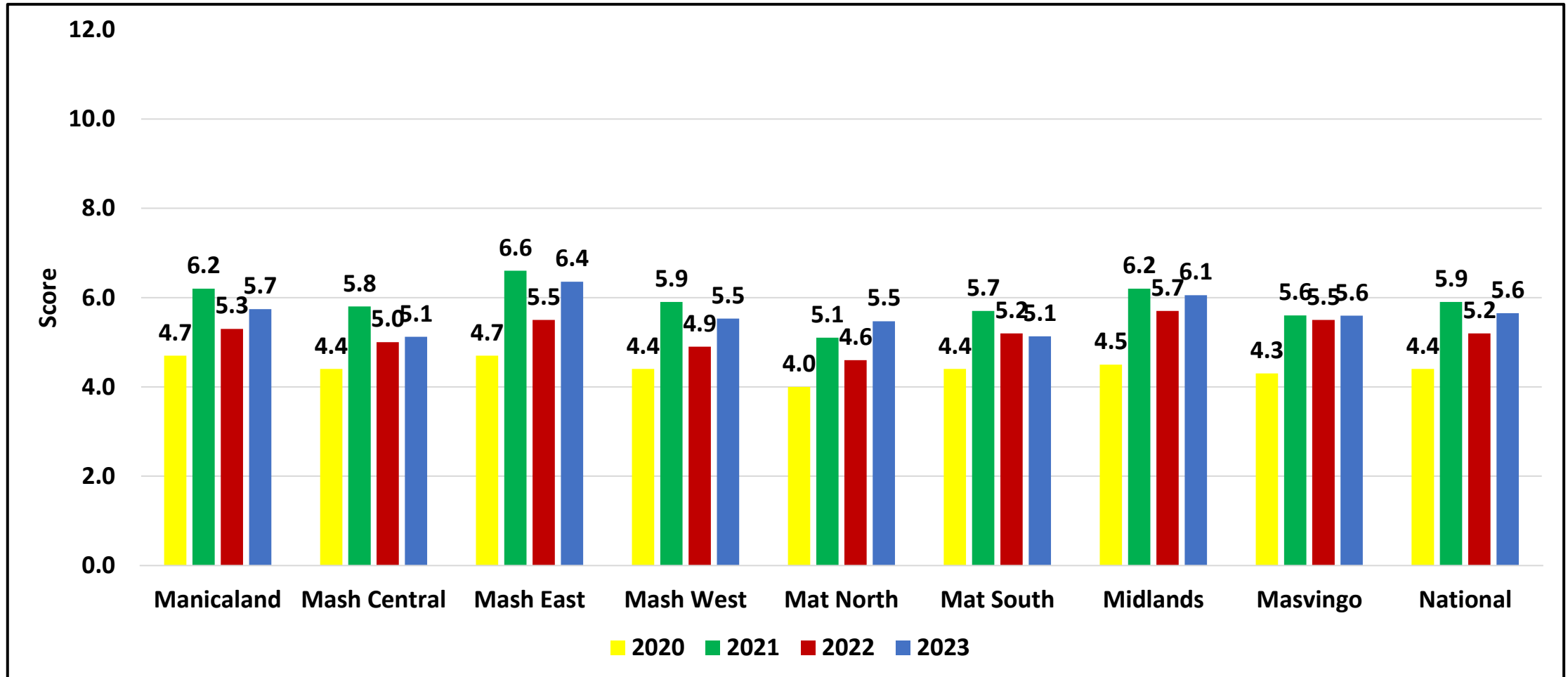
# **Household Dietary Diversity**

# Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from the Various Food Groups



- The most frequently consumed foods were cereals, oils and vegetables.
- Consumption of fruits and legumes remains low at household level with an average consumption of only 2 days in the 7 days preceding the survey.

# Average Household Dietary Diversity Score



- The higher the HDDS, the better the quality of household dietary diversity.
- Nationally, the average Household Dietary Diversity Score was 5.6 and this was highest in Mashonaland East (6.4).

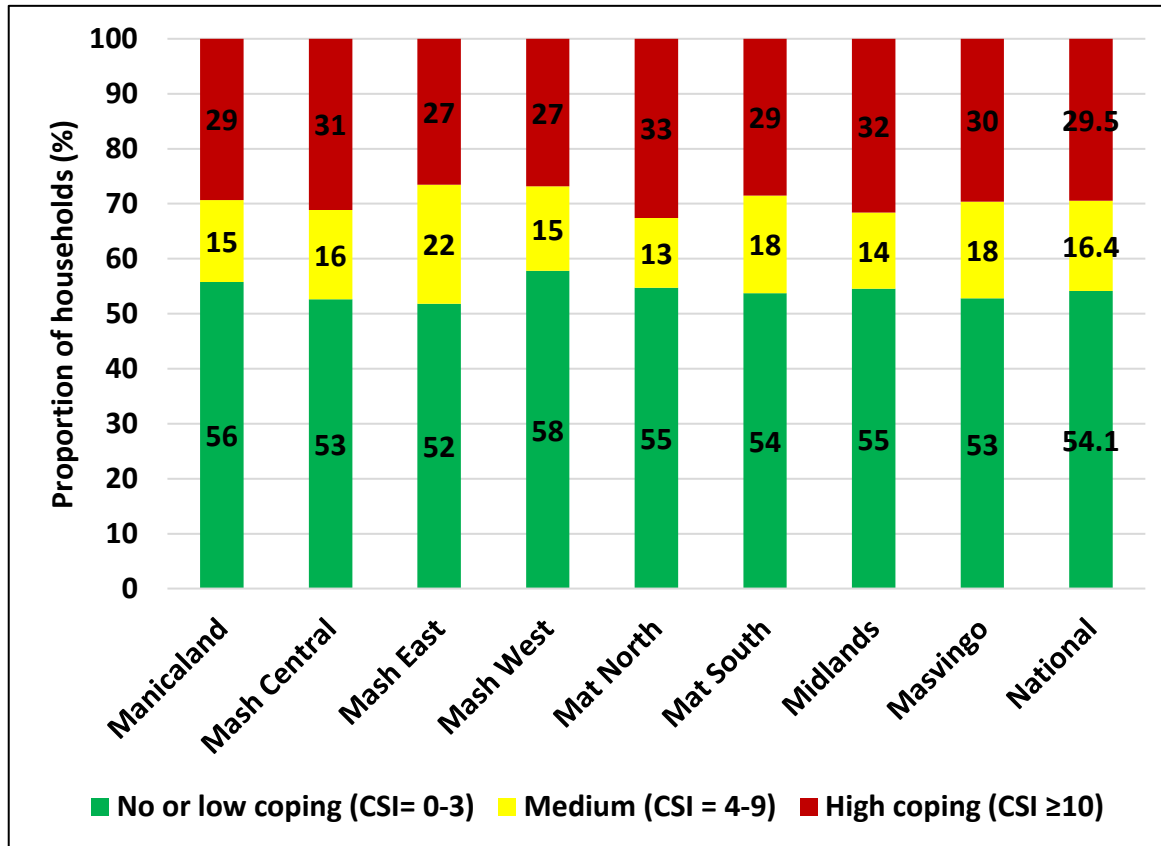
# Household Coping



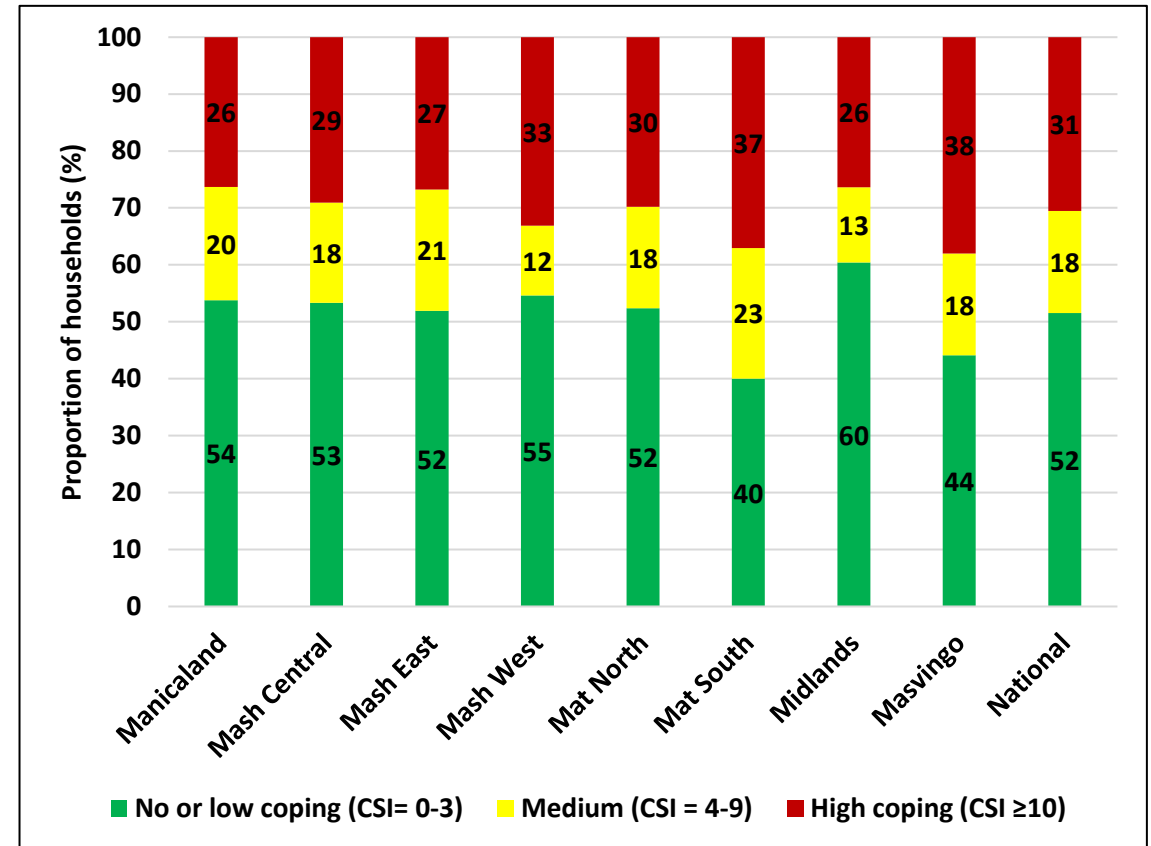
# **Reduced Consumption Based Coping Strategies (RCSI)**

# Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index

2022



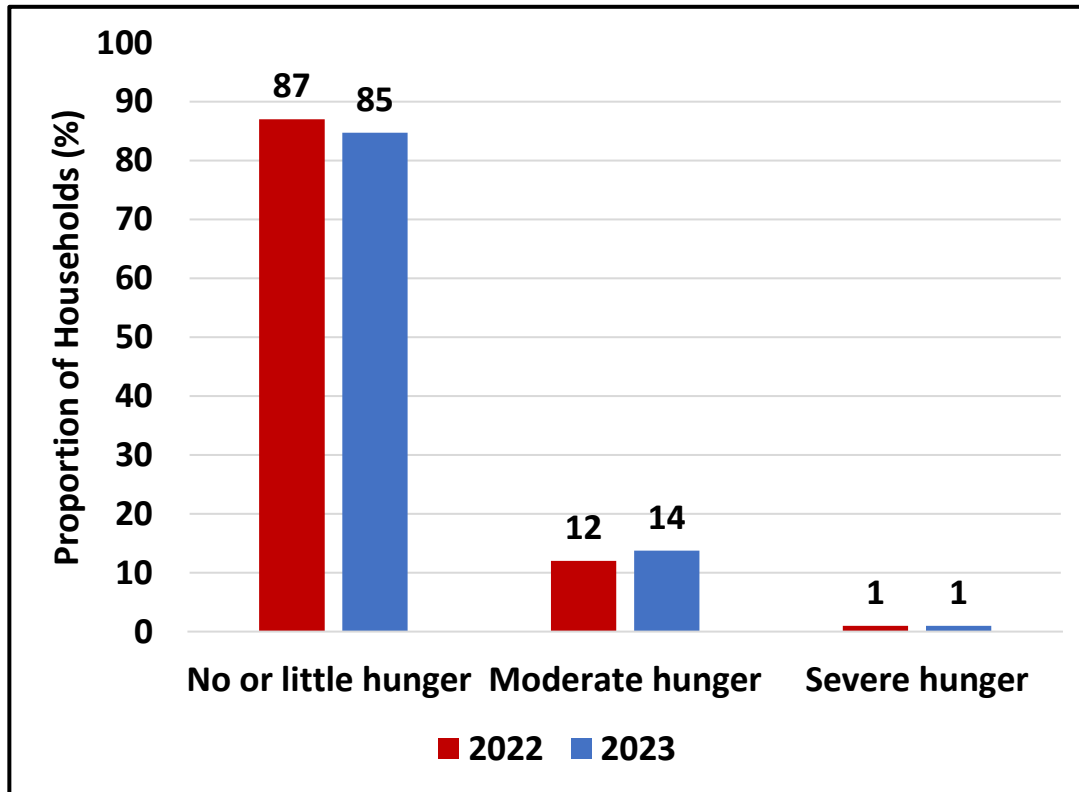
2023



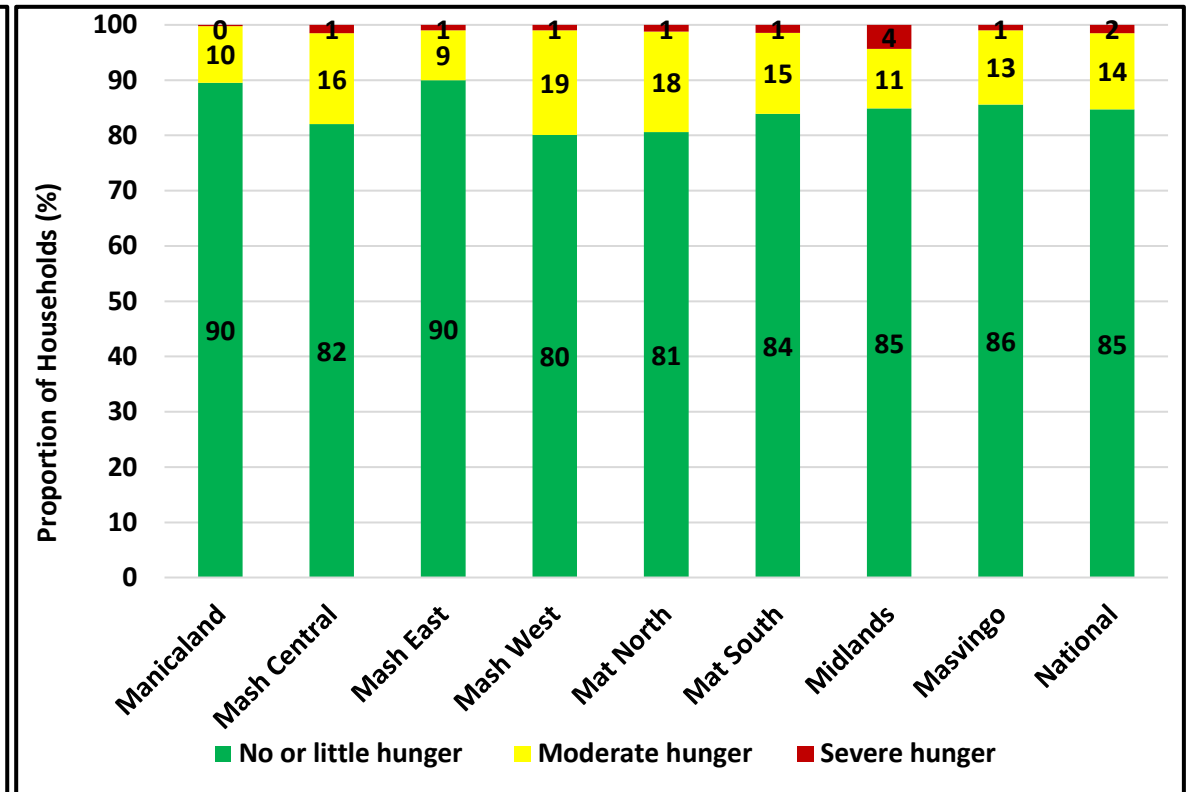
- Fifty two percent of the households were not engaged in any coping strategies.

# Household Hunger Scale

## By Year



## By Province



- Nationally, 85% of the households experienced little to no hunger.
- Midlands (4%) had the highest proportion of households experiencing severe hunger.

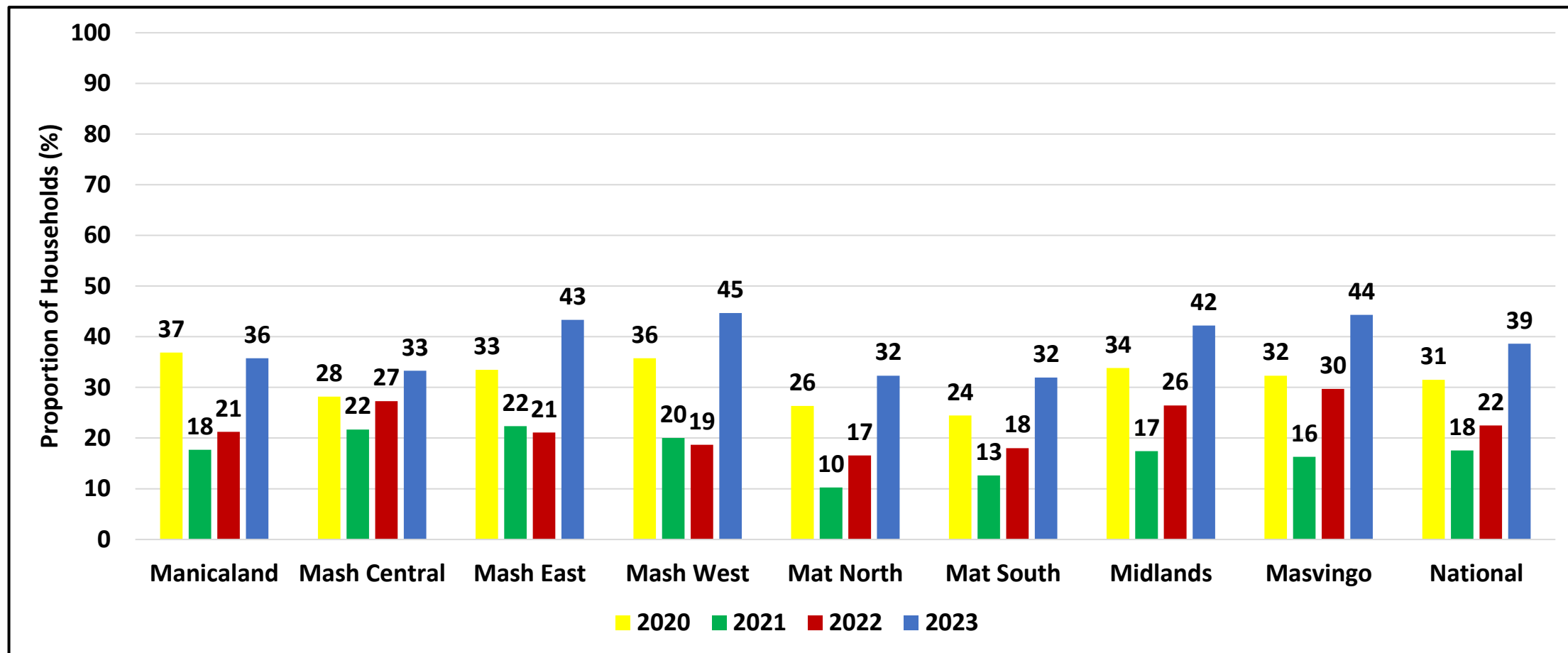
# **Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies (LCSI)**

# Livelihoods Coping Strategies

- Livelihood Coping Strategies are behaviours employed by households when faced with a crisis.
- The livelihoods coping strategies have been classified into three categories namely stress, crisis and emergency as indicated in the table.

