

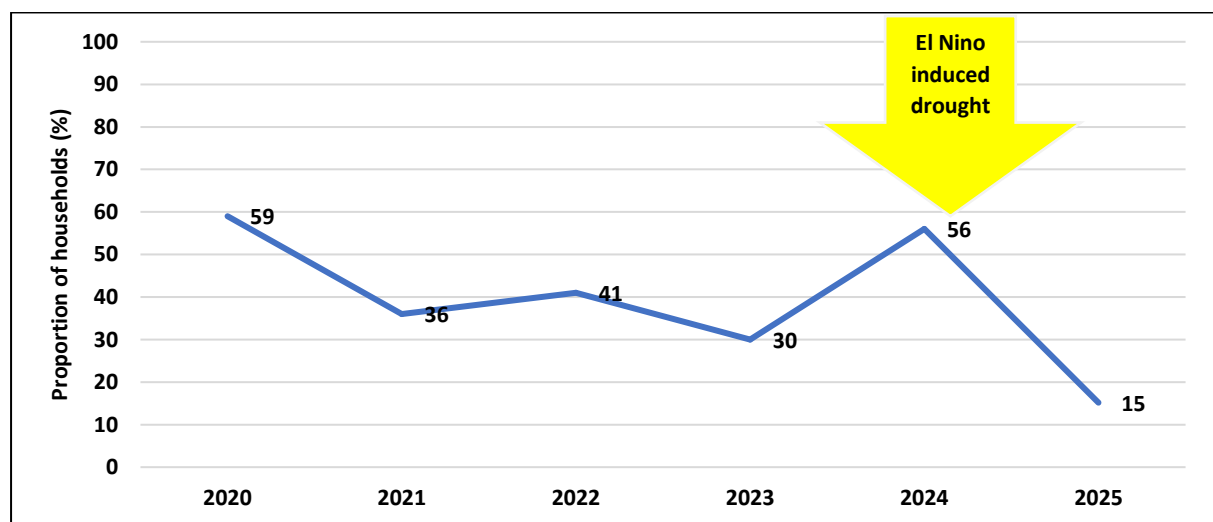


# Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment *Masvingo Province Factsheet*

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

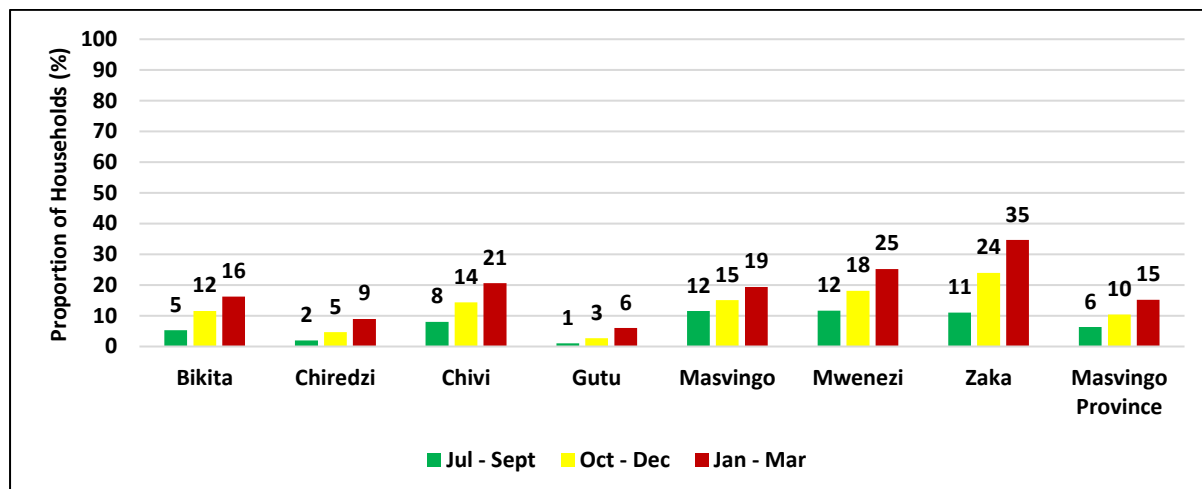
The cereal insecurity prevalence was projected to be 15% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) in the 2025/26 consumption year.



*Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2025*

There was a 74.6% drop in cereal insecurity from 56% in 2020 to 15% 2025. Government is complimented for implementing shock responsive interventions that resulted in improved food security.

During the peak hunger period (January–March 2026), Zaka (35%) and Mwenezi (25%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity.



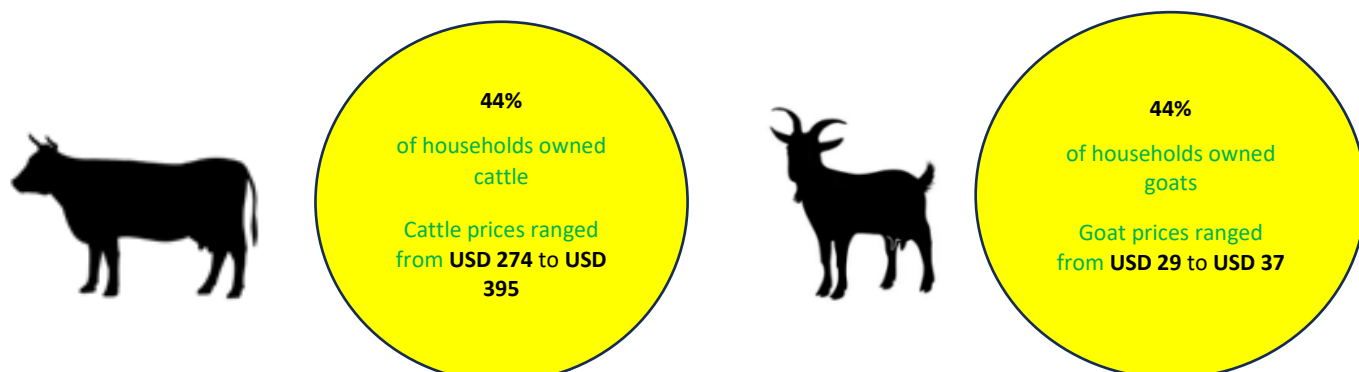
### Cereal Insecurity

#### Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

	Jul – Sept 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan – Mar 2026
Bikita	9,369	20,494	28,692
Chiredzi	6,050	14,116	27,225
Chivi	13,838	24,794	35,749
Gutu	2,082	5,551	12,490
Masvingo	27,413	36,029	46,211
Mwenezi	24,388	37,936	52,840
Zaka	21,878	47,733	68,948
Masvingo Province	105,017	186,654	272,154

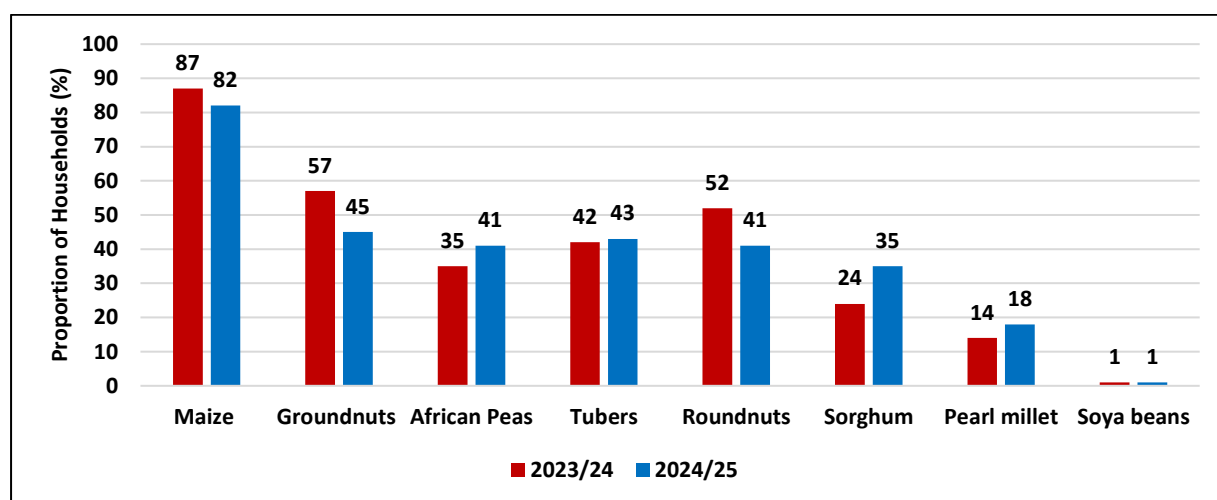
Zaka (68,948) and Mwenezi (52,840) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

## 2. Livestock Production



### 3. Crop Production

The proportion of households that grew maize was 82%, groundnuts (45%) and tubers (43%).



