Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)
2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment
Masvingo Province Report

Foreword

In its endeavour to 'promote and ensure adequate food and nutrition security for all people at all times', the Government of Zimbabwe continues to exhibit its commitment towards 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). Under the coordination of the Food and Nutrition Council, the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) undertook the 2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, the 21st since its inception. ZimVAC is a technical advisory committee comprised of representatives from Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. Through its assessments, ZimVAC continues to collect, synthesize and disseminate high quality information on the food and nutrition security situation in a timely manner.

The 2021 RLA was motivated by the need to provide credible and timely data to inform progress of commitments in the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) and inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people in both their short and long-term vulnerability context. Furthermore, as the 'new normal' under COVID-19 remains fluid and dynamic, characterized by a high degree of uncertainty, the assessment sought to provide up to date information on how rural food systems and livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic. The report covers thematic areas which include the following: education, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, food security, COVID-19, WASH, social protection and gender-based violence, among other issues.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the ZimVAC as well as the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels for successfully carrying out the survey. These structures continue to exhibit 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

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- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
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- Mercy Corps

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Acknowledgement of Support
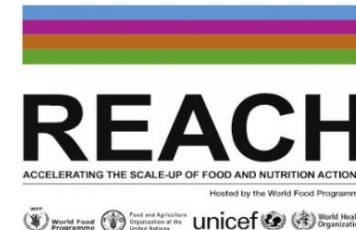
Acronyms

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
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Introduction and Background

Introduction

- ZimVAC livelihoods assessments' results continue to be an important tool for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation. To date, 21 rural and 8 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 livelihoods updates with the technical support of ZimVAC.

Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

ZimVAC is a consortium of Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. It was established in 2002 and is led and regulated by Government. It is chaired by FNC, a department in the Office of the President and Cabinet whose mandate is to promote a multi-sectoral response to food insecurity and nutrition problems in a manner 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 performance of the agricultural season, with the disruption of food systems and markets, the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the prevailing macro-economic environment has affected the livelihoods of the rural population.

- The impact on the livelihoods, which has ripple effects on household wellbeing outcomes, had not been quantified and ascertained hence the need to carry out a livelihoods assessment.

- The assessment results will be used to:

  - Inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people, given the prevailing situation in the country as well as their long term vulnerability context.

  - Inform short, medium and long term interventions that address immediate and long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods.

  - Monitor and report towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national food and nutrition policies and strategies among them the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Zero Hunger Strategy.

  - Monitor interventions to ensure adherence to the principles spelt out in regional and international frameworks which Zimbabwe has committed itself to which include the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the SDGs.

  - Guide early warning for early action

Purpose

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

Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2021/22 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.

- Assess impact and severity of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods.

- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.

- To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.

- To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions in the country.

- To identify development priorities for communities.

- To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.

- To measure household resilience and identify constraints to improving their resilience.

- To identify early recovery needs in order to determine short to long term recovery strategies.

Background

- The 2021 RLA was undertaken against a continuously evolving food and nutrition security situation.

- The Government came up with the National Development Strategy 1:2021-2025 (NDS1) towards the end of 2020. The overarching goal of NDS1 is to ensure high, accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth as well as socio-economic transformation and development as we move towards an upper middle-income society by 2030.

- One of the priority areas for the NDS1 is Food and Nutrition Security. NDS1 seeks to improve food self-sufficiency and to retain the regional breadbasket status. The main objective is to increase food self-sufficiency from the current level of 45% to 100% and reduce food insecurity from the high of 59% recorded in 2019 to less than 10% by 2025.

- Agriculture as one of the key economic sectors and fundamental to the projected economic growth had a good 2020/21 rainfall season. The season recorded an increase in the area planted to maize at 1 951 848 Ha of land owing to the overwhelming support by Government and the private sector. The total cereal production was 3 075 538 MT against a national cereal requirement of 1 797 435 MT for human and livestock 450 000 MT consumption.

- The rains received improved livestock condition, drinking water availability for livestock and pasture quality and availability. However the incessant rains increased tick borne diseases.

- With the majority of the rural population's livelihoods mostly influenced by agriculture (both crops and livestock), the experienced climate related shocks have implications on access to food and the nutrition status of children.

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 official exchange rates have remained stable, while basic food prices are on an increase. Year on year inflation for April 2021 was at 194.1%.

- The new normal under COVID-19 has implications on food security and nutrition. Globally, food supply chains have been disrupted due to lockdowns triggered by the global health crisis, but also a major global economic slowdown. This has led to lower incomes and higher food prices, making food out of reach for vulnerable households.

- The impact of the pandemic, amidst other shocks, has caused significant deterioration and erosion of livelihoods and productive assets, food security and nutrition of vulnerable households. The closure of rural food and livestock markets affected the incomes of rural livelihoods.

- The vulnerable rural households have little to nothing to cushion the effects of the shock (pandemic). They experience market failures and have little or no access to formal insurance and credit and risk management mechanisms. The vulnerable households have challenges in accessing liquidity, worsened by reduced casual wage labour opportunities and the closure of informal markets, where they tend to sell production.

Background

- The enforcement of social distancing combined with the covariate nature of the crisis will likely overwhelm and/or reduce the rural households' access to traditional community networks and institutions of social reciprocity, which have historically provided a safety net in times of crisis.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design

Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework
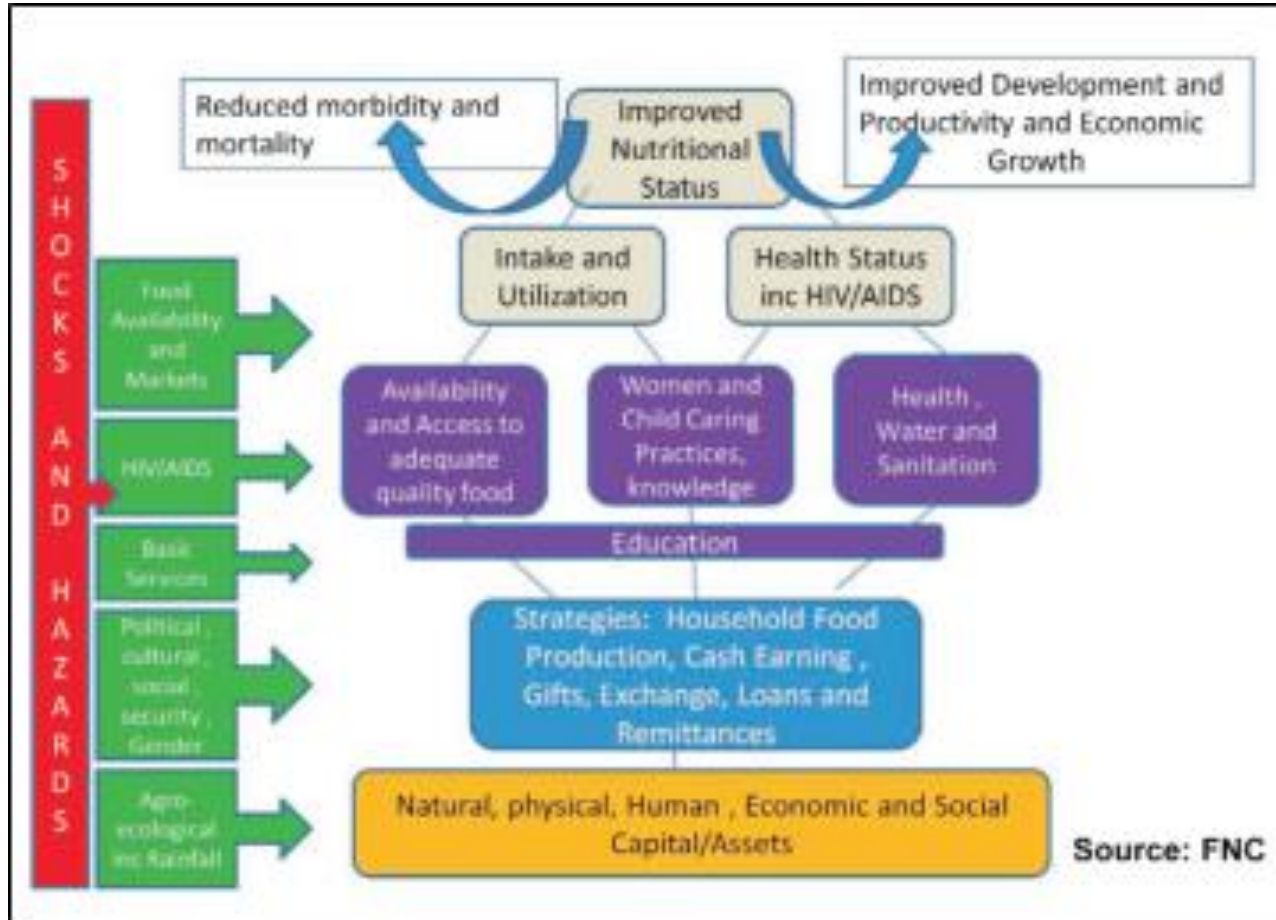
- The assessment was a cross-sectional study whose design was guided and informed by the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual framework (Figure 1), which Zimbabwe adopted in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012), and the conceptual framework on food security dimensions propounded by Jones et al. (2013).

- 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.

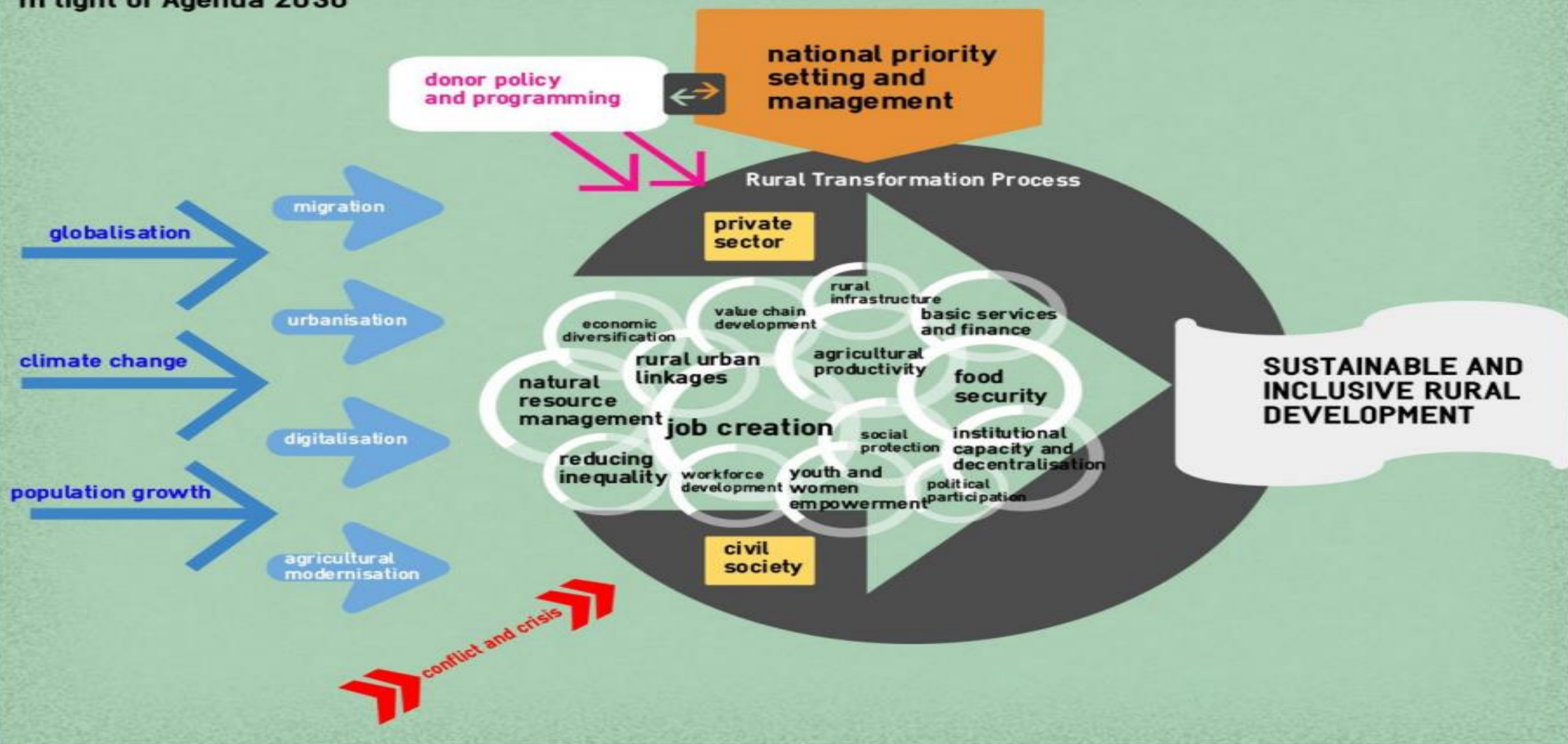*Figure 2: Zimbabwe resilience framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)*

Shaping Rural Transformation in light of Agenda 2030

Source: Internal Working Document, GIZ Sectoral Project Rural Development (2016)

Methodology – Assessment Process

- ZimVAC, through multi-stakeholder consultations, developed an appropriate assessment design concept note and data collection tools informed by the assessment objectives.

- The primary data collection tools used in the assessment were the android–based structured household questionnaire and the community Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide.

- ZimVAC national supervisors (including Provincial Agritex Extension Officers and Provincial Nutritionists) and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. These underwent training in all aspects of the assessment. 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 which guided processes from survey planning to data collection.

- The Ministry of Local Government, through the Provincial Development Coordinators' offices coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial supervision 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. In selected districts, two additional enumerators were recruited as anthropometrists.

Methodology – Assessment Process

- Primary data collection took place from 3 to 20 July, 2021. 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. In the case of anthropometrists recruited from MoHCC, additional appropriate PPE was provided (gloves, disposable plastic aprons) to enable them to measure participants aged 5 to 19 years in twenty selected districts.

- Data analysis and report writing ran from 23 May to 3 June 2021. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

Methodology - Sampling and Sample Size

- Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level.

- The survey collected data from 1500 randomly selected Enumerated Areas (EAs):

- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of;

  - Sampling of 25 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2012 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology

  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).

- At most, 254 households were interviewed per district, bringing the total sampled households to 1746 households at provincial level.

- 5 FGDs were held per district.

Districts	Number of Sampled Households
Bikita	246
Chiredzi	246
Chivi	250
Gutu	250
Mwenezi	254
Masvingo	247
Zaka	253
Masvingo province	1746

Methodology – Sampled Wards
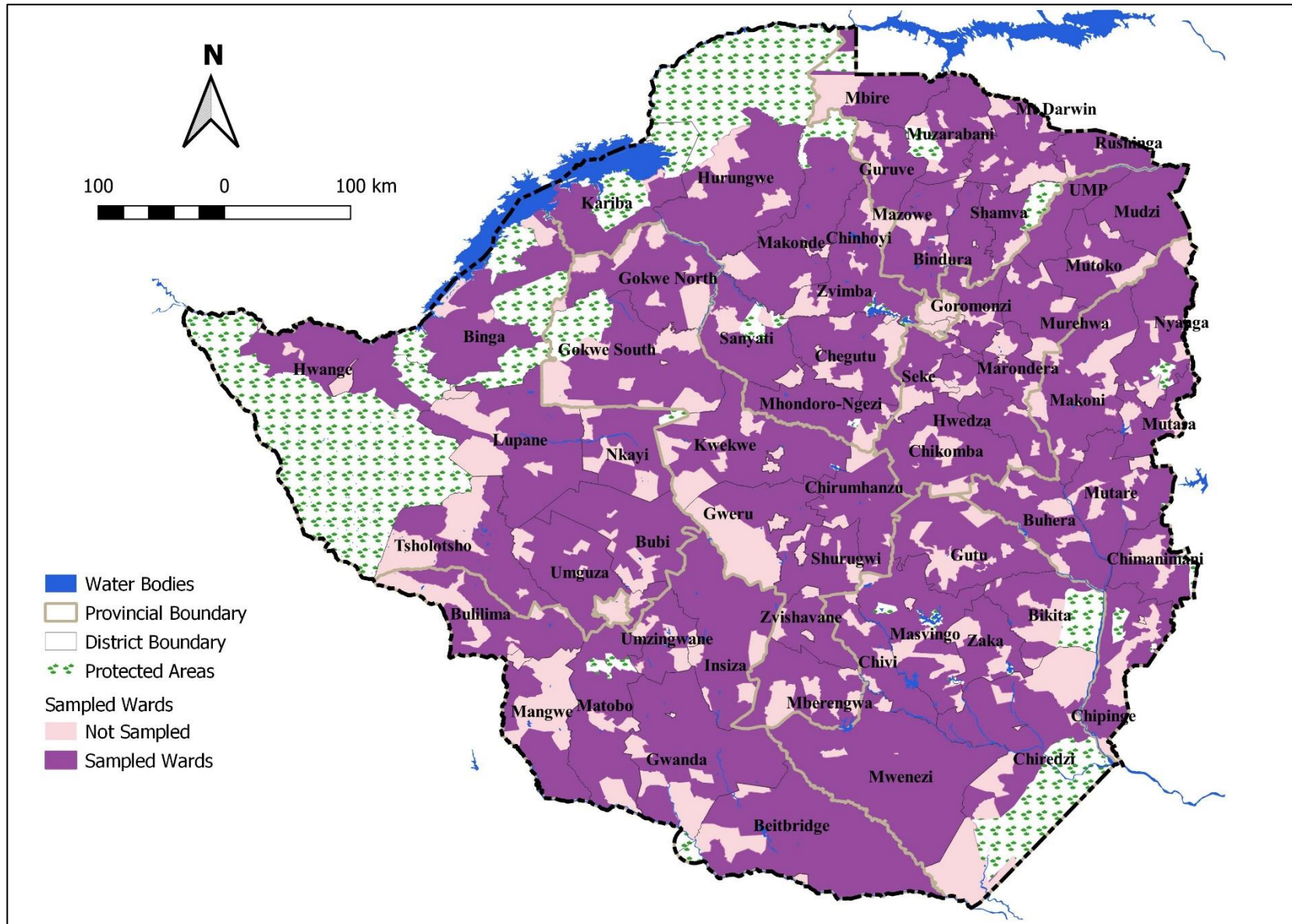
Data Preparation and Analysis

- 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

  - Community Focus Group Discussions

- Data cleaning and analysis were done using SPSS, STATA, ENA, Microsoft Excel and GIS packages.

- Analyses of the different thematic areas covered by the assessment were informed and guided by relevant local and international frameworks, where they exist.

- Gender, as a cross cutting issue, was recognised throughout the analysis.

Technical Scope

The 2021 RLA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Education

- Health

- WASH

- Nutrition

- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities

- Food security

- Resilience

- Social protection

- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas

- Cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability

Assessment Findings

Demographic Description of the Sample

Household Characteristics: Household Size

District	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Bikita	3.6	1.0	8.0
Chiredzi	4.5	1.0	14.0
Chivi	4.9	1.0	14.0
Gutu	3.9	1.0	10.0
Masvingo	4.5	1.0	13.0
Mwenezi	3.9	1.0	11.0
Zaka	4.5	1.0	12.0
Masvingo Province	4.3	1.0	14.0

- The average household size for Masvingo province was 4.3.

Characteristics of Household Head: Sex and Age

District	Household Head Sex (%)		Household Head Average Age (years)	
	Male	Female	Average	Minimum
Bikita	52.8	47.2	53.6	15.0
Chiredzi	78.0	22.0	48.4	21.0
Chivi	63.2	36.8	54.1	19.0
Gutu	56.8	43.2	55.3	16.0
Masvingo	63.0	37.0	55.0	16.0
Mwenezi	65.2	34.8	49.1	18.0
Zaka	52.2	47.8	53.3	15.0
Masvingo Province	**61.6**	**38.4**	**52.7**	**15.0**

- The proportion of male headed households in the province was 61.6%.

- The average age of household head was 52.7 years which is within the economic productive age group.

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained
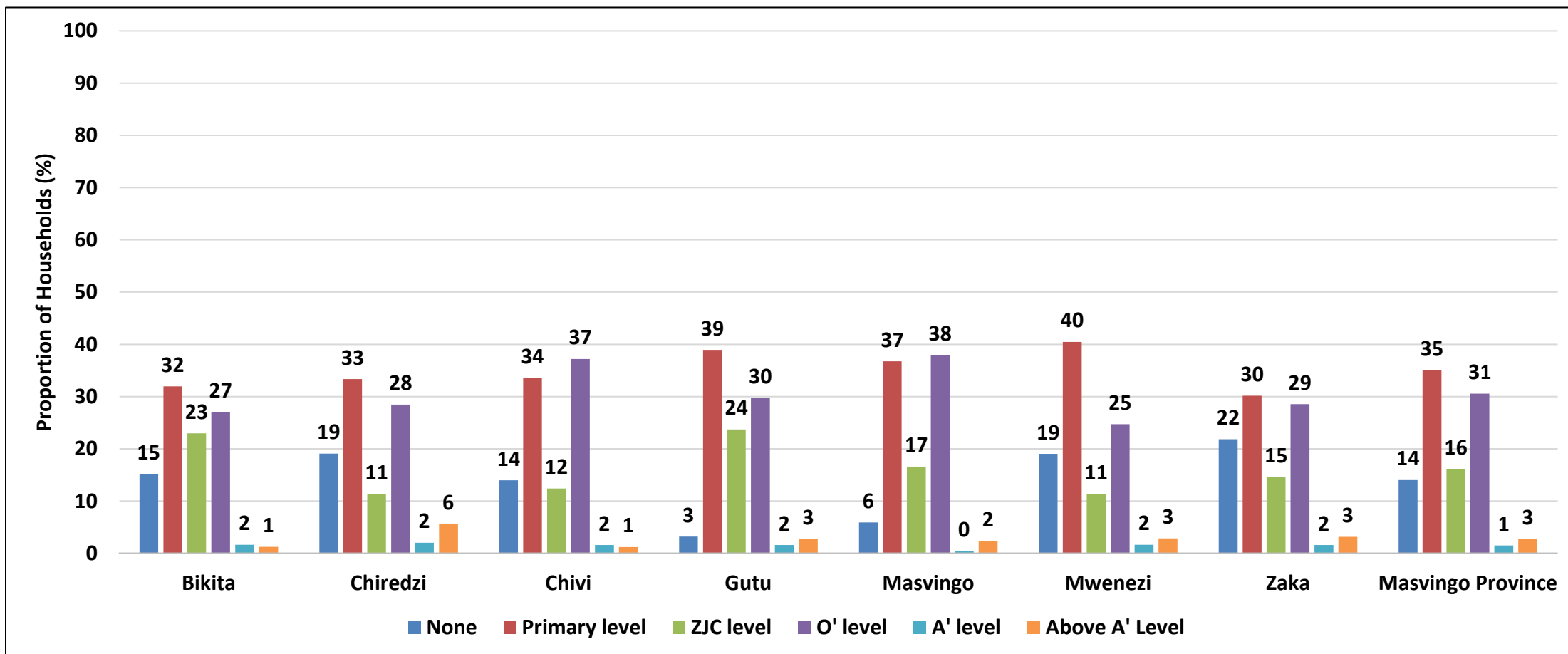
- About 51% of the household heads attained above primary level education.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status
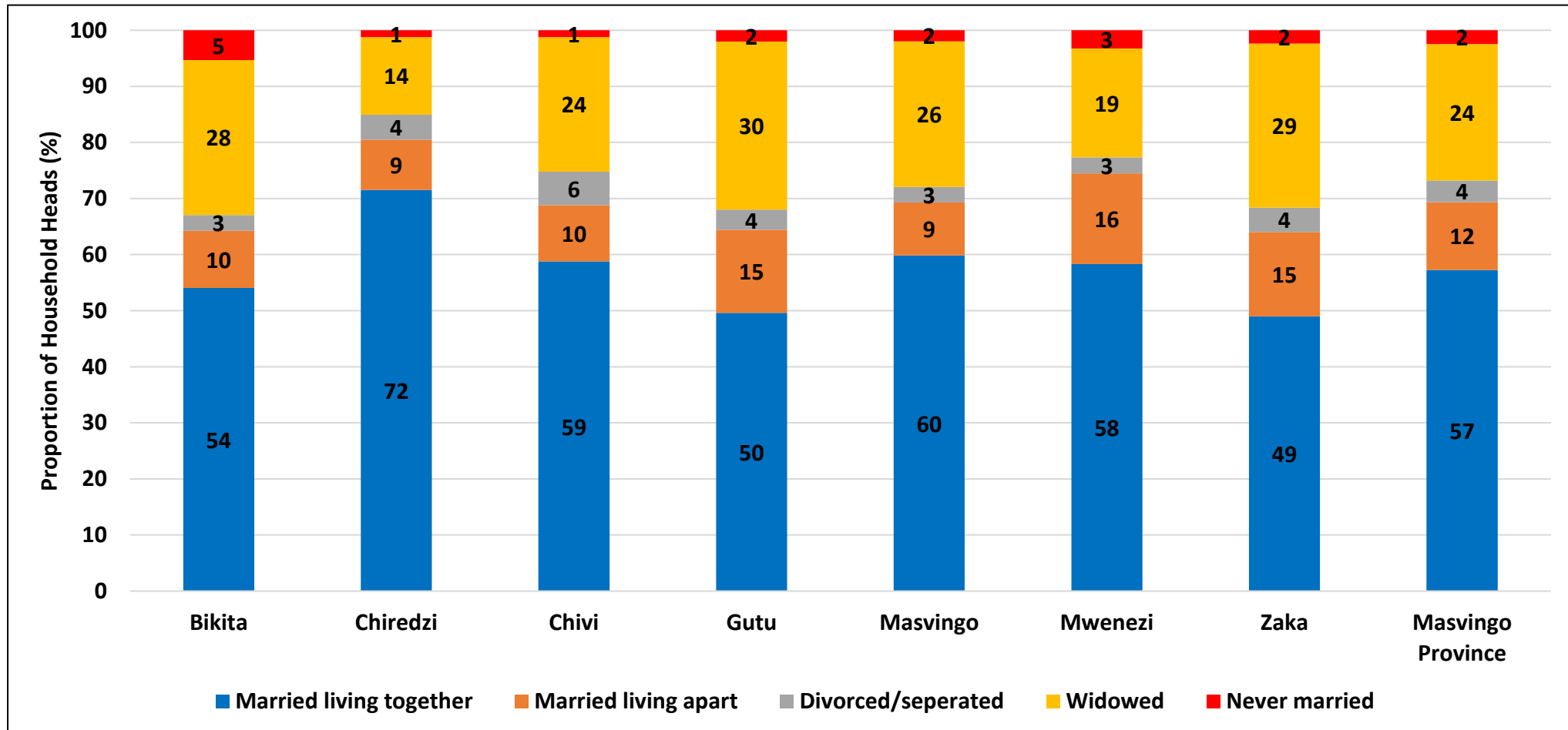
- Household heads who were married and living together were about 57%.
- Gutu (30%) had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed.

Characteristics of Household Head: Religion

	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	Pentecostal (%)	Apostolic Sect (%)	Zion (%)	Other Christian (%)	Traditional (%)	No Religion (%)
Bikita	14.2	2.8	3.7	33.3	34.6	4.1	0.0	7.3
Chiredzi	3.3	2.0	14.6	30.9	23.6	6.1	1.6	17.9
Chivi	14.0	0.0	4.8	21.6	22.8	22.0	0.4	13.6
Gutu	23.6	8.4	8.8	36.0	10.0	6.8	1.2	3.2
Masvingo	11.0	9.8	15.4	31.5	14.6	6.7	0.0	9.1
Mwenezi	5.7	3.6	13.0	27.1	20.6	7.7	2.8	19.4
Zaka	15.4	7.5	7.1	29.6	22.9	4.7	1.2	11.1
Masvingo Province	12.5	4.9	9.6	**30.0**	21.2	8.3	1.0	11.6

- About 30% of the household heads were of the Apostolic Sect.

Orphaned Children by District
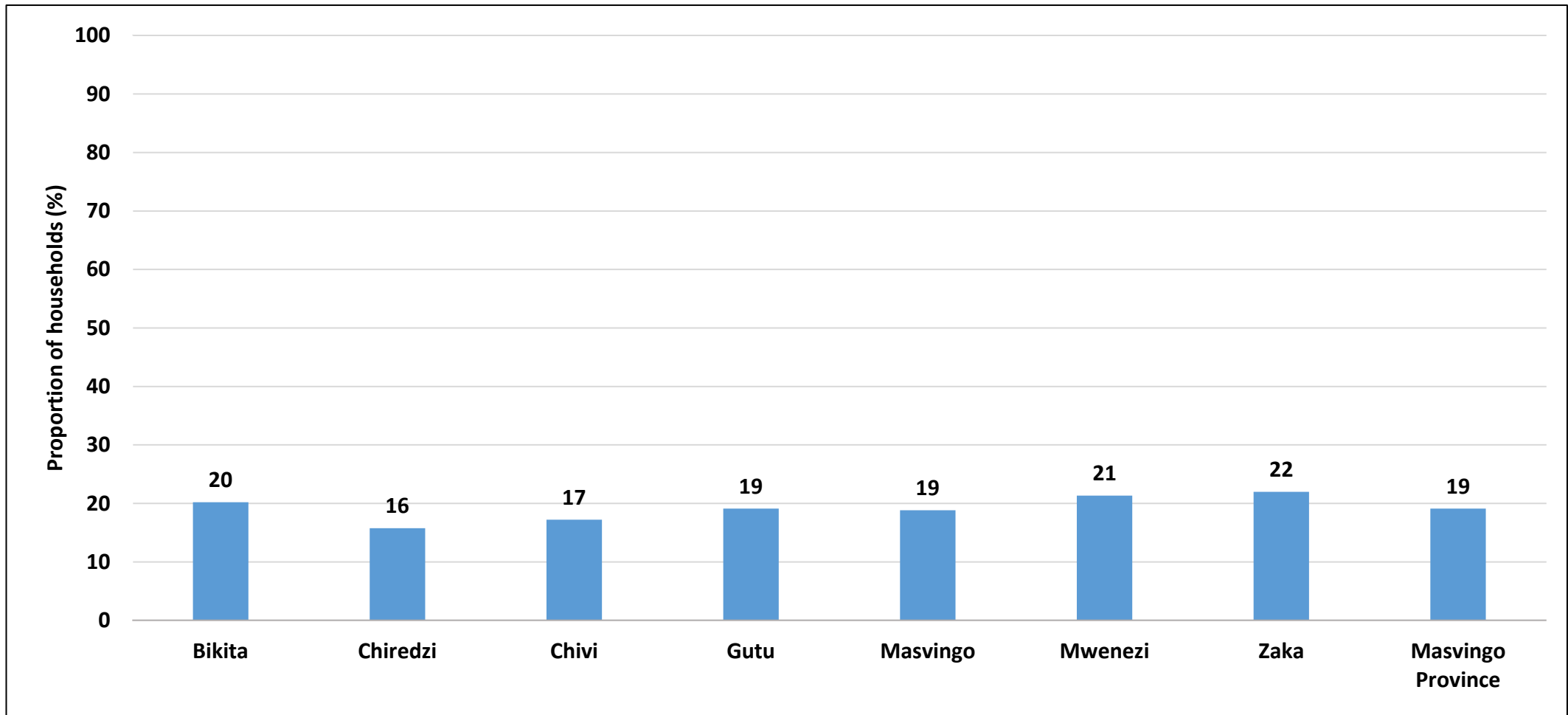
- At least 19% of the households had orphans.
- The highest proportion was in Zaka (22%).

Education

School Attendance
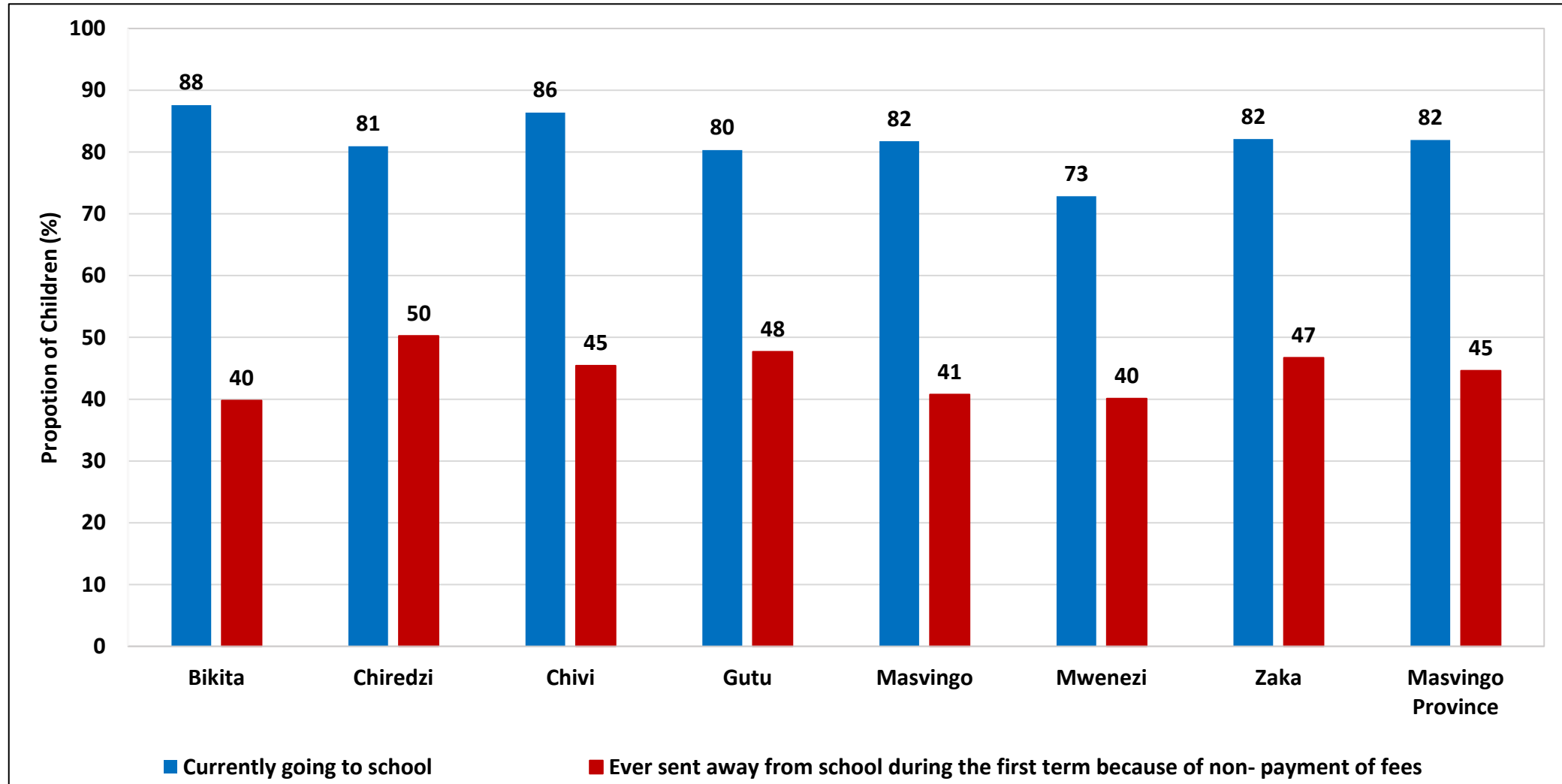
- The highest proportion of children who were in school at the time of the survey was reported in Bikita (88%).

- Chiredzi (50%) had the highest proportion of children who were ever sent away for non-payment of fees.

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Major Reasons for Children Not Being in School

	Illness (%)	Not interested in school (%)	Expensive or no money (%)	Child considered too young (%)	Pregnancy/ Marriage (%)	Failure e.g. of exams (%)	Completed O/A level (%)	No birth certificate (%)	Non-payment of last term school fees (%)
Bikita	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	33.3	0.0	44.4	0.0	11.1
Chiredzi	0.0	**33.3**	55.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chivi	20.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Gutu	5.6	0.0	38.9	11.1	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0	5.6
Masvingo	0.0	0.0	16.7	8.3	25.0	0.0	16.7	8.3	0.0
Mwenezi	0.0	**33.3**	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zaka	0.0	22.2	44.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0
Masvingo Province	4.3	**8.6**	**30.0**	5.7	**10.0**	1.4	**12.9**	1.4	2.9

- About 30% of children were out of school because it was expensive or there was no money and 10% due to early marriages or pregnancies.
- The highest proportion of children who were out of school because they were not interested was in Chiredzi and Mwenezi both at 33.3%.

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Social Protection

Households Which Received any Form of Support
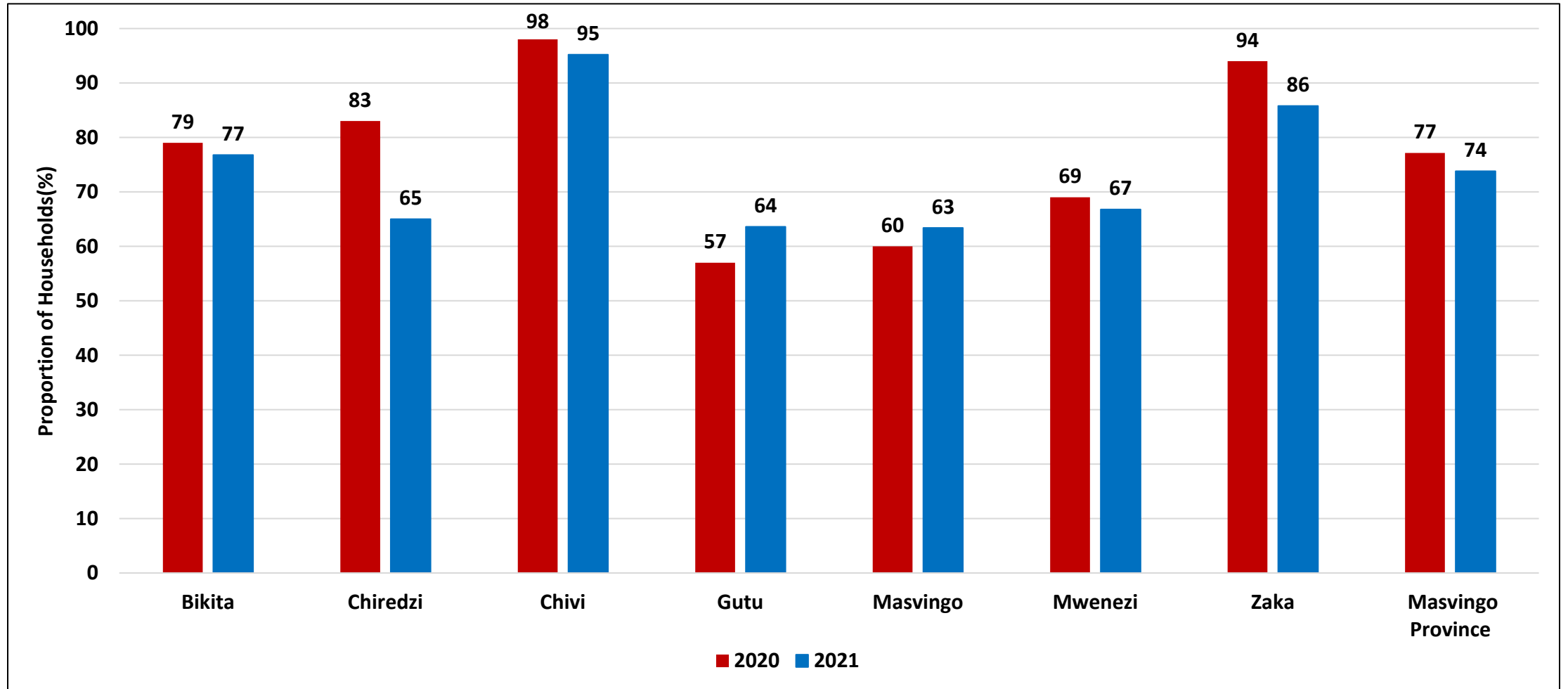
- Chivi (95%) had the highest proportion of households receiving support from all the sources.

Peak Hunger Period Support
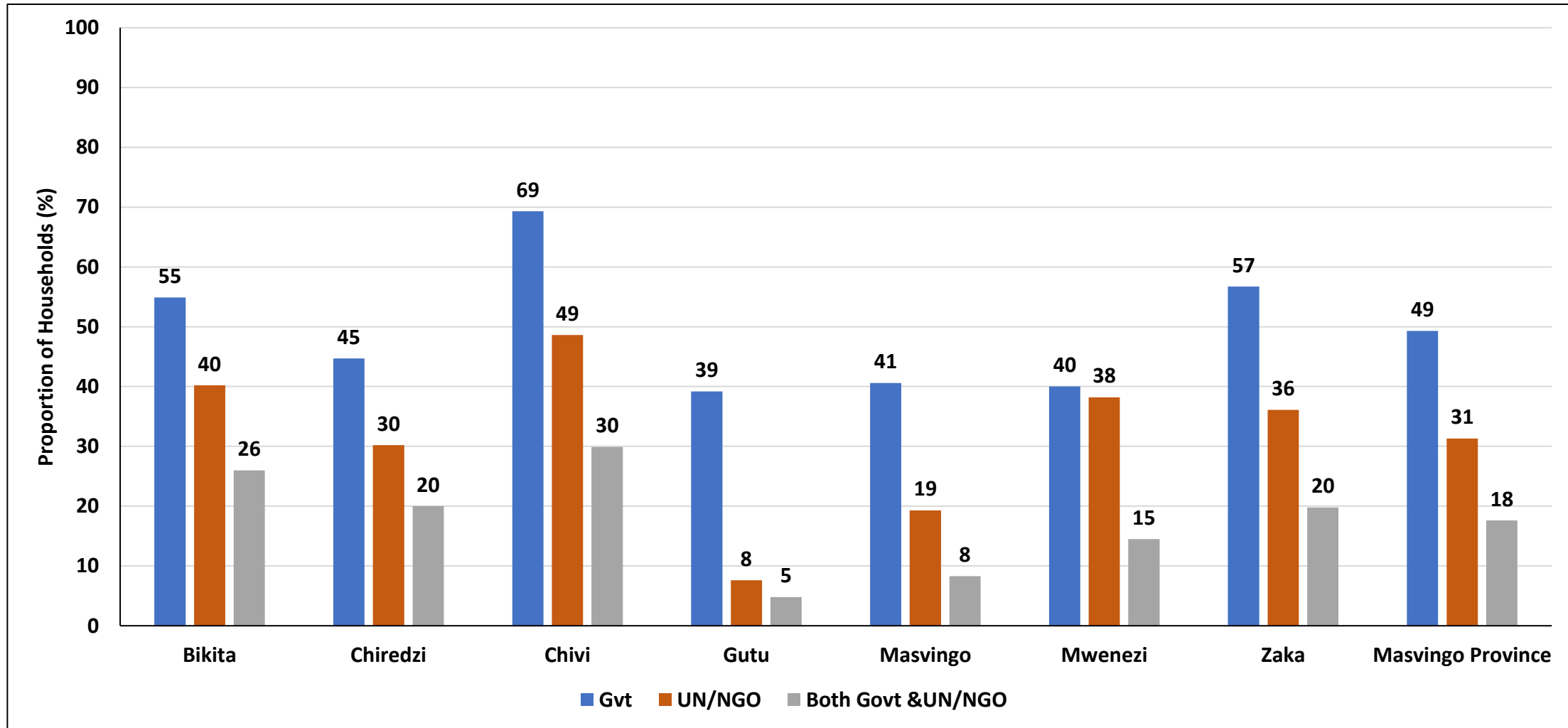
- During the peak hunger period 49% of households received support from Government, 31% from UN/NGO and 18% from both Government and UN/NGOs.

- Chivi district (30%) had the highest proportion of households receiving assistance from both government and UN/NGOs.

Sources of Any Form of Support

District	Government Support (%)	UN/NGO Support (%)	Church Support (%)	Rural Relatives (%)	Urban Relatives (%)	Diaspora (%)	Charitable Groups (%)
Bikita	55	42	5	7	11	3	0
Chiredzi	44	31	5	7	7	8	3
Chivi	76	50	23	33	24	21	9
Gutu	50	5	4	10	23	4	1
Masvingo	40	24	2	4	13	7	1
Mwenezi	39	38	3	6	3	3	4
Zaka	58	33	9	32	38	19	3
Masvingo Province	**52**	32	7	14	17	9	3

- Government (52%) remains the main source of support offered to the province.
- Only 3% of the households received support from Charity groups.

Forms of Support From Government

	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support: pass-on (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease(%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)	COVID-19 related support (%)	Other
Bikita	59.3	1.5	58.5	0	0	0	15	0.7	0.7	0
Chiredzi	**82.3**	1.8	25.7	0	0	0	0.9	0	0	1.8
Chivi	72.6	2.7	36.6	1.1	10.2	5.4	1.6	0	0.5	9.7
Gutu	63	0	49.6	0	18.9	0.8	0	0	3.9	0.8
Masvingo	71.8	2.9	39.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mwenezi	81.8	0	20.2	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Zaka	59.9	12.9	55.1	0	0.7	0	2	0	0	0
Masvingo Province	**69.3**	**3.4**	**41.9**	**0.2**	**4.8**	**1.2**	**1.1**	**0.2**	**1**	**2.7**

- Of the 52% households which received support, Food and crop inputs were the major forms of support received across the districts in the province.

- Chiredzi (82.3%) had the highest proportion of households receiving food assistance with Bikita (59.3%) having the least.

- The proportion of households receiving crop inputs was highest in Bikita (58.5%) and Mwenezi (20.2%) had the least.

Forms of Support From UN/NGOs

	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support: pass-on (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH Inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)	COVID-19 related support (%)	Other
Bikita	97.1	1.9	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Chiredzi	88.2	2.6	11.8	0	0	0	2.6	0	0	7.9
Chivi	92.9	4	5.6	1.6	0	1.6	2.4	0	1.6	8.7
Gutu	81.3	6.3	**12.5**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Masvingo	86.9	6.6	8.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.9
Mwenezi	92	2.3	4.6	1.1	2.3	1.1	3.4	0	4.6	2.3
Zaka	94.1	7.1	0	0	0	0	5.9	0	0	0
Masvingo Province	**92.1**	4	5	0.7	0.4	0.5	2.5	0	1.3	4

- Of the 32% of households that received support from UN/NGOs in Masvingo province the highest proportion was in Bikita (97.1%).

- Gutu (12.5%) had the highest proportion of households which received support in the form of Crop inputs.

Agricultural Production

Cereal Stocks

Household Cereal Stocks as at 1 April 2021

District	Cereal stocks (kgs)
Bikita	28.7
Chiredzi	38.6
Chivi	28.1
Gutu	21.4
Masvingo	20.7
Mwenezi	15.3
Zaka	17.4
Masvingo Province	**22.7**

- The average household cereal stocks as at 1 April for the province was 22.7kgs.

- Chiredzi had the highest average stocks (38.6kgs) whilst Mwenezi had the least (15.3kgs).

Maize Stocks from Casual Labour and Remittances

	Casual Labour (Kgs)	Remittances (Kgs)
Bikita	38.2	9.9
Chiredzi	6.7	0.0
Chivi	8.0	3.1
Gutu	34.0	0.0
Masvingo	18.9	0.2
Mwenezi	12.0	0.1
Zaka	20.9	2.4
Masvingo Province	18.7	1.4

- On average households received 18.7Kgs from casual labour and 1.4 Kgs were from remittances.

Households that Grew Various Crops
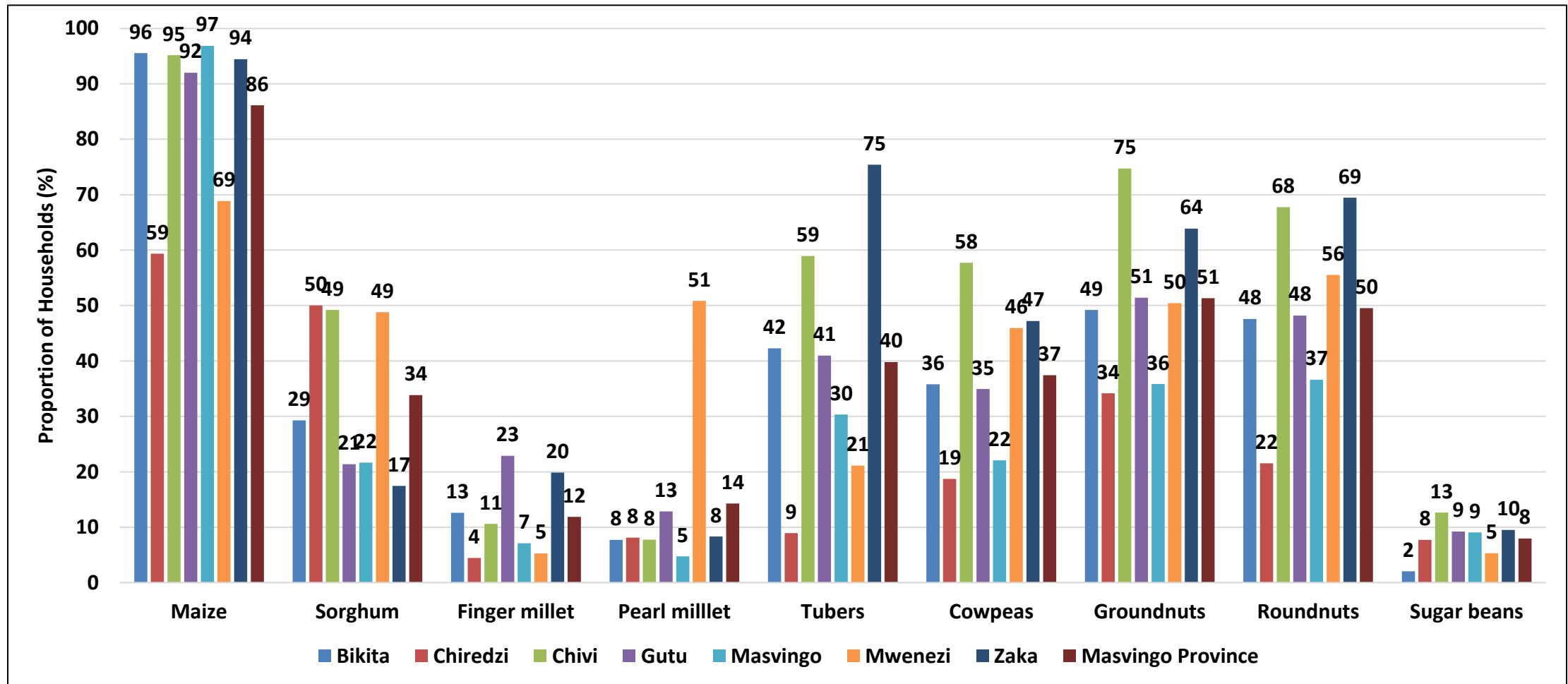
- Maize was the most commonly grown crop (86%) in the province followed groundnuts, roundnuts, tubers, cowpeas and sorghum.

- Over 75% of households in Zaka grew tubers.

Cereal Self Sufficiency

Period	Districts
0 – 3 Months	-
4- 6 Months	Chivi
7- 9 Months	-
9 – 12 Months	Bikita, Masvingo, Mwenezi, Zaka
Over 12 months	Gutu, Chiredzi

- In the province, 2 out of 7 districts produced over 12 months supply of cereal, 4 have 9- 12 Months supply.
- Thus issues of accessibility need to be addressed so that grain is accessible to wards and districts which are not self sufficient.

Livestock

Households which Owned Cattle
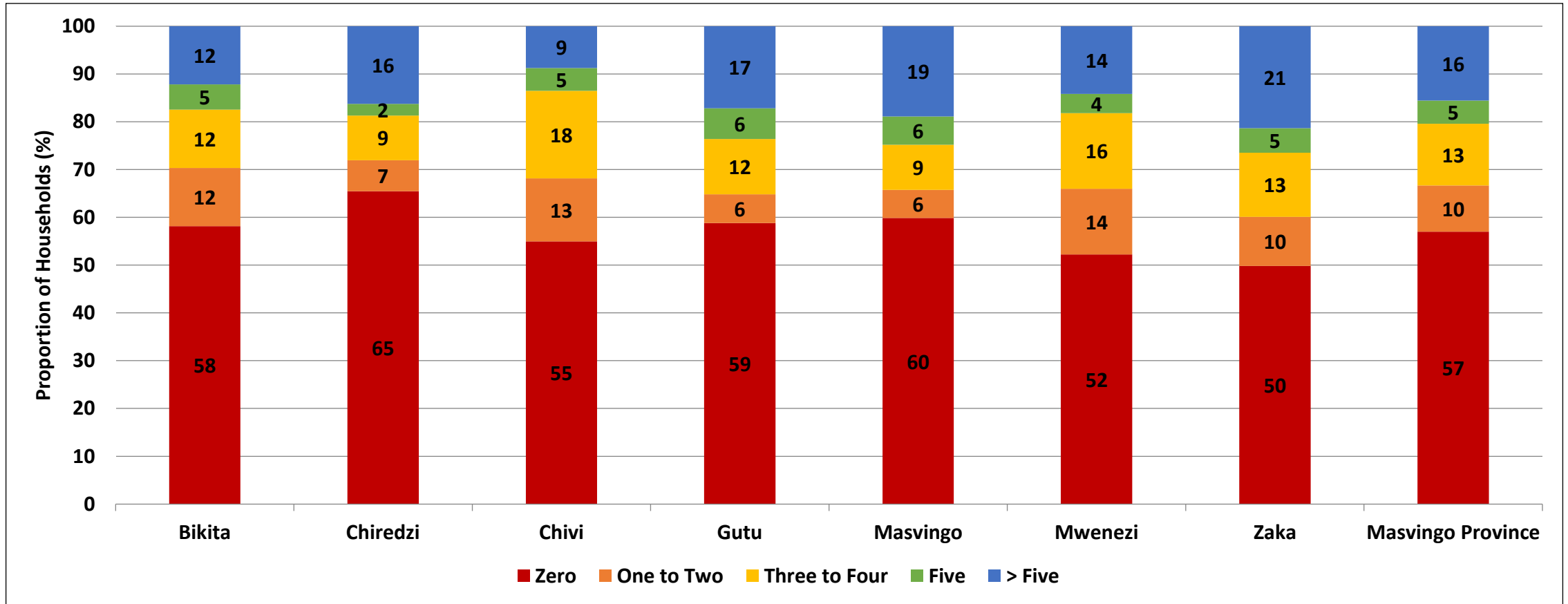
- The proportion of households that did not own cattle remained high (57%).

- The highest proportion of households that owned more than five (5) cattle was in Zaka (21%) and the lowest was in Chivi (9%).

Households which Owned Draught Cattle
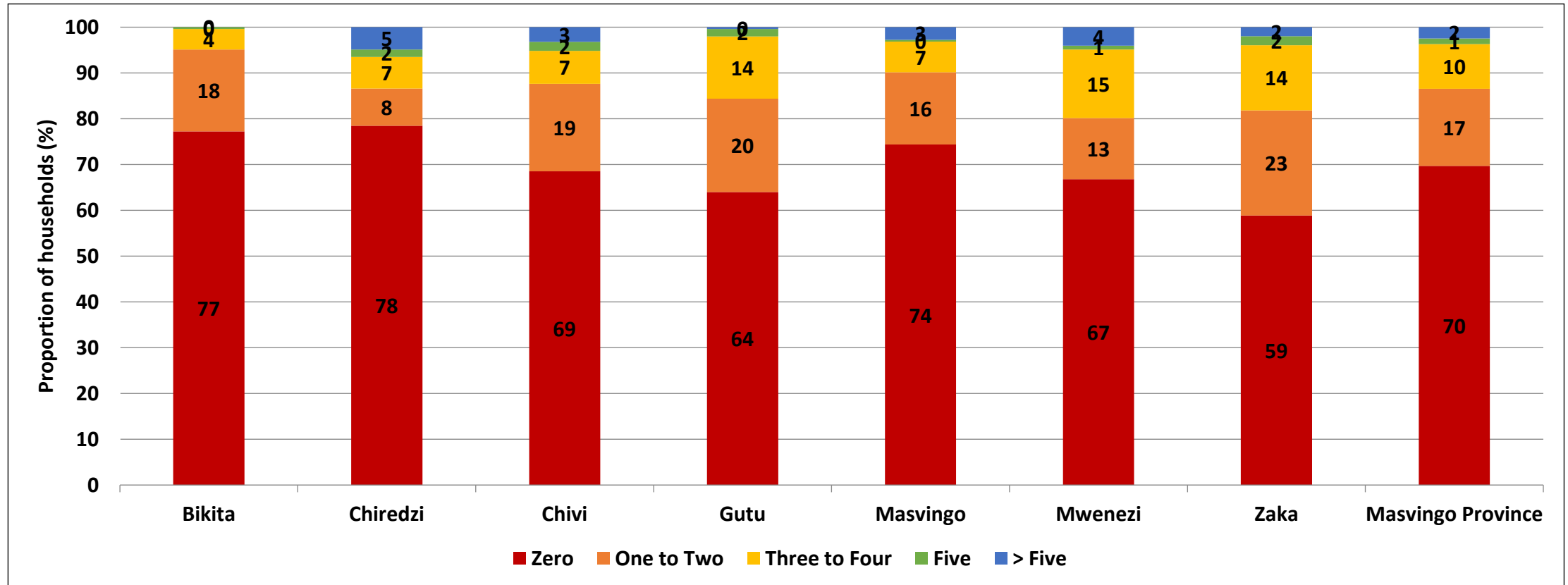
- The proportion of households that did not own draught cattle in the province was 70%.