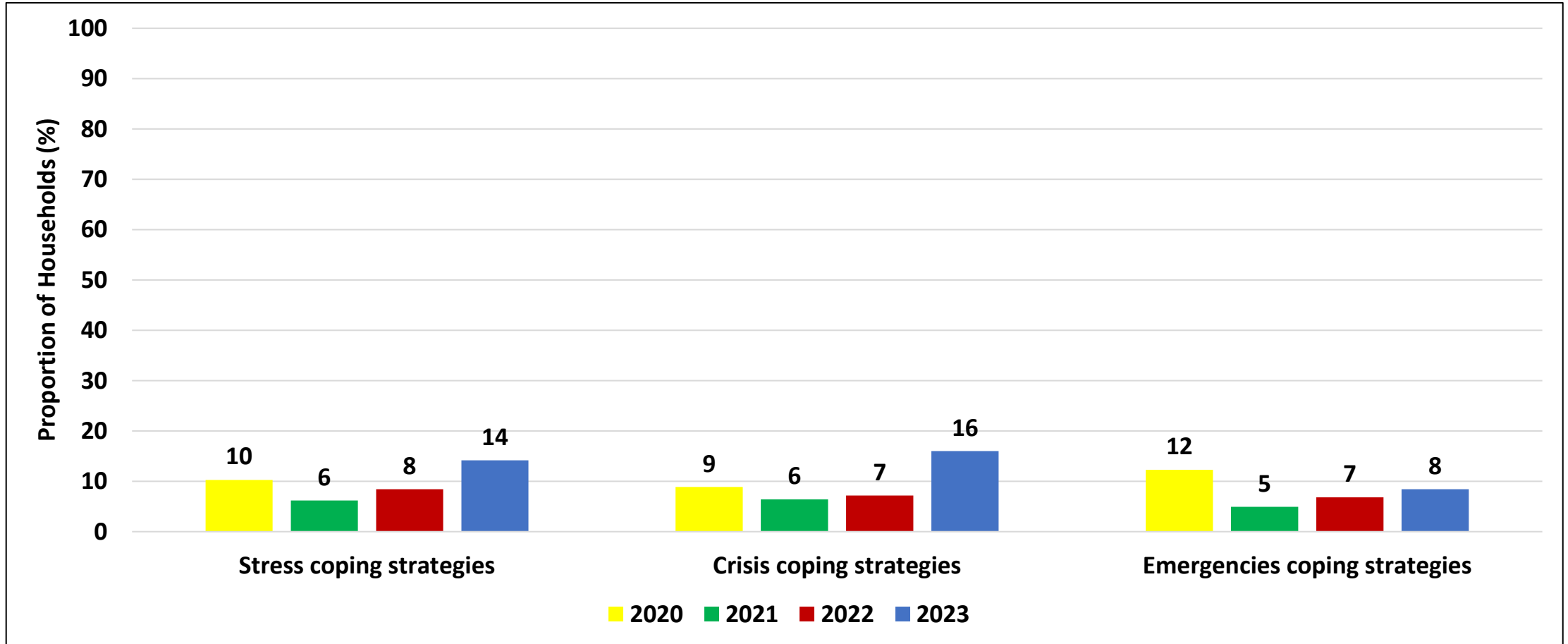
Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Borrowing money, spending savings, selling assets and more livestock than usual.</b></li></ul>
Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Selling productive assets, directly reduces future productivity, including human capital formation.</b></li><li>• <b>Withdrawing children from school</b></li><li>• <b>Reducing non food expenditure.</b></li></ul>
Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Selling one's land affects future productivity, strategies are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature.</b></li><li>• <b>Begging for food.</b></li><li>• <b>Selling the last breeding stock to buy food</b></li></ul>

# Households Engaging in any Form of Livelihoods Coping Strategies



- Households engaging in any form of coping were 39%.

# Households Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies



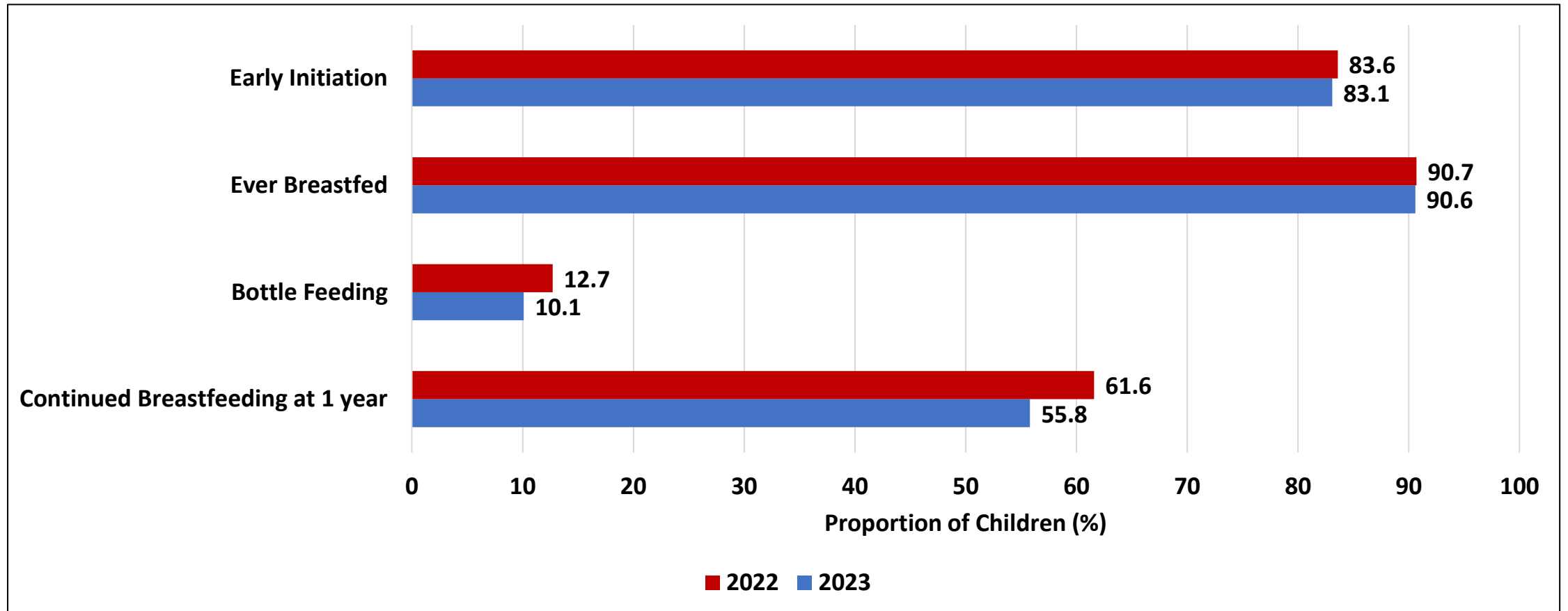
- The proportion of households engaging in emergency coping still remain low (8%).

# **Child Nutrition**



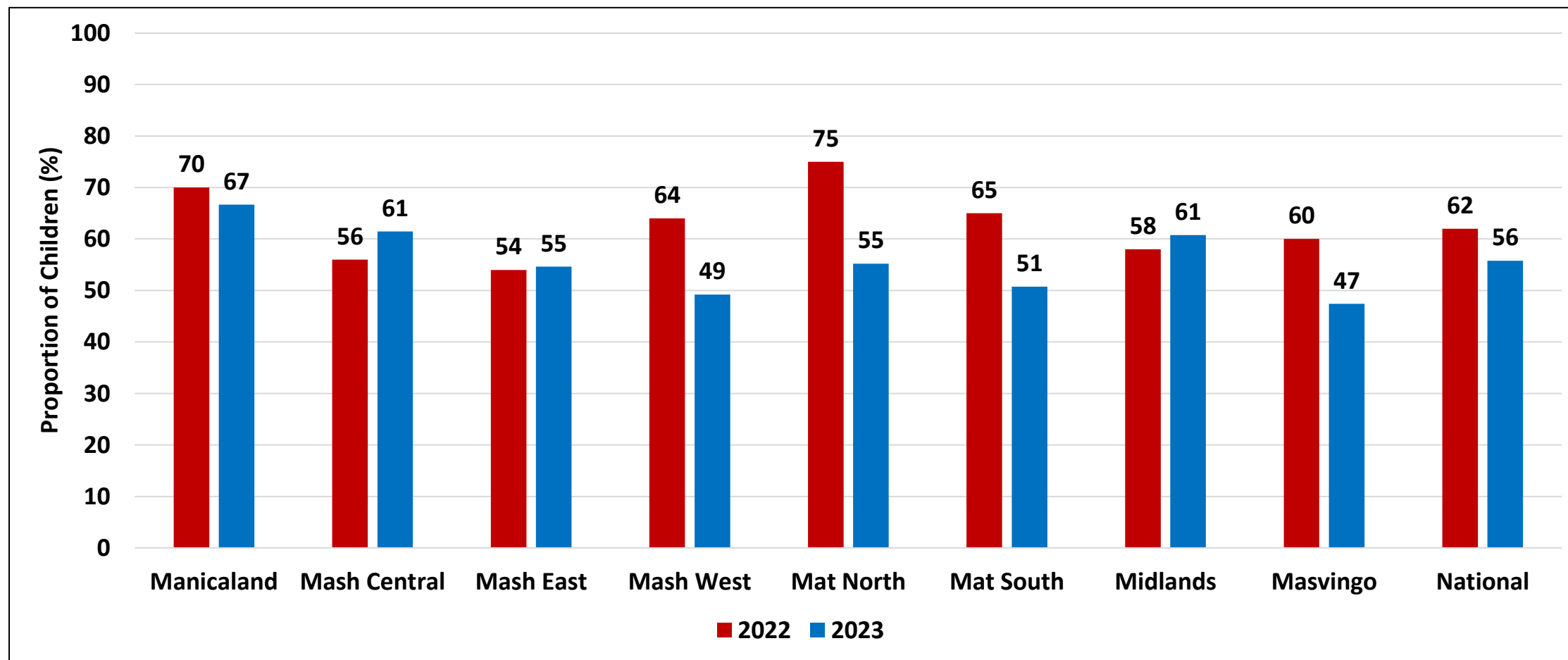
# **Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices**

# Breastfeeding Practices



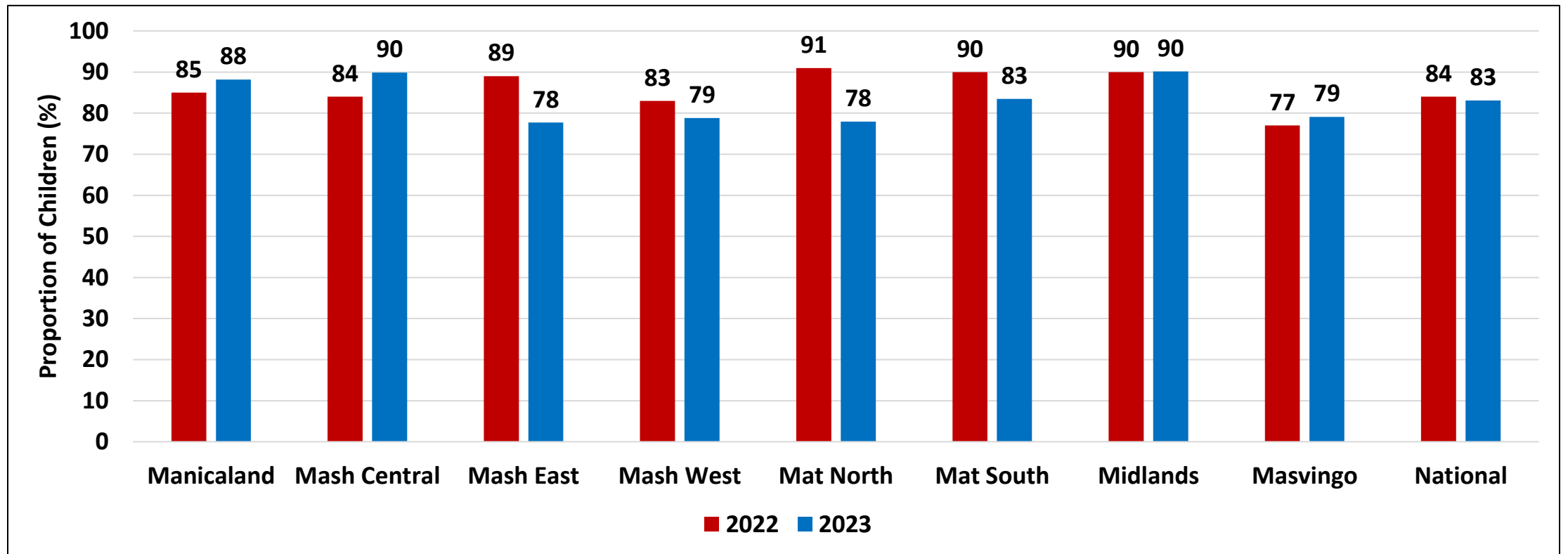
- At least 90.6% of the children had been ever breastfed.
- About 55.8% of the children had been breastfed beyond 1 year of age which was a decrease from 61.6% reported in 2022.

# Continued Breastfeeding Beyond 1 year



- The highest proportion of children who were breastfed beyond 1 year was in Manicaland (67%) and the lowest was in Masvingo (47%).

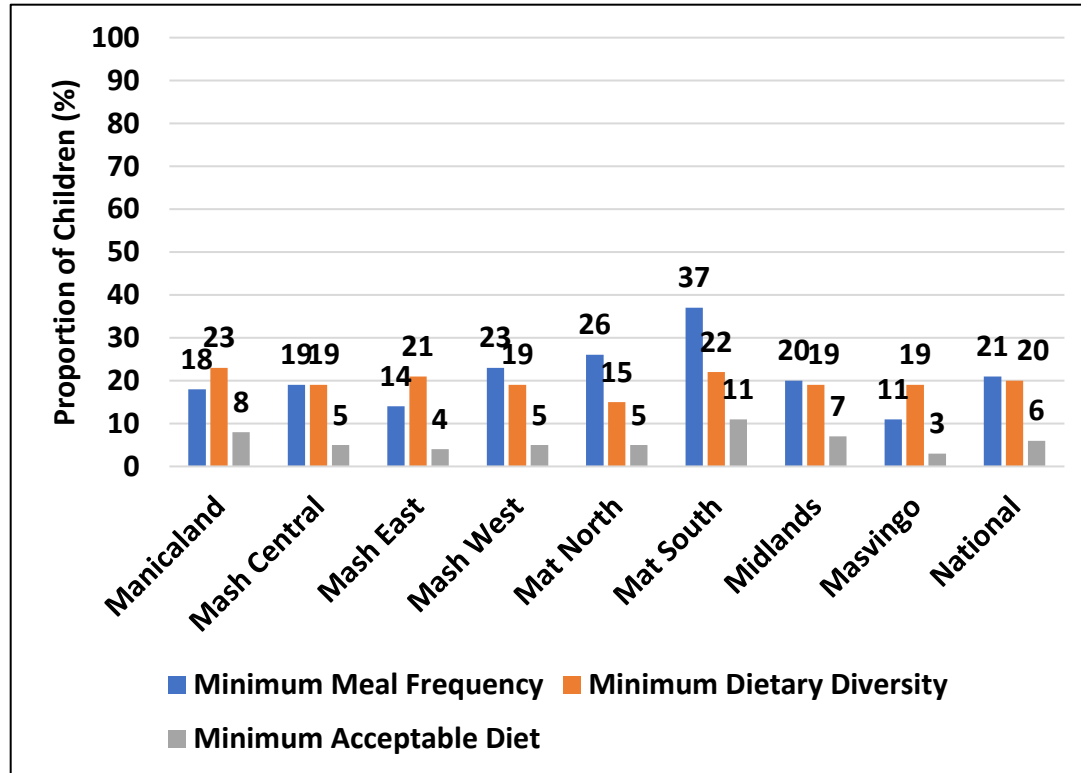
# Early Initiation of Breastfeeding



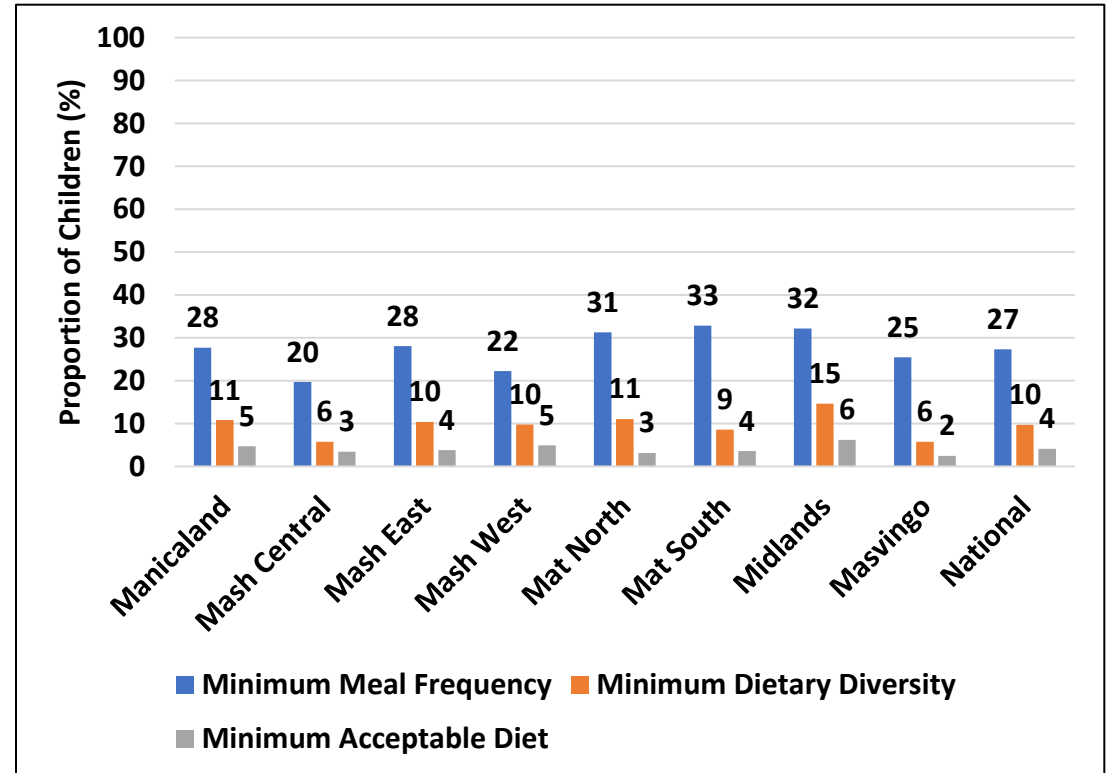
- Children who were put to the breast within an hour after birth were 83%.
- Mashonaland Central and Midlands had the highest proportion of children (90%) put to the breast within an hour of birth and the least was in Matabeleland North and Mashonaland East (78%).

# Complementary Feeding Practices

2021

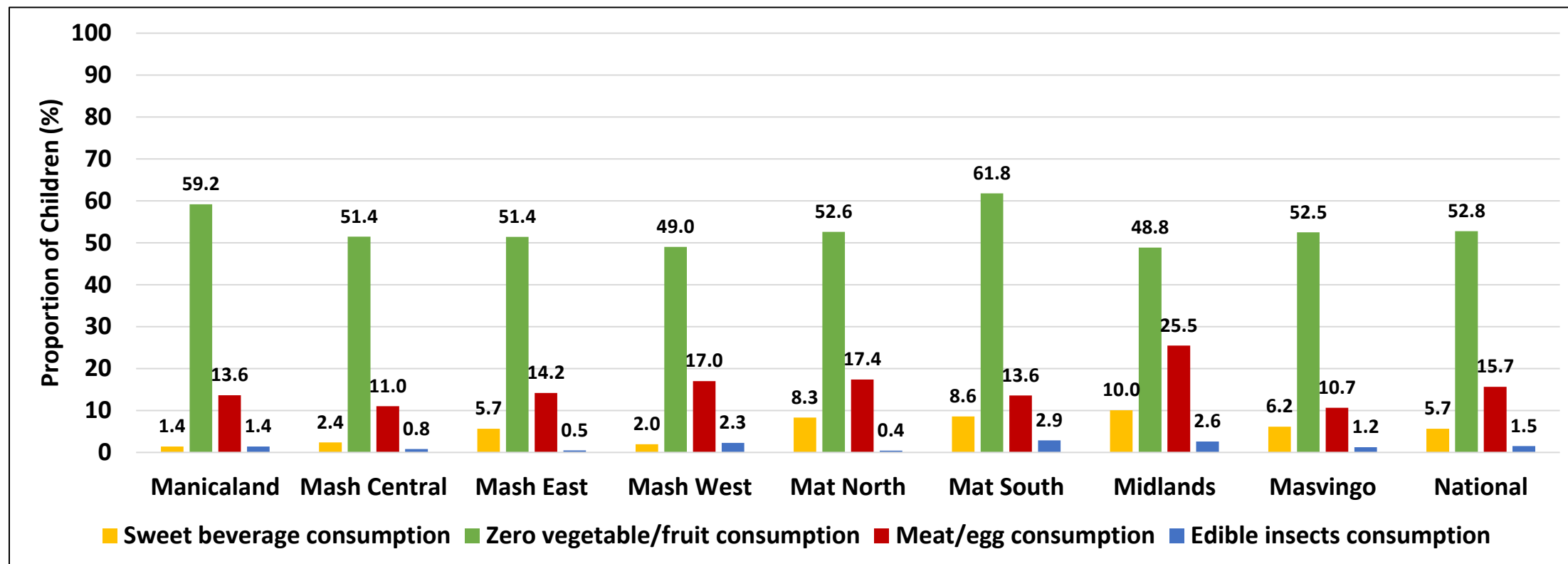


2023



- Only 4% of children aged 6-23 months received the Minimum Acceptable Diet, a decrease from 6% recorded in 2021.
- A Minimum Acceptable Diet indicator reflects the proportion of children who receive adequate diverse age-appropriate foods. Adequate nutrition is essential for growth and development of children aged 6-23 months.