*Households Which Grew Crops*

#### Season Harvest

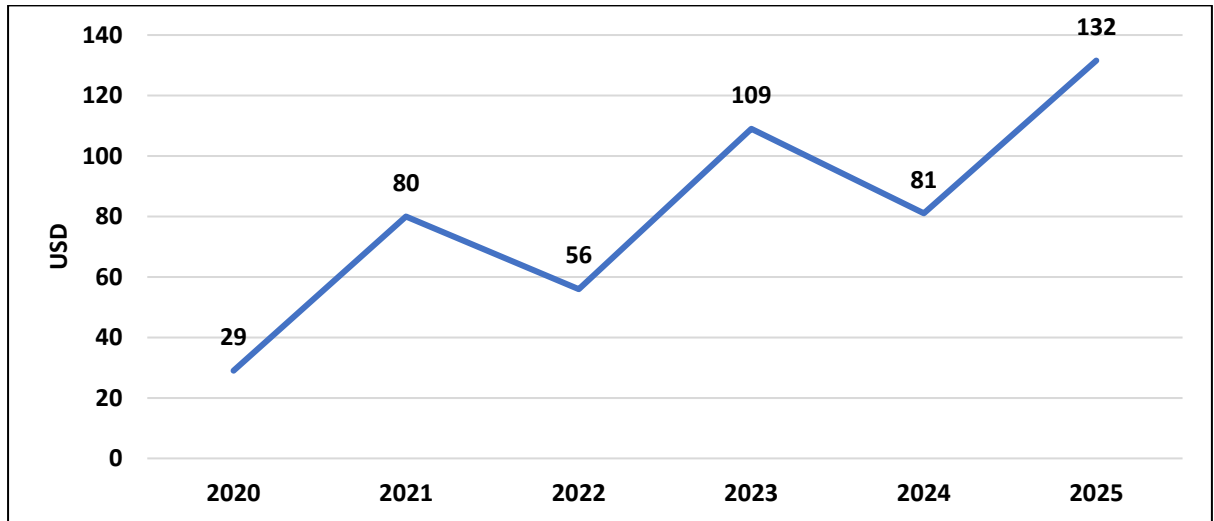
	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)		Total (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
<b>Bikita</b>	27.8	192.9	4.1	42.1	2.5	5.2	0.3	12.4	34.7	252.6
<b>Chiredzi</b>	87.9	132.6	140.9	212.5	27.1	8.0	1.9	70.7	257.8	423.8
<b>Chivi</b>	26.4	129.2	15.0	29.9	1.6	3.3	0.9	1.7	43.9	164.1
<b>Gutu</b>	36.0	450.3	10.0	38.1	23.5	38.3	1.7	38.9	71.2	565.6
<b>Masvingo</b>	155.7	324.8	12.2	35.0	5.0	5.7	2.7	8.3	175.6	373.8
<b>Mwenezi</b>	14.3	70.3	15.1	122.2	55.7	1.5	1.6	258.0	86.7	452
<b>Zaka</b>	80.2	307.3	2.1	19.2	0.1	17.4	4.7	1.5	87.1	345.4
<b>Masvingo Province</b>	61	<b>229.1</b>	28	<b>71.5</b>	16.4	<b>11.3</b>	2.0	<b>56.6</b>	107.5	368.5

On average, households harvested 229.1 kgs of maize and 71.5 kgs of sorghum.

