

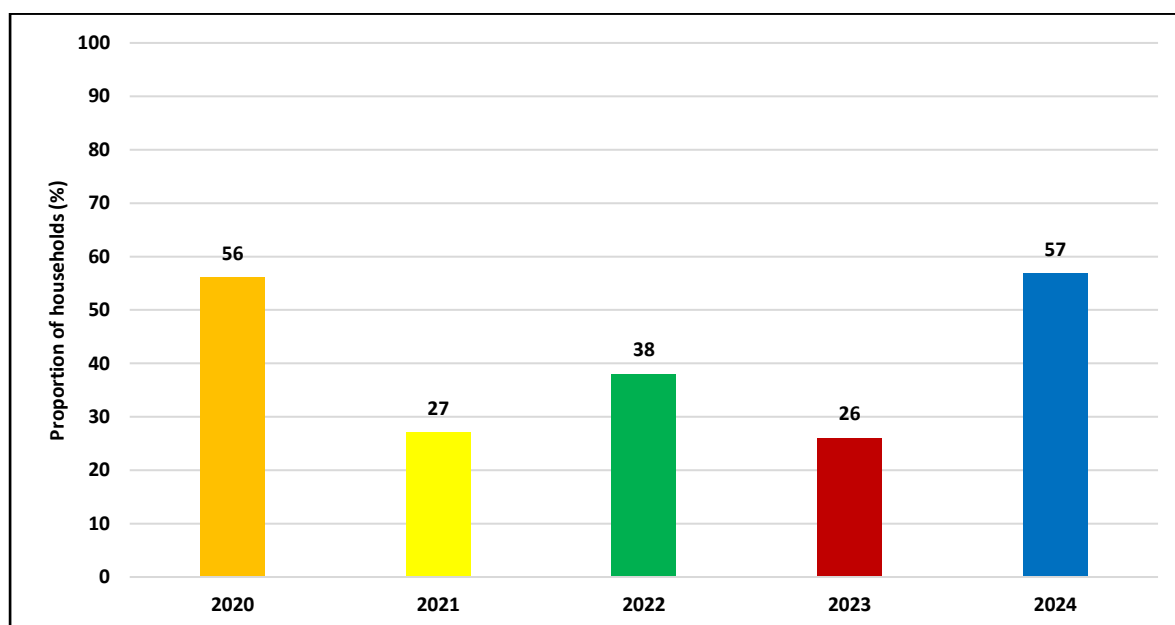


Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment *Factsheet*

The Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) continues to undertake annual livelihoods assessments in fulfilment of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. The 2024 ZimLAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment was undertaken against the background of the 2023/2024 El Niño induced drought. This assessment was guided by the urgent need for the Government of Zimbabwe to determine the impact of the El Niño induced drought on households in the rural areas and provide evidence to inform decision making.

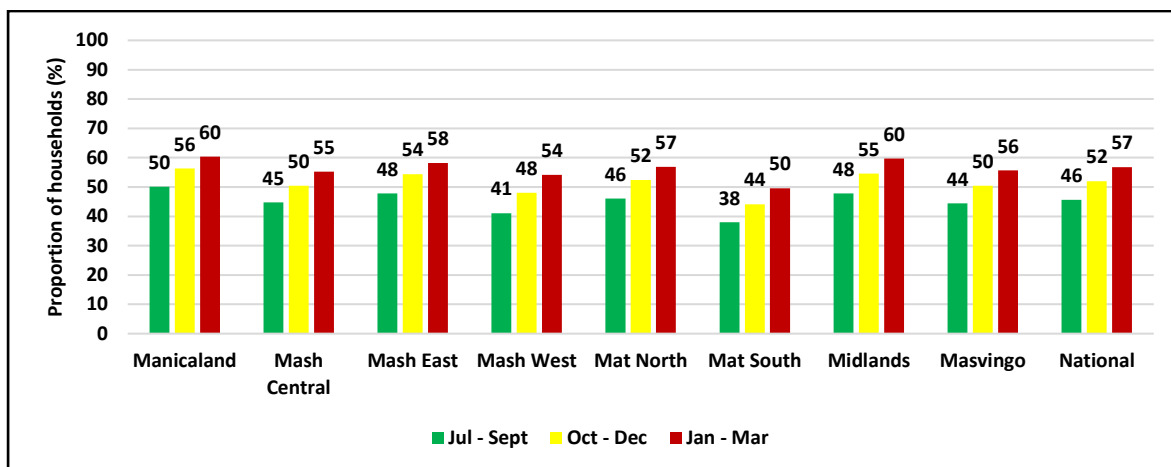
1. Cereal Insecurity

The cereal insecurity prevalence is projected to be 57% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2025) in the 2024/25 consumption year.



