Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

Mashonaland West Province Report

Foreword

Under the leadership of FNC, the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (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. The 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment underpins the value of precision sustainable livelihoods planning to provide spatially resolved data to guide efficient targeting of interventions to those populations with the greatest need, to reduce social development disparities and accelerate progress. The results will enable quantification of inequalities and identification of successes and failures of programmes and policies at local level.

The 25th Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report provides updates on pertinent rural 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. The report will assist the country to evaluate its performance against set targets and aspirations; monitoring the continuing implementation of the National Development Strategic policies, Agriculture related policies, Social Assistance and Social Protection related policies, the Food Nutrition Security Policy, as well as the country's progress against regional and global commitments. The assessment is one of the documents that will be useful in providing baseline data critical for the development of the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS 2).

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Government of Zimbabwe and its Development Partners for the financial and technical support which enabled us to undertake the survey in a timely manner. These resources also went a long way in facilitating the collection of data to enable the representation of key indicators at district level.

We remain indebted to the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels for their support. We appreciate the rural communities of Zimbabwe, the local authorities as well as Traditional Leaders for cooperating and supporting this assessment. We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work towards addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

George D. Kembo (Dr.)

DIRECTOR GENERAL/ ZIMLAC CHAIRPERSON

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Acknowledgements

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government and Public Works
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- Rural District Councils (RDCs)
- ZIMSTAT
- Welthungerhilfe
- WFP
- UNICEF
- START Network
- UNDP
- FAO

Introduction and Background

Introduction

- ZimLAC plays a significant role in operationalising Commitment Six, of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (GoZ, 2012), in which the “Government of Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making”.
- The information system is critical in informing decision making as it provides evidence for timely response by Government.
- ZimLAC livelihood assessments’ results continue to be an important tool for informing and guiding policies and programmes that respond to the prevailing food and nutrition security situation with 12 urban and 25 rural livelihoods updates having been produced to date.

Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

ZimLAC is a consortium of Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia which was established in 2002 and is led and regulated by Government. It is chaired by FNC, a Department in the Office of the President and Cabinet, whose mandate is to promote a multi-sectoral response to food insecurity and nutrition problems in a manner that ensures that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

ZimLAC supports Government, particularly FNC in:

- Convening and coordinating national food and nutrition security issues in Zimbabwe.
- Charting a practical way forward for fulfilling legal and existing policy commitments in food and nutrition security.
- Advising Government on the strategic direction for improved food and nutrition security.
- Undertaking a "watchdog role" 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.
- Providing baseline data for NDS 2

Purpose

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

Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

1. To estimate the rural population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2025/2026 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
2. To assess the nutrition status of the rural population.
3. To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene), assets, agriculture, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
4. To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions.
5. To determine the effects of shocks and stressors experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
6. To identify development priorities for communities.

Contextual Analysis

- The 2024-25 production season generally experienced a delayed start. A normal to below normal rainfall pattern was experienced from October to November 2024, influenced by a weak La Niña. However, a transition into a stronger La Niña phase in the second half of the season resulted in more favourable rainfall, providing optimal conditions for planting and growth of crops.
- According to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development's Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment Report (CLAFA – 2), most Pfumvudza crops were planted during November 2024 (40%) and December 2024 (41%), with a smaller portion of crops planted later in January 2025 (19%).
- There was a 290% increase in food crop production compared to last season. The season also experienced an increased production of sorghum and pearl millet due to improved agroecological tailoring of crops. Maize production is estimated at 2,293,556 MT while Traditional Grains production is estimated to be 634,650 MT. Total cereal production is expected to be 2,928,206 MT. (CLAFA – 2).
- Yield levels from Pfumvudza/Intwasa in maize for the 2024/25 season were slightly higher than those from conventional farming.
- Tobacco production is expected to increase by 15%, Cotton by 52% and Sunflower by 303%. (CLAFA – 2).

Contextual Analysis

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team that conducted the 2025 Article IV Consultation;
- Zimbabwe is experiencing a degree of macroeconomic stability despite lingering policy challenges. During the first half of 2025, better climate conditions and historically high gold prices have boosted agricultural and mining activity, strengthening the current account and contributing to the recovery, with growth projected at 6 percent in 2025.
- On April 5, 2024, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe introduced a new currency called Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG; code: ZWG). which is backed by a composite basket of foreign currency and precious metals (mainly gold) held by the RBZ. This structured currency was designed to foster 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 required to convert existing Zimbabwe dollar balances into ZWG.
- The monetary policy formulation and implementation pursued by the Reserve Bank since 5 April 2024 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 6 million people in rural areas with a package comprised of pulses, oils and cereal.
- **Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme:** In order to alleviate 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

- 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 programmes.
    - **Public Spending Control:** Maintained tight control over public spending and subsidies.
    - **ZWG 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

- 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 Nino-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.

- The Reserve Bank noted that most banks had stopped charging monthly bank maintenance or service charges for individual bank accounts with a conservative daily balance of USD 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 USD 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 USD 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.

Government Mitigatory Measures

- 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 ZWG 24.4 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.

- 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.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design

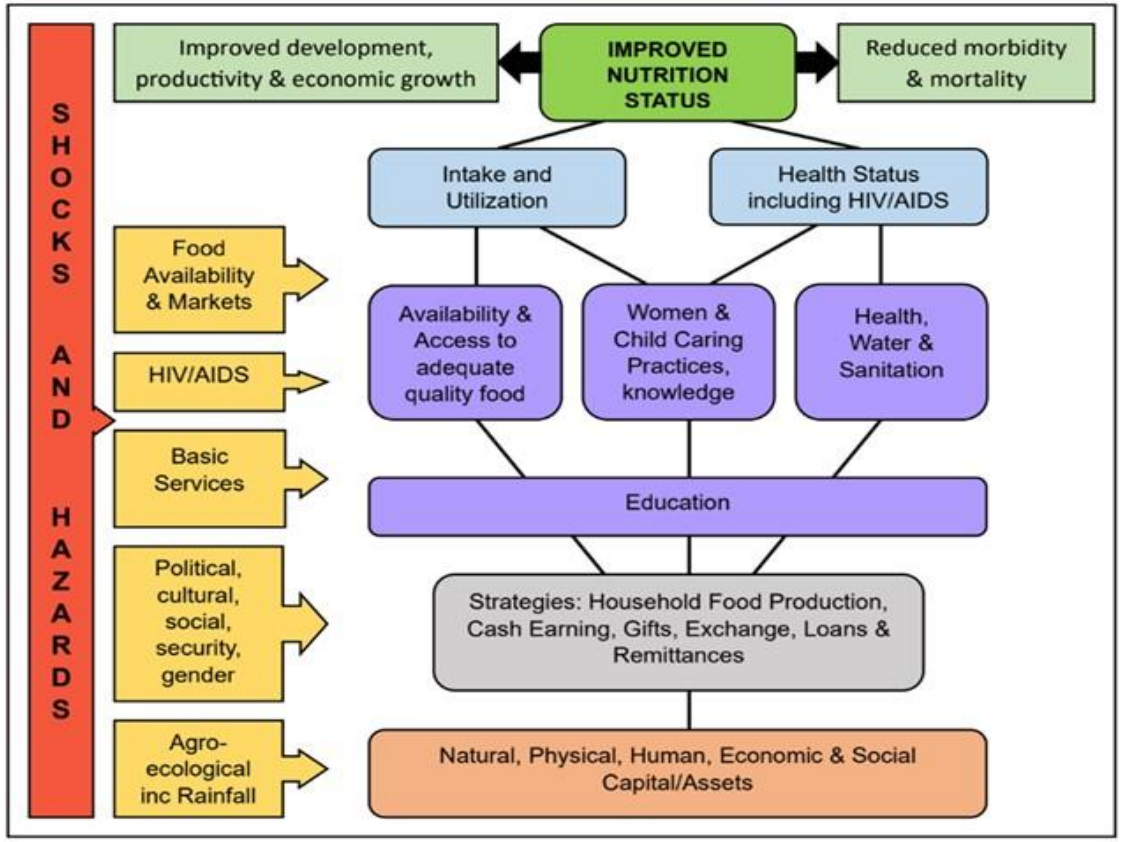


Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

- The assessment was a cross-sectional study whose design was guided and informed by the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework (Figure 1), which Zimbabwe adopted in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012), and the conceptual framework on food security dimensions propounded by Jones et al. (2013).
- The assessment was also guided and informed by the resilience framework (Figure 2) so as to influence the early recovery of households affected by various shocks.
- The assessment looked at food availability and access as pillars that have confounding effects on food security as defined in the FNSP (GoZ, 2012).
- Accordingly, the assessment measured the amount of energy available to a household from all its potential sources hence the **primary sampling unit** for the assessment was the household.
- The frameworks also place nutrition as an outcome of multi sectoral drivers at various levels and its role in driving the economic development.

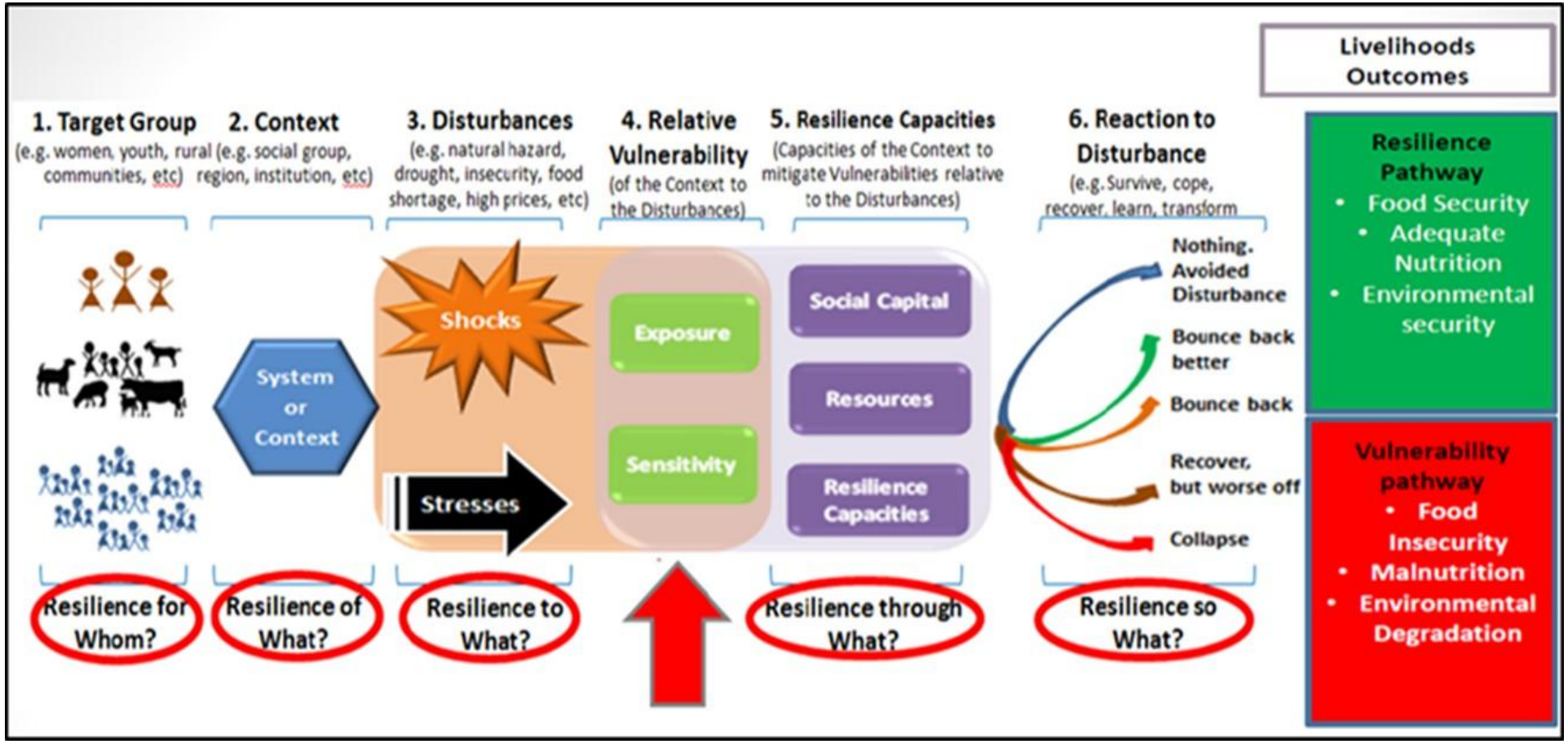
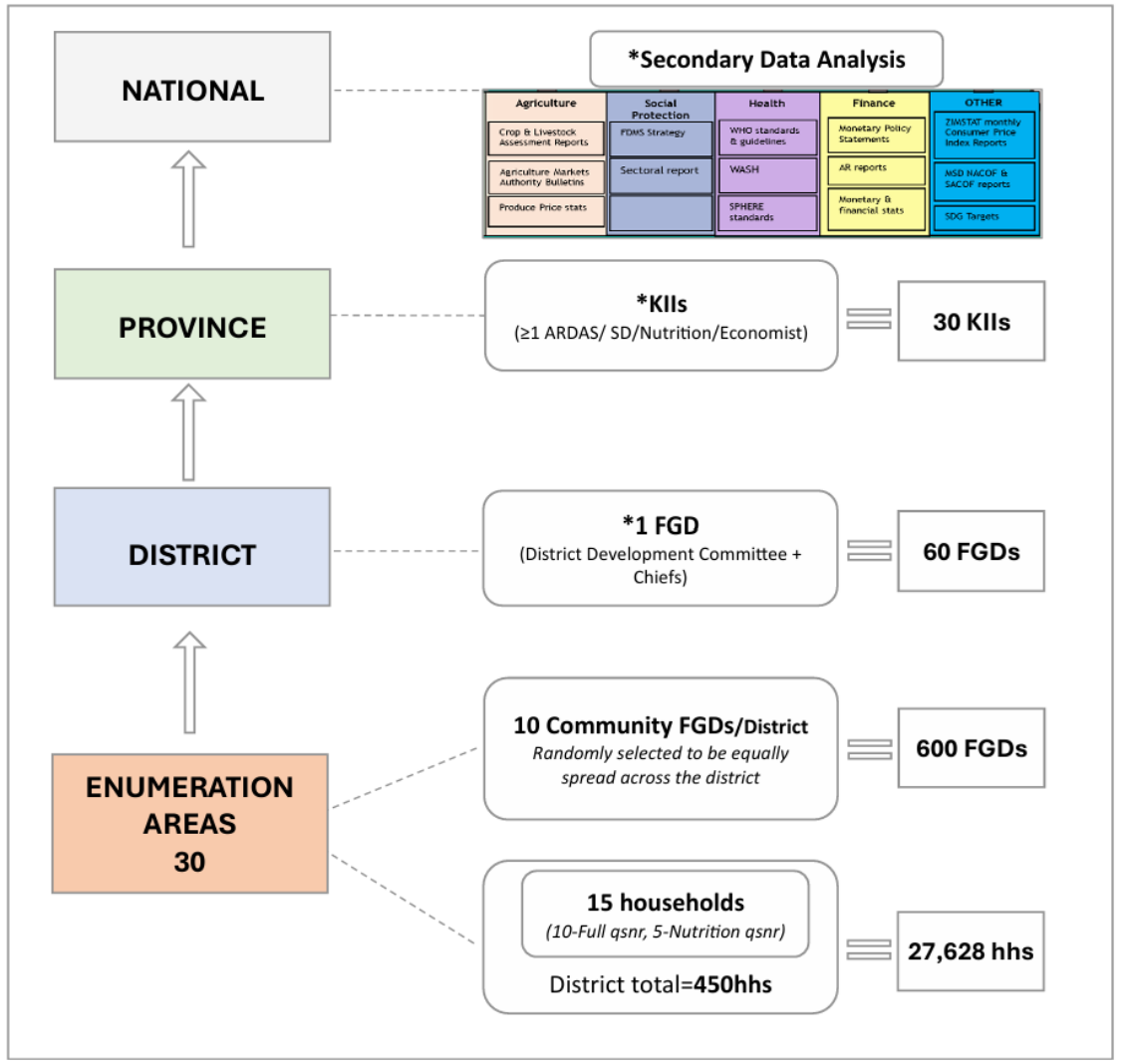


Figure 2: Zimbabwe Resilience Framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

Methodology – Assessment Process

- ZimLAC, through multi-stakeholder consultations, developed an appropriate assessment design concept note and data collection tools informed by the assessment objectives.
- The primary data collection tools used in the assessment were the android–based structured household questionnaire and the community Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide.
- ZimLAC national supervisors (including Academia, Provincial Agritex Extension Officers, Provincial Nutritionists and Provincial Coordinators) and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. These underwent training in all aspects of the assessment. Training for enumerators was done at district level.
- The Ministry of Local Government coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial supervision and district enumeration vehicles. Four enumerators (including 1 anthropometrist) were selected from each district for data collection.
- Primary data collection took place from 21 May to 11 June 2025. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

Methodology – Assessment Process



Methodology- Sampling and Sample Size

- Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level.
- The survey collected data from 210 randomly selected Enumeration Areas (EAs).
- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of:
  - Sampling of 30 clusters per each of the 7 Mashonaland West districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2022 master sampling frame using the Probability Proportional to Population Size (PPS) (PPS) methodology.
  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).
- At least 300 households were sampled per district and a total of 2,092 households were interviewed.
- 72 community FGDs, were held across all the districts.

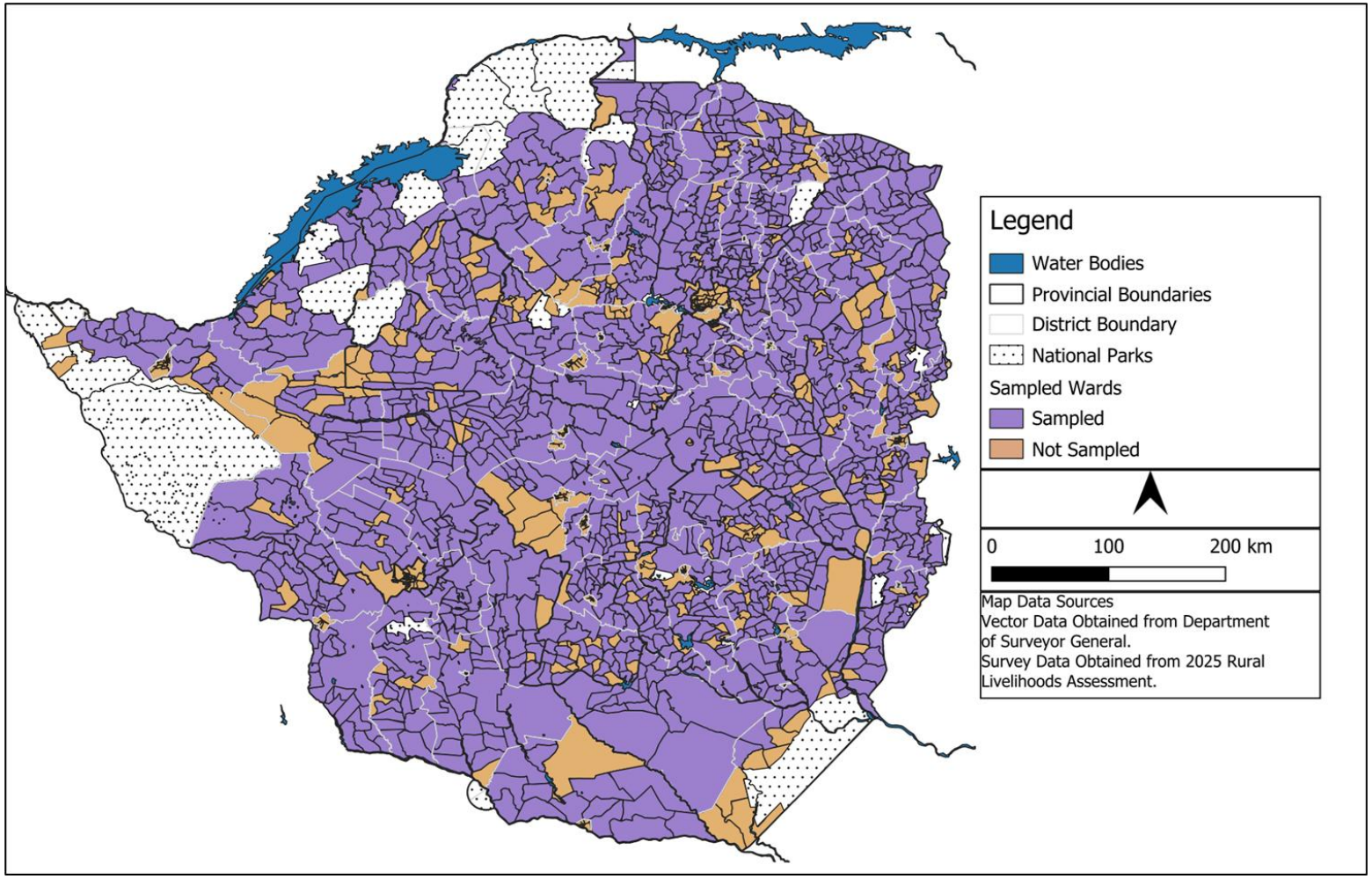
District	Households
Chegutu	300
Hurungwe	300
Kariba	302
Makonde	294
Zvimba	301
Mhondoro Ngezi	295
Sanyati	300
Mashonaland West	**2092**

Methodology- Sampling and Sample Size for Nutrition Outcomes

- All members in the households were considered for anthropometric measurements, while adults were considered for non-communicable disease risk factors and individual diets targeted at women and children under 5 years.
- At least 450 households were sampled per district and a total of 3142 households were interviewed.
- Anthropometric measurements were taken from 3170 Children aged 6-59 months, 491 Children aged 5-9 years, 598 Adolescents 10-19 years, and 2378 Adults aged 20 years and above.

District	Total
Chegutu	450
Hurungwe	448
Kariba	449
Makonde	448
Zvimba	451
Mhondoro Ngezi	445
Sanyati	451
Mashonaland West	3142

Methodology – Sampled Wards



Data Preparation and Analysis

- Primary data was transcribed using CSEntry on android gadgets and using CSPro. It was consolidated and converted into SPSS, STATA and DBF datasets for:
  - Household structured interviews
  - Community Focus Group Discussions
- Data cleaning and analysis were done using SPSS, STATA, ENA, Microsoft Excel and GIS packages.
- Analyses of the different thematic areas covered by the assessment were informed and guided by relevant local and international frameworks, where they exist.
- Gender, as a cross cutting issue, was recognised throughout the analysis.

Technical Scope

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

- Health
- WASH
- Nutrition
- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities
- Food security
- Shocks and stressors
- Social protection
- Youth
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender

Demographic Description of the Sample

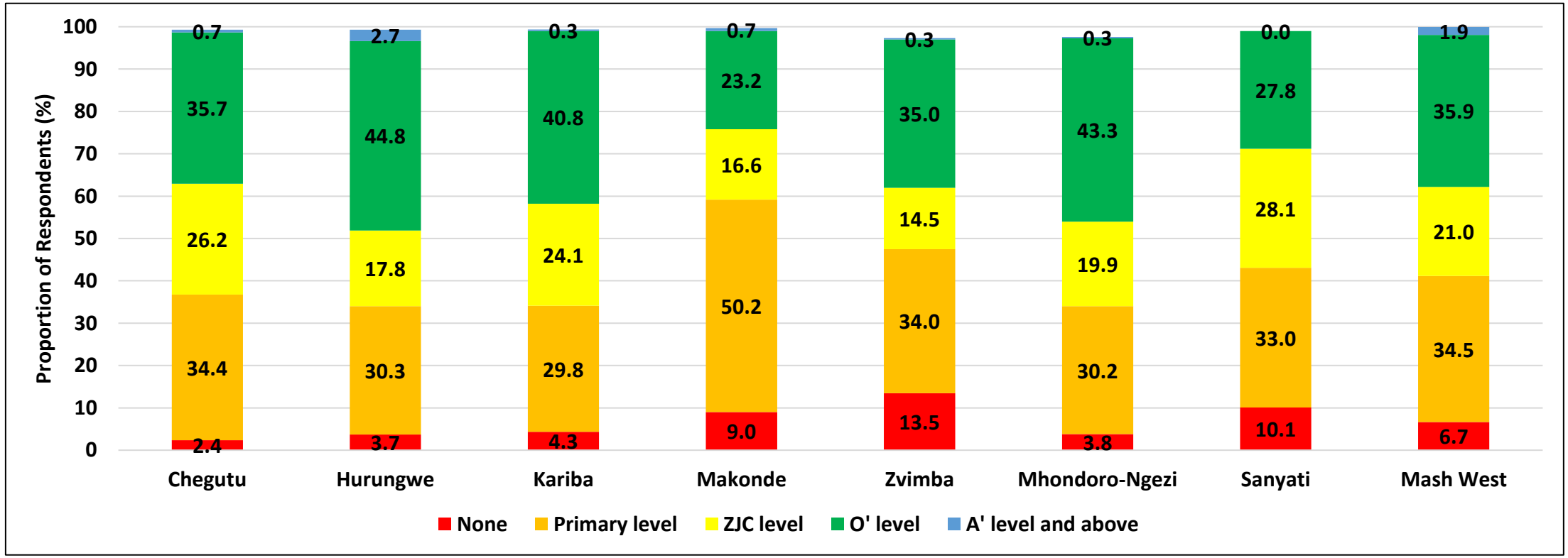
Household Characteristics

Characteristics of Respondents

District	Average Age of Respondents (Years)	Sex of Respondents	
		Male (%)	Female (%)
Chegutu	35	26.7	73.3
Hurungwe	35	37.7	62.3
Kariba	34	26.8	73.2
Makonde	38	28.9	71.1
Zvimba	39	34.9	65.1
Mhondoro Ngezi	40	28.1	71.9
Sanyati	42	30.7	63.9
Mashonaland West	**38**	**30.5**	**69.5**

- Age is a characteristic used to understand and categorise populations. It is often analysed in conjunction with other socio economic factors to provide a complete picture of a population's characteristics.
- The average age of the respondents was 38 years.
- About 69.5% of the respondents were female.

Characteristics of Respondents: Education Level Attained



- About 93.3% of respondents had attained at least primary school education. This provides confidence that the respondents were knowledgeable on the subject matter.

Household Members' Characteristics

District	Average Household Size	Sex (%)		Household Members (%)						
		Male	Female	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 – 17 years	18 - 49 years	50 - 59 years	60 - 64 years	65+ years
Chegutu	4	49.1	50.9	24.6	10.3	15.9	41.5	3.5	1.2	3.0
Hurungwe	4	47.0	53.0	26.1	13.2	15.6	39.0	3.2	0.8	2.0
Kariba	3	46.1	53.9	32.8	7.6	8.5	46.4	3.0	0.7	1.0
Makonde	4	48.0	52.0	25.4	8.9	14.0	42.8	5.2	1.4	2.4
Zvimba	3	44.0	56.0	36.9	3.8	7.7	41.7	4.6	1.0	4.3
Mhondoro-Ngezi	3	44.8	55.2	30.2	7.2	8.3	41.6	7.4	1.2	4.1
Sanyati	4	48.2	51.8	26.0	9.2	17.7	35.6	6.1	1.0	4.5
Mash West	**4**	**47.0**	**53.0**	**28.3**	**8.9**	**13.0**	**41.0**	**4.7**	**1.0**	**3.0**

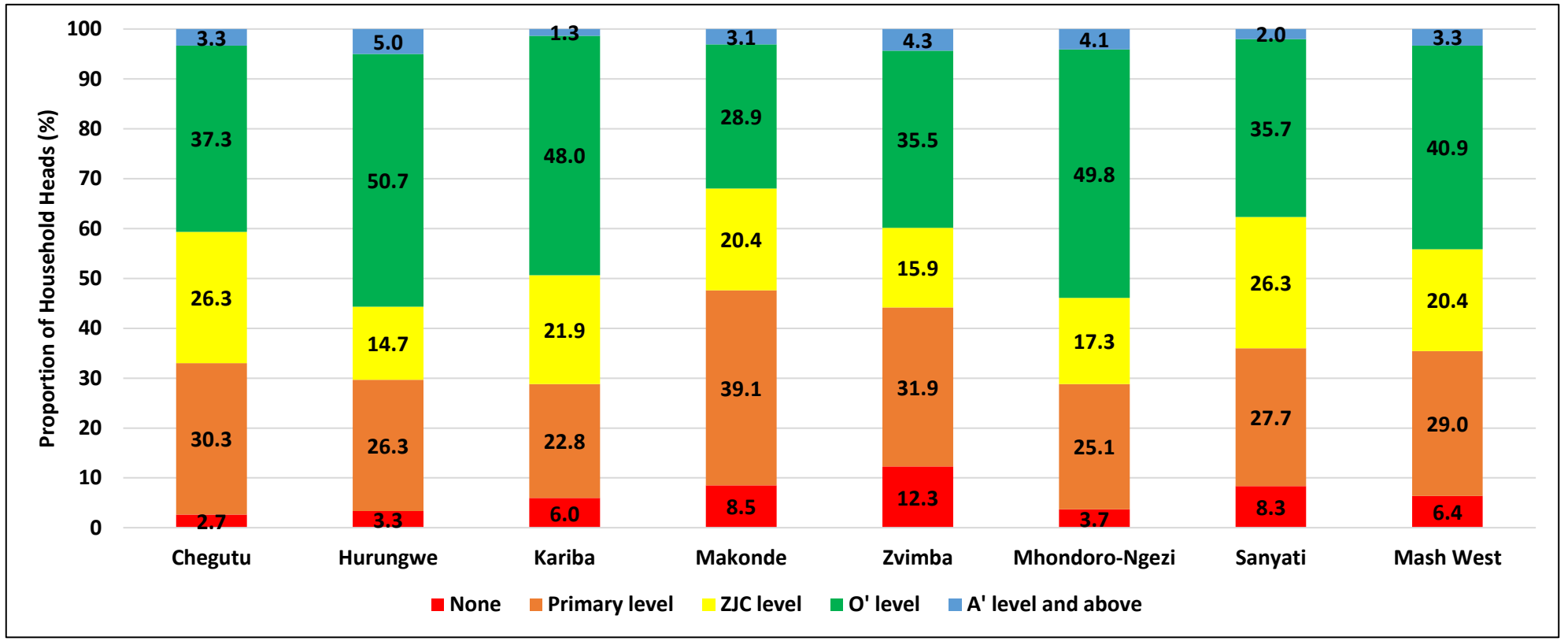
- The average household size was 4.
- Of the sampled population, 47% were male and 53% were female.

Characteristics of Household Head

District	Household Head Average Age (Years)	Sex (%)		Household Head by Category (%)	
		Male	Female	Elderly Headed 65 Years and Above	Child Headed
Chegutu	42.0	82.3	17.7	12.0	0.3
Hurungwe	39.0	76.7	23.3	6.7	0.0
Kariba	39.0	68.9	31.1	3.3	0.0
Makonde	41.0	74.5	25.5	11.6	0.3
Zvimba	43.0	60.1	39.9	15.3	0.3
Mhondoro Ngezi	45.0	70.2	29.8	13.9	0.7
Sanyati	48.0	76.3	23.7	19.3	0.0
Mash West	42	72.7	27.3	11.7	0.2

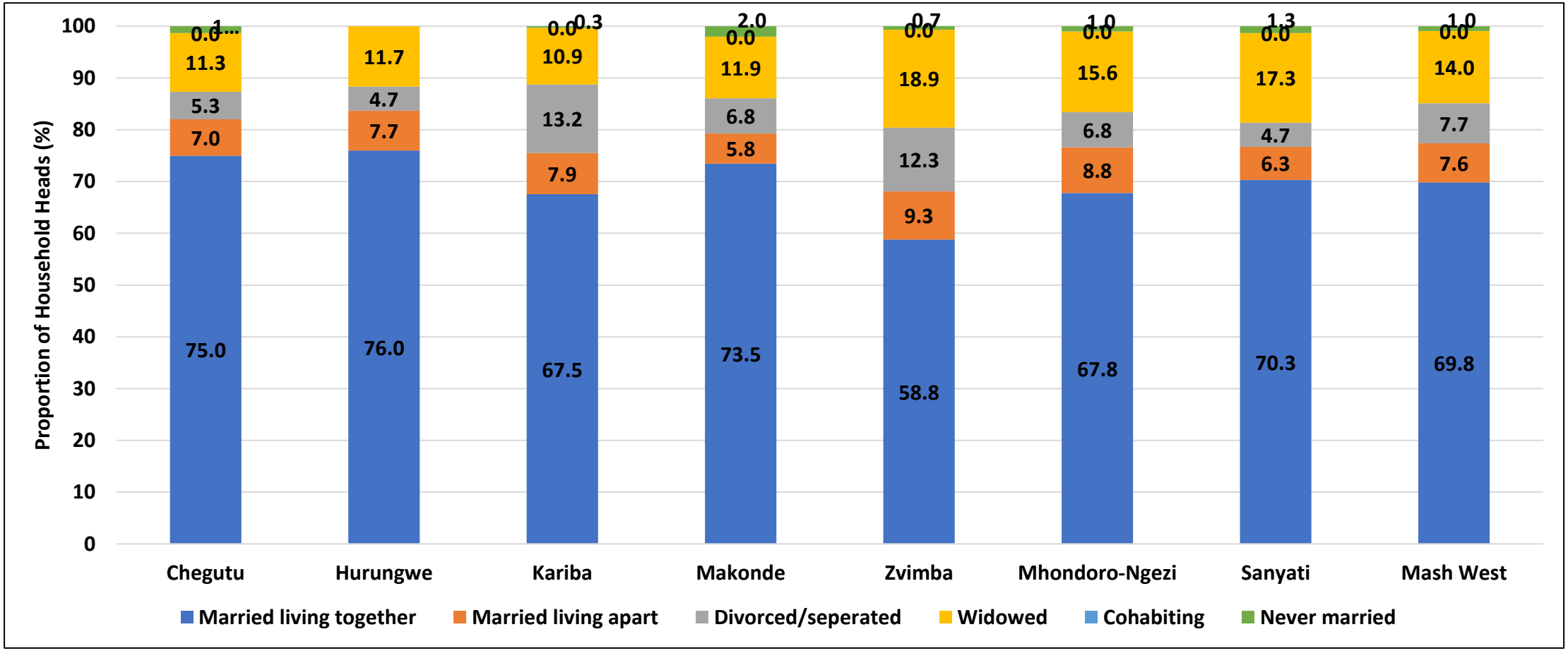
- The average age of household heads was 42 years, which is within the economic productive age group.
- Sanyati (19.3%) and Zvimba (15.3%) had the highest proportion of households which were headed by the elderly.

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained



- About 94% of household heads had attained at least primary school education. This provides confidence that the respondents were knowledgeable on the subject matter.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status



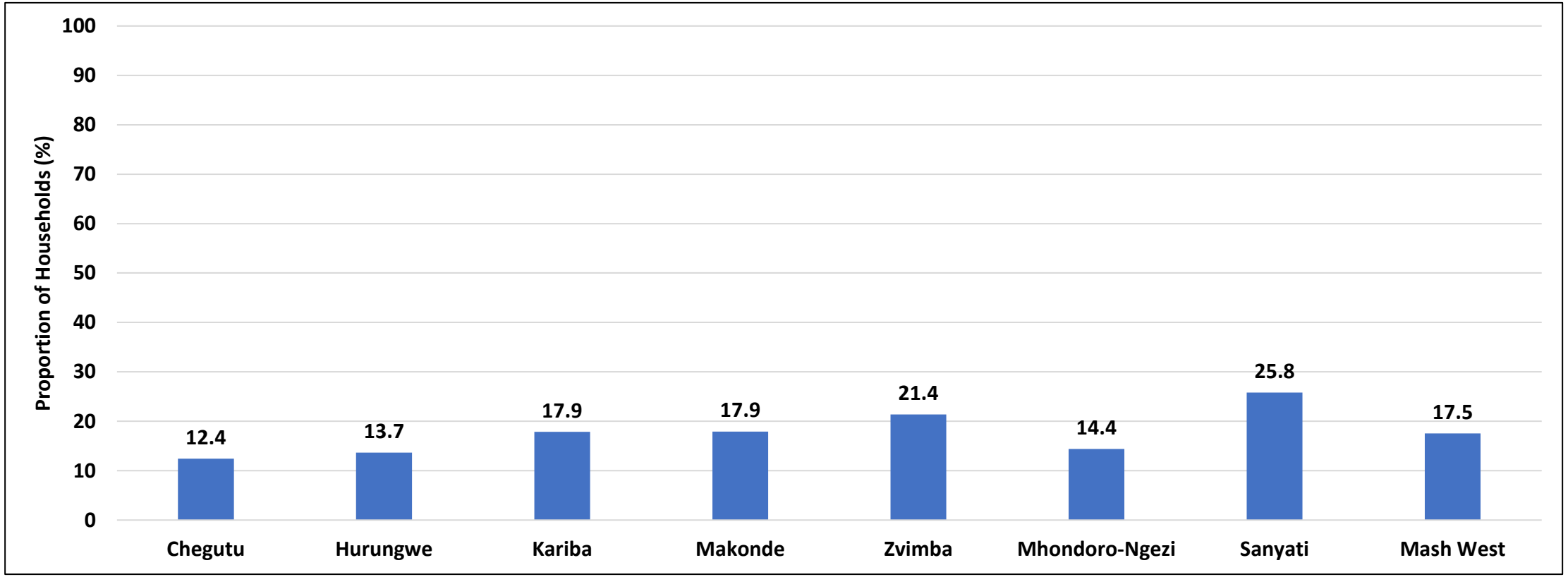
- About 69.8% of the household heads were married and living together.
- Zvimba district (18.9%) had the highest proportion of households heads who were widowed against the provincial proportion of 14%

Characteristics of Household Head: Religion

District	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	Pentecostal (%	Apostolic Sect (%)	Zion (%)	Other Christian (%)	Islam (%)	Traditional (%)	Other religion (%)	No religion (%)
Chegutu	6.3	4.0	13.7	32.0	2.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	39.0
Hurungwe	1.7	8.3	11.3	36.0	7.7	2.0	0.3	4.7	1.0	27.0
Kariba	1.7	4.0	14.2	34.4	7.0	2.0	0	14.6	0.7	21.5
Makonde	2.4	0.7	9.2	48.6	7.1	2.0	0.7	8.8	1.4	19.0
Zvimba	11.3	5.0	15.0	38.2	5.0	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.3	18.9
Mhondoro-Ngezi	13.6	12.9	27.5	30.8	3.1	2.0	0.3	1.0	0.7	8.1
Sanyati	6.0	5.7	12.7	39.3	8.0	14.0	0.7	0	2.7	11.0
Mash West	**6.1**	**5.8**	**14.8**	**37.0**	**5.7**	**3.6**	**0.6**	**4.4**	**1.2**	**20.7**

- The majority of household heads were from the Apostolic Sect (37%) while 20.7% of the household heads had no religion.

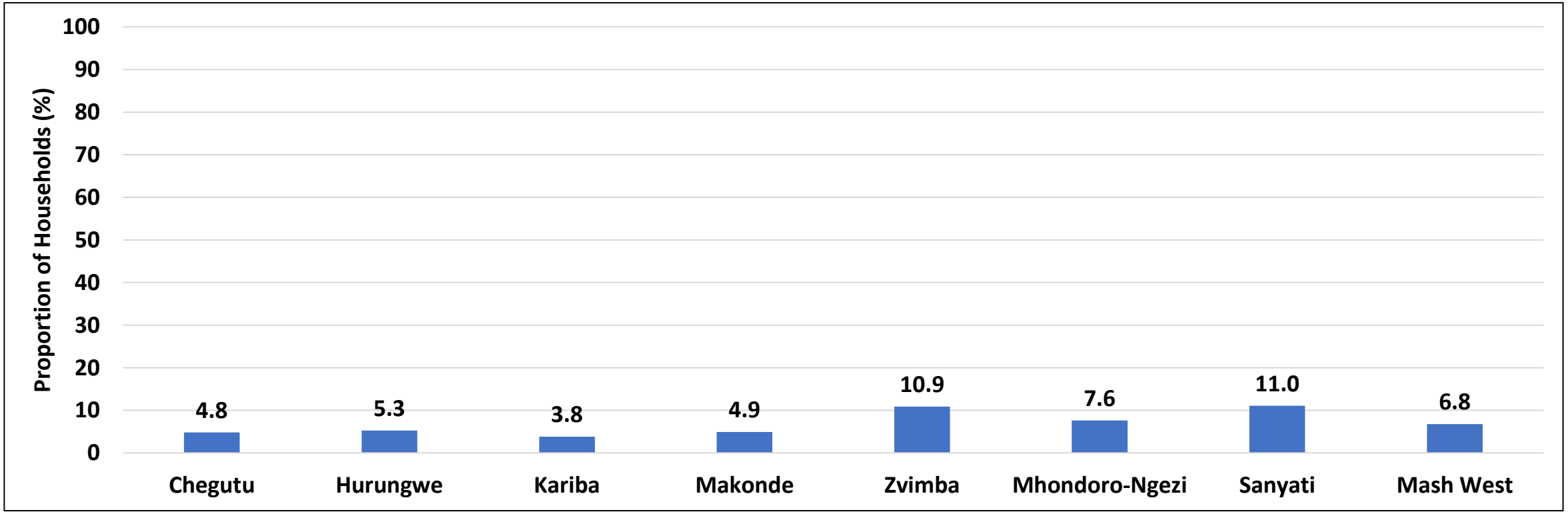
Orphaned Children



- Sanyati (25.8%) and Zvimba (21.4%) had the highest proportion of households with orphaned children.
- The presence of orphans increases the burden of responsibility on the households.

Chronic Conditions

Chronic Conditions



- The proportion of households with at least a member who had a chronic condition was 6.8%.

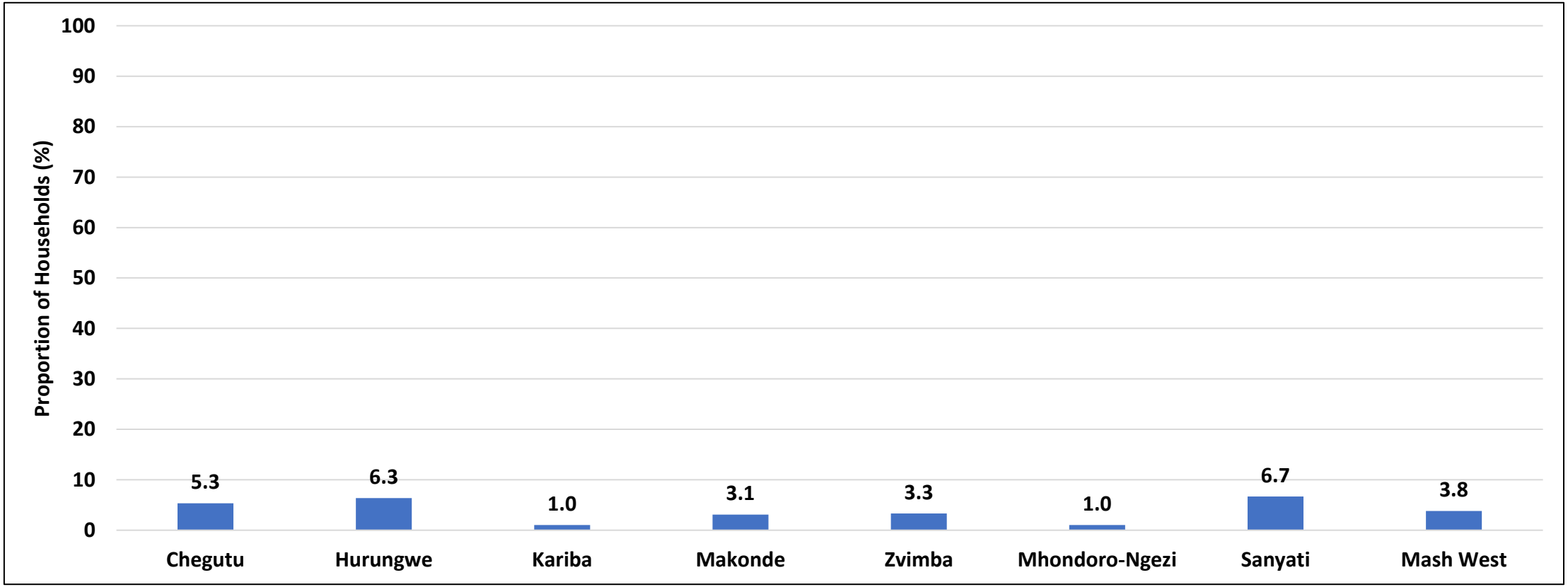
Chronic Conditions (6.8%)

District	HIV infection, AIDS (%)	Heart disease (%)	Diabetes, high blood sugar (%)	Asthma (%)	Hypertension, High blood pressure (%)	Arthritis, chronic body pain (%)	Epilepsy, seizures, fits (%)	Stroke (%)	Cancer (%)	Tuberculosis (%)	Liver diseases (%)	Kidney diseases (%)	Ulcer, chronic stomach pain (%)	Mental illness (%)	Not willing to disclose (%)	Other (%)
Chegutu	1.3	0.2	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5
Hurungwe	1.4	0.2	1.2	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.4
Kariba	0.5	0	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.2	0	0	0.1	0.0	0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Makonde	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.4	1.3	0.3	0.1	0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5
Zvimba	3.4	0.3	1.8	0.6	3.5	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Mhondoro-Ngezi	2.1	0.3	2.1	1.0	1.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Sanyati	3.6	0.4	1.5	0.7	3.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0	0.1
Mash West	**1.9**	**0.3**	**1.2**	**0.6**	**1.8**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0**	**0.3**

- The most reported chronic conditions were HIV/AIDS (1.9%) and hypertension/high blood pressure (1.8%).

Disability

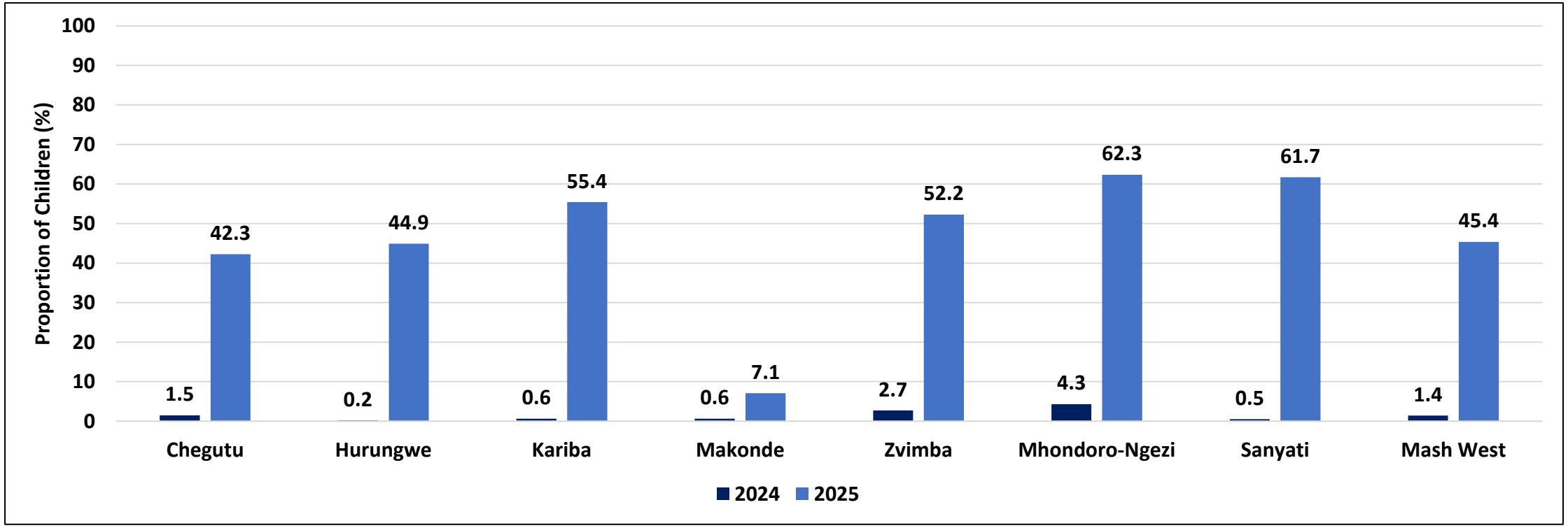
Disability Conditions



- The proportion of households with at least one person with any form of disability was 3.8%.
- Sanyati (6.7%) had the highest proportion of households with at least one person with any form of disability.

Education

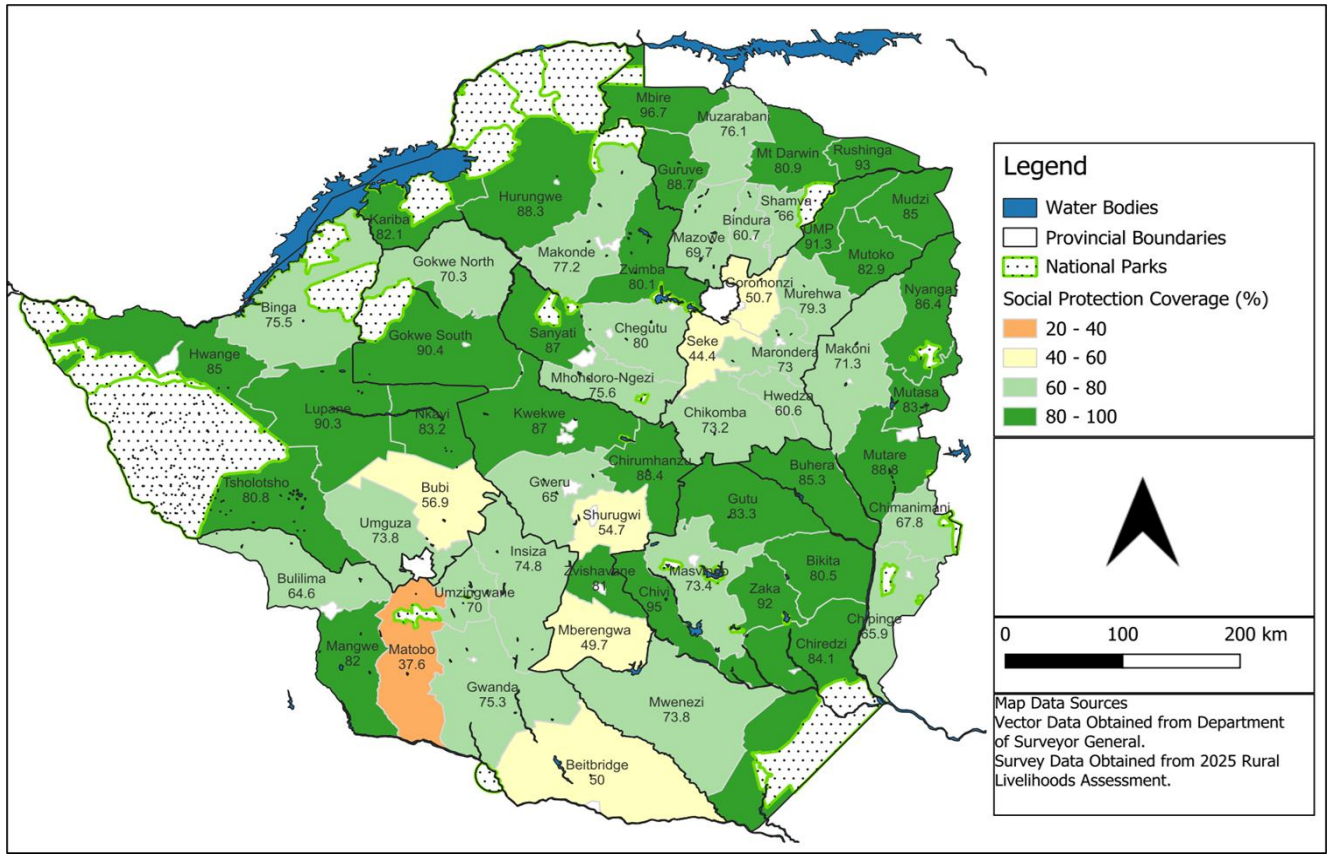
Proportion of Children Receiving Hot Meals at School



- A child or young person who is hungry does not learn well. A healthy diet in sufficient quantity is essential for learning and development.
- The proportion of children who received a hot meal at school during the first term of the year increased from 1.4% in 2024 to 45.4% in 2025.
- Mhondoro Ngezi (62.3%) had the highest proportion of children receiving hot meals at school.