#### 4. Household Income

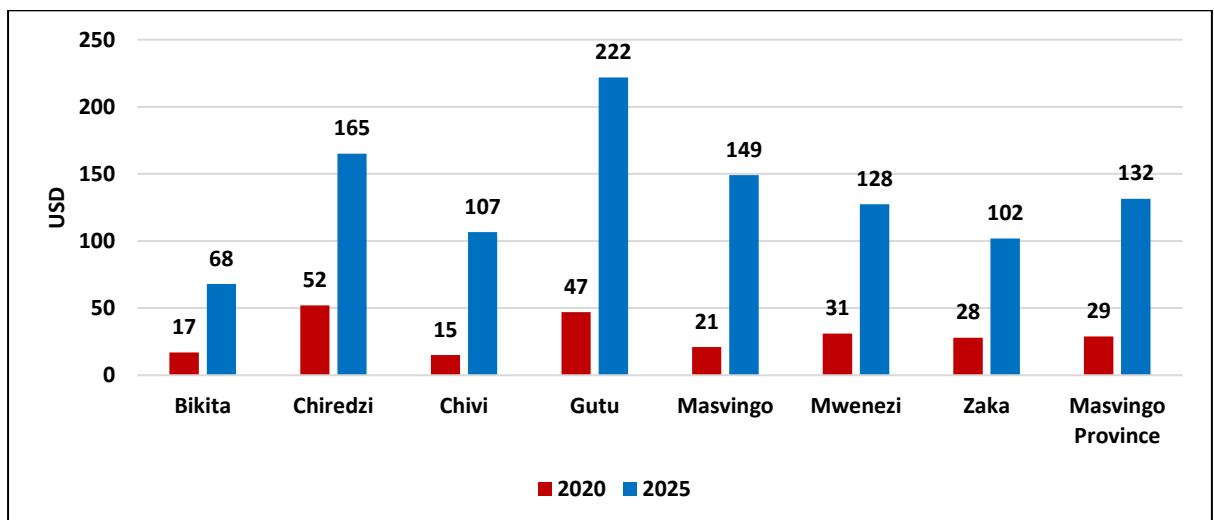
##### Income Trends

Compared to base year 2020, there has been a positive impact on the economy as evidenced by average household incomes increasing from USD 29 in 2020 to USD 132 in 2025.