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2024

Generally, the household cereal insecurity has deteriorated across all provinces due to poor rains.



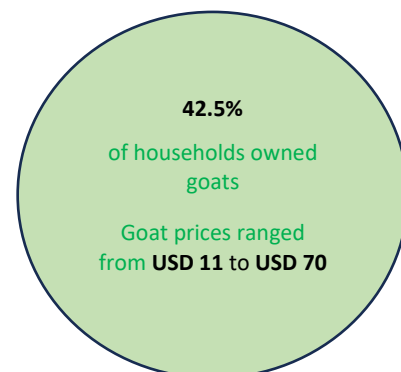
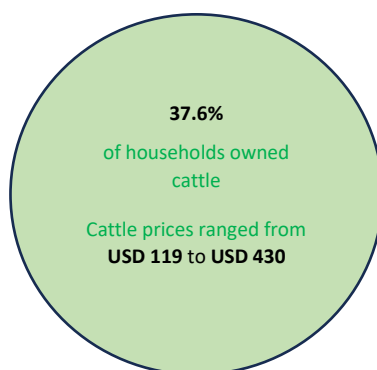
Cereal Insecurity

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

Province	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	872,817	980,800	1,049,770
Mashonaland Central	589,623	664,423	728,640
Mashonaland East	751,828	854,404	914,643
Mashonaland West	596,581	697,741	787,053
Matabeleland North	346,258	393,879	427,389
Matabeleland South	250,472	291,199	327,386
Midlands	656,232	749,023	819,984
Masvingo	669,297	760,863	839,503
National	4,733,107	5,392,332	5,894,368

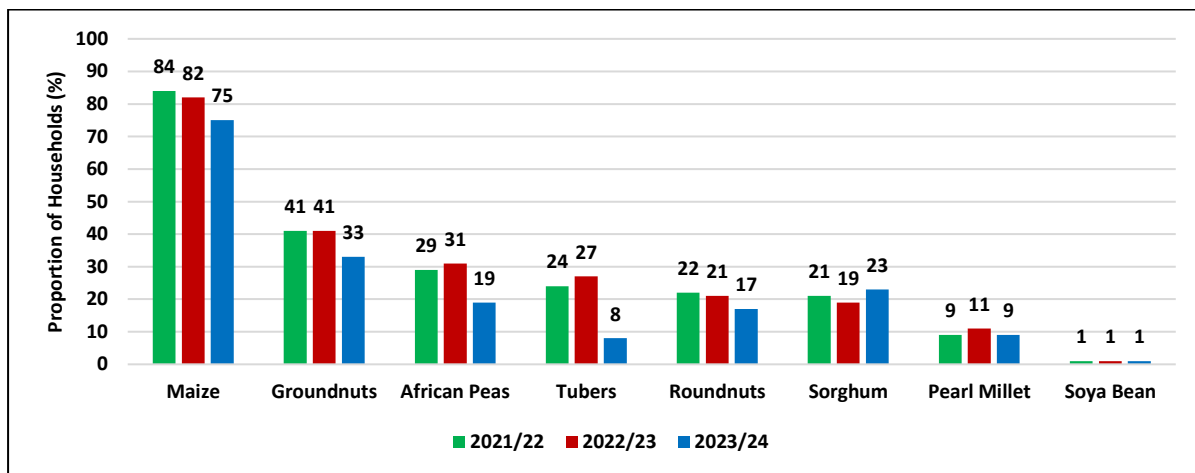
Manicaland (1,049,770) and Mashonaland East (914,643) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

2. Livestock Production



3. Crop Production

The proportion of households which grew crops decreased across all crops, except for sorghum which had an increase from 19% in 2022/23 to 23% in the 2023/24 season.



