SWAZILAND

Annual Vulnerability Assessment & Analysis

Report

2014

July 2014

A. Highlights

- ***Notable changes in policy (fuel prices, electricity prices and public transport) resulting in increase in consumer inflation.***
- ***Despite some hazardous events (hailstorms and dry spells) in the course of the 2013/14 agricultural season, the final outlook turned out to be better than the previous season.***
- ***Notable increase in staple crop production (23%) although still not sufficient enough to cover domestic consumption requirement for the marketing year.***
- ***A total of 223,249 people are estimated to require interventions aimed at maintaining livelihood assets and strategies while an estimated 67,592 people require immediate food assistance.***
- ***No major outbreaks of animal and livestock diseases reported, hence reported conditions remain good.***
- ***Chronic malnutrition levels remain relatively high (29%) in children under 5 years of age.***
- ***Adequate consumption levels reported among a high number of households.***

B. Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the Swaziland Government for leading the 2014 Annual Assessment, the local development partners for their support and the rest of the agencies that committed resources towards this process.

The Swazi VAC core team played a vital role in the preparation, coordination and implementation of the 2014 assessment. The field data collection team and respondents are commended for their cooperation and continually engaging in this process with all honesty despite the challenges encountered during the process.

Robert Fakudze
Chairperson
Swazi VAC

C. Executive Summary

The country's economy recovered slightly in 2013 as a growth rate of 2.8 was recorded, which however still falls short for the country to achieve its development objectives. The opportunities for further growth still lie in the development of potential sectors such as agriculture, tourism and mining.

The rainfall performance for the 2013/14 season despite being characterised by severe incidents of hazardous events (hailstorms and dry spells) turned out to be above normal rainfall received. Issues of distribution (spatial and temporal) and frequency had negative impacts on the agricultural performance in some areas.

The overall cereal (staple crop) production increased by 23% compared to the previous season and this significantly reduced the deficit on the consumption needs. Storage losses as observed in some locations and national storage facilities pose a threat to domestic availability over the consumption period to the next harvest.

There still remain some pockets of areas which face severe food deficits and as such programmatic interventions are required. The number of people requiring emergency food assistance is estimated at 67,592 while an estimated 223,249 require livelihood support such as inputs, cash transfer and institutional support.

D. Acronyms

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
GDP	:	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
GOS	:	GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND
HDI	:	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
HDR	:	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT
HIV	:	HUMAN IMMUNE-DEFICIENCY VIRUS
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
MOA	:	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
MT	:	METRIC TONNES
NEWU	:	NATIONAL EARLY WARNING UNIT
NHSP		NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN
NMS		NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
SADC RVAA	:	SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY REGIONAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND 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 FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES
WFP	:	WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
WHO	:	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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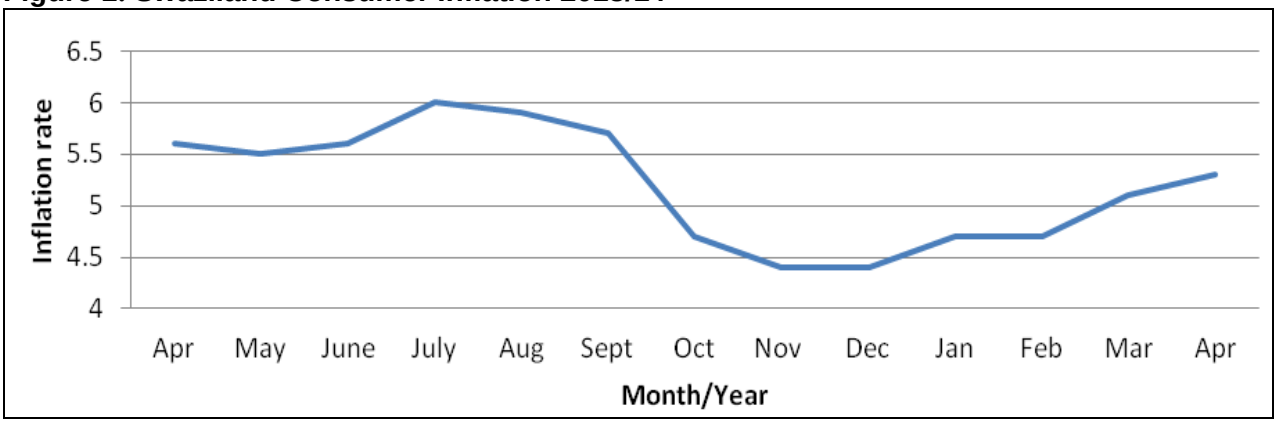
1.0 Background and Overview

1.1 Overview and Economic Performance

Following the improvement in the country's fiscal position after the crisis of 2010/11, the local economy is picking up. The 2013 growth was recorded at 2.8% and the previous year projection stood at 1.9%. While this is still below the average regional trends to make meaningful contribution to poverty reduction, an increase in investment in the critical sectors such as agriculture, mining and tourism on which a turn-around would be derived is essential.

Since the beginning of the year there have been a number of policy changes that have had a negative impact on consumer inflation, hence the observable upward trend. Effetcive 1st April, 2014 a tarrif hike in electricity was implemented against the backdrop of an increase in fuel prices. Soon thereafter, a 25% increase in public transport fare hikes was announced. 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: Swaziland Consumer Inflation 2013/14



Source: Central Statistis Office

1.2 Agriculture

The agricultural sector performance, particularly crop production remains highly vulnerable to the effects of climate variability. The crop production season is frequently

marred by incidents of severe weather conditions such as heavy storms and dry spells resulting in production losses. Programmes to reduce the high dependence on rainfed agriculture and the adoption of climate smart technologies are being implemented with a view to increase productivity. However this requires huge investments for infrastructure and materials for construction in mitigation of the negative impacts.

The livestock sub sector is faced with poor management challenges resulting in low calving and off-take rates in cattle; the major livestock kept as a store for wealth among many households. Mortality rates are also high and these have to be minimised to realise the subsector‘s contribution to economic development and national food security. Due to the ongoing programmes to support livestock production, there have been no major outbreaks of cattle diseases and at the time of preparation of this report cattle conditions were good.

Figure 2: Livestock Captured in the Veld, 2014

1.3 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. The labour force is supplied by households as inputs to the production process of the economy hence their participation in the labour market. The employed impacts on the livelihoods of the households since they contribute to reduction in poverty and vulnerability.

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.

The countries unemployment rate stands at 29% and is higher among the youth ages 15 to 24 as it is 64%, almost twice as high as any other age group. 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 and others.

1.4 Child Health and Nutrition

The prevalence of stunting in Swaziland is 31 % and 1% of the under-five children are wasted, whereas 6% are underweight (MICS 2010). However, according to Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) report 2013, the prevalence of stunting in rural areas is at 29%, underweight 5% and wasting 2%. In Swaziland, 44% of under-five children are exclusively breastfed for six months (MICS 2010). Coincidentally, protein-energy malnutrition usually manifests in breastfed infants between 3 – 6 months of life partly due to the complementary foods, which are deficient in nutrients required for the growth and development.

The most common childhood illnesses amongst under-five children in Swaziland are; pneumonia (ARI), diarrheal diseases, fever and cough. The VAA 2013 report shows

that 39% of children had pneumonia (ARI), 11% diarrheal diseases, 25% fever and 36% cough.

Vitamin A (β-carotene) promotes growth and repair of body tissues, reducing susceptibility to infections and aids in bone and teeth formation. Thus, even mild forms of vitamin A deficiency (VAD) are associated with increased child mortality. About 76% of children aged 6 - 59 months receive vitamin A supplementation (VAA 2013).

2.0 Survey Objectives and Methodology

2.1 Broad Objective

The purpose of the 2014 Annual Assessment was to assess the status of livelihoods and vulnerability in rural households and provide timely information for programming and decision making.

2.2 Specific Objectives include

- To identify the share of the population with inadequate food by region and Tinkhundla.
- 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 issues of water and sanitation within the regions.

2.3 Assessment methodology

The 2014 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 questionnaire through face-to-face interviews.

A total number of 17 RDAs from all the regions of the country were visited during the exercise. The key informants included agricultural extension officers, health staff, NGOs working in communities, rural health motivators were met with in order to carry-out interviews. The second stage of the survey was the selection of 10 households, which during the listing exercise were said to holdings. In total, the survey covered 2550 households which is good representation of the rural households.

The survey used a paper questionnaire with which field staff used to conduct interviews with all eligible households members. The questionnaire covered among others sections on agriculture and food security, demographic conditions of households, water and sanitation. The data from the field was then captured using CSPro software application and tabulation made using SPSS software.

