

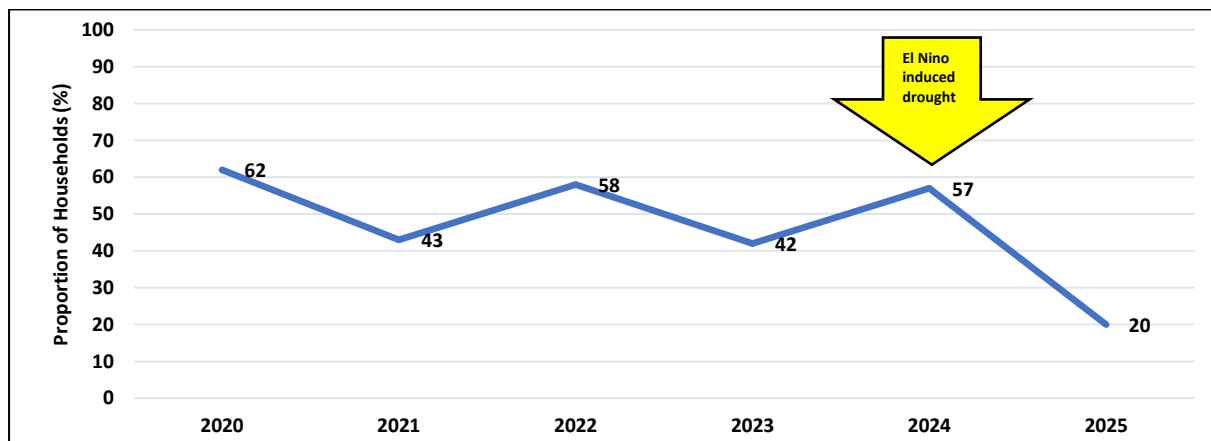


Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment *Matabeleland North Province Factsheet*

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

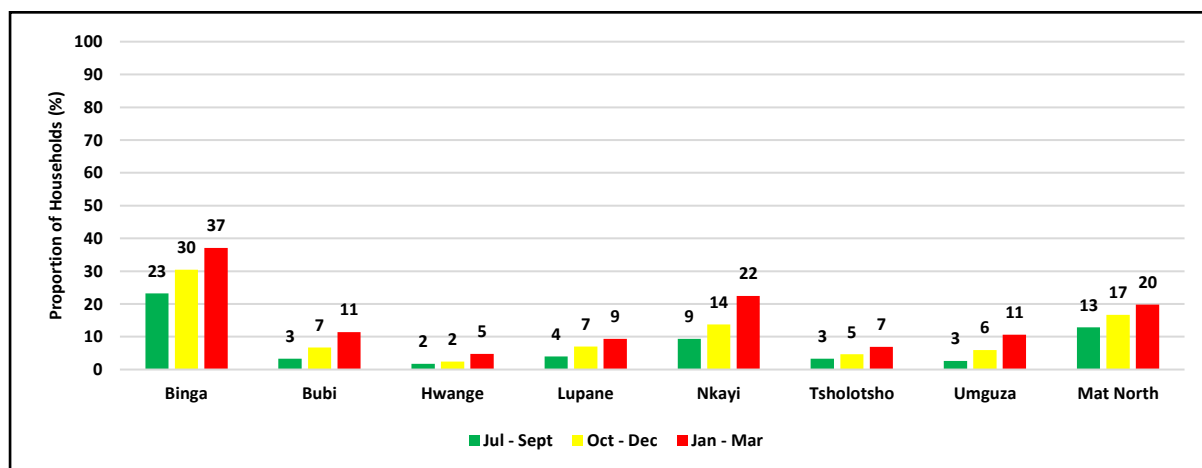
The cereal insecurity prevalence was projected to be 20% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) in the 2025/26 consumption year.



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2025

Cereal insecurity dropped from 62% in 2020 to 20% in 2025. Government is complimented for implementing shock responsive interventions that resulted in improved food security.

