

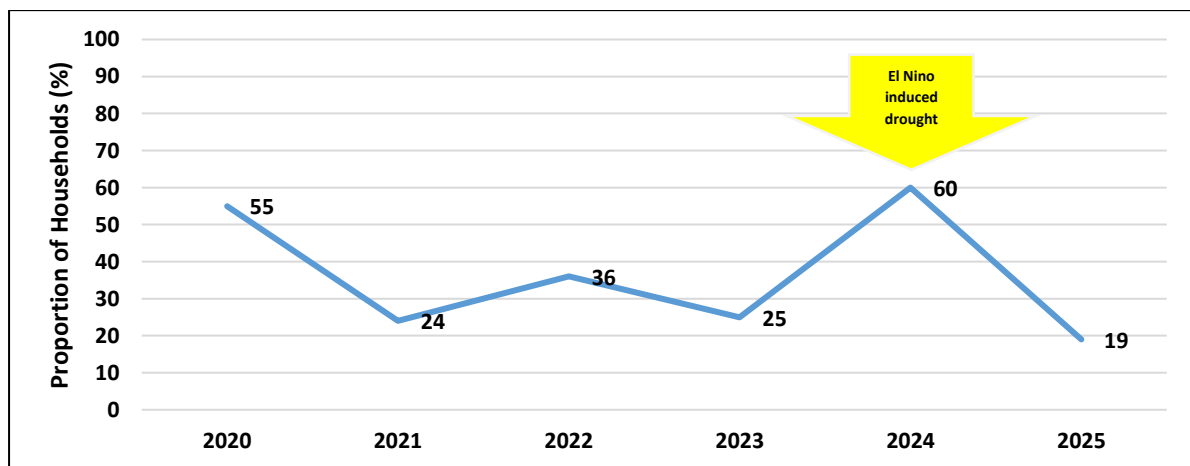


Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2025 Rural Livelihoods Assessment *Midlands Province Factsheet*

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.

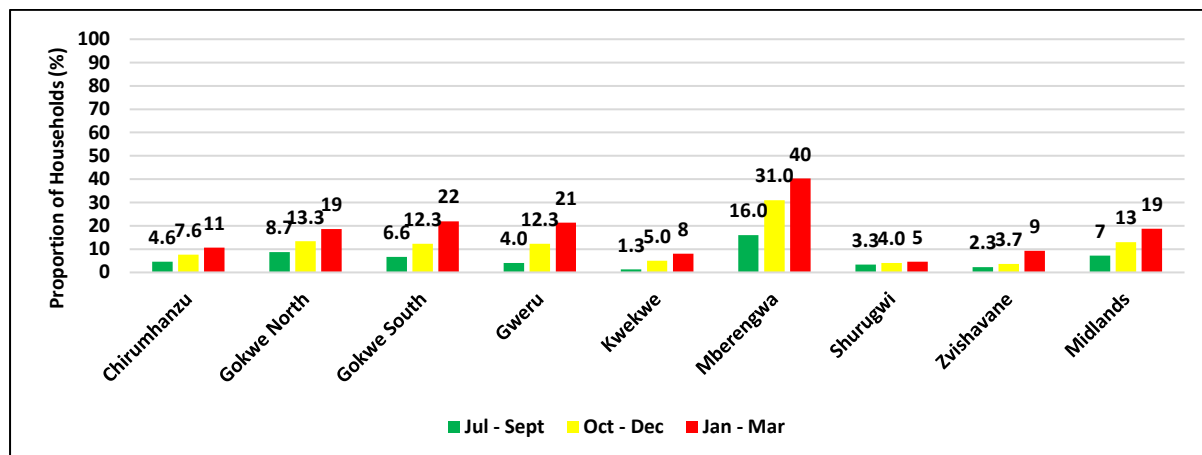
1. Cereal Insecurity

The cereal insecurity prevalence was projected to be 19% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2026) in the 2025/26 consumption year.



Cereal Insecurity Trends: 2020 – 2025

During the peak hunger period (January–March 2026), Mberengwa (40%) was projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity.