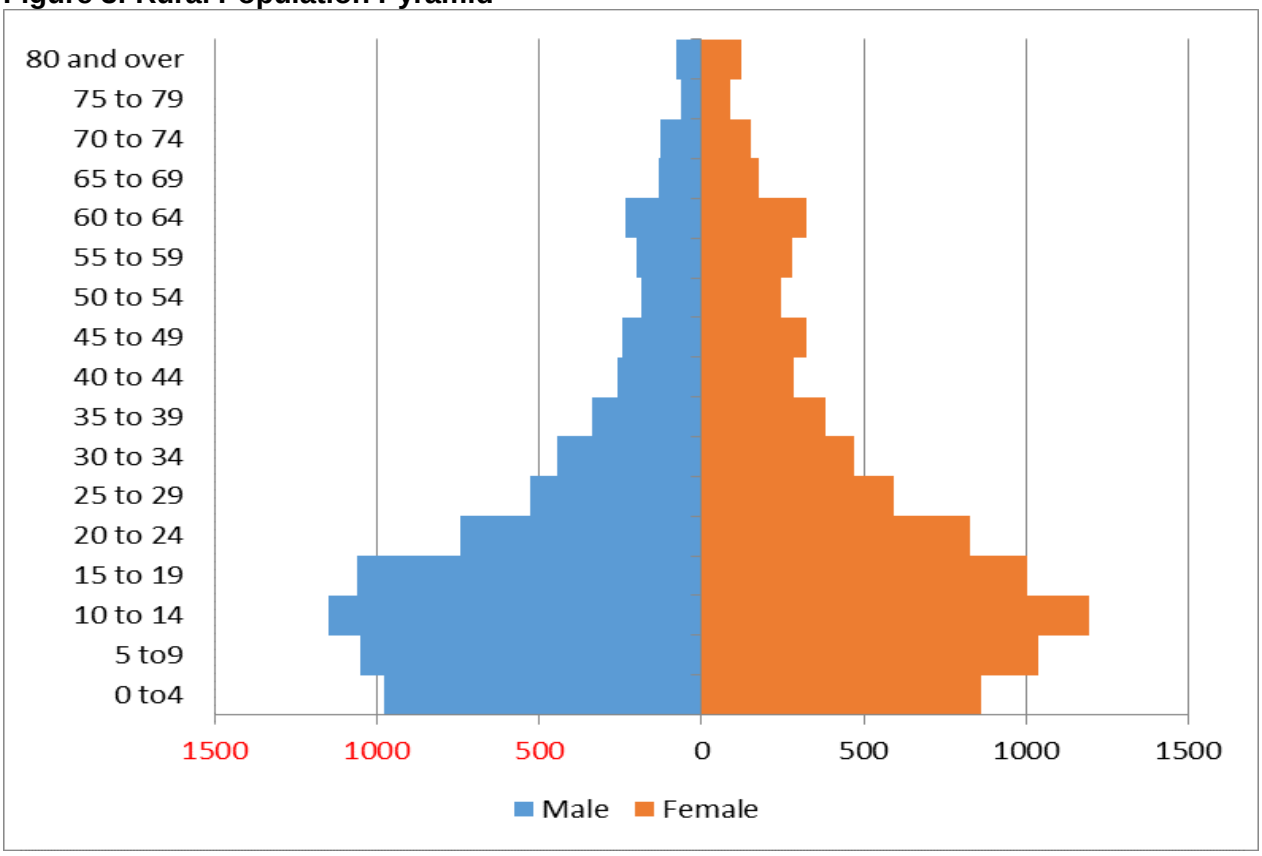
3.0 Sectoral Analysis

3.1 Social Context

3.1.1 Demographics and Household Characteristics

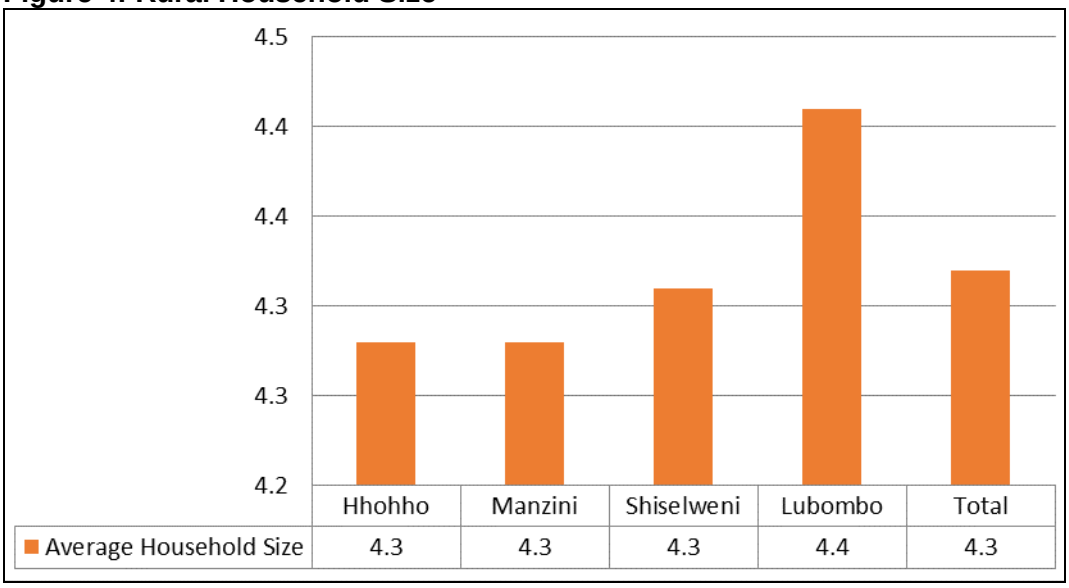
The VAA 2014 results include information on the demographic structure and composition of the rural population. This section also looked into the orphan status of children residing within the sampled households, their information on education attainment and school enrolment.

Figure 3: Rural Population Pyramid



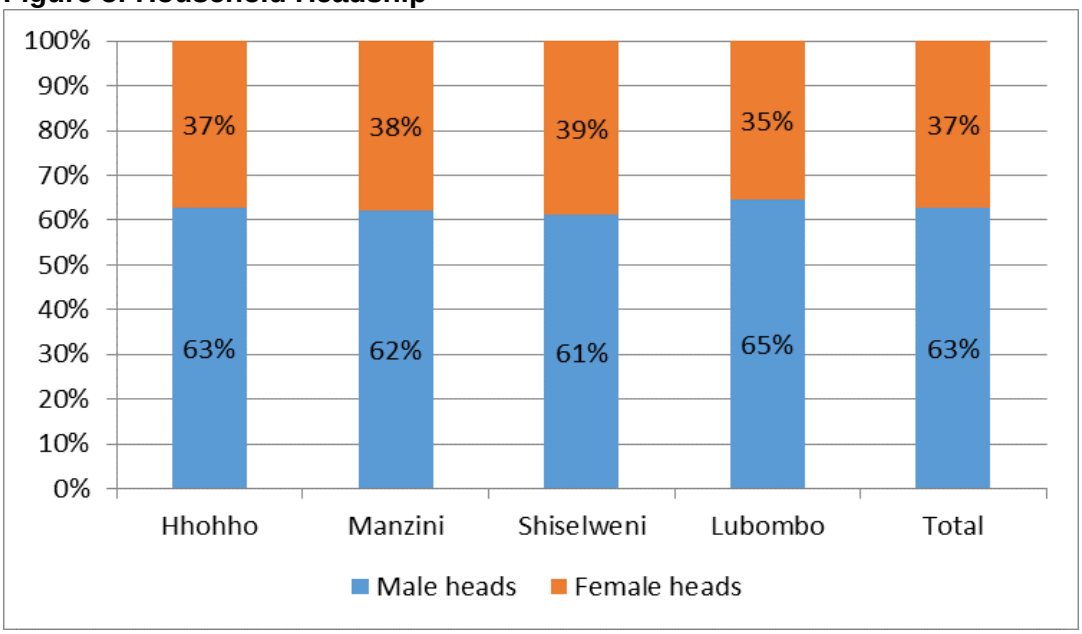
The figure above depicts the population pyramid of the sampled area and illustrate that the rural population is wider for ages 10 to 14 as compared with less than 10 years and females are more than their male counterparts.

Figure 4: Rural Household Size



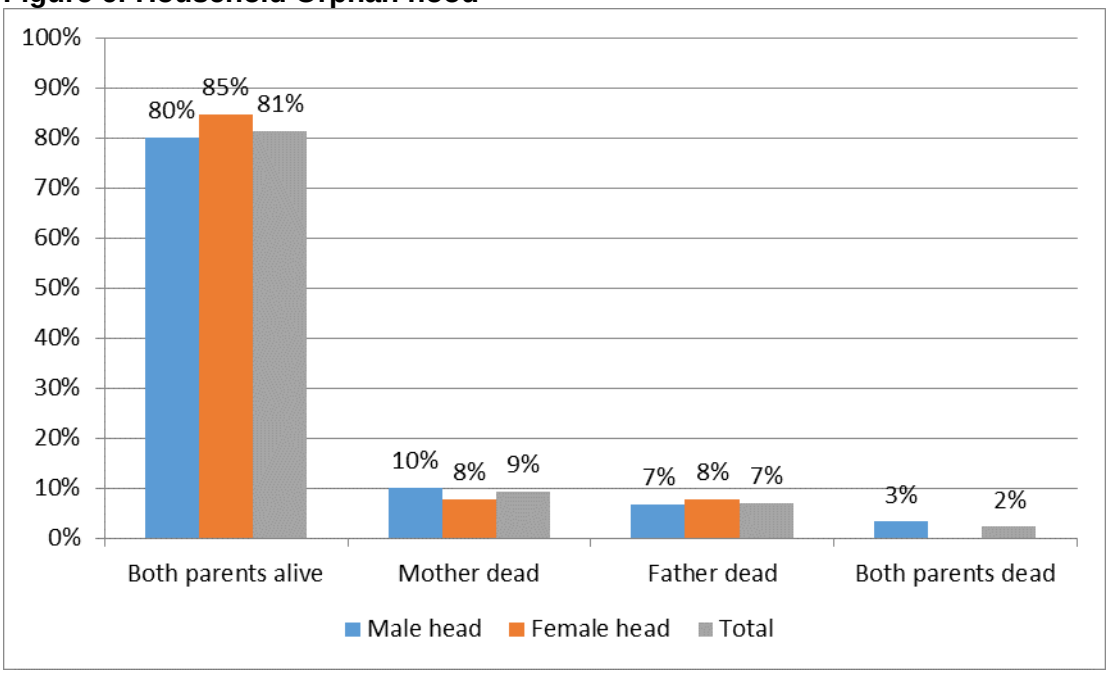
The 2014 VAA results showed that the rural household size for the rural households has gone down to 4 people per households on average. The Lubombo region has the highest number of people per household as compared with the other three regions.