- Mwenezi (15%) had the highest proportion of households that owned more than two (2) draught cattle.

- Chiredzi (78%) had the highest proportion of households that did not own draught power.

Households which Owned Goats
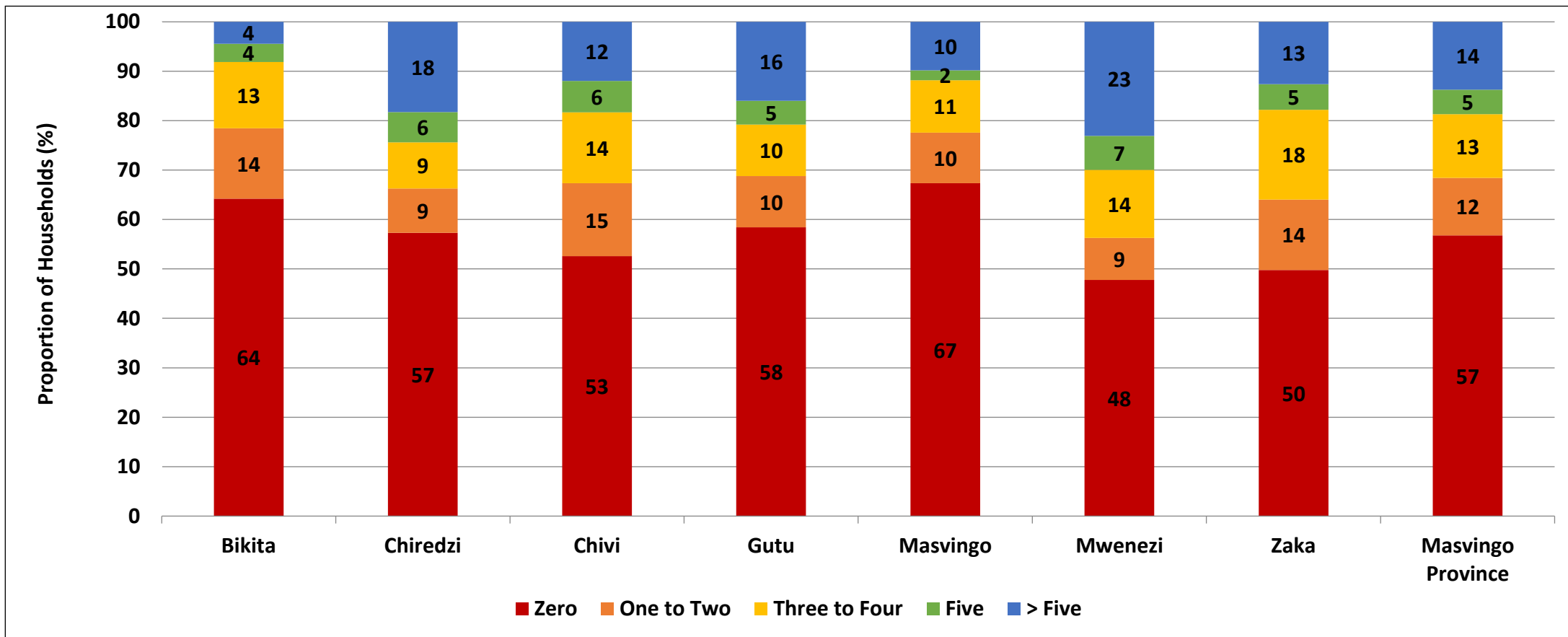
- The proportion of households that did not own goats in the province was 57%.

- Masvingo district (67%) had the highest proportion of households that did not own goats.

- The highest proportion of households that owned more than 5 goats in the province was in Mwenezi (23%) and the lowest was in Bikita (4%).

Households which owned Poultry
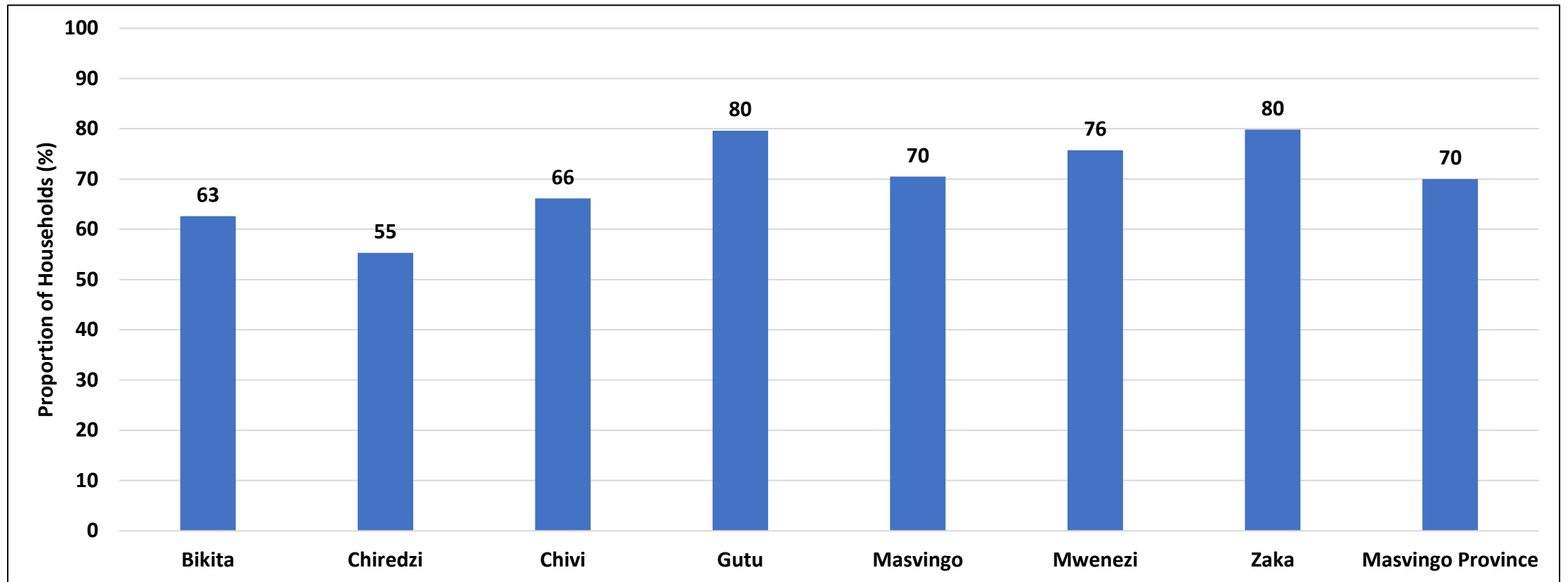
- The proportion of households that owned poultry in Masvingo province was 70%.

- Gutu and Zaka having the highest of 80% and Chiredzi having the least (55%).

Average Livestock Numbers per Household
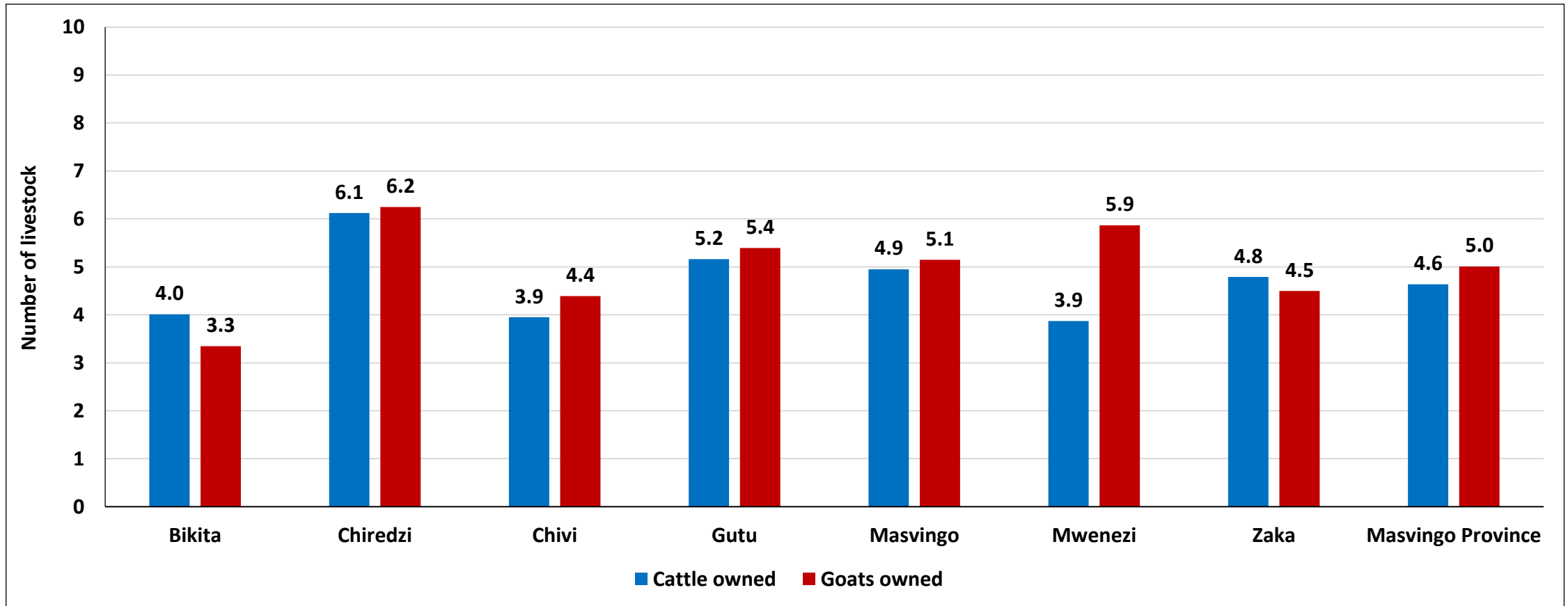
- Of those that owned cattle the average cattle herd size was 5, with the average goat flock size at 4.6.

- Chiredzi had the highest average holding of both cattle (6.1) and goats (6.2) per household.

- Chivi and Mwenezi (3.9) had the lowest average number of cattle whilst Bikita (3.3) had the lowest for goats

Livestock Offtake Rates

Cattle
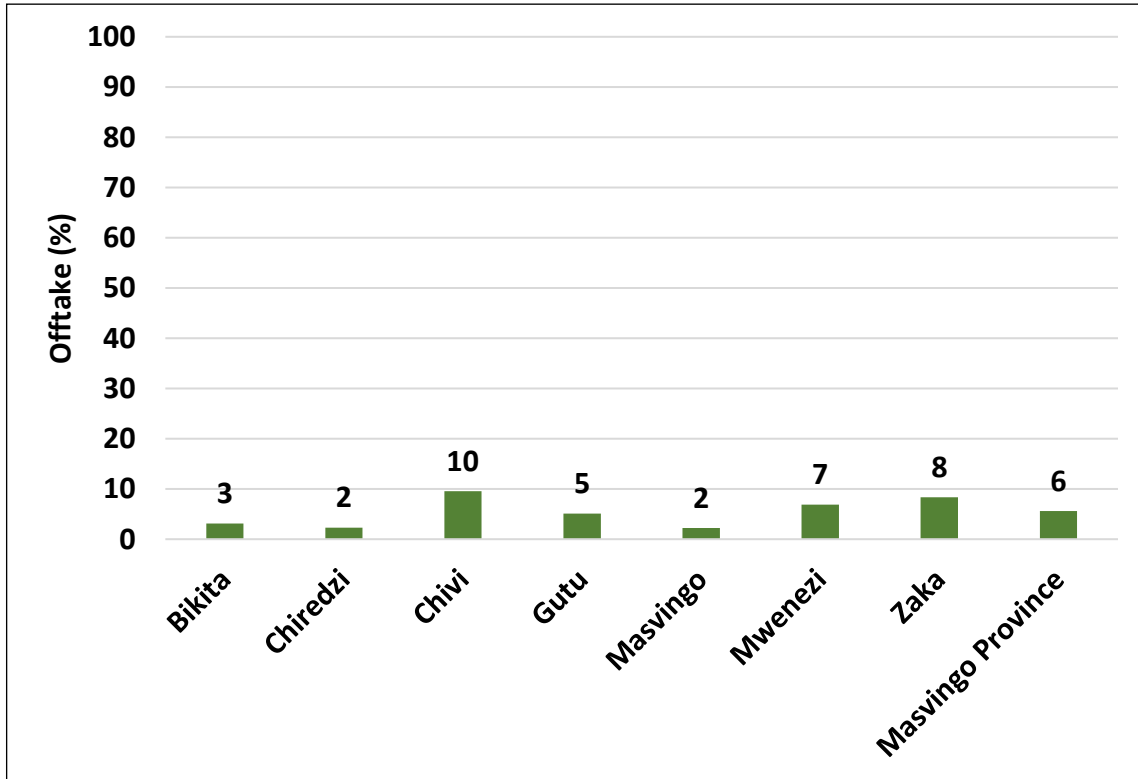
Goat
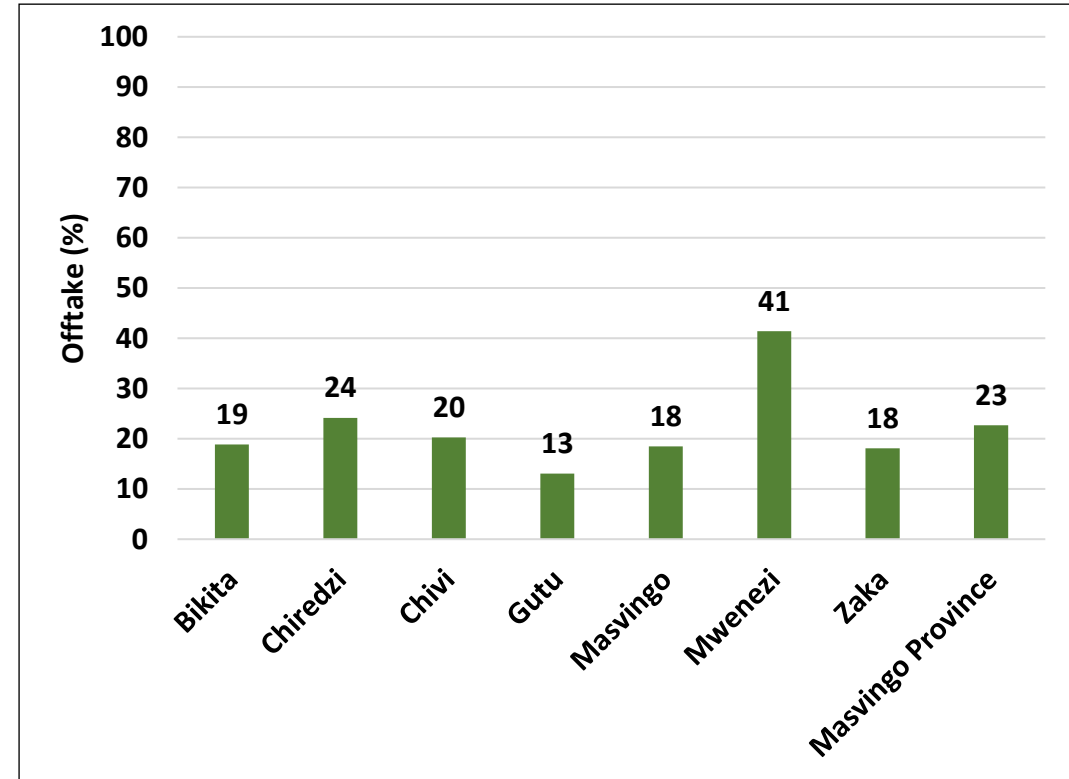
- Percentage offtake refers to the number of animals sold/slaughtered annually as a fraction of total herd. It is an indicator of the business approach in livestock production, and its contribution to household livelihoods.

- Offtake rates for cattle were generally low with a provincial average of 6%.

- Chivi had the highest cattle offtake (10%) while Chiredzi and Masvingo had the least cattle offtake (2%).

- The highest goat offtake was in Mwenezi (41%) and lowest in Gutu (13%).

Theileriosis (January Disease) and Lumpy Skin Disease Outbreaks

Source: Department of Veterinary Field Services
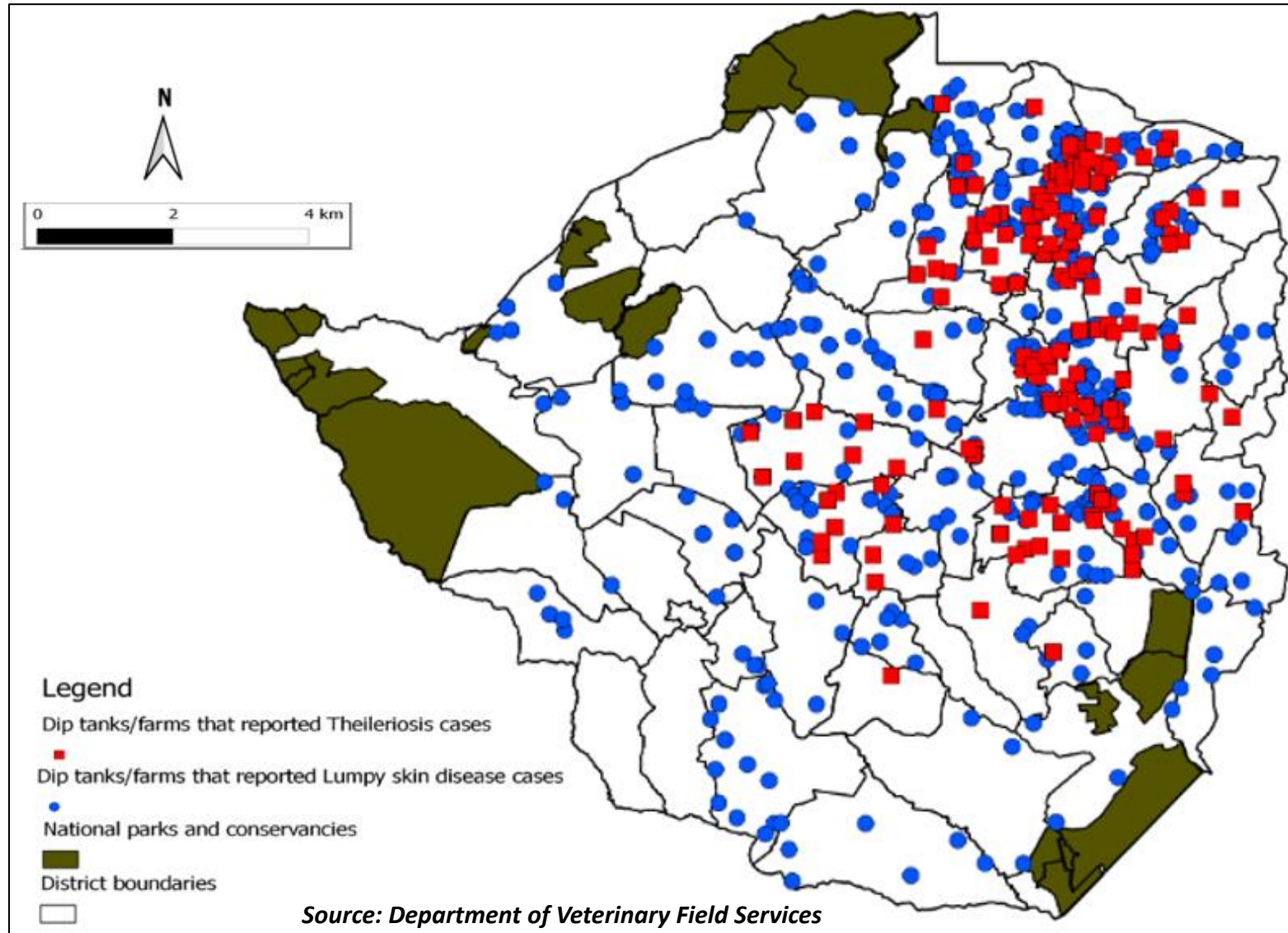
- Theileriosis is a tick-borne disease that has caused most of the cattle fatalities in the last three years. Case fatality of up to 60% for theileriosis have been reported.
- Lumpy skin disease was more widespread, affecting all provinces.

Cattle Mortality Rate by District
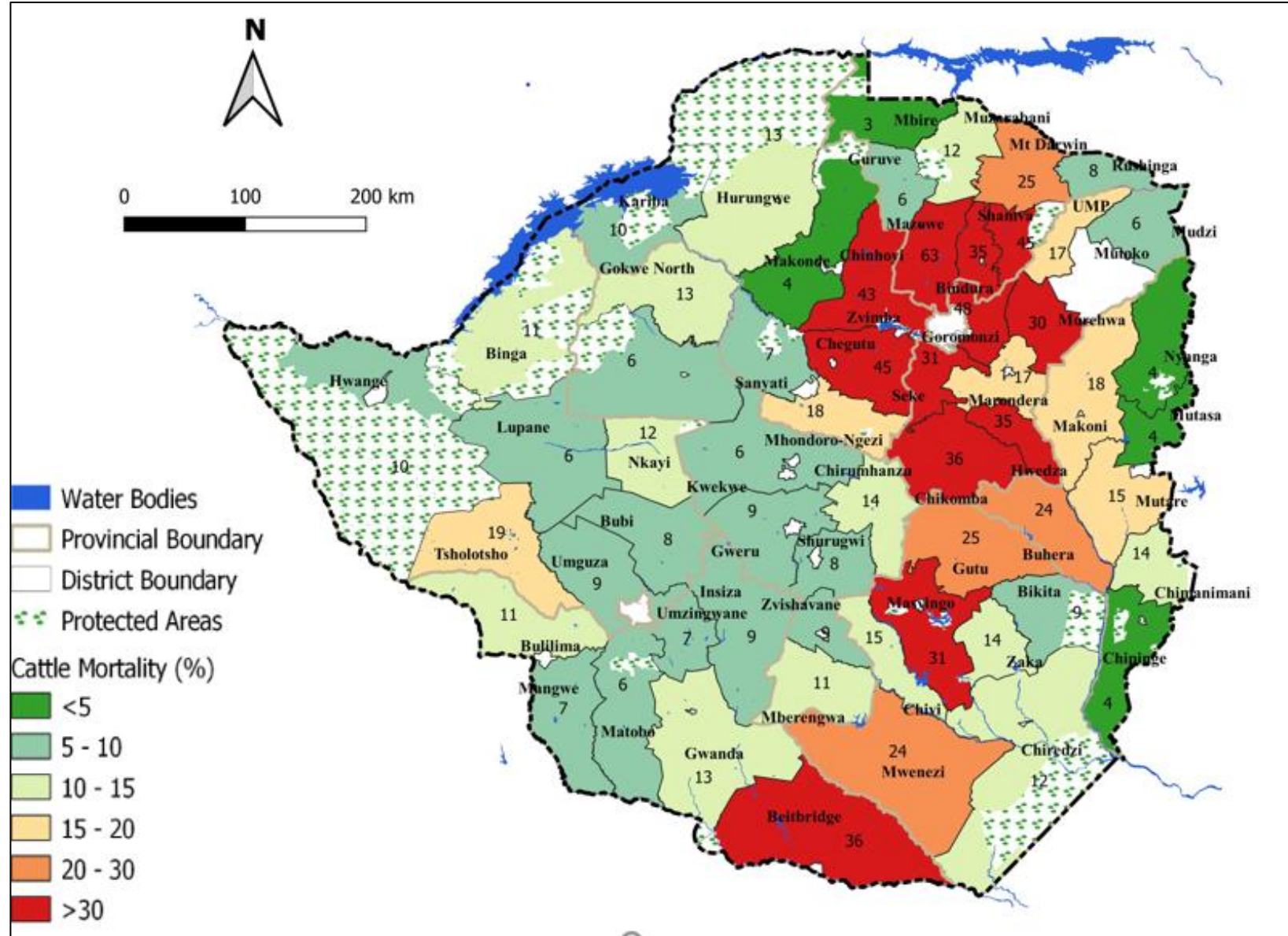
- Masvingo district was among the 12 districts in the country which reported mortality rates of over 30%.

Cattle Deaths and Causes

Households that Reported Cattle Deaths
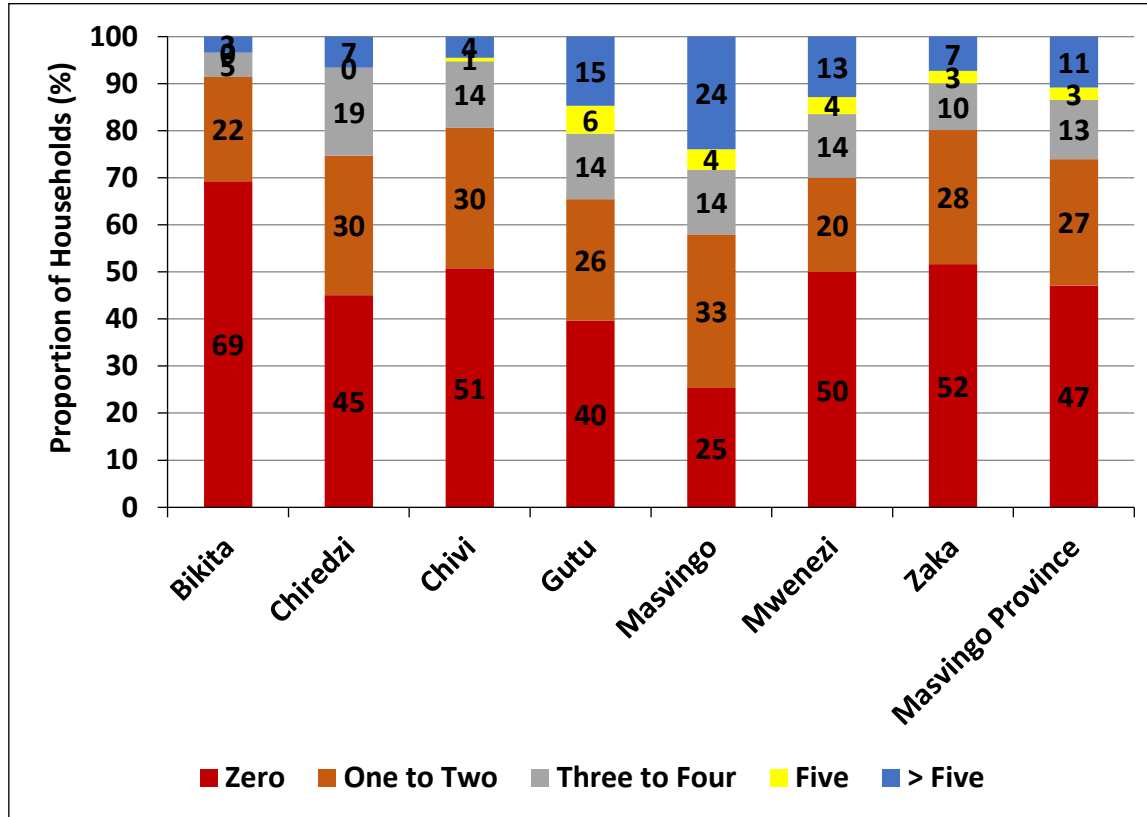
Causes of Deaths
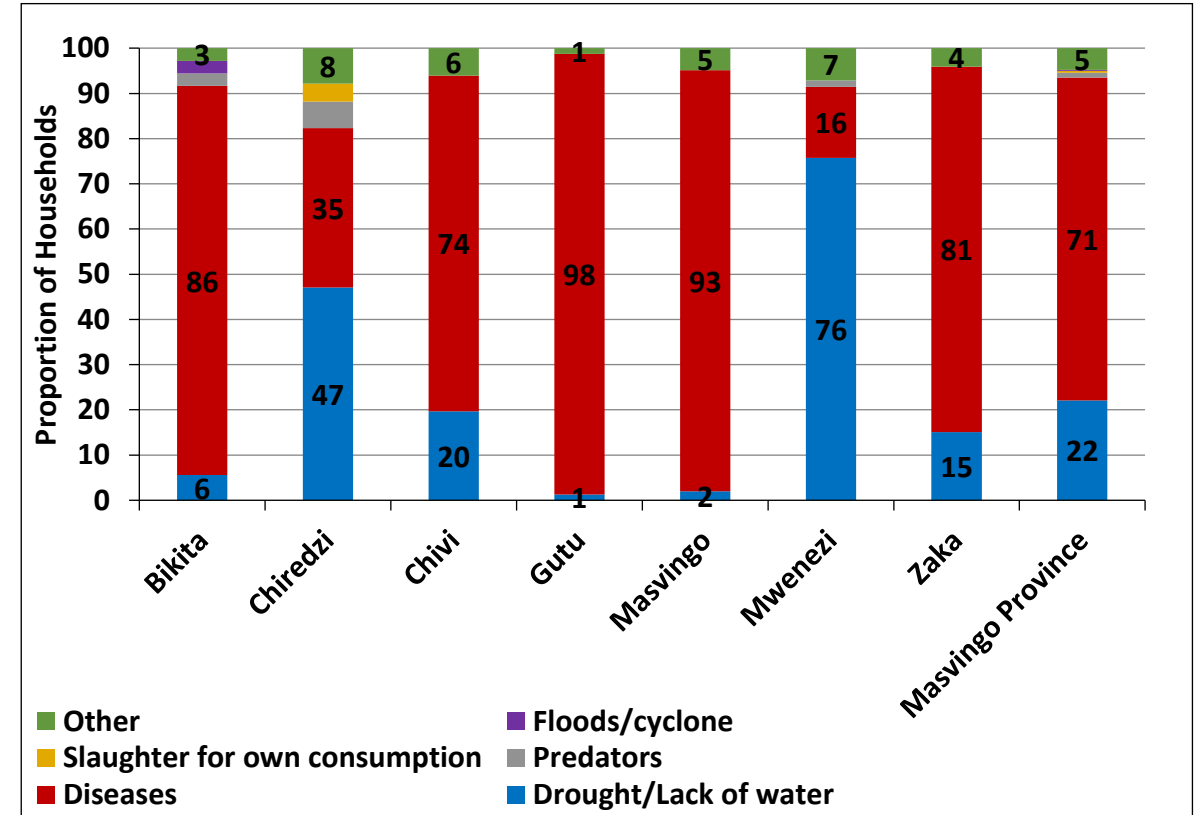
- About 53% of households reported to have lost one or more animals to death.
- Of these 71% of the households reported that diseases were the main cause of death and 22% indicated that the cause of death was drought/water shortages.
- Mwenezi (76%) had highest proportion of Households that reported livestock deaths due to drought/water shortages

Goat Mortality Rate by District
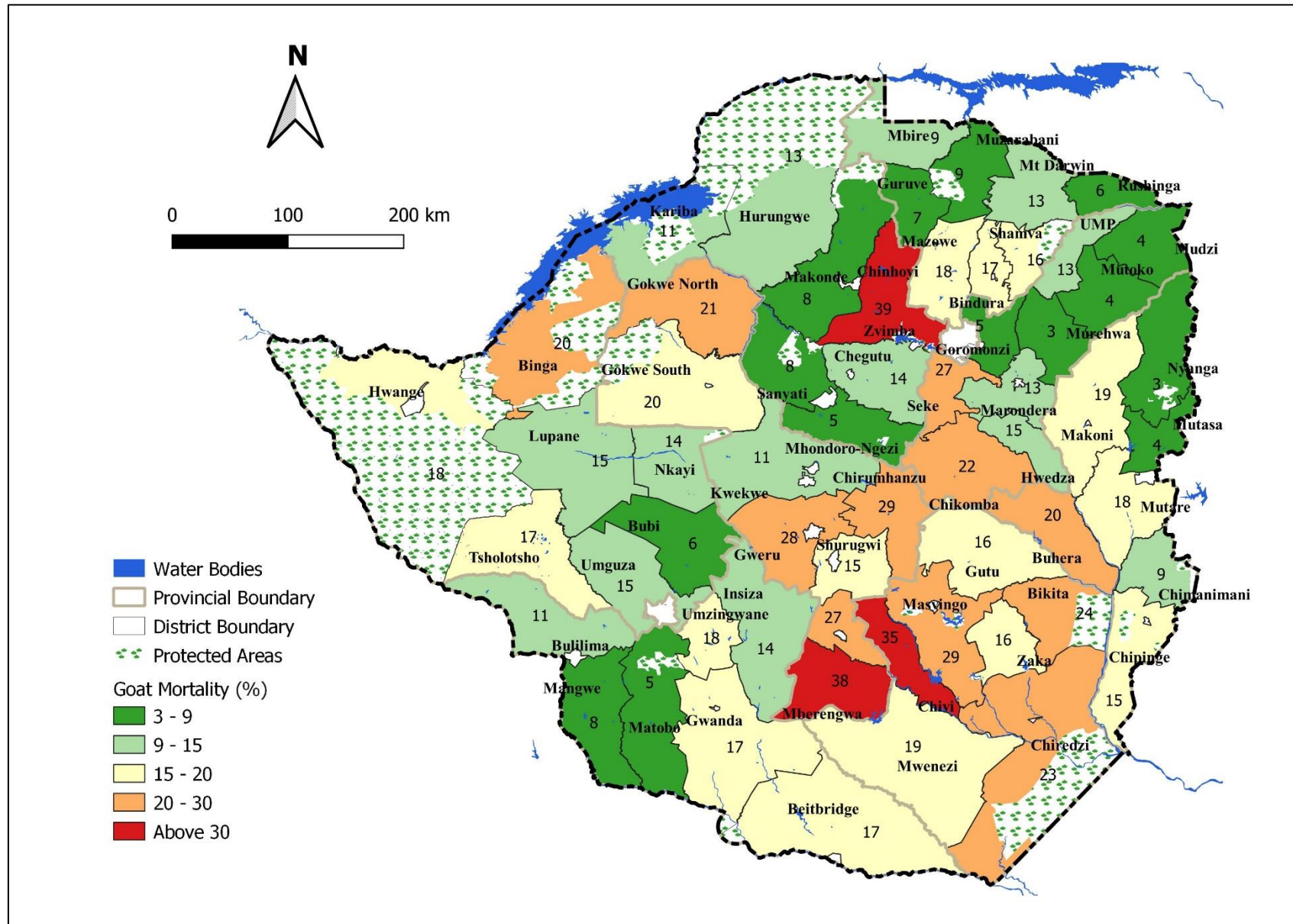
- Goat mortality cross all districts in Masvingo province was above 15%
- Chivi (35%) and Masvingo (29%) reported highest goat mortality rate in the province.

Calving Rate

- Calving rate, defined as the proportion of cows/heifers that dropped calves over a defined period of time, is a measure of productivity of the cow herd.

- Calving rate was low (below 50%) across all districts.

Value Chain Practices

Market Information Access
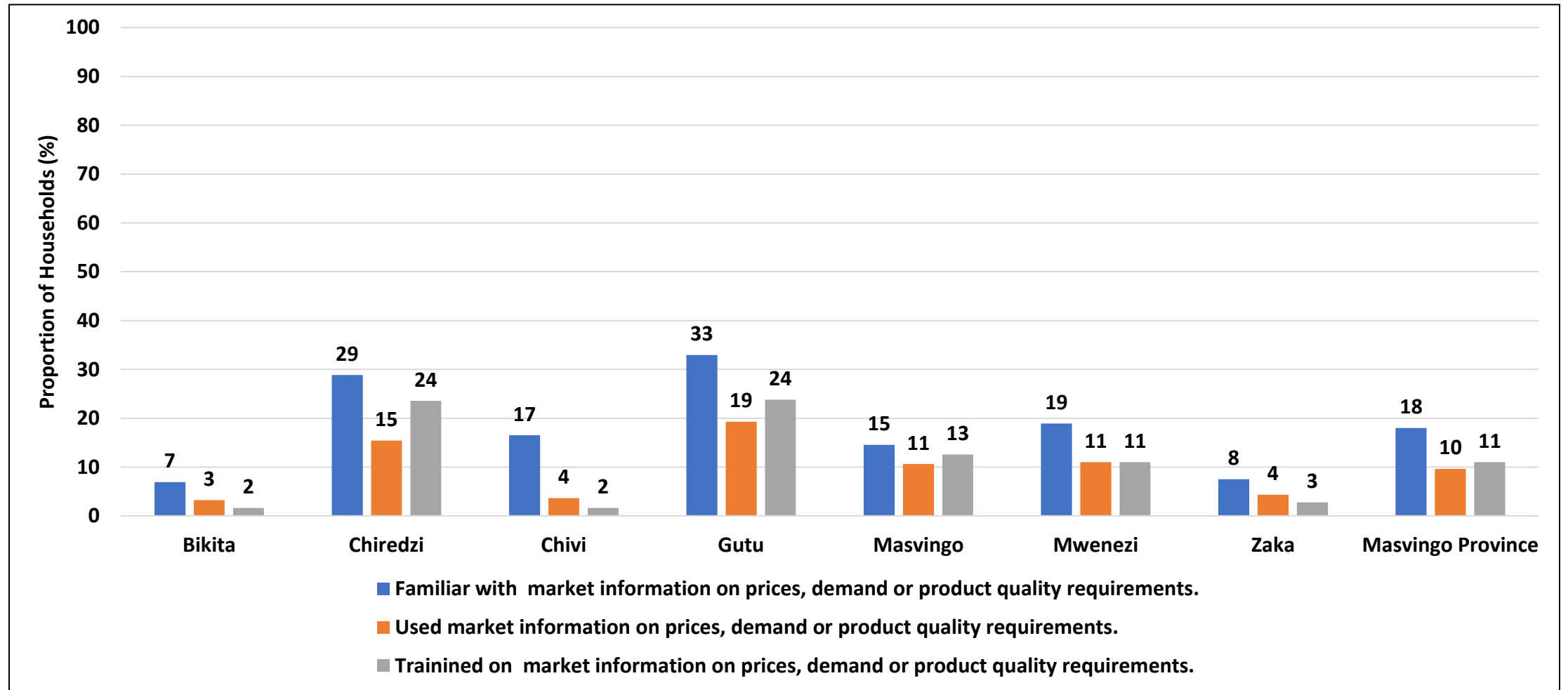
- In the province, only 18% of the households indicated that they had accessed market information through various channels and only 10% managed to use it.

Use of Improved Granary and Community Granaries

Knowledge and practices on Improved Granary
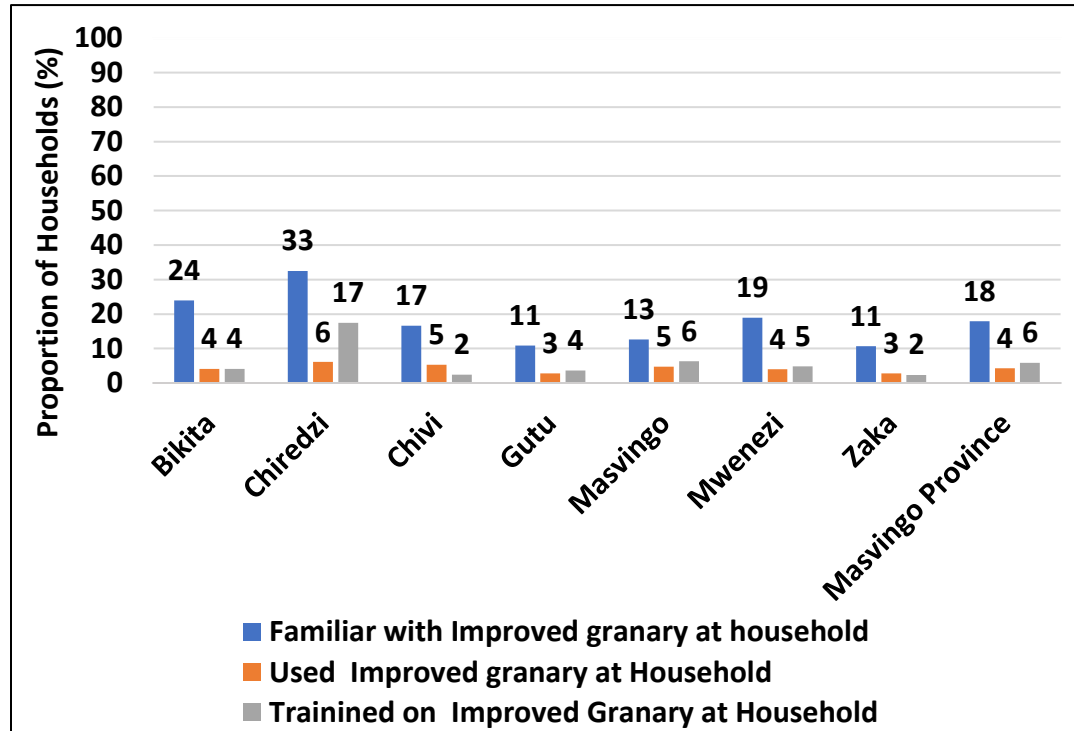
Knowledge and practices on Community Granaries
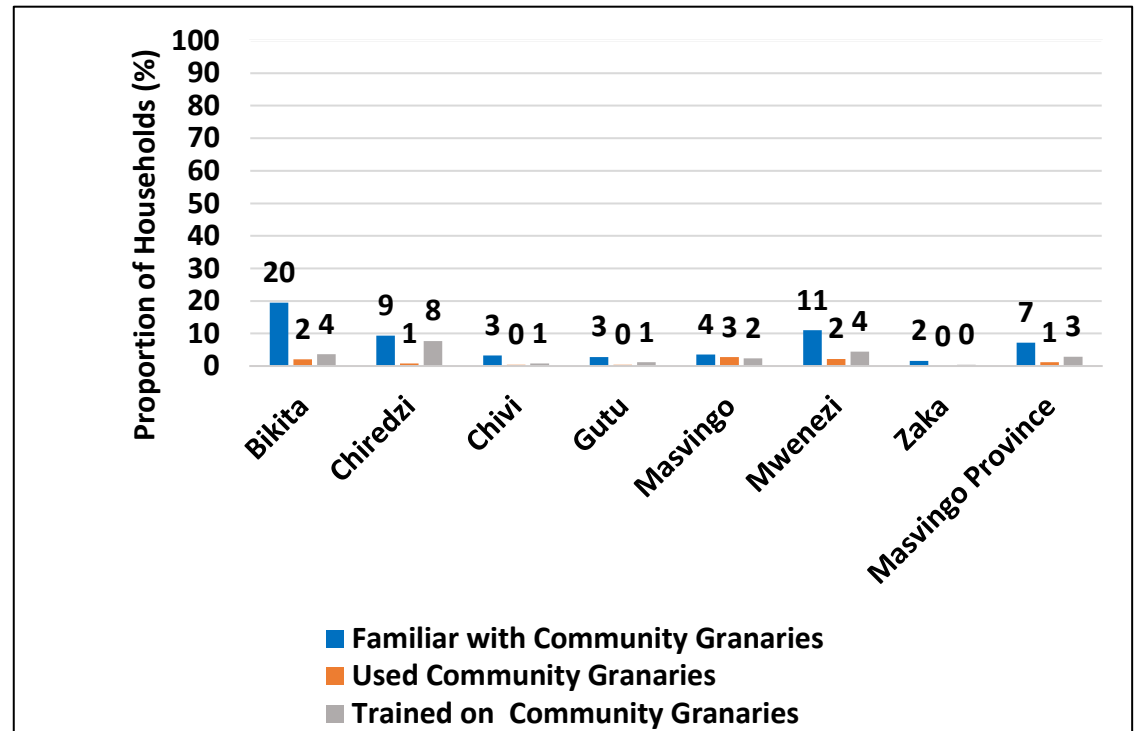
- Use of improved granaries was still limited as only 4% indicated that they had used them. About 1% also indicated that they had used community granaries.

- The low use of improved granaries has a negative effect on post harvest management.

Post- Harvest Grain Storage Conditions
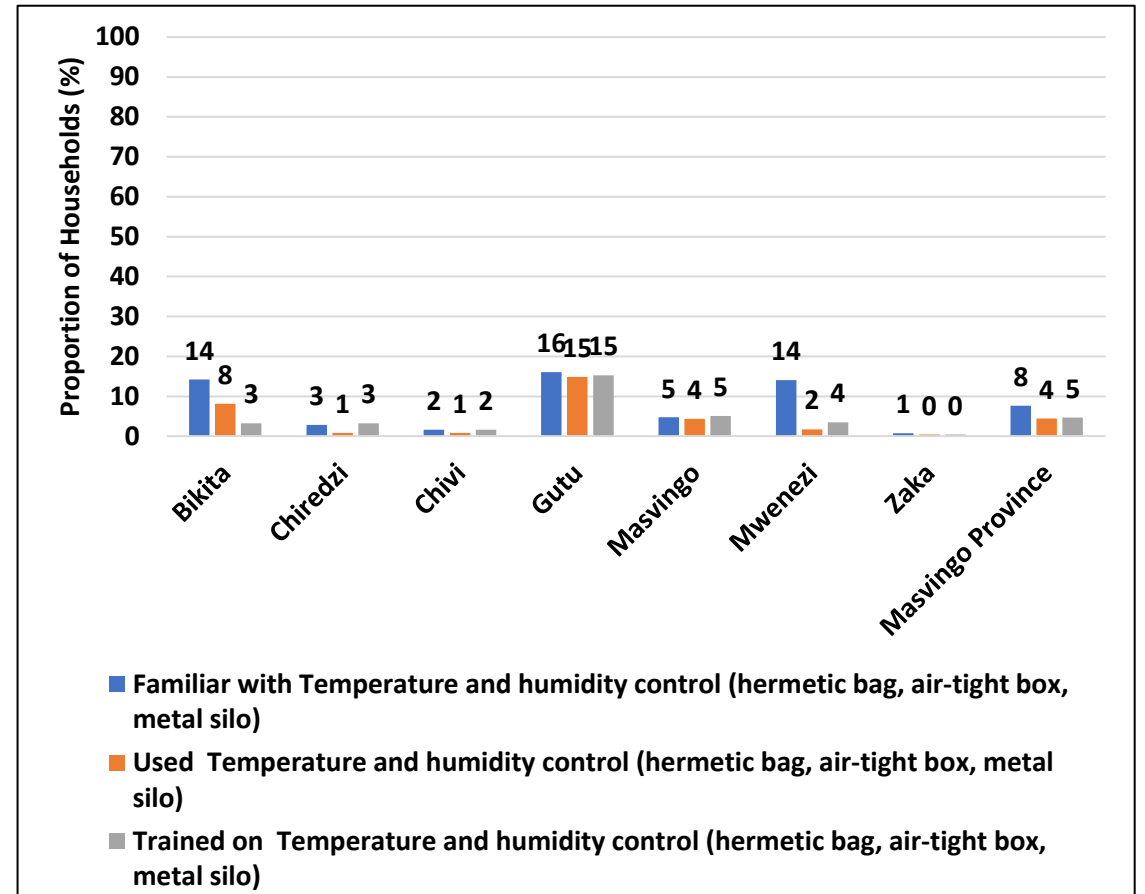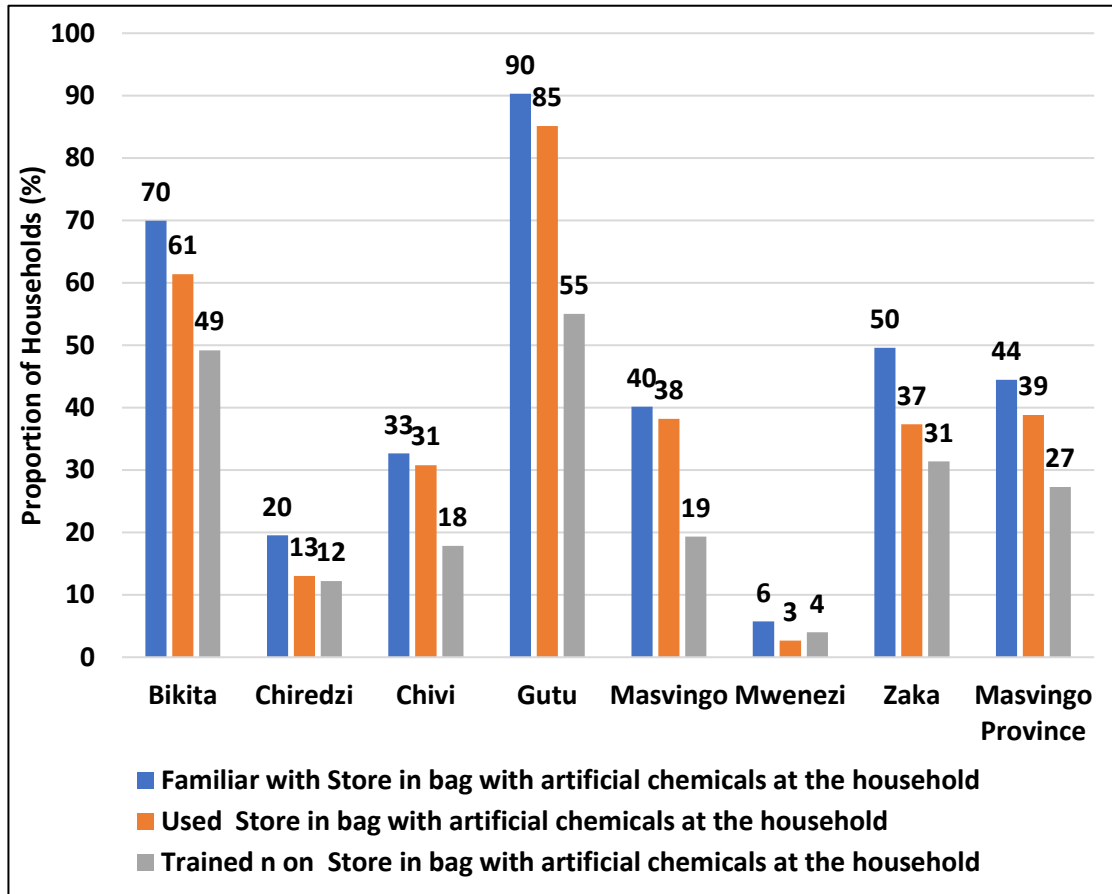
- About 39% of households were storing their grain in bags and using grain protectants.
- The proportion of households which were familiar with, used and were trained on the use of temperature and humidity control was generally low.

Climate Smart Agriculture

Household Knowledge and Practice of Pfumvudza
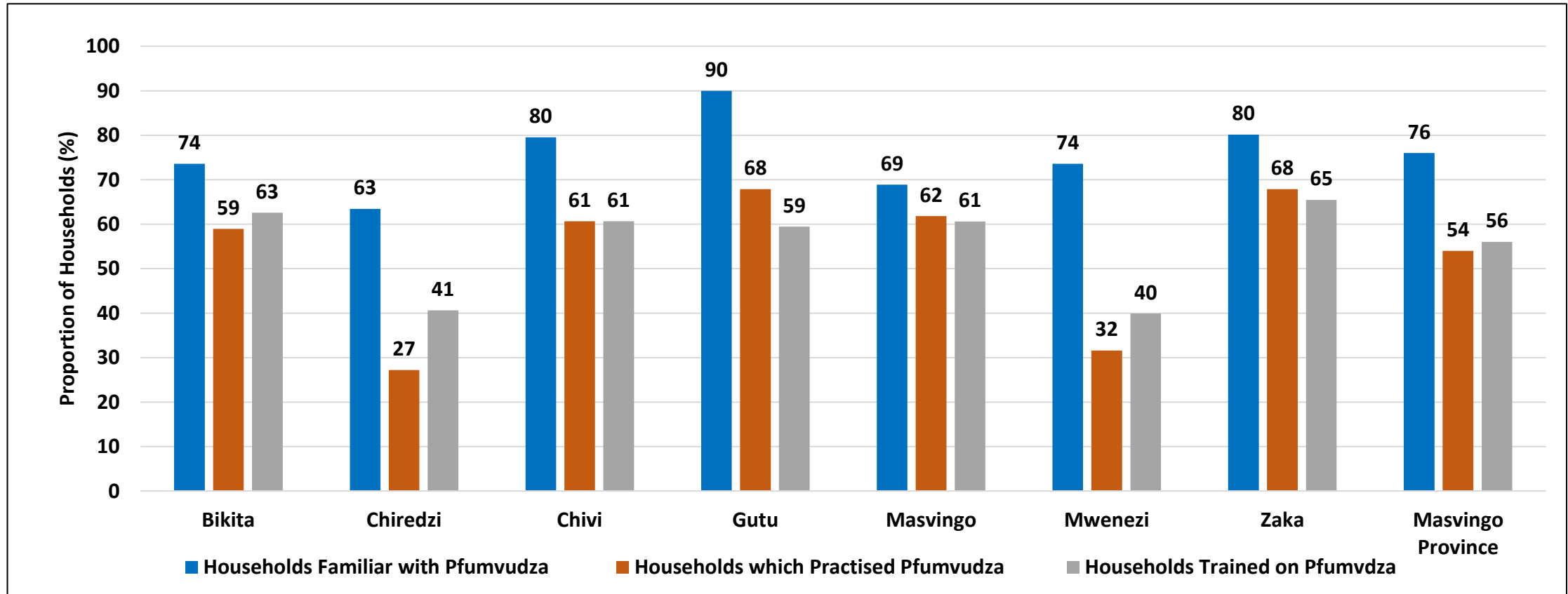
- At provincial level, 76% of households were familiar with Pfumvudza, 54% had practiced it and 56% had received training.

- Zaka (68%) and Gutu (68%) had the highest proportion of households which practiced Pfumvudza whilst Chiredzi (27%) had the least.

Use of Quality Certified Seed
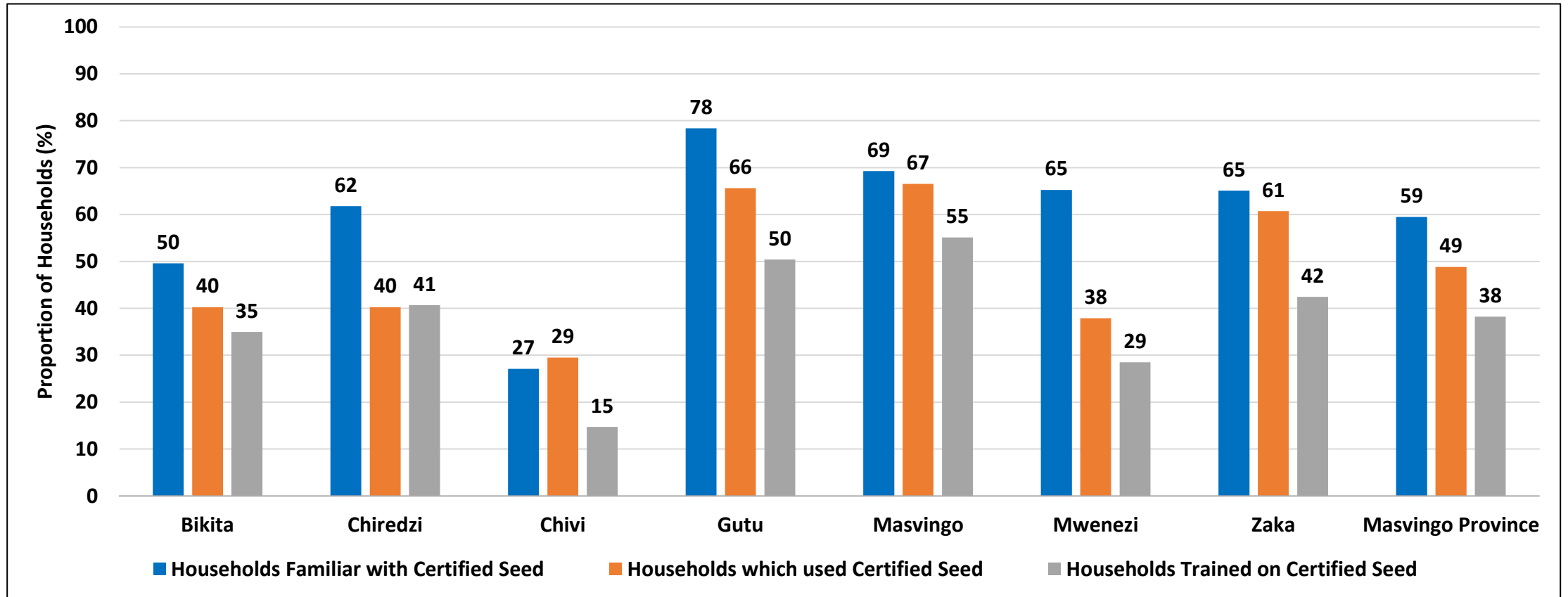
- The use of quality certified seed was 49% in the province.

- Masvingo district had the highest usage of certified seed at 67%.

