

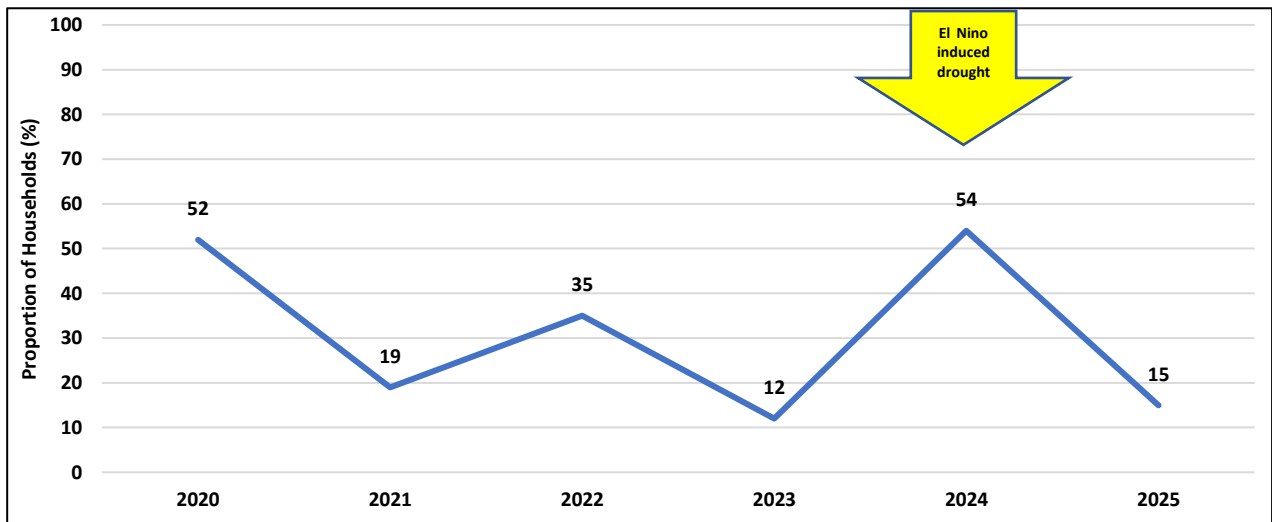


Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment *Mashonaland West Province Factsheet*

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

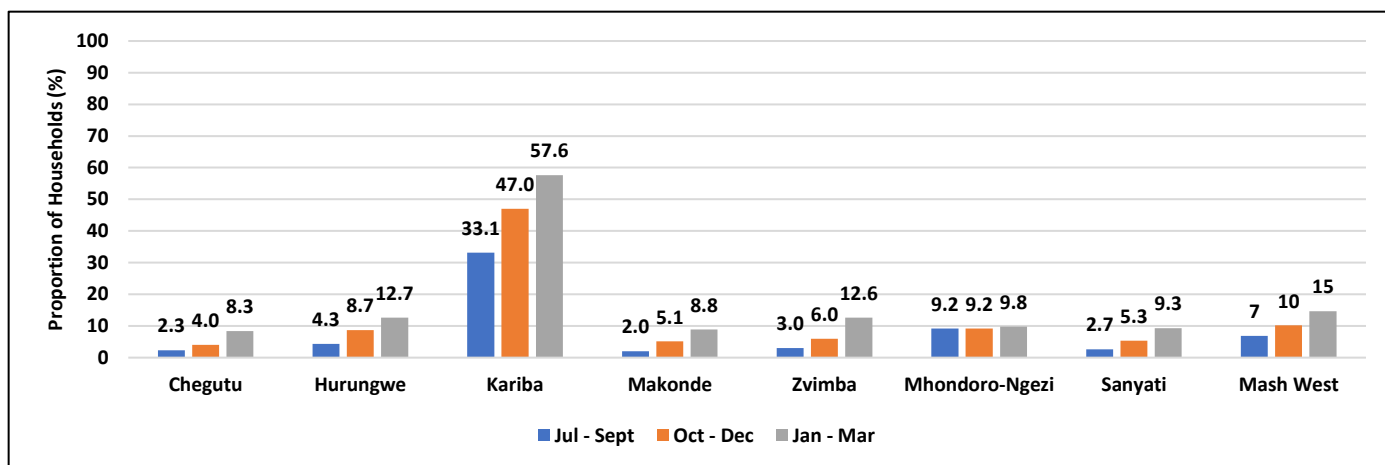
1. Cereal Insecurity

The cereal insecurity prevalence was projected to be 15% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) in the 2025/26 consumption year.