Figure 5: Household Headship



The survey reveals that most households in the rural areas are headed by males at 63% against female heads who are only at 37%. Among the regions, the Shiselweni region leads with female headship at 39% followed by the Manzini region at 38%.

Figure 6: Household Orphan hood

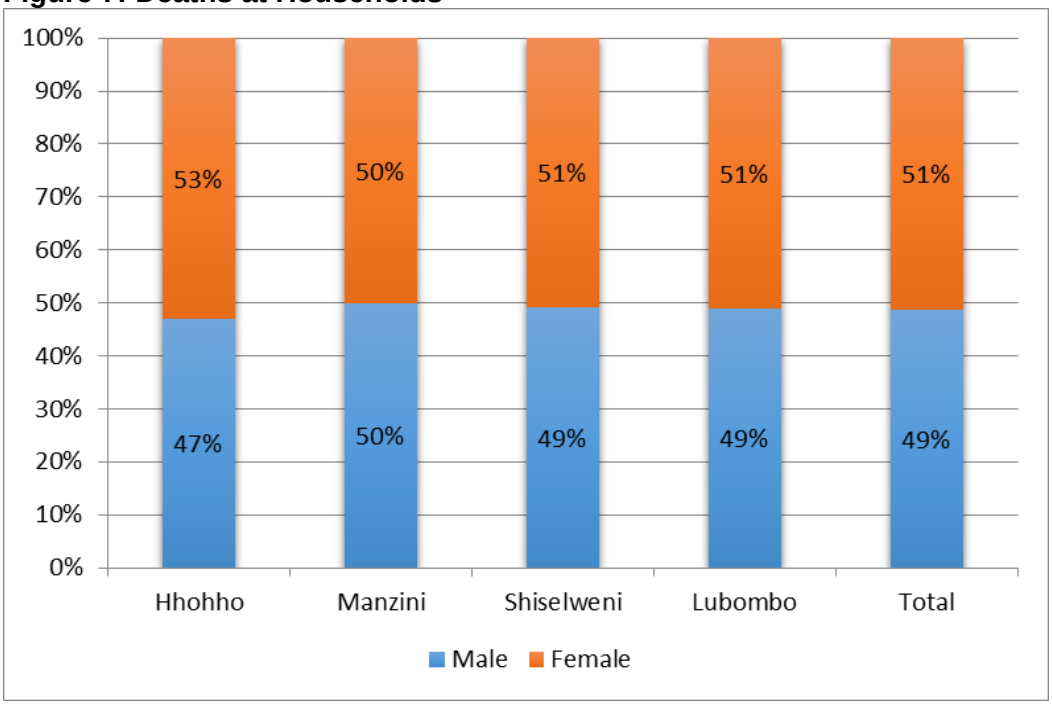


Approximately 19% of children are orphans in Swaziland according to the VAA 2014 findings. Of these, 20% are coming from male headed households and 15 percent are from female headed households. Among the orphans, 9% have lost their mother against 7% who lost a father.

3.1.2 Recent Death in the Households

To measure the extent of vulnerability within households, the VAA 2014 asked questions on death experienced in the last twelve months and the status or role that the deceased had within the households.

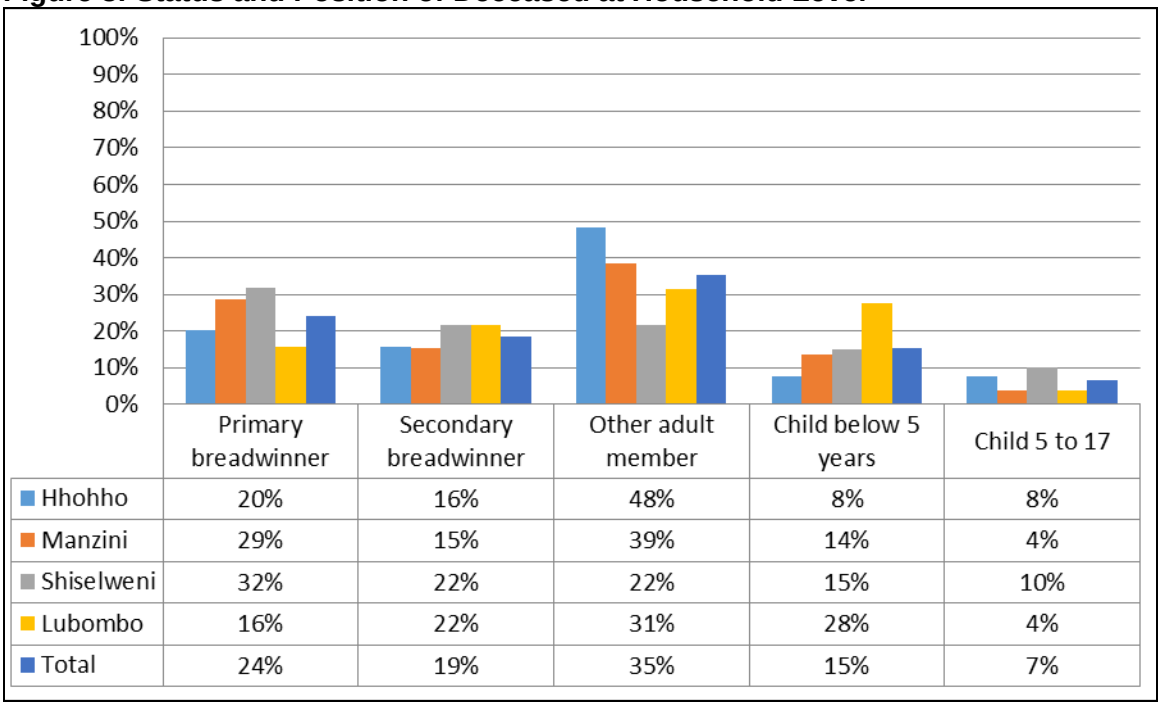
Figure 7: Deaths at Households



The figure above shows that out all households that reported a recent death, 51% were female deceased against 49% male counterpart. The results showed a relatively even distribution across all the regions as far as gender of the dead member/s of households is concerned.

