



Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC)

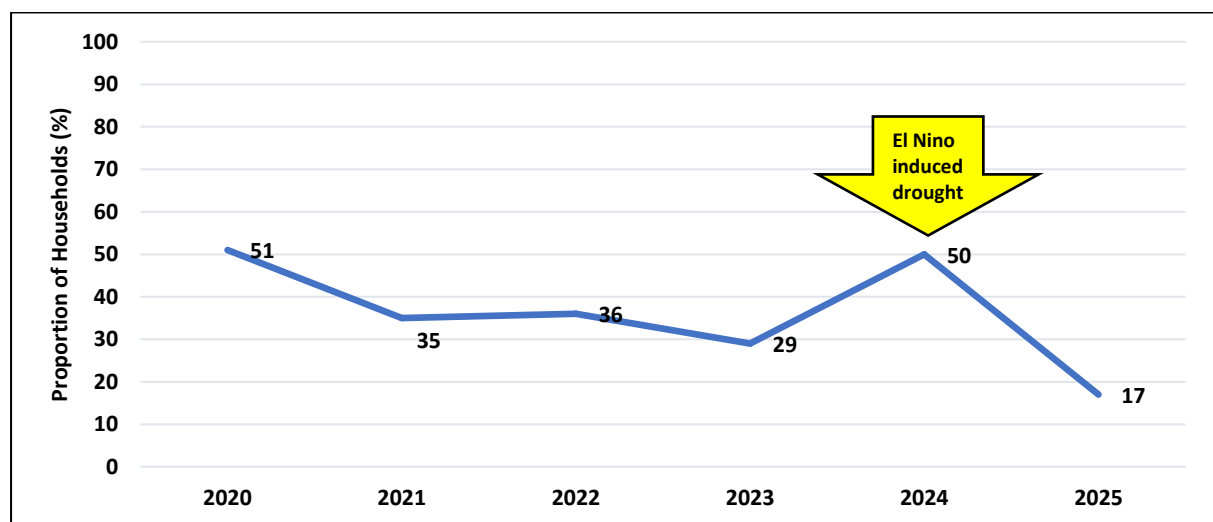
2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

Matabeleland South Province Factsheet

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

1. Cereal Insecurity

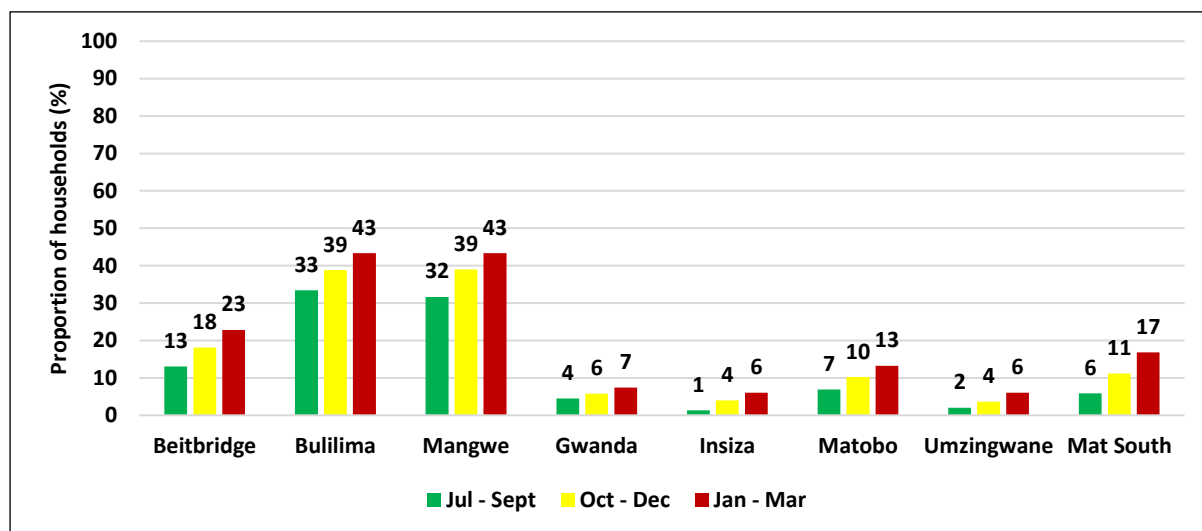
The cereal insecurity prevalence was projected to be 17% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) in the 2025/26 consumption year.