During the peak hunger period (January–March 2026), Binga (37%) and Nkayi (22%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity.



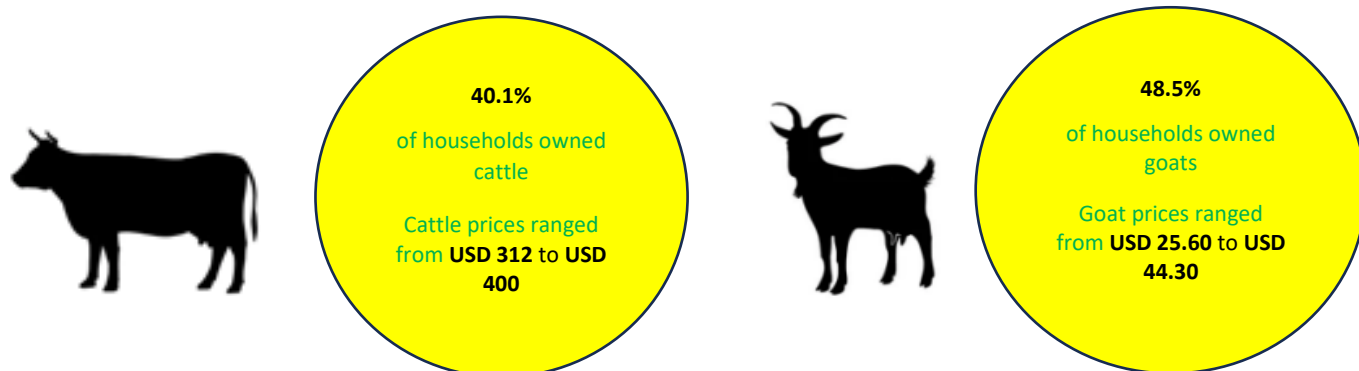
Cereal Insecurity

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

Province	Jul – Sept 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan – Mar 2026
Binga	37,082	48,736	59,331
Bubi	2,478	4,955	8,424
Hwange	1,180	1,651	3,303
Lupane	4,319	7,558	10,077
Nkayi	10,568	15,474	25,287
Tsholotsho	3,834	5,367	8,051
Umguza	3,000	6,751	12,002
Matabeleland North	62,460	90,493	126,475

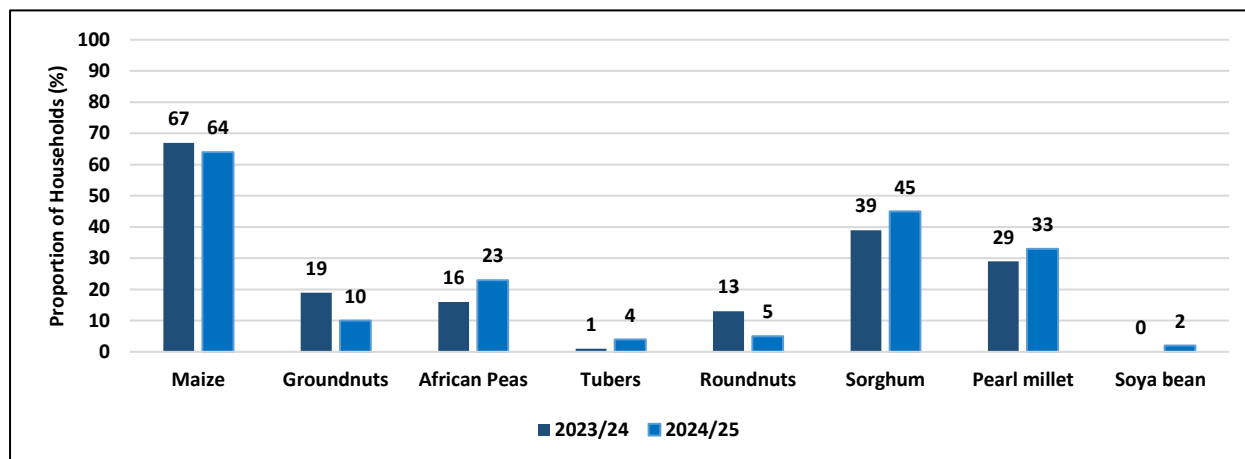
Binga (59,331) and Nkayi (25,287) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