3.1.3 Status of the Deceased

Figure 8: Status and Position of Deceased at Household Level

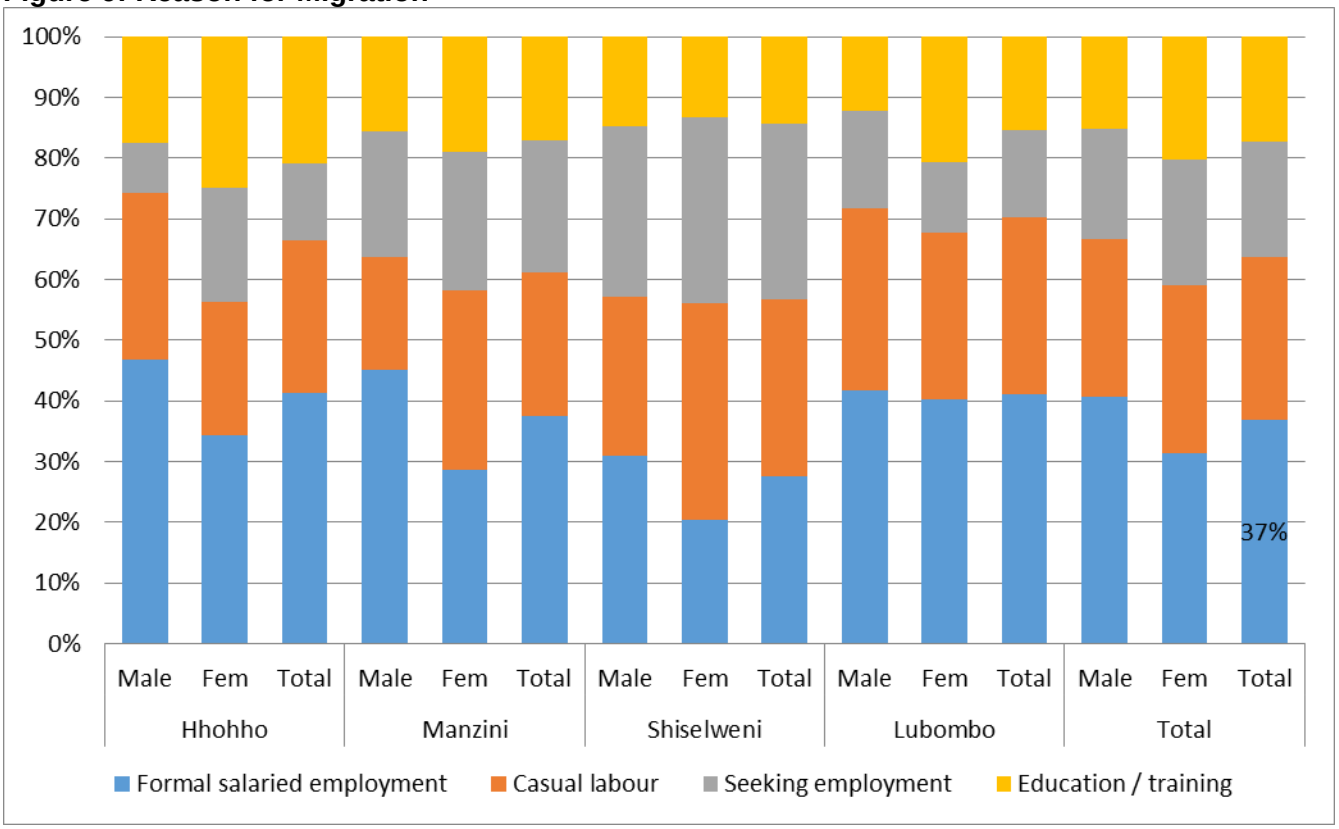


	Primary breadwinner	Secondary breadwinner	Other adult member	Child below 5 years	Child 5 to 17
Hhohho	20%	16%	48%	8%	8%
Manzini	29%	15%	39%	14%	4%
Shiselweni	32%	22%	22%	15%	10%
Lubombo	16%	22%	31%	28%	4%
Total	24%	19%	35%	15%	7%

The survey further looked into the status of the deceased within the households. It came out that 35% of members who died recently were other members of the households, while 24% were primary breadwinners, 19% were secondary breadwinners and 15% were children under the age of five.

3.1.4 Migration

Figure 9: Reason for Migration



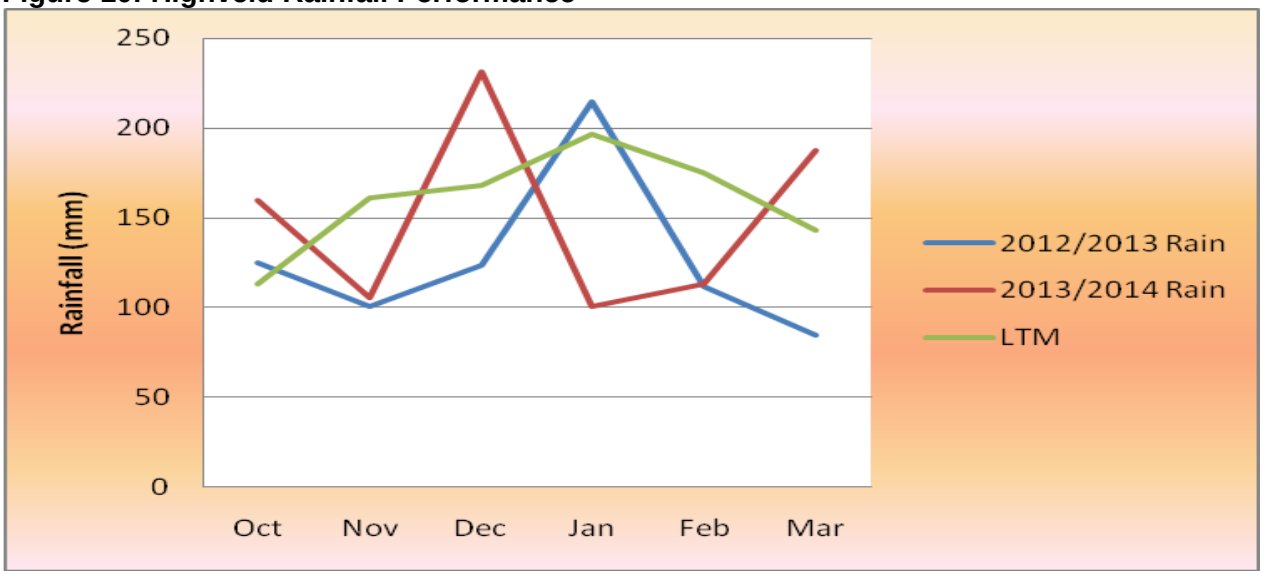
The 2014 VAA results reveal that many people migrate from rural to urban areas for formal salaried employment, casual employment, seeking for a job and for training or education reasons. The total percentage of people who migrated from their places of origin in search for employment and education is about 37% and is higher for male compared with their female counterpart.

4.0 Seasonal Performance 2013/14

4.1 Rainfall Performance

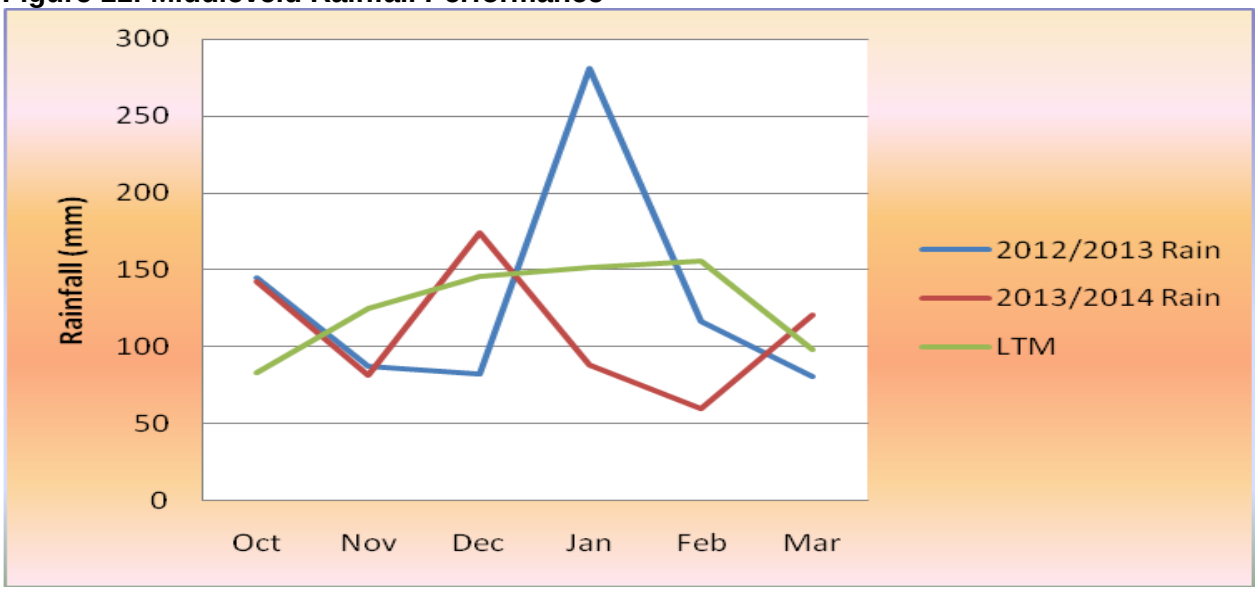
During the 2012/2013 and the 2013/2014 seasons the Highveld received slightly above normal rains in October then in November below normal rain was received in both seasons. In December 2012/2013 below normal rain was received while in 2013/2014 above normal rain was received. During 2013/2014, January was characterized by dry spells hence below normal rain received. In the previous season, above normal rain was collected. In both seasons February was dry hence below normal rain was received. During the 2013/2014 season, above normal rain was received in March.

Figure 10: Highveld Rainfall Performance



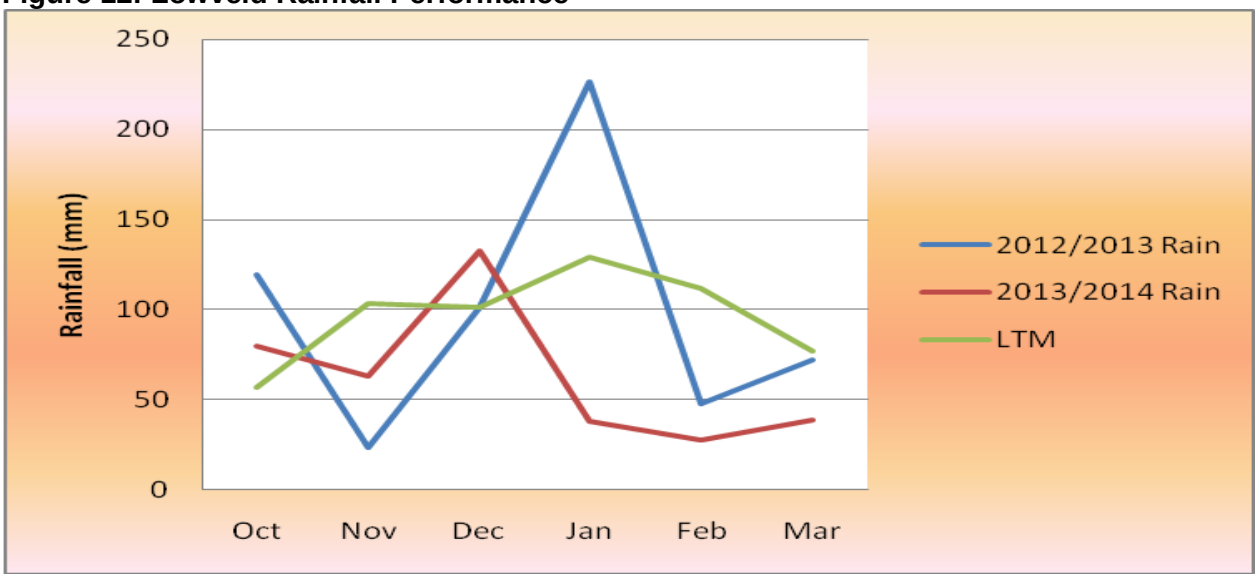
During the 2012/2013 and the 2013/2014 seasons the Middleveld received above normal rains in October then in November below normal rain was received in both seasons. In December 2012/2013 below normal rain was received while in 2013/2014 above normal rain was received. During 2013/2014, January was characterized by dry spells hence below normal rain received. In the previous season, above normal rain was collected. In both seasons February was dry hence below normal rain was received. During the 2013/2014 season, above normal rain was received in March.