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2025

There was a 66.7% drop in cereal insecurity from 51% in 2020 to 17% in 2025. Government is complimented for implementing shock responsive interventions that resulted in improved food security.

During the peak hunger period (January–March 2026), Bulilima and Mangwe (43%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity.



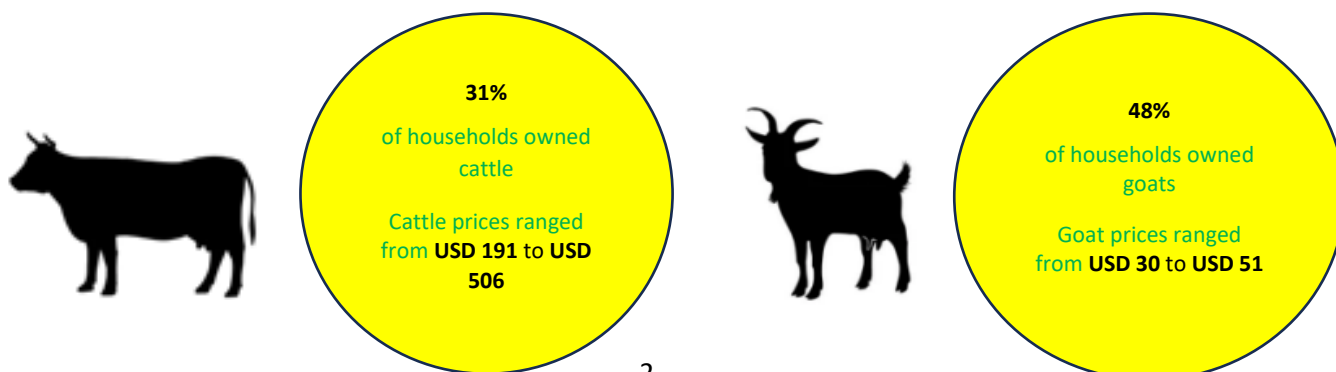
Cereal Insecurity

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

District	Jul – Sept 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan – Mar 2026
Beitbridge	12,302	17,034	21,450
Bulilima	28,642	33,198	37,104
Mangwe	20,761	25,569	28,410
Gwanda	5,589	7,185	9,181
Insiza	1,650	4,949	7,424
Matobo	6,632	9,791	12,633
Umzingwane	1,437	2,635	4,312
Mat South	77,013	100,361	120,514

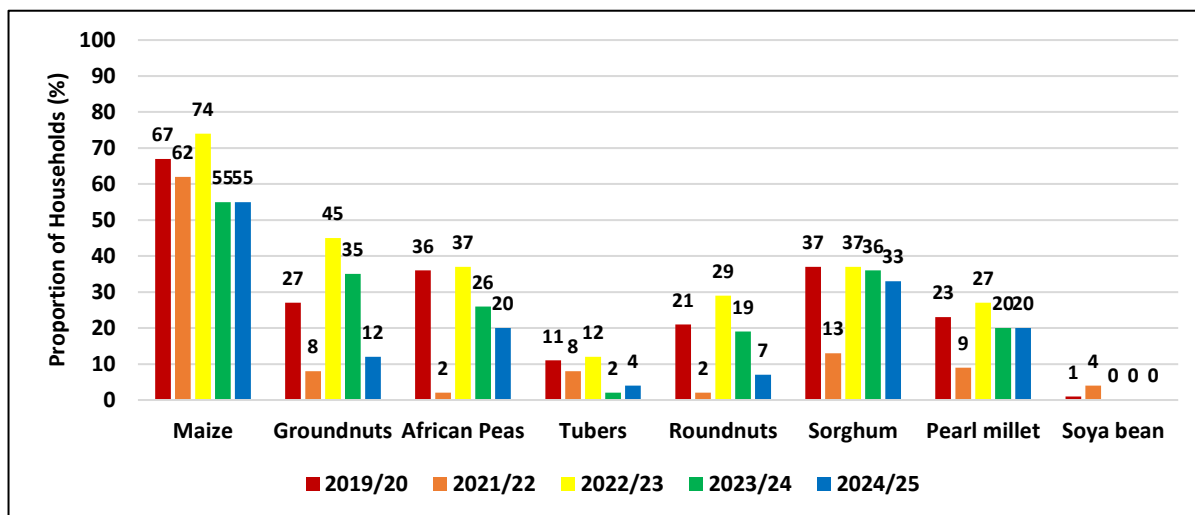
Bulilima (37,104) and Mangwe (28,410) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