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2025

During the peak hunger period (January–March 2026), Kariba (57.6%), Hurungwe (12.7%) and Zvimba (12.6%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity.



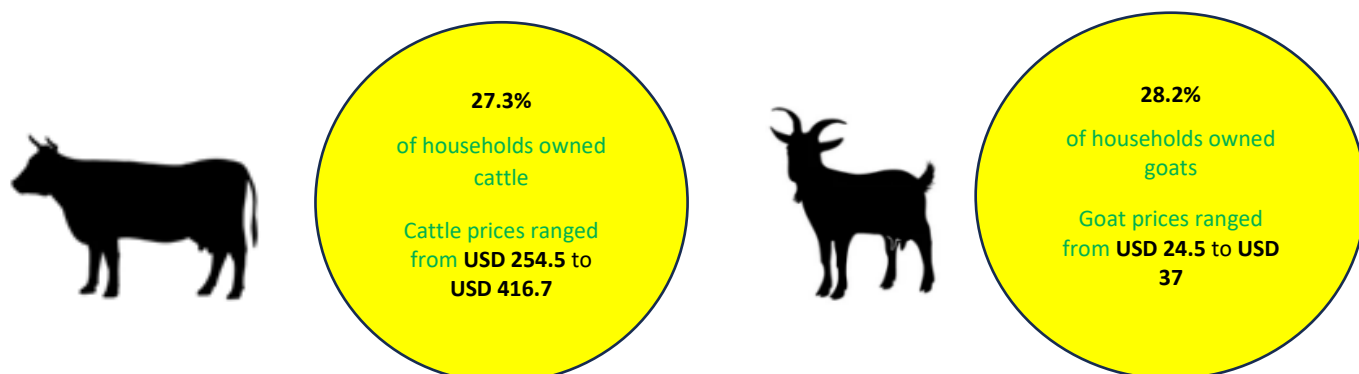
Cereal Insecurity

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

Province	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

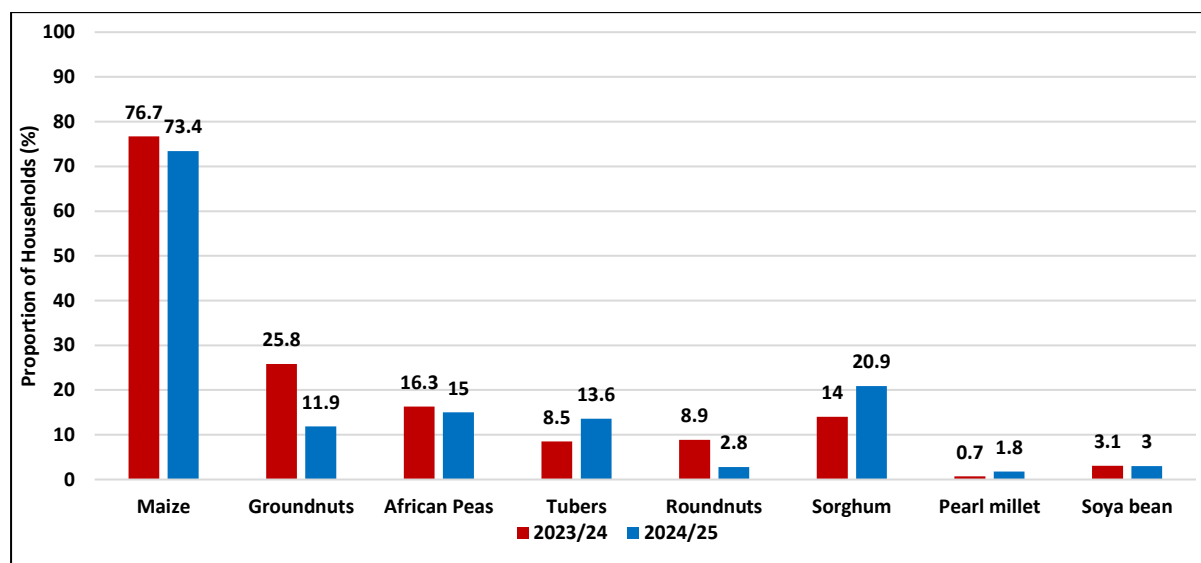
Hurungwe (49,515) and Zvimba (43,934) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

2. Livestock Production



3. Crop Production

The proportion of households which grew tubers and sorghum increased.



