

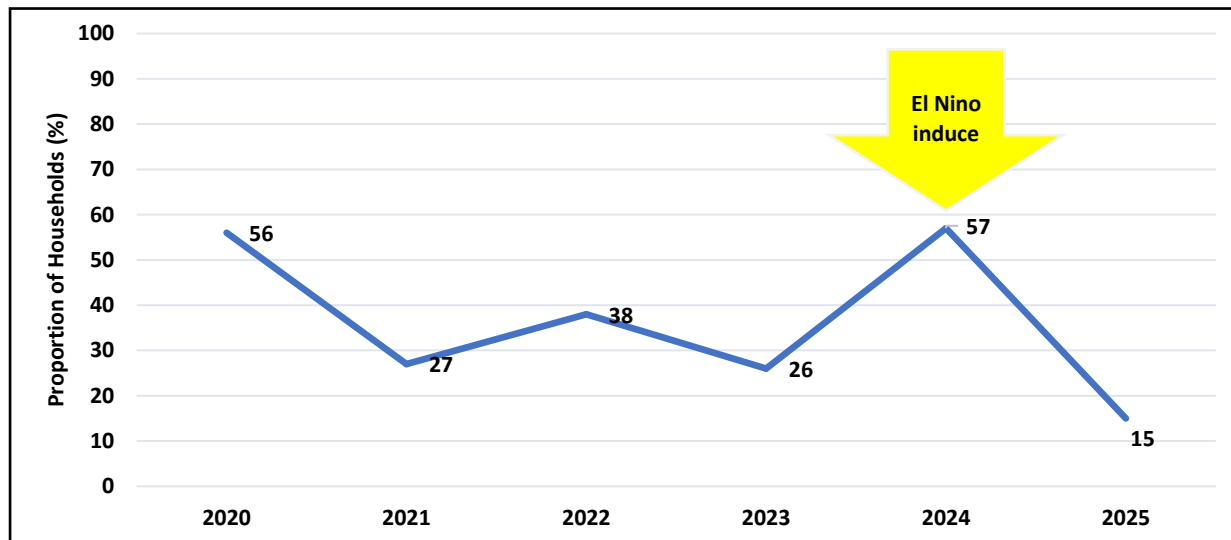


Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment *Factsheet*

The Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee continues to undertake annual livelihoods assessments in fulfilment of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. The overall purpose of the 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas to inform policy formulation and programming of appropriate interventions. This assessment was also guided by the need to demonstrate the impact of the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) and to provide the baseline for NDS2.

1. Cereal Insecurity

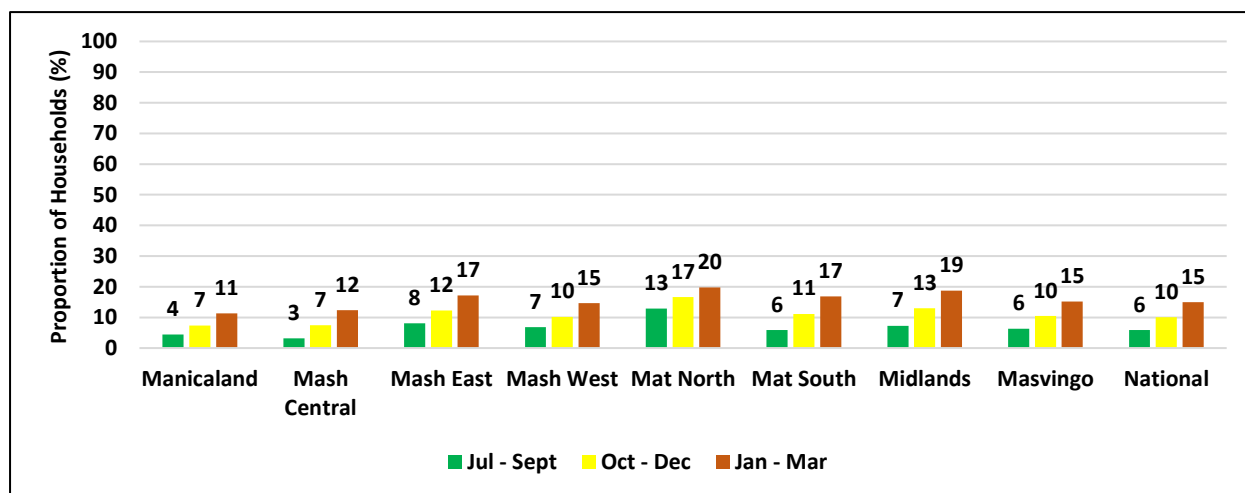
The cereal insecurity prevalence was projected to be 15% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2026).



