ZIMBABWE LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (ZIMLAC)

2025 RURAL LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT REPORT

MATABELELAND NORTH PROVINCE

Foreword

Under the leadership of FNC, the 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. In addition, it will contribute towards the establishment of a baseline year for 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

The technical and financial support received from the following is greatly appreciated:

- 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
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- START NETWORK
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- World Vision
- Amalima Loko
- Child Care Ministry
- World Vision

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 in 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 was estimated at 2,293,556 MT while Traditional Grain production was estimated to be 634,650 MT. Total cereal production was expected to be 2,928,206 MT.
- Yield levels from Pfumvudza/Intwasa in maize for the 2024/25 season were slightly higher than those from conventional farming.
- Tobacco production was expected to increase by 15%, Cotton by 52% and Sunflower by 303%.

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 US$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 US$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 US$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

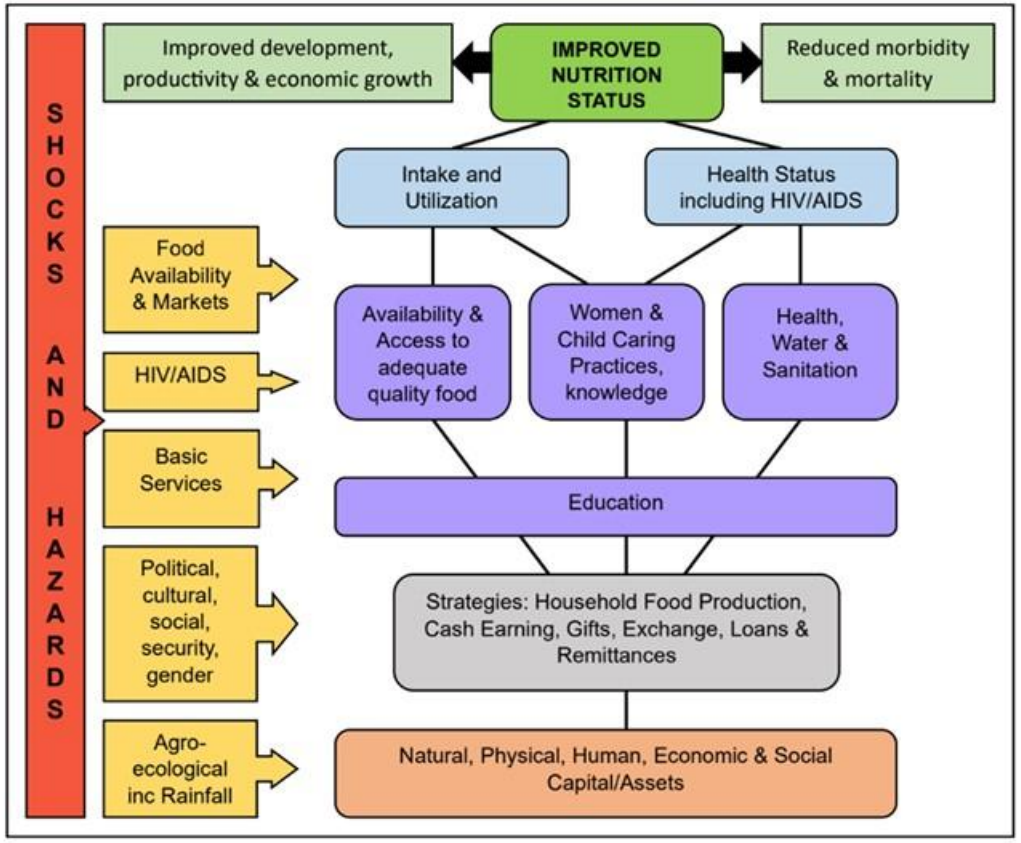


Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

- 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.

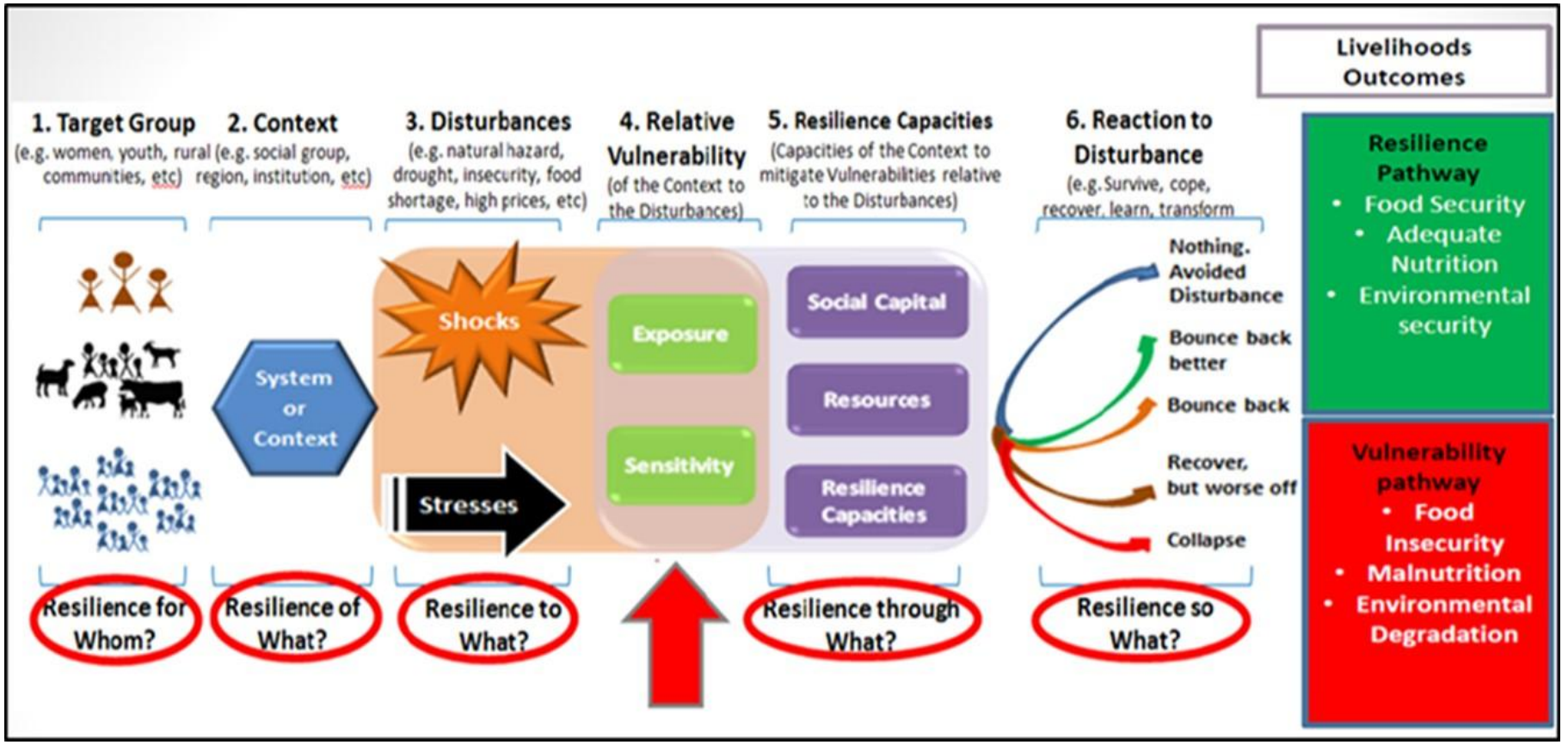
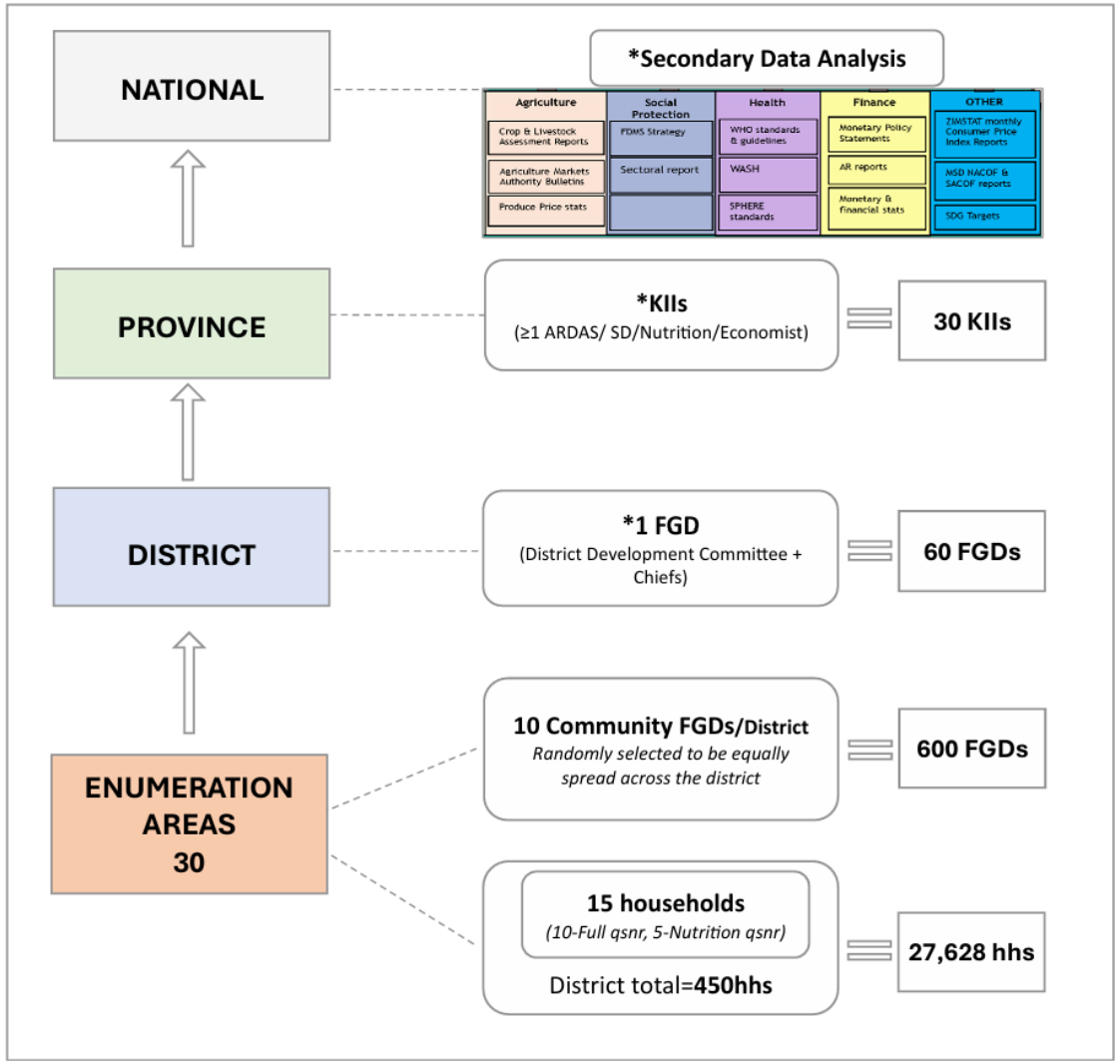


Figure 2: Zimbabwe Resilience Framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)

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 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2022 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology.
  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 15 households per EA (village).
- At least 450 households were sampled per district and a total of 2095 households were interviewed.
- 65 community FGDs were held across all the districts.

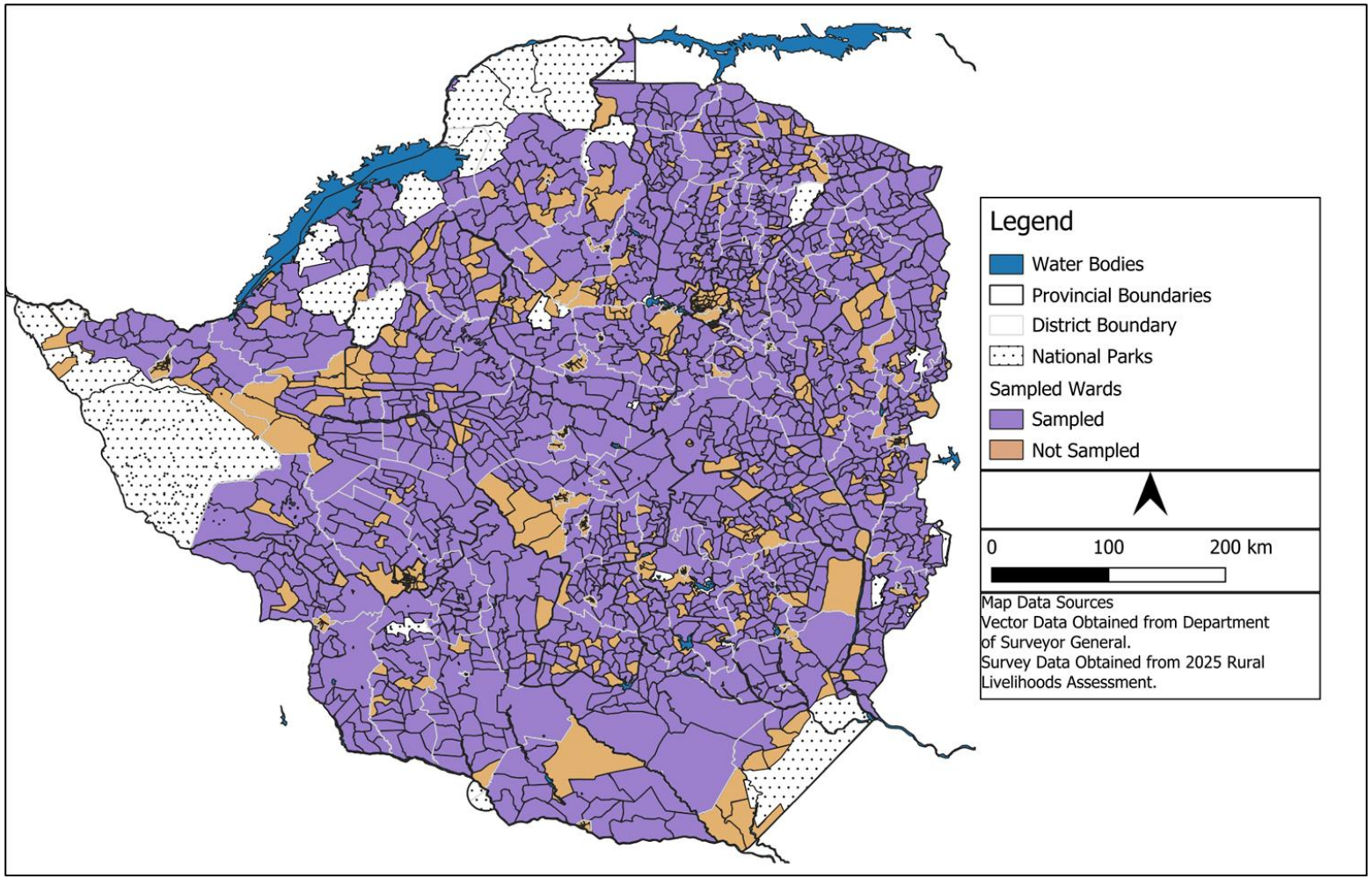
District	Households
Binga	302
Bubi	299
Hwange	294
Lupane	298
Nkayi	298
Tsholotsho	302
Umguza	302
Matabeleland North	**2095**

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 3176 households were interviewed.
- Anthropometric measurements were taken from 2433 Children aged 6-59 months, 451 Children aged 5-9 years, 581 Adolescents 10-19 years and 2352 Adults aged 20 years and above.

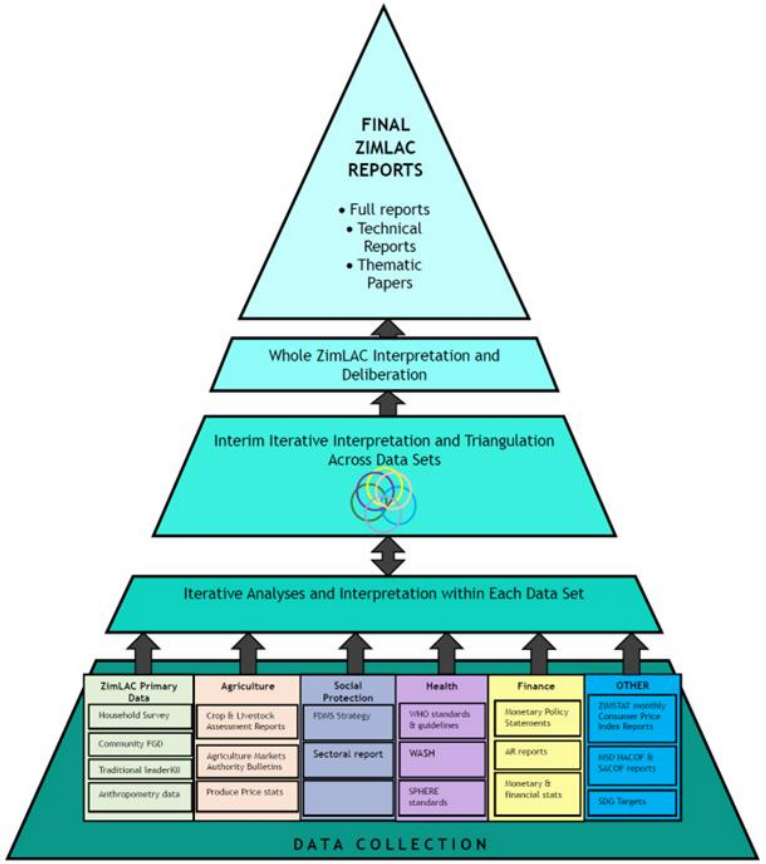
Province	**Total**
Binga	468
Bubi	443
Hwange	445
Lupane	456
Nkayi	452
Tsholotsho	461
Umguza	451
Mat North	**3176**

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

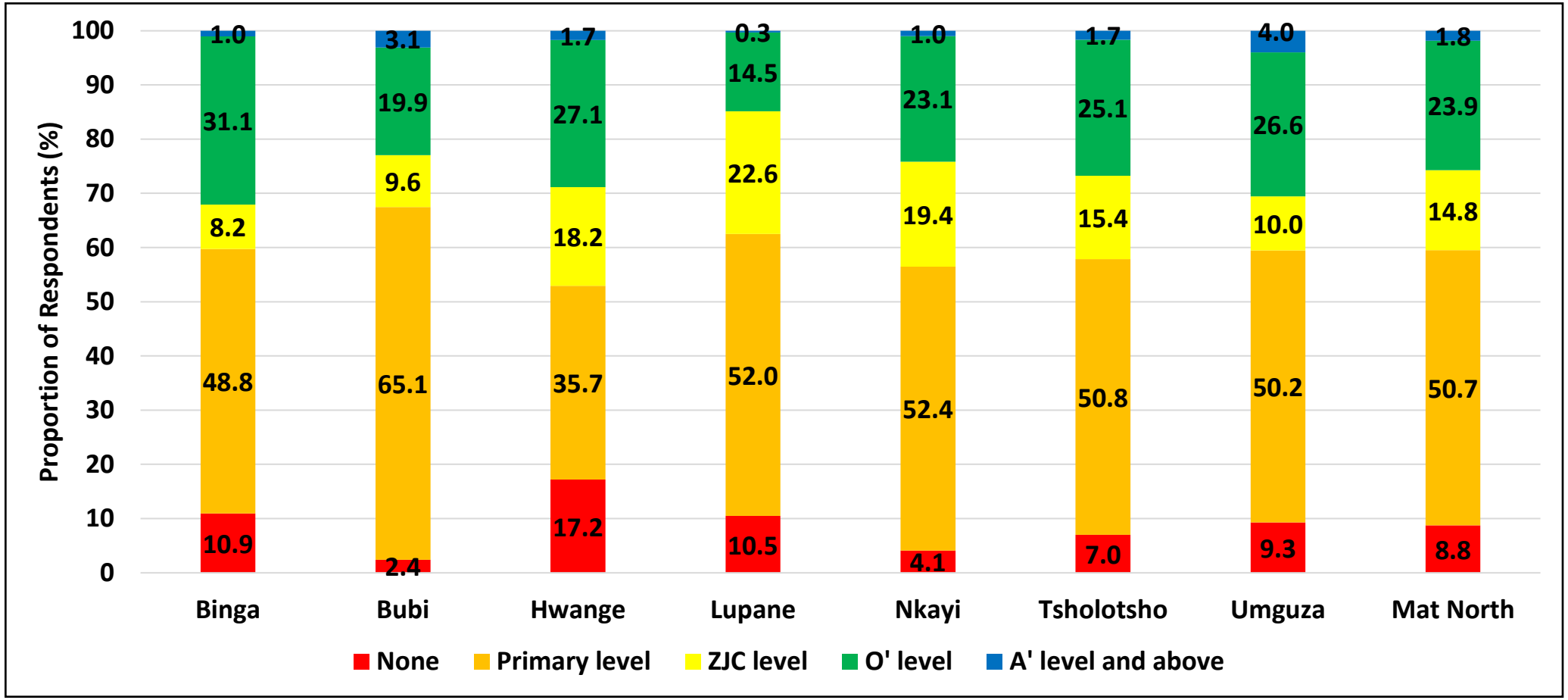
Household Characteristics

Characteristics of Respondents

District	Respondent`s Average Age (years)	Respondent`s Sex (%)	
		Male	Female
Binga	32	24.7	75.3
Bubi	40	32.7	67.3
Hwange	45	34.9	65.1
Lupane	49	33.9	66.1
Nkayi	50	17.9	82.1
Tsholotsho	46	22.2	77.8
Umguza	43	24.7	75.3
Matabeleland North	**43**	**24.0**	**76.0**

- The average age of the respondents was 43 years.
- About 76.0% of the respondents were females.

Characteristics of Respondent: Education Level Attained



- About 91.2% of the household heads attained some form of education.

Household Members' Characteristics

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
Binga	3	37.0	63.0	35.5	5.5	8.2	44.2	3.2	0.7	2.8
Bubi	3	44.5	55.5	27.2	4.2	6.9	47.4	4.9	2.5	7.0
Hwange	3	42.3	57.7	22.7	9.5	13.1	39.1	6.3	2.7	6.6
Lupane	4	46.3	53.7	21.4	8.6	14.9	35.3	6.9	2.5	10.3
Nkayi	4	44.5	55.5	16.5	10.7	18.1	36.3	7.7	1.9	8.8
Tsholotsho	4	41.2	58.8	28.7	11.3	13.2	31.1	5.6	2.0	8.2
Umguza	3	45.8	54.2	27.2	7.1	9.7	39.1	6.6	1.8	8.5
Mat North	**3**	43.2	56.8	25.1	8.4	12.4	**38.3**	6.0	2.0	7.7

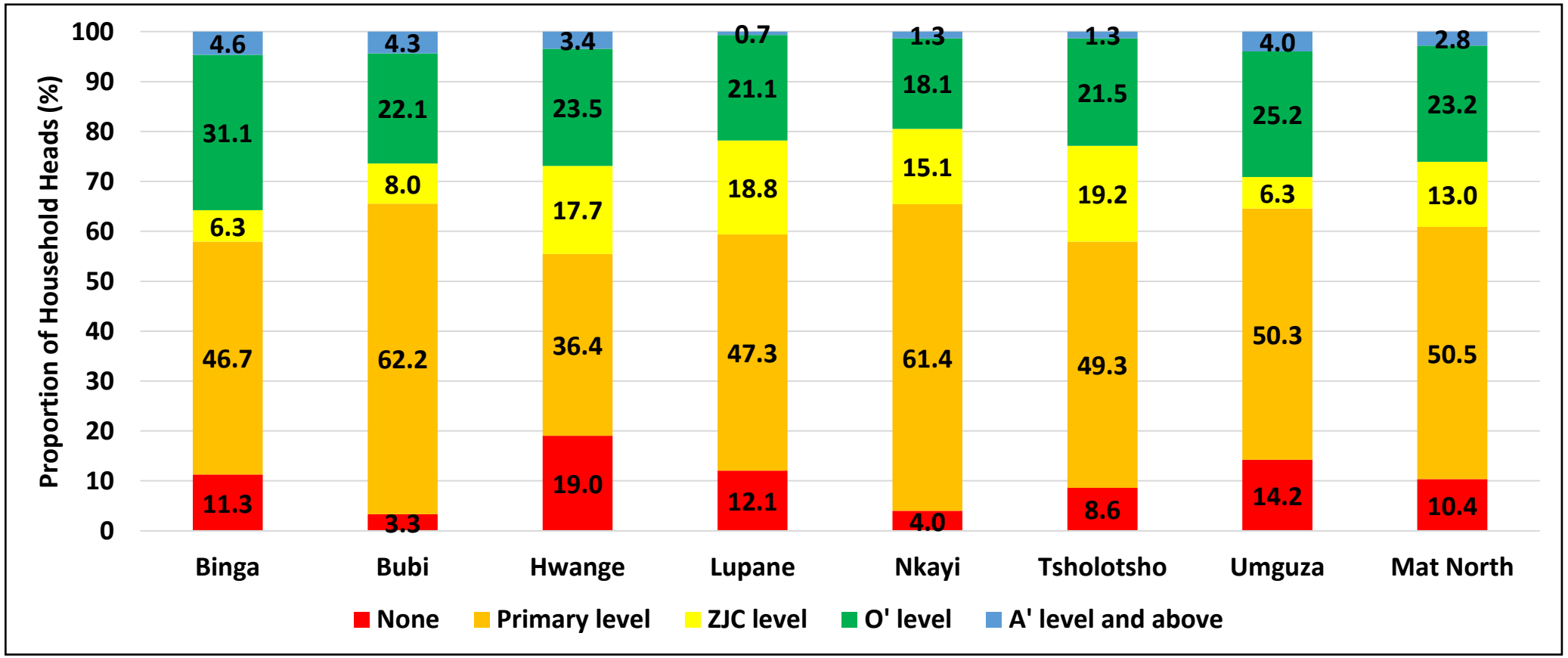
- The average household size was 3.
- Of the sampled population, 56.8% were female and 43.2% were male.

Characteristics of Household Head

District	Household Head Average Age (years)	Household Head Sex (%)		Household Head by Category (%)	
		Male	Female	Elderly Headed 65 Years and Above	Child Headed
Binga	35.0	31.1	68.9	8.6	2.0
Bubi	47.0	61.2	38.8	21.4	0
Hwange	49.0	59.2	40.8	23.8	0
Lupane	56.0	70.1	29.9	35.2	0
Nkayi	56.0	68.5	31.5	35.9	0
Tsholotsho	53.0	55.0	45.0	30.5	0
Umguza	52.0	66.2	33.8	29.5	0
Mat North	**49.0**	**58.7**	**41.3**	**26.4**	**0.3**

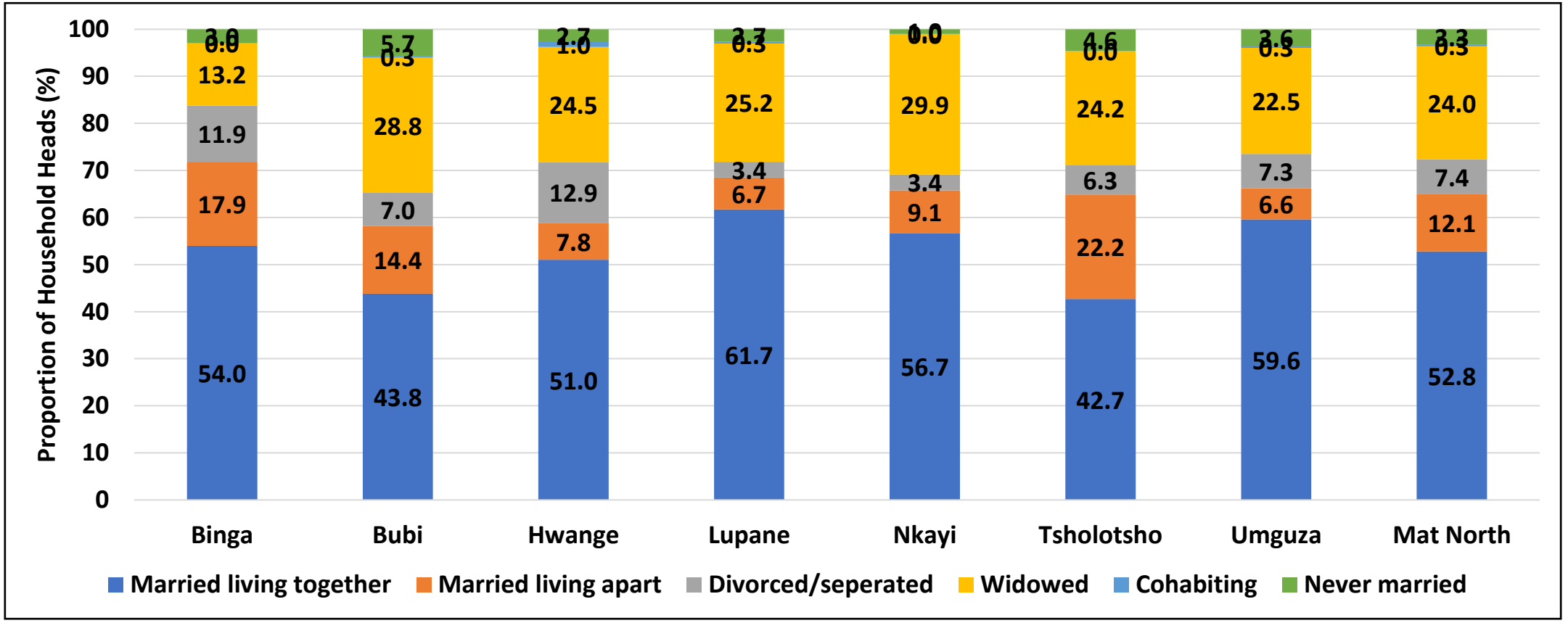
- The average age of household heads was 49.0 years.
- About 41.3% of the households were female headed, with the highest proportion in Binga (68.9%).

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained



- About 89.6% of the household heads attained some form of education.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status



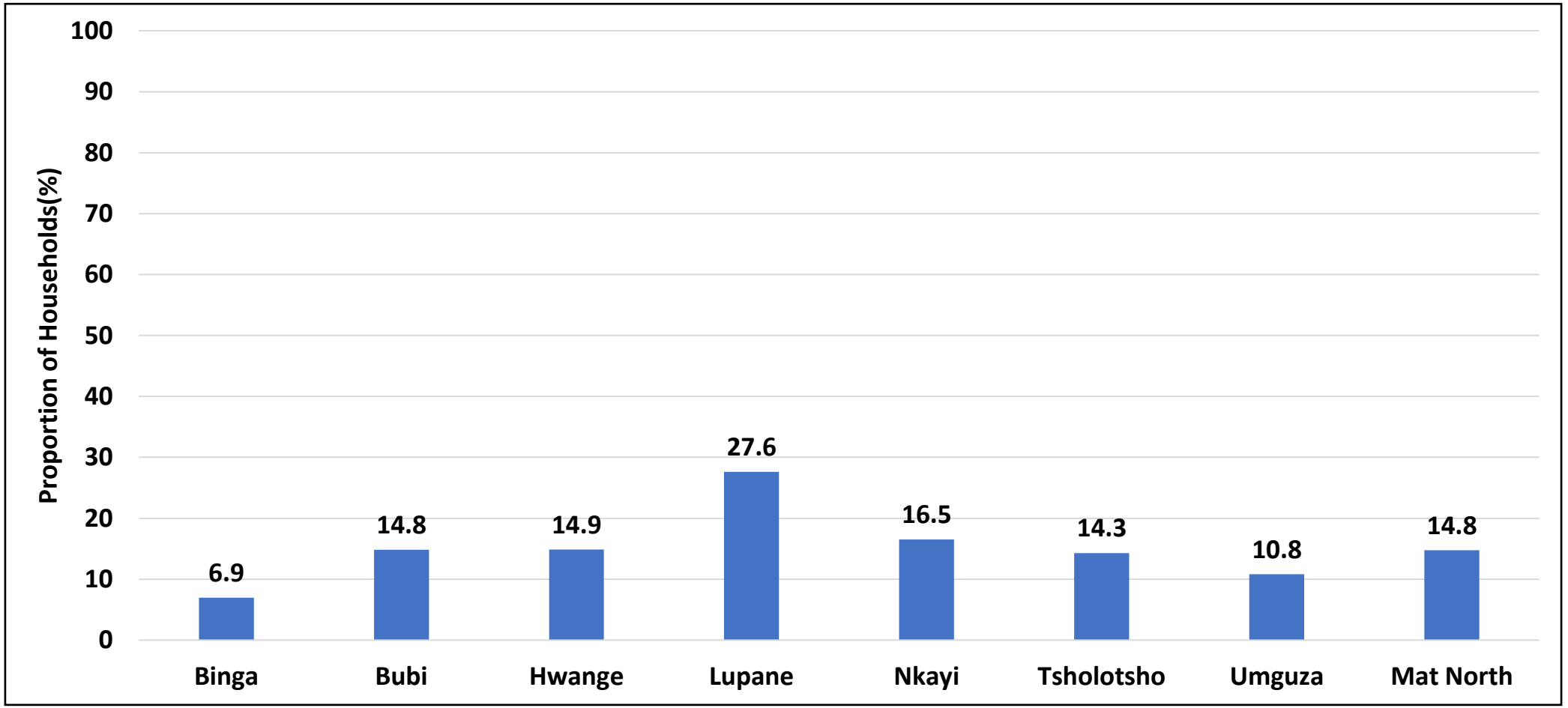
- About 52.8% of household heads were married and living together.
- Nkayi (29.9%) and Bubi (28.8%) had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed.

Characteristics of Household Head: Religion

District	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	Pentecostal (%)	Apostolic Sect (%)	Zion (%)	Other Christian (%)	Islam (%)	Traditional (%)	Other religion (%)	No religion (%)
Binga	3.3	6.3	42.4	21.5	12.9	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.7	10.9
Bubi	1.0	22.1	3.0	13.0	17.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.8
Hwange	10.9	7.5	20.4	23.1	17.3	0.7	0.3	3.7	0.3	15.6
Lupane	11.4	11.7	7.7	24.8	21.8	0.7	0.0	4.0	4.0	13.4
Nkayi	4.4	16.4	6.7	19.1	26.2	6.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	14.8
Tsholotsho	3.6	4.0	5.3	22.2	37.4	13.6	0.0	2.3	1.0	10.6
Umguza	3.6	0.3	17.5	20.5	23.5	15.9	0.3	2.3	2.6	13.2
Mat North	5.4	9.7	14.7	**20.6**	**22.3**	5.4	0.1	2.3	1.7	17.5

- Most of the household heads were Zion (22.3%) and from the apostolic sect (20.6%).

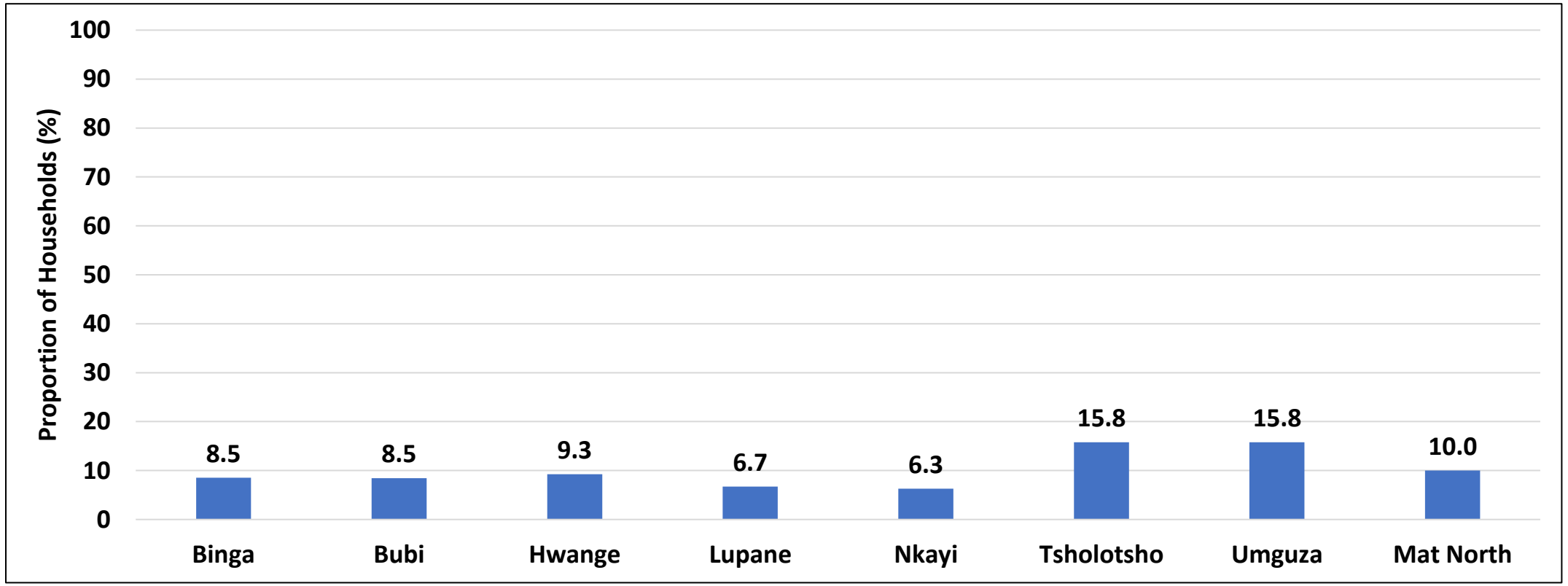
Orphaned Children



- The proportion of households with orphaned children was 14.8%.

Chronic Conditions

Chronic Conditions



- The proportion of households with a member who had a chronic condition was 10%.
- Tsholotsho and Umguza (15.8%) had highest proportion of households with a member with a chronic conditions.

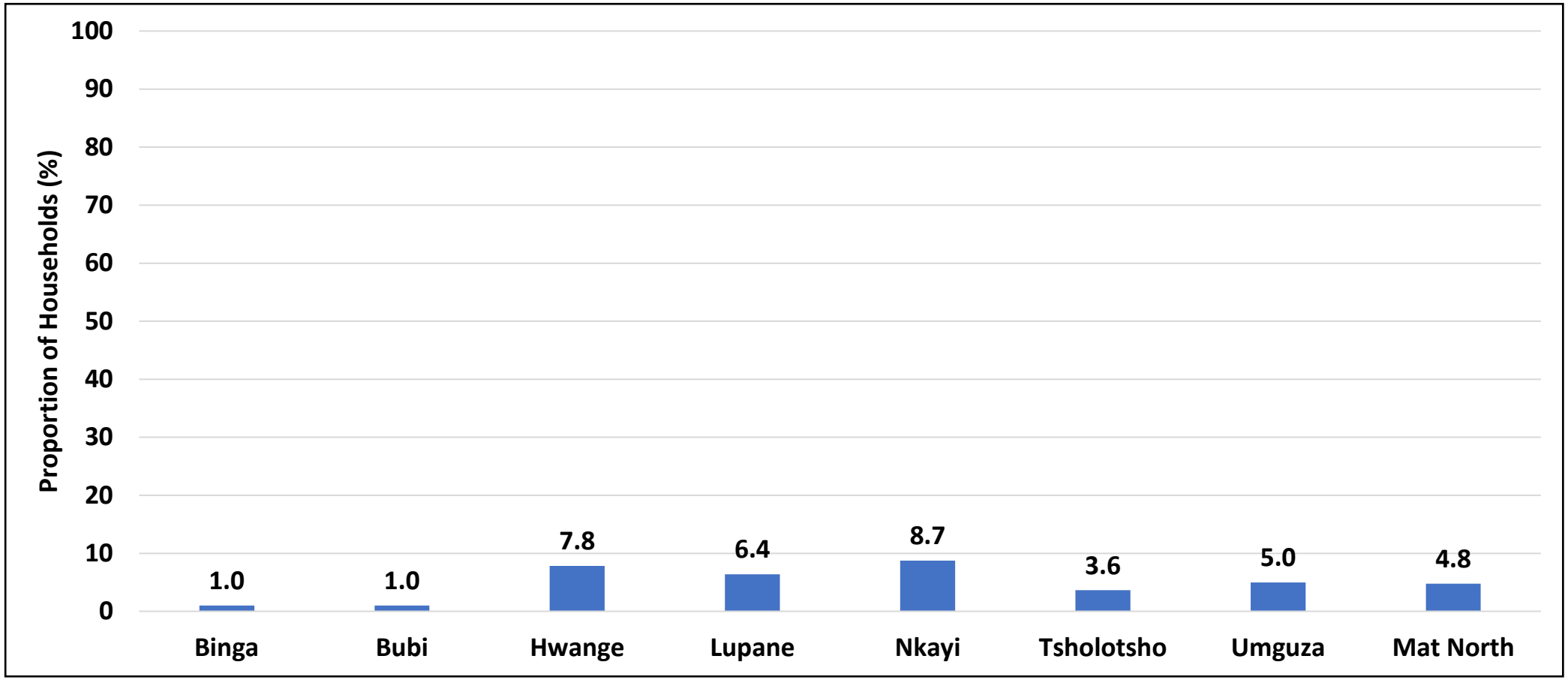
Chronic Conditions (10.0%)

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 (%)	Kidney diseases (%)	Ulcer, chronic stomach pain (%)	Other (%)
Binga	2.6	0.3	2.4	1.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
Bubi	3.8	0.0	1.4	0.4	3.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3
Hwange	3.3	0.3	2.4	1.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
Lupane	3.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Nkayi	3.2	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Tsholotsho	9.6	0.1	0.9	1.1	3.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Umguza	7.1	0.5	0.9	1.0	5.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.0
Mat North	**4.8**	0.2	1.3	0.7	**2.6**	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4

- HIV/AIDS (4.8%) and hypertension/high blood pressure (2.6%) were the major chronic conditions cited.

Disability

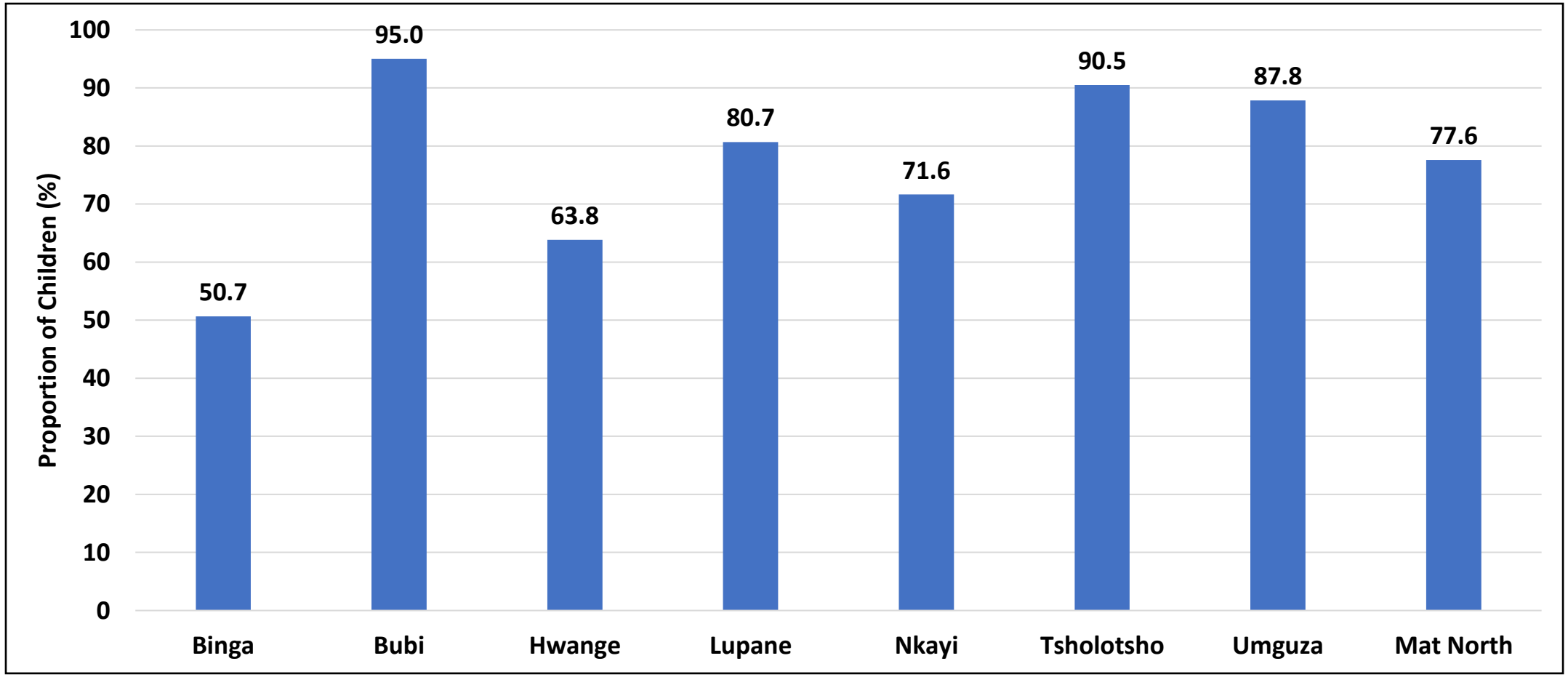
Disability Conditions



- The proportion of households with at least one person with any form of disability was 4.8%.
- Nkayi (8.7%) and Hwange (7.8%) had the highest proportion of households with at least one person with any form of disability.

Education

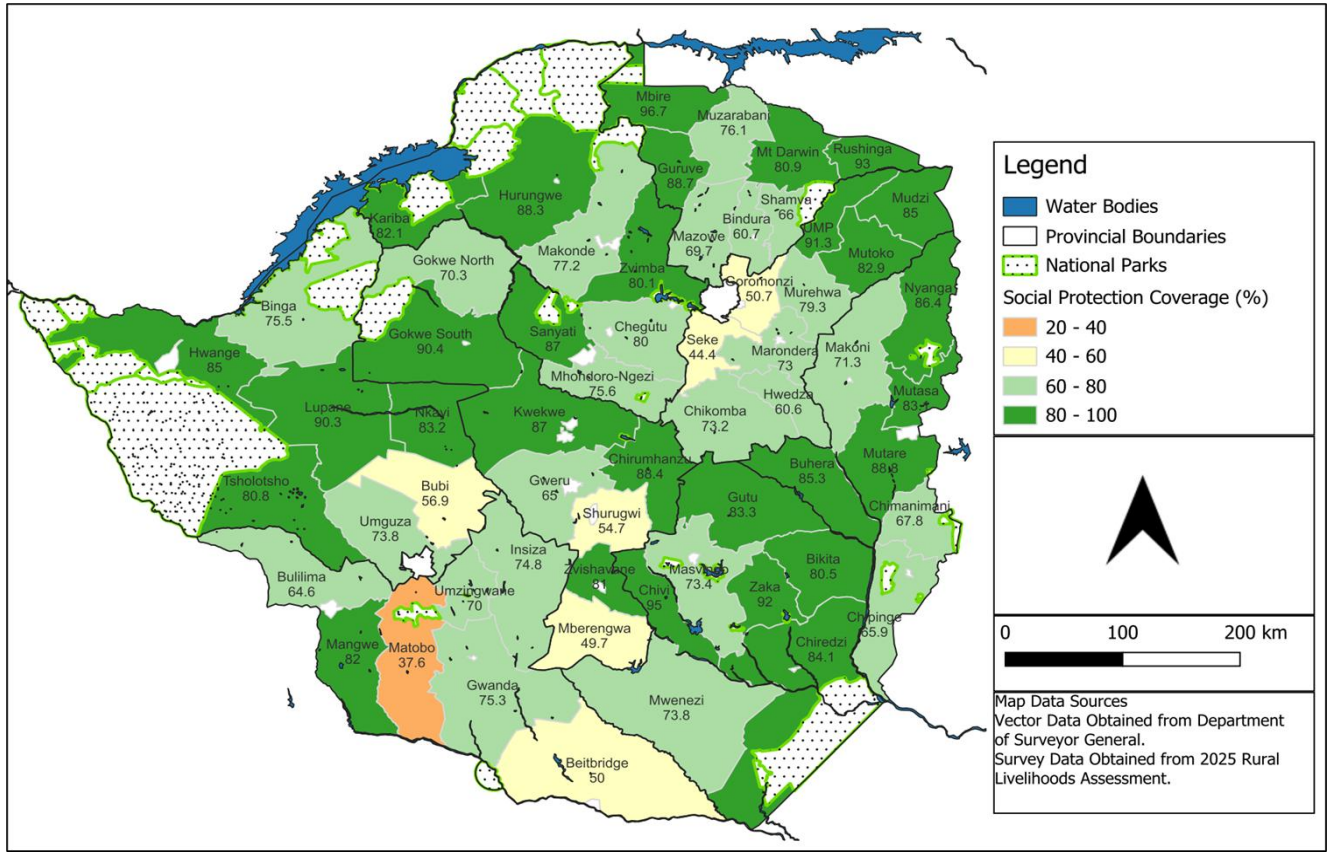
Proportion of Children Receiving Hot Meals at School



- The proportion of children who received a hot meal at school was at 77.6%.
- Binga (95.0%) and Tsholotsho (90.5%) had the highest proportion of children who received a hot meal.

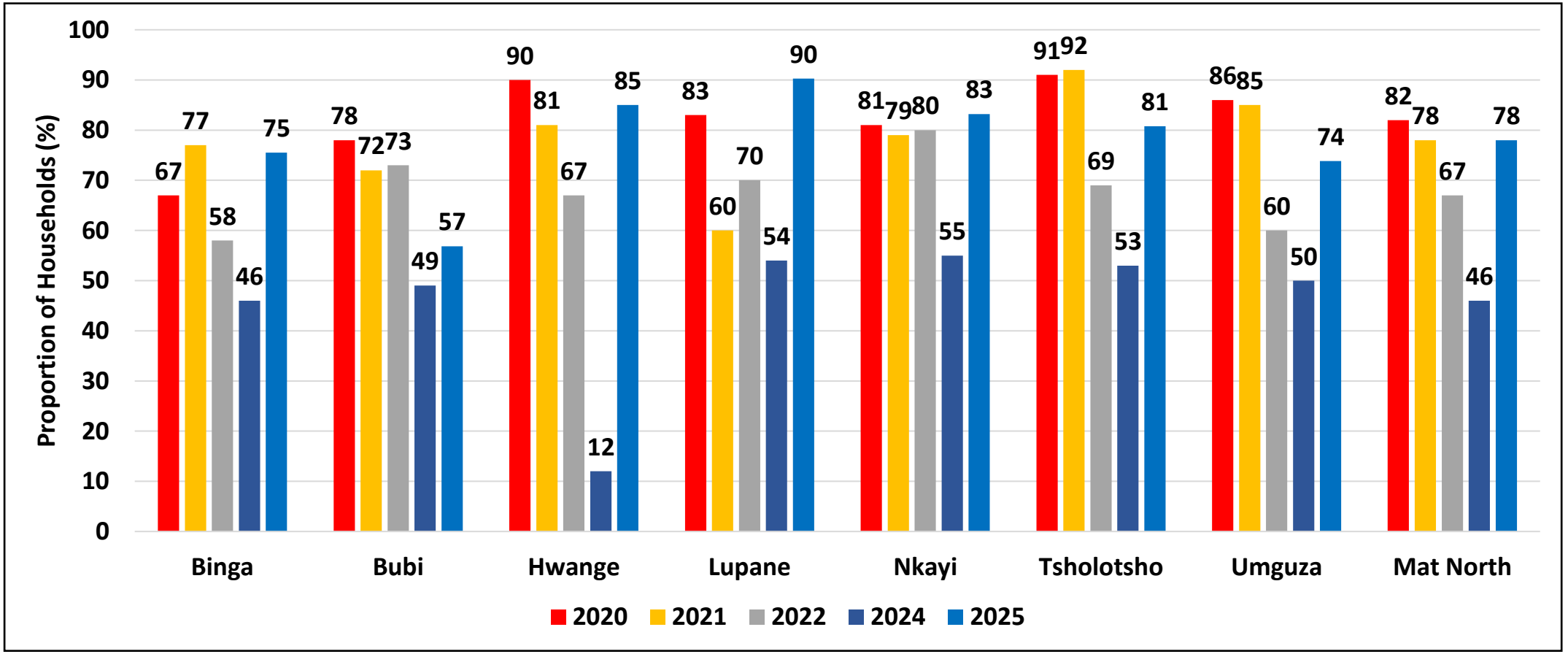
Social Protection

Households which Received Any Form of Support



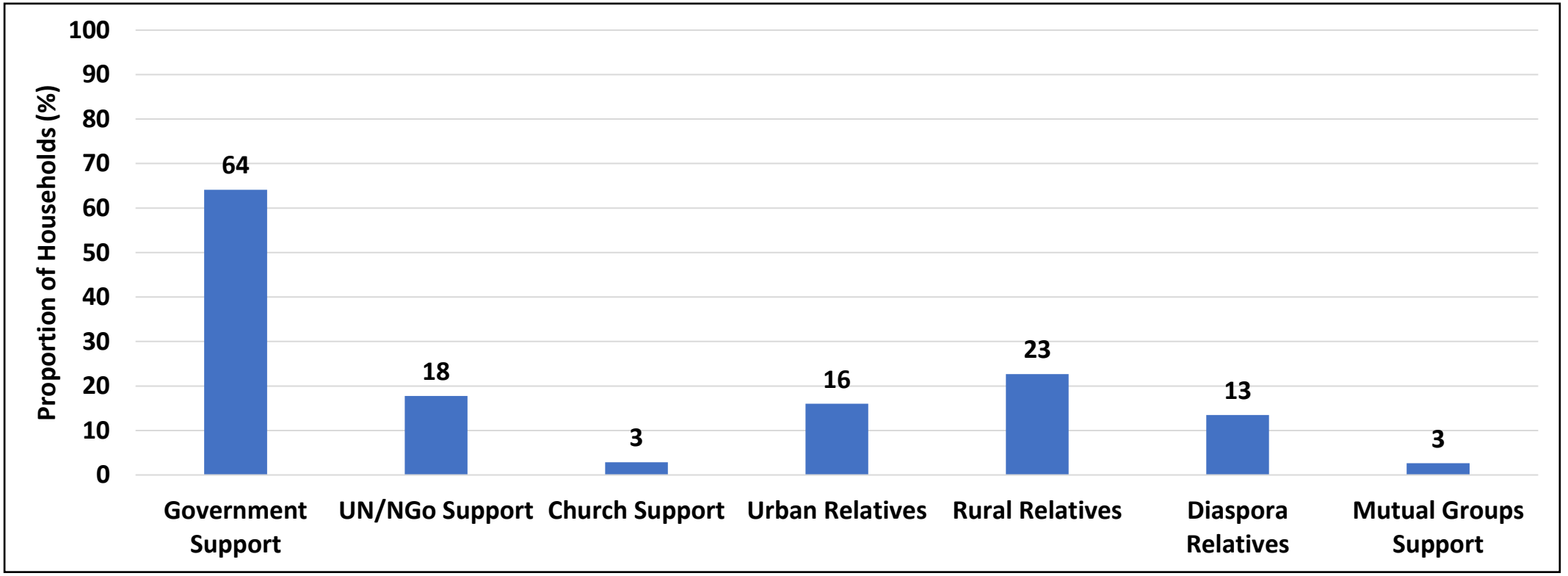
- Lupane (90.3%) had the highest proportion of households which received any form of support and Bubi (56.9%) had the lowest.