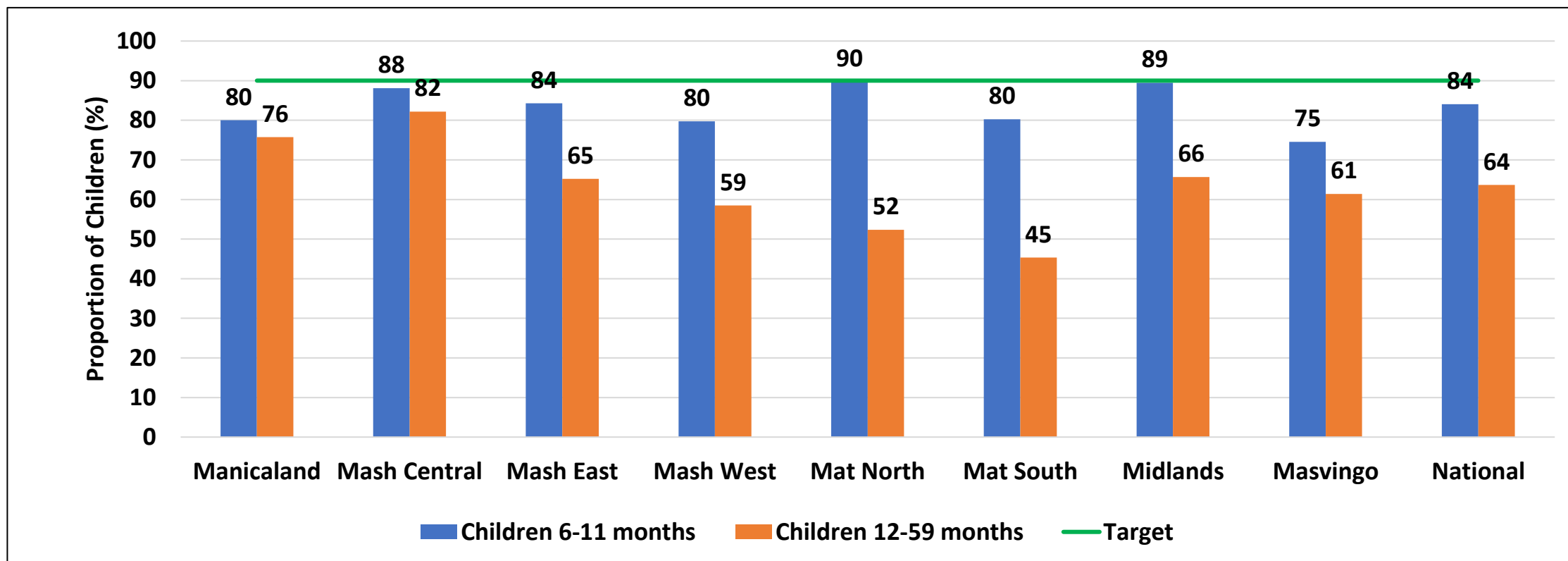
# Dietary Patterns for Children 6-23 Months



- Nationally, 52.8% of children 6-23 months did not consume any vegetables or fruits 24-hours prior to the assessment.
- Only 15.7% of children 6-23 months old consumed meat or eggs.
- Nationally, 1.5% of children 6-23 months consumed edible insects. The proportion was highest in Matabeleland South (2.9%) and lowest in Matabeleland North (0.4%).

# **Vitamin A Supplementation**

# Vitamin A Supplementation for Children Aged 6-59 Months

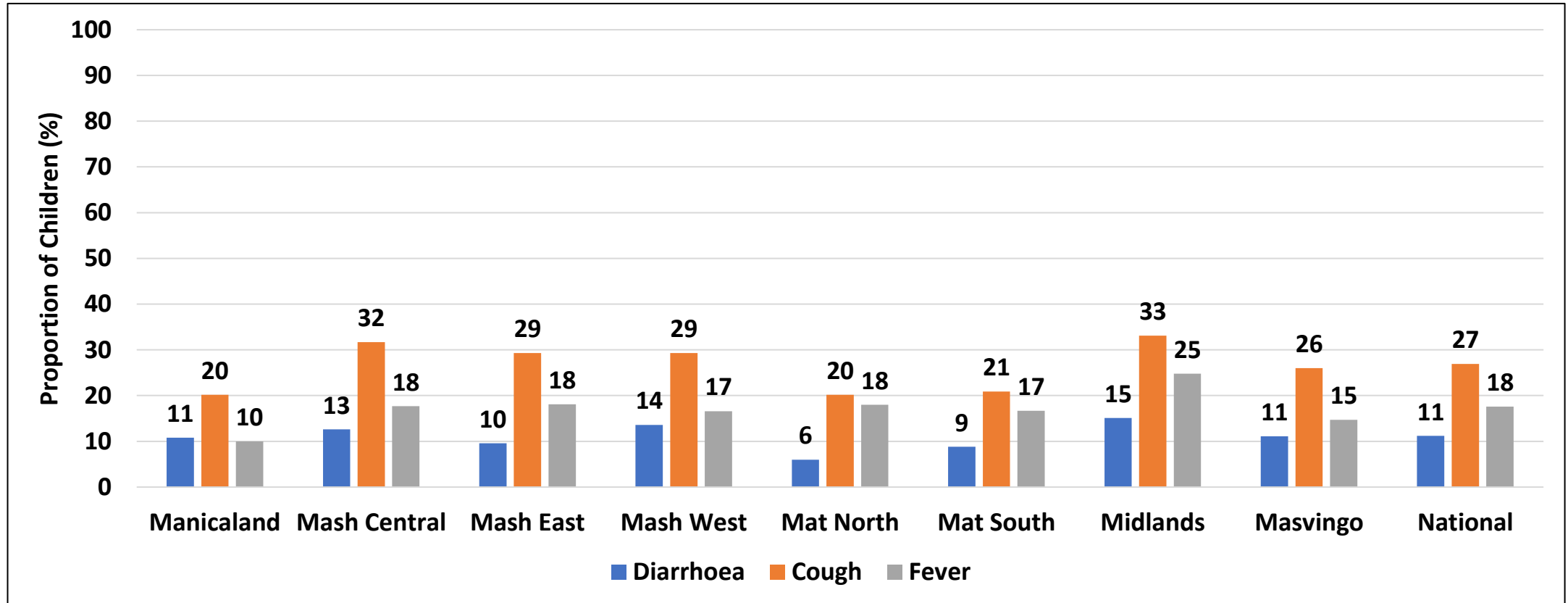


- The proportion of children who received the recommended dose of Vitamin A in the preceding 12 months was 84% and 64% for the 6-11 months age group and 12-59 months age group respectively.
- Matabeleland North (90%) reached the recommended WHO target of 90% for children aged 6-11 months who received Vitamin A.



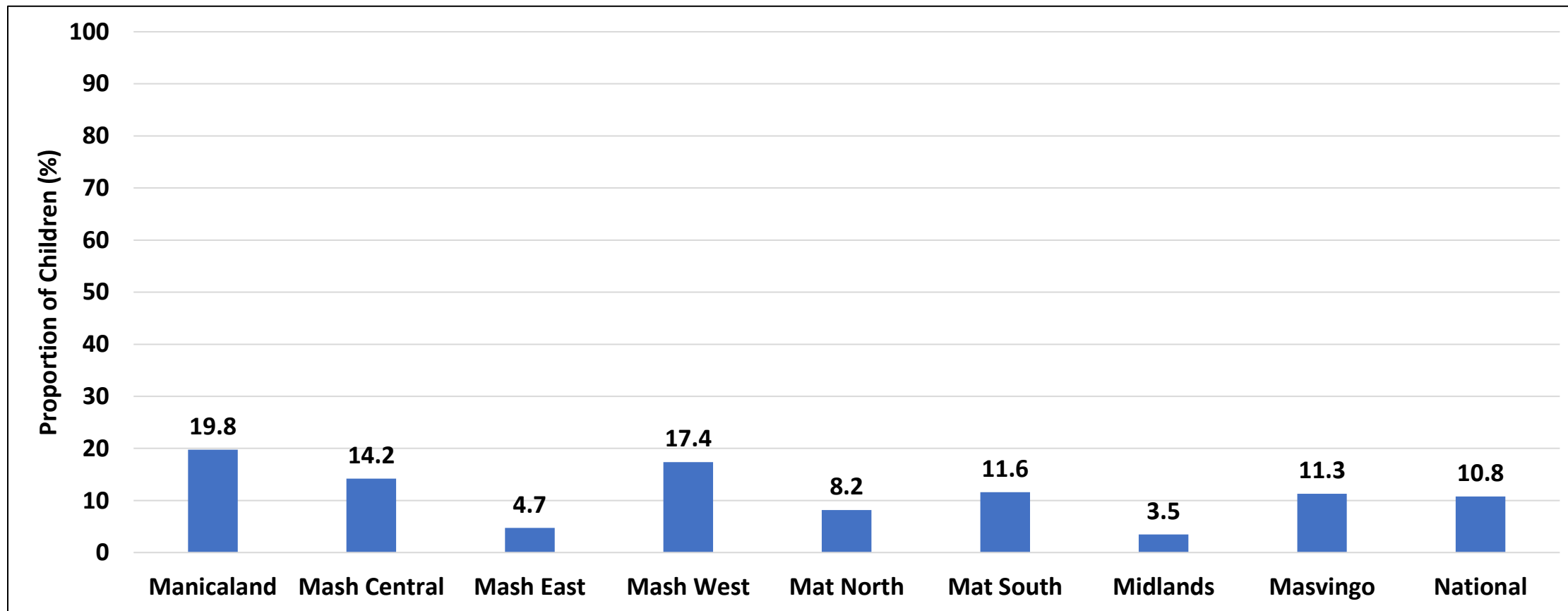
# **Child Nutrition Status**

# Prevalence of Illness Among Children Aged 0-59 Months



- At least 11% of children had experienced diarrhoea, 27% a cough and 18% experienced fever in the 2 weeks preceding the survey.
- Midlands (33%) had the highest prevalence of children who had a cough whilst Manicaland and Matabeleland North (20%) had the least.

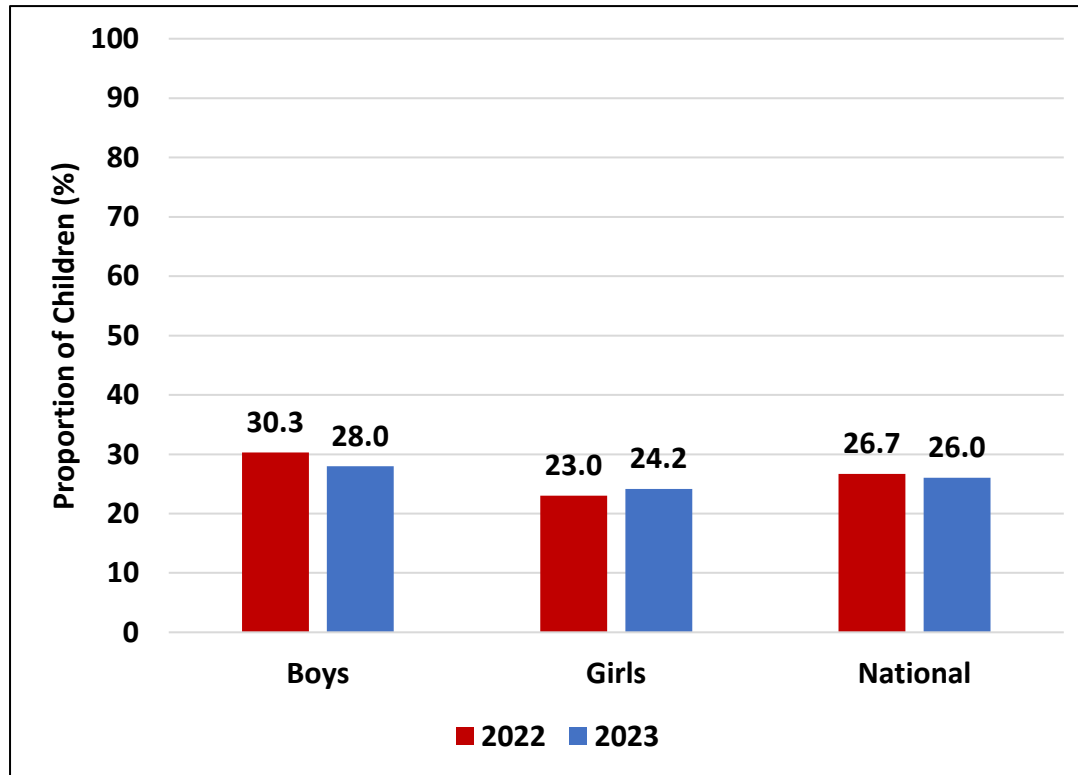
# Proportion of Children Belonging to a Care Group



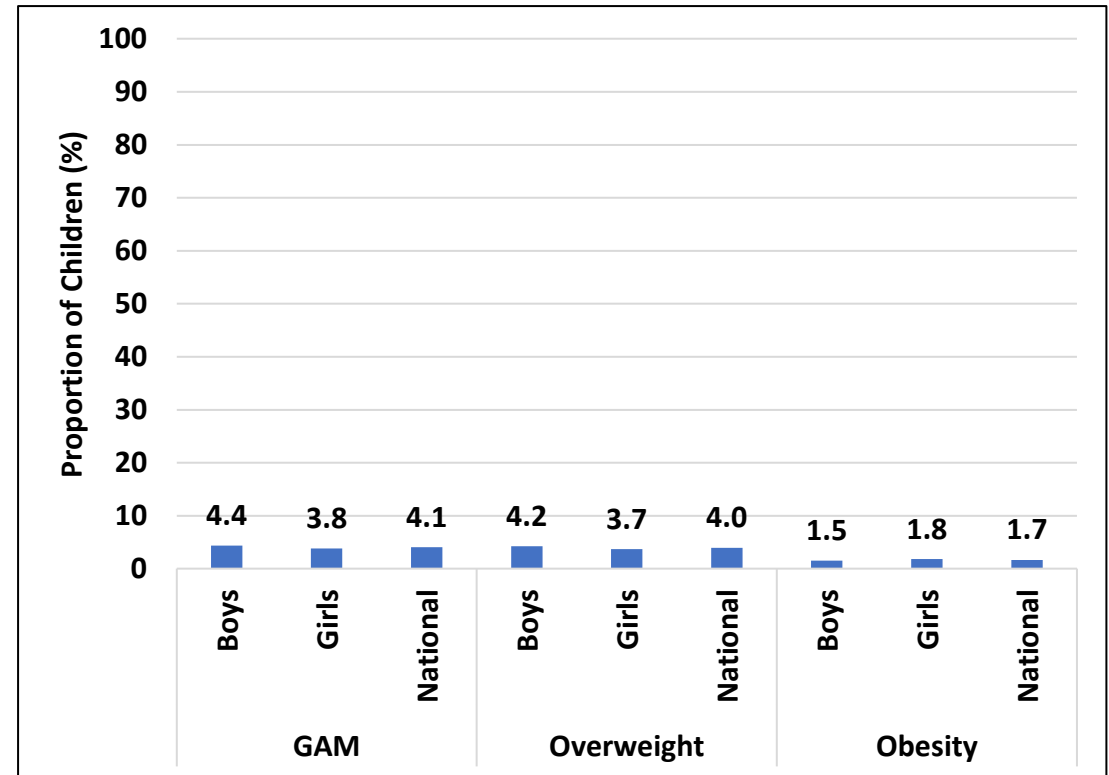
- At least 10.8% of children under 5 years of age belonged to a Care Group. The uptake of the Care Group Model by households is commendable.
- Manicaland (19.8%) had the highest proportion while Midlands (3.5%) reported the lowest proportion of children belonging to a Care Group.

# Nutrition Status by Sex of Child

## Stunting

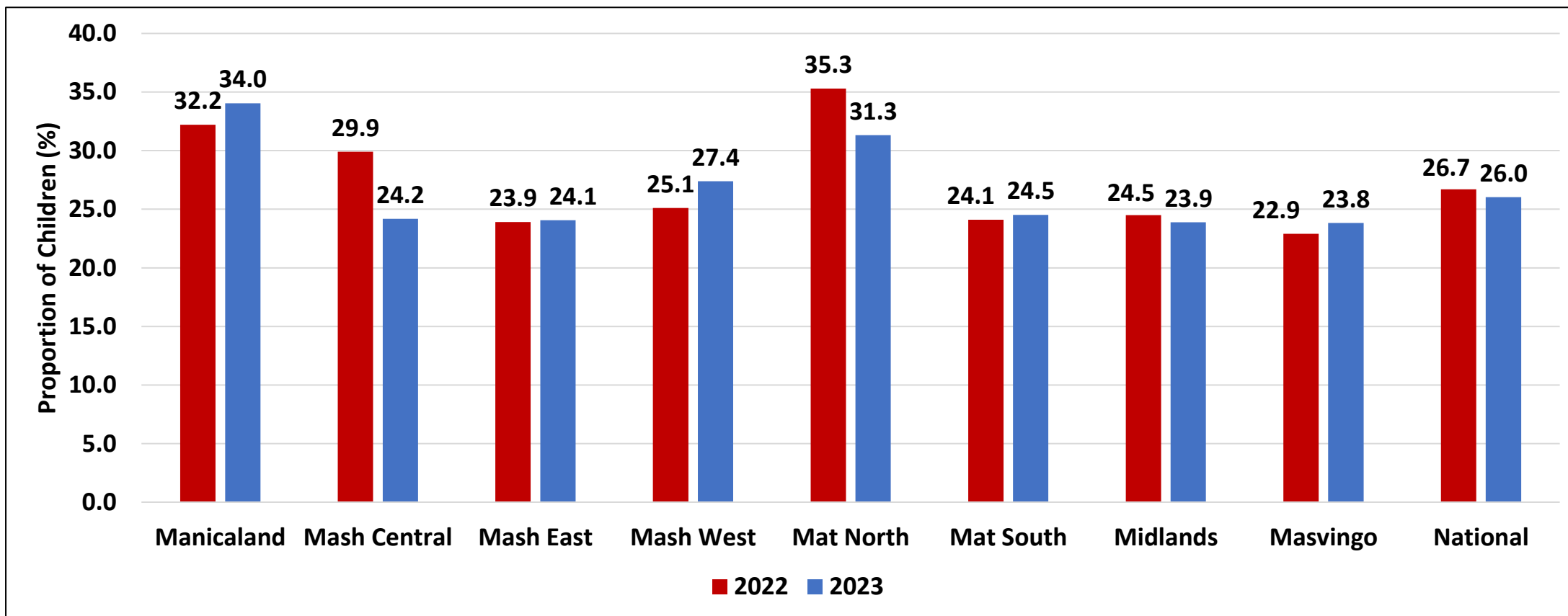


## Prevalence of GAM, SAM, Overweight and Obesity



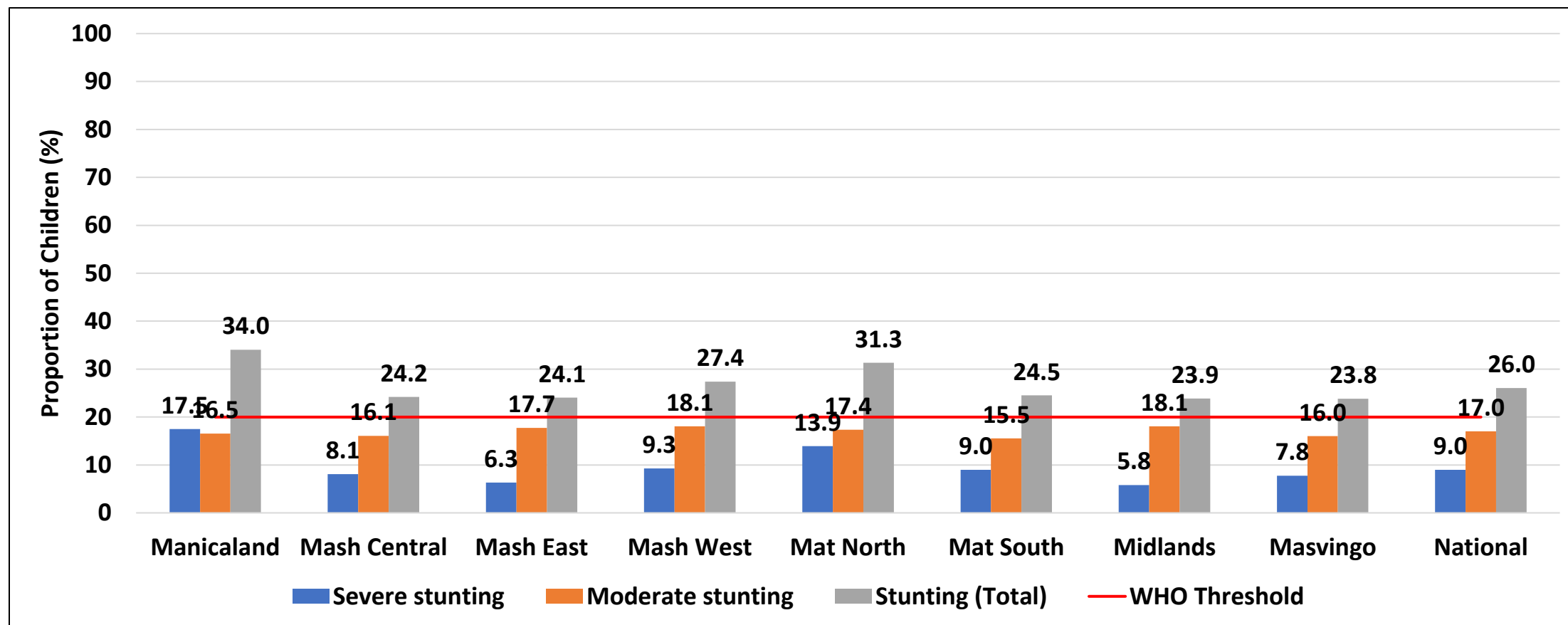
- Stunting prevalence (26%) remains high according to the World Health Organization classification.
- The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition was 4.1%, overweight 4% and obesity 1.7%.

