

# Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

## 2025 Urban Livelihoods Assessment



# Report



# Foreword

The Government of Zimbabwe, as enshrined in the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Commitment Six, aims to ensure a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information for effective programming and decision-making. It is towards fulfilment of our collective responsibility that the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) successfully carried out the 12<sup>th</sup> Urban Livelihoods Assessment.

Under the leadership of FNC, the ZimLAC remains committed to providing timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation to inform the development of robust food and nutrition response programmes, policies and strategies. This report provides updates on pertinent urban household livelihoods issues which include demographics, housing, education, health, nutrition, WASH, energy, social protection, food consumption patterns, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, debts, coping strategies, shocks and food security. In addition, the 2025 Urban Livelihoods Assessment will contribute towards evaluation of progress in the implementation of National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) and establishment of a baseline year for NDS 2.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Government of Zimbabwe, development partners and the sub-national structures (provinces and districts) for their unwavering support and commitments exhibited during the assessment. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the urban communities of Zimbabwe as well as the local authorities for cooperating and supporting this assessment.

We submit this report to you for your use and reference as you work towards addressing the multi-dimensional and multi-faceted food and nutrition insecurity challenges faced by urban communities.



**George D. Kembo (Dr.)**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL, ZIMLAC CHAIRPERSON**

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- Food and Nutrition Council
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
- Ministry Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- ZVITAMBO Institute for Maternal and Child Health Research
- Meteorological Services Department
- United Nations World Food Programme
- World Vision
- Amalima Loko
- Oxfam
- Africaid- Zvandiri
- Welthungerhilfe
- SNV
- Plan International
- Aquaculture Zimbabwe
- Mercy corps
- SAYWHAT
- Caritas
- Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)
- Redcross
- Restless Development
- Goal
- National AIDS Council
- GOAL
- UNICEF
- Nkomwa Foundation Trust
- Hand in Hand Zimbabwe
- PLAN International-Zimbabwe
- Simukai
- Grace Save International
- Zimbabwe Red Cross Society
- Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Bindura University of Science Education
- Danish ChurchAid
- Local Authorities

# INTRODUCTION

# Introduction

- ZimLAC plays a crucial role in operationalizing Commitment Six of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (GoZ, 2012) which emphasizes the Government of Zimbabwe's dedication to establishing a national integrated food and nutrition security information system.
- This system is designed to provide timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation, assess the effectiveness of programs, and support informed decision-making.
- The information system is essential for guiding government responses, as it delivers evidence necessary for timely interventions.
- ZimLAC's livelihood assessments have proven to be an invaluable resource, shaping policies and programs that address the current food and nutrition security landscape.
- To date, ZimLAC has produced 12 urban and 23 rural livelihood updates, further enhancing our understanding and response capabilities in this critical area.

# Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

ZimLAC is a consortium comprising government entities, development partners, UN agencies, NGOs, technical agencies and academic institutions. Established in 2002, it operates under the leadership and regulation of the Government. The Food and Nutrition Council (FNC), a department within the Office of the President and Cabinet, chairs ZimLAC. The FNC's mandate is to promote a multi-sectoral response to food insecurity and nutrition challenges, ensuring that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

ZimLAC supports the Government of Zimbabwe, 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 assessment results will be used to guide the following:

- Evidence based planning and programming for targeted interventions.
- Development of interventions that address immediate to long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods.
- Early warning for early action.
- Monitoring and reporting progress towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national and international food and nutrition policies and strategies such as the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger strategy.

# Purpose

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

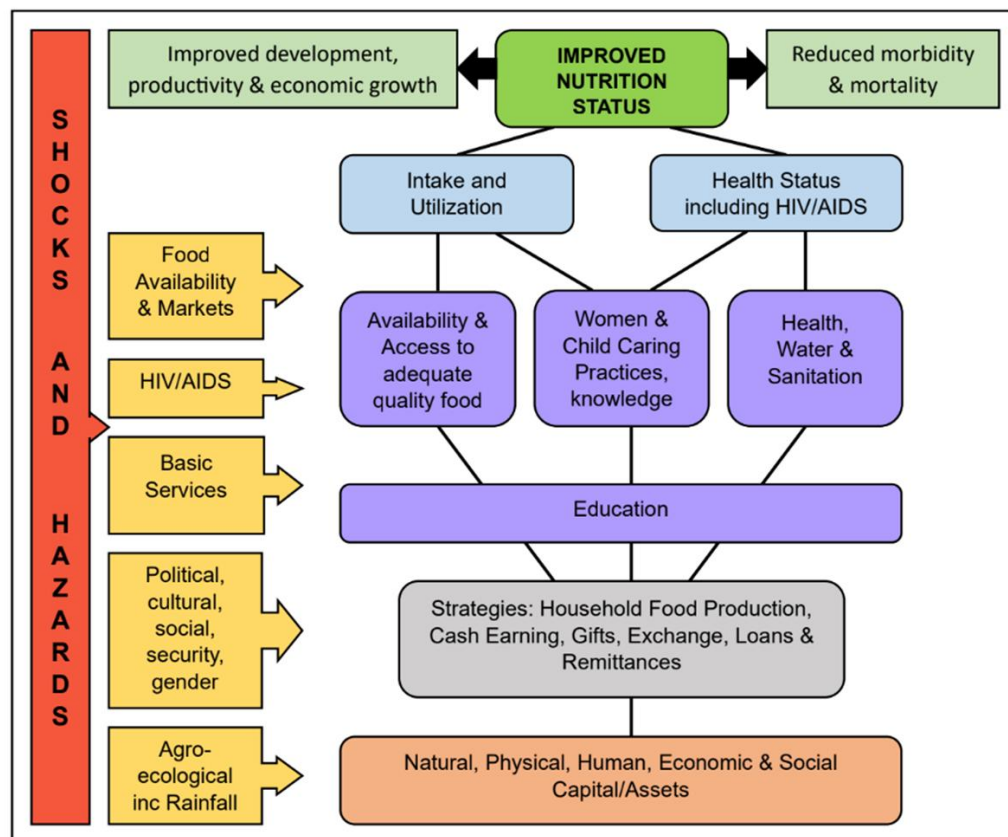
# Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- i. **Estimate Food Insecurity:** To estimate the population likely to be food insecure in the 2025 consumption year, including their geographic distribution and the severity of food insecurity.
- ii. **Assess Nutrition Status:** To evaluate the nutritional status of children aged 6 months to 19 years.
- iii. **Examine Diets and Physical Activity:** To assess the diets and physical activity levels of children aged 5 to 19 years.
- iv. **Describe Socio-Economic Profiles:** To analyze the socio-economic profiles of urban households, focusing on demographics, access to basic services, income sources, income and expenditure patterns, food consumption habits, and coping strategies.
- v. **Evaluate Intervention Coverage:** To determine the coverage—accessibility, availability, and quality—of humanitarian and developmental interventions in urban areas.
- vi. **Analyze Effects of Shocks:** To assess the impact of shocks experienced by households on food and nutrition security.

# **Assessment Methodology**

# Methodology – Assessment Design



**Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework**

- The assessment was a cross-sectional study designed in accordance with the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework and the food security dimensions framework proposed by Jones *et al.* (2013).
- It focused on three key pillars of food security: availability, utilization and access, all of which have significant interrelated effects on food security as defined in the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (GoZ, 2012).
- To measure food security, the assessment quantified the amount of food energy available to households from all potential sources, making the household the **primary sampling unit**.
- Additionally, the frameworks emphasize that nutrition is an outcome influenced by multi-sectoral drivers at various levels, highlighting its critical role in promoting economic development.

# Methodology – Assessment Process

- Recognizing the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in comprehensive assessments, ZimLAC developed an appropriate assessment design and data collection tools through extensive multi-stakeholder consultations. The data collection tools were informed by and aligned with the assessment objectives.
- The primary data collection tool used in the assessment was an Android-based structured household tool. In addition to primary data, secondary data sources (existing sectoral reports, national surveys and relevant literature) were utilized to support iterative analysis and triangulate findings.
- ZimLAC national supervisors and enumerators were recruited from Government entities, United Nations, Technical partners, Academia and Non-Governmental Organisations.
- The Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, through offices of the Provincial Development Coordinators, facilitated the recruitment of domain-level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial and district enumeration vehicles. Enumerators were selected from an existing database of individuals who participated in previous ZimLAC assessments.
- For data collection, three enumerators and one anthropometry specialist were chosen from each domain.

# Methodology: Sampling

- The sample design was such that key livelihood indicators, particularly food insecurity prevalence, could be reported at domain level with at least 95% confidence interval.
- The sample was drawn from 40 reporting domains made up of cities, towns, service centres and growth points.
- It focused on urban households residing in the medium-density, high density, and peri-urban areas of Zimbabwe. It covered Urban Council Areas, Administrative Centers, Growth Points and other Urban Areas.
- The 2022 ZimSTAT master sampling frame was used to draw 30 Enumeration Areas (EAs) for each domain using the Probability Proportional to Population Size (PPS) method.
- A total of 12,046 households were interviewed, 5,202 children under 5 years of age; 2,843 children 5 to 9 years and 16,822 people aged 10 and above were measured.
- The enumerated households were selected using systematic random sampling within the sampled EAs.
- Enumerator training was held from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. Primary and secondary data collection took place from 19 February to 2 March 2025. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

# Sample Characterisation - Domains

Province	Domain
<b>Bulawayo</b>	Bulawayo 1 (Makokoba, Mzilikazi, Nguboyenja, Soshangane flats, Thokozani Flats, Matshobana, Mpopoma, Old Lobengula)
	Bulawayo 2 (Old Luveve, Emakhandeni, Ntumbane, Cowdry Park, Luveve 5, Lobengula West, Old Magwegwe, New Luveve)
	Bulawayo 3 (Enqameni, Pelandaba West, Hyde Park, Gwabalanda, Magwegwe North, Magwegwe West, Old Pumula East)
	Bulawayo 4 (Tshabalala, Nkulumane 1-14, Nketa 6-9, Sizinda, Tshabalala Extension, Emganwini, Mbundane, Rangemore)
<b>Manicaland</b>	Mutare
	Rusape
<b>Mashonaland Central</b>	Bindura
	Mazowe, Mvurwi
<b>Mashonaland East</b>	Marondera
	Murehwa-Mutoko-Mudzi
	Chivhu
	Ruwa
<b>Mashonaland West</b>	Kadoma
	Chegutu
	Chinhoyi
	Norton

# Sample Characterisation - Domains

Province	Domain
Matabeleland North	Hwange
	Victoria-Falls
	Lupane
Matabeleland South	Beitbridge
	Gwanda
	Plumtree
Midlands	Kwekwe
	Gweru
	Zvishavane
	Gokwe Centre, Nembudziya
	Redcliffe
Masvingo	Masvingo
	Gutu
	Chiredzi
Harare	Harare South (Hopley, Southlea, Ushewokunze)
	Greater Harare 1 (Mbare, Sunningdale)
	Greater Harare 2 (GlenView, Glenorah - Budiro, Mufakose, Highfields)
	Greater Harare 3 (Tafara, Mabvuku)
	Greater Harare 4 (Kuwadzana, Warren Park, Dzivarasekwa)
	Epworth
	Chitungwiza (Zengeza, Seke)
	Chitungwiza (St. Mary's, Manyame)
	Caledonia
	Hatcliffe

# Data Preparation and Analysis

- Primary data was transcribed using CSEntry and CSPro, then consolidated, converted and analysed using SPSS, STATA, ENA, Microsoft Excel and GIS packages for household structured interviews.
- The analysis centred on the following broad areas:
  1. **Contextualised analysis**- exploring the major economic, social, cultural and resource based issues affecting households.
  2. **Vulnerability context**- understanding the wider shocks and stresses to which livelihood strategies were subjected to.
  3. **Differentiation**- understanding of social and economic differentiation between households
  4. **Disaggregated analysis**- understanding the situation of diverse individuals, gender and other generational roles and issues within the household.

# Technical Scope of assessment

The 2025 ULA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Education
- Health
- WASH
- Housing and Energy
- Infrastructure
- Nutrition
- Agriculture and other urban livelihoods activities
- Food Security
- Shocks and stressors
- Social Protection
- Youth
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability

# Contextual Analysis

- The 2024/2025 agricultural season experienced an erratic start in mid-November 2024, characterized by scattered rainfall and a delayed onset in the Mashonaland provinces. Localised dry spells led to crops wilting in some parts of the country.
- However, mid-December 2024 onward, improved rainfall, particularly heavier falls in the southern provinces, brought renewed hope for many farmers.
- According to the Meteorological Services Department, normal to above normal rains were expected in the second half of the season.
- In January–February 2025, rainfall significantly improved across the country, supporting late-planted crops and improving water availability. Nonetheless, the heavy rains in February also triggered flooding and waterlogging in some provinces, which potentially impacted yields in affected areas.
- Overall, the outlook for the 2024/2025 season has improved compared to earlier projections, with most major production zones benefiting from the rains, allowing late-planted crops to develop well. As a result, favorable harvests are expected in most staple-producing areas, contributing to enhanced crop production across the country.

# Contextual Analysis

- On April 5, 2024, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe introduced a new currency called the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG; code: ZWG). The ZWG currency is backed by a composite basket of foreign currency and precious metals, primarily gold, held by the RBZ. The structured currency was designed to promote simplicity, certainty, and predictability in monetary and financial affairs. The RBZ aimed to consolidate the currency's stability, maintain low inflation, and ensure a stable exchange rate.
- Following the introduction of the new currency, banks were mandated to convert existing Zimbabwe dollar balances into ZWG, facilitating a smoother transition to this new monetary system.
- The monetary policy formulation and implementation pursued by the Reserve Bank since 5 April 2024 has created relative price, currency and financial stability in the economy. This stability is evidenced by:
  - ZWG month on month inflation which stabilised to 0.5% in February 2025 and -0.1% in March 2025.
  - Greater exchange rate stability, with foreign exchange parallel market premiums below 20%, resulting in price and currency stability.
  - Increased foreign currency inflows.
  - Increased availability of foreign currency and;
  - Sustained financial sector stability and soundness.

# Government Mitigatory Measures

The following people-centered measures were implemented to ensure food and nutrition security for all:

- **Food Mitigation:** Government targeted 1.1 million people in urban areas with a package comprised of pulses, oils and cash to procure cereal.
- **Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme:** In order to alleviate the prevailing water scarcity challenges and climate change, Government is implementing the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme. The scheme aims to increase access to safe drinking water.
- **Strengthening of Multi-Sectoral Structures** in order to operationalise a cohesive response to the food and nutrition challenges.
- **Easing of restrictions on maize grain trade (Statutory Instrument 56 of 2023)** thus increasing maize grain flows and improving availability.
- **Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme** – the Government of Zimbabwe through Statutory Instrument 47 of 2021 declared all roads to be a state of national disaster on 9 February 2021. The second Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP II) was launched and the objectives of the programme are to improve the road network, which was extensively damaged during the rainy season and to harness the potential of the transport system in promoting economic growth.

# Government Mitigatory Measures

- To support the introduction of the ZWG and prevent a return to monetary instability, the Government of Zimbabwe and the RBZ implemented a range of policy measures:
- **Monetary Policy Rate:** Set at 35% in September 2024 to curb inflationary pressures.
- **Money Supply Control:** Established strict controls to prevent excess liquidity from undermining the new currency.
- **Export Retention Thresholds:** Reduced from 75% to 70% in February 2025 to enhance foreign exchange liquidity in the formal market.
- **IMF Agreement Delay:** Postponed an IMF staff-level agreement to allow reforms to consolidate before committing to new external programs.
- **Public Spending Control:** Maintained tight control over public spending and subsidies.
- **ZiG Adoption:** Promoted broader use of ZWG across public services and transactions, with over 90% adoption reported by mid-2024. Mandated the use of point-of-sale (POS) systems by all businesses for transactions in both ZWG and USD, making this a pre-condition for business licensing.
- **Interest Rates:** Upwardly reviewed minimum deposit interest rates, with ZWG savings deposits at 5%, time deposits at 7.5%, and USD savings deposits at 2.5%, time deposits at 4%.
- **Targeted Finance Facility:** Introduced a facility extended to wholesalers and retailers.
- **Reporting Currency:** Mandated the use of ZWG as the reporting currency for all entities with immediate effect.

# Government Mitigatory Measures

- Although the ZWG initially brought inflation under control with rates stabilizing in April and May 2024, market volatility in the third quarter of 2024 led to significant depreciation of the ZWG.
- In September 2024, the ZWG currency experienced a sharp and unexpected depreciation of approximately 40%, primarily driven by speculative pressure, limited formal foreign currency liquidity, and continued reliance on informal market exchanges.
- This sudden shift caused a month-on-month inflation spike exceeding 30% and disrupted early gains in price stability observed after the ZWG's introduction in April. In response, the RBZ raised the benchmark interest rate to 35%, and maintained a tight monetary stance limiting money supply growth. However, widespread use of the US dollar in informal markets continues to challenge the credibility of the local unit.
- The 2024 mid-term budget review presented on July 25, 2024 focused on consolidating economic transformation and addressing challenges like the impact of the El Niño-induced drought on agricultural output. While economic growth was projected at 2% for 2024, down from the initial 3.5% projection, measures were being implemented to maintain economic stability and achieve fiscal consolidation.

# Government Mitigatory Measures

- The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe noted that most banks had stopped charging monthly bank maintenance or service charges for individual bank accounts with a conservative daily balance of US\$100 and below or its equivalent in ZWG for a period of up to 30 days. The exemption for monthly bank maintenance or service charges for accounts with a conservative daily balance of US\$100 or below was extended to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with effect from 1 September 2024.
- To further promote the use of electronic means of payment, the Reserve Bank with effect from 1 September 2024 exempted electronic transactions of less than US\$10 or the ZWG equivalent from bank charges. This measure was aimed at removing the cost of using electronic means of payments by according such transactions a near-cash characteristic, consistent with the Reserve Bank's drive towards digital cash.
- The Reserve Bank reiterated that the country was in a multicurrency environment and all domestic transactions must be settled in either ZWG or foreign currency, except in cases where there were explicit exemptions to sell in US dollars. In this context, all economic agents were expected to adhere to the multicurrency system in place.
- On September 27 2024, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe slashed the value of the ZWG by 43 %, taking it from 13.56 ZWG to the US dollar at its launch to 24.4 ZWG to the dollar.
- The Reserve Bank made efforts to ensure that the Monetary Policy stance remained supportive of the envisaged growth of 6% in 2025.

# Government Mitigatory Measures

- The Government, through a high-level task force on business malpractices launched a multi-agency initiative in 2024 to clamp down on unethical business practices and smuggling.
- The task force was led by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and involved collaboration between the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the Consumer Protection Commission and other law-enforcement agencies.
- In addition to reducing smuggling, the operation aimed to regularise imports, ensuring that all importers paid the appropriate duties and taxes. This move was intended to protect consumers from harmful products such as hazardous foodstuffs and cosmetics, while also safeguarding businesses from unfair competition stemming from counterfeit or substandard goods. It further supported legitimate traders by addressing issues such as counterfeiting and intellectual property violations.

# RESULTS

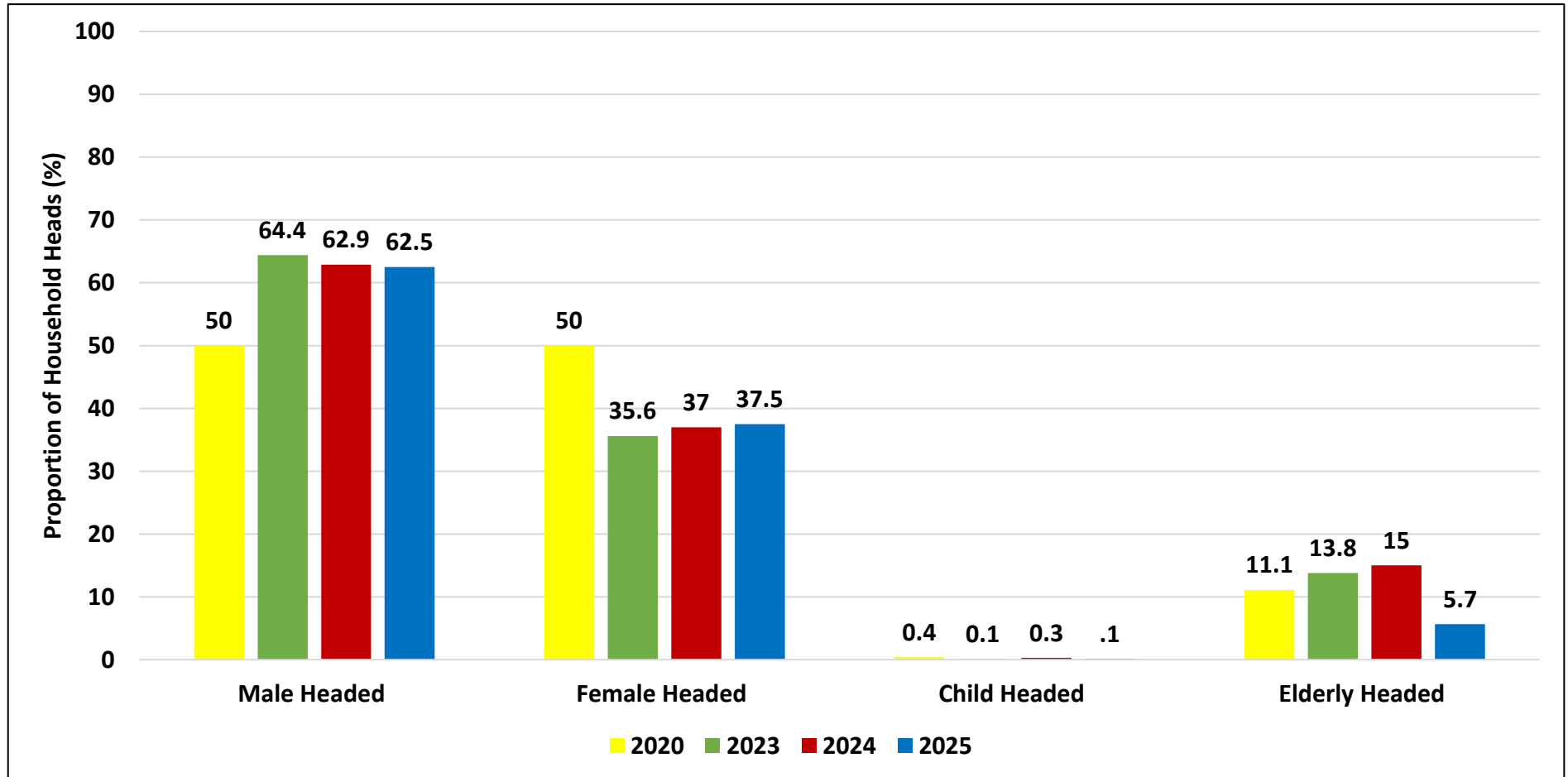
# Household Demographics

# Characteristics of Respondents

Province	Households	Household size	Respondent Sex		Age Group				
			Male (%)	Female (%)	Average Age of Respondent (Years)	12-17 Years (%)	18-24 Years (%)	25-59 Years (%)	60+ Years (%)
<b>Bulawayo</b>	1,212	3.9	23.6	76.4	42.7	0.8	12.3	68.2	18.7
<b>Manicaland</b>	604	3.9	20.2	79.8	40.0	1.0	15.4	71.9	11.8
<b>Mash Central</b>	809	3.8	22.6	77.4	38.3	1.0	15.6	73.7	9.8
<b>Mash East</b>	1,200	3.6	17.8	82.3	37.1	1.5	15.1	77.1	6.3
<b>Mash West</b>	1,198	4.0	23.1	76.9	38.3	0.8	15.8	73.1	10.3
<b>Mat North</b>	901	3.3	25.2	74.8	39.0	0.7	12.5	79.0	7.8
<b>Mat South</b>	907	3.4	19.0	81.0	37.4	1.2	13.5	77.1	8.3
<b>Midlands</b>	1,502	3.9	19.2	80.8	38.0	2.9	16.9	70.6	9.6
<b>Masvingo</b>	901	3.8	14.7	85.3	37.3	1.6	15.2	75.9	7.3
<b>Harare</b>	2,812	3.9	20.4	79.6	38.2	1.0	14.1	75.6	9.3
<b>National</b>	<b>12,046</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>

- The assessment included a total of 12,046 households.
- The majority of the respondents were females (79.5%).
- The majority (74%) of the respondents were within the productive age-group (25-59 years)

# Household Head Characteristics



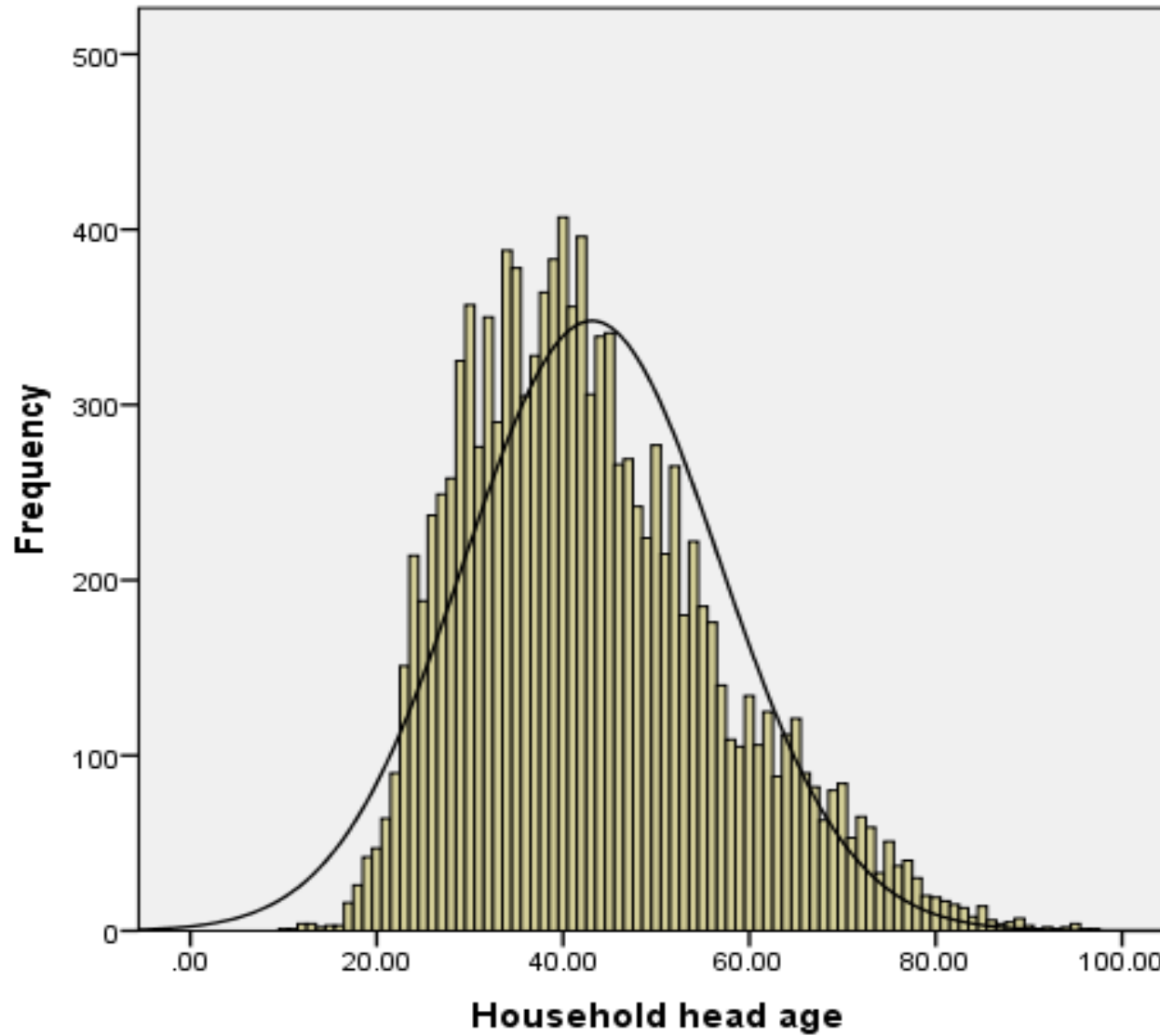
- The majority of the households (62.5%) were male-headed.

# Age and Marital Status of Household Head

Province	Average Age of household head (Years)	Married living together (%)	Married living apart (%)	Divorced/separated (%)	Widowed (%)	Cohabiting (%)	Never married (%)
<b>Bulawayo</b>	49.2	46.0	6.0	16.7	21.8	0.0	9.5
<b>Manicaland</b>	44.2	52.8	11.9	15.9	13.4	0.0	6.0
<b>Mash Central</b>	43.4	62.7	5.8	15.1	12.0	1.1	3.3
<b>Mash East</b>	41.6	54.4	13.7	15.7	10.3	1.4	4.5
<b>Mash West</b>	42.2	57.9	6.8	13.2	13.1	1.3	7.7
<b>Mat North</b>	43.8	52.4	12.8	13.3	11.5	0.6	9.4
<b>Mat South</b>	44.0	46.9	7.1	8.8	13.1	6.2	18.0
<b>Midlands</b>	43.1	58.4	9.1	13.9	13.3	0.1	5.1
<b>Masvingo</b>	41.8	53.3	13.7	16.2	12.3	0.3	4.2
<b>Harare</b>	42.8	62.1	5.4	14.8	12.8	1.5	3.4
<b>National</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>

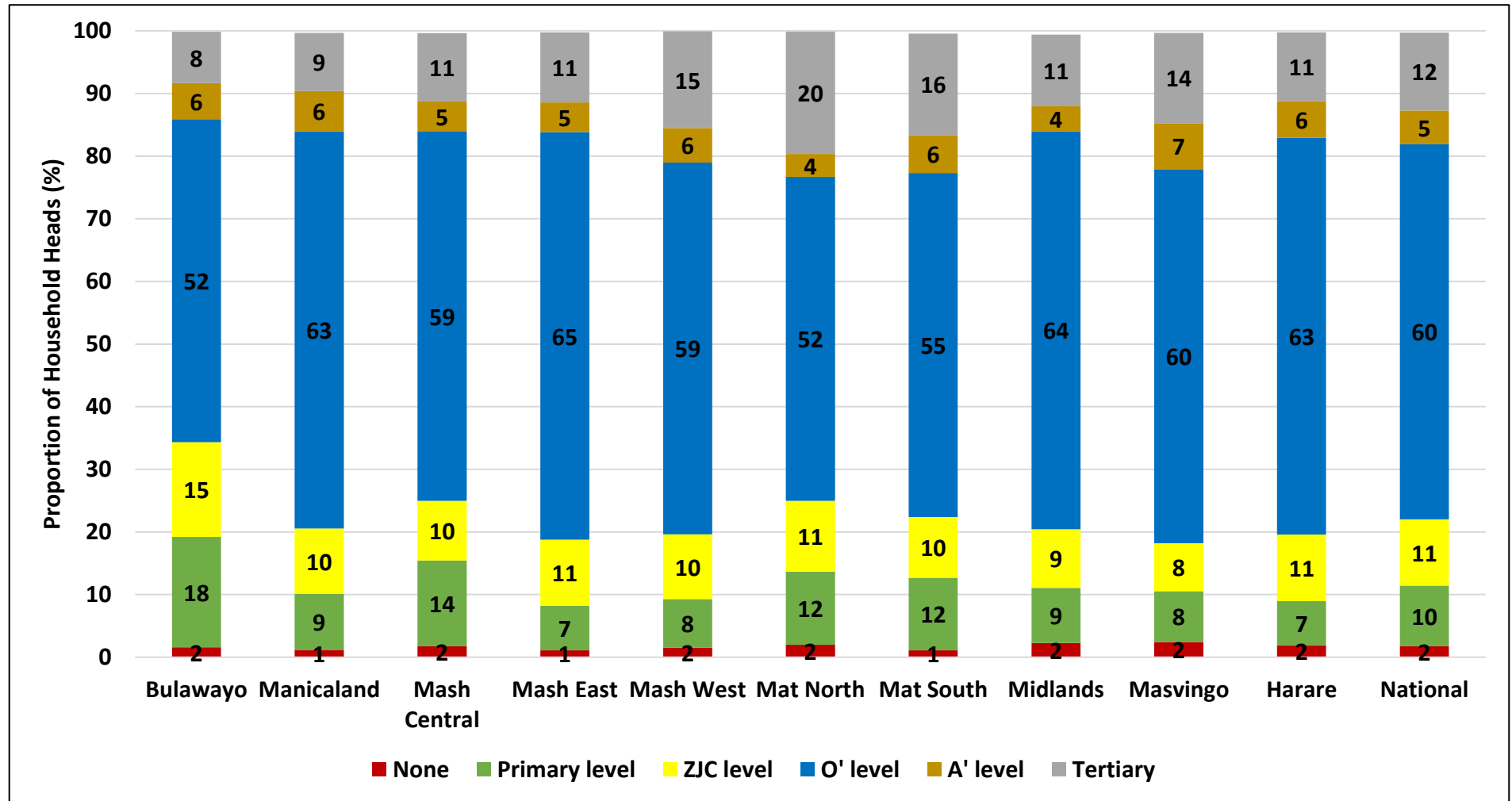
- Bulawayo had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed (21.8%) and divorced/separated (16.7%).

# Household Head Age Distribution



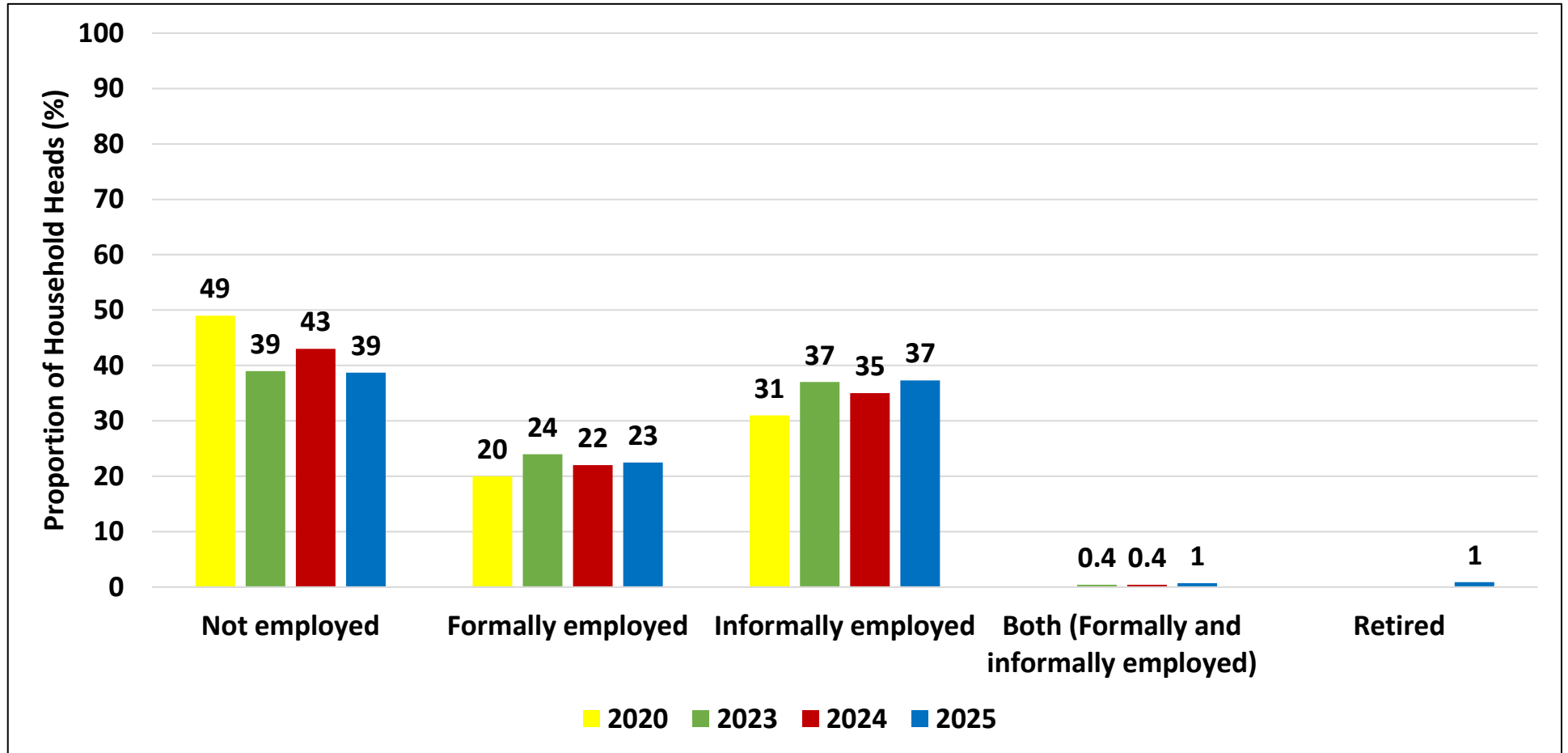
- The average age of household heads was 43.5 years.

# Education Level of Household Head



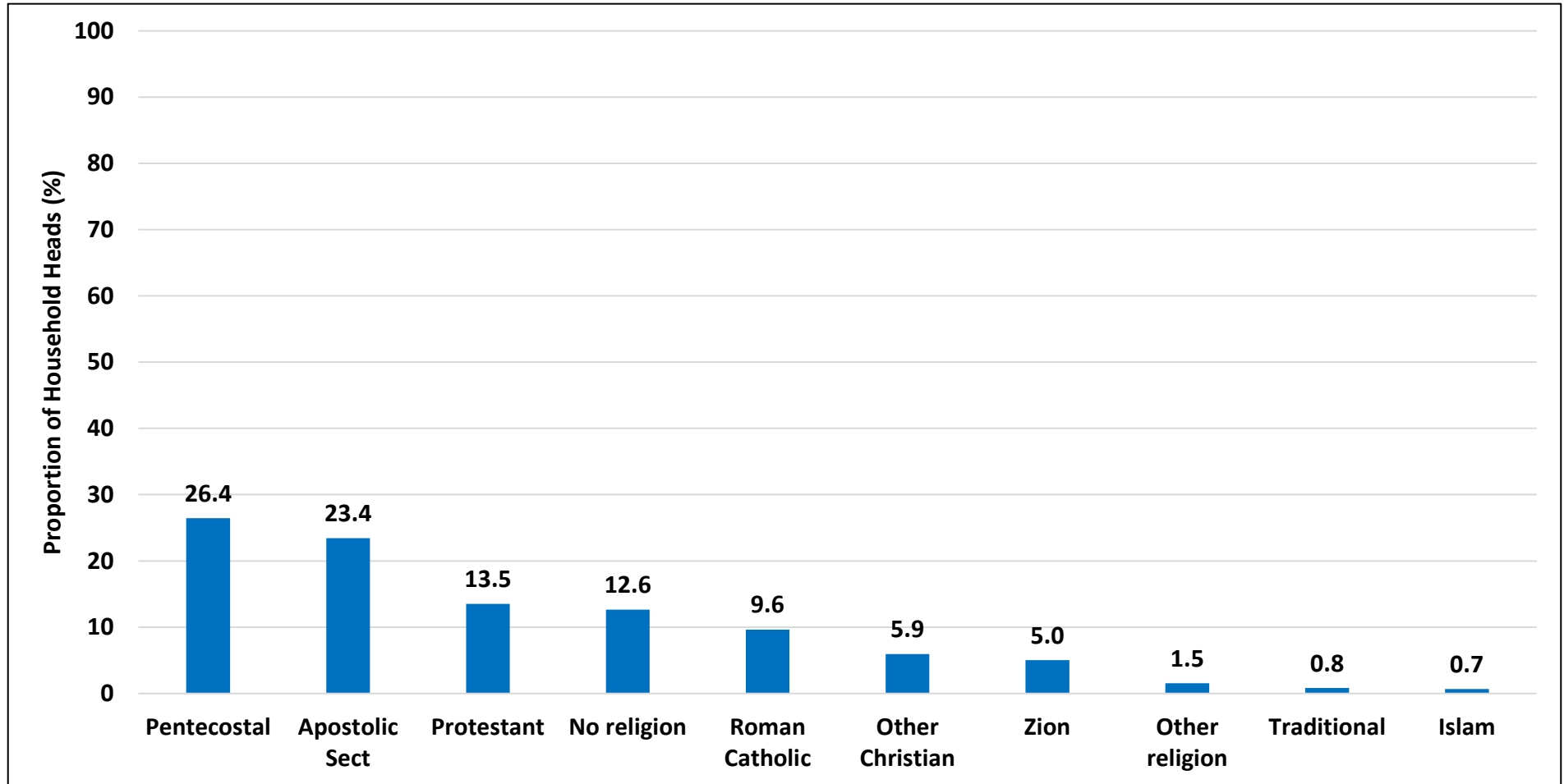
- Ninety-eight percent of the household heads had attained some form of education, which is crucial in shaping household wellbeing, decision making and socio-economic outcomes.

# Employment Status of Household Head



- There was an increase in both formal and informal employment which reflects a positive economic environment.

# Religion of Household Head



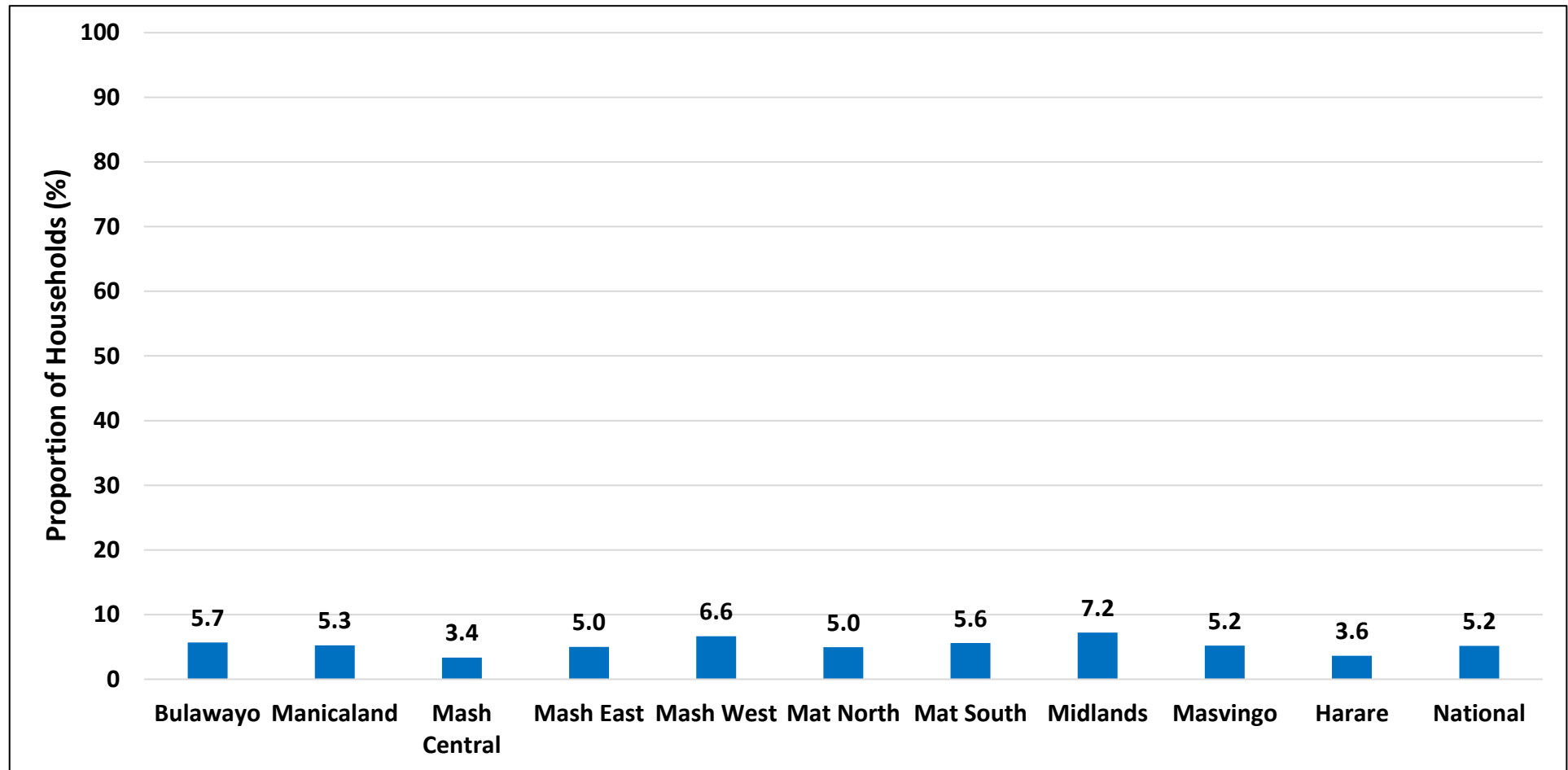
- Pentecostal (26.4%) and Apostolic Sect (23.4%) were the most reported religions.

# Chronic Conditions

Province	Hypertension, High blood pressure (%)	HIV/AIDS (%)	Diabetes, high blood sugar (%)	Asthma (%)	Ulcer, chronic stomach pain (%)	Arthritis, chronic body pain (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	3.8	2.8	1.9	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.3
Manicaland	3.1	1.9	1.8	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.3
Mash Central	4.3	2.3	2.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2
Mash East	2.4	1.8	2.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.3
Mash West	3.8	2.9	2.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2
Mat North	3.4	3.5	1.9	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2
Mat South	1.9	0.8	1.8	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.2
Midlands	2.9	1.2	1.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.8
Masvingo	2.8	2.0	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.3
Harare	2.9	2.9	1.8	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>National</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>

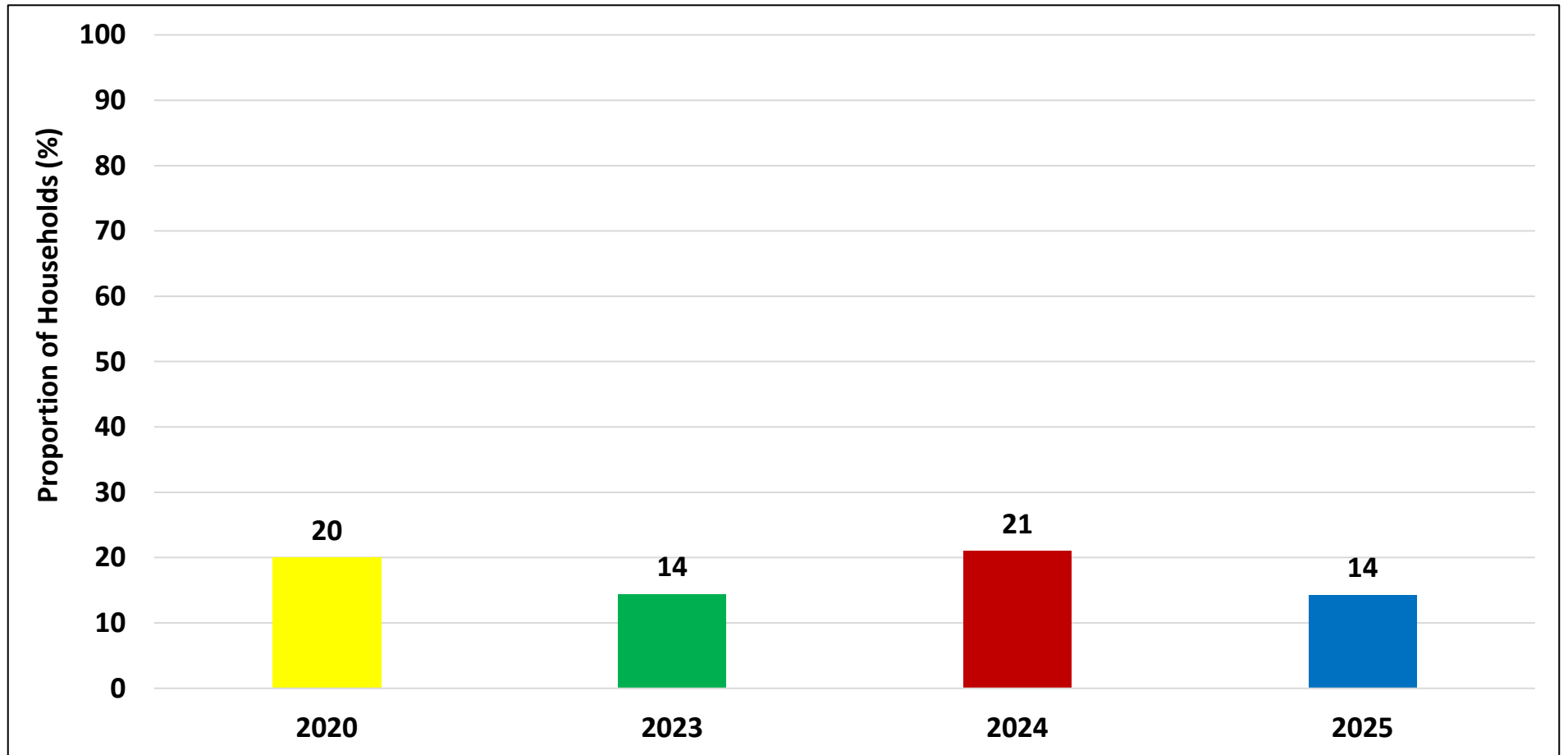
- Hypertension was the most reported chronic condition.

# Disability Conditions



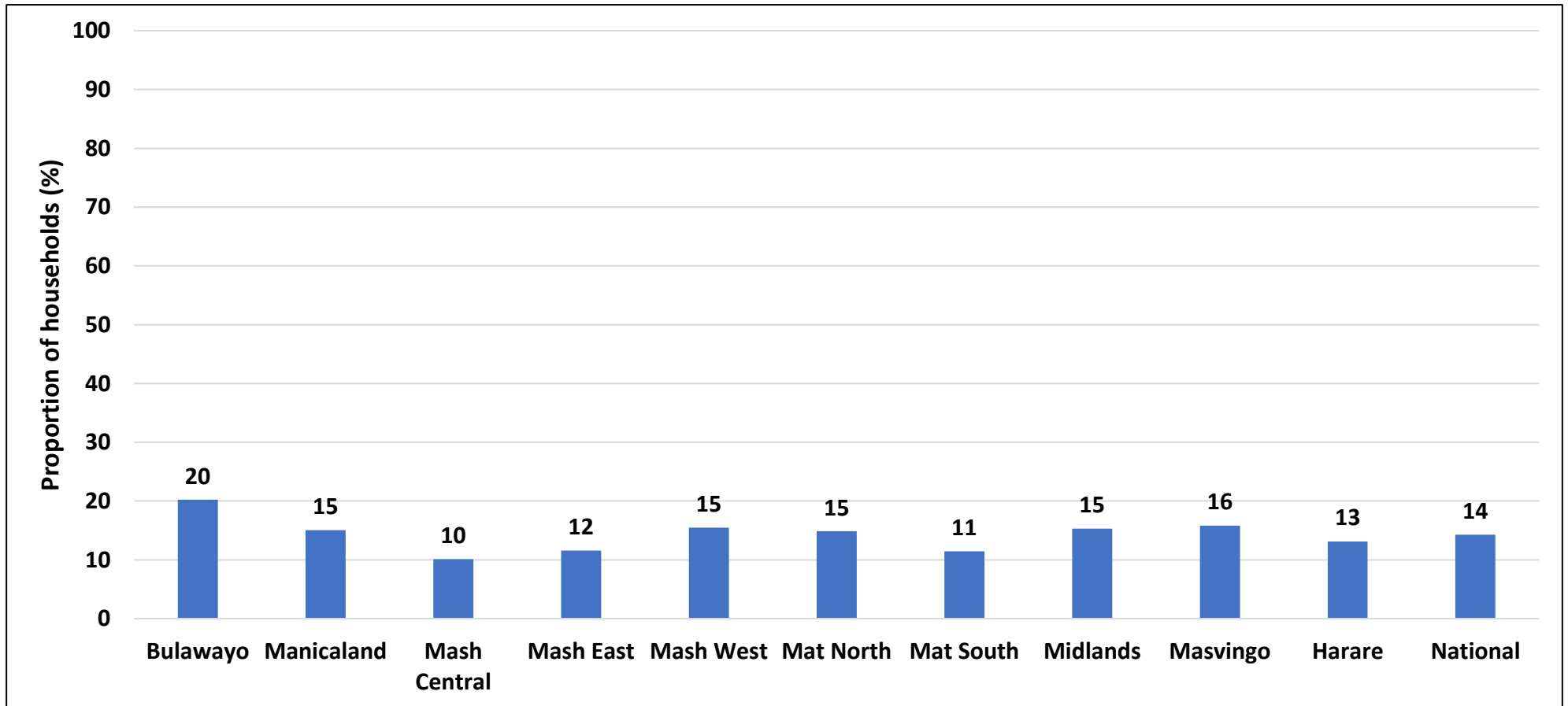
- Midlands (7.2%) had the highest proportion of households which reported having a member with a disability.

# Presence of an Orphan in a Household



- About 14% of the households had an orphan, which is a decline from 21% reported in 2024.

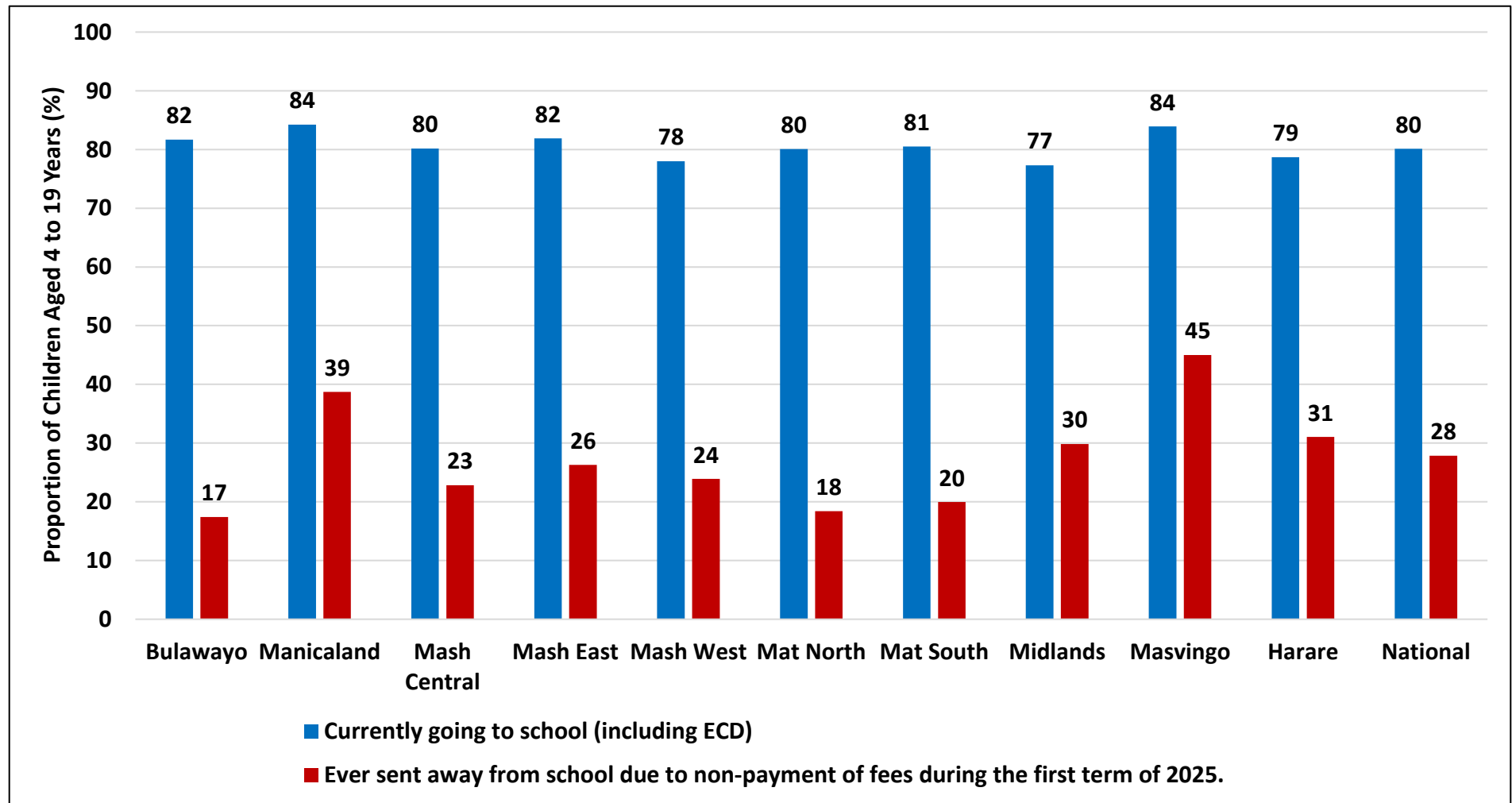
# Presence of an Orphan in a Household



- Bulawayo (20%) had the highest proportion of households which had orphans.