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2025

There was a 73.2% drop in cereal insecurity from 56% in 2020 to 15% in 2025. Government is complimented for implementing shock responsive interventions that resulted in improved food security.

During the peak hunger period (January–March 2026), Matabeleland North (20%) and Midlands (19%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal access challenges.



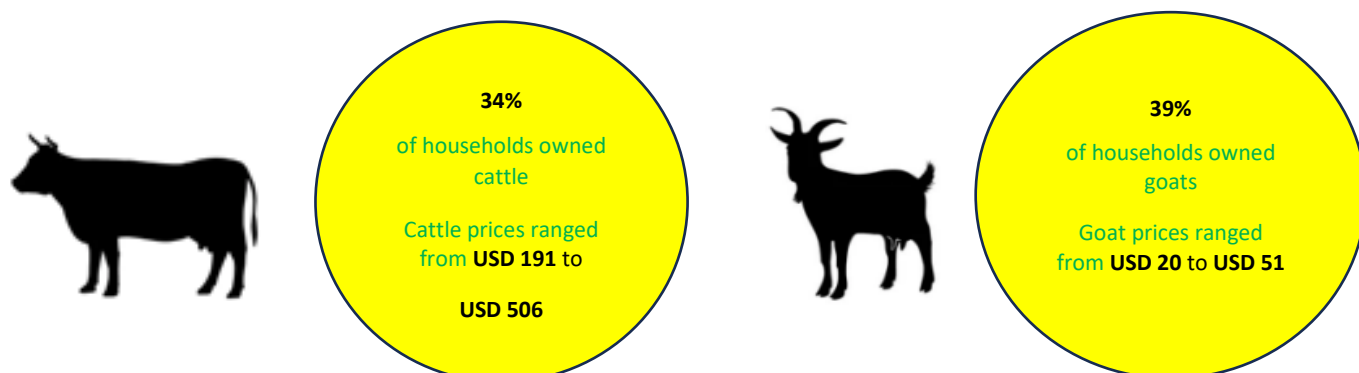
Cereal Insecurity

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

Province	Jul – Sept 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan – Mar 2026
Manicaland	66,628	137,074	223,213
Mashonaland Central	48,383	83,432	135,084
Mashonaland East	47,902	108,225	184,853
Mashonaland West	67,578	114,410	180,152
Matabeleland North	62,460	90,493	126,475
Matabeleland South	77,013	100,361	120,514
Midlands	93,278	176,157	264,725
Masvingo	105,017	186,654	272,154
National	609,087	1,046,895	1,548,432

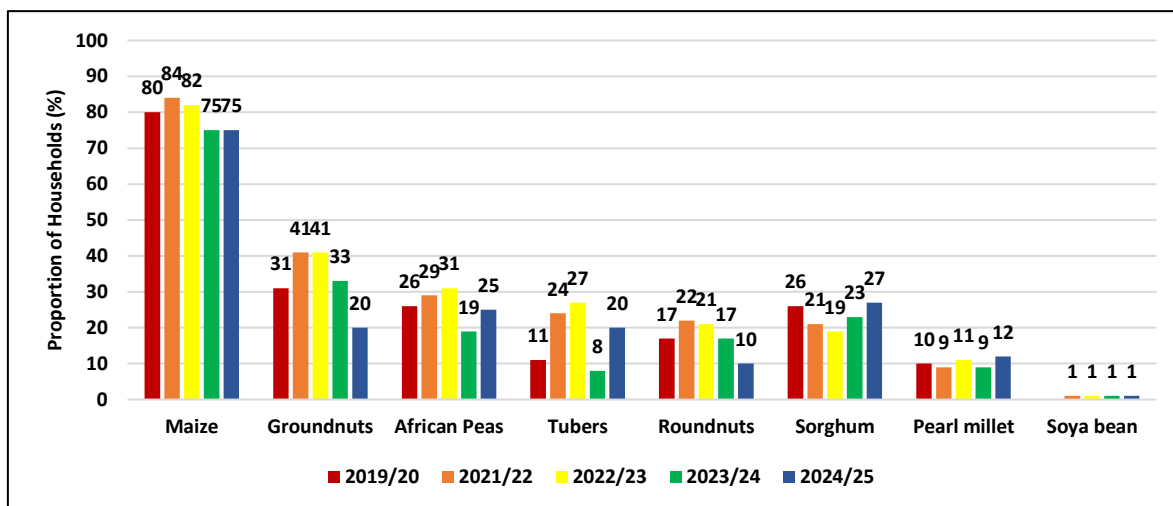
Masvingo (272,154) and Midlands (264,725) were projected to have the highest cereal insecure populations during the peak hunger period.

