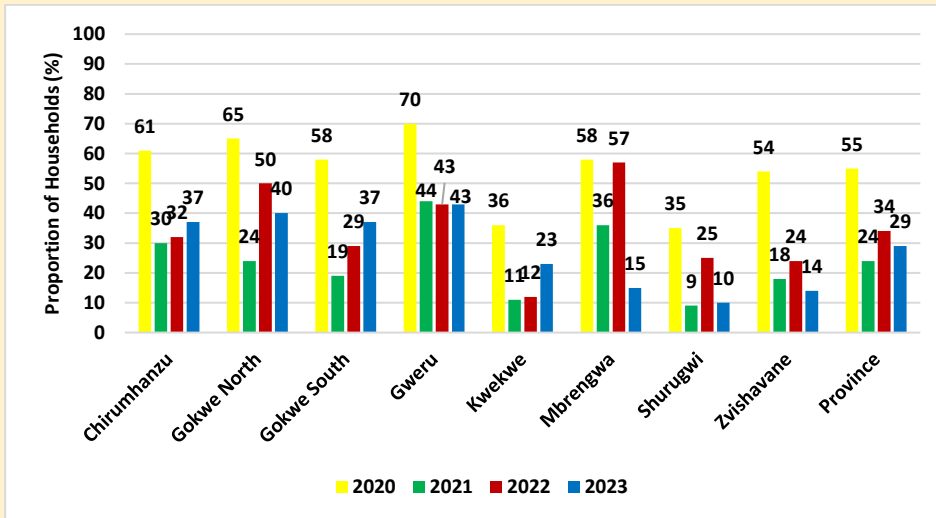


# Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2023 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Fact Sheet



## MIDLANDS PROVINCE

Midlands Province is located at the centre of the country spreading over a surface area 49 166 square km. As the mineral hub of the country, Midlands boasts of 18 mined minerals with 33% of the Great Dyke in the province. Midlands is the second highest producer of cotton with the third highest herd of cattle. 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 results of the ZimVAC RLA 2023 for Midlands province, highlighting efforts towards improvement of food and nutrition security and areas that require policy and intervention improvements.



29% of households are projected to be food insecure during the peak hunger period (Jan- March 2024), this translate to about 404,705 individuals requiring 14974 MT of cereals in the province.

Figure1: Food Insecurity Status at Peak Hunger Period

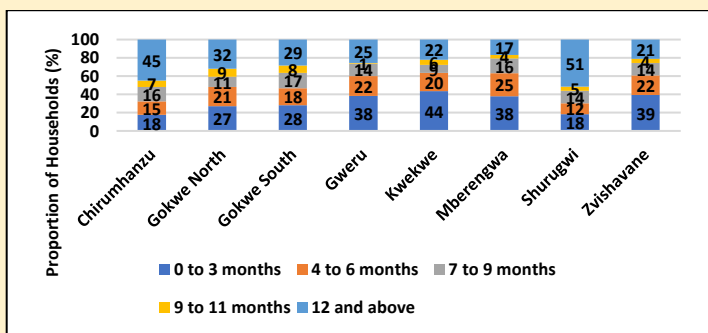
District	Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter				Cereal Requirements (MT) by Quarter			
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Chirumhanzu	6,073	11,767	22,774	35,300	225	435	843	1,306
Gokwe North	21,715	36,521	67,119	99,692	803	1,351	2,483	3,689
Gokwe South	17,854	52,288	98,199	118,604	661	1,935	3,633	4,388
Gweru	9,698	24,730	40,732	52,370	359	915	1,507	1,938
Kwekwe	2,346	8,602	24,242	45,356	87	318	897	1,678
Mberengwa	11,674	19,178	24,181	31,686	432	710	895	1,172
Shurugwi	392	1,567	5,875	9,792	14	58	217	362
Zvishavane	340	1,361	6,123	11,905	13	50	227	440
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>70,092</b>	<b>156,013</b>	<b>289,246</b>	<b>404,705</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>5,772</b>	<b>10,702</b>	<b>14,974</b>

