Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report 2020

Matabeleland North

Foreword

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) under the coordination of the Food and Nutrition Council, successfully undertook the 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA), the 20th since its inception. ZimVAC is a technical advisory committee comprised of representatives from Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. In its endeavour to 'promote and ensure adequate food and nutrition security for all people at all times', the Government of Zimbabwe has continued to exhibit its commitment for reducing food and nutrition insecurity, poverty and improving livelihoods amongst the vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe through operationalization of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP).

As the country is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, this assessment was undertaken at an opportune time as there was an increasing need to urgently collect up to date food and nutrition security data to effectively support the planning and implementation of actions in a timely and responsive manner. The findings from the RLA will also go a long way in providing local insights into the full impact of the Corona virus on food and nutrition security in this country as the spread of the virus continues to evolve differently by continent and by country. In addition, the data will be of great use to Government, development partners, programme planners and communities in the recovery from the pandemic, providing timely information and helping monitor, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and any similar future pandemics. Thematic areas covered in this report include the following: education, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns and food security, COVID-19 and gender based violence, among other issues.

We want to applaud the ZimVAC as well as the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels for successfully carrying out the survey during this unprecedented time. In spite of the apparent risks, they exhibited great commitment towards ensuring that every Zimbabwean remains free from hunger and malnutrition. We also extend our appreciation to Government and Development Partners for the financial support and technical leadership which made the assessment a resounding success. The collaboration of the rural communities of Zimbabwe as well as the rural local authorities is sincerely appreciated. The leadership, coordination and management of the whole assessment displayed by the staff at the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) is also greatly appreciated.

We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work. We hope it will light your way as you search for lasting measures in addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

George D. Kembo (DR.)

FNC Director/ ZimVAC Chairperson

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Acknowledgements

The technical and financial support received from the following is greatly appreciated:

- Food and Nutrition Council
- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Office of the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs, Mash West Province
- Office of the Provincial Development Coordinator
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare
- Binga Rural District Council
- Bubi Rural District Council
- Lupane Rural District Council
- Nkayi Rural District Council
- Hwange Rural District Council
- Tsholotsho Rural District Council
- Umguza Rural District Council
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Ministry of Justice
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-ZRBF)
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- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
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- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Program (WFP)
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Acknowledgement of Support

ZIMBABWE

World Health Organization

Acronyms

EA	Enumeration Area
FNC	Food and Nutrition Council
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
FNSIS	Food and Nutrition Security Information System
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HHS	Household Hunger Score
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
RLA	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
TSP	Transitional Stabilisation Programme
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Background and Introduction

Introduction

- ZimVAC livelihood 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. To date, 20 rural and 6 urban livelihoods updates have been produced.
- ZimVAC plays a significant role in fulfilling Commitment Six, of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) (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 livelihood 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 that ensures that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and malnutrition.

ZimVAC supports Government, particularly FNC in:

- Convening and coordinating national food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe
- Charting 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 2020 RLA was undertaken to guide the following:

- Evidence based planning and programming.
- Early warning for early action.
- Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Monitoring and reporting towards commitments made within the guiding frameworks of existing national food and nutrition policies and strategies (TSP, FNSP, Zero Hunger strategy and the SDGs.
- Development of the National Development strategy and the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, for the next five years.
- The rapidly evolving food and nutrition security situation which was feared to be further deteriorating since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in Zimbabwe in April 2020 called for collection of additional and up to date FNS data.
- The current seasonal analysis could not rely on data collected in February 2020 prior to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The survey was envisioned to support the setting-up of the food and nutrition security near real time monitoring and capacitation of sub-national Food and Nutrition Security Committees.

Purpose

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

Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

1. To assess impact and severity of both Drought and COVID 19 on rural livelihoods.
2. To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2020/21 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity
3. To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
4. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services, protection services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
5. To determine the coverage (accessibility, availability and quality) of humanitarian and developmental interventions in the country.
6. To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
7. To measure resilience at all levels and identify constraints to improving their resilience.
8. To identify early recovery needs in order to determine short to long term recovery strategies.
9. To assess the medium and long term (future) sources of vulnerability and risks to food and nutrition security.

Background

- The 2020 RLA was undertaken against a continuously evolving food and nutrition security situation. The performance of the agricultural season negated by the consecutive drought, coupled with the COVID -19 pandemic have affected the livelihoods of the rural and urban population.
- COVID-19, declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020, has literally turned the world 'upside down' since it started in Wuhan, China with global reported cases of more than 21 million and more than 760, 000 deaths (14 August 2020).
- The Government of Zimbabwe, responded to the pandemic by gazetting Statutory Instrument 83 of 2020 Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Order 2020, on March 27, 2020 declaring the COVID-19 crisis a "national disaster" and introduced a nationwide lockdown with the aim of slowing down the spread of COVID-19.
- The lockdown indicated that essential industries and services needed to remain open to support the health sector and ensure minimal disruption in critical goods and services. During the lockdown the public was strongly encouraged to stay in their homes and to practice social distancing, among other critical preventative measures outlined.
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity in the Southern African region was already alarmingly high, with a record 45 million food insecure people across the SADC countries. Key drivers of this food insecurity include climatic shocks (drought, flooding) and structural macro-economic and social factors.
- The risks which threaten to exacerbate the precarious food security situation through the following:

- impacts on exports, imports (supply chain of essential goods such as food, medicine and other essential supplies such as seeds and fertilizers),
- livelihoods (employment and income reduction) and fiscal pressure on the health sector.
- the downstream impact of policy interventions and regulations being implemented to control the spread of COVID-19 which will be felt at individual, household, community and national levels.

- The COVID-19 outbreak and its debilitating impacts on livelihoods will further exacerbate the situation, eroding community coping capacities and deepening food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable households and individuals.
- Furthermore, we are likely to see an increase in the number of vulnerable people as those who typically are able to cope may find themselves struggling to meet needs given the unprecedented challenging environment.

Background

- ***Impact on Trade***

- immediate impact of COVID-19 being realized through its impact on trade.
- Zimbabwe being hit by a drop in export revenues due to slow-down in demand and weakening of its currency.
- On the import side, Zimbabwe with high food import burden will be affected.
- The decision for lockdown is needed for reducing infection and “flattening the curve” but has far reaching effects on people and their livelihoods, especially of daily wage earners, small businesses, the informal sector and the large population already at risk because of pre-existing vulnerability conditions.

Background

- ***Impact on Programme and Supply Chain***

- Requirements to maintain social/physical distancing and travel restrictions are negatively impacting programme delivery and humanitarian and developmental activities, which threatens food and nutrition security.

- Travel restrictions and border closures are likely to delay the movement of the essential supplies such as seed and fertilizers (for the winter season) which are crucial for the preparation for the 2020/2021 planting season. This could have longer-term implications on the food security of households.

- Programmes will inherently have to depend on reduced information and evidence.

Background

- ***COVID-19 Effect on Populations***

- There is a high likelihood that urban areas are at the highest risk because of high density settlements as they are also the main entry points for international travel. The population group most affected would include the urban poor and the daily wage employees whose livelihoods are curtailed by the lockdown measures.

- The disruption of supplies of agricultural inputs is likely to affect the preparations for the next agricultural season which is very much needed to start the recovery from the back-to-back droughts that have been experienced so far and affect farmers' livelihoods.

- Markets play a major role in enhancing food and nutrition security. However, market dynamics, failures and shortcomings often weaken the desired impacts and long term effects. Furthermore, households with livelihood options such as petty trade, vending, casual labour, skilled trade and own businesses were likely to experience the most impact of no trade during the lockdown period.

Background

- Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe. According to the ZIMSTAT Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report, 70.5% of the population were poor whilst 29.3% were deemed extremely poor.
- The projected GDP growth rate for 2019 was -6.5% and 3% for 2020.
- Year on year inflation for May 2020 was at 785.55%.
- The Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL) for April 2020 was ZWL 7,425.81 which is 703.4% higher compared to the same time last year.
- The impact of poor rainfall distribution was compounded by the unaffordability of key agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilisers and herbicides. Consequently, the area planted to major crops in the 2019/20 season was lower in most areas compared to the same time in the previous season.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design

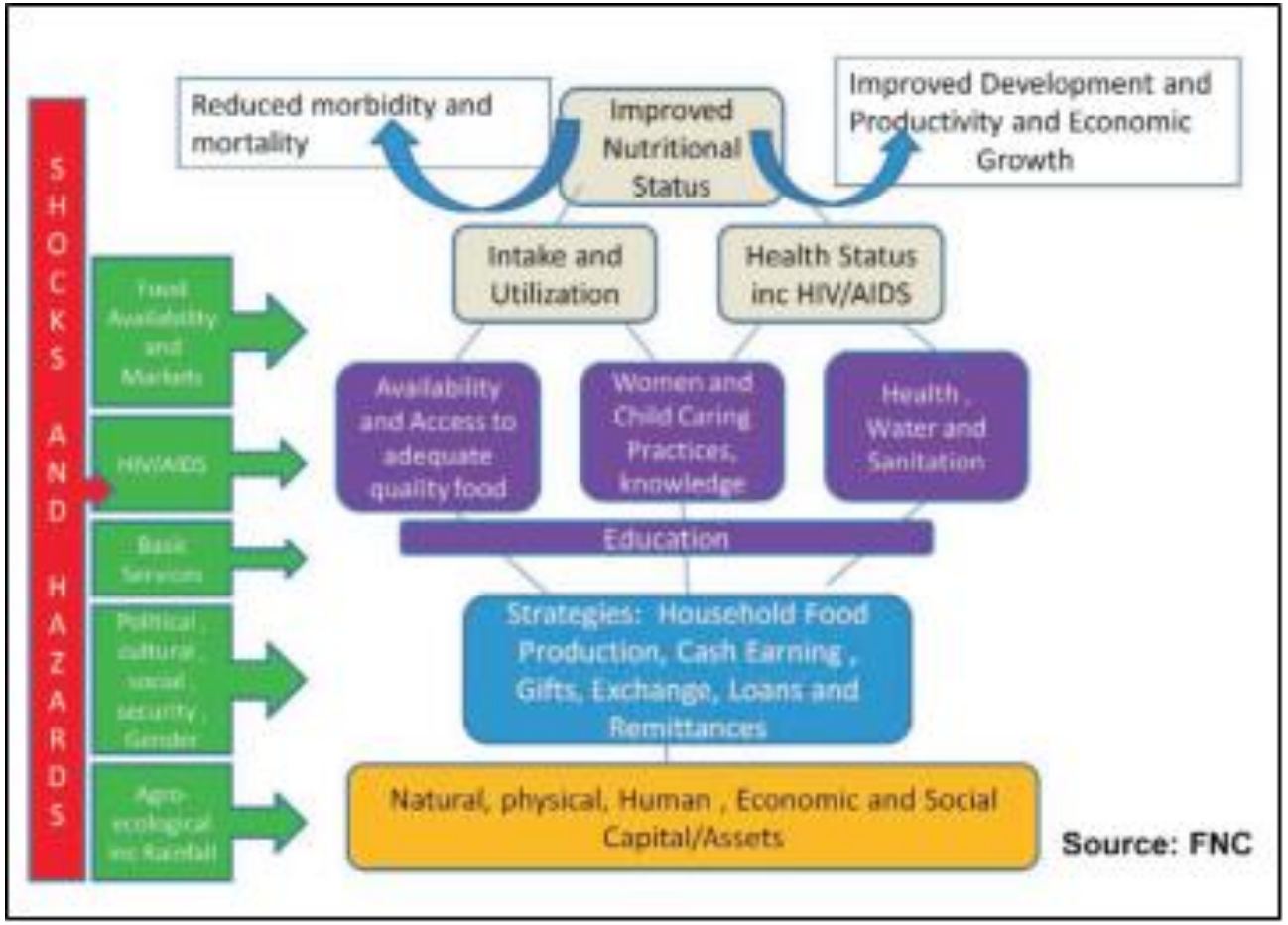


Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

- 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.

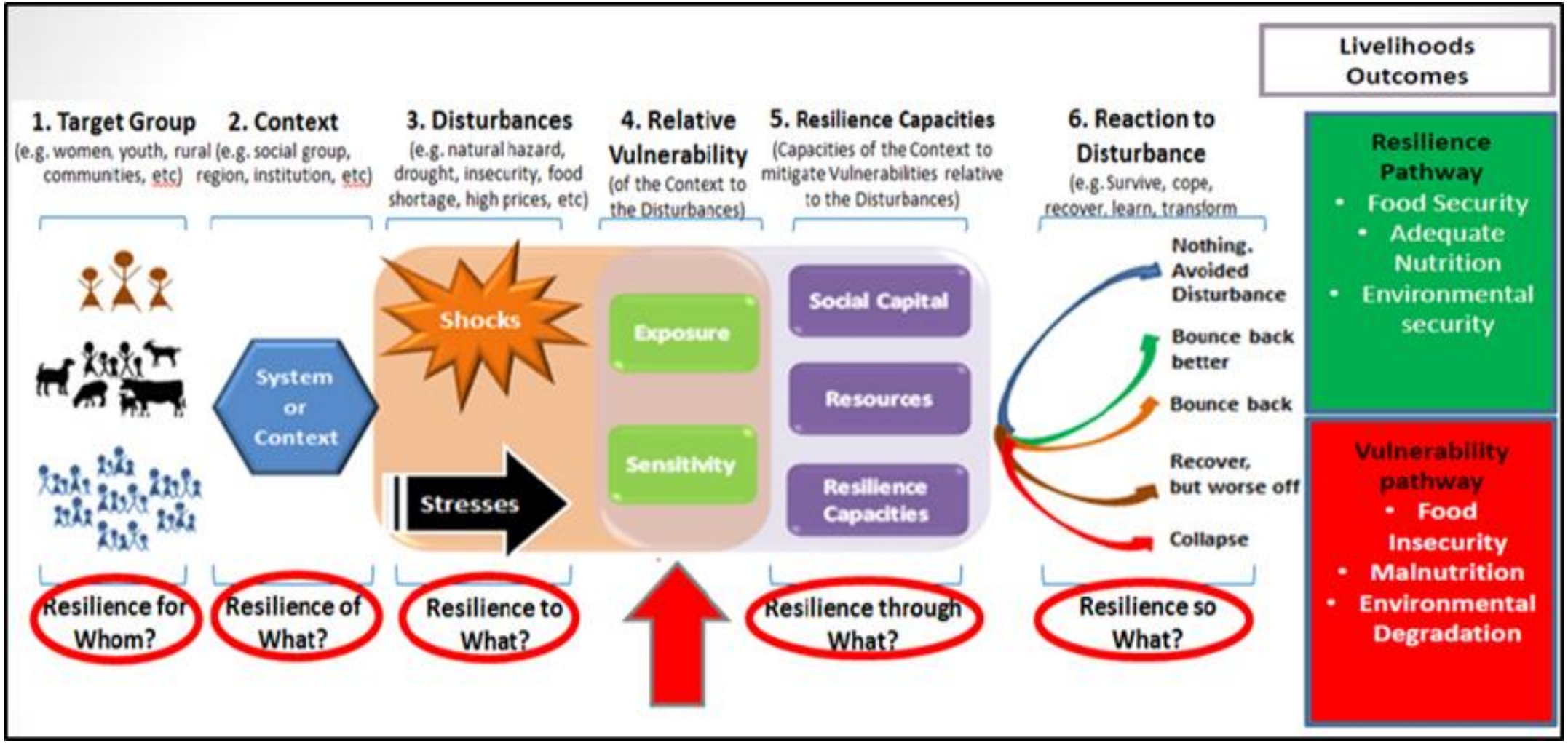


Figure 2: Zimbabwe resilience framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

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 tool and the District key informant tool.
- 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. In order to minimise risk of spreading COVID-19, training for both supervisors and enumerators was done virtually.
- The Ministry of Health and Child Care was the lead ministry in the development of the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines for the assessment. These were used to train all enumerators and supervisors on how to practice IPC measures during the whole assessment process.
- The Ministry of Local Government, through the Provincial Development Coordinators' offices coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial and district enumeration vehicles. Enumerators for the current assessment were drawn from an already existing database of those who participated in one or two previous ZimVAC assessments. Four enumerators were selected from each district for data collection.

Methodology – Assessment Process

- Primary data collection took place from 11 to 25 July, 2020. In recognising the risk of spreading COVID-19 during data collection, innovative approaches were used to collect vital information without causing any harm. The RLA was guided by global and country specific recommendations and all necessary precautions were taken to avoid potential transmission of COVID-19 between enumerators and community members. In order to reduce exposure to COVID-19 through person to person physical contact, primary caregivers were capacitated to measure their children using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes and assessment of oedema.

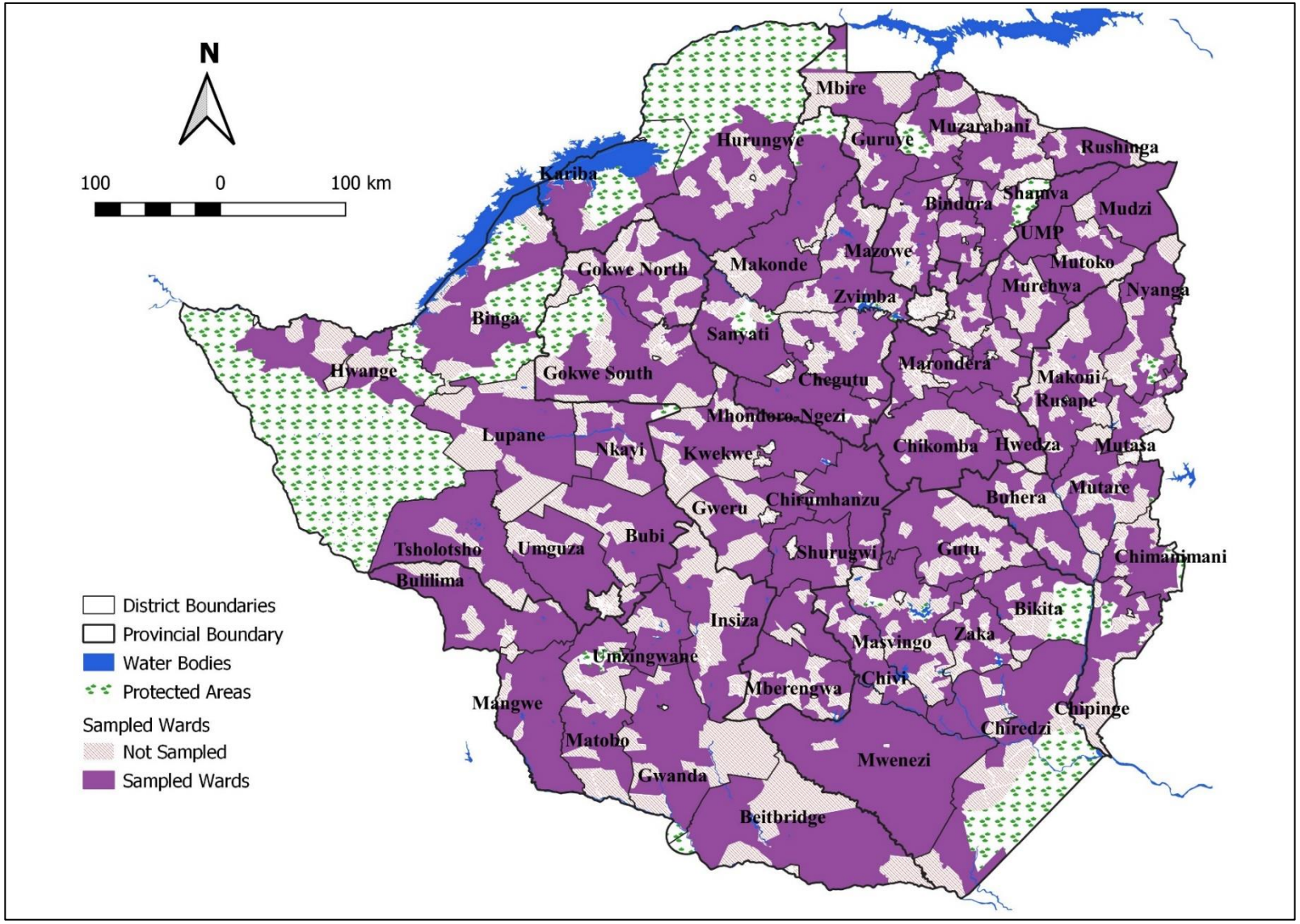
- Data analysis and report writing ran from 27 July to 21 August 2020. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

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 exercise sampled a total of 20 Enumeration areas per district, systematically sampling 10 households for interviewing using a Household Rural Assessment (RLA) questionnaire. To minimize human contact, there were no Focus Group Discussions. The same applied with the traditional anthropometrist role.
- Each district therefore had 4 enumerators each, one amongst them being nominated for the team leader role (based on merit and experience). These worked closely with the Provincial and National Supervisors liaising and updating the team on field issues. The table below further reflects achievements based on set targets by district within the said data collection period.

District	EAs	Households Interviewed
Binga	20	200
Bubi	20	199
Hwange	20	202
Lupane	20	198
Nkayi	20	198
Tsholotsho	20	200
Umguza	20	200
Total	**140**	**1397**

Methodology – Sampled Wards



Data Preparation and Analysis

- Primary data was transcribed using CSEntry on android gadgets and using CSPro, it was consolidated and converted into SPSS, STATA and DBF datasets for:
  - Household structured interviews
  - District key informant Focus Group Discussion (transcribed in excel)
- 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.

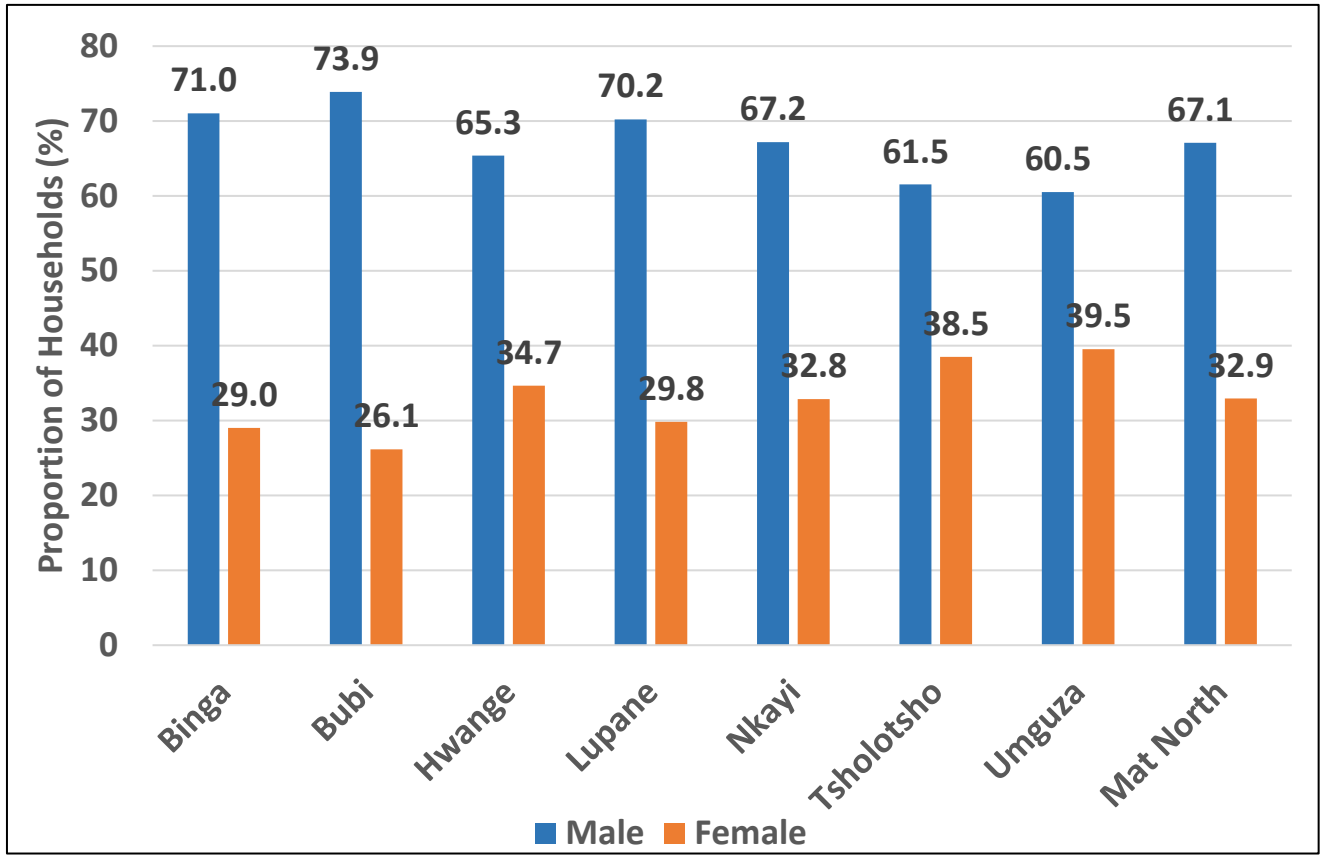
Technical Scope

The 2020 RLA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Education
- Health
- WASH
- Nutrition
- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities
- Food Security
- Shocks and stressors
- Social Protection
- Markets
- Gender Based Violence
- COVID-19
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender

Demographic Description of the Sample

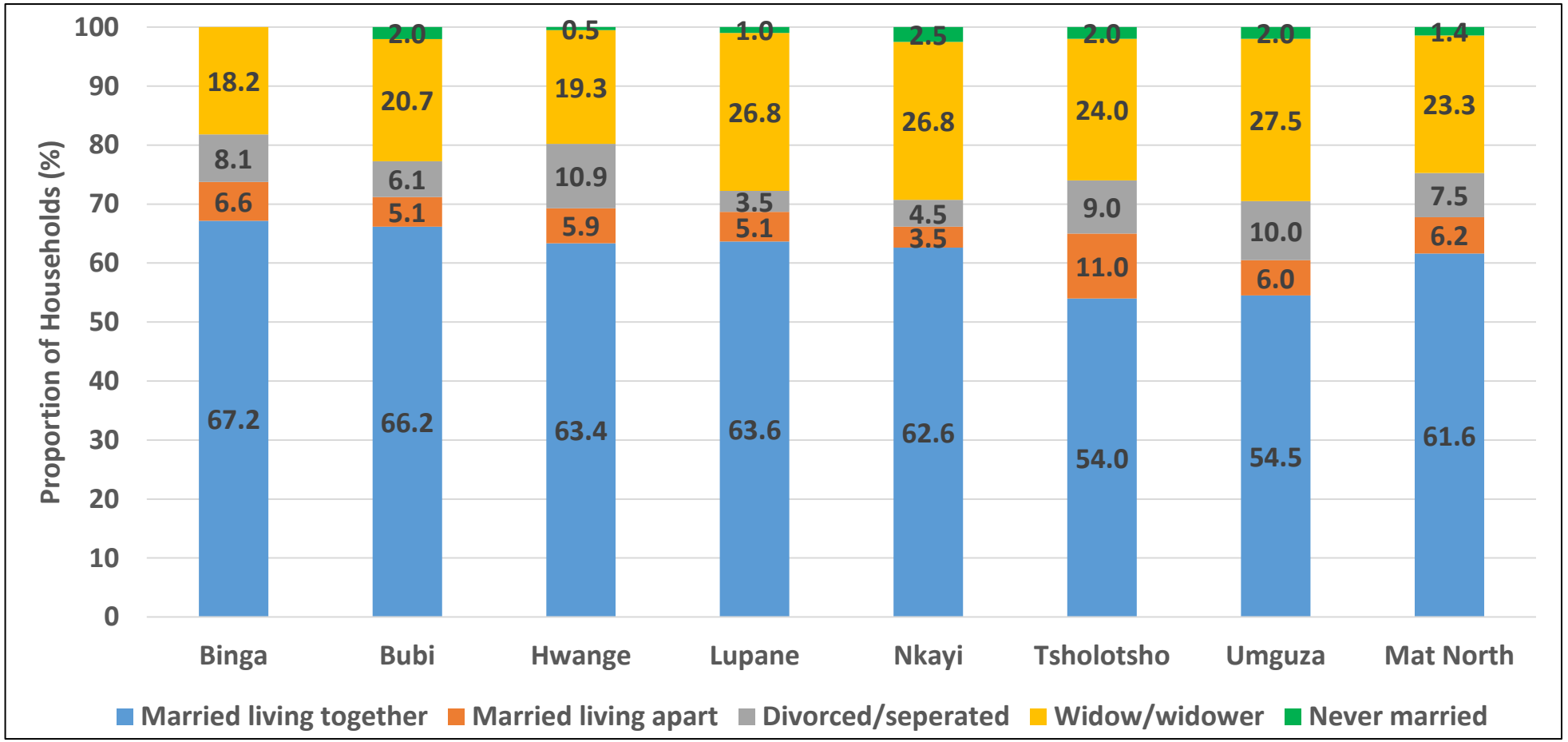
Characteristics of Household Head



	Mean Household head age (yrs)	Proportion of Elderly headed HH (%)
Binga	44.9	21.0
Bubi	52.2	30.7
Hwange	54.1	34.7
Lupane	57.6	49.5
Nkayi	55.2	40.4
Tsholotsho	55.4	40.0
Umguza	55.3	42.5
Matabeleland North	53.5	36.9

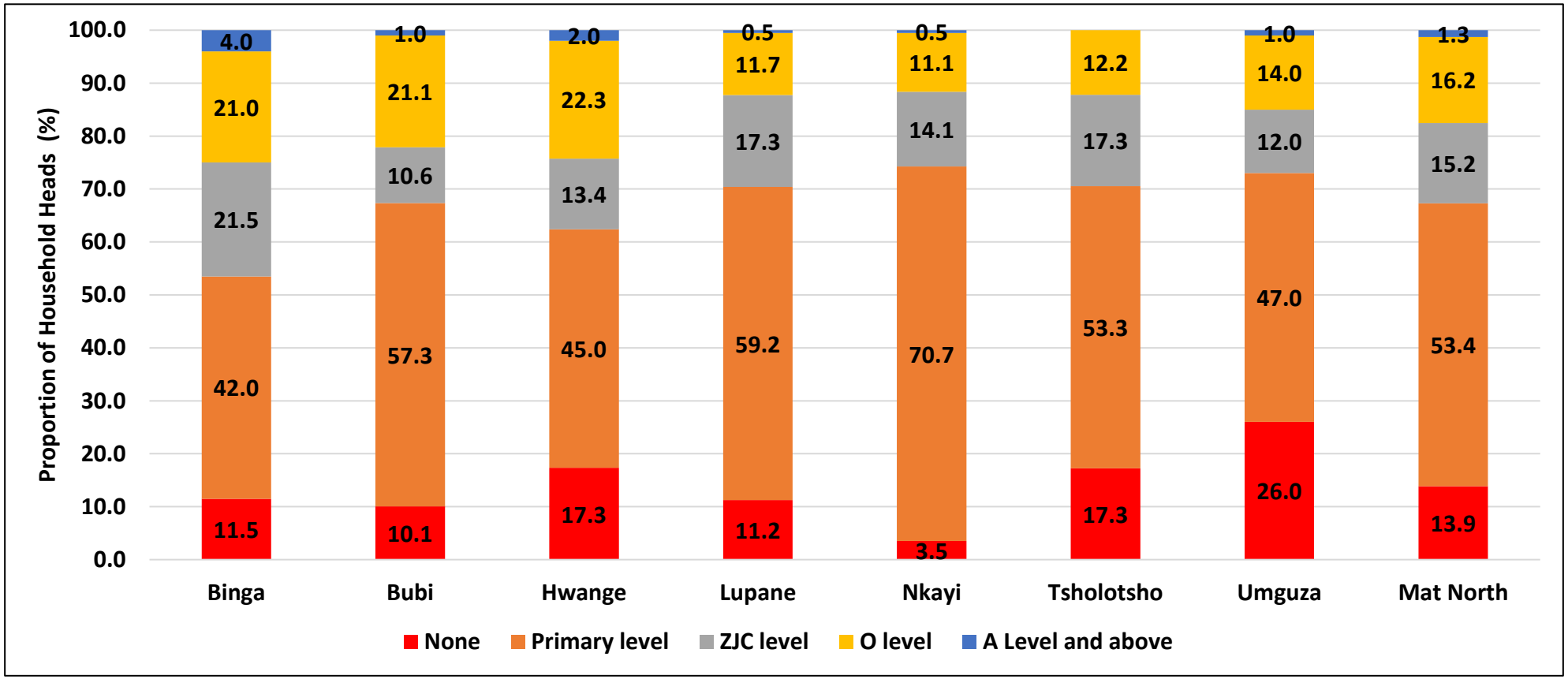
- Overall, there were more male headed than female headed households. Umguza (39.5%) had the highest proportion of female headed households whilst Bubi (26.1%) had the lowest. This trend is synonymous with 2019 ZIMVAC findings.
- Provincial average household age was 53.5years, whilst elderly headed proportions were 36.9%.
- Lupane (49.5%) had the highest proportion with elderly headed households, whilst Binga had the lowest. Notably, there were no households that were child headed.

Marital Status of Household Head



- Married and living together couples (61.6%) constituted a high proportion of households that were sampled in Matabeleland North. All districts had an above 50% of their households headed by couples married and living together.
- Umguza (27.5%) had the highest proportion of widowed household heads, followed closely by Lupane and Nkayi(26.8%).

Education Level of Household Head



- Provincially the findings established that, a total of (53.4%) of household heads had attained at least primary level education.
- Umguza (26.0%) had the highest proportion of Households heads that had not attained primary education, followed by Hwange (17.3%) and Tsholotsho (17.3%).

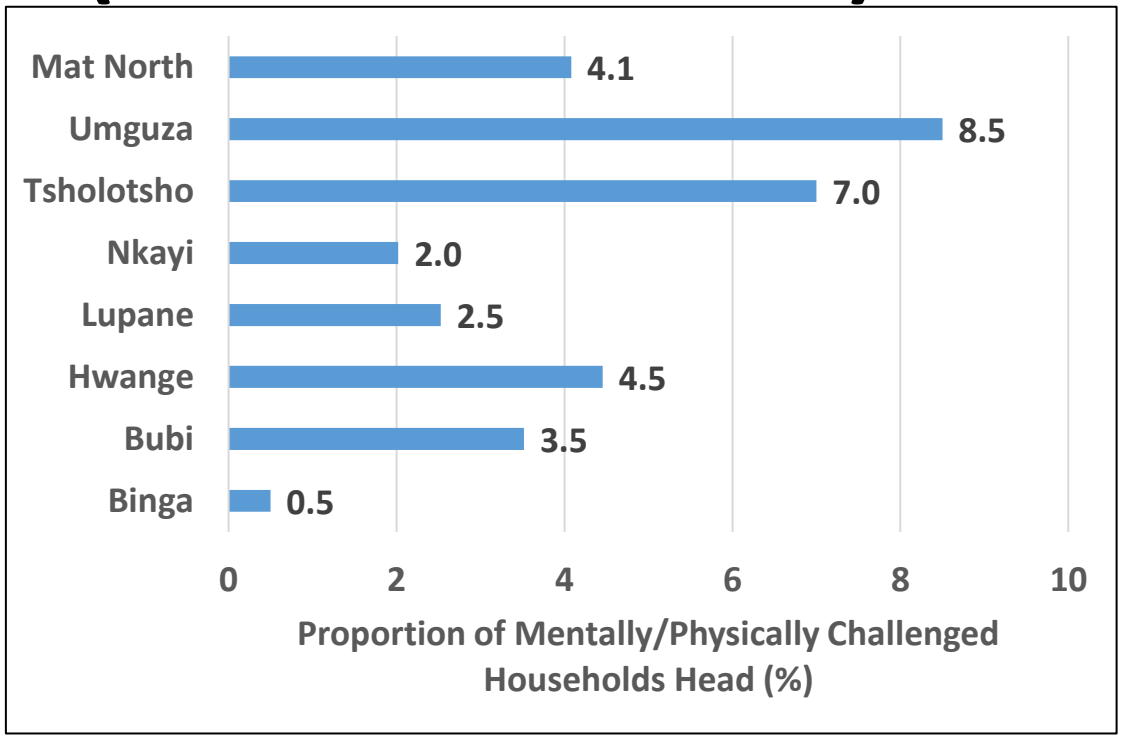
Religion of Household Head

	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Pentecoastal	Apostolic Sect	Zion	Other Christian	Islam	Traditional	Other religion	No religion
Binga	12.4	3.2	34.6	19.5	8.1	14.1	0.0	6.5	0.0	1.6
Bubi	3.2	10.8	9.1	24.7	9.7	3.2	0.5	0.5	5.4	32.8
Hwange	18.4	6.5	29.9	24.9	9.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.5
Lupane	13.8	13.8	7.9	17.5	20.6	4.2	0.0	4.8	1.6	15.9
Nkayi	2.5	8.1	4.0	19.7	24.7	23.7	0.0	4.5	7.6	5.1
Tsholotsho	7.0	11.5	7.0	18.5	22.5	12.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	20.5
Umguza	3.6	9.1	13.2	16.2	19.8	13.2	0.0	1.5	8.1	15.2
Mat North	8.7	9.0	15.0	20.1	16.5	10.4	0.1	2.6	3.5	14.0

- The highest proportion of the household heads sampled were from the Apostolic sect (20.1%) , Zion (16.5%) and Pentecostal religion (15.0%) respectively.
- The proportion with ‘No religion’ was 14.0%. Islam being the smallest proportion had only 0.1% .

Vulnerability Attributes (Household Head)

	Household Head nature of disability (%)				
	Blind	Deaf	Wheelchair bound	Mental/ Intellectual	Other
Binga	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Bubi	57.1	14.3	14.3	0.0	14.3
Hwange	11.1	11.1	11.1	0.0	66.7
Lupane	40.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	40.0
Nkayi	25.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Tsholotsho	21.4	7.1	21.4	7.1	42.9
Umguza	11.8	5.9	5.9	11.8	64.7
Mat North	22.8	7.0	12.3	8.8	49.1



- Of the people with disability, blindness (22.8%) and wheelchair bound (12.3%) were reported as highest in the province.
- Mental/physical challenged household head proportions were highest in Umguza (8.5%) and lowest in Binga (0.5%) .Tsholotsho had the second highest proportion of Mentally/Physically challenged household heads (7%).

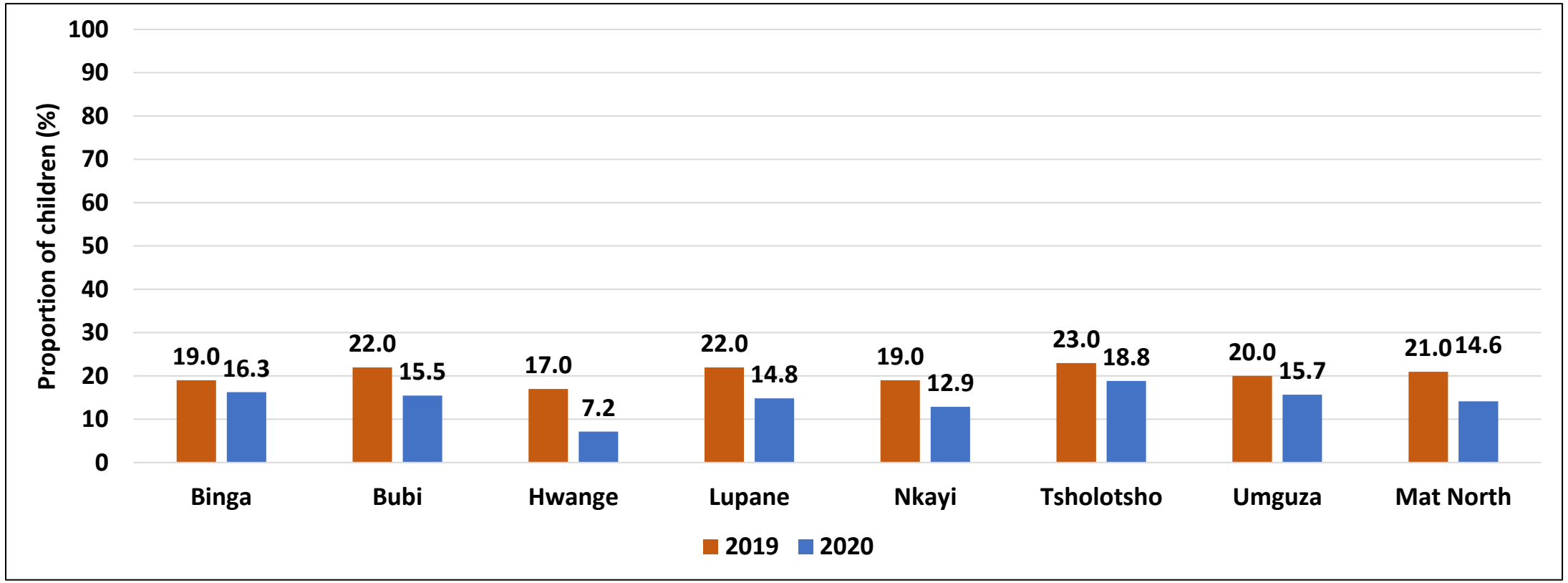
Vulnerability Attributes (Other)

	Orphan present in HH	Mental or physically challenged present in HH	Chronically ill present in HH
Binga	**12.5**	**3.0**	**4.0**
Bubi	**15.1**	**10.1**	**12.6**
Hwange	**16.3**	**11.4**	**10.4**
Lupane	**13.6**	**7.1**	**9.1**
Nkayi	**9.1**	**7.1**	**13.6**
Tsholotsho	**14.0**	**20.0**	**14.5**
Umguza	**18.5**	**21.0**	**10.5**
Mat North	**14.2**	**11.4**	**10.7**

- Orphaned children were mostly reported in Umguza (18.5%),Hwange (16.3%) and Bubi (15%).
- Mental or Physically challenged cases were highest in Umguza (21.0%) and Tsholotsho (20.0%) .
- Chronic illness was highest in Tsholotsho (14.5%) and Nkayi (13.6%)

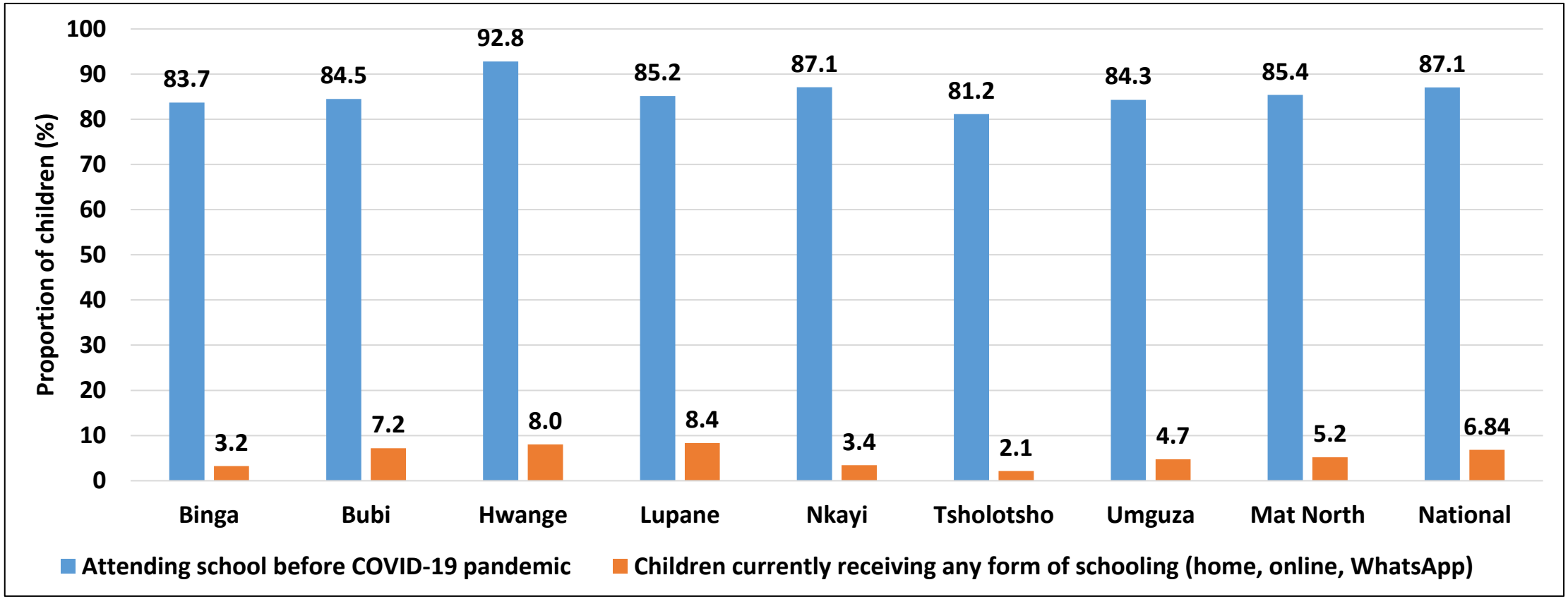
Education

Proportion of Children not Attending School



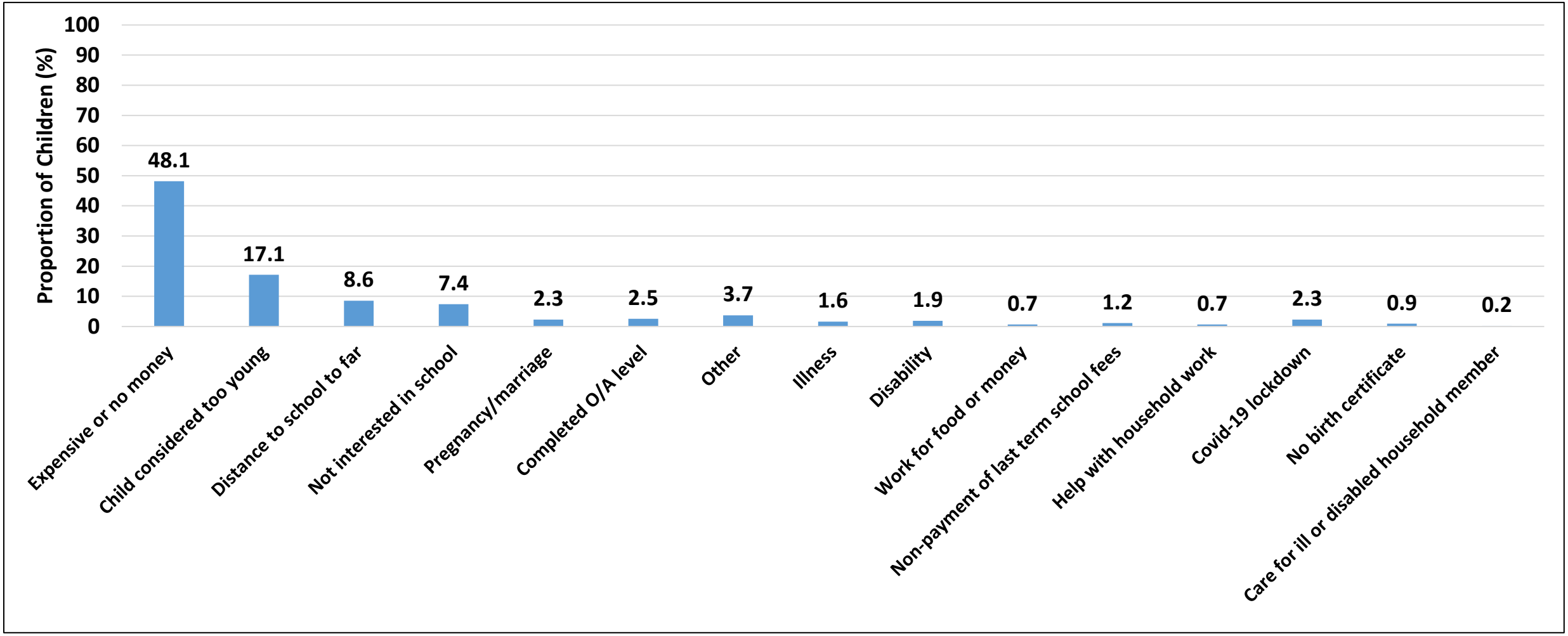
- Proportion of children not attending school had decreased across the whole province from 21% to 14.6%.
- Hwange reported the highest decrease in children not attending school from 17% to 7.2%.
- Binga reported the smallest decrease from 19% last year to 16.3%.

Province School Attendance Before COVID-19 Pandemic



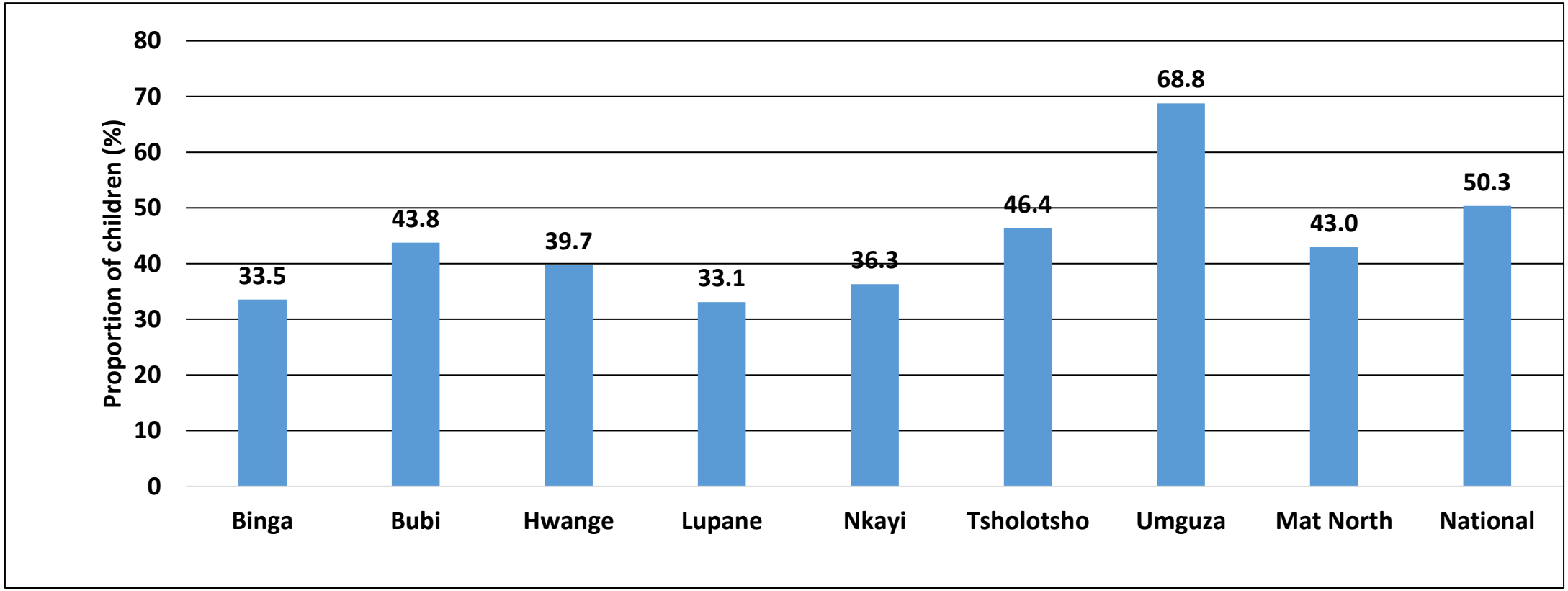
- School attendance was generally above 80% across all districts before the COVID-19 pandemic, with a provincial average of 85.4% attendance.
- Hwange had the highest level of attendance at 92.8% followed by Nkayi (87.1%).
- The proportion of children accessing any form of education during the COVID-19 pandemic was generally low at 5.2%.
- Lupane (8.4%)had the highest proportion of children receiving any form of schooling during the lockdown period.

Reasons for not Being Enrolled in School



- The main reason given for children not enrolled in school was expensive or no money (48.1%), followed by child considered too young (17.1%).

