Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report

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Foreword

In its endeavour to 'promote and ensure adequate food and nutrition security for all people at all times', the Government of Zimbabwe continues to exhibit its commitment towards reducing food and nutrition insecurity, poverty and improving livelihoods amongst the vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe through operationalization of Commitment 6 of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP). Under the coordination of the Food and Nutrition Council, the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) undertook the 2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, the 21st since its inception. ZimVAC is a technical advisory committee comprised of representatives from Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. Through its assessments, ZimVAC continues to collect, synthesize and disseminate high quality information on the food and nutrition security situation in a timely manner.

The 2021 RLA was motivated by the need to provide credible and timely data to inform progress of commitments in the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) and inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people in both their short and long-term vulnerability context. Furthermore, as the 'new normal' under COVID-19 remains fluid and dynamic, the assessment sought to provide up to date information on how rural food systems and livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic. The report covers thematic areas which include the following: education, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, food security, COVID-19, WASH, social protection and gender-based violence, among other issues.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the ZimVAC as well as the food and nutrition security structures at both provincial and district levels for successfully carrying out the survey. These structures continue to exhibit great commitment towards ensuring that every Zimbabwean remains free from hunger and malnutrition. We also extend our appreciation to Government and Development Partners for the financial support and technical leadership which made the assessment a resounding success. The collaboration of the rural communities of Zimbabwe as well as the rural local authorities is sincerely appreciated. The leadership, coordination and management of the whole assessment displayed by the staff at the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) is also greatly appreciated.

We submit this report to you for your use and reference in your invaluable work. We hope it will light your way as you search for lasting measures in addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

George D. Kembo (DR.)

FNC Director/ ZimVAC 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
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- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
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- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Zimbabwe Defence Forces
- Mercy Corps
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme- ZRBF
- UNFPA-Spotlight Initiative
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Progress
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- Sizimele
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- Plan International
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- Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ)
- Africa Ahead
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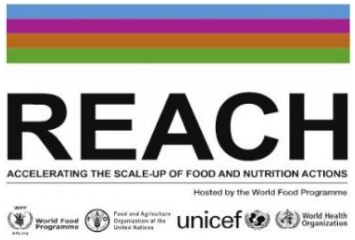
Acknowledgement of Support

ZIMBABWE



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls

Acronyms

EA	Enumeration Area
FNC	Food and Nutrition Council
FNSP	Food and Nutrition Security Policy
FNSIS	Food and Nutrition Security Information System
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HHS	Household Hunger Score
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
NDS 1	National Development Strategy 1
RLA	Rural Livelihoods Assessment
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Introduction and Background

Introduction

- ZimVAC livelihoods 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. To date, 21 rural and 8 urban livelihoods updates have been produced.
- ZimVAC plays a significant role in fulfilling Commitment Six, of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) (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".
- It has become mandatory for FNC to coordinate annual livelihoods updates with the technical support of ZimVAC.

Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)

ZimVAC is a consortium of Government, Development Partners, UN, NGOs, Technical Agencies and the Academia. It 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 malnutrition.

ZimVAC 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 supporting 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 performance of the agricultural season, with the disruption of food systems and markets, the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the prevailing macro-economic environment has affected the livelihoods of the rural population.

- The impact on the livelihoods, which has ripple effects on household wellbeing outcomes, had not been quantified and ascertained hence the need to carry out a livelihoods assessment.

- The assessment results will be used to:

  - Inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people, given the prevailing situation in the country as well as their long term vulnerability context.

  - Inform short, medium and long term interventions that address immediate and long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods.

  - Monitor and report towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national food and nutrition policies and strategies among them the National Development Strategy 1, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Zero Hunger Strategy.

  - Monitor interventions to ensure adherence to the principles spelt out in regional and international frameworks which Zimbabwe has committed itself to which include the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the SDGs.

  - Guide early warning for early action

Purpose

The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's rural areas, for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2021/22 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
- Assess impact and severity of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods.
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions in the country.
- To identify development priorities for communities.
- To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
- To measure household resilience and identify constraints to improving their resilience.
- To identify early recovery needs in order to determine short to long term recovery strategies.

Background

- The 2021 RLA was undertaken against a continuously evolving food and nutrition security situation.
- The Government came up with the National Development Strategy 1:2021-2025 (NDS1) towards the end of 2020. The overarching goal of NDS1 is to ensure high, accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth as well as socio-economic transformation and development as we move towards an upper middle-income society by 2030.
- One of the priority areas for the NDS1 is Food and Nutrition Security. NDS1 seeks to improve food self-sufficiency and to retain the regional breadbasket status. The main objective is to increase food self-sufficiency from the current level of 45% to 100% and reduce food insecurity from the high of 59% recorded in 2019 to less than 10% by 2025.
- Agriculture as one of the key economic sectors and fundamental to the projected economic growth had a good 2020/21 rainfall season. The season recorded an increase in the area planted to maize at 1 951 848 Ha of land owing to the overwhelming support by Government and the private sector. The total cereal production was 3 075 538 MT against a national cereal requirement of 1 797 435 MT for human and livestock 450 000 MT consumption.
- The rains received improved livestock condition, drinking water availability for livestock and pasture quality and availability. However the incessant rains increased tick borne diseases.
- With the majority of the rural population's livelihoods mostly influenced by agriculture (both crops and livestock), the experienced climate related shocks have implications on access to food and the nutrition status of children.

Background

- Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe. According to the ZIMSTAT Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report, 70.5% of the population were poor whilst 29.3% were deemed extremely poor. The official exchange rates have remained stable, while basic food prices are on an increase. Year on year inflation for April 2021 was at 194.1%.

- The new normal under COVID-19 has implications on food security and nutrition. Globally, food supply chains have been disrupted due to lockdowns triggered by the global health crisis, but also a major global economic slowdown. This has led to lower incomes and higher food prices, making food out of reach for vulnerable households.

- The impact of the pandemic, amidst other shocks, has caused significant deterioration and erosion of livelihoods and productive assets, food security and nutrition of vulnerable households. The closure of rural food and livestock markets affected the incomes of rural livelihoods.

- The vulnerable rural households have little to nothing to cushion the effects of the shock (pandemic). They experience market failures and have little or no access to formal insurance and credit and risk management mechanisms. The vulnerable households have challenges in accessing liquidity, worsened by reduced casual wage labour opportunities and the closure of informal markets, where they tend to sell production. The enforcement of social distancing combined with the covariate nature of the crisis will likely overwhelm and/or reduce the rural households' access to traditional community networks and institutions of social reciprocity, which have historically provided a safety net in times of crisis.

Assessment Methodology

Methodology – Assessment Design

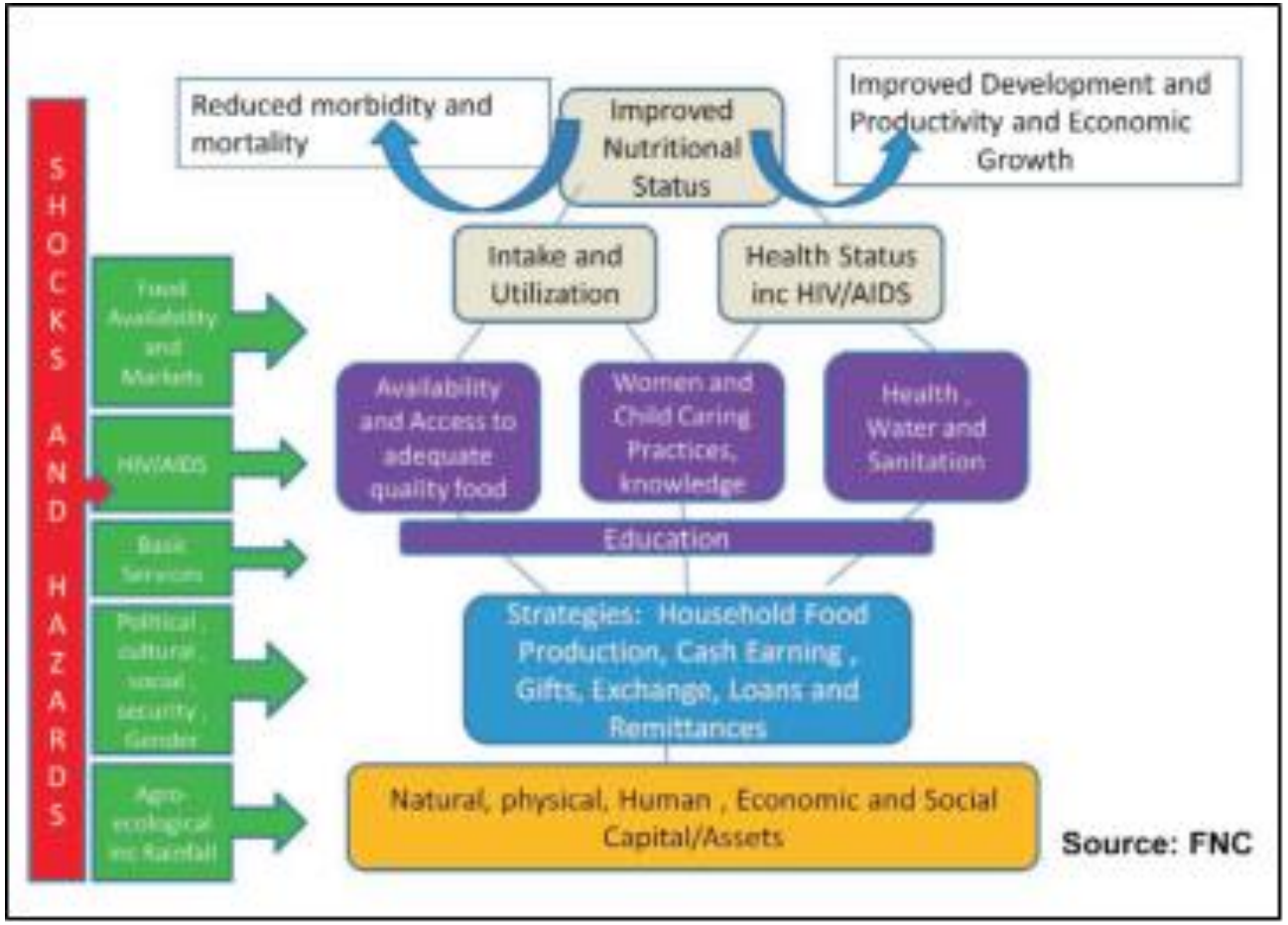


Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Conceptual Framework

- 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.

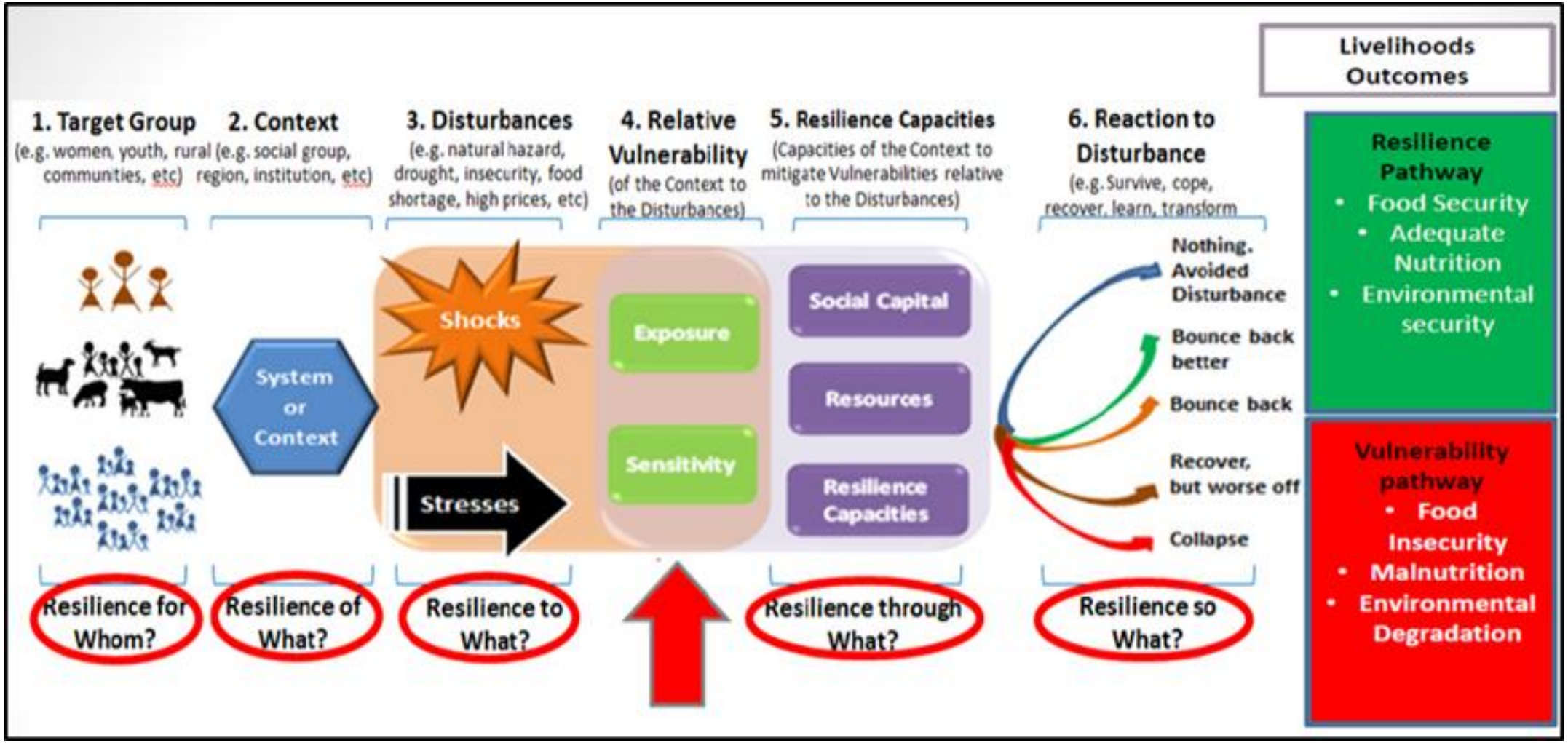
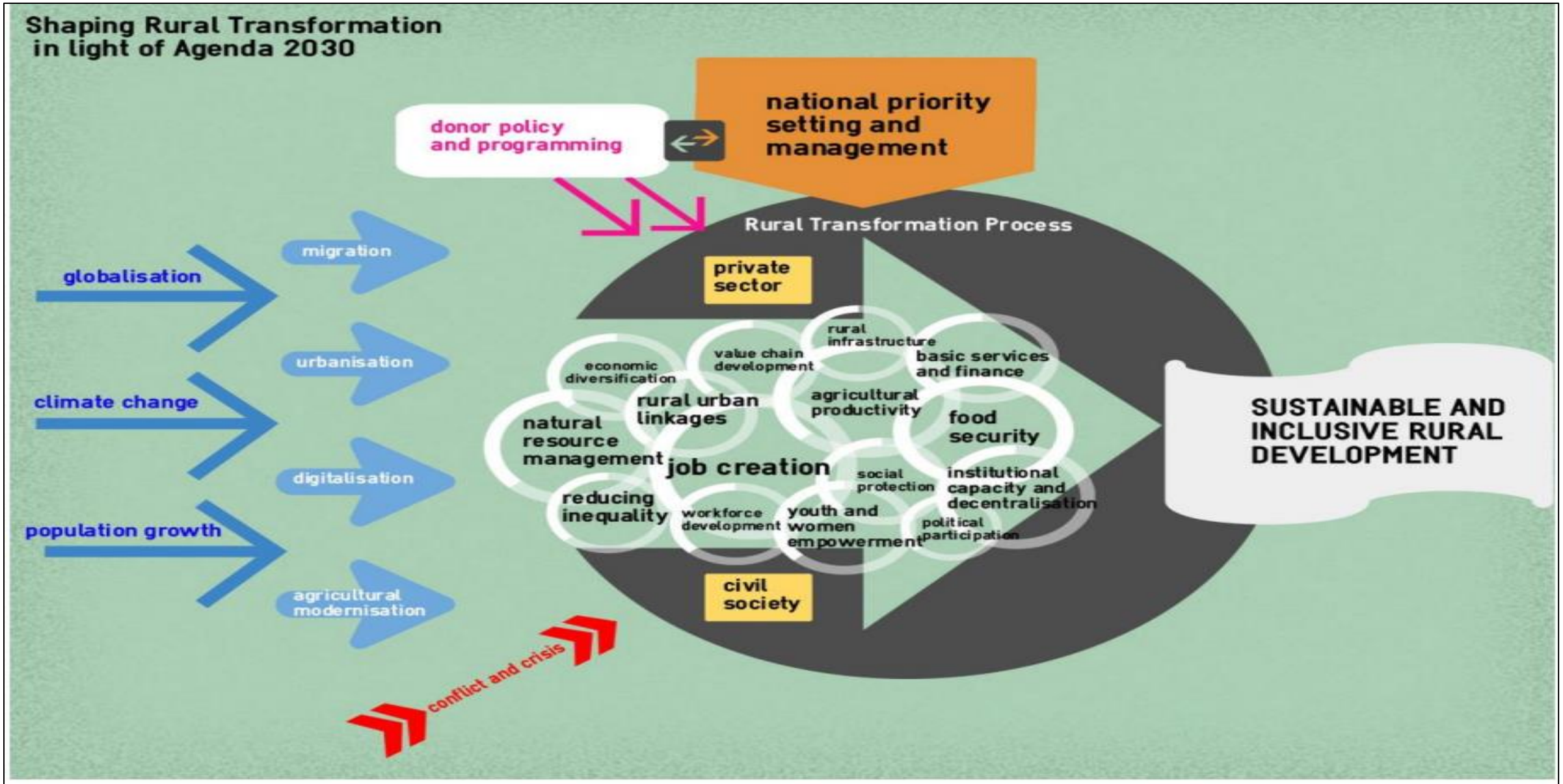


Figure 2: Zimbabwe resilience framework (UNDP Zimbabwe, 2015)



Source: Internal Working Document, GIZ Sectoral Project Rural Development (2016)

Methodology – Assessment Process

- ZimVAC, 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.
- ZimVAC national supervisors (including Provincial Agritex Extension Officers and Provincial Nutritionists) and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. These underwent training in all aspects of the assessment. In order to minimise risk of spreading COVID-19, training for both supervisors and enumerators was done virtually.
- The Ministry of Health and Child Care was the lead ministry in the development of the Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines which guided processes from survey planning to data collection.
- The Ministry of Local Government, through the Provincial Development Coordinators' offices coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and mobilisation of provincial supervision and district enumeration vehicles. Enumerators for the current assessment were drawn from an already existing database of those who participated in one or two previous ZimVAC assessments. Four enumerators were selected from each district for data collection. In selected districts, two additional enumerators were recruited as anthropometrists.

Methodology – Assessment Process

- Primary data collection took place from 3 to 20 May 2021. In recognising the risk of spreading COVID-19 during data collection, innovative approaches were used to collect vital information without causing any harm. The RLA was guided by global and country specific recommendations and all necessary precautions were taken to avoid potential transmission of COVID-19 between enumerators and community members.

- In order to reduce exposure to COVID-19 through person to person physical contact, primary caregivers were capacitated to measure their children using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes and assessment of oedema. In the case of anthropometrists recruited from MoHCC, additional appropriate PPE was provided (gloves, disposable plastic aprons) to enable them to measure participants aged 5 to 19 years in twenty selected districts.

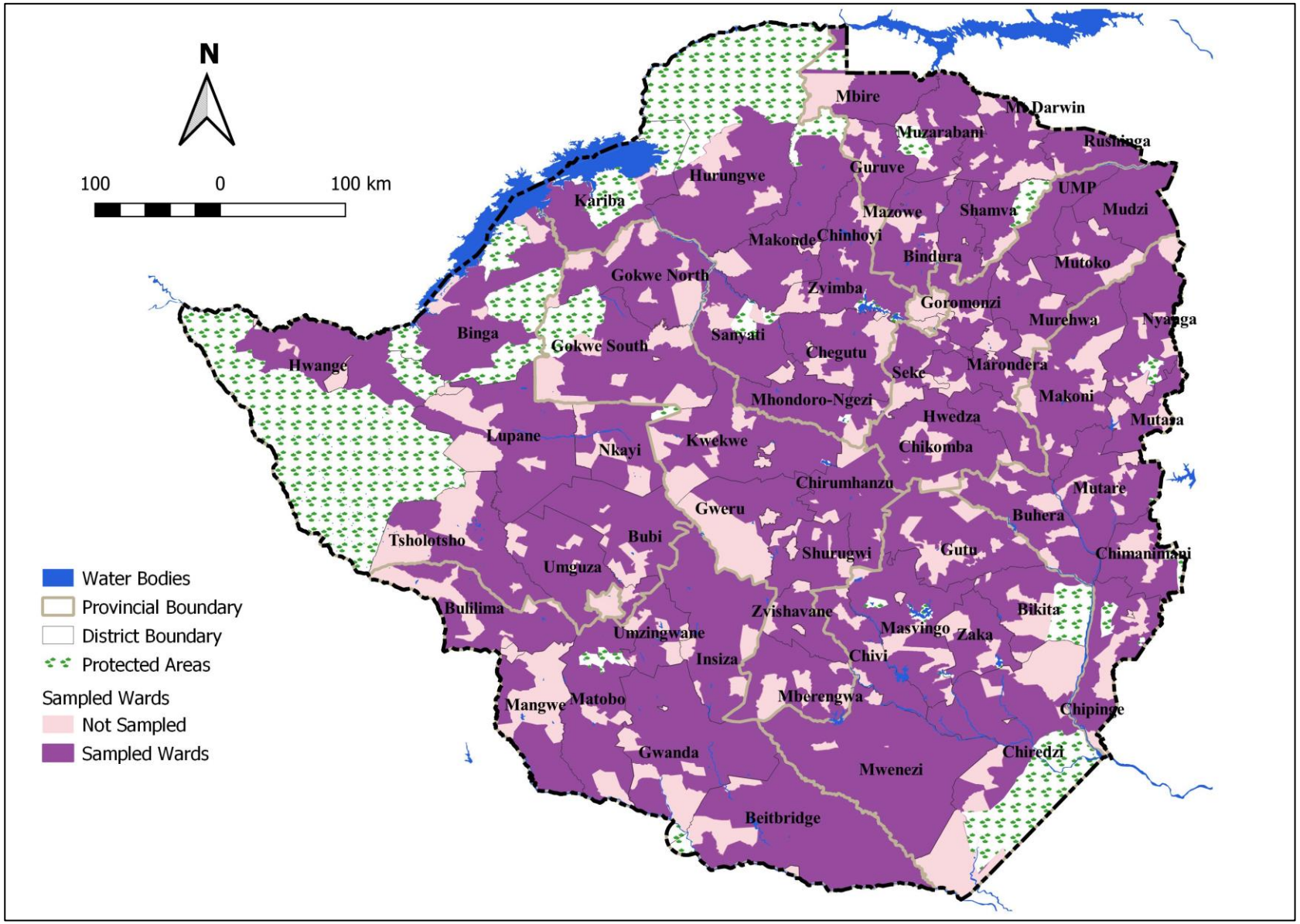
- Data analysis and report writing ran from 23 May to 3 June 2021. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

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 1500 randomly selected Enumerated Areas (EAs):
- A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of;
  - Sampling of 25 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) 2012 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology
  - The second stage involved the systematic random sampling of 10 households per EA (village).
- At most, 250 households were interviewed per district, bringing the total sampled households to 14945.
- 5 FGDs were held per district.

Province	Number of Sampled Households
Manicaland	1741
Mashonaland Central	1999
Mashonaland East	2255
Mashonaland West	1722
Matabeleland North	1747
Matabeleland South	1736
Midlands	1999
Masvingo	1746
National	14945

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 2021 RLA collected and analysed information on the following thematic areas:

- Education
- Health
- WASH
- Nutrition
- Agriculture and other rural livelihoods activities
- Food security
- Resilience
- Social protection
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability

Assessment Findings

Demographic Description of the Sample

Household Characteristics

	Male (%)	Female (%)	Average Household Size	Child Headed (%)	Elderly Headed (%)
Manicaland	48	52	4.3	0.1	31.9
Mash Central	50	50	4.3	0.1	25.2
Mash East	47	53	3.9	0.0	38.6
Mash West	50	50	4.4	0.1	26.4
Mat North	47	53	4.6	0.1	40.3
Mat South	46	54	4.4	0.3	42.9
Midlands	48	52	4.6	0.0	35.8
Masvingo	46	54	4.3	0.3	35.5
National	48	52	4.4	0.1	34.6

- Of the sampled population, 48% were male and 52% were female.
- The average household size was 4.4.
- Approximately 0.1% were child headed households and 34.6% were elderly headed.
- These findings are similar with findings from other national surveys.

Characteristics of Respondents: Sex and Age

	Respondent's Sex (%)		Respondent's Average Age
Province	**Male**	**Female**	**Average**
Manicaland	27.7	72.3	44.5
Mash Central	36.5	63.5	42.6
Mash East	32.6	67.4	47.4
Mash West	34.3	65.7	43.4
Mat North	27.8	72.2	48.3
Mat South	29.4	70.6	49.0
Midlands	33.7	66.3	46.9
Masvingo	29.4	70.6	47.2
National	**31.6**	**68.4**	**46.2**

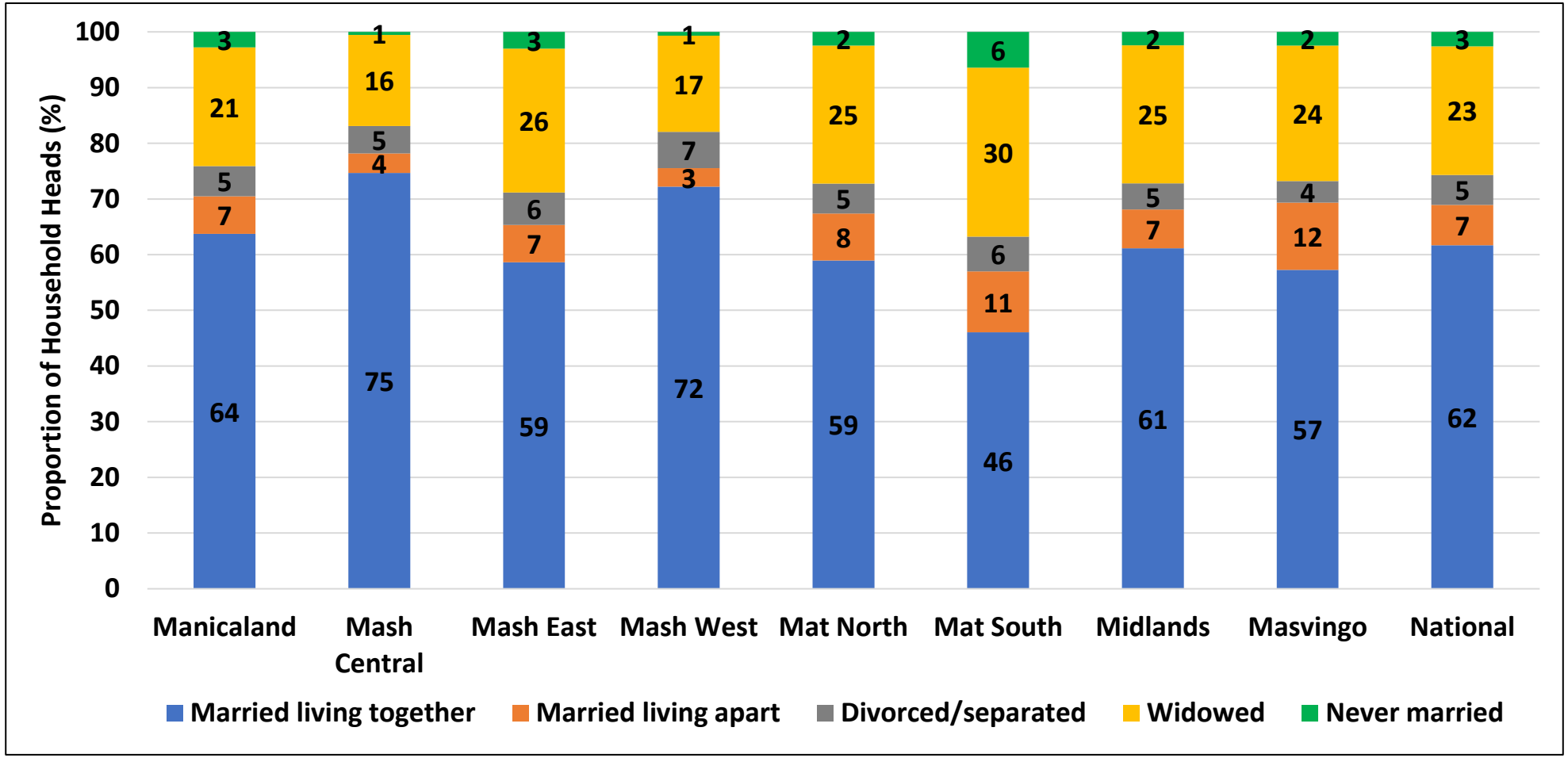
- About 68.4% of the respondents were female.
- The average age of the respondents was 46.2. Thus interacting with the productive age group critical for household and economic development.

Characteristics of Household Head: Sex and Age

	Household Head Sex (%)		Household Head Average Age	
	Male	**Female**	**Average**	**Minimum**
Manicaland	66.4	33.6	51.9	16.0
Mash Central	**74.4**	25.6	47.9	17.0
Mash East	63.3	36.7	53.7	18.0
Mash West	**71.7**	28.3	48.5	15.0
Mat North	62.4	37.6	54.8	17.0
Mat South	53.6	**46.4**	55.2	15.0
Midlands	65.1	34.9	53.0	18.0
Masvingo	61.6	38.4	52.7	15.0
National	**64.9**	35.1	**52.2**	**15.0**

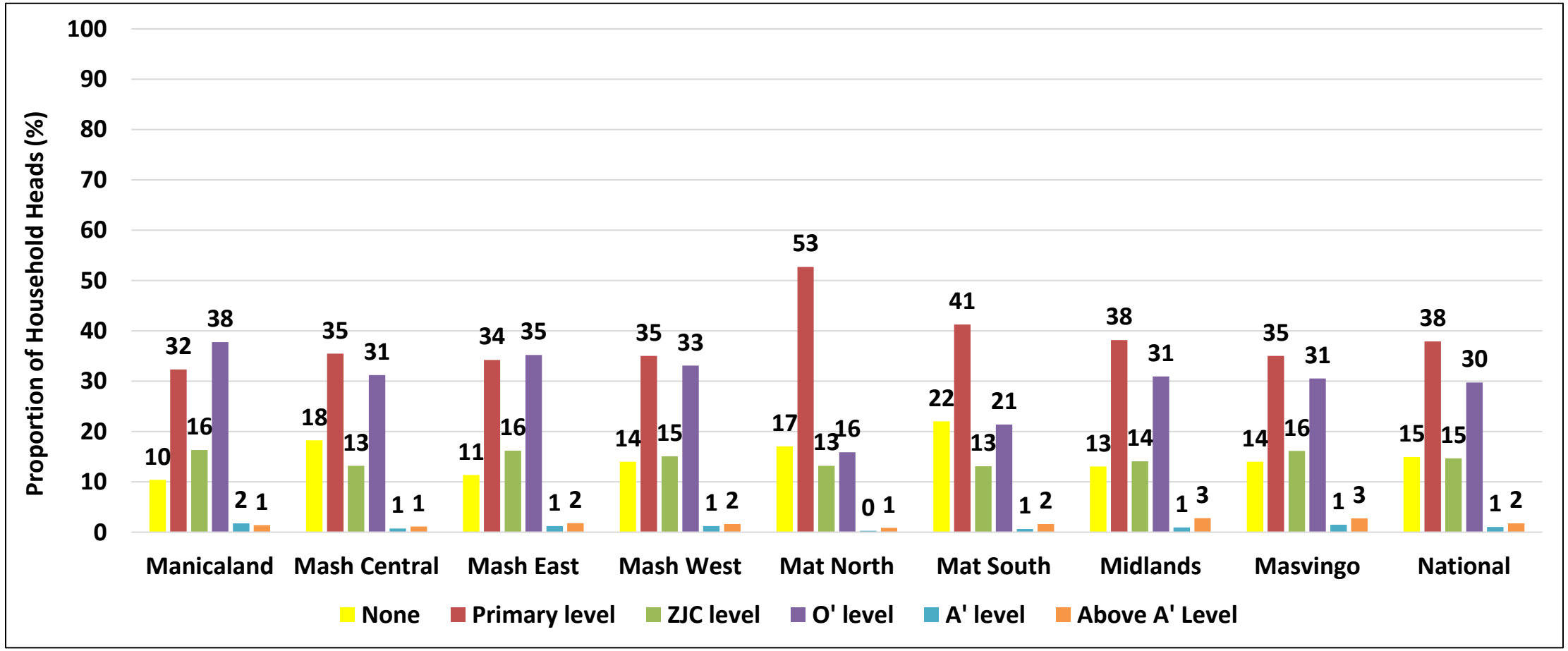
- About 64.9% of the households were male headed with the highest proportion being in Mashonaland Central (74.4%).
- The average age of household heads was 52.2 years which is within the productive age group.

Characteristics of Household Head: Marital Status



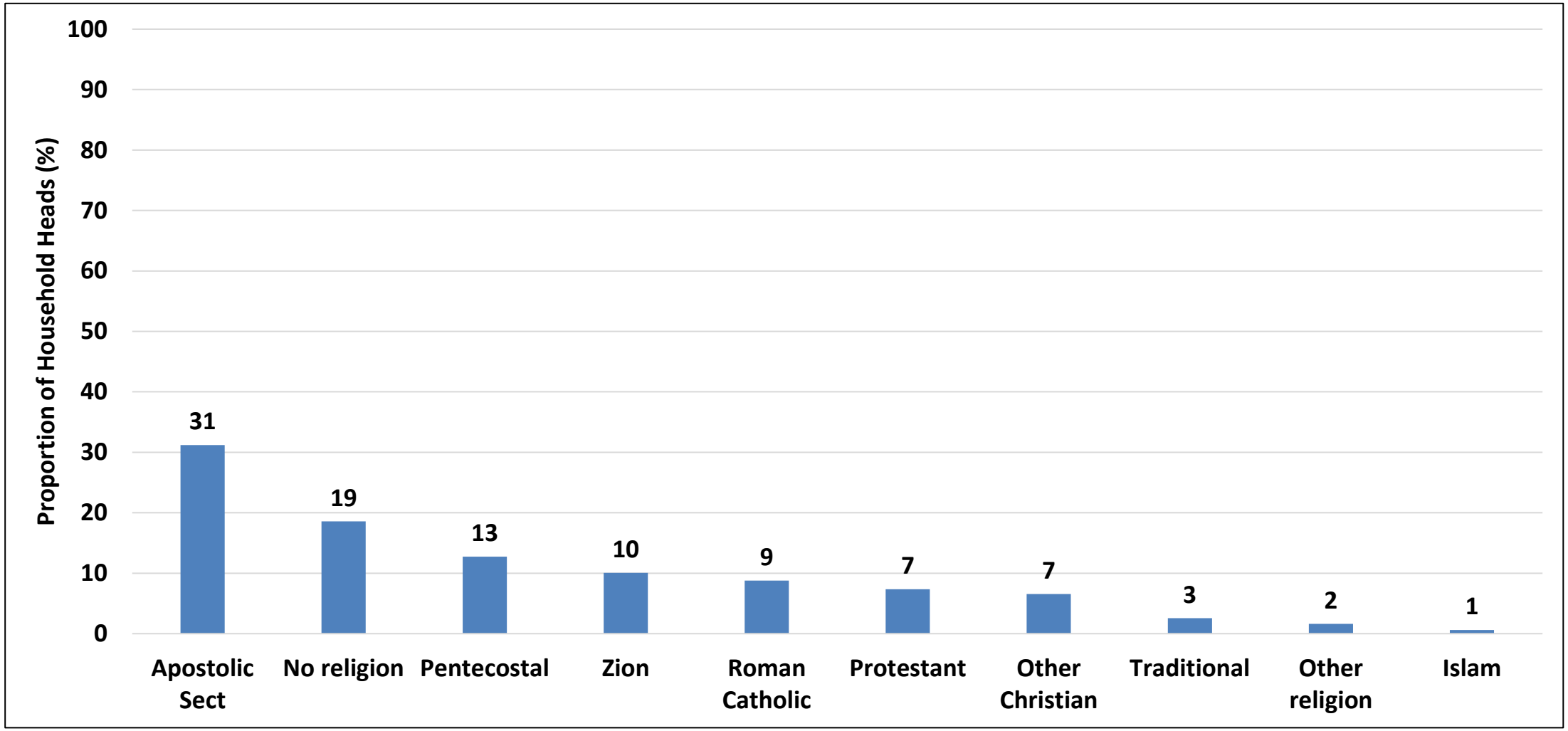
- A greater proportion of household heads (62%) were married and living together while 23% were widowed.
- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of household heads who were widowed (30%).
- Masvingo had the highest proportion of household heads who were married and living apart (12%).

Characteristics of Household Head: Education Level Attained



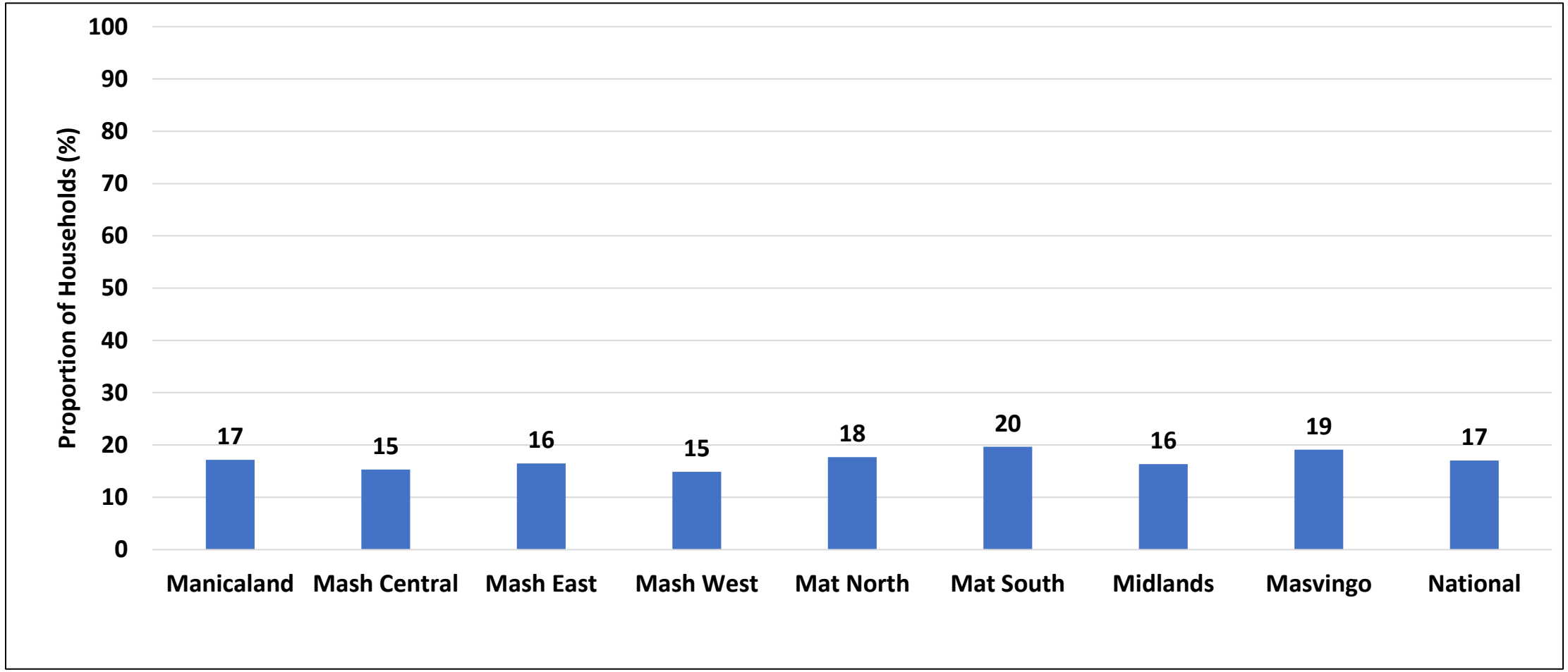
- About 85% of the household heads had at least attained primary education level.
- This minimal level of education shows the ability of the respondents to interact with the subject matter of the survey.

Characteristics of Household Head: Religion



- The majority (75%) of household heads were of the Christian religion (Apostolic Sect 31%; Pentecostal 13%; Zion 10%, Catholic 9%, Protestant 7%; other Christian 7%).

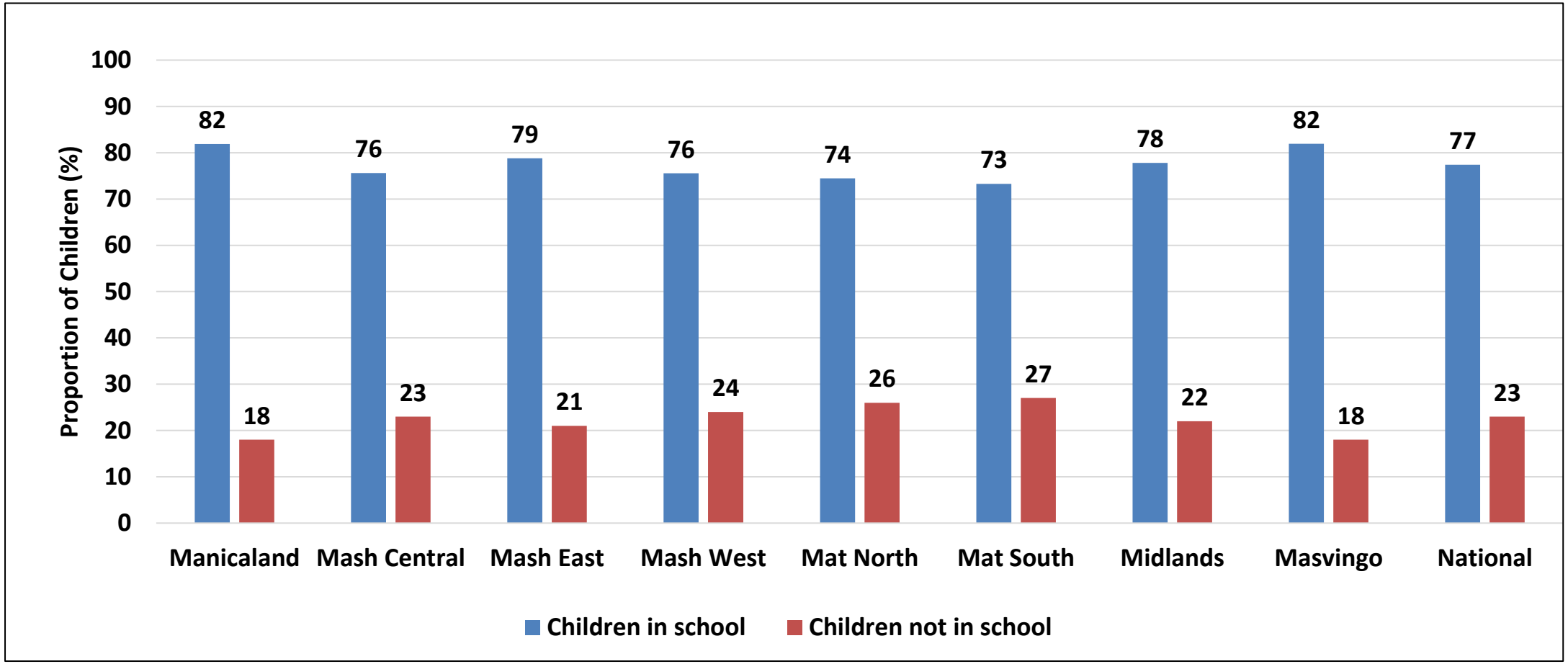
Orphaned Children



- Nationally, 17% of the households had orphans.
- The highest proportion was in Matabeleland South (20%), Masvingo (19%) and Matabeleland North (18%).

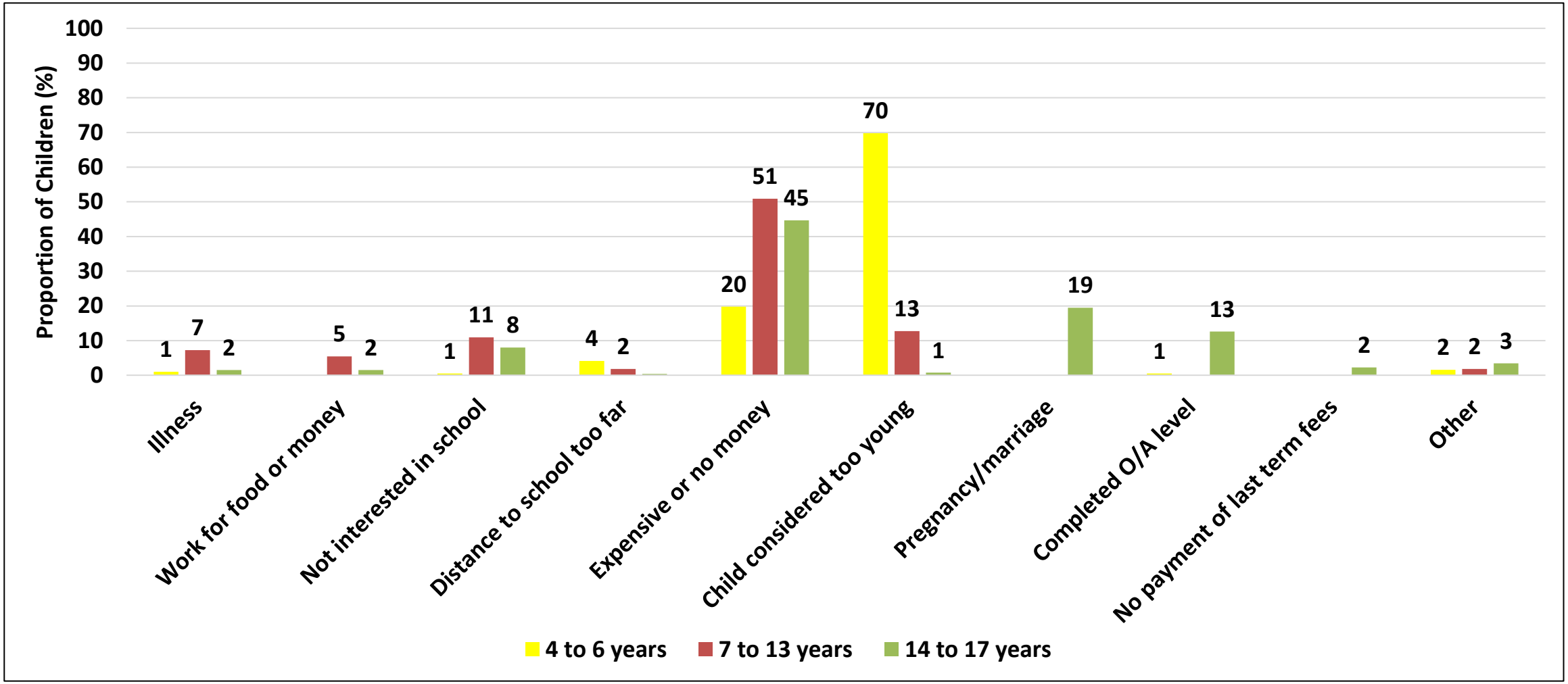
Education

School Attendance



- Nationally, 23% of the children of school-going age were not going to school at the time of the assessment.

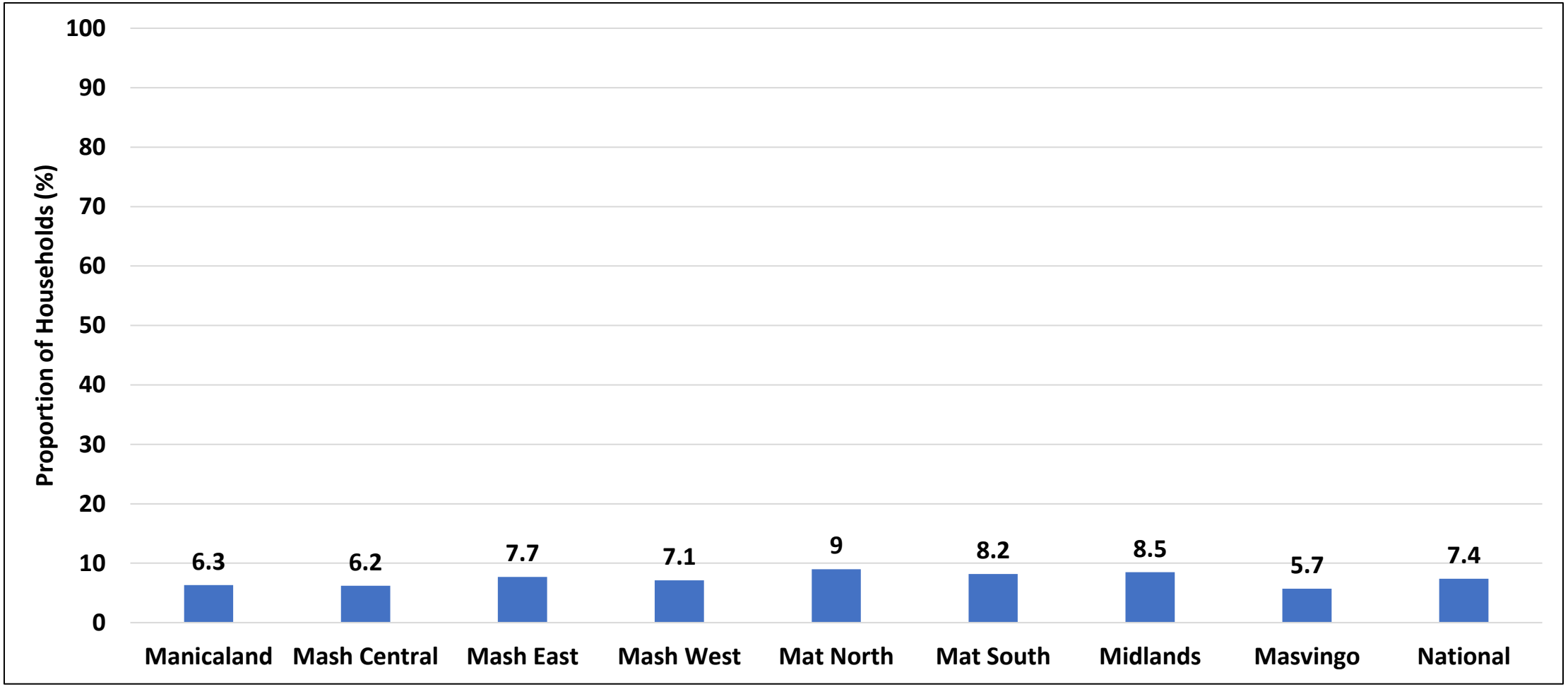
Reasons for Children Not Being in School



- The major reason why children were out of school was financial constraints. This mostly affected the 7 to 13 years age group (51%).
- Children in the 4 to 6 years age group were out of school mainly because they were considered too young (70%).
- About 19% of children aged 14 to 17 years were out of school due to pregnancy/marriage.

Chronic Illness

Households with Members that had Confirmed Chronic Illnesses



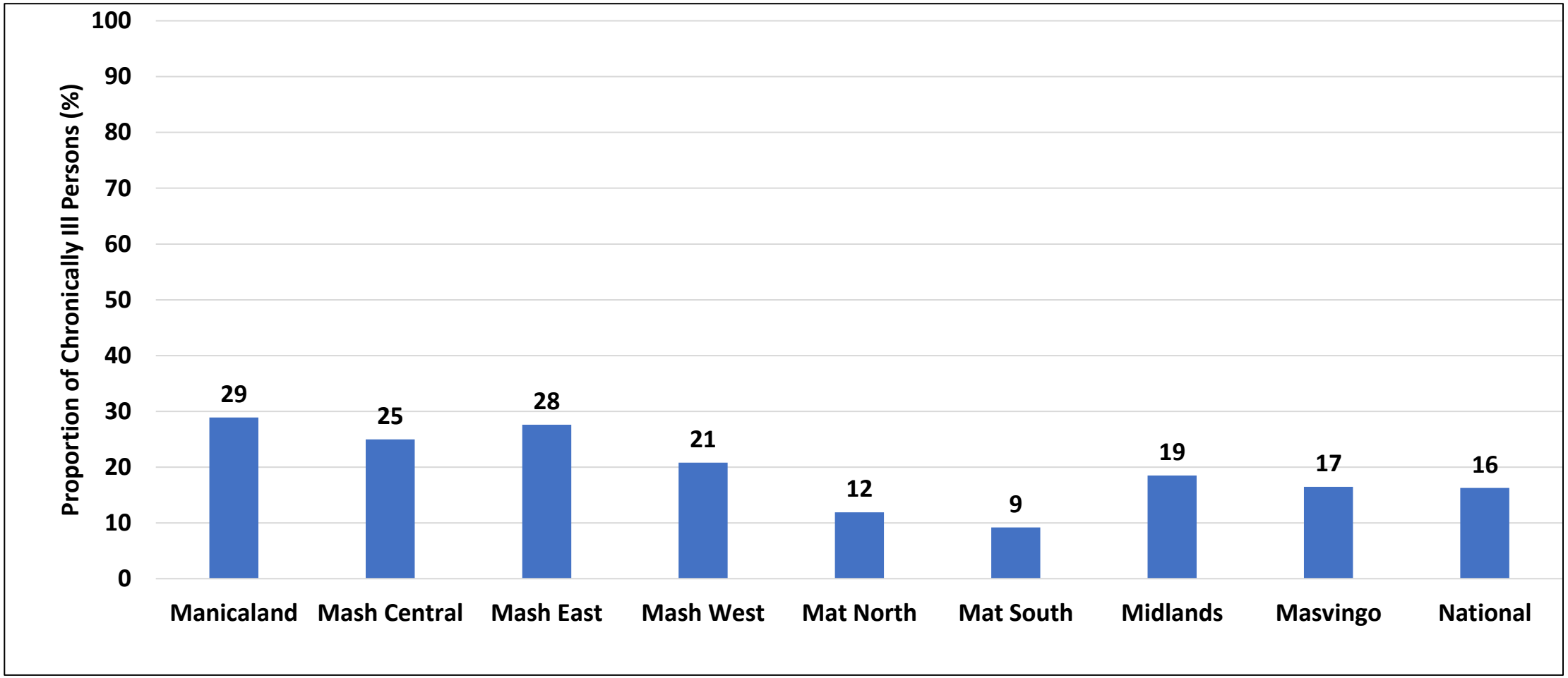
- Nationally, 7.4% of the households had members who had chronic illnesses.
- Matabeleland North (9%) had the highest proportion whilst the least was in Masvingo (5.7%).

Household Members who had a Chronic Illness (7.4%)

	HIV infection, AIDS (%)	Heart disease (%)	Diabetes, high blood sugar (%)	Asthma (%)	Hypertension, High blood pressure (%)	Arthritis, chronic body pain (%)	Epilepsy, seizures, fits (%)	Stroke (%)	Cancer (%)	Tuberculosis (%)	Ulcer, chronic stomach pain (%)
Manicaland	27	4.9	17.5	6.9	27.6	3.4	2.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.3
Mash Central	26.2	3.6	11.4	10.6	21	4.1	3.6	2	1.7	1.7	5
Mash East	24.3	2.4	16.7	5.9	30.4	5.4	2.3	1.7	1	1	1.8
Mash West	28.2	4.6	12.7	8.3	22	6.8	1.3	0.6	2.5	2.5	3.8
Mat North	**42.4**	1.9	7.8	6.7	23.4	6	2.5	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.1
Mat South	37	1.6	10.7	7.1	25.8	5.6	2.8	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.2
Midlands	30.9	2.8	8.7	7.8	23.8	7.2	2.4	0.9	2.2	2.2	1.2
Masvingo	30.5	2.9	9.6	6.9	20.7	6.1	5.2	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.1
National	**31.2**	3	**11.7**	7.4	**24.6**	5.7	2.7	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.7

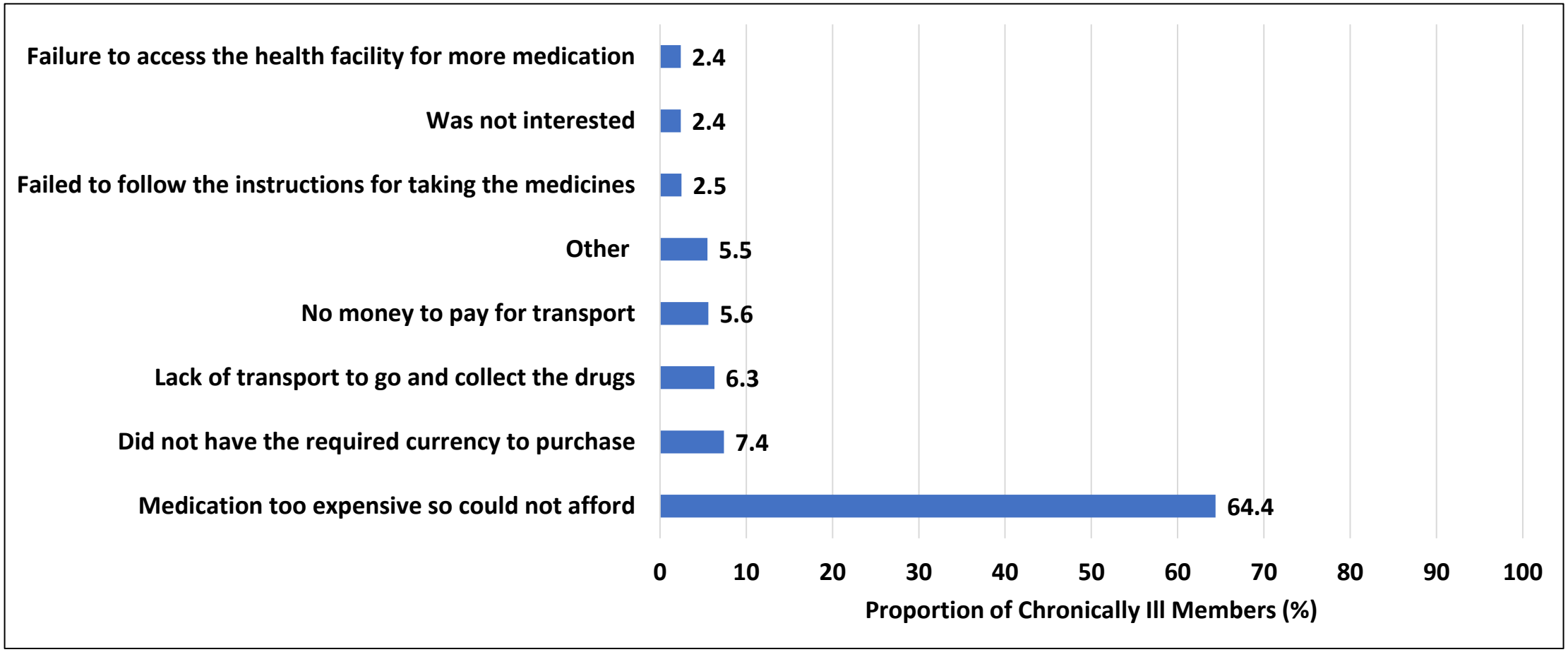
- The proportion of household members who had HIV and AIDS infection was 31.2%. The highest proportion was in Matabeleland North (42.4%).

Chronically Ill Persons who Missed Medication (7.4%)



- Government is commended for creating an enabling environment that resulted in 84% of those chronically ill persons having access to medication.
- More attention should be directed to support 16% of those chronically ill persons who missed their medication.

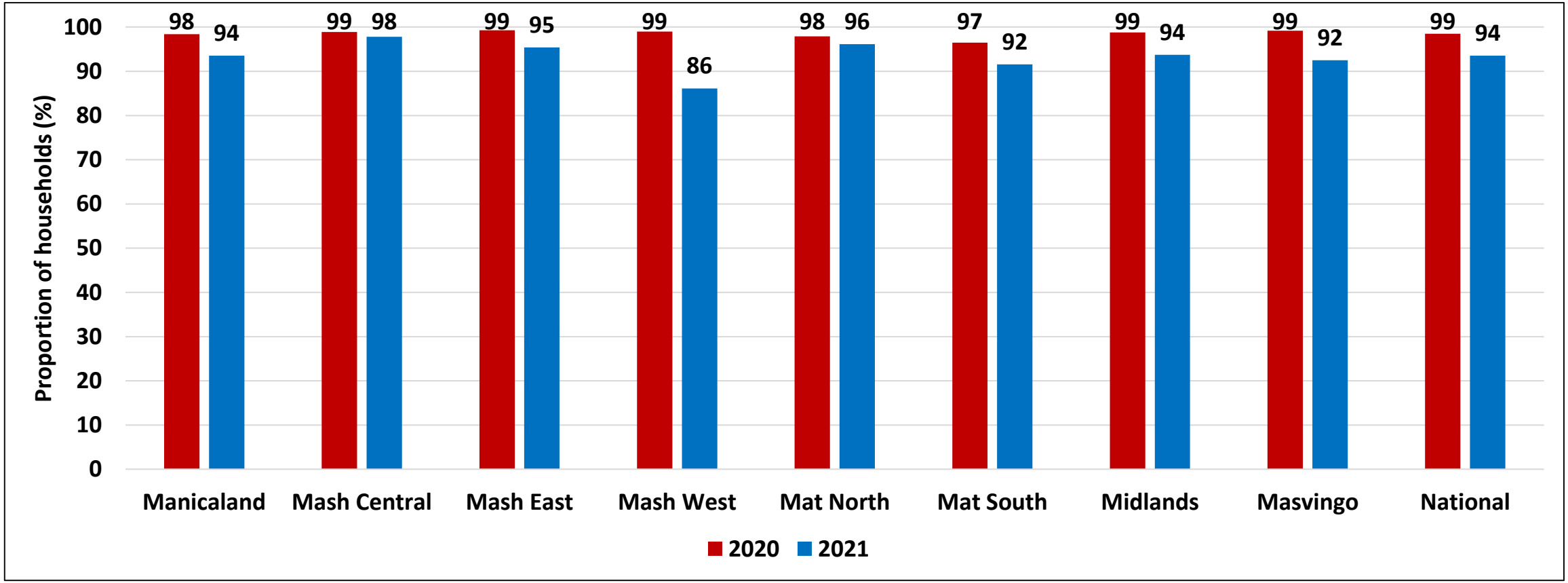
Reasons for Missing Medication (16%)



- The main reasons for missing medication were that medication was too expensive (64.4%), not having the required currency to purchase (7.4%) and lack of transport to go and collect the drugs (6.3%).

COVID-19 and Livelihoods

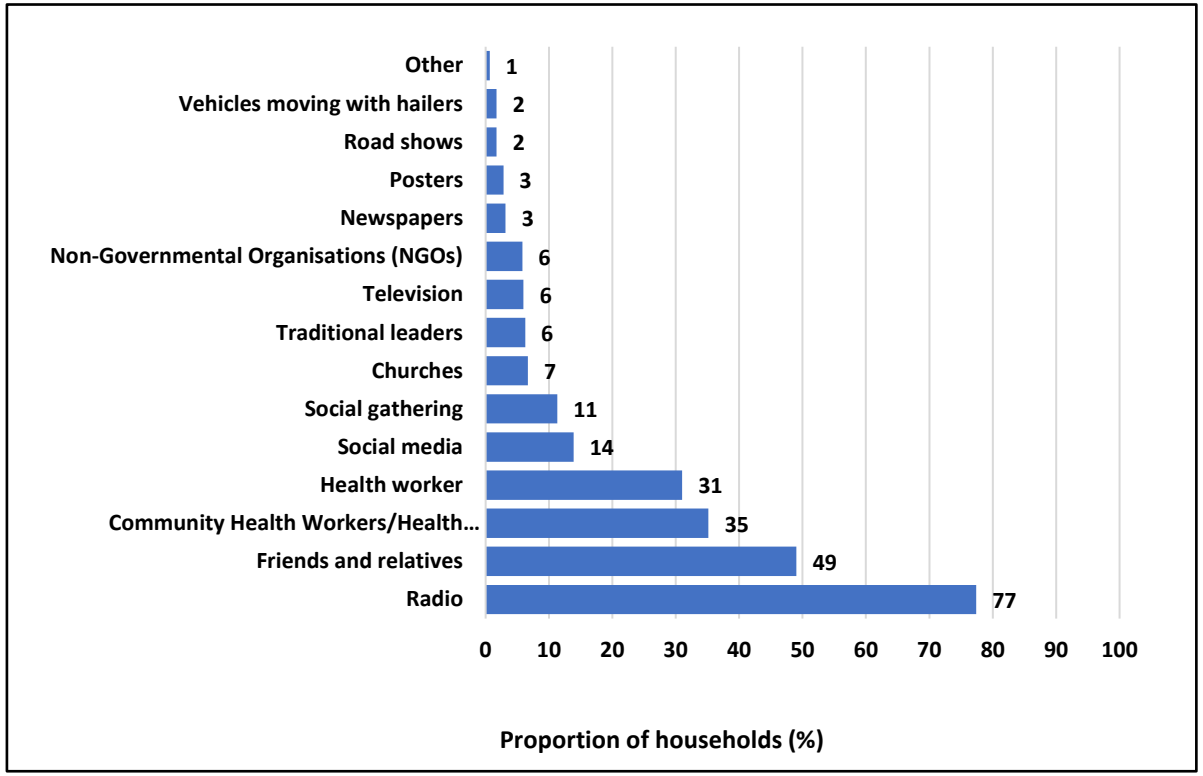
Households which Ever Heard About COVID-19



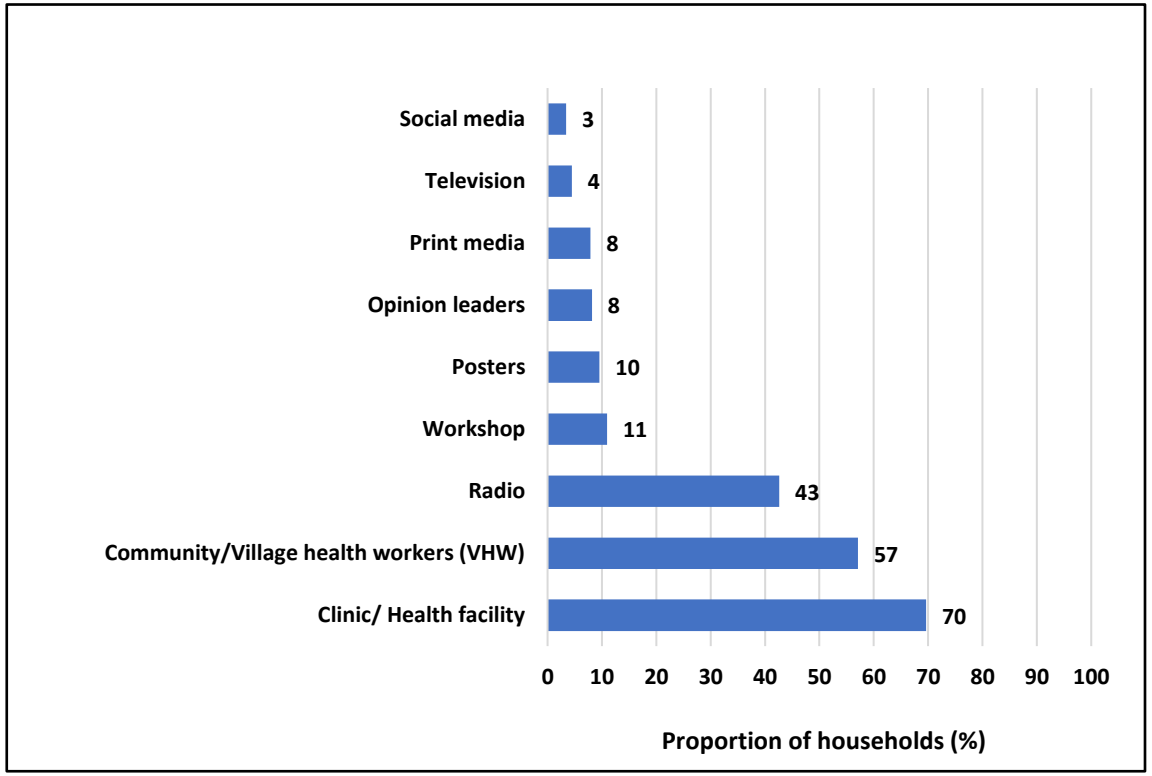
- Government is commended for ensuring effective communication and knowledge sharing systems and initiatives.
- About 94% of the households had heard about COVID-19 with the highest proportion reported in Mashonaland Central (98%).

Sources of COVID-19 Information

Current Sources of COVID-19 Information

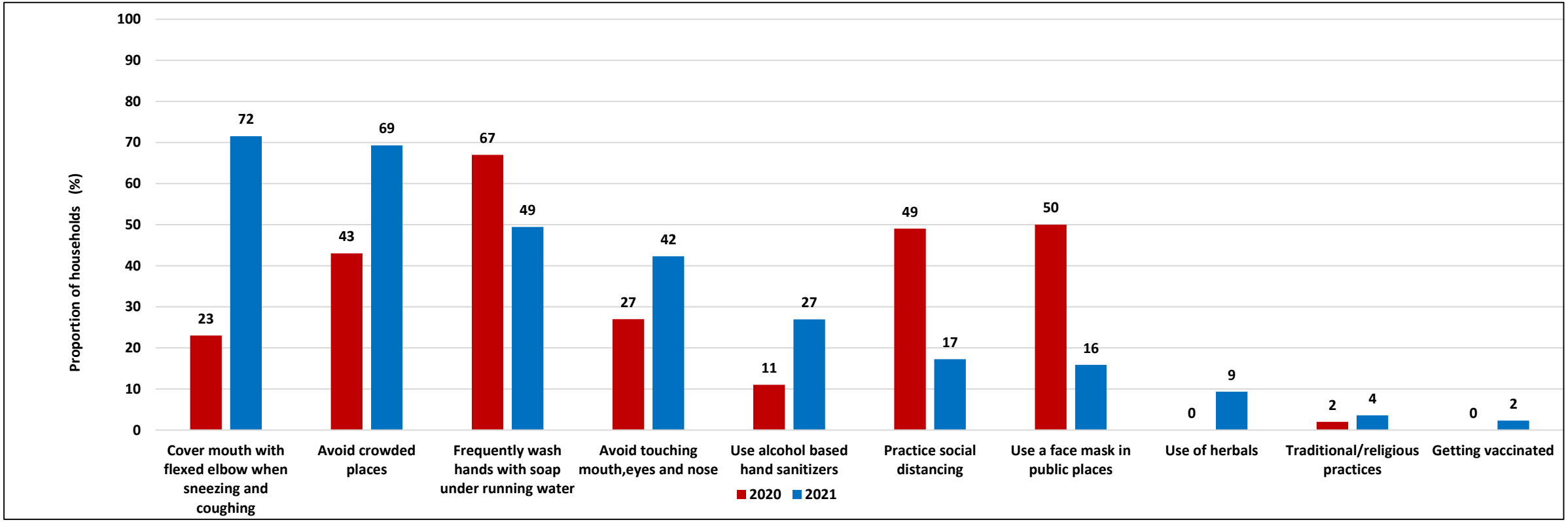


Preferred Future Sources of COVID-19 Information



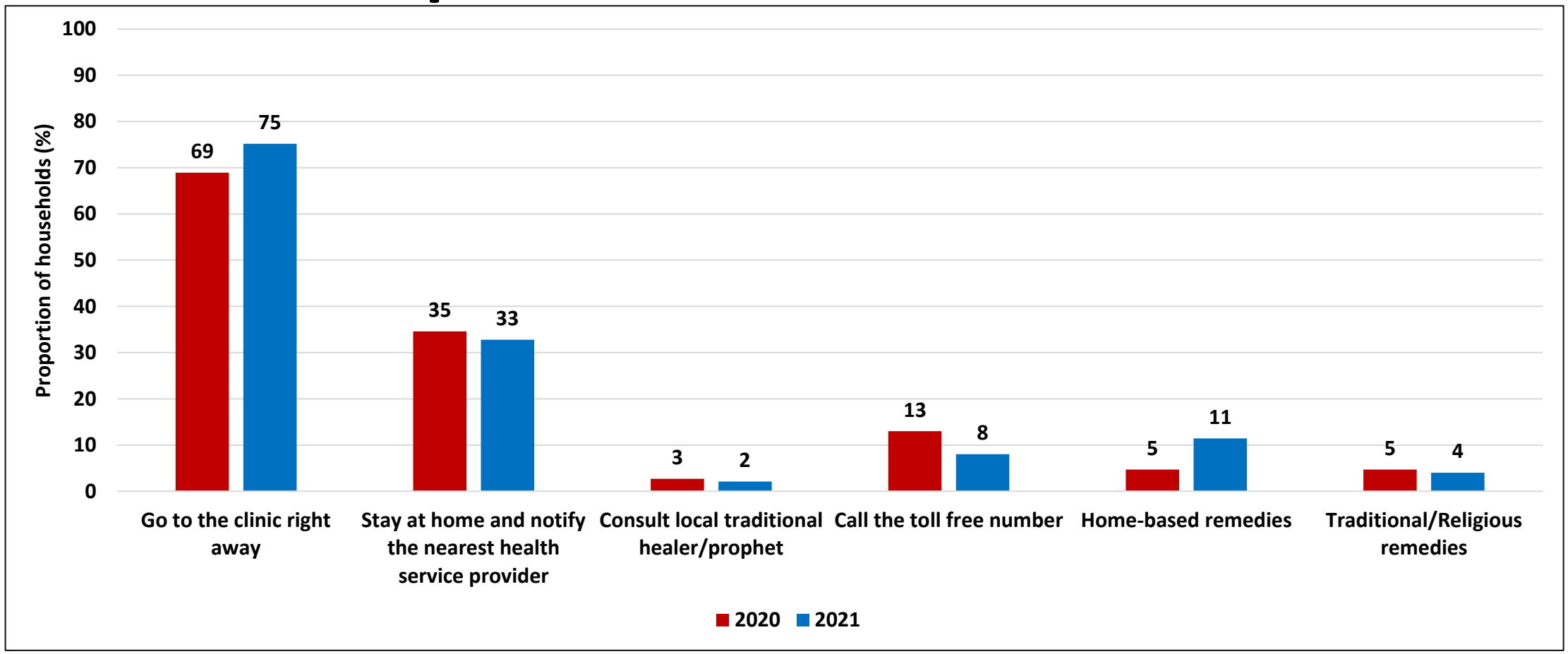
- The top five (5) sources of COVID-19 information were: radio (77%), friends and relatives (49%), community health workers (35%), health workers (31%) and social media (14%).
- The top five (5) preferred future sources of information on COVID-19 were: clinic/health facility (70%), community/village health workers (57%), radio (43%), workshop (11%) and posters (10%).

Methods Used to Protect Household Members from COVID-19 Infection



- The most common methods used by households to protect themselves from COVID-19 included covering mouth with flexed elbow when sneezing and coughing (72%) and avoiding crowded places (69%).
- There was a decrease in the proportion of households practising social distancing and using face masks as compared to 2020.
- This is a shift from frequently washing hands with soap under running water (67%) and use of face masks in public places (50%) reported in 2020.

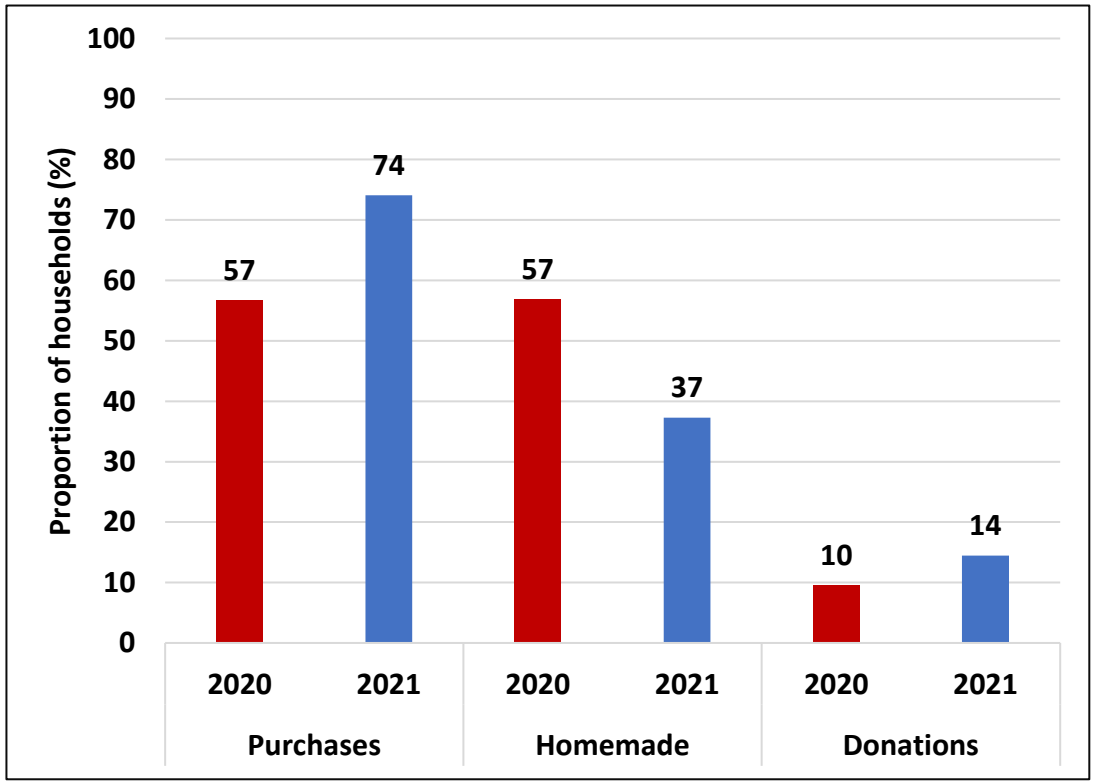
Actions Taken if Member of Household Suspected COVID-19 Infection



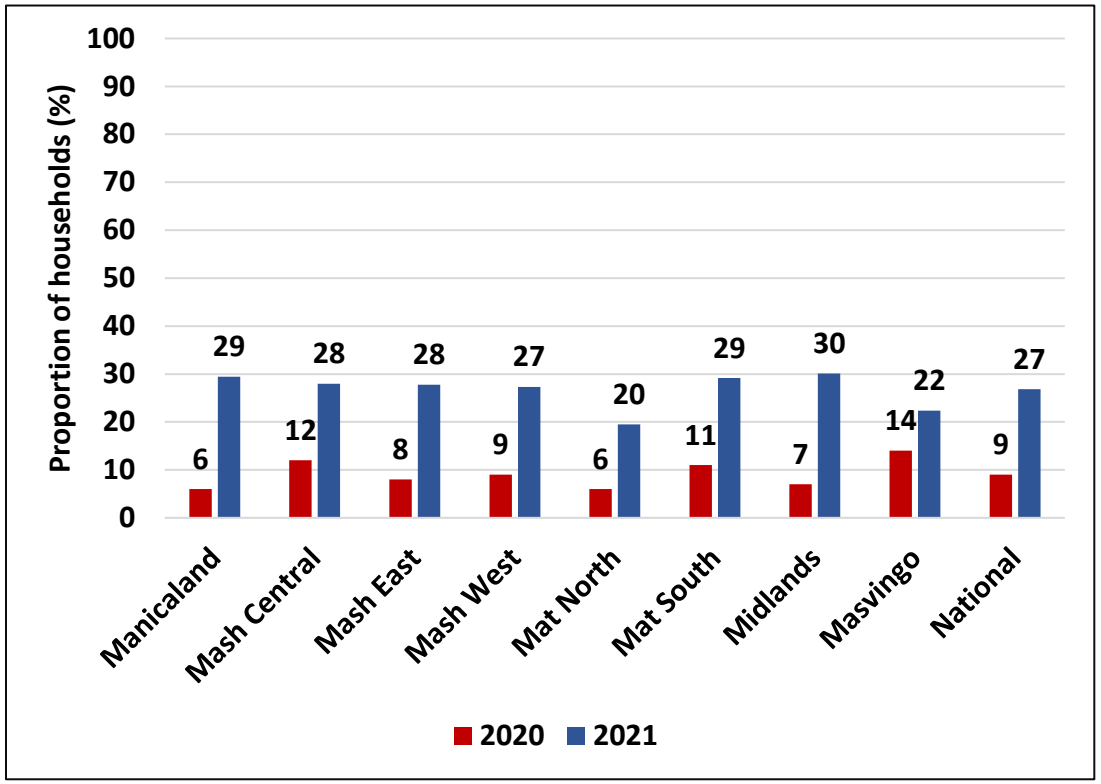
- Going to the clinic right away (75%) remained the most common action taken by households in the event that a household member suspected a COVID-19 infection.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of households using home-based remedies from 5% to 11% in 2021.

