



**SWAZILAND**

**ANNUAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS**

**REPORT**

**2015**



**July 2015**



## A. HIGHLIGHTS

- *Due to the hazardous events (hailstorms and dry spells) in the course of the 2014/15 agricultural season, maize production outlook decreased slightly from the previous season by 19%.*
- *Staple crop production remains not sufficient to cover domestic consumption requirement for the marketing year 2015/16.*
- *An estimated 50,566 people require immediate food assistance while about 200,897 people are estimated to require interventions aimed at maintaining livelihood assets and strategies.*
- *Due to the persistent dry spells, grazing areas suffered immensely leading to livestock deaths (cattle) eroding household assets, thus increasing vulnerability.*
- *Inadequate consumption levels reported among some households as 23% ha poor consumption rates.*

## **B. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The entire Swazi VAC team would like to express its sincere appreciation for the overall support received from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister in conducting the 2015 Annual Vulnerability Assessment. Gratitude goes to the Central Statistics Office for logistical support on the overall execution of the exercise. The IT support provided by World Food Program in programming and availing the ODK platform for data collection is appreciated. The administrative support provided by Save the Children Swaziland is highly appreciated.

The 2015 Annual Assessment would not have been possible without the financial and technical support from the Southern Africa Development Community's Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (SADC-RVAA) Programme. The analysis was further enriched by the valuable support from the Global Support Unit in utilising the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) tool to further understand levels of food insecurity in different parts of the country.

Appreciation is also given to the Government Ministries, NGOs and partners for availing research assistants who excelled in quality data across all the regions of Swaziland. Finally yet importantly sincere thanks go to community leaders, man and woman who provided valuable information that enabled understanding of livelihoods across rural settings.

Lastly, the Technical Adviser from SADC-RVAA is applauded for supporting and providing technical guidance to the team in all the phases of the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment.

Robert Fakudze

Chairperson Swazi VAC

### **C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The country's economy slowed from 2.9 percent in 2013 to 2.4 percent in 2014. This decrease in GDP growth is mainly attributed to poor performance in the primary sector and loss of momentum in the tertiary sector. The primary sector is estimated to have declined by 3.2 percent in 2014 compared to a growth rate of 5.4 percent in 2013. The opportunities for further growth still lie in the development of potential sectors such as agriculture, tourism and mining. The rainfall performance for the 2014/15 season was poor as it was characterized by erratic weather events such as hailstorms, flash floods, windstorms and pro-longed dry spells. Rainfall distribution (spatial and temporal) and frequency had negative impacts on the agricultural performance in some parts of the country.

Current nutrition indicators point to less than 5% in wasting which is at normal level according to WHO standards; and the rate of underweight is stable at 5.8% since 2010. Stunting remains high even though the MICS results show a decline from 31% (2010) to 25.5% (2014). About 72% of households use an improved water source while 82% of households are using improved sanitation facility most of which are in urban areas.

The rainfall deficits in the second half of the cropping season resulted in a 19% maize production decline compared to the previous season (2013/14). It is highly likely that there will be households that will not be able to meet their consumption needs from own production but from other means. Cattle deaths have been recorded in the dry spell hard hit areas and the total number of cattle deaths for three months namely June, July and August is 2, 593 cattle and the number projected to increase to over 20,000 before the end of the year.

Vulnerability analysis for the 2015/16 consumption year indicates that 50,566 people (categorised as poor and very poor households) will be faced with a food deficit (survival deficit). An estimated 200,897 people require will livelihood support such as inputs, cash transfer and institutional support during the same period. All of the affected households are spread across the country but more specific to rural livelihoods in the eastern half of the country.

#### **D. ACRONYMS**

AGOA	:	AFRICAN GROWTH OPPORTUNITY ACT
AIDS	:	ACQUIRED IMMUNE-DEFICIENCY SYNDROME
ART	:	ANTI-RETROVIRAL THERAPY
ARV	:	ANTI-RETROVIRAL
CSO	:	CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE
DHS	:	DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT
DOTS	:	DIRECTLY OBSERVED TREATMENT STRATEGIES
EA	:	ENUMERATION AREA
EPI	:	EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION
FEG	:	FOOD-ECONOMIC GROUP
FEZ	:	FOOD ECONOMY ZONE
FAO	:	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
GDP	:	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
GOS	:	GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND
HDI	:	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
HDR	:	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT
HIV	:	HUMAN IMMUNE-DEFICIENCY VIRUS
ITF	:	INDIVIDUAL TENURE FARMS
LZ	:	LIVELIHOOD ZONE (ALSO KNOWN AS FOOD ECONOMY ZONE)
MDG	:	MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
MDR-TB	:	MULTIDRUG RESISTANT TB
MEPD	:	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
MICS	:	MULTIPLE CLUSTER INDICATOR SURVEY
MOA	:	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
MT	:	METRIC TONNES

NEWU	:	NATIONAL EARLY WARNING UNIT
NHSP	:	NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN
NMC	:	NATIONAL MAIZE CORPORATION
NMS	:	NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
SADC RVAA	:	SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY REGIONAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTAND ANALYSIS
SHIES	:	SWAZILAND HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY
SNL	:	SWAZI NATION LAND
SWAZI VAC	:	SWAZILAND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
UNICEF	:	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
UNFPA	:	UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND
VAA	:	VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTAND ANALYSIS
WFP	:	WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
WHO	:	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WVI	:	WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

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## BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Overview and Economic Performance

estimates released by the Central Statistic Office (CSO) reflected that the economy slowed from 2.9 percent in 2013 to 2.4 percent in 2014. This decrease in GDP growth is mainly attributed to poor performance in the primary sector and loss of momentum in the tertiary sector. The primary sector is estimated to have declined by 3.2 percent in 2014 compared to a growth rate of 5.4 percent in 2013. This decrease mainly resulted from poor performance in crop production in individual Tenure Farms (ITF) particularly citrus production and a poor performance in the livestock sector. Citrus plantations were hard hit by storms in the last quarter of 2013 which destroyed the fruits for the 2014 harvest and resulted in citrus production shrinking by half. In addition, drought conditions in 2014 affected agricultural output, mostly livestock as it fell by 11.3 percent in the period under review (Central Bank of Swaziland). Decreased revenues mostly from the SACU receipts and poor local revenue generation mostly due to high employment rates are some other key challenges faced by the country.

The current food price increases mainly due the current drought combined with the looming public transport fare hikes announced to take effect in January 2016 are major concerns for poor household's ability to sustain their livelihoods. All these have a negative impact in an environment of high unemployment, high poverty rates, high age dependency ratio and other factors affecting household vulnerability.

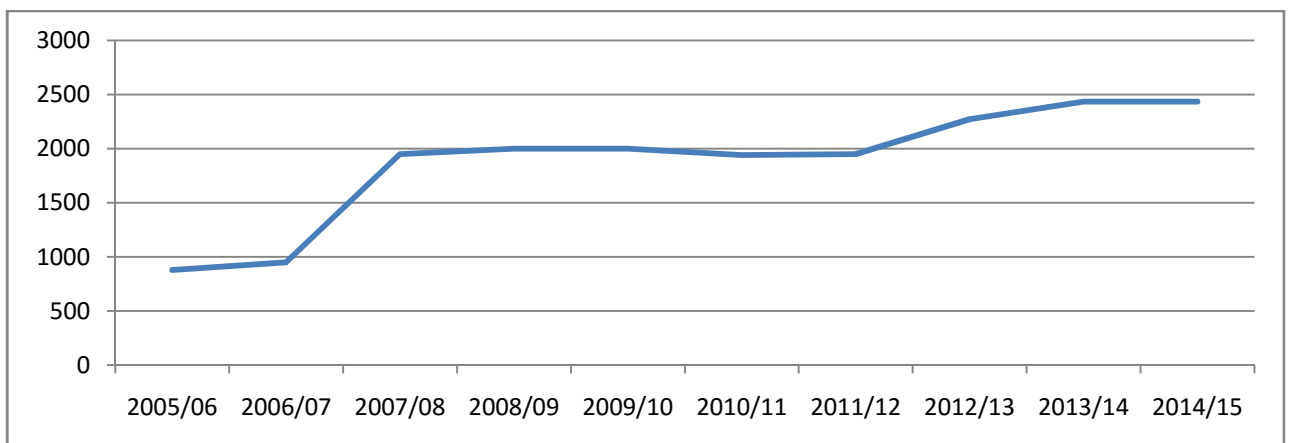


Figure 1: Staple food (Maize) prices trend (Source: MoA, 2015)

Maize prices have been on an increasing trend (Figure 1) for a while now and it has since shot up due to the current food shortages and the anticipated poor seasonal prospects for 2015/16 season as an El Nino drought season is likely to rumoured to occur.

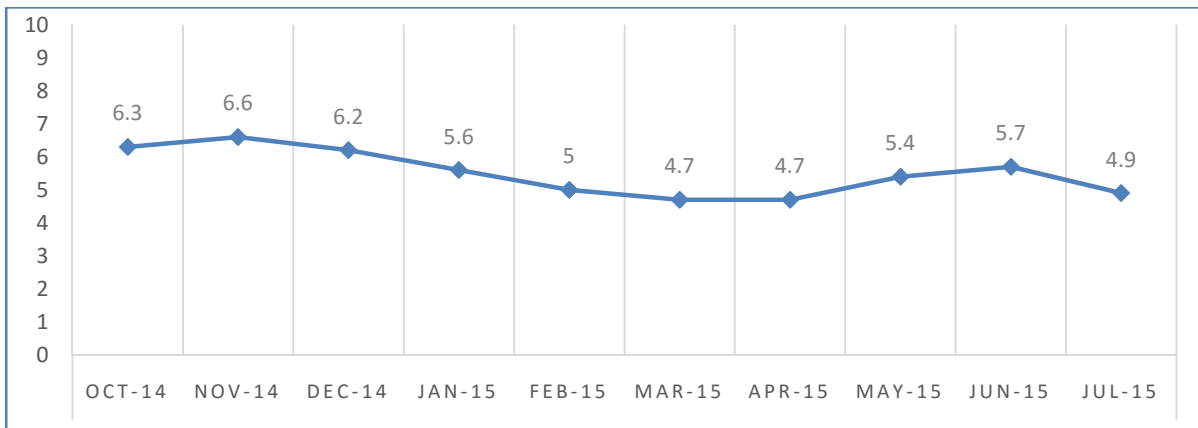


Figure 2: Swaziland Consumer Inflation 2015/15 (Source: Central Statistics Office).

## 1.2 Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture with its parastatals and cooperating partners are implementing a wide range of projects, strategies and programmes with the main objective of improving agricultural production. Programmes aimed at addressing climate change i.e smart agriculture are being implemented by the Ministry's parastatal Namboard, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Projects aimed at mitigating drought being implemented are; the construction of medium size dams, construction of small earth dams, develop 1 000 ha of land for irrigation farming, reclamation/rehabilitation 60 ha of land and development of land use plans. The Ministry of Agriculture with the assistance of FAO and other partners has established a Conservation Agriculture Task Force which looks into strategies to the promotion of the technology among farmers.

Programmes aimed at strengthening marketing and value addition being implemented includes; animal production and market diversification, intensive cotton production, upscaling of fruits and vegetables production, improvement of maize production, capacitation of peanut butter processors, promotion of sweet potatoes bread production and expansion of market scope by increasing line of trade in the following: high care products (processed /diced), sunflower, poultry for export, baby vegetables for export, sweet potato export market development.

Promoting technology development and research services programmes include; enactment of the Agricultural Research Act, decentralization of the plant Health Inspectorate Services to the four regions, establishment of seed potato production centres, development and dissemination of new research technologies for increasing food and nutrition security, conservation and sustainable utilization of indigenous plant genetic resources (traditional

varieties) enhanced through ex-situ and in-situ (on-farm) conservation, development and promotion of climate smart agricultural technologies in farming communities.