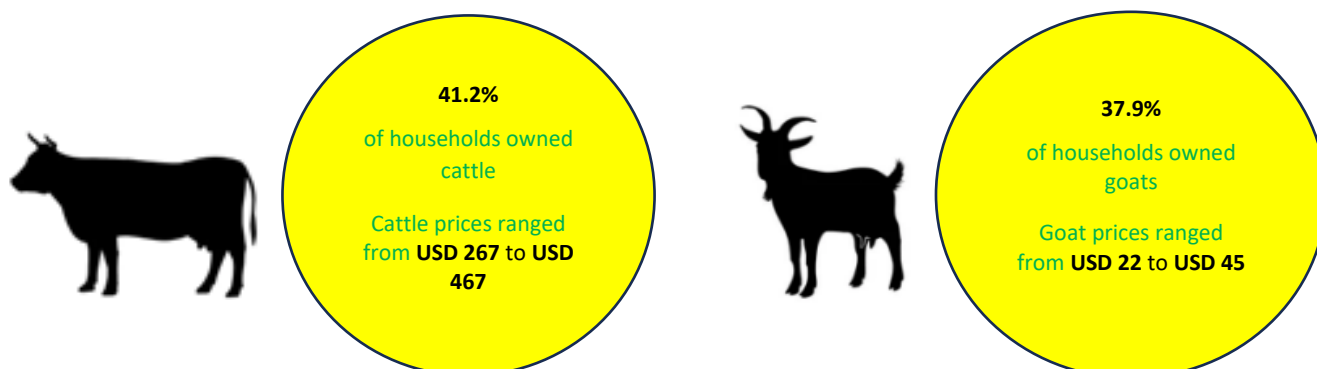
Cereal Insecurity

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

	Jul - Sept 2025	Oct - Dec 2025	Jan - Mar 2025
Chirumhanzu	4,417	7,256	10,095
Gokwe North	21,643	33,296	46,615
Gokwe South	21,100	39,035	69,630
Gweru	4,868	15,011	25,965
Kwekwe	2,636	9,886	15,818
Mberengwa	33,353	64,622	84,078
Shurugwi	3,277	3,933	4,588
Zvishavane	1,984	3,118	7,937
Midlands	93,278	176,157	264,725

The province was projected to have 264,725 cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period (January–March 2026).

2. Livestock Production



3. Crop Production

The proportion of households that grew maize was 88.9%.

	Maize (%)	Sorghum (%)	Finger Millet (%)	Pearl Millet (%)	Tubers (%)	Cowpeas (%)	Groundnuts (%)	Round nuts (%)	Sugar beans (%)	Soya beans (%)	Tobacco (%)	Cotton (%)
Chirumhanzu	91.7	12.6	11.6	6.0	12.3	18.2	54.6	28.1	10.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Gokwe North	87.3	47.0	2.3	2.0	17.7	48.0	31.3	8.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	20.7
Gokwe South	93.7	42.5	2.0	11.0	29.6	55.1	26.6	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Gweru	83.0	3.0	0.3	0.0	15.3	22.7	20.7	11.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kwekwe	82.3	5.0	0.3	2.3	8.7	18.7	36.1	9.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Mberengwa	93.3	32.7	7.7	3.0	2.0	6.0	12.0	6.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shurugwi	93.7	4.0	6.0	0.0	31.7	15.3	27.0	11.0	18.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Zvishavane	86.0	20.0	2.7	1.0	10.7	17.3	16.3	9.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Midlands	88.9	20.9	4.1	3.2	16.0	25.2	28.1	10.7	5.2	0.1	0.1	3.6

Households Which Grew Crops

Season Harvest

	Maize (kg)	Sorghum (kg)	Finger Millet (kg)	Pearl Millet (kg)
Chirumhanzu	695.6	45.7	10.0	4.6
Gokwe North	334.5	140.5	2.0	1.3
Gokwe South	369.9	93.7	3.4	19.4
Gweru	282.1	1.8	0.0	0.0
Kwekwe	315.5	3.0	0.7	2.5
Mberengwa	65.7	16.7	1.2	0.5
Shurugwi	690.0	4.8	7.3	0.0
Zvishavane	131.6	20.0	2.4	0.7
Midlands	360.9	40.8	3.4	3.6