Common Sources of PPE During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Perceptions of their Affordability

Common Sources

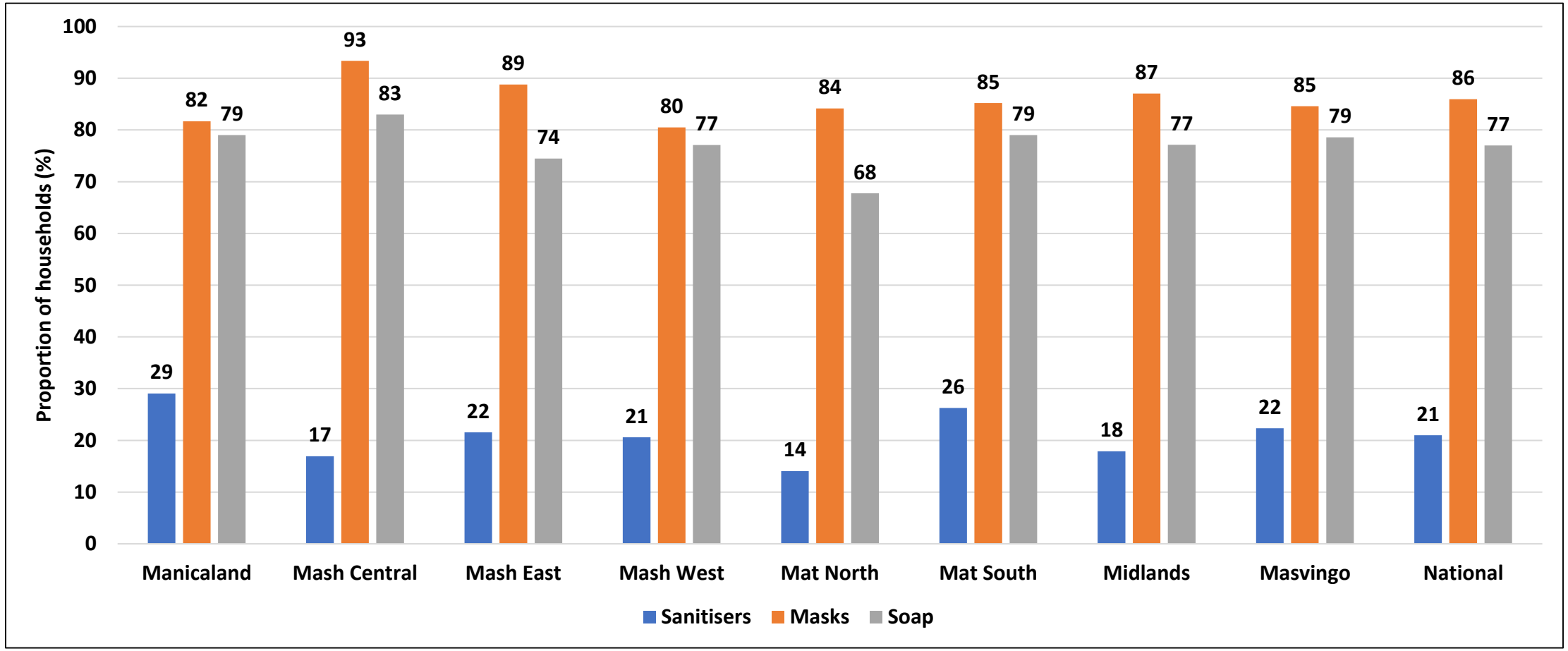


Affordability of PPE



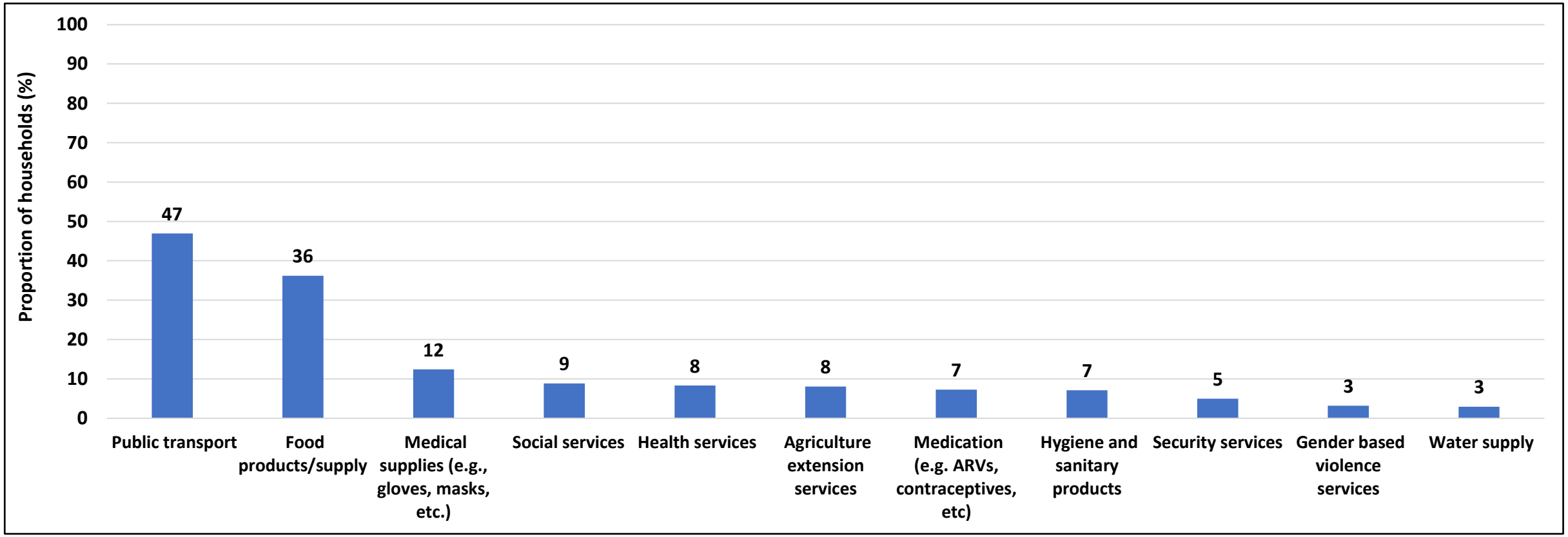
- The PPE used was mostly sourced through purchases (74%) and this was an increase from 57% reported in 2020.
- Nationally, 27% of the surveyed households reported that they could afford COVID-19 PPE and accessories.

Access to Hand Sanitizers, Masks and Soap



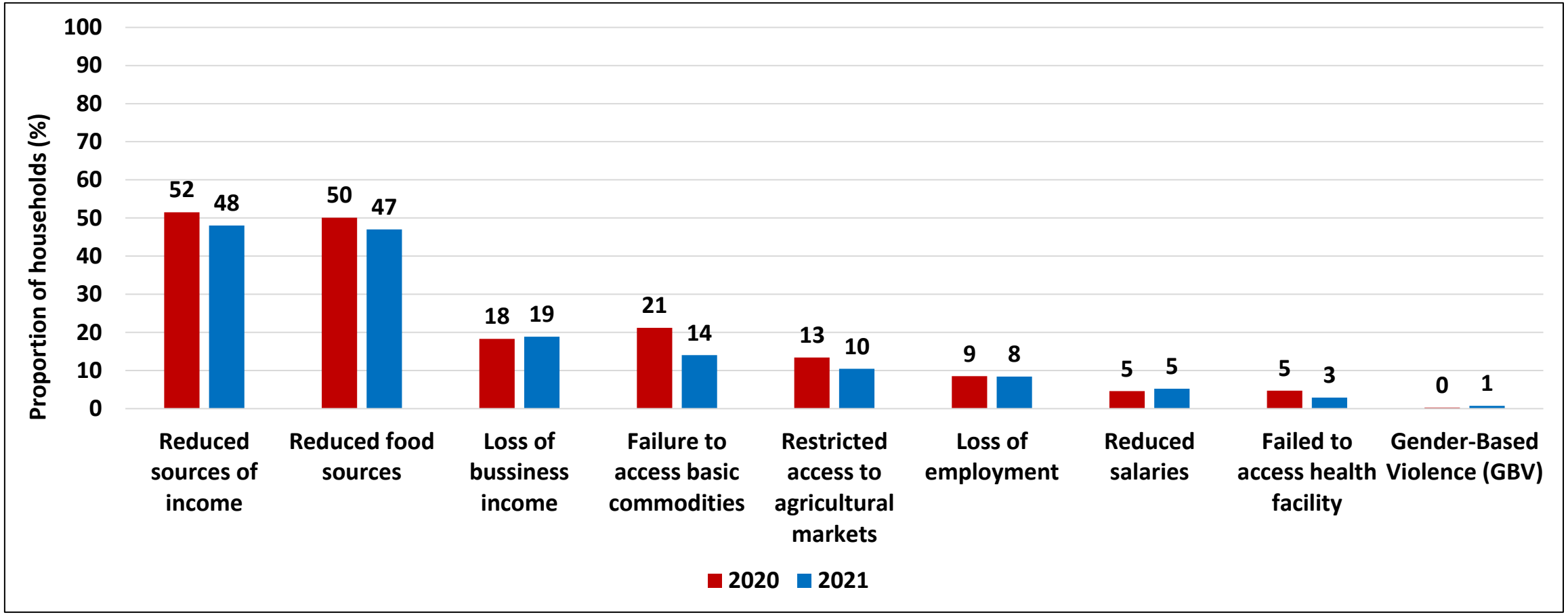
- Nationally, access to masks (86%) and handwashing soap (77%) was high. However, access to sanitisers was very low (21%).
- This trend was similar in all provinces, where masks were accessible whereas hand sanitizers were not easily accessible.

Effects of COVID-19 on Access to Goods and Services



- COVID-19 restrictive measures affected access to goods and services particularly public transport (47%), accessing food products or supplies (36%), and medical supplies (12%).
- Access to water (3%) and gender based violence services (3%) were the least affected services by the pandemic.

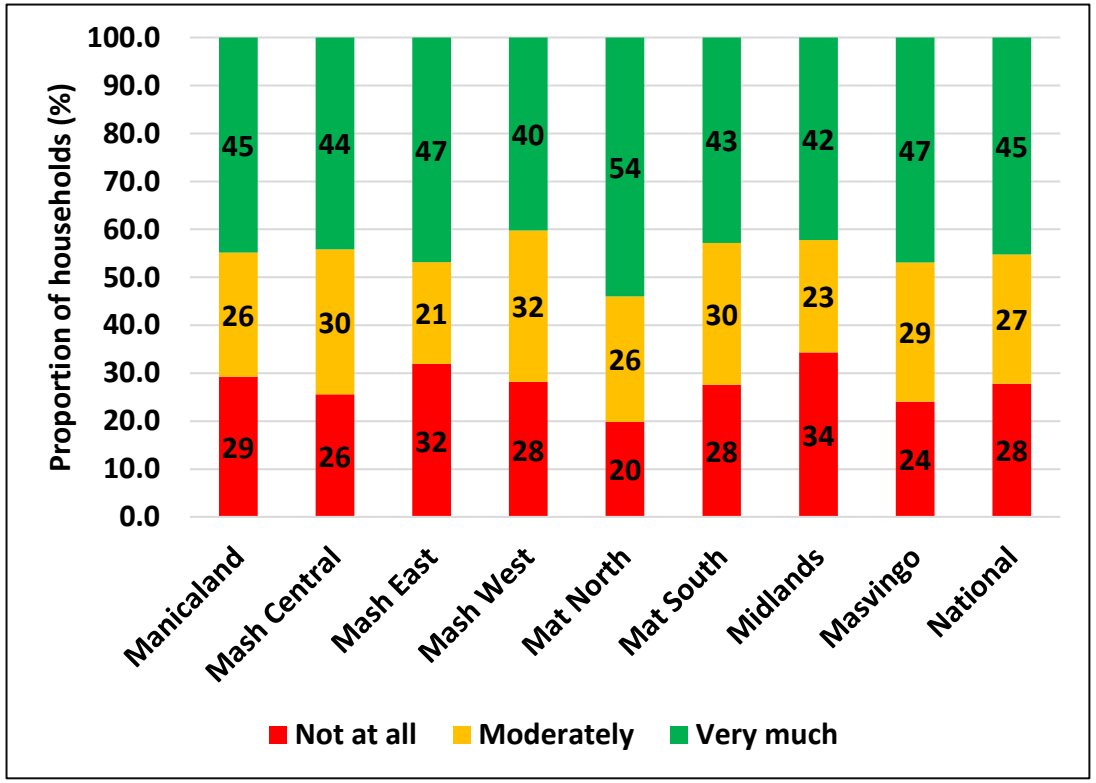
Effects of COVID-19 on Livelihoods



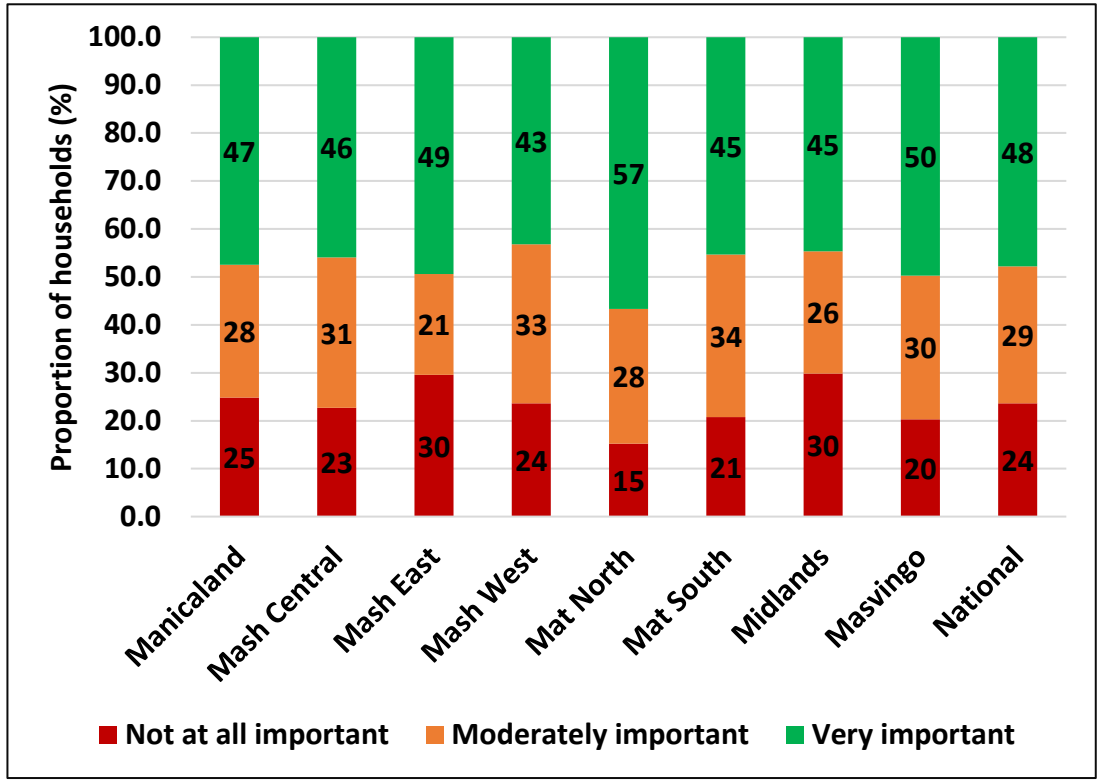
- The main effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods remained reduced sources of income (48%) and reduced food sources (47%), a similar trend observed in 2020.
- Most of the impacts could be attributed to the restrictive measures.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Trust in the Vaccine

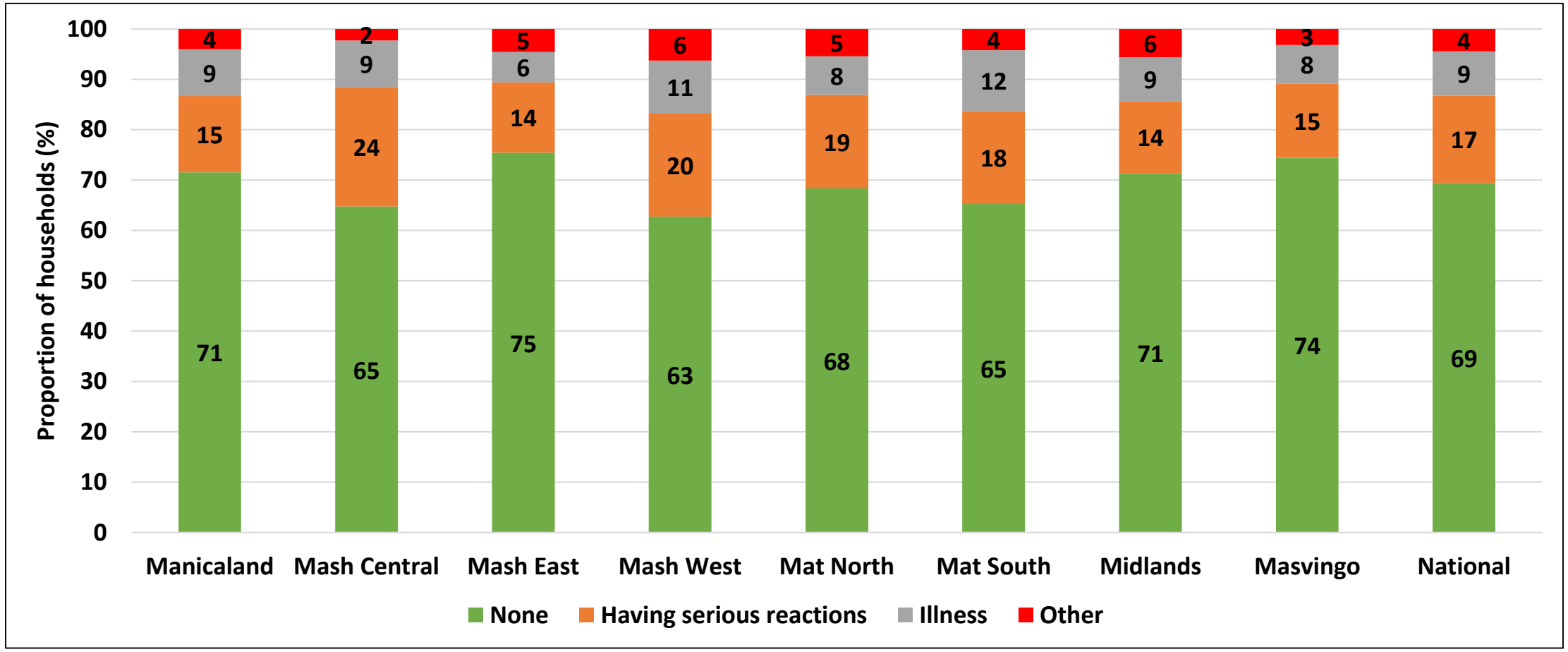


Perceived importance of the Vaccine



- About 72% of the households trust in the current Government Vaccine.
- Nationally, about 74% of the households perceived the COVID-19 vaccine as important.

Concerns about the Vaccine



- The majority of households indicated having no concern about the COVID-19 vaccine (69%).
- For the concerned, the main fears were having serious reactions (17%) and illness (9%).

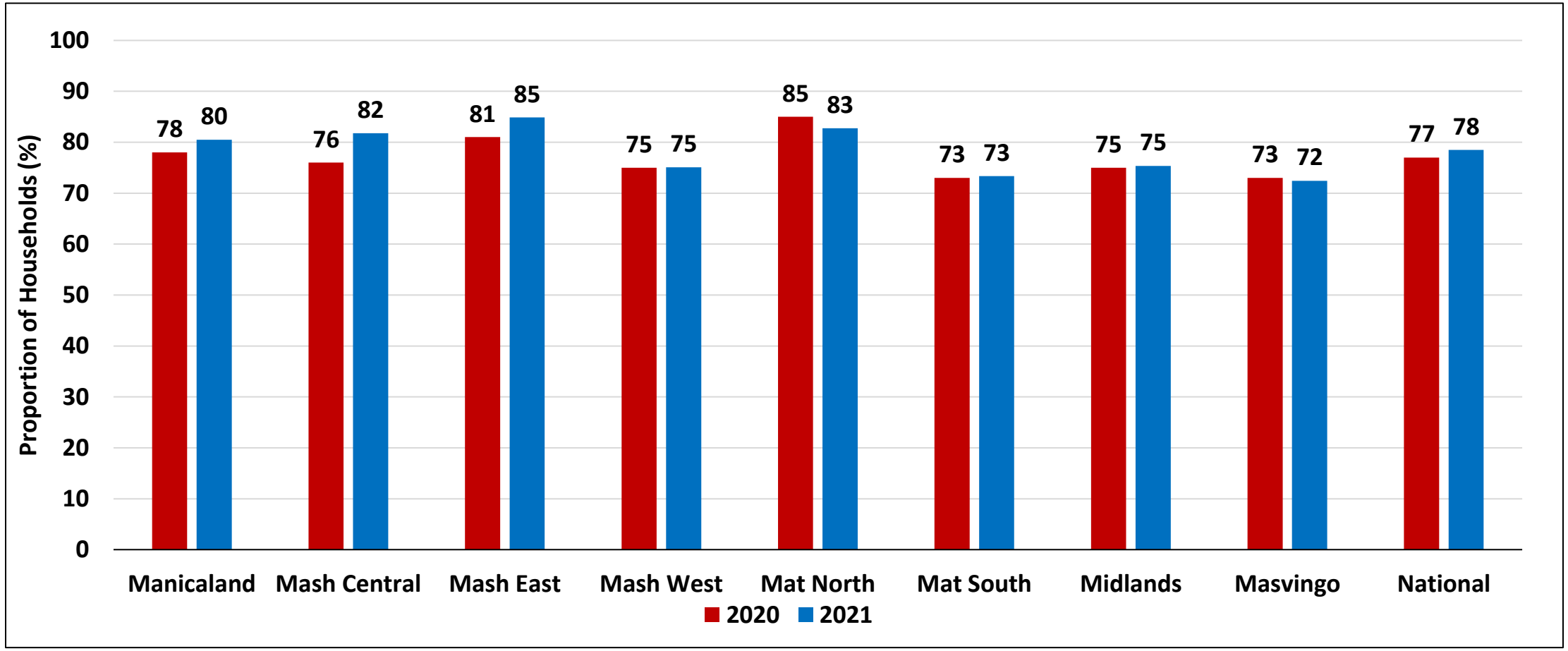
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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.

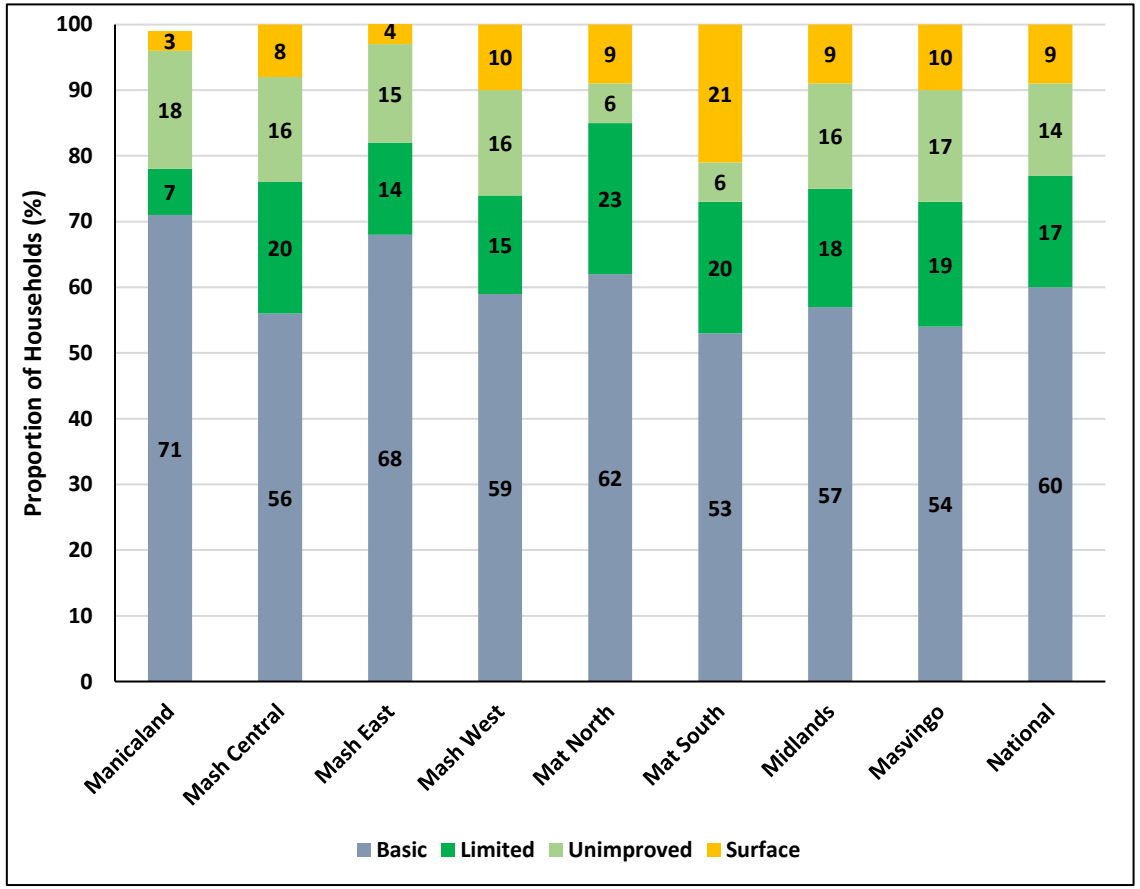
Access to Improved Water



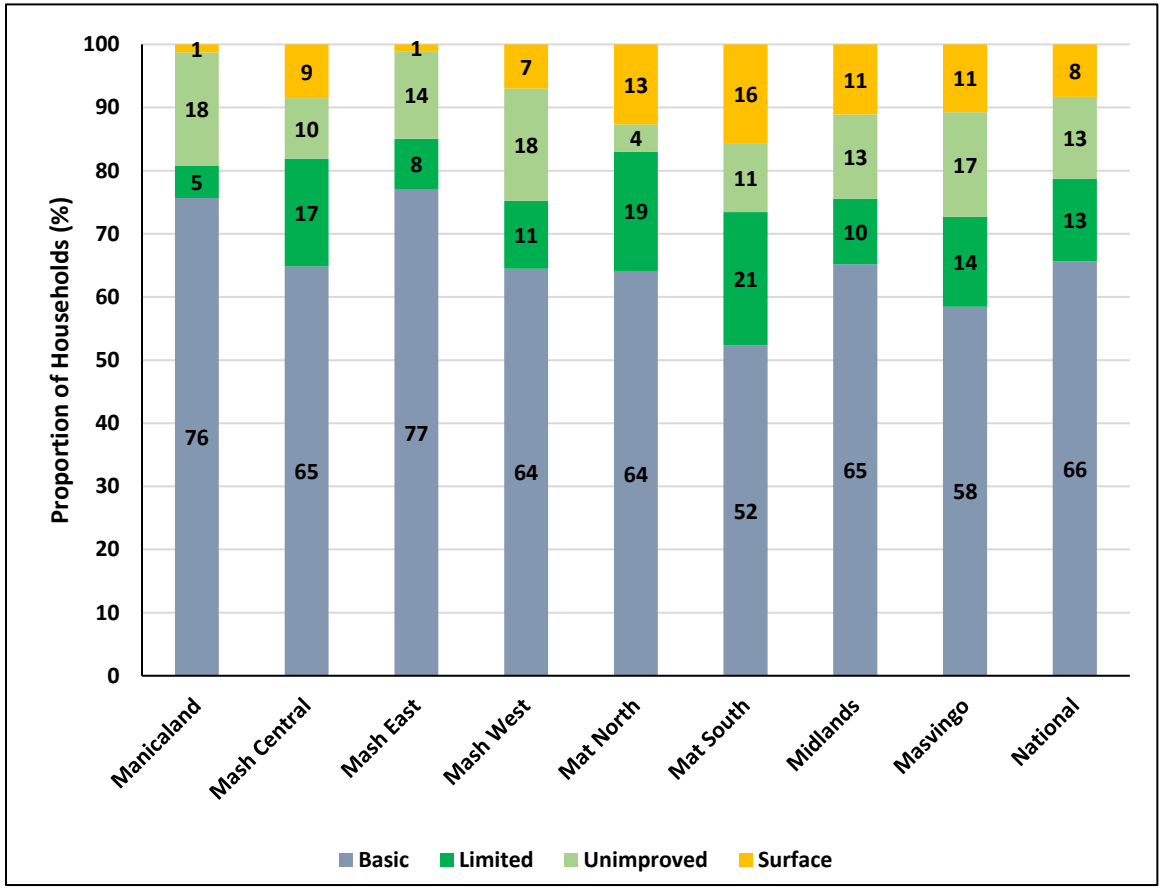
- Government is applauded on ensuring high access to improved water in the rural areas of Zimbabwe. Mashonaland East (85%) had the highest proportion of households with access to improved water, while Masvingo (72%) had the least proportion.

Main Drinking Water Services

2020

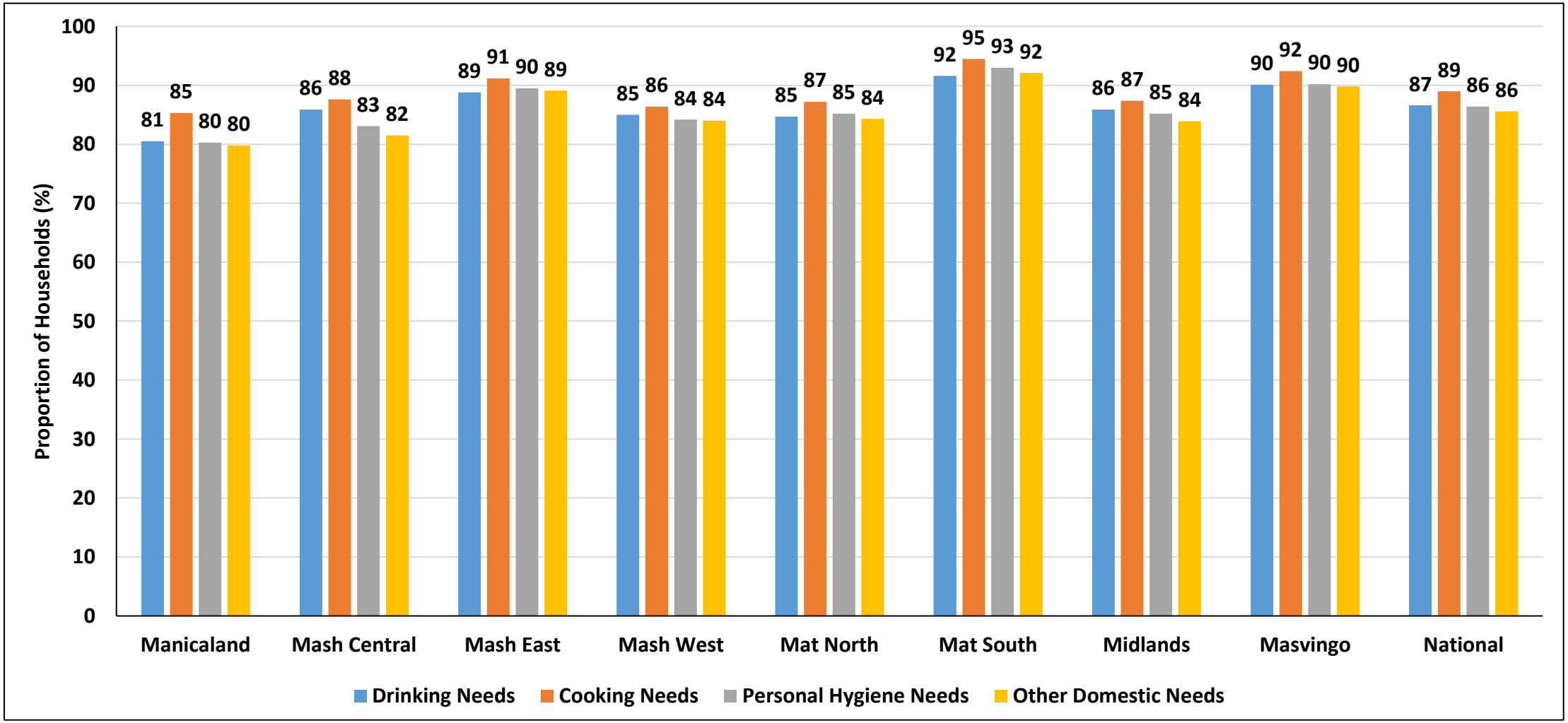


2021



- At national level an increase in the proportion of households accessing basic drinking water service was recorded, from 60% in 2020 to 66% in 2021.
- Matabeleland South (16%) continues to be the province with the highest proportion of households accessing surface water services, though it has decreased from 21% in 2020 to 16% to 2021.

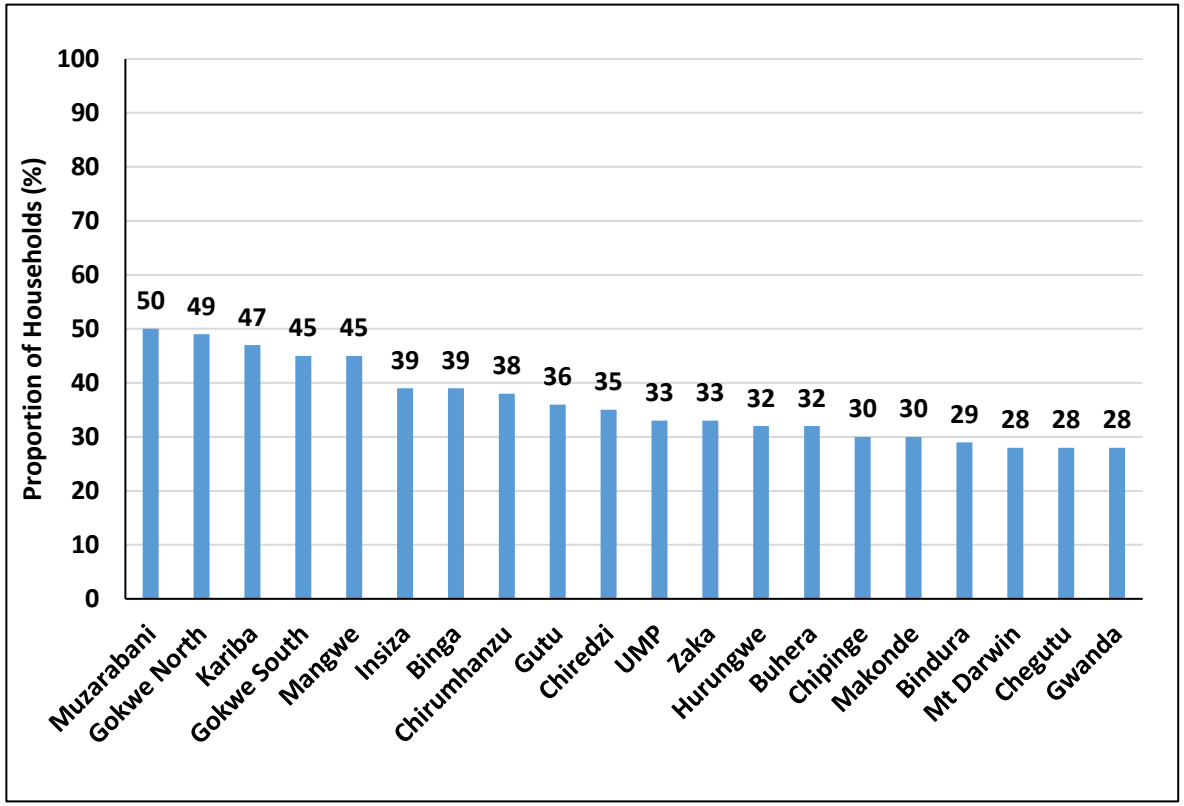
Access to Adequate Domestic Water



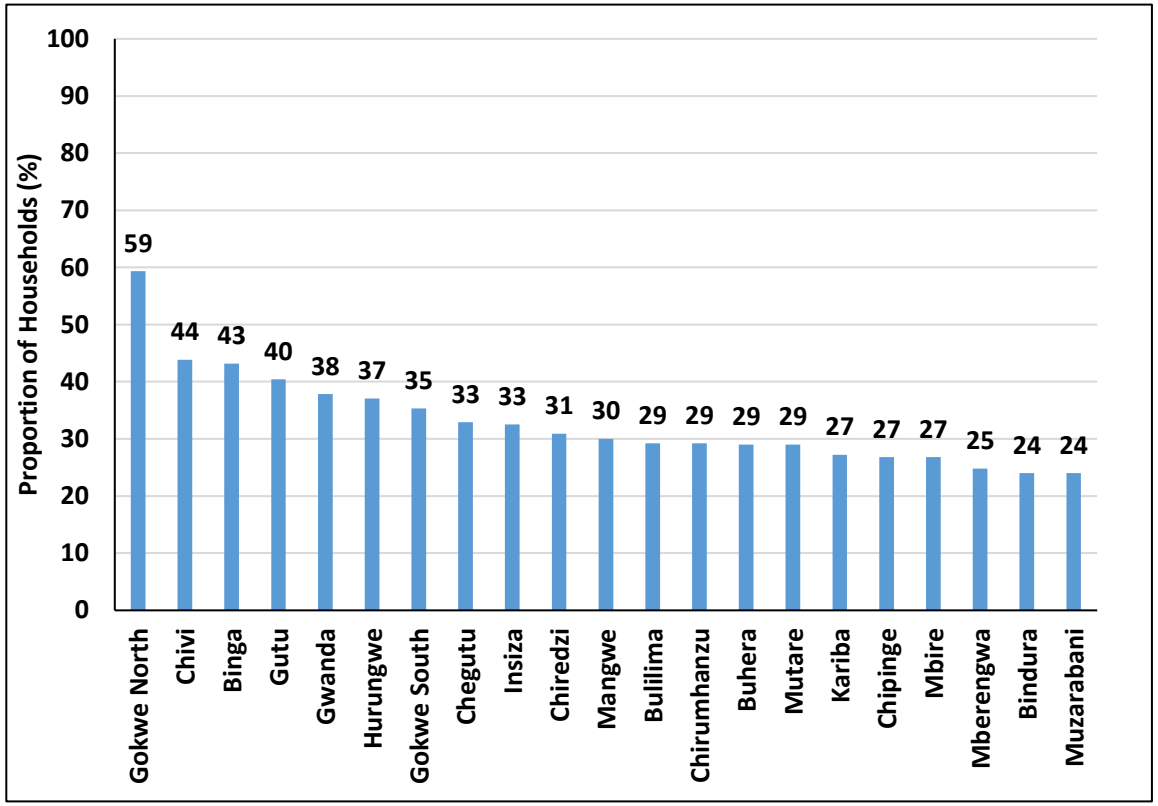
- Access to consumptive water is a human right issue which is well respected by the Zimbabwe Government.
- At national level, more than 85% of the households reported having adequate water for cooking, drinking, personal hygiene and other domestic needs.

Top 20 Districts with Households Using Unimproved Water Sources

2020

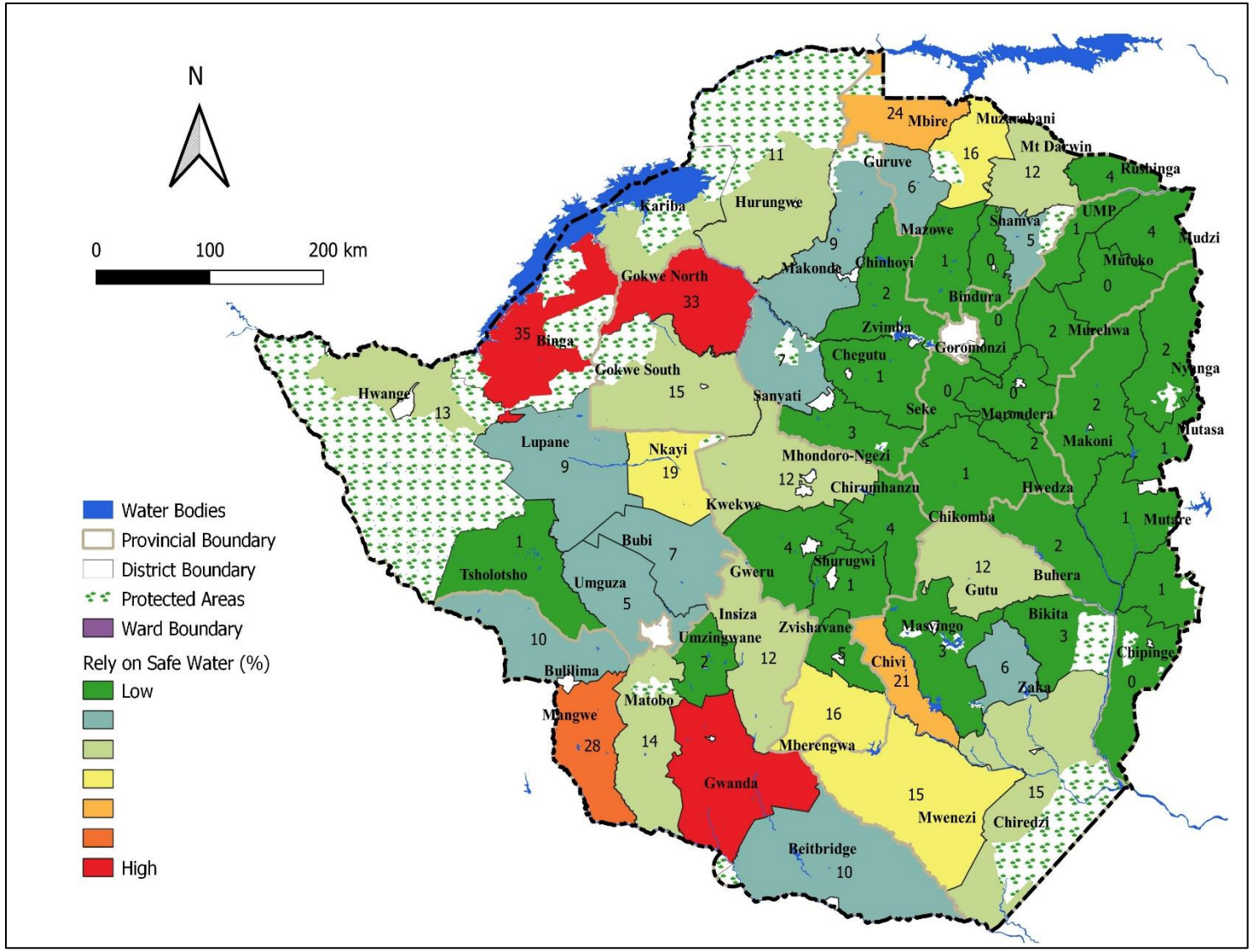


2021



- Muzarabani reported a decrease in the proportion of households using unimproved water sources from 50% in 2020 to 24% in 2021.
- Gokwe North (59%) and Chivi (44%) districts had the highest proportion of households using unimproved water sources.

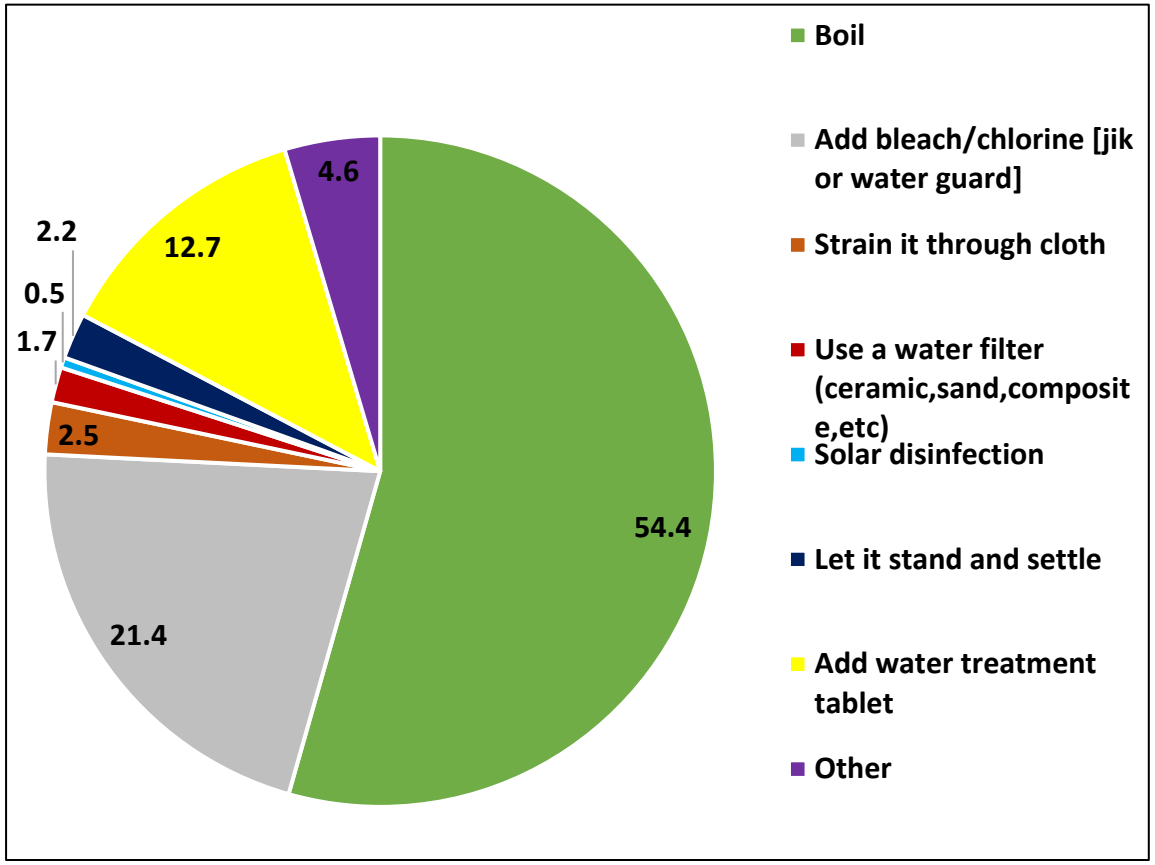
Households Drinking Surface Water by District



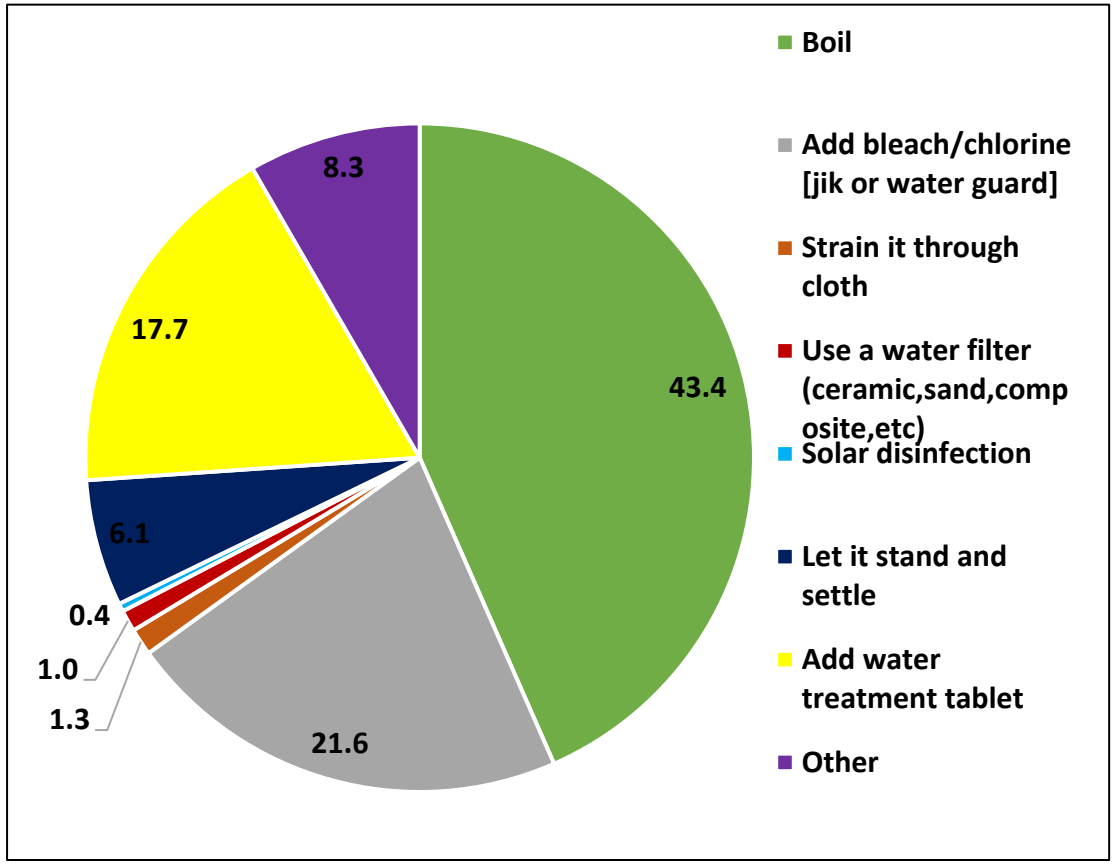
- Surface water is described as drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation channel.
- Of the 8% of households using surface water at national level, Binga (35%) and Gokwe North (33%) had the highest proportion of households drinking surface water which is not safe.

Water Treatment Methods

2020

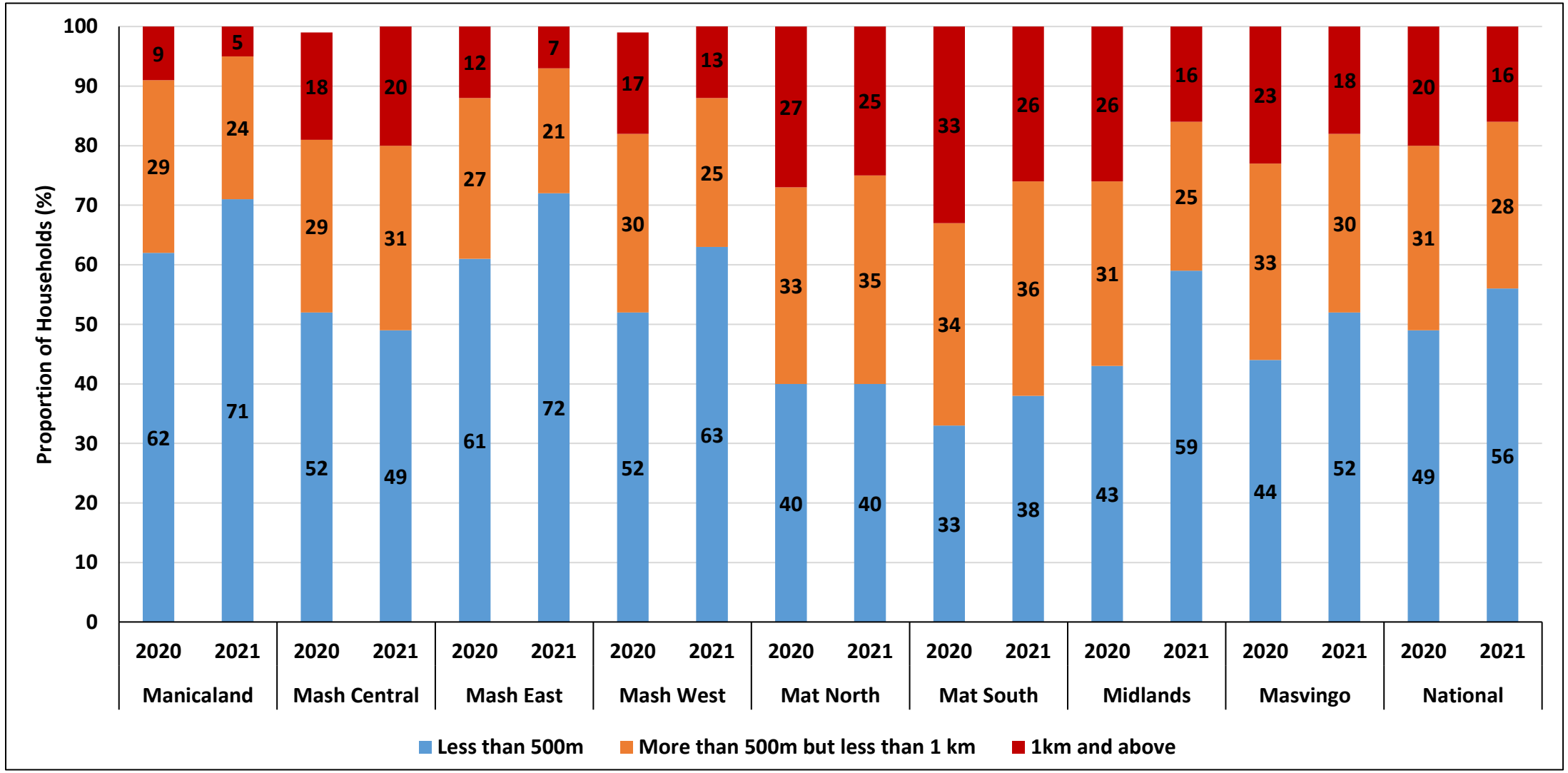


2021



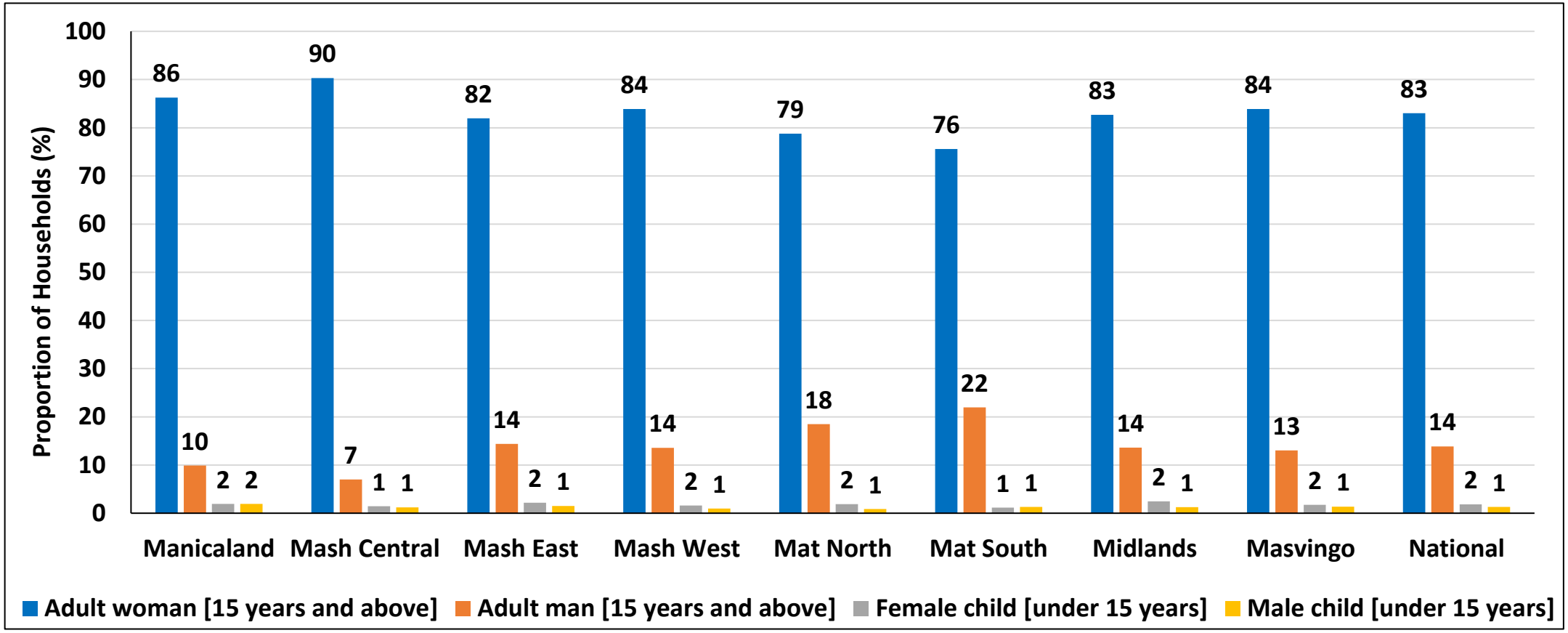
- At national level, 4.6% of the households indicated that they used some form of water treatment for their drinking water.
- Boiling remains the most common water treatment method used by households though it has decreased from 54.4% in 2020 to 43.4% in 2021.
- The proportion of households using water treatment tablets increased from 12.7% in 2020 to 17.7% in 2021.

Distance Travelled to Main Water Source



- The majority of households (84%) travel less than 1km to access water.

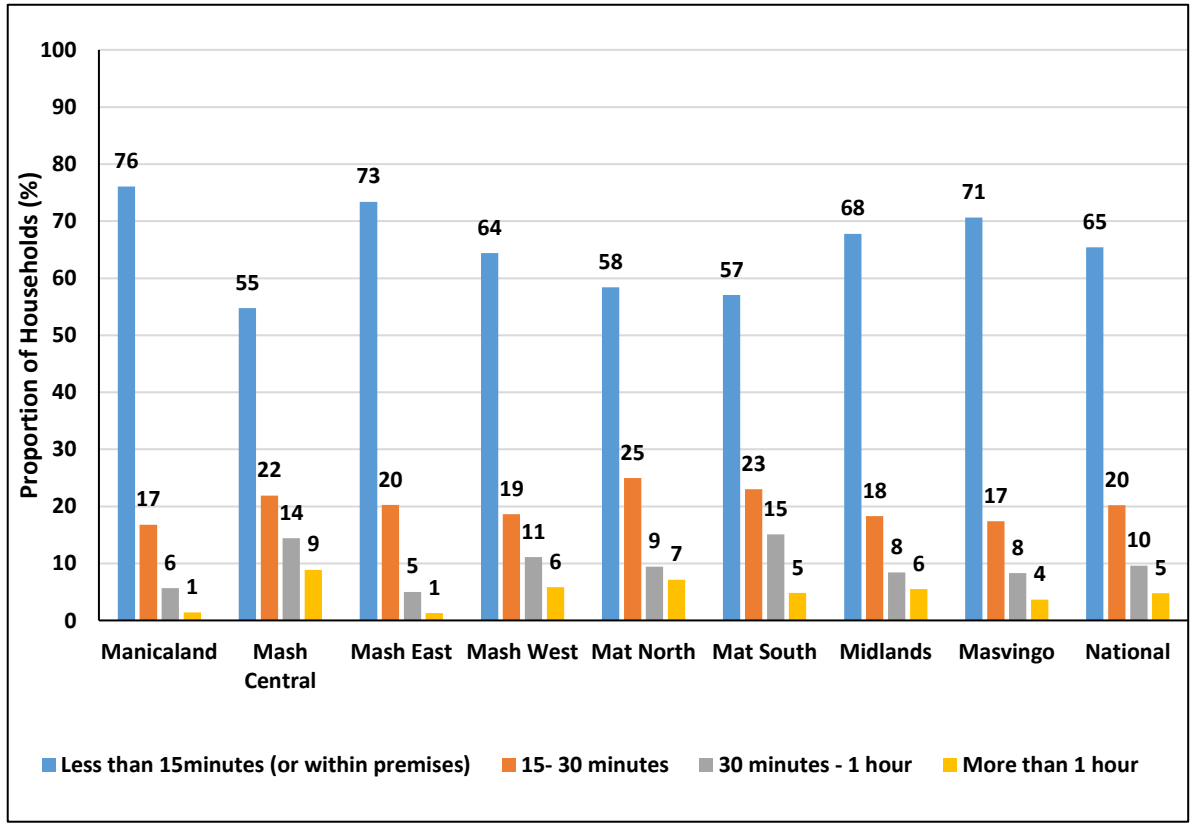
Fetching Water for Cooking and Drinking



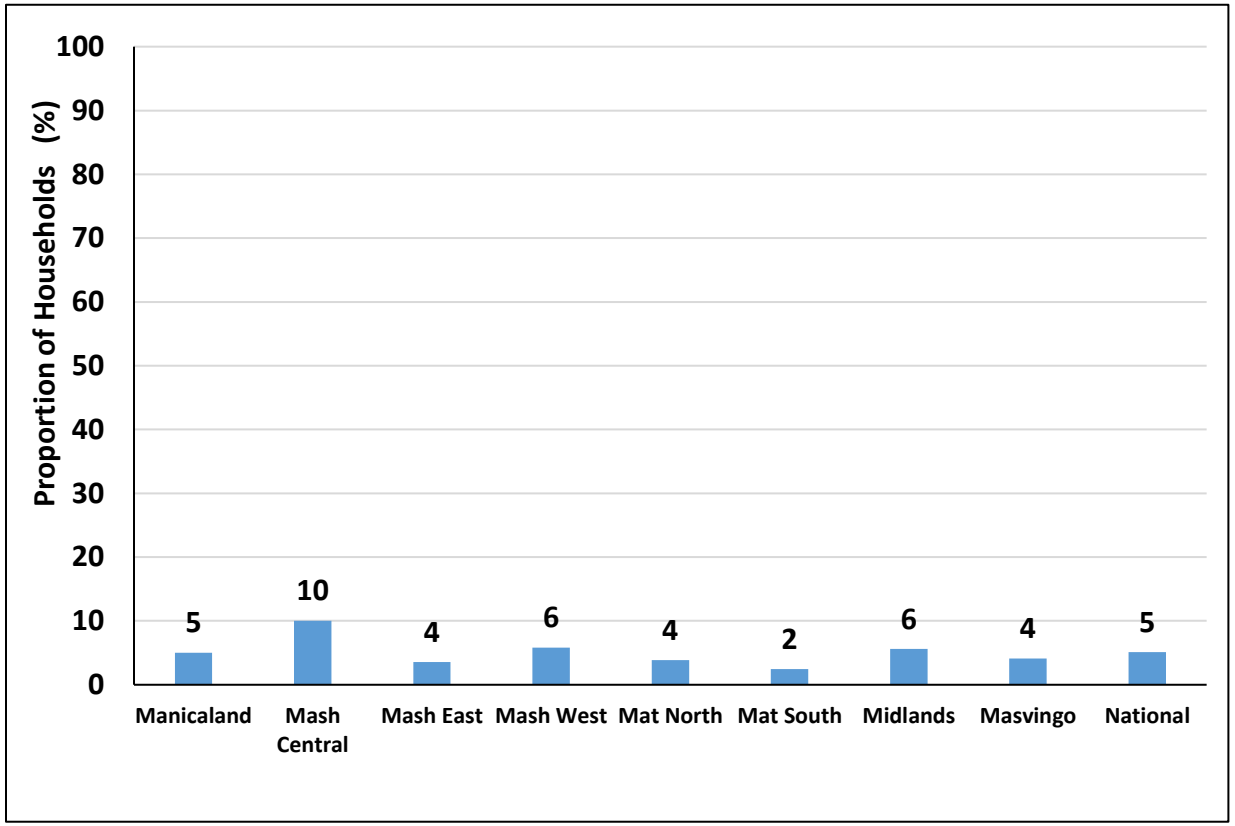
- Generally, the role of fetching water was mostly performed by adult women.
- Matabeleland South (22%) had the highest proportion of households with men preforming the role of fetching water for cooking and drinking.

Time Spent Queuing at Water Source and Violence at Water Source

Time Spent at Water Source



Violence at Water Source



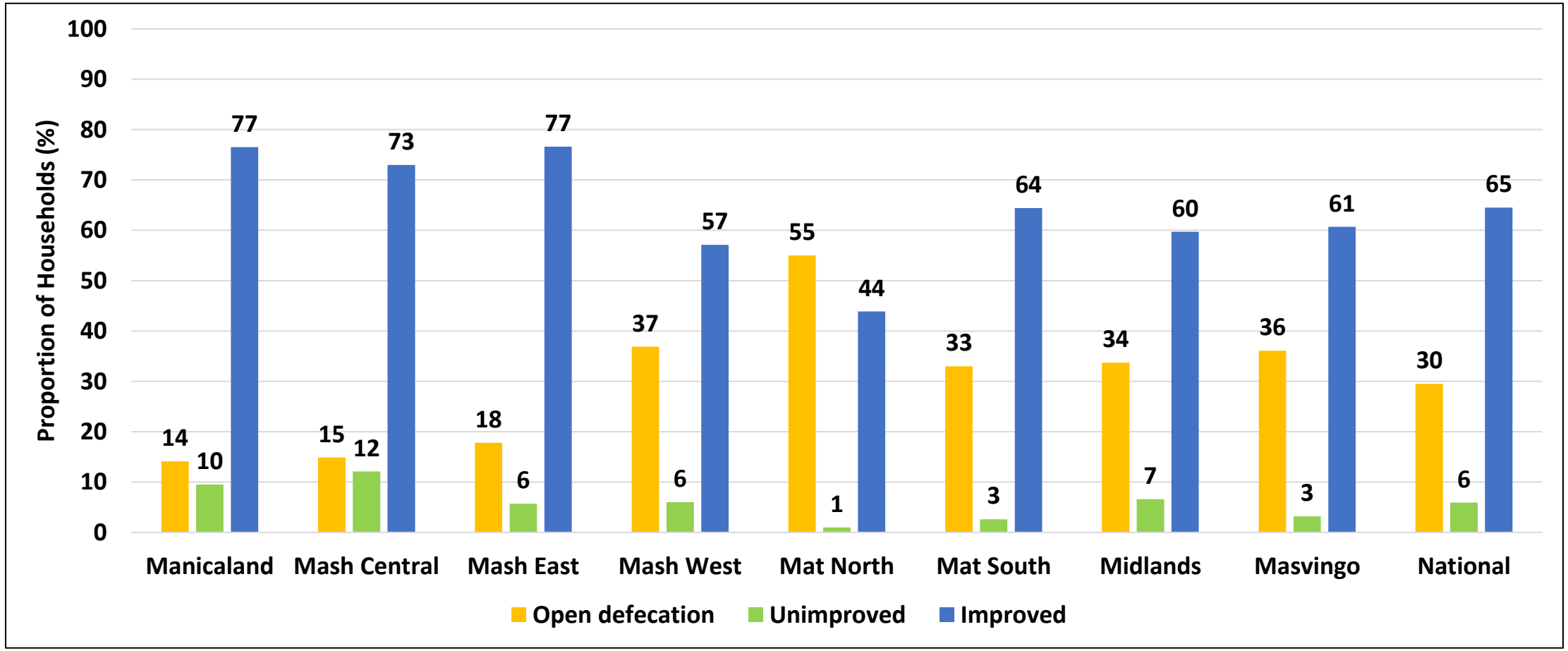
- Over 95% of the households spent less than an hour queuing for water with the majority (85%) accessing their water in less than 30 minutes.
- At least 5% of households reported having experienced violence at waterpoints.

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.

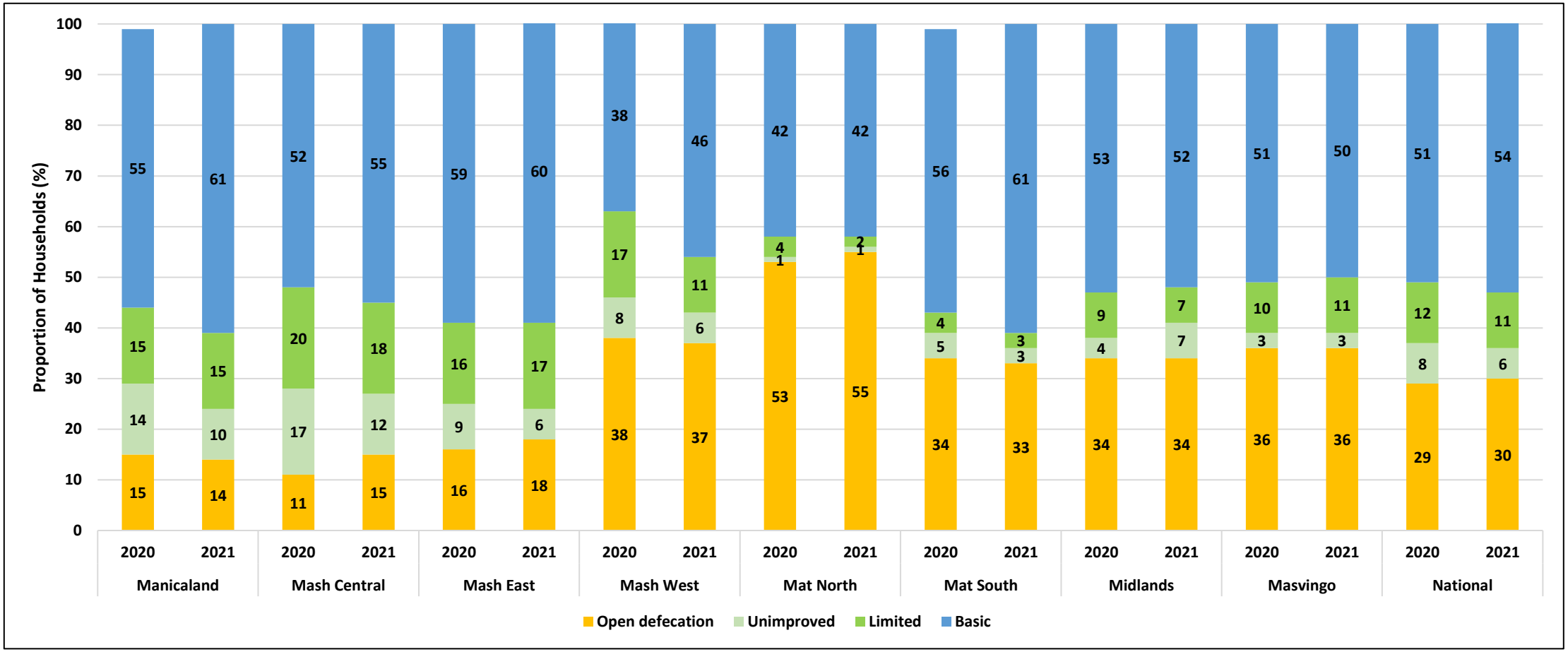
Note: Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include flush or pour flush toilet/latrine, Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP), pit latrine with slab and upgradeable Blair latrine.

Access to Improved Sanitation



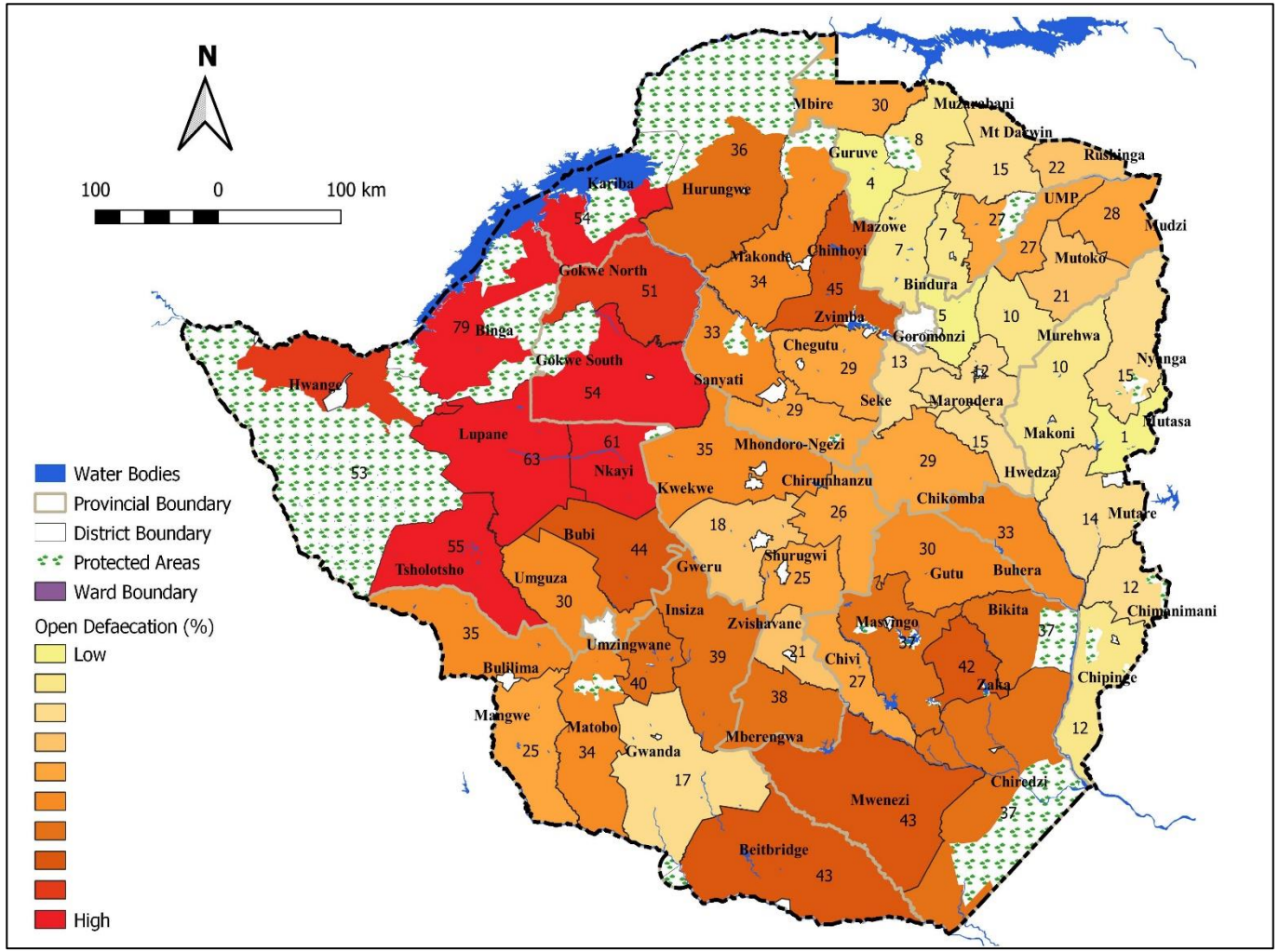
- Nationally, 65% of the households had access to improved sanitation facilities.
- Mashonaland Central (12%) and Manicaland (10%) had the highest proportion of households using unimproved sanitation facilities.

Household Sanitation Services



- The proportion of households with access to basic sanitation services was 54% across the country.
- The proportion of households practising open defaecation in Matabeleland North has remained high.

Open Defecation by District



- Most districts in Matabeleland North had over 50% of the households practicing open defecation
- ***Open defecation in Matabeleland North has been consistently high over the years and this is worrisome.***

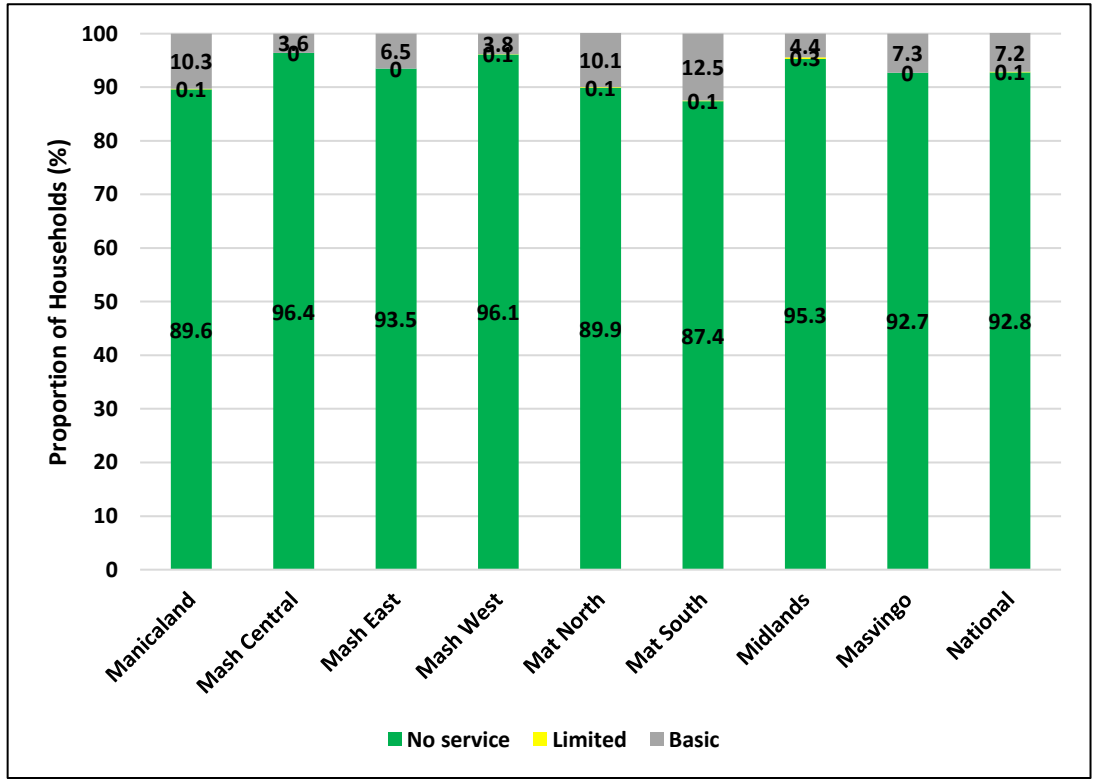
Ladder for Hygiene

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.
No Facility	No hand washing facility on premises.

