

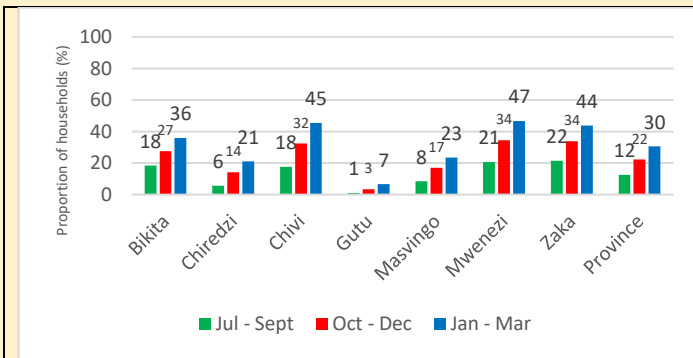
# Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet



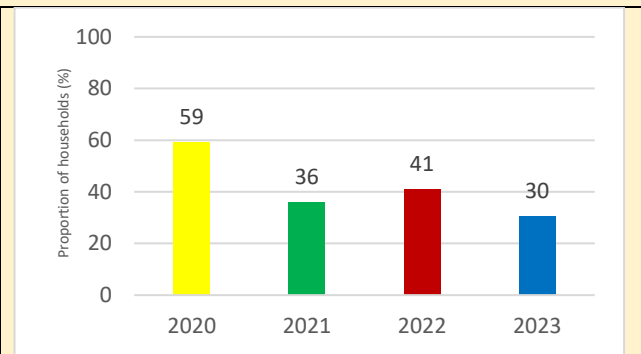
## MASVINGO PROVINCE

Masvingo province has a wide range of livelihoods that are structurally driven by the agro-ecological and economic environment. The dynamic environment has an impact on households' annual sources of food, income, and expenditure. The overall purpose of the ZimVAC assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions. This factsheet presents the results of the ZimVAC RLA 2023 for Masvingo province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.

### CEREAL INSECURITY PROGRESSION BY QUARTER

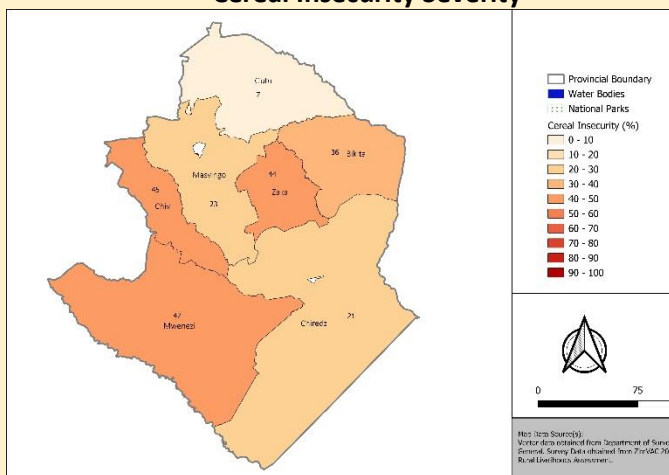


At the peak hunger period, January – March 2024, **30%**, translating to **459 856 people** were projected to be cereal insecure.



Cereal insecurity (30%) is projected to be lower than last year (41%).

### Cereal Insecurity Severity

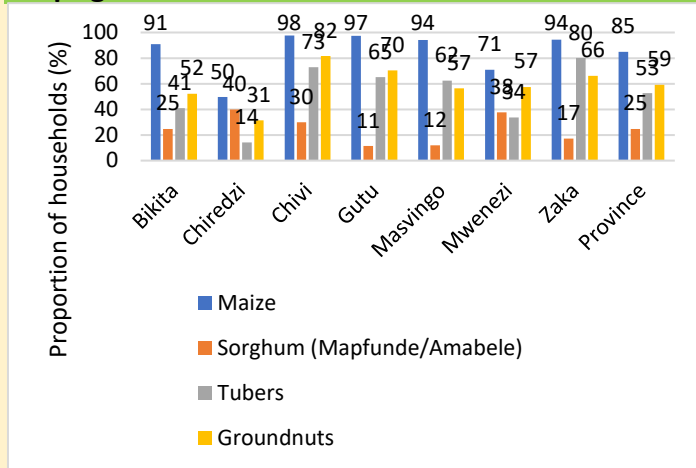


Mwenezi (**47%**), Chivi (**45%**) and Zaka (**44%**) had the highest proportion of households with cereal insecurity.