2. Livestock Production



3. Crop Production

There was a decrease in the proportion of households which grew groundnuts, African peas, roundnuts and sorghum.



Households Which Grew Crops

Season Harvest

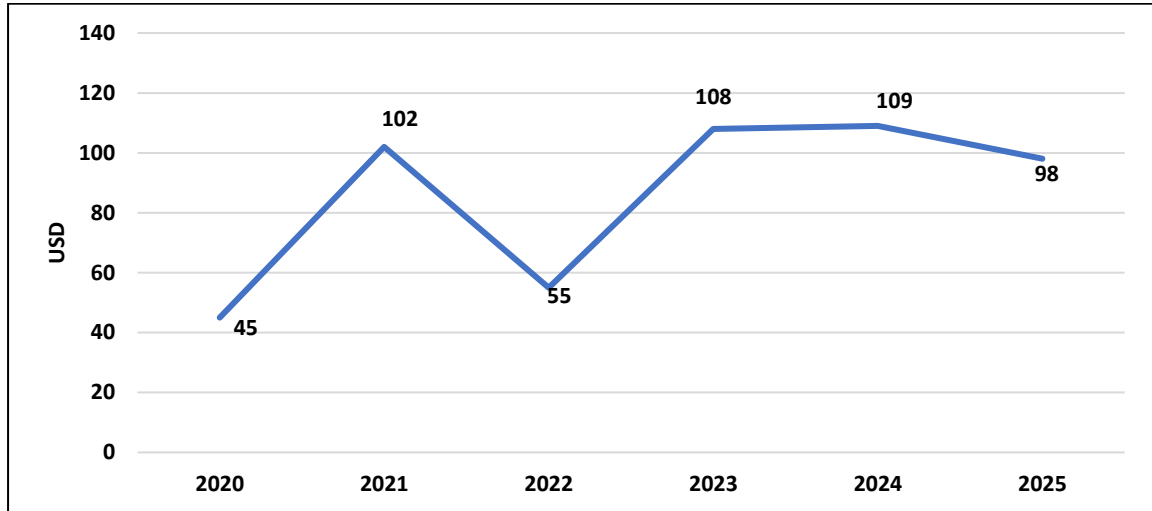
	Maize (kgs)		Sorghum (kgs)		Finger Millet (kgs)		Pearl Millet (kgs)		Total (kgs)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Beitbridge	37	64	62	58	1	2	17	23	117	146
Bulilima	0	19	0	7	0	0	4	33	4	60
Mangwe	68	49	53	42	3	2	26	28	150	120
Gwanda	14	88	13	43	0	0	0	29	26	160
Insiza	50	230	1	12	0	0	5	0	56	243
Matobo	5	109	3	28	0	1	1	11	9	150
Umzingwane	8	261	3	12	0	1	0	3	11	276
Mat South	26	119	19	29	0	1	8	18	53	167

On average, households harvested 119 kgs of maize and 29 kgs of sorghum.