# Stunting Rates by Province 2022 and 2023 (WHO Standards)



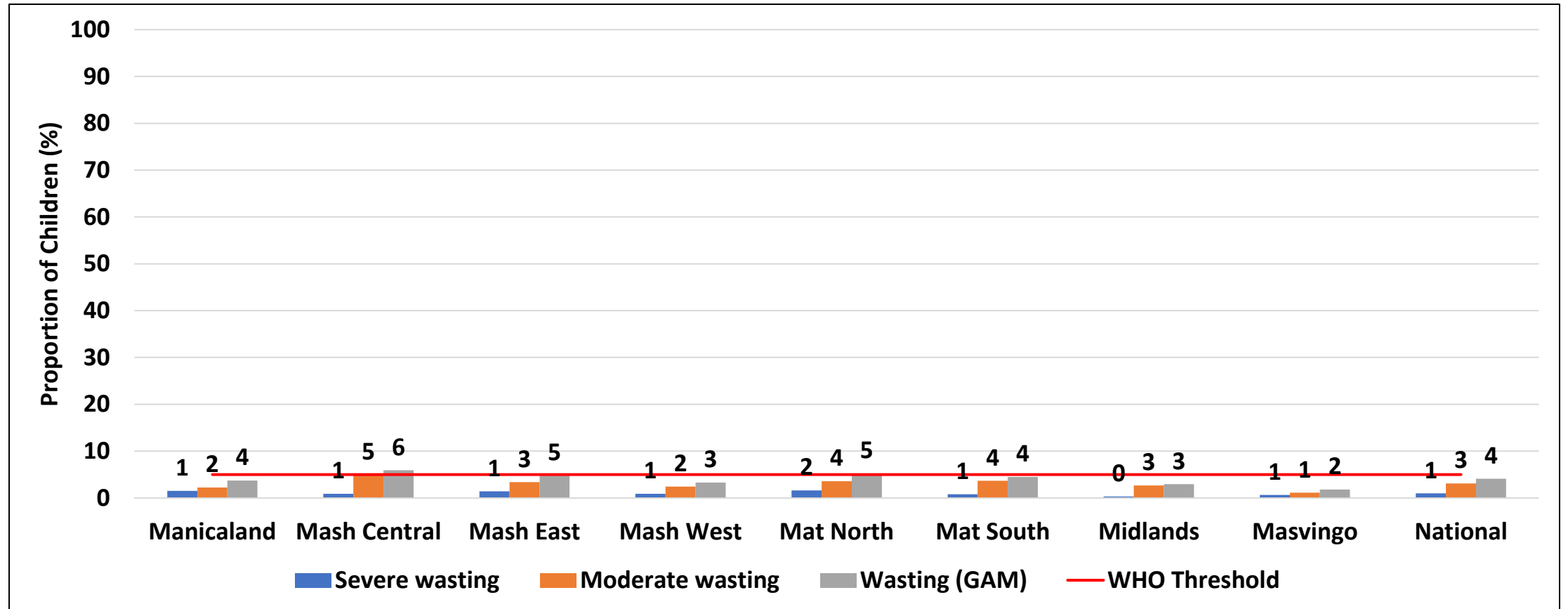
- All provinces had stunting rates surpassing the WHO threshold of 20%, with Manicaland (34%) recording the highest and Masvingo (23.8%) having the lowest stunting prevalence.

# Prevalence of Stunting in Children 6-59 Months



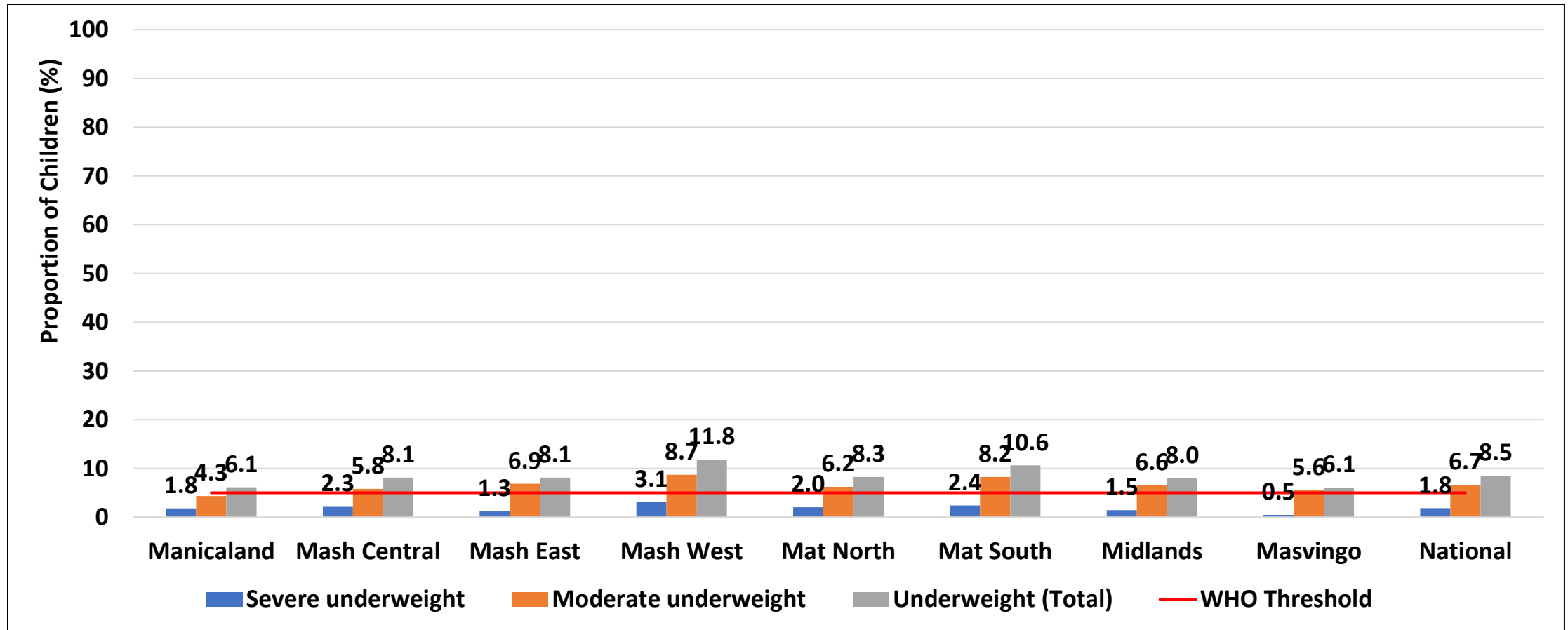
- Prevalence of severe stunting was 9%, being highest in Manicaland (17.5%) and lowest in Midlands (5.8%).
- Nationally, the prevalence of moderate stunting was 17%.

# Prevalence of Wasting in Children 6-59 Months



- Nationally, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition was 4%.
- Mashonaland Central (6%), Mashonaland East (5%) and Matabeleland North (5%) surpassed the WHO threshold of 5% for public health concern.

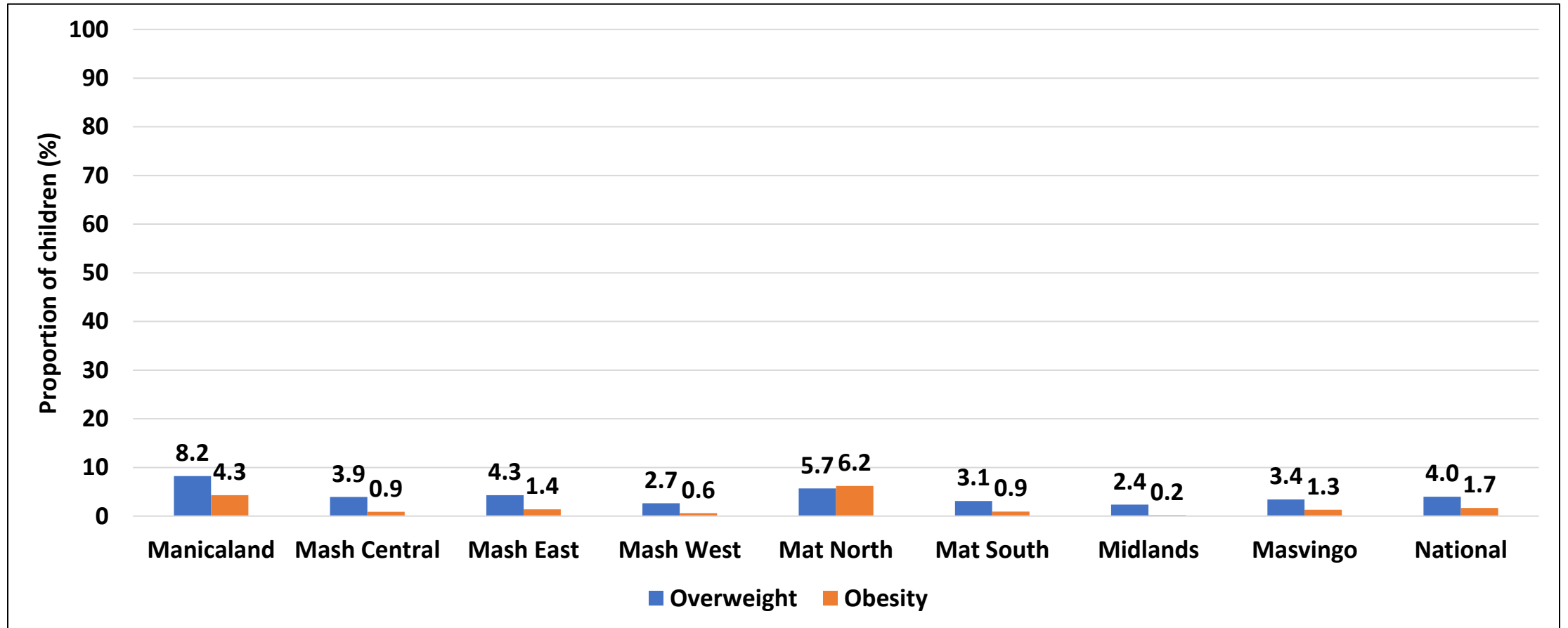
# Prevalence of Underweight in Children 6-59 Months



- The prevalence of underweight was 8.5 %, being highest in Mashonaland West (11.8%) and lowest in Manicaland (6.1%) and Masvingo (6.1%).
- Nationally, the prevalence of severe underweight was 1.8%.

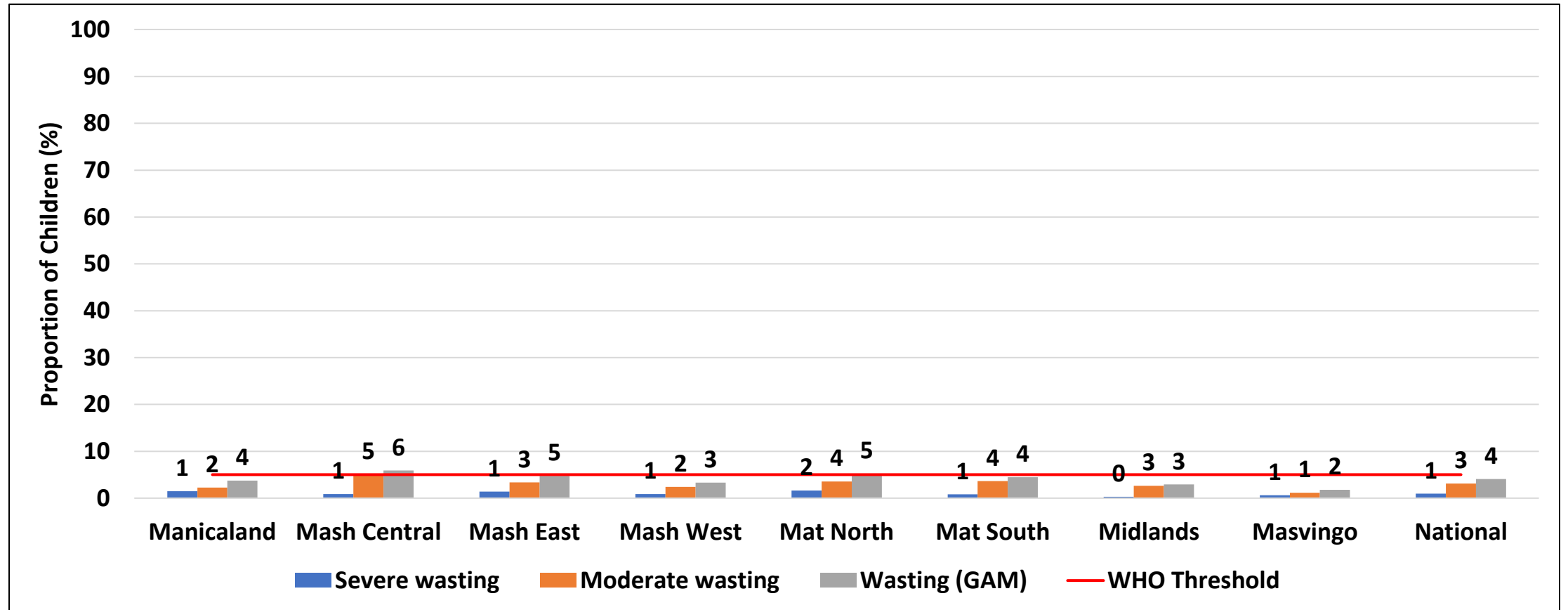


# Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Children 6-59 Months



- The prevalence of overweight was 4%, being highest in Manicaland (8.2%) and Matabeleland North (5.7%).
- Nationally, the prevalence of obesity was 1.7%.

# Prevalence of Wasting in Children 6-59 Months

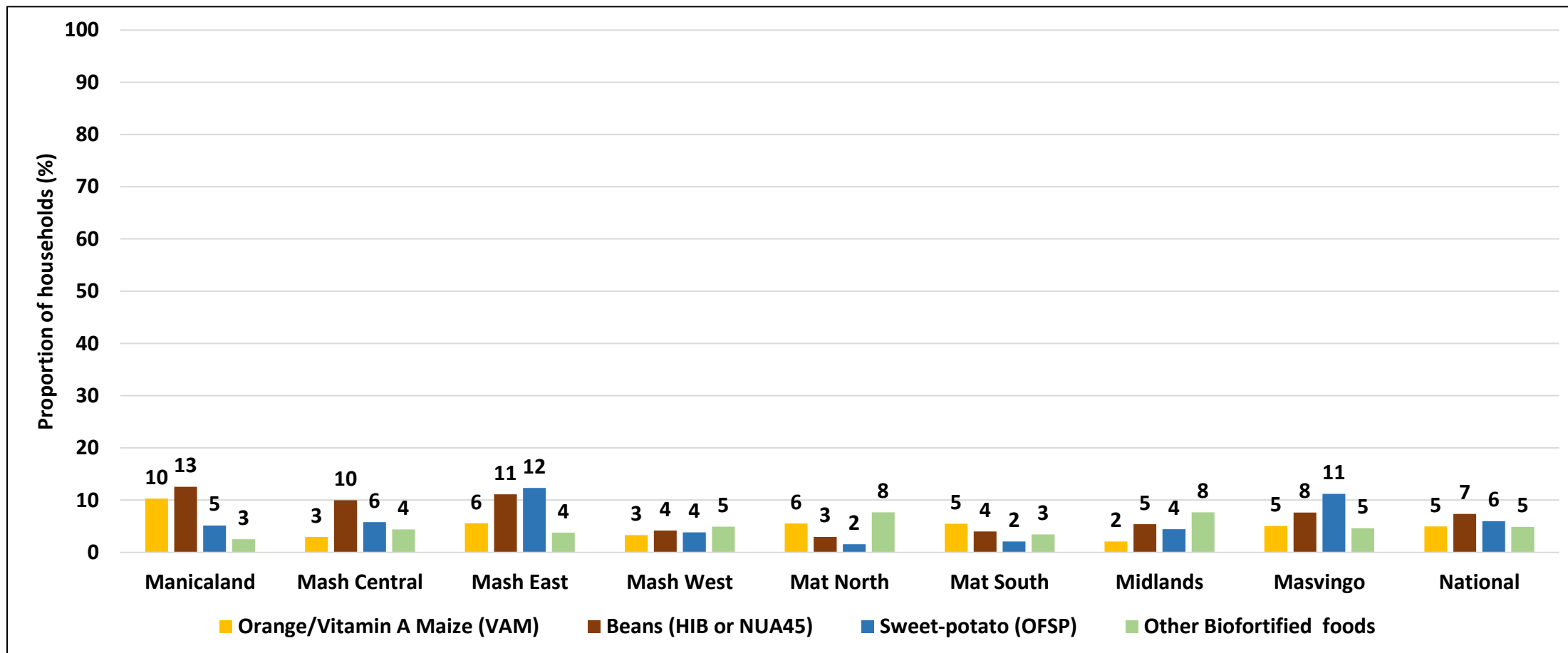


- Nationally, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition was 4%.
- Mashonaland Central (6%), Mashonaland East (5%) and Matabeleland North (5%) surpassed the WHO threshold of 5% for public health concern.

# Food Fortification

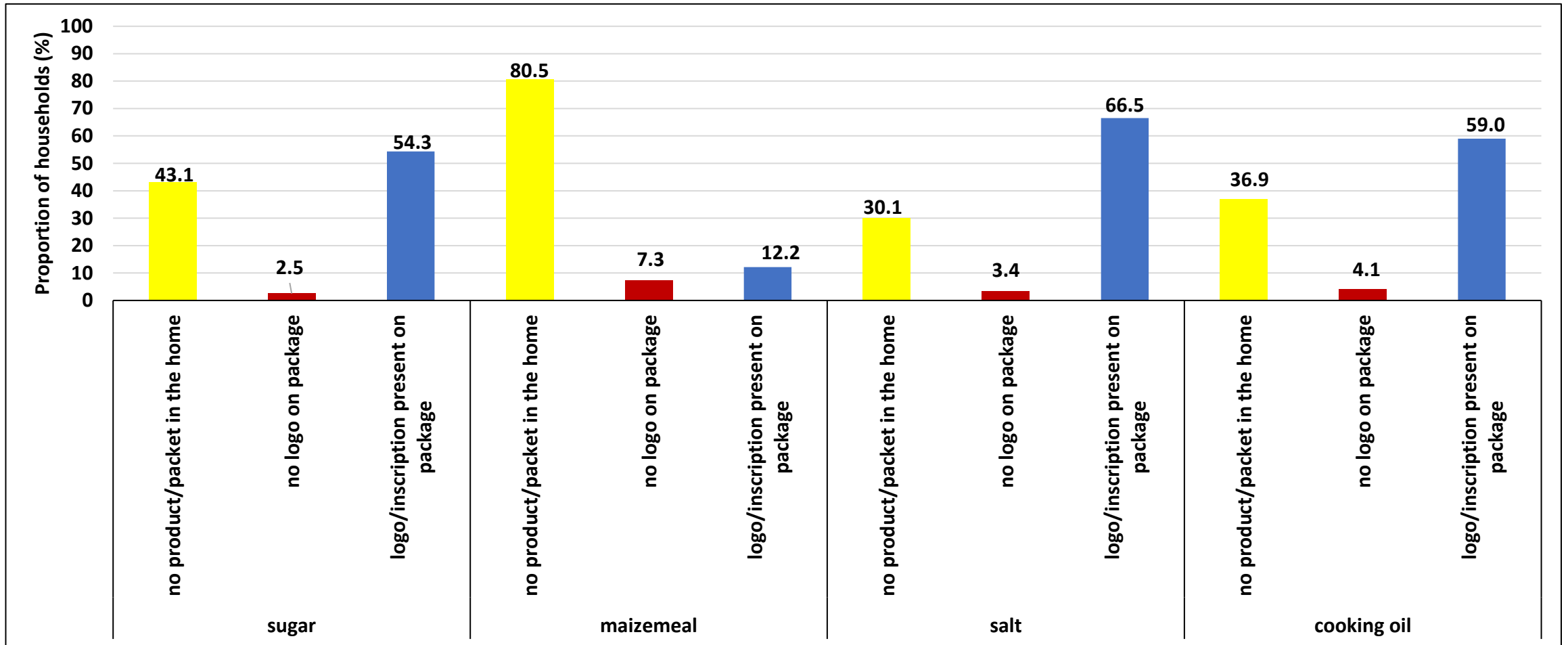


# Proportion of Households that Consumed Biofortified Crops



- NUA45 or high iron beans (7%) were the most consumed biofortified crops.