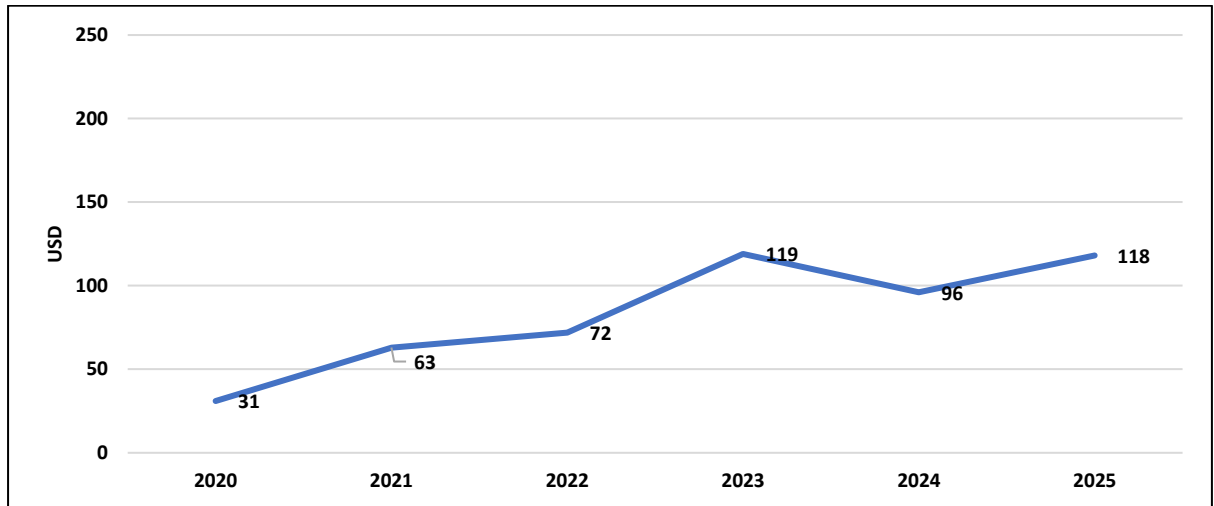
Season Harvest

On average, households harvested 360.9kgs of maize and 40.8kgs of sorghum.

4. Household Income

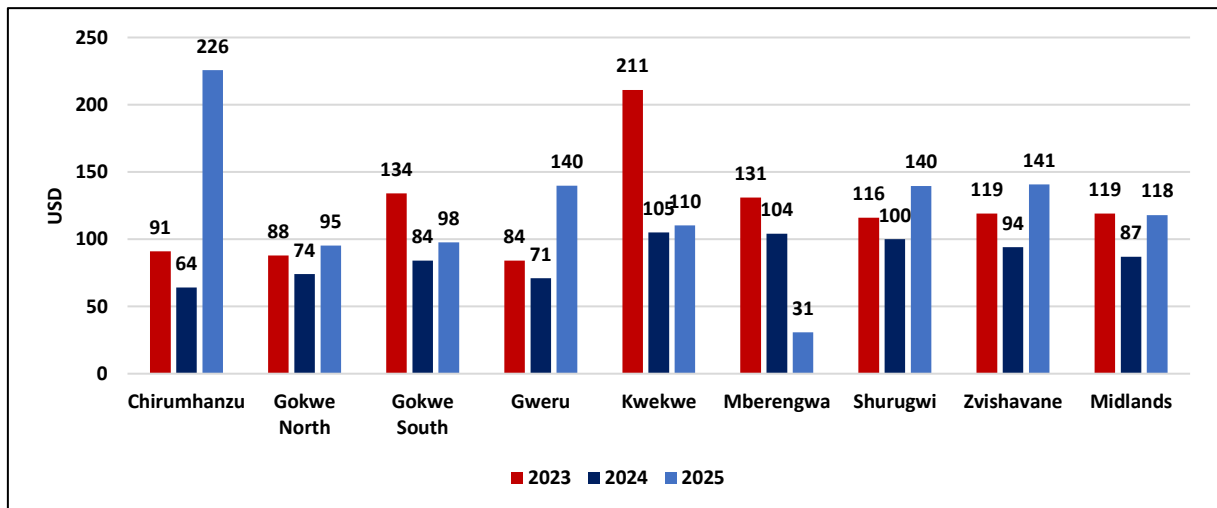
Income Trends

Compared to base year 2020, rural incomes have been increasing. The average household income increased from USD 96 in 2024 to USD 118 in 2025.