Figure 11: Middleveld Rainfall Performance



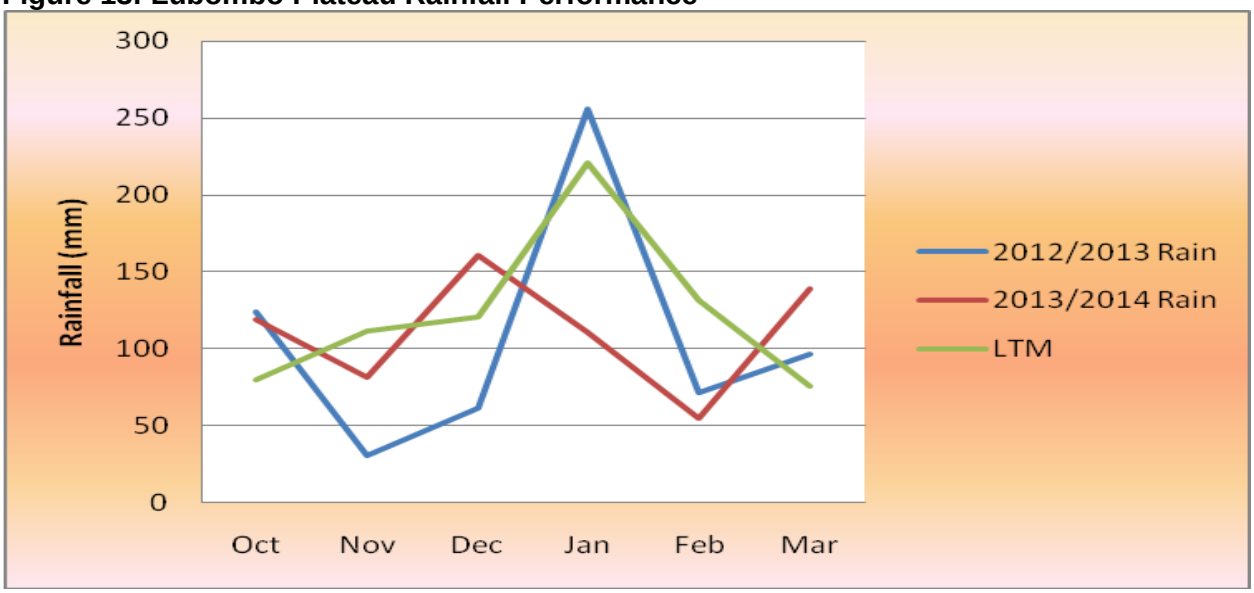
During the 2012/2013 and the 2013/2014 seasons the Lowveld received above normal rains in October then in November below normal rain was received in both seasons. In December 2012/2013 normal rain was received while in 2013/2014 above normal rain was received. During 2013/2014, January was characterized by dry spells hence below normal rain received. In the previous season, above normal rain was collected. In both seasons the last two months of the season (February and March) were dry hence below normal rain was received.

Figure 12: Lowveld Rainfall Performance



During the 2012/2013 and the 2013/2014 seasons the Lubombo Plateau received slightly above normal rains in October then in November below normal rain was received in both seasons. In December 2012/2013 below normal rain was received while in 2013/2014 slightly above normal rain was received. During 2013/2014, January was characterized by dry spells hence below normal rain received. In the previous season, above normal rain was collected. In both seasons February was dry, hence below normal rain was received while March received slightly above normal rain.

Figure 13: Lubombo Plateau Rainfall Performance



4.2 Area Planted

Figures obtained from the Agricultural Statistics division of the Central Statistics Office show a significant increase in area planted to maize during the 2013/14 season compared to the previous season. A total of **86,754 Ha** were recorded compared to **61,260 Ha** planted in 2012/13, showing a 40% increase. Due to some of the reasons stated in the preceding section, the yield was affected such that the national average was at **1.2 tons/Ha** but due to the increase in area planted, the estimated production also reflects an increase compared to the previous season. Current preliminary production estimates stand at **101,041 MT** compared to the **81,934 MT** recorded in 2012/13. This shows an increase of about 23%.

Table 1: Summary of Seasonal Performance of Maize Production

Season	Area Planted (Ha)	Est. Production (MT)	% Change
2012/13	61,260	81,934	7
2013/14	86,754	101,041	23

4.3 Food Availability

The maize consumption requirements for the 2014/15 period stand at **118,750MT** and the envisaged shortfall is just about **20,000 MT**. However due to losses on production in the field, during storage and pests, this figure could be higher.

Table 2: Swaziland Cereal Balance Sheet 2014/15 ('000 MT)

	Maize	Wheat	Rice	All
Domestic Availability	101.041	2.50	3.00	106.541
Gross Domestic Requirement	118.75	34.00	25.00	177.750
Domestic Shortfall/Surplus	-17.709	-31.50	-22.00	-71.209
Planned Imports				
Commercial	22.00	40.0	30.00	92.00
Food Aid	4.00	0	0	4.00

Poor post-harvest handling and storage as indicated above could lead to reduced food availability as the consumption period peaks. During the field assessment several aspects of poor crop storage were observed as can be seen in the figure below:

Figure 14: Maize Storage in the Field

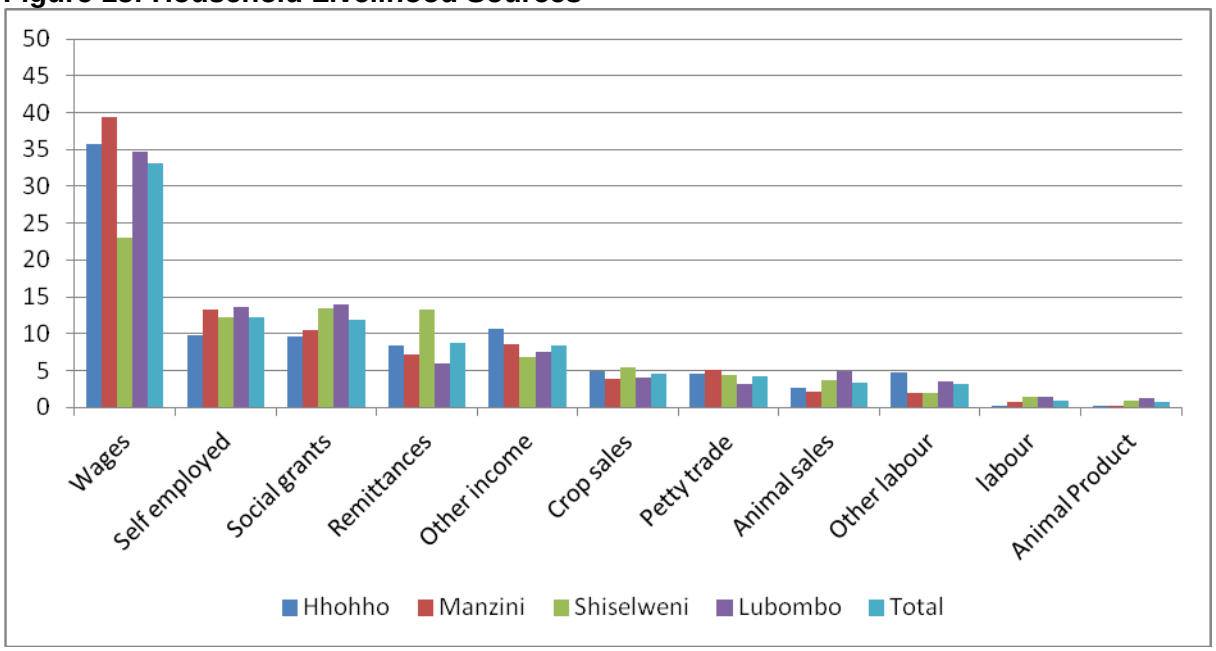
5.0 Household Livelihoods

5.1 Introduction

Household Livelihood Security can be inferred to the adequate and sustainable access to income and resources, meeting basic needs (including adequate access to food, potable water, health facilities, educational opportunities, housing, and time for community participation and social integration). This can be made up of a range of on-farm and off-farm activities that together provide a variety of procurement strategies for food and cash. Thus, each household can have several possible sources of entitlement which constitute its livelihood. Entitlements include the rights, privileges and assets that a household has, and its position in the legal, political, and social fabric of society.