Households which Received Any Form of Support



- Support increased from 46% in 2024 to 78% 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 reported to have 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.

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
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**

- Compared to 2024, there was an increase in support received from relatives (both rural and urban) in 2025.

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 (%)
Binga	45.7	0.3	0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bubi	36.1	1.0	0	39.8	0	0	0	2.7	1.3	0
Hwange	62.6	0.3	0	19.7	4.4	15.3	20.1	4.4	2.0	4.4
Lupane	58.4	1.7	0	49.3	2.7	0	2.3	2.7	1.0	2.7
Nkayi	65.8	1.3	0.3	65.1	0	0	0.3	0.3	0	0
Tsholotsho	53.0	0.3	0	15.9	0.3	0	0	0.7	6.6	0.3
Umguza	64.9	1.3	0	16.2	0.3	0	0	0	4.0	0.3
Mat North	**55.2**	**0.9**	**0**	**30.1**	0.1	1.1	2.1	3.2	1.5	2.1

- The majority of households received food (55.2%) and crop input (30.1%) from Government.
- Food support was highest in Nkayi (65.8%).

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 Change (%)
Binga	32.8	0.3	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3	1.7	6.4
Hwange	10.5	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.3	1.7	11.9	2.0	0.7	1.4
Lupane	15.8	0.3	0.0	2.3	0.7	1.0	2.0	8.7	3.4	1.7	3.0
Nkayi	5.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.7	2.7	1.7	0.0	3.0
Tsholotsho	8.9	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.0
Umguza	2.3	0.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7
Mat North	**10.8**	0.3	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.2	1.0	3.5	1.4	0.9	2.2

- Food (10.8%) was the main form of support received from UN/NGOs.

Migration

Types of Migration

	Migrated to Urban from Rural Areas (%)	Joined from Other Rural Areas (%)	Joined from Urban Areas (%)	Joined from Outside Zimbabwe (%)	Migrated to Stay Outside Zimbabwe (%)
Binga	23.8	1.7	4.0	0.0	2.6
Bubi	12.1	1.0	0.7	0.3	15.8
Hwange	7.5	3.5	3.1	1.4	4.1
Lupane	15.1	3.0	7.4	2.7	14.4
Nkayi	6.7	1.8	2.3	1.7	3.7
Tsholotsho	8.7	2.4	3.7	2.3	7.0
Umguza	13.9	2.0	2.3	3.3	6.6
Mat North	**12.6**	**2.2**	**3.3**	**1.7**	**7.8**

- The main type of migration reported was migrating to urban from rural areas (12.6%) and migrating to live outside the country (7.8%).

Reasons for Migrating to Urban Areas (12.6%)

	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 (%)
Binga	1.0	19.2	5.3	0	2.0	0.7	0	0.3	0.7	0.3	1.3
Bubi	7.7	6.7	2.0	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0	0	0
Hwange	0.3	5.8	0.3	0	0	0.3	0	0.0	0	0	0.3
Lupane	3.0	9.1	2.0	0	0.3	0.7	0	1.0	0	0	0.3
Nkayi	2.3	2.0	1.0	0	0.7	0	0	0.0	0	0.3	0
Tsholotsho	1.3	5.6	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0.0	0.3	0	1.0
Umguza	3.3	5.6	2.0	0	0.7	2.3	0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mat North	**2.7**	**7.7**	**1.9**	**0**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.5**

- The main reason for rural to urban migration was reported to be employment opportunities (7.7%).

Reasons for Migrating Outside Zimbabwe

	Employment (%)	Access to education (%)	Better standards of living (%)	Marriage (%)	Other livelihood opportunities (%)	Other (%)
Binga	2.3	0	0	0	0.3	0
Bubi	15.1	0.3	3.7	0	3.3	0
Hwange	3.1	0	0.7	0	0	0
Lupane	9.7	1.3	3.4	0.7	2.0	0
Nkayi	1.3	0	2.0	0	0.3	0
Tsholotsho	6.3	0.3	0.0	0	0.3	0
Umguza	5.3	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7
Mat North	**6.2**	**0.4**	**1.4**	**0.1**	**1.0**	**0.1**

- Employment (6.2%) was highlighted as the major reason for migration outside Zimbabwe.

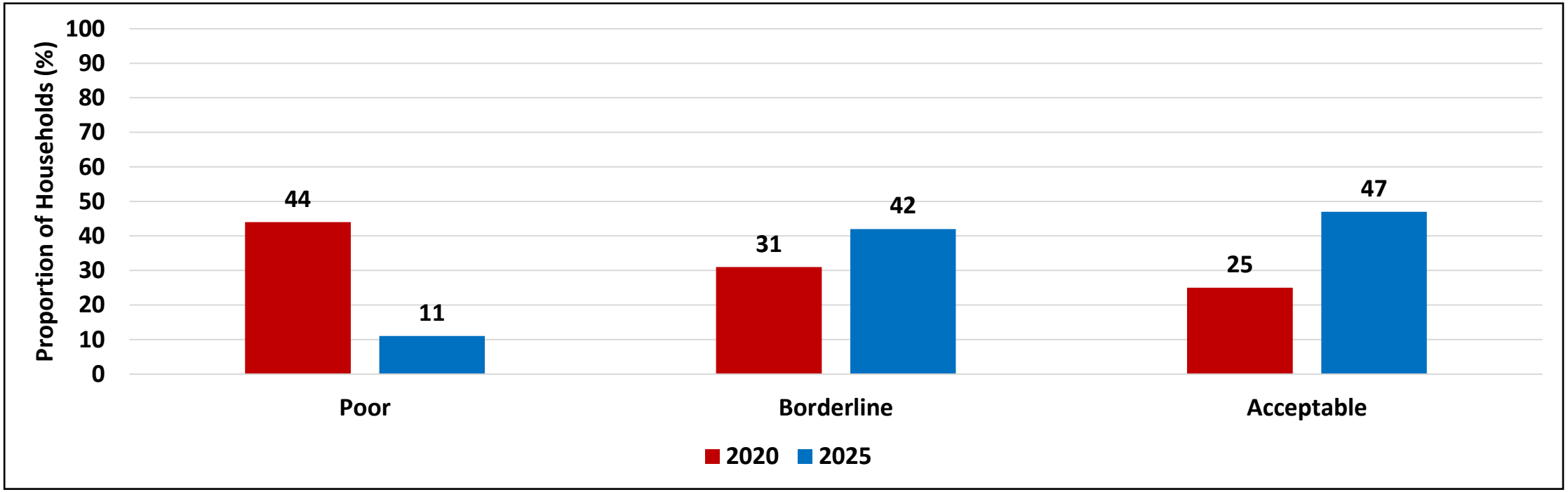
Household Consumption Patterns

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food Consumption Score

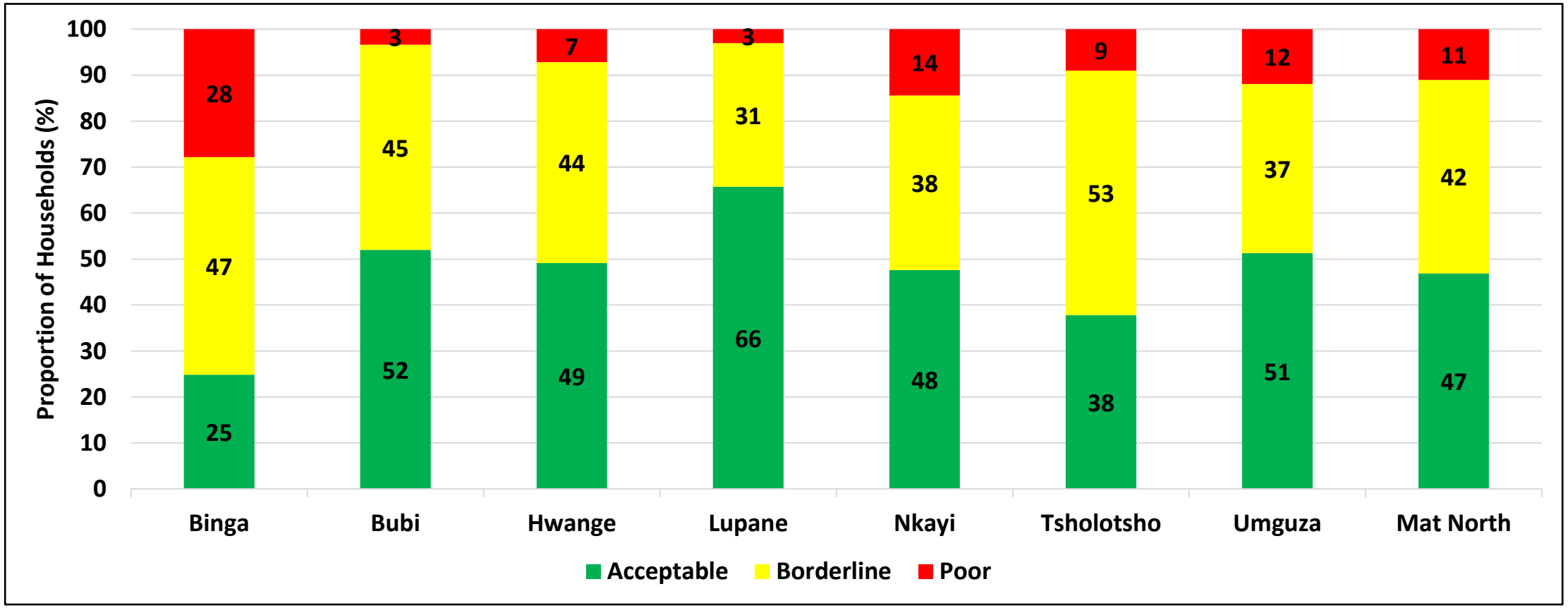
Food Consumption Score Groups	Score	Description
POOR	0-21	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent
BORDERLINE	21.5-35	An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 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 (25%) to 2025 (47%).
- This reflects an improvement in the quality of diets being consumed by rural households as evidenced by the consumption of more diverse and nutritious food groups.

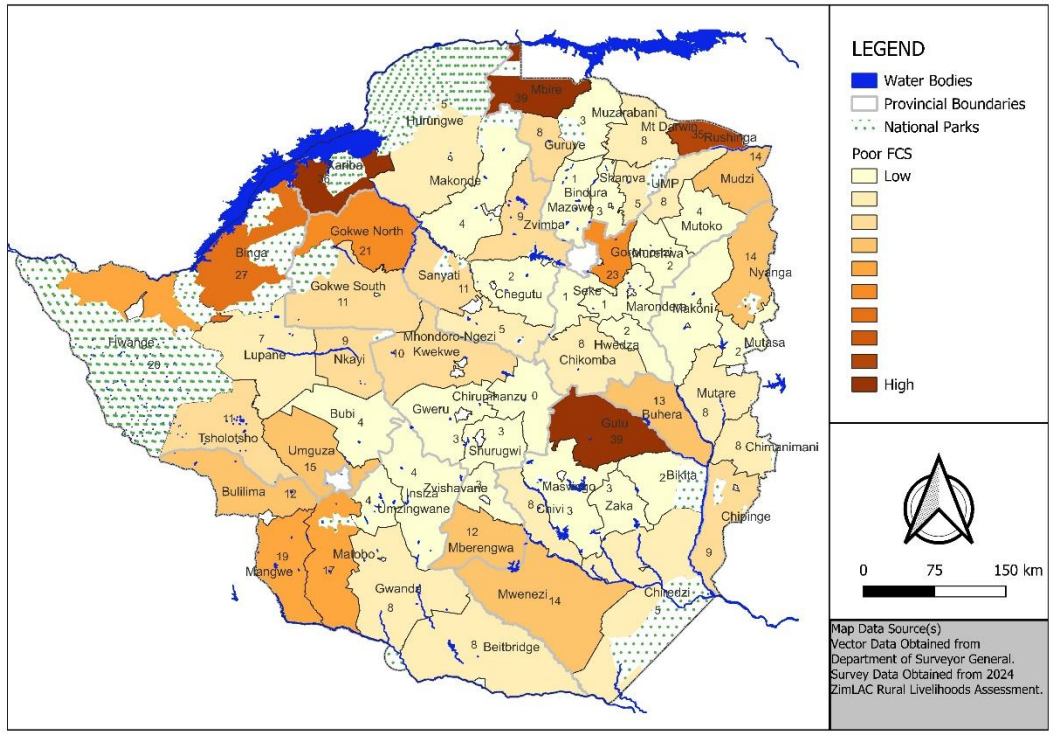
Food Consumption Patterns



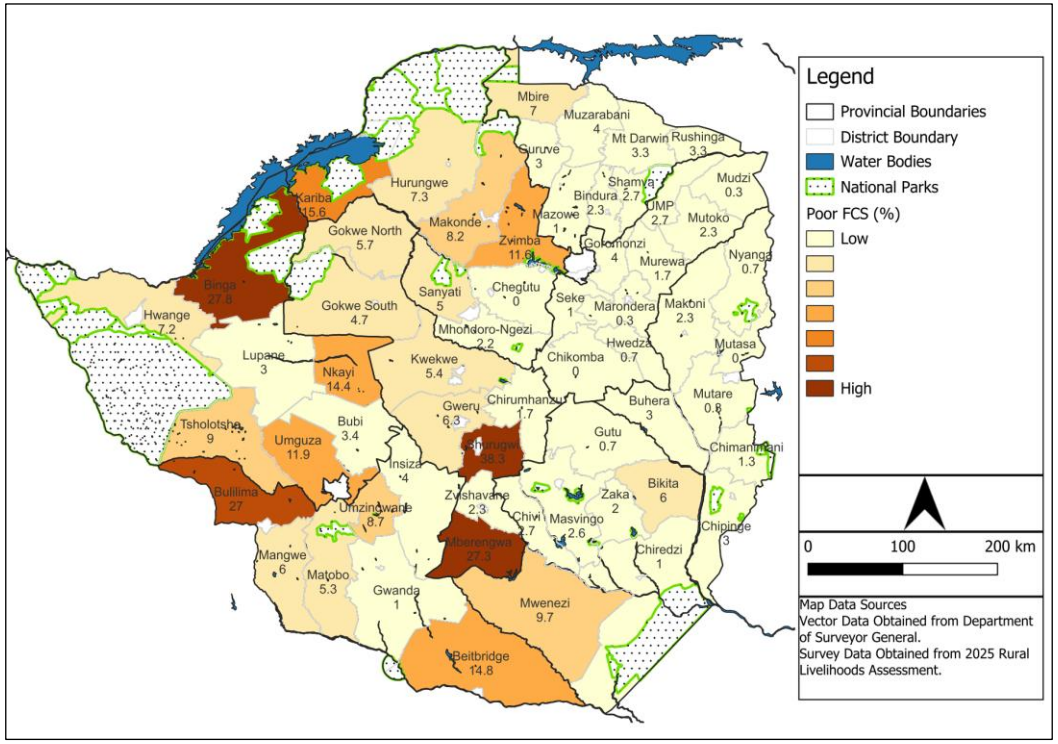
- Lupane (66%) and Bubi (52%) had the highest proportion of households consuming acceptable diets.
- Binga (28%) had the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption patterns.

Poor Food Consumption Patterns by District

2024



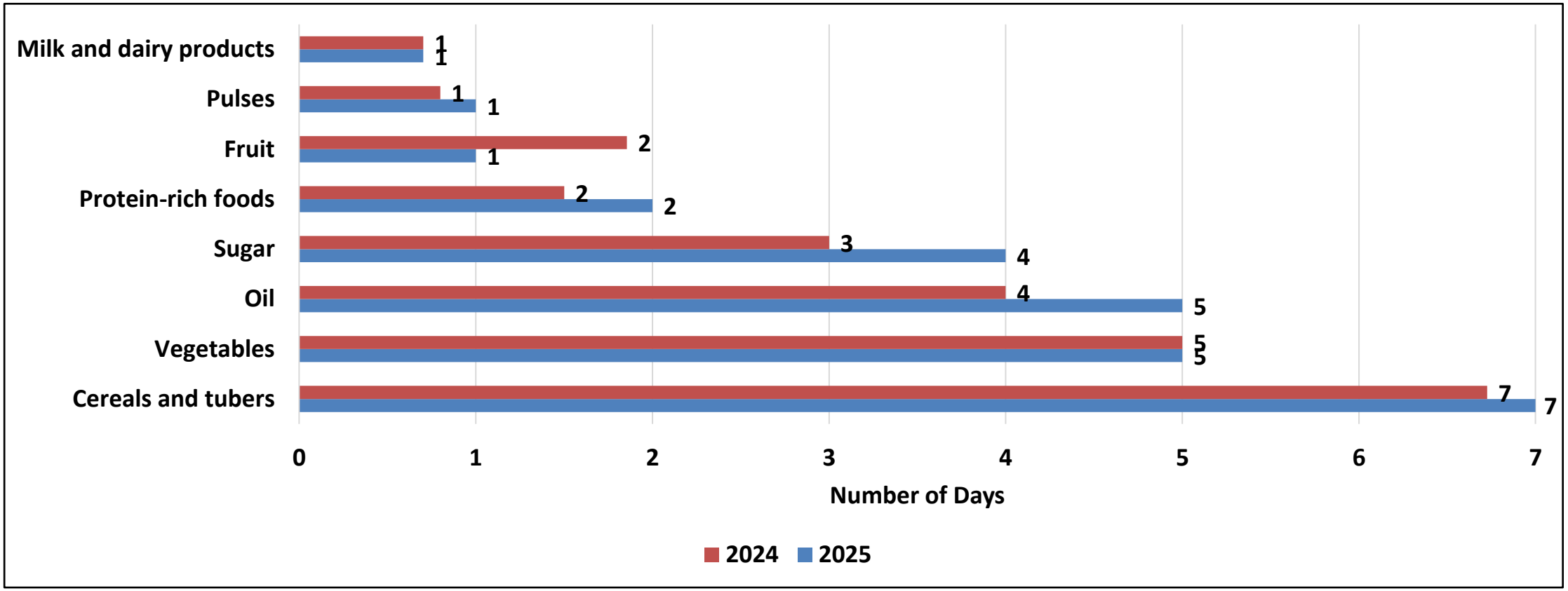
2025



- The proportion of households with poor food consumption decreased in most districts in 2025 when compared to 2024.
- Binga (27.8%) and Nkayi (14.4%) had the highest proportion of households with poor food consumption patterns.

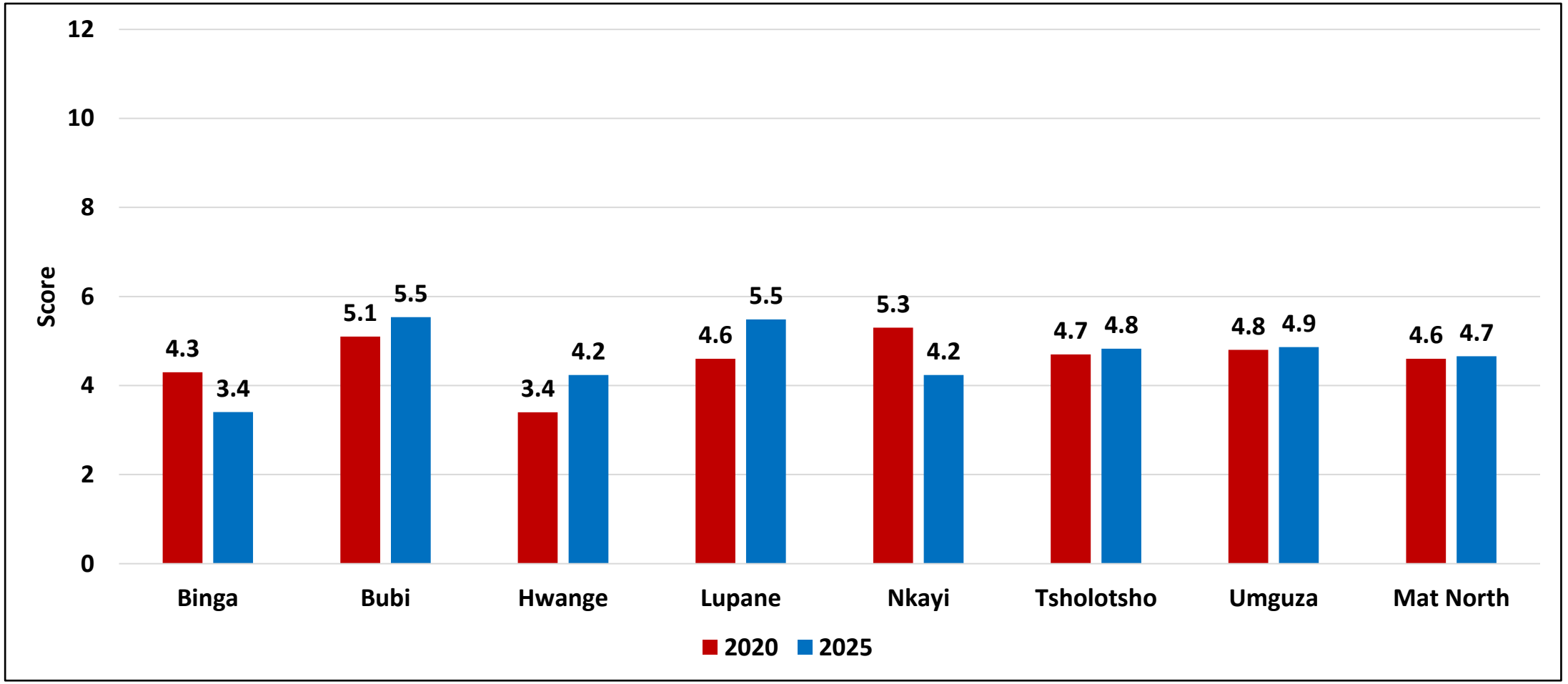
Household Dietary Diversity

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



- The average household dietary diversity score for 2025 was 4.7%.
- There was no significant change in the dietary diversity score from 2020 (4.6%) to 2025 (4.7%)

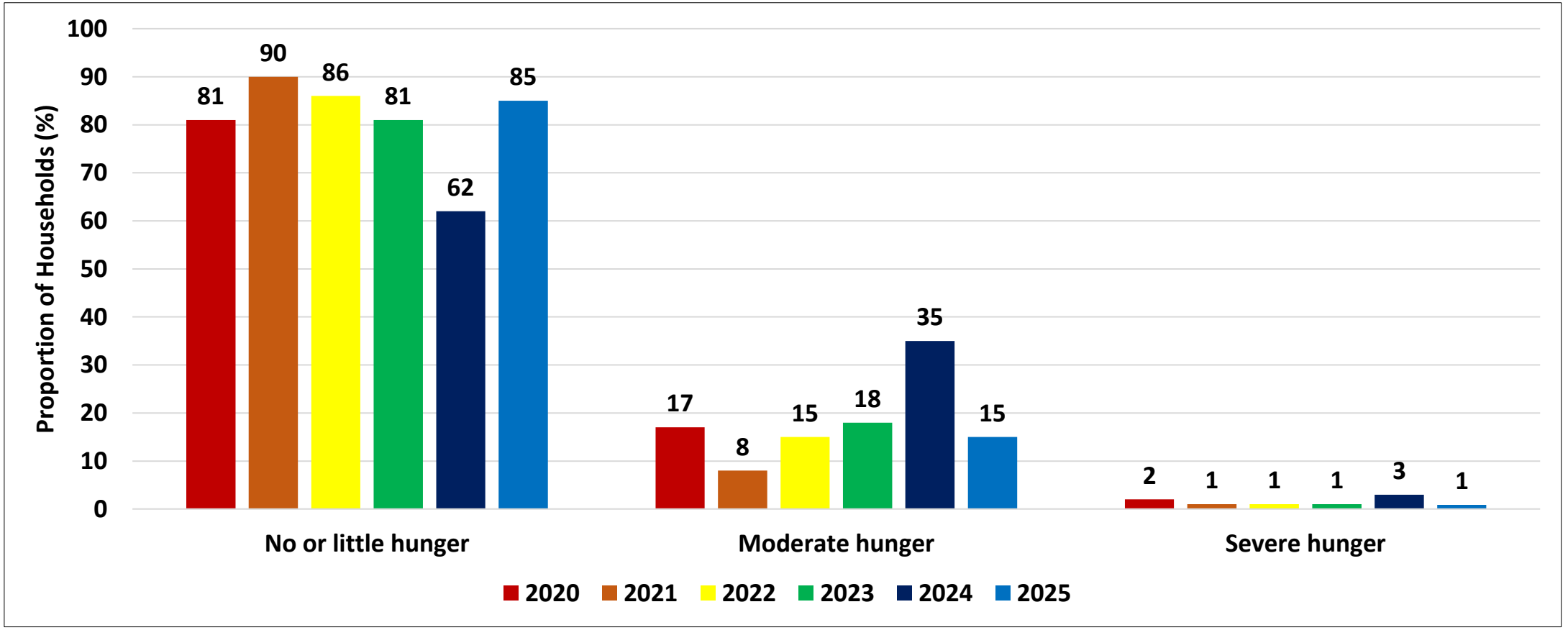
HDDS by Food Groups

District	Cereals (%)	Tubers (%)	Pulses (%)	Dairy products (%)	Meat (%)	Fish (%)	Eggs (%)	Vegetables (%)	Fruits (%)	Oil (%)	Sugar (%)	Condiments (%)
Binga	95.4	40.0	45.3	52.9	26.0	25.6	60.0	89.6	68.8	74.9	72.1	98.3
Bubi	99.0	61.3	34.7	70.8	53.7	52.4	71.0	95.2	61.8	98.0	92.5	99.6
Hwange	92.5	60.6	41.0	50.0	**71.4**	24.6	51.0	87.8	60.4	92.3	82.4	95.2
Lupane	99.7	56.6	62.2	80.0	60.6	31.0	48.6	90.5	55.3	96.0	87.8	96.8
Nkayi	93.1	21.6	26.2	61.1	28.2	28.6	30.9	69.6	51.4	91.3	89.6	89.4
Tsholotsho	99.0	49.1	45.6	65.4	51.1	5.9	45.8	83.8	65.7	88.9	77.6	95.5
Umguza	93.5	44.4	45.3	68.6	39.3	45.0	37.5	85.5	51.1	96.2	89.3	93.7
Mat North	**96.2**	47.3	44.5	66.2	50.9	29.2	47.2	**86.5**	58.7	**92.1**	85.4	95.7

- Cereals (96.2%), oil (92.1%) and vegetables (86.5%) were the most consumed food groups.
- Hwange (71.4%) had the highest proportion of households which consumed meat while Binga (26.0%) had the lowest.

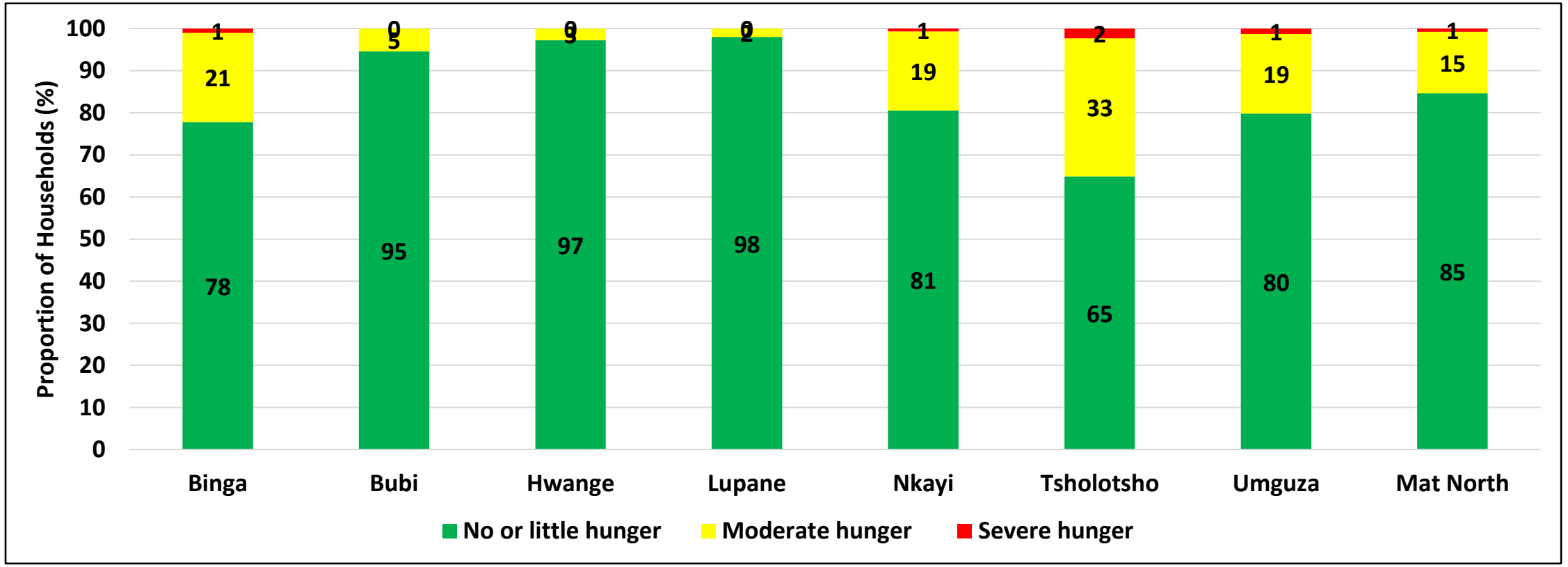
Household Coping

Household Hunger Scale



- The proportion of households which experienced no or little hunger increased from 62% in 2024 to 85% in 2025.

Household Hunger Scale



- Lupane (98%) and Hwange (97%) had the highest proportion of households with no or little hunger

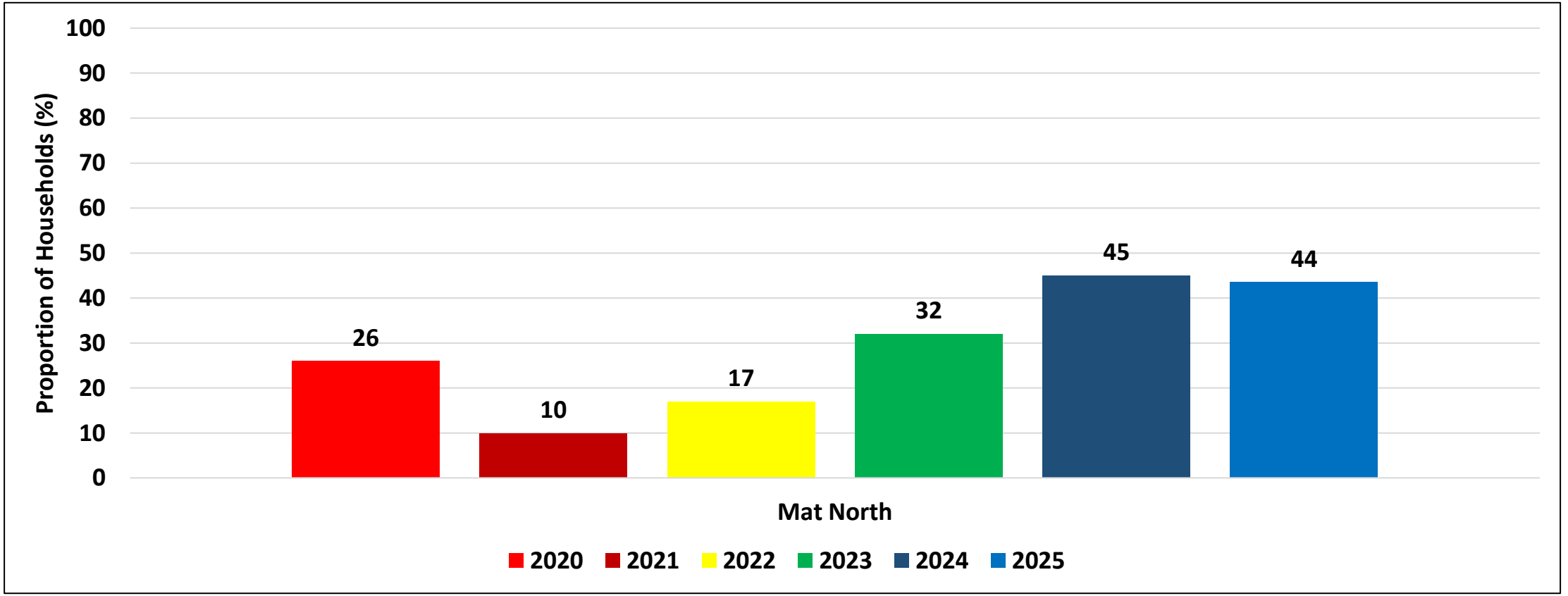
Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies

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.

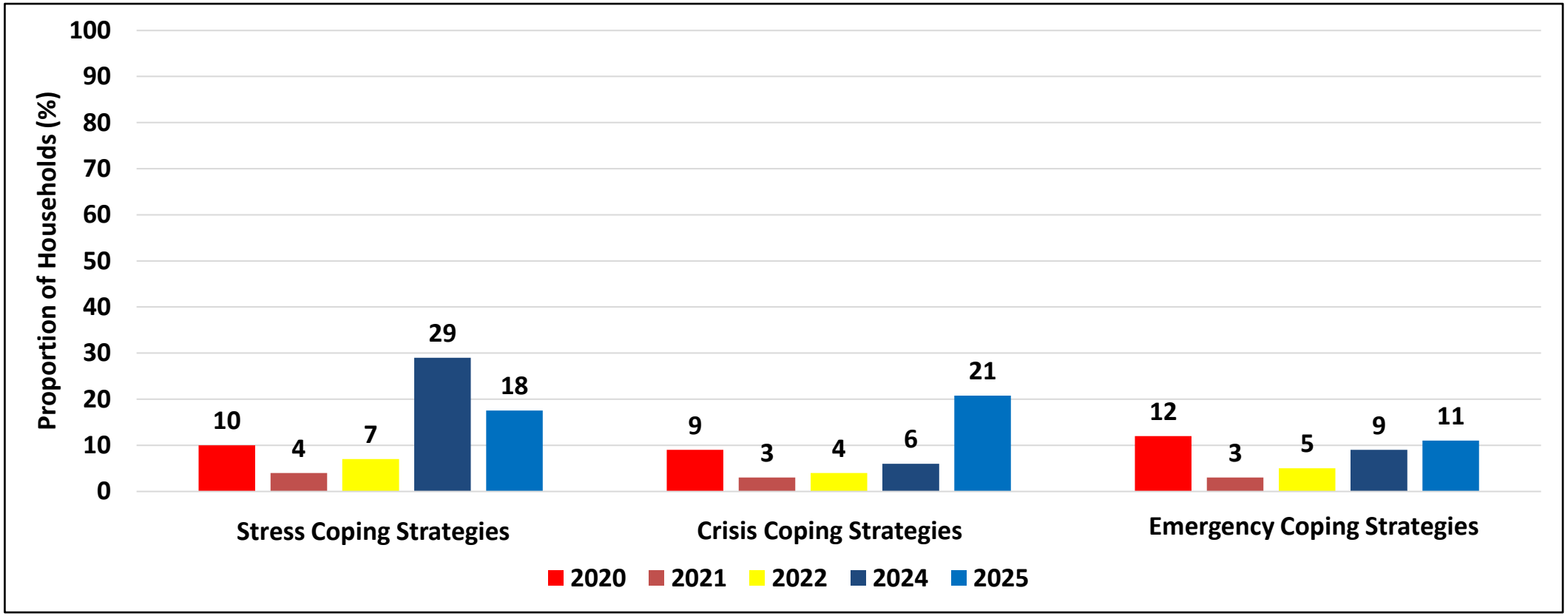
Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	• Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, television, jewellery etc.) • Sold more animals than usual • Spent savings • Borrowed money
Crisis	• Consumed seed stocks that were to be saved for the next season • Decreased expenditures on fertilizer, pesticide, fodder, 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 26% in 2020 to 44% in 2025.

Households Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies



- The proportion of households engaging in crisis coping strategies increased from 9% in 2020 to 21% in 2025.

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

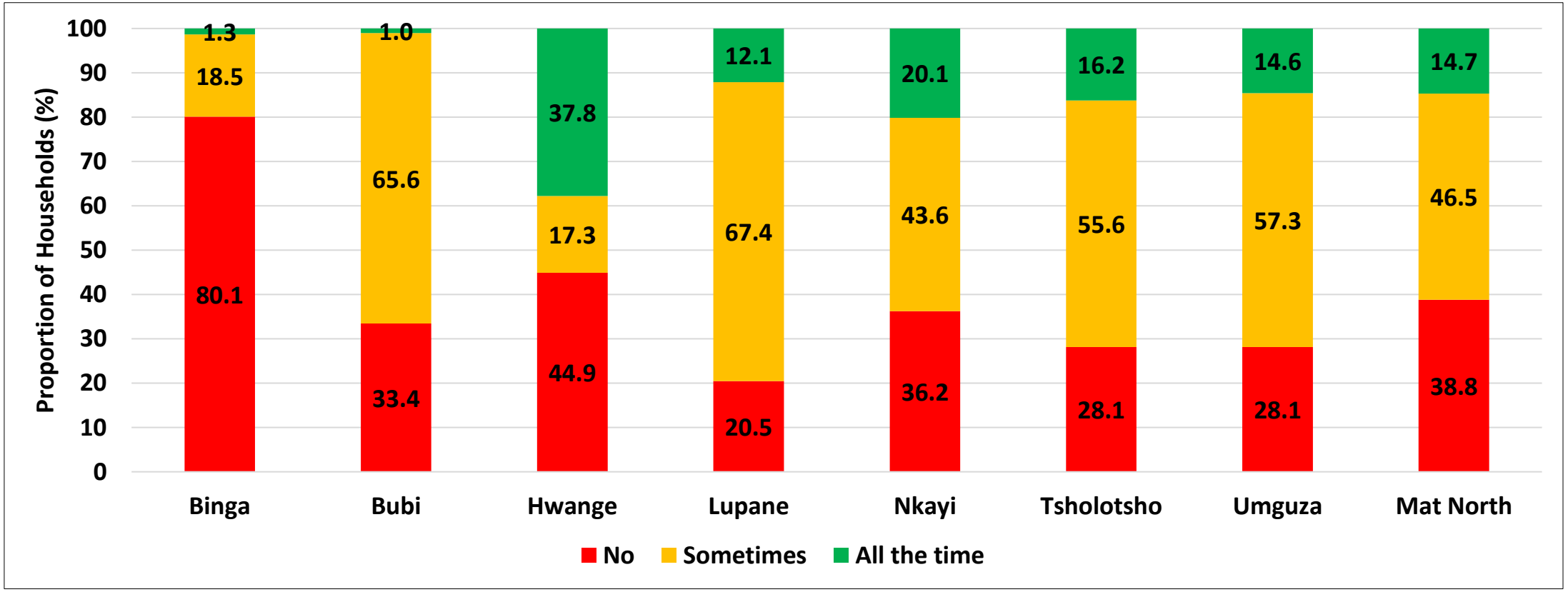
- Helps choose foods that align with health needs (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, child feeding).
- Avoids misleading claims (e.g., “sugar-free”, “natural”) by checking actual contents.
- Supports informed decisions on food value, cost-efficiency, and portion size.
- Protects against adverse reactions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

Household Considerations when Purchasing Food

District	Brand/Source (%)	Expiry /Best before date (%)	Nutritional content (%)	Storage instructions (%)	Other (%)	No other consideration (%)
Binga	17.5	10.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	77.2
Bubi	73.2	37.1	5.0	2.0	0.0	17.4
Hwange	37.8	56.5	36.7	22.4	2.4	31.3
Lupane	55.0	71.1	13.8	6.7	1.7	13.8
Nkayi	15.8	56.7	6.4	1.3	2.0	34.2
Tsholotsho	45.7	66.9	25.5	30.5	0.0	19.2
Umguza	8.9	64.6	8.3	10.6	1.3	37.1
Mat North	**36.2**	**51.9**	**13.6**	**10.5**	**1.1**	**32.9**

- Holding price constant, about 51.9% of the households reported that they considered expiry dates, brand (36.2%) and nutritional content (13.6%) when purchasing food items.

Households Which Read Food Labels Before Purchasing of Food Items



- About 38.8% of the households reported not reading food package labels when purchasing food items.
- Binga (80.1%) had the highest proportion of households which did not read food labels when purchasing food items.

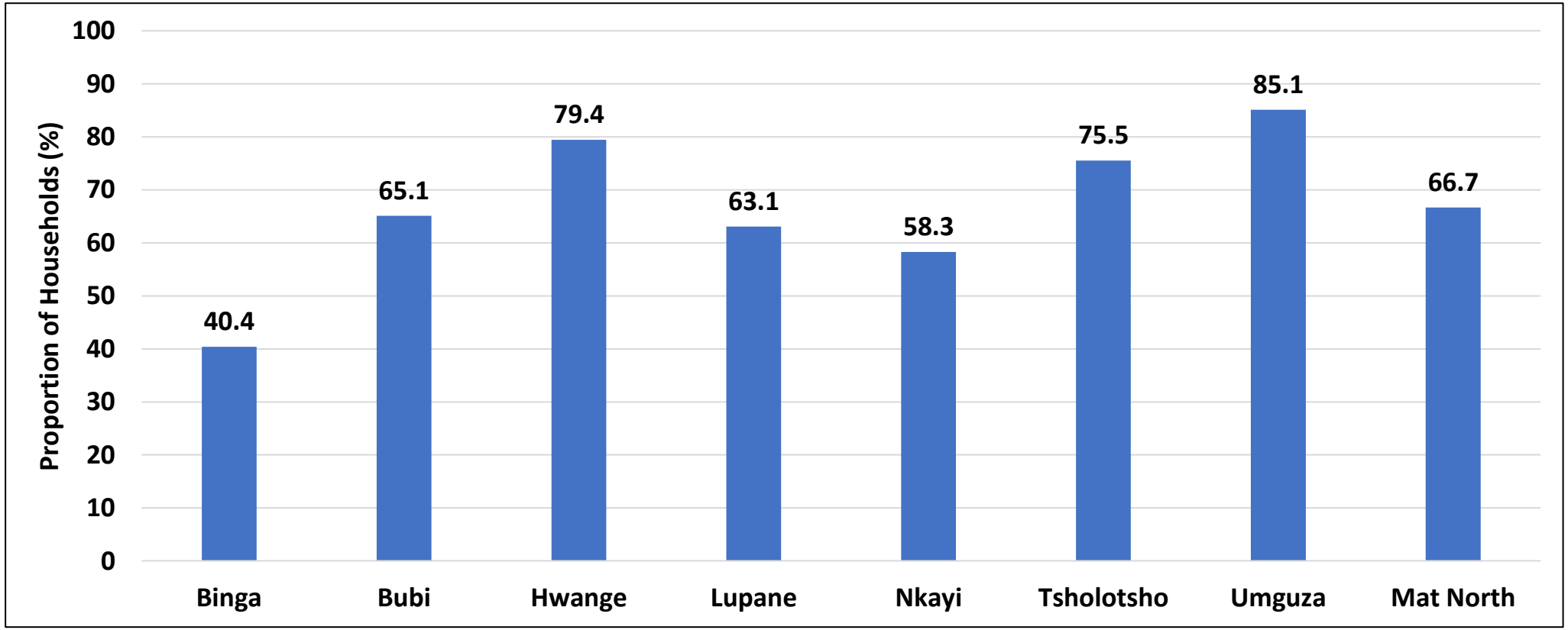
Importance of Observing Pre-Harvest Intervals (PHIs) on Pesticides

- 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

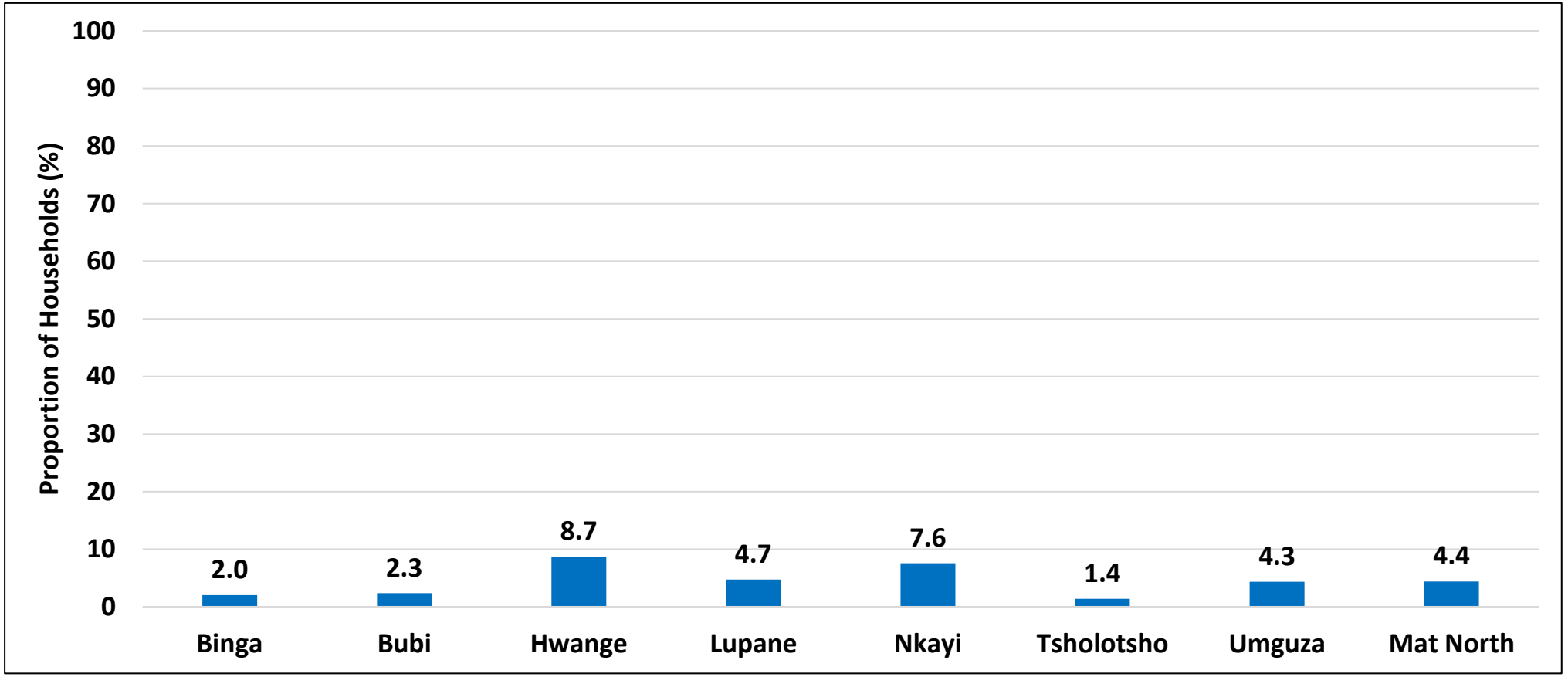
- Protects consumer health by preventing exposure to harmful pesticide residues that can cause acute poisoning, cancer or reproductive issues.
- Reduces residue levels to within acceptable safety limits set by regulatory authorities (e.g., WHO, FAO, Codex).
- Supports food safety and quality, ensuring 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 66.7% 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 4.4% 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

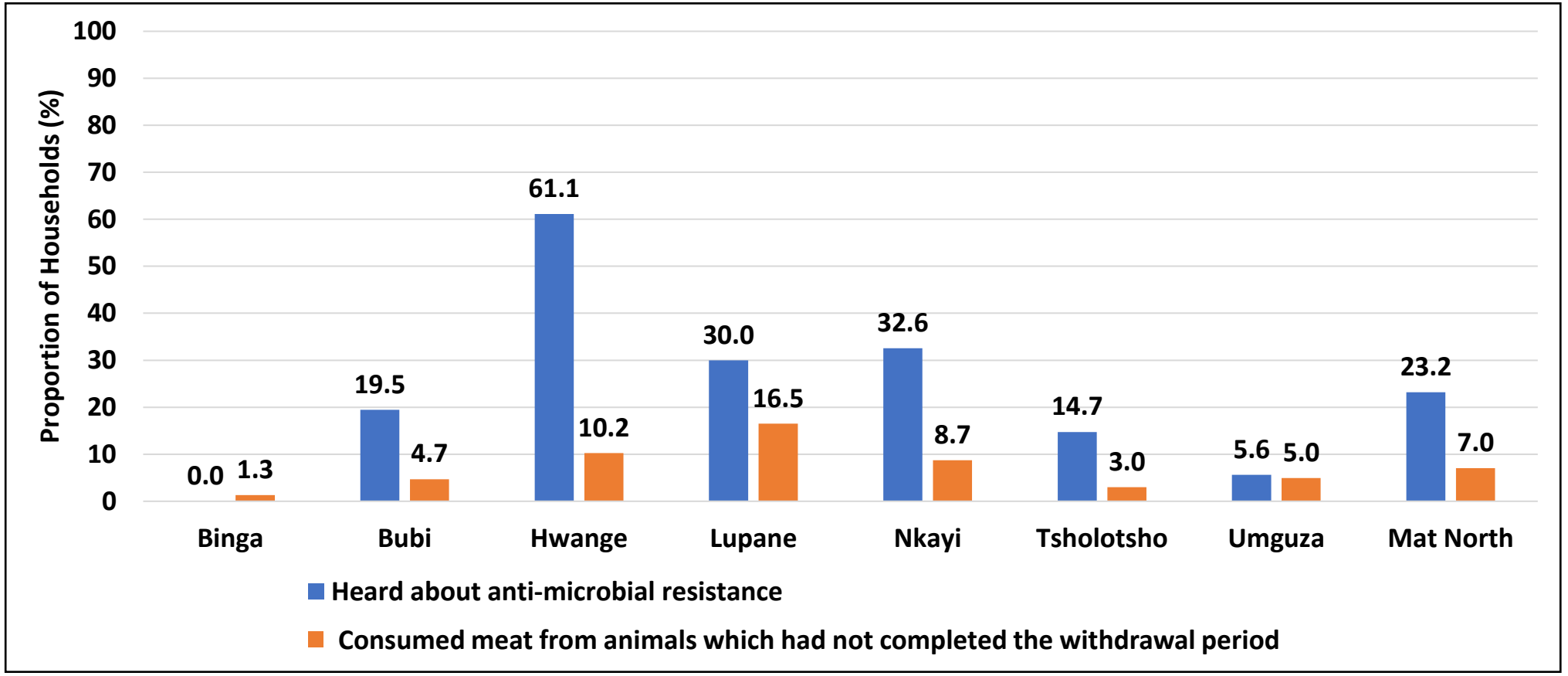
- Protects human health by preventing consumption of animal products with antibiotic residues that can cause allergic reactions or toxicity.
- Prevents antibiotic resistance, a major global threat where bacteria become resistant to treatment due to overexposure to antibiotics.
- Ensures compliance with 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
Binga	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	3.9	11.8	0.0	0.0	3.9	11.8	2.0	2.0
Hwange	15.2	6.5	0.0	4.3	2.2	10.9	0.0	17.4
Lupane	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nkayi	6.5	16.1	6.5	3.2	3.2	9.7	9.7	16.1
Tsholotsho	11.1	18.5	7.4	3.7	3.7	25.9	7.4	7.4
Umguza	2.5	0.0	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.3	7.6
Mat North	**4.8**	**5.4**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**2.8**	**6.0**	**2.0**	**6.3**

- About 6.0% of the households indicated that they sometimes read instructions on the withdrawal period when treating animals with anti-biotics.