Households Which Grew Crops

Season Harvest

Province	Maize		Sorghum		Pearl Millet		Finger Millet		Total Cereals	
	Expected (kgs)	Actual (kgs)	Expected (kgs)	Actual (kgs)	Expected (kgs)	Actual (kgs)	Expected (kgs)	Actual (kgs)	Expected (kgs)	Actual (kgs)
Manicaland	1152	105	53	6	6	1	26	3	1236	115
Mash Central	894	107	251	10	0	0	2	0	1147	117
Mash East	809	88	46	2	6	1	2	0	862	91
Mash West	1240	50	99	4	1	0	1	0	1341	54
Mat North	425	30	169	39	5	0	123	30	723	99
Mat South	394	26	109	19	3	0	37	8	542	53
Midlands	1093	136	153	9	6	0	4	0	1257	145
Masvingo	651	61	245	28	17	2	100	16	1013	108
National	837	77	140	14	5	1	35	7	1016	99

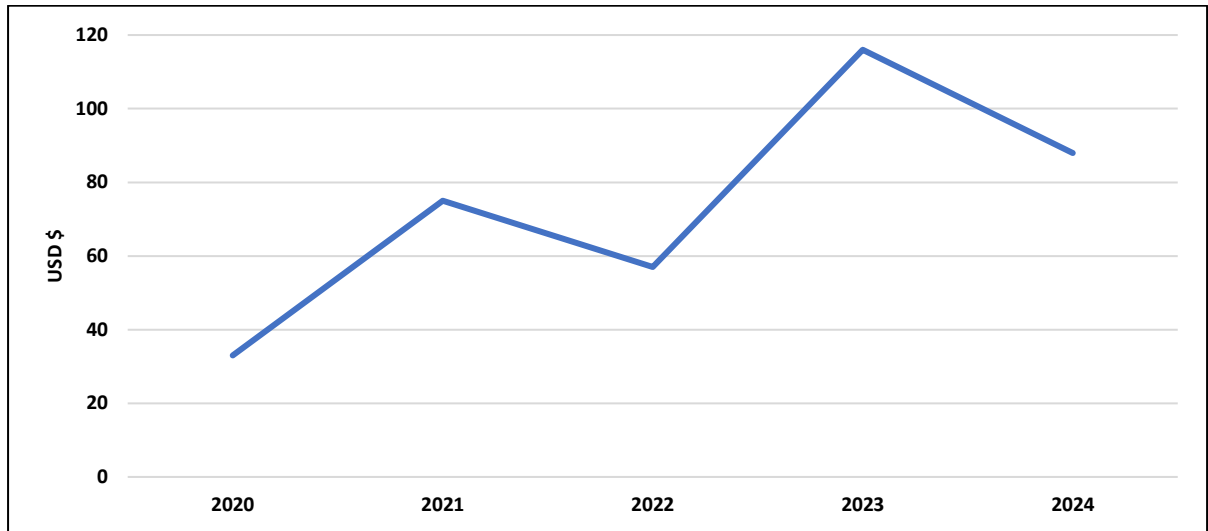
On average, households were expecting to harvest 837 kgs of maize and 140 kgs of sorghum.

The actual household harvest was 77 kgs for maize and 14 kgs for sorghum.