4. Household Income

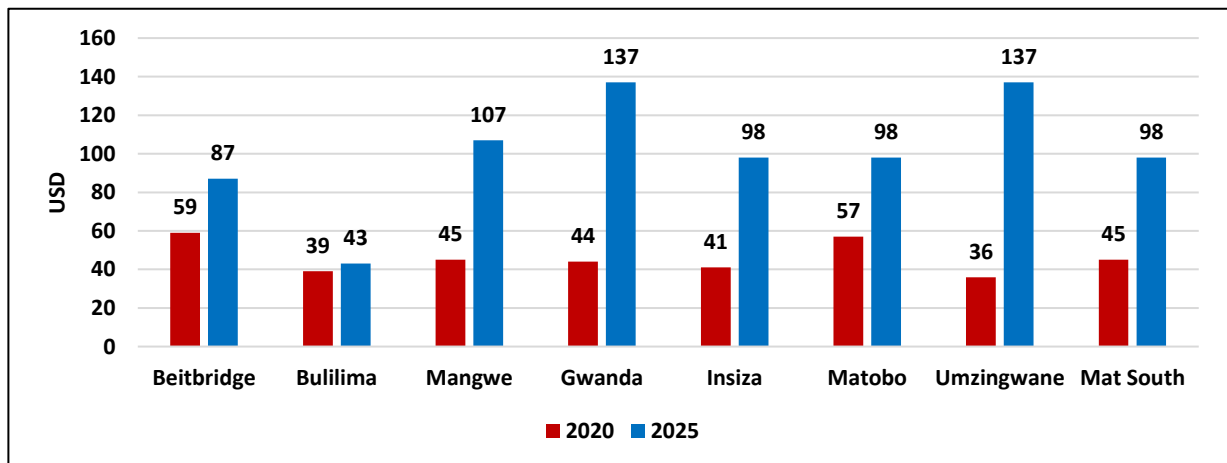
Income Trends

Compared to base year 2020, there has been a positive impact on the economy as evidenced by average household incomes increasing from USD 45 in 2020 to USD 98 in 2025.