Children Turned Away From School

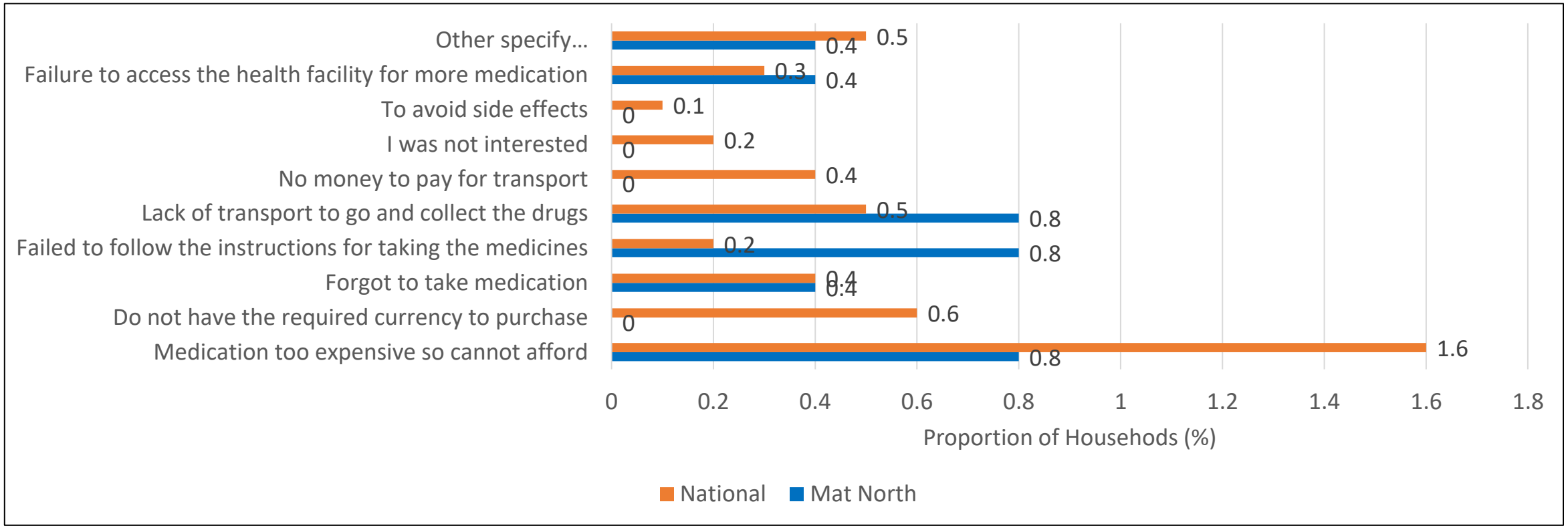


- The proportion of children turned away for non payment of school fees continues to be high in all districts with the provincial average of 43%.
- Highest proportion of children turned away was in Umguza (68.8%).

Chronic Illnesses

A chronic condition is a Human Health condition or disease that is persistent or otherwise long lasting in its effects or a disease that comes with time.

Reasons for Missing HIV Medication



- Only Hwange, Tsholotsho and Umguza reported cases of missing HIV medication for one or more reasons. No household reported to have missed their HIV medication as a result of displacement , stock running out, lost medication or of not having anything to eat.
- The main reason for missing medication was because of unaffordability, failure to follow instructions and the lack of transport (all at 0.8%).

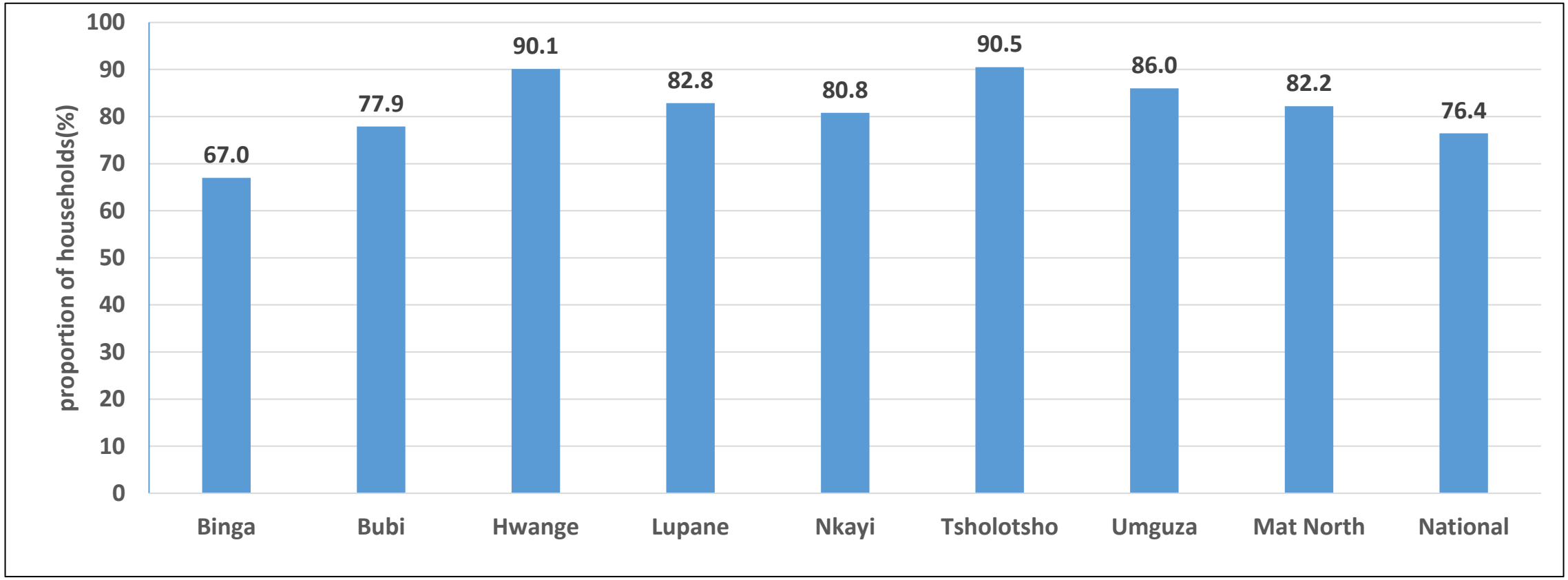
Reasons for Missing Chronic Condition Medication

	Medication too expensive so cannot afford	Do not have the required currency to purchase	Forgot to take medication	Failed to follow the instructions for taking the medicines	Displacement	Lack of transport to go and collect the drugs	No money to pay for transport	I was not interested	To avoid side effects	Stock-out at the health facility	Failure to access the health facility for more medication	Did not have food to eat	Lost the medication	Other specify…
Binga	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	6.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hwange	12.0	4.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lupane	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nkayi	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6
Tsholotsho	12.8	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Umguza	8.7	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8
Mat North	9.0	2.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.8

- No household reported to have missed their Chronic condition medication from having lost medication or for not having anything to eat.
- The major reason for missing medication were reported to be due to unaffordability of medication(9%) and failure to acquire required currency (2.3%).
- Lack of transport was likely to have been increased as a result of restricted movement for COVID 19 Compliance.

Social Protection

Households that received Social Support



- The proportion of households which received support from all possible sources in the form of food, cash, crop inputs, livestock inputs or WASH inputs was (82.2%).
- From the sampled households, Tsholotsho (90.5%) had the highest proportion of households who received any form of social support. These were closely followed by Hwange (90.1%).
- The district which received the least support was Binga (67.0%).

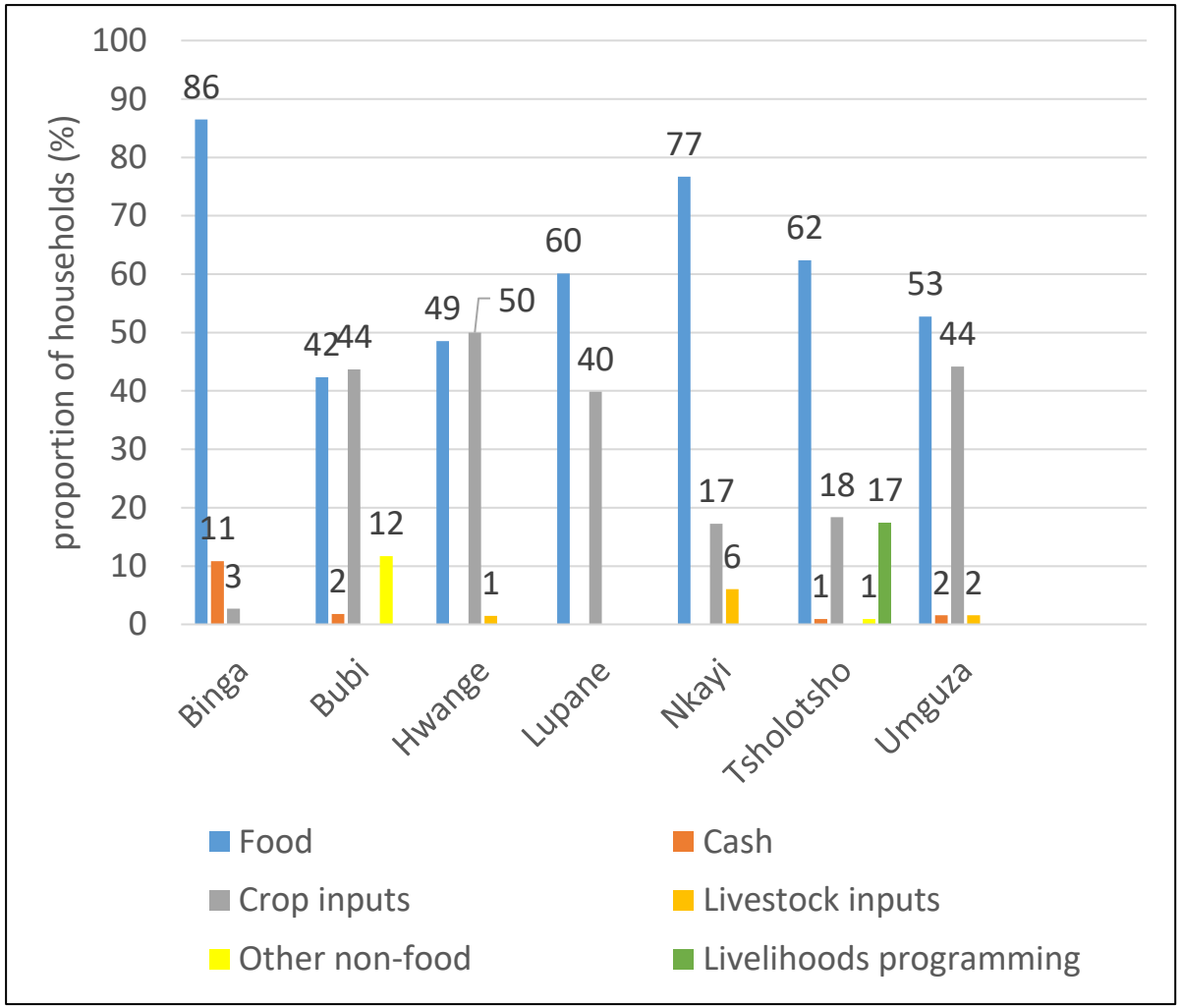
Sources of Social Support by District

	Binga	Bubi	Hwange	Lupane	Nkayi	Tsholotsho	Umguza	Mat North
Government support	16.5	69.8	58.4	64.6	52	48	51.5	51.5
UN/NGO support	52.5	17.6	49	27.8	32.3	45.5	61.5	40.9
Church support	1	2.5	3	2.5	0.5	6.5	6.5	3.2
Rural relatives	3	19.1	8.4	32.8	18.7	12	18	16
Rural non-relatives	3	12.1	5.4	21.2	9.1	4.5	29.5	12.1
Urban relatives	2	14.6	16.3	18.7	8.6	10.5	17	12.5
Urban non-relatives	0	4	1	1	2.5	1.5	1	1.6
Diaspora relatives	1	0	7.4	29.8	23.2	42.5	8	16.5
Mutual groups	0.5	0	0	2.5	1	2.5	0.5	1
Civic groups	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.1
Charity groups	0	0	0	0.5	1	0	0	0.2
Women/men groups	0.5	0	0	3.5	1	2	0	1

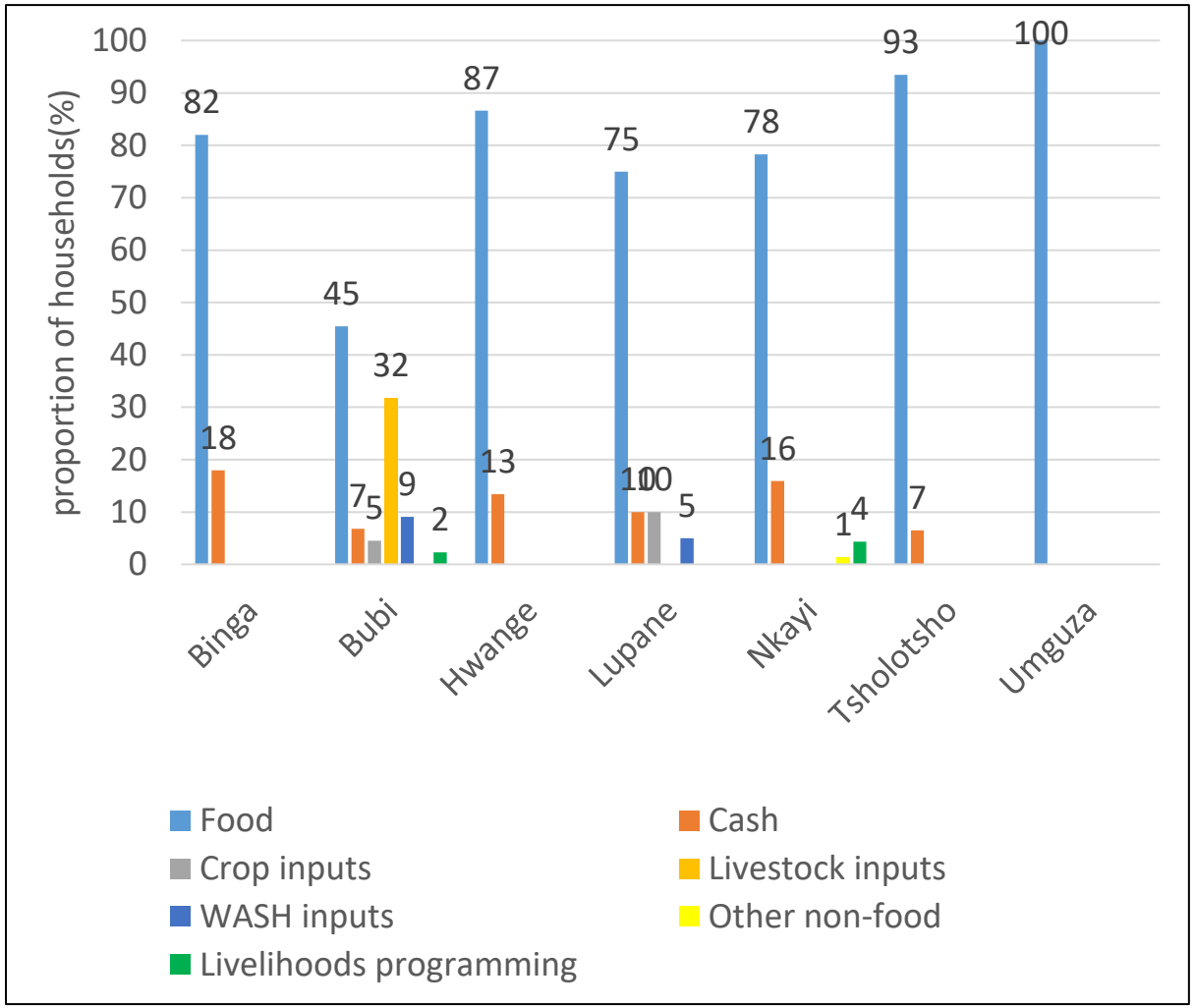
- Provincially, Government Support (51.5%) and NGOs support(40.9%) were the most prominent sources of support.
- Diaspora's role was visibly prominent in Tsholotsho (42.5%), Lupane (29.8%) and Nkayi (23.2%) respectively. This has been typical trend , since economic migration to neighbouring South Africa and Botswana was quite common.

Support From Government and NGOs

Support From Government



Support From NGOs



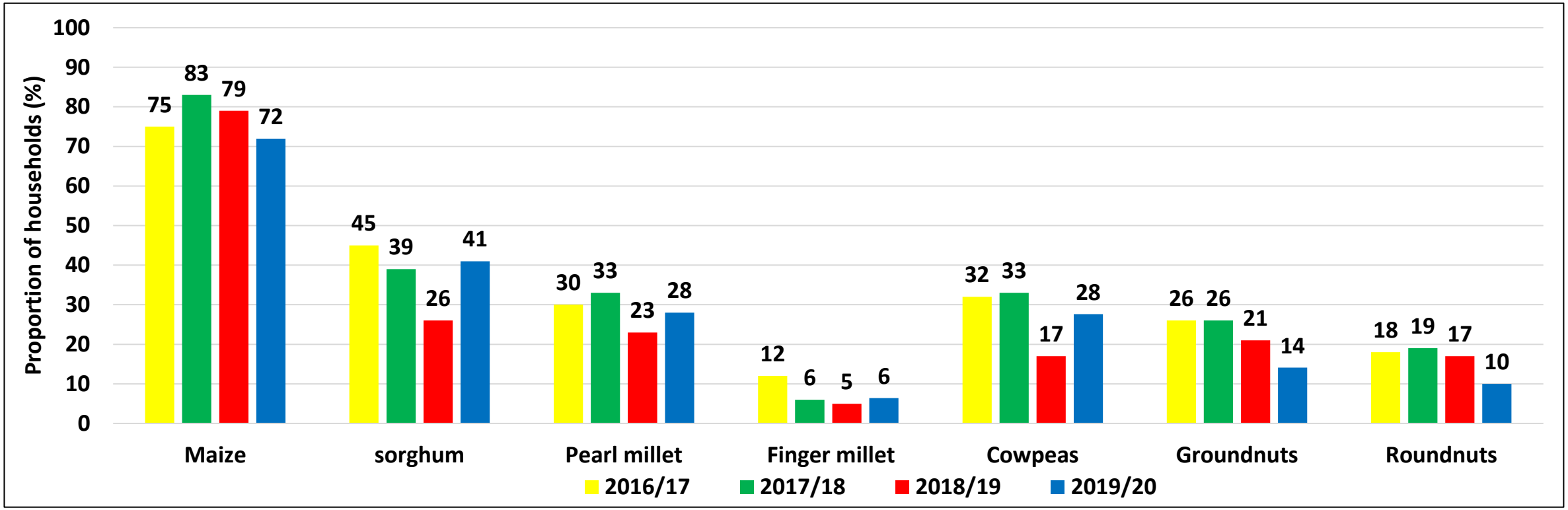
- Most households that reported receiving support was in the form of food for both government and NGOs support.
- Crop input support was mostly from government.
- Umguza had 100% of the households reporting to have received support from NGOs in the form of food .

Agricultural Production

i. Crop Production
ii. Fall Army Worm
iii. Livestock Production
iv. Agricultural Extension and Animal Health
v. Agricultural Produce Markets

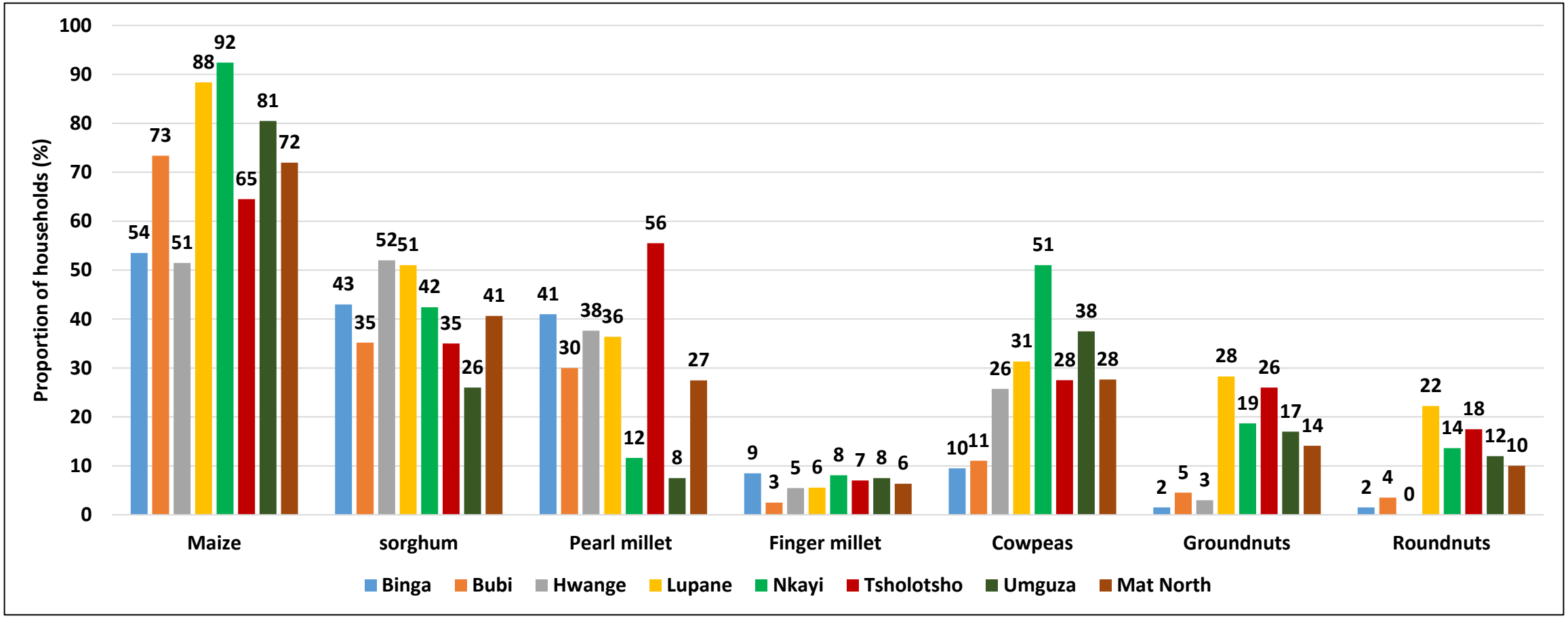
Crop Production

Proportion of Households which Planted Crops



- There was a decrease in the proportion of households that planted maize to 72% from 79% reported in the previous season.
- However there was a general increase in the proportion that grew small grains . Proportion that grew sorghum increased by 15 percentage points, pearl millet by 5 percentage points while finger millet by 1 percentage point.
- Proportion that grew cowpeas increased to 28% from 17%while the proportion that grew groundnuts decreased to 14% from 21% and groundnuts decreased to 10% from 17% .
- Maize (72%),sorghum (41%), and pearl millet (28%) were the most commonly planted crops by households.

Proportion of Households which Planted Crops by District



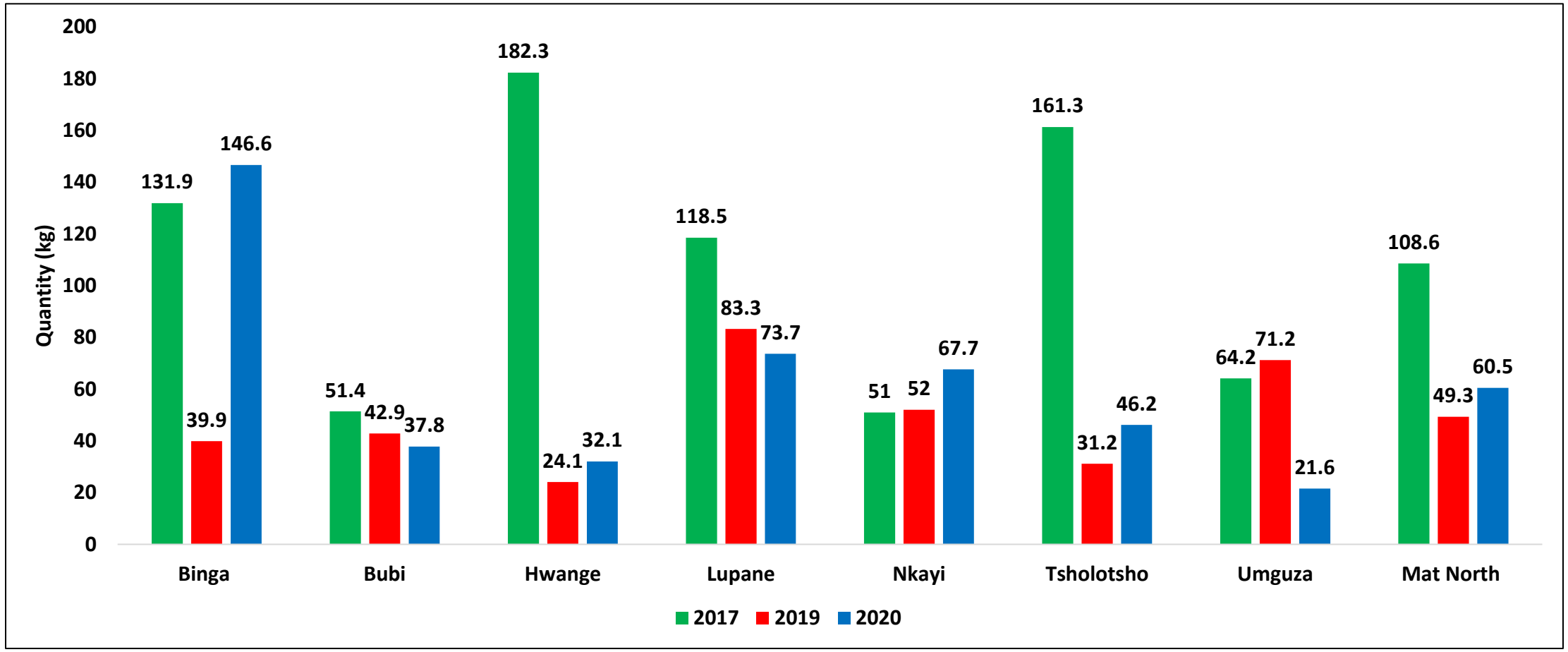
- Nkayi had the highest proportion of households that planted maize (92%), and cowpeas (51%).
- Tsholotsho had the highest proportion that planted pearl millet(56%) while Hwange had the highest proportion that planted sorghum (52%).

Average Household Cereal Production

	Maize produced (Kg)				Small grains produced (Kg)			
	2015/16	**2017/18**	2018/19	**2019/20**	**2015/16**	**2017/18**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**
Binga	16.8	286.8	73.1	80	40.7	115.3	39.1	77
Bubi	123.2	532.2	23.2	99	50.5	91.0	3.3	4
Hwange	30.1	252.3	34.1	33	92.6	228.2	40.3	66
Lupane	133.7	389.4	120.6	135	150.3	115.7	82.9	99
Nkayi	233.3	245.2	182.3	168	89.7	52.0	22.7	13
Tsholotsho	33.4	191.2	72.1	35	130.3	193.7	73.3	61
Umguza	14.3	492.8	130.3	39	7.6	23.5	15.1	7

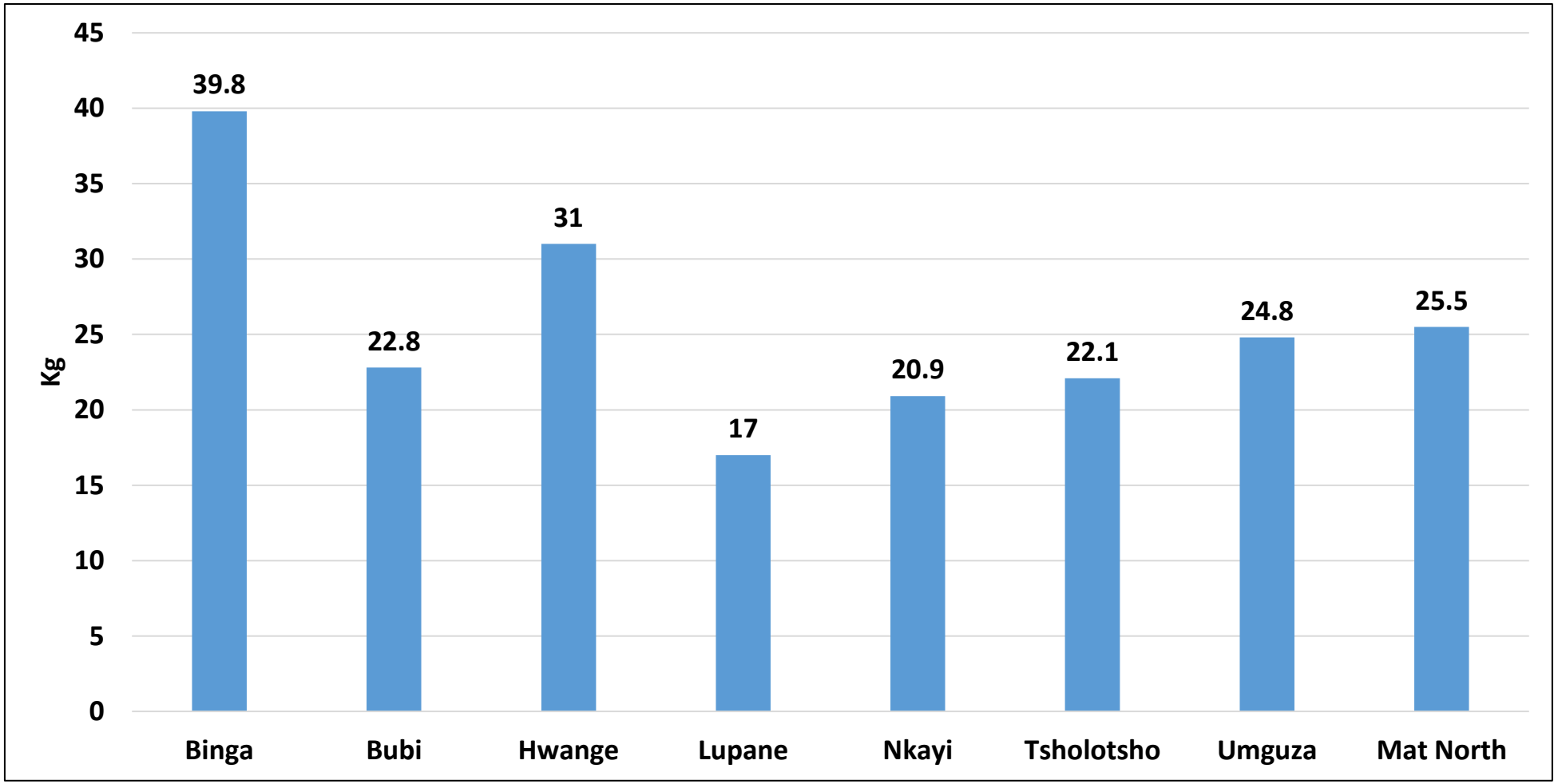
- Production per household remained low in all districts.
- The highest production in maize was reported in Nkayi (168kg per household) and Lupane (135kg). The highest production in small grains was reported in Lupane (99kg), followed by Binga (77kg).
- Maize production in Bubi increased by more than 300% while Umguza recorded a reduction of about 70% in maize production.
- Binga, Hwange, and Lupane recorded an increase in small grains production, while Umguza, Tsholotsho and Nkayi recorded a decrease in small grains production.

Cereal Stocks as at the 1st of April 2020



- The average household cereal stocks at provincial level remained low at 60.5kg per household, although there was a slight increase from last season's 49.3kg.
- Binga (146.6kg), recorded the highest cereal stocks.
- Bubi (37.8Kg), Hwange (32.1Kg) and Umguza (21.6Kg) recorded the lowest cereal stocks.

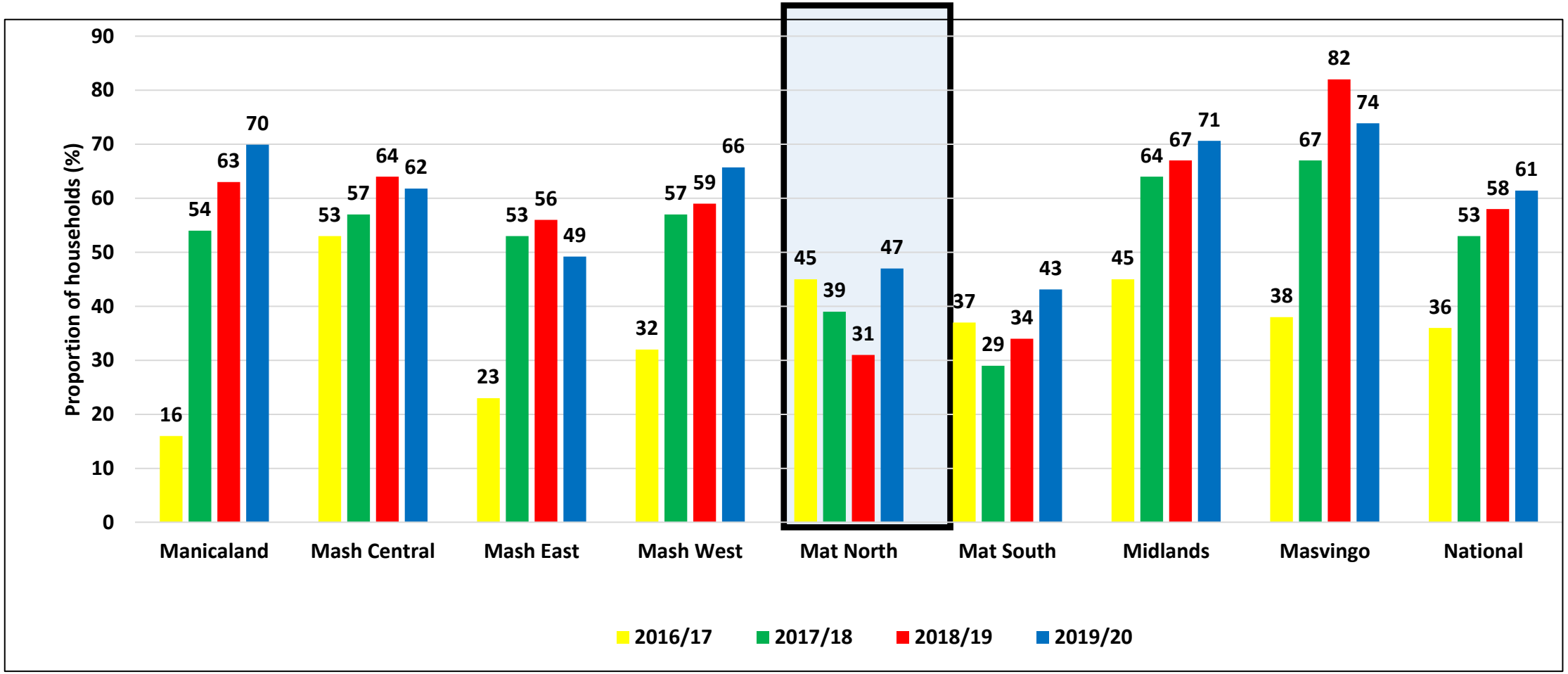
Cereals from Casual Labour



- The provincial average amount of cereals from casual labour per household was 25.5kg.
- Binga reported the highest amount of cereal stocks 39.8 kg.

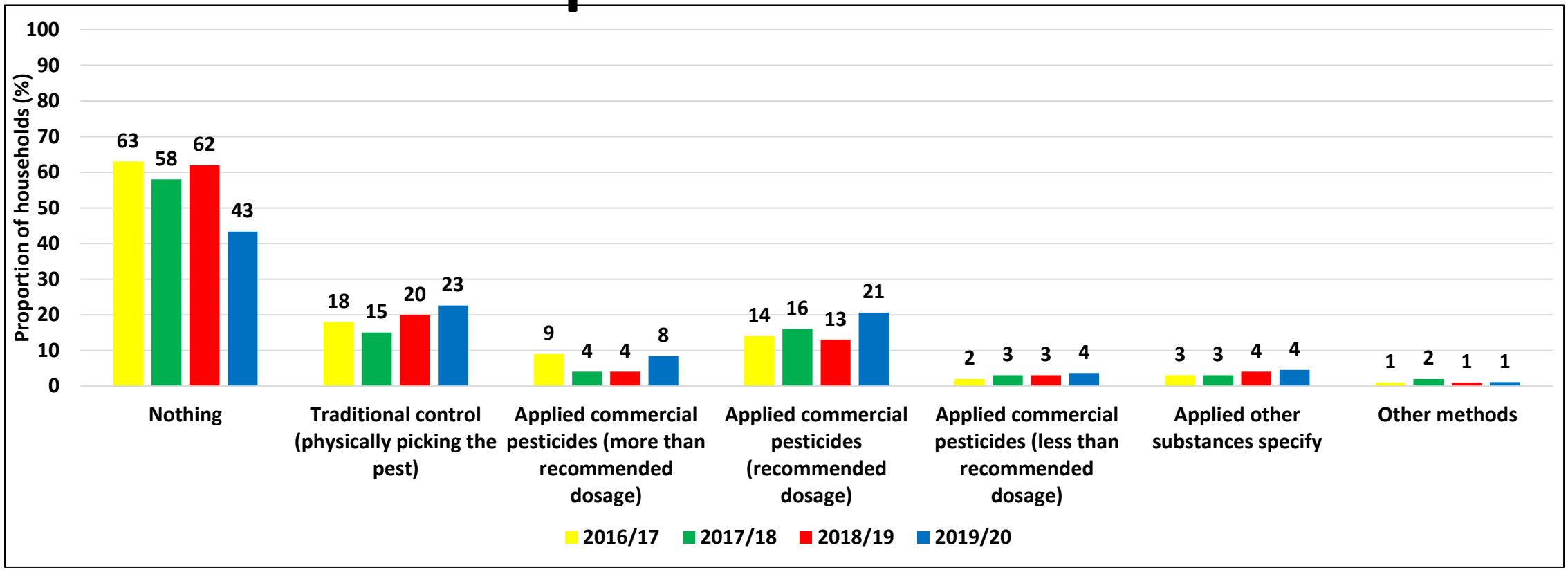
Fall Army Worm

Proportion of Households With Crops Affected by Fall Army Worm (FAW) in Matabeleland North



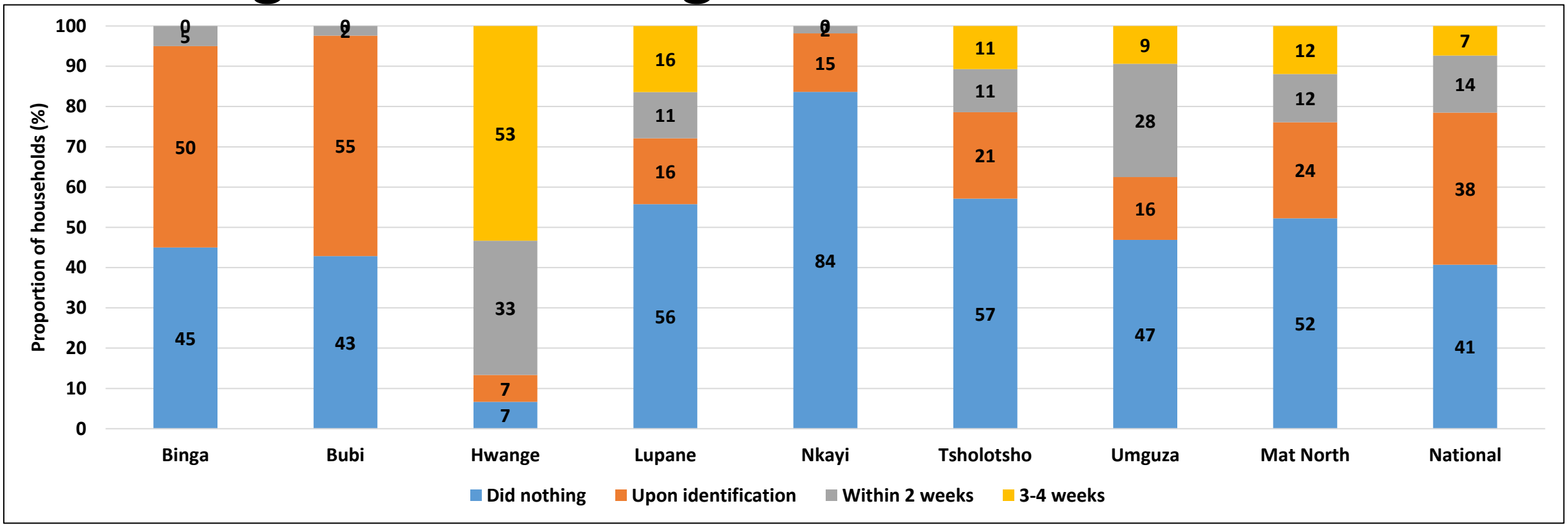
The proportion of households whose crops were affected by fall army increased to 47%, from 31% the previous year in the province.

FAW Management and Control Measures Implemented -National



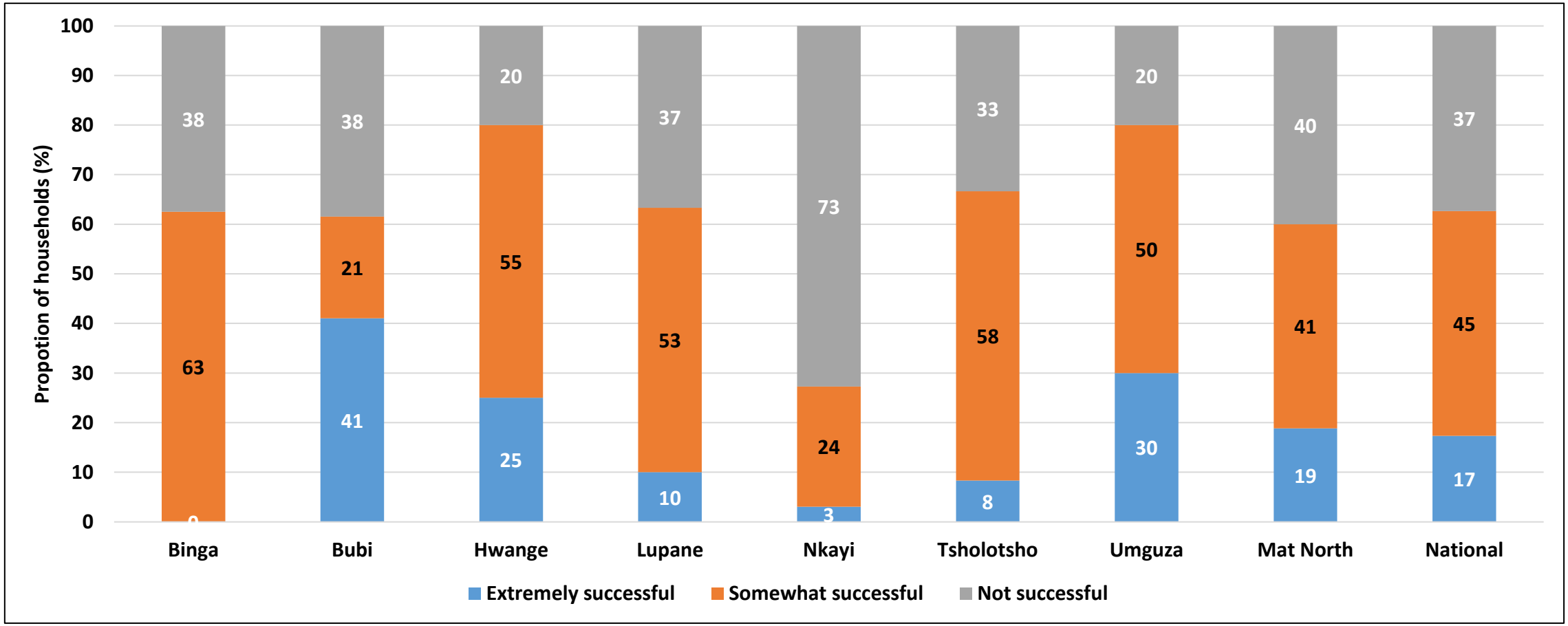
- There was a general increase in the proportion of households that used different methods to control FAW to 57% from 38% previous season.
- About 23% used the traditional control method, 8% applied chemicals at more than the recommended rate, and 21% applied chemicals at the recommended rate.

Timing of FAW Management and Control Measures



- Timing of applying FAW control measures is critical for effective control of the pest. Recommendation is that control measures applied early, at the window level of the pest infestation are more effective.
- The majority of households did nothing upon identification of the pest except in Hwange.
- About 24% of households applied some control measures upon identification of the pest, 12% applied control measures within 2 weeks of identification, and 12% applied measures 3-4 weeks after identification. Nkayi (84%) had the highest proportion of households that did nothing upon identification of the pest, while in Hwange only 7% of households did nothing.

Effectiveness of FAW Control Measures



- The majority of households in the province reported that FAW control measures implemented where somewhat successful (41%) or not successful at all (40%).
- About 19% reported extremely successful control measures.
- Nkayi (73%) had the highest proportion of households that reported unsuccessful control measures.

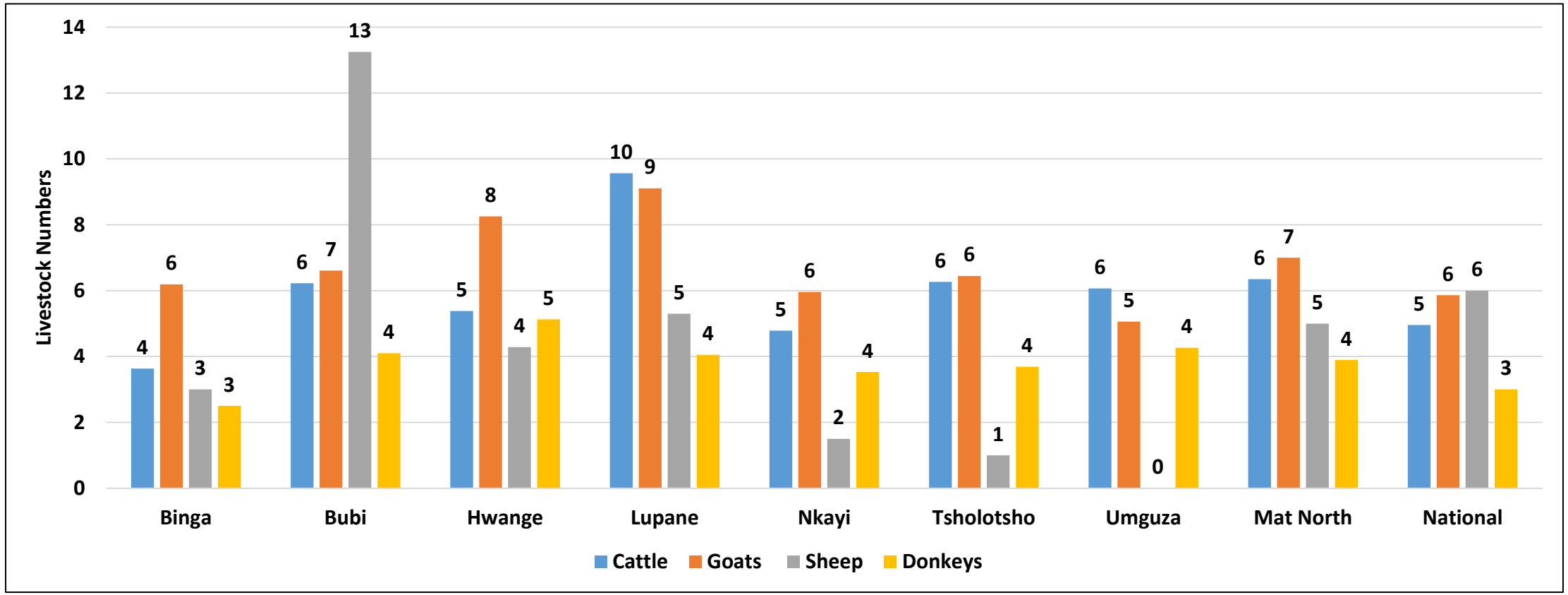
Livestock Production

Proportion of Households that Owned Livestock

Province	Cattle	Donkeys	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Poultry	Rabbits
Binga	35.5	1.0	1.0	51.5	2.5	56.0	0.5
Bubi	42.7	19.6	1.0	46.7	1.5	56.8	0.5
Hwange	37.1	3.5	3.0	62.4	3.5	68.8	0.0
Lupane	76.3	29.3	5.1	73.2	13.1	79.8	0.0
Nkayi	57.1	24.7	1.0	58.6	4.5	82.3	0.0
Tsholotsho	49.5	33.5	1.0	68.0	0.5	83.0	0.5
Umguza	30.0	9.5	0.0	48.0	0.5	57.5	0.0
Mat North	47	17	2	58	4	69	0.21
National	45	10	2	48	3	69	2

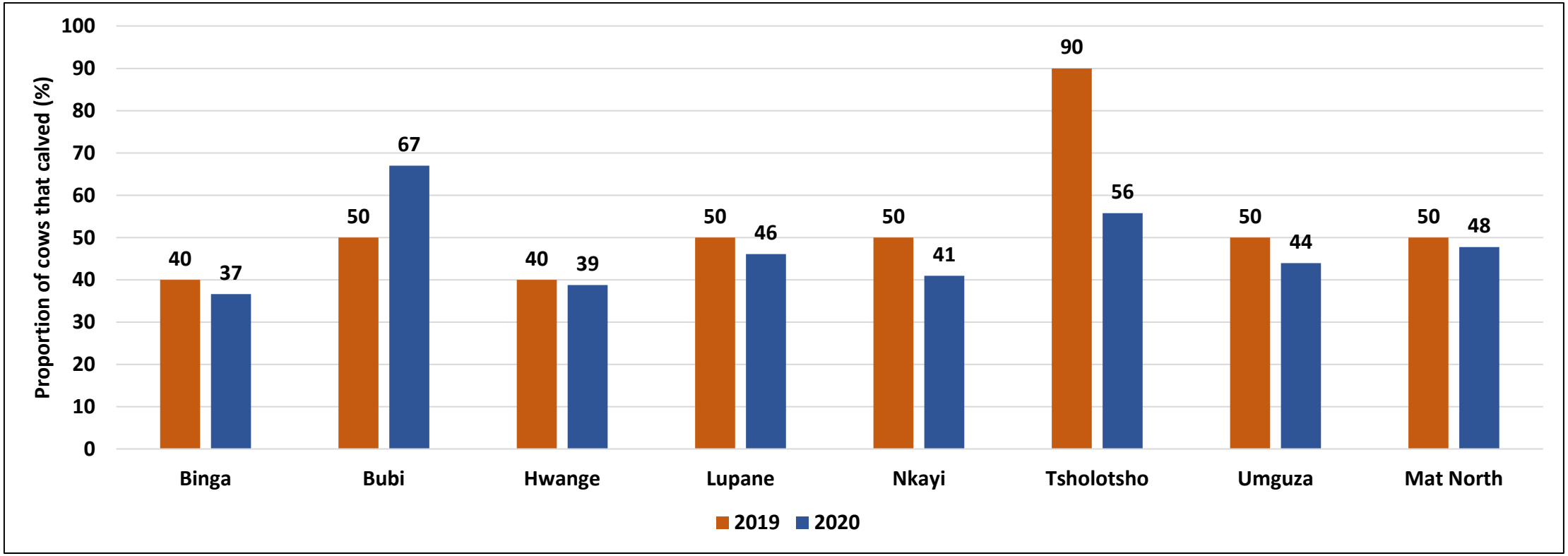
- Commonly owned livestock species were cattle, goats and poultry .
- About 47% of households in Matabeleland North province own cattle, 17% own donkeys, 58% own goats, 69% own poultry, 4% own pigs and 2% own sheep.
- Lupane had the highest proportion of households with cattle (76.3%), goats (73.2%) and pigs (13.1%).
- Tsholotsho had the highest proportion of households owning donkeys(33.5%) and poultry (83%).