# 1. EFFORTS TOWARDS ADDRESSING FOOD & NUTRITION INSECURITY

## AGRICULTURE

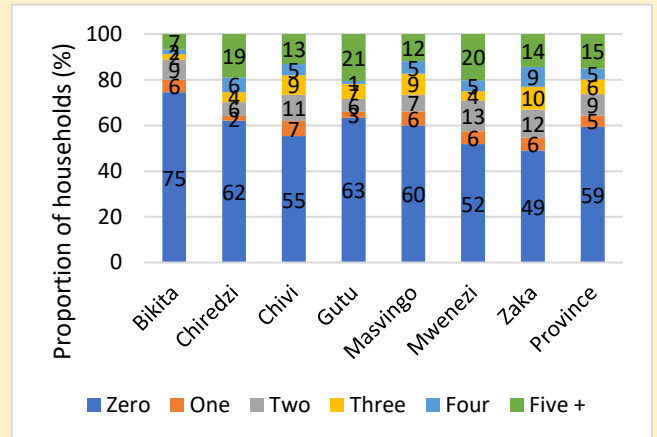
### Crops grown



On average **85%** of the households grew maize, **25%** grew sorghum, **53%** tubers, and **59%** groundnuts.

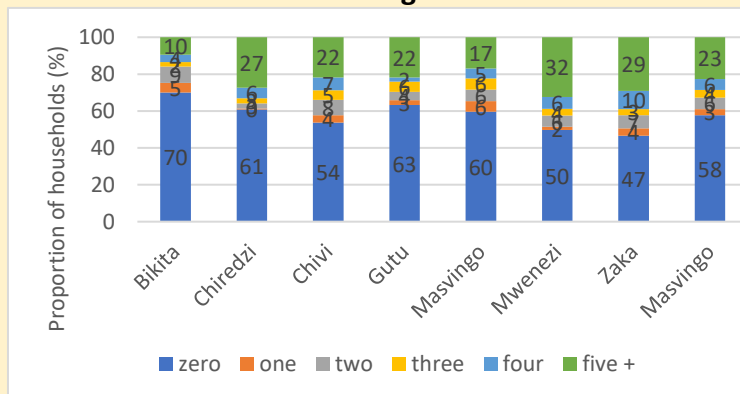
### Livestock Ownership

#### Households that owned cattle



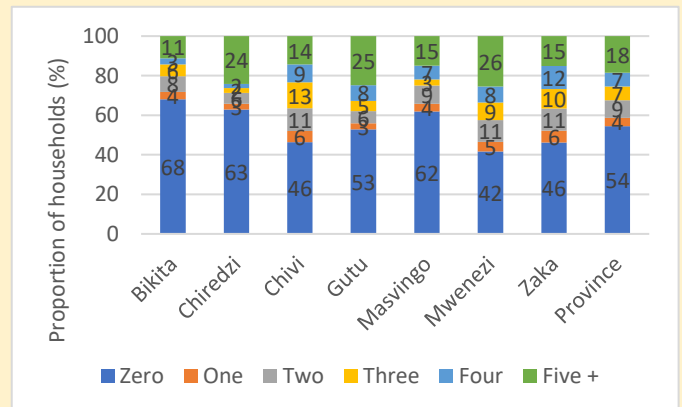
**59%** of households did not own cattle.

### Households that Owned Draught Power



**58%** did not own draught power (cattle, donkeys).

### Households that Owned Goats



**54%** of households did not own goats.



- Calving rate – **13%**
- Offtake rate – **6%** (highest in Chiredzi (9%) and Chivi (9%))

### Poultry



- **28%** had no poultry.
- **57%** owned 5 birds and above.

## Cereal Production

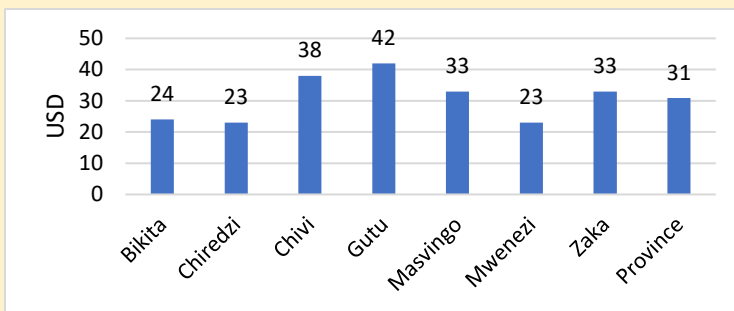
	Maize (kgs)	Sorghum (kgs)	Pearl millet (kgs)
Bikita	204.2	18.4	8.4
Chiredzi	45.6	59.1	17.0
Chivi	111.3	5.1	0.0
Gutu	640.1	4.0	12.9
Masvingo	289.0	2.1	0.0
Mwenezi	40.2	13.2	87.5
Zaka	173.9	2.8	0.0
<b>Masvingo Province</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>