Income Trends: 2020-2025

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025

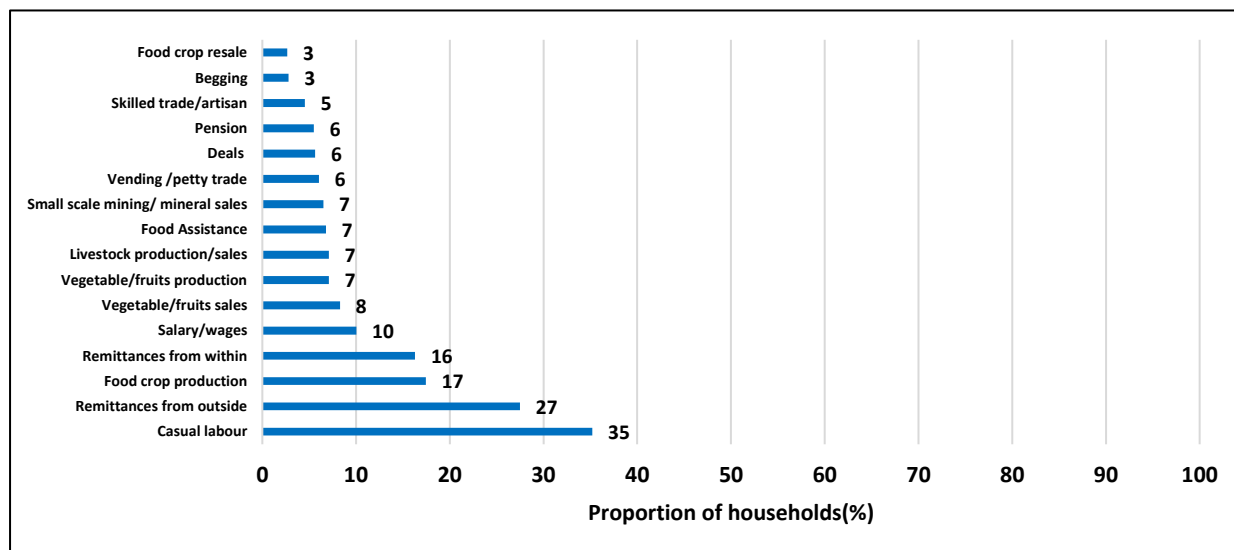


Average Household Income

Gwanda and Umzingwane had the highest average household monthly income (USD 137) for April 2025 while Bulilima (USD 43) had the lowest.

Income Sources

Most households relied on casual labour (35%), remittances from outside (27%) and food crop production.



Households' Most Important Income Sources

5. Social Assistance

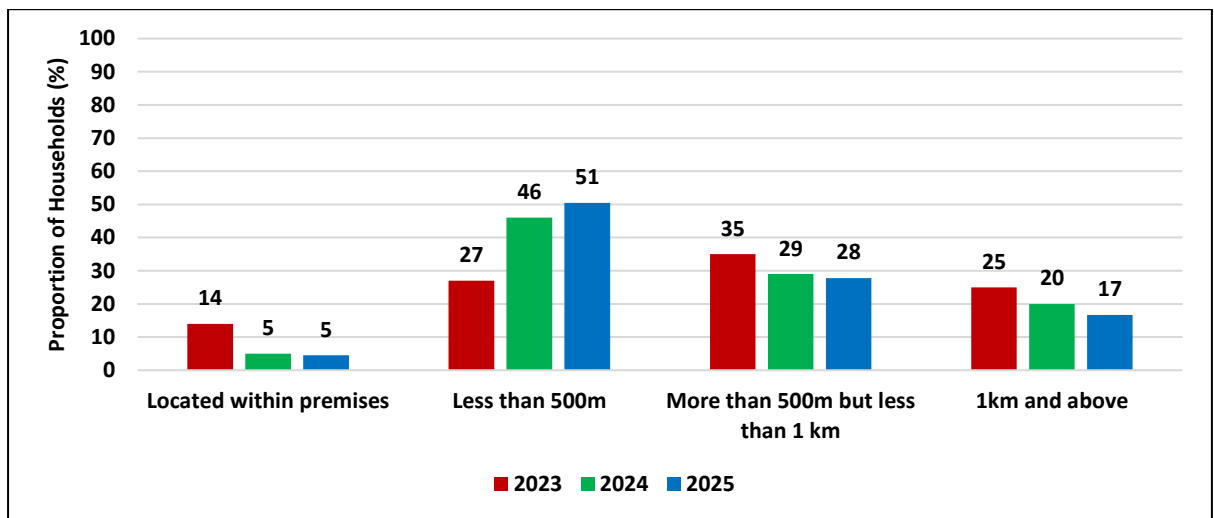
Province	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Diaspora Relatives (%)		Mutual Groups Support (%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Beitbridge	25	39	8	7	2	2	2	7	1	16	4	12	1	1
Bulilima	17	19	0	5	0	2	0	29	0	54	0	35	0	1
Mangwe	32	69	54	27	1	1	21	7	19	13	17	23	0	0
Gwanda	22	61	2	9	1	1	0	12	0	15	0	16	1	0
Insiza	36	57	6	49	2	3	6	6	8	21	5	13	1	1
Matobo	16	27	1	13	1	1	0	2	0	3	1	5	1	0
Umzingwane	67	56	7	4	1	5	11	14	6	22	10	11	1	1
Mat South	31	48	11	16	1	2	6	11	5	20	5	16	1	0

Sources of Support

Government remains as the main source of support (48%), followed by rural relatives (20%), UN/NGO Support (16%) and urban relatives (11%). The support received from relatives (both rural and urban) reflects a positive enabling economic environment and evidence of social capital.