Average Livestock Holding Per Household



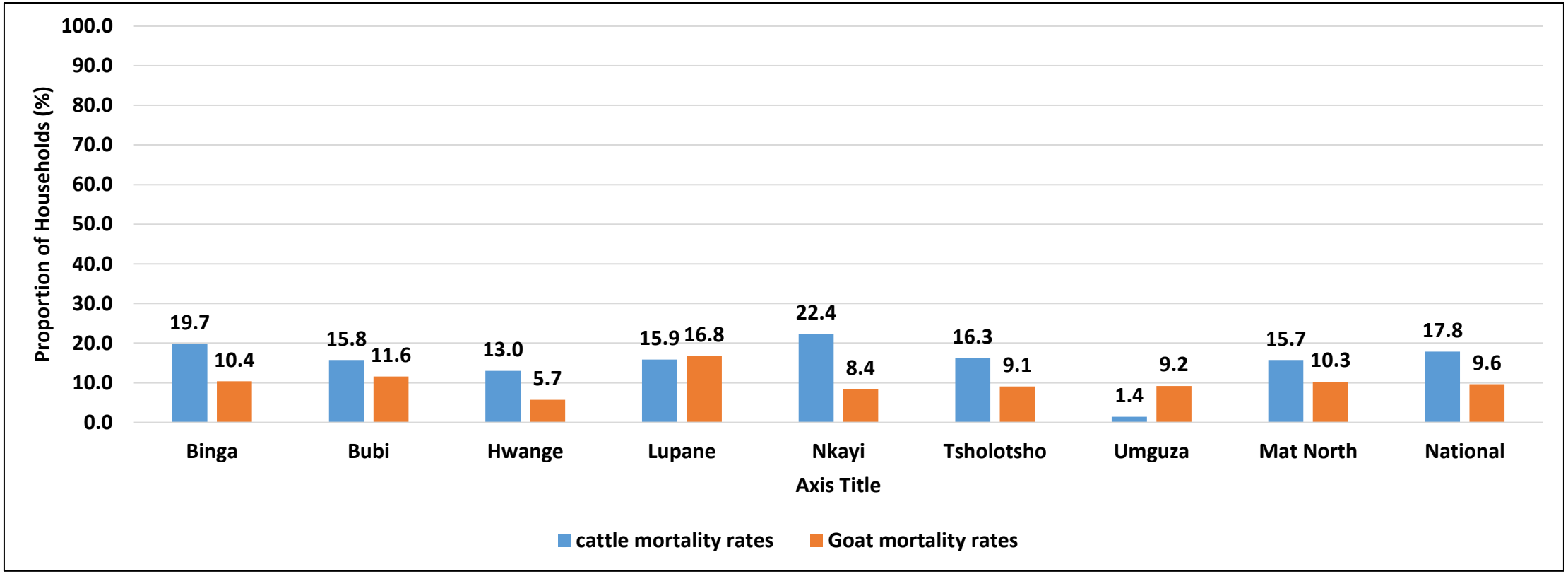
- Livestock holding refers to the number of livestock owned by a household.
- Average number of cattle owned by a household was 6, goats was 7, sheep was 5 and donkeys was 4.
- Lupane had the highest average number of cattle (10) and goats (9) owned by a household.
- Bubi had the highest average number of sheep (13) per household while Hwange had the highest number of donkeys (5) per household.

Cattle Productivity (Calving Rate)



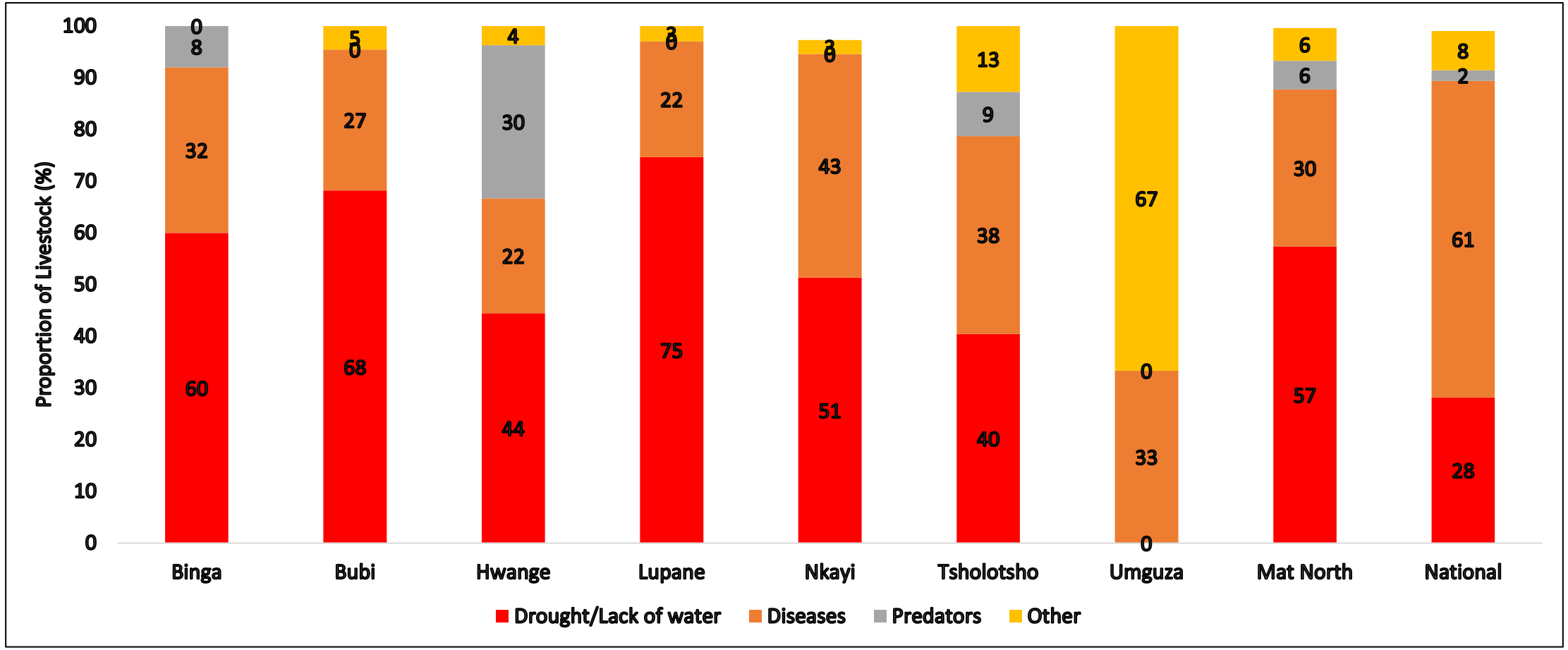
- Optimal economic calving rate is 80% and above.
- Generally, the calving rate remained low at 48% in the province, an indication of low productivity.
- Tsholotsho recorded the highest drop in calving rate from 90% to 56%.
- All districts recorded a drop in calving rate except Bubi, which recorded an increase from 50% to 67%.

Cattle and Goat Mortality



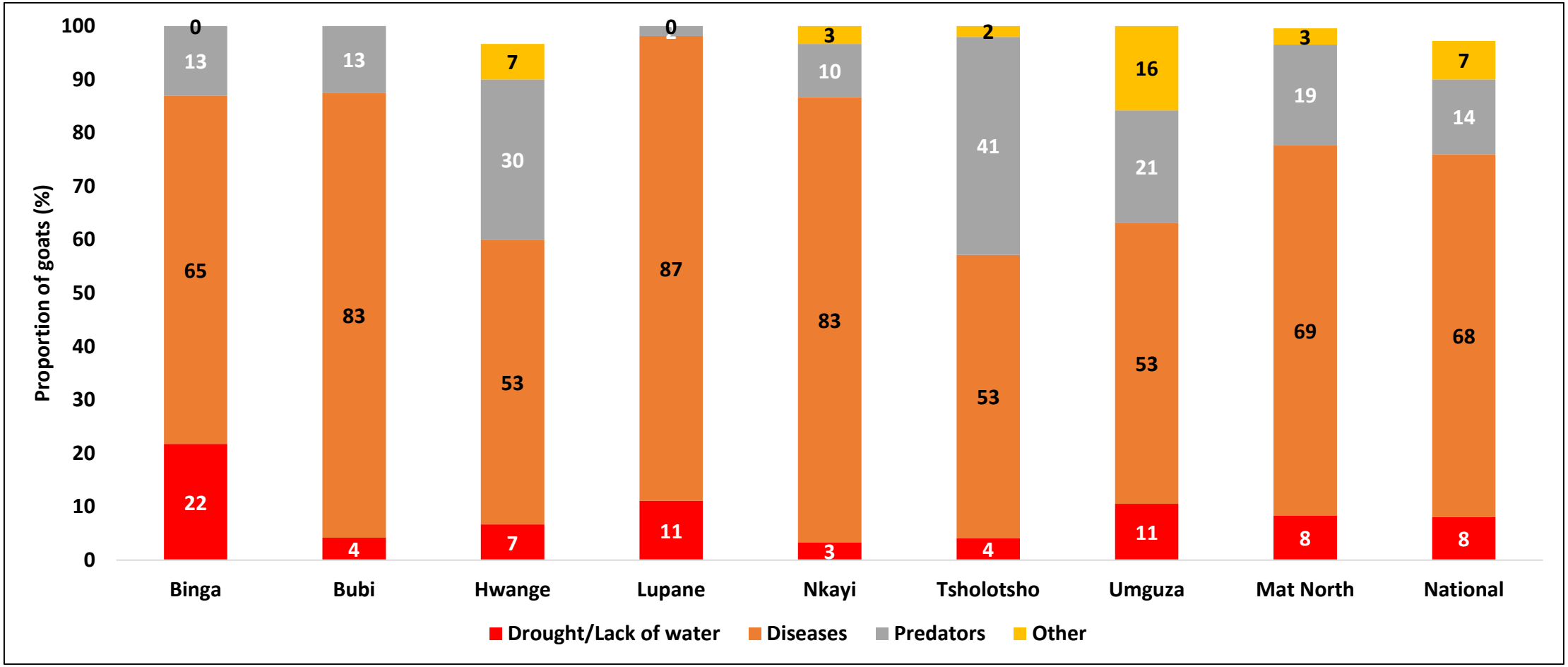
- Economically optimal mortality rate for cattle is 3-5% and 8% for Goats.
- Mortality rates for Matabeleland North were high at 15.7% cattle mortality and 10.3% goat mortality.
- Cattle mortality was highest in Nkayi (22.4%) followed by Binga (19.7%).
- Goat mortality was highest in Lupane (16.8%).
- Umguza reported the lowest cattle mortality at 1.4% and Hwange the lowest goat mortality (5.7%).

Causes of Cattle Mortality



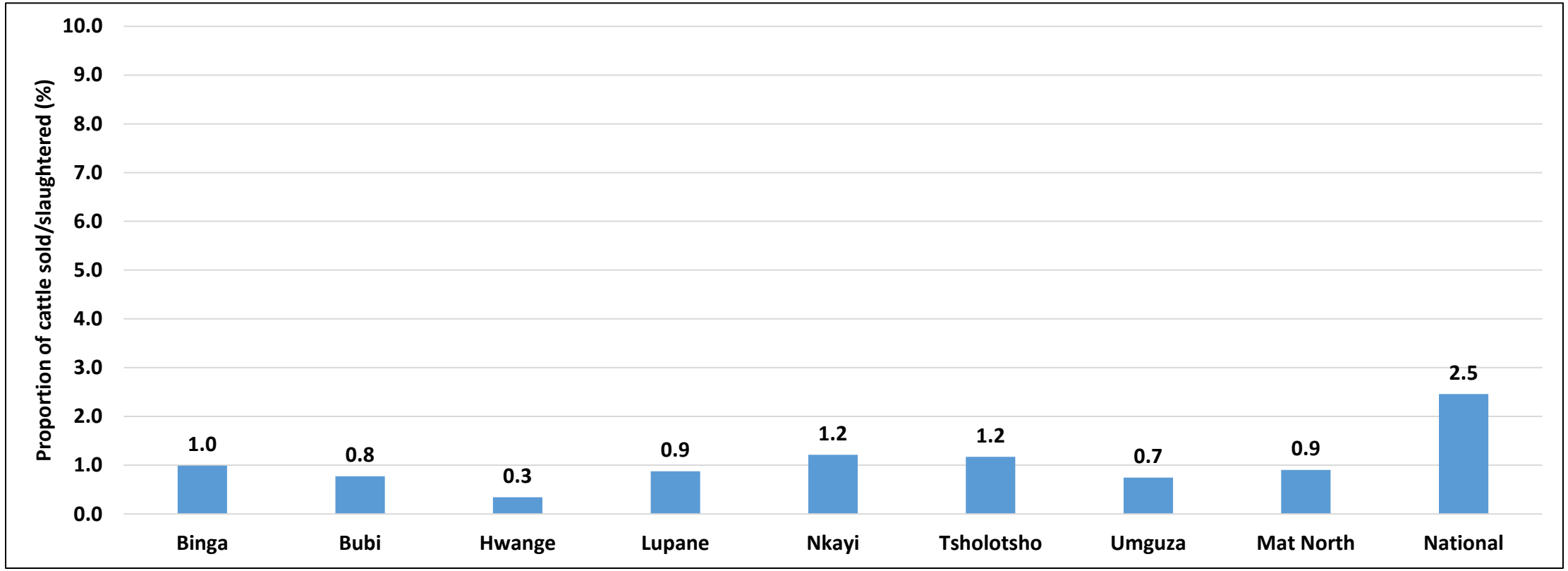
- About 57% of cattle deaths reported in the province were due to hunger, compared to the national average of 28%.
- The highest proportions reported were due to drought/lack of water, Lupane having reported highest proportions (75%), followed by Bubi 68%, and Binga 60%.

Causes of Goat mortality



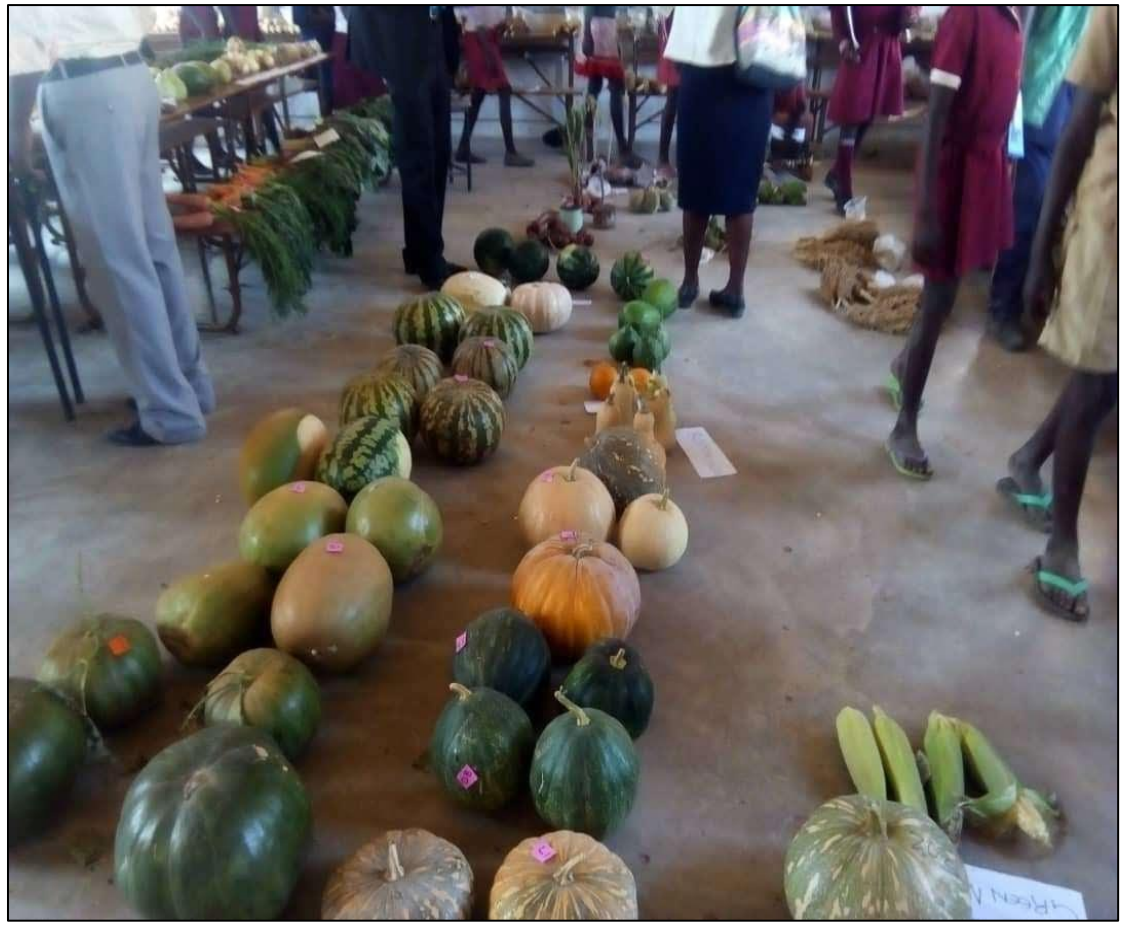
- Mainly,the province's Goat mortality was reported to be mainly due to diseases (69%).
- Lupane reported the highest proportion of goats that died due to diseases (87%), followed by Bubi and Nkayi at 83%.

Cattle Offtake Rate

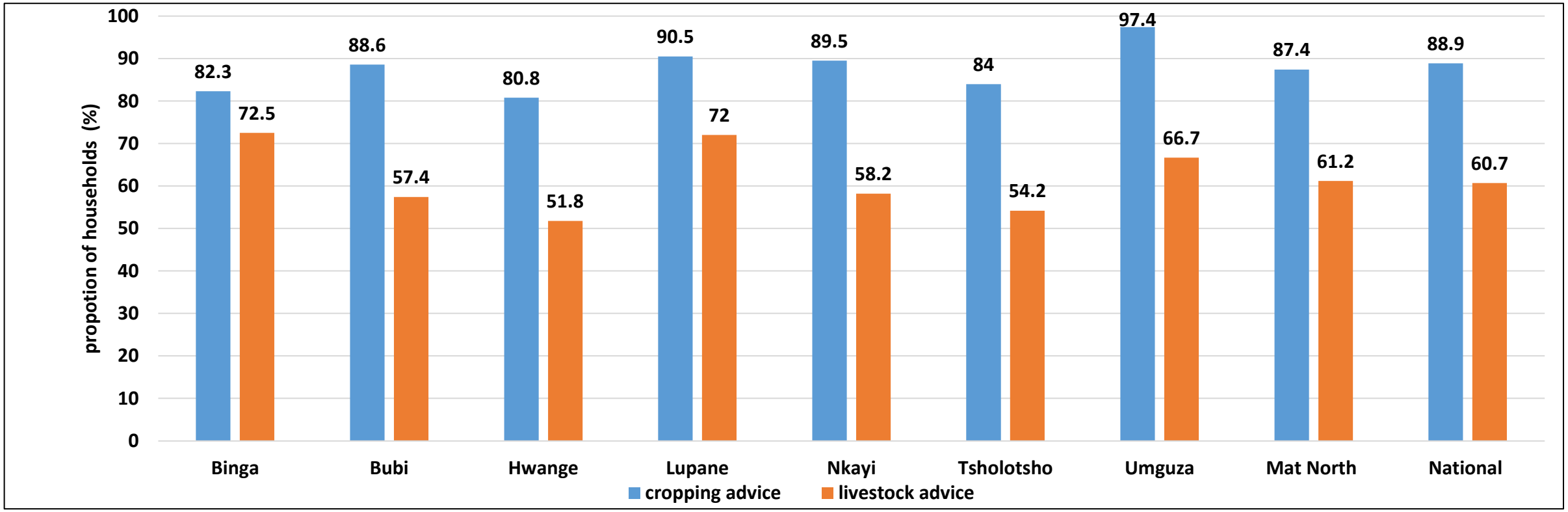


- Cattle offtake rates are very low at 2.5% nationally and 0.9% for Matabeleland North, well below the national target of 18%.
- Nkayi and Tsholotsho had the highest offtake of 1.2% each. Districts with high mortality rates also had a high offtake rate, an indication of depressed sales.

Agricultural Extension and Animal Health

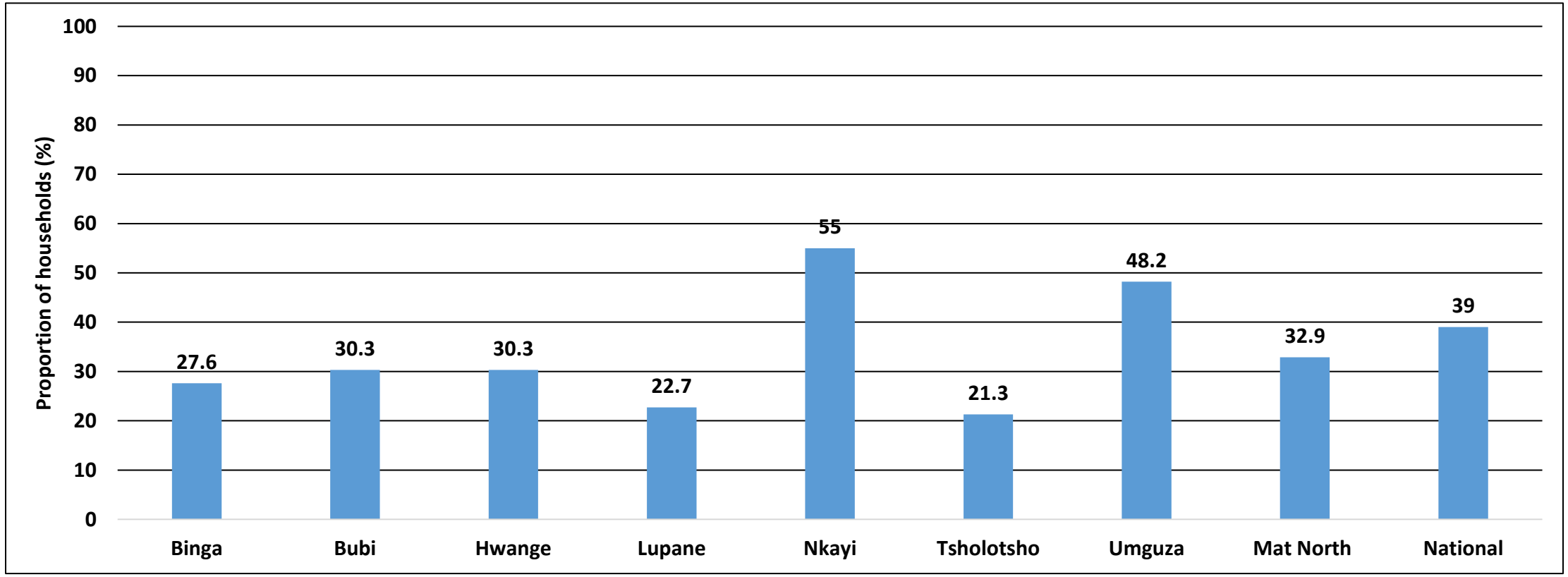


Proportion of Households that Received Agricultural Extension Services



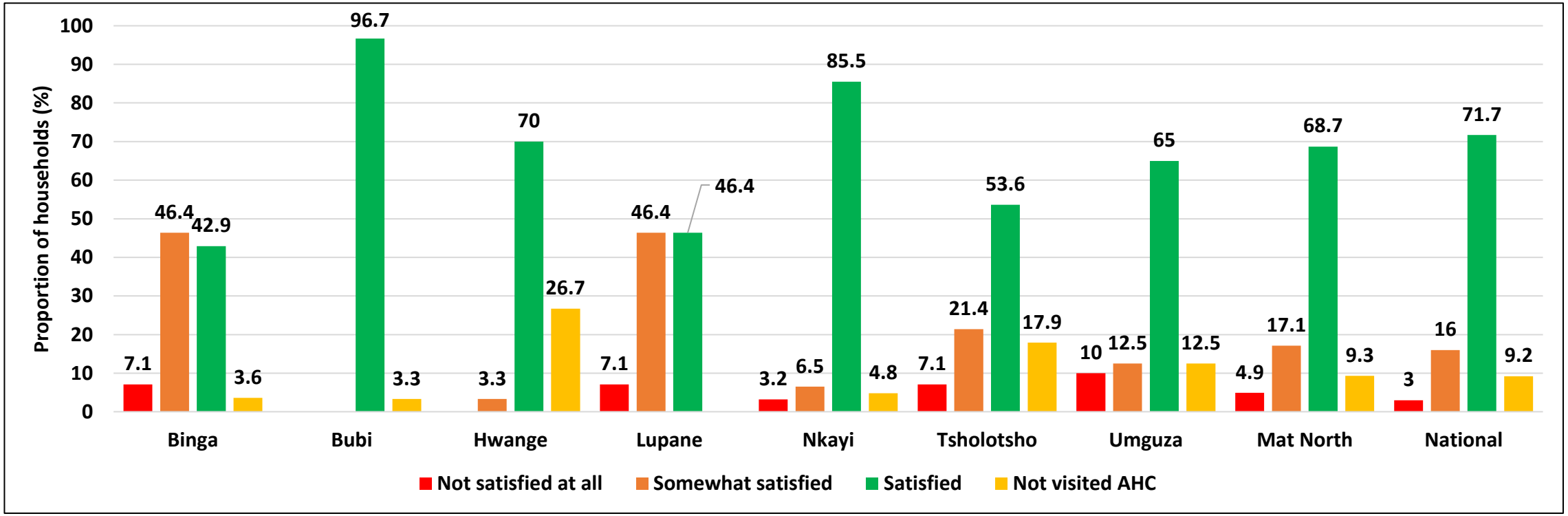
- Nationally, 88.9% received cropping advice, while 60.7% received livestock advice.
- Proportion of households that received cropping advice was higher (87.4%) compared to the proportion that received livestock advice(61.2%).
- Umguza (97.4%)had the highest proportion that received cropping advice.
- Binga (72.5%) and Lupane (72%) had the highest proportion that received livestock advice.

Proportion of Households with Access to Animal Health Centres (AHCs)



- Generally, the proportion of households with access to animal health centres in Matabeleland North province was low (32.9%)
- Nkayi district (55%)had the highest proportion of households with access to animal health centres and Tsholotsho (21.3%) had the least proportion.

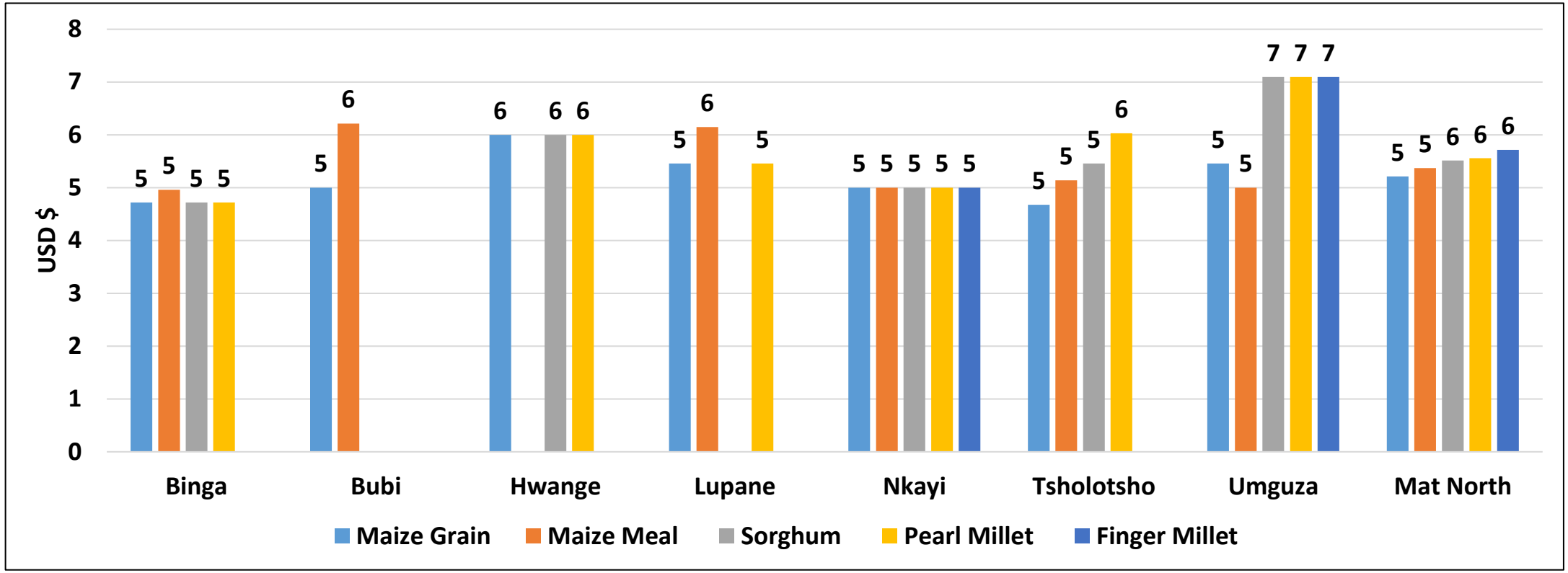
Level of Satisfaction with Service Received from Animal Health Centres (AHCs)



- About 68.7% of households that accessed animal health centres in Matabeleland North were satisfied with the quality of service.
- Bubi (96.7%)had the highest proportion of households satisfied by the service received while Umguza (10%) had the highest proportion of households that were not satisfied.

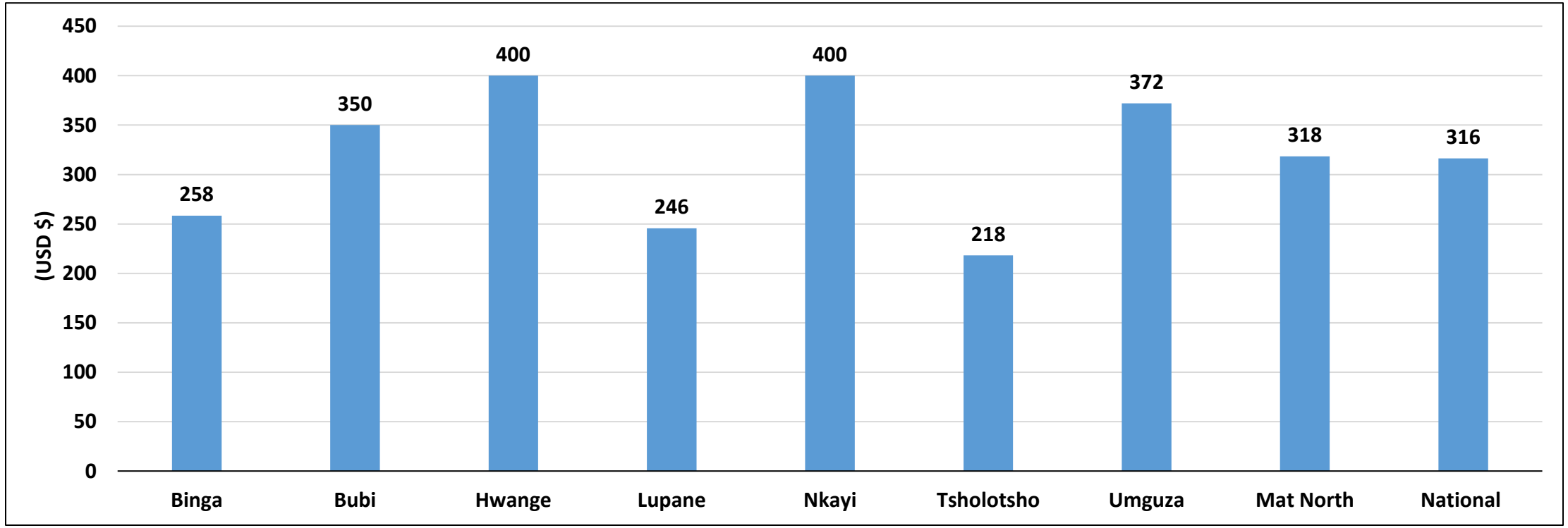
Agricultural Produce Markets

District Average Cereal Prices



- The average Matabeleland North price for a 20litre tin of maize and a 10kg bag of maize meal was USD $5.00.
- The provincial average price for a 20litre tin of small grains was USD $6.00.
- Umguza had the higher average price for small grains (USD $7.00).

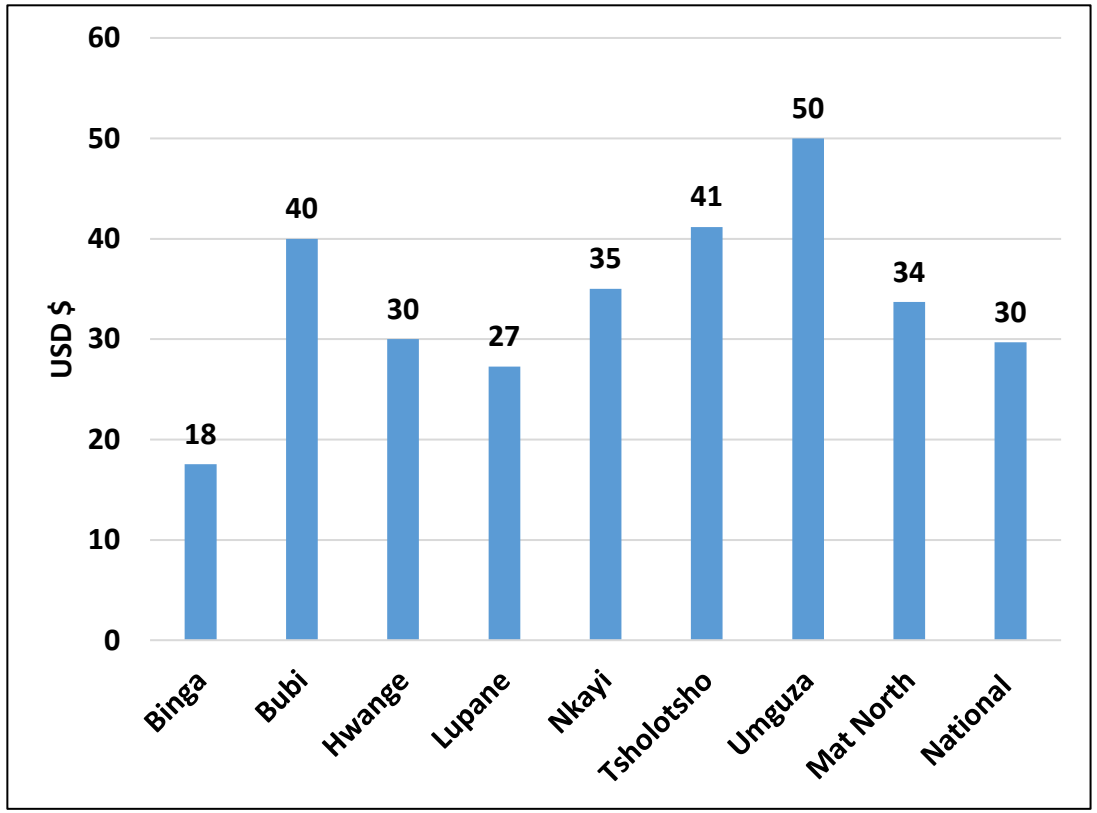
District Cattle Prices



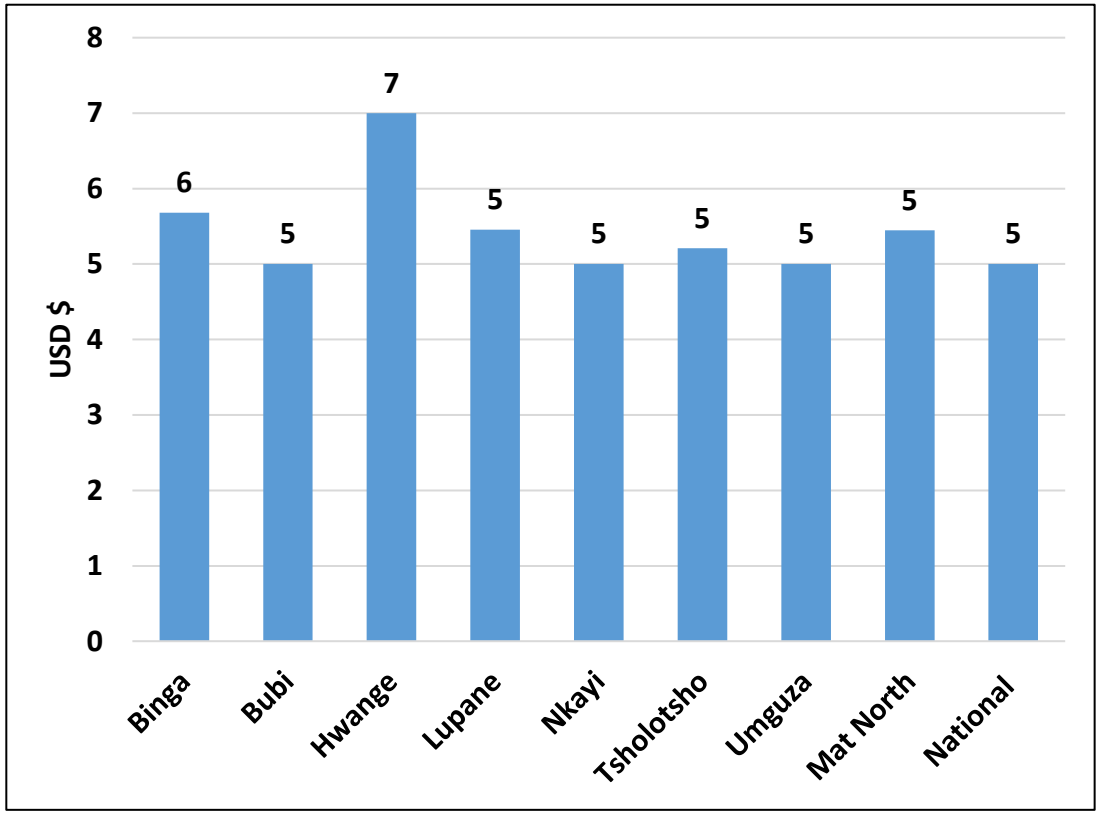
- Nationally, average cattle price was USD $316.00 .
- Cattle prices in Matabeleland North ranged from USD $218.00 to USD $400.00, with the provincial average cattle price at USD318.
- The lowest cattle prices were reported in Tsholotsho (USD $218.00) .
- The highest prices were reported in Hwange and Nkayi (USD $400.00) .

District Average Goat and Chicken Prices

Goat prices



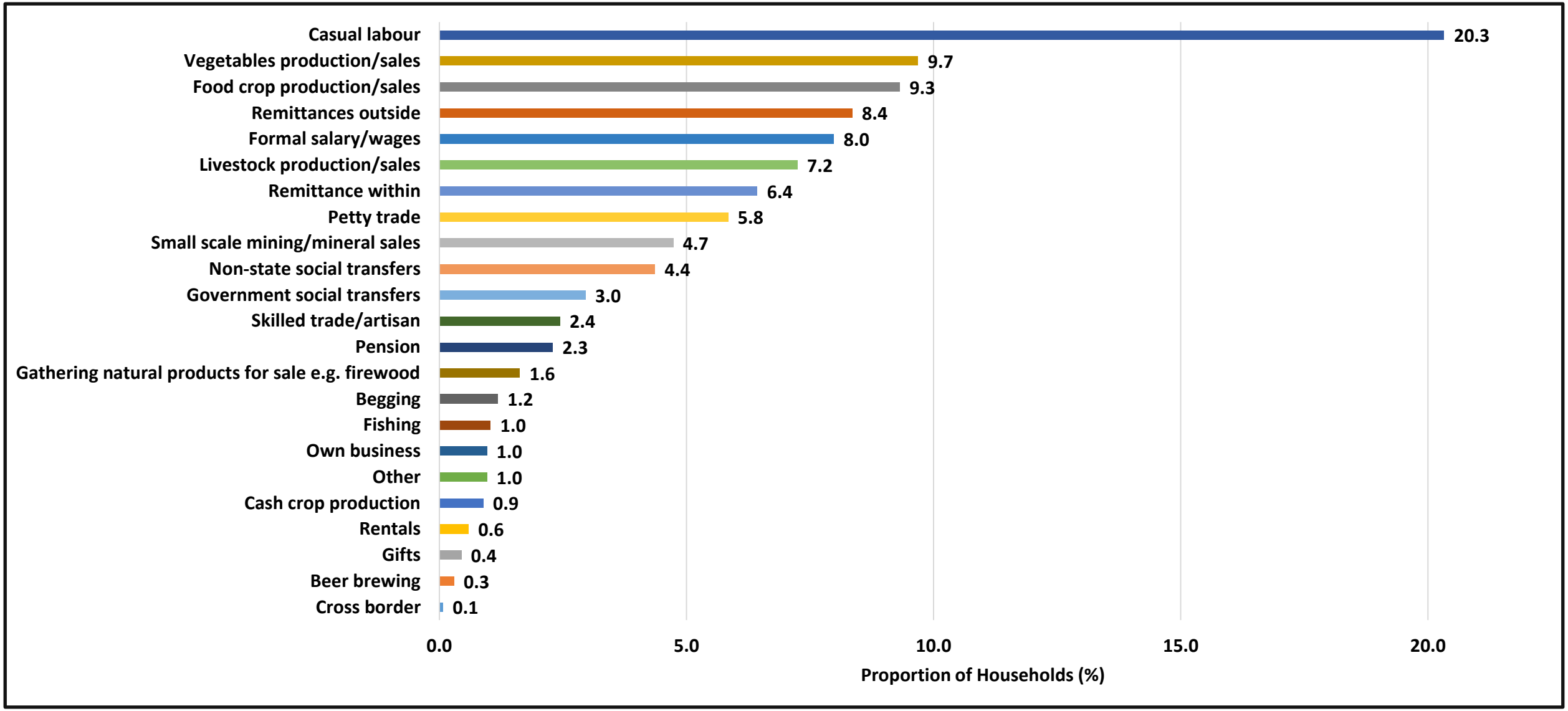
Chicken prices



- The national average goat price was USD $30.00 and the national average chicken price was USD $5. 00.
- Goat prices in the province ranged from USD18 to USD $50.00, with a provincial average of USD $34.00.
- Chicken prices ranged from USD $5.00 to USD $7.00with a provincial average of USD $5.00.
- The lowest average goat prices were reported in Binga (USD $18.00), while the highest was reported in Umguza (USD50)
- The highest average chicken price was reported in Hwange (USD $7.00), while most districts were averaging at USD $5.00.

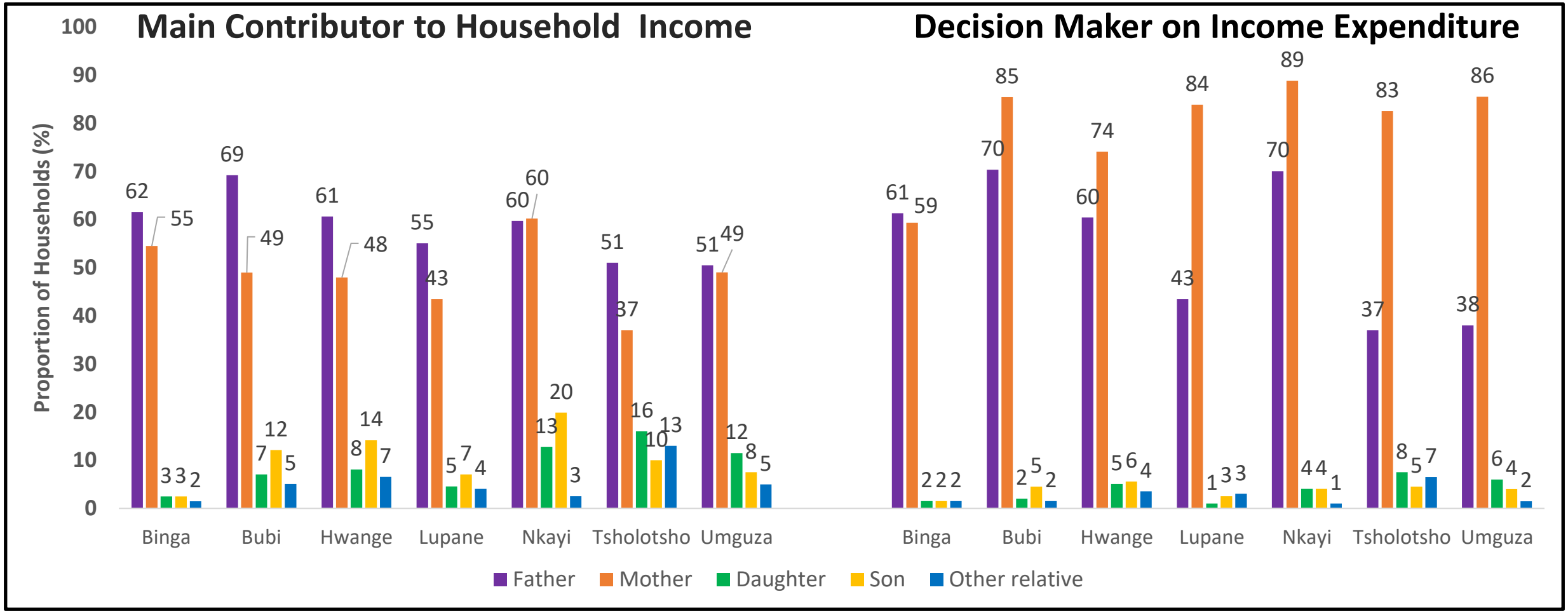
Income and Expenditure

Most Important Income Sources



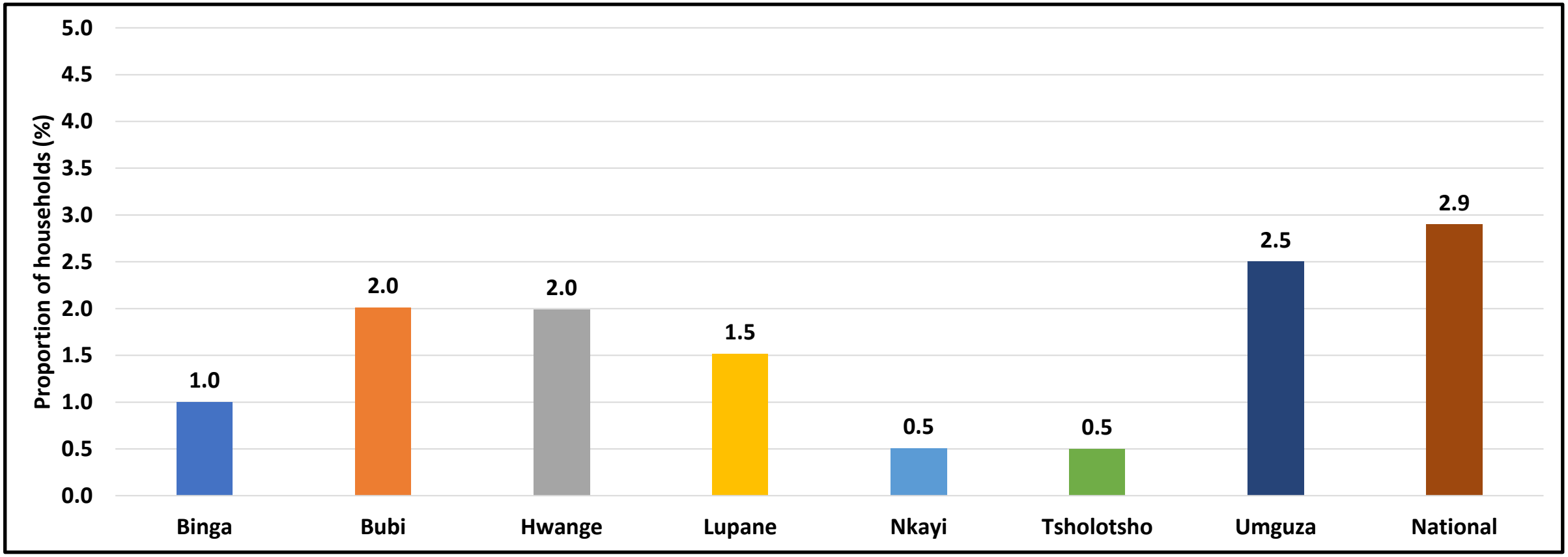
- Casual labour (20.3%), vegetable production and sales (9.7%) food crop production and sales (9.3%), out of country remittances (8.4%), wages (8%) and livestock production and sales (7.2%) were the most important income sources for households in the province.

Income Contributor and Utilization



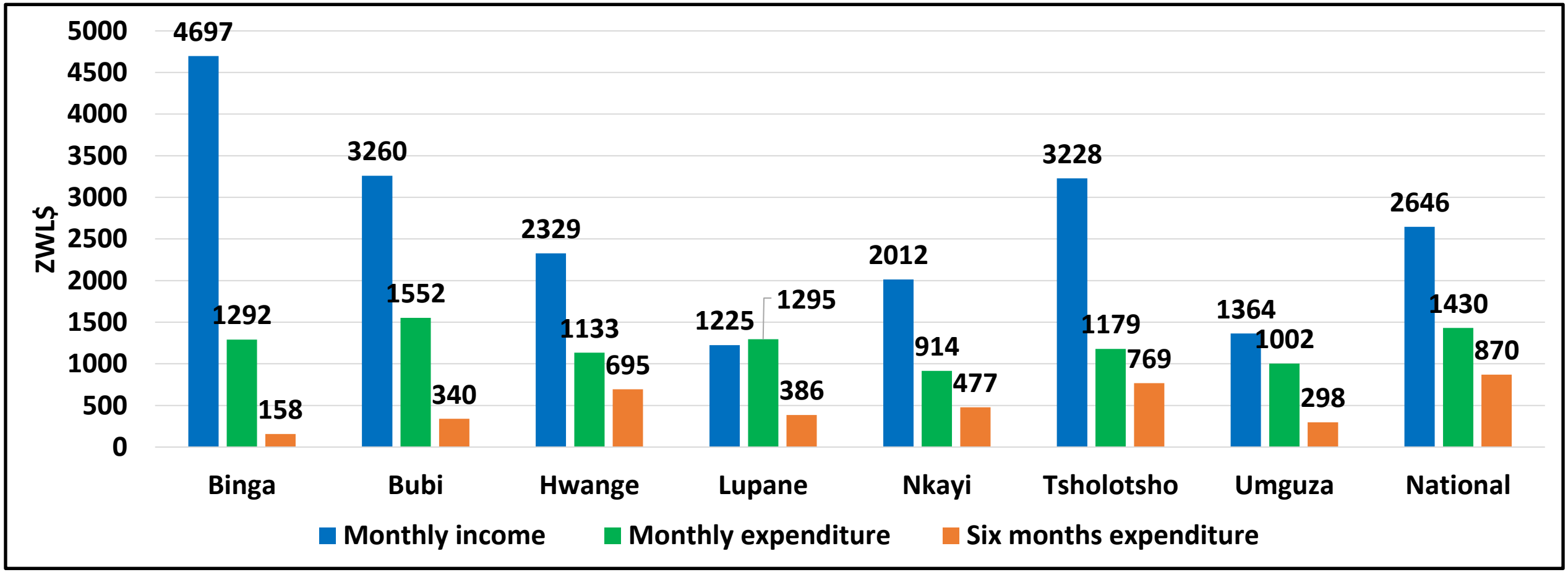
- Fathers were reported as the main contributors, save for Nkayi, where both fathers and mothers contributed equally.
- However, mothers mostly took over on decision-making regarding expenditure of household income in all the districts expect for Binga.