# Education

# School Attendance



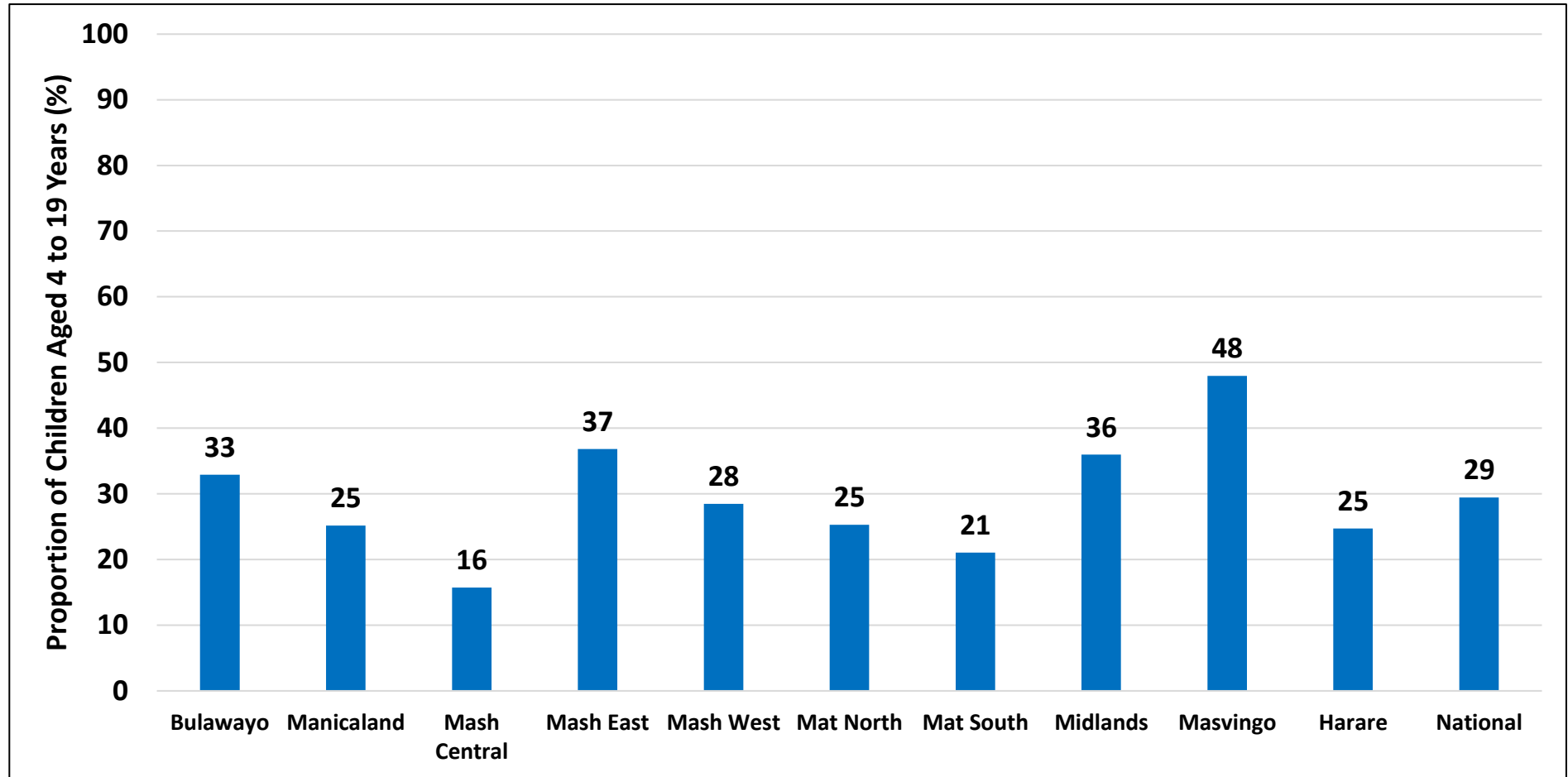
- About 28% of children were ever sent away from school in the first term of 2025 due to non-payment of school fees.

# Reasons for Not Going to School

Province	Bulawayo (%)	Manicaland (%)	Mash Central (%)	Mash East (%)	Mash West (%)	Mat North (%)	Mat South (%)	Midlands (%)	Masvingo (%)	Harare (%)	National (%)
Non-payment of fees last term	1.1	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	3.1	1.6	2.2	1.0	<b>1.7</b>
Work for food or money	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.7	<b>0.4</b>
Expensive or no money	9.1	4.0	5.9	4.5	7.2	3.8	5.3	8.1	3.9	8.2	<b>6.6</b>
Illness	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	<b>0.2</b>
Help with household work	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
Not interested in school	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	<b>0.3</b>
Child considered too young	0.2	1.6	0.8	2.4	1.7	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.0	2.2	<b>1.4</b>
Pregnancy/marriage	0.1	1.0	1.5	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.2	1.0	1.3	<b>1.4</b>
Expelled from school	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
Failure e.g. of exams	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	<b>0.4</b>
Completed O/A level	5.0	4.5	7.6	5.1	7.1	8.6	6.1	6.4	5.8	5.4	<b>6.0</b>
No birth certificate	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
Disability	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	<b>0.2</b>

- Among the 20% of children not in school, financial challenges (6.6%) and completion of O/A Level (6%) were the major reasons why children were not going to school at the time of the survey.

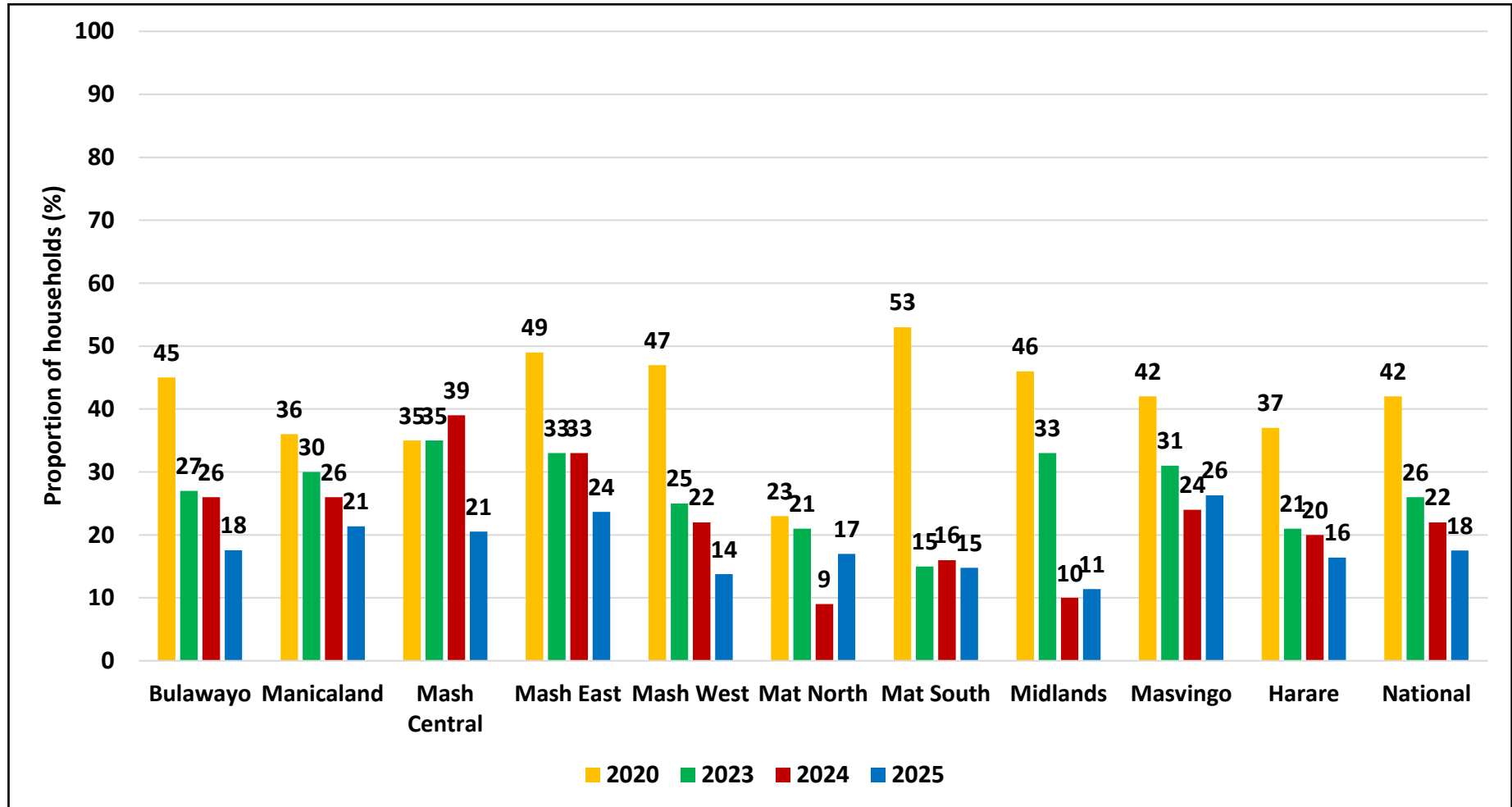
# Proportion of Children Receiving Hot Meals at School



- Masvingo (48%) and Mashonaland East (37%) had the highest proportion of children who received hot meals at school during the first term of 2025.

# **Social Protection**

# Social Support from Any Source



- Eighteen percent of the households received social support from any source which was a decline from 22% reported in 2024.

# Sources of Support

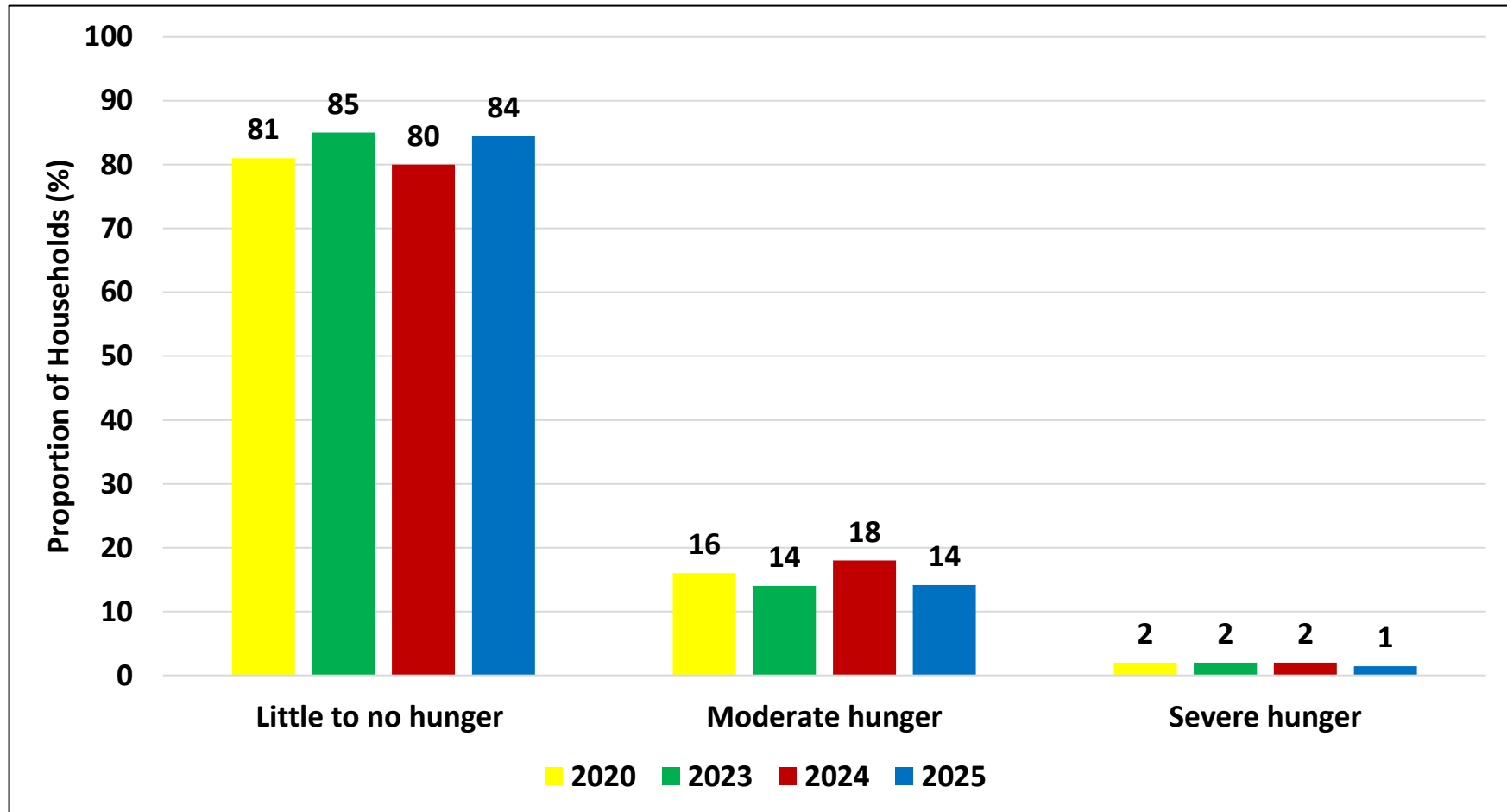
Province	Government Support (%)	Diaspora Relatives (%)	Urban Relatives (%)	Rural Relatives (%)	UN/NGO Support (%)	Church Support (%)	Mutual Groups Support (%)
Bulawayo	5.0	4.8	3.8	2.1	5.5	3.1	0.7
Manicaland	7.8	5.8	4.8	6.3	2.6	2.6	2.5
Mash Central	13.8	3.1	2.8	1.9	0.6	2.5	0.1
Mash East	13.8	3.8	3.3	3.1	1.1	2.3	0.3
Mash West	3.7	4.3	3.2	2.1	3.3	1.3	0.3
Mat North	6.9	4.4	2.9	3.2	2.2	1.6	0.3
Mat South	5.4	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	0.4
Midlands	2.4	1.9	2.9	2.7	1.2	1.7	0.5
Masvingo	6.2	3.6	4.6	5.7	12.0	2.1	0.1
Harare	3.5	4.4	4.8	3.8	2.2	1.7	0.3
<b>National</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>

- Government remained the major source of support to urban households.
- A combination of Government support (6.1%), diaspora relatives (3.9%), urban relatives (3.7%), rural relatives (3.2%) were major sources of support. This reflects a positive economic environment and evidence of social capital.

# Household Consumption Patterns

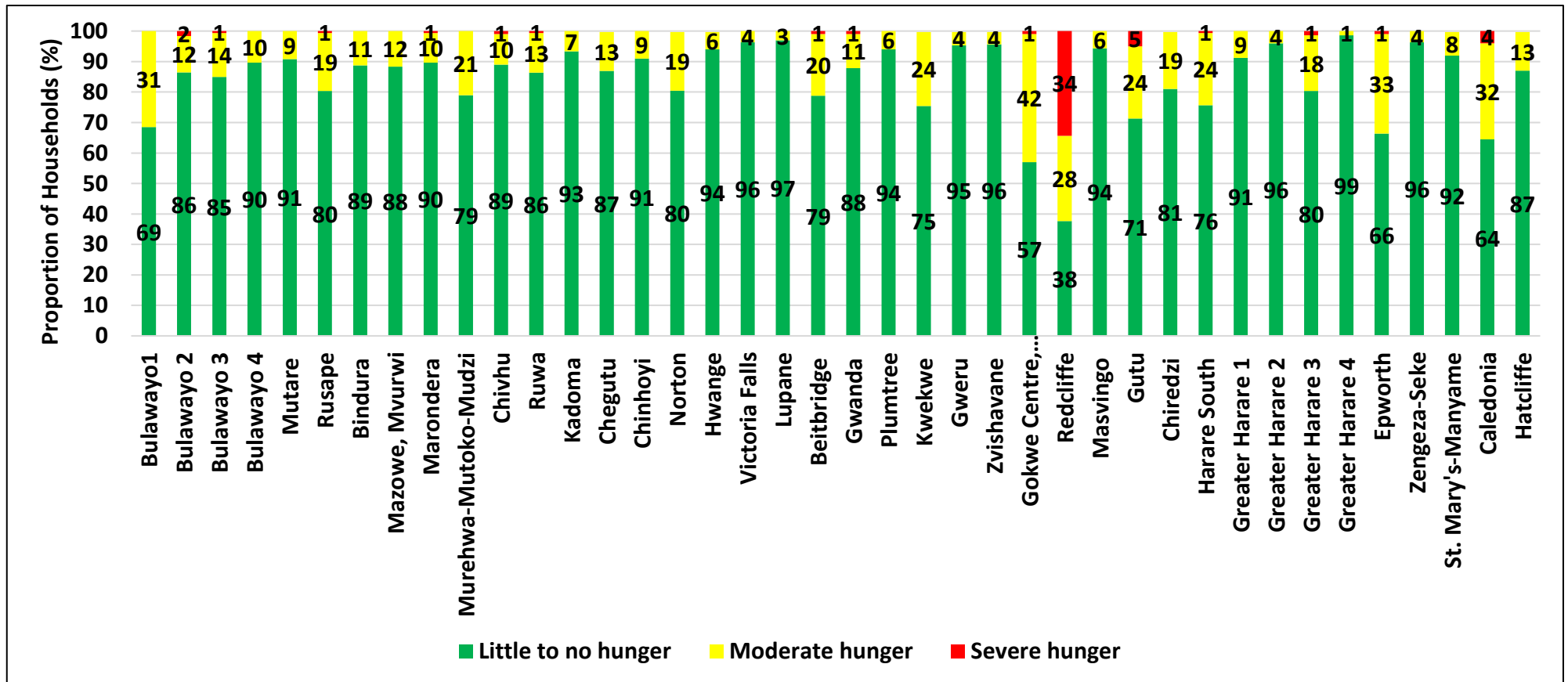
# Household Hunger Scale

# Household Hunger Scale (30 Days)



- There was an increase in the proportion of households with little-to-no hunger from 2024 (80%) to 2025 (84%). This upward trend suggests improvements in food security and access to adequate nutrition at household level.

# Household Hunger Scale by Domain



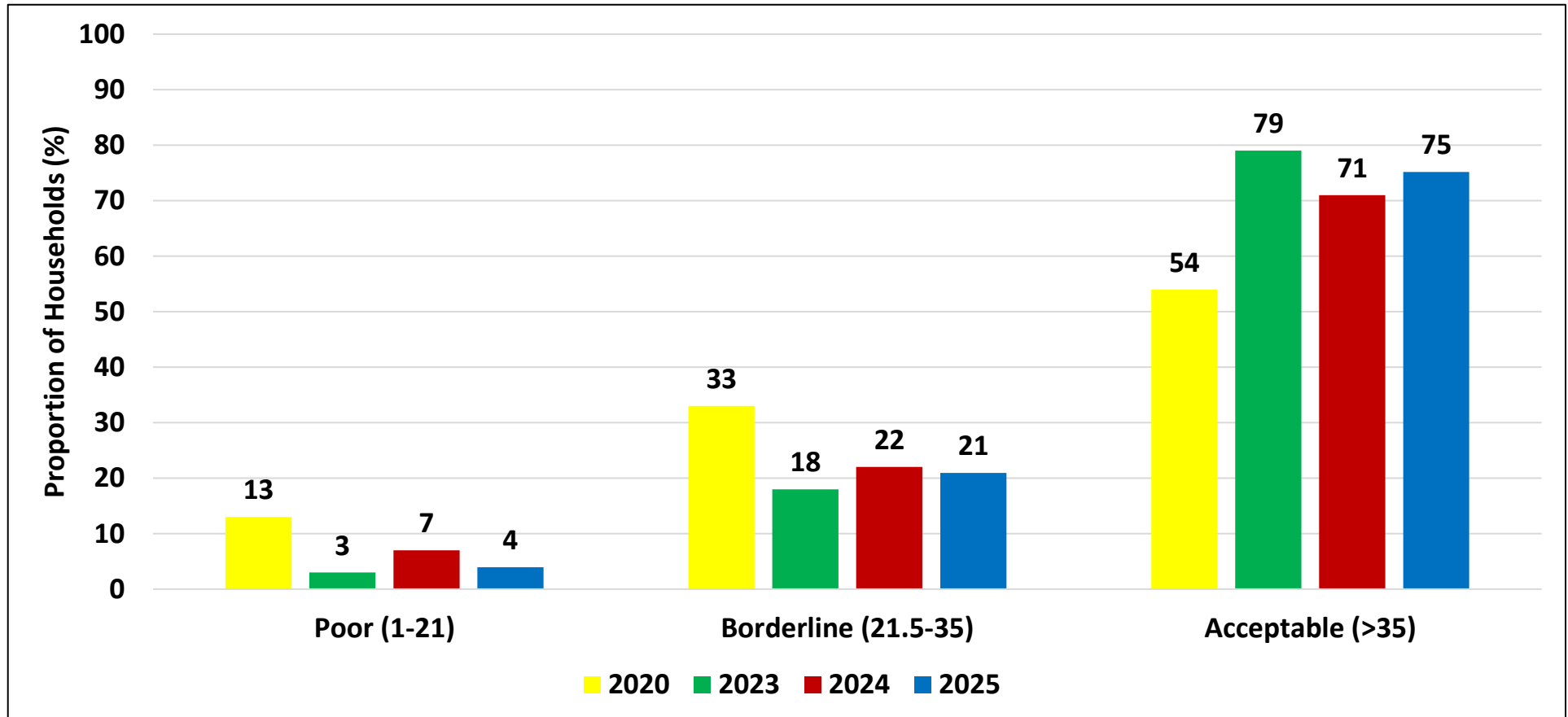
- Redcliffe (34%) had the highest proportion of households which had experienced severe hunger during the 30 days prior to the survey.

# Food Consumption Score

# Food Consumption Score

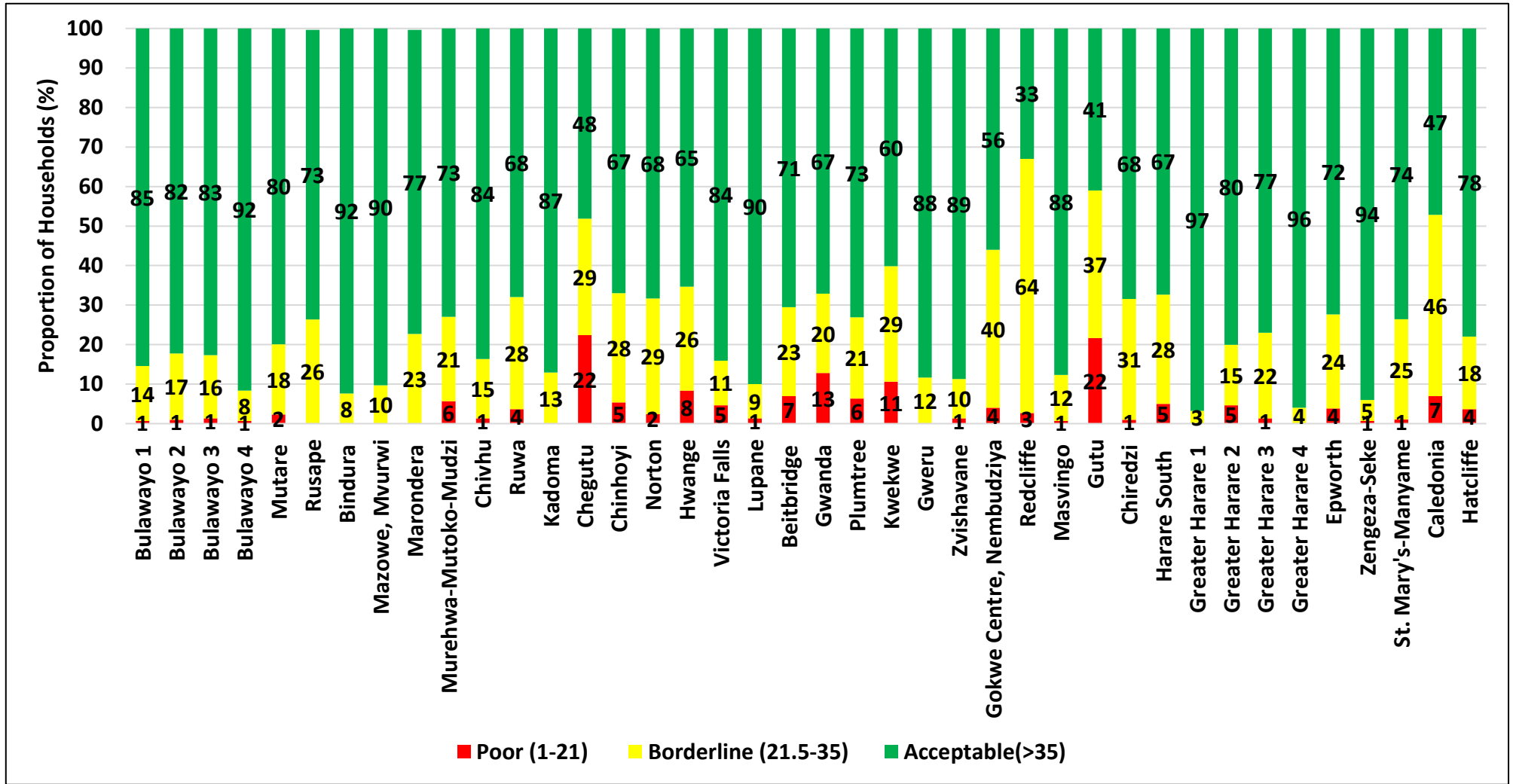
Food Consumption Score Categories	Score	Description
Poor	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
Borderline	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, 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 Score (FCS) Groups (7 Days)



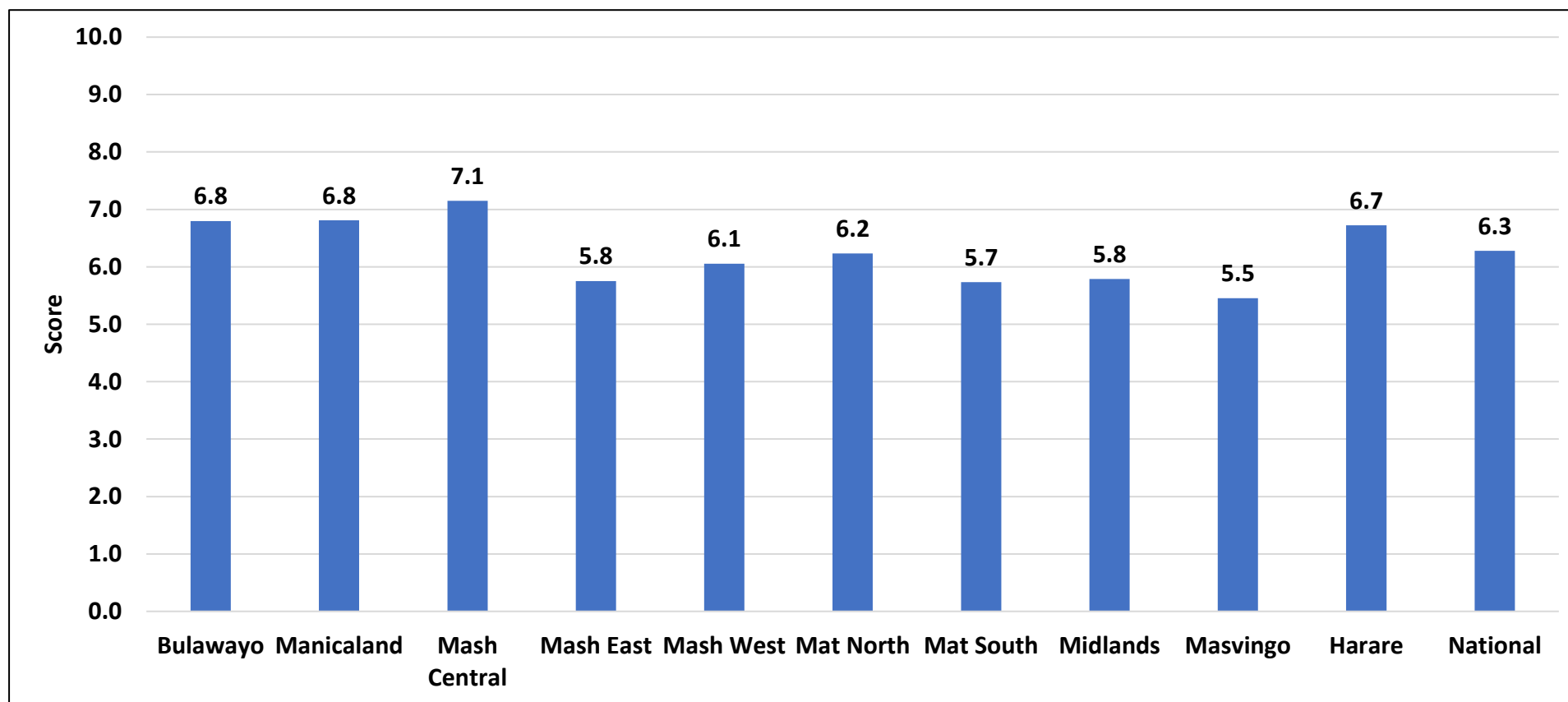
- The majority of households (75%) were consuming meat, fish, eggs and oil, complemented by other foods such as pulses, fruits and milk almost every day of the week.

# Food Consumption Score By Domain



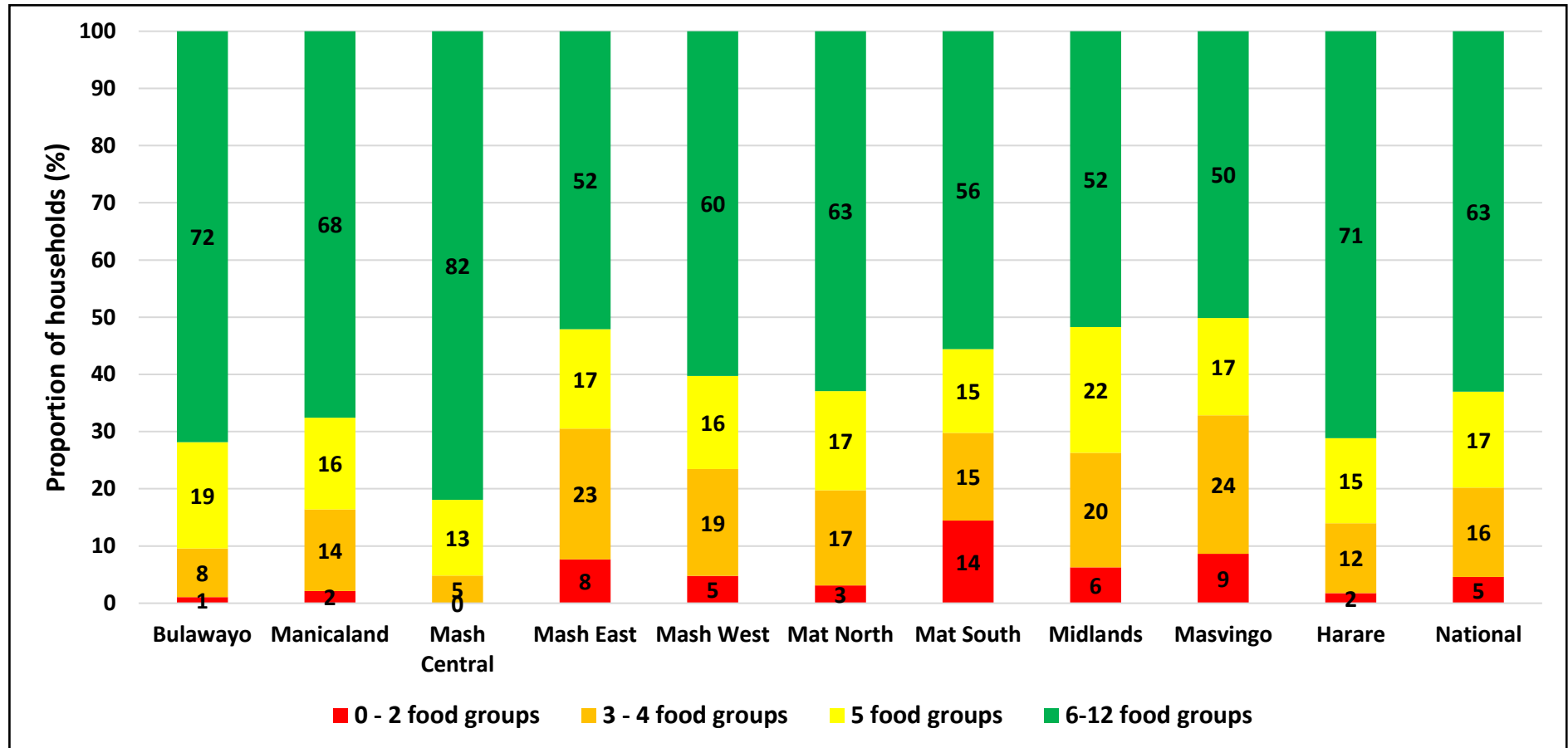
- Gutu (22%) and Chegutu (22%) had the highest proportion of households that were consuming poor diets.

# Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) (24 Hours)



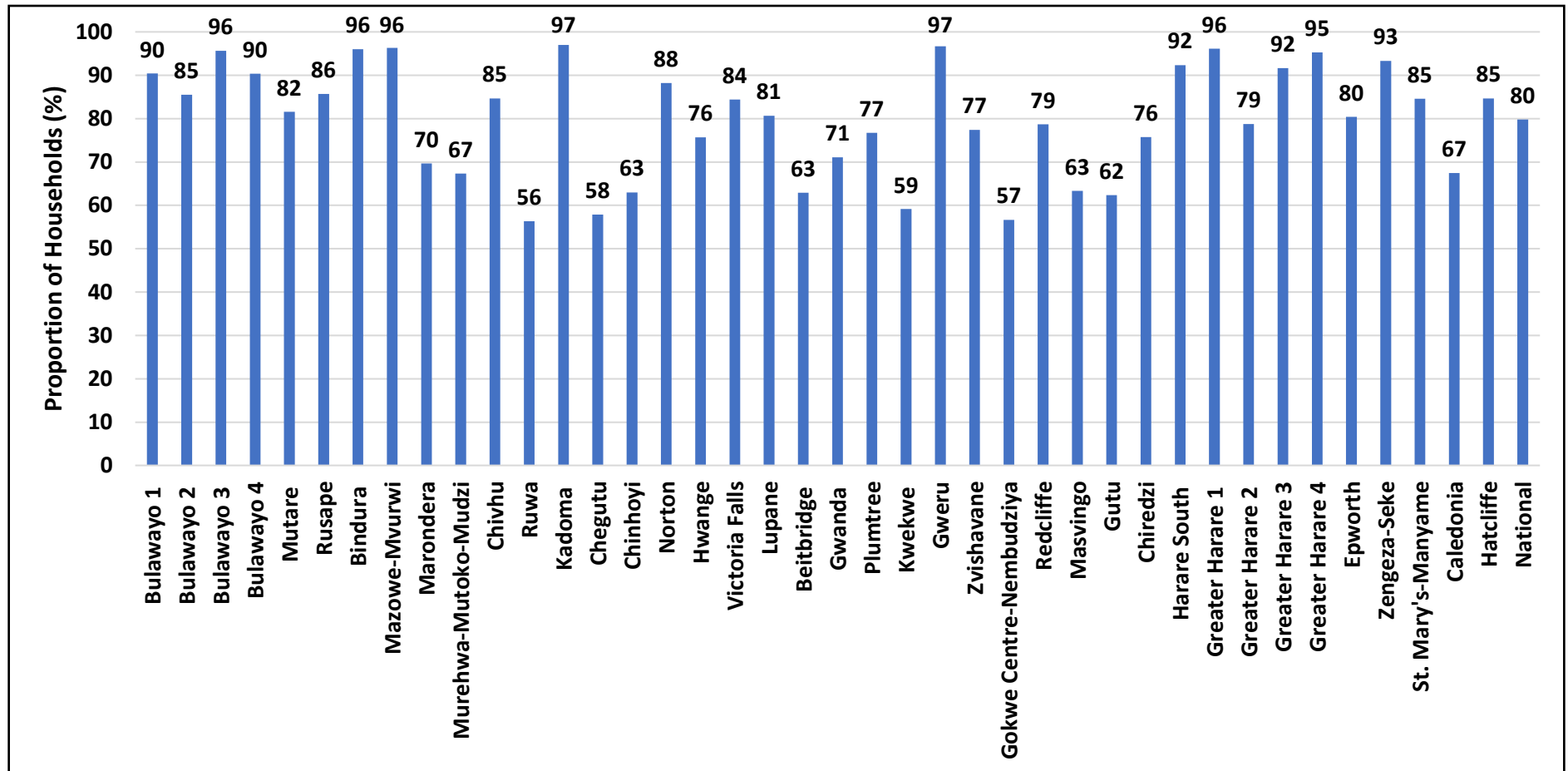
- On average, households were consuming 6 food groups in a day.

# Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) (24 Hours)



- At least 63% of the households were consuming 6 food groups and above in the 24 hours preceding the survey.
- Matabeleland South (14%) had the highest proportion of households consuming zero to two food groups.

# Households Consuming $\geq 5$ Food Groups



- Kadoma and Gweru (97%) had the highest proportion of households which were consuming five food groups and above.

# Household Coping

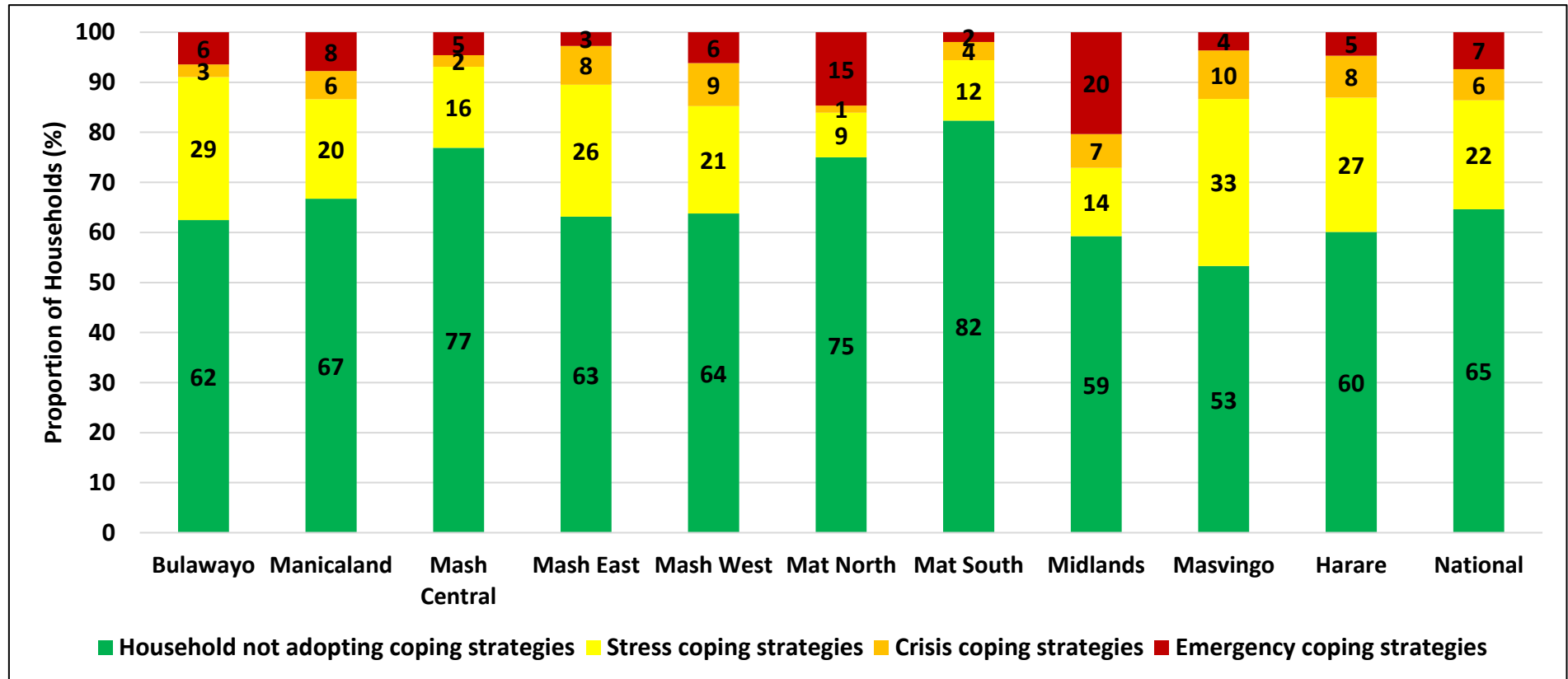
# **Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies (LCSI)**

# Livelihoods Coping Strategies

- Livelihood Coping Strategies are behaviours employed by households when faced with a crisis.
- The livelihoods coping strategies have been classified into three categories namely stress, crisis and emergency as indicated in the table.

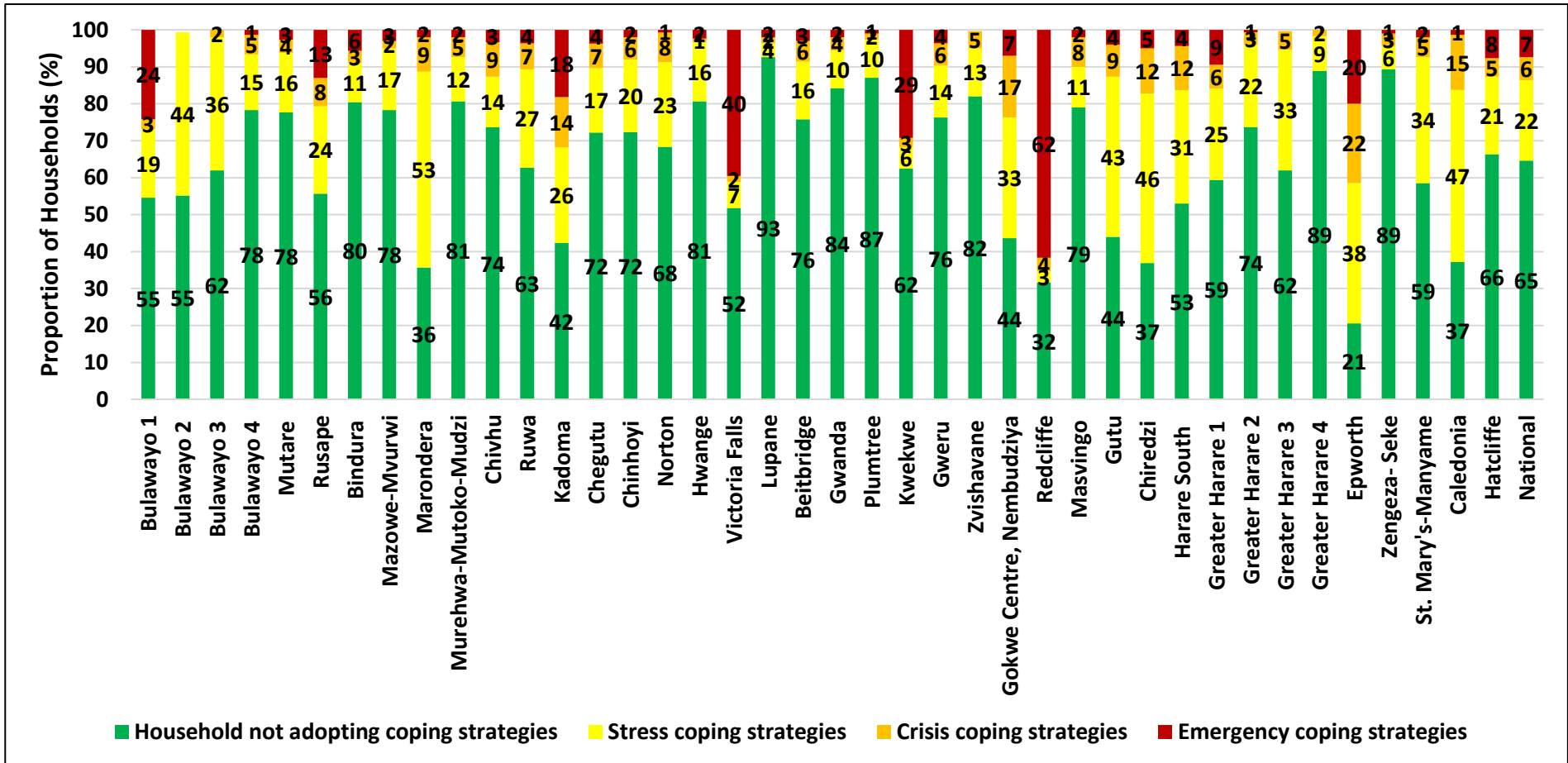
Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Borrowing money, moving children to less expensive schools, selling assets and pawning household items.</li></ul>
Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selling productive assets or means of transport which directly reduces future productivity, including human capital formation.</li><li>• Reducing expenses on health</li><li>• Informal migration</li></ul>
Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selling of house where the household was living or land which affects future productivity, and is more difficult to reverse.</li><li>• Begging for food.</li><li>• Engaging in socially degrading, high-risk, exploitative or life-threatening jobs or income-generating activities.</li></ul>

# Maximum Coping Strategies Categories



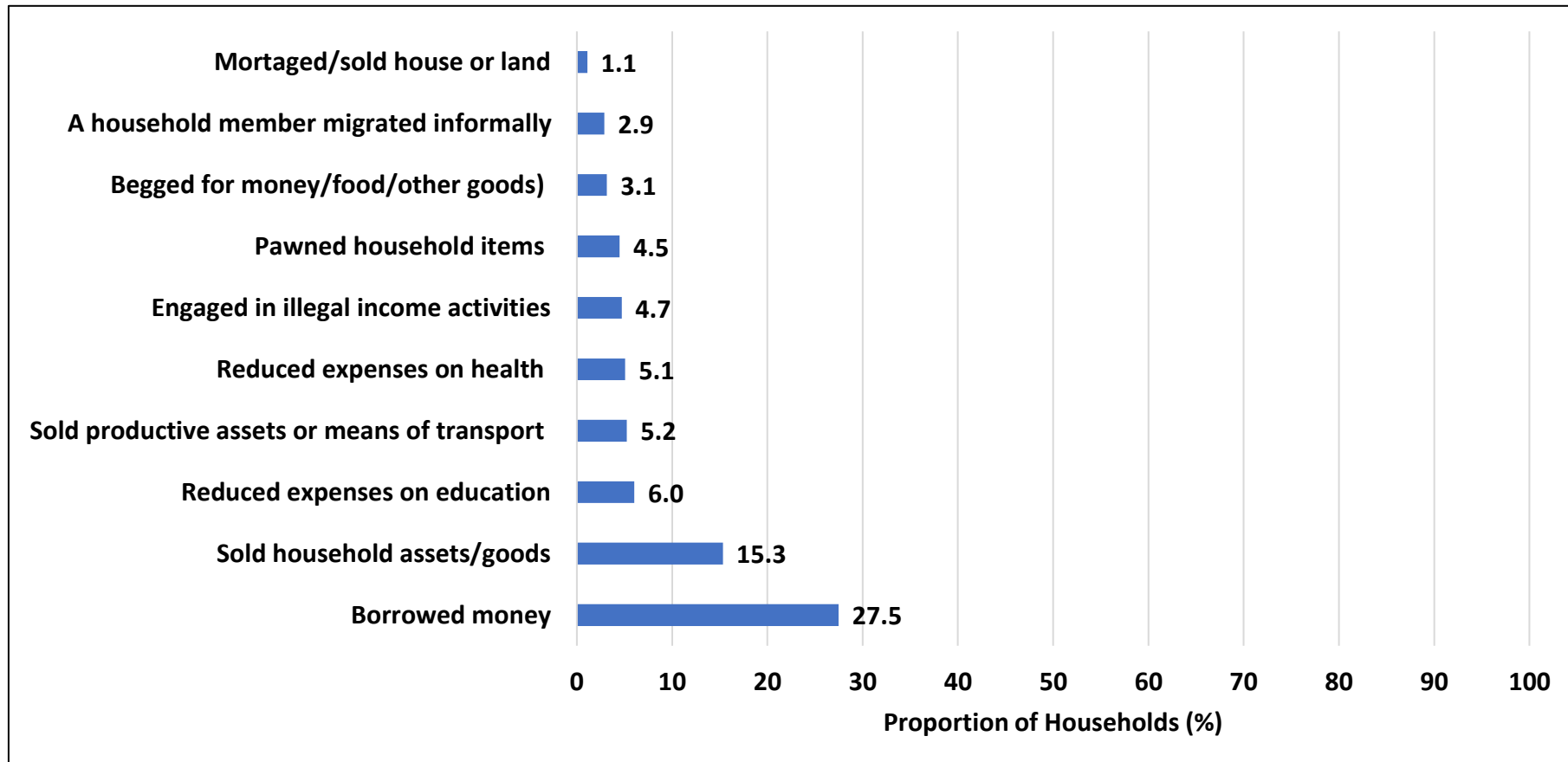
- The majority of households (65%) were not adopting any coping strategies.
- Midlands (20%) and Matabeleland North (15%) had the highest proportion of households which engaged in emergency coping strategies.

# Maximum Coping by Domain



- Redcliffe (62%) and Victoria Falls (40%) had the highest proportion of households which engaged in emergency coping strategies.

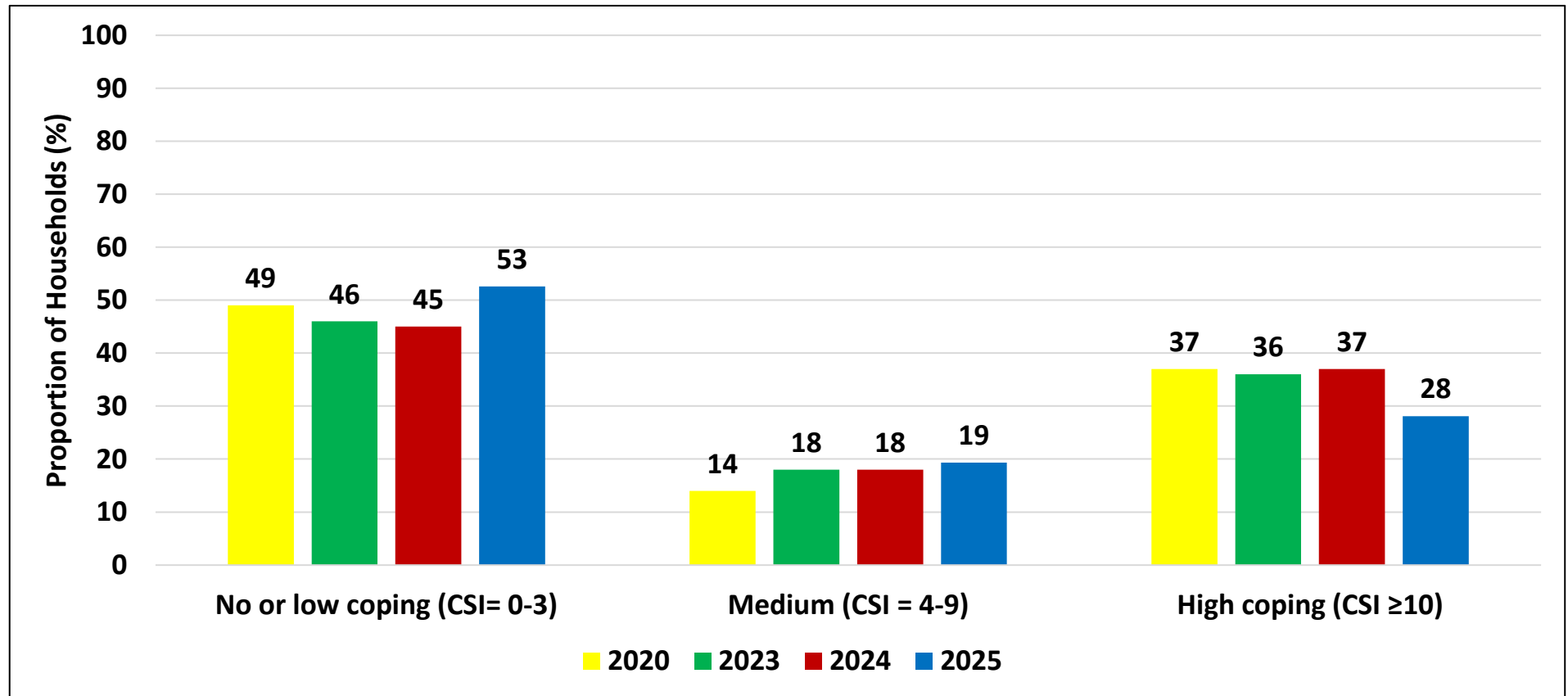
# Livelihood Based Coping Strategies Employed by Households



- Borrowing money (27.5%) and selling household assets (15.3%) were the most reported livelihoods based coping strategies employed by households.