On average, **187.3kg** Maize, **10kg** sorghum, and **11.4 kg** pearl millet was harvested per household

## Cereal Prices

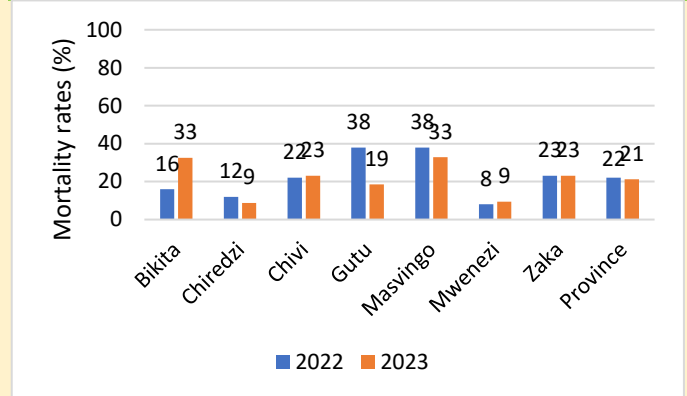
Average cereal prices were **USD 7 per 20-liter bucket** (maize grain) and **USD 5.10 per 10kg** (maize meal)

## Goat Prices



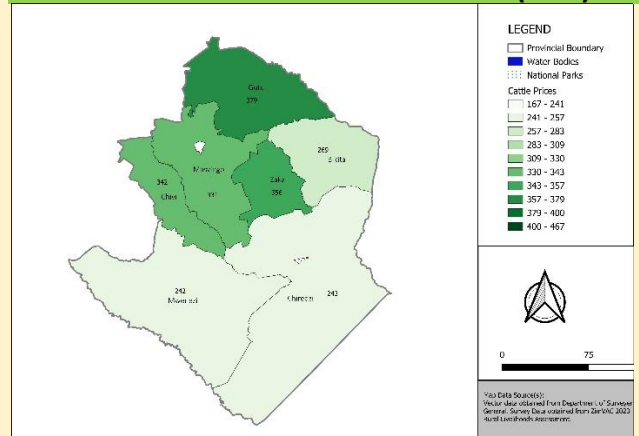
The average price was USD 31, the highest in Gutu.

## Cattle mortality rate



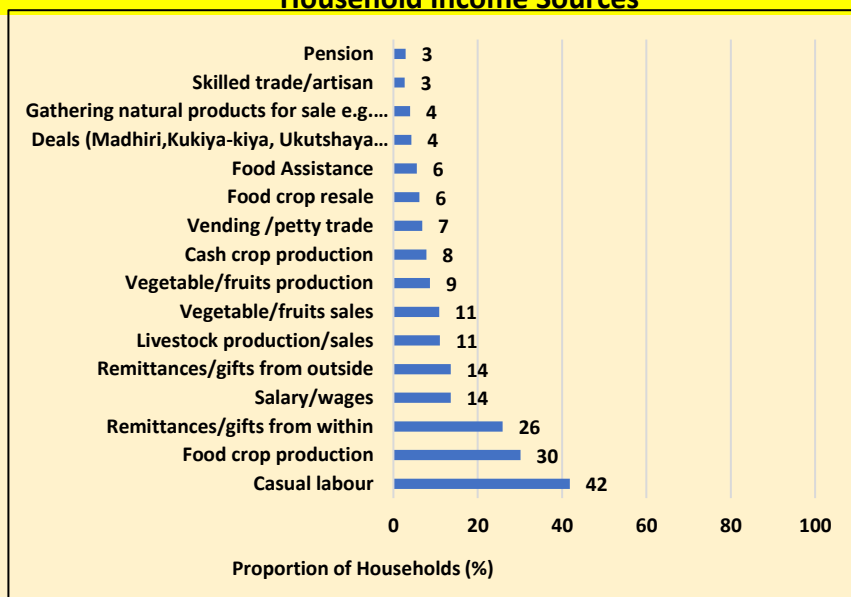
The average cattle mortality rate was **21%**. Bikita and Masvingo had the highest (**33%**).

## Cattle Prices (USD)



Cattle prices were highest in Gutu (**379 USD**) and lowest in Mwenezi (**USD 242**) and Chiredzi (**USD 243**).