2. Livestock Production



3. Crop Production

There was an increase in the proportion of households which grew sorghum from 39% to 45% and pearl millet from 29% to 33%.



Households Which Grew Crops

Season Harvest

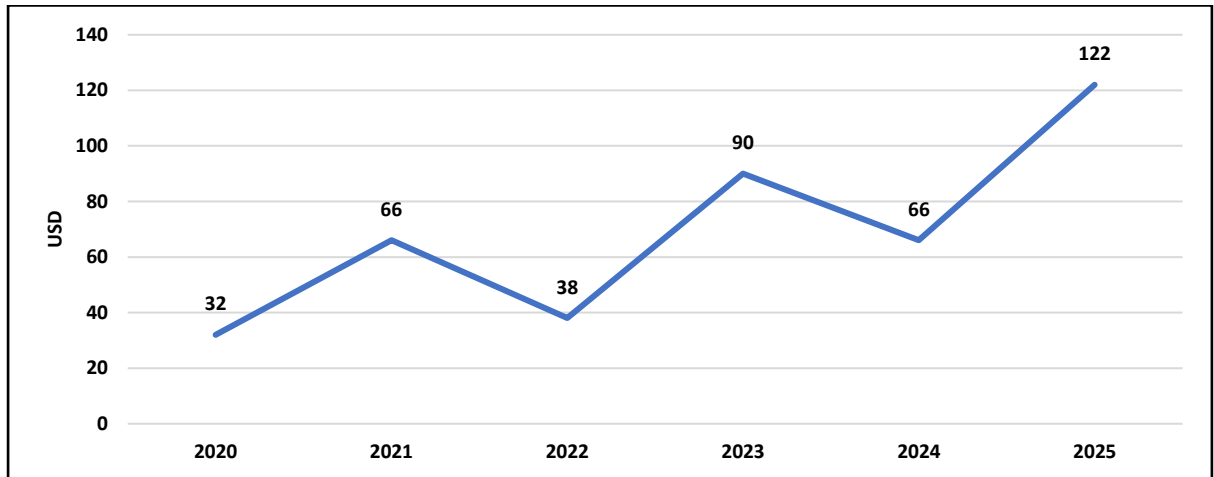
District	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger millets (kgs)		Pearl millets (kgs)		Total (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Binga	16	68.4	6	122.0	0	0.8	8	57.7	29	244.9
Bubi	7	148.5	3	53.2	0	0.0	0	4.1	10	205.8
Hwange	135	419.7	248	690.5	3	1.0	194	506.3	580	1617.5
Lupane	2	153.6	3	61.7	0	0.4	2	106.5	7	322.2
Nkayi	14	173.8	8	40.4	0	0.2	1	137.0	23	351.4
Tsholotsho	5	37.1	2	79.8	0	0.7	9	133.0	16	250.6
Umguza	30	186.2	4	26.9	0	0.8	0	15.2	34	229.1
Mat North	30	168.7	39	152.0	0	0.6	30	135.9	99	457.2

On average, households harvested 168.7 kgs of maize and 152 kgs of sorghum.