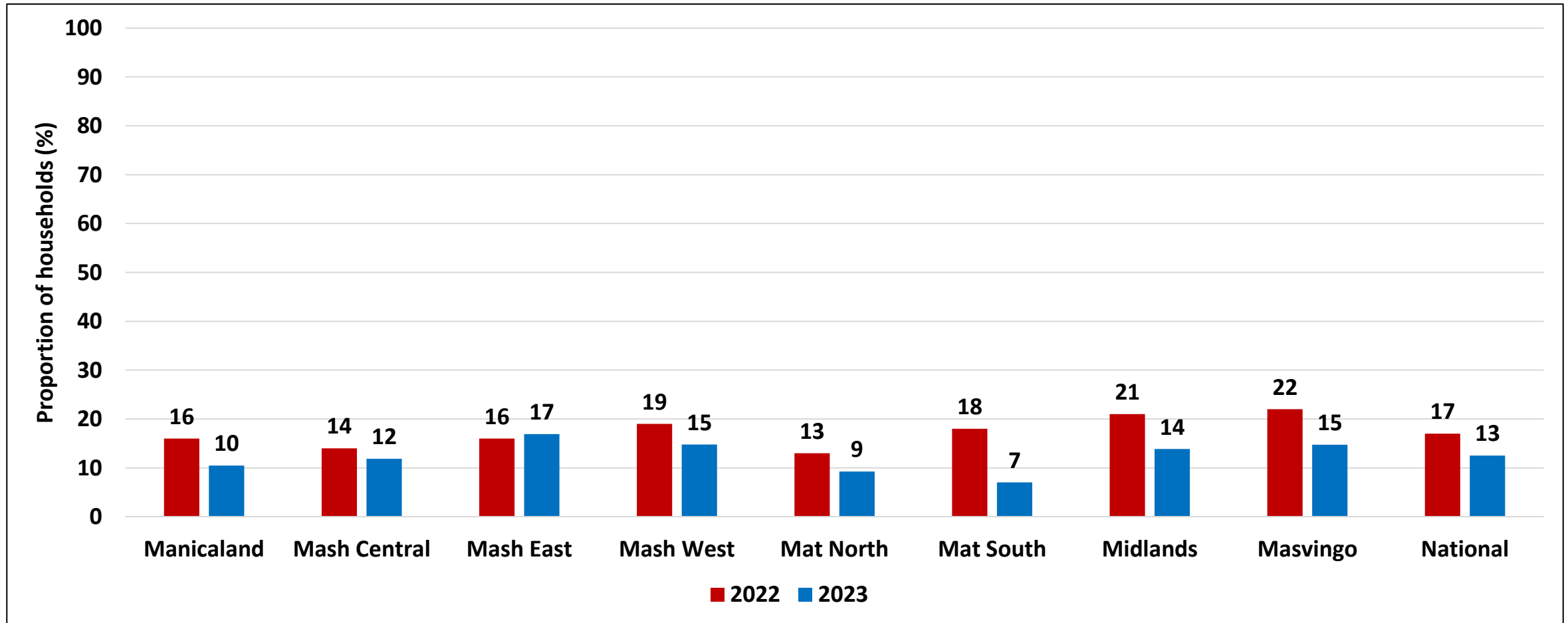
# Presence of Industrially Fortified Foods



- Above 50% of the households had presence of cooking oil (59%), sugar (54.3%) and salt (66.5%) with a fortification logo or inscription on the package.

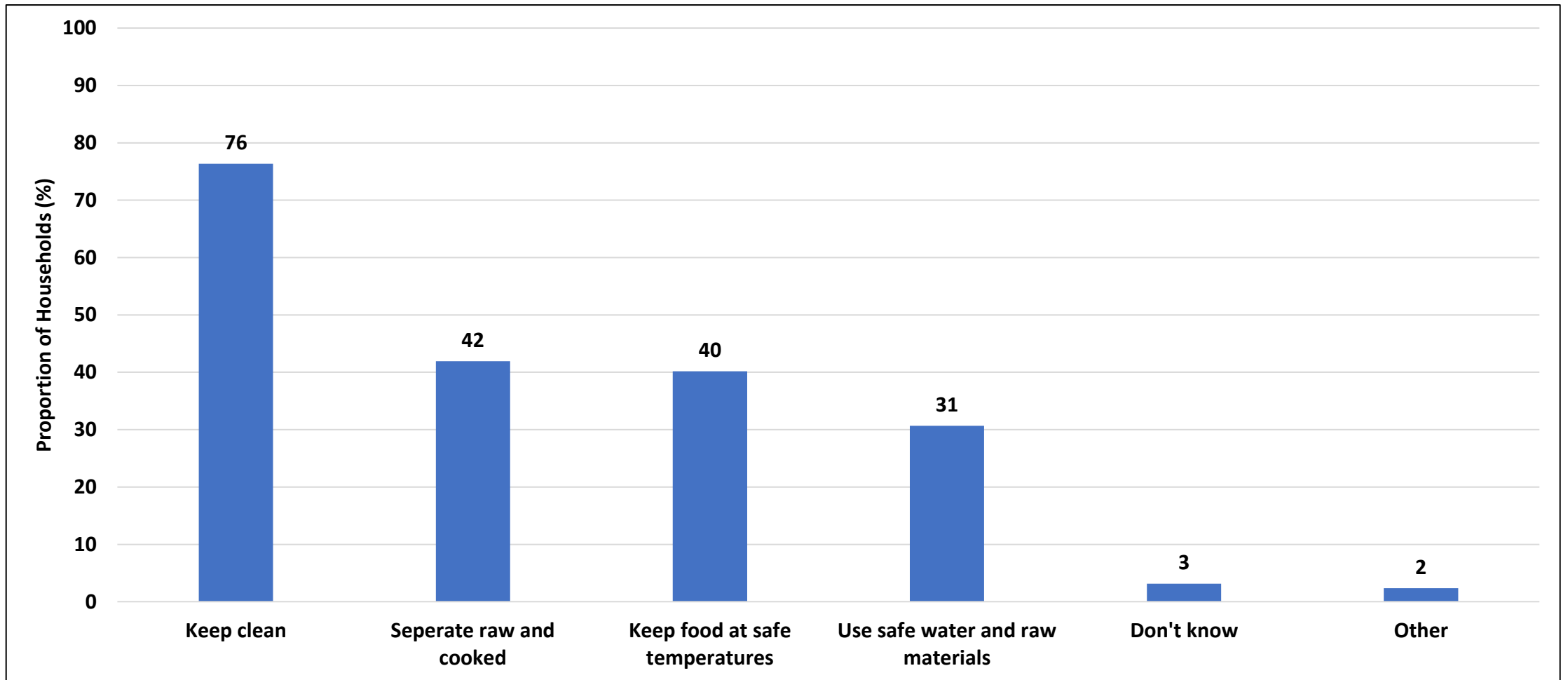
# **Food Safety**

# Households which Received Information on Food Safety Issues



- The proportion of households that received information on food safety issues was 13%, a decline from 17% in 2022.

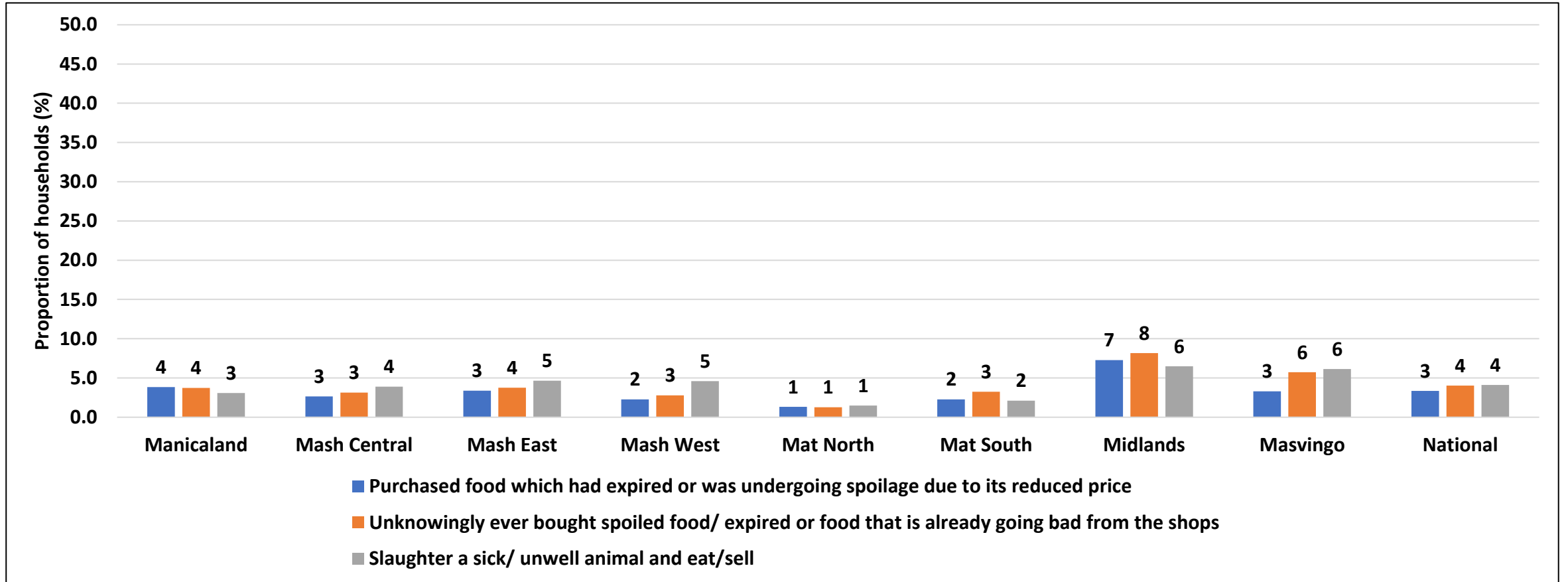
# Ways to Keep Food Safe



- Most households reported keeping food clean (76%) as a way of maintaining food safety.



# Households Practising Unsafe Food Practices



- Nationally, about 4% 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.
- About 6% of households in Midlands had slaughtered a sick animal for consumption or sale which predisposes the households to zoonotic diseases.

# Food Security

# Food Security Dimensions

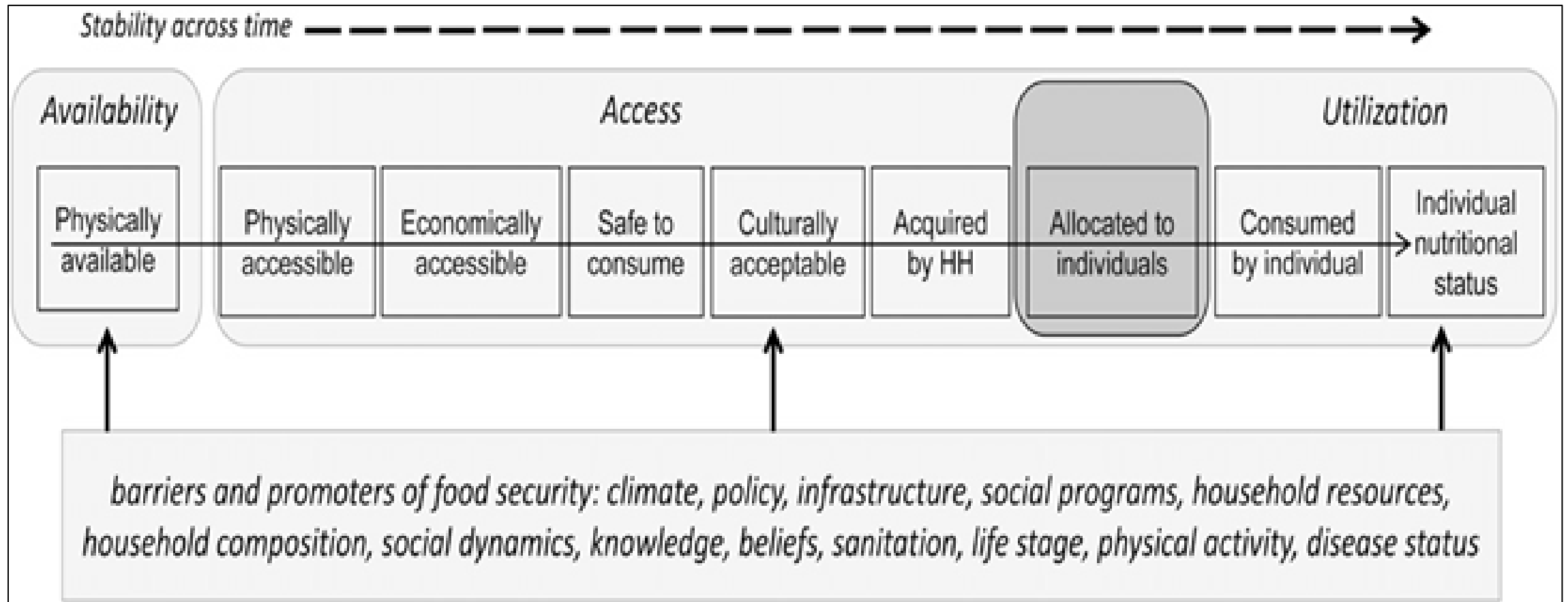


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

# Food Security Analytical Framework

- Food security exists when all people at all times, have **physical, social and economic** access to food which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and it is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care allowing for a healthy and active life (Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2012).
- The four dimensions of food security as give in Figure 3 are:
  - **Availability** of food
  - **Access** to food
  - The safe and healthy **utilisation** of food
  - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilisation

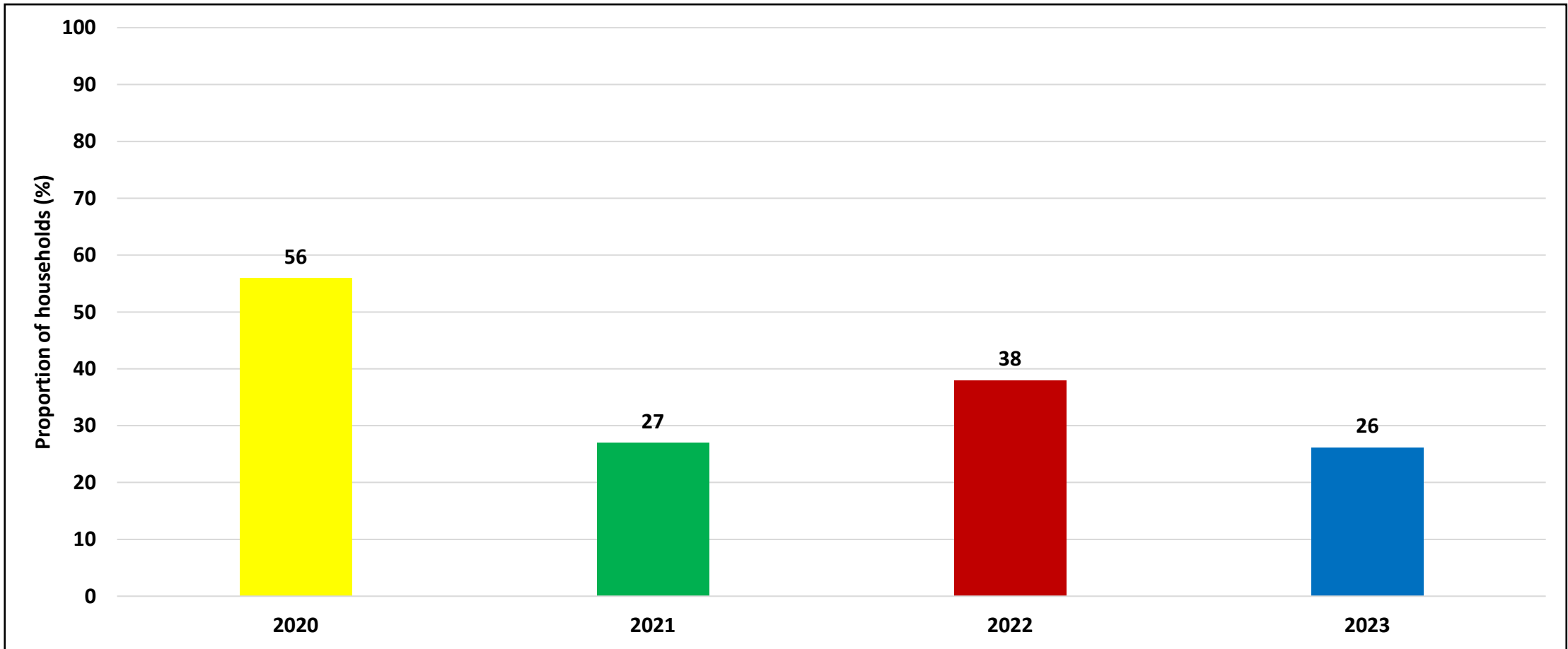
# Food Security Analytical Framework

- Household cereal security was determined by measuring a household's potential access to enough cereal to give each member 2100 kilocalories per day in the consumption period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire minimum expenditure food basket was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income (both cash and non cash) in the 2023/24 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
  - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
  - Own food crop production from the 2022/23 agricultural season;
  - Potential income from own cash crop production;
  - Potential income from livestock ;
  - Potential income from casual labour and remittances; and
  - Income from other sources such as gifts, pensions, gardening, formal and informal employment.

# Food Security Analytical Framework

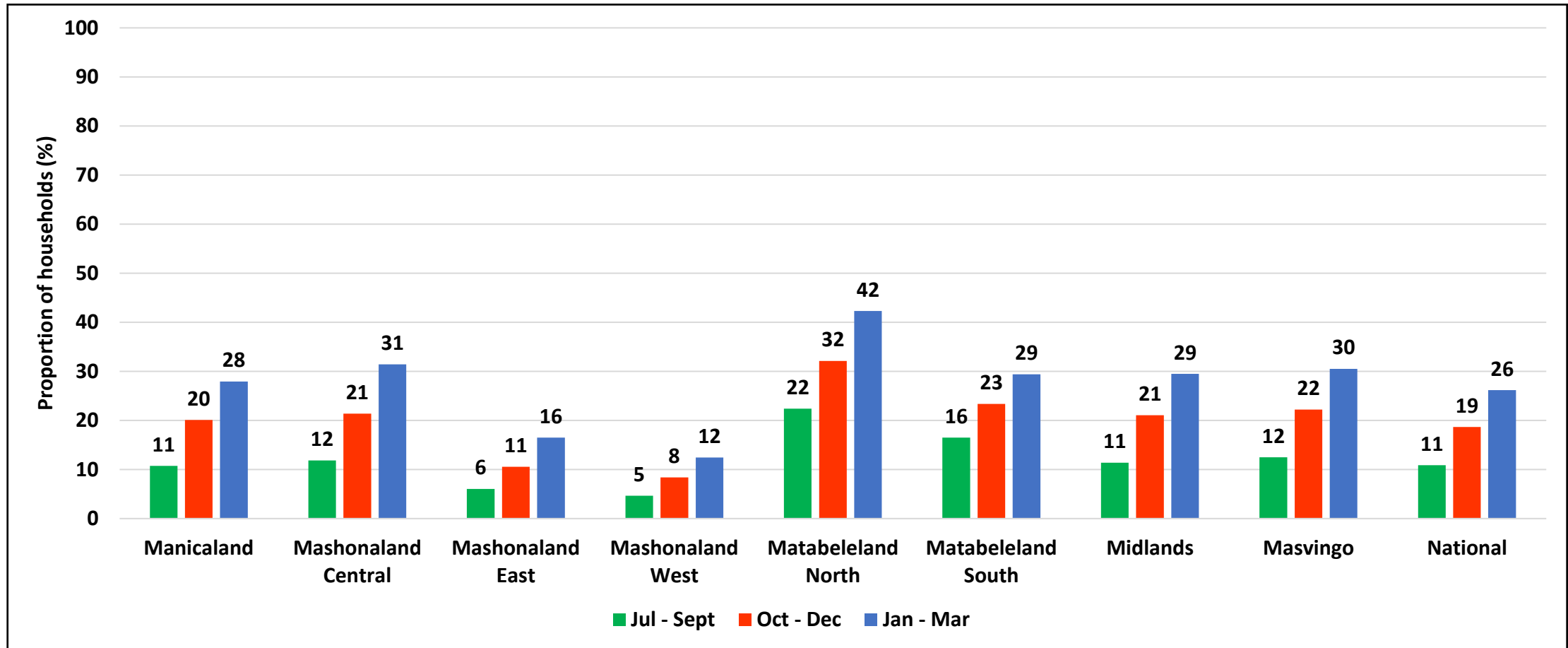
- The total energy that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest energy source using its potential disposable income was then computed and compared to the household's minimum energy requirement.
- When the potential energy that a household could acquire was greater than its minimum energy requirements, the household was deemed to be food secure. When the converse was true, the household was defined as food insecure.
- The severity of household food insecurity was computed by the margin with which its potential energy access was below its minimum energy requirements.

# Cereal Security Trends: 2020-2023



- Compared to 2020, cereal insecurity has decreased.