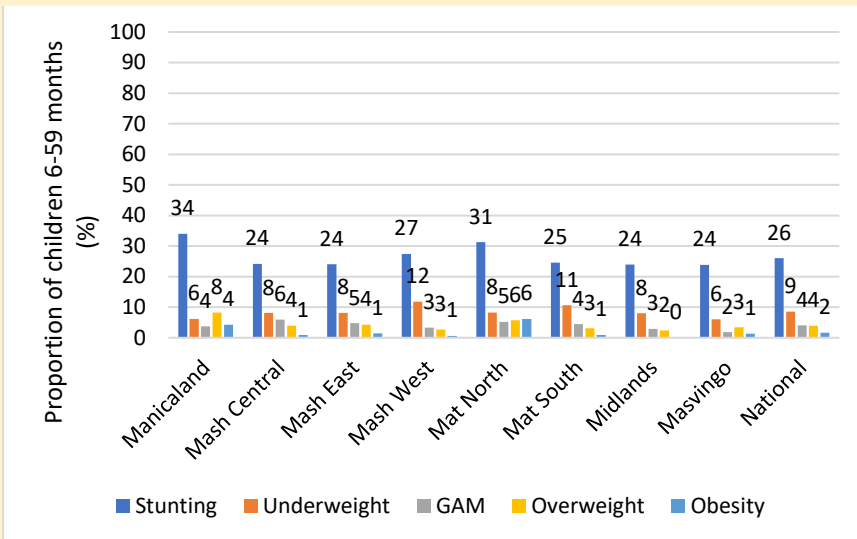
## Household Income Sources



The most important income sources were casual labor (**42%**), food crop production (**30%**), and remittances from within (**26%**)

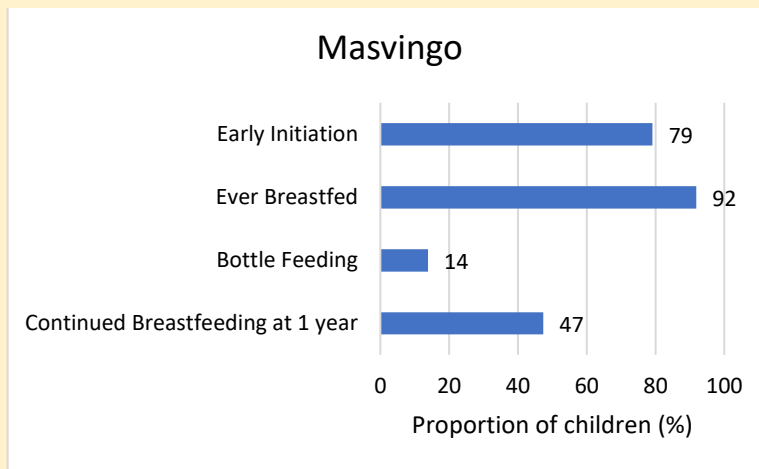
## 1.2. NUTRITION

### Nutrition: Children (6-59 months)



- About **24%** of children (6-59 months) were stunted, compared to **22.9%** last year.
- The GAM rate was **2%**, which is within acceptable WHO standards of 5%.

### Infant and Young Child Feeding

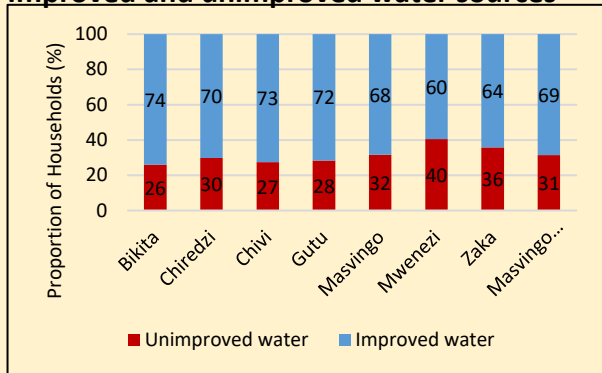


**92%** of children had ever been breastfed, **79%** of children were breastfed within one hour of birth, and **47%** of children continued breastfeeding beyond 1 year of age.

### Complementary Feeding Practices

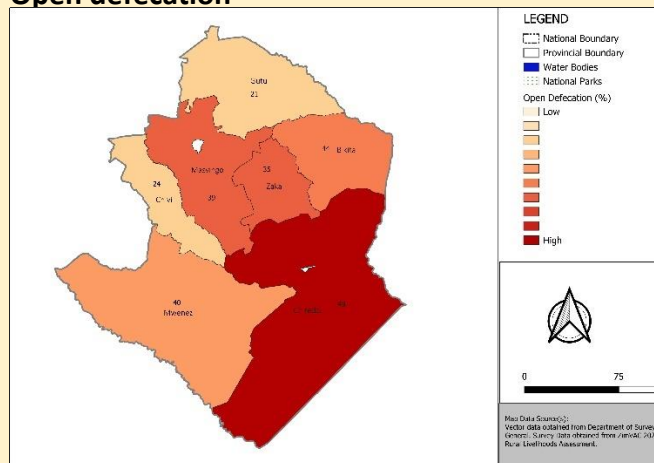
- **2%** of children had minimum acceptable diets.
- **10%** had minimum dietary diversity lower than 20% in 2021