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.

Figure 15: Household Livelihood Sources



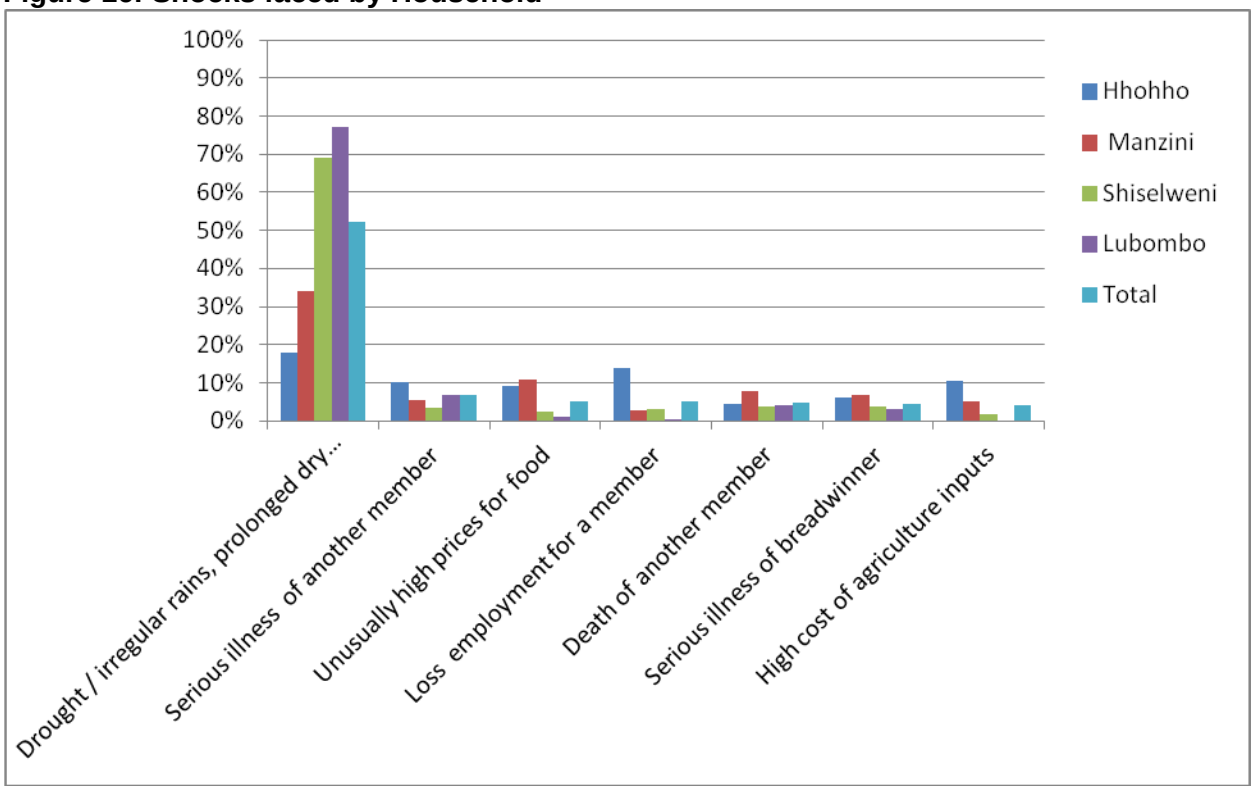
Wages has been identified as the main source of livelihood, as presented on figure 13. The Manzini region has the highest percentage of people who are dependent on wages as a source of livelihood. Dependence on self-employment; social grants is high in the Lubombo region when compared to the other regions. Dependence on animal products as a source of livelihood is low in the country. This represents the viewed low economic importance of livestock among the rural communities. Overall dependence on agriculture as a source of livelihood for pro-poor households is low, as seen on the agricultural based sources of livelihood (crop sales; animal sales and livestock products being raked low when compared to other sources as seen on the figure above.

5.2 Shocks and Coping Means

According to the VAA 2014 results rural households experienced a number of shocks which had an impact on the ability of the rural household's to provide for their food and nutritional requirements. Weather related shocks (drought, irregular rains and prolonged dry spells) constituted a higher percentage of the shocks experienced by households. These shocks were pertinent in all the regions with the Lubombo regions reporting a higher percentage followed by the Shiselweni region. Health (serious illness of a household member) and market (increase in foods prices and loss of employment)

related shocks were reported in all the regions. These had a great impact on the ability of the rural households to meet their food and nutritional needs and further compounded by the other reported shocks the vulnerability making situation unfavorable.

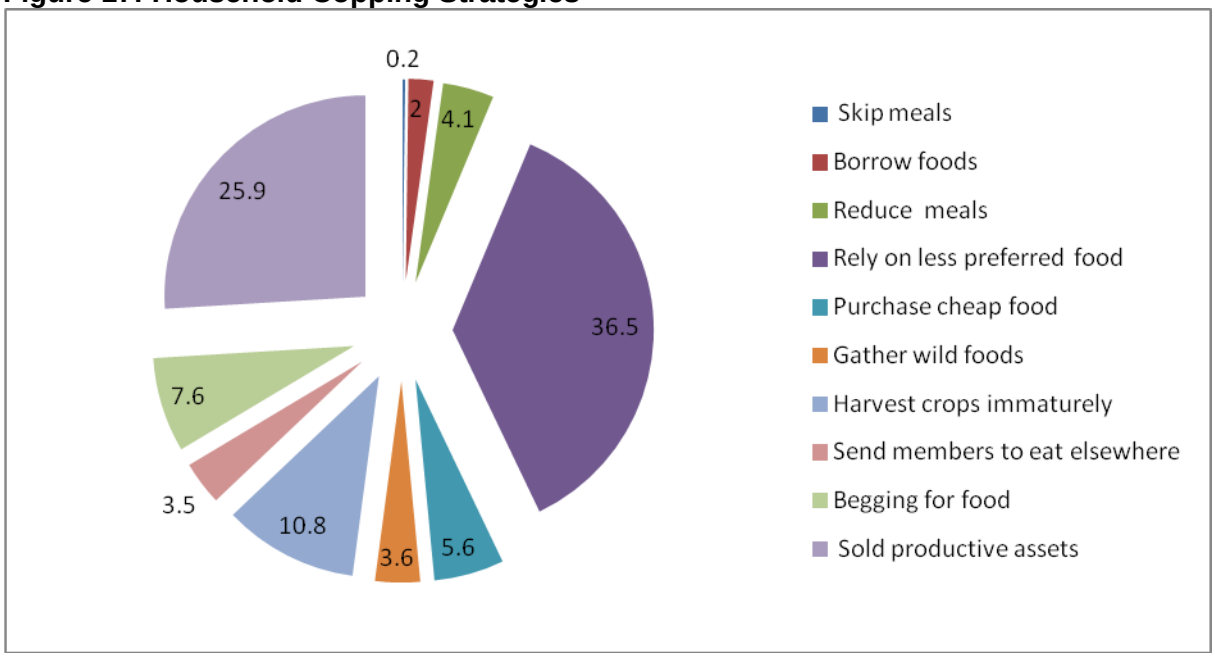
Figure 16: Shocks faced by Household



5.3 Coping Means

In view of the various shocks that affected households during the reporting period, households resorted in the use of a number of coping strategies. Reliance on less preferred food was high in a number of households, 36.5% (figure 15). This involved the use of less preferred and low nutritious value foods which means households not able to meet their nutritional requirements leading to nutritional deficiencies. Risky coping mechanisms i.e. selling of productive assets was also high 25.9%. Selling of productive assets as a coping mechanism has a greater impact on the future food security and vulnerability of the rural households as this erodes their productive ability thus unable to produce and provide for their livelihood.

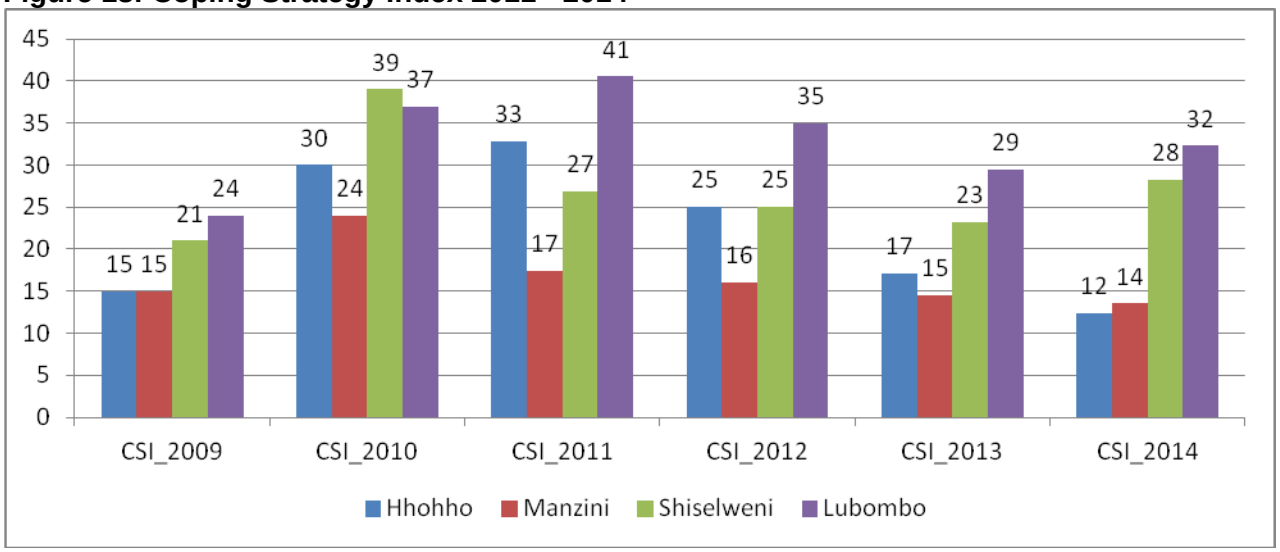
Figure 17: Household Copping Strategies



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 security and establish a baseline for monitoring threats and impact of interventions. A higher index depicts that the households had the highest level of stress.

