

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



Head of household

Male: 87%

Female: 13%



Wall type

Concrete blocks: 50%

Mud blocks: 47%

Sticks and mud: 3%



Roof type

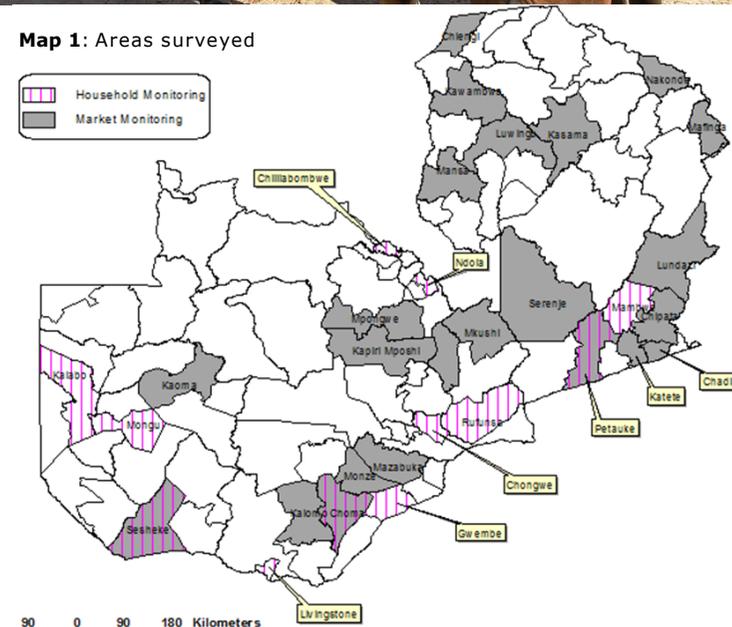
Simple iron /asbestos: 80%

Thatched grass: 8%

Special iron /concrete: 12%



Map 1: Areas surveyed



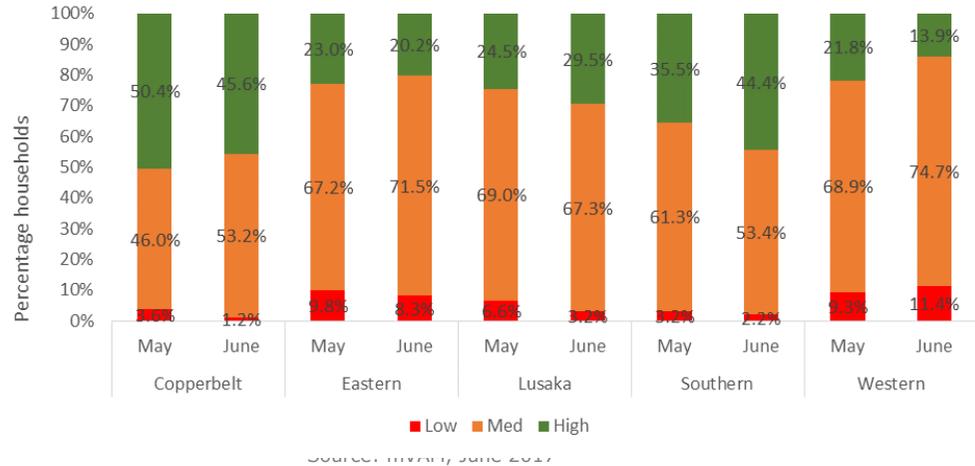


Dietary diversity is stable in most monitored provinces

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



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

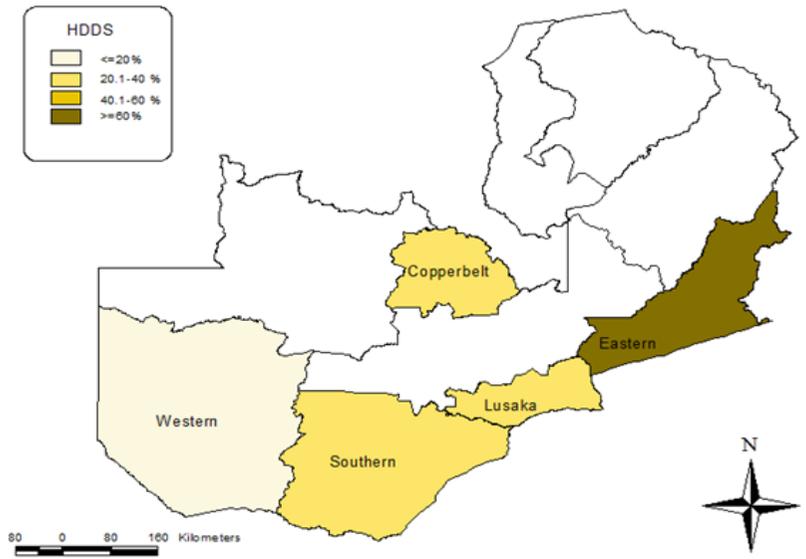
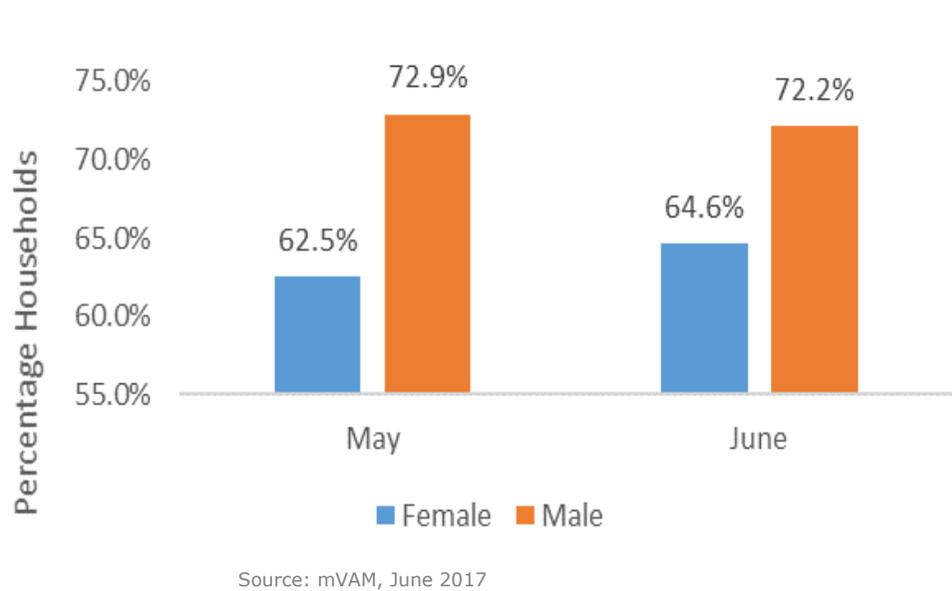


Figure 2: Households consuming iron-rich foods by sex of household head, May and June 2017