# 1. EFFORTS TOWARDS ADDRESSING FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

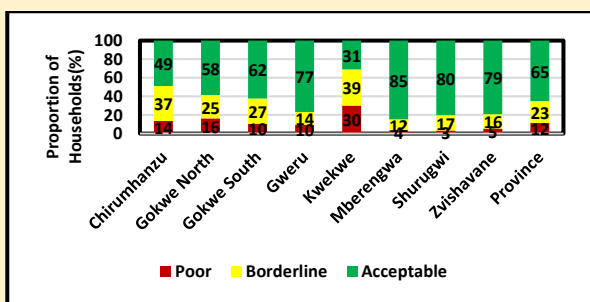
## Food Crop Production

	Maize (kg)	Sorghum (kg)	Finger Millet	Pearl Millet	Cowpeas (kg)	Groundnuts	Roundnuts (kg)	Sugar Beans (kg)
Chirumhanzu	658.7	0	7.5	0	22.4	29.1	19.4	7.1
Gokwe North	552.6	5.5	0	0	4.7	1.7	1.7	0
Gokwe South	363.5	20.7	0	1.6	12.5	1	1	0
Gweru	540.5	0	0	0	5.4	8.9	8.9	3.6
Kwekwe	352.9	2.1	0	0	2.5	6.4	6.4	0
Mberengwa	284.3	10.2	0.1	2.4	23.3	19.1	19.1	1.6
Shurugwi	717.1	0	0.9	0	15.6	23.7	23.7	6.7
Zvishavane	344.5	6.9	0	0	13.9	18.7	18.7	0
Midlands	463	3.3	0	0	11.9	11.5	11.5	1.3

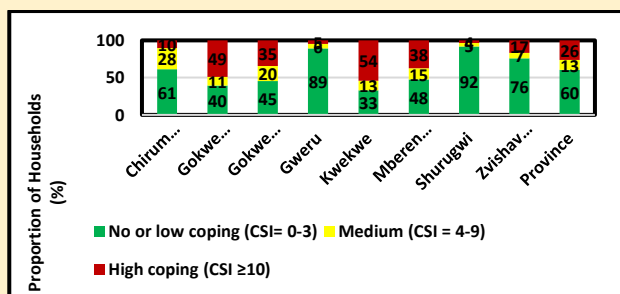
## Cereal Sufficiency



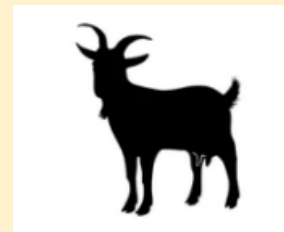
## Food Consumption Patterns



## Consumption Coping



## Livestock Ownership



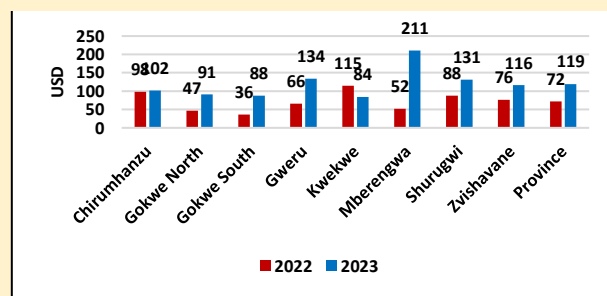
54% owned cattle, 50% owned goats.

## Livestock Prices

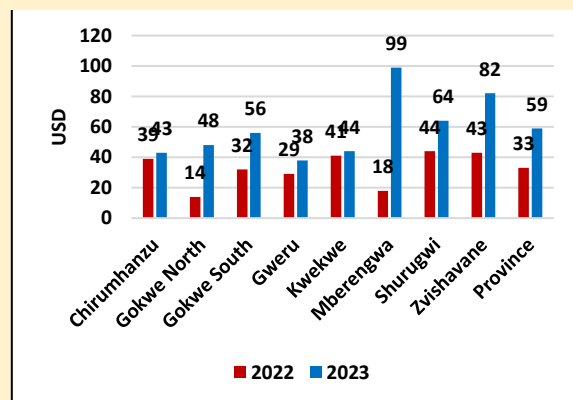
Average cattle price was USD 331. Average goat price was USD 34