*Income Trends: 2020-2025*

##### Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025

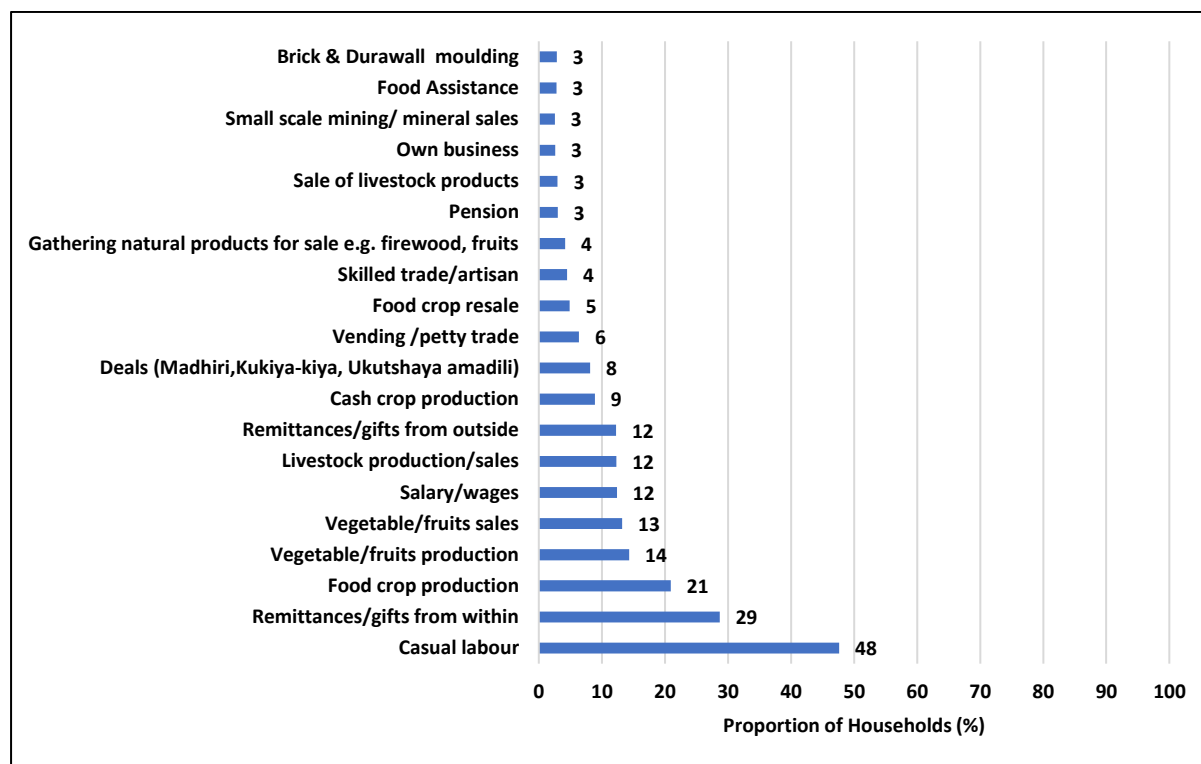


*Average Household Income*

Gutu had the highest average household monthly income (USD 222) for April 2025 while Bikita (USD 68) had the lowest.

## Income Sources

Most households relied on casual labour (48%), remittances from within Zimbabwe (29%) and food crop production (21%) in 2025.



*Households' Most Important Income Sources*

## 5. Social Assistance

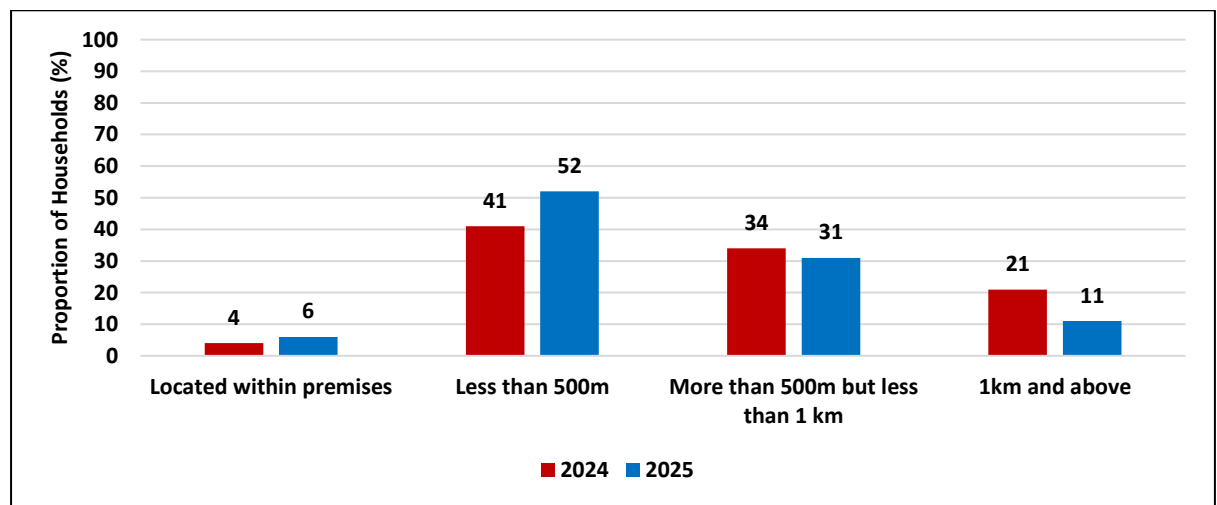
District	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora Relatives (%)		Mutual Groups Support (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Bikita	46.0	61.3	0.7	12.6	0.3	1.3	18.2	20.9	2.3	17.2	3.6	4.0	0.0	0.3
Chiredzi	24.0	62.5	5.3	16.6	0.3	14.3	4.7	28.6	13.3	49.8	6.7	17.9	0.0	5.6
Chivi	53.0	83.3	31.7	70.0	0.7	9.0	12.7	44.3	15.3	48.0	2.7	19.0	0.3	1.7
Gutu	21.3	69.0	4.0	16.0	0.0	3.0	1.0	32.3	0.3	34.0	0.0	15.7	0.3	2.7
Masvingo	35.0	54.3	8.8	10.5	0.0	11.2	9.1	17.1	1.7	20.4	5.4	5.6	0.3	5.9
Mwenezi	15.7	49.8	15.7	17.2	1.3	3.6	1.0	13.3	1.0	22.0	3.3	11.7	0.7	3.9
Zaka	53.3	76.7	13.0	48.7	0.3	2.3	9.7	34.7	5.3	51.3	10.3	14.7	4.7	3.3
Masvingo Province	35.4	65.3	11.3	27.4	0.4	6.4	8.1	27.3	5.6	34.7	4.6	12.6	0.9	3.3