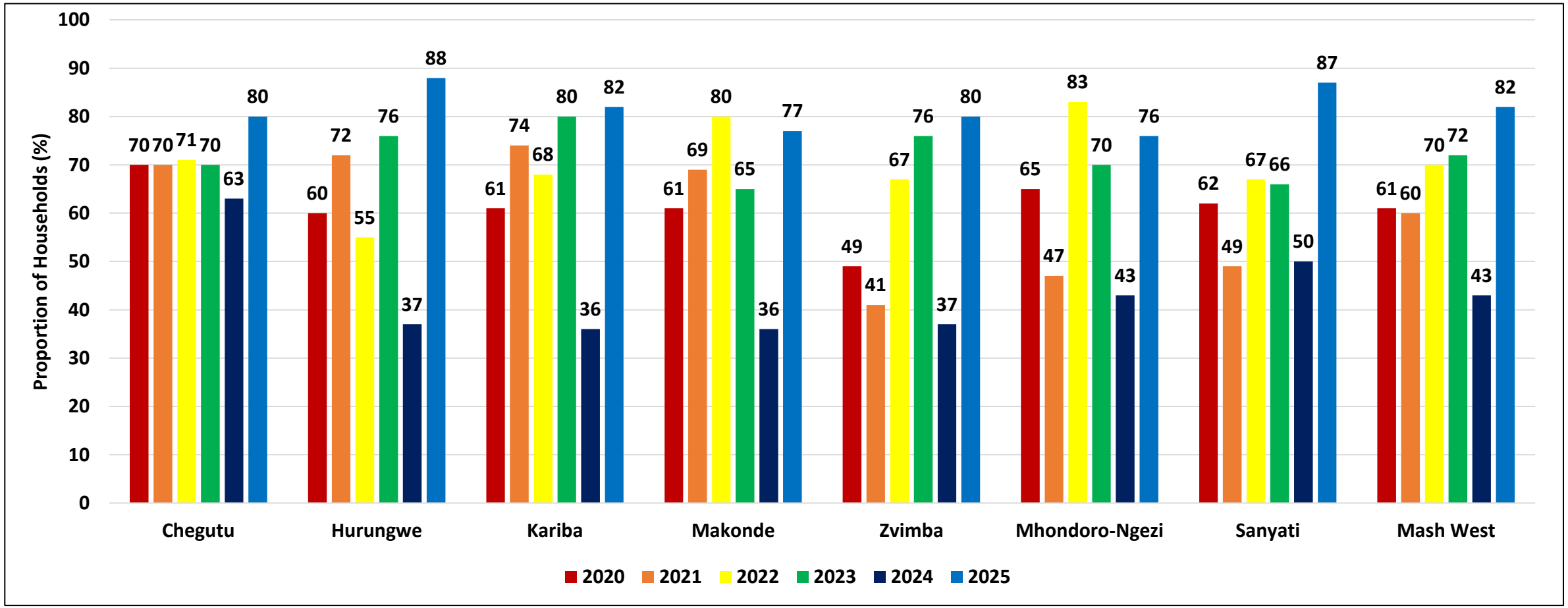
Social Protection

Households which Received Any Form of Support



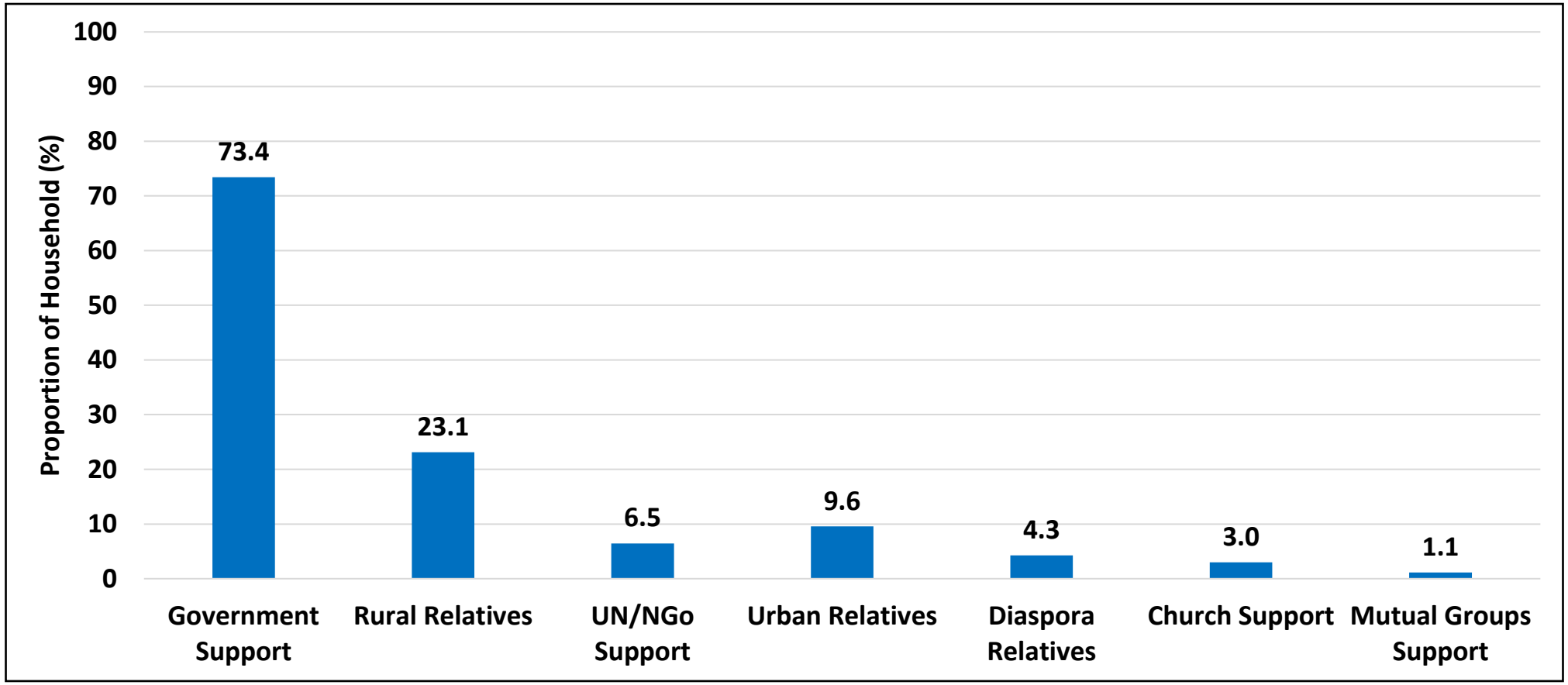
- Hurungwe (88.3%) had the highest proportion of households which received any form of support and Mhondoro Ngezi (75.6%) had the lowest.

Households which Received Any Form of Support



- Support increased from 43% in 2024 to 82% in 2025. This may be attributed to the need to respond to the El- Nino induced drought which was experienced in the 2024/2025 season.

Sources of Support



- The majority of households (73.4%) reported to have received support from the Government, followed by rural relatives (23.1%) and urban relatives (9.6%).

Sources of Support

District	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
Chegutu	58.3	72.7	4	4.0	1.3	0.7	11.7	14.0	3.3	40.3	4.7	3.0	1	0.3
Hurungwe	37	85.3	0	5.3	0	3.0	0	12.3	0	20.0	0	3.0	0	0.3
Kariba	34.7	69.9	3	24.5	0	0.3	0.7	3.3	0	18.5	0	1.0	0	0.7
Makonde	35.3	69.4	0	1.4	1.3	3.4	0	6.1	0.3	25.5	0	2.0	0	0.3
Zvimba	35.3	71.1	1	0.7	0	1.7	1.7	7.0	1.3	21.3	0.7	1.7	0	0.7
Mhondoro-Ngezi	42.7	62.0	0	7.8	0.3	11.2	0.3	16.6	0	21.4	0.3	16.9	0	5.8
Sanyati	49.5	83.3	0.3	1.3	1	1.0	0.7	7.7	0.3	15.0	0	2.3	0	0.0
Mash West	**41.8**	**73.4**	**1.2**	**6.5**	**0.6**	**3.0**	**2.1**	**9.6**	**0.8**	**23.1**	**0.8**	**4.3**	**0.1**	**1.1**

- In 2025, the proportion of households that received social assistance from the different sources increased compared to 2024.
- Government remained the major source of support which increased from 41.8% in 2024 to 73.4% in 2025.
- The support received from relatives (both rural and urban)reflects an enabling economic environment and social capital.

Forms of Support from Government

District	Food (%)	Cash transfers (%)	Vouchers (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support - large stock (pass on) (%)	Livestock support - large stock (non-pass on) (%)	Small livestock support (goats, chicken, fish, etc) (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)
Chegutu	44.7	0.0	0.0	63.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.3	5.3	0.3
Hurungwe	72.3	0.3	0.3	73.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Kariba	66.2	0.3	0.0	23.5	0.7	0.3	1.0	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.0
Makonde	38.4	0.3	0.3	60.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Zvimba	60.8	0.3	0.7	43.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.3	0.0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	58.3	0.3	0.3	42.7	2.0	6.4	0.3	0.3	1.0	5.8	0.0
Sanyati	79.3	1.0	0.7	49.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.3	0.3
Mash West	**60.1**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**50.8**	**0.5**	**1.0**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**1.2**	**2.3**	**0.1**

- The majority of households received Government support in the form of food (60.1%).
- Government is committed to building resilience as evidenced by the proportion of household's which received livestock support .

Forms of Support from UN/NGOs

District	Food (%)	Cash transfers (%)	Vouchers (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support -large stock (pass on) (%)	Livestock support -large stock (non-pass on) (%)	Small livestock support (goats, chicken, fish, etc) (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)
Chegutu	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	1.7	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hurungwe	2.7	0	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kariba	19.9	1.0	0.3	6.6	1.3	0	5.0	5.3	0.3	0	2.0
Makonde	1.4	0	0	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zvimba	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	1.7	1.4	0	1.4	1.0	0.3	0	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.7
Sanyati	0	0	0	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0.7	0	0
Mash West	**3.8**	**0.3**	**0**	**1.7**	**0.4**	**0**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.4**

- About 3.8% of households received support from UN/NGOs in the form of food assistance and crop inputs (1.7%).

Migration

Types of Migration

District	Migrated to urban from rural areas (%)	Joined from urban areas (%)	Migrated to stay outside the country (%)	Joined from outside Zimbabwe (%)
Chegutu	6.7	3.0	0.3	0
Hurungwe	6.3	9.0	1.0	0
Kariba	2.7	1.7	0.3	0
Makonde	11.6	8.2	0.7	0.3
Zvimba	4.0	3.3	0.3	1.0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	10.5	8.6	4.1	1.5
Sanyati	9.0	3.7	2.3	0.3
Mash West	**7.2**	**4.5**	**5.3**	**0.4**

- The main type of migration reported was migrating to urban areas (7.2%) and migrating from urban areas (5.3%).

Reasons for Migrating to Urban Areas (7.2%)

District	Better livelihood options (%)	Employment opportunities (%)	New job (%)	Newly acquired residential land (%)	Request by a relative (%)	Educational purposes (%)	Access to better standards of living (health, WASH, electricity) (%)	Marriage (%)	Business opportunity (%)	Illness (%)	Other (%)
Chegutu	1.3	2.3	1.3	0	0	1.00	0	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.3
Hurungwe	1.0	2.3	0	0	1.3	0.7	0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0
Kariba	0.7	1.7	0	0	0.3	0	0	0.0	0.3	0	0
Makonde	1.4	4.1	1.0	0	1.0	1.0	0	0.3	1.0	0.7	1
Zvimba	0	1.0	0.3	0	1.0	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.3	0.3
Mhondoro-Ngezi	3.1	6.1	1.4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Sanyati	1.7	6.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.7	0	0.3	0	0	0
Mash West	**1.3**	**3.4**	**0.6**	**0**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.2**

- The main reason for migrating to urban areas reported was search for employment opportunities (3.4%).
- About 1.3% of the households reported that they needed better livelihood options.

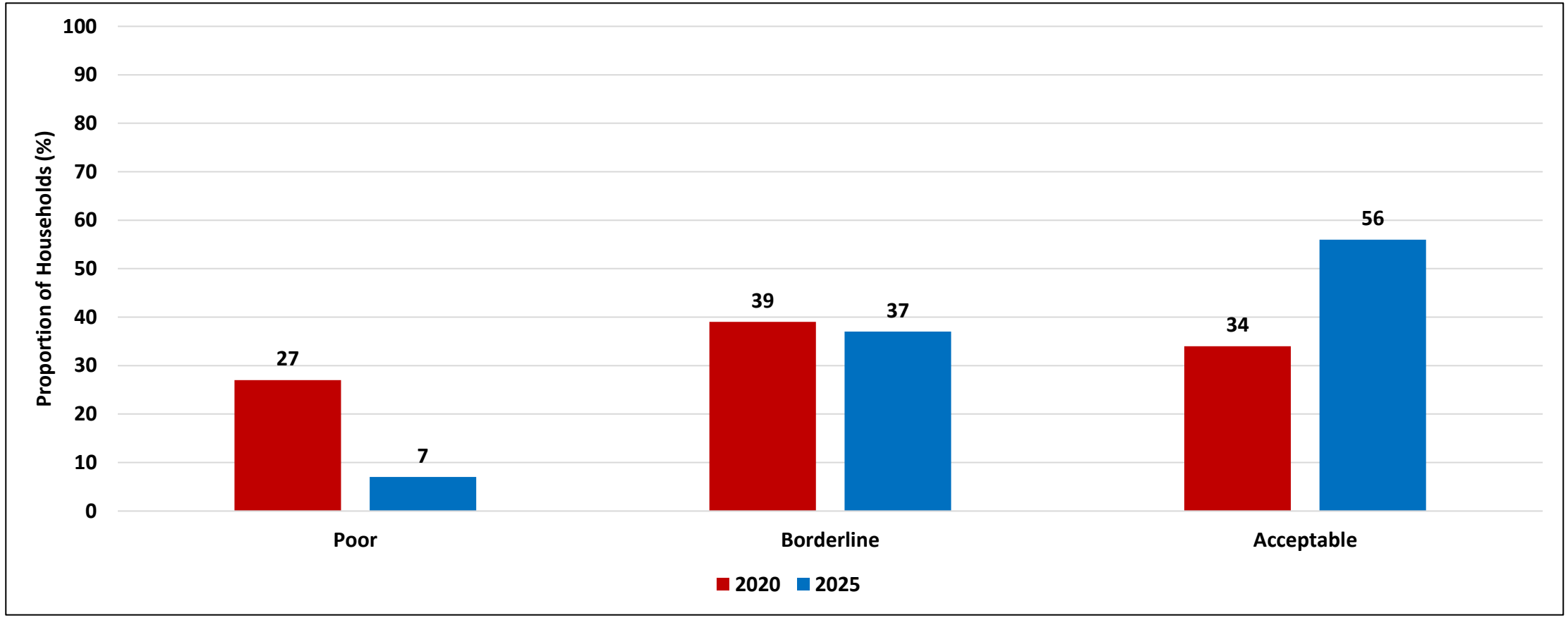
Household Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food Consumption Score

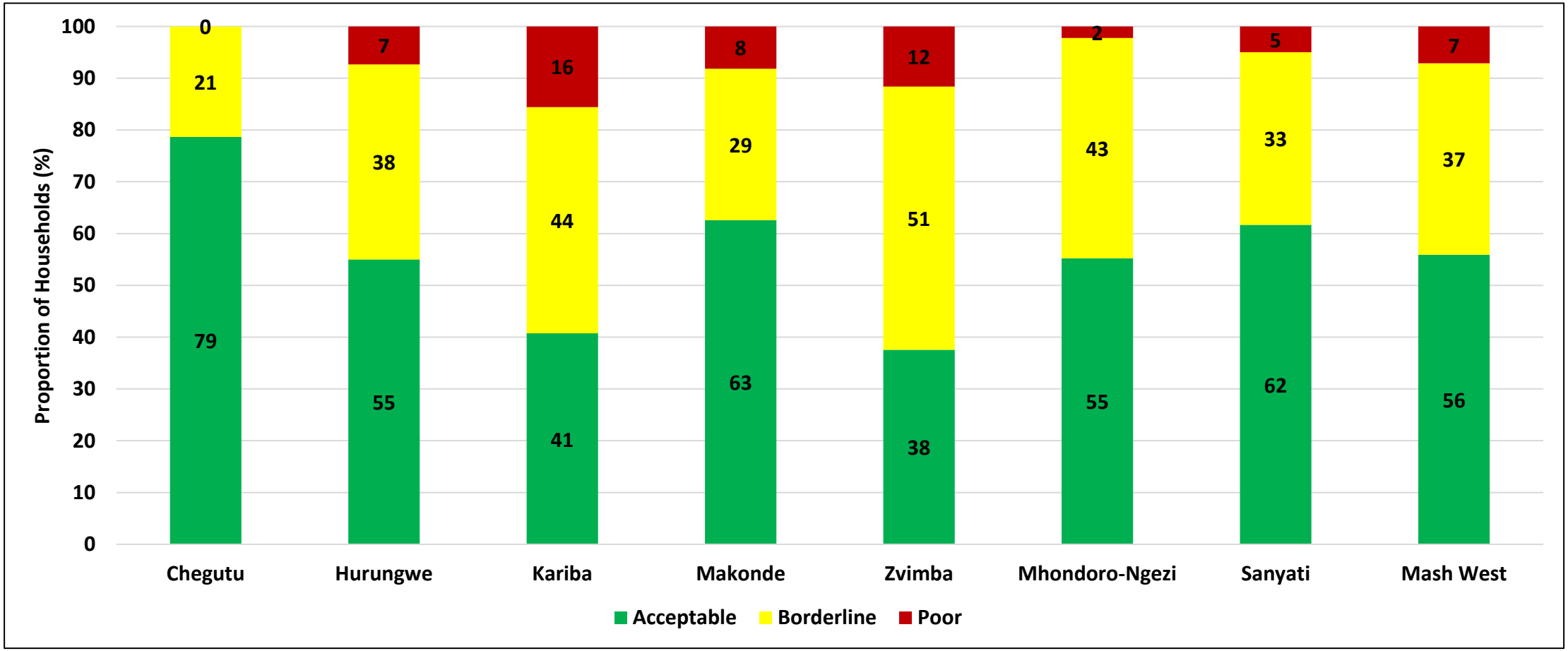
Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
Poor	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
Borderline	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 3 days, meat/fish/egg/pulses 1-2 days a week, while dairy products are totally absent
Acceptable	>35	As defined for the borderline group with more number of days a week eating meat, fish, egg, oil, and complemented by other foods such as pulses, fruits, milk

Food Consumption Patterns Trend



- There was an increase in the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption from 2020 (34%) to 2025 (56%).
- The proportion of households which consumed poor diets decreased from 27% in 2020 to 7% in 2025.
- This reflects an improvement in the quality of diets being consumed by rural households showing consumption of more diverse and nutritious food groups.

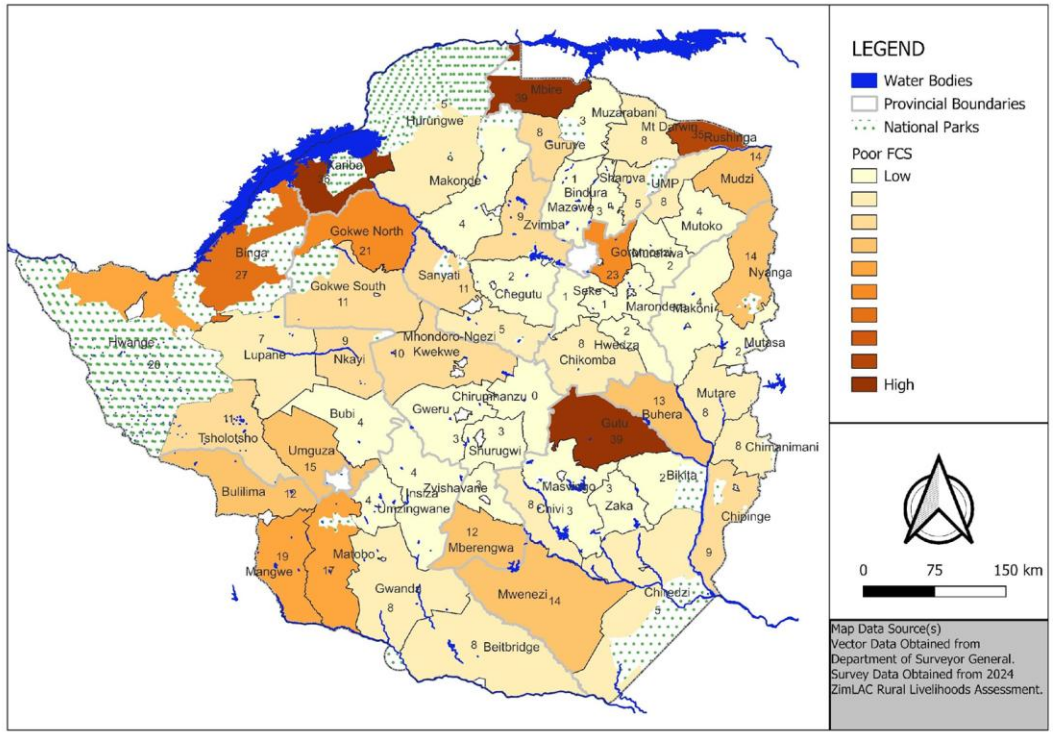
Food Consumption Patterns



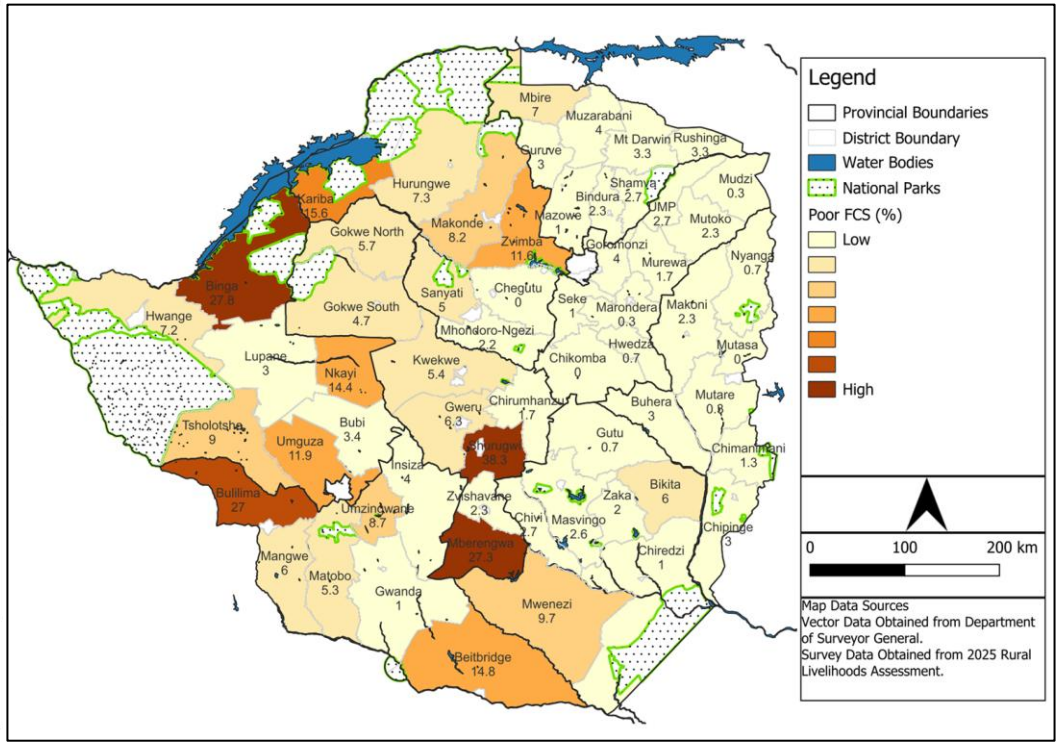
- Kariba (16%), Zvimba (12%) and Makonde (8%) had the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption patterns.

Poor Food Consumption Patterns by District

2024



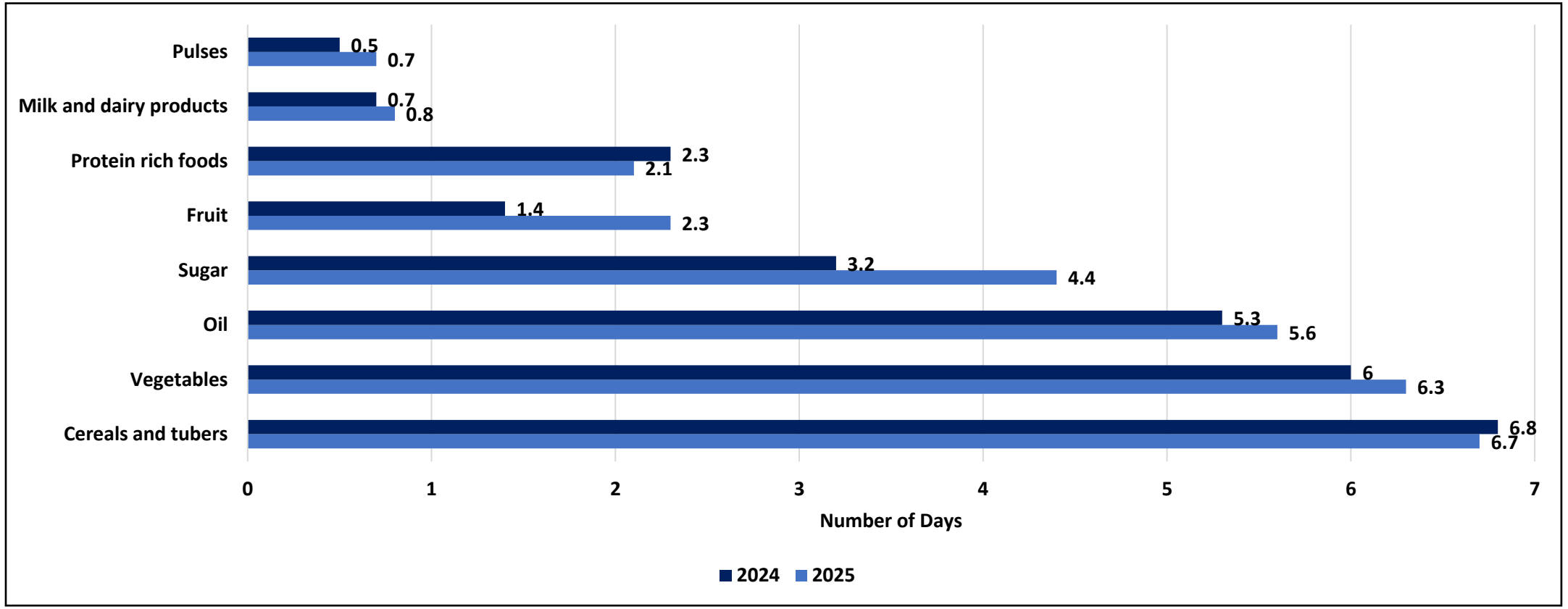
2025



- The proportion of households with poor food consumption decreased in most districts in 2025 when compared to 2024 except for Hurungwe, Makonde and Zvimba.

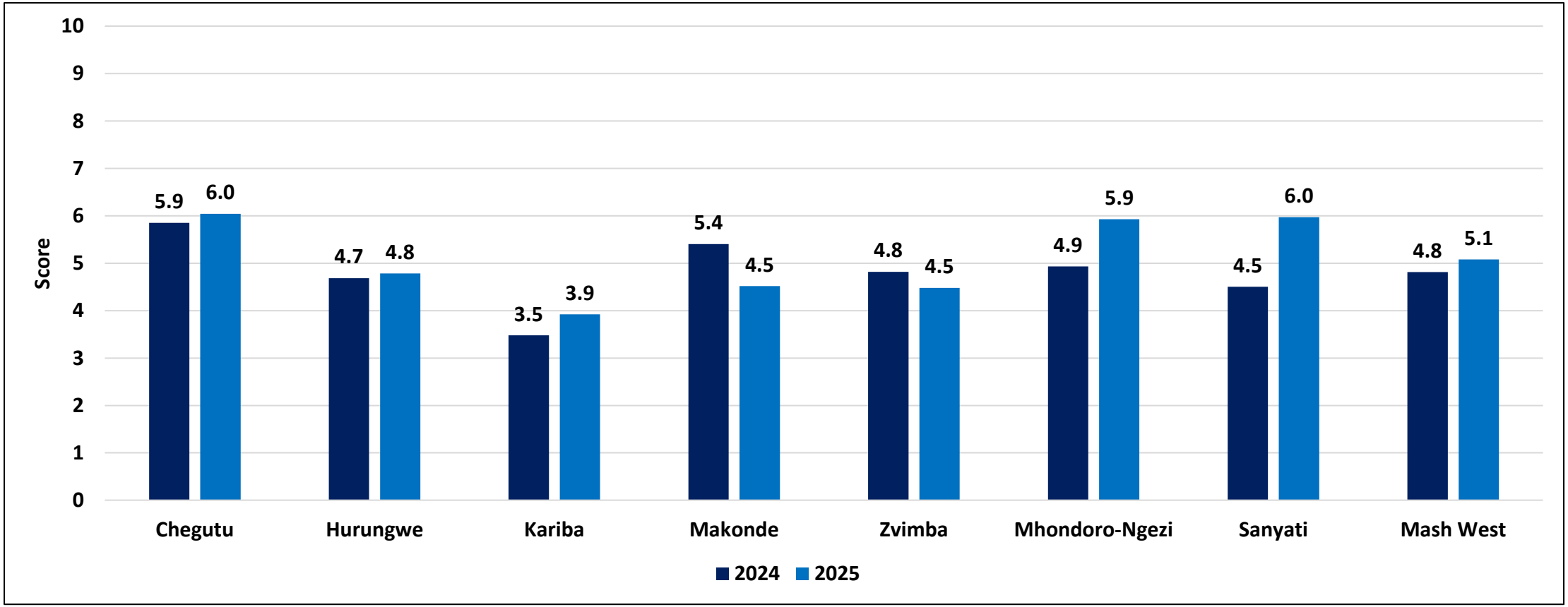
Household Dietary Diversity

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



- Cereals, vegetables and oil have remained the most frequently consumed foods.
- Milk and dairy products and pulses have been the least consumed food items.

Average Household Dietary Diversity Score



- Household Dietary Diversity Score was 5.1, reflecting that households were consuming foods from five out of the recommended 12 food groups.
- Chegutu and Sanyati had the highest HDDS at 6, whilst Kariba at 3.9 had the lowest.

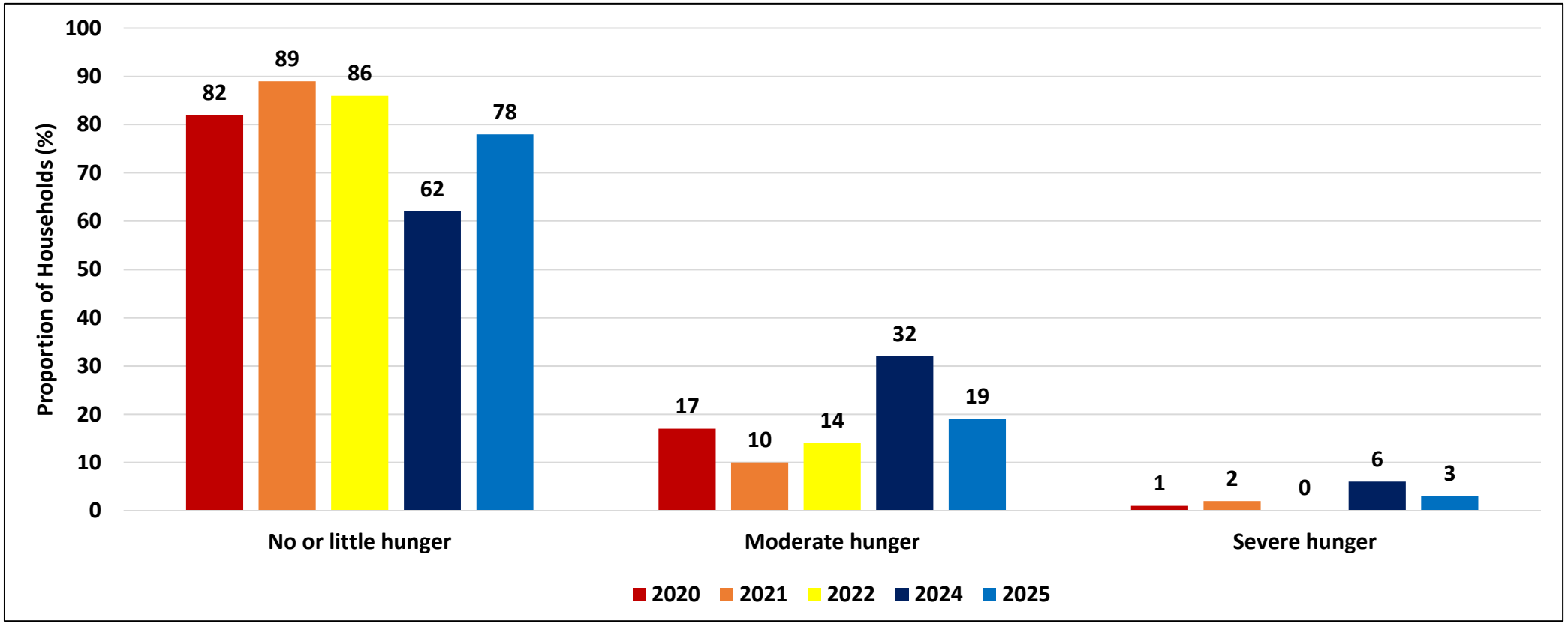
HDDS by Food Groups

District	Cereals (%)	Tubers (%)	Pulses (%)	Dairy products (%)	Meat (%)	Fish (%)	Eggs (%)	Vegetables (%)	Fruits (%)	Oil (%)	Sugar (%)	Condiments (%)
Chegutu	100.0	7.7	7.7	94.0	17.0	30.7	17.3	19.7	21.7	96.3	73.3	99.7
Hurungwe	96.0	8.7	3.7	94.0	15.3	30.3	7.7	8.0	7.7	80.3	40.0	77.0
Kariba	88.0	2.3	4.7	76.7	8.0	8.3	22.7	1.7	6.0	33.7	18.0	78.0
Makonde	97.7	12.3	8.7	83.3	13.3	47.7	16.3	12.3	4.0	93.3	55.3	96.0
Zvimba	95.3	5.0	5.3	89.0	15.3	21.3	9.0	5.3	10.7	83.0	49.3	93.3
Mhondoro-Ngezi	99.3	3.7	7.3	99.0	20.3	12.7	3.0	5.3	9.3	87.0	56.0	90.3
Sanyati	98.7	1.7	2.0	79.4	6.6	18.3	4.3	4.3	12.0	81.4	46.5	95.3
Mash West	**88.9**	**47.1**	**43.3**	**50.2**	**55.1**	**36.2**	**39.2**	**86.0**	**70.3**	**92.3**	**76.6**	**89.9**

- Oil (92.3%), cereals (88.9%), and vegetables (86)% were the most consumed food groups.
- Meat consumption was highest in Mhondoro Ngezi (20.3%).

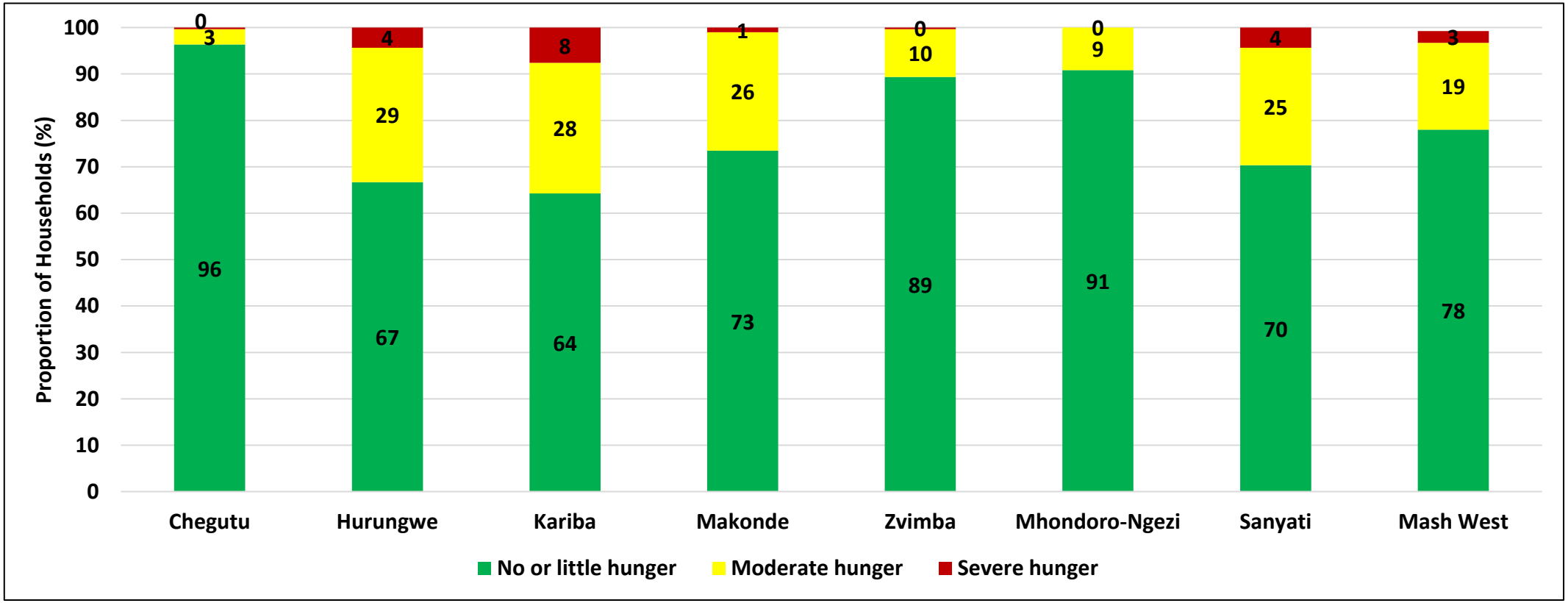
Household Coping

Household Hunger Scale



- The proportion of households which experienced no or little hunger increased from 62% in 2024 to 78% in 2025.

Household Hunger Scale



- Chegutu (96%) had the highest proportion of households with no or little hunger whilst Kariba (8%) had the highest proportion of households with severe hunger.

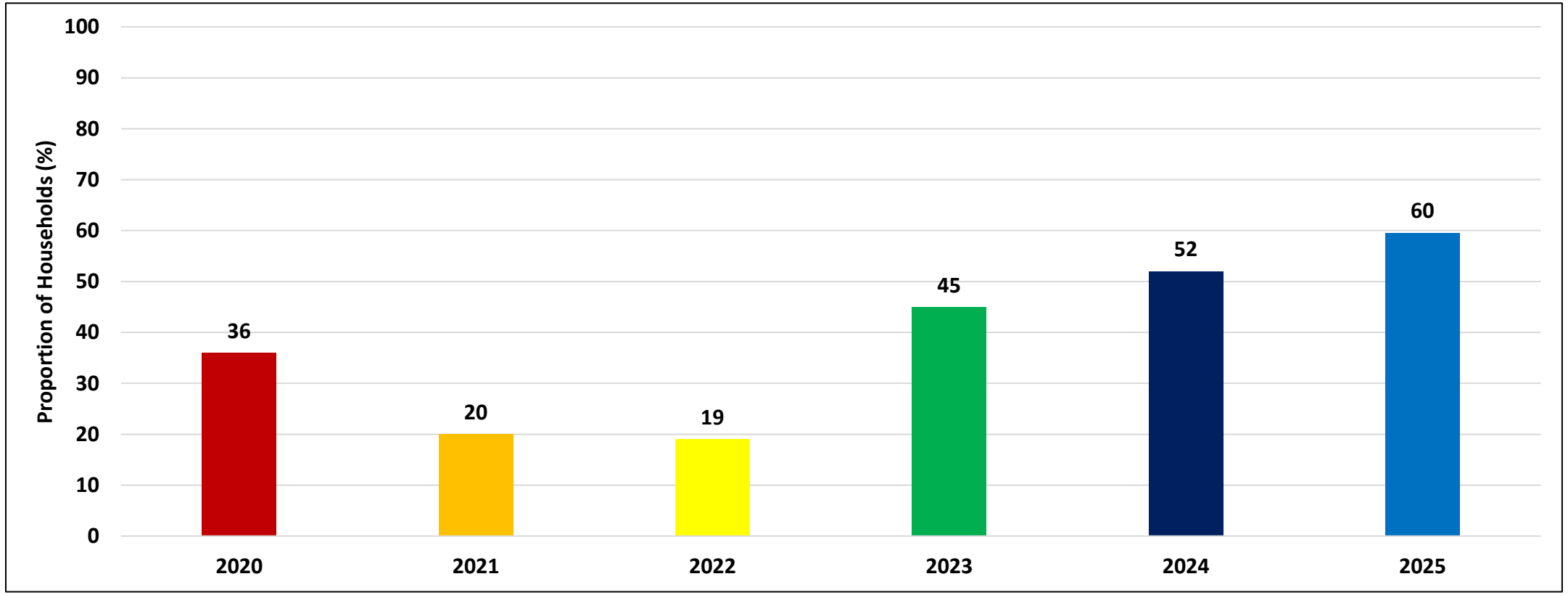
Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies

Livelihoods Coping Strategies

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

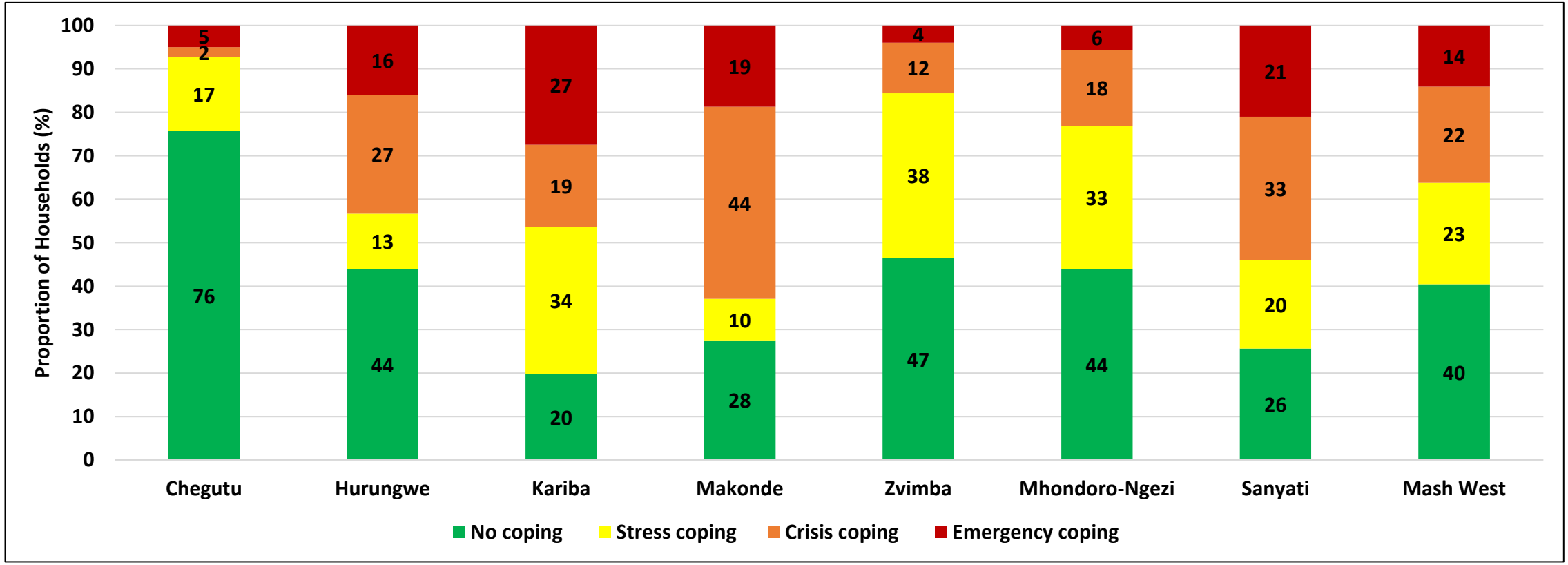
Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	• Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, television, jewellery etc.) • Sold more animals than usual • Spent savings • Borrowed money
Crisis	• Consumed seed stocks that were to be saved for the next season • Decreased expenditures on fertilizer, pesticide, fodder, animal feed, veterinary care, etc. • Harvest immature crops (e.g., green maize)
Emergency	• Mortgaged/sold the house where the household was permanently living or land • Begged (asked strangers for money/food) or scavenged • Sold last female (productive) animal

Households Engaging in any Form of Livelihood Coping Strategies



- The proportion of households engaging in any form of coping increased from 52% in 2024 to 60% in 2025.

Households Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies



- Kariba (27%) had the highest proportion of households employing emergency coping strategies to address food access challenges.

Food Safety

Importance of Food Labelling

Importance of Food Labelling

- Provides essential nutritional information (e.g., energy, fat, sugar, salt) to help make healthier choices.
- Lists ingredients and allergens, protecting consumers with dietary restrictions or food allergies.
- Shows expiry and manufacturing dates, helping avoid consumption of unsafe or expired products.
- Displays origin and manufacturer details, supporting traceability and product accountability.
- Indicates certifications and standards compliance (e.g., fortification logo, organic, Halal), ensuring quality and regulatory adherence.

Why Consumers Should Read Food Labels

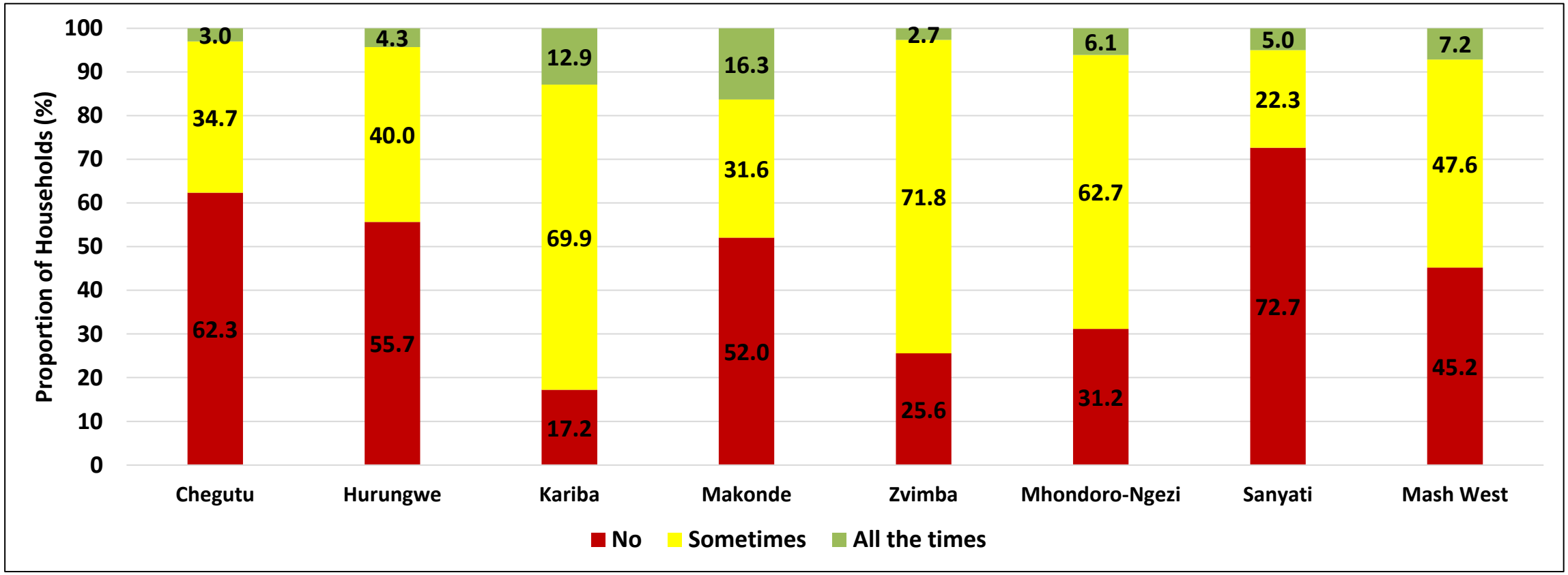
- Helps choose foods that align with health needs (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, child feeding).
- Avoids misleading claims (e.g., “sugar-free”, “natural”) by checking actual contents.
- Supports informed decisions on food value, cost-efficiency, and portion size.
- Protects against adverse reactions by identifying allergens (e.g., peanuts, gluten, sulphites).
- Empowers consumers to hold food producers accountable for food safety and nutrition quality.

Factors Considered by Households When Purchasing Food Items

District	Brand/Source (%)	Expiry /Best Before Date (%)	Nutritional Content (%)	Storage Instructions (%)	Other (%)	No Other Consideration (%)
Chegutu	36.3	37.0	12.7	5.0	0.7	54.7
Hurungwe	10.3	71.3	2.3	1.3	1.7	23.0
Kariba	31.5	73.5	2.0	6.0	6.3	9.9
Makonde	17.7	39.5	2.4	1.7	7.1	40.5
Zvimba	77.1	60.1	28.9	13.3	6.0	6.3
Mhondoro-Ngezi	42.4	59.0	31.5	14.6	0.7	13.2
Sanyati	4.7	17.7	1.7	1.3	.0	81.3
Mash West	**31.5**	**51.2**	**11.6**	**6.2**	**3.2**	**32.7**

- Holding price constant, about 51.2% of the households reported that they considered expiry dates, brand (31.5%) and nutritional content (11.6%) when purchasing food items.

Households Which Read Food Labels Before Purchasing of Food Items



- About 45.2% of the households reported not reading food package labels when purchasing food items.