	Cattle (USD)	Goat (USD)	Donkey (USD)	Chicken (USD)
Chirumhanzu	390	36	154	7
Gokwe North	250	20	66	4
Gokwe South	250	21	67	5
Gweru	306	32	90	5
Kwekwe	400	38	92	5
Mberengwa	431	46	123	6
Shurugwi	319	38	140	7
Zvishavane	300	38	110	5
Province	331	34	105	6

## Income



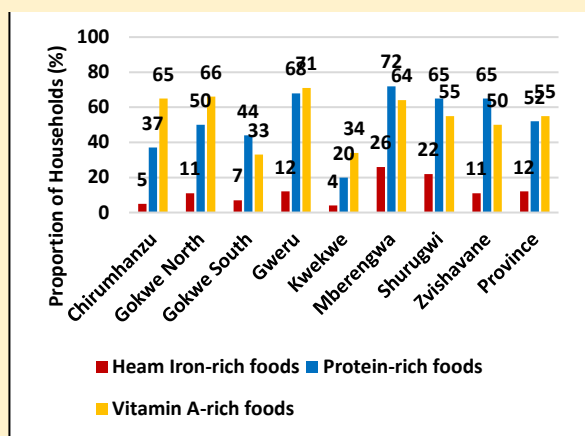
## Expenditure



## 1.1 Household and Child Nutrition

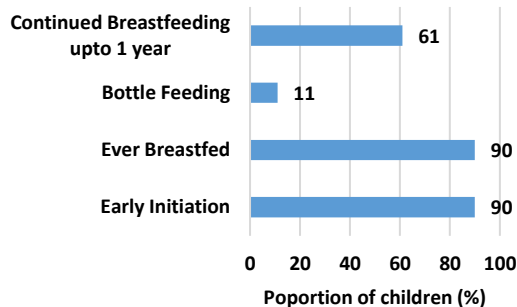
### Household Nutrition

#### Food Consumption Score Nutrition



### Child Nutrition

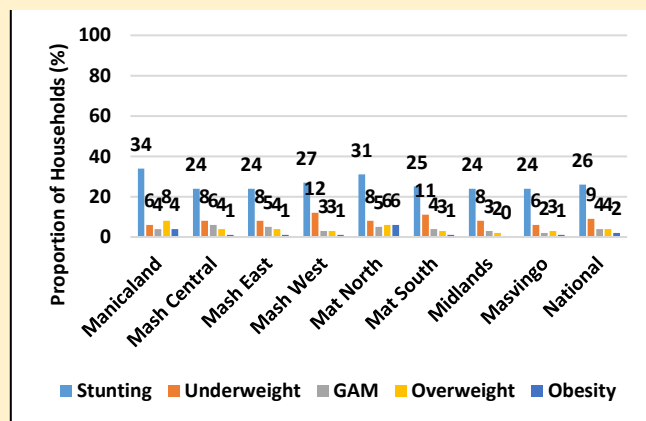
#### Infant and Young Child Feeding



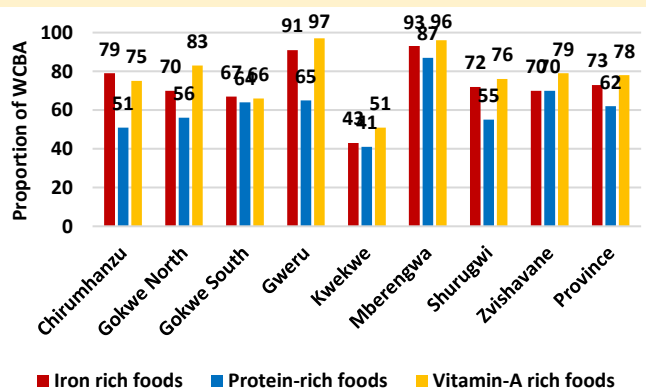
#### Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from Various Food Groups

	Cereals	Legumes	Vegetables	Fruits	Meat	Dairy	Oil
Chirumhanzu	7	2	6	1	2	1	7
Gokwe North	7	3	6	2	2	1	6
Gokwe South	7	2	6	2	3	2	6
Gweru	7	3	6	1	4	2	6
Kwekwe	6	2	4	2	1	0	5
Mberengwa	7	4	6	3	5	2	7
Shurugwi	7	3	6	2	4	2	6
Zvishavane	7	3	6	3	4	2	7
Province	7	3	6	2	3	2	6