2. Livestock Production



3. Crop Production

There was an increase in the proportion of households which grew African peas, tubers, pearl millet and sorghum.



Households Which Grew Crops

Season Harvest

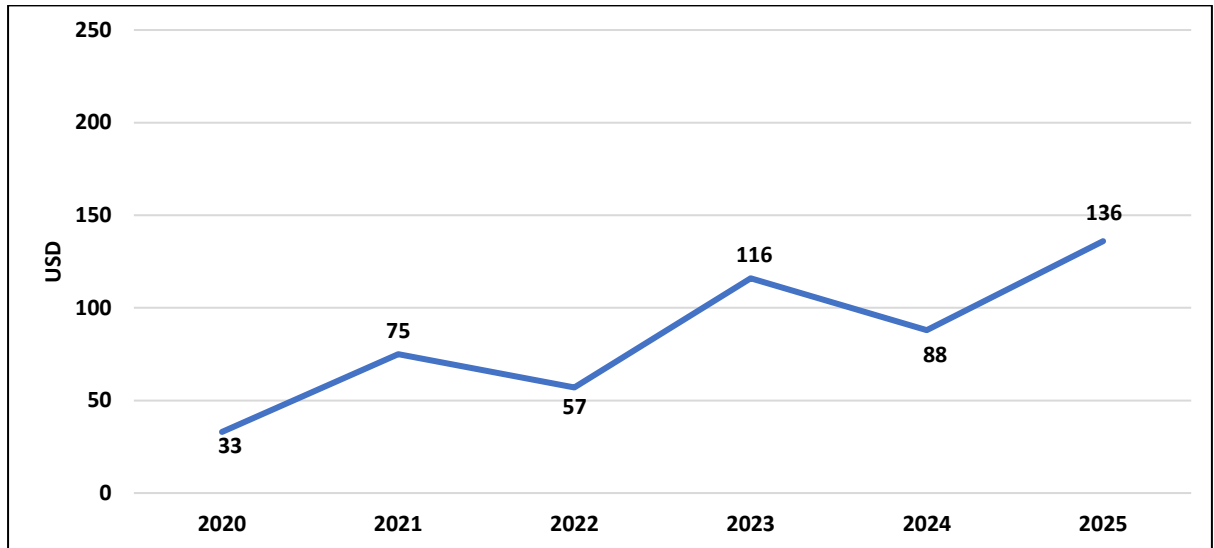
	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)		Total (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Manicaland	105	316.7	6	37.5	3	6.6	1	18.7	115	379.4
Mash Central	107	326.8	10	128.1	0	0.3	0	9.0	117	464.2
Mash East	88	436.2	2	21.7	0	5.8	1	6.5	91	470.2
Mash West	50	389.0	4	57.6	0	0.4	0	0.6	54	447.6
Mat North	30	168.7	39	152.0	30	0.6	0	135.9	99	457.2
Mat South	26	118.6	19	29.3	8	0.9	0	17.8	53	166.7
Midlands	136	360.9	9	40.8	0	3.4	0	3.6	145	408.7
Masvingo	61	229.1	28	71.5	16	11.3	2	56.6	108	368.4
National	77	299.9	14	66.4	7	3.7	1	29.5	99	399.4

On average, households harvested 299.9 kgs of maize and 66.4 kgs of sorghum.