Knowledge of Antimicrobial Resistance



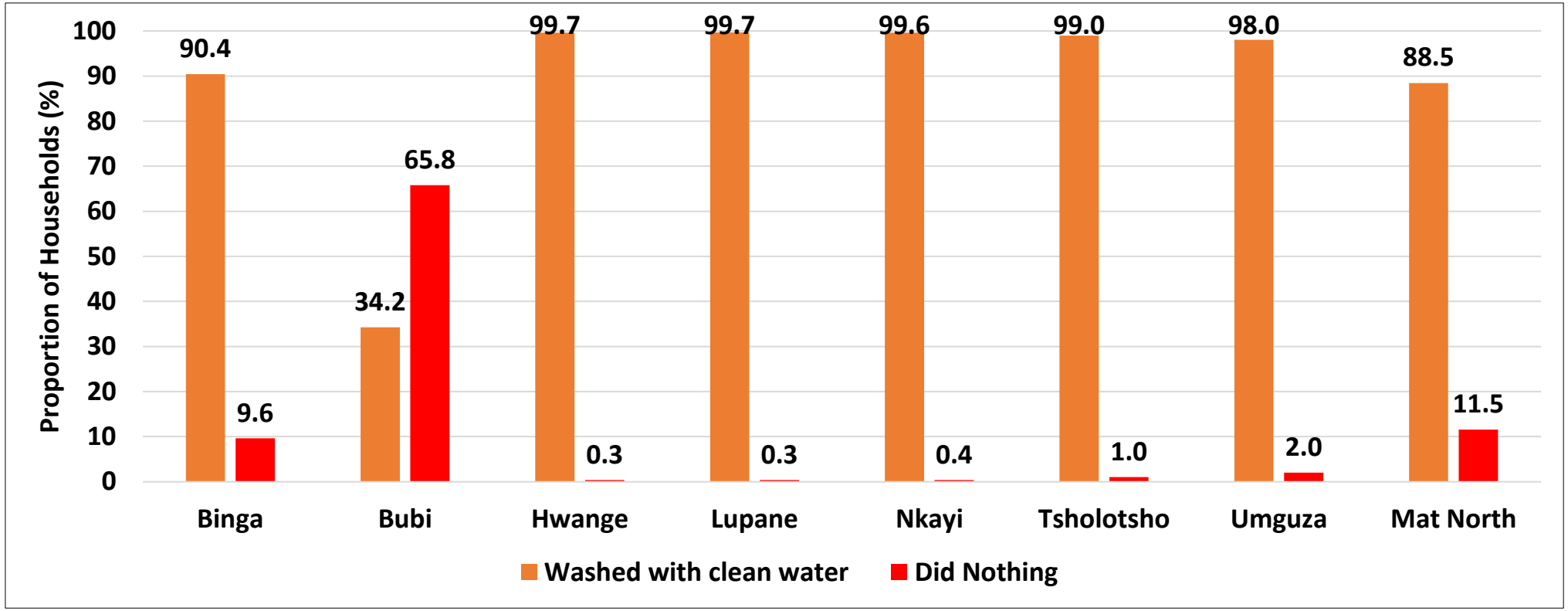
- About 23.2% of the households had heard about antimicrobial resistance.
- Lupane (16.5%) had the highest proportion of households which reported having consumed meat from livestock that had not completed the withdrawal period.

WHO Five Keys to Safer Food

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

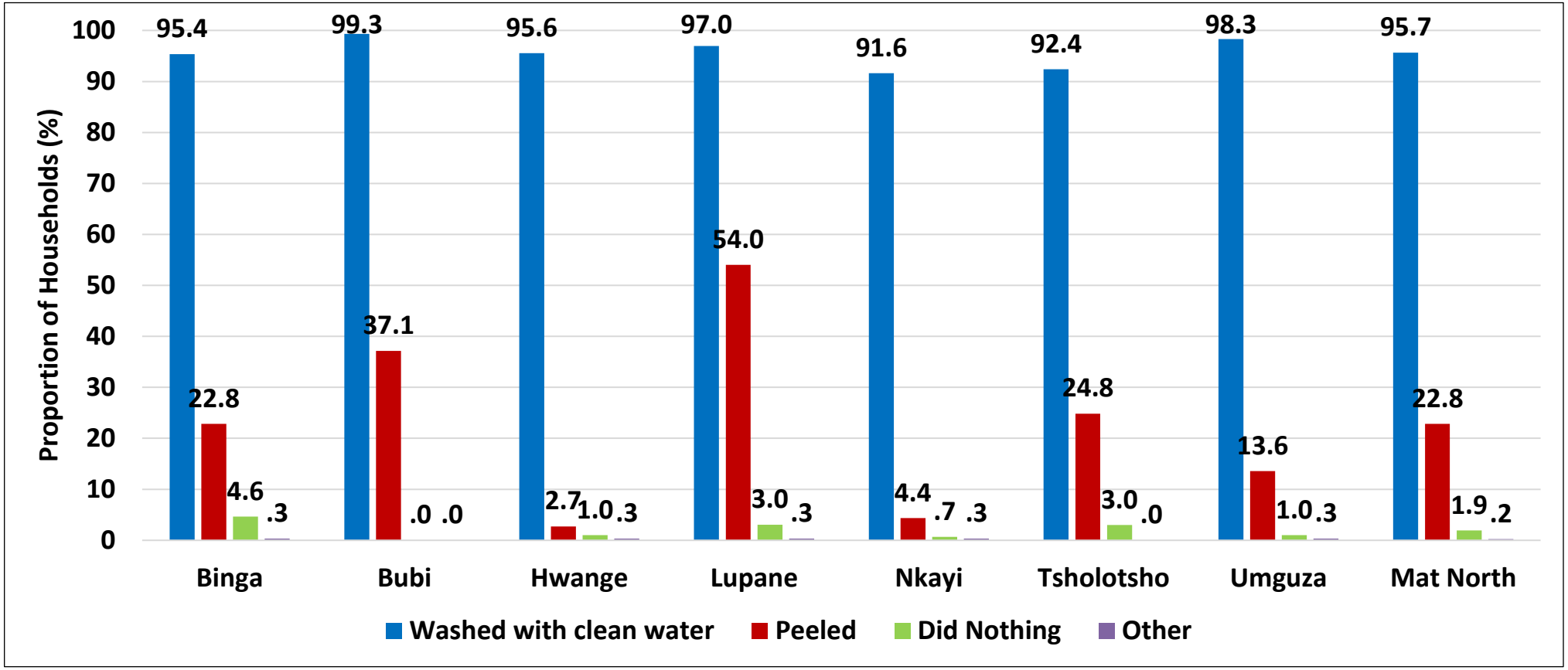
Five Keys	Key Steps
Keep clean	• **Wash hands before handling food** and often during food preparation • **Wash hands after going to the toilet** • Wash and sanitise all surfaces and equipment used for food preparation • Protect kitchen areas and food from insects, pests and other animals
Use safe water 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



- The majority of households (88.5%) washed meat and fish with clean water.
- About 65.8% of households in Bubi did not practice any food safety measures when handling meat and fish.

Safe Ways of Handling Fruits and Vegetables



- Most of the households (95.7%) washed fruits and vegetables with clean water before eating.

Safety of Food During Storage, Cooking and Serving

District	Used Clean and Fresh Utensils (%)	Kept Food at Correct Temperatures (%)	Kept Food Closed or Covered (%)	Separated Raw and Cooked Food (%)	Cooked Food Completely (%)	Other (%)
Binga	95.7	7.0	65.9	40.1	40.7	0.3
Bubi	78.6	25.1	69.6	64.5	21.1	0.0
Hwange	95.9	13.6	49.7	44.2	29.3	1.4
Lupane	96.0	25.2	39.6	46.3	35.9	0.0
Nkayi	90.9	48.0	63.8	62.4	48.0	0.3
Tsholotsho	80.5	37.7	59.6	39.7	8.3	0.0
Umguza	89.1	4.0	92.7	9.3	8.6	0.7
Mat North	**89.5**	**22.9**	**63.1**	**43.7**	**27.4**	**38.2**

- At least 89.5% of households used clean and fresh utensils and 63.1% kept food covered during storage, cooking and serving.

Most Common Food Items Purchased from Vendors

District	Cereals (Rice, Pasta, Mealie Meal, Traditional Grains) (%)	Biscuits, sweets and snacks (%)	Drinks (%)	Fruits and vegetables (%)	Meat and Meat Products (%)	Dairy Products (%)	Other (%)	Nothing (%)
Binga	58.6	14.9	11.9	29.8	10.9	2.6	7.9	21.5
Bubi	13.7	54.8	12.0	94.3	9.4	3.0	0	.3
Hwange	22.4	2.4	1.0	36.1	11.9	1.7	8.5	28.2
Lupane	36.9	35.6	39.3	49.0	9.4	1.7	1.3	12.8
Nkayi	33.6	19.1	25.8	38.9	10.4	8.4	2.0	34.2
Tsholotsho	27.8	38.4	32.8	66.6	10.9	3.3	.3	2.0
Umguza	31.8	14.6	12.3	53.0	16.2	3.6	8.9	20.9
Mat North	**58.6**	**14.9**	**11.9**	**29.8**	**10.9**	**2.6**	**7.9**	**21.5**

- Cereals (58.6%) and fruits and vegetables (29.8%) were the most common food items purchased from vendors.
- About 10.9% of the households reported that they bought meat and meat products from vendors.

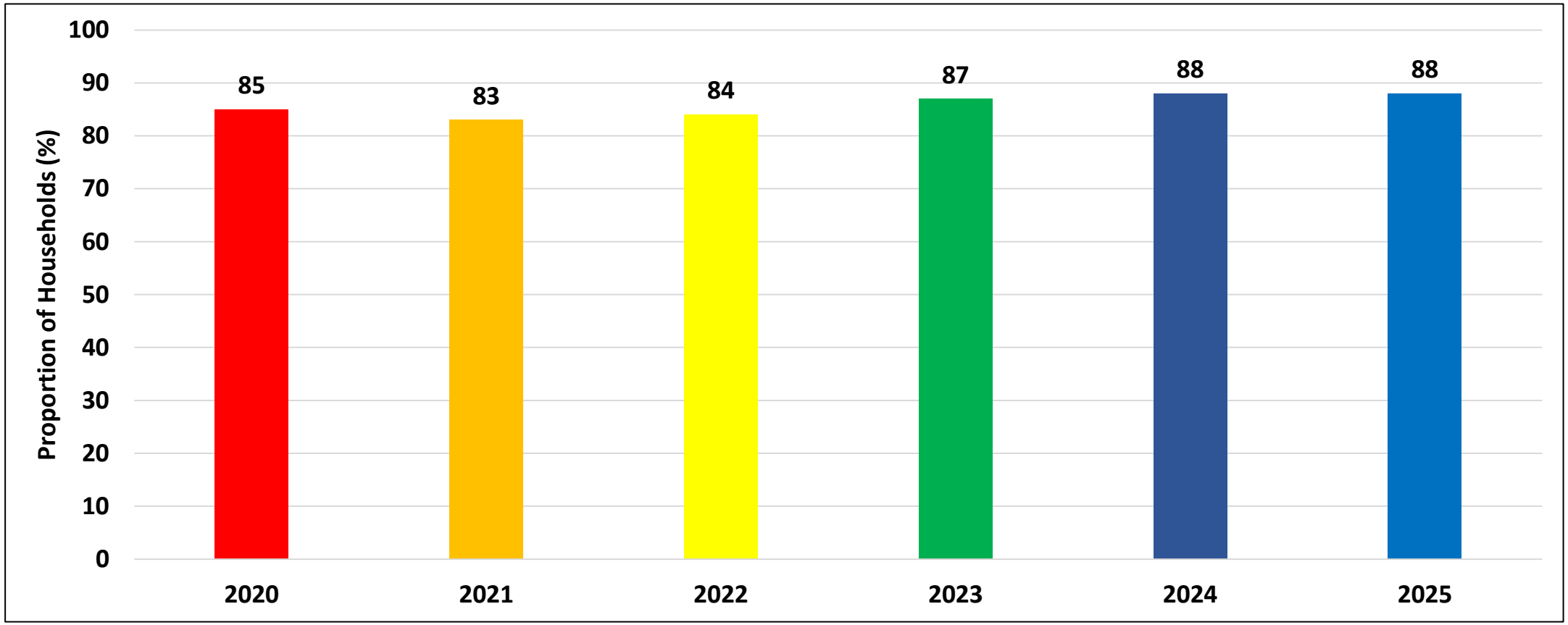
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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 increased from 85% in 2020 to 88% in 2025.
- This is a reflection of the country's progress towards achieving SDG 6 which is fundamental for human health, economic development and environmental sustainability.

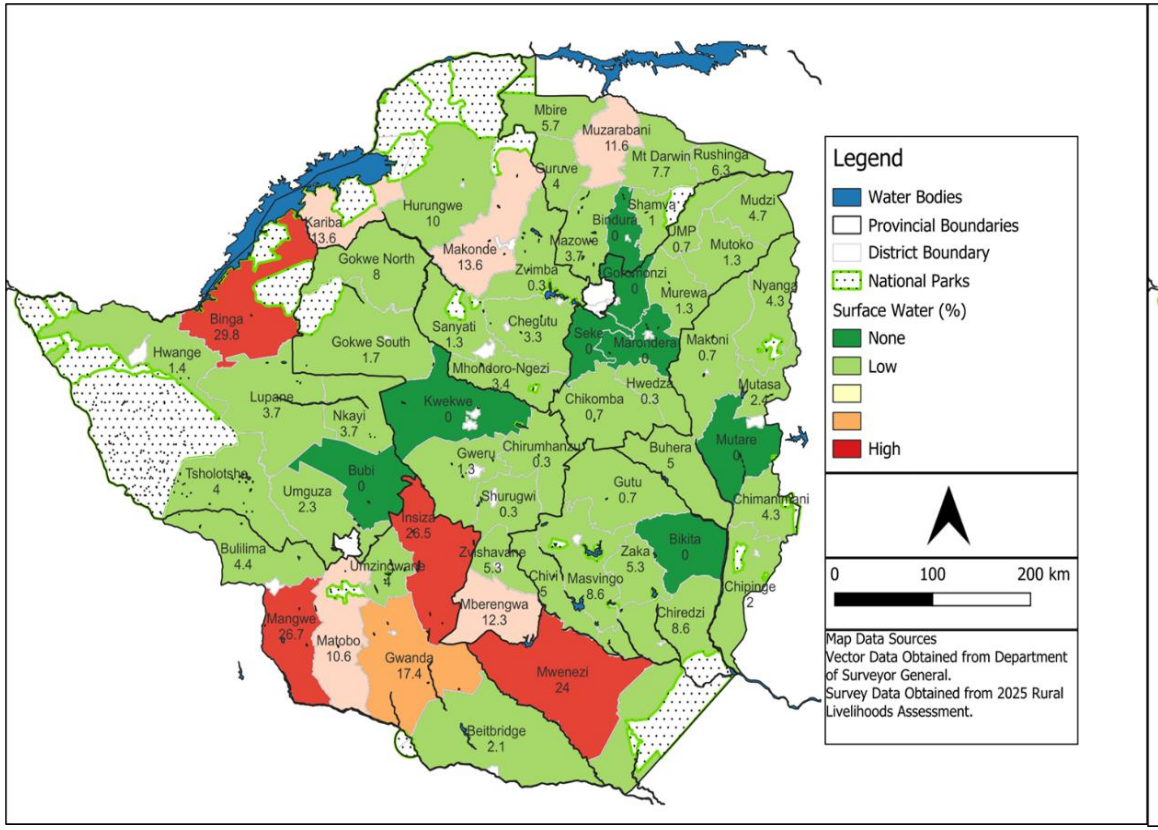
Main Drinking Water Sources

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 (%)
Binga	0.0	0.3	23.8	0.3	37.4	0.3	3.3	0.0	4.3	29.8
Bubi	3.7	2.7	29.9	4.7	52.0	6.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hwange	4.4	2.7	12.3	2.0	72.4	1.4	2.4	0.0	0.7	1.4
Lupane	2.7	1.7	22.5	0.7	35.6	25.2	8.1	0.0	0.0	3.7
Nkayi	1.0	0.3	13.4	1.0	48.7	19.8	8.4	0.7	2.7	3.7
Tsholotsho	2.0	2.0	7.4	3.7	80.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	4.0
Umguza	2.3	15.2	25.8	13.9	28.5	3.3	2.6	0.0	0.0	2.3
Mat North	2.3	3.6	19.3	3.8	**50.6**	8.1	3.6	0.1	1.1	6.5

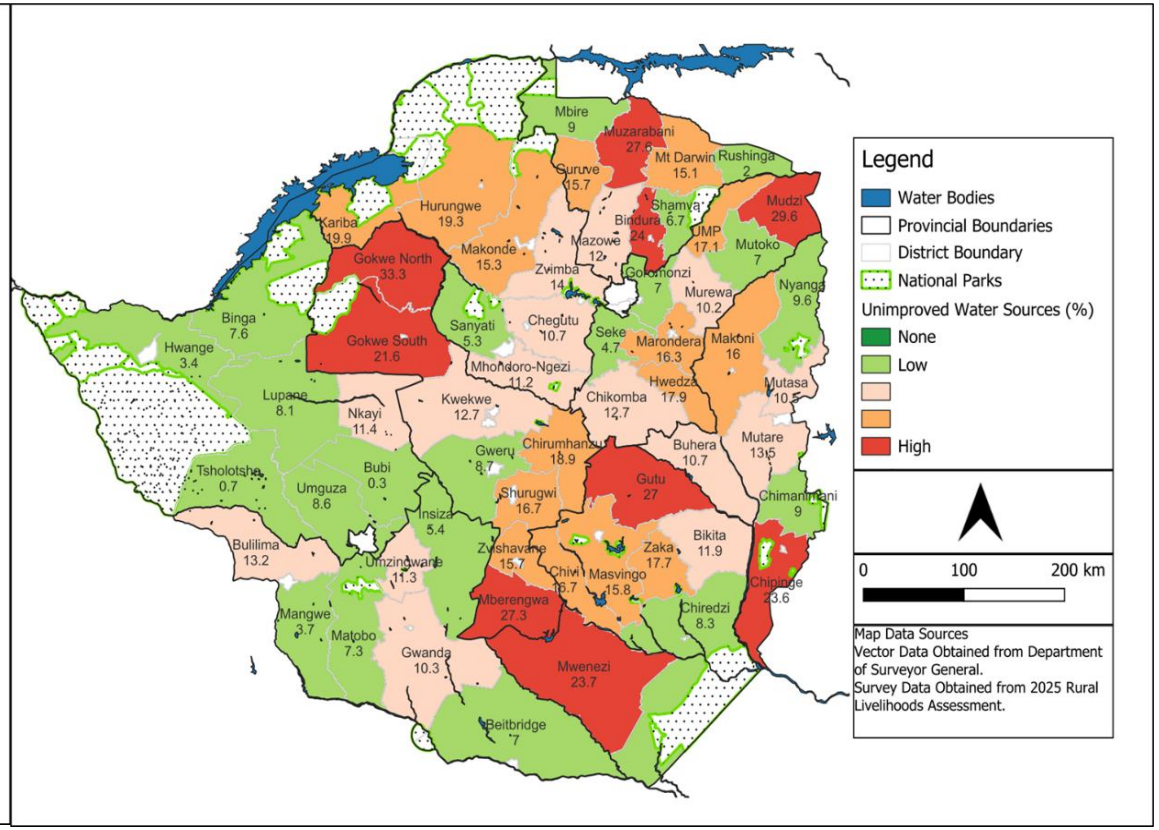
- The majority of households (50.6%) accessed water from boreholes/tube wells.
- Binga (29.8%) had the highest proportion of households that were using surface water for drinking purposes.

Water Services

Households Drinking Surface Water

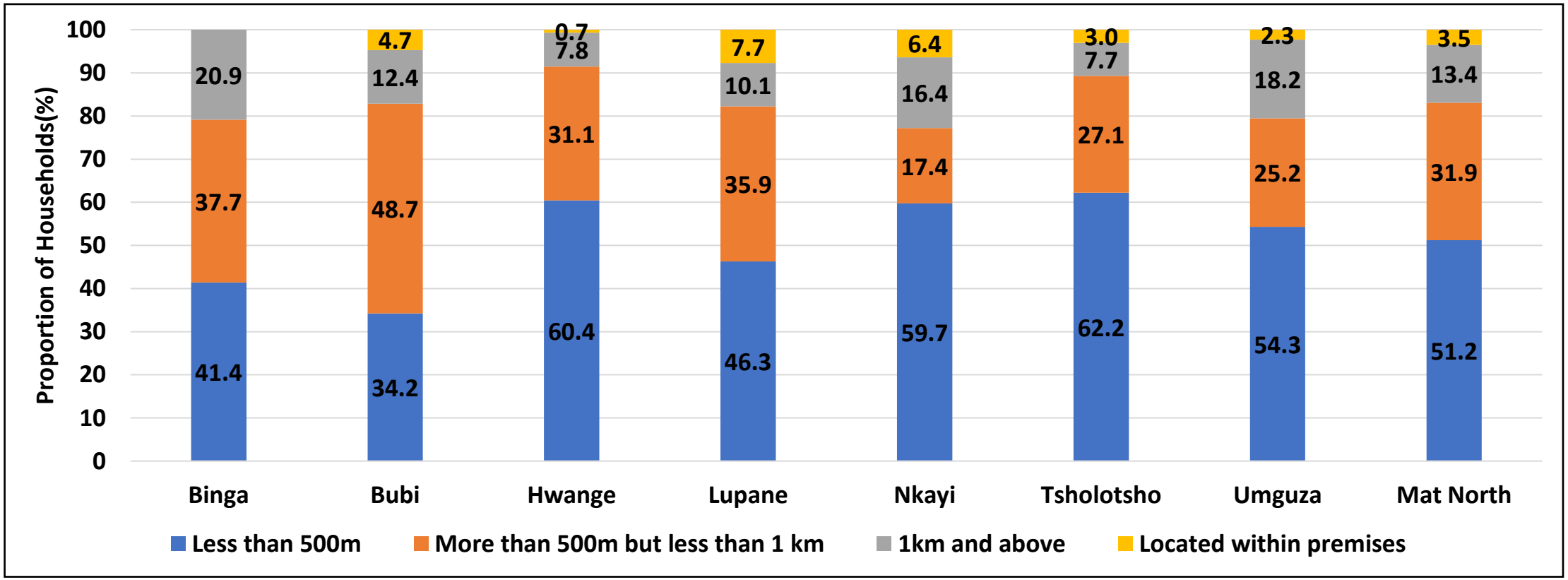


Households Using Unimproved Water



- Binga (29.8%) had the highest proportion of households which were drinking surface water.
- Umguza (8.6%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water services.

Distance Travelled to and from Main Drinking Water Source



- The majority of households (51.2%) travelled less than 1km to the main drinking water source.
- Binga (20.9%) had the highest proportion of households which travelled more than 1km to and from their main drinking water source.

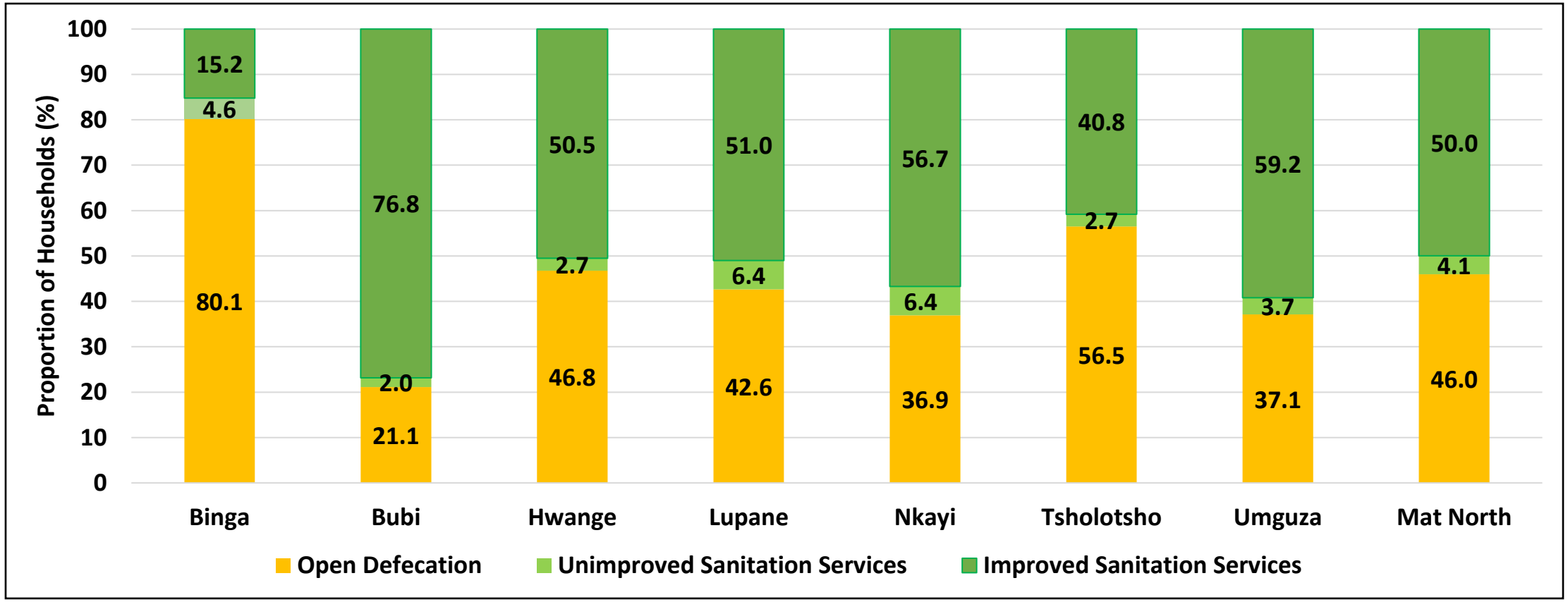
Sanitation

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.

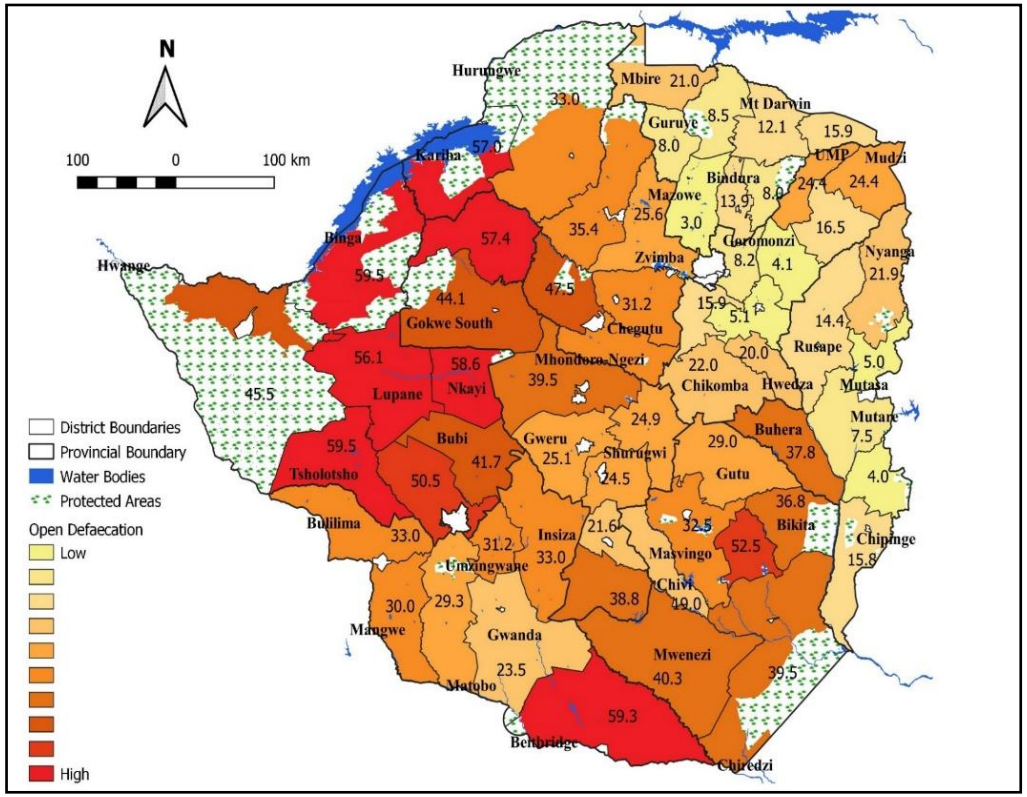
Access to Improved Sanitation



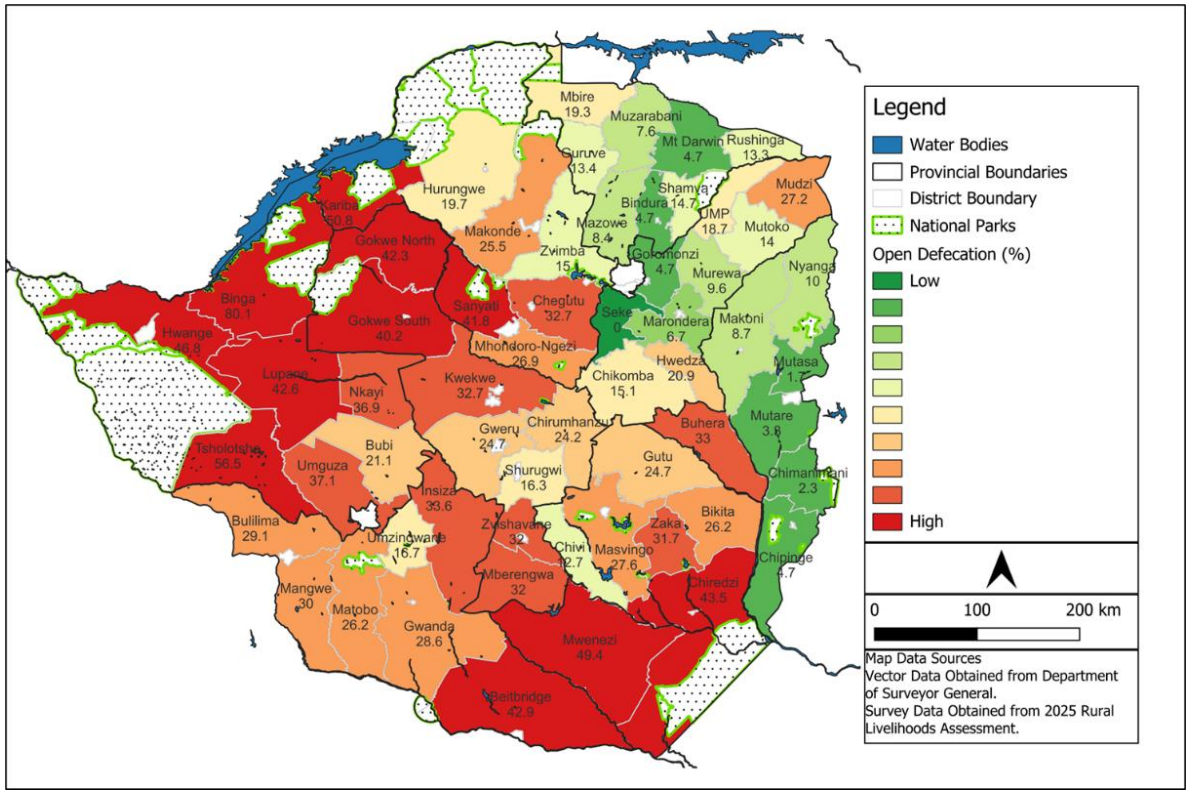
- About 50% of the households had access to improved sanitation.
- Binga (80.1%) had the highest proportion of households that practised open defecation.

Open Defecation By District

2020



2025



- Binga (80.1%) and Tsholotsho (56.5%) had the highest proportion of households which practised open defaecation.

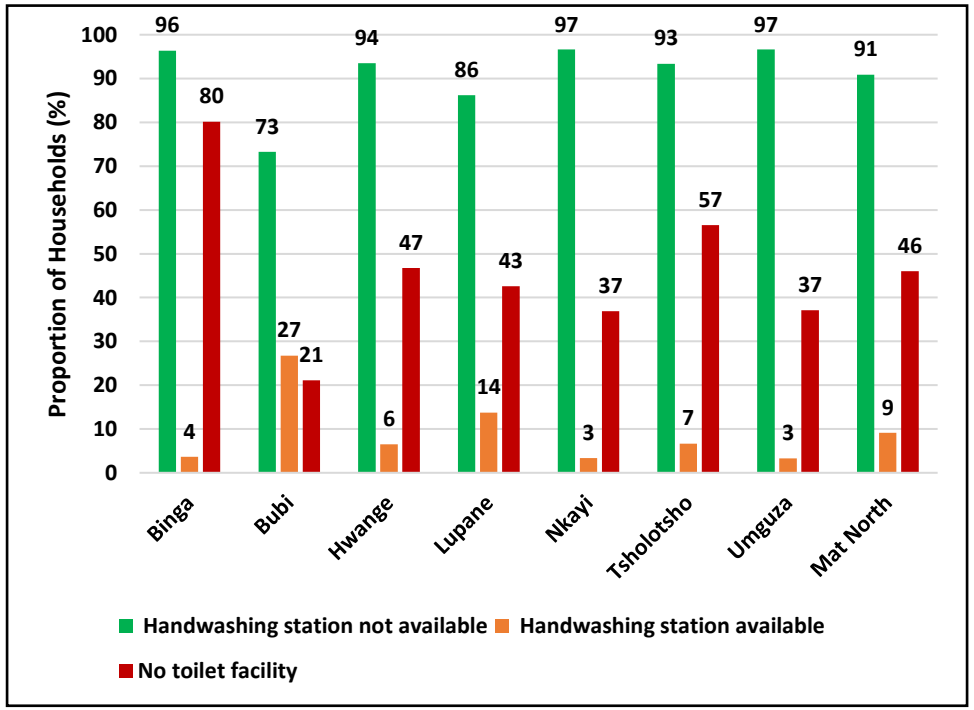
Ladder for Hygiene

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. Access to Handwashing Services
No Facility	No hand washing facility on premises.

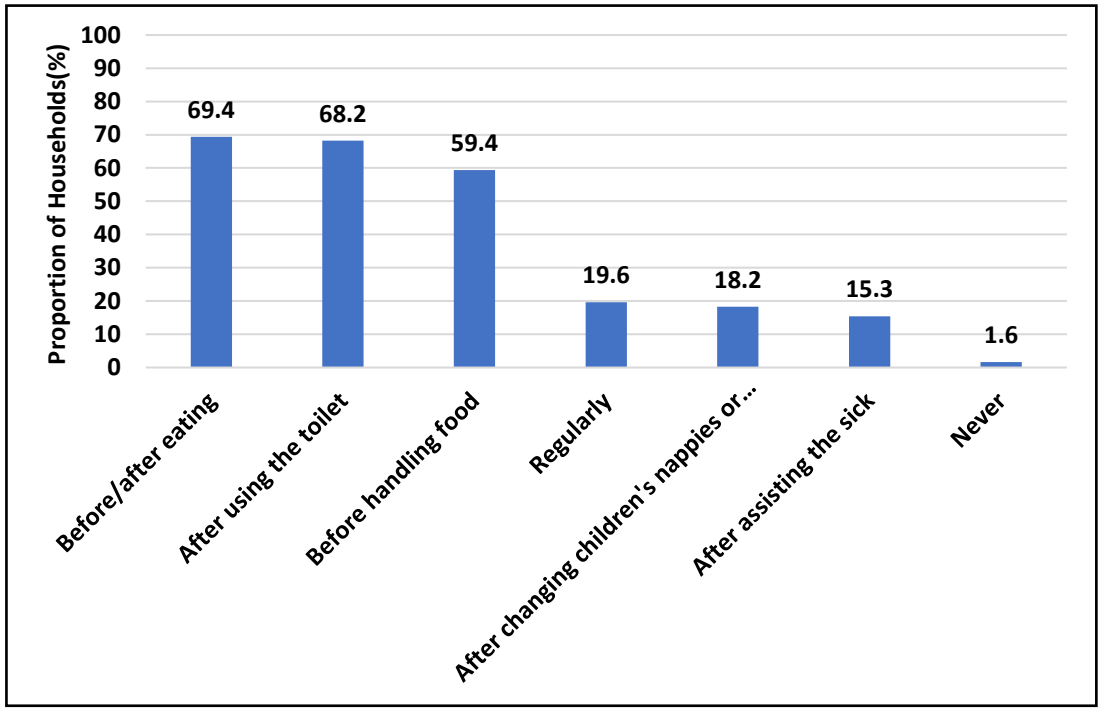
Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

Handwashing

Handwashing Facilities



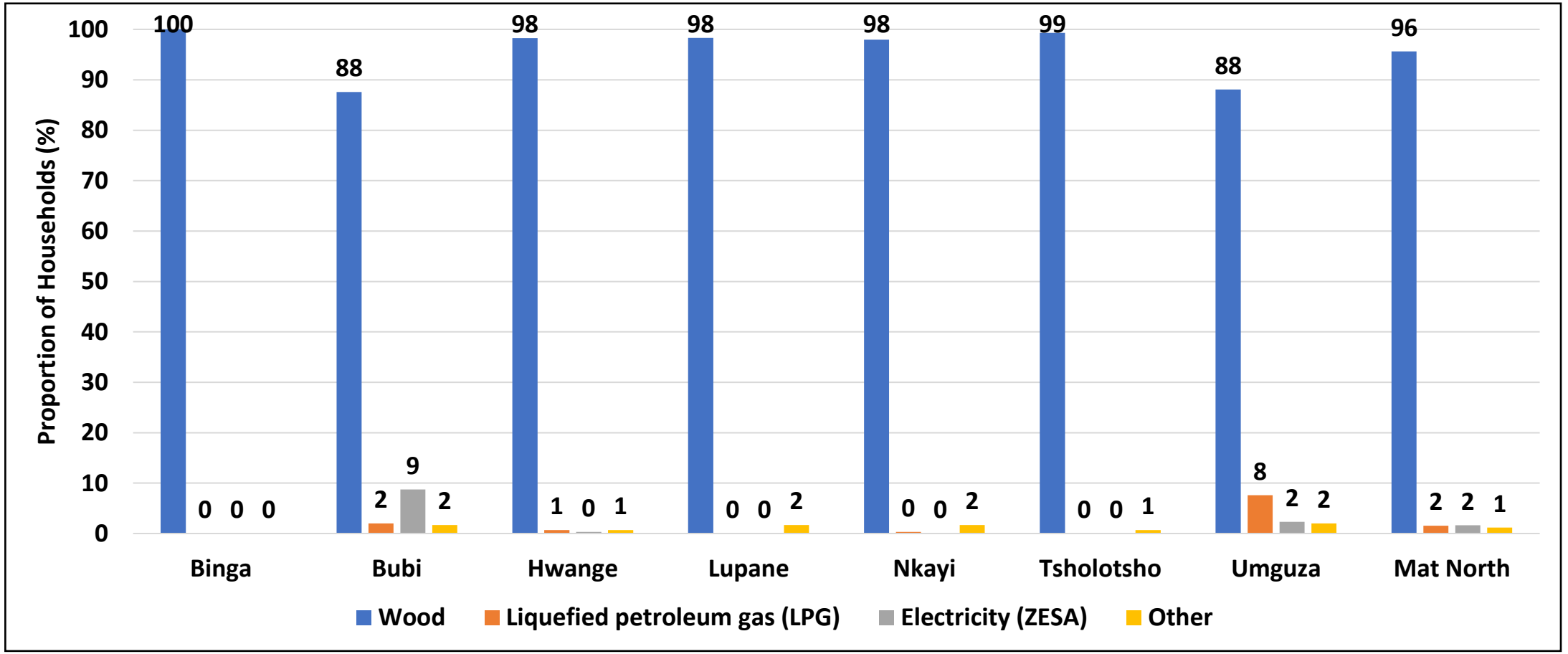
Handwashing at Critical Times



- The proportion of households without hand washing facilitates was (90.9%).
- The majority of households reported that they were washing hands before and after eating (69.4%) as well as after using the toilet (68.2%).

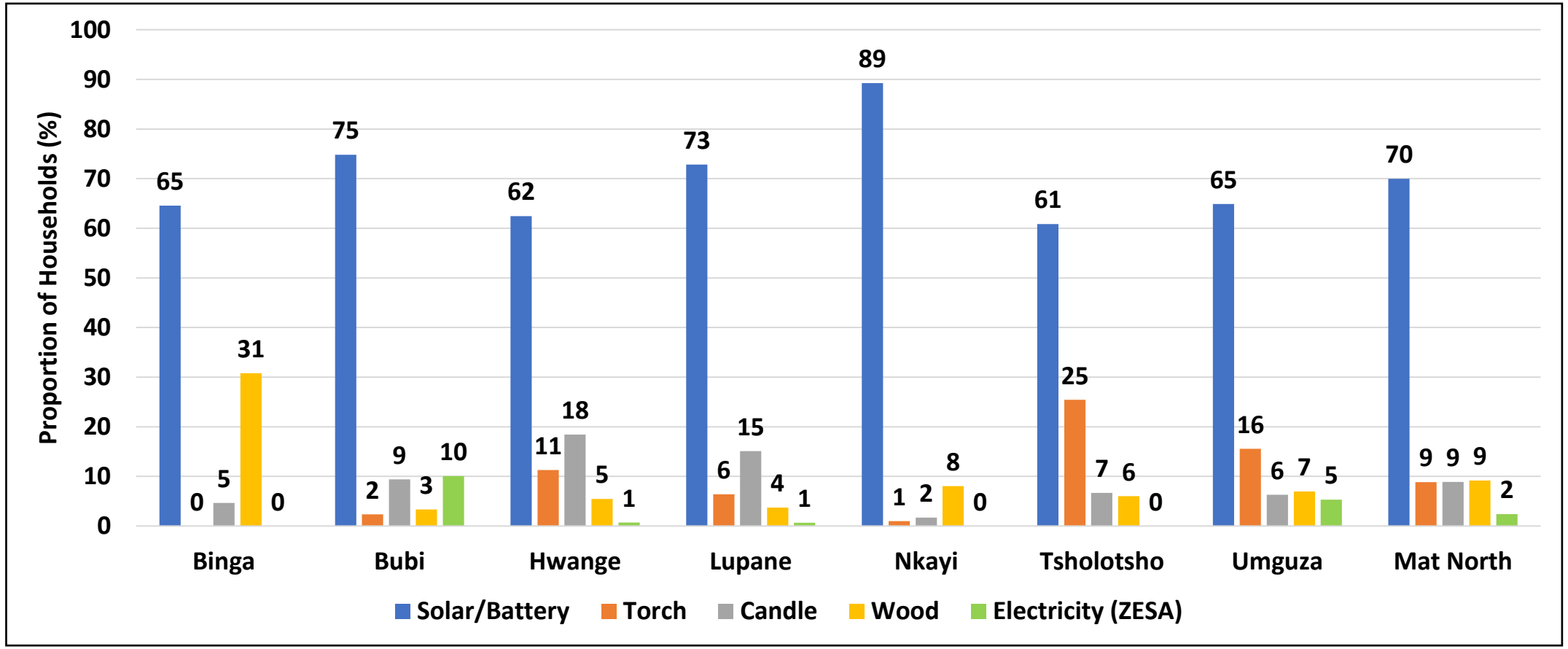
Energy

Type of Energy Used for Cooking



- Wood (96%) was the most reported type of energy used for cooking.
- The unsustainable consumption of firewood contributes significantly to deforestation.

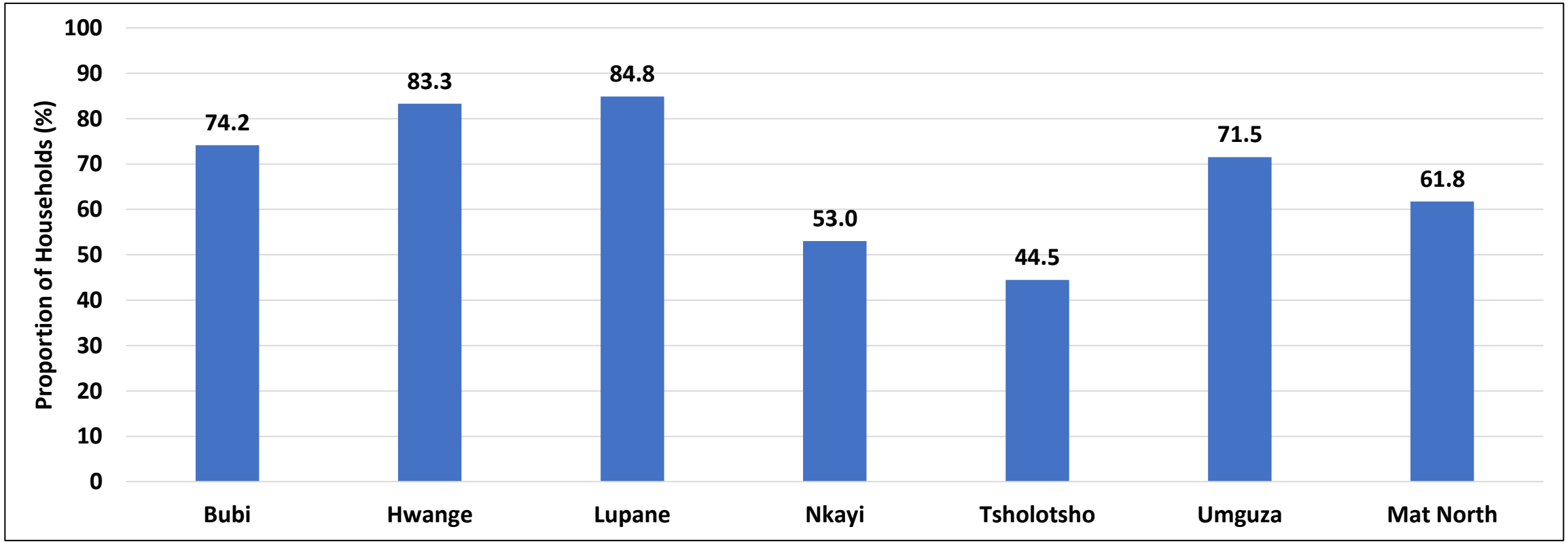
Type of Energy Used for Lighting



- Solar or battery (70.0%) was the most reported type of energy used for lighting.

Climate Change

Household Knowledge on Climate Change



- The proportion of households which reported having knowledge on climate change was 61.8%.
- Lupane (84.8%) had the highest proportion of households with knowledge on climate change while Tsholotsho (44.5%) had the lowest.

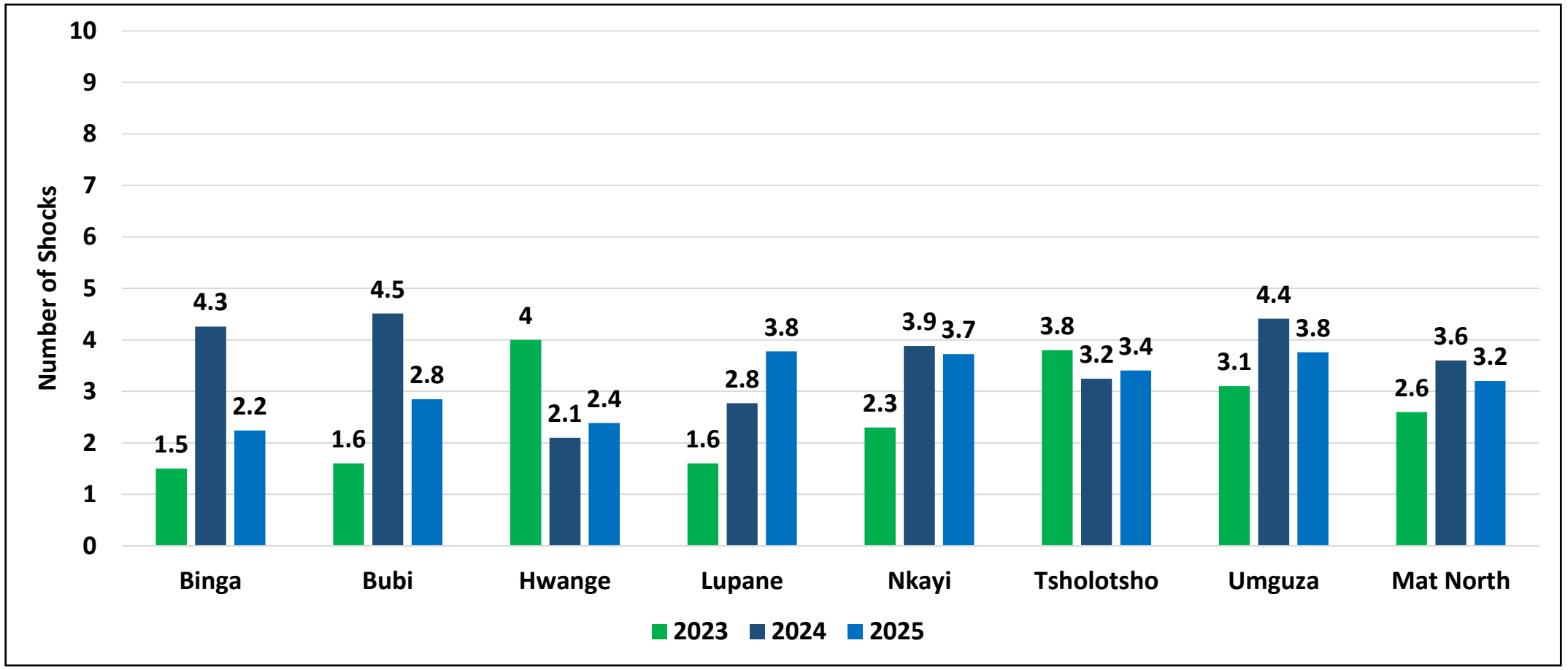
Perceived Effects of Climate Change

District	Not enough food (%)	Increased droughts (%)	More health risks (%)	Extreme temperatures (%)	Severe storms (%)	Loss of species (%)	Poverty and displacement (%)
Binga	20.5	1.0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Bubi	52.5	6.7	0.3	13.7	0.3	0	0.3
Hwange	43.9	18.4	2.7	1.7	0	0	16.3
Lupane	51.7	19.1	4.7	4.4	0	1.3	3.4
Nkayi	45.3	4.7	0.3	1.3	0	0	1.3
Tsholotsho	32.1	6.6	1.0	2.3	0.7	0.7	0.7
Umguza	49.0	18.5	0.7	2.3	0	0	1.0
Mat North	**42.1**	**10.7**	**1.4**	**3.7**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**3.3**

- Not enough food (42.1%) and increased droughts (10.7%) were the most reported perceived effects of climate change.