#### Vitamin A Supplementation: 12-59 Months



#### Women Dietary Diversity

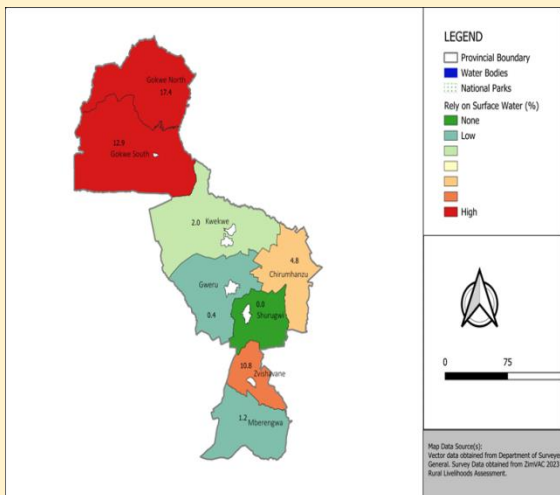
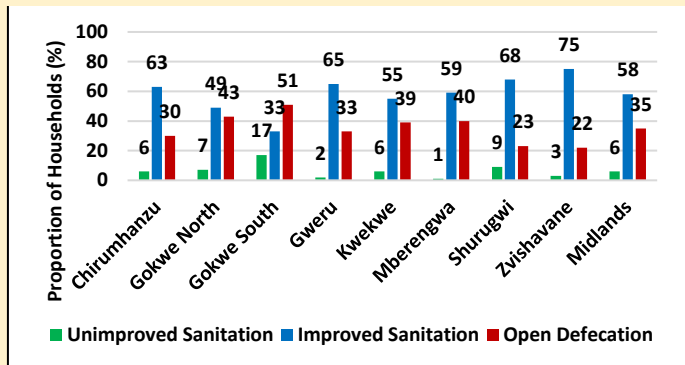
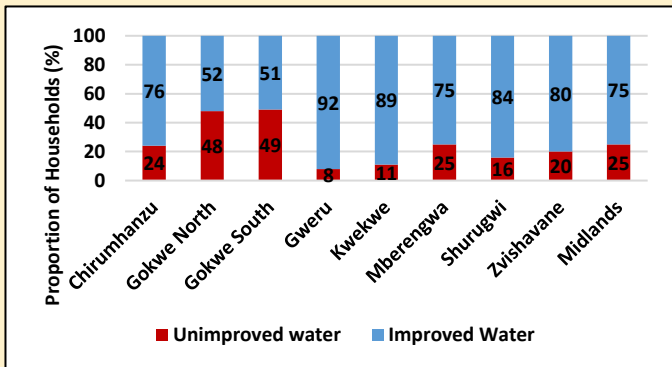


61% of children continued breastfeeding beyond 1 year of age.

24% of children were reported to be stunted, underweight (8%), GAM (3%) and overweight (2%).

## 2. Access to Basic Services

### 2.1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (WASH)



About three quarters of households (**75%**) had access to improved water sources.

**58%** of households had access to improved sanitation.

Most households reported practising handwashing at 3 critical times which included: after using the toilet, before/after eating and before handling the food.