Income Trends: 2020-2025

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2025

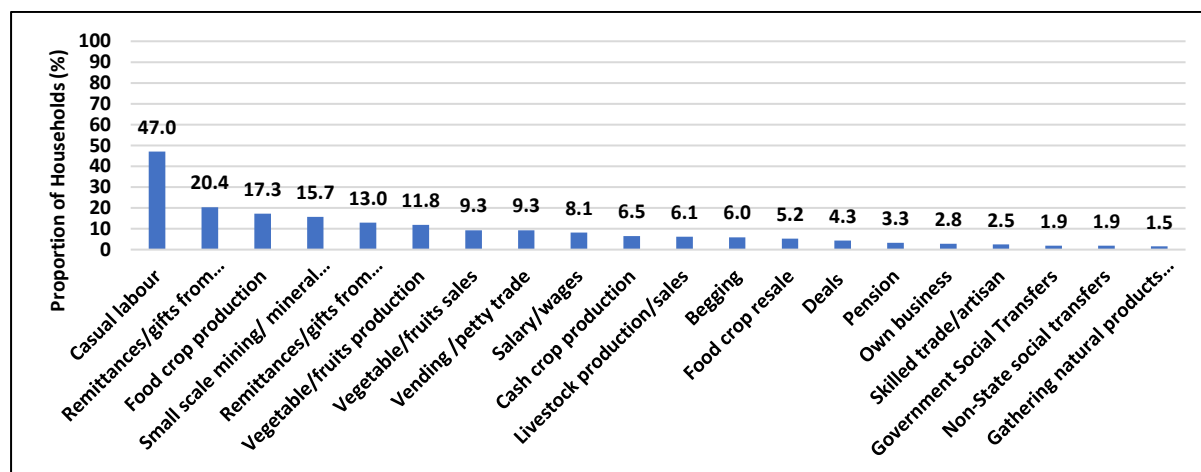


Average Household Income

The highest household average monthly income was reported in Chirumhanzu (USD 226) whilst the lowest was reported in Mberengwa (USD 31).

Income Sources

Most households relied on casual labour (47%), remittances from within Zimbabwe (20.4%) and food crop production (17.3%).



Households' Most Important Income Sources

5. Social Assistance

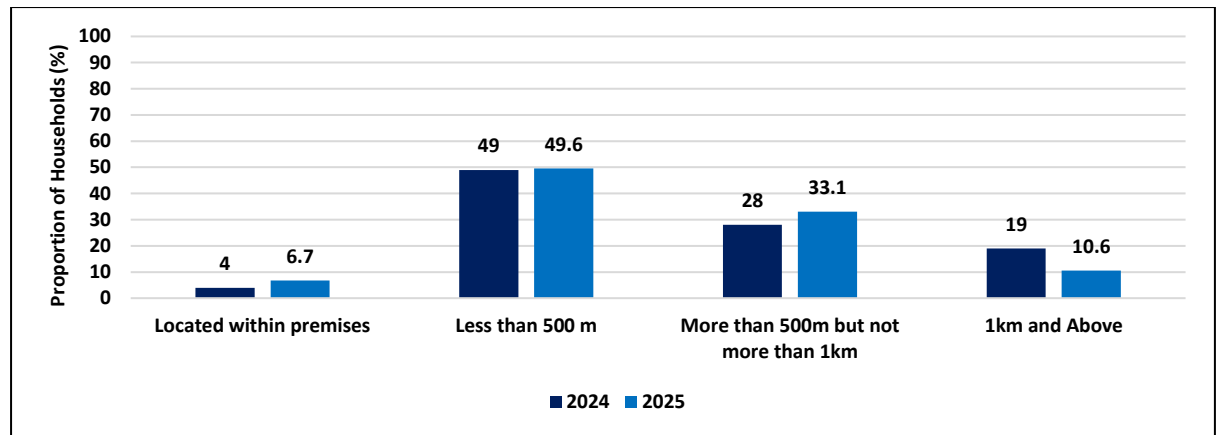
	Government Support		UN/NGO Support		Church Support		Urban Relatives		Rural Relatives		Diaspora Relatives		Mutual Groups Support	
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Chirumhanzu	46	81	1	0	0	0	2	41	1	39	1	39	0	0
Gokwe North	30	54	0	6	0	1	0	14	0	24	0	4	0	1
Gokwe South	45	76	1	59	1	5	1	19	0	19	2	4	0	1
Gweru	58	63	5	9	2	1	4	4	3	8	1	4	1	0
Kwekwe	40	83	1	9	1	2	4	6	0	7	1	4	0	1
Mberengwa	34	33	2	12	1	1	3	6	1	20	2	2	1	0
Shurugwi	29	44	0	23	0	1	1	21	1	25	2	5	0	2
Zvishavane	66	74	12	17	0	1	13	19	5	31	7	8	0	0
Midlands	43	64	3	17	1	2	4	16	1	22	2	9	0	1