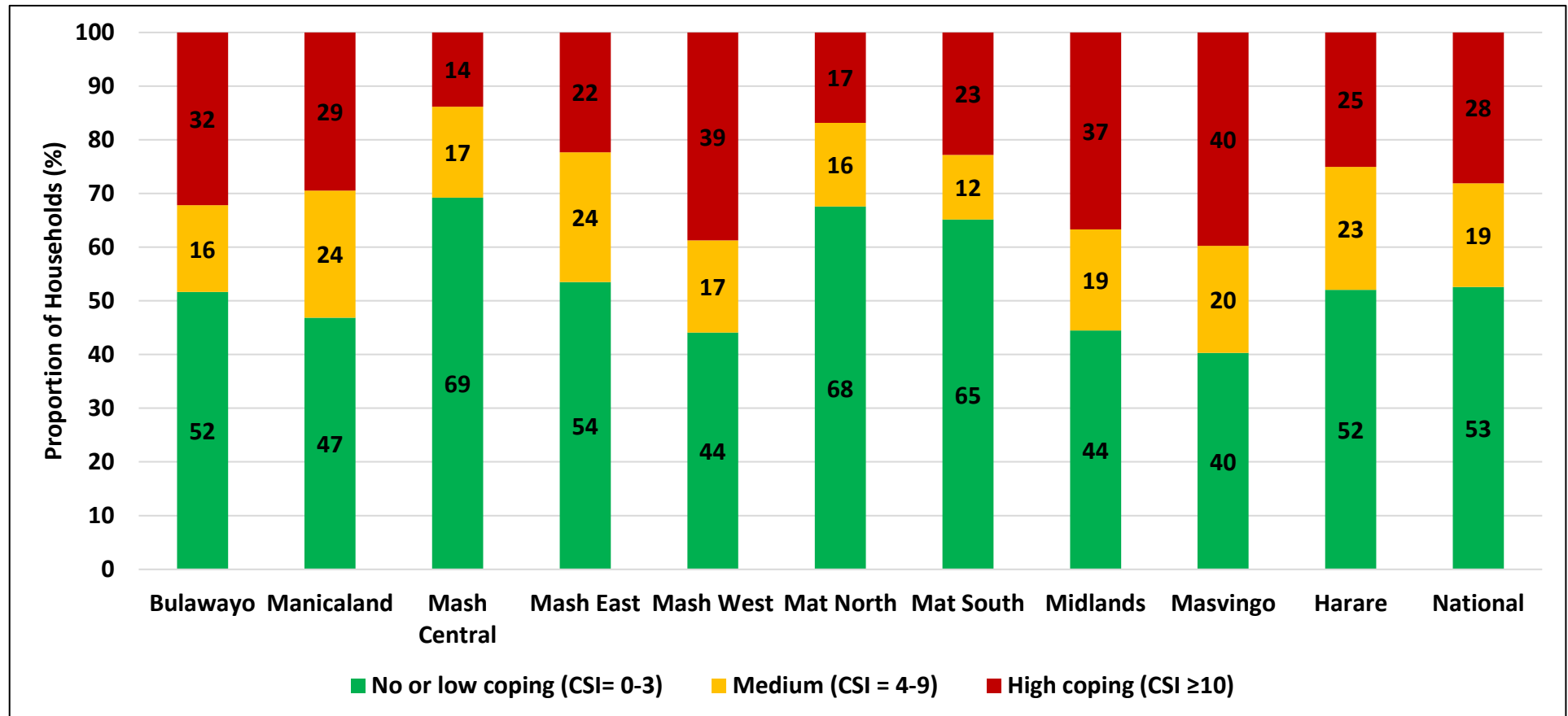
# **Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)**

# Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)



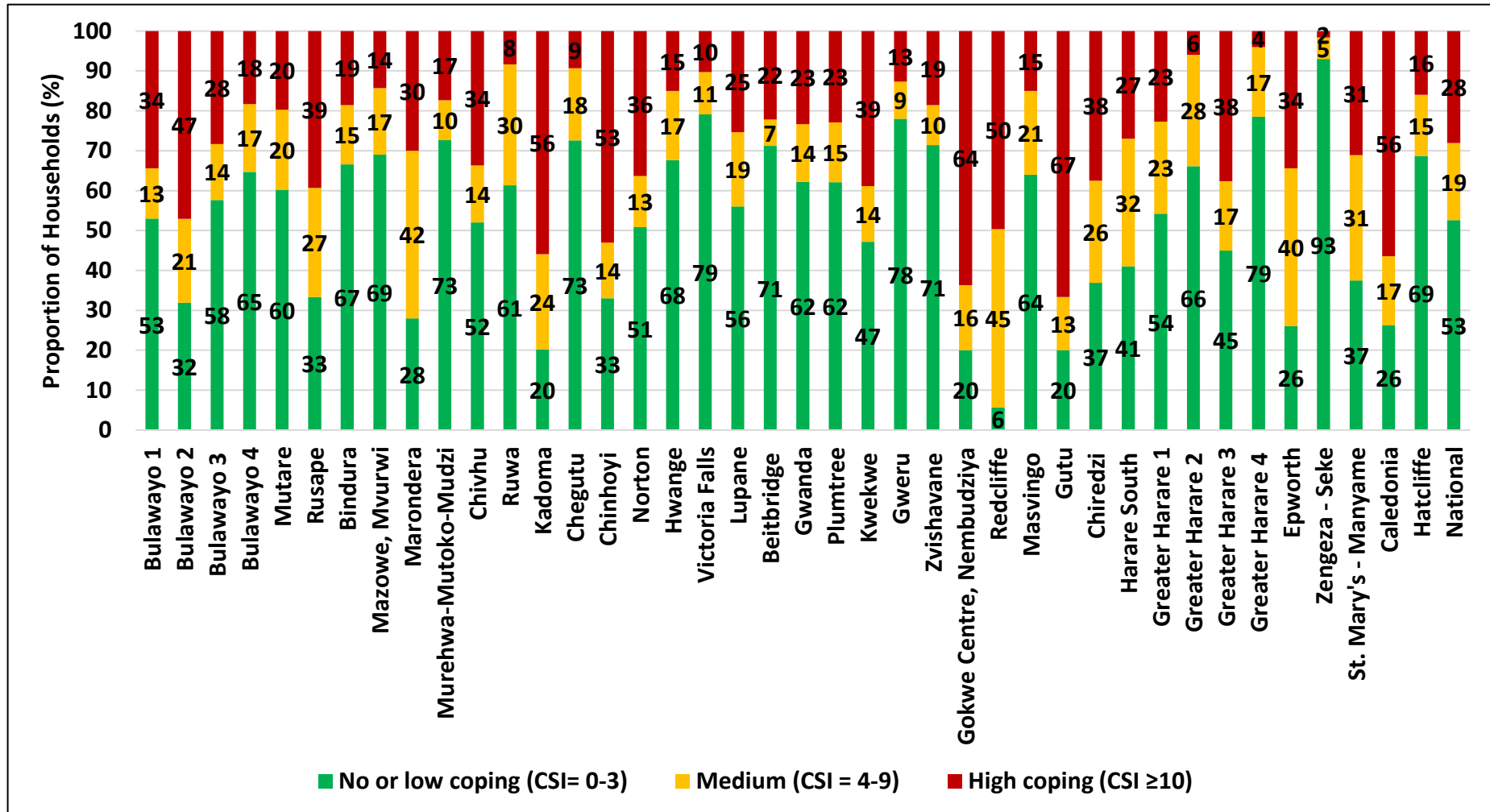
- About 53% of the households reported not engaging in any consumption coping strategies.

# Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index by Province



- Masvingo (40%) and Mashonaland West (39%) had the highest proportion of households that were engaged in high coping.

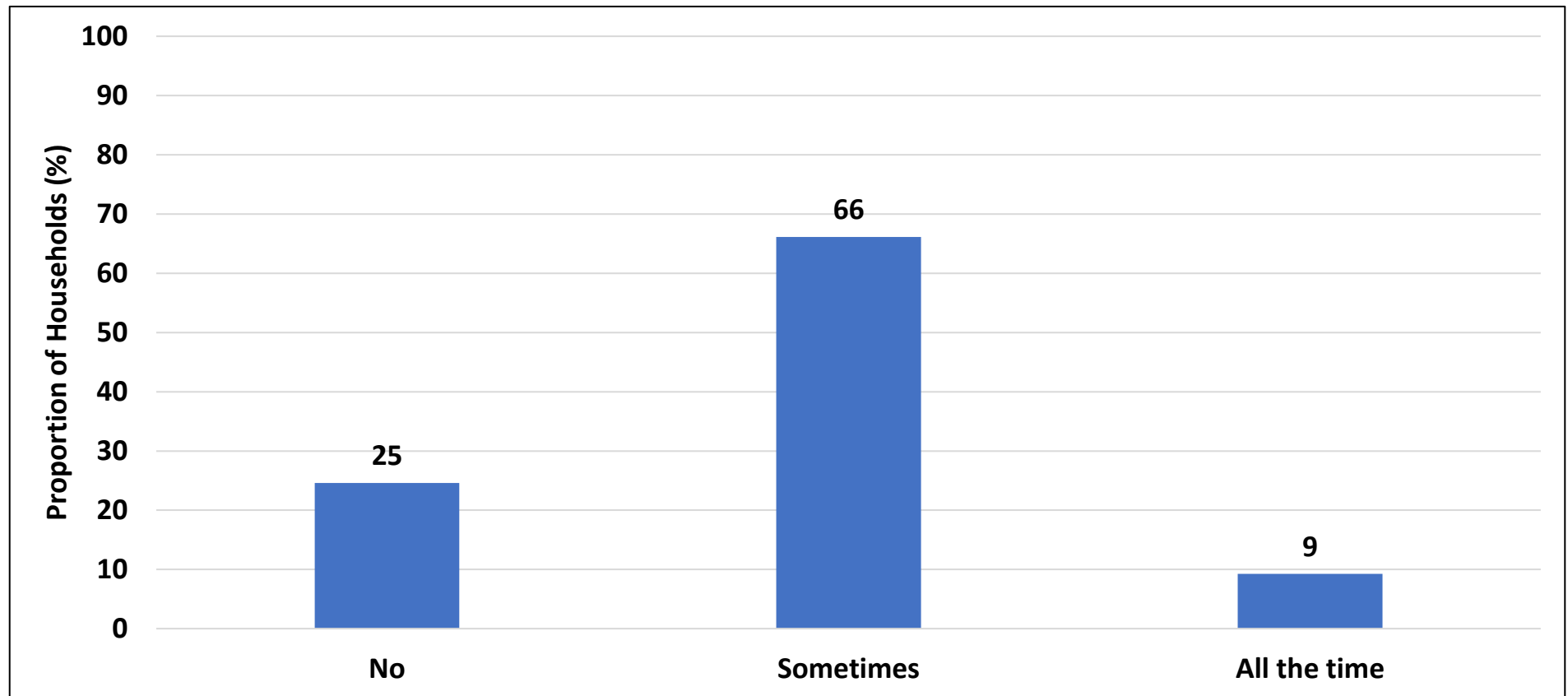
# Reduced Consumption Coping Strategy Index by Domain



- Gutu (67%) and Gokwe Centre, Nembudziya (64%) had the highest proportion of households which engaged in high coping.

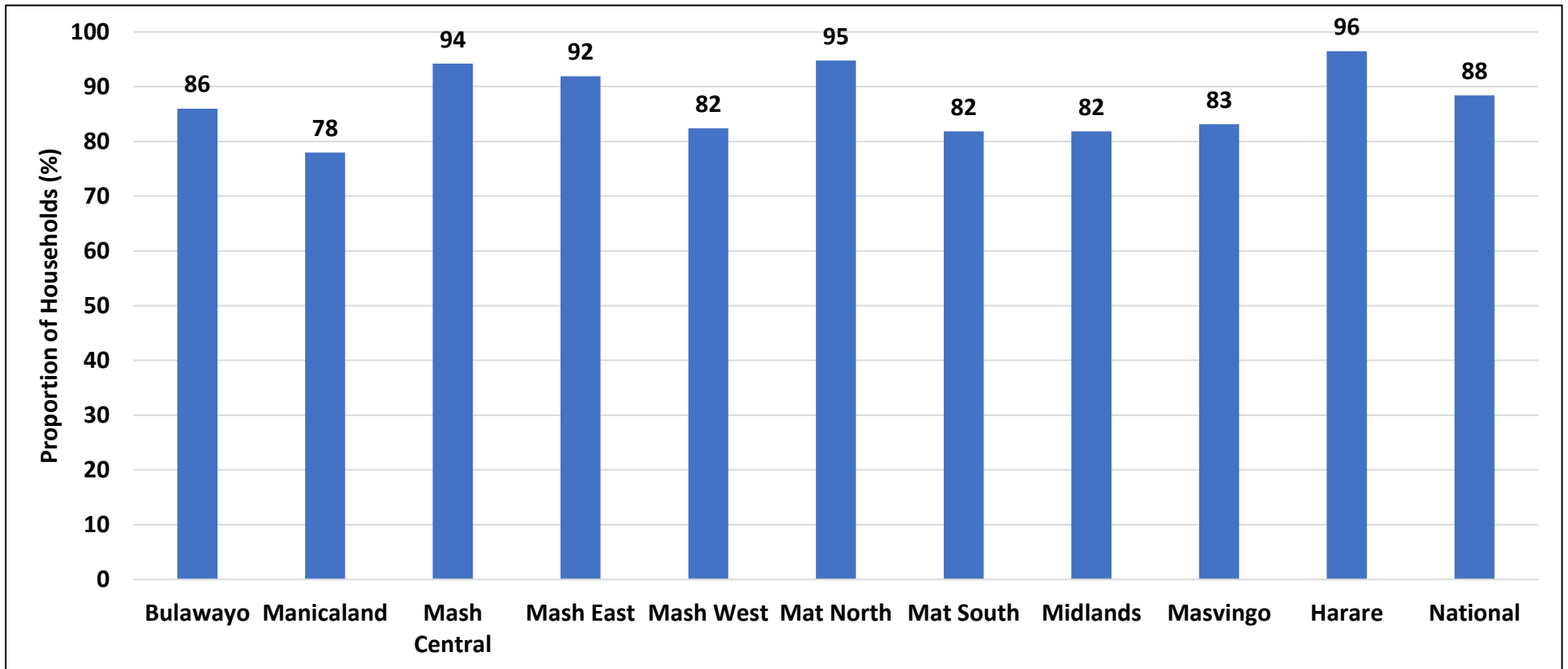
# Food Safety

# Households which Read Information on Food Packages before Purchasing



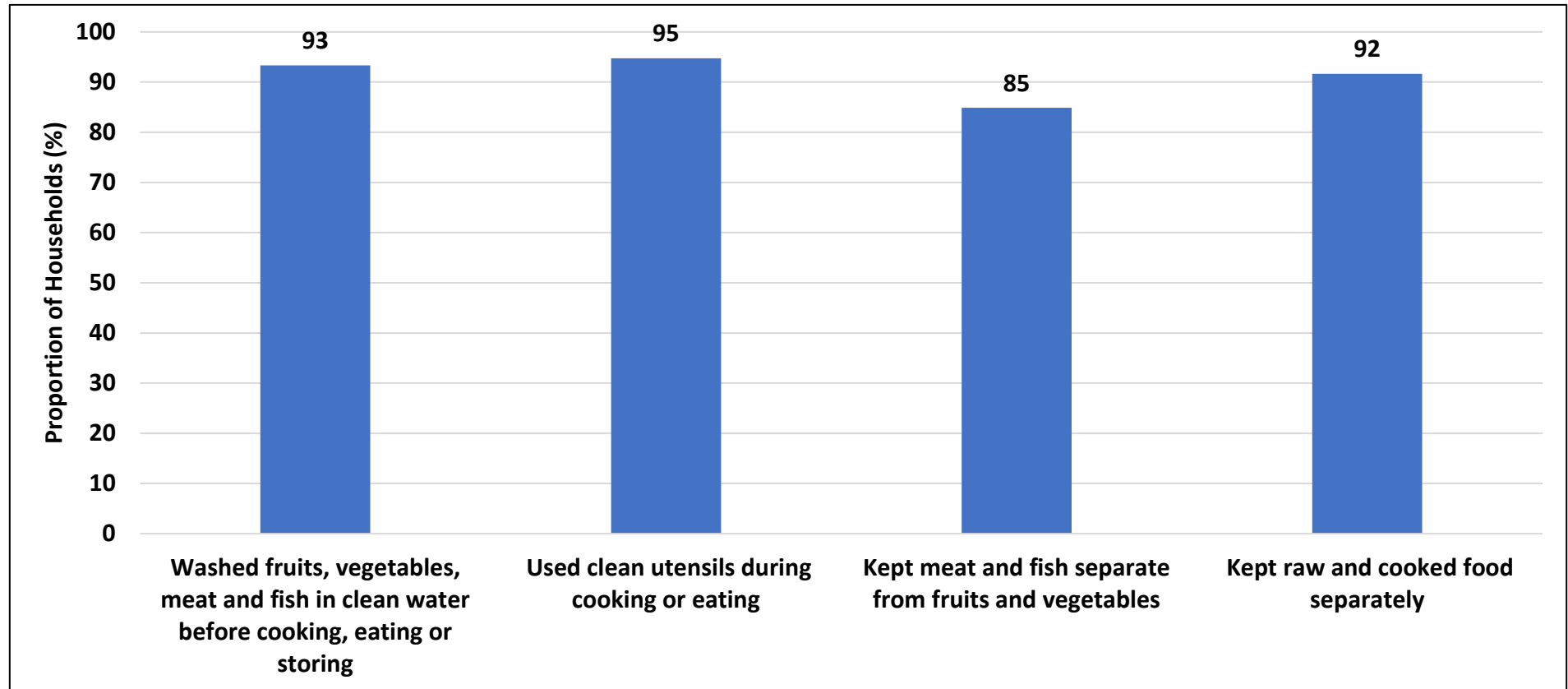
- About 25% of the households reported not reading information on food packages before purchasing.
- Food packages give households access to information which helps them to make informed and healthy food choices.

# Households which Purchased Food from Street Vendors



- The majority of households (88%) purchased food from street vendors.
- This predisposes them to food borne illnesses.

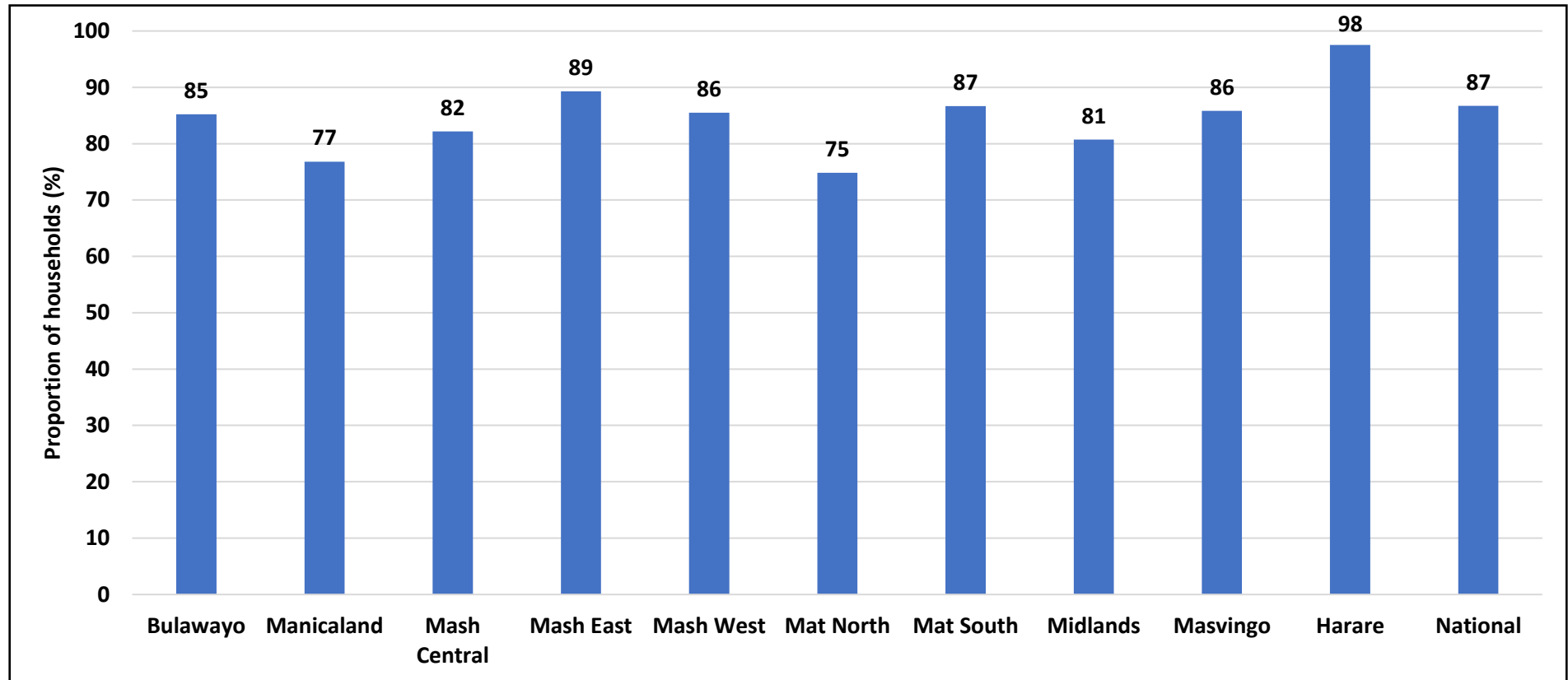
# Food Preparation and Preservation Practices



- Over 85% of the households reported practising food safety measures recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

# **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

# Connection to Council or ZINWA Water



- At least 87% of the urban households were connected to Council or ZINWA water system reflecting access to water infrastructure.

# Main Drinking Water Sources

Province	Piped into dwelling (%)	Borehole or Tube well (%)	Protected well (%)	Piped into yard or plot (%)	Piped into public tap/standpipe (%)	Unprotected well (%)	Piped into neighbour's yard (%)	Protected spring (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	90	1	0	8	0	0	1	0	0
Manicaland	56	6	11	20	3	1	2	0	0
Mash Central	40	19	15	20	3	1	1	0	0
Mash East	25	26	32	12	1	2	1	1	1
Mash West	39	29	13	6	10	2	1	0	0
Mat North	67	3	0	8	19	0	2	0	0
Mat South	76	9	0	7	1	0	1	0	7
Midlands	52	18	5	16	5	1	2	0	2
Masvingo	65	6	11	9	5	2	2	0	0
Harare	7	48	36	2	2	3	0	1	2
<b>National</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

- The proportion of households which had drinking water piped into their dwellings was 45%.
- About 2% of the households were drinking water from unprotected wells.

# Main Drinking Water Sources- Harare

Domain	Piped into dwelling (%)	Borehole/Tube well (%)	Protected well (%)	Piped into yard or plot (%)	Piped into public tap/standpipe (%)	Unprotected well (%)	Piped into neighbour's yard (%)	Protected spring (%)	Other (%)
Harare South	4	43	49	0	1	2	0	0	2
Greater Harare 1	44	41	0	6	10	0	0	0	0
Greater Harare 2	8	69	17	1	2	1	0	0	1
Greater Harare 3	1	56	42	0	1	0	0	0	0
Greater Harare 4	7	53	32	4	1	0	0	0	1
Epworth	0	18	58	2	4	12	2	3	16
Zengeza - Seke	1	85	13	0	0	1	0	0	1
St. Mary's-Manyame	0	23	67	0	0	6	0	0	6
Caledonia	1	25	59	3	3	4	0	3	7
Hatcliffe	15	44	13	20	6	1	1	0	2
<b>Harare</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

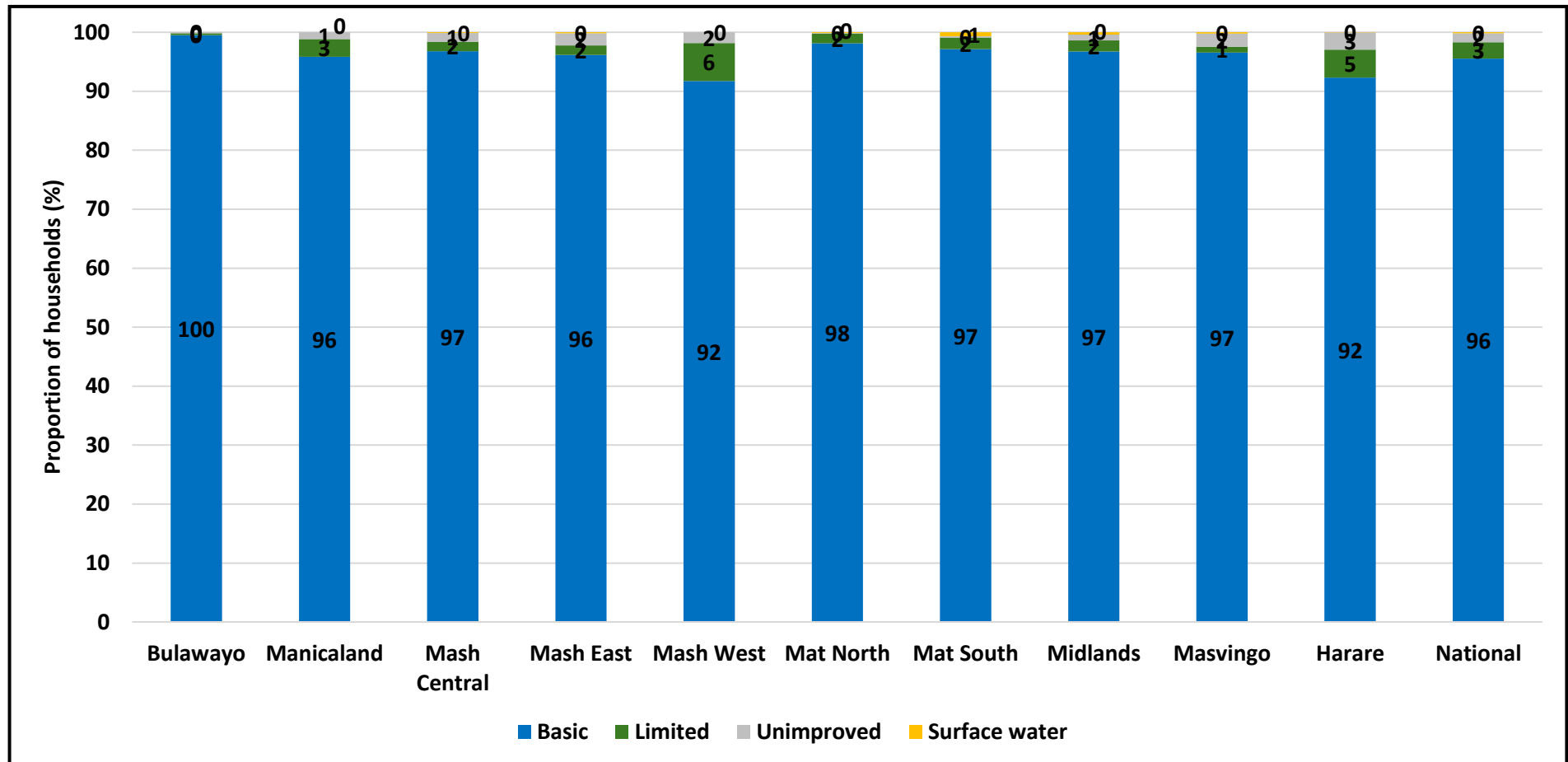
- The majority of households in Harare (48%) were accessing Borehole water as their main drinking water source. This speaks to the importance of the ongoing Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme.

# Main Drinking Water Sources- Bulawayo

Domain	Piped into dwelling (%)	Borehole/Tube well (%)	Protected well (%)	Piped into yard or plot (%)	Piped into public tap/standpipe (%)	Unprotected well (%)	Piped into neighbour's yard (%)	Protected spring (%)	Other (%)
<b>Bulawayo 1</b>	95.4	1.3	0.0	2.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Bulawayo 2</b>	80.6	0.3	0.0	15.2	0.3	0.3	2.3	0.0	2.6
<b>Bulawayo 3</b>	82.7	1.7	0.0	15.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Bulawayo 4</b>	99.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Bulawayo</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>

- The majority of households in Bulawayo (89.5%) were drinking water piped into their dwellings.

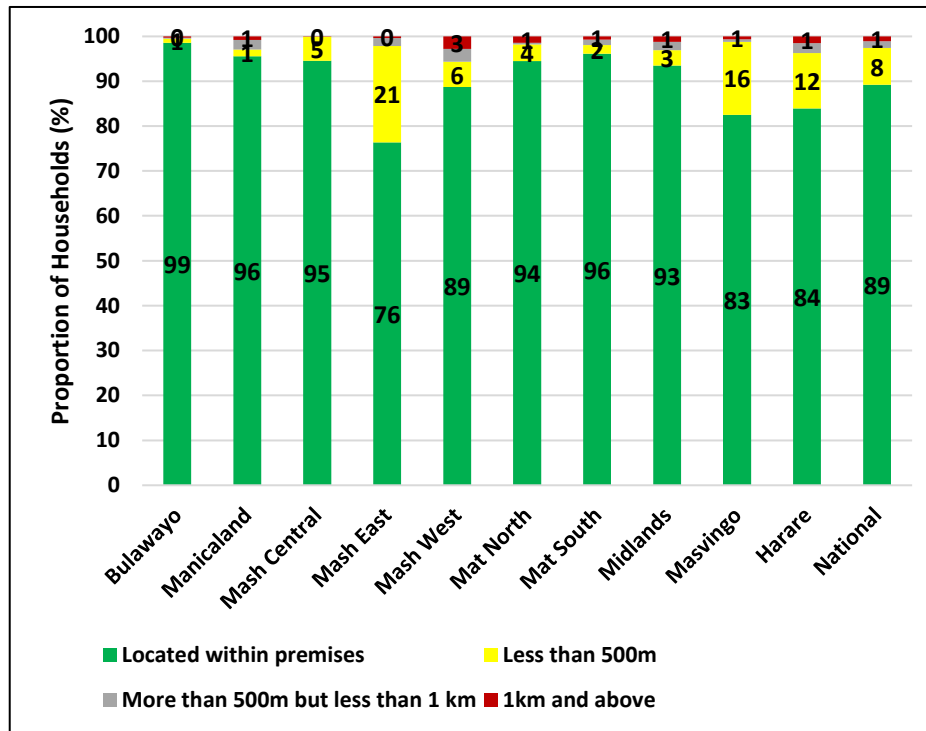
# Access to Water Services



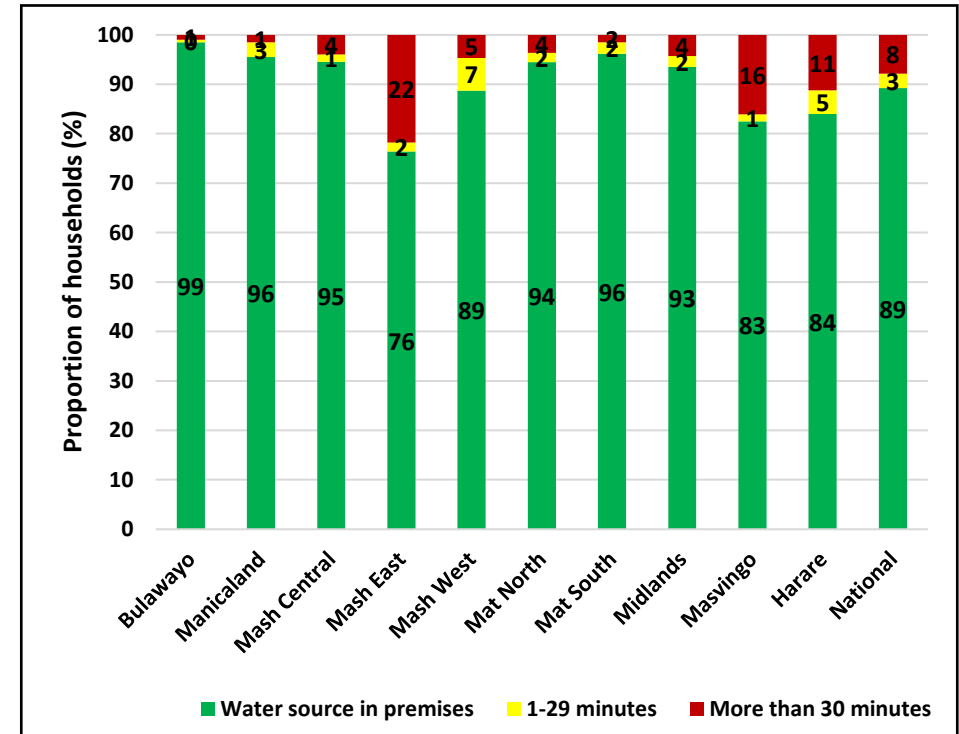
- The majority of households (96%) had access to basic water services with Bulawayo having (100%).
- This reflects the country's progress towards achieving SDG 6 which is fundamental for human health, economic development and environmental sustainability.

# Distance and Time Taken to Main Drinking Water Source

## Distance Travelled



## Time taken



- The majority of households (97%) had access to water within less than 500 meters round-distance for which 89% had water within their premises.
- Ninety-two percent were able to access water within less than 30 minutes time.

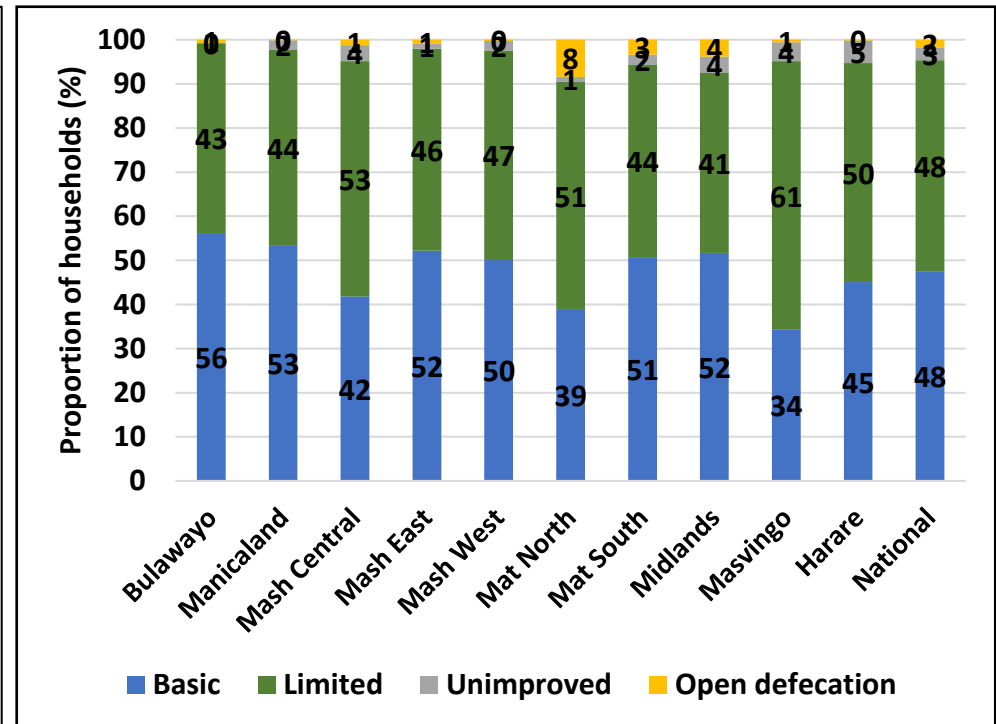
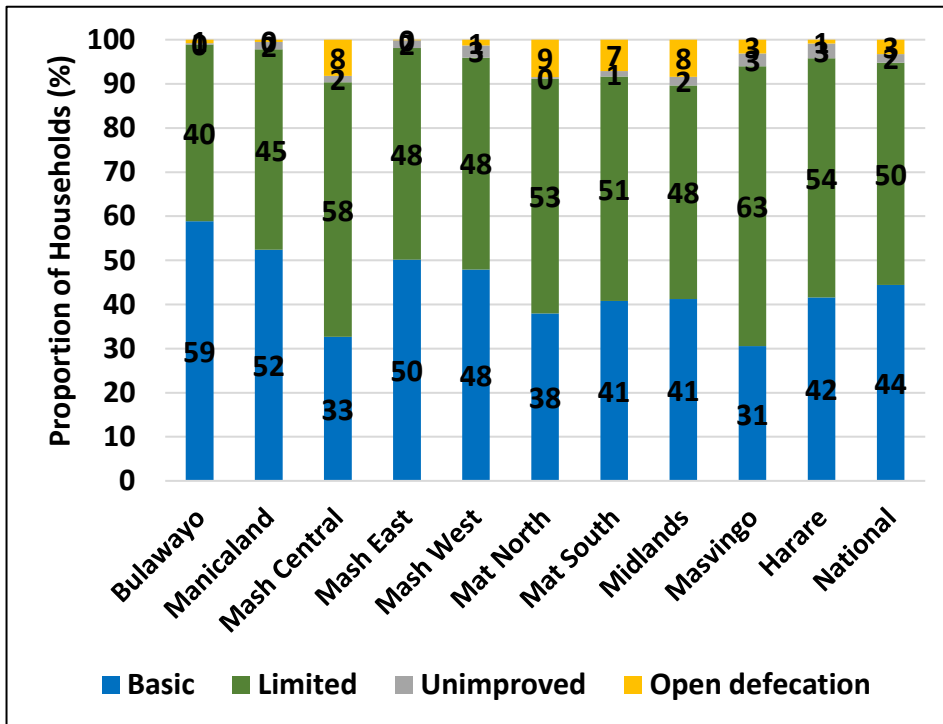
# Ladder for Sanitation

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

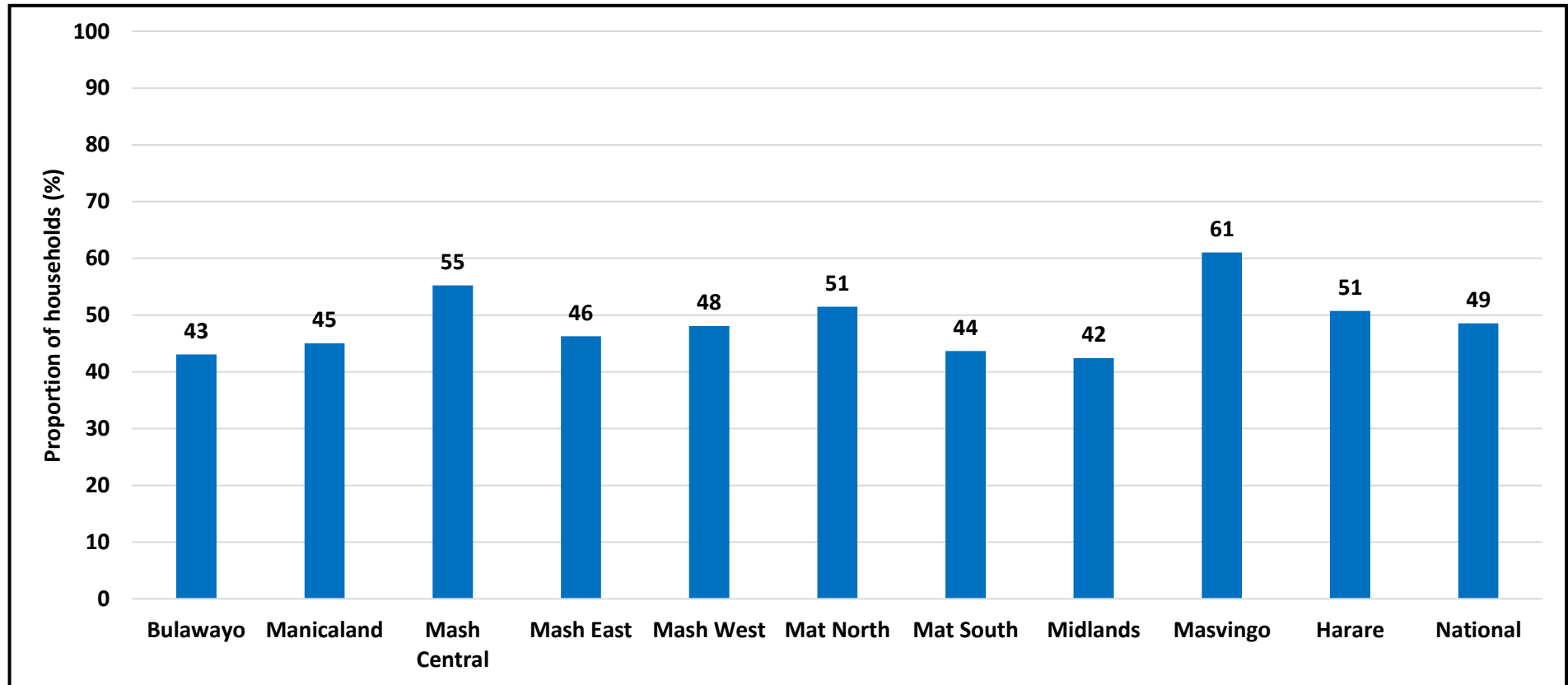
2024

2025



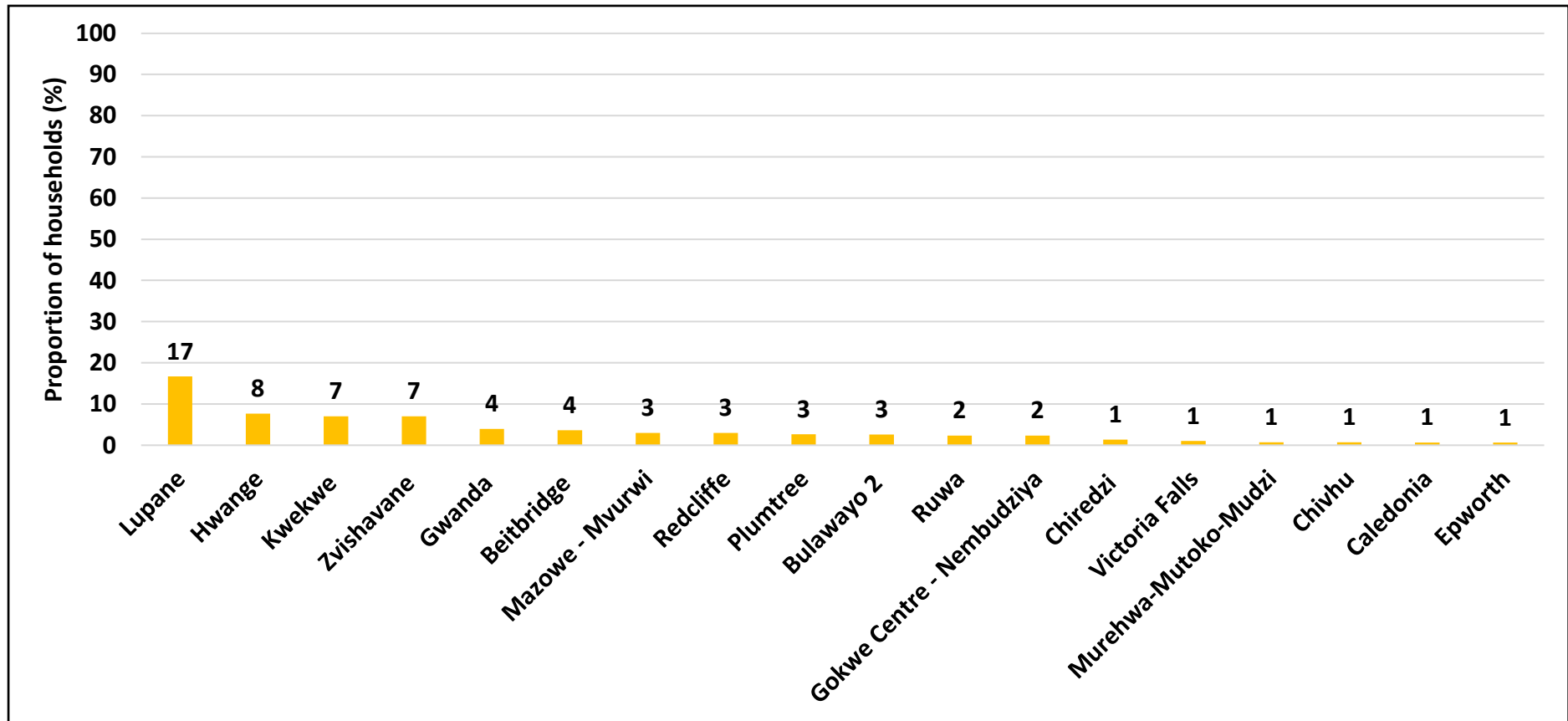
- About 48% of the households had access to limited sanitation, a small decrease from 50% reported in 2024. This was due to the large proportion of households which were sharing toilet facilities.

# Household which Shared Toilet Facilities



- Masvingo (61%) and Mashonaland Central (55%) had the highest proportion of households which were sharing toilets.

# Open Defecation by Domain



- Lupane (17%) had the highest proportion of households practising open defecation.

# Frequency of Refuse Collection

Province	Number of Times Refuse was Collected in January 2025				
	Once (%)	Twice (%)	Three times (%)	Four times (%)	Never collected (%)
<b>Bulawayo</b>	15	5	1	75	3
<b>Manicaland</b>	1	1	4	85	9
<b>Mash Central</b>	12	6	4	34	44
<b>Mash East</b>	4	4	4	54	35
<b>Mash West</b>	7	7	6	47	33
<b>Mat North</b>	2	2	2	67	27
<b>Mat South</b>	9	3	4	78	6
<b>Midlands</b>	8	5	3	47	37
<b>Masvingo</b>	1	5	5	82	7
<b>Harare</b>	15	3	1	17	64
<b>National</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>33</b>

- About 33% of the households reported that their refuse was never collected in the month prior to the survey.

# Disposal of Uncollected Refuse

Province	Threw away in a designated area or Skip bin (%)	Threw away in an undesignated area (%)	Burnt (%)	Buried (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.0
Manicaland	1.3	4.0	3.5	2.6	0.3
Mash Central	12.4	20.0	15.7	14.7	0.0
Mash East	5.9	14.5	18.0	12.0	0.3
Mash West	2.7	12.8	13.7	13.9	1.7
Mat North	8.4	10.3	12.2	7.6	0.1
Mat South	1.2	1.7	2.8	0.7	0.4
Midlands	12.3	14.1	15.8	17.1	0.0
Masvingo	0.6	2.5	3.4	2.5	0.0
Harare	5.3	30.6	34.6	28.6	1.4
<b>National</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>

- Harare (30.6%) had the highest proportion of households which were throwing away refuse in undesignated areas.

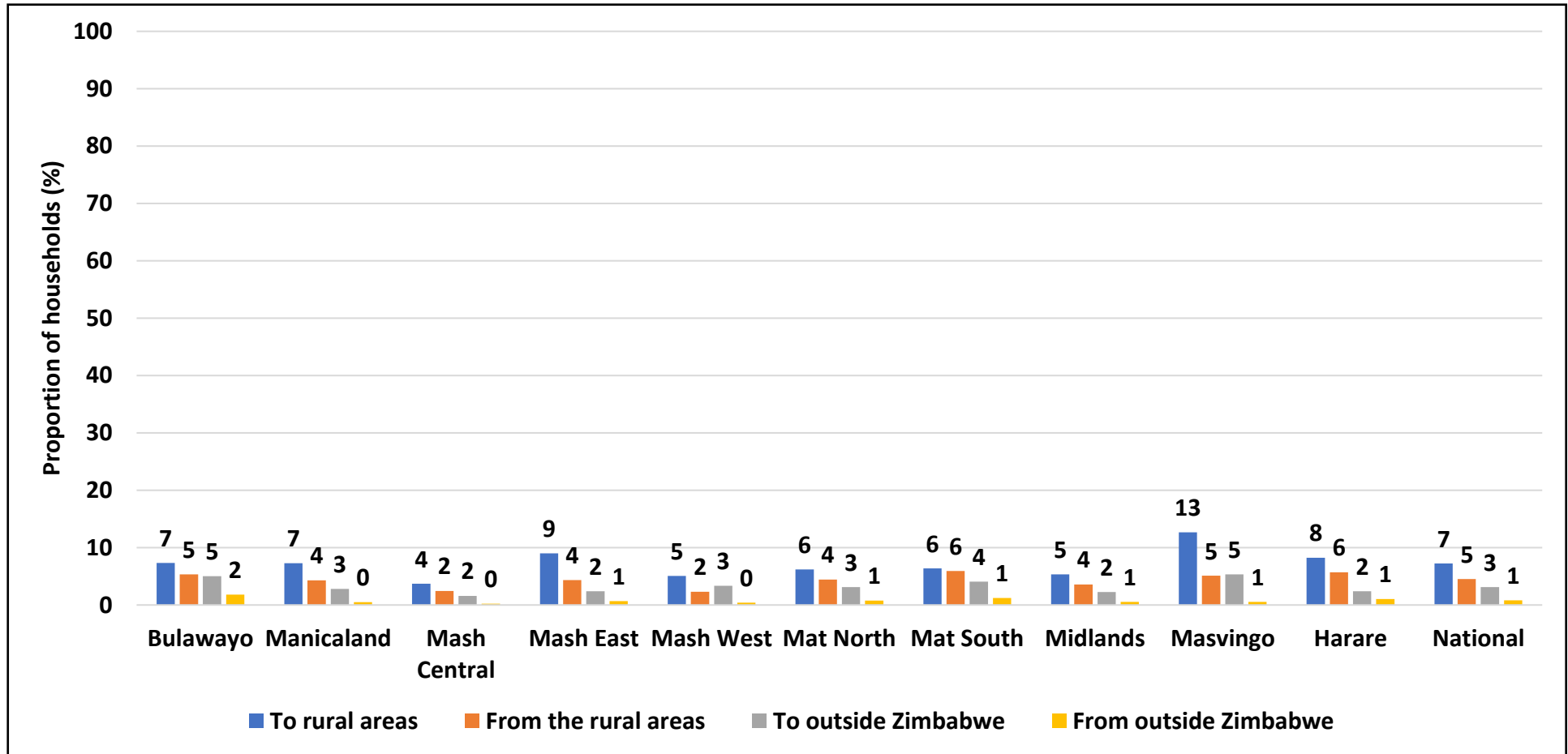
# Days Taken to Have Sewer System Fixed

Province	Within 24 hours (%)	2 days (%)	3 days (%)	4 days (%)	5 days (%)	6 days (%)	7+ days (%)	Not yet fixed (%)
Bulawayo	1	9	7	8	8	4	31	31
Manicaland	14	17	17	10	7	3	21	10
Mash Central	6	5	9	6	5	3	35	32
Mash East	14	27	16	2	2	0	20	20
Mash West	8	9	5	3	6	4	25	40
Mat North	12	10	3	3	1	0	6	65
Mat South	35	24	10	3	0	0	5	23
Midlands	32	12	6	2	4	1	29	14
Masvingo	22	24	10	6	3	7	19	7
Harare	6	10	5	2	3	2	38	33
<b>National</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>

- Matabeleland North (65%) and Mashonaland West (40%) had the highest proportion of households whose dysfunctional sewer systems had not been fixed at the time of the assessment.

# Migration

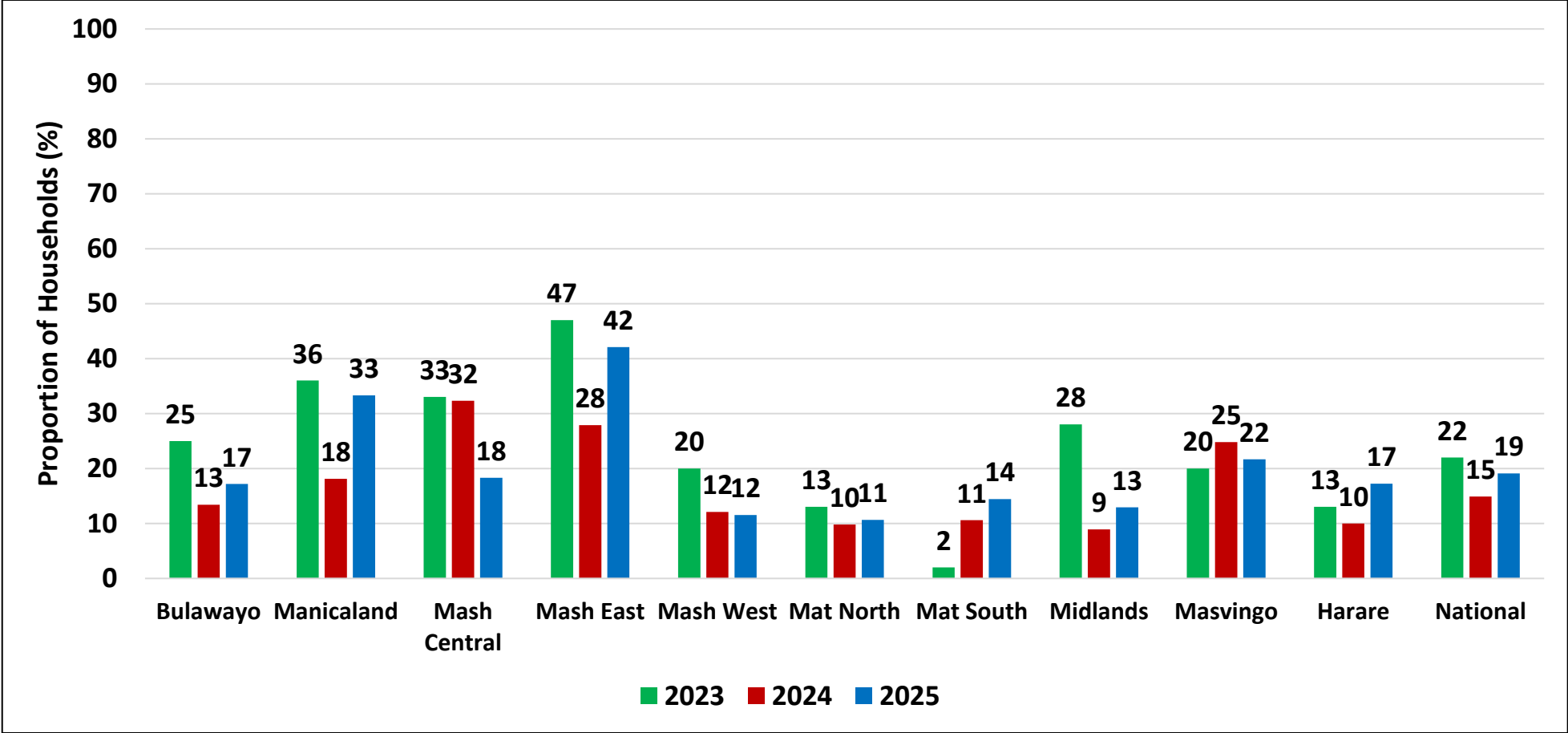
# Migration



- Migration from urban to rural areas (7%) by household members was the most reported type of migration.

# Transient Agriculture

# Households Practising Transient Agriculture



- There was an increase in the proportion of households practicing transient agriculture in 2025 (19%) from 2024 (15%).

# Reasons for not Practising Agriculture

Province	No access to land (%)	Not interested (%)	Lack of time (%)	Inputs challenges (%)	Viability issues (%)	Council by-laws (%)	Late onset of the rains (%)
<b>Bulawayo</b>	68	5	8	2	3	5	1
<b>Manicaland</b>	62	4	1	2	2	0	0
<b>Mash Central</b>	67	7	5	2	2	2	1
<b>Mash East</b>	51	4	4	4	1	2	2
<b>Mash West</b>	62	12	10	5	5	2	1
<b>Mat North</b>	67	10	5	1	10	2	0
<b>Mat South</b>	74	7	6	1	2	2	2
<b>Midlands</b>	70	5	7	4	6	3	1
<b>Masvingo</b>	67	6	7	2	4	2	0
<b>Harare</b>	73	7	5	3	2	3	0
<b>National</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

- No access to land (67%) was the major reason for not practising transient agriculture in urban areas.

# Types of Agricultural Activities

Province	Cereal Production (%)	Horticulture Production (%)	Livestock Production (%)
Bulawayo	4.4	0.3	0.9
Manicaland	9.3	1.2	5.5
Mash Central	4.2	0.4	2.5
Mash East	6.8	0.9	6.3
Mash West	3.4	0.8	2.8
Mat North	10.8	1.1	2.4
Mat South	6.7	1.2	2.8
Midlands	6.7	0.9	1.7
Masvingo	10.5	0.8	3.1
Harare	4.3	0.4	2.3
<b>National</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>

- Of the 19% of households which practised transient agriculture, 6.2% were growing cereals.

# Households Practising Agriculture Outside Urban Areas

Province	Proportion of households practising agriculture outside urban areas (%)	Rural areas (%)	Own Farm (%)	Own Plot (%)	Rented Farm (%)	Rented Plot (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	4.9	4.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Manicaland	10.3	9.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0
Mash Central	4.9	2.2	1.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.5
Mash East	8.0	4.8	0.7	1.7	0.1	0.2	0.7
Mash West	4.0	2.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
Mat North	11.8	10.0	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Mat South	7.2	5.5	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Midlands	6.9	5.0	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.3
Masvingo	11.0	8.4	0.8	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.0
Harare	4.7	4.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>National</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>

- The proportion of households practising agriculture outside urban areas was 6.7%.
- Matabeleland North (11.8%), Masvingo (11%) and Manicaland (10.3%) had the highest proportion of households which were practising agriculture outside urban areas.