Gender of Main Income Contributor that Initiates GBV



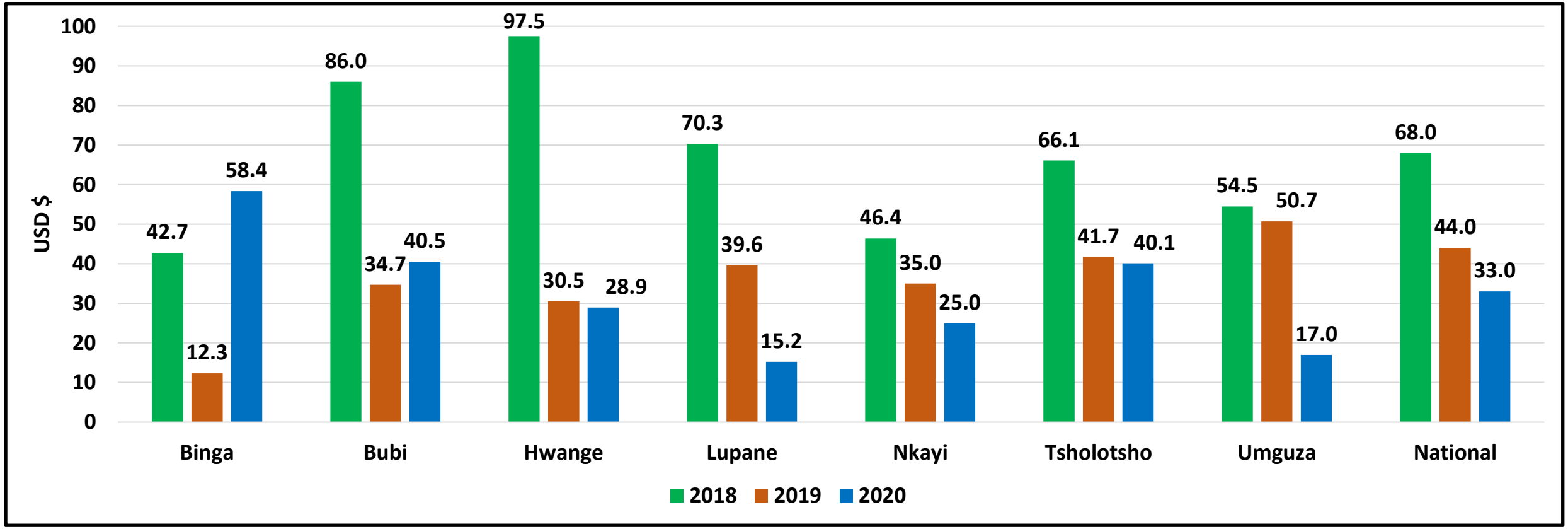
- Umguza (2.5%), Bubi (2%) and Hwange (2%) had the highest proportion of households reporting that gender of the main income contributor generate tension in the household that could lead to GBV. This was slightly lower than the national level figures of 2.9%.

Income and Expenditure by District



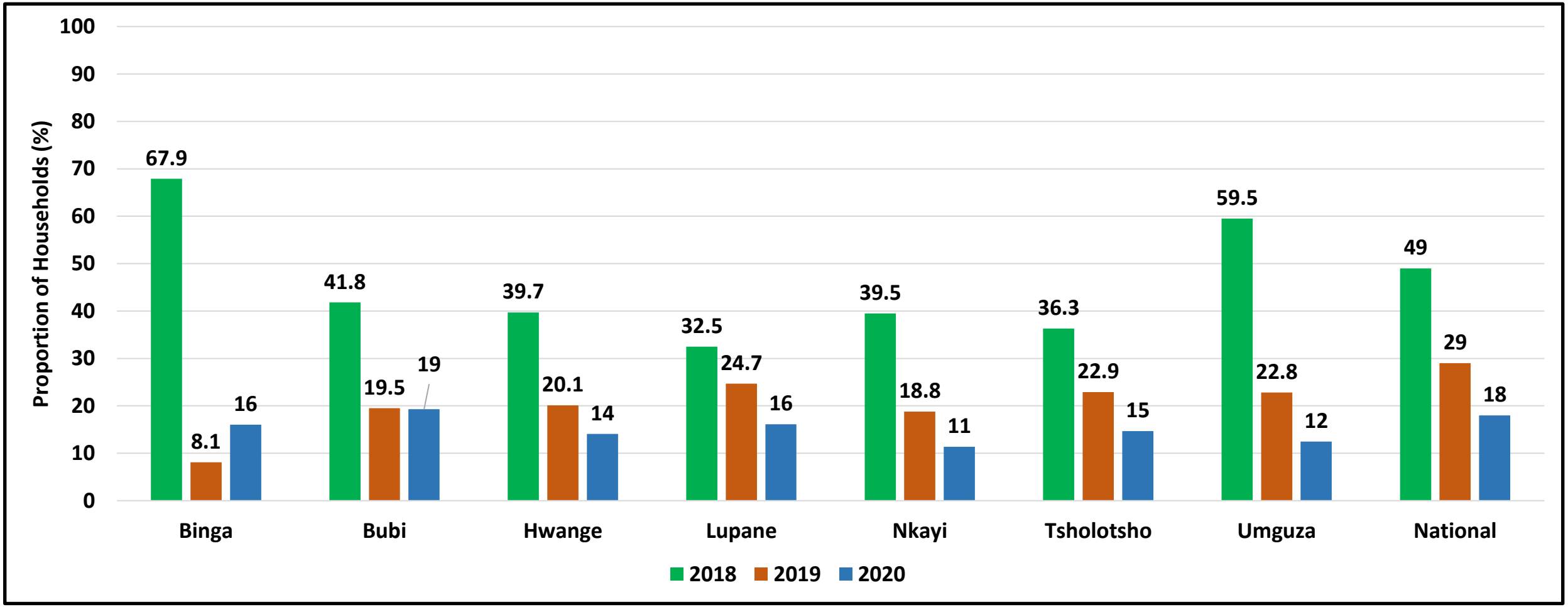
- The average monthly income was high in Binga (ZWL$4 697), Bubi (ZWL$3 260) and Tsholotsho (ZWL$3 228) compared to other districts. These were higher than the average monthly income reported at national level.
- Notably, Lupane had an expenditure which was higher than their monthly income, suggestive of cumulative income deficits.
- There were huge differences in monthly expenditure compared to income except for Umguza district where expenditure was just slightly lower than the income.
- Expenditure over the last six months was very low, possibly due to disruption of normal activities such as schooling due to the Covid19 pandemic.

Comparison of Average Household Monthly Income over 3 Years



- There was a rapid increase in monthly income from USD $12.30 to USD $58.40 in Binga over the past year and a slight increase was also observed in Bubi from USD $34.70 to USD $40.50. However in all other districts average monthly income plummeted with Umguza and Lupane mostly affected experiencing a decrease of USD $33.70 and USD $24.40 respectively.
- Generally a decrease in monthly income was observed at national level indicating income levels continue to deteriorate since 2018.

Comparison of Household Expenditure Over 3 years



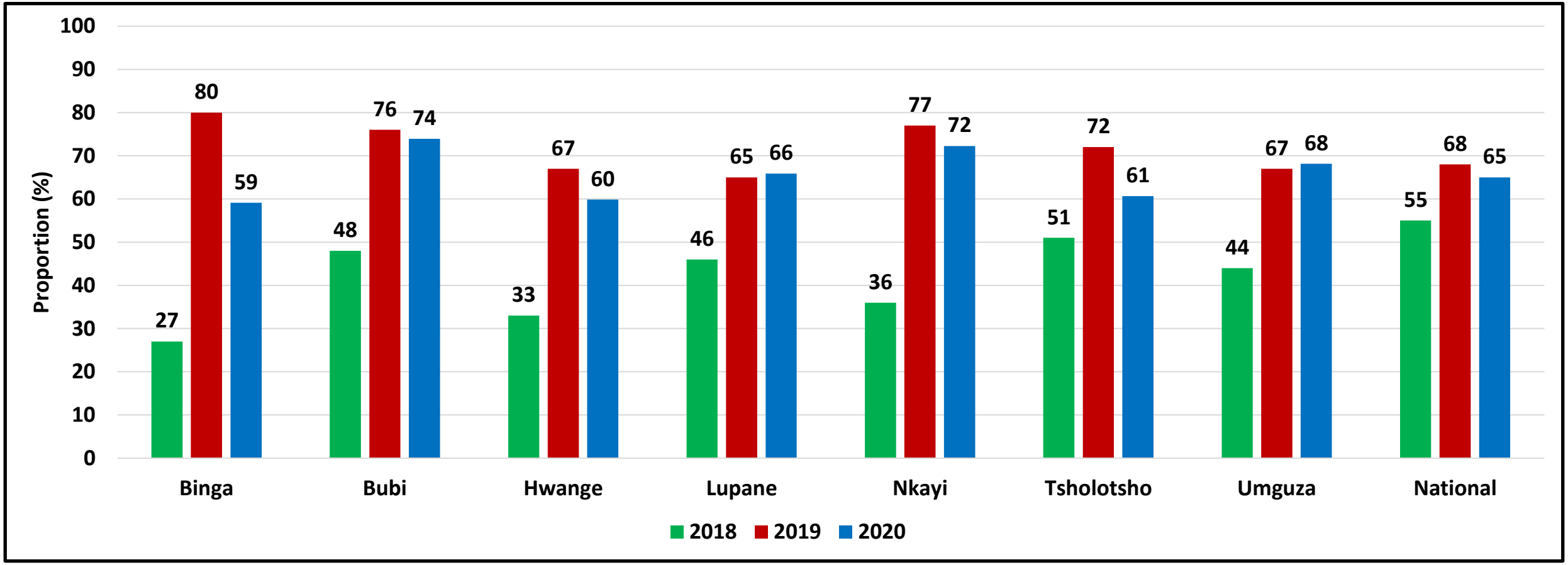
- Household expenditure declined in all districts of the province since 2018, consistent with the national picture as well.
- Nkayi had the lowest average household monthly expenditure of USD $11.00, slightly below expenditure reported in other districts
- Only in Binga did household expenditure increase from USD $8.10 in 2019 to USD $16.00 in 2020.

Average Household Expenditure Over 6 Months (ZWL $)

	Education (ZWL $)	Agriculture (ZWL $)	Business (ZWL $)	Health (ZWL $)	Taxes (ZWL $)	Social (ZWL $)	Other (ZWL $)
Binga	**391.5**	**15.9**	**3.2**	**23.7**	**0.5**	**1.1**	**22.9**
Bubi	**443.7**	**358.1**	**1.3**	**121.4**	**3.5**	**8.2**	**488.8**
Hwange	**529.8**	**152.8**	**25.7**	**168.4**	**0.0**	**154.1**	**269.0**
Lupane	**547.4**	**135.2**	**79.3**	**211.5**	**22.1**	**23.3**	**23.3**
Nkayi	**264.0**	**98.3**	**478.3**	**22.1**	**9.5**	**40.2**	**1030.9**
Tsholotsho	**505.8**	**111.2**	**48.3**	**248.6**	**15.5**	**29.2**	**598.3**
Umguza	**216.0**	**184.2**	**30.1**	**220.4**	**1.6**	**61.6**	**118.2**
Mat North	**414**	**151**	**95**	**145**	**7**	**46**	**364**

- Average household expenditure six months preceding the survey were mostly on education, health and agriculture.
- Nkayi (ZWL $478.30) had the highest expenditure on business and a high expenditure on social activities (ZWL $154.10) in Hwange was also observed.

Household Food Expenditure Ratio



- Binga had the lowest household food expenditure ratio 59%.
- Bubi (74%) and Nkayi (72%) had the highest food expenditure ratios.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Global Goals, Targets and Indicators for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

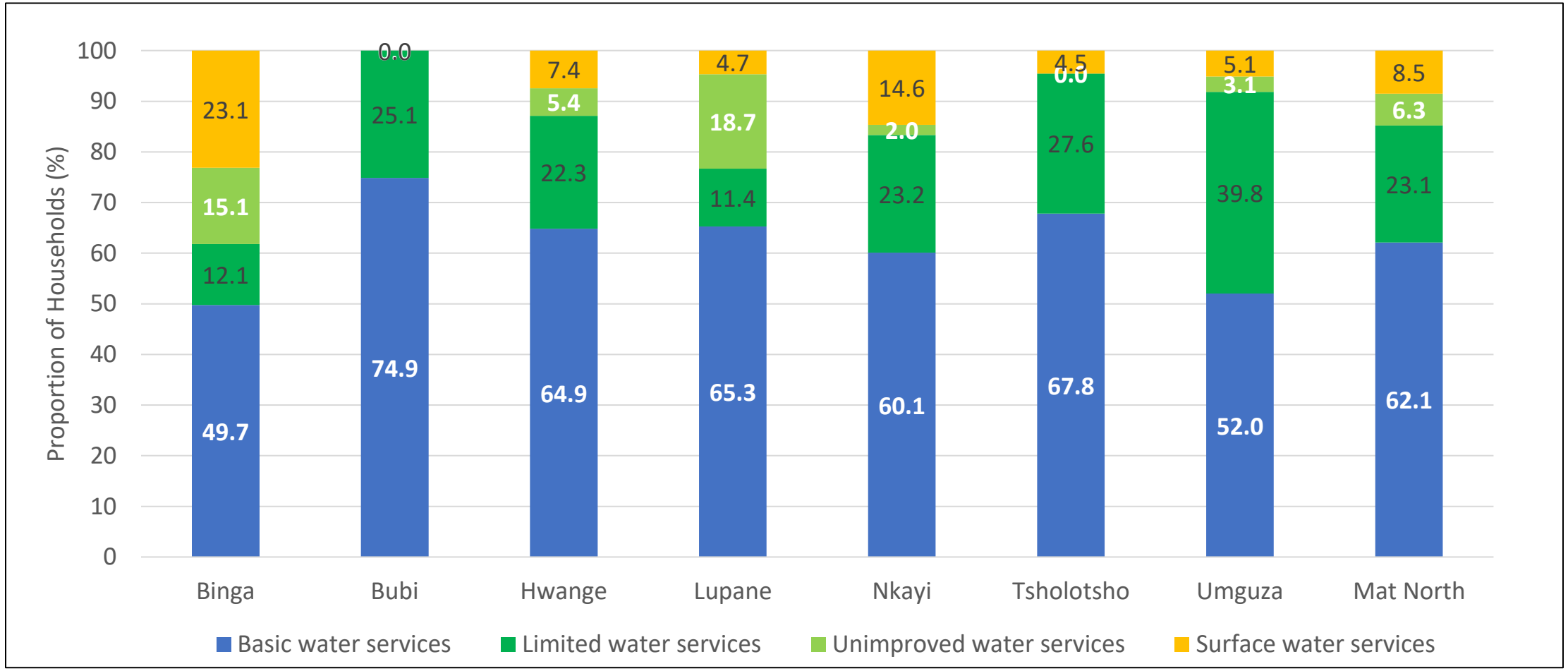
WASH SECTOR GOAL	SDG GLOBAL TARGET	SDG GLOBAL INDICATOR
Achieving universal access to basic services.	1.4 By 2030, ensure all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services.	1.4.1 Population living in households with access to basic services (including basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene).
Ending open Defecation.	6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	6.2.1 Population practising open Defecation.
Progress towards safely managed Services.	6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	6.1.1 Population using safely managed drinking water Services. 6.2.1 Population using safely managed sanitation services. 6.2.1 Population with a basic handwashing facility with soap and water available on premises.

Ladder for Drinking Water Services

Service Level	Definition
Safely Managed	Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination.
Basic Drinking Water	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.
Limited Drinking Water Services	Limited water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, where collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
Unimproved Water Sources	Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.
Surface Water Sources	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.

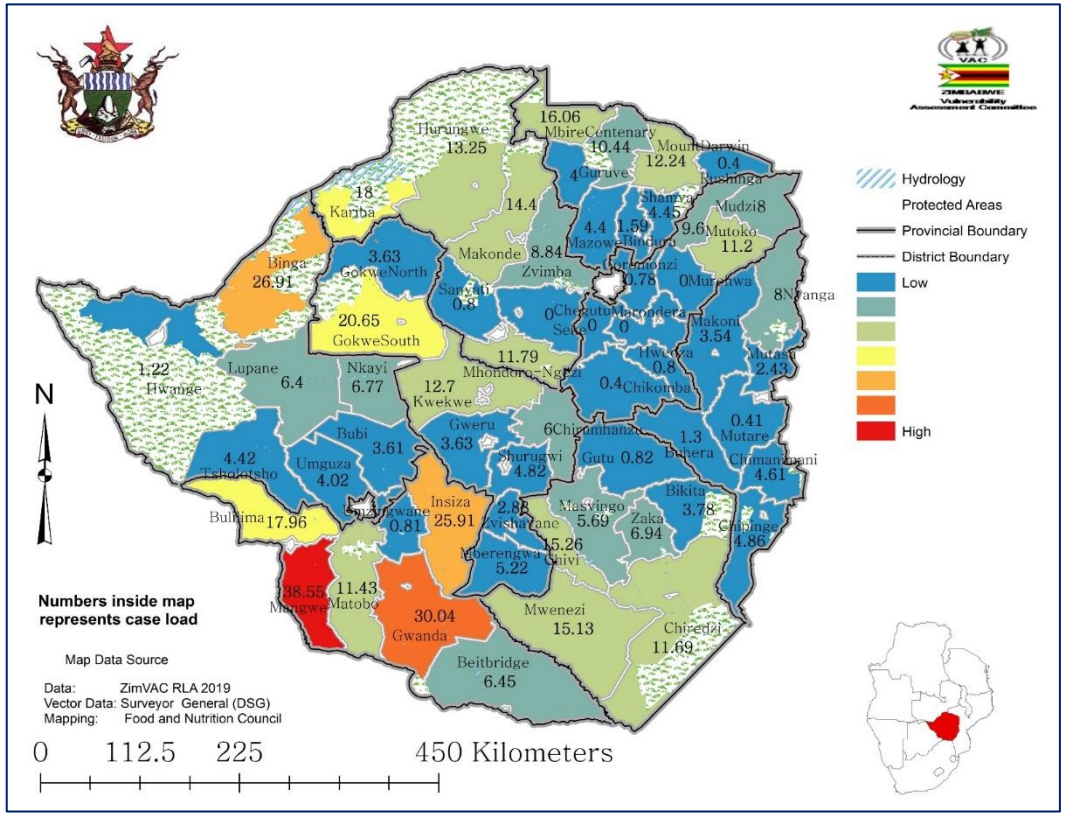
Main Drinking Water Services



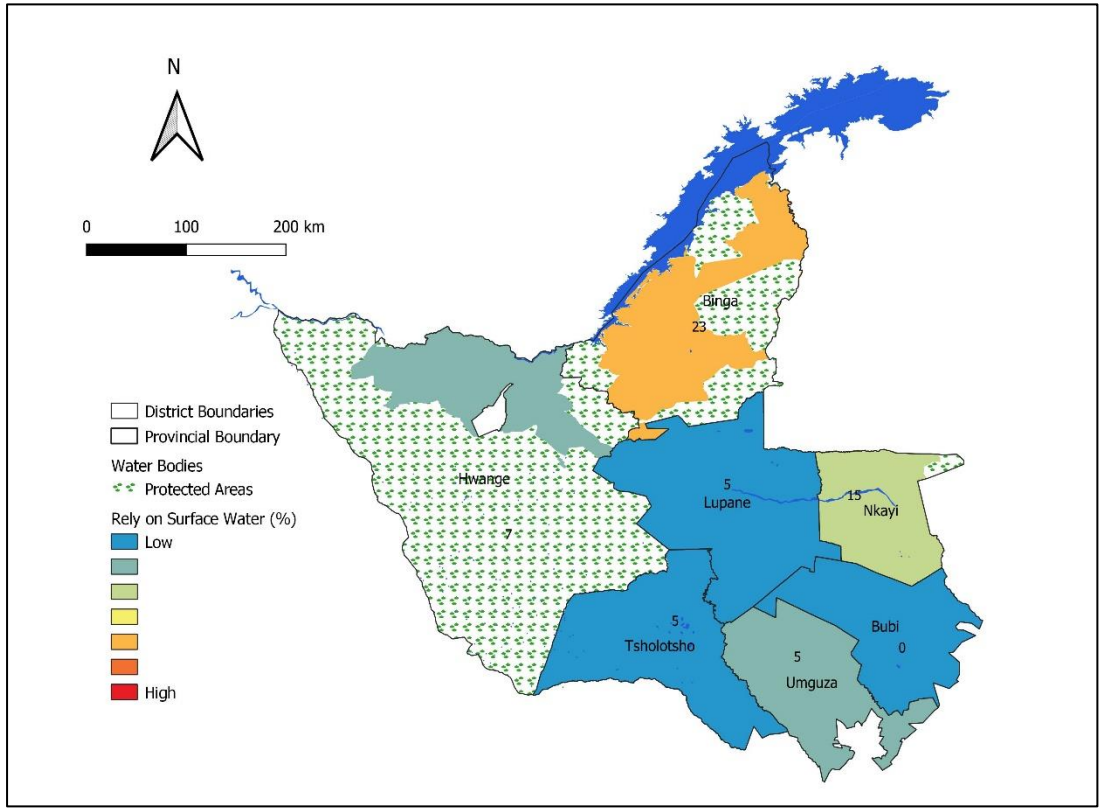
- Similar to the 2019 RLA assessment ,Binga still remains with the least basic water services (49.7%) .
- Bubi (74.9%) and Tsholotsho (67.8%) had the highest coverage for basic water services.

Households Drinking Surface Water by District

2019



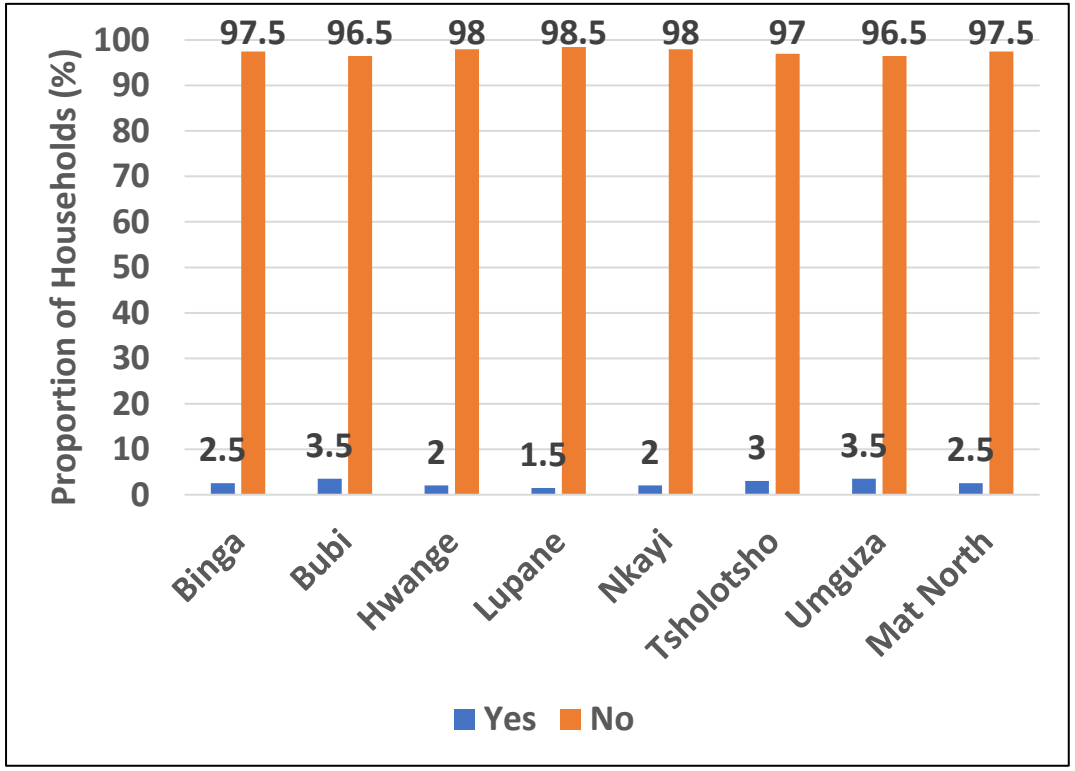
2020



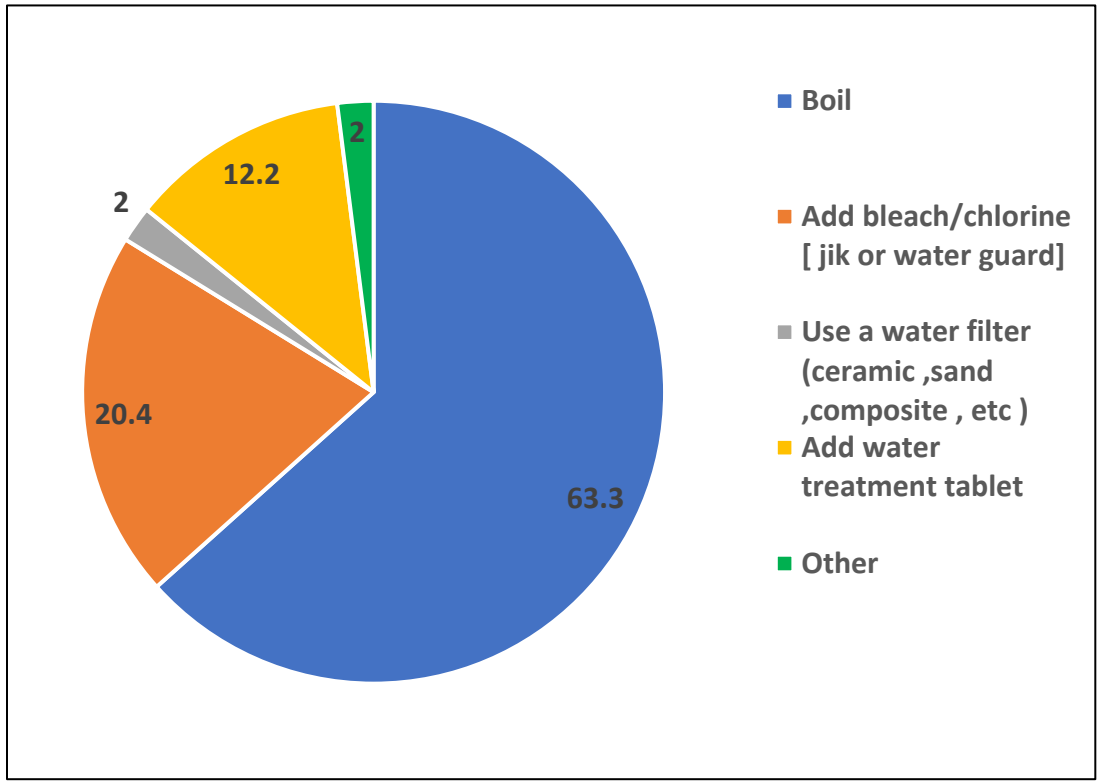
- As much as surface water is limited across the whole province, a remarkable proportion of households still rely on this as a source for domestic and other uses. This has a strong implication on exposure to water borne diseases.
- As reported in 2019 RLA , Binga (23%) still remains with the highest proportion of households using surface water.

Water Treatment

Coverage

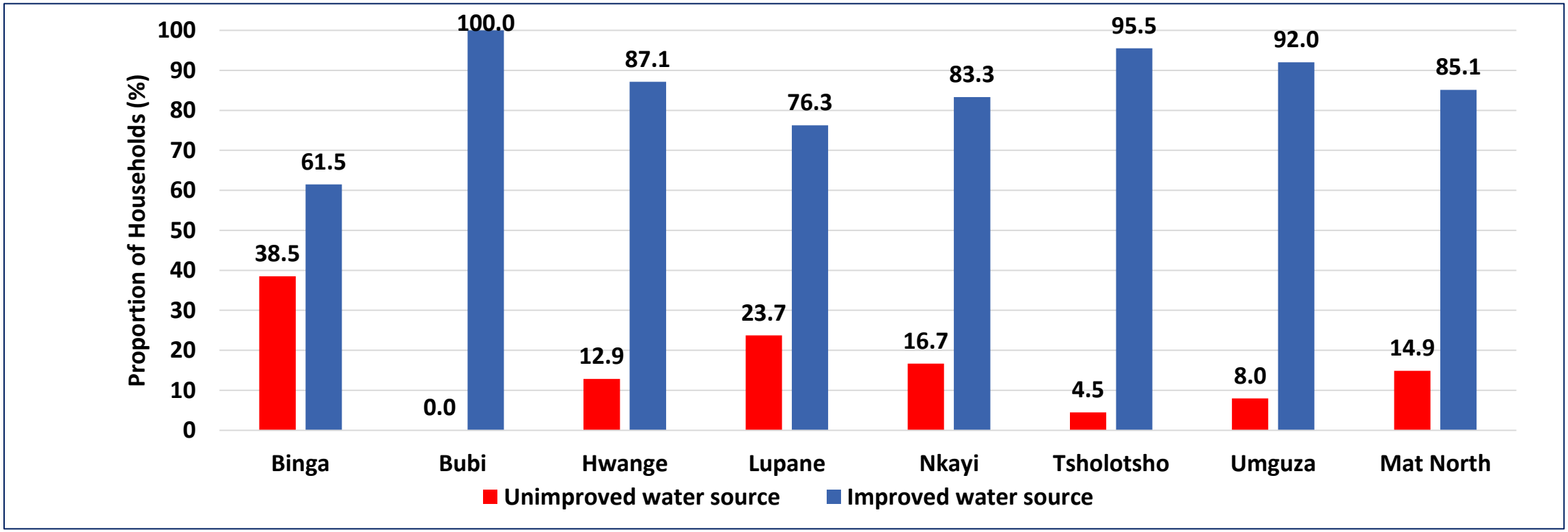


Methods



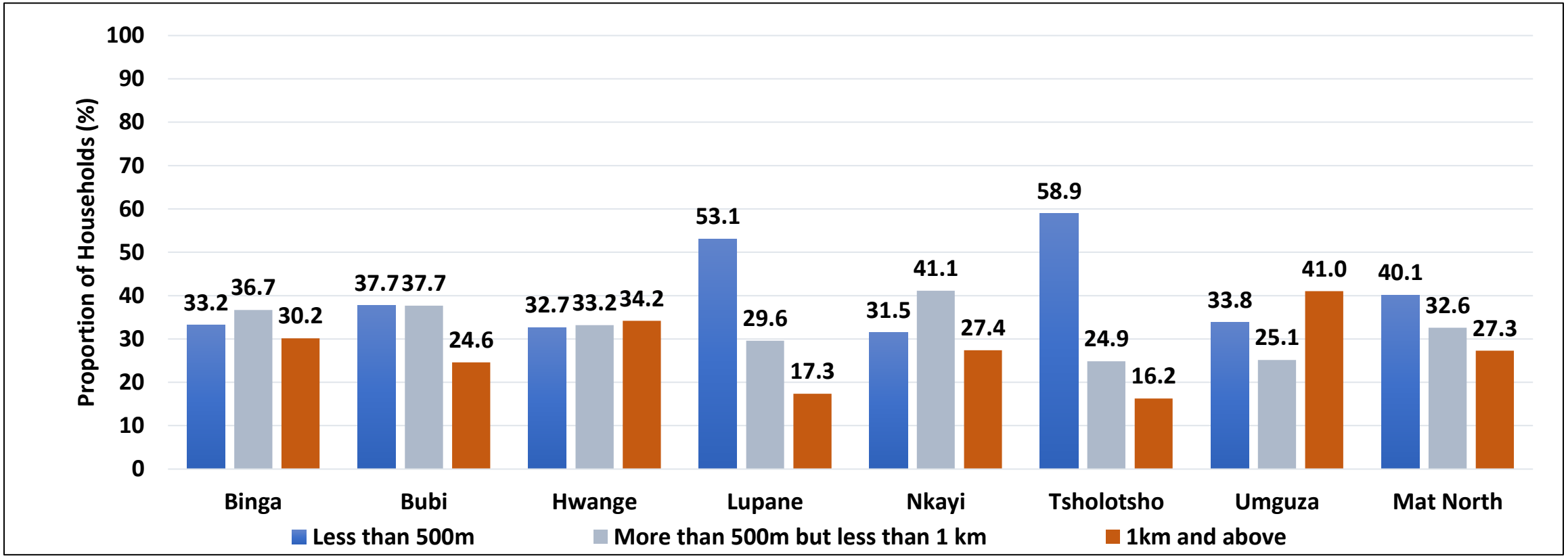
- A remarkably large proportion of households reported not to be treating their water.
- Lupane (98.5%) had the highest proportion of households which did not treat water.
- Overall, Matabeleland North communities had only 2.6% proportion of households reporting to have treated their water.
- Notably, the province mostly was reported to treat their water mostly by boiling (63.3%) , adding bleach/chorine (20.4%) and adding water treatment tablets(12.2%).

Access to Improved Water Source by District



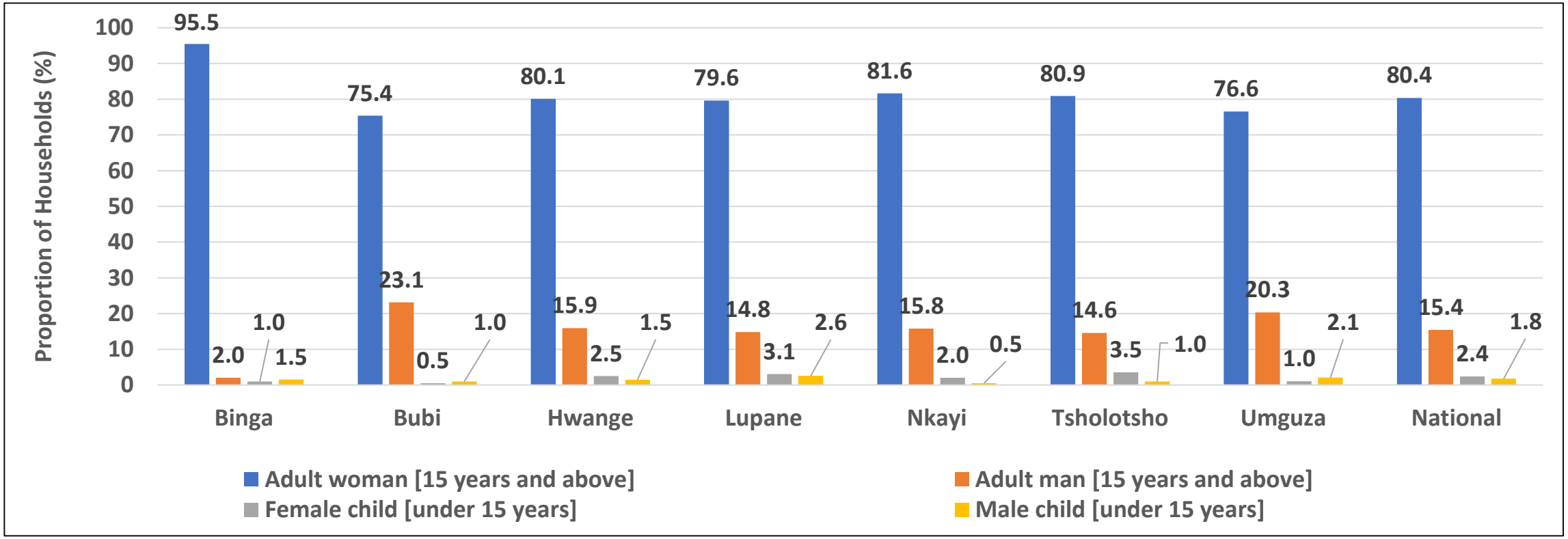
- Similar to the 2019 RLA, Binga still has the highest proportion of households (38.5%) that utilizes unimproved water sources.
- Unimproved water sources tend to expose communities to chemicals, faecal matter and microorganisms that might cause waterborne diseases.
- Bubi (100%) and Tsholotsho (95.5%) reported the highest proportion of households accessing water from improved sources.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



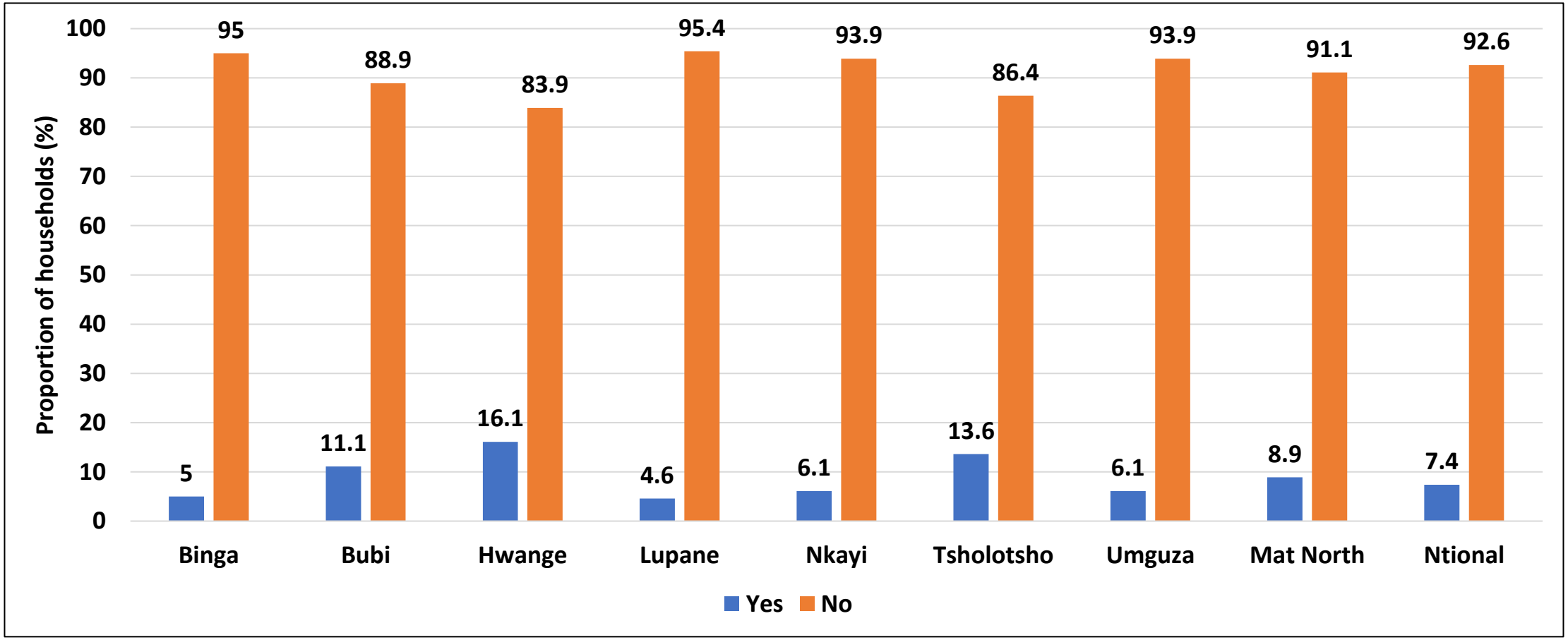
- Tsholotsho (58.9%) has the highest proportion of households reporting to have their main water source within 500meters.
- Umguza (41.0%)still had the highest proportion of households having to travel over a kilometer to their main source of water, followed by Hwange (34.2%).

Persons Responsible for Fetching Water



- All districts had a remarkable proportion of households with adult women (15 years and above) having the responsibility for fetching water.
- Bubi (23.1) and Umguza (20.3) had the highest proportion of adult men fetching water.
- Lupane, Tsholotsho and Hwange reported highest proportion of under 15 years of age , boys and girls combined fetching water.
- Water sources which requires travel and much efffort for pumping, potentially exposes the girl and boy child to undesirable external elements.

Violence at Water Points

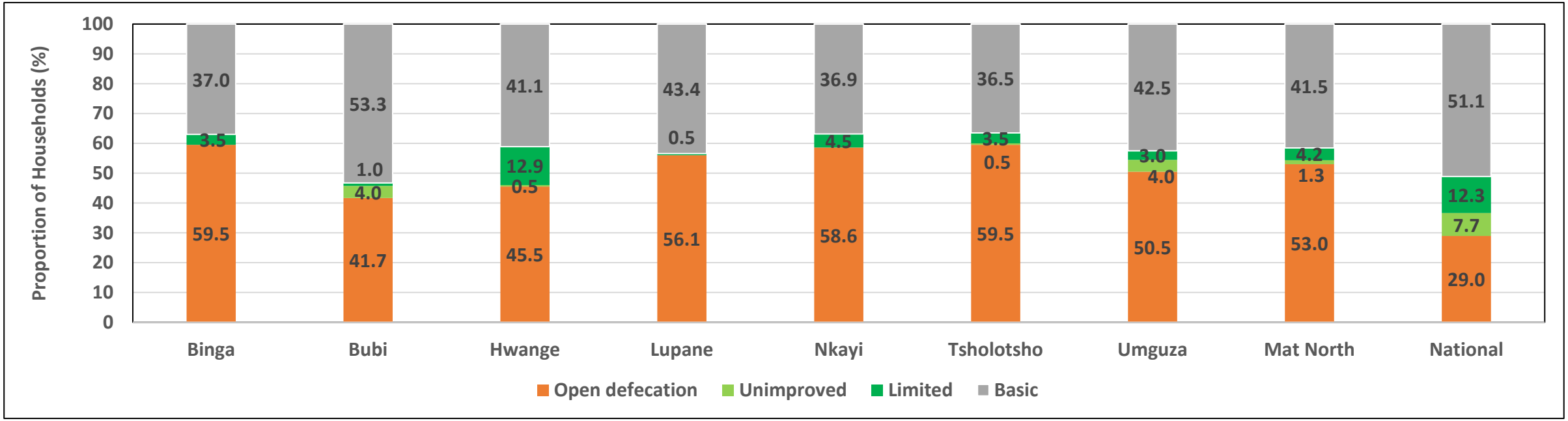


- Overall, Matabeleland North (8.9%) had a high proportion of households reporting incidences of violence at water points compared to the National incidences (7.4%).
- The highest prevalence of reported incidences of violence at water points was reported in Hwange (16.1%) and Tsholotsho (13.6%) .

Ladder for Sanitation

Service level	Definition
Safely Managed	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.
Basic Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households.
Limited Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.
Unimproved Sanitation Facilities	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.
Open Defecation	Disposal of human faeces in fields, forest, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces or with solid waste.
Note: 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.	

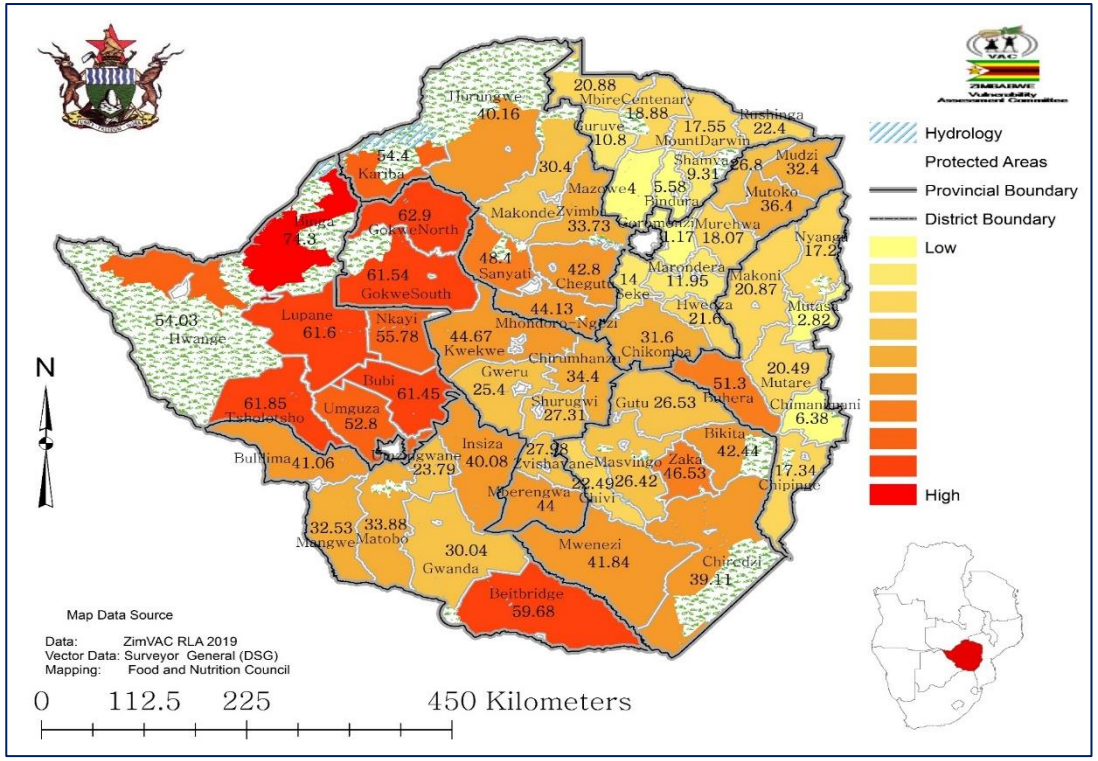
Open Defecation by District



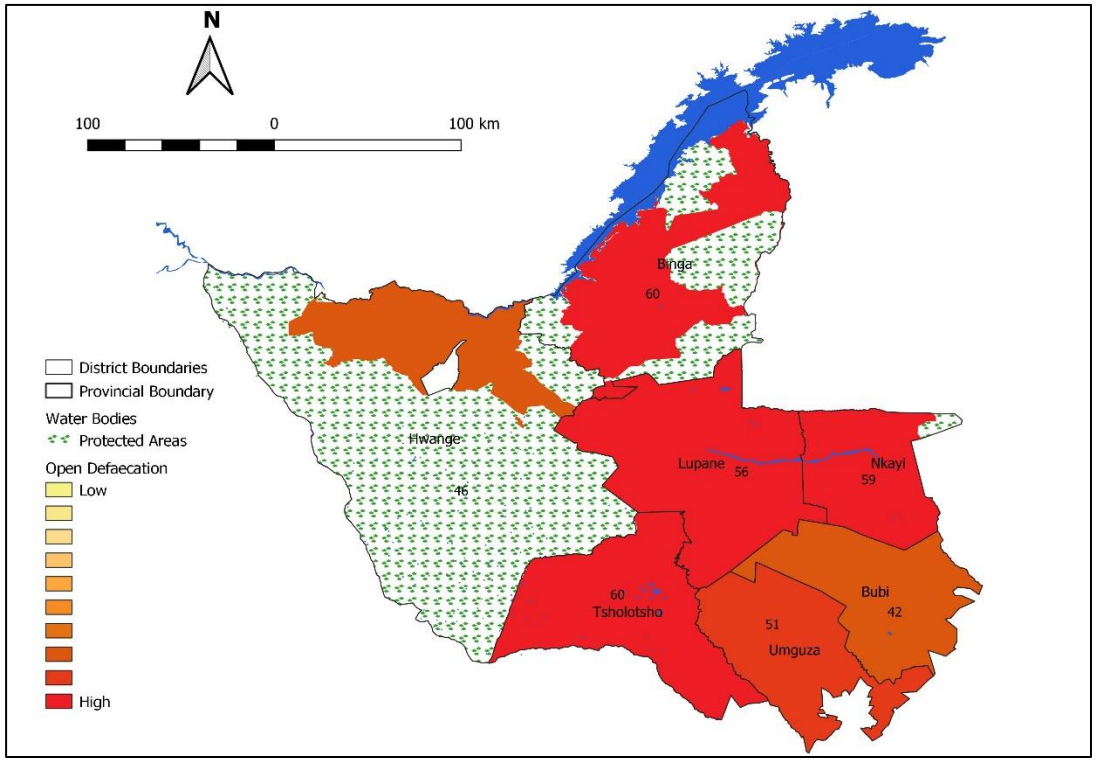
- Binga (59.5%) and Tsholotsho (59.5%) had the highest proportion of households practising open defecation.
- Open defecation increases the risk of the spread of infectious diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera.There is dire need for a tailormade WASH programming to break this trend.

Open Defecation by District

2019



2020



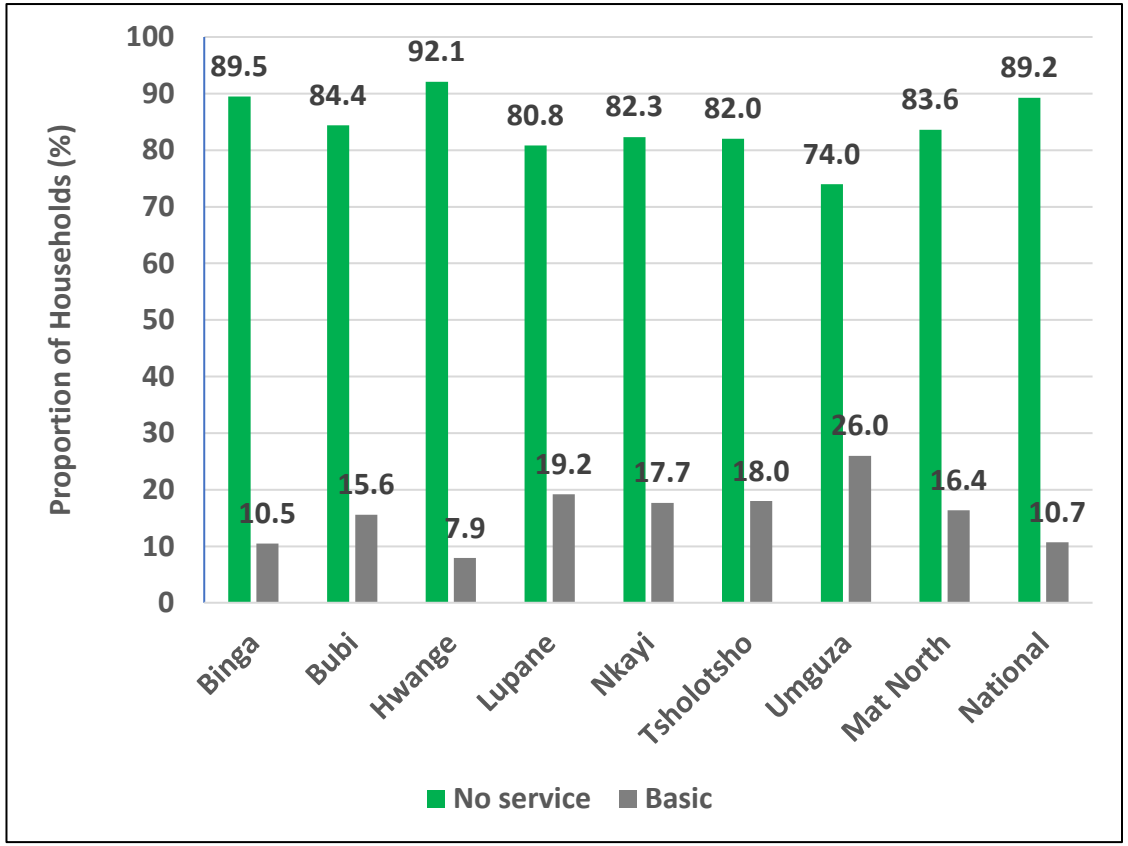
- Notably the Open Defecation trends reported between 2019 and 2020 have a similar trend across the province. Binga and Tsholotsho still remain with the highest proportion of households reporting the practice.
- This shows a need to scale up WASH programming in those areas by government, communities and partners.

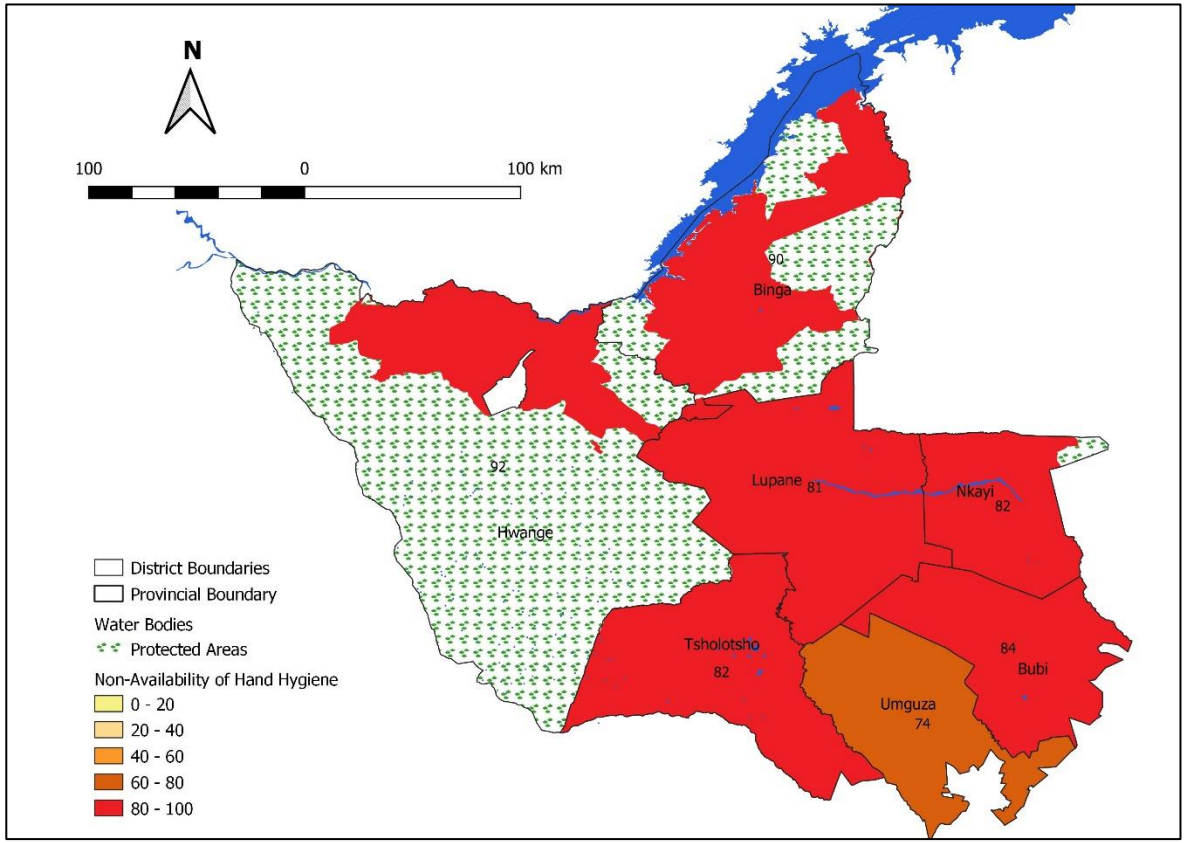
Ladder for Hygiene

Service level	Definition
Basic	Availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water.
Limited	Availability of a handwashing facility on premises without soap and water.
No Facility	No hand washing facility on premises.

Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

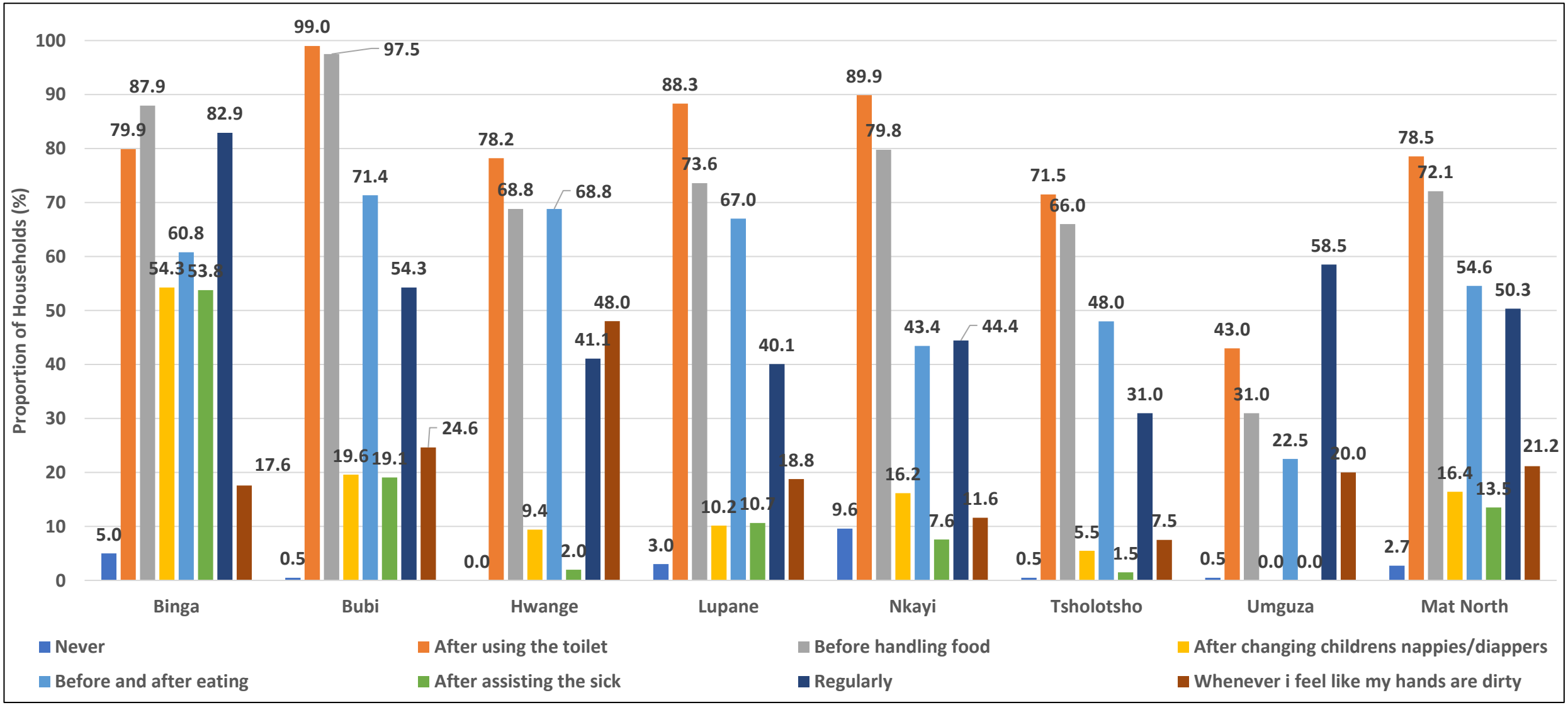
Availability of Handwashing Services/Facilities





- Notably, there were low proportions of households with handwashing services in the province. This was an indication of low hygiene standards and a potential for the spread of diseases.
- Hwange (92.1%) and Binga (89.5%) reported the highest proportions of households with incidences above the national average (89.2%).
- There were no households that reported the availabilty of limited handwashing services.

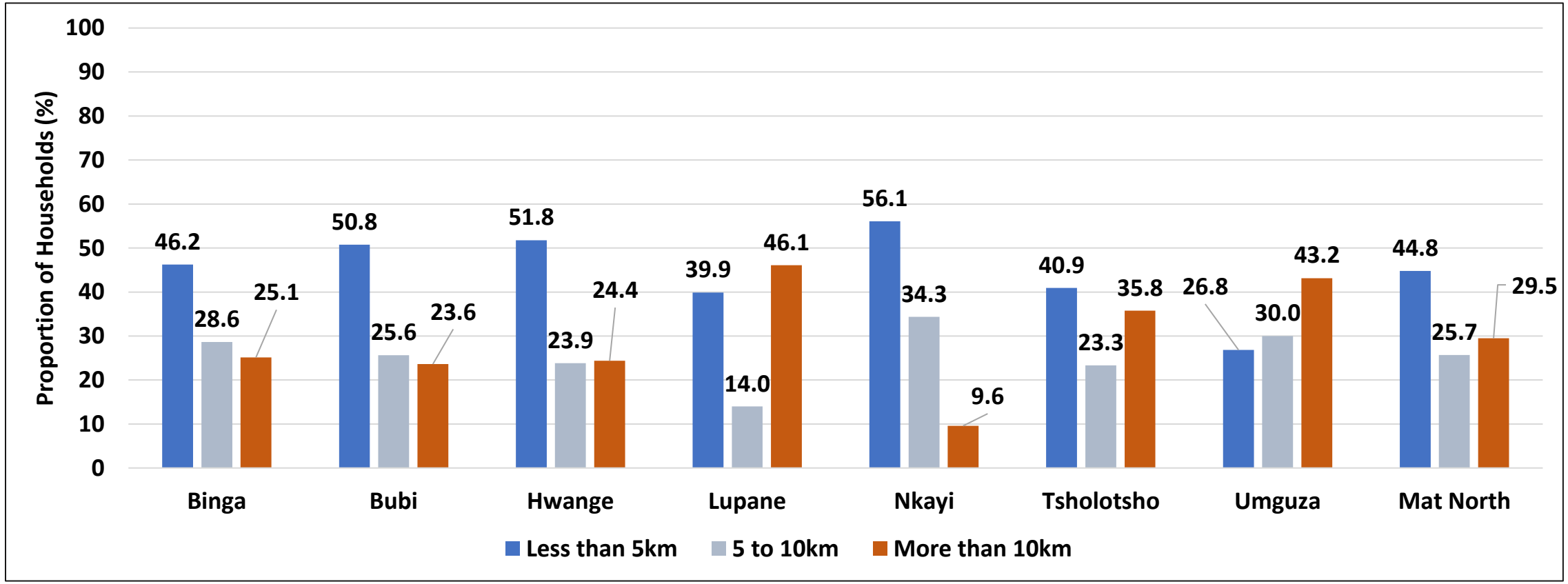
Handwashing Practices at Critical Times



- The most critically observed times for handwashing were after using the toilet (78.5%) and before eating food (72.1%).

Access to Services and Infrastructure

Distances travelled to the Nearest Health Facility



- Lupane (46.1%) and Umguza (43.2%) have the highest proportion of households who were travelling more than 10km to a health facility.
- Nkayi (56.1%) and Hwange (51.8%) have the highest proportion of households who were travelling less than 5km to a health facility.

Food and Nutrition Security Infrastructure

	Irrigation	Farming equipment	Fowl runs	Solar powered water source	Borehole	Storage facility	Savings	Beehives	Nutrition gardening	Agro-forestry	Other
Binga	23.5	24.0	14.0	11.5	35.0	7.5	9.0	8.5	53.0	0.5	10.5
Bubi	6.1	14.6	17.2	5.6	2.0	8.6	6.6	0.0	58.1	0.5	27.3
Hwange	9.9	0.5	25.0	0.5	4.7	2.1	0.5	0.0	45.8	0.0	29.7
Lupane	3.7	40.3	10.5	0.0	1.6	15.7	2.6	0.0	45.0	0.0	14.7
Nkayi	1.0	5.1	32.0	0.0	2.5	7.6	0.0	0.5	53.8	0.0	29.4
Tsholotsho	0.5	24.0	27.5	0.0	1.0	9.5	0.0	0.5	17.5	0.0	50.5
Umguza	2.6	15.5	9.3	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	0.0	38.7	0.0	35.1
Mat North	6.7	17.7	19.3	2.6	6.9	7.5	2.8	1.4	44.6	0.1	28.2

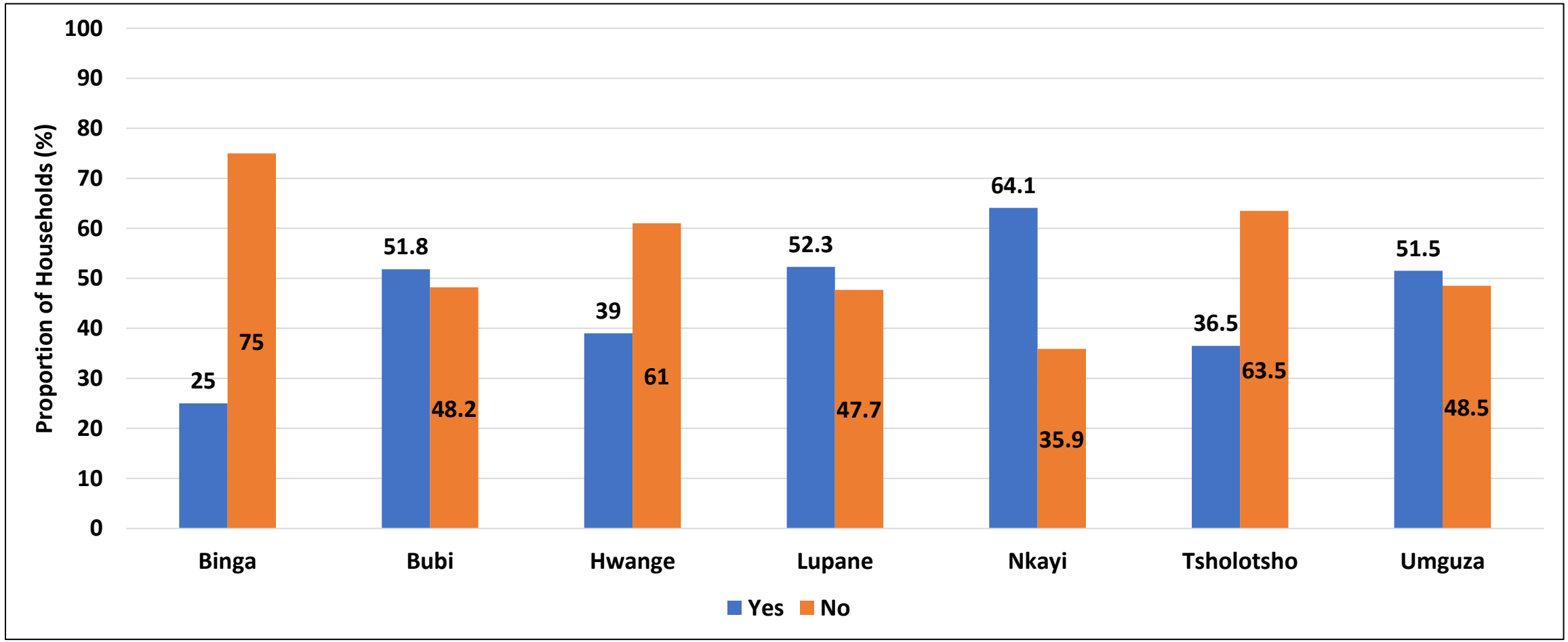
- Nutrition Gardens were the most prominent form of Food and Nutrition Security Infrastructure available to households.
- The rest of these Food and Nutrition Security forms of infrastructure were proportionately low.
- This had a negative implication on Food and Nutrition capacity in the communities.

Sources of Climate and Weather Information

	Radio	Neighbours/ Friends/Other Households	Television	Print media (Newspapers	Social media	Internet browsing	Government Extension Workers	UN/NGOs	Other
Binga	75.5	6.1	0.0	0.0	18.4	2.0	77.6	38.8	0.0
Bubi	93.2	34.0	1.9	0.0	7.8	0.0	54.4	24.3	1.0
Hwange	28.6	33.3	1.2	1.2	2.4	0.0	78.6	1.2	1.2
Lupane	43.7	29.1	1.0	1.0	2.9	0.0	72.8	7.8	1.0
Nkayi	46.1	46.9	3.9	4.7	9.4	0.0	64.1	10.2	2.3
Tsholotsho	31.5	9.6	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	90.4	6.8	2.7
Umguza	23.8	4.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.2	0.0	0.0
Mat North	48	26.1	1.7	1.2	5.6	0.2	72.4	11.1	1.2

- The highest proportion of households in the province reported to be accessing weather information mostly through Government Extension Workers (72.4%).
- Radio remains the second most popular source for climate and weather, notably highest in Bubi (93%) and Binga (75.5%).

Access to Climate and Weather Information



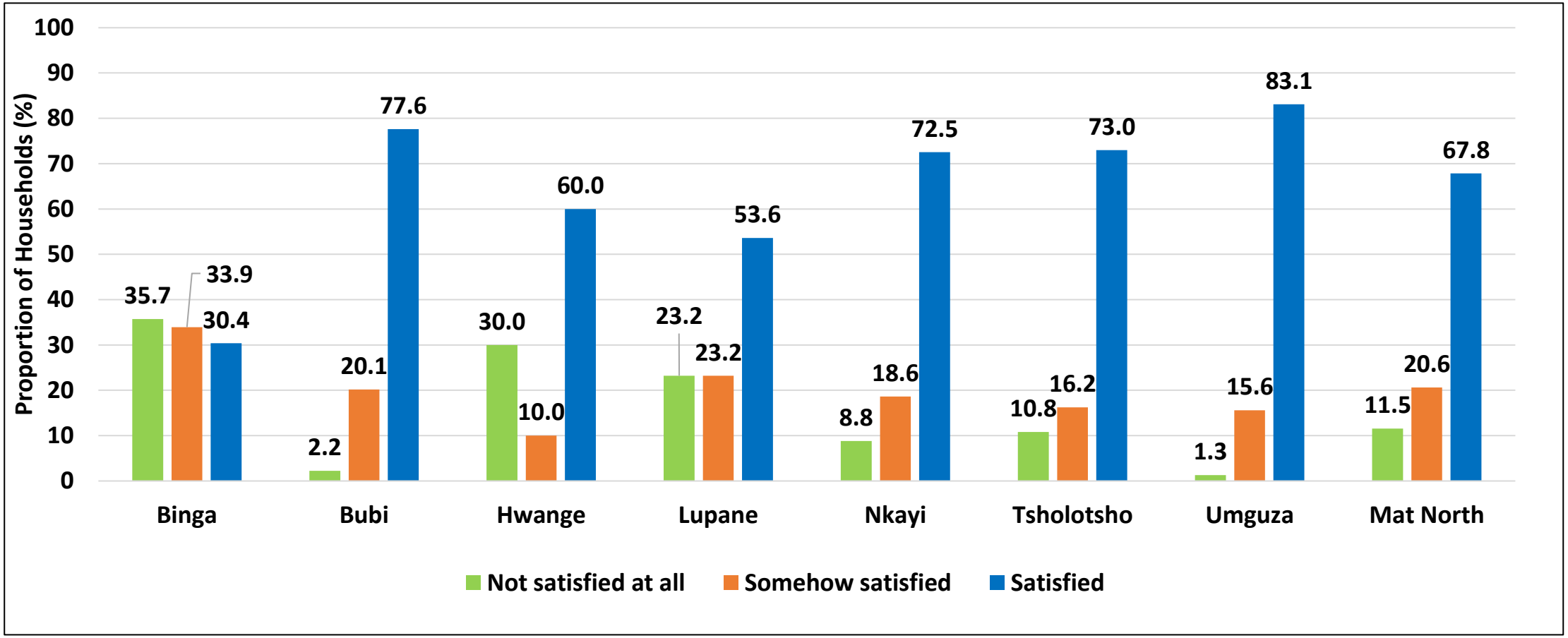
- Binga (75%) had the highest proportions of households which did not have access to climate and weather related information.
- Overall, the province has a higher proportion of households which do not have access to weather related information. This has an implication on disaster preparedness as well as issues to do with seasonal planning.

Sources of Physical and Sexual Violence Information

	Radio	Other household member	Television	Newspaper	Social media	Internet browsing	Government Extension Worker	Health workers	Health promoters	Friends and relatives	UN/NGOs	Police	Other
Binga	73.9	8.7	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	56.5	13.0	17.4	21.7	52.2	17.4	0.0
Bubi	86.2	33.0	1.8	0.0	6.4	0.0	36.7	55.0	3.7	4.6	34.9	19.3	3.7
Hwange	25.6	20.5	2.6	0.0	5.1	0.0	2.6	17.9	5.1	17.9	7.7	28.2	7.7
Lupane	67.1	30.4	2.5	2.5	6.3	0.0	11.4	36.7	13.9	17.7	7.6	16.5	1.3
Nkayi	27.0	20.2	2.2	1.1	5.6	0.0	11.2	20.2	11.2	10.1	21.3	71.9	2.2
Tsholotsho	31.5	4.5	0.0	1.8	6.3	0.9	8.1	55.0	13.5	20.7	7.2	16.2	5.4
Umguza	27.2	1.5	2.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	7.4	33.1	12.5	4.4	5.9	13.2	9.6
Mat North	46.1	16.2	1.7	0.9	5.1	0.2	15.7	38.1	10.8	11.8	16.0	25.4	4.9

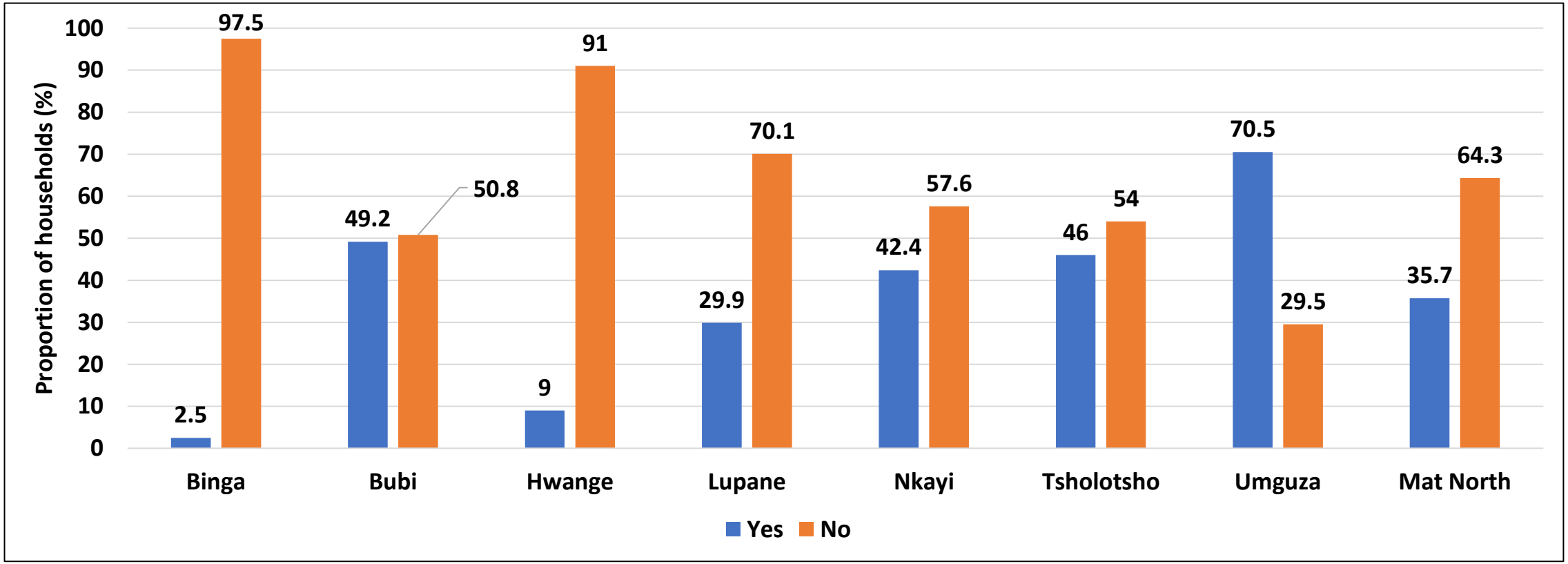
- Radio was the most reported source of Physical and Sexual Violence information (46.1%).
- There was low proportions of households accessing this information through television (1.7%) .

Satisfaction of the Sexual and Physical Violence Services



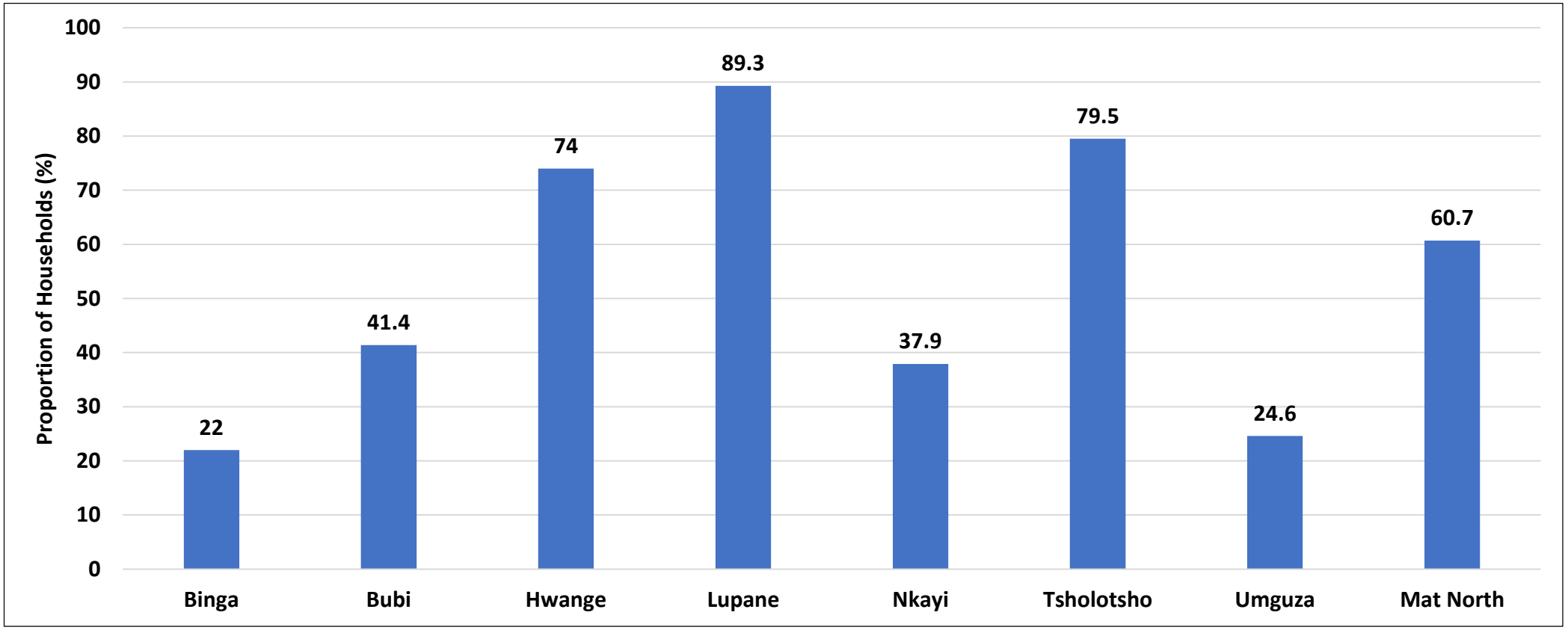
- Binga had the highest proportion of households expressing non-satisfaction on the sexual and physical violence services.
- Most districts expressed satisfaction over these services and were above 50%.

Access to Sexual and Physical Violence Information



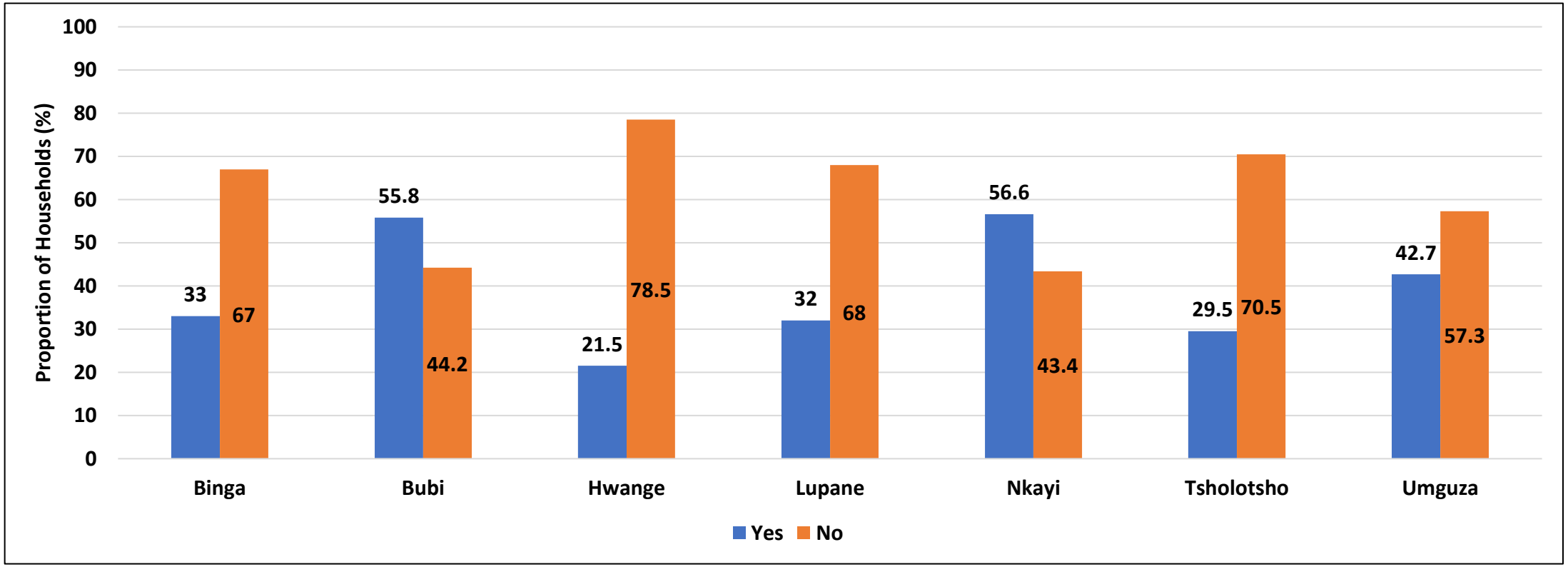
- Binga (97.5%) and Hwange (91%) had the highest proportions of households which did not have access to sexual and physical violence information.
- Overall, the province had a higher proportion of households which did not have access to this information. This has an implication on sexual health and the incidence of unresolved GBV issues.

Access to Victim Friendly Unit Services



- Lupane (89.3%) and Tsholotsho (79.5%) have the highest proportions of households which had access to Victim Friendly Unit Services.
- Binga (22%) had the lowest proportion accessing these services.

Access Police Services



- Hwange (78.5%) and Tsholotsho (70.5%) had the highest proportion of households that had no police services reachable within an hour.
- Nkayi at 56.6% and Bubi at 55.8% had the highest proportions of households with police services reachable within an hour.

ISALS and Loans

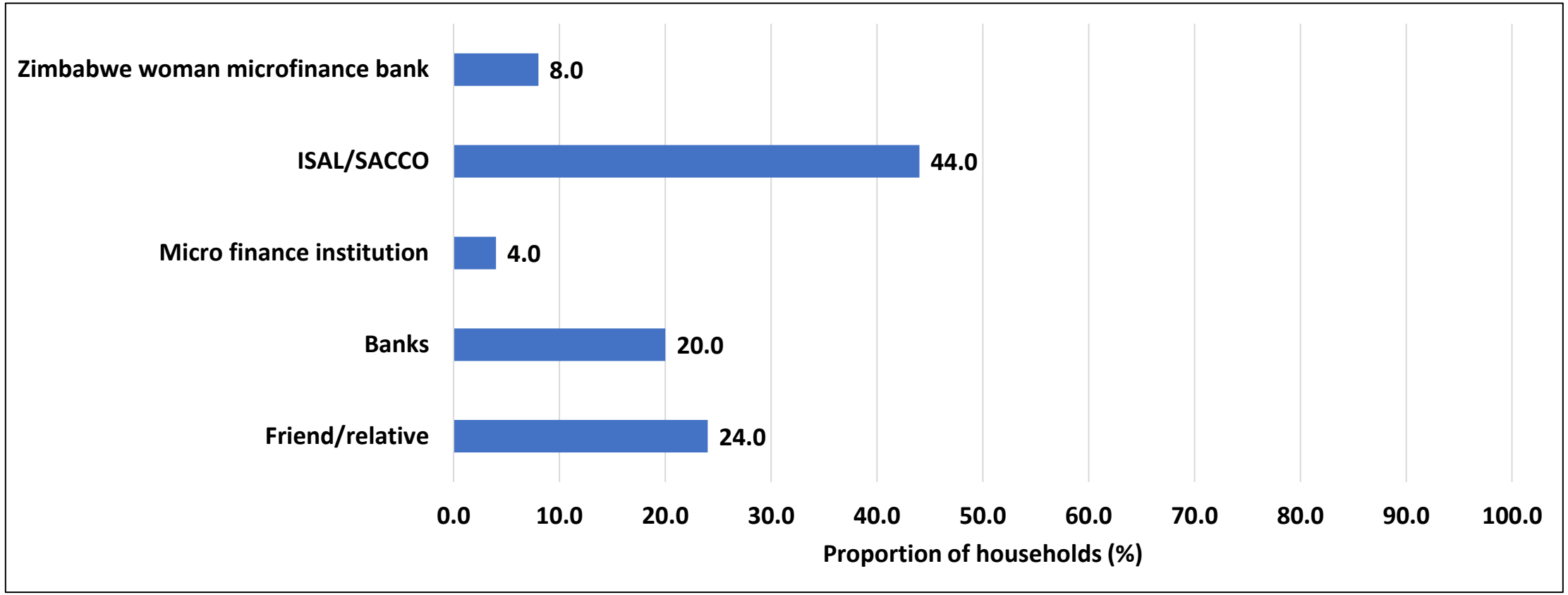
Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISALS) is one of the ways through which the poor have financial access.

ISALS assist communities excluded from participating in the mainstream financial services sector.

In Zimbabwe, ISALS have also been used by those in the middle class (even in formal employment) to fund various initiatives.

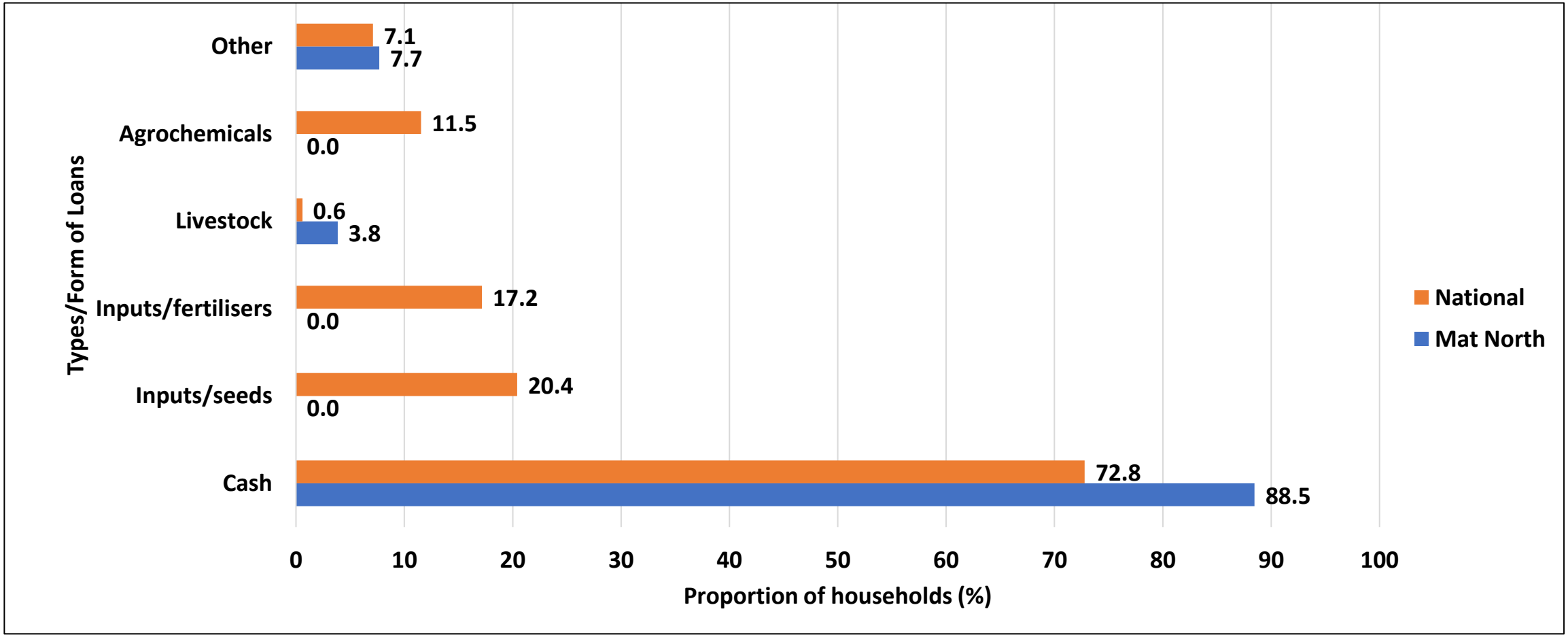
Access to affordable loans remains a challenge for rural communities in Zimbabwe

Sources of Loans



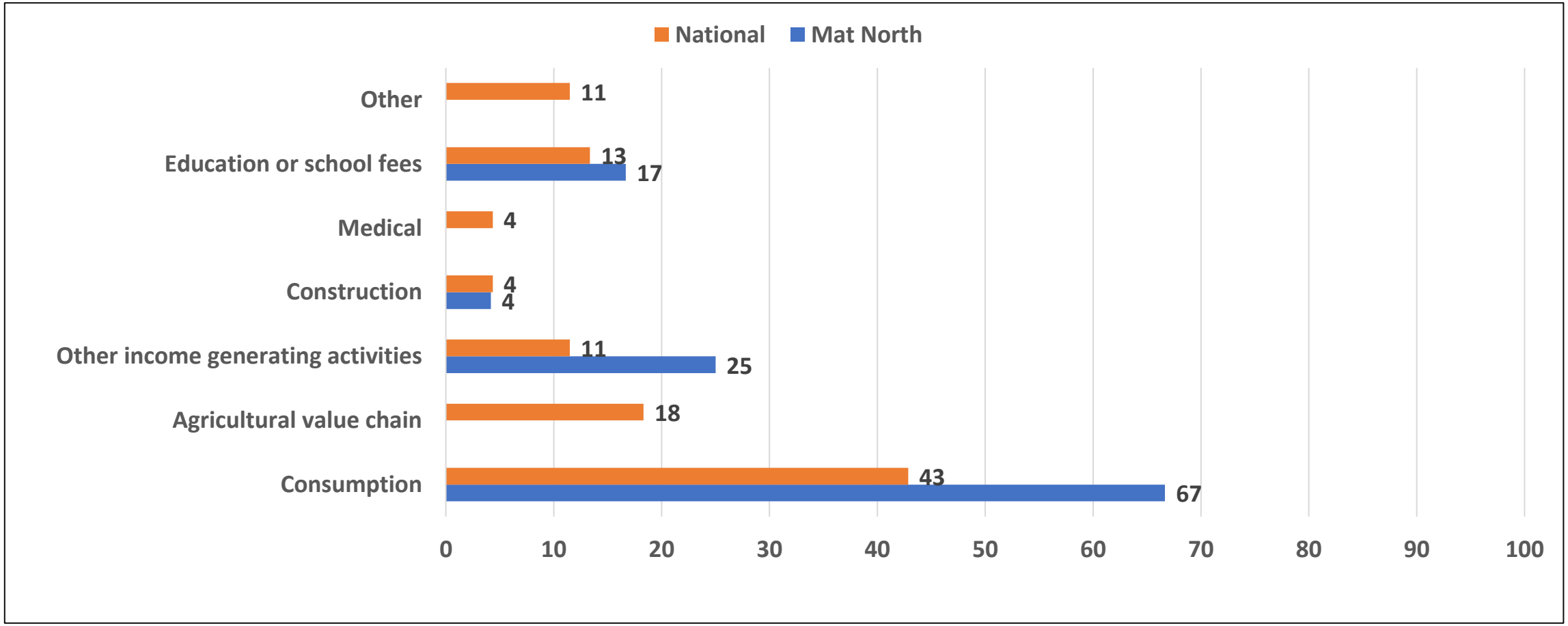
- Only 1.7% of the households had received a loan 12 months prior to the assessment.
- ISALS /SACCO (44%) and friends/relatives (24%) were the most reported sources of loans.

Types of Loans



- The most common type of loan was cash (88.5%).
- Notably , loans in agricultural were significantly low. This could imply limited financial support to the sector.

Primary Uses of Loans



- Most households (67%) reported using the loans for consumption.
- Only 25% of the households reported using their loans for other income generating activities.

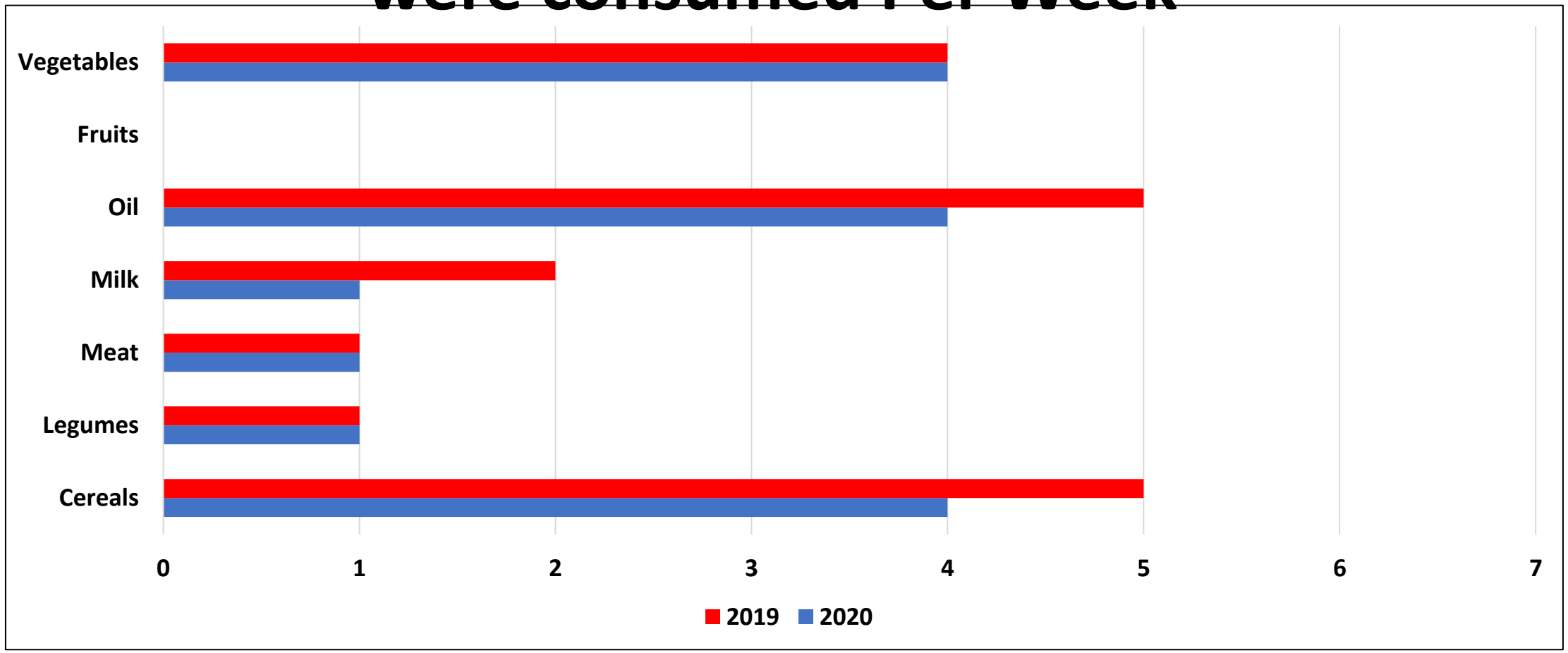
Use of Share-out from ISALs Group

	Buying construction materials	Education	Livestock purchase	Food	Household utensils	Agricultural inputs and equipment	Financing Income generating projects	Health costs	No share out yet received
Binga	0.0	25.0	0.0	75.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	8.7	4.3	0.0	17.4	30.4	0.0	8.7	0.0	52.2
Hwange	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	60.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	20.0
Lupane	4.0	8.0	24.0	32.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	24.0
Tsholotsho	0.0	7.1	14.3	35.7	21.4	3.6	0.0	7.1	42.9
Umguza	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tsholotsho	0.0	7.1	14.3	35.7	21.4	3.6	0.0	7.1	42.9
Mat North	3.0	5.9	10.9	29.7	23.8	2.0	4.0	3.0	35.6

- Most share-outs were used for purchasing of food , notably highest in Umguza (100%) and Binga (75%) respectively.
- About 35.6% reported that they had not yet received their share outs..
- Committing of the share-out to Agricultural inputs/equipment and Income generating projects was relatively very low.

Food Consumption Patterns

Average Number of Days Various Food groups were consumed Per Week

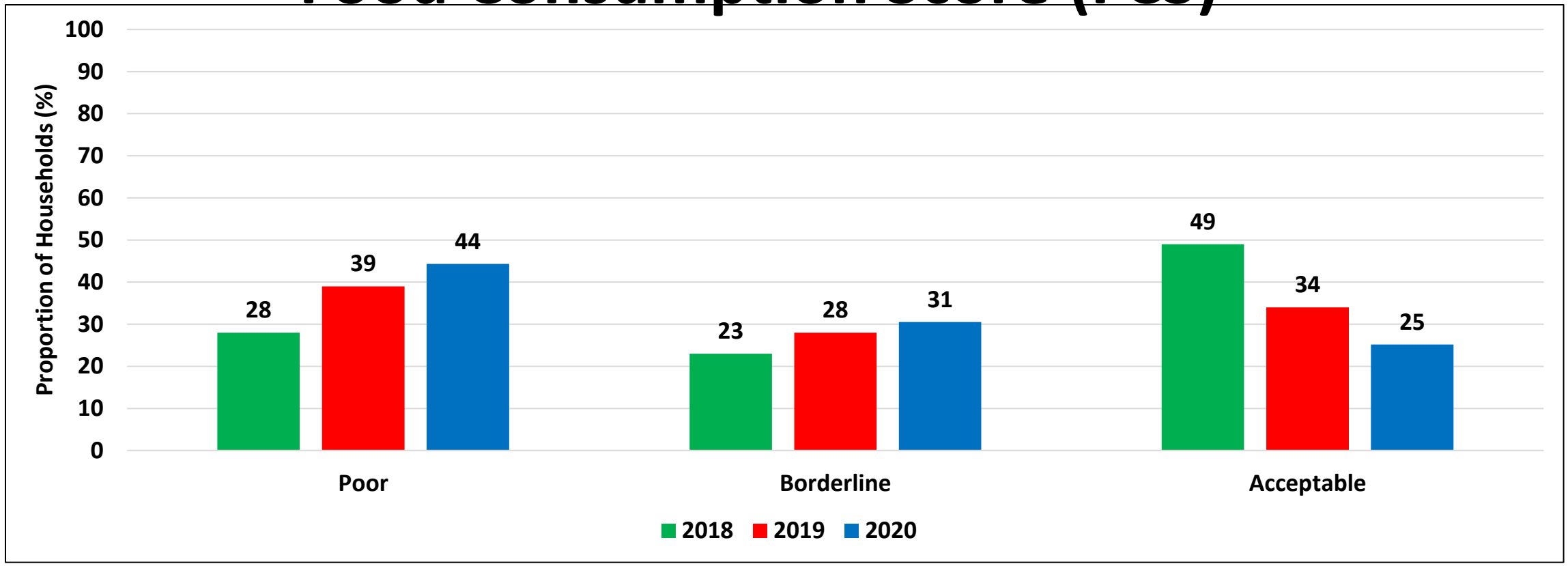


- Diets consumed in the province were limited in diversity, especially when it comes to fruits and animal products. Compared to the year 2019, 2020 reported to predominantly consumed plant based foods.
- Meat, milk and legumes consumption was reported to be very low and insignificant.

The Food Consumption Score

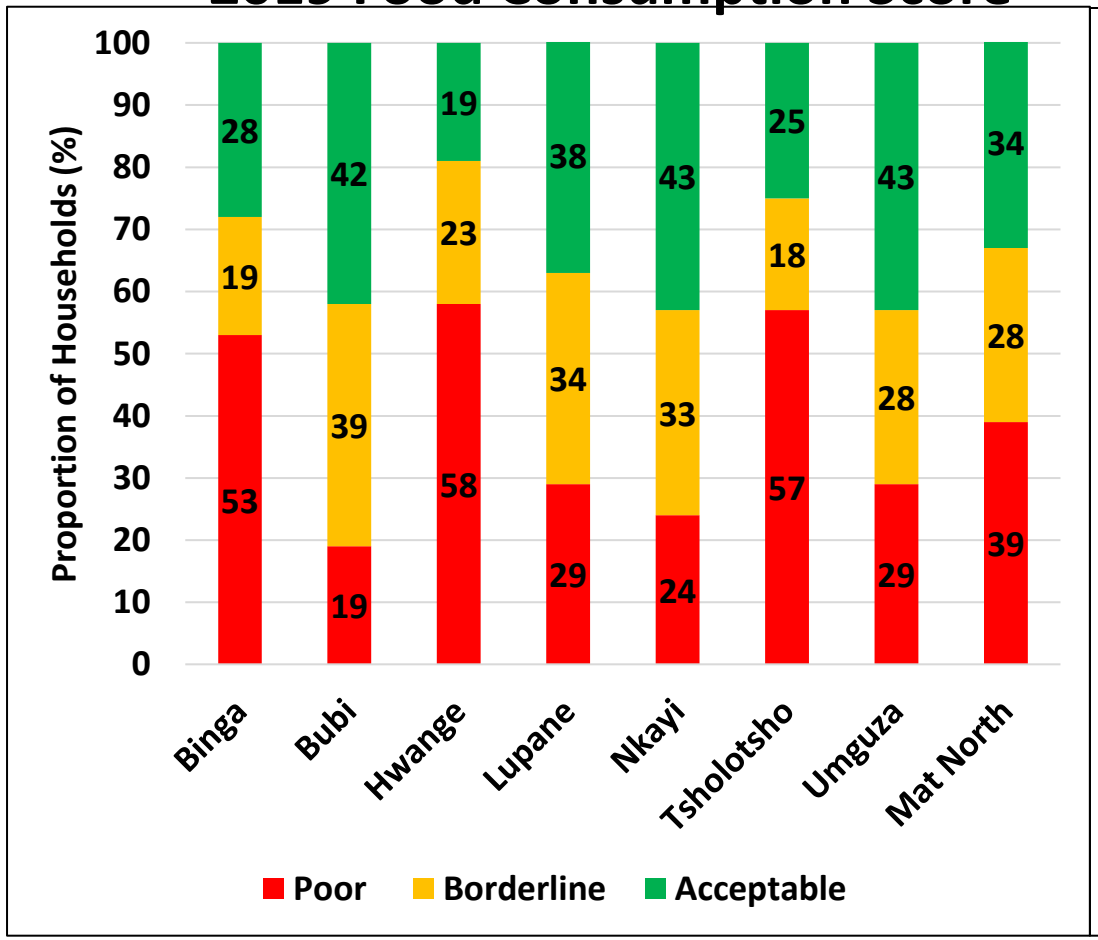
Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
Poor	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oils/fats 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
Borderline	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oils/fats 3 day s Meat/fish/egg/pulses 1-2 days a week, while dairy products are totally absent
Acceptable	>35	As defined for the borderline group with more number of days a week eating meat , fish, egg, oil, and complemented by other foods such pulses, fruits and milk

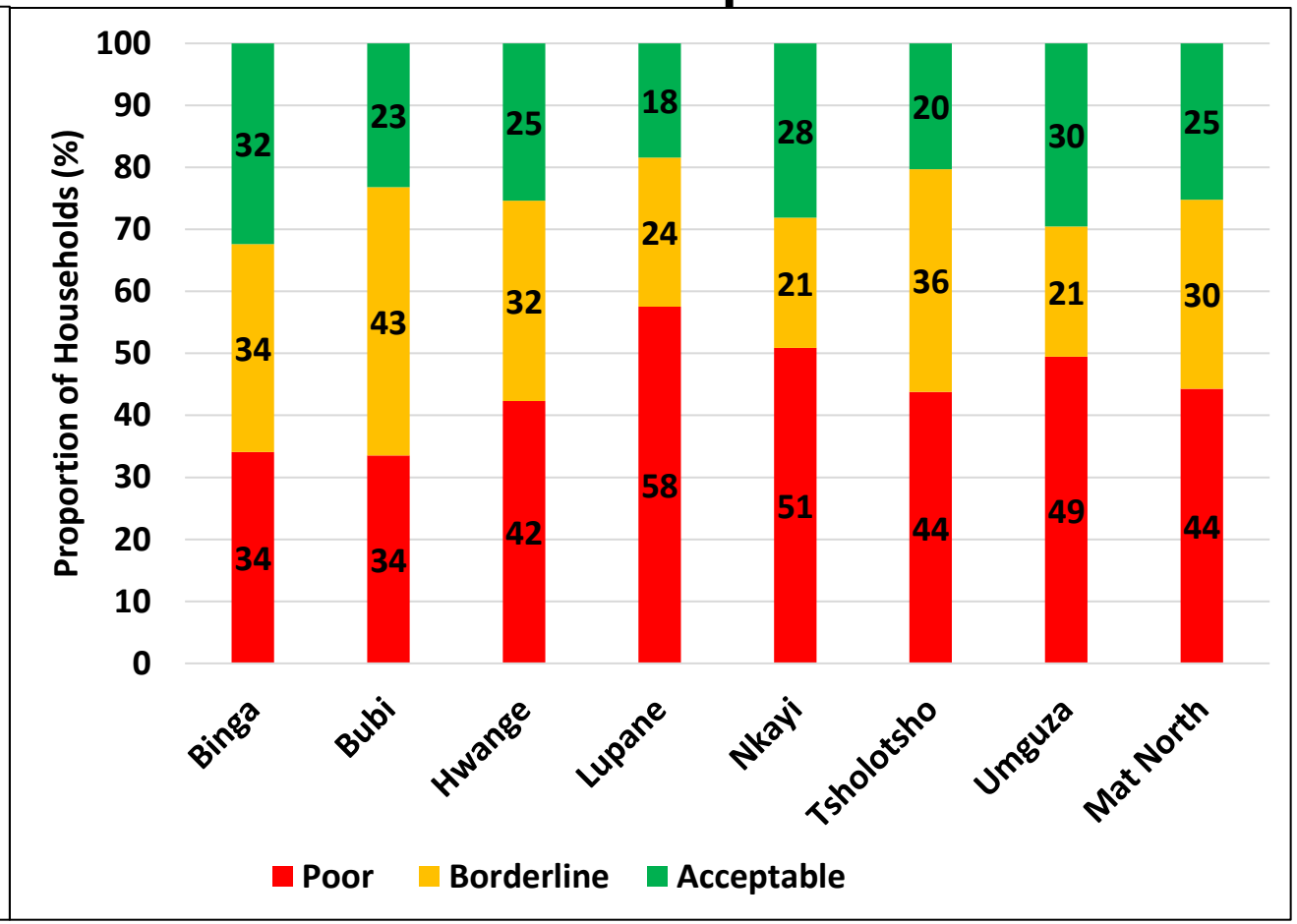
Food Consumption Score (FCS)



- The proportion of households consuming poor and borderline diets in Matabeleland North increased from 2019.
- Households consuming poor diets increased from 39% to 44%. Similarly, there was also an increase of households consuming borderline diets to 31% from 28% in 2019.
- Consumption of acceptable diets, had been on a decline since 2018. The proportion for 2020 was 25%, from 34% in 2019 and 49% in 2018.