Use of Community Seed Banks
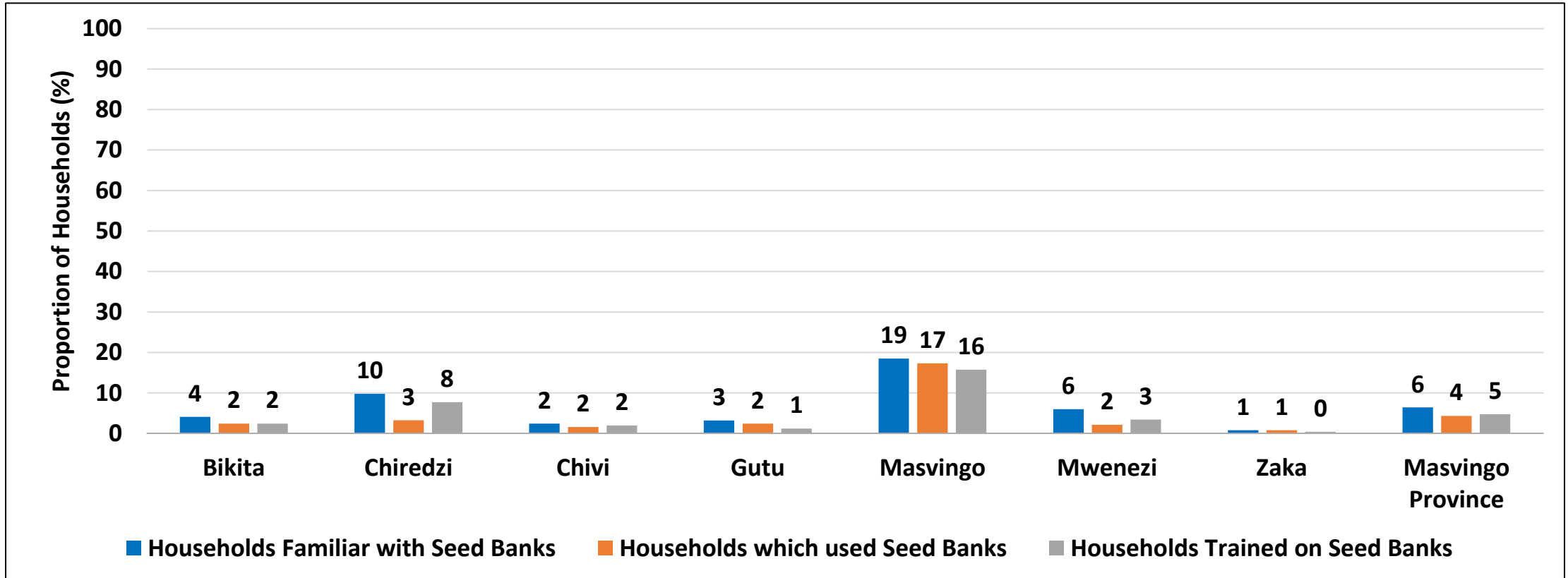
- The proportion of households using community seed banks was relatively low at 4% for the province with Masvingo district having the highest proportion of 17%.

Households which Adapted Suitable Improved Seed
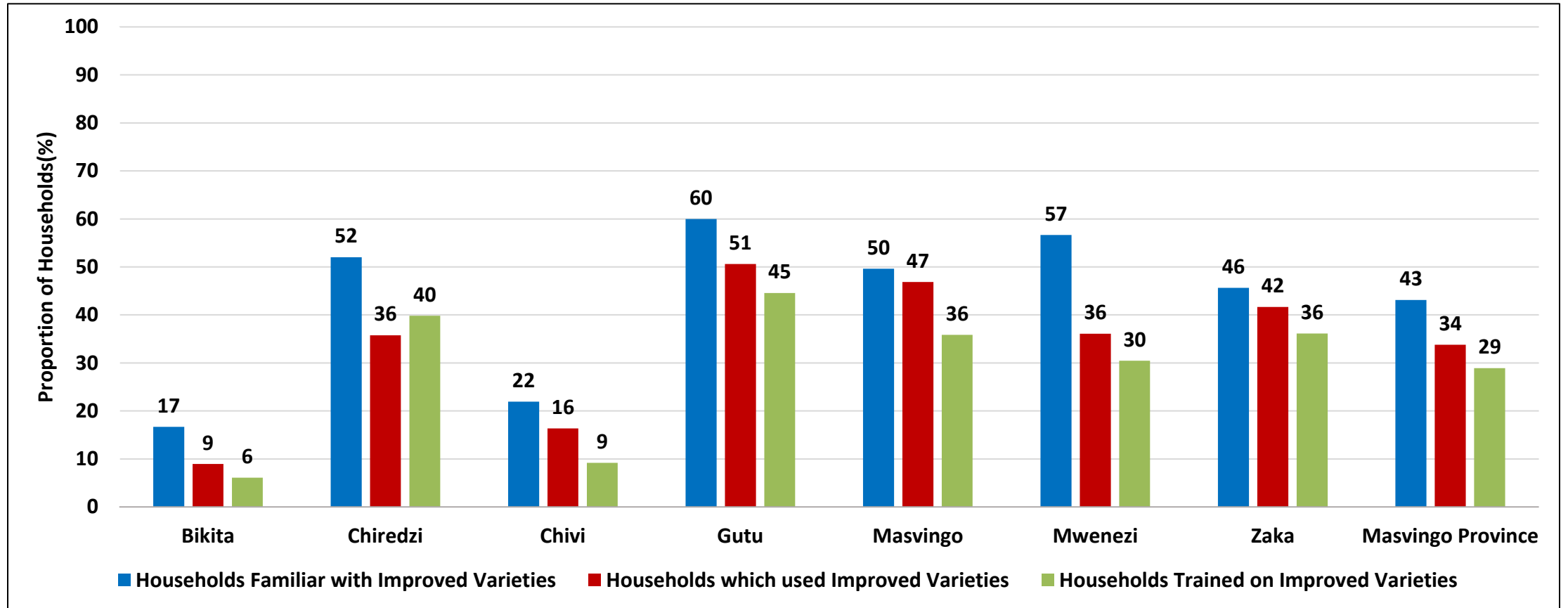
- At provincial level, 34% of the households adapted to the use of suitable improved varieties with the highest percentage reported in Gutu (51%).

Households Growing Small Grains
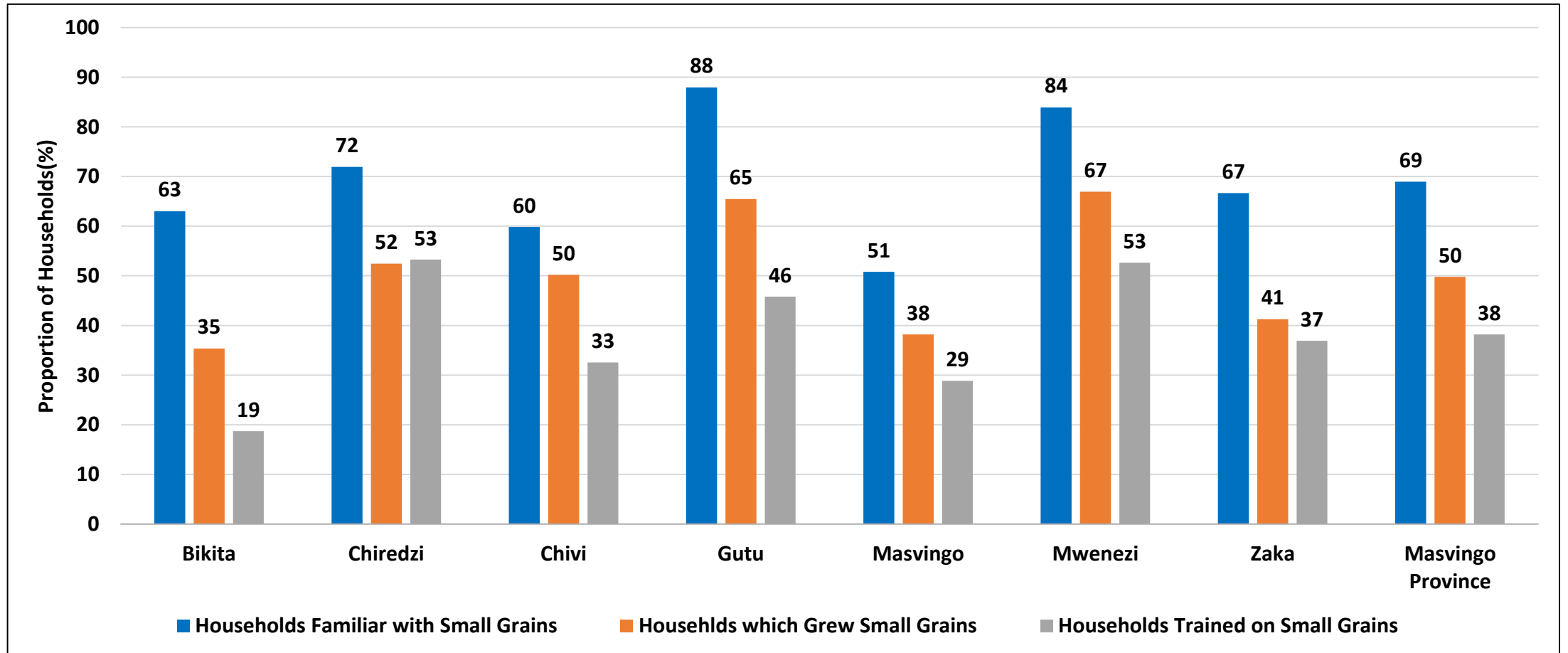
- About 50% of the households in the province grew small grains.

- Mwenezi (67%) had highest proportion of households growing small grains while Bikita (35%) had the least.

Crop rotation
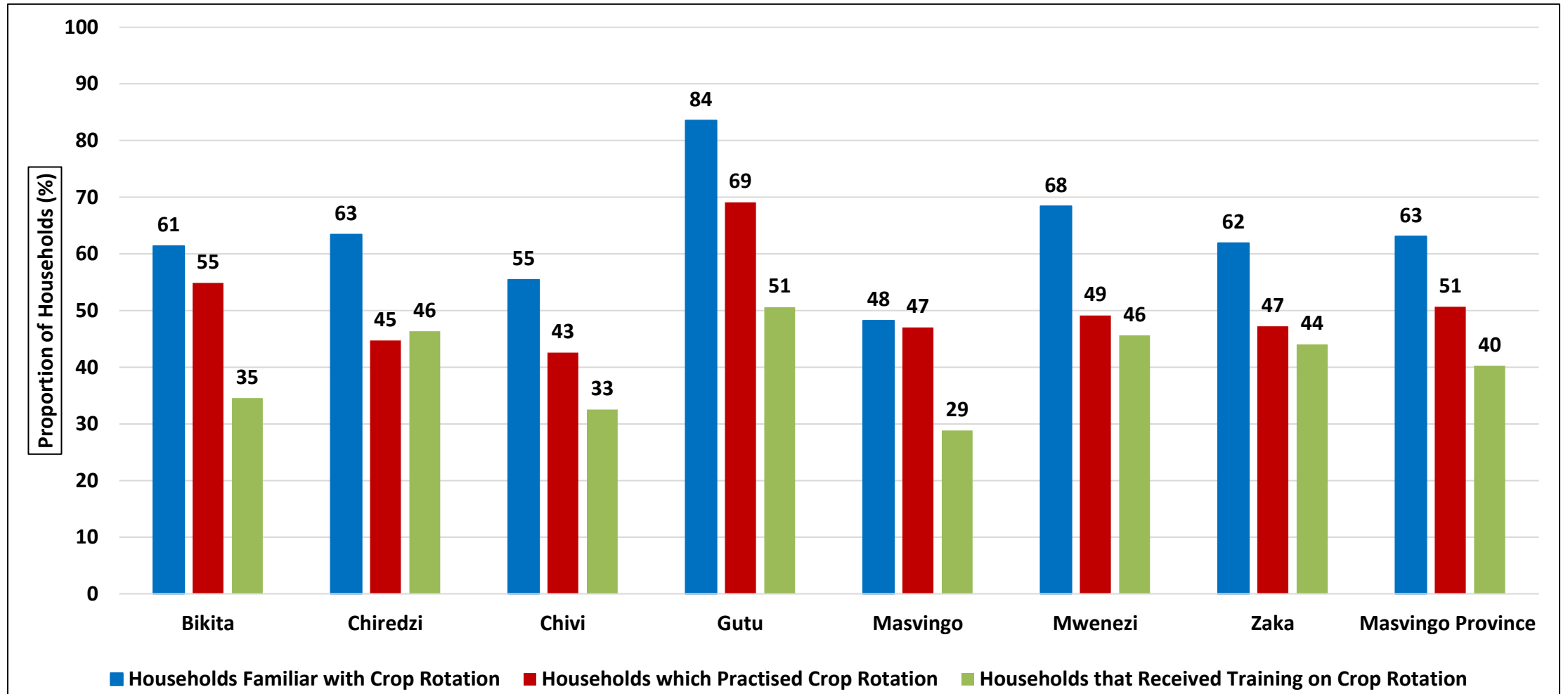
- Crop rotation was practiced by 51% of the households across the province.
- Gutu (69%) had the highest number of households practicing crop rotation with the lowest being Chivi (43%).
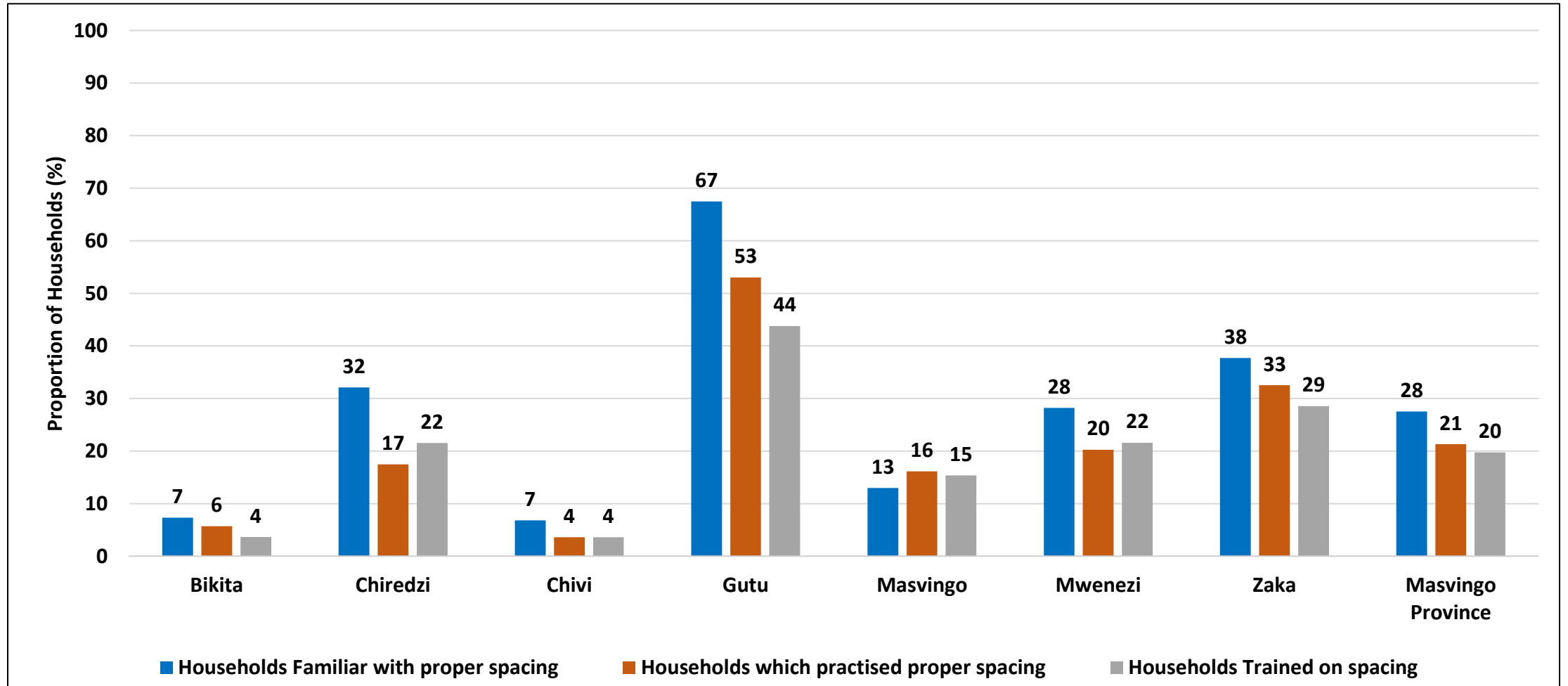
Use of Compost
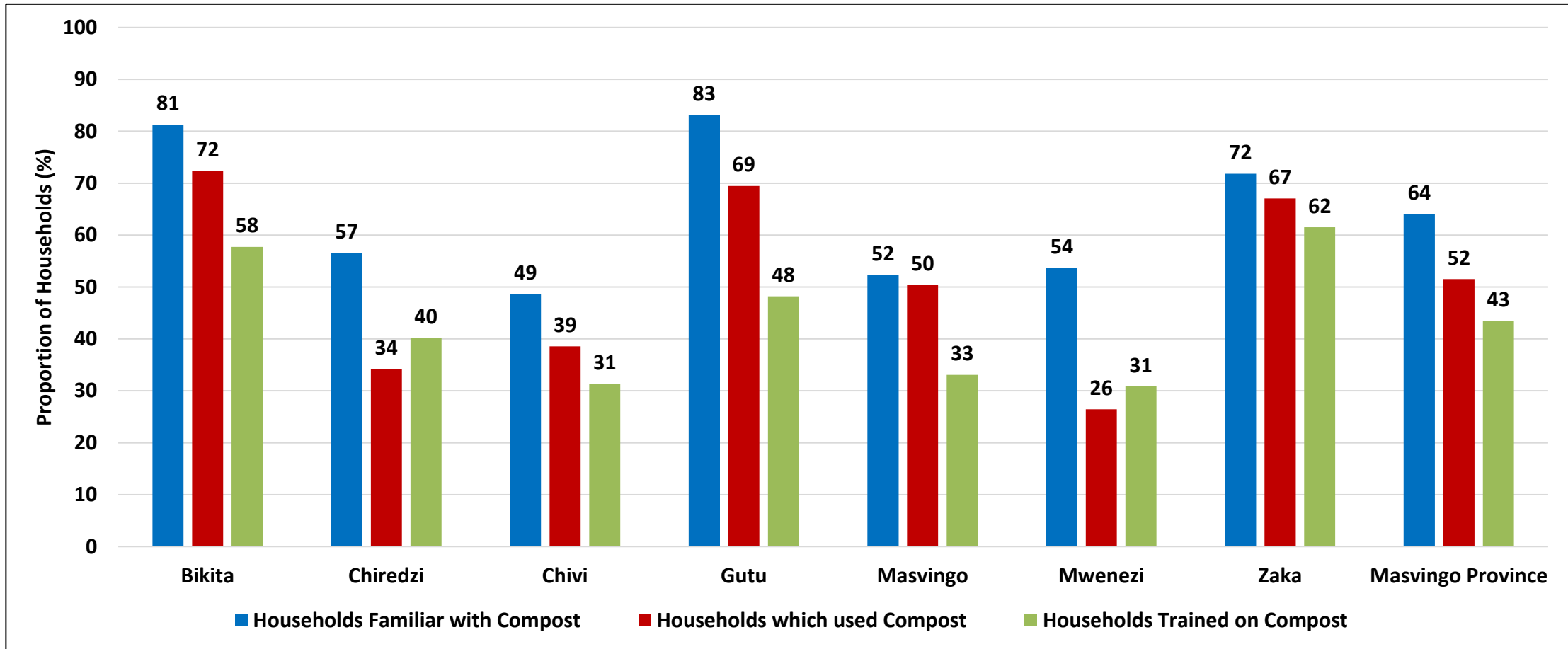
- About 52% of the households used compost across the province.
- The use of compost was highest in Bikita (72%) and lowest in Mwenezi (26%).
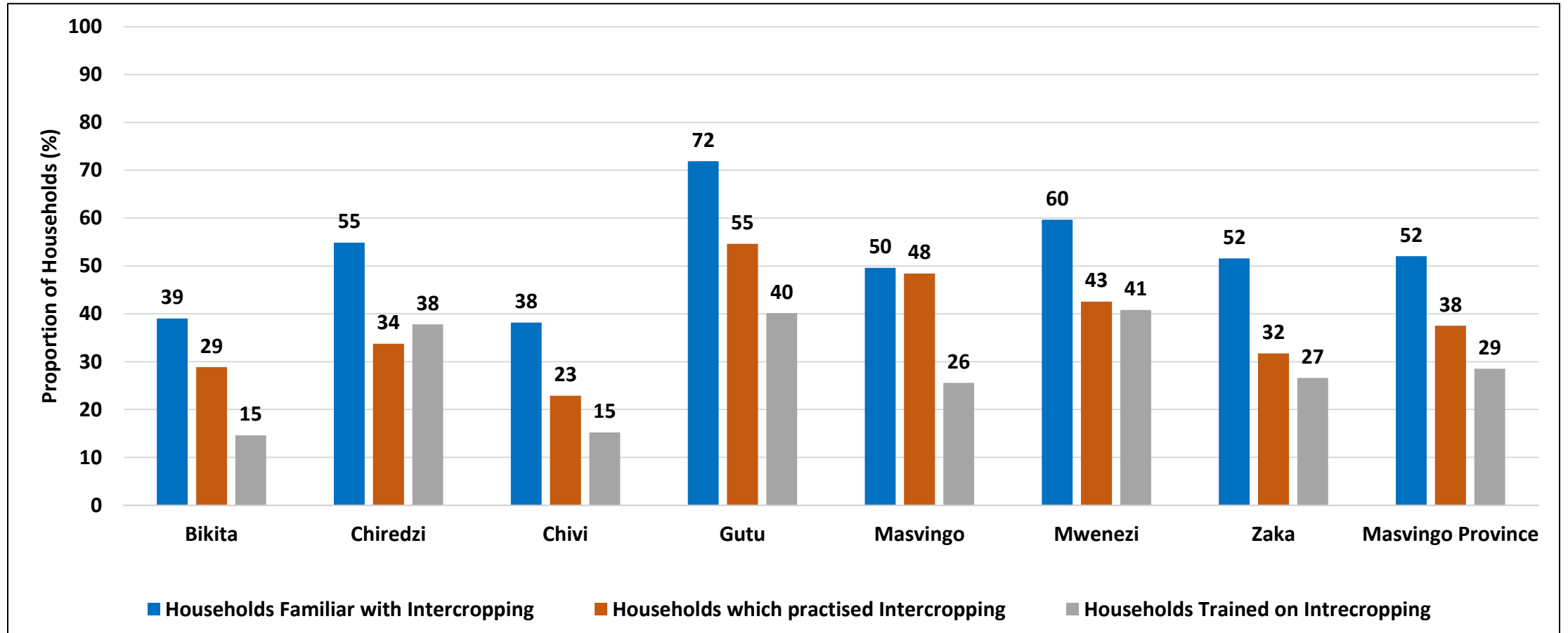
Use of Drip Irrigation
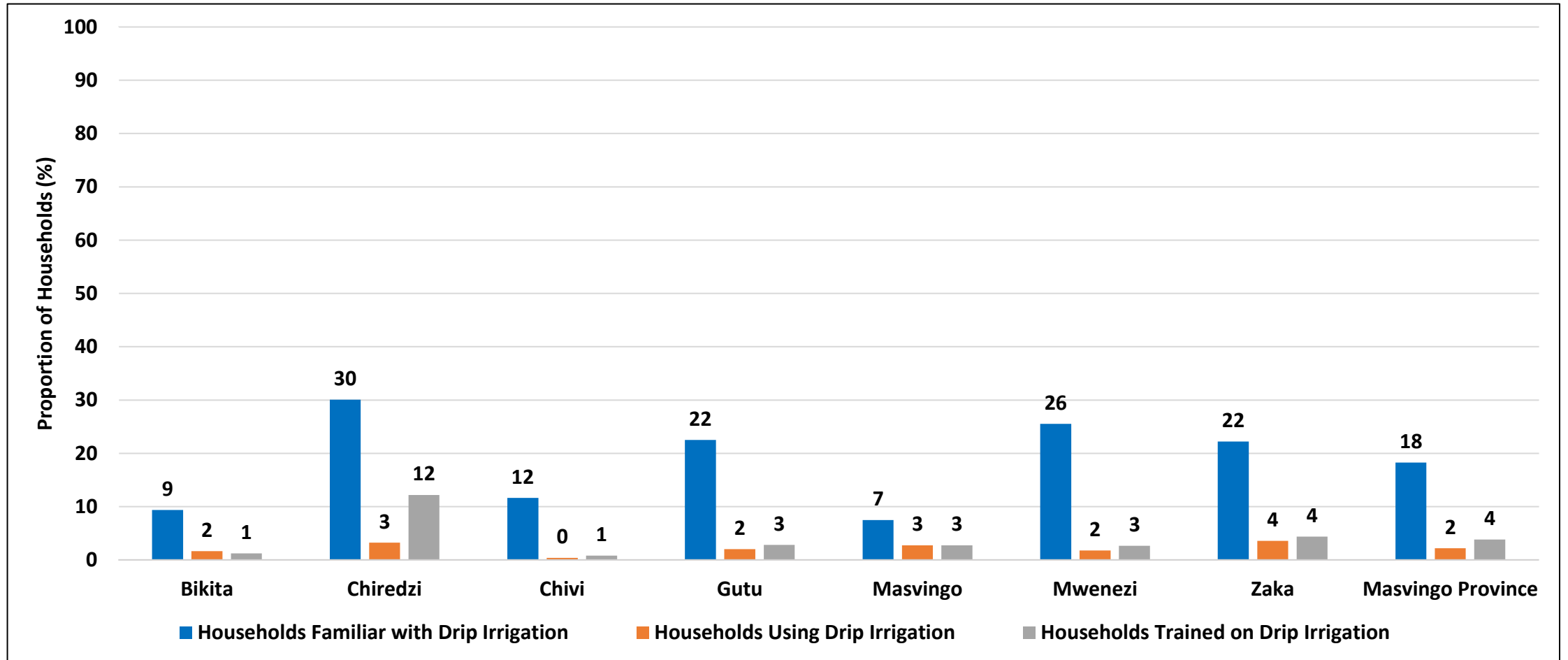
- The use of drip irrigation was low across all districts (2%).
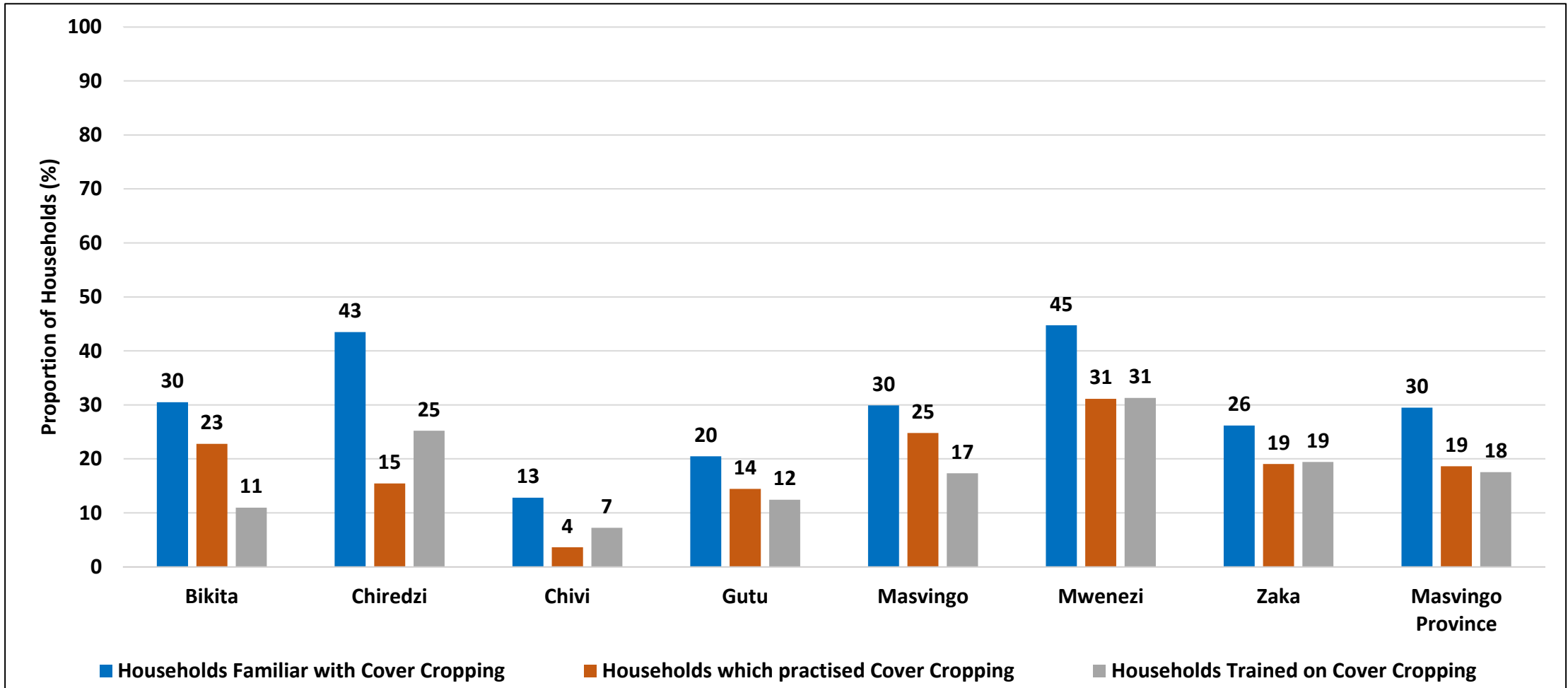
Plant Spacing

- Only 21% of households in the province used aappropriate plant spacing.

Intercropping Practice

- Intercropping was practiced by 38% of the households in the province.

- Gutu (55%) had the highest number of households practicing intercropping while Chivi (23%) had the least.

Cover Cropping

- Cover cropping was practiced by only 19% of the households in the province.

- Mwenezi (31%) had the highest number of households practicing cover-cropping with the least being Chivi(4%).

Mulching
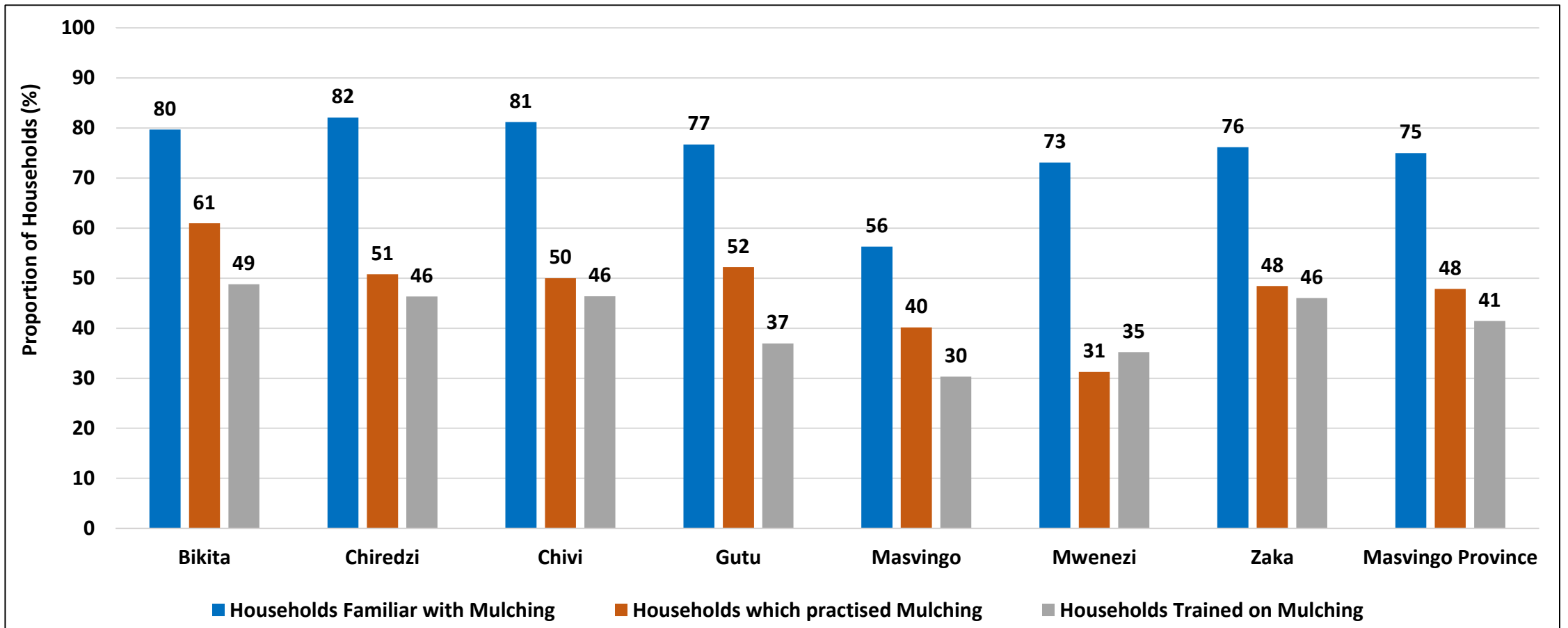
- At least 48% of the households practiced mulching in the province.

- Bikita (61%) had the highest proportion of households using mulch with the lowest being Mwenezi (31%).
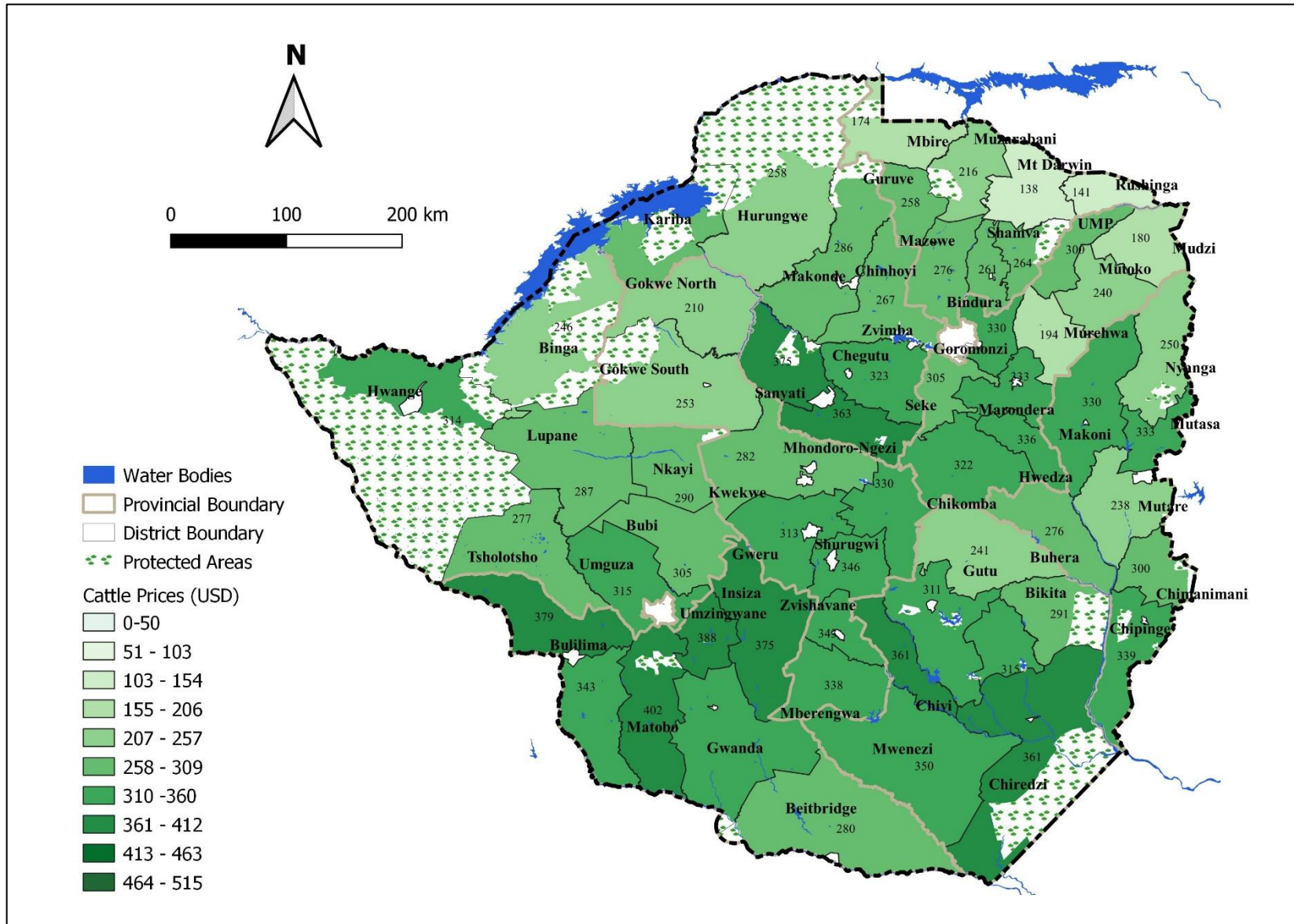
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
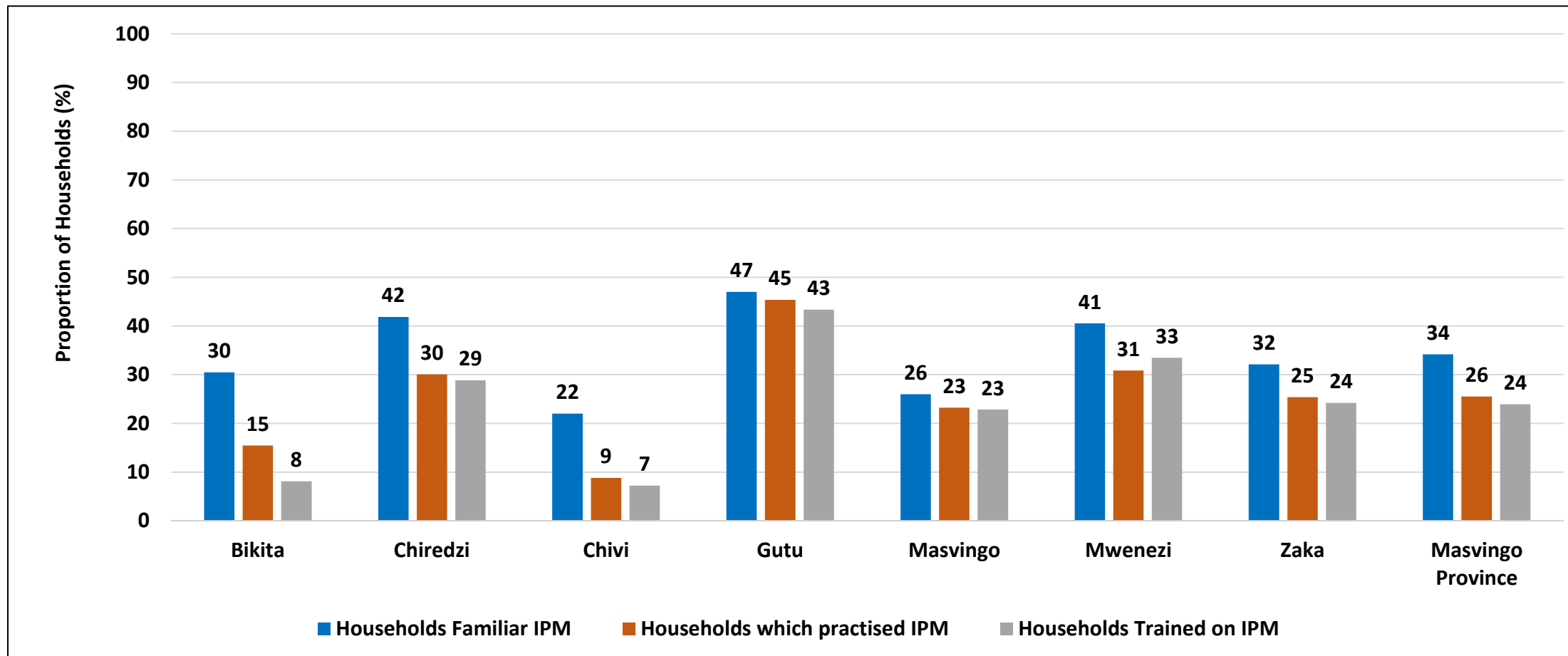
- The use of integrated pest management practices was 26% in the province with the highest practice reported in Gutu (45%).
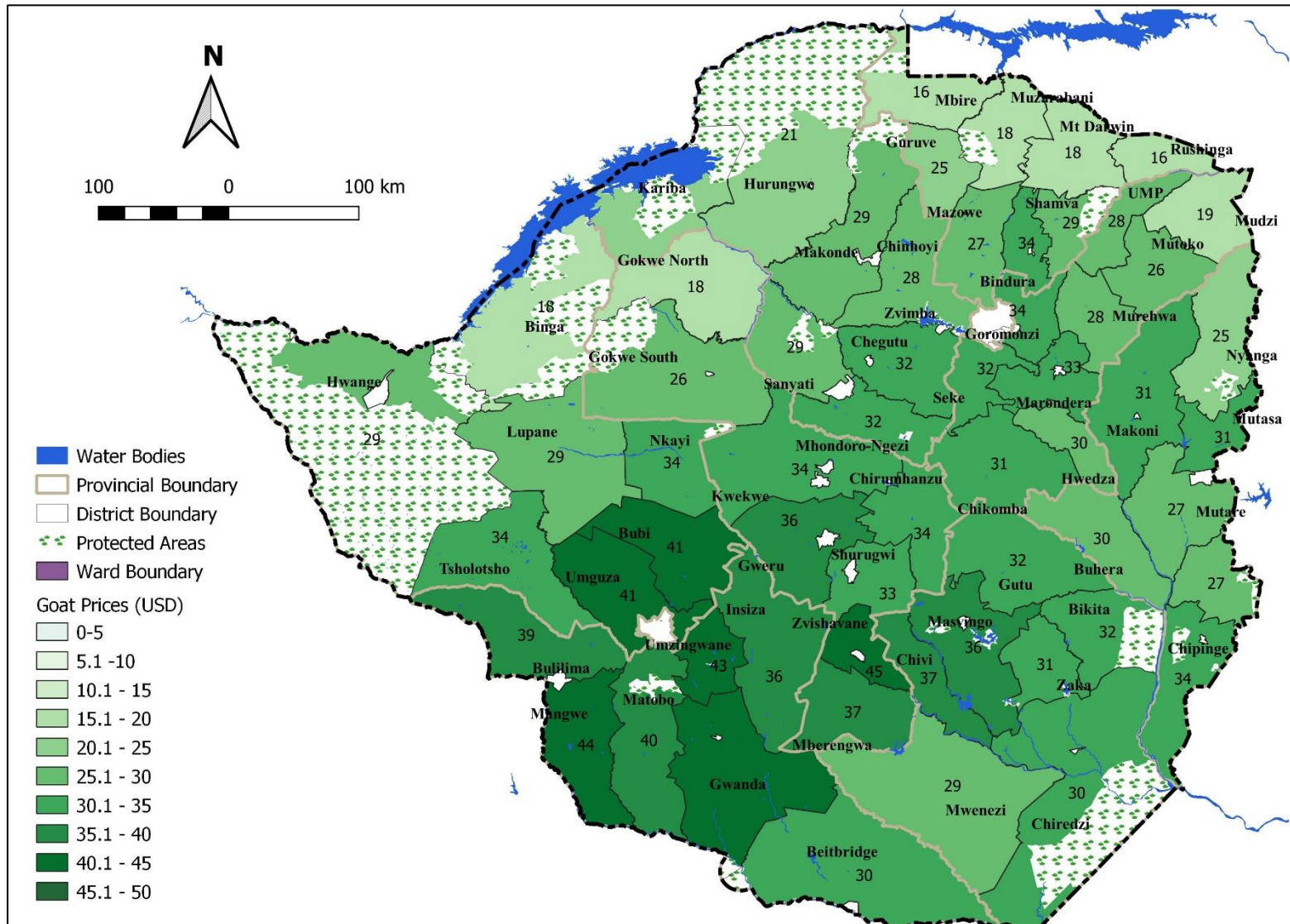
# Agricultural Produce Markets

District Cattle Prices (USD)

- Cattle prices in Masvingo province ranged from USD 241 to USD 361.
- The highest average cattle prices for Masvingo province were reported in Chiredzi and Chivi (USD 361).
- The lowest prices were reported in Gutu (USD 241).

District Goat Prices (USD)

- In Masvingo province goat prices ranged from USD 29 to USD 37.
- The highest goat prices were recorded in Chivi (USD 37).
- The lowest prices were recorded in Mwenezi (USD 29).

District Average Maize Grain Prices
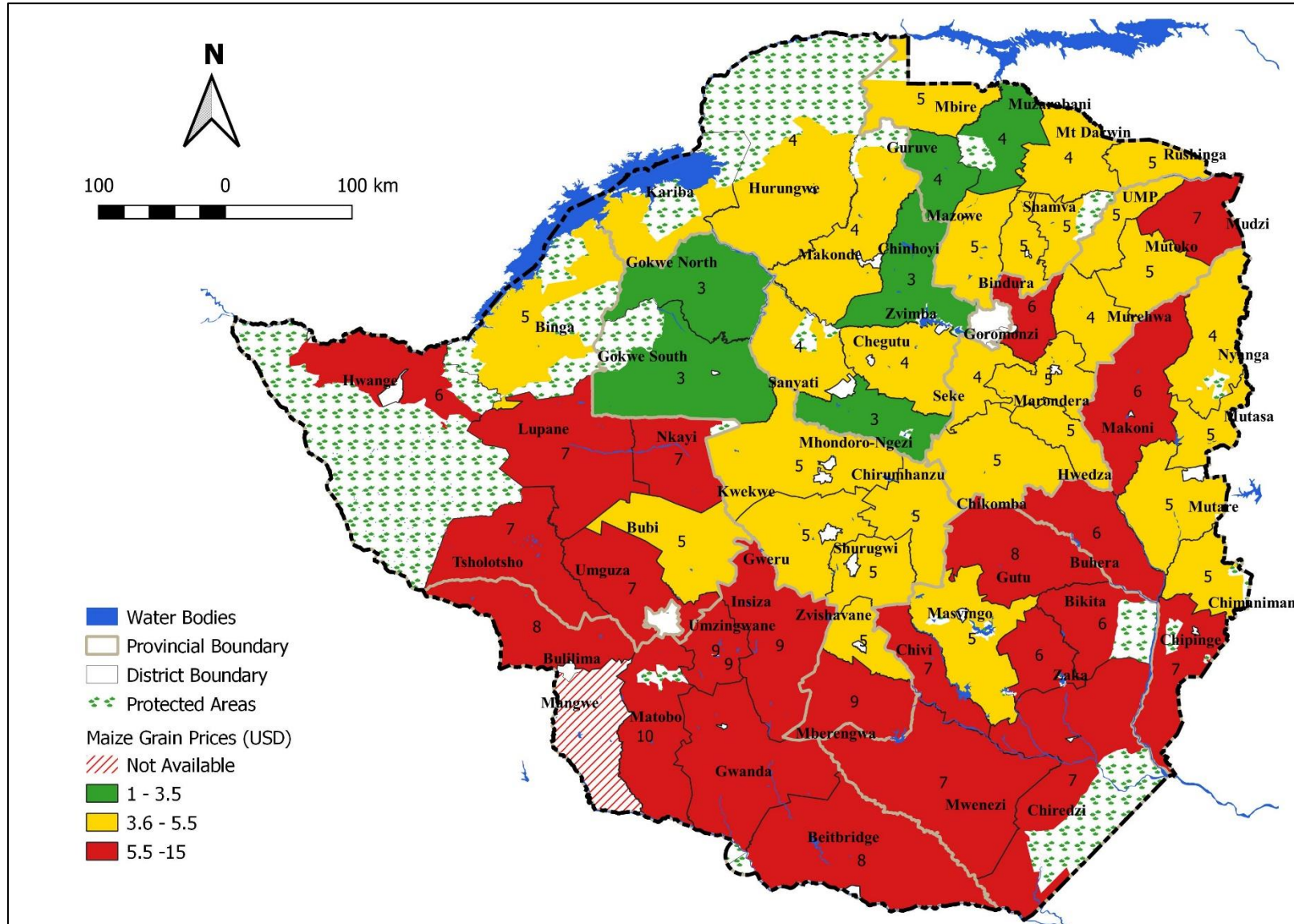
- Maize grain prices in Masvingo province ranged from USD 5 to USD 8 per 20l bucket.
- The lowest maize grain prices for Masvingo province was reported in Masvingo district at USD 5.
- The Highest maize grain prices were recorded in Gutu at USD 8 per 20 litre Bucket.
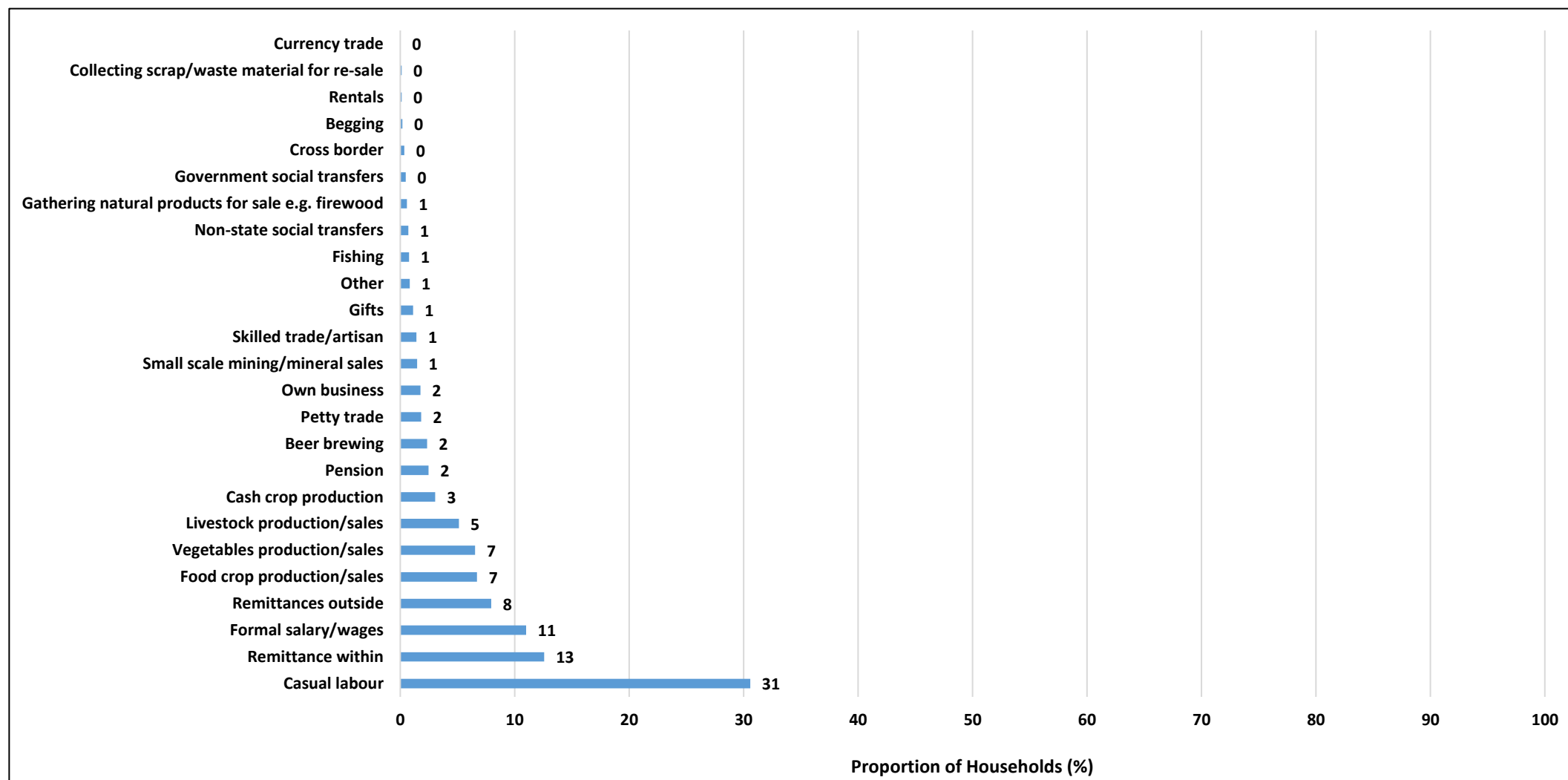
District Maize Meal Prices (USD)
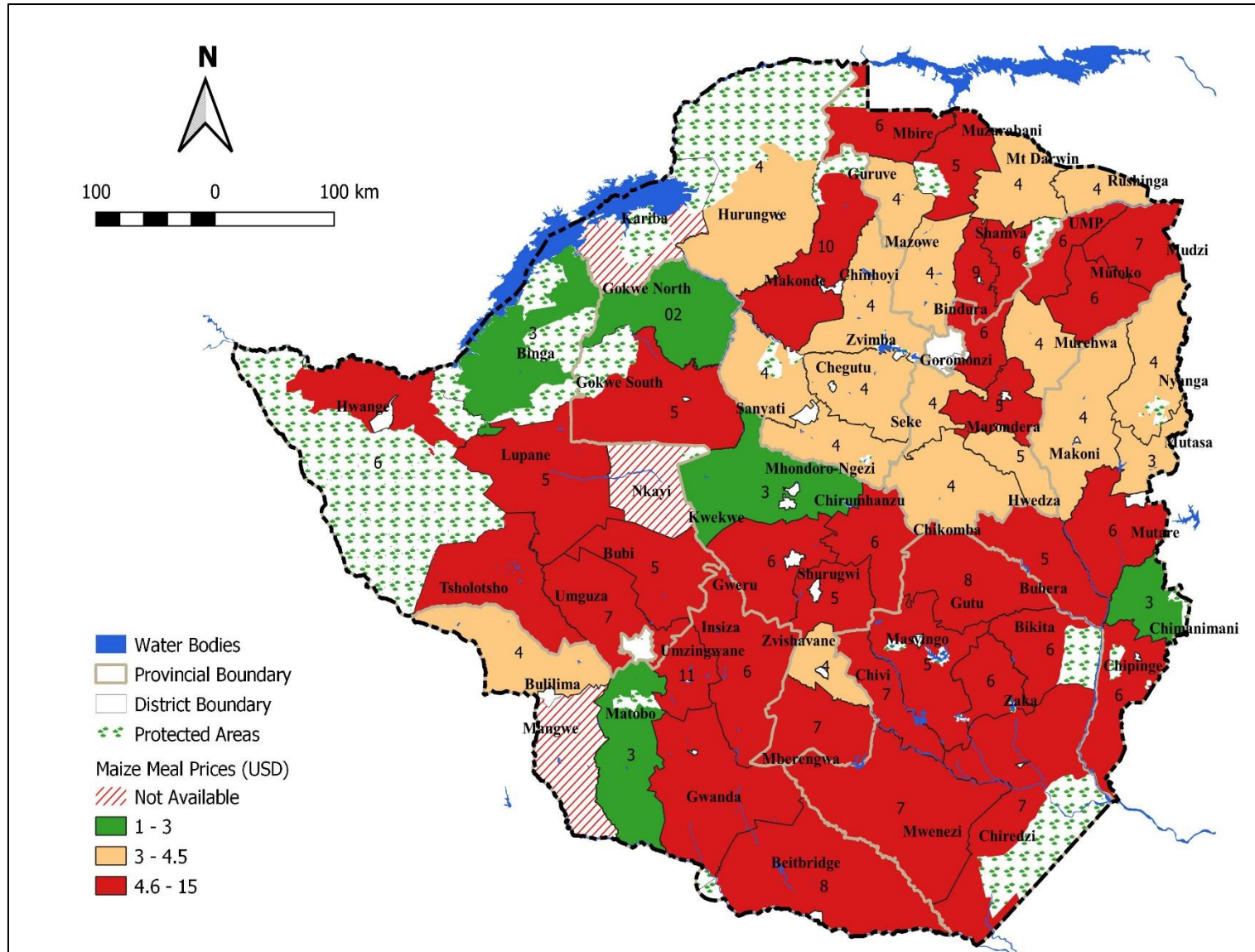
- Maize meal prices in Masvingo province ranged from USD 5 to USD 8 per 10kg bag.
- The highest price of Maize Meal was reported in Gutu (USD 8) and the least in Masvingo district (USD5).
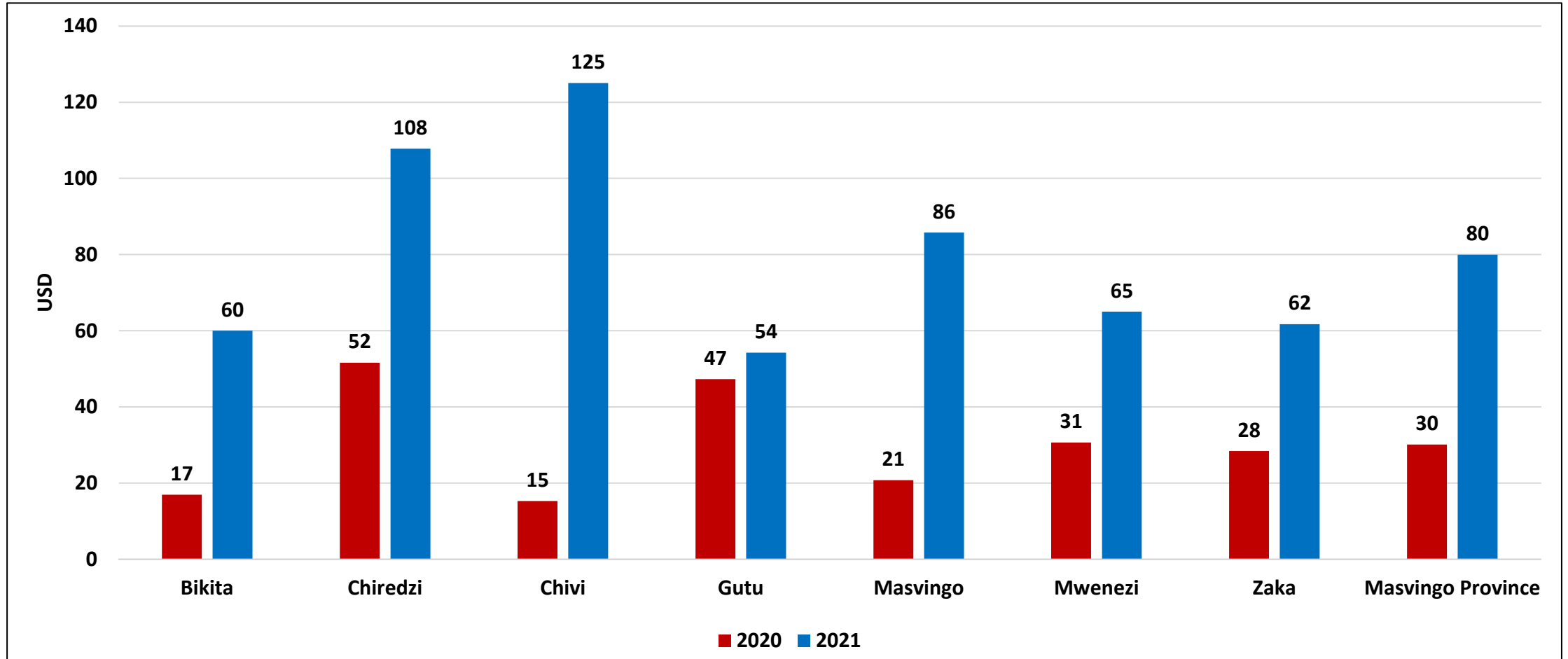
Income and Expenditure

Current Most Important Source of Income

Proportion of Households (%)

| Source	%
Currency trade	0
Collecting scrap/waste material for re-sale	0
Rentals	0
Begging	0
Cross border	0
Government social transfers	0
Gathering natural products for sale e.g. firewood	1
Non-state social transfers	1
Fishing	1
Other	1
Gifts	1
Skilled trade/artisan	1
Small scale mining/mineral sales	1
Own business	2
Petty trade	2
Beer brewing	2
Pension	2
Cash crop production	3
Livestock production/sales	5
Vegetables production/sales	7
Food crop production/sales	7
Remittances outside	8
Formal salary/wages	11
Remittance within	13
Casual labour	31

- Most households relied on Casual labour (31%) as the most important source of income, followed by remittances within (13%) and formal salary/wages (11%).

# Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2021

- The average monthly income for April in the province was USD 80.
- Chivi (USD 125) had the highest monthly income whilst Gutu (USD 54) had the least.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) for April 2021
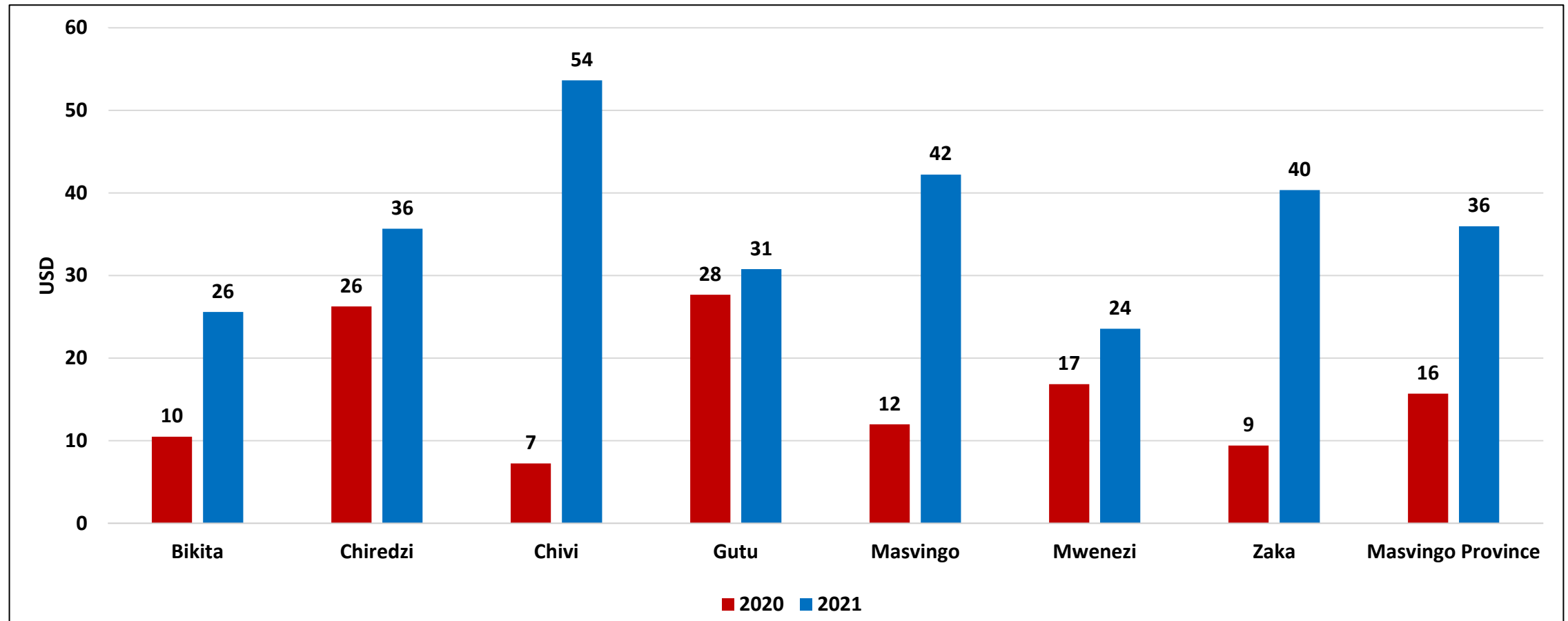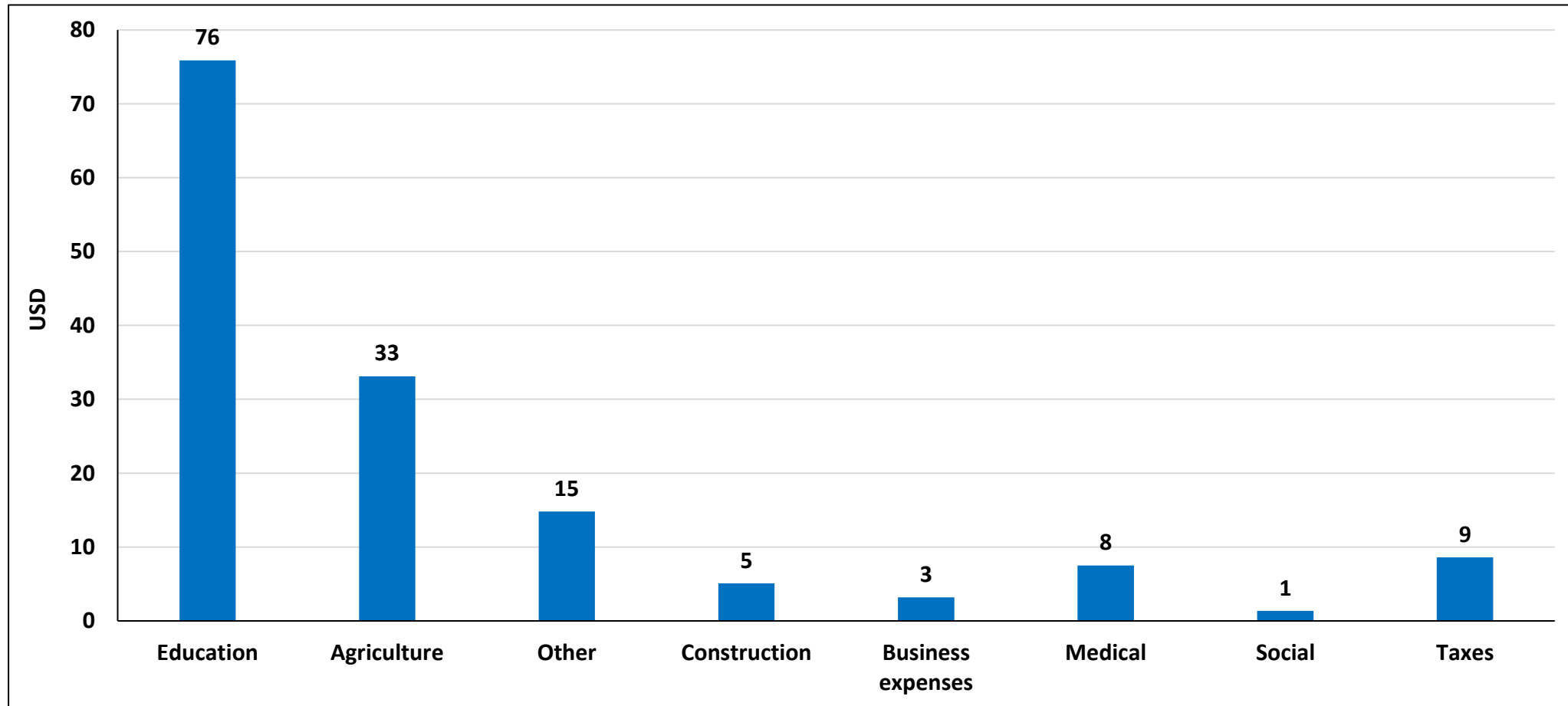

- Average expenditure for the month of April was USD 36.

- Mwenezi (USD 24) reported the lowest expenditure for the same month.

Food Expenditure
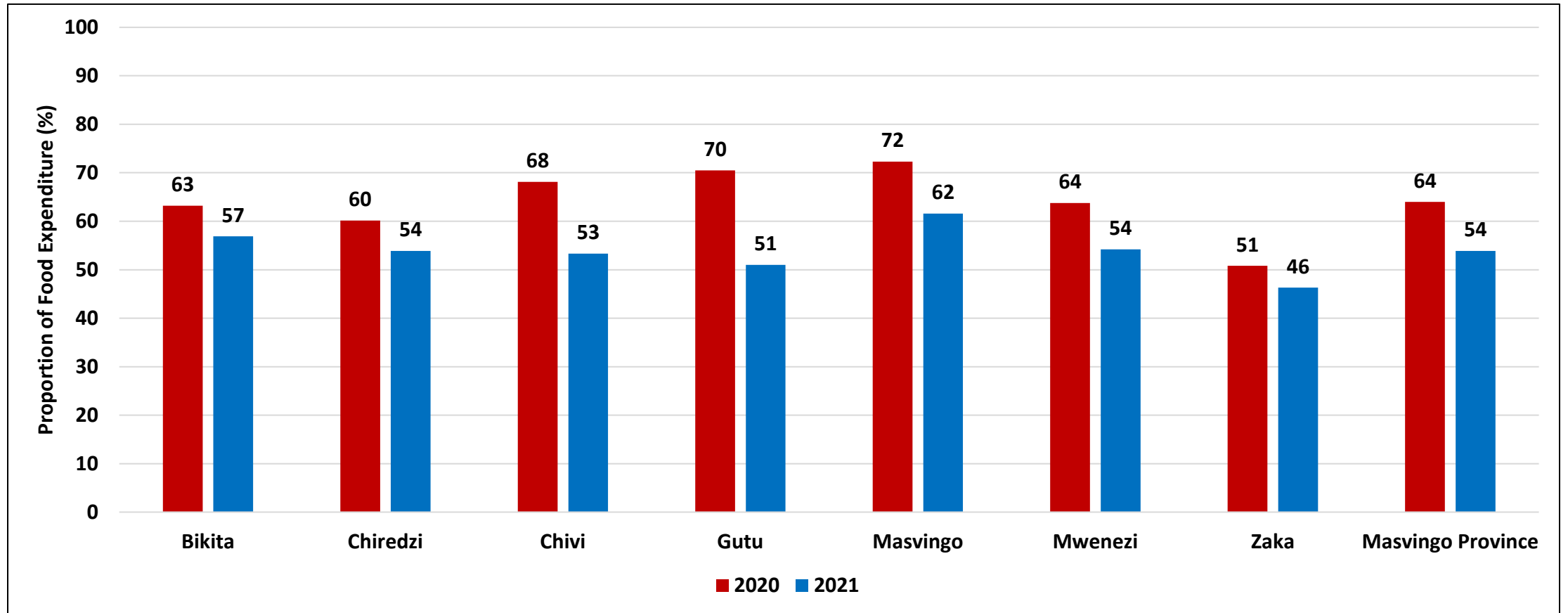
- Proportion of food expenditure was 54%, a decrease from 64% reported in 2020.

- This implies that households had less to spend on other essential services such as health and education.

Average Household 6 Month Expenditure

- The highest expenditure on educational costs (USD 76) and the least was on social events (USD 1).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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.
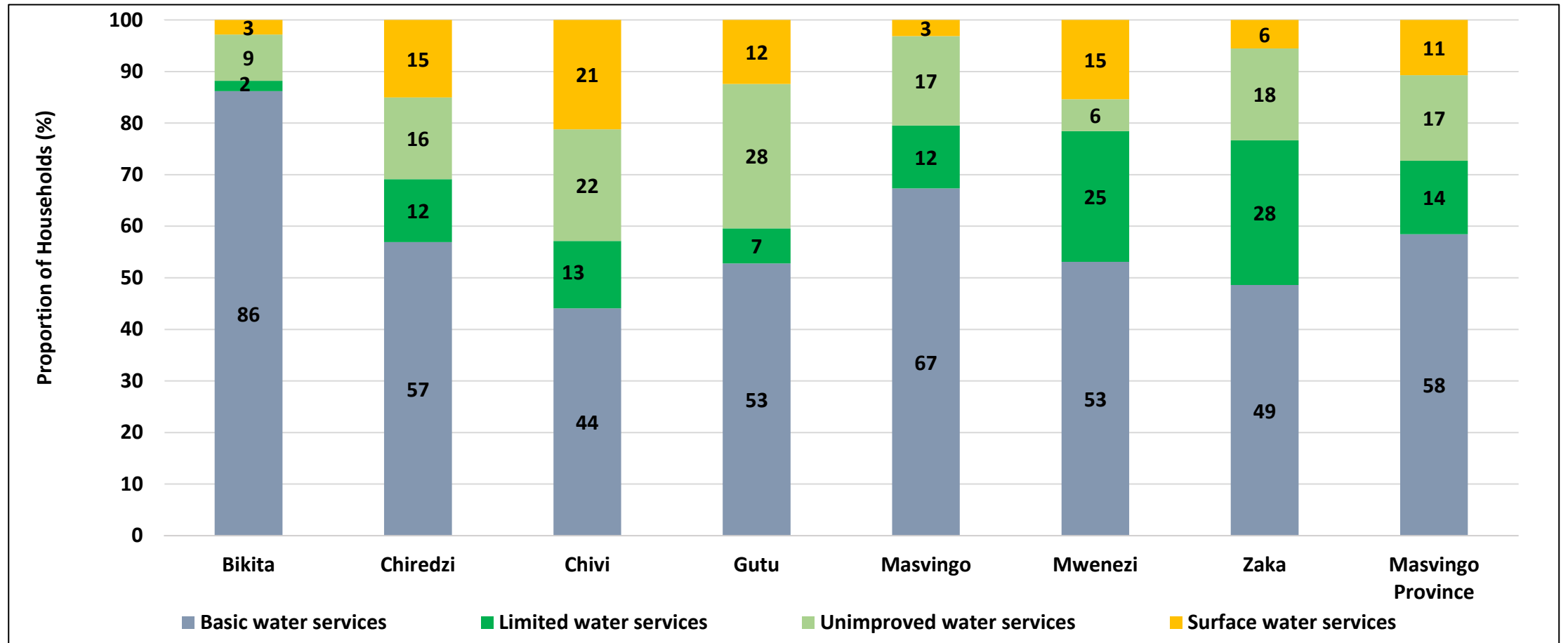
Access to Improved Water
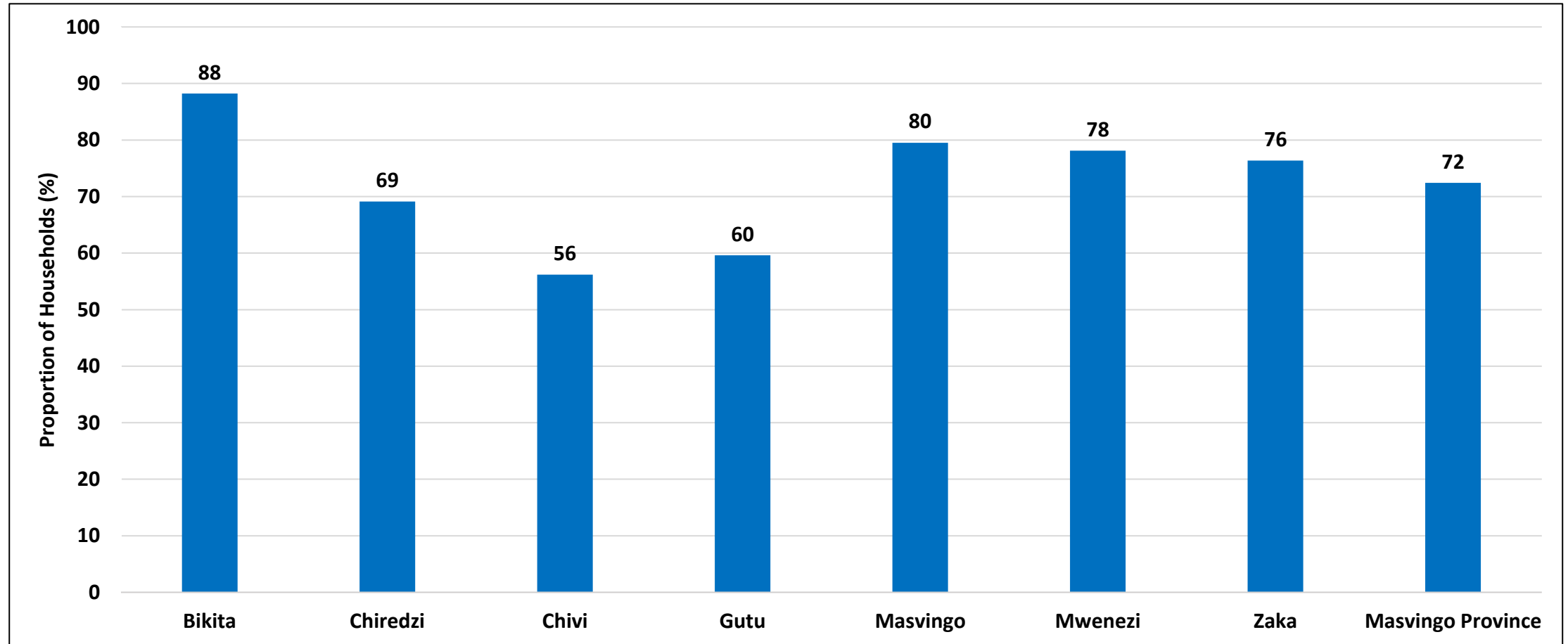
- At provincial level the proportion of households with access to improved water was 72%.

Households using Unimproved Water Sources
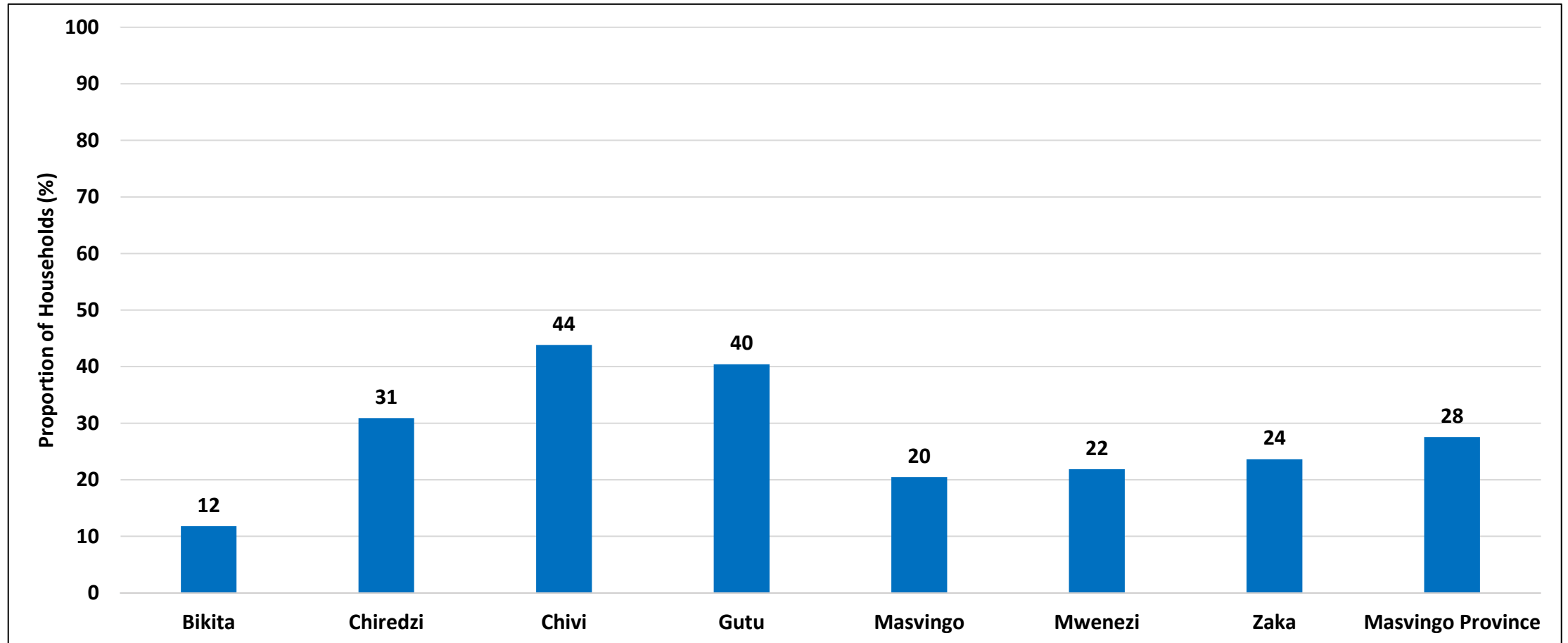

- In the province the proportion of households using unimproved water sources was 28%.
- Chivi (44%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water sources.

# Main Drinking Water Services

- The proportion of households accessing basic water services in Masvingo province was 58%.

- Gutu (28%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water sources.

Access to Adequate Domestic Water
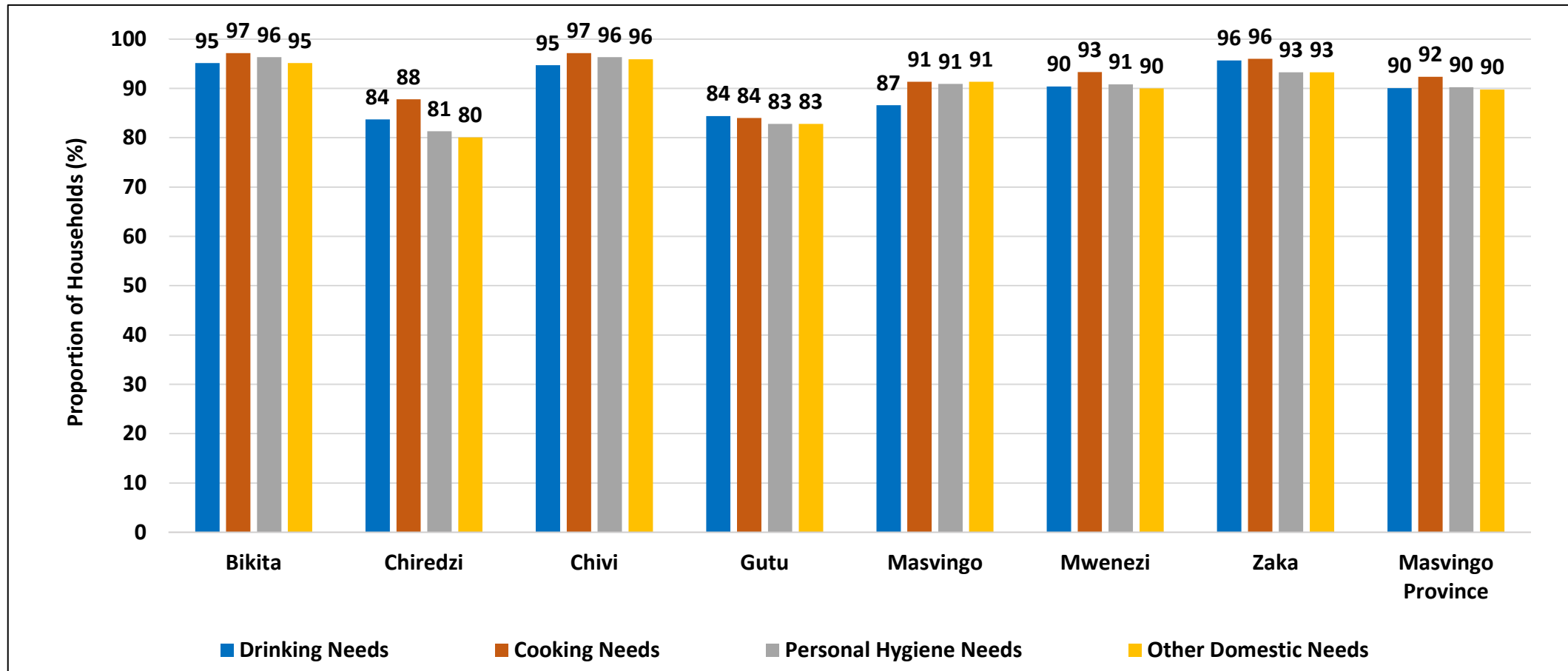
- At provincial level at least 90% of the households reported having adequate water for cooking, drinking, personal hygiene and other domestic needs.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source
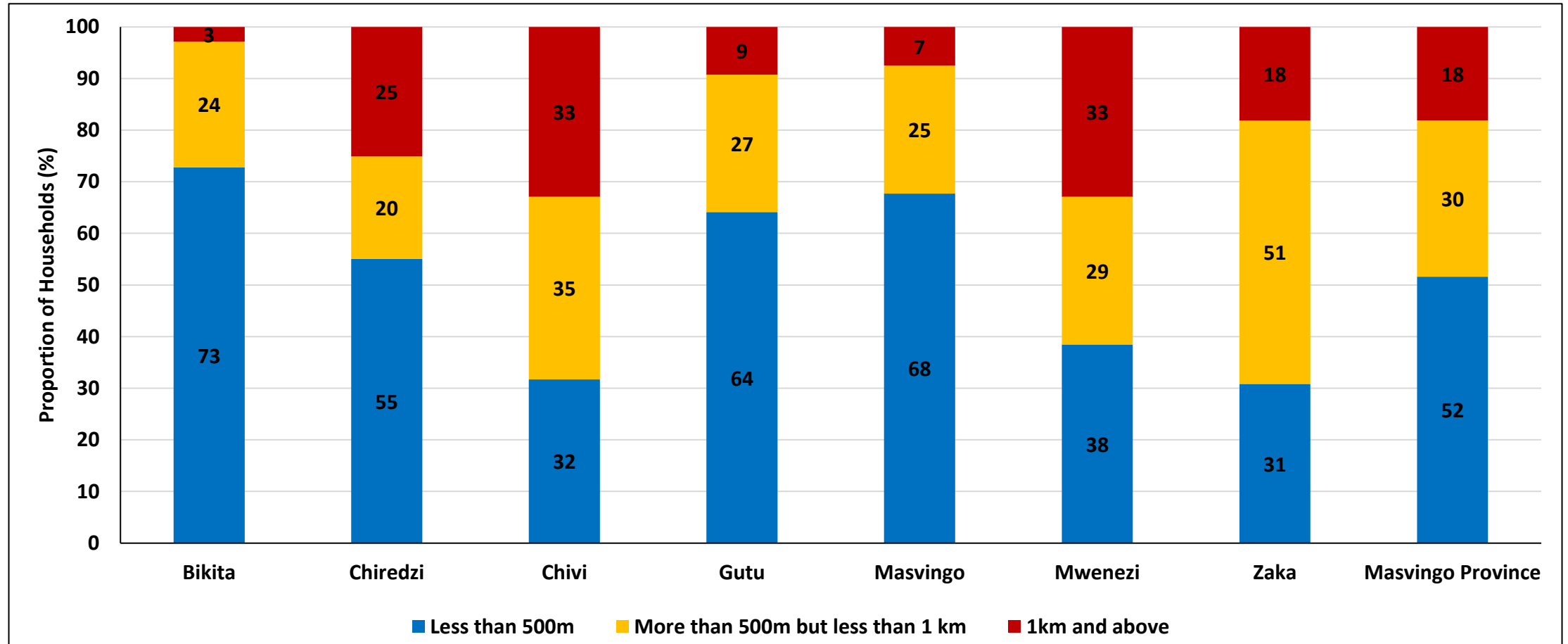
- At provincial level, 52% of the households travelled a distance of less than 500m to get to a water source.
- Chivi and Mwenezi (33%) had the highest proportion of households travelling a kilometre and more to get to a water source.

Fetching Water for Cooking and Drinking
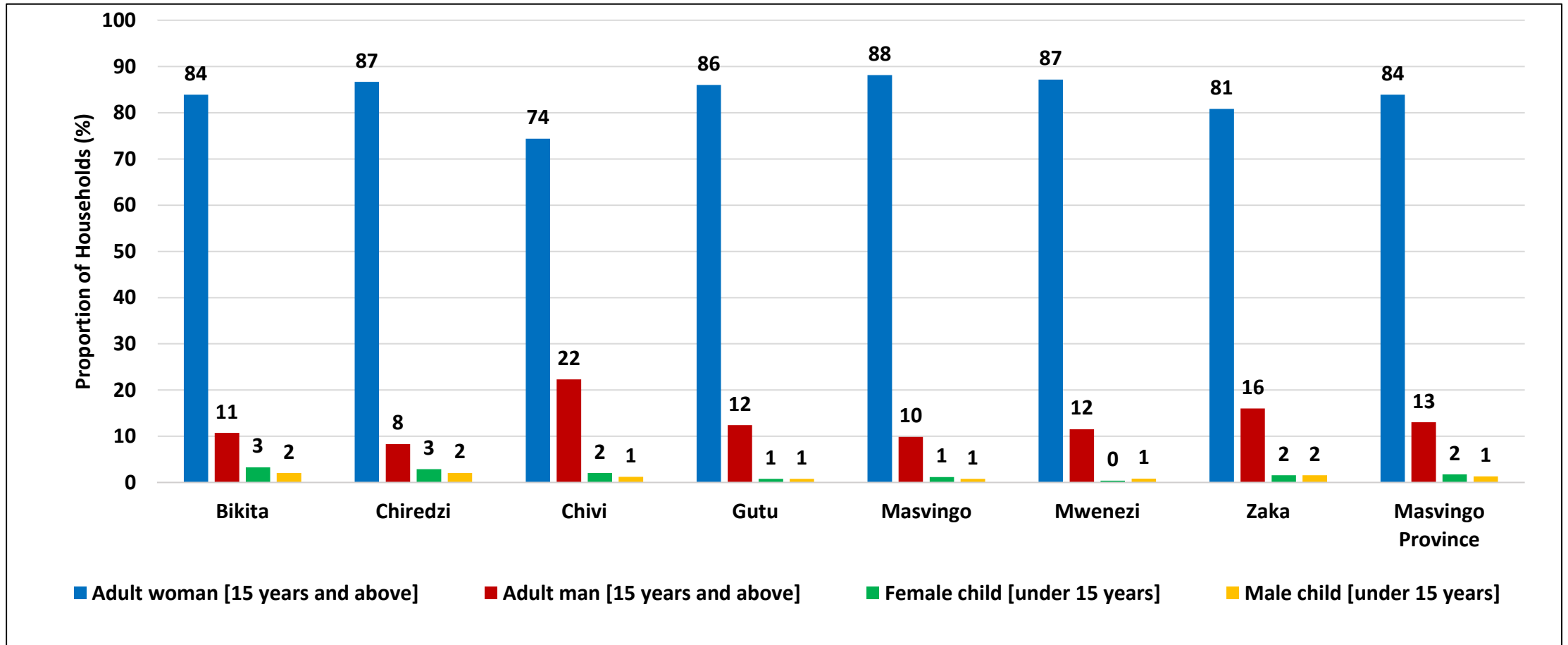
- The role of fetching water in Masvingo province was mainly performed by adult women (15 years and above).
- Chivi (22%) had the highest proportion of households with adult men (15 years and above), preforming the role of fetching water for cooking and drinking.

Time Spent Queuing at Water Source and Violence at Water Source

Time spent at water source
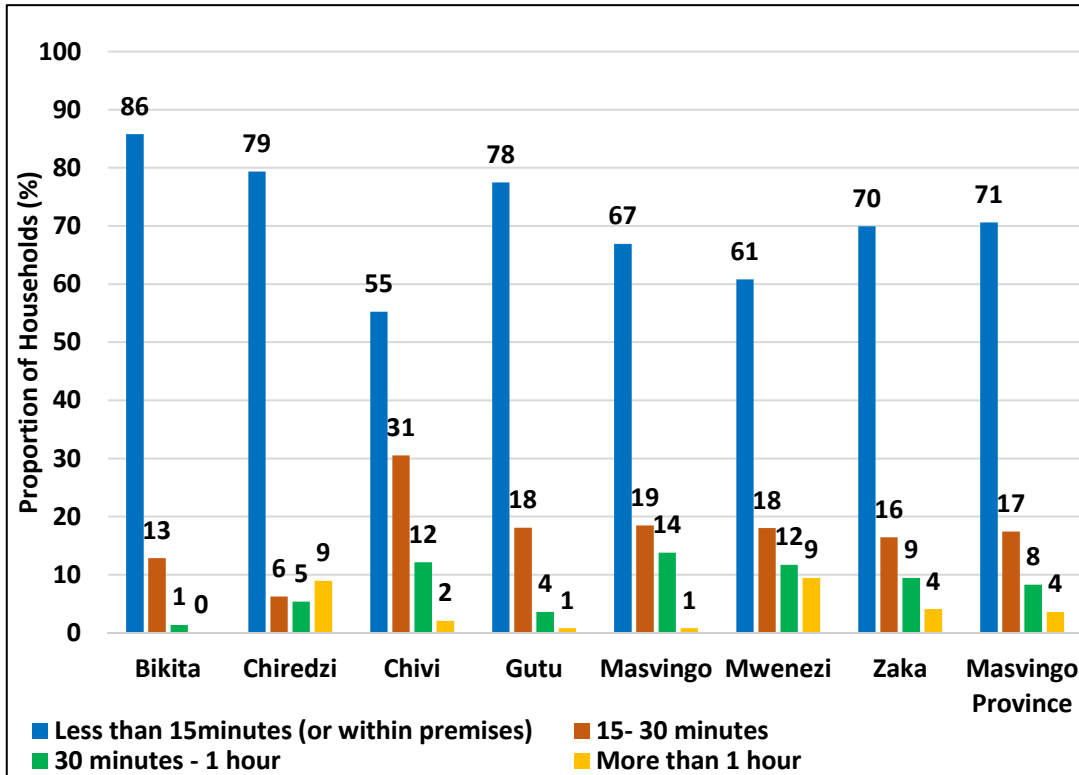
Violence at Water Source
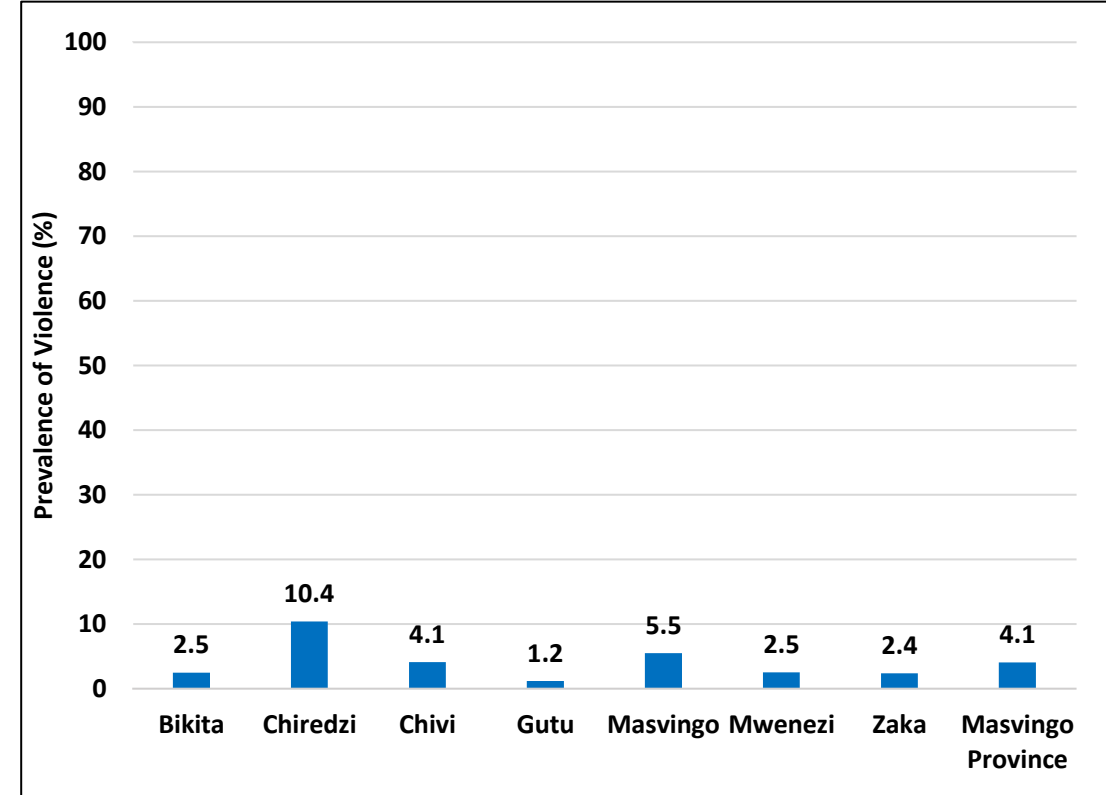
- The proportion of households spending less than 15 minutes queuing at a water source or within premises was 71%.

- Chiredzi and Mwenezi (9%) had the highest proportion of households queuing for more than an hour at a water source.

- Chiredzi (10.4%) also recorded the highest proportion of households reporting violence.

Ladder for Sanitation

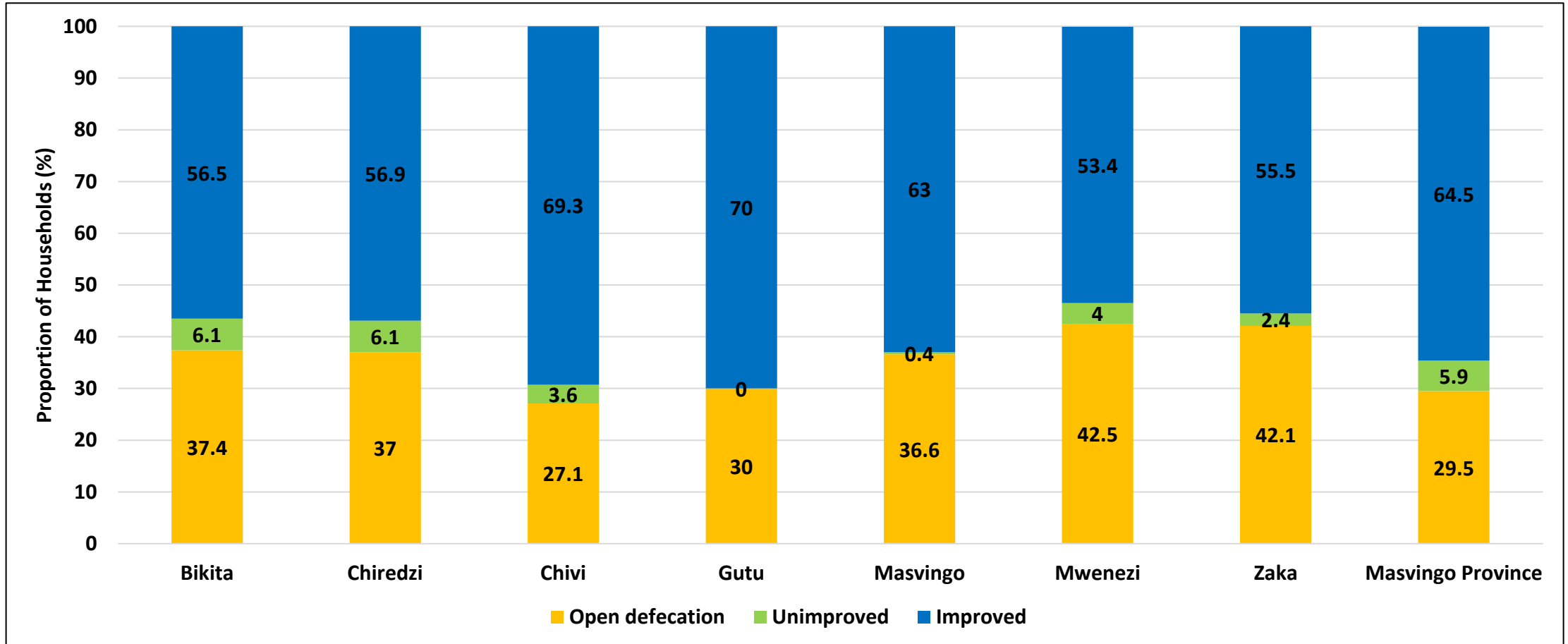| Service level	Definition
Safely Managed	Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite.
Basic Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households.
Limited 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.

Access to Improved Sanitation

- In the province, 64.5% of households had access to improved sanitation facilities.

- Mwenezi (42.5%) followed by Zaka (42.1%) had the highest proportion of households practising open defaecation.

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.

Access to Hand Washing Facilities
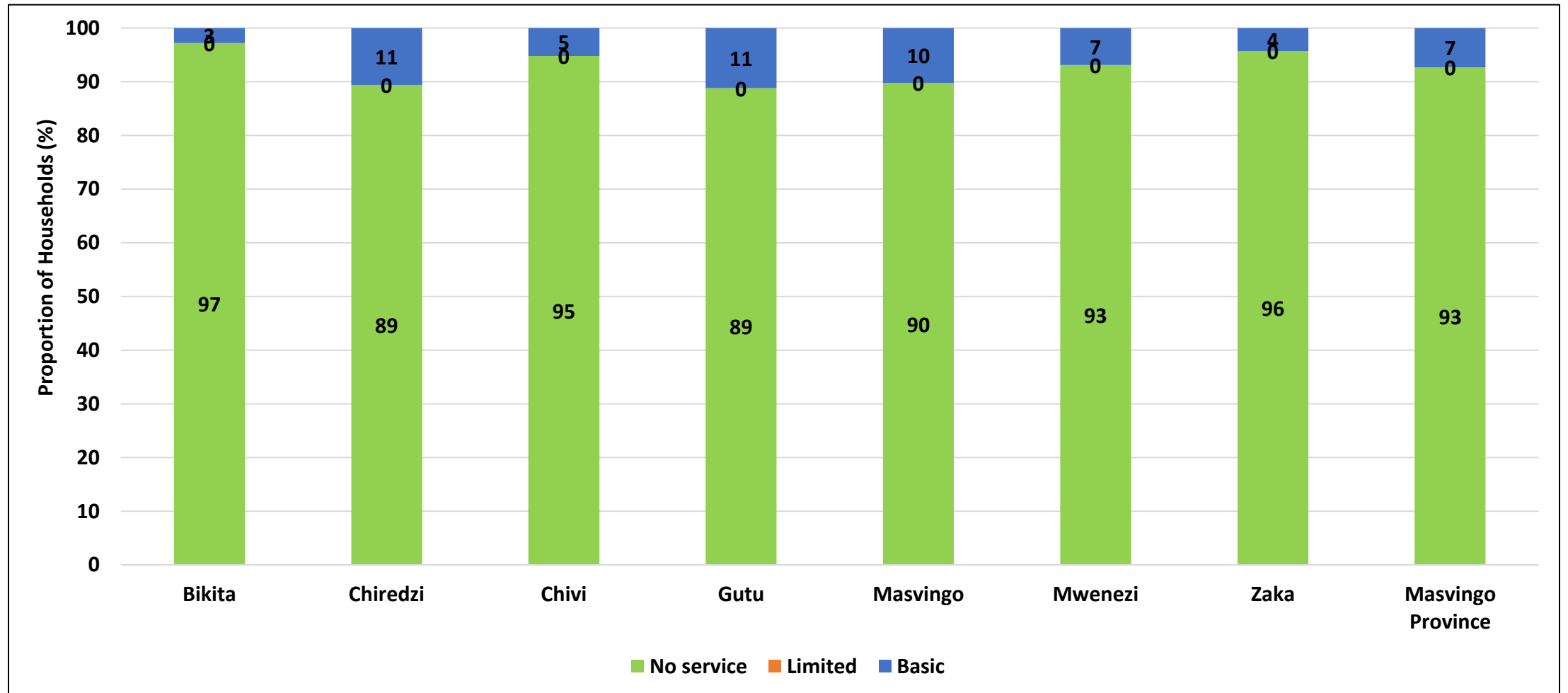
- There were generally no handwashing facilities (93%) across the province.
- Gutu (11%) and Chiredzi (11%) had the greatest proportion of households that had basic handwashing facilities.

Food Safety

Considerations when Purchasing Food
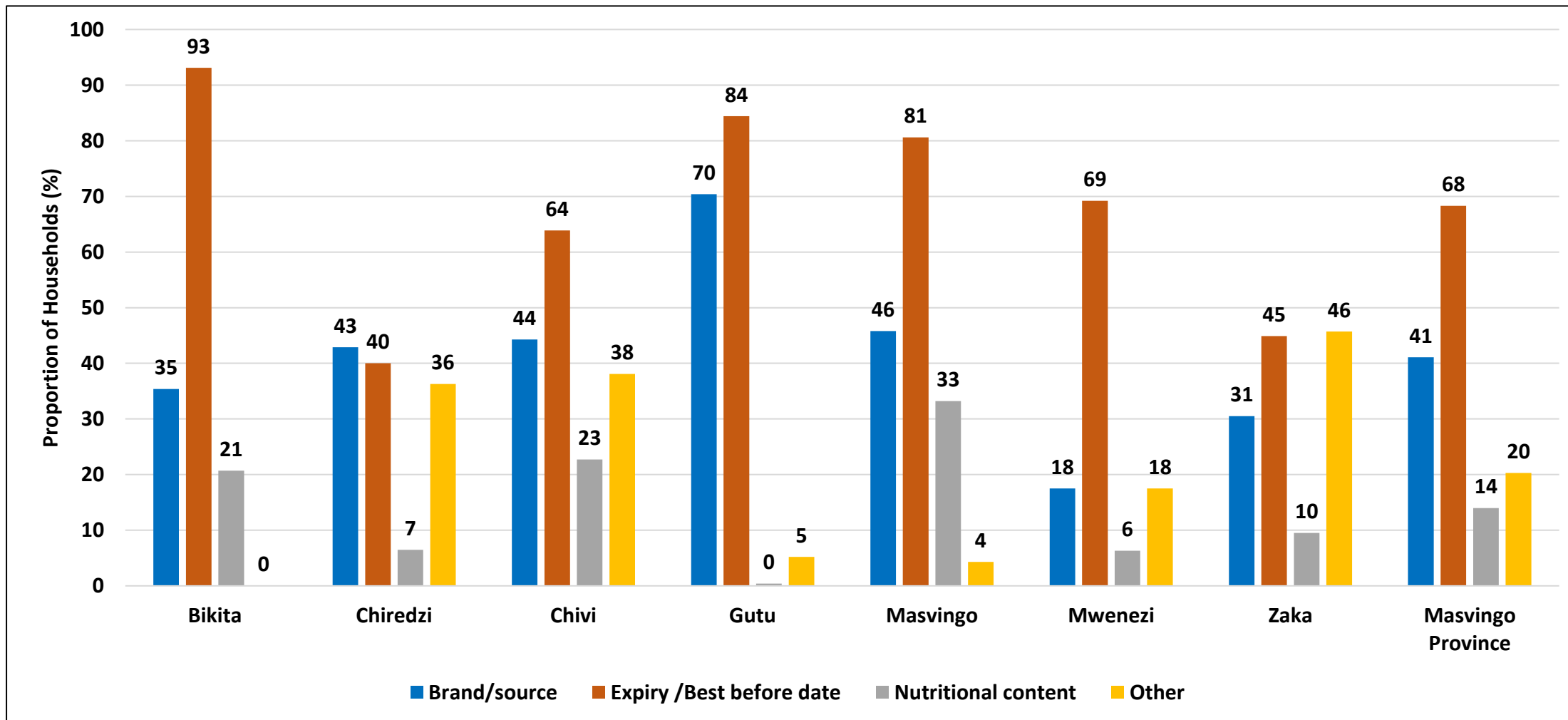
- In the province, 68% of households reported considering the expiry date when purchasing food for their families.

- Masvingo (33%), had the greatest proportion of households which considered nutritional content when purchasing food.

Safe Preparation of Food
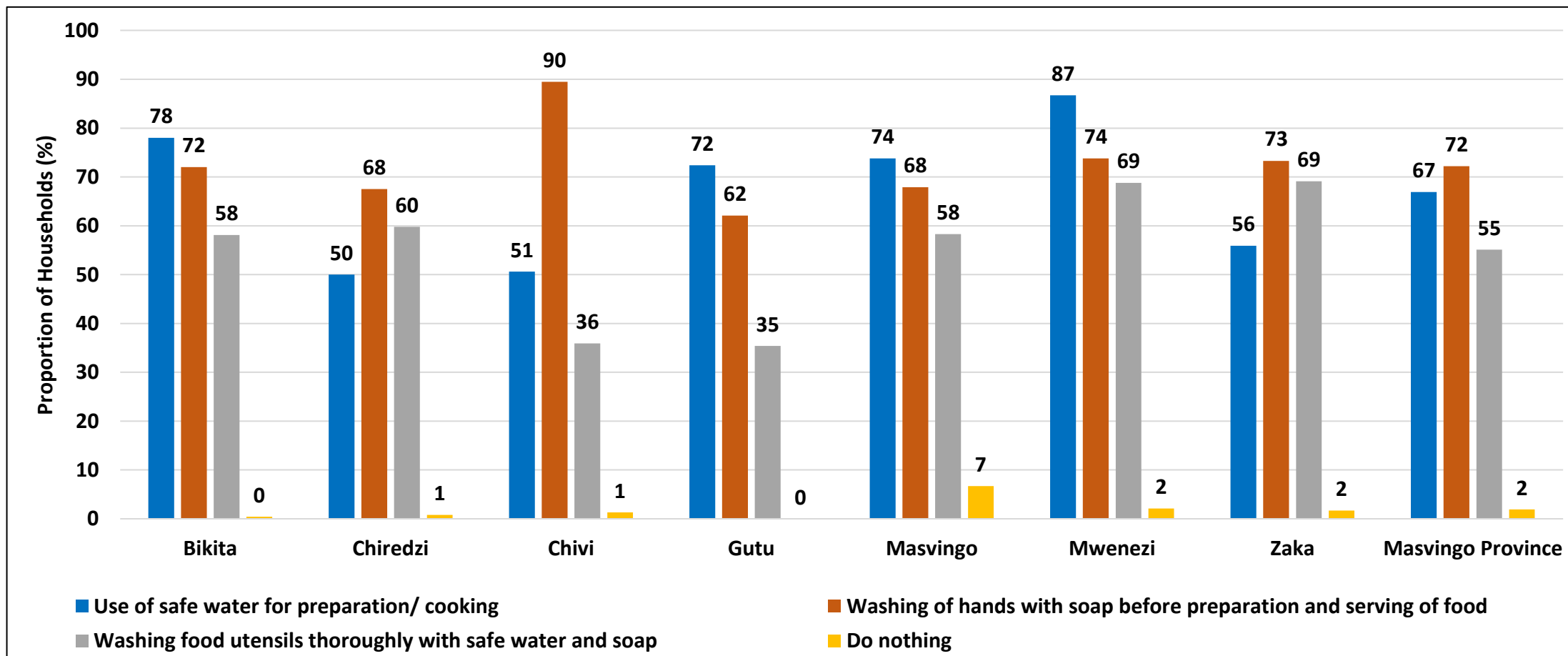
- 72% of households reported that washing hands with soap before preparation and serving food was important in safe food preparation.

- Only 2% of households did nothing to ensure food safety during preparation of food.

Household Food Safety During COVID-19 Lockdown Period
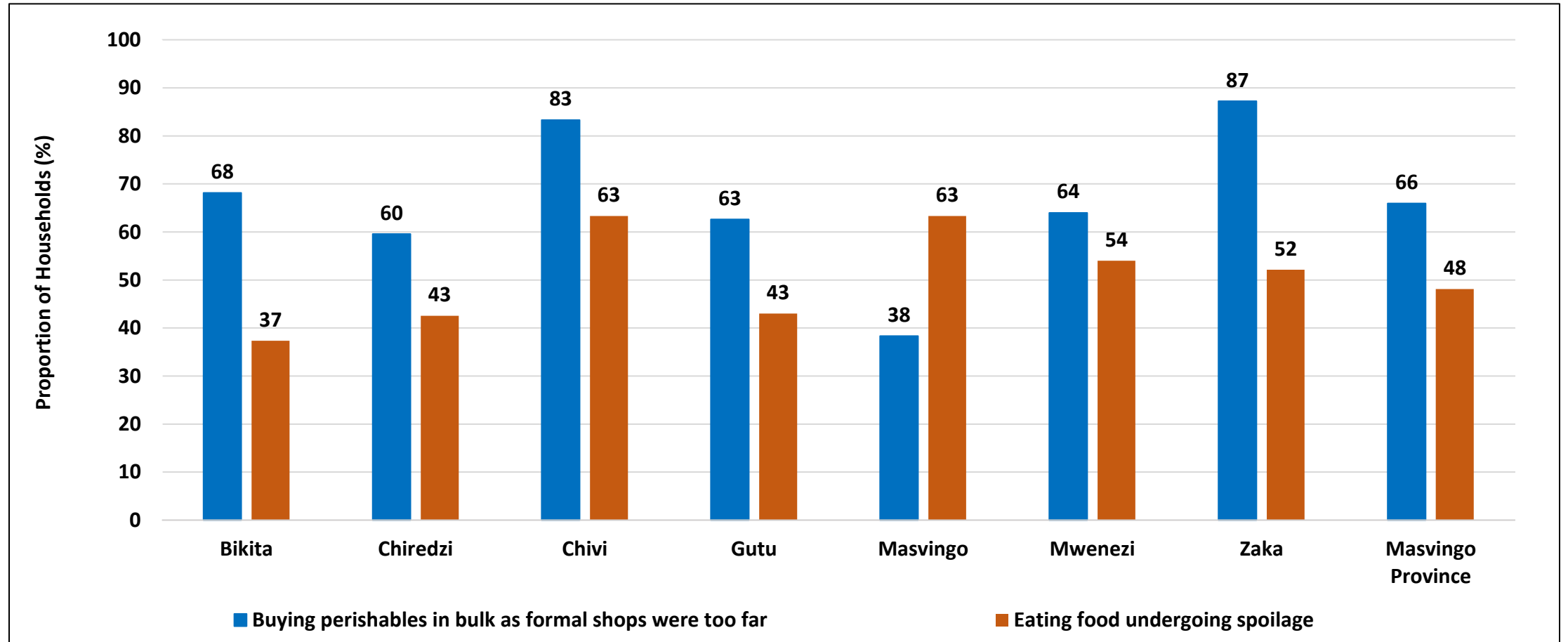
- Zaka (87%) had the highest proportion of households which bought perishables in bulk as formal shops were too far during the January to March 2021 national lockdown.

- At provincial level 48% of the households reported having to eat food under spoilage during the lockdown period.