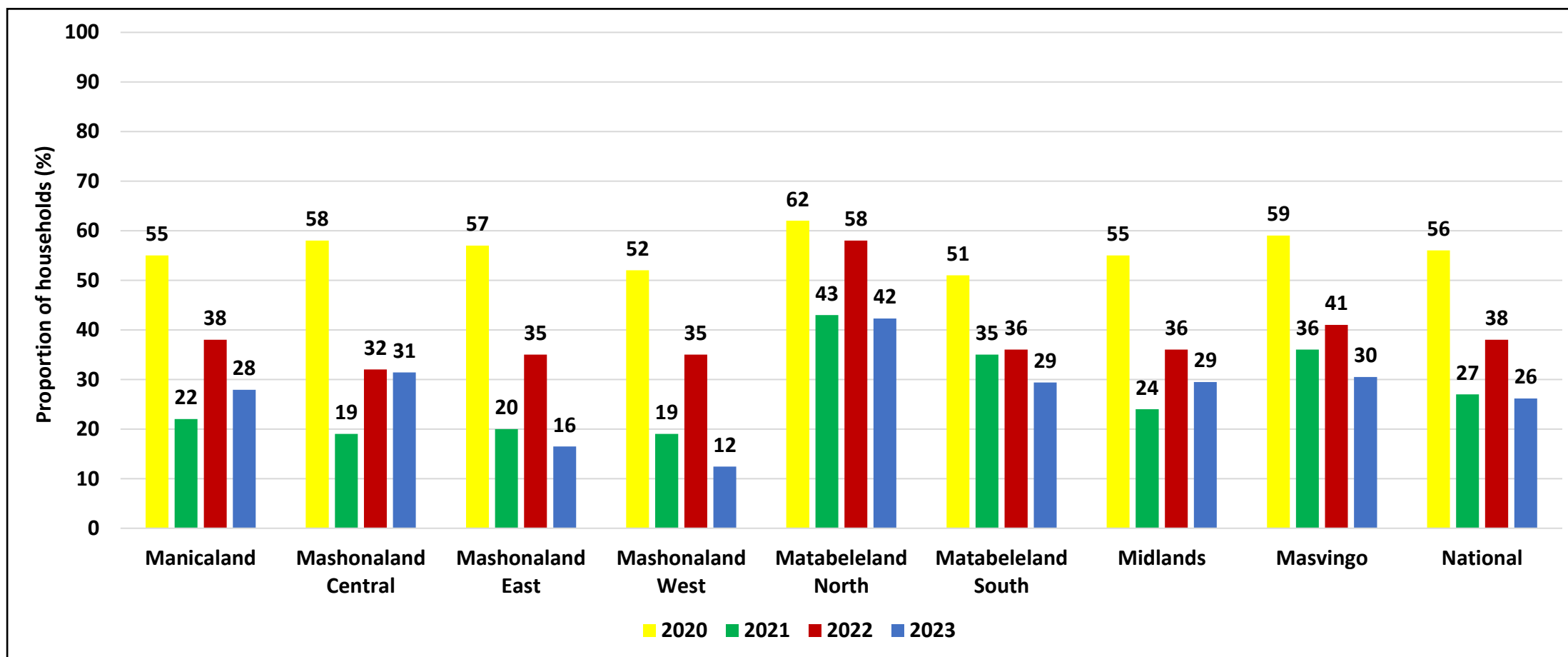
# Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- Approximately 26% of the rural households in Zimbabwe will be cereal insecure during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024).
- Matabeleland North (42%), Mashonaland Central (31%) and Masvingo (30%) are the provinces projected to have the highest proportion of food insecure households during the peak hunger period.

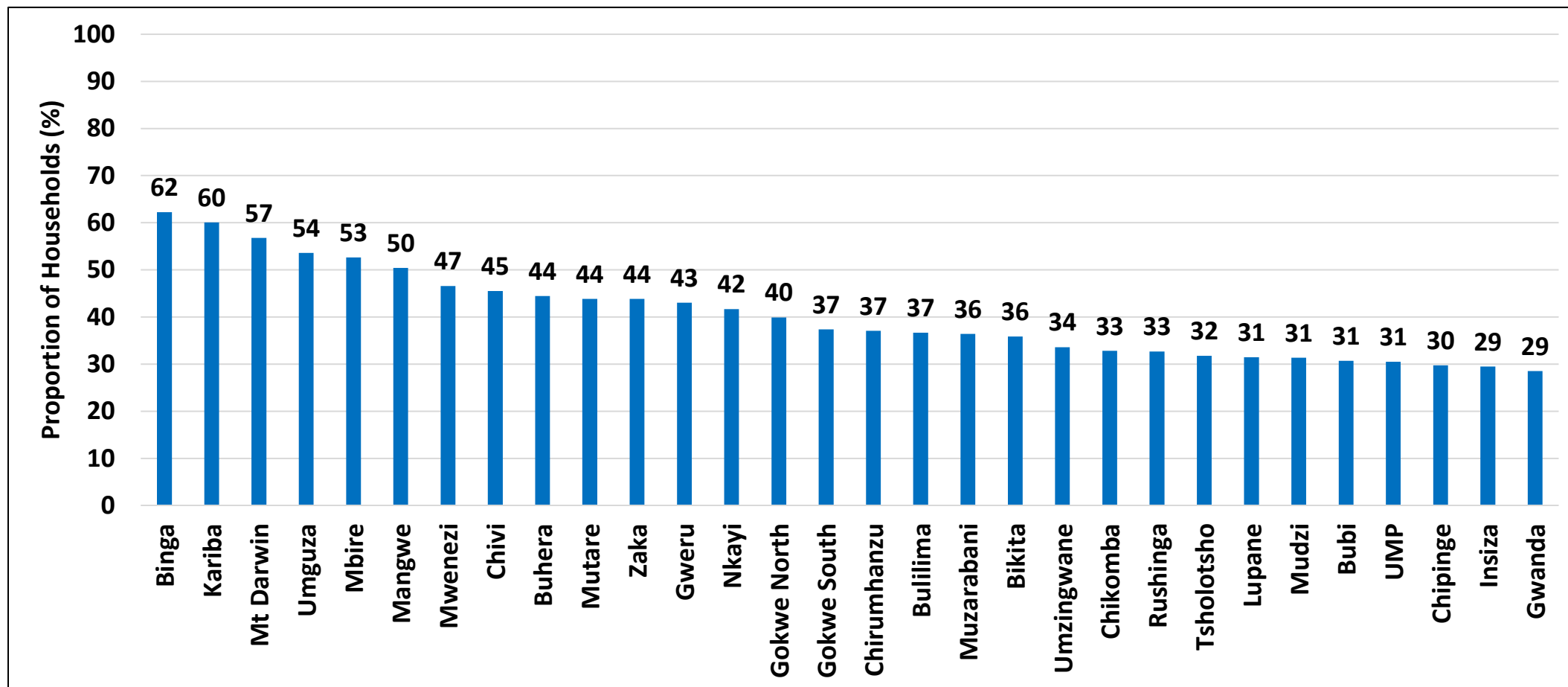


# Cereal Insecurity (Peak Hunger)



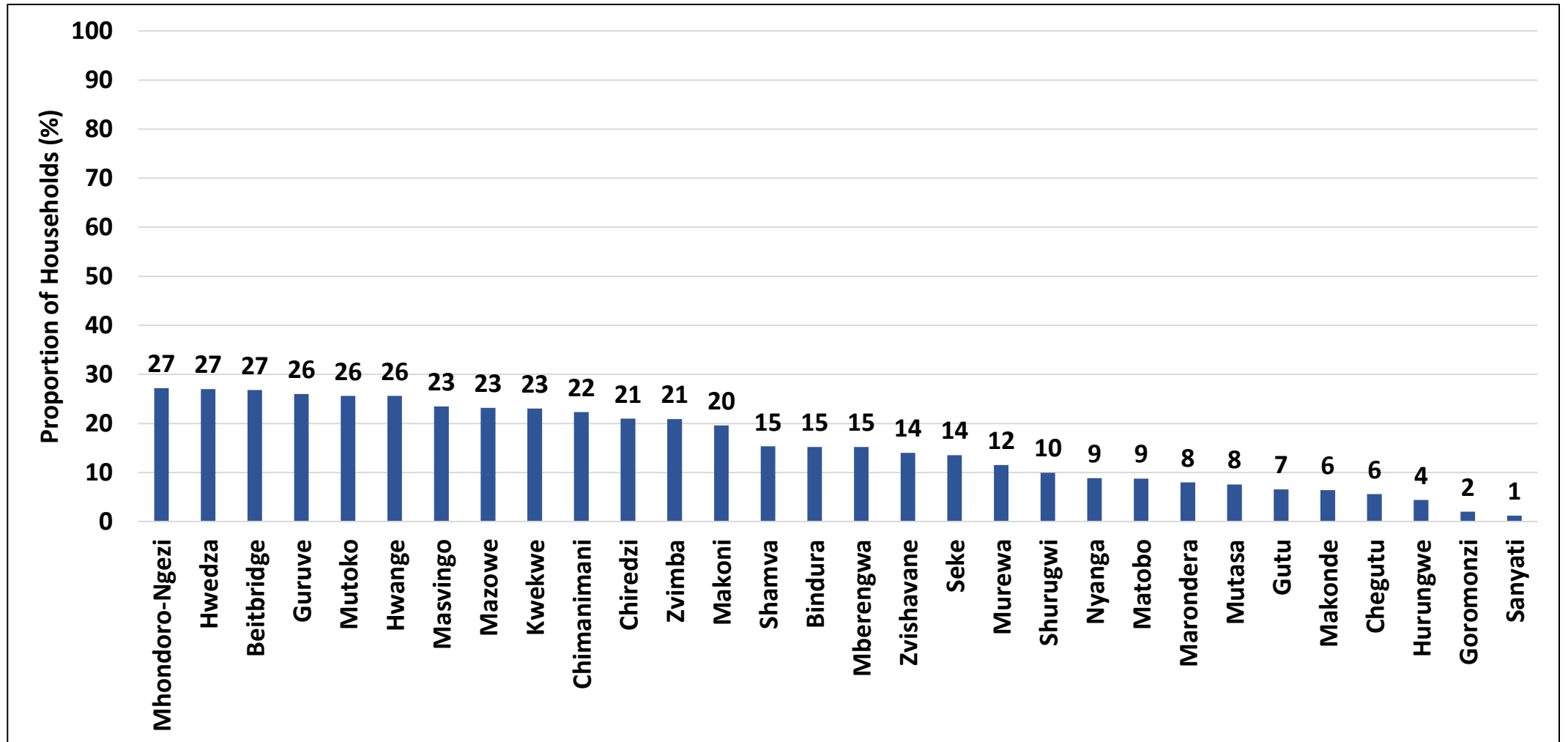
- Compared to 2022, cereal insecurity has generally decreased across all the provinces.
- At national level, food insecurity is projected to decrease from 38% to 26%.

# Cereal Insecurity by District (Top 30)



- At the peak of the hunger season, Binga district will have the most food insecure households (62%) followed by Kariba (60%) and Mt Darwin (57%).

# Cereal Insecurity by District (Bottom 30)



- The least cereal insecurity prevalence is projected in Sanyati (1%), Goromonzi (2%), and Hurungwe (4%).

# Food Insecure Population by Quarter

	Food Insecure Population			
Province	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	69,893	186,534	349,192	485,496
Mashonaland Central	57,218	156,062	281,383	413,812
Mashonaland East	42,627	94,496	165,252	259,050
Mashonaland West	30,876	67,765	121,866	180,777
Matabeleland North	91,882	168,264	241,584	318,129
Matabeleland South	61,629	108,673	154,109	193,891
Midlands	70,092	156,013	289,246	404,705
Masvingo	70,833	188,001	334,405	459,856
National	495,051	1,125,808	1,937,037	2,715,717

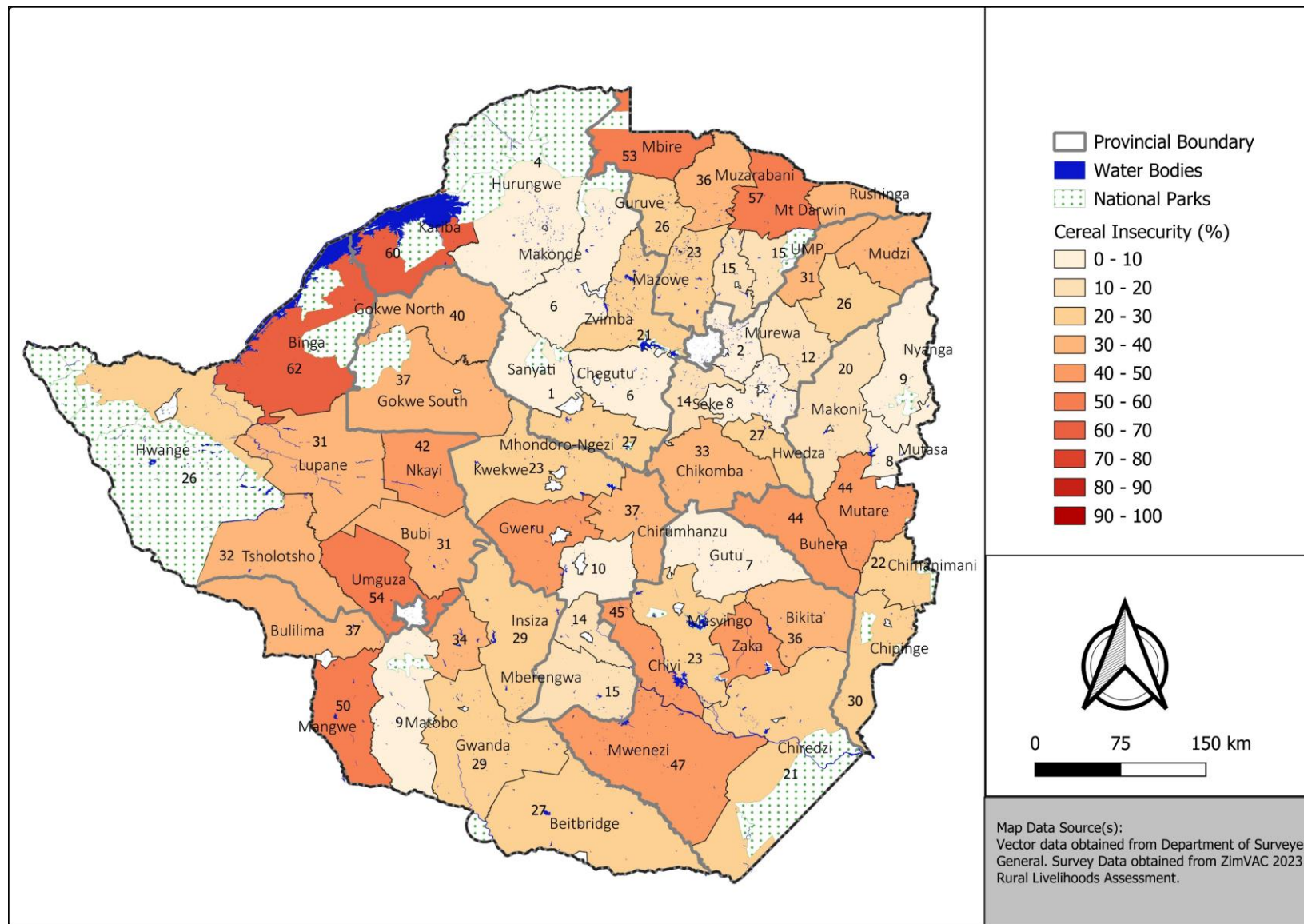
- Approximately 2,715,717 people are projected to be food insecure during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024).

# Cereal Requirements (MT) by Quarter

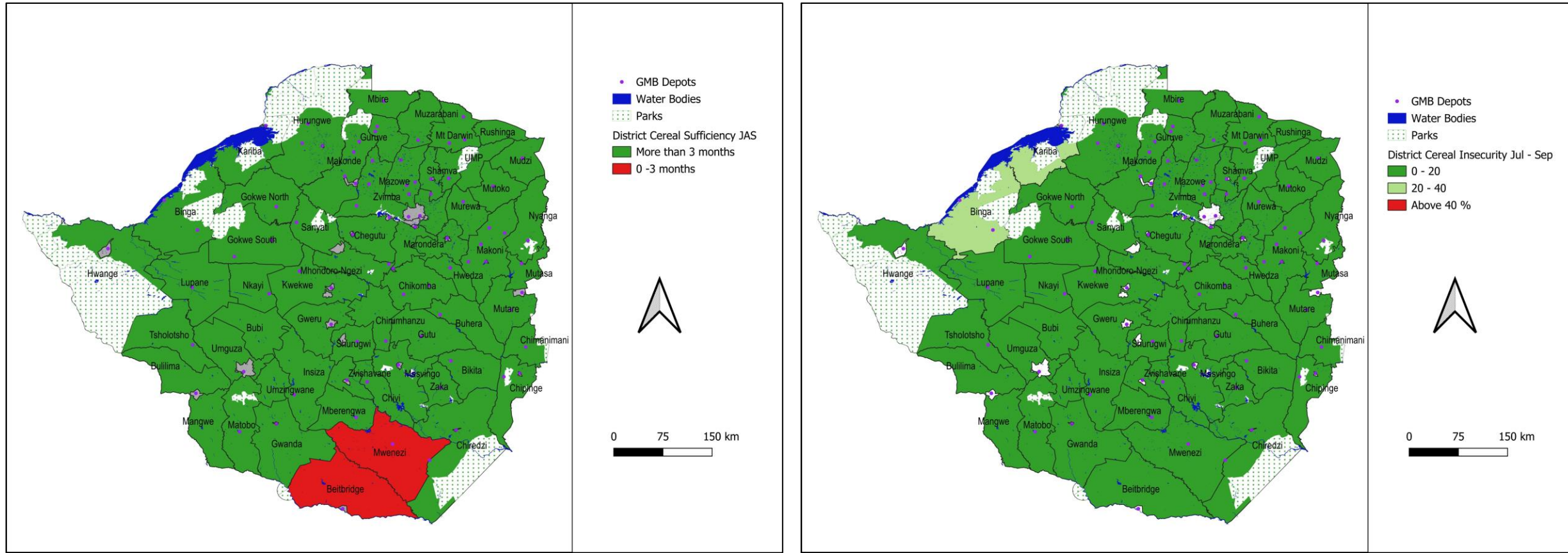
	Cereal Requirements (MT)			
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
<b>Manicaland</b>	<b>2,586</b>	<b>6,902</b>	<b>12,920</b>	<b>17,963</b>
<b>Mashonaland Central</b>	<b>2,117</b>	<b>5,774</b>	<b>10,411</b>	<b>15,311</b>
<b>Mashonaland East</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>6,114</b>	<b>9,585</b>
<b>Mashonaland West</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>4,509</b>	<b>6,689</b>
<b>Matabeleland North</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>6,226</b>	<b>8,939</b>	<b>11,771</b>
<b>Matabeleland South</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>4,021</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>7,174</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>5,772</b>	<b>10,702</b>	<b>14,974</b>
<b>Masvingo</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>6,956</b>	<b>12,373</b>	<b>17,015</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>18,317</b>	<b>41,655</b>	<b>71,670</b>	<b>100,482</b>

- At national level 100,482 MT of cereal will be required to feed the food insecure population during the peak hunger period (January-March 2024).