4. Household Income

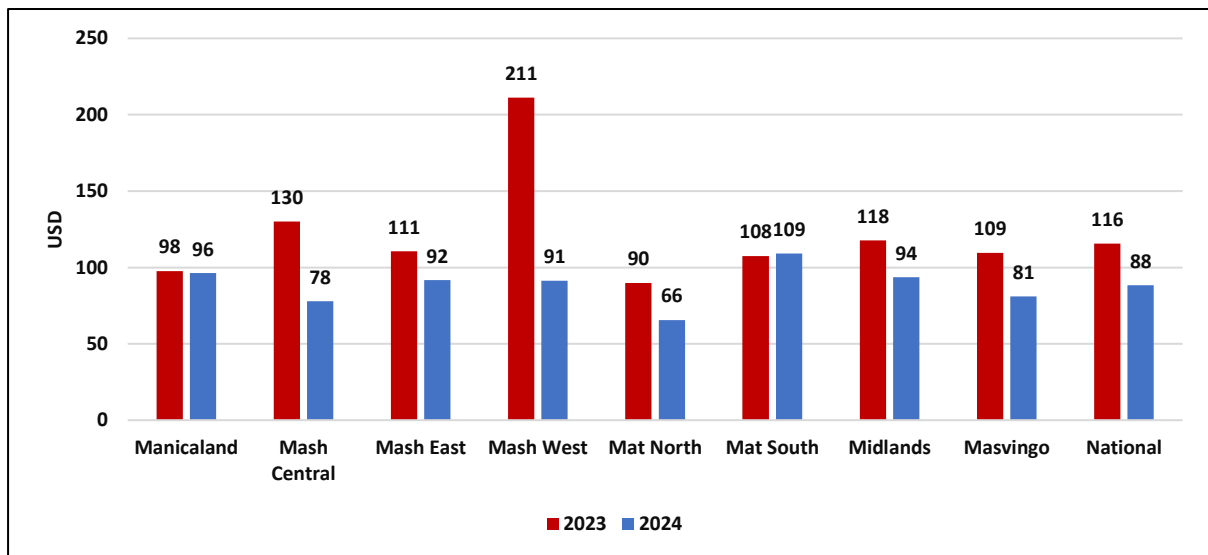
Income Trends

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



Income Trends: 2020-2024

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2024

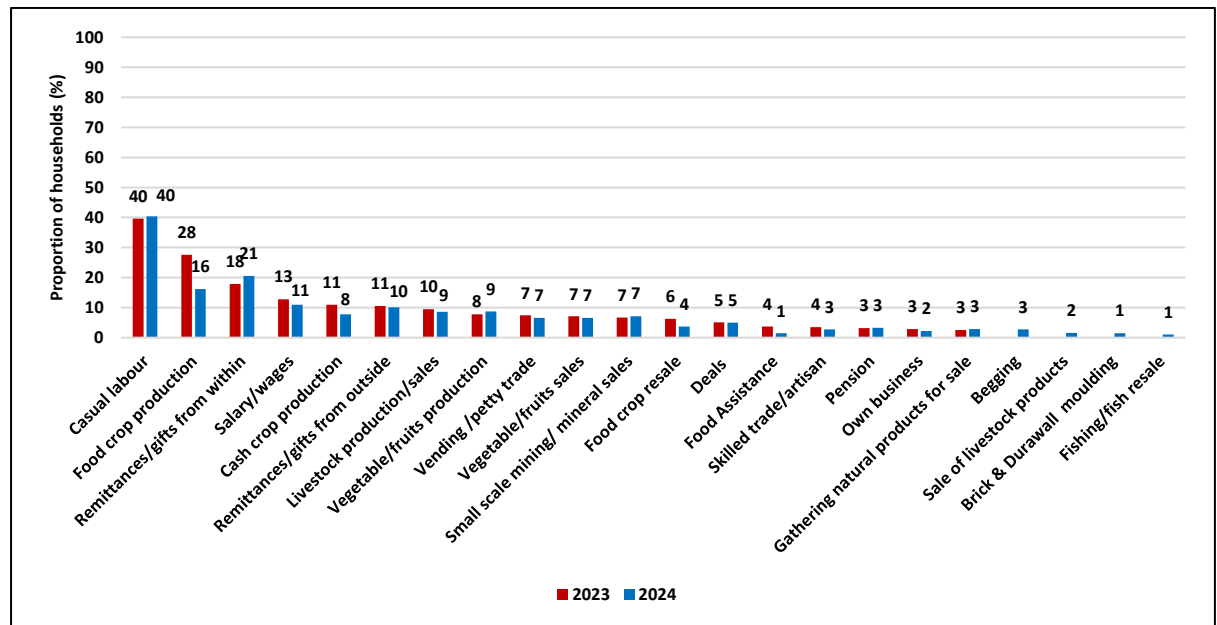


Average Household Income

The household average monthly income decreased from USD 116 in 2022 to USD 88 in 2024.

