

## Food security is stable with increased supply and consumption of diverse foods

### Key points:



## Food security remains stable as households have good dietary diversity in most monitored provinces



Bean prices continue to fall with marked reductions in Luwingu (Northern), Mafinga (Muchinga) and Mazabuka (Southern)



Maize prices have fallen sharply in Mazabuka (Southern), Lundazi and Chadiza (Eastern), and Mafinga (Muchinga)



The use of unsustainable food-related coping strategies has fallen in all monitored provinces



**WFP/Cynthia Muyunda**

## Situation Update

The 2016/17 Crop Forecast Survey released by the Ministry of Agriculture reports a record surplus of 1,178, 516 mt of maize – a 20.5 percent increase from last year. This is largely attributed to favourable rainfall during the 2016/17 season coupled with improved access to inputs through purchases and the Farmer Input Support Programme. The seasonal food security outlook beyond June 2017 is good: supply in most markets is expected to increase with better production, and demand will be lower as people consume their own production. Better availability and lower demand are also expected to push down the prices of maize grain and maize, the main staple.

**1,000**

Interviewed  
households



### Wall type

Concrete  
blocks: 50%



Mud blocks:47%

Sticks and mud: 3%

## Head of household

Male: 87%

Female: 13%



## Roof type

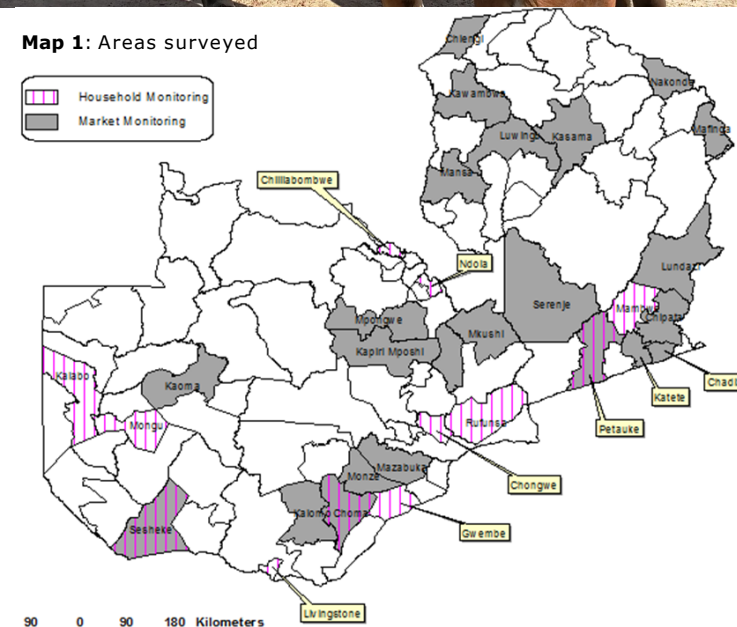
Simple iron /asbestos:  
80%

Thatched grass: 8%

Special iron /concrete:  
12%



**Map 1:** Areas surveyed





Dietary diversity is stable in most monitored provinces

Dietary diversity remained fairly stable in most monitored provinces in June. Significant changes were observed in Southern and Lusaka provinces where the proportion of households with high dietary diversity increased in June compared to May. In Southern Province, the proportion of households with high dietary diversity rose from 35.5 percent in May to 44.4 percent in June. In Lusaka Province, the proportion rose from 24.5 percent in May to 29.5 percent in June. The rise in the consumption of diverse foods is a result of increased supply in markets and households stemming from the surplus production recorded in all monitored provinces (Figure 1).

No significant changes were observed in the proportion of households consuming iron-rich foods between May and June. However, a higher percentage of households headed by men consumed iron-rich foods than those headed by women (Figure 2). This trend is similar to that found by past assessments carried out under the auspices of the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee. Households headed by men also continued to consume a higher number of food groups (8 out of 12) than those headed by women (7).