Access to agriculture inputs by smallholder farmers have been enhanced through the Project: “Turnkey Food Security project for Increasing Maize Production by Soil Conditioning Farm Mechanization and Granular Fertilizer Application”. Smallholders are subsidized with agricultural inputs which includes: 1x25kg maize seeds, 4x50kg LAN (28%) and 6x50kg NPK 2-3-2 (37). Free lime equivalent to soil testing requirement for one hectare. The subsidy is for one farmer per hectare. 140 tractors have been procured for this project, and decentralization of soil testing facilities with officers for soil testing per region. The project started in January 2014 and will run till October 2017, farmers who benefit through this project are the ones in the Highveld, Moist Middleveld and the areas with high amount of rainfall

### 1.3 Livestock

Livestock is classified as a measure of wealth for the Swazi nation that has a potential to generate income for addressing an array of needs including purchase of food and non food essential household items. The latest livestock census was 620, 032 cattle in 2014 which is 1 percent lower than 2013 livestock census (626, 332 cattle). The drop in cattle population can be accredited to selling and deaths due to diseases. The country exports most of its beef products to the EU, while the national consumption is not met. This result in the country importing most of its beef products for domestic consumption from South Africa. This can be credited to the fact that exports attract foreign currency thus more profit to large scale farmers. Small-scale farmers are faced with high cost of production in increasing the beef production, and it’s hard to meet the standards of beef production exports.

Table 1: Livestock totals for 2014 by region by type of livestock

Region	Total cattle	Beef cattle	Dairy cattle	Pigs	Chickens	Goats	Sheep
Hhohho	126 543	124 733	1 810	11 140	520 757	79 685	3 614
Manzini	174 686	172 789	1 897	10 778	1 612 696	123 686	4 855
Lubombo	175 197	174 904	293	5 778	199 517	130 419	2 318
Shiselweni	143 606	142 687	919	12 112	213 373	107 347	5 196
<b>Total</b>	<b>620 032</b>	<b>615 113</b>	<b>4 919</b>	<b>39 808</b>	<b>2 546 343</b>	<b>441 137</b>	<b>15 983</b>

Source: Depart of Veterinary and Livestock Services, MoA, Annual Census 2014.

Increased livestock mortality due to the current drought mainly due to the El Nino has been recorded in the dry areas which were hard hit by the drought. The total number of cattle lost at the end of August was 2, 593. Water and feed availability are key causes for the increased livestock mortality as animals had to walk long distances in search for water and

food faced with extreme weather conditions. The Ministry of Agriculture had devised a Mitigation plan to restrain the livestock drought situation. The Mitigation plan consists of: reducing the population at risk by disposal of excess stock, particularly mature males (ready for Slaughter), bullocks (ready for feedlots) and older cows. This would reduce the population at risk and generate income for the farmers. Supplementary feeding involving negotiations for the supply of crop residues from the sugar belt companies, harvesting and availing hay, supporting farmers in the importation of hay/ fodder through the provision of transport and promotion of feedlots.

### 1.4 The Labour Markets

The labour market analysis provides a picture of the country's economic performance through measurements like the unemployment rate, absorption rate, participation rate, just to list a few. Households supply the labour force as inputs to the production process of the economy hence their participation in the labour market. Employment contributes largely to reducing vulnerability, poverty and food insecurity. With the high levels of unemployment and poverty, the country is highly unlikely to produce enough food as mostly smallholder farmers find it hard to afford the cost of farm inputs from the markets, however there is an ongoing input support programme by the Ministry of Agriculture which does not reach all smallholder farmers.

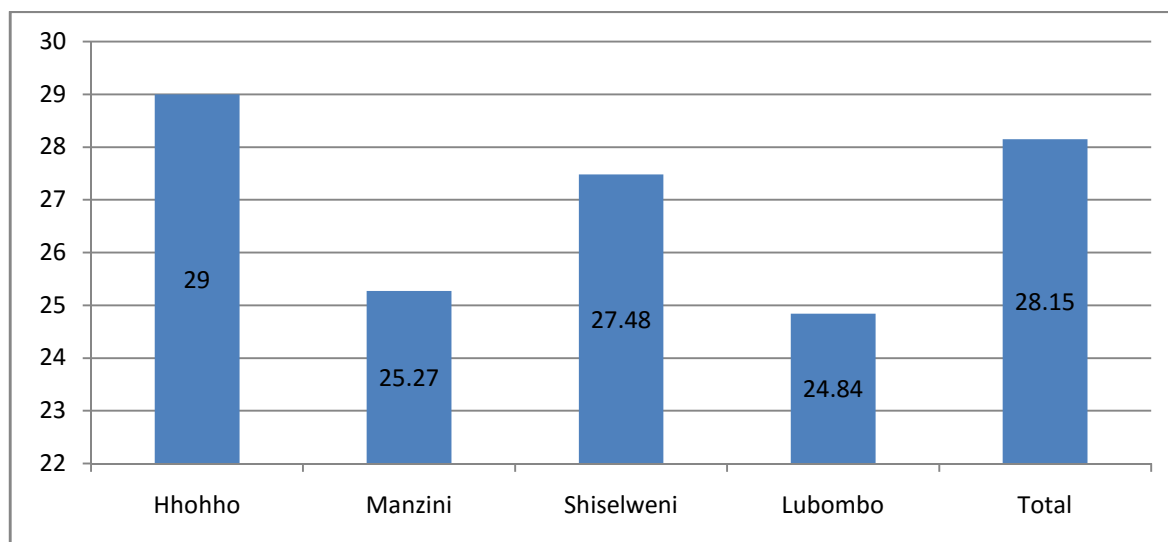


Figure 3: Unemployment rate. (Source: LFS 2013)

The country's unemployment rate stands at 28.15% high among the youth (15 – 24), almost twice as high as any other age group (64%). From 2007 to 2010, the country's labour force participation rate went up by five points, from 52 to 57%, suggesting that between these years, more people are joining the labour market. The main contributing factors for the

increase are; the young from training institutions joining the labour market for the first time, the increase in women participation in the market as a result of the fiscal crisis to engage in informal activities, returning migrant workers from South African mines also contribute to the current status on labour markets. The loss of the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), which gave the country access to the United States of America markets had a negative impact on the labour market in the country. A number of companies which benefited from the trade treaty had to close resulting in a number of people losing their jobs.

### **1.5 Child Health and Nutrition**

Over the past five years, Swaziland has implemented the high impact child survival interventions and equitable access and uptake of all vaccinations including measles for under-five children as well as Vitamin A supplementation has been reported. Other interventions that are implemented by the country at community level include awareness campaigns on food diversification as well as home management, food preparation, preservation and processing. The aim of these interventions is to ensure availability and utilization of food at household level to improve the health and nutrition status in the country. Wasting is still less than 5%, at 2% (MICS 2014) which is not alarming rate and at normal level according to WHO standards. Stunting remains high even though the results show a decline from 31% (2010) to 25.5% (2014). Underweight found to be stable at 5.8% since 2010.

## **SURVEY OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **1.2 Broad Objective**

The purpose of the 2015 Annual Assessment was to assess the status of livelihoods and vulnerability in rural households and provide timely information for programming and decision-making.

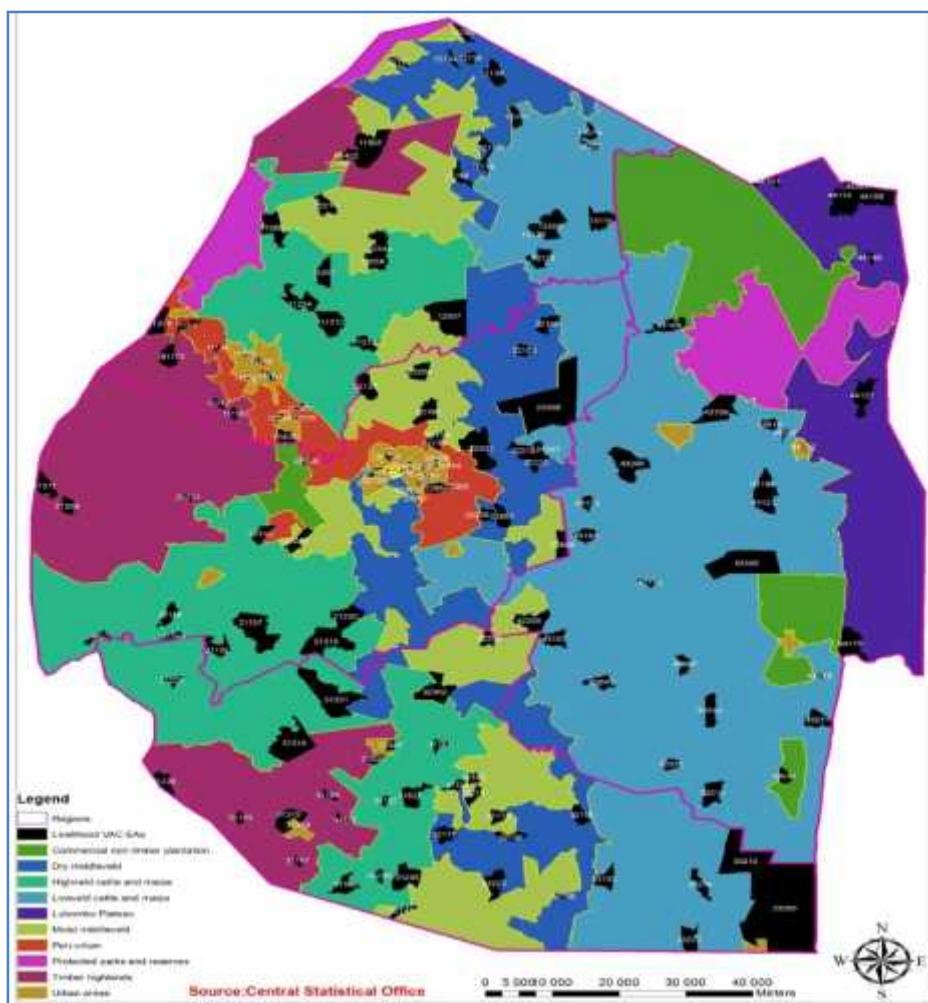
### **1.3 Specific Objectives include**

- To identify the share of the population with inadequate food access by region and inkhundla.
- To identify hazards and shocks experienced by the regions.
- To identify areas affected by disease outbreaks on both the population and livestock living within regions and
- To understand access to issues of water and sanitation within the regions.

### **1.4 Assessment methodology**

The 2015 VAA used two main approaches: the qualitative approach, through focus group discussions and key informants interviews as well as the quantitative approach using a standard household questionnaire through one-on-one interviews.





Map 1: Swazi VAC sampled Enumeration Areas for 2015 Annual Assessment

A total number of 23 Chiefdoms from all the regions of the country were visited during the exercise. The key informants included agricultural extension officers, health staff; NGOs staffs working in communities, rural health motivators were met with in order to carryout interviews. The second stage of the survey was the selection of 10 households from each selected enumeration area. In total, the survey covered 1500households, which is above the minimum sampling standard for rural household representation.

The assessment used a tablet-programmed questionnaire with which field staff used to record interviews with all eligible households members. The questionnaire covered among others sections on agriculture and food security, demographic conditions of households, shock and hazards. The data from the field was then uploaded and downloaded from the WFP servers using the ODK software application and tabulation made using SPSS software.

### 3 WATER AND SANITATION

A safe and sustainable water supply, basic sanitation and good hygiene are fundamental for a healthy, productive and dignified life. Safe drinking water is a necessity for good health.

#### 3.1 Use of improved water source

According to the Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey (MICS) 2014, overall, 72 percent of the population uses an improved source of drinking water (96 percent in urban areas and 63 percent in rural areas). The situation in Shiselweni region is considerably worse than in other regions; only 56 percent of the population in this region gets its drinking water from an improved source. Wealth groups as indicated below (Figure 4) also show the use of improved water source (MICS, 2014).