4. Household Income

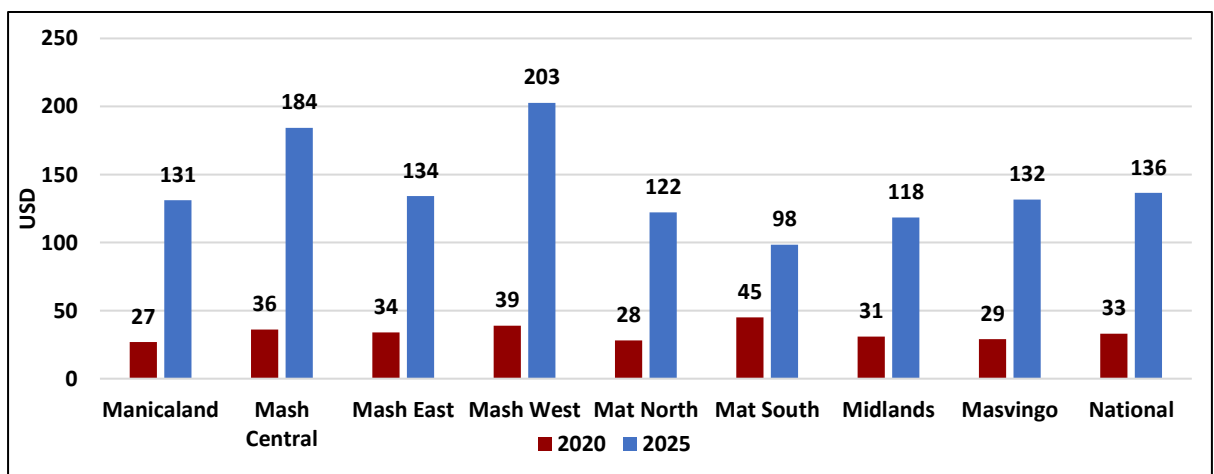
Income Trends

Compared to base year 2020, there has been a positive impact on the economy as evidenced by average household incomes increasing from USD 33 in 2020 to USD 136 in 2025.



Income Trends: 2020-2025

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025

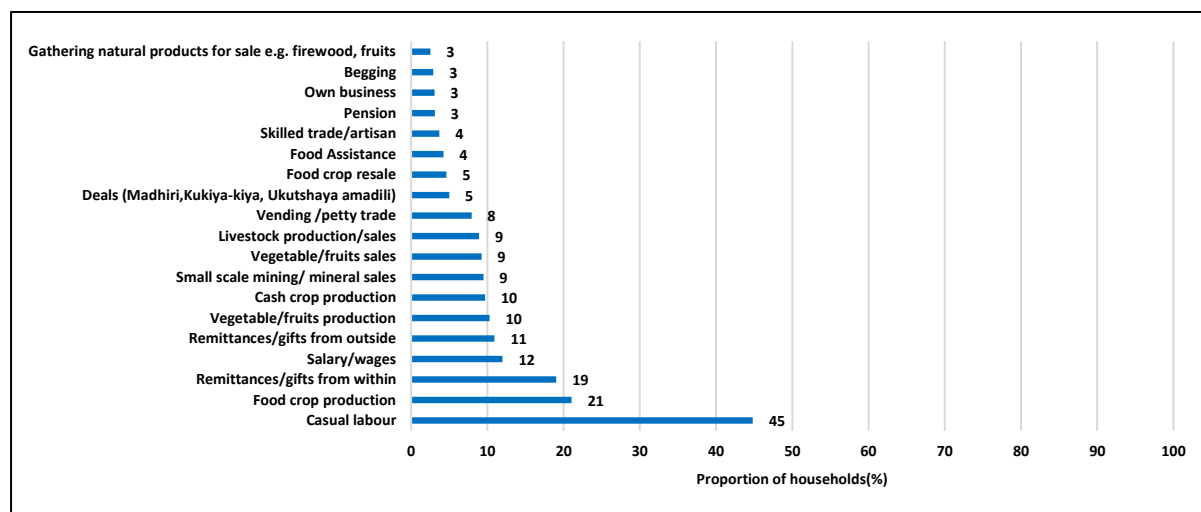


Average Household Income

Mashonaland West had the highest average household monthly income (USD 203) for April 2025 while Matabeleland South (USD 98) had the lowest.