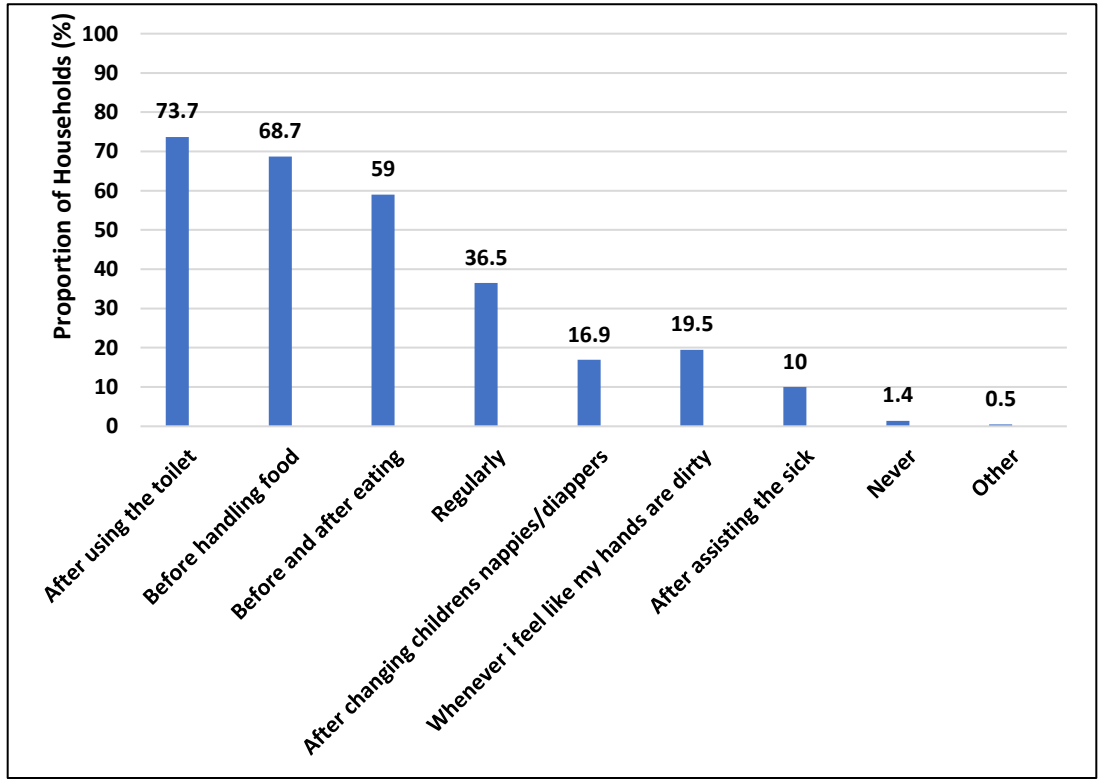
Note: handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy taps, and jugs or basins designated for hand washing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powdered detergents and soapy water but does not include sand, soil, ash and other handwashing agents.

Access to Handwashing Facilities and Handwashing at Critical Times

Access to Handwashing Facilities



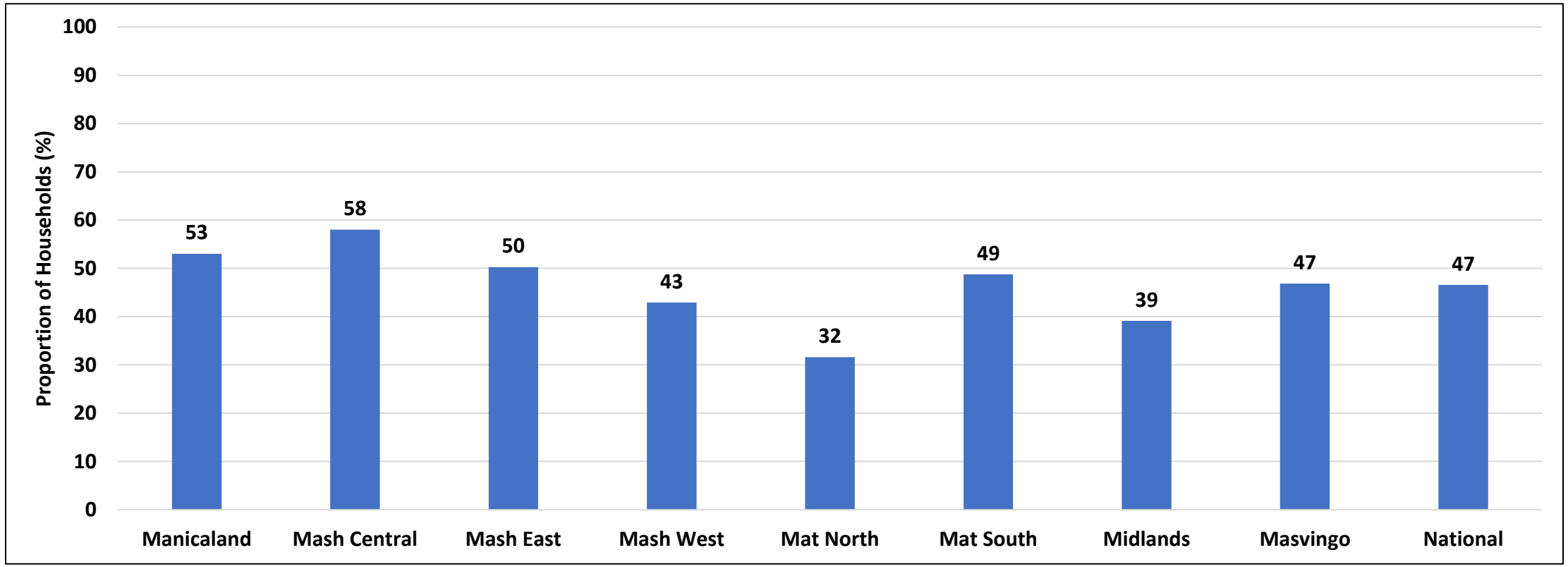
Handwashing at Critical Times



- The majority of households (73.7%), reported washing their hands after using the toilet.
- However, access to handwashing facilities has shown no marked improvement over the past three years.

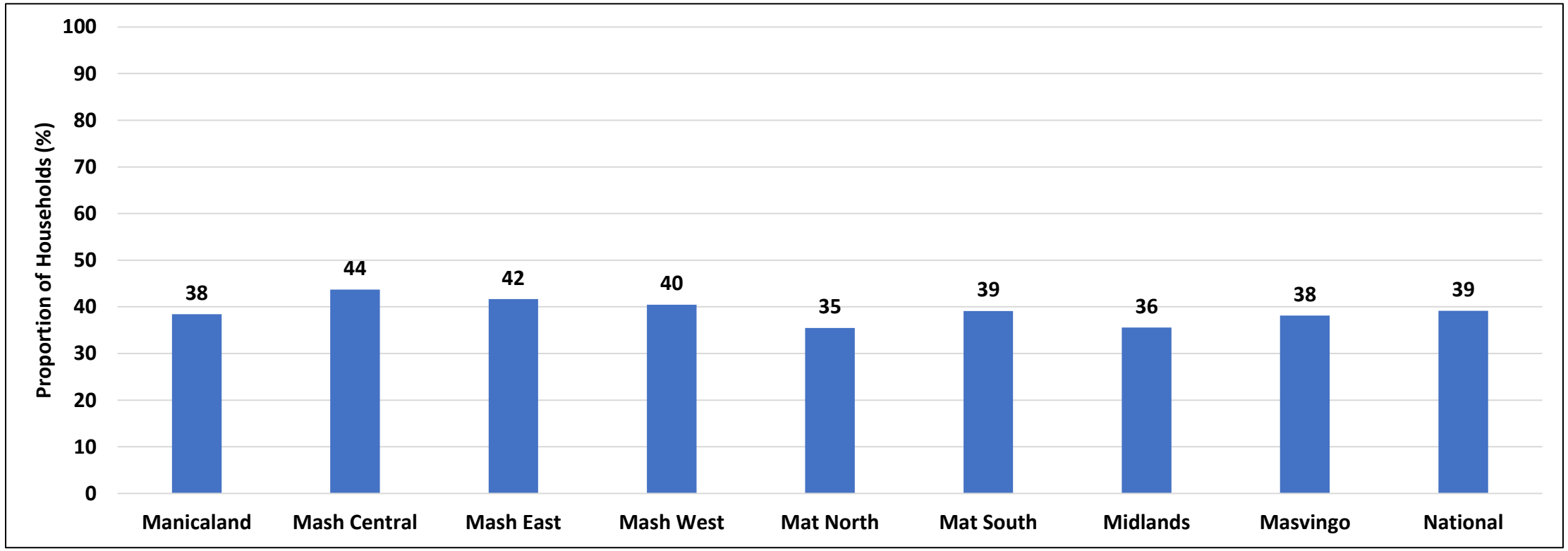
Access to Information Services

Police Services Reachable within One Hour



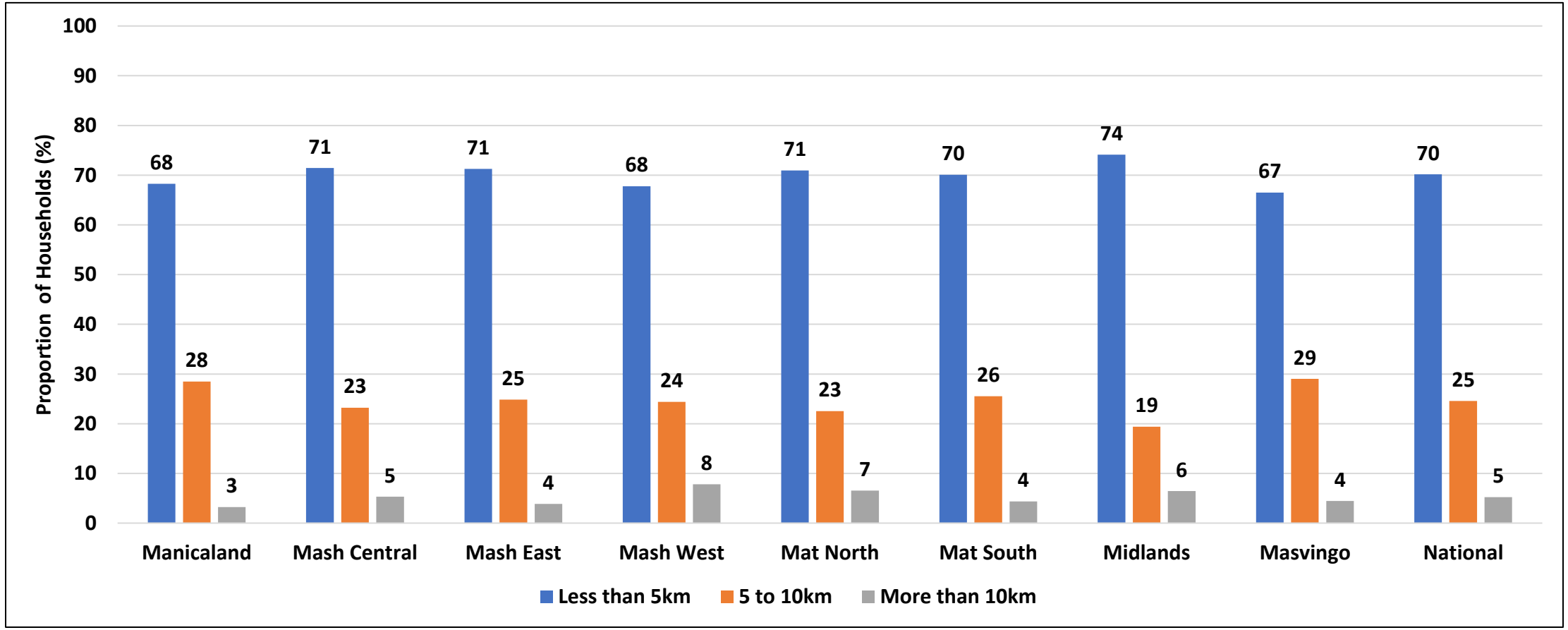
- Only 47% of households reported to have police services that were reachable within one hour.

Access to Victim Friendly Services



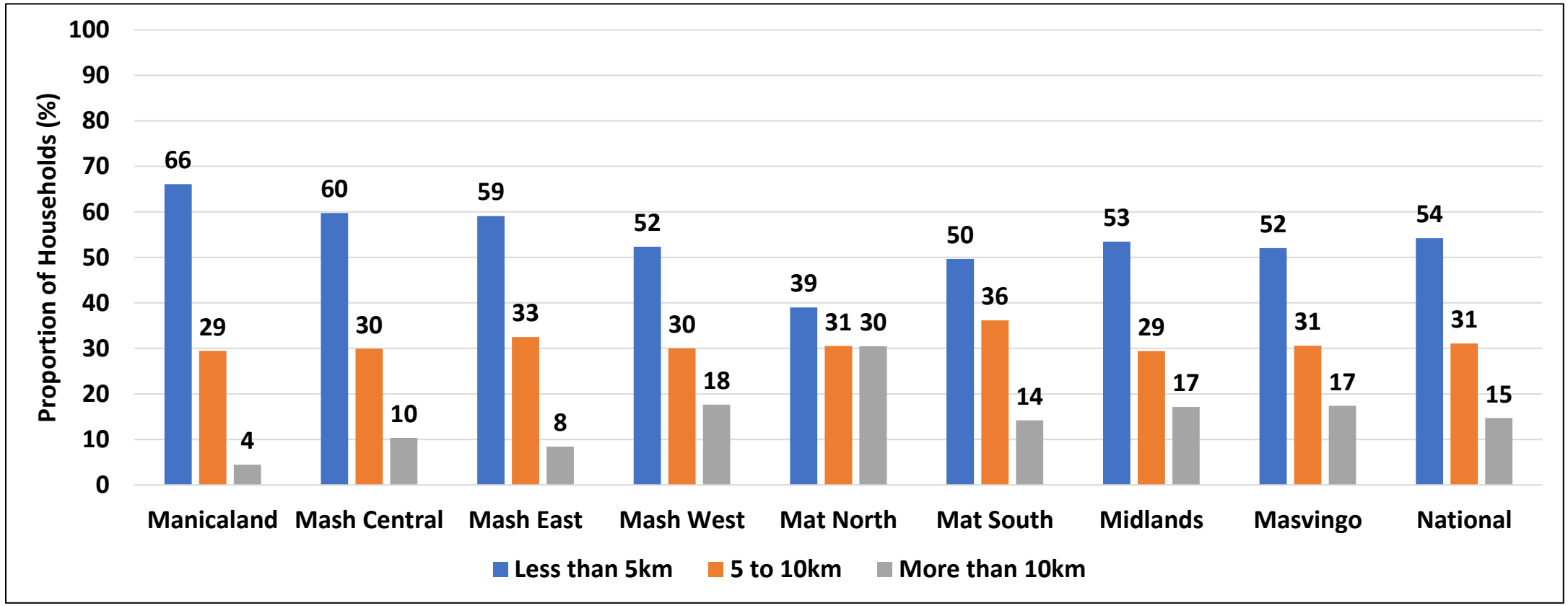
- Access to victim friendly services was generally low across all provinces.

Approximate Distance of the Nearest Primary School



- Seventy percent of households reported to have their nearest school within a distance of the less than 5km

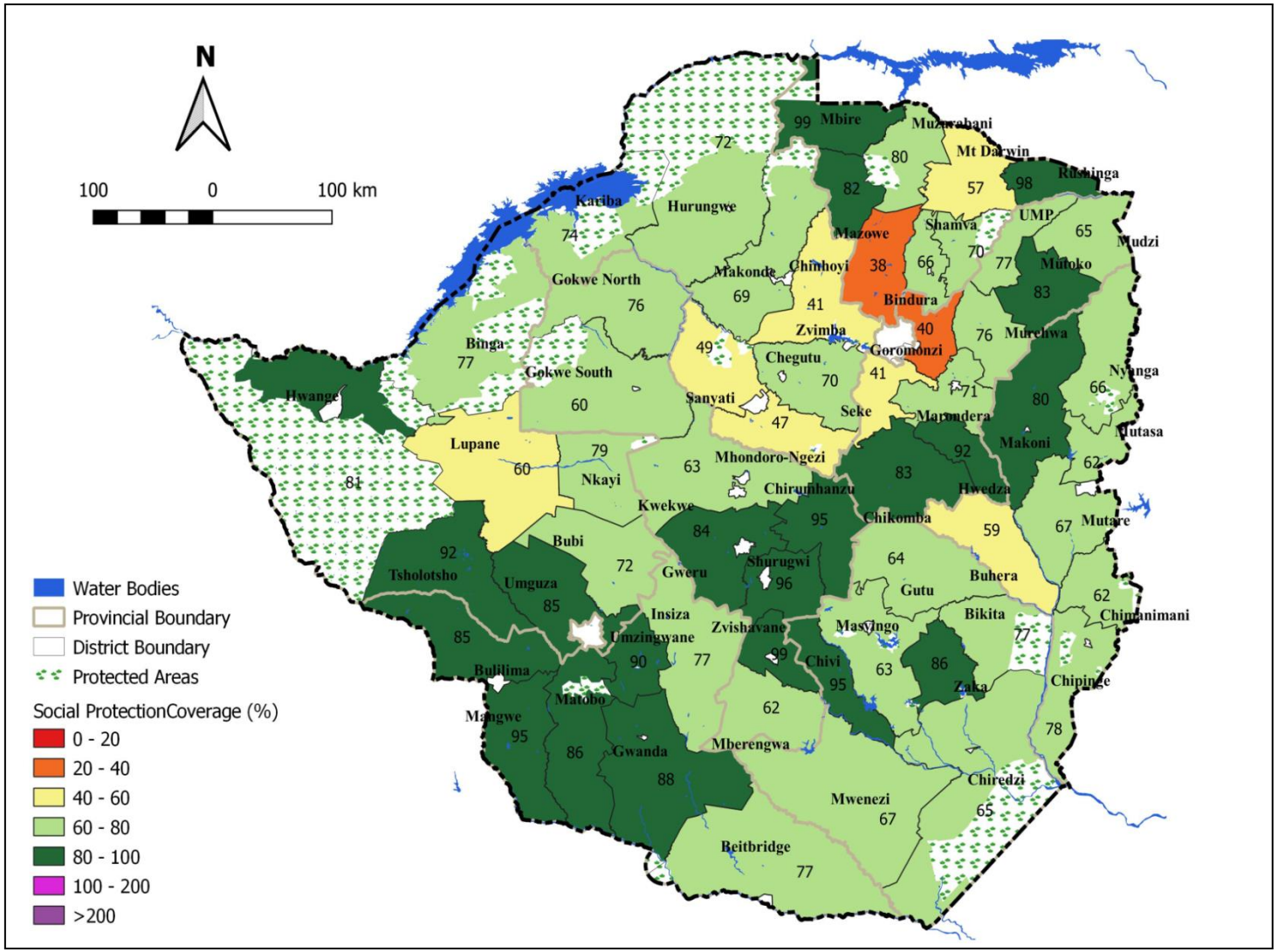
Approximate Distance of the Nearest Health Facility/Clinic



- About 54% of households were within a 5km radius to the nearest health facility, while 15% were more than 10km from their nearest facility/clinic.

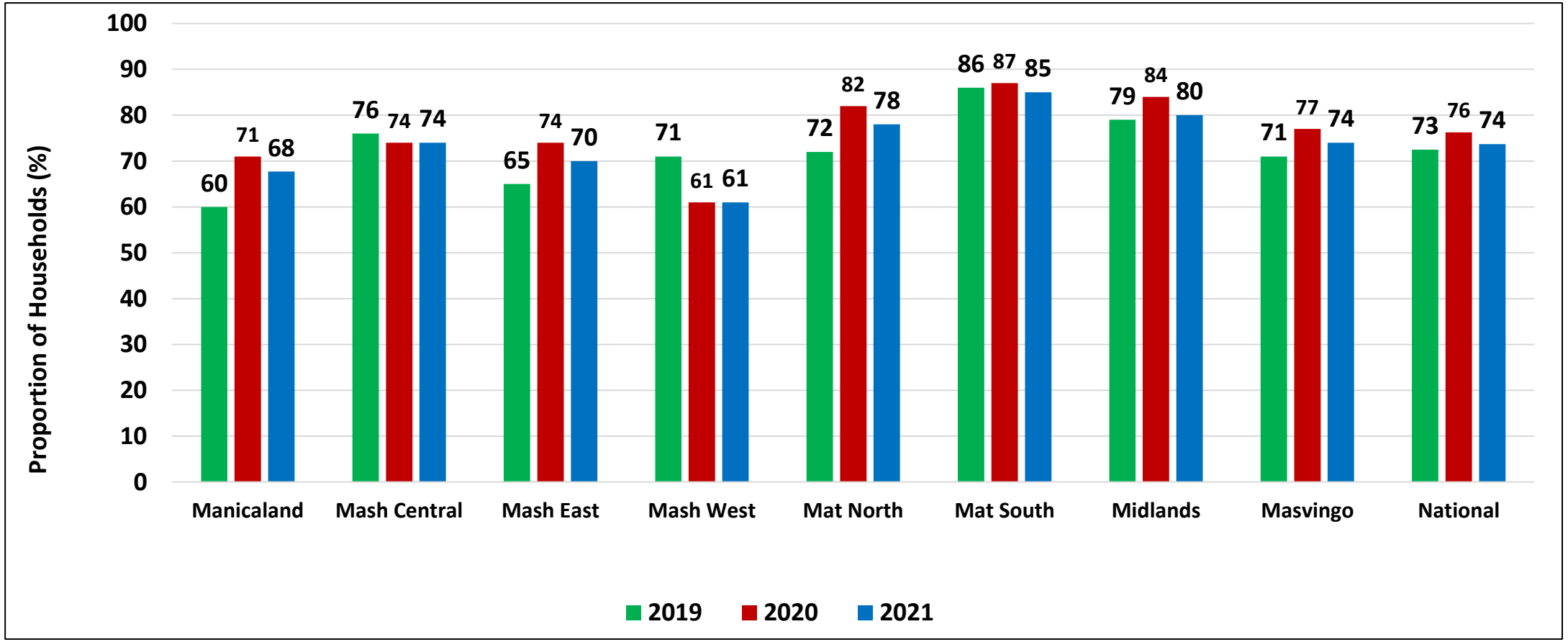
Social Protection

Combined Social Protection Programmes



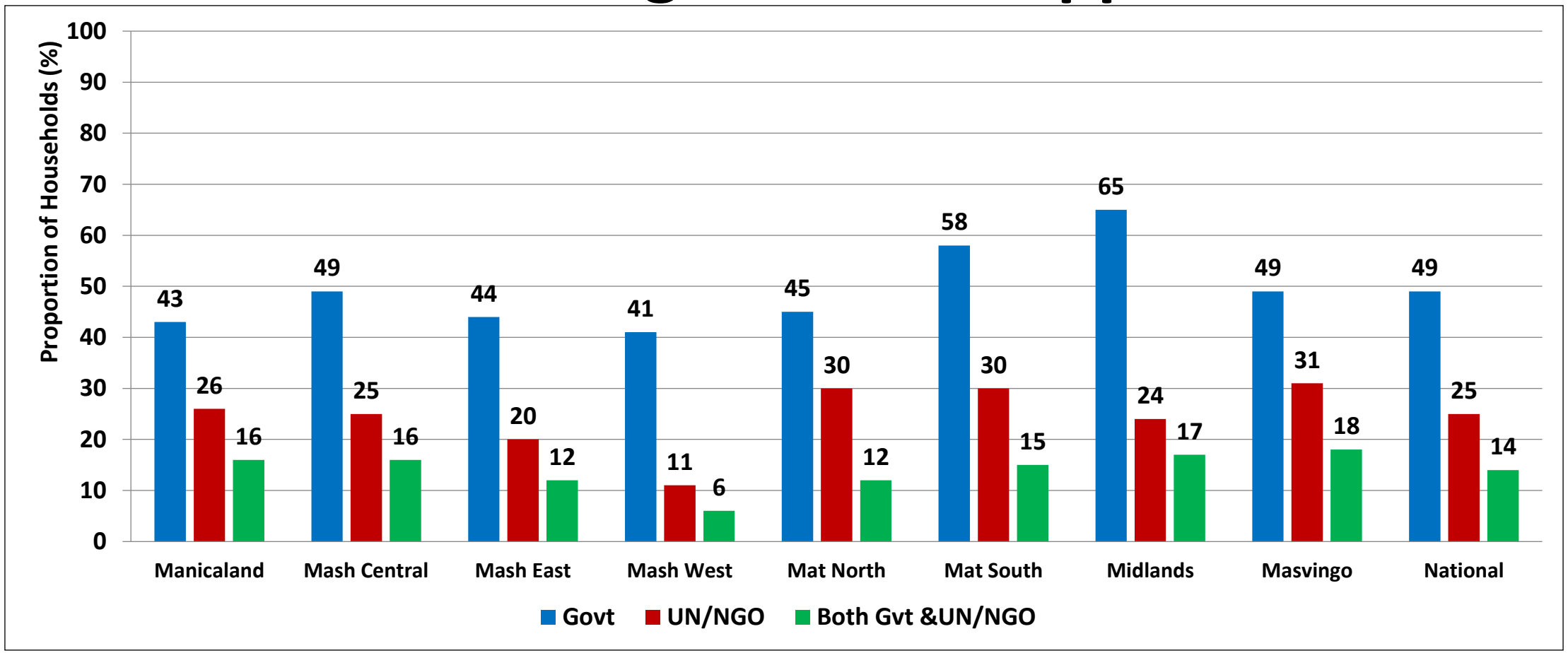
- All districts across the country received some form of assistance from different sources.
- The lowest coverage was in Mazowe district (38%) and Goromonzi (40%).

Households Which Received any Form of Support



- Government is commended for maintaining consistence in it's support of the vulnerable population.

Peak Hunger Period Support



- The complementary effort of Government and development partners is highly commended, with Government providing the greater support (49%) whilst UN/NGO provided 25% of the support.
- However, attention needs to be given to 14% of the households which received support from both Government and Development Partners.

Sources of Any Form of Support

Province	Government Support (%)		UN/NGO Support (%)		Church Support (%)		Rural Relatives (%)		Urban Relatives (%)		Diaspora (%)		Charitable Groups (%)	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Manicaland	44	47	36	27	3	7	10	12	15	12	6	5	0	7
Mash Central	58	58	35	25	3	4	10	17	13	14	2	2	0	15
Mash East	50	48	27	21	3	5	17	18	22	20	7	8	0	13
Mash West	44	46	27	12	3	3	6	11	12	13	3	4	0	8
Masvingo	52	52	41	32	3	7	16	14	13	17	17	9	0	3
Mat North	70	52	30	32	2	6	15	17	15	14	33	15	0	9
Mat South	69	59	36	32	3	7	13	16	18	15	10	22	1	7
Midlands	54	68	31	25	2	6	16	20	19	17	12	9	2	6
National	**55**	**54**	**33**	**26**	**3**	**6**	**13**	**16**	**16**	**17**	**11**	**9**	0	**9**

- Government (54%) remains the major source of support in all the rural provinces followed by UN/NGO agencies (26%) from the period April 2020 to March 2021.

Forms of Support from Government (54%)

	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support: pass-on (%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support (%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather and climate (%)	Covid-19 related support (%)	Other (specify) (%)
Manicaland	55.6	7.2	60.2	0.2	5	0.2	4.6	3.4	4.4	2
Mash Central	51.5	2.8	67.4	0	3.3	0	0.5	0.3	0.5	1.1
Mash East	47.2	2.8	65.1	0.1	2.5	0.4	2.7	1.7	4.3	1.4
Mash West	63.8	1.3	52.3	0	2.8	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.9
Masvingo	69.3	3.4	41.9	0.2	4.8	1.2	1.1	0.2	1	2.7
Mat North	74.5	1.9	37.5	0.1	1.6	0	0.5	0	0.1	0.4
Mat South	95	3.4	11.2	0.1	1.6	0	0.5	0	0.1	0.4
Midlands	85	3	36	0.2	0.1	0.4	0	0.6	3.1	0
National	68.3	3.2	46.2	0.1	3.7	0.4	1.2	0.7	1.5	1.6

- Food (68.3%) and crop inputs (46.2%) were the dominant forms of support from Government in all the provinces.
- Matabeleland South (95%) had the highest proportion of households which received food assistance followed by Midlands (85%).
- Support in the form of crop inputs was highest in Mashonaland Central (67.4%) and Mashonaland East (65.1%).

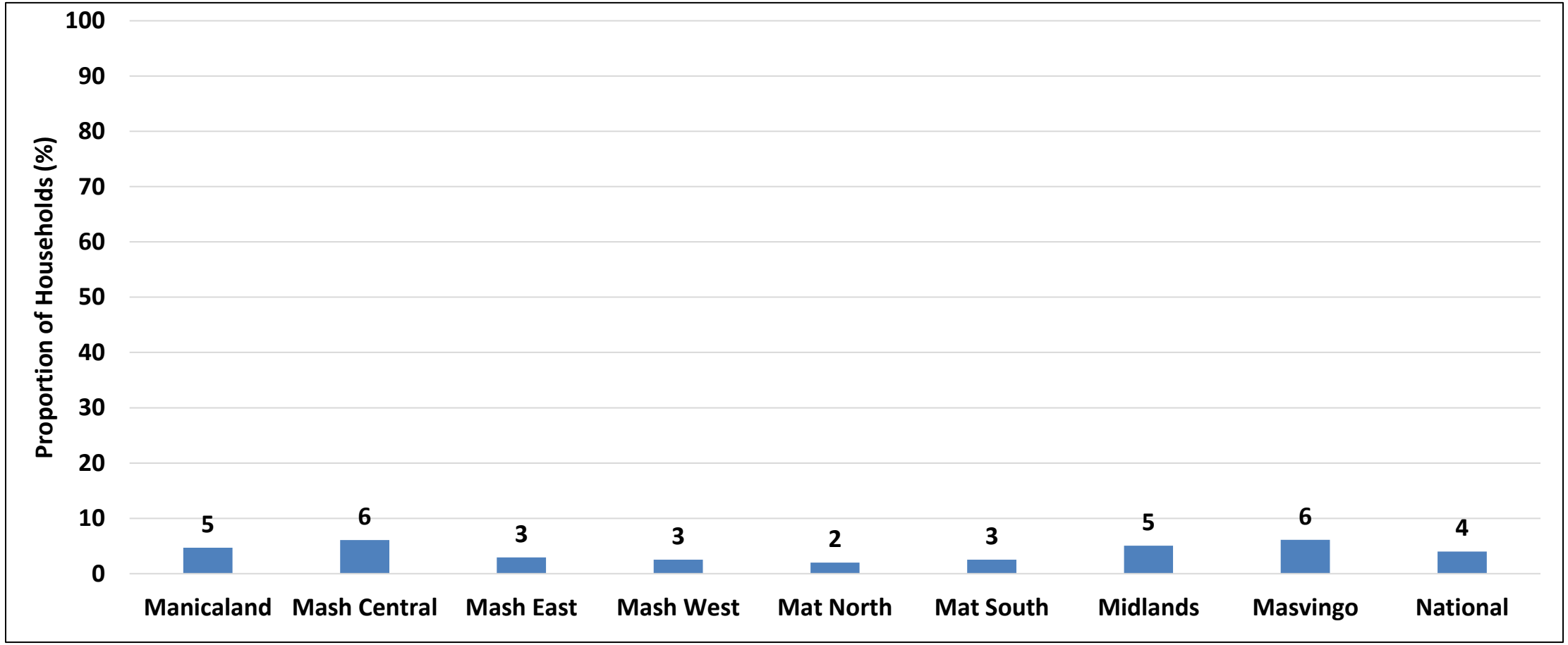
Forms of Support from UN/NGOs (26%)

	Food (%)	Cash (%)	Crop inputs (%)	Livestock support: pass-on(%)	Livestock support: Teak grease (%)	Other livestock support(%)	WASH inputs (%)	Weather & climate (%)	Covid-19 related support(%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	62.8	12.6	17.8	0.2	0.9	0.7	23	1.7	8.9	6.3
Mash Central	83.7	7.1	12	0	0	0.4	3.7	0	2.7	3.3
Mash East	85.7	9.7	11.6	0.4	1.1	0.6	11.8	2.3	7.8	1.5
Mash West	90.9	4.0	3.5	1	0.5	0.5	9.6	0.5	4	3
Masvingo	92.1	4.0	5	0.7	0.4	0.5	2.5		1.3	4
Mat North	95.6	3	4.4	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.2	1.4
Mat South	86.6	14.5	8.7	0.4	0.9	0.5	8.3	0	4.2	1.1
Midlands	89.4	4.1	7.3	1	0.2	0.8	3.5	0.2	1.6	4.9
National	85.9	7.5	9	0.5	0.7	0.5	7.4	0.6	3.8	3.1

- Matabeleland North (95.6%) had the highest proportion of households which received food assistance followed by Masvingo (92.1%).
- Cash assistance was high in Matabeleland South (14.5%) followed by Manicaland (12.6 %).

Loans

Households which Received Loans



- About 4% of households received loans.

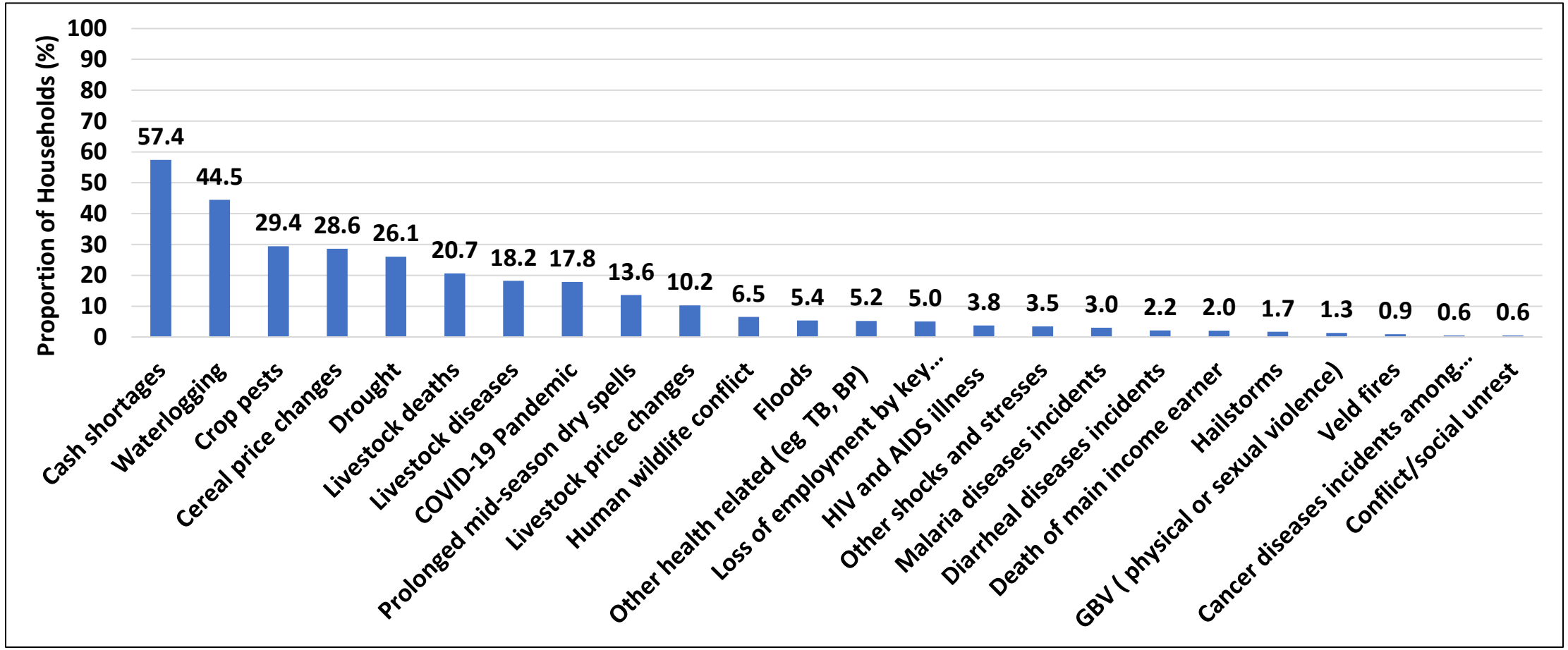
Household Ownership of Assets that Enhance Food and Nutrition Security

	Irrigation (%)	Farming equipment (%)	Fowl runs (%)	Solar powered water source (%)	Borehole (%)	Storage facility (%)	Savings (%)	Beehives (%)	Nutrition gardening (%)	Agro-forestry (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	15	16	43	3	7	16	8	2	41	2	16
Mash Central	2	33	33	2	3	20	8	2	39	0	15
Mash East	5	17	43	0	3	11	7	1	37	1	16
Mash West	5	20	14	1	6	10	8	1	24	1	39
Masvingo	8	20	34	4	3	11	8	1	44	1	18
Mat North	2	27	21	1	2	16	2	0	29	0	27
Mat South	7	29	24	5	4	18	4	0	32	0	23
Midlands	2	27	21	0	2	10	5	1	39	1	25
National	6	24	30	2	4	14	6	1	36	1	22

- The most common assets that enhance food and nutrition security owned by households were nutrition gardens (36%), fowl runs (30%) and farming equipment (24%).

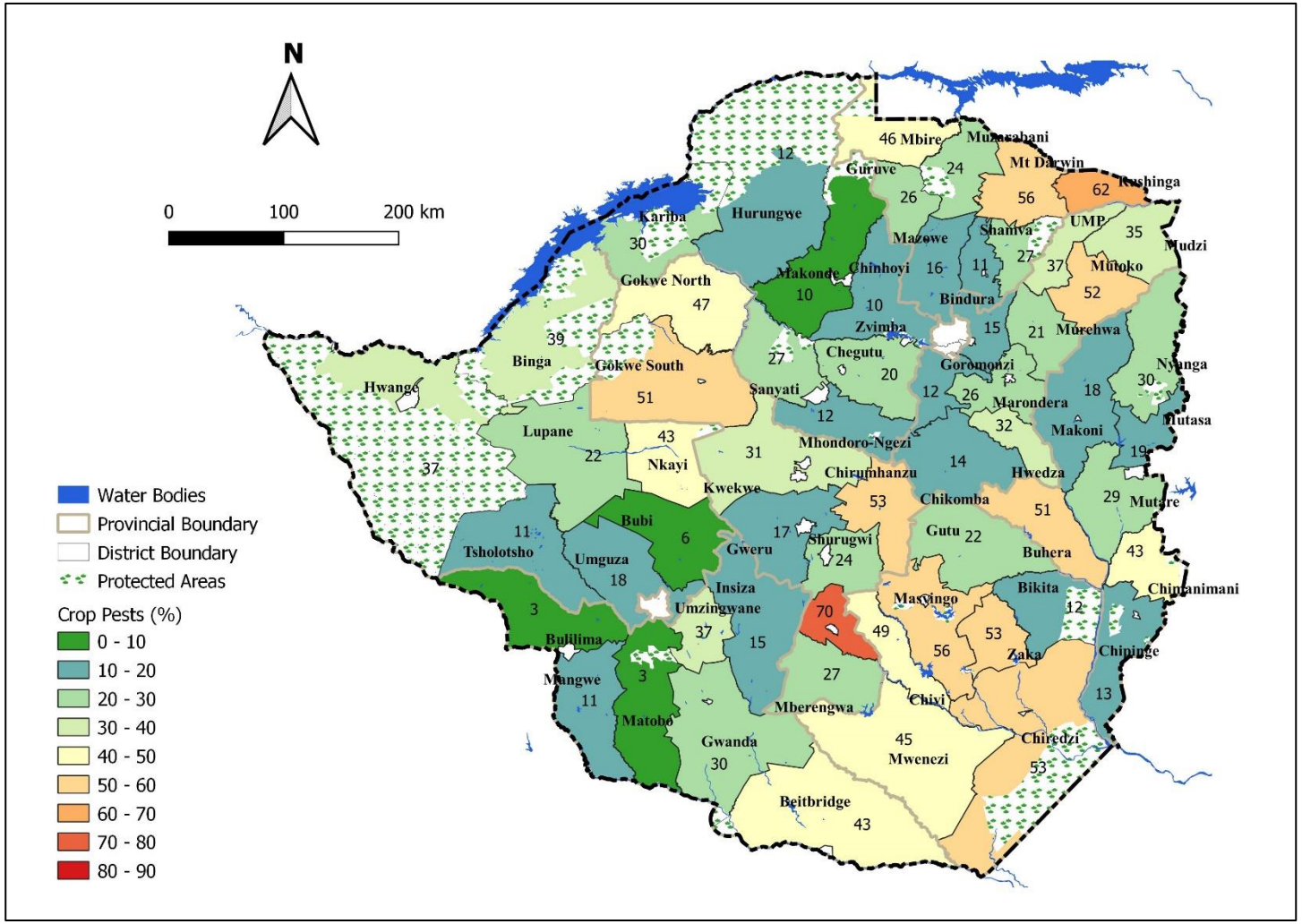
Shocks and Hazards

Proportion of Households Experiencing Shocks



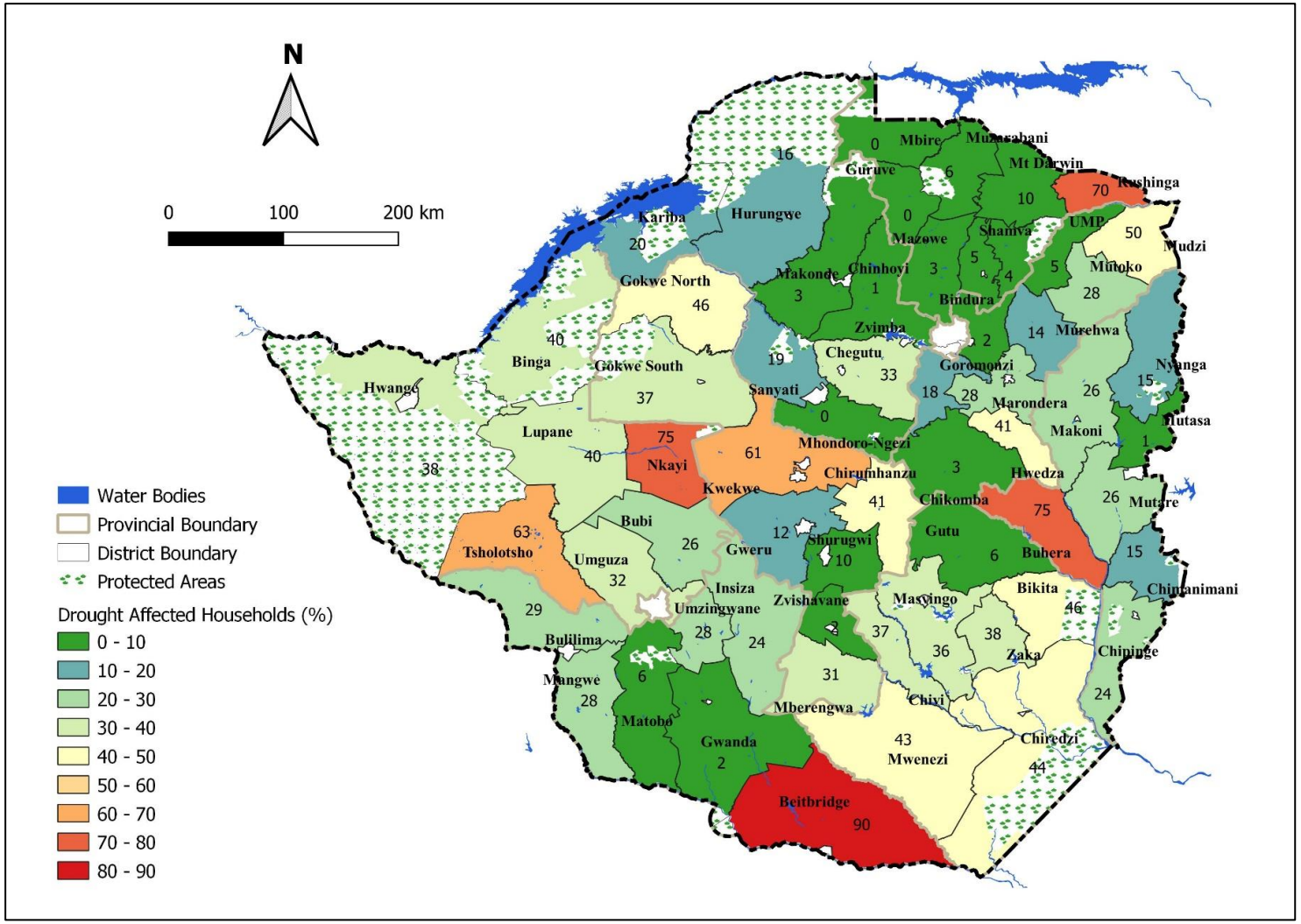
- Cash shortages (57.4%), water logging (44.5%), crop pests (29.4%) and cereal price changes (28.6%) were the most prevalent shocks experienced by households.

Proportion of Households which Reported Crop Pest as a Shock



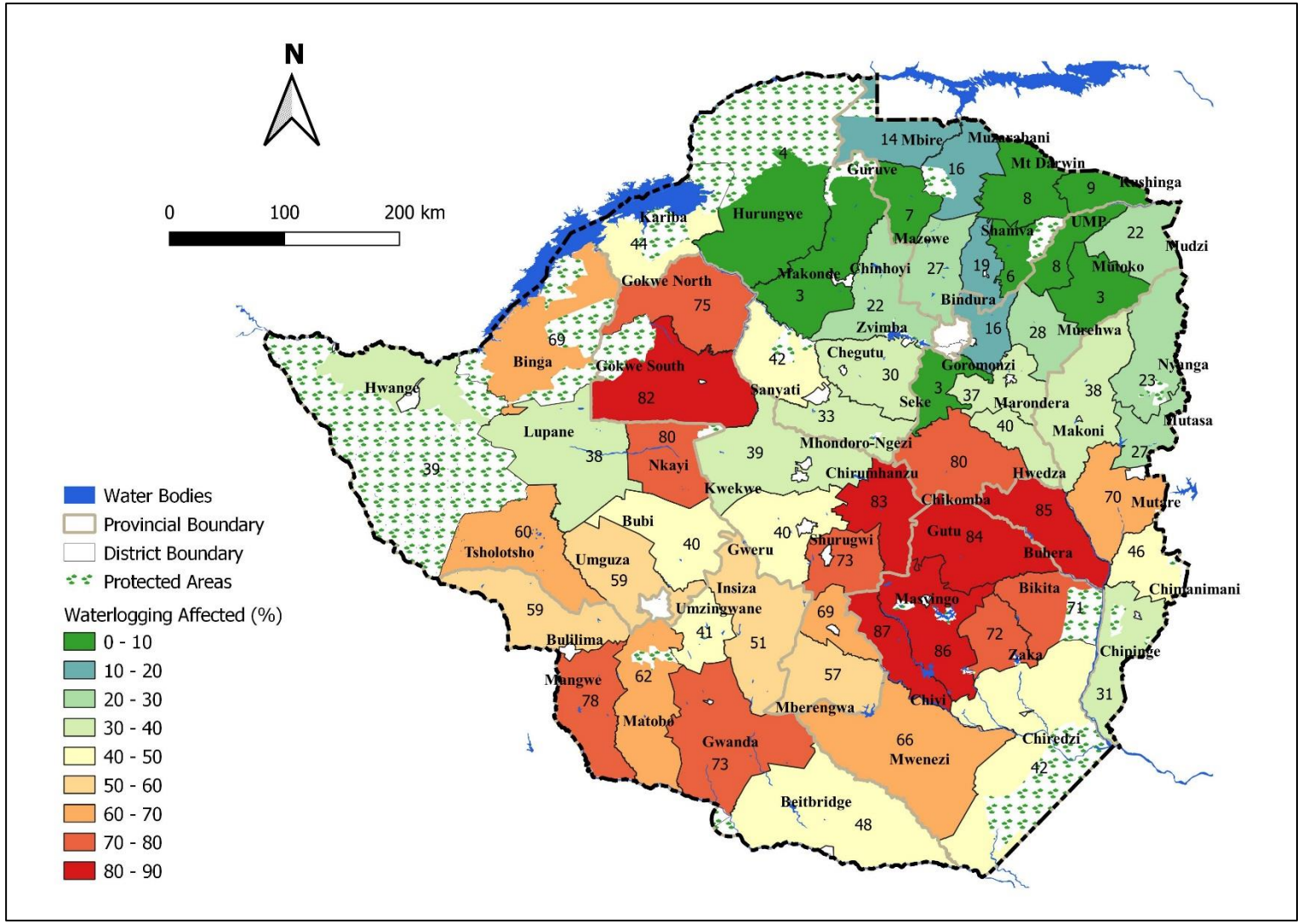
- Zvishavane (70%), Rushinga (62%), Masvingo (56%) and Mt Darwin (56%) had the highest proportion of households which reported crop pests as a shock.

Proportion of Households which Reported Drought as a Shock



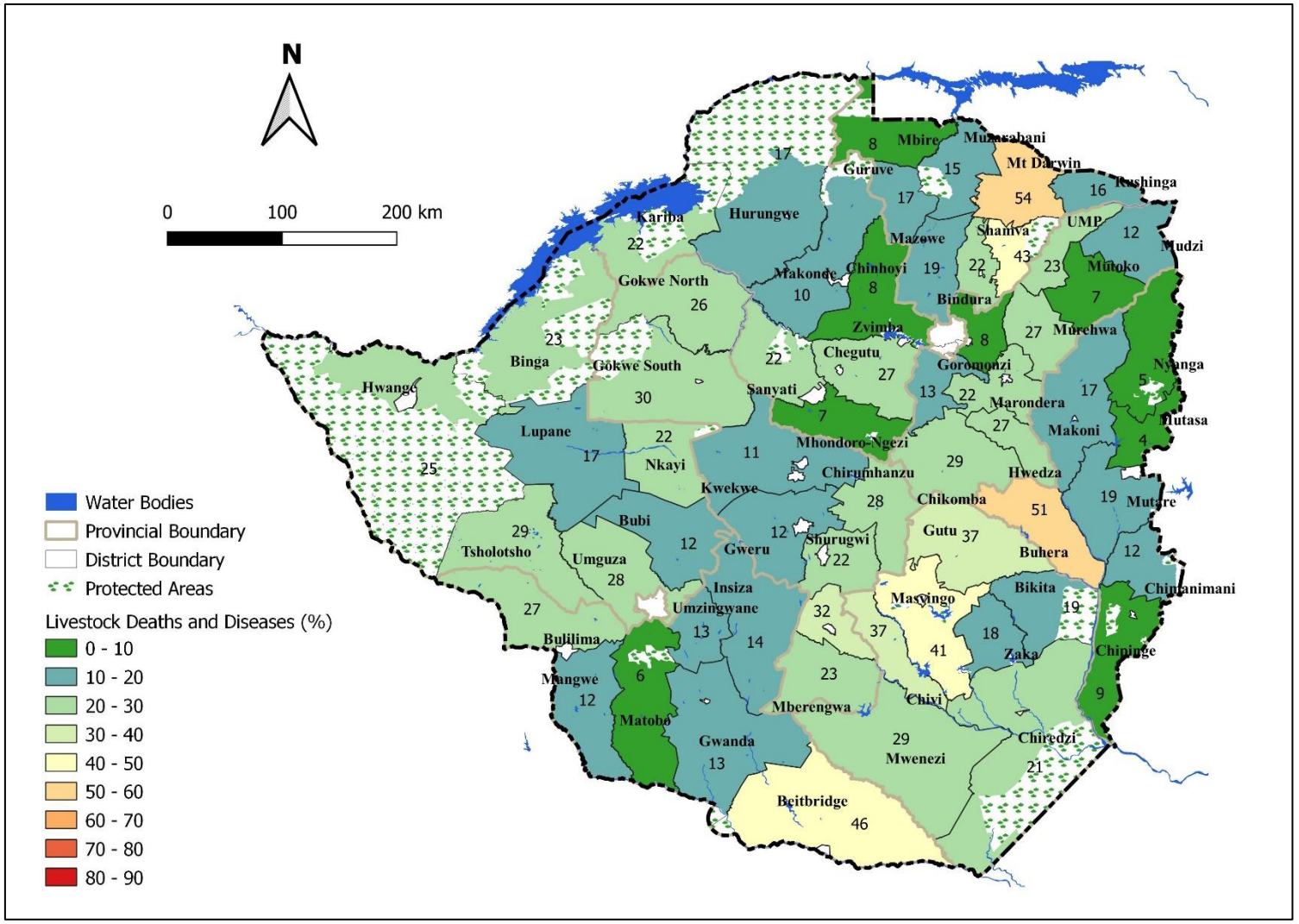
- Beitbridge (90%), Nkayi and Buhera (75%) and Rushinga (70%) had the highest proportion of households which reported drought as a shock.

Proportion of Households which Reported Water Logging as a Shock



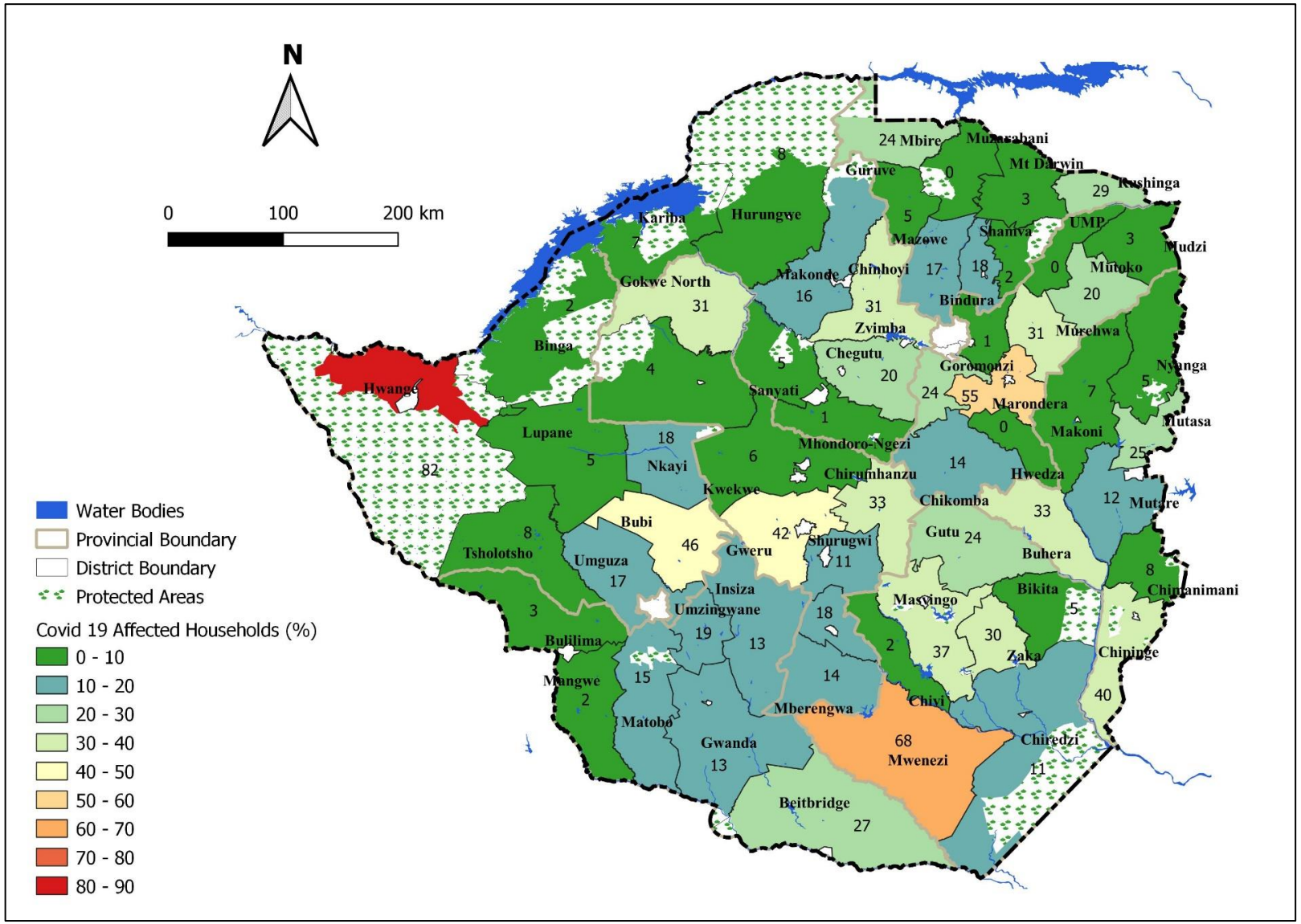
- The highest proportion of households which reported waterlogging were in Masvingo province.
- Chivi (87%), Masvingo (86%), Buhera (85%) Gutu (84%) and Chirumhanzu (83%) had the highest proportion.
- In Midlands, Gokwe South (82%) also recorded a high proportion of households which reported water logging as a shock.

Proportion of Households which Reported Livestock Deaths and Diseases as a Shock



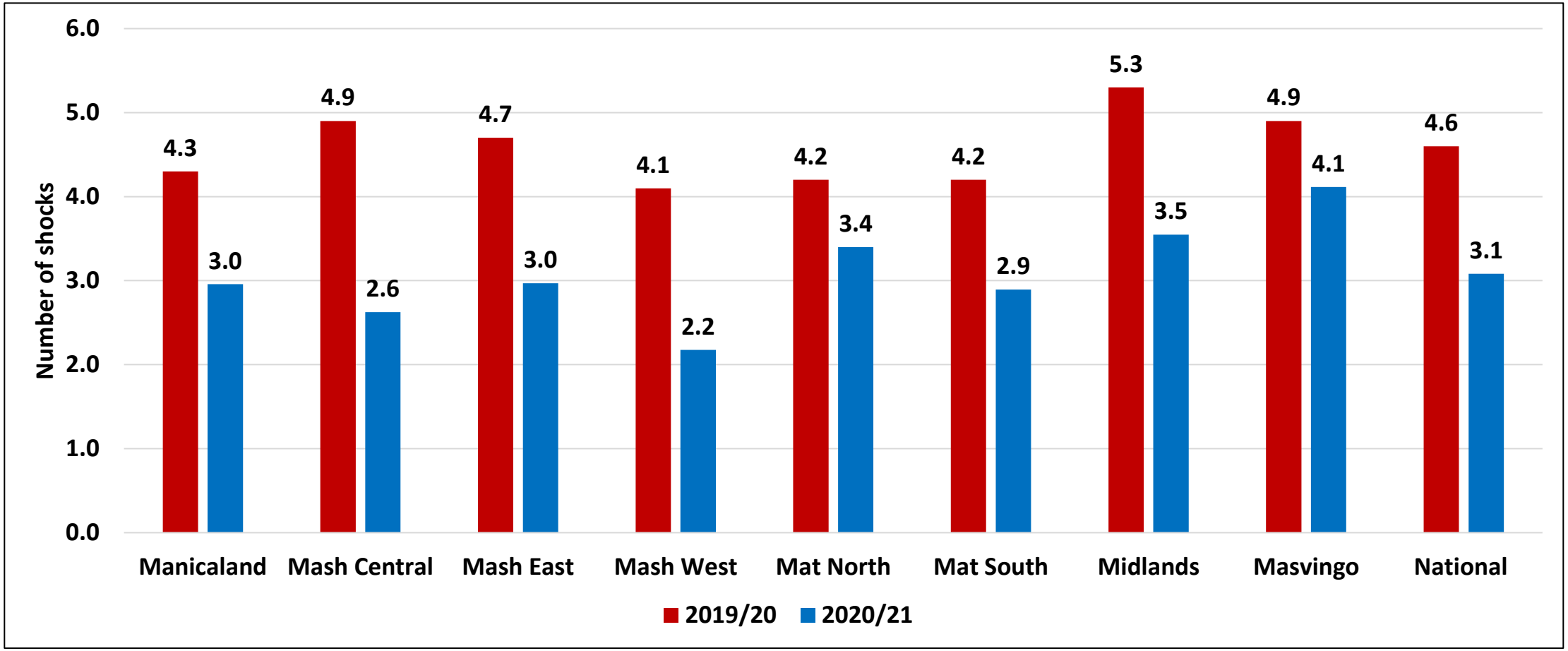
- Mt Darwin (54%), Buhera (51%) and Beitbridge (46%) had the highest proportion of households which reported livestock deaths and diseases as a shock.

Proportion of Households which Reported COVID-19 as a Shock



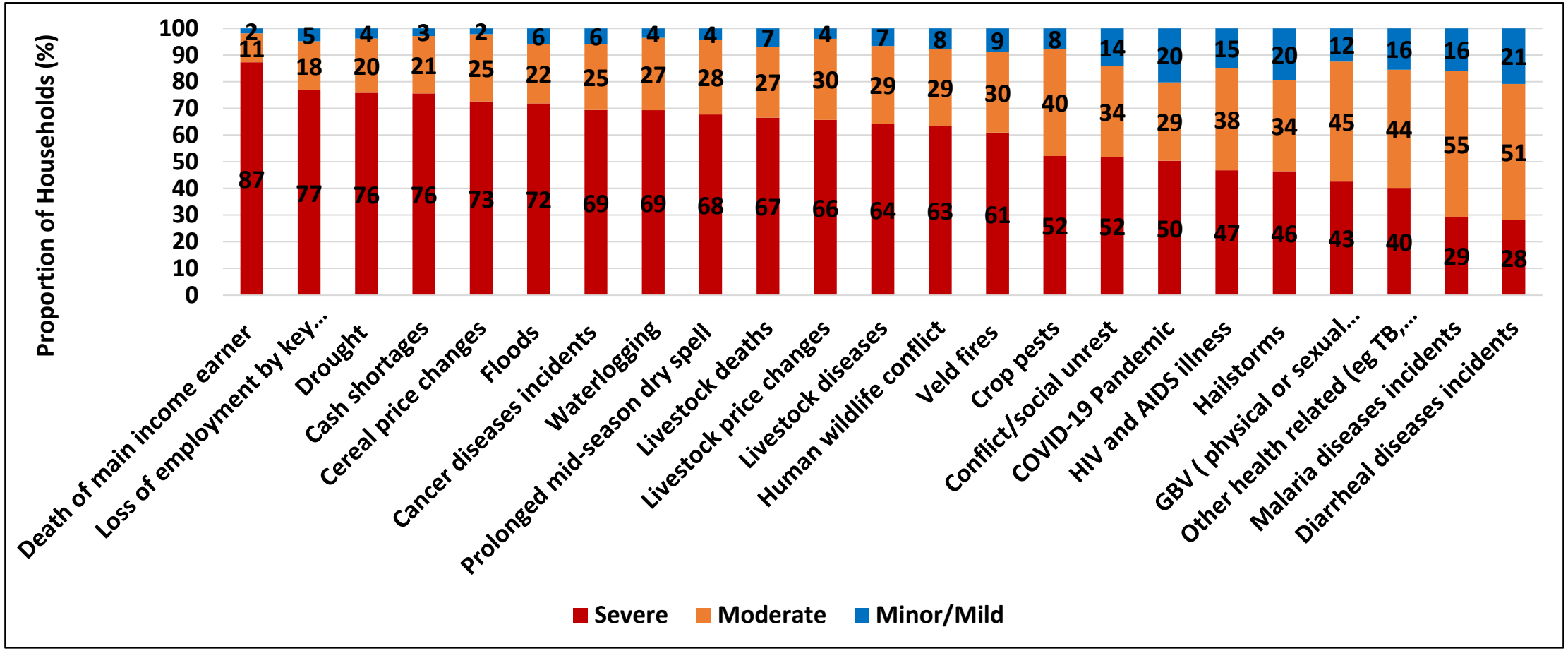
- Hwange (82%), Mwenezi (68%) and Marondera (55%) had the highest proportion of households which reported COVID-19 as a major shock.

Number of Shocks Experienced by Households



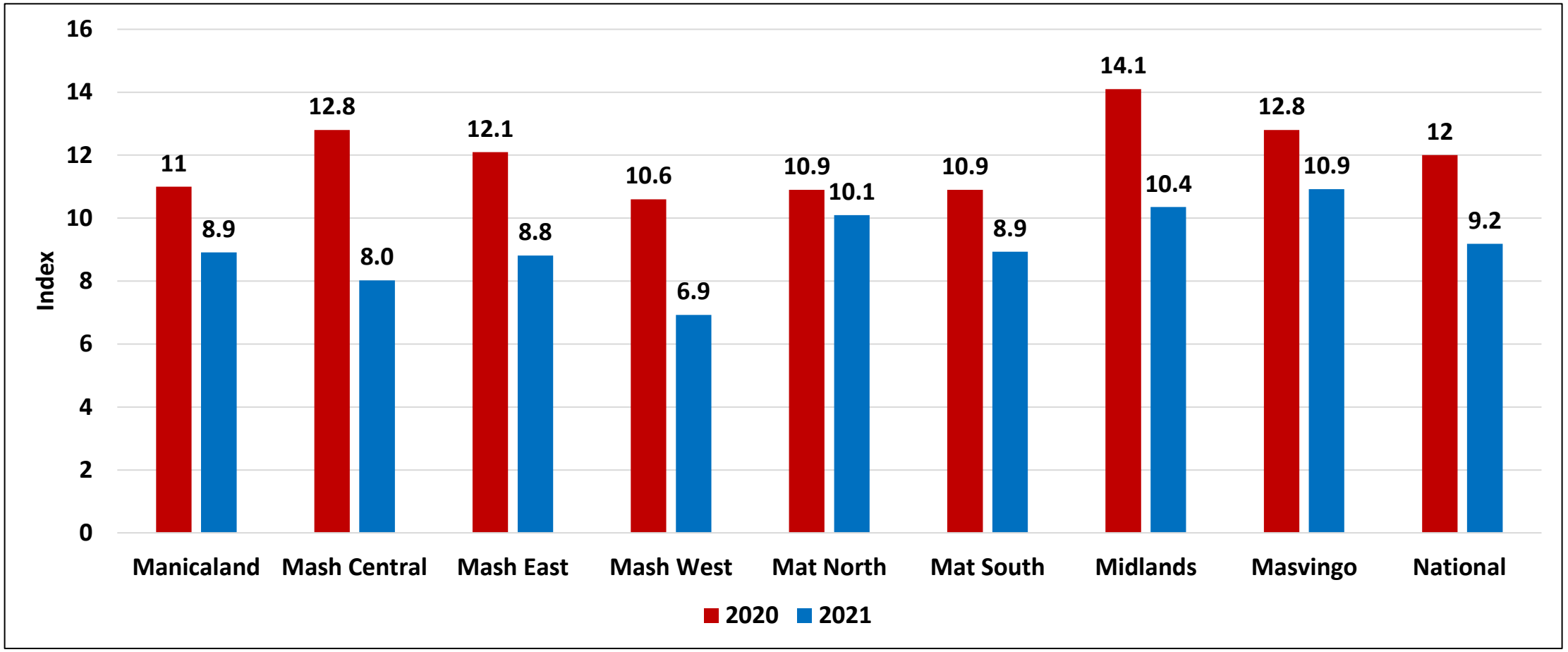
- The number of shocks experienced by households decreased across all provinces as compared to 2020.
- Masvingo (4.1), Midlands (3.5) and Matabeleland North (3.4) had the highest average number of shocks.

Severity of Shocks on Households



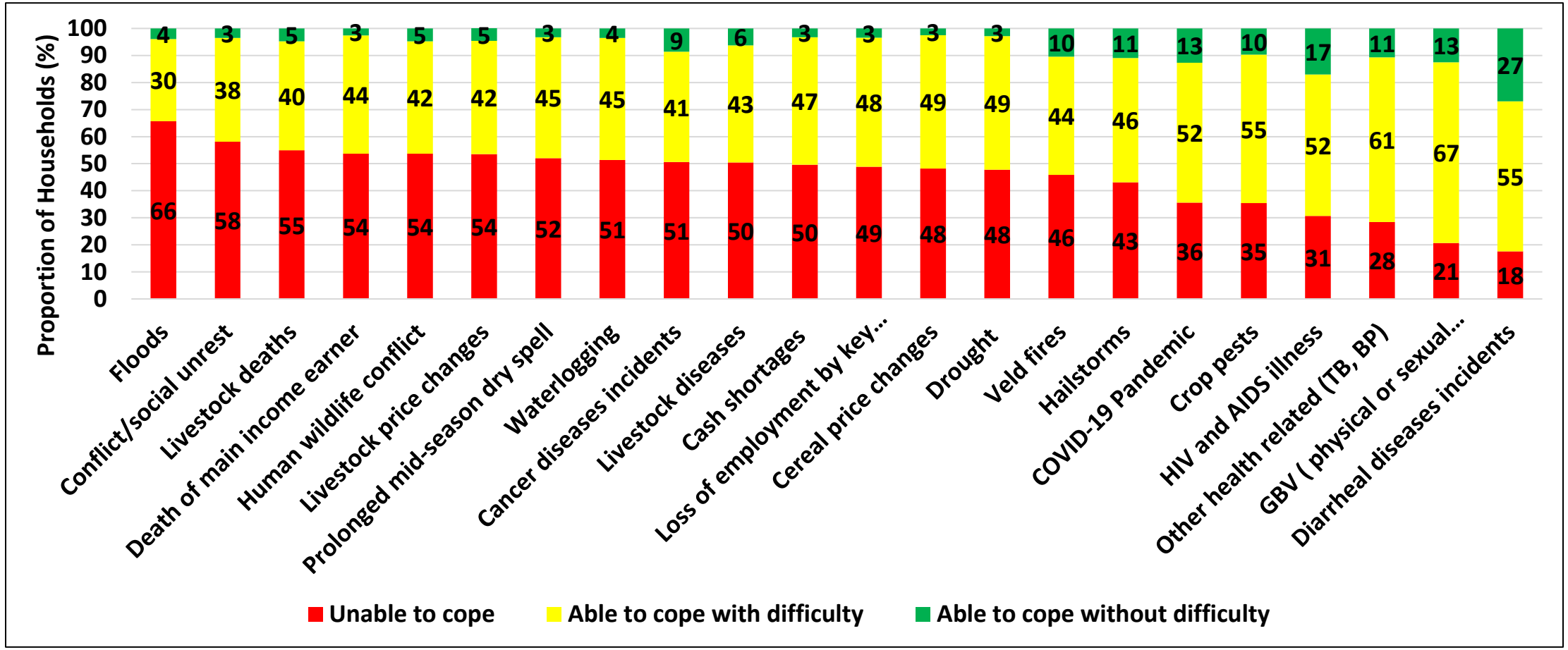
- Death of main income earner (87%), loss of employment by key household member (77%), cash shortages and drought (76%) were reported to have had the most severe impact on households.

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.
- Shock exposure index decreased as compared to 2020.
- Masvingo (10.9), Midlands (10.4) and Matabeleland North (10.1) had the highest shock exposure index.

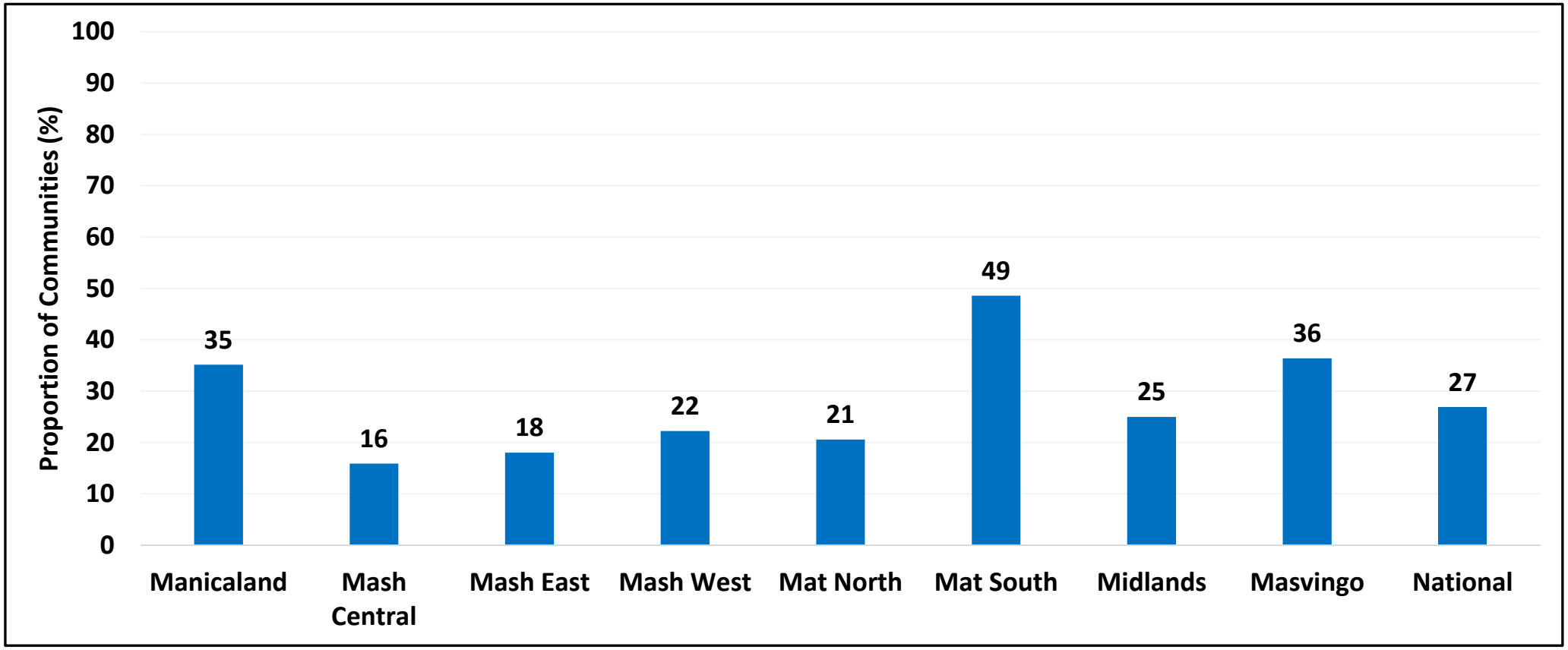
Households' Perception of their Ability to Cope with Future Shocks



- The majority of households perceived inability to cope with economic, livelihoods and weather-related shocks.

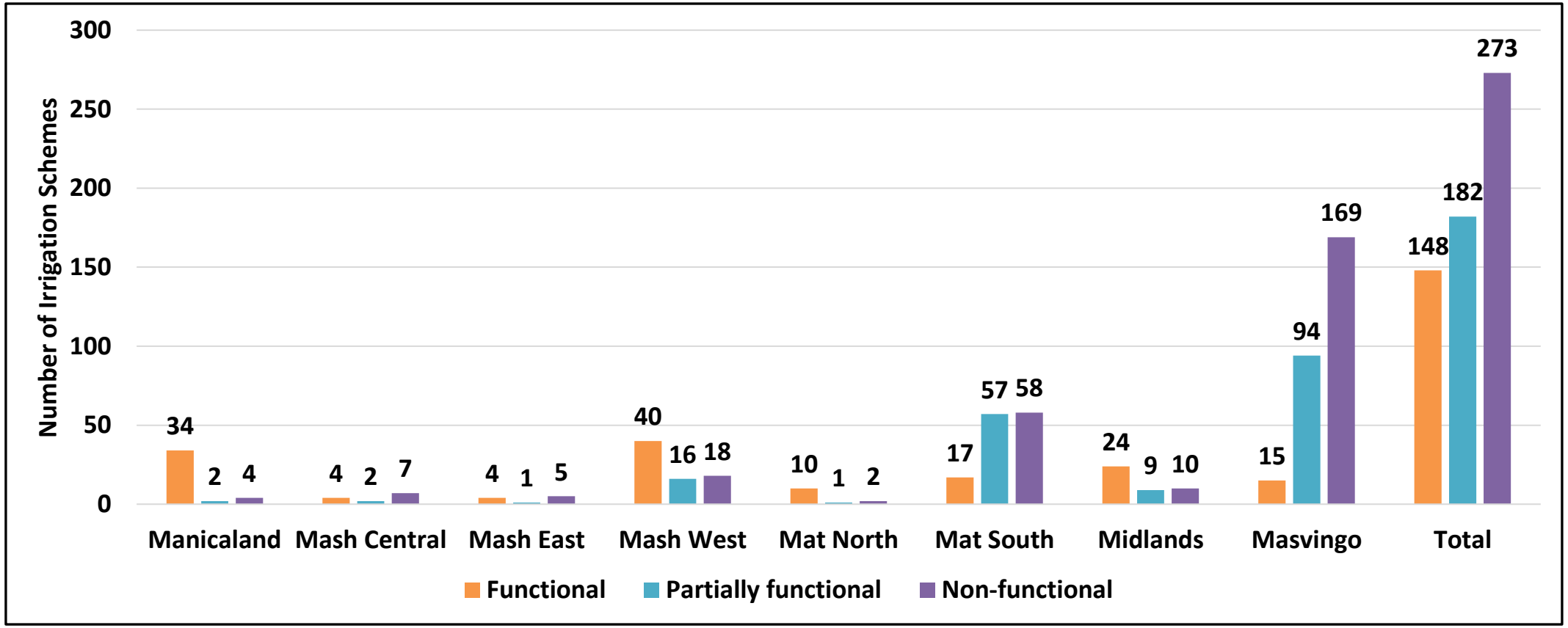
Infrastructure - Irrigation

Communities with Irrigation Schemes



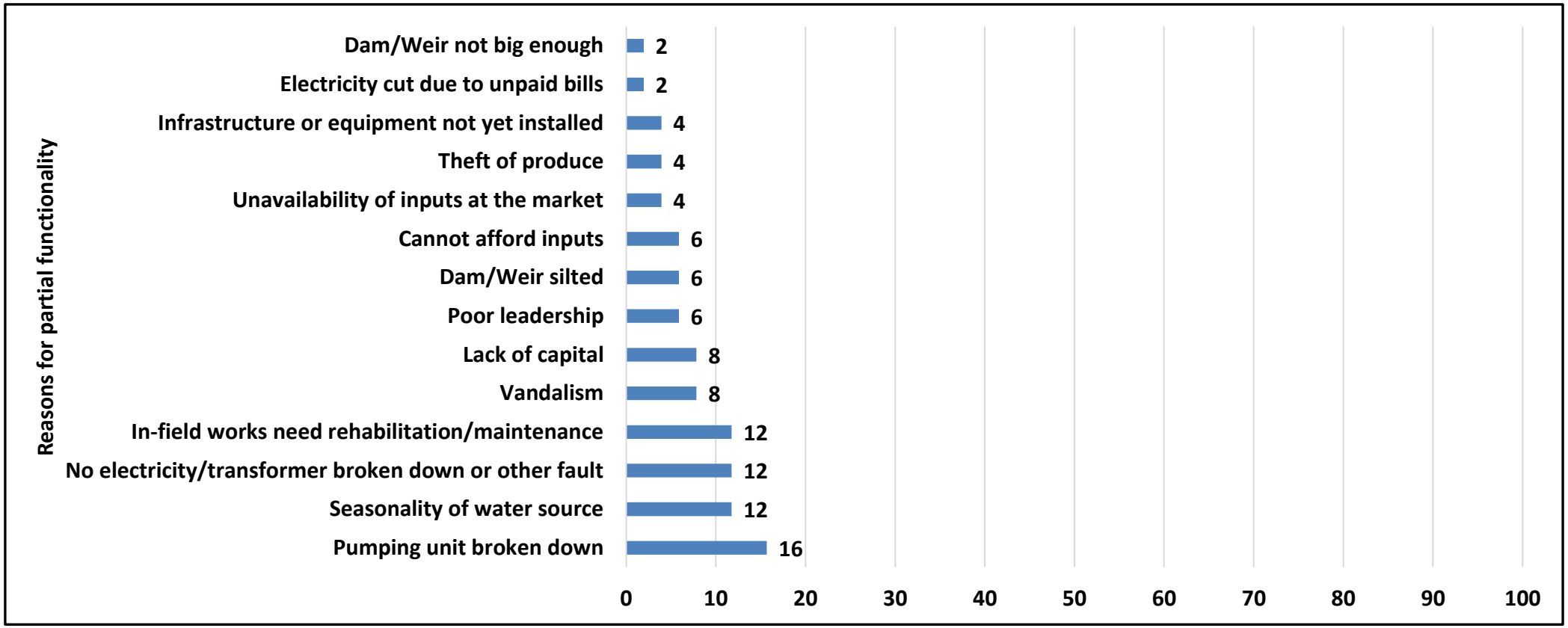
- Generally, there were few communities with irrigation schemes (27%) across the country.
- Matabeleland South had 49% of communities reporting to have irrigation schemes, followed by Masvingo and Manicaland (36% and 35%, respectively).