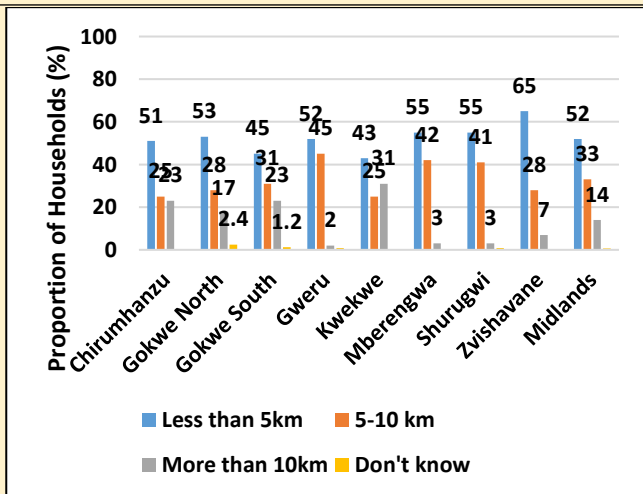
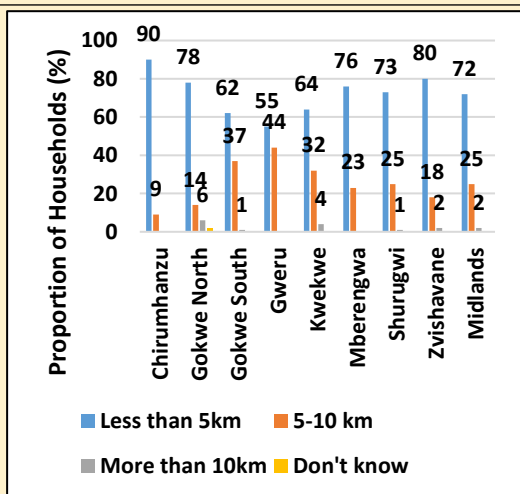
### 2.2. Education and Health Facilities

#### Distance to the Nearest Primary

**72%** of households had access to a primary school within a 5km radius.

**52%** of households had access to the nearest health facility within a 5km radius, **33%** within 5-10 km and **14%** more than 10km.

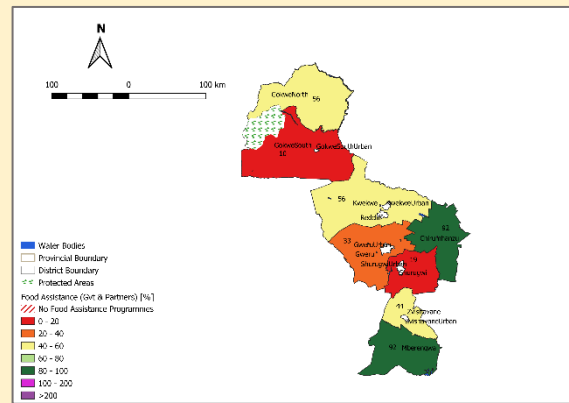
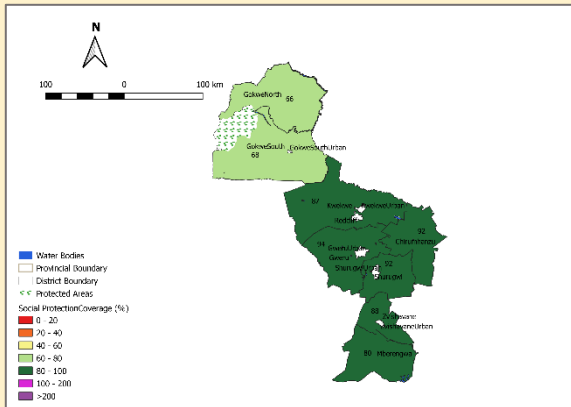
#### Distance to the Nearest Health Facility



### 3. SOCIAL PROTECTION



79% of households received some form of support. Most support received by districts came from the Government (73%) and complementary support from NGOs (4.8%). Chirumhanzu (93.6%) had the highest proportion of households that received any form of support whilst Mberengwa (62.4%) had the least.