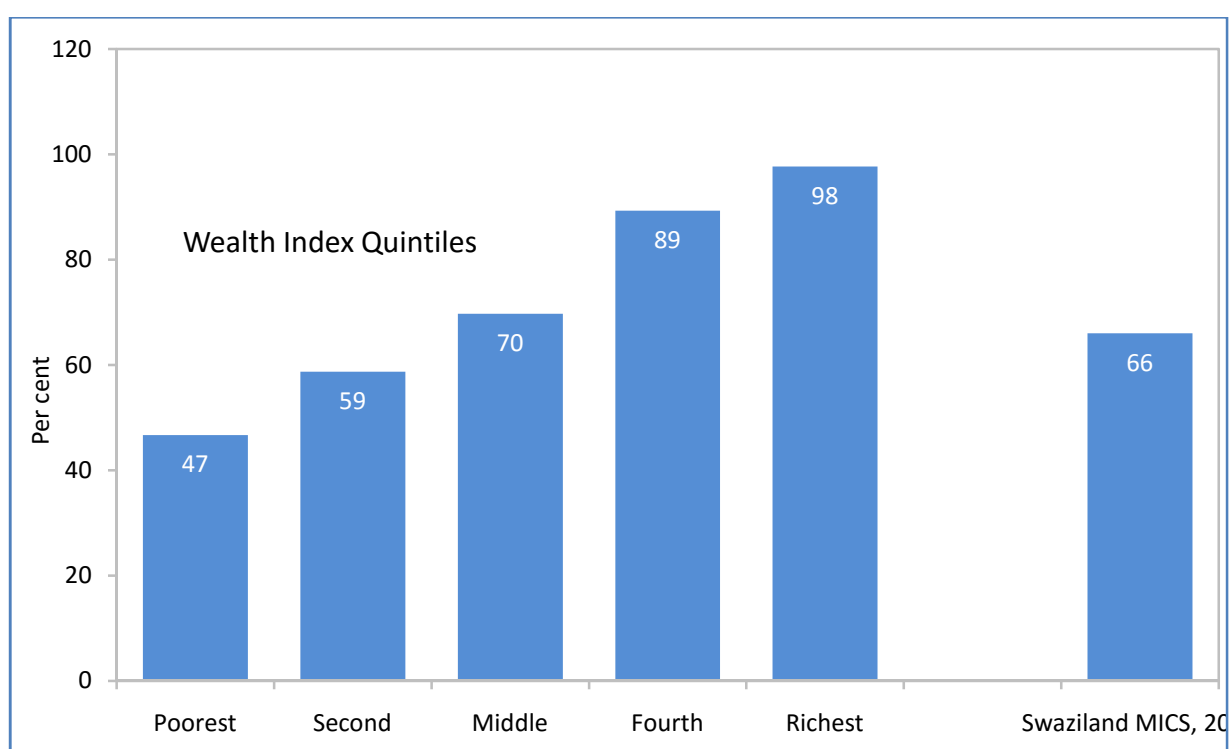


Figure 4: Status of improved water sources in Swaziland (Source: MICS 2014)

#### 3.2 Use of improved sanitation

According to MICS, 2014 overall 82 percent of the population in households are using improved sanitation facilities and only 18 percent are using un-improved sanitation facilities. This percentage is 99 percent in urban areas and 78 percent in rural areas.

According to the type of facility used by the household, 10 percent of household population uses flush to piped sewer system as an improved sanitation facility and a further eight percent uses flush to septic tank. Approximately 23 percent of households use ventilated improved pit latrine while 41 percent use pit latrine with slab as an improved sanitation facility.

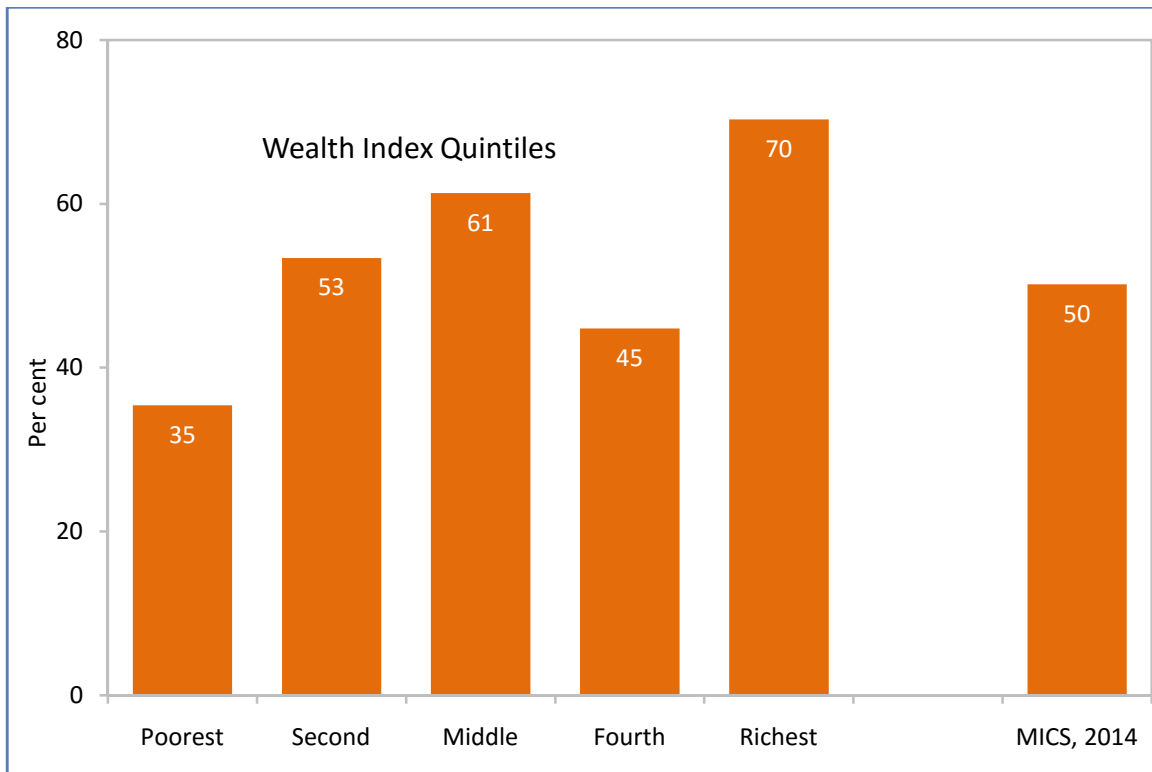
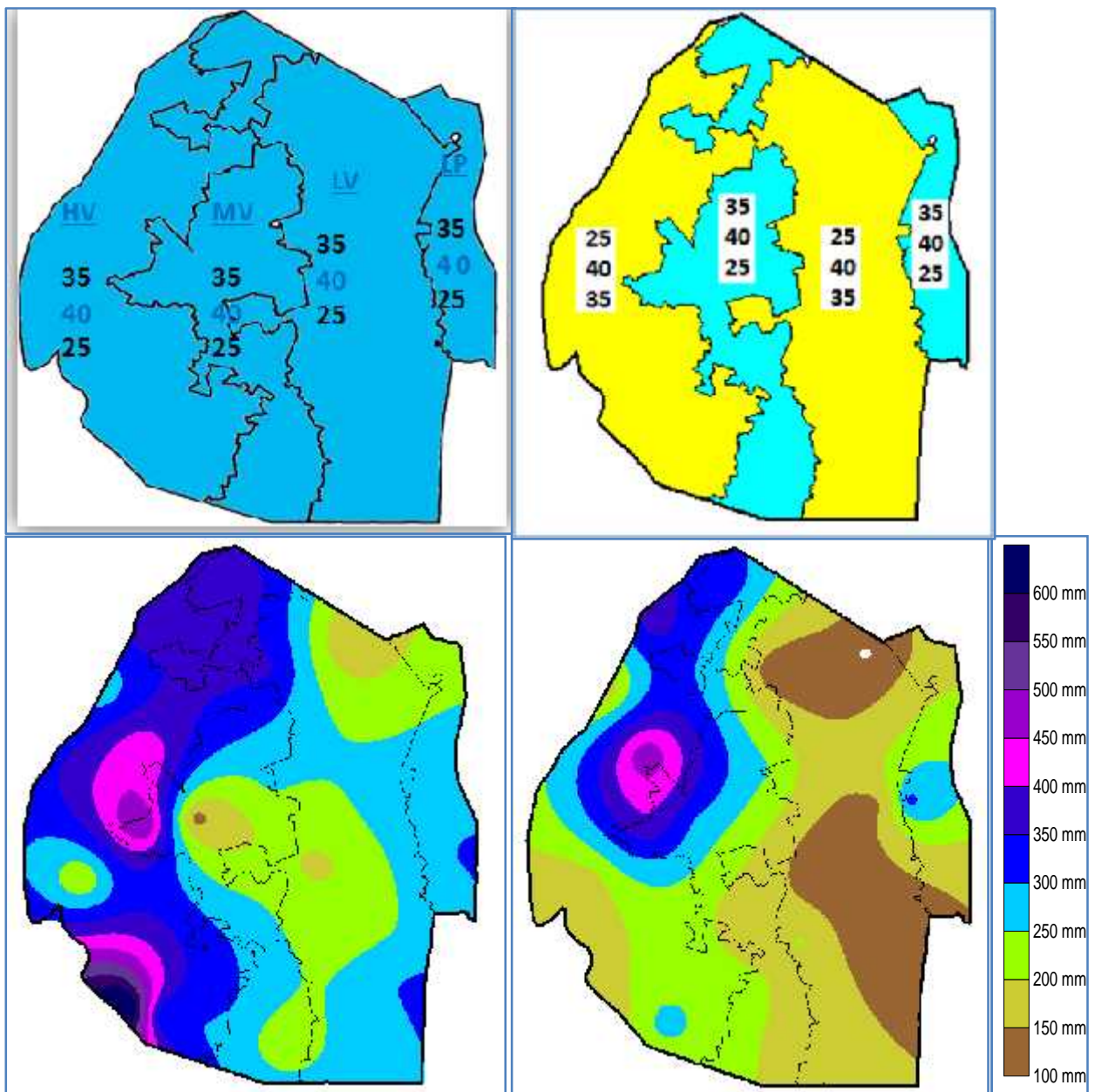


Figure 5: Percentages of household members using improved sanitation facilities by wealth (Source: MICS, 2014)

## 4 SEASONAL PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE FOR 2014/15

The 2014/2015 seasonal rainfall forecast was forecasted to be normal with a bias to above-normal rainfall over the entire country during the October to December 2014 period and the maps (left) below show that the forecast was generally correct. The second half of the season (January to March 2015) was a mix of normal to above and certain areas predicted to be normal to below as shown on the maps (right) below where the observed was as forecasted in most parts.



Map 2: Spatial recorded rainfall distribution for the 2014/15 Season [Left (top and bottom): OND 2014, Right (Top and Bottom): JFM 2015]

#### 4.1.1 HIGHVELD RAINFALL FOR 2014/15 SEASON

The season in the region was poor as it was characterized by erratic weather events such as hailstorms, flash floods, windstorms and pro-longed dry spells.

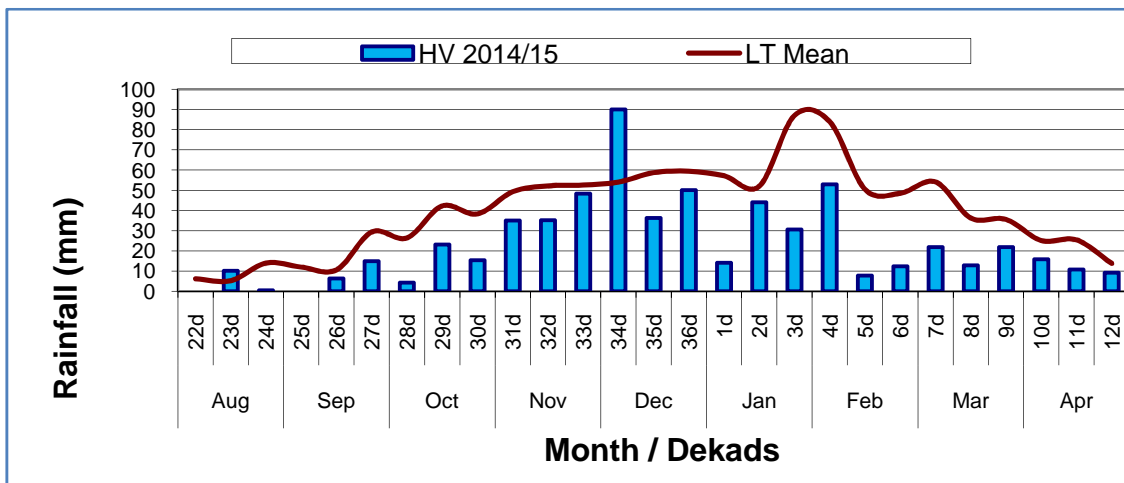


Figure 6: Temporal rainfall distribution in the Highveld during 2014/15 season

The onset of rainfall during the 2014/2015 season in the Highveld region was in the second dekad of October. Much of the rainfall in November and December, though it was still below the Long-Term Mean. A shoot was observed in the first dekad of December where we received way above average rainfall. Thereafter, we had a drop in rainfall received and the worst was observed in mid-February, March up until April where a long dry-spell was observed.