Functionality of Irrigation Schemes (27%)



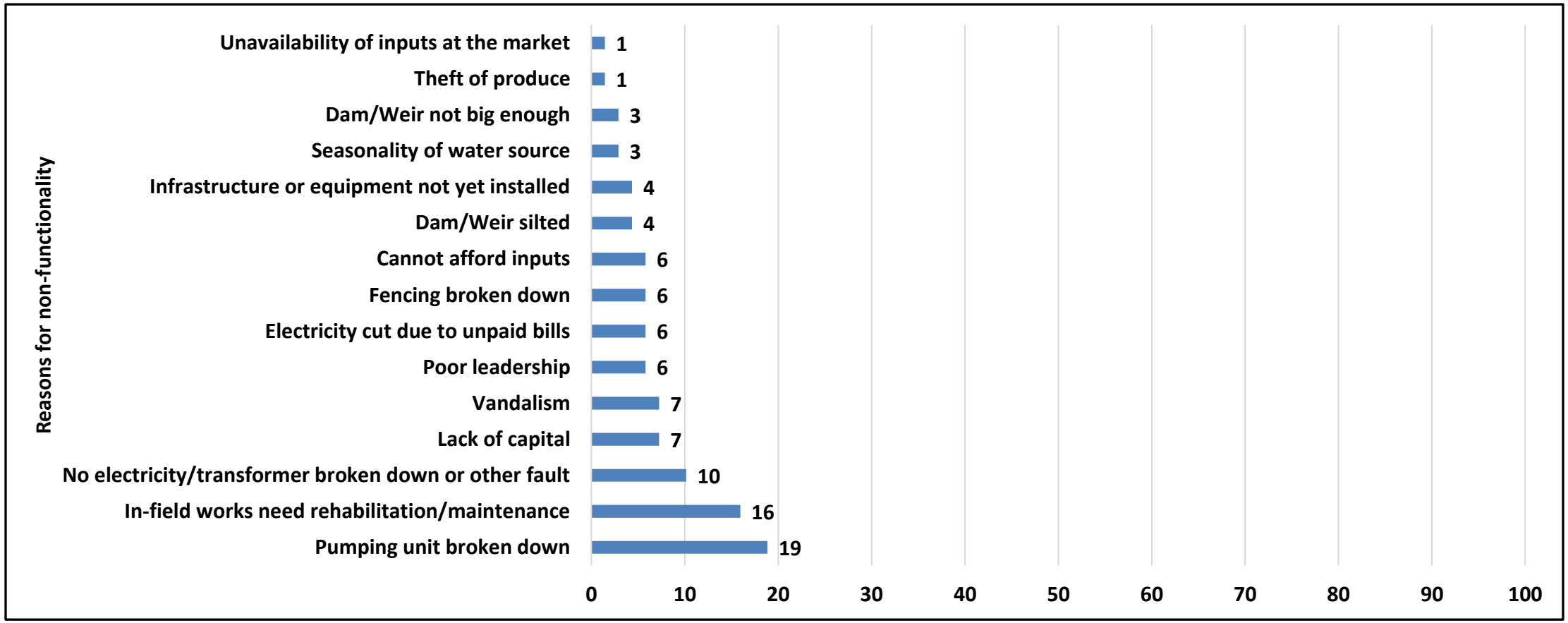
- The majority of the irrigation schemes were reported as non-functional.
- Mashonaland West, Manicaland, Midlands and Matabeleland North reported having more functional irrigation schemes.

Reasons for Partially Functioning Irrigation Schemes



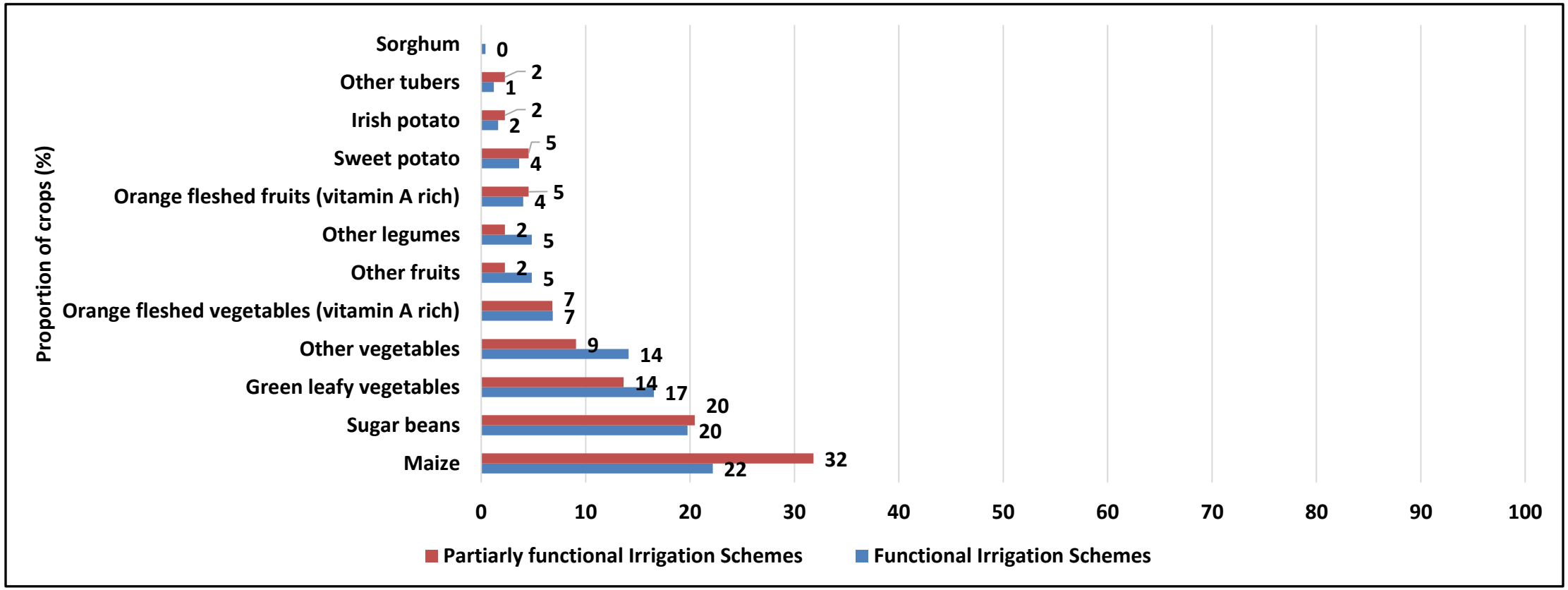
- Of those schemes that were reported as partially functioning, a larger proportion had broken down pumping units (16%).

Reasons for Non-Functional Irrigation Schemes



- The major reasons for non-functionality included broken down pumping units (19%), outstanding in-field maintenance (16%) and electrical faults/broken down transformers (10%).

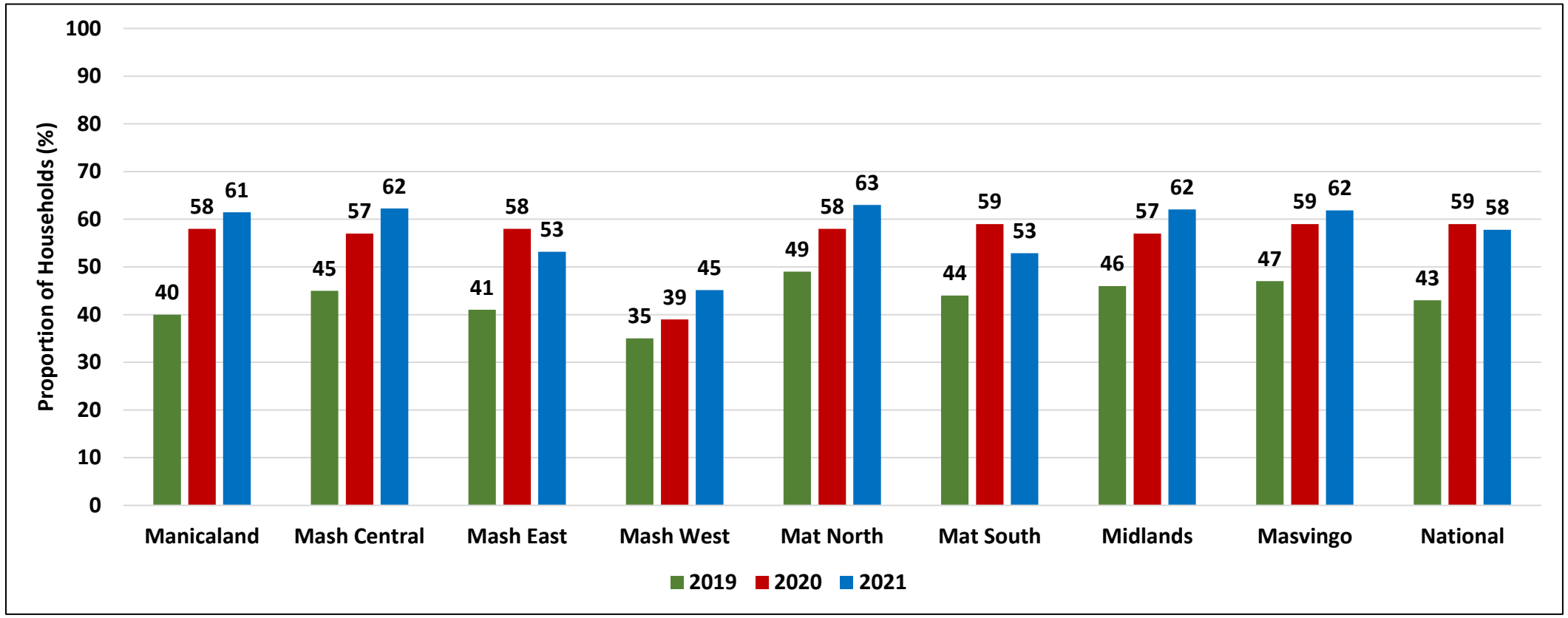
Crops Grown in Irrigation Schemes



- Maize was the most grown crop followed by sugar beans and vegetables.
- The least grown crops were tubers.

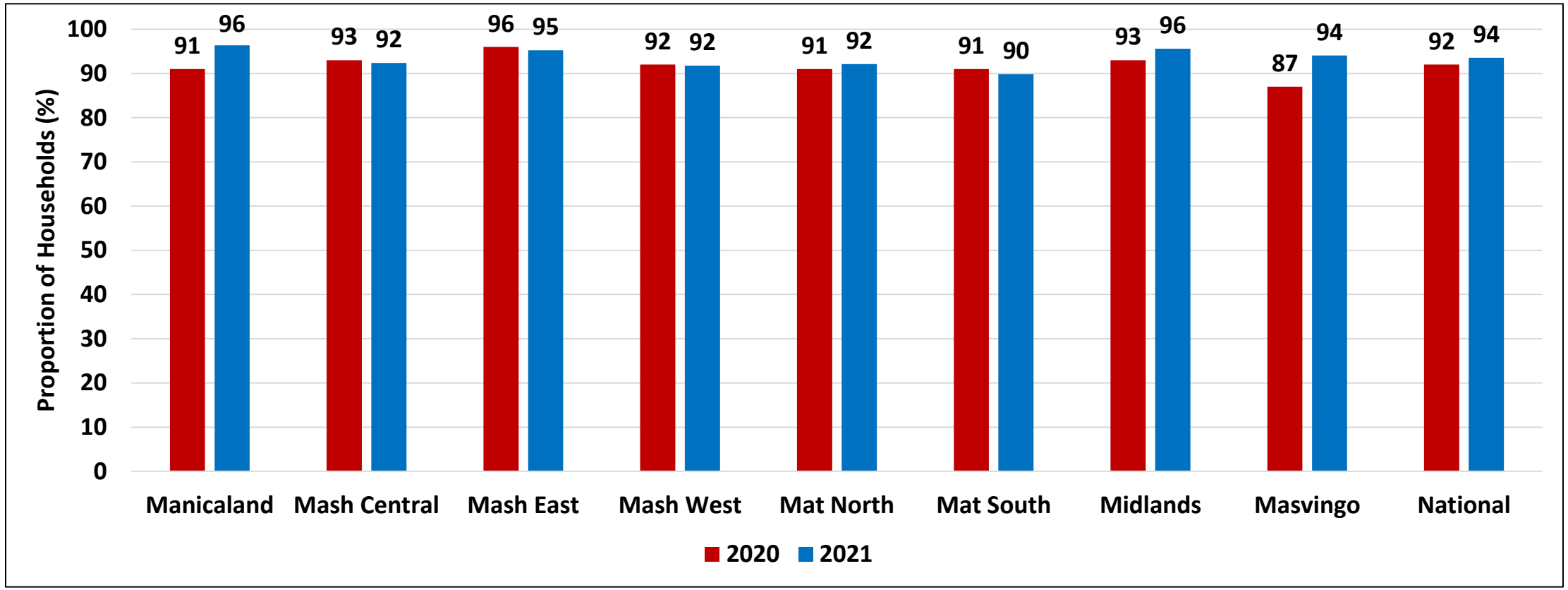
Agriculture Production

Households which Received Any Agricultural Extension Services in the Past Year



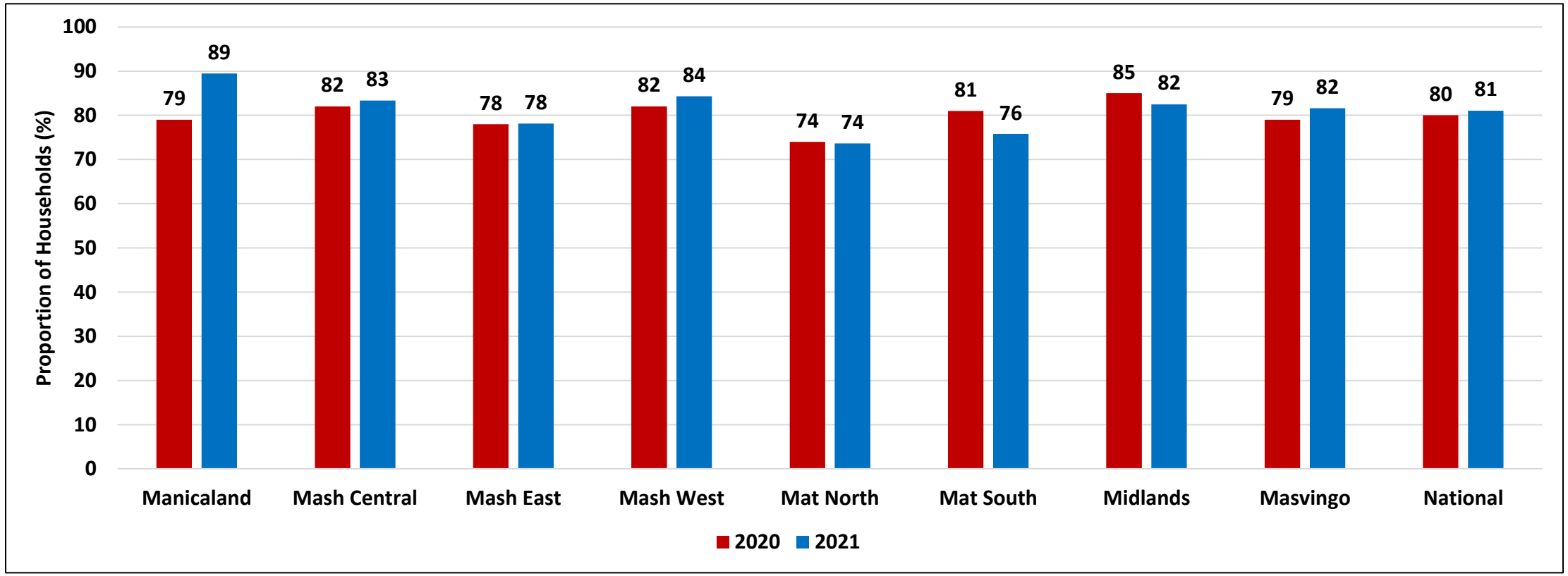
- Nationally, 58% of households reported to have received some form of agricultural extension services support in the past year.
- In Matabeleland North, Midlands and Mashonaland Central there was a notable increase in the proportion of households which received agricultural extension services support over the past three years.

Households which Received Agricultural Training from Government Extension or Other Extension Officers *(58%)*



- Generally, the proportion of households which received agricultural training from extension officers has remained high across all provinces.

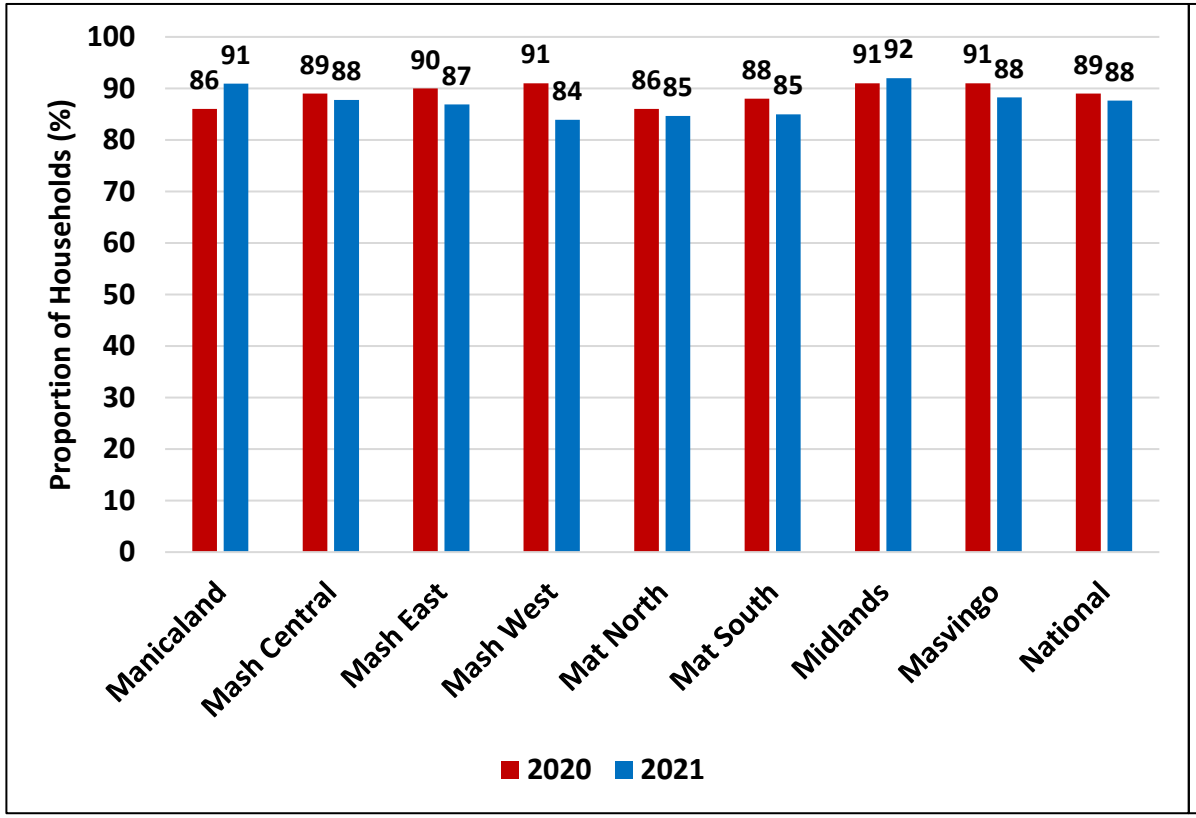
Households which Received Agriculture Extension Visits from Extension Officers *(58%)*



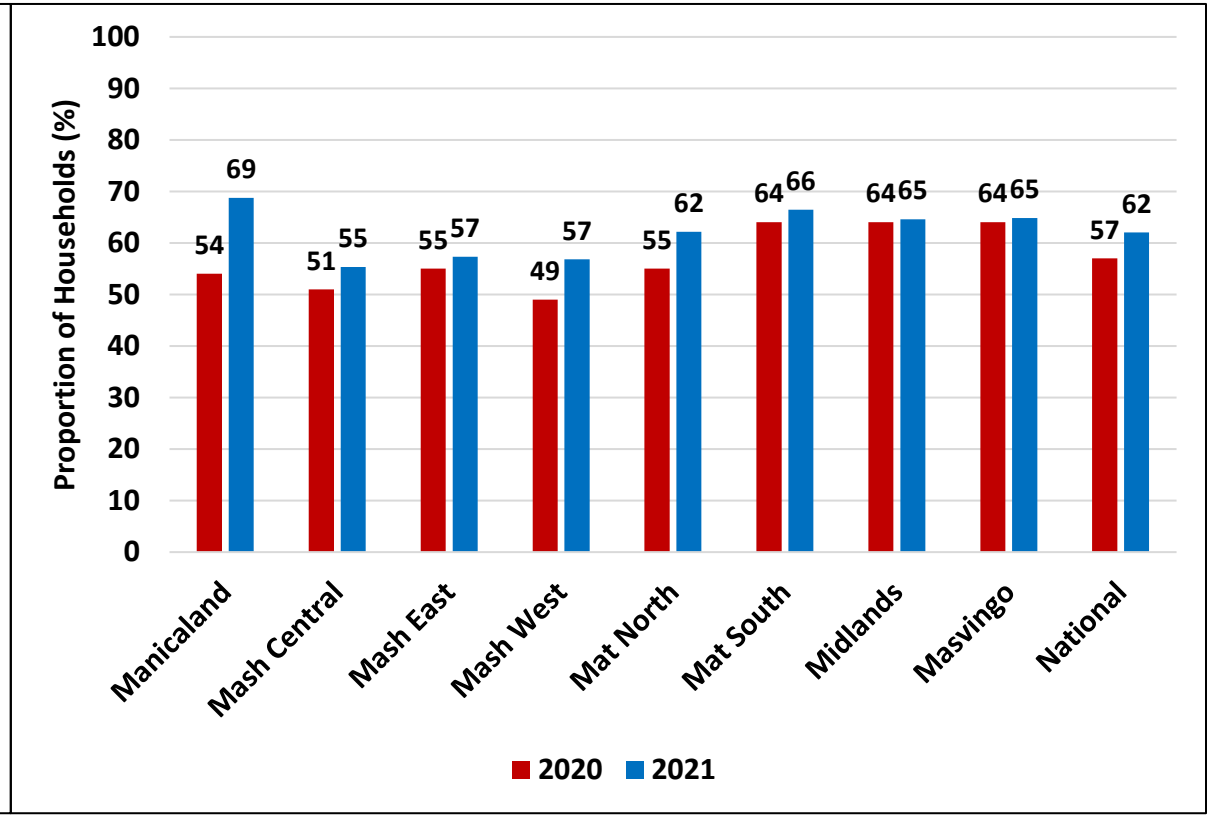
- Nationally 81% of households reported to have received agricultural extension visits from extension officers.
- This might be attributed to the provision of motorcycles to agriculture extension officers for delivery of community services.

Households which Received Agriculture Advice from Extension Officers *(58%)*

Cropping Advice



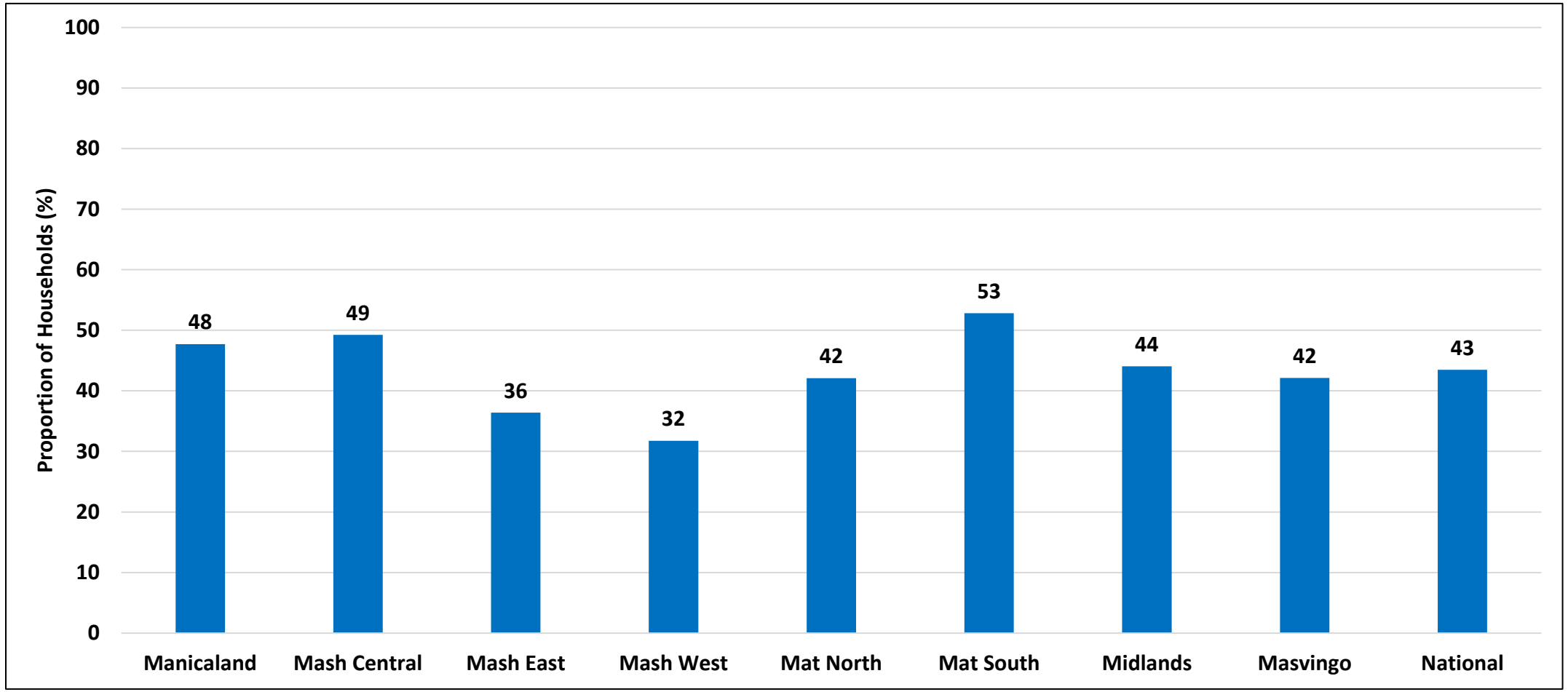
Livestock Advice



- Generally, the proportion of households which received cropping advice from extension officers remained high across all provinces.
- The proportion of households which received livestock advice was 62%, a slight increase from 57% in 2020.

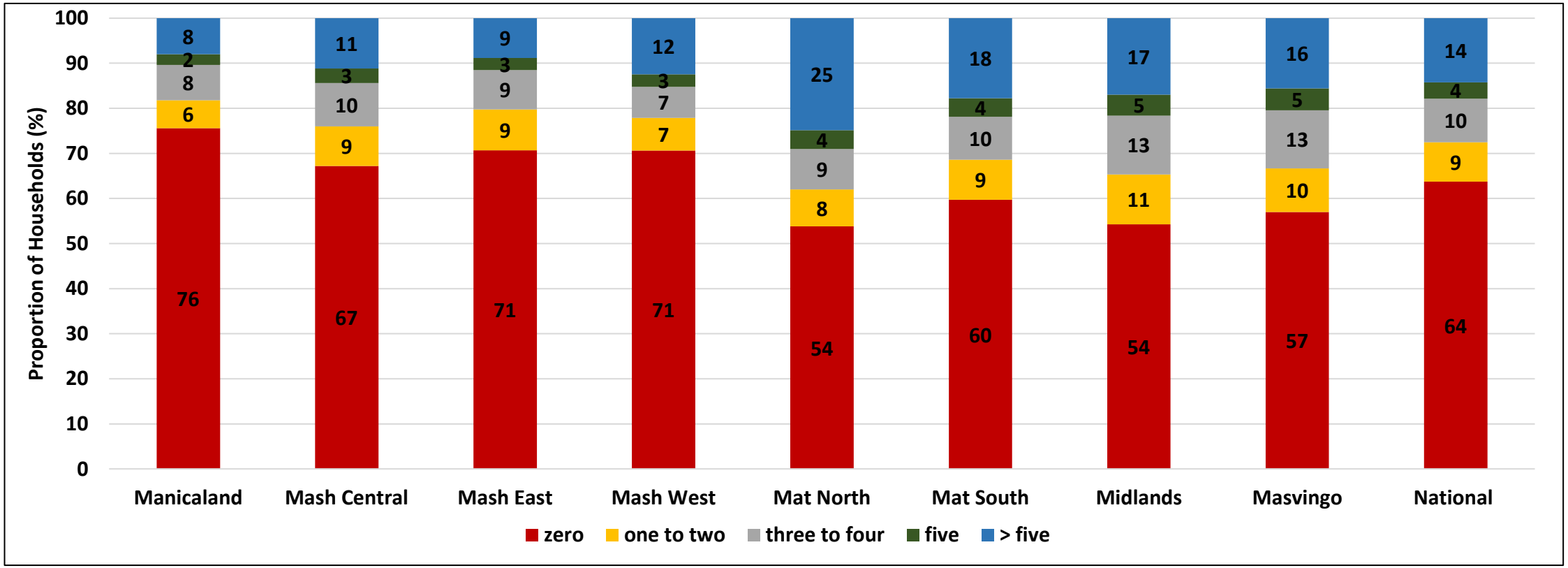
Livestock

Access to Animal Health Centres



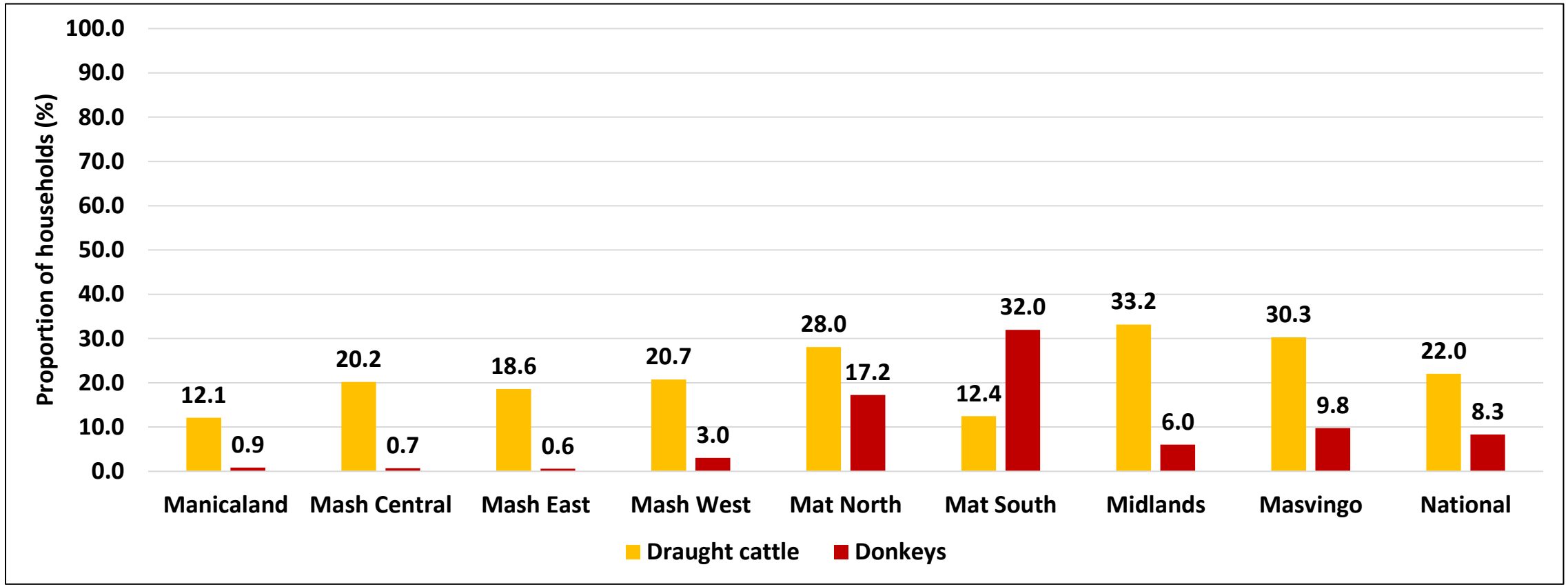
- Access to Animal Health Centres was generally low across all provinces.
- Only 43% of households reporting to have access at national level.

Households which Owned Cattle



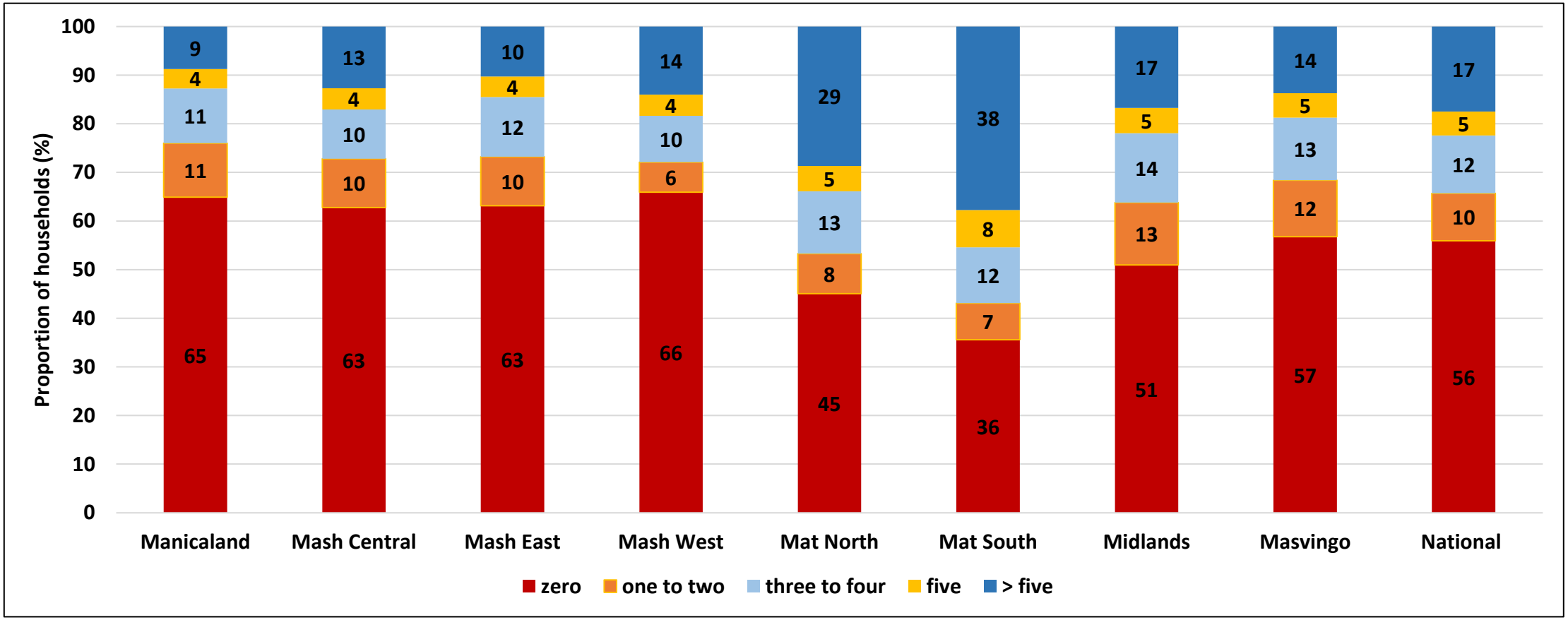
- Nationally, the proportion of households which did not own cattle was high (64%).
- Only 14% of the households had more than 5 head of cattle per household.
- The highest proportion of households which owned more than five (5) head of cattle was in Matabeleland North (25%) and the lowest was in Manicaland (8%).
- Manicaland had the highest proportion of households which did not own cattle (76%).

Households Which Owned Draught Power



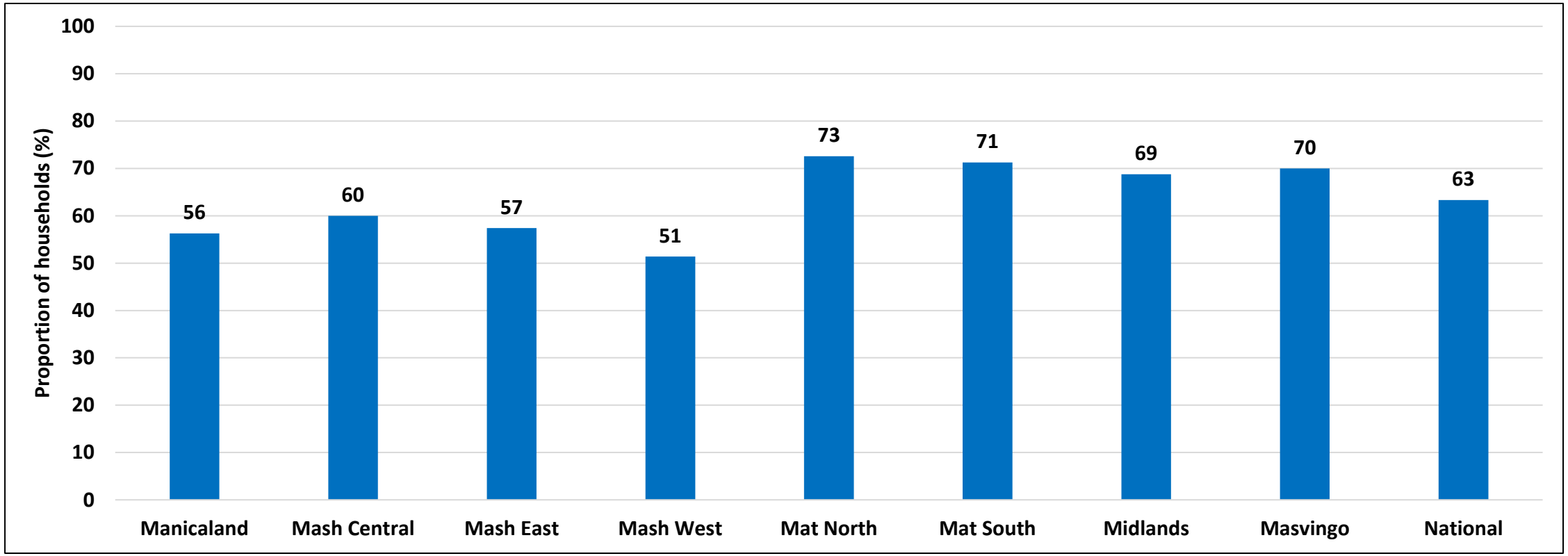
- Nationally, 22% of households owned draught cattle, while 8.3% owned donkeys.
- The proportion of households with draught cattle was highest in Midlands (33.2%), while the proportion with donkeys was highest in Matabeleland South (32%).
- Manicaland (12.1%) had the lowest proportion of households with draught cattle, while Mashonaland East (0.6%) had the least proportion with donkeys.

Households which Owned Goats



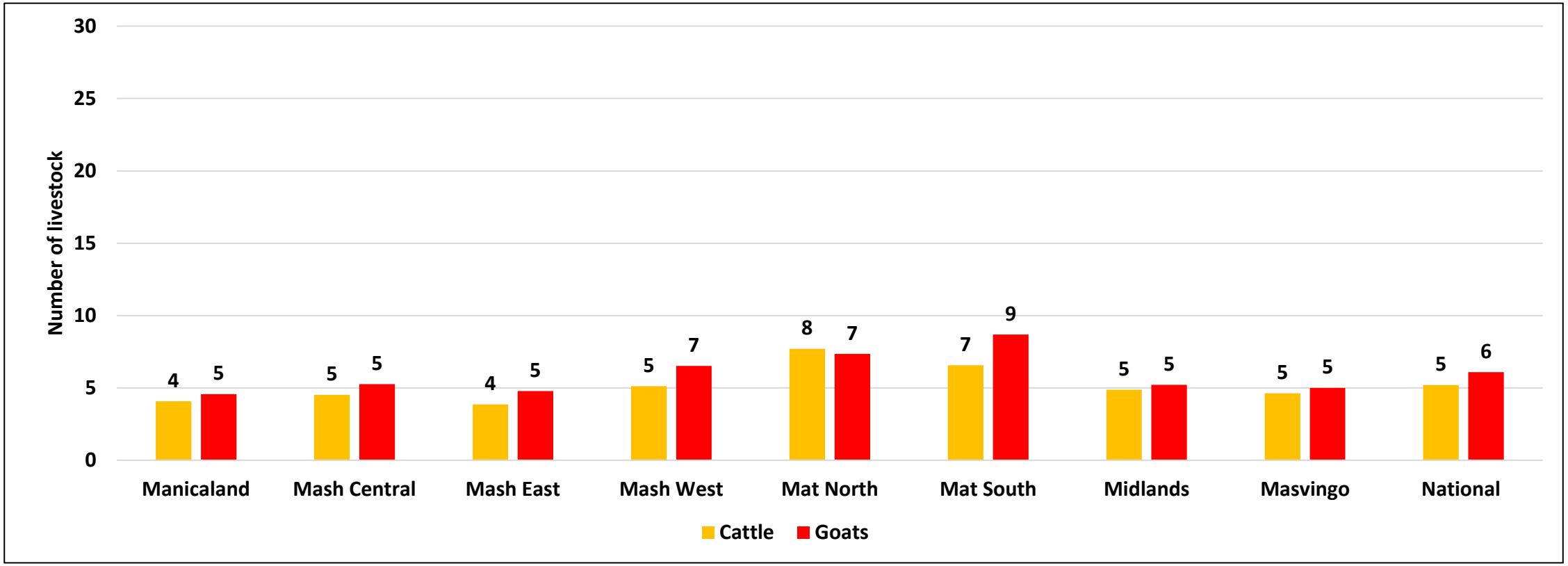
- The proportion of households which did not own goats nationally was 56%.
- Mashonaland West (66%) and Manicaland (65%) had the highest proportion of households which did not own goats.
- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households which owned goats (64%).
- The highest proportion of households which owned 5 or more goats was in Matabeleland South (38%) and the lowest was in Manicaland (9%).

Households Which Owned Poultry



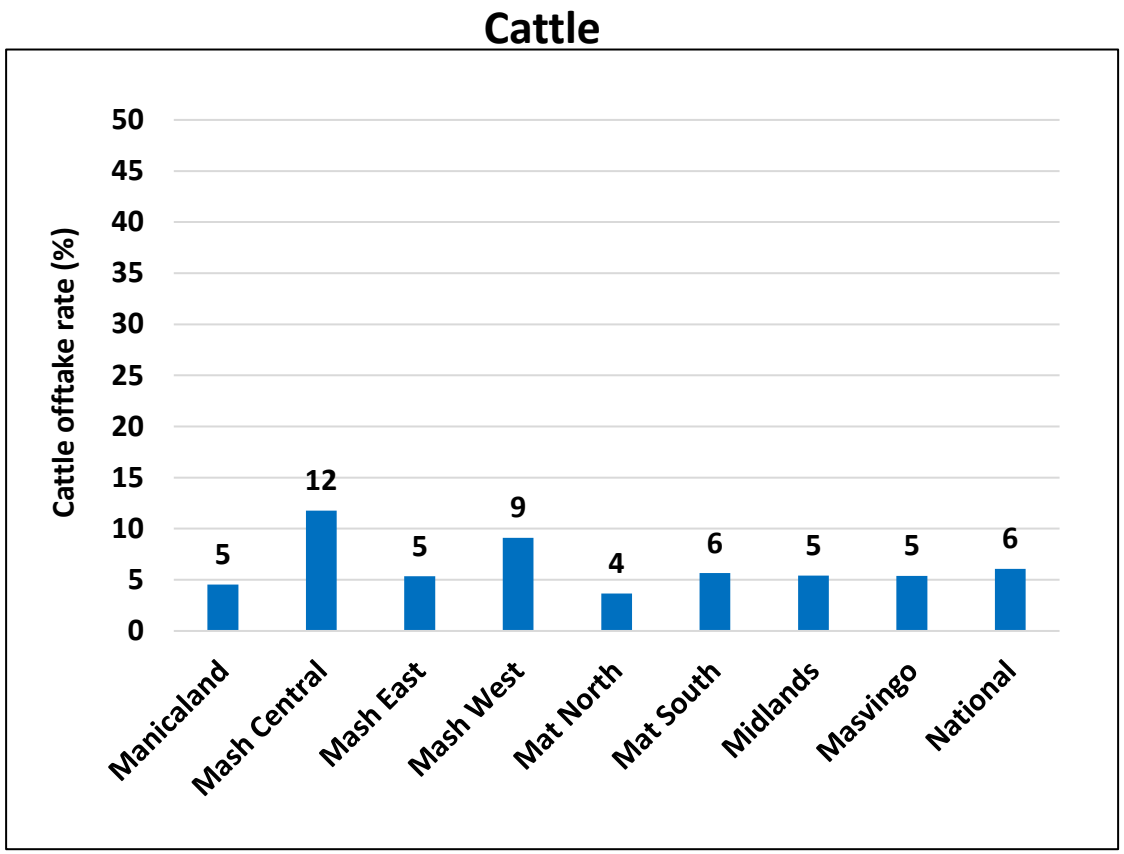
- About 63% of households owned poultry nationally.
- Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of households which owned poultry (73%) while Mashonaland West (51%) had the least.

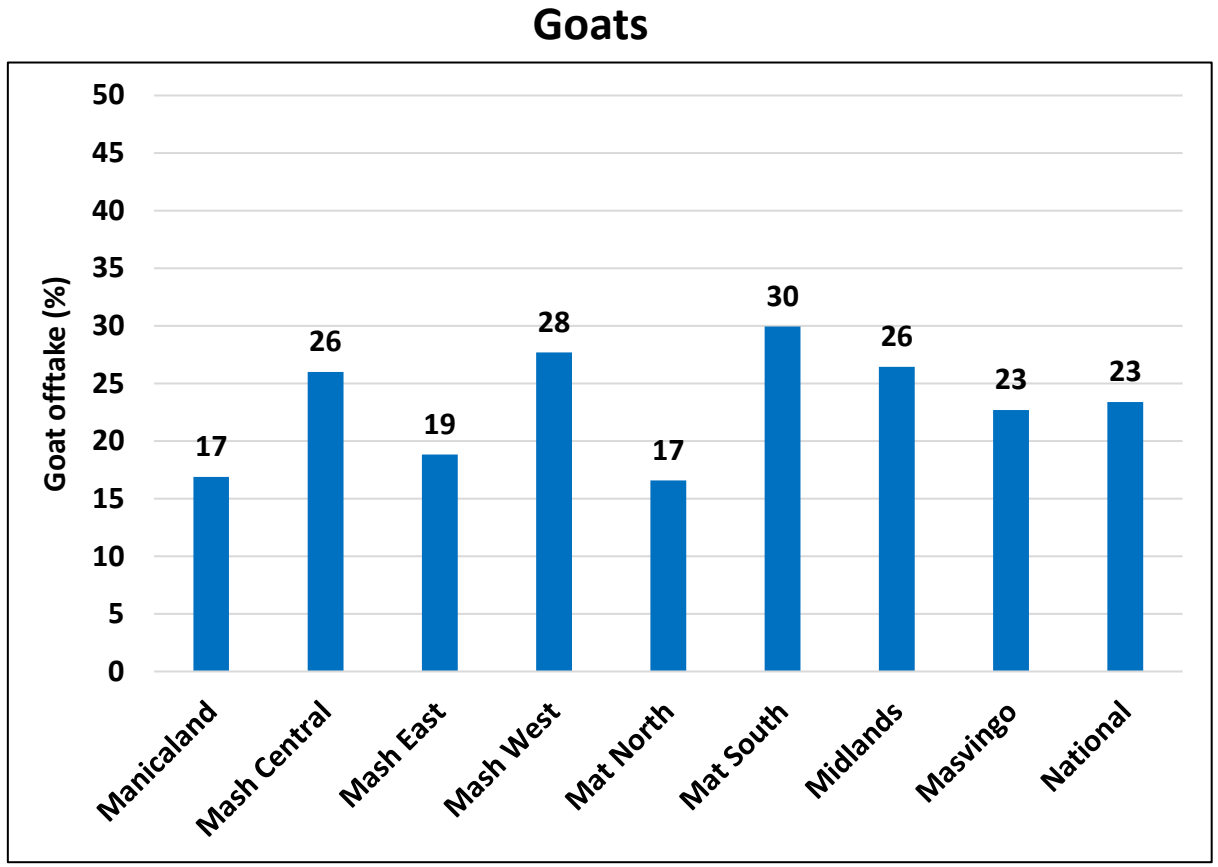
Average Livestock Numbers per Household



- The average cattle herd size per household remained low at 5 head of cattle and 6 flock of goats.
- This has an effect on offtake as the disposable herd is limited.
- Matabeleland North had the highest average holding of cattle (8) while Matabeleland South had the highest average flock size (9).
- Manicaland (4) and Mashonaland East (4) had the lowest average number of cattle per household.

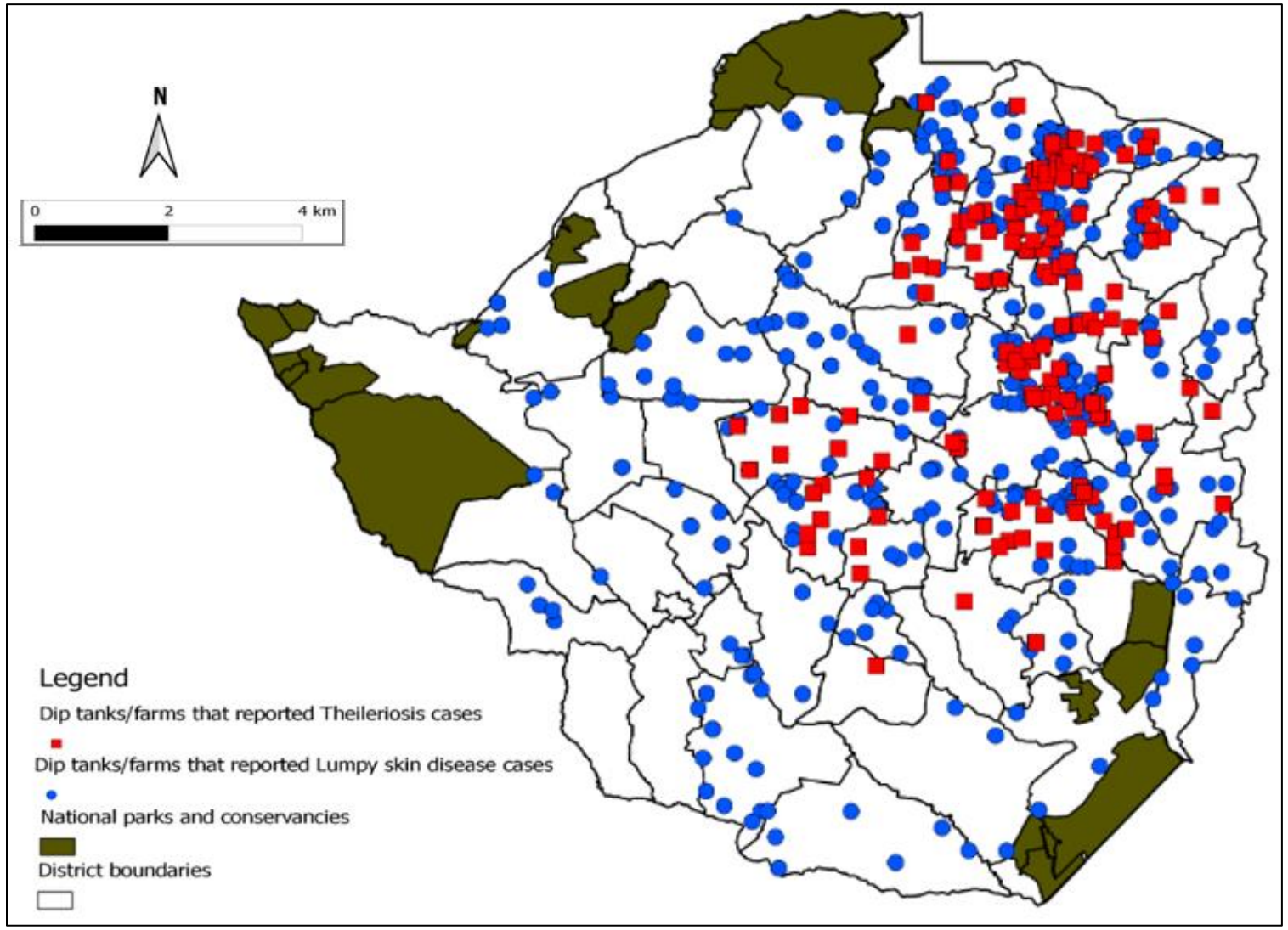
Livestock Offtake Rates





- Percentage offtake refers to the number of animals sold/slaughtered annually as a fraction of total herd. It is an indicator of the business approach in livestock production and its contribution to household livelihoods.
- Offtake rates were generally low with a national average of 6% for cattle and 23% for goats. The target is to increase offtake to about 20% for cattle and 40% for goats.
- Mashonaland Central had the highest cattle offtake (11.8%), while goat offtake was highest in Matabeleland South (30%).

Theileriosis (January Disease) and Lumpy Skin Disease Outbreaks

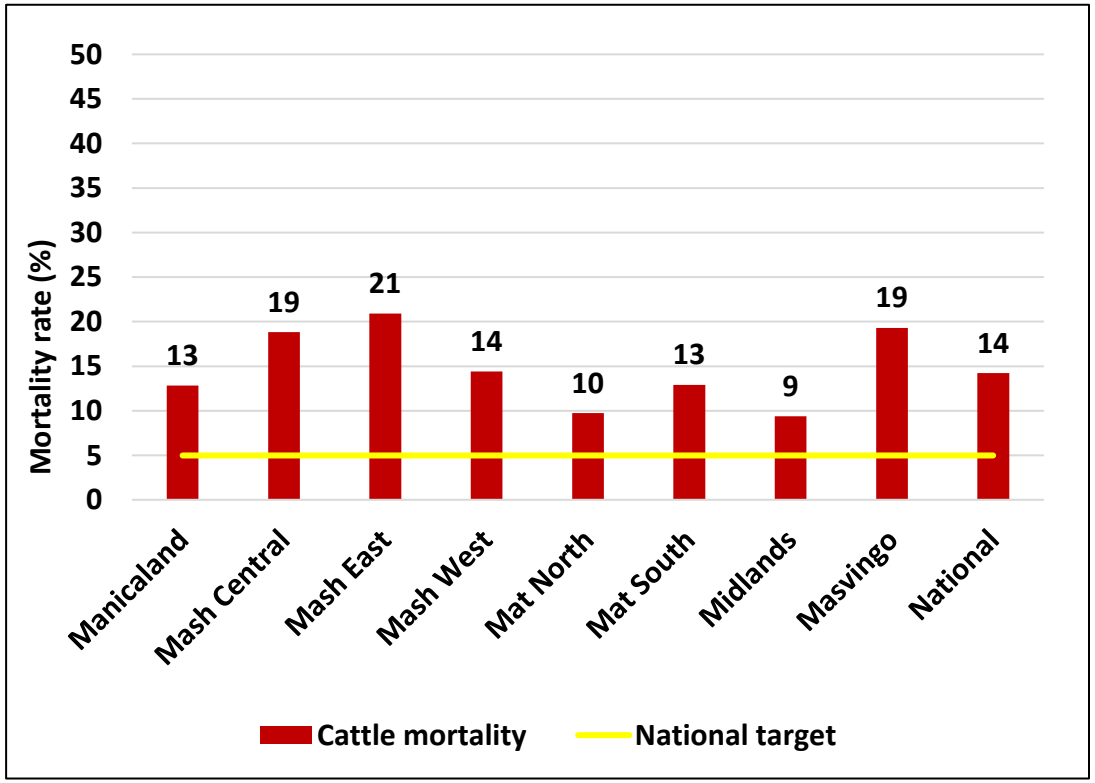


Source: Department of Veterinary Field Services

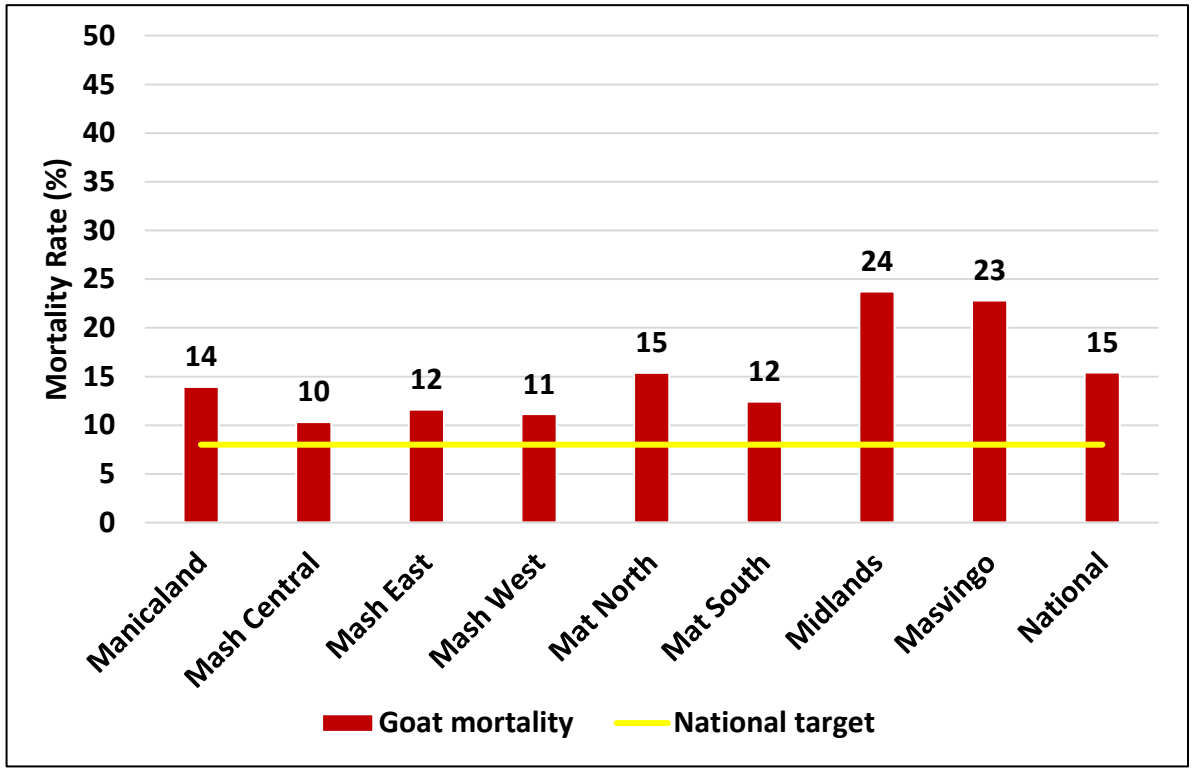
- Theileriosis is a tick-borne disease that has caused the most cattle fatalities in the last three years. Case fatality of up to 60% for theileriosis have been reported.
- A total of 28 Districts from Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Midlands and Masvingo were affected.
- Outbreaks were highly concentrated in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Manicaland.
- Other major tick-borne diseases of concern were babesiosis, heartwater and anaplasmosis. These diseases commonly occurred concurrently in most situations
- Lumpy skin disease was more widespread, affecting all provinces.

Livestock Mortality Rates

Cattle

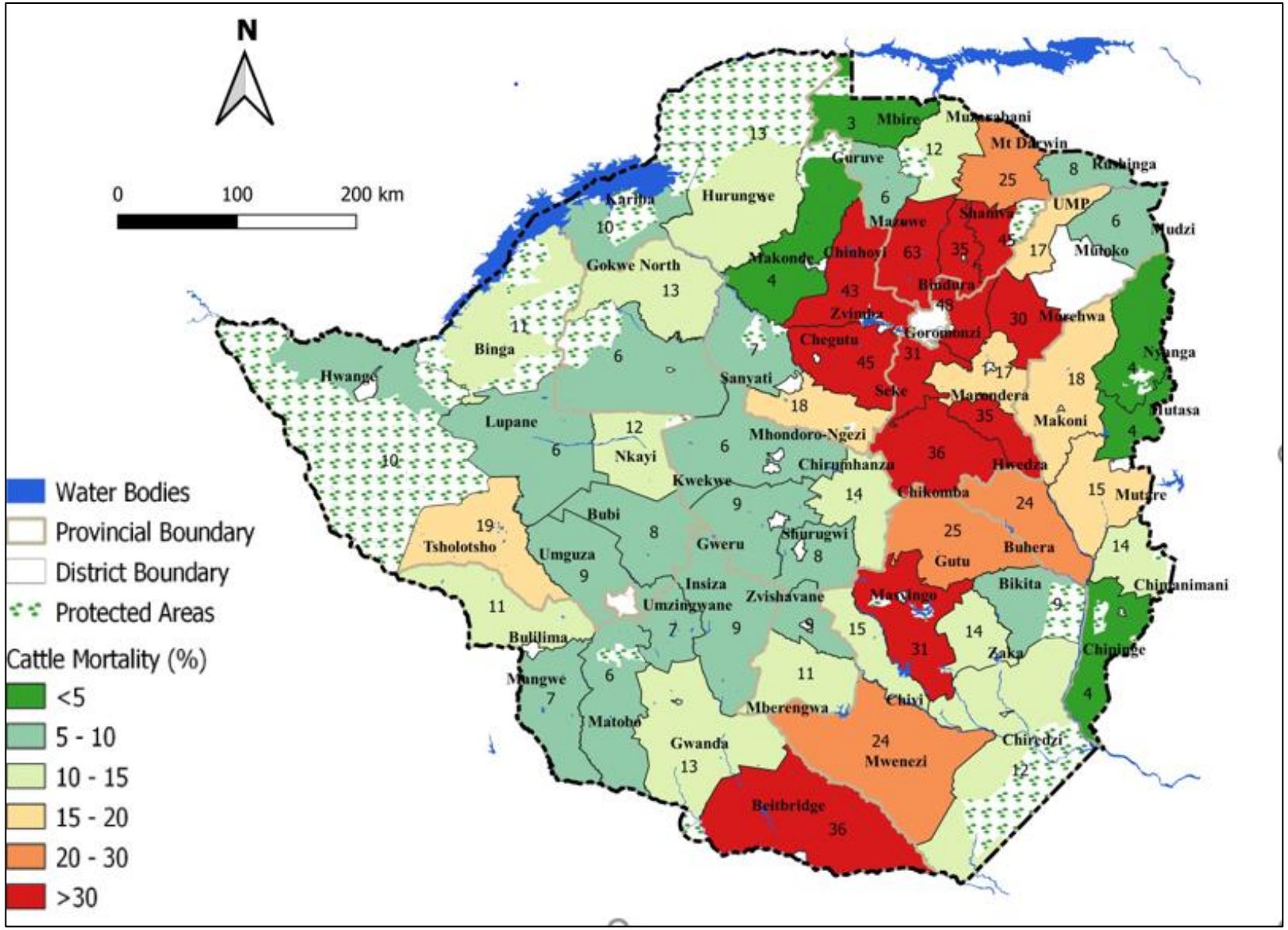


Goats



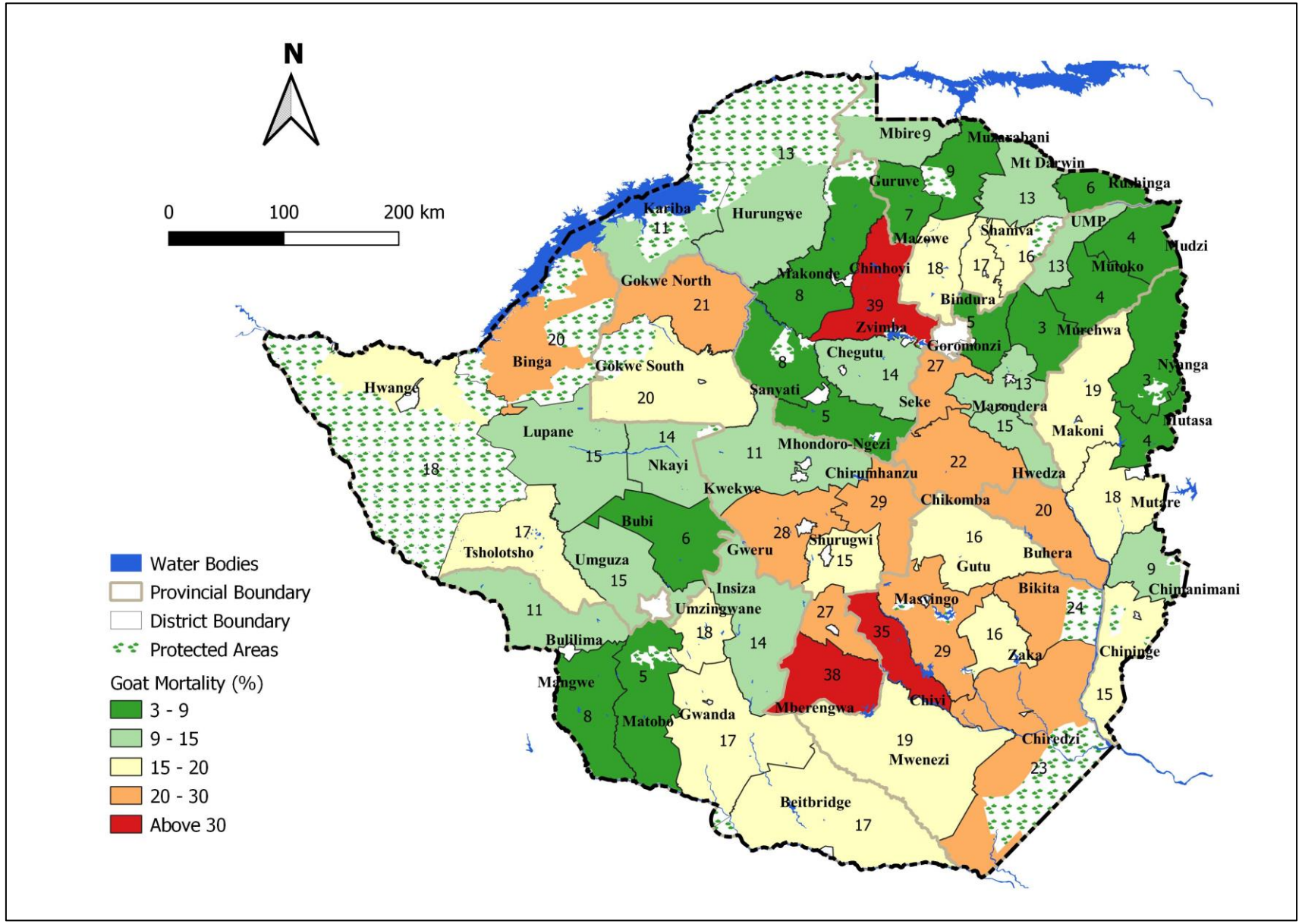
- Mortality refers to the frequency of death over a specified time interval.
- The national target is to lower the mortality rate to 5% for cattle and 8% for goats.
- Mortality rates for both cattle and goats were generally high across all provinces, above the national targets.
- The national cattle mortality rate was 14%, while goat mortality rate was 15%.
- Mashonaland East (21%) had the highest cattle mortality rates, while Midlands (24%) and Masvingo (23%), had the highest goat mortality rates.

Cattle Mortality Rate by District



- Generally, mortality rates were high in all districts except Mbire, Makonde, Nyanga and Mutasa districts which reported low mortality rates of below 5%.
- Mortality rates of above 30% (highlighted in red) were reported in 12 districts (Hwedza, Chikomba, Seke, Goromonzi, Murehwa, Shamva, Bindura, Mazowe, Chegutu, Zvimba, Masvingo, and Beitbridge.
- Mashonaland East had the highest mortality rate.

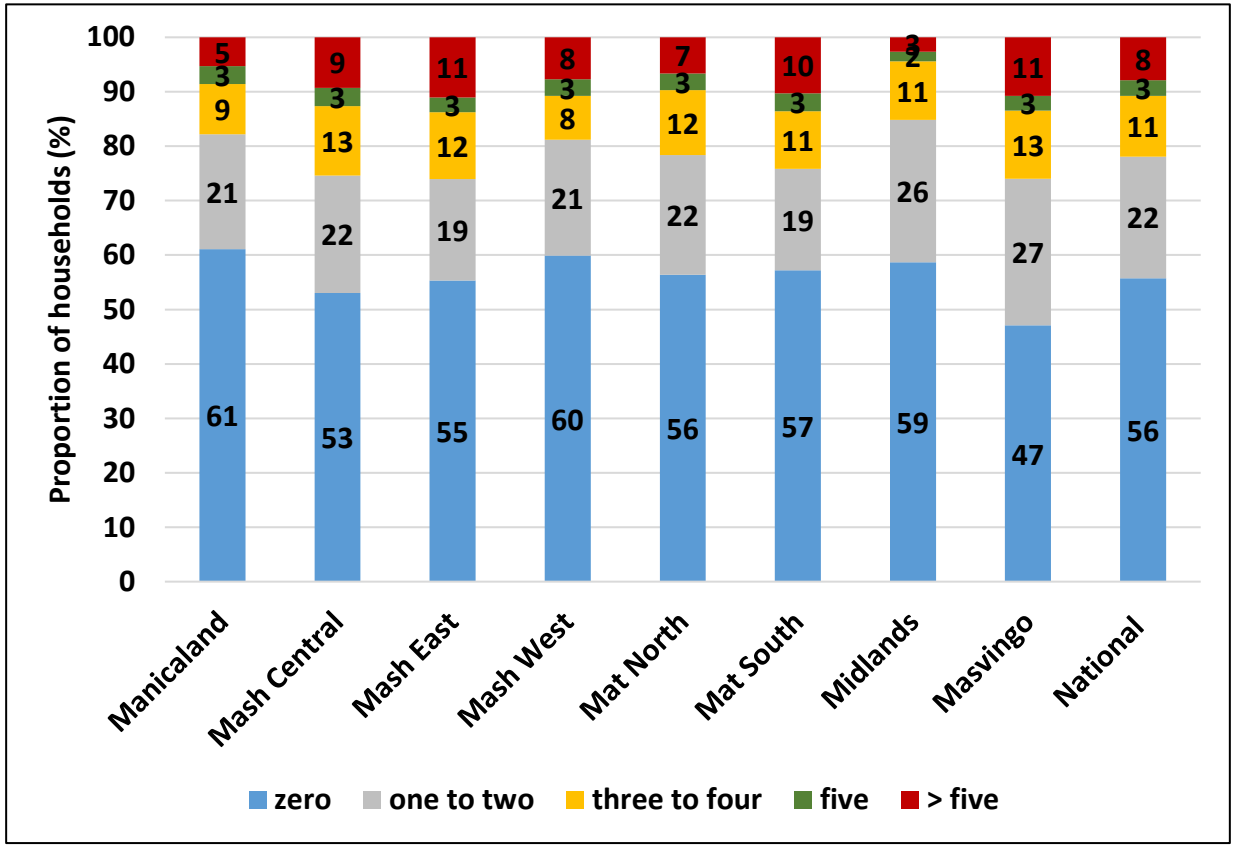
Goat Mortality Rate by District



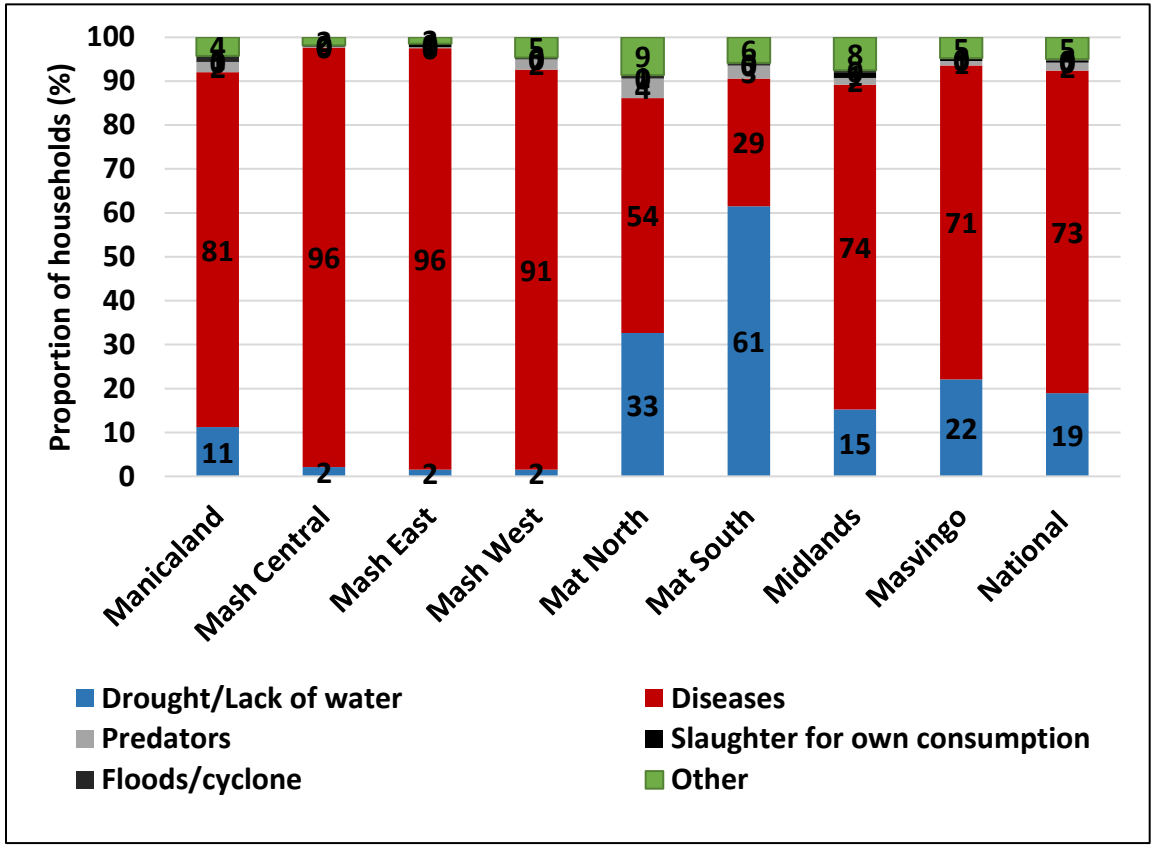
- Goat mortality was generally high in most districts across all provinces (above 10%)
- Zvimba, Chivi and Mberengwa reported the highest goat mortality rates of over 30%.