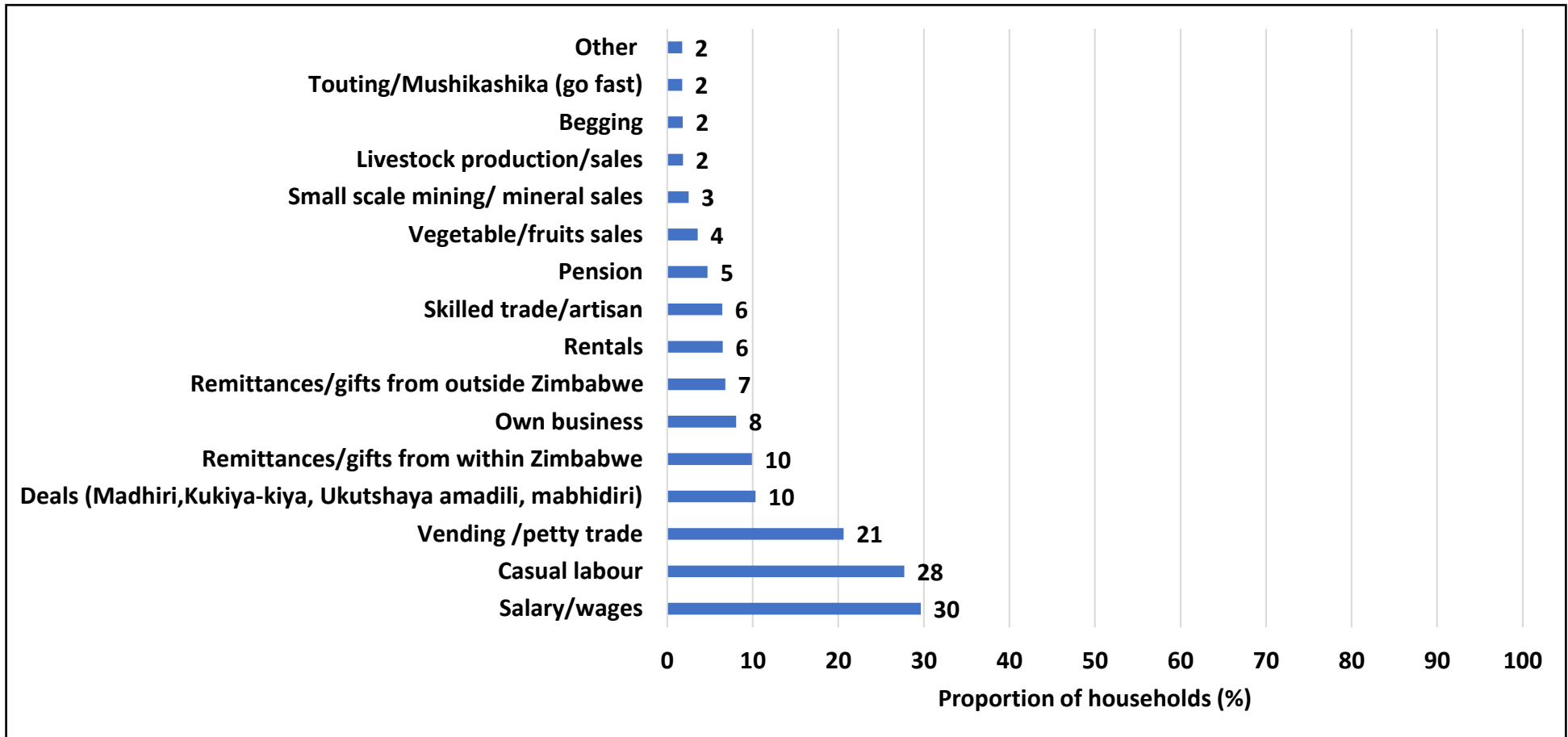
# Households which Benefitted Under the Government Input Support Programme

Province	Seed (%)	Compound D (%)	Ammonium Nitrate (%)	Pesticides (%)	Herbicides (%)	Chicks (%)
Bulawayo	3.1	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Manicaland	8.6	8.6	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.0
Mash Central	9.6	9.3	0.9	1.5	0.7	0.0
Mash East	11.0	6.7	5.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Mash West	2.1	1.4	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.0
Mat North	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.1
Mat South	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.4	1.5	0.0
Midlands	1.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Masvingo	6.4	4.4	1.4	2.3	3.4	0.0
Harare	2.1	2.3	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>National</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

- About 4.2% of the households received seed under the Government Input Support Programme.

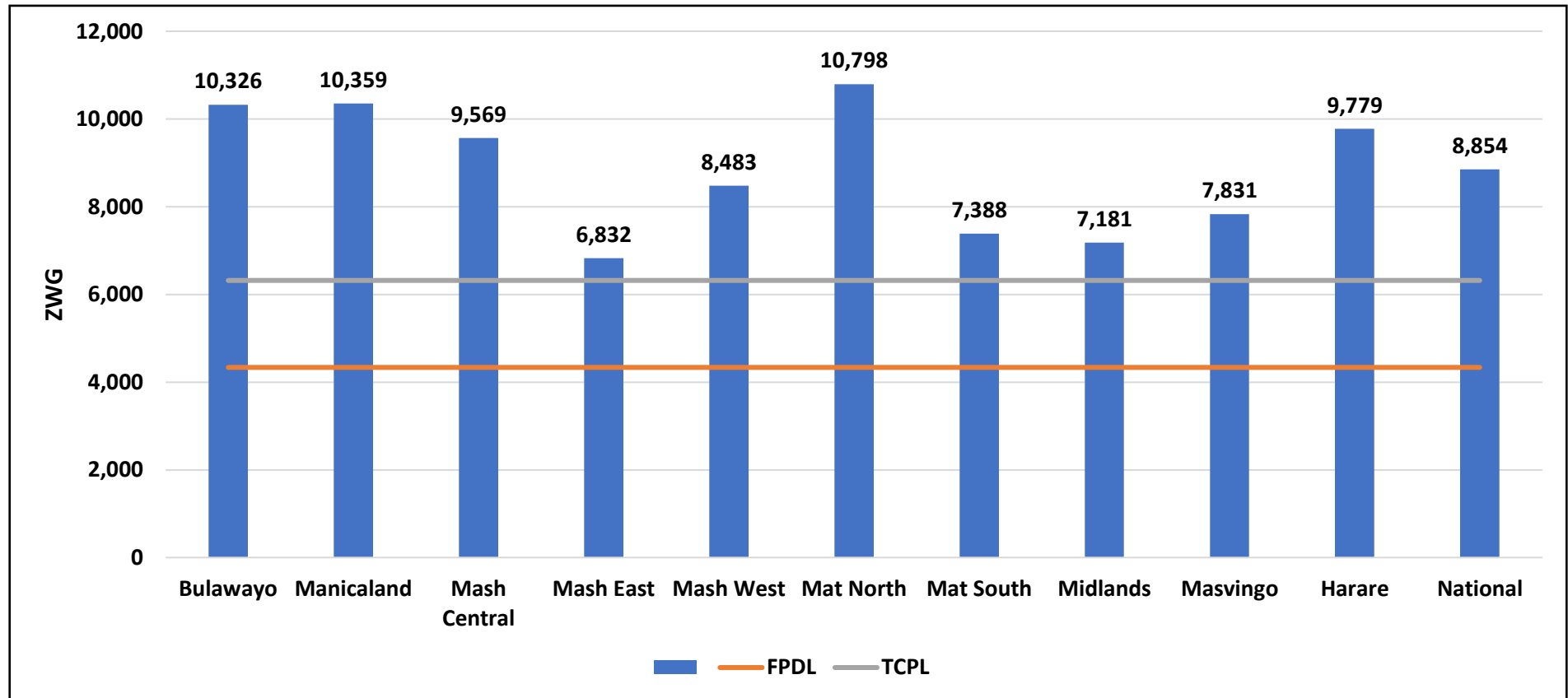
# **Income and Expenditure**

# Household Main Income Sources



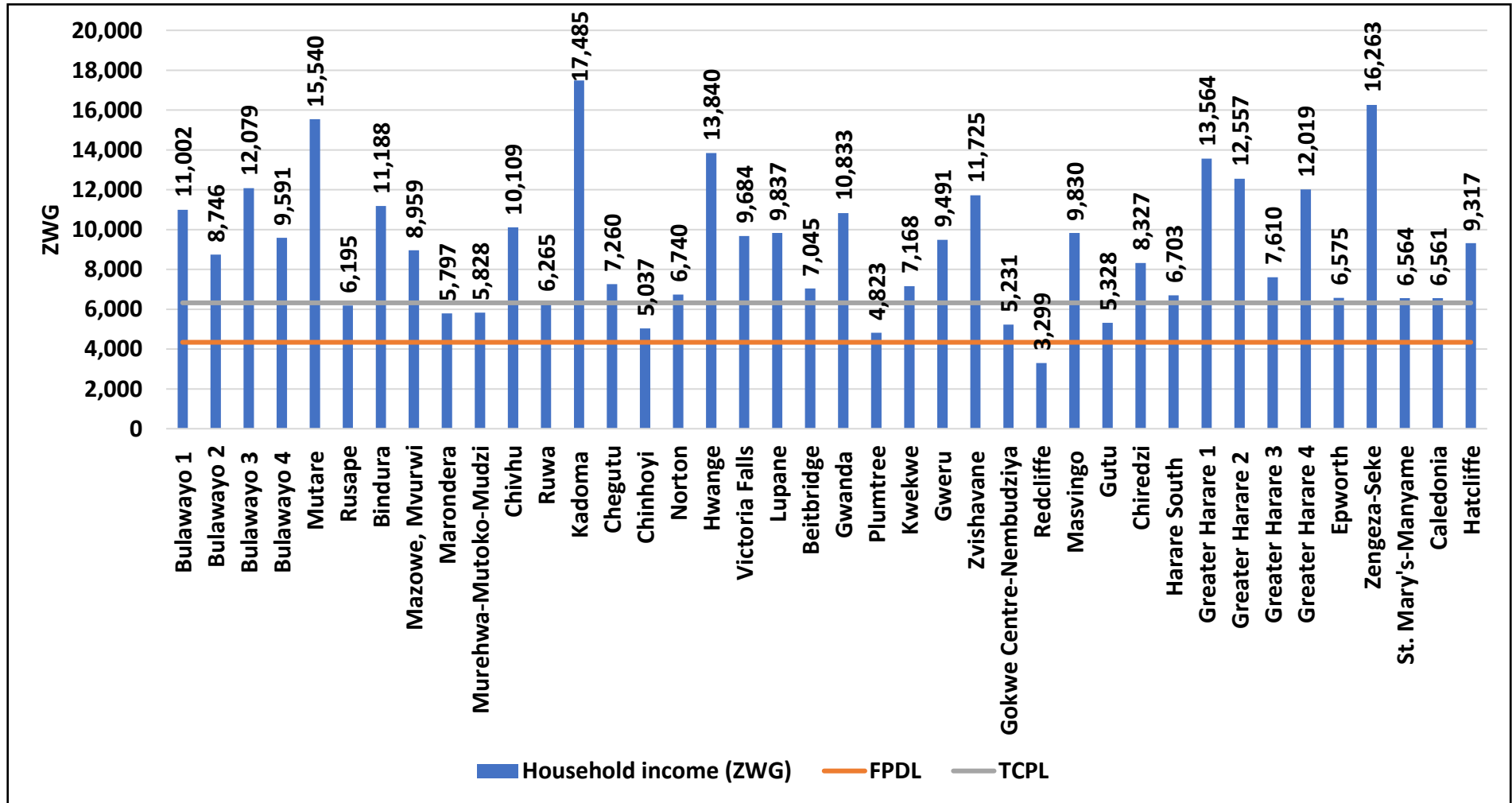
- Salaries/wages (30%) and casual labour (28%) were the most reported income sources.

# Average Household Monthly Income – January (ZWG)



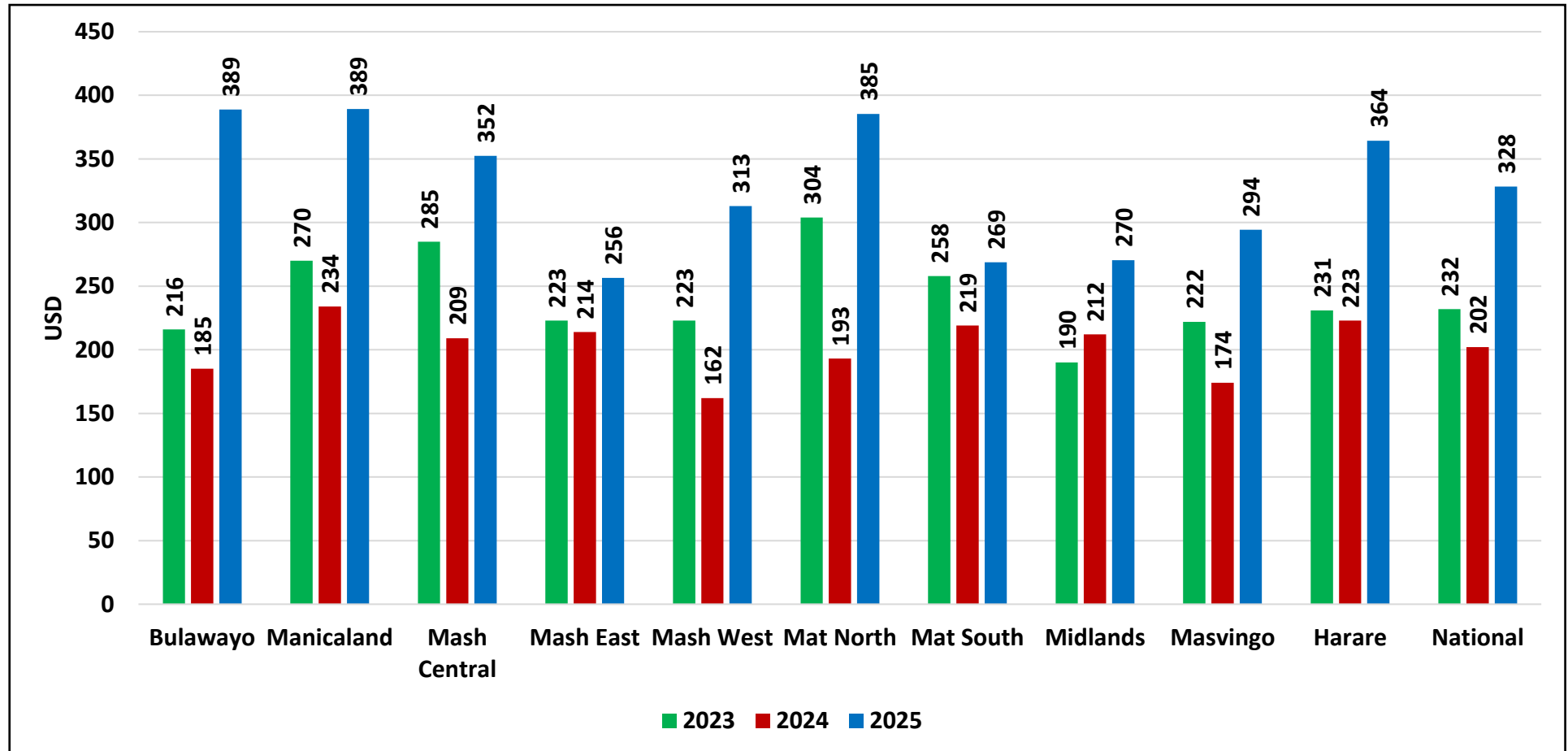
- Average Household monthly income for January 2025 (ZWG 8,854) was well above the minimum level of income required for a household to meet basic needs such as food, housing, healthcare, education and other essential services.

# Average Household Monthly Income by Domain (ZWG)



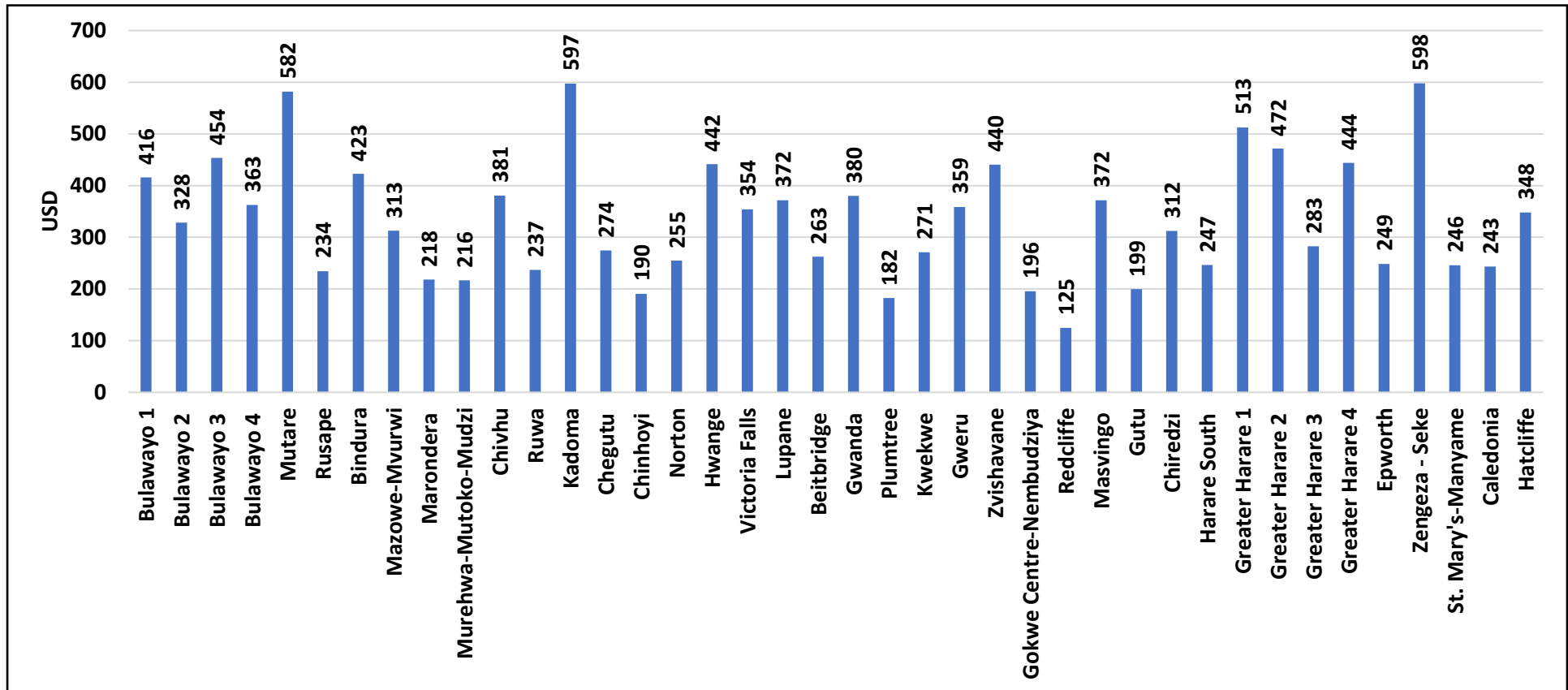
- Kadoma (ZWG 17,485) and Zengeza-Seke (ZWG 16,263) had the highest incomes for January 2025.

# Average Household Monthly Income - January (USD)



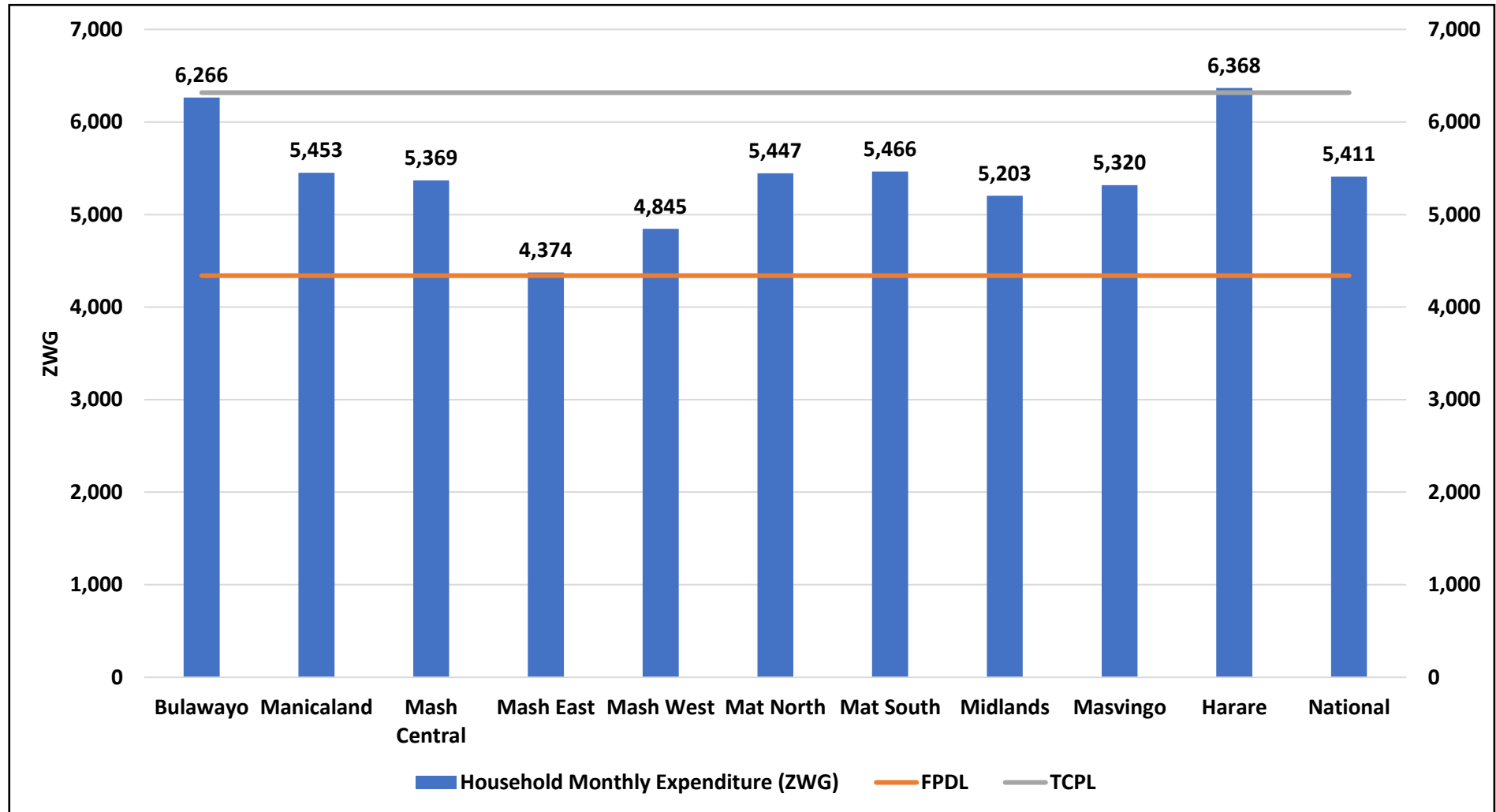
- The average household monthly income for January 2025 was USD 328.
- Government is commended for facilitating an enabling environment as reflected an increase in the average monthly income for January 2025. Increased income levels in an economy are vital for overall economic wellbeing and societal progress.

# Average Household Monthly Income by Domain (USD)



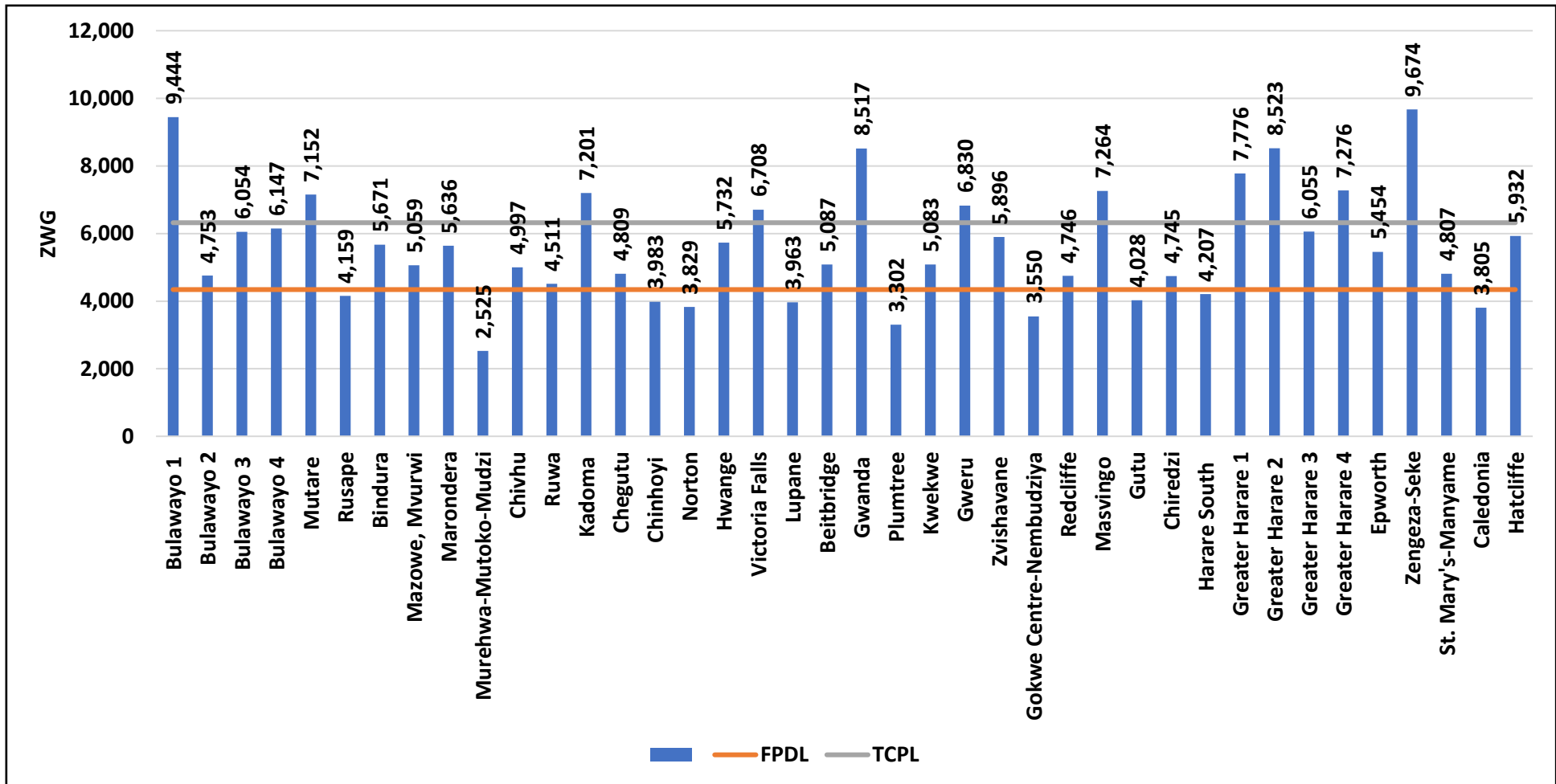
- Redcliffe (USD 125) and Plumtree (USD 182) had the lowest average household monthly incomes.

# Average Household Monthly Expenditure (ZWG)



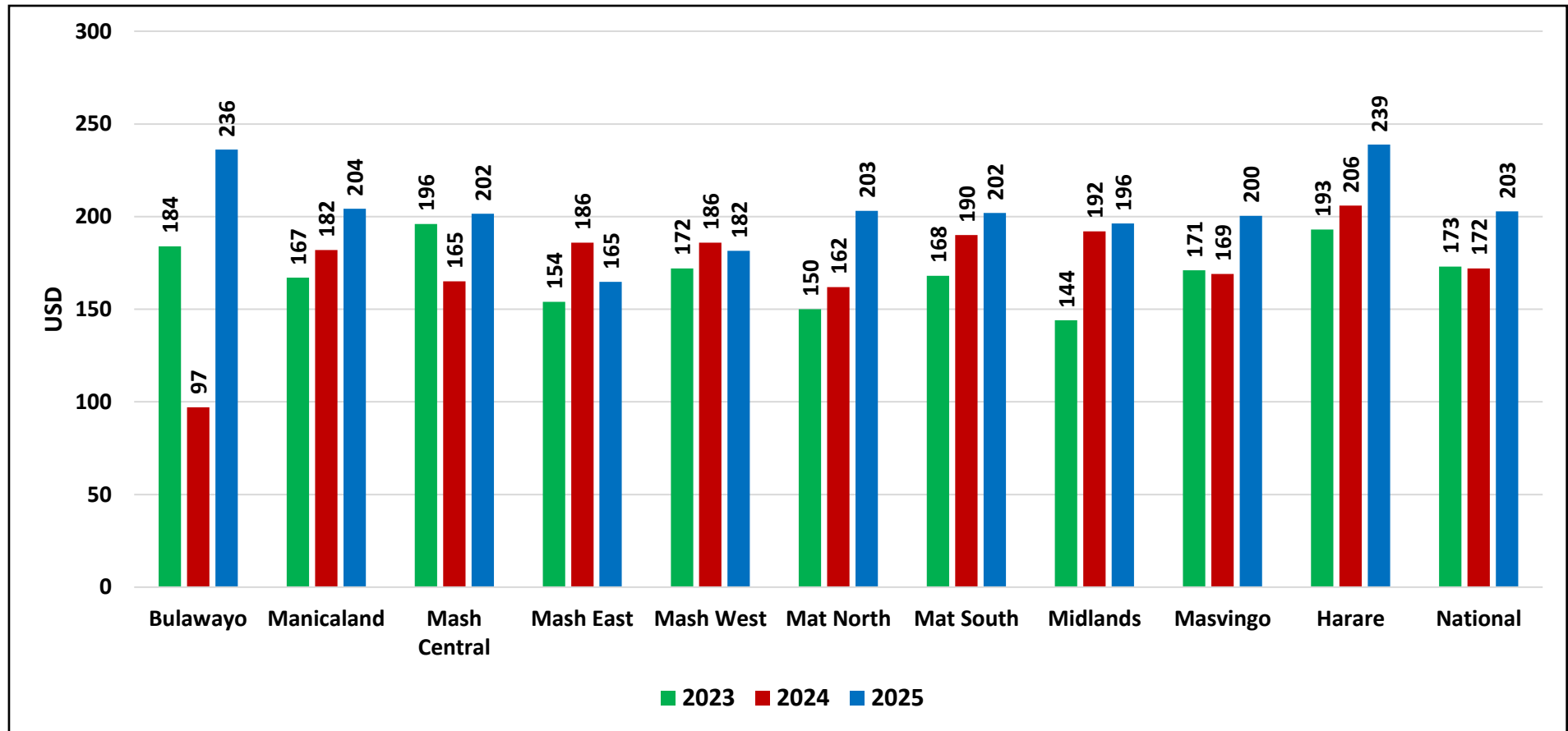
- Mashonaland East (ZWG 4,374) had the lowest average household monthly expenditure

# Average Household Monthly Expenditure (ZWG) by Domain



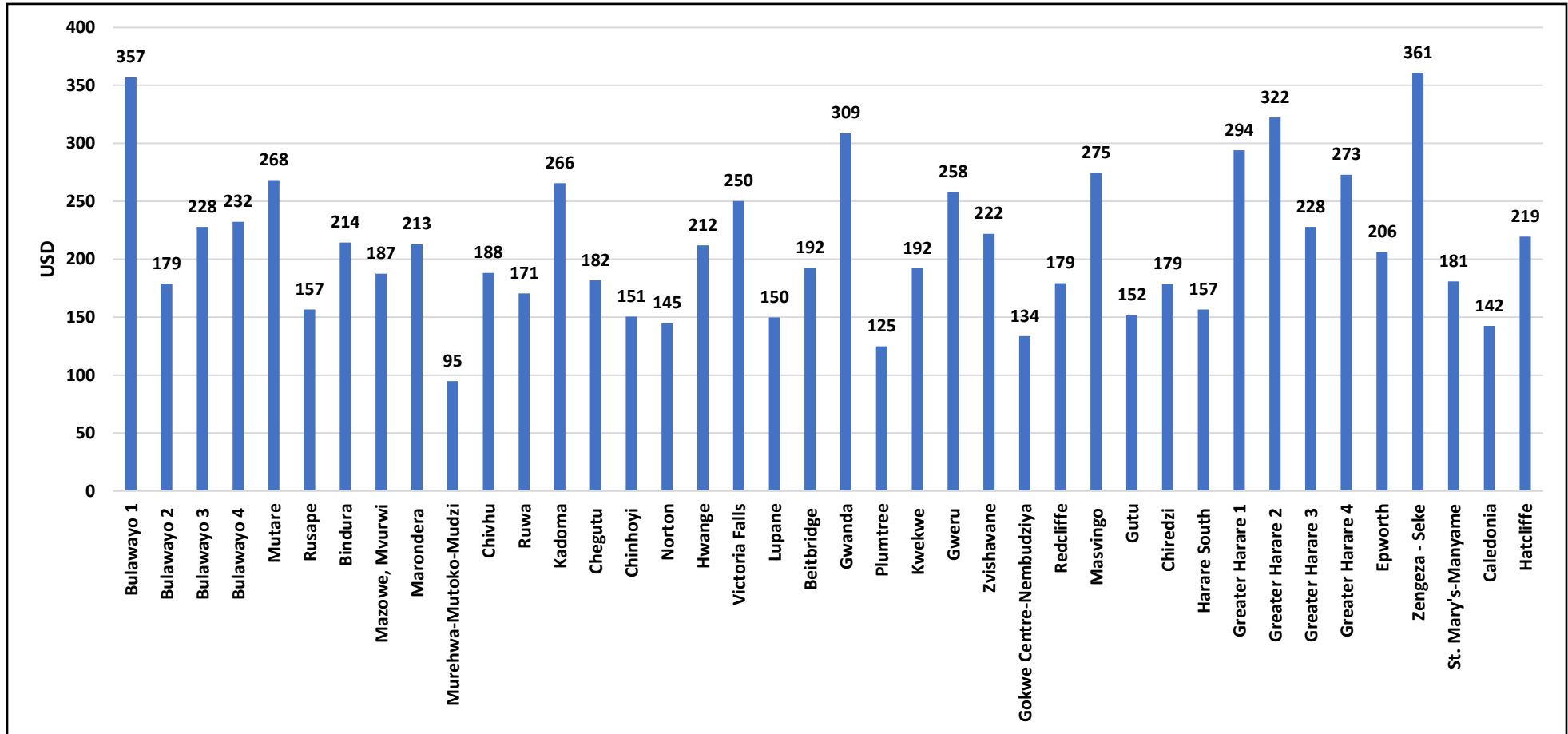
- Murehwa-Mutoko-Mudziri (ZWG 2,525) and Plumtree (ZWG 3,302) had the lowest expenditure.

# Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD)



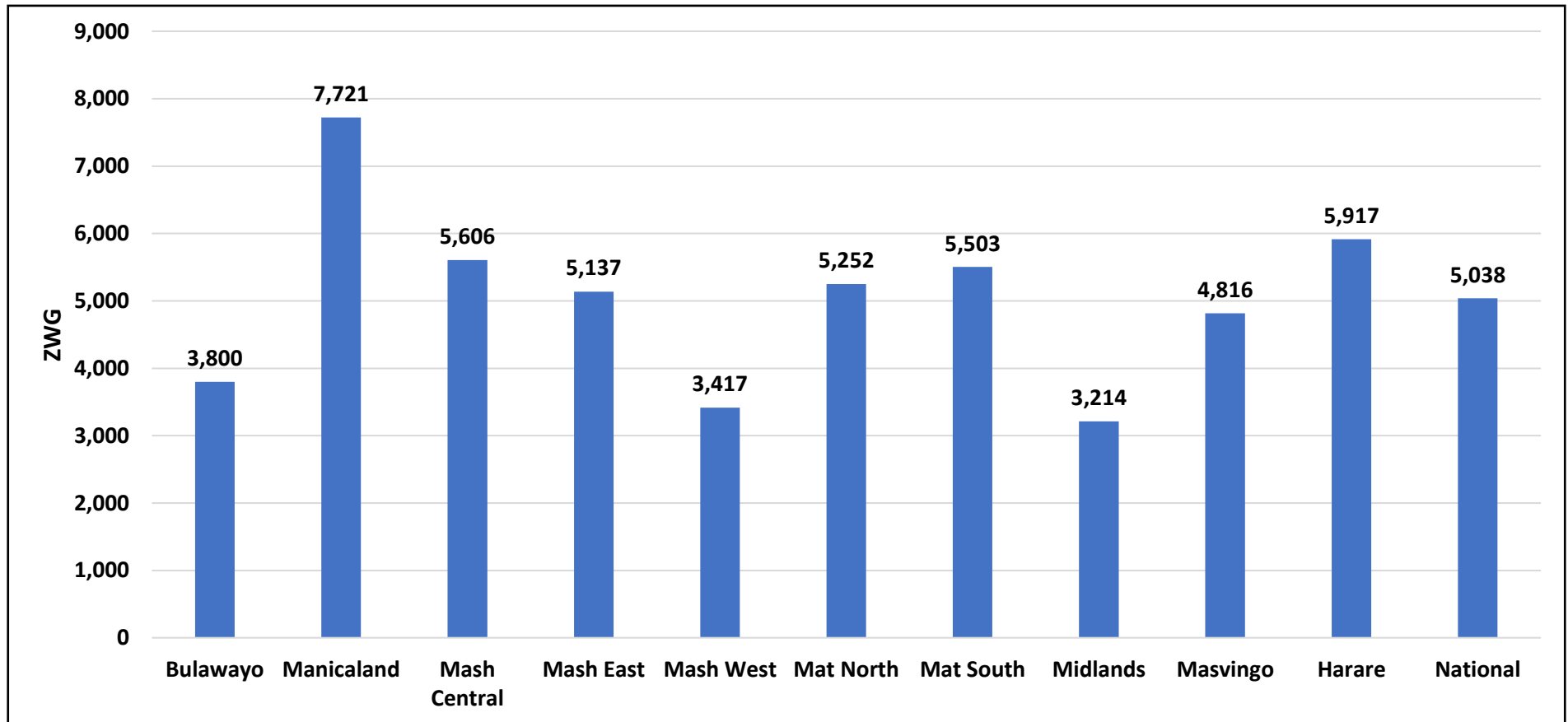
- The national average monthly expenditure was USD 203, which is an increase from the 2024 (USD 172).

# Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) by Domain



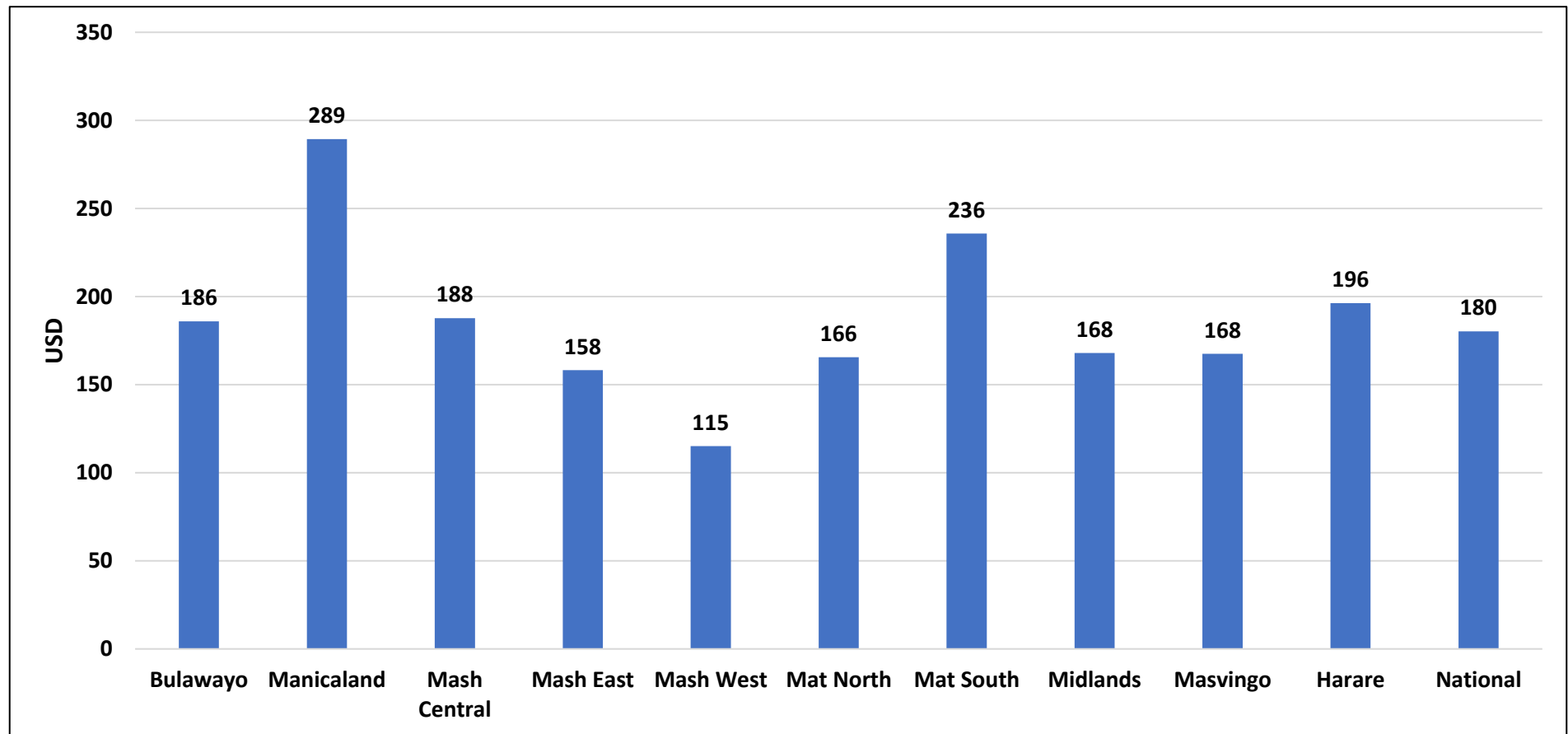
- Zengeza-Seke (USD 361) and Bulawayo 1 (USD 357) had the highest average household monthly expenditure.

# Average Household Expenditure (ZWG) for 6 Months



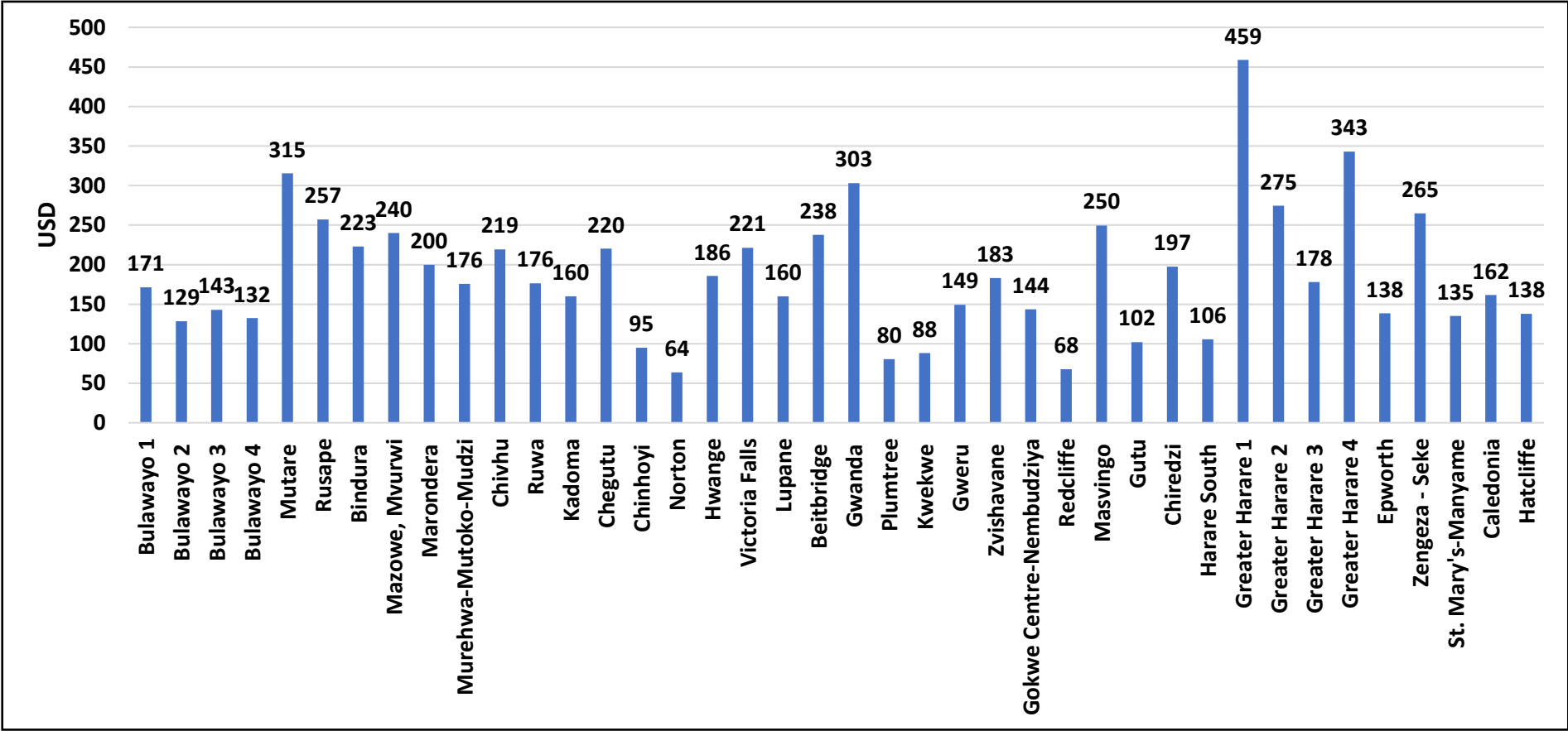
- Manicaland (ZWG 7,721) had the highest average household six-months expenditure and Midlands (ZWG 3,214) had the lowest.

# Average Household Expenditure for 6 Months (USD)



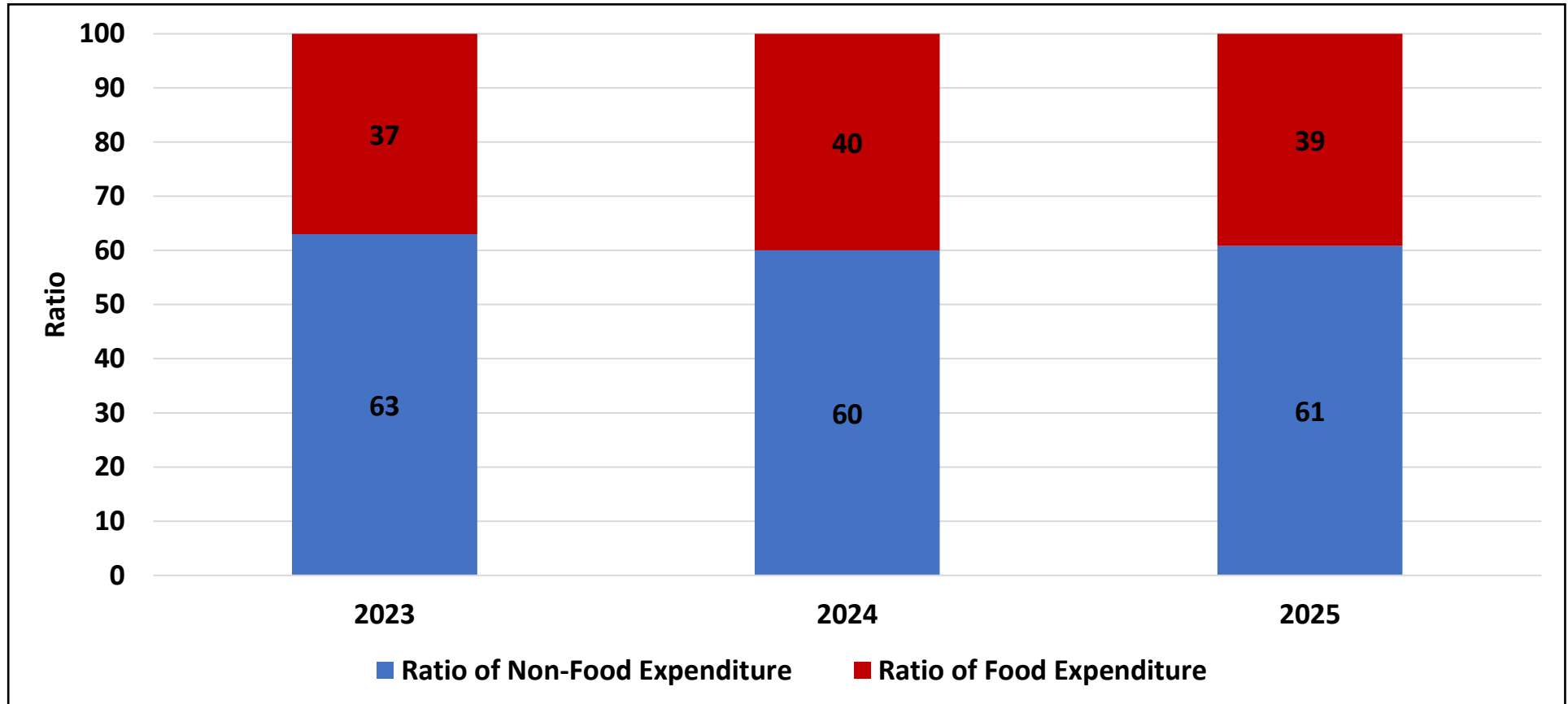
- The national average household six-months expenditure was USD 180.
- Manicaland (USD 289) had the highest, while Mashonaland West (USD 115) had the least.

# Average Household Expenditure for Six Months by Domain (USD)



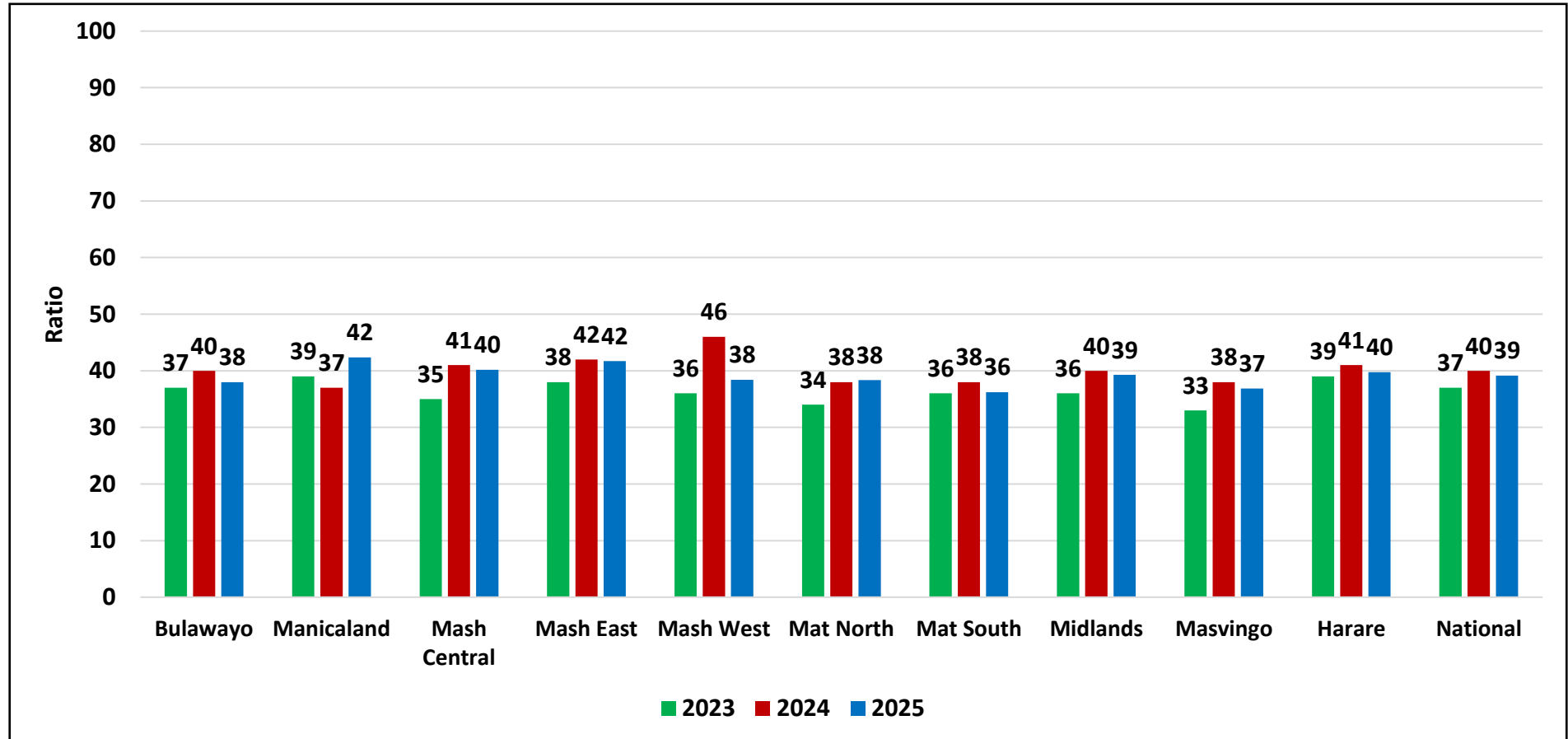
- Norton (USD 64) and Redcliffe (USD 68) had the lowest average household six-months expenditure.

# Food Expenditure Ratio



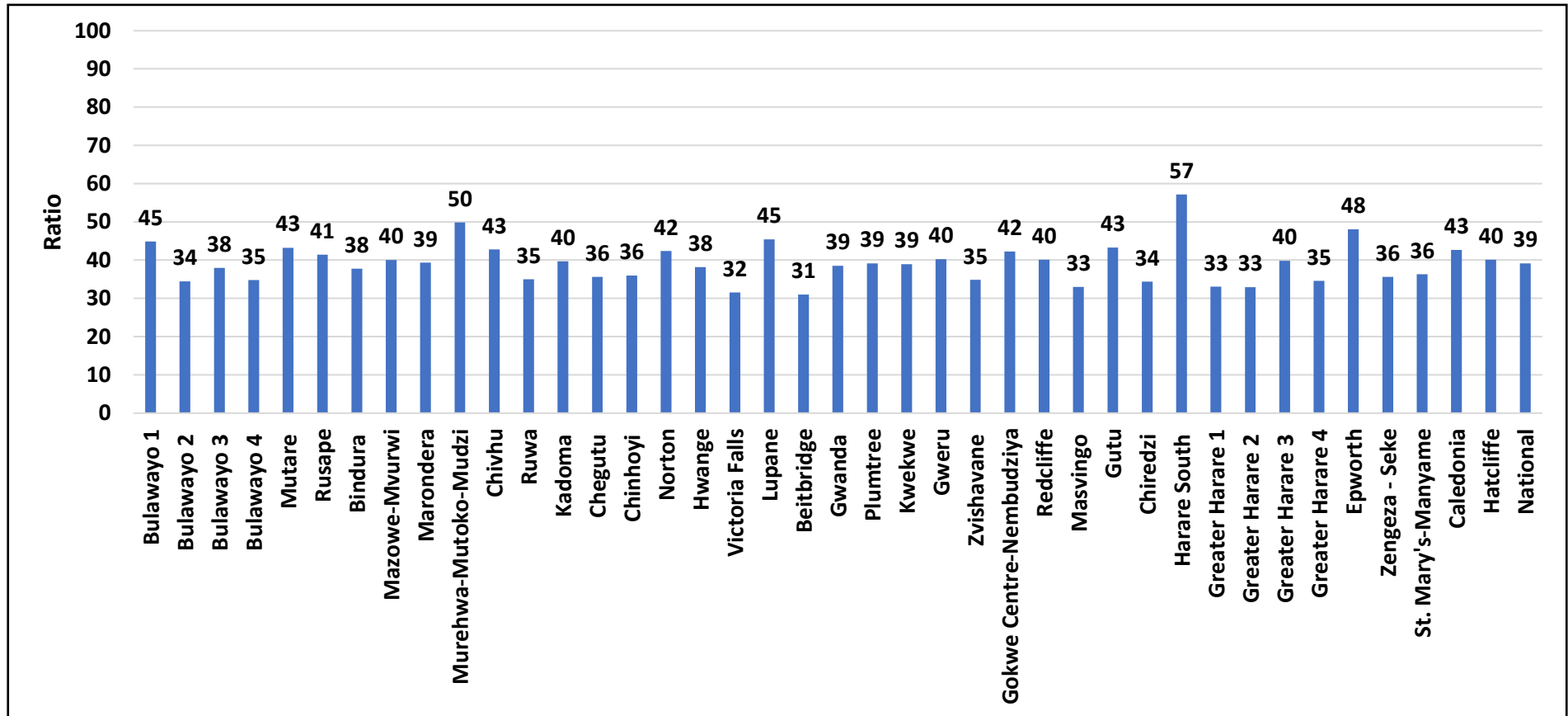
- The Food expenditure ratio was 39% and was within the technically recommended range.