Income Sources

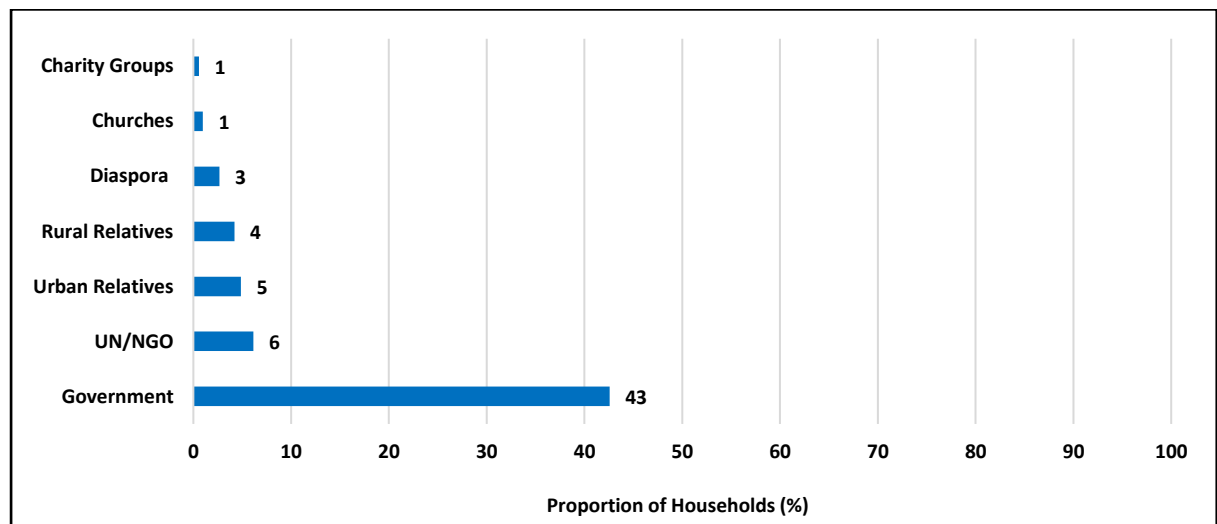
Most households relied on casual labour (40%), food crop production (16%) and remittances from within Zimbabwe (21%).



Households' Most Important Income Sources

5. Social Assistance

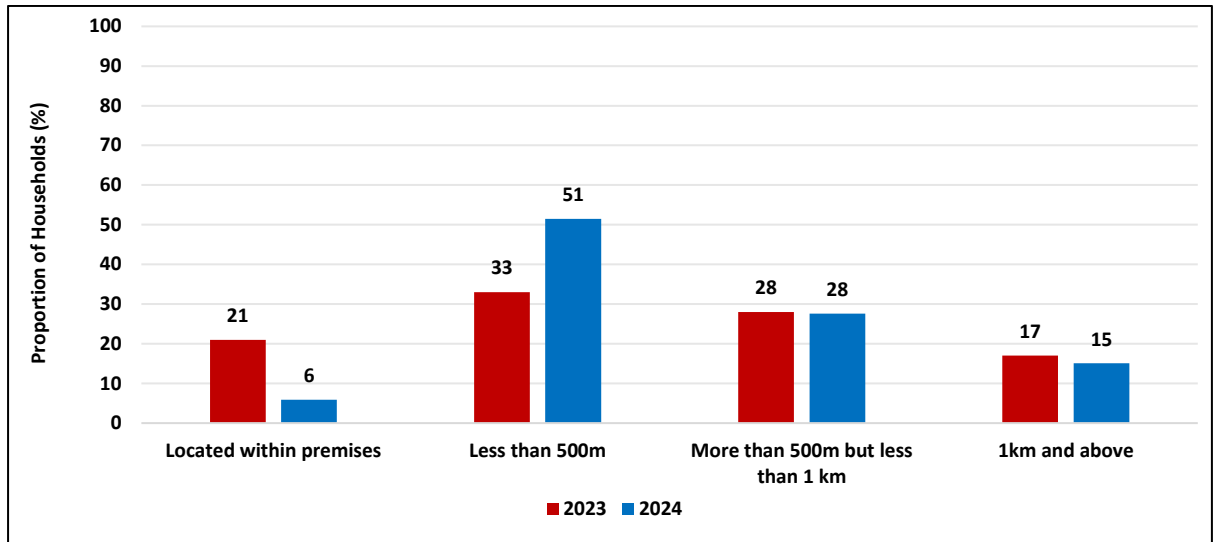
The majority of households (43%) reported having received support from Government followed by UN/NGOs (6%) and urban relatives (5%).