Households which Reported Cattle Deaths and Causes of Deaths

Households which Reported Cattle Deaths



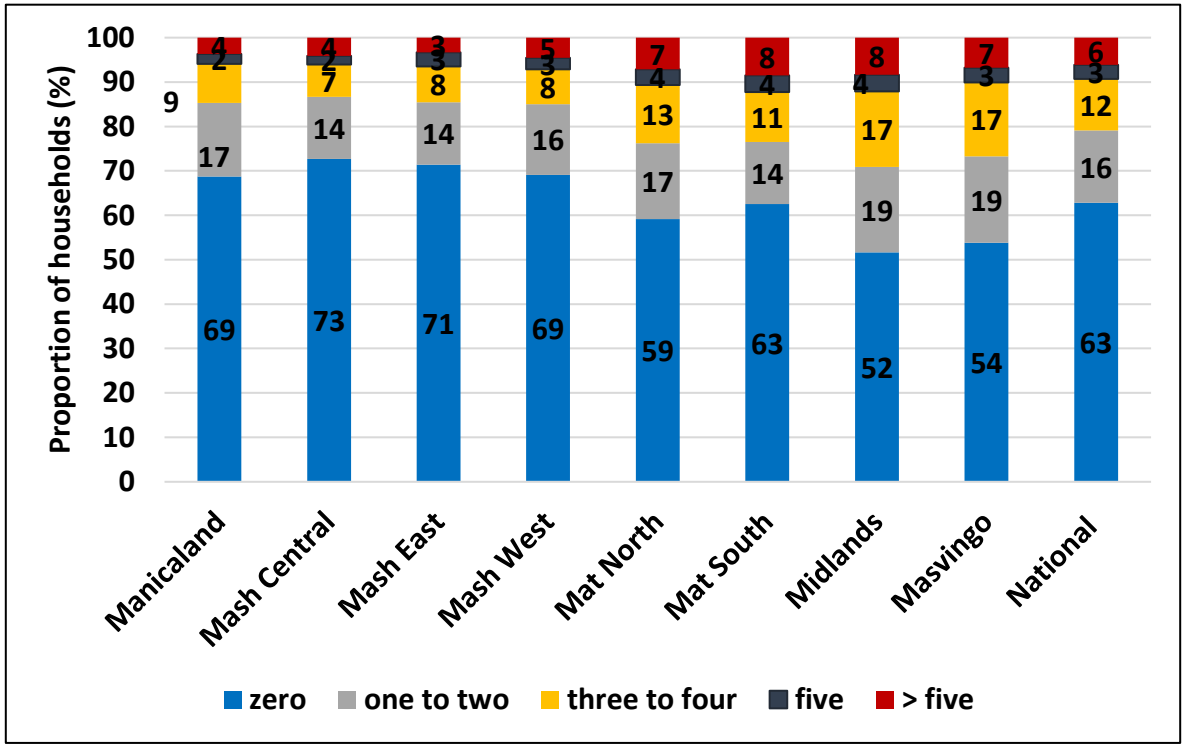
Causes of Cattle Deaths



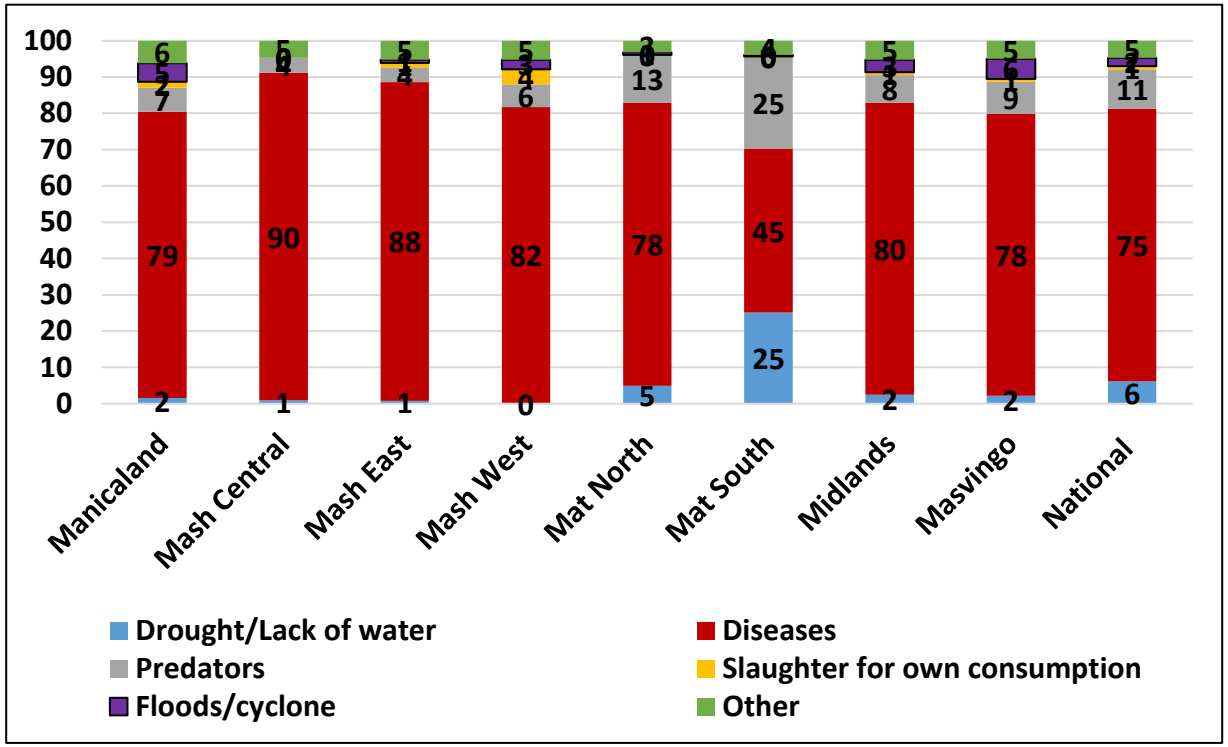
- About 44% of households reported to have lost one or more animals to death. While, 73% of households which owned livestock reported that diseases were the cause of death.
- However, of the 43% households which reported livestock deaths in Matabeleland South, 61% indicated that the cause of death was drought/water shortages.
- Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South, Masvingo and Midlands had a high proportion of households which reported livestock deaths due to drought/water shortages.

Households which Reported Goat Deaths and Causes of Deaths

Households which Reported Goat Deaths

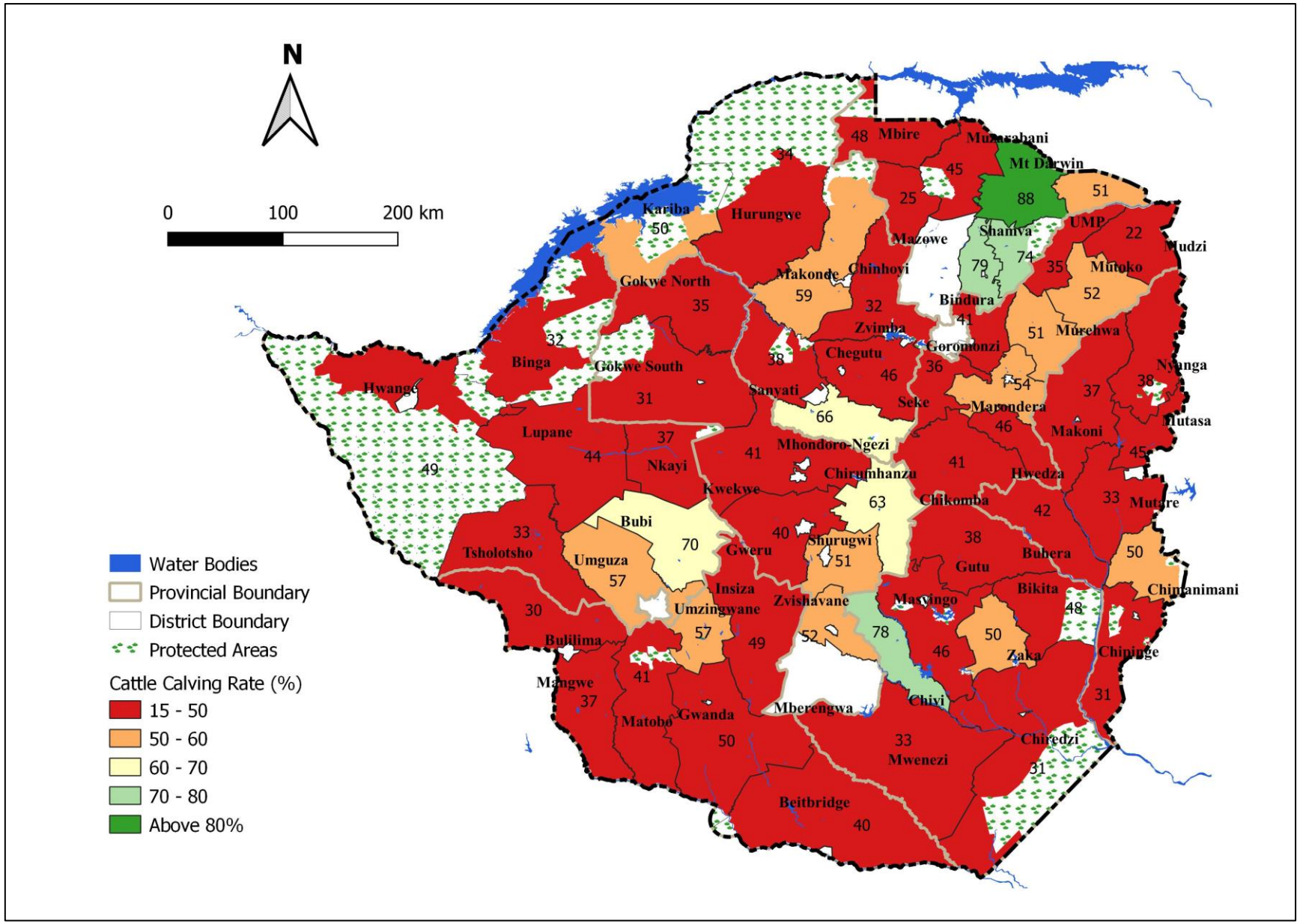


Causes of Goat Deaths



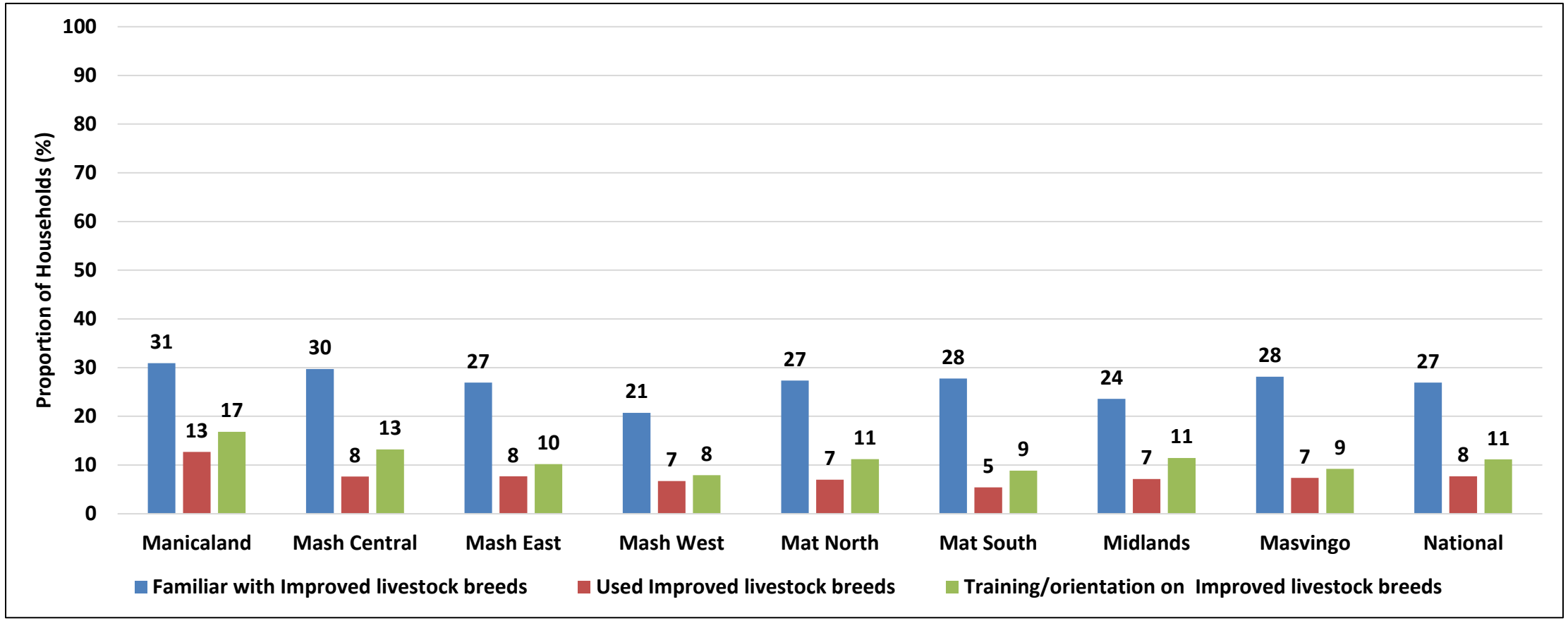
- Nationally, 37% of households which owned goats reported to have lost one or more goats.
- In Matabeleland South, about 25% of the households lost their goats to drought/water shortages.

Calving Rate



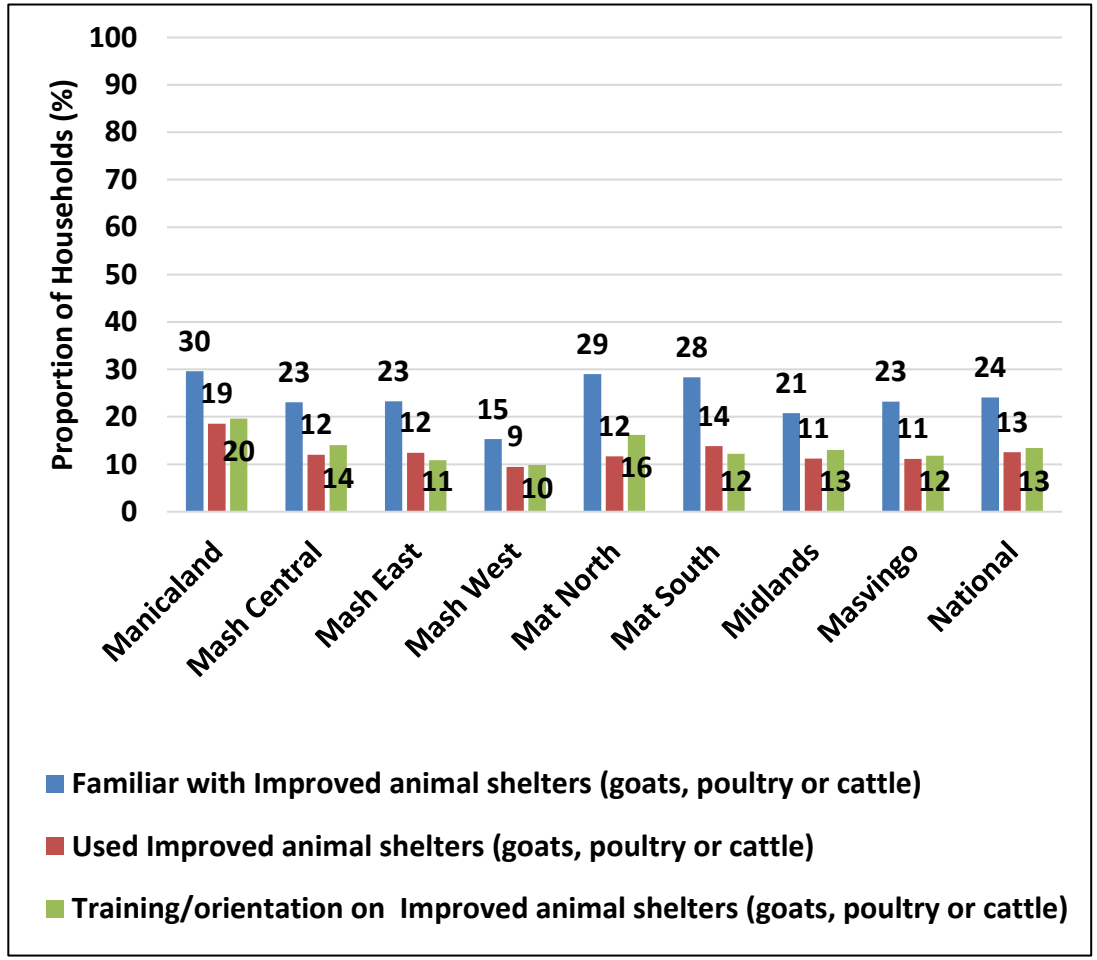
- Calving rate, defined as the proportion of breeding females that dropped calves over a defined period of time, is a measure of productivity of the cow herd.
- Calving rate was low (below 50%) across all provinces.
- The national average calving rate was 45%.
- The highest calving rates were reported in Mt Darwin (88%)
- The lowest calving rates were in Mudzi (22%) and Mazowe (25%).

Improved Livestock Breeds Practices

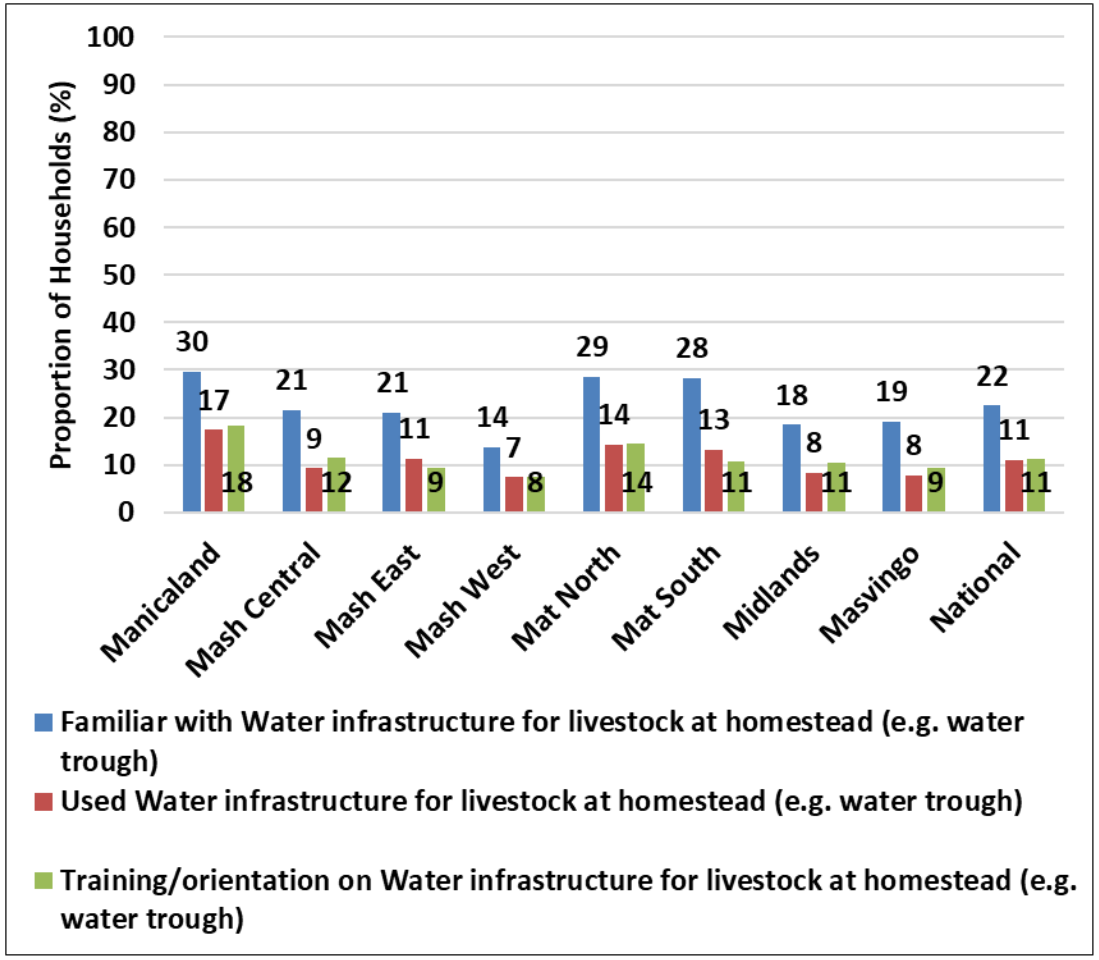


- Only 27% of the households indicated that they were familiar with improved livestock breeds and only 8% had improved livestock breeds.
- About 11% of the households indicated that they had been trained on improved livestock breeds so as to maximize on improving the livestock herd.

Improved Animal Housing

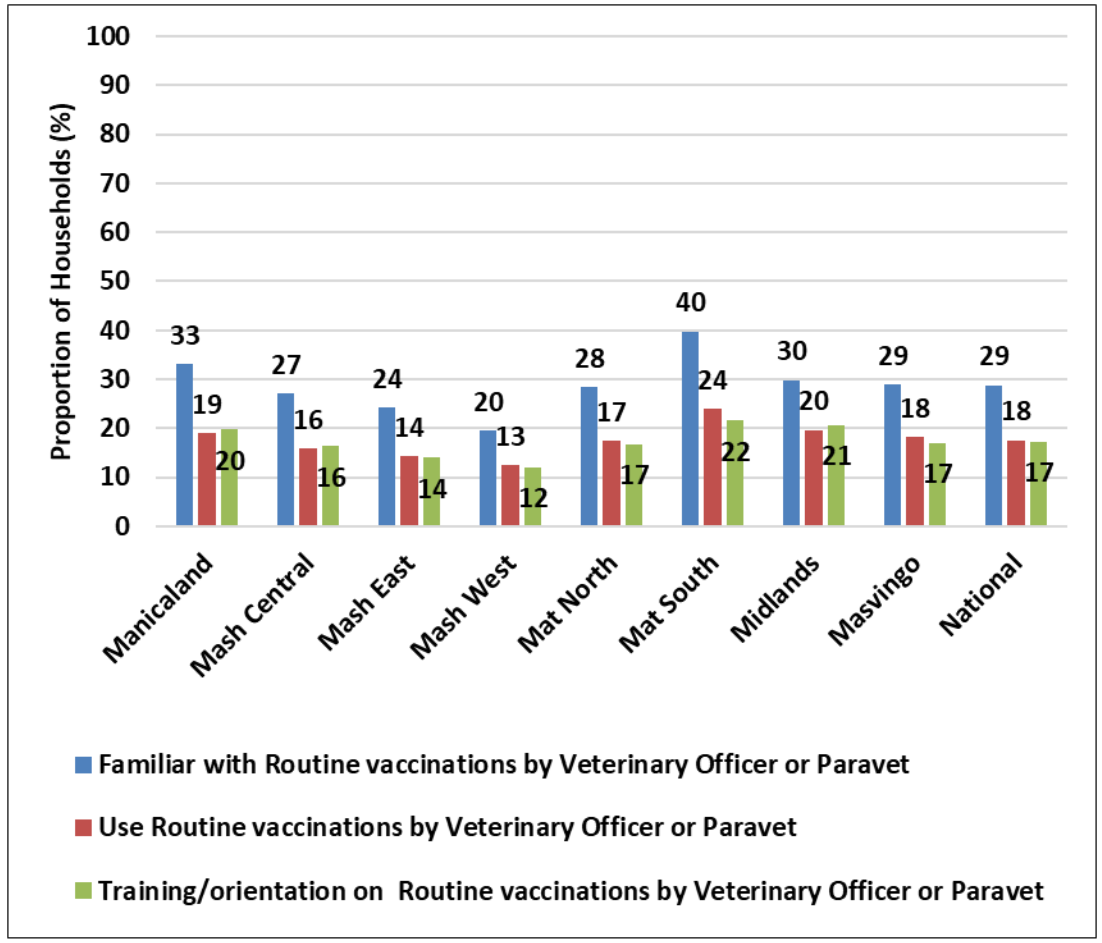


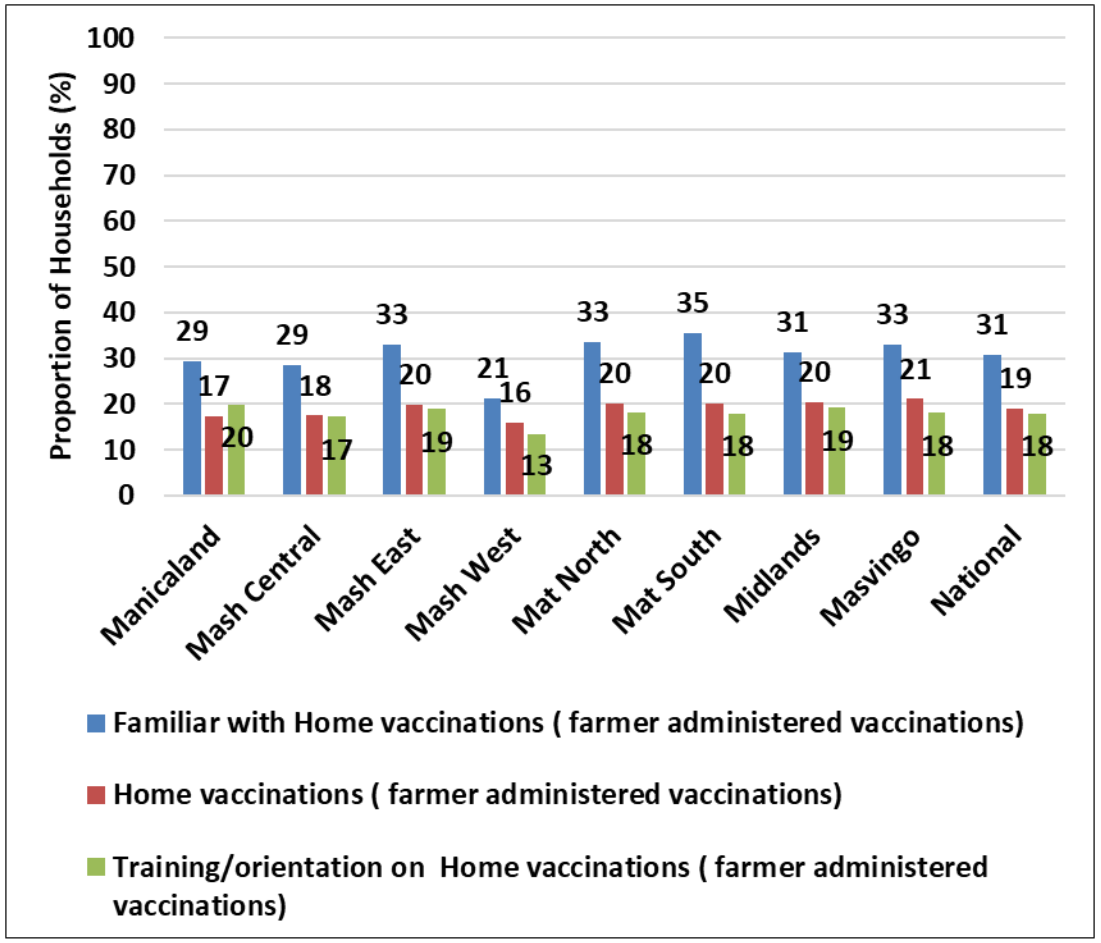
Water Infrastructure for Livestock



- Nationally, only 24% of the households indicated that they were familiar with improved livestock housing whilst 22% were familiar with water infrastructure for livestock.
- However, only 13% had improved livestock housing and 11% had water infrastructure for livestock.

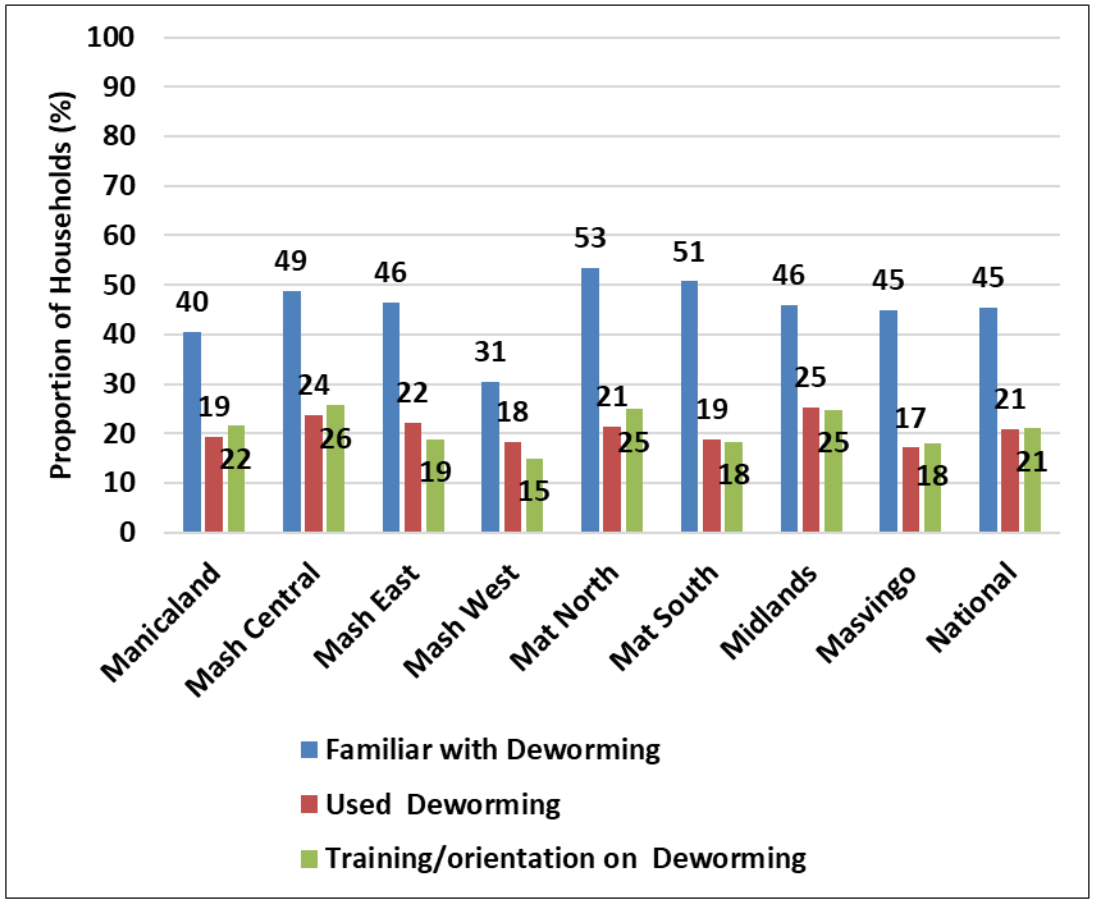
Livestock Vaccinations

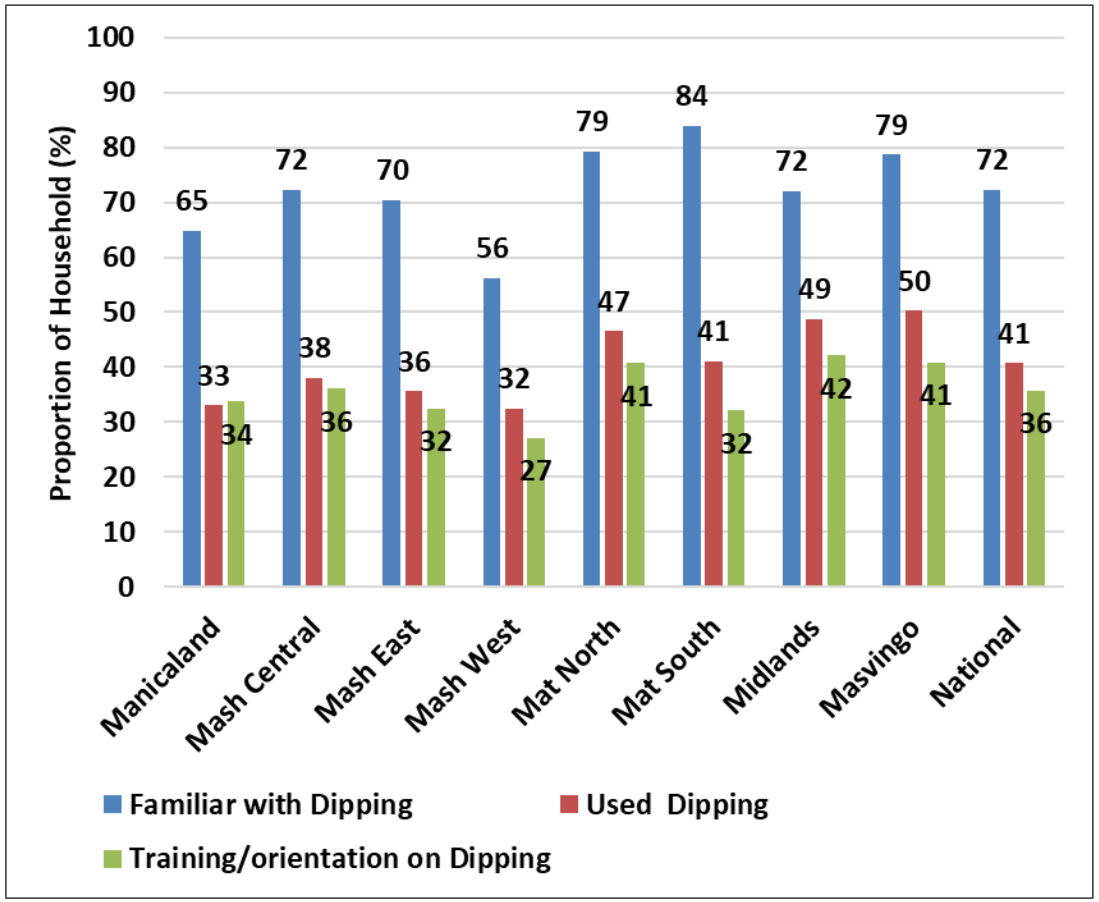




- Nationally, only 29% of the households indicated that they were familiar with routine vaccinations carried out by a veterinary officer and only 18% had used the services of a veterinary officer or paravet for the routine vaccines.

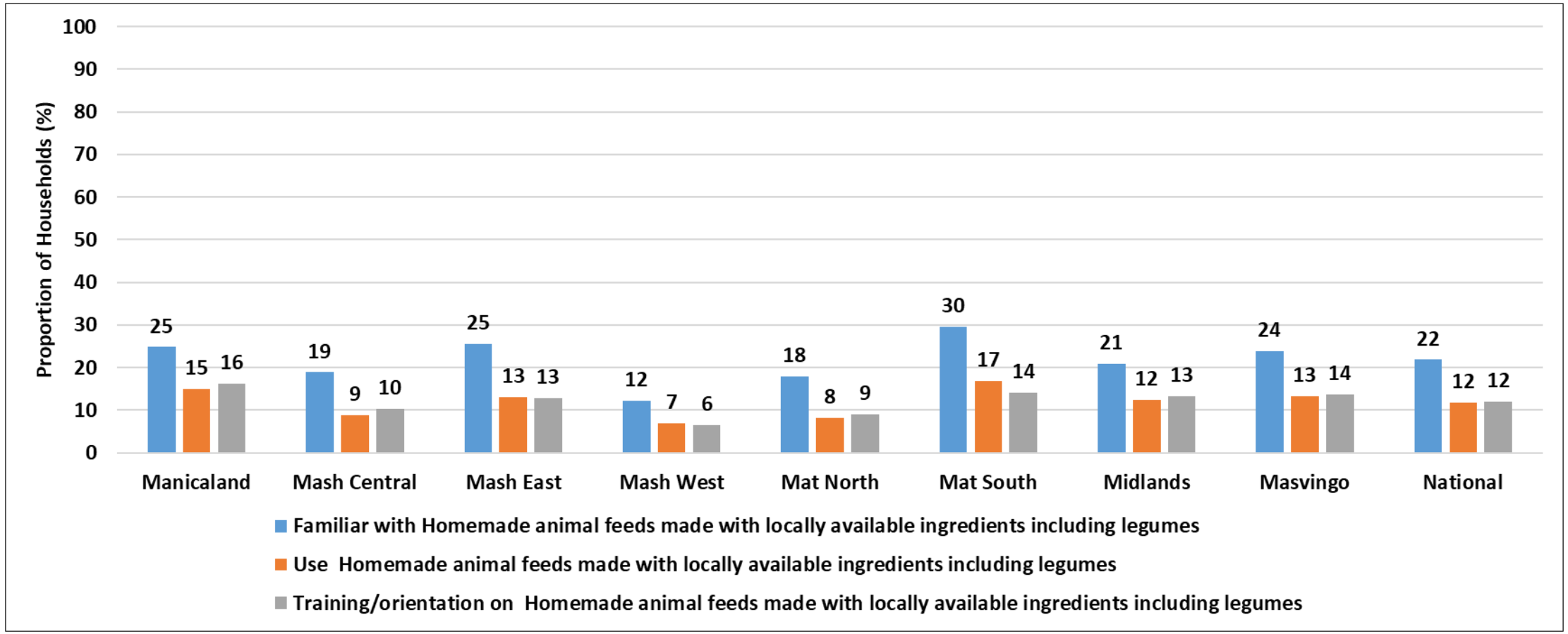
Livestock Deworming and Dipping





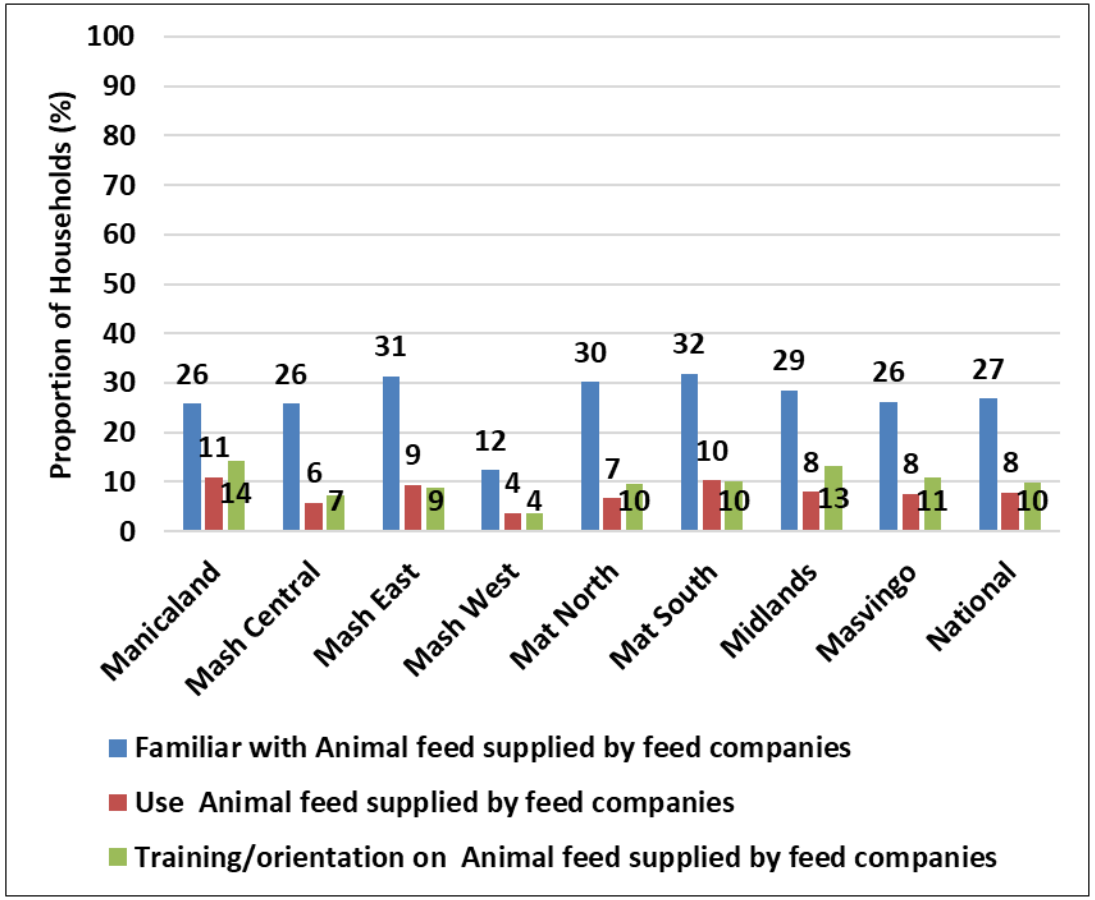
- About 72% of the households were familiar with dipping whilst only 45% were familiar with dosing. This includes those who did not own livestock.
- Only 41% of the households had dipped their livestock whilst only 21% had dewormed their livestock. Dipping is important in preventing tick borne diseases.

Use of Locally Available Ingredients to Make Homemade Animal Feeds

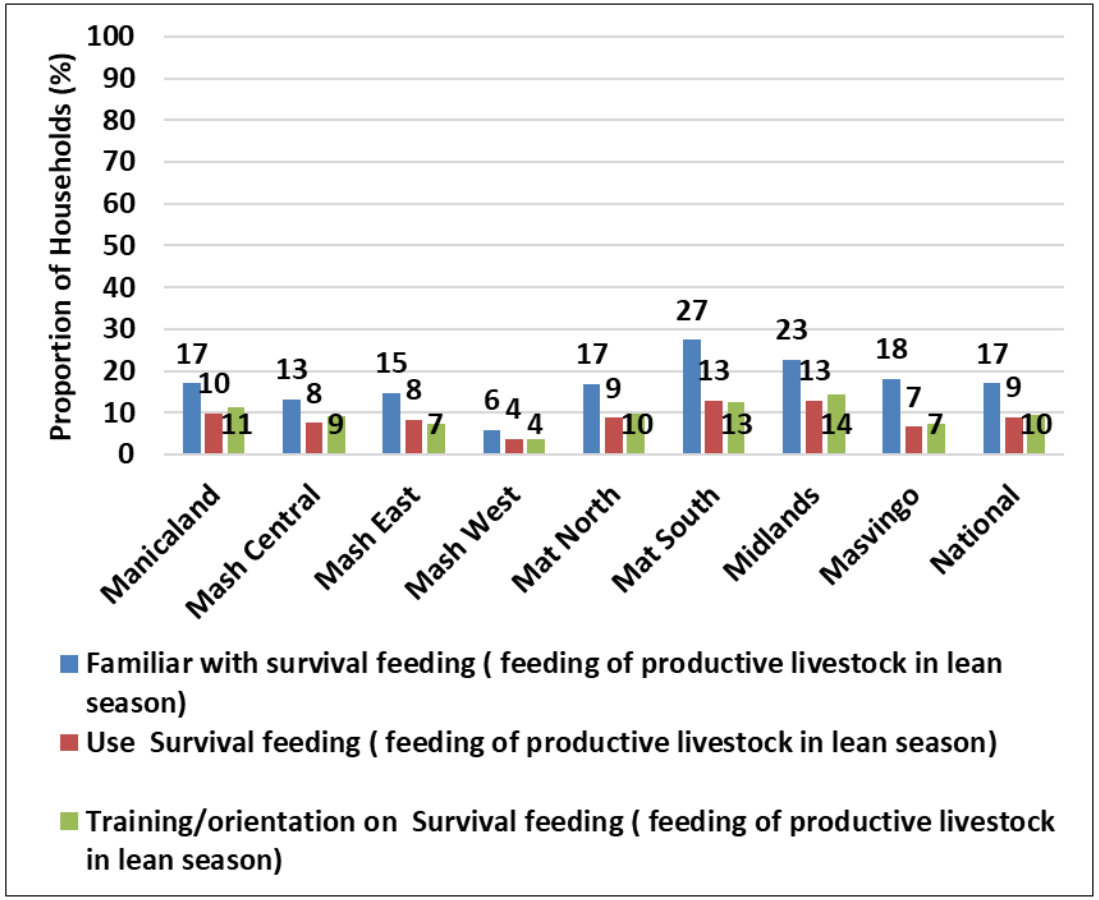


- Nationally, only 22% of the households indicated that they were familiar with homemade animal feeds made with locally available ingredients.
- However, only 12% had prepared these feeds for their animals.

Supplementary Animal Feeding Using Commercial Stock feeds



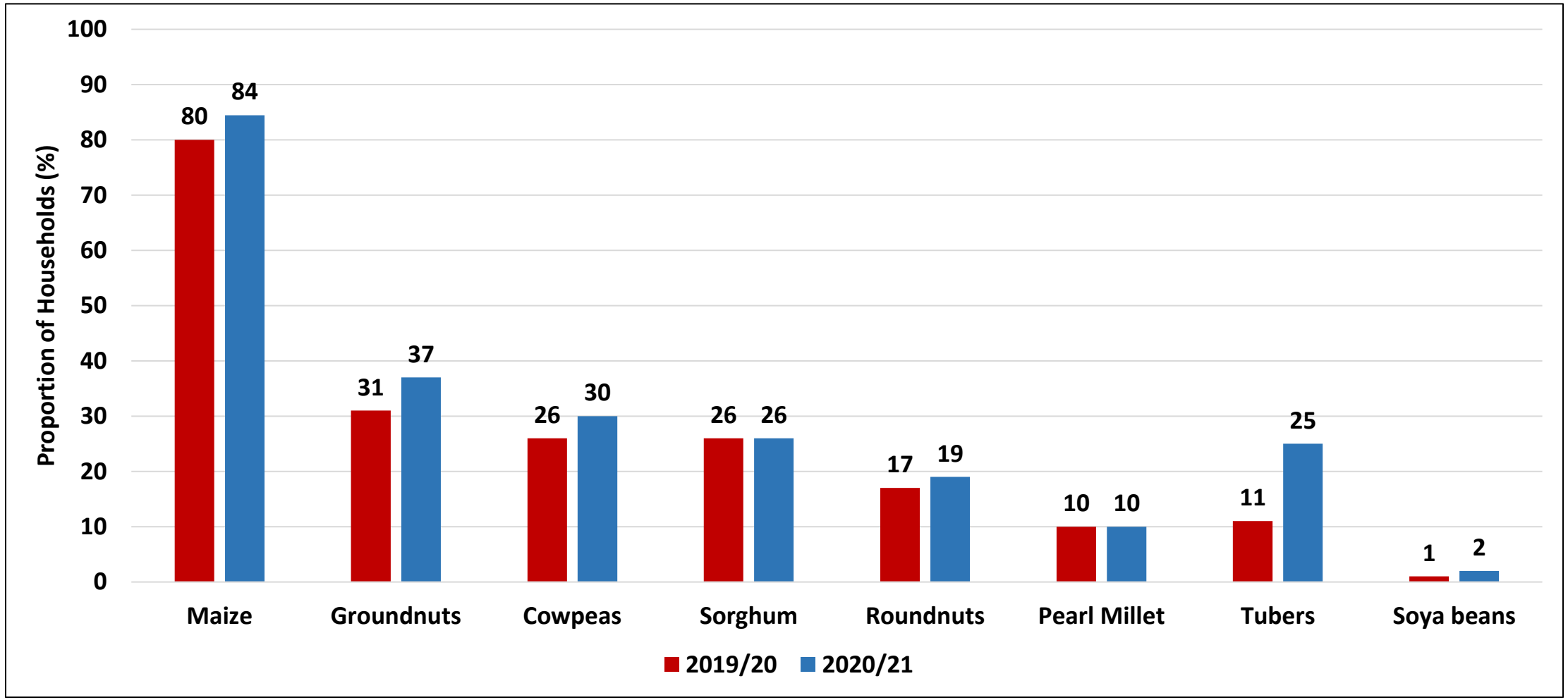
Survival Feeding of Productive Livestock During Lean Season



- Twenty seven percent (27%) of the households nationally indicated that they were familiar with using commercial feeds for supplementary animal feeding, and 17% were familiar with survival feeding of the productive livestock.
- However, only 8% had given their animals supplementary feeds in the form of commercial feeds and 9% had given their productive animals survival feed during the lean season. Survival feeding during the lean season is important as it reduces poverty deaths.

Crops

Households which Planted Crops



- The country's policy environment remains promotive for the majority of households to undertake farming activities.
- Maize remains the most commonly grown crop nationally, with 84% of the households having grown it.

Households which Grew Different Crops

	Manicaland (%)	Mash Central (%)	Mash East (%)	Mash West (%)	Mat North (%)	Mat South (%)	Midlands (%)	Masvingo (%)	National (%)
Maize	82	87	88	81	78	77	93	86	84
Sorghum	20	24	16	10	44	39	25	34	26
Finger millet	7	1	5	1	5	6	8	12	6
Pearl millet	6	1	2	0	35	23	5	14	10
Tubers	22	24	38	19	7	11	37	40	25
Cowpeas	21	31	29	19	30	27	43	37	30
Groundnuts	29	41	45	27	16	35	46	51	37
Roundnuts	14	2	14	6	11	23	31	50	19
Sugar beans	14	14	18	9	3	7	12	8	11
Soya beans	1	6	1	4	0	2	2	0	2

- Across all provinces, maize was the most common grown crop, whilst soya beans was the least grown crop.

Average Household Cereal Production

Province	Cereal Production (kg)	
	2019/20	2020/21
Manicaland	212.4	337.5
Mash Central	301.9	718.9
Mash East	284.5	485.2
Mash West	319.4	888.2
Mat North	144.9	562.8
Mat South	85.7	360.5
Midlands	213.9	584.3
Masvingo	165.4	401.7
National	**219.7**	**543.8**

- Nationally, the average household cereal (maize and small grains) production was 543.8kgs compared to 219.7kg from last year.
- The highest average cereal production was reported in Mashonaland West (888.2kgs) and the lowest in Manicaland (337.5kgs).
- Although the average household cereal production was high, efforts need to be channeled towards post harvest management.

Cereal Self Sufficiency

Province	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10-12 Months	More than 12 months
Mash West				Mhondoro-Ngezi	Chegutu, Hurungwe, Kariba, Makonde, Sanyati, Zvimba
Mash Central					Bindura, Centenary, Guruve, Mazowe, Mt. Darwin, Shamva, Rushinga, Mbire
Mash East				Mudzi	Chikomba Goromonzi, Seke, UMP, Hwedza, Murehwa, Marondera, Mutoko
Manicaland			Mutare		Buhera, Chipinge, Makoni, Mutasa, Nyanga, Chimanimani
Midlands		Gweru		Shurugwi, Mberengwa	Chirumhanzu , Gokwe North, Gokwe South, Kwekwe Zvishavane
Masvingo		Chivi		Bikita, Masvingo, Mwenezi, Zaka	Gutu, Chiredzi
Mat North				Hwange,	Binga, Bubi, Lupane, Nkayi, Umguza, Tsholotsho
Mat South			Mangwe	Beitbridge,	Bulilima, Gwanda, Insiza. Matobo, Umzingwane,

Source: Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment 2021

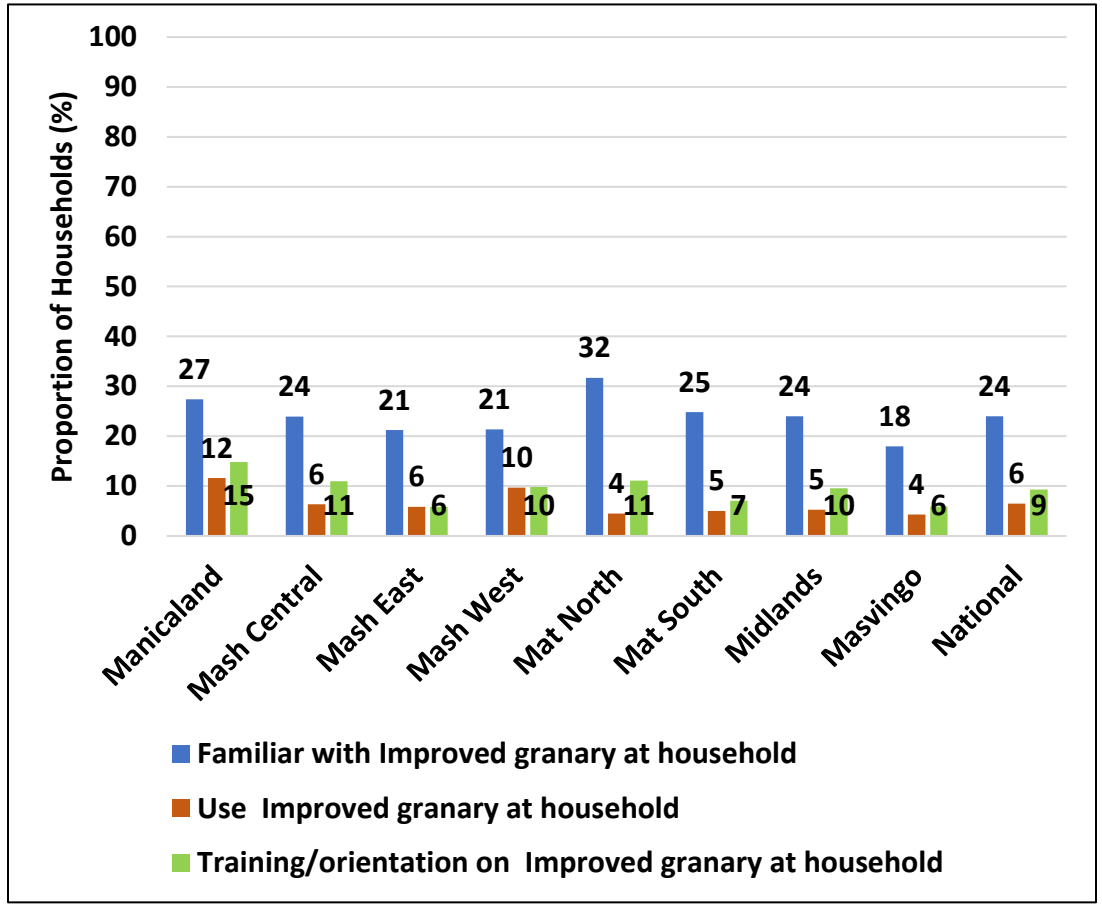
- Over 75% of the districts produced cereal which can cover more than 12 months. The country's production for the 2021/22 season exceeds the national requirement. Therefore, there is need to address issues of accessibility so that all people will have access.

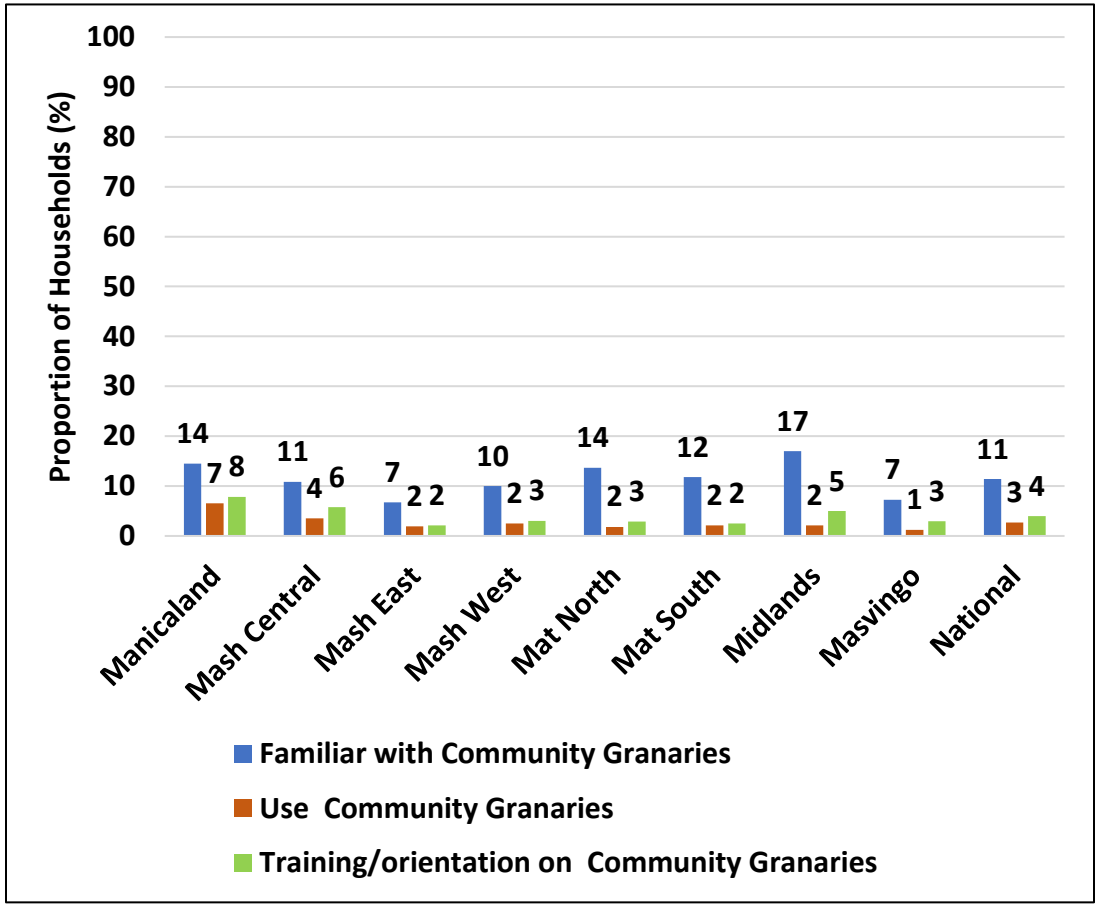
Structures Used to Store Grain

	Ordinary room (%)	Traditional granary (%)	Ordinary granary (%)	Improved granary (%)	Bin/drum (%)	Crib (%)	Hermetic bags (%)	Metal silos (%)
Manicaland	74	19	4	1	0	1	1	0
Mash Central	75	19	4	0	1	0	0	0
Mash East	84	11	3	1	0	0	1	0
Mash West	47	25	9	2	1	11	4	0
Mat North	37	43	8	1	5	3	4	0
Mat South	59	28	8	2	1	1	0	0
Midlands	46	39	7	4	0	3	1	0
Masvingo	71	21	4	1	0	2	1	0
National	63	25	6	1	1	2	1	0

- The most common structures used to store grain at household level were ordinary rooms (63%) followed by traditional granaries (25%).
- Of concern was the low usage of improved granaries (1%) and hermetic bags (1%) which are reliable methods that reduce post harvest losses.

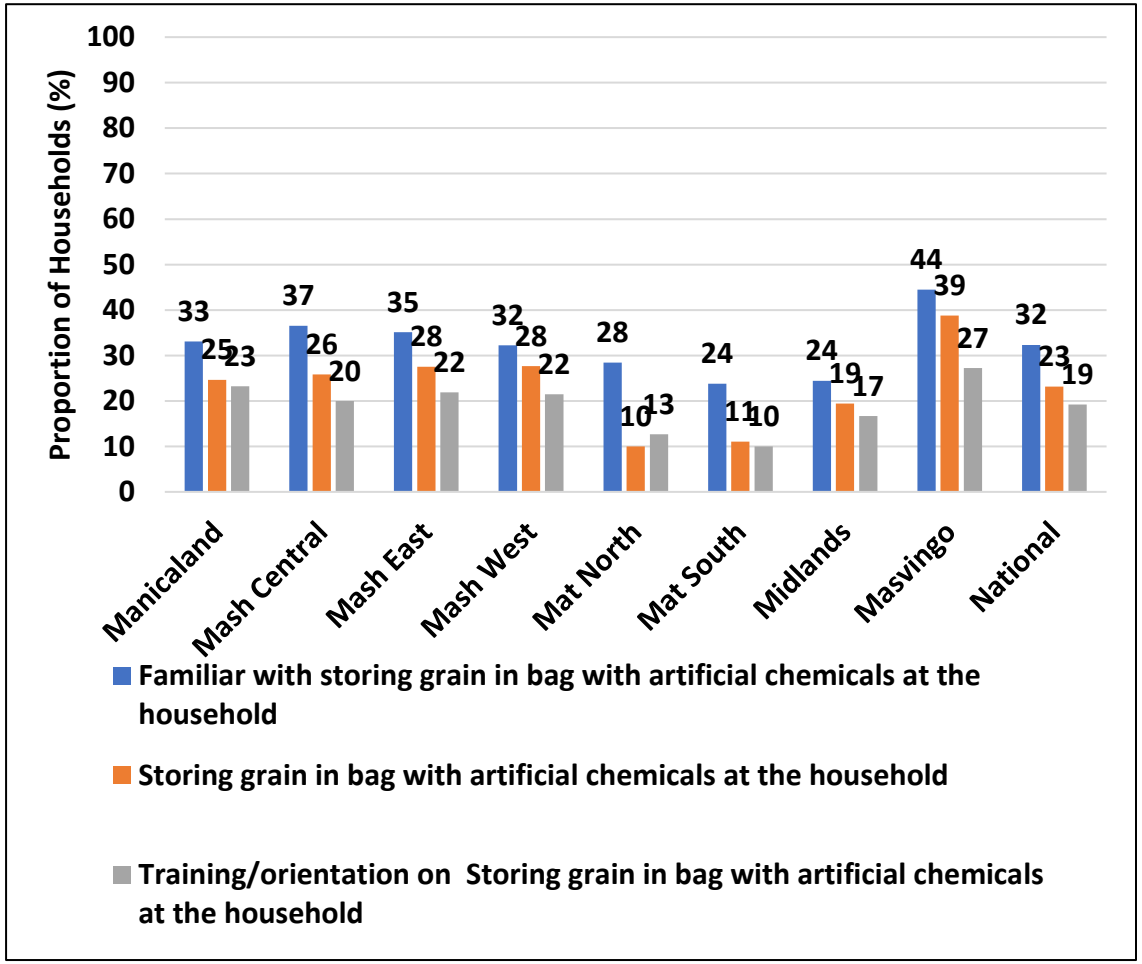
Use of Improved Granaries and Community Granaries

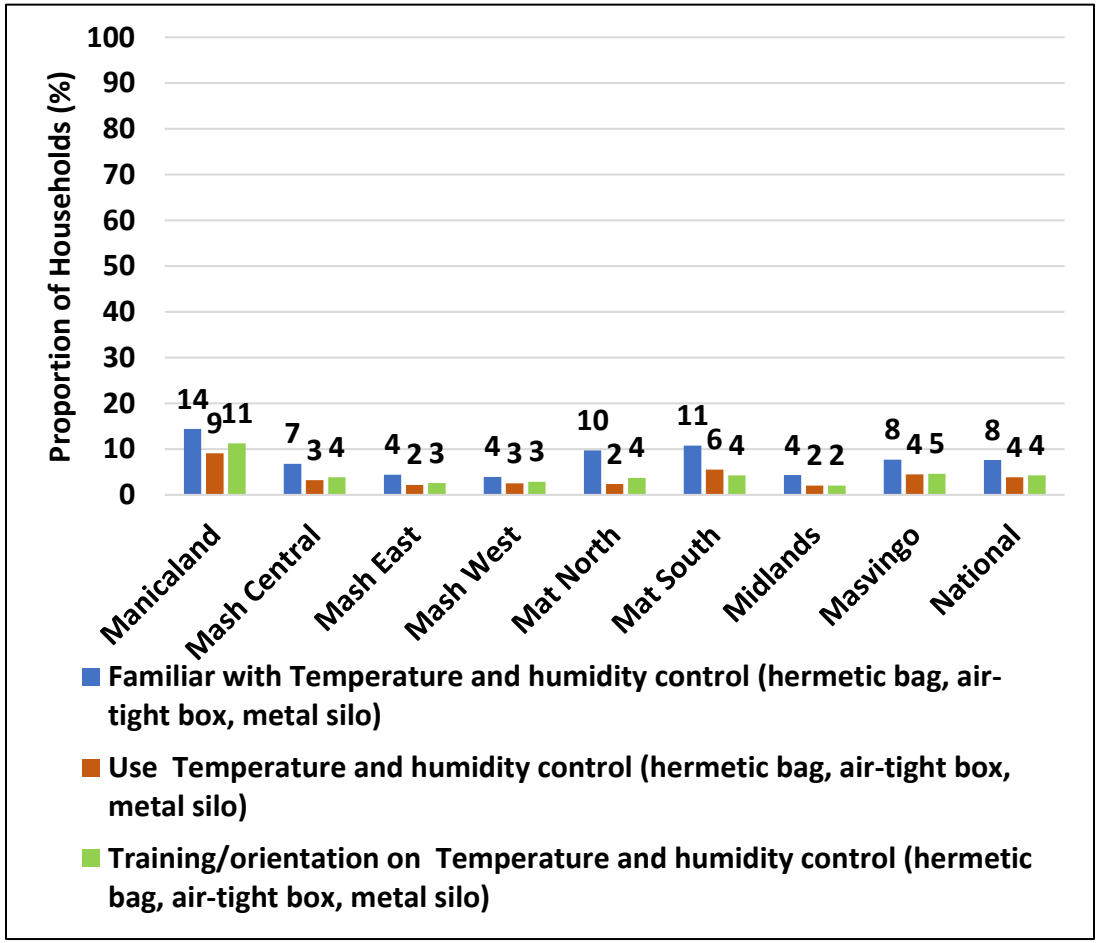




- Use of improved granaries is still limited as only 6% of households indicated that they had used them. About 3% also indicated that they had used community granaries.
- Limited use of improved granaries can have a negative effect on post harvest management and affect the quality of harvest received this season.

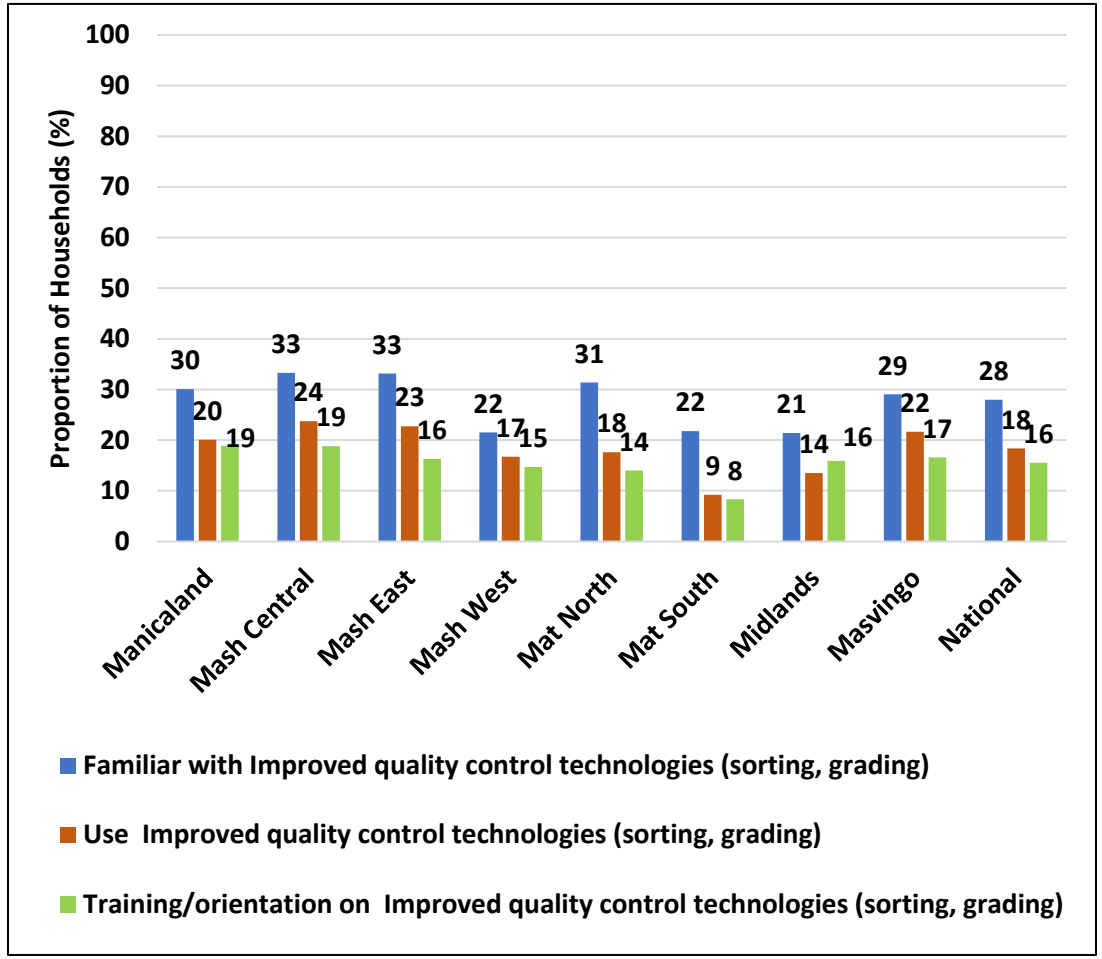
Post- Harvest Grain Storage Conditions

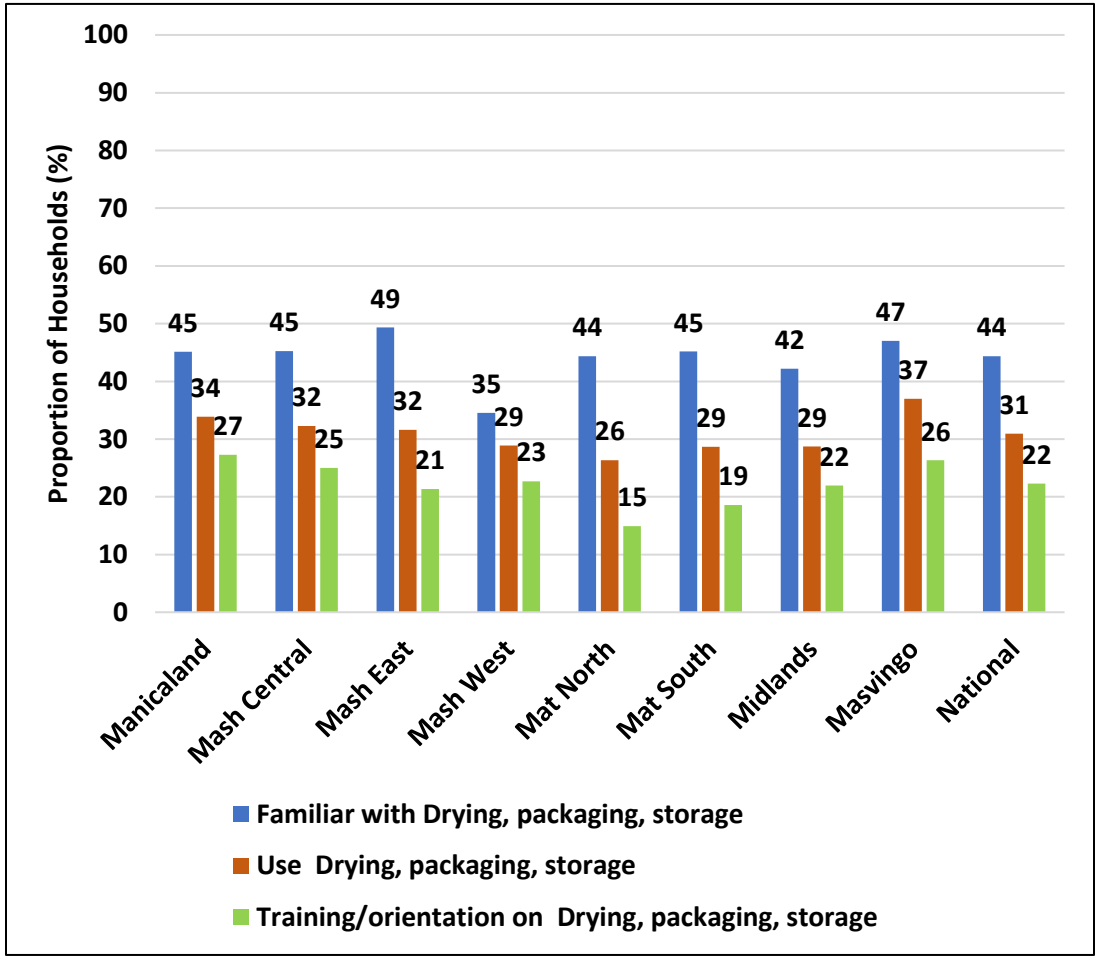




- Nationally, about 23% of households were storing their grain in bags and using grain protectants, whilst only 4% were using temperature and air control in grain protection (use of hermetic bags, metal silos, air-tight boxes etc.).
- There is need to strengthen grain storage.

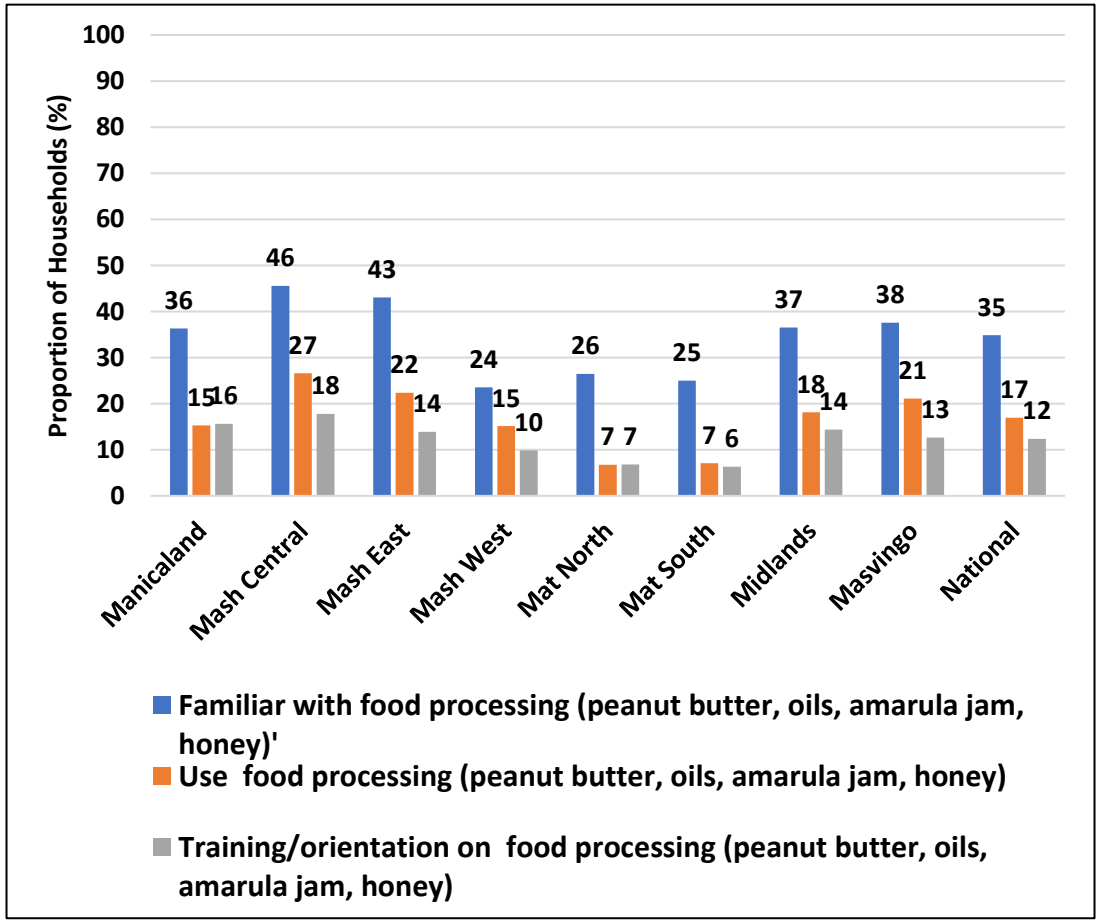
Value Addition- Sorting, Grading, Drying & Packaging

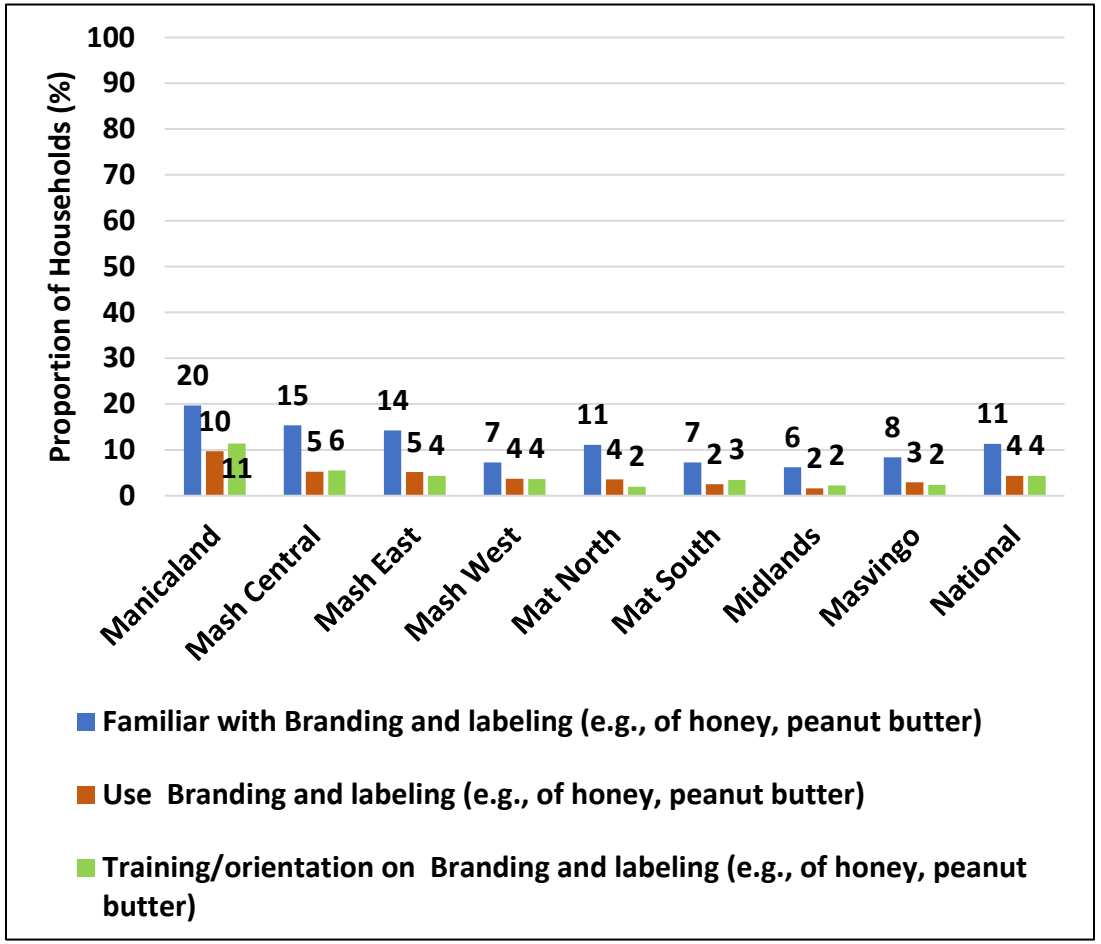




- Nationally, only 18% of households were using quality control technologies (sorting and grading), whilst only 31% were involved in drying and packaging their agricultural produce.
- There is need for farmers to practice value addition so that they can realise more income from their produce.