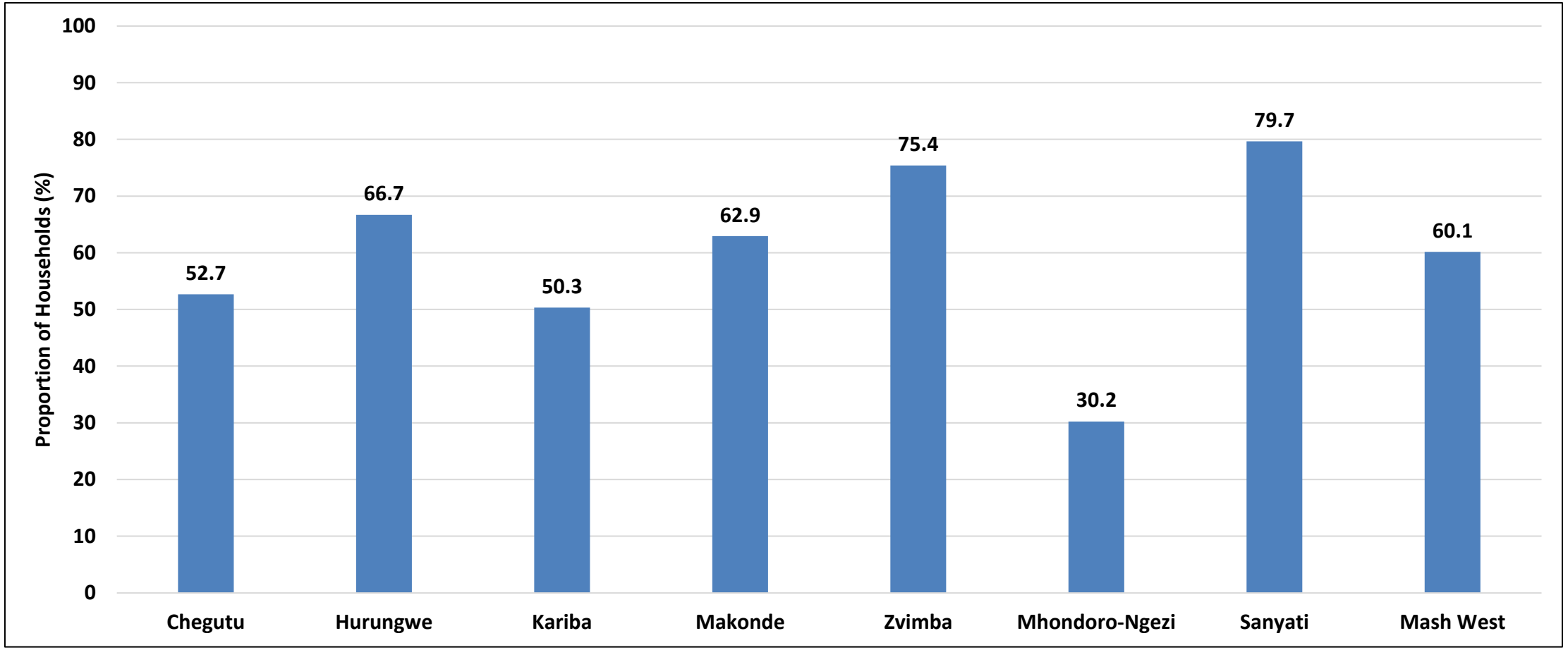
Importance of Observing Pre-Harvest Intervals (PHIs) on Pesticides

- The Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI) is the minimum number of days that must pass between the last pesticide application and the harvesting of fruits or vegetables. This allows pesticide residues to degrade to safe levels before the crop is consumed.

Importance of Observing PHI

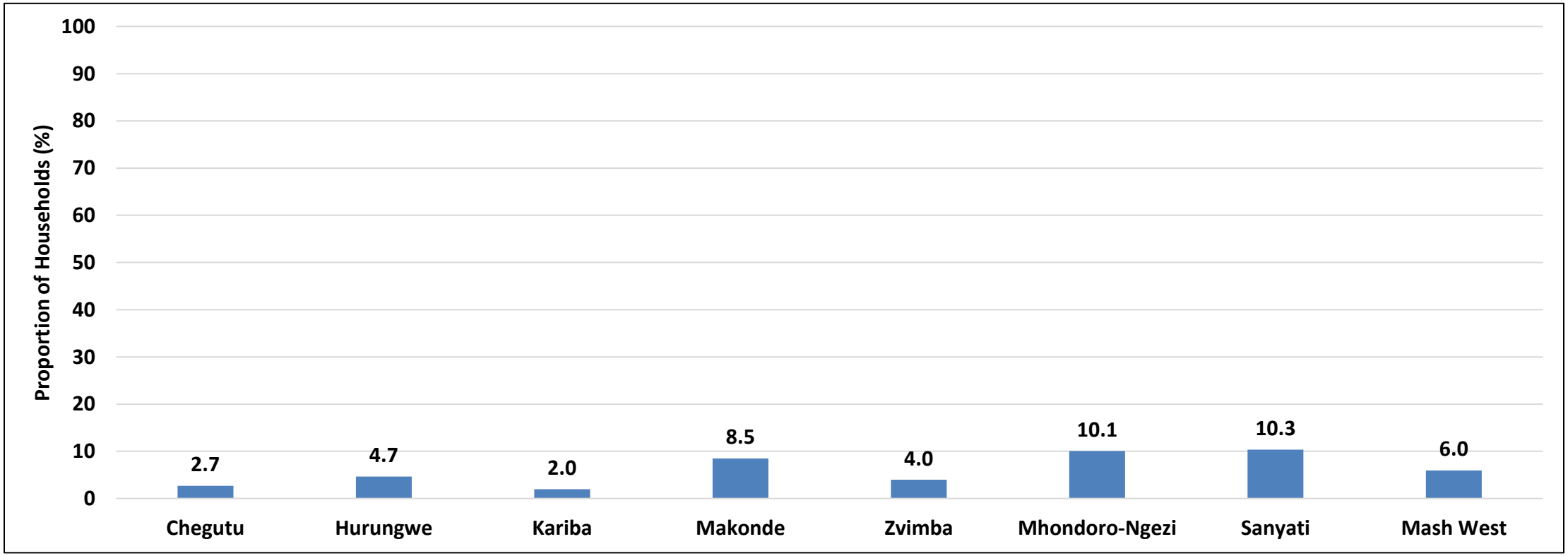
- Protects consumer health by preventing exposure to harmful pesticide residues that can cause acute poisoning, cancer or reproductive issues.
- Reduces residue levels to within acceptable safety limits set by regulatory authorities (e.g., WHO, FAO, Codex).
- Supports food safety and quality, ensuring that fruits and vegetables meet national standards and retain consumer trust.
- Preserves export markets by complying with international residue limits (Maximum Residue Limits – MRLs).
- Promotes responsible farming by reinforcing good agricultural practice.

Knowledge on Fruits and Vegetables Sprayed with Pesticides



- About 60.1% of the households reported that they had knowledge about the pre-harvest interval to be observed after spraying fruits and vegetables with pesticides.

Consumption of Vegetables or Fruits that were Sprayed with Pesticides



- About 6% of the households reported consuming vegetables or fruits before the recommended pre-harvest interval after pesticide application.

Importance of Observing Withdrawal Periods on Antibiotics in Livestock

- The withdrawal period is the minimum time that must pass between the last antibiotic treatment of an animal and the slaughter or harvesting of animal products (milk, eggs, meat) to ensure no harmful drug residues remain.

Importance of Observing Withdrawal Periods

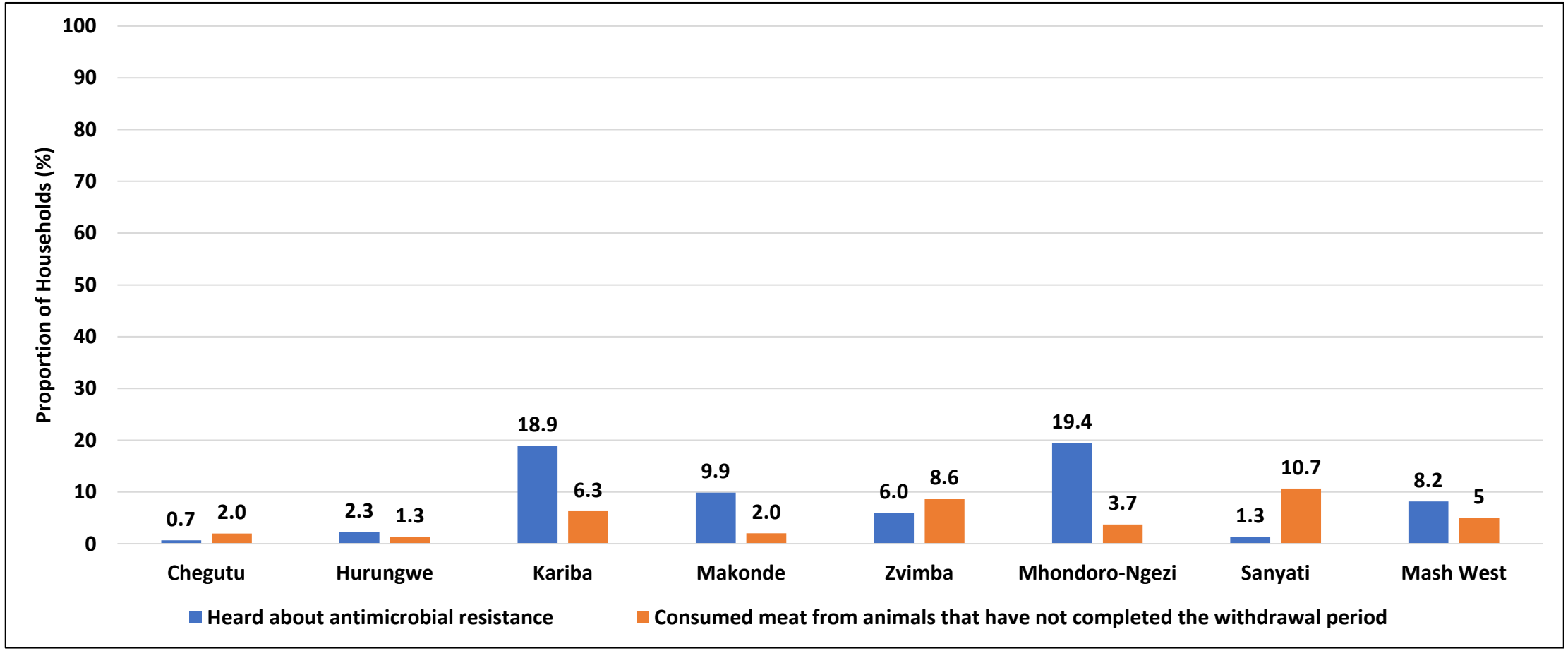
- Protects human health by preventing consumption of animal products with antibiotic residues that can cause allergic reactions or toxicity.
- Prevents antibiotic resistance, a major global threat where bacteria become resistant to treatment due to overexposure to antibiotics.
- Ensures compliance with food safety standards, helping farmers to meet national and international regulations (e.g., Codex, WHO).
- Preserves market access by ensuring products are safe for trade.
- Maintains consumer trust in animal-derived foods such as meat, milk and eggs.

Use of Antibiotics to Treat Livestock

District	Use antibiotics to treat livestock (%)				Read instructions regarding withdrawal periods (%)			
	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Chegutu	1.1	2.2	0	0	0	1.1	0	1.1
Hurungwe	1.3	0	0	0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Kariba	0.9	0.9	0	0	0	0.9	0	0
Makonde	2.3	0	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.3	1.2	5.8
Zvimba	4.3	3.1	0	0	3.1	3.7	0	0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	0	1.6	0	0	7.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Sanyati	0	1.6	0	0	0	1.6	0	0
Mash West	**1.8**	**1.5**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**1.8**	**2.0**	**0.5**	**1.2**

- About 1.8% of the households indicated that they rarely read instructions on the withdrawal period when treating animals with antibiotics.

Knowledge of Antimicrobial Resistance



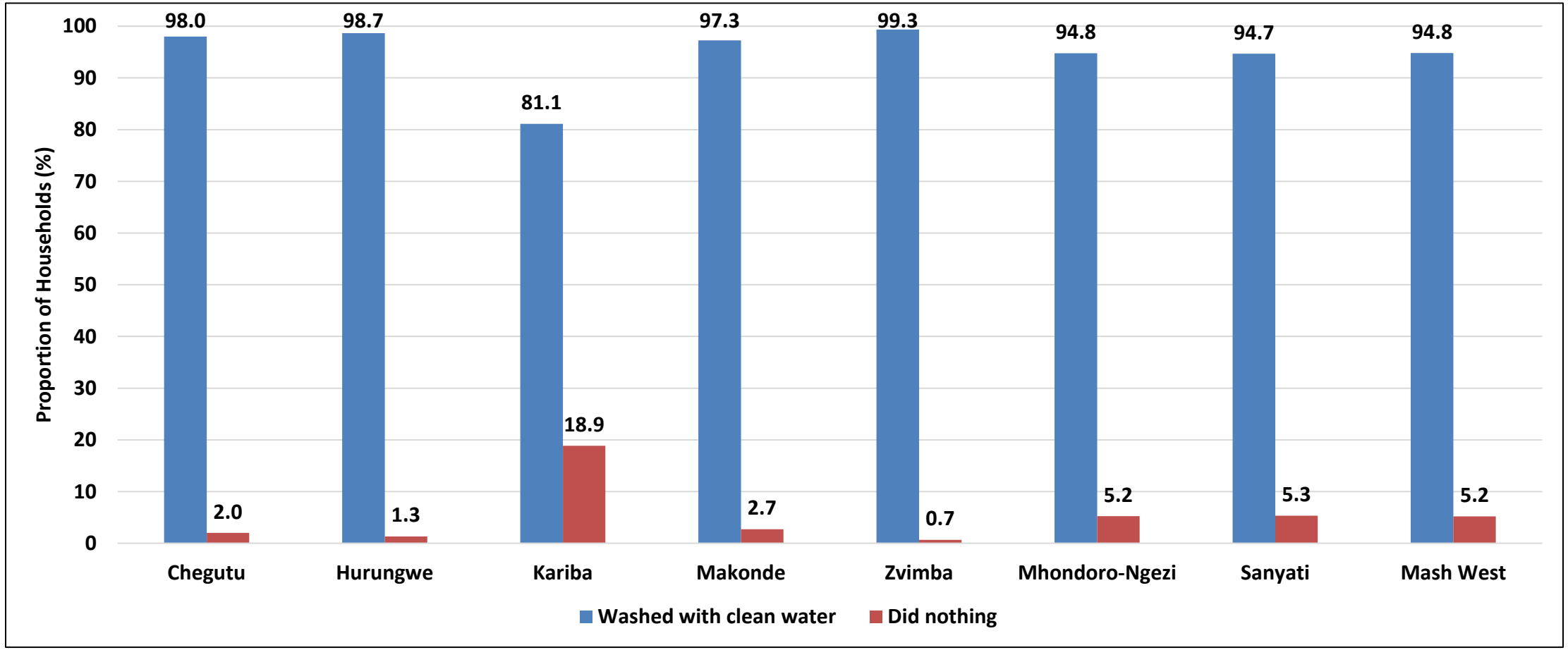
- In the province, 8.2% of the households had heard about antimicrobial resistance.
- At least 5% reported having consumed meat from livestock that had not completed the withdrawal period.

WHO Five Keys to Safer Food

Ensuring food safety is key to preventing food borne illnesses which are contracted through consumption of unsafe foods:

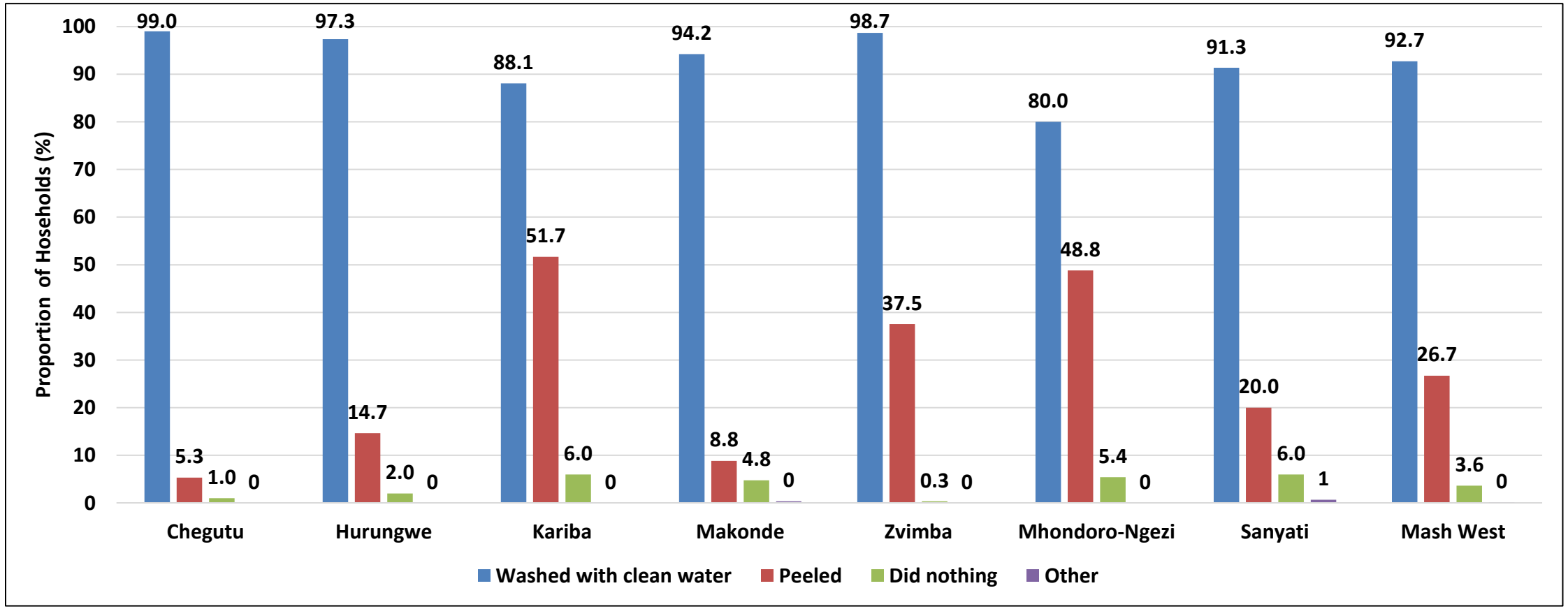
Five Keys	Key Steps
Keep clean	• **Wash hands before handling food** and often during food preparation • **Wash hands after going to the toilet** • Wash and sanitise all surfaces and equipment used for food preparation • Protect kitchen areas and food from insects, pests and other animals
Use safe water and raw materials	• **Use safe water** *households improved water source*) **or treat it to make it safe** *households treat water)* • Select fresh and wholesome foods • Choose foods processed for safety, such as pasteurised milk • Wash fruits and vegetables, especially if eaten raw • Do not use food beyond its expiry date
Separate raw and cooked	• Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods • Use separate equipment and utensils such as knives and cutting boards for handling raw foods • Store food in containers to avoid contact between raw and prepared foods
Cook thoroughly	• Cook food thoroughly, especially meat, poultry, eggs and fish • Bring foods like soups and stews to boiling to make sure that they have reached 70°C • Reheat cooked food thoroughly
Keep food at safe temperatures	• Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for more than 2 hours • Refrigerate promptly all cooked and perishable food (preferably below 5°C) • Keep cooked food piping hot (more than 60°C) prior to serving • Do not store food too long even in the refrigerator • Do not thaw frozen food at room temperature

Safe Ways of Handling Meat and Fish



- Most of the households (94.8%) washed meat and fish with clean water.
- About 18.9% of the households in Kariba District did not wash meat and fish when cooking.

Safe Ways of Handling Fruits and Vegetables



- Most of the households (92.7%) washed fruits and vegetables before eating.

Safety of Food During Storage, Cooking and Serving

District	Use Clean and Fresh Utensils (%)	Keep Food at Correct Temperatures (%)	Keep Food Closed or Covered (%)	Separate Raw and Cooked Food (%)	Cook Food Completely and not Leave any Part Raw (%)	Other (%)
Chegutu	69.0	22.3	70.3	32.3	7.7	0
Hurungwe	59.7	27.0	63.0	5.7	9.0	0
Kariba	88.1	33.8	61.3	37.1	10.9	3.3
Makonde	58.8	54.8	54.1	7.5	4.8	1.7
Zvimba	82.4	17.3	69.1	24.6	32.6	0.3
Mhondoro-Ngezi	72.2	60.7	47.5	32.2	10.5	0.3
Sanyati	91.3	28.3	30.3	26.7	22.3	0.3
Mash West	**74.6**	**34.8**	**56.5**	**23.8**	**14.0**	**0.9**

- At least 74.6% of households used clean and fresh utensils and 62.9% kept food covered during storage, cooking and serving.

Most Common Food Items Purchased from Vendors

District	Cereal (Rice, Pasta, Mealie Meal, Traditional Grains) (%)	Biscuits, Sweets and Snacks (%)	Drinks (%)	Fruits and vegetables (%)	Meat and Meat Products (%)	Dairy Products (%)	Other (%)	Nothing (%)
Chegutu	5.0	18.0	12.0	57.7	22.0	12.7	2.0	20.3
Hurungwe	1.0	8.7	13.3	73.3	11.7	7.7	7.7	10.3
Kariba	12.9	5.0	7.6	44.7	7.6	2.6	25.2	33.1
Makonde	7.8	24.8	14.3	47.3	18.7	0.7	7.1	13.3
Zvimba	30.6	26.2	14.3	87.7	9.0	0.3	2.0	0.7
Mhondoro-Ngezi	9.8	48.5	27.8	77.6	10.8	2.7	0.3	1.4
Sanyati	1.7	6.3	3.3	61.3	15.7	6.3	0.3	17.3
Mash West	**9.8**	**19.6**	**13.2**	**64.2**	**13.6**	**4.7**	**6.4**	**13.8**

- The majority of the households (64.2%) indicated that fruits and vegetables were the most common food items purchased from vendors.
- About 13.6% of the households indicated that they bought meat and meat products from vendors.

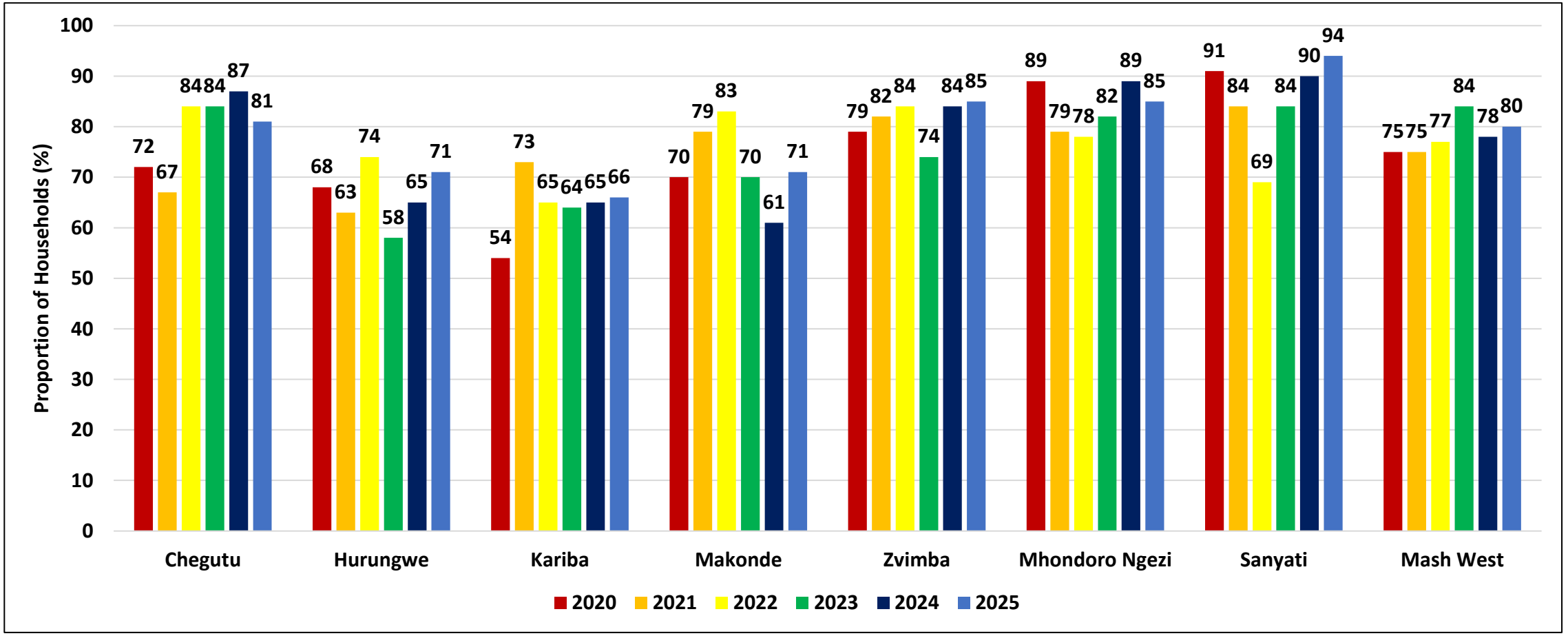
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Ladder for Drinking Water Services

Service Level	Definition
Safely Managed	Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination.
Basic Drinking Water	Basic drinking water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
Limited Drinking Water Services	Limited water services are defined as drinking water from an improved source, where collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.
Unimproved Water Sources	Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.
Surface Water Sources	Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation channel.

Note :
"Improved" drinking water sources are further defined by the quality of the water they produce, and are protected from faecal contamination by the nature of their construction or through an intervention to protect from outside contamination. Such sources include: piped water into dwelling, plot, or yard; public tap/standpipe; tube well/borehole; protected dug well; protected spring; or rainwater collection. This category now includes packaged and delivered water, considering that both can potentially deliver safe water.

Access to Improved Water Source by Year



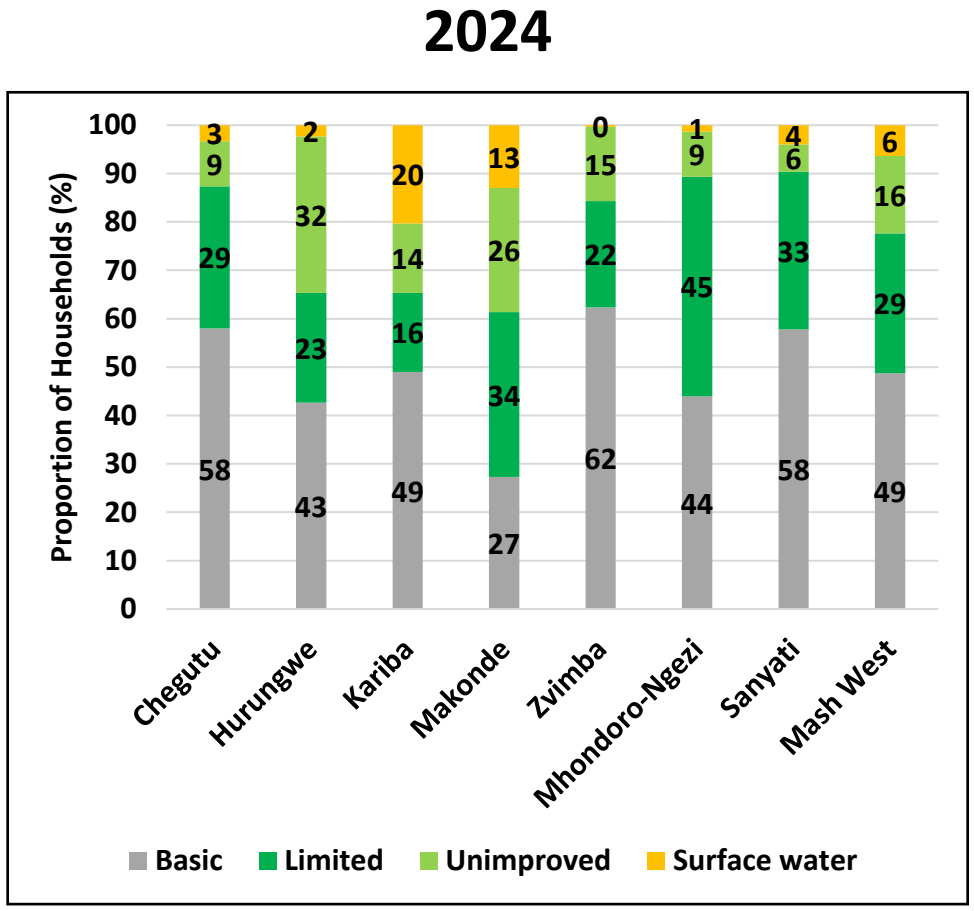
- Access to improved water sources decreased from 84% in 2023 to 80% in 2025 in the province.

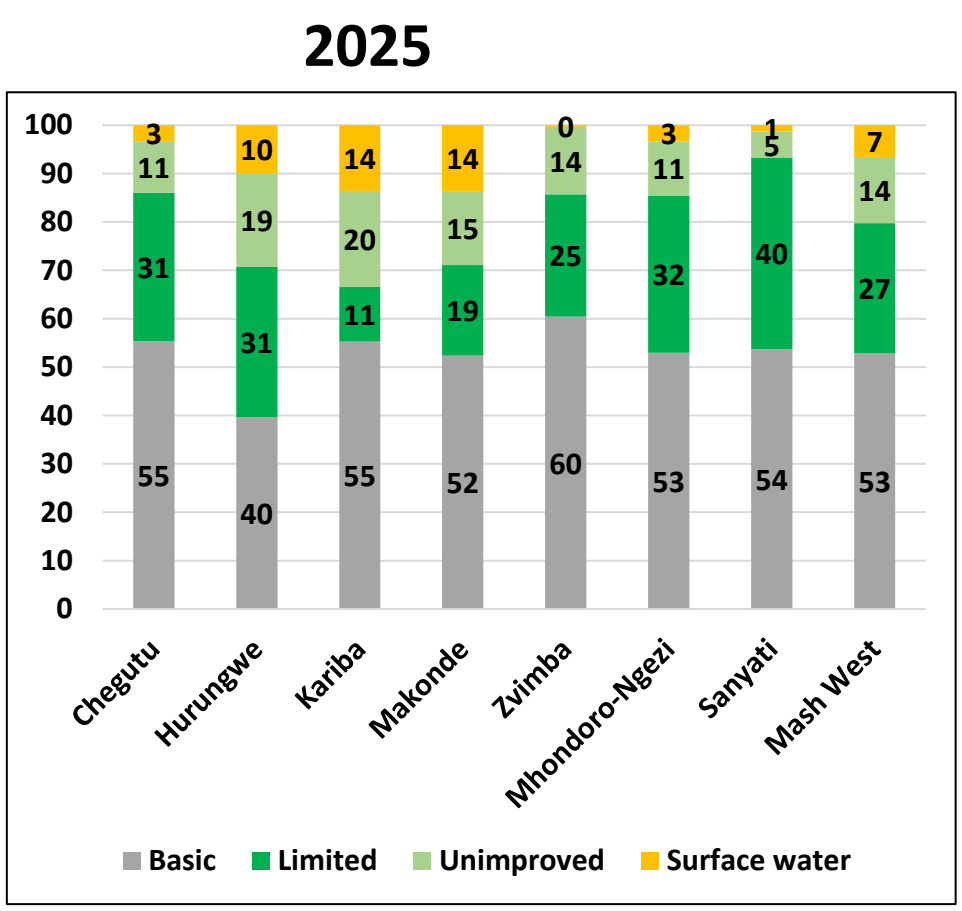
Main Source of Drinking Water

District	Piped into dwelling (%)	Piped into yard or plot (%)	Piped into public tap or standpipe (%)	Piped into neighbour's yard (%)	Borehole/Tube well (%)	Protected well (%)	Unprotected well (%)	Protected spring (%)	Unprotected spring (%)	Surface water (%)	Sand abstraction (%)	Other (%)
Chegutu	0.3	4.0	6.3	0.3	42.0	32.0	10.3	0.3	0.3	3.3	0.0	0
Hurungwe	0.0	1.0	7.0	1.0	48.7	12.7	18.0	0.3	1.0	10.0	0.3	0
Kariba	4.6	0.7	28.1	0	31.8	1.3	19.2	0	0.3	13.6	0.3	0
Makonde	0	1.0	4.4	1.4	45.9	17.0	10.2	1.4	0.7	13.6	4.1	0.3
Zvimba	7.3	5.0	34.6	1.3	16.3	20.9	13.0	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.0	0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	2.6	6.3	3.4	1.5	48.5	23.1	11.2	0	0	3.4	0	0
Sanyati	0.3	6.7	4.7	2.0	63.7	15.7	5.0	0.3	0.3	1.3	0.0	0
Mash West	**2.2**	**3.5**	**12.8**	**1.1**	**42.3**	**17.4**	**12.4**	**0.4**	**0.5**	**6.5**	**0.7**	**0**

- The majority of households were drinking water from boreholes or tube wells (42.3%).
- About 6.5% of the households were drinking surface water.

Main Drinking Water Services

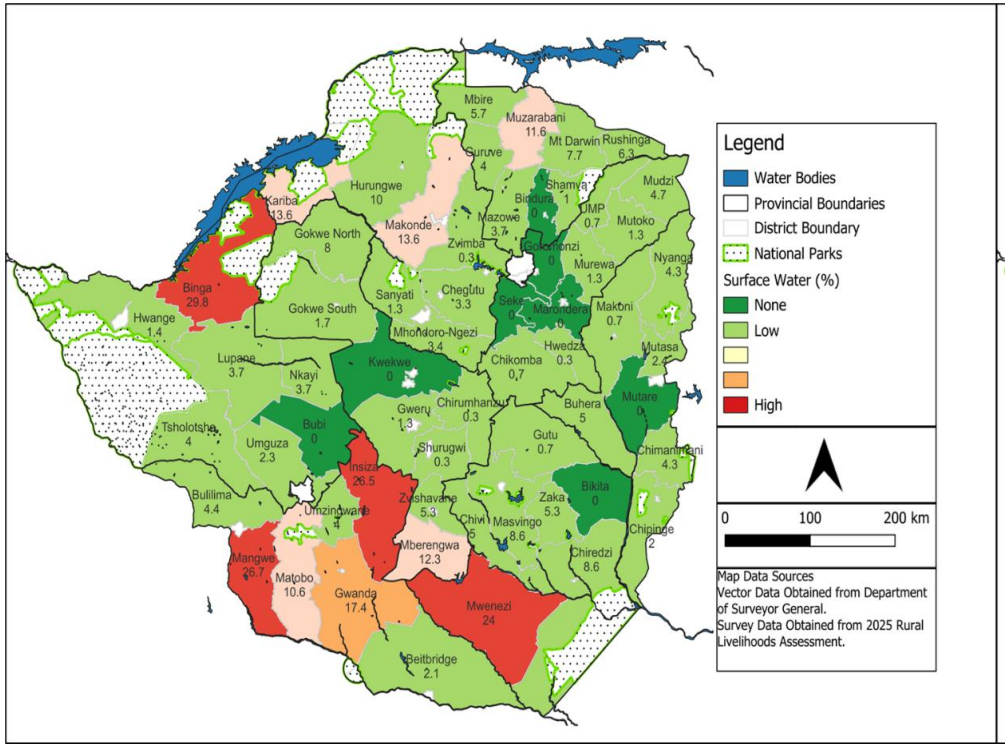




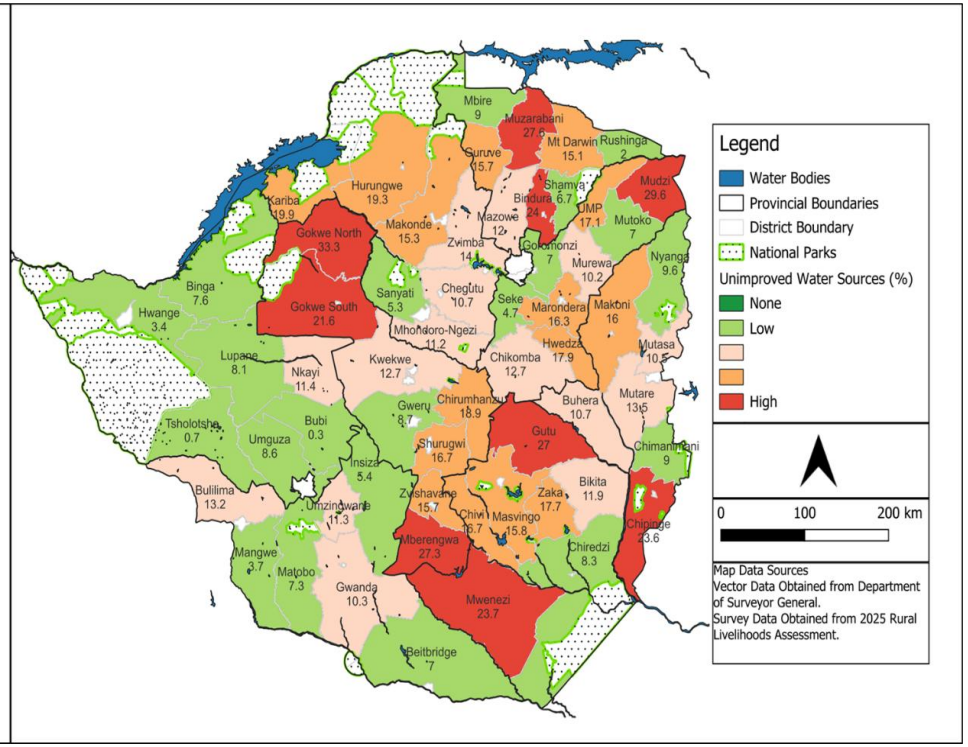
- There was an increase in the proportion of households accessing basic water services from 49% in 2024 to 53% in 2025.

Water Services

Households Drinking Surface Water

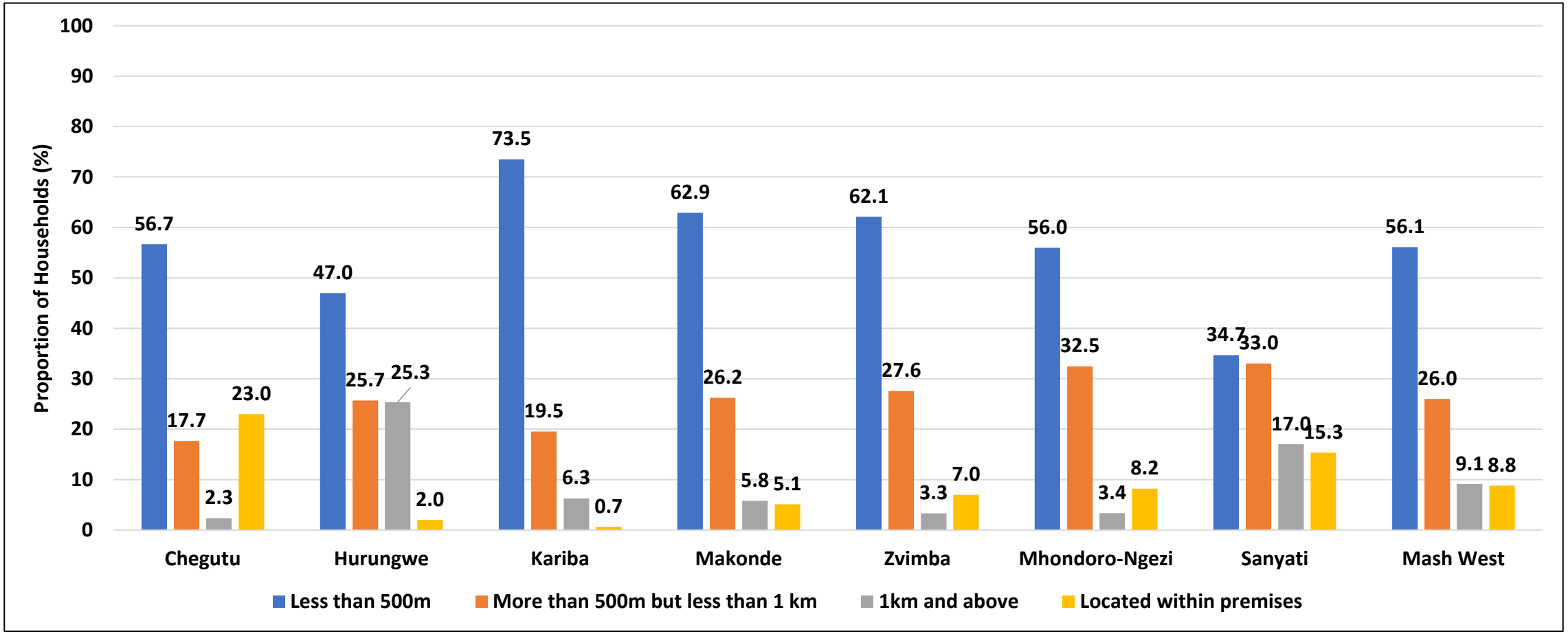


Households Using Unimproved Water



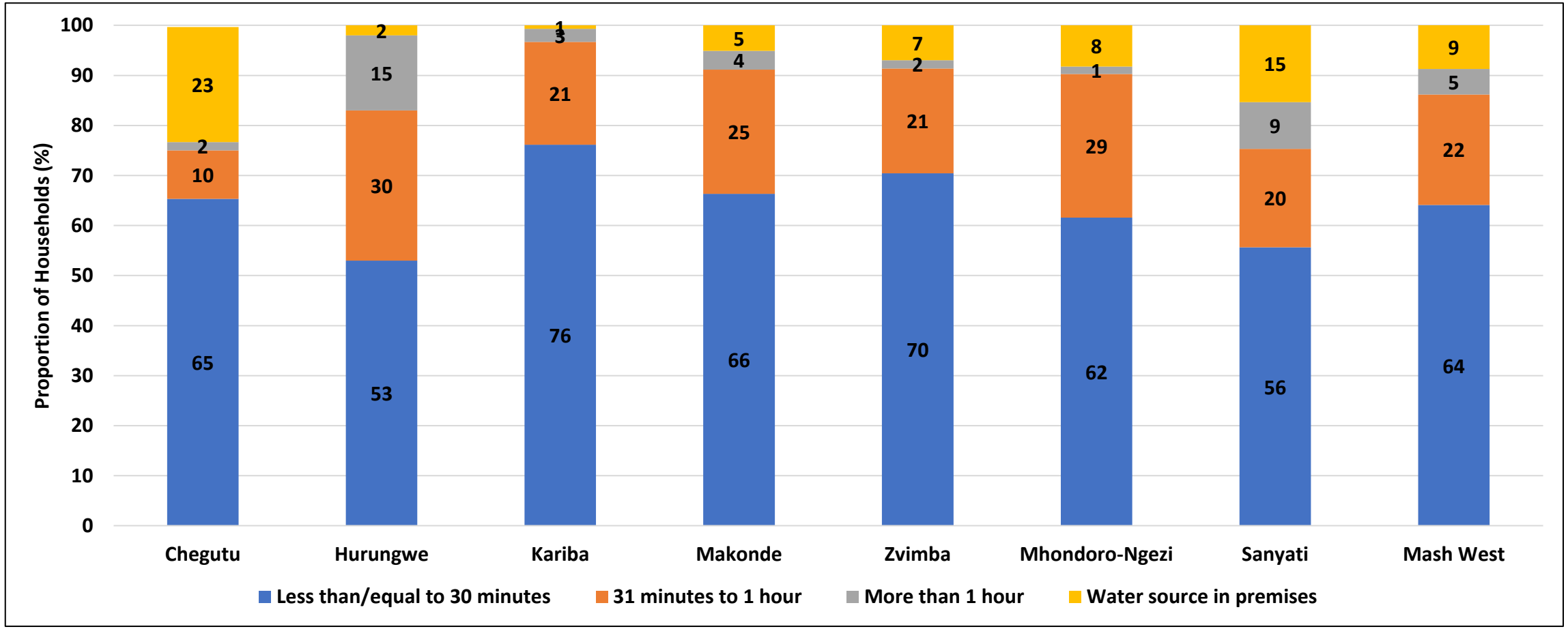
- Kariba (13.6%) and Makonde (13.6%) had the highest proportion of households which were drinking surface water.
- Hurungwe (19.3%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water services.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



- About 56% of the households accessed water less than 500m from their homes.
- The proportion of households travelling 1km and above to their main water source was (9.1%)

Time Taken to and from Main Drinking Water Source



- The proportion of households spending thirty minutes or less for a round trip to collect drinking water was 64%.
- About 5% of the households spent more than one hour for a round trip to collect drinking water.

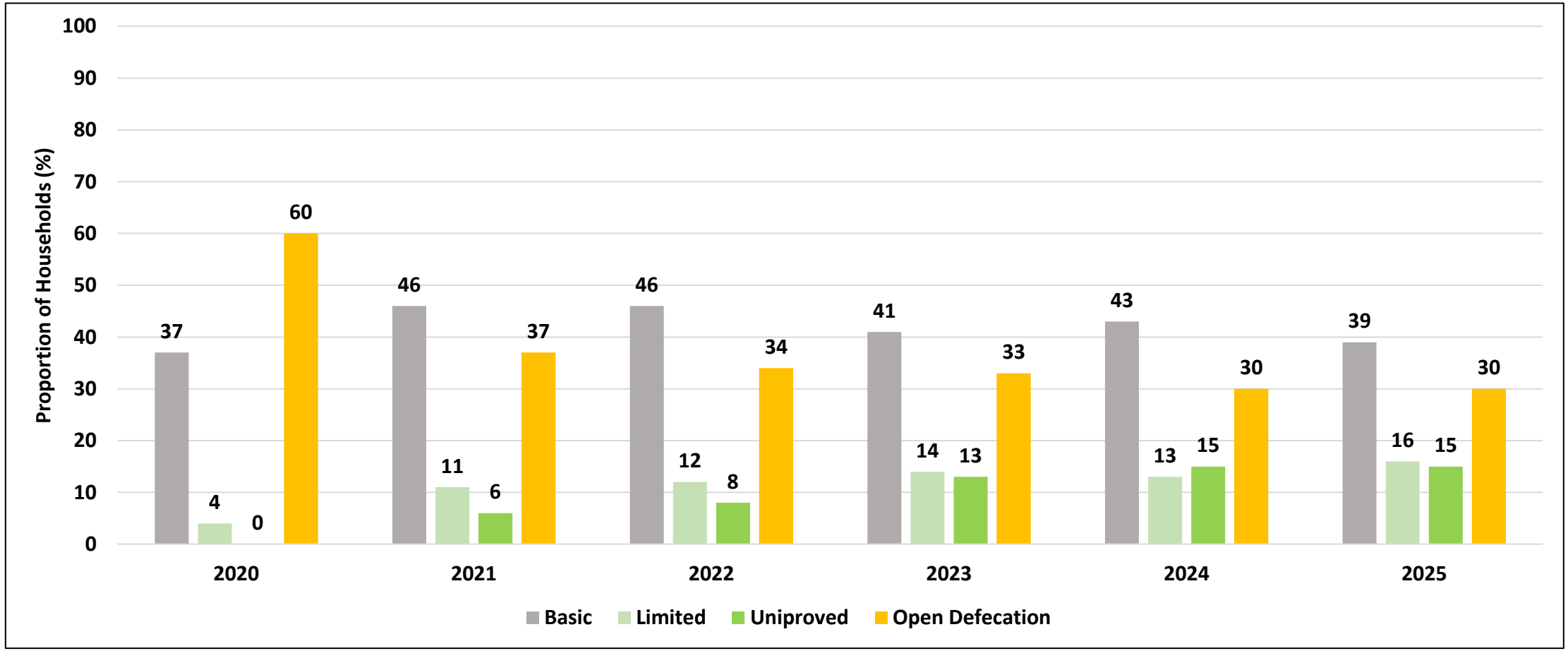
Sanitation

Ladder for Sanitation

Service level	Definition
Safely Managed	Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite.
Basic Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households.
Limited Sanitation Facilities	Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.
Unimproved Sanitation Facilities	Facilities that do not ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. Unimproved facilities include pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines and bucket latrines.
Open Defecation	Disposal of human faeces in fields, forest, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces or with solid waste.

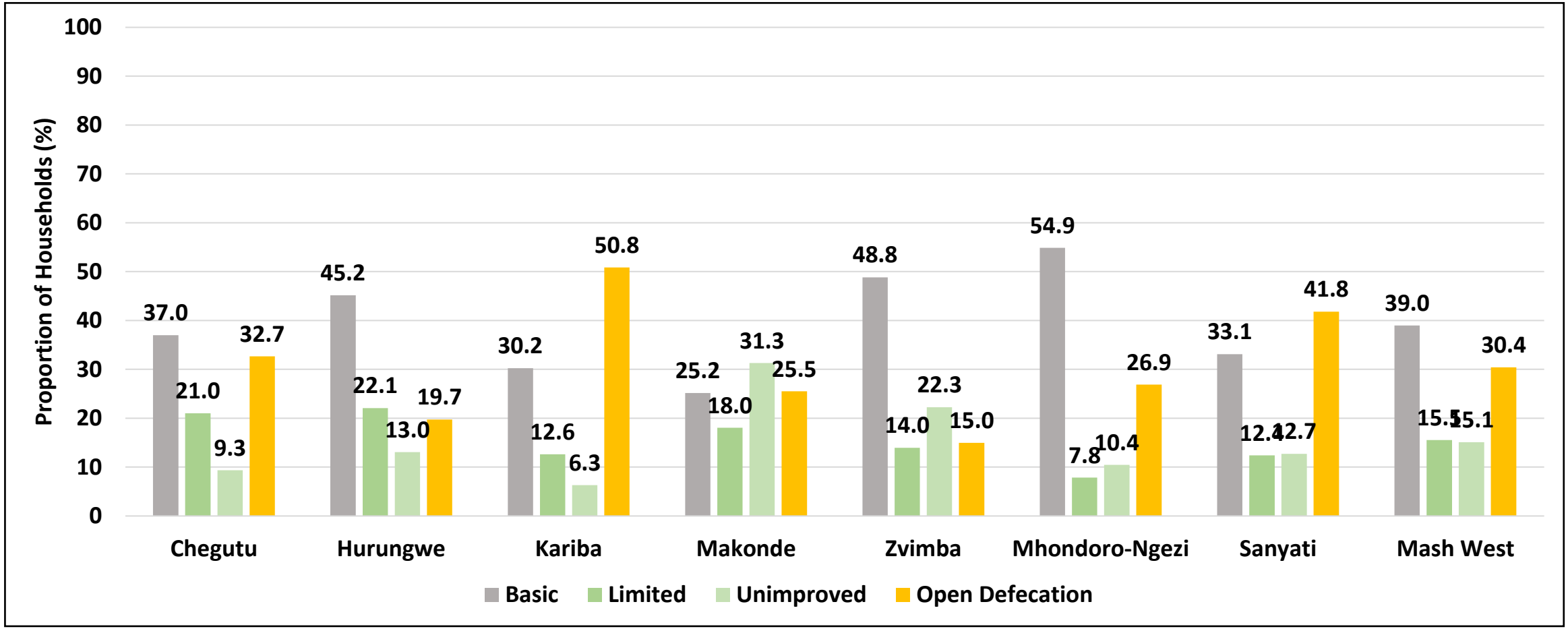
Note: Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include flush or pour flush toilet/latrine, Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP), pit latrine with slab and upgradeable Blair latrine.

Household Sanitation Services



- The proportion of households practicing open defecation decreased from 60% in 2020 to 30% 2025.