## Improved and unimproved water sources



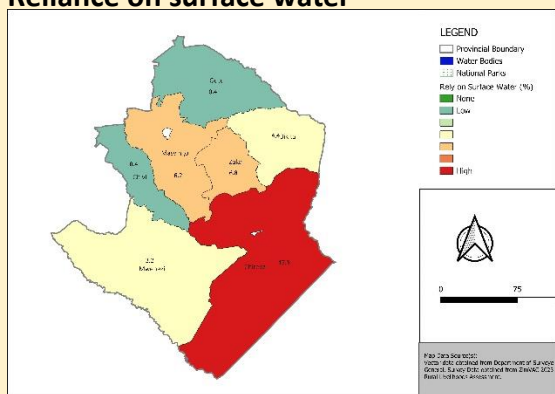
31.4% had unimproved water sources.

## Open defecation



36% used open defecation and Chiredzi (49%) with the highest proportion of households.

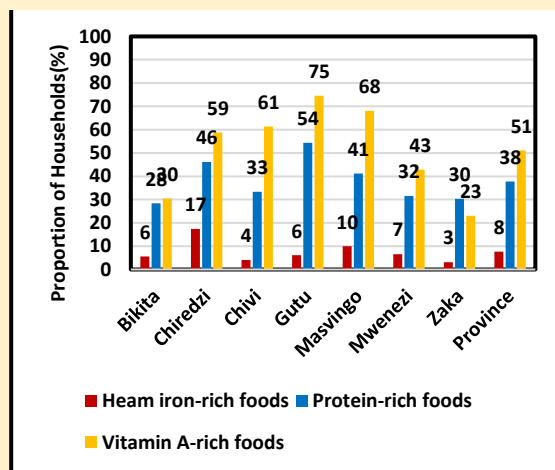
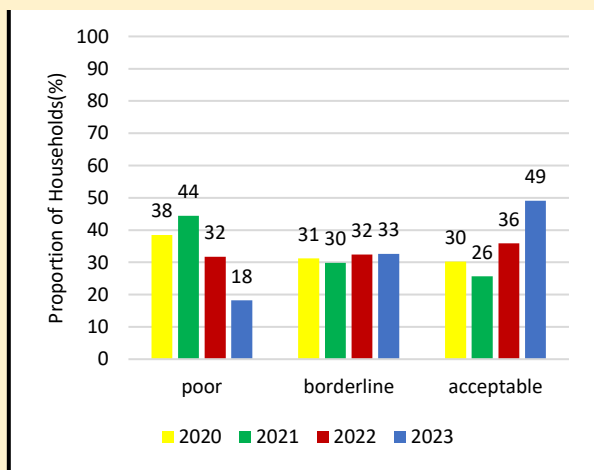
## Reliance on surface water



Chiredzi (17.3%) had a high proportion of households that used surface water.

On average, 3.5% of households treated drinking water.

## Household Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity

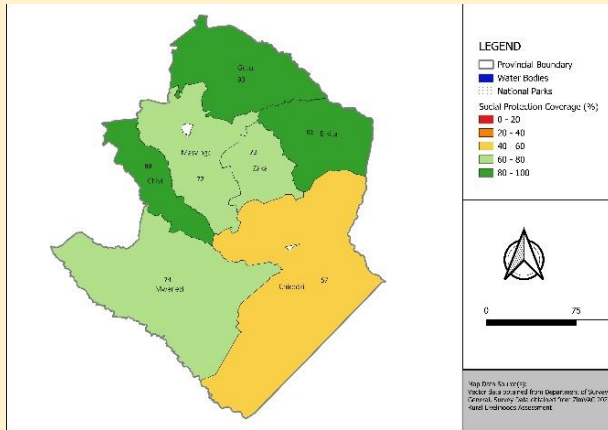


18% of households had poor food consumption patterns. 51% and 38% of households consumed Vitamin A and protein-rich foods, respectively.