# Food Expenditure Ratio



- Manicaland (42%) and Mashonaland East (42%) had the highest food expenditure ratio.

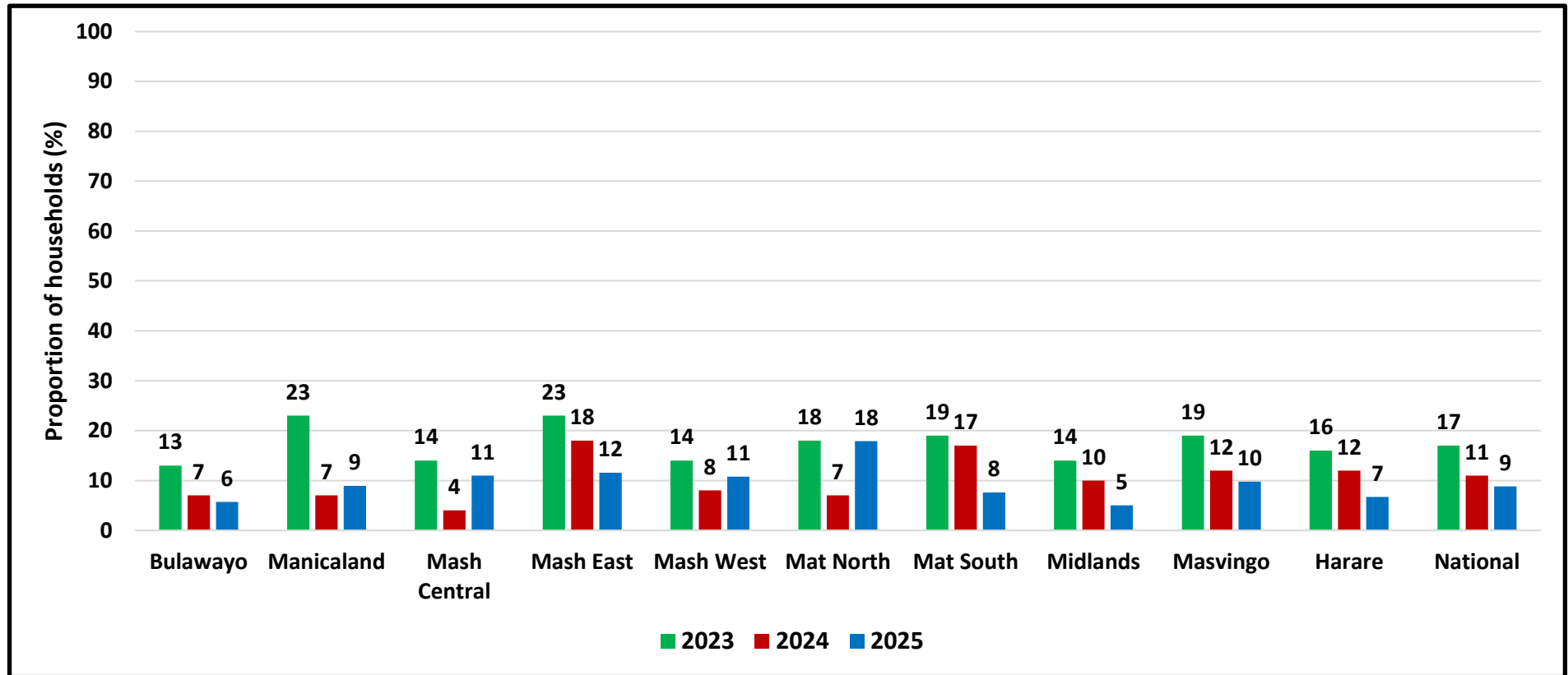
# Food Expenditure Ratio by Domain



- Harare South (57%) had the highest food expenditure ratio while Beitbridge (31%) had the least.

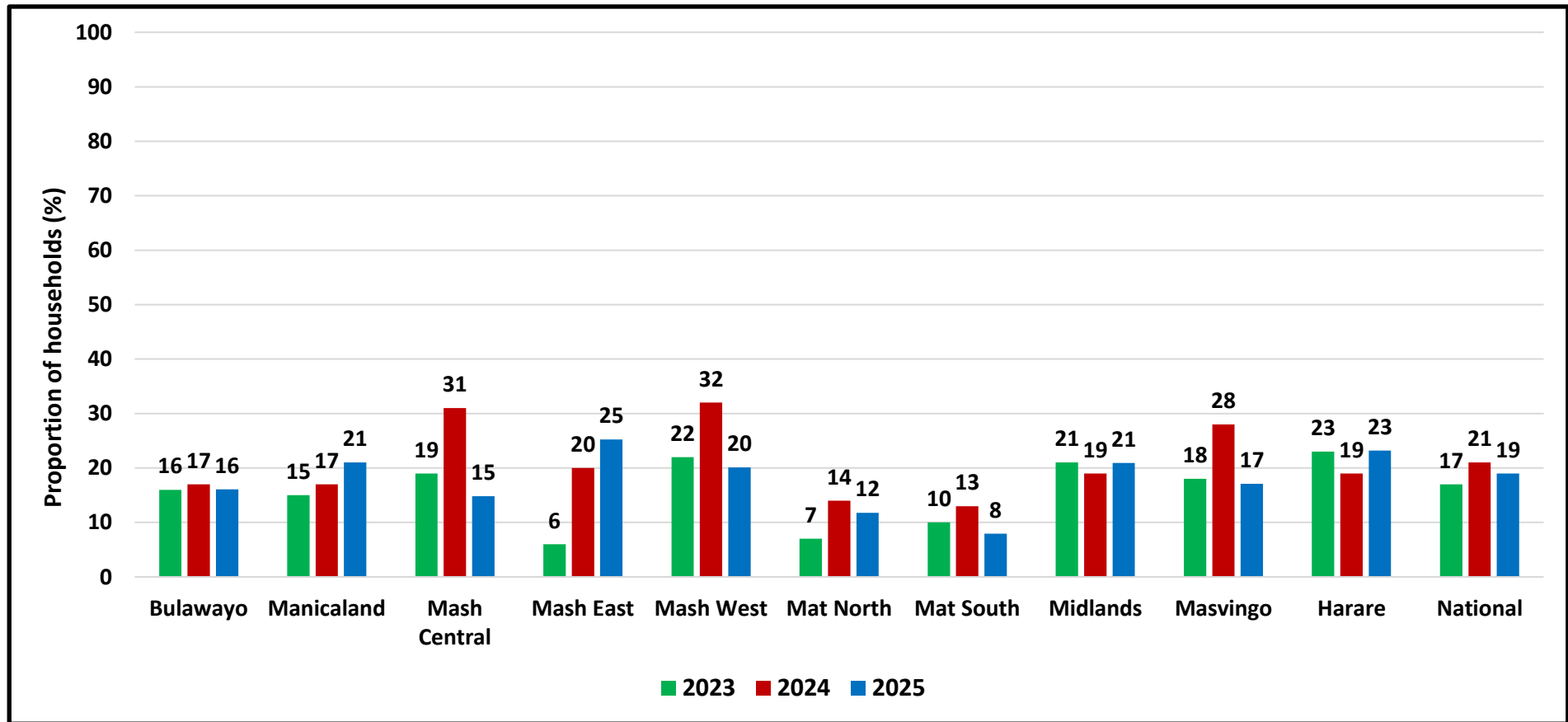
# Remittances, Loans and Debts

# Households that Gave Out Remittances



- Nationally, there was a decline in the proportion of households which gave out remittances from 11% in 2024 to 9% in 2025.

# Households With Outstanding Debts



- The proportion of households with outstanding debts was 19%, which is a decline from 21% in 2024.

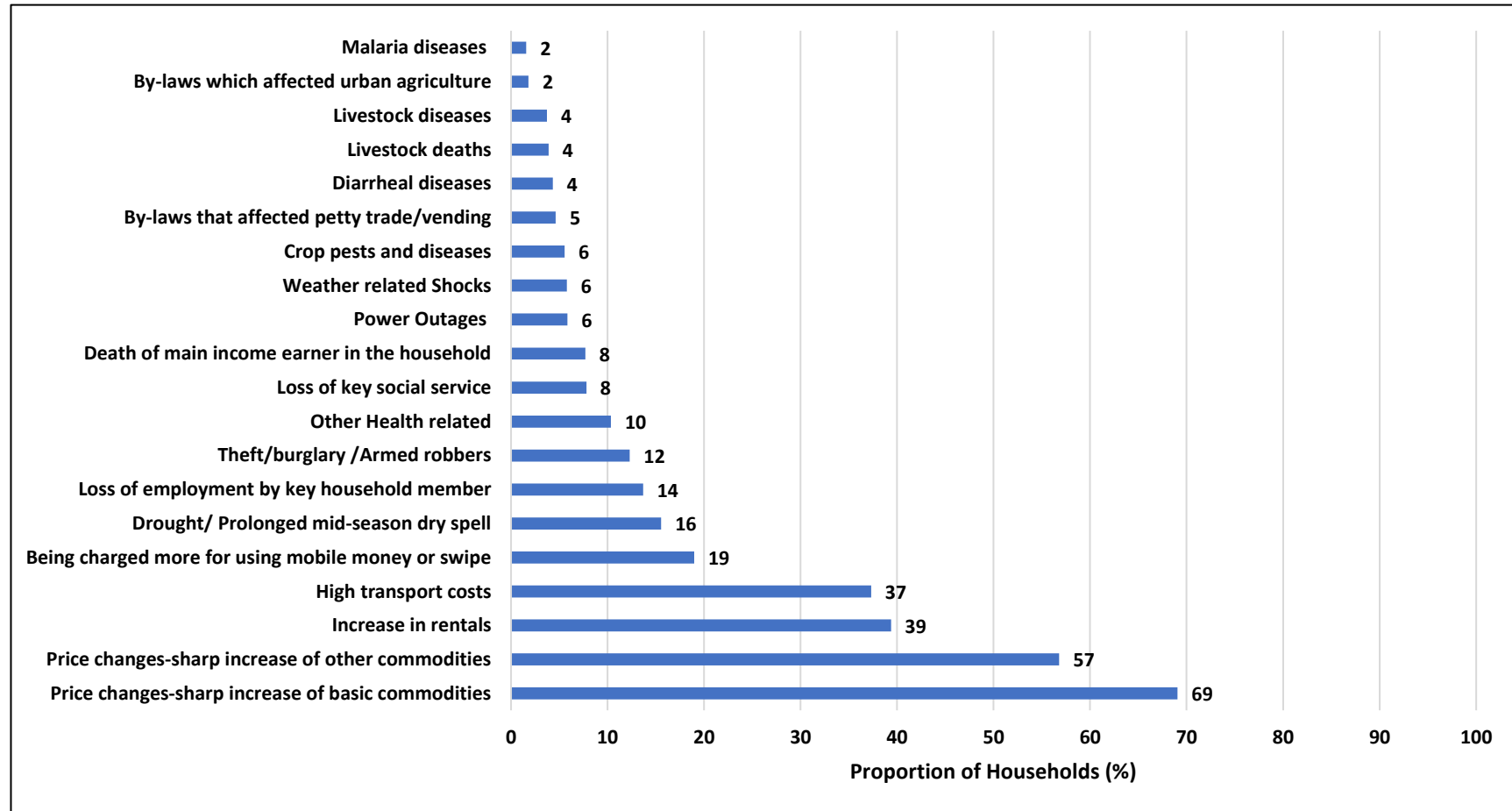
# Sources of Loans

Province	Family or friend (%)	Informal money lender (%)	Landlord (%)	Retail or wholesale shop (%)	Other (%)	Bank or other formal financial institution (%)	Loan from employer (%)
Bulawayo	9.8	4.0	3.5	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.3
Manicaland	14.9	2.0	2.5	1.8	1.7	0.8	0.2
Mash Central	10.0	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.4	0.7	0.1
Mash East	17.3	1.8	2.8	3.1	3.0	1.5	0.0
Mash West	11.0	2.9	3.2	3.4	2.7	0.6	0.1
Mat North	6.3	1.8	0.2	0.8	1.2	1.8	0.1
Mat South	5.1	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.0
Midlands	12.1	4.7	2.0	2.1	1.0	1.5	0.2
Masvingo	11.7	2.7	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.4
Harare	17.9	1.4	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.1	0.1
<b>National</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

- The majority of households received loans from family or friends.

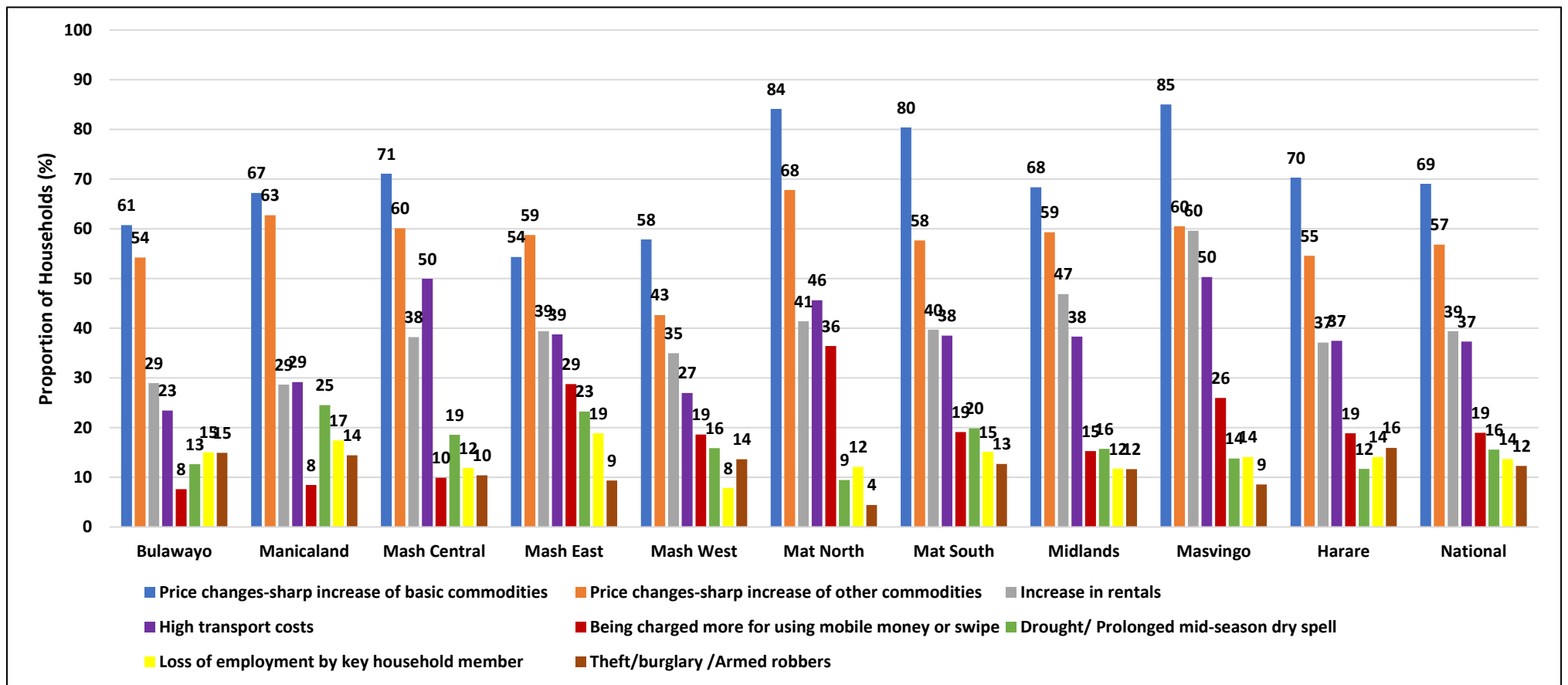
# Shocks and Stressors

# Shocks and Stressors



- Sharp increases in basic commodities (69%), sharp increases in other commodities (57%), increase in rentals (39%) and high transport costs (37%) were the most reported shocks.

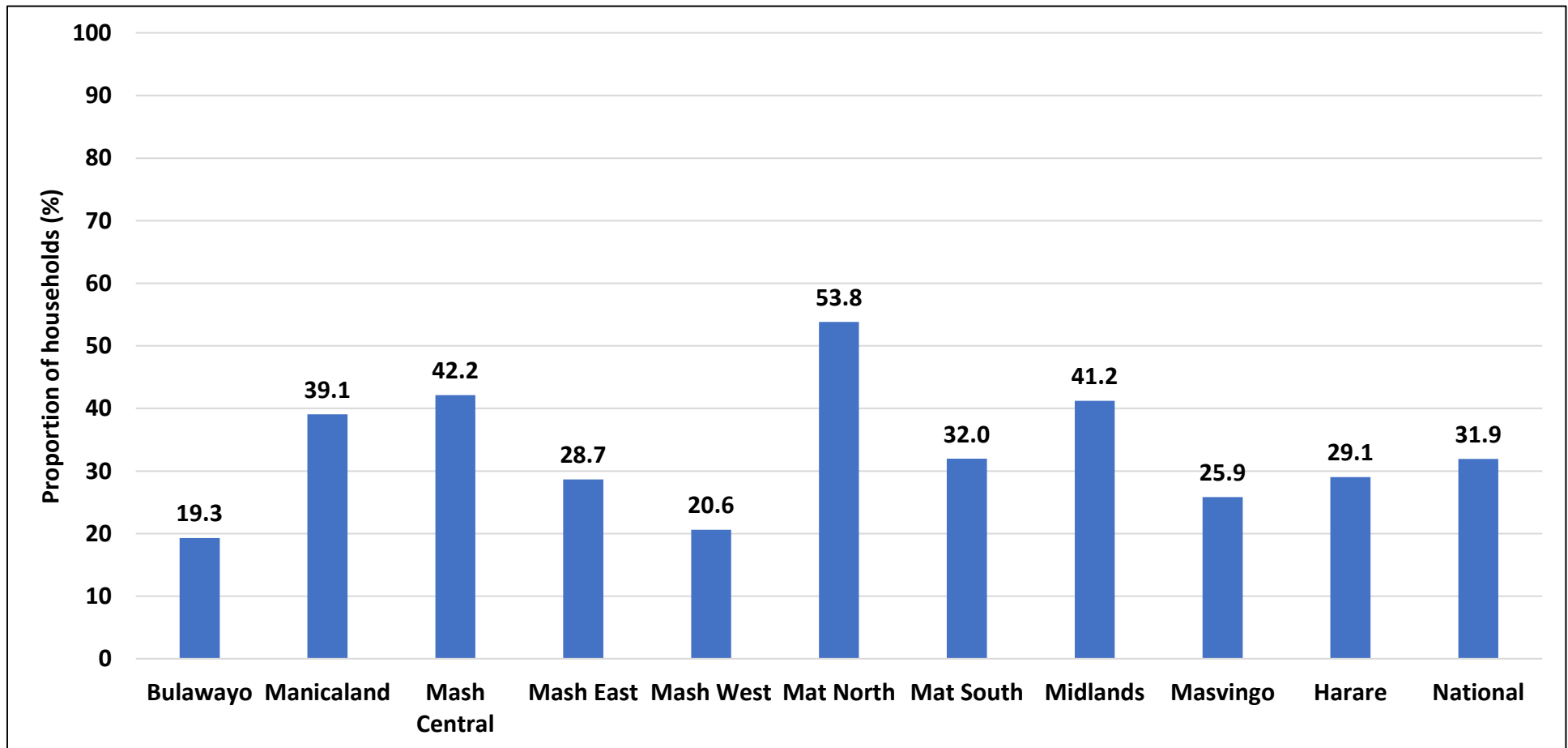
# Shocks and Stressors by Province



- Sharp price increases of basic commodities (69%) was the most reported shock and stressor followed by price increase of other commodities (57%).
- Masvingo (85%), Matabeleland North (84%) and Matabeleland South (80%) reported the highest sharp price increases.

# Nutrition

# Households that Received Information on Healthy, Nutritious Diets



- About 31.9% of households received information on healthy and nutritious diets.
- The highest proportion of households which received information on healthy and nutritious diets was in Matabeleland North (53.8%) while Bulawayo (19%) and Mashonaland West (21%) had the least proportion.

# Sources of Nutrition Information (31.9%)

Province	Government extension /community health workers (%)	NGO (%)	Private Company (%)	Friend/Relative /Neighbours (%)	Television (%)	Radio (%)	Newspaper (%)	Social media (%)	Health facility (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	2.7	4.5	1.8	3.0	3.5	3.9	2.5	8.6	6.8	0.5
Manicaland	14.2	4.0	0.8	6.1	5.8	7.3	0.5	12.4	11.4	2.8
Mash Central	7.4	0.2	0.4	9.3	4.9	3.6	0.4	15.7	8.7	2.2
Mash East	10.8	1.1	0.8	7.5	2.9	5.1	0.5	5.5	7.1	0.8
Mash West	5.8	1.0	0.7	2.6	4.3	6.3	0.8	5.6	6.4	0.3
Mat North	20.1	2.6	0.8	5.8	5.1	6.3	1.1	15.1	31.1	0.6
Mat South	9.9	0.8	0.2	5.0	2.2	1.3	0.3	16.3	11.4	0.1
Midlands	7.2	1.6	2.1	13.8	10.9	12.3	5.5	20.2	16.2	0.7
Masvingo	11.4	4.3	0.3	3.1	1.2	4.8	1.6	9.4	4.2	0.7
Harare	10.2	1.0	0.4	3.1	3.1	5.2	0.9	8.8	10.3	0.5
<b>National</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>

- Social media (11.3%) and health facility (11.1%) were the most reported sources of nutrition information.

# Child Health

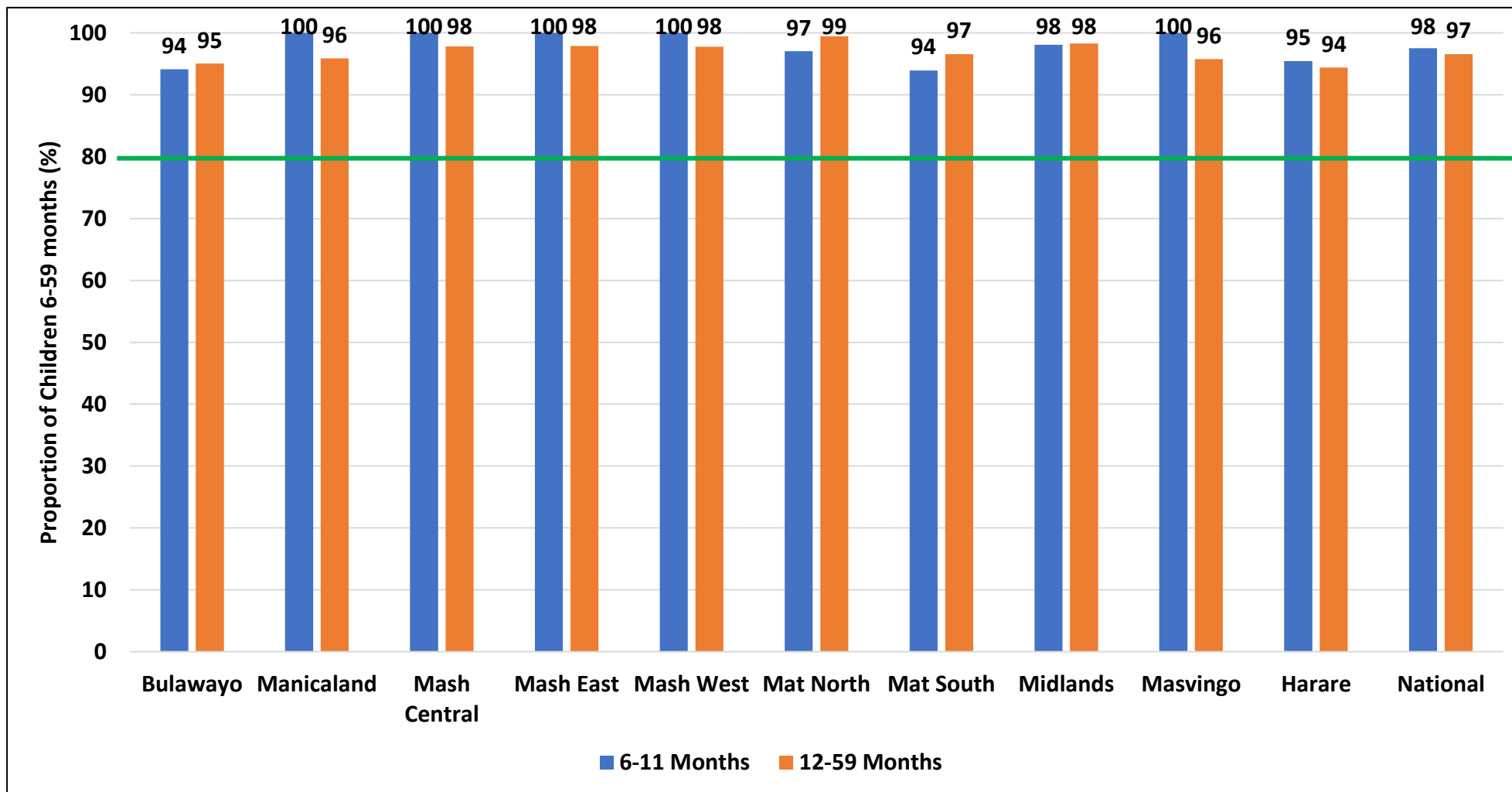
# Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-59 Months

## The Zimbabwe VAS schedule

- The World Health Organization recommends Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) once every six months for children in the age group of 6-59 months.
- Vitamin A supplementation has been proven to lower the risks of mortality, incidence of diarrhoea and measles in children, particularly those aged 6 months to 5 years.

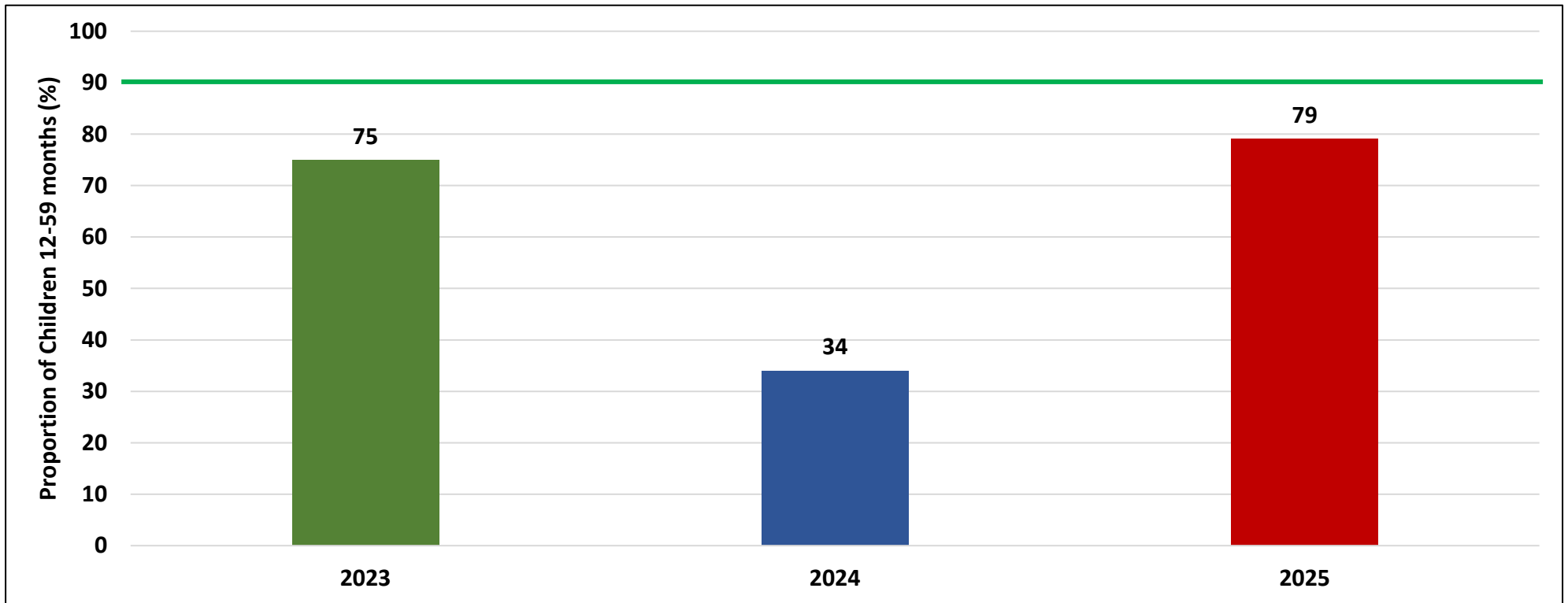
Age Group	Vitamin A Dosage	Timing for Administration
Below 6 months	Do not give	N/A
6-11 months	100 000 IU	Once at age 6 months
12-59 months	200 000 IU	Once every 12 months from age 6 months, until child reaches 5 years

# Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-59 Months at least one dose in the past 6 months



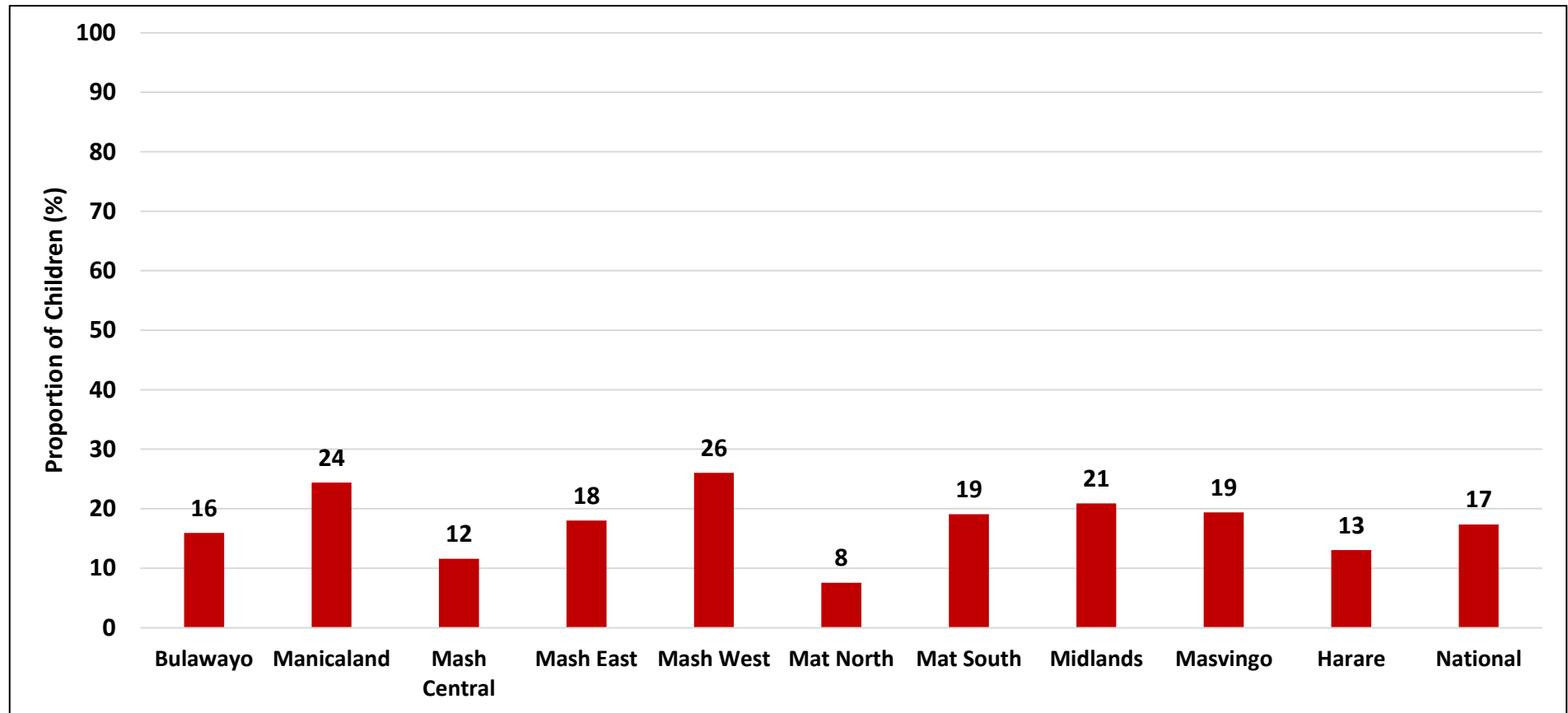
- Overall, Vitamin A supplementation for children 6- 59 months was above the 90% national threshold for both age groups.

# Vitamin A Supplementation Trend for the 12-59 Months Age Group who Received at Least 2 Doses in the Past 12 Months



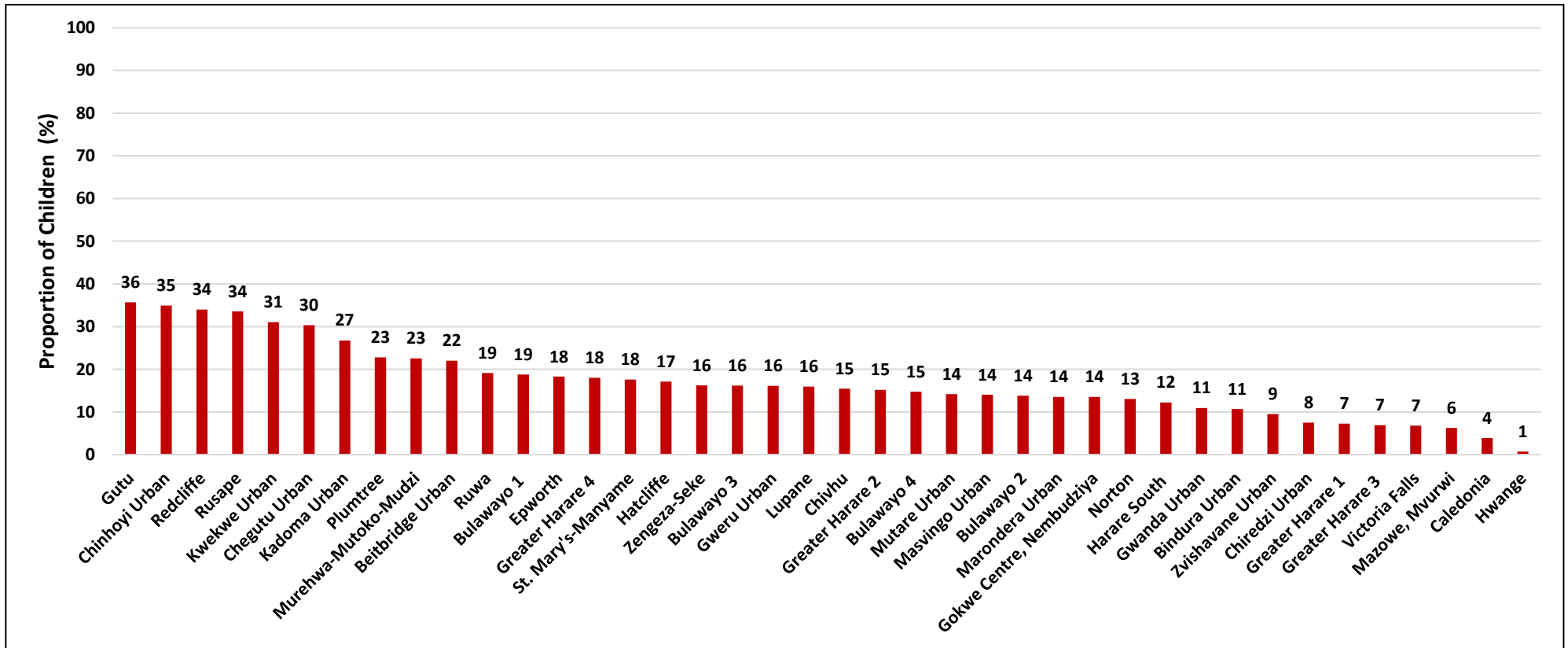
- Two high-doses for Vitamin A supplementation per year are typically recommended, with the first dose given at six months of age.
- Nationally, 79% of children 12-59 months received the required two doses of Vitamin A during the 12 months preceding the survey, which is an improvement from 34% in 2024.

# Zero-Dose Percentage (0-59 Months)



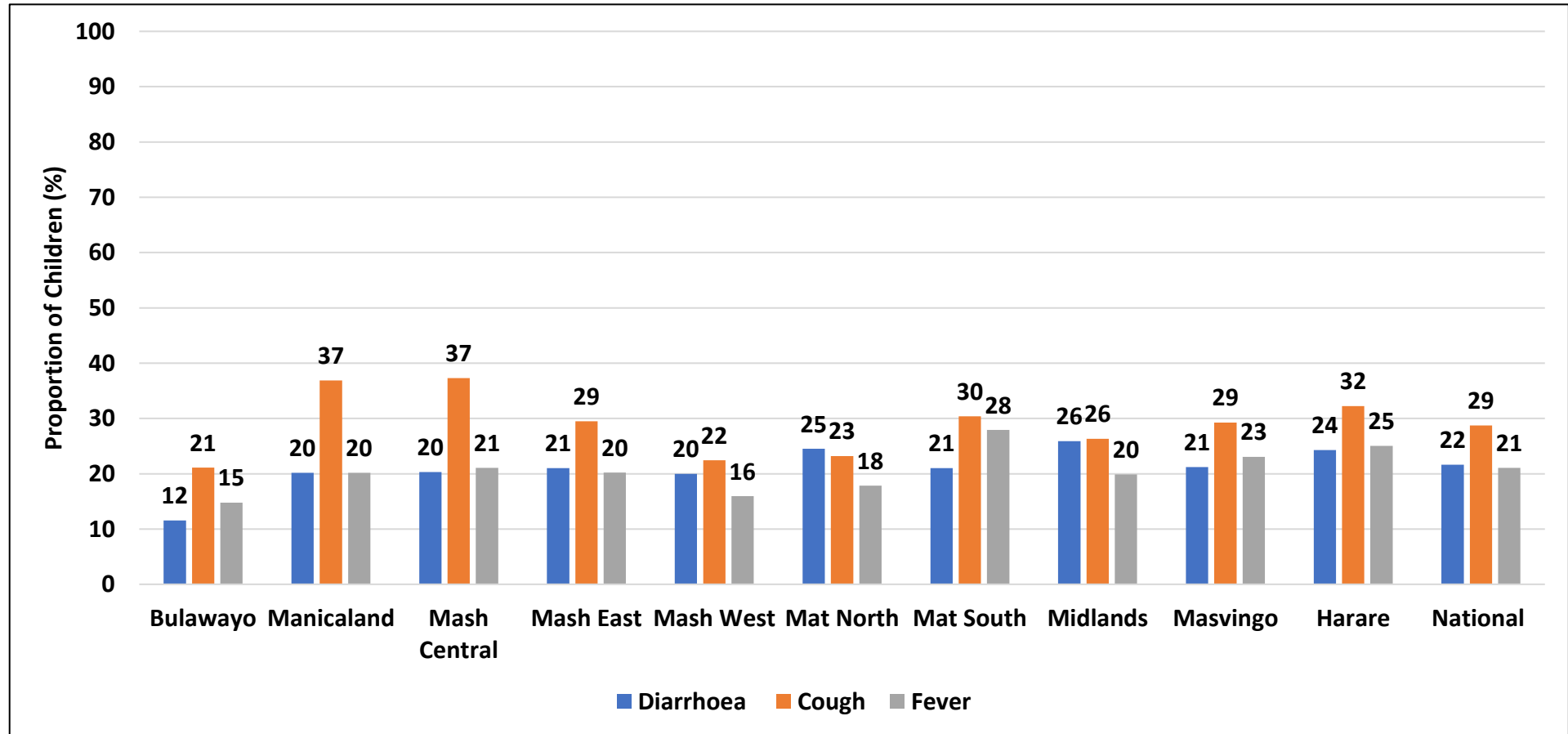
- Zero-dose refers to children who have not received any vaccinations. Immunization is crucial as it enables children to lead healthier lives, free from many forms of disability and illness.
- Nationally, the proportion of children with vaccination zero-dose was 17%.
- Mashonaland West (26%), Manicaland (24%) and Midlands (21%) had the highest proportion of children with zero-dose.

# Zero-Dose Percentage (0-59 Months) by Domain



- Gutu (36%), Chinhoyi Urban (35%), Redcliffe (34%) and Rusape (34%) had the highest proportion of children with zero-dose whilst Caledonia (4%) and Hwange (1%) had the least.

# Child Illness (6-59 Months)



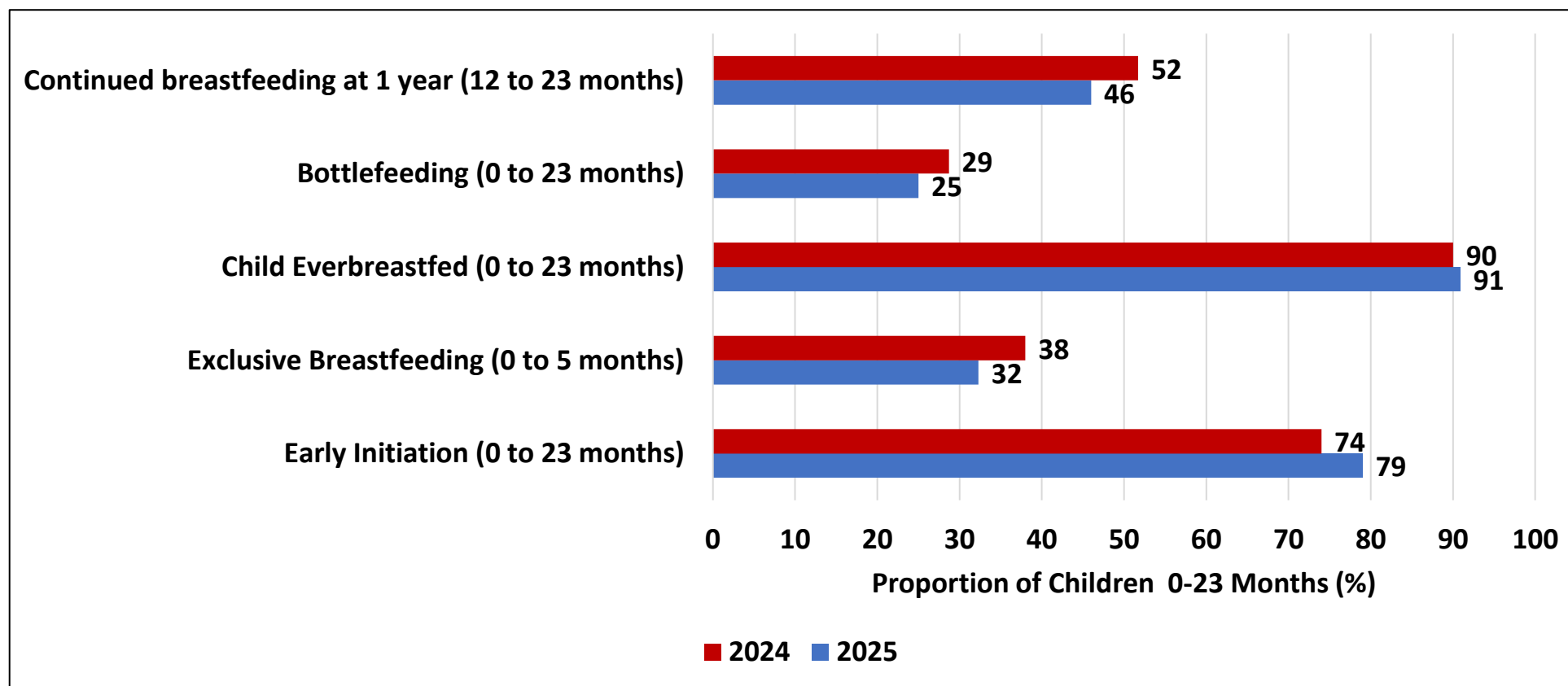
- Children are more susceptible to sickness due to their underdeveloped immune systems and their high exposure to disease-causing agents.
- Cough was the most reported illness for children across most provinces.
- Matabeleland South (28%) had the highest proportion of children who had a fever in the two weeks preceding the survey.

# **Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices**

# Infant and Young Child Feeding

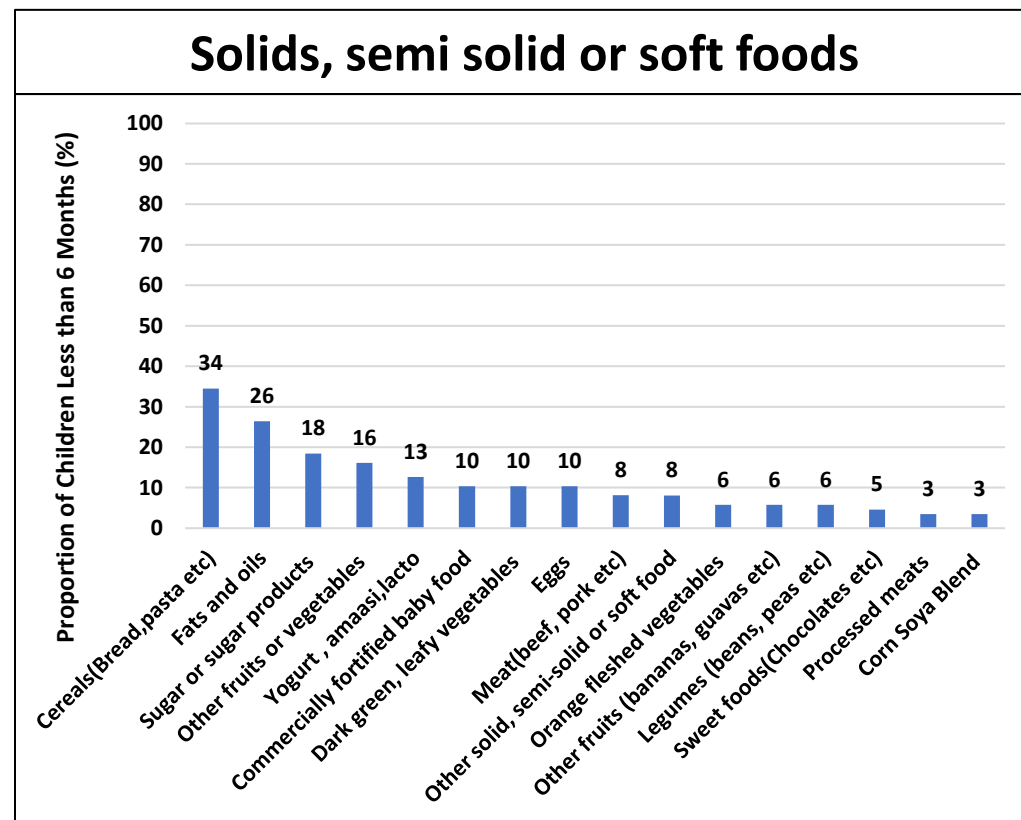
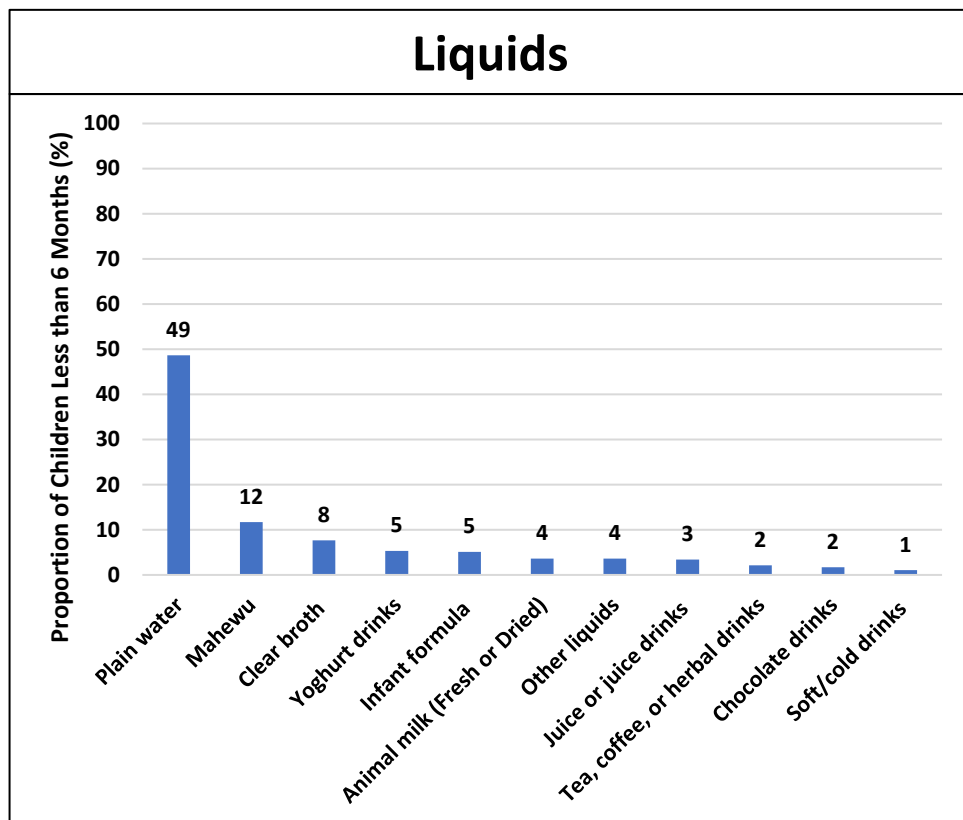
- Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices directly affect the health, development and nutritional status of children less than two years of age and ultimately, impact child survival. Improving IYCF practices in children 0–23 months of age is therefore critical to improved nutrition, health and development.
- To enable mothers to establish and sustain **exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months**, WHO and UNICEF recommend:
  - initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour of life;
  - exclusive breastfeeding (i.e. only breast milk with no additional food or drink, not even water);
  - breastfeeding on demand, as often the child wants, day and night; and
  - no use of bottles, teats or pacifiers.
- The **recommendations** for feeding infants and young children (6-23 months) include:
  - continued breastfeeding;
  - introduction of solid, semisolid or soft foods at 6 months;
  - appropriate food diversity (at least five food groups per day);
  - appropriate frequency of meals: two to three times a day between 6 and 8 months, increasing to three to four times a day between 9 and 23 months, with nutritious snacks offered once or twice a day as desired;
  - safe preparation of foods; and
  - feeding infants in response to their cues.
- Food group diversity is associated with improved linear growth in young children. A diet lacking in diversity can increase the risk of micronutrient deficiencies, which may have a damaging effect on children’s physical and cognitive development.
- Poor-quality diets are one of the greatest obstacles to children’s survival, growth, development and learning. During the first two years of life, diets lacking in essential vitamins and minerals can irreversibly harm a child’s rapidly growing body and brain and increase the risk of stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies. Meanwhile, foods high in sugar, fat or salt can set children on the path to unhealthy food preferences, overweight and diet-related diseases.

# Summary of Breastfeeding Practices



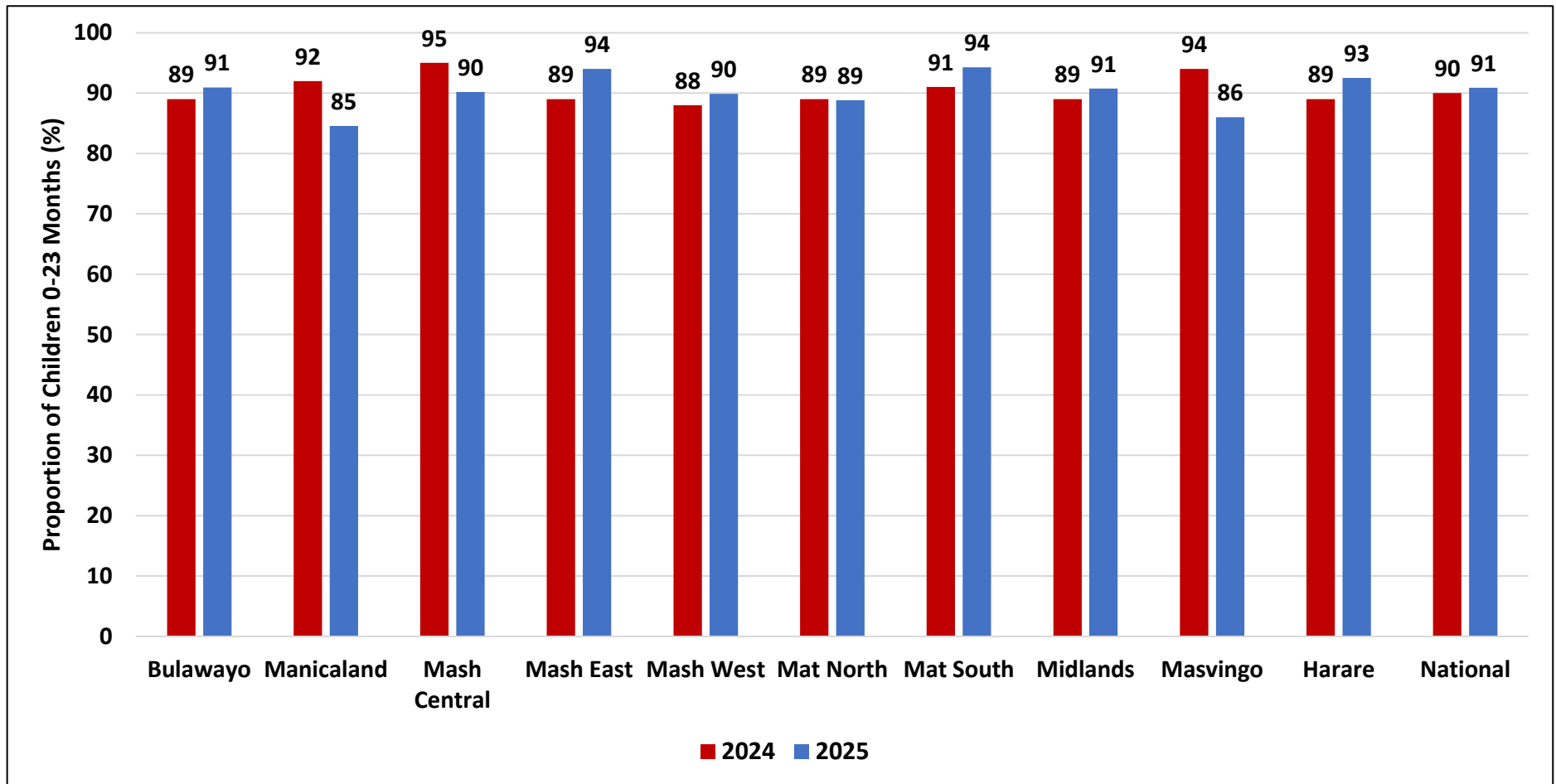
- The proportion of children (0 - 23 months) who were ever breastfed was 91%, which was almost the same as reported in 2024.
- The proportion of children who were initiated early on breastfeeding increased from 74% in 2024 to 79% in 2025.
- The exclusive breastfeeding rate was 32.3% in 2025 which was a further drop from 38% recorded in 2024. This rate is less than the World Health Assembly target of 50%.
- The proportion of children being bottle fed was 25% while continued breastfeeding at 1 year was 46%.