# Cereal Insecurity



# District Cereal Sufficiency vs District Household Cereal Insecurity (July – September 2023)

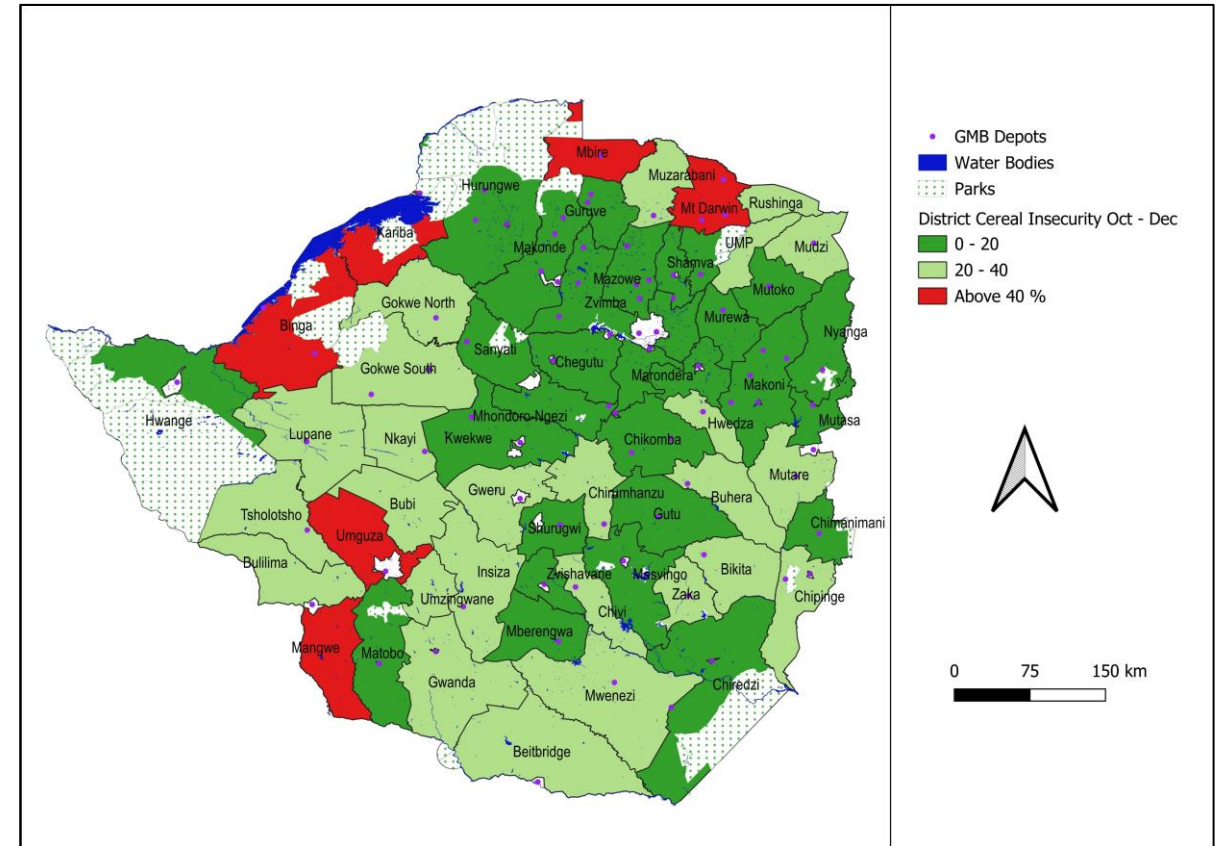
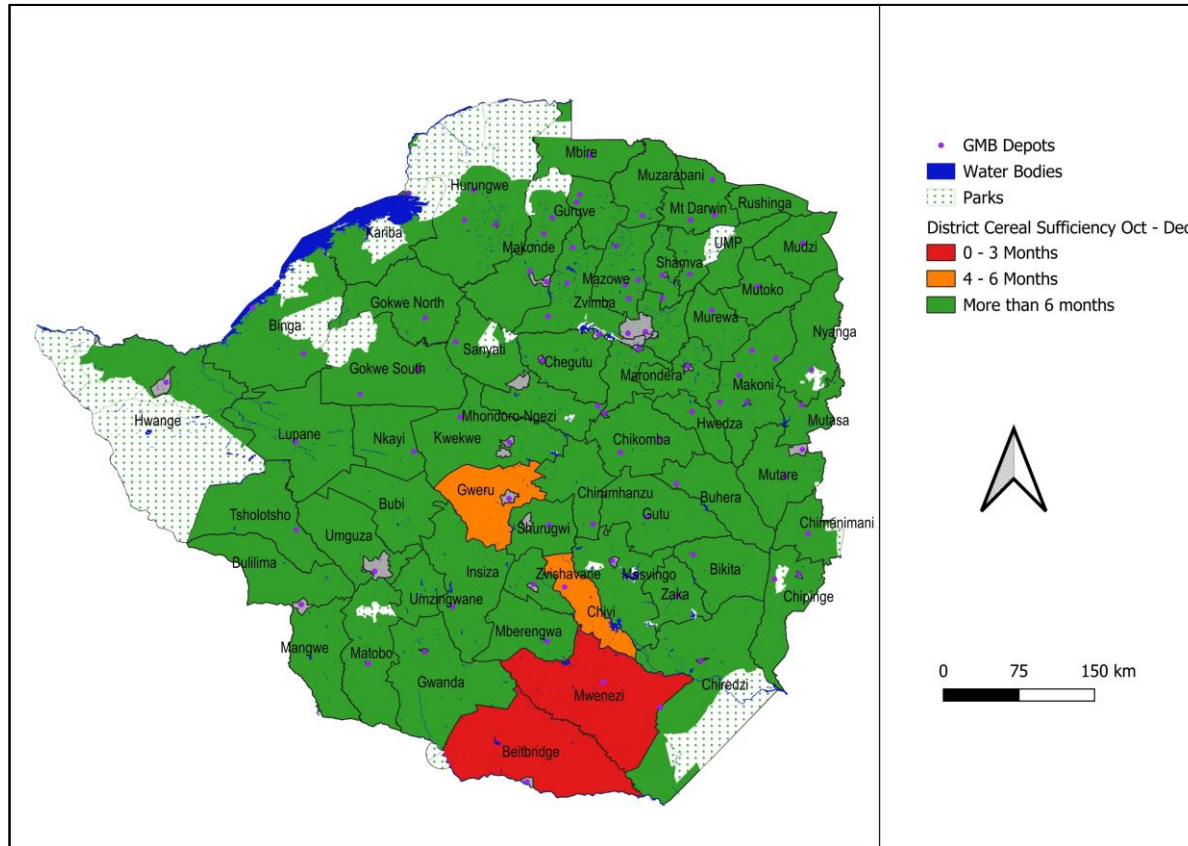


Map Data Source: July to September cereal sufficiency computed from CLAFA (Second Round, 2023), Table 13 [pg 25]

ZimVAC RLA 2023



# District Cereal Sufficiency vs District Household Cereal Insecurity (October – December 2023)

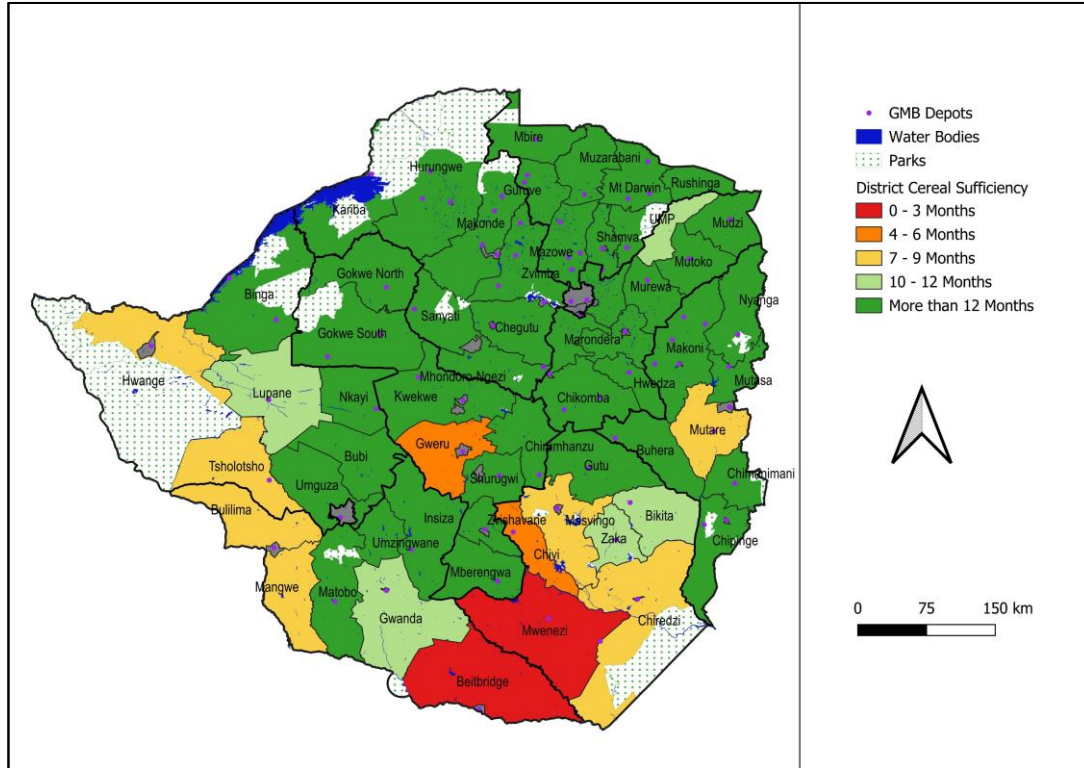


Map Data Source: October to December cereal sufficiency computed from CLAFA  
(Second Round, 2023), Table 13 [pg 25]

ZimVAC RLA 2023

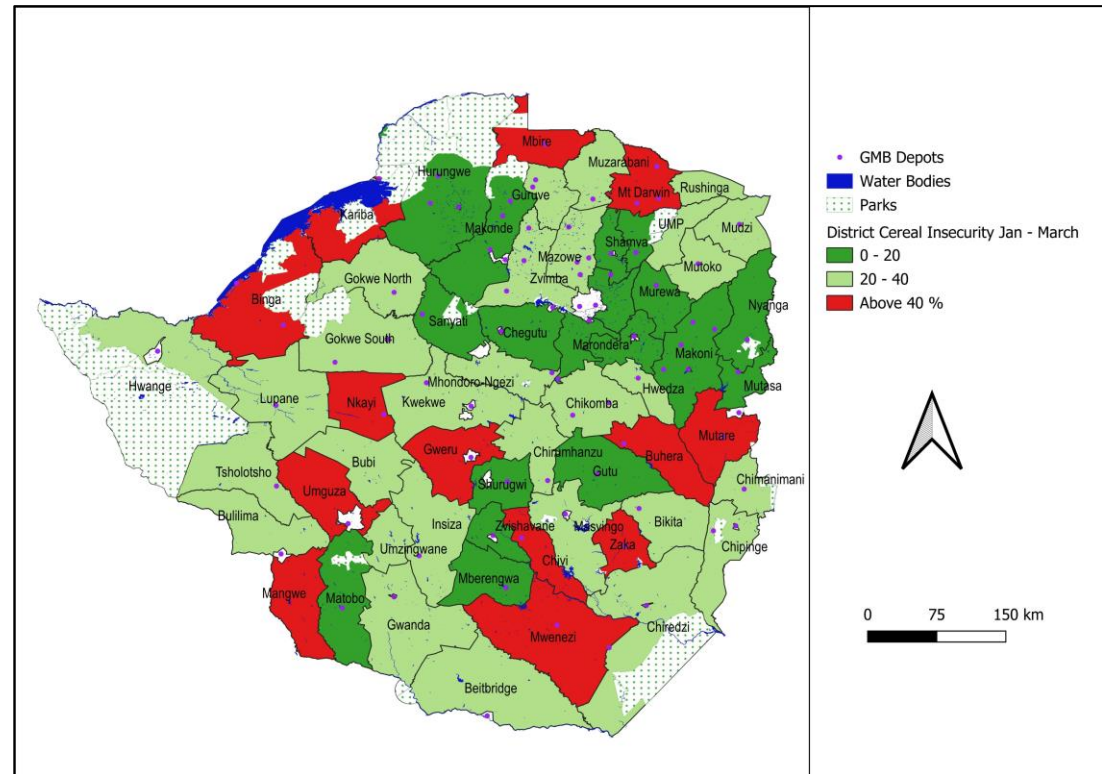


# District Cereal Sufficiency vs District Household Cereal Insecurity (January – March 2024)



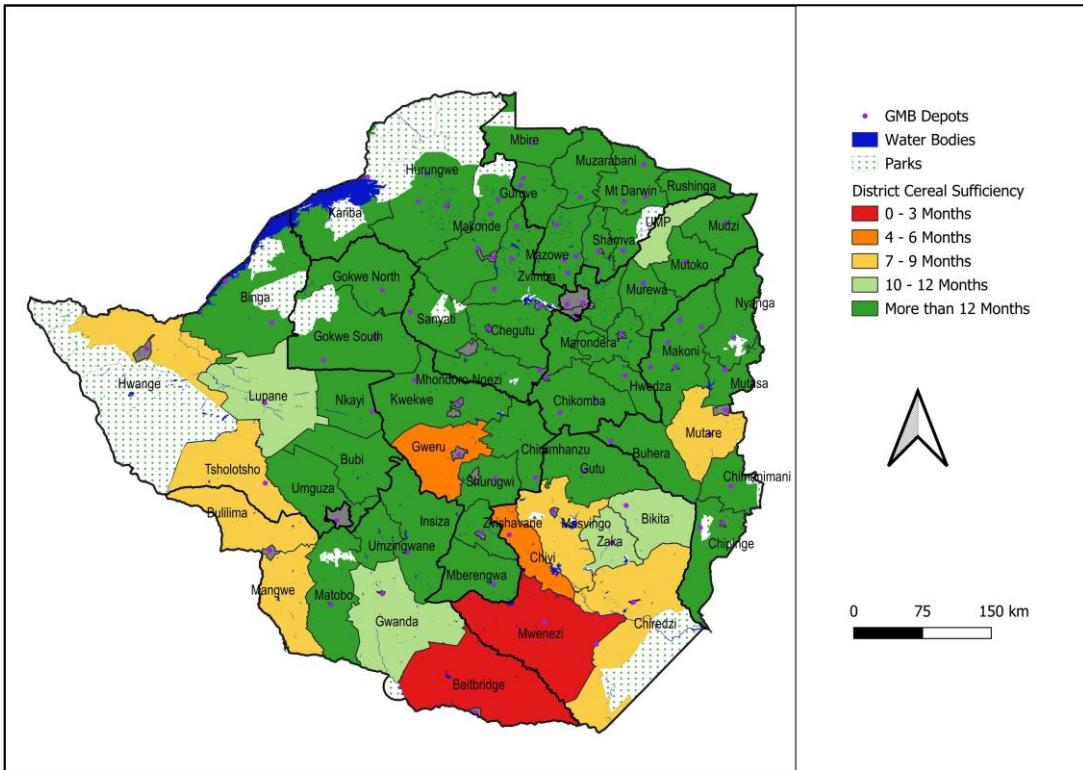
**Crop, Livestock & Fisheries Assessment (2<sup>nd</sup> Round, 2023)**

Map Data Source: Table 13: Cereal (Maize And Traditional Grains) Sufficiency For Provinces [pg 25 ]

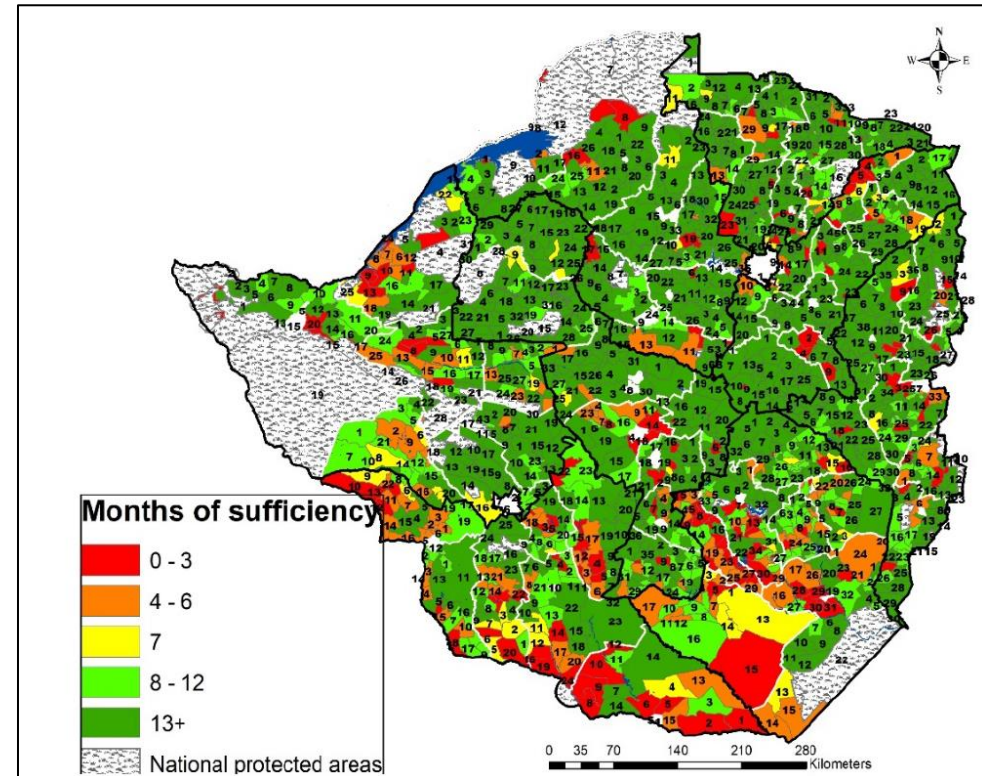


## ZimVAC RLA 2023

# CLAFA 2 District Cereal Sufficiency vs Ward Cereal Sufficiency



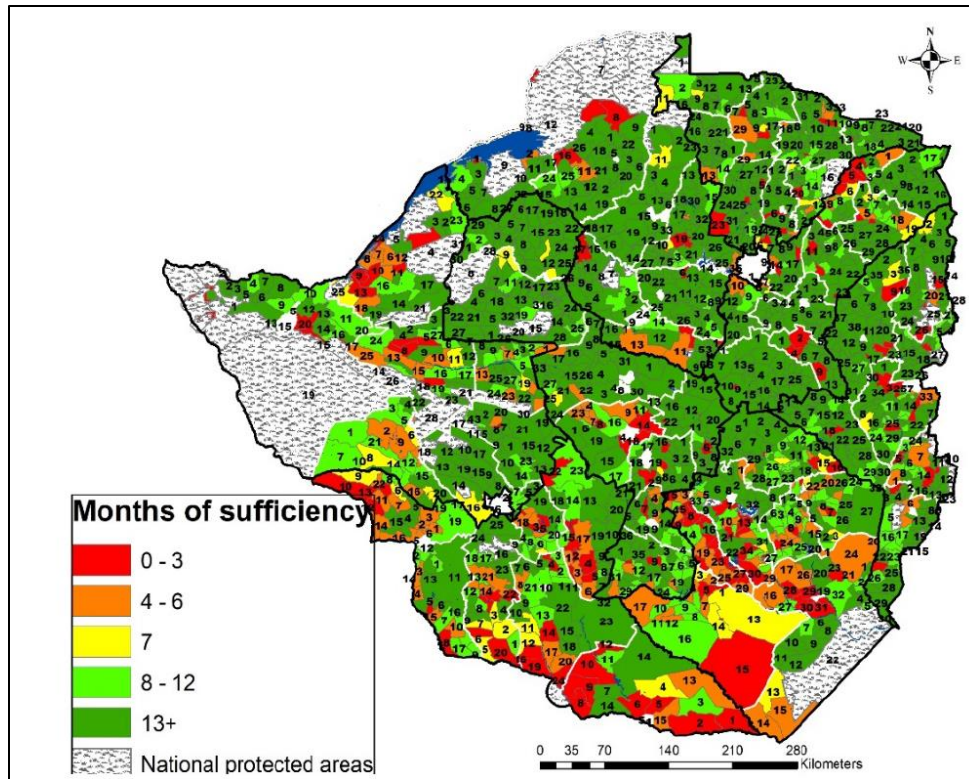
**Map Data Source: Table 13: Cereal (Maize And Traditional Grains) Sufficiency For Provinces [pg 25 ]**



Source: Figure 7 : Cereal (maize and small grains) sufficiency for rural wards  
[pg 26 ]

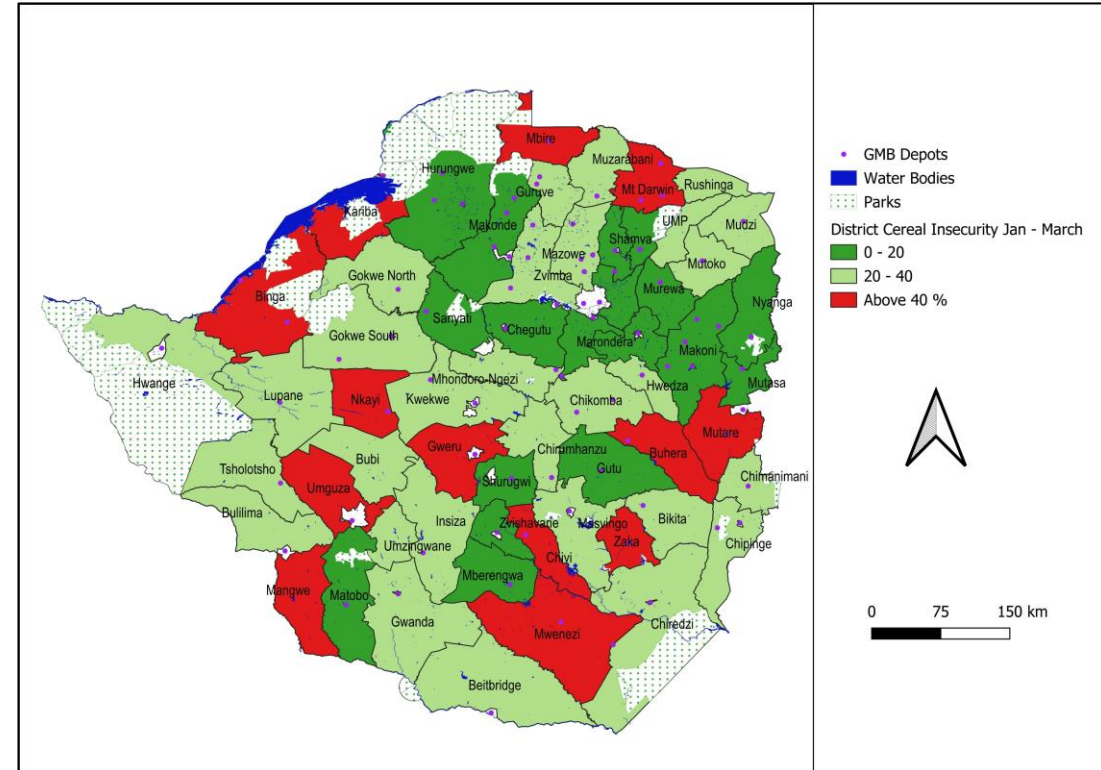


# Ward Cereal Sufficiency vs District Household Cereal Insecurity (Jan-Mar)



*Crop, Livestock & Fisheries Assessment (2<sup>nd</sup> Round, 2023)*

Map Source: Figure 7 : Cereal (maize and small grains) sufficiency for rural wards [pg 26 ]



**ZimVAC RLA 2023**

# **Gender Based Violence**

# Forms of Gender Based Violence

Province	Physical Abuse			Sexual Abuse		
	No (%)	Yes (%)	Refused to Answer (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	Refused to Answer (%)
Manicaland	97.2	1.4	1.4	99.5	0.2	0.3
Mash Central	96.8	0.7	2.4	99.2	0.1	0.7
Mash East	97.0	1.0	2.0	99.1	0.2	0.7
Mash West	97.0	0.8	2.2	99.1	0.1	0.7
Mat North	98.3	0.7	1.0	99.4	0.1	0.5
Mat South	97.7	0.6	1.7	99.2	0.1	0.7
Midlands	98.2	0.9	0.9	99.5	0.0	0.5
Masvingo	97.8	1.0	1.2	99.7	0.1	0.2
National	<b>97.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>

- About 0.9% of the respondents experienced Gender Based Violence in the form of physical abuse.
- Midlands had 0.9% of respondents that experienced Gender Based Violence in the form of physical abuse.
- Mashonaland East and Manicaland had 0.2% of respondents that experienced Gender Based Violence in the form of sexual abuse.