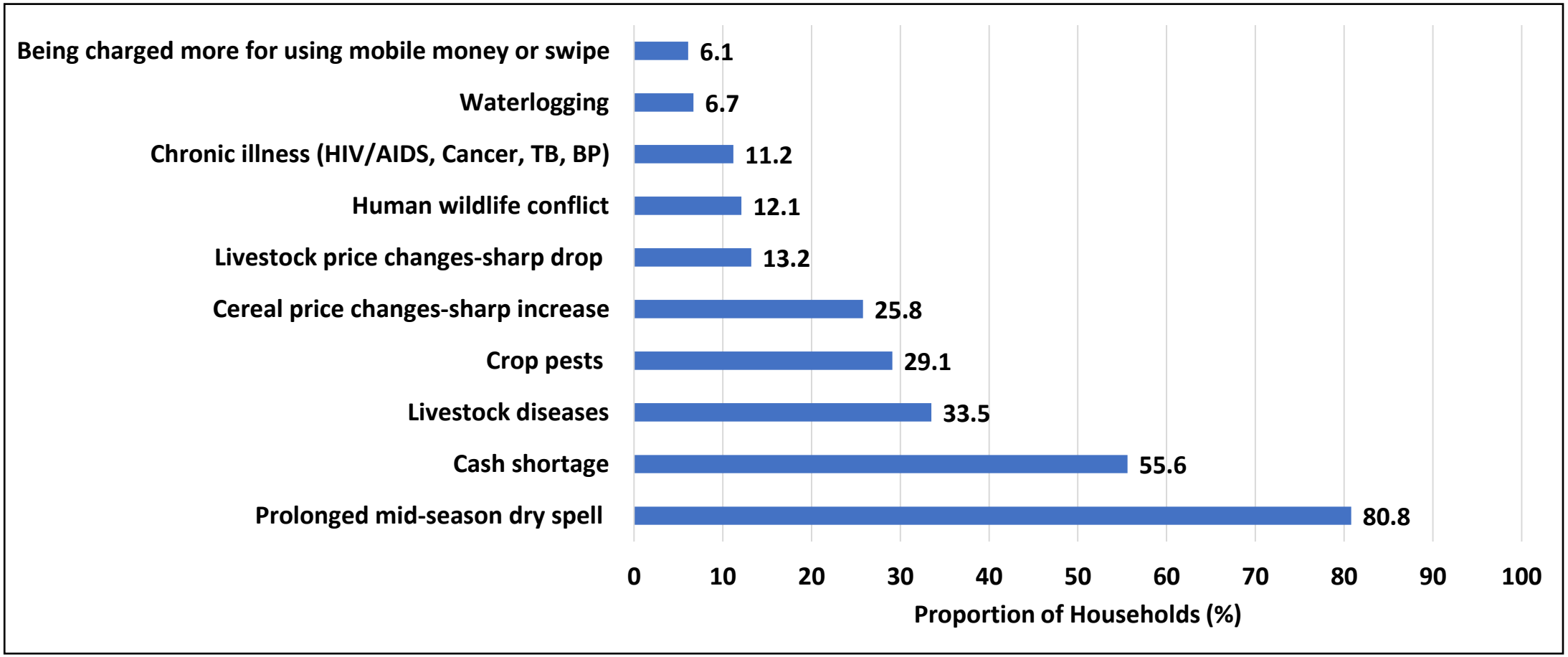
Shocks and Stressors

Number of Shocks and Stressors Experienced



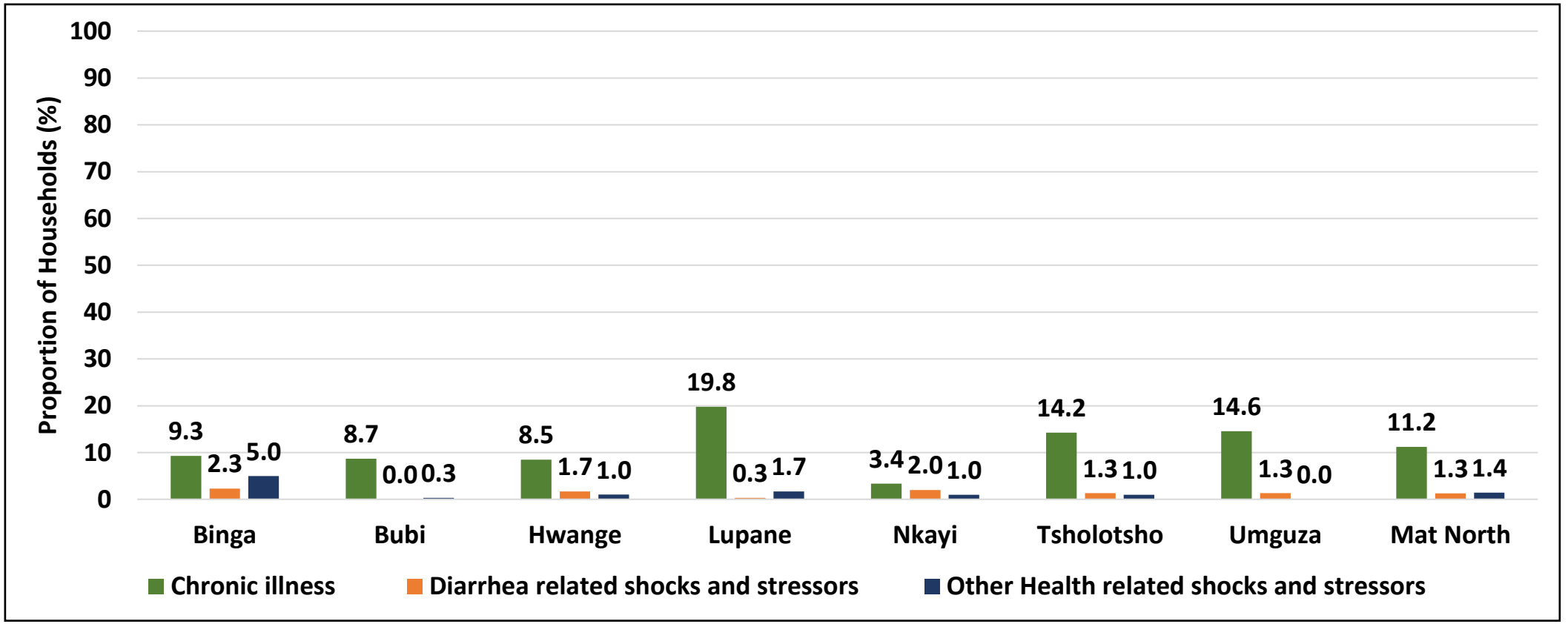
- The average number of shocks experienced by households was 3.2.

Shocks and Stressors Experienced by Households



- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (80.8%) and cash shortage (55.6%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by the households.

Health Related Shocks and Stressors



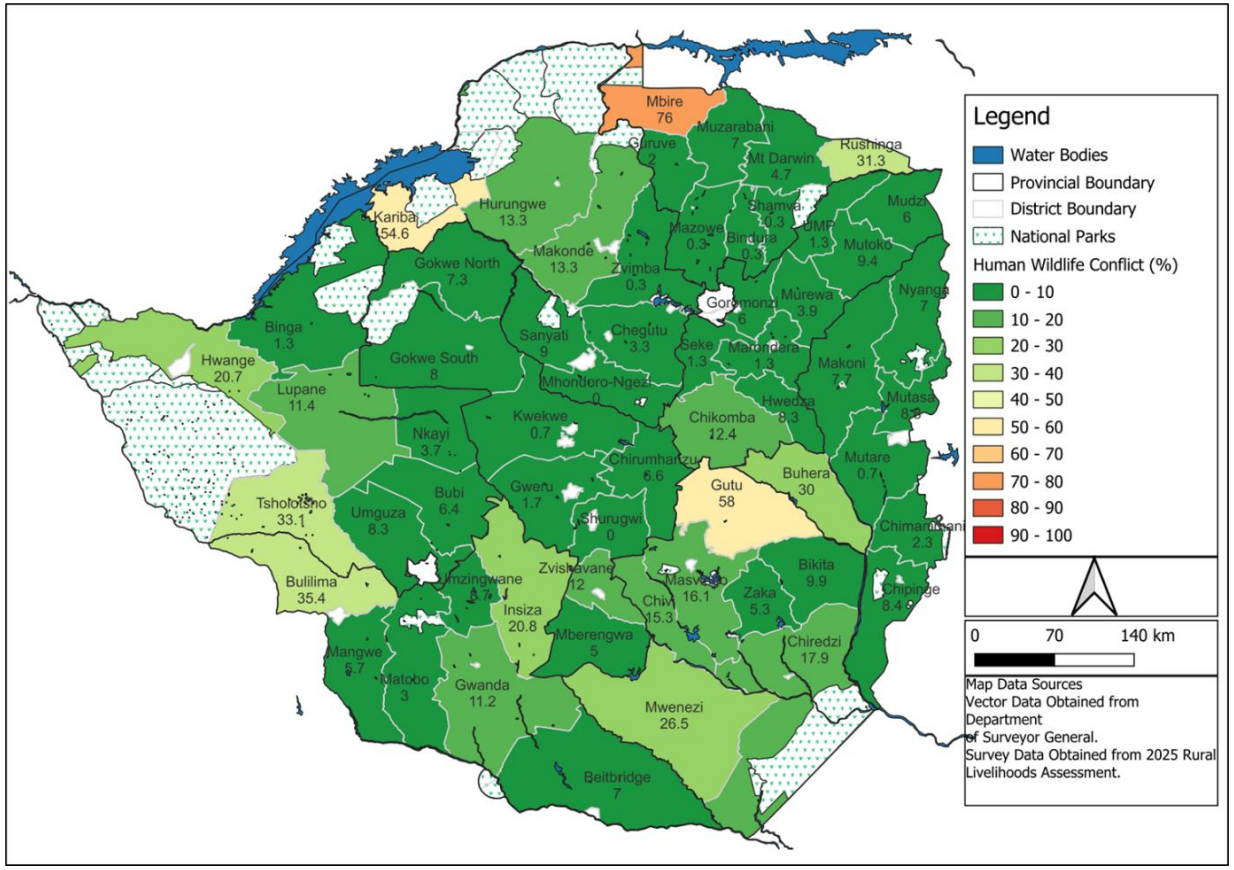
- Chronic illness (11.2%) was the most reported health shock.
- Lupane (19.8%) has the highest proportion of households which reported chronic illness as a shock.

Economic Related Social Shocks and Stressors

Shock and Stressor Type	Binga (%)	Bubi (%)	Hwange (%)	Lupane (%)	Nkayi (%)	Tsholotsho (%)	Umguza (%)	Mat North (%)
Cash shortage	55.3	87.6	25.9	39.3	60.7	45.7	73.8	**55.6**
Livestock diseases	32.1	18.7	25.2	48.0	37.9	43.4	29.1	**33.5**
Crop pests	6.3	12.7	32.0	40.6	50.3	18.5	43.4	**29.1**
Cereal price changes-sharp increase	1.3	14.4	4.1	29.5	53.7	33.1	44	**25.8**
Livestock price changes-sharp drop	0	10.7	3.4	21.5	27.2	8.9	20.5	**13.2**
Being charged more for using mobile money or swipe	2.0	6.7	2.4	5.4	7.0	1.7	17.2	**6.1**
Drug and substance abuse	1.0	1.7	1.0	1.7	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.0

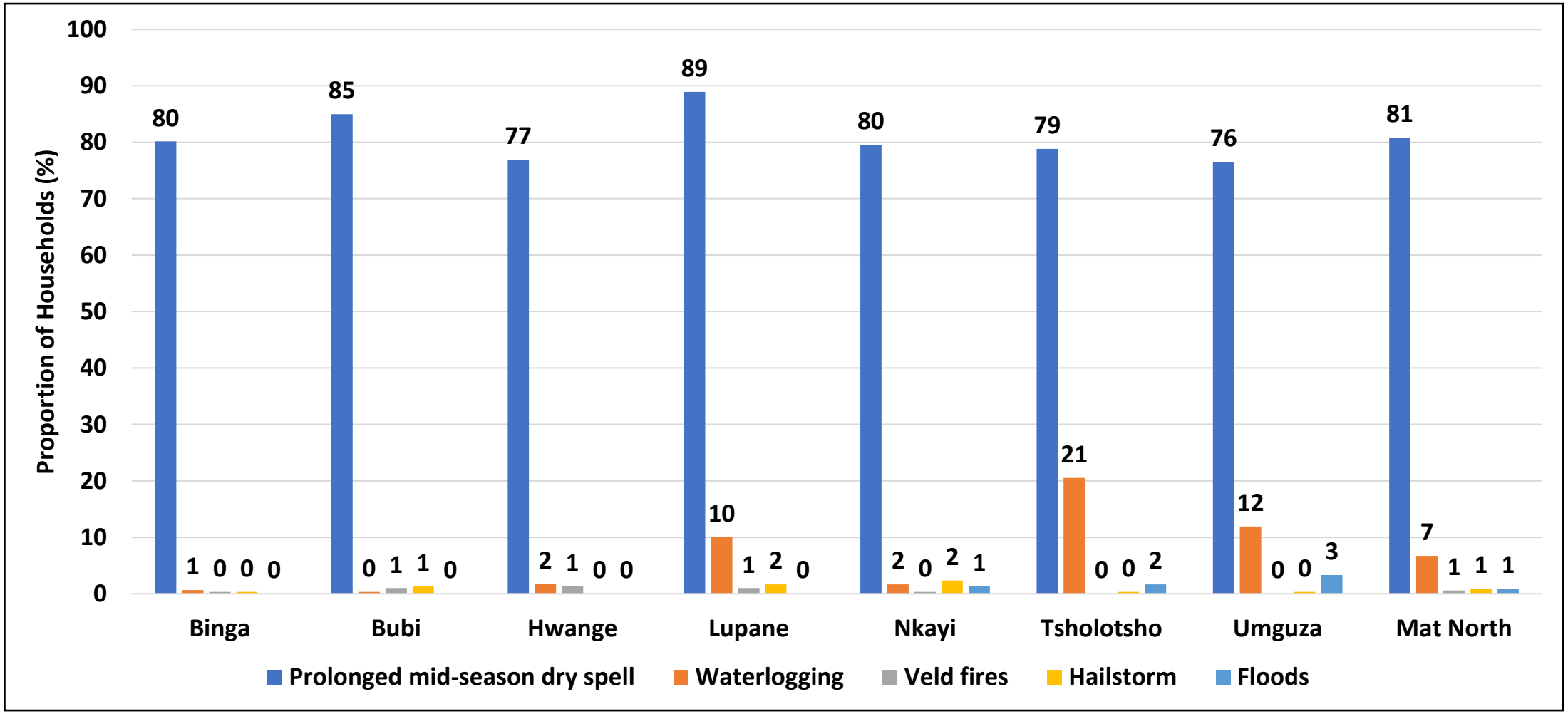
- Cash shortage (55.6%) and livestock diseases (33.5%) were the most reported economic and social shocks and stressors.

Human Wildlife Conflict



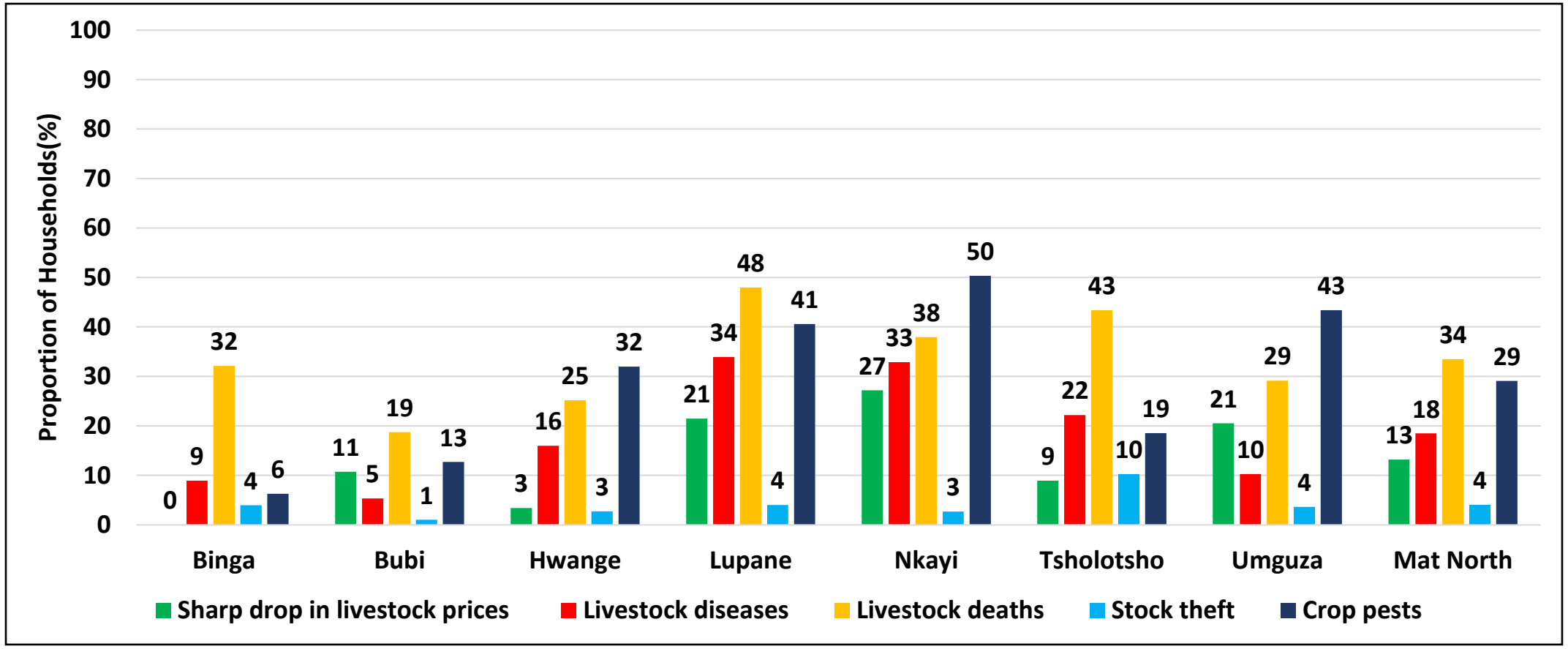
- The highest proportion of households which reported human wildlife conflict as a shock were in Tsholotsho (33.1%) and Hwange (20.7%).

Climate Related Shocks and Stressors



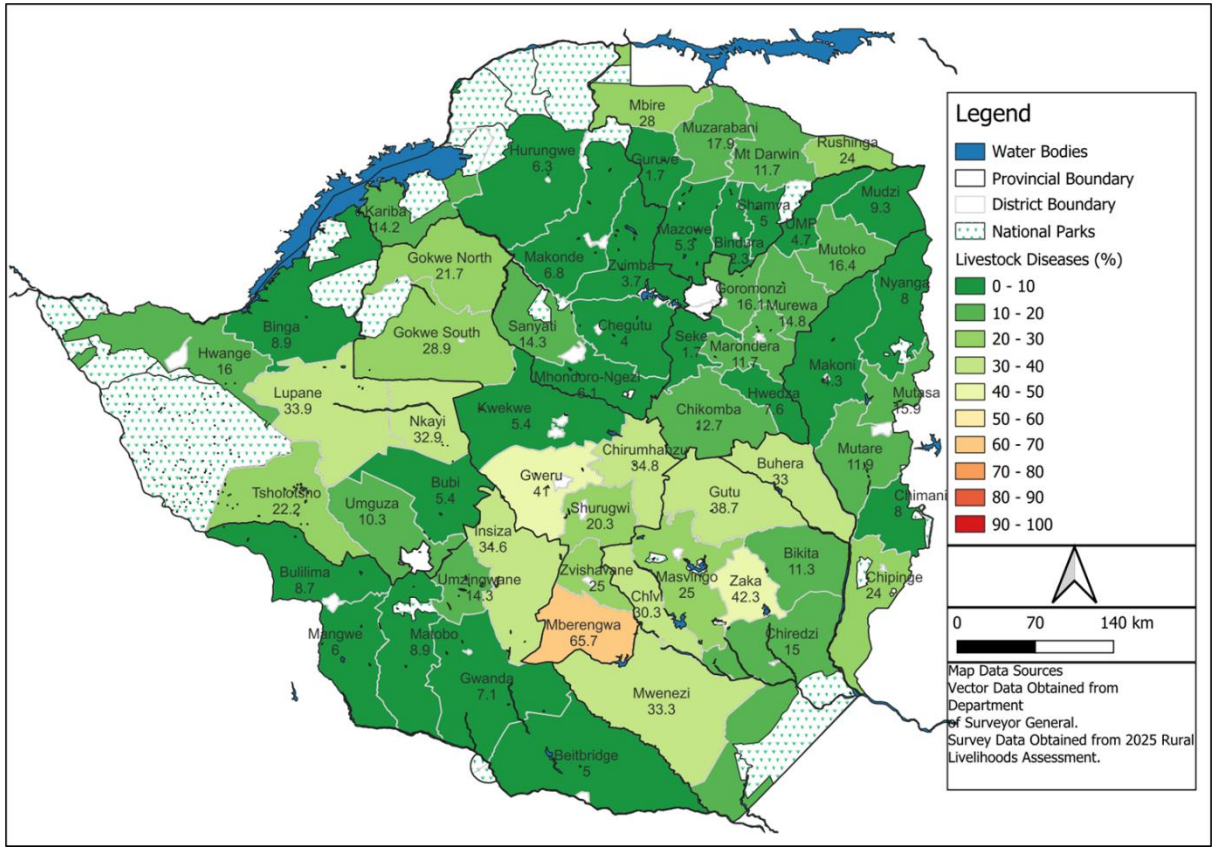
- Prolonged mid-season dry spells (81%) were the most reported climate related shocks.

Agriculture Related Shocks and Stressors



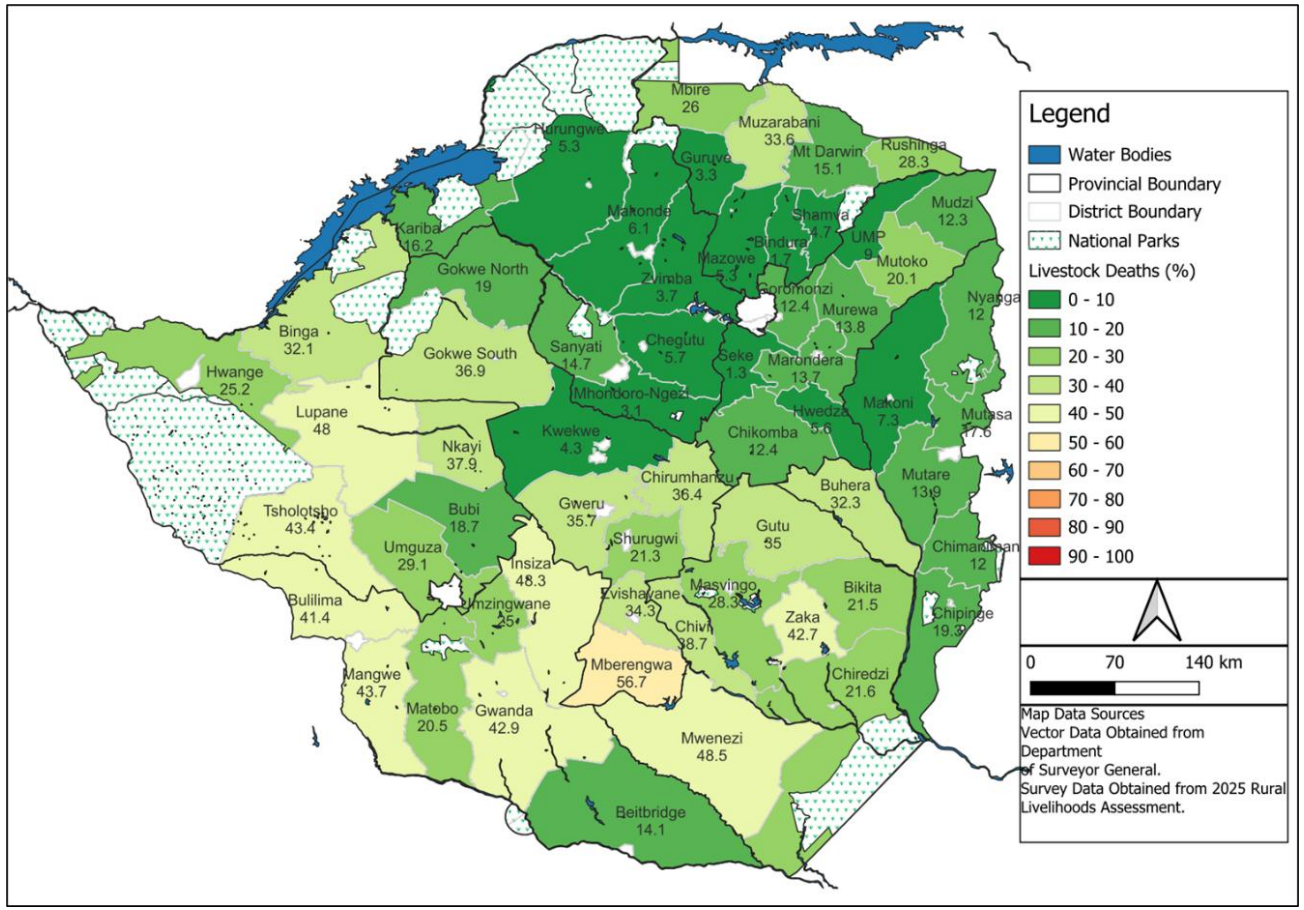
- Livestock deaths (34%) was the most reported agriculture related shock followed by crop pests (29%).

Livestock Diseases



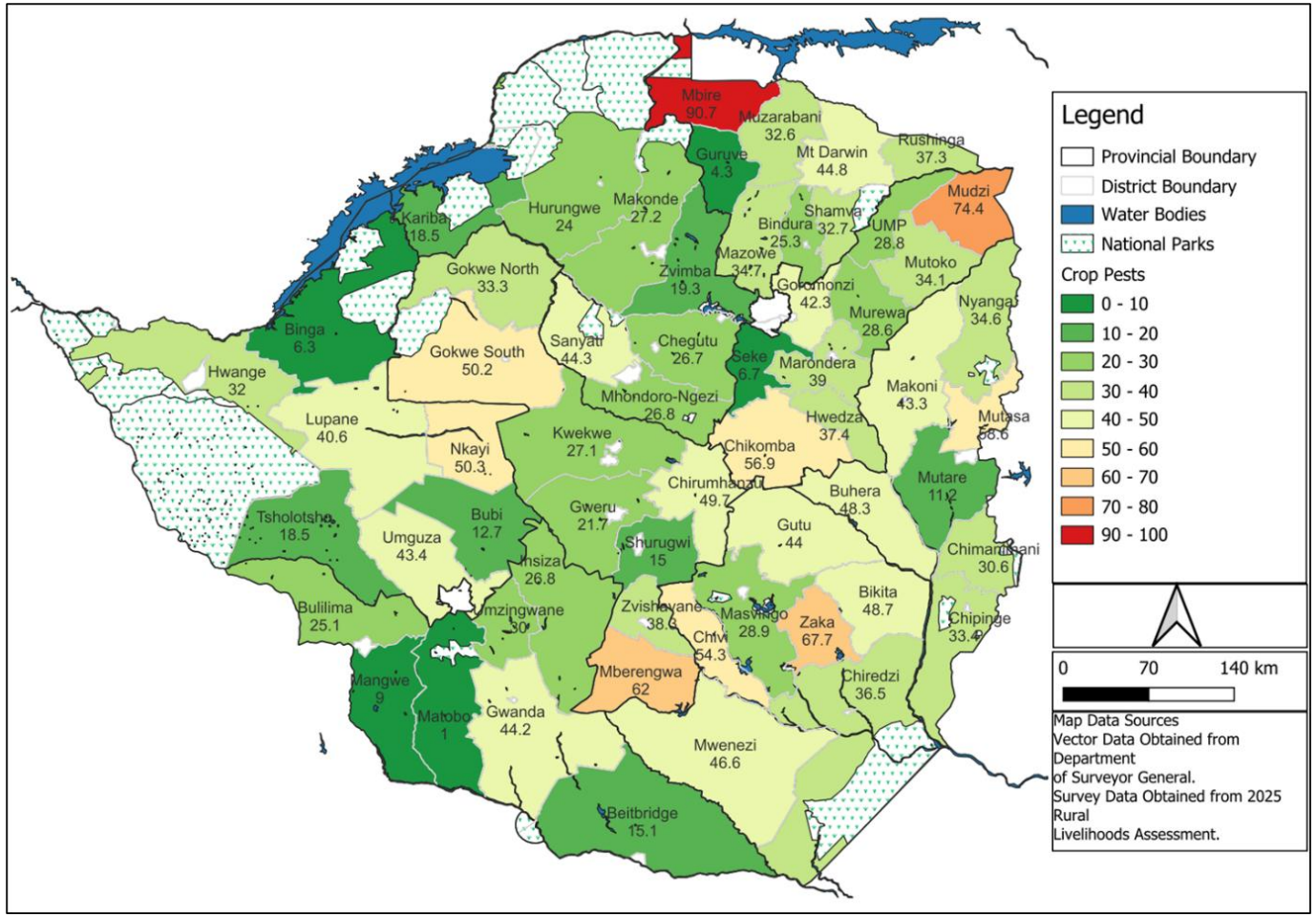
- The highest proportion of households which reported livestock diseases as a shock were in Lupane (33.9%), Nkayi (32.9%) and Tsholotsho (22.2%).

Livestock Deaths



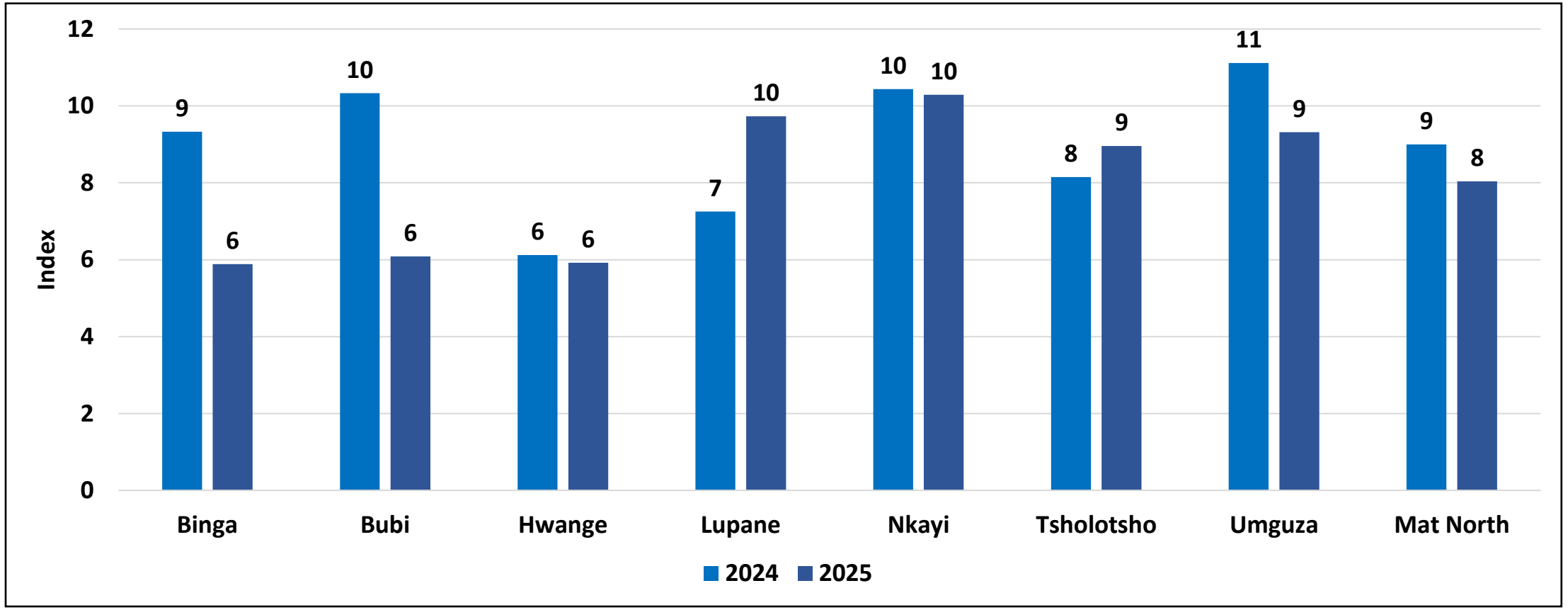
- Lupane (48%) and Tsholotsho (43.4%) had the highest proportion of households reporting livestock deaths as a shock and stressor.

Crop Pests



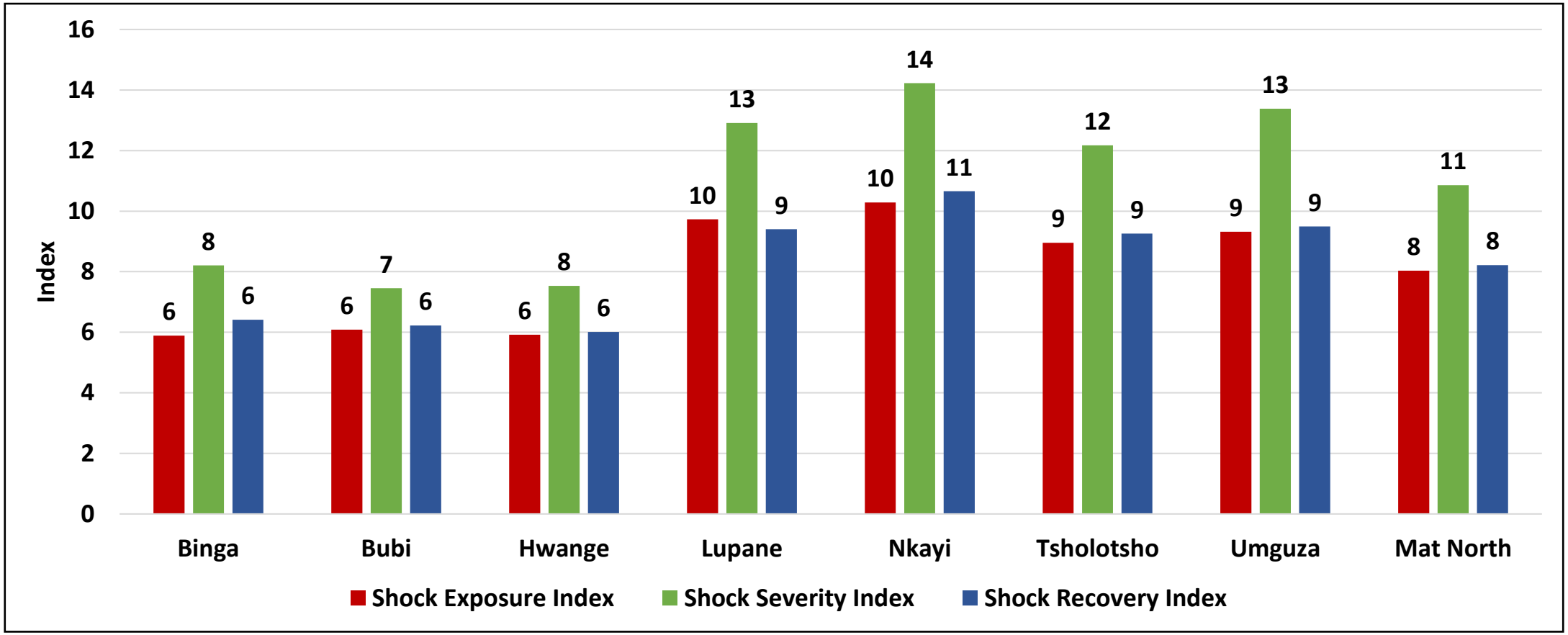
- The highest proportion of households which reported crop pests as a shock were in Nkayi (50.3%) and Umguza (43.4%).

Average Shock Exposure Index



- Shock exposure index was calculated by multiplying the number of shocks experienced with impact severity of the shock to the household.
- There was a significant decrease in the shock exposure index for Bubi and Binga as compared to 2024.

Comparison Between Shock Exposure and Ability to Cope Indices

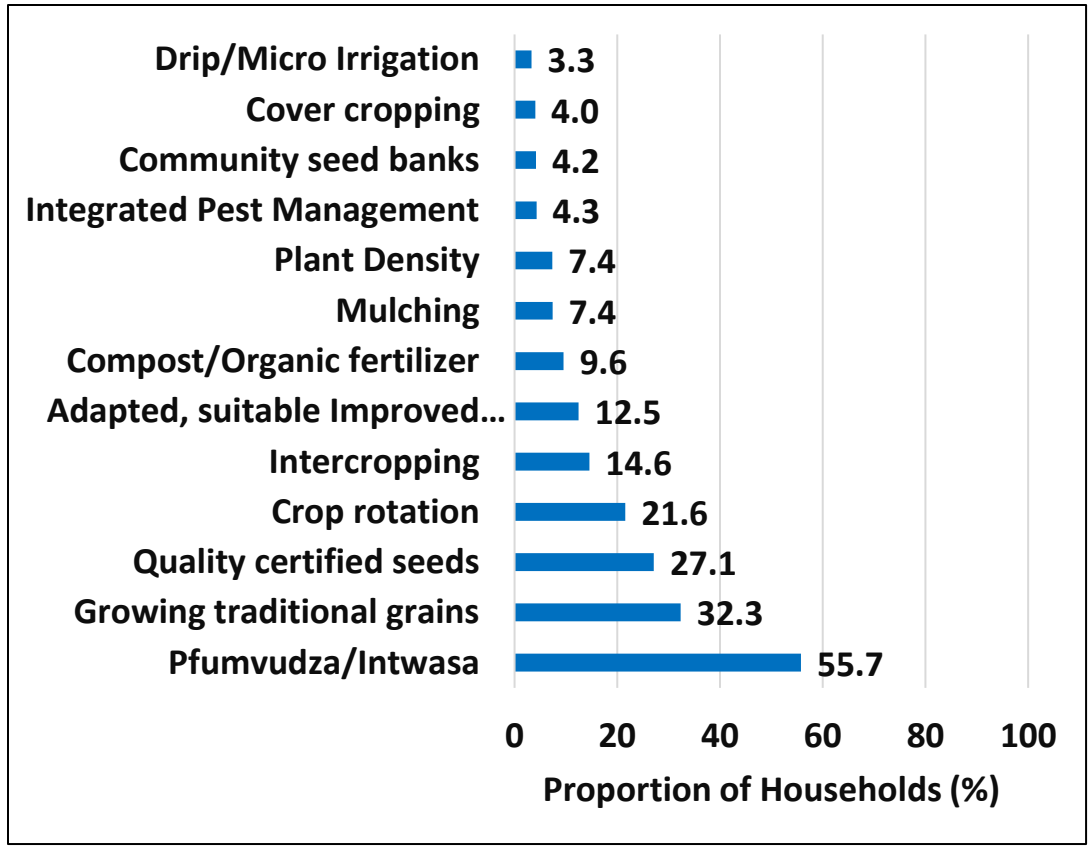


- The average Shock Exposure Index was 8 .
- Shock severity Index was 11.
- Average Shock Recovery Index was 8.

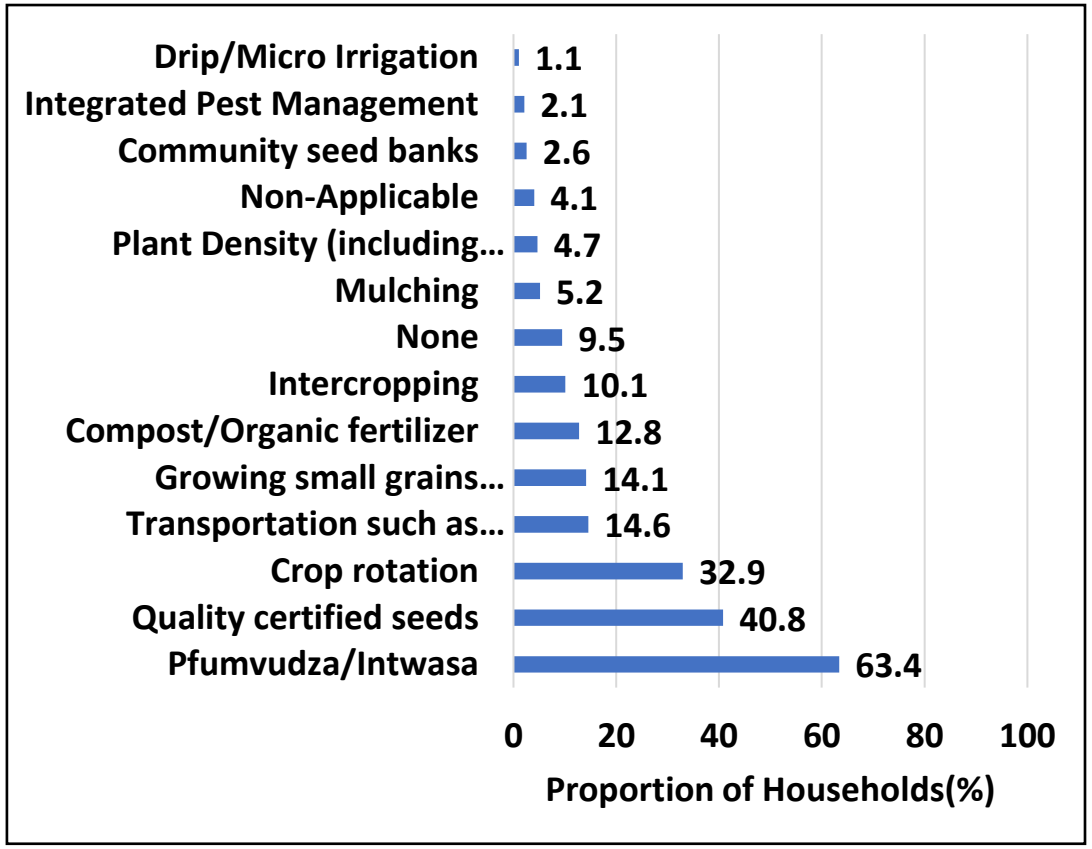
Agricultural Production Technologies

Climate Smart Technologies

2024

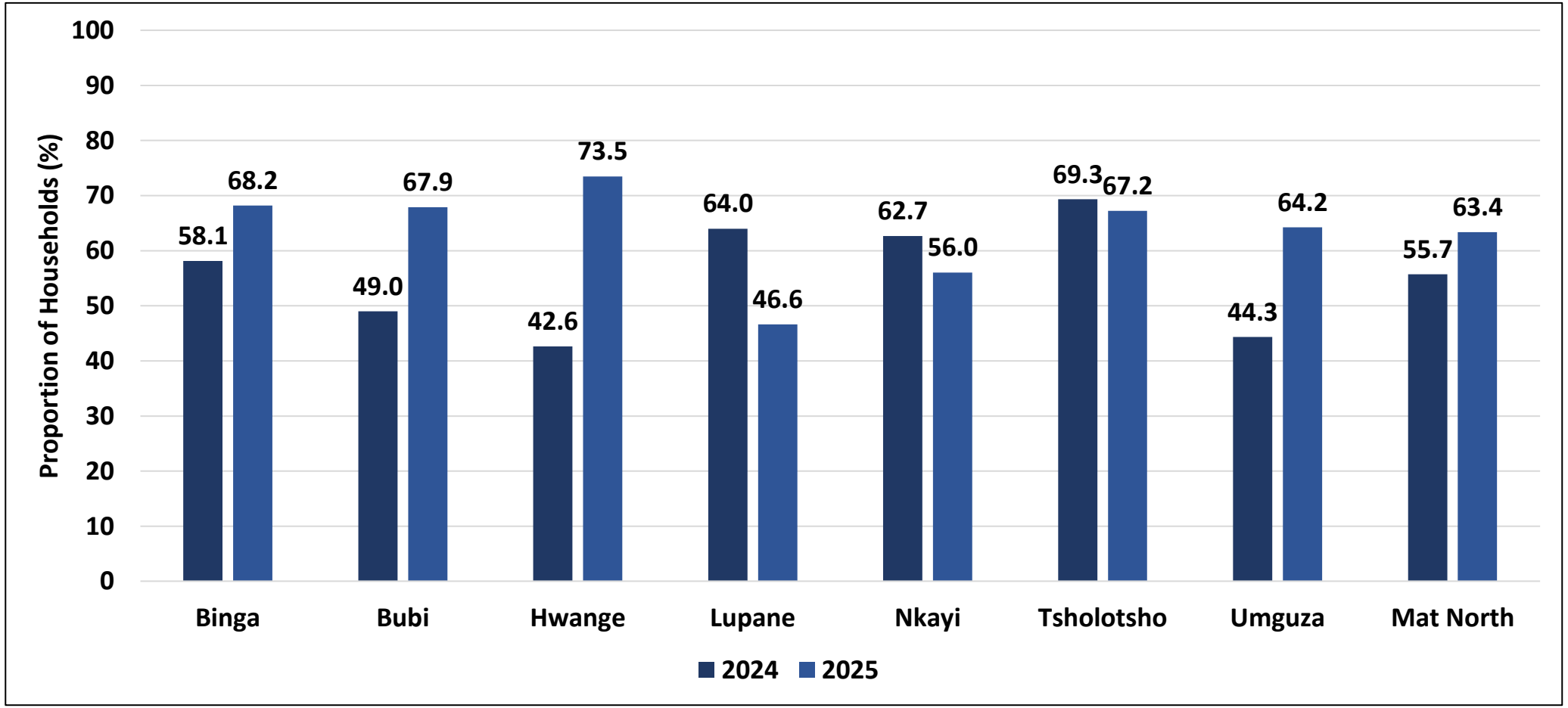


2025



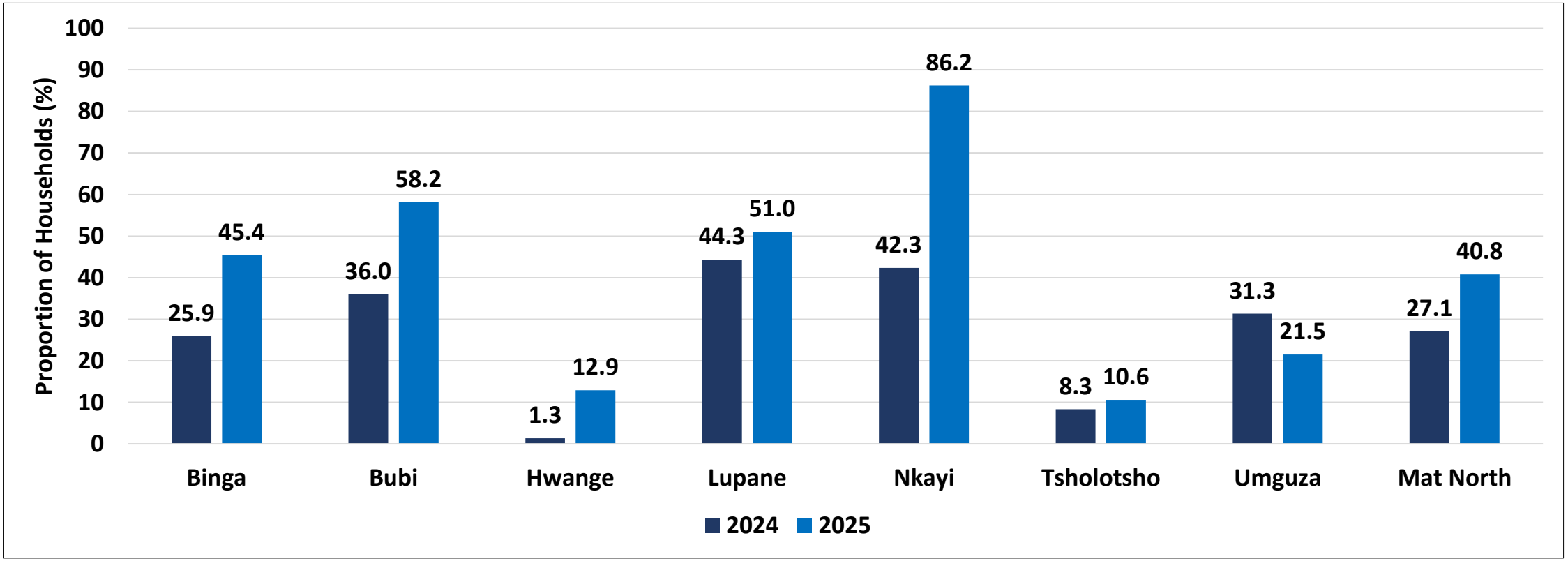
- There was an increase in the proportion of households practising crop rotation from 2024 (21.6%) to 2025 (32.9%).

Pfumvudza/Intwasa



- There was an increase in the proportion of households which practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa from 55.7% in 2024 to 63.4% in 2025.

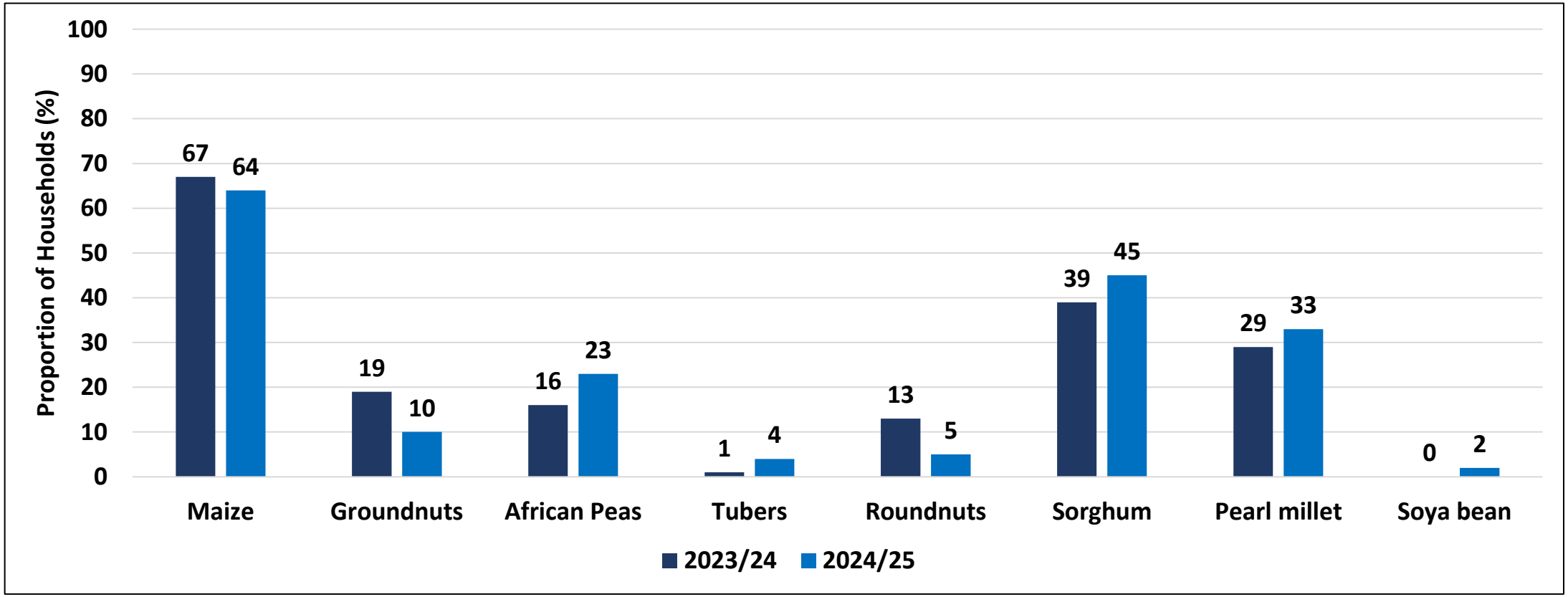
Use of Quality Certified Seed



- There was an increase in the proportion of households using quality certified seeds from 27.1% in 2024 to 40.8% in 2025.
- Certified seeds are crucial in crop production as they ensure better yields and increased resistance to diseases and pests.

Crop Production

Households which Grew Crops



- 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

District	Maize (%)	Sorghum (%)	Finger Millet (%)	Pearl Millet (%)	Tubers (%)	African Peas (%)	Groundnuts (%)	Round nuts (%)	Sugar beans (%)	Soya beans (%)	Tobacco (%)	Cotton (%)
Binga	36.4	53.6	1.0	30.5	1.0	11.9	6.6	4.0	0	0.3	0	1.3
Bubi	79.3	50.2	0	7.0	7.7	26.4	15.1	8.0	2.0	0	0	0
Hwange	44.2	**64.6**	0.7	52.0	0.3	35.4	9.9	3.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0
Lupane	78.9	40.6	0.3	37.9	3.4	18.5	8.1	5.0	3.7	7.4	0	0
Nkayi	**89.3**	27.9	1.0	21.1	3.7	28.2	12.1	4.7	0.3	0	0	0.7
Tsholotsho	56.0	57.3	0.3	75.2	5.0	22.5	14.6	6.6	0.3	0	0	0
Umguza	65.6	23.2	1.7	8.9	4.3	18.2	5.6	1.7	3.6	0	0	0
Mat North	**64.2**	**45.3**	**0.7**	**33.2**	**3.6**	**23.0**	**10.3**	**4.7**	**1.5**	**1.1**	**0**	**0.3**

- The majority of households grew maize (64.2%), sorghum (45.3%) and pearl millet (33.2%)

Cereals from Casual Labour and Remittances

District	Cereals from Casual Labour (kgs)		Cereals from Remittances (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Binga	3.9	7.6	0.8	3.8
Bubi	1.8	2.4	1.2	1.4
Hwange	0.8	14.2	0	9.4
Lupane	3.2	27.1	12.3	1.7
Nkayi	1.5	10.1	0	4.6
Tsholotsho	1.3	28.8	2.6	9.8
Umguza	3.3	43.5	0.6	30.1
Mat North	2.0	19.2	0.6	8.7

- On average, households reported to have accessed 19.2 kgs of maize from casual labour and 8.7kgs from remittances.