#### 4.1.2 MIDDLEVELD RAINFALL FOR 2014/15 SEASON

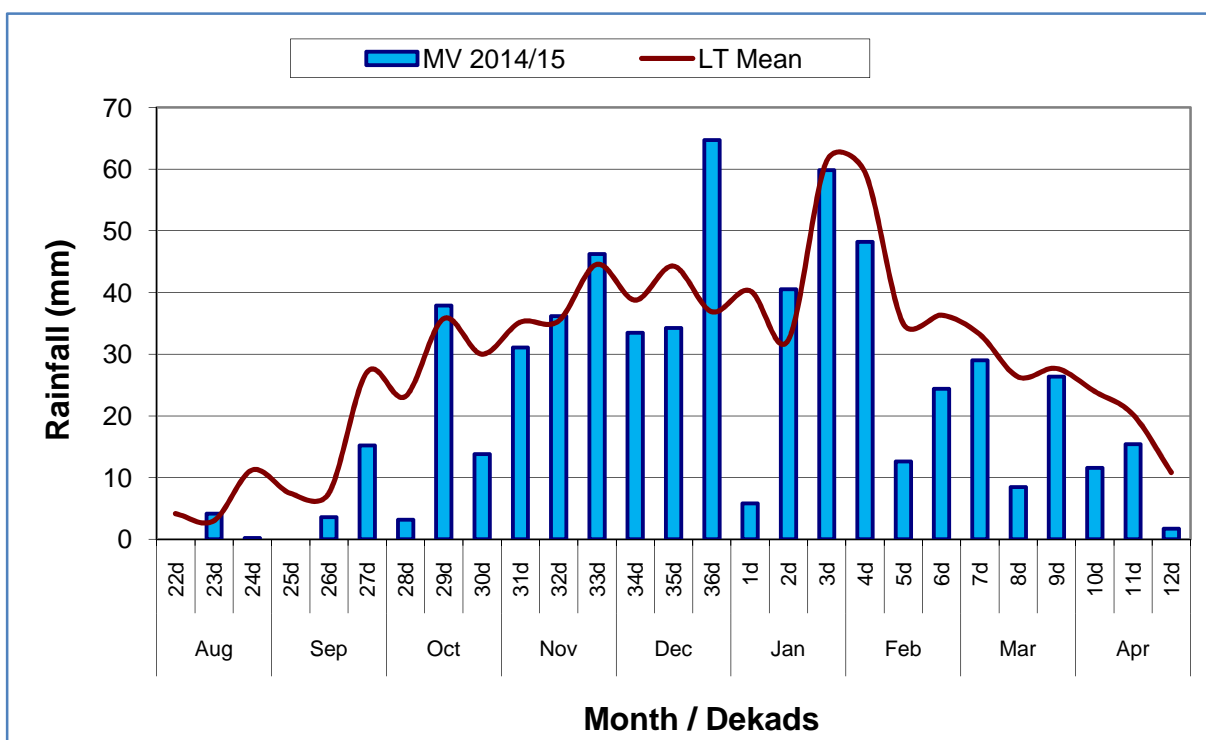


Figure 7: Temporal rainfall distribution in the Middleveld during 2014/15 season

Rainfall in the Middleveld during the 2014/2015 season started in the second dekad of October which was slightly above the Long Term Average. There was a slight decrease in the last decade of the month which was then followed by an increase in rainfall in November which was within average limits. December was characterized by below average rainfall though there was peak in the third decade. January started off with a dry period, then followed by a slightly above to within normal rainfall until the second decade of February which was characterized by dry spells until the end of April

#### 4.1.3 LOWVELD RAINFALL FOR 2014/15 SEASON

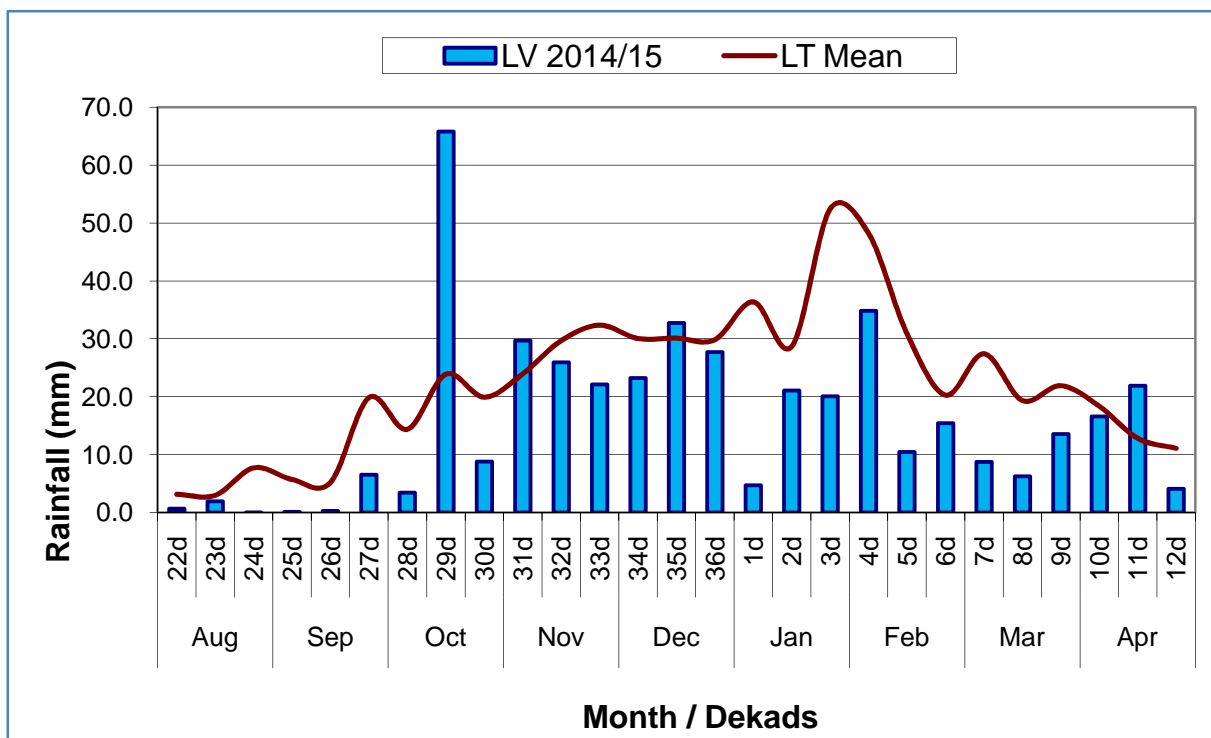


Figure 8: Temporal rainfall distribution in the Lowveld during 2014/15 season

The onset of rainfall in the Lowveld region was late in the second dekad of October where we recorded above average rainfall which was then followed by a decrease in rainfall, though we had some pick-ups in the first decade of November and the second decade of December. Otherwise, the region was characterized by long dry spells hence; the rainfall received in the region was generally below average.

#### 4.1.4 LUBOMBO PLATEAU RAINFALL FOR 2014/15 SEASON

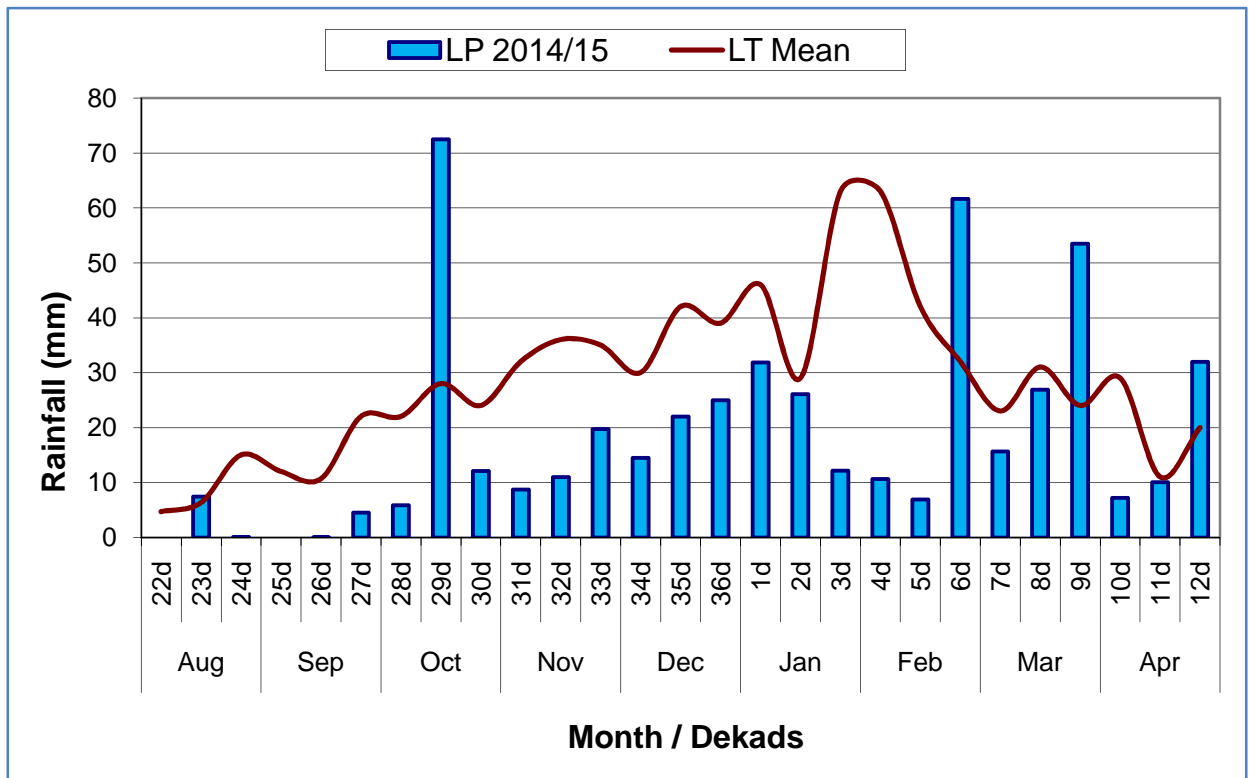


Figure 9: Temporal rainfall distribution in the Lubombo Plateau during 2014/15 season

The rainfall was not impressive in the region, since the onset of rains started in the second dekad of October with a high peak which was then followed by dry periods which resulted to below average rainfall. This region was characterized by pro-longed dry spells but there was a slight improvement during the last dekad of February with some patches of dry periods until end of April.



## 4.2 CROP PERFORMANCE FOR 2014/15

### 4.2.1 AREA PLANTED

Data obtained from the Central Statistics Office's Agriculture Section, it indicates that the total area planted for maize was estimated at 87,164 hectares for the 2014/2015 season. The area planted was the highest when compared to the past five years (2009/10 to 2013/14) higher by 0.5% from last year's area planted (Table 2). When compared to the average of the last five years it is up by 30%. The increase in the area planted can be attributed to the promising rains in the beginning of the 2014/2015 season, ease access to agricultural input market and government subsidies in agriculture inputs in the Highveld, Moist Middleveld, Lubombo Plateau.

Table 2: Area planted under maize(HA), 2009/10-2014/15

AEZ	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	5-year average	2014/15
<b>Highveld</b>	15 062	17 662	13 677	14 508	22 243	16 630	23 266
<b>Middleveld</b>	25 389	31 163	25 273	28 091	32 615	28 506	32 408
<b>Lowveld</b>	11 690	13 583	10 416	10 934	23 258	13 976	22 852
<b>Lubombo Plateau</b>	6 193	7 936	6 698	7 727	8 638	7 438	8 638
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58 334</b>	<b>70 344</b>	<b>56 064</b>	<b>61 260</b>	<b>86 754</b>	<b>66 551</b>	<b>87 164</b>

Source: CSO

The National maize production for 2014/15 season stands at 81,623 MT, which is 19 percent below the 2013/2014 harvest of 101,041 MT. The 2014/15 season was the year with the highest area planted yet the harvest decreased 19 percent. The decrease was as a result of rainfall deficits in the second half of the cropping season, which is the critical stage for maize crop.