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

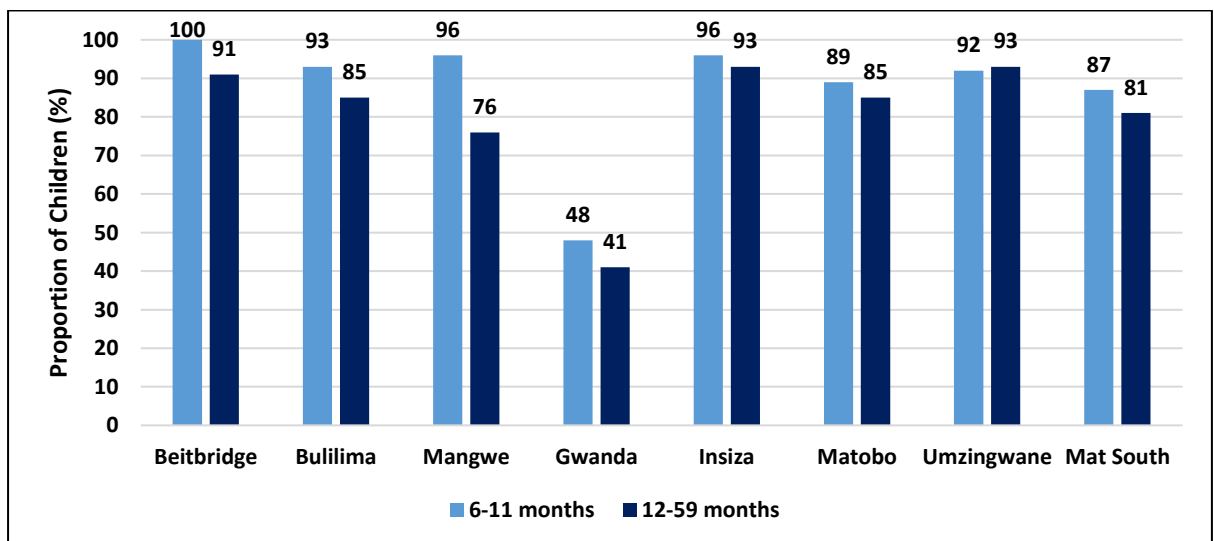
About 83% of the households accessed water within a kilometer.



Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

7. Child Health

Vitamin A Supplementation



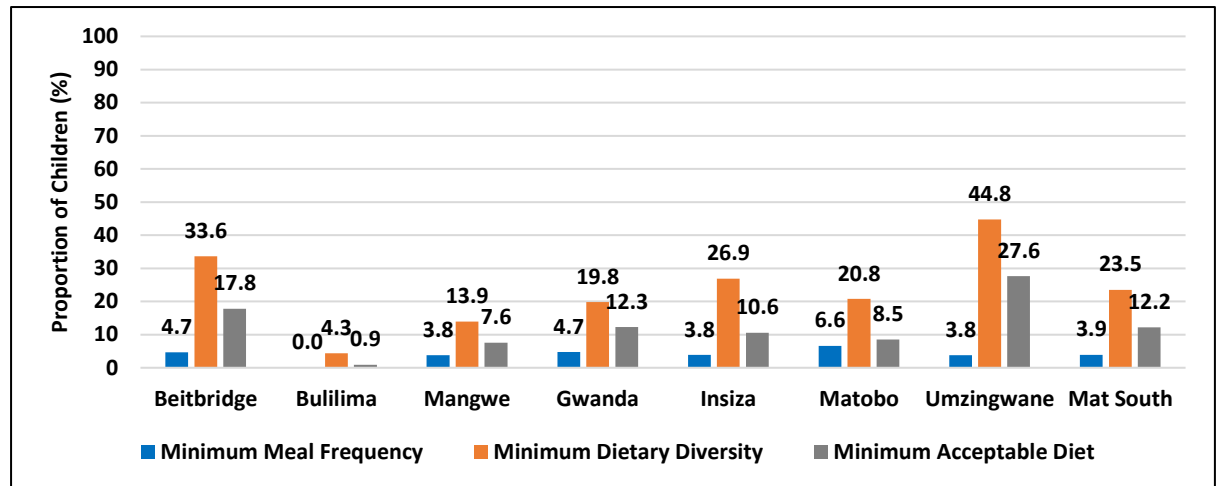
Vitamin A Supplementation

The proportion of children who received Vitamin A supplementation in Matabeleland South was 87% (6-11 months) and 81% (12-59 months).

8. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

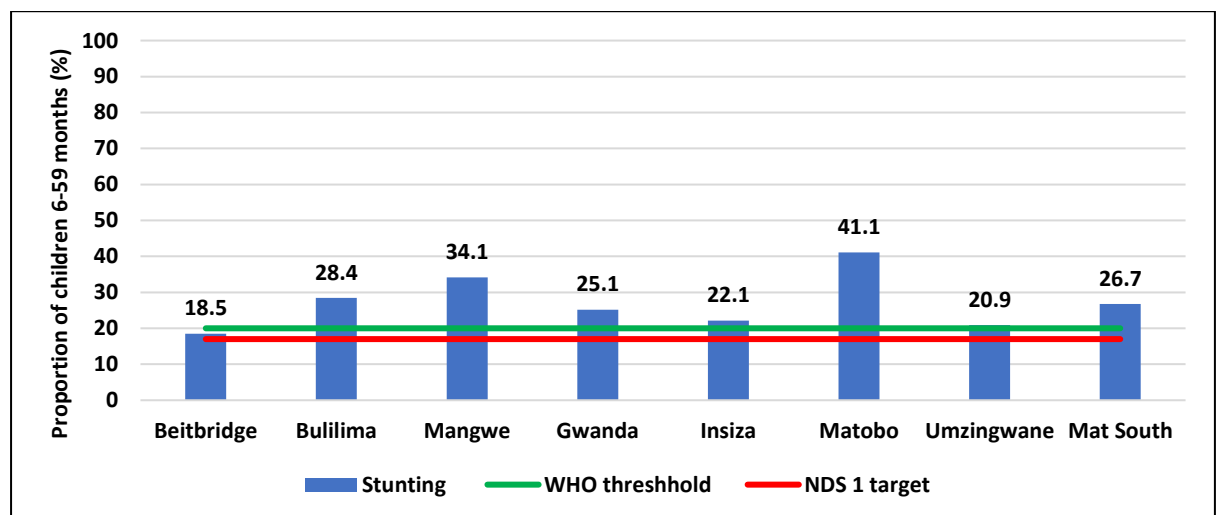
The proportion of children fed a Minimum Acceptable Diet was high in Umzingwane (27.6%) while Bulilima (0.9%) had the lowest.



Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

9. Child Nutrition Status

Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months



Stunting

Most districts recorded stunting levels above the WHO threshold of at least 20% classified as high. Stunting levels were highest in Matobo (41.1%), followed by Mangwe (34.1%).

Conclusions and Recommendations

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

- a) **Food Security:** At peak (January to March 2026), 17% of the rural households (approximately 120,514 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.
- b) **Household Incomes:** Rural households' incomes have been on an increase since 2020. Government is commended for implementing robust economic stabilisation measures which have contributed to this improvement. However, the major income source was casual labour (35%), which is susceptible to climate related shocks. Therefore, there is need to up-scale rural development programmes which promote livelihoods diversification and enhance resilience through the expansion of school-based, village-level and youth-led business units as anchors for local economic growth and employment generation.
- c) **Social Protection:** Support from Government increased from 31% in 2024 to 48% in 2025 due to low harvests caused by the El-Nino induced drought. The Ministry responsible for Finance is encouraged to continue with Sovereign Insurance to strengthen disaster risk management systems and access rapid and predictable financing to protect the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of vulnerable populations.



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