Purchase of Expired or Spoiled Food
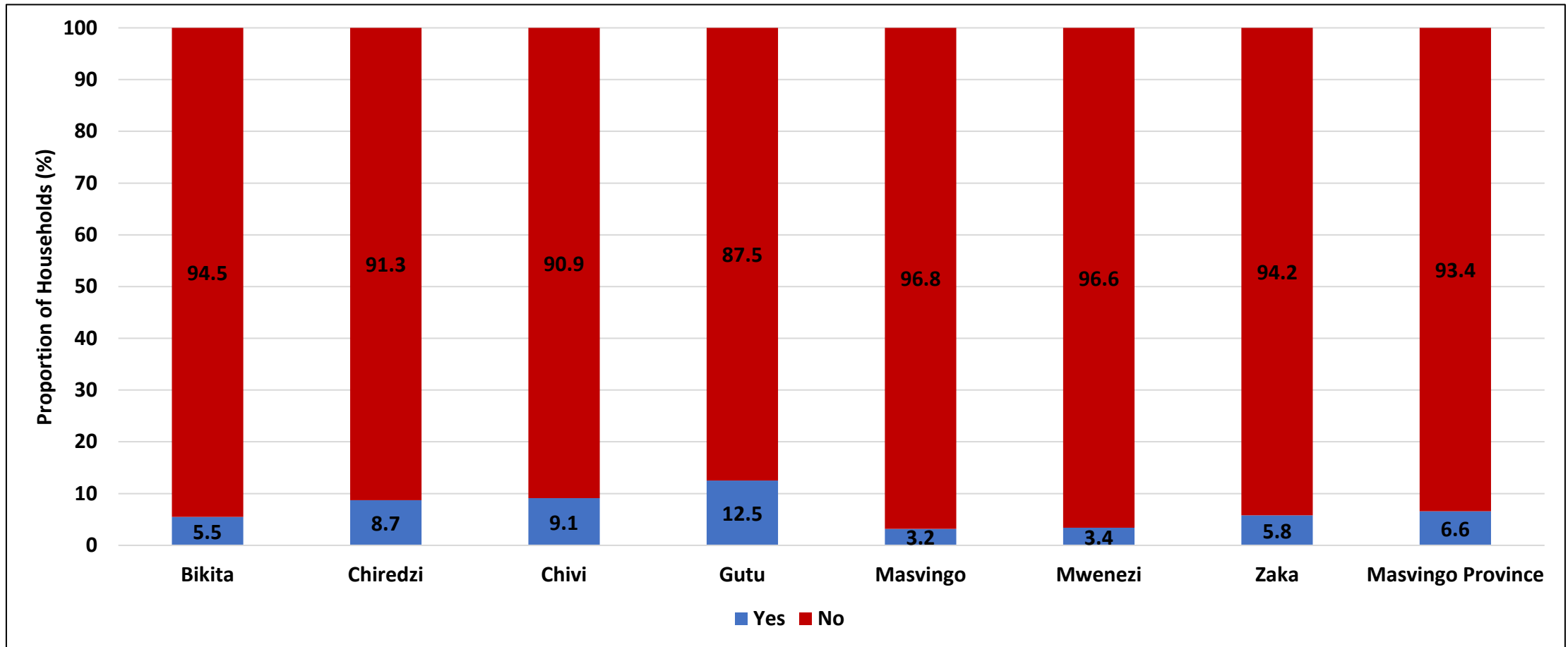
- Gutu (12.5%) had the greatest proportion of households which purchased expired or food undergoing spoilage due to its reduced price.

Information on Food Safety
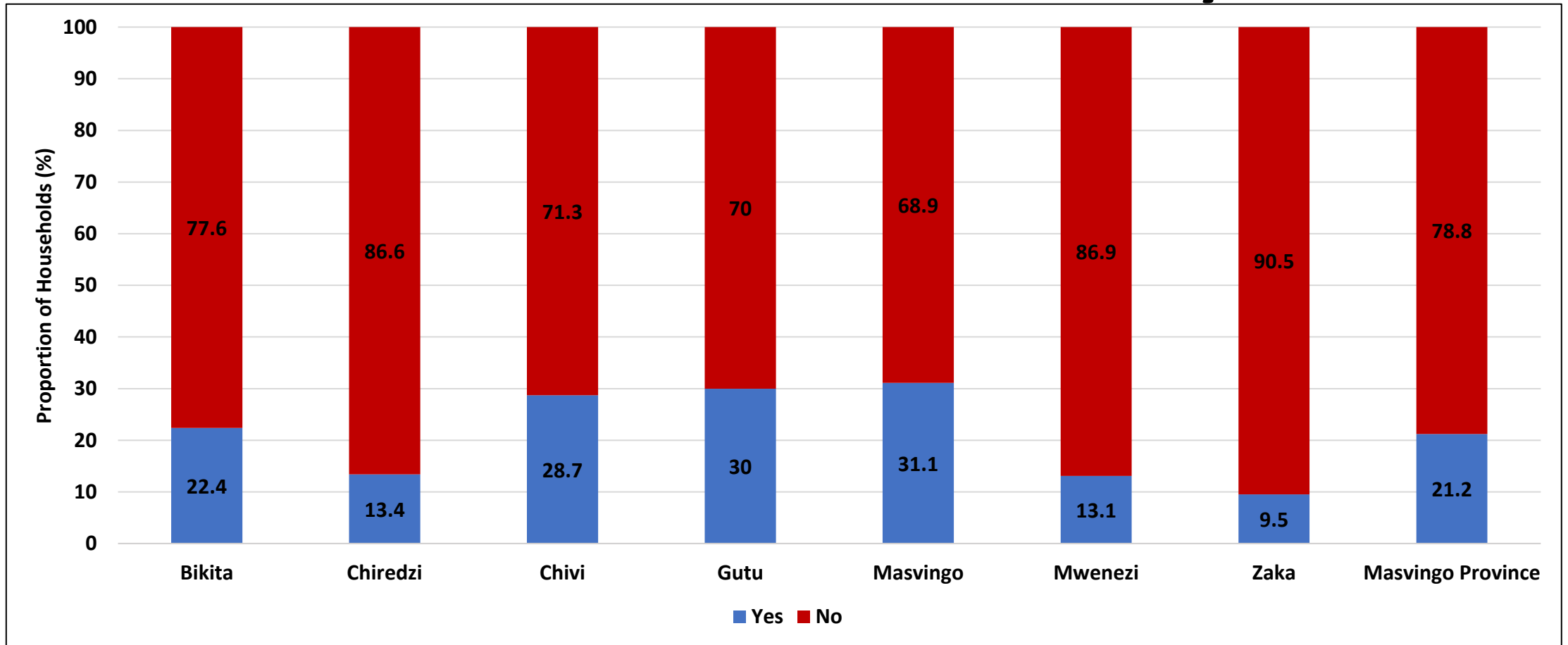
- In the previous twelve months preceding the survey only 21.2% of the households received information on food safety issues.

- Gutu (30%), had the greatest proportion of households which received information on food safety issues.

Access to Infrastructure and Services

Household which Received Agricultural Extension Services
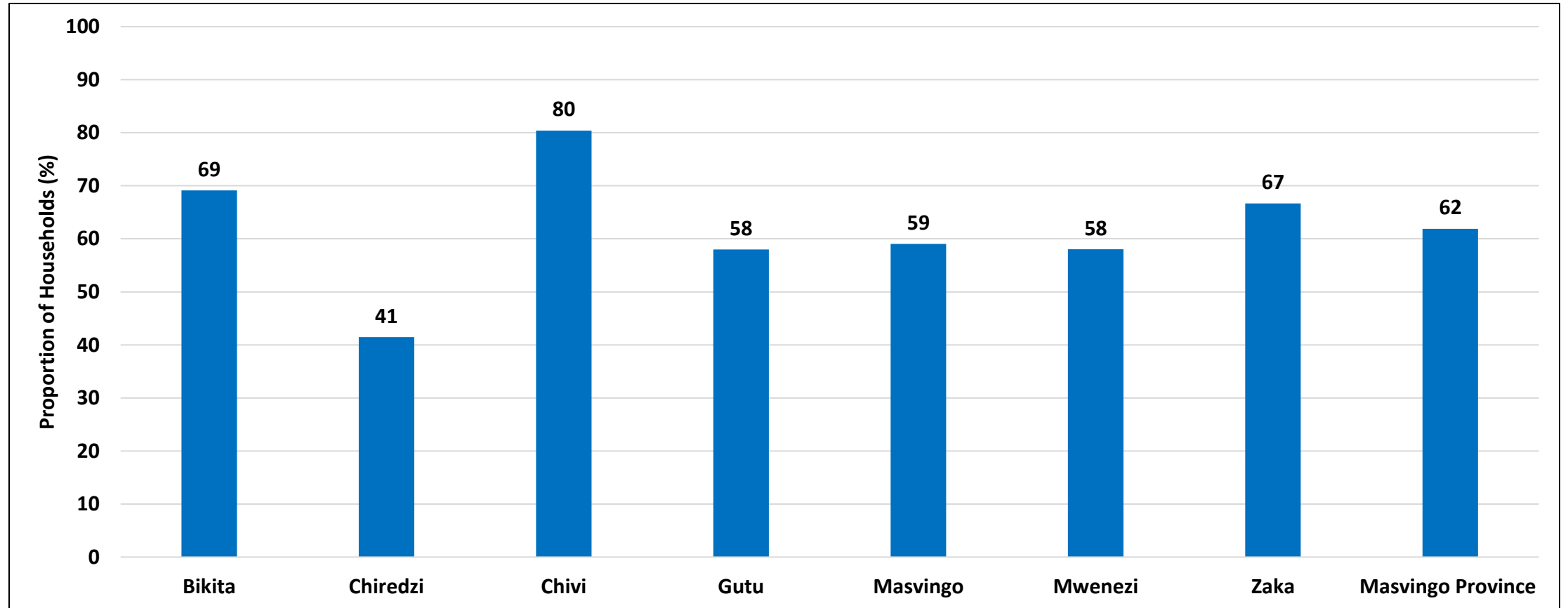
- The proportion of households which were reached with agricultural extension support in the province was 62%.

- Chivi (80%) had the highest proportion of households.

Households which Received Agricultural Training from Extension Officers
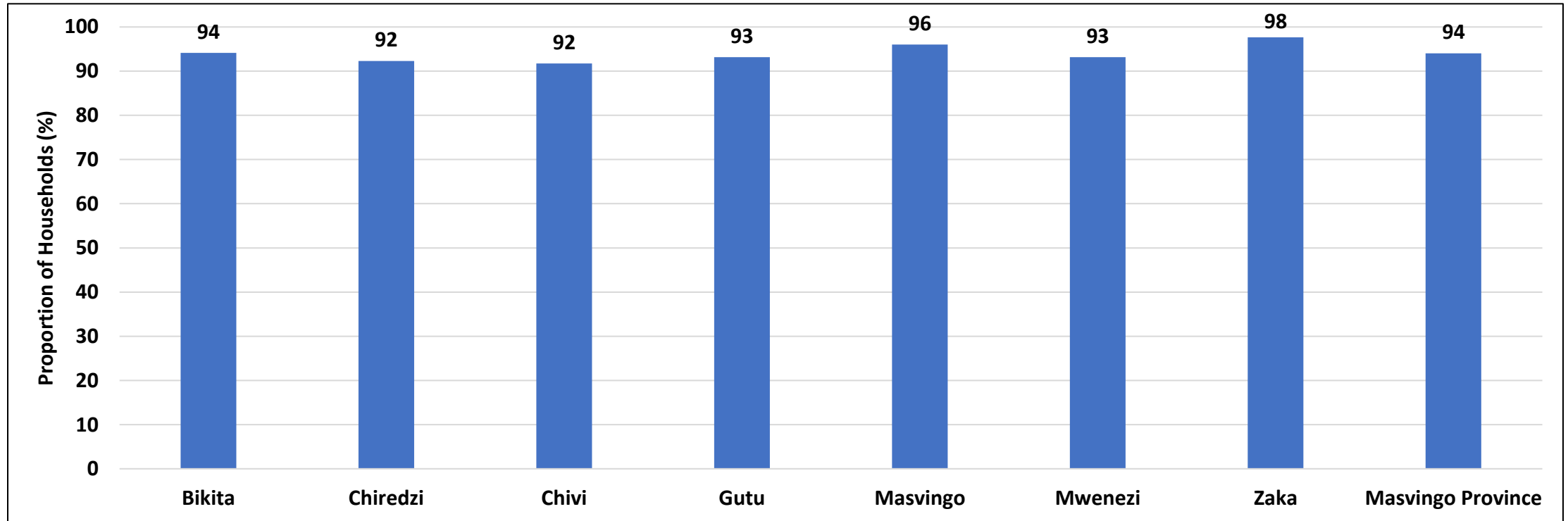
- Access to agricultural training was generally high throughout the province.

Households which Received Agriculture Extension Visits from Extension Officers
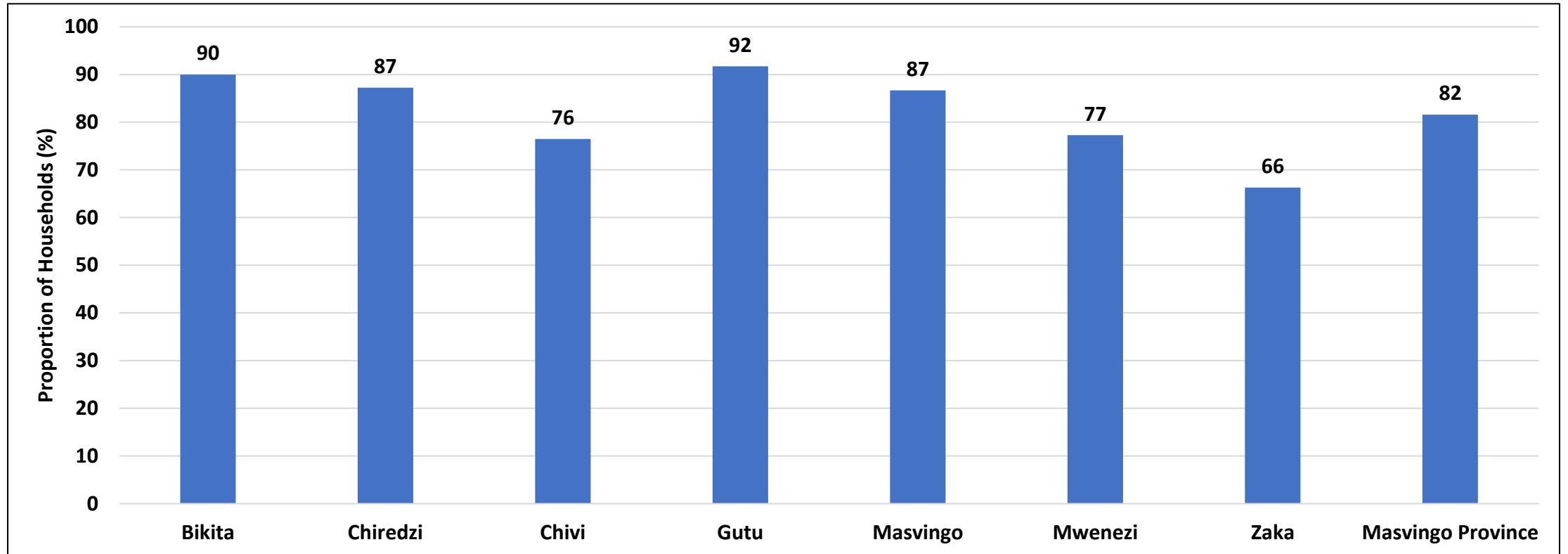
- Access to agricultural extension visits was generally high throughout the province with the exception of Zaka at 66%.

Households which Received Cropping Advice

Proportion of Households (%)

	Bikita	Chiredzi	Chivi	Gutu	Masvingo	Mwenezi	Zaka	Masvingo Province
Value	94	84	84	93	90	86	86	88
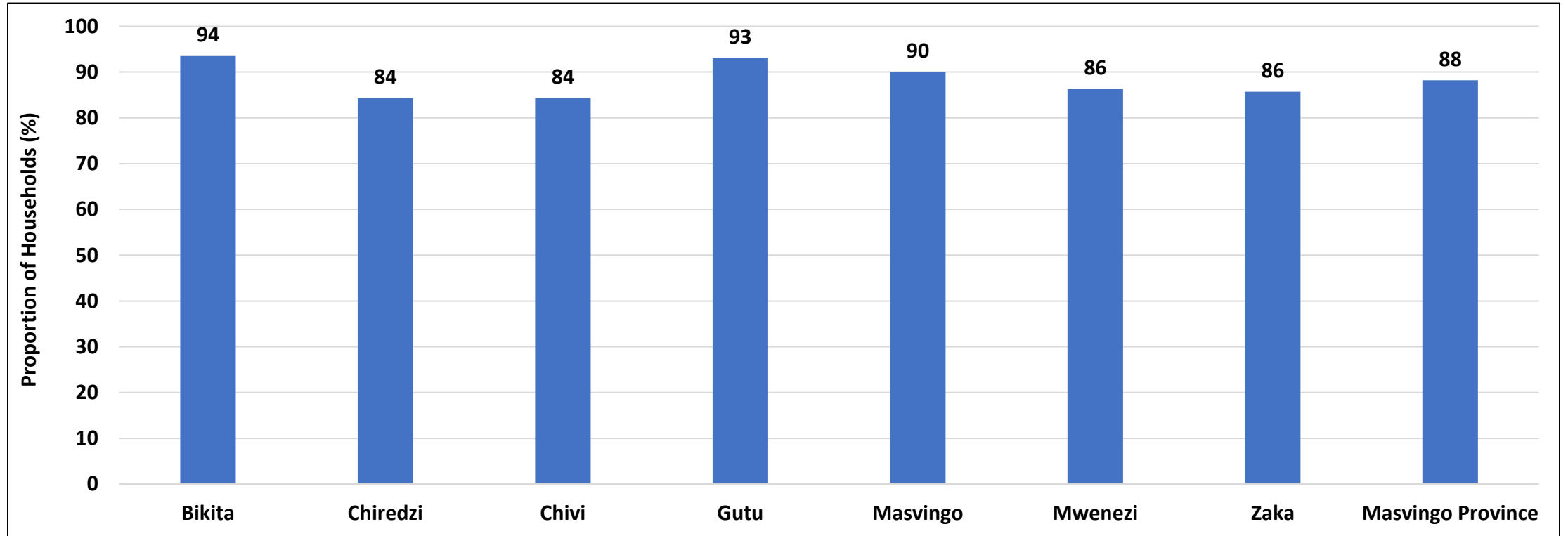
- Approximately 88% of households in Masvingo Province received cropping advice from extension officers.

Households which Received Livestock Advice
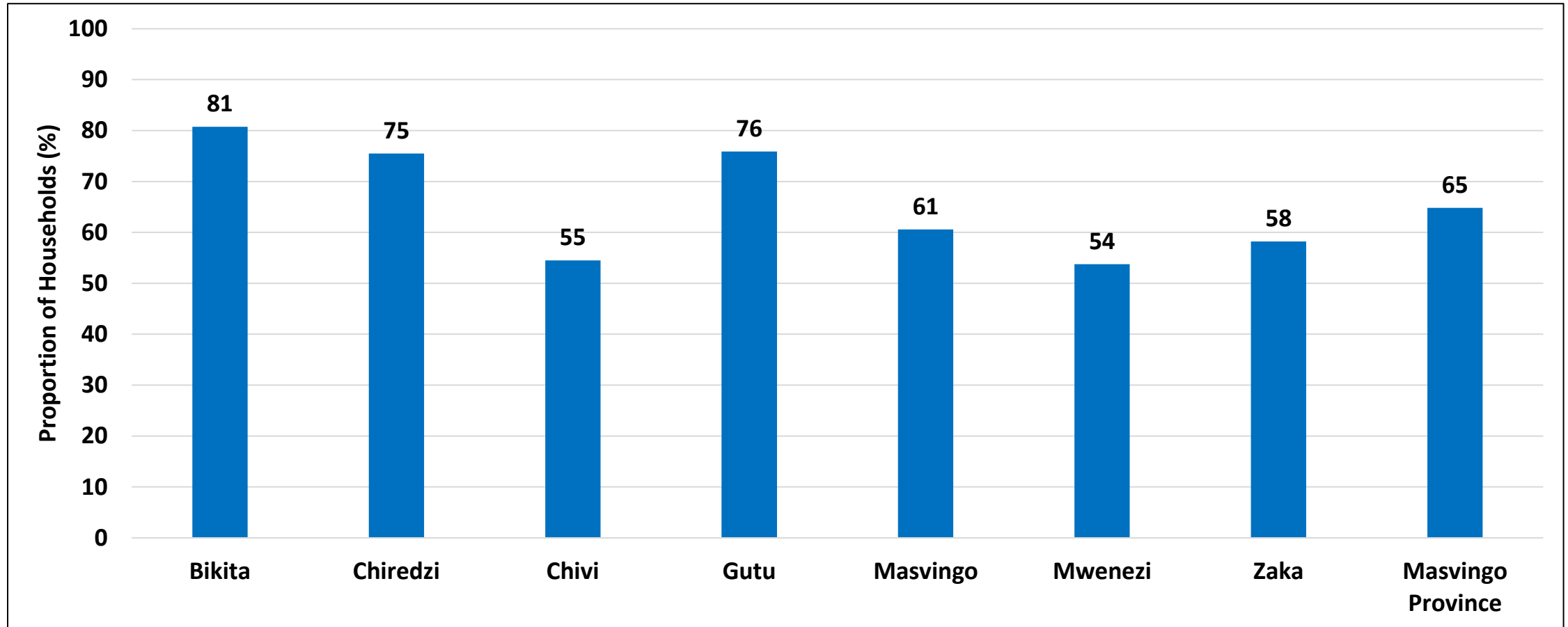
- Approximately 65% of households in the province had received livestock advice from extension officers.

Households Satisfied with Livestock Advice Received
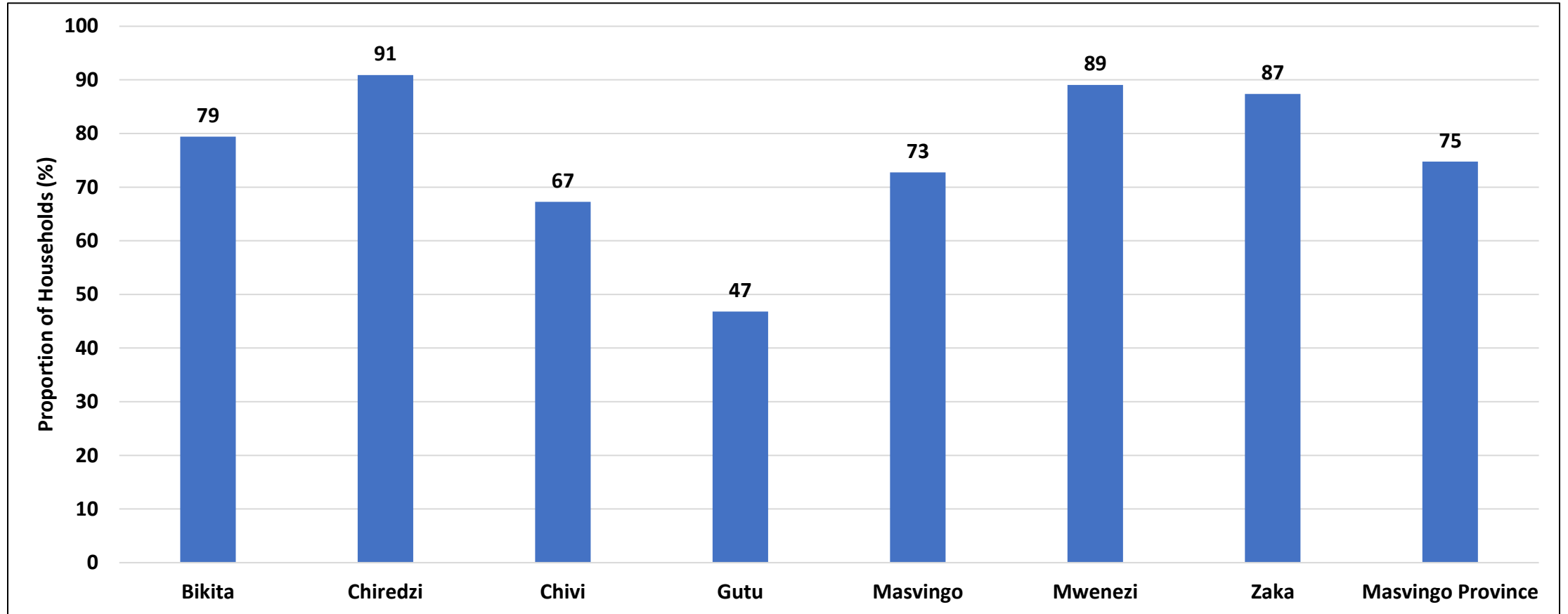
- Of the households that received livestock advice in Masvingo province, 75% were satisfied.

Households which Received Extension Support on January Disease
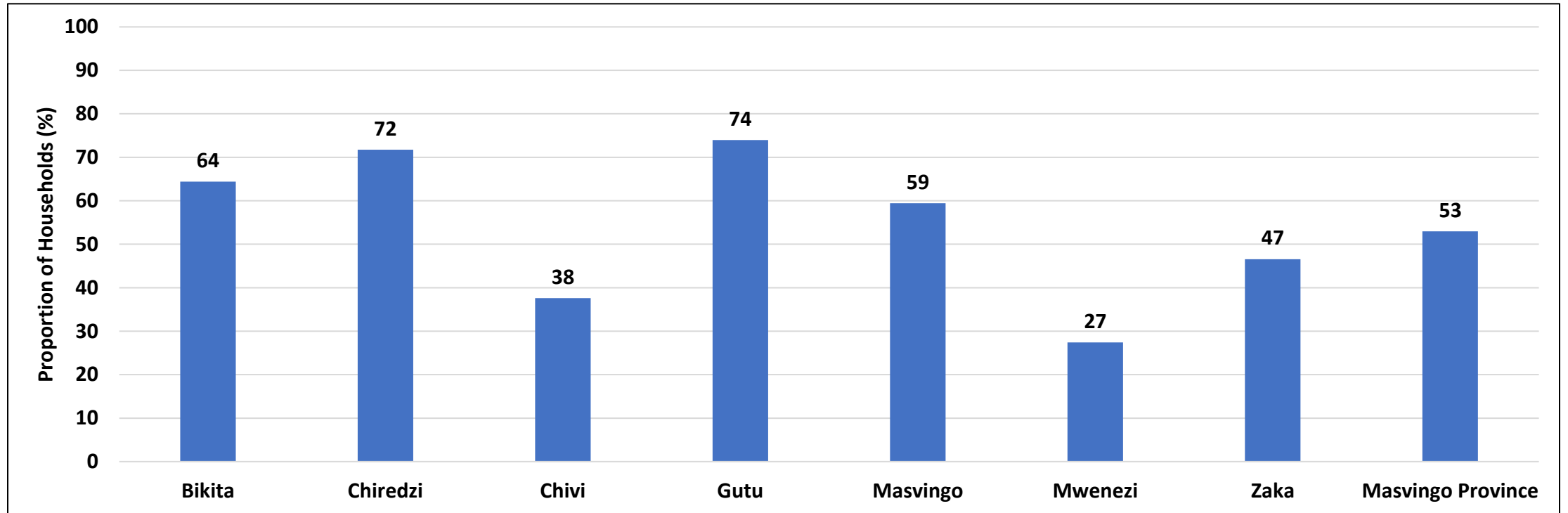
- January disease extension support in Masvingo province was 53%.

Households which Received Extension Support on Fall Army Worm
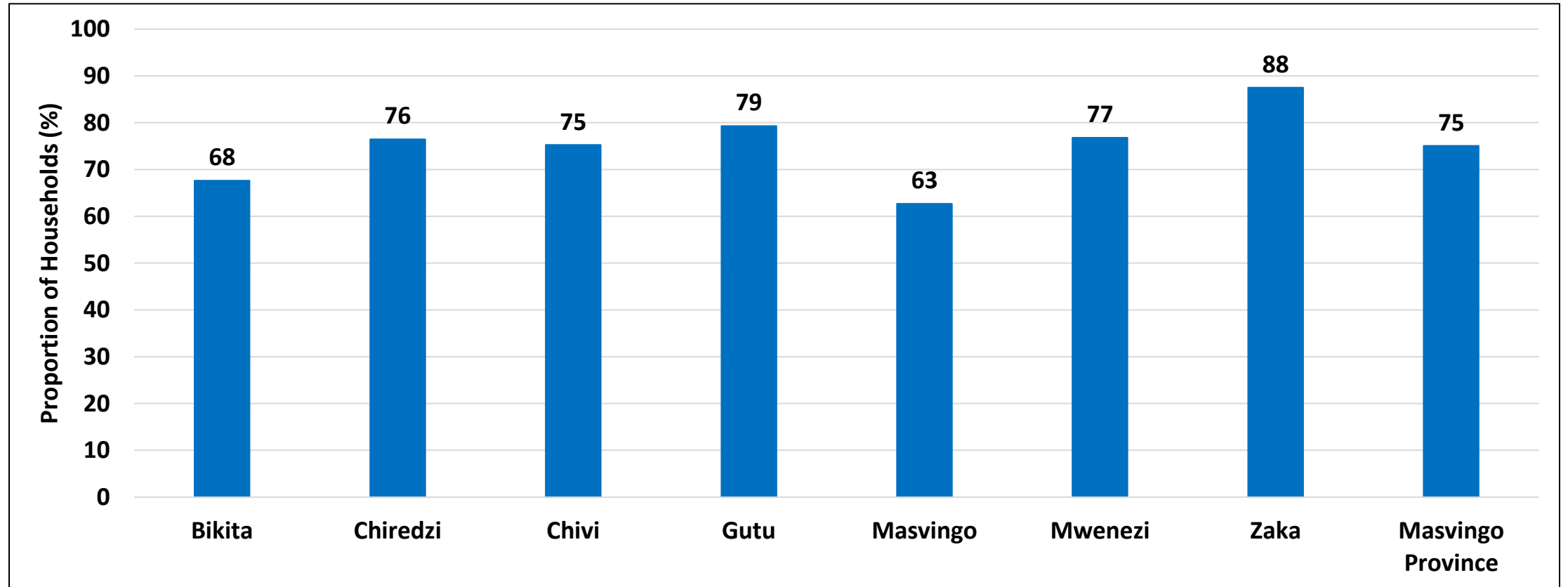
- Throughout the province, the proportion of households that were reached with extension support towards FAW was 75%.
- Zaka (88%) and Gutu (79%) had the highest proportion of households reached.

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Households which Received Extension Support on Weather and Climate
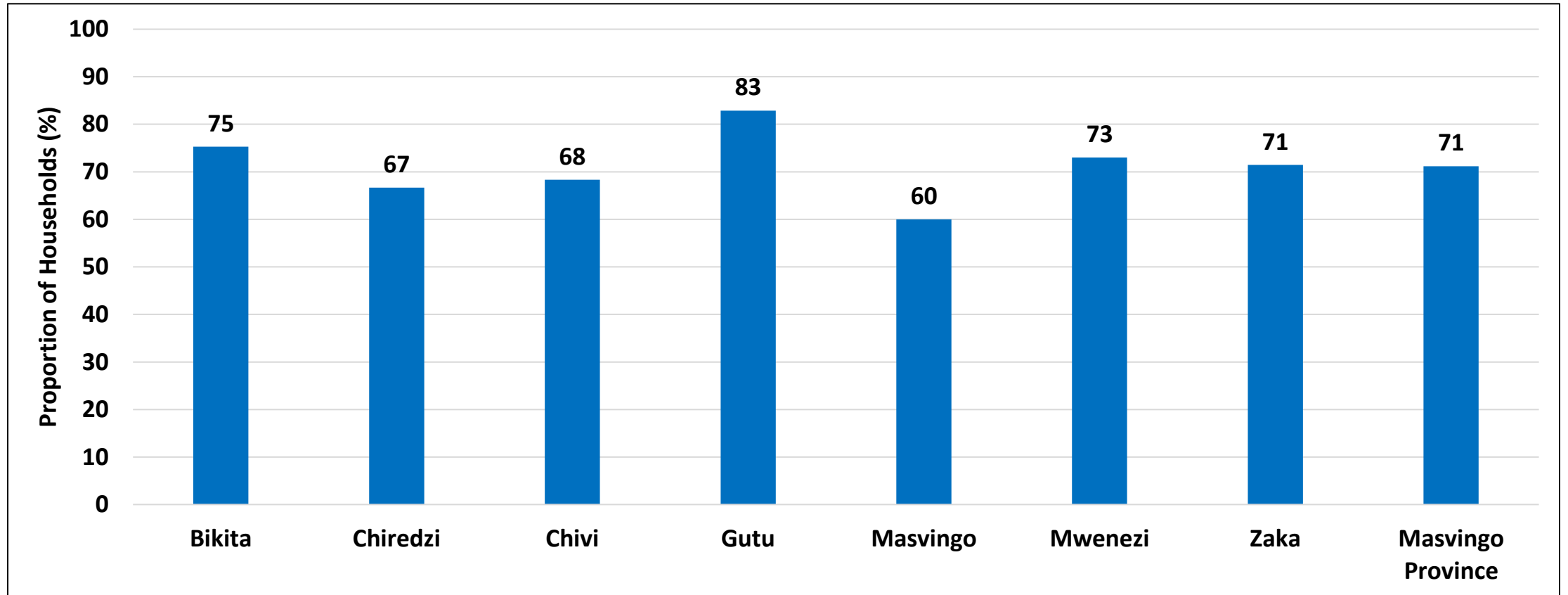
- Gutu (83%) reported the highest proportion of households which received extension support on weather and climate, whilst Masvingo Province had the lowest at 60%.

Access to Animal Health Centres
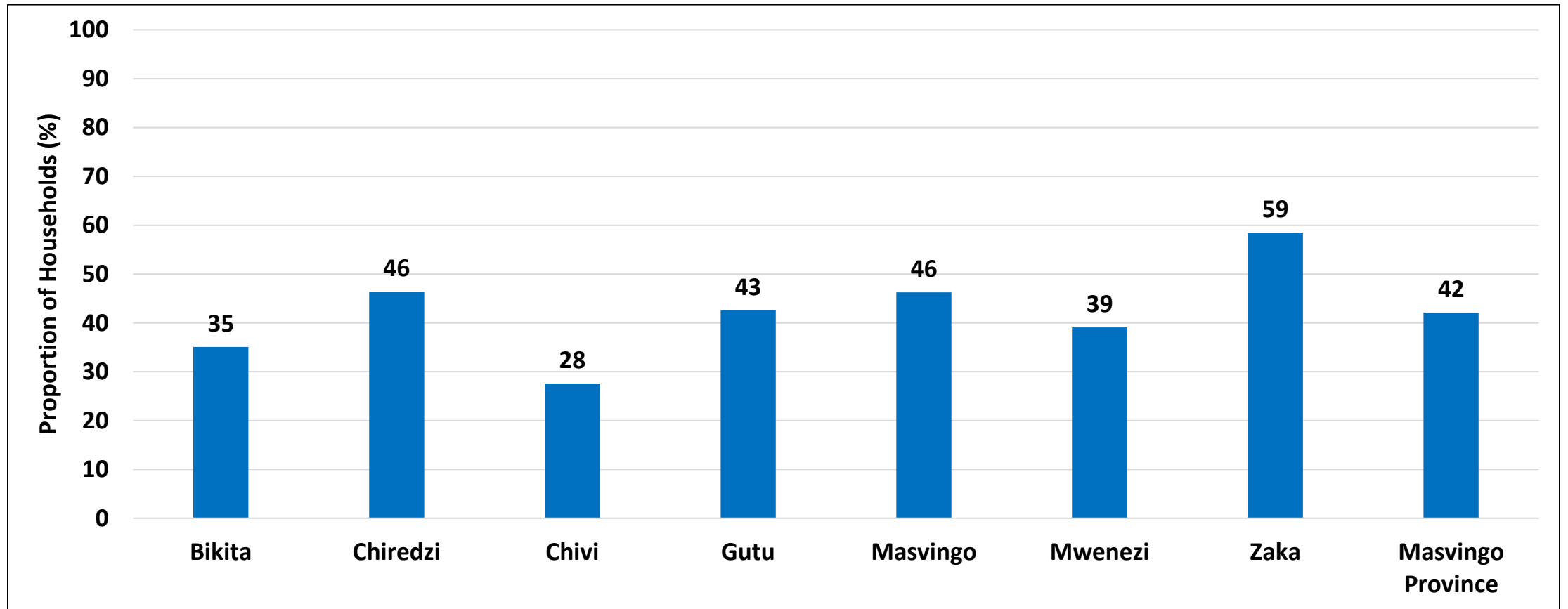
- Only 42% of the households with livestock in Masvingo province had access to animal health centres.

Satisfaction with Quality of Service Received from the Animal Health Centre Accessed
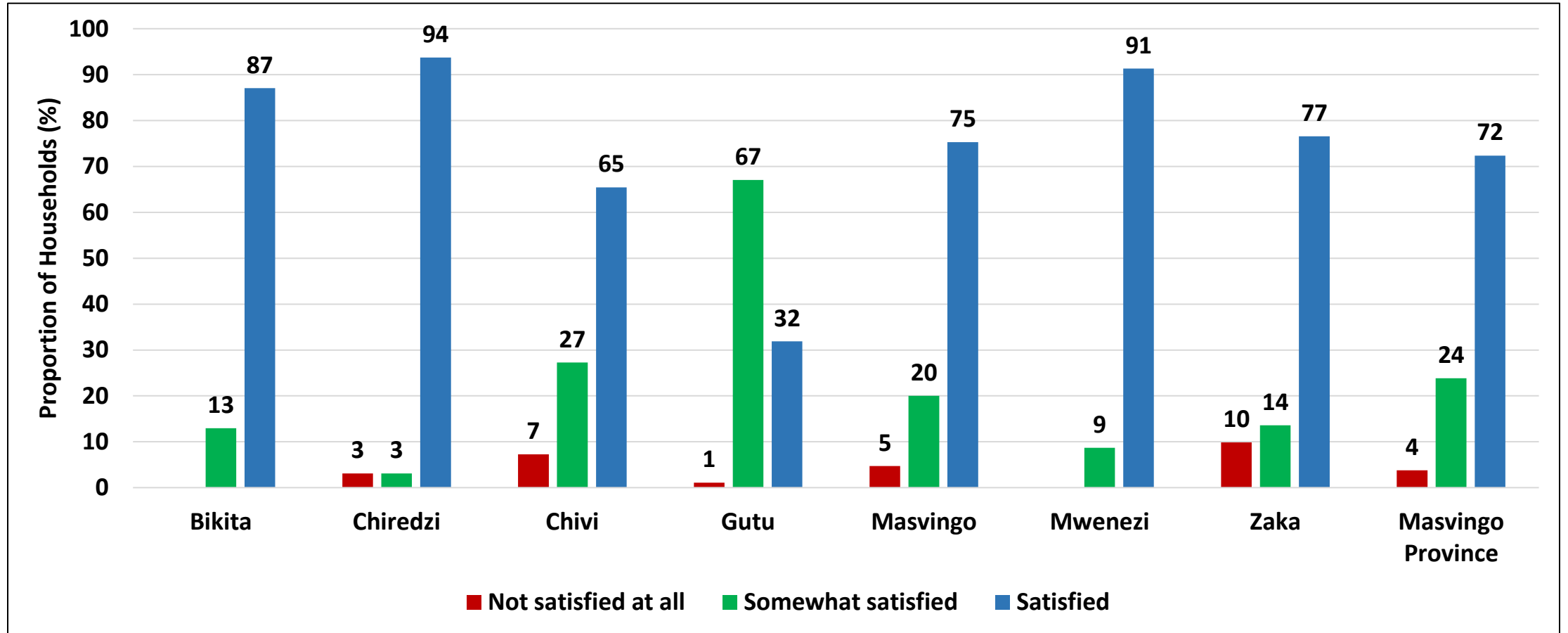
- Generally, 72% of households in Masvingo province that had accessed animal health centres in the province were satisfied by the service.

Access to Police Services

Police Services Reachable within One Hour
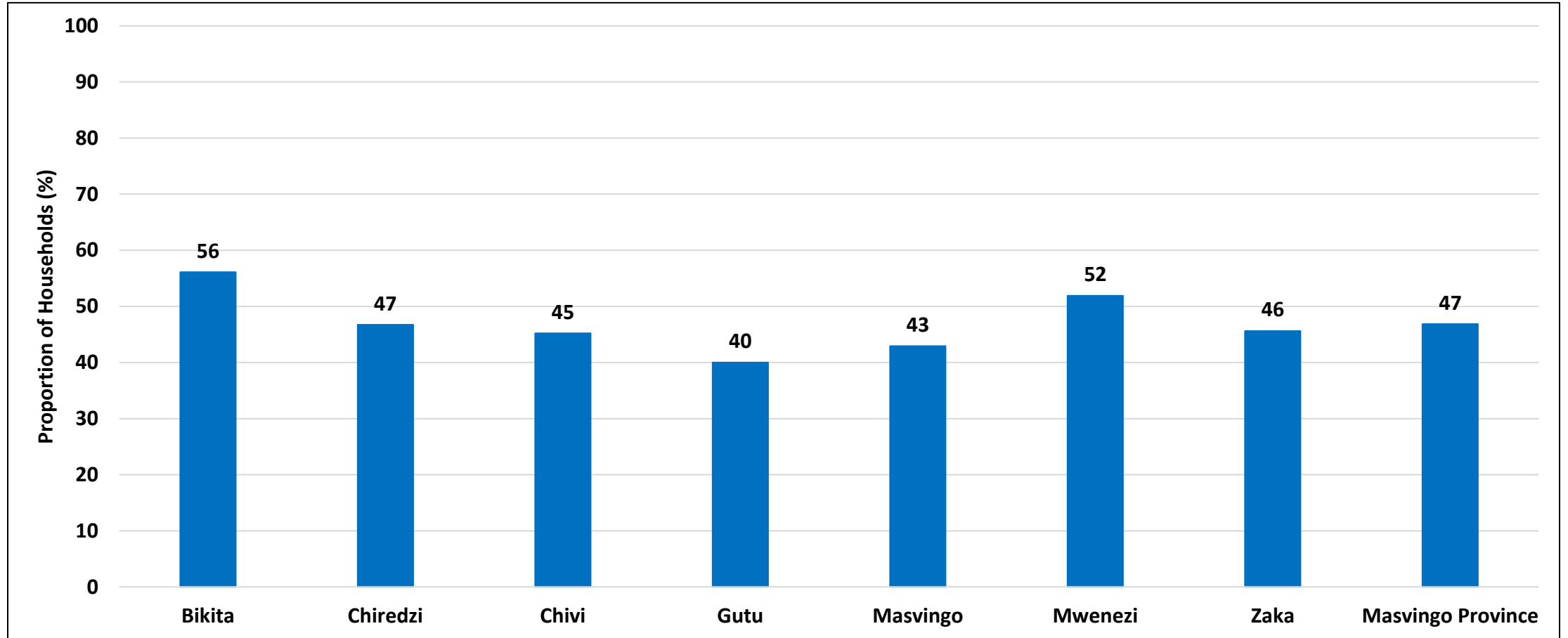
- Only 47% of the households in Masvingo province reported that they had police services reachable within one hour.

Access to Victim Friendly Services
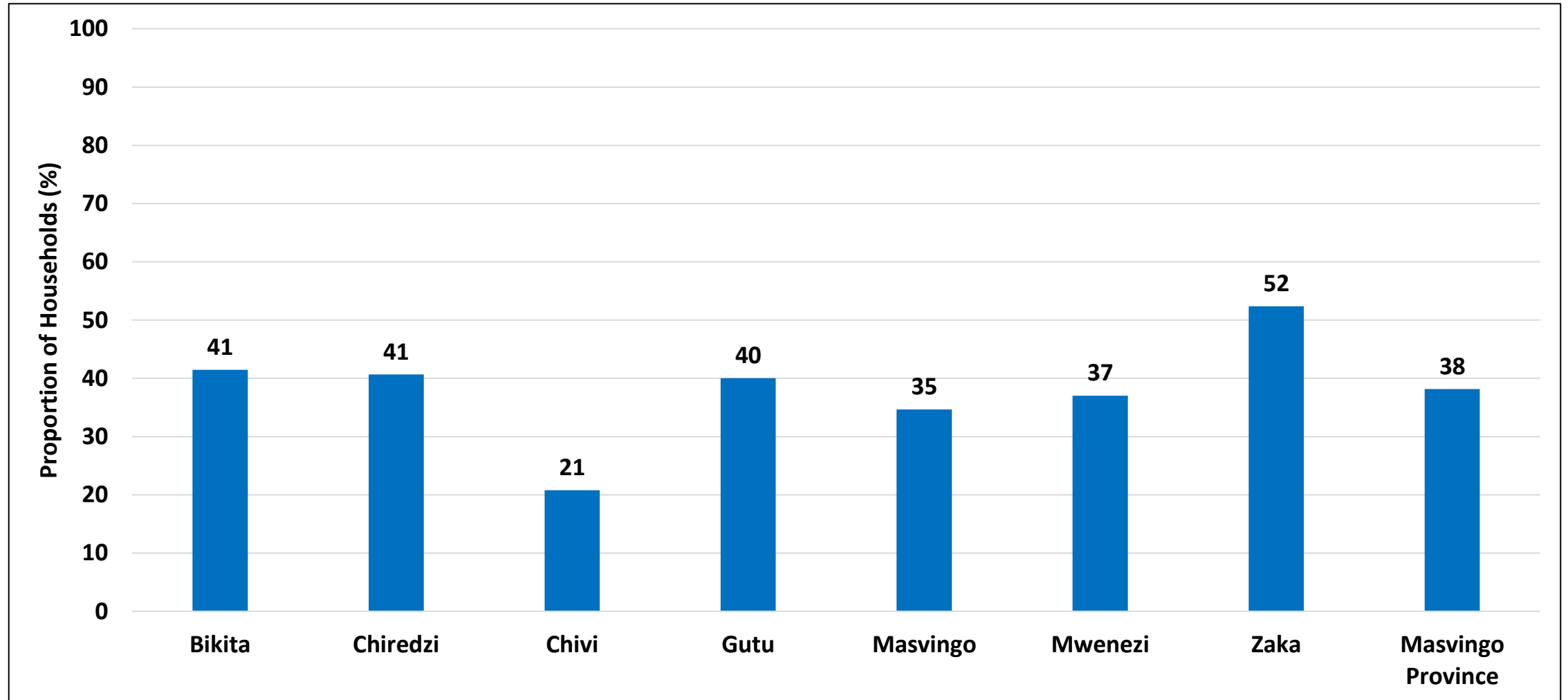
- Access to a victim friendly unit was reported by 38% of households in the province.

Approximate Distance of the Nearest Primary School
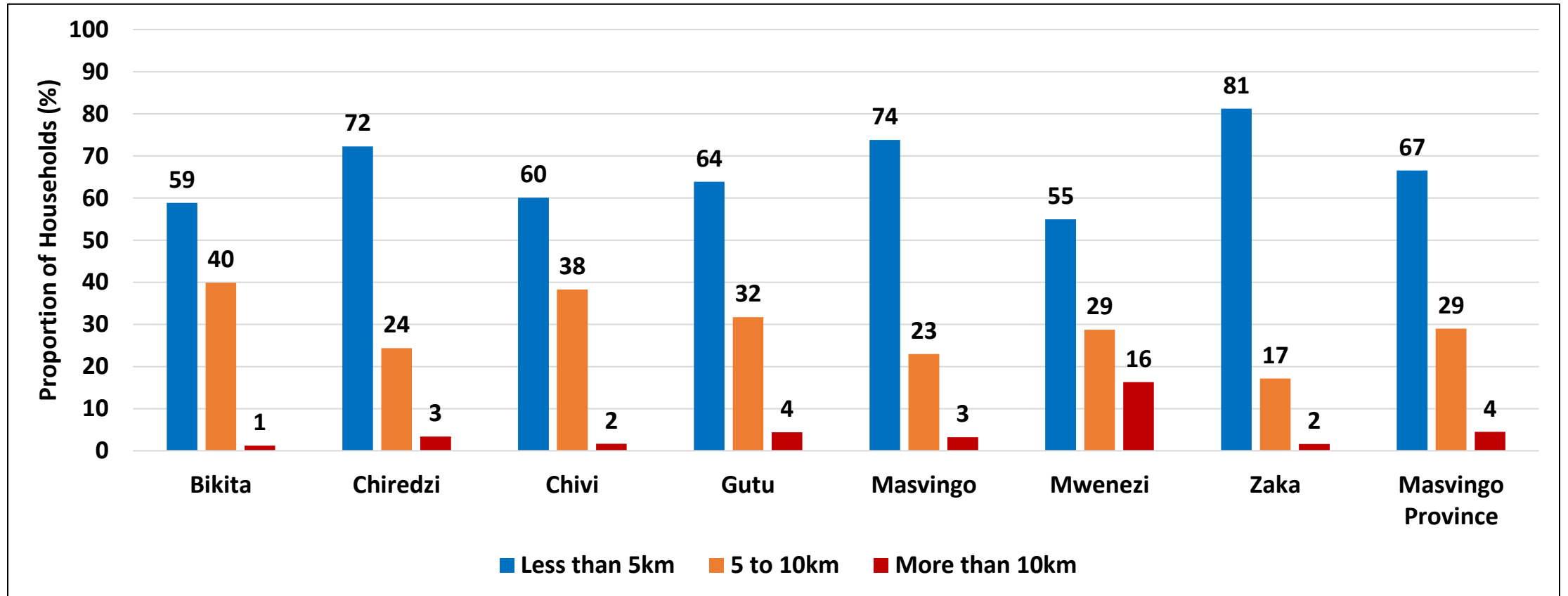
- About 67% households in the province reported to have access to a primary school within a distance of less than 5km.

- Four percent of households reported travelling over 10km to access the nearest primary school.

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Household Access to Health Related Information
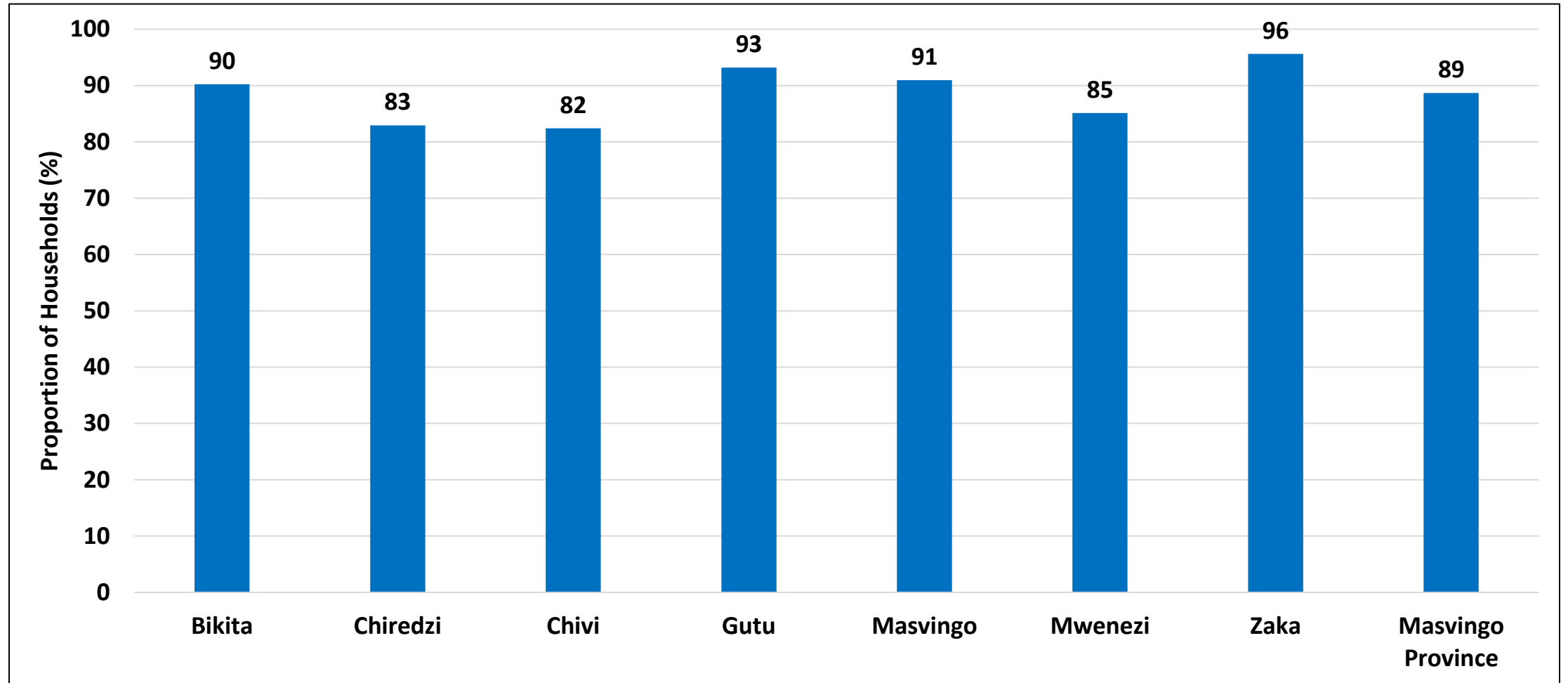
- Approximately 89% of households in the province had access to health related information.

Access to the Services of a Village Health Worker
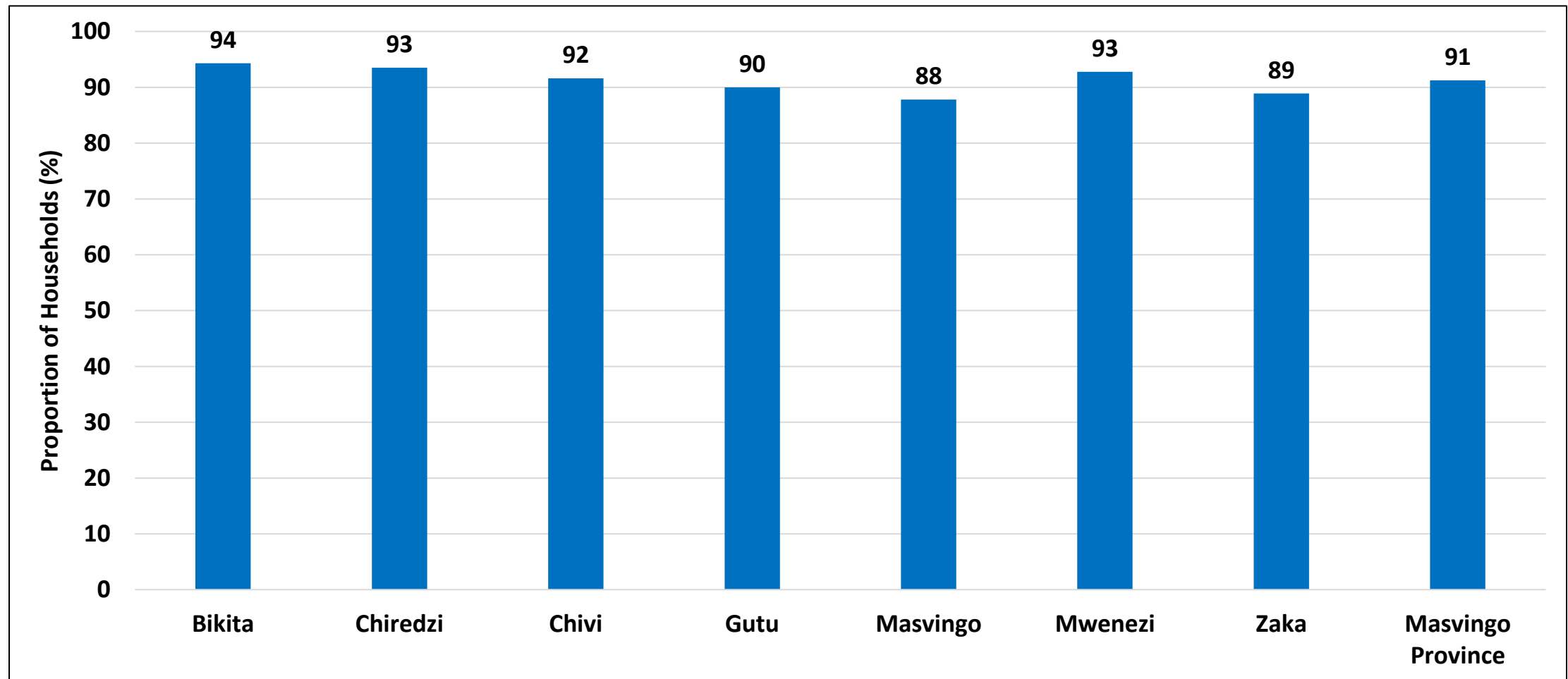
- About 94% of households in Bikita reported that they had access to a Village Health Worker.

Approximate Distance to the Nearest Health Facility/Clinic
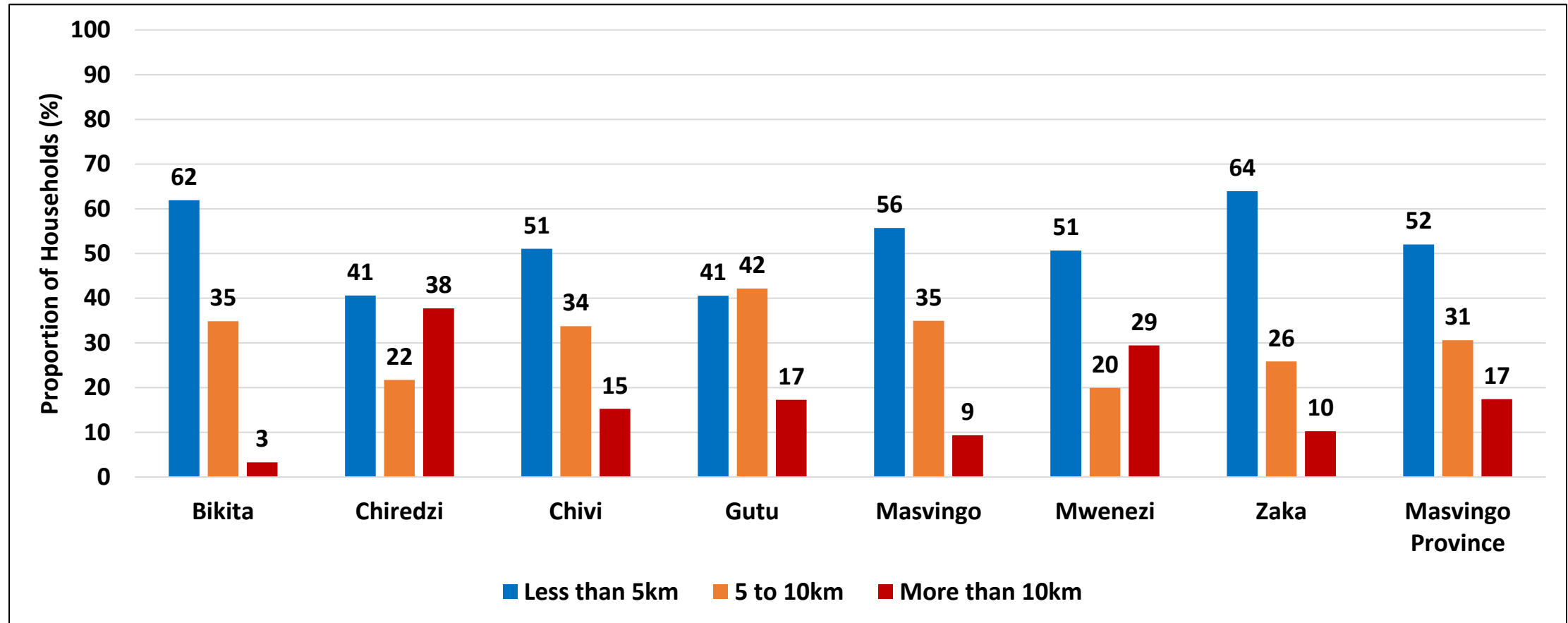
- About 52% of the households reported to have access to a health facility within a distance of less than 5km.
- Approximately 17% of the households reported travelling over 10km to access a health facility.