Income Sources

Most households relied on casual labour (45%), food crop production (21%) and remittances from within Zimbabwe (19%) in 2025.



Households' Most Important Income Sources

5. Social Assistance

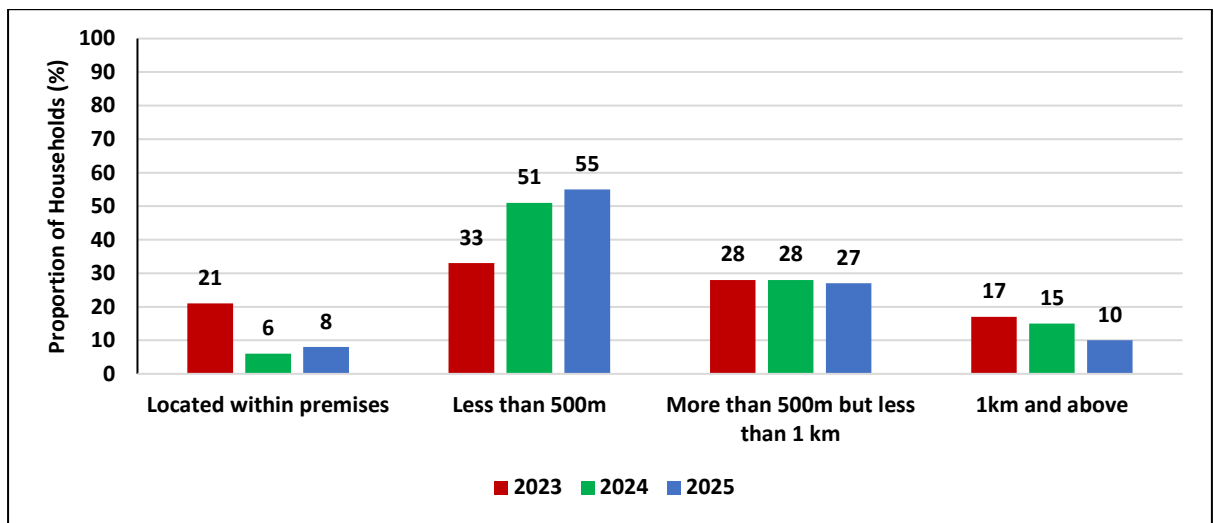
Province	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora Relatives (%)		Mutual Groups Support (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Manicaland	41	70	7	14	1	2	5	18	5	23	2	4	0	0
Mash Central	56	72	4	19	1	3	3	11	5	22	1	2	1	1
Mash East	51	61	4	12	1	2	6	13	5	18	1	3	1	0
Mash West	42	73	1	6	1	3	2	10	1	23	1	4	0	1
Mat North	35	64	9	18	1	3	6	16	6	23	6	13	1	3
Mat South	31	48	11	16	1	2	6	11	5	20	5	16	1	0
Midlands	43	64	3	17	1	2	4	16	1	22	2	9	0	1
Masvingo	35	65	11	27	0	6	8	27	6	35	5	13	1	3
National	43	65	8	16	1	3	5	15	4	23	3	8	1	1

Sources of Support

Government remains the main source of support (65%), followed by rural relatives (23%), UN/NGO support (16%) and urban relatives (15%). The support received from relatives (both rural and urban) reflects a positive enabling economic environment and evidence of social capital.