Figure 1: Household dietary diversity by province, May

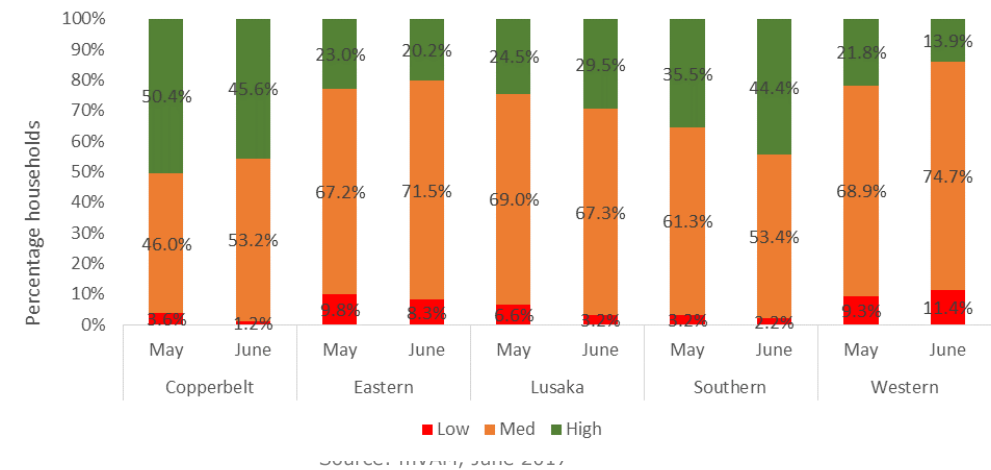
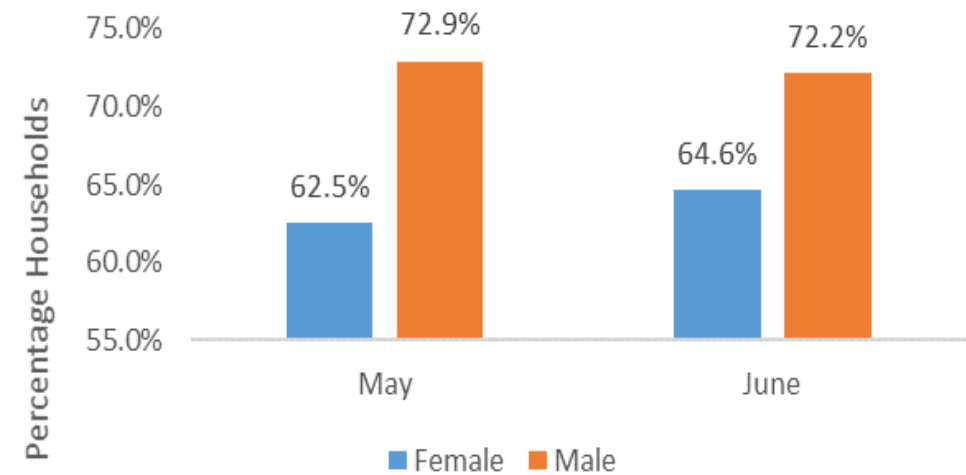
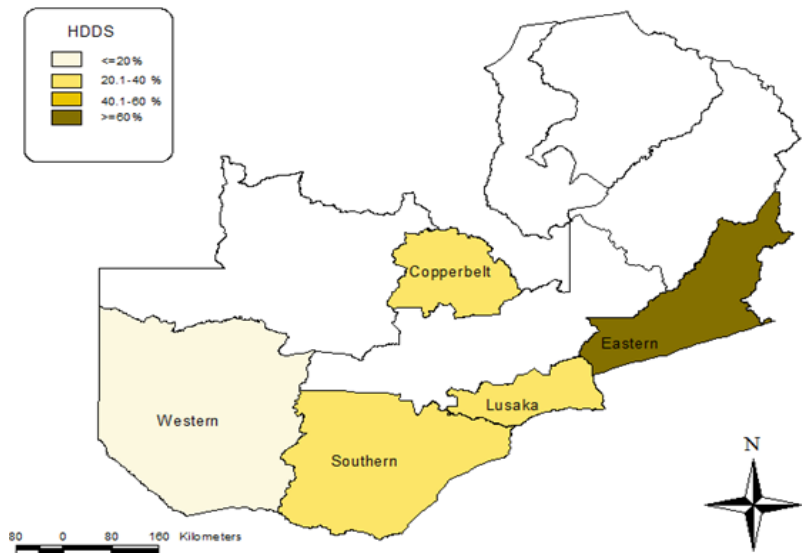