Access to Grain Storage Facility
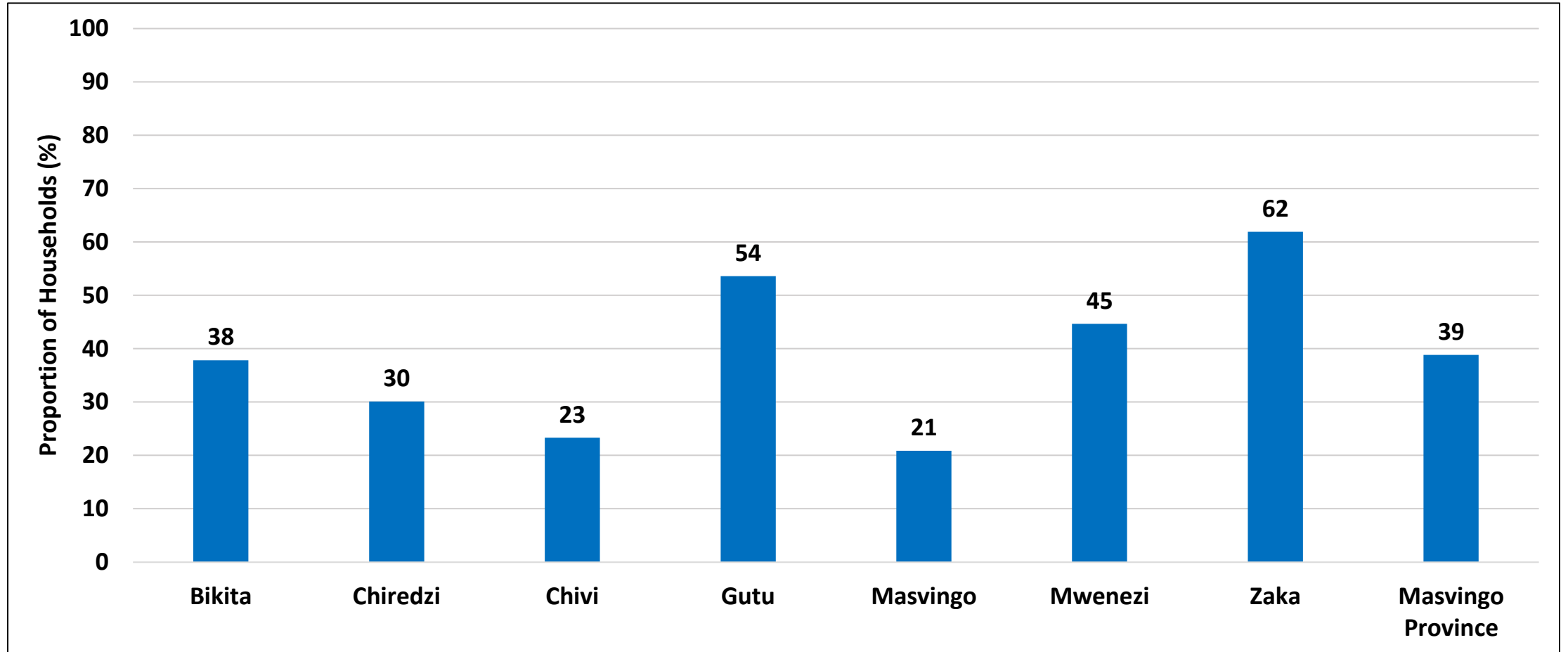
- Zaka (62%) had the highest proportion of households with access to a grain storage facility.

Structures Used to Store Grain

	Ordinary room (%)	Traditional granary (%)	Ordinary granary (%)	Improved granary (%)	Bin/drum (%)	Crib (%)	Hermatic bags (%)	Metal silos (%)
Bikita	85	13	1	1	0	0	0	0
Chiredzi	72	24	3	1	0	0	0	0
Chivi	43	25	**15**	0	2	5	**10**	0
Gutu	88	9	1	0	0	1	1	0
Masvingo	25	**47**	4	**8**	0	**17**	0	0
Mwenezi	35	**52**	10	1	0	1	1	0
Zaka	**96**	**3**	**0**	0	1	0	0	0
Masvingo Province	**71**	**21**	4	1	0	2	1	0

- In Masvingo province, about 71% of households were storing their grain in ordinary rooms which was above the national average of 63%.

Households which Received Early Warning Information
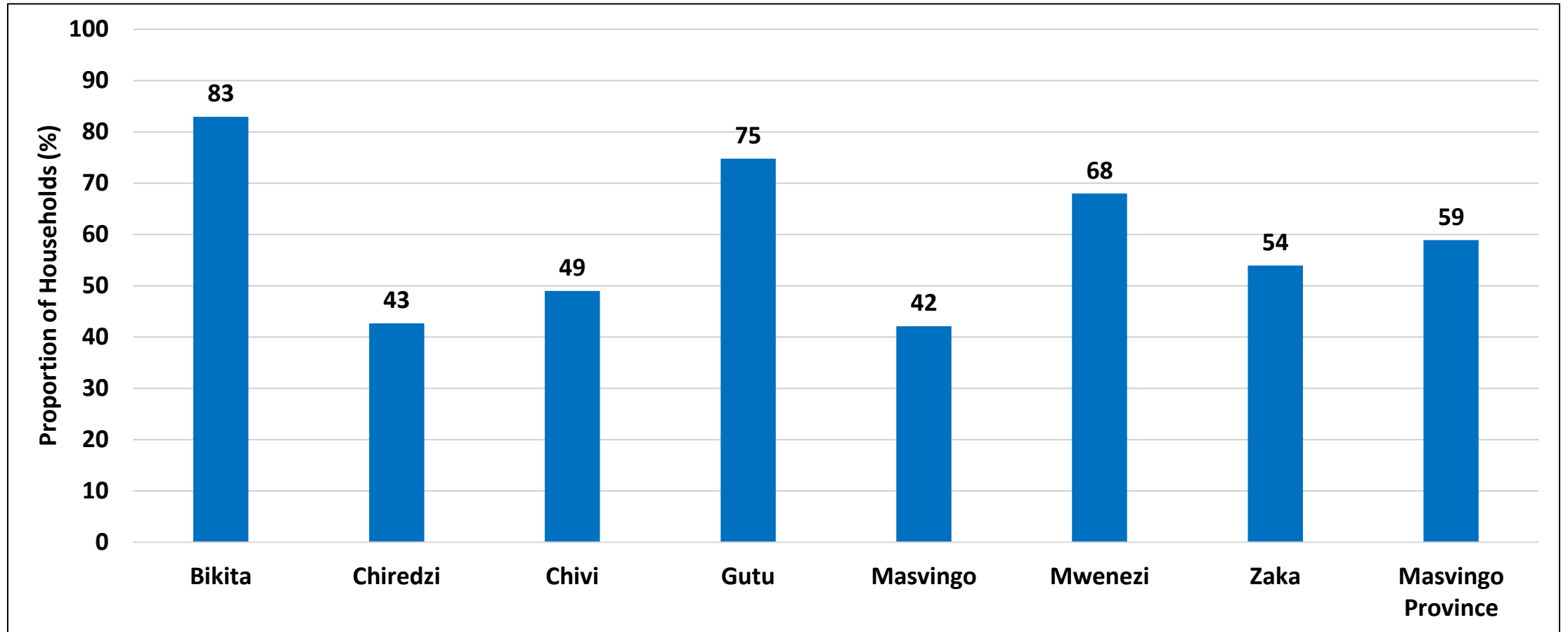
- At provincial level, the proportion of households which received early warning information on weather, climate change and seasonal performance was 59%.

- Masvingo district (42%) had the least proportion of households which received early warning information.

Households which used Early Warning Information
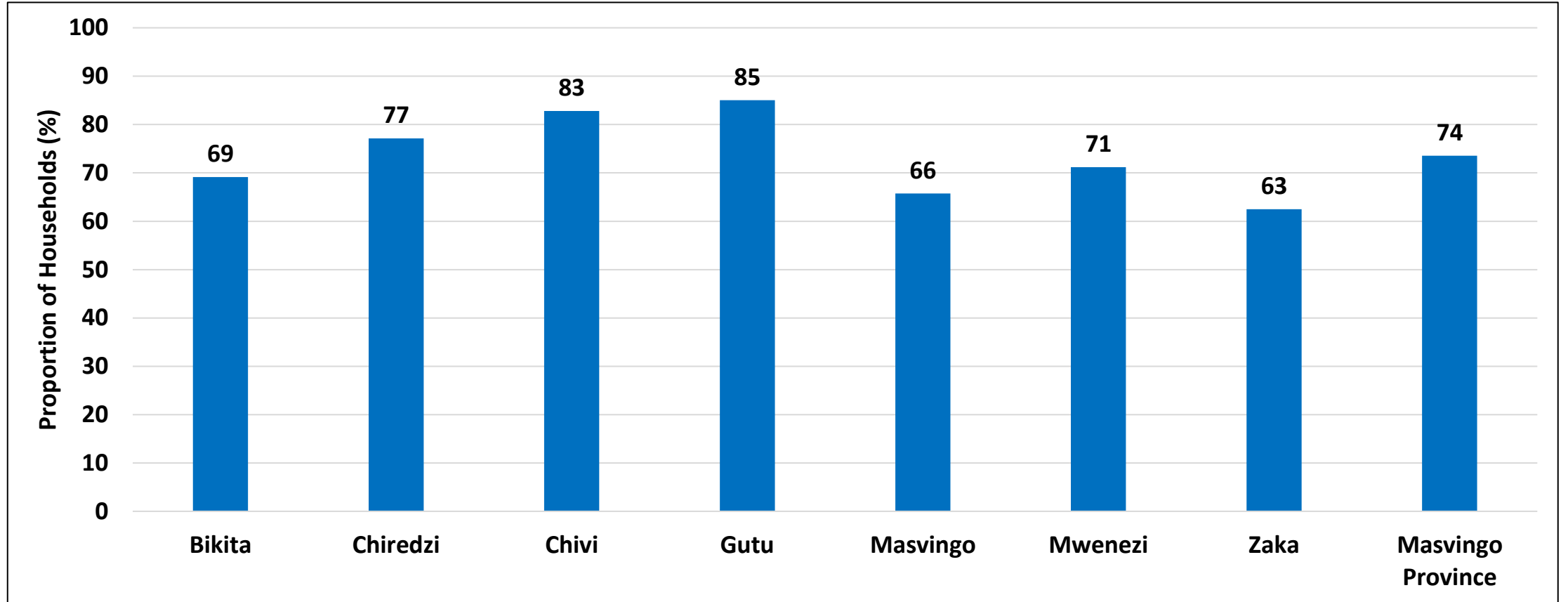
- Of those households which received the early warning information in Masvingo province, 74% reported to have used the information for planning response mechanisms.

Households with Members who Received Information on Public Health Diseases

	Rabies (%)	Anthrax (%)	Cholera (%)	Typhoid (%)	Dysentery (%)	Salmonella (%)	Listeria (%)
Bikita	36.2	62.2	54.1	41.6	**37.8**	0.0	0.0
Chiredzi	47.1	**30.3**	69.3	30.3	14.7	2.5	1.7
Chivi	56.6	58.6	56.6	34.2	26.3	0.7	0.0
Gutu	51.0	63.5	86.5	25.0	13.5	**5.2**	**2.1**
Masvingo	40.4	45.0	78.3	**49.2**	15.8	1.7	0.4
Mwenezi	**78.1**	**70.1**	82.1	44.6	36.6	4.0	1.8
Zaka	45.4	67.8	**97.3**	33.3	**6.6**	1.6	1.1
Masvingo Province	**50.8**	55.1	**74.7**	38.2	22.0	2.1	1.0

- About 97.3% of households in Zaka district reported that they had received information on cholera.

Sources of Information on Gender Based Violence

	Radio (%)	Other household member (%)	Television (%)	Newspaper (%)	Social media (%)	Internet browsing (%)	Government Extension Worker (%)	Health workers (%)	Health promoters (%)	Friends and relatives (%)	UN/NGOs (%)	Police (%)	Other (%)
Bikita	76.3	10.1	0.6	0.0	3.6	0.0	39.6	23.7	1.8	10.7	6.5	21.3	5.9
Chiredzi	68.9	10.7	6.8	1.0	3.9	0.0	**5.8**	21.4	0.0	9.7	4.9	20.4	1.0
Chivi	73.3	7.8	0.9	0.9	**1.7**	0.9	**47.4**	**44.0**	33.6	5.2	2.6	20.7	0.0
Gutu	**85.3**	10.1	5.4	3.1	3.1	0.0	27.9	17.1	4.7	0.8	0.8	17.1	2.3
Masvingo	67.0	5.5	**30.3**	**19.3**	9.2	**1.8**	42.2	42.2	**34.9**	**22.9**	3.7	**23.9**	10.1
Mwenezi	65.2	**2.9**	5.8	4.3	7.2	0.0	36.2	15.9	8.7	4.3	**17.4**	13.0	5.8
Zaka	**41.5**	3.8	2.3	0.0	**10.0**	0.0	33.8	10.8	17.7	10.8	16.9	8.5	**20.0**
Masvingo Province	**68.7**	7.6	6.8	3.6	5.3	0.4	**33.8**	**25.0**	**13.9**	9.3	7.0	**18.1**	6.7

- Radio (68.7%) was the most common source of information on Gender Based Violence, at provincial level the proportion was 69%.

Household Ownership of Infrastructure that Enhances Food and Nutrition Security

	Irrigation (%)	Farming equipment (%)	Fowl runs (%)	Solar powered water source (%)	Borehole (%)	Storage facility (%)	Savings (%)	Beehives (%)	Nutrition gardening (%)	Agro-forestry (%)	Other (%)
Bikita	0.5	0.5	20.9	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	**82.8**	0.0	13.5
Chiredzi	11.2	2.9	12.8	1.2	3.3	0.8	14.0	0.4	**24.0**	0.0	39.3
Chivi	**19.1**	2.9	9.1	**22.0**	2.5	5.4	1.7	0.0	65.1	0.0	22.0
Gutu	0.0	7.6	**65.2**	0.8	0.0	**25.6**	**26.0**	1.2	18.0	0.0	2.0
Masvingo	18.2	44.3	43.9	4.7	**10.7**	21.3	7.5	**2.4**	27.7	0.0	2.8
Mwenezi	1.8	32.4	41.8	0.0	1.3	4.0	2.2	0.0	36.9	0.4	28.9
Zaka	2.4	**49.0**	43.7	0.4	2.4	19.2	2.9	0.4	57.6	6.5	21.2
Masvingo Province	**7.8**	**20.3**	**34.3**	4.2	3.0	**11.4**	8.0	0.7	**43.8**	1.0	18.3

- Chivi (19.1%) had the highest proportion of households which reported to have irrigation infrastructure, whilst Zaka had the highest proportion of households with farming equipment (49%).

- Food and Nutrition Security infrastructure is important in ensuring farming households enhance their ability to produce, store and utilise food.

ISALS and Loans

Sources of Loans
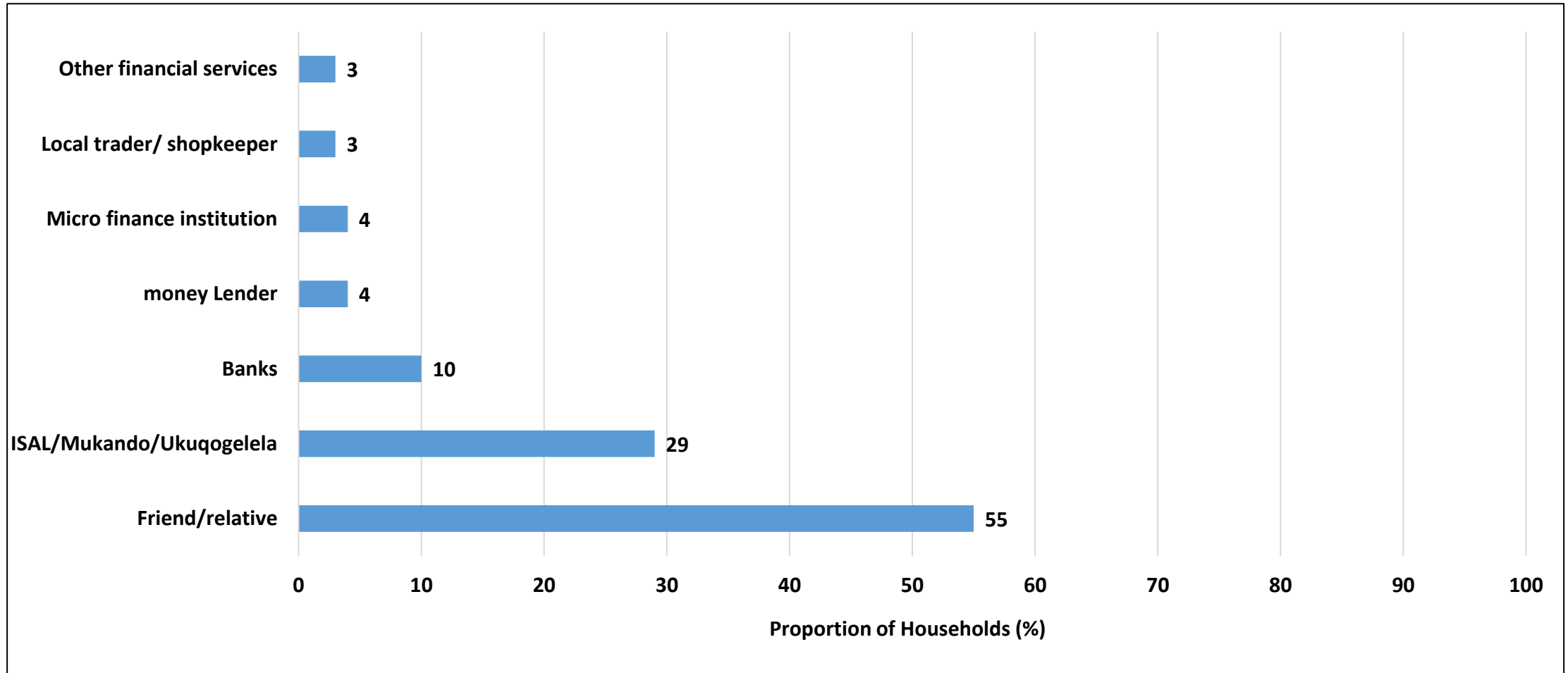
- Of the 6.1% households that received loans the majority of households reported that they received the loans from relatives or friends (55%).

Type of Loan and Primary Use of the Loan
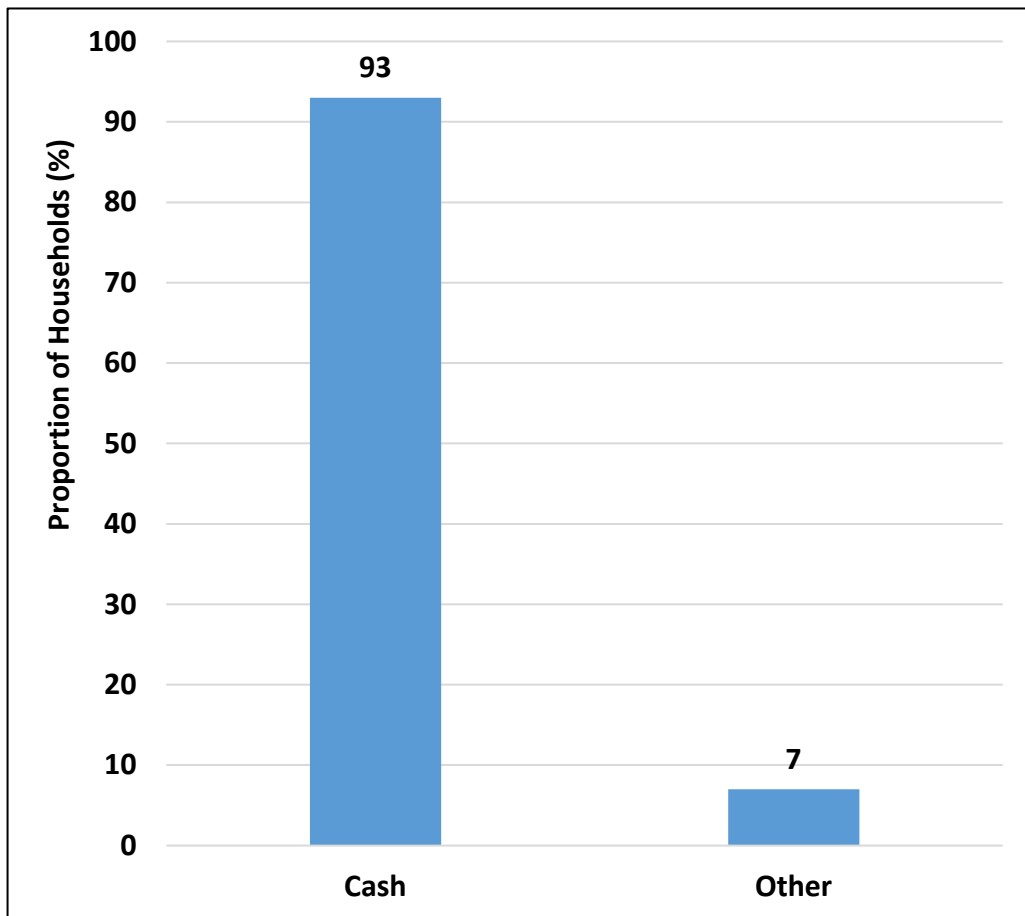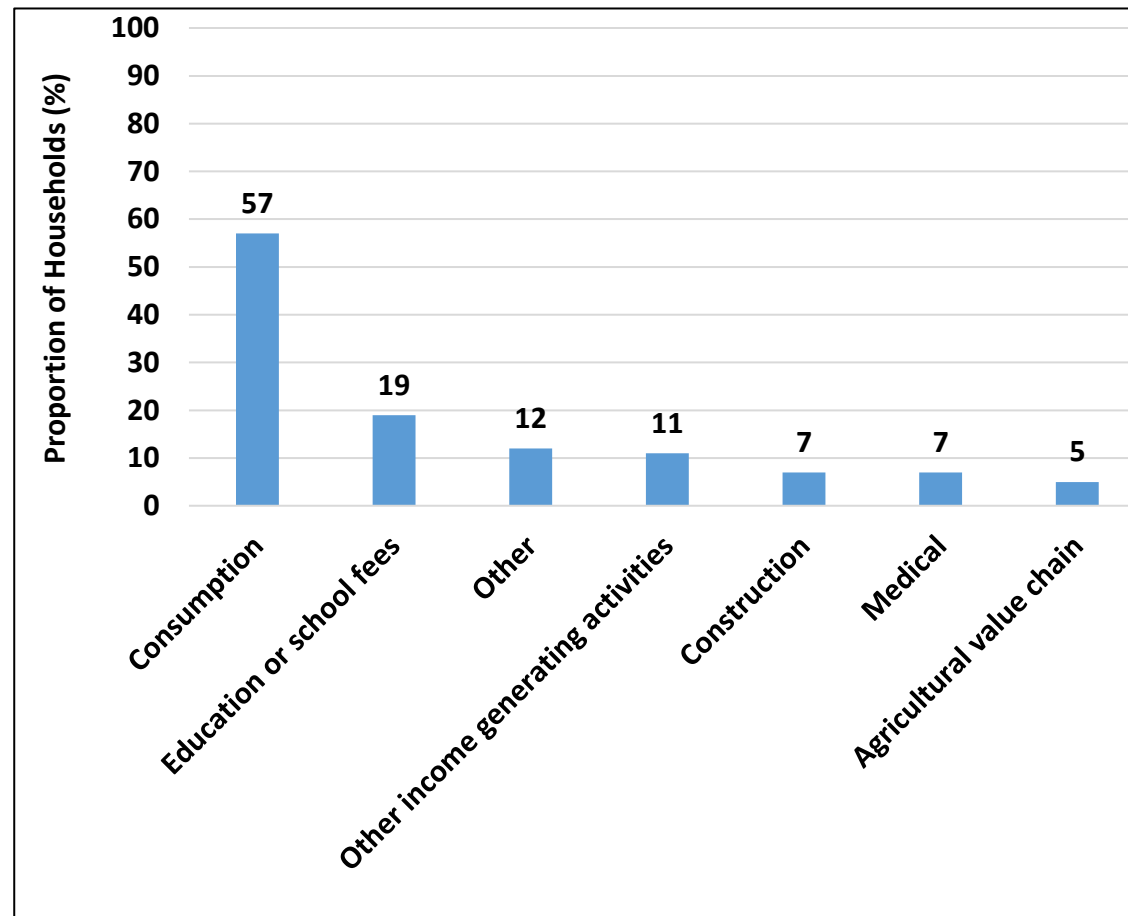
- Of those that received loans, the most common type received was cash (93%) which was mostly used for consumption (57%).

- About 19% of the households reported Education or school fees as the primary use of the loans received.

Households with a Member in an ISAL Group
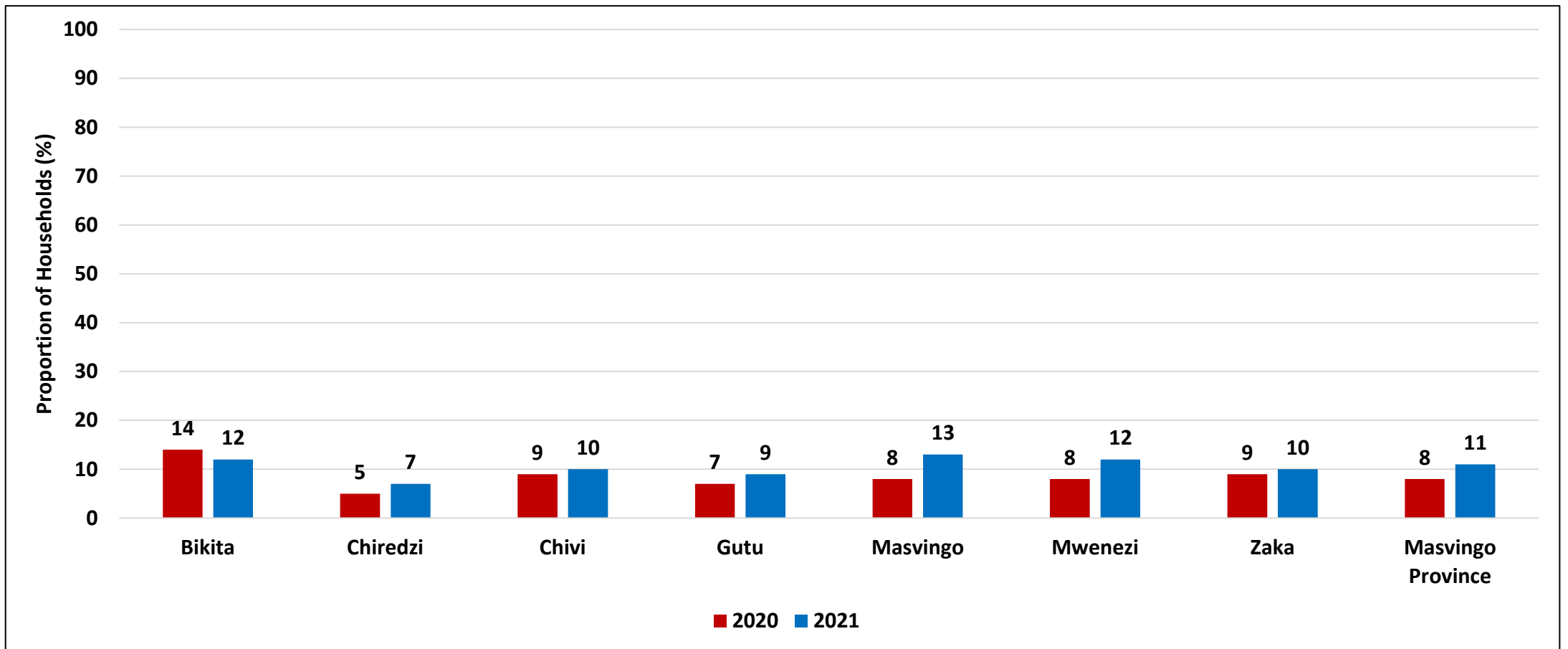
- About 11% of households in Masvingo province had a member in an Income Savings and Lending (ISAL) group.

- This was an increase from 8% reported last year 2020.

Use of Share –out from the ISAL Group
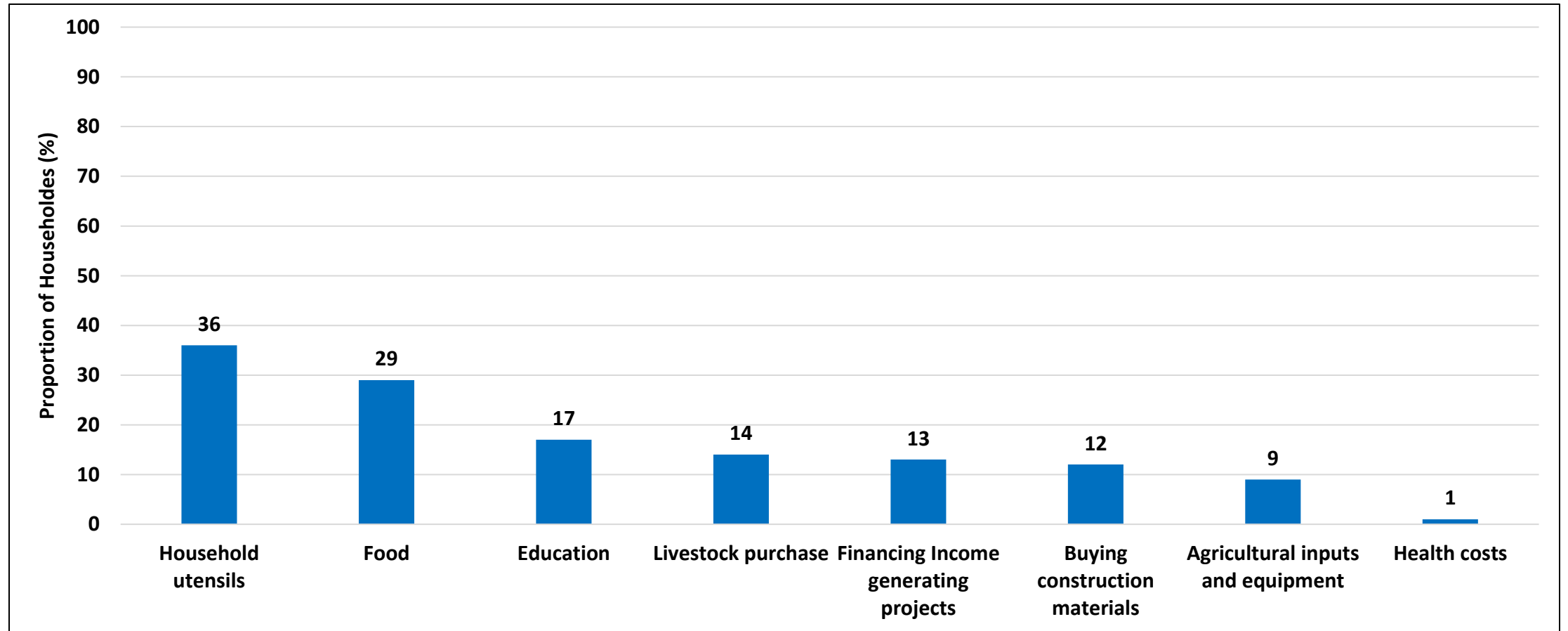
- In Masvingo Province about 36% of households reported that they used their Share-Out from ISAL group to buy household utensils.

Food Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score

Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
POOR	**0-21**	**An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 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, oil/fat 3 days, 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 as pulses, fruits, milk**

Food Consumption Patterns
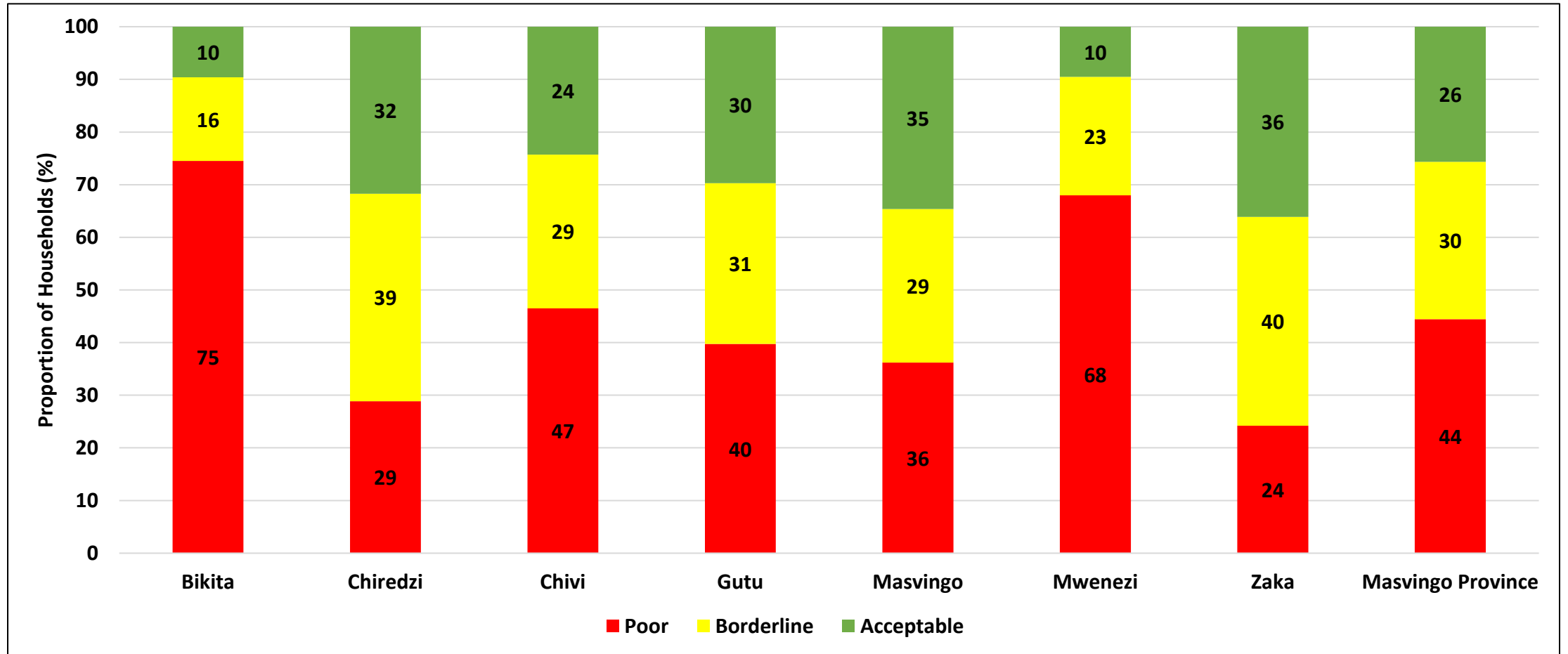
- About 44% of households had poor consumption patterns with Bikita (75%) having the highest proportion.

- Zaka (36%) had the highest proportion of households with acceptable diets

Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from the Various Food
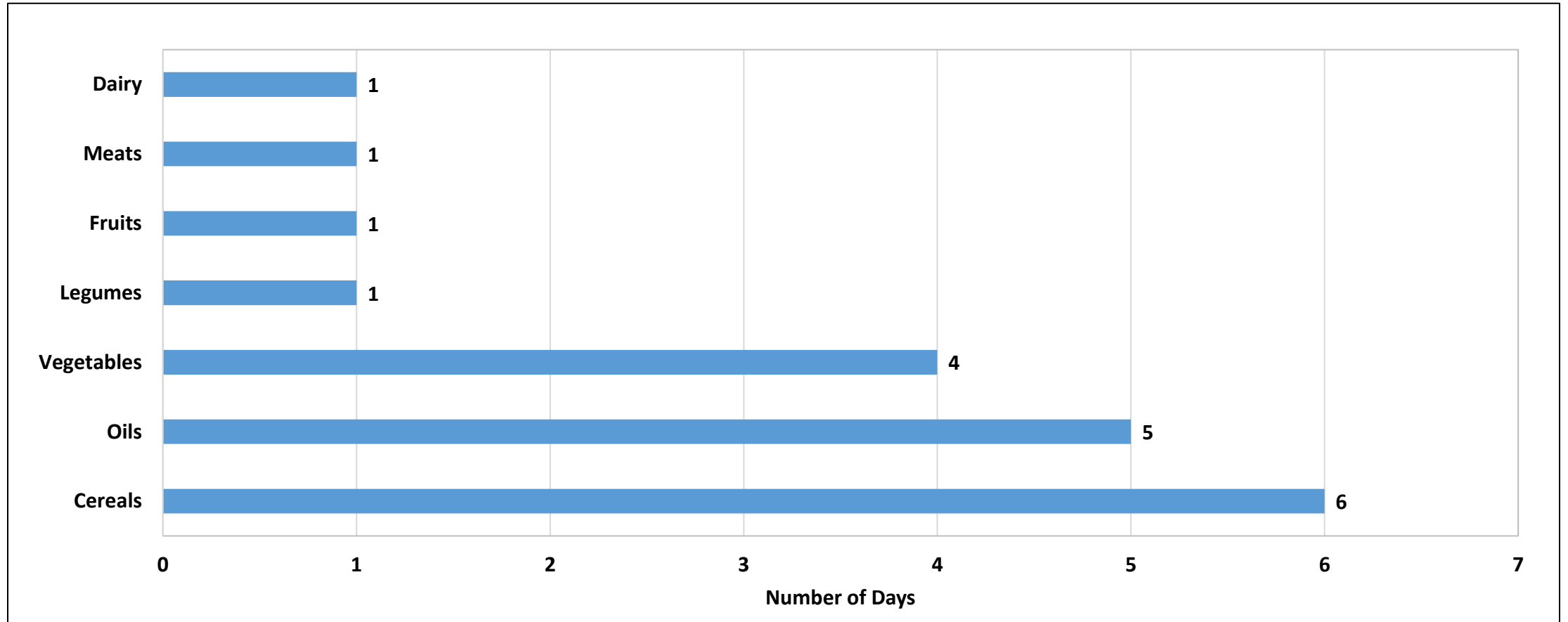
- The frequently consumed food types were cereals (6 days), oils (5 days) and vegetables (4 days).

- The least consumed foods were dairy products, meats, fruits and legumes which were consumed only 1 day during the 7 days preceding the survey.

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Household Hunger Scale
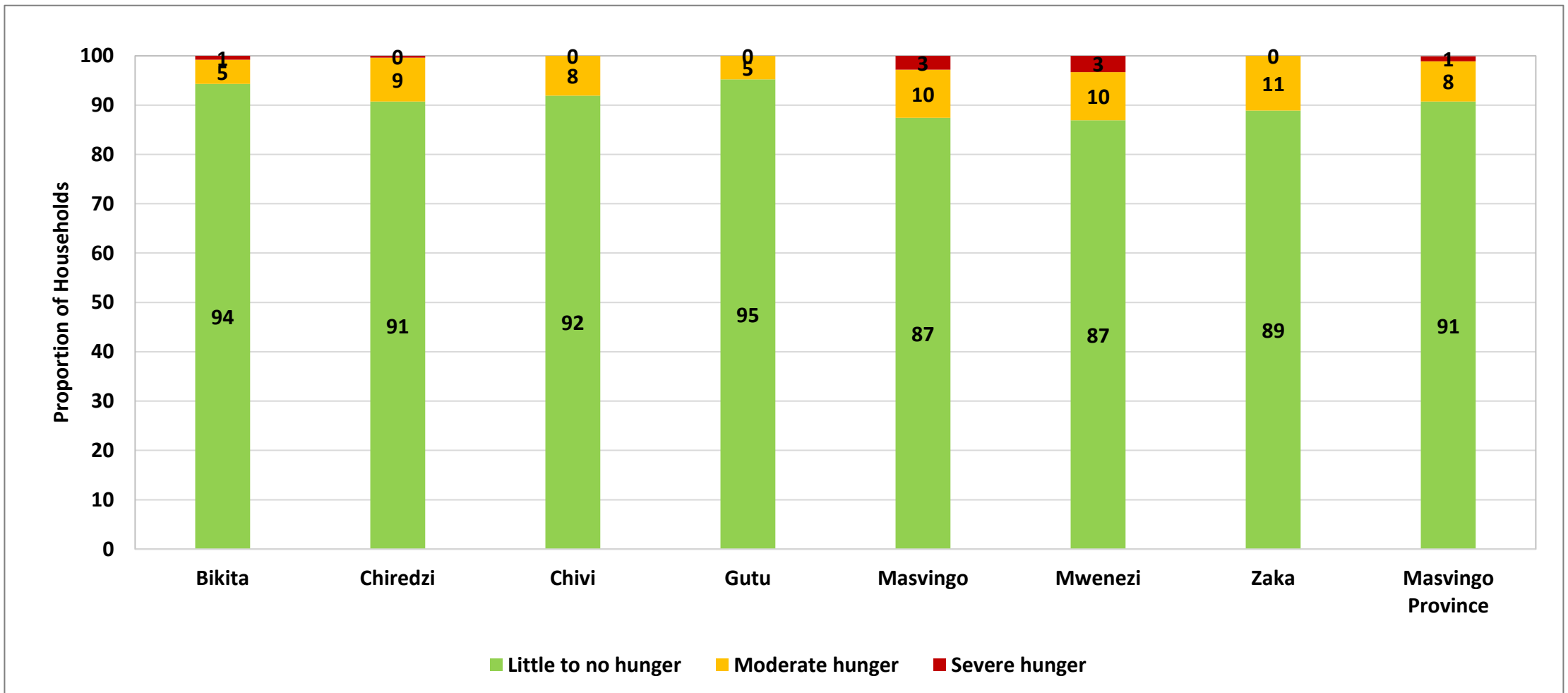
- At least 91% of households in the province reported little to no hunger while 9% were facing moderate to severe hunger.

Household Coping Strategies

The Coping Strategies Index (CSI)

- Households engage in various methods of coping when faced with food access challenges. The household consumption strategies are food consumption behaviours that households adopt when faced with challenges in accessing food.

- The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) considers both the frequency and severity of pre-selected coping strategies that a household used in the seven days prior to the survey. Reduced coping strategies index can be classified into three categories depending on the severity as shown below.

Low or no coping (CSI 0-3)   **Medium Coping (CSI 4-9)**   **High Coping (CSI ≥10)**

Household Consumption Coping Strategy Index (CSI)
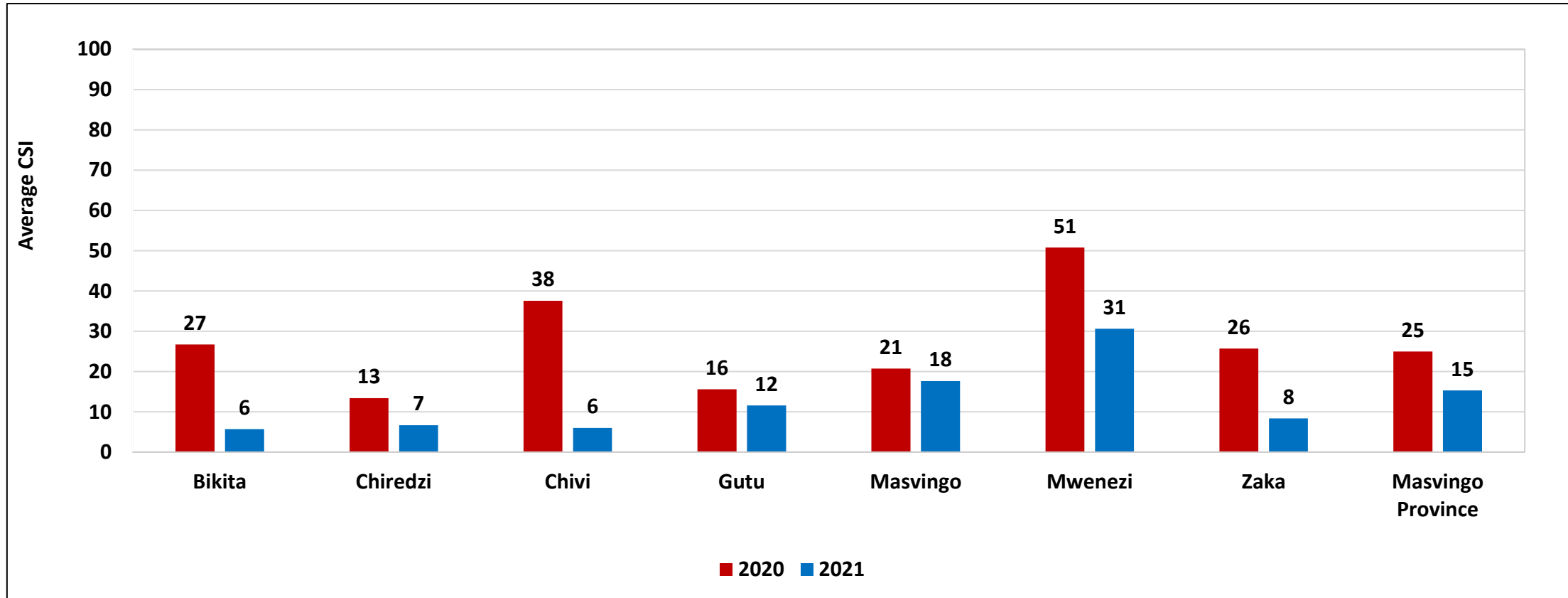
- Household consumption coping strategy score decreased across all districts when compared to 2020.

- Mwenezi (31%) reported the highest CSI in the province, an indication that households from the district were facing challenges in accessing adequate food.

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Household Consumption Coping Strategies

Strategy	Proportion of Households (%)
Send household members to beg	2
Send household members to eat elsewhere	3
Gather/hunt unusual types or amounts of wild food	3
Purchase/borrow food on credit	9
Skip entire days without eating	9
Harvest immature crops	12
Reduce adult consumption so children can eat	17
Borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives	20
Rely on casual labour for food	21
Limit/reduce portion size at mealtimes	27
Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods	29
Reduce number of meals eaten per day	30

- Reducing the number of meals consumed per day (30%), relying on less expensive foods (29%), and reducing meal portion size (27%) were the most commonly used strategies among the households which adopted consumption based coping strategies.

- The adoption of these strategies contribute negatively to nutrition outcomes.

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Household Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Chart: Proportion of Households (%) by district

District	No or low coping (CSI= 0-3)	Medium (CSI = 4-9)	High coping (CSI ≥10)
Bikita	28	44	28
Chiredzi	26	44	30
Chivi	27	31	42
Gutu	31	25	44
Masvingo	8	46	45
Mwenezi	5	19	76
Zaka	45	23	32
Masvingo province	22	31	47
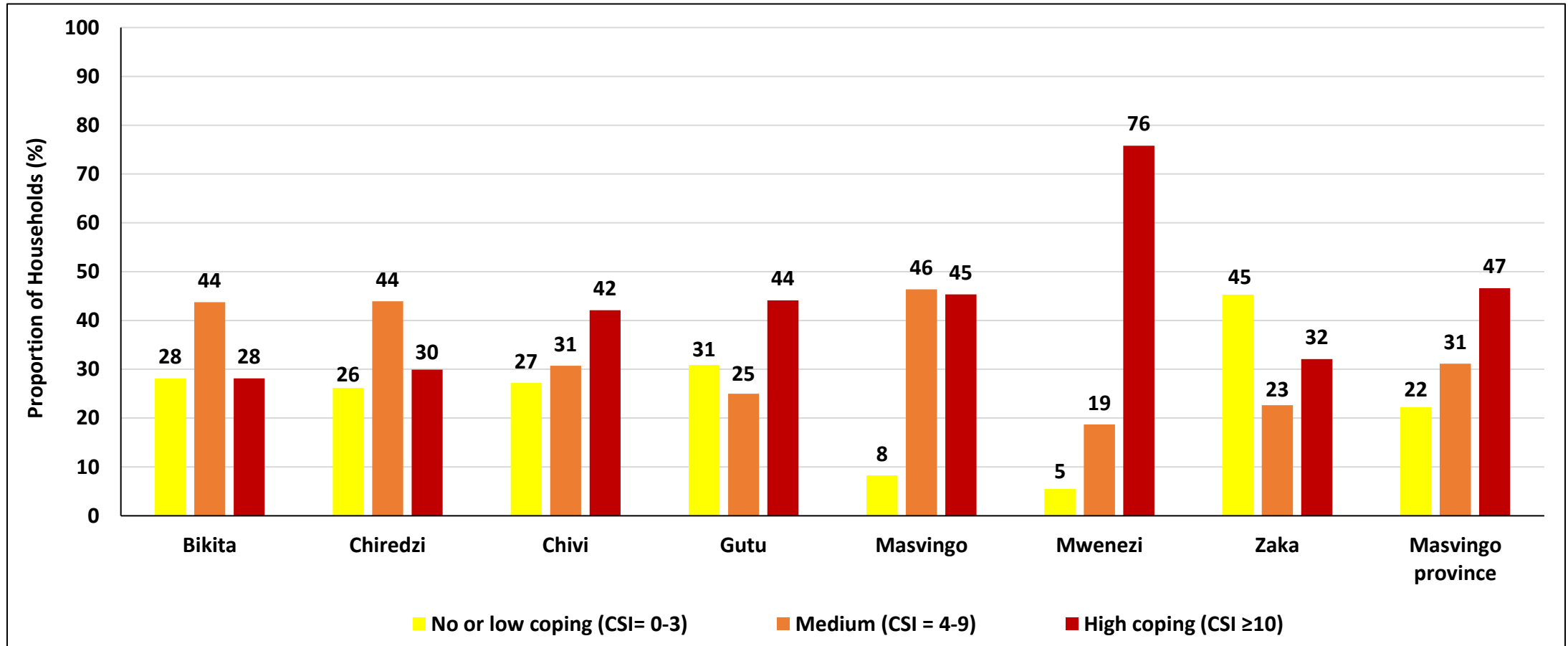
- Mwenezi (76%) had the highest proportion of households adopting high consumption based coping.

- Zaka (45%) had the highest proportion of households adopting low or no coping.

Households Livelihood Coping Strategies

- Livelihood Coping Strategies are behaviours employed by households when faced crisis and measures longer-term coping capacity of households.

- The livelihoods Coping strategies have been classified into three categories namely stress, crisis and emergency as indicated in the table below.

Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	Borrowing money Spending savings Selling more non-productive livestock than usual Selling household assets
Crisis	Selling productive assets Withdrawing children from school Reducing non-food expenditure
Emergency	Selling land Begging for food Selling the last breeding stock to buy food

Households Engaging in Livelihood Coping Strategies

Legend:
- ■ Yes
- ■ No because it was not neccessary
- ■ No because they had already engaged in this activity within the last 12 months and could not continue
- ■ No,they did not have
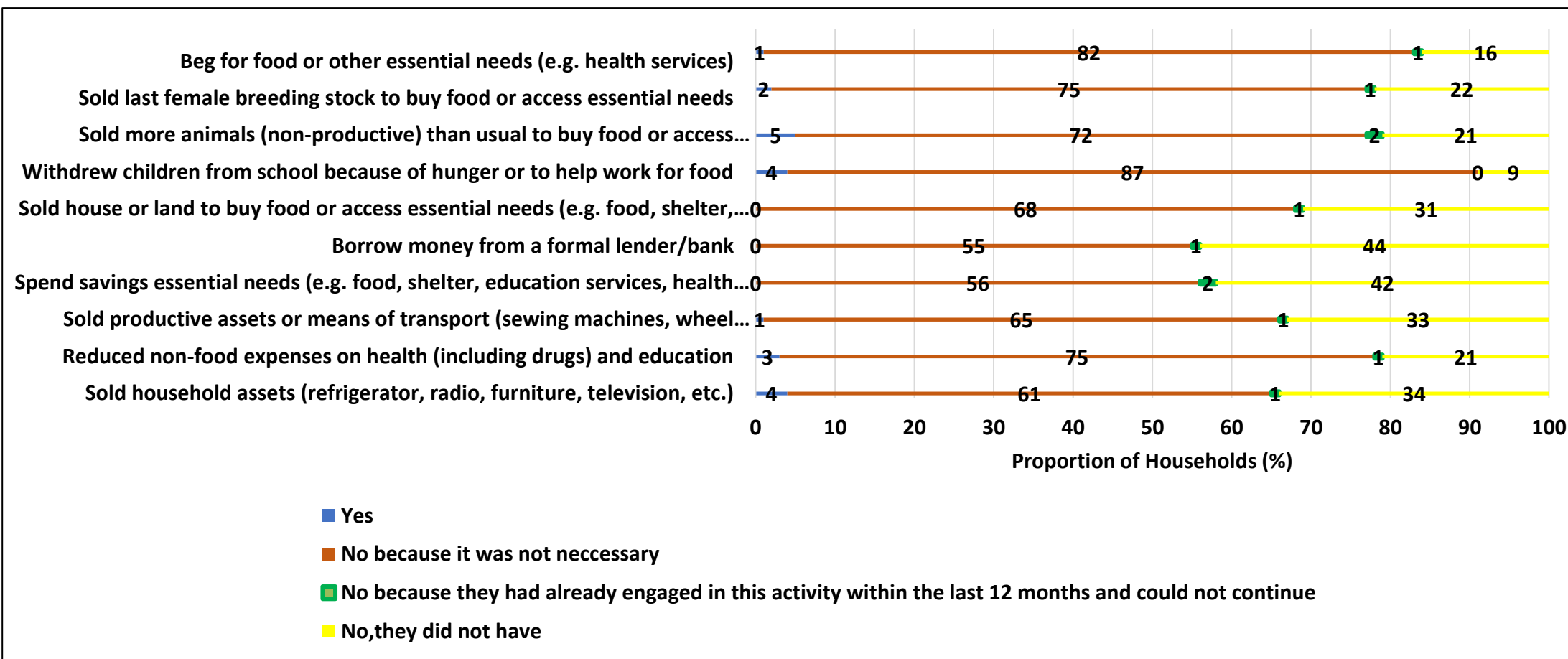
- The main livelihood coping strategy engaged by households in Masvingo Province is selling more non-productive animals (5%).

Households Engaging in Livelihoods Coping Strategies
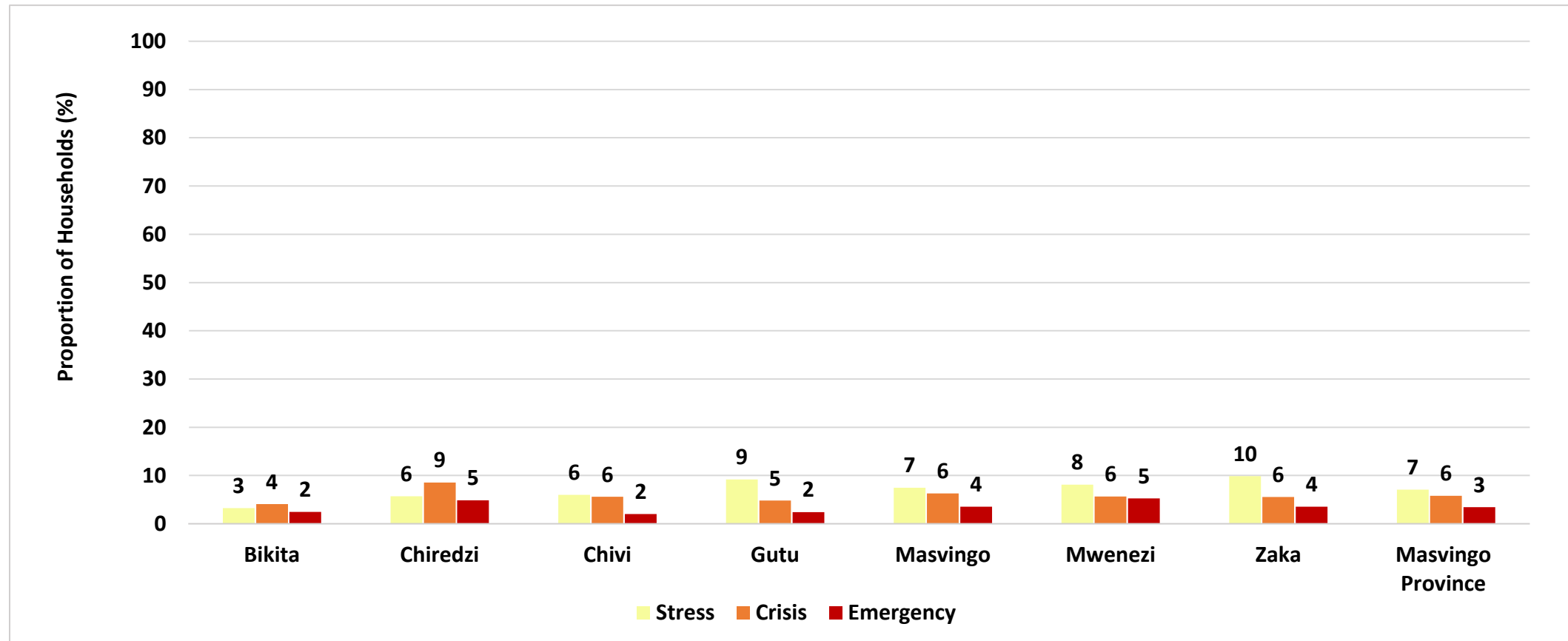
- At provincial level, 3% of households resorted to emergency coping mechanisms.