4. Household Income

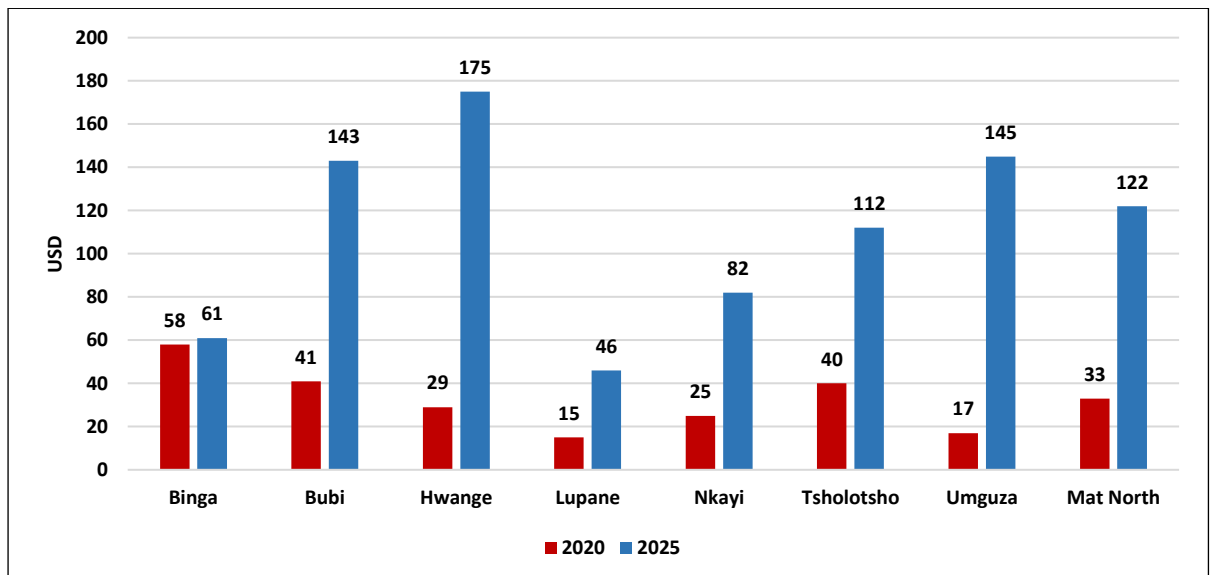
Income Trends

Compared to base year 2020, there has been a positive impact on the economy as evidenced by average household incomes increasing from USD 32 in 2020 to USD 122 in 2025.



Income Trends: 2020-2025

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025

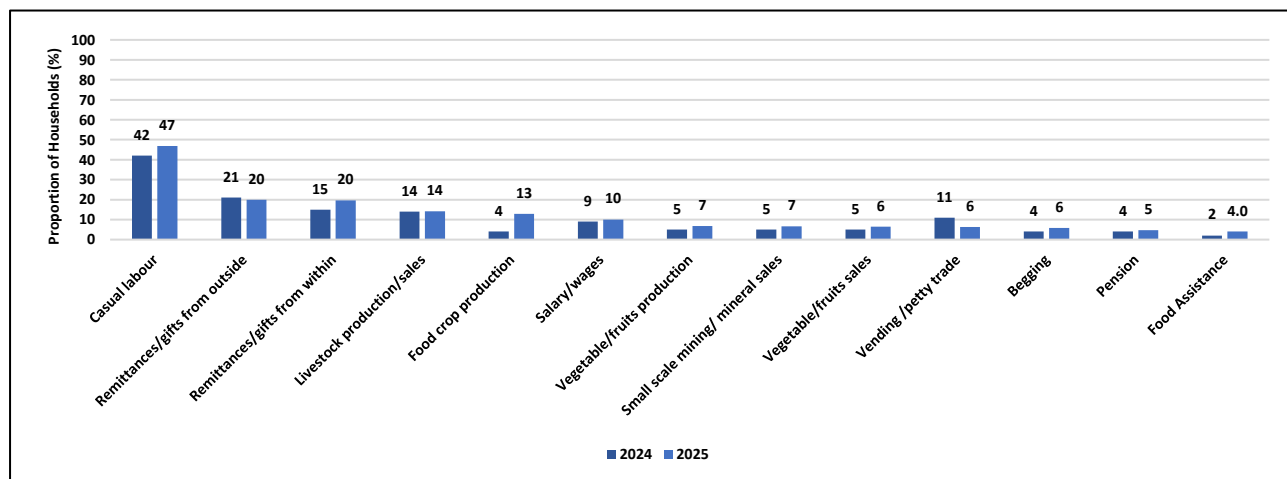


Average Household Income

Hwange had the highest average household monthly income (USD 175) for April 2025 while Binga (USD 61) had the lowest.