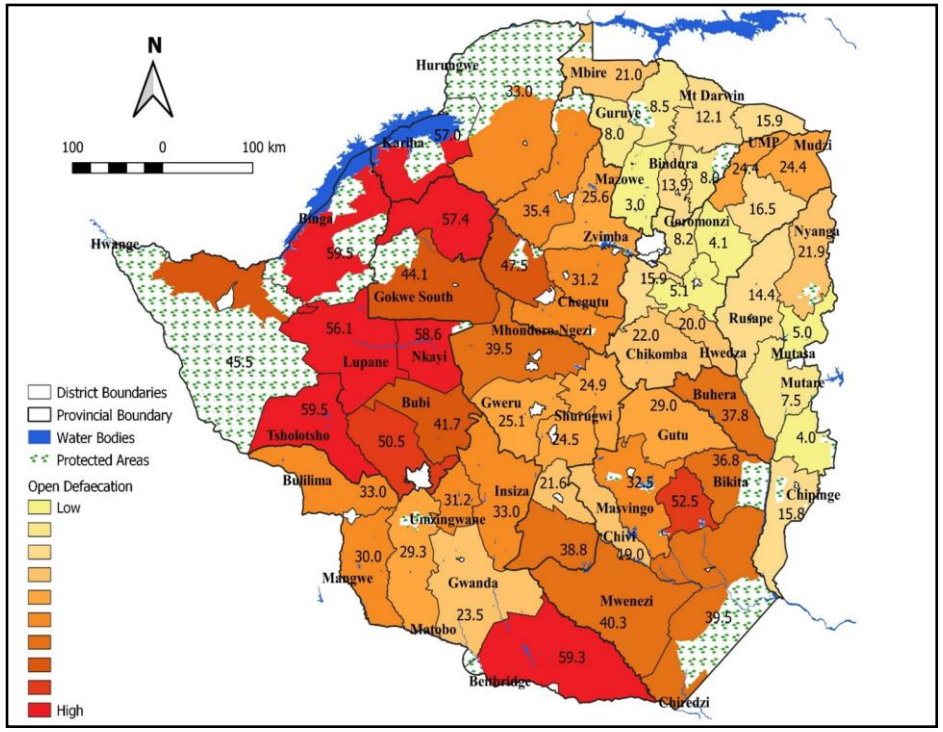
Household Sanitation Services



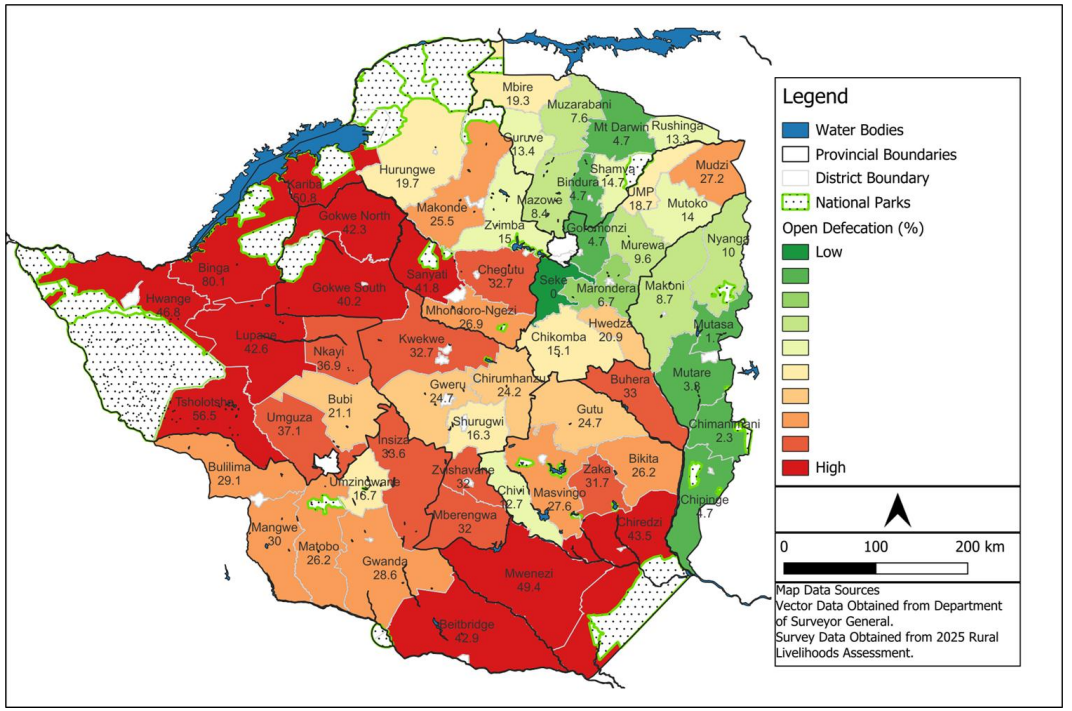
- Mhondoro Ngezi (54.9%) had the highest proportion of household with basic sanitation facilities.

Open Defecation By District

2020



2025



- Kariba (50.8%) and Sanyati (41.8%) had the highest proportion of households which practised open defecation.
- Zvimba (15%) had the least proportion of households practising open defecation.

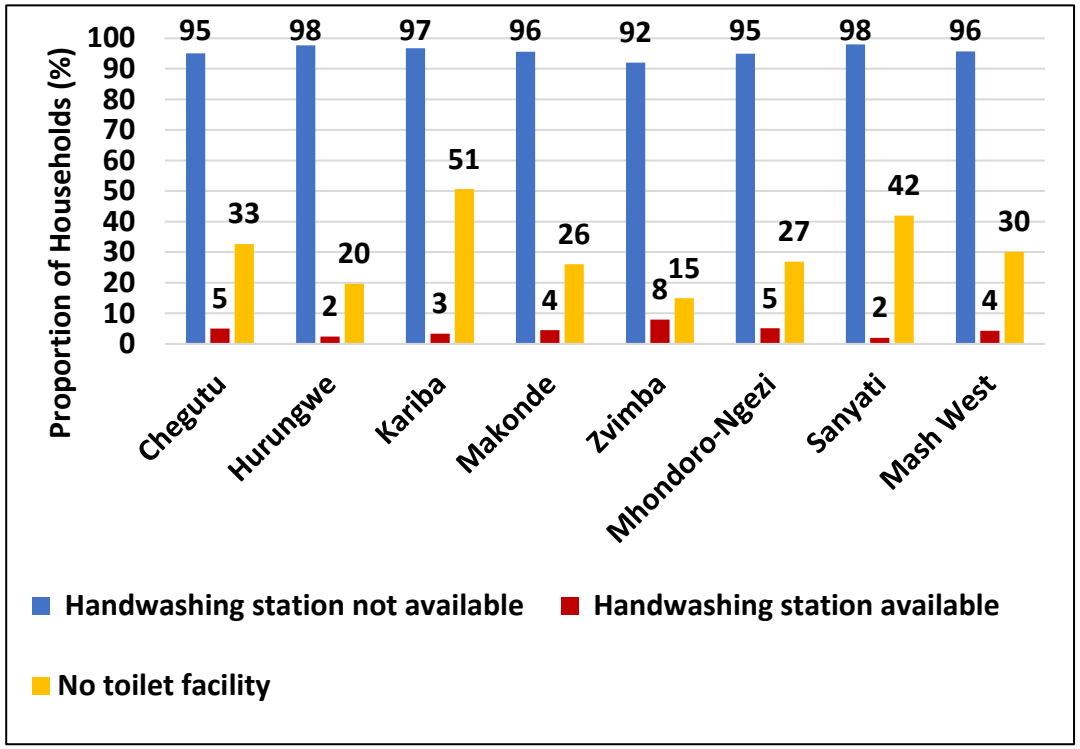
Ladder for Hygiene

Service level	Definition
Basic	Availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water.
Limited	Availability of a handwashing facility on premises without soap and water.
No Facility	No hand washing facility on premises.

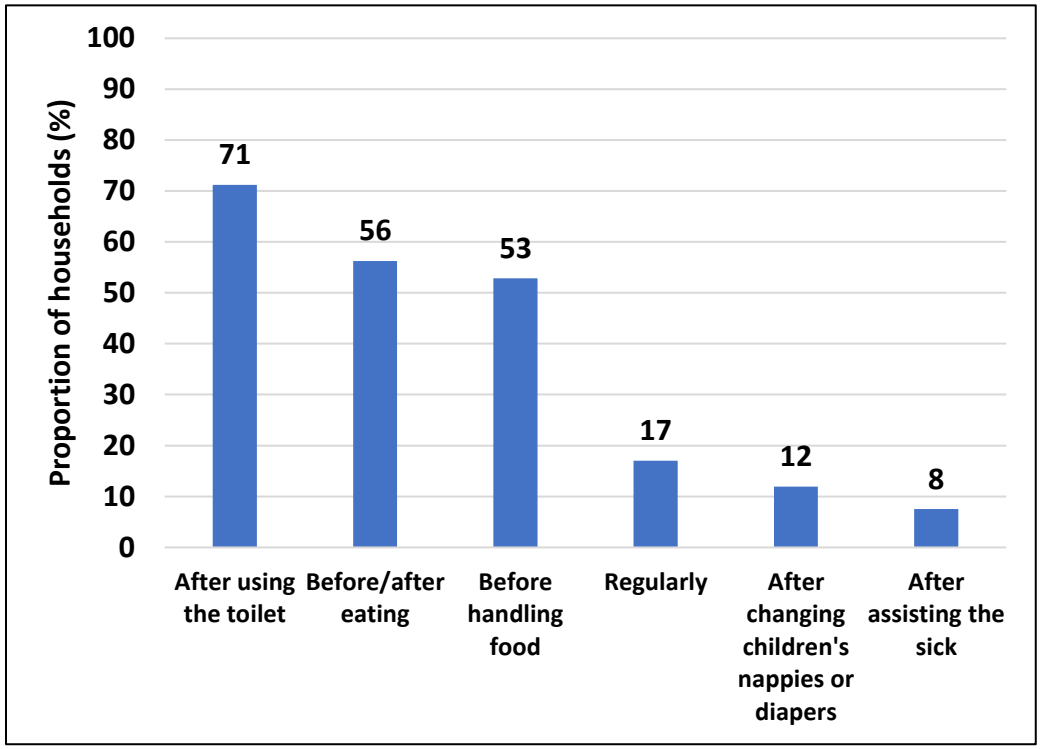
Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

Handwashing

Handwashing facilities



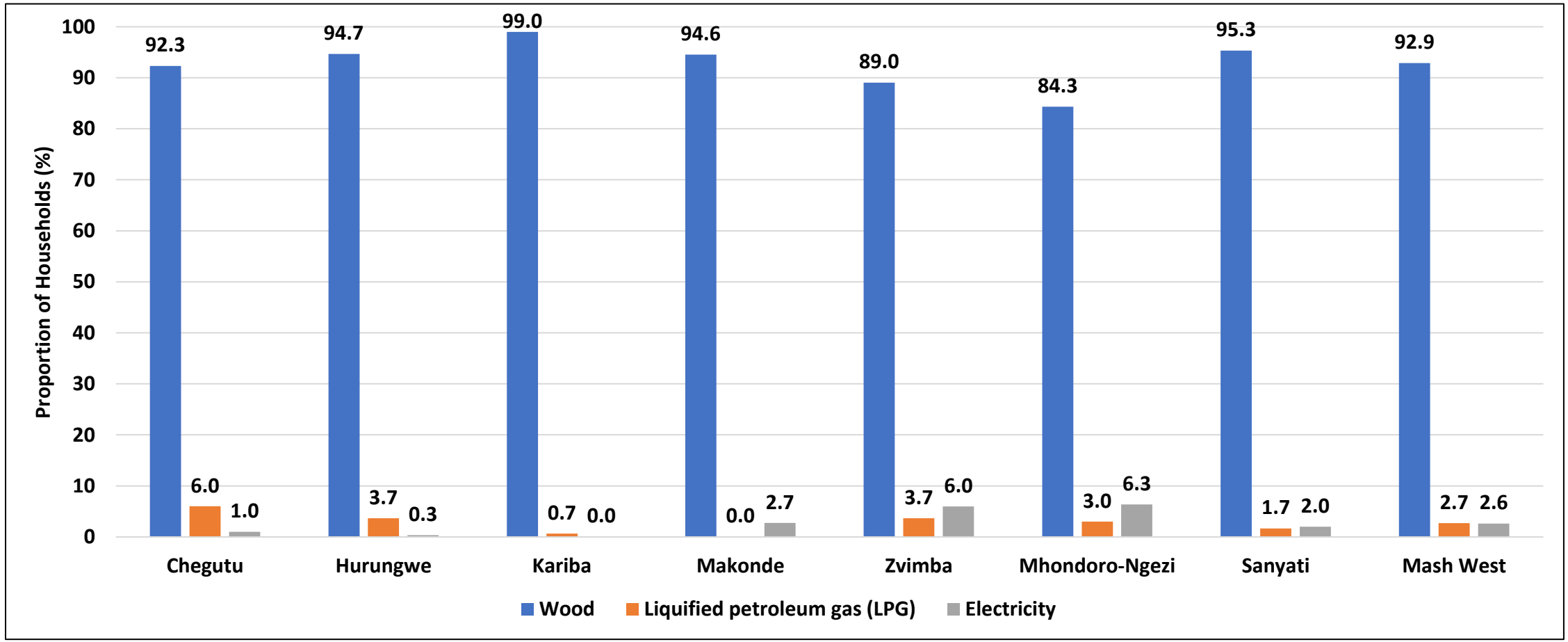
Handwashing at Critical Times



- The proportion of households without handwashing facilities was 96%.
- The majority of households reported that they washed their hands after using the toilet (71%) whilst 4% reported that they never washed their hands.

Energy

Type of Energy Used for Cooking



- Chegutu (6%), had the highest proportion of households which used Liquified Petroleum Gas for cooking.

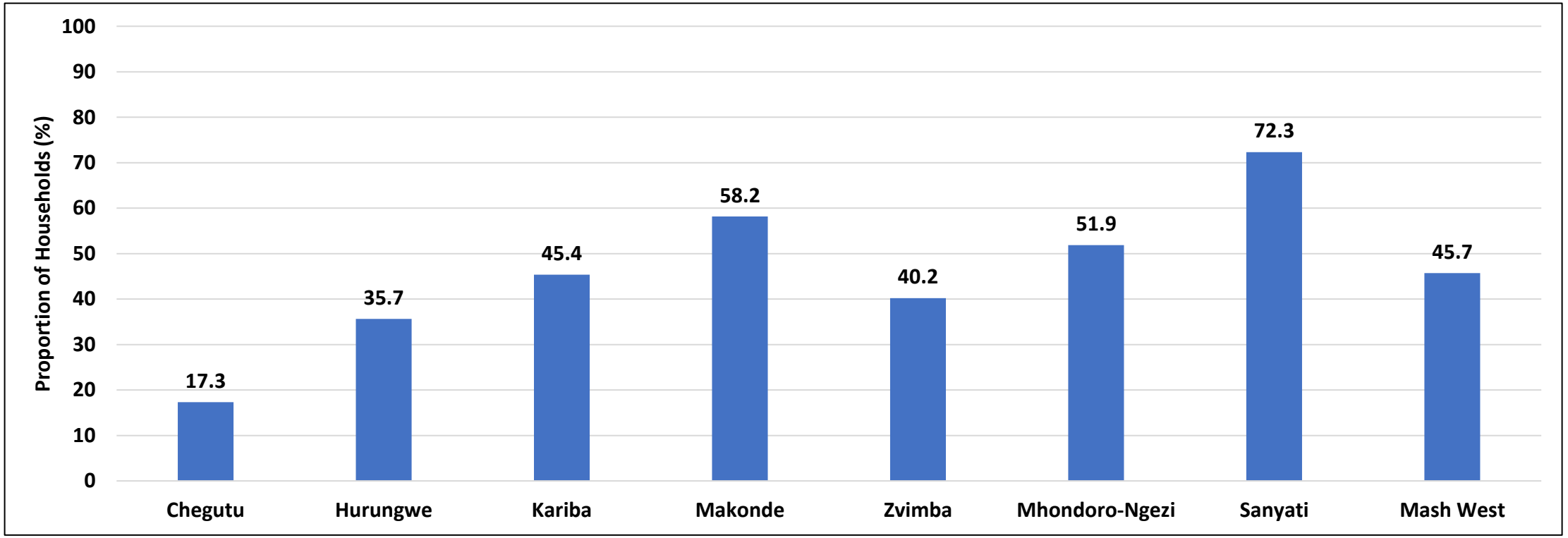
Type of Energy Used for Lighting

District	Solar/Battery (%)	Torch (%)	Electricity (%)	Candle (%)	Wood (%)
Chegutu	73.0	19.3	5.0	1.0	1.3
Hurungwe	66.3	30.7	1.0	0.7	1.0
Kariba	83.8	2.0	0.0	3.3	10.9
Makonde	36.7	50.3	8.8	0.3	3.4
Zvimba	70.8	6.0	13.6	4.3	3.7
Mhondoro-Ngezi	44.4	0.7	7.5	26.9	11.2
Sanyati	57.7	21.3	6.3	7.0	6.3
Mash West	**62.2**	**18.8**	**6.0**	**5.9**	**5.3**

- Solar or battery (62.2%) was the most reported type of energy used for lighting.

Climate Change

Household Knowledge on Climate Change



- In the province, 45.7% of the households reported having knowledge on climate change.
- Sanyati (72.3%) reported the highest proportion of households with knowledge on climate change, whilst Chegutu (17.3%) had the lowest.

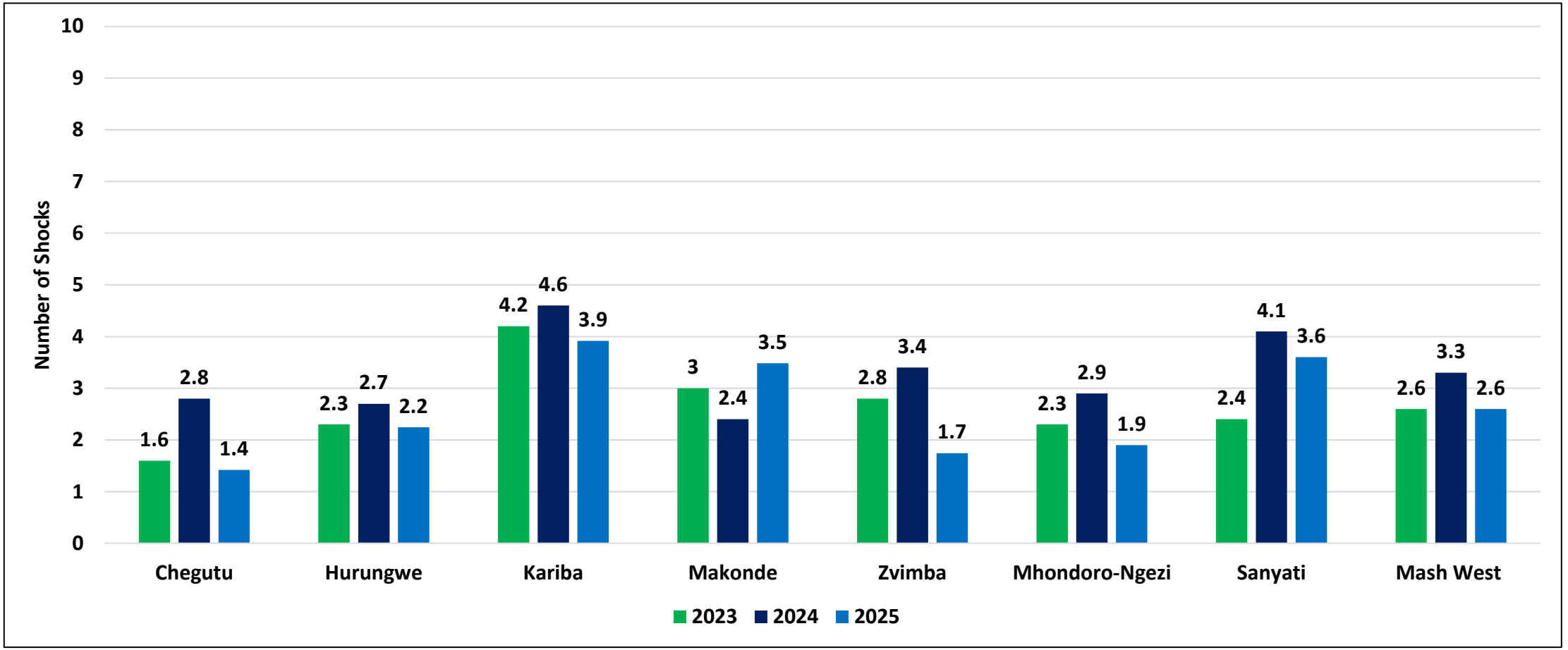
Perceived Effects of Climate Change on Households

District	Not enough food (%)	Increased droughts (%)	More health risks (%)	Extreme temperatures (%)	Severe storms (%)	Loss of species (%)	Poverty and displacement (%)
Chegutu	10.7	5.7	0	1.0	0	0	0
Hurungwe	22.7	10.3	0.3	2.0	0	0	0.3
Kariba	19.2	19.5	1.7	3.3	1.3	0	0.3
Makonde	33.7	10.5	8.5	4.1	0.7	0	0.7
Zvimba	23.6	7.0	0.7	8.3	0	0	0.7
Mhondoro-Ngezi	14.6	20.7	2.4	7.1	0	0.3	2.0
Sanyati	58.0	8.7	0.3	2.7	1.3	0.3	1.0
Mash West	**26.1**	**11.8**	**2.0**	**4.1**	**0.5**	**0.1**	**0.7**

- Not enough food (26.1%) and increased droughts (11.8%) were the most reported perceived effects of climate change.

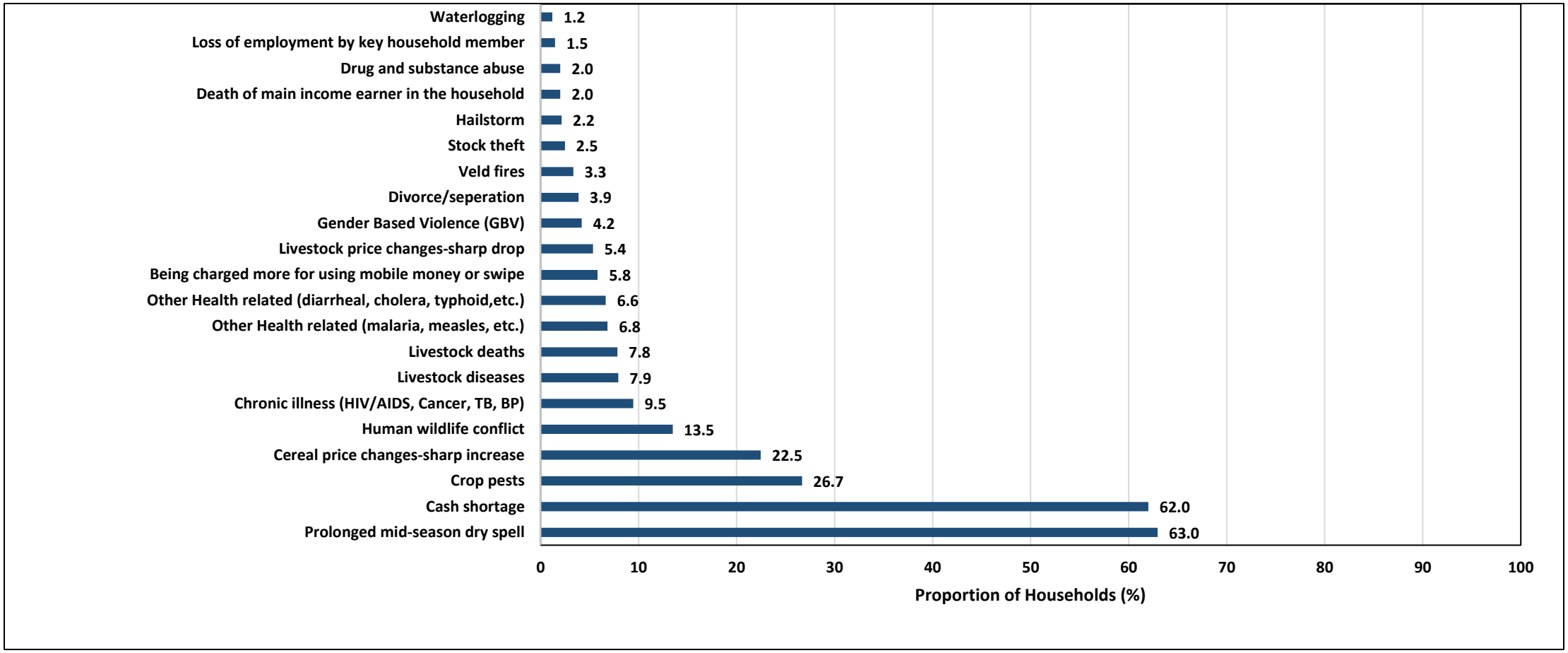
Shocks and Stressors

Number of Shocks and Stressors Experienced by Households



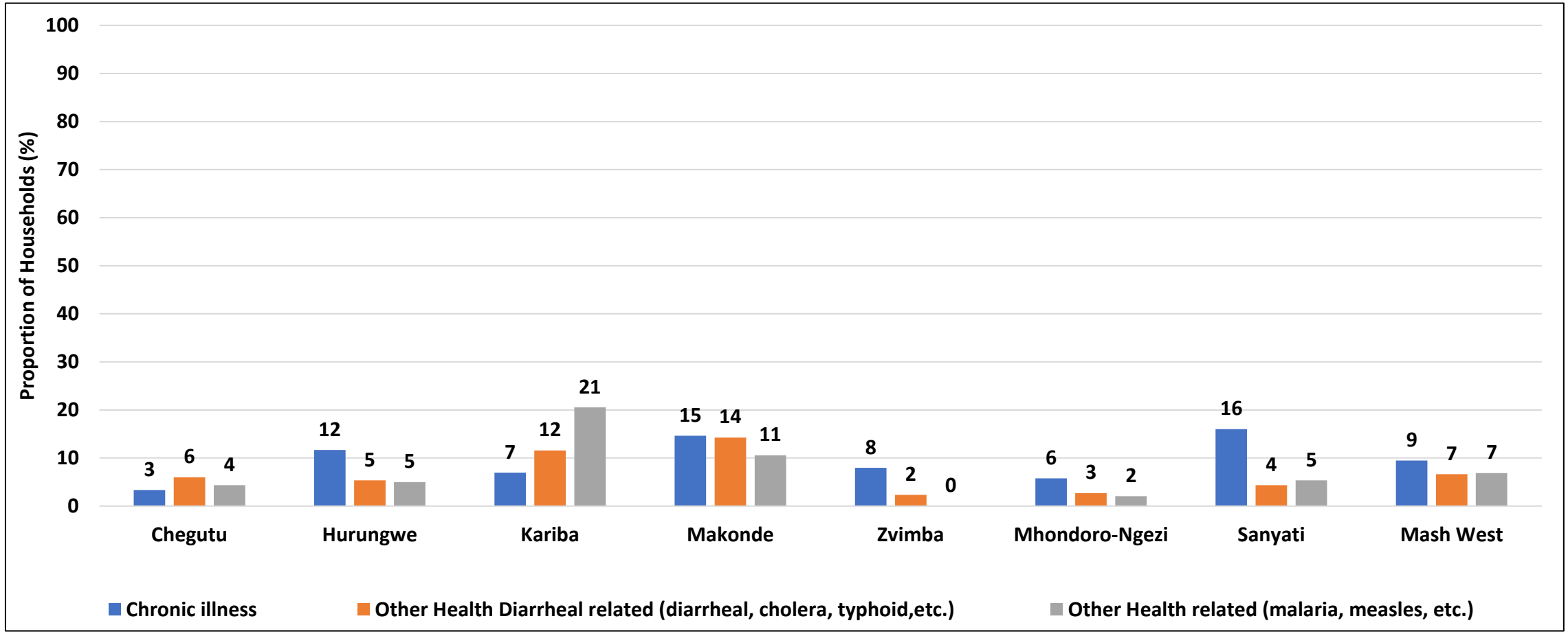
- The average number of shocks and stressors experienced by households decreased from 3.3 in 2024 to 2.6 in 2025.

Households that experienced Shocks and Stressors



- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (63%) and cash shortage (62%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by the households

Health Related Shocks and Stressors



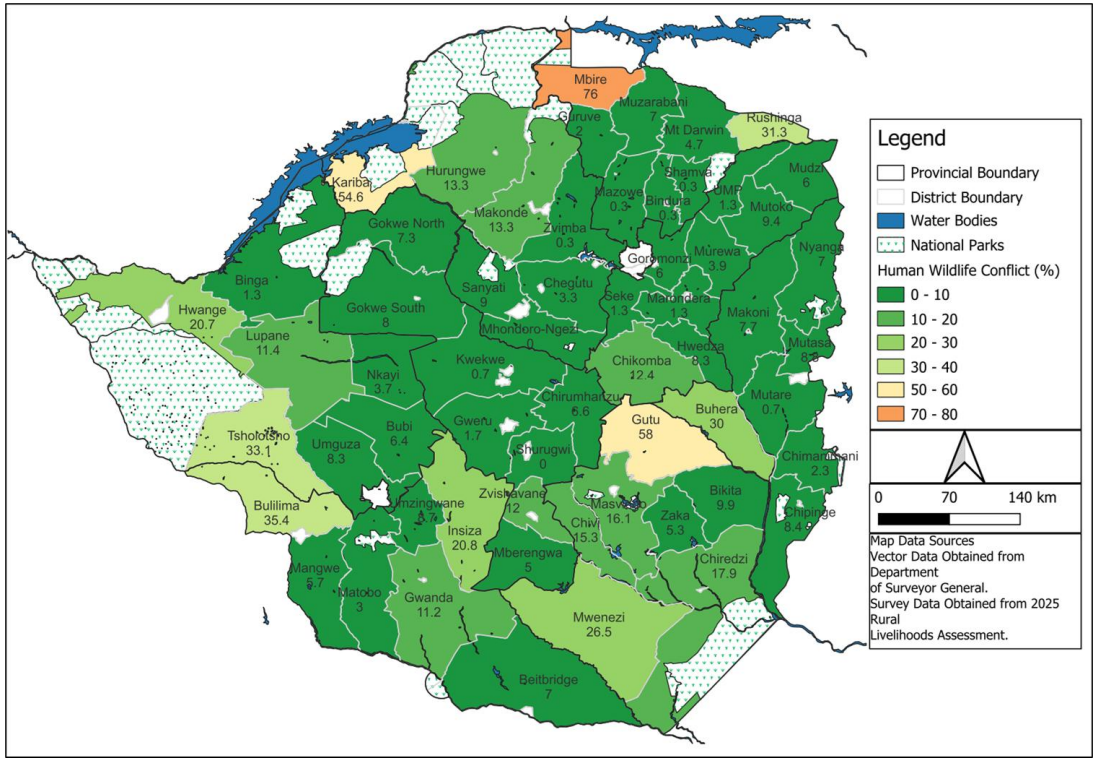
- The most report reported health related shock was chronic illness (9%)
- Kariba had the highest proportion of households which reported other heath related (malaria, measles) as a shock (21%).

Economic and Social Shocks and Stressors

Shock and Stressor Type	Chegutu (%)	Hurungwe (%)	Kariba (%)	Makonde (%)	Zvimba (%)	Mhondoro Ngezi (%)	Sanyati (%)	Mash West (%)
Cash shortage	10.3	56.0	83.4	72.8	74.4	49.8	87.0	62.0
Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe	2.3	11.7	4	1.4	7.3	3.7	10.3	5.8
Cereal price changes-sharp increase	2.3	12.0	36.8	56.1	1.3	4.1	45	22.5
Livestock price changes-sharp drop	0.3	3.3	15.2	6.8	0.3	1.0	10.3	5.4
Gender Based Violence	2.7	2,7	7.3	6.1	0.3	4.4	6.0	4.2
Divorce / separation	1.7	2.7	6.0	4.4	3.0	7.8	1.7	3.9
Death of main income earner in the household	1.3	1.7	2.6	5.4	0.7	1.0	1.3	2.0
Loss of employment by key household member	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.4	0.3	1.5
Drug and substance abuse	2	0.3	1.3	2.0	0.3	6.4	1.7	2.0

- Cash shortage was the most reported economic shock and stressor (62%).
- Sanyati (87%) had the highest proportion of households that reported cash shortage as a shock.

Human Wildlife Conflict



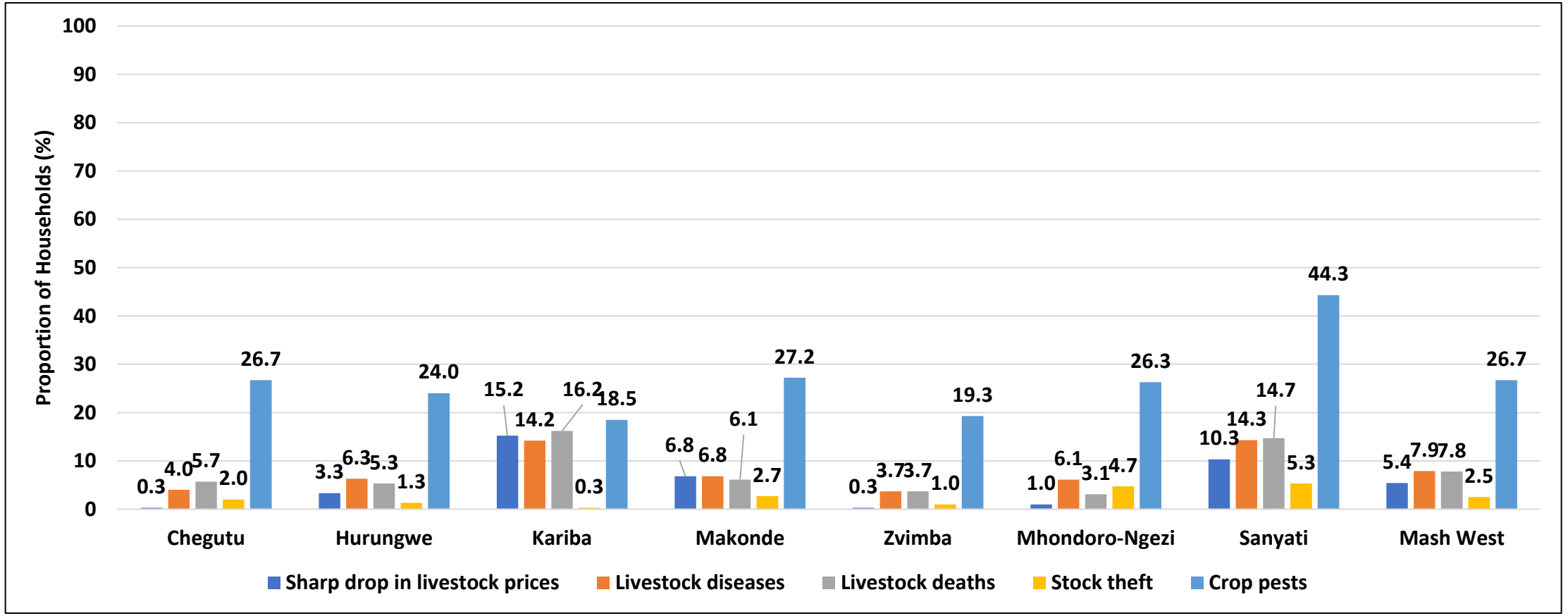
- Kariba (54.6%) had the highest proportion of households reporting human wildlife conflict as a shock.

Climate Related Shocks and Stressors

Shock and Stressor type	Chegutu (%)	Hurungwe (%)	Kariba (%)	Makonde (%)	Zvimba (%)	Mhondoro-Ngezi (%)	Sanyati (%)	Mash West (%)
Prolonged mid-season dry spell	58.0	55.3	87.1	69.7	40.2	52.9	77.3	63.0
Hailstorm	1.0	3.7	0.7	8.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.2
Floods	0	0.7	0	2.4	0	0	0.3	0.5
Waterlogging	0.7	0.7	0	3.1	1.3	0	2.7	1.2
Veld fires	0.7	1.0	2.6	10.9	4.0	2.7	1.7	3.3

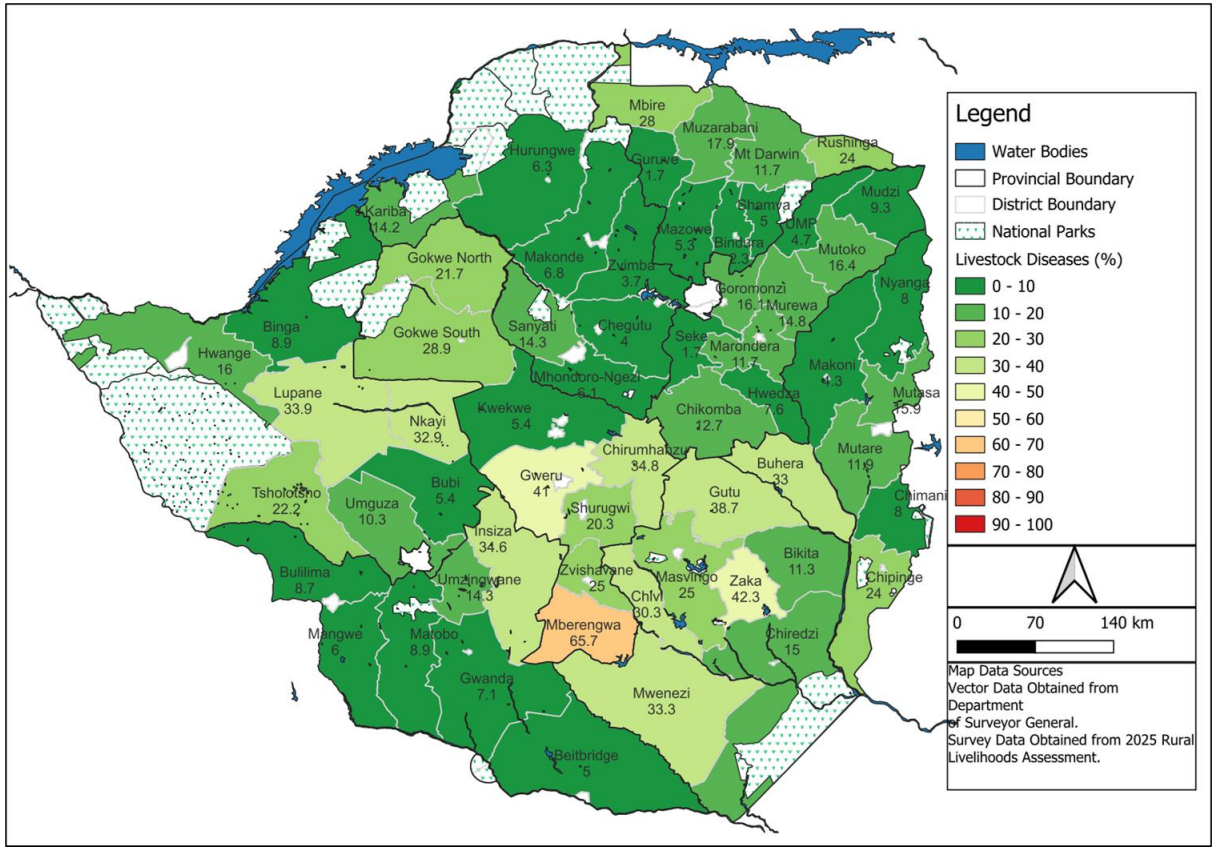
- Prolonged mid-season dry spell (63%) was the most reported climate related shock.
- Kariba (87%) and Sanyati (77.3%) had the highest proportion of households which reported prolonged mid-season dry spells as a shock.

Agriculture Related Shocks and Stressors



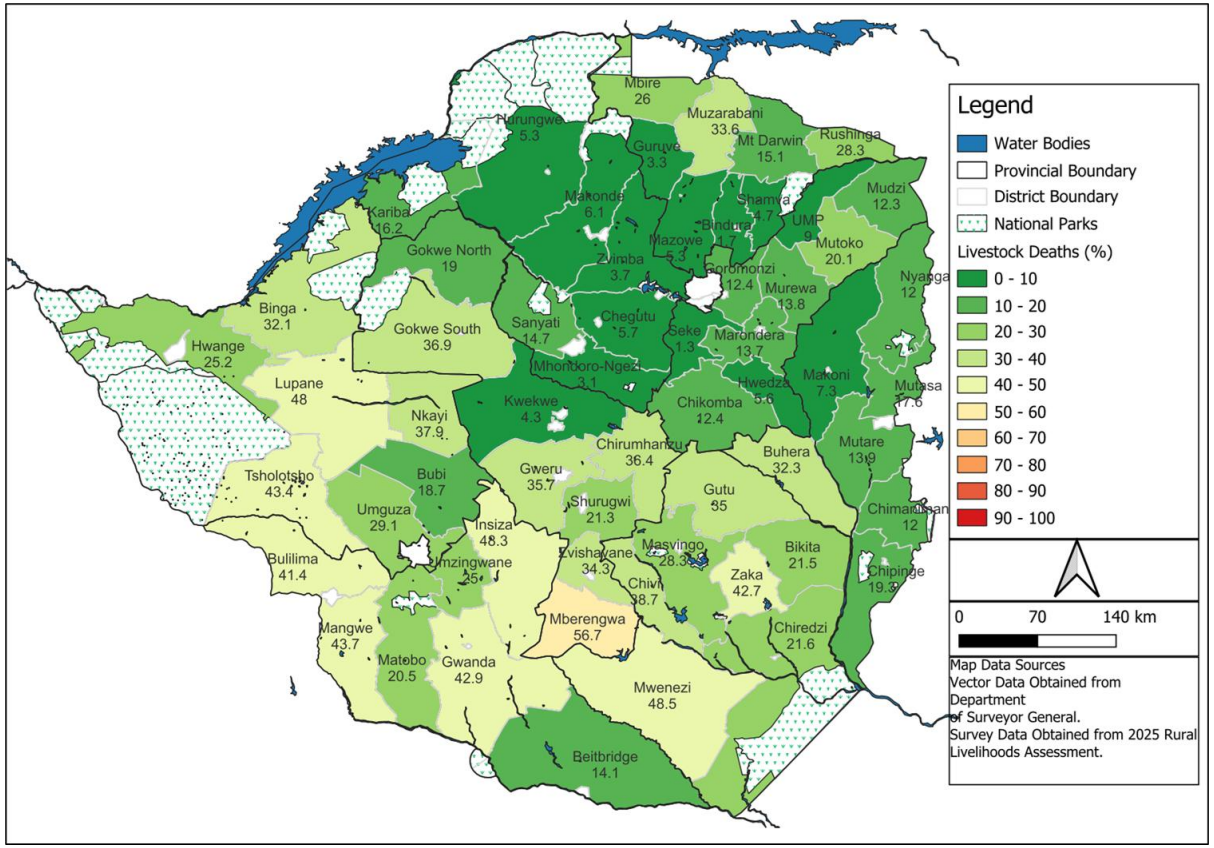
- Crop pests (26.7%) was the most reported agriculture-related shock.
- Sanyati (44.3%) had the highest proportion of households that reported crop pests as a shock.

Livestock Diseases



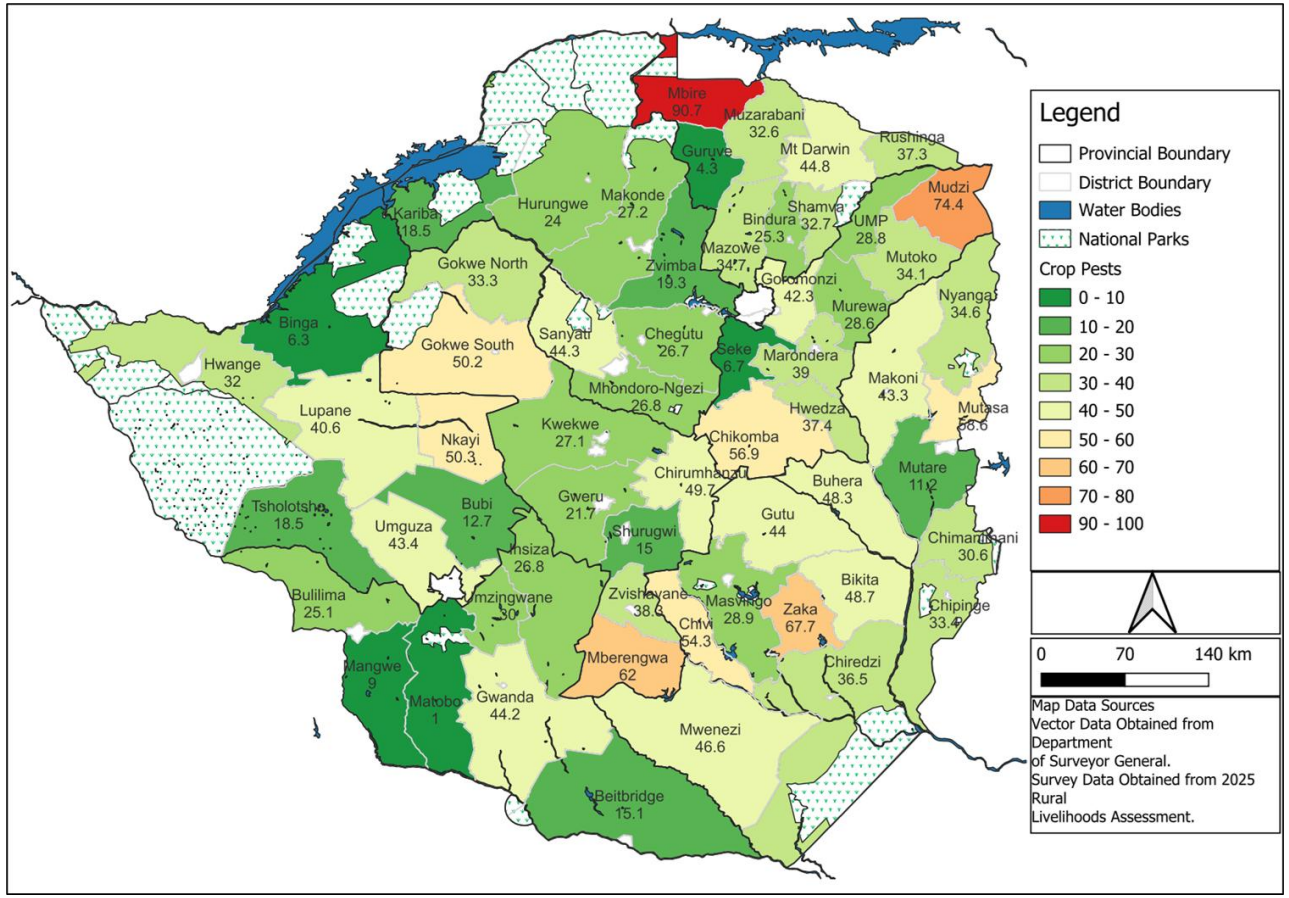
- Sanyati (14.3%) and Kariba (14.2%) had reported the highest proportion of households that reported livestock diseases as a shock.

Livestock Deaths



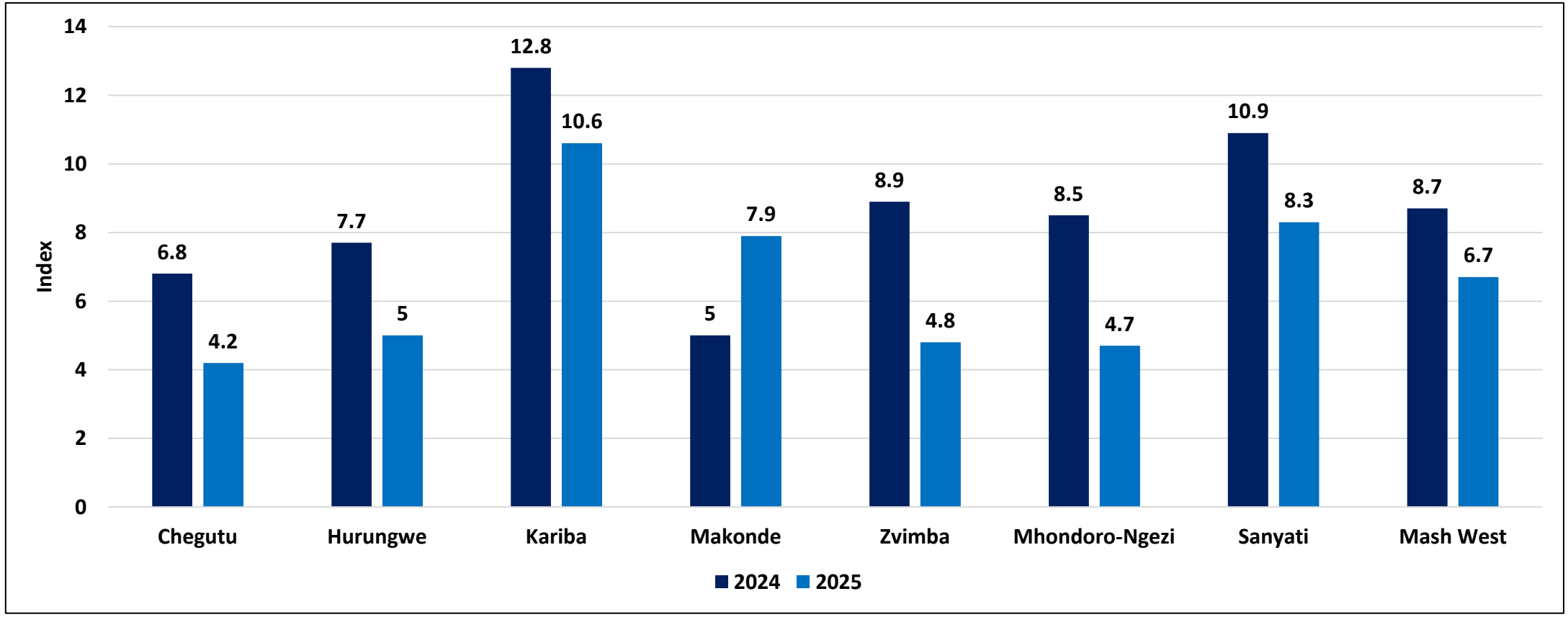
- Kariba (16.2%) and Sanyati (14.7%) had the highest proportion of households that reported livestock deaths as a shock.

Crop Pests



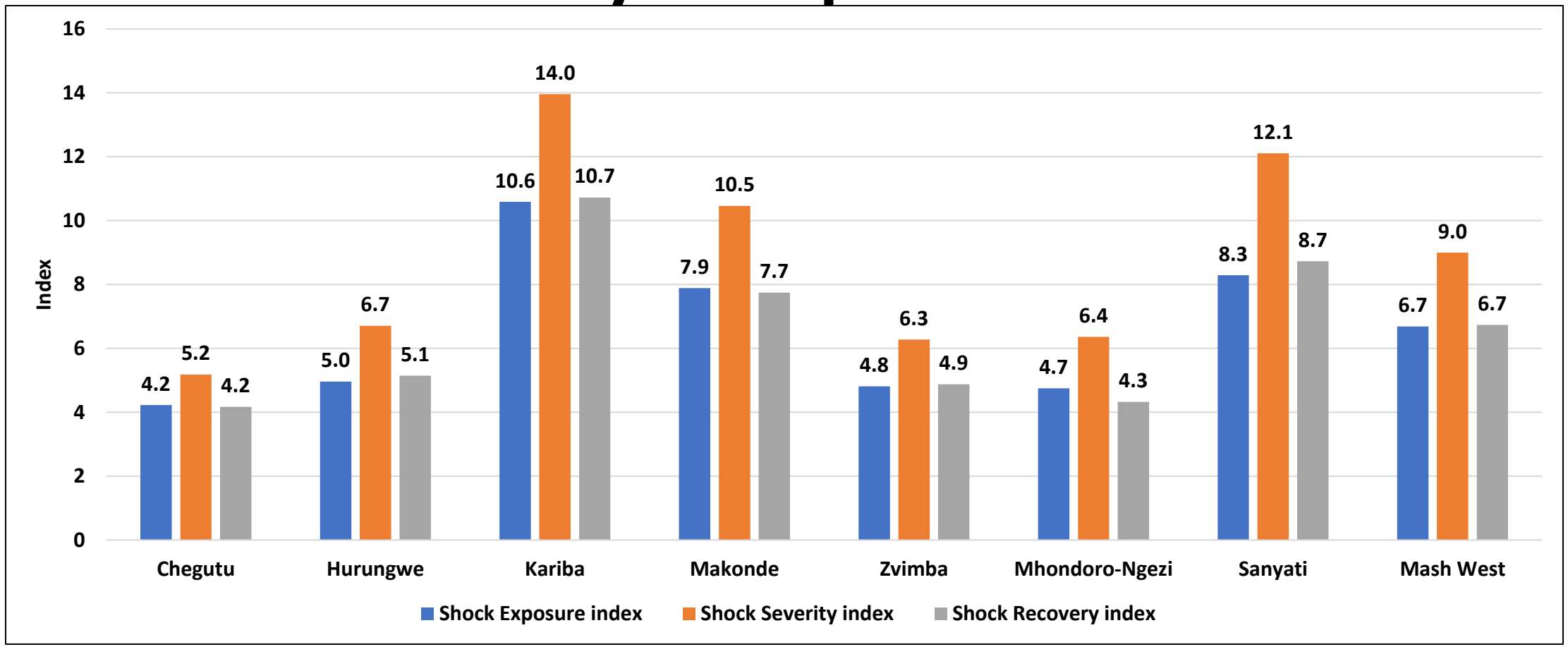
- Sanyati (44.3%) had the highest proportion of households that reported crop pests as a shock.

Average Shock Exposure Index



- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with the impact severity of the shock on the household.
- Shock exposure index decreased as compared to 2024.
- Kariba (10.6) had the highest average shock exposure index while Chegutu (4.2) had the lowest.