Table 3: Maize production (MT)for 2009/10-2014/15

Seasons	Area Planted (HA)	Estimated Production (MT)	% Change
<b>2009/10</b>	58334	75068	6
<b>2010/11</b>	70344	82057	9
<b>2011/12</b>	56064	76091	-7
<b>2012/13</b>	61260	81934	8
<b>2013/14</b>	86754	101041	23
<b>2014/15</b>	87164	81623	-19

Source: CSO/MoA/Met

### 4.2.2 FOOD AVAILABILITY

The National Food Balance Sheet (FBS) for Swaziland consist of three cereal commodities namely: maize, wheat and rice, which is used as a measure of food availability in the country. The domestic consumption requirements (Demand) is measured against the



domestic availability (Supply). For the 2014/15 season maize availability stands at 81,623 MT while the domestic requirement is 157,310 MT. This results in a shortfall of 72,890 MT which will be covered using imports, food aid and commodity substitute (rice and potatoes). The overall cereal gap is too high due to the decrease in the domestic production and an increase in the gross domestic consumption (Demand) for the current year. Currently the country is experiencing food shortages in most parts of the Lowveld and some parts of the Dry Middleveld due to the decline in domestic production. The SADC region experienced a dry spell in the beginning of the year thus driving food prices high. The country needs to take early precautions by purchasing cereals while affordable.

The Agro-ecological zones with high yields need to carefully abate post-harvest losses to curb the current food availability stress as the consumption period peaks. The National Food Balance Sheet is delineated in the figure below:

Table 4: National Food Balance Sheet-2014/15

Figures in '000 Metric Tonnes				
	Maize	Wheat	Rice	All
A. Domestic Availability	81.62	0.00	0.15	81.77
B. Gross Domestic Requirement	157.31	43.44	4.99	205.74
C. Domestic Shortfall/ Surplus	-72.89	-43.44	-4.84	-121.17
<b>D. Planned Imports</b>				
Commercial	43.00	36.00	76.00	155
Food Aid	0.81	0	0	0.81

## **5 HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

The measuring of household livelihood security has become a key aspect in all annual vulnerability assessments. Household Livelihood Security can be defined as adequate and sustainable access to income and resources, to meet basic needs such as, adequate access to food, potable water, health facilities, educational opportunities, housing, and time for community participation and social integration.

The risk of livelihood failure determines the level of vulnerability of a household to income, food, health and nutritional insecurity. The greater the share of resources devoted to food and health service acquisition, the higher the vulnerability of the household to food and nutritional insecurity. Therefore, livelihoods are secure when households have secure ownership of, or access to, resources (both tangible and intangible) and income earning activities, including reserves and assets, to off-set risks, ease shocks, and meet contingencies. Households have secure livelihoods when they are able to acquire, protect, develop, utilize, exchange, and benefit from assets and resources.

### **5.2 MAIN SHOCKS AFFECTING HOUSEHOLDS**

Figure 10 presents the main shocks that were experienced by households during the 2014/15 consumption year. Weather related shocks constituted a higher percentage of the overall shocks experienced in the country. Nationally 60% of households interviewed reported shocks related to drought/irregular rains and prolonged dry spells affected their livelihoods. The Lubombo region experienced the highest shocks (70%) followed by the Shiselweni region (60%). The Highveld reported the lowest percentage of households reporting weather related shocks (42%). The impact of weather on the overall livelihood of the rural population is of great concern as over the 5 past years, drought/irregular rains and prolonged dry spells has constituted a higher proportion of the shocks experiences by rural households. With over 70% of the rural households dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, this poses a greater risk on the overall food security of the rural population.

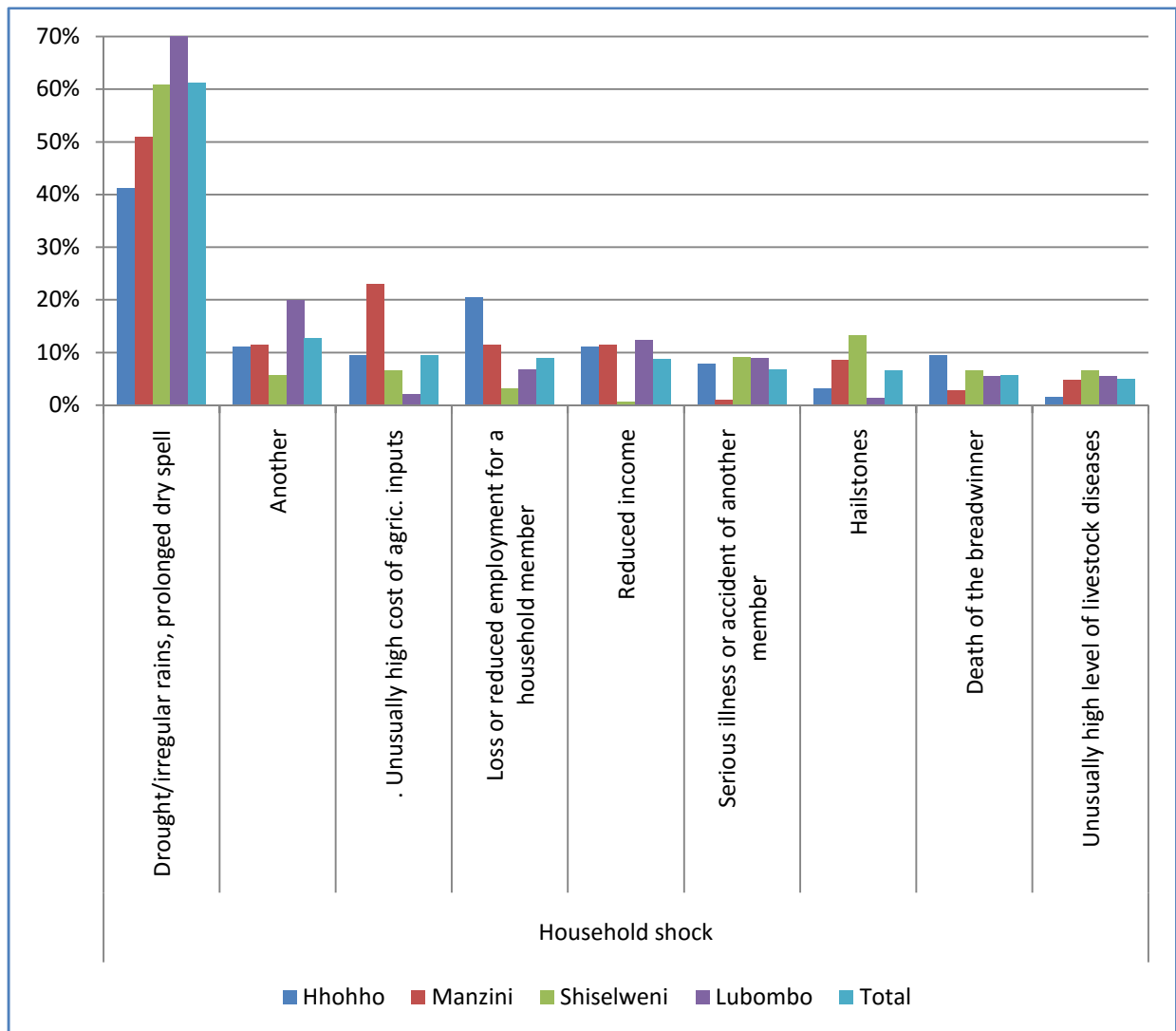


Figure 10: Shocks Affecting Households during the 2014/2015 period

High cost of agricultural inputs, loss or reduced employment for a household member and hailstorms are some of the key shocks that were experienced during the year especially in the Manzini, Hhohho and Shiselweni respectively.

### 5.3 COPING MEANS

Figure 11 present strategies that were employed by households in response to the various shocks that were faced during the 2014/15 period. Reliance on less preferred food was the major strategy employed by households, as over 35.2% households nationally employed this particular strategy in response to shocks. The Manzini region (46.2%) had the highest share of households relying on less preferred food as a coping mechanism. Another key coping strategy was the utilization of savings for food, nationally at 14.7% leaving households vulnerable to future shocks. The Shiselweni region (31.7%) had the highest percentage of households who spent their savings on food. The Hhohho region had the highest percentage

of households that reduced the number of meals per day (30%), while nationally 12.8% reported to have applied strategy.

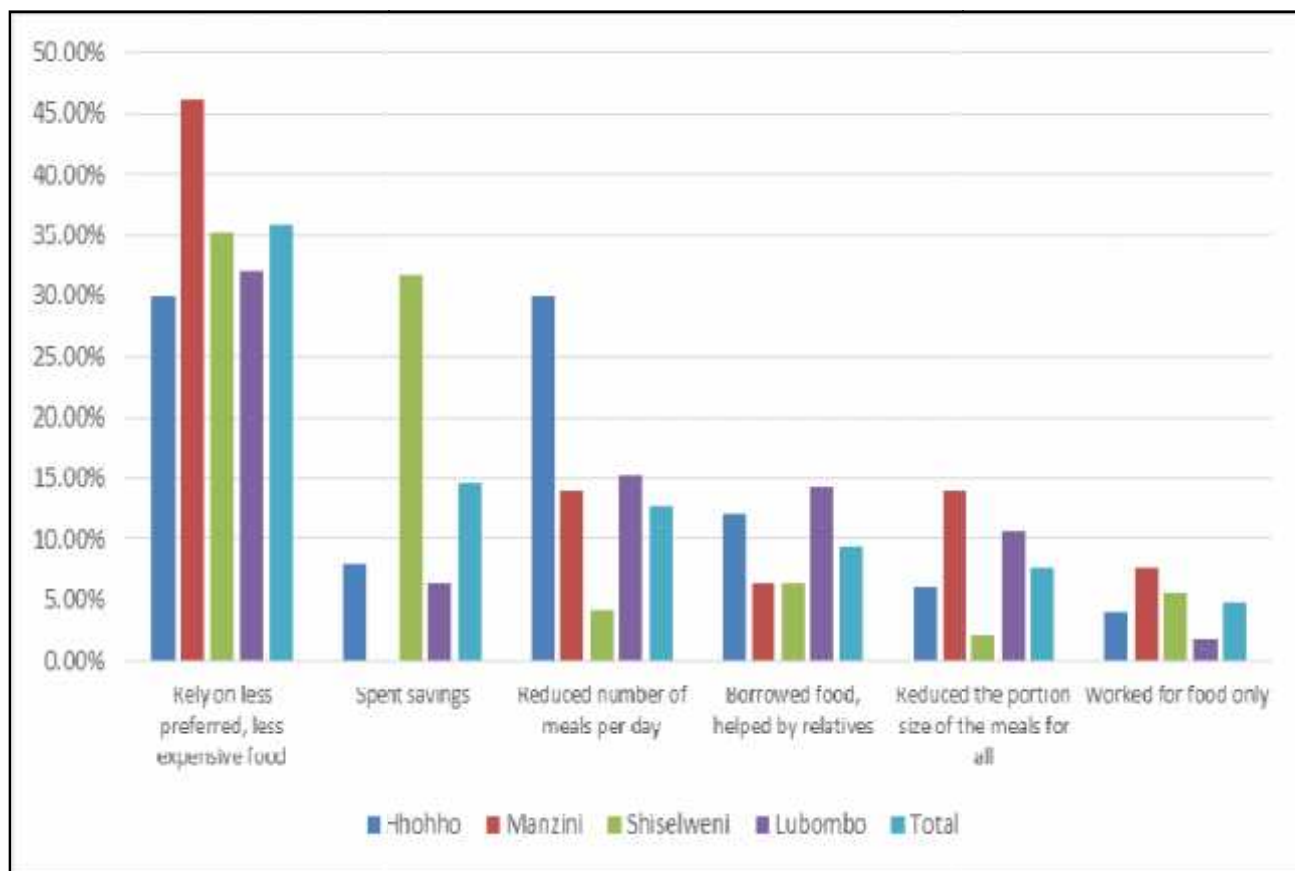


Figure 11: Households coping strategy options in 2014/15

#### 5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) measures the frequency and severity of a household's coping strategy for dealing with shortfall in food supply. Data is weighted according to frequency, perceived severity behaviour. Weighted scores are combined into an index that reflects current and perceived future food security status. Comparison of the scores and averages provides a summary of the overall household food security and establish a baseline for monitoring threats and impact of interventions. The higher the score, the greater the coping and hence the higher the level of food insecurity.