- The proportion of households that resorted to emergency coping mechanisms was high in Chiredzi (5%) and Mwenezi (5%).

Households Engaging in Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies
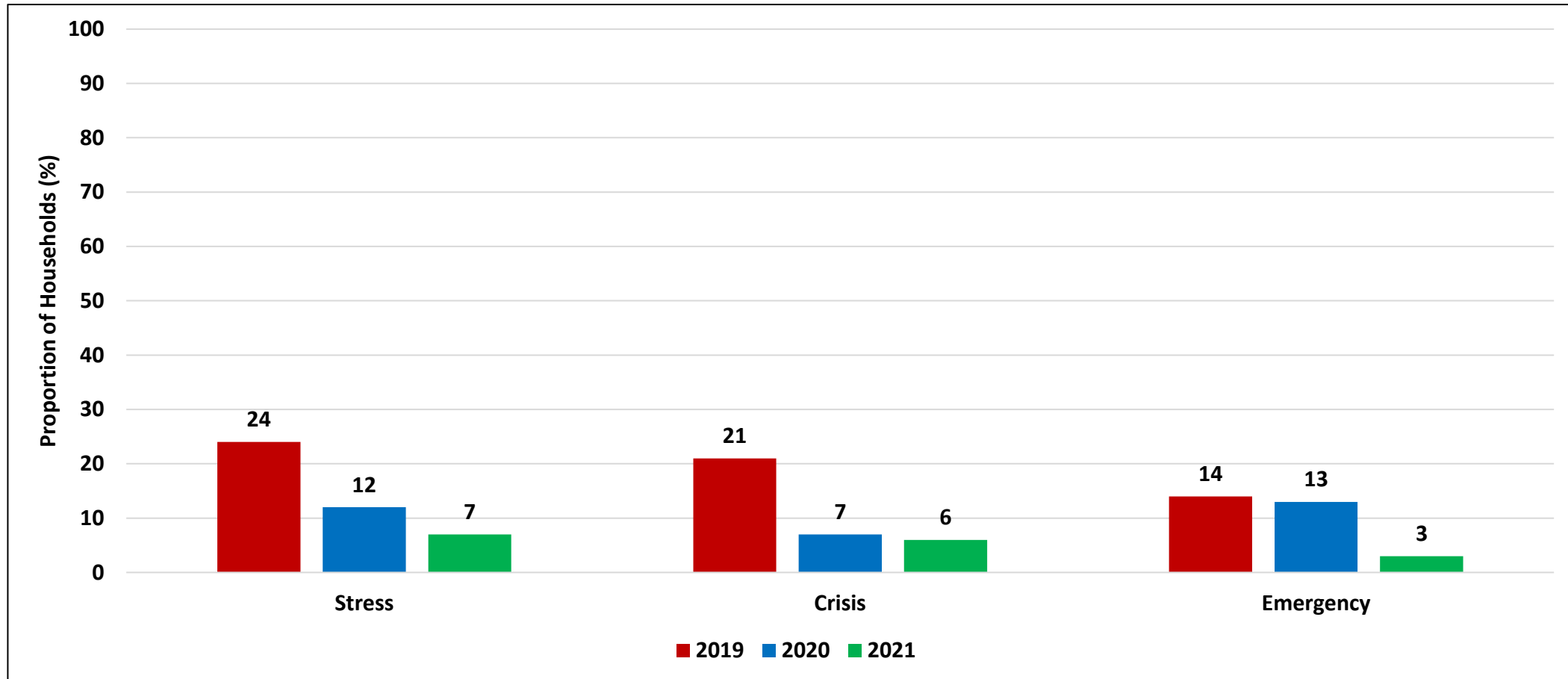
- There was a general decrease in the proportion of households engaging in livelihood based coping strategies over the last three years.

Households' Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies

- At provincial level, 84% of the households did not use any coping strategies to maintain their access to food and other basic goods/services .

- Bikita had the most households that did not engage in any livelihood coping strategies (90%).

Child Nutrition Status

Complementary Feeding Practices Based on Seven Food Groups
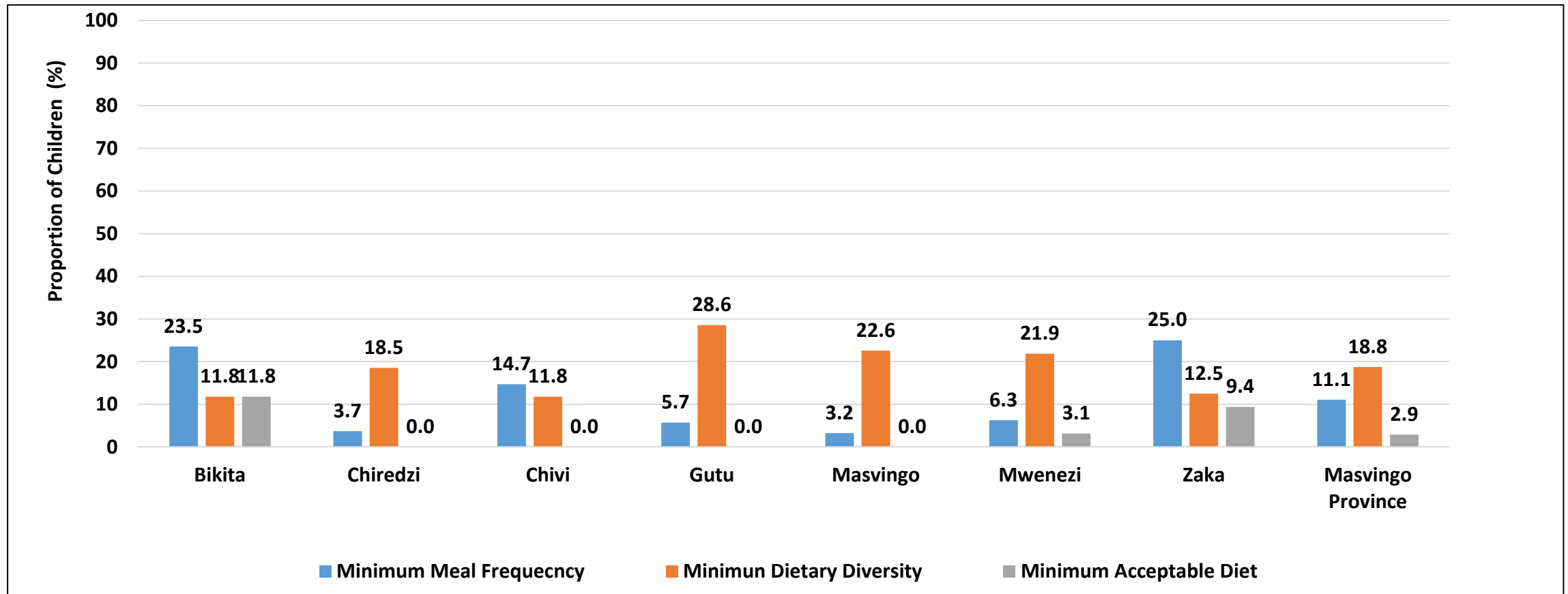
- Masvingo had the lowest minimum meal frequency at 3.2%

- A minimum acceptable diet is an indicator that combines information on children who received the minimum dietary diversity and the minimum meal frequency. It is essential to ensure appropriate growth and development for children aged 6-23 months.

Continued Breastfeeding Beyond 1 year
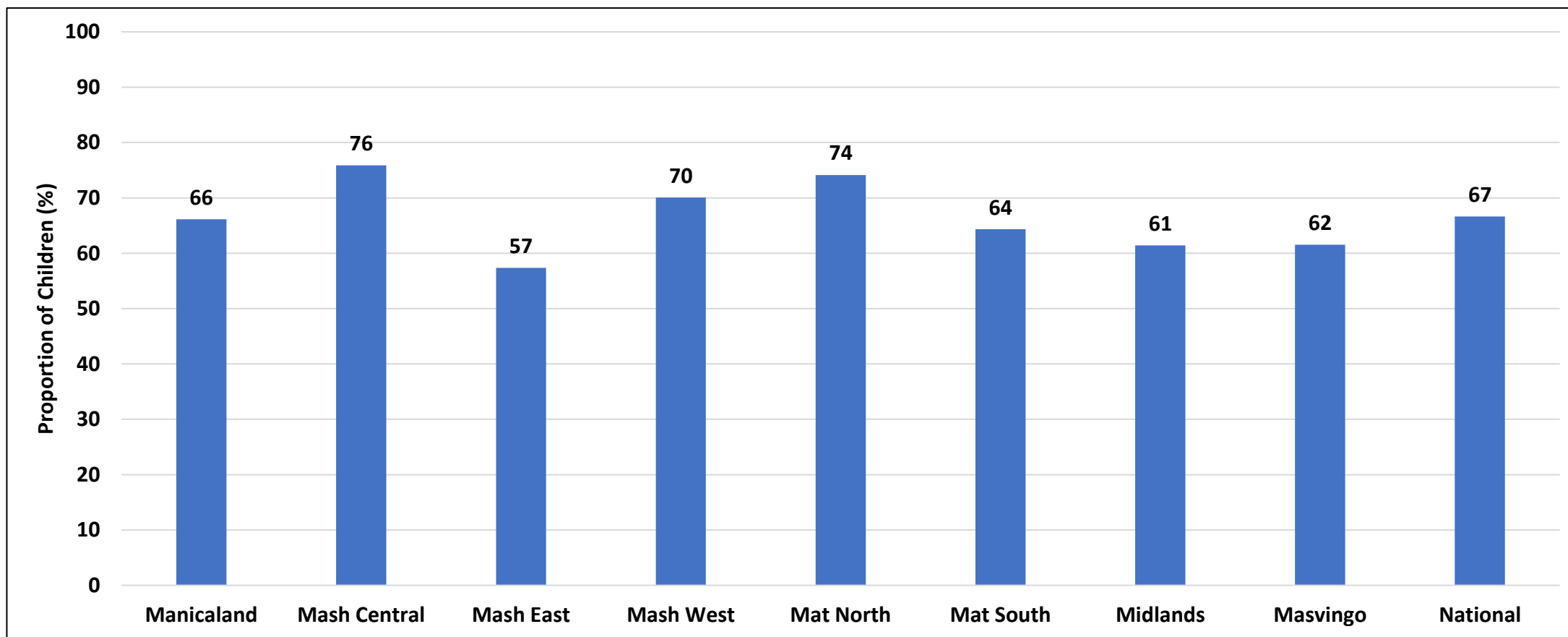
- In Masvingo province, 62% of the children continued to be breastfed beyond 1 year.

Early Initiation of Breastfeeding
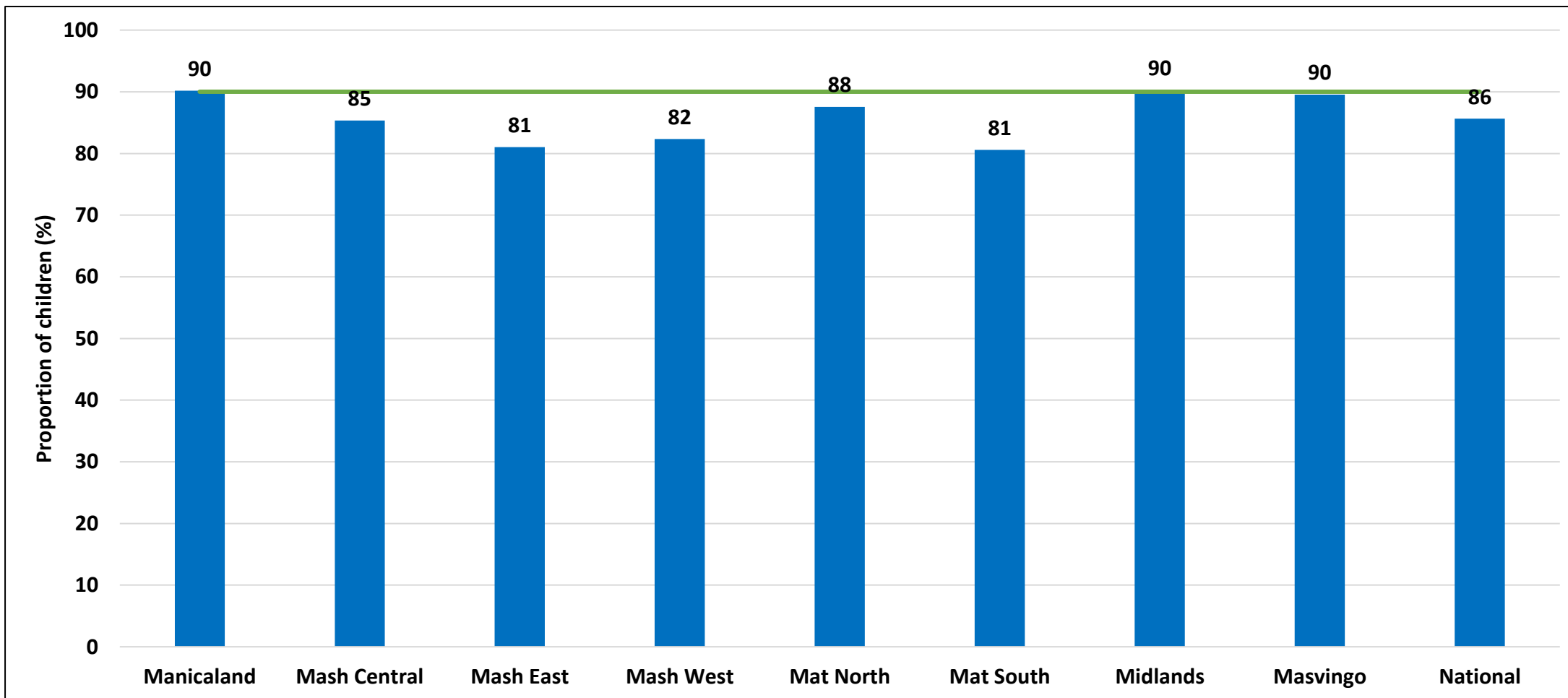
- Masvingo province reached the target of 90%.

Child Illness
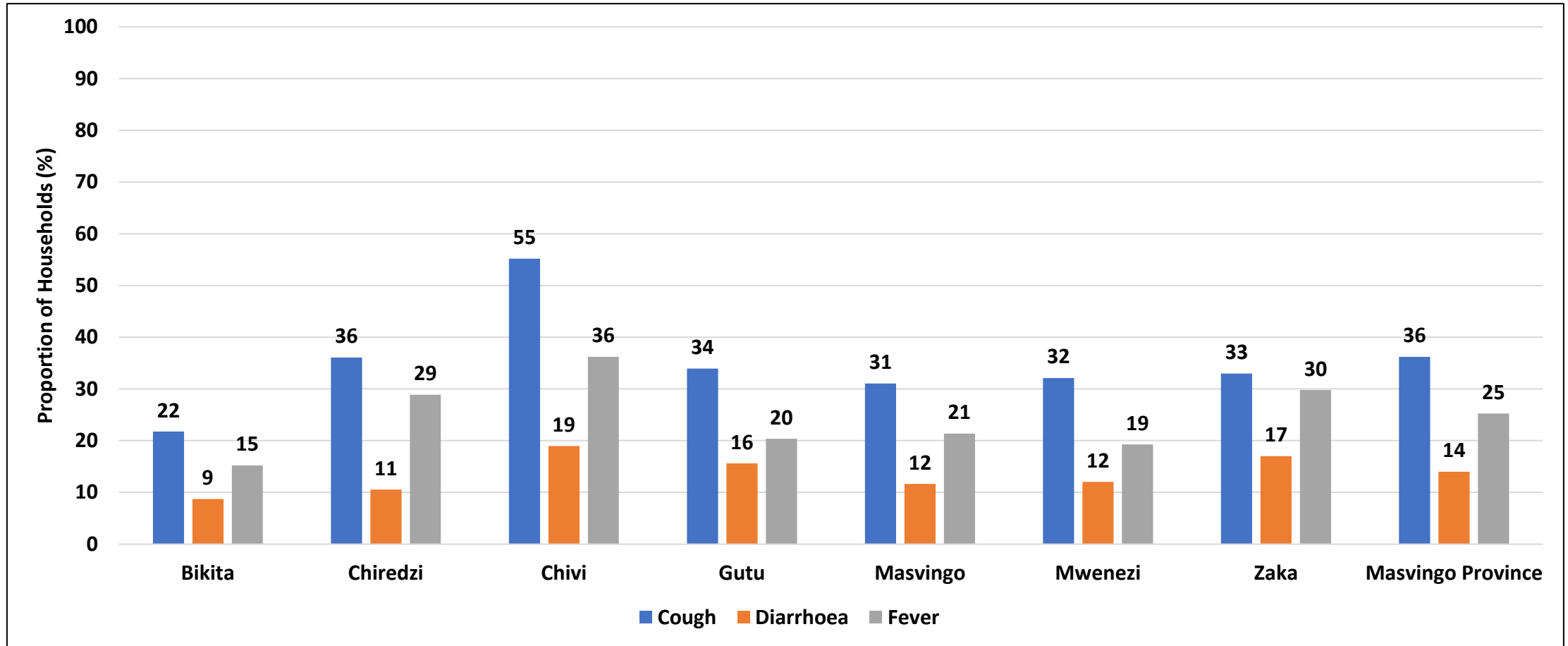
- Chivi district had highest proportion of children who had cough (55%), diarrhea (19%) and fever (36%) in the two weeks preceding the survey.

Recommended Vitamin A Supplementation Schedule for Children 6–59 Months of Age

Target group	Infants 6–11 months of age	Children 12–59 months of age
Dose	100 000 IU	200 000 IU
Frequency	Once a year	Twice a year (Every 6 months)
Route of administration	Oral	

Children aged 6-59 Months who Received the Recommended Dose of Vitamin A
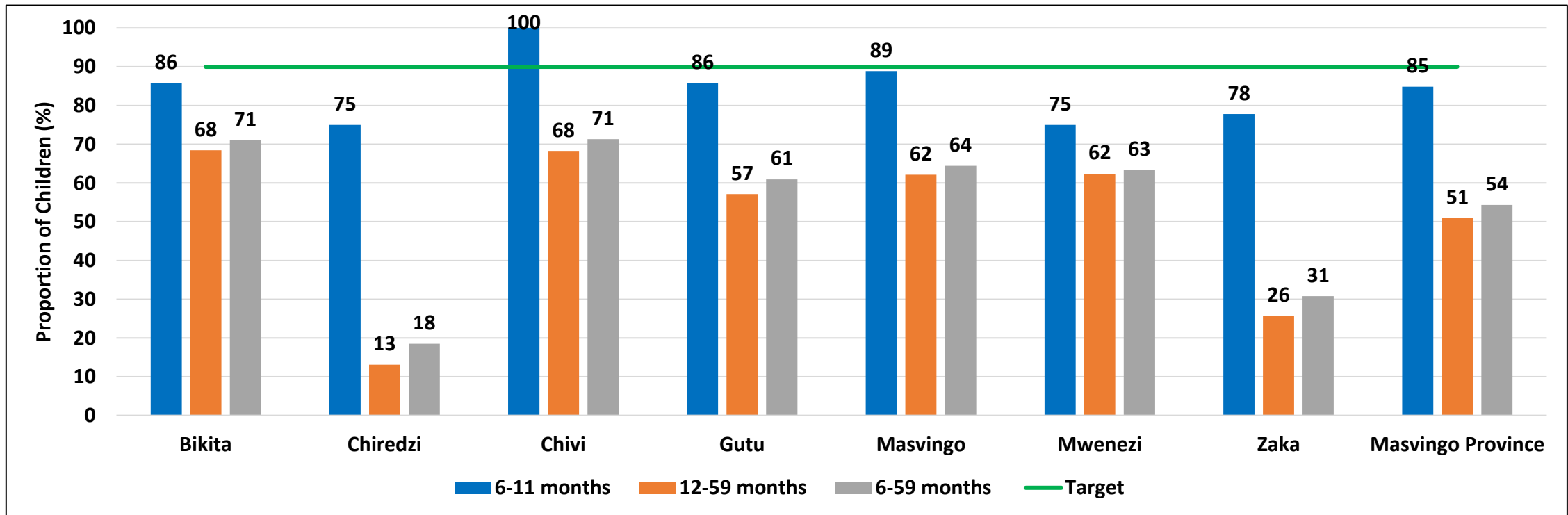
- The proportions of children who received the recommended dose of Vitamin A in the past 12 months were: 85% for 6-11 months; 51% for 12-59 months and 54% for the children 6-59 months.

- Only Chivi District (100%) reached the surpassed target of 90% for children 6-11 months.

- Bikita and Chivi districts (71%) had the highest proportion of children 6-59 months who received recommended Vitamin A doses and Chiredzi (18%) had the lowest.

Acute Malnutrition by District Based on MUAC Measurements
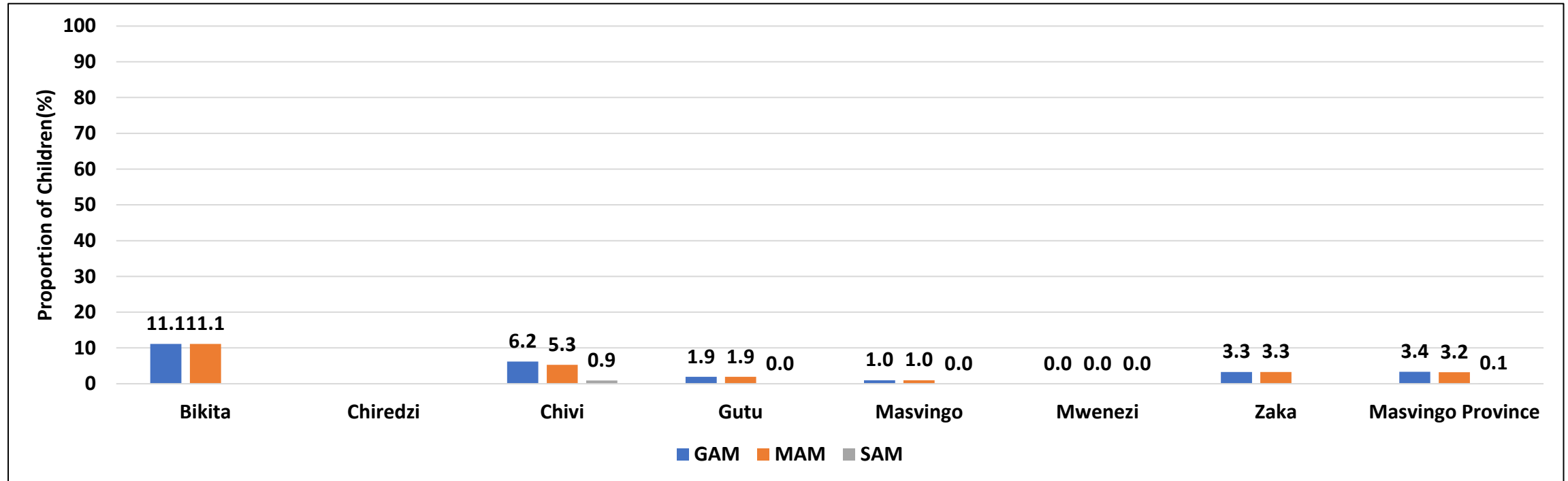
- Bikita and Chivi both had high GAM rates above the WHO threshold of 5%.
- However, the provincial GAM rate was 3.4 which is below the WHO threshold.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

Forms of Gender Based Violence

	N	Physical abuse (%)			Sexual abuse (%)		
		No	Yes	Refused to answer	No	Yes	Refused to answer
Manicaland	1741	94.3	3.7	2.0	97.6	0.6	1.8
Mash Central	1999	96.2	3.5	0.3	99.0	0.7	0.3
Mash East	2257	96.6	2.8	0.5	99.1	0.6	0.3
Mash West	1722	95.9	3.1	1.0	98.3	0.8	0.9
Masvingo	1747	97.2	2.4	0.4	99.0	0.6	0.5
Mat North	1747	97.0	1.9	1.1	98.2	0.7	1.1
Mat South	1736	97.3	1.6	1.1	98.8	0.2	1.0
Midlands	1999	95.7	3.8	0.5	98.5	0.9	0.6
National	14948	96.3	2.9	0.8	98.6	0.6	0.8

- In Masvingo province, 2.4% of the respondents reported having experienced physical abuse while 0.6% reported to have experienced sexual abuse.

Victims of GBV who Reported
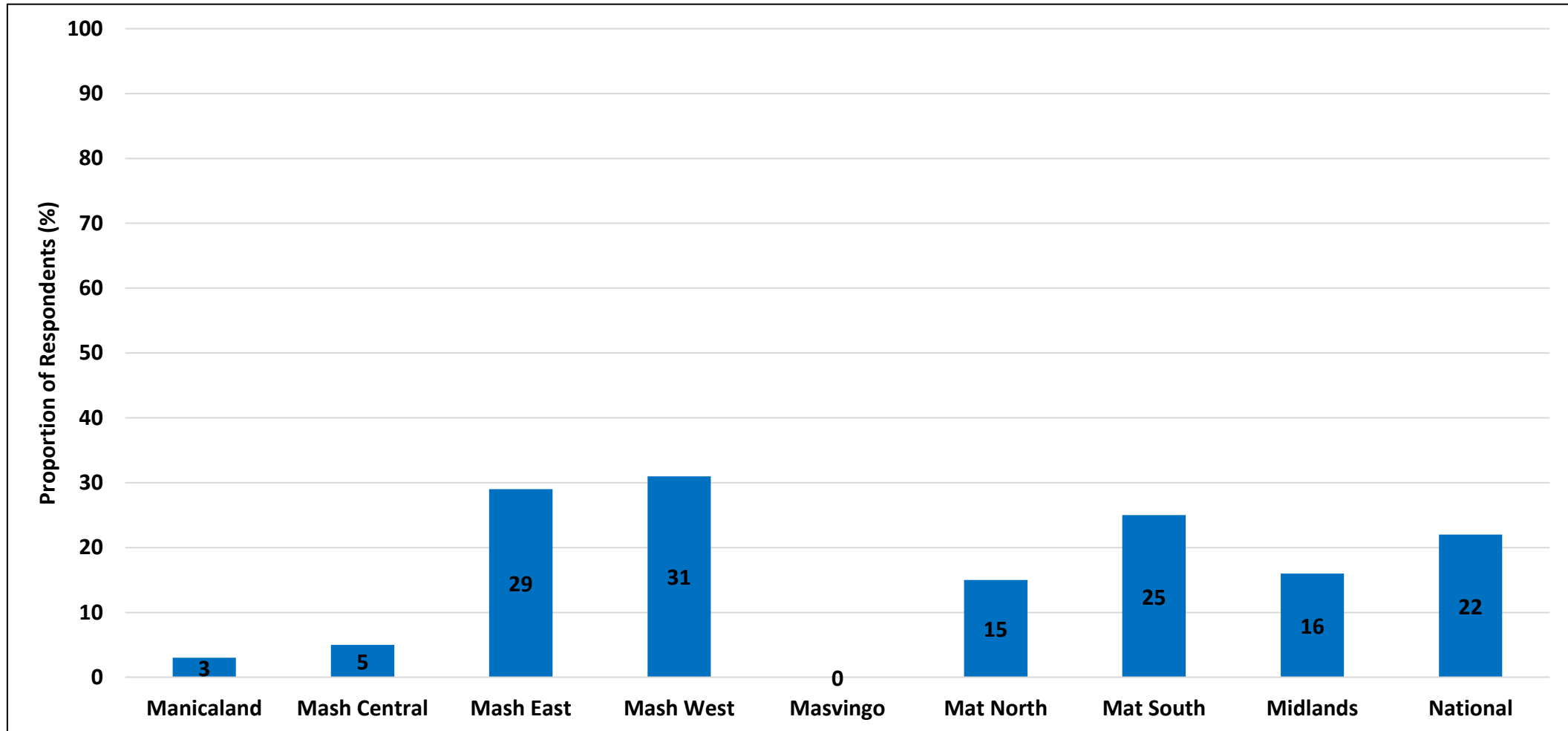
- Of those who experienced GBV, none of the households in Masvingo province reported the incidents.

Sources of GBV Services
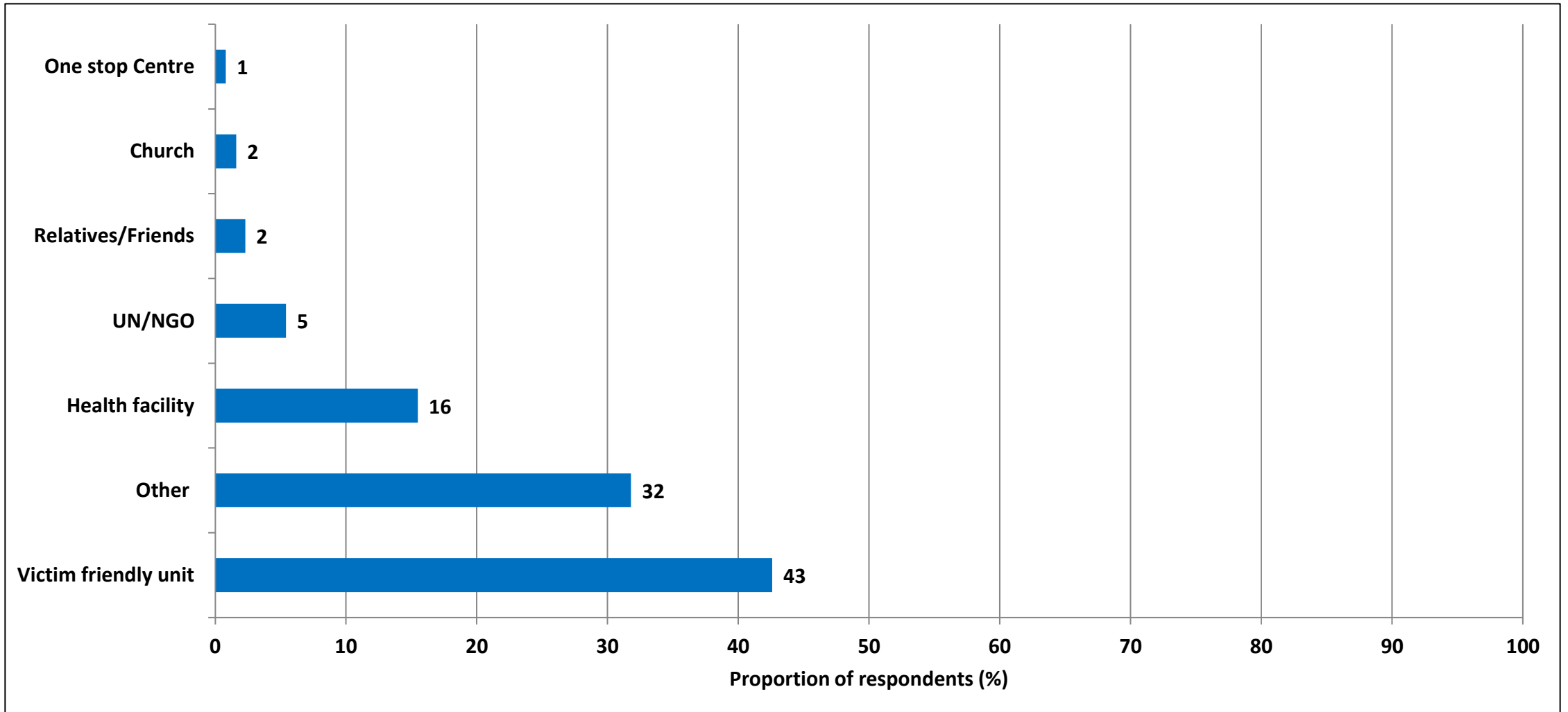
- Of the 3% that experienced GBV in Masvingo province, the highest proportion of respondents (43%) got a service from the Victim Friendly Unit.

Spousal Violence

Incidence of Spousal Violence

Province	Sexual abuse (%)			Physical abuse (%)		Emotional abuse (%)		Economical abuse (%)	
	N	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Manicaland	1389	2.16	3.34	4.82	5.18	8.76	9.35	5.58	5.68
Mash Central	1766	1.25	1.91	2.74	4.39	8.44	6.64	4.9	4.28
Mash East	2042	1.16	1.01	3.27	2.47	6.75	6.5	5.27	3.3
Mash West	1322	1.09	2.07	2.48	2.51	6.37	9.32	3.42	5.47
Masvingo	1562	0.63	1.16	1.46	2.15	3.34	2.64	1.78	2.31
Mat North	1464	0.9	0.38	1.8	0.63	3.29	2.76	2.54	2.76
Mat South	1627	2.02	1.36	3.92	2.86	6.83	4.64	4.7	4.37
Midlands	1597	0.23	1.49	2.09	1.49	4.3	4.34	2.67	2.17
National	12769	1.18	1.52	2.82	2.68	6.01	5.76	3.86	3.74

- There was high incidence of emotional abuse among spouses, 3.34% for males and 2.64% for females in Masvingo province.

- Generally, emotional abuse was high for both males and females while sexual abuse had the lowest reported incidents.

Forms of Spousal Violence
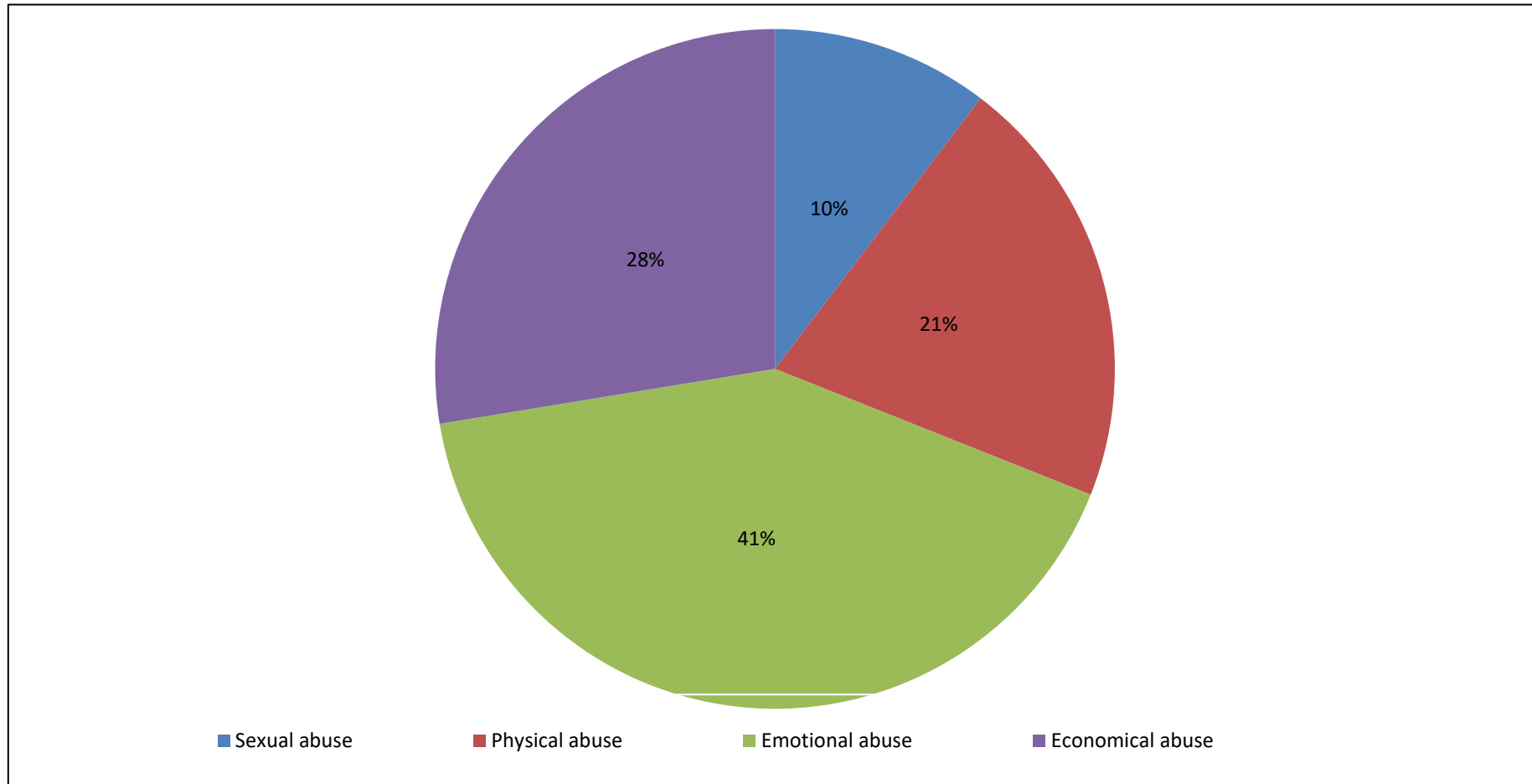
- Emotional abuse (41%) was the most prevalent form of abuse among spouses.
- Sexual abuse was the least reported (10%).

Reported Incidence of Spousal Violence
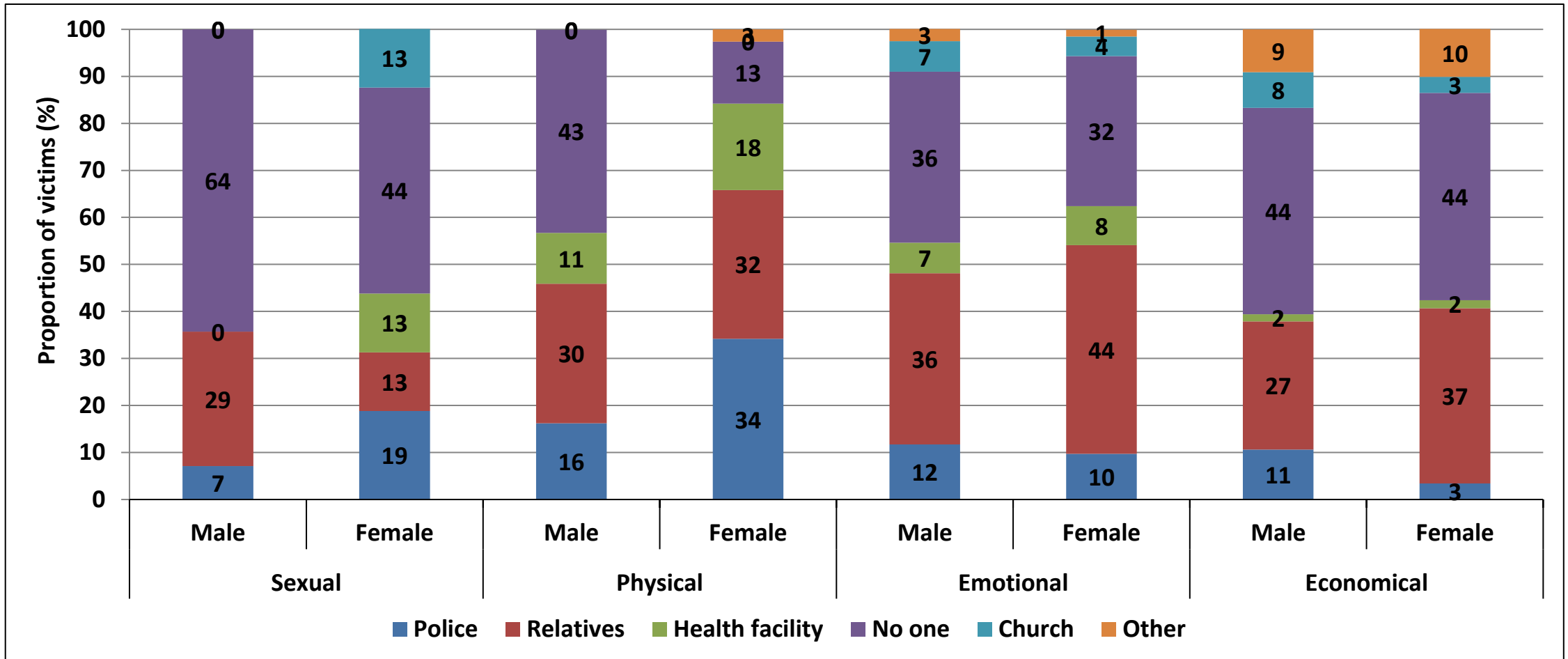
- Most victims of sexual abuse did not report to anyone, males 64% and females 44%.

- Physical violence was mostly reported to the police by females (34%) and males either did not report (43%) or reported to relatives (30%).

- Emotional and economical violence were either reported to no one or to relatives by both males and females.

Victims who Sought Medical Attention as a Result of Spousal Violence

	Sexual		Physical		Emotional	
	Suffered abuse (%)	**Sought medical attention (%)**	**Suffered abuse (%)**	**Sought medical attention (%)**	**Suffered abuse (%)**	**Sought medical attention (%)**
Manicaland	2.67	17.9	4.97	18.6	9.01	17.8
Mash Central	1.59	10.3	3.57	32.8	7.54	17.8
Mash East	1.08	11.5	2.84	17.2	6.62	16.1
Mash West	1.59	8.7	2.5	17.1	7.88	25.5
Masvingo	0.83	0	1.73	15.2	3.07	15.3
Mat North	0.61	0	1.16	16.2	3.01	13.5
Mat South	1.72	22.2	3.44	21.1	5.84	13.3
Midlands	0.81	15.6	1.82	17.2	4.32	21.8
National	1.34	11.8	2.76	20.1	5.9	18.3

- Medical attention was sought by 0% of those who suffered sexual violence, 15.2% for physical and 15.3% for emotional violence in Masvingo province meaning most cases go unreported amongst spouses.

COVID-19 and Livelihoods

Households that Ever Heard about COVID-19
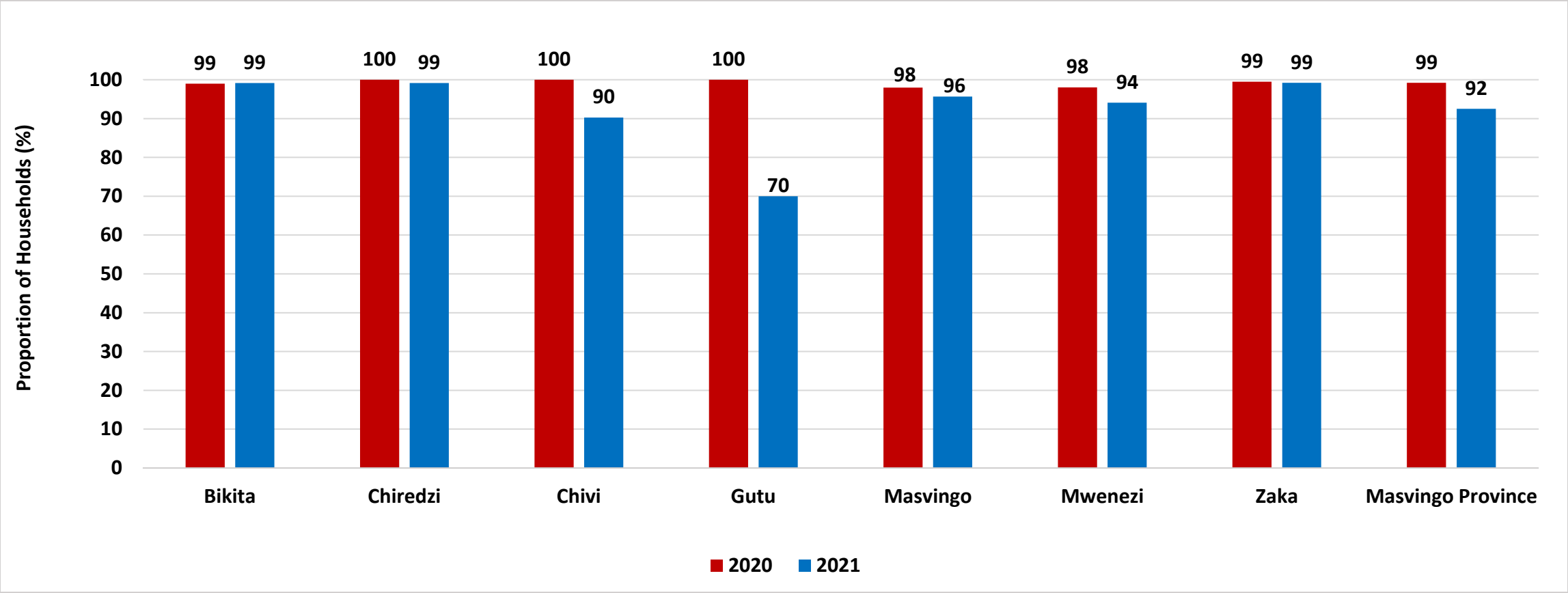
- In Masvingo province 92% of households heard about COVID-19.

- Gutu (70%) had the lowest proportion of households who were aware of COVID-19.

Sources of COVID-19 Information

Current Sources
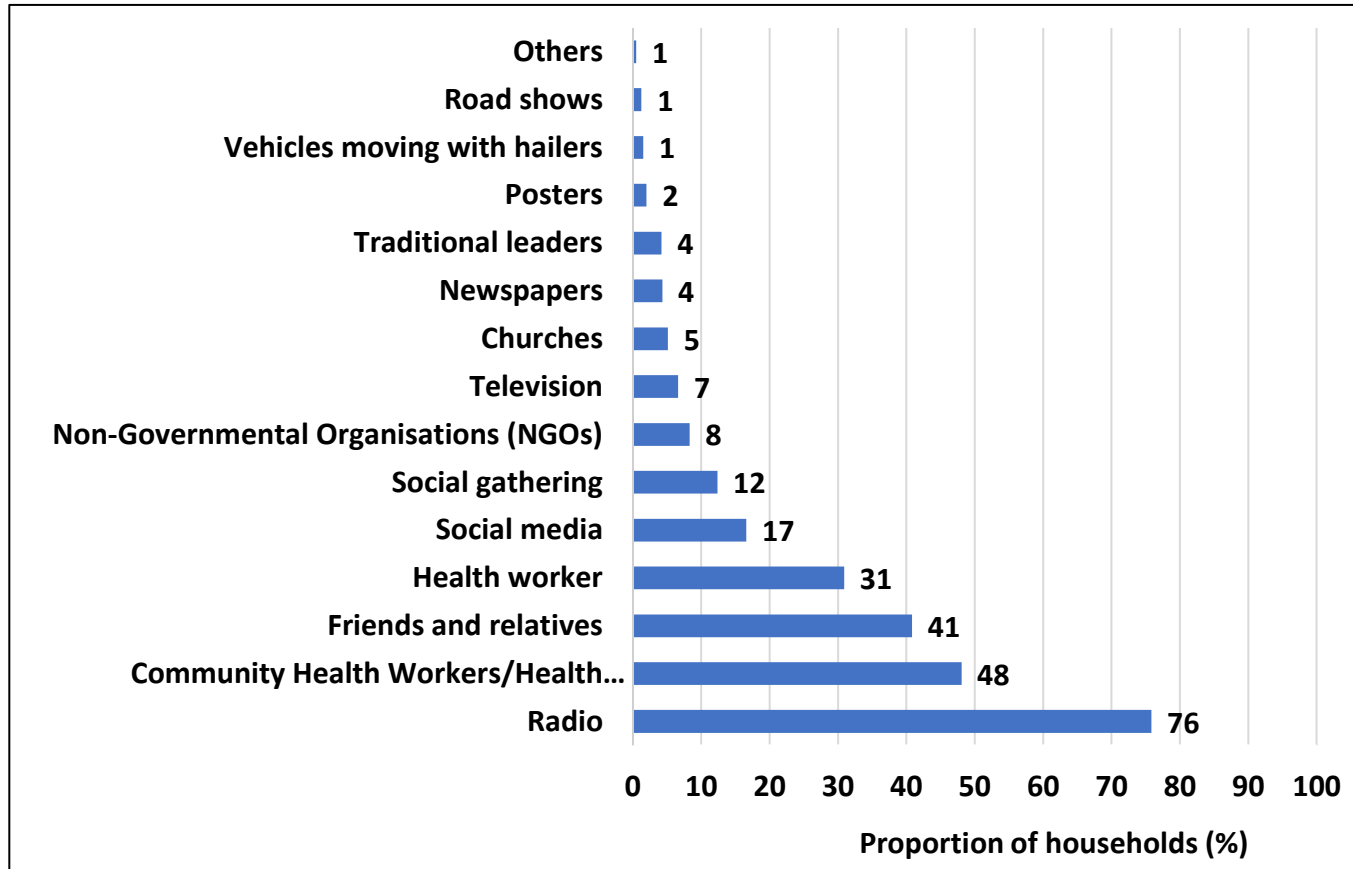
Preferred Future Sources
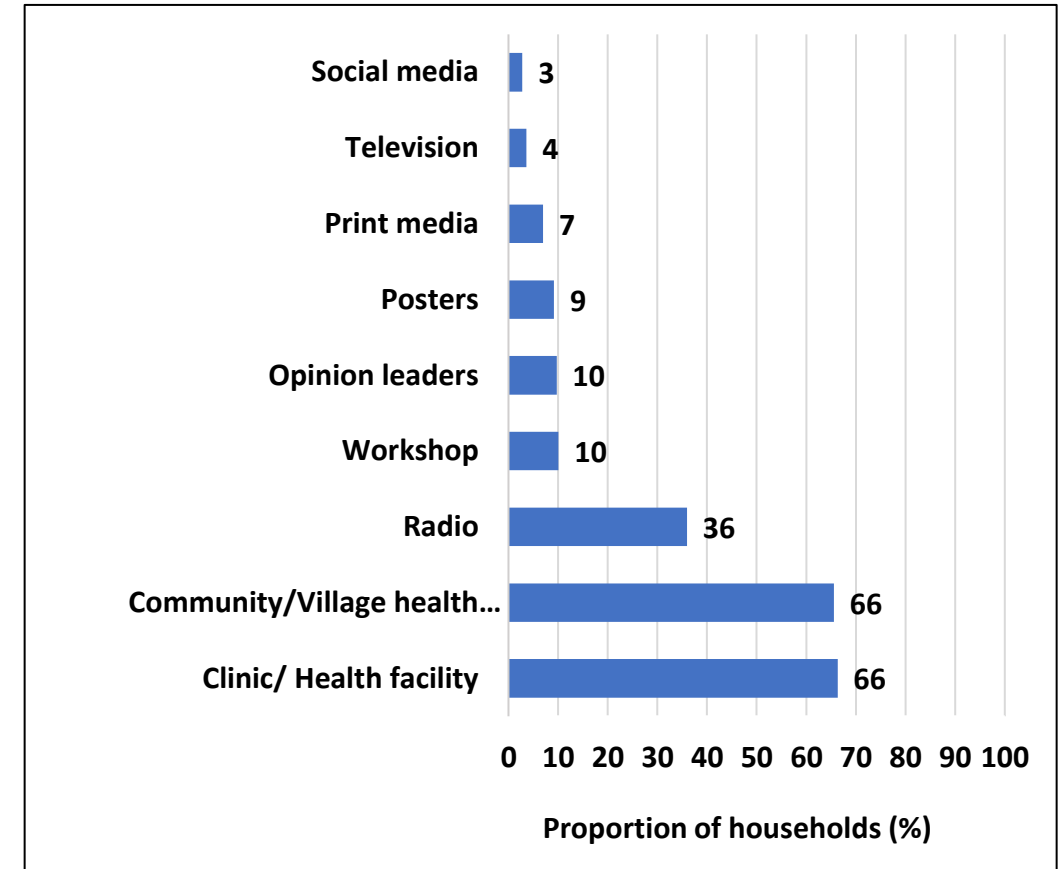
- The main sources of COVID-19 information in the province were reported to be radio (76%), Community Health Workers/ Health Volunteers (48%) and friends and relatives (41%).

- The main preferred future sources of information on COVID-19 in the province were reported to be: clinic/health facility (66%), community/village health workers (66%) and radio (36%).

COVID-19 Tollfree Numbers

Awareness of the Availability of Tollfree Numbers
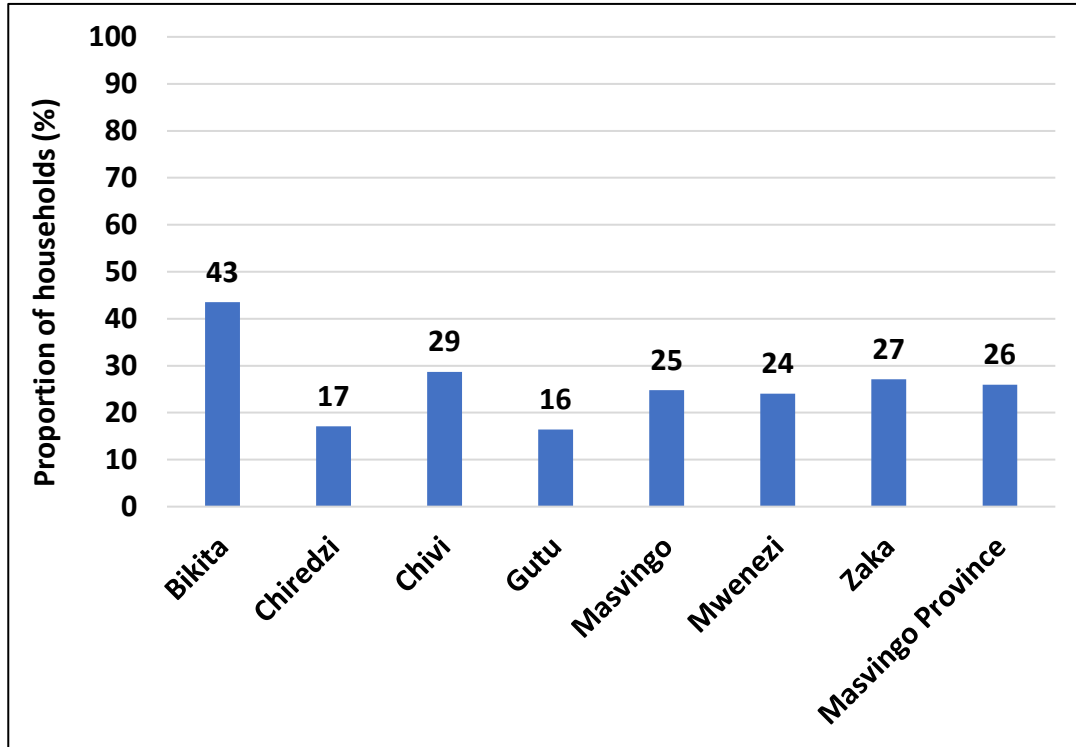
Awareness of Tollfree Numbers
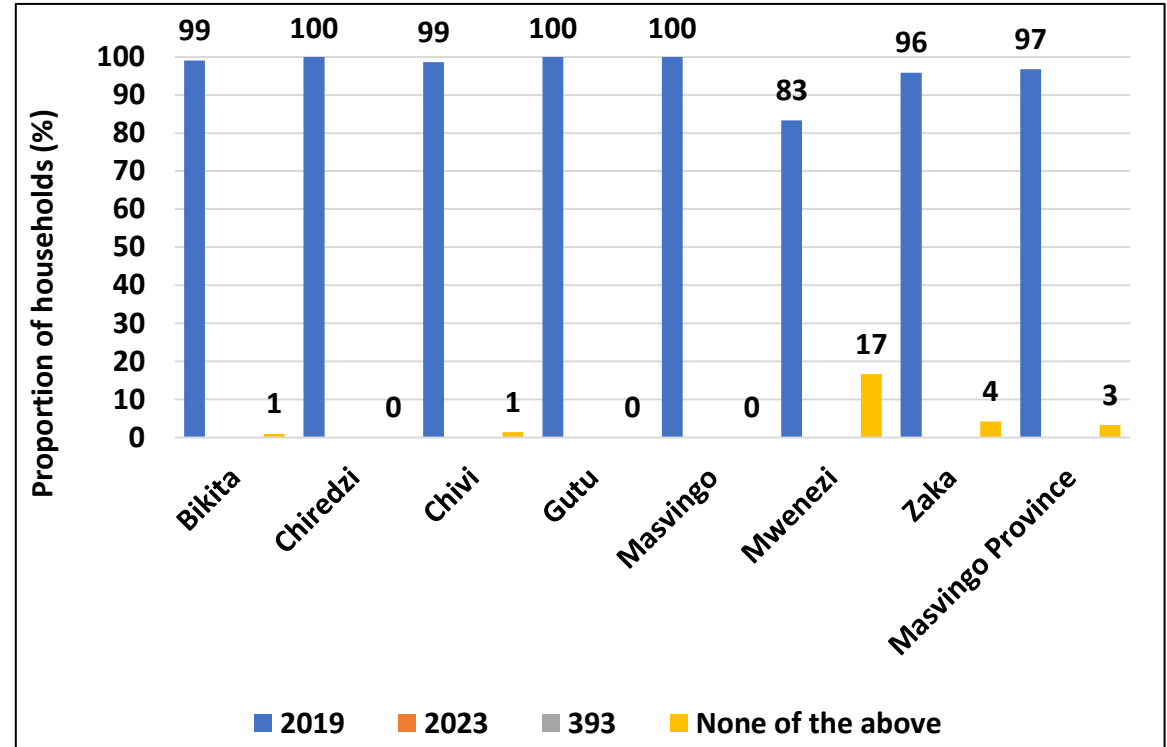
- The proportion of households which were aware of the existence of the COVID-19 toll free lines in the province was 26%, with Bikita (43%) having the highest proportion. About 74% of the households in the province were not aware the existence of the tollfree numbers and are of concern.