Value Addition- Food Processing, Branding & Labeling

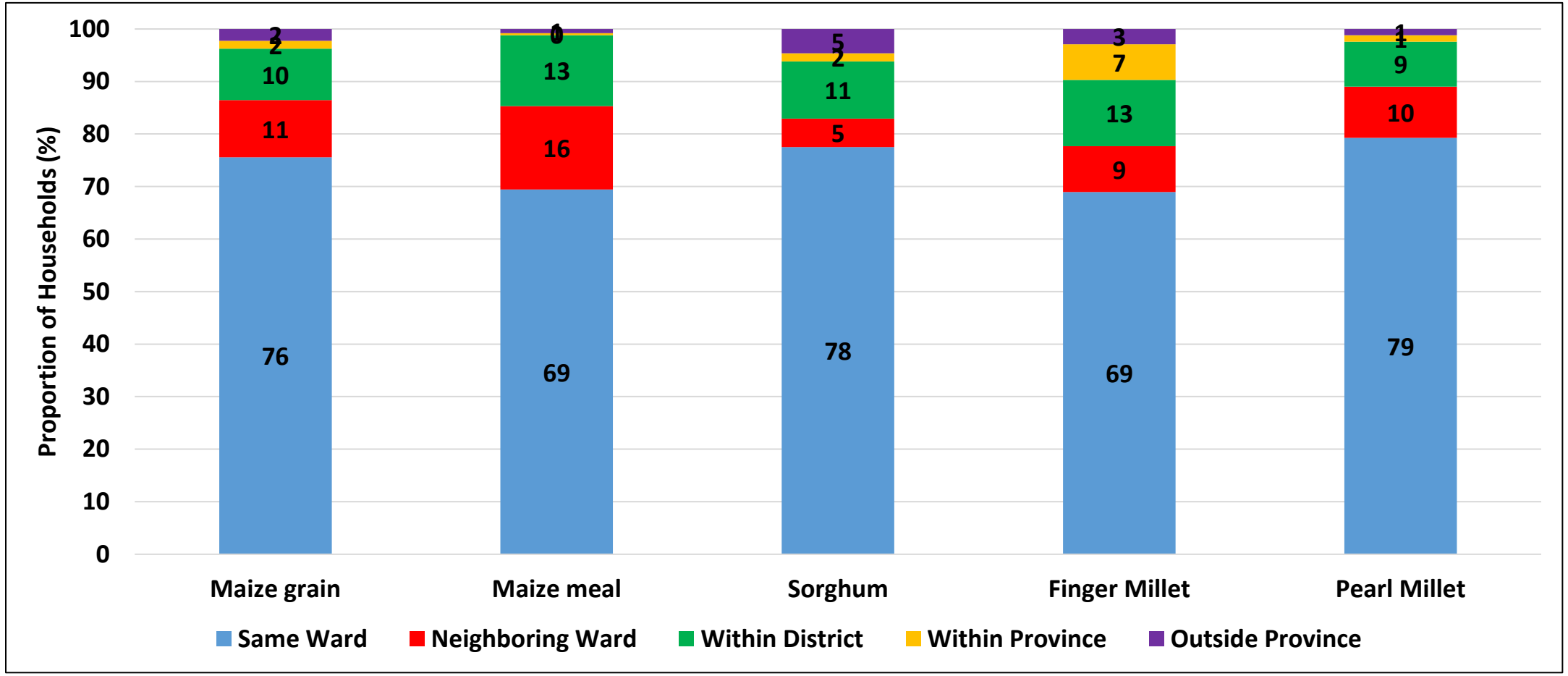




- Nationally, only 35% of the households were familiar with food processing, whilst only 11% were familiar with branding and labelling.
- However, only 17% had processed their agricultural produce and 4% had branded and labelled their produce.

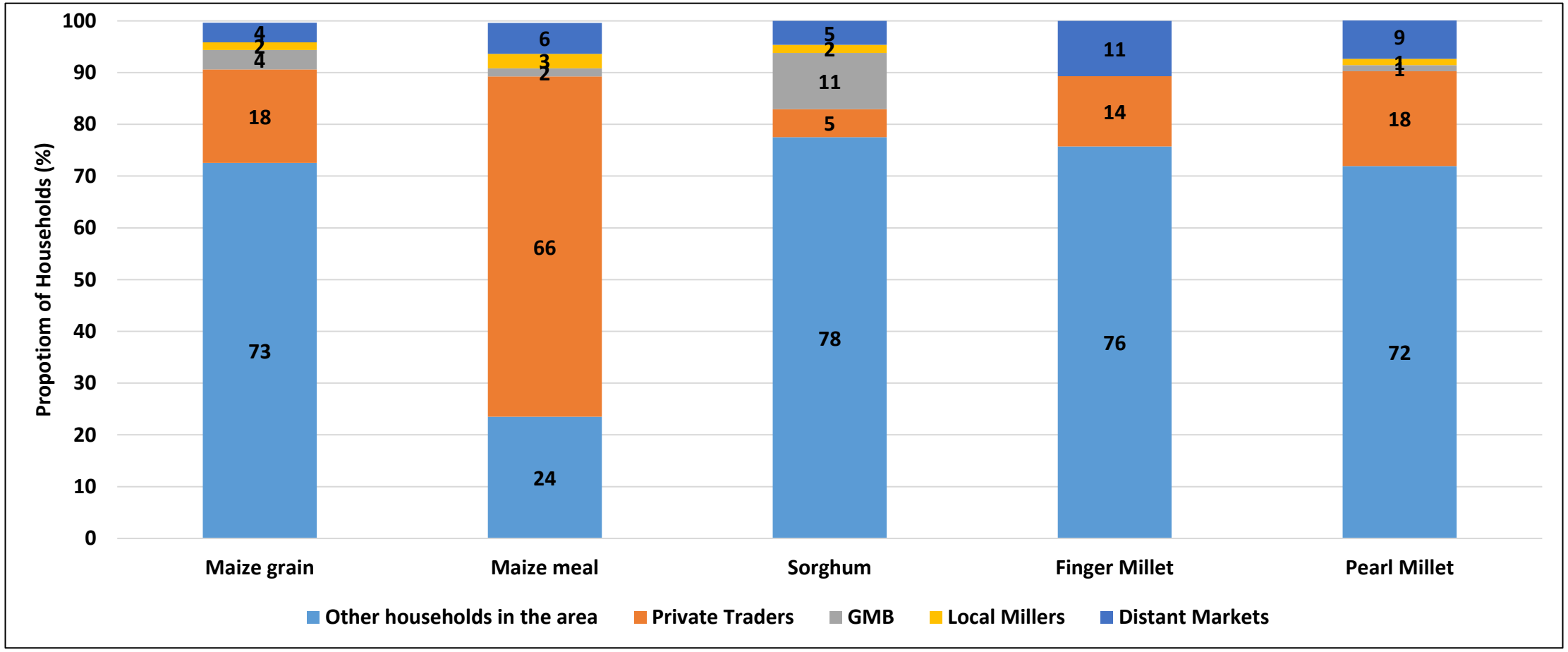
Agricultural Produce Markets

Cereal Markets



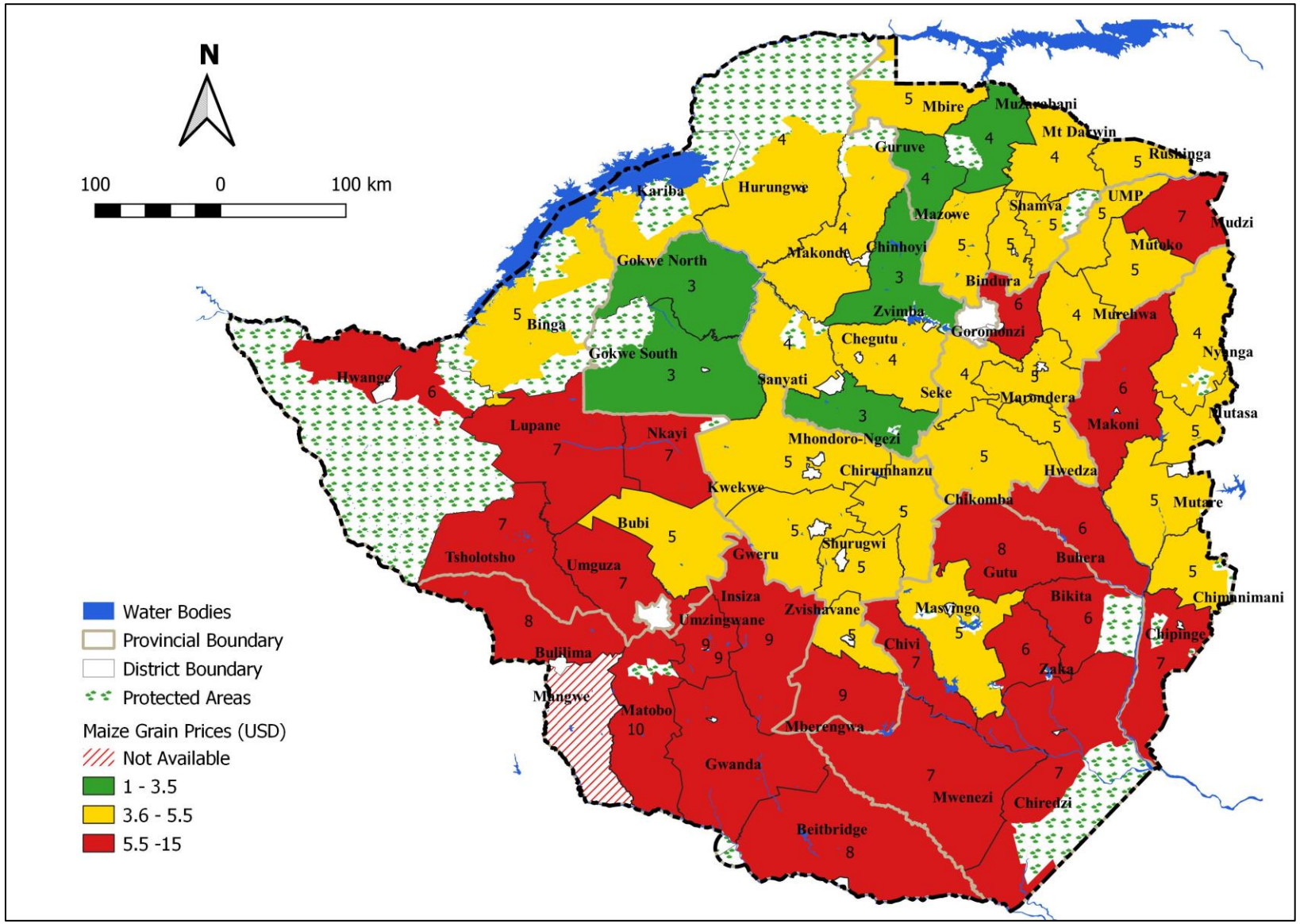
- The majority of households accessed cereals from within their wards.

Type of Market for Cereals



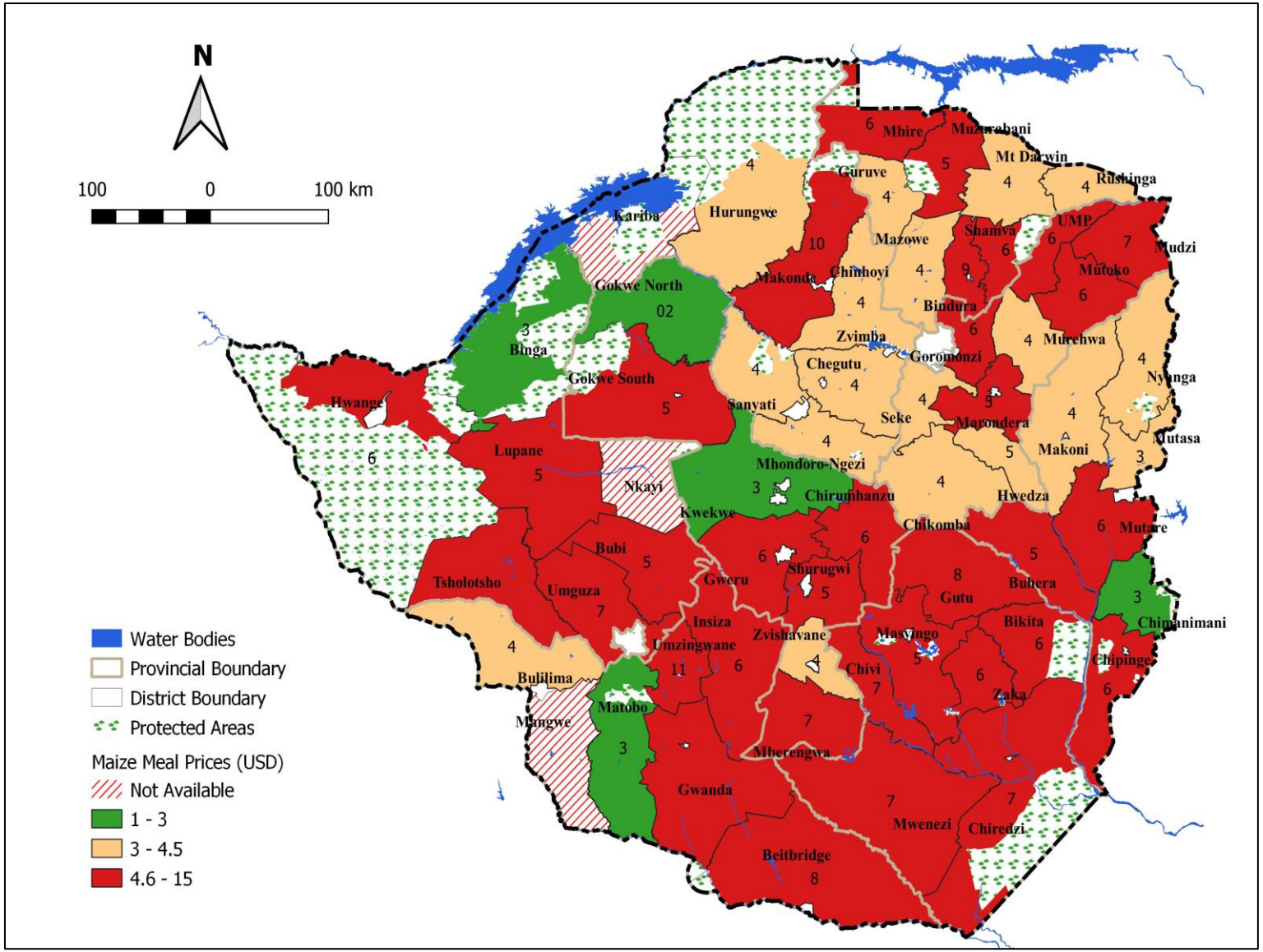
- Households were mainly accessing cereals from other households in the area except for maize meal which was being accessed from private traders.

District Average Maize Grain Prices (USD)



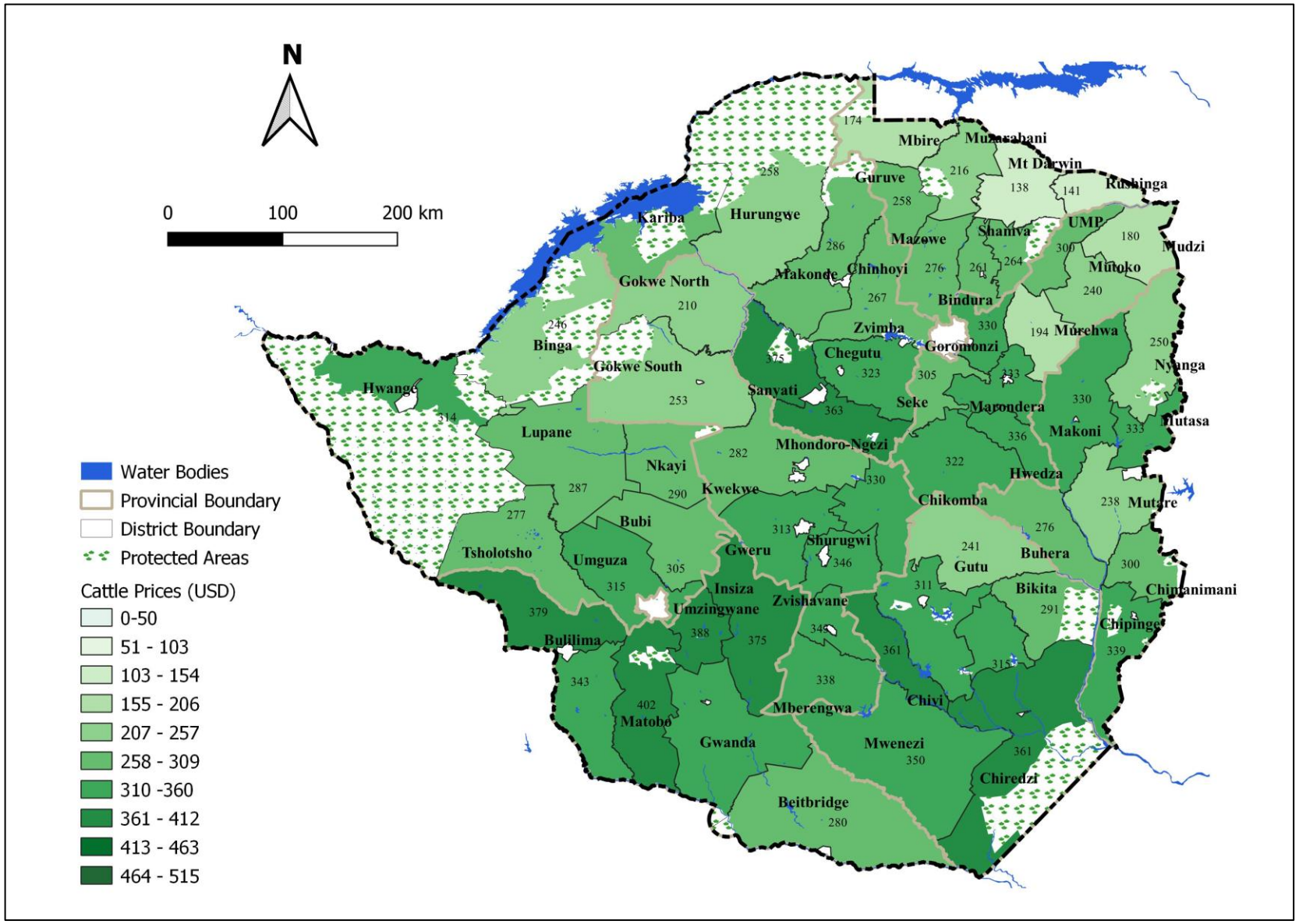
- Maize grain prices ranged from USD 3 to USD 10
- The lowest maize grain prices were reported in Zvimba, Gokwe North, Gokwe South and Mhondoro-Ngezi at USD 3 per 20 litre bucket.
- The highest maize grain prices were reported in Matobo at USD 10 per 20 litre Bucket.
- Maize grain was not available on the market in Mangwe during the time of the survey.

District Maize Meal Prices (USD)



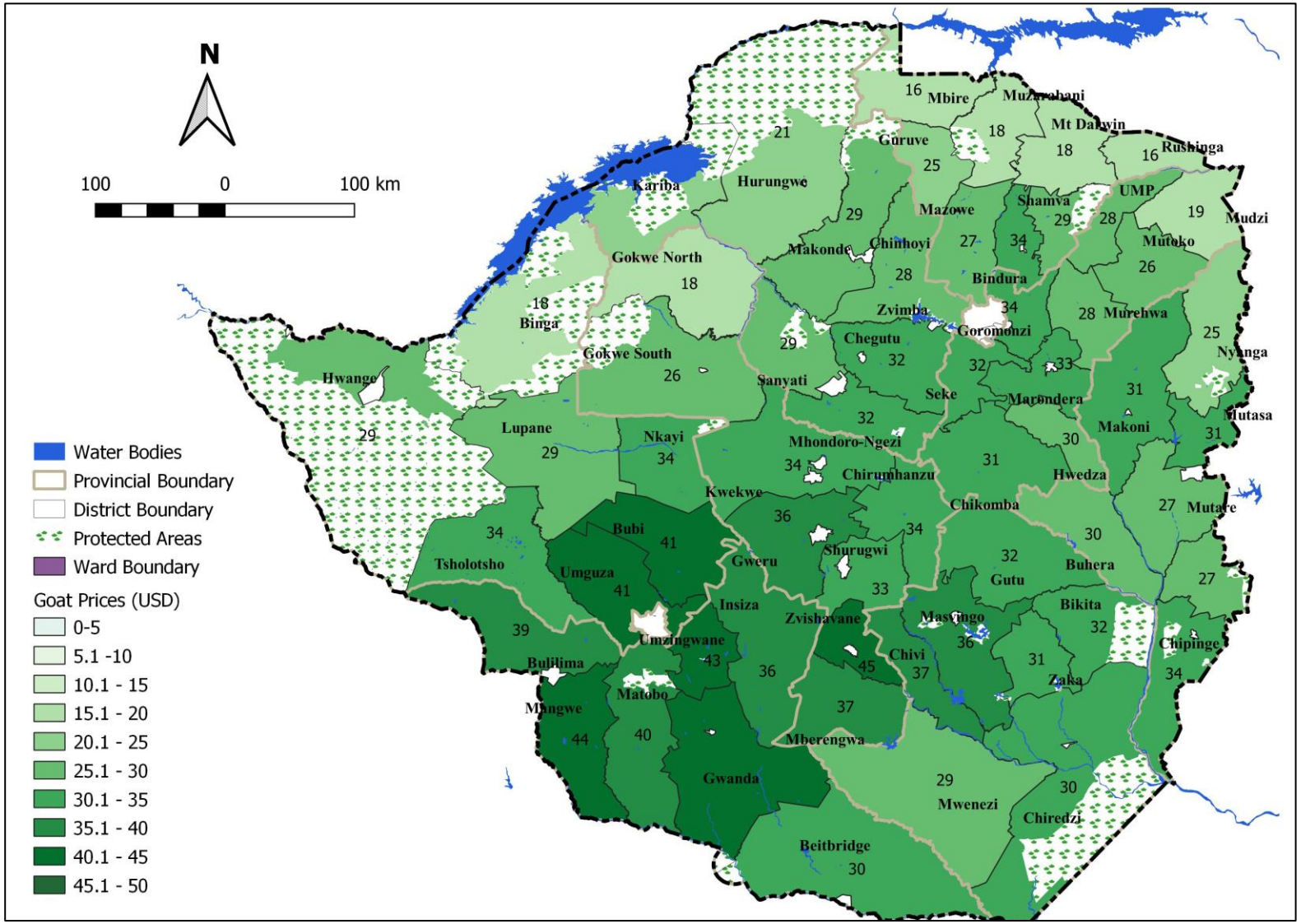
- Maize meal prices ranged from USD 2 to USD 11 per 10kg bag.
- The highest maize meal price was reported in Umzingwane (USD 11)
- The lowest price was reported in Gokwe North (USD 2).
- Maize meal was not available on the market in Mangwe, Nkayi and Kariba during the time of the survey.

District Cattle Prices (USD)



- Cattle prices ranged from USD 138 to USD 402.
- The highest average cattle prices were reported in Matobo (USD 402).
- The lowest prices were reported in Mt Darwin (USD 138).

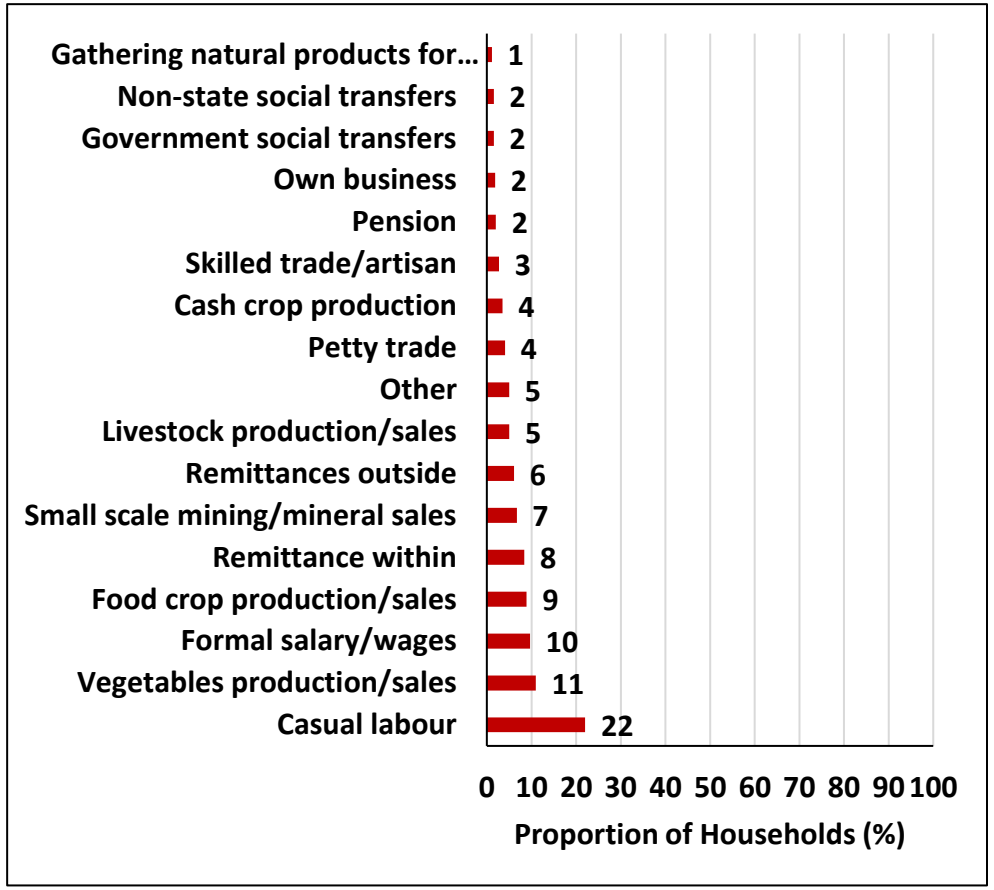
District Goat Prices (USD)

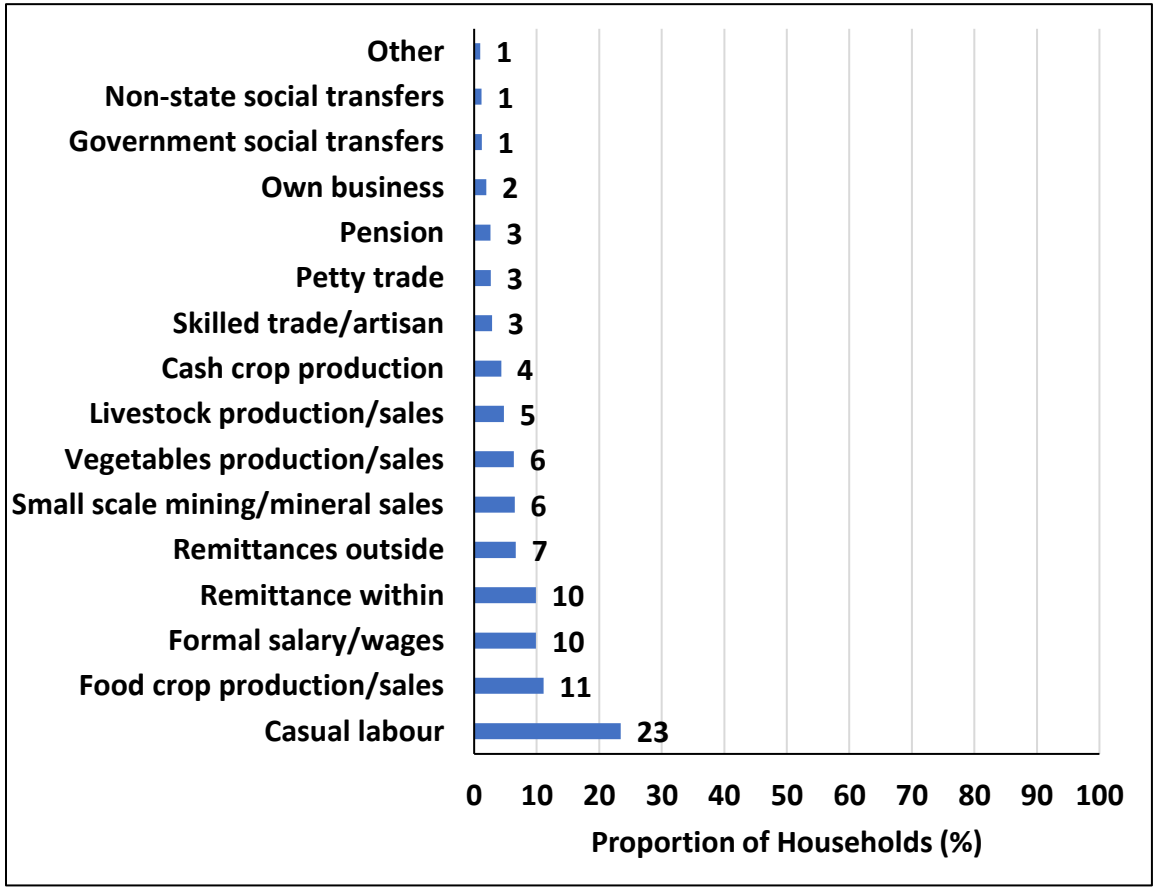


- Goat prices ranged from USD 16 to USD 45.
- The highest goat prices were reported in Zvishavane (USD 45).
- The lowest prices were reported in Rushinga and Mbire (USD 16).

Income and Expenditure

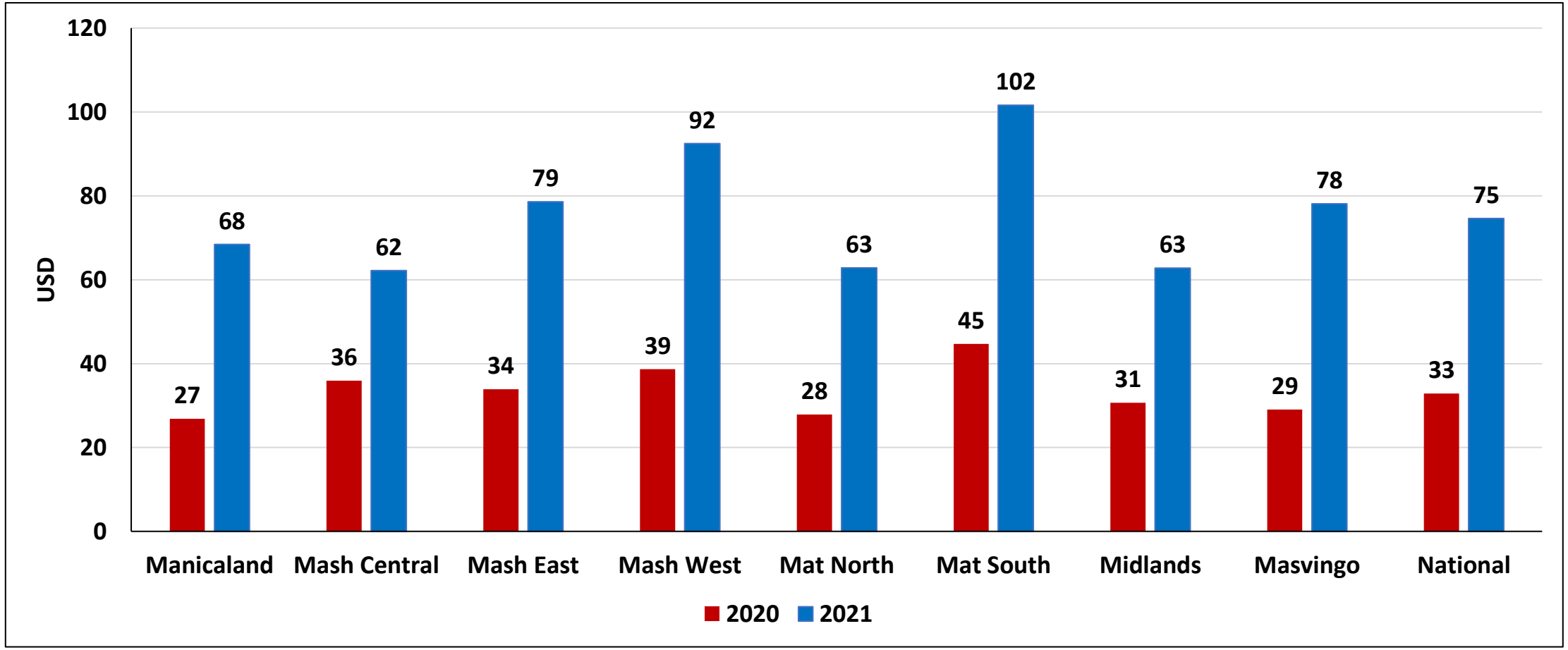
Current Most Important Sources of Income





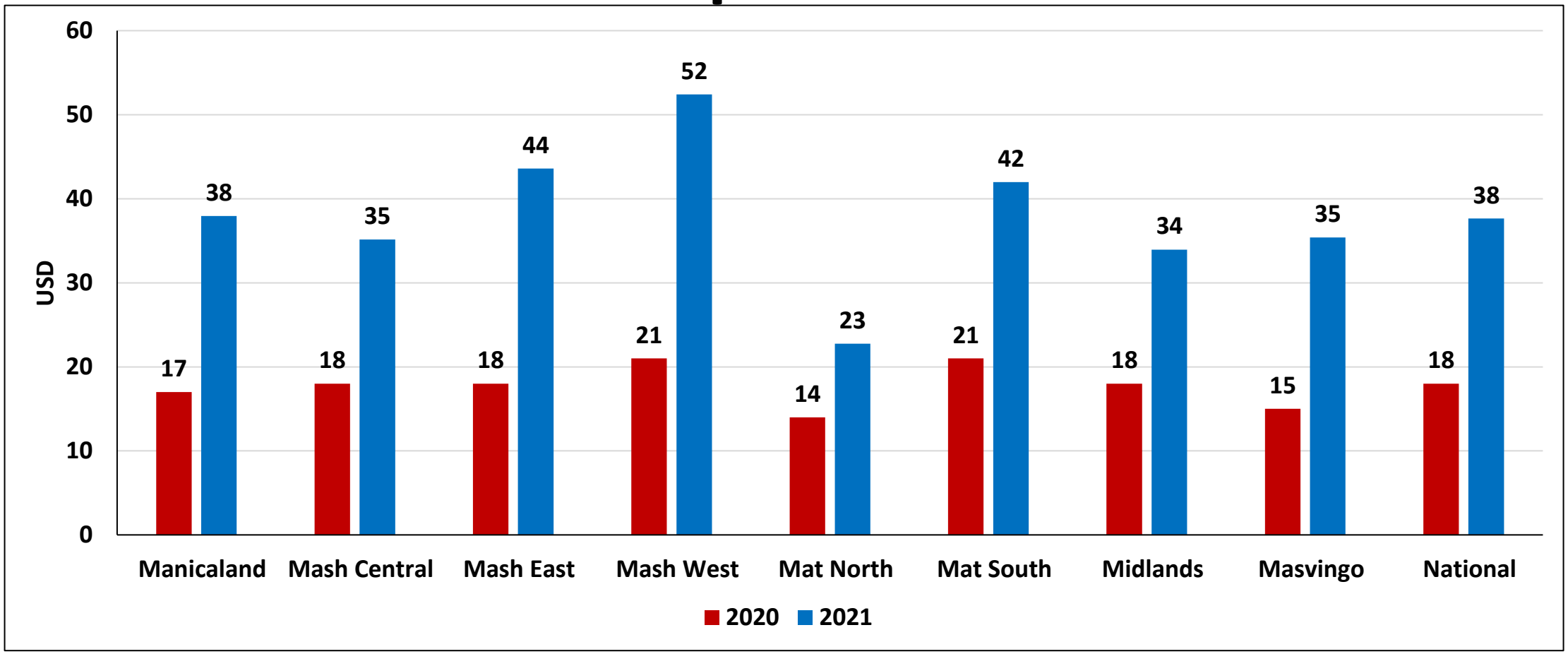
- Most households continued to rely on casual labour (23%).
- Food crop production/sales (11%), formal salary/wages (10%), remittances within (10%) and remittances from outside (7%) were reported as the most important income sources.

Average Household Monthly Income (USD) for April 2021



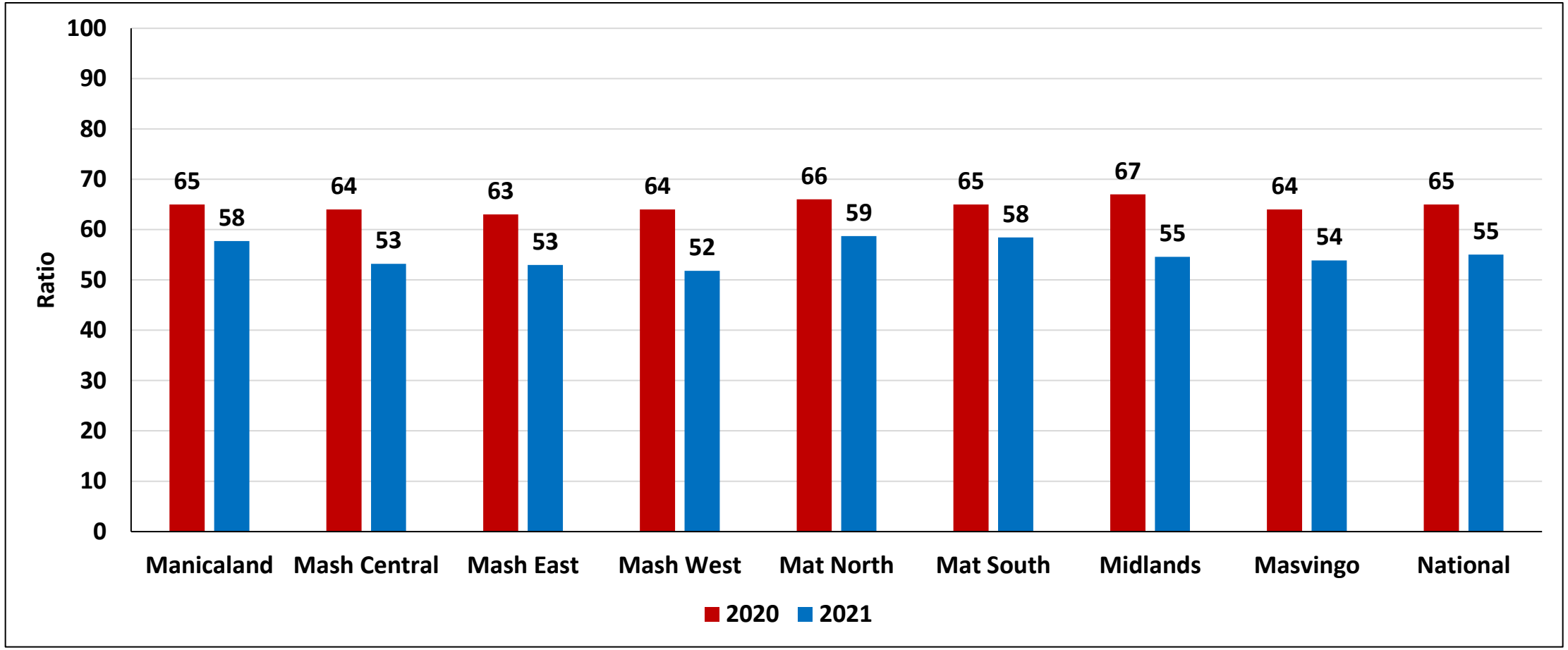
- Government is commended for creating a positive enabling economic environment that has seen an increase in household incomes.
- Nationally, the household average monthly income increased from USD 33 in 2020 to USD 75 in 2021.
- Across all provinces, incomes have increased from a range of USD27 -45 to a range of USD63 – 102.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure (USD) for April 2021



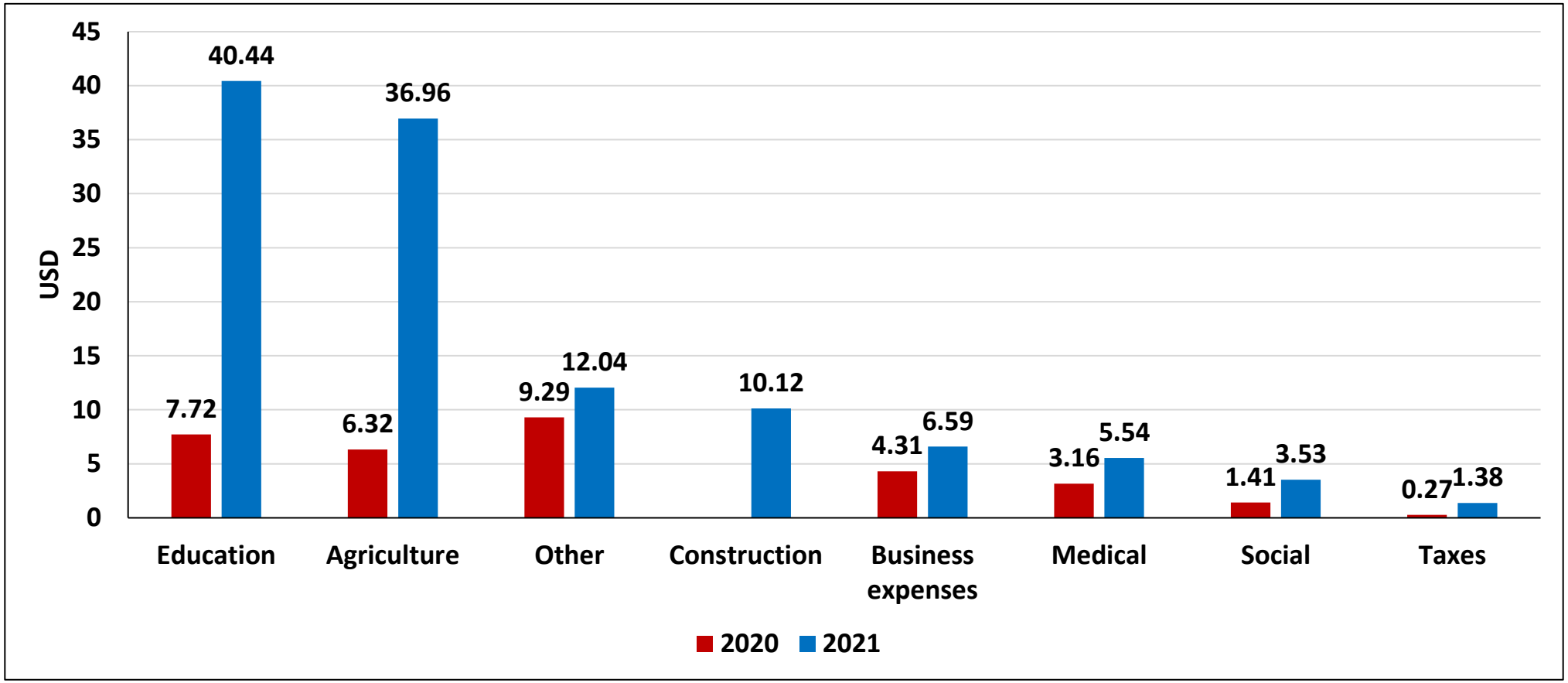
- Average expenditure for the month of April 2021 was USD 38.
- Matabeleland North (USD 23) reported the lowest expenditure.

Food Expenditure Ratio



- Government is commented to ensuring an economic environment that reduces food expenditure ratio, thereby allowing use of money for other household requirements.
- The food expenditure ratio was 55%; a decrease from 65% reported in 2020.
- This improvement implies that households had more income to spend on other essential services and non-food items compared to 2020.

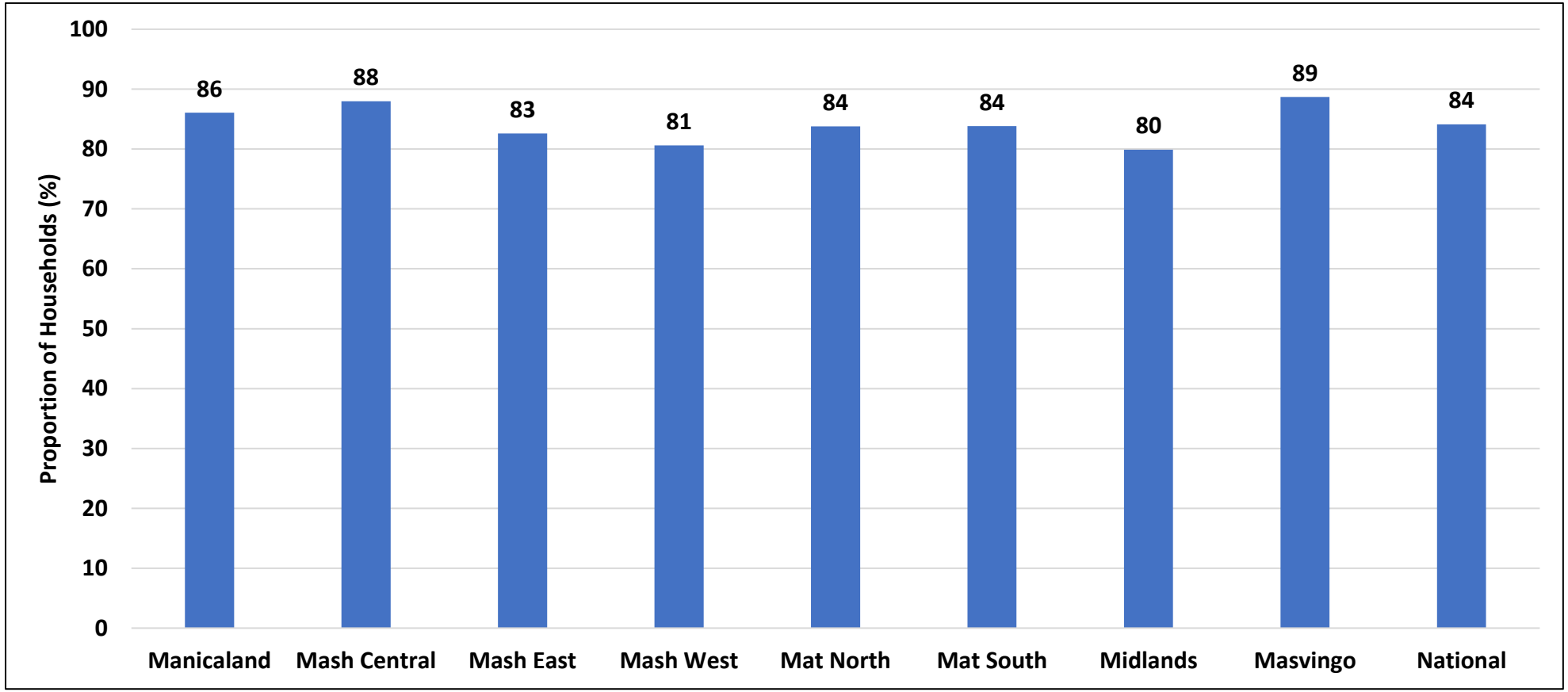
Average Household 6 Month Expenditure



- The highest expenditure was on education (USD40.44) and agriculture (USD36.96).
- The coming in of a construction expenditure reflects a positive trajectory for the rural households.

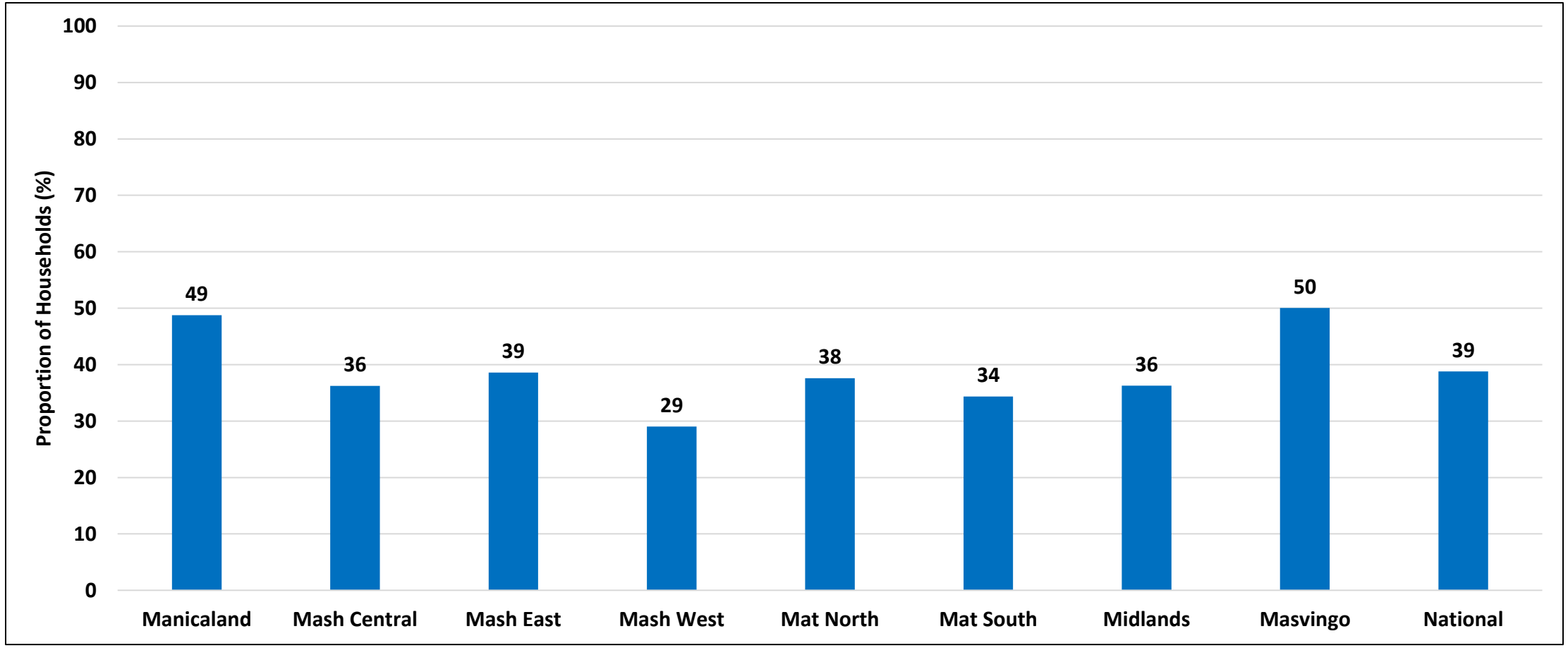
Nutrition and Diets

Household Access to Health-Related Information



- At least 84% of households had access to health related information.

Households which Received Nutrition Education



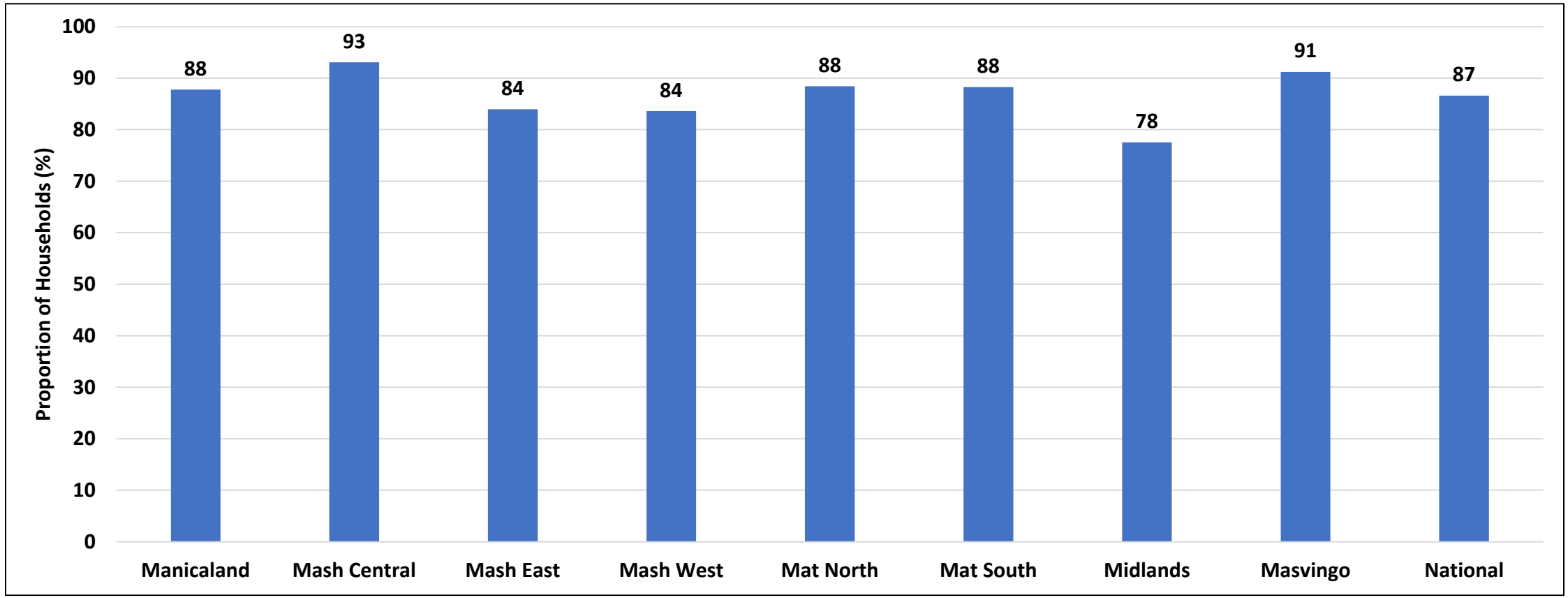
- Only 39% of households reported to have received nutrition education in the past 12 months.

Sources of Nutrition Education

	Government (%)	UN/NGOs (%)	Care group (%)	IYCF support group	Village Health Workers/Volunteers (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	28.1	4.2	1.2	1.1	38.1	27.2
Mash Central	12.7	0.7%	2.1	2.5	31.5	50.5
Mash East	38.2	4.1%	1.1	0.6	25.5	30.5
Mash West	19.3	1.8%	0.6	3.3	28.5	46.7
Mat North	21.7	1.8%	0.5	2.0	36.1	38.0
Mat South	23.3	3.7%	1.3	1.0	37.6	33.1
Midlands	30.9	2.2%	1.4	0.5	24.2	40.9
Masvingo	28.0	3.8%	0.6	0.9	37.0	29.6
National	25.3	2.8%	1.1	1.5	32.1	37.3

- The main sources of Nutrition Education were other sources (37.3%), the village health worker (32.1%), other Government workers (25.3%).

Access to the Services of a Village Health Worker



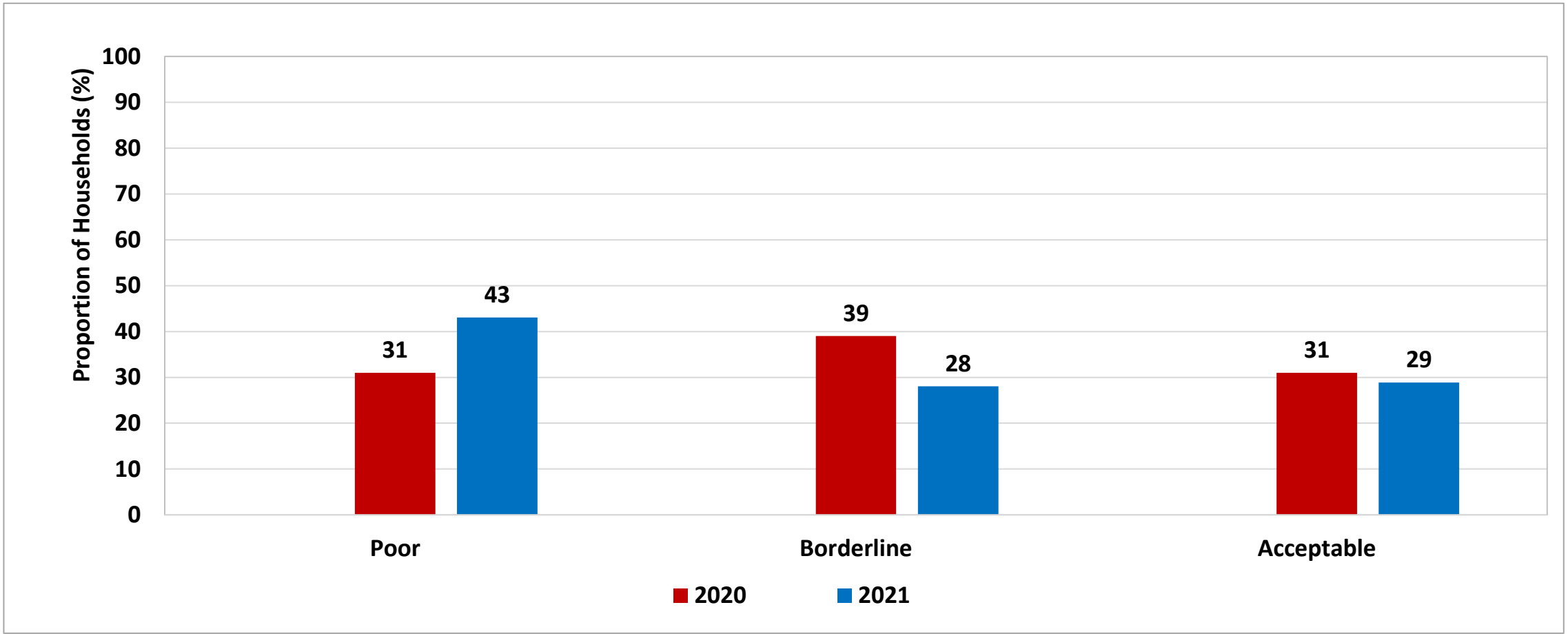
- Access to the services of a village health worker was high across all provinces.

Household Consumption Patterns

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

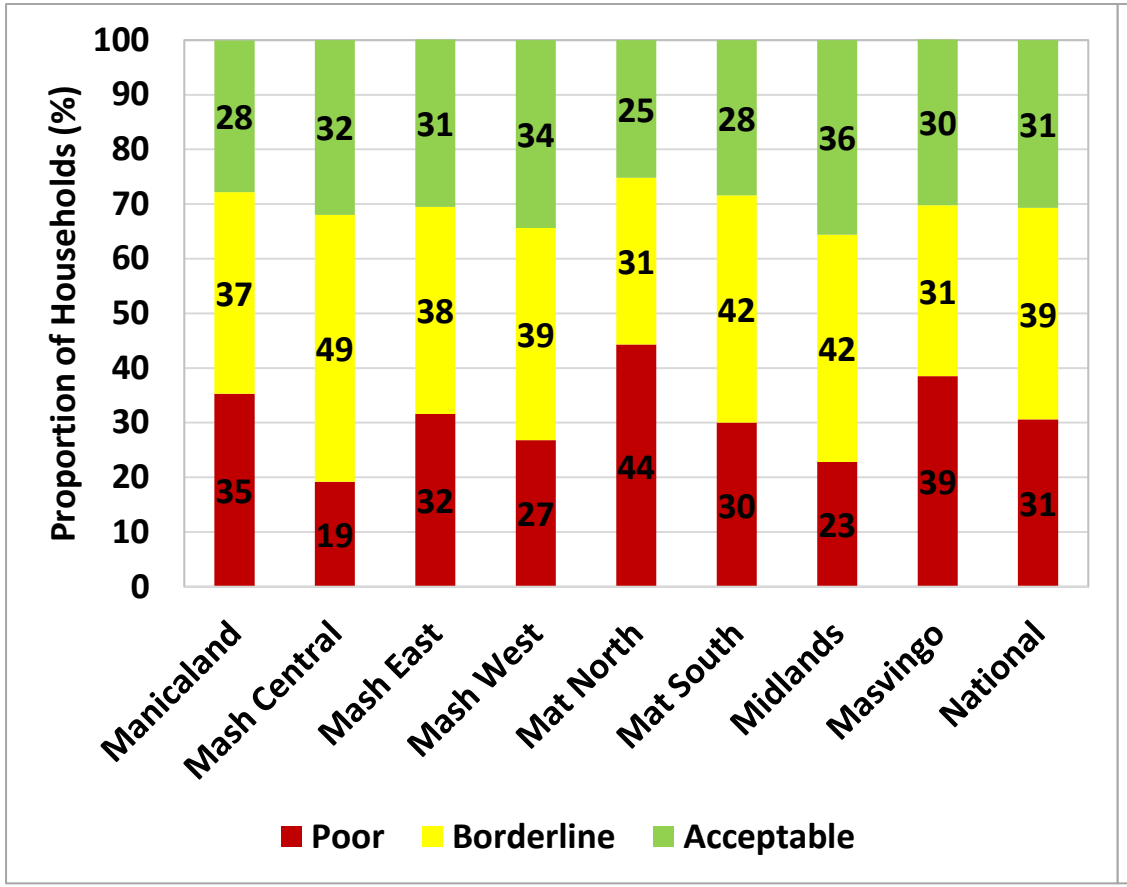
Food Consumption Patterns Trend



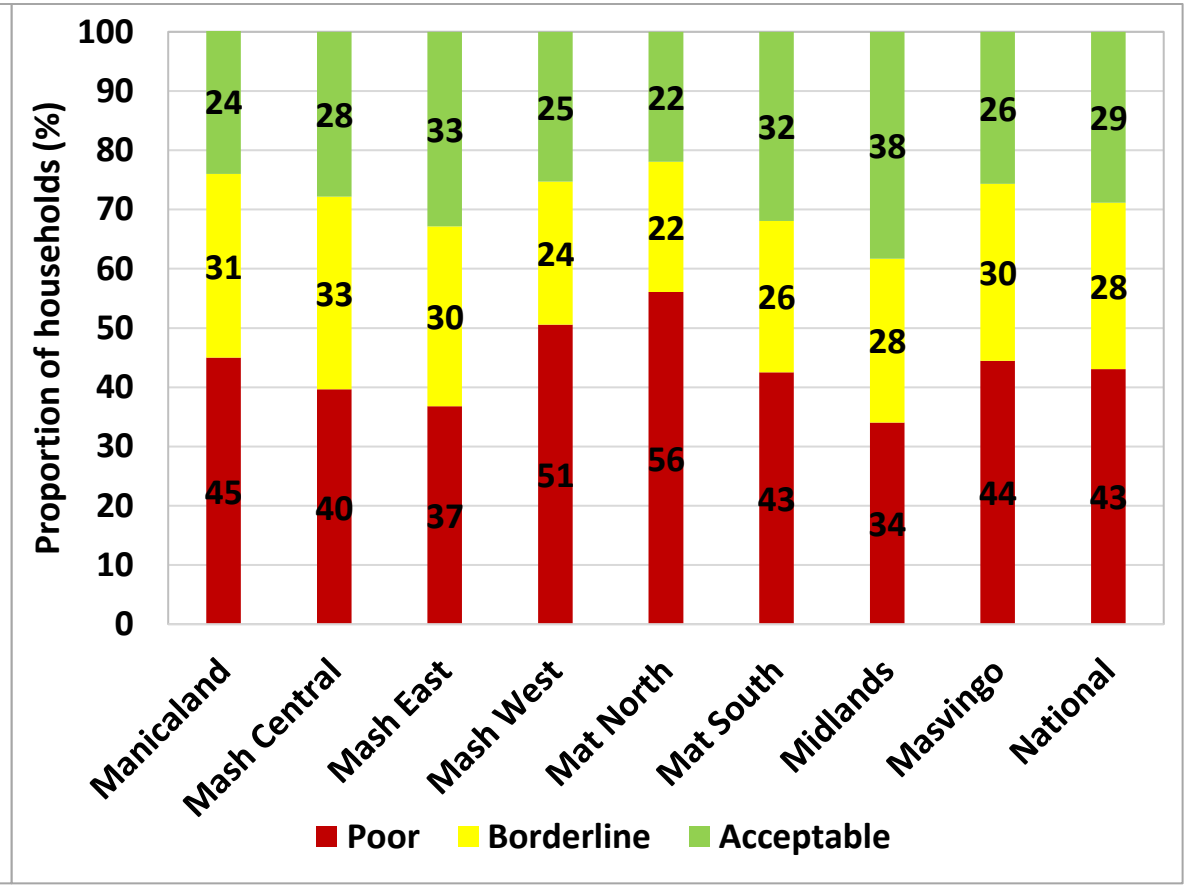
- The consumption patterns have been deteriorating over the years as households with poor consumption patterns have increased from 31% in 2020 to 43% in 2021 whilst those with acceptable consumption patterns have decreased from 31% to 29%.
- The trend is indicative of increasing challenges in accessing nutritious and diversified foods faced by rural households.

Food Consumption Patterns

2020

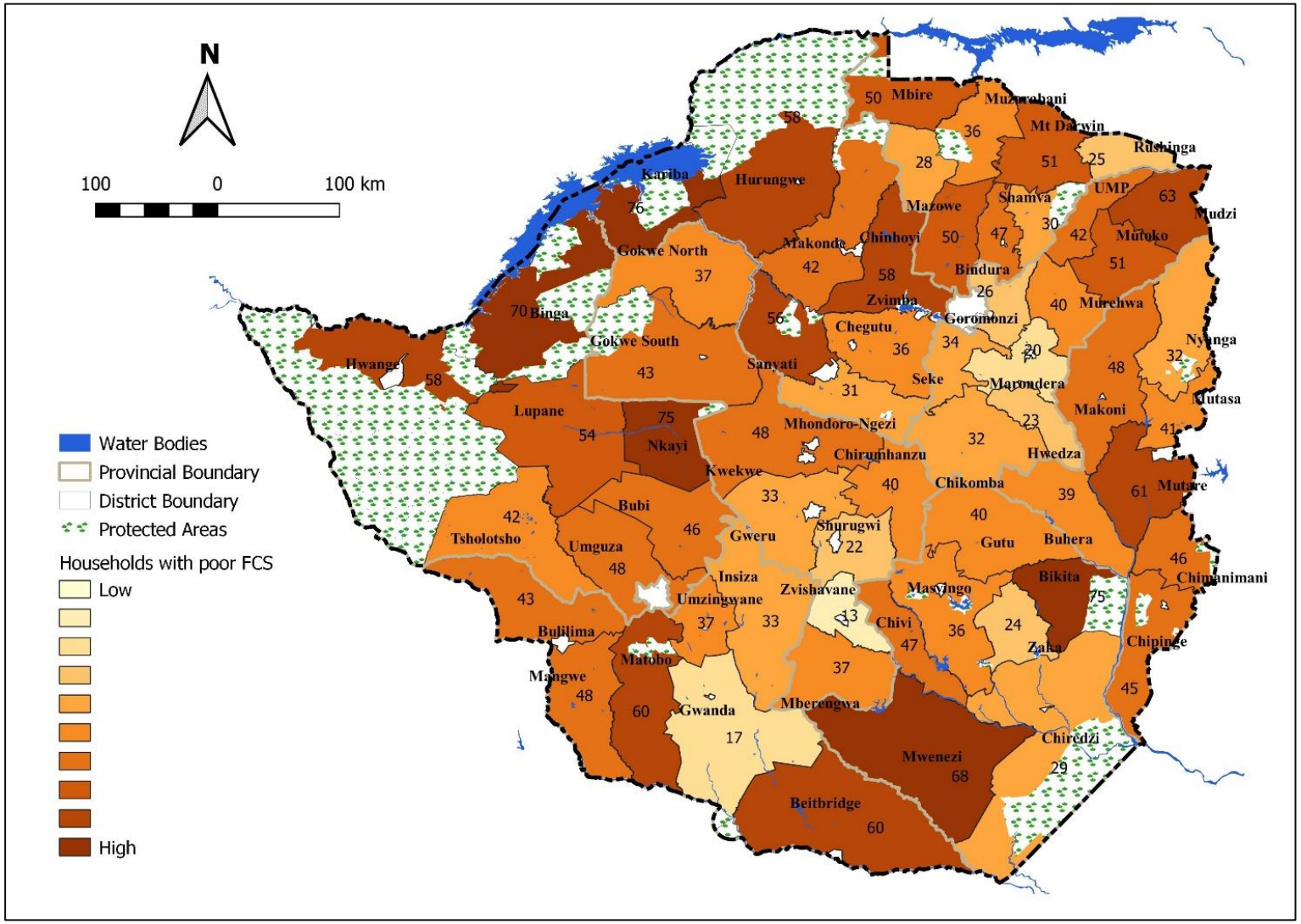


2021



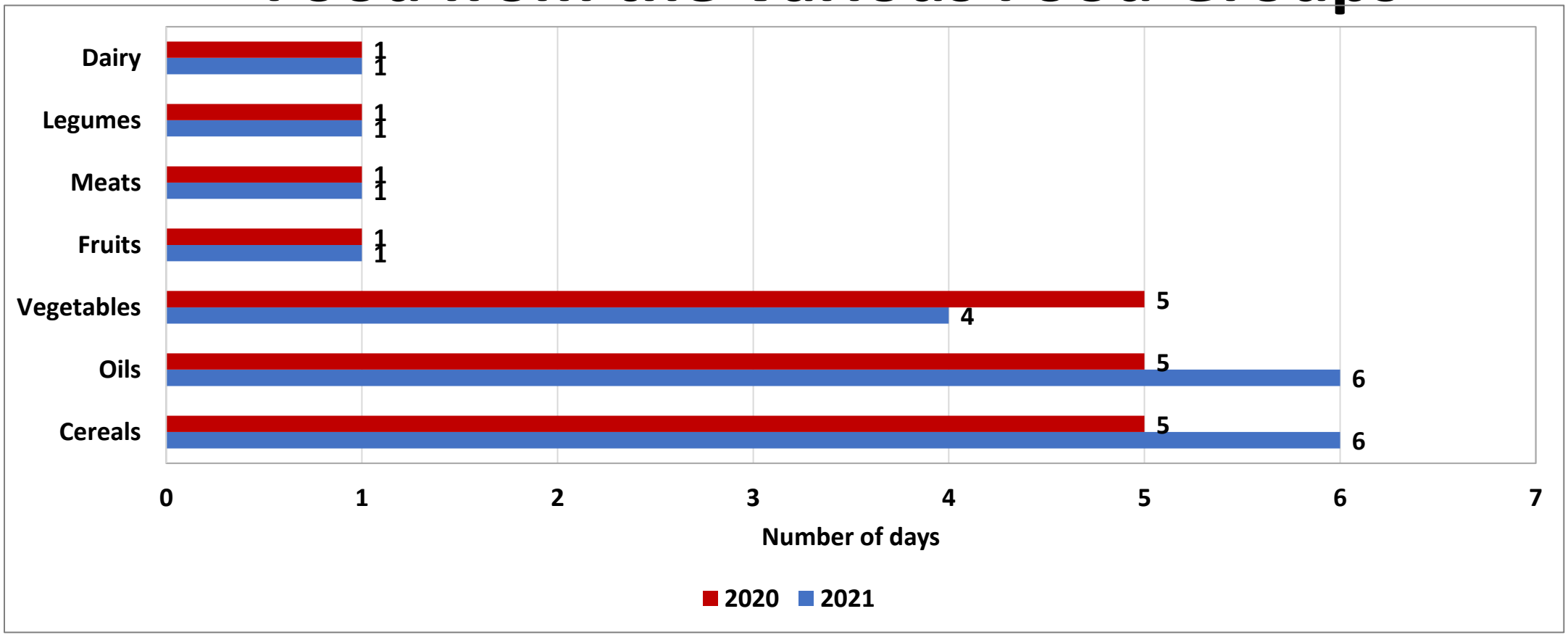
- All provinces had an increase in households with poor consumption patterns.
- The majority of the provinces had a decrease in households with acceptable consumption patterns except for Mashonaland East (33%) which had a 2 percentage point increase.
- Mashonaland West (51%) had the highest increase in households with poor consumption patterns.
- Matabeleland North (56%) had the highest proportion of households with poor consumption patterns.

Poor Food Consumption Patterns by District



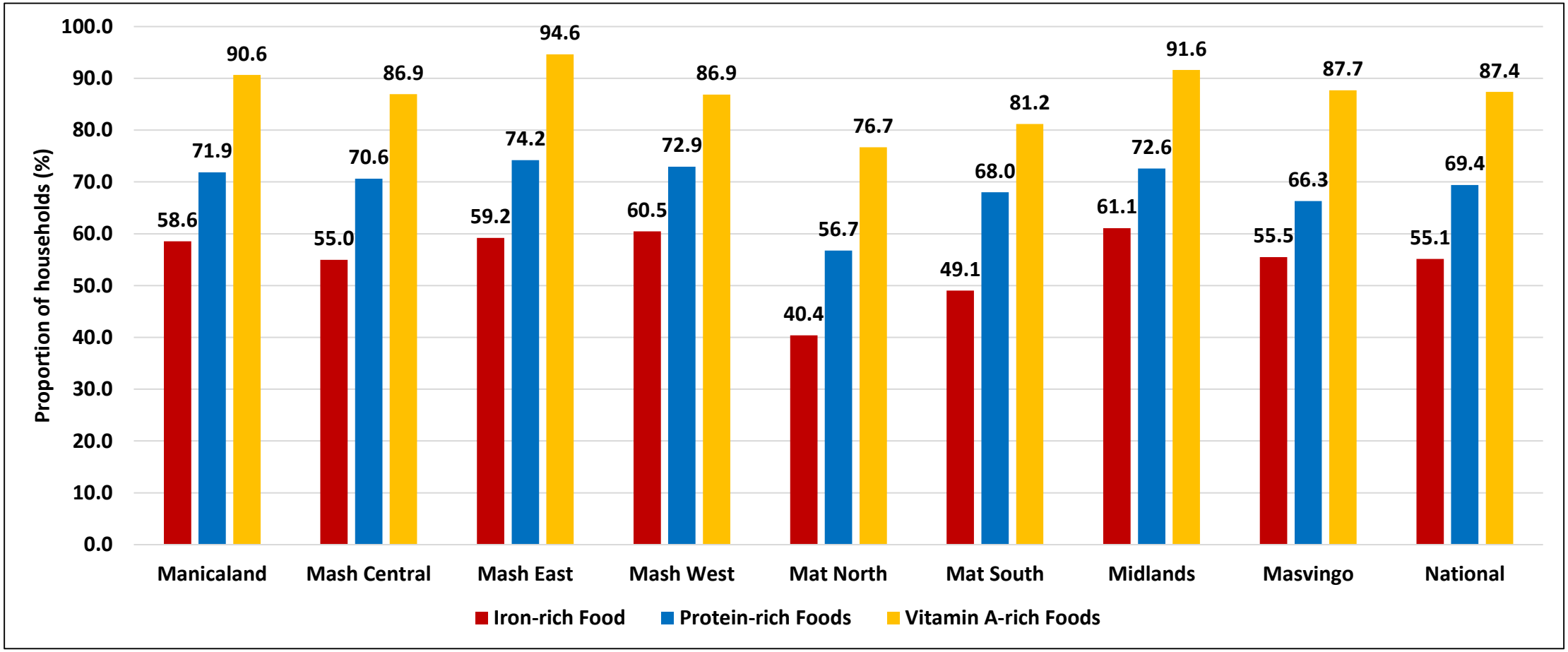
- Kariba (76%), Nkayi (75%), Bikita (75%) and Binga (70%) had the highest proportion of households consuming poor diets.

Average Number of Days Households Consumed Food from the Various Food Groups



- Nationally, average consumption of cereals and oils increased compared to 2020 whilst the consumption of vegetables decreased.
- Fruits, meats, legumes and dairy consumption remain unchanged and this is an indication of poor quality diets.
- This may have negative implications on nutrition outcomes of vulnerable groups such as children under five years and women of child bearing age.

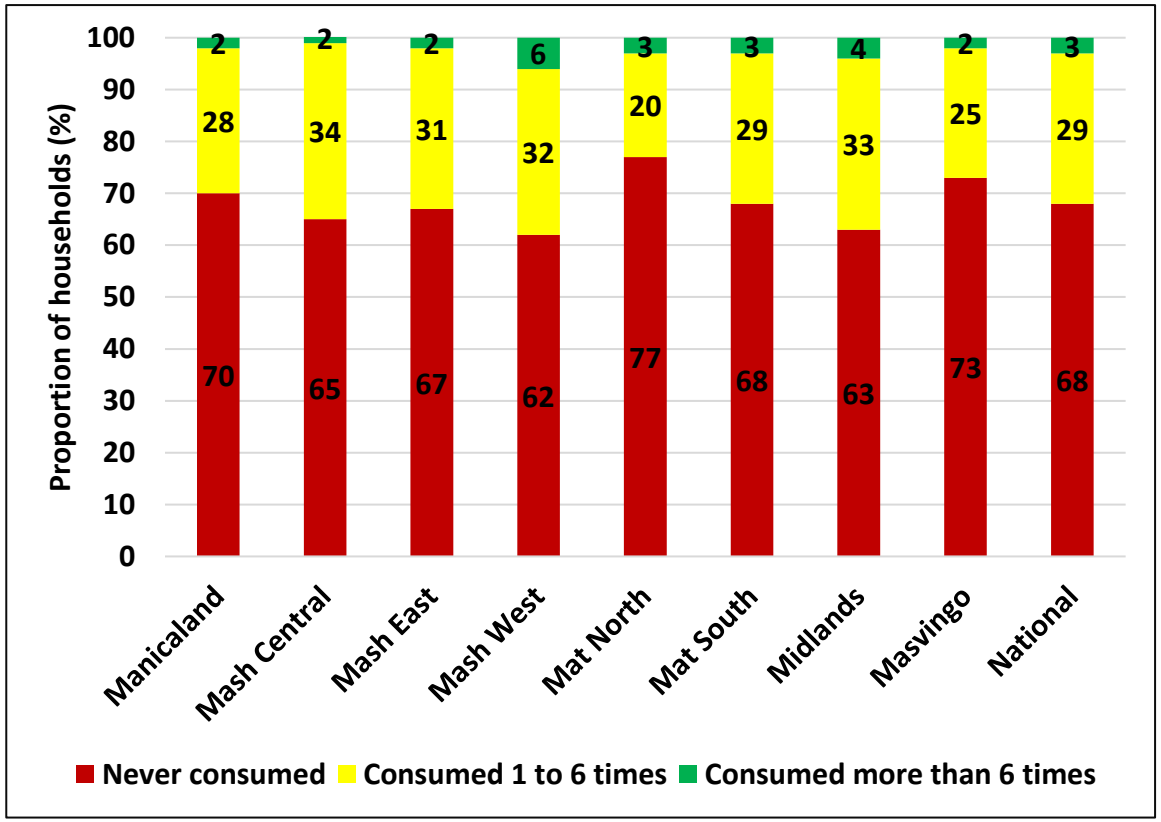
Household Consumption of Protein, Iron and Vitamin A Rich Foods



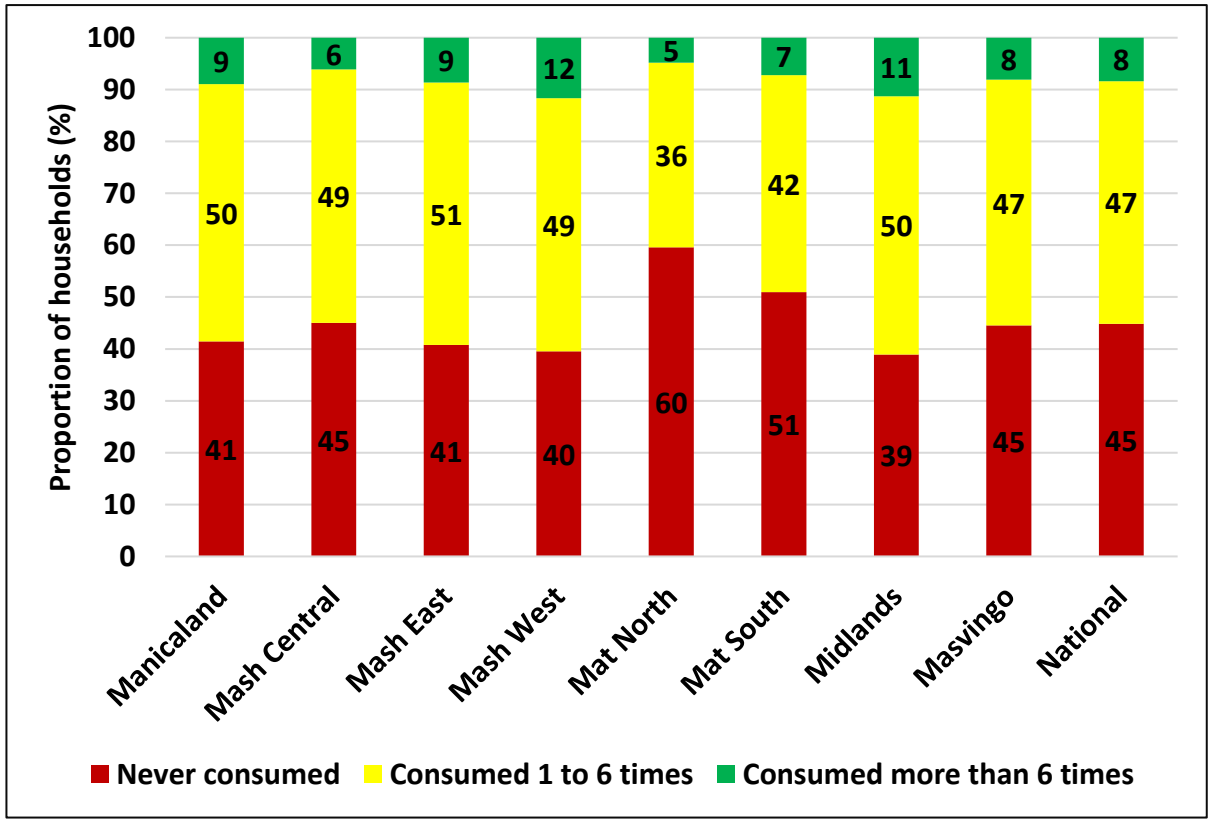
- Nationally, 55.1% of the households consumed iron-rich foods in the seven days preceding the survey.
- Matabeleland North had the lowest proportion of households consuming all the three nutrient-rich foods.