# Foods Given to Children Less than 6 Months in Addition to Breastfeeding



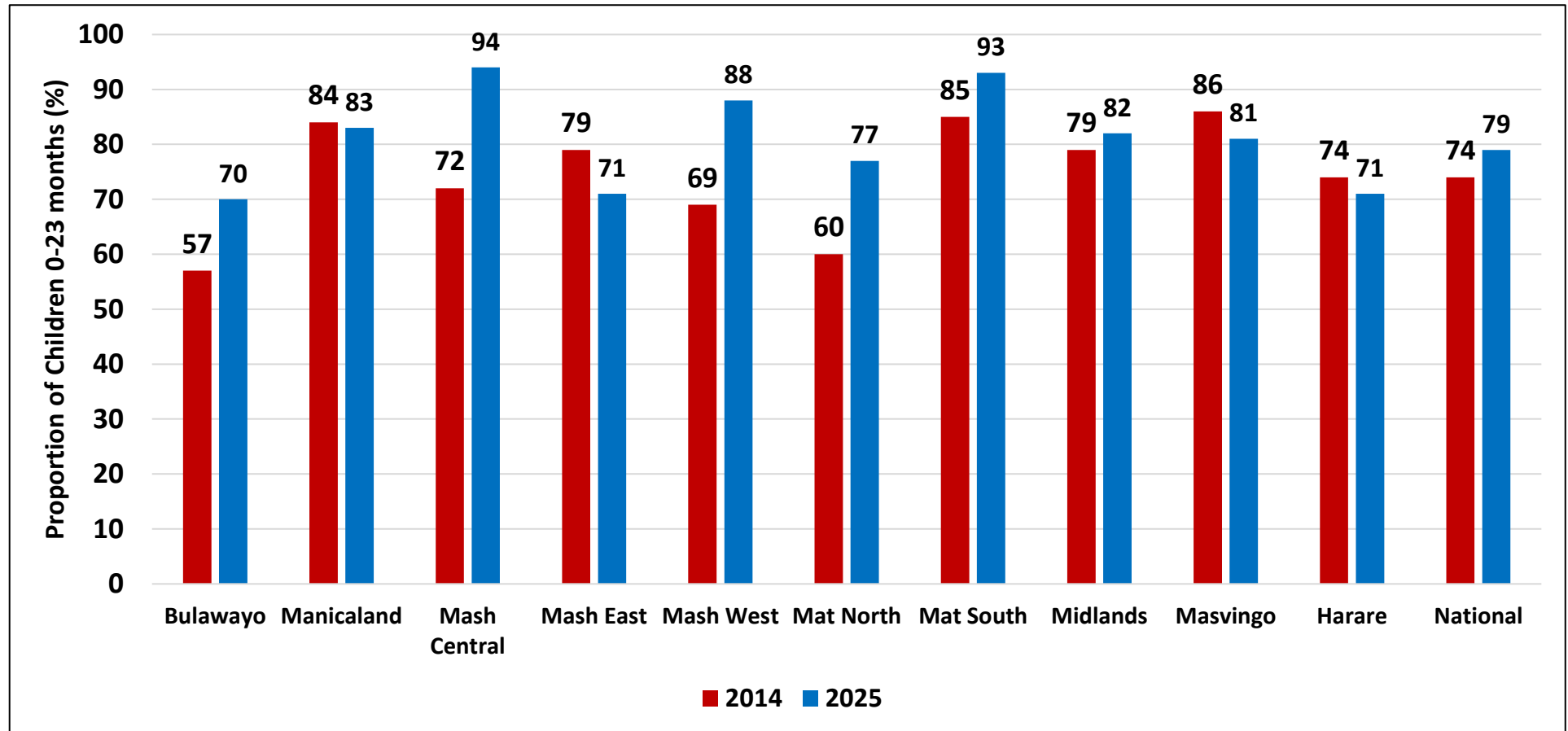
- Plain water (49%), mahewu (12%) and clear broth (8%) were the most common liquids given to children less than 6 months during the 24 hours preceding the survey.
- Cereals (34%), fats and oils (26%), sugar and sugar products (18%) were the most common solids, semi-solids and soft foods given to children less than 6 months during the 24 hours preceding the survey.

# Children Ever Breastfed



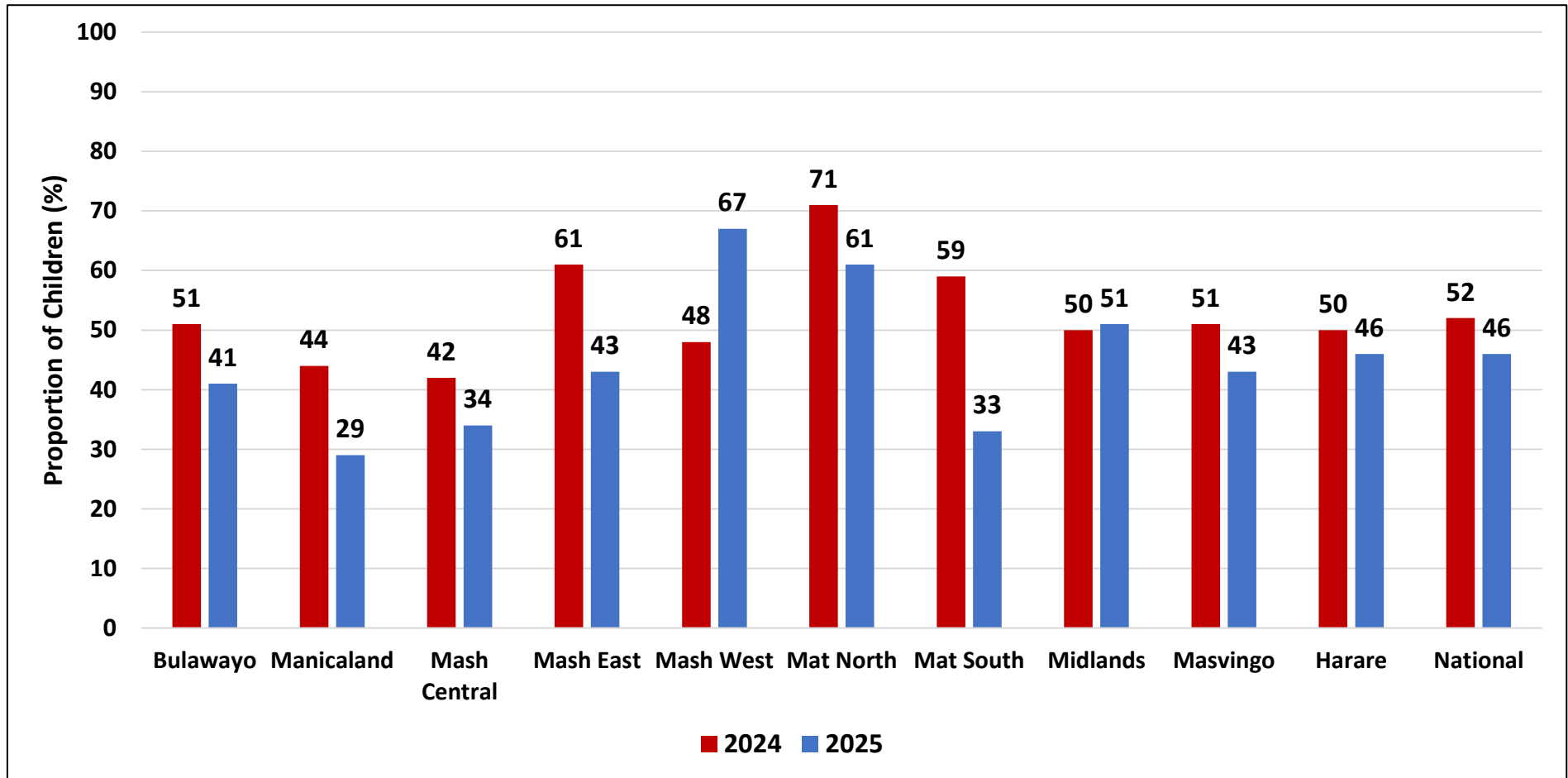
- The proportion of children who were ever breastfed increased from 90% recorded in 2024 to 91% in 2025.
- The World Health Organisation recommends that children be exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months and continue breastfeeding for at least 2 years.

# Early Initiation of Breastfeeding by Province



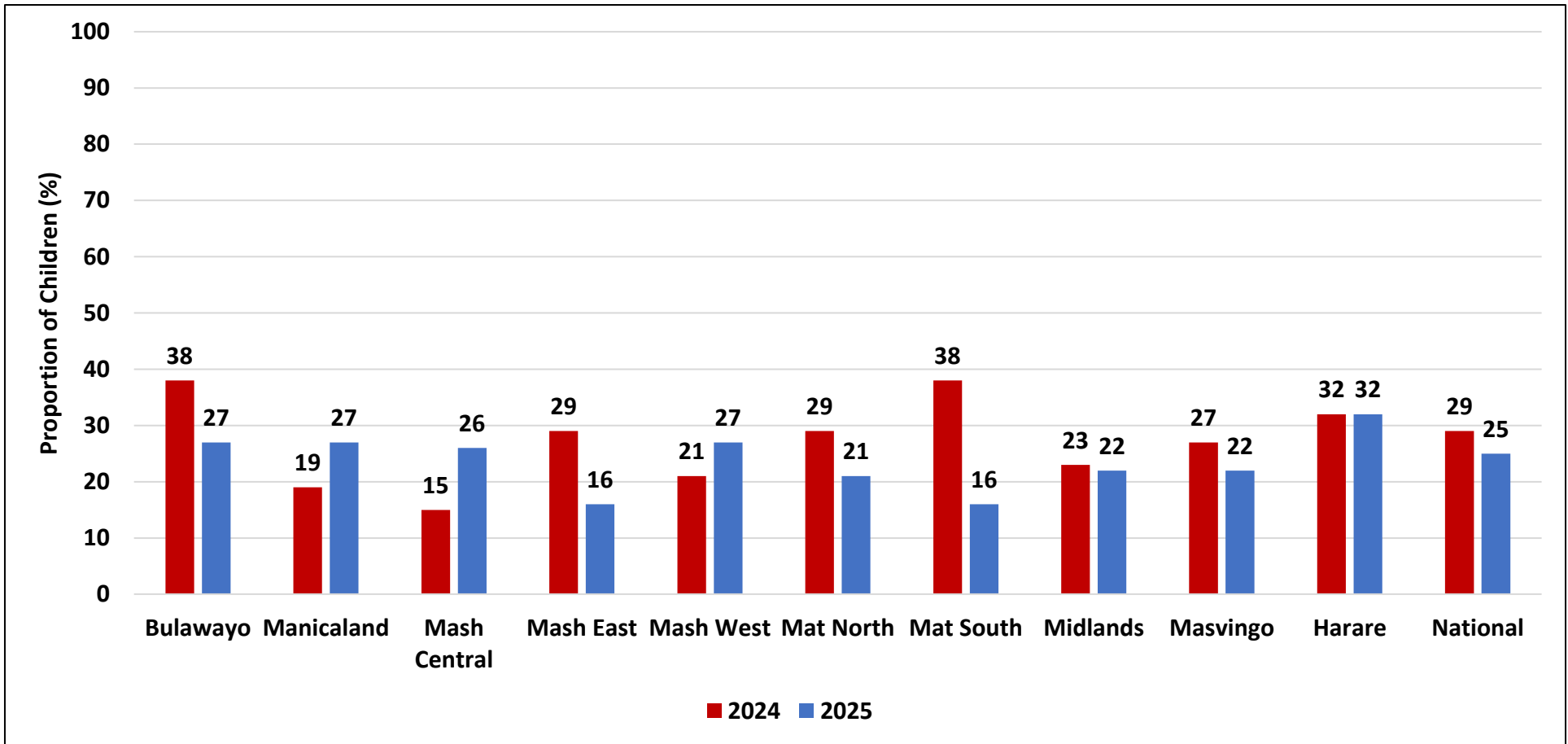
- Early initiation of breastfeeding (within the first hour of birth) increased from 74% in 2024 to 79% in 2025.
- Harare (71%) and Bulawayo (70%) had the least proportion of children who were initiated to breastfeeding within the first hour of birth.

# Continued Breastfeeding at 1 Year



- The proportion of children who continued breastfeeding beyond 1 year dropped from 52% in 2024 to 46% in 2025.
- Matabeleland South (33%) and Manicaland (29%) had the lowest rates whilst Matabeleland North (61%) and Mashonaland West (67%) had the highest rates of continued breastfeeding.

# Bottle Feeding

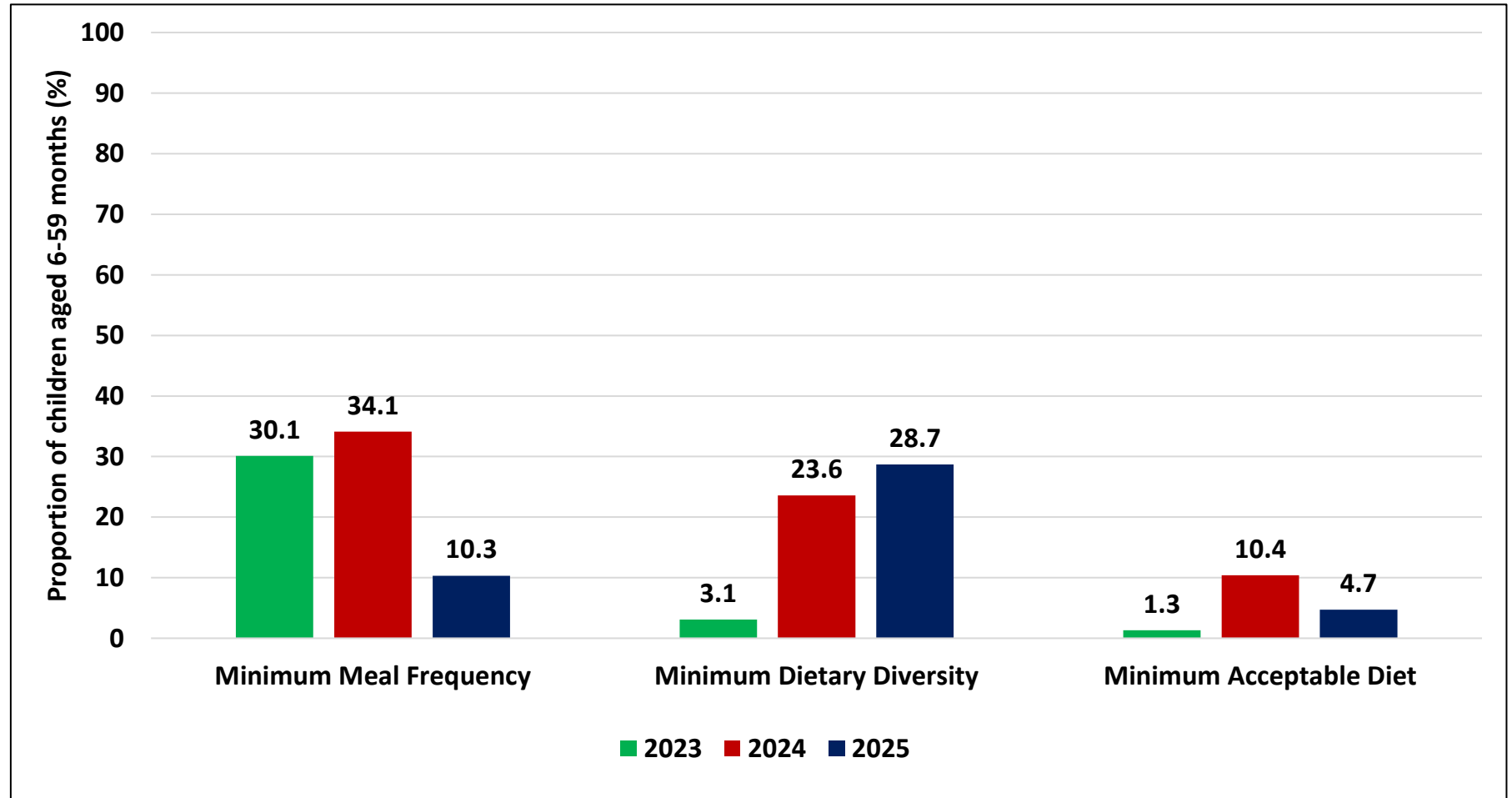


- Matabeleland South reported the highest decrease in bottle feeding from 38% in 2024 to 16% in 2025.
- Bottle feeding interferes with breastfeeding and predisposes infants to diarrheal diseases, especially in an environment with compromised WASH services.

# Child Complementary Feeding

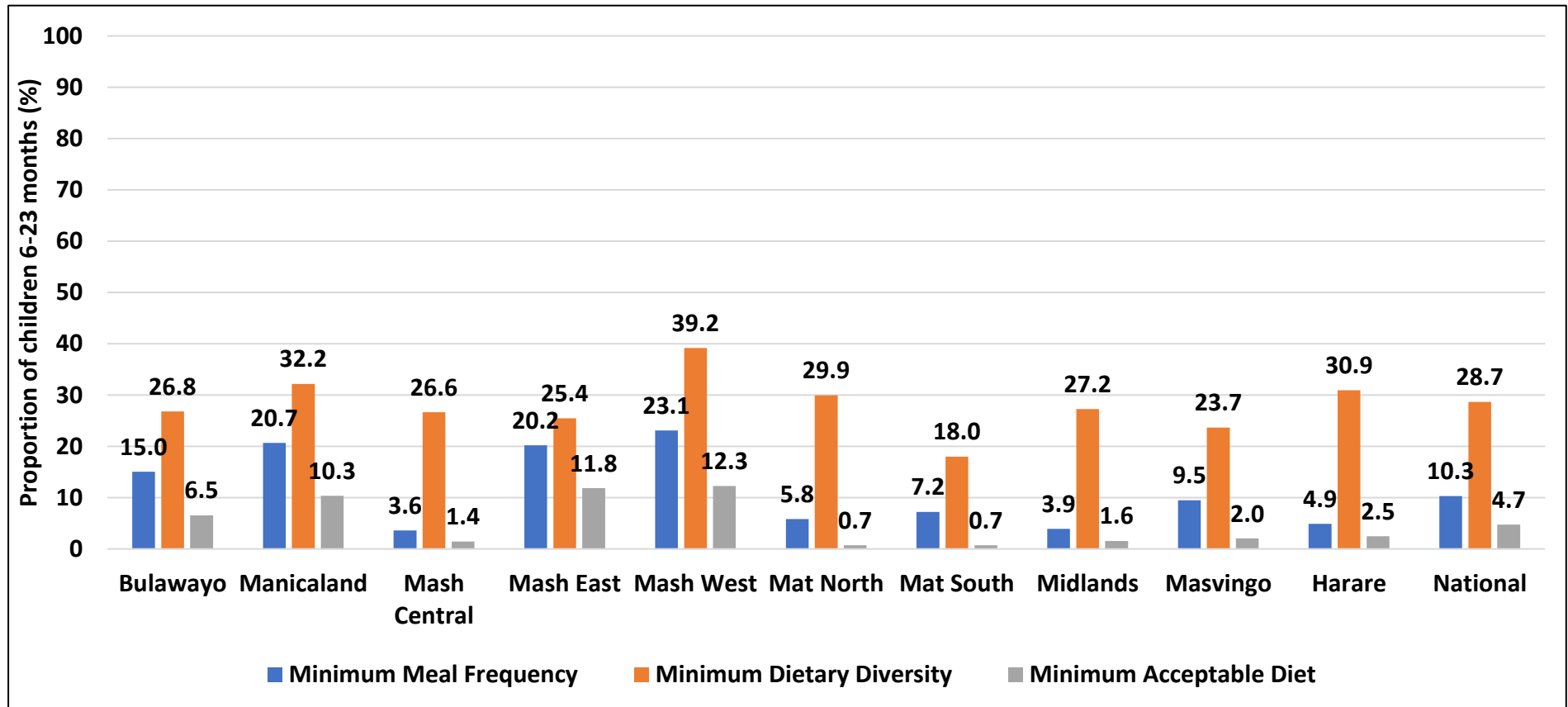
- **Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)** is a proxy indicator for adequate micronutrient density. Both breastfed and non-breastfed infants are expected to consume at least five of the seven food groups that are recommended by the World Health Organisation.
- **Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF)** is a proxy for a child's energy requirements and is the proportion of breastfed and non-breastfed children 6 to 23 months of age who receive solid, semi-solid, or soft-foods or milk feeds the minimum number of times or more.
- **Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)** is a composite indicator of minimum meal frequency and dietary diversity. It represents minimum standards of IYCF practices.

# Children 6-23 months Diet Quality



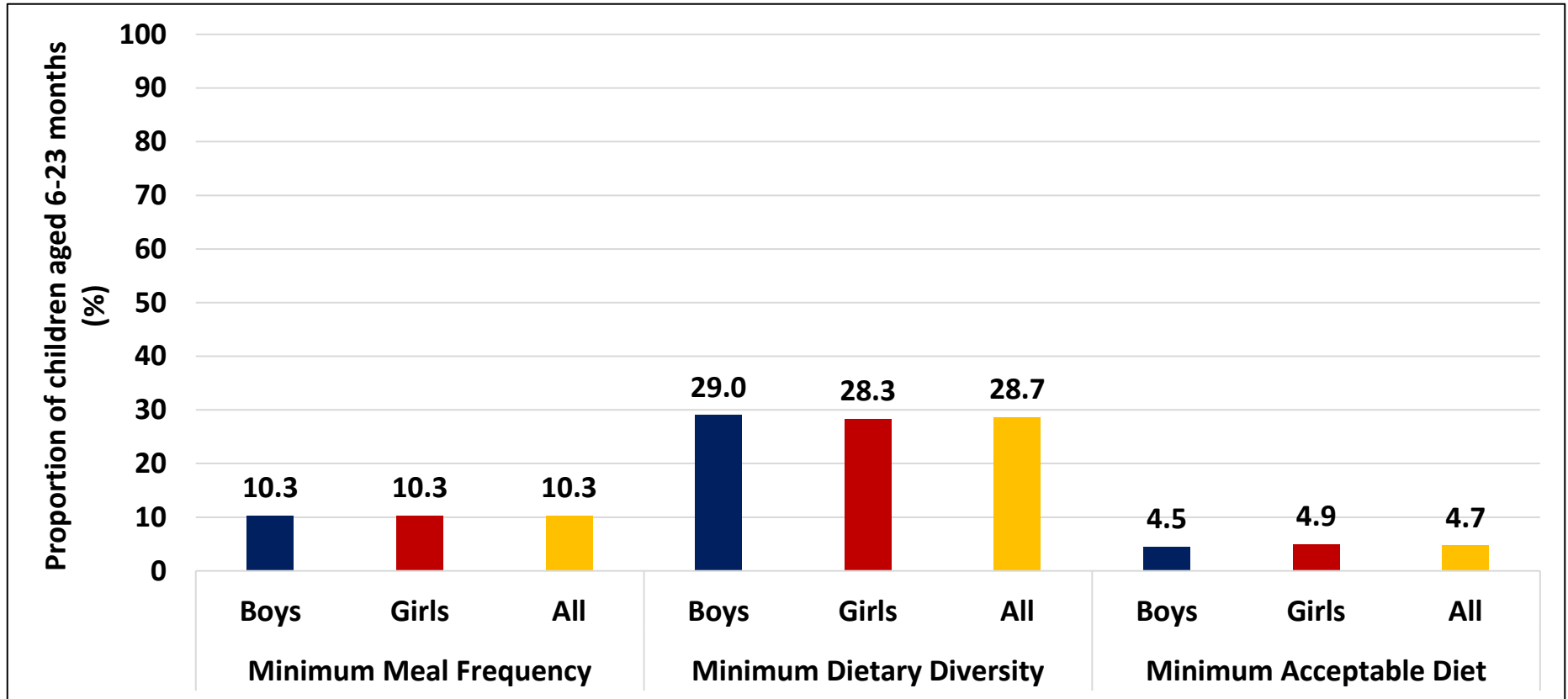
- Nationally, 4.7% of children achieved a minimum acceptable diet, a decrease from 10.4% in 2024. This remains below the national target of 25%.

# Children 6-23 months Diet Quality by Province



- Nationally, 4.7% of children aged 6 to 23 months received adequate diverse age appropriate diets.
- Only 28.7% of children were consuming a minimum diversified diet.

# Children 6-23 months Diet Quality by Sex



- There was no significant difference in diet quality among girls compared to boys.

# Notes

## ☐ SWEET BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (SwB)

- Higher intakes of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) have been associated with an increased obesity risk among children of all ages. Early introduction of SSBs (before 12 months of age) is associated with obesity at six years of age.

**Indicator definition:** percentage of children 6–23 months of age who consumed a sweet beverage during the previous day.

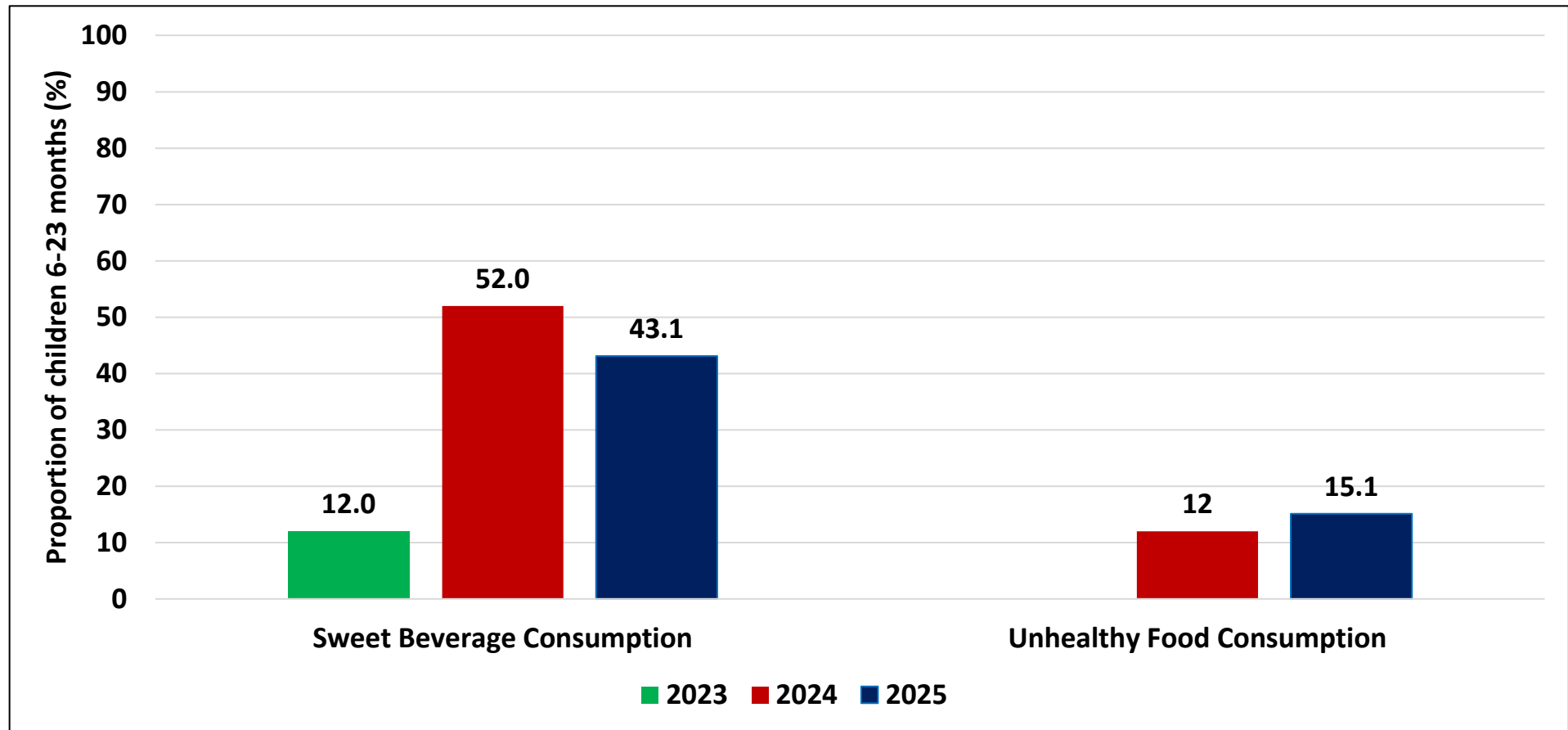
## ☐ UNHEALTHY FOOD CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (UFC)

- In many low- and middle-income countries, dietary patterns are shifting toward higher intakes of added sugars, unhealthy fats, salt, and refined carbohydrates. Various guidance documents emphasize the importance of avoiding or limiting these types of foods when feeding infants and young children (IYC).
- Recent national guidelines advise against the consumption of foods such as candies, chocolate, chips, French fries, cakes, and cookies. Eating such foods can displace more nutritious options and restrict the intake of essential vitamins and minerals.
- Studies have linked unhealthy snack food and beverage consumption to a higher risk of nutrient inadequacy and lower length-for-age among one-year-olds. Food preferences established early in life often persist into later childhood and adolescence. If these practices continue into adulthood, they can increase the risk of becoming overweight or obese, as well as related chronic diseases later in life.

**Indicator definition:** percentage of children 6–23 months of age who consumed selected sentinel\* unhealthy foods during the previous day.

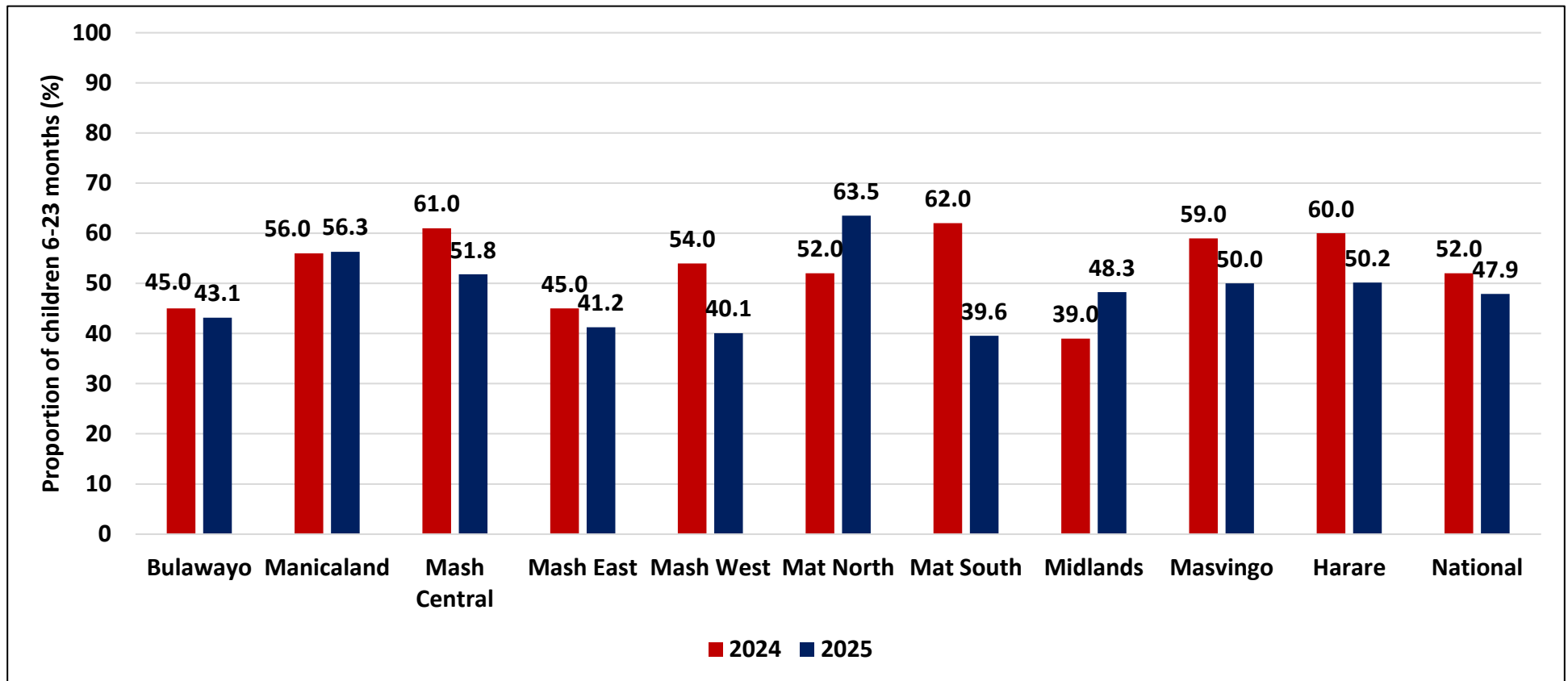
*\*“sentinel unhealthy foods” are foods or categories of foods (e.g. “sweets” or “candies”) that are likely to be consumed by IYC and are high in sugar, salt and/or unhealthy fats.*

# Children 6-23 Months Diet Quality Indicators (Sweet Beverage, Unhealthy Food Consumption)



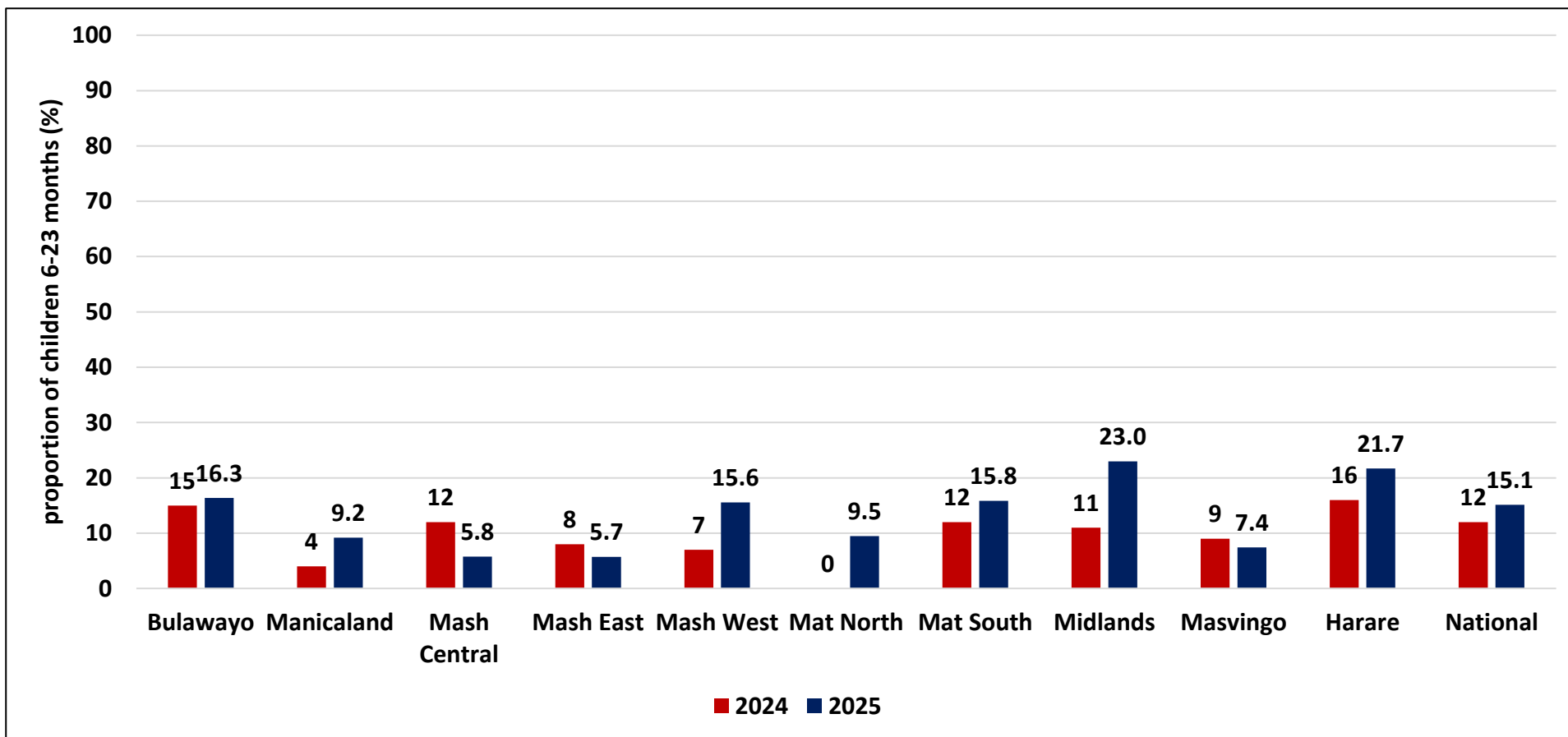
- The proportion of children 6 to 23 months who were fed sweet beverages in the 24 hours prior to the survey was 43.1%.
- Higher intakes of added sugars, unhealthy fats, salt and refined carbohydrates predisposes children to increased risk of becoming overweight or obese and of related chronic diseases later in life.

# Children 6-23 Months Sweet Beverage Consumption by Province



- About 47.9% of children 6 to 23 months were consuming sweet beverages with Matabeleland North (63.5%) recording the highest.

# Children 6-23 months Unhealthy Food Consumption



- Midlands (23.0%) and Harare (21.7%) had the highest proportion of children 6 to 23 months who were fed unhealthy food 24 hours prior to the survey.

# Notes

## ❑ EGG AND/OR FLESH FOOD CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (EFF)

- The World Health Organization's guiding principles for feeding both breastfed and non-breastfed children recommend that "meat, poultry, fish, or eggs should be eaten daily, or as often as possible." Evidence shows that children who consume eggs and flesh foods have higher intakes of essential nutrients important for optimal growth, including energy, protein, vitamin B12, and zinc.
- Introducing meat as an early complementary food for breastfed infants is linked to improved protein and zinc intake; however, many countries report a low prevalence of egg and flesh food consumption.

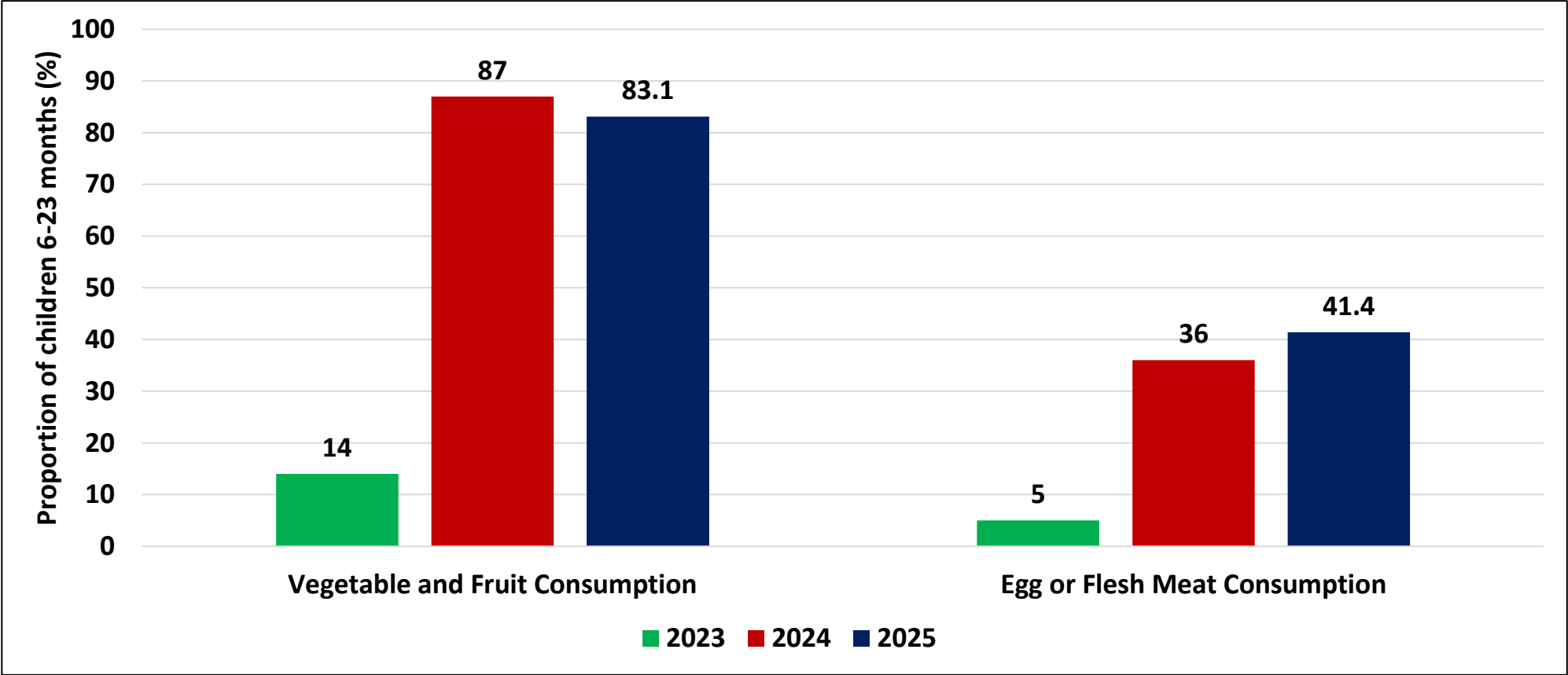
**Indicator definition:** percentage of children 6–23 months of age who consumed egg and/or flesh food during the previous day.

## ❑ ZERO VEGETABLE OR FRUIT CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (ZVF)

- Vegetable, fruit, egg and flesh meat consumption provides the much-needed nutrients required for optimum growth and development during this window of opportunity (first 1 000 days).
- WHO indicates that low vegetable and fruit consumption is associated with increased risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).
- Consumption of zero vegetables or fruits on the previous day represents an unhealthy practice.

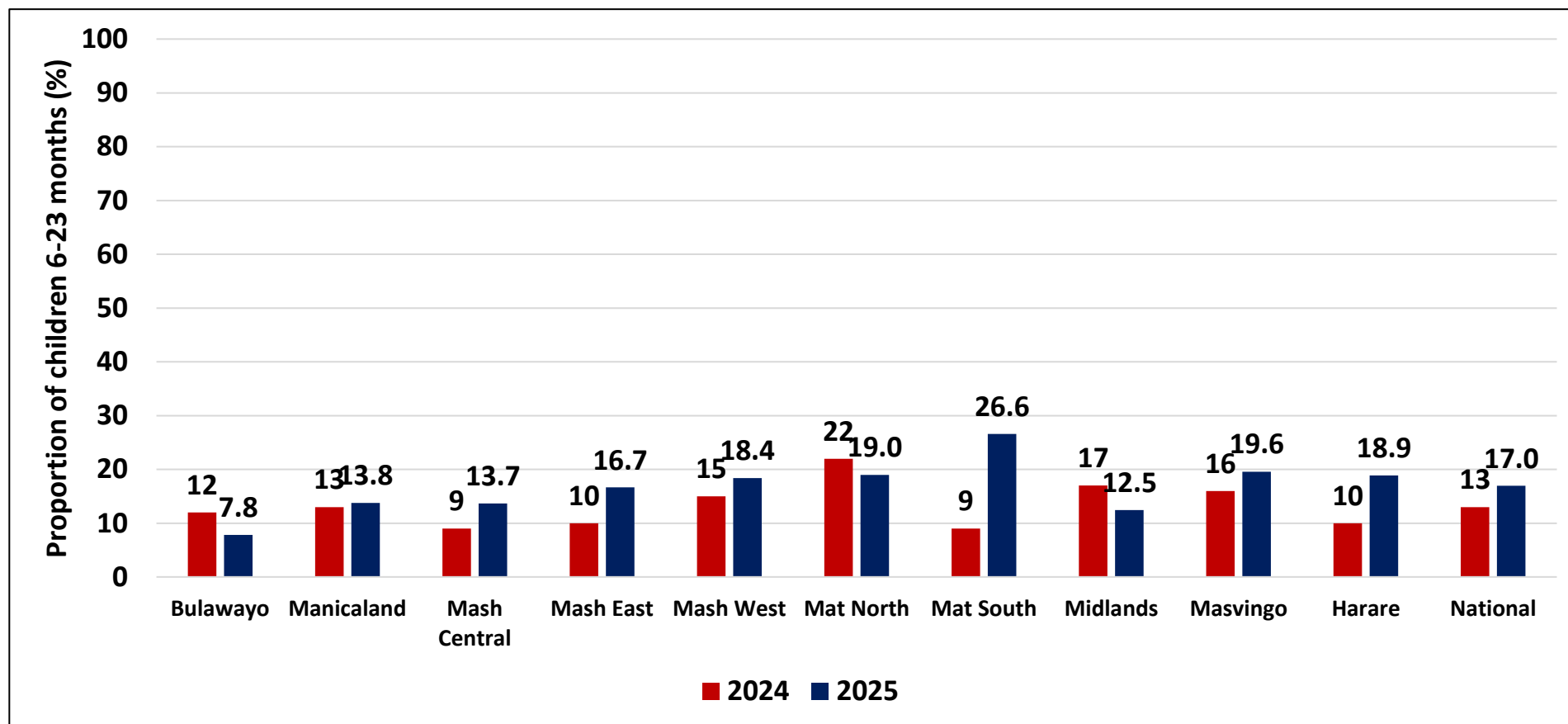
**Indicator definition:** percentage of children 6–23 months of age who did not consume any vegetables or fruits during the previous day.

# Children 6-23 months Diet Quality Indicators (Vegetable, Meat Consumption)



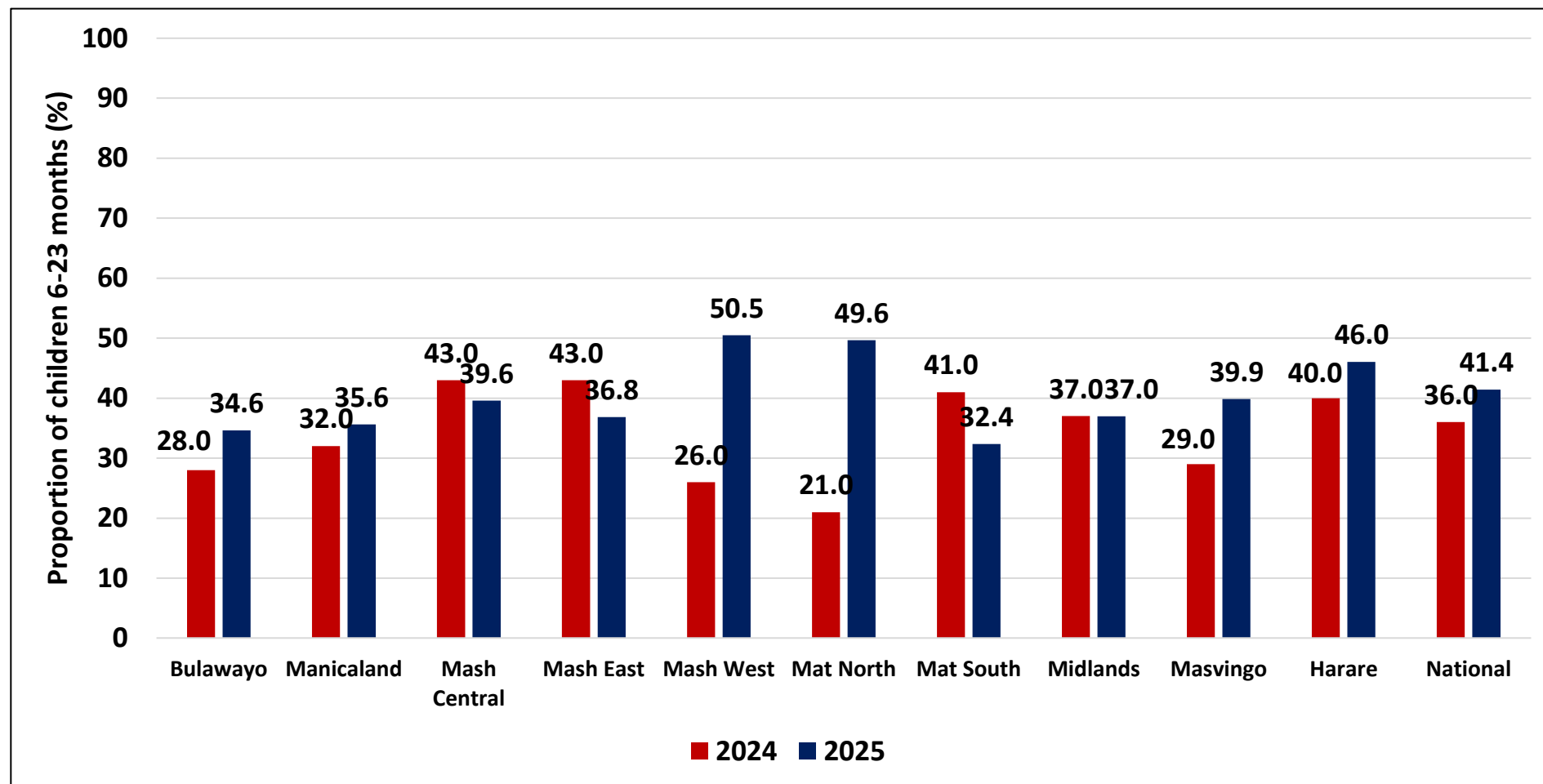
- There was an improvement in the proportion of children 6-23 months who consumed eggs or flesh meat from 36% in 2024 to 41.4% in 2025.
- About 83.1% of the children 6 to 23 months consumed vegetables and fruits 24 hours prior to the survey.

# Children 6-23 Months Non-Vegetable or Fruit Consumption (ZVF)



- Nationally, an estimated 17% of children 6-23 months in urban areas were neither consuming vegetables nor fruits, with the highest proportion in Matabeleland South (26.6%).
- Beyond the short-term effects of micronutrient deficiencies and diseases, insufficient fruit and vegetable intake raises the likelihood of developing non-communicable diseases.

# Children 6-23 months Egg and/or Flesh Meat Consumption (EFF)

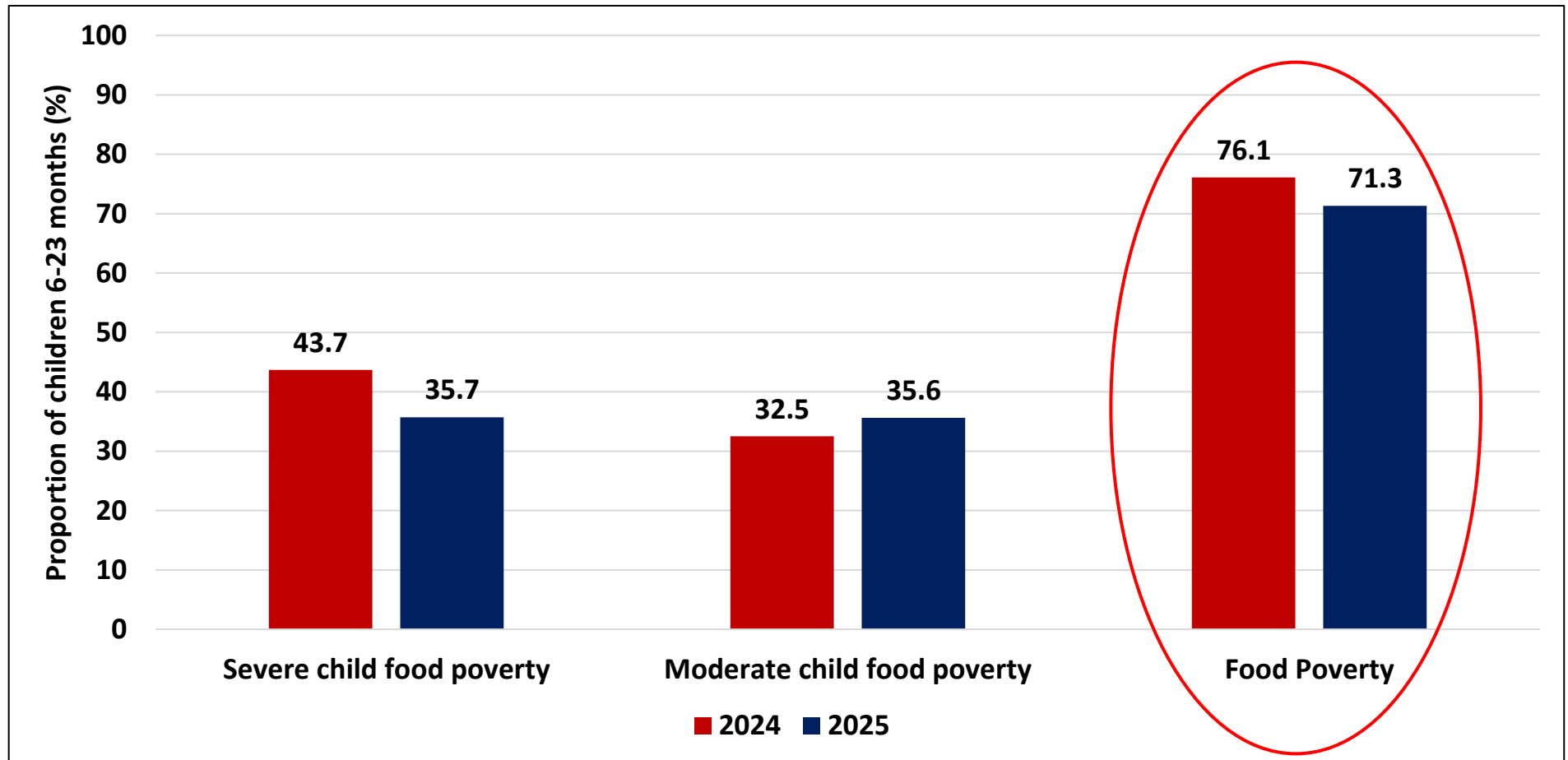


- Nationally, only 41.4% of children 6-23 months in urban areas were consuming egg and/or flesh meat with Matabeleland South (32.4%) recording the least.

# Child Food Poverty

- **Children living in food poverty** is defined as the proportion of children under five years of age consuming foods and beverages from four or fewer of the eight defined food groups.
- **Severe child food poverty** refers to the proportion of children under 5 consuming foods and beverages from zero, one or two out of eight defined food groups during the previous day.
- **Moderate child food poverty** refers to the proportion of children under five 5 consuming foods and beverages from three or four out of eight defined food groups during the previous day.





# Child Food Poverty



- About 71.3% of the children 6 to 23 months consumed a meal which did not meet minimum dietary diversity in the 24 hours prior to the survey.