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
Binga	0	34.4	0	21.0	0	0.1	0	10.0
Bubi	2.3	41.0	0	11.7	0	0.1	0	0.8
Hwange	0	29.9	0	43.0	0	0.3	0	33.1
Lupane	0	9.2	0	2.5	0	0.0	0	1.4
Nkayi	0.8	69.8	0	10.7	0	0.9	0	12.3
Tsholotsho	0	6.9	0	12.9	0	0.1	0	23.9
Umguza	2.3	37.6	0	5.0	0	0.1	0	8.5
Mat North	0.2	**32.7**	0.9	**15.2**	0	**0.2**	0.1	**12.8**

- On average, households had 32.7 kgs of maize in stock on the 1st of April 2025, an increase from 0.8 kgs reported in 2024.

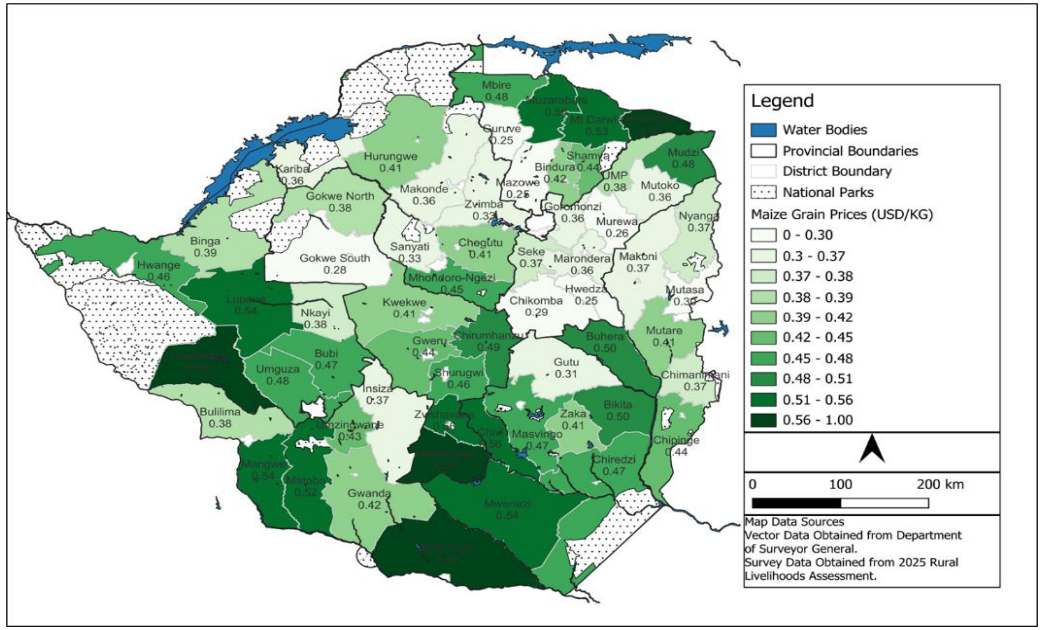
Season Harvest

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**

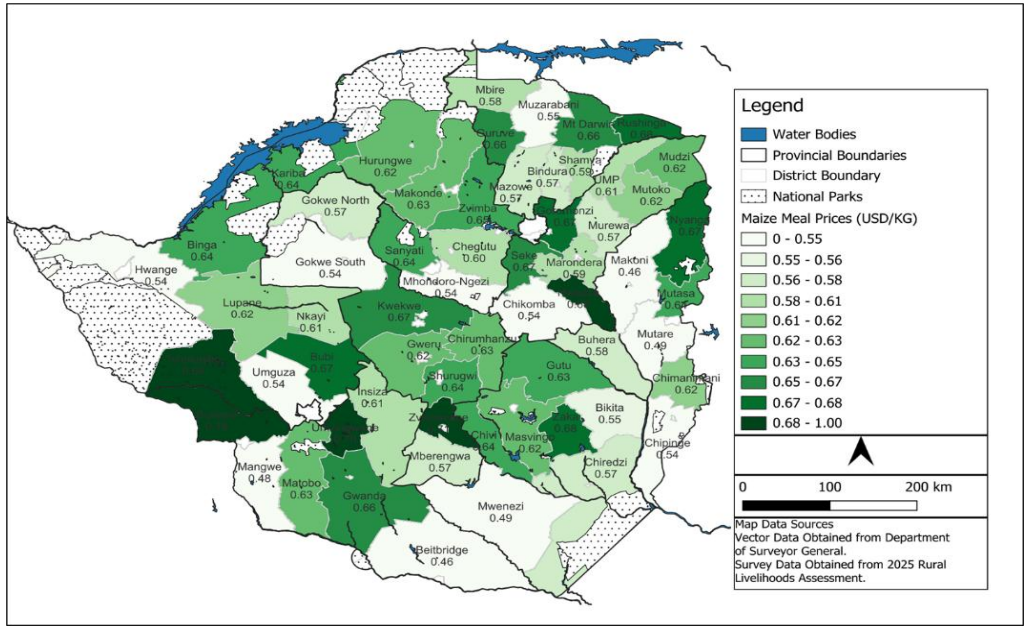
- The average provincial maize harvest was 168.7kgs per household
- Hwange (690.5kgs) had the highest average sorghum harvest.

Maize Grain and Maize Meal Prices

Maize Grain



Maize Meal



- Maize grain prices ranged from USD0.38 to USD0.59.
- Maize grain prices were high in Tsholotsho (USD 0.59) and Lupane (USD 0.54).

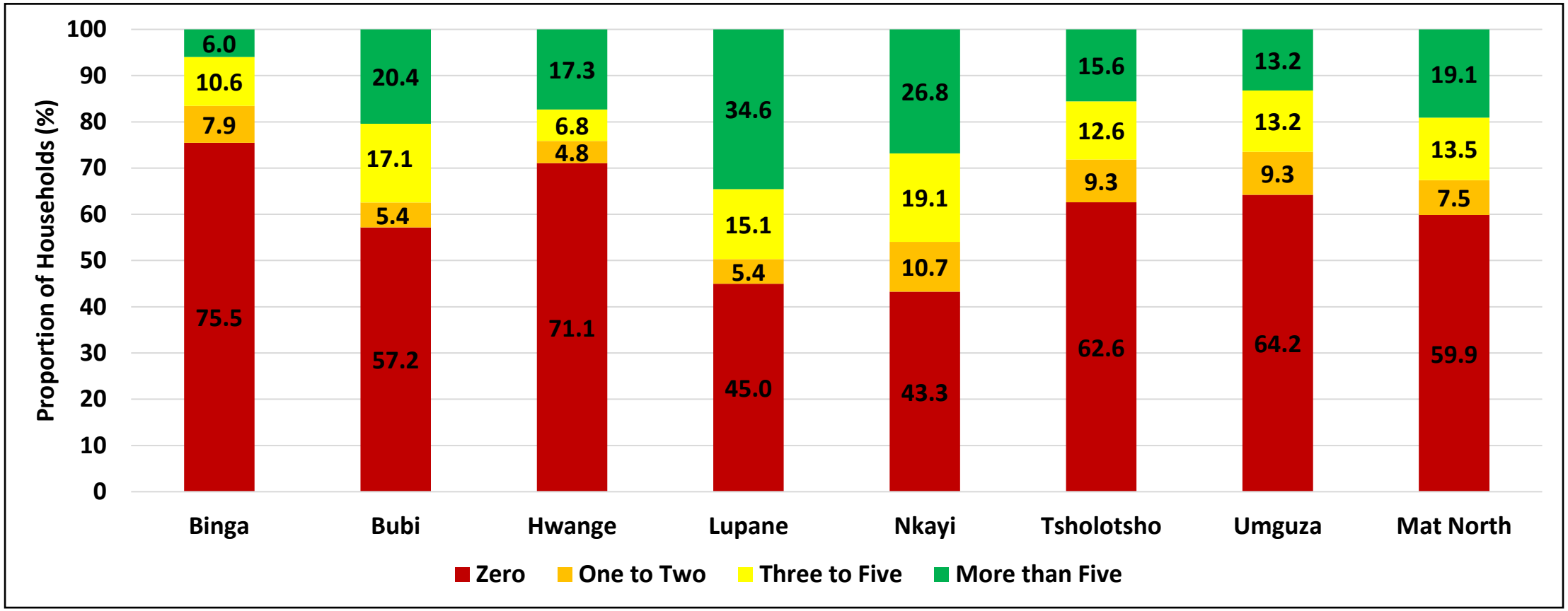
Livestock Production

Households which Owned Livestock

District	Cattle (%)	Donkey (%)	Sheep (%)	Goats (%)	Pigs (%)	Poultry (%)	Rabbits (%)
Binga	24.5	3.0	0.3	37.1	1.7	31.5	0.0
Bubi	42.8	11.0	2.0	48.2	1.0	61.5	0.7
Hwange	28.9	5.4	6.1	50.3	3.7	56.1	2.0
Lupane	55.0	23.5	1.7	55.0	1.7	57.7	0.0
Nkayi	56.7	14.4	1.3	55.0	2.7	61.1	0.0
Tsholotsho	37.4	32.5	0.3	58.6	0.0	59.9	0.3
Umguza	35.8	16.2	1.0	35.4	1.0	55.3	0.0
Mat North	**40.1**	**15.2**	**1.8**	**48.5**	**1.7**	**54.7**	**0.4**

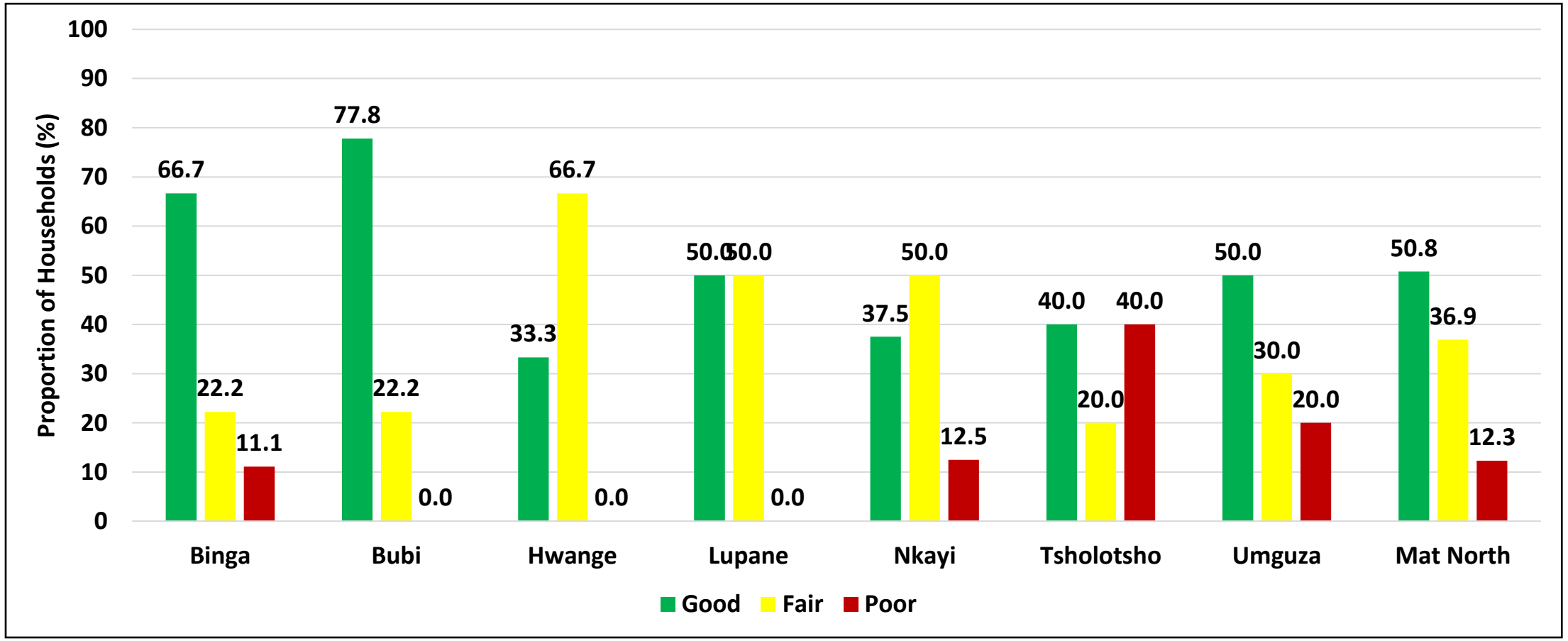
- About 48.5% of households owned goats and 40.1% owned cattle.

Cattle Ownership



- The proportion of households that did not own cattle was 59.9%.
- Lupane (34.6%) had the highest proportion of households which owned more than five cattle while Binga (6%) had the lowest.

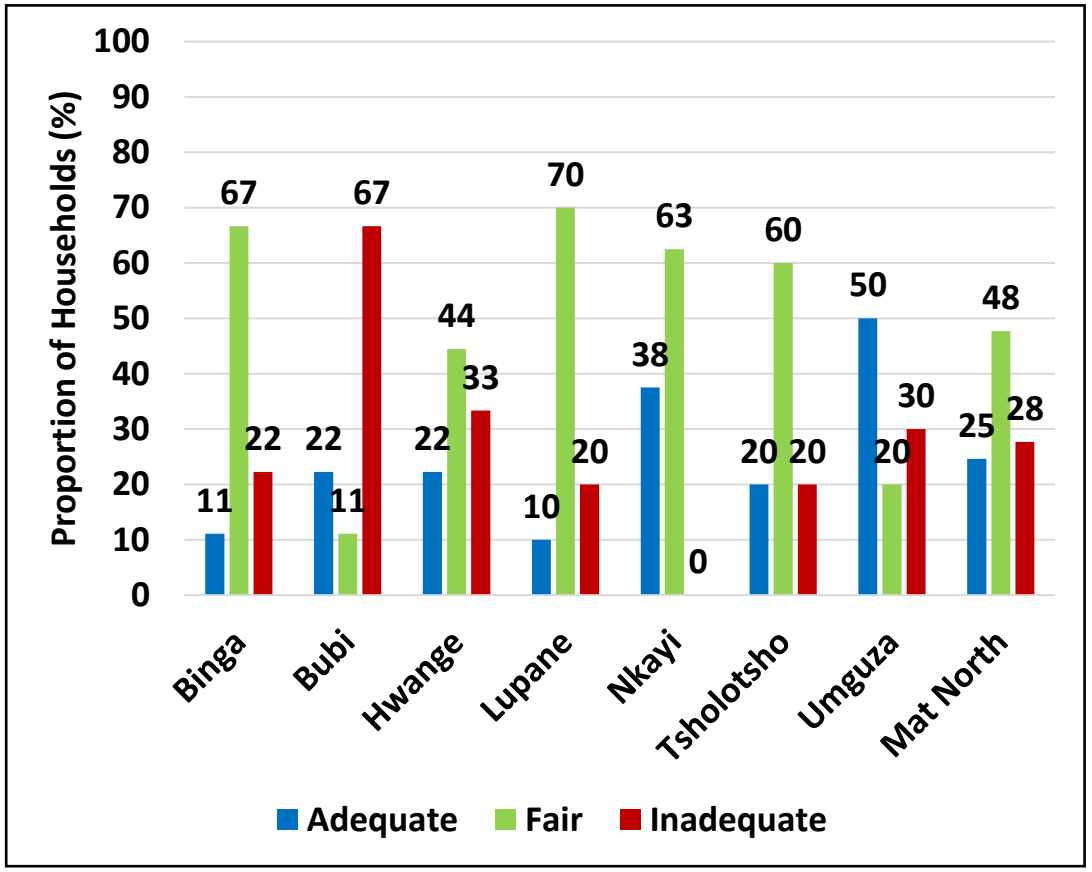
Livestock Condition



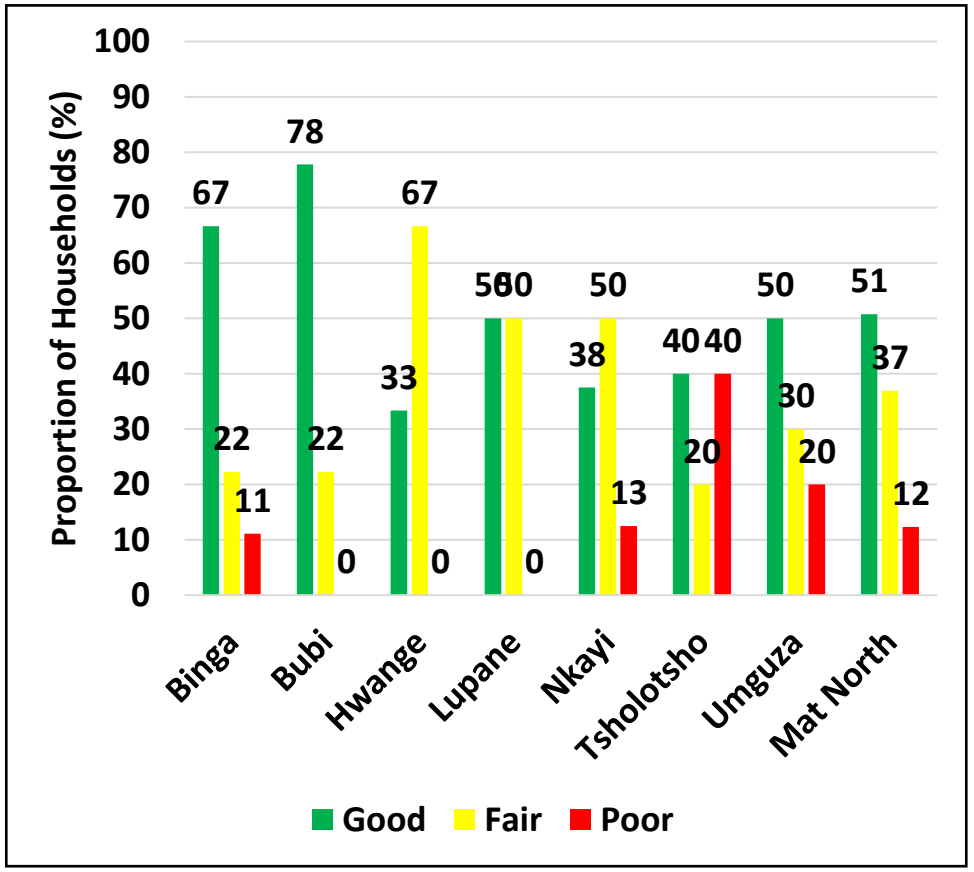
- About 12.3% of the communities indicated that their livestock were in a poor condition.

Pasture Availability and Quality

Availability



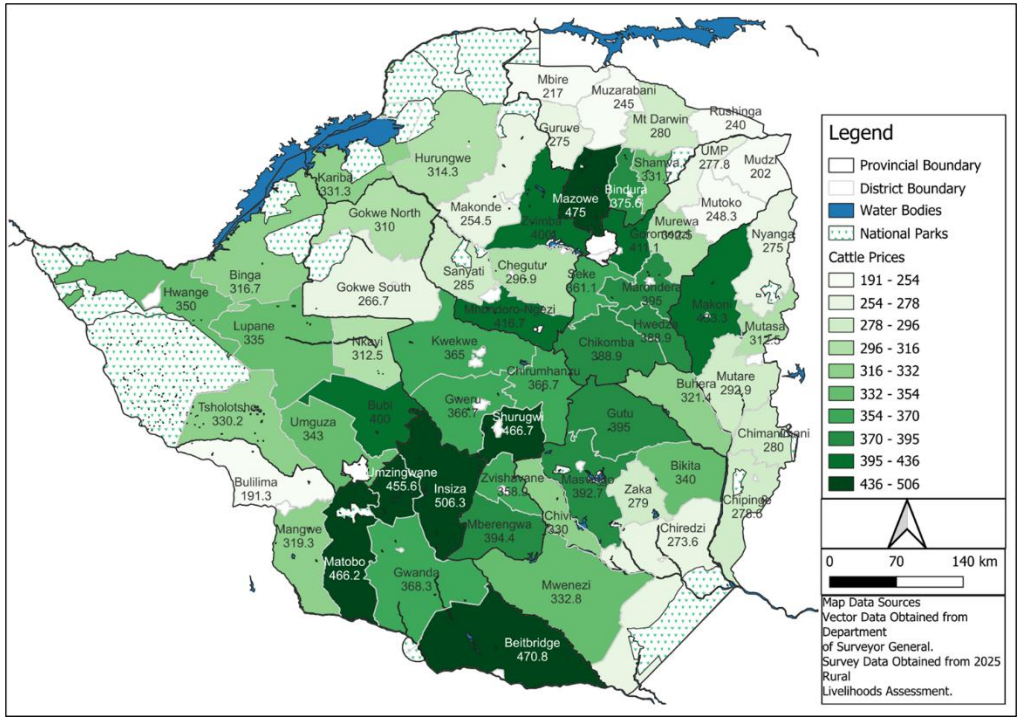
Quality



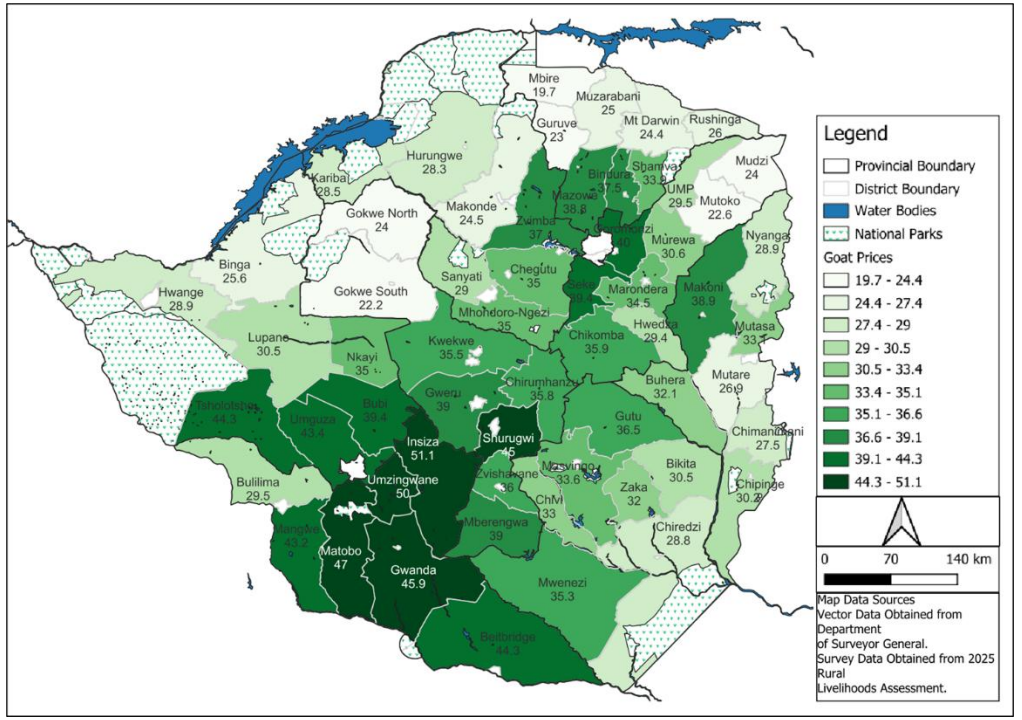
- Most communities indicated that pasture availability (48%) and pasture quality (51%) was fair at the time of the assessment.

Livestock Prices

Cattle Prices



Goat Prices



- The highest cattle prices were reported in Bubi (USD400) and the lowest were reported in Nkayi (USD312).
- The highest goat prices were reported in Tsholotsho (USD44.3) and the lowest were reported in Binga (USD25.6).

Access to Critical Infrastructure and Services

Access to Agricultural Extension Support

	Training-cropping advice (%)	Training - Livestock services (%)	Training-Weather and climate advice (%)	Extension Visit (%)	Other training (%)
Binga	15.2	4.6	1.0	1.3	0.3
Bubi	55.2	36.8	39.8	33.8	4.0
Hwange	61.2	57.5	54.4	36.4	5.8
Lupane	53.4	37.9	43.0	14.8	1.3
Nkayi	65.1	50.0	45.0	27.9	1.0
Tsholotsho	61.3	29.1	19.9	41.4	12.9
Umguza	57.3	35.8	29.5	17.5	0.3
Mat North	**52.6**	**35.8**	**33.1**	**24.7**	**3.7**

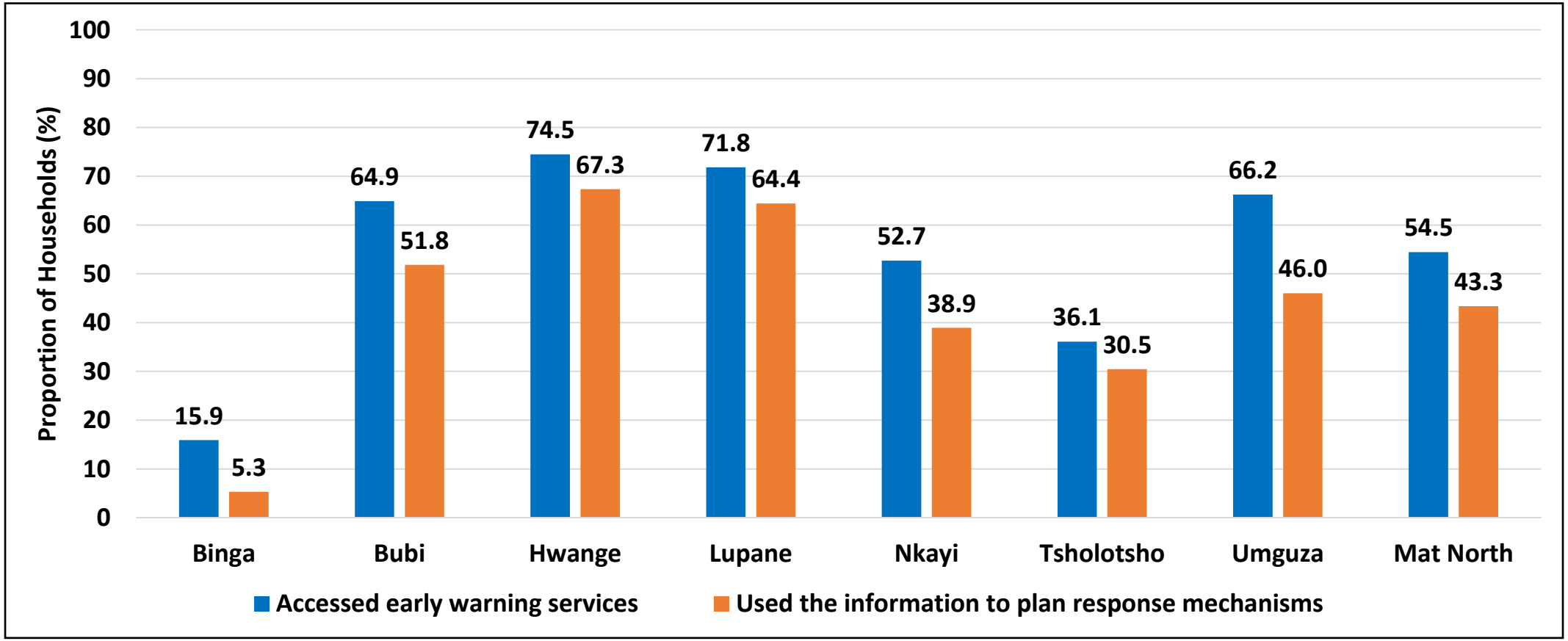
- About 52.6% of the households had received cropping advice during the 2024/2025 agricultural season.

Community Access to Information on Infectious and Contagious Diseases

District	Rabies (%)	Anthrax (%)	Cholera (%)	Typhoid (%)	Dysentery (%)	Salmonella (%)	Listeria (%)	Other (%)
Binga	55.6	55.6	44.4	33.3	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2
Bubi	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hwange	100.0	88.9	44.4	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lupane	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nkayi	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tsholotsho	90.0	10.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Umguza	20.0	20.0	20.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	30.0
Mat North	**76.9**	**24.6**	**18.5**	**9.2**	**7.7**	**4.6**	**3.1**	**9.2**

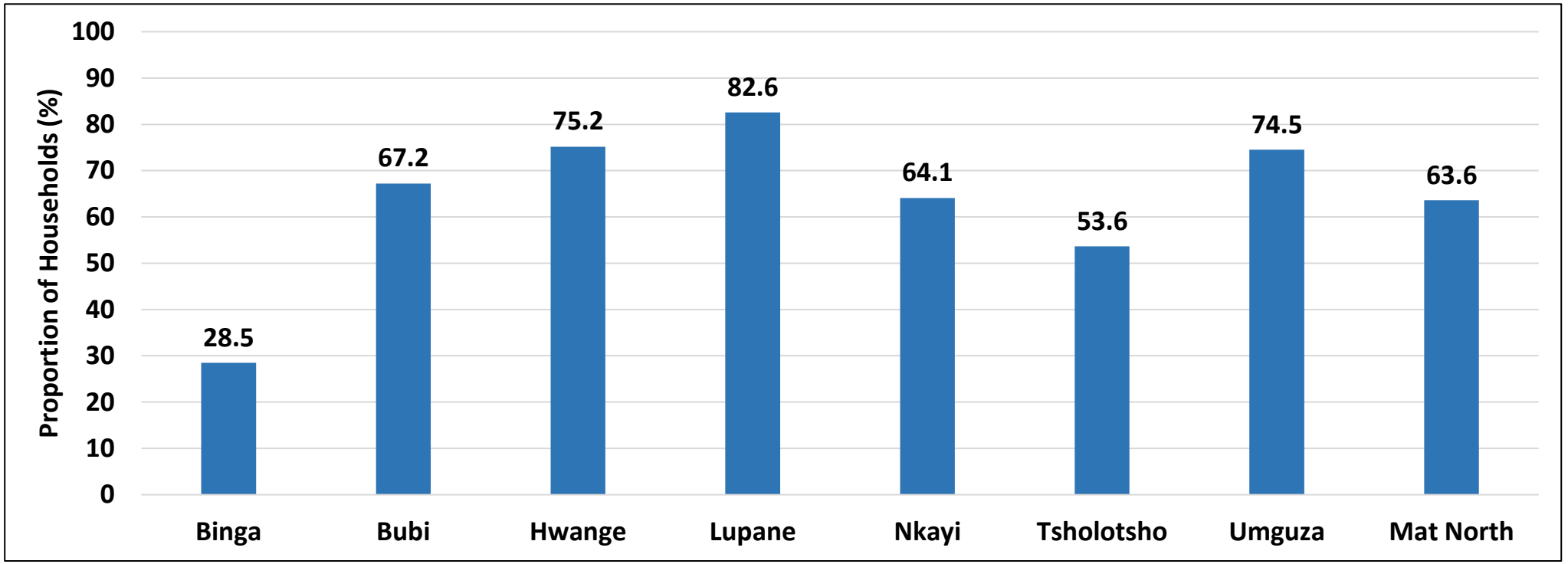
- About 76.9% of the communities had accessed information on rabies.
- Information on listeria (3.1%) was the least accessed by communities.

Access to and Use of Early Warning Information



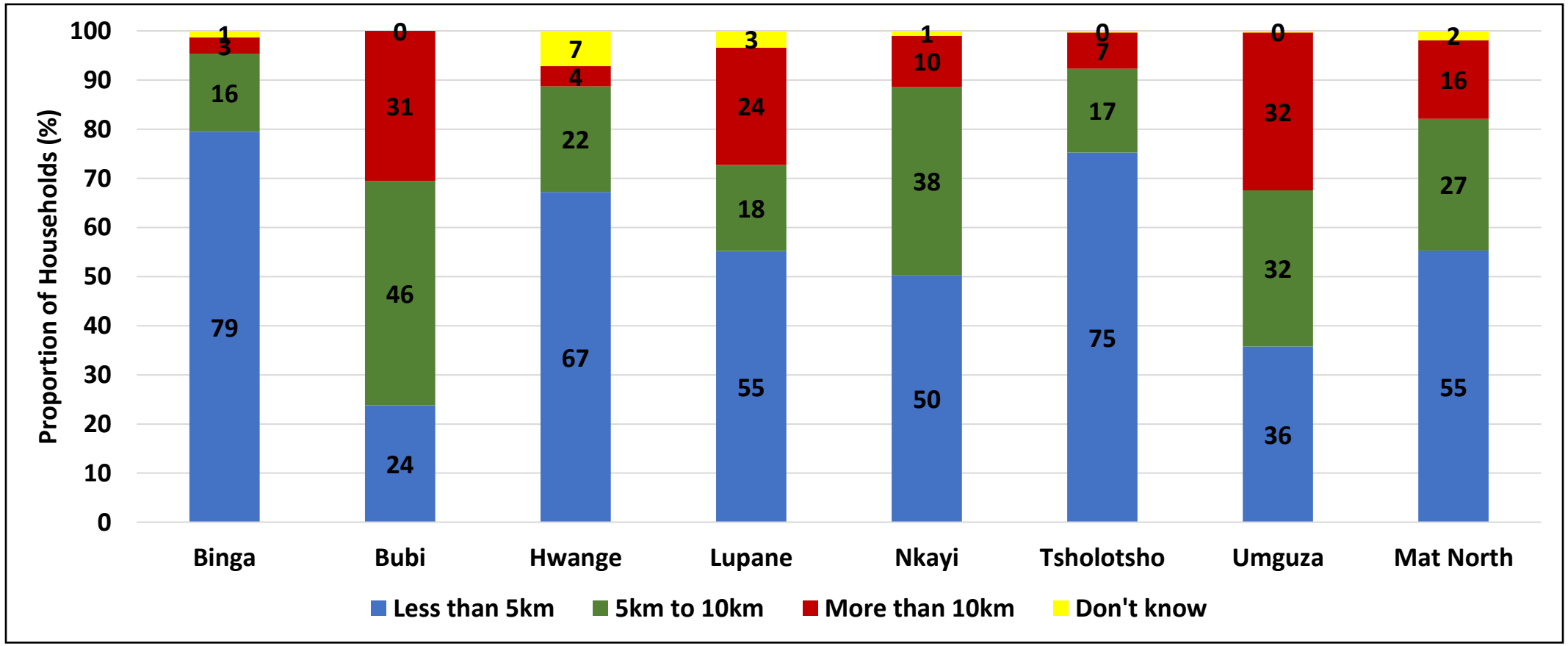
- About 54.6% of the households reported to have received information on early warning.
- The proportion of households which used the information to plan response mechanisms was 43.3%.

Households that Received Any Information on Health and Nutrition



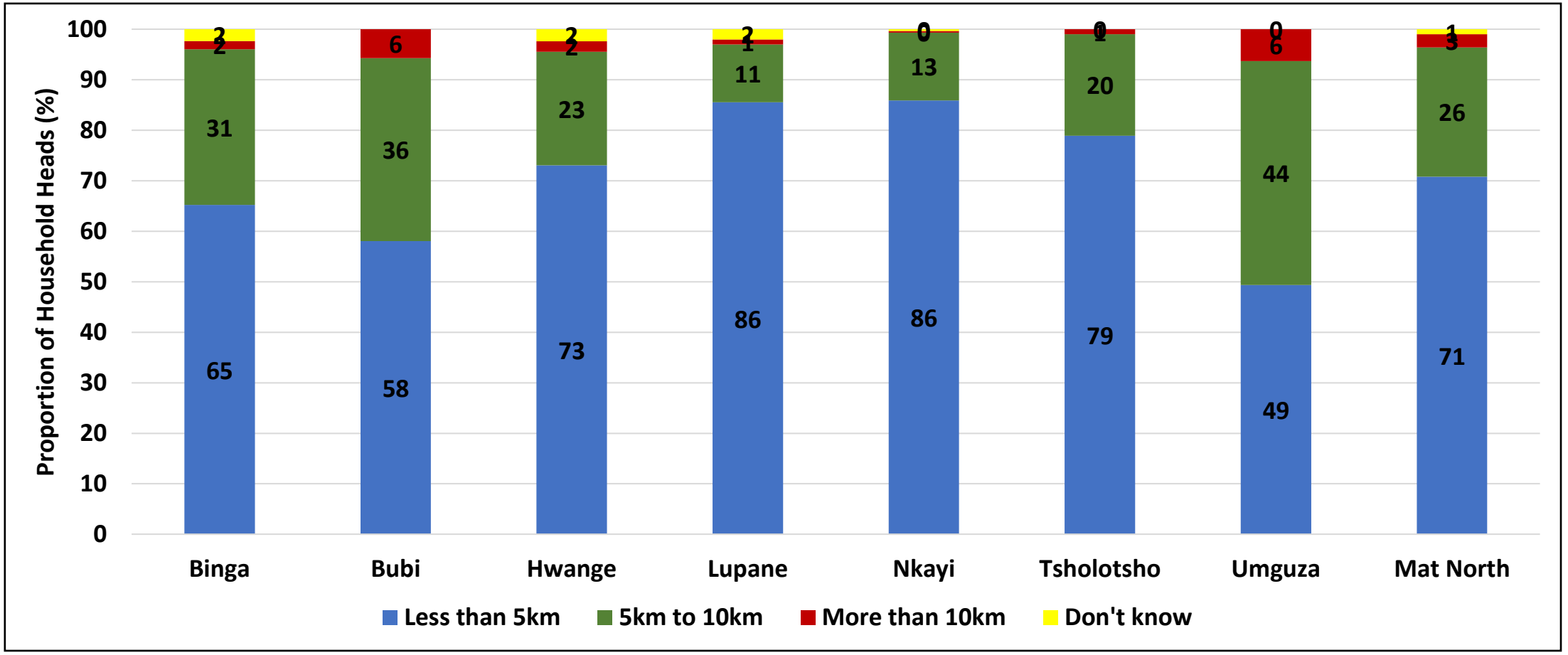
- Lupane (82.6%) had the highest proportion of households which received health and nutrition information whilst Binga (28.5%) had the least.

Distance to the Nearest Health Facility/ Clinic



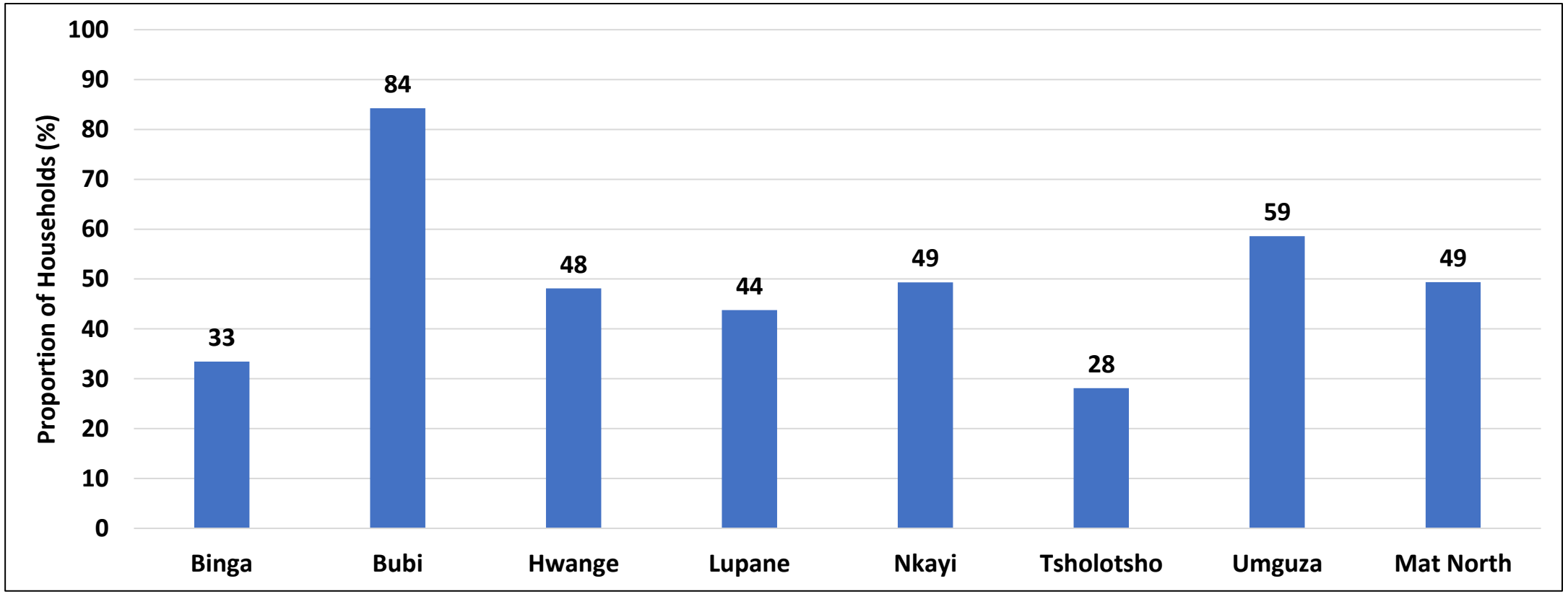
- The majority of households (55%) had their nearest health facility within a 5km radius.
- Umguza (32%) and Bubi (31%) reported having the furthest distances with their nearest health facilities being more than 10km away.

Distance to the Nearest Primary School



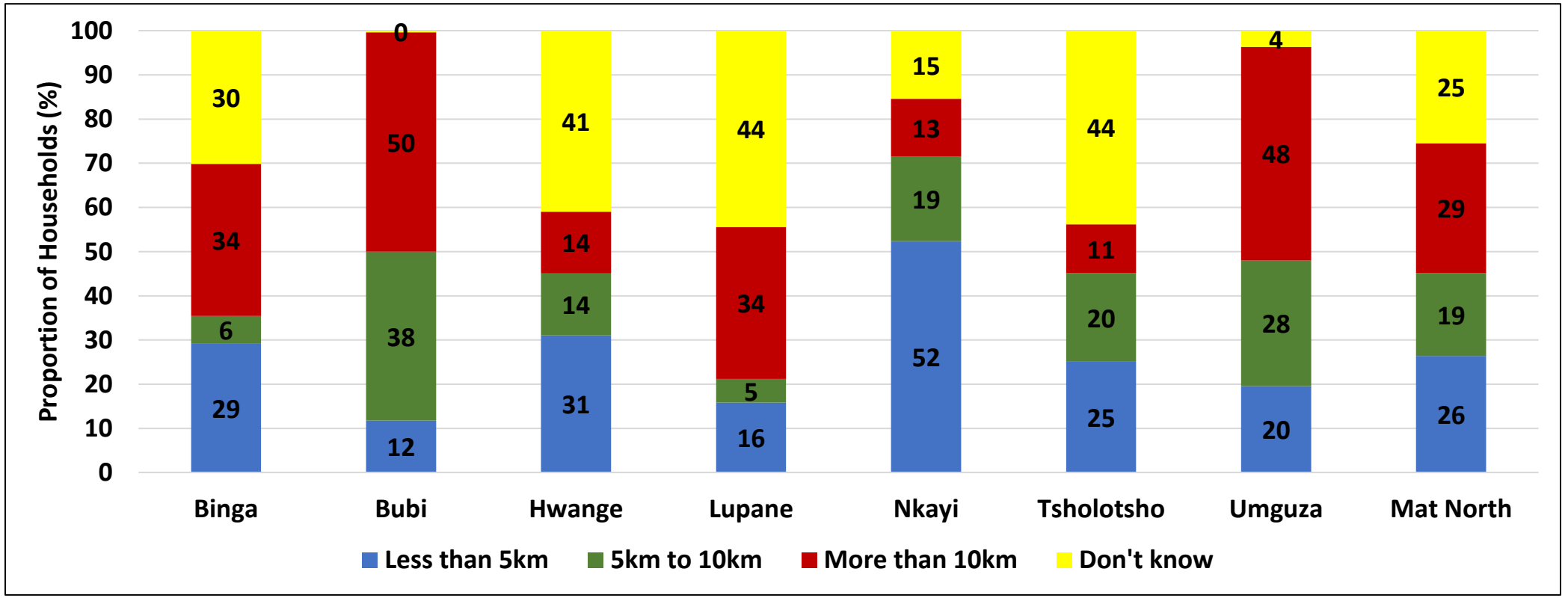
- The majority of households (71%) had their nearest primary school within a distance less than 5km.

Access to Information on Services for Victims of Physical and Sexual Abuse



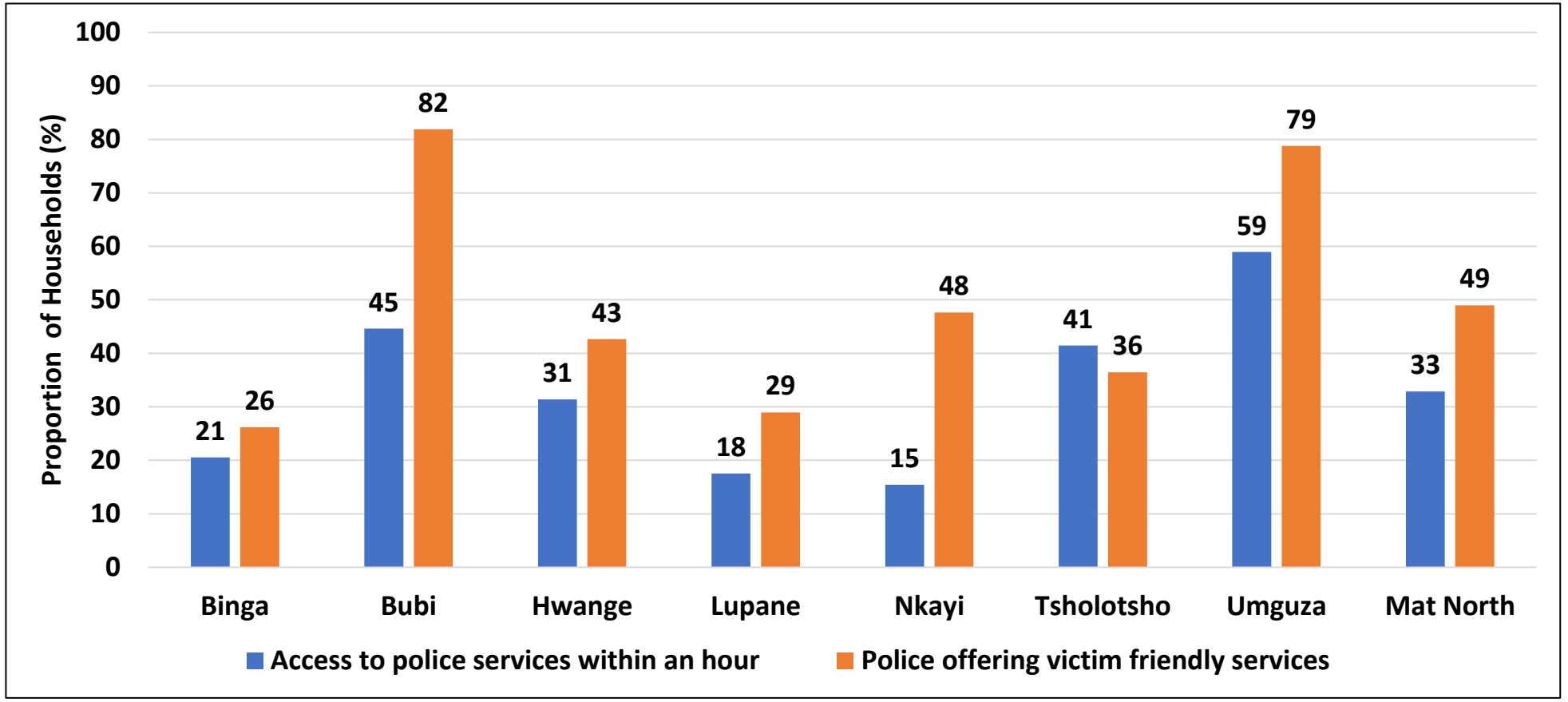
- About 49% of the households had access to information on services available for victims of physical and sexual abuse.

Distance to Facilities Providing Services for Physical and Sexual Abuse



- About 26% of the households could access a facility providing services for physical and sexual violence within a 5km radius.

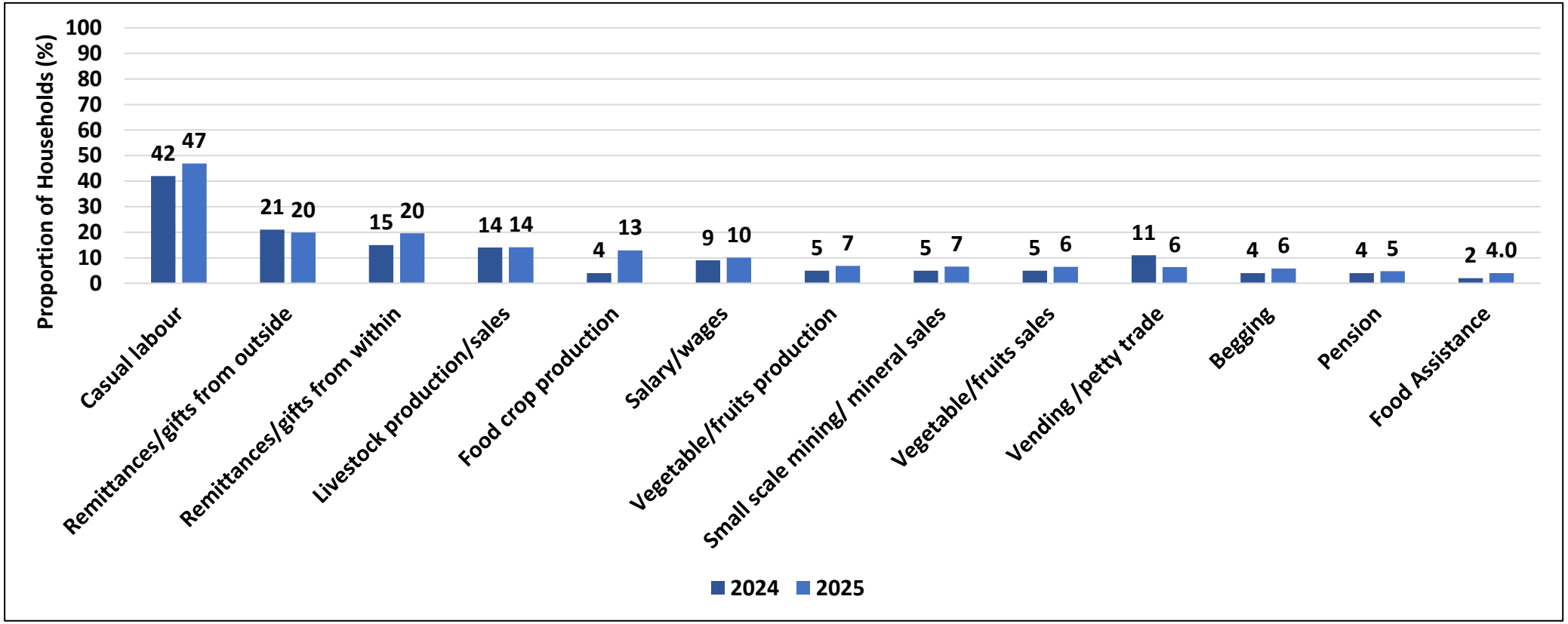
Access to Police Services



- About 33% of the households reported to have access to police services within one hour and 49% of households reported that the police were offering victim friendly services.
- Binga (26%) had the lowest proportion of households which were aware of victim friendly services.