Figure 2: Households consuming iron-rich foods by sex of household head, May and June 2017



Map 2: Proportion of households with high dietary diversity, by province



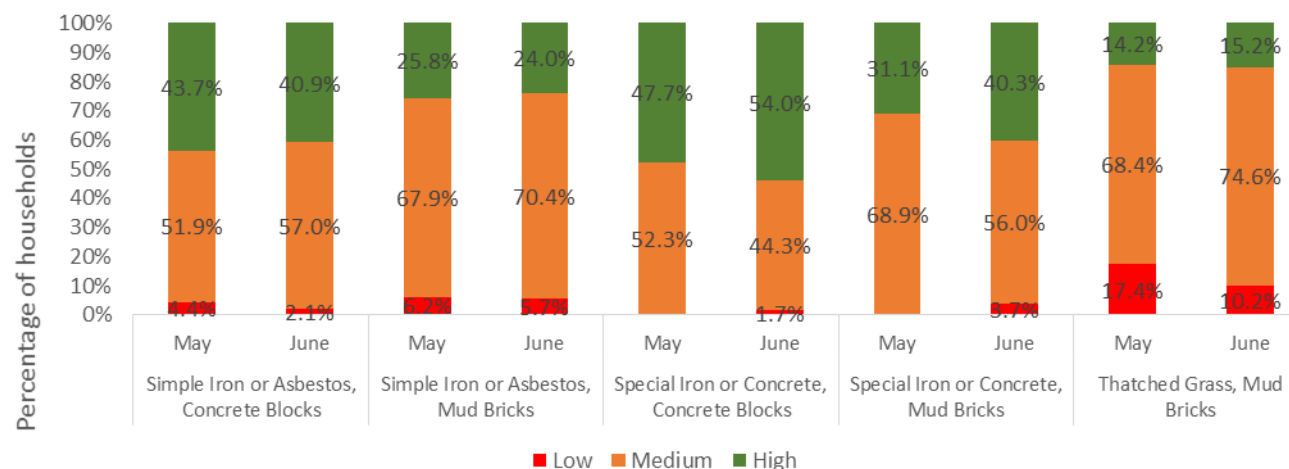
Source: mVAM, June 2017



### Dietary diversity improves for households in the middle wealth group

The wall and roof types of a household's dwelling are used as a proxy for its socio-economic status in this report. As seen in Figure 3, a higher proportion of the worst-off households – those with walls made from mud bricks and roofs made from thatched grass – have low dietary diversity, compared to other wealth groups. However, a significant change in dietary diversity was recorded among the middle wealth group – those with walls made from concrete blocks and roofs made from simple iron or asbestos. The proportion of households with poor dietary diversity in this group fell from 4.4 percent in May to 2.1 percent in June.

Figure 3. Dietary diversity by roof and wall type



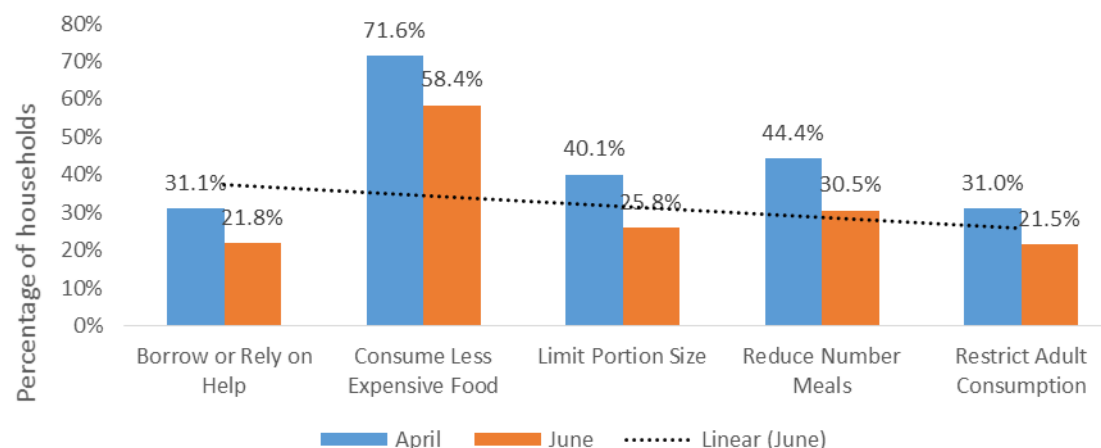
Source: mVAM, June 2017



### Fewer households resort to negative coping strategies as food supply increases

The reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) reflects the frequency and severity of unsustainable food-related coping strategies used by households to deal with food shortages. A smaller share of households resorted to negative coping strategies in June (the beginning of the consumption period) compared to April (the peak of the lean period), as shown in Figure 4. This change can also be seen in the fall of the median rCSI from 4 in April to 2 in June.