Sources of Support

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The proportion of households with their water source located within premises decreased from 21% in 2023 to 6% in 2024.

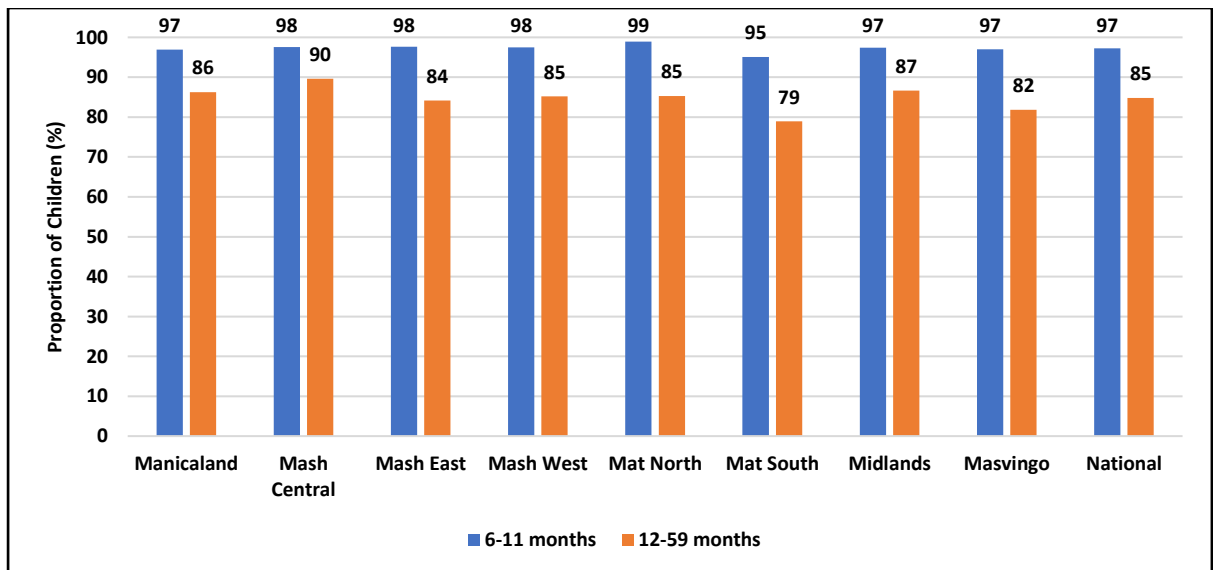


Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

7. Child Health

Vitamin A Supplementation

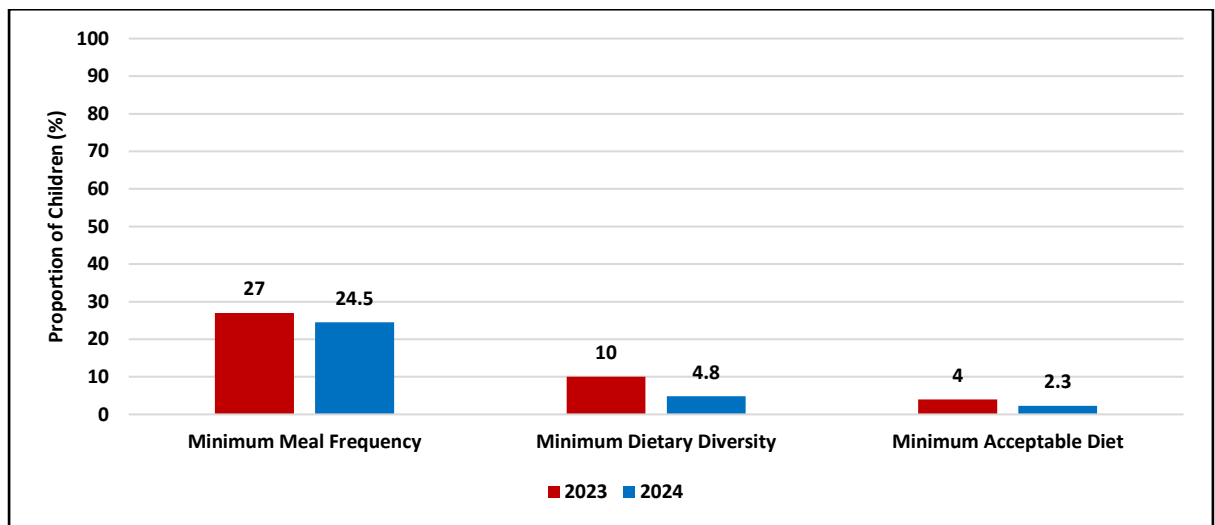
Matabeleland North (99%) had the highest proportion of children 6-11 months who received the required dose of Vitamin A.