## 2. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY NETS



### Social Protection Coverage



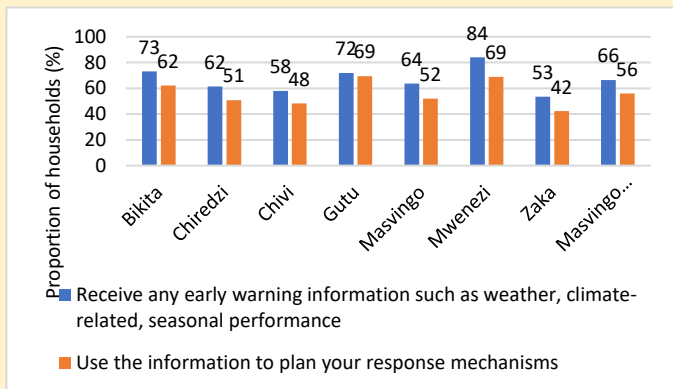
The Government (**65.7%**) was the major source of support complemented by NGOs (**16.7%**).

Overall, Gutu (**90%**), Chivi (**89%**), and Bikita (**82%**) received the most support whilst Chiredzi (**57.3%**) received the least.

## 3. Access to Basic Services

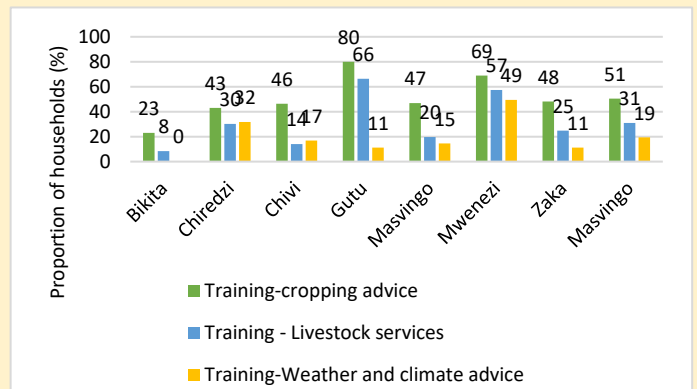
### Access to Agricultural Extension Services

#### Early warning information



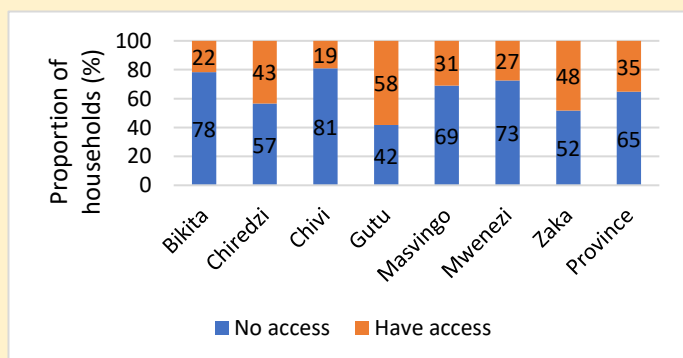
**66%** received training in early warning and **56%** used the information to plan response mechanisms.

#### Agricultural Training



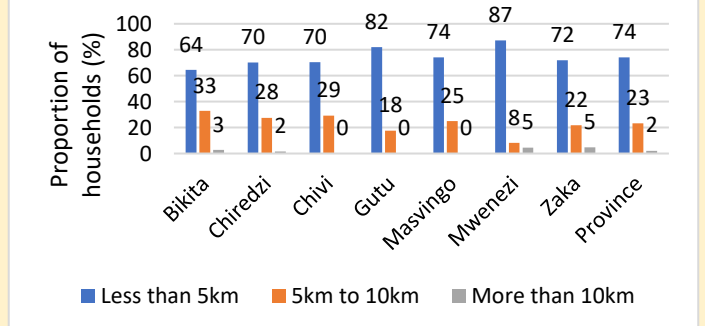
**51%** received cropping advice, **31%** livestock services, and **19%** weather and climate advice.

#### Access to Police Services



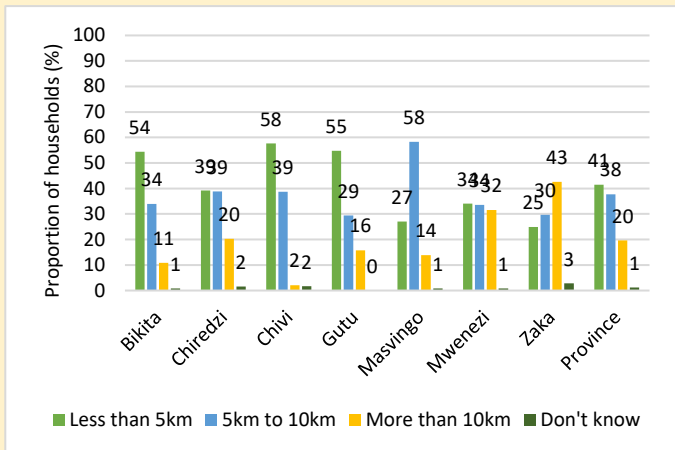
**65%** did not have access to police services reachable within one hour.