Figure 18: Coping Strategy Index 2011 - 2014

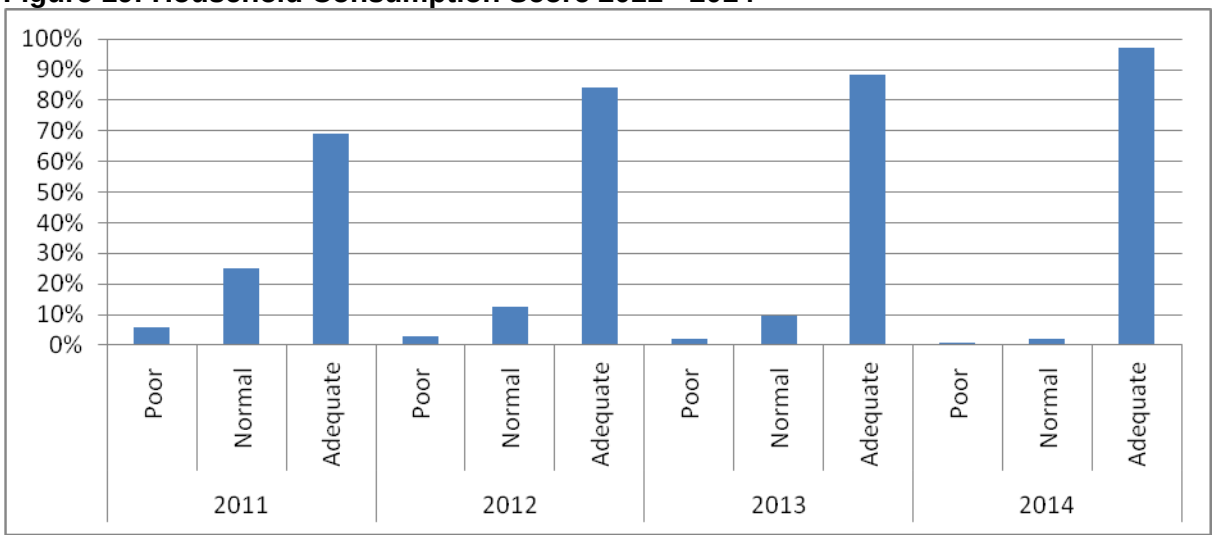


According to the 2014 VAA results, the Lubombo region had the highest coping strategy 32% when compared to the other regions followed by the Shiselweni 28%. In comparison from the previous year 2013, there in an increase of 4% from the 29% obtained in 2013. This trend is also seen in the Shiselweni regions. This implies that the regions faced increased shocks such that households has to involve inceased coping strategies to provided for their food requirements. In the Manzini and Hhohho region a reduction in the CSI was observed meaning less strategies were utilised as households faced less food stress. Households in the two regions faced less food stress, thus the low CSI values.

5.5 Food Consumption Score

An increase in the number of households that had adequate/acceptable food consumptions levels, as more than 95% of households reported to have adequate levels. As reported in 2013, an increasing trend on households with adequate consumption levels was observed even this year. This implies that over the years (2011 – 2014) rural households have been increasingly able to provide for their day to day food needs, food availability has greatly improved. Also households with poor and normal consumption level have decreased. Overall from the presented data a majority of households were food secured during the reporting period. Though the food consumption score shows some great improvement among households the understating of nutritional security is still not clear at household level. There is therefore a need to work on understanding nutrition security based on the identified food sources used to calculate the score, thus expanding the list of sources measured during the analysis.

Figure 19: Household Consumption Score 2011 - 2014



5.6 Food Shortages

According to the 2014 VAA results, the Lubombo region is facing food stress as 17.1% of households could not harvest anything this season and a larger percentage of the households have food reserves that will only last them for two months. The Lubombo region is followed by the Shiselweni which has 9.4% of those that has not harvested anything and 28.1% has food that will last them for less than two months. Population from the two regions will require food assistance. Manzini and Hhohho regions are likely not to face food shortages as percentage of households that could not harvest is low (4.0% and 7.4% respectively). 26.9% and 31.9% respectively are the households that have food reserves that will last them up to six months.

Table 3: Period at which harvest food will last per household

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

6.0 Livelihoods Analysis

6.1 National Outcome

The Livelihoods protection threshold as shown in table 4 below represents the estimated population likely to face a livelihoods deficit (223,249). This requires interventions to;

i) Ensure basic survival;
ii) Maintain access to basic services;
iii) Sustain livelihoods in the medium to longer term and
iv) Achieve a minimum locally acceptable standard of living.

Table 4: Analysis Showing Livelihoods Deficit Population

2014 Livelihood Deficit Projection		
Region	**Sum of Current Population**	**Population at Risk**
Hhohho	318 493	53 232
Lubombo	226 800	85 961
Manzini	364 170	44 367
Shiselweni	209 913	39 688
Grand Total	**1 119 376**	**223 249**

The survival threshold population (67,592) represents the total number of people likely to require interventions to cover;

i) 100% of minimum food energy needs;
ii) The costs associated with preparation and consumption;
iii) Any expenditure on water and human consumption.

Table 5: Analysis Showing Survival Deficit Population

2014 Survival Deficit Projection		
Region	**Sum of Current Population**	**Population at Risk**
Hhohho	318 493	11660
Lubombo	226 800	42296
Manzini	364 170	5587
Shiselweni	209 913	8049
Grand Total	**1 119 376**	**67592**

Table 6: Survival Deficit Population by Tinkhundla

Region	Tinkhundla	Current Population	Vulnerable population 2014	Staple required in Tons (Maize Equivalent) 2014
Hhohho	Mandlangempisi	18 560	4 430	323
	Mayiwane	16 534	950	69
	Mhlangatane	24 519	5 800	423
	Ndzingeni	20 903	480	35
Hhohho Total		**309 184**	**11 660**	**851**
Manzini	Mafutseni	17 183	1 762	129
	Mkhiweni	26 403	3 277	239
	Nhlambeni	13 755	548	40
Manzini Total		**352 568**	**5 587**	**408**
Lubombo	Dvokodvweni	30 170	8 662	632
	Hlane	7 573	2 250	164
	Lubuli	15 398	4 514	329
	Lugongolweni	16 573	1 652	121
	Mhlume	18 134	16	1
	Mpolonjeni	21 959	6 860	501
	Nkilongo	16 987	3 200	234
	Siphofaneni	25 083	6 891	503
	Sithobela	32 392	8 251	602
Lubombo Total		**221 837**	**42 296**	**3088**
Shiselweni				
	Hosea	19 713	192	14
	Matsanjeni South	16 325	4 771	348
	Sigwe	11 839	1 772	129
	Somntongo	5 486	1 314	96
Shiselweni Total		**209 568**	**8 049**	**588**
Total			**67,592**	**4934**
NB: The food requirement are for a year period (365 days)				

7.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

- Development and implementation of response strategies for the identified vulnerable groups.
- The 2006 Rural Livelihoods Baselines need to be updated as they are becoming less and less credible for analysis of current data. There is also the need to develop urban profiles in light of the deepening urban poverty and increasing vulnerability.
- Implementation and support for the four year (2015-2018) Swazi VAC operational framework.
- Comprehensive assessment of national and communal storage facilities.
- Development and implementation of appropriate Sectoral disaster risk reduction plans to reduce vulnerability to hazards.
- Identification of non- farm based (non-agricultural) livelihood support interventions for vulnerable groups.
- A need to increase understanding on nutrition security especially on the identified food sources used to calculate the food consumption score, thus expanding the list of sources measured during the analysis.

8.0 Annex1: IPC Analysis Output

8.1 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.

Food security analysis is inherently challenging with respect to data sources, methodologies, varying types of hazards, different livelihood systems and multiple stakeholder institutions. Given these challenges and complexity, the IPC provides a common way to classify the nature and severity of food insecurity. The IPC communicates actionable knowledge to decision-makers on current and future food security conditions, together with strategic information to guide action.

This approach is designed to be applicable in any context irrespective of the type of food insecurity, hazard, socio-economic, livelihood, institutional or data context. It is developed around field realities and enables this plethora of diversity to be brought together in a systematic manner for decision-makers.