Figure 4. Use of negative coping strategies, April and June 2017



Source: mVAM, June 2017

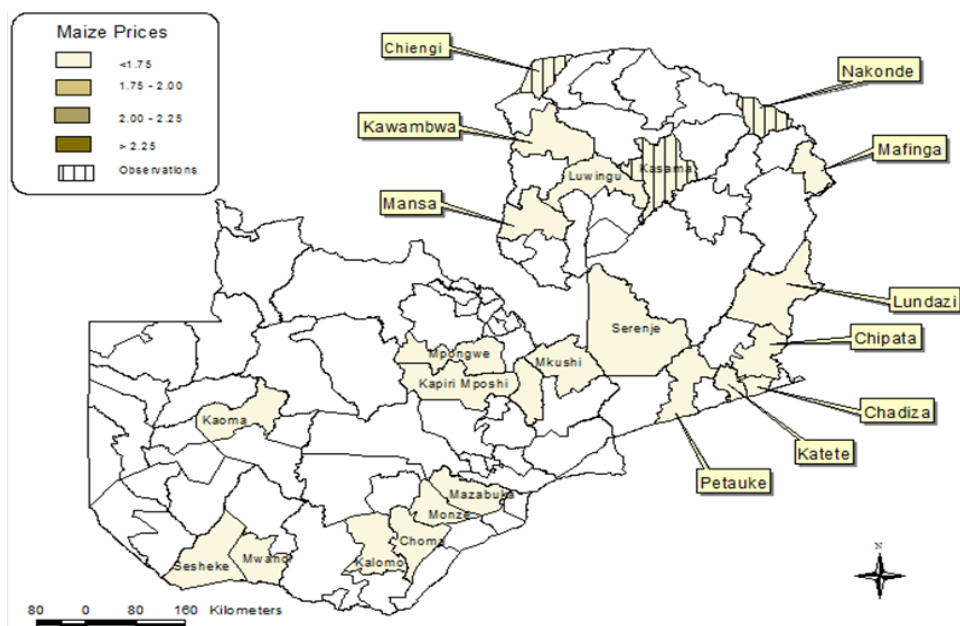


## Maize prices fall in all monitored districts as supply continues to improve

Maize prices fell in all monitored districts in June compared to April and May. Large reductions were recorded in Mazabuka, Southern Province (down 38.8 percent); in Lundazi (down 38.7 percent), Chadiza (down 38.5 percent) and Petauke (down 34.6 percent) in Eastern Province; and in Mafinga, Muchinga Province (down 36.2 percent). The cheaper prices are mainly driven by increased supply from the surplus production. In other monitored districts, maize price reductions have been marginal. Prices are expected to continue falling as the peak marketing period or peak consumption season is reached in July/August 2017.

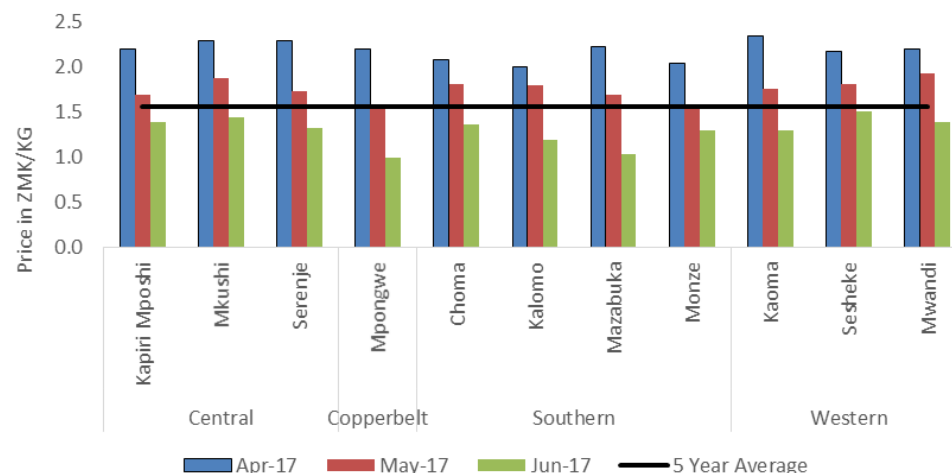
The combined average maize price for the 24 surveyed districts was ZMK1.28/kg in June compared to ZMK 1.76/kg in May – a drop of 27 percent. The combined average maize price for the 24 districts is 18.5 percent lower than national five-year average maize price (June 2011 to June 2016) (source: [FAO GIEWS](#)).