#### Access to Education Infrastructure



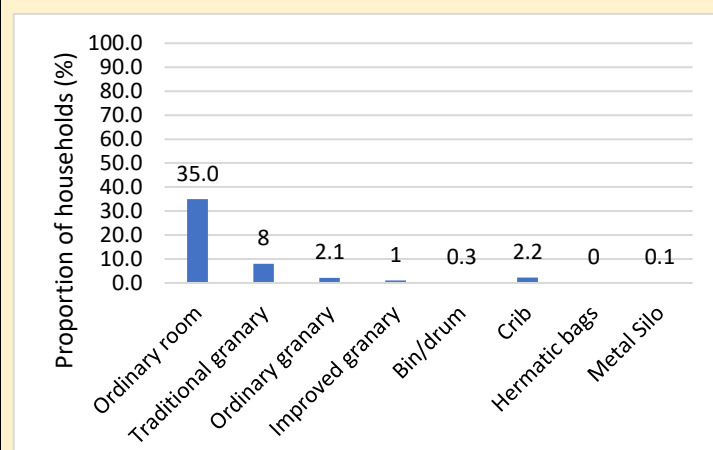
**74%** of households travelled less than 5km to the nearest primary school.

### Access to a Health facility



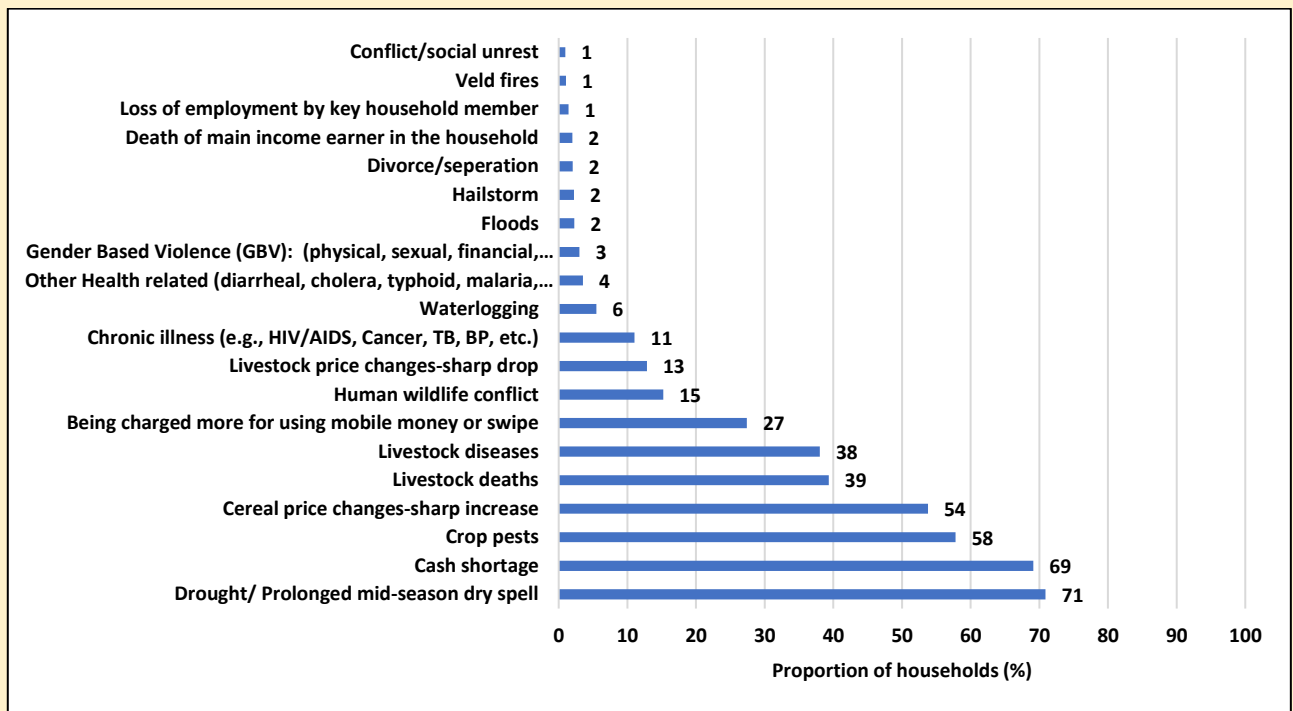
More than **50%** traveled 5km and above to the nearest health facility.