Income Sources

Most households relied on casual labour (47%) and remittances from within and outside Zimbabwe (20%).



Households' Most Important Income Sources

5. Social Assistance

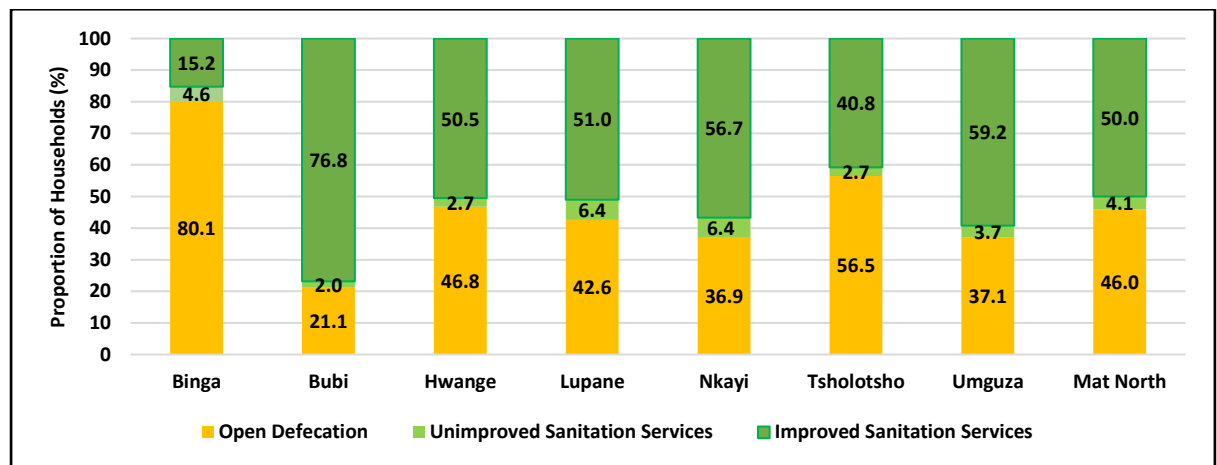
District	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora Relatives (%)		Mutual Groups Support (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Binga	38	46	10	36	0	2	1	9	3	24	0	1	0	1
Bubi	41	52	3	8	0	1	13	10	12	12	10	11	0	2
Hwange	5	72	6	22	1	8	1	15	1	15	0	6	0	15
Lupane	45	76	21	29	3	4	7	28	3	41	9	30	1	0
Nkayi	51	78	9	13	0	3	0	16	0	21	0	9	1	0
Tsholotsho	25	58	6	14	2	1	12	16	20	23	22	28	4	1
Umguza	42	67	7	3	1	2	4	18	3	23	3	9	0	1
Mat North	35	64	9	18	1	3	6	16	6	23	6	13	1	3

Sources of Support

Government remains the main source of support (64%), followed by rural relatives (23%), UN/NGO Support (18%) and urban relatives (16%). 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)