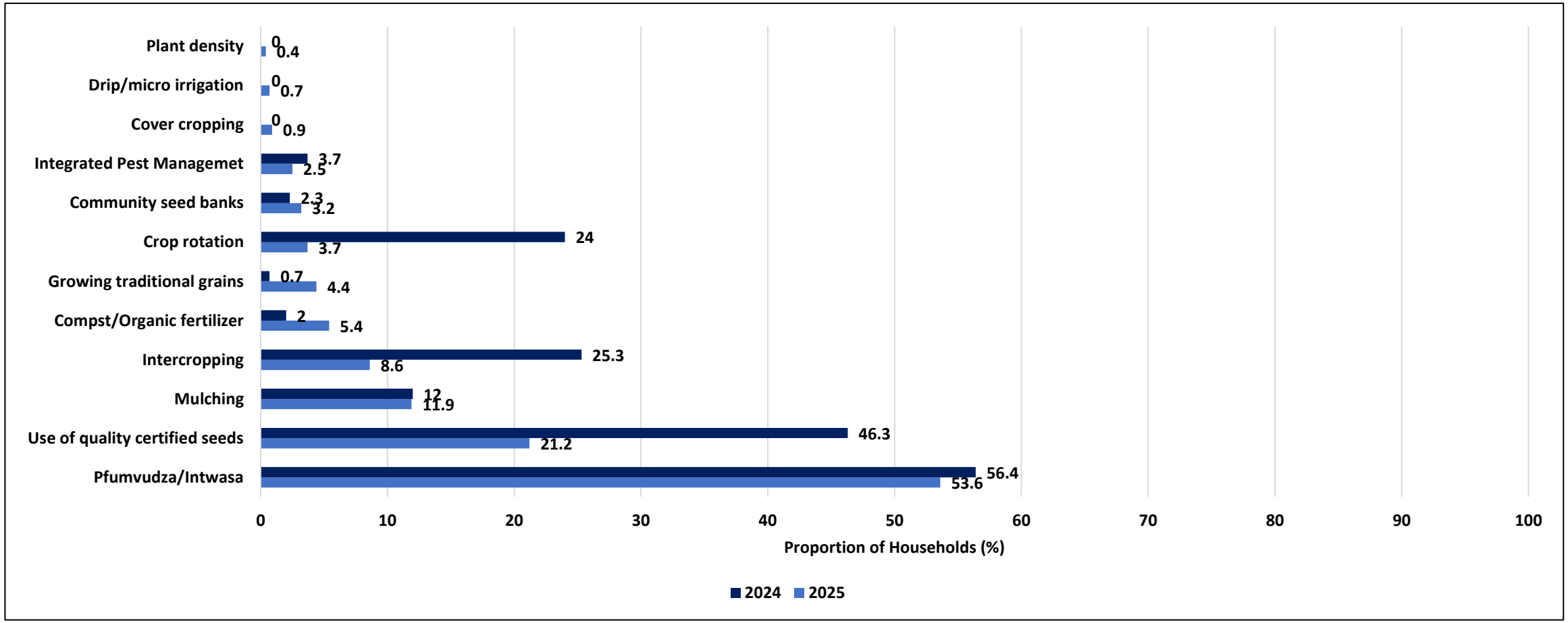
Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope Indices



- The average shock exposure index was 6.7%.
- Average Shock Recovery Index was 6.7%

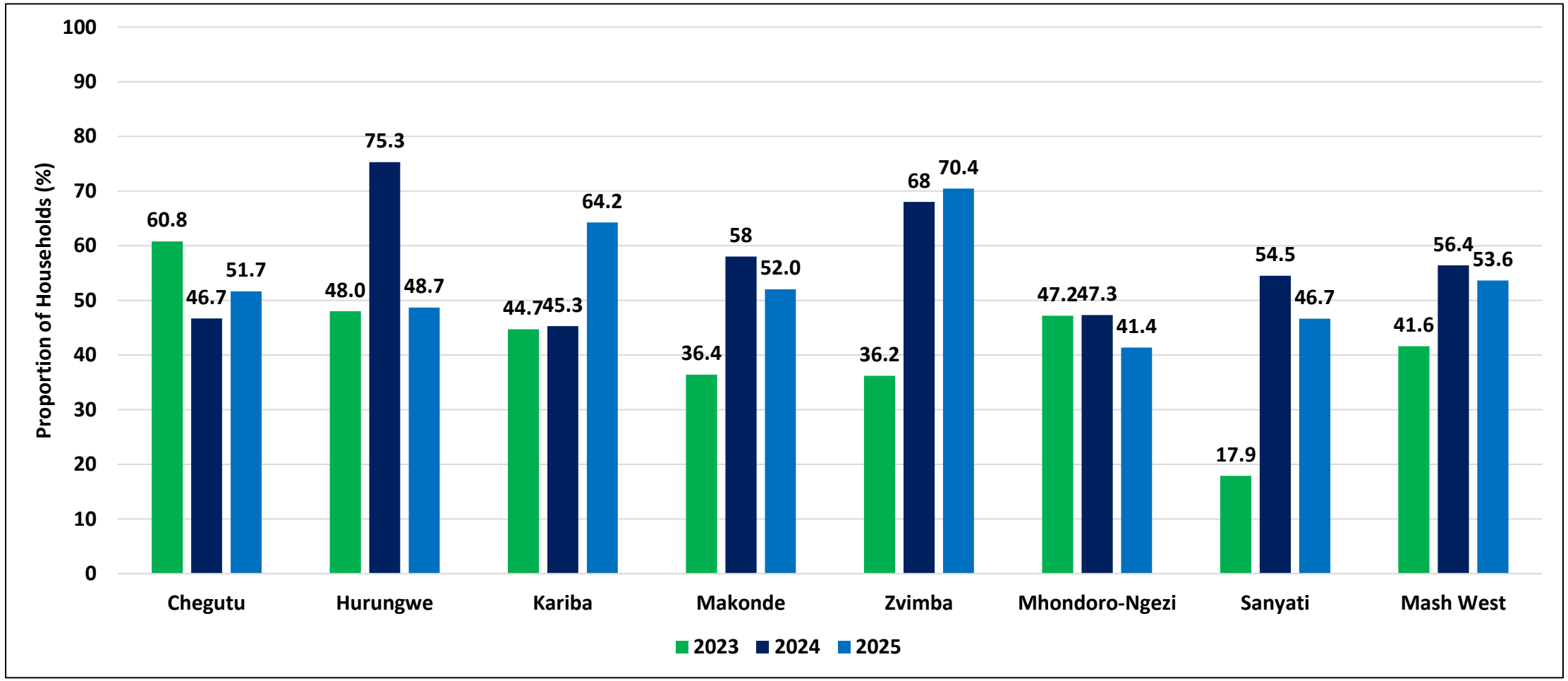
Agricultural Production Technologies

Climate Smart Technologies



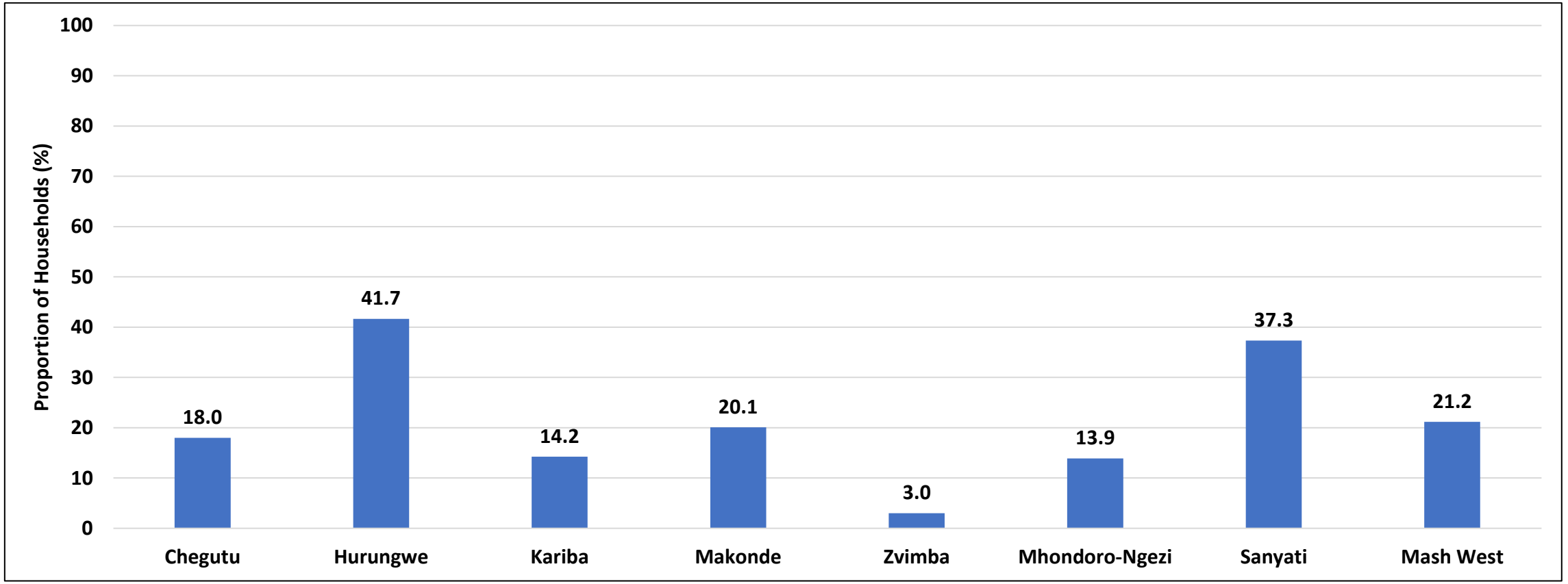
- About 53.6% of households practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa in 2025.

Pfumvudza/ Intwasa



- There was a decrease in the proportion of households which practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa in Hurungwe from 2024 (75.3%) to 2025 (48.7%).

Use of Quality Certified Seed



- Certified seeds are crucial in crop production as they ensure high quality better yields and increased resistance to diseases and pests.
- Hurungwe (41.7%) had the highest proportion of households which used quality certified seeds.

Improved Marketing Practices

District	Accessed Agriculture inputs through agro-dealers (%)	Received market information through collection centers (%)	Used formal organised marketing systems (%)	Marketed produce through commodity associations (%)
Chegutu	15.0	2.3	0	0.7
Hurungwe	11.7	3.7	2.3	0.3
Kariba	15.2	1.0	1.0	0.3
Makonde	40.5	10.9	5.8	6.8
Zvimba	23.6	13.6	7.3	8.0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	2.7	3.4	6.4	0.3
Sanyati	29.3	2.3	2.0	0.7
Mash West	**19.7**	**5.3**	**3.5**	**2.4**

- The majority of households (19.7%) accessed agriculture inputs through agro-dealers.
- About 5.3% received market information through collection centres, 3.5% used formal organised marketing systems and 2.4% marketed produce through commodity associations.

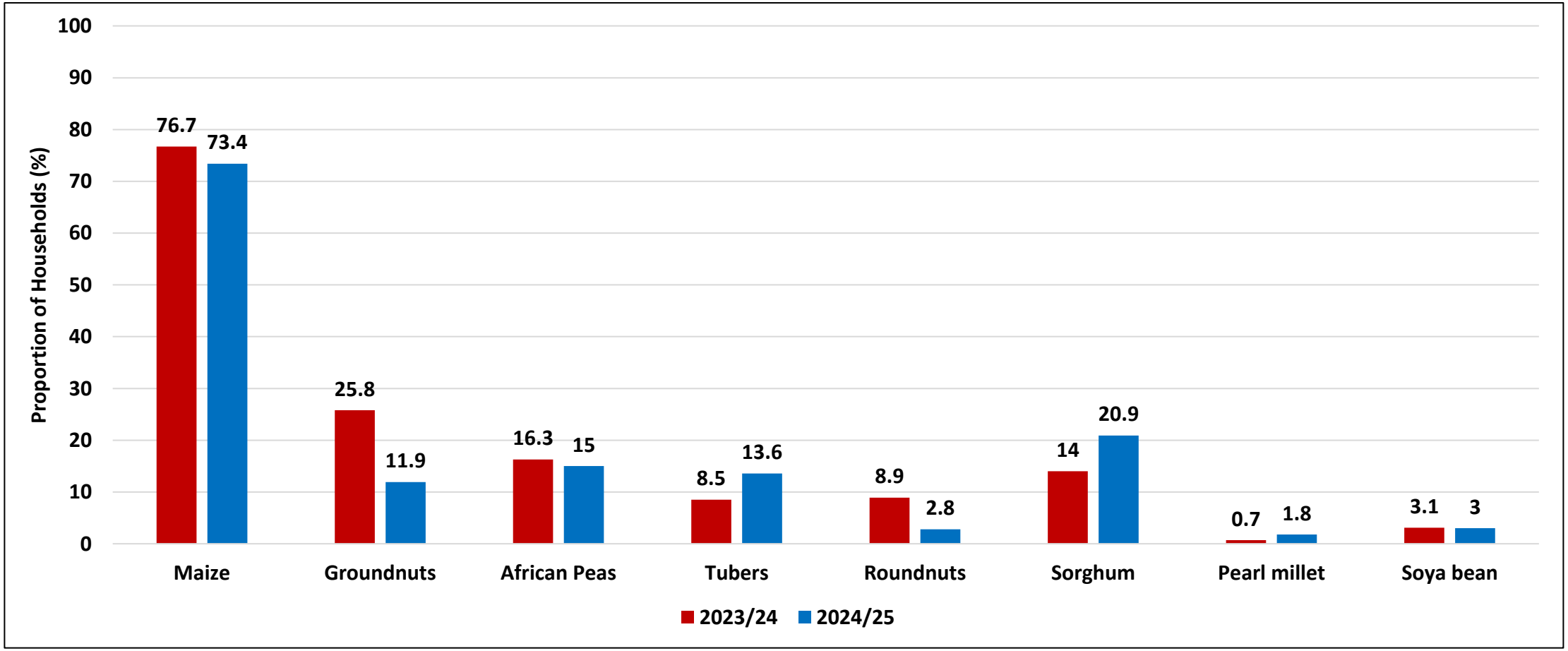
Value Addition

District	Improved quality control technologies (sorting, grading) (%)	Drying, packaging, storage (%)	Food processing (%)	Branding and labelling (%)
Chegutu	4.7	18.7	5.0	1.0
Hurungwe	7.7	21.3	1.0	0.3
Kariba	2.6	4.0	1.0	0
Makonde	22.8	37.4	2.4	0
Zvimba	26.2	22.9	11.6	1.3
Mhondoro-Ngezi	7.5	29.2	1.0	3.1
Sanyati	12.7	18.3	0	0
Mash West	**12.0**	**21.6**	**3.2**	**0.8**

- About 21.6% of the households practised drying, packaging and storage and 12% of the households used improved quality control technologies (sorting, grading).

Crop Production

Households which Grew Crops



- There was an increase in the proportion of households that grew tubers, pearl millet and sorghum and a decrease in the proportion of households which grew maize, groundnuts, African peas and roundnuts.

Households which Grew Crops

District	Maize (%)	Sorghum (%)	Finger Millet (%)	Pearl Millet (%)	Tubers (%)	Cowpeas (%)	Groundnuts (%)	Round nuts (%)	Sugar beans (%)	Soya beans (%)	Tobacco (%)	Cotton (%)
Chegutu	80.7	6.0	0.3	0.7	26.7	24.0	20.7	3.3	14.0	0.7	3.7	0.7
Hurungwe	94.3	14.0	0.7	0.0	20.0	13.3	10.0	0.7	5.7	2.0	43.7	4.7
Kariba	46.4	62.9	0.7	7.3	8.9	14.6	8.3	1.0	0.3	0	8.9	2.6
Makonde	82.7	5.1	1.4	0.3	11.9	7.1	9.5	2.0	8.2	16.3	21.4	0.7
Zvimba	63.8	0.7	0.3	0.3	5.6	3.3	2.7	0.3	2.3	1.3	0	0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	70.2	11.5	1.4	2.7	11.2	14.9	16.9	5.1	6.4	0.7	0	0.3
Sanyati	76.3	45.7	0.3	1.0	11.0	27.7	15.3	7.3	3.0	0.3	0	17.0
Mash West	**73.4**	**20.9**	**0.7**	**1.8**	**13.6**	**15.0**	**11.9**	**2.8**	**5.7**	**3.0**	**11.1**	**3.7**

- The majority of the households (73.4%) grew maize, 20.9% grew sorghum, 15% grew African peas, 11.9% grew ground nuts and 11.1% grew tobacco.

Cereals from Casual Labour and Remittances

District	Cereals from Casual Labour (kgs)		Cereals from Remittances (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Chegutu	4.4	3.4	0	0.4
Hurungwe	32.6	20.5	1	0.7
Kariba	0.2	16.3	0	1
Makonde	20.8	7	0	1.3
Zvimba	6.7	10.2	1.6	20
Mhondoro-Ngezi	2.5	42.1	0	11.8
Sanyati	14.9	27.5	7	11.6
Mash West	**9**	**18.1**	**0.3**	**6.7**

- Generally, there was an increase in the amount of cereals accessed by households from casual labour and remittances compared to the previous consumption year.
- On average, households reported to have accessed 18.1 kgs of maize from casual labour and 6.7 kgs from remittances in the previous consumption year.

Cereal Stocks as at 1 April 2025

District	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Chegutu	5.9	118.6	0	3.6	0	0	0	0
Hurungwe	3.2	47.0	0	11.9	0	0.1	0	0
Kariba	2.4	39.4	0	71.9	0	0.1	0	1.5
Makonde	12.0	45.4	0	0.8	0	0	0	0
Zvimba	6.1	23.2	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	0.3	48.3	0	0.3	0	0.1	0	0.4
Sanyati	0	107.9	0	20.5	0	0	0	0
Mash West	**3.2**	**61.4**	**0**	**15.7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.3**

- On average, households had 61.4 kgs of maize in stock on the 1st of April 2025, an increase from 3.2kgs reported in 2024.
- Chegutu (118.6kgs) had the highest maize stocks.

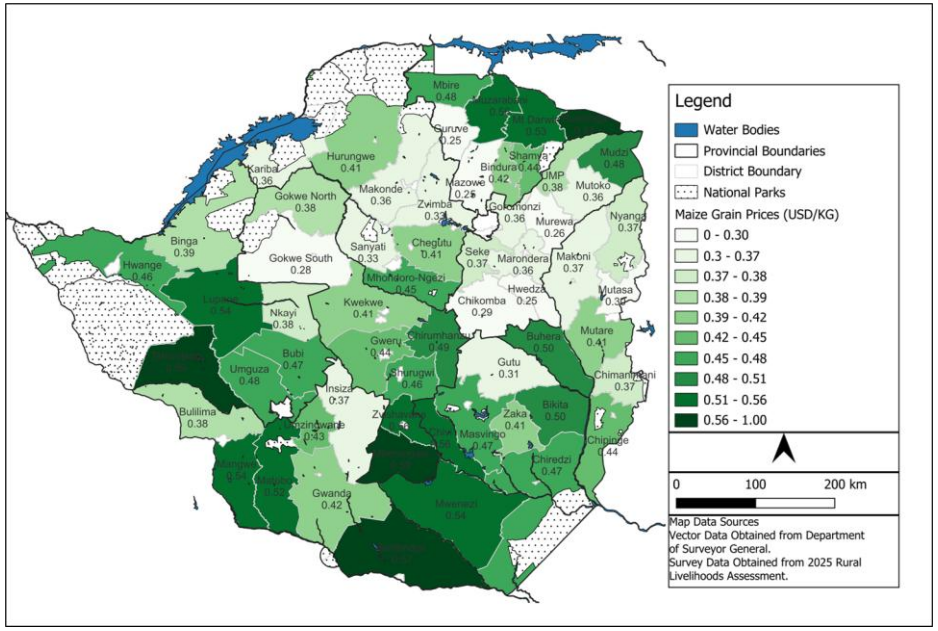
Season Harvest

District	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Chegutu	25	376.6	0	24.5	0	0.2	0	0.4
Hurungwe	89	557.0	5	32.3	0	0.3	0	0.0
Kariba	30	104.8	11	114.2	0	0.0	0	2.9
Makonde	75	784.6	0	23.8	0	2.1	0	0.1
Zvimba	66	166.4	0	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.2
Mhondoro-Ngezi	22	315.4	2	8.5	0	0.2	0	0.8
Sanyati	44	427.3	8	197.6	0	0.0	1	0.2
Mash West	**50**	**389.0**	**4**	**57.6**	**0**	**0.4**	**0**	**0.6**

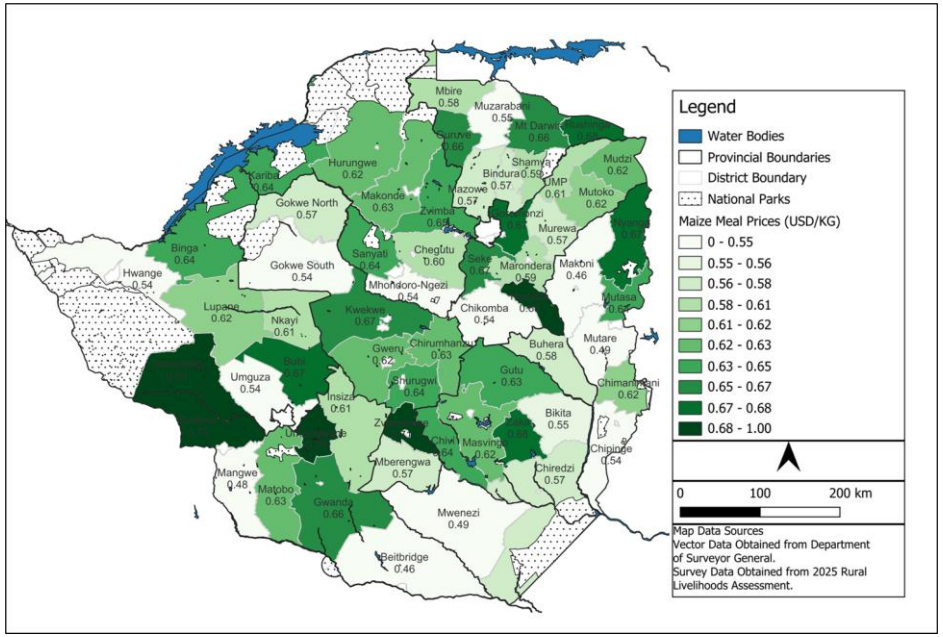
- There was an increase in the amount of cereals harvested by households across all districts. This may be attributed to a favorable rainfall season.
- Makonde (784.6kgs) had the highest average harvest for maize.

Maize Grain and Maize Meal Prices

Maize Grain



Maize Meal



- Maize grain prices ranged from USD0.33 to UDSD0.45.
- Maize grain prices were high in Mhondoro-Ngezi (USD0.45), Chegutu and Hurungwe (USD0.41).

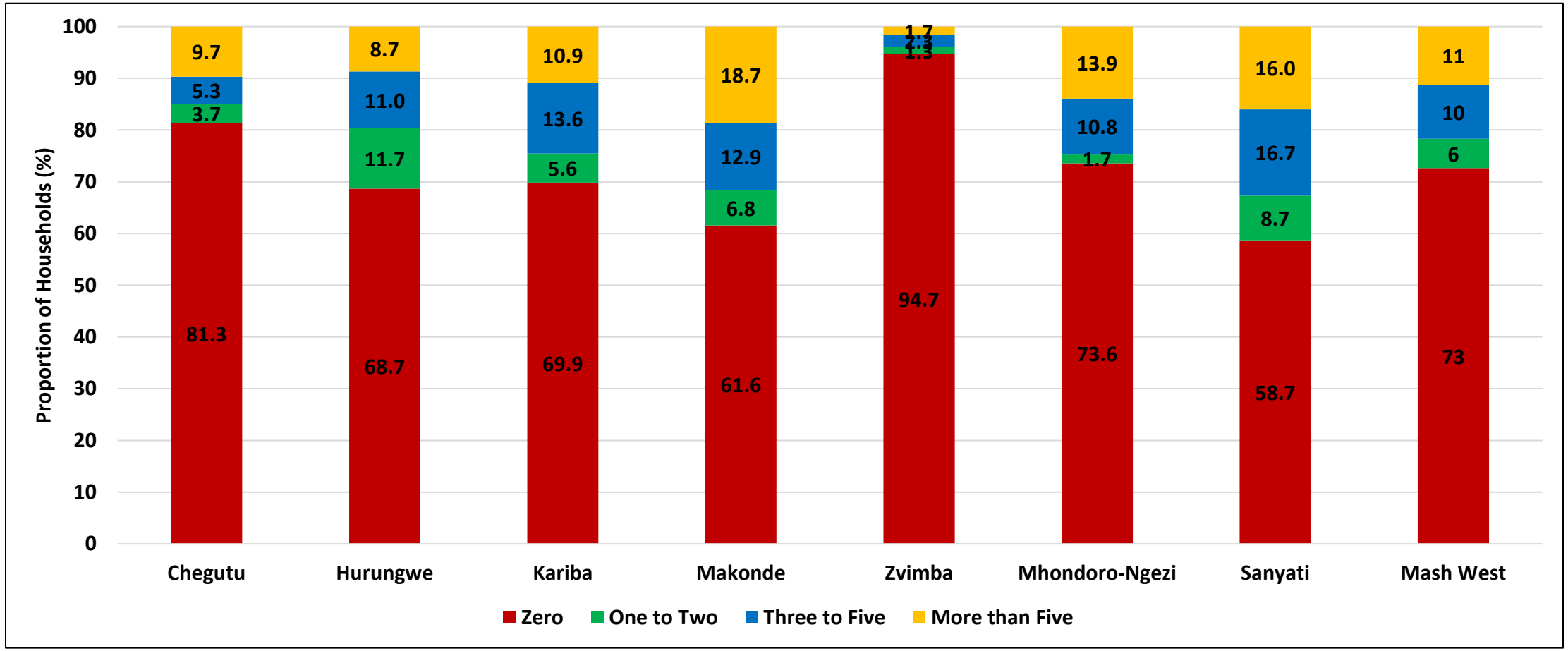
Livestock Production

Households which Owned Livestock

District	Cattle (%)	Donkey (%)	Sheep (%)	Goats (%)	Pigs (%)	Poultry (%)	Rabbits (%)
Chegutu	18.7	4.7	1.0	32.3	0.7	54.3	1.7
Hurungwe	31.3	4.0	1.0	30.3	2.3	50.3	0.3
Kariba	30.1	4.3	0.3	31.8	1.3	40.7	0
Makonde	38.4	1.0	0	25.2	1.4	50.7	0
Zvimba	5.3	0.3	0.7	8.6	1.0	37.5	1.7
Mhondoro-Ngezi	26.4	3.7	1.7	28.5	0.7	54.2	0
Sanyati	41.3	1.3	0.3	40.3	0	64.7	0.3
Mash West	**27.3**	**2.8**	**0.7**	**28.2**	**1.1**	**50.3**	**0.6**

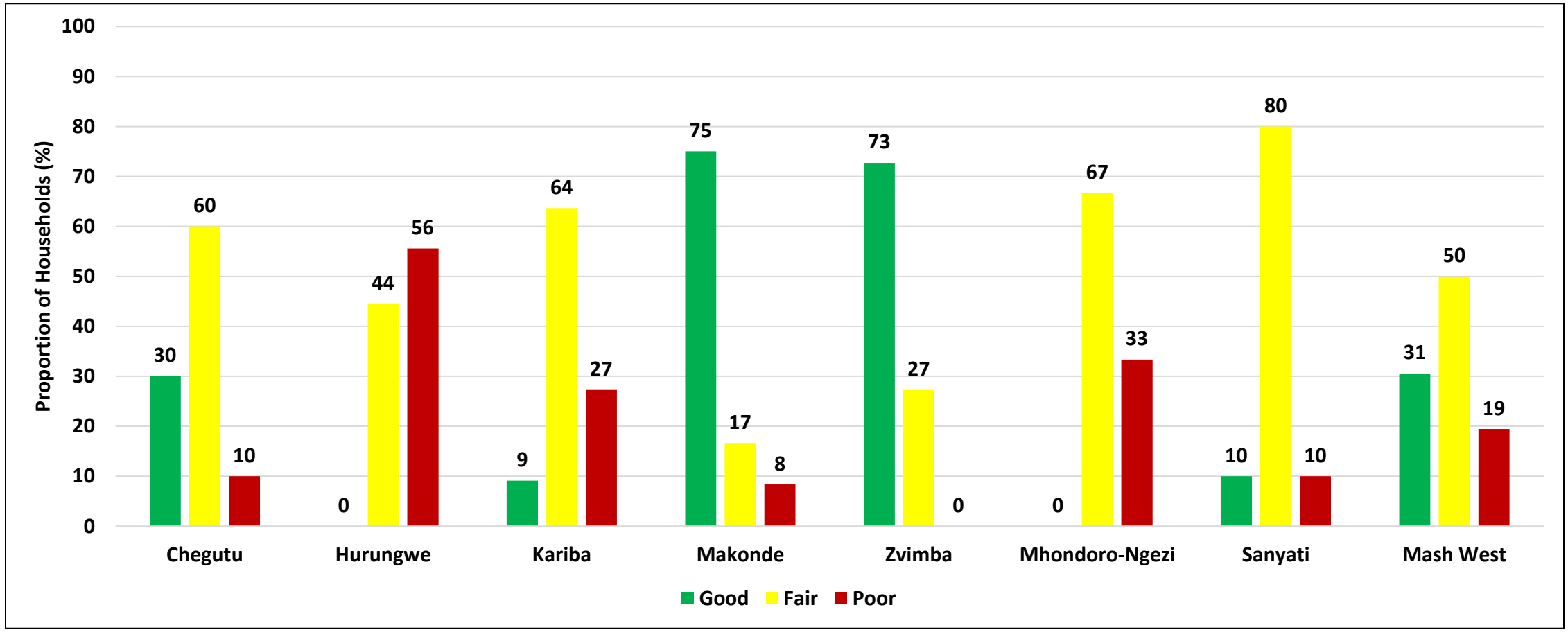
- About 28.2% of households owned goats and 27.3% owned cattle.

Cattle Ownership



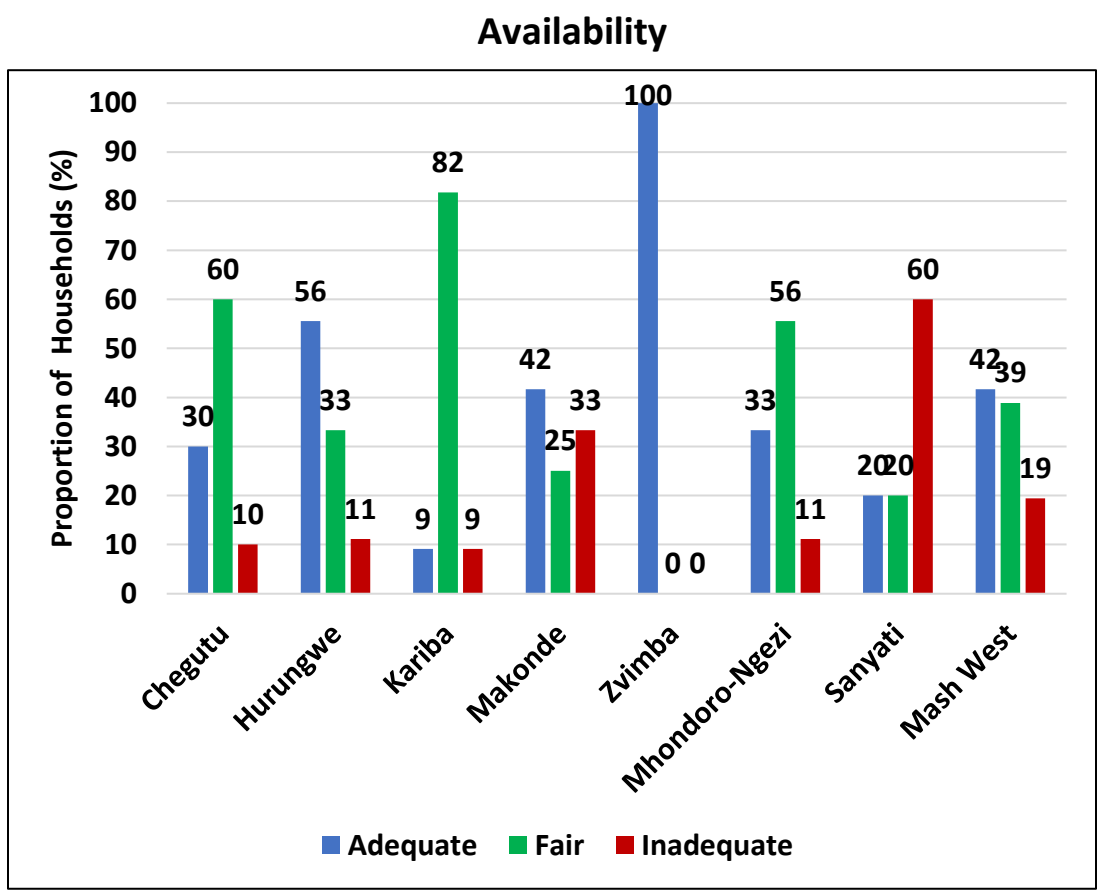
- About 73% of the households did not own any cattle.
- Only 11% of the households owned cattle in excess of 5 animals.

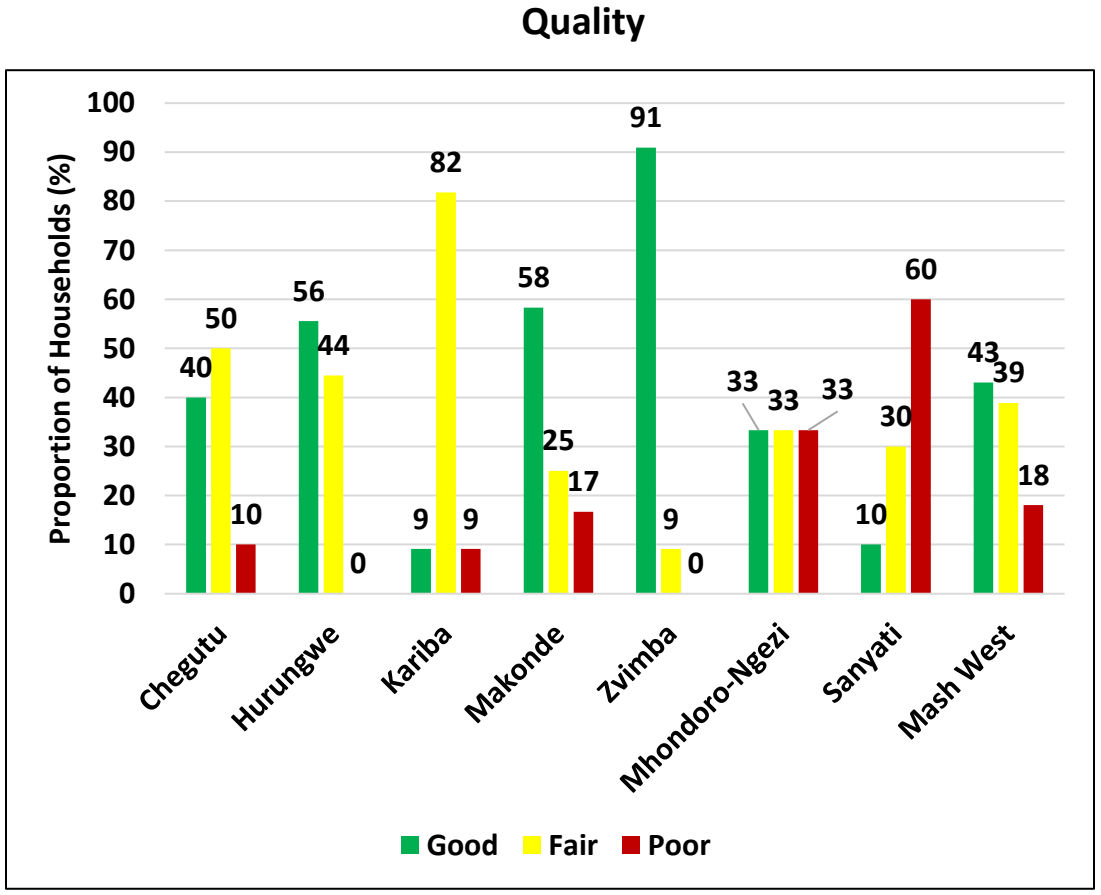
Livestock Condition



- Only 19% of households indicated that their livestock was in a poor condition, with 31% indicating that they were in a good condition.

Pasture Availability and Quality

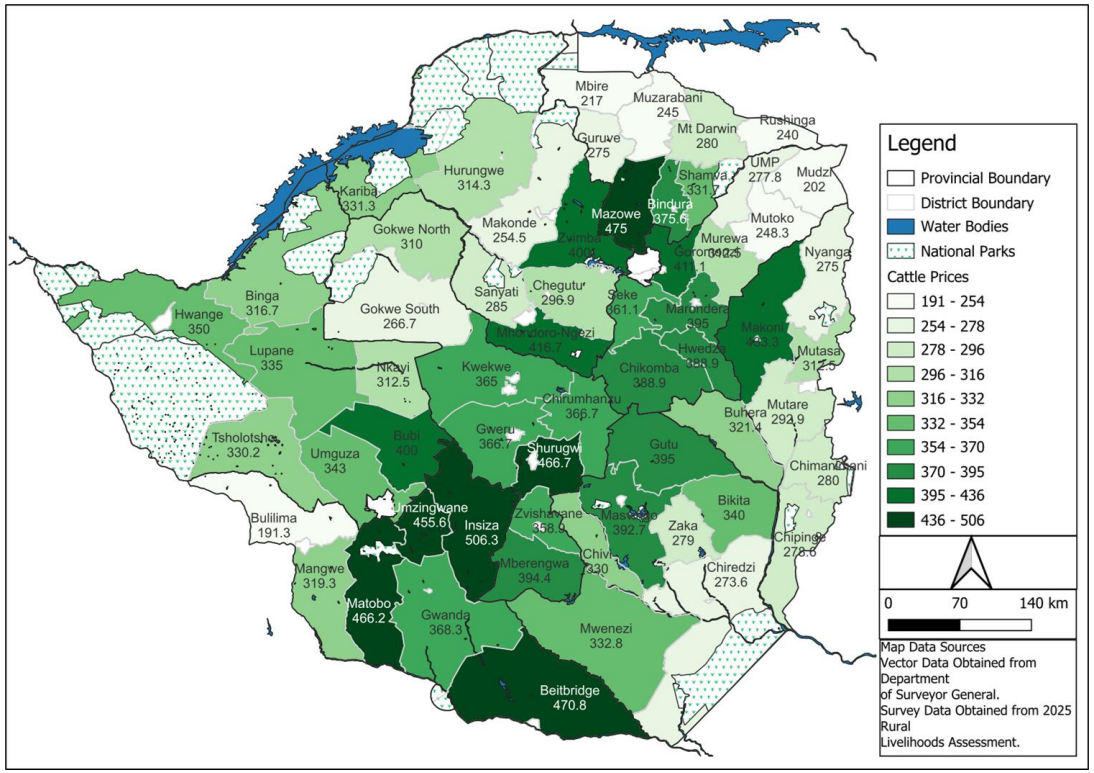




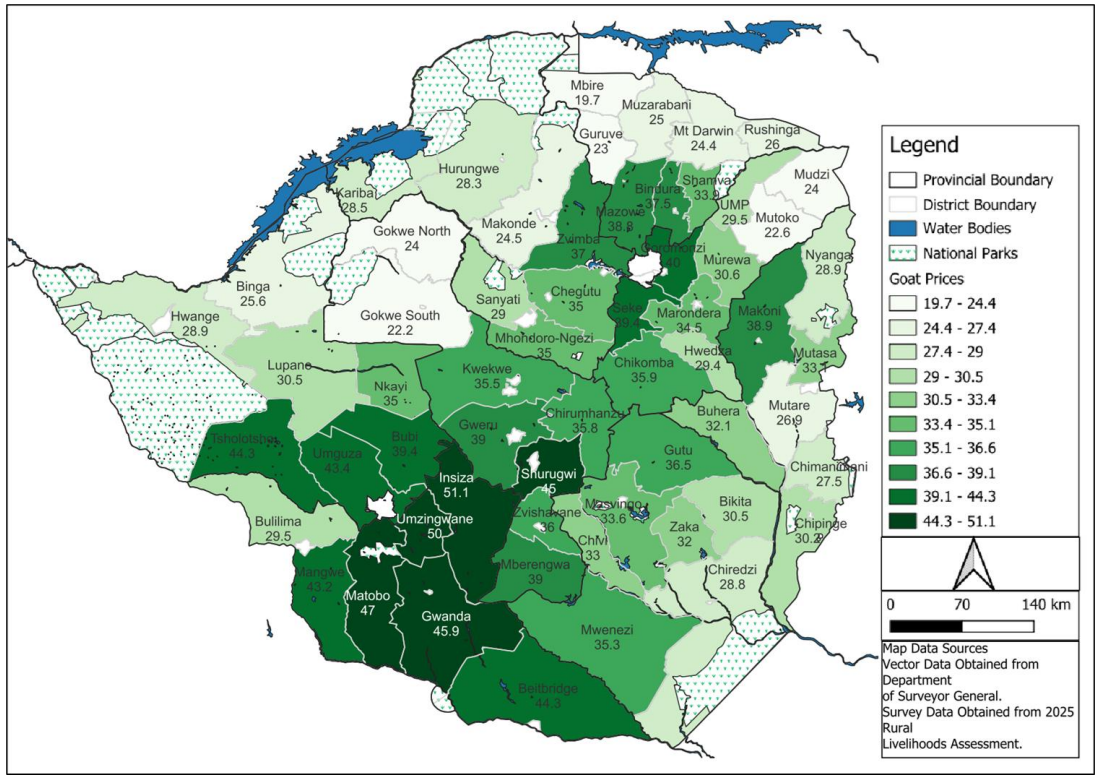
- Most communities indicated that pasture availability (42%) was adequate and pasture quality (43%) was good at the time of the assessment.

Livestock Prices

Cattle Prices



Goat prices



- The highest cattle prices were recorded in Mhondoro Ngezi (USD416.7) and lowest in Makonde (USD254.5).
- Goat prices ranged from USD24.5 to USD37.

Access to Information and Critical Services

Access to Agricultural Extension

District	Training-cropping advice (%)	Training - Livestock services (%)	Training-Weather and climate advise (%)	Extension Visit (%)	Other training (%)
Chegutu	39.4	1.0	3.0	30.0	0.5
Hurungwe	67.5	25.1	20.7	59.1	14.3
Kariba	29.1	14.3	16.0	29.1	5.7
Makonde	47.6	18.8	2.6	36.1	2.1
Zvimba	38.3	14.8	18.0	24.2	1.6
Mhondoro-Ngezi	43.7	36.0	17.3	31.0	2.5
Sanyati	32.3	24.6	14.2	28.0	0
Mash West	**42.8**	**19.6**	**12.9**	**34.5**	**3.8**

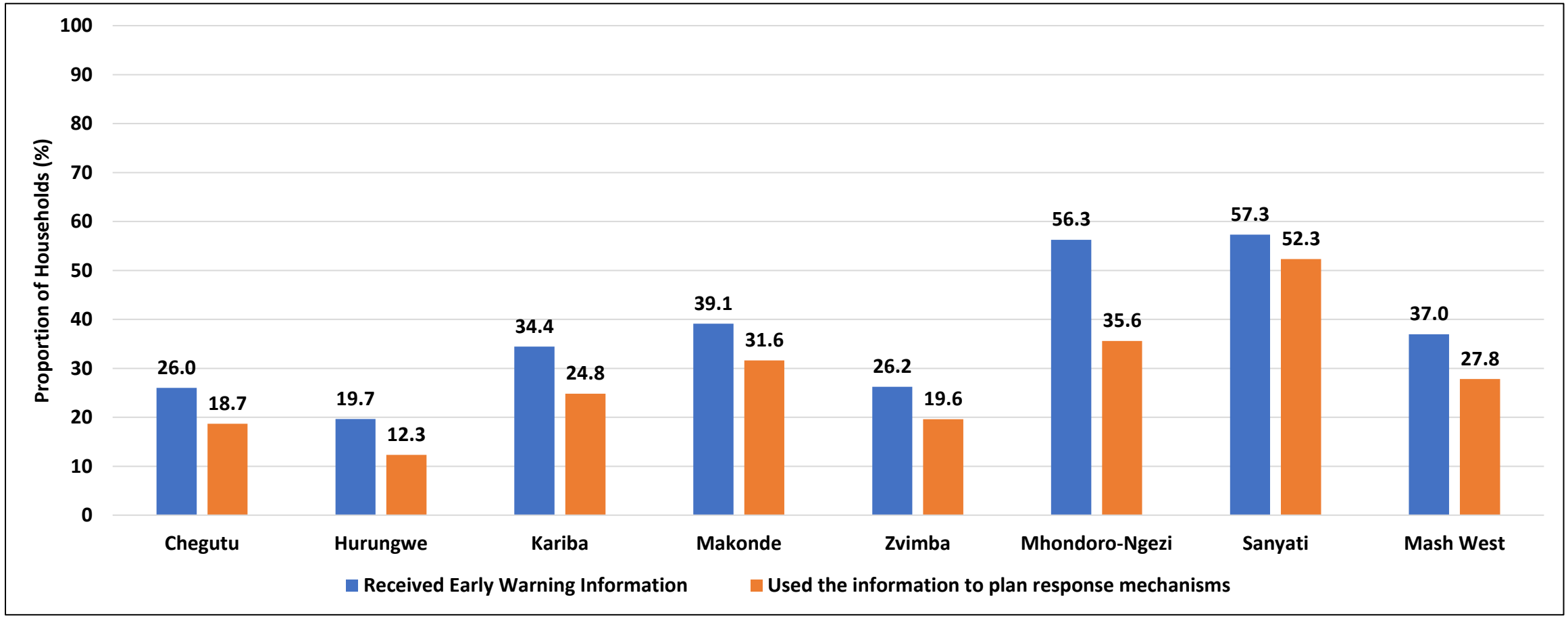
- About 42.8% of the households received cropping advice, (34.5%) received extension visits and 19.6% received livestock training services.

Community Access to Information on Infectious and Contagious Diseases

District	Rabies (%)	Anthrax (%)	Cholera (%)	Typhoid (%)	Dysentery (%)	Salmonella (%)	Listeria (%)	Other (%)
Chegutu	90.0	90.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	10.0	0.0	10.0
Hurungwe	66.7	22.2	33.3	22.2	22.2	11.1	11.1	11.1
Kariba	54.5	72.7	36.4	27.3	0	0	0	0
Makonde	83.3	75.0	66.7	33.3	25.0	0	0	25.0
Zvimba	90.9	100.0	45.5	27.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	18.2
Mhondoro-Ngezi	88.9	88.9	88.9	77.8	33.3	11.1	0	11.1
Sanyati	30.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	0	0	0	20.0
Mash West	**72.2**	**68.1**	**55.6**	**43.1**	**26.4**	**5.6**	**2.8**	**13.9**

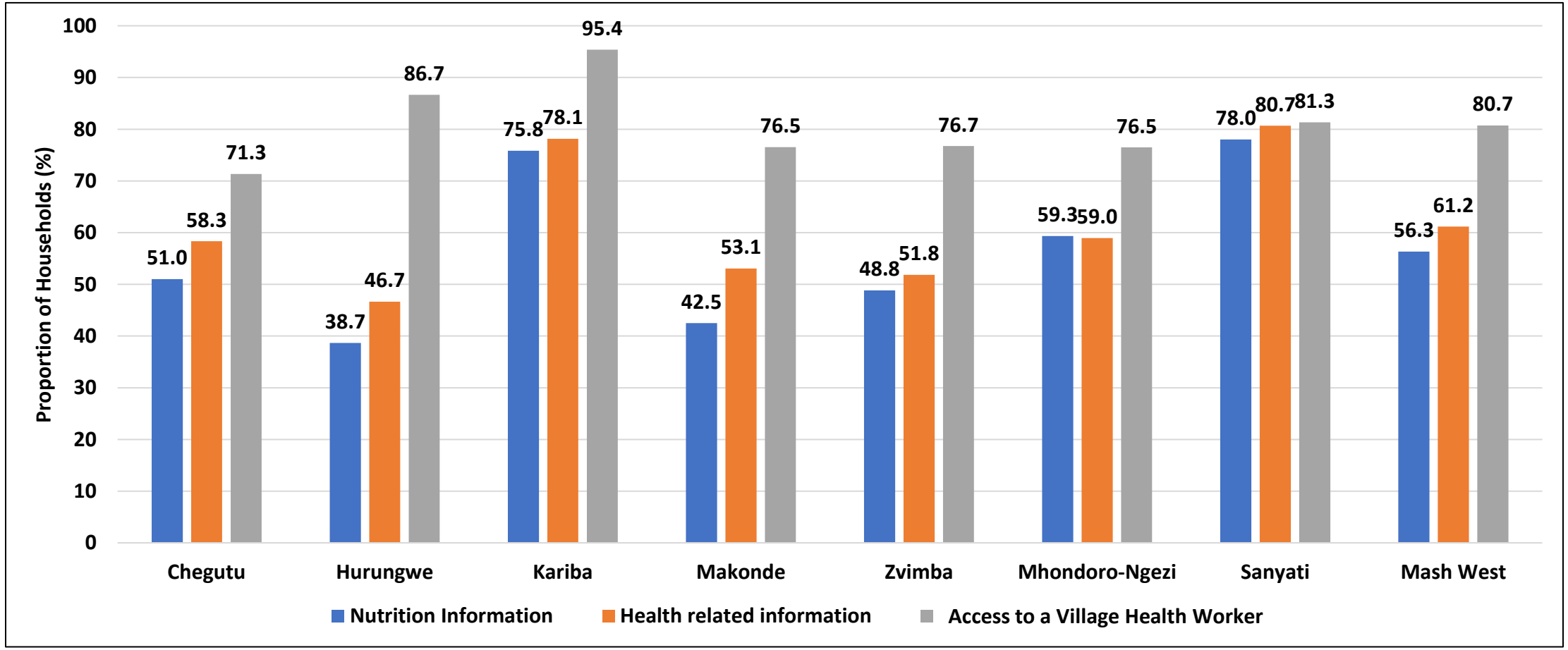
- About 72.2% of communities accessed information on rabies and 68.1% received information on anthrax.

Access to and Use of Early Warning Information



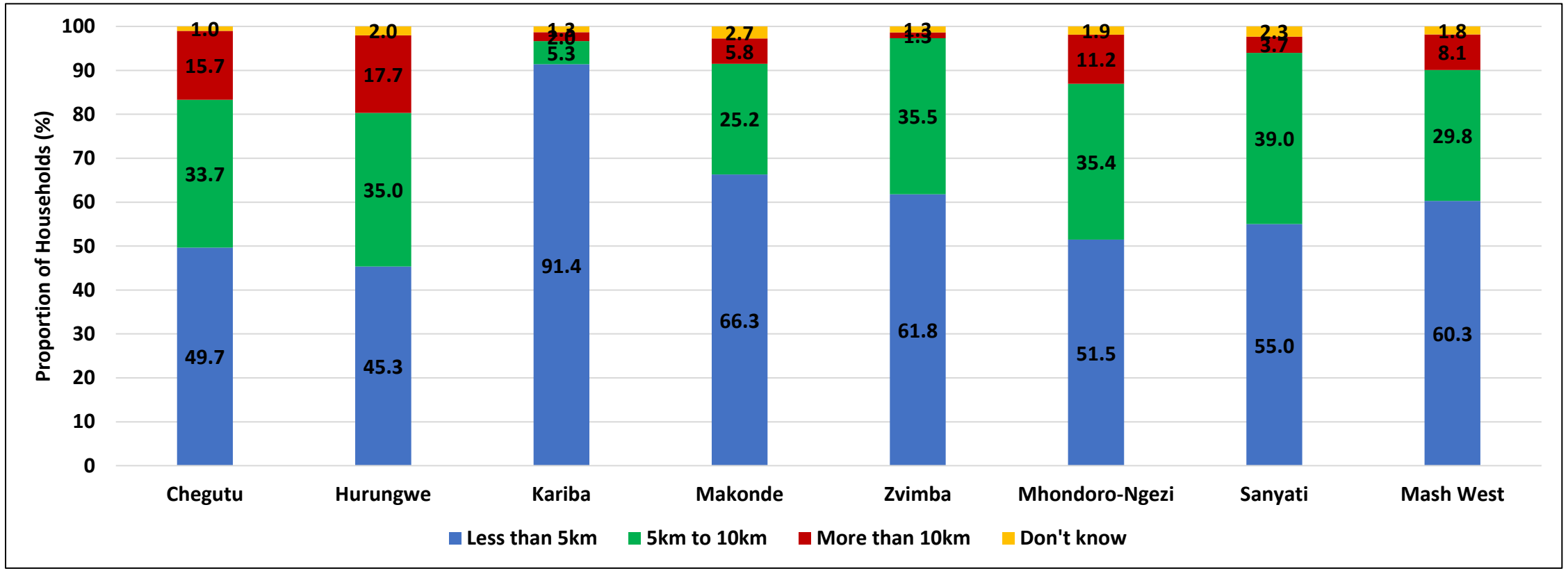
- About 37% of the households received information on early warning.
- Only 27.8% used the information to plan response mechanisms.

Access to Health Services



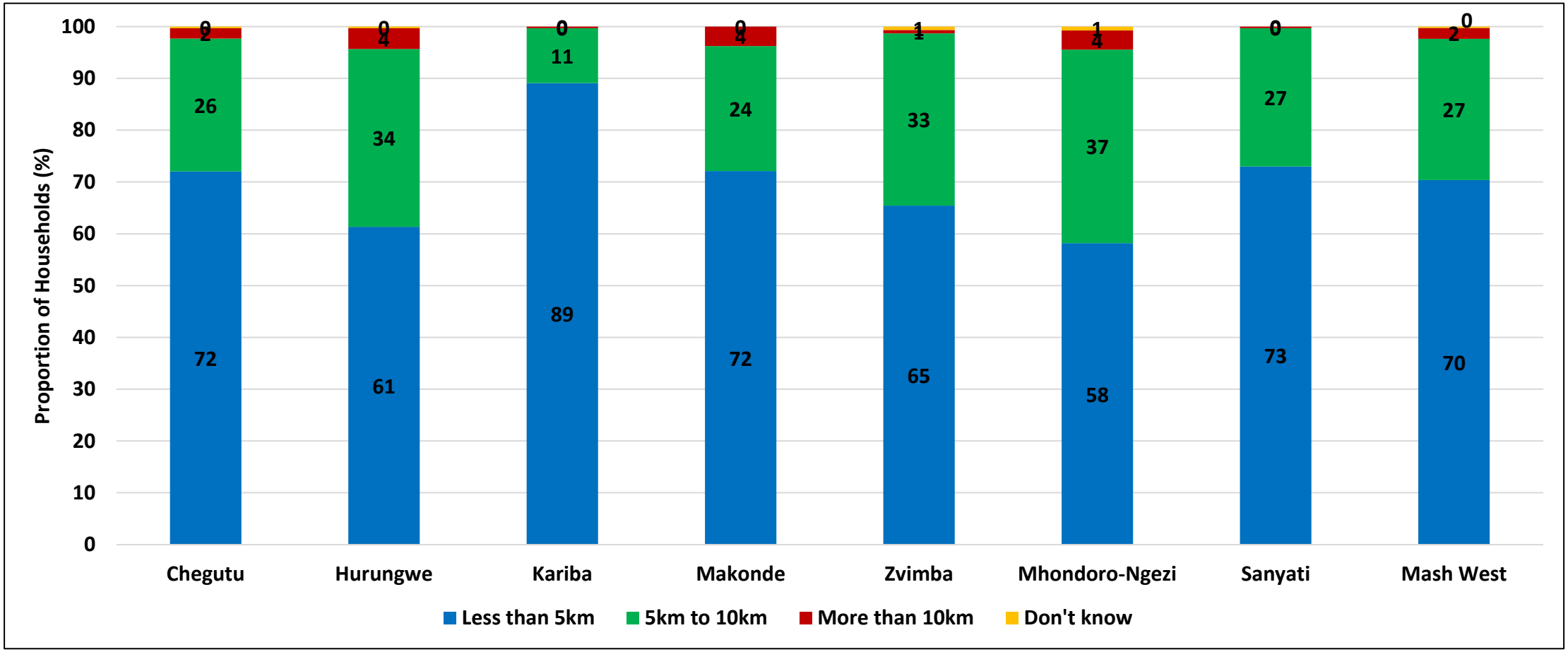
- The majority of households (80.7%) had access to a village health worker, 61.2% had accessed health related information and 56.3% had accessed nutrition information.

Distance to the Nearest Health Facility/ Clinic



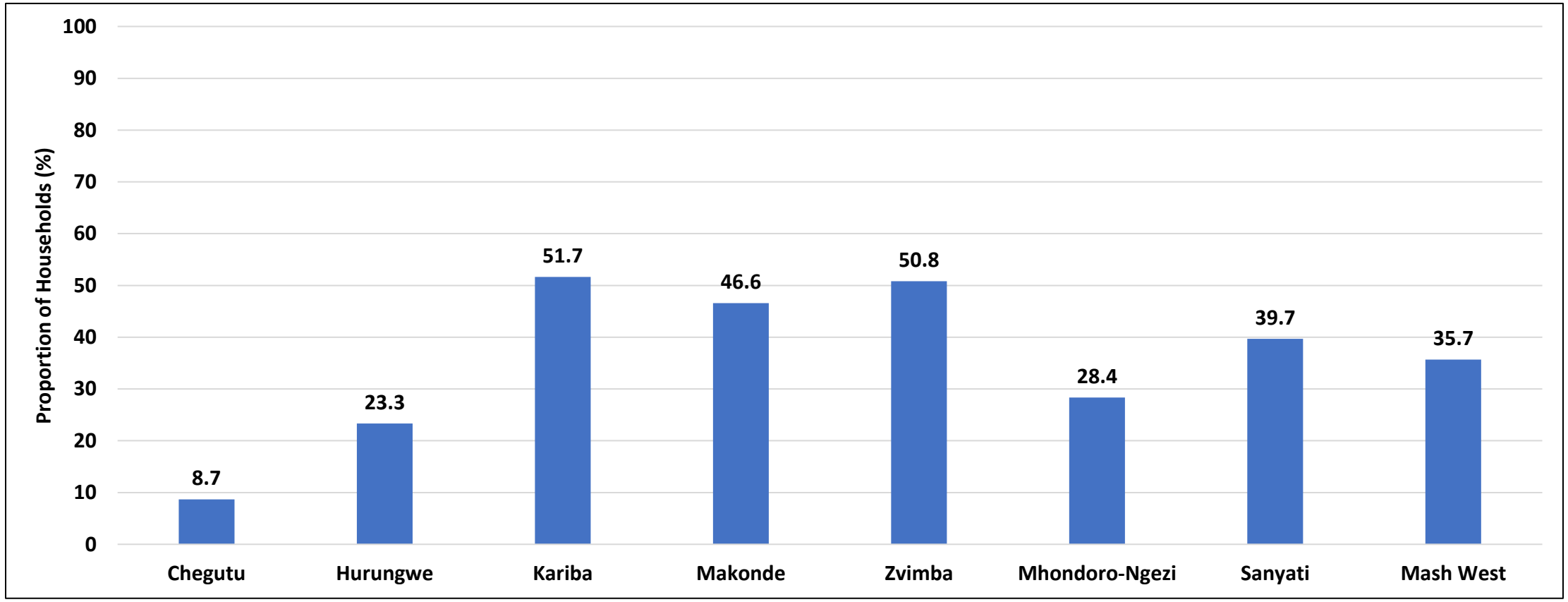
- The majority of the households (60.3%) had their nearest health facility within a 5km radius which is the recommended distance for health facilities. However, about 8.1% of households were travelling more than 10km to access a health facility.

Distance to the Nearest Primary School



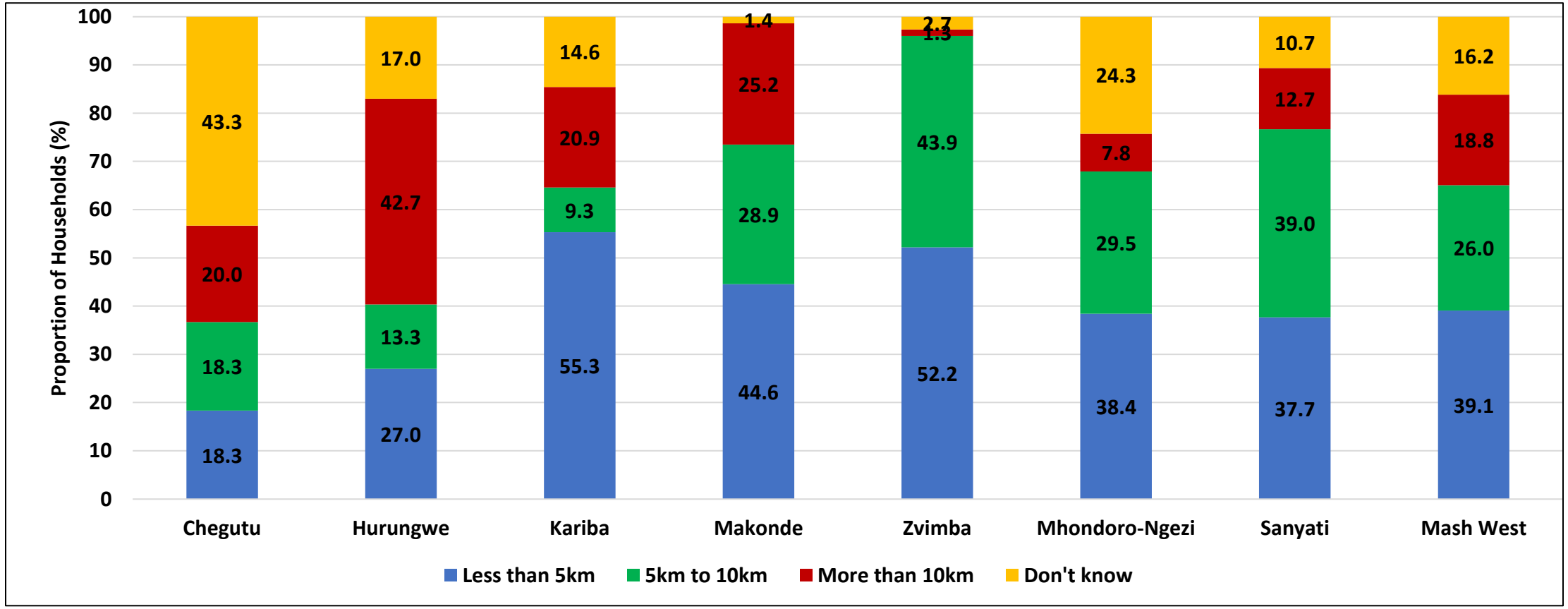
- At least 2% of the households had a primary school that was more than 10km away.

Access to Information on Services Available for Victims of Physical and Sexual Violence



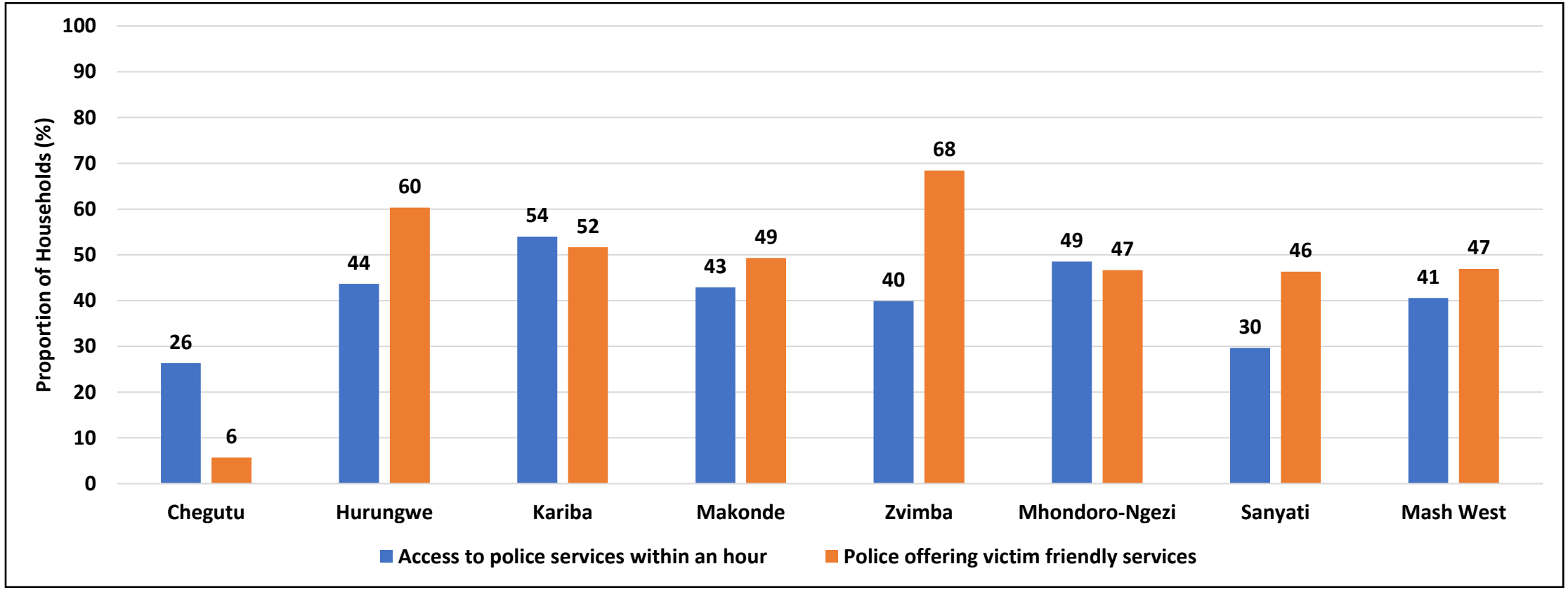
- About 35.7% of the households had access to information on services available for victims of physical and sexual violence.

Distance to Facilities Providing Services for Physical and Sexual Violence



- About 39.1% of the households had access to a facility providing services for victims of physical and sexual violence within a 5km radius.

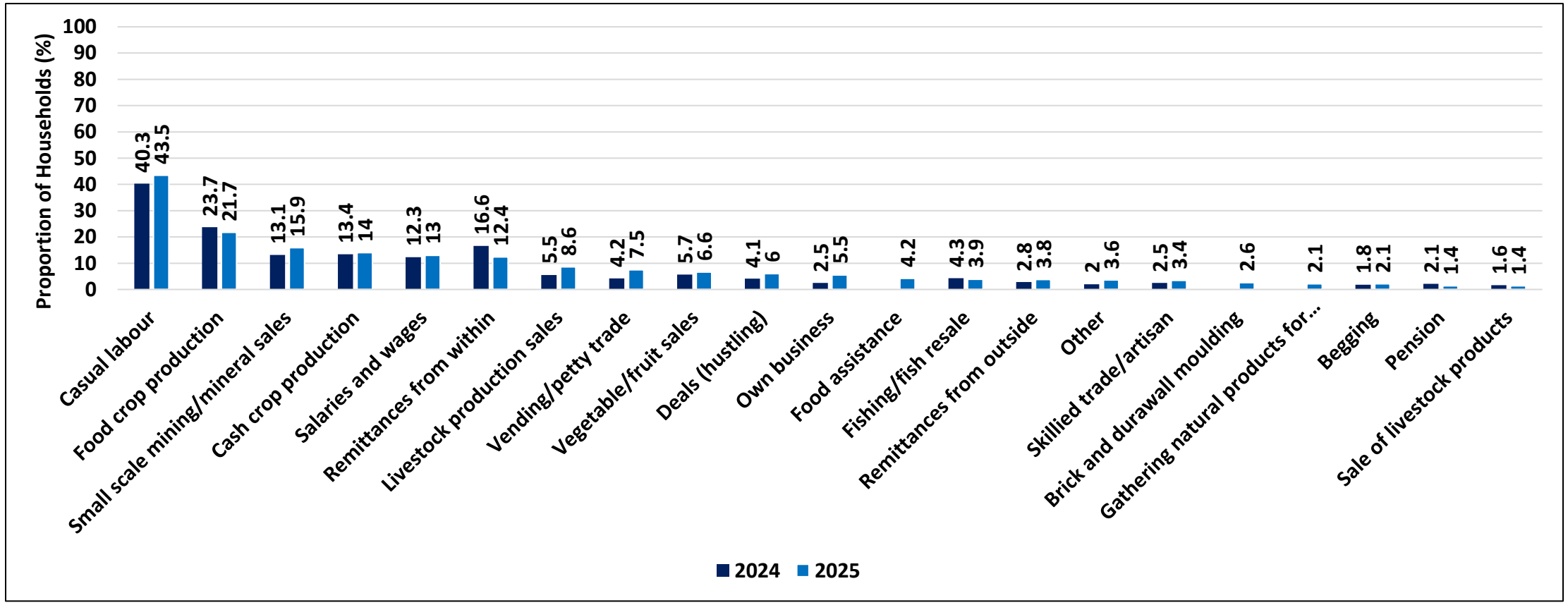
Access to Police Services



- About 47% of the households were accessing police services within one hour and 41% reported that the police services were offering victim friendly services.

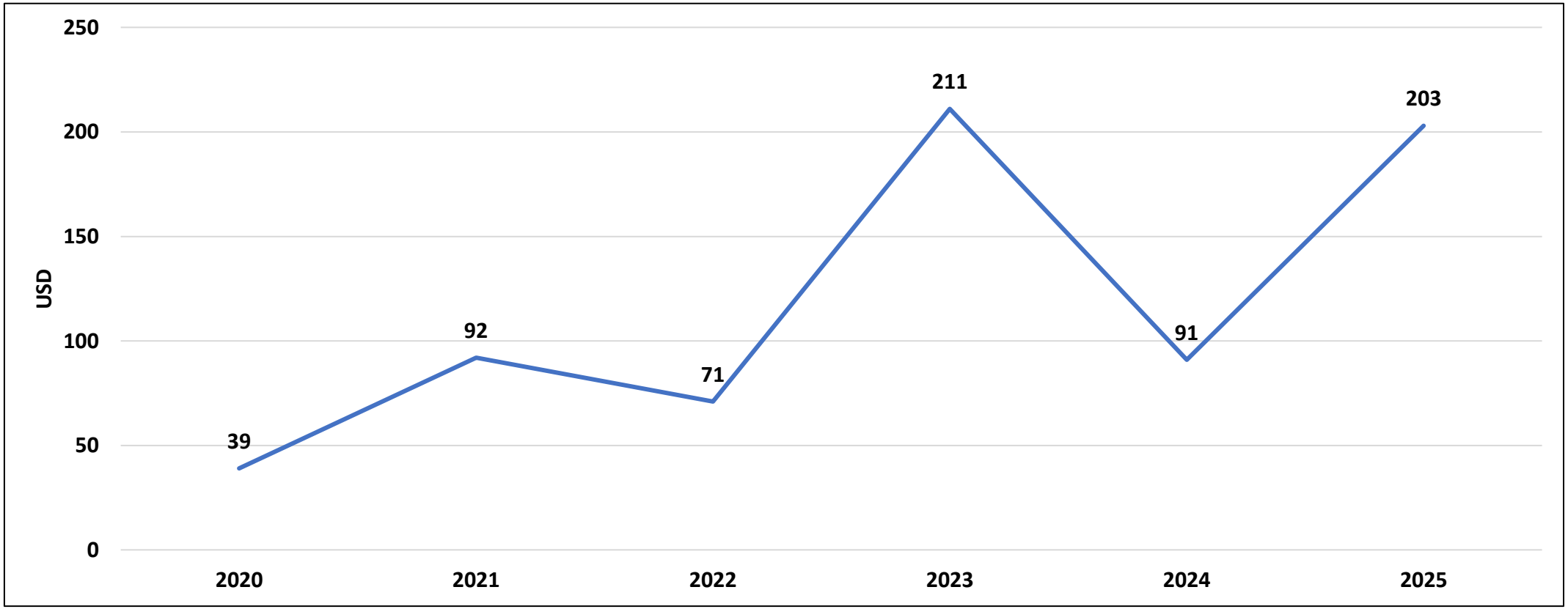
Income and Expenditure

Most Important Income Sources



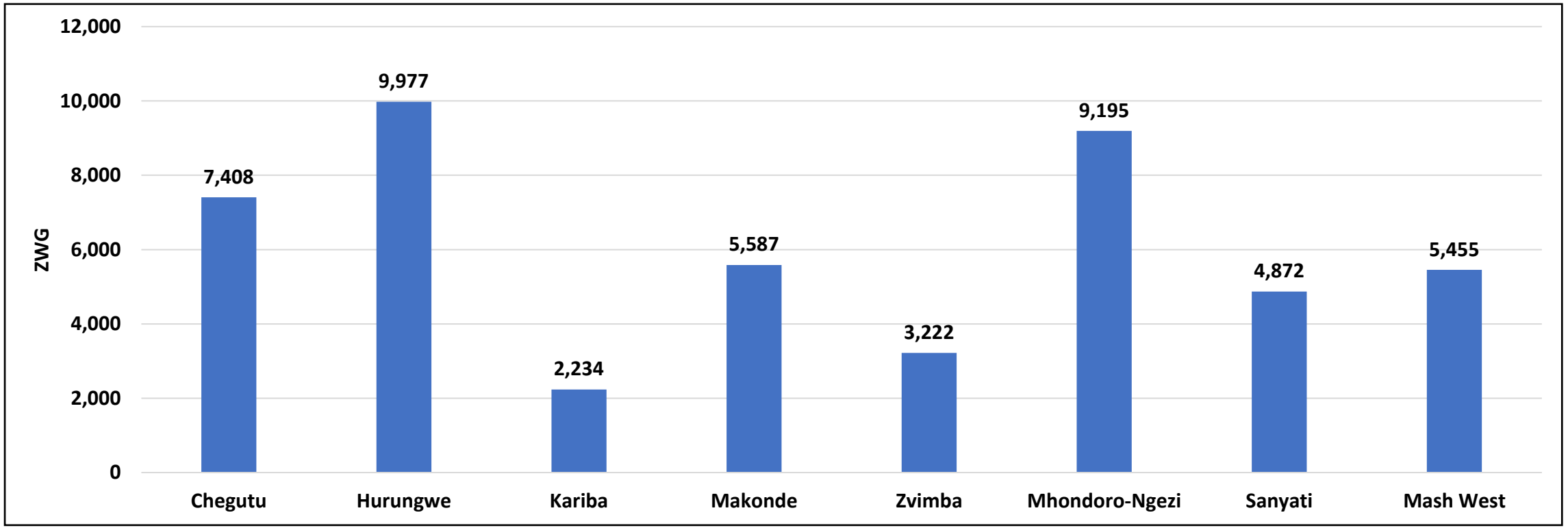
- The majority of households relied on casual labour (43.5%), food crop production(21.7%) and small scale mining (15.9%).

Income Trends (USD): 2020-2025



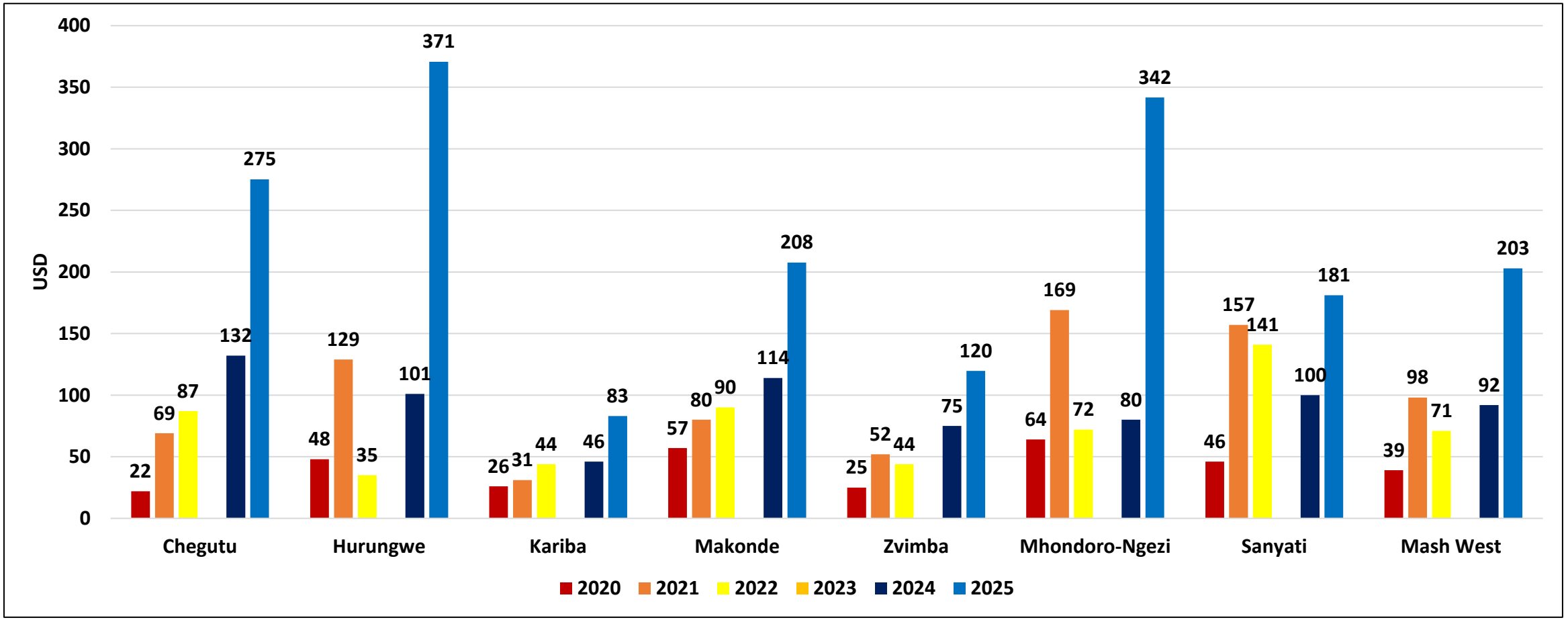
- Compared to base year 2020, rural incomes have been increasing in the province.
- There was an increase in households' purchasing power as evidenced by incomes increasing from USD 39 in 2020 to USD 203 in 2025.

Average Household Monthly Income (ZWG) For April 2025



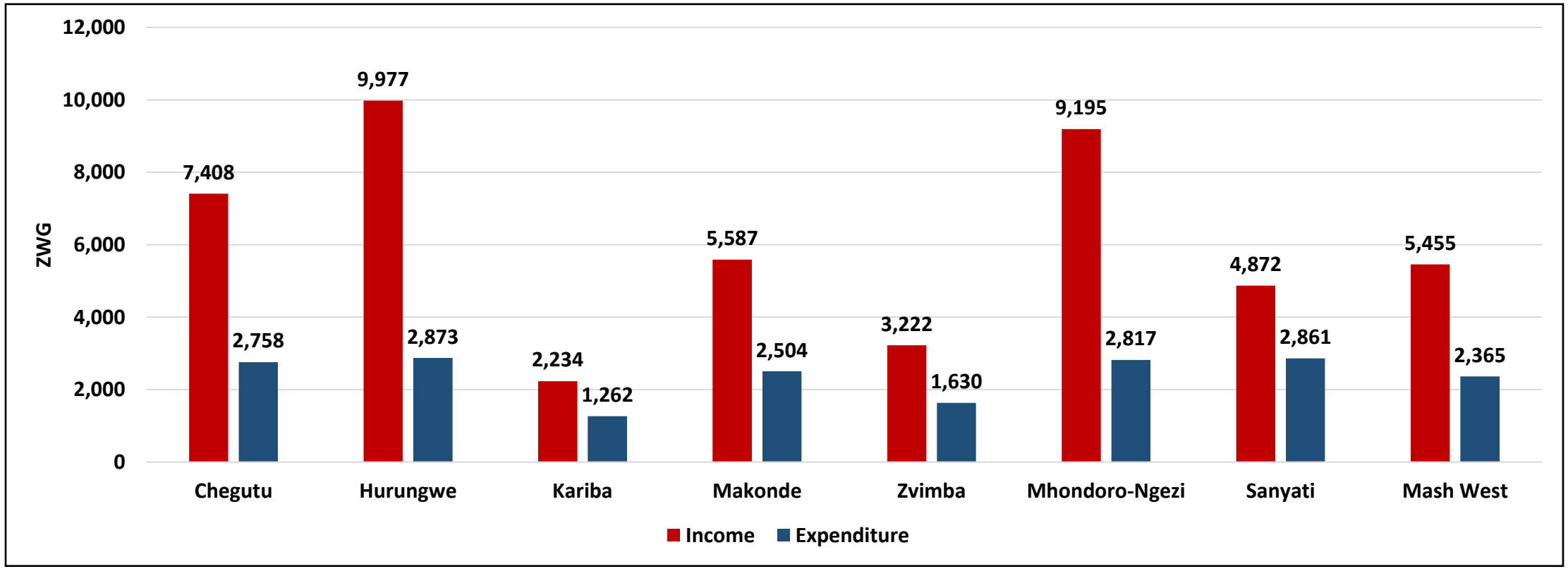
- Average monthly income for the March of April 2025 was ZWG5,455.
- Hurungwe District (ZWG9,977) had the highest average monthly income.

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025



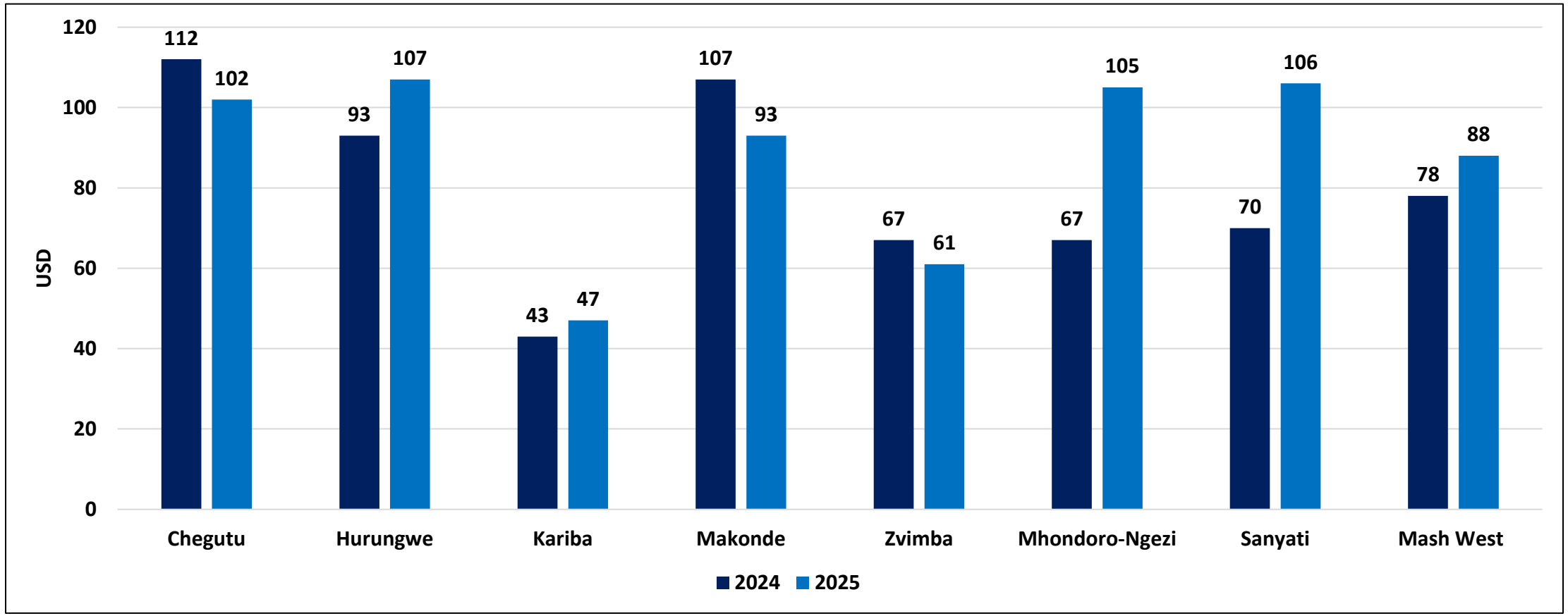
- The province had an average monthly income of USD203 for the month of April 2025 up from USD39 in 2020.
- Hurungwe had the highest average monthly income (USD371).

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (ZWG) for April 2025



- The province's average monthly expenditure for the month of April 2025 was ZWG ZWG2,365.
- Hurungwe (ZWG2,873) had the highest average monthly expenditure.

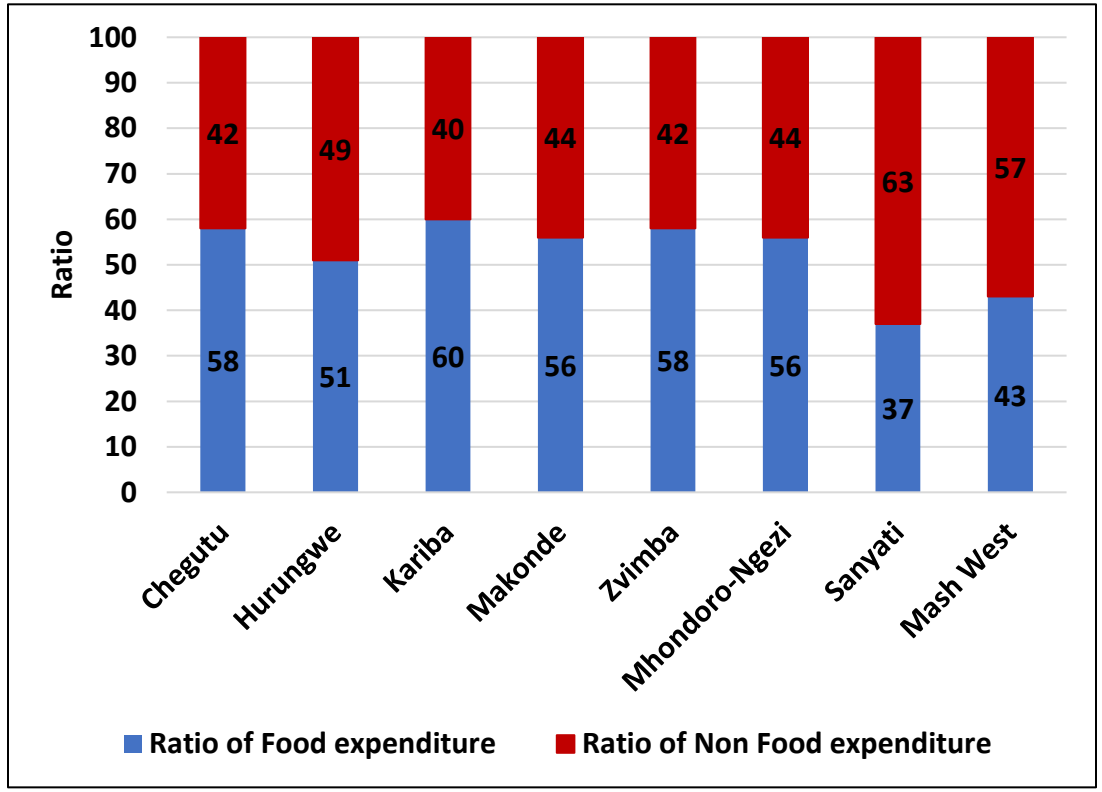
Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) for April 2025



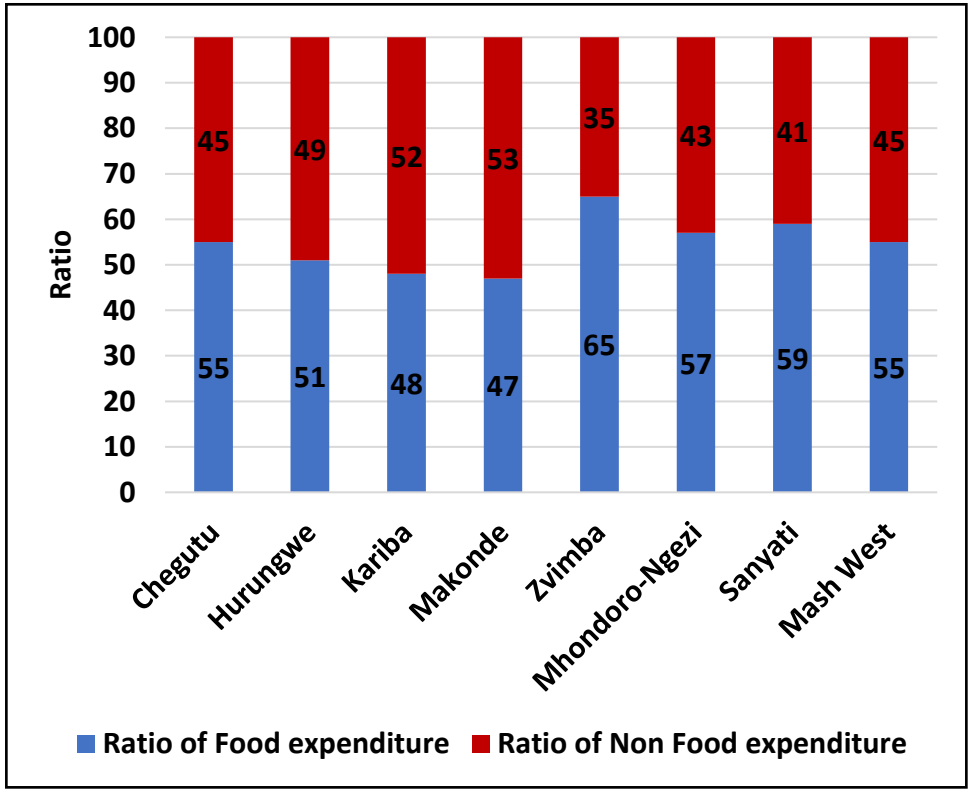
- The province's average monthly expenditure for April 2025 was at USD88 up from USD78 in 2024.
- Hurungwe (USD107) had the highest average monthly expenditure.

Food and Non-Food Expenditure Ratio

2024



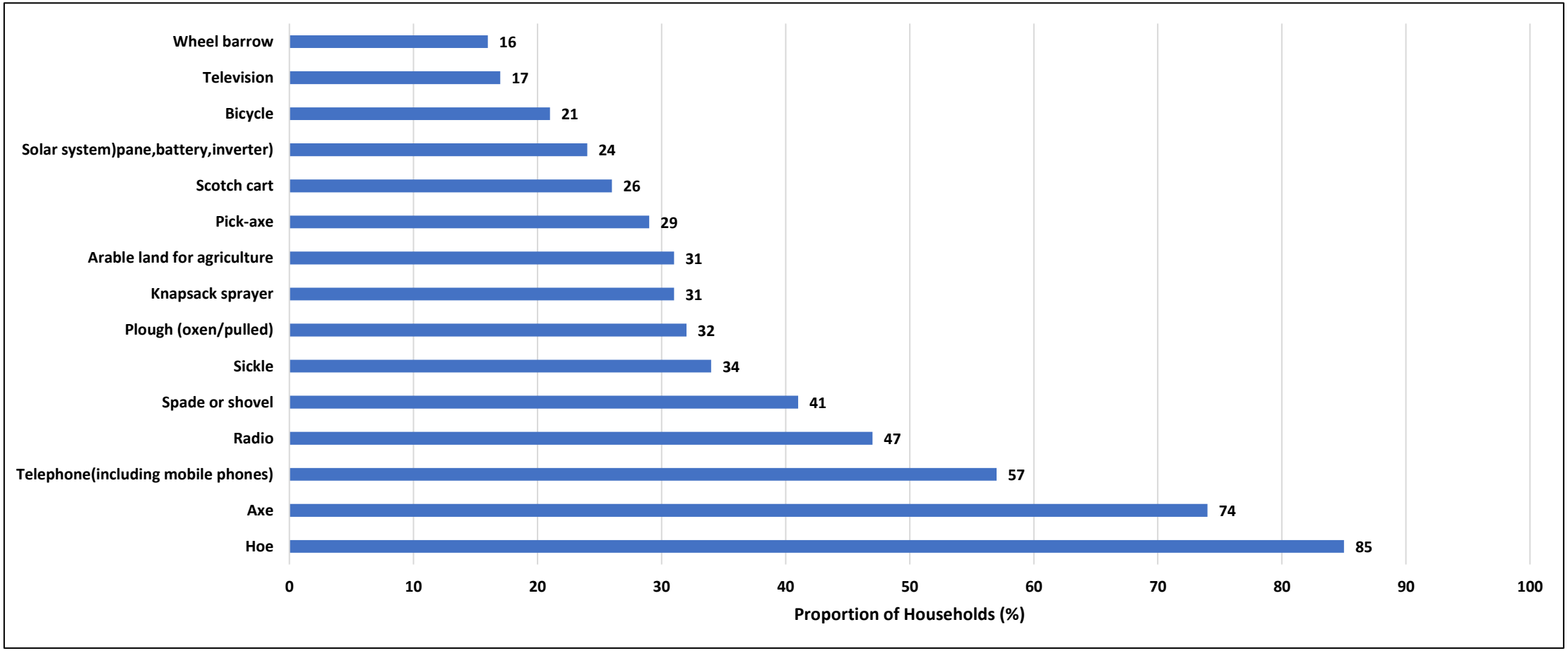
2025



- The food expenditure ratio was 55.

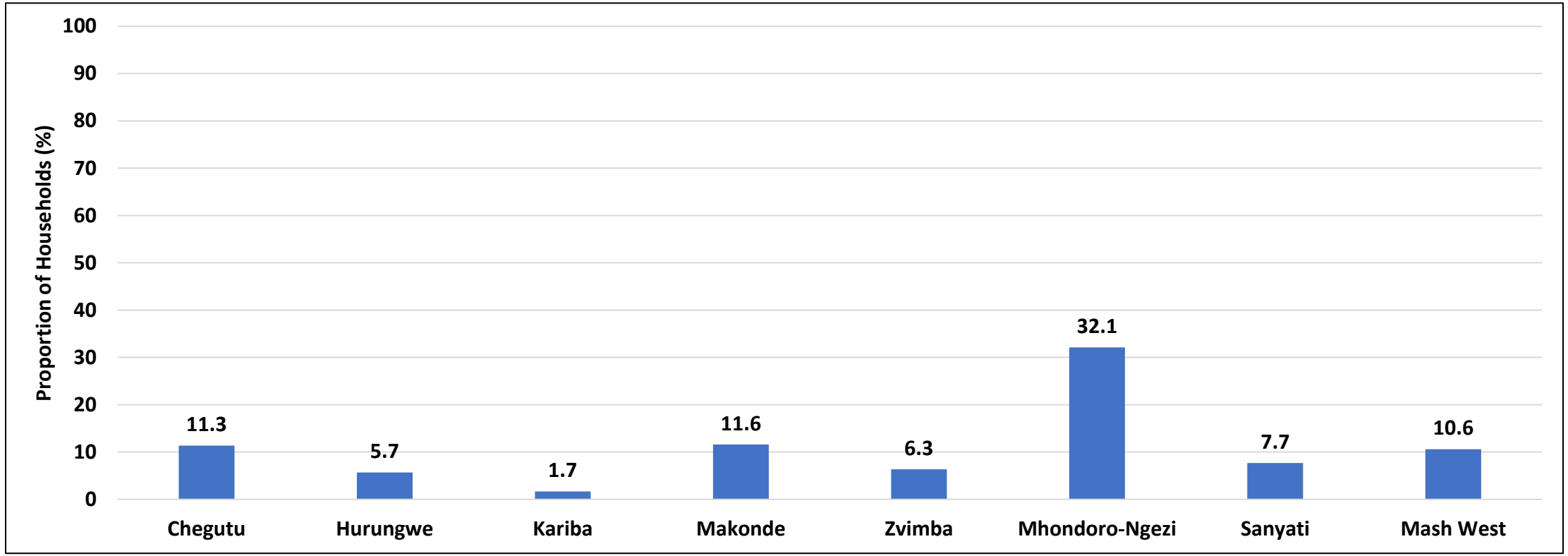
Assets, Loans and Remittances

Assets



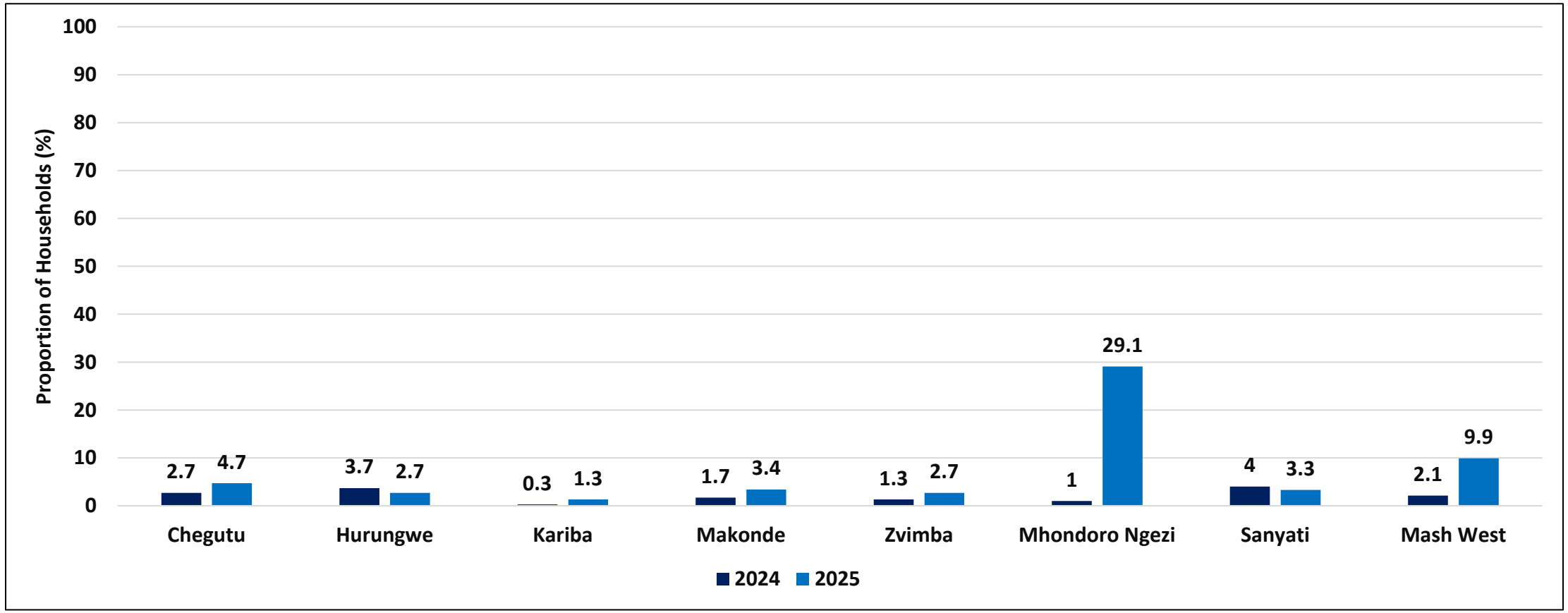
- The most commonly owned assets were hoes (85%), axes (74%) and telephones (57%).

Households Participating in ISALS/Mukando/Ukuqogelela



- About 10.6% of the households were participating in ISALS/Mukando/Ukuqogelela and Mhondoro-Ngezi with the highest (32.1%).

Households that Accessed Loans



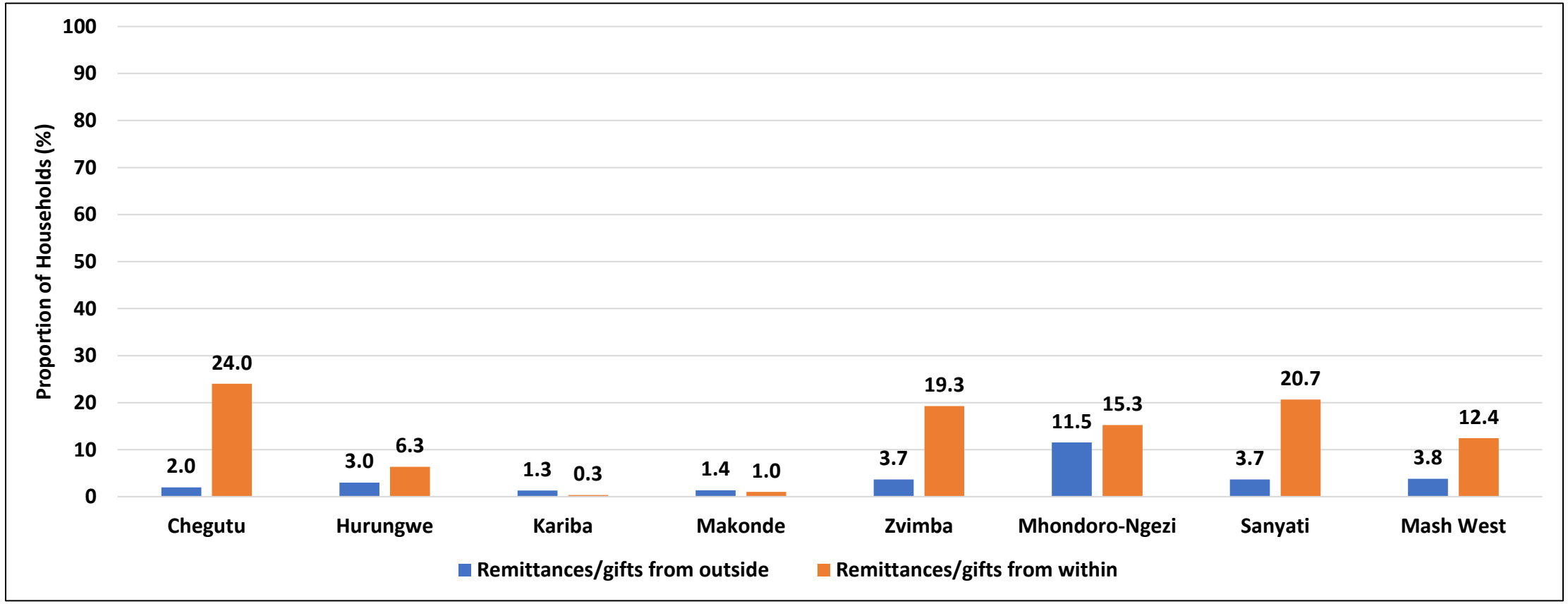
- The proportion of households that accessed loans was 9.9%, an increase from 2.1% in 2024.
- Mhondoro-Ngezi had the highest proportion of households that accessed loans in the province (29.1%).

Sources of Loans

District	Friend/relative (%)	Money lender (%)	Banks (%)	Micro finance institutions (%)	Other Financial Services (%)	ISAL/Mukando/Ukuqogela (%)	Farmer's organization (%)	Local trader/ shopkeeper (%)	Other (%)
Chegutu	0	0	1.0	0.3	0.3	2.3	1.0	0	0
Hurungwe	9	1	0	0.7	2.3	0.7	6.0	0.7	9.0
Kariba	0.7	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0
Makonde	0	0	0.7	0	0	2.4	0	0	0
Zvimba	0.3	0	0.7	1.3	0	0.3	0	0	0
Mhondoro-Ngezi	9.8	2.4	0.7	2.0	0	13.2	0	0.3	0
Sanyati	2.0	0	0.3	0	0	1.0	0	0	0
Mash West	**3.1**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.6**	**0.4**	**3.0**	**1.0**	**0.1**	**1.3**

- About (3.1%) of households indicated that they accessed loans from friends/relatives.

Households which Received Remittances/Gifts



- Remittances/gifts received were mainly from within the country (12.4%).
- Chegutu (24%) had the highest proportion of households that received remittances/gifts from within the country
- Mhondoro Ngezi (11.5%) had the highest proportion of households that received remittances from outside the country.

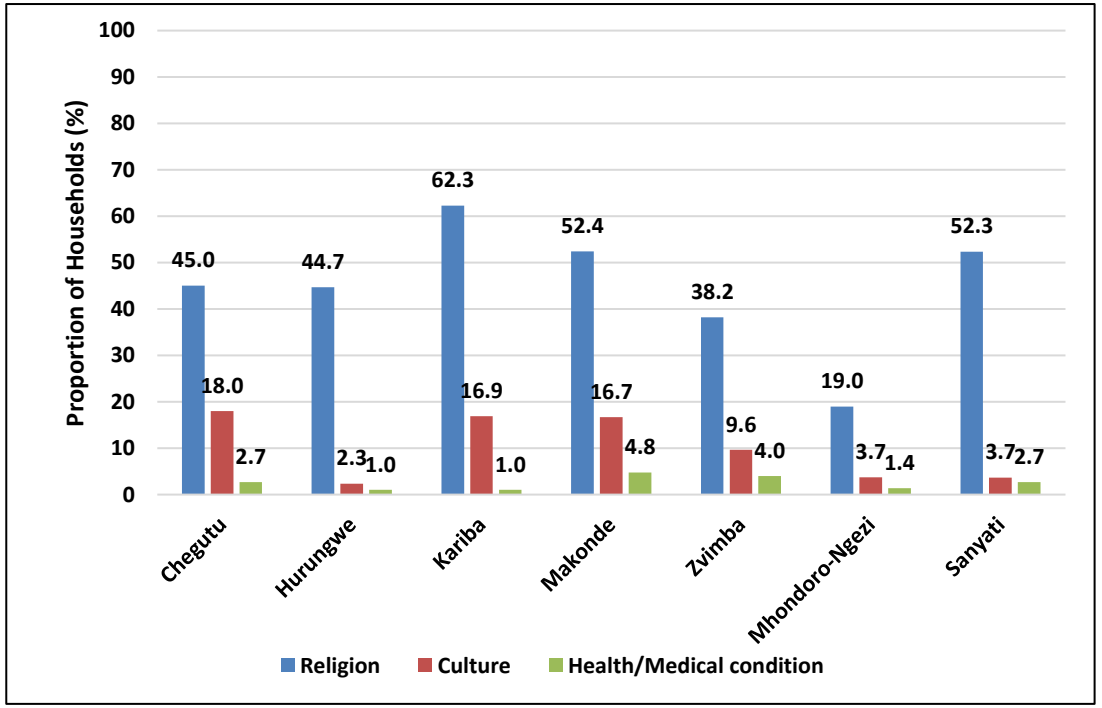
Food Dietary Taboos

Food Dietary Taboos

Household Food Dietary Taboos

District	Certain meat and meat products not consumed (%)	Certain fruits not consumed (%)	Traditional cereals not consumed (%)	Certain insects not consumed (%)	No taboos or restrictions (%)
Chegutu	56.0	5.3	0.3	0	43.7
Hurungwe	51.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	50.3
Kariba	73.2	1.3	0.7	8.9	26.5
Makonde	68.7	1.0	2.0	1.7	30.6
Zvimba	45.5	3.3	0.7	2.0	51.8
Mhondoro-Ngezi	19.0	2.7	3.7	5.8	67.1
Sanyati	54.3	0	0.3	13.0	45.3
Mash West	**52.6**	**2.2**	**1.1**	**4.5**	**45.0**

Reasons for Taboos

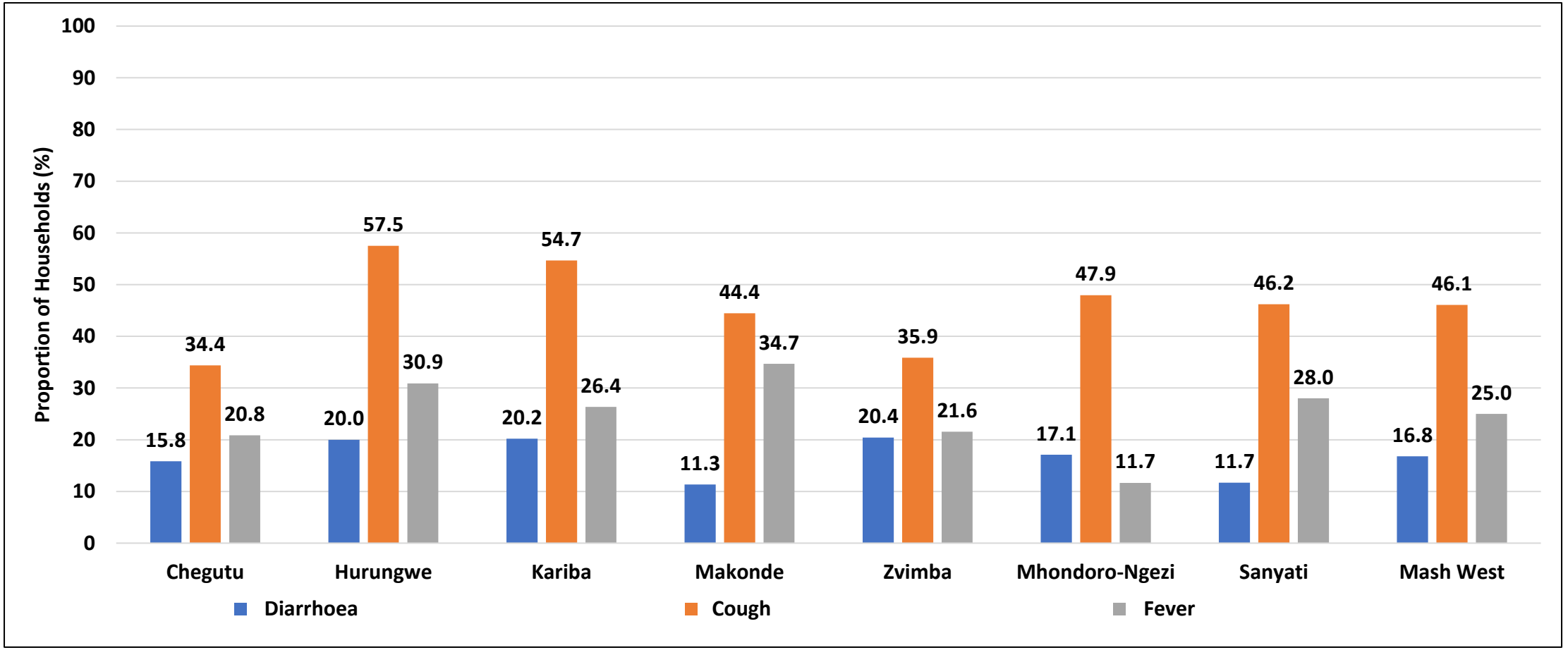


- In the province, 52.6% of the households had taboos on consumption of certain meat and meat products which may have negative effects on individual dietary diversity options ultimately affecting the quality of diets.
- Religion (52.3%) was the most reported reason for dietary related taboos.

Nutrition

Child Health

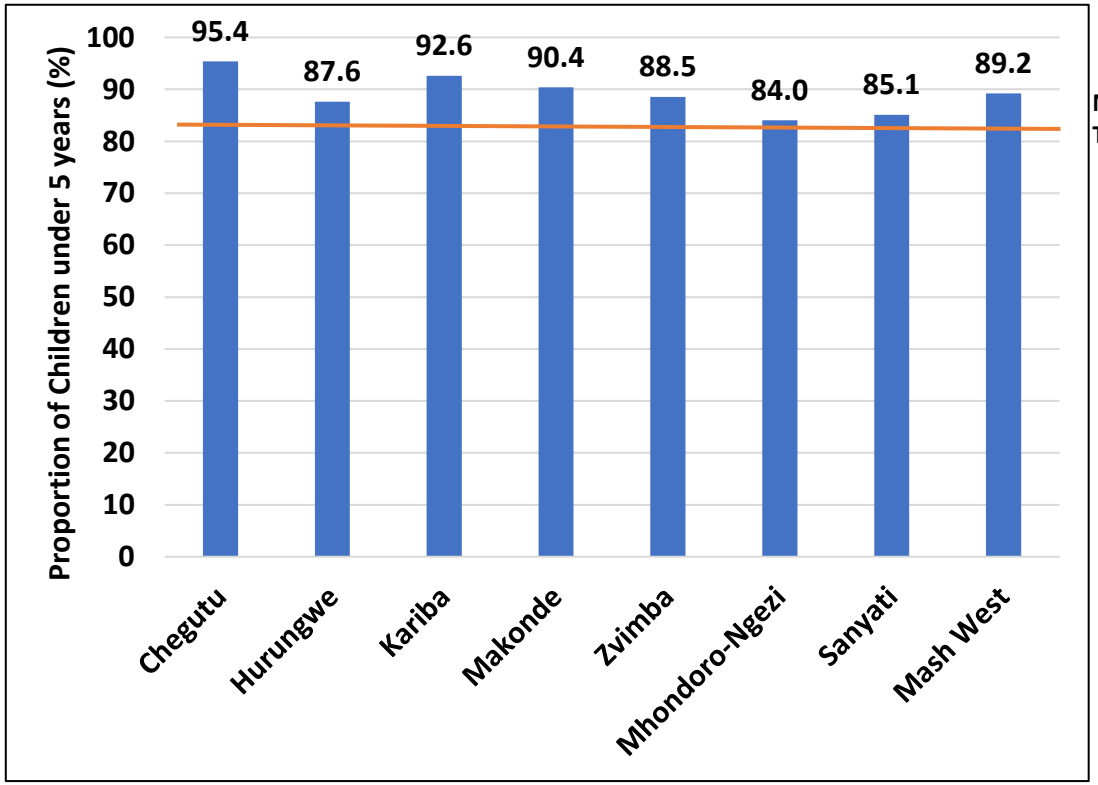
Child Illness 0-59 Months



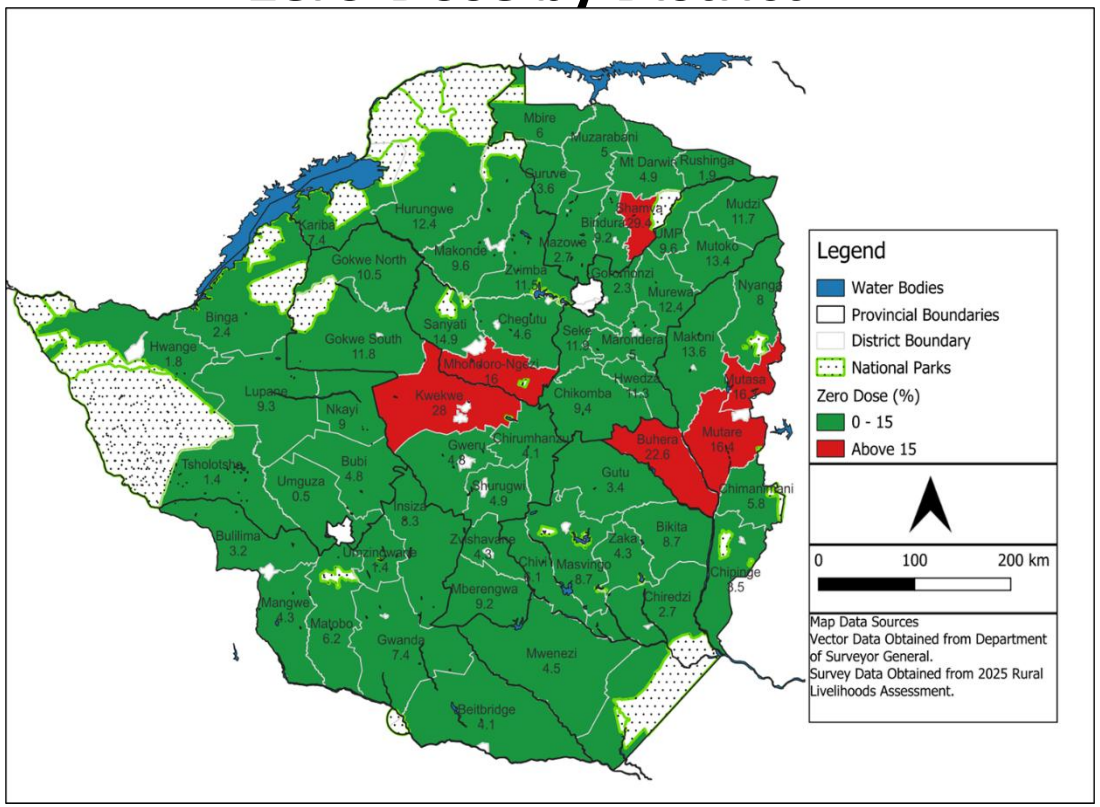
- Cough (46.1%) was the most reported child illness.

Vaccination Status of Children 0-59 Months

Vaccination since Birth



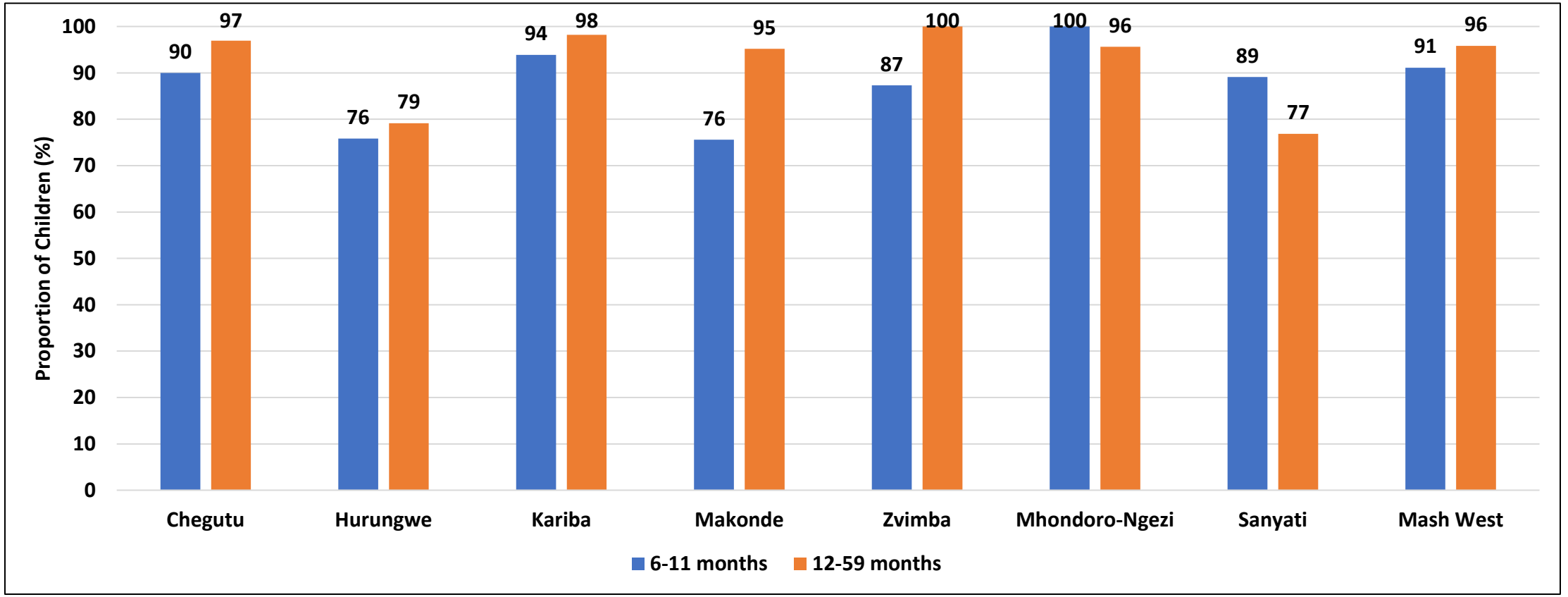
Zero-Dose by District



- Immunisation allows children everywhere to live lives free of many forms of disability and illness. The Government is commended for successfully reaching the national target of 85% for children that had received vaccination since birth. However, attention should be given to Mhondoro-Ngezi which is below the target.

Vitamin A Supplementation

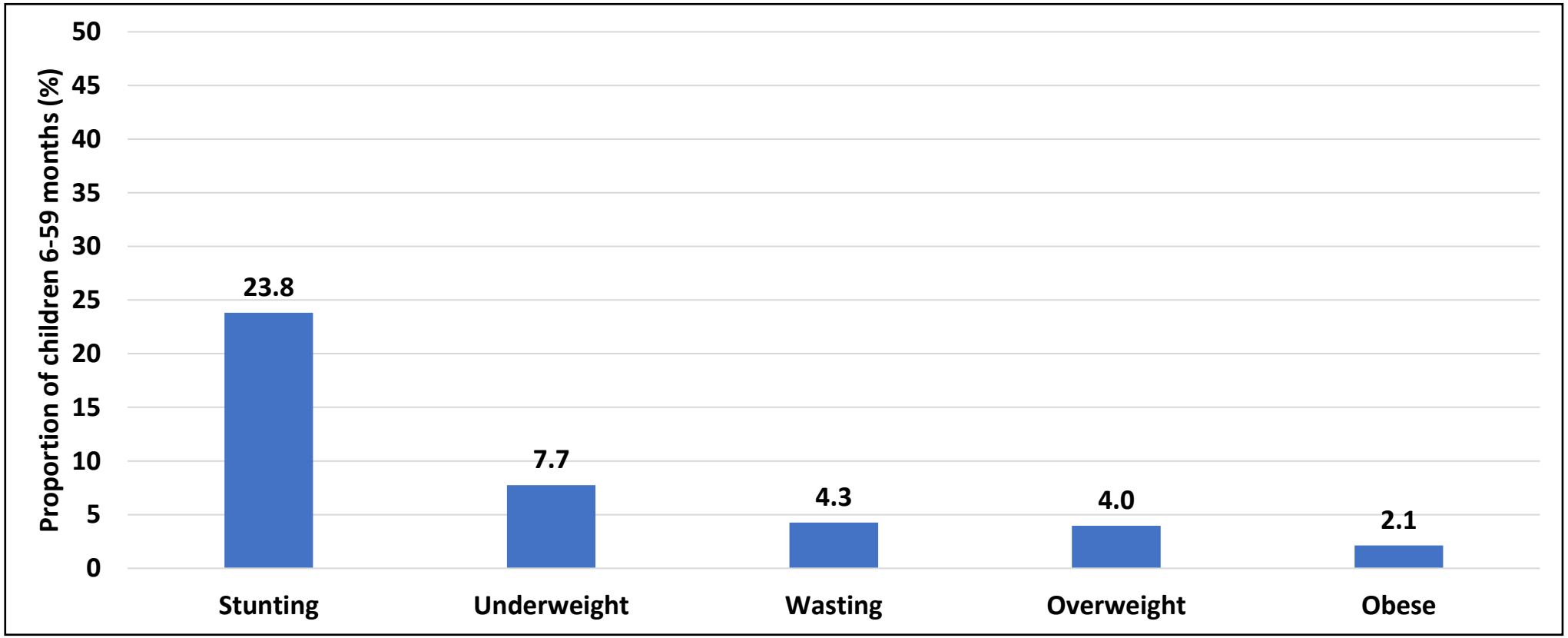
Vitamin A Supplementation by District



- Vitamin A is essential for the functioning of the immune system and the healthy growth and development of children. Provision of vitamin A supplements every six months is an inexpensive, quick and effective way to improve vitamin A status and reduce child morbidity and mortality in the long term.
- The province is complimented for reaching the NDS1 target of 90% for vitamin A supplementation for children 6-59 months.

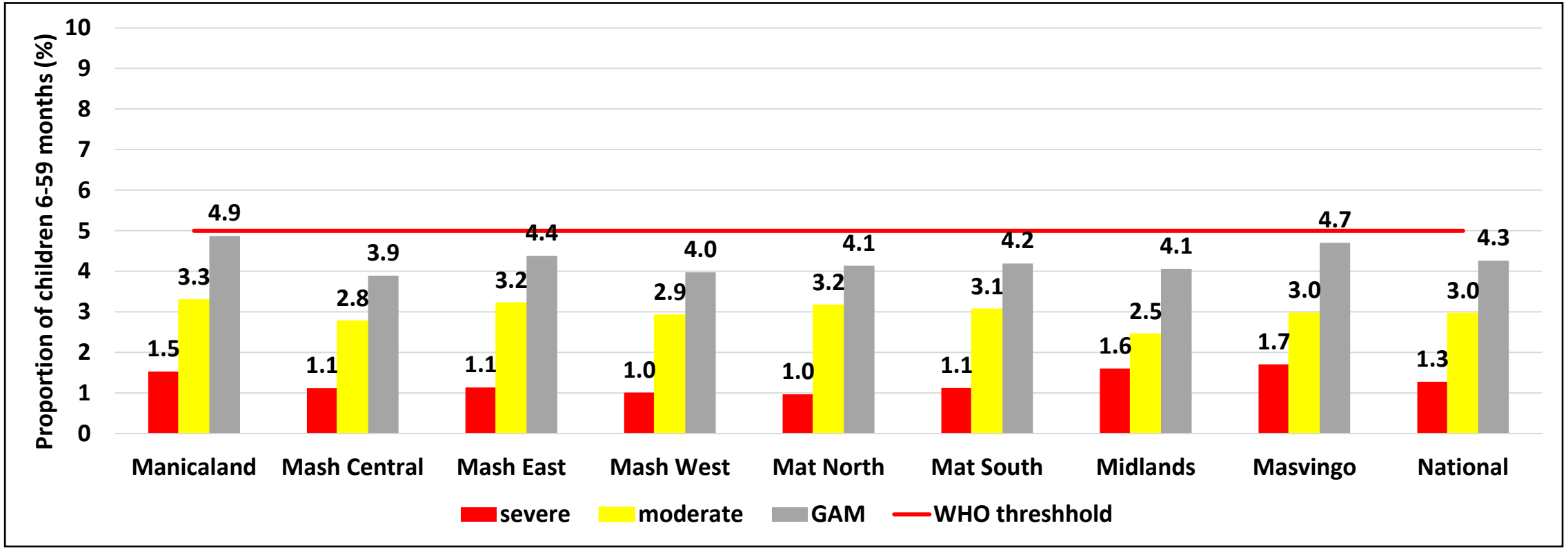
Child Nutrition

Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months



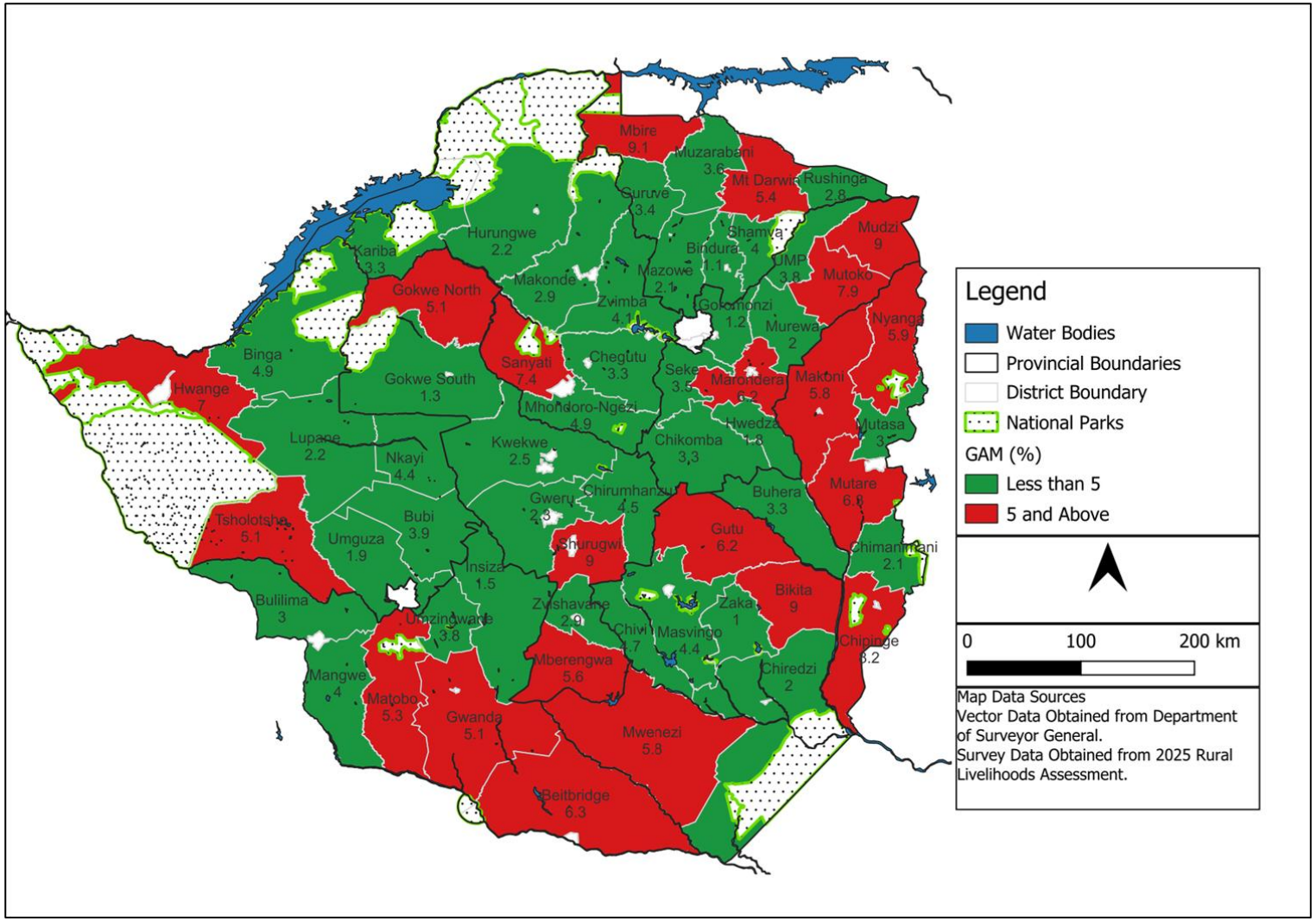
- The prevalence of GAM (wasting) was 4.3% which is acceptable and is below the WHO threshold of 5%.
- Stunting prevalence remains high (23.8%) according to the World Health Organization classification (20-30%) high. It is also off the NDS1 target of 17%.

Prevalence of Wasting for Children Aged 6-59 Months



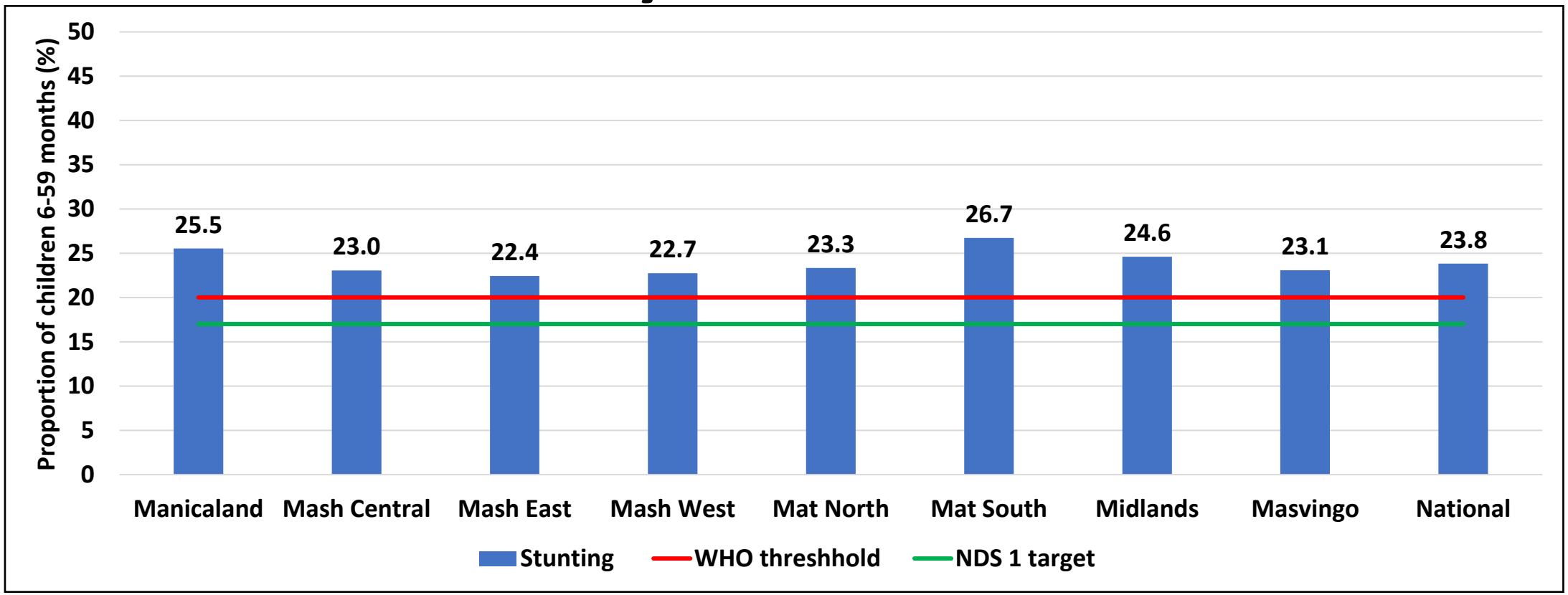
- The provincial prevalence for Global Acute Malnutrition (wasting) GAM was 4.0%.
- The provincial severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence (1.0%) was in line with the national target for SAM of 2.5%.

Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition for Children Aged 6-59 Months by District



- Sanyati (7.4%) recorded the highest proportions of GAM (wasting) which is above the WHO threshold of 5%.

Prevalence of Stunting for Children 6-59 Months by Province



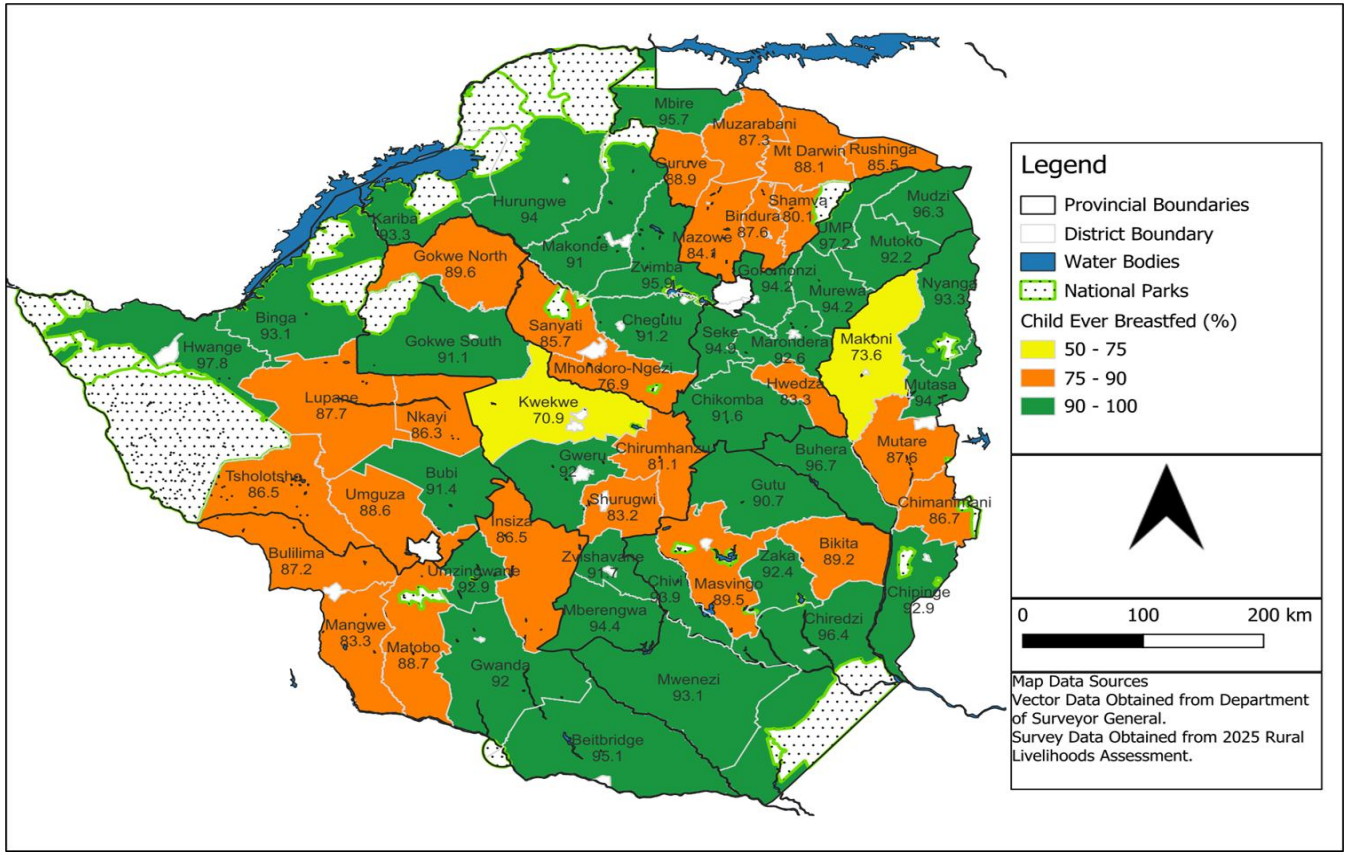
- The target of NDS1 is to reduce the national prevalence of under-five stunting from 23.5% to 17% by 2025.
- The national proportion of children 6-59 months who were stunted was 23.8%, which is still higher than the NDS1 target of less than 17%.
- All provinces recorded stunting levels above the WHO threshold of at least 20% classified as high (20-30%).

Infant and Young Child Feeding

Infant and Young Child Feeding

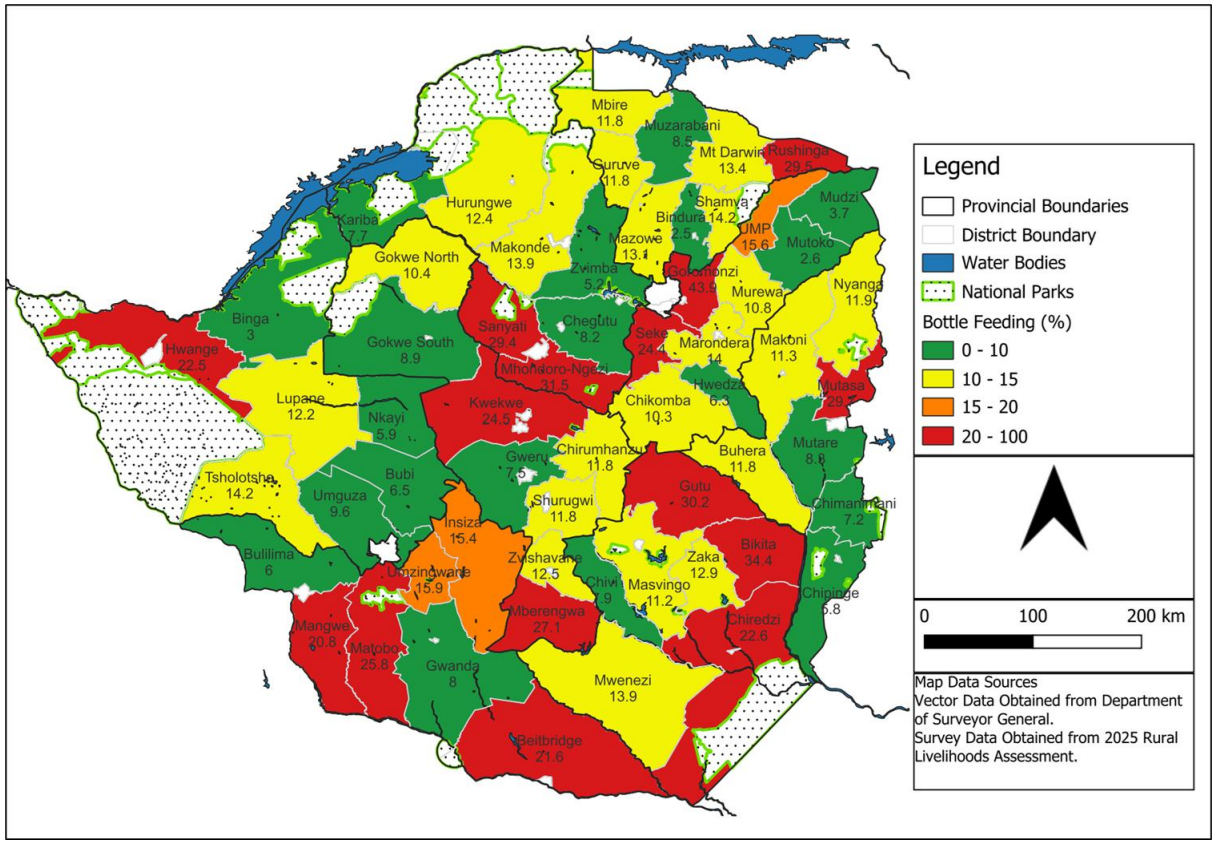
- Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices directly affect the health, development and nutritional status of children less than two years of age and ultimately, impact child survival. Improving IYCF practices in children 0–23 months of age is therefore critical to improved nutrition, health and development.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends breastfeeding practices that consist of early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for six months, and continued breastfeeding with complementary feeding for at least two years.
    - Early initiation of breastfeeding, within one hour of birth, protects the newborn from acquiring infection; reduces newborn mortality and facilitates emotional bonding of the mother and the baby and has a positive impact on duration of exclusive breastfeeding.
    - Exclusive breastfeeding is a low cost, life-saving child survival intervention
    - WHO recommends that children aged 6–23 months be fed a variety of foods to ensure that nutrient needs are met. 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.

Ever Breastfed by District Map



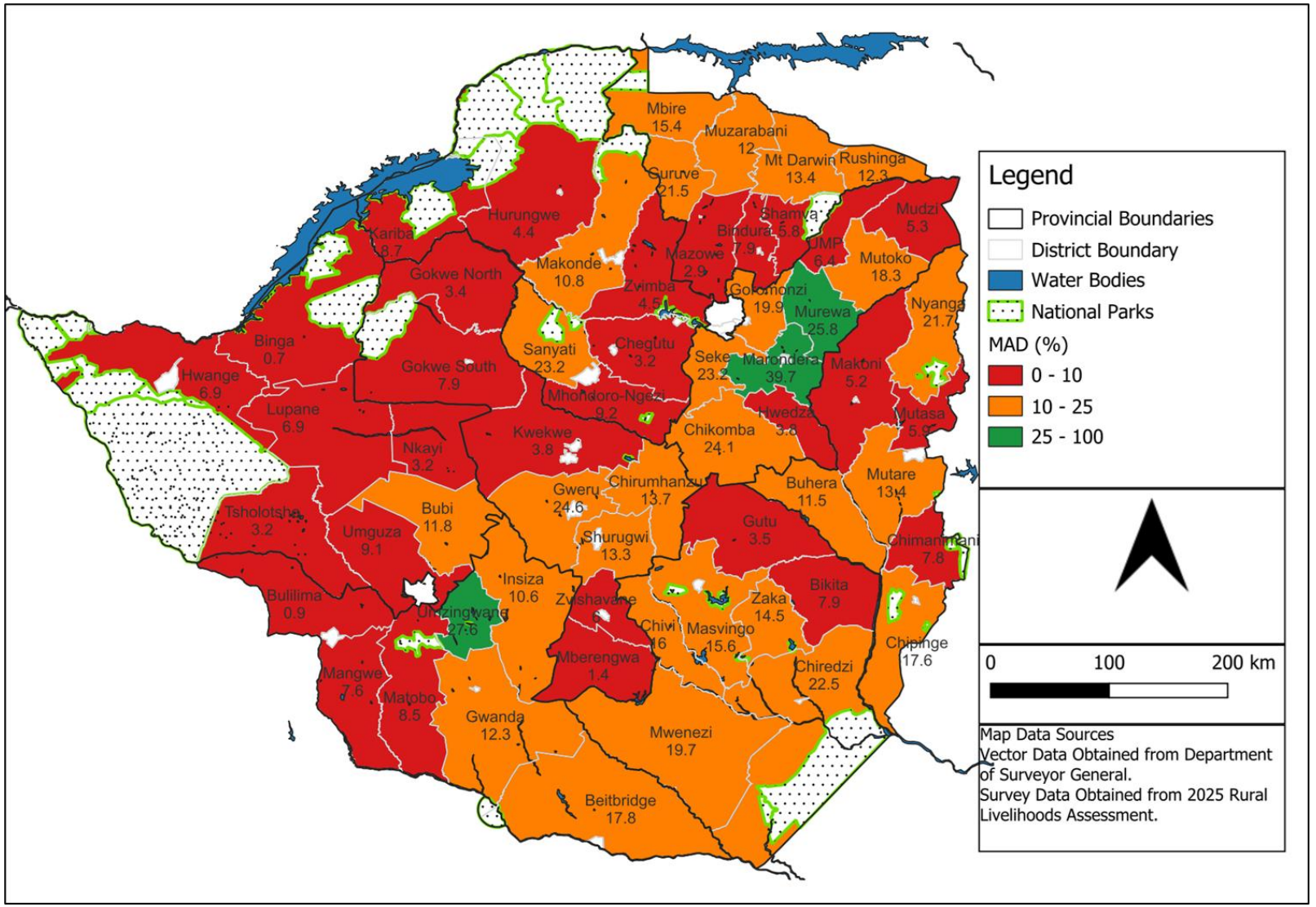
- Zvimba (95%) had the highest proportion of children who were ever breastfed.
- Mhondoro-Ngezi (76.9%) and Sanyati (85.7%) indicate a need for targeted support to ensure all infants benefit from breastfeeding.

Bottle Feeding



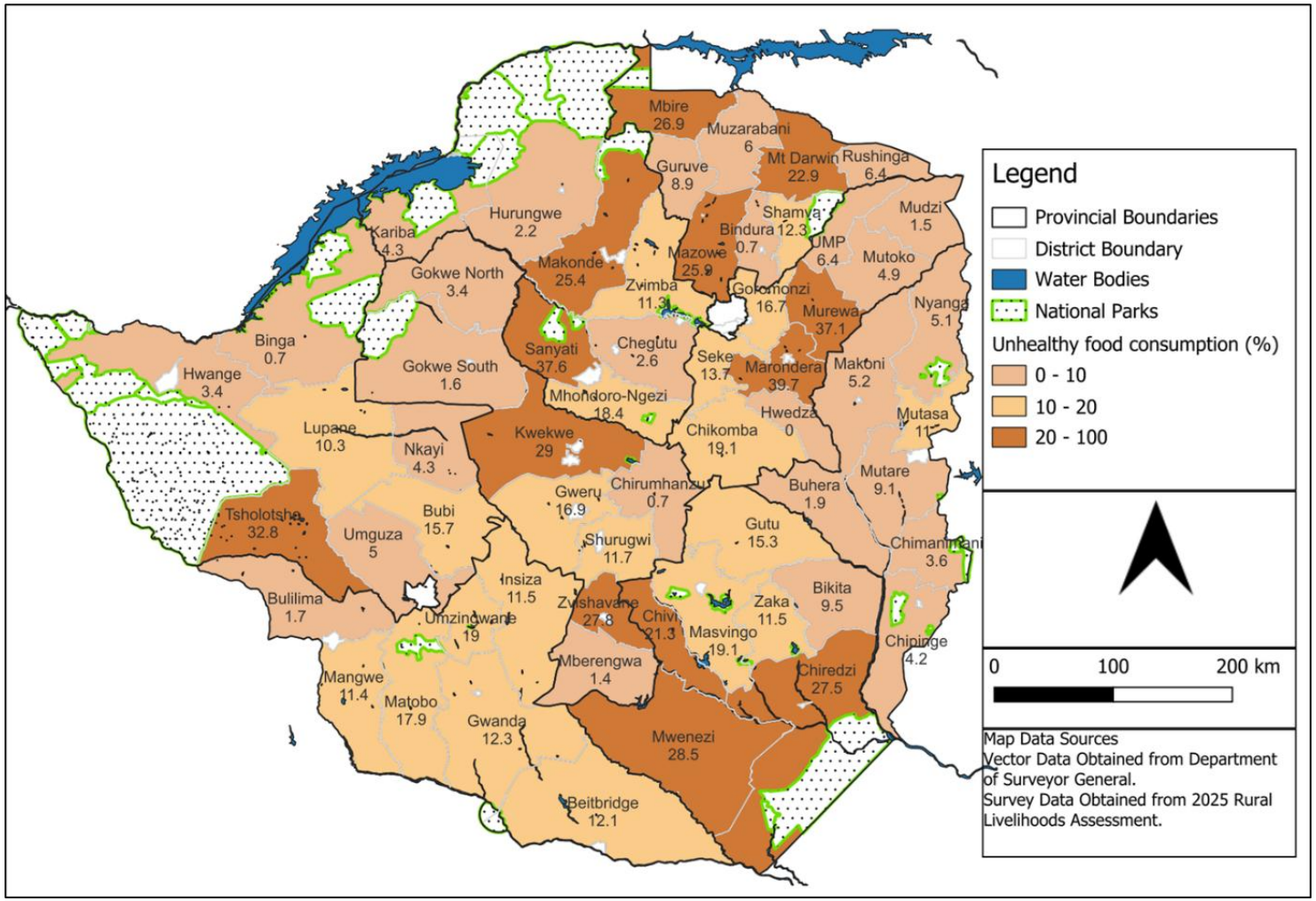
- Zvimba (5.2%), Kariba (7.7%) and Chegutu (8.2%) had bottle feeding below the 10% threshold.
- Highest bottle feeding rates were reported in Mhondoro Ngezi (31.5%) and Sanyati (29.4%).

Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) Children 6-23 Months



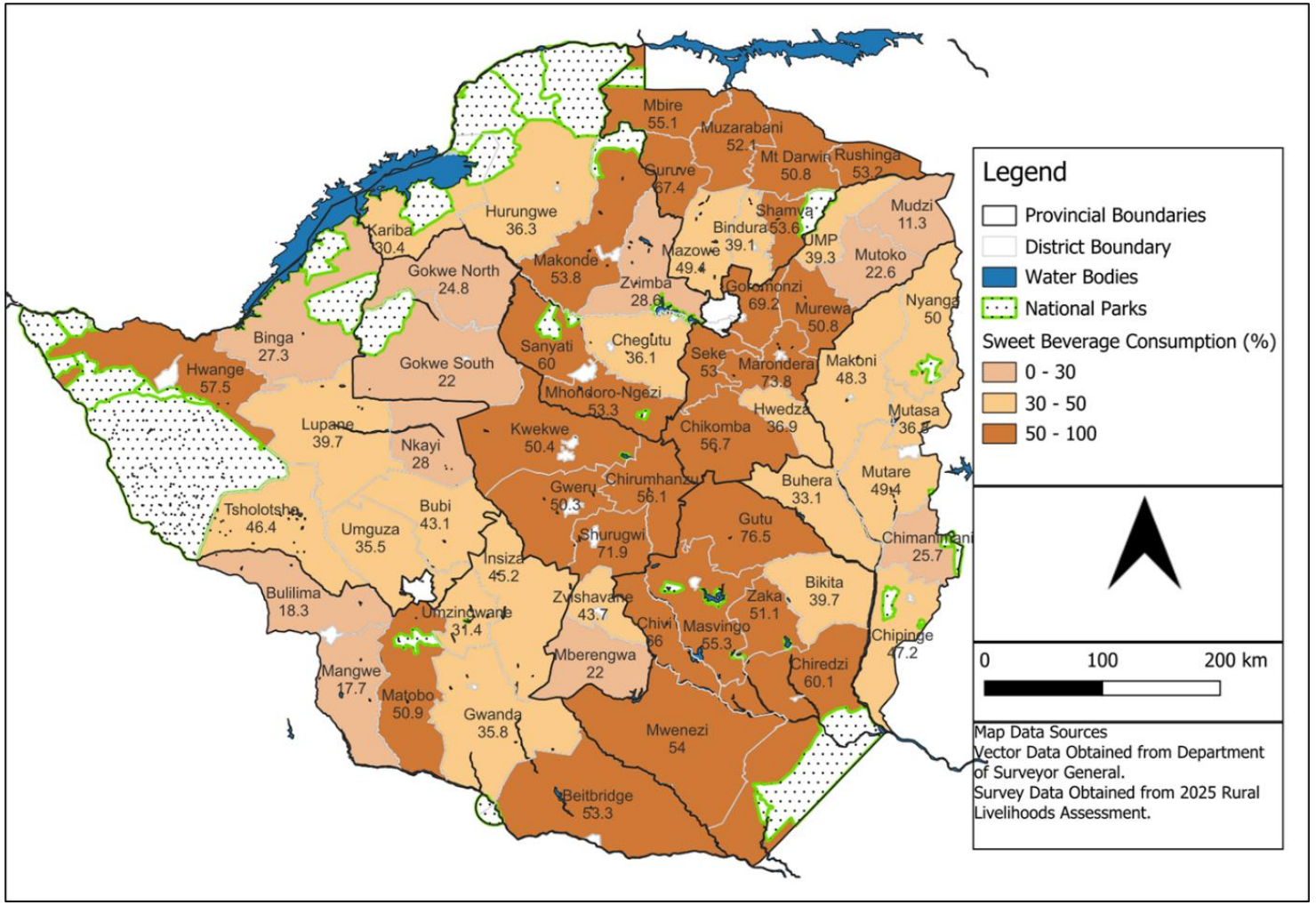
- Very poor MAD was in Chegutu (3.2%) and Hurungwe (4.4%).

Unhealthy Food Consumption 6–23 Months



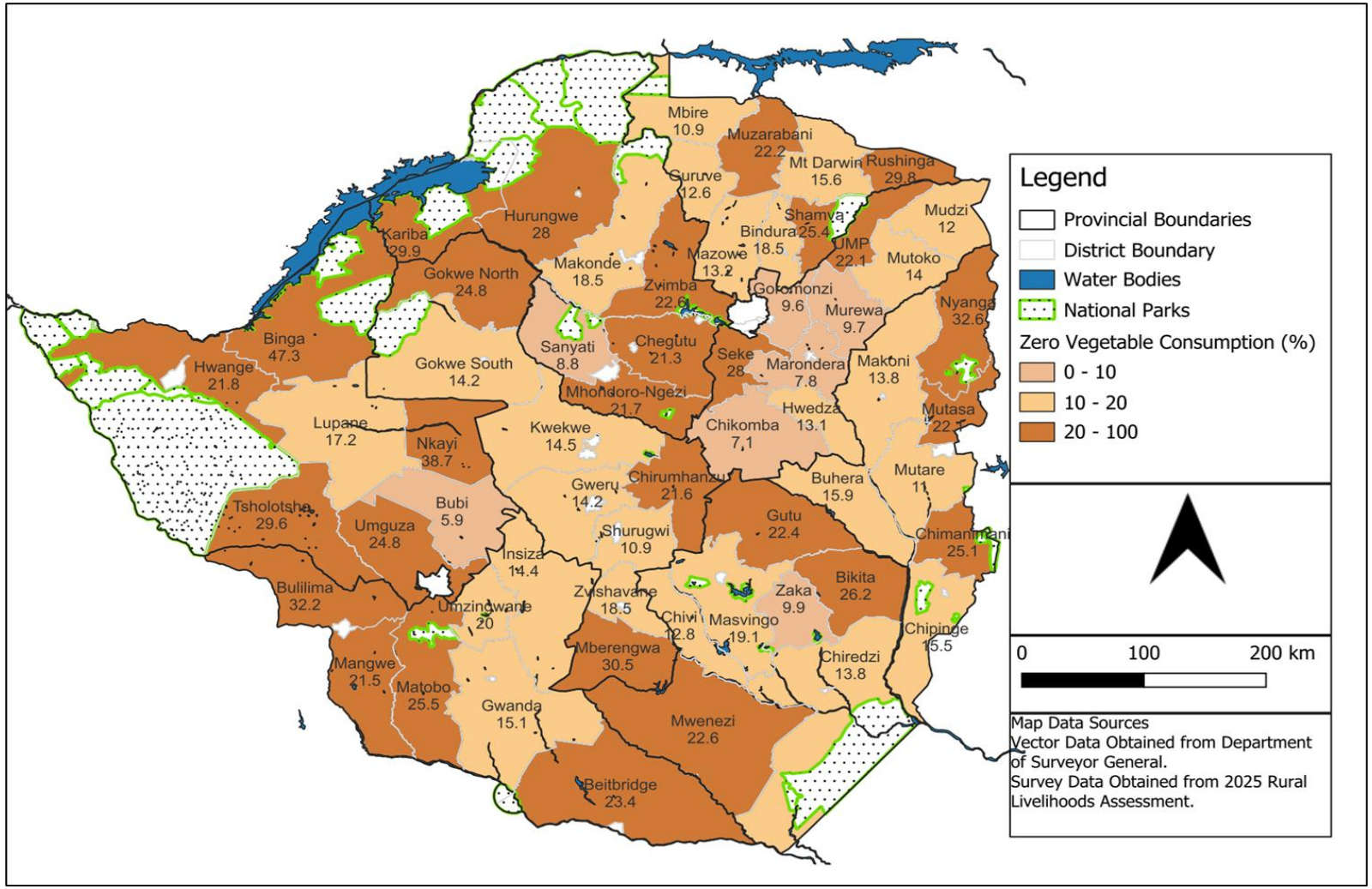
- Low unhealthy food consumption was in Hurungwe (2.2%) and Chegutu (2.6%) whilst high rates were in Sanyati (37.6%) and Makonde (25.4%).

Sweet Beverage Consumption 6–23 Months by District



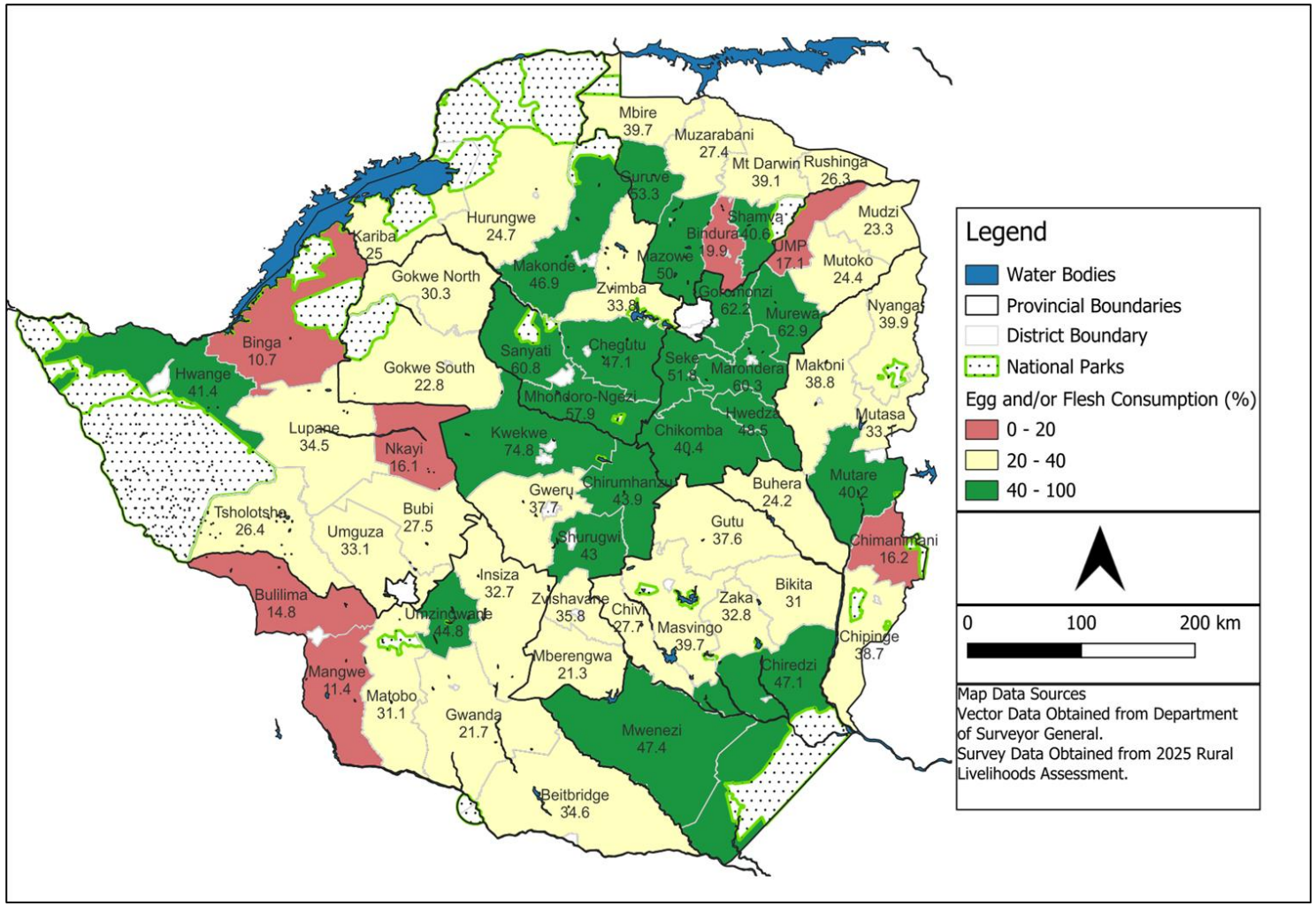
- Sanyati (60%), Makonde (53.8%) and Mhondoro Ngezi (53.3%) had the highest consumption of sweet beverages by children 6 to 23 months, posing nutritional and health risks for children in those areas.

Non- Vegetable or Fruit Consumption 6–23 Months



- Non-vegetable/fruits consumption was high in Kariba (29.9%) and Hurungwe (28%), which may indicate poor dietary diversity among children 6-23 months.

Egg and/or Flesh Food Consumption 6–23 Months



- Low eggs and/ flesh consumption was in Kariba (25%) and Hurungwe (24.7%) whilst high consumption was in Sanyati (60.8) ,Mhondoro Ngezi (57.9%), Makonde (46.9%) and Chegutu (47.1%) indicating better access to protein-rich foods in these areas.

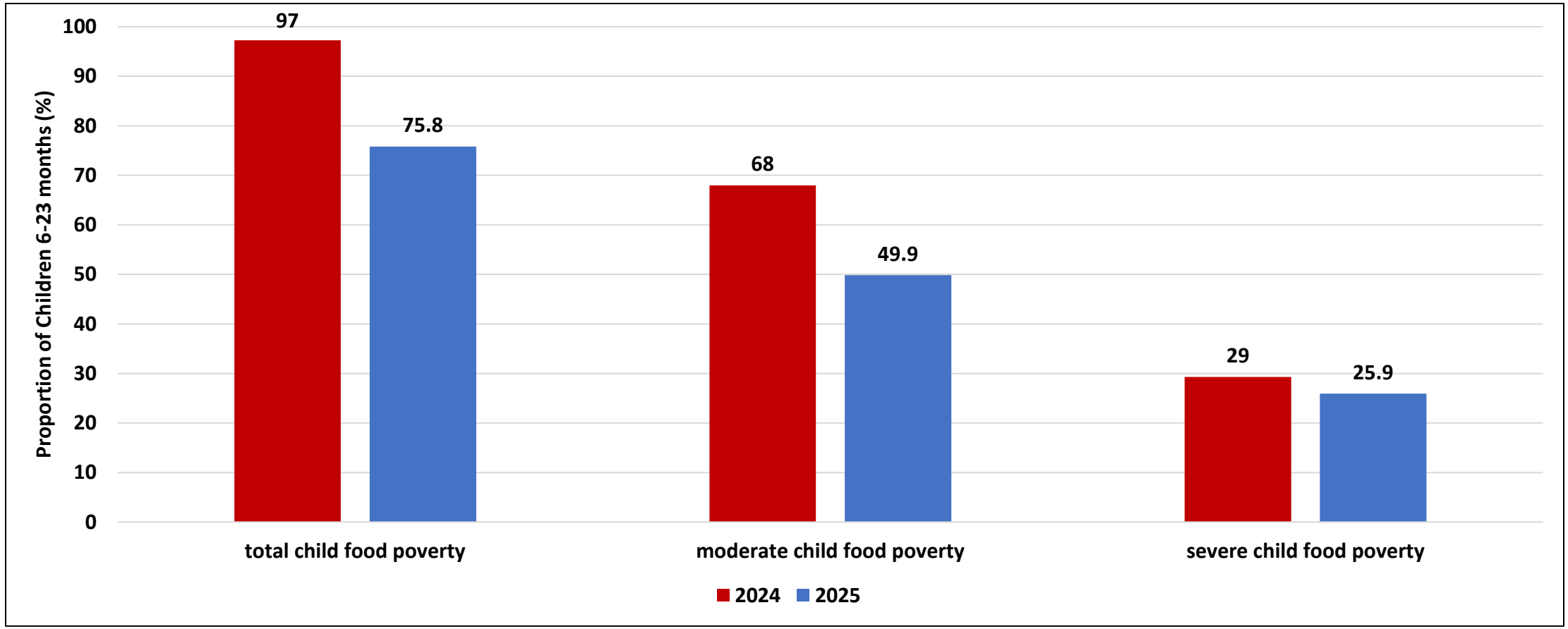
Child Food Poverty

- **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.

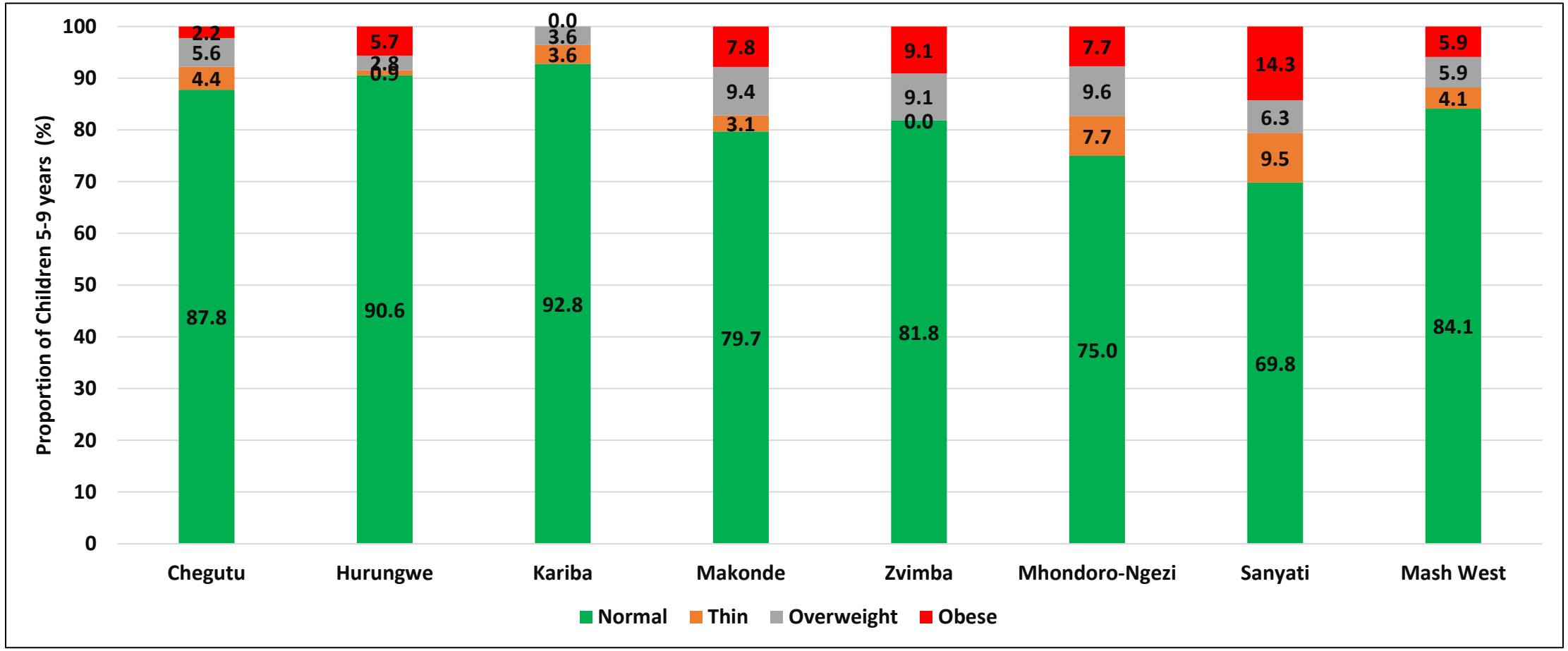
Child Food Poverty



- There has been an improvement in the proportion of children who did not meet a minimum dietary diversity from 97% in 2024 to 75.8% in 2025, twenty four hours to prior to the survey.
- Attention needs to be given to the 25.9% of children who were in severe food poverty.

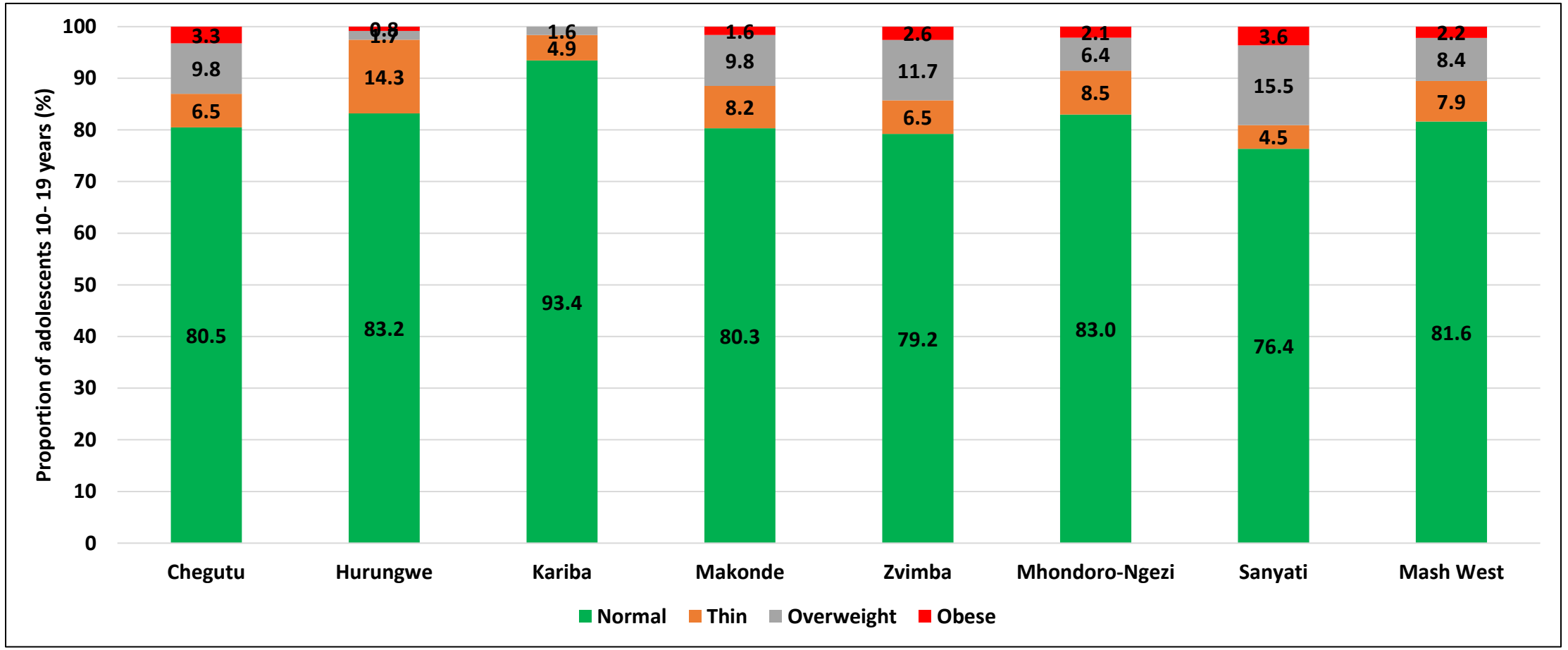
Adult Nutrition Status

Nutrition Status of Children 5-9 Years (BMI-for-Age)



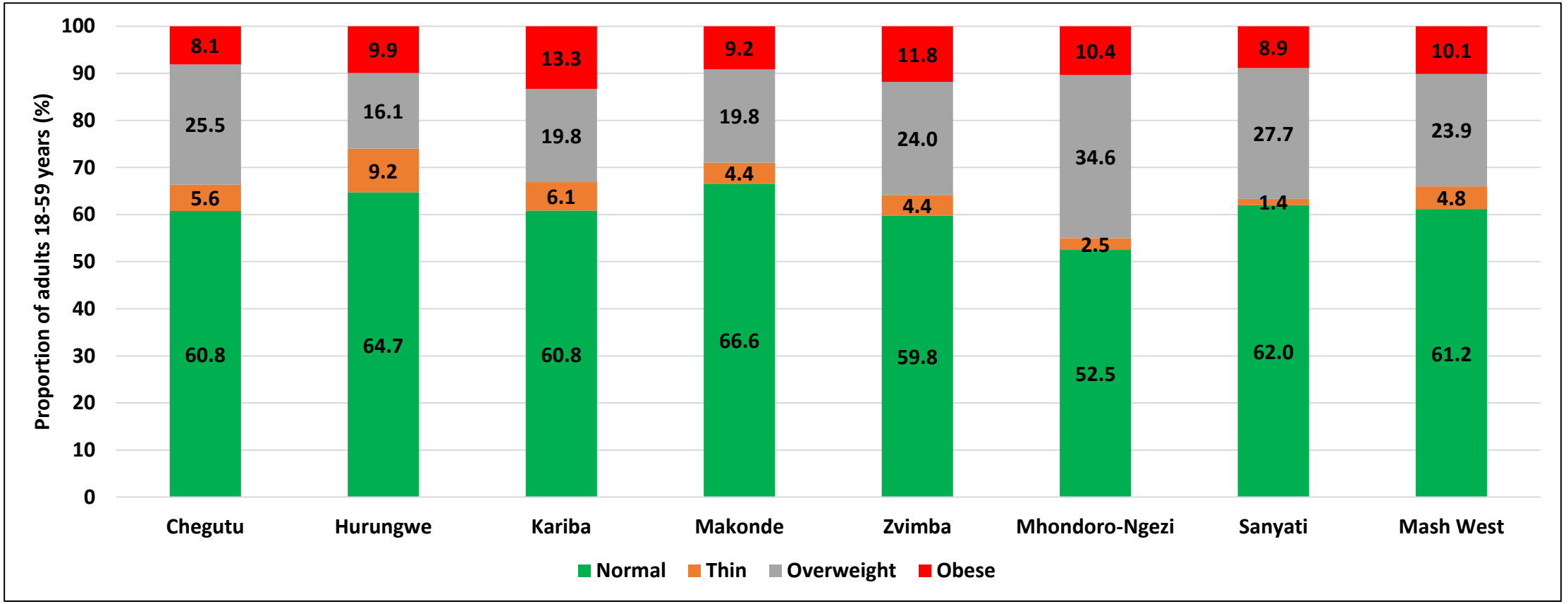
- At least 5.9 % of the children aged 5 to 9 years were obese and 5.9 % were overweight whilst 84.1% were normal.

Nutrition Status of Adolescents 10-19 Years (BMI)



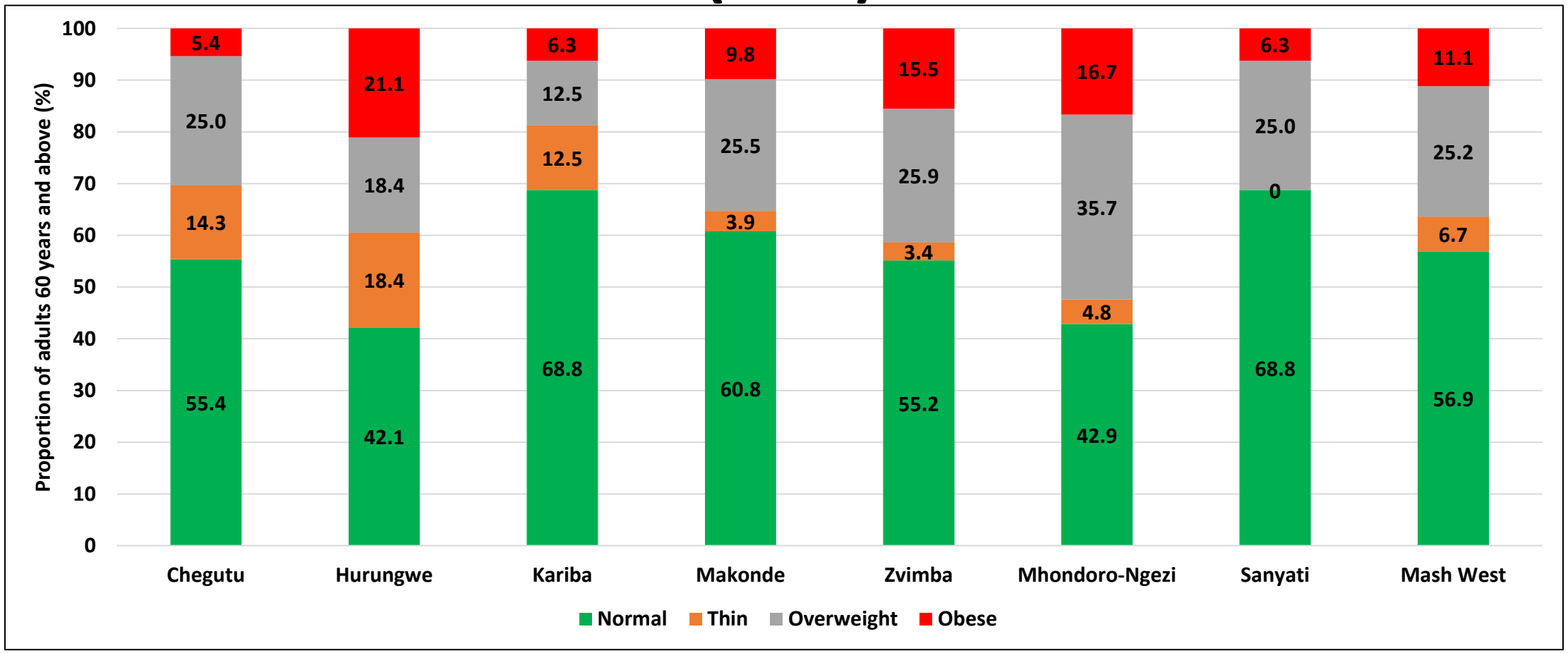
- At least 10.6% of the adolescents were overweight and obese.

Nutrition Status for Adults 18-59 Years (BMI)



- Body mass index was used to classify adults aged 18 years and above. 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).
- In the province, 34% of the adults aged 18-59 years were overweight and obese.

Nutrition Status for Adults 60 Years and above (BMI)



- About 36.3% of adults above 60 were overweight and obese, whilst 56.9% were normal.

Food Security

Food Security Dimensions

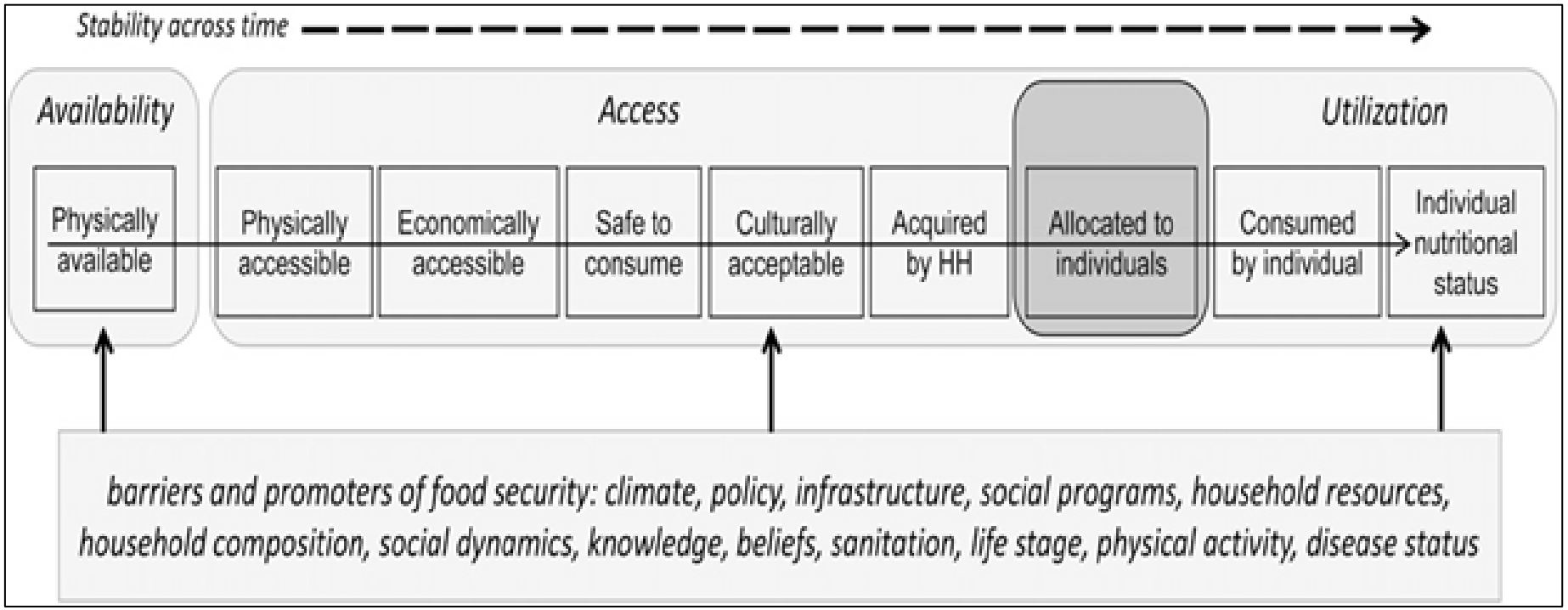


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Food security exists when all people at all times, have **physical, social and economic** access to food which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and it is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care allowing for a healthy and active life (Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2012).
- The four dimensions of food security as given in Figure 3 are:
    - **Availability** of food
    - **Access to food**
    - The safe and healthy **utilisation** of food
    - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilisation

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Household cereal security was determined by measuring a household's potential access to enough cereal to give each member 2100 kilocalories per day in the consumption period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire minimum expenditure food basket was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income (both cash and non cash) in the 2025/26 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
    - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
    - Own food crop production from the 2024/25 agricultural season;
    - Potential income from own cash crop production;
    - Potential income from livestock;
    - Potential income from casual labour and remittances; and
    - Income from other sources such as gifts, pensions, gardening, formal and informal employment.

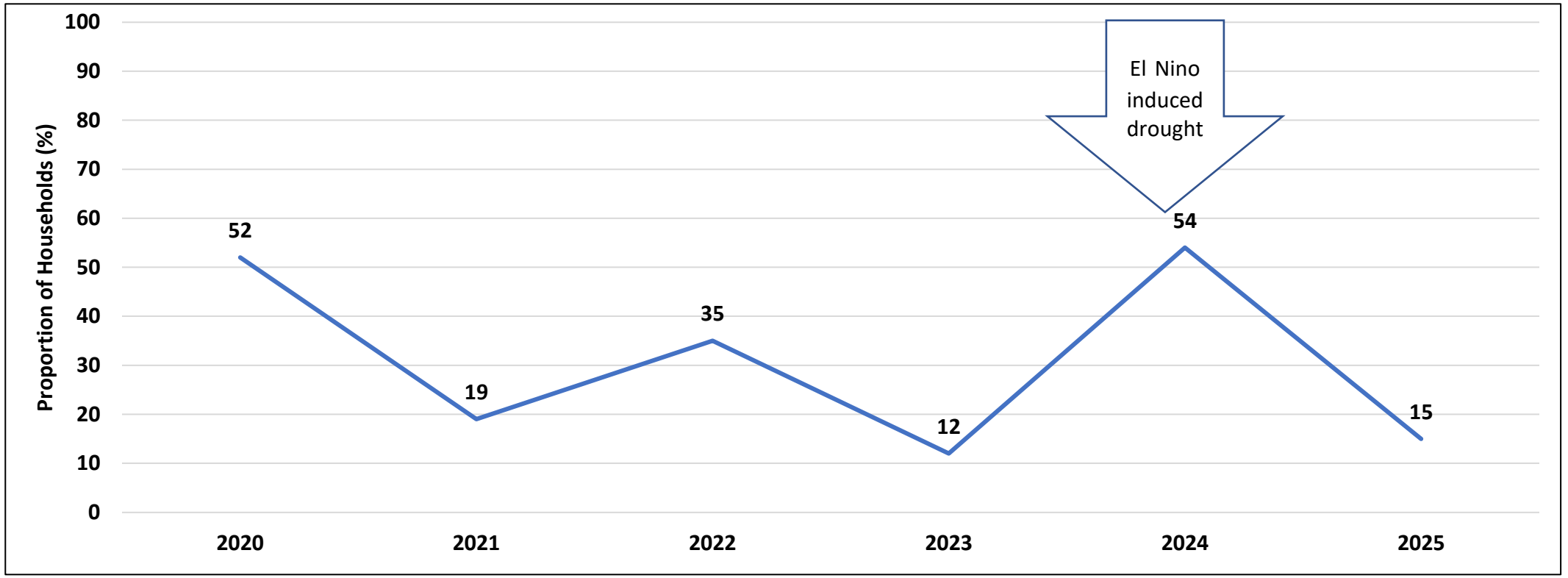
Food Security Analytical Framework

- The total energy that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest energy source using its potential disposable income was then computed and compared to the household's minimum energy requirement.
- When the potential energy that a household could acquire was greater than its minimum energy requirements, the household was deemed to be food secure. When the converse was true, the household was defined as food insecure.
- The severity of household food insecurity was computed by the margin with which its potential energy access was below its minimum energy requirements.

Food Security Status at Peak Hunger Period

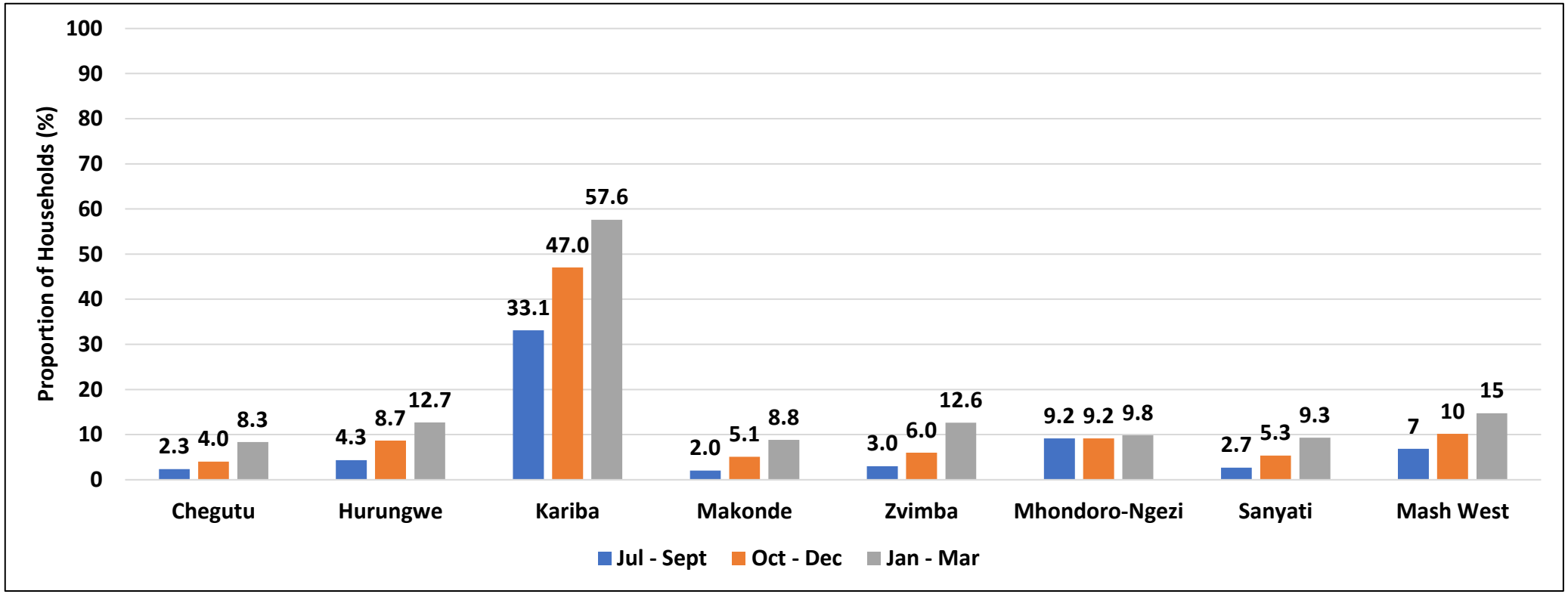
- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) it was estimated that approximately **15%** of the Mashonaland West rural households will be cereal insecure.
- The 15% of rural households translated into approximately **180,152** individuals requiring a total of **6,666 MT** of cereal (maize grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.

Cereal Insecurity Trends 2020 - 2025



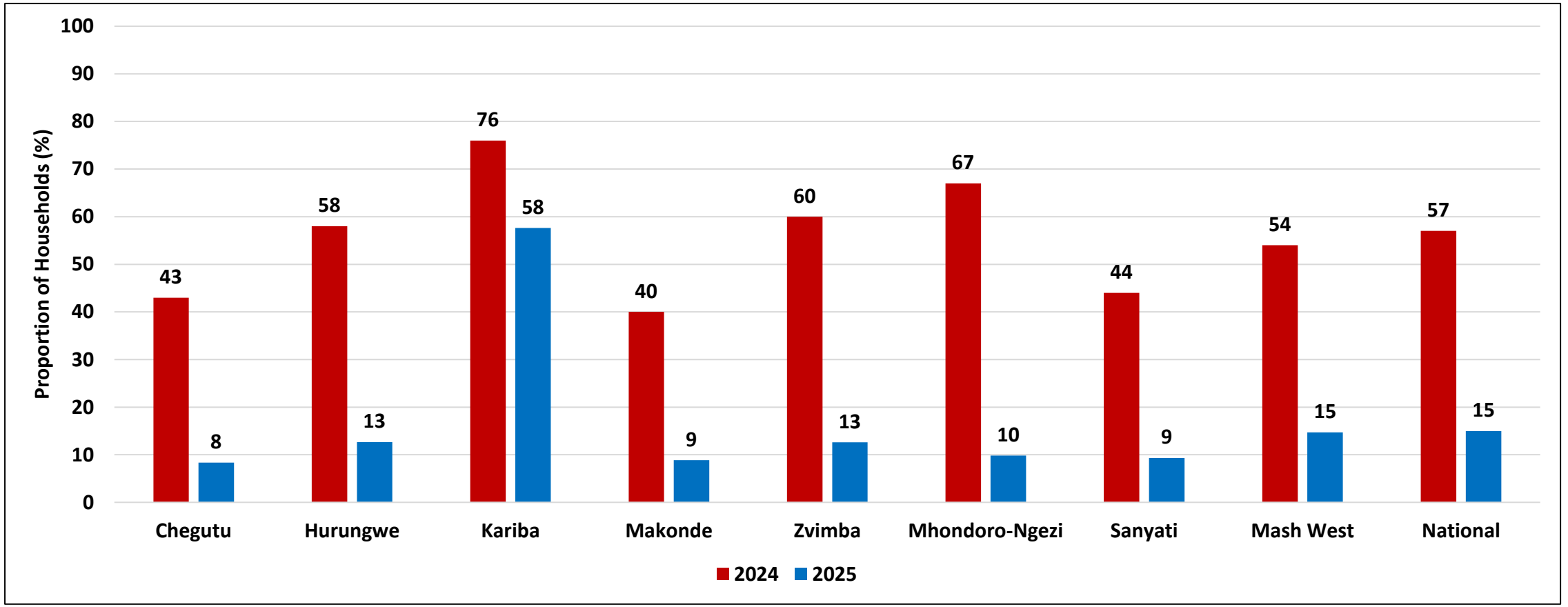
- There was a drop in cereal insecurity from 52% in 2020 to 15% in 2025.
- Government is complimented for implementing shoch responsive interventions.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- About 7% of the rural households were projected to be facing cereal access challenges in the July to September 2025 quarter.
- Kariba (57.6%) had the highest proportion of households who will face cereal access challenges at peak.

Cereal Insecurity (Peak Hunger Period)



- The proportion of food insecure households during the peak hunger period is projected to be low compared to 2024.

Cereal Insecure Populations by Quarter

District	Jul – Sept 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan – Mar 2026
Chegutu	4,174	7,156	14,909
Hurungwe	16,939	33,879	49,515
Kariba	15,157	21,523	26,373
Makonde	4,285	10,712	18,567
Zvimba	10,405	20,811	43,934
Mhondoro-Ngezi	12,904	12,904	13,860
Sanyati	3,713	7,426	12,995
Mashonaland West	**67,578**	**114,410**	**180,152**

- A total of 180,152 people will be food insecure during the peak hunger period (Jan-Mar 2026).

Cereal Requirements by Quarter

District	Jul – Sept 2025 (MT)	Oct – Dec 2025 (MT)	Jan – Mar 2026 (MT)	July 2025 to March 2026 Total (MT)
Chegutu	154	265	552	971
Hurungwe	627	1,254	1,832	3,713
Kariba	561	796	976	2,333
Makonde	159	396	687	1,242
Zvimba	385	770	1,626	2,781
Mhondoro-Ngezi	477	477	513	1,467
Sanyati	137	275	481	893
Mashonaland West	**2,500**	**4,233**	**6,666**	**13,999**

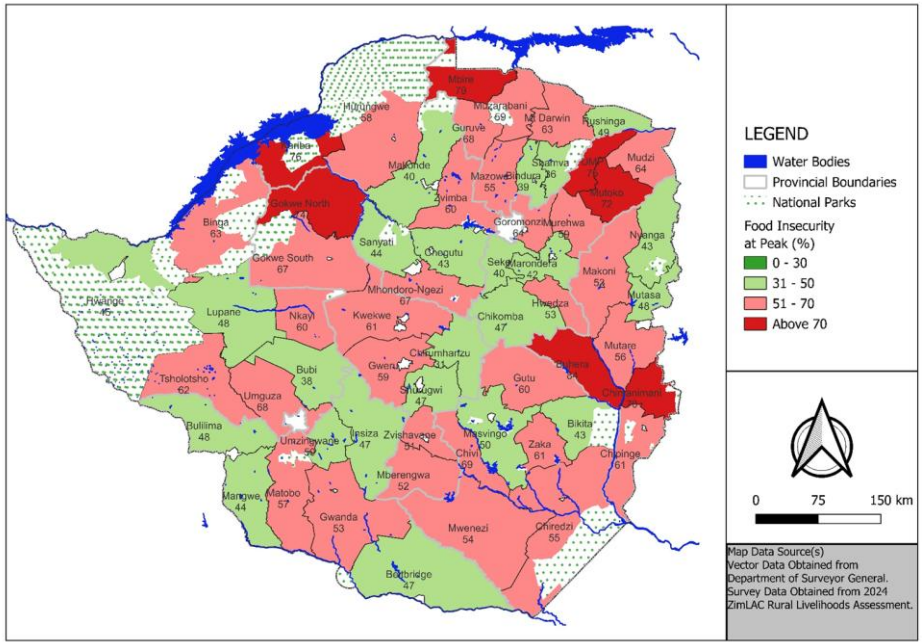
- The province will require a total of 6,666MT of cereal to feed the food insecure during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Insecure Proportions By Quarter

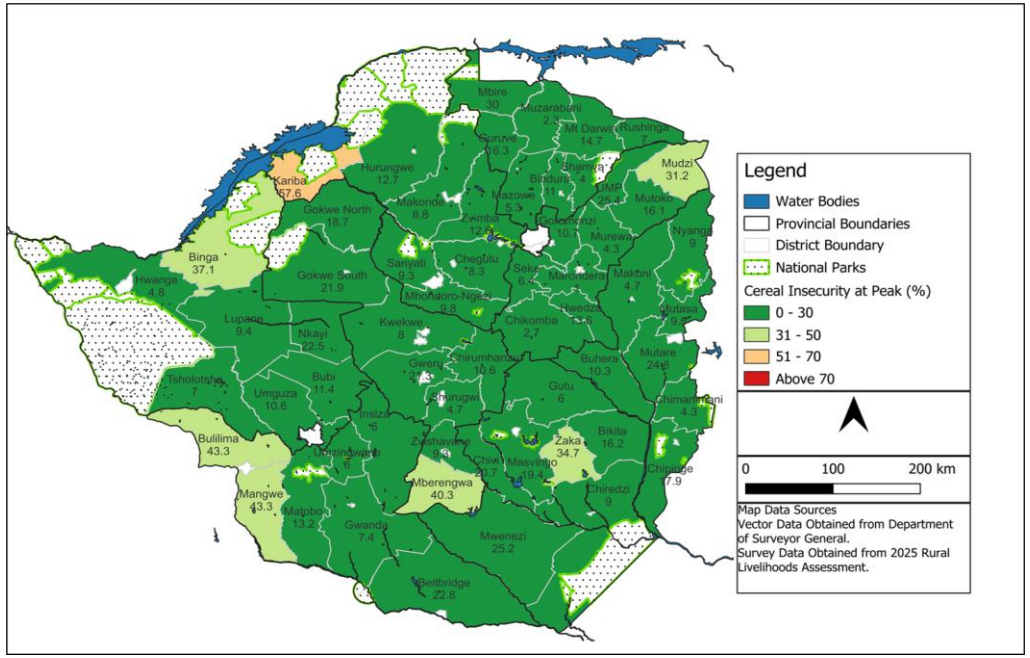
District	Jul – Sept 2025 (%)	Oct – Dec 2025 (%)	Jan – Mar 2026 (%)
Chegutu	2.3	4.0	8.3
Hurungwe	4.3	8.7	12.7
Kariba	33.1	47.0	57.6
Makonde	2.0	5.1	8.8
Zvimba	3.0	6.0	12.6
Mhondoro-Ngezi	9.2	9.2	9.8
Sanyati	2.7	5.3	9.3
Mashonaland West	**7**	**10**	**15**

Food Security Status: Peak Hunger Period January to March

2024



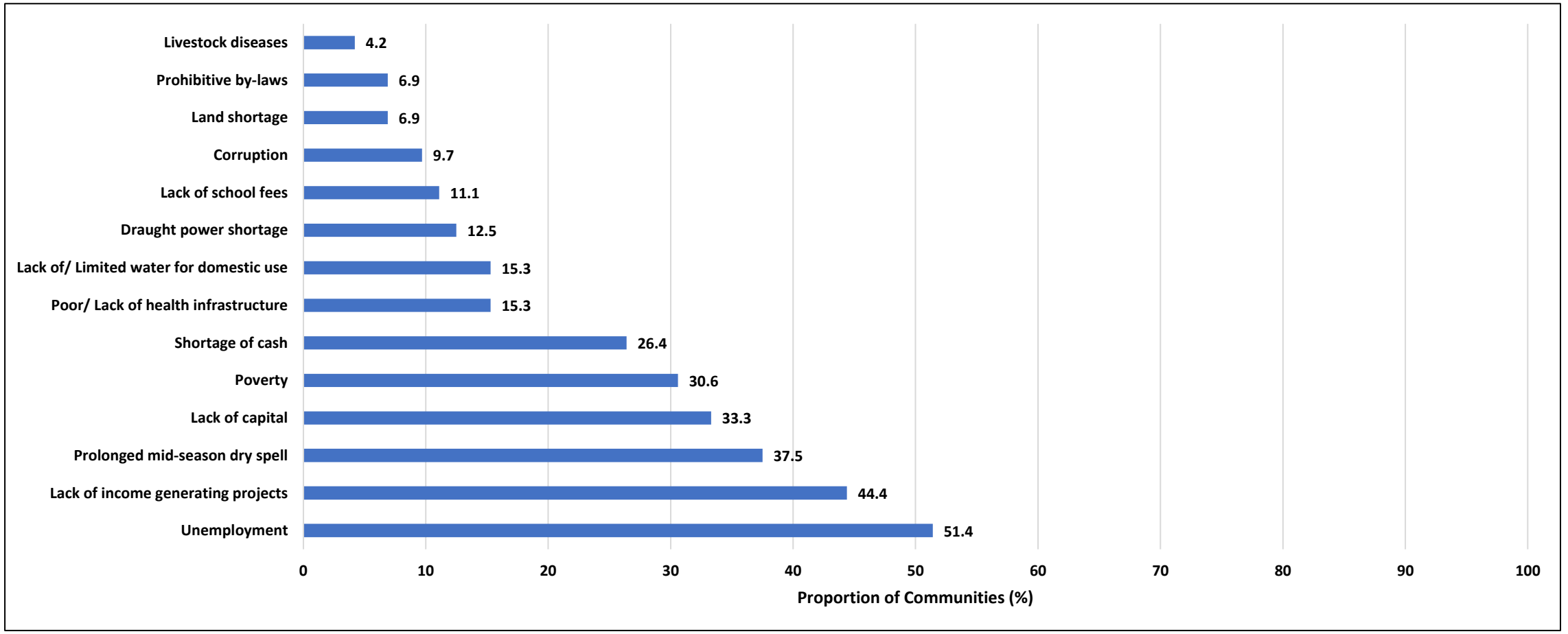
2025



- Kariba (57.6%), has the highest proportion of people that would be food insecure during the peak hunger period.

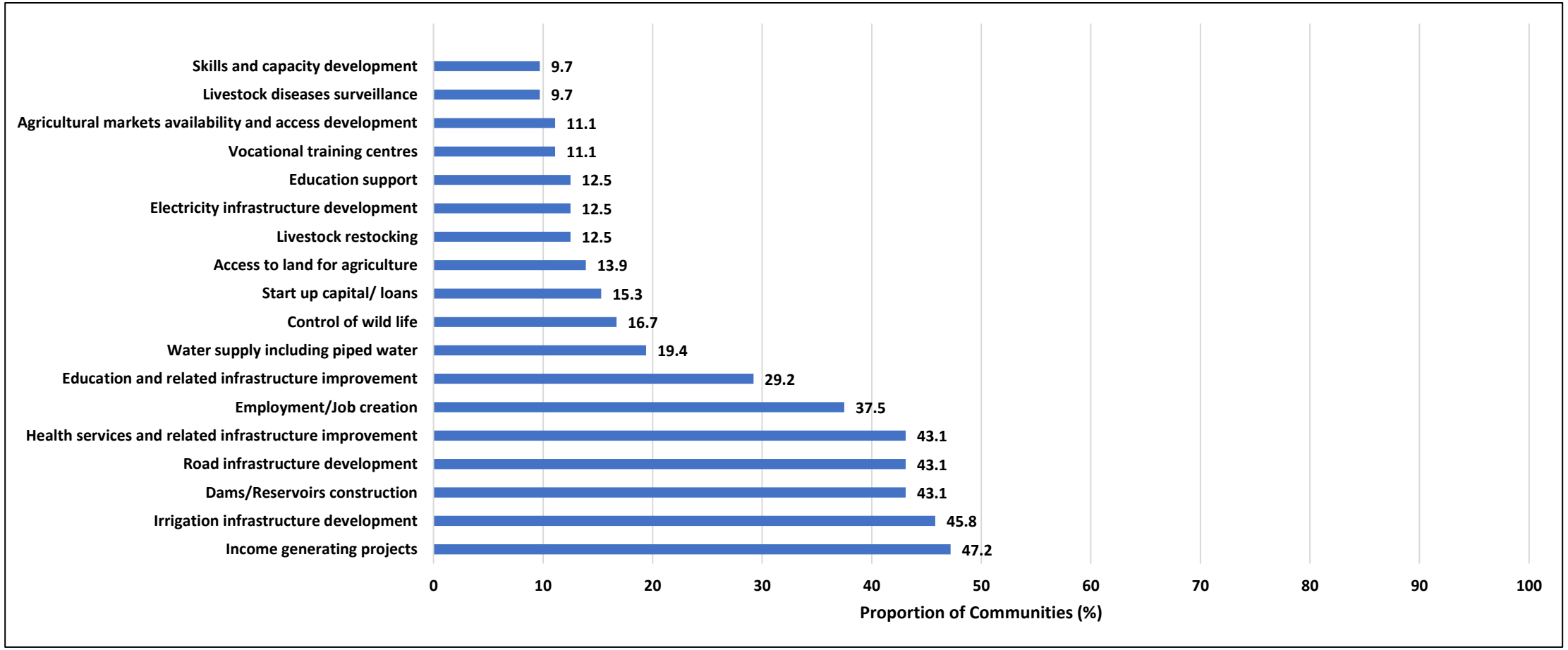
Community Development Challenges and Priorities

Community Development Challenges



- Unemployment (51.4%) and ack of income generating projects (44.4%) were the most reported community development challenges.

Community Development Priorities



- Income generation projects promotion (47.2%) and irrigation infrastructure (45.8%) were the major development priorities for communities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion and Recommendations

Social Protection

- Support from Government increased from 41.8% in 2024 to 73.4% 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.
- About 73.4% of the households received food support from Government. Government is commended for providing this support to households. The Government is urged to also continue equipping farmers with more inputs, skills and knowledge so as to increase productivity and resilience while decreasing dependency on food assistance.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- There is still a high proportion of households practising open defecation, Kariba (51%) and Sanyati (42%). There is need for the Ministry responsible for Health to scale up targeted campaigns to strengthen behaviour change interventions aimed at creating awareness on the acute dangers of open defecation on health and nutrition.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- The consistent high rates of open defecation in some districts call for a multi-sectoral approach to deal with this challenge. These initiatives need Traditional Leadership and Local Authorities to lead and enforce sanitation programmes through the implementation of local by- laws and punitive fines for actions such as practising open defecation and setting up new structures without toilets.

Household Income

- 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 (43.5%) and food crop production (21.7%)) are susceptible to climate related shocks. Therefore, there is need to up-scale rural development programmes which promote livelihoods diversification and enhance resilience.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Livelihoods Coping

- The proportion of households engaging in stress (23%) and crisis (22%) and emergency (14%) livelihoods coping categories was considerably high. The Government and its partners are recommended to accelerate the implementation of policies and strategies focusing on livelihoods diversification and resilience building to ensure sustainable livelihoods and economic growth in rural areas. Areas of focus emerging from the assessment include large-scale irrigation development, value addition, market linkages strengthening, financing and capacity building for communities.

Shocks and Stressors

- In addressing climate-related shocks and stressors which include prolonged dry spells (63%), the Ministry responsible for Agriculture should continue to accelerate implementation of the Rural Development 8.0 Strategy which focuses on drought-proofing, resilience building programmes and drought relief programmes effective at mitigating the impact of drought on households' livelihoods.
- Kariba (54.6%) had the highest proportion of households reporting human wildlife conflict as a shock. There is need for the Ministry responsible for Environment to continue implementing strategies to mitigate and manage human wildlife conflict in the short and long term.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Food Security

- At peak (January to March 2026), 15% of the rural households (approximately 180,152 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The quarterly requirements will be 2,500MT for the July to September 2025 period, 4,233MT for the October to December 2025 period and 6,666MT 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.

Community Development Issues

- In light of the development priorities identified by rural communities, Government is urged to ensure that the national Development Strategy 2 (NDS 2) priorities these issues to spur development within rural communities.

Child Health

- Vitamin A supplementation to children 6 to 59 months was above the NDS1 target of 90% for the province. However some districts like Hurungwe, Makonde and Sanyati fell shot of this target in some age groups. The Ministry responsible for Health should continue with the strategies applied, that is task sharing with community health workers, integrating with campaign blitz and child health and nutrition support groups/ care groups. However there is need to strengthen routine surveillance and documentation of Vitamin A supplementation efforts at community level.

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