**Map 3:** Maize prices (ZMK/kg) by district, June 2017

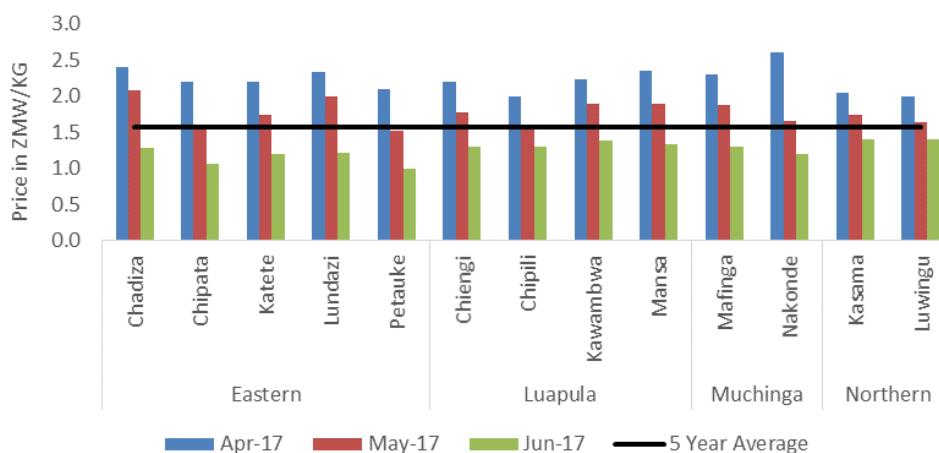


Source: June mVAM 2017

**Figure 5a:** Maize prices (ZMK/kg) in monitored districts within Central, Copperbelt, Southern and Western



**Figure 5b:** Maize prices (ZMK/kg) in monitored districts in Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern provinces