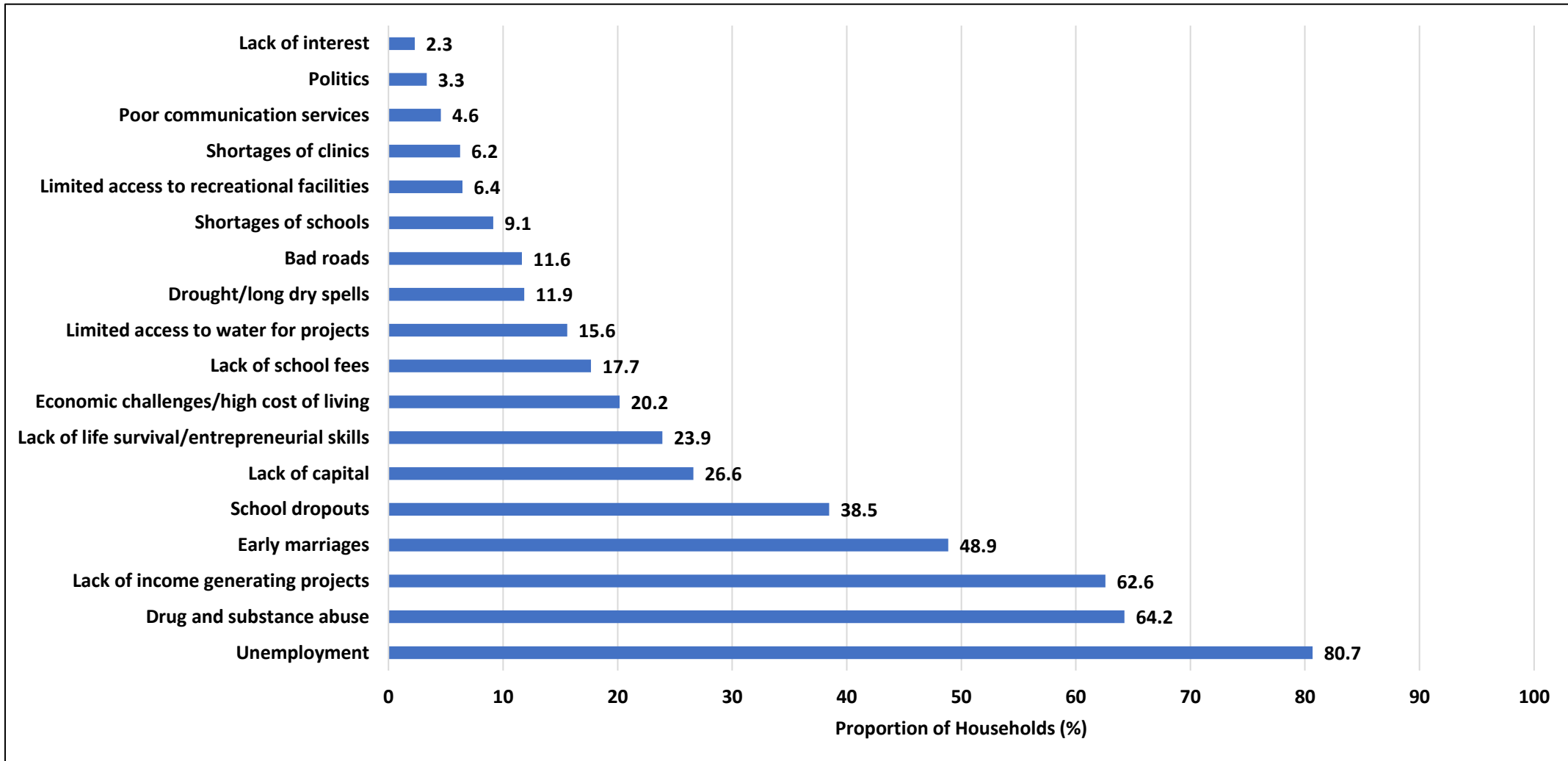
# Intimate Partner Violence

Province	Sexual Abuse (%)	Physical Abuse (%)	Emotional Abuse (%)	Economic Abuse (%)
Manicaland	0.5	2.8	4.2	2.9
Mash Central	0.8	3.2	4.9	3.9
Mash East	0.9	3.0	5.6	3.3
Mash West	0.9	3.0	6.6	5.0
Mat North	0.6	1.7	7.0	3.6
Mat South	0.8	2.3	4.2	2.8
Midlands	0.5	1.9	4.4	2.1
Masvingo	0.3	2.2	3.8	3.4
National	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>

- About 5.1% percent of respondents experienced emotional abuse.

# Youth

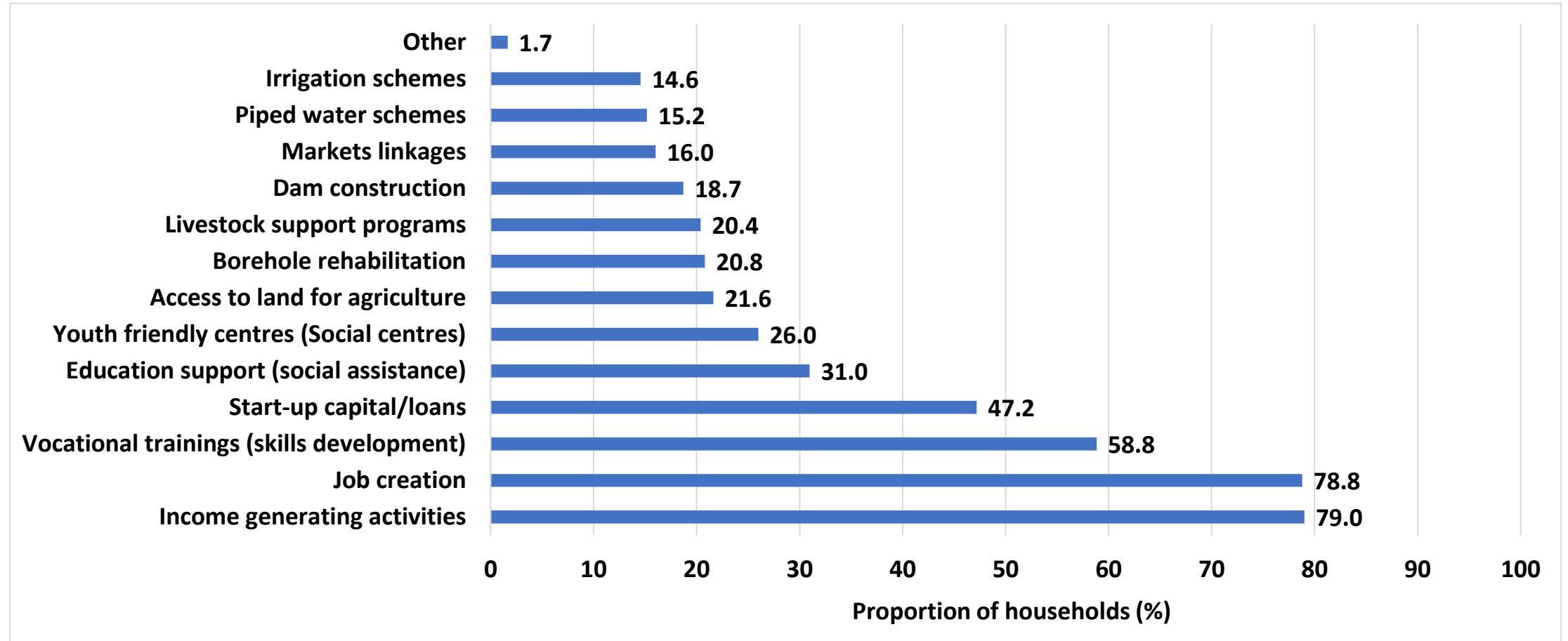
# Youth Challenges



- Unemployment (80.7%), drug and substance abuse (64.2%) and lack of income generating activities (62.2%) were reported as major challenges affecting youths.



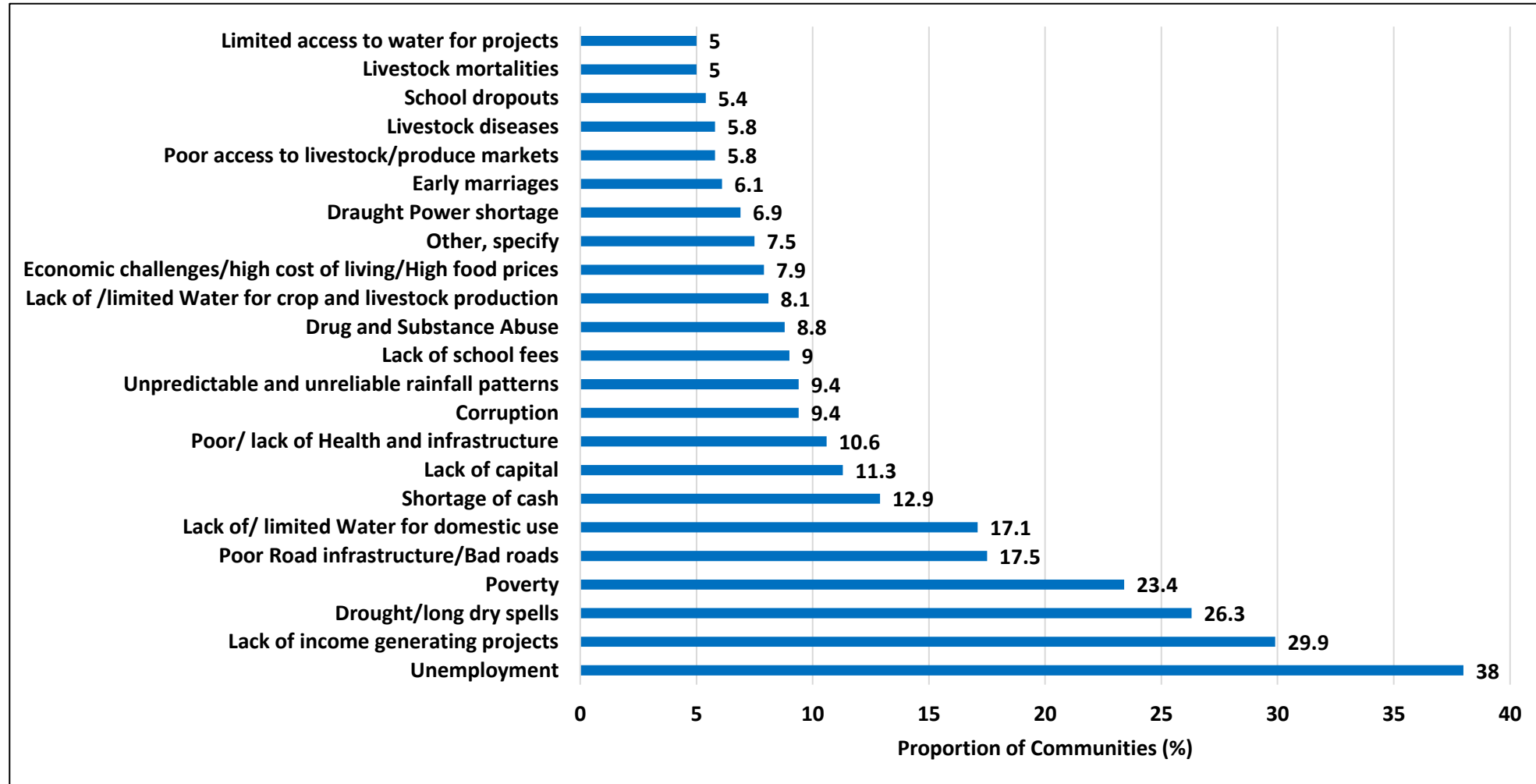
# Youth Priorities



- Income generating activities (79%), job creation (78.8%), vocational trainings (58.8%) and start up capital/ loans (47.2%) were reported as the major development priorities for youth.

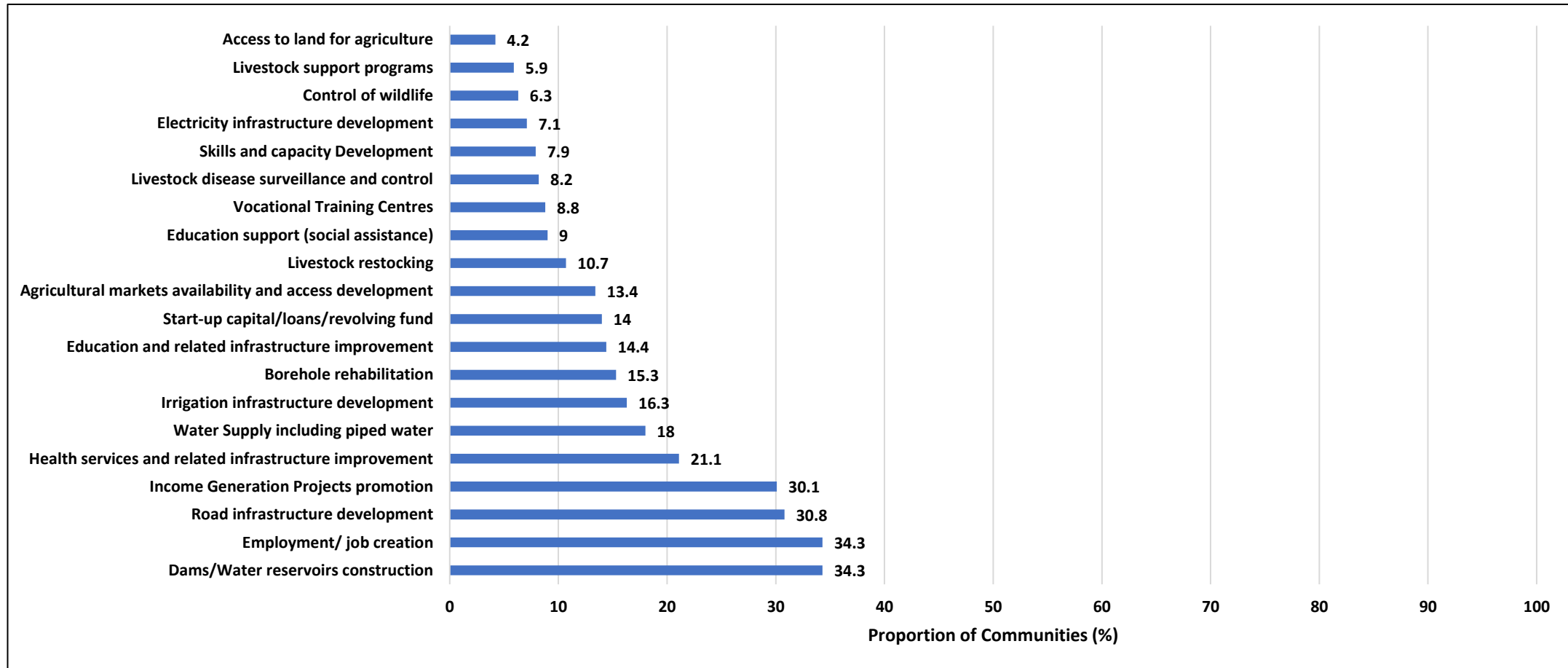
# **Development Issues**

# Community Development Challenges



- Unemployment (38%) was ranked high at national level followed by lack of income generating activities (29.9%).

# Community Development Priorities



- Most communities prioritised construction of dams/ water reservoirs (34.3%) and employment/job creation (34.3%).

# **Conclusions and Recommendations**

# Conclusions & Recommendations

## Social Assistance

- Government-led social assistance increased from 61% to 66% in 2023, indicating increased coverage of support for vulnerable communities. The Government is commended for the continued support to vulnerable communities. UN/NGOs also provided complementary social assistance (12%).

## Shocks and Hazards

- There was a reduction in the number of shocks experienced by households from an average of 8 in 2022 to 2.8 in 2023. The findings reflect that households were more resilient to perceived shocks affecting their communities, as the average shock exposure index (2.8) was lower than the shock recovery index (5.5). This positive shift has been due to the various Government-led resilience-building initiatives (also supported by development and humanitarian partners) implemented to manage shocks and hazards.
- In addressing the reported increase in human-wildlife conflict which has mainly affected populations in Kariba (50%), Mbire (43%) and Buhera (40%)- areas that are proximal to protected nature reserves, it is recommended to capacitate and resource the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks), particularly strengthening implementation of the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE).
- In addressing economic-related shocks, particularly cash shortages (55%), sharp increases in cereal prices (27.8%), and high electronic funds transactional costs—mobile money and swipe (23.1%), the Government should ensure the continued monitoring of the monetary and fiscal policy, especially pricing regulations, to ensure that considerations for rural economies are fully incorporated.

# Conclusions & Recommendations

## Agriculture Production

- About 63% of households did not own cattle and 56% did not own goats. The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development should continue implementing various livestock development programmes aimed at increasing the proportion of households owning livestock and improve access to draught power.
- Cattle mortality was at 13% and the major cause of cattle deaths was diseases (13.4%). The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development should strengthen surveillance and disease control programmes.
- Adoption of climate-smart technologies was mostly prominent in the use of quality-certified seeds and Pfumvudza/Intwasa (47%), alongside the promotion of effective natural resource management practices. While these are efficient interventions, the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, Climate and Rural Development should spearhead the establishment of a multi-stakeholder strategy aimed at scaling-up climate smart agriculture through the adoption of context-specific proven and beneficial practices and/or technologies, as this directly impacts the improvement of rural livelihoods sensible to the impact of climate change while fostering productive collaborations through public-private partnerships.
- Nationally, the most common improved livestock practices were deworming (20.9%) and dipping (40.5%). Significant investments should be made towards ensuring a good animal health industry for the delivery of key outcomes. The investments should focus on creating policy enabling environments, sustainable production, livestock risk management, including pests and diseases, research and technological transfers to drive efficient practices.

# Conclusions & Recommendations

## Incomes

- There was an increase in income from USD\$ 57 to USD\$ 116. Government is encouraged to continue implementing economic stabilization measures which have resulted in this improvement.

## Consumption Patterns

- There was an increase in the proportion of households consuming acceptable diets from 35% in 2022 to 55% in 2023. on average, households were consuming 5.6 food groups and this maintained the level of severe hunger at 1%.

## Vitamin A Supplementation

- The proportion of children who received the recommended dose of Vitamin A in the preceding 12 months was 84% and 64% for the 6-11 months age group and 12-59 months age group respectively. Only Matabeleland North (90%) reached the recommended WHO target of 90% for children aged 6-11 months who received Vitamin A. Therefore, there is need to scale-up efforts in all the remaining provinces to reach the WHO target of 90%.



# Conclusions & Recommendations

## Food Security

- There was a reduction in the prevalence of cereal insecurity from the baseline year 2020 which was at 56% through to 26% in 2023. This reduction is worth noting and Government is commended for the continued commitment towards achieving one of the country's goals in the NDS1, particularly of ensuring a food surplus economy. However, Zimbabwe's climate variability is among the key drivers behind the cereal insecurity. During the peak hunger period (January to March 2024) it is estimated that approximately 26% of the rural households will be cereal insecure. The 26% of rural households will translate to approximately 2,715,717 individuals requiring 100,482 MT of cereal (maize grain). The Government and partners should consider introducing conditional assistance to households with able-bodied members to avoid creating a dependency syndrome in these vulnerable communities. Special attention should be given to Matabeleland North (42%), Mashonaland Central (31%), and Masvingo (30%), as these provinces are projected to have the highest proportion of food-insecure households during the peak hunger period.

# Conclusions & Recommendations

## Development Issues

- About 80.7% of the communities reported that unemployment was the major challenge affecting youth development. The Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts, and Recreation is urged to increase efforts to implement/roll out the National Youth Service Policy Guiding Framework and the National Youth Service Implementation Matrix: 2021–2025, specifically provisions relating to enhancing economic opportunities for youth.
- Most communities prioritised construction of dams/ water reservoirs (34.3%) and employment/job creation (34.3%) and road infrastructure development (30.8%). There is need for Government to increase investment in the development of water resources and road infrastructure.

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