Sources of Support

Government remained the major source of support and its support increased from 43% in 2024 to 64% in 2025.

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

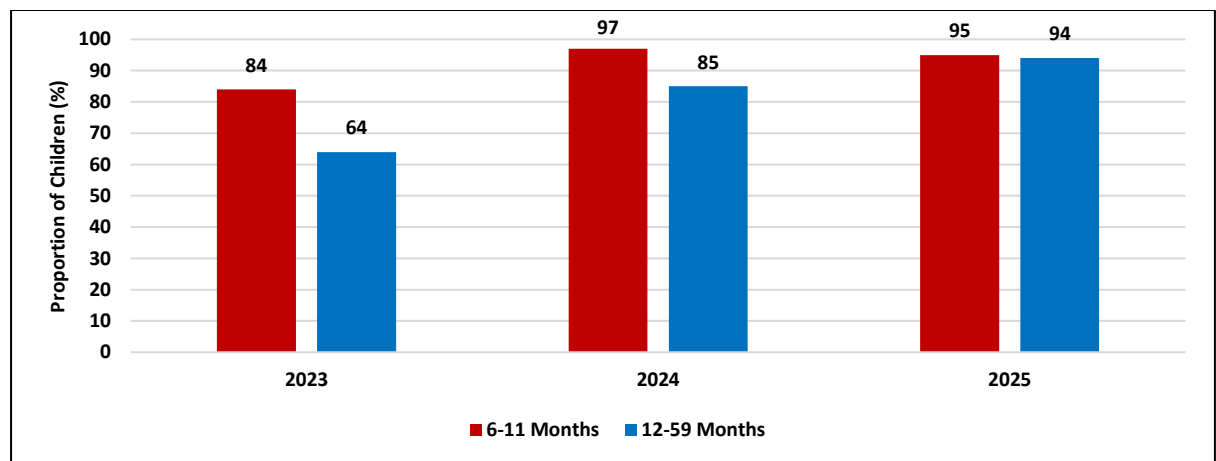
About 49.6% of the households accessed water less than 500m from their homes in 2025. The proportion of households travelling 1km and above to their main water source decreased from 19% in 2024 to 10.6% in 2025.