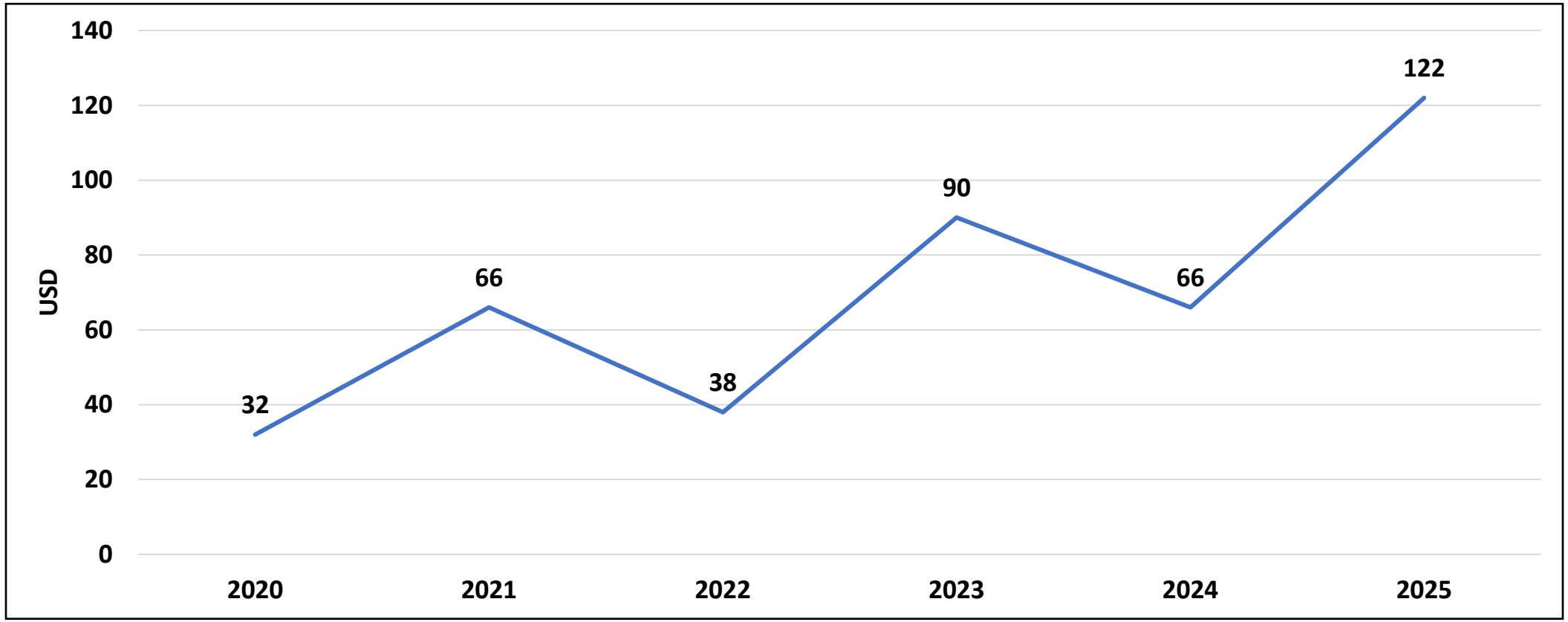
Incomes and Expenditure

Most Important Income Sources



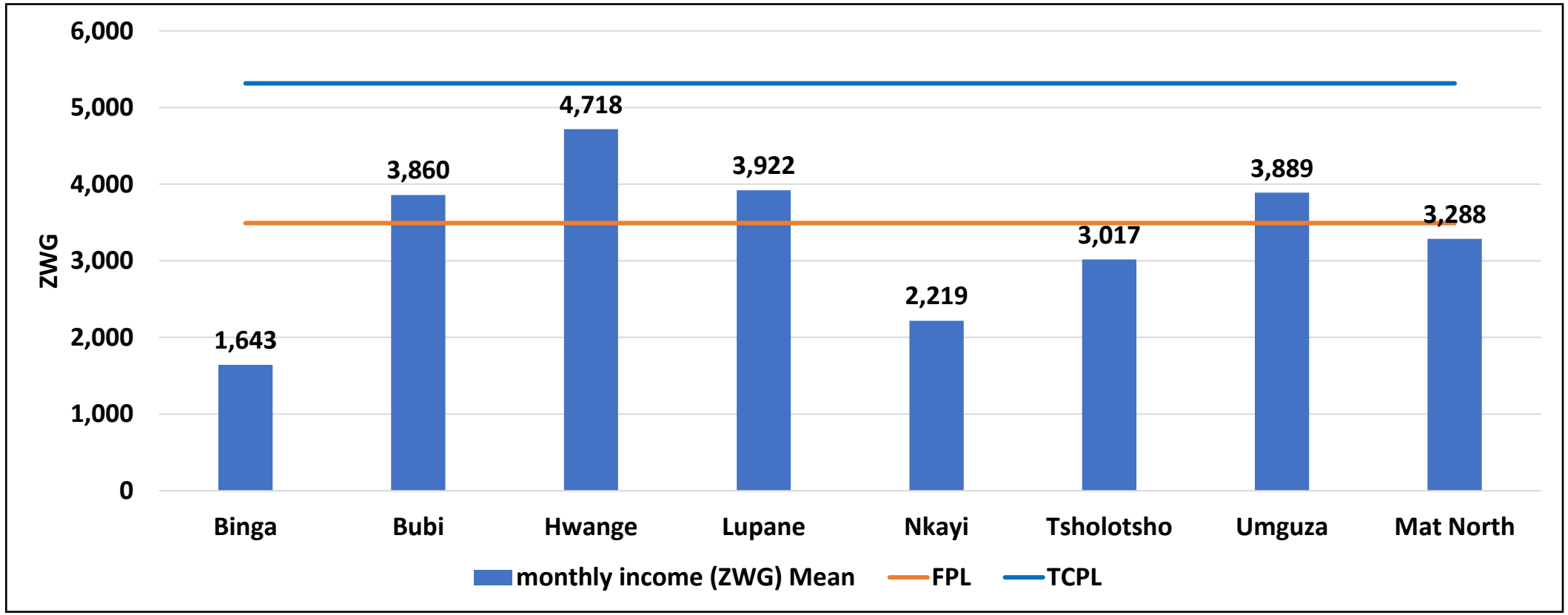
- Income is a proxy for economic status, living standards and wellbeing.
- Most households in 2025 relied on casual labour (47%) and remittances from within and Zimbabwe (20%).

Income Trends (USD): 2020-2025



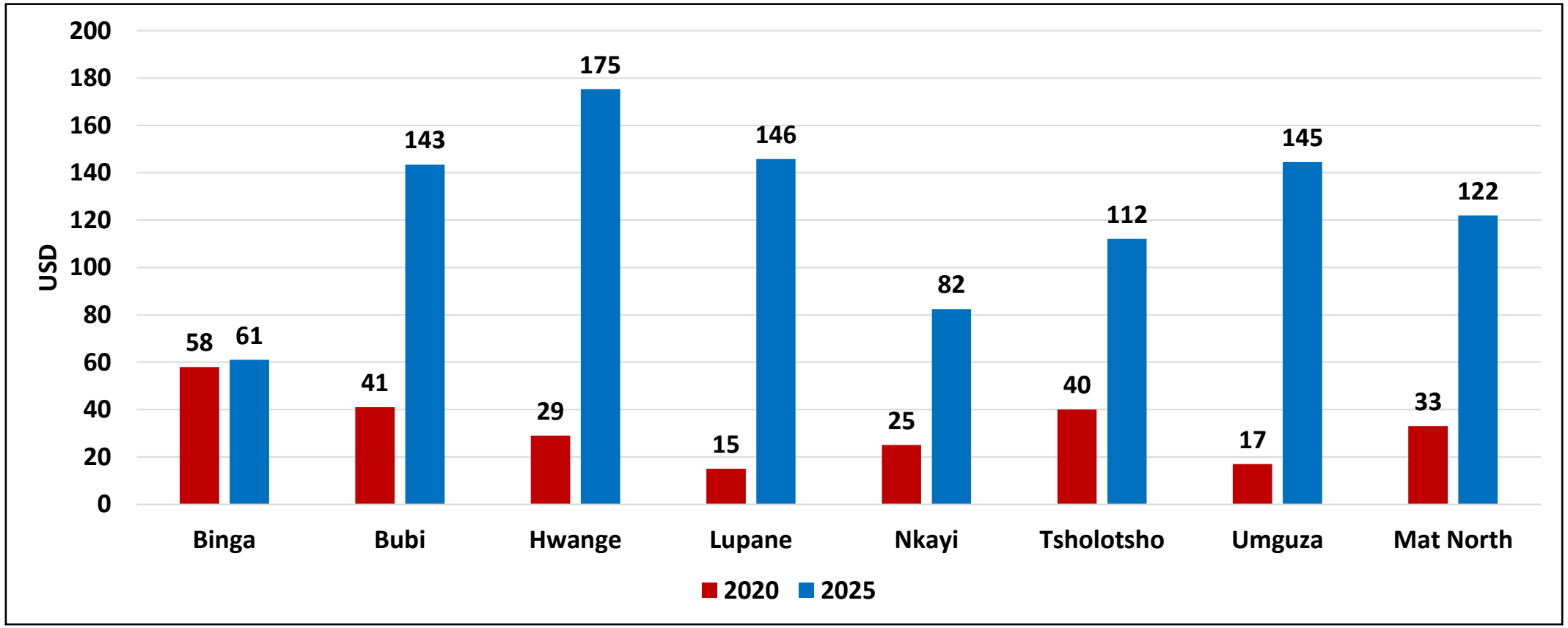
- Compared to base year 2020, rural incomes have been increasing.
- There was 281% increase in households' purchasing power as evidenced by incomes increasing from USD 32 in 2020 to USD 122 in 2025.

Average Household Monthly Income (ZWG) For April 2025



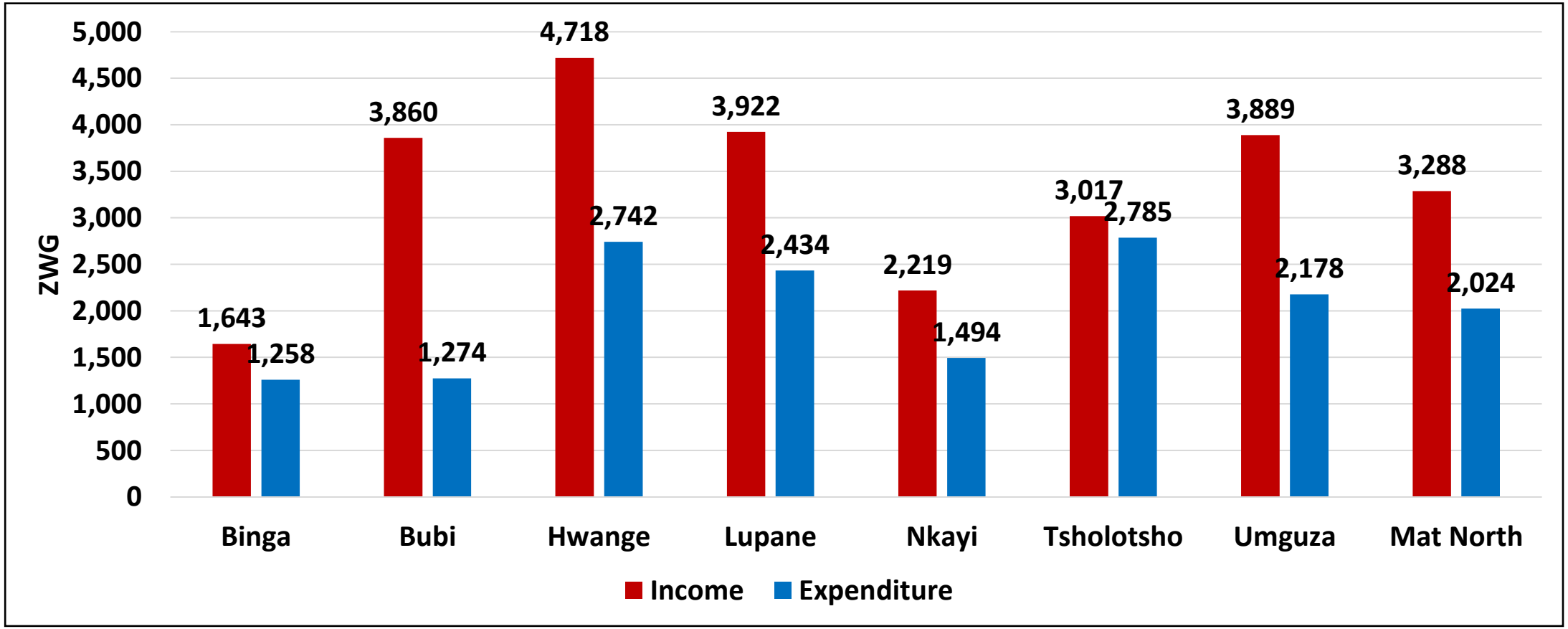
- Average monthly income for the Month of April 2025 was ZWG 3,288. This was above the Food Poverty Line.
- Hwange (ZWG 4,718) had the highest income.

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) For April 2025



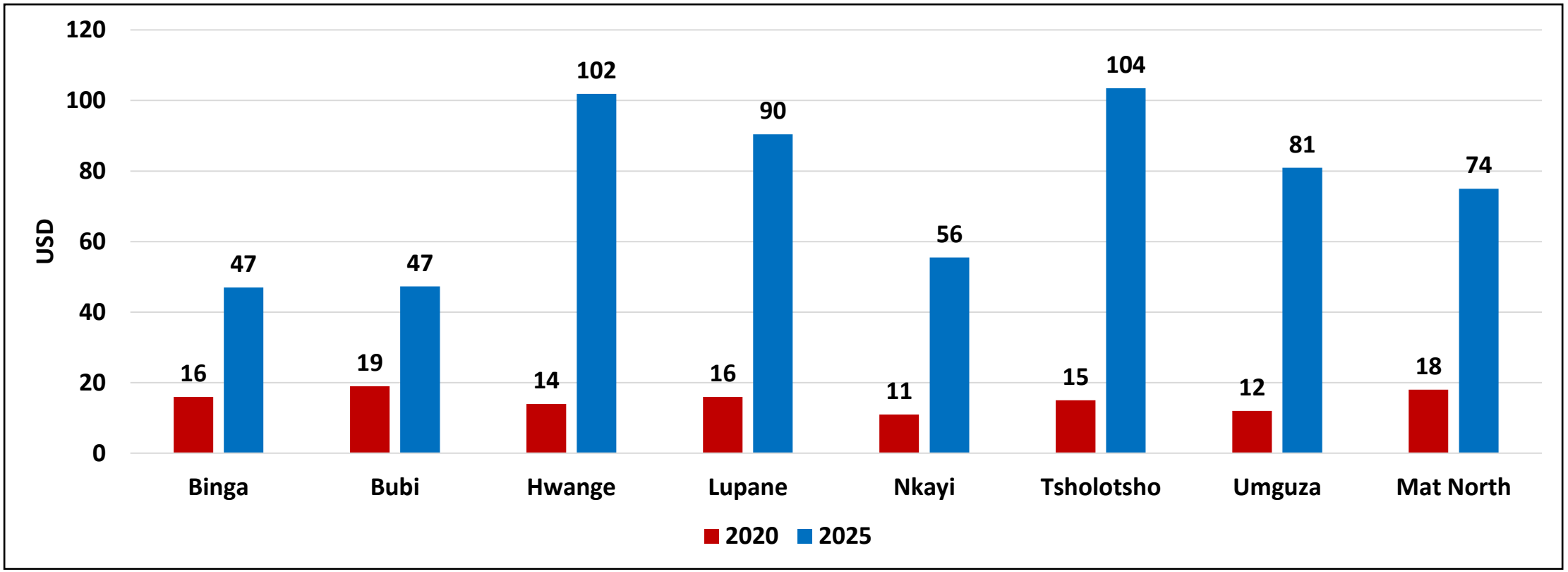
- The average household monthly income was USD122.
- Hwange had the highest average household monthly income (USD 175) for April 2025 while Binga (USD61) had the lowest.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure - April 2025 (ZWG)



- The average household monthly expenditure was ZWG 2,024.

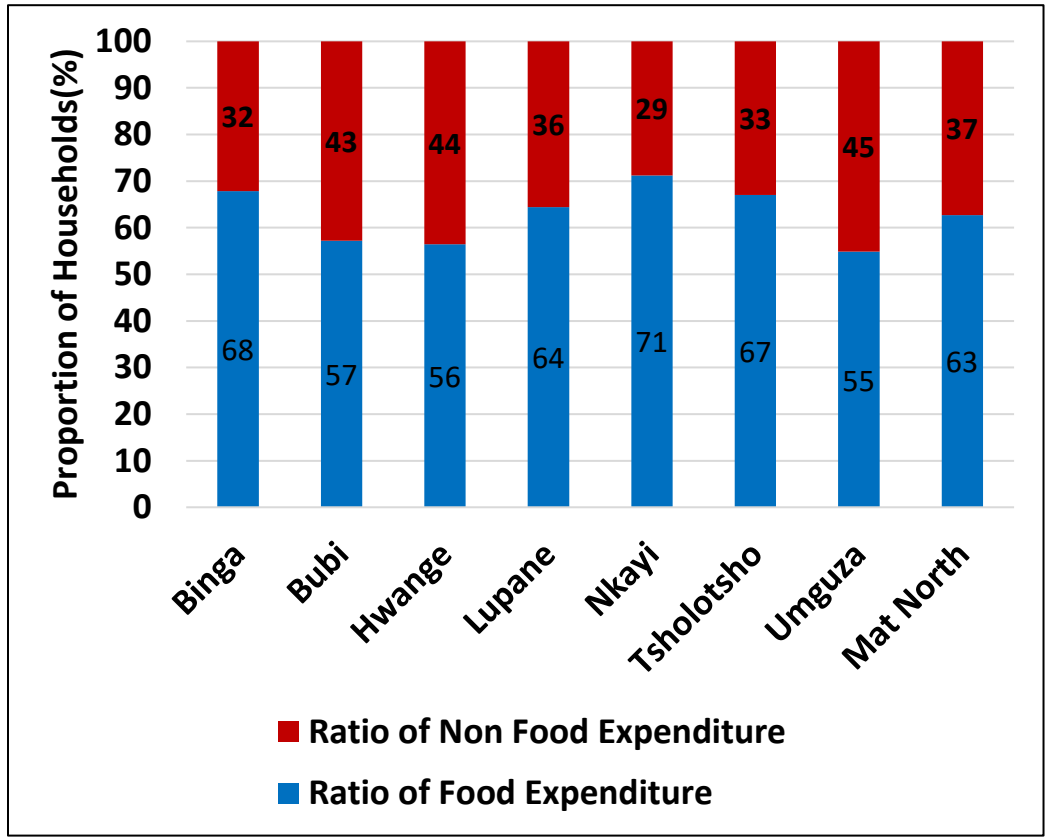
Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) For April 2025



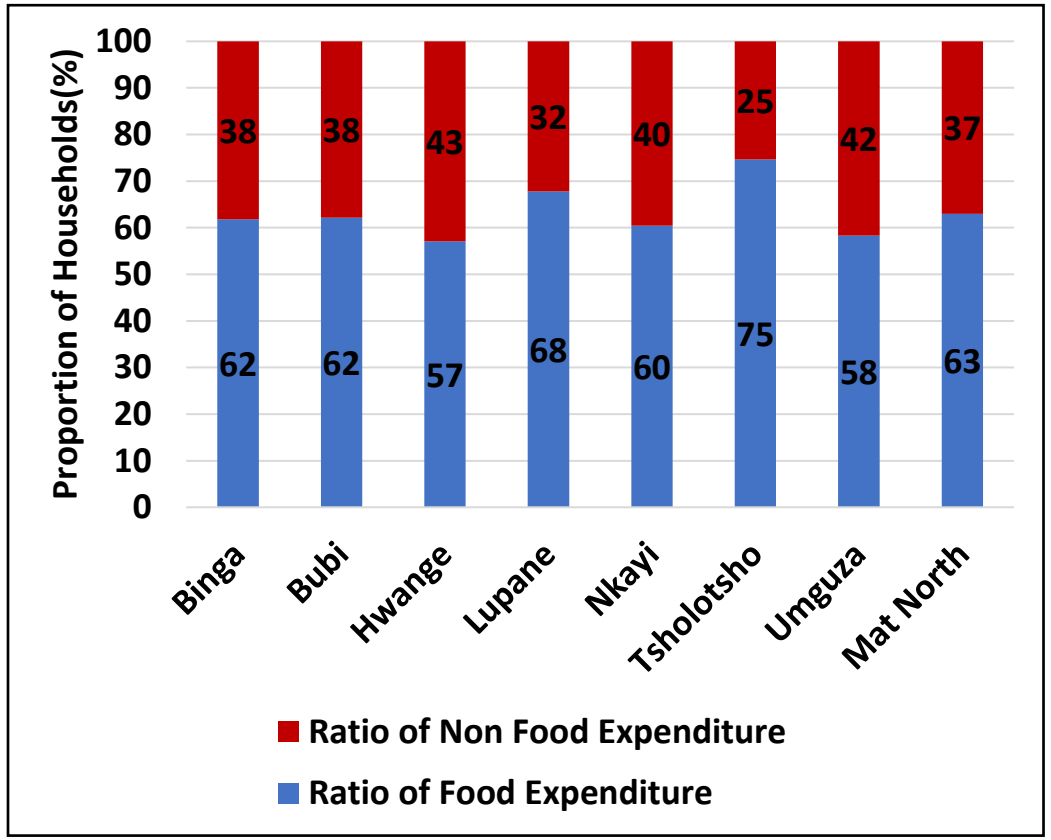
- The average household monthly expenditure for the month of April 2025 was USD74.

Food and Non-Food Expenditure Ratio

2024



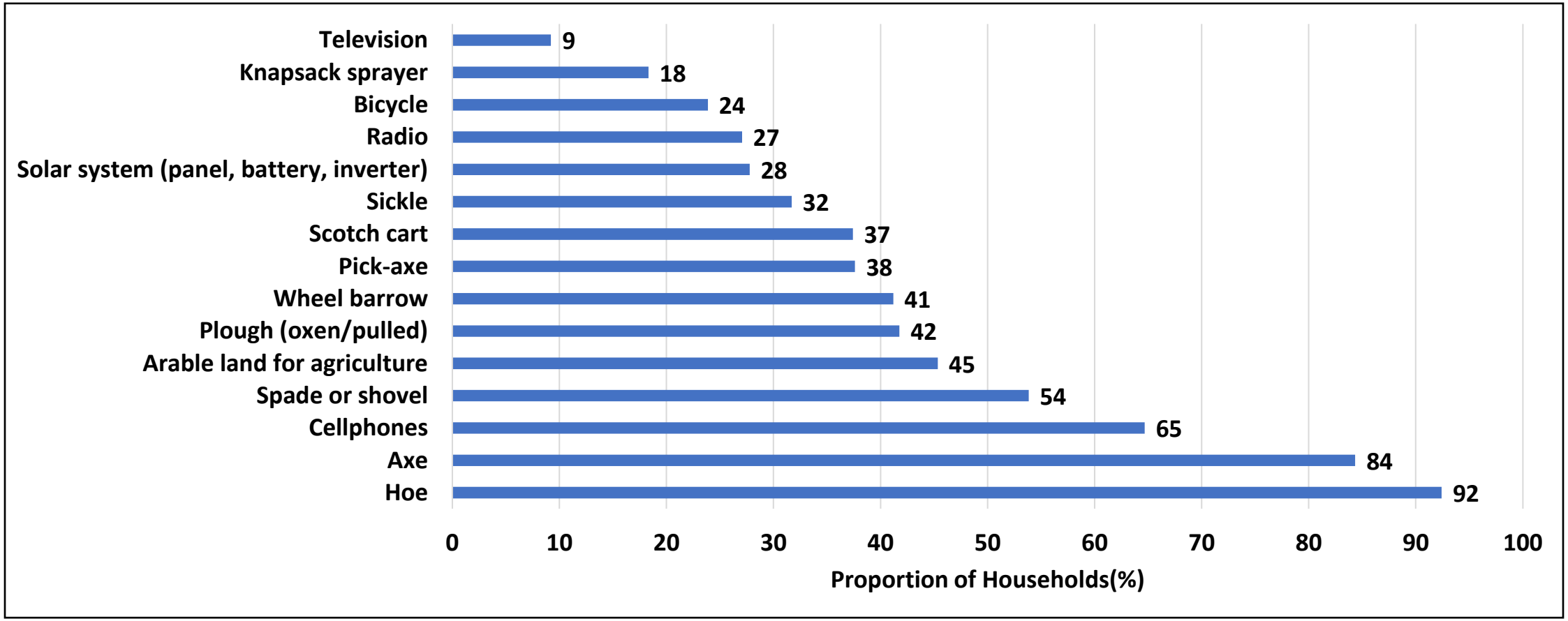
2025



- The ratio of food to non-food expenditure remained unchanged from 2024 to 2025.

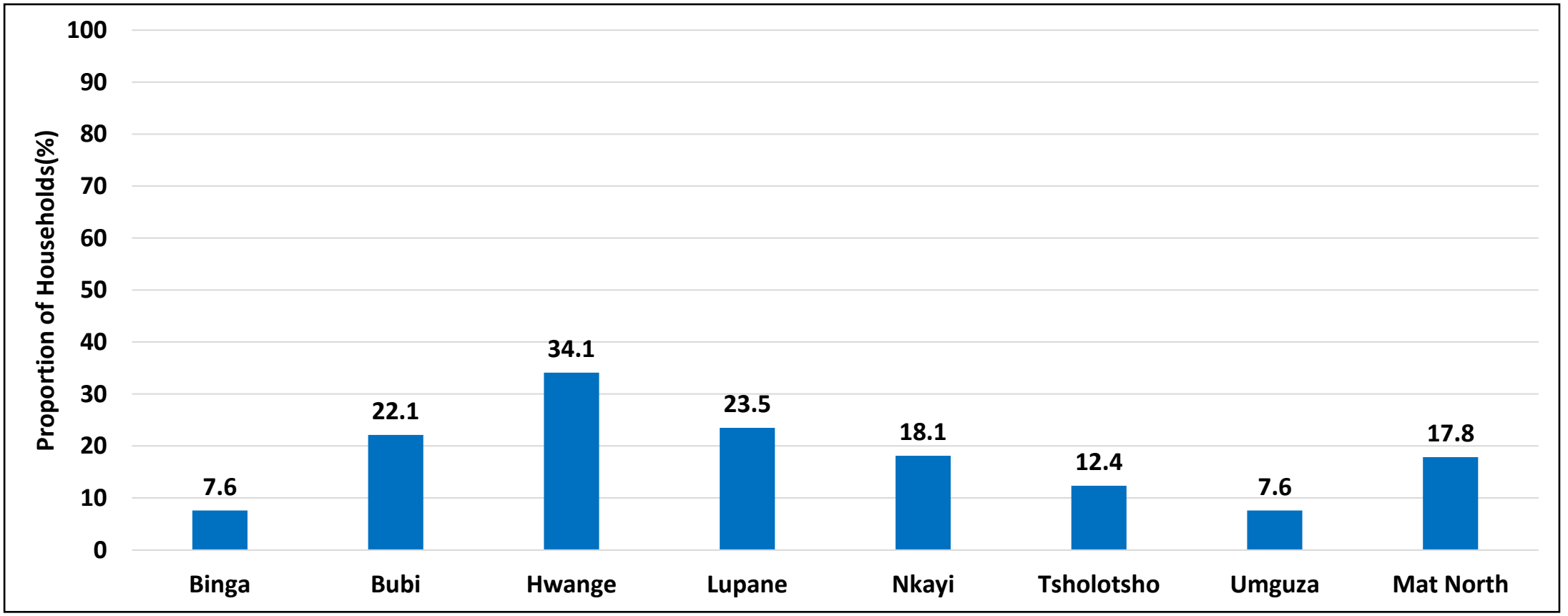
Assets, Loans and Remittances

Assets



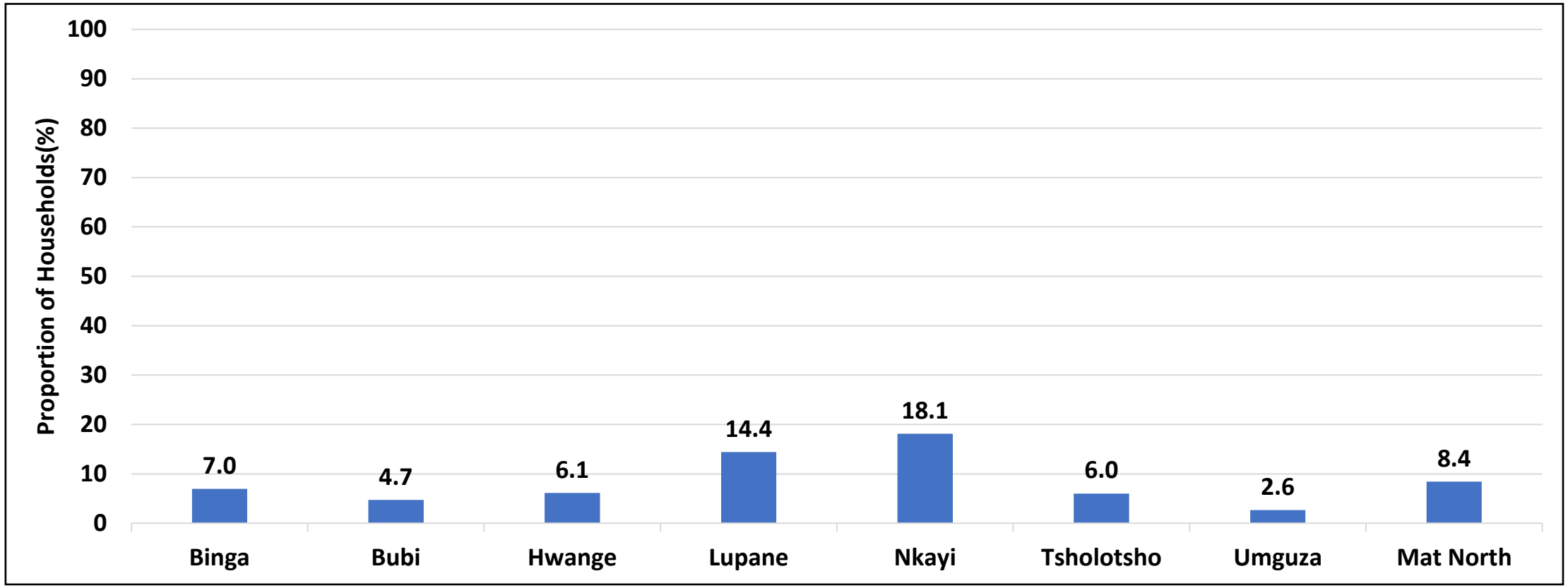
- Hoe (92%), axe (84%) and cell phones (65%) were the most owned households assets.

Households Participating in ISALS/Mukando/Ukuqogelela



- Binga and Umguza (7.6%) had the lowest proportion of households participating in ISALS/Mukando/Ukuqogelela.

Households that Accessed Loans



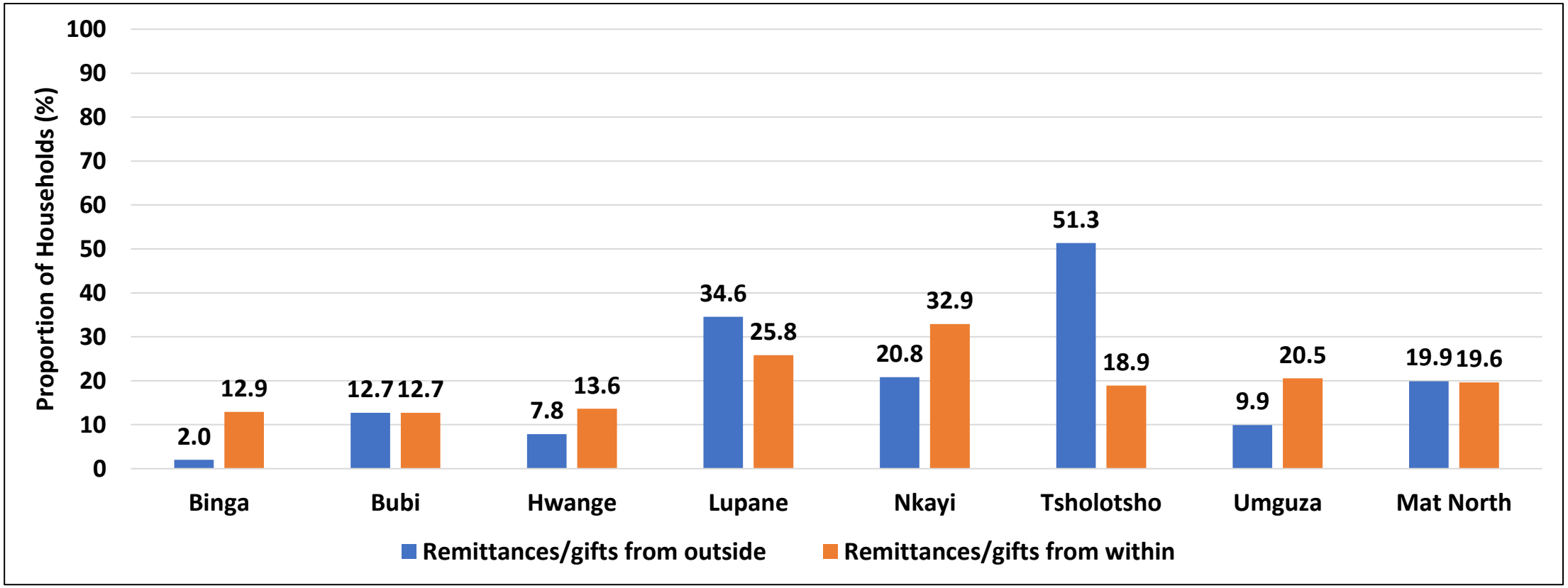
- The proportion of households that accessed loans was 8.4%.
- Nkayi (18.1%) had the highest proportion of households that accessed loans.

Sources of Loans

District	Friend/relative (%)	Money lender (%)	Banks (%)	Micro finance institutions (%)	Other Financial Services (%)	ISAL/Mukando/ Ukuqogelela (%)	Farmer's organization (%)	Local trader/ shopkeeper (%)
Binga	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Bubi	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Hwange	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.3	3.1	0.3	0.0
Lupane	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.0	11.7	0.3	0.3
Nkayi	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.1	0.3	0.0
Tsholotsho	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Umguza	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0
Mat North	**1.1**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**6.4**	**0.1**	**0.0**

- The main source of loans for the households was ISAL/Mukando/Ukuqogelela (6.4%).

Households which Received Remittances/Gifts



- Tsholotsho (51.3%) had the highest proportion of households that received remittances/gifts from outside the country.

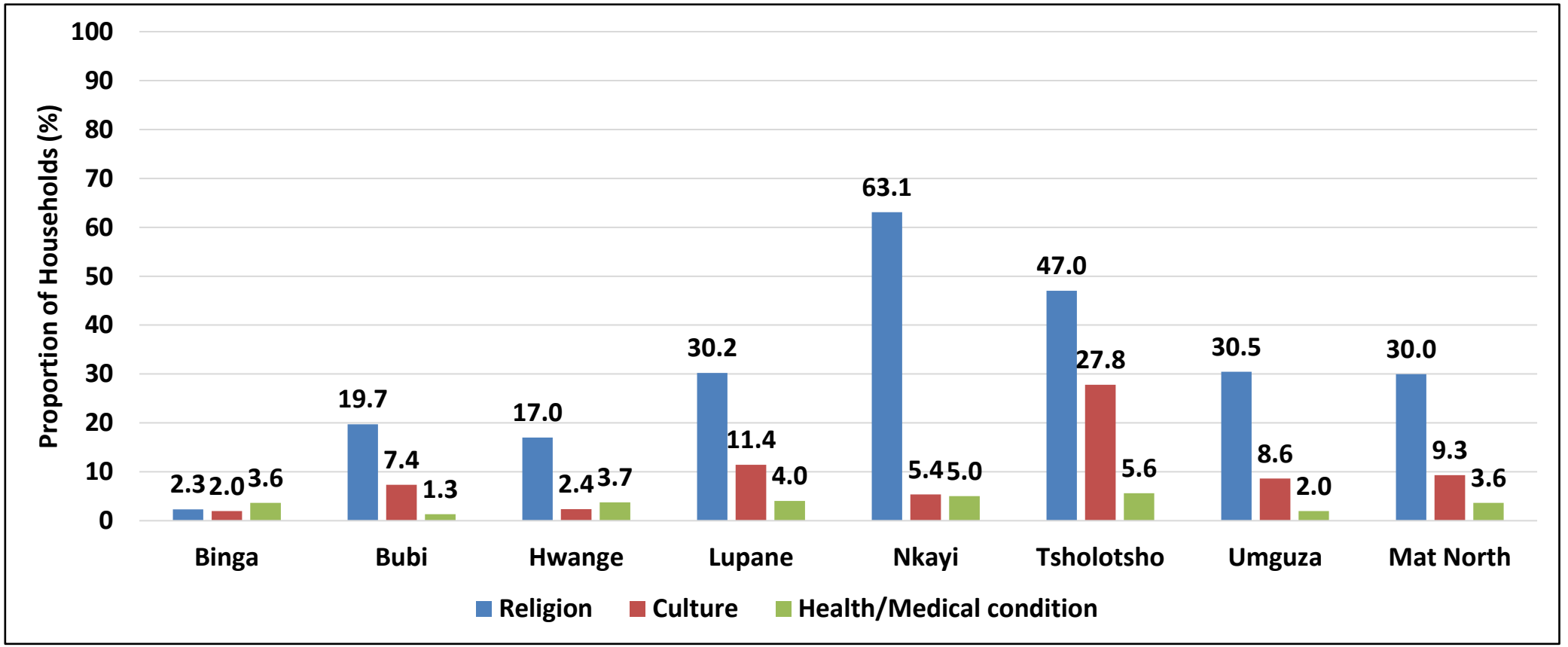
Food Dietary Taboos

Food Dietary Taboos

Province	Certain meat and meat products not consumed (%)	Certain fruits not consumed (%)	Traditional cereals not consumed (%)	Certain insects not consumed (%)	Age and gender restrictions on consumption of particular foods (%)	Other (%)	No taboos or restrictions (%)
Binga	7.9	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.3	89.7
Bubi	22.7	0.7	1.0	19.4	0.7	0.0	67.6
Hwange	19.7	0.3	0.3	2.4	0.3	1.4	77.9
Lupane	34.2	0.3	0.0	7.4	0.7	0.3	62.8
Nkayi	69.1	1.3	0.3	4.4	1.0	1.3	28.9
Tsholotsho	58.3	3.6	1.7	1.0	0.7	1.3	34.1
Umguza	36.4	0.0	0.7	1.3	1.0	3.6	62.6
Mat North	**35.5**	0.9	0.7	5.1	0.6	1.5	60.5

- About 35.5% 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.

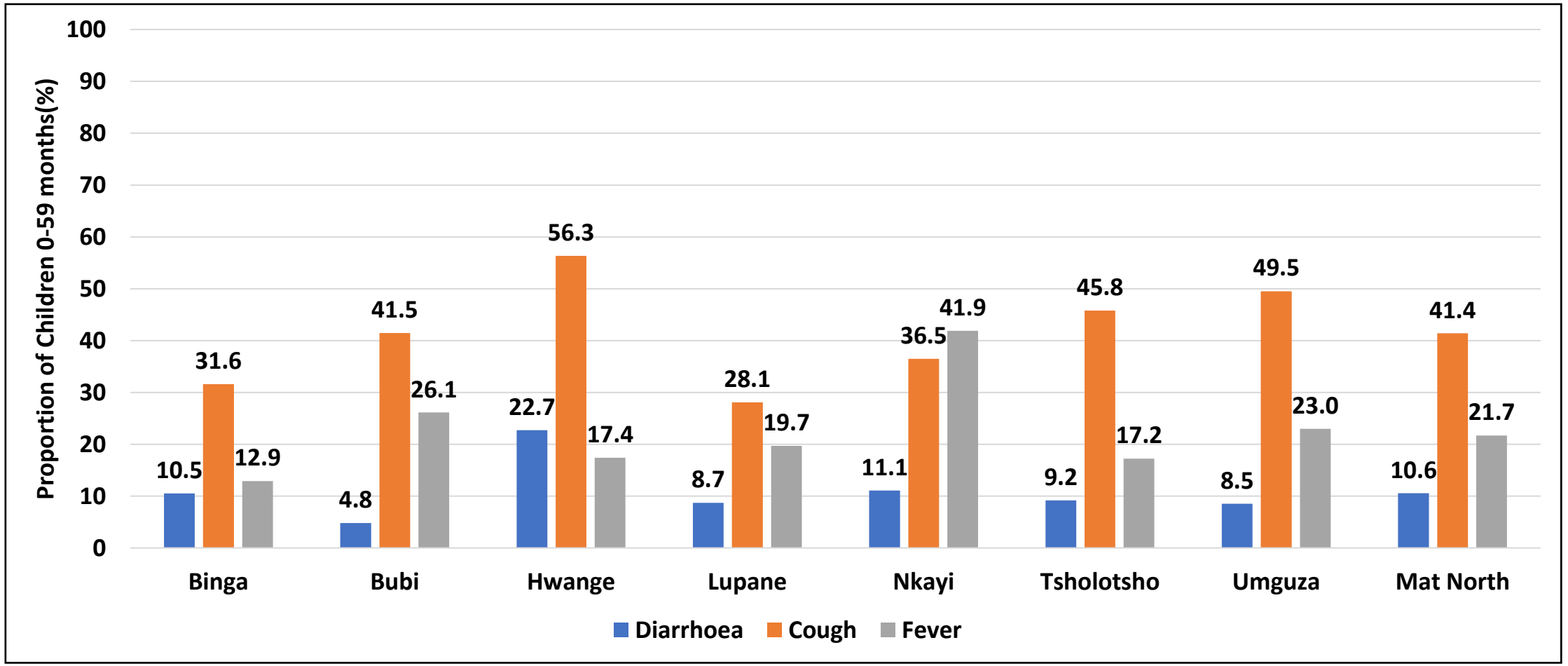
Reasons for Taboos



- Religion (30.0%) was the most reported reason for dietary related taboos.

Child Health

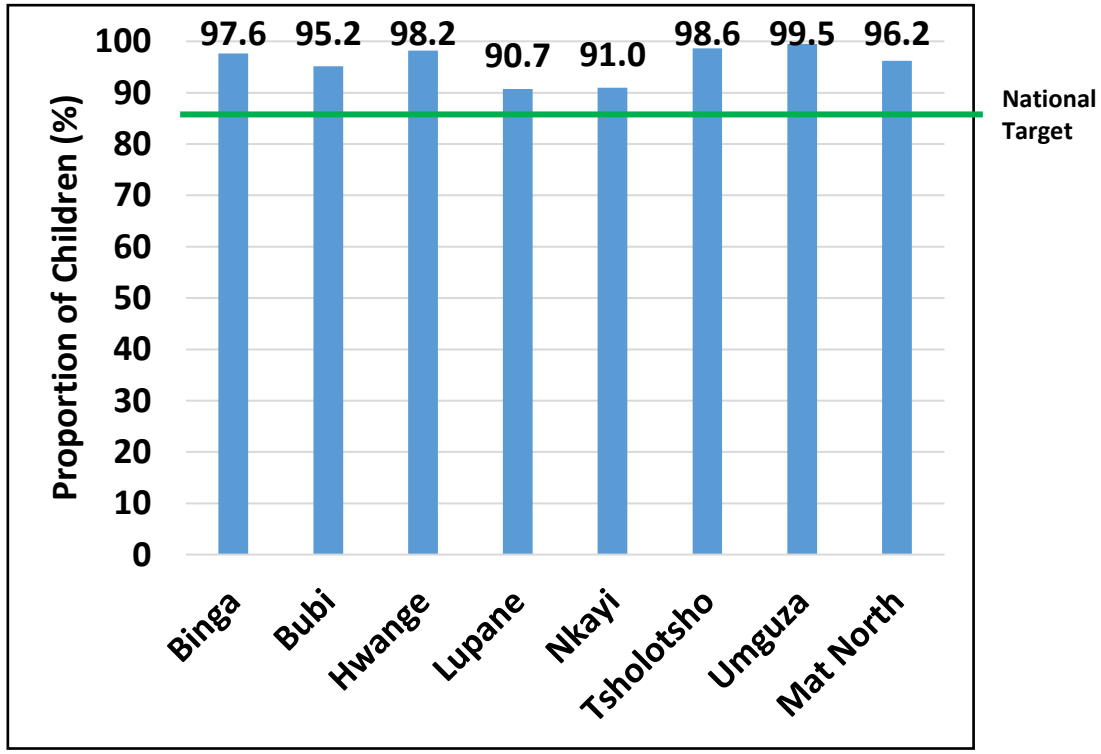
Child Illness 0-59 Months



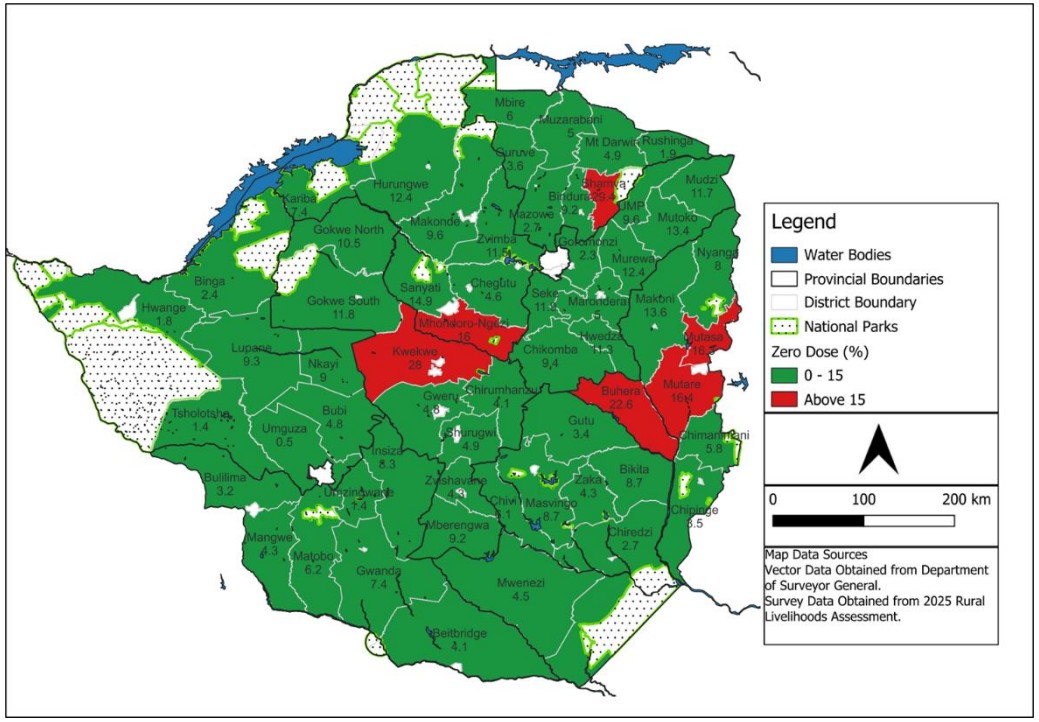
- Prevalence of child illness was assessed as presence of illness during the two weeks preceding the survey.
- Cough (41.4%) was the most reported child illness among those aged between 0-59 months.

Vaccination Status of Children 0-59 Months

Received Vaccination since Birth



Zero-Dose Percentage



- Immunization allows children everywhere to live lives free of many forms of disability and illness. Zero-dose refers to children who have not received any vaccinations.
- Provincially, all districts had a zero-dose below the 15% cut-off.

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.

Notes

EGG AND/OR FLESH FOOD CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (EFF)

- WHO guiding principles for feeding breastfed and non-breastfed children state that “meat, poultry, fish or eggs should be eaten daily, or as often as possible”
- There is evidence that children who consume eggs and flesh foods have higher intakes of various nutrients important for optimal linear growth. Consuming eggs is associated with increased intakes of energy, protein, essential fatty acids, vitamin B12, vitamin D, phosphorus and selenium, and with higher recumbent length
- Introduction of meat as an early complementary food for breastfed infants was associated with improved protein and zinc intake. There is also evidence of low prevalence of egg and flesh food intake across many countries.

SWEET BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (SwB)

- WHO guiding principles for complementary feeding advise against giving sweet drinks, such as soft drinks, as they contribute no nutrients other than energy and may displace more nutritious foods.
- Higher intakes of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) have been associated with an increased obesity risk among children of all ages. Early introduction of SSBs (before 12 months of age) is associated with obesity at six years of age. SSB consumption during the complementary feeding period is associated with an increased risk of obesity in childhood.

Notes

UNHEALTHY FOOD CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (UFC)

- In many low- and middle-income countries, diet patterns are shifting towards higher intakes of added sugars, unhealthy fats, salt and refined carbohydrates.
- Consumption of such foods may displace more nutritious foods and limit the intake of essential vitamins and minerals.
- Recently, unhealthy snack food and beverage consumption has been associated with a higher risk of nutrient inadequacy, and lower length-for-age among one-year-olds.
- Food preferences that begin early in life track into later childhood and adolescence. Such practices, if continued throughout adolescence and adulthood, can increase the risk of becoming overweight or obese, and of related chronic diseases later in life.

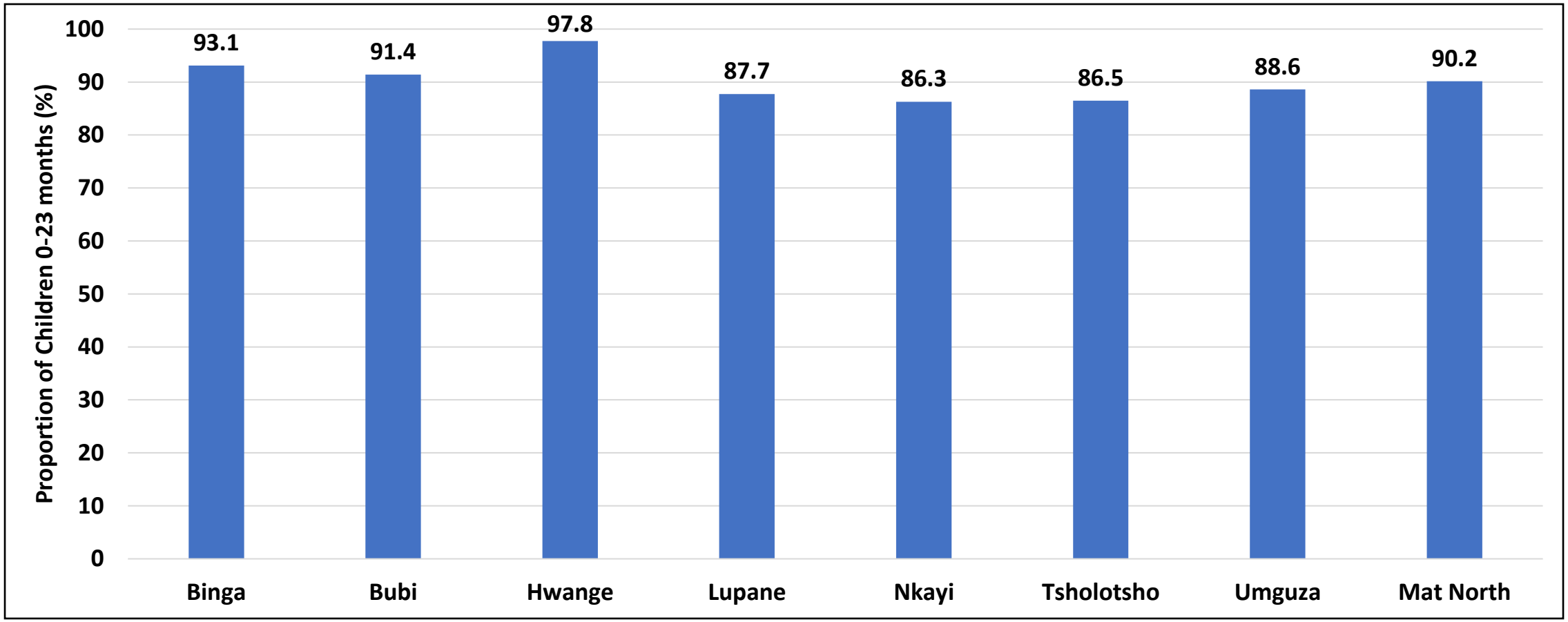
Notes

ZERO VEGETABLE OR FRUIT CONSUMPTION 6–23 MONTHS (ZVF)

- WHO indicates that low vegetable and fruit consumption is associated with increased risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).
- Consumption of zero vegetables or fruits on the previous day represents an unhealthy practice.

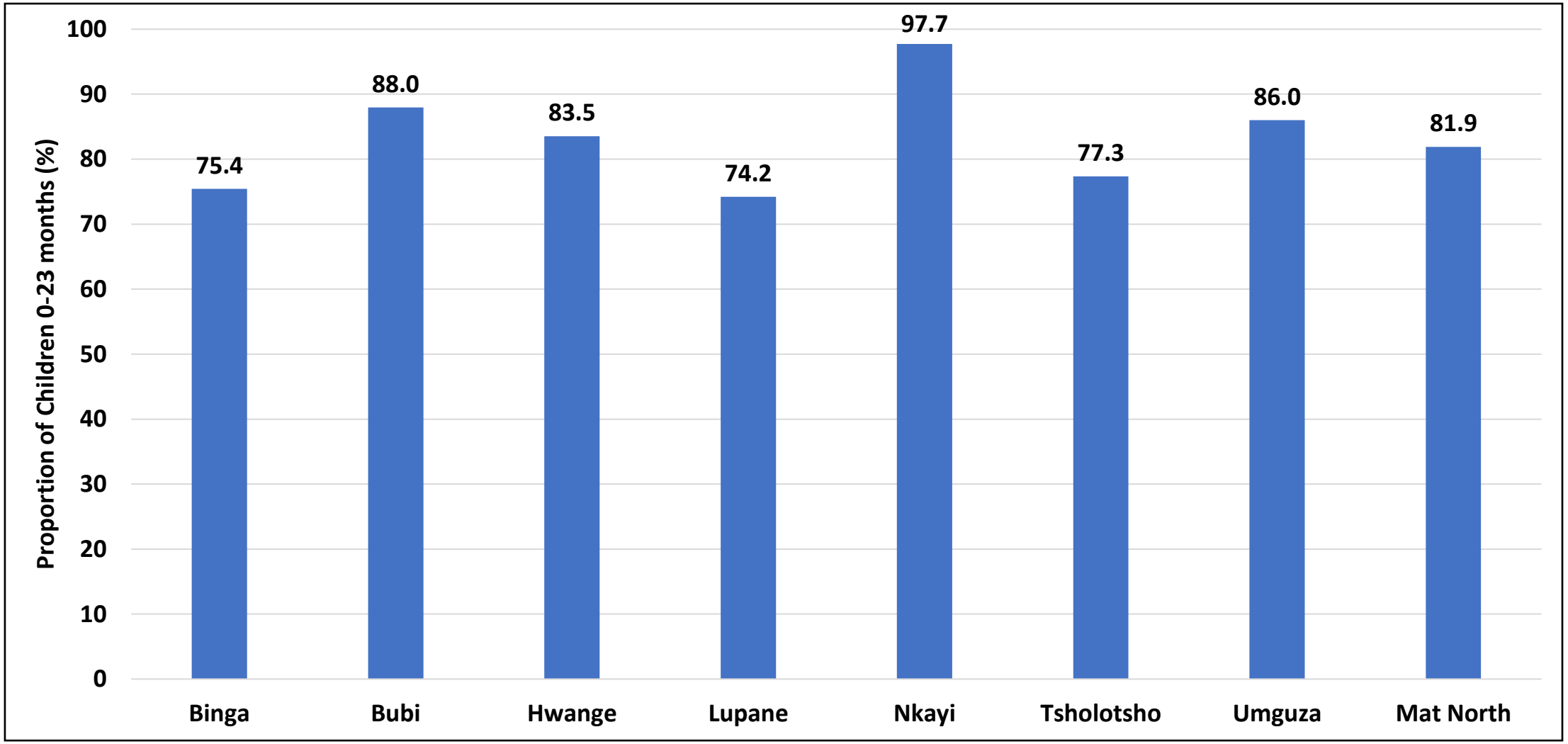
Indicator definition: percentage of children 6–23 months of age who did not consume any vegetables or fruits during the previous day.