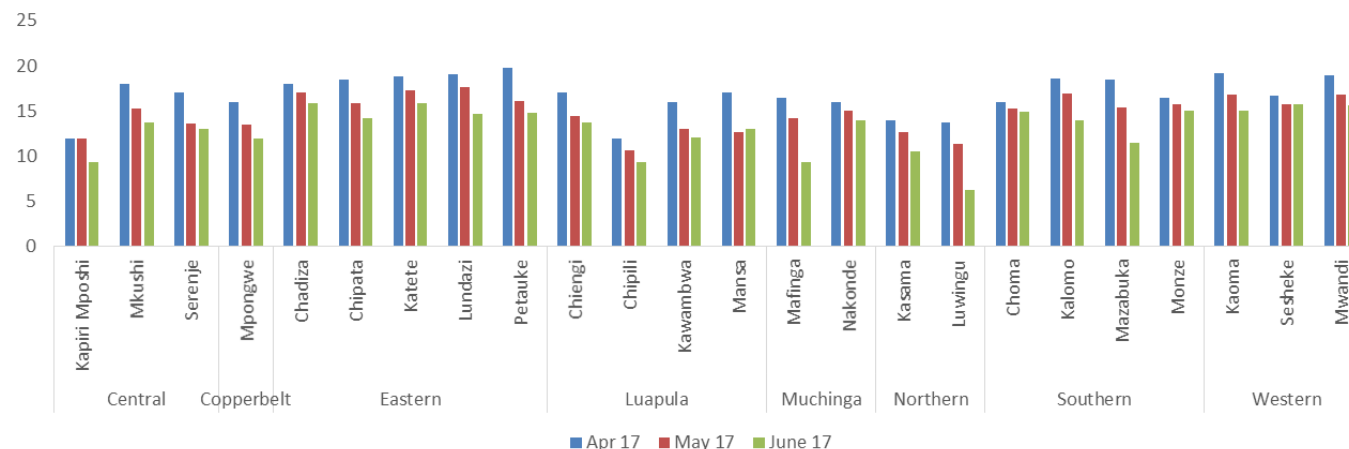
Source: mVAM, June 2017



## Bean and groundnut prices fall

**Figure 6:** Bean prices by district (ZMK/ kg), April to June 2017

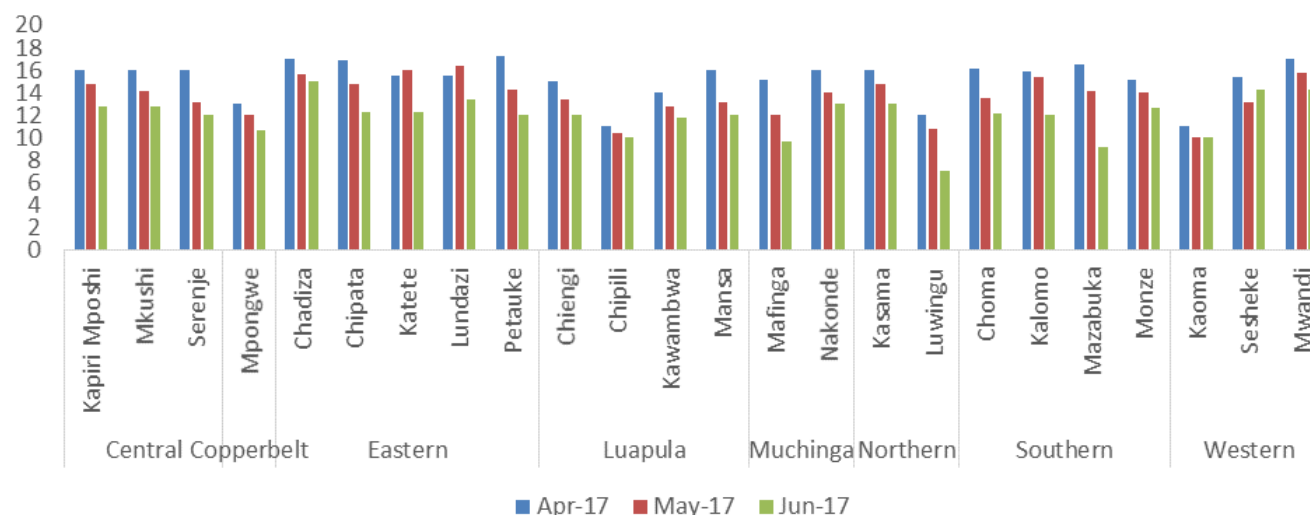
Bean prices fell in almost all monitored districts in June compared to April and May (Figure 5). Marked reductions were seen in Luwingu, Northern Province (down 45.4 percent); Mafinga, Muchinga Province (down 34.5 percent); Mazabuka, Southern Province (down 25.5 percent); and Kapiri Mposhi, Central Province (down 22 percent). Elsewhere, prices fell slightly.



**Figure 7:** Groundnut prices by district (ZMK/ kg), April to June 2017

Groundnut prices fell in all but one district in June compared to April and May. As shown in Figure 7, large reductions were observed in Luwingu, Northern Province (down 35.5 percent); Mazabuka, Southern Province (down 35.3 percent); Katete, Eastern Province (down 22.9 percent); and Kalomo, Southern Province (down 21.7 percent).

The lower prices of beans and groundnuts are attributed to increased supply largely from 2017 surplus production. The downward price trend is expected to continue through to the peak of the marketing season (July/August).