### Grain storage structures



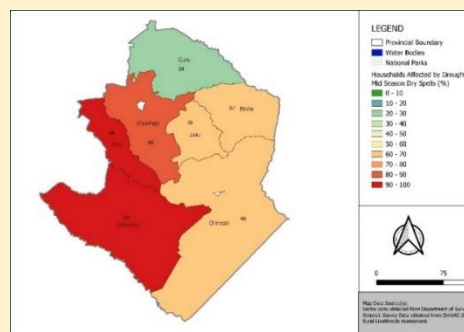
**35%** used ordinary rooms for grain storage.

## 4. SHOCKS AND HAZARDS



The most common shocks reported were drought/Prolonged mid-season dry spells, cash shortages, and crop pests.

Mwenezi (**91%**) and Chivi (**94%**) had the highest proportion of households that were affected by drought/mid-season dry spells.



## 5. Areas for Improvement

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Crops</b> An average of 187.3kg maize, 10kg sorghum, and 11.4 kg pearl millet was harvested per household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government should continue to intensify programmes that support improvements in yields and production.</li> </ul>
	<b>Livestock</b> A high provincial cattle mortality rate 21%, with Bikita and Masvingo having the highest (33%). Cattle diseases Were the main cause of death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intensify trainings on vaccination and dipping of animals</li> <li>- Engage local leaders and communities to come up with community-centered monitoring systems to ensure everyone adheres to implemented animal disease-control measures.</li> </ul>
	<b>Cereal sufficiency</b> At the peak hunger period, January – March, 30% of the population is projected to be cereal insecure, with the highest in Mwenezi (47%), Chivi (45%) and Zaka (44%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government should target and assist households that are cereal insecure starting from the July. The proportion of those who are cereal insecure is projected to increase in the peak hunger period hence there is a need to scale up assistance during this period.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
	<b>Food consumption</b> 18% of households had poor food consumption patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although there was a decrease in households with poor food consumption patterns from previous years, the government is recommended to continue scaling-up food and nutrition awareness on diversification of food groups.</li> <li>- Food and Nutrition Security Committees at relevant levels should be continuously strengthened to support nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and that might include; promotion of traditional foods, food fairs, home and school nutrition gardening and good food handling and processing practices from farm to fork.</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>WASH</b> <b>31.4%</b> had unimproved water sources. -A high proportion of households that used surface water were in Chiredzi (17.3%). <b>36%</b> practised open defecation and Chiredzi ( <b>49%</b> highest proportion of households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize access to consumptive water through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation, construction of headworks as well as piped water schemes</li> <li>- Re-invest in programming in this critical area for example strengthening community trainings emphasizing on hygiene.</li> <li>- Integrated messaging through community model home initiatives</li> </ul>
	<b>Nutrition outcomes</b> The provincial GAM rate was 2% About 24% of children (6-59 months) were stunted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government should continue strengthening initiatives to reduce malnutrition.</li> <li>- Strong capacitation of community caregivers on standard case management to curb malnutrition coupled with messaging on appropriate IYCF practices.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scale up active screening and mobilize for management of acute malnutrition in respective districts.</li> </ul>
	<p>Social Protection and safety nets The Government <b>(65.7%)</b> was the major source of support complemented by NGOs <b>(16.7%)</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilize resources for supporting vulnerable households.</li> <li>- Scale up community capacity building for self-sustenance.</li> <li>- The targeting criteria for vulnerable populations need to be sensitive and precise in identifying the needy pockets within communities with support from local government structures.</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Basic Services</b>	<p>Access to Services and Infrastructure More than 50% had access to health facilities which were 5km and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize provision of such services like health facilities, particularly in the new resettlement areas with strong engagement and participation of local authorities</li> <li>- Increase the provision of mobile social infrastructure with considerations to scale-up infrastructure sharing if information is to reach communities in real-time</li> <li>- Prioritize capacity enhancement for maintenance of rural feeder roads including use of local funding innovations where possible</li> </ul>
<b>Shocks and Hazards</b>	<p>Shocks and Hazards The most common shocks reported were drought/Prolonged mid-season dry spells, cash shortages, and crop pests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen and coordinate stakeholder coordination to build social cohesion particularly to cushion communities against the high Average Shock Exposure Index.</li> <li>- Adoption of climate smart technologies and sensitization of communities on new approaches</li> <li>- Multisectoral platforms should create inclusive and sustainable livelihoods diversification opportunities for the vulnerable households such that they do not dispose of their acquired wealth but use it for development related expenses in turn building household and community resilience and development.</li> </ul>

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