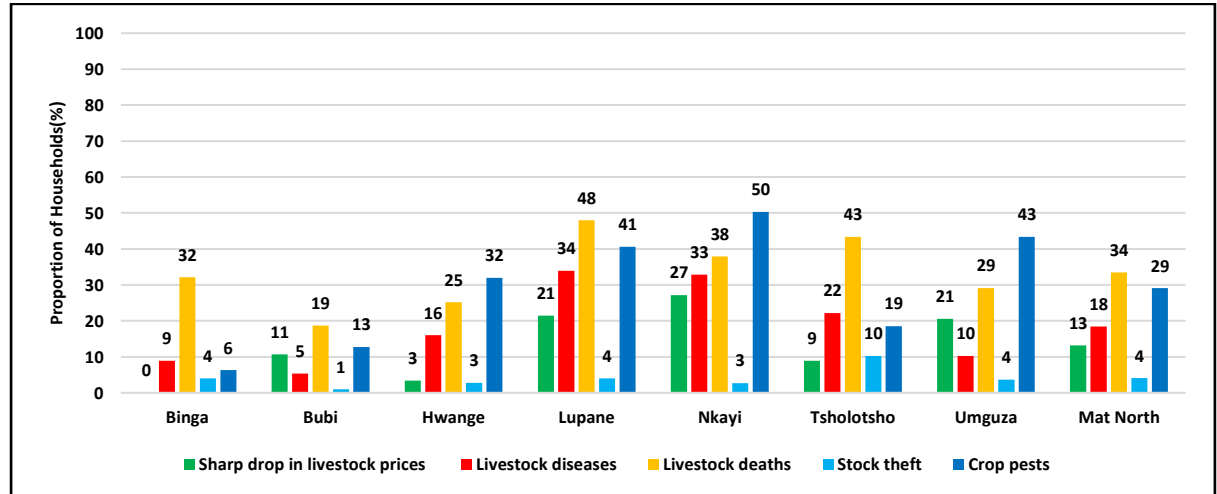
Binga (80.1%) had the highest proportion of households that practised open defecation.



Open Defecation

7. Agriculture Related Shocks and Stressors

Livestock deaths (34%) was the most reported agriculture related shock followed by crop pests (29%).