Distance Travelled to Main Water Source

7. Child Health

Vitamin A Supplementation



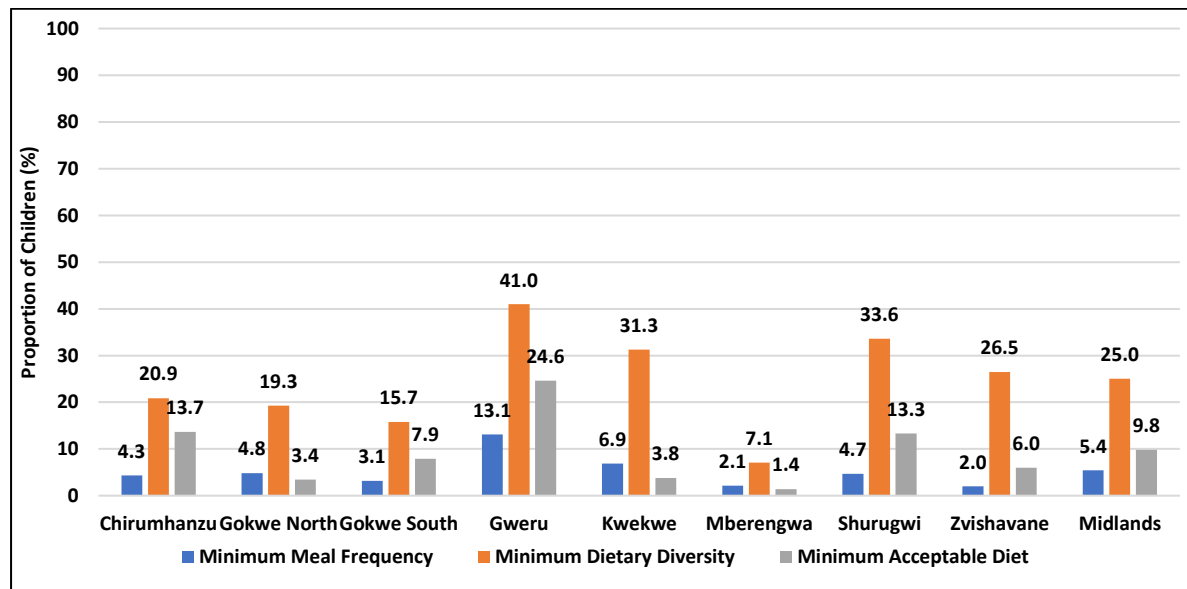
Vitamin A Supplementation

About 95% of children 6-11 months and 94% of children 12-59 months received the required one dose of Vitamin A.

8. Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

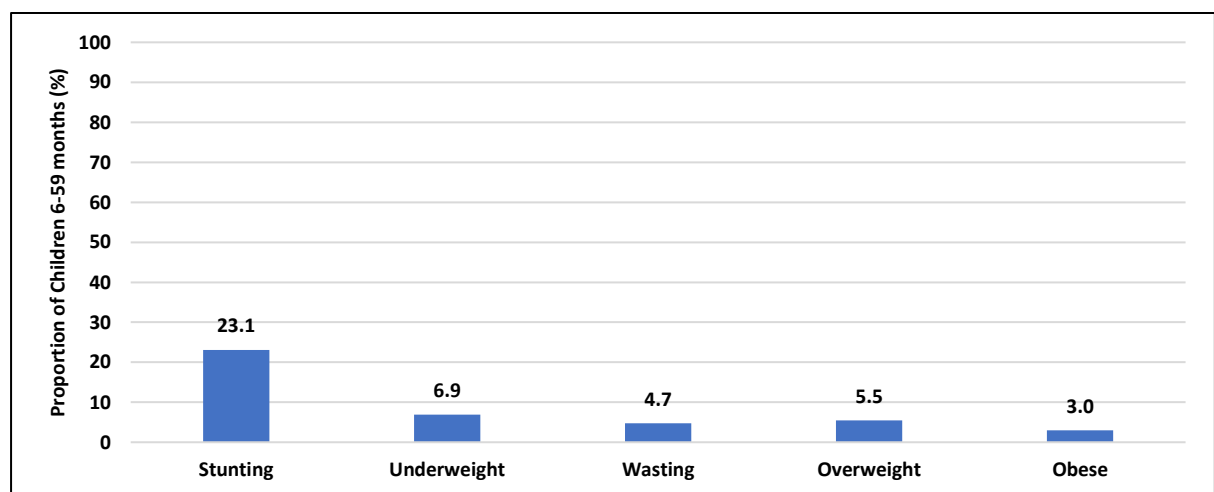
The proportion of children who received a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) in Midlands was 9.8%. The highest proportion of children who received a MAD was in Gweru (24.6%) whilst Mberengwa (1.4%) had the lowest.



Infant and Young Child Feeding Diet Quality

9. Child Nutrition Status

Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months



Nutrition Status of Children 6-59 Months

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

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

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

- a) **Food Security:** At peak (January to March 2026), 19% of the rural households (approximately 264,725 individuals) will be cereal insecure. The quarterly requirements will be 3,451MT for the July to September 2025 period, 6,518MT for the October to December 2025 period and 9,795MT for the January to March 2026 period. The Ministry responsible for Social Welfare is urged to consider programmes that address the cereal gap in the affected districts.
- b) **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 (47%), 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 43% in 2024 to 64% 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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