Food Consumption Categories by District

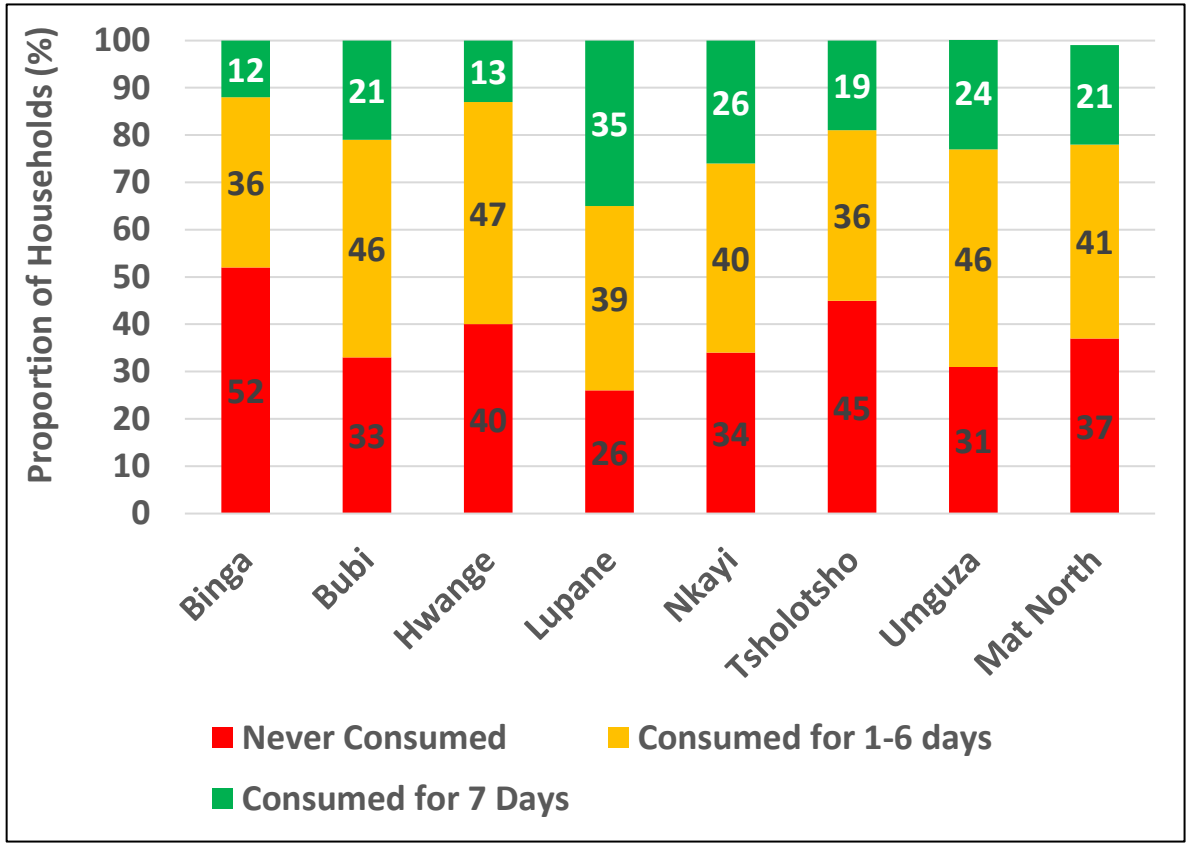




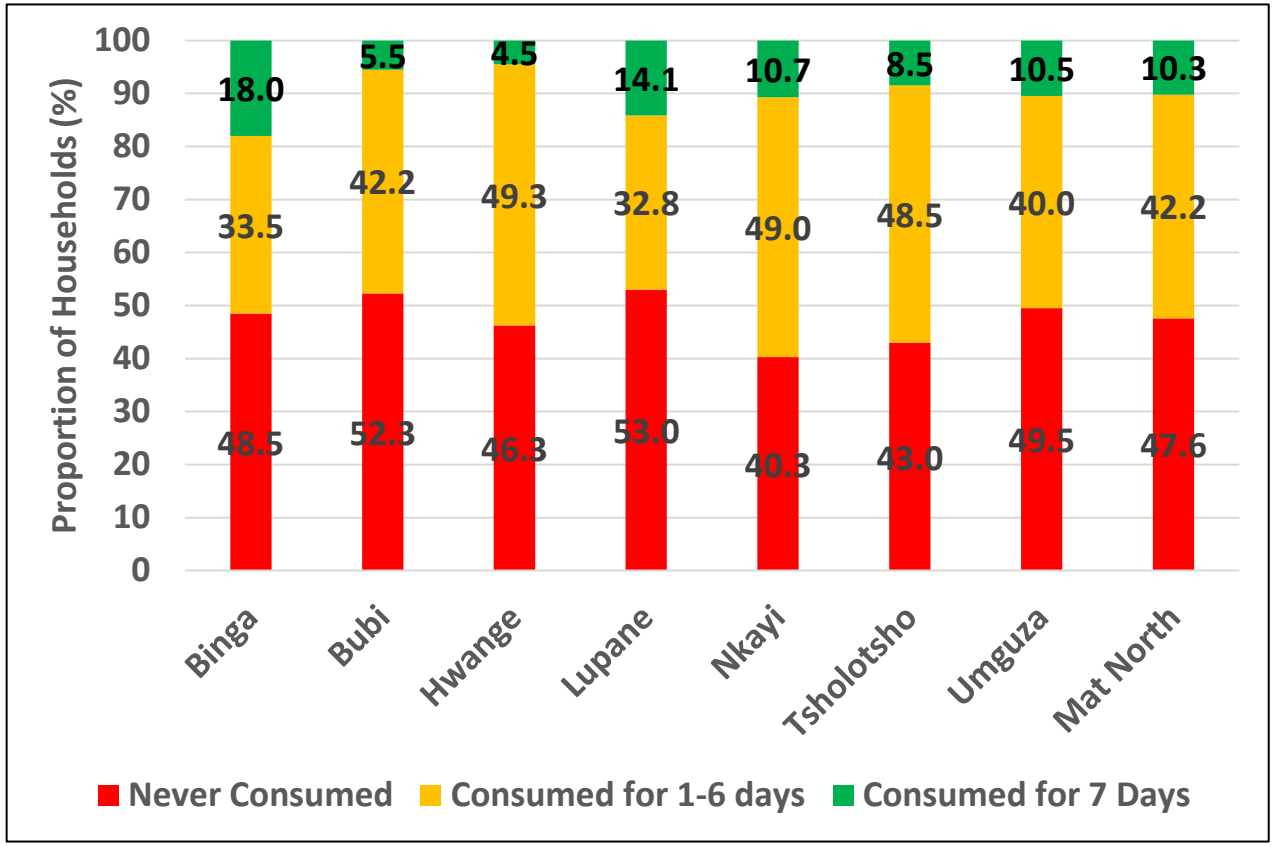
- Binga, Hwange and Tsholotsho reported a decrease in households consuming poor diets.
- Bubi, Lupane, Nkayi and Umguza reported an increase in households consuming poor diets the proportion of households that consume poor diets in 2020 increased compared to 2019.
- The provincial average of households consuming poor diets increased from 39% in 2019 to 44% in 2020 and this is a cause for concern.

Consumption of Protein Rich Foods

2019



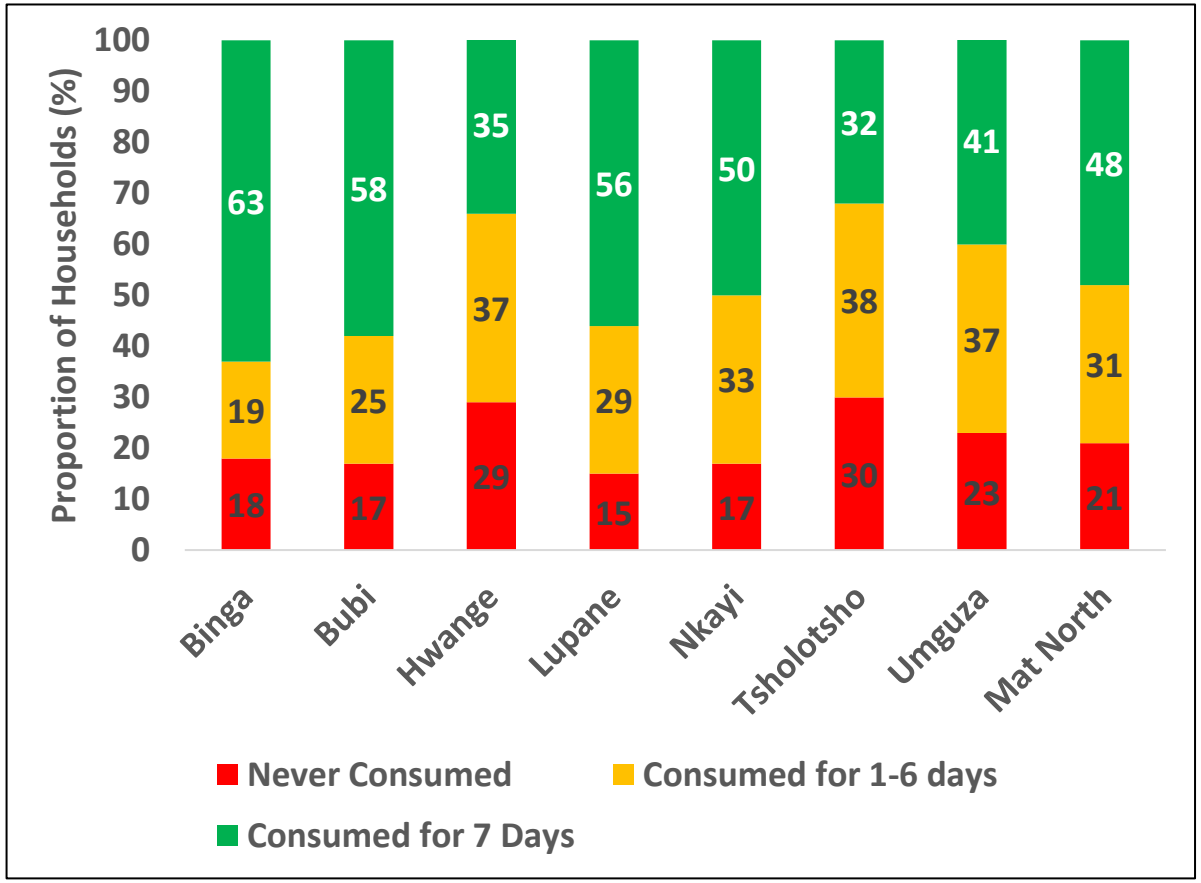
2020



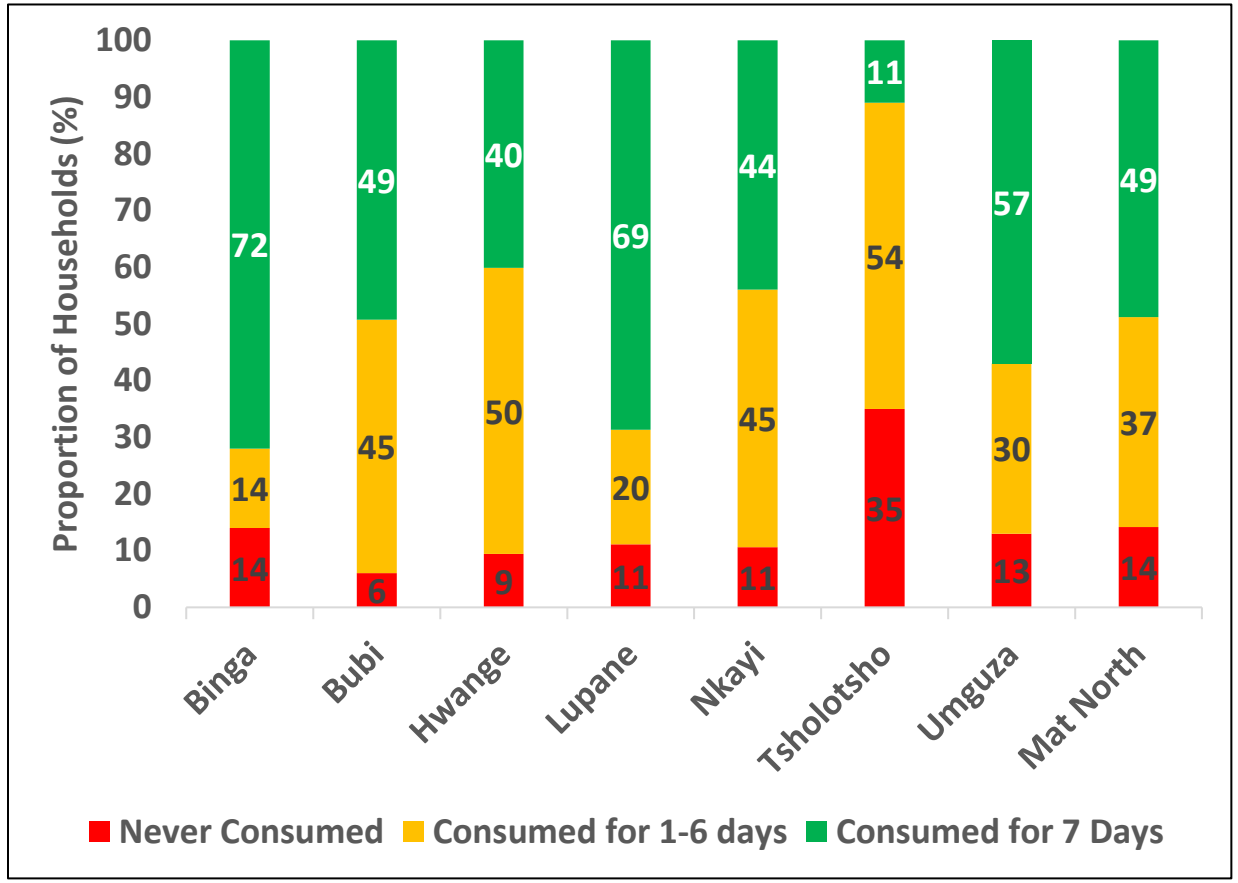
- Apart from Binga and Tsholotsho districts, the proportion of households that never consumed protein rich foods in 2020 increased in all the districts across the province when compared to 2019.
- The provincial average of households that never consumed protein rich food increased from 37% in 2019 to 48% in 2020.

Consumption of Vitamin A Rich Foods

2019

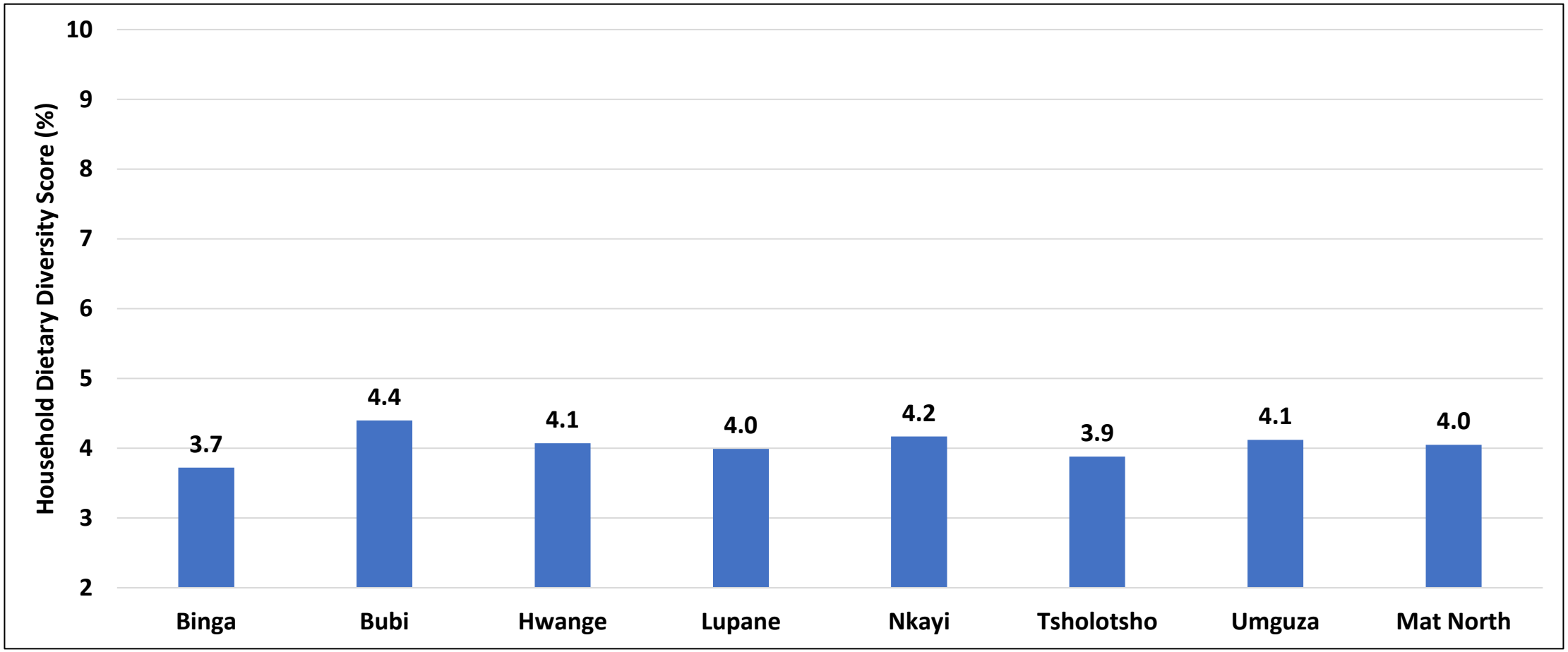


2020



- There was general improvement in consumption of Vitamin A rich foods in Binga (72%), Lupane (69%), and Umguza(57%) districts in 2020 compared to 2019.
- Apart from Tsholotsho, the proportion of households that never consumed vitamin A foods decreased in all the districts.
- There was an increase in households consuming vitamin A rich foods daily in Binga (72%), Hwange(50%), Lupane(69%) and Umguza(57%).

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)



- The province (4) has a medium Household Dietary Diversity Score, with highest score reported in Bubi (4.4) and Nkayi (4.2).
- Binga (3.7) and Tsholotsho (3.9) both had the lowest HDDS.

Consumption and Livelihoods Coping Strategies

When livelihoods are negatively affected by a shock /crisis, households may adopt various coping strategies which are employed in order to increase food availability outside of their normal livelihoods.

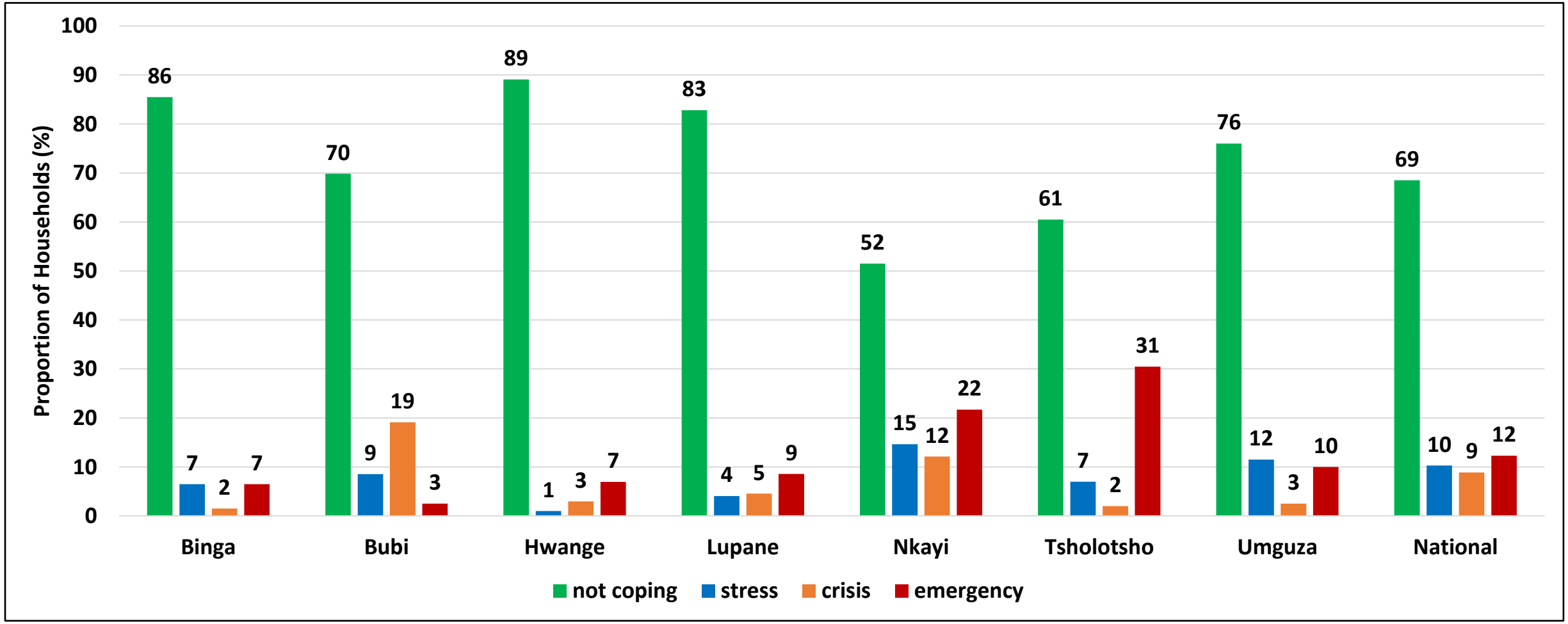
Households either go just beyond their normal activities or engage in extreme and negative livelihood coping strategies going beyond what is typical which in turn flag those areas that are potentially food insecure.

The livelihood coping strategies have been classified into three categories namely **stress, crisis** and **emergency** based on the WFP Technical Guidance note of 2015.

Household Livelihood Coping Strategies

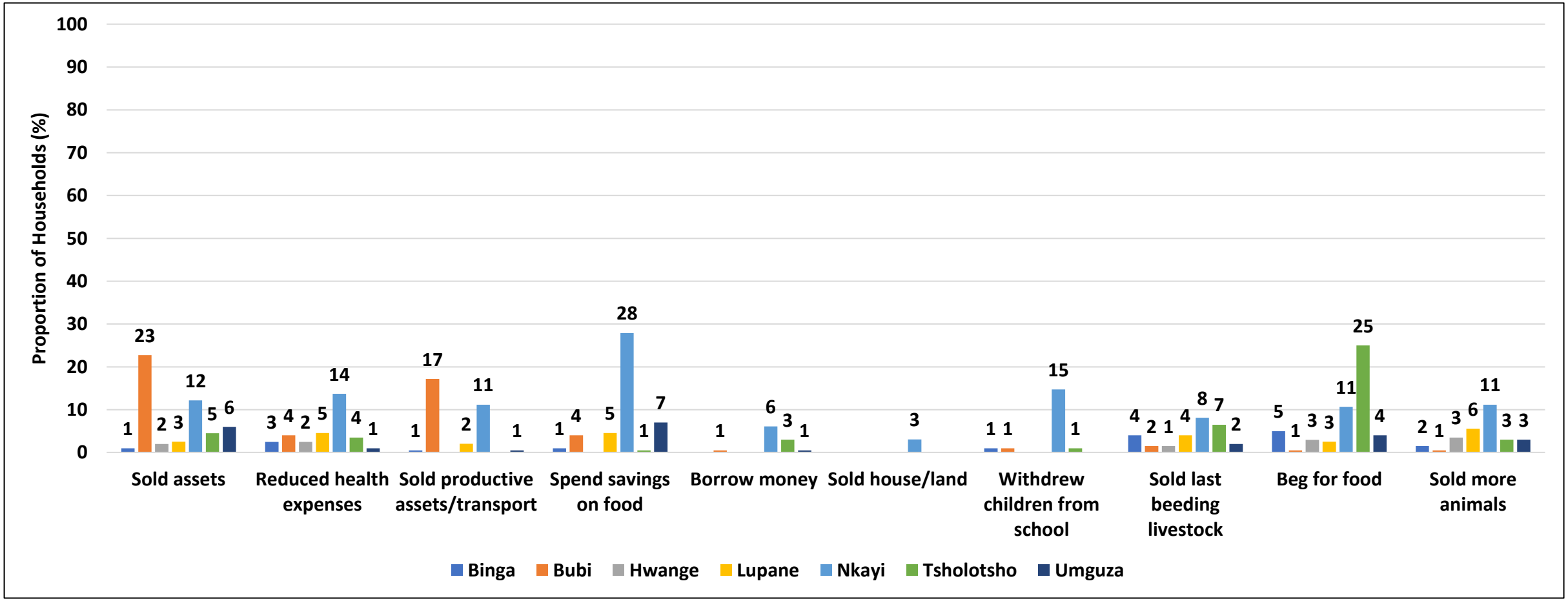
Category	Coping Strategy Description
Stress	• Borrowing money, spending savings, selling assets and selling more livestock than usual.
Crisis	• Selling productive assets directly reducing future productivity, including human capital formation. • Withdrawing children from school • Reducing non food expenditure.
Emergency	• Selling of one's land thus affecting future productivity, more difficult to reverse /dramatic in nature. • Begging of food. • Selling the last breeding stock to buy food.

Households' Maximum Coping Strategies by District



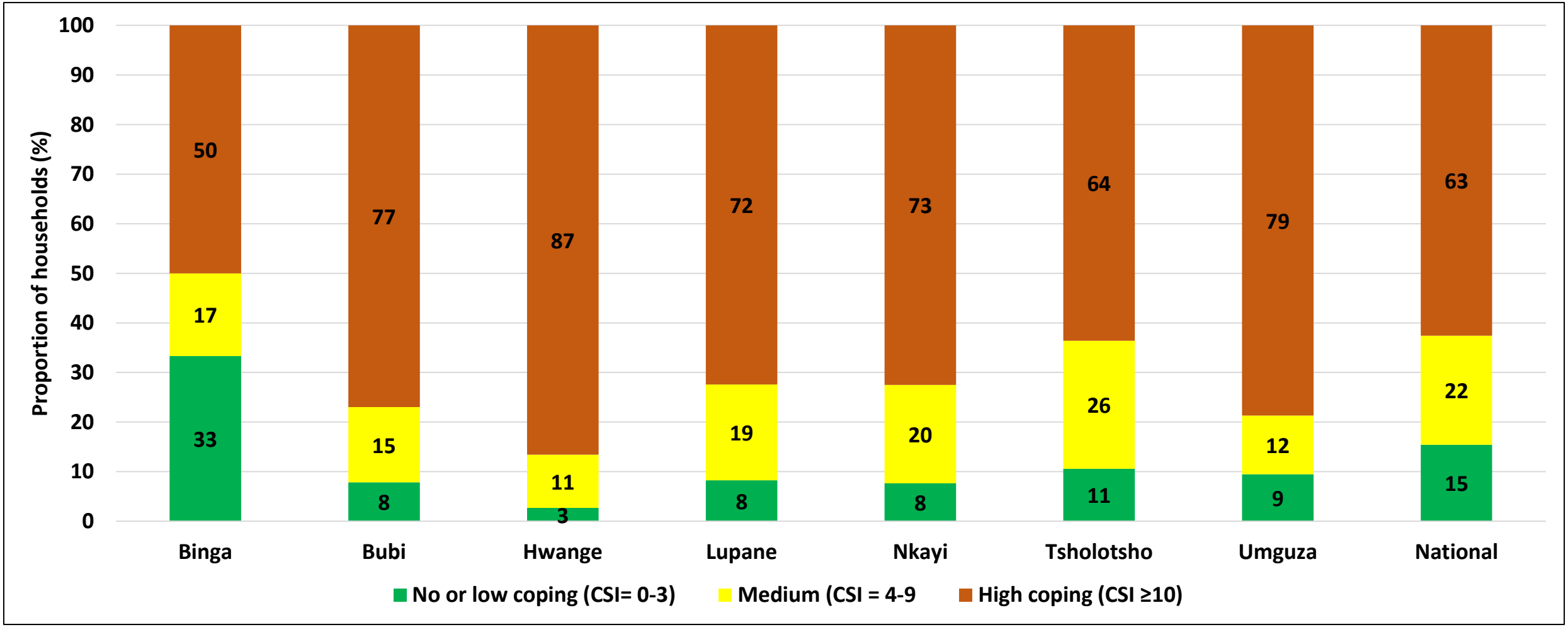
- Tsholotsho (31%) and Nkayi (22%) had the highest proportion of households engaging in extreme livelihoods coping strategies categorized under emergency. This is evidence of food consumption gaps that may lead to irreversible coping .

Employed Household Livelihoods Coping Strategies by District



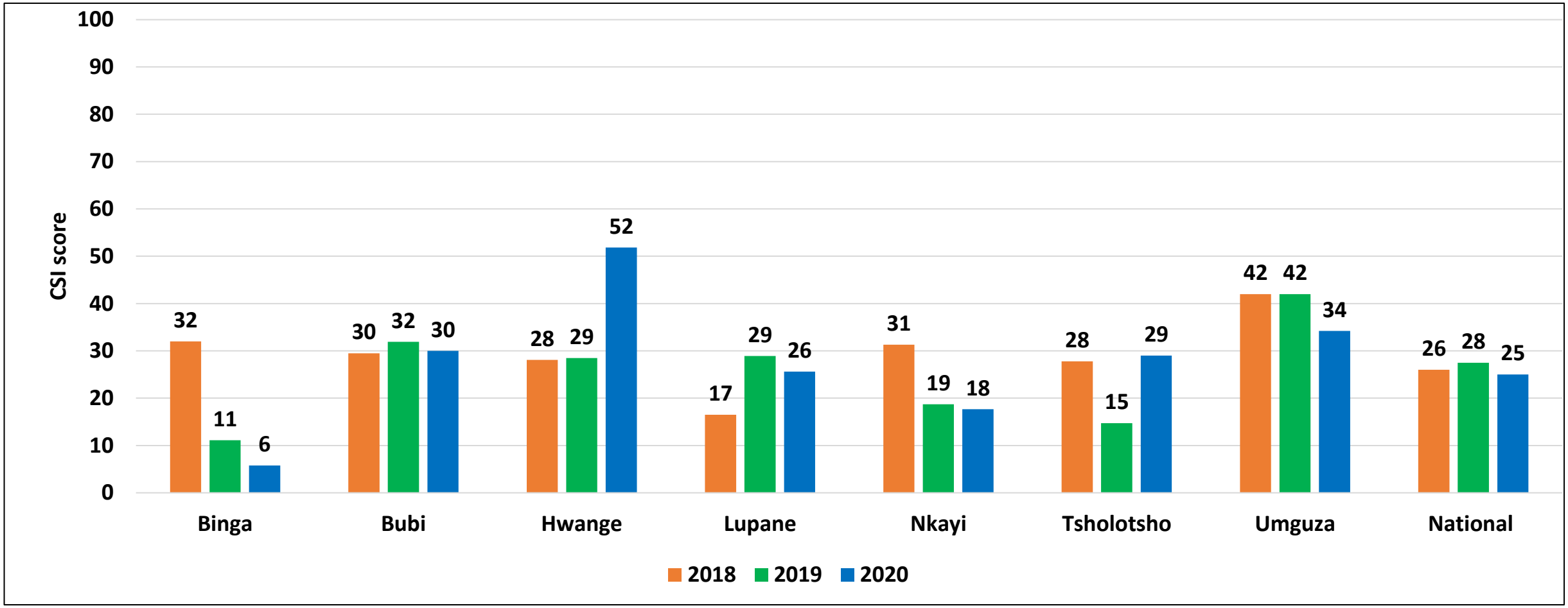
- Households in Nkayi employed all the coping strategies. The highest proportion (28%) was reported to have spent savings on food.
- Tsholotsho had 25% of the households that had beg for food as means of coping.
- Bubi had high proportions of households resorting to selling assets (23%) and selling productive assets/transport (17%) as means of survival.

Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index by District



- High levels of consumption coping strategies were employed by most households in Hwange (87%), Umguza (79%), Bubi (77%), Nkayi (73%) and Lupane (72%). This indicated high food consumption gaps faced by households in these districts.

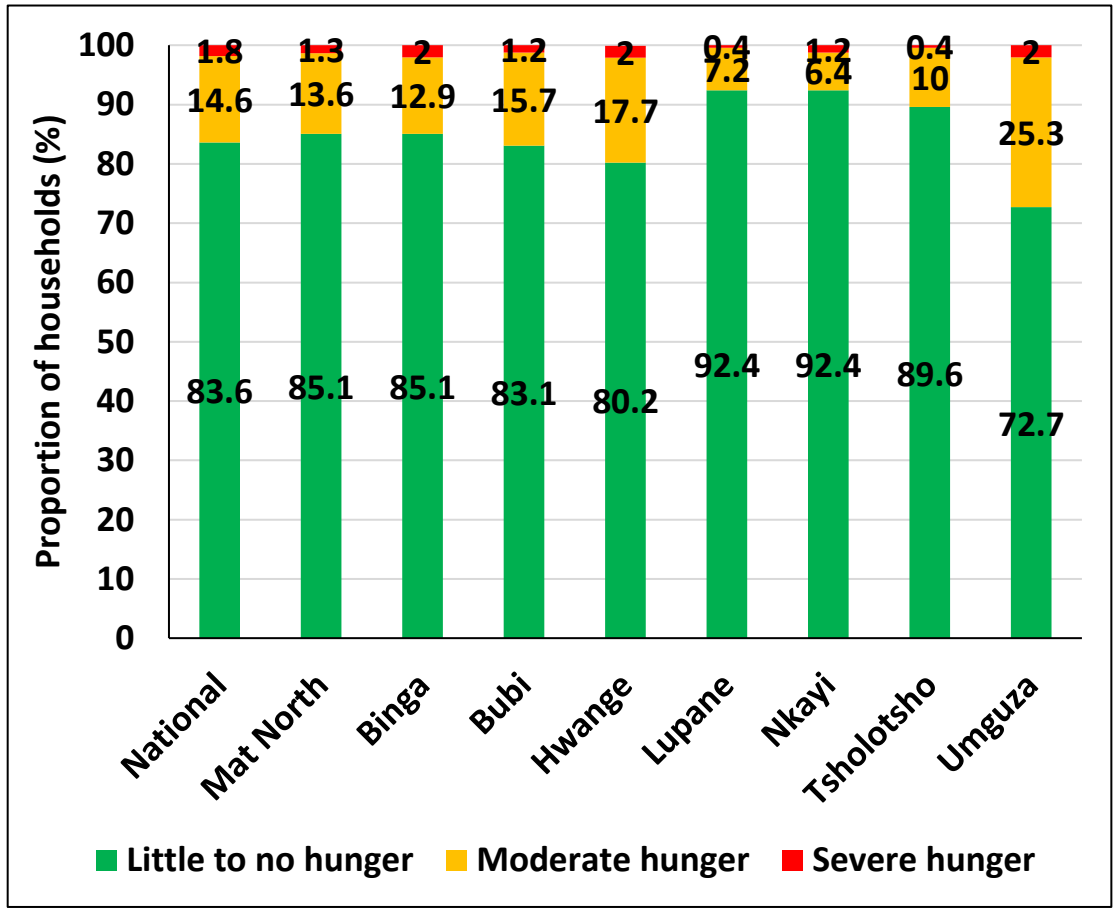
Consumption Coping Strategy Index by district



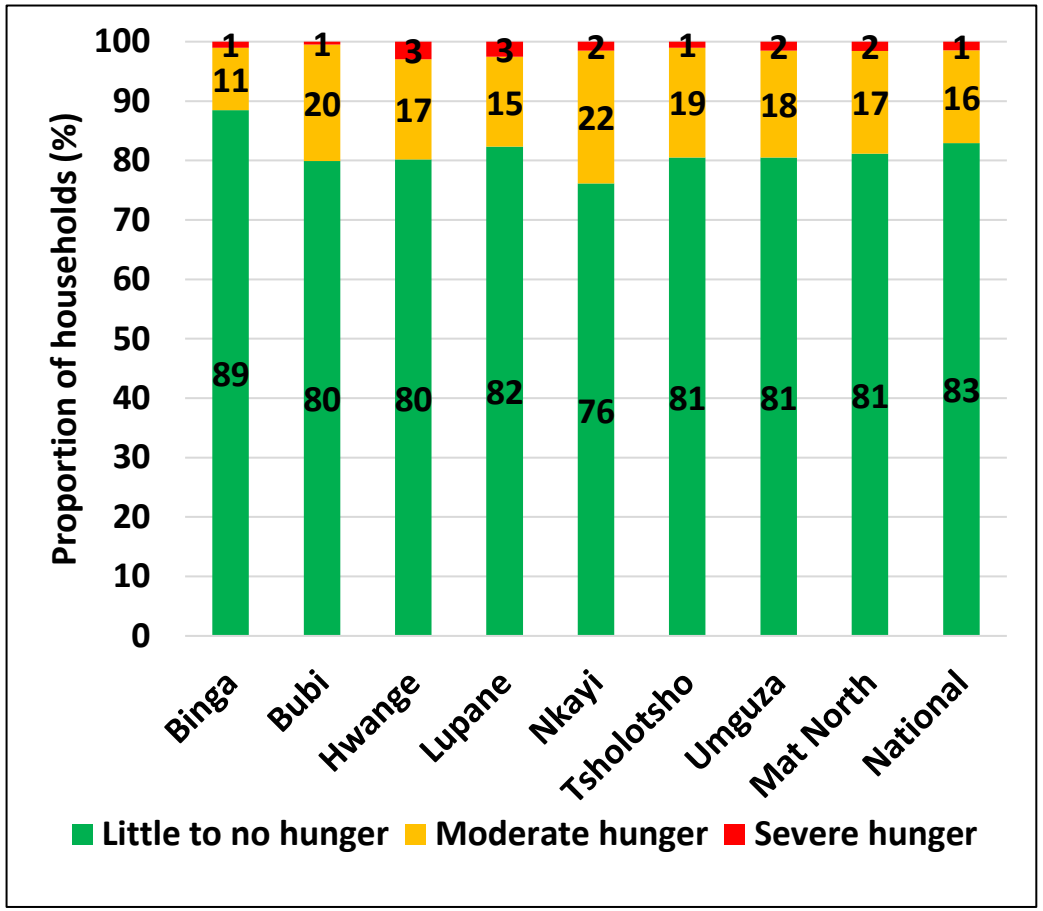
- The CSI increased rapidly from 29 to 52 in Hwange and from 15 to 29 in Tsholotsho between 2019 and 2020 indicating increased food consumption gaps in these two districts.
- All other districts had a decrease in CSI in 2020 compared to 2019. Binga achieved a CSI below the global threshold of 10 for the first time in three years.

Household Hunger Scale by district

2019



2020



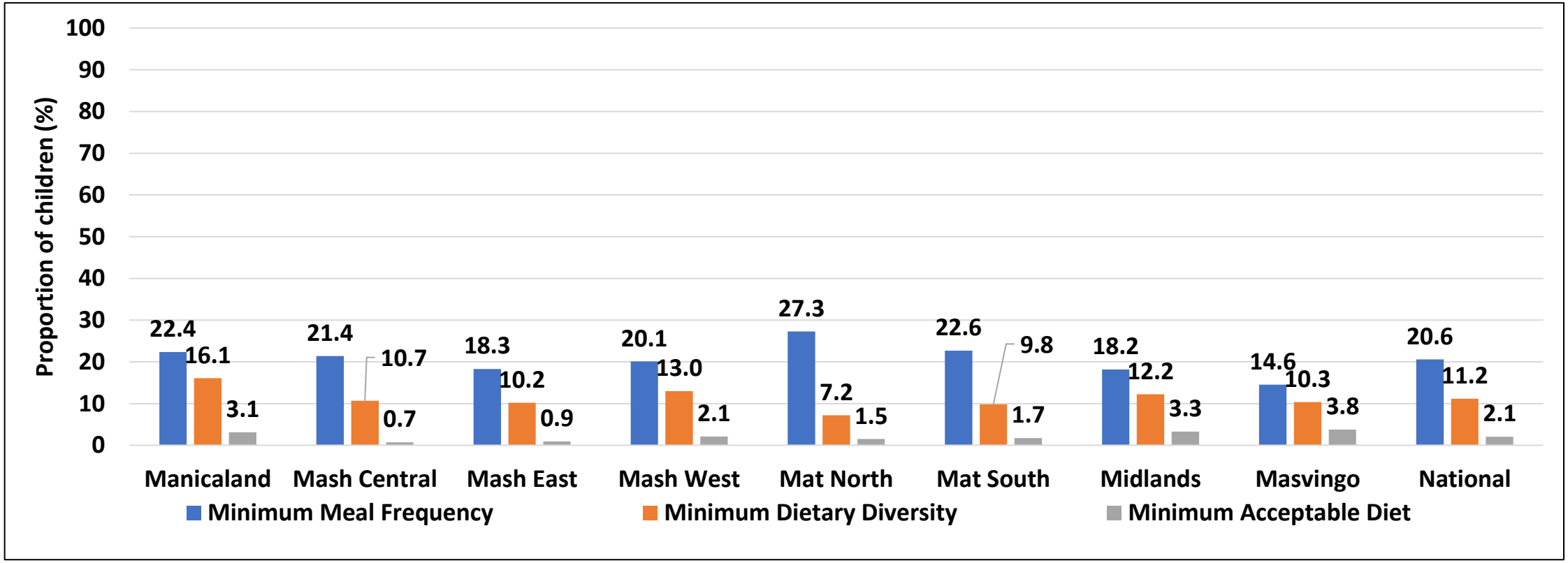
- There was an overall increase in moderate to severe hunger from 14.9% in 2019 to 19% in 2020.
- Nkayi has the highest proportion that reported to be under threat of moderate to severe hunger (24%), followed by Bubi (21%).

Complementary Feeding

Definition of indicators

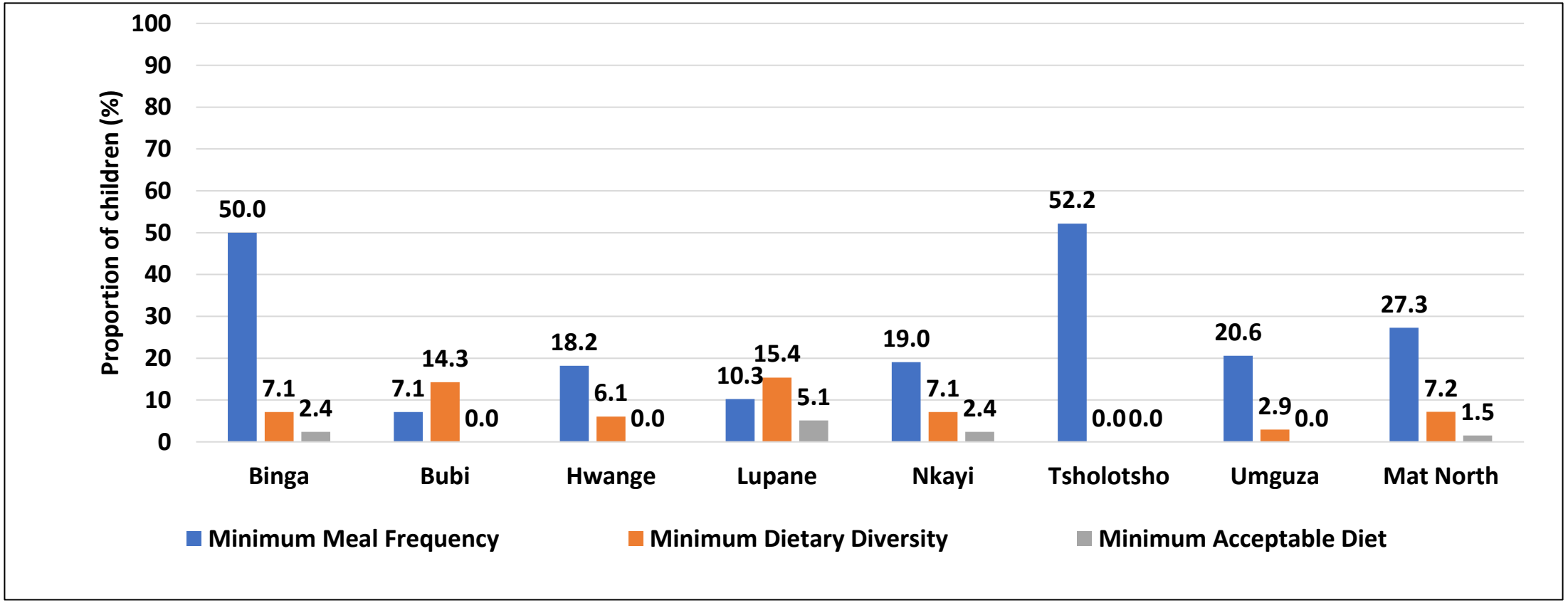
Indicator	Definition
Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)	Minimum acceptable diet (MAD), defined as the proportion of children 6-23 months who were achieving both MDD and MMF
Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF)	Minimum meal frequency (MMF) was defined as receiving solid, semi-solid, or solid foods 2 or more times daily for children 6-8 months, and 3 or more times daily for children 9-23 months in addition to breastfeeding. For non-breastfeeding children aged 6-23 months it is defined as receiving solid, semi-solid or solid foods, or milk feeds, at least 4 times.
Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)	Minimum dietary diversity (MDD) is defined as receiving at least 5 or more types of food from following groups (1) grains, roots, tubers, (2) legumes, nuts (3) dairy products, (4) flesh foods (meat, fish, poultry and liver/organ meats), (5) eggs, (6) Vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables, (7) other fruits and vegetables, (8) breastmilk

Complementary Feeding Practices by Province



- Only 1.5% of children aged 6-59 months consumed a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) in Matabeleland North Province.
- The Minimum Dietary Diversity for Matabeleland North (7.2%) was less than the National average (11.2%) .

Complementary Feeding Practices by District



- The proportion of children 6 to 59 months that consumed a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) in the province was very low (1.5%).
- Four districts (Bubi, Hwange, Tsholotsho and Umguza) had no child that consumed an acceptable diet.
- Tsholotsho (52%) and Binga (50%) had the highest proportions of children 6 to 59 months that had required Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF) above the provincial average of 27%.

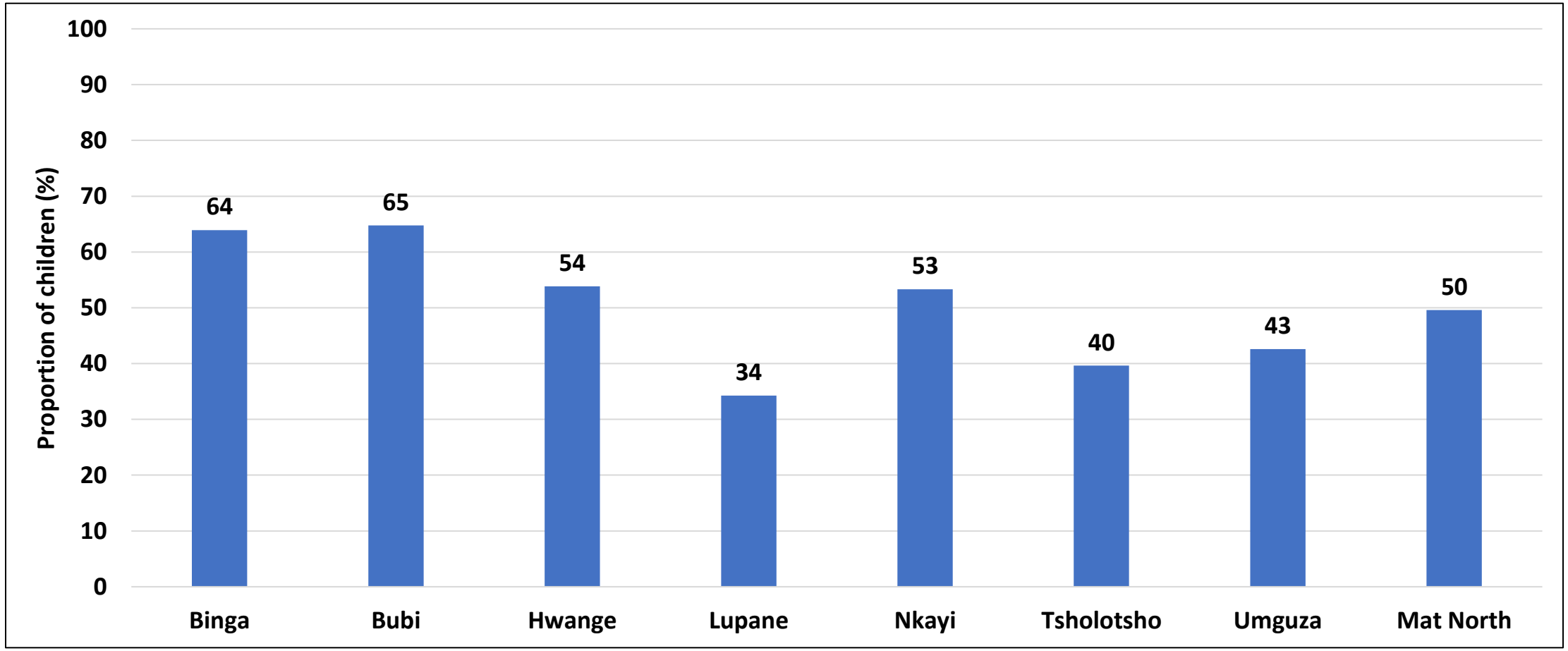
Child Nutrition Status

Mid Upper Arm Circumference(MUAC) is the circumference of the **left upper arm** measured at the **mid-point** between the tip of the shoulder and the **tip of the elbow** (Olecranon process and Acromion)

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) is identified by severe wasting. WFH <3 Z score. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) value more than 5% indicates an emergency.