# **Child Nutrition Status**

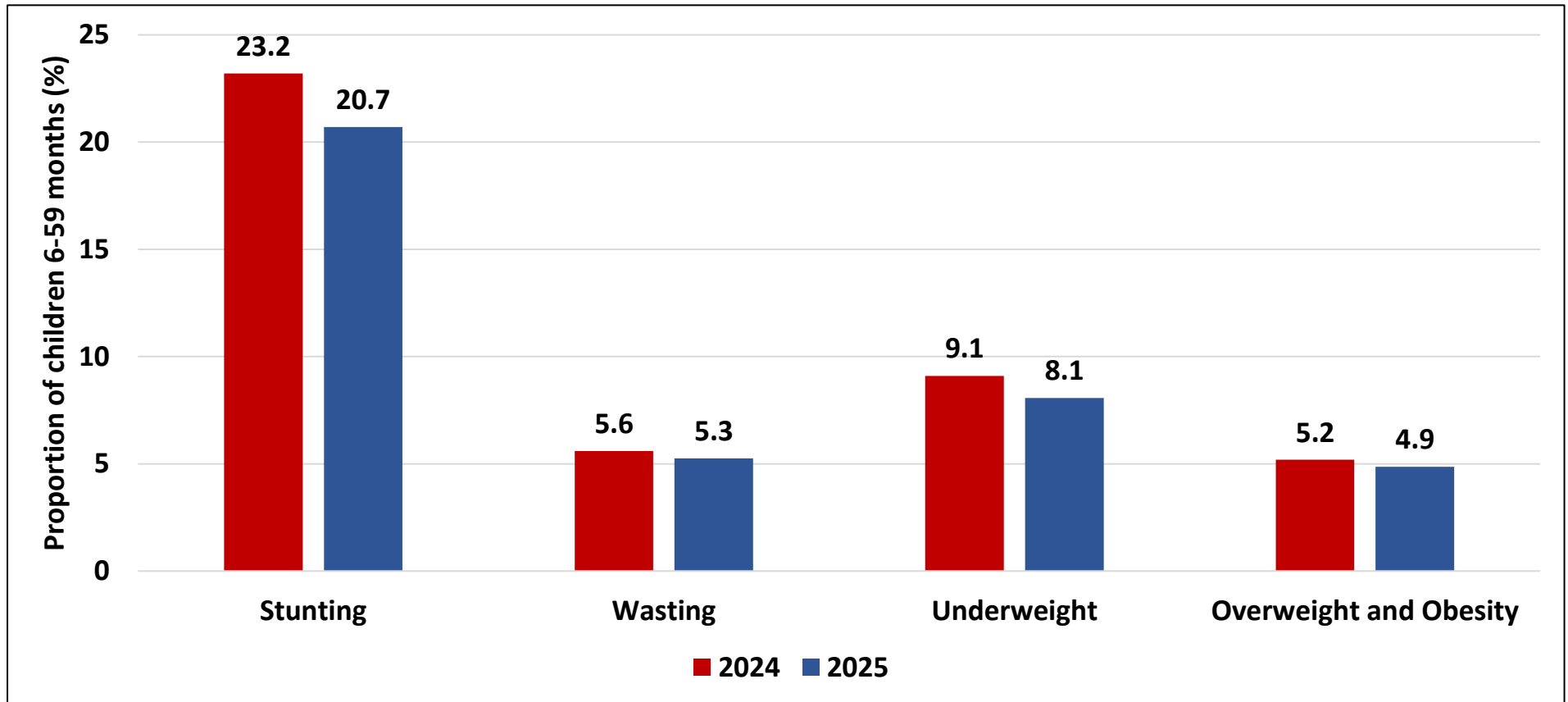
# Nutrition Status of Children Aged 6-59 months

<b>Child Stunting</b>		The proportion of children under the age of five who are short for their age ( <u>low height-for-age</u> ), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
<b>Child Wasting</b>		The proportion of children under the age of five who are too thin for their height ( <u>low-weight-for-height</u> ), reflecting acute undernutrition.
<b>Child Underweight</b>		The proportion of the children under the age of the five who are too thin for their age ( <u>low weight-for-age</u> ).
<b>Overweight /Obesity</b>		The proportion of children under the age of five who are too heavy for their height ( <u>high weight-for-height</u> ).

# Child Nutrition Status Cut-Offs and National Targets

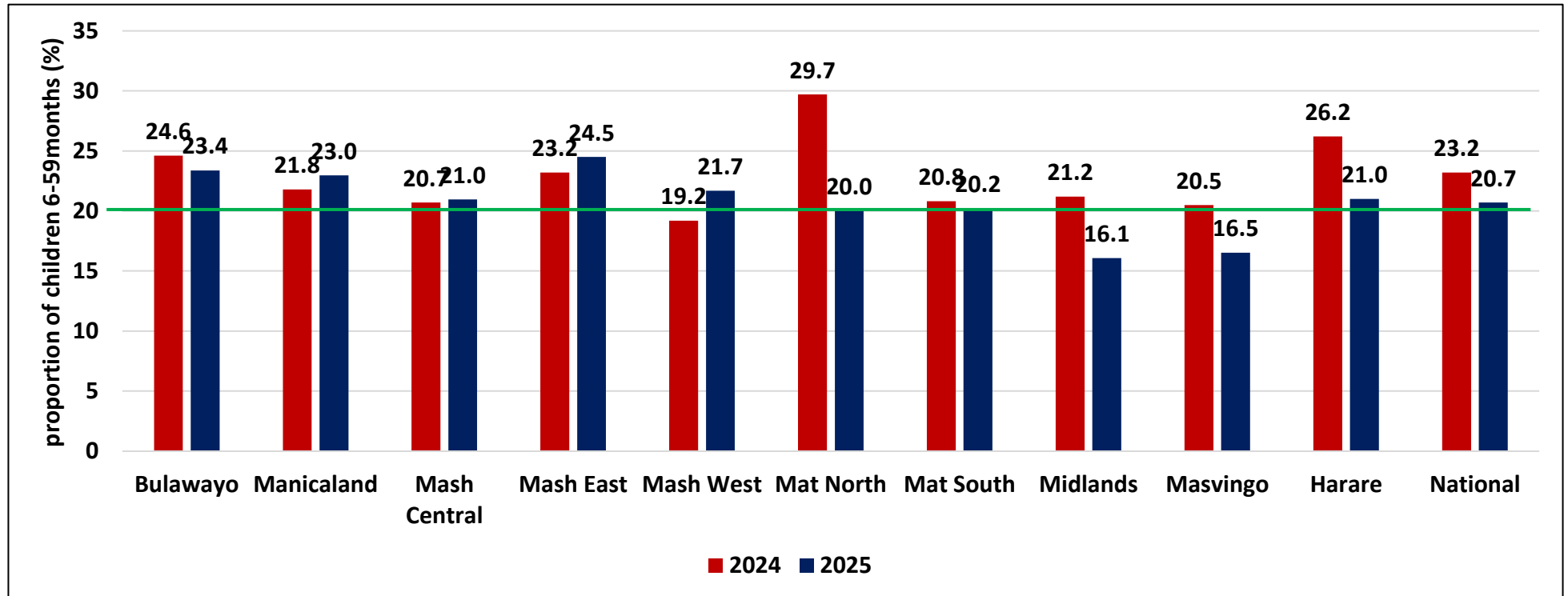
Indicator	Indicator definition (WHO standards, 2006)	National Target (%)	Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance
<b>Stunting</b>	Height/Length for age $<-2$ SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	<b>17.3%</b>	$<2.5\%$ : Very Low 2.5- $<10\%$ : Low 10- $<20\%$ : Medium 20- $<30\%$ : High $\geq 30\%$ : Very High (DeOniset al., 2019)
<b>Global Acute Malnutrition</b>	Weight for height $<-2$ SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema	<b>5%</b>	$<5\%$ Acceptable 5-9.9%: Poor 10-14.9%: Serious $>15\%$ : Critical
<b>Severe Acute Malnutrition</b>	Weight for height $<-3$ SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median		0% = acceptable $>0\%$ : Unacceptable
<b>Underweight</b>	Weight for age $<-2$ SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema	<b>10%</b>	
<b>Overweight</b>	Weight for height $>+2$ SD $-<+3$ SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	<b><math>&lt;3\%</math></b>	$<2.5\%$ : very low 2.5 to $<5\%$ : low 5 to $<10\%$ : medium 10 to $<15\%$ : high $\geq 15\%$ : very high

# Nutrition Status Indicators Children 6-59 months



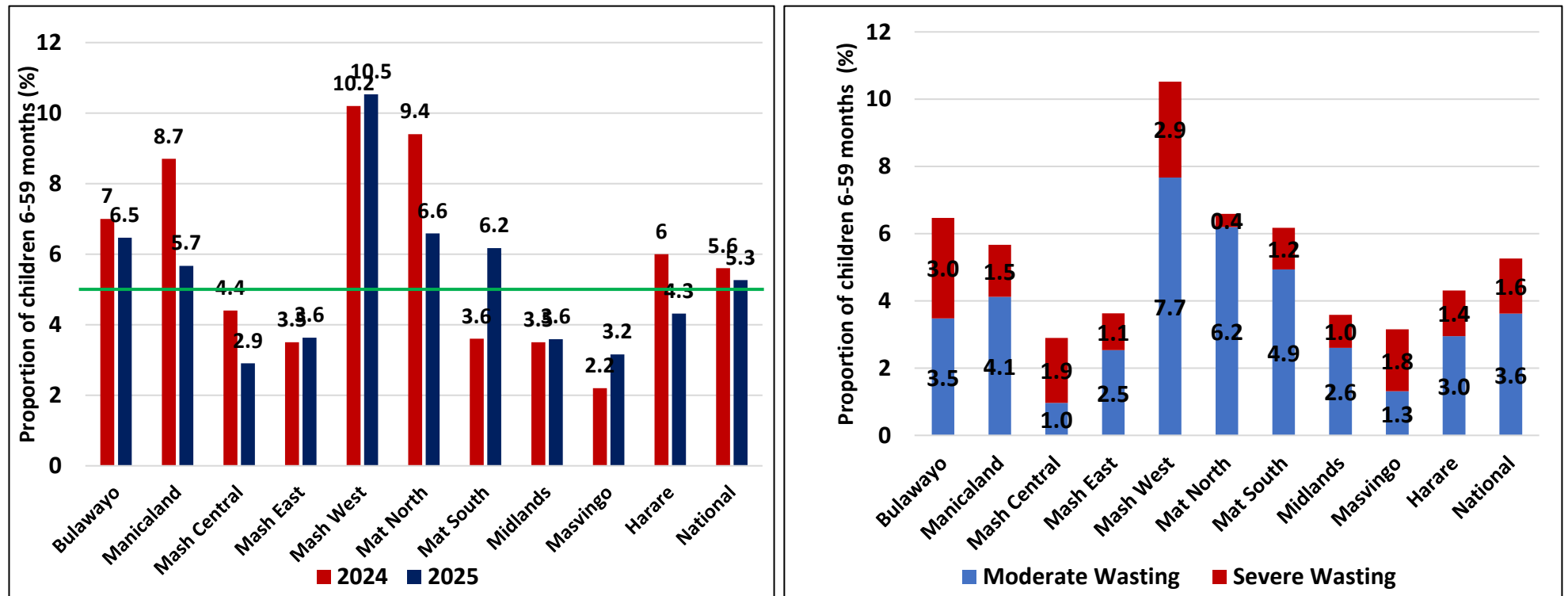
- Generally at national level, there has been an improvement in all nutrition status indicators for the children in the 6 to 59 months age group in 2025 compared to 2024.

# Prevalence of Stunting Children 6-59 Months (WHO classification)



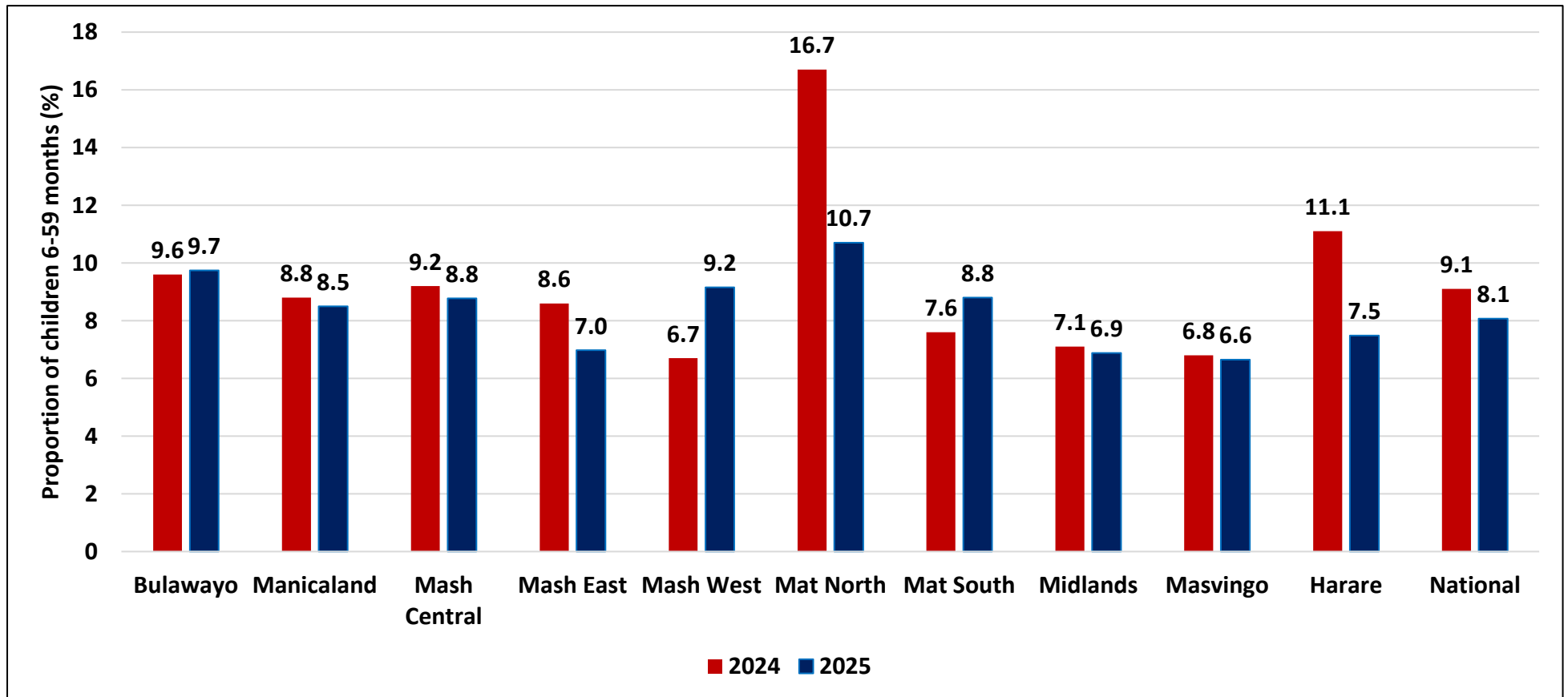
- The national proportion of children 6-59 months who were stunted was 20.7% which is high according to WHO classification and falls short of the National target of 17.3%.

# Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition Children 6-59 Months (WHO classification)



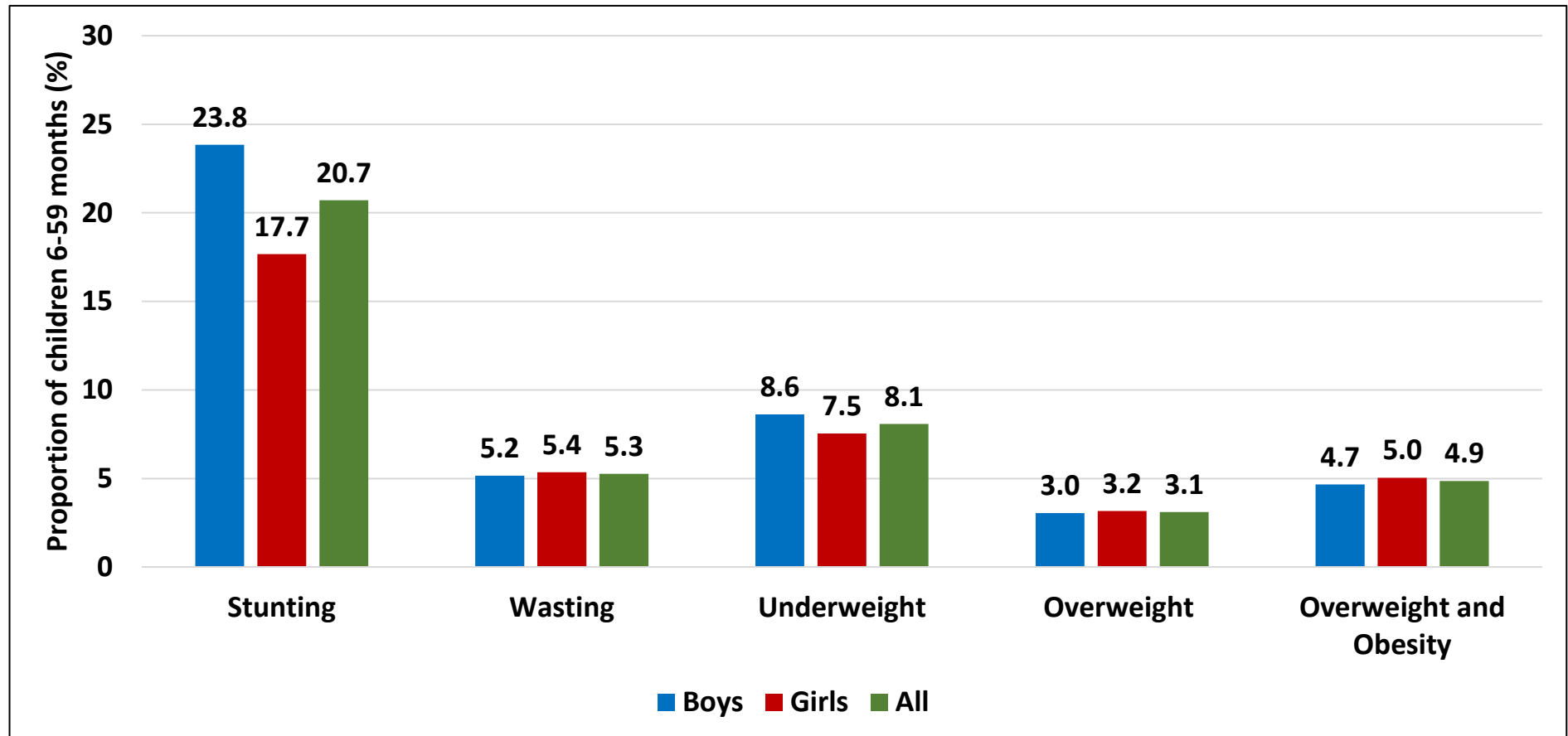
- Nationally, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was 5.3% slightly above the 5% threshold for WHO emergency response.
- Bulawayo, Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South had GAM levels above the acceptable threshold of 5%.
- Severe Acute Malnutrition was highest in Bulawayo (3%) and Mashonaland West (2.9%).

# Prevalence of Underweight Children 6-59 months



- The national average for underweight prevalence was 8.1%.
- Matabeleland North (10.7%) had the highest prevalence of underweight.

# Nutrition Status by Sex of Children 6-59 months

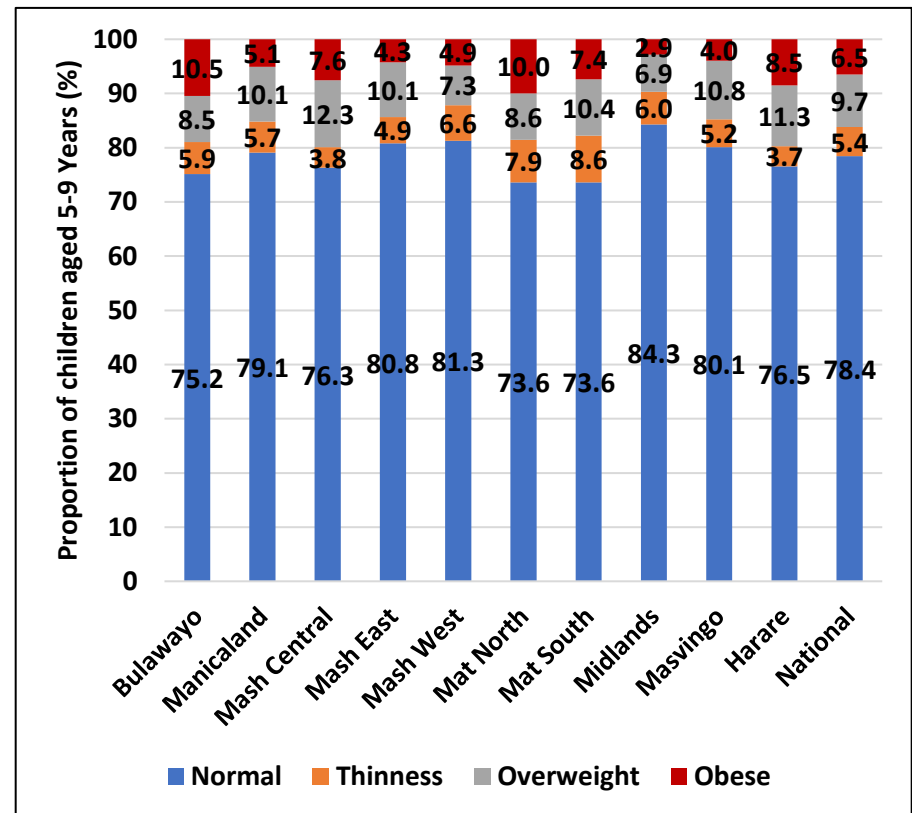
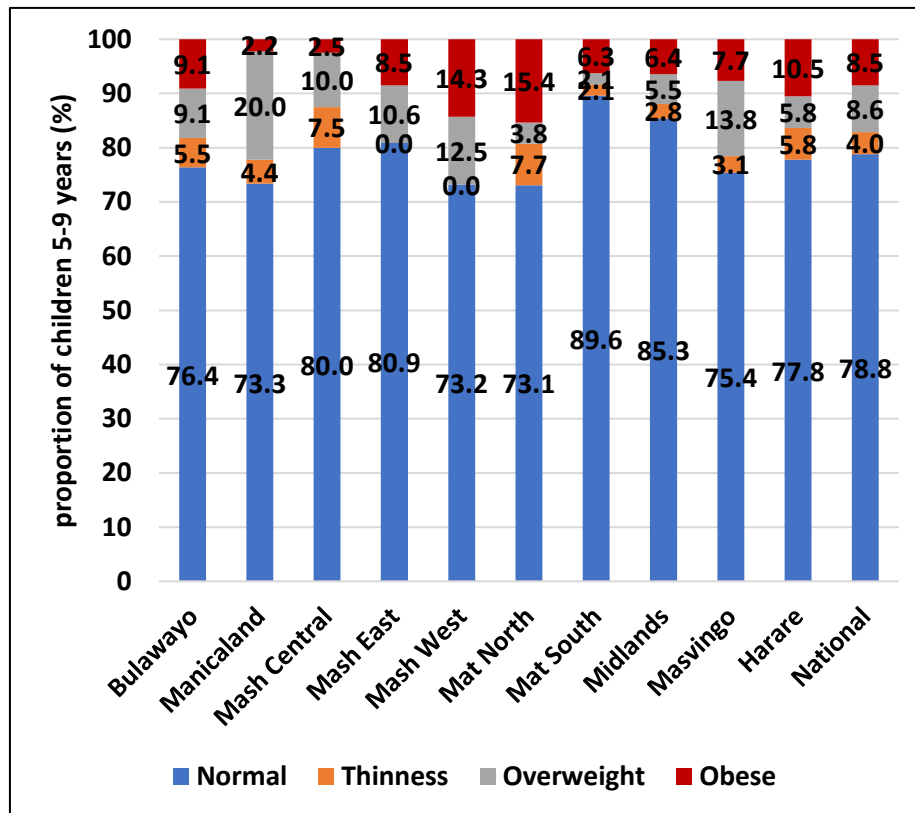


- More boys aged 6-59 months old were stunted and underweight compared to girls of the same age group.
- More girls aged 6-59 months old were wasted, overweight and obese compared to boys of the same age group.

# Nutrition Status of Children 5-9 Years

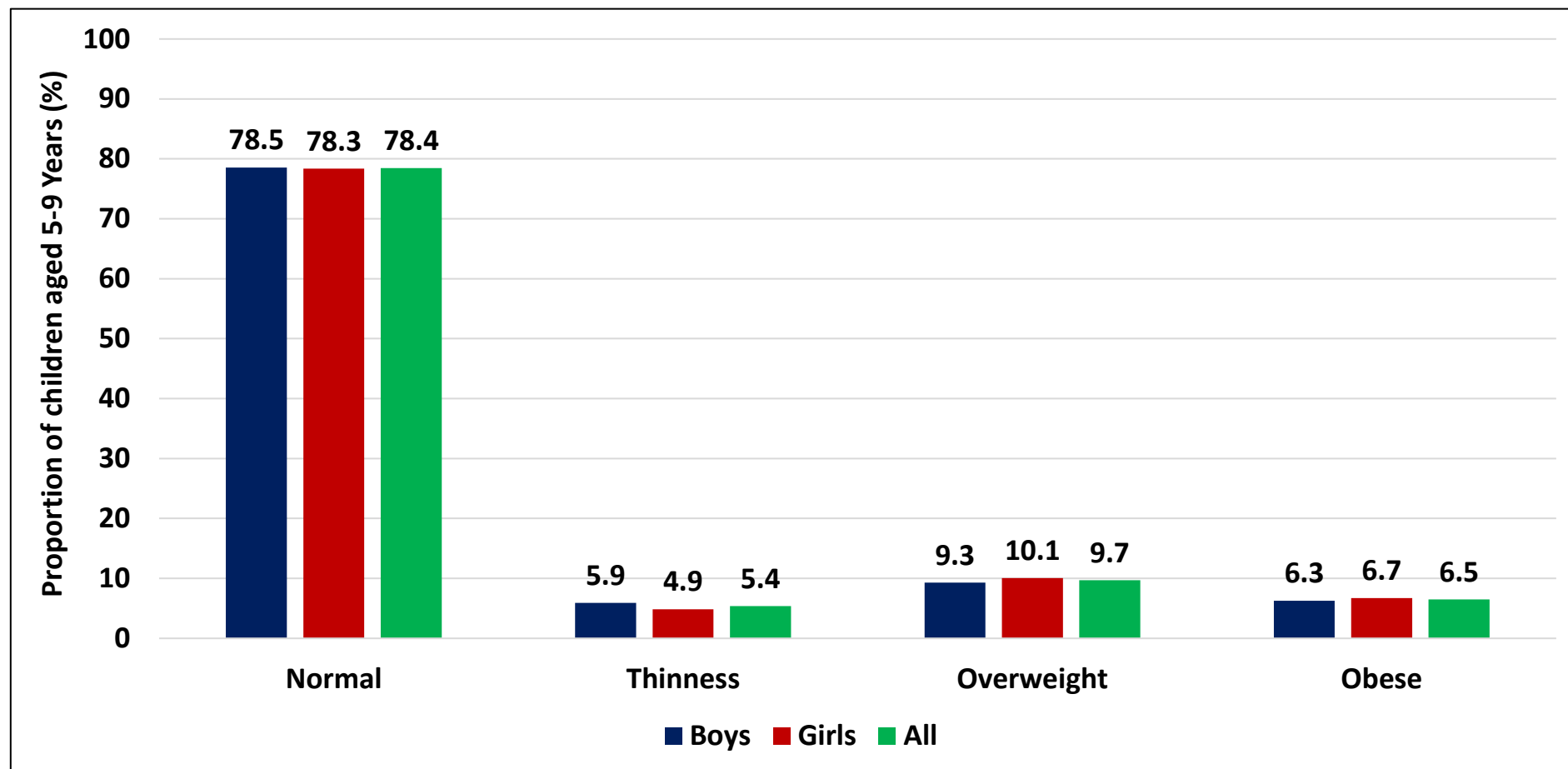
2024

2025



- Nationally, 16.2% of children aged 5 to 9 years were overweight and obese.
- Bulawayo (10.5%), Matabeleland North (10.0%) and Harare (8.5%) had the highest proportion of children who were obese.

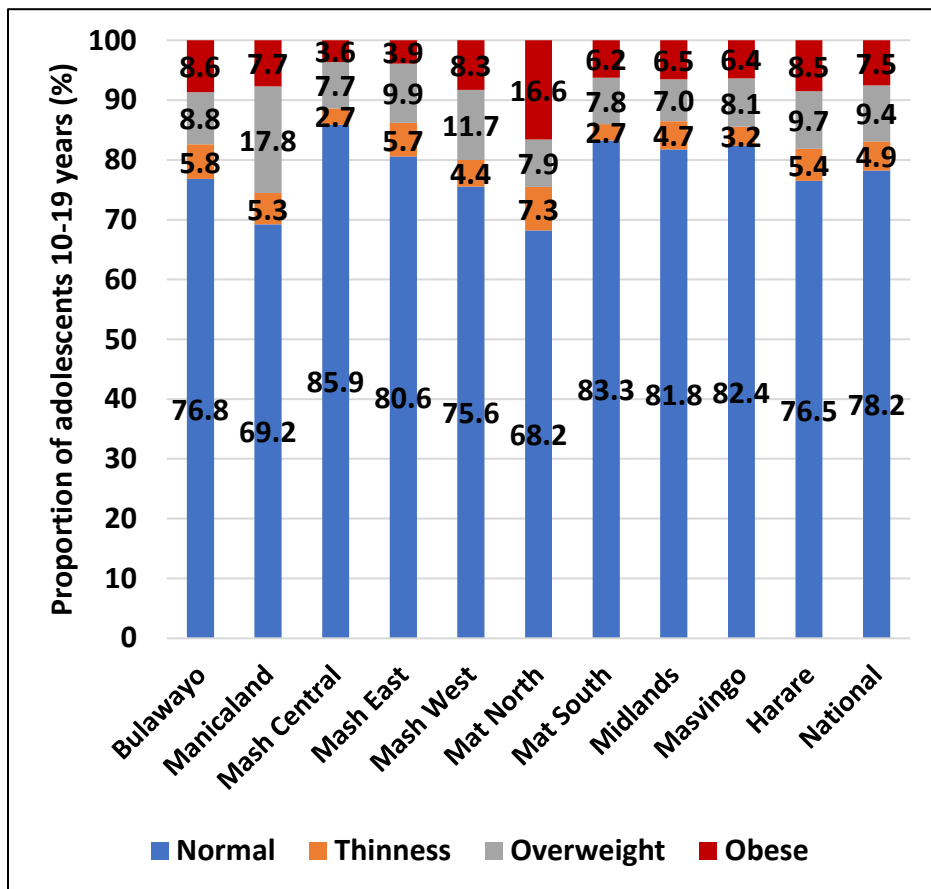
# Nutrition Status by Sex of Children 5-9 Years



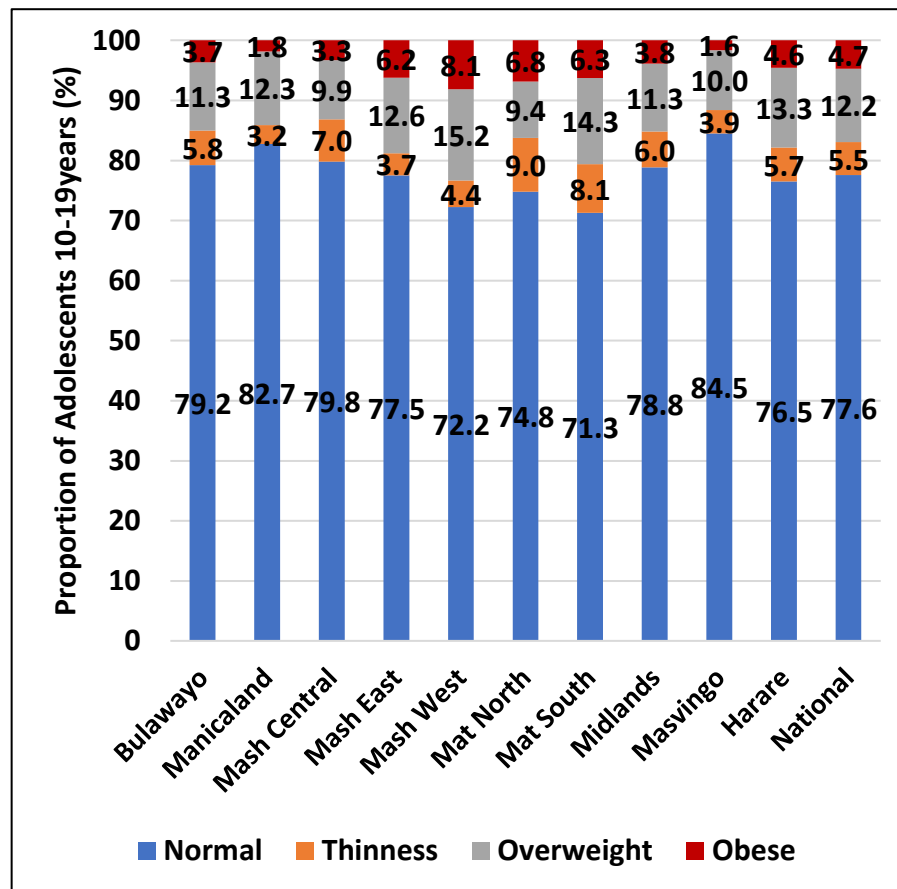
- Overweight was higher among girls aged 5-9 years (10.1%) than boys (9.3%) of the same age group.

# Nutrition Status of Adolescents 10-19 years

## 2024



## 2025



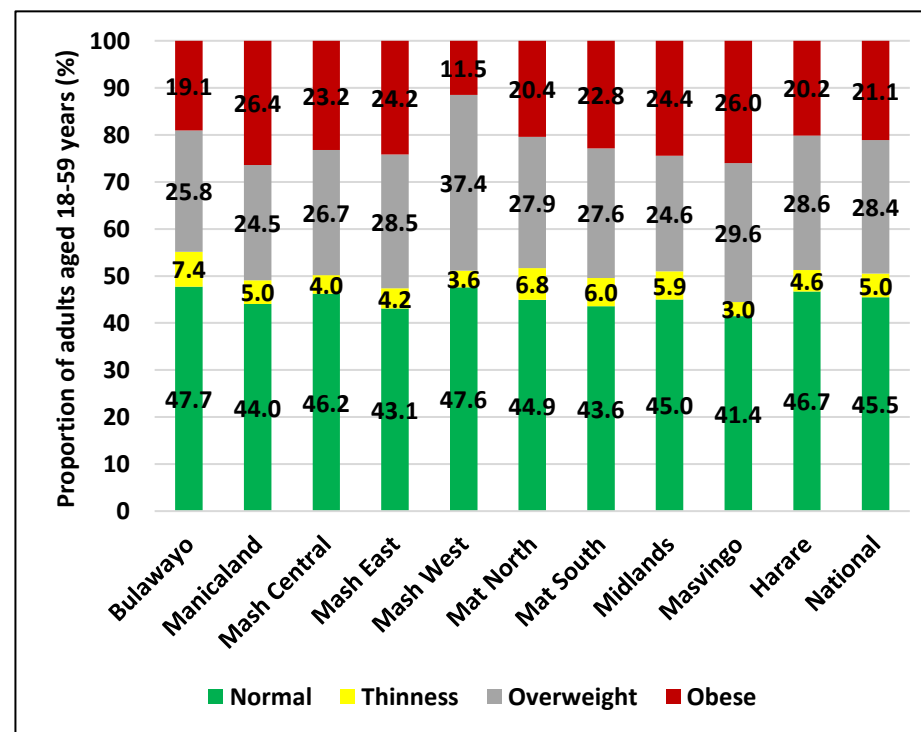
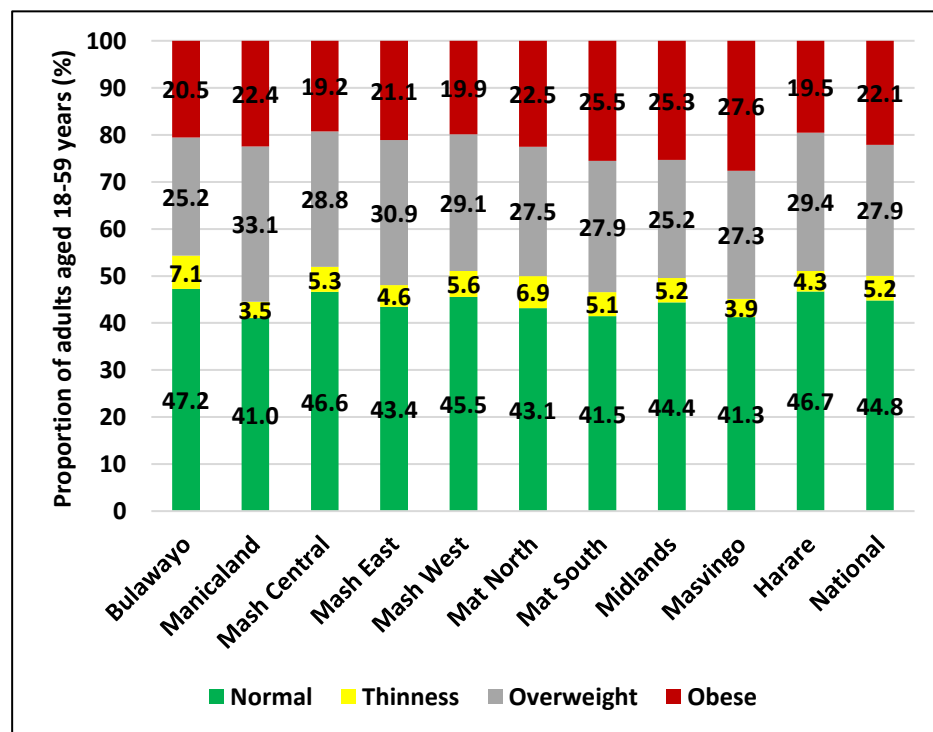
- At least 12.2% of the adolescents were overweight, this was an increase from 9.4% reported in 2024.
- The proportion of adolescents who were obese reduced from 7.5% in 2024 to 4.7% in 2025.

# **Adult Nutrition Status**

# Nutrition Status of Adults 18-59 Years by Province

## 2024

## 2025

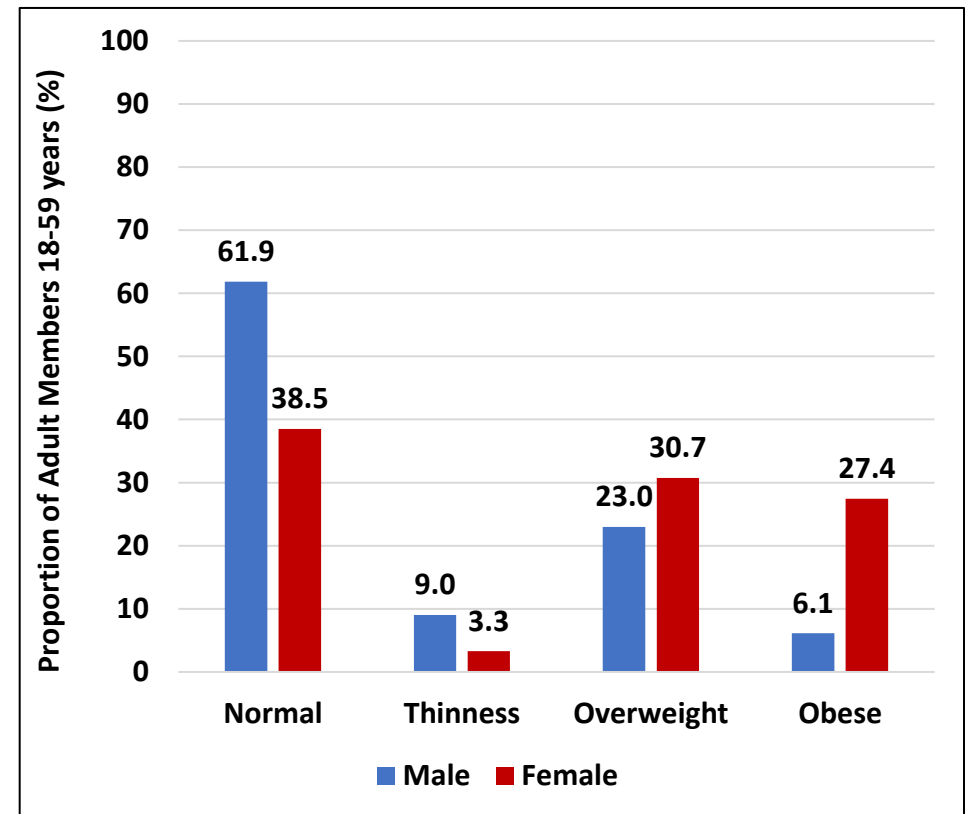
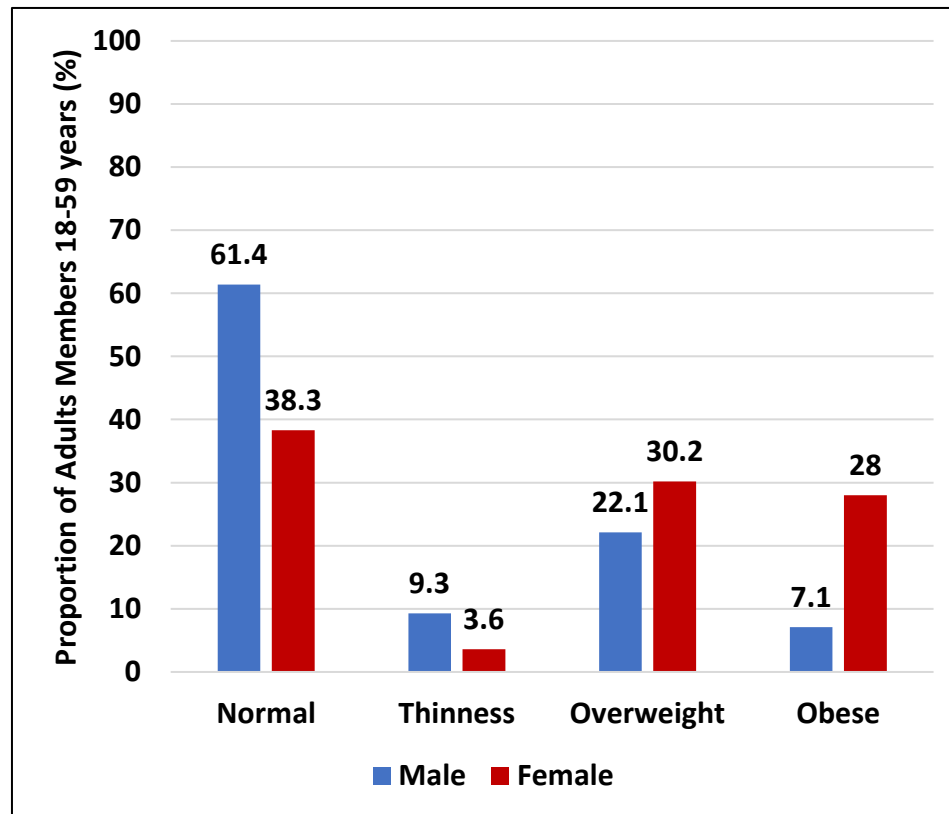


- Nationally, 45.5% of the adults aged 18-59 years were overweight and obese.
- Masvingo (55.6%) had the highest proportion of adults who were overweight and obese.
- Having excess fat deposits in the body leads to serious health consequences such as cardiovascular disease (mainly heart disease and stroke), type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis and some cancers (endometrial, breast and colon).

# Nutrition Status by Sex of Adults 18-59 Years

2024

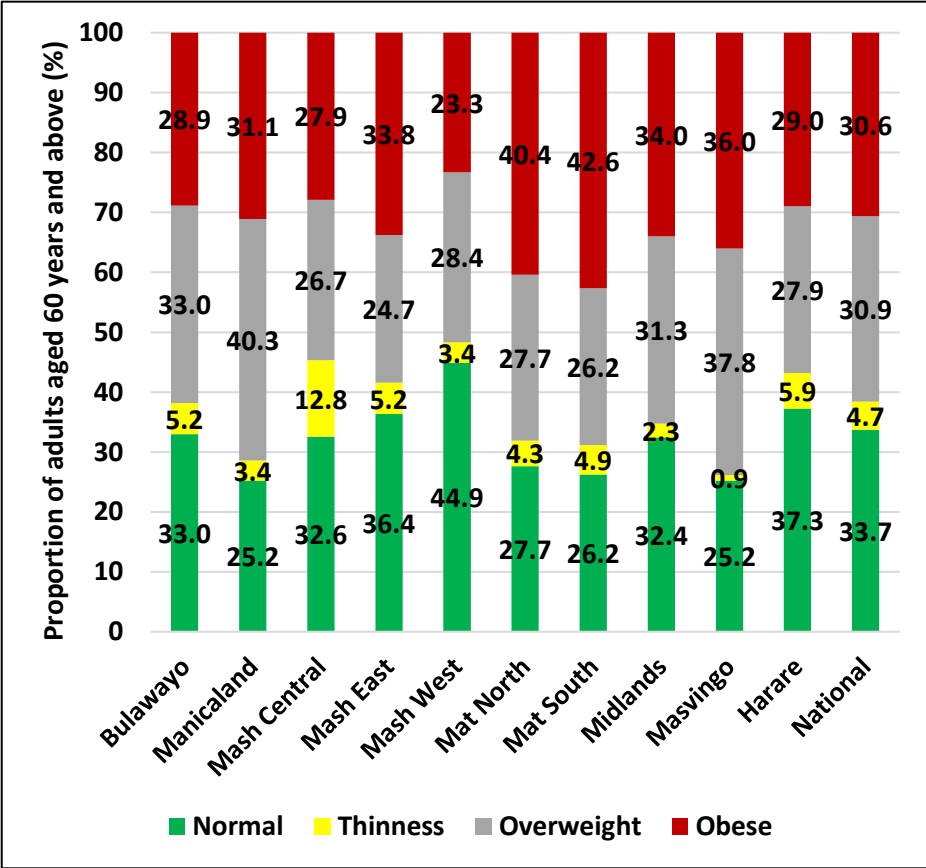
2025



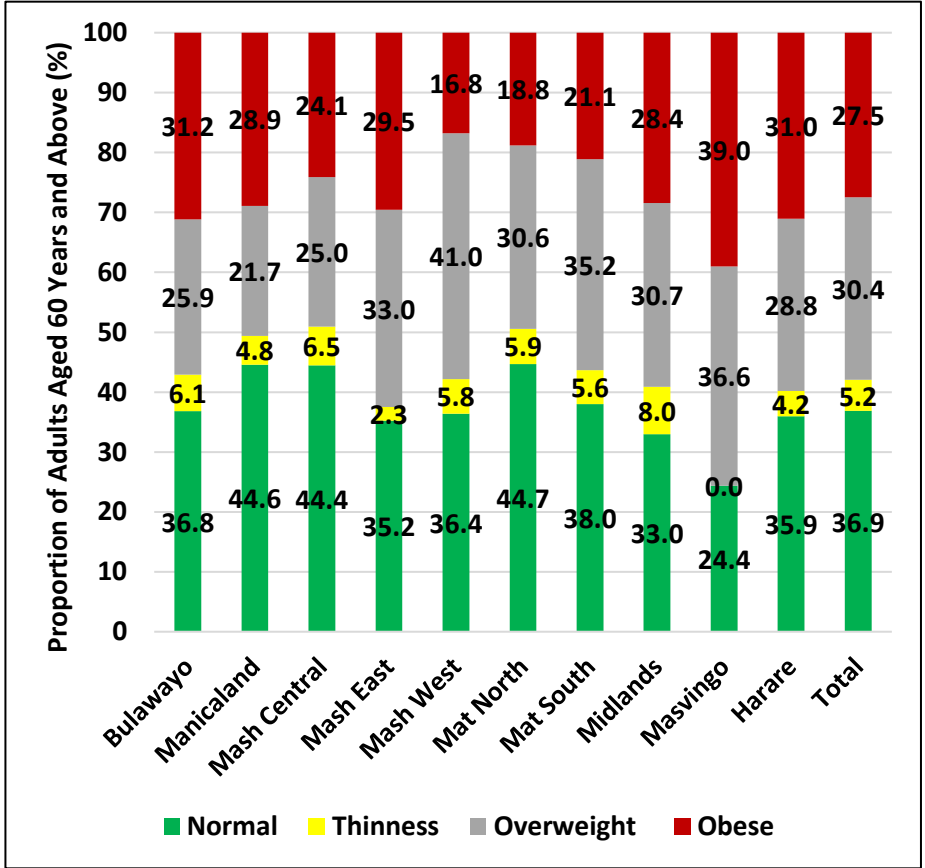
- Nationally, 23% of males aged 18-59 years were overweight whilst 6.1% were obese.
- The proportion of women aged 18-59 years who had a normal Body Mass Index was 38.5% whilst 27.4% were obese.

# Nutrition Status of Adults 60 Years and above by Province

2024



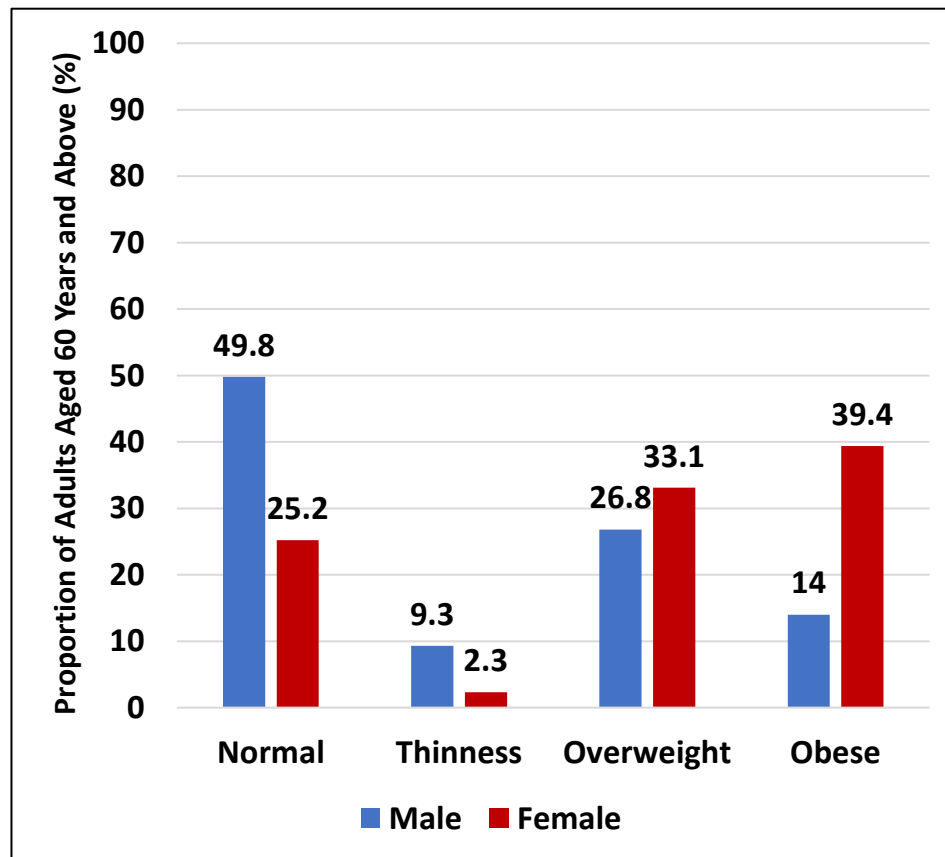
2025



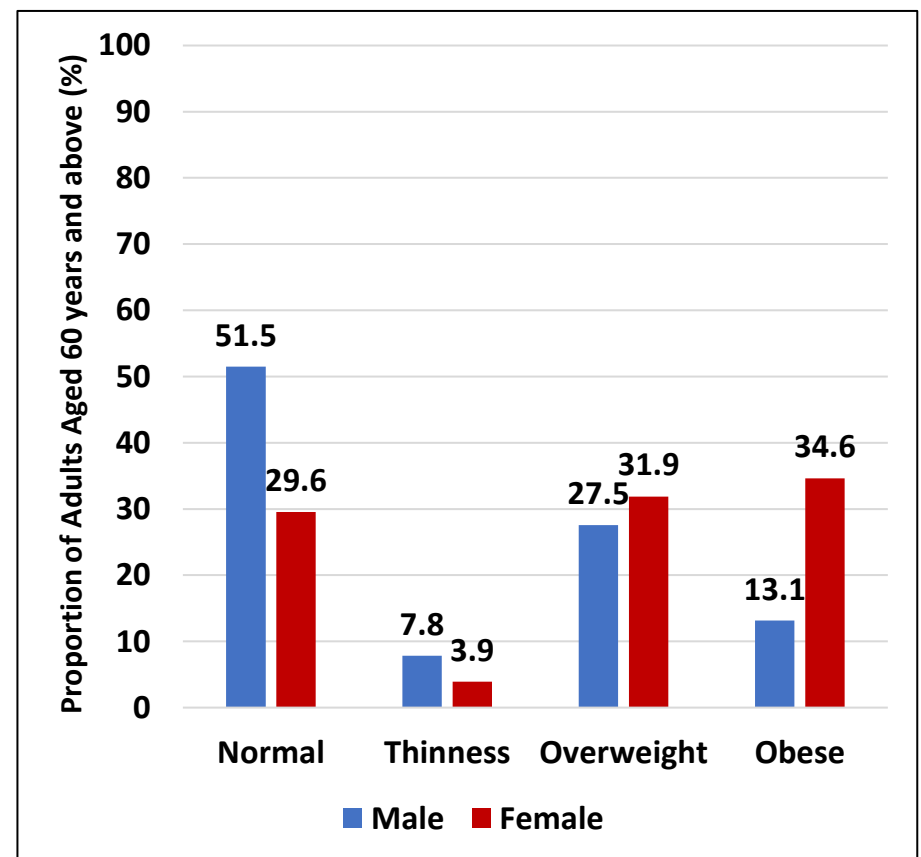
- The proportion of adults aged 60 years and above who had normal weight was 36.9%.

# Nutrition Status for Adults 60 Years and Above by Sex

2024



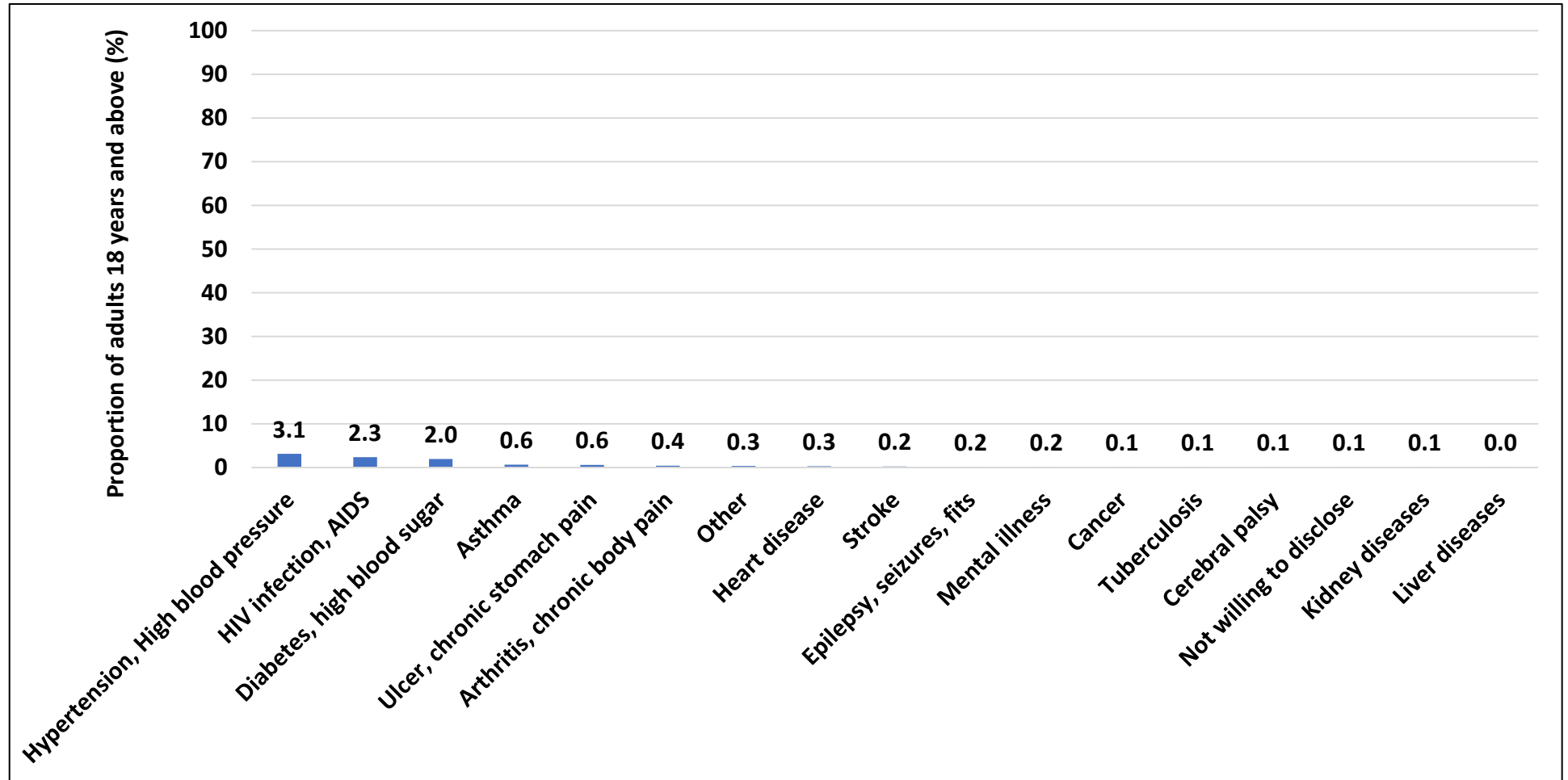
2025



- The proportion of adults 60 years and above who had normal weight was 51.5% among males and 29.6% among females.