Households Which Grew Crops

Season Harvest

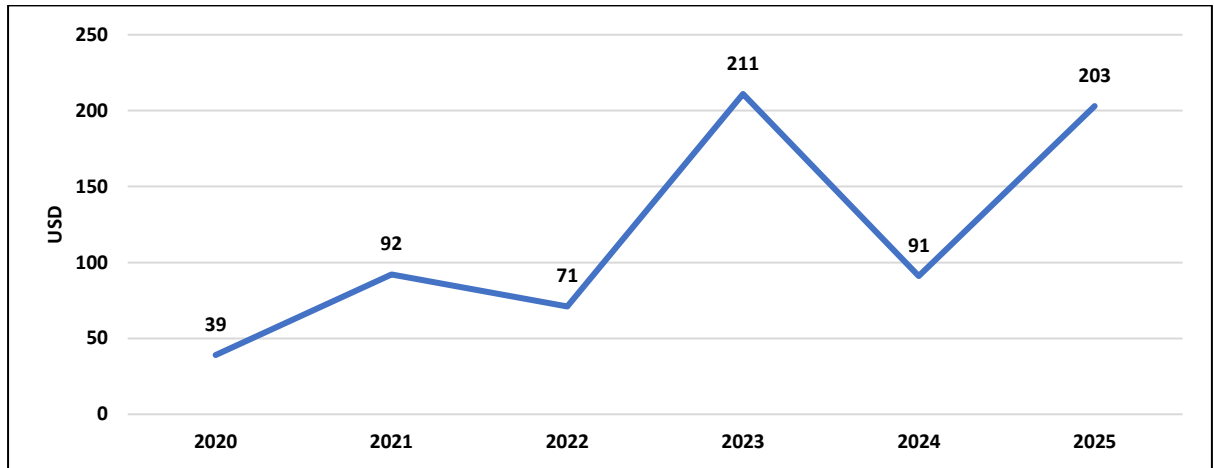
District	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Chegutu	25	376.6	0	24.5	0	0.2	0	0.4
Hurungwe	89	557.0	5	32.3	0	0.3	0	0.0
Kariba	30	104.8	11	114.2	0	0.0	0	2.9
Makonde	75	784.6	0	23.8	0	2.1	0	0.1
Zvimba	66	166.4	0	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.2
Mhondoro-Ngezi	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

On average, households harvested 389.0 kgs of maize and 57.6 kgs of sorghum.