Source: mVAM, June 2017





## Respondents are happy with the food situation

*The food situation at the moment is getting better because many families are now done with harvesting.*

**Female respondent from Livingstone, Southern Province**

*The food security situation is good, people are depending on farm produce. **Male respondent from Ndola, Copperbelt Province***

*Most families have enough food because of the good harvest. **Female respondent from Chongwe, Lusaka Province***

*Despite the floods experienced in the area, food is available.*  
**Male respondent from Petauke, Eastern Province**

*The harvest has alleviated hunger but for many food supplies are critically low because of poor harvest caused by floods. **Male respondent from Mongu, Western Province***

**Figure 8: Word cloud**



Source: mVAM, June 2017

## Methodology

In January 2017, household food security data collection commenced in Zambia under WFP's [mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping \(mVAM\) initiative](#) using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). Data were collected from 1,000 respondents from 12 districts in 5 provinces: Copperbelt (Ndola and Chililabombwe), Eastern (Mambwe and Petauke), Lusaka (Chongwe and Rufunsa), Southern (Choma, Gwembe and Livingstone) and Western (Kalabo, Mongu and Sesheke). Participants were randomly selected from a database of mobile subscribers. An airtime credit incentive of US\$0.50 (ZMK4.90) was given to respondents who successfully completed the survey.

In June, data were collected on household dietary diversity instead of food consumption and coping strategies. The data were weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household and district population estimates. WFP Zambia's in-house call centre – operational since May 2016 – also conducts telephone interviews with traders to collect weekly information on the prices of foods including maize, rice, groundnuts, cassava and beans, as well as information on general food availability and market accessibility. The surveys are carried out with a sample of 51 traders across 24 districts. Phone surveys contain inherent response biases; therefore, the bulletin reports patterns and trends rather than precise estimates.

Districts	Beans			Maize			Groundnuts		
	Current	May 17	% Change	Current	May 17	% Change	Current	May 17	% Change
Kaoma	15.00	16.80	-10.71	1.30	1.76	-26.14	10.00	10.00	0
Sesheke	15.75	15.78	-0.19	1.51	1.82	-17	14.33	14.60	-1.85
Kapiri Mposhi	9.33	12.00	-22	1.40	1.69	-17.16	12.83	14.75	-13
Mkushi	13.75	15.28	-10	1.44	1.88	-23	12.75	14.20	-10
Serenje	13.00	13.56	-4.13	1.33	1.74	-24	12.00	13.11	-8
Chadiza	15.90	17.00	-6.47	1.28	2.08	-38.46	15.00	15.68	-4
Chipata	14.20	15.82	-10.24	1.06	1.60	-33.75	12.30	14.78	-16.78
Katete	15.83	17.33	-8.66	1.20	1.75	-31.43	12.33	16.00	-22.94
Lundazi	14.71	17.60	-16.42	1.22	1.99	-38.7	13.43	16.33	-18
Petauke	14.81	16.15	-8.30	1.00	1.53	-34.64	12.00	14.25	-15.79
Chiengi	13.67	14.40	-5.07	1.30	1.78	-27	12.00	13.40	-10
Chipili	9.29	10.70	-13.18	1.30	1.60	-19	10.00	10.38	-3.66
Kawambwa	12.05	13.02	-7.45	1.38	1.89	-26.98	11.73	12.76	-8.07
Mansa	13.00	12.64	3	1.33	1.88	-29.26	12.00	13.09	-8
Kasama	10.50	12.65	-17	1.40	1.75	-20.00	13.00	14.75	-12
Luwingu	6.20	11.35	-45.37	1.40	1.64	-15	7.00	10.85	-35.48
Choma	14.91	15.25	-2.23	1.37	1.82	-24.73	12.13	13.53	-10.35
Kalomo	14.00	16.87	-17.01	1.20	1.80	-33.33	12.00	15.33	-21.72
Mazabuka	11.44	15.36	-25.52	1.04	1.70	-38.82	9.13	14.11	-35.29
Monze	15.00	15.80	-5.06	1.30	1.54	-15.58	12.67	14.00	-9.50
Mpongwe	12.00	13.50	-11.11	1.00	1.55	-35	10.67	12.00	-11
Mafinga	9.33	14.25	-34.53	1.20	1.88	-36.17	9.67	12.00	-19.42
Nakonde	14.00	15.00	-7	1.30	1.65	-21.21	13.00	14.00	-7
Mwandi	15.67	16.85	-7.00	1.40	1.93	-27.46	14.33	15.75	-9.02



### For further information

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### mVAM Resources:

**Website:** [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)  
**Blog:** [mvam.org](http://mvam.org)  
**Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>