Ever Breastfed 0 to 23 Months



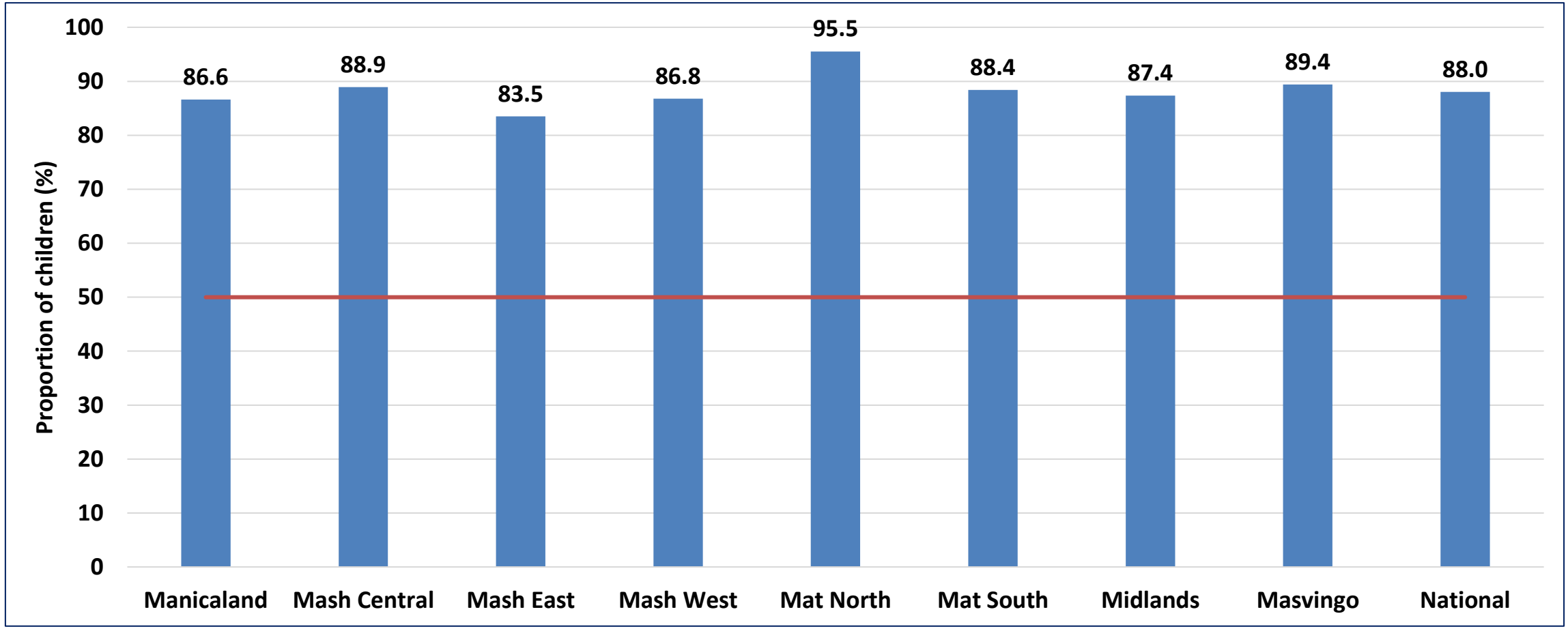
- About 90.2% of children aged 0-23 months were ever breastfed with the highest proportion in the province being reported in Hwange (97.8%).

Early Initiation of Breastfeeding



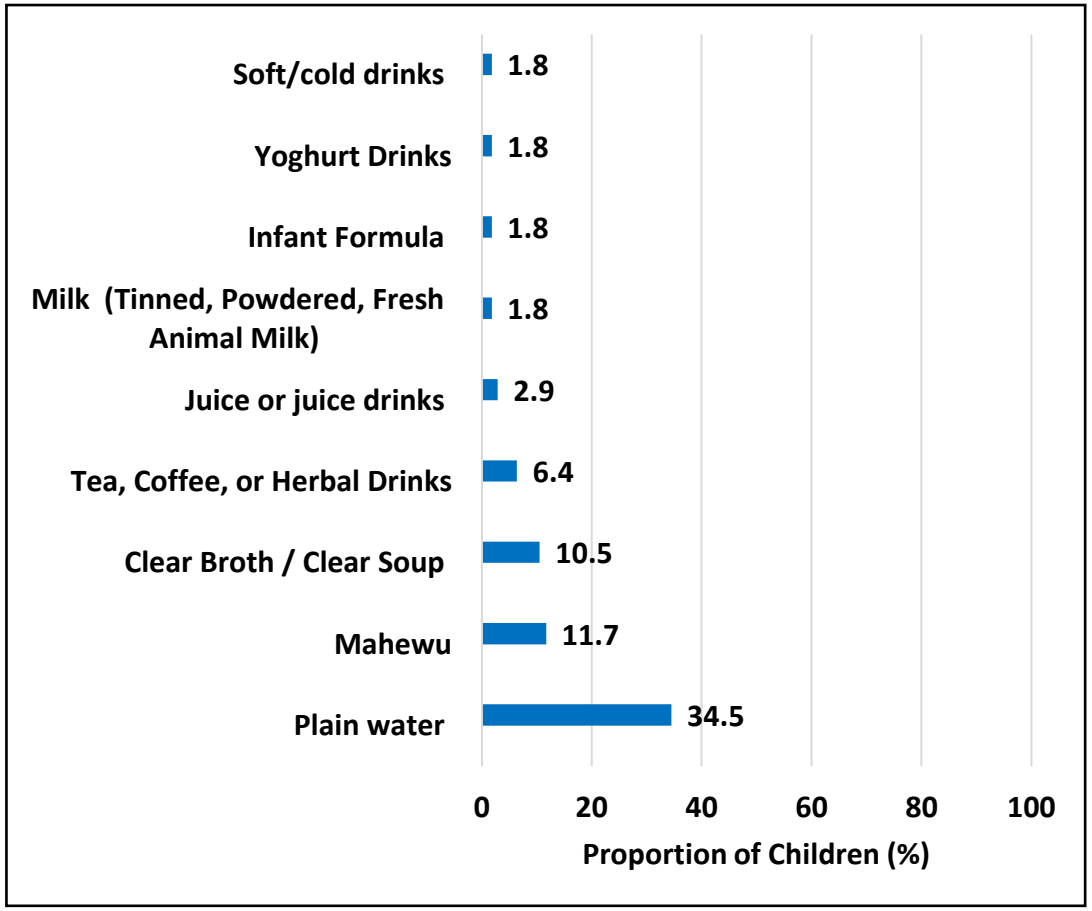
- About 81.9% reported early initiation of breastfeeding.

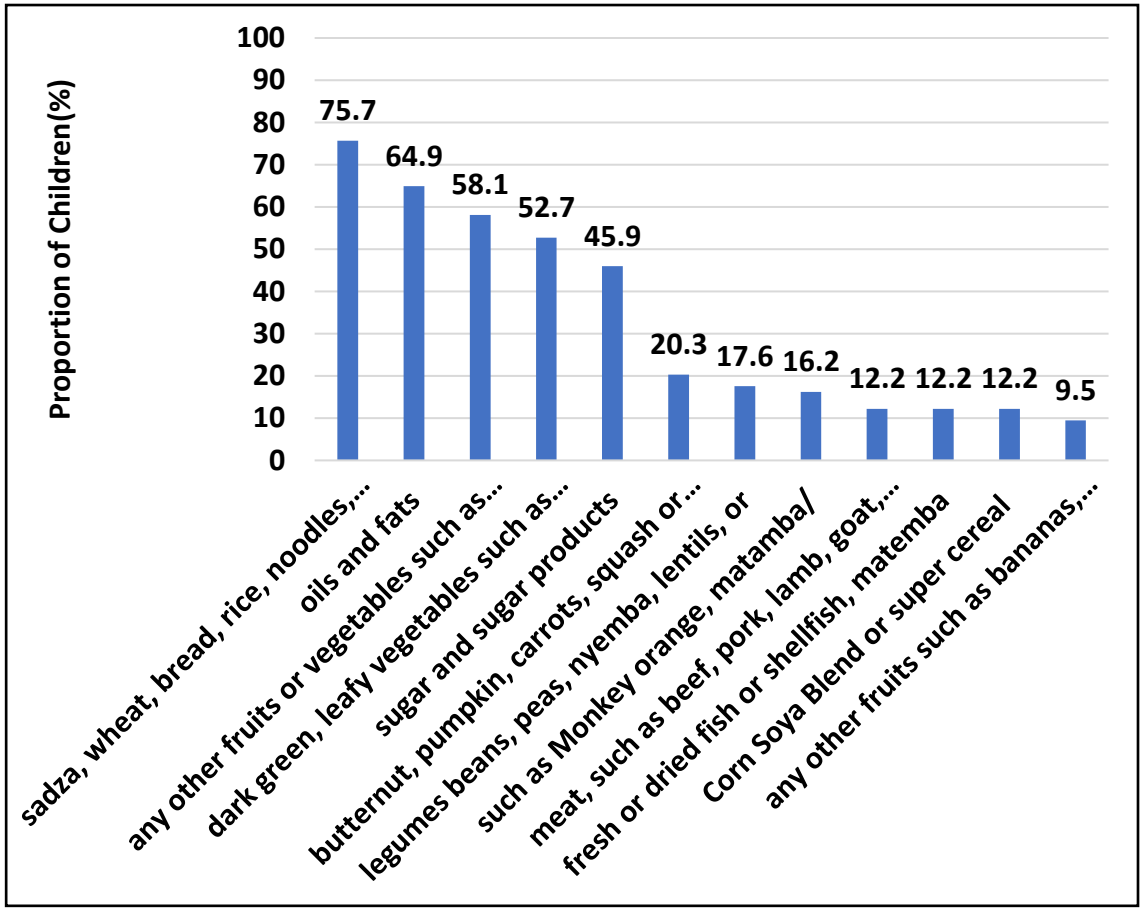
Exclusive Breastfeeding First Two Days



- The proportion of children who were exclusively breastfeed during the first two days was 95.5%.

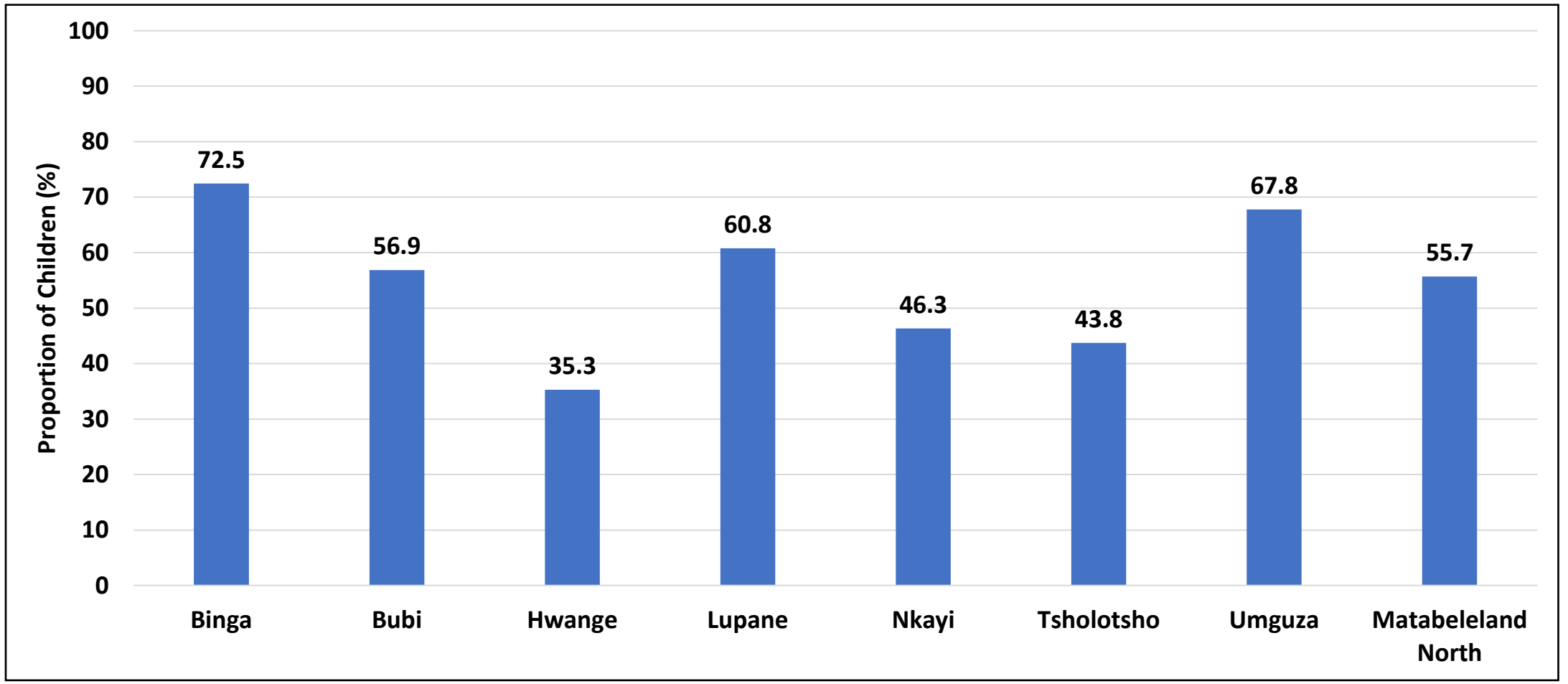
Liquids and Foods Consumed by Infants 0-5 Months





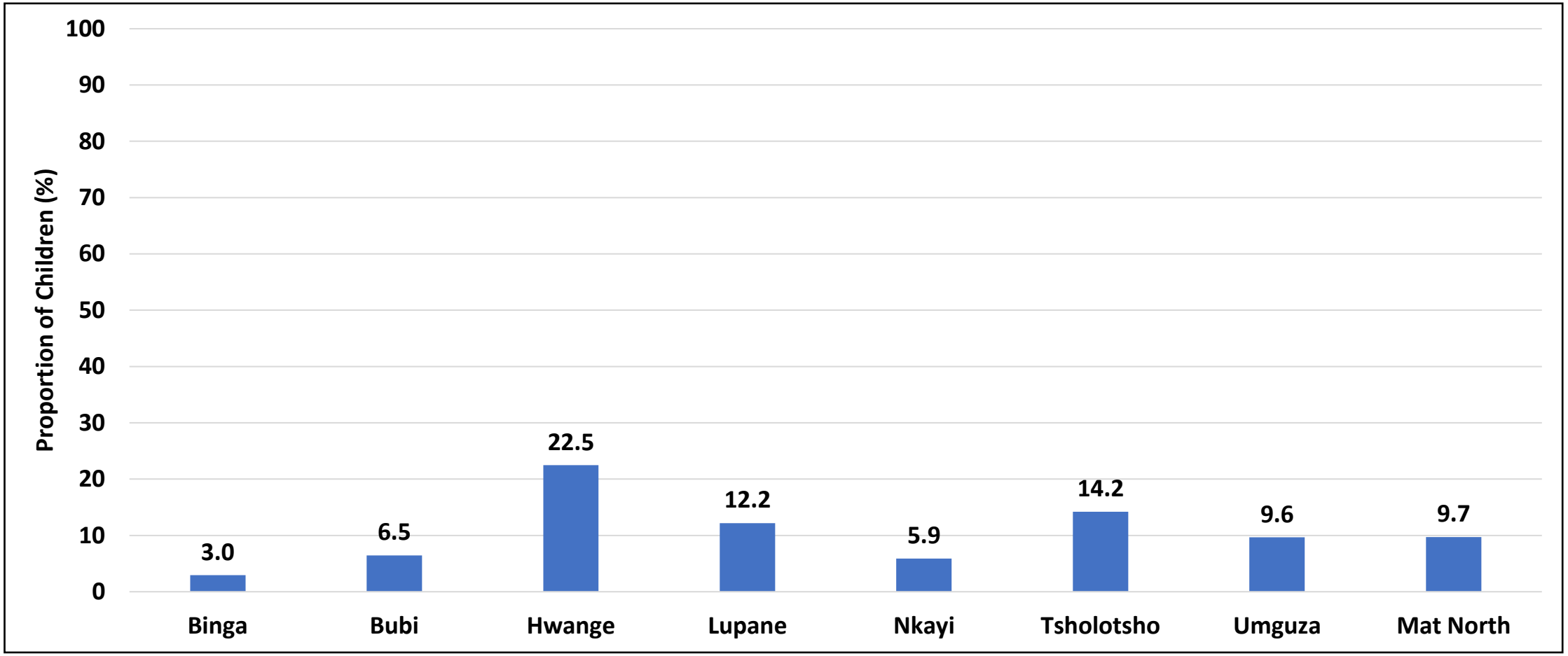
- Plain Water (34.5%) and mahewu (11.7%) were the main liquids given to infants aged 0-5 months.
- The most common foods that were consumed by infants 0-5 months were cereals (75.7%), and oils and fats (64.9%).

Continued Breastfeeding Beyond 1 year



- Binga (72.5%) had the highest proportion of children who continued to be breastfed beyond one year.

Bottle Feeding



- Hwange (22.5%) had the highest proportion of children who were bottle fed.

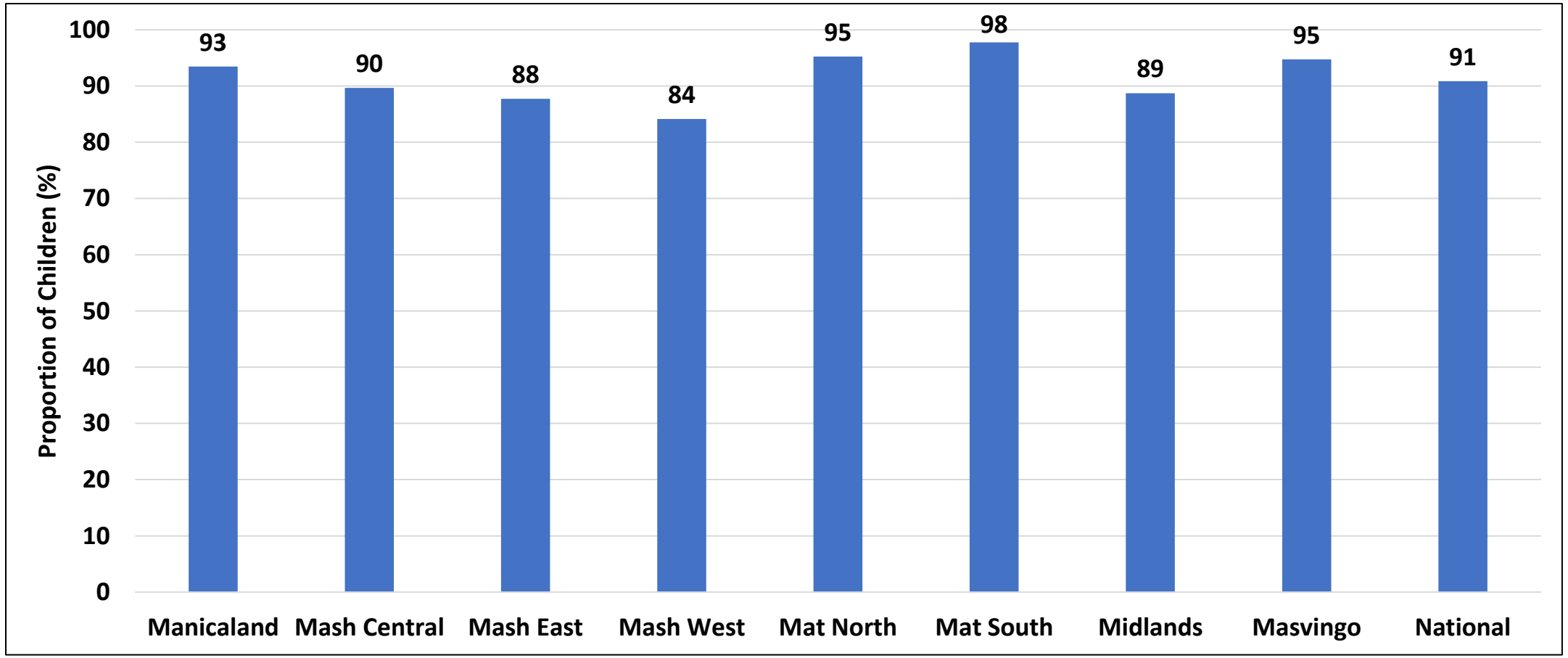
Complementary Feeding

- Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) is a proxy indicator for adequate micronutrient density. Both breastfed and non-breastfed infants are expected to consume at least five of the seven food groups that are recommended by the World Health Organisation.

- Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF) is a proxy for a child's energy requirements and is the proportion of breastfed and non-breastfed children 6 to 23 months of age who receive solid, semi-solid, or soft-foods or milk feeds the minimum number of times or more.

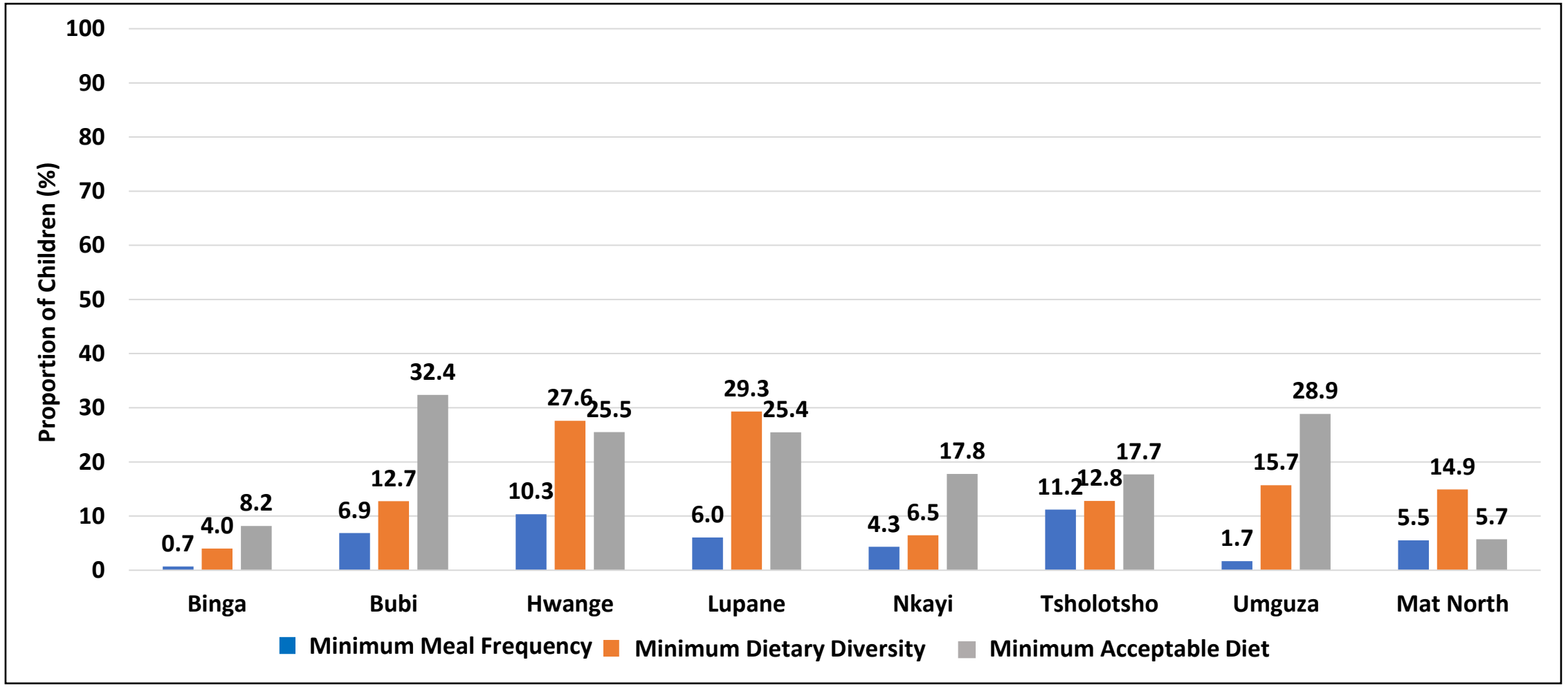
- Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) is a composite indicator of minimum meal frequency and dietary diversity. It represents minimum standards of IYCF practices.

Introduction of Solids to Infants (6–8 Months)



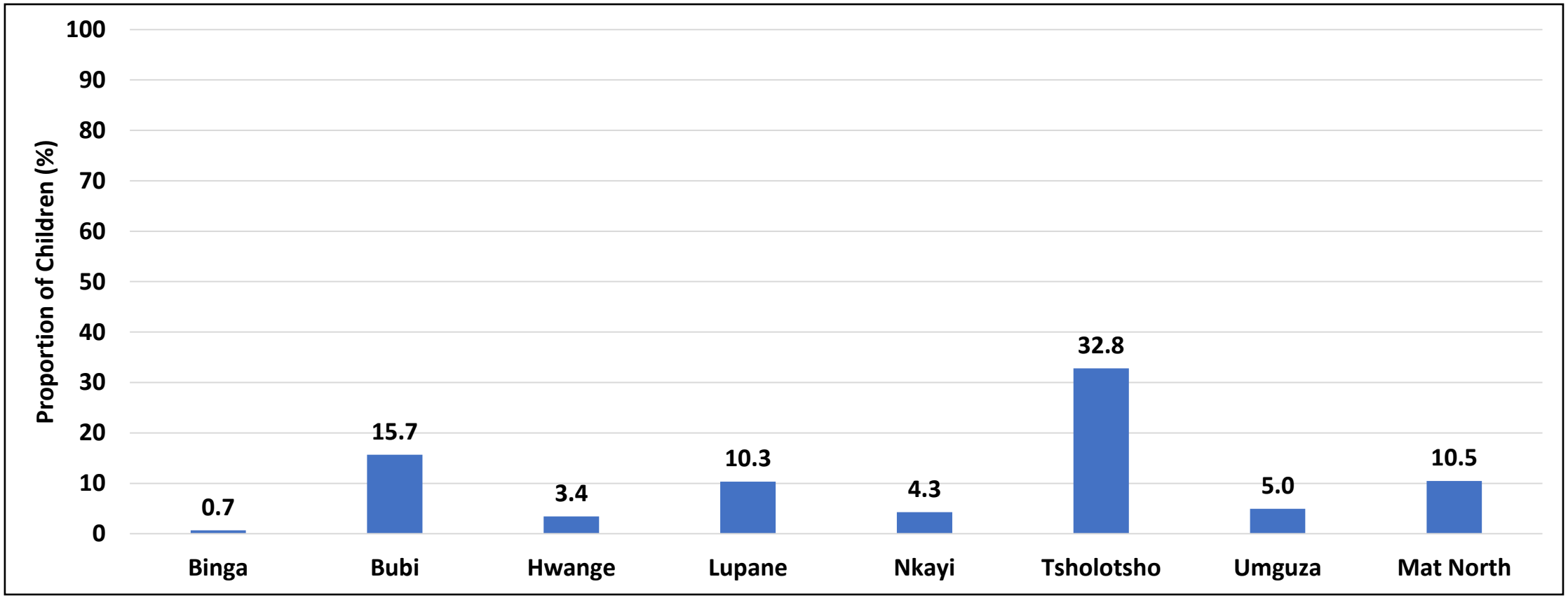
- About 95% of children in Matabeleland North 6-8 months of age were timely introduced to solids or soft foods.

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality



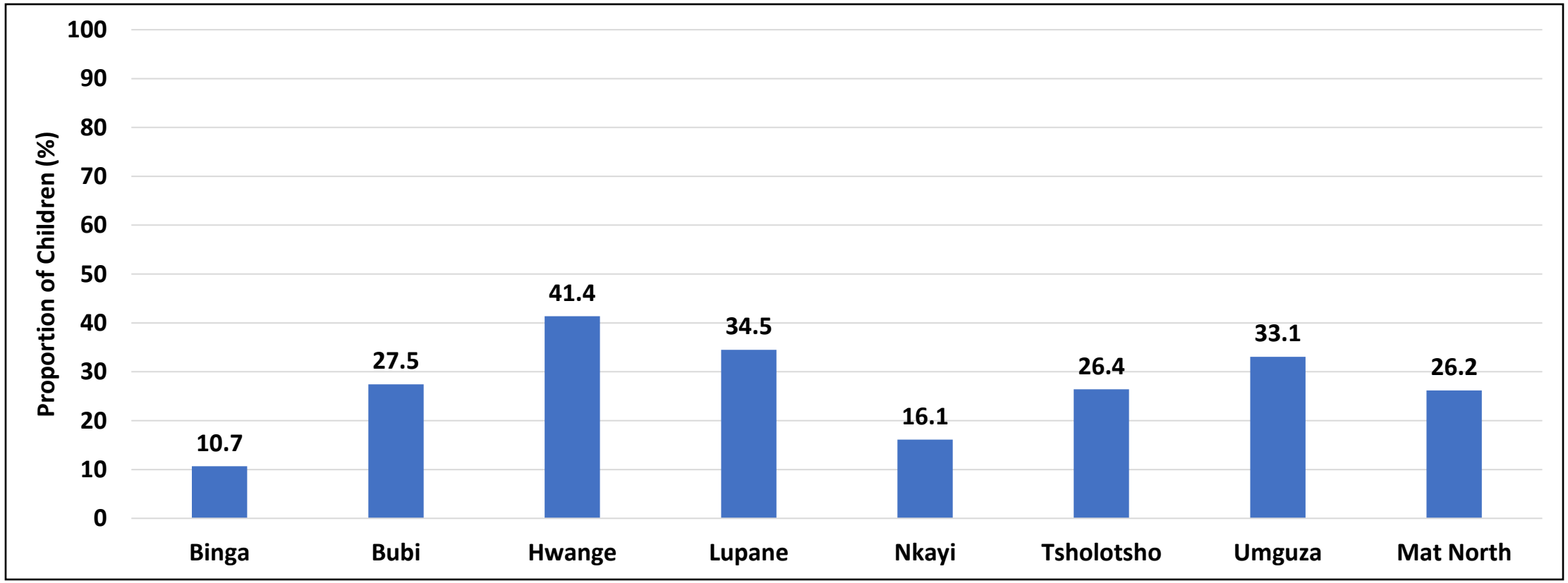
- Only 5.7% of children aged 6-23 months were consuming a minimum acceptable diet in terms of quality and quantity.

Unhealthy Food Consumption 6–23 Months



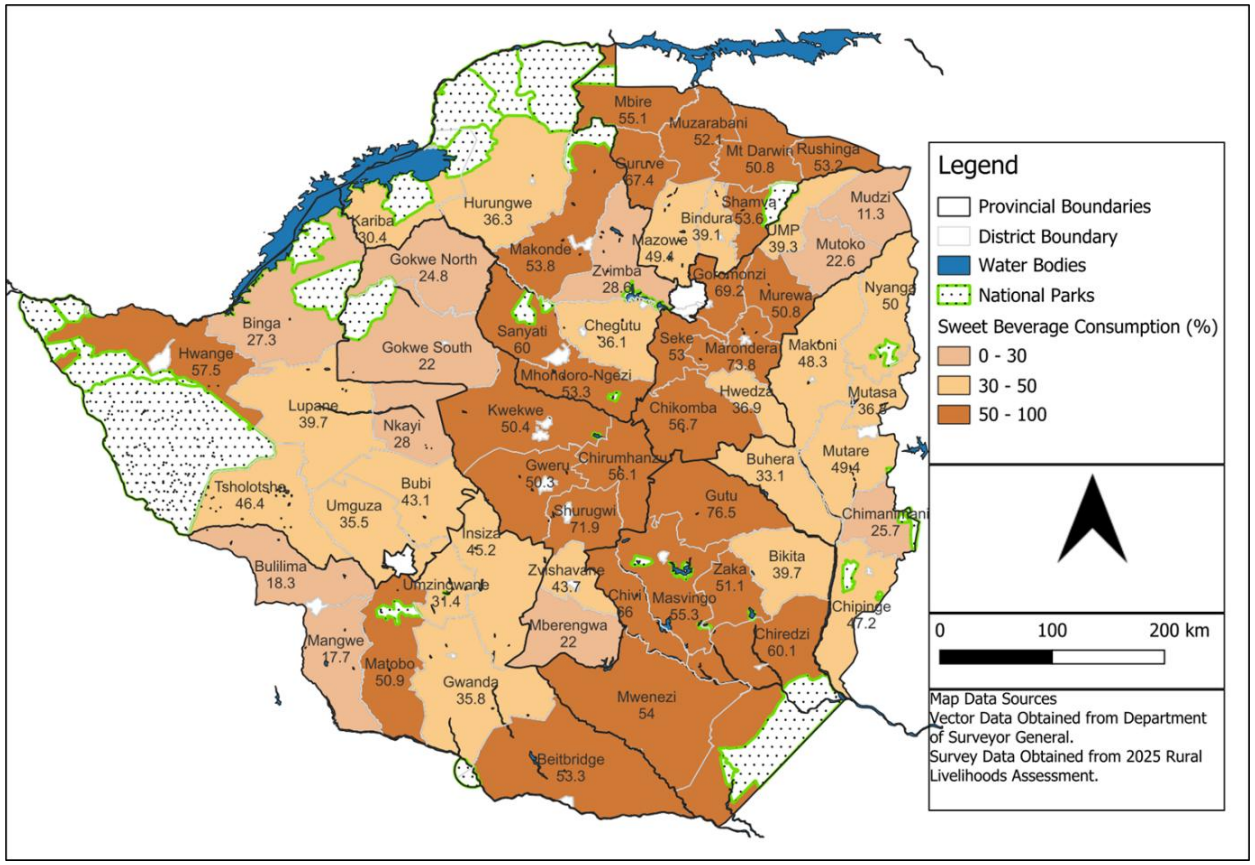
- Tsholotsho (32.8%) and Bubi (15.7%) had the highest proportion of children aged 6 to 23 months consuming unhealthy food.

Egg and/or Flesh Food Consumption 6–23 Months



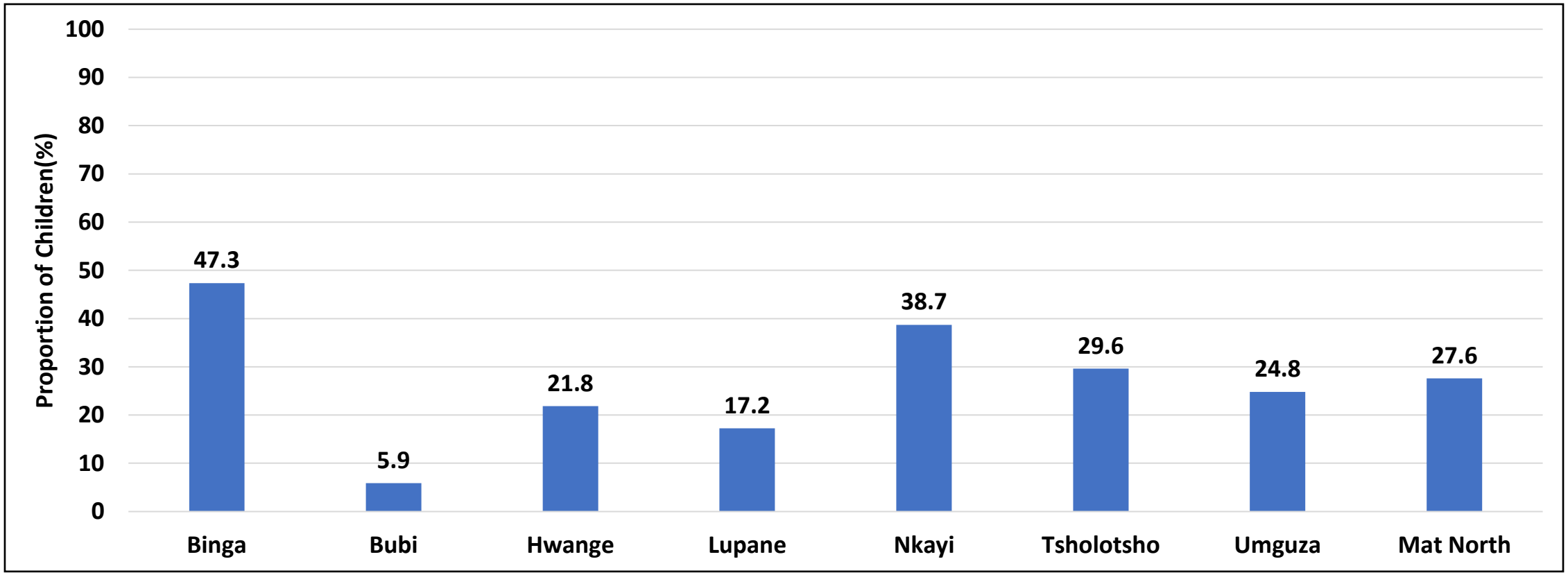
- The average number of children aged 6-23 month-olds consuming egg/flesh food was 26.2%.

Sweet Beverage Consumption 6–23 Months



- Hwange (57.7%) and Tsholotsho (46.4%) had the highest proportion of children aged 6 to 23 months consuming of sweet beverages which poses nutritional and health risks for children in those districts.

Non- Vegetable or Fruit Consumption 6–23 Months



- About 27.6% of children aged between 6 and 23 months were not consuming vegetables or fruit.

Vitamin A Supplementation

Vitamin A Supplementation for Children 6-59 Months

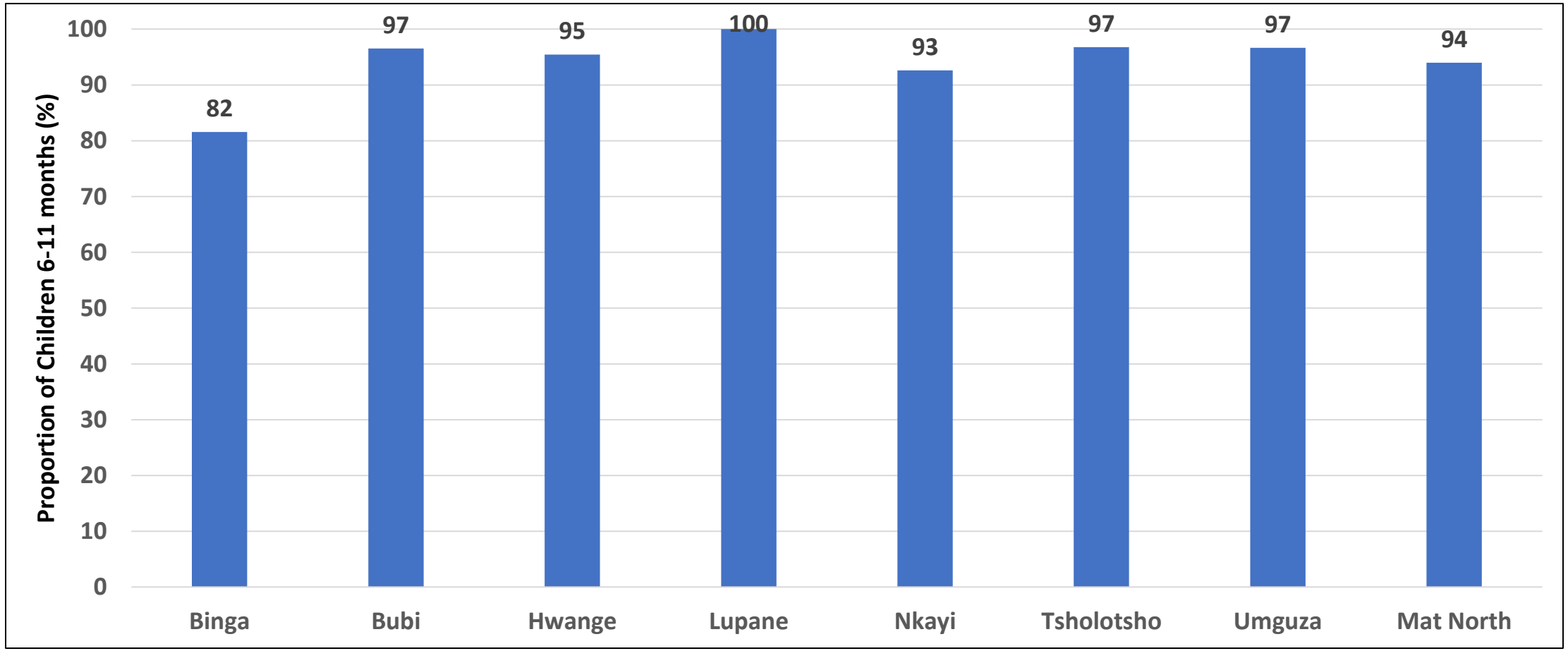
- The World Health Organization recommends Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) once every six months for children in the age group of 6 59 months.

- VAS is proven to reduce all cause mortality, incidence of diarrhoea and measles in children.

The Zimbabwe VAS Schedule

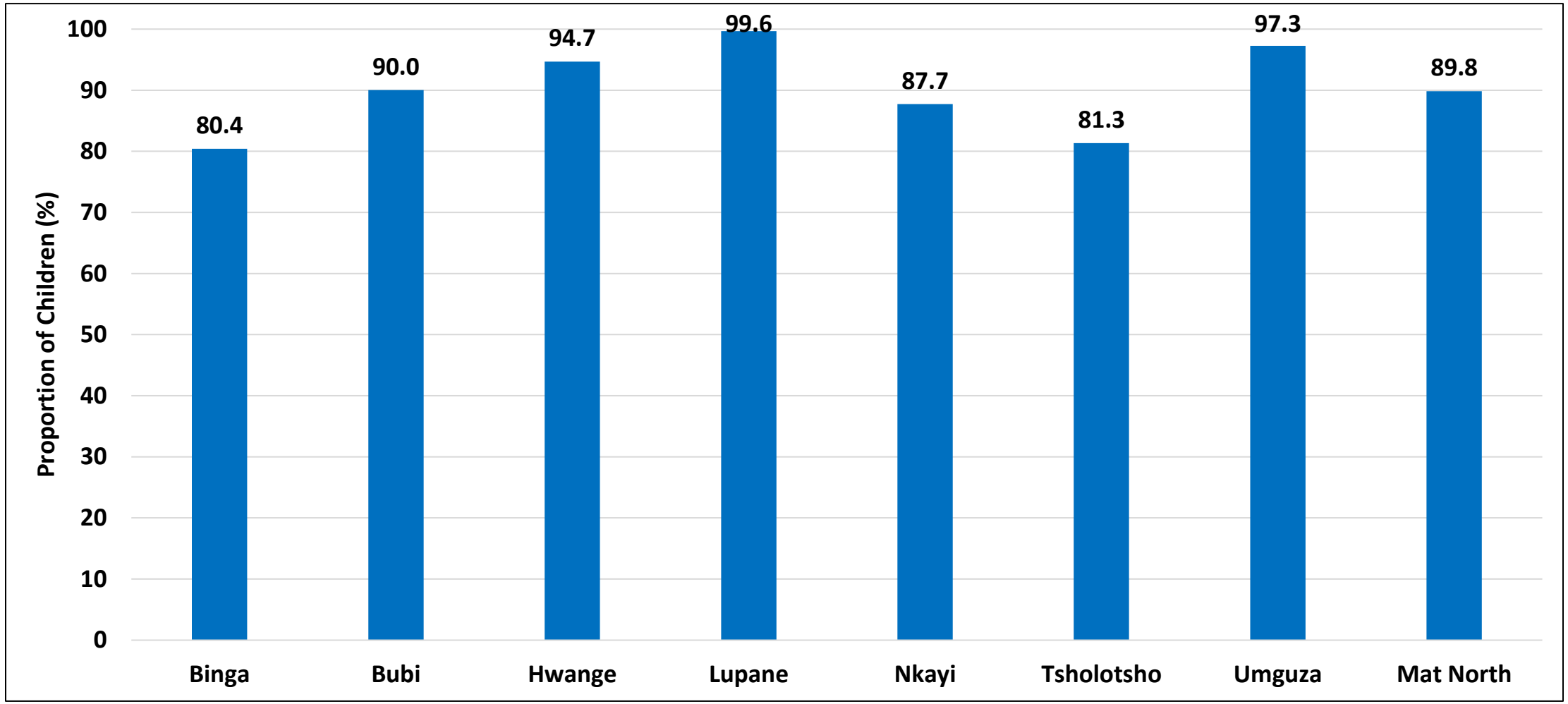
Age Group	Vitamin A Dosage	Timing for Administration
Below 6 months	**Do not give**	**N/A**
6-11 months	**100 000 IU**	**Once at age 6 months**
12-59 months	**200 000 IU**	**Once every 6 months from age 6 months, until child reaches 5 years.**

Vitamin A Supplementation Children 6-11 Months



- Matabeleland North recorded a vitamin A coverage of 94% for children 6-11 months with the highest being recorded in Lupane (100%) and the lowest in Binga (82%).

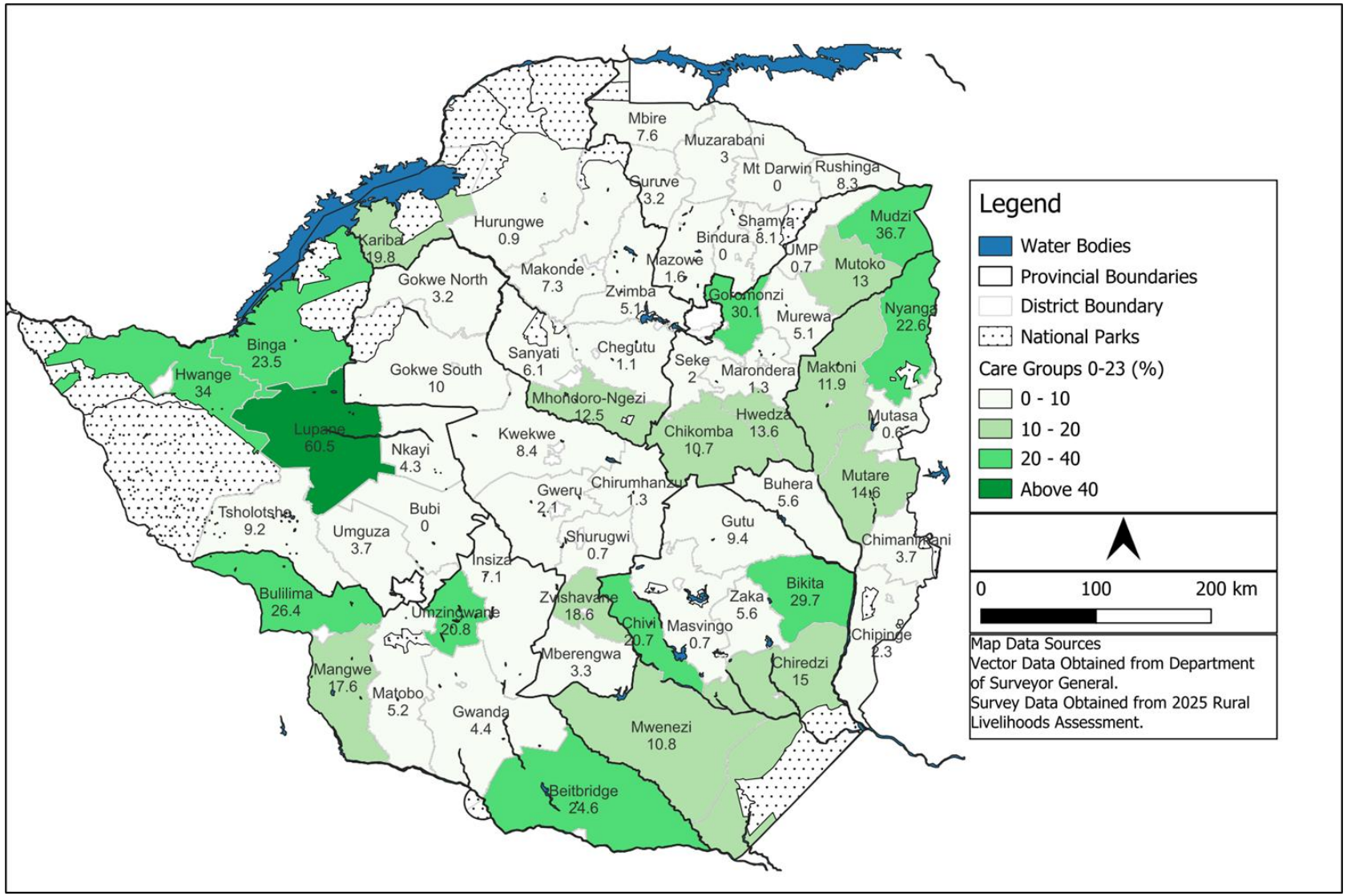
Vitamin A Supplementation Children 12-59 Months



- Binga (80.4%) and Tsholotsho (81.3%) reported the least coverage for vitamin A supplementation for children 12-59 months.

Care Groups

Membership of a Care Group or IYCF Support Groups by District



- Lupane (60.5%) reported high proportions of caregivers who were members of a care group or IYCF support group.

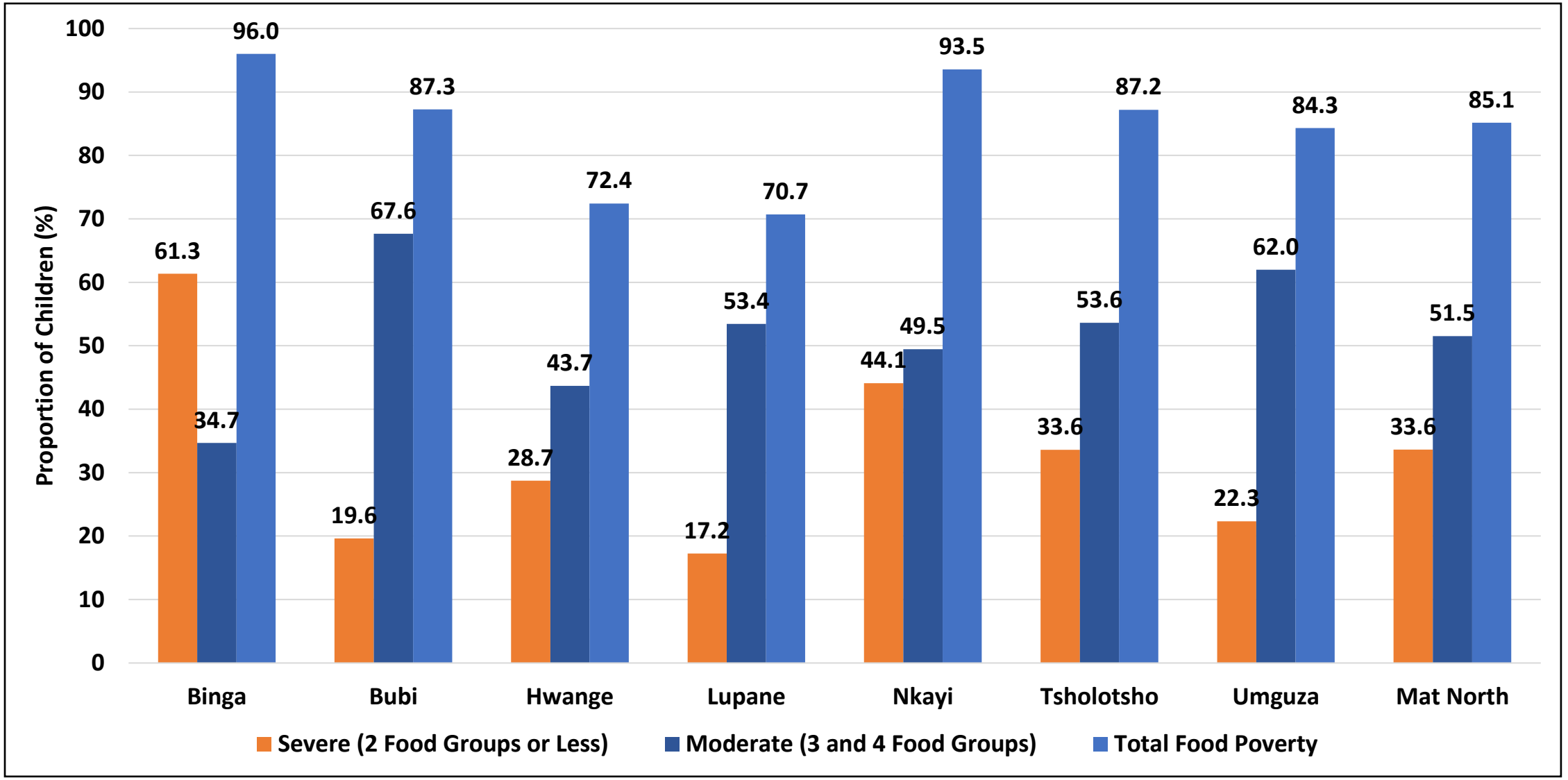
Child Food Poverty

- **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



- About 33.6% of children aged 6 to 23 months had severe food poverty.