# **Non-Communicable Diseases**

# Chronic Conditions (18 Years and Above)

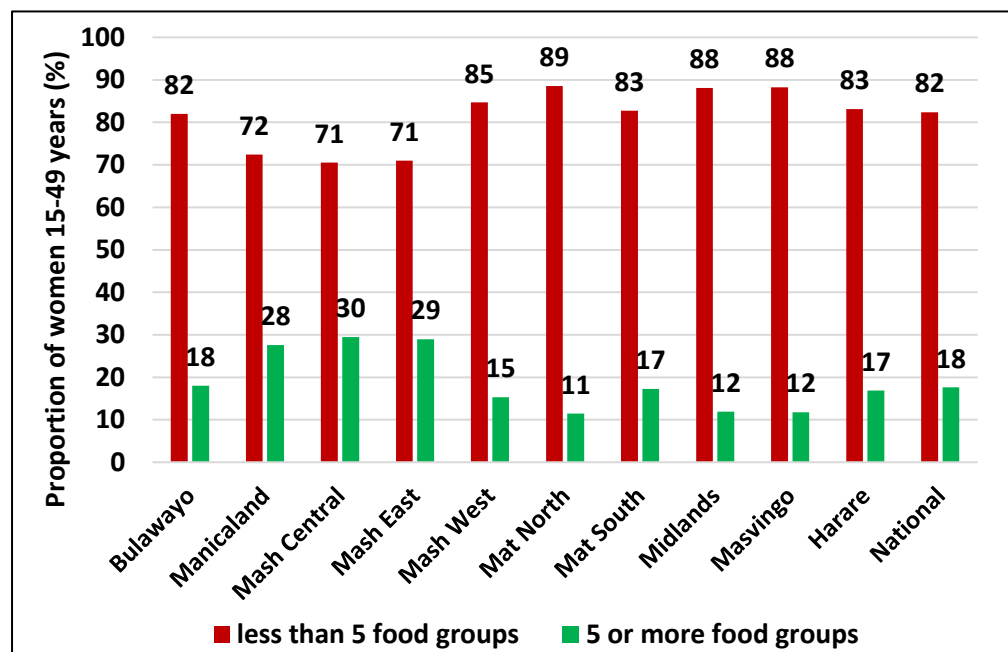


- The most common chronic conditions (confirmed by a medical practitioner) reported were hypertension (3.1%), HIV/Aids (2.3%) and diabetes (2.0%).

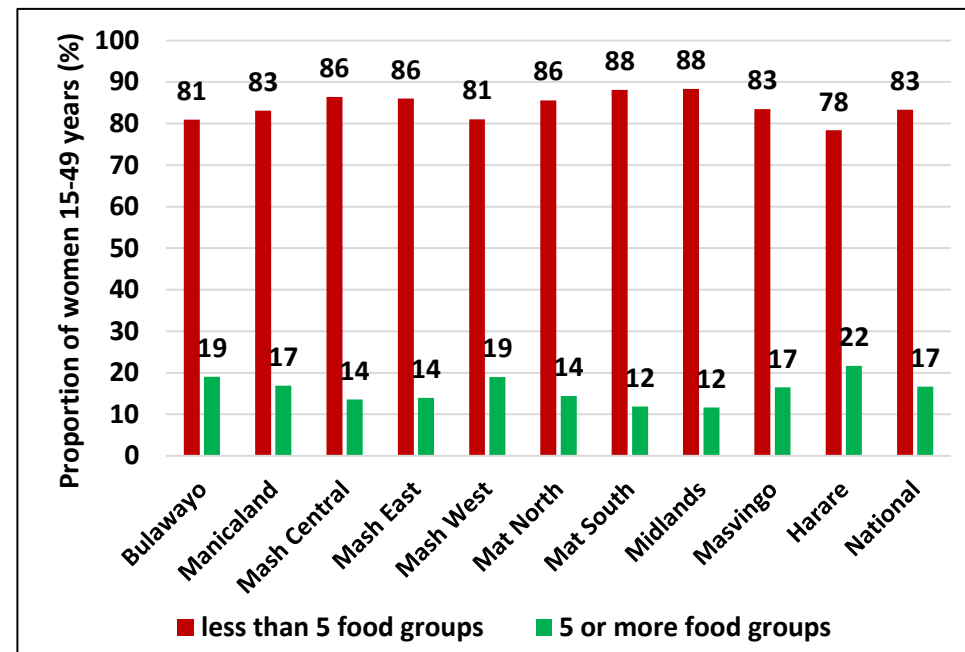
# **Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women**

# Women Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD-W)

2024



2025



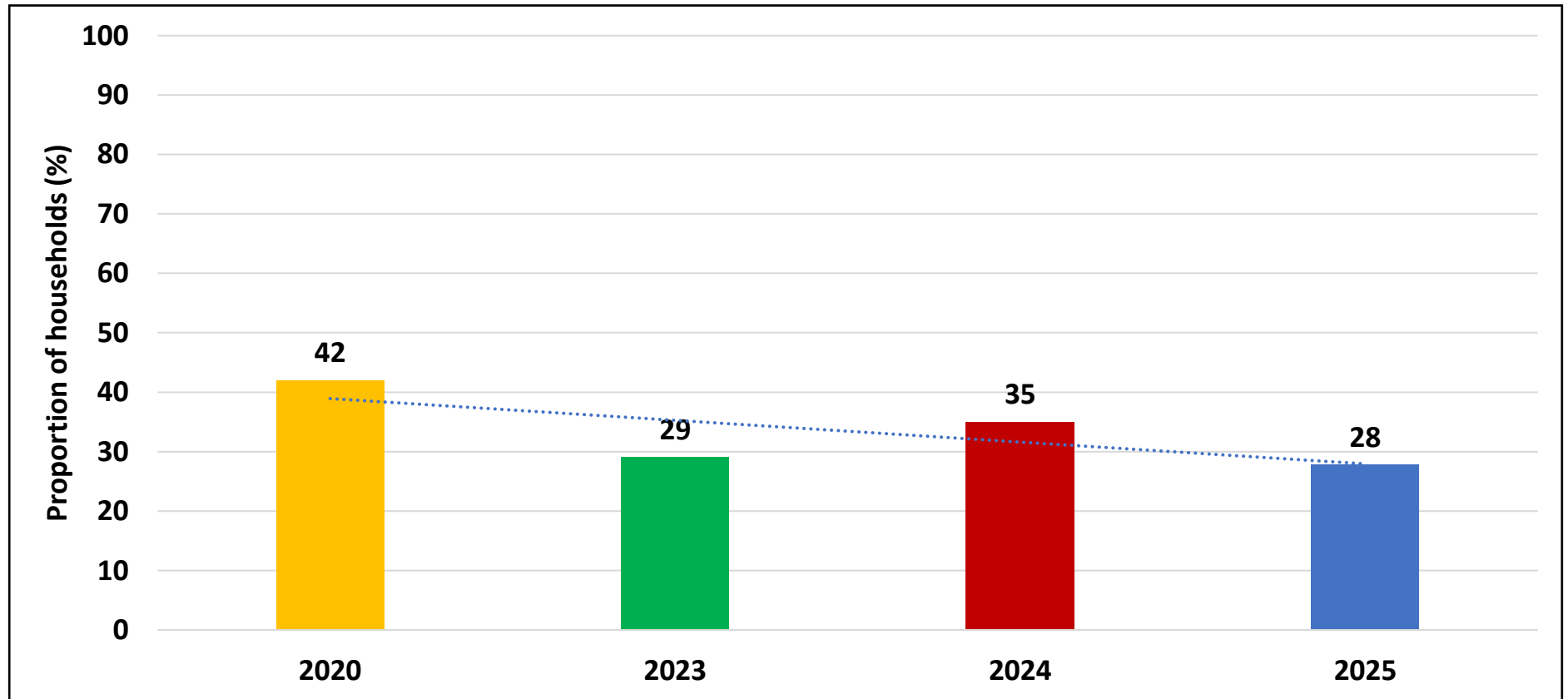
- The higher the proportion of women achieving minimum dietary diversity, the greater the likelihood that women in the population are consuming diets adequate in micronutrients. A minimum of five out of ten food groups are recommended for women.
- Nationally, 17% of women achieved minimum dietary diversity in the 24-hours preceding the survey.

# Food Security

# Food Security Analytical Framework

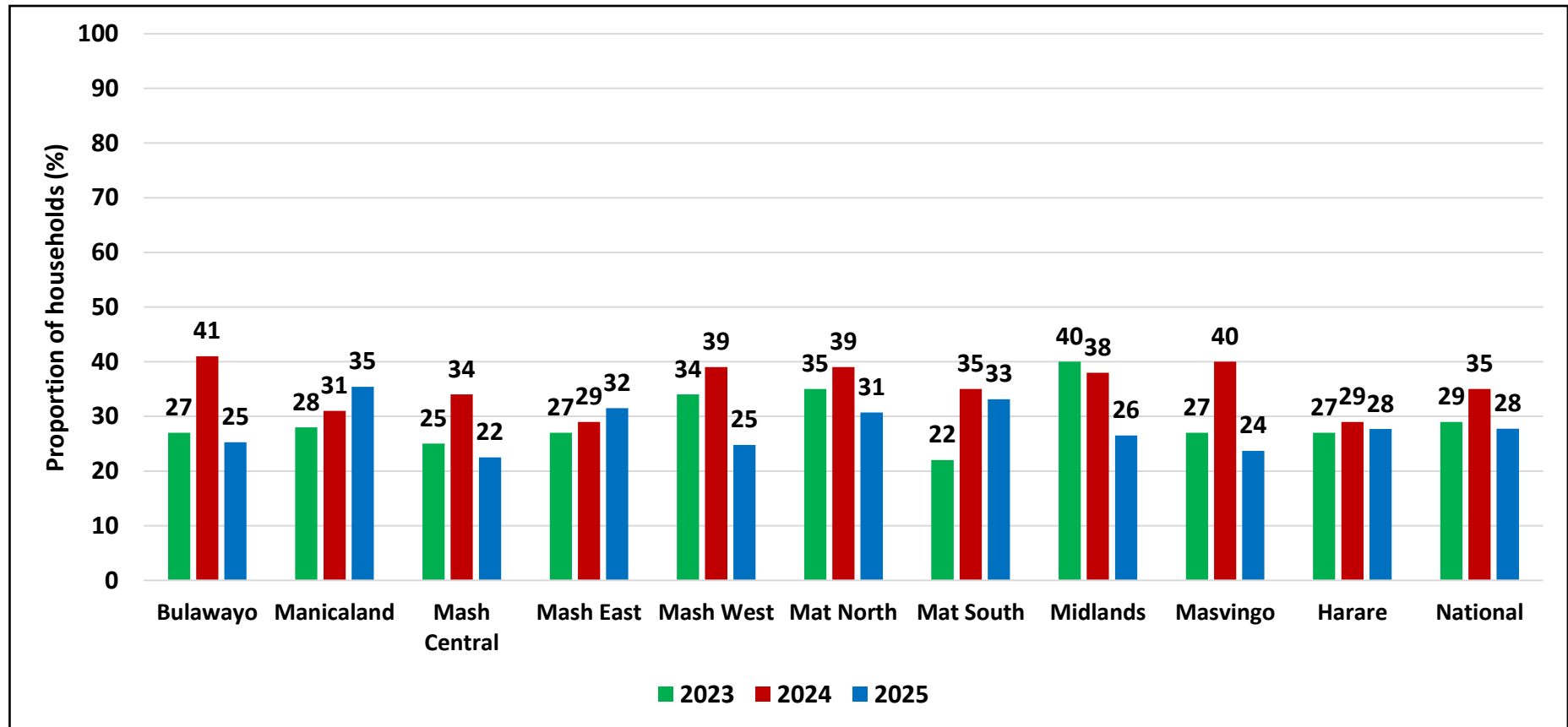
- Food security exists when all people at all times, have physical, social and economic access to food which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care allowing for a healthy and active life (Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2012).
- The four dimensions of food security are:
  - Availability of food
  - Access to food
  - The safe and health utilization of food
  - The stability of food availability, access and utilization
- Household food security status was determined using four parameters:
  - Food Poverty Line;
  - Household monthly income;
  - Household food consumption score; and
  - Household hunger scale

# Food Insecurity Prevalence



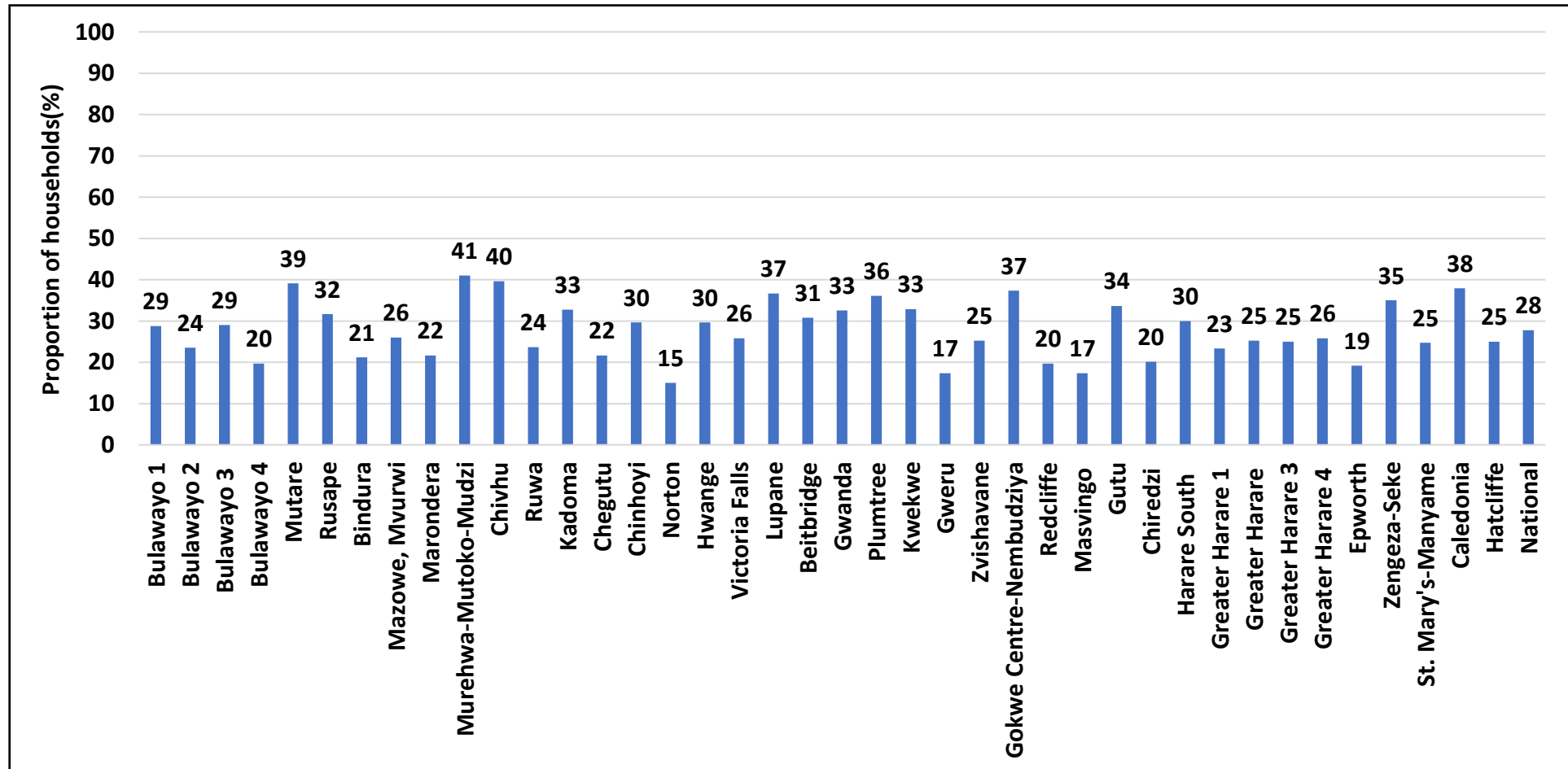
- Government is commended for ensuring a sustainable economic environment that resulted in a 33.3% reduction in food insecurity in urban areas from 42% in 2020 to 28% in 2025.
- Reduced food insecurity is crucial for household wellbeing, economic development, educational outcomes and national stability ultimately leading to a more robust and prosperous society.

# Food Insecurity Prevalence by Province



- Manicaland (35%) had the highest proportion of food insecure households.
- Mashonaland Central (22%) had the lowest proportion of food insecure households.

# Food Insecure Proportions by Province



- Murehwa-Mutoko-Mudzi domain (41%) had the highest proportion of food insecure households followed by Chivhu (40%).
- Norton (15%) had the least proportion of food insecure households.

# Cereal Insecure Population by Province

Province	Cereal Insecure (%)	Cereal Insecure Population (n)	Monthly Cereal Requirement (MT)	Quarterly Cereal Requirement (MT)	July 2025 to March 2026 Requirement (MT)
<b>Bulawayo</b>	25.2	168,133	2,074	6,221	18,663
<b>Manicaland</b>	35.4	93,079	1,148	3,444	10,332
<b>Mash Central</b>	22.5	15,081	186	558	1,674
<b>Mash East</b>	31.5	121,709	1,501	4,503	13,510
<b>Mash West</b>	24.8	92,808	1,145	3,434	10,302
<b>Mat North</b>	30.7	29,145	359	1,078	3,235
<b>Mat South</b>	33.1	33,208	410	1,229	3,686
<b>Midlands</b>	26.5	114,414	1,411	4,233	12,700
<b>Masvingo</b>	23.7	36,838	454	1,363	4,089
<b>Harare</b>	27.7	701,473	8,652	25,955	77,864
<b>National</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>1,408,385</b>	<b>17,370</b>	<b>52,110</b>	<b>156,331</b>

- The cereal insecure proportion translated to a total of 1,408,385 individuals.
- This equated to a requirement of 156,331 Metric Tonnes for July 2025 to March 2026.

# Cereal Insecure Population by Domain (1)

Domain	Cereal Insecure (%)	Cereal Insecure Population	Monthly Cereal Requirement (MT)	Quarterly Cereal Requirement (MT)	July 2025 to March 2026 Requirement (MT)
Murewa	41	19,511	241	722	2,166
Chivhu	39	6,441	79	238	715
Mutare	39	87,998	1,085	3,256	9,768
Caledonia	38	40,595	501	1,502	4,506
Gokwe Centre-Nembudziya	37	18,162	224	672	2,016
Plumtree	36	5,219	64	193	579
Gutu	34	8,316	103	308	923
Gweru	33	53,411	659	1,976	5,929
Hwange	33	13,302	164	492	1,477
Kadoma	33	38,479	475	1,424	4,271
Beitbridge	33	19,134	236	708	2,124
Rusape	32	12,004	148	444	1,332
Gwanda	31	8,338	103	309	926
Harare Rural	30	107,358	1,324	3,972	11,917
Chitungwiza	30	110,939	1,368	4,105	12,317
Chinhoyi	30	30,756	379	1,138	3,414

# Cereal Insecure Population by Domain (2)

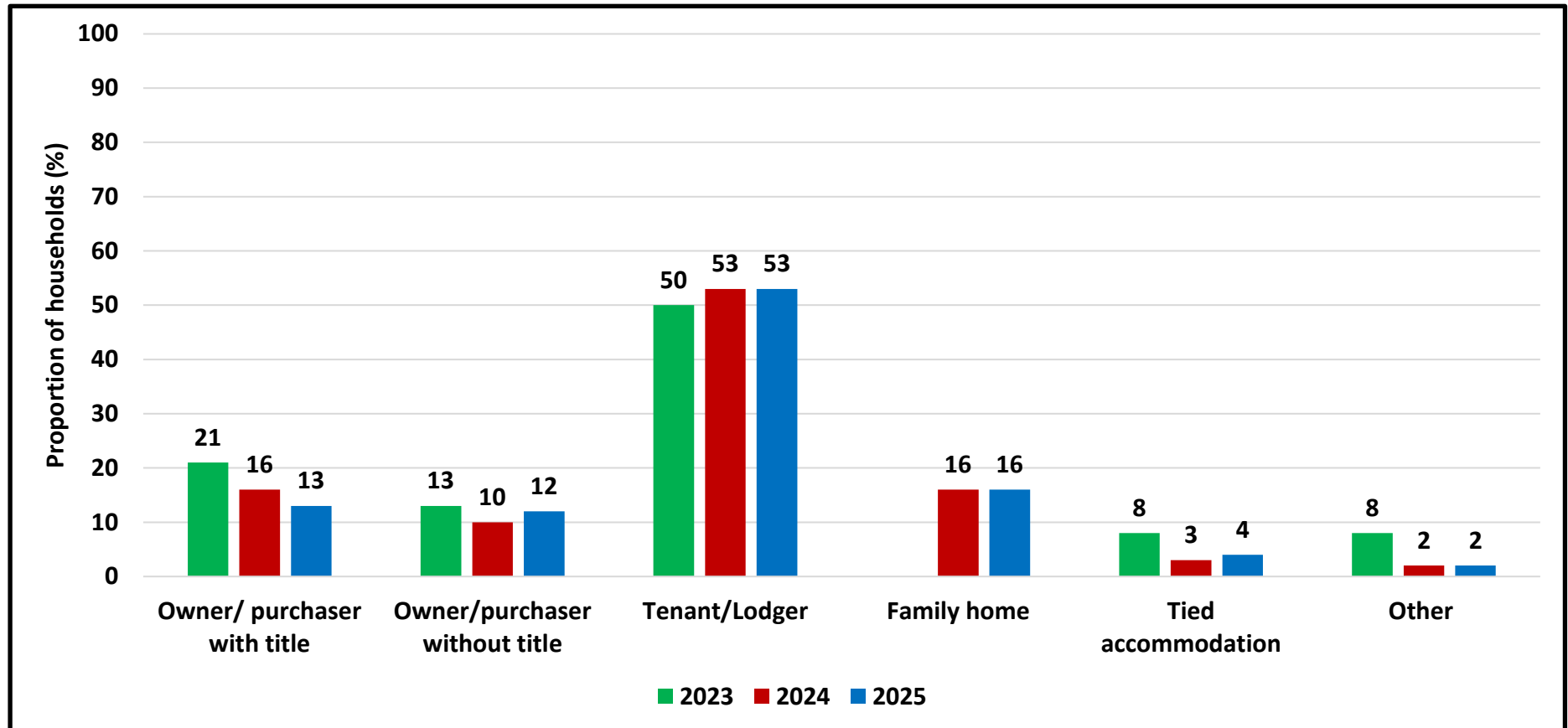
Domain	Cereal Insecure (%)	Cereal Insecure Population	Monthly Cereal Requirement (MT)	Quarterly Cereal Requirement (MT)	Annual Cereal Requirement (MT)
Mazowe-Mvurwi	26	4,068	50	151	452
Victoria Falls	26	9,152	113	339	1,016
Zvishavane	25	15,186	187	562	1,686
Bulawayo	25	168,133	2,074	6,221	18,663
Harare	25	371,203	4,578	13,735	41,204
Ruwa-Domboshava-Goromonzi	23	59,569	735	2,204	6,612
Marondera	22	14,344	177	531	1,592
Chegutu	22	14,356	177	531	1,594
Bindura	21	10,891	134	403	1,209
Chiredzi	20	8,145	100	301	904
Redcliffe	20	8,194	101	303	910
Epworth	19	40,183	496	1,487	4,460
Masvingo	17	15,650	193	579	1,737
Kwekwe	17	20,179	249	747	2,240
Norton	15	13,056	161	483	1,449
<b>National</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,408,385</b>	<b>17,370</b>	<b>52,110</b>	<b>156,331</b>

# Housing and Energy

# Housing Characteristics

- **Rooms occupied:** Refers to enclosed areas within a dwelling which are used by a household for all year-round living. The number of rooms occupied for dwelling excludes bathrooms, toilets, vestibules and rooms used solely for business purposes. Partially divided rooms are considered to be separate rooms if they are considered as such by the respondent.
- **Dwelling:** A set of living quarters.
- **Sleeping rooms:** Refers to rooms in a private dwelling that are used for sleeping purposes. It also includes rooms designed for other uses during the day such as dining rooms and living rooms. Also included are rooms currently used as bedrooms, even if they were not originally built as bedrooms.

# Tenure Status of Households



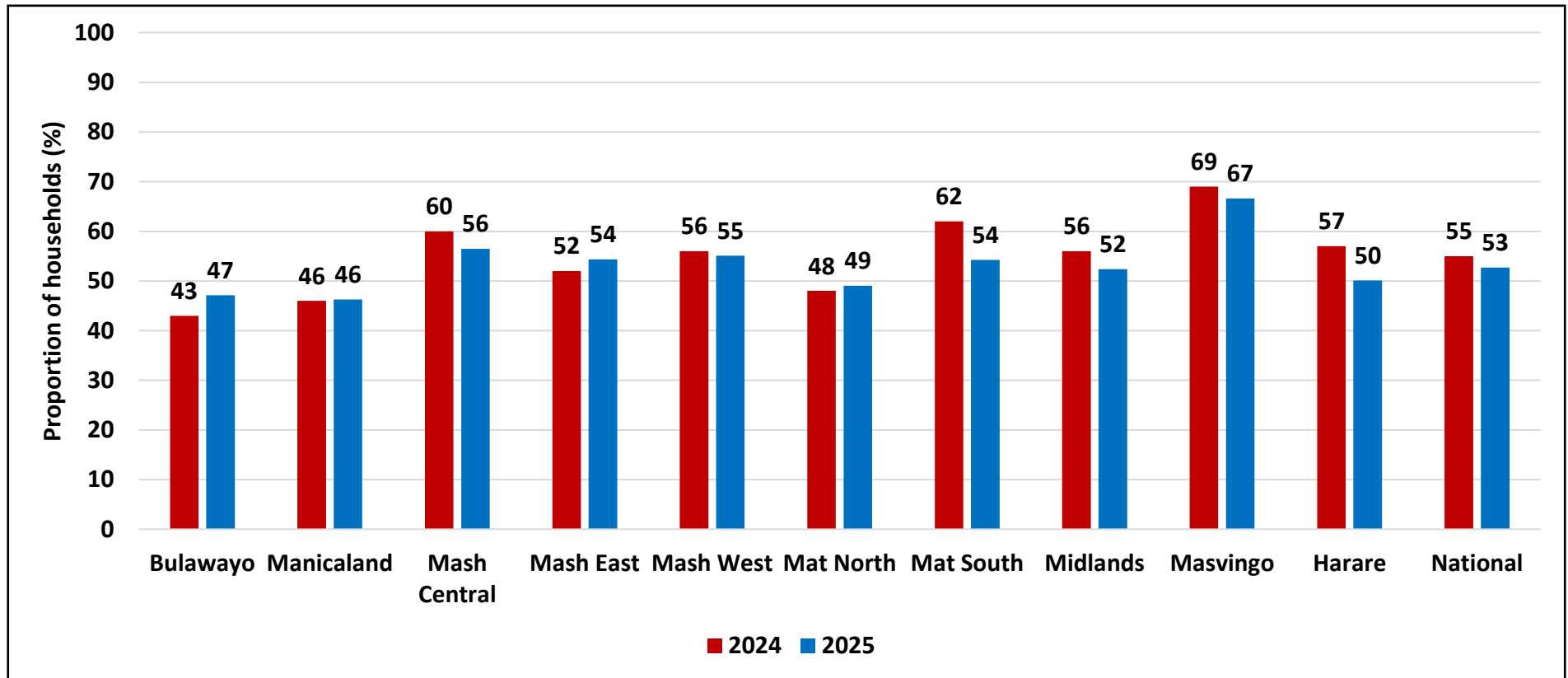
- The majority of urban households were tenants/lodgers (53%).

# Tenure Status of Households by Province

Province	Owner/ purchaser with title (%)	Owner/purchaser without title (%)	Tenant or Lodger (%)	Tied accommodation (%)	Family home (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	18	7	47	0	27	1
Manicaland	15	15	52	3	14	1
Mash Central	11	22	46	7	12	2
Mash East	17	8	57	5	11	2
Mash West	11	16	55	5	13	2
Mat North	7	12	52	18	9	2
Mat South	19	7	53	6	13	2
Midlands	13	8	63	3	10	2
Masvingo	11	4	71	2	11	1
Harare	12	16	44	1	25	2
<b>National</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>

- Matabeleland South (19%) and Bulawayo (18%) had the highest proportion of homeowners/purchasers with title deeds.

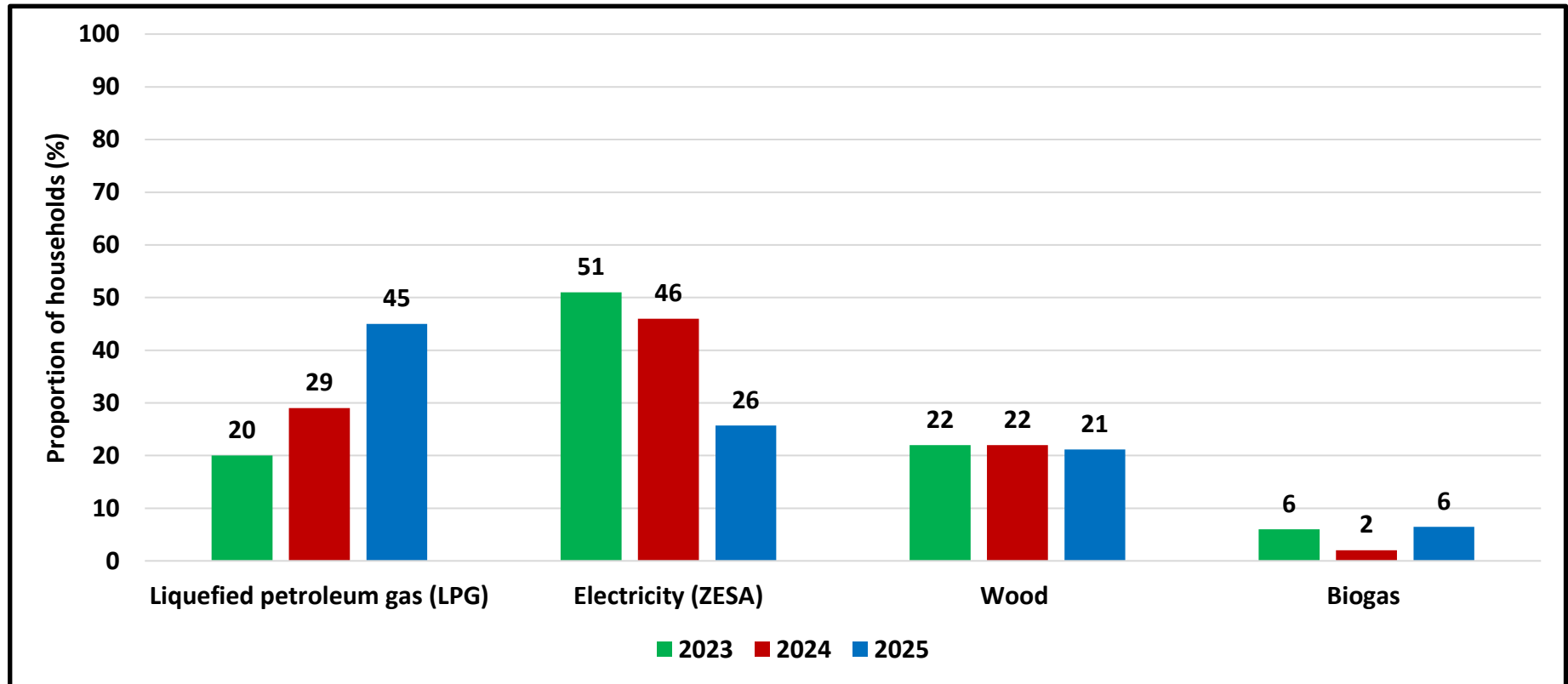
# Households Sharing Dwellings



- Masvingo (67%) and Mashonaland Central (56%) had the highest proportion of households which were sharing dwellings.

# Energy

# Types of Energy Used for Cooking



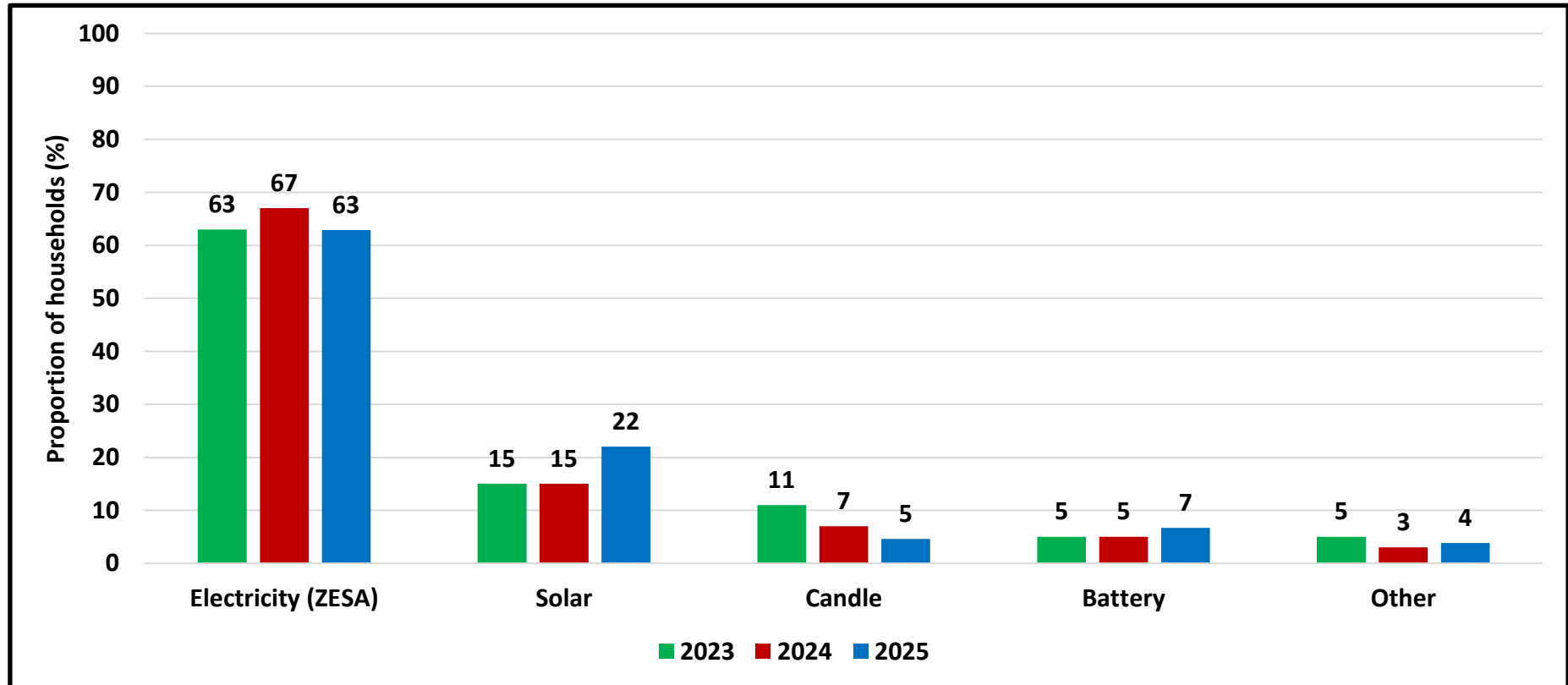
- There was a significant increase in the proportion of households using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in 2025 (45%) compared to 2024 (29%).

# Types of Energy Used for Cooking by Province

Province	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (%)	Electricity (%)	Wood (%)	Biogas (%)	Other (%)
Bulawayo	24.2	66.3	5.8	3.4	0.3
Manicaland	45.4	18.4	22.4	12.3	1.5
Mash Central	71.9	12.2	13.8	1.2	0.7
Mash East	47.3	17.2	30.0	3.4	2.1
Mash West	52.2	24.4	16.6	5.7	1.2
Mat North	12.9	55.6	23.5	2.6	5.4
Mat South	36.4	30.8	18.1	13.5	1.3
Midlands	19.8	30.5	41.9	6.7	1.1
Masvingo	29.6	17.0	46.6	5.4	1.3
Harare	73.5	6.8	8.8	8.9	1.9
<b>National</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>

- Masvingo (46.6%) and Midlands (41.9%) had the highest proportion of households which were using firewood for cooking.

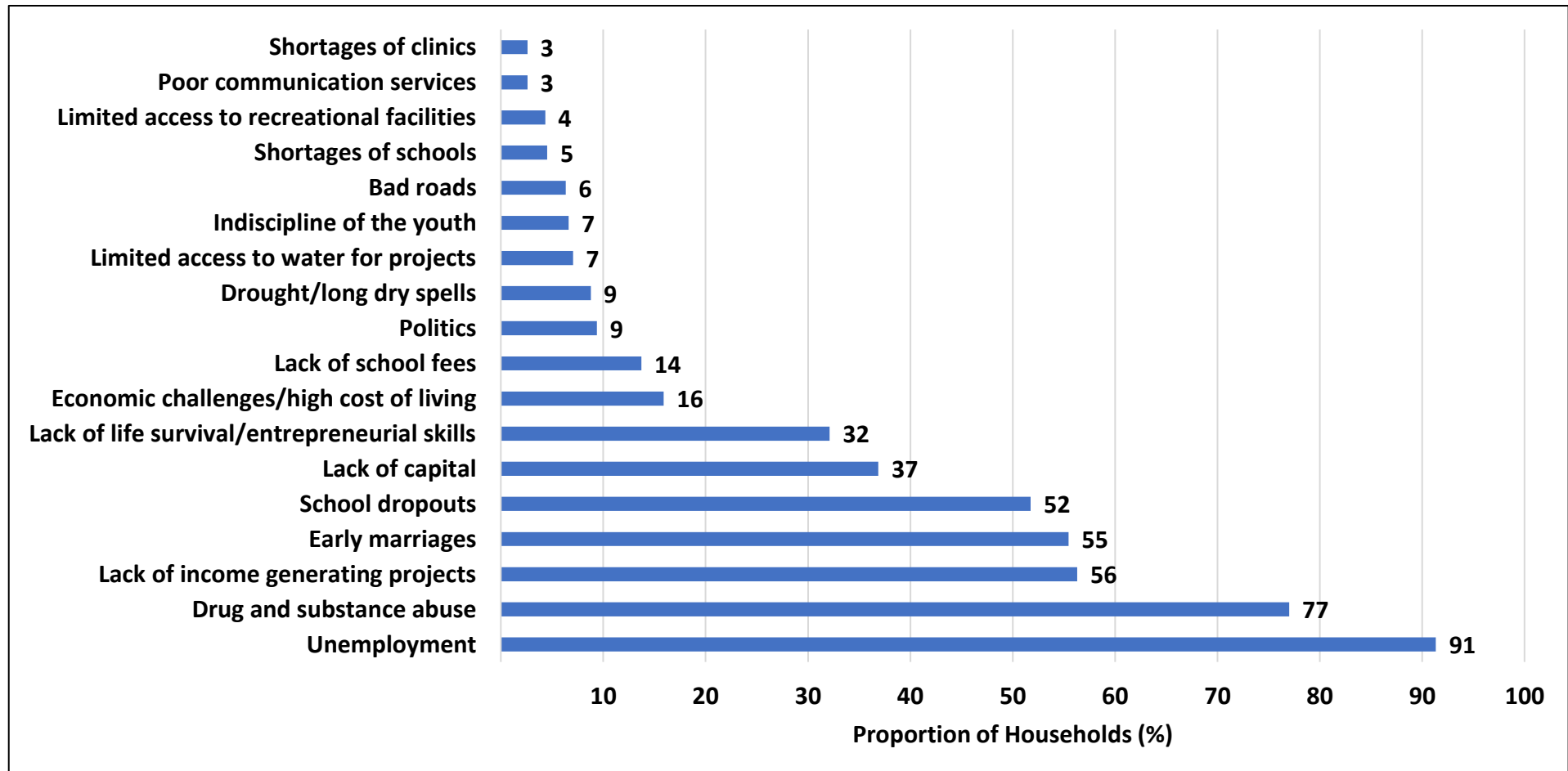
# Types of Energy Used for Lighting



- There was an increase in the proportion of households using solar energy for lighting from 15% in 2024 to 22% in 2025.

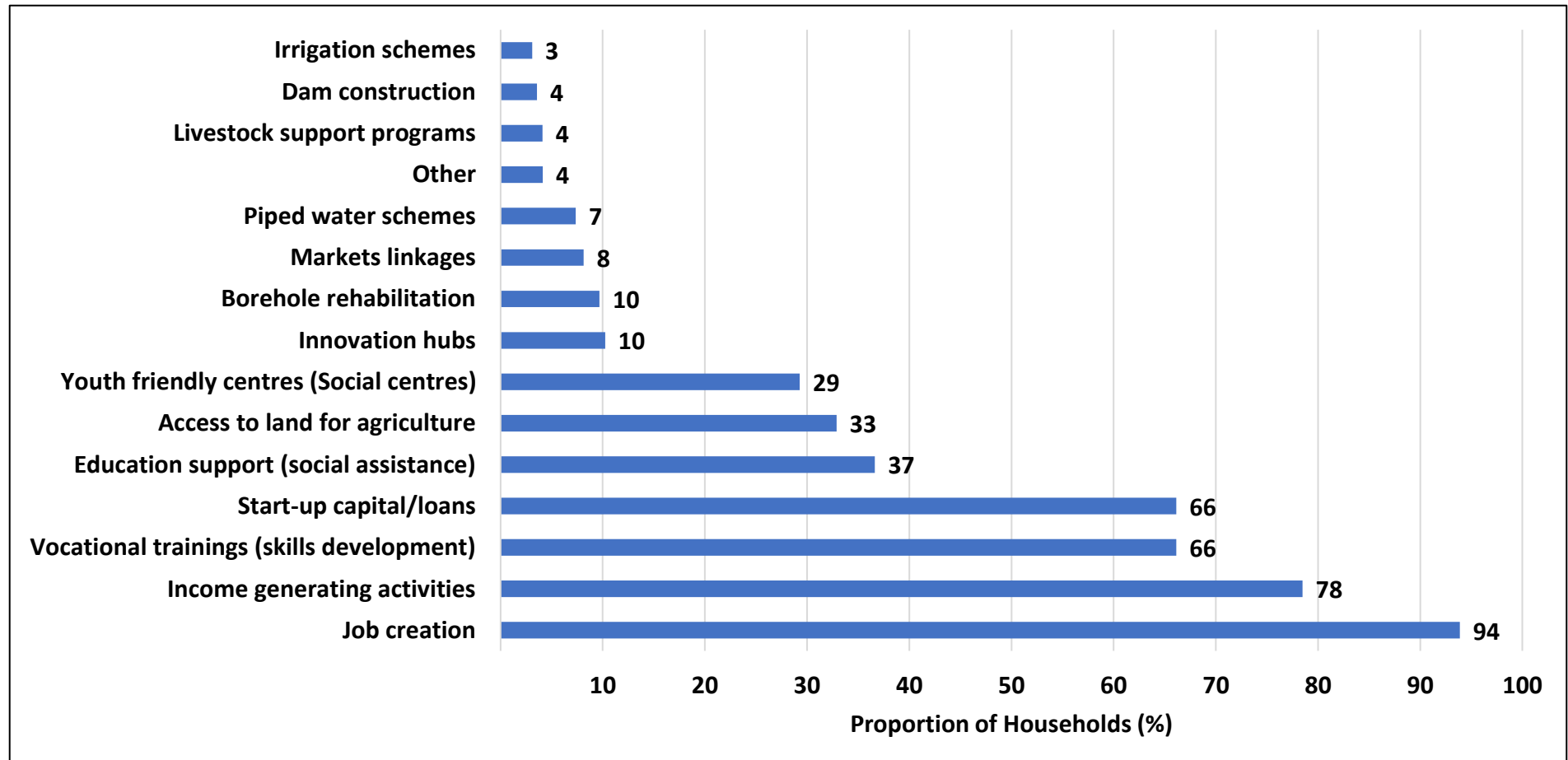
# **Youth Development Challenges and Priorities**

# Youth Development Challenges



- Unemployment (91%) and drug and substance abuse (77%) were the most reported youth development challenges in urban areas.

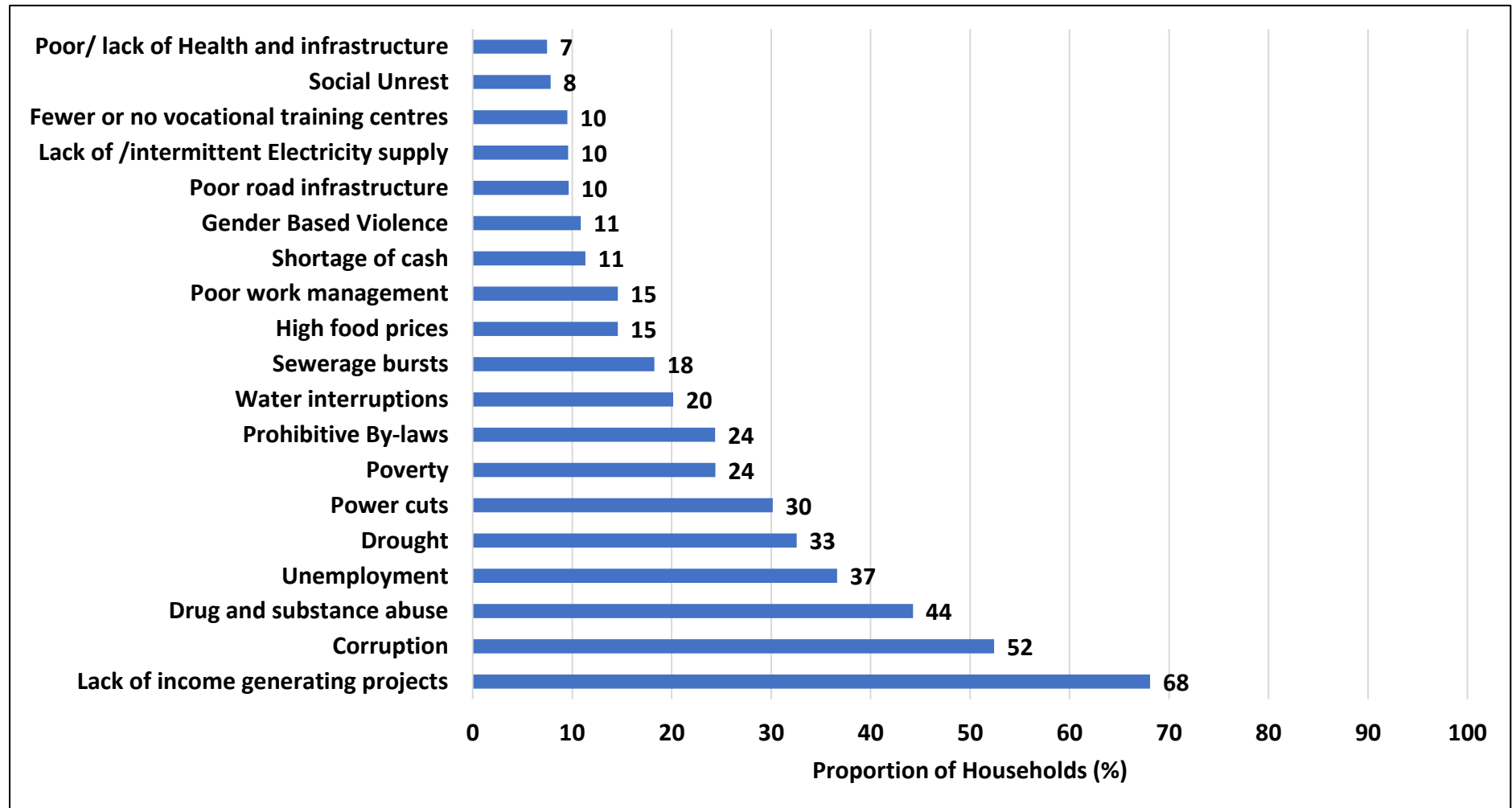
# Youth Development Priorities



- Job creation (94%) and income generating activities (78%) were the most reported youth development priorities in urban areas.

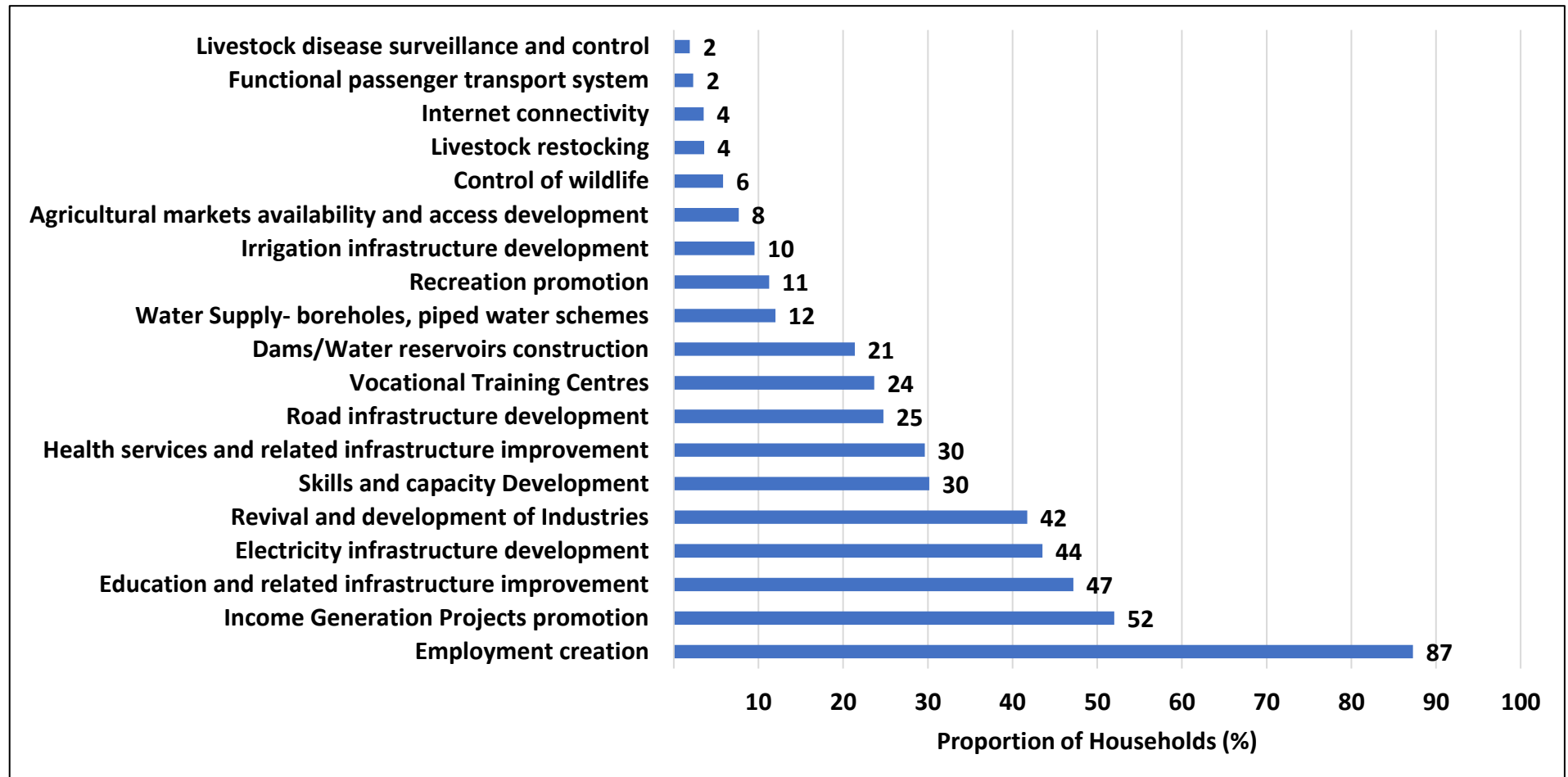
# **Community Development Challenges and Priorities**

# Community Development Challenges



- Lack of income generating projects (68%), corruption (52%) and drug abuse (44%) were the most reported development challenges in urban communities.

# Community Development Priorities



- Employment creation (87%) and income generation projection promotion (52%) were the most reported development priorities in urban communities.

# **Conclusions and Recommendations**

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## Education

- About 29% of children received hot meals at school. Masvingo (48%) and Mashonaland East (37%) had the highest proportion of children who received hot meals at school during the first term of 2025. Government is commended for scaling up support towards the school feeding programme. Studies have shown that the benefits of school feeding include alleviation of short-term hunger, increasing school enrolment, reducing school dropouts and absenteeism.

## Social Protection

- A combination of Government support (6.1%), diaspora relatives (3.9%), urban relatives (3.7%), rural relatives (3.2%) were major sources of support. This reflects a positive economic environment and evidence of social capital. The Ministry responsible for Finance is encouraged to consider Sovereign Insurance that is tailored for urban communities to strengthen disaster risk management systems and access rapid and predictable financing to protect the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of urban vulnerable populations.

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- About 48% of the households had access to limited sanitation, a small decrease from 50% reported in 2024. This was due to the large proportion of households which were sharing toilet facilities. There is need for the Ministry responsible for Housing to ensure operationalization of the Zimbabwe National Human Settlements Policy (ZNHSP) to facilitate the provision of affordable and inclusive housing solutions for urban households.

## Household Income

- The average household monthly income for January 2025 was USD 328. The most common sources of urban households' incomes were salaries/wages (30%), casual labour (28%) and vending/petty trade (21%). Government is commended for facilitating an enabling environment as reflected through an increase in the average monthly income for January 2025. Increased income levels in an economy are vital for overall economic wellbeing and societal progress.

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## Child Health

- In urban areas, 79% of children 12-59 months had received the required two doses of Vitamin A during the 12 months preceding survey, which was an improvement from 34% in 2024. The Ministry responsible for Health should continue with the strategies applied and upscale task sharing with community health workers and integrating with campaign blitz.

## Infant and Young Child Feeding

- Amongst urban children, Minimum Acceptable Diet declined from 10.4% to 4.7%. There is compelling evidence that supports the provision of nutritional counseling to caregivers through local multi-sector support group platforms, one-on-one and feeding demonstrations as potential interventions to improve complementary feeding practices and ultimately the nutritional status of children in developing countries. The Ministry responsible for Health should scale up caregiver access to counseling sessions that are linked with other multi-sector interventions..

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## Nutrition Status

- In urban areas, the prevalence of child wasting (Global Acute Malnutrition -GAM) was 5.3%, slightly above the 5% threshold for WHO emergency response. Bulawayo, Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South had GAM levels above the acceptable threshold of 5%. It is recommended that the Ministry responsible for Health sets up sentinel site surveillance mechanisms in urban centres with high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates to define and monitor early warning indicators and trigger levels that will facilitate implementation of anticipatory actions and an appropriate timely response in the event of a continued deterioration of the nutritional status in children under-five.

## Food Security

- Government is commended for ensuring sustainable economic environment that resulted in 33.3% reduction in food insecurity in urban areas from 42% in 2020 to 28% in 2025. Reduced food insecurity is crucial for household wellbeing, economic development, educational outcomes, and national stability ultimately leading to a more robust and prosperous society. However, attention needs to be given to the 1,408,385 urban food insecure households who will require 208,441MT of cereal for the year.

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