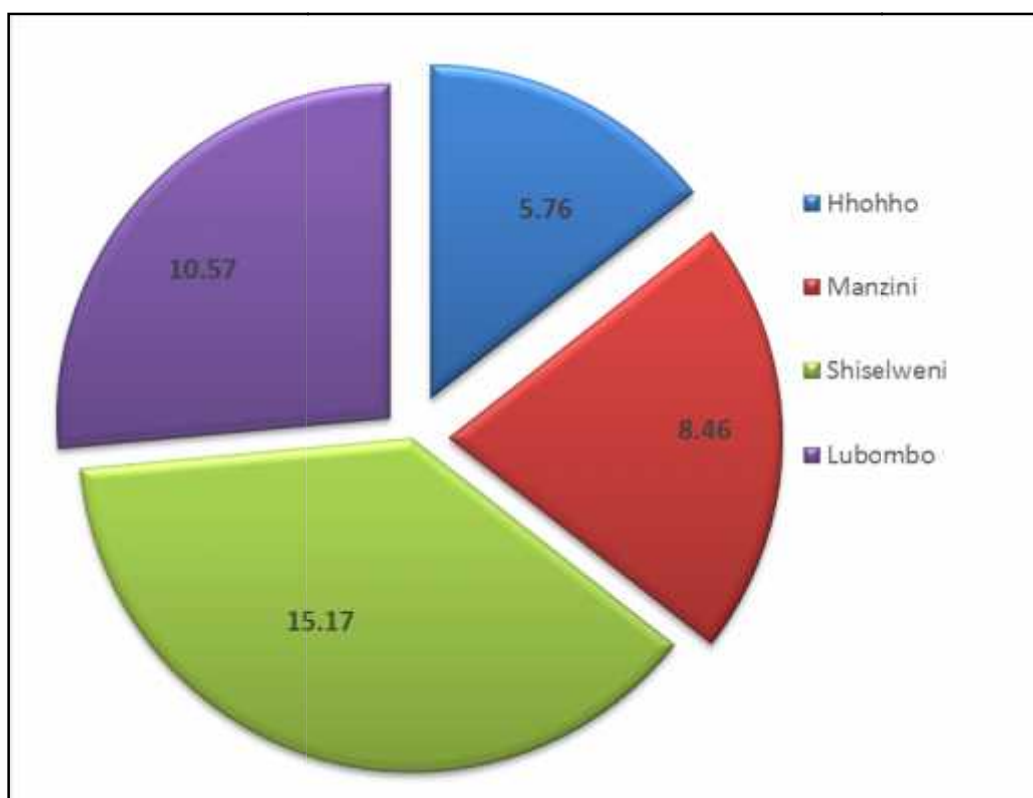


Figure 12: Coping Strategy Index by Regions

The Shiselweni region had the highest Coping Strategy Index (CSI) (15.17) followed by the Lubombo region (10.57). The two regions faced increased frequencies and severity of shortage in food supply, which implied a higher food insecurity levels in the two regions. It is also worth noting that these are the hotspots in as far as food insecurity in the country is concerned.

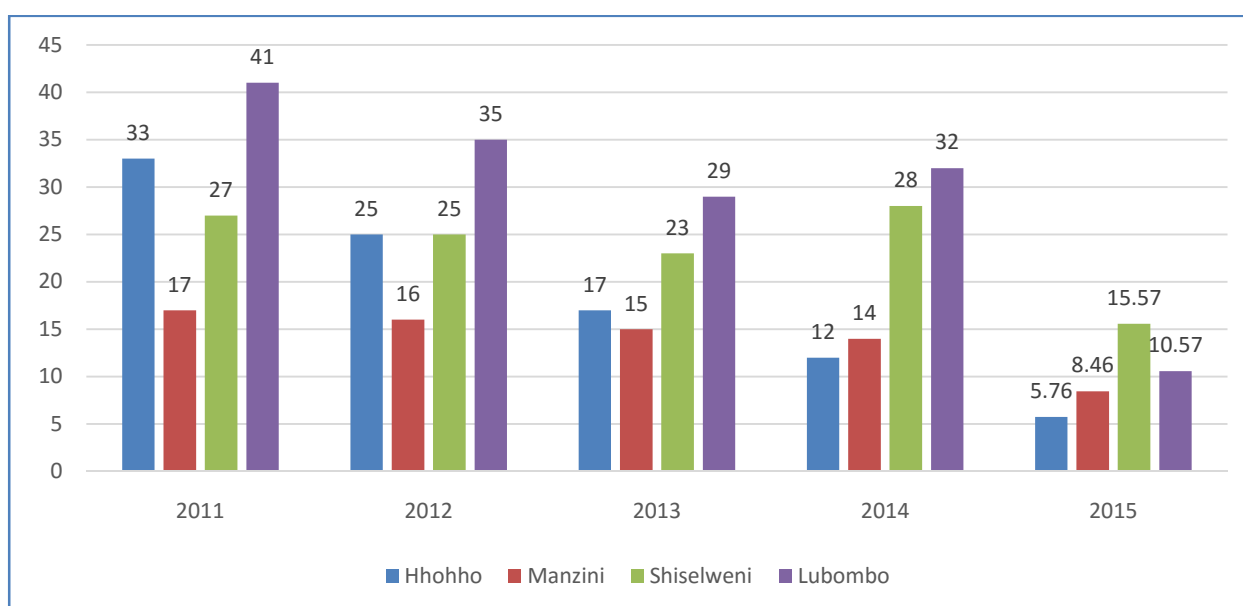


Figure 13: Coping Strategy Index Trend from 2011 to 2015

In analysis of the CSI over the past 5 years a reduction is observed (figure 4). Even though a number of shocks were reported during the year frequencies of food shortages was not as severe as the previous years. This might be linked to changes in livelihoods patterns and ability of households to cope with shocks, thus able to provide the key food groups.

## 5.5 HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOOD SOURCES

Profiling of livelihoods, strategies in a given population is key in understanding the food security dynamics across the country. Overall, formal employment at 33.9% remained the major contributor to livelihood sources followed by remittances at 28%. Small business, casual labour and sale of food crop at 19.1% and 14% respectively.

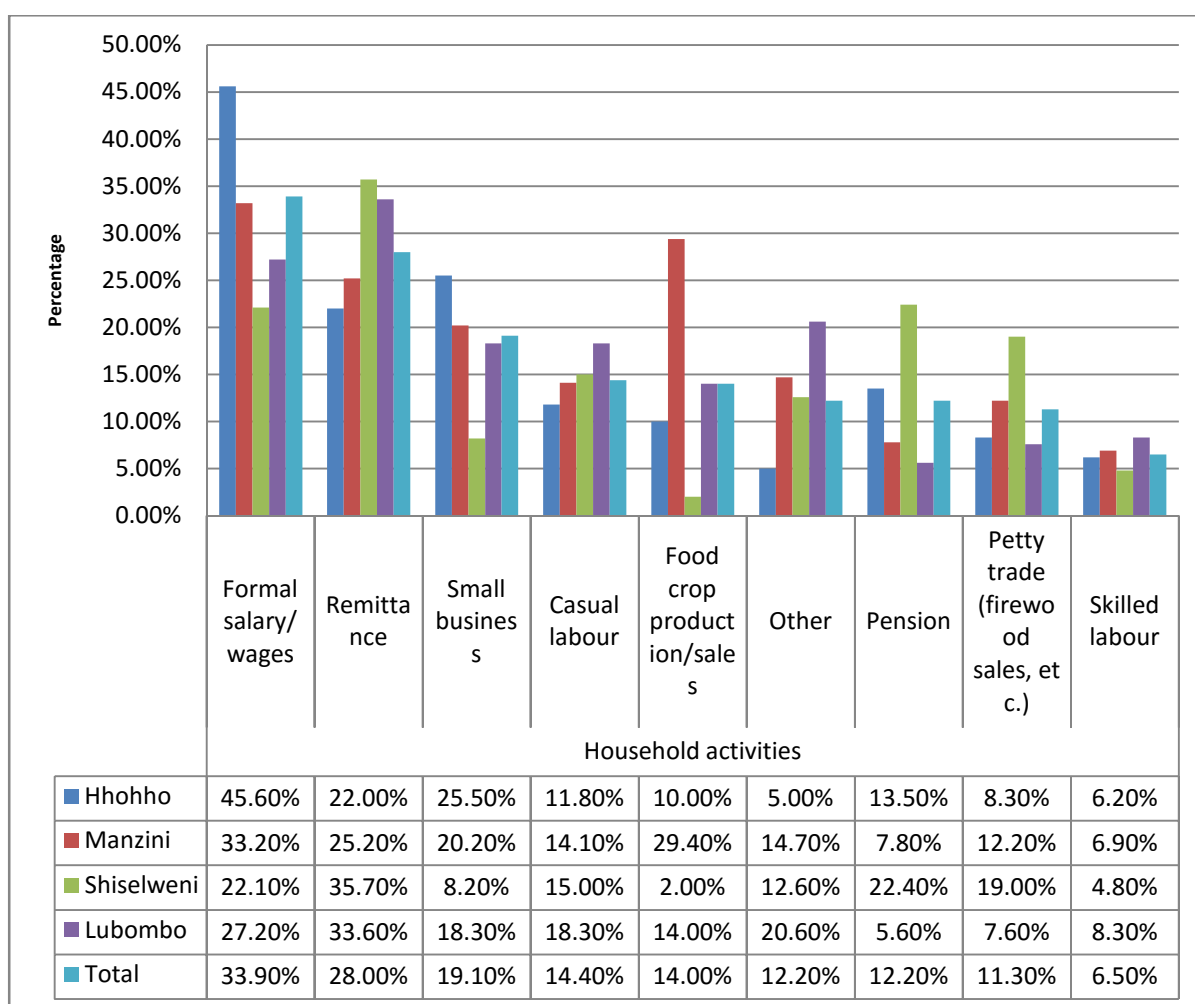


Figure 14: Livelihood Strategies employed by household during the 2014/15 period

Hhohho region had the highest (45.6%) number of households dependent on formal salary. Shiselweni region has the highest percentage of remittances (35.7%) followed by Lubombo region (33.6%). Casual labour also high in the Lubombo region (18.3%) while Manzini region (29.4%) had highest reliance on food crop production / sales.

## 5.6 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) measures dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of the different food groups. The higher the FCS, the more likely dietary diversity will be and the more likely that a household will achieve nutrient adequacy.

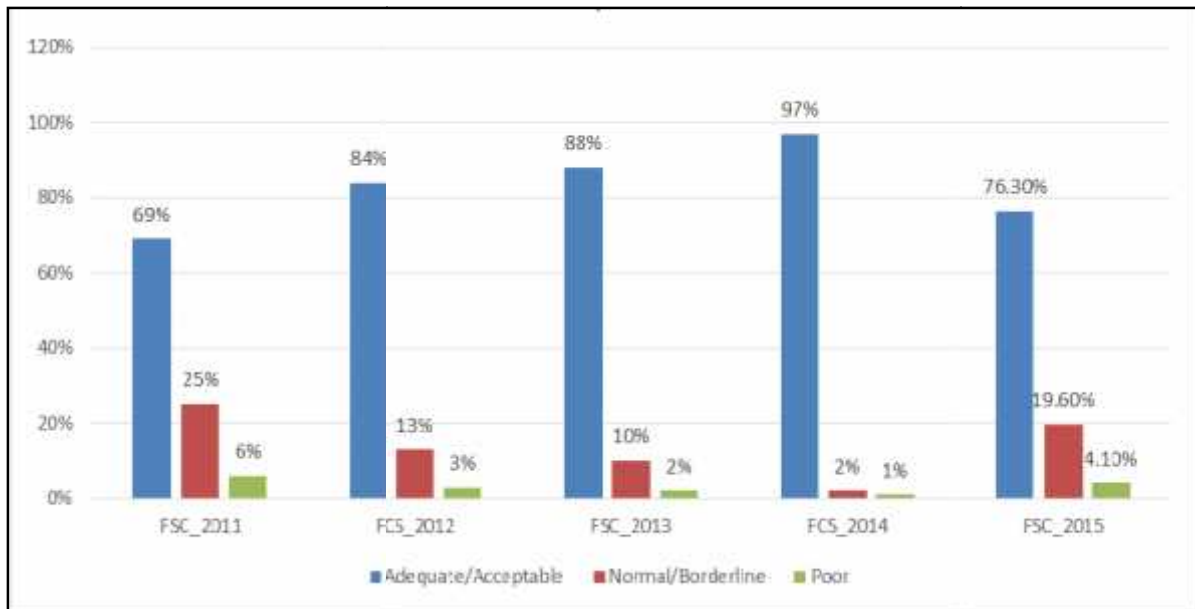


Figure 15: National Food Consumption Score 2011 - 2015

The Food Consumption Score nationally is at 76.3% (Figure 15) which is a reduction of 20.7% from the 2014 FCS (97%) (Figure 15). This represents an increase in the number of people with unacceptable food consumption scores 23.7% (2015) compared to 3% (2014). As presented in another assessment (CFSAM, 2015) conducted by FAO and WFP, this has reversed the progress made leading to lower proportions of food insecure population since 2011.