*Sources of Support*

Government remains the main source of support (65.3%), followed by rural relatives (34.7%), UN/NGO support (27.4%) and urban relatives (27.3%). The support received from relatives (both rural and urban) reflects a positive enabling economic environment and evidence of social capital.

## 6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

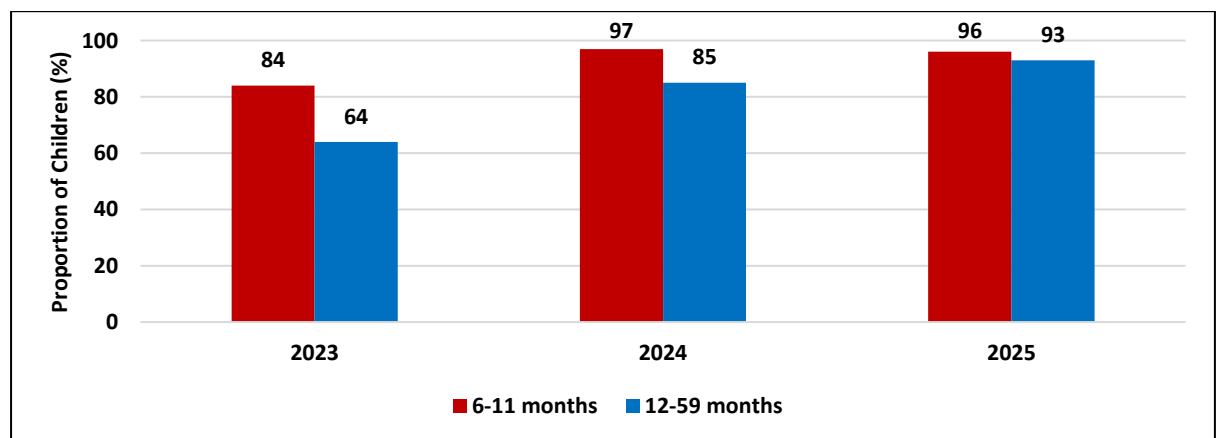
About 52% of the households accessed water less than 500m from their homes in 2025, an increase from 41% in 2024. The proportion of households travelling 1km and above to their main water source decreased from 21% in 2024 to 11% in 2025.