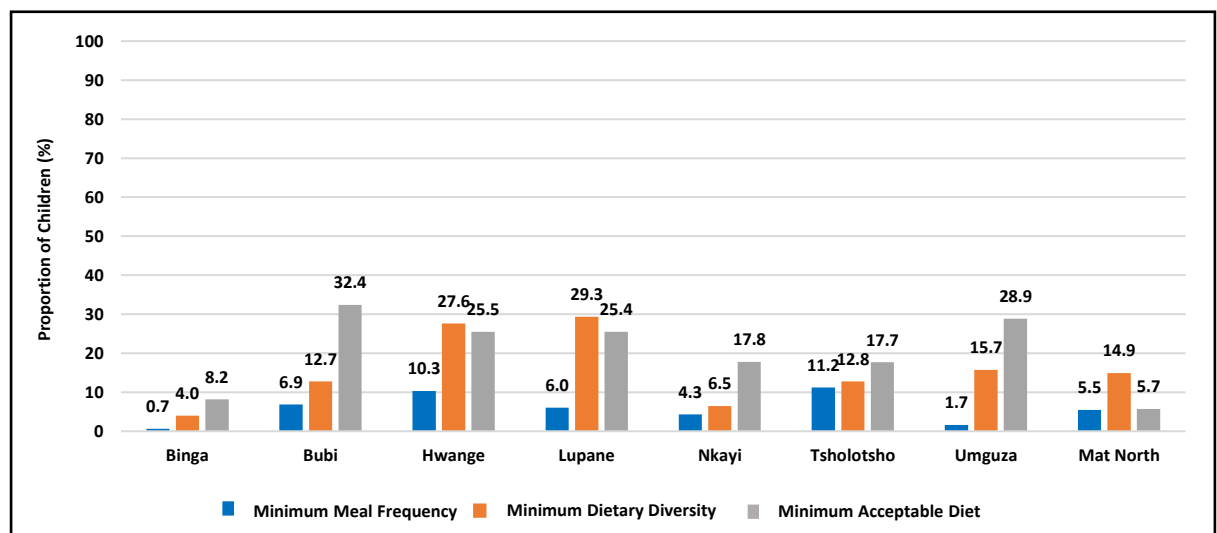


Agriculture Related Shocks and Stressors

8. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

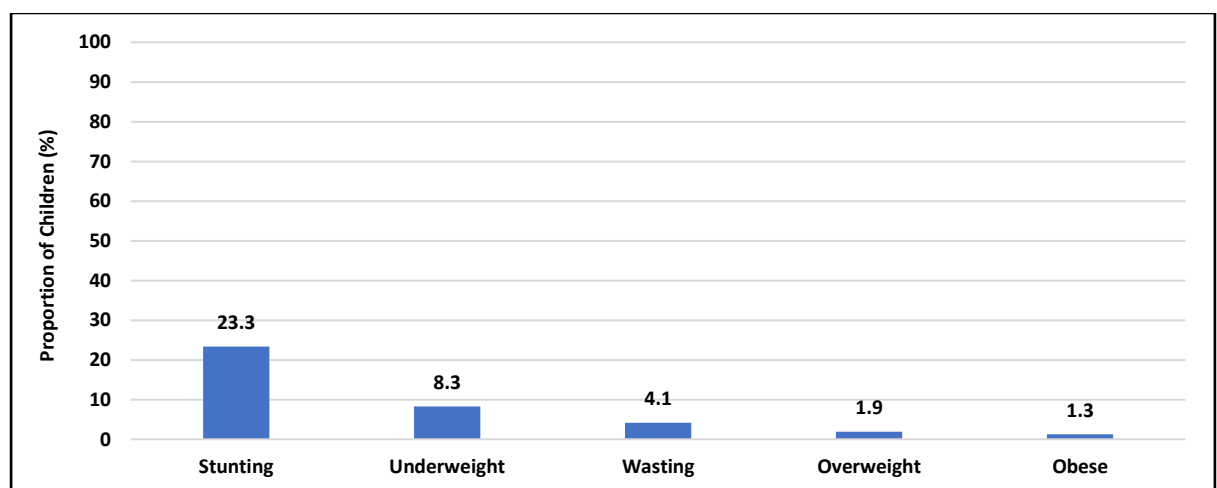
Only 5.7% of children aged 6-23 months were consuming a minimum acceptable diet in terms of quality and quantity.



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 4.1% which is acceptable and is below the WHO threshold of 5%. Stunting prevalence remains high (23.3%) according to the World Health Organization classification.

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 hunger period (January to March 2026) approximately 20% of the rural households will be cereal insecure. The 20% of rural households translated into approximately 126,475 individuals requiring a total of 10,339 MT of cereal (maize grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.
- b) **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Binga (80.1%) and Tsholotsho (56.5%) had the highest proportion of households which practised open defaecation. To address the challenge of inadequate sanitation and significantly decrease open defecation, the Government of Zimbabwe in collaboration with its development partners should establish and implement a comprehensive support programme for rural households specifically aimed at facilitating the construction of affordable, accessible and hygienic toilets.
- c) **Social Protection:** The majority of households received assistance from Government (64%), rural relatives (23%) and UN/NGO Support (18%). Government is complimented for provision of crucial support towards building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.
- d) **Incomes and Expenditure:** Most households relied on casual labour (47%) and remittances from within and outside Zimbabwe (20%). Therefore, there is need to up-scale rural development programmes which promote livelihoods diversification and enhance resilience.



FNC is housed at SIRDC: 1574 Alpes Road, Hatcliffe, Harare

Tel: +263-242-862586/ +263-242-862025. Website: www.fnc.org.zw. Email: info@fnc.org.zw.

X: @FNC_Zim. Instagram: [fnc_zim](https://www.instagram.com/fnc_zim). Facebook: Food and Nutrition Council Zimbabwe. YouTube: FNC Zimbabwe. WhatsApp: +263 776 990 479