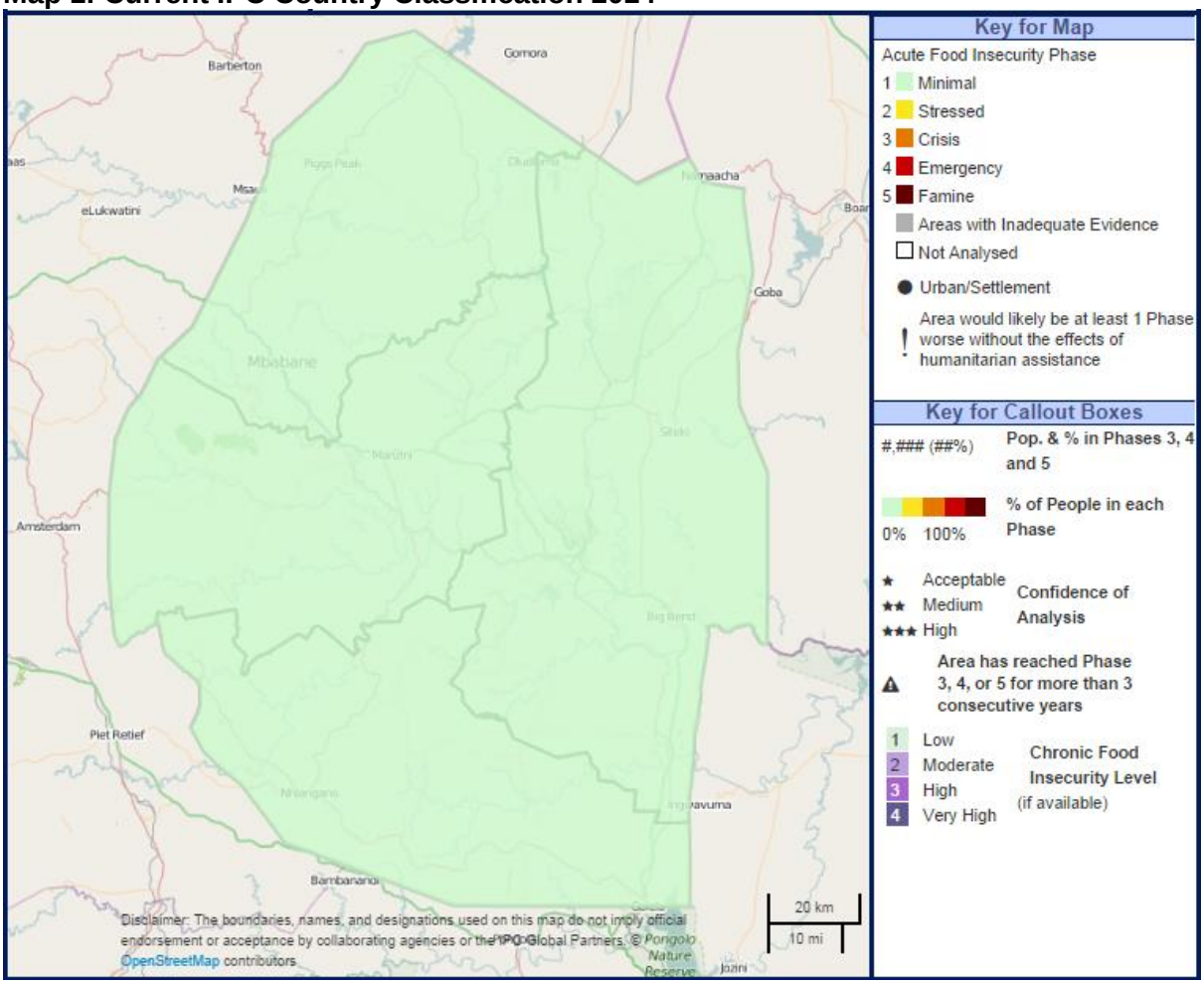
8.2 Methodology Used

The 2014 IPC analysis for Swaziland used the 2014 VAA results and other national surveys including reports from the Ministry of Health for Nutrition. The analysis brought together a group of technicians from various sectors of the economy dealing with issues of food security. The group was joined by others from SADC countries and organizations including Mozambique, Namibia, OXFAM and FEWSNET.

8.3 Summary of Causes for Food Insecurity in Swaziland

In most regions of Swaziland erratic rainfall patterns form the biggest hazard that impact crop production and reduced household food availability. This is seen in Manzini, Shiselweni, and Lubombo where poorest populations are facing high food consumption gaps, though not enough in number to put the area in higher phases of food insecurity. Market access mainly influenced by increasing food prices and poor household food production also compound the problem for these households to access required food. In terms of utilization, most areas were reported to be having adequate access to potable water though access to improved sanitation is a problem in some area.

Map 1: Current IPC Country Classification 2014

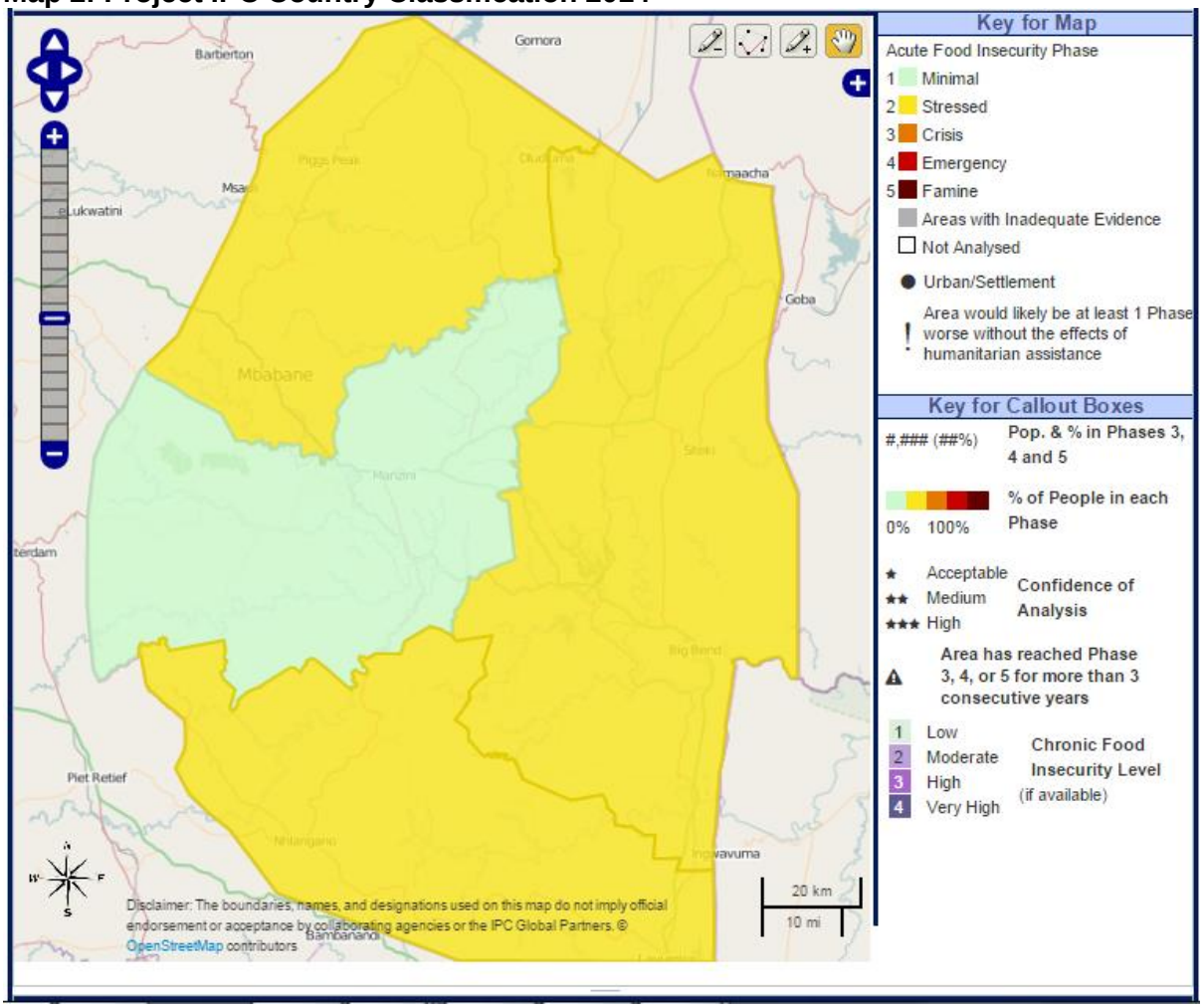


8.4 Key Findings and Issues

Currently the country is on the Minimal (Phase 1) Food Insecurity Phase. Across the four regions, agricultural activities (subsistence farming, livestock sales) are the main livelihood activity. Erratic rainfall pattern has affected cereal (staple) production; however the estimated production harvest has improved. There were no significant changes in livestock condition and grazing pastures.

Direct evidence including mortality, food consumption score at 95% of the population with adequate, nutrition and livelihood change are showing that the country is in the Stressed (Phase 2) Food Insecurity Phase until March 2015. The national food balance sheet depicts that cereals are generally available from both own production and markets. However the ongoing escalating prices in the markets have a direct impact on food access.

Map 2: Project IPC Country Classification 2014



The country's projections of the level of acute food insecurity show that only the Manzini region will remain minimal (Phase 1) else the rest of the regions will be somewhat stressed (Phase2).