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

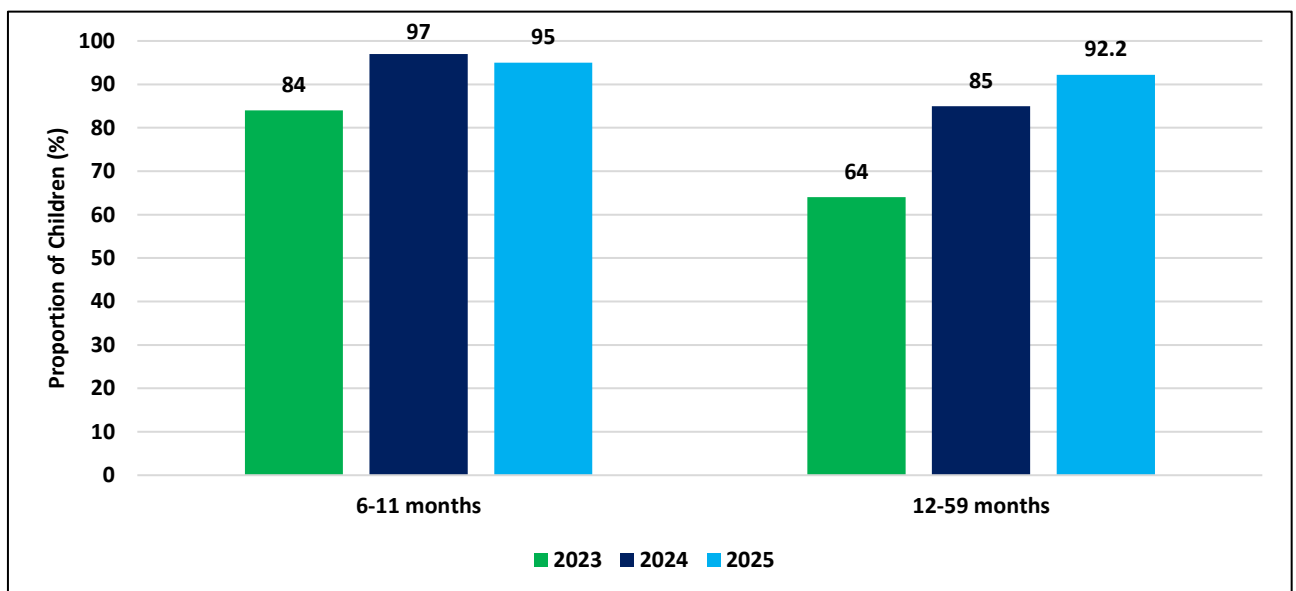
About 90% of the households accessed water within a kilometer.



Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

7. Child Health

Vitamin A Supplementation



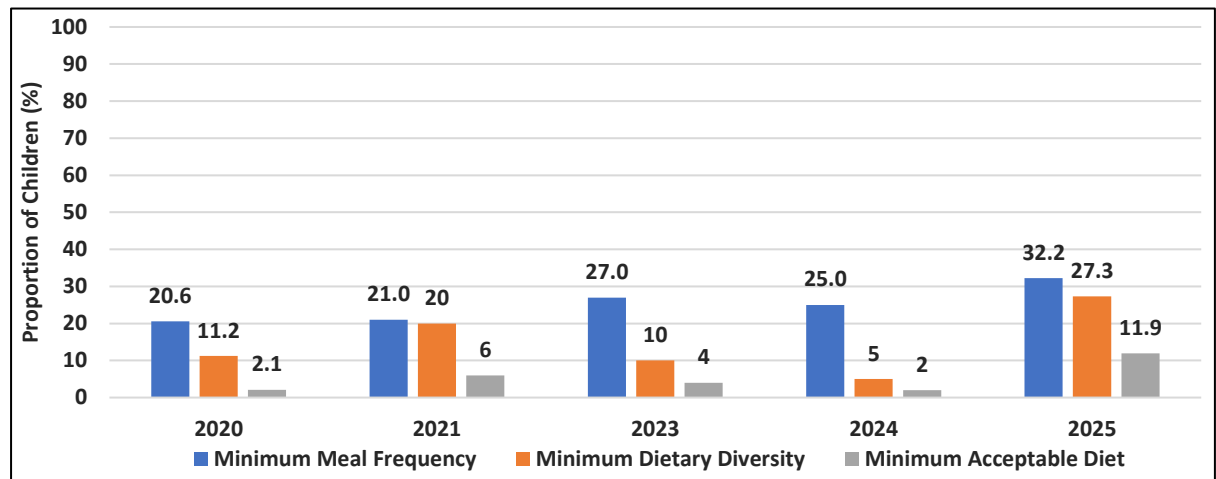
Vitamin A Supplementation

The Government is complimented for attaining its aspiration as outlined in the NDS1 to reach a target of 90% for vitamin A supplementation for children 6-59 months.

8. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

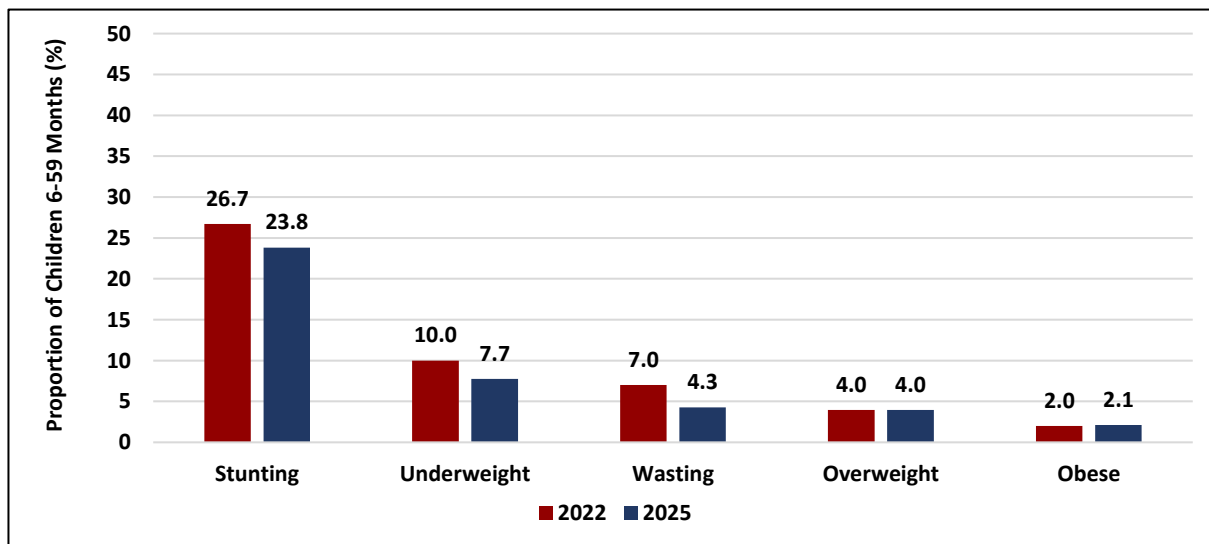
The proportion of children fed a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) improved from 2.1% in 2020 to 11.9% in 2025.



Diet Quality for Children Aged 6 – 23 Months

9. Child Nutrition Status

Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months



Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months

Nationally, the prevalence of GAM (wasting) was 4.3% which is acceptable and is below the WHO threshold of 5%. Stunting prevalence remains high (23.8%) according to the World Health Organization classification and it also falls short of the NDS1 target of 17%.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

Government and its Development Partners are recommended to continue implementing measures and strategies in the following areas:

- a) **Food Security:** At peak (January to March 2026), 15% of the rural households (approximately 1,548,432 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The quarterly requirements will be 22,536MT for the July to September 2025 period, 38,735MT for the October to December 2025 period and 57,292MT for the January to March 2026 period. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.
- b) **Household Incomes:** Rural households' incomes have been on an increase since 2020. Government is commended for implementing robust economic stabilisation measures which have contributed to this improvement. However, the major income sources (casual labour (45%) and food crop production (21%)) are susceptible to climate related shocks. Therefore, there is need to up-scale rural development programmes which promote livelihoods diversification and enhance resilience through the expansion of school-based, village-level and youth-led business units as anchors for local economic growth and employment generation.
- c) **Social Protection:** Support from Government increased from 43% in 2024 to 65% in 2025 due to low harvests caused by the El-Nino induced drought. The Ministry responsible for Finance is encouraged to continue with Sovereign Insurance to strengthen disaster risk management systems and access rapid and predictable financing to protect the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations.



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