The Lubombo region (Figure 16) has the lowest food insecure households as 30% of its population are food insecure. The Shiselweni region had 9.4% of households falling into the poor food consumption category with 14.8% in the borderline. This requires close monitoring of these households especially the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions especially as the lean season progresses. The Hhohho and Manzini regions had adequate/acceptable food consumption scores, the Hhohho region having less than 1% of households with poor consumptions.

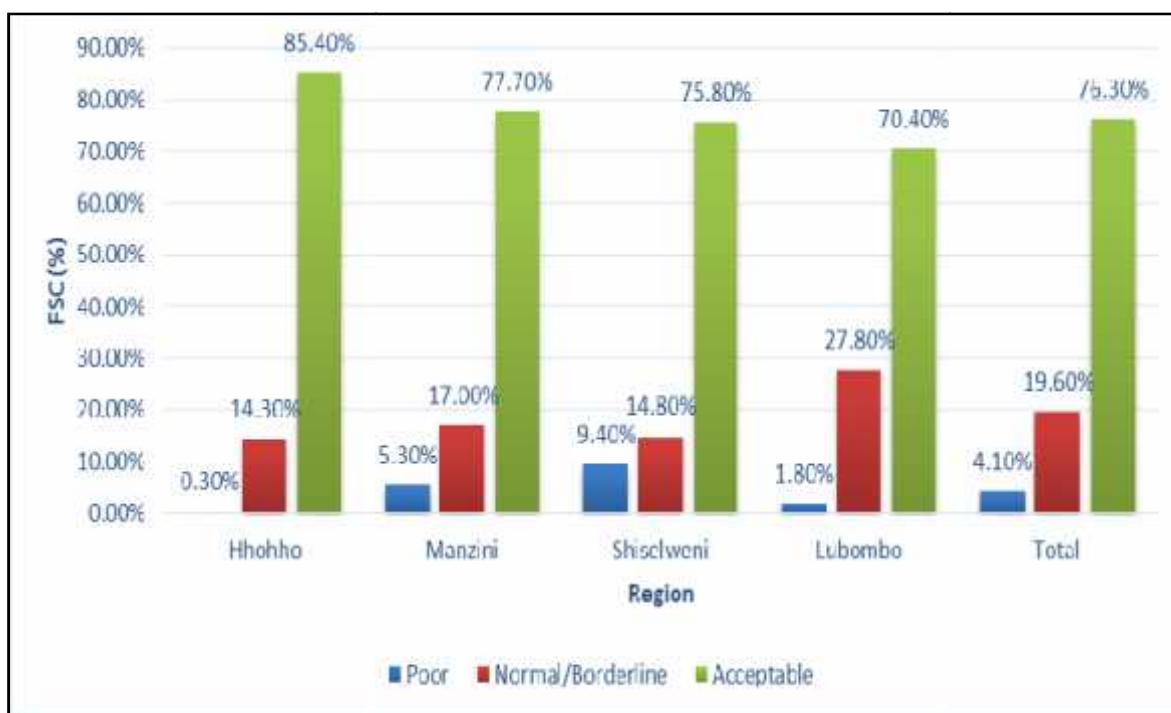


Figure 16: Food Consumption Score by Region

## 5.7 FOOD SHORTAGES

About 17% of households in the Lubombo region experienced a total crop failure. This situation is further aggravated by the fact that a larger percentage of the households had food reserves that would only last them for two months. Shiselweni, is also similar situation with only 9.4% of households who harvested their crop and 28.1% have food that will last them for less than two months. Manzini and Hhohho regions likely not to face food shortages, as the percentage of households that could not harvest low (4.0% and 7.4% respectively). Food stocks in these two regions are likely to last for up to six months.

Table 5: Period at which harvest food will last per household

	No harvest	Less than 2 months	2 - 3 months	4 - 5 months	6 months
<b>Hhohho</b>	7.4%	20.6%	22.1%	18.0%	31.9%
<b>Manzini</b>	4.0%	27.5%	24.2%	17.3%	26.9%
<b>Shiselweni</b>	9.4%	28.1%	24.6%	18.3%	19.5%
<b>Lubombo</b>	17.1%	36.9%	24.5%	11.3%	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	9.5%	28.0%	23.8%	16.4%	22.4%



## 6 LIVELIHOODS OUTCOME ANALYSIS

### 6.1 NATIONAL OUTCOME

Seasonal performance coupled with poor macro-economic performance contributed immensely to increased levels of vulnerability amongst rural households during the production season and will affect consumption adversely during the consumption year of 2015/16. Since general food aid was phased-out in 2012 by both government and government partners (WFP & WVI), poor and very poor households in the dry areas of the country have always had an ongoing food deficit. A total of about 51,000 people will fall in the category of those in need of survival (food deficit) interventions in the following Tinkhundla centres: Sithobela, Dvokodweni, Siphofaneni, Lomahasha, Mpolonjeni, Matsanjeni South, Lubuli, Mkhweni, Nkilongo, Hlane, Mafutseni, Sigwe, Matsanjeni North, Mhlangatane, Somntongo, Mandlangempisi, Nhlambeni and Hosea.

Table 6: National population facing a survival deficit during the 2015/16 consumption year

Region	Current Population	Pop. Survival Deficit	Estimated Cash (SZL) Eq	Estimated Maize (MT) Eq
Hhohho	318,493	1,963	166,416	51
Lubombo	226,800	37,076	2,638,657	814
Manzini	364,170	4,809	407,571	126
Shiselweni	209,913	6,718	569,414	176
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,119,376</b>	<b>50,566</b>	<b>3,782,057</b>	<b>545</b>

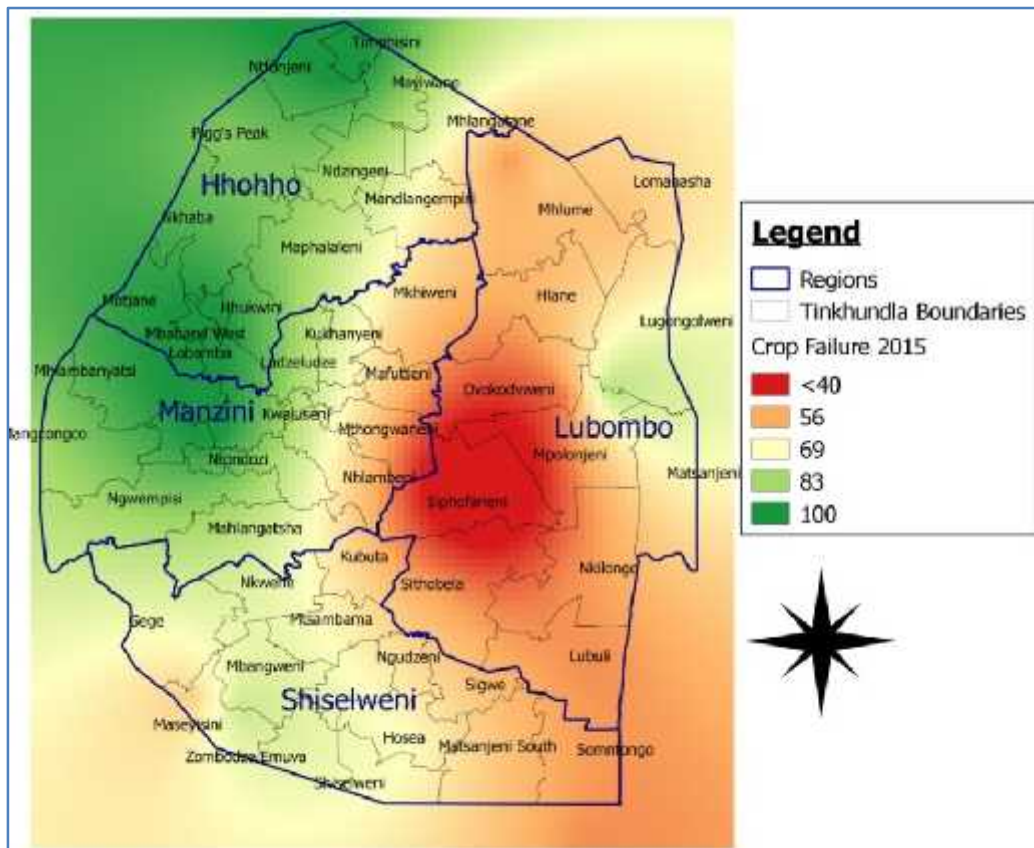
Livelihood interventions, which include amongst others, socio-economic development (wealth creation strategies amongst which is food for work) and social protection in the form of social grants, pension and cash transfers have a major role to play. About 197, 000 individuals will face a livelihood deficit in the 2015/16 consumption period.

Table 7: National population facing a livelihood deficit during the 2015/16 consumption year

Region	Current Population	Pop. Liv. Deficit	Estimated Cash (SZL) Eq
Hhohho	318,493	39,818	6,046,974
Lubombo	226,800	91,160	31,631,860
Manzini	364,170	35,894	9,385,746
Shiselweni	209,913	30,068	6,940,484
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,119,376</b>	<b>196,940</b>	<b>54,005,064</b>

## 6.2 HAZARDS

Dry spells were a major hazard in most parts of the country but more in the eastern central parts of the country as depicted in the hazard map below (Map 3). Another major hazard experienced during the agricultural season was that of heavy storms that were accompanied by the high wind speeds and hail that destroyed fields and property indicated by blue shading in the hazard map below.

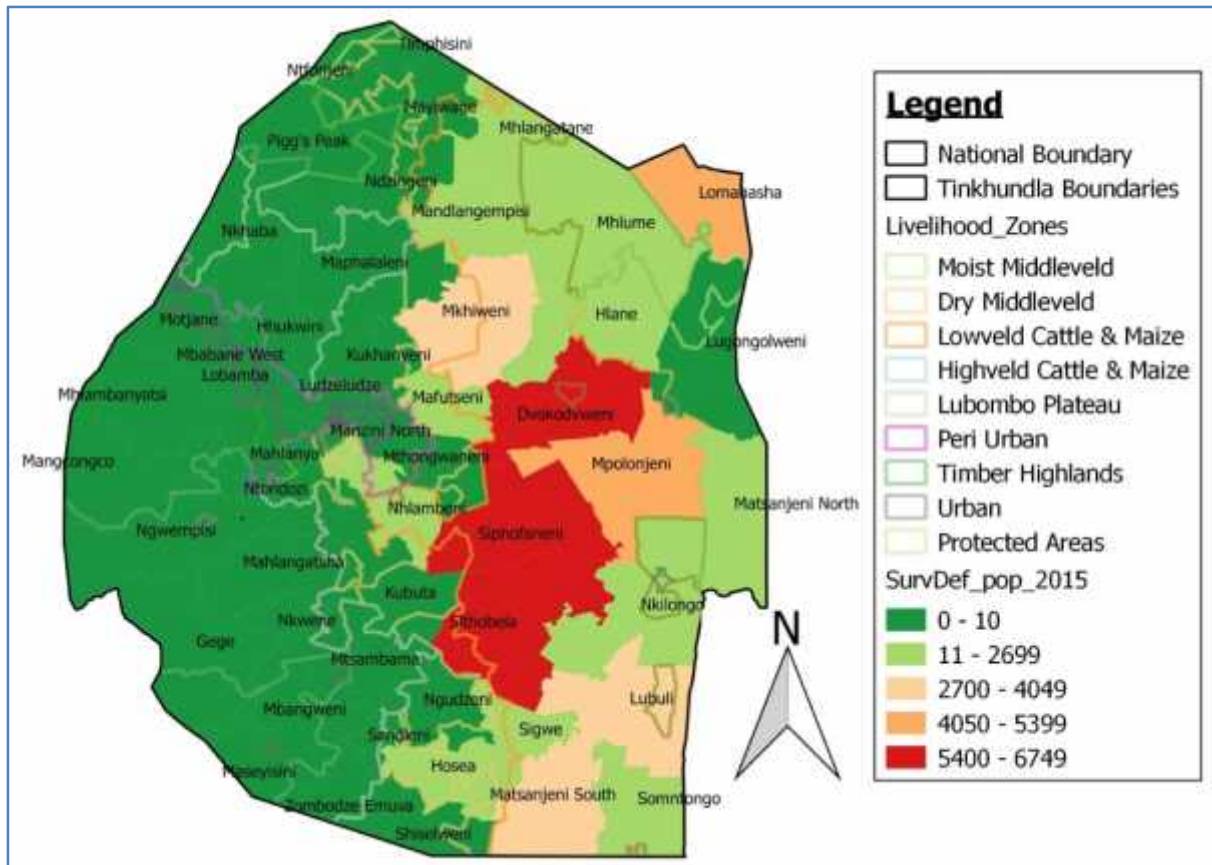


Map 3: Crop water stress hazard during the 2014/15 agricultural season

## 6.3 DISAGGREGATED OUTCOMES

### 6.3.1 SURVIVAL DEFICIT OUTCOMES

The Lowveld cattle and maize livelihood zone has the highest number of households facing a survival deficit with most of the constituencies within the livelihood zone projected to have a survival deficit during the 2015/16 consumption year



Map 4: Spatial distribution of population facing survival deficits by Tinkhundla

### 6.3.2 LIVELIHOOD DEFICIT OUTCOMES

Most of the Tinkhundla areas in Swaziland (Map 5) will face a livelihood deficit with the largest population being those in the Lowveld Cattle and Maize livelihood zone followed by Lubombo Plateau and Dry Middleveld. Constituencies under the Moist Middleveld (MMV) have a moderate to low livelihood deficit, whilst those in the Highveld Cattle & Maize together with Timber Highlands have minimal/insignificant livelihood deficits.