- Of those who were aware of the availability of toll free number, the most common toll free number was 2019 (97%) hence the need to raise the existence of the other lines.

Effects of COVID-19 on Livelihoods
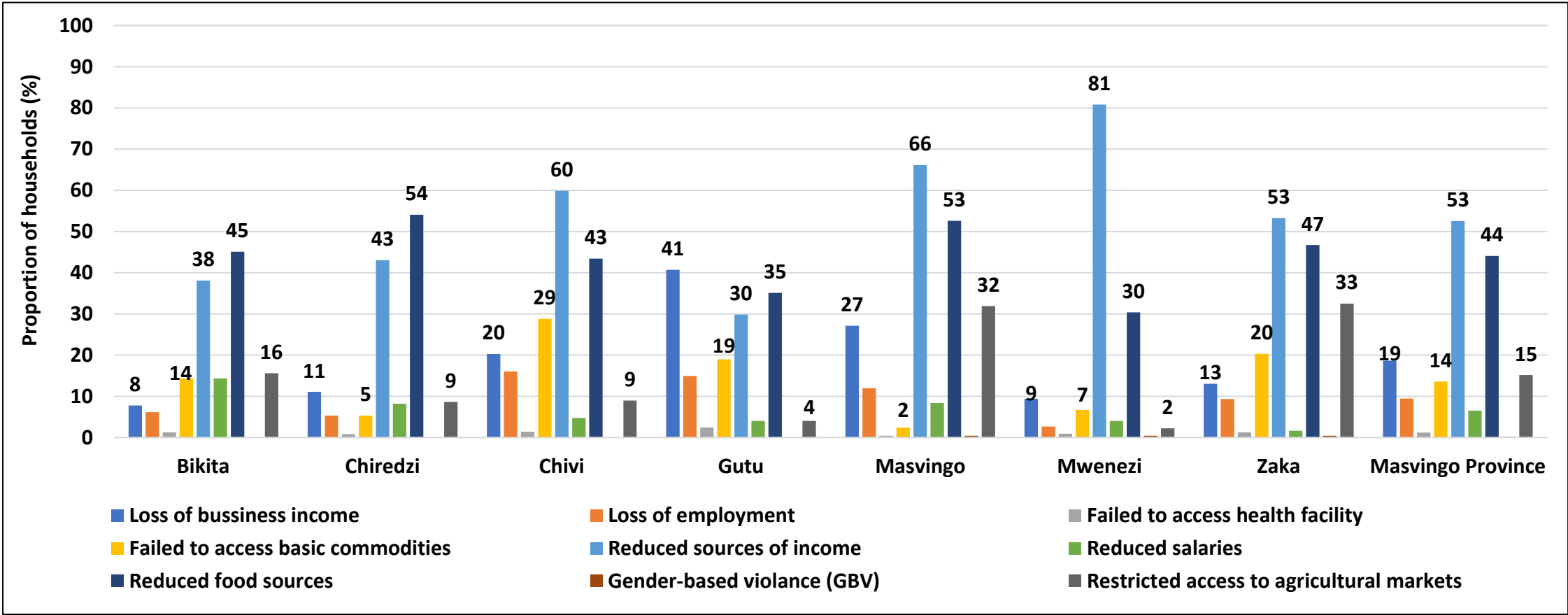
- At provincial level, the main effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods were reduction in food sources (35%) and sources of income (591%) leading to increased vulnerabilities.

- Mwenezi (81%) had the highest proportion of households that reported reduction in income sources, while Chiredzi (54%) reported reduction in sources of food. Most of the impacts could be attributed to the restrictive measures.

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Access to Hand Sanitizers, Masks and Soap
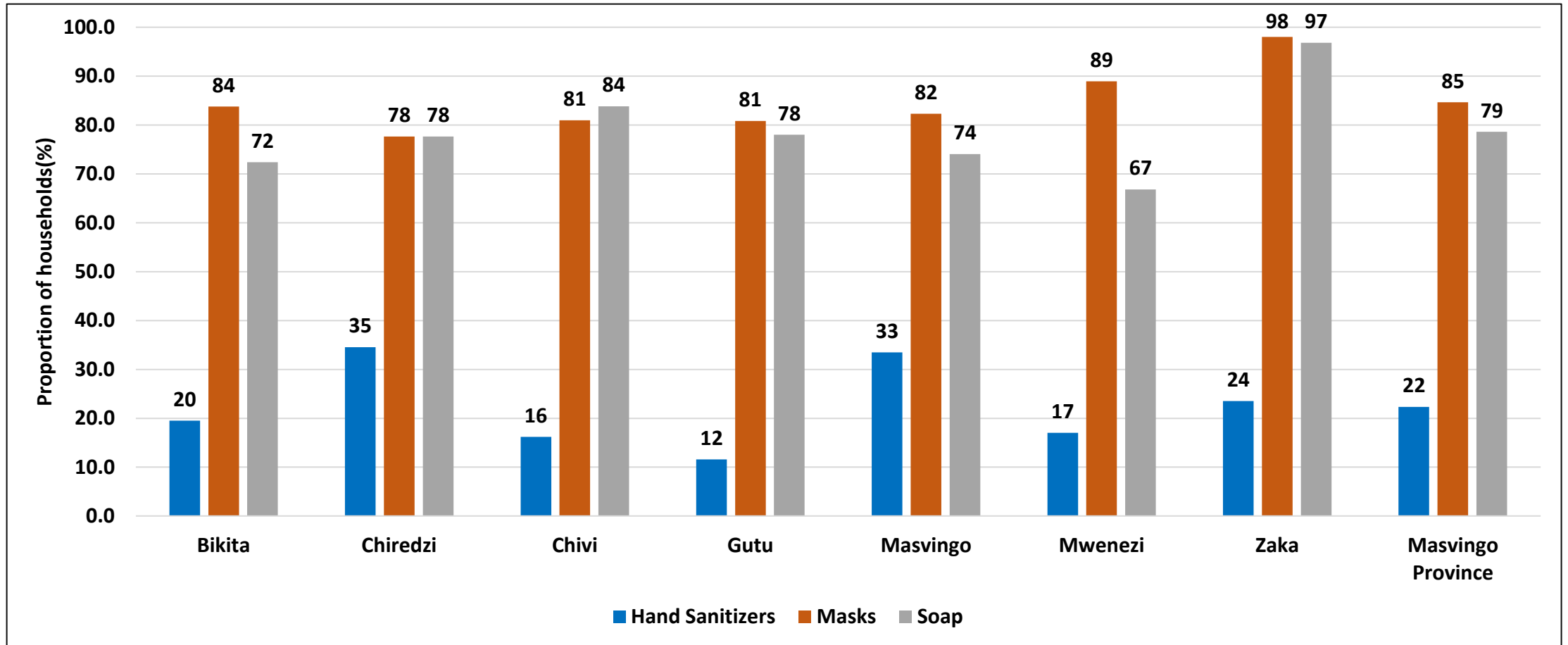
- Access to masks (85%) and handwashing soap (79%) was high. However, access to sanitisers was very low (22%).

- The trend was similar in all districts, that is, masks and soap were accessible whereas hand sanitizers were not easily accessible.

Affordability of PPE
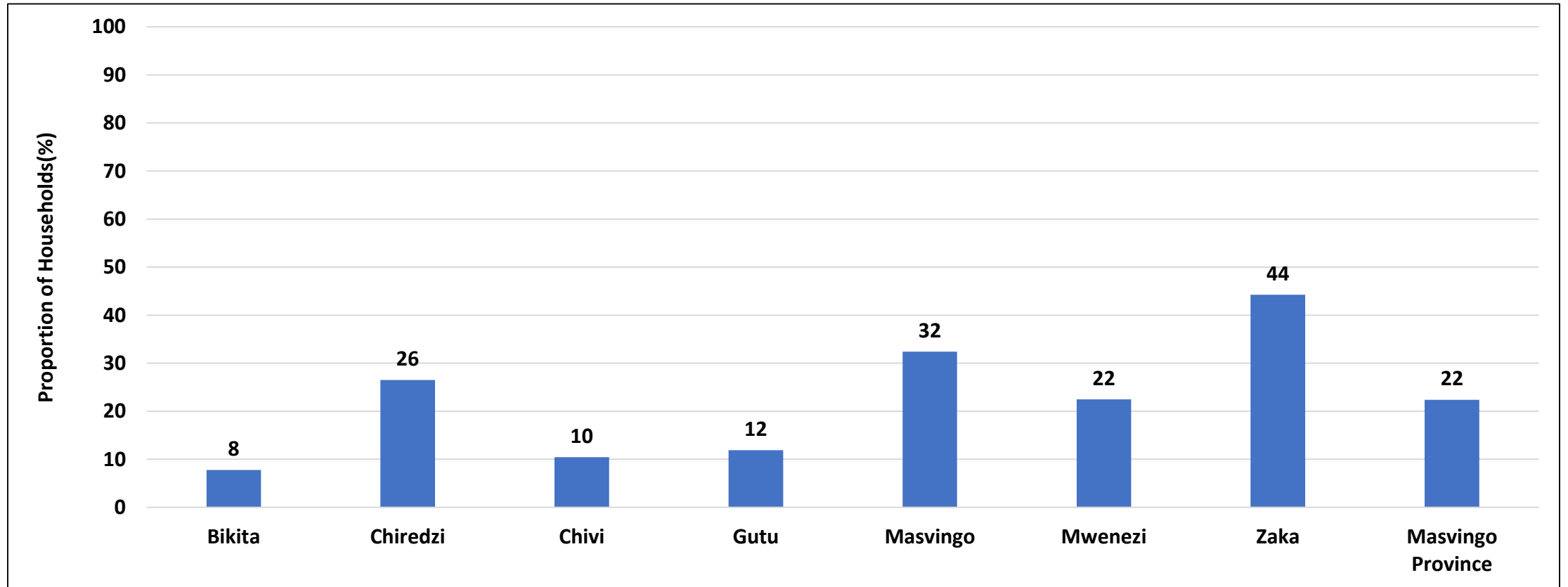
- About 22% of households in Masvingo province could afford COVID-19 personal protective equipment.
- The lowest proportion was in Bikita at 8%.

How Household Members were Protecting Themselves from COVID-19

	Frequently wash hands with soap under running water (%)	Use alcohol based hand sanitizers (%)	Avoid touching mouth, eyes and nose (%)	Use a face mask in public places (%)	Cover mouth with flexed elbow when sneezing and coughing (%)	Avoid crowded places (%)	Practice social distancing (%)	Use of herbals (%)	Traditional/religious practices (%)	Getting vaccinated (%)	Others (%)
Bikita	71.5	15.9	37.8	50.4	23.6	55.7	58.1	5.7	5.3	0.8	0.4
Chiredzi	64.6	36.6	12.6	69.9	6.5	50.8	35.0	6.5	0.4	0.0	1.2
Chivi	71.6	10.3	20.2	61.7	12.3	25.1	42.8	0.8	0.0	0.8	1.2
Gutu	88.4	33.6	21.6	44.8	4.8	37.2	42.0	3.6	0.4	0.8	0.8
Masvingo	80.6	14.6	47.0	71.5	36.8	56.9	53.4	25.3	2.0	10.7	0.8
Mwenezi	74.2	13.7	14.6	88.4	18.0	30.9	50.2	1.7	0.4	0.4	1.7
Zaka	77.3	15.9	32.7	84.9	27.5	49.8	76.5	5.2	5.6	4.8	1.6
Masvingo Province	**75.6**	20.2	26.8	**67.2**	18.6	44.0	**51.2**	7.1	2.0	2.7	1.1

- The most common methods used by households to protect themselves from COVID-19 included frequent washing of hands (75.6%), use of face masks in public places (67.2%) and practicing of social distance (51.2%).

Trust in the Covid-19 Vaccine
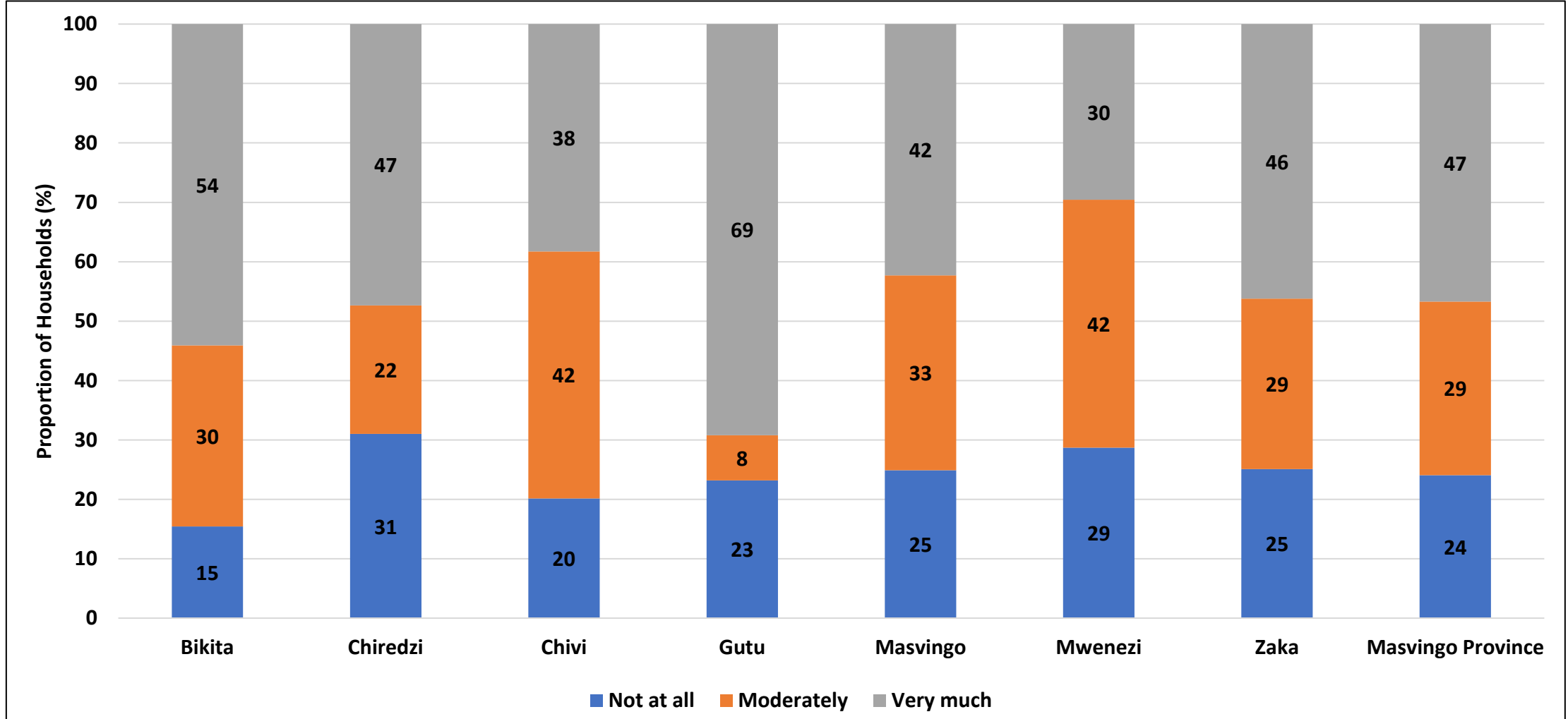
- In Masvingo province about 73% of households reported that they trusted the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Gutu (69%) and Bikita (54%) had the highest proportion of households which did not trust the vaccine.

Vaccine Concerns
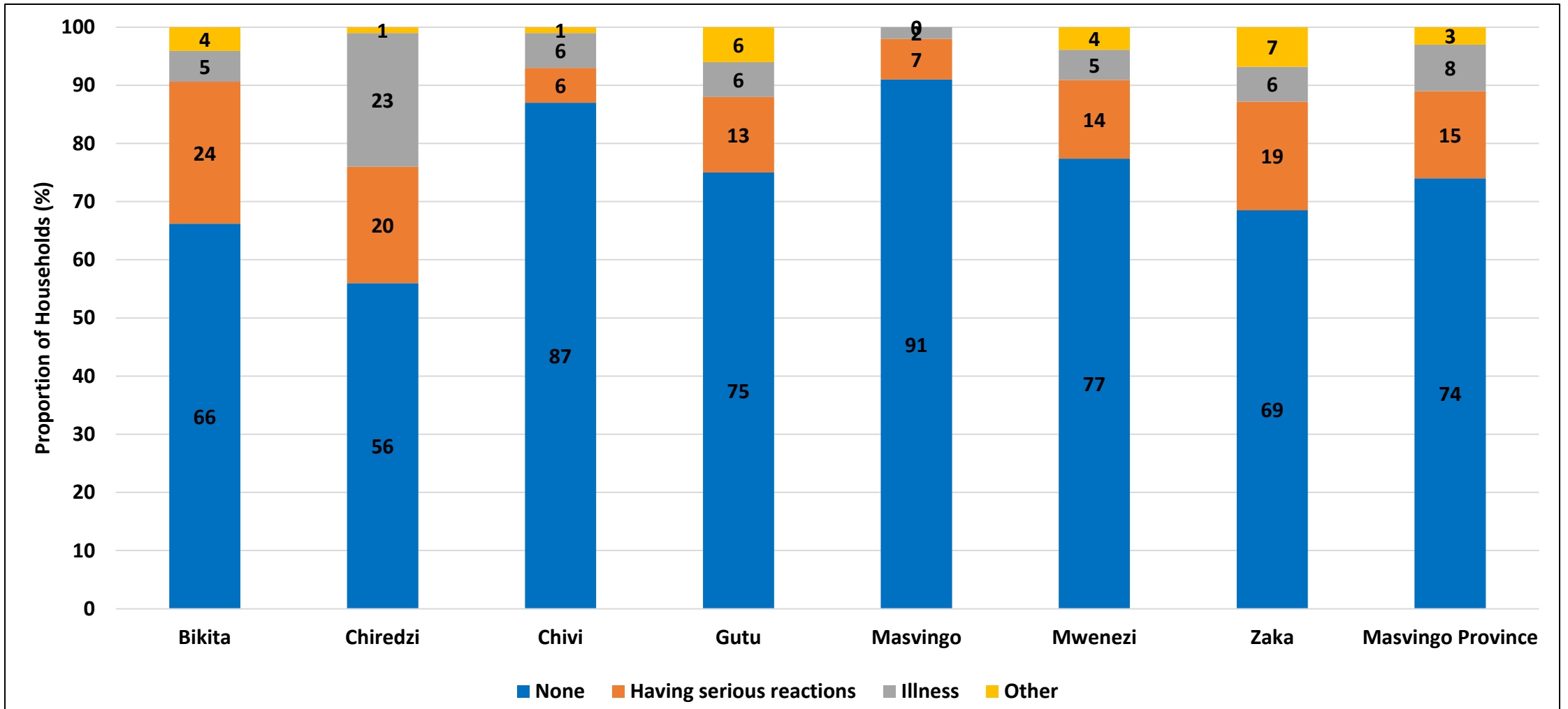
- The majority of the households in Masvingo province indicated no concern about the COVID-19 vaccine (74%).

- Having serious reactions (15%) was the most stated concern.

Shocks and Hazards

Proportion of Households Experiencing Shocks
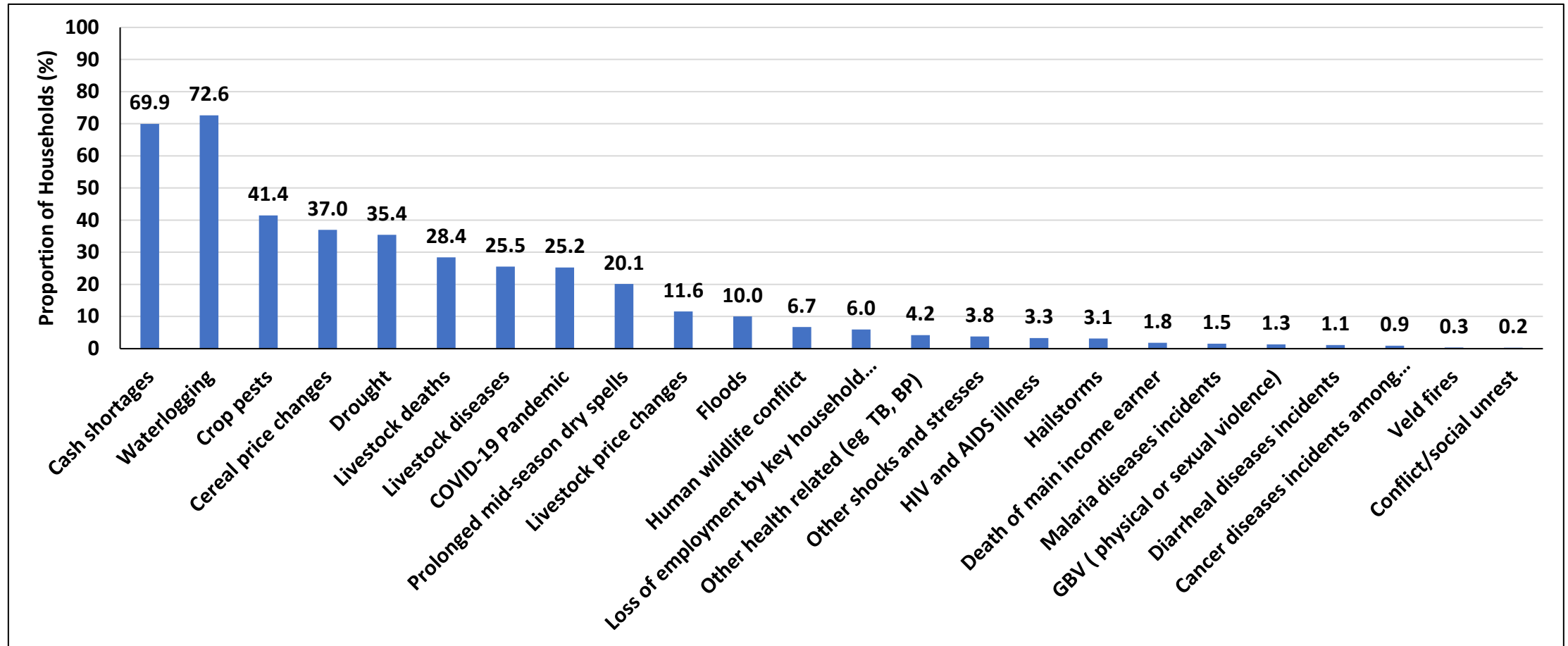
- Cash shortages (69.9%), water logging (72.6%) and crop pests (41.4%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by households.

Number of Shocks/Stressors Experienced by Households
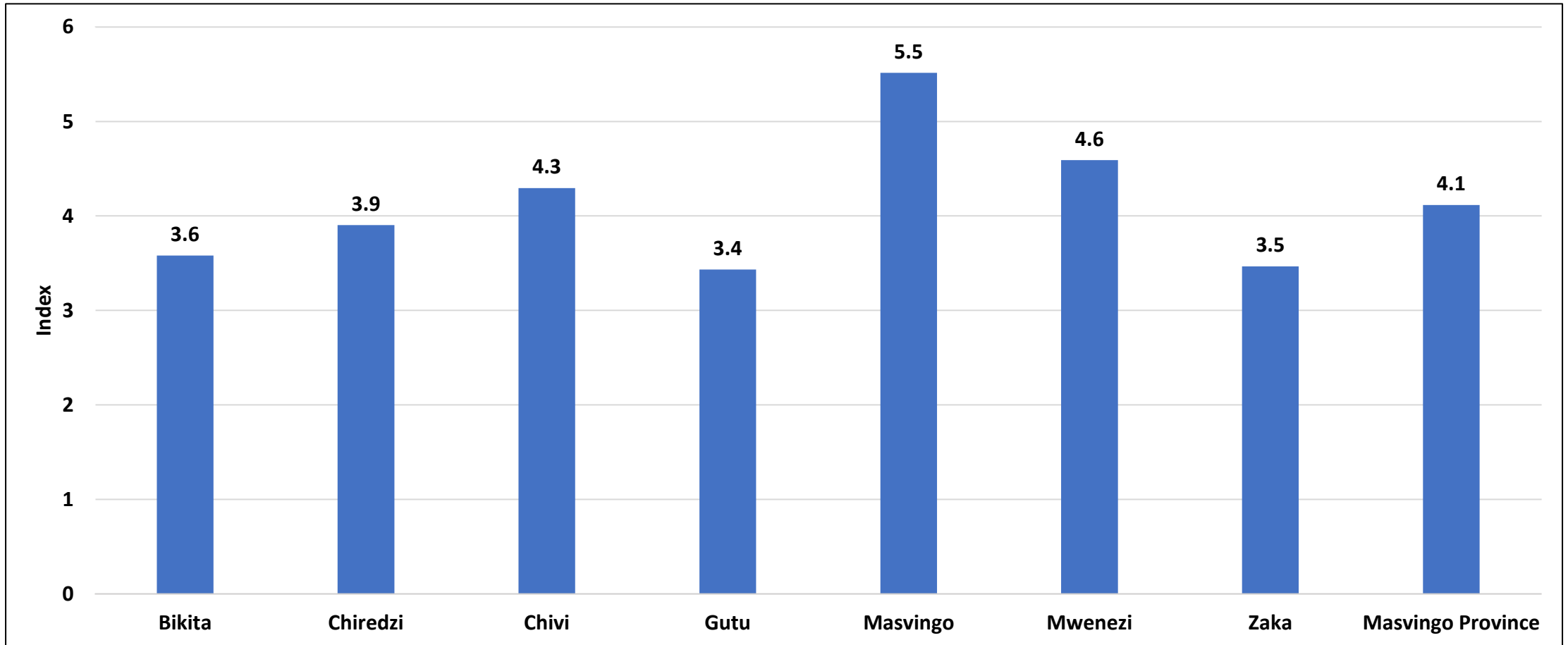
- Masvingo (5.5), Mwenezi (4.6) and Chivi (4.3) had the highest average number of shocks experienced by households.

Severity of Shocks
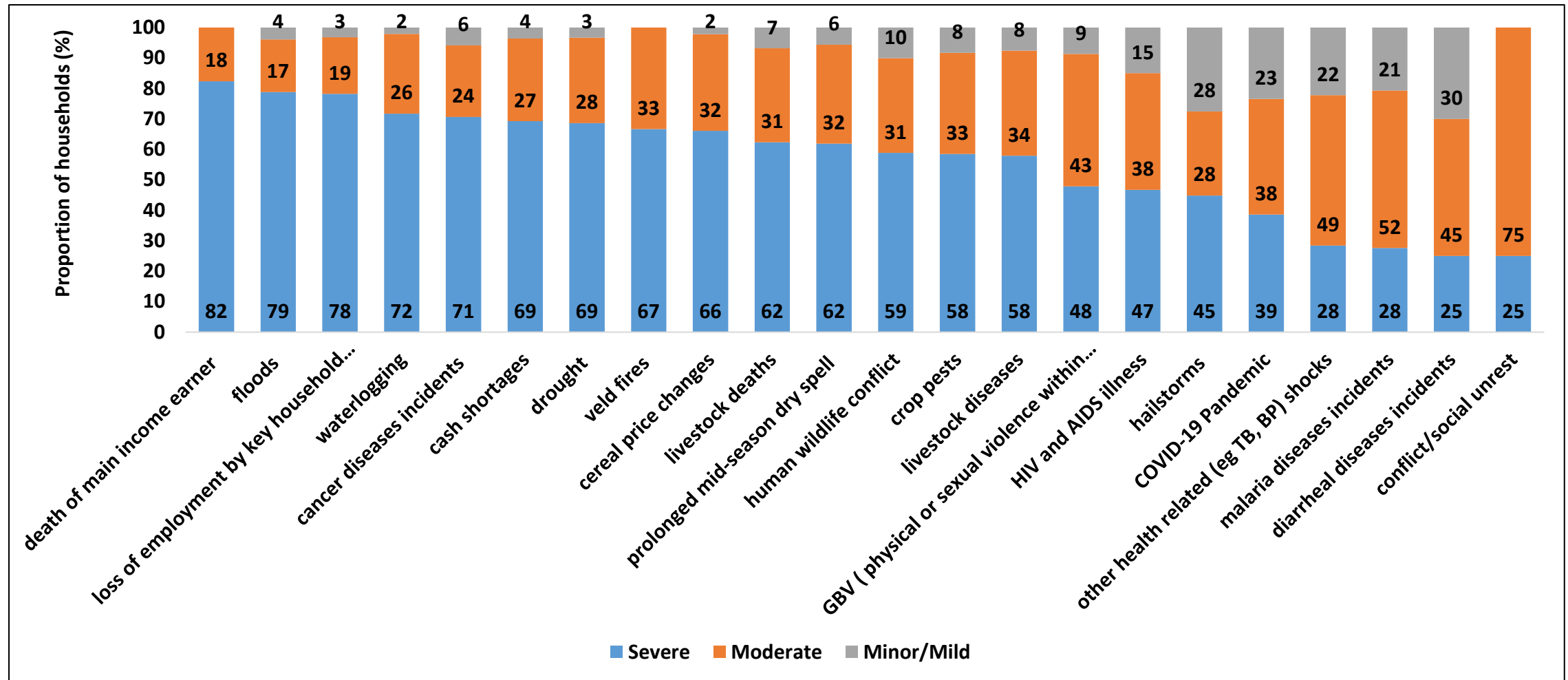
- Death of main income earner(82%), floods (79%) and loss of key employment (78%) were reported to have had the most severe impact on households.

Average Shock Exposure Index
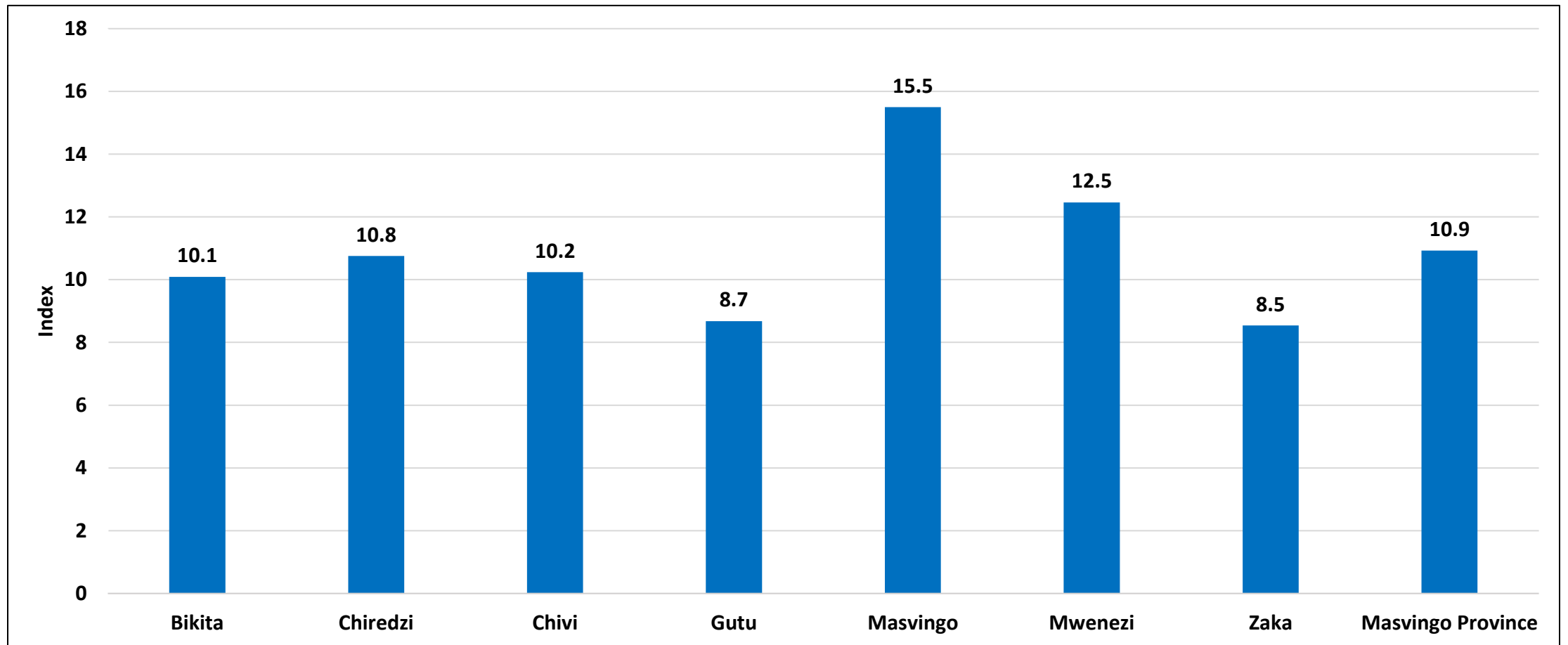
- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying number of shocks experienced with impact severity of the shock to the household.

- Masvingo district (15.5), Mwenezi (12.5)and Chiredzi (10.8) had the highest shock exposure index.

Households' Perception of their Ability to Cope with Shocks
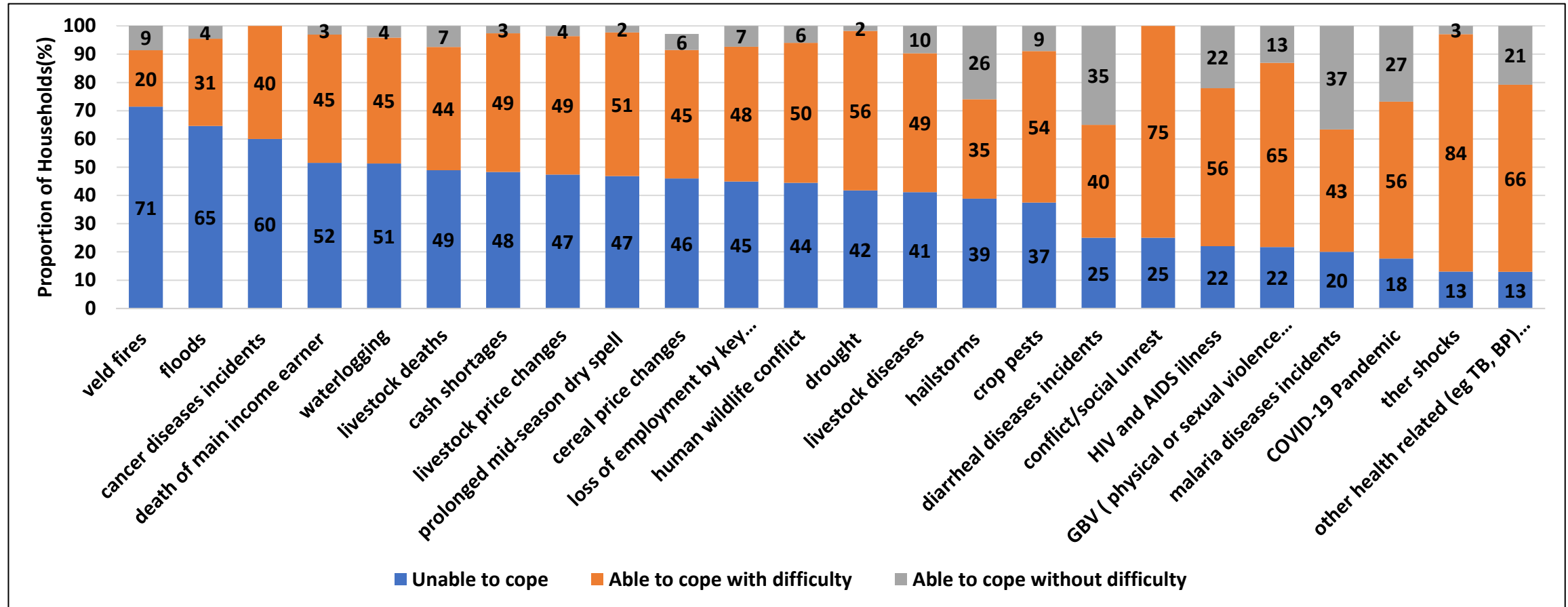
- Most households perceived inability to cope with economic, livelihoods and weather-related shocks.

Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope
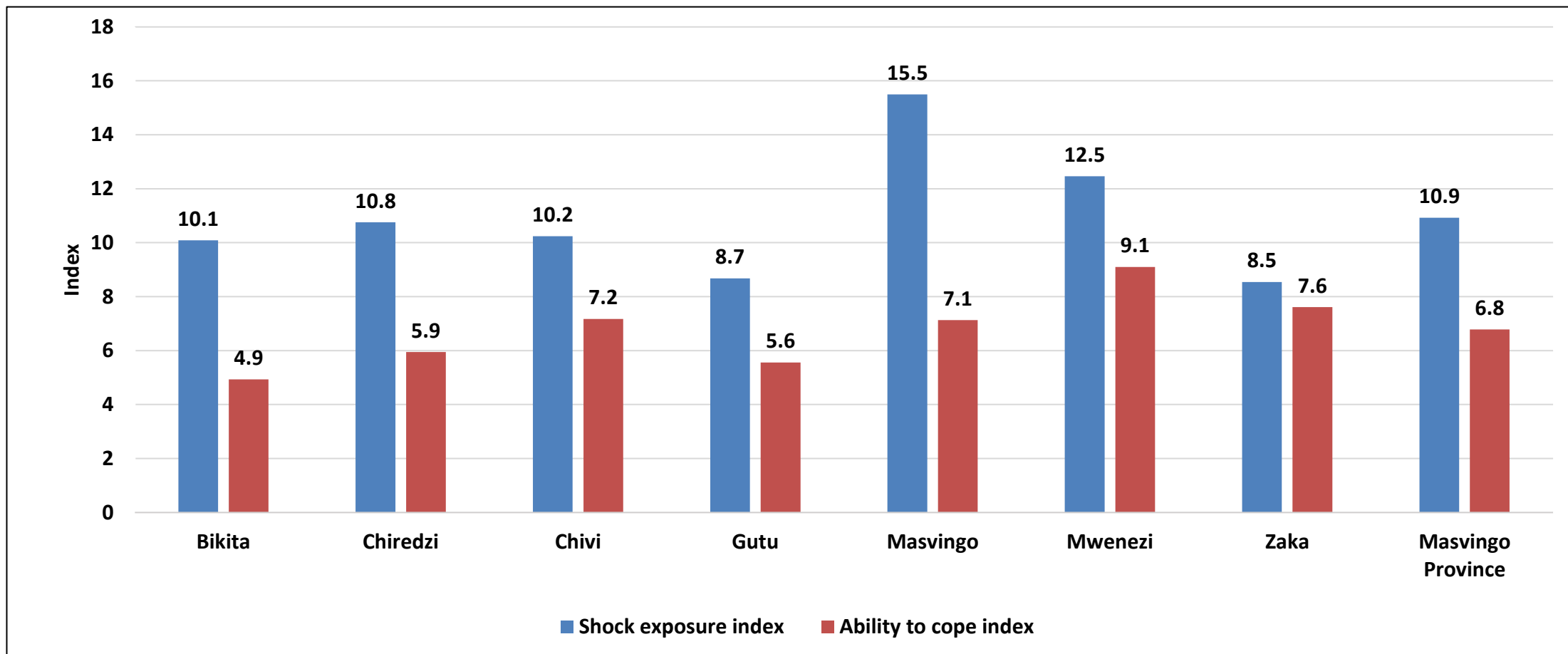
- Shock exposure was higher than the ability to cope across all districts meaning households were not able to cope with most shocks experienced.
- Households continue to be vulnerable to shocks and stressors and are not able to cope on their own.

Food Security

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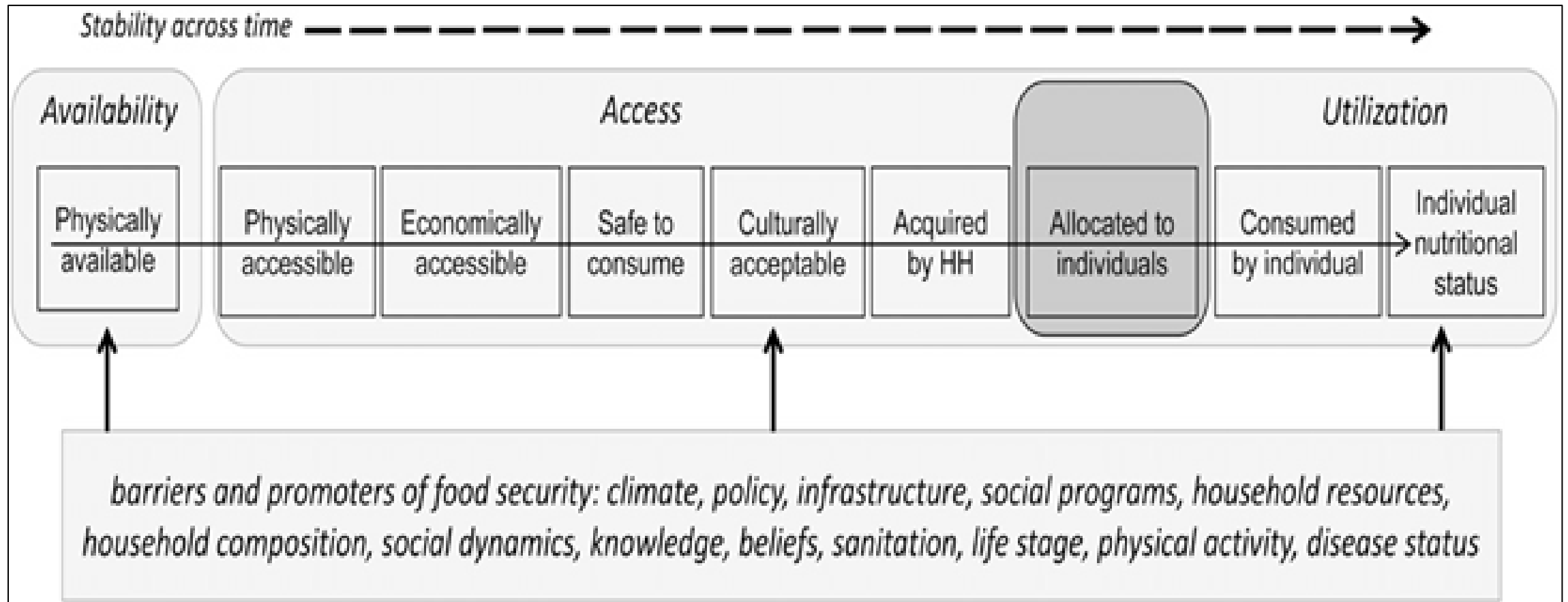
Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

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 2021/22 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 Progression by Income Source
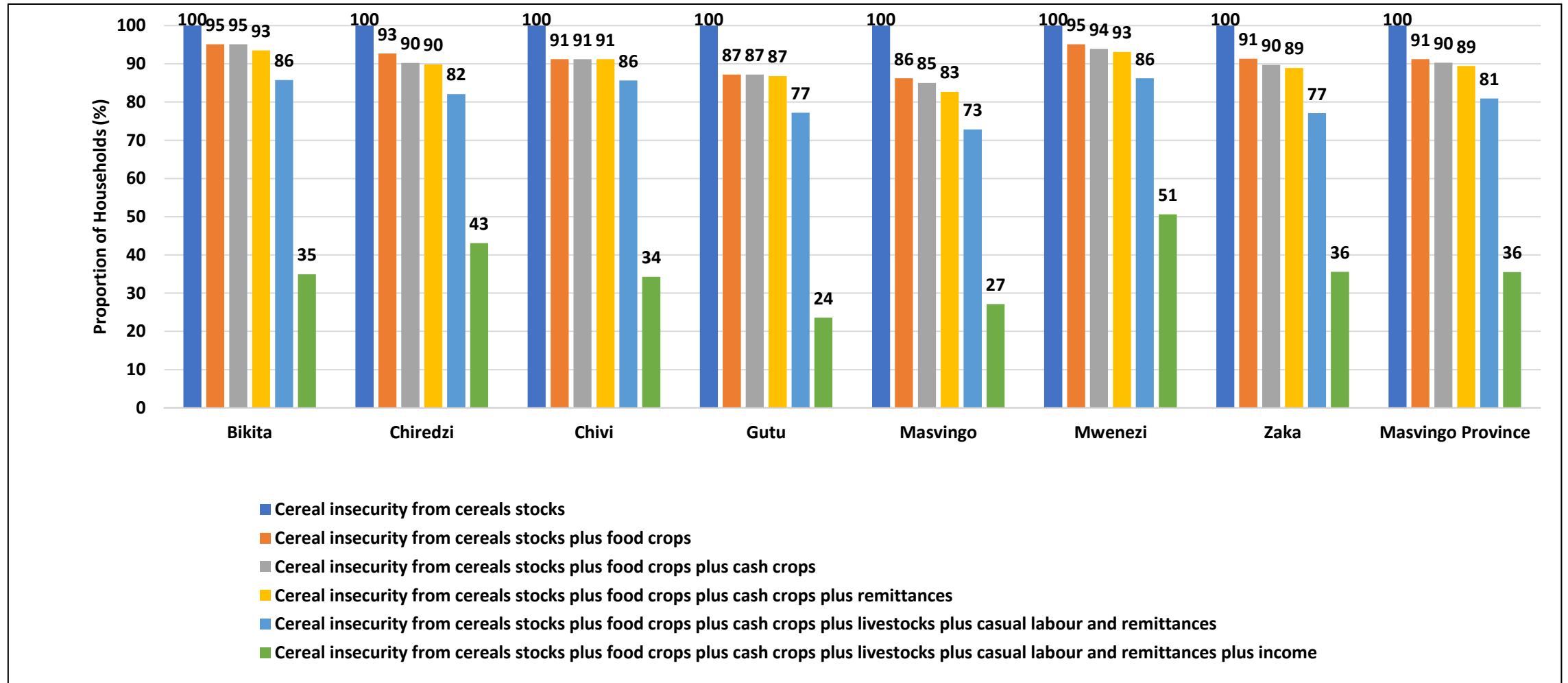
- After factoring in all the possible sources of household income into the food security model, 36% of households will be cereal insecure during peak hunger period.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter
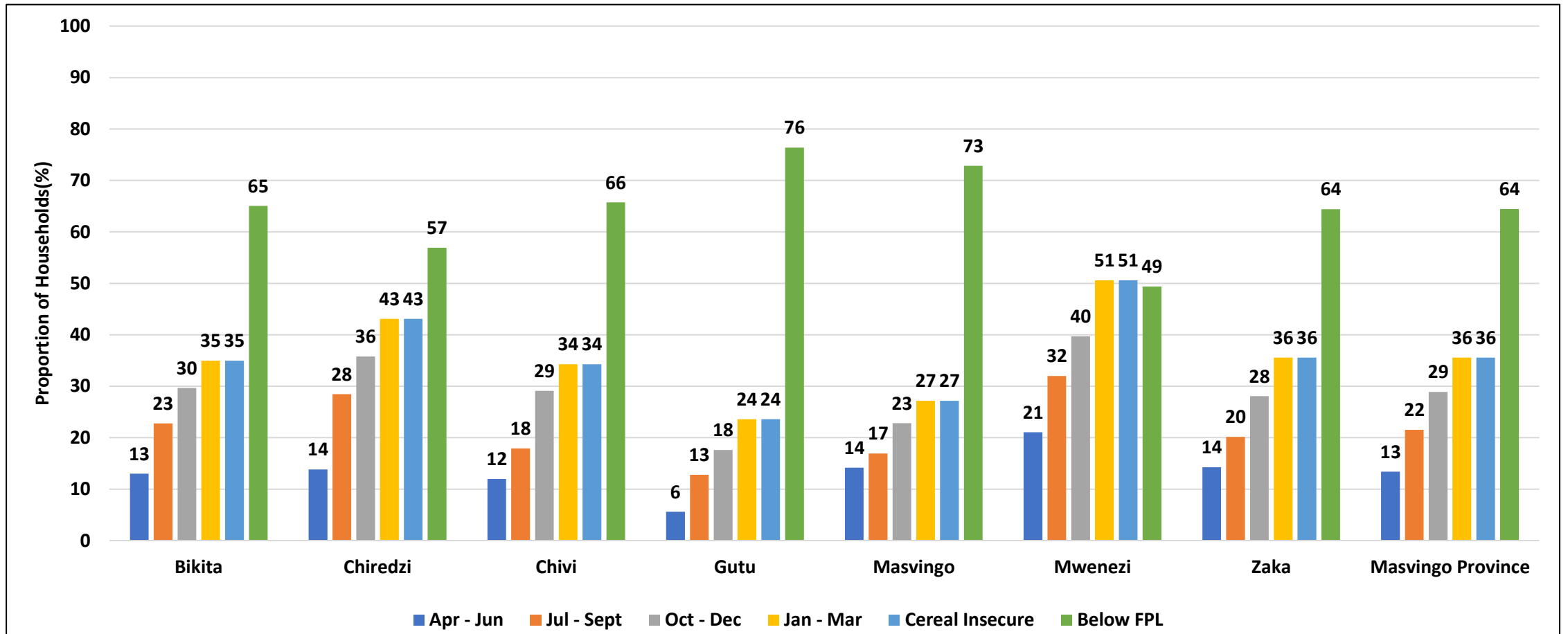
- About 36% of the households in Masvingo province will be cereal insecure during the peak of hunger period.

- Mwenezi (51%) and Chiredzi (43%) will have the highest proportion of cereal insure households during the peak hunger period.

- About 64% of households in Masvingo province will be below the food poverty line during the peak hunger period meaning they cannot meet the food requirements using income from all sources .

Cereal Insecure Population and Cereal Requirements by Quarter

District	Food Insecure Population			Cereal Requirements (MT)		
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Bikita	42266	55097	64909	1564	2039	2402
Chiredzi	110661	139117	167573	4094	5147	6200
Chivi	35143	57010	67163	1300	2109	2485
Gutu	29375	40390	54160	1087	1494	2004
Masvingo	42969	57958	68951	1590	2144	2551
Mwenezi	75231	93324	119036	2784	3453	4404
Zaka	39299	54711	69352	1454	2024	2566
Masvingo Province	**362455**	**486808**	**598629**	**13411**	**18012**	**22149**

- During the peak hunger period , around 598 629 people will be food insecure and approximately 22 149 MT of cereal will be required for the province.

Community Development Challenges and Priorities

Development Challenges

Bar chart showing Proportion of Communities (%):

Challenge	Proportion of Communities (%)
Poor access to livestock/produce markets	0.9
Livestock theft	0.9
Drug Abuse	0.9
Unavailability of crop/livestock inputs on the local market	1.8
Poor Information Communication Infrastructure	1.8
Poor/ lack of Health and infrastructure	1.8
Gender Based Violence	1.8
No primary/secondary school in the ward	1.8
Other	2.6
Lack of /limited Water for crop and livestock production	2.6
Poor Water and sanitation facilities	2.6
Unemployment	2.6
High Livestock mortalities	2.6
Shortage of cash	2.6
Lack of/ limited Water for domestic use	3.5
High food prices	3.5
Lack of /intermittent Electricity supply	3.5
Unpredictable and unreliable rainfall patterns	4.4
Lack of Irrigation infrastructure	4.4
High cost of Inputs and implements	4.4
Livestock diseases	5.3
Draught Power shortage	6.1
Poor road infrastructure	7.0
Corruption	7.0
Prohibitive By-laws	7.0
Drought	7.9
Lack of income generating projects	7.9

- The commonly reported development challenges were lack of income generating projects and drought both at 7.9%, prohibitive bylaws, corruption and poor road infrastructure all at 7%.

- Livestock diseases and lack of draught power were also listed amongst the major developmental challenges pointing to the need to pay attention to initiatives that increase cattle herd and also mechanization of farmers.

Development Challenge	Bikita (%)	Chiredzi (%)	Chivi (%)	Gutu (%)	Masvingo (%)	Mwenezi (%)	Zaka (%)	Masvingo Province (%)
Prohibitive By-laws	26.7	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	7.0
Lack of income generating projects	13.3	33.3	11.1	7.7	4.5	0.0	4.3	7.9
Corruption	13.3	0.0	11.1	3.8	0.0	0.0	13.0	7.0
Draught Power shortage	13.3	0.0	0.0	7.7	9.1	0.0	4.3	6.1
Drought	6.7	0.0	0.0	3.8	9.1	0.0	21.7	7.9
Drug Abuse	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
No primary/secondary school in the ward	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	4.5	0.0	0.0	1.8
Lack of /intermittent Electricity supply	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.5	0.0	14.3	0.0	3.5
Gender Based Violence	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	4.3	1.8
Poor/ lack of Health and infrastructure	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.3	1.8
High food prices	0.0	0.0	5.6	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
Poor Information Communication Infrastructure	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.3	1.8
High cost of Inputs and implements	6.7	0.0	0.0	3.8	13.6	0.0	0.0	4.4
Lack of Irrigation infrastructure	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	4.5	28.6	4.3	4.4
Shortage of cash	6.7	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6
High Livestock mortalities	6.7	0.0	5.6	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	2.6
Livestock diseases	0.0	33.3	0.0	11.5	4.5	0.0	4.3	5.3
Livestock theft	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.9
Poor access to livestock/produce markets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.9
Poor road infrastructure	0.0	0.0	11.1	7.7	4.5	28.6	4.3	7.0
Unpredictable and unreliable rainfall patterns	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	13.6	0.0	4.3	4.4
Poverty	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Unemployment	6.7	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6
Unavailability of crop/livestock inputs on the local market	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	14.3	0.0	1.8
Poor Water and sanitation facilities	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.3	2.6
Lack of/ limited Water for domestic use	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.3	3.5
Lack of /limited Water for crop and livestock production	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	2.6
Other	0.0	33.3	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	2.6

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The proportion of households which will be cereal insecure during peak of hunger period was estimated to be 36% hence there is need to institute measures that cushion the most vulnerable through targeted food assistance by the responsible ministry. The targeted food assistance should be coupled with initiatives that strengthen household resilience.

- There was a fair adoption rate of Pfumvudza with 52% of households practicing it whilst 56% were trained. This is applaudable, however, the proportion of households practicing drip/micro irrigation was low at 4%. This predisposes households to the effects of long dry spells and drought. Government needs to roll-out a pro-small scale producer irrigation programs in order to reduce crop failure.

- Given that the average household cereal production was 239.0kgs (205.1kgs for maize and 33.9kgs for traditional grains) , 6 out of 7 of the districts produced cereals sufficient for at least 9 months and the use of improved granaries (4%) and other grain protection methods is limited. It is recommended that Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement scale up post harvest management trainings and technology transfer to farmers so as to salvage the harvest.

- Only 2.9% of children 6-59 months in Masvingo province were receiving the Minimum Acceptable Diet which is worrisomely low hence there is need to strengthen the production and consumption of diversified crops though various initiatives that include, production and consumption of legumes, small livestock production and nutrition education and counselling among caregivers.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- Access to improved water for the province was 72%, Chivi district (44%) and Gutu (40%) had the highest proportion of households using water from unimproved sources .Government and its partners to prioritize districts with significant proportion of households using unimproved water sources since this poses a huge heath risk.

- Only 3% of the respondents reported to have experienced gender based violence either sexual or physical. Emotional violence (41%) was the most prevalent form of violence among spouses. Victims of Gender Based Violence and Spousal Violence either reported to relatives or did not report at all. The Government and its partners should strengthen mechanisms and community structures for effective awareness and referral systems on GBV.

- The major cited developmental challenges were lack of income generating projects and prohibitive bylaws therefore there is need to further establish more details with the local authorities about the appropriate income generating projects that can be implemented within their areas and prohibitive bylaws that can be revised to ensure easy of doing business by locals.

- Lack of draught power coupled with livestock diseases and deaths were also cited as developmental challenges by communities hence there is need to ensure the prevention and treatment of all forms of livestock diseases coupled with appropriate mechanization of farmers to address the draught power challenge.

- About 74% of households in Masvingo province have no concern with the COVID-19 vaccine hence the Ministry of Health and child care should utilize this opportunity to continue with the vaccination programme so as to reach herd immunity in the population.