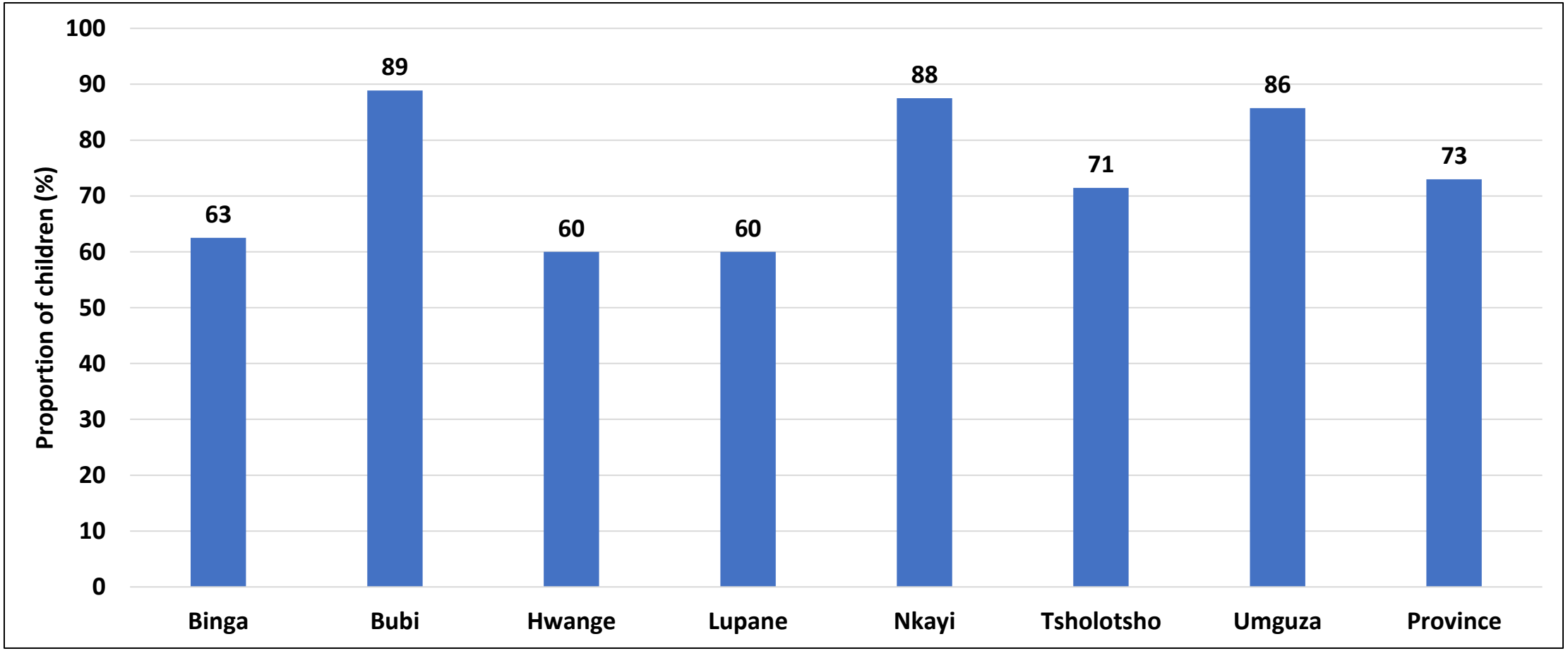
In this assessment **mother MUAC** was used. Mothers measured their own children for **COVID 19** regulation standards compliance.

Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 12-59 Months in the Past One Year



- Vitamin A Supplementation coverage for children one year and older remained low in the province, with only half of children in this age group having received the required number of doses.
- Bubi (65%) and Binga (64%) had the highest coverage while Lupane (34%) had the lowest coverage in the province.

Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-11 Months in the Past 6 months



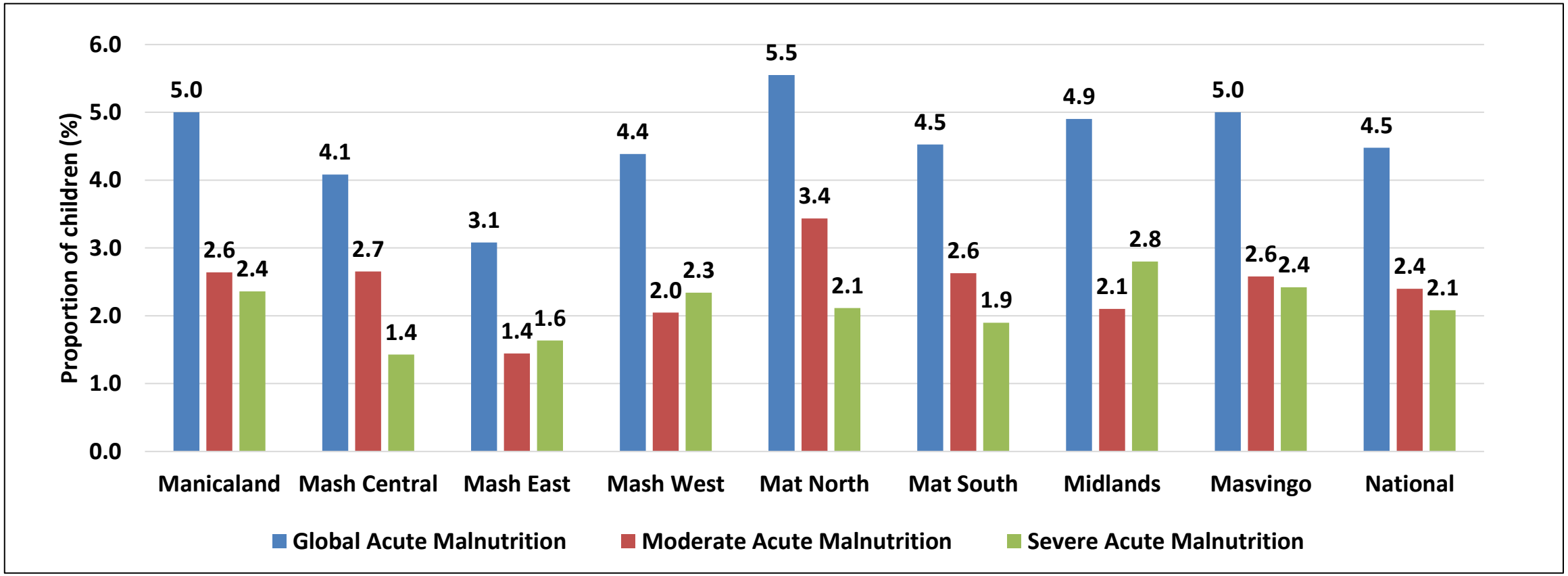
- Vitamin A supplementation coverage remained low in the province (73%), falling lower than national recommendation of 90%.
- While coverage for Bubi (89%) , Nkayi (88%) and Umguza (86%) show positive prospects, other districts in the province were still lagging far behind.

Child Nutrition Status

Malnutrition Prevalence thresholds for children under 5 years:

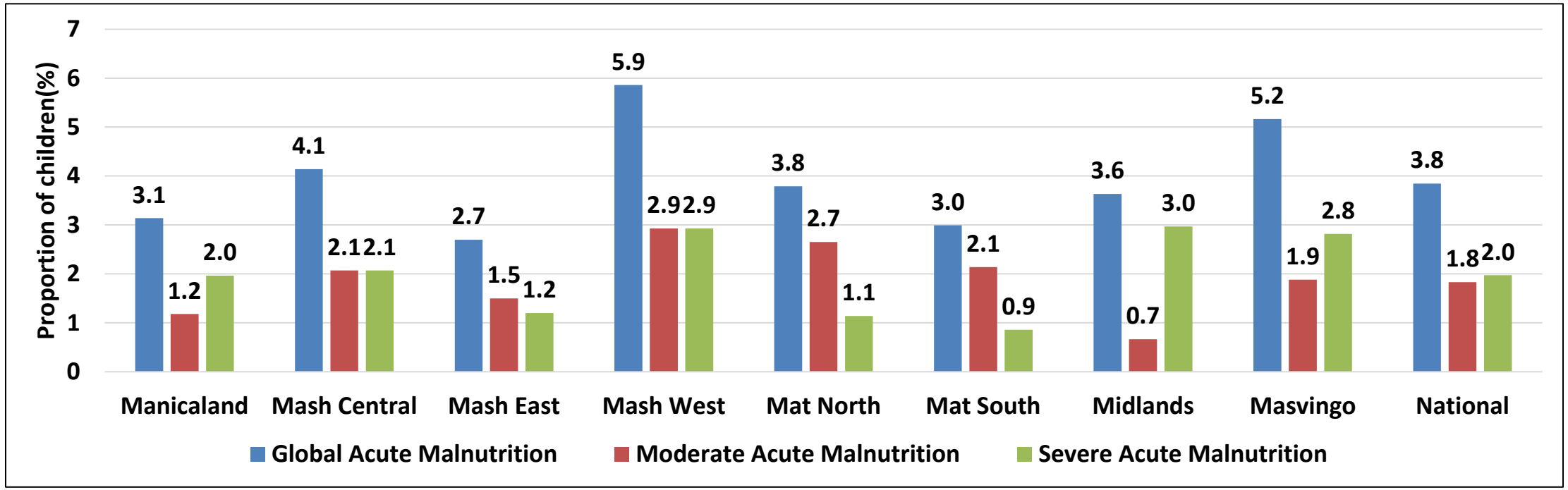
Indicator	Definition	Provincial Prevalence (%)	Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance
Stunting	Height/Length for age < –2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)	26.1%	<2.5%: Very Low 2.5-<10%: Low 10-<20%: Medium **20-<30%: High** ≥30%: Very High (De Onis et al., 2019)
Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)	Weight for height <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/or edema (WHO, 2006)	4.1%	**<5% Acceptable** 5–9.9%: Poor 10–14.9%: Serious >15%: Critical (WHO, 2000)
Severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	Weight for height < –3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)	1.6%	0% = acceptable **>0%: Unacceptable**
Overweight	Weight for height > +2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)	XX%	<2.5%: Very Low 2.5-<5%: Low 5-<10%: Medium 10-<15%: High ≥15%: Very High (De Onis et al., 2019)

Acute Malnutrition by Province Based on MUAC for Age Standards



- Matabeleland North had a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 5.5%, Moderate Acute Malnutrition rate of 3.4% and Severe Acute Malnutrition rate of 2.1% , and these were all above the National thresholds.

Acute Malnutrition by Province Based on MUAC Measurements



- Matabeleland North had GAM rate of 3.8% , this was below WHO threshold for emergency.
- The SAM rate was recorded at 1.1%.

Gender Base Violence

In Zimbabwe, gender based violence undermines opportunities for women and denies them the ability to fully utilise their basic human rights.

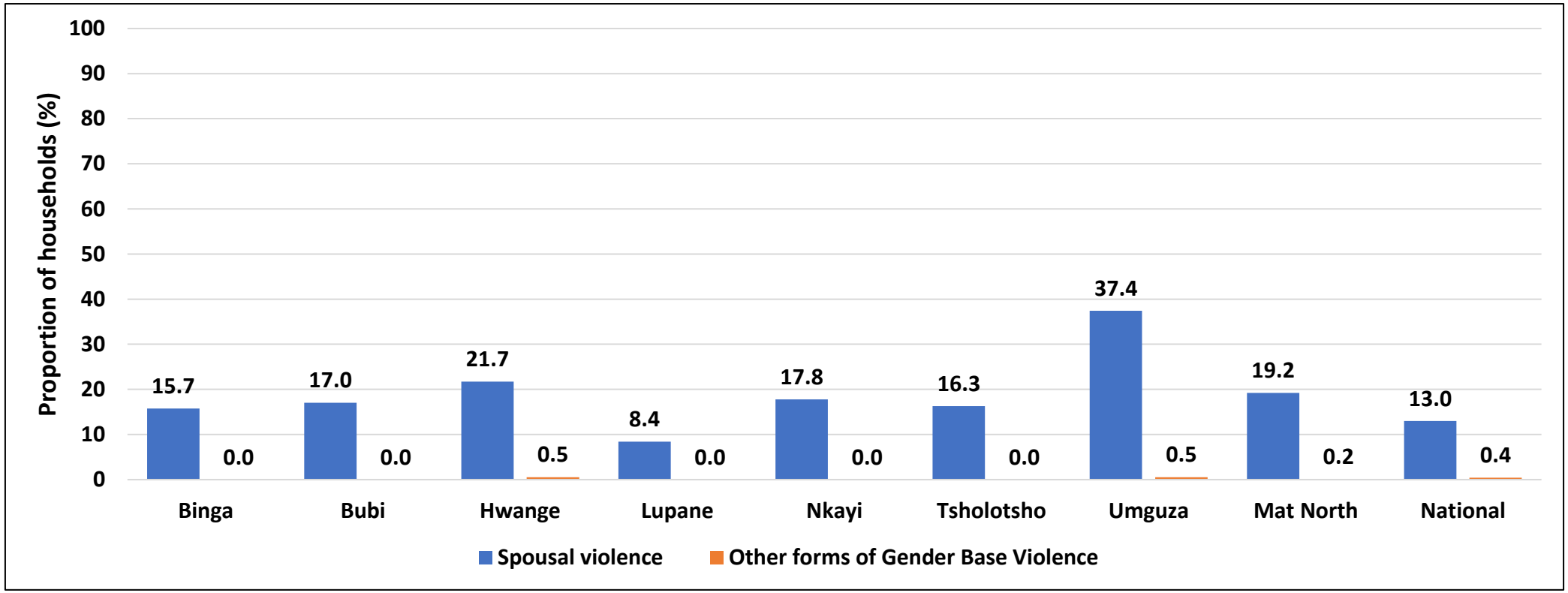
Violence against women is any act of gender based violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women (UN General Assembly Resolution 48/104 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993).

Spousal abuse is the most common form of gender based violence.

The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 2015 notes that many forms of GBV are significantly heightened during humanitarian emergencies including natural disasters like drought.

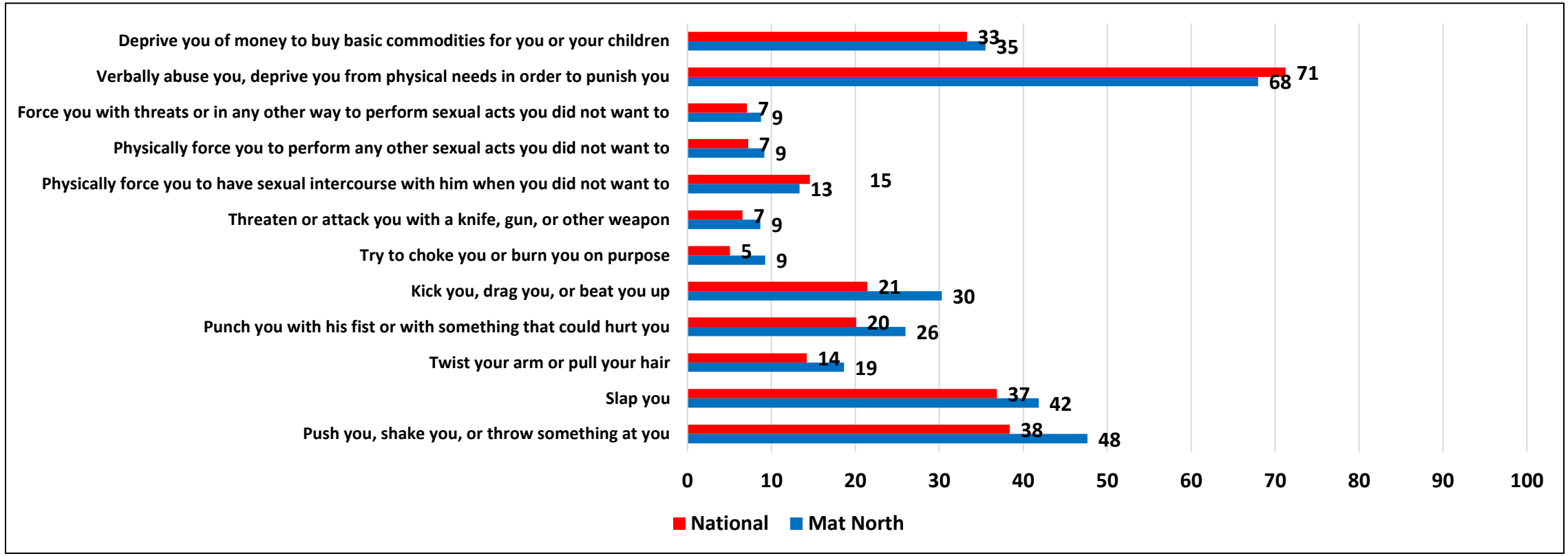
Food insecurity, in itself, and factors contributing to it can be key drivers of violence against women.

Spousal Violence and Other Forms of Gender Based Violence



- Spousal violence was reported as the dominant form of violence across the whole province, though this was notably highest in Umguza (37.4%).
- The high incidence of spousal violence is a sign for the need of intensifying GBV programming, especially in the districts with high prevalence.
- All the seven districts reported a below 1% incidence of other forms of GBV, with only Hwange (0.5%) reporting a proportion above the national average.

Incidence of Different Types of Abuse



- Verbal abuse was the most reported incidence in the province(68%), though lower than the national average by 3%.
- Pushing/shaking/throwing at (48%) and slapping (42%) were higher in the province than the national averages.
- Any incidence of violence highlights the need for scaled up stakeholder programming on GBV issues.

Sexual and Physical Violence by District

Sexual Abuse

	Physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him when you did not want to	Physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to	Force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to
Binga	3	6	3
Bubi	29	48	14
Hwange	38	63	63
Lupane	0	29	0
Nkayi	13	13	0
Tsholotsho	8	67	17
Umguza	4	33	15
Mat North	13	37	16
National	15	7	7

Physical Abuse

	Push you, shake you, or throw something at you	Slap you	Twist your arm or pull your hair	Punch you with his fist or with something that could hurt you	Kick you, drag you, or beat you up
Binga	56	42	22	17	25
Bubi	62	48	14	33	24
Hwange	88	63	63	63	75
Lupane	29	29	0	14	29
Nkayi	25	13	0	13	13
Tsholotsho	42	67	17	17	25
Umguza	33	33	15	26	22
Mat North	48	42	19	26	30
National	38	37	14	20	21

- At more than twice the National average, Hwange notably had the highest proportion of households that reported incidences of both Sexual and Physical Abuse.
- Occurrence of Sexual and Physical Violence in any proportion is a cause of concern and calls for a dire need for intervention.

Proportions that Sought Medical Attention or Reported after Spousal Violence

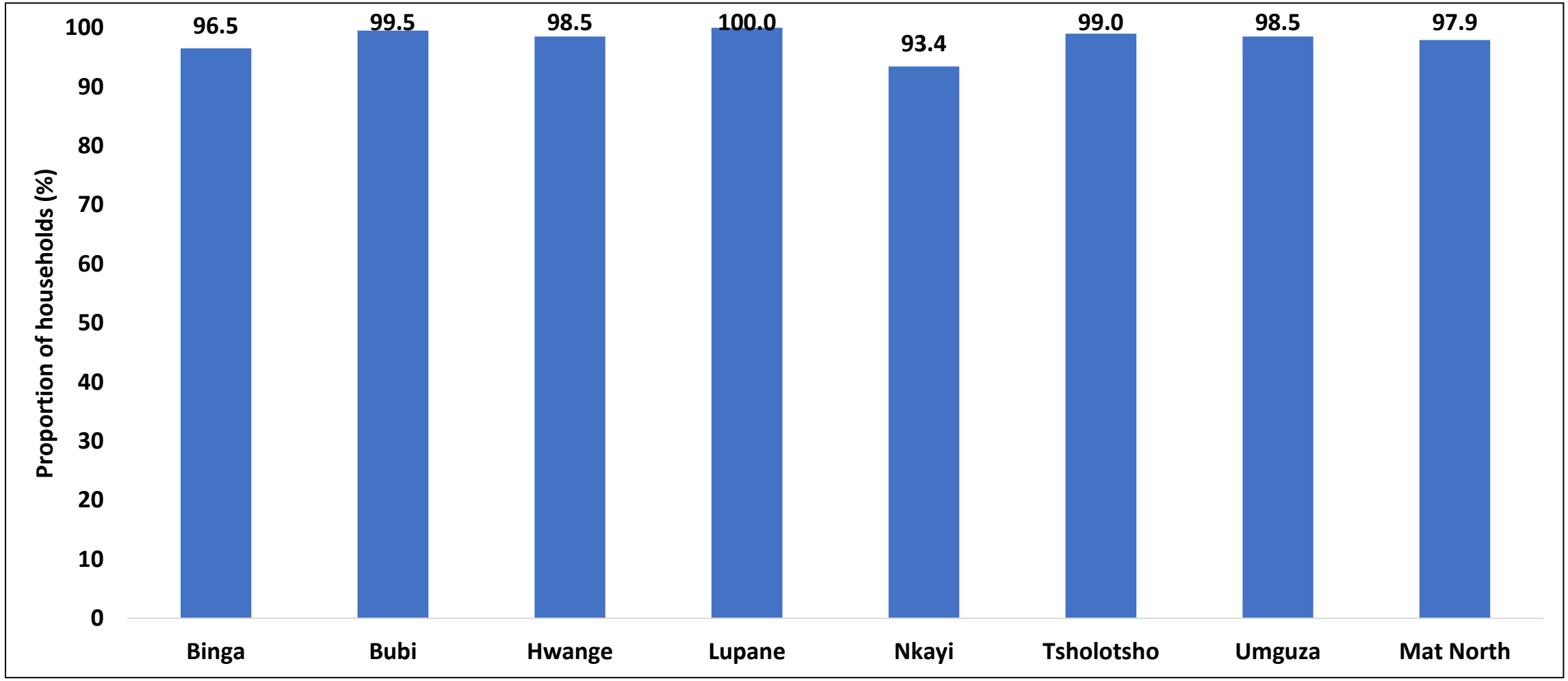
	Sought medical attention as a result of such physical/sexual violence	Reported incident of physical/sexual violence					
		Police	Church	Relatives/friends	NGO	No one	Other
Binga	2.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hwange	25.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lupane	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nkayi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tsholotsho	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Umguza	7.4	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0
Mat North	6.2	14.3	0.0	21.4	0.0	7.1	14.3
National	5.4	45.1	1.2	37.8	2.4	7.3	6.1

- The highest proportion of survivors that sought medical attention was with Hwange (25%) and Tsholotsho(8.3%) .
- The most preferred place to report the incidences was with Relatives/Friends (21.4%) and Police (14.3%).

COVID 19 and Livelihoods

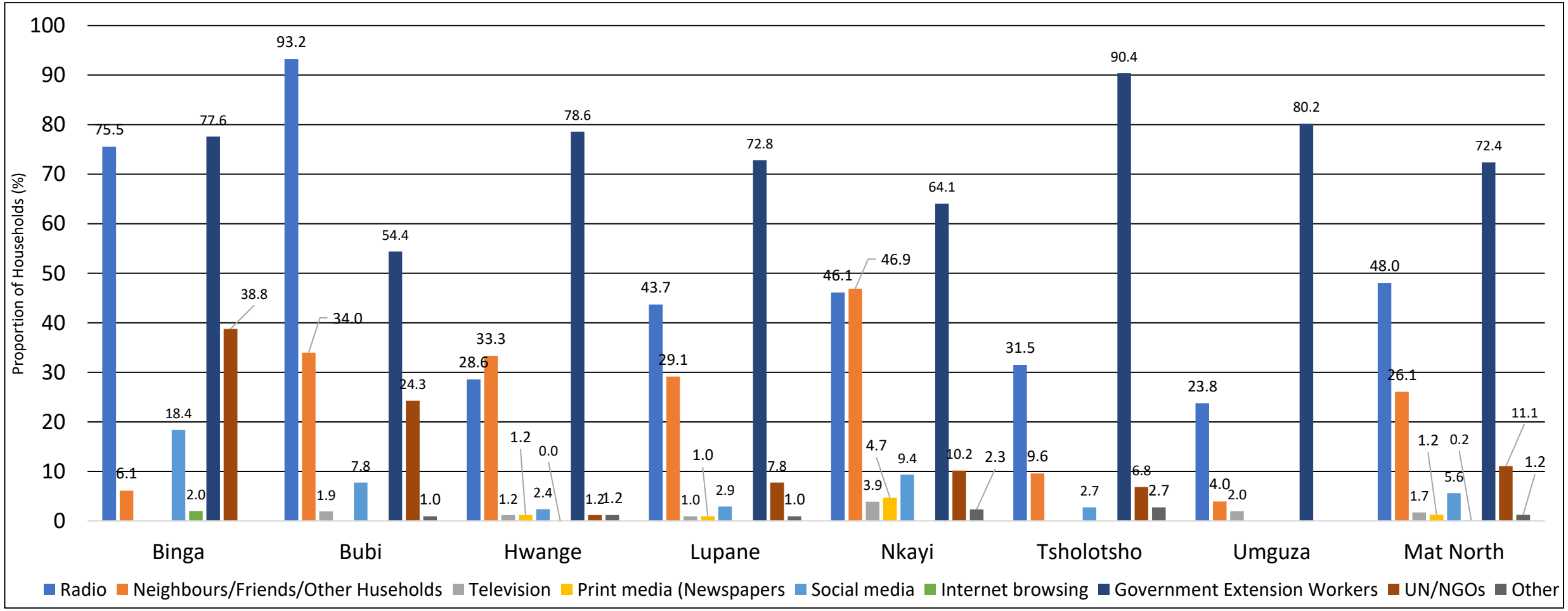
Due the fast spread of the disease, both in terms of casualties and geographic coverage, the World Health Organization (WHO), declared the coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020, and thereafter, a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Proportion of Households that had Ever Heard About COVID-19



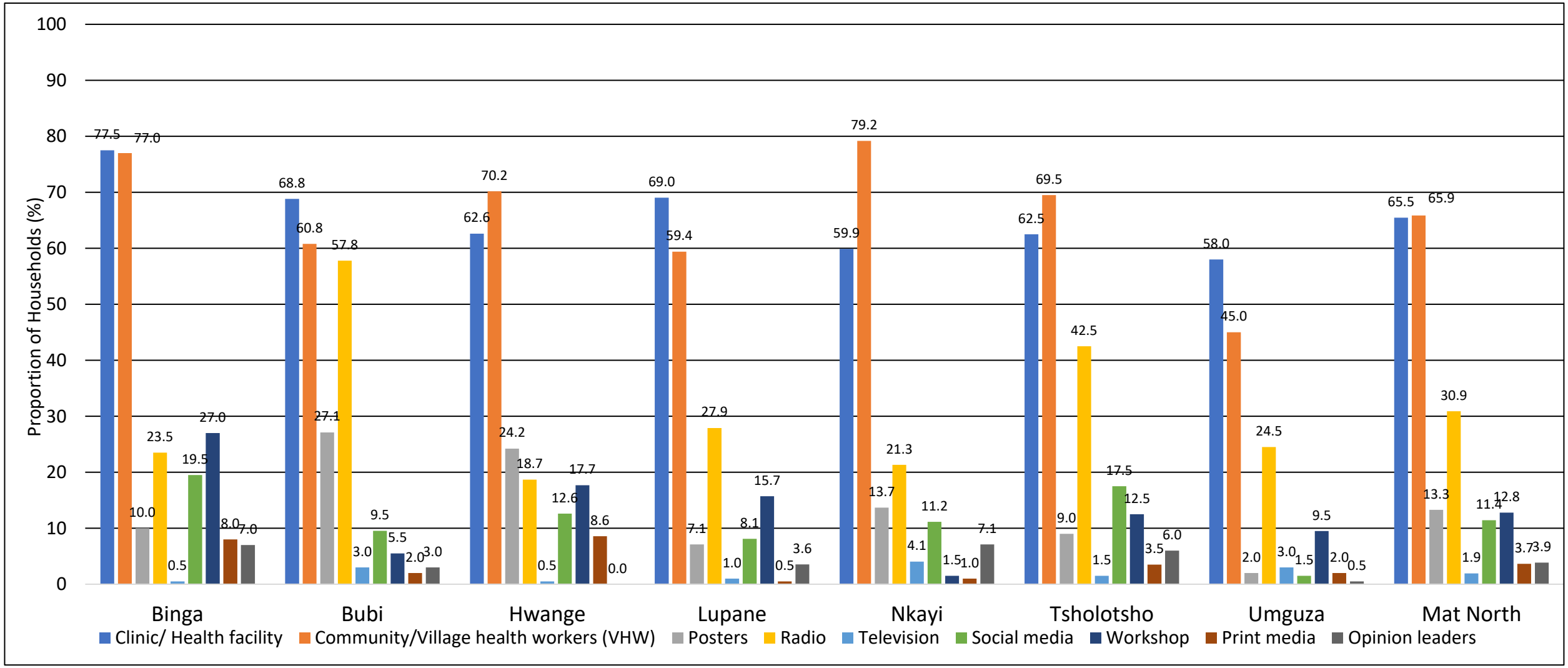
- Over 90% of the households in Matabeleland North reported to have heard any information pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current Sources of Information About COVID-19



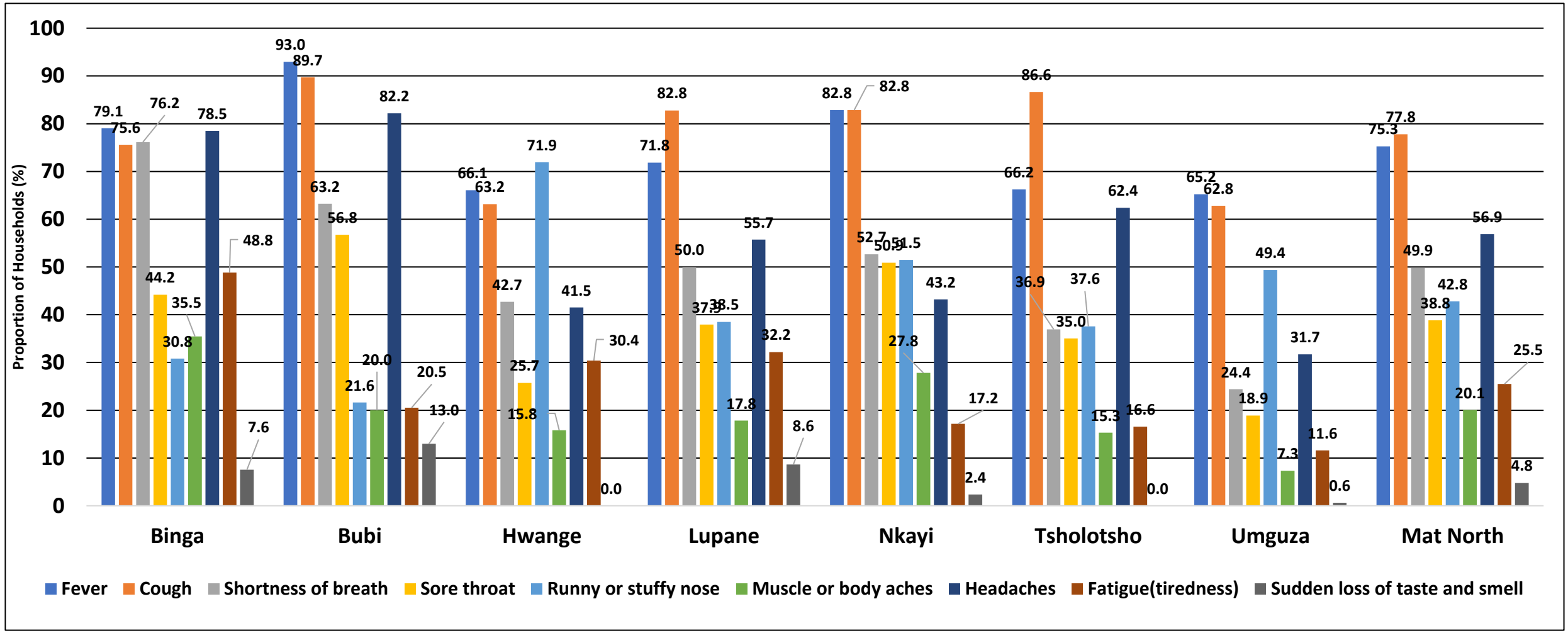
- Government extension workers (72.4%) and radio(48%) were the most common sources of information about COVID-19.

Preferred Future Sources of Information about COVID-19



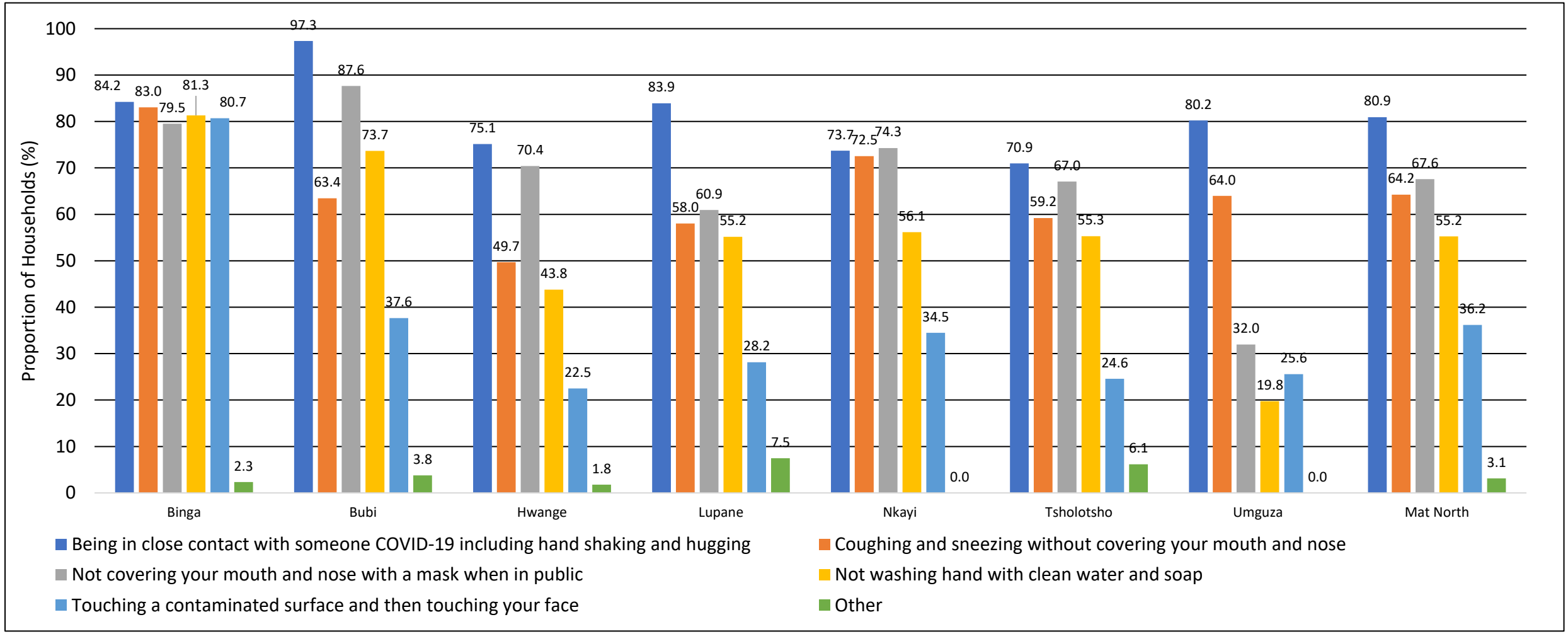
- Close to 66% of households indicated Clinics or Health facilities and Community Health Workers as their preferred future source of information on COVID-19.
- Radio(30.9%) also emerged as one of the commonly preferred source of information.

Commonly Known Symptoms of COVID-19



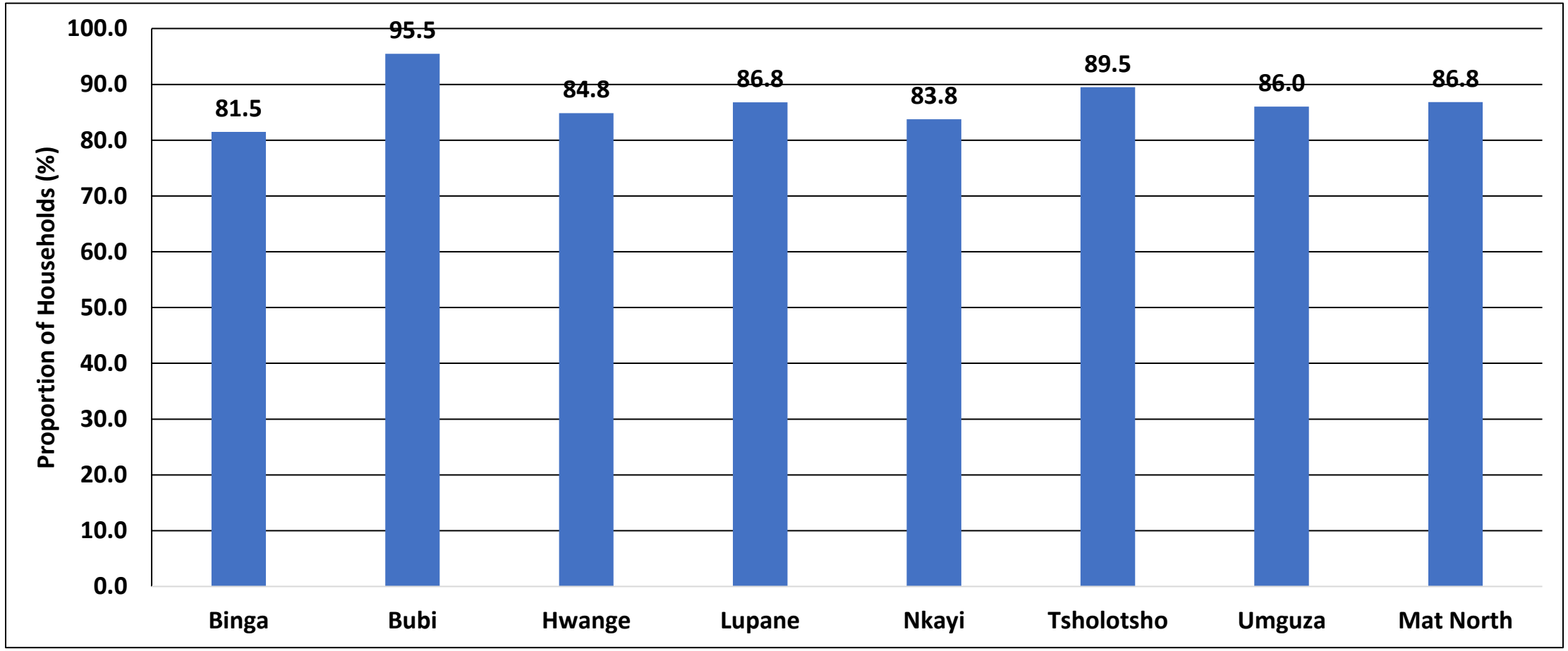
- The most commonly known symptoms reported by households were cough(77.8%) and fever(75.3%).
- This pattern was also observed across all districts.

Commonly Known Methods on how COVID-19 Spreads



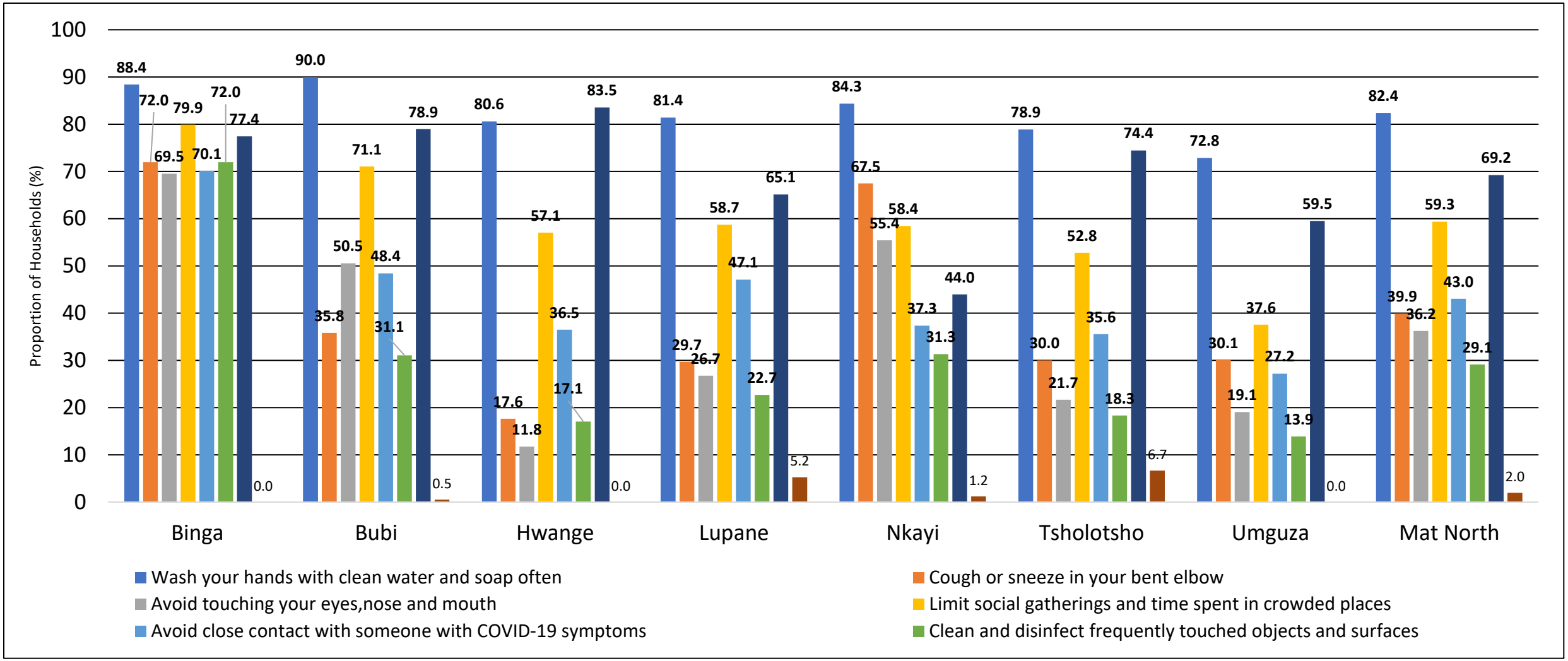
- Generally across the province, households knew the common methods on how COVID-19 was spread.
- Binga had over 80% of their households having knowledge of the 5 commonly known methods.

Knowledge on how to Reduce the Spread of COVID 19



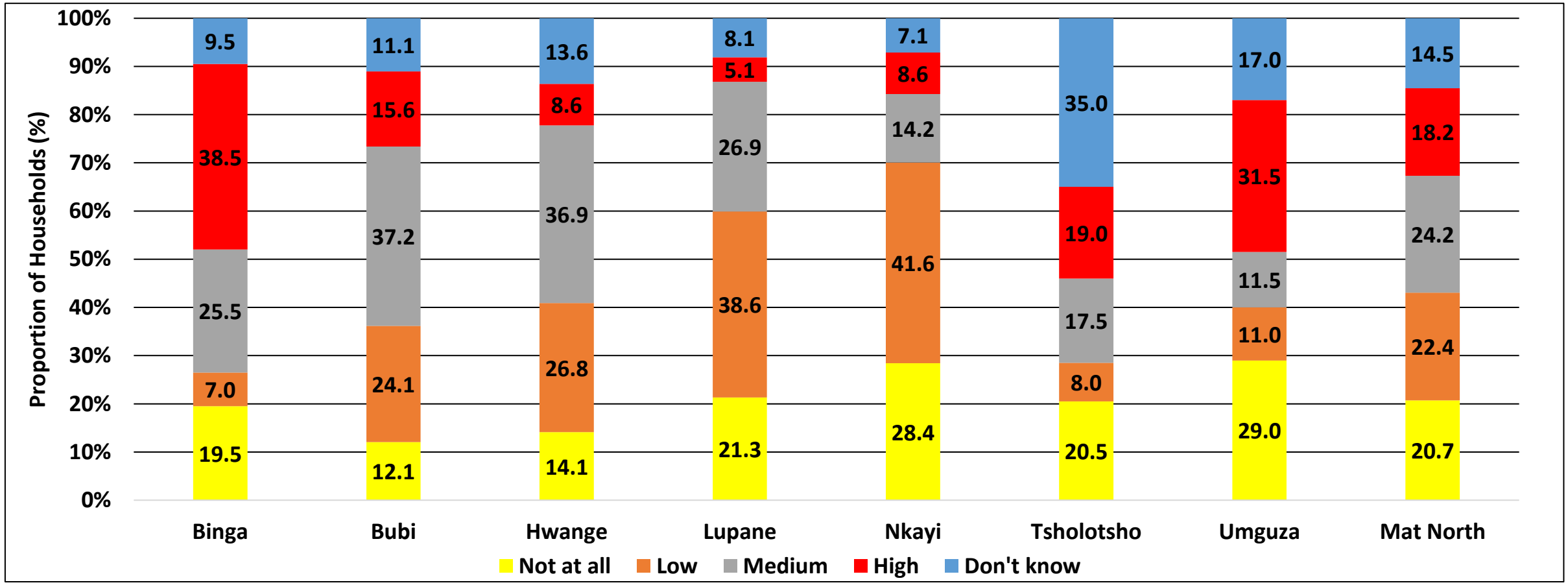
- Over 80% of the households indicated to have some knowledge on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Known Methods on Ways to Slow Down COVID-19 Spread



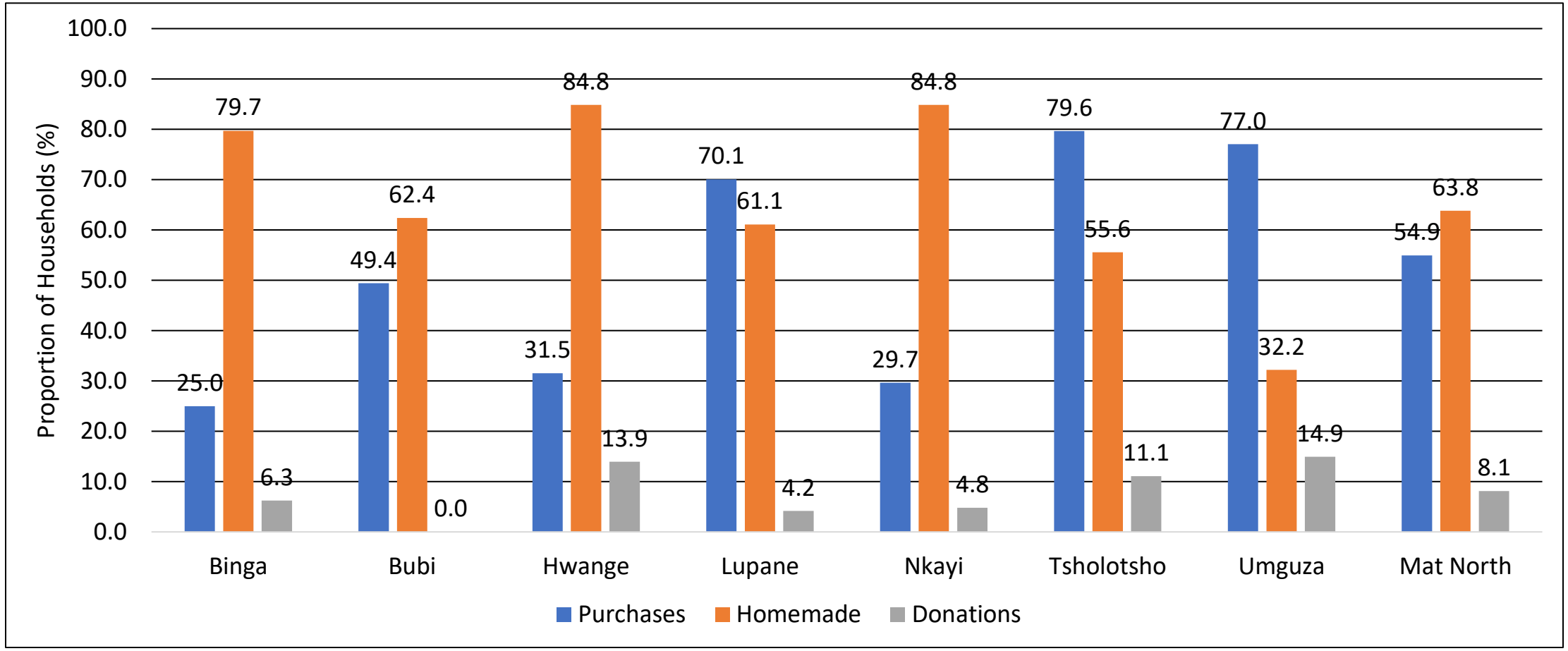
- Washing hands with clean water and soap often (82.4%), covering nose and mouth with mask when in public (69.2%) and limiting social gatherings and time spent in crowded places(59.3%) were the commonly known methods to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

Household Perception on Risk of Contracting COVID-19



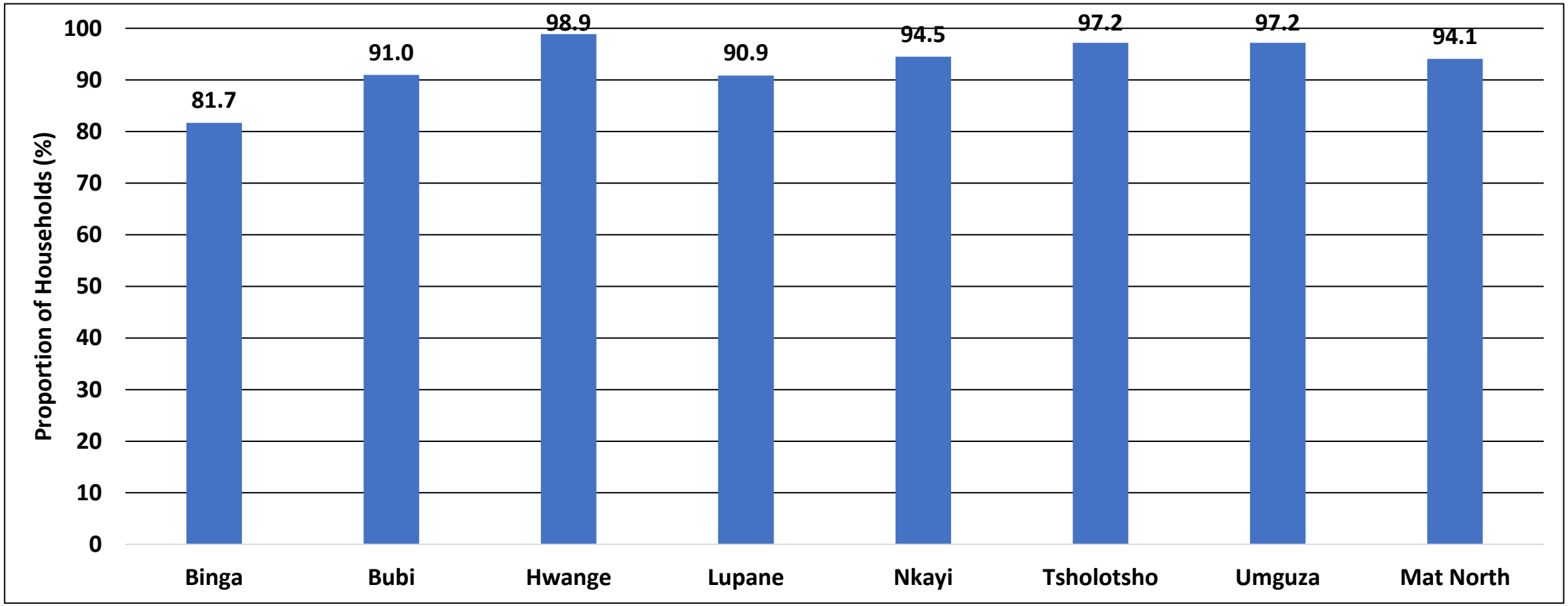
- Binga (38.5%) and Umguza (31.5%) had the highest proportion of households indicating they were at high risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Tsholotsho (35%) had the highest proportion of households that did not know their risk of contracting COVID-19.