Vitamin A Supplementation

8. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality



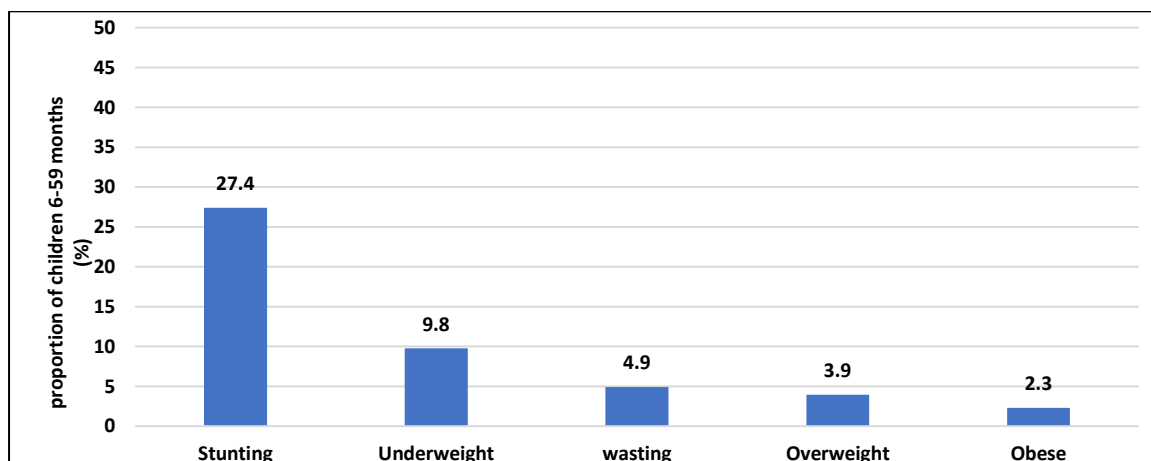
Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

- a) About 2.3% of children achieved a minimum acceptable diet, a decrease from 4% in 2023. This remains below the national target of 25%.
- b) Dietary diversity was also low with only 4.8% of children consuming diversified diets.

9. Child Nutrition Status

Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months

Stunting prevalence (27.4%) remains high according to the World Health Organisation classification.



Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

Government and its Development Partners are recommended to continue implementing measures and strategies in the following areas:

- a) **Food Security:** Over 20% of the households which did not have adequate cereal to complete the consumption year indicated that they would use savings, incomes and remittances to purchase cereal on the market. There is need for the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and the private sector to ensure that staple cereals will be available on the market for cereal deficit households with the means to purchase to do so throughout the consumption year. This assumption is based on the Government maintaining the liberalised maize trade regime.
- b) **Social Protection:** Social assistance decreased from 74% to 48% due to the low food insecurity levels prevailing in the previous consumption year. The 2024 ZimLAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment has provided enough evidence for the need to upscale support to vulnerable communities, especially in the face of the El Nino induced drought and future shocks and stressors. The support should consider vulnerability attributes of population groups. Labour endowed households are recommended to engage in public works and food for assets programmes for resilience building to prevent donor dependency.
- c) **Household Income:** The majority of rural households rely on agriculture-based livelihood options which are susceptible to climate change and variability. Average household monthly income declined from USD 116 in 2023 to USD 88 in 2024, a reflection of how rural livelihoods were negatively impacted by the poor performance of the season. There is need for continued enhancement of rural livelihoods options that are resilient to agriculture related shocks.



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