*Distance Travelled to Main Water Source*

## 7. Child Health

### Vitamin A Supplementation



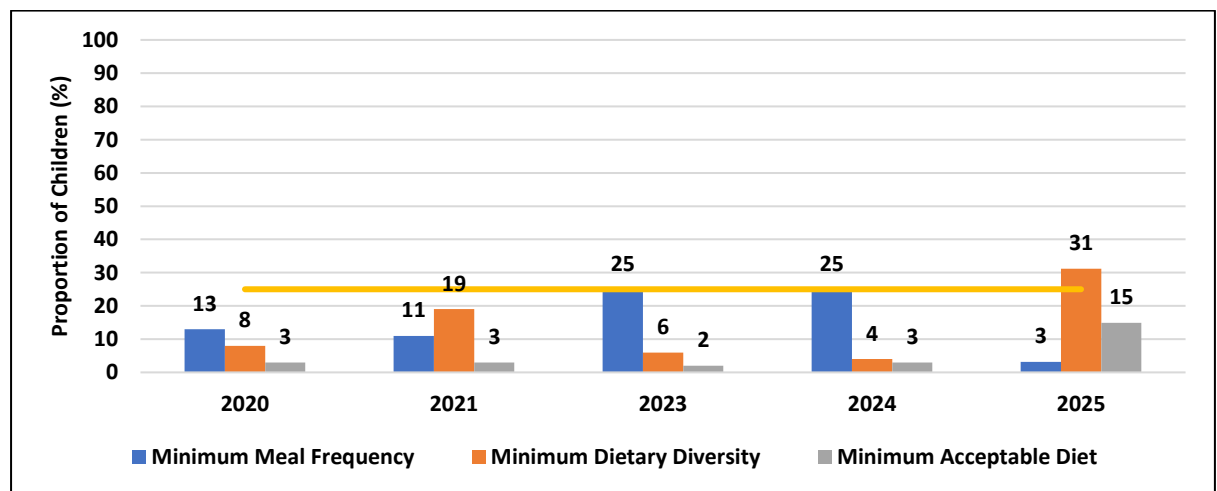
*Vitamin A Supplementation*

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

## 8. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

### Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

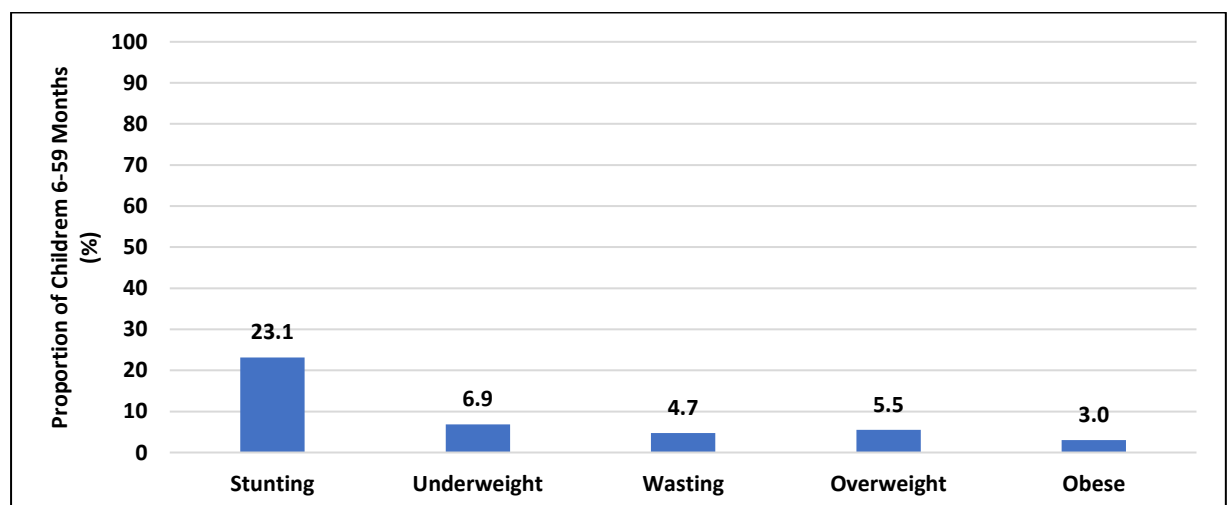
The proportion of children fed a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) improved from 3% in 2020 to 15% in 2025.



*Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality*

## 9. Child Nutrition Status

### Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months



*Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months*

The prevalence of GAM (wasting) was 4.7% which is acceptable and is below the WHO threshold of 5%. Stunting prevalence remains high (23.1%) according to the World Health Organization classification and it also falls short of the NDS1 target of 17%.

## 10. Conclusions and Recommendations

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

- a) **Food security:** At peak (January to March 2026), 15% of the rural households (approximately 272,154 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The quarterly requirements will be 3,886MT for the July to September 2025 period, 6,906MT for the October to December 2025 period and 10,070MT for the January to March 2026 period. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.
- b) **Social Protection:** Support from Government increased from 35% in 2024 to 65% in 2025 due to low harvests caused by the El-Nino induced drought. The Ministry responsible for Finance is encouraged to continue with Sovereign Insurance to strengthen disaster risk management systems and access rapid and predictable financing to protect the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations.
- c) Vitamin A supplementation to children 6 to 59 months was above the NDS1 target of 90%. 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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