## **7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the vulnerability analysis of the 2015 vulnerability assessment the Swazi VAC would propose the following recommendations:

- a. The current baselines need to be updated inclusive of new urban baselines as urban food insecurity is not easily captured from analysis of the current rural based baselines.
- b. A consistent intervention is recommended for households facing a survival deficit with effect from October to March 2016 as per the baseline calendar which indicates that those months are a hunger season for most households.
- c. Wealth creation and asset protection initiatives needs to be implemented to support households that are facing a Livelihood deficit.

## **ANNEX 1: The Integrated Food Phase Classification (IPC)**

The IPC is a set of protocols (tools and procedures) to classify the severity of food insecurity and provide actionable knowledge for decision support. The purpose of the IPC is to consolidate complex analysis of food security situations for evidence-based decision support. The IPC contributes to answering questions on where to allocate resources, to whom and to how many people, when, and on what should be done. These questions help inform 'Situation Analysis', which is the focus of the IPC.

### **METHODOLOGY USED**

The analysis was conducted through four groups that represented each of the four Administrative regions (Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini, and Shiselweni) that formed the unit of analysis. The groups had four plenary sessions to review the available evidence, review of Step 5 of the current food insecurity situation, review of Step 5 of the projected food insecurity situation, and the completion of the communication template.

### **SUMMARY OF CAUSES FOR FOOD INSECURITY IN SWAZILAND**

In Lubombo there is steadily increasing food prices and prices of agricultural inputs poses a major challenge for access to food in the region. Furthermore, more than 30% of the population in the area are facing utilization challenges. In addition, food consumption is also a challenge in the area as indicated by population with borderline food consumption score or worse. Given that a significant part of the population in Lubombo obtain food requirements through own production, the prolonged dry spells inversely affected access to food by impacting own production. The opportunities for casual labour and cross border trade were also limited in the current period.



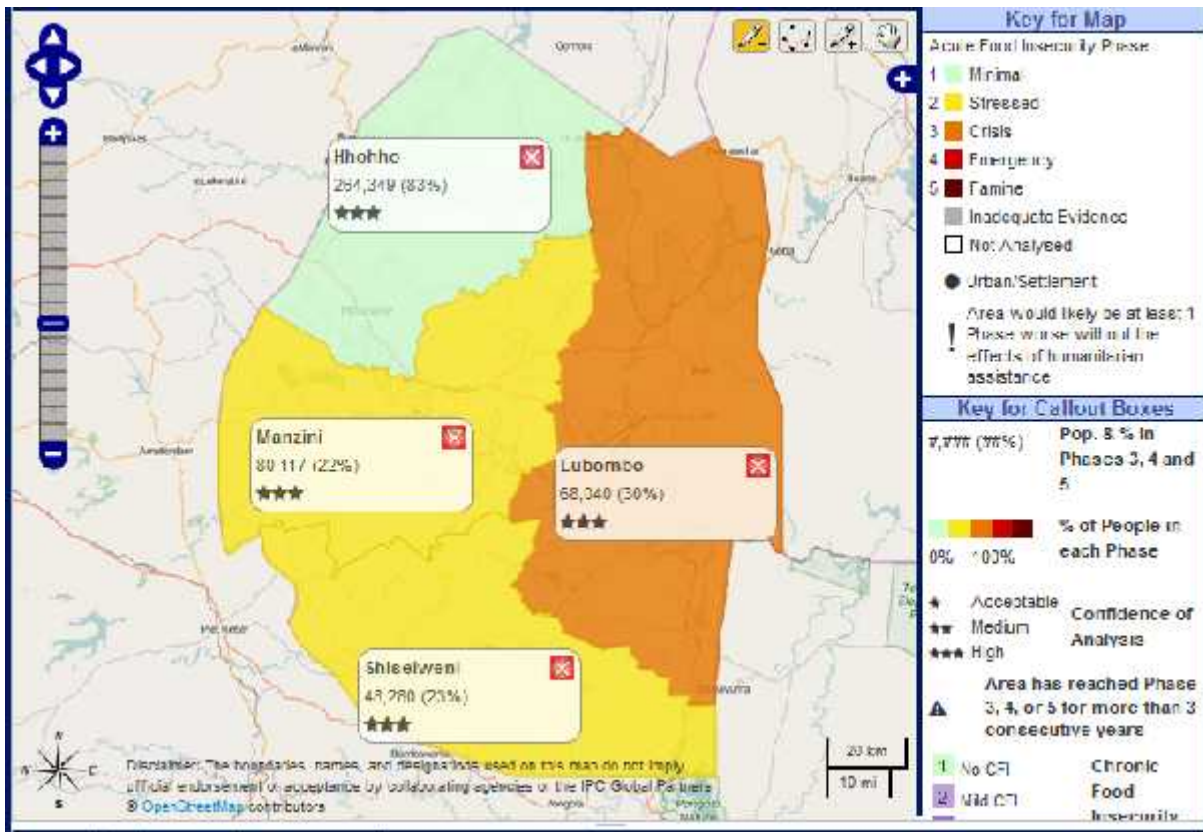


Figure 17: Current IPC Country Classification 2015

### KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

Lubombo has been classified in the Crisis Phase (Phase 3) based on direct evidence of food security showing magnitude of food consumption gaps that will be faced by the vulnerable population mainly the poor. About 30% of the population have Borderline or Poor Consumption Score. Manzini and Shiselweni are currently in the Stressed Food Security Phase Classification (Phase 2) while Hhohho is in the Minimal Phase (Phase 1).

**ANNEX 2 SURVIVAL DEFICIT BY TINKHUNDLA**

Region	Inkhundla	Population at Risk	Cash Equivalent	Maize Equivalent
Hhohho	Hhukwini	0	0	0
	Lobamba	0	0	0
	Mandlangempisi	709	26,442	8
	Maphalaleni	0	0	0
	Mayiwane	0	0	0
	Mbabane East	0		
	Mbabane West	0	0	0
	Mhlangatane	1,254	46,744	14
	Motjane	0	0	0
	Ndzingeni	0	0	0
	Nkhaba	0	0	0
	Ntfonjeni	0	0	0
	Pigg's Peak	0	0	0
	Timphisini	0	0	0
<b>Hhohho Total</b>		<b>1,963</b>	<b>73,186</b>	<b>23</b>
Lubombo	Dvokodvweni	6,498	242,223	75
	Hlane	1,840	68,593	21
	Lomahasha	4,613	40,104	25
	Lubuli	3,691	137,563	42
	Lugongolweni	0	0	0
	Matsanjeni			
	North	1,331	11,567	7
	Mhlume	13	488	0
	Mpolonjeni	4,088	152,387	47
	Nkilongo	2,617	97,538	30
	Siphofaneni	5,636	210,084	65
	Sithobela	6,749	251,553	78
<b>Lubombo Total</b>		<b>37,076</b>	<b>1,212,101</b>	<b>390</b>
Manzini	Kukhanyeni	0	0	0
	Kwaluseni	0	0	0
	La-Mgabhi	0	0	0
	Ludzeludze	0	0	0
	Mafutseni	1,516	56,522	17
	Mahlangatsha	0	0	0
	Mahlanya	0	0	0
	Mangcongco	0	0	0
	Manzini North	0	0	0
	Manzini South	0	0	0
	Mhlambanyatsi	0	0	0
	Mkhiweni	2,820	105,132	32
	Mthongwaneni	0	0	0
	Ngwempisi	0	0	0



	Nhlambeni	472	17,588	5
	Ntondozi	0	0	0
<b>Manzini Total</b>		<b>4,809</b>	<b>179,242</b>	<b>55</b>
Shiselweni	Gege	0	0	0
	Hosea	159	5,931	2
	Kubuta	0	0	0
	Maseyisini	0	0	0
	Matsanjeni			
	South	3,984	148,490	46
	Mbangweni	0	0	0
	Mtsambama	0	0	0
	Ngudzeni	0	0	0
	Nkwene	0	0	0
	Sandleni	0	0	0
	Shiselweni	0	0	0
	Sigwe	1,479	55,130	17
	Somntongo	1,096	40,867	13
	ZombodzeEmuva	0	0	0
<b>Shiselweni Total</b>		<b>6,718</b>	<b>250,417</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>50,566</b>	<b>1,714,946</b>	<b>545</b>

**ANNEX 2: LIVELIHOOD DEFICITS BY TINKHUNDLA**

Region	Inkhundla	Population at Risk	CashExpenditure Deficit
Hhohho	Hhukwini	0	0
	Lobamba	0	0
	Mandlangempisi	5,891	1,675,808
	Maphalaleni	1,383	46,308
	Mayiwane	6,019	1,188,483
	Mbabane East	0	
	Mbabane West	0	0
	Mhlangatane	8,193	2,279,548
	Motjane	0	0
	Ndzingeni	5,399	783,399
	Nkhaba	482	1,353
	Ntfontjeni	6,798	1,001,845
	Pigg's Peak	1,235	3,466
	Timphisini	3,684	646,335
<b>Hhohho Total</b>		<b>39,085</b>	<b>7,626,545</b>
Lubombo	Dvokodweni	14,883	3,668,761
	Hlane	4,048	985,415
	Lomahasha	12,626	7,400,180
	Lubuli	8,119	1,976,237
	Lugongolweni	1,351	435,563
	Matsanjeni North	3,641	2,134,303
	Mhlume	29	7,016
	Mpolonjeni	10,519	2,680,532
	Nkilongo	5,757	1,401,242
	Siphofaneni	12,802	3,148,607
	Sithobela	17,296	4,365,961
<b>Lubombo Total</b>		<b>91,071</b>	<b>28,203,816</b>
Manzini	Kukhanyeni	2,742	467,990
	Kwaluseni	877	2,461
	La-Mgabhi	0	0
	Ludzeludze	1,390	3,904
	Mafutseni	8,009	2,322,617
	Mahlangatsha	2,527	555,818
	Mahlanya	339	39,231
	Mangcongco	0	0
	Manzini North	99	279
	Manzini South	0	0
	Mhlambanyatsi	0	0
	Mkhiweni	12,601	3,339,438
	Mthongwaneni	4,198	1,313,739
	Ngwempisi	0	0
	Nhlambeni	3,367	687,179
	Ntondozi	2,755	305,436

<b>Manzini Total</b>		38,904	9,038,091
Shiselweni	Gege	0	0
	Hosea	7,016	1,338,376
	Kubuta	1,121	297,131
	Maseyisini	0	0
	Matsanjeni South	8,931	2,187,116
	Mbangweni	0	0
	Mtsambama	145	406
	Ngudzeni	1,650	192,325
	Nkwene	1,079	192,517
	Sandleni	1,666	60,362
	Shiselweni	2,217	226,638
	Sigwe	5,337	1,268,406
	Somntongo	2,412	587,091
	ZombodzeEmuva	264	742
<b>Shiselweni Total</b>		31,837	6,351,110
<b>Grand Total</b>		200,897	51,219,562