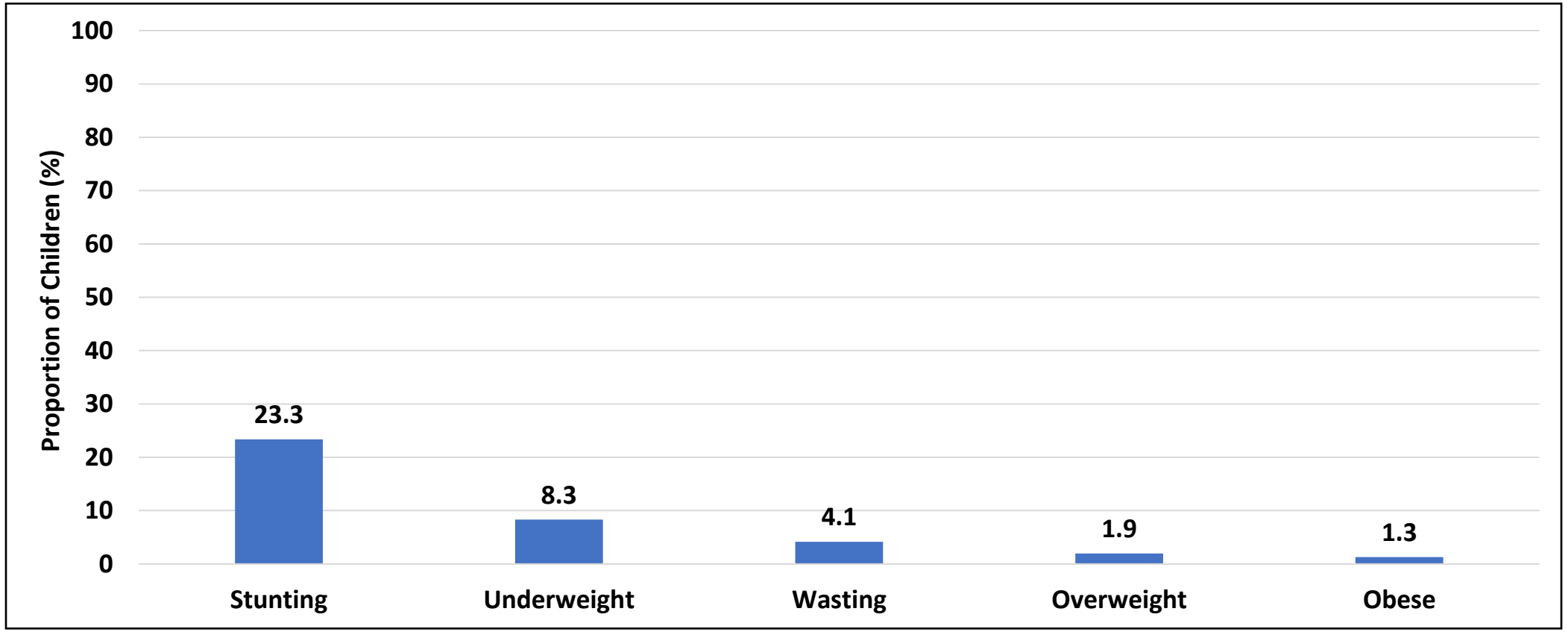
Nutrition Status

Child Nutrition Status

Child Stunting 	The share of children under the age of five who are short for their age (having a low height-for-age), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
Child Wasting 	The share of children under the age of five who are too thin for their height (low-weight-for-height), reflecting acute undernutrition.
Child Underweight 	The share of the children under the age of the five who are too thin for their age (low weight-for-age).
Overweight /Obesity 	The share of children under the age of five who are too heavy for their height (high weight-for-height).

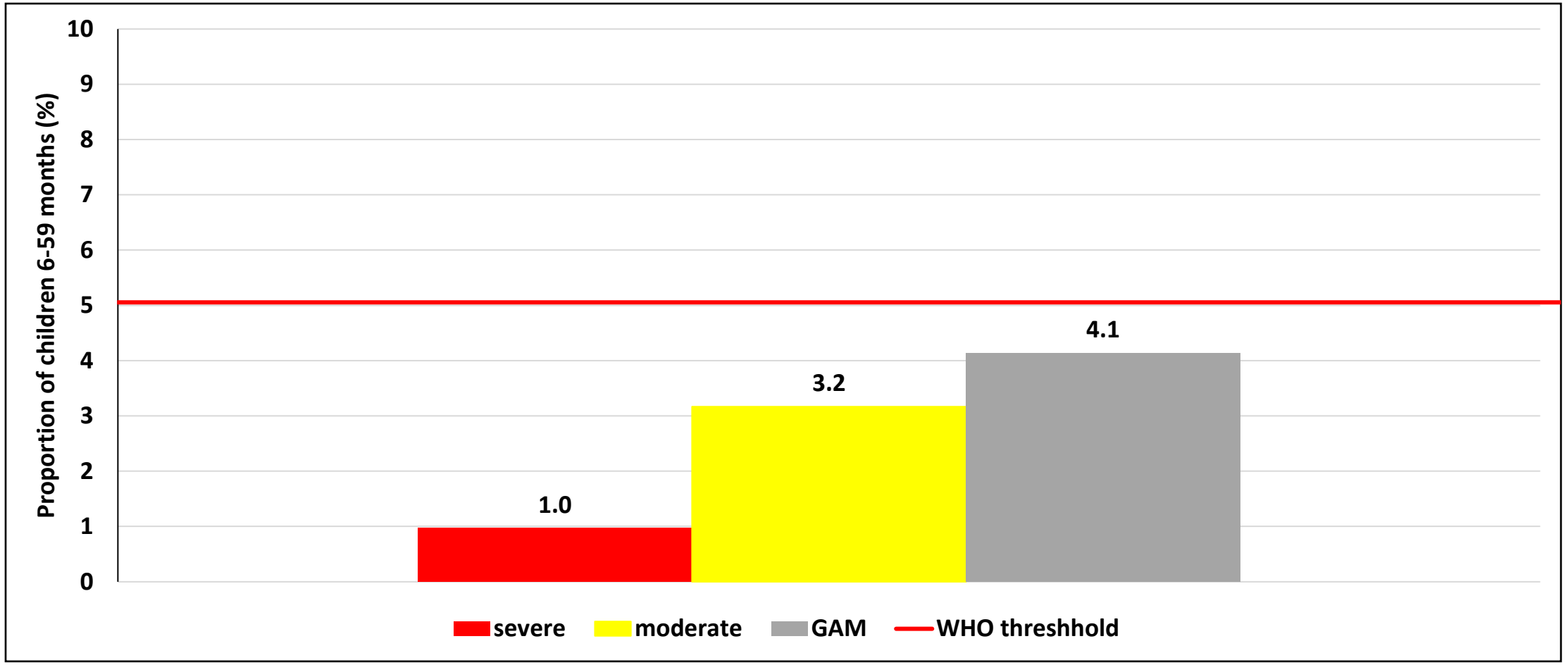
Indicator	Indicator definition (WHO standards, 2006)	National prevalence (%)	Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance
Stunting	Height/Length for age <–2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	29	<2.5%: Very Low 2.5-<10%: Low 10-<20%: Medium 20-<30%: High ≥30%: Very High (DeOniset al., 2019)
Global Acute Malnutrition	Weight for height <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema	**5.7**	<5% Acceptable 5–9.9%: Poor 10–14.9%: Serious >15%: Critical
Severe Acute Malnutrition	Weight for height <–3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	**2.1**	0% = acceptable >0%: Unacceptable
Underweight	Weight for age <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema	12.4	
Overweight	Weight for height >+2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	3.2	<2.5%: very low 2.5 to <5%: low 5 to <10%: medium 10 to <15%: high ≥15%: very high
obesity	Weight for height >+3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median	2.5	

Nutrition Status of Children 6- 59 months



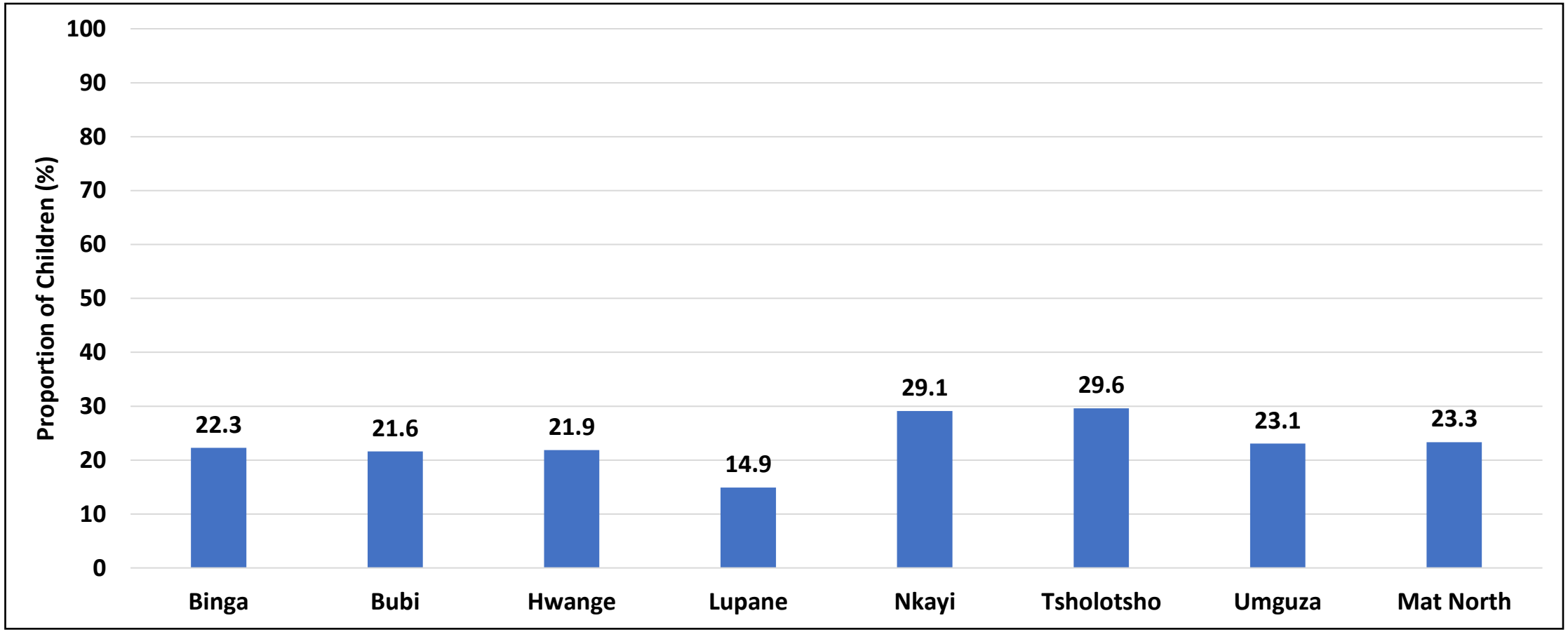
- Prevalence of GAM (wasting) was 4.1%.
- Stunting prevalence remains high (23.3%) according to the World Health Organization classification (20-30%) high.

Prevalence of Wasting for Children Aged 6-59 Months



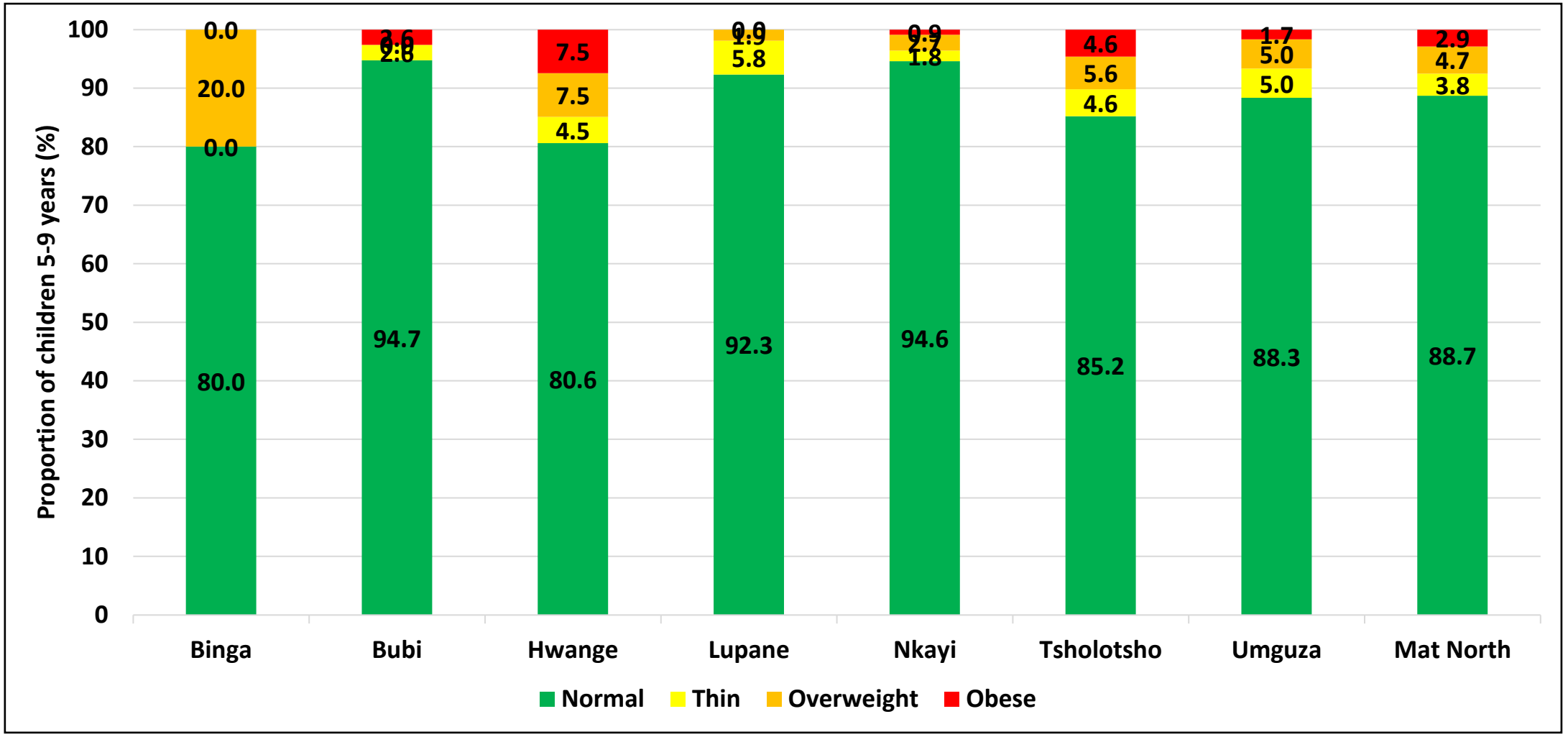
- The prevalence for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was 1.0% which is in line with the national target for SAM of 2.5%.

Prevalence of Stunting for Children 6-59 Months



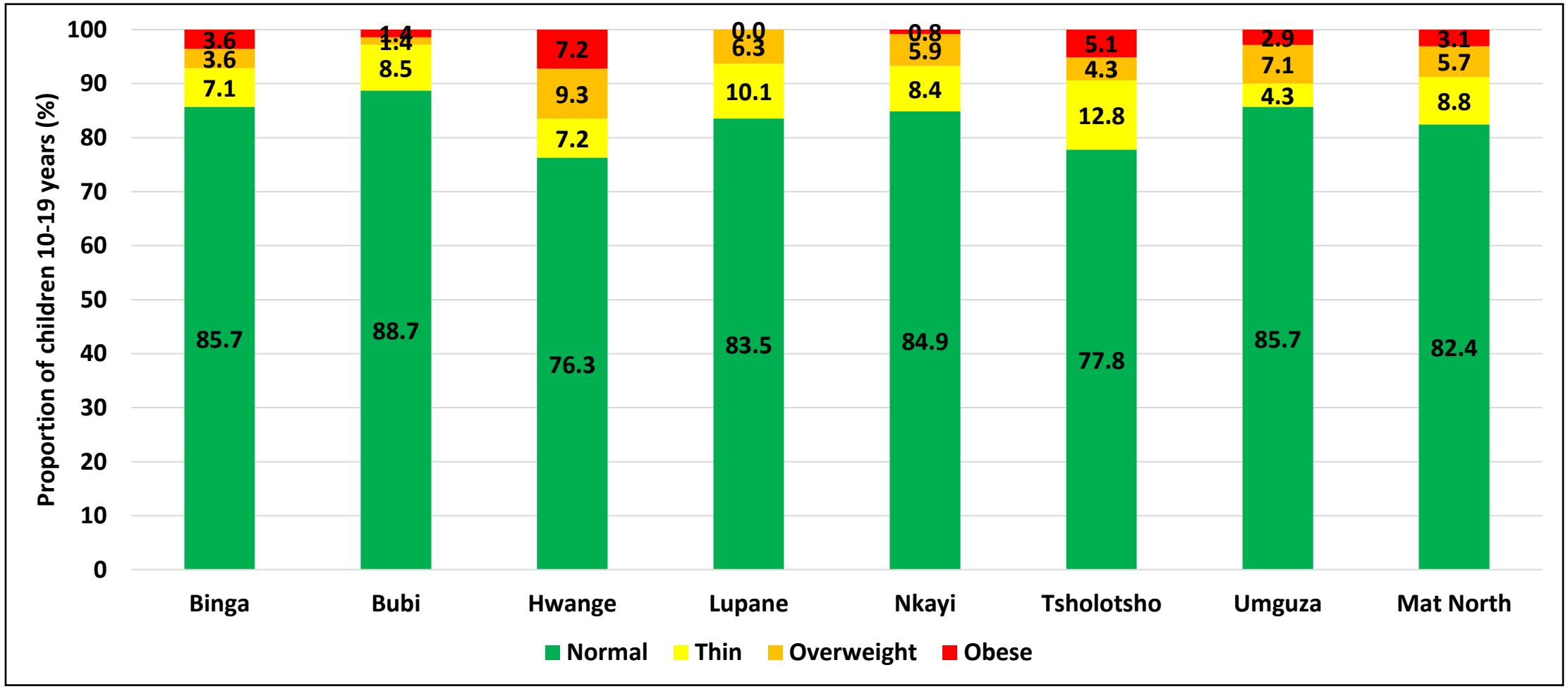
- The proportion of children 6-59 months who were stunted was 23.3%.
- Stunting levels were highest in Tsholotsho (29.6%) and Nkayi (29.1%).

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



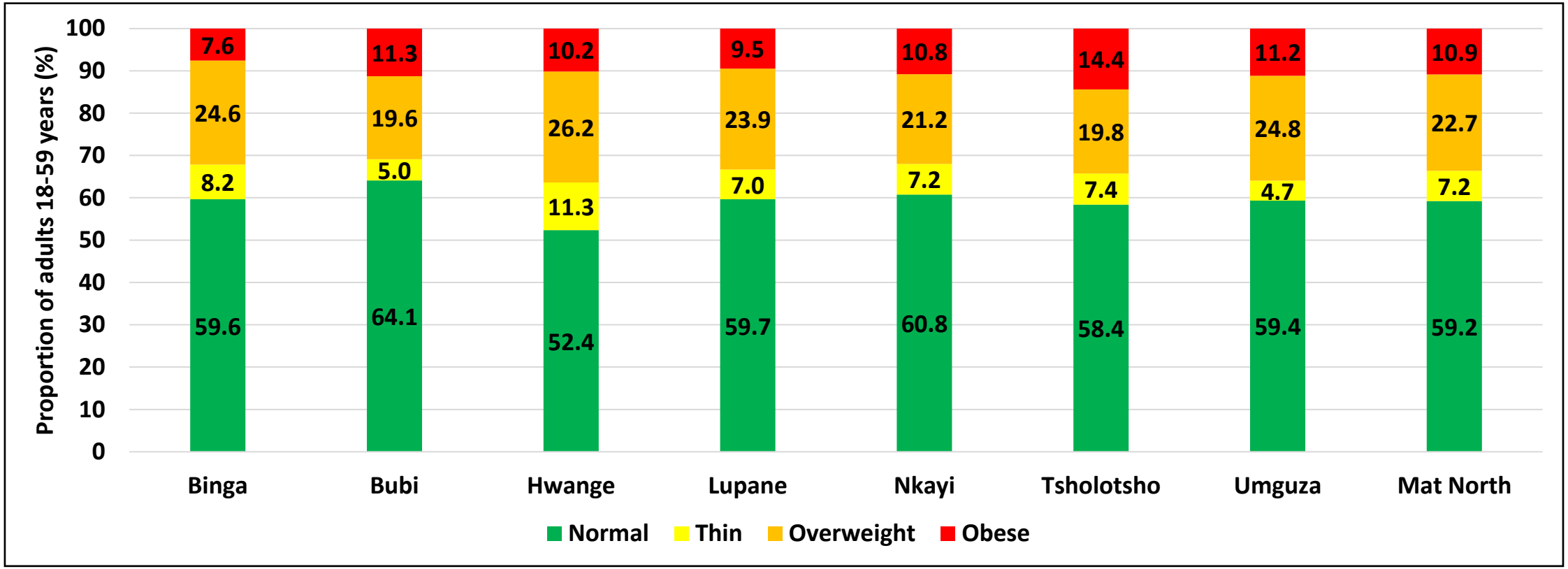
- About 2.9% of the children aged 5 to 9 years were obese and 4.7% were overweight whilst 88.7% were normal.
- Hwange (7.5%) had the highest proportion of children in this age group who were obese.

Nutrition Status of Adolescents 10-19 Years (BMI-for-Age)



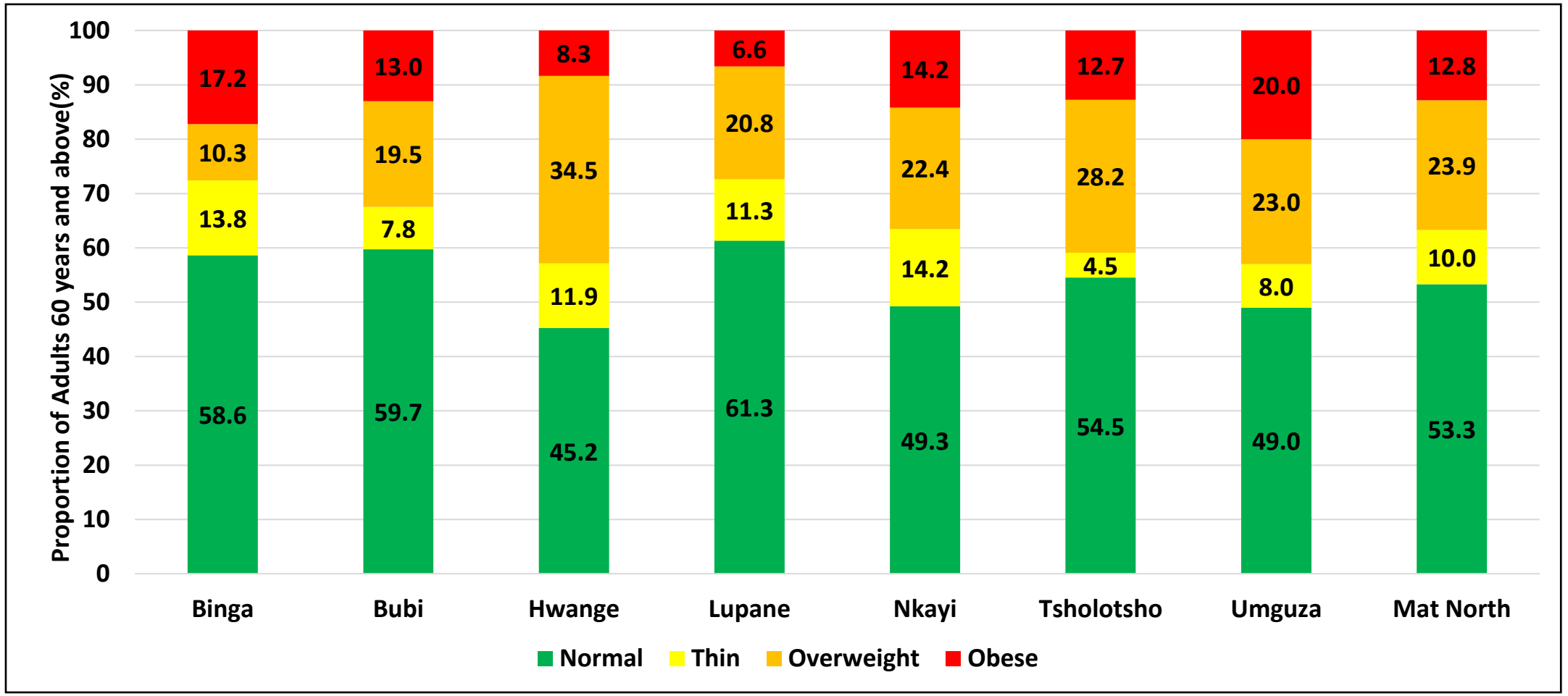
- Hwange (7.2%) and Tsholotsho (5.1%) had the highest proportion of adolescents who were obese.

Nutrition Status for Adults 18-59 Years (BMI-for-Age)



- Body mass index was used to classify adults aged 18 years and above. Having excess fat deposits in the body leads to 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).
- About 33.6% of the adults aged 18-59years were overweight and obese.

Nutrition Status for Adults 60 Years and above (BMI-for-Age)



- About 36.7% of adults above 60 were overweight and obese, whilst 53.3% were normal.

Food Security

Food Security Dimensions

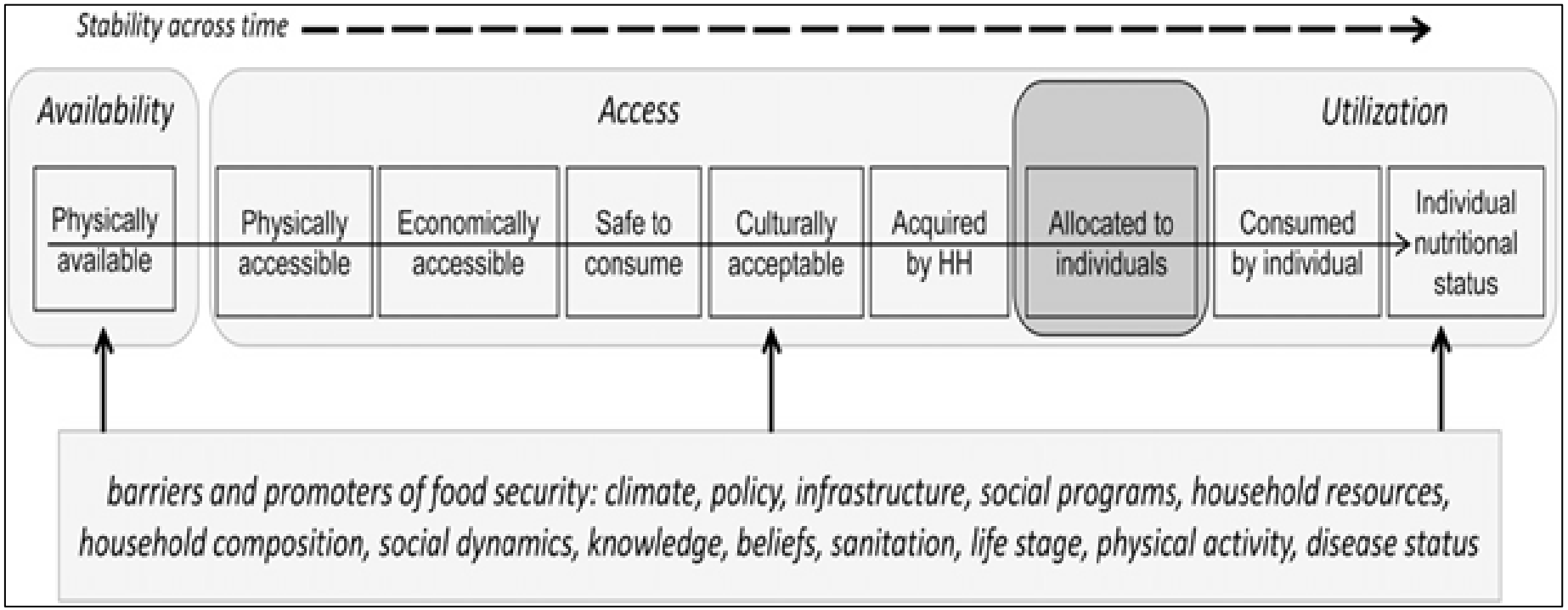


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

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.

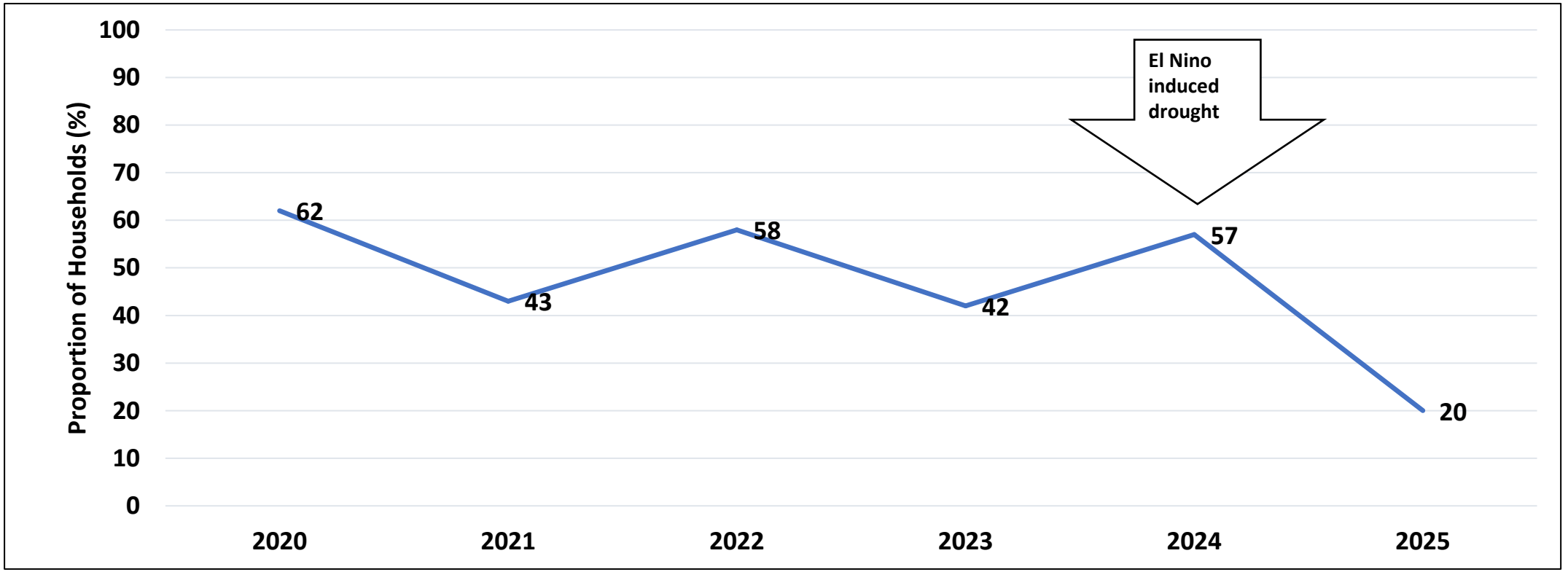
Food Security Analytical Framework

- 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

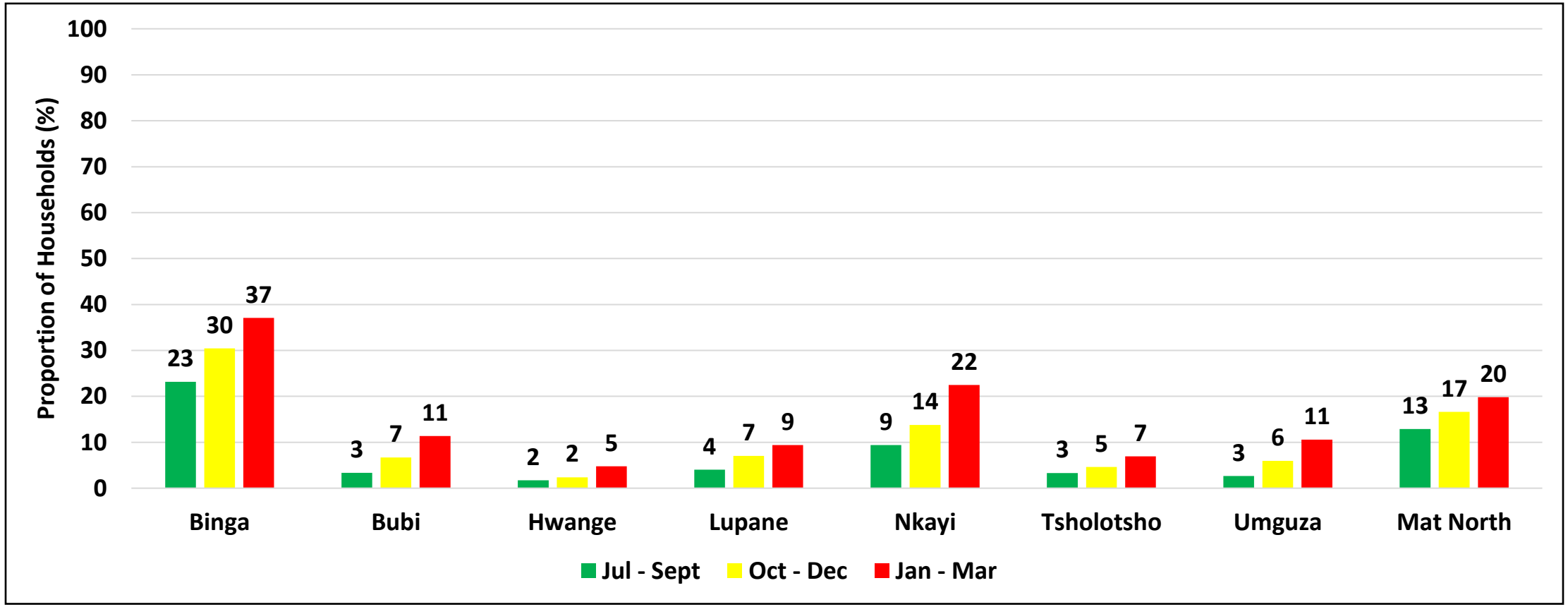
- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) it was estimated that approximately **20%** of the rural households will be cereal insecure.
- The 20% of rural households translated into approximately **126,475** individuals requiring a total of **10,339 MT** of cereal (maize grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.

Cereal Insecurity Trends 2020 - 2025



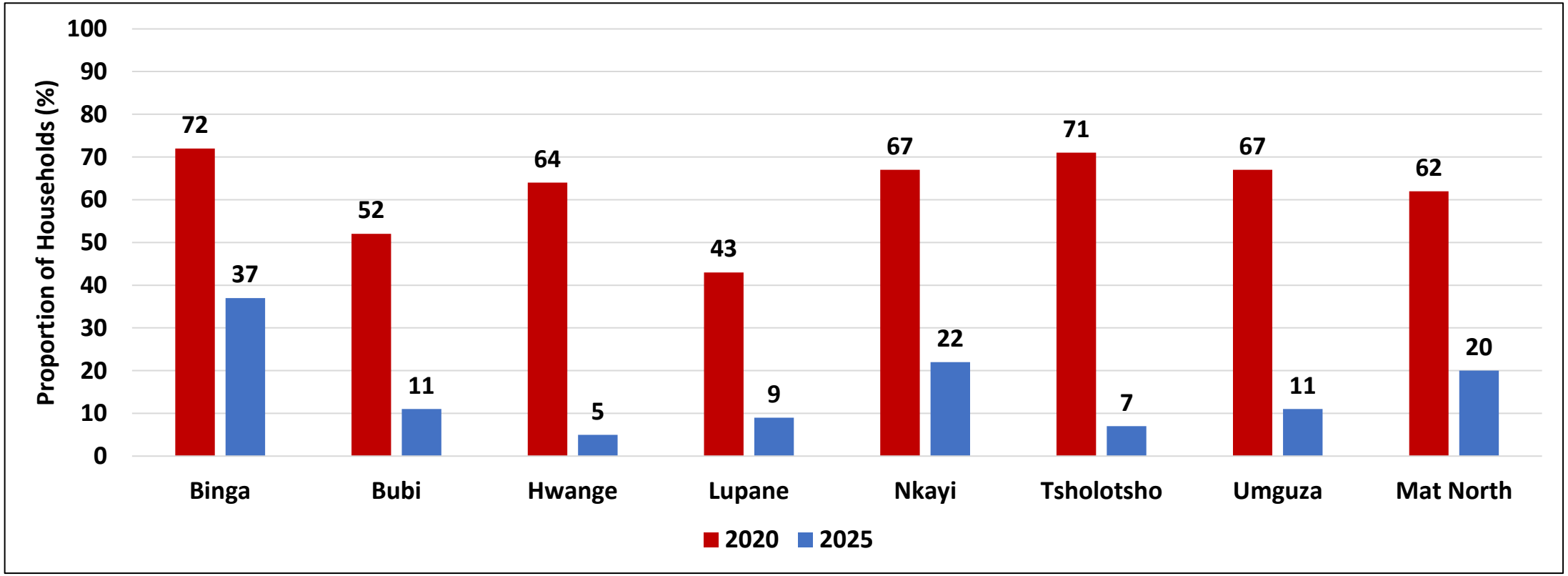
- There was a drop in cereal insecurity from 62% in 2020 to 20% in 2025.
- Government is complimented for implementing shock responsive interventions.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- About 13% of the rural households were projected to be facing food access challenges in the July to September quarter.
- Binga (37%) was projected to have the highest proportion of households facing food access in the January to March 2026 quarter.

Cereal Insecurity (Peak Hunger Period)



- The proportion of food insecure households during the peak hunger period is projected to be low compared to 2020.

Cereal Insecure Populations by Quarter

District	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**

Cereal Requirements (MT) by Quarter

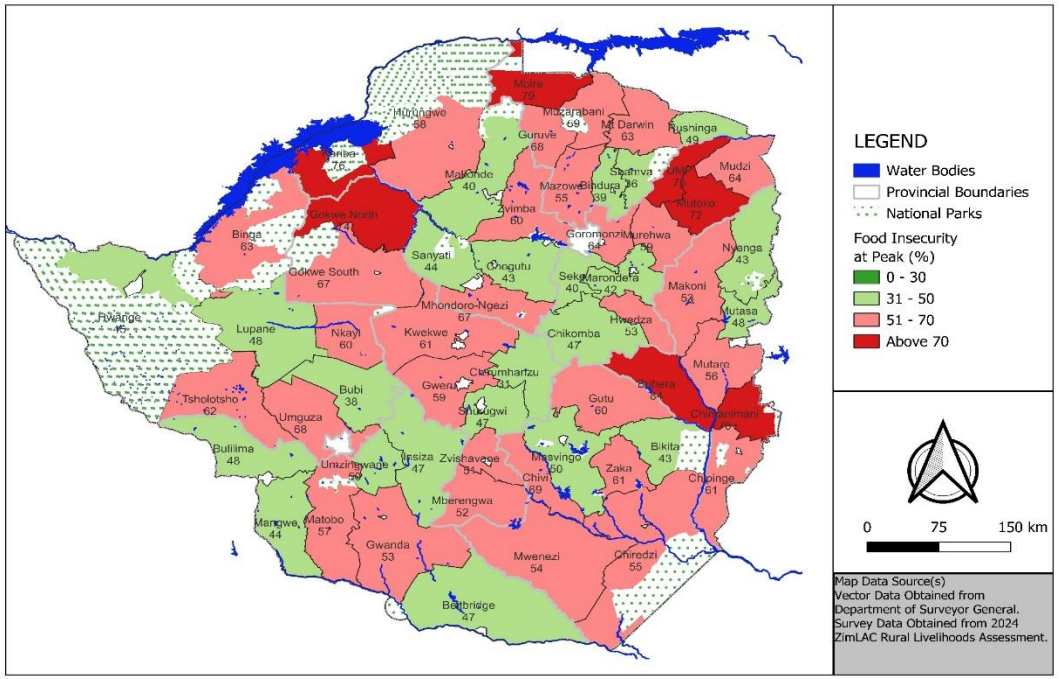
District	Cereal Requirements			
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	July 2025 to March 2026 Total MT
Binga	1,372	1,803	2,195	5,370
Bubi	92	183	312	587
Hwange	44	61	122	227
Lupane	160	280	373	813
Nkayi	391	573	936	1,900
Tsholotsho	142	199	298	509
Umguza	111	250	444	805
Mat North	**2,311**	**3,348**	**4,680**	**10,339**

Cereal Insecure Proportions By Quarter

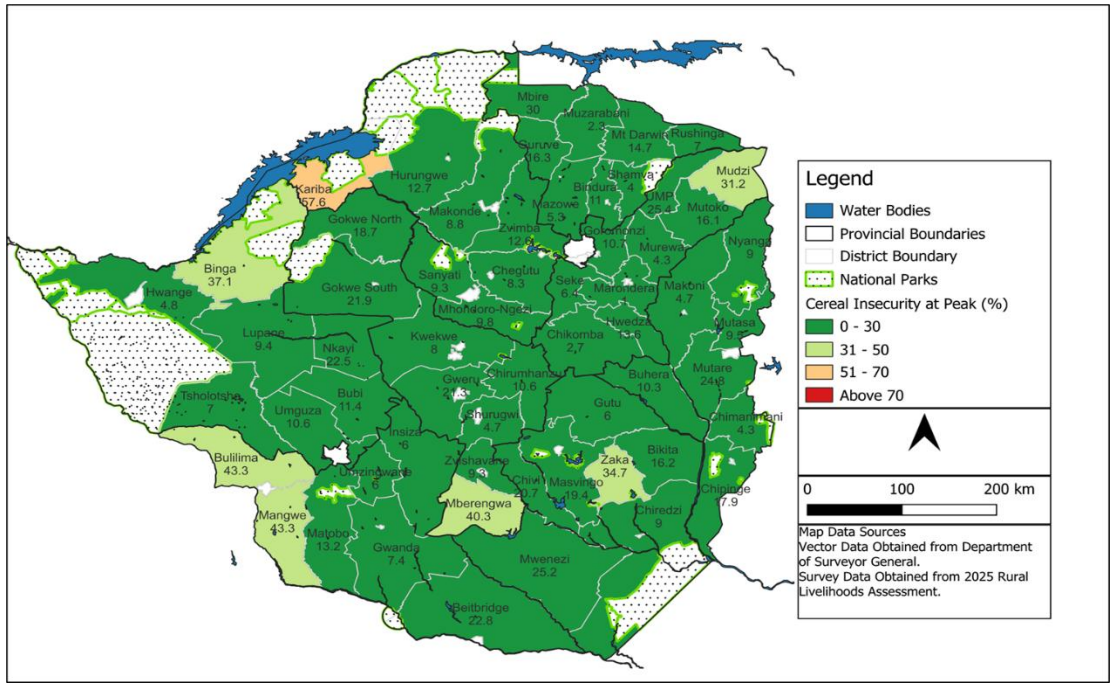
District	Jul – Sept 2025 (%)	Oct – Dec 2025 (%)	Jan – Mar 2026 (%)
Binga	23	30	37
Bubi	3	7	11
Hwange	2	2	5
Lupane	4	7	9
Nkayi	9	14	22
Tsholotsho	3	5	7
Umguza	3	6	11
Mat North	**13**	**17**	**20**

Food Security Status: Peak Hunger Period January to March

2024



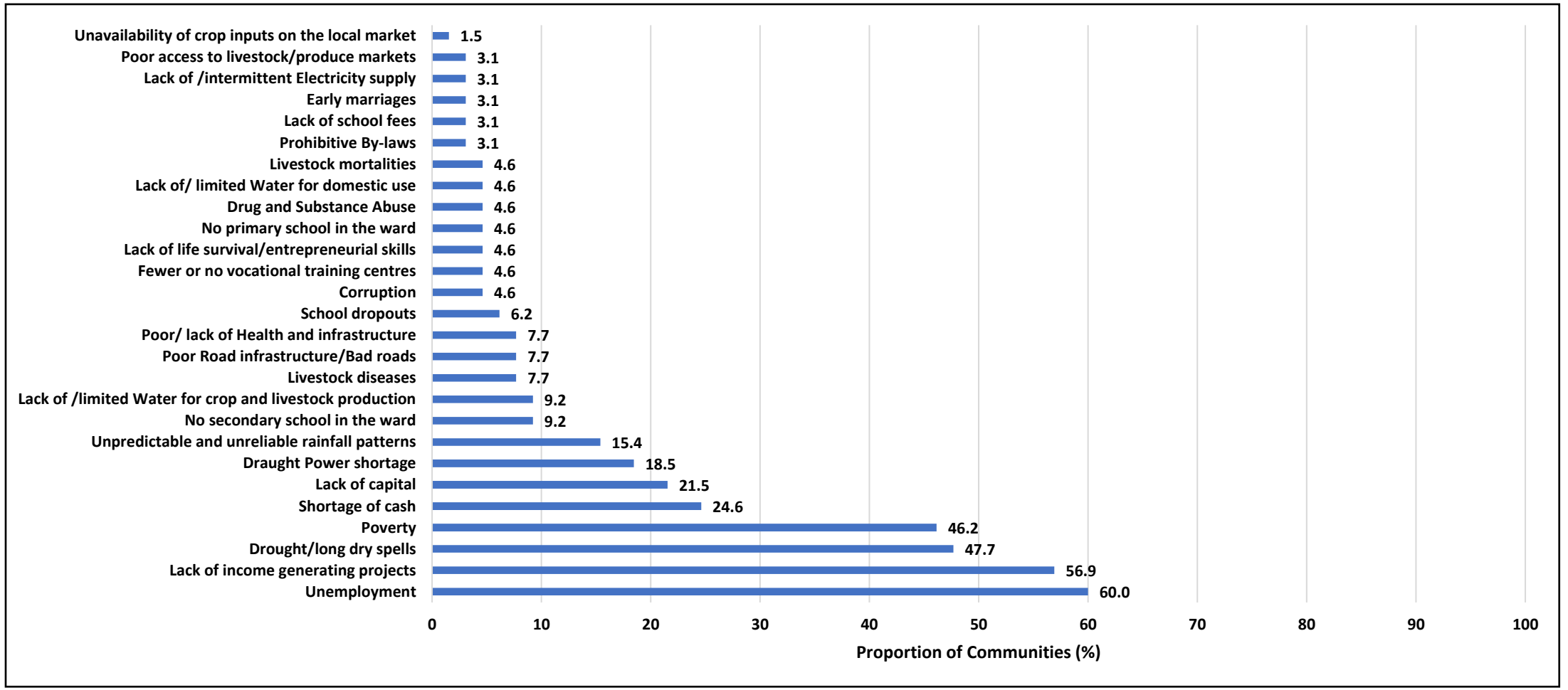
2025



- Binga (37.1%) and Nkayi (22.5%) have the highest proportions of people that would be food insecure during the peak hunger period.
- Hwange (4.8%) and Tsholotsho (7%) have the least proportion of people who will be food insecure during the peak hunger period.

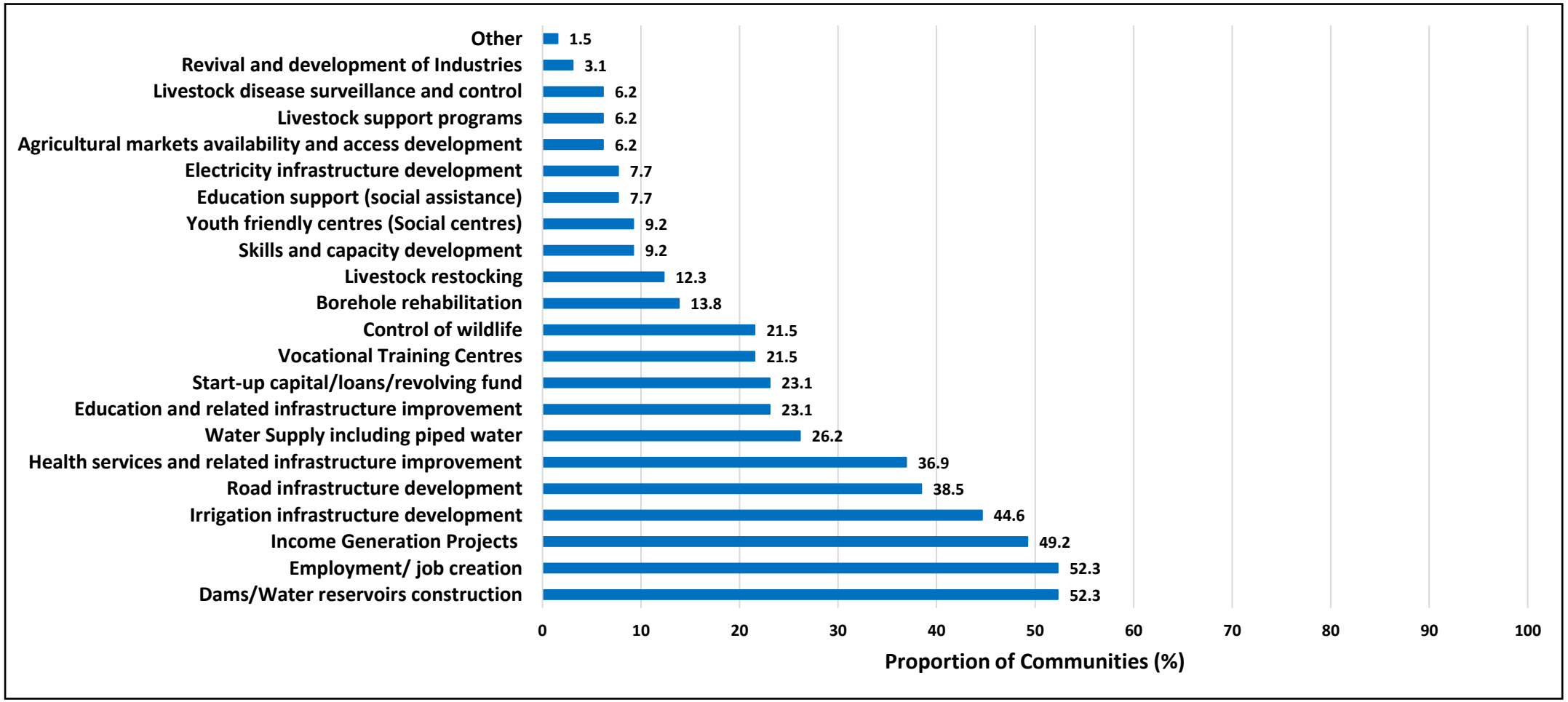
Community Development Challenges and Priorities

Community Development Challenges



- Unemployment (60.0%) and lack of income generating projects (56.9%) were the most reported community development challenges.

Community Development Priorities



- Dams/ water reservoirs construction and employment/job creation (52.3%) were the most reported development priorities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

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.

Social Protection

- The majority of households received assistance from Government (64.1%), rural relatives (22.7%) and UN/NGO Support (17.8%). Government is complimented for provision of crucial support towards building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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.

Agriculture Production

- There was an increase in the proportion of households which practised Pfumvudza/Intwasa from 55.7% in 2024 to 63.4% in 2025.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Incomes and Expenditure

- Most households in 2025 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.

Child Nutrition

- Matabeleland North recorded a Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 4.1% amongst children 6-59 months which was below the 5% cut off WHO threshold.

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