4. Household Income

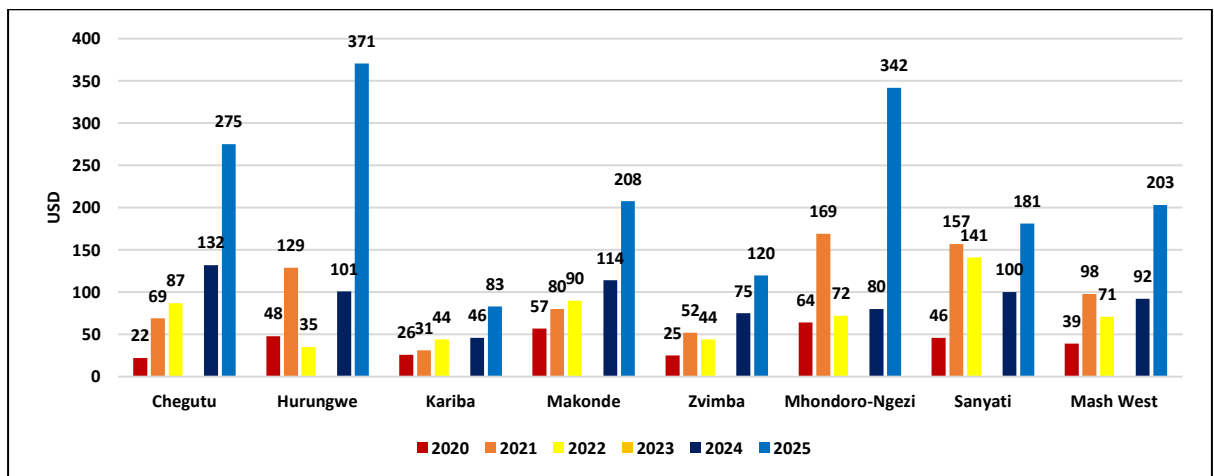
Income Trends

Compared to base year 2020, there has been a positive impact on the economy as evidenced by average household incomes increasing from USD 39 in 2020 to USD 203 in 2025.



Income Trends: 2020-2025

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025

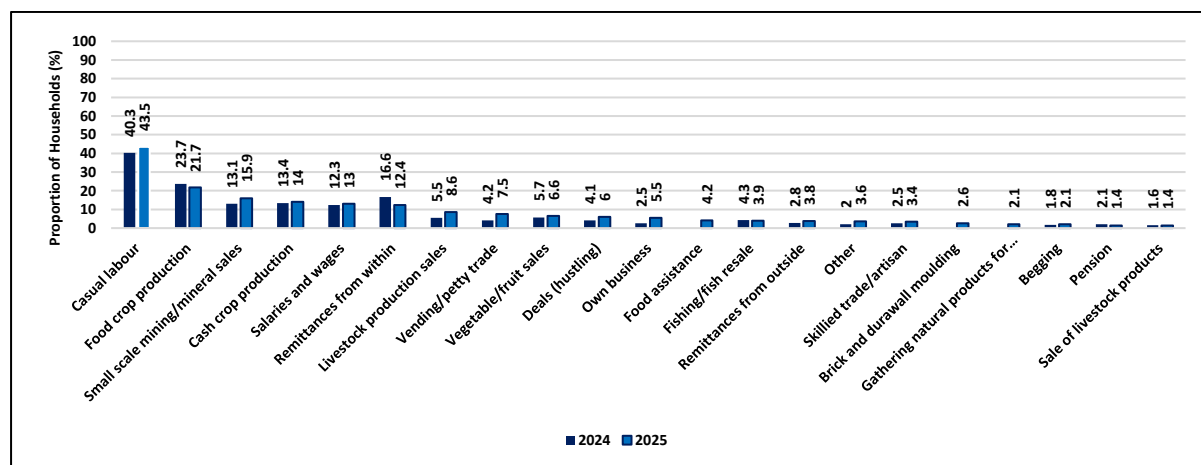


Average Household Income

Hurungwe had the highest average household monthly income (USD 371) for April 2025 while Kariba (USD 83) had the lowest.