Households Consuming Iron-Rich Foods

2020



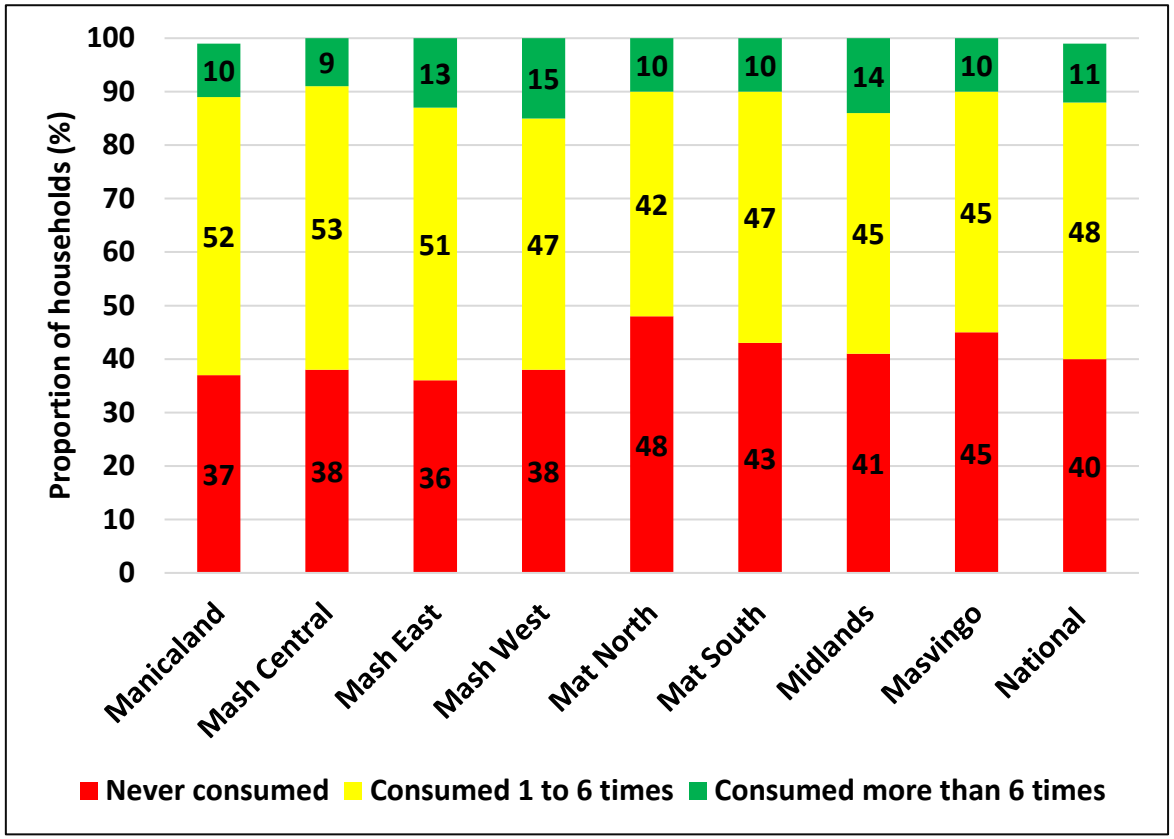
2021



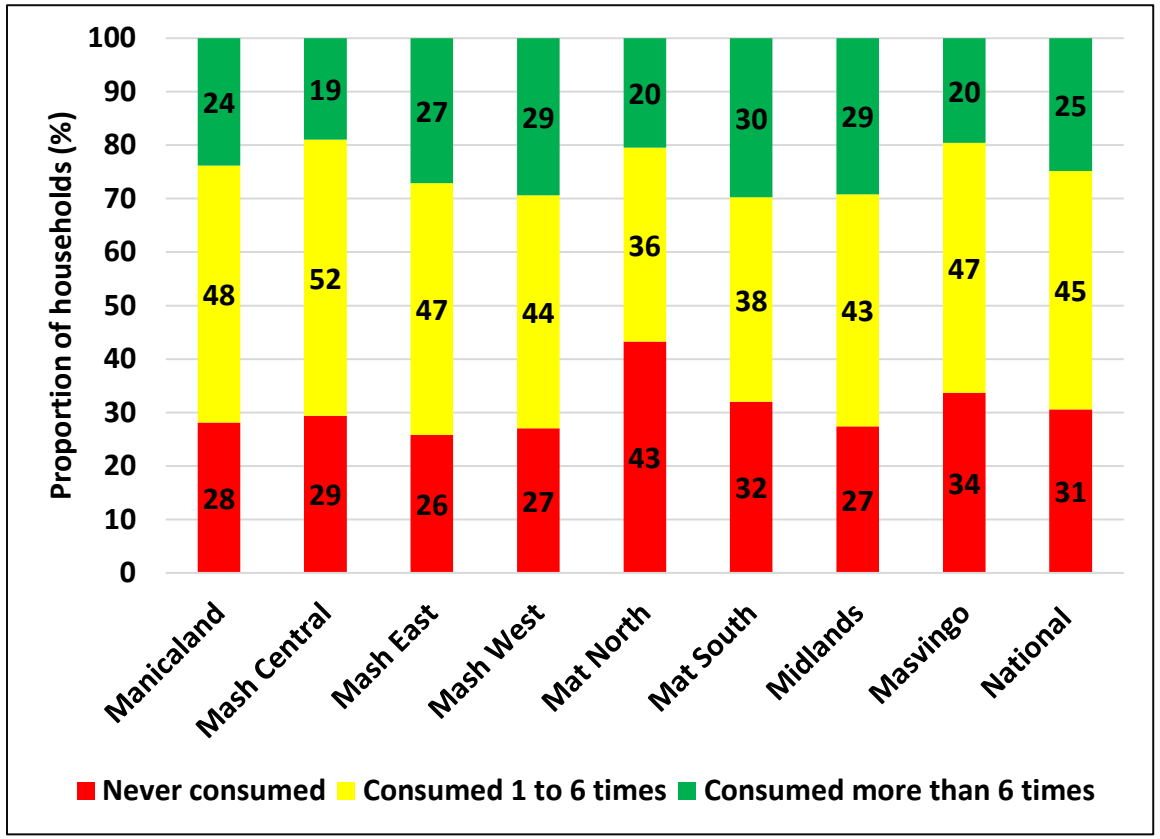
- Iron is an essential mineral which is required by the body during the formation of blood cells. Iron deficiency can cause fatigue and reduced ability by the body to fight infections.
- About 45% of the households never consumed iron-rich foods during the seven days preceding the survey.

Households Consuming Protein-rich Foods

2020



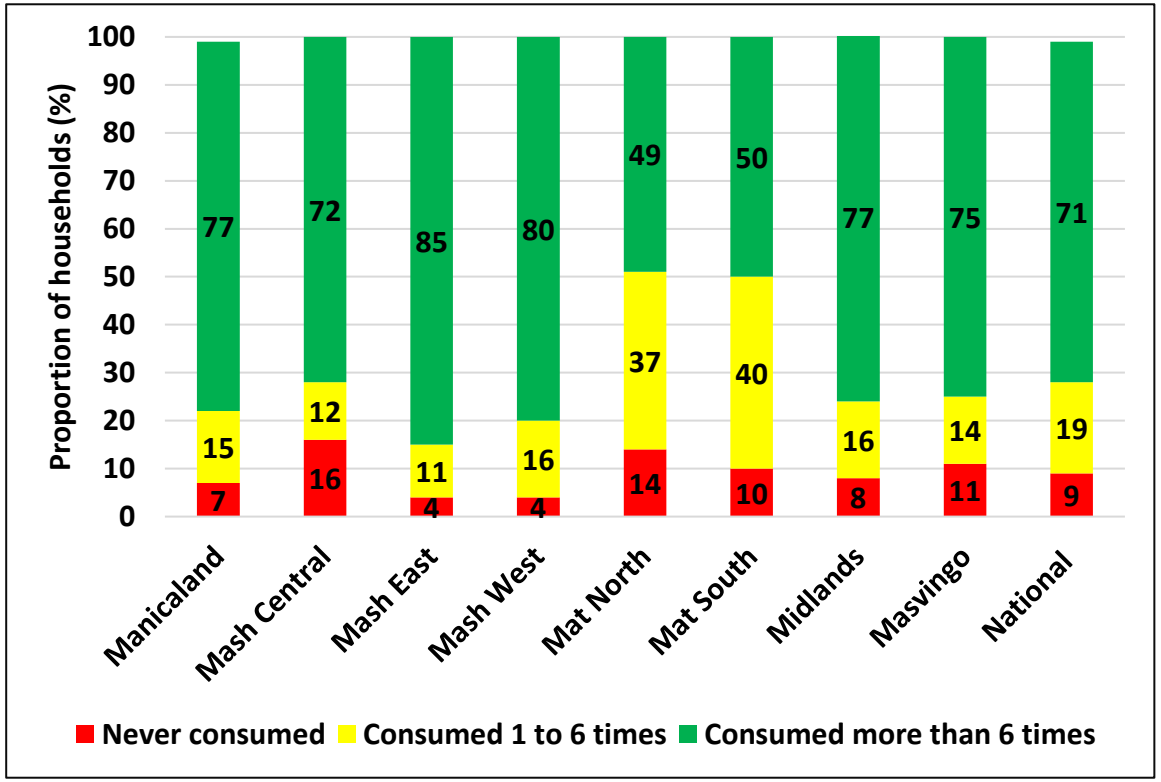
2021



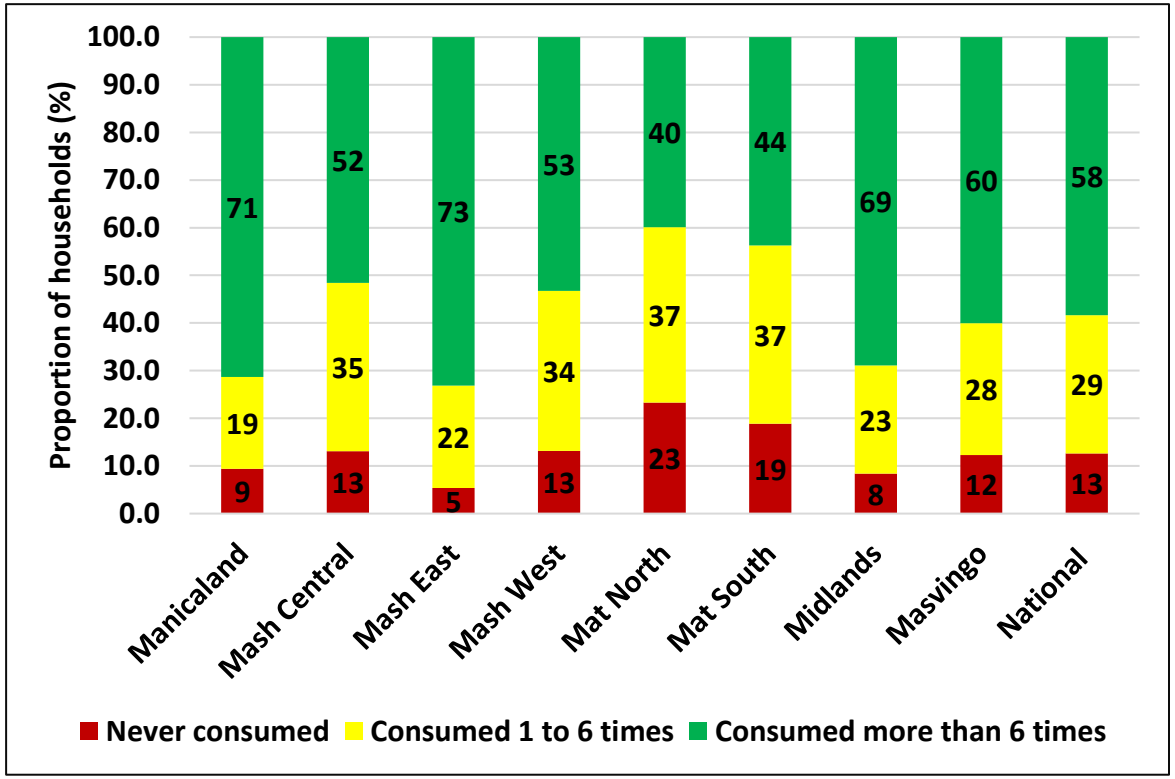
- Inadequate protein intake compromises the body's ability to build, repair worn-out tissues and fight against infections.
- Nationally, 31% of the households never consumed protein-rich foods in the seven days preceding the survey and this was a decrease from 40% in 2020.

Households Consuming Vitamin A-rich Foods

2020



2021



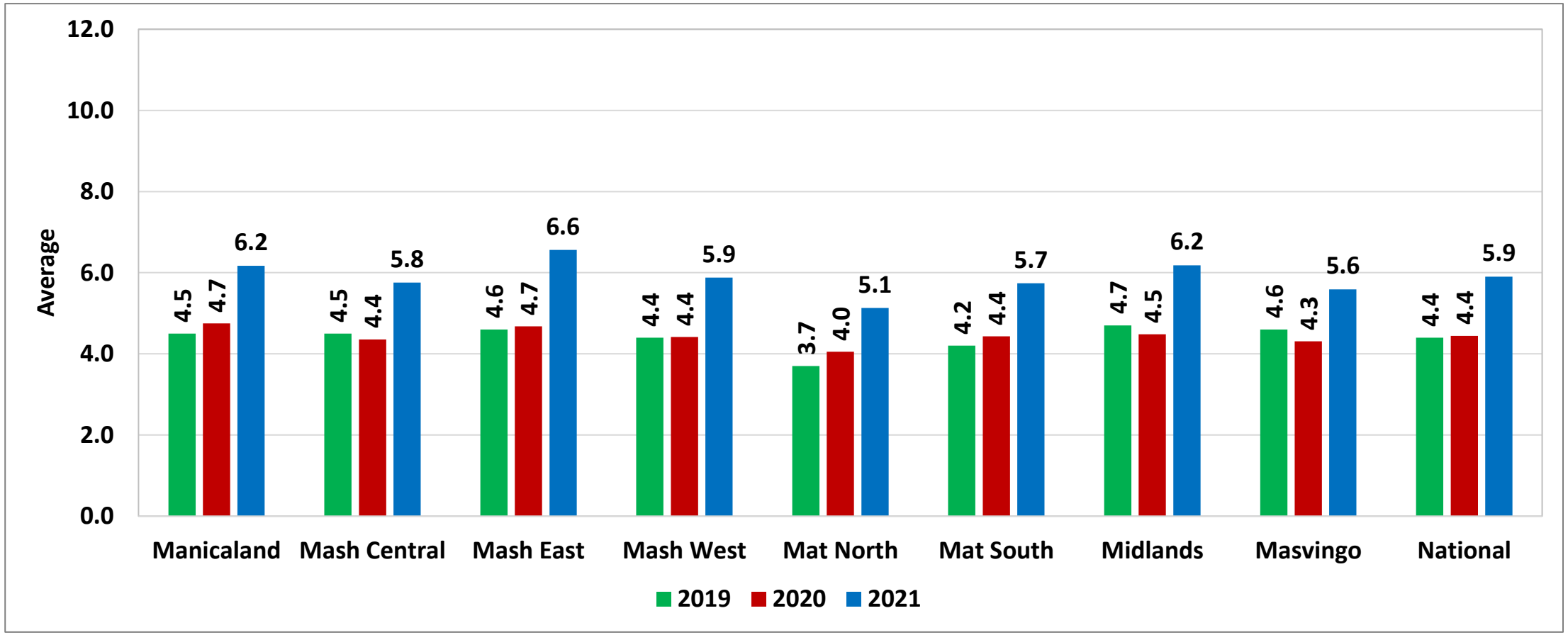
- Nationally, the daily consumption of Vitamin A-rich foods was 58% which was a deterioration from 71% reported in 2020.
- Matabeleland North (23%) had the highest proportion of households that never consumed vitamin A-rich foods in the seven days preceding the survey.
- Vitamin A is important for normal vision, the immune system functions and reproduction.
- Vitamin A deficiency causes night blindness, harms the immune system and may contribute to maternal mortality.

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

- The household dietary diversity score (HDDS) is used as proxy measure of the quality of household food consumption
- HHDS measures the number of unique foods consumed by a household over a 7 day period with measuring the quantity of food consumed hence it reflects household access to a variety of foods over a given period.
- Based on the HDDS, a household may be classified as follows:

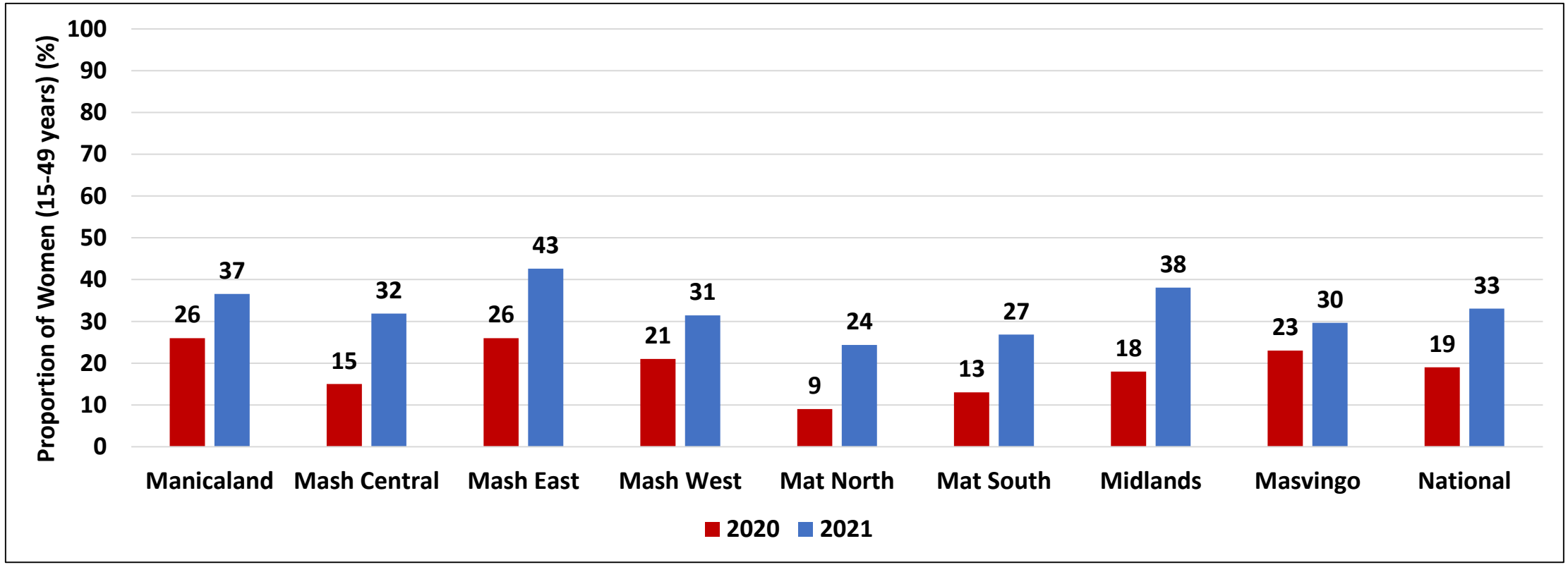
HDDS	Classification
<3	Low
4-5	Medium
>5	Acceptable

Average Household Dietary Diversity



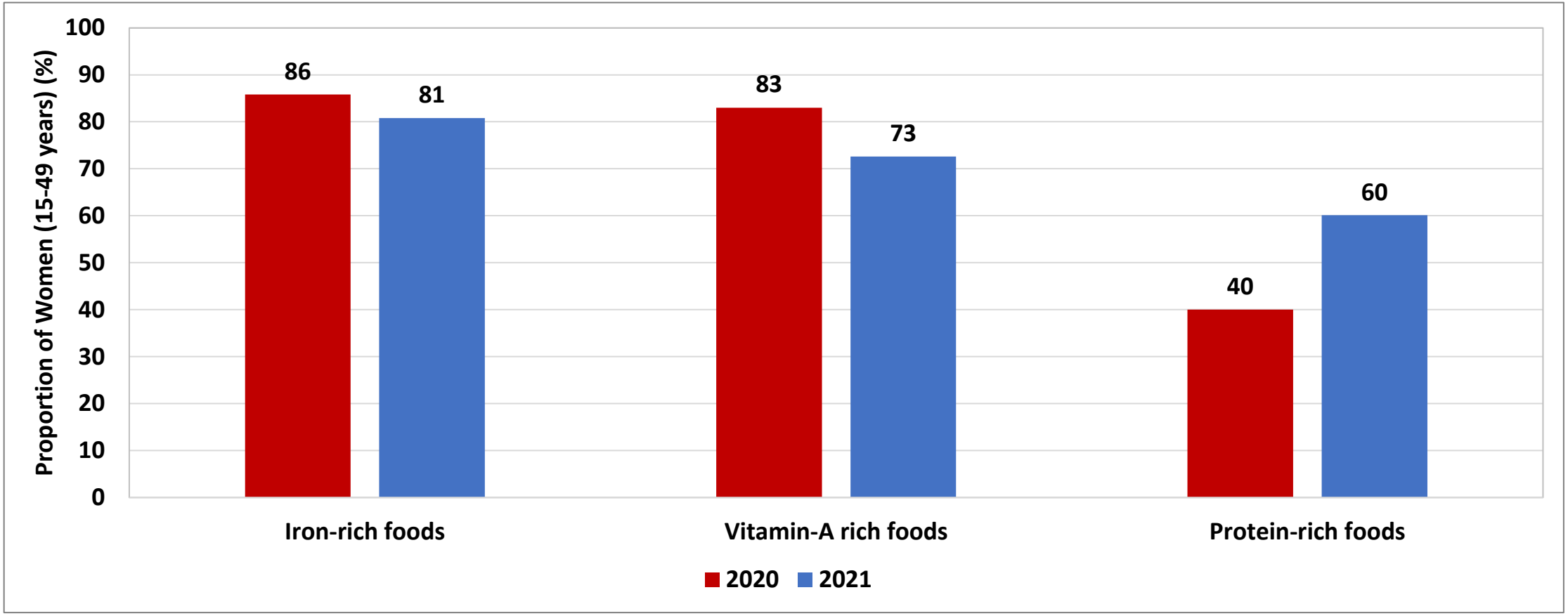
- On average, all provinces were consuming six food groups out of a possible 12 food groups at the time of the assessment.
- Although this was an improvement from the four reported in 2020, the household dietary diversity is still low.

Minimum Dietary Diversity of Women of Child Bearing Age



- One in three women consumed a Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) 24-hours prior to the survey.
- Generally, MDD for Women of Child Bearing Age (WCBA) has improved across all provinces.
- Masvingo had the lowest increase of 7 percentage points while Midlands had the highest increase of 20 percentage points.

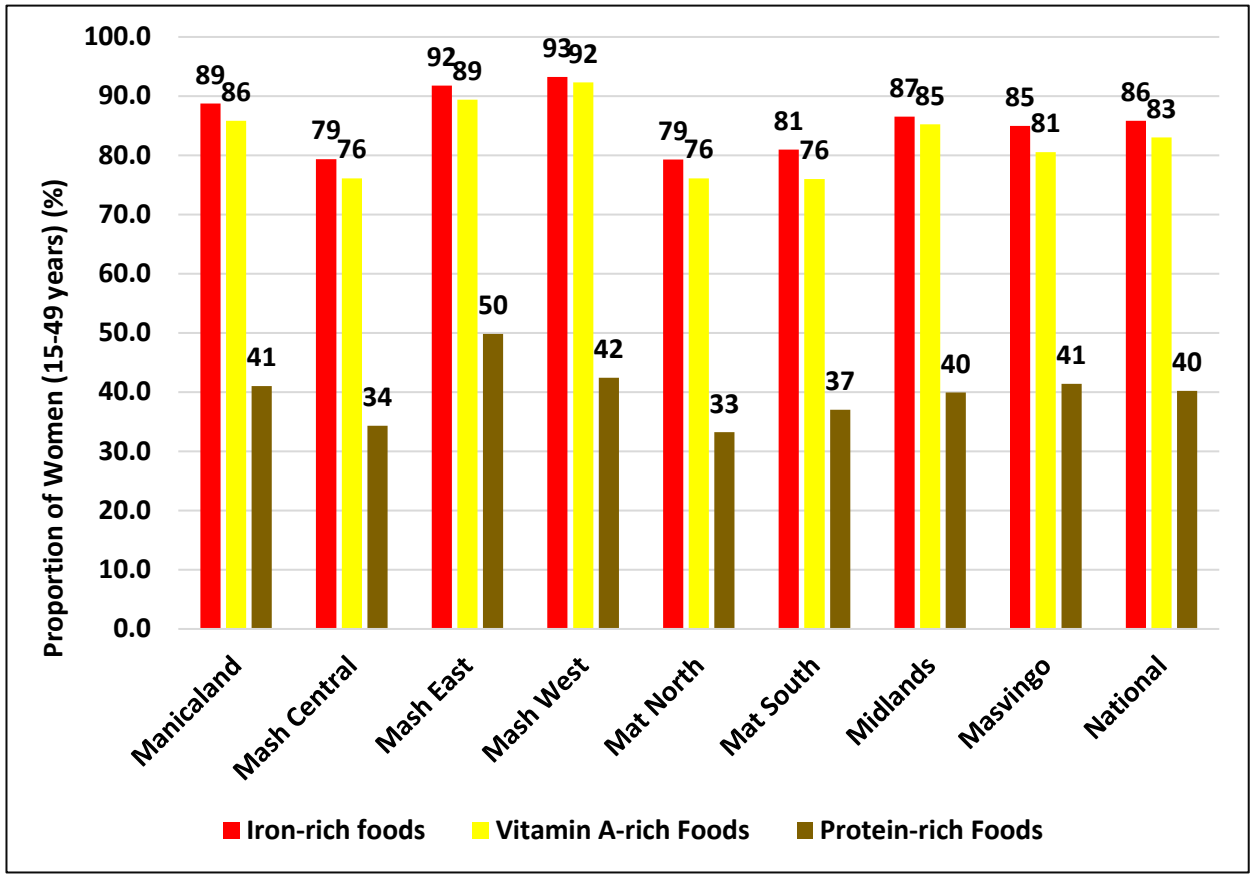
Consumption of Protein, Iron and Vitamin-A Rich Foods by WCBA



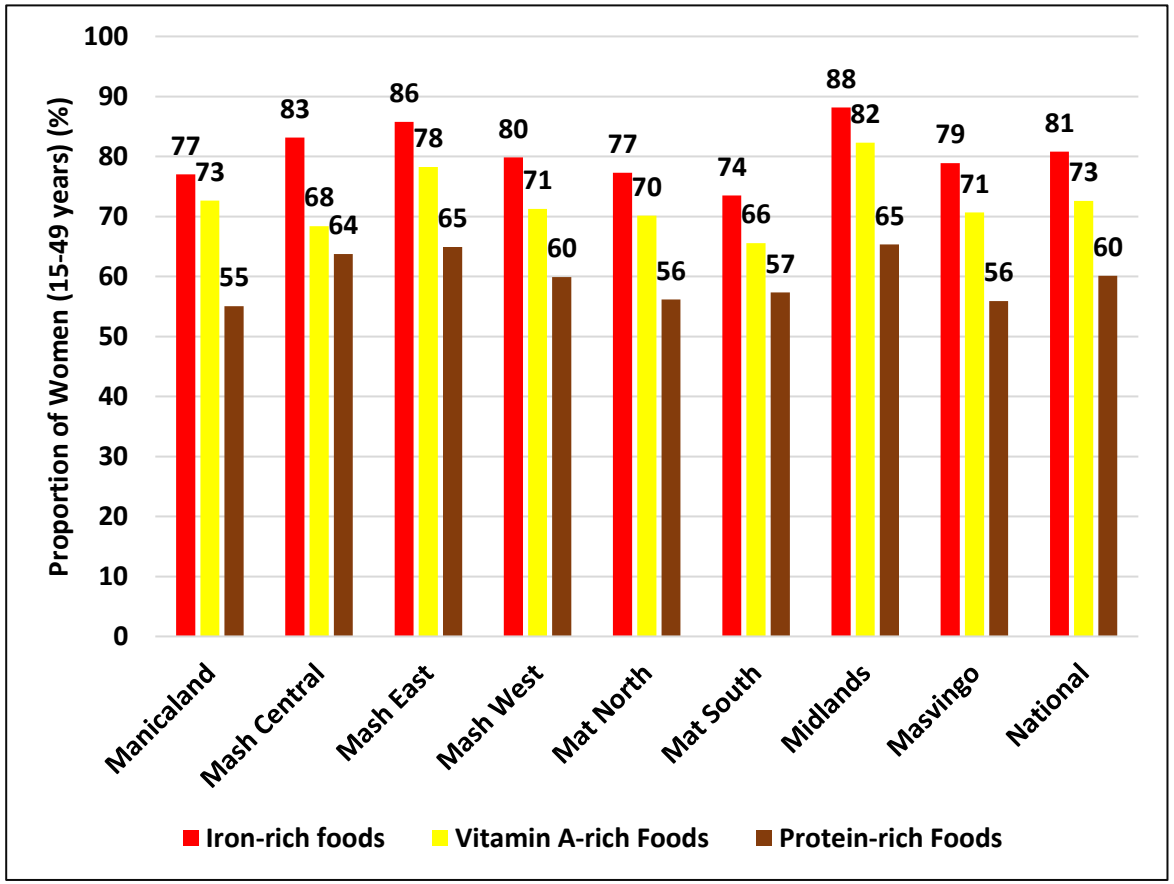
- There was a general decrease in the proportion of women consuming iron-rich (from 86% to 81%) and vitamin A rich foods (from 83% to 73%) from plant and animal source foods, 24 hours prior to the survey.
- Consumption of protein rich foods improved from 40% in 2020 to 60% in 2021.

Consumption of Protein, Iron and Vitamin-A Rich Foods by WCBA

2020



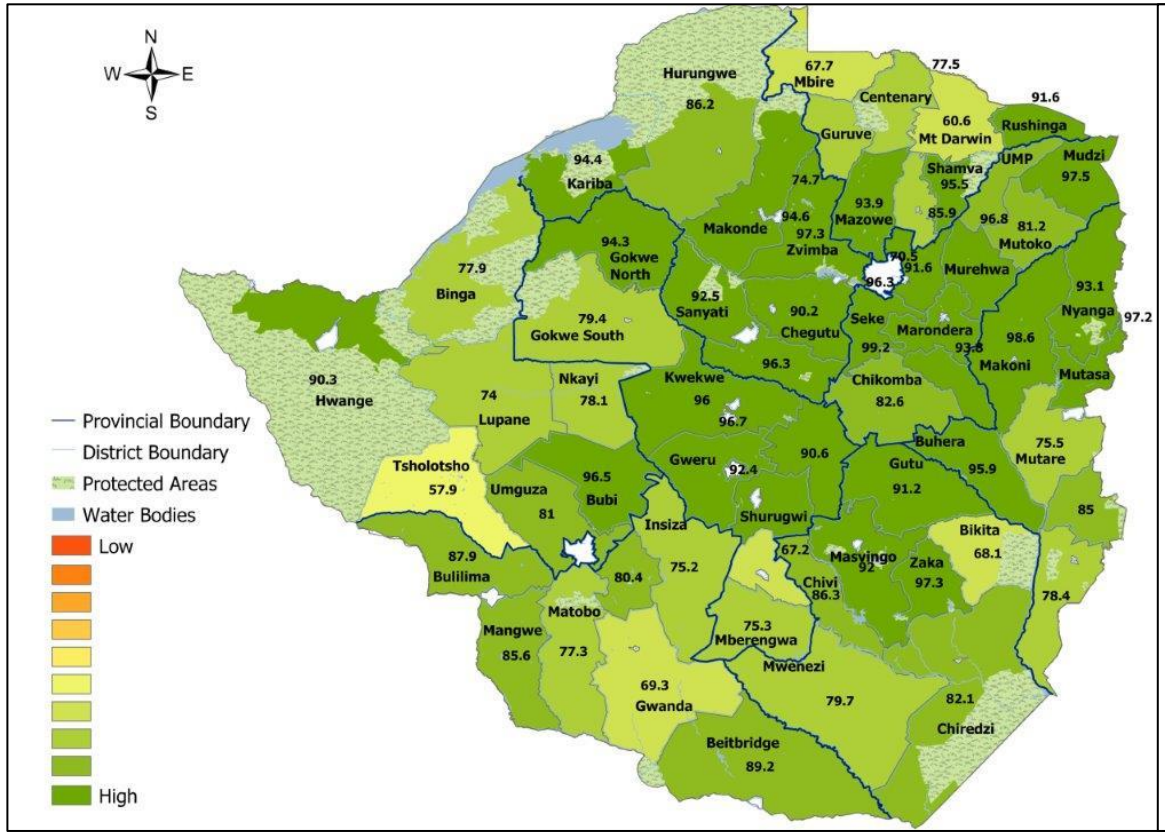
2021



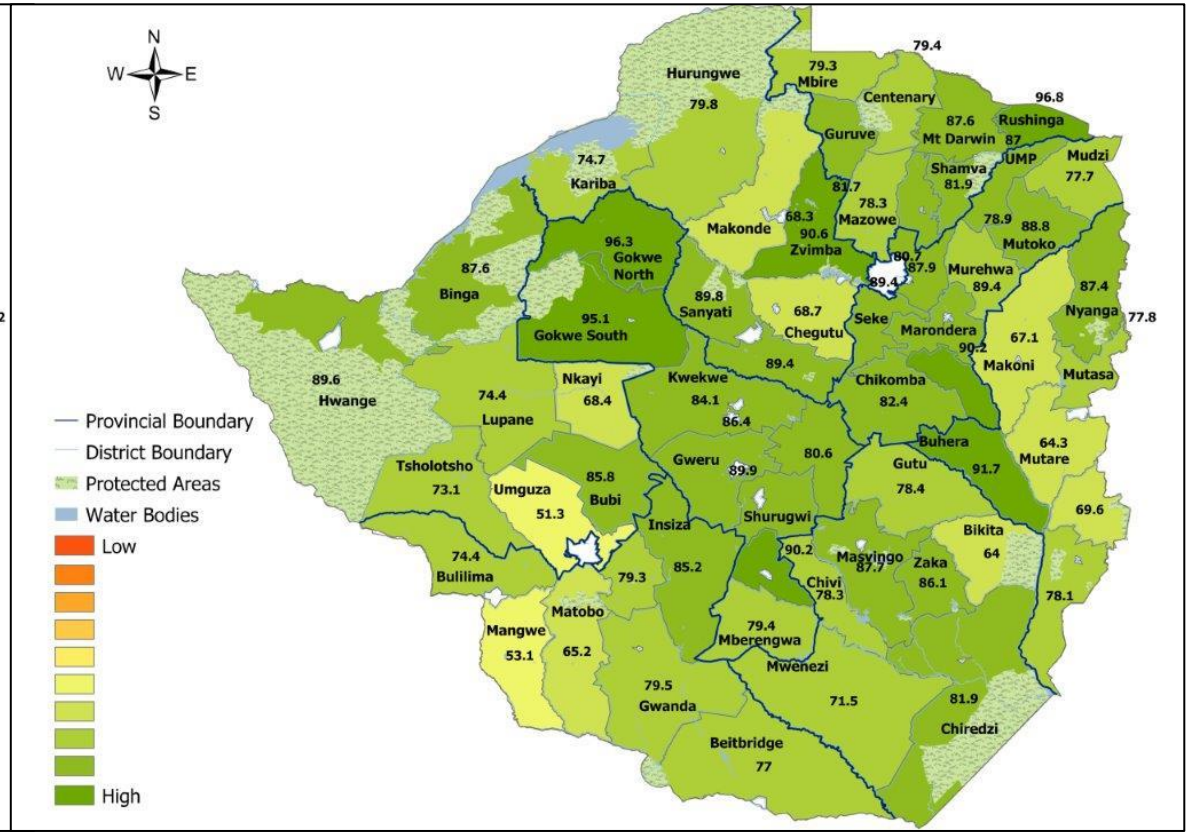
- All provinces recorded an improvement in the consumption of protein rich foods whilst the consumption of vitamin A rich foods and Iron-rich foods deteriorated across all the provinces by WCBA.

WCBA Consumption of Iron Rich Foods by District

2020

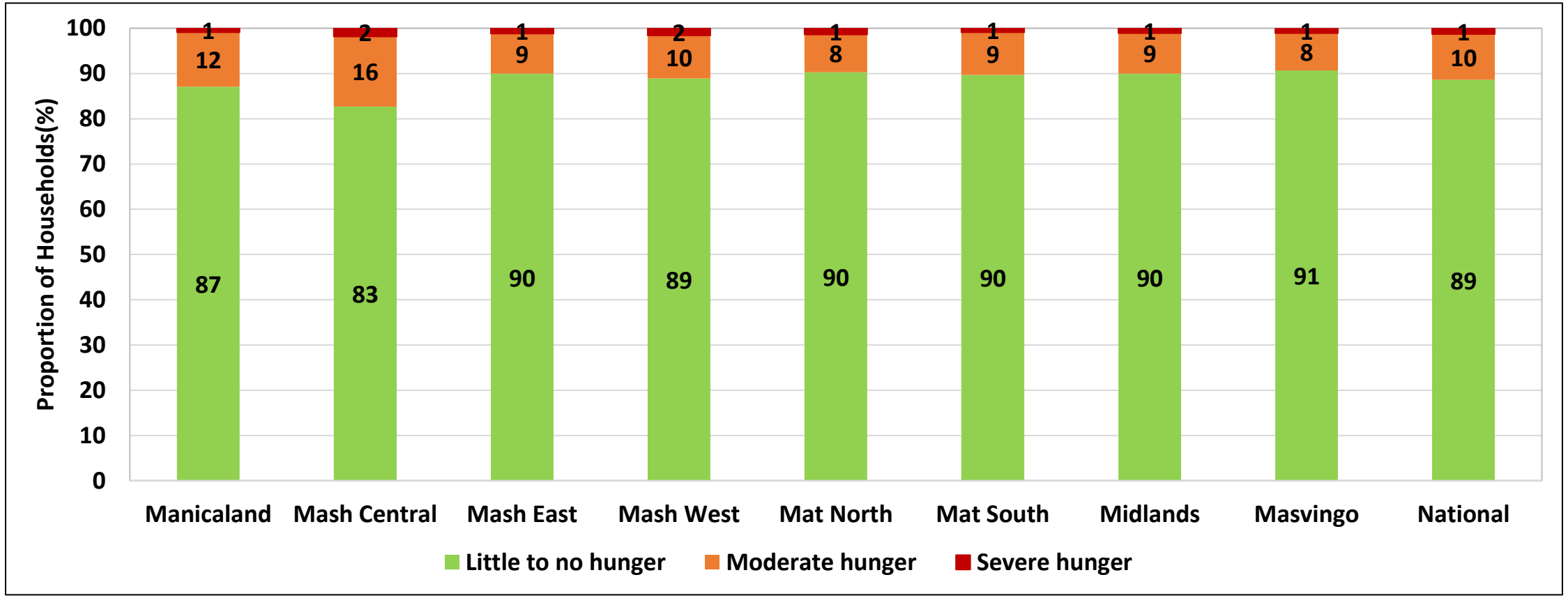


2021



- There has been a general decrease in the proportions of WCBA consuming iron-rich foods over the past two years.
- Umguza (51.3%) and Bulilima (53.1%) had the lowest proportion of WCBA who consumed iron-rich foods.

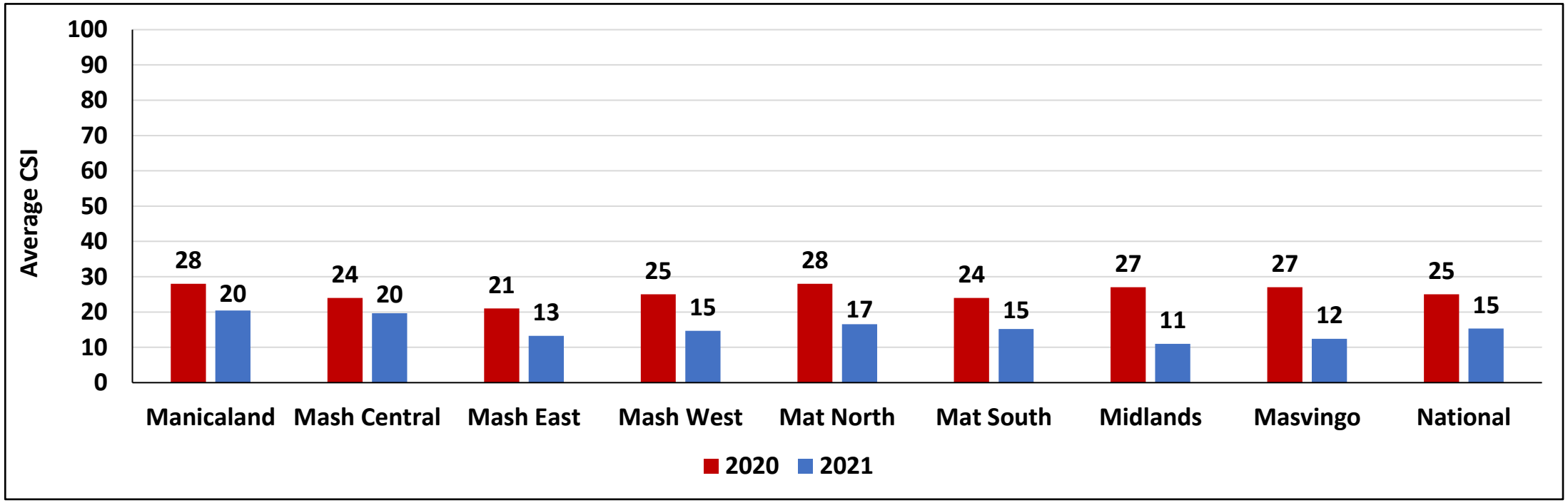
Household Hunger Score



- The majority of the households (89%) reported having experienced little to no hunger in the 30 days prior the assessment.
- Amongst those that had experienced moderate to severe hunger, Mashonaland Central (18%), Manicaland (13%) and Mashonaland West (12%) were the highest.

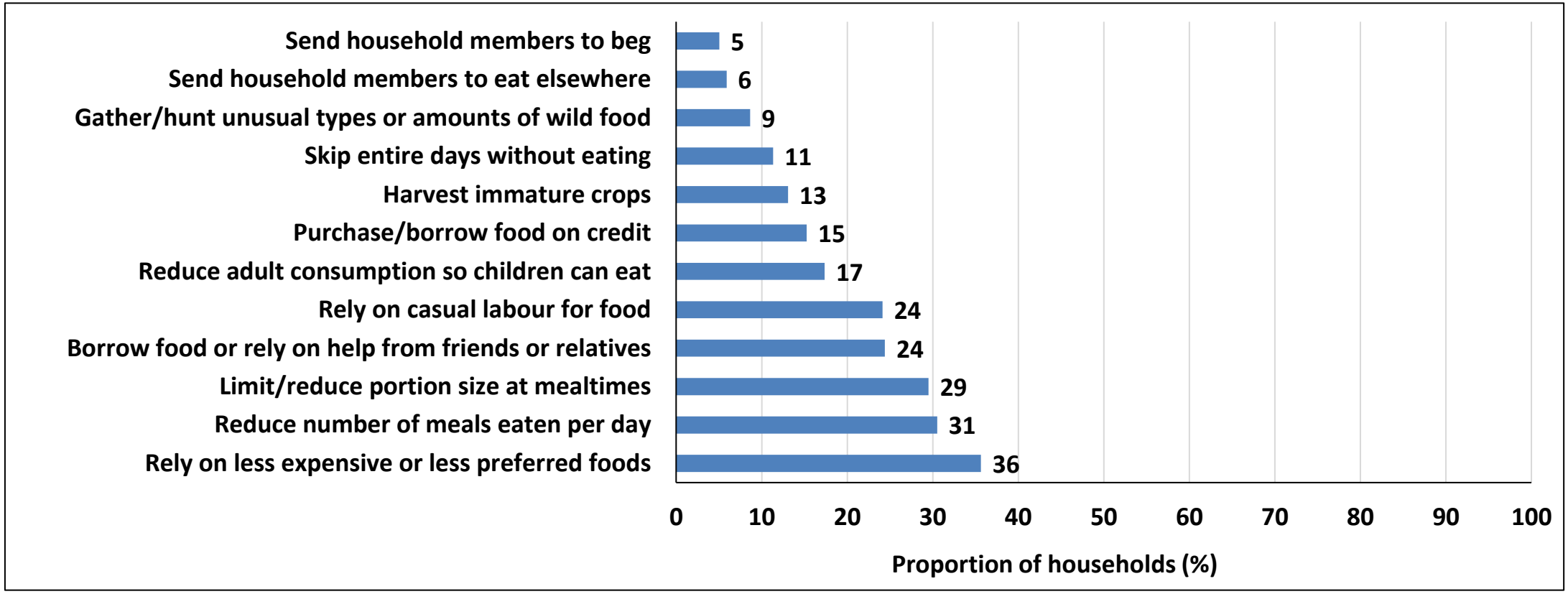
Household Consumption and Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies

Household Consumption Coping Strategy Index (CSI)



- The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) measures the behaviours adopted by households when they are faced with difficulties in covering their food needs. CSI considers both the frequency and severity of the pre-selected coping strategies used by households.
- Nationally, the household CSI decreased from 25 in 2020 to 15 in 2021 an indication of improved access to food.
- Across all the provinces CSI decreased, with the highest decrease being observed in Midlands and Masvingo.

Household Consumption Coping Strategies (15%)



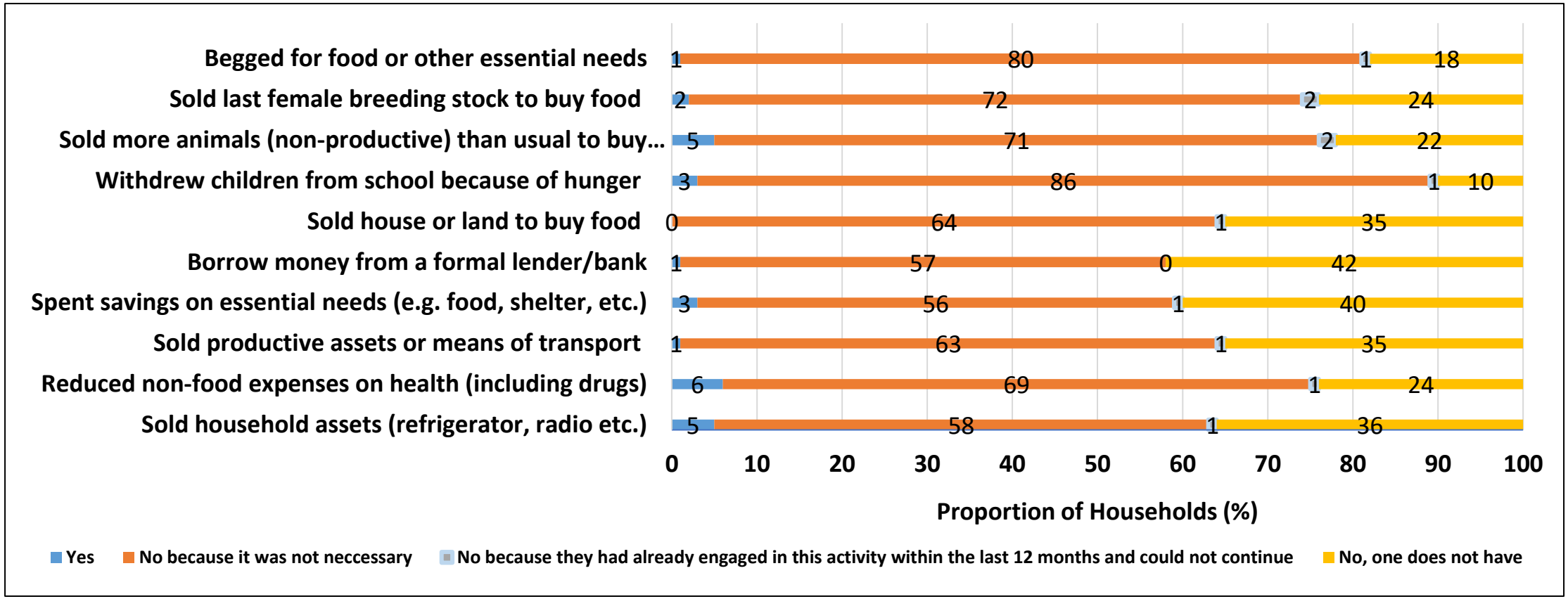
- Of those households which adopted coping strategies, the main consumption coping strategies included relying on less expensive foods (36%), reducing the number of meals consumed per day (31%) and reducing meal portion size (29%).
- It is important to note that adoption of these negative strategies has a negative impact on the household nutrition outcomes.

Households Livelihoods Coping Strategies

- Livelihood Coping Strategies are behaviours employed by households when faced crisis and measures longer-term coping capacity of households.
- The livelihoods Coping strategies have been classified into three categories namely stress, crisis and emergency as indicated in the table below.

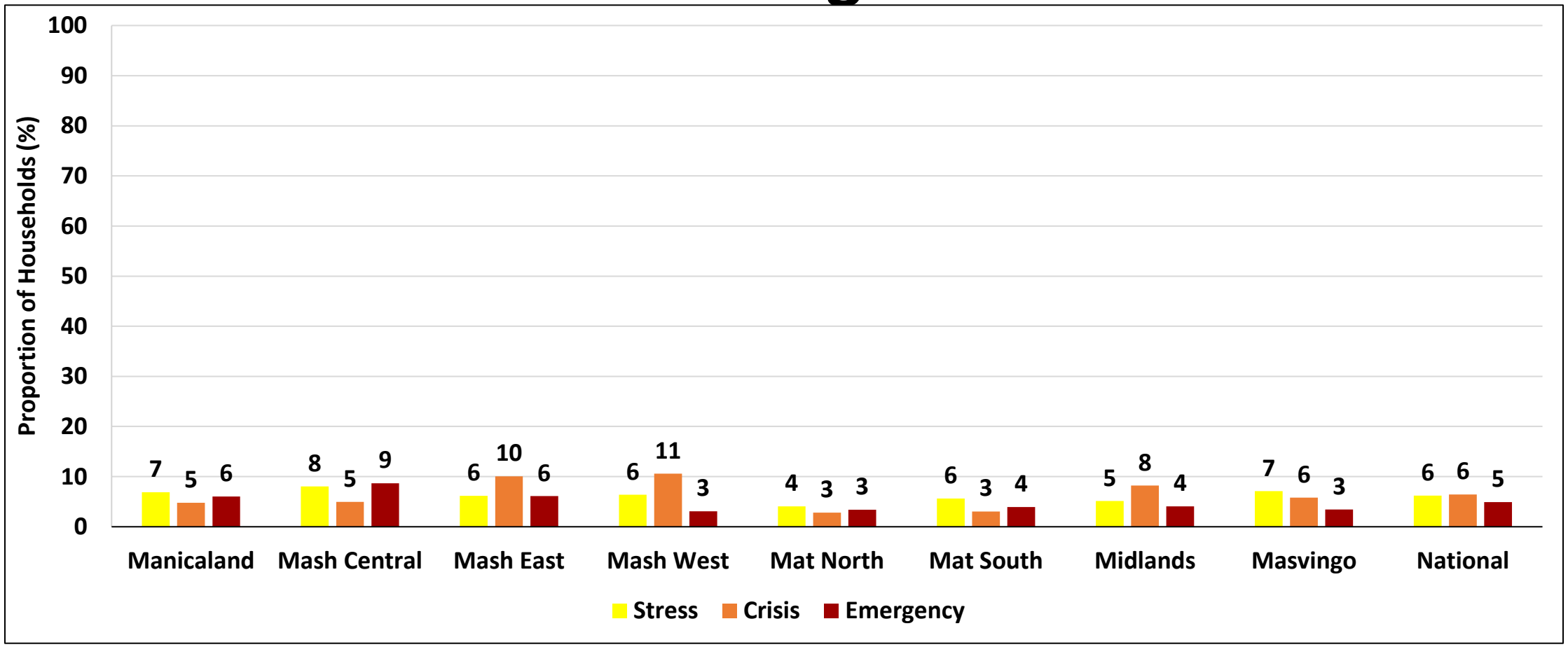
Category	Coping Strategy
Stress	Borrowing money Spending savings Selling more non-productive livestock than usual Selling household assets
Crisis	Selling productive assets Withdrawing children from school Reducing non-food expenditure
Emergency	Selling land Begging for food Selling the last breeding stock to buy food

Households Engaging in Livelihoods Coping Strategies



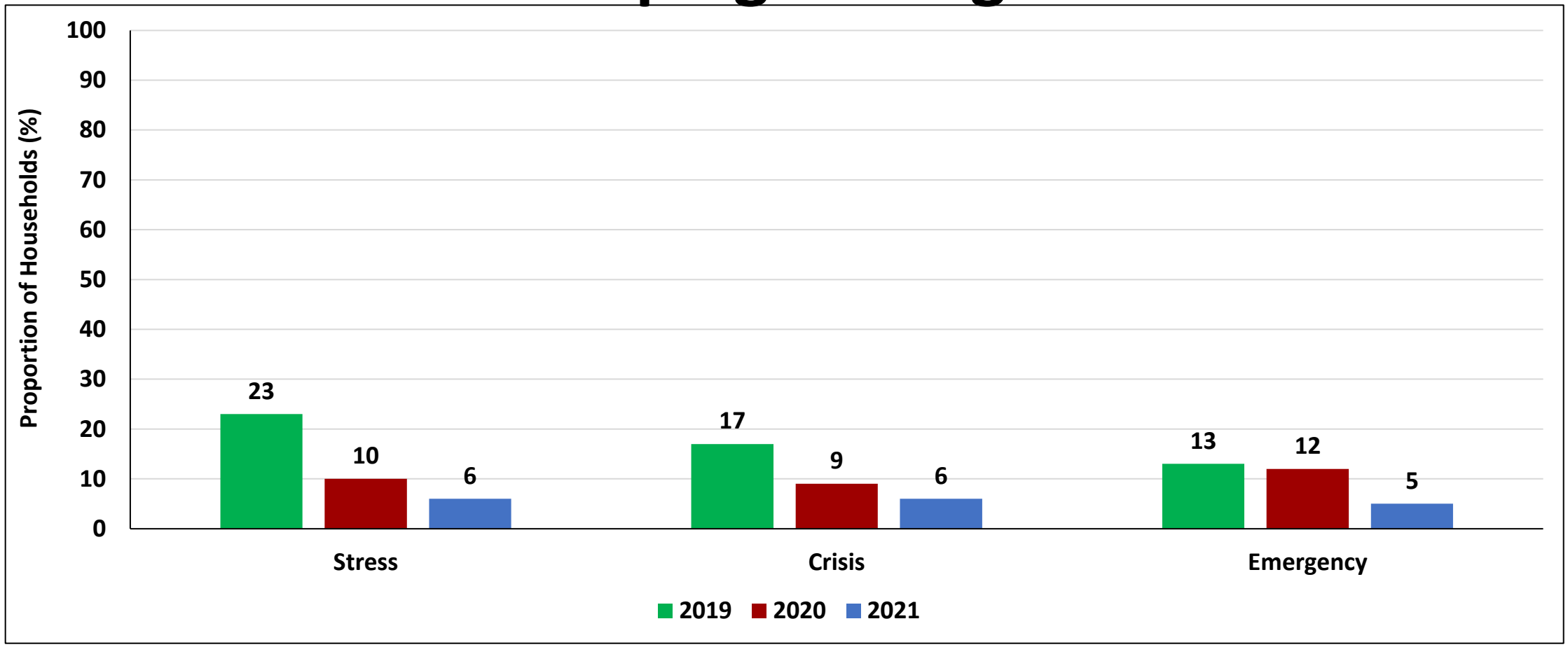
- The majority of households did not engage in negative livelihoods coping strategies.
- However, attention should be given to households which reduced non-food expenses on health (6%), selling household assets (5%) and selling more of the non-productive animals (5%).

Households Engaging in Livelihoods Coping Strategies



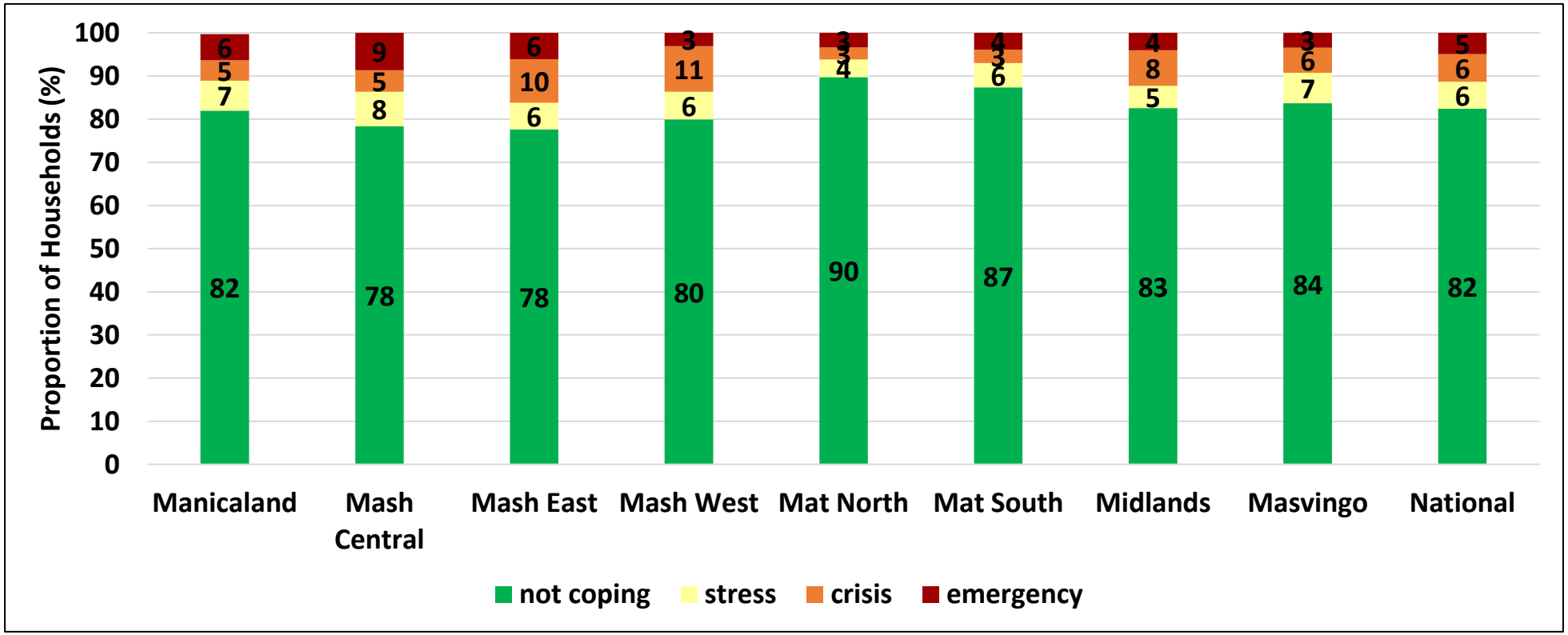
- Nationally, 5% of the households resorted to emergency coping mechanisms thereby undermining their future coping capacity.

Households Engaging in Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies



- The results showed an improvement in livelihoods as noted by a decrease in the proportion of households engaging in livelihood based coping strategies over the last three years.

Households' Maximum Livelihoods Coping Strategies

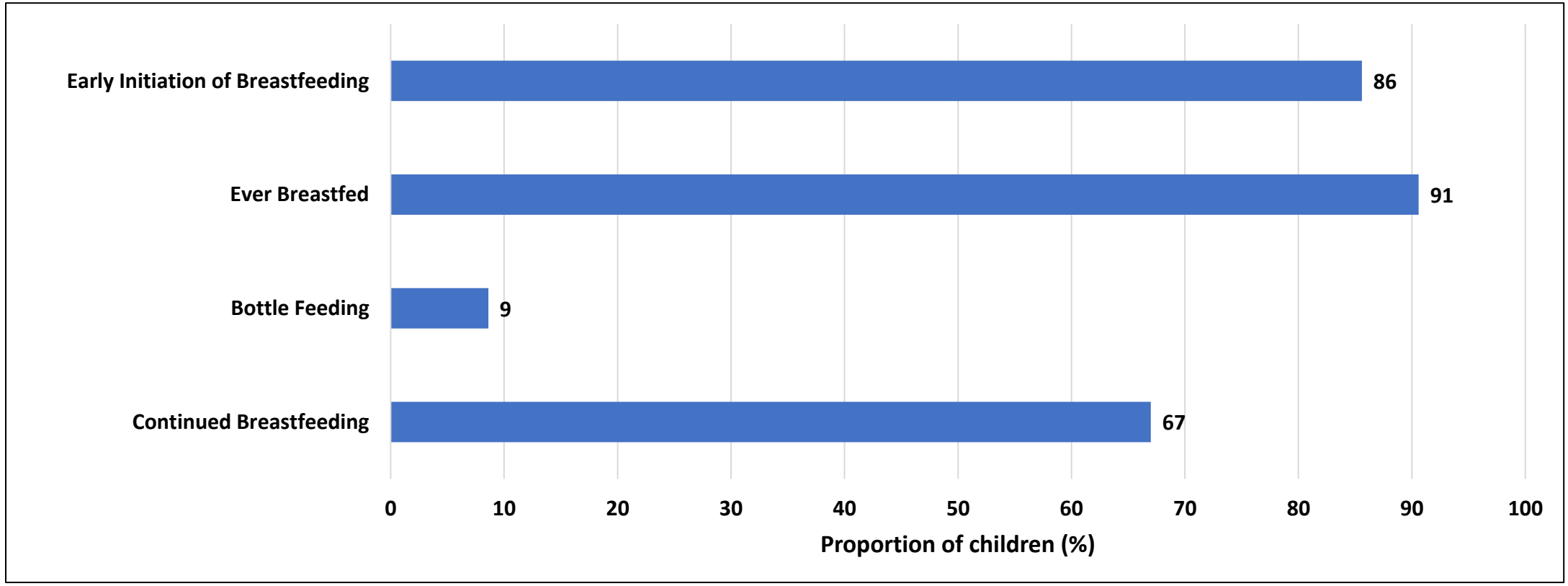


- Nationally, 82% of the households did not use any coping strategies to maintain their access to food and other basic goods and services.
- Reduction in the use of emergency coping strategies (from 12% in 2020 to 5% in 2021) is an indication that access to food for a larger proportion of households improved.

Child Nutrition

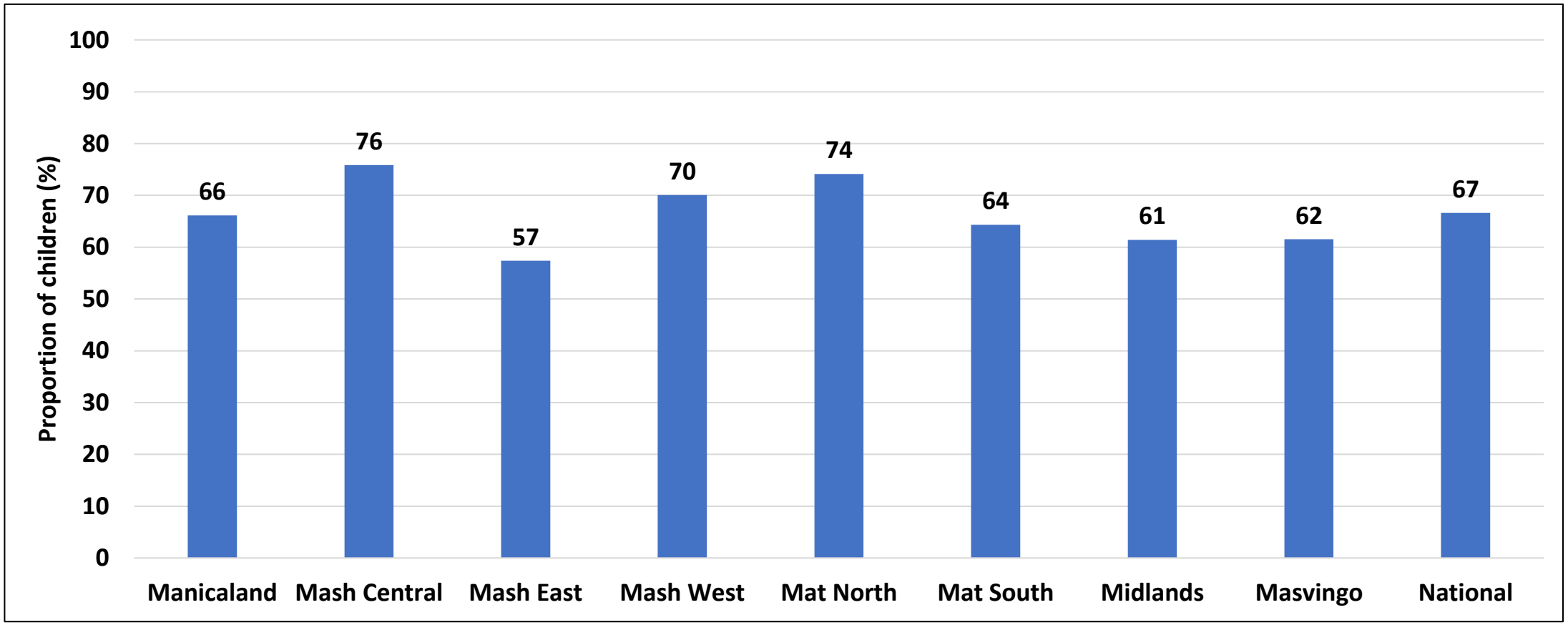
Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices

Breastfeeding Practices



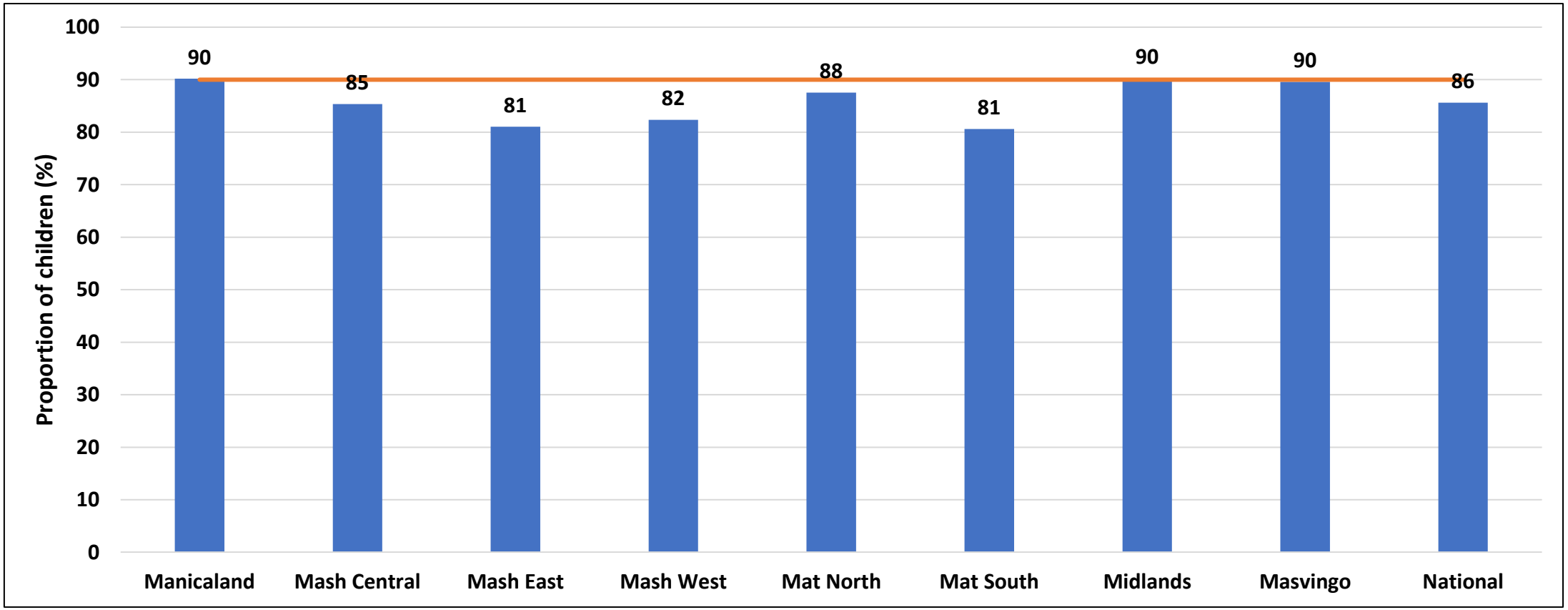
- Nationally, the proportion of children who were ever breastfed was 91% and those who were initiated breastfeeding within an hour were 86%, against a target of 90% for both indicators.
- Only 67% of the children were breastfed beyond 1 year. The recommended practice is for children to be breastfed up to 2 years or beyond.

Continued Breastfeeding Beyond 1 year



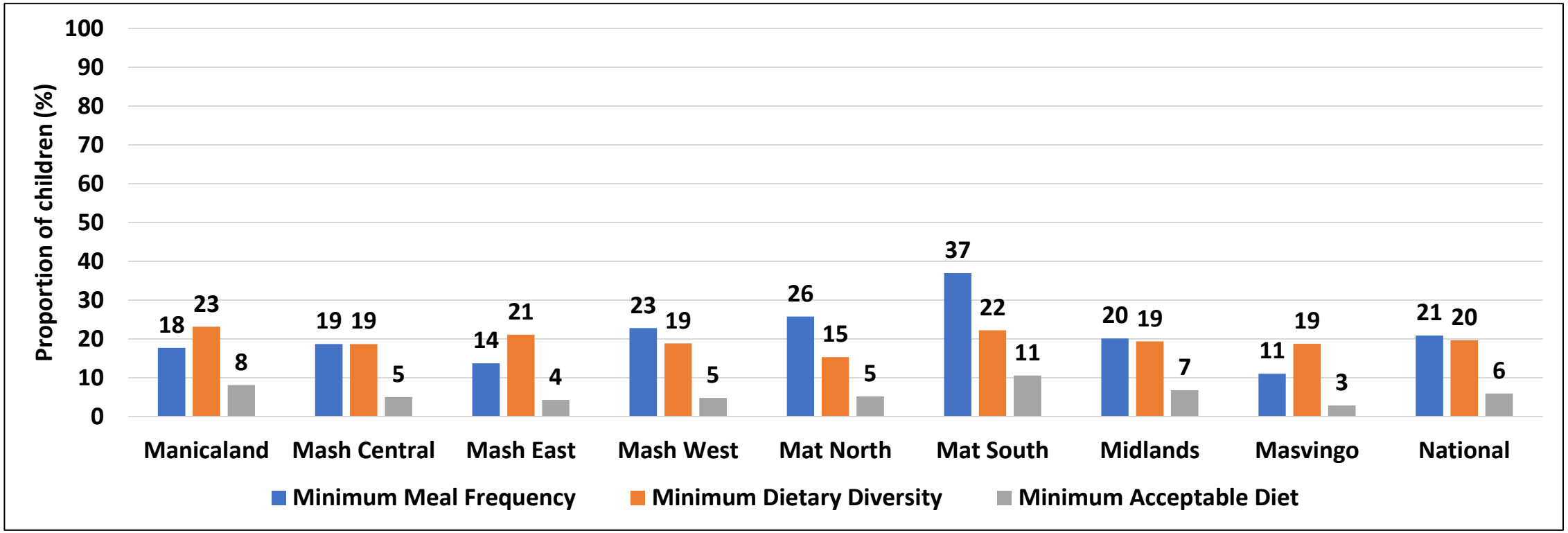
- Nationally, 67% of the children continued to be breastfed beyond 1 year.
- Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of children who were breastfed beyond 1 year (76%).

Early Initiation of Breastfeeding



- Nationally, the proportion of children who were initiated breastfeeding within an hour, as per recommended practice was 86%
- Manicaland, Midlands and Masvingo had attained the target of 90%.

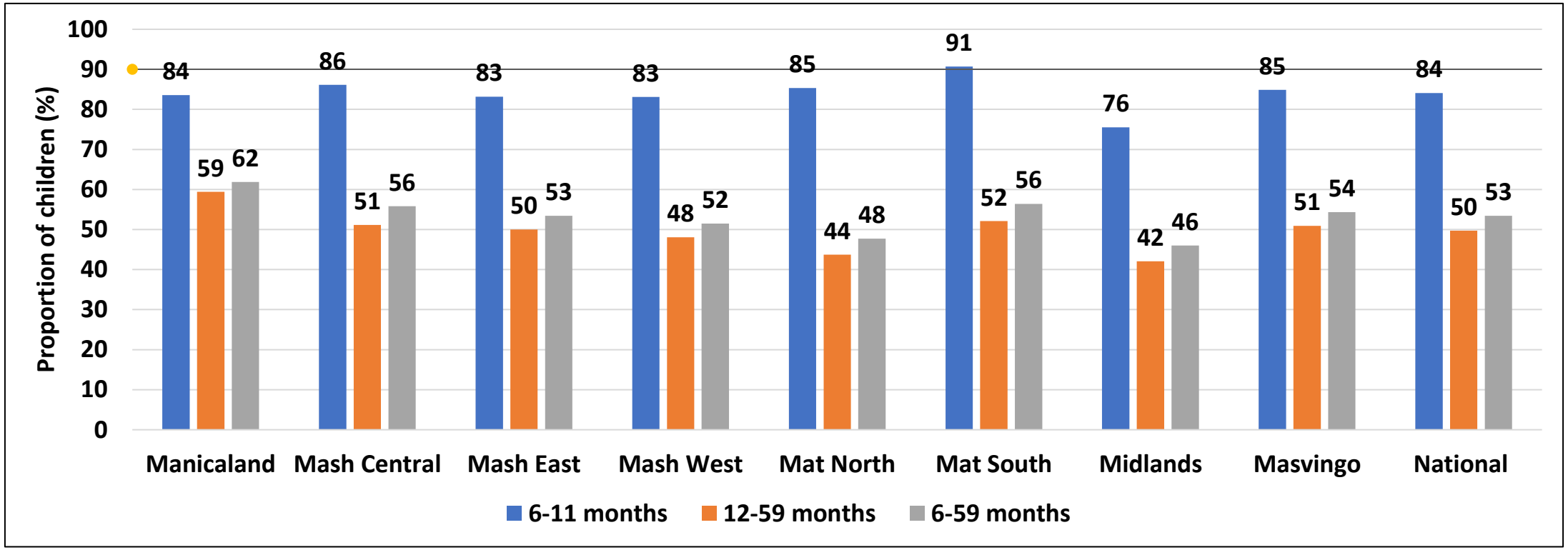
Complementary Feeding Practices



- Only 6% of children aged 6-23 months received the Minimum Acceptable Diet, although this was an increase from 2.1% recorded in 2020.
- A minimum acceptable diet is an indicator which combines information on children who received the minimum dietary diversity and the minimum meal frequency. It is essential to ensure appropriate growth and development for children aged 6-23 months.