Sources of PPE and Accessories During the COVID-19 Pandemic



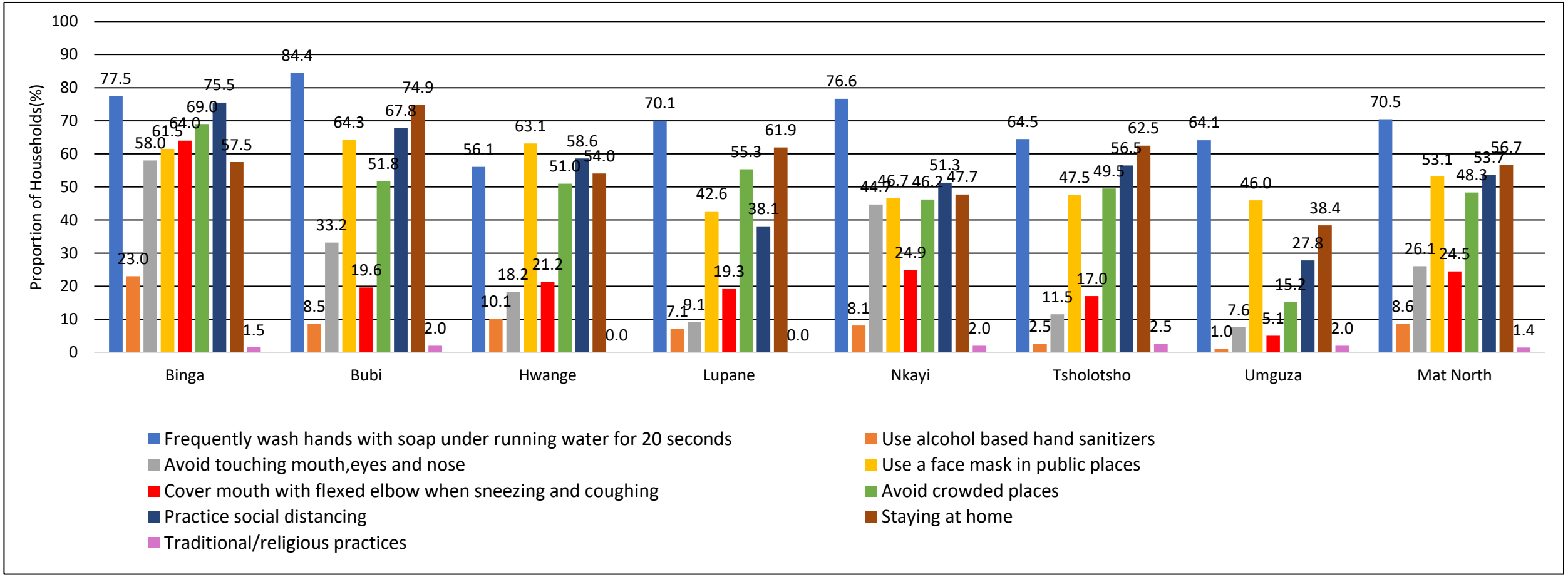
- Homemade (63.8%) and purchases (54.9%) sources of PPEs during the COVID-19 pandemic were the most used.
- Donations(8.1%) were the least reported source of PPE across all districts.

Perceptions on Affordability of COVID-19 PPE and Accessories



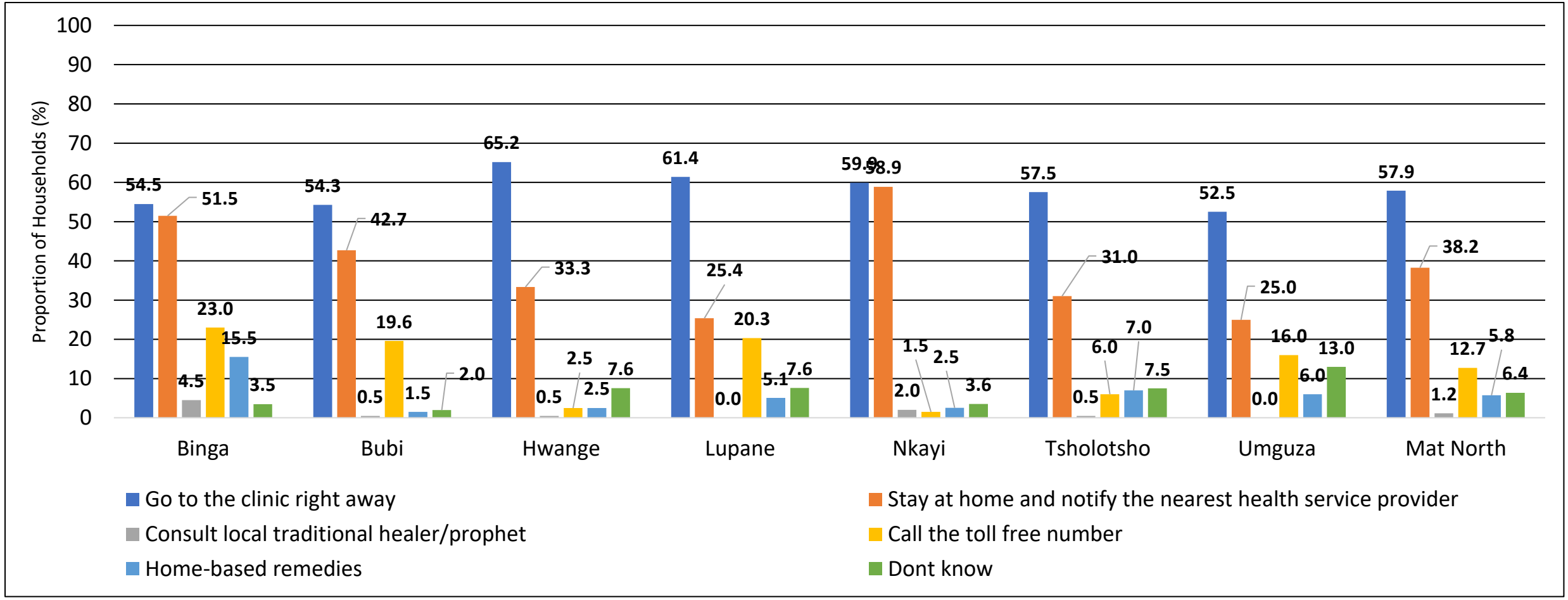
- Over 80% of the households reported that PPE and accessories were not affordable.

How Household Members were Protecting Themselves from COVID-19



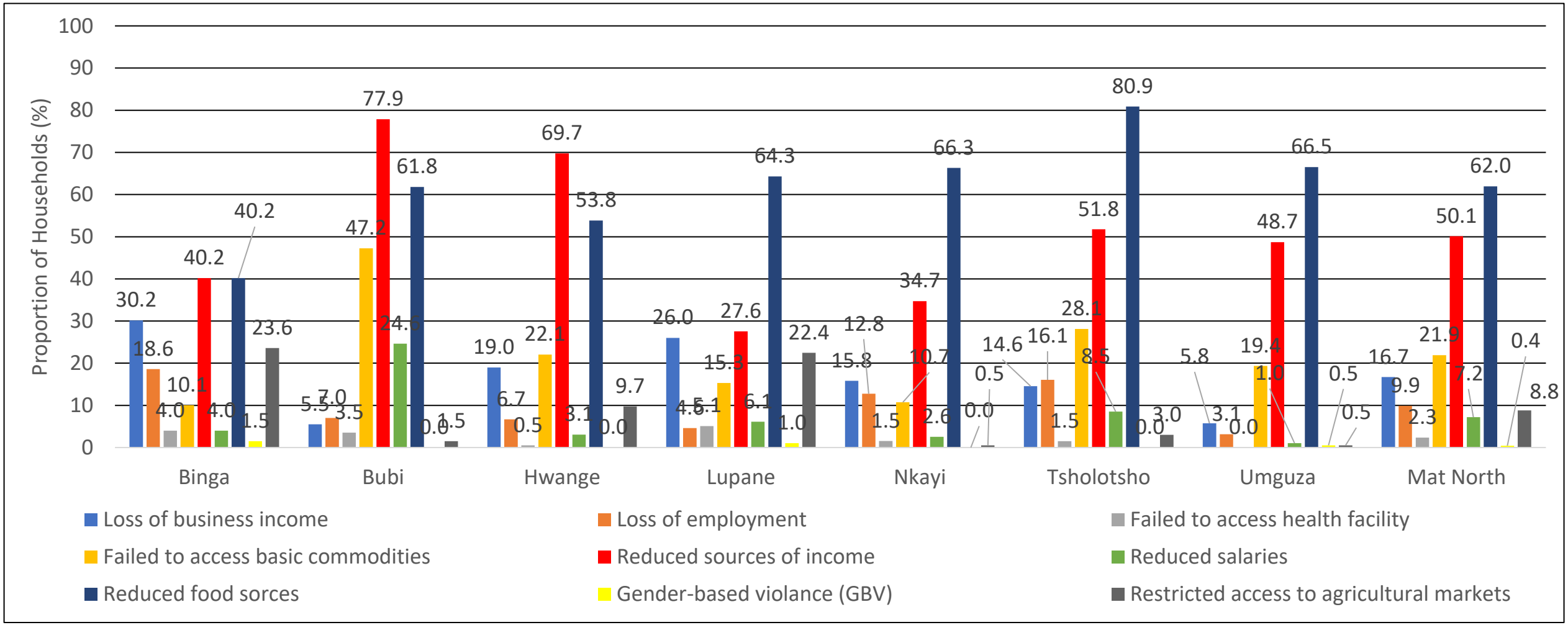
- Most households knew at least 5 methods of protecting against COVID-19 infections.
- The least known method was use of alcohol based hand sanitisers (8.6%).

Action Taken if Member Suspects COVID-19 Infection



- Going to the clinic right away (57.9%) and staying at home and notify the nearest health service provider (38.2%) were the most commonly mentioned actions to be taken if a member suspected a COVID-19 infection.

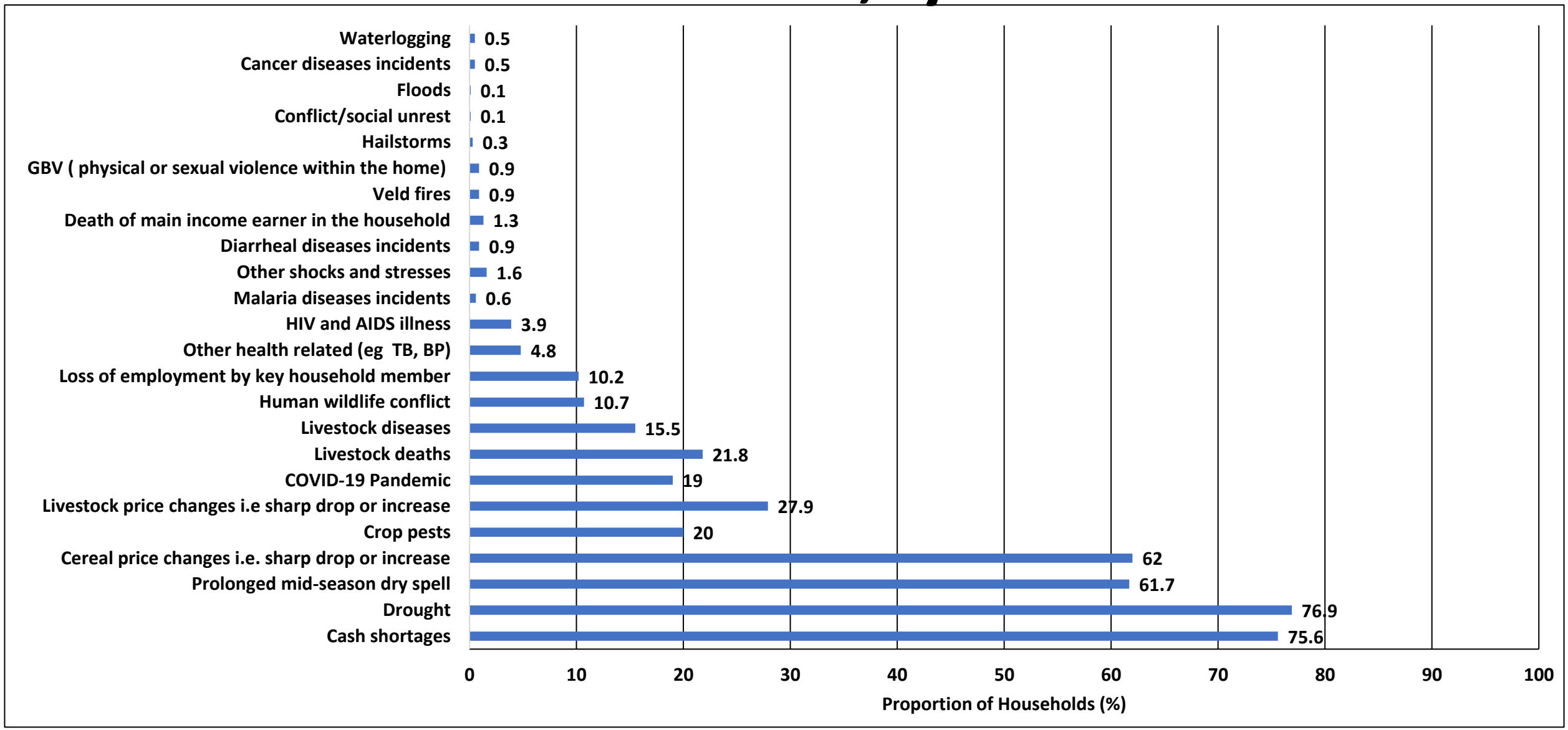
Effects of COVID-19 on Livelihoods



- Households in Matabeleland North had their livelihoods affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in varied ways.
- The most reported impacts were reduced food sources(62%), reduced sources of income(50.1%) and failing to access basic commodities (21.9%).

Shocks and Stressors

Shocks and Stressors ,by Households



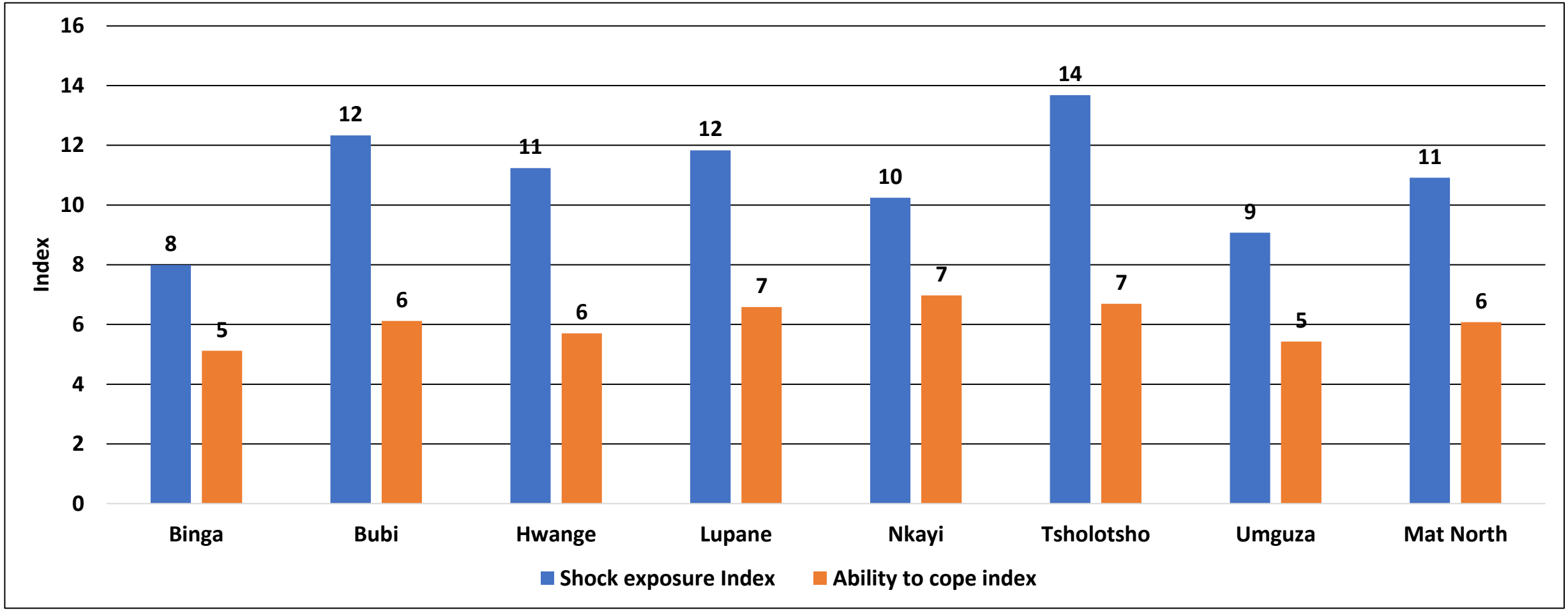
- The most commonly reported shocks were drought (76.9%), cash shortages(75.6%), cereal price changes(62%) and prolonged mid-season dry spells(61.7%).

Shocks and Stressors experienced by District

	Binga	Bubi	Hwange	Lupane	Nkayi	Tsholotsho	Umguza	Mat North	National
COVID-19 Pandemic	2	10.1	75.2	15.7	6.6	20.5	2.5	19	24.1
Loss of employment by key household member	5.5	7.5	19.3	10.1	8.6	16.5	3.5	10.2	7.1
Death of main income earner in the household	1.5	1.5	0.5	2.5	1	1.5	0.5	1.3	2.1
HIV and AIDS illness	0.5	6.5	4.5	1.5	4.5	4	5.5	3.9	5.6
Diarrheal diseases incidents	0	1.5	0	0	1	2	2	0.9	2.2
Malaria diseases incidents	3	0	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.6	4.2
Cancer diseases incidents	0	0	0.5	0.5	0	1	1.5	0.5	0.5
Other health related (eg TB, BP)	1.5	6.5	4.5	0	5.6	7.5	8	4.8	6.9
GBV (physical or sexual violence within the home)	2	0	2	0	0.5	1	0.5	0.9	1.3
Cash shortages	65.5	95	67.8	62.6	72.7	85	80.5	75.6	74.5
Cereal price changes i.e. sharp drop or increase	49	76.9	62.9	56.1	66.2	70	53	62	62.3
Livestock price changes i.e sharp drop or increase	25.5	40.2	13.4	36.9	43.4	33.5	3	27.9	29.7
Livestock diseases	9	16.1	5.9	34.3	21.2	20.5	2	15.5	19.3
Livestock deaths	13.5	16.6	9.4	40.4	28.3	39.5	5.5	21.8	21.8
Crop pests	24	5.5	18.8	29.3	31.8	21.5	9	20	38.5
Human wildlife conflict	10	0	20.8	13.1	3	24	3.5	10.7	10.1
Drought	78.5	88.4	46.5	80.8	62.1	93.5	88.5	76.9	73.4
Prolonged mid-season dry spell	44	90.5	55.4	60.6	57.6	71.5	52.5	61.7	66.7
Floods	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.1	1.0
Waterlogging	0.5	0	1	2	0	0	0	0.5	0.4
Hailstorms	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0.3	1.2
Veld fires	0	0	0	4.5	0	1	1	0.9	1.4
Conflict/social unrest	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0.1	1.1
Other shocks and stresses	0.5	1	0	4	2.5	2.5	0.5	1.6	3.7

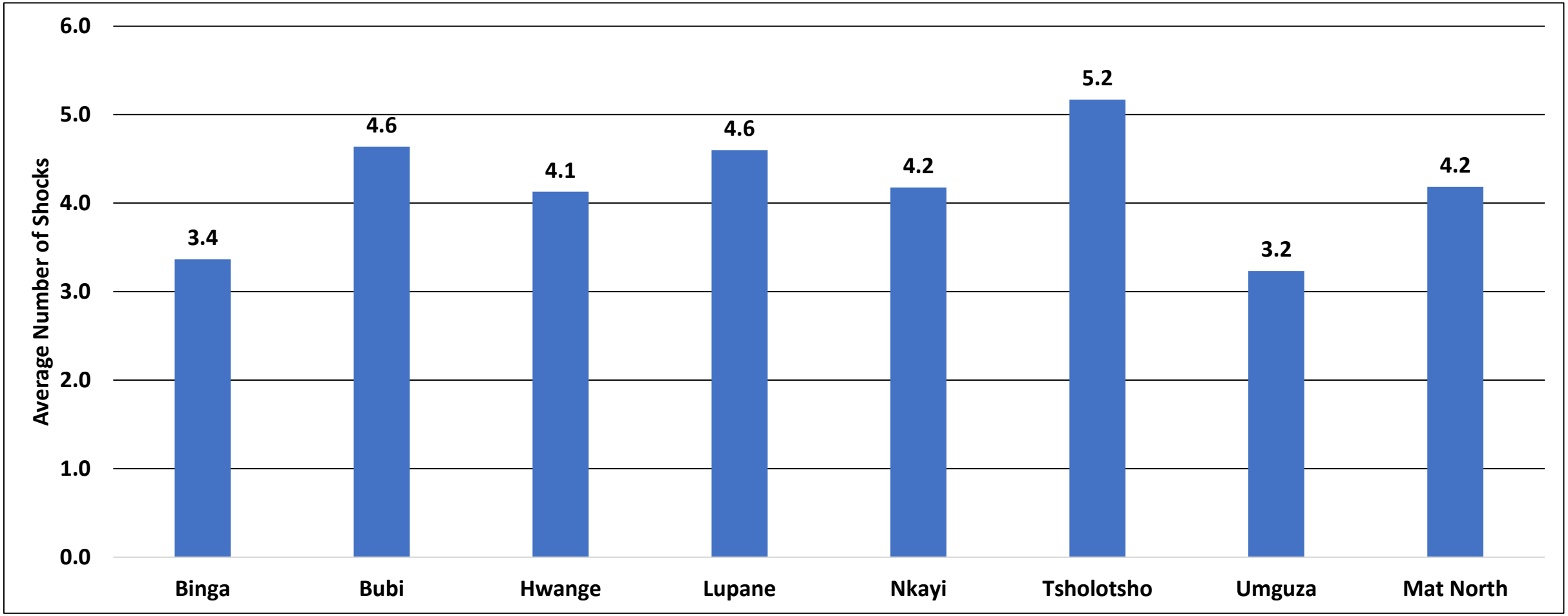
- The most commonly reported shocks were drought , cash shortages, cereal prices changes and prolonged mid-season dry spells.
- Human and wildlife conflict was also a significant reported shock in Tsholotsho (24%) and Hwange (20.8%).

Comparison, Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope



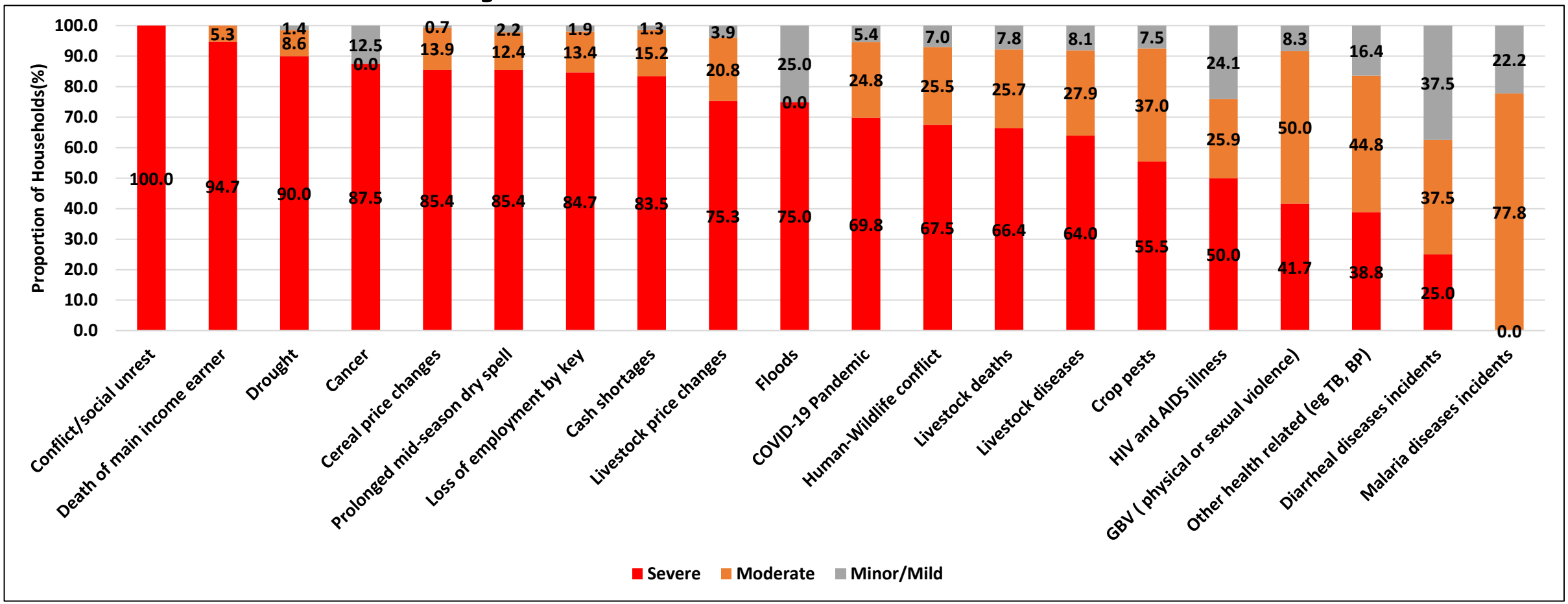
- The shock exposure index (11) was high compared to the ability to cope index (6). This was an indication that most households were not coping well with the current shocks they were experiencing.

Average Number of Shocks/Stressors Experienced by Households



- The average number of shocks ranged from 5.2 in Tsholotsho to 3.2 in Umguza.
- The provincial average number of shocks experienced by households was at 4.2.

Severity of Shocks on Households



- Conflict and social unrest (100%), death of main income earner (94.7%) and drought (90%) were some of the shocks that had a severe impact on households.
- Malaria disease(77.8%) incidents were reported to have a moderate impact to households.

Food Security

Food Security Dimensions

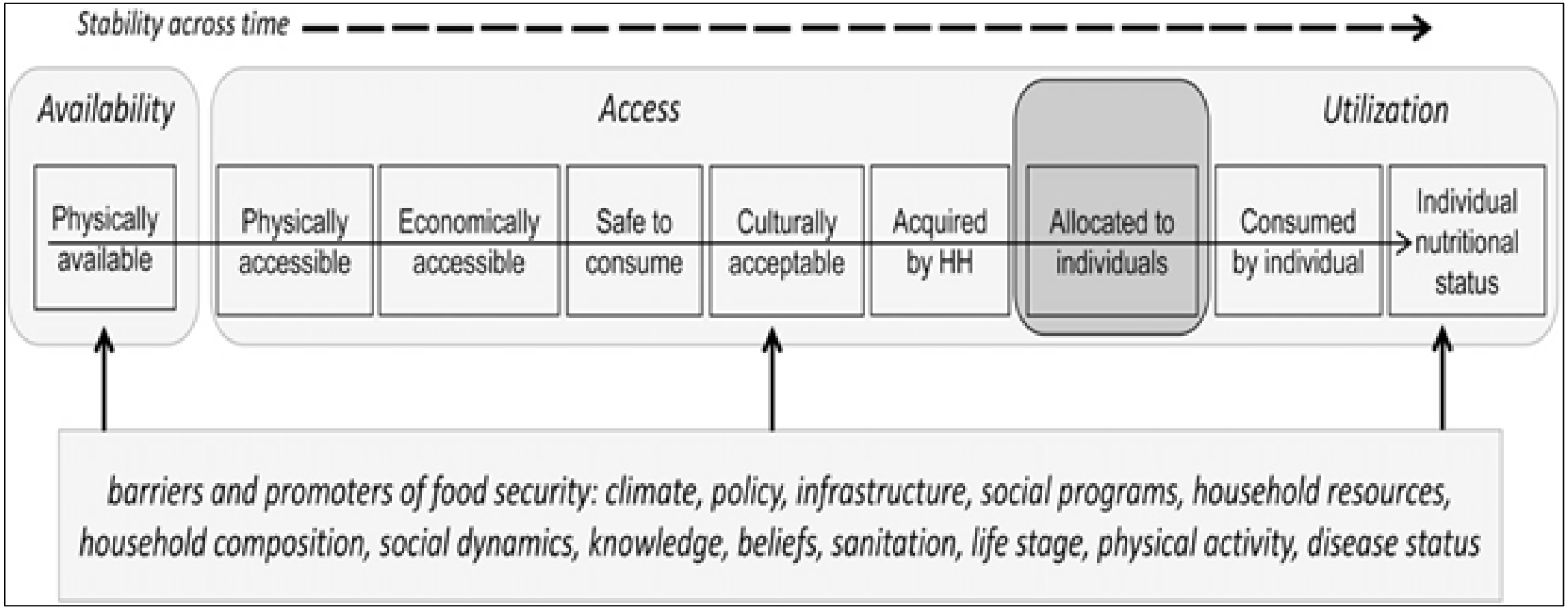


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

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 **utilization** of food
  - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilization

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Each of the surveyed households' minimum expenditure or the emergency nutrition sensitive food basket was computed from the following annual food basket requirement for an individual:

Food Items	Individual Annual Requirement
Maize Grain (Kgs)	148
Rice (Kgs)	15
Ration meat (Kgs)	14.6
Milk (Litres)	36.5
Cooking Oil (Litres)	13.5
Peanuts (Kgs)	0.73
Cabbage (Heads)	15
Beans (Kgs)	7.3
Sugar (Kgs)	12.1

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire minimum expenditure food basket (Figure 3) was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income (both cash and non cash) in the 2020/21 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
  - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
  - Own food crop production from the 2020/21 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.

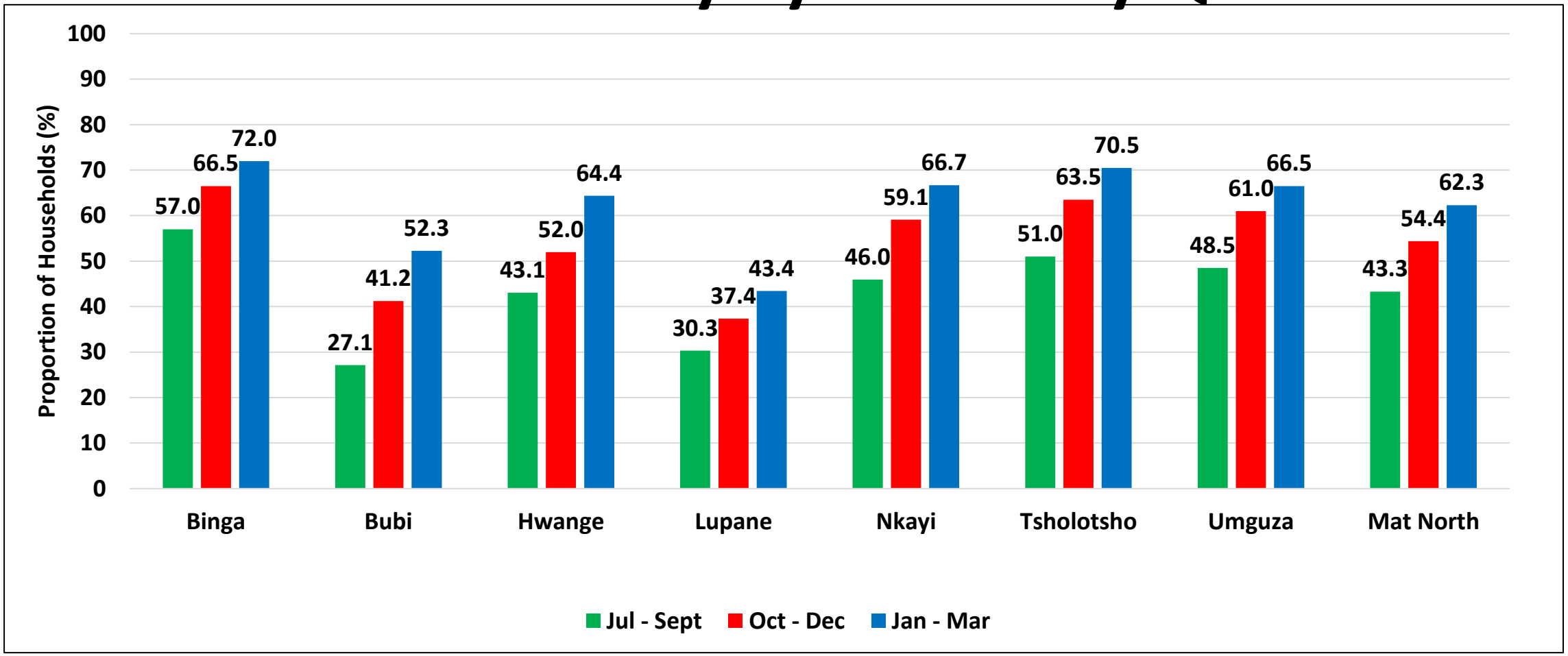
Food Security Analytical Framework

- **Household Food Security Status**
  - The total minimum expenditure food basket that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest available sources using its potential disposable income was then computed and compared to the household's minimum expenditure food basket.
  - When the total minimum expenditure food basket that a household could acquire was greater than its minimum expenditure food basket 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 total minimum expenditure food basket requirements.

Food Security Analytical Framework

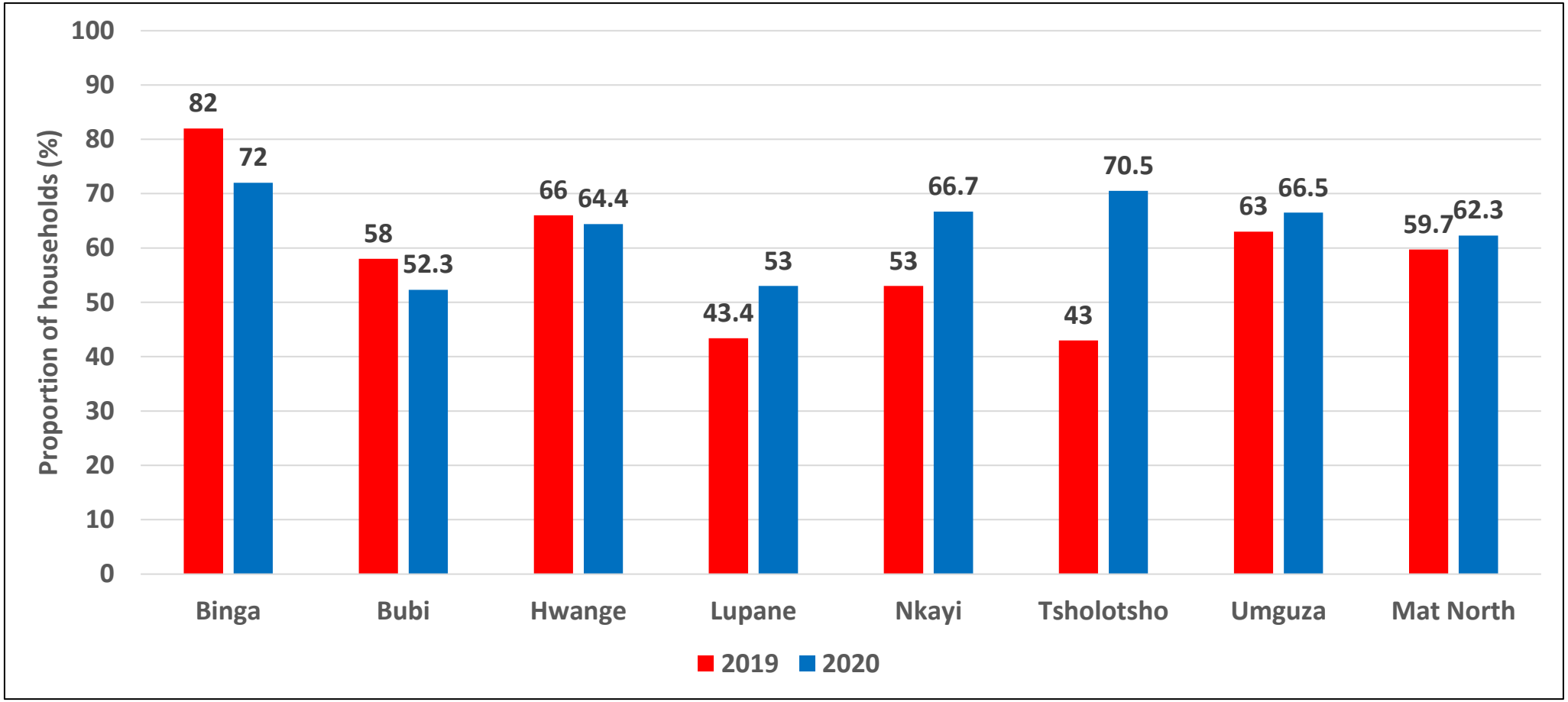
- **Household Cereal Security Status**
  - From the total minimum expenditure food basket, the total energy that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest available sources using its potential disposable income was also extracted and compared to the household's minimum energy requirements.
  - When the potential energy 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 Insecurity by District by Quarter



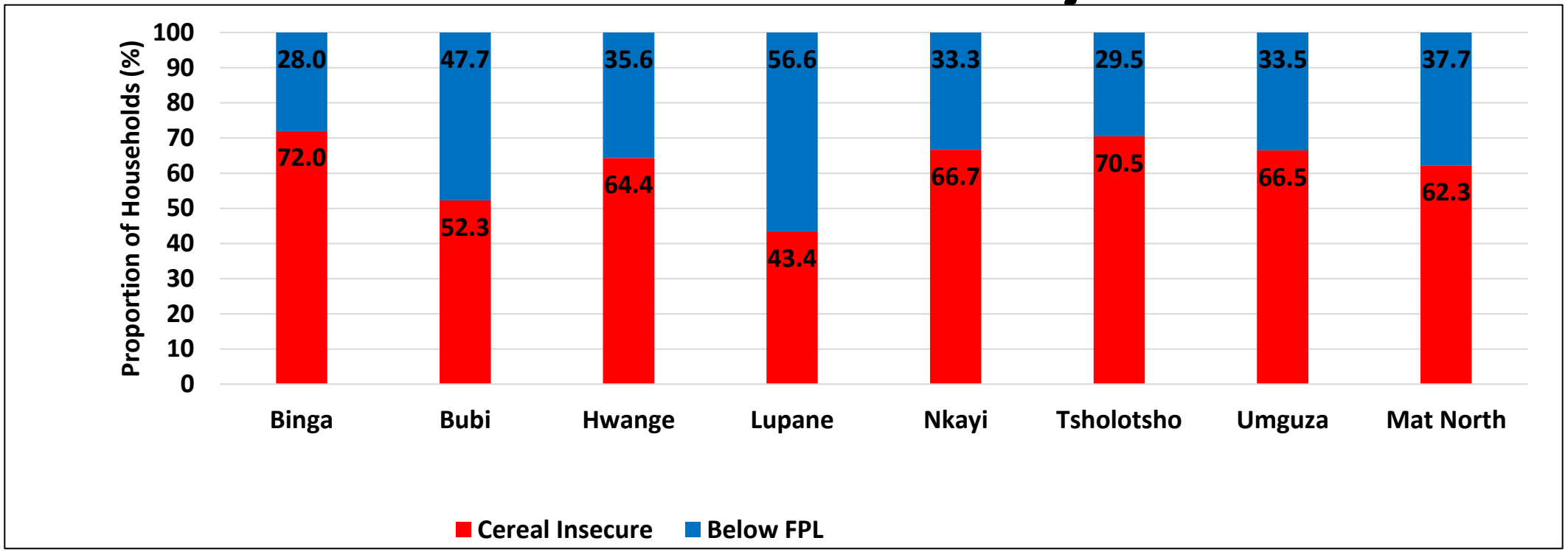
- Matabeleland North is projected to have 62.3% of households not being able to meet their cereal needs at the peak of the lean season period.
- This indicates a dire need for urgent interventions that save lives and protects livelihoods.

Cereal Insecurity by District by Year



- Cereal insecurity is projected to increase to 62.3% in 2020, compared to 59.7% reported in 2019 at peak.
- Binga, Bubi and Hwange are estimated to record a decrease in the proportion of cereal insecure households compared to 2019.

Food Insecurity



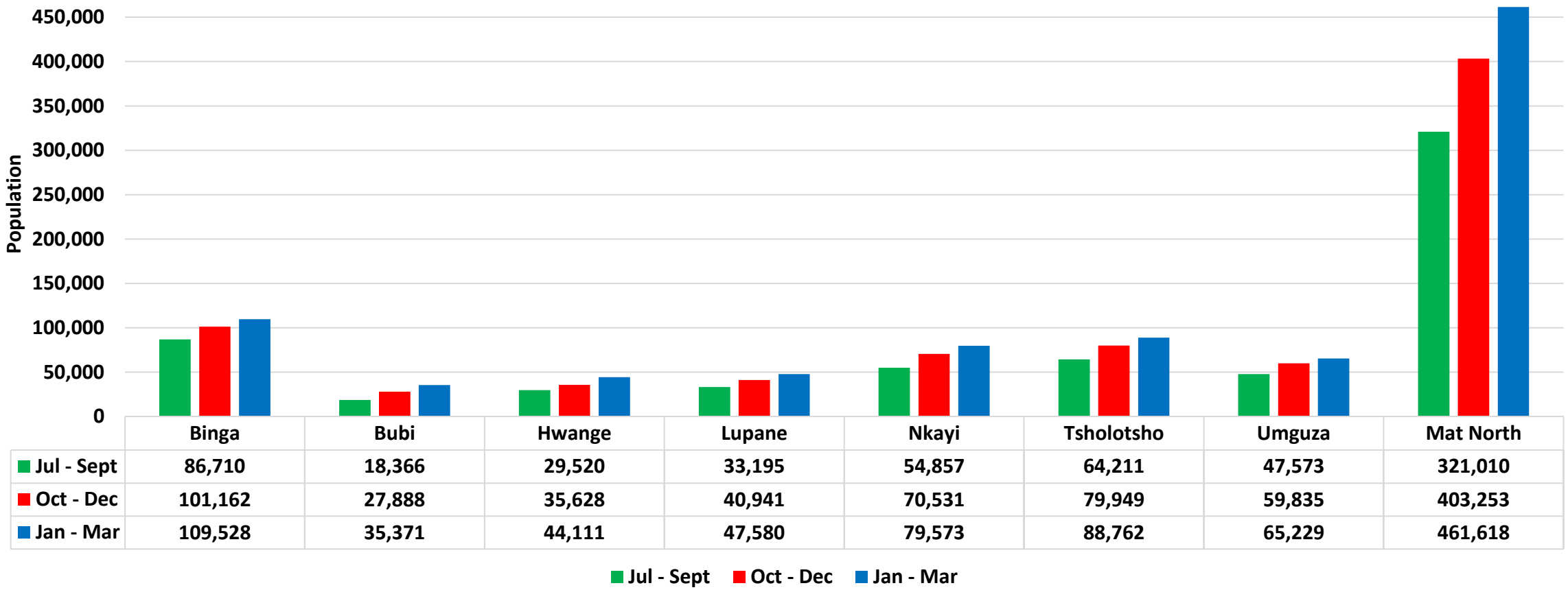
- Binga (72%) has the highest proportion of the households projected to be cereal insecure at the peak of the lean season.
- Lupane (56.5%) has the highest proportion below the Food Poverty Line (FPL).
- A combination of both these indicators compound the levels of food insecurity at household level.
- There will be need for livelihoods protection interventions for households below the FPL ,to prevent them from becoming worse off.

Cereal Insecurity Pillars by District

	Food insecurity from cereals stocks	Food insecurity from cereals stocks plus food crops	Food insecurity from cereals stocks plus food crops plus cash crops	Food insecurity from cereals stocks plus food crops plus cash crops plus remittances	Food insecurity from cereals stocks plus food crops plus cash crops plus livestocks plus casual labour and remittances	Food insecurity from cereals stocks plus food crops plus cash crops plus livestock plus casual labor and remittances plus income
Binga	100.0	95.5	95.0	94.5	89.5	72.0
Bubi	100.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	83.9	52.3
Hwange	100.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	85.6	64.4
Lupane	100.0	93.4	93.4	92.9	58.1	43.4
Nkayi	100.0	96.5	96.5	96.0	82.8	66.7
Tsholotsho	100.0	98.5	98.5	98.5	89.0	70.5
Umguza	100.0	98.5	98.0	98.0	87.5	66.5
Mat North	100.0	96.9	96.8	96.6	82.4	62.3

- All districts confirmed not to have any cereal stocks from the 2019/2020 season. Similarly, the 2020 Crop and Livestock Assessment had the same finding.
- With the additional pillars factored in, Binga stands out as the most food insecure (72%), followed by Tsholotsho (70.5%).

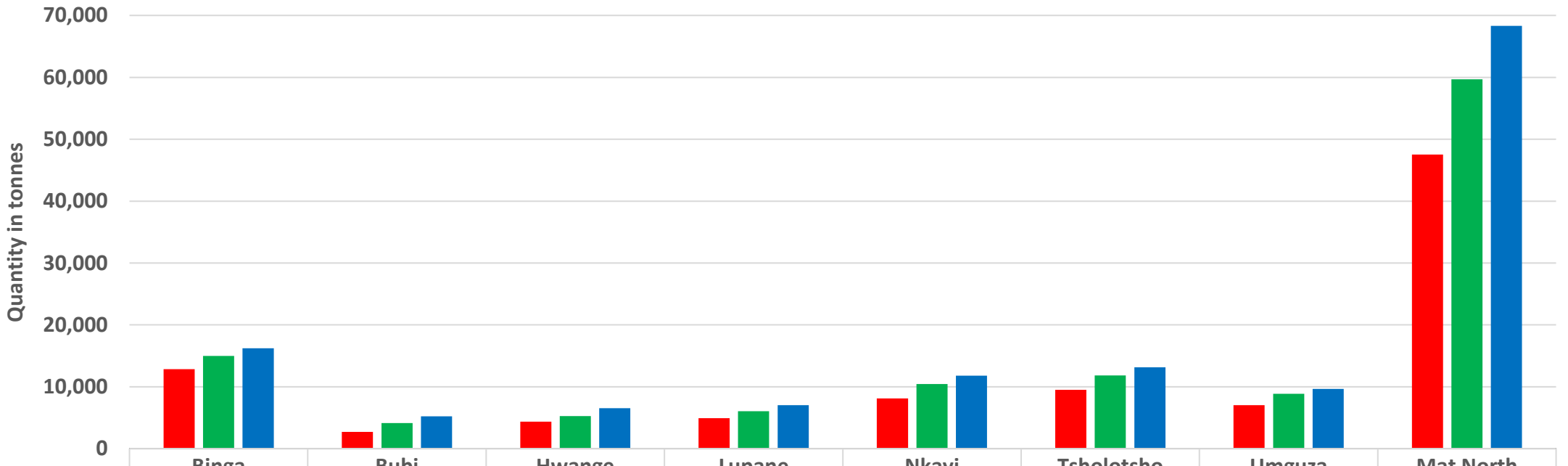
Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter



	Binga	Bubi	Hwange	Lupane	Nkayi	Tsholotsho	Umguza	Mat North
Jul - Sept	86,710	18,366	29,520	33,195	54,857	64,211	47,573	321,010
Oct - Dec	101,162	27,888	35,628	40,941	70,531	79,949	59,835	403,253
Jan - Mar	109,528	35,371	44,111	47,580	79,573	88,762	65,229	461,618

- The province is estimated have 461,618 people in need of support at peak.
- Binga is estimated to have 109,528 people needing support.

Cereal Requirements (MT) by Quarter



	Binga	Bubi	Hwange	Lupane	Nkayi	Tsholotsho	Umguza	Mat North
Jul - Sept	12,833	2,718	4,369	4,913	8,119	9,503	7,041	47,510
Oct - Dec	14,972	4,127	5,273	6,059	10,439	11,832	8,856	59,681
Jan - Mar	16,210	5,235	6,528	7,042	11,777	13,137	9,654	68,319

Jul - Sept Oct - Dec Jan - Mar

- At peak it was reported that the province requires 68,319MT of cereals to meet the needs for the population.
- Binga is estimated to require 16,210 MT of cereals at the peak hunger period, followed closely by Tsholotsho (13,137MT) and Nkayi(11,777MT) respectively.

Conclusions and Recommendations

i) Agriculture and Markets

- Rainfall distribution was very erratic throughout the season. This is by far the most single factor that contributed to poor crop performance in all districts, right from planting to the end of the season.
- This resulted in insignificant productions throughout all the districts with most if the agricultural production being exhausted within the 3months. This highlights the need for accelerated importation of grain from outside the province.
- There is also a need for government and partners to intensify on the promotion of drought tolerate crops as well as Climate Smart interventions like Conservation Agriculture.
- Animal Health Extension services (Veterinary Services)remain sparser than Agricultural Production. The same applies with Livestock Extension coverage, when compared to Crops. There is a dire need to improve on livestock production an d veterinary health extension in the province.

Conclusions and Recommendations

ii) Consumption and Livelihoods Coping Strategies

- Tsholotsho and Nkayi districts had the most households engaging in extreme (emergency) livelihoods coping strategies, indicating food consumption gaps that may lead to irreversible coping. There is need for introduction of resilience-building programmes that could assist the households to replenish their productive assets in the two districts.
- The CSI slightly decreased for all districts except for Hwange and Tsholotsho indicating that access to food support could have increased in 2020 or the households had prepared for a drought and hence stored or gathered increased food stores. Sharp increases in CSI in Hwange and Tsholotsho indicate huge food consumption gaps in 2020 and require immediate food support.
- About a fifth of households in the province had some of hunger, moderate or severe. This was comparable to the national picture indicating levels of hunger were widespread.

Conclusions and Recommendations

iii) ISALS , Loans , Income and Expenditure

Generally incomes for rural households are following a downward trend. Formal sources remain relatively very low, notably with **closure of some financier branches in rural centres** (Agri Bank and CBZ Branches).

- Through the Ministry of Women Affairs and SMEs Development it is paramount for them to take lead on income generating projects **. Information on their services** should be **disseminated efficiently** through platforms that the client (the rural communities) will access with ease. On that note, there has been an improvement on proportions of households served through the Microfinance Women's Bank.
- More efforts should be directed towards supporting coverage of ISALs to improve financial inclusion .
- Cash stood out as the most common for of loan disbursements. Considering the current hyperinflatory environment, it is advisable that this form of money disbursement be done within a very short space of time to allow for the applicants to utilise it quite early before the loss of value.
- Hard cash (if not forex) stands as the **preferred form of trade** in the rural communities, this poses a challenge to loan applicants since they rarely receive hard cash/forex. Most disbursement are either mobile or bank transfers. It would be a noble concept for loaning institutions to disburse **inputs/assets rather than cash.**
- Average monthly income levels plummeted in 2020 compared to 2019 and 2018. Binga experienced a huge increase in average monthly income of USD $46.10. This could explain a decline in the food consumption gaps observed in Binga, indicating increased incomes resulting in reduced food insecurity.
- Women mostly took over on decision-making regarding use of household income in all the districts expect for Binga. However, there is need for further qualitative work to understand the type of decisions these women are making regarding to use of household income
- Average monthly income was still below the poverty datum line of (ZWL$ 5 xxx) across all districts of the province. This is a cause of concern.

Conclusions and Recommendations

iv) Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Only 62.1% of the country has access to basic water services which is way below the SDG target of universal access .The high proportion of households consuming untreated water across the entire province is a cause of concern. Untreated water may contain contaminants, such as disease causing microbes, chemicals and human/animal waste. With the high incidence of surface water as a source, there is therefore a serious need for WASH programming in respect to water treatment
- . A paradigm shift from primarily relying on unimproved drinking water sources to improved communal water points and improved piped water into households using renewable energy sources (solar) is recommended.
- The findings indicate that at national level over 40% of households in Matabeleland North were still practicing open defecation. Elimination of open defecation through availing of resources (both software and hardware) for the construction of latrines using locally available resources is recommended. Customized service standards should reconcile with technology choice and service levels with the economic capacity of user groups
- Handwashing facilities and practices were reported to be significantly low across the province.

Conclusions and Recommendation

v) Food Security Complementary Feeding and Child Nutrition Status

- Through the Multisectoral approach, the government should scale up Food Security Interventions so to address the food insecurity prevalence, which is likely to plummet to 62.3% at peak hunger period.
- Through the Ministry of Health and Childcare, there is need to conduct Mother led MUAC trainings so that mothers can be able to screen their children and hence identify a potentially deteriorating condition.
- The incidence of chronic diseases in the province was very minimal.
- There Vitamin A Supplementation coverage for children one year and older remains low in the province, with only half of children in this age group having received the required number of doses. There is therefore need to scale this exercise up.
- is need to scale up the establishment of nutritional gardens in Institutions and Households to enhance the access to at least four food groups per day.

End