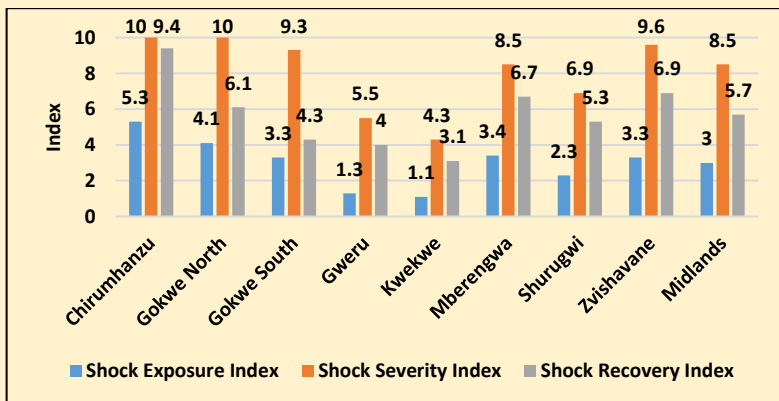


### SHOCKS AND HAZARDS

	Cash Shortage (%)	Drought (%)	Swipe/Eco (%)	Livestock Deaths (%)	Livestock Diseases (%)
Chirumhanzu	92.8	71.7	1.6	49.8	47.8
Gokwe North	81	54.2	4	35.6	34
Gokwe South	57.8	62.7	30.6	28.5	30.1
Gweru	26.7	24.3	36	8.4	8.8
Kwekwe	30.6	46.8	4.1	1.6	2.8
Mberengwa	56.4	75.2	3.2	20	27.6
Shurugwi	33.1	16.3	2.8	53.4	50.6
Zvishavane	74.8	56.8	8.4	18.4	12.4
Midlands	56.7	51	11.4	27	26.8

Idiosyncratic		
	Sharp Increases in cereal price (%)	Loss of employment (%)
Chirumhanzu	68.9	1.2
Gokwe North	18.2	0.4
Gokwe South	11.6	0.8
Gweru	8	0.8
Kwekwe	11.9	0.4
Mberengwa	27.6	0.8
Shurugwi	19.1	0
Zvishavane	27.6	0.8
Midlands	24.1	0.6

### Resilience



Shock recovery index (5.7) was higher than the shock exposure index (3).

#### 4. Areas for Improvement

Thematic Area	Topic	Recommendations
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Post harvest management</b> The most used storage facility was ordinary rooms (18%), which do not support proper and long-term post harvest storage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scale-up training communities on fabrication of moisture and temperature control storage technologies.</li> <li>- Scaling up of value addition activities can also be done, for example, sorting, grading, product development, packaging and branding; to ensure farmers get better economic value from the crops that they are growing.</li> </ul>
	<b>Livestock</b> High cattle mortality rates, 16% for Province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development should continue implementing various livestock support and disease control programmes to address this challenge.</li> </ul>
	<b>Cereal Insufficiency</b> Cereal Insufficiency was reported at 29%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is need to encourage growing of traditional grains especially in districts that receive low rainfall like Shurugwi.</li> <li>- Re-targeting measures to be put in place to identify those chronic and acutely food insecure in order to provide the appropriate response mechanisms.</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>Food consumption</b> 12% of households had poor food consumption patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scale-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>

	<p><b>WASH</b> 97.1% of households did not have hand-washing facilities. 35% did not have sanitation facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize access to consumptive water through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation, construction of head works as well as piped water schemes</li> <li>- Re-invest in programming in this critical area for example strengthening community training emphasizing on hygiene.</li> <li>- Integrated messaging through community model home initiatives</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Nutrition outcomes</b> 24% of children were reported to be stunted, Kwekwe (37%) having the highest proportion of stunting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue with strong capacitation of community caregivers on standard case management to maintain appropriate IYCF practices and curb malnutrition.</li> <li>- Scale up active screening and mobilize for management of acute malnutrition in respective districts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Access to Basic Services</b></p>	<p><b>Access to education</b> 52% of children were reported to have been turned away from school during the first term of 2023 due to non-payment of school fees. Gokwe South (77%) had the highest proportion of children who were turned away.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen existing strategies and policies aimed at attainment of the Government's efforts to ensure universal access to education.</li> <li>- Strengthen structures and processes for the identification of the most vulnerable children under the BEAM module.</li> </ul>

FNC is housed at SIRDC: 1574 Alpes Road, Hatcliffe, Harare

Tel: +263-242-862586/ +263-242-862025. Website: [www.fnc.org.zw](http://www.fnc.org.zw). Email: [info@fnc.org.zw](mailto:info@fnc.org.zw).

Twitter: @FNCZimbabwe. Instagram: [fnc\\_zim](https://www.instagram.com/fnc_zim). Facebook: @FNCZimbabwe.

WhatsApp: +263 0776 990 479