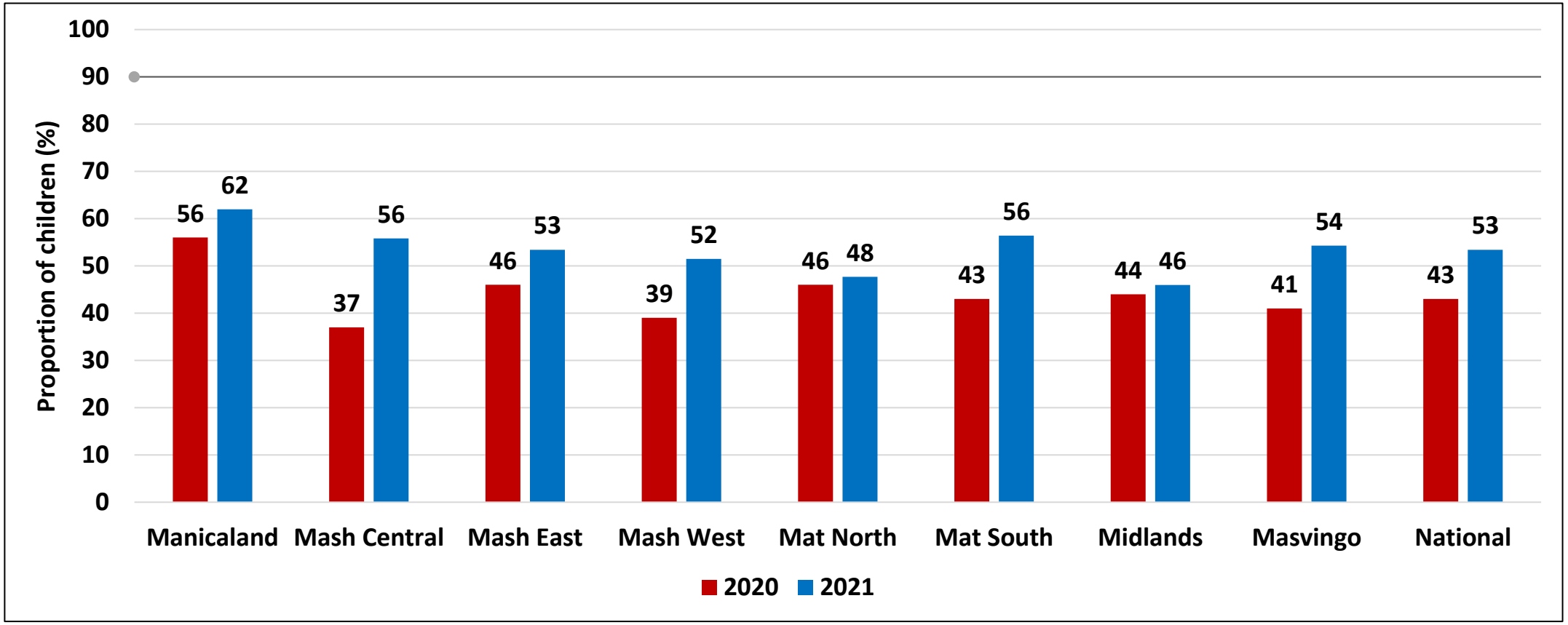
Vitamin A Supplementation

Vitamin A Supplementation for Children Aged 6-59 Months



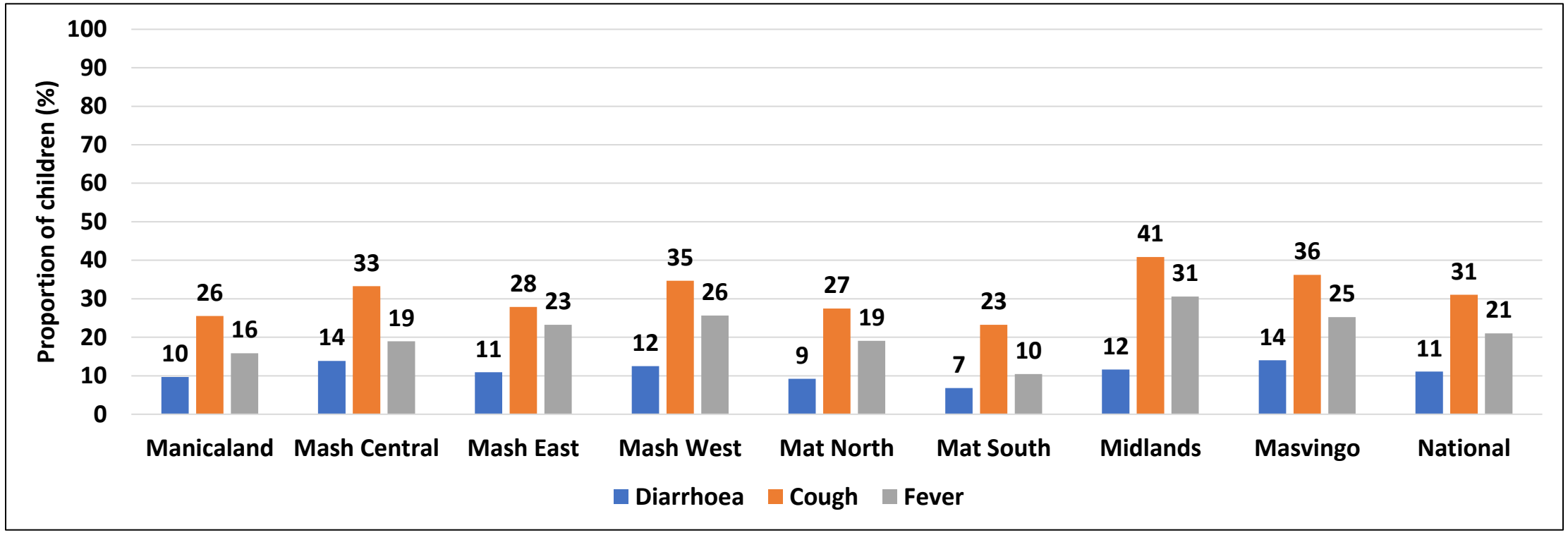
- Nationally, the proportions of children who received the recommended dose of Vitamin A in the past 12 months were: 84% for 6-11 months; 50% for 12-59 months and 53% for the children 6-59 months.
- Only Matabeleland South (91%) surpassed the recommended target of 90% for children 6-11 months who received Vitamin A.
- As children got older, they were less likely to receive their Vitamin A supplements and more effort should be put towards the 12-59 month age group.

Vitamin A Supplementation for Children Aged 6-59 Months (2020-2021)



- Overall, there was an increase in the proportion of children who received Vitamin A supplementation in 2021 (53%) compared to 2020 (43%). However, this remains below the target of 90%.

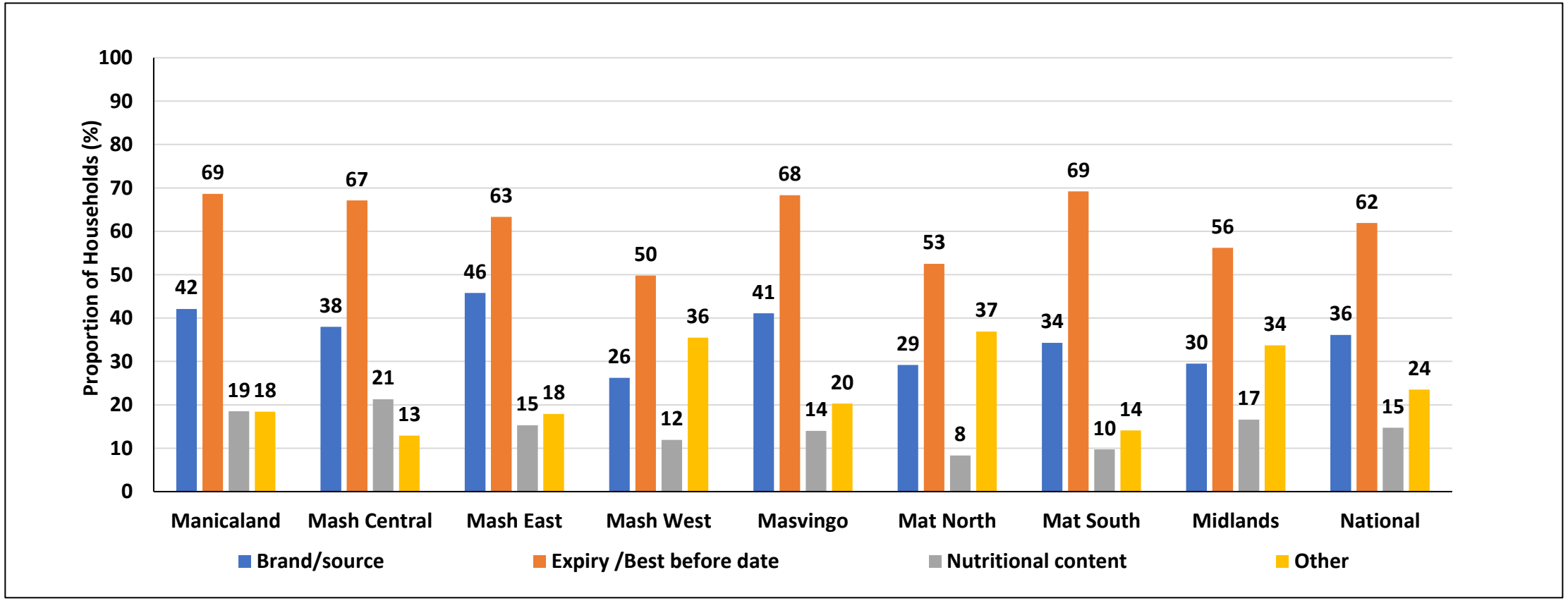
Prevalence of Illness Among Children Aged 0-59 Months



- The prevalence of illness in children was assessed as the presence of illness during the two weeks preceding the survey.
- A third of the children had cough (31%), 21% had fever and 11% had diarrhea.
- Midlands had the highest proportion of children with cough at 41% and fever (31%). Masvingo and Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of children with diarrhea (14%).

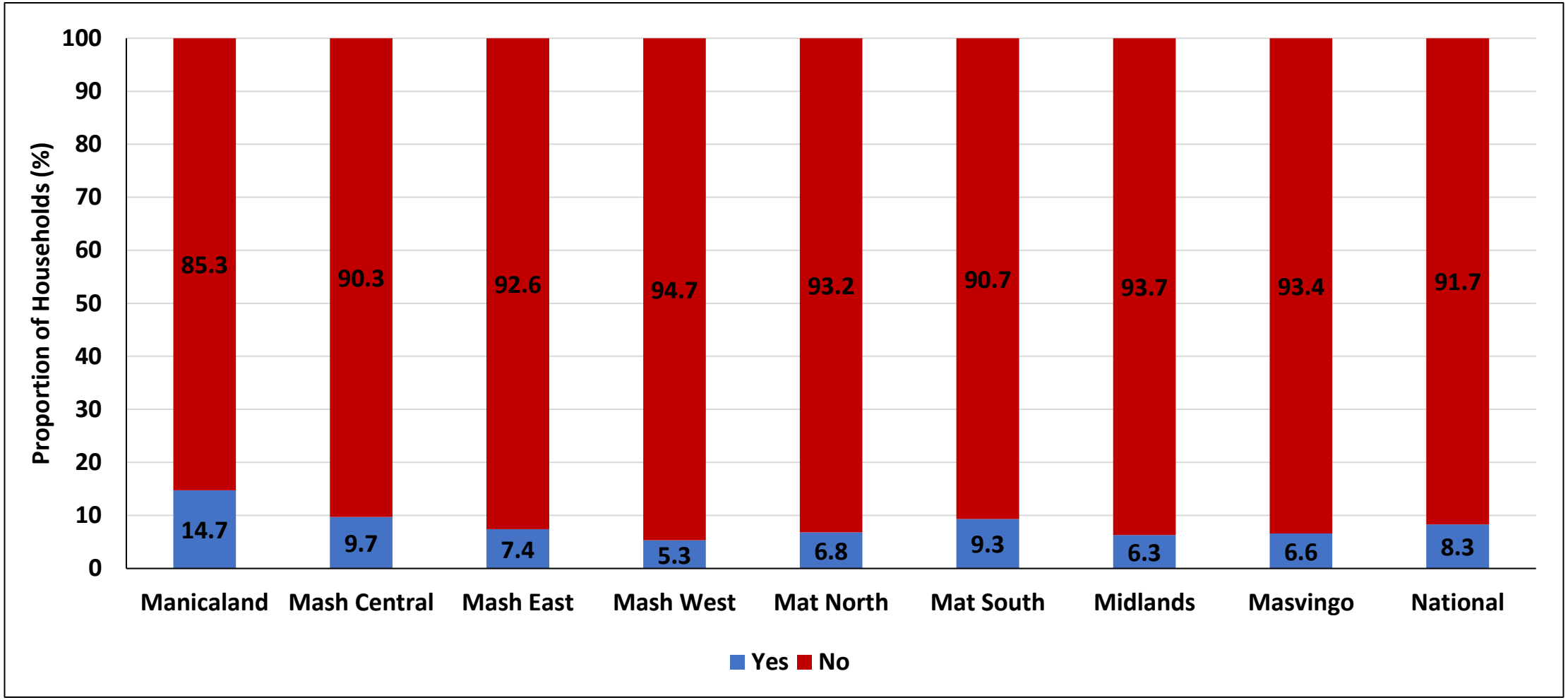
Food Safety

Considerations when Purchasing Food



- Nationally, 62% of households reported considering the expiry date when purchasing food for their households.
- Mashonaland Central (21%), had the greatest proportion of households which considered nutritional content when purchasing food.

Purchase of Expired or Spoiled Food



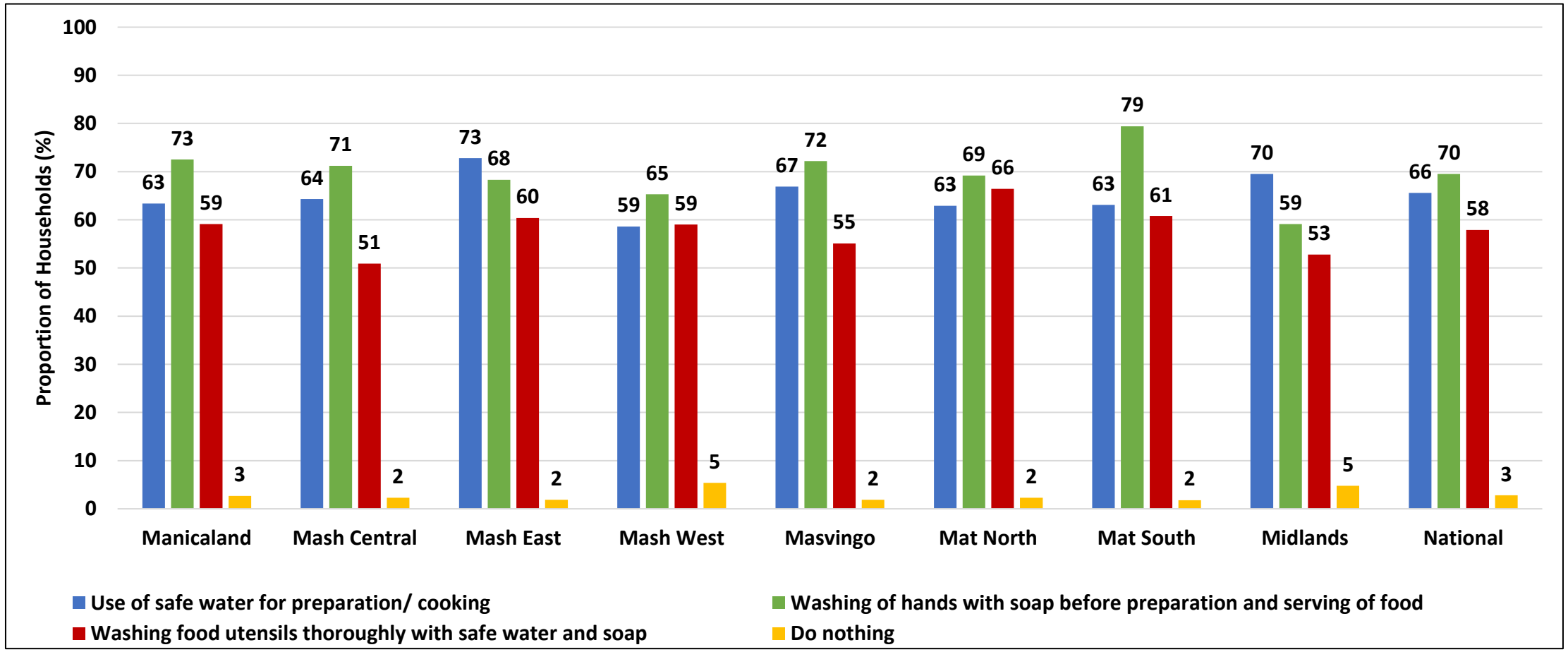
- Manicaland (14.7%) had the greatest proportion of households which purchased expired or food undergoing spoilage due to its reduced price.

Ways to Keep Food Safe

Province	Proper storage of food at correct temperatures (%)	Avoiding contamination of cooked food by keeping it closed (%)	Keeping cooked food separate from raw food (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	50.6	74.9	**37.5**	4.6
Mash Central	53.7	73.6	25.2	2.7
Mash East	**58.2**	67.4	27.2	4.3
Mash West	36.8	61.2	29.6	**20.7**
Mat North	53.9	75.7	28.6	3.7
Mat South	46.8	66.5	26.8	12.2
Midlands	46.5	**78.3**	35.7	2.2
Masvingo	49.5	66.8	25.6	11.3
National	50.0	70.5	29.3	7.5

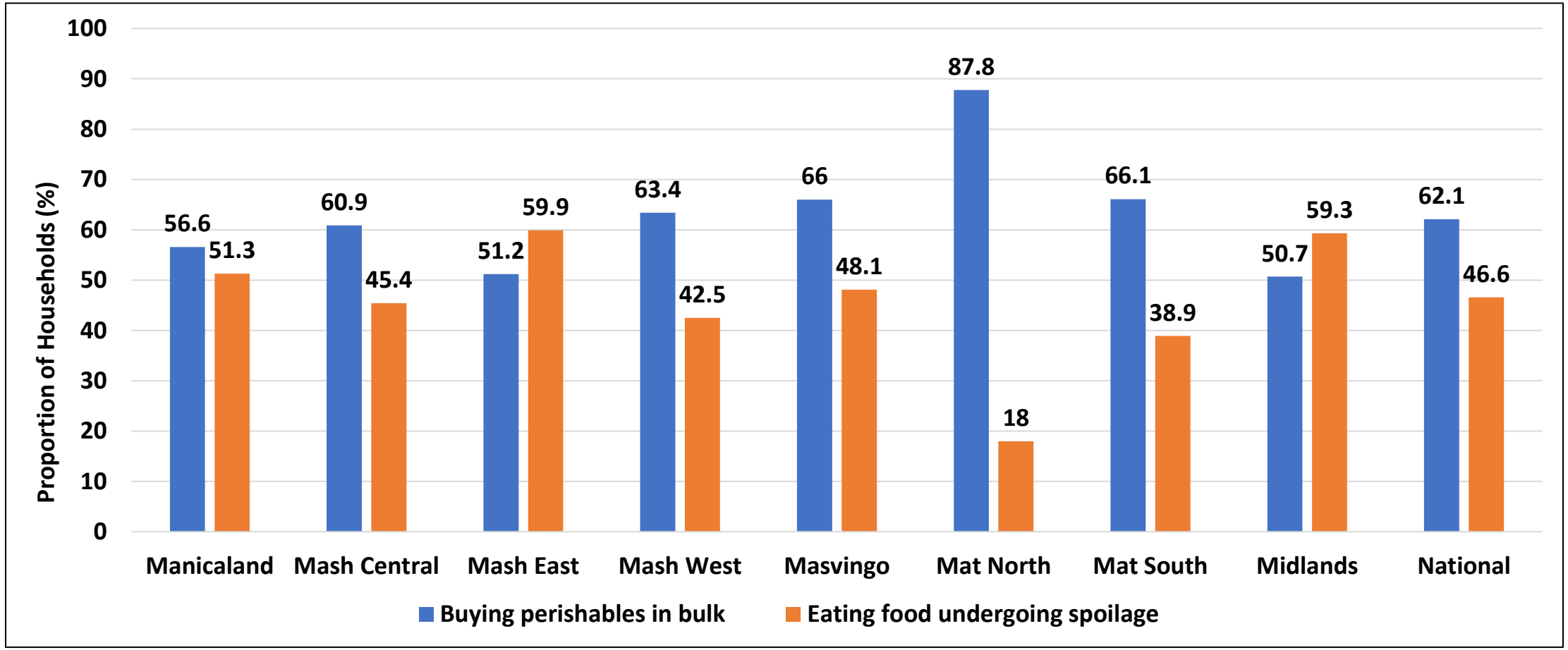
- Keeping food closed to avoid contamination (70.5%) was the frequently mentioned method of keeping food safe.

Safe Preparation of Food



- Nationally 70% of households reported that washing hands with soap before preparation and serving food was important in safe food preparation.
- Only 3% of households did nothing to ensure food safety during preparation of food.

Household Food Safety During COVID-19 Lockdown Period



- Matabeleland North (87.8%) had the highest proportion of households which bought perishables in bulk as formal shops were too far.
- Nationally, 46.6% of the households reported having to eat food undergoing spoilage during the lockdown period.

Food Insecurity

Food Security Dimensions

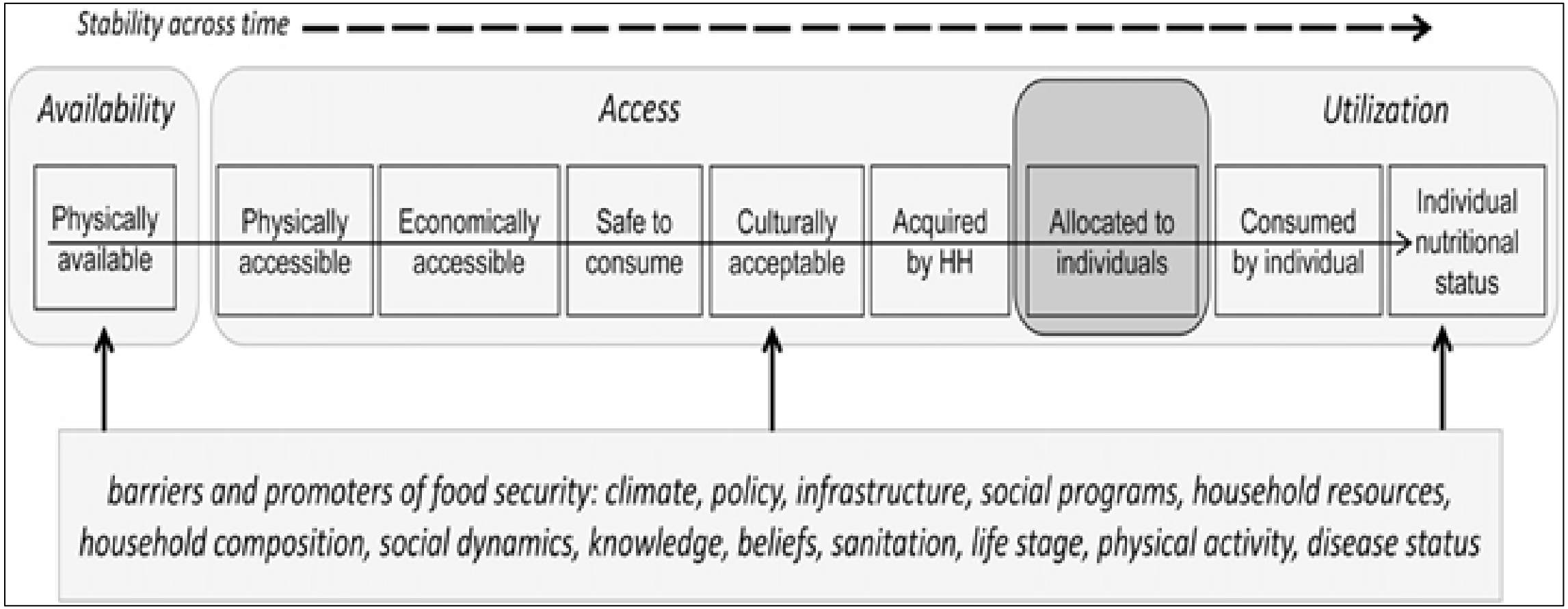


Figure 3: Dimensions of Food Security (Jones et al., 2013)

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 give in Figure 3 are:
  - **Availability** of food
  - **Access** to food
  - The safe and healthy **utilization** of food
  - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilization

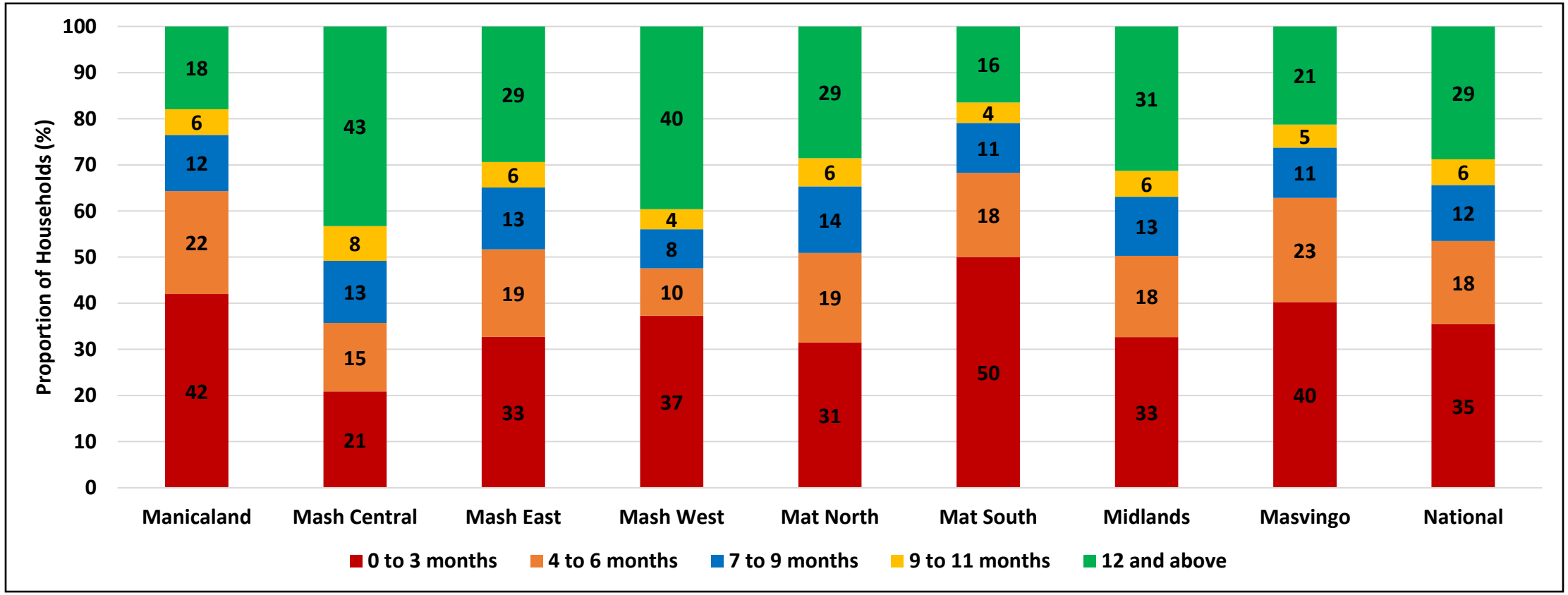
Food Security Analytical Framework

- Household cereal security was determine by measuring a household's potential access to enough cereal to give each member member 2100 kilocalories per day in the consumption period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- Each of the surveyed households' potential to acquire cereals was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income (both cash and non cash) in the 2021/22 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
  - Cereal stocks from the previous season;
  - Own food crop production from the 2020/21 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.

Household Cereal Supply

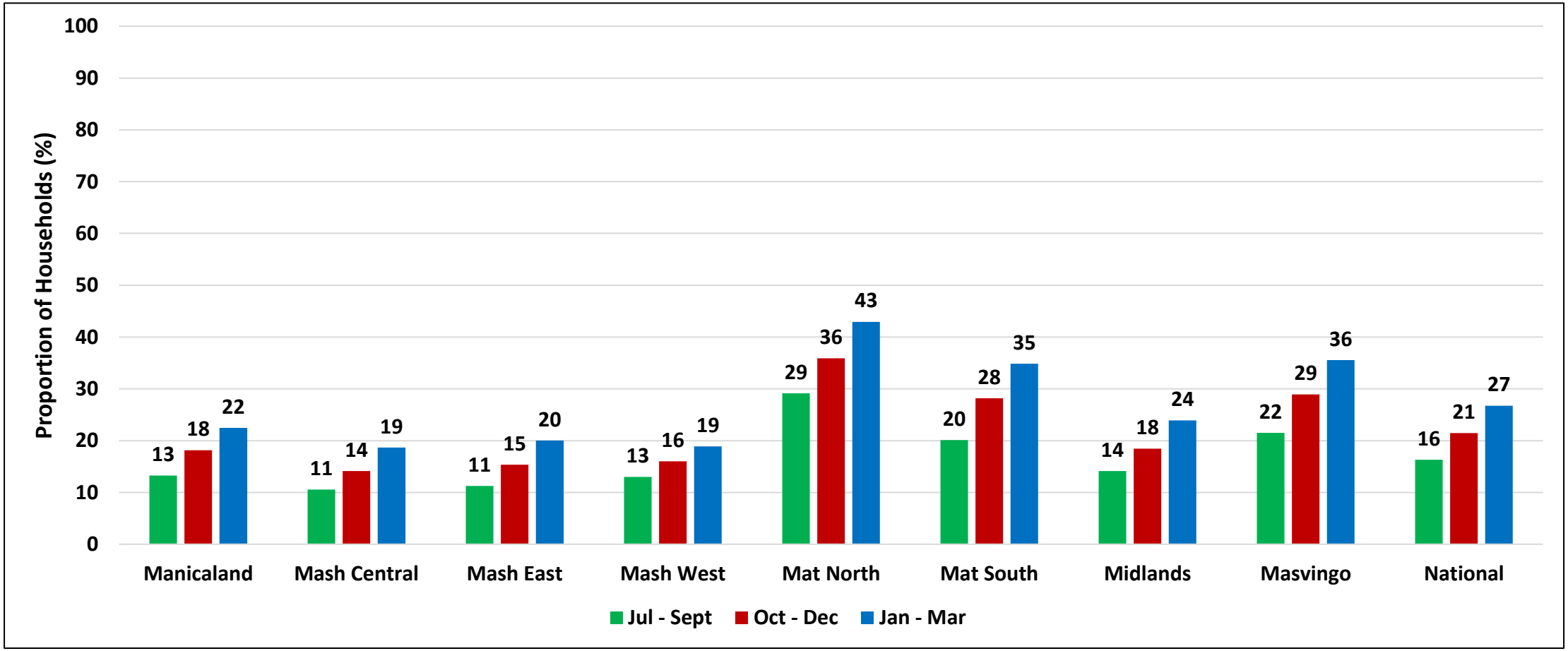


- At least 29% of the households reported having more than 12 months supply of cereals.
- Mashonaland Central (43%) and Mashonaland West (40%) had the highest proportions of households with cereal supply of more than 12 months.
- Matabeleland South (50%), Manicaland (42%) and Masvingo (40%) had a high proportion of households with cereal supply of 0 to 3 months.

Food Security Status at Peak Hunger

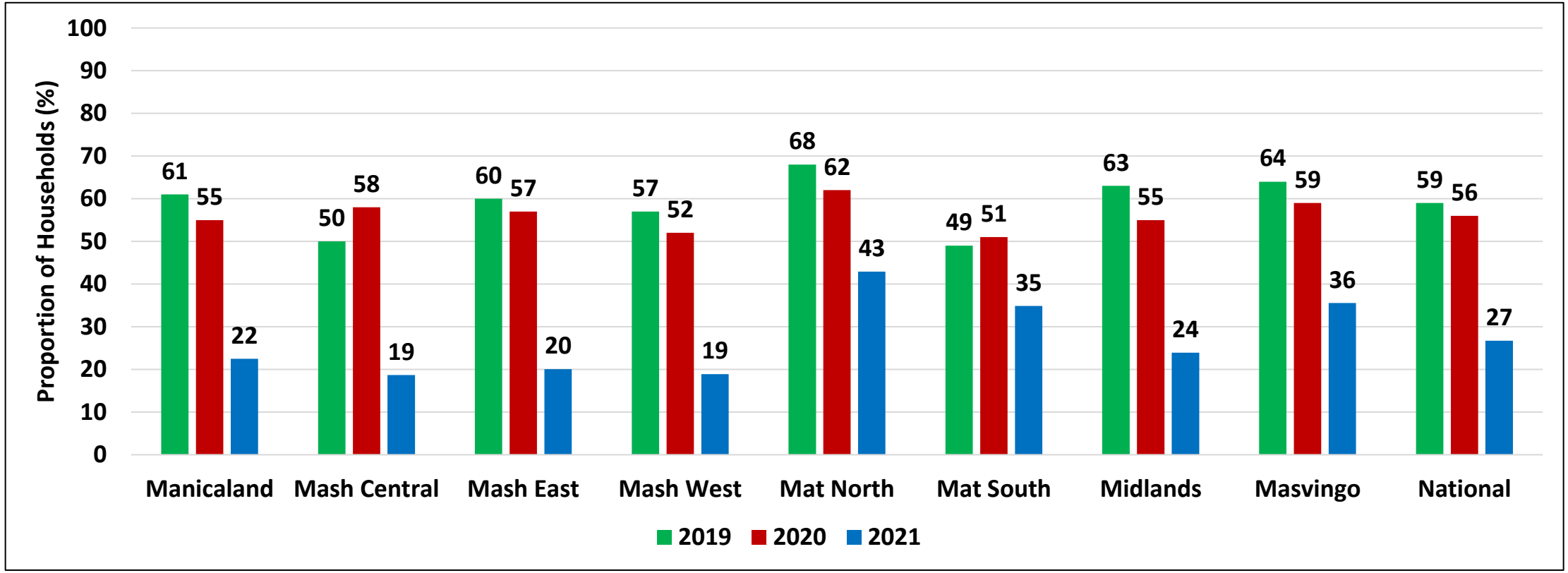
- During the peak hunger period (January to March 2022) it was estimated that approximately **27%** of the rural households will be cereal insecure.
- The 27% of rural households translated into approximately **2,942,897** individuals requiring **262,856 MT** of cereal (Maize Grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.

Cereal Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- The second quarter of the 2021/22 season was projected to have 16% of the households being cereal insecure.
- Matabeleland North (36%), and Masvingo (29%) were projected to have the highest number of cereal insecure households during the third quarter.

Cereal Insecurity (Peak Hunger)



- Generally, the household cereal insecurity has improved across all provinces due to good rains.
- Matabeleland North (43%), Masvingo (36%) and Matabeleland South (35%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity during the peak hunger period (January to March 2022).
- Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West, both at 19% cereal insecure, were projected to have the least prevalence of cereal insecurity at peak hunger period.

Cereal Insecure Population by Quarter

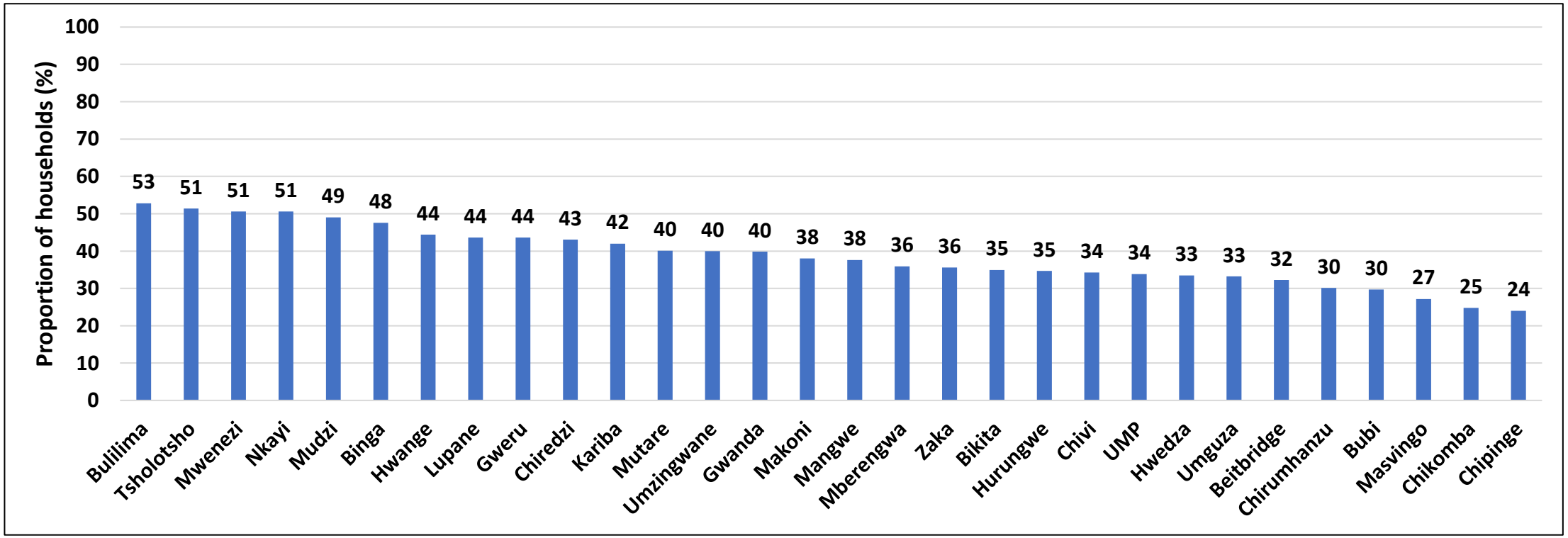
Province	Food Insecure Population		
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
Manicaland	237,485	324,871	401,977
Mashonaland Central	150,886	202,373	266,732
Mashonaland East	173,656	237,239	309,026
Mashonaland West	191,369	235,794	277,656
Matabeleland North	243,817	300,340	359,258
Matabeleland South	144,985	203,145	251,335
Midlands	217,410	283,479	367,216
Masvingo	362,455	486,808	598,629
National	**1,795,204**	**2,366,104**	**2,942,897**

- Masvingo (598,629) and Manicaland (401,977) were projected to have the highest populations of cereal insecure people during the peak hunger period.

Cereal Requirement (MT) by Province by Quarter

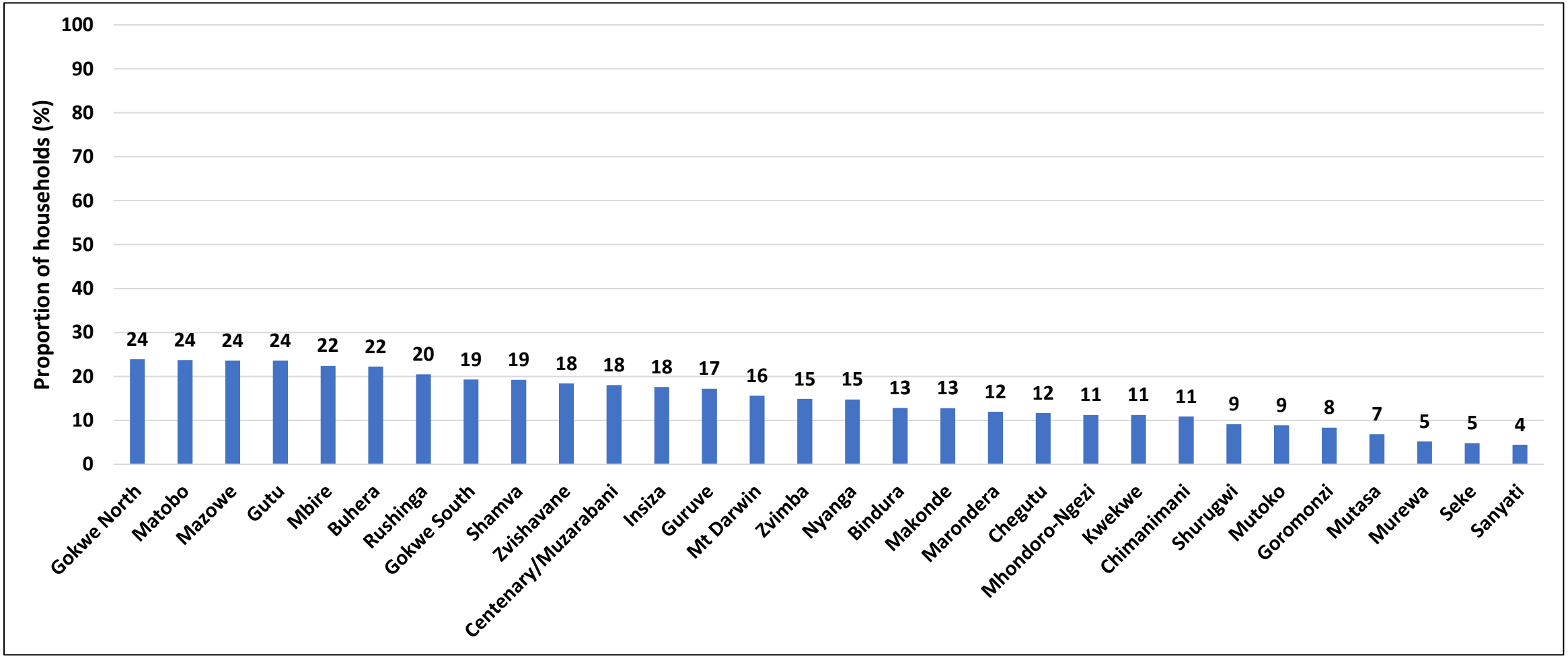
	Jul - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Total Requirement (MT)
Manicaland	8,787	12,020	14,873	35,680
Mashonaland Central	5,583	7,488	9,869	22,940
Mashonaland East	6,425	8,778	11,434	26,637
Mashonaland West	7,081	8,724	10,273	26,078
Matabeleland North	9,021	11,113	13,293	33,426
Matabeleland South	5,364	7,516	9,299	22,180
Midlands	8,044	10,489	13,587	32,120
Masvingo	13,411	18,012	22,149	53,572
National	**66,423**	**87,546**	**108,887**	**262,856**

Cereal Insecurity by District (Top 30)



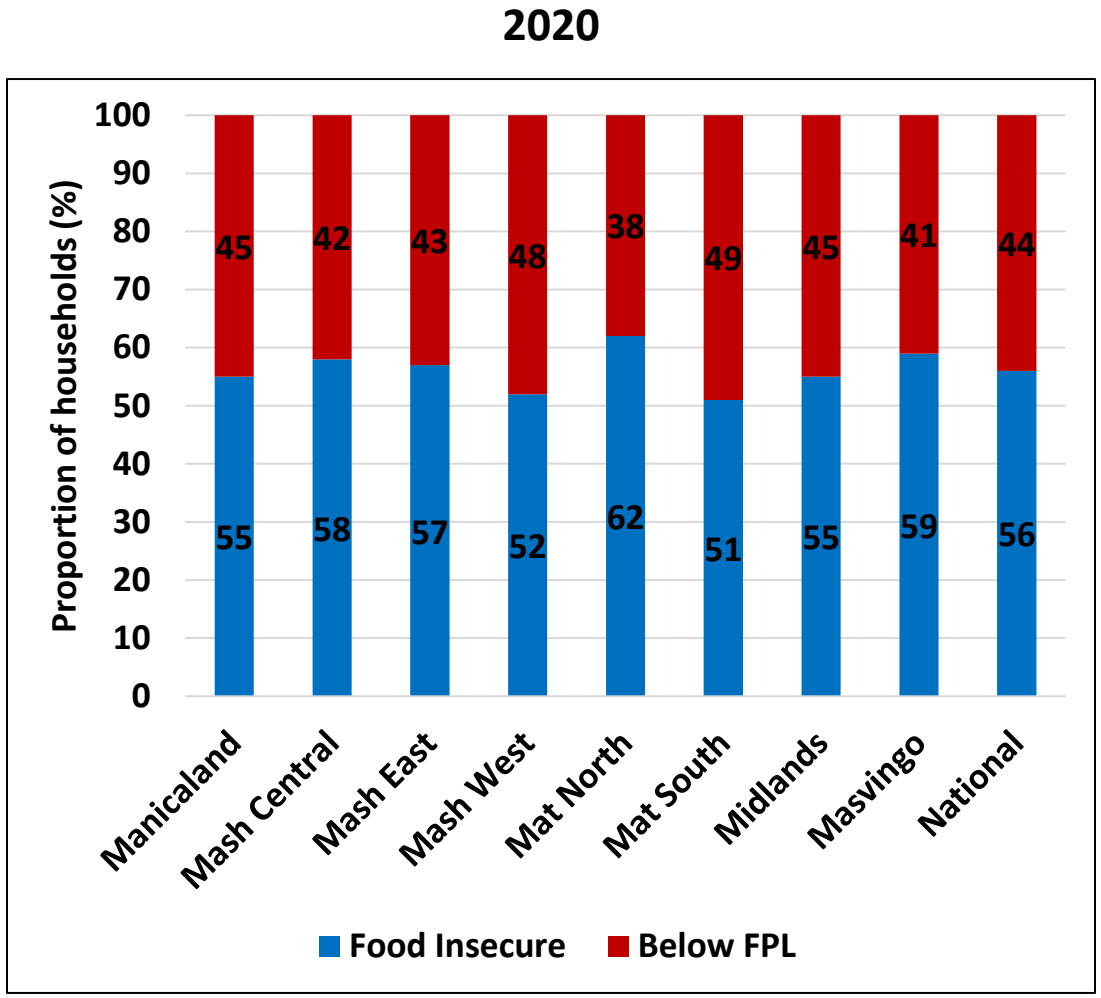
- Four districts had at least 50% and above of their households being cereal insecure, regardless of the general improvement of household cereal insecurity.
- Bulilima (53%), Tsholotsho (51%), Mwenezi (51%) and Nkayi (51%) were projected to have the highest proportion of households facing cereal insecurity during the peak hunger period

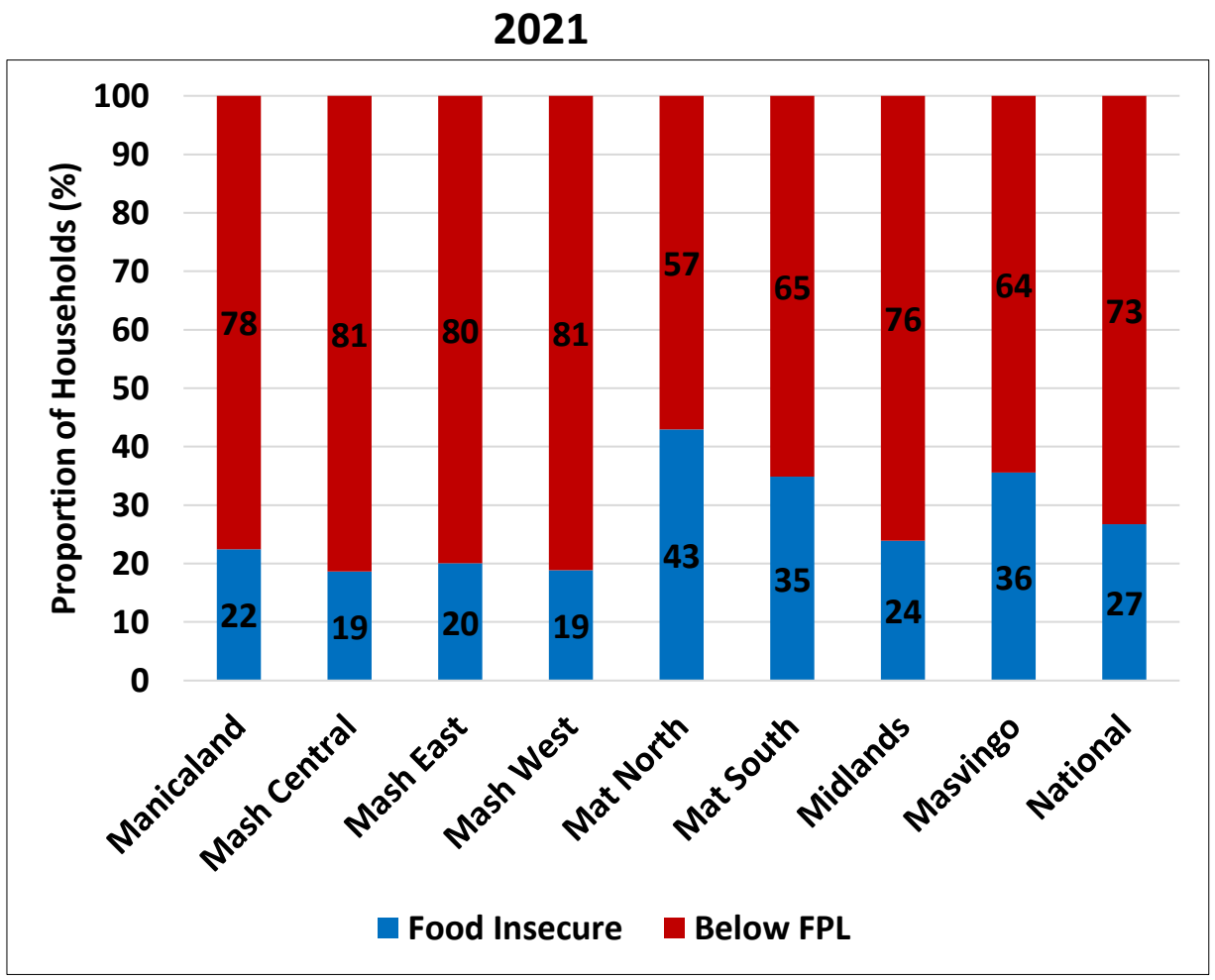
Cereal Insecurity by District (Bottom 30)



- Sanyati (4%), Seke (5%) and Murewa (5%) were projected to have the least prevalence of cereal insecurity at peak hunger period.

Food Insecurity and Poverty Lines





- About 73% of the households were projected to meet their cereal requirements, however, they were all below the food poverty line.
- This is indicating that almost all rural households will not be able to meet all their food needs to support a healthy life therefore social assistance should not target the cereal insecure households only.

Gender Based Violence

Sources of Information on Gender Based Violence Services

	Radio (%)	Other household member (%)	Television (%)	Newspaper (%)	Social media (%)	Internet browsing (%)	Government Extension Worker (%)	Health workers (%)	Health promoters (%)	Friends and relatives (%)	UN/NGOs (%)	Police (%)	Other (%)
Manicaland	63	16	6	3	13	1	29	29	14	15	16	34	3
Mash Central	73	16	3	3	7	2	21	34	13	13	5	17	4
Mash East	87	14	8	2	10	0	15	15	5	12	3	23	3
Mash West	64	7	4	2	7	1	12	25	21	5	6	13	9
Masvingo	69	8	7	4	5	0	34	25	14	9	7	18	7
Mat North	42	10	1	1	4	0	19	35	18	13	14	25	5
Mat South	52	16	4	6	9	1	31	43	20	14	12	27	4
Midlands	70	10	3	1	3	0	17	18	6	9	6	10	8
National	66	12	5	3	7	1	23	28	13	12	9	21	5

- The main sources of information on Gender Based Violence services were radio (66%), health workers (28%) and government extension workers (23%).

Forms of Gender Based Violence

	N	Physical abuse (%)			Sexual abuse (%)		
		No	Yes	Refused to answer	No	Yes	Refused to answer
Manicaland	1741	94.3	3.7	2.0	97.6	0.6	1.8
Mash Central	1999	96.2	3.5	0.3	99.0	0.7	0.3
Mash East	2257	96.6	2.8	0.5	99.1	0.6	0.3
Mash West	1722	95.9	3.1	1.0	98.3	0.8	0.9
Masvingo	1747	97.2	2.4	0.4	99.0	0.6	0.5
Mat North	1747	97.0	1.9	1.1	98.2	0.7	1.1
Mat South	1736	97.3	1.6	1.1	98.8	0.2	1.0
Midlands	1999	95.7	3.8	0.5	98.5	0.9	0.6
National	**14948**	**96.3**	**2.9**	**0.8**	**98.6**	**0.6**	**0.8**

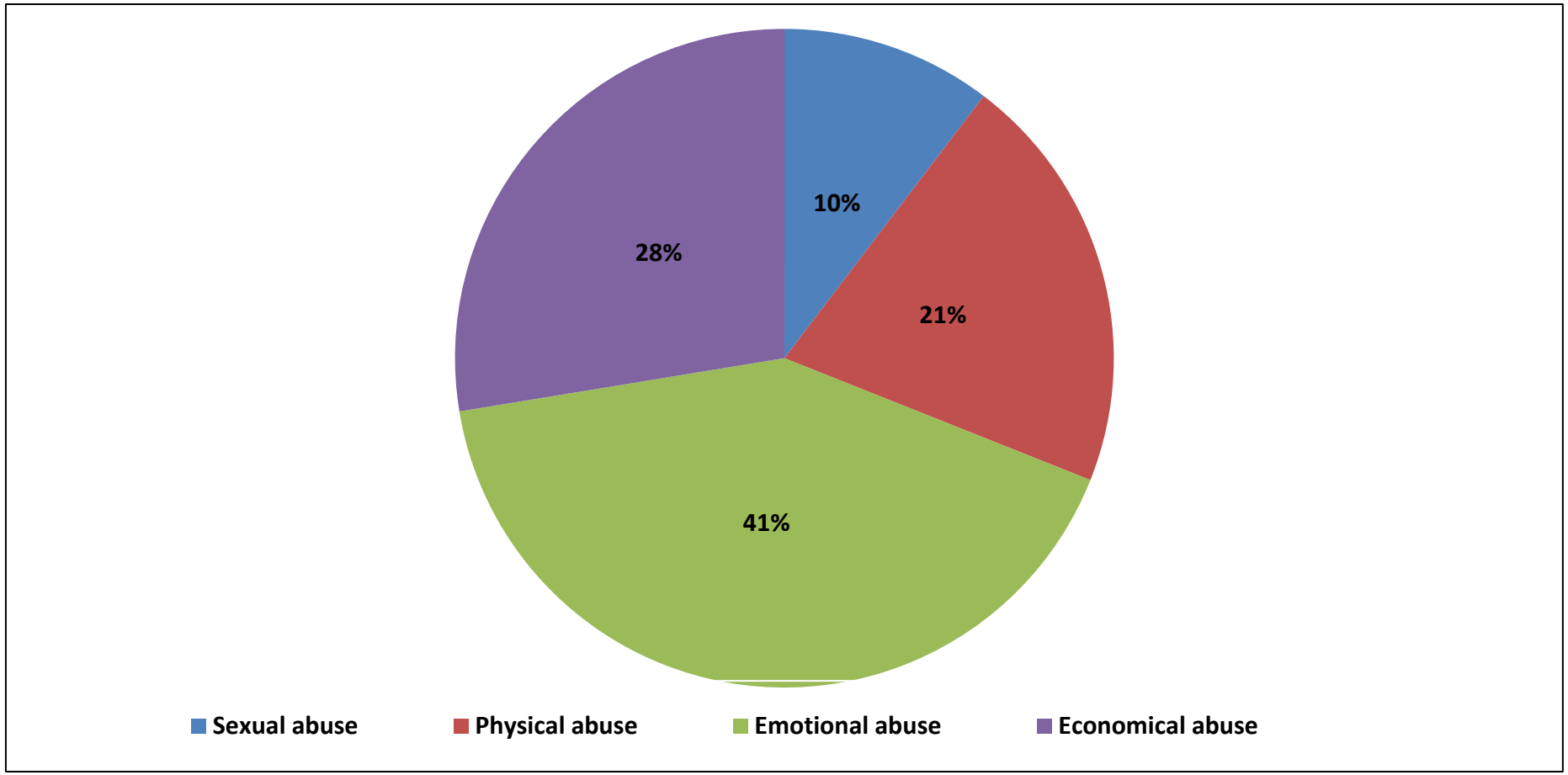
- Nationally, 2.9% of the respondents reported having experienced physical abuse while 0.6% reported to have experienced sexual abuse.

Incidence of Spousal Violence

Province	Sexual abuse (%)			Physical abuse (%)		Emotional abuse (%)		Economical abuse (%)	
	N	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Manicaland	1389	2.16	3.34	4.82	5.18	8.76	9.35	5.58	5.68
Mash Central	1766	1.25	1.91	2.74	4.39	8.44	6.64	4.9	4.28
Mash East	2042	1.16	1.01	3.27	2.47	6.75	6.5	5.27	3.3
Mash West	1322	1.09	2.07	2.48	2.51	6.37	9.32	3.42	5.47
Masvingo	1562	0.63	1.16	1.46	2.15	3.34	2.64	1.78	2.31
Mat North	1464	0.9	0.38	1.8	0.63	3.29	2.76	2.54	2.76
Mat South	1627	2.02	1.36	3.92	2.86	6.83	4.64	4.7	4.37
Midlands	1597	0.23	1.49	2.09	1.49	4.3	4.34	2.67	2.17
National	**12769**	**1.18**	**1.52**	**2.82**	**2.68**	**6.01**	**5.76**	**3.86**	**3.74**

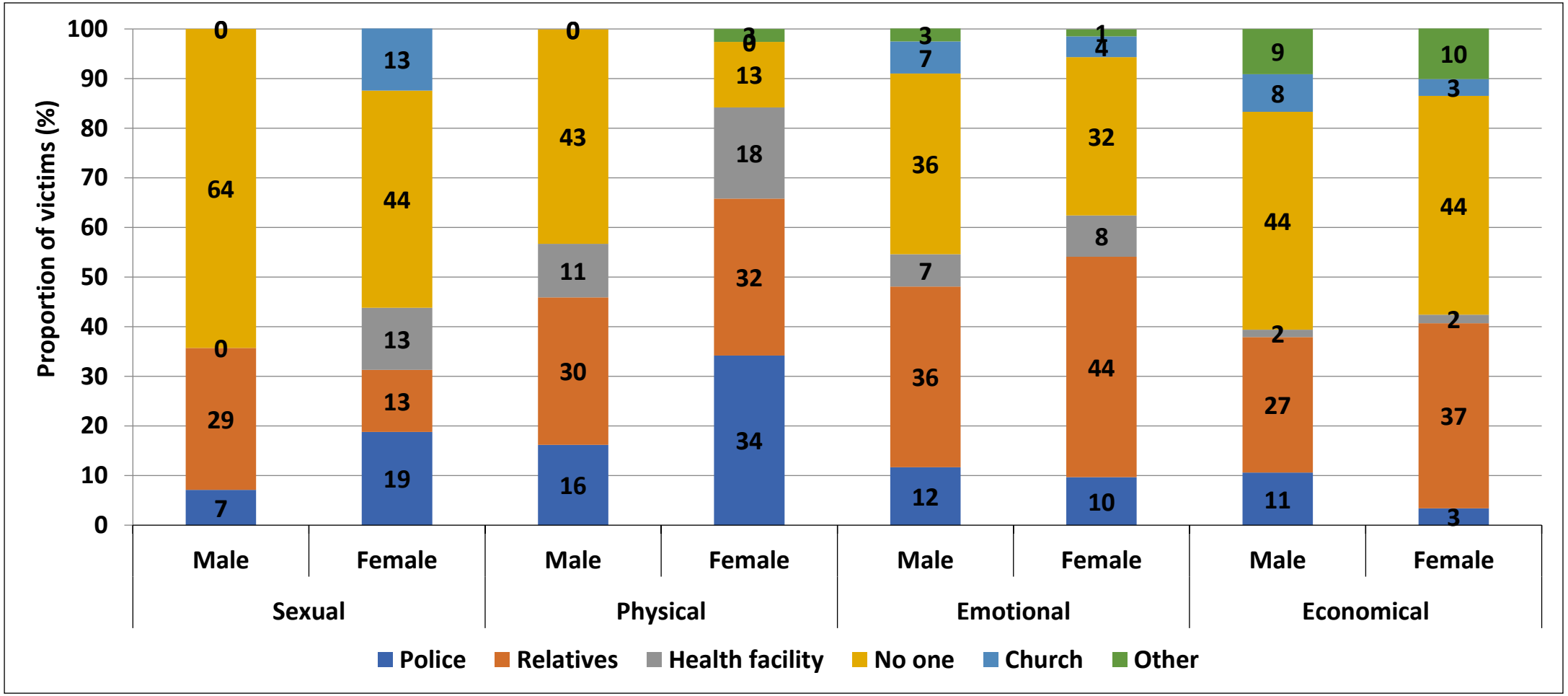
- There was high incidence of emotional abuse among spouses, 6.01% for males and 5.76% for females nationally.
- Generally, emotional abuse was high for both males and females while sexual abuse had the lowest reported incidents.

Forms of Spousal Violence



- Emotional abuse (41%) was the most prevalent form of abuse among spouses.
- Sexual abuse was the least reported with 10%.

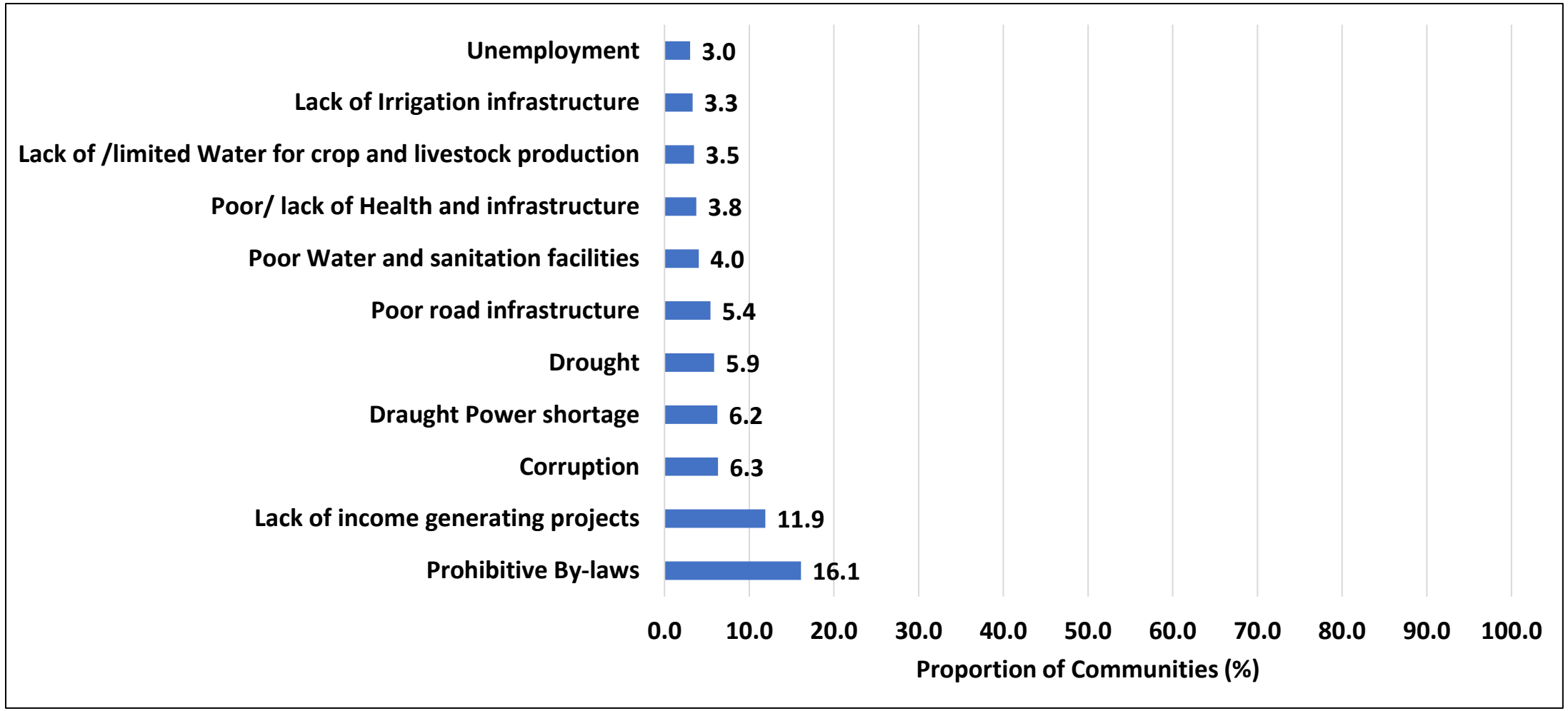
Reported Incidence of Spousal Violence



- Most victims of sexual abuse did not report to anyone, males 64% and females 44%.
- Physical violence was mostly reported to the police by females (34%) and males either did not report(43%) or reported to relatives (30%).
- Emotional and economical abuse were either reported to no one or to relatives by both males and females.

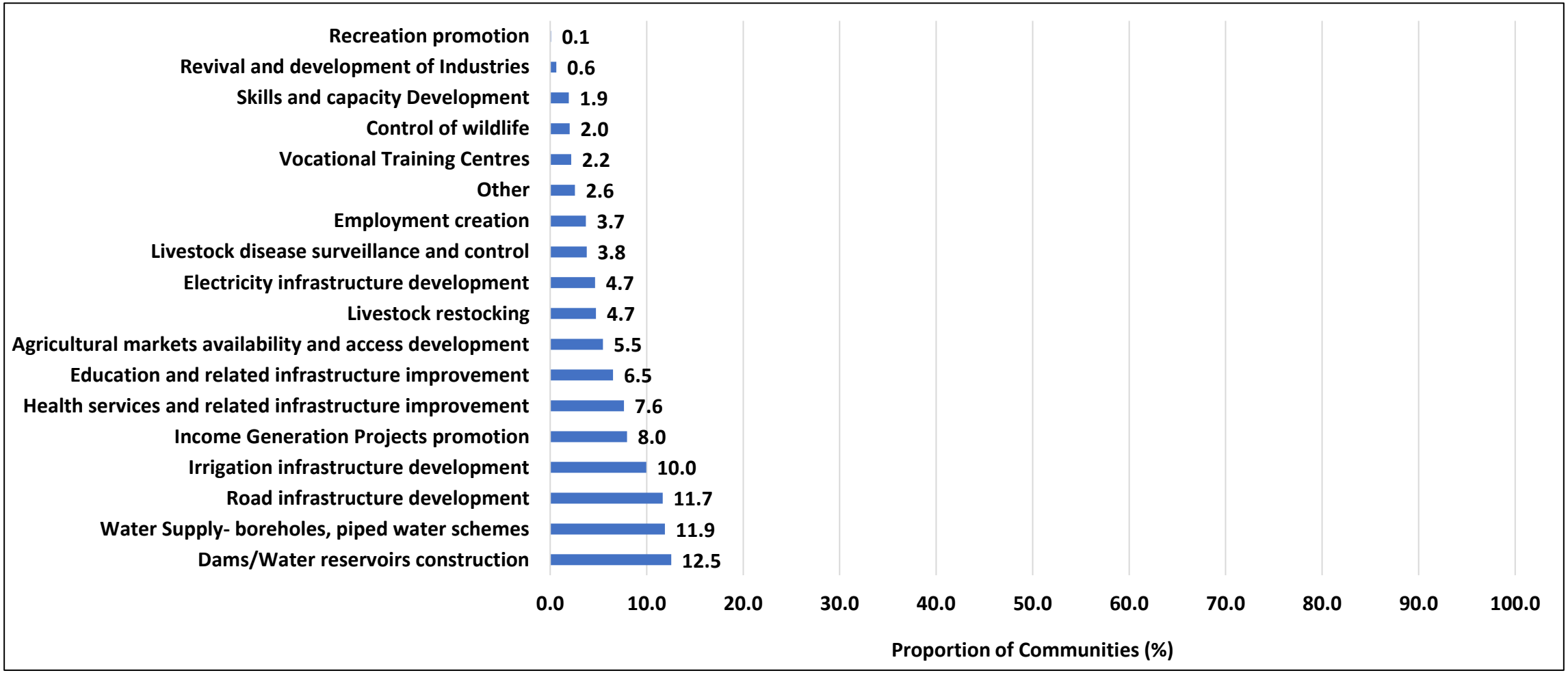
Developmental Issues

Development Challenges



- Prohibitive by-laws (16.1%) and lack of income generating projects (11.9%) were the most reported development challenges.

Development Priorities



- Dams/ water reservoirs construction (12.5%), boreholes and piped water schemes (11.9%) and road infrastructure development (11.7%) were the most reported development priorities.

Towards Rural Transformation

Achievements - Programmes

- Crop diversification
- Access to agriculture extension services and agricultural markets
- Agricultural Modernization/Adoption of modern technologies
- Adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Adoption of Improved Livestock Practices
- Access to Rural Finance
- Access to Rural Infrastructure and Services
- Non-farm and on-farm income sources
- Social Protection

Crop Diversification

Food Crops				Cash crops			
Crop	Grow	Harvest (kgs)	Sales (kgs)	Crop	Grow	Harvest (kgs)	Sales (kgs)
Maize	0.844	545	139	Tobacco	0.035	897	11319
Sorghum	0.259	210	37	Cotton	0.065	432	70024
Finger millet	0.055	84	8	Sunflower	0.034	90	17
Pearl millet	0.103	180	9	Soya beans	0.020	264	207
Tubers	0.253	135	66				
Round nuts	0.187	53	5				
Ground nuts	0.368	79	21				
Sugar beans	0.108	65	25				

Access to Agriculture Extension Services and Agricultural Markets

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	
Agriculture extension services	0.578	0.494	
Access Agriculture inputs through Agro-dealers	0.210	0.407	Value chain practices
Access of market information	0.087	0.282	
Use of formal organised marketing	0.066	0.249	
Market produce through commodity associations	0.048	0.214	

Adoption of Modern Technologies

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Modern technology
Improved granary usage	0.065	0.246	Post-harvest handling and storage
Artificial chemicals usage	0.232	0.422	
Community granaries usage	0.027	0.162	
Temperature control usage	0.038	0.192	
Quality control usage	0.183	0.387	Value added processing
Drying packaging usage	0.310	0.462	
Food processing	0.170	0.375	
Branding	0.043	0.203	

Adoption of Climate-smart Agriculture

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Certified seeds use	0.489	0.500
Seed banks use	0.058	0.233
Improved varieties use	0.297	0.457
Small grains use	0.354	0.478
Crop rotation use	0.378	0.485
Intercropping use	0.299	0.458
Cover cropping use	0.123	0.329
Mulching use	0.402	0.490
Integrated pest use	0.267	0.442
Compost organic use	0.376	0.485
Drip micro use	0.039	0.193
Plant density use	0.136	0.343
Pfumvudza/Intwasa use	0.523	0.499

Adoption of Improved Livestock Practices

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Livestock breeds	0.077	0.266
Animal shelters	0.125	0.331
Water infrastructure	0.111	0.314
Routine vaccinations	0.175	0.380
Home vaccinations	0.191	0.393
Castration	0.135	0.342
Deworming	0.210	0.407
Dipping	0.407	0.491
Spraying	0.292	0.455
Animal feeds	0.119	0.323
Fodder production	0.056	0.229
Fodder preservation	0.053	0.223
Survival feeding	0.089	0.284
Animal feed	0.078	0.268
Artificial insemination	0.023	0.151
Pen fattening	0.040	0.197

Access to Rural Finance

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISALs)	0.111	0.314
Loan/credit	0.040	0.196

Access to Rural Infrastructure and Services

Variable	Distance	Mean	Std. Dev.
Police services within 1 hour		0.466	0.499
Victim Friendly Unit		0.392	0.488
Primary school	Less than 5km	0.702	0.457
	5 to 10km	0.246	0.431
	More than 10km	0.052	0.223
Health information		0.841	0.365
Health facility	Less than 5km	0.542	0.498
	5 to 10km	0.311	0.463
	More than 10km	0.147	0.354

Non-farm and On-farm Sources of Income

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Casual labour	0.230	0.421
Food crop production/sales	0.109	0.312
Formal salary/wages	0.097	0.296
Remittance within	0.097	0.296
Remittances outside	0.065	0.247
Small scale mining/mineral sales	0.064	0.244
Vegetable production/sales	0.062	0.242
Livestock production/sales	0.047	0.211
Cash crop production	0.043	0.202
Skilled trade/artisan	0.028	0.165
Petty trade	0.026	0.159

Social Protection from Government and Development Partners

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Government (Peak hunger season)	0.494	0.500
Government	0.537	0.499
Lean on Government	0.601	0.490
UN/NGO (Peak hunger season)	0.245	0.430
UN/NGO	0.255	0.436
Lean on UN/NGO	0.393	0.488

Achievements – Policies & Strategies

- National Development Strategy 1
- National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy
- Devolution and Decentralisation Policy
- National Food and Nutrition Security Policy for Zimbabwe
- Agriculture related policies
  - National Agriculture Policy Framework (2018-2030) (NAPF)
  - Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy
  - Horticulture Recovery and Growth Plan
  - Accelerated Irrigation Rehabilitation and Development Plan (2021 – 2023)
  - Livestock Growth Plan (2020 – 2025)
  - Maize, Wheat and Soyabean Production Recovery Plan
- Infrastructure Development Policies/Programmes such as Rural Electrification Programme; Renewable Energy Development and National Renewable Energy Policy
- Social Assistance and Social Protection Related Policies such as National Social Protection Policy Framework; National Disability Policy and Zimbabwe National Water Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Related Policies - Zimbabwe School Health Policy
- Nutrition Related Policies - Nutrition Communication Strategy

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

a) **Access to Education** - Attainment of the Country's universal primary education for all continues to be frustrated by challenges which keep children of school going age out of school. Financial constraints, children considered too young and adolescence pregnancy were some of the notable reasons why about 23% of the children were not in school. This situation calls for urgent strengthening of the Government's BEAM programme and for stronger partnerships between Government and its development partners to secure the strides the Country has made in improving access to education for the generality of its people.

b) **Social Protection:** In light of the vulnerability across the country due to a combination of persistent shocks, including COVID-19 which have resulted in negative effects on the broader micro-economic environment, Government and its development partners are called upon to work together to mobilise resources to support the vulnerable. There is need to scale-up emergency support and resilience building to households.

c) **Access to Social Infrastructure –** There is need to improve access to Police, Health Facilities and Animal Health Centres. Options include increasing the provision of mobile social infrastructure.

Conclusions and Recommendations

d) **Livestock-** It is concerning to note that cattle and shoats off-take remains suppressed in the smallholder farming sectors and the majority of cattle and shoats losses are due to diseases. These areas should be prioritized in a broader strategy to improve cattle and shoats productivity in this sector.

e) **Household Income–** The combination of climate related shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic (including impact of the lockdown) continue negatively affecting rural livelihoods, thereby potentially reducing disposable income available to the households for food and nutrition security. Interventions which strengthen households' economy and resilience are highly recommended to ensure households remain food and nutrition secure.

f) **Access to Irrigation Infrastructure –** Generally there were few communities with irrigation schemes (27%) across the country. This means the majority of communities across the country still rely largely on rain-fed crop and livestock production. An overreliance on rain-fed agriculture presents a challenge as farming communities are susceptible to the risks associated with unfavourable seasonal conditions such as drought, waterlogging and prolonged dry spells. Government should accelerate on investment in the setting up of irrigation schemes to ensure communities have improved access to reliable sources of water for agricultural production.

Conclusions and Recommendations

g) **Success of Government Interventions -** A well coordinated Government assistance programme to smallholder farmers buttressed by the ready availability of inputs on the market and normal to above normal rainfall in most parts of the country resulted in the country's 2021 maize and small grains production increasing by over 147.5% compared to last year's harvest. Other food crops also recorded increases as noted by the Ministry of Agriculture's Crop and Livestock Assessment. Cash crops such as soyabean, sugarbean and tobacco production also posted some significant increases compared to last year's harvest.

h) **The Pfumvudza programme** recorded a significant adoption rate of 52% of households practicing it and 56% having been trained within one year of its inception. This is an applaudable achievement. Government is recommended to continue and spruce up the programme by availing a full package on time and move towards full mechanization of the programme.

i) **Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods**- Rural households have suffered reduction of income sources, reduction of food sources and failure to access basic commodities as a result of the pandemic. There is need for the development of a holistic and multi-sectoral response to the pandemic to ensure that policies being implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease, such as lockdowns, do not inadvertently increase household vulnerability.

Conclusions and Recommendations

j) **Enhanced Food Access -** The projected household food security situation is based on a number of assumptions about the most likely out-turn regarding staple cereal prices, cereal deficit households' purchasing power and staple cereal availability. There is need to continuously monitor market access and prices as the volatility presented by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic may impact negatively on food access.

k) **Grain Storage Structures -** Post harvest losses in cereals measured from physiological maturity to final consumption can range between 20 and 30% of weight loss. The advent of the large grain borer is known to result in even higher crop weight losses. It is therefore worrying that about 70% of households continue using ordinary rooms to store their grain. This issue requires urgent attention as part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure household level food security.

l) **Income and Expenditure –** The combination of climate related shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic (including impact of the lockdown) continue negatively affecting rural livelihoods, thereby potentially reducing disposable income available to the households for food and nutrition security. Interventions which strengthen households' economy and resilience are highly recommended to ensure households remain food and nutrition secure.

Conclusions and Recommendations

m) **Nutrition Education -** Provision of Nutrition Education to household members was very low (39%). The Department of Nutrition should consider employing e-teaching or any other innovative methods to increase community awareness on optimal practices that improve household nutrition security.

n) **Food Insecurity –** The reduction in the prevalence of food insecurity ***from 56% last year to 27%*** this year is worth noting. This reflects the Government's ability to reduce the problem by over 50% compared to the previous season, hence the right step towards achieving one of the country's goals in the NDS1, particularly of ensuring a food surplus economy. However, Zimbabwe's climate variability, extreme droughts and COVID-19 are among the key drivers behind the cereal insecurity. During the peak hunger period (January to March 2022) it is estimated that approximately **27%** of the rural households will be cereal insecure. The 27% of rural households will translate into approximately **2,942,897** individuals requiring **262,856 MT** of cereal (Maize Grain).

Conclusions and Recommendations

o) **Management of Food Aid –** The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic calls for innovative approaches in both the mobilisation of resources and distribution of food assistance. Currently, there is very high competition for resources and there are potential constraints in the movement of commodities. The development of a credible targeting criteria should also be prioritised.

p) **Food and Nutrition Monitoring System -** Given that the food insecurity projections are made on the basis of a number of assumptions, there is need to regularly monitor these and update the food security projections situation accordingly throughout the 2021/22 consumption year.

q) **COVID-19 Vaccination**- The majority of the households had no concern about the COVID-19 vaccine (69%) and this creates a window of opportunity for the government and its development partners to scale up vaccination initiatives to meet the expectation of attaining herd immunity. However, there is need for robust information dissemination on the vaccine to reach out to a third of the households that did not have trust in the COVID-19 vaccine (28%) and those that viewed it as not at all important (24%).

Conclusions and Recommendations

r) **Developmental Priorities-** Initiatives by government and its development partners to address food and nutrition community challenges need to be informed by the priority challenges identified by the communities themselves (doing so increases success rates and sustainability of the interventions).

s) **Ensuring Rural Transformation** – Government is commended for implementing positive programmes towards rural transformation, including development of promotive policies.

Supported By

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