Income Sources

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



Households' Most Important Income Sources

5. Social Assistance

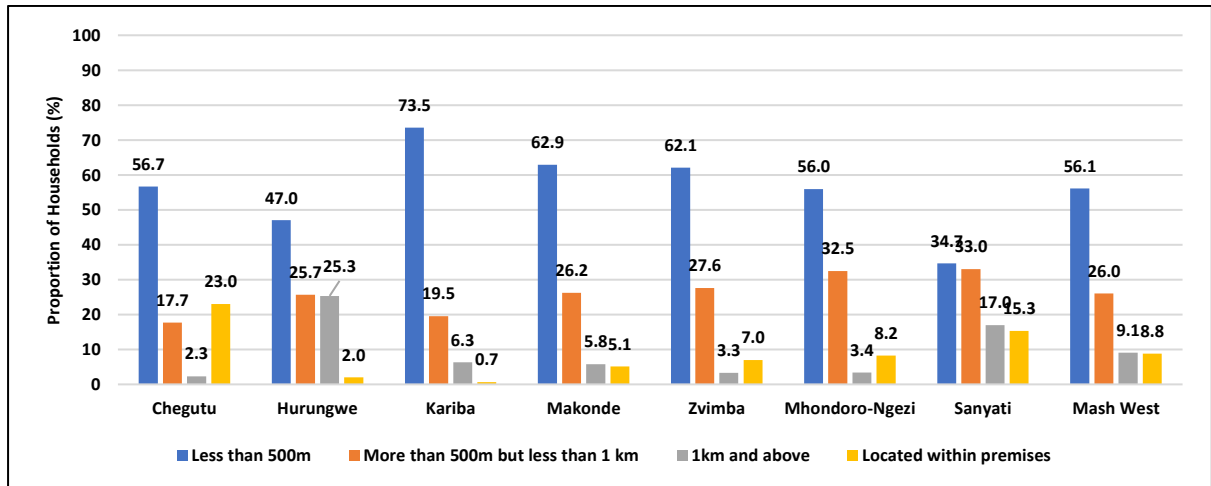
District	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora Relatives (%)		Mutual Groups Support (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Chegutu	58.3	72.7	4	4.0	1.3	0.7	11.7	14.0	3.3	40.3	4.7	3.0	1	0.3
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

Sources of Support

In 2025, the proportion of households that received social assistance from the different sources increased compared to 2024. Government remains the main source of support (73.4%) followed by rural relatives (23.1%).

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

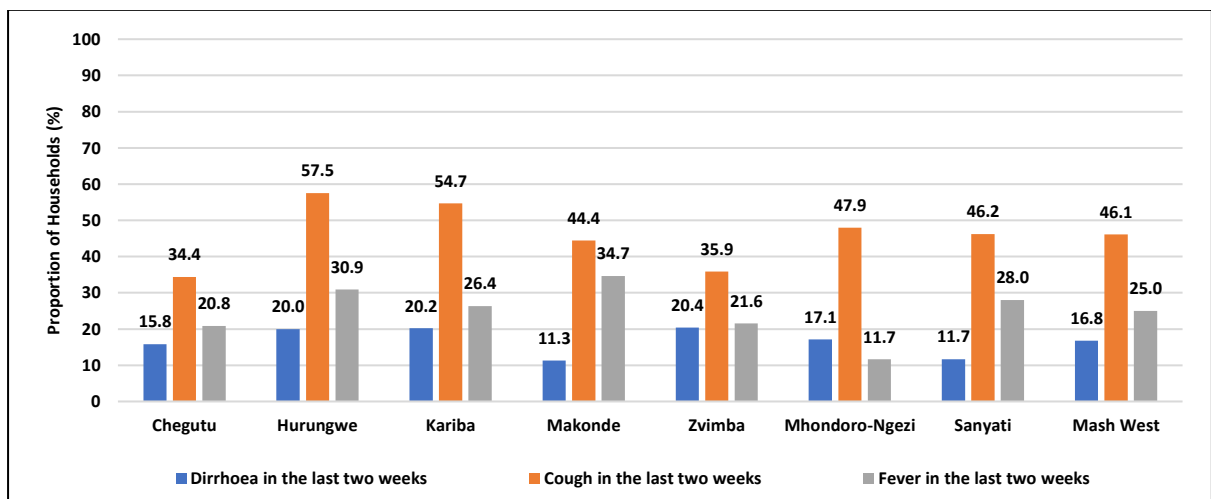
About 56% of the households accessed water less than 500m from their homes. The proportion of households travelling 1km and above to their main water source was 9.1%.



Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

7. Child Health

Child Illness 0-59 Months



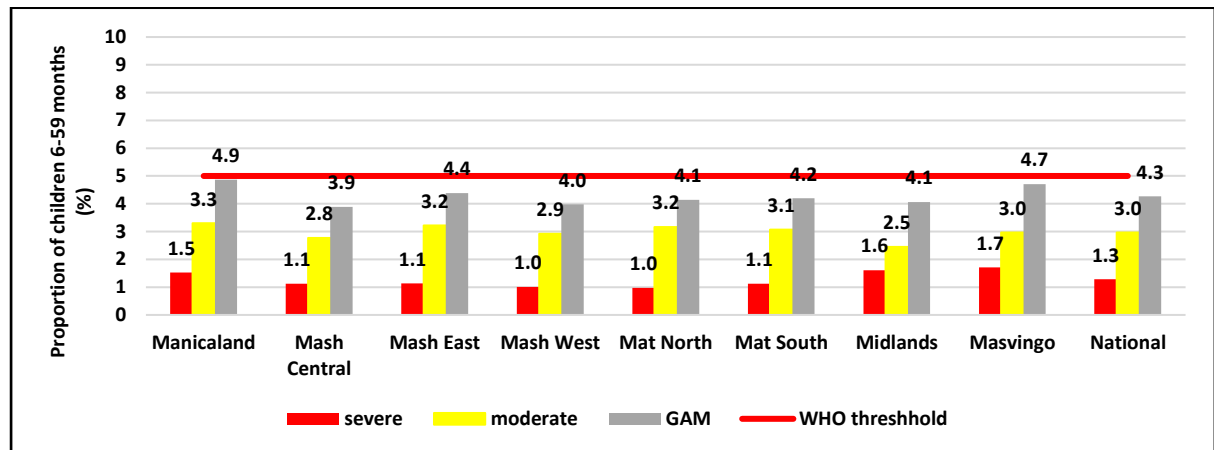
Child Illness 0-59 Months

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

8. Child Nutrition

Prevalence of Wasting for Children Aged 6-59 Months

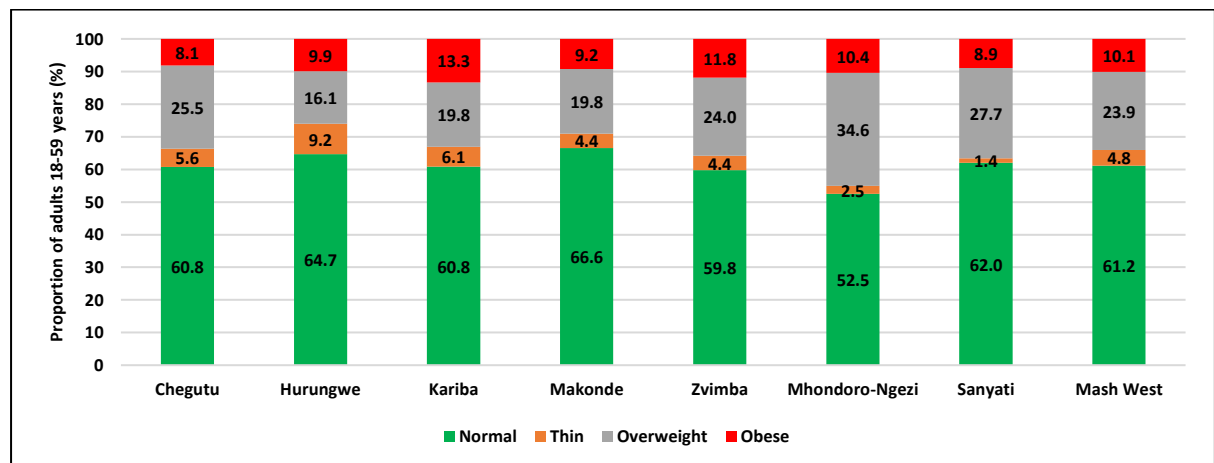
The provincial prevalence for Global Acute Malnutrition (wasting) GAM was 4.0% while the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was 1.0%.



Prevalence of Wasting for Children Aged 6-59 Months

9. Adult Nutrition Status

Nutrition Status for Adults 18-59 Years (BMI)



Nutrition Status for Adults 18-59 Years (BMI)

About 34% of the adults aged 18-59 years were overweight and obese. Having excess fat deposits in the body leads to serious health consequences such as cardiovascular disease (mainly heart disease and stroke), type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis and some cancers (endometrial, breast and colon).

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

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

- a) **Food Security:** At peak (January to March 2026), 15% of the rural households (approximately 180,152 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.
- b) **Household Incomes:** Rural households' incomes have been on an increase since 2020. Government is commended for implementing robust economic stabilisation measures which have contributed to this improvement. However, the major income sources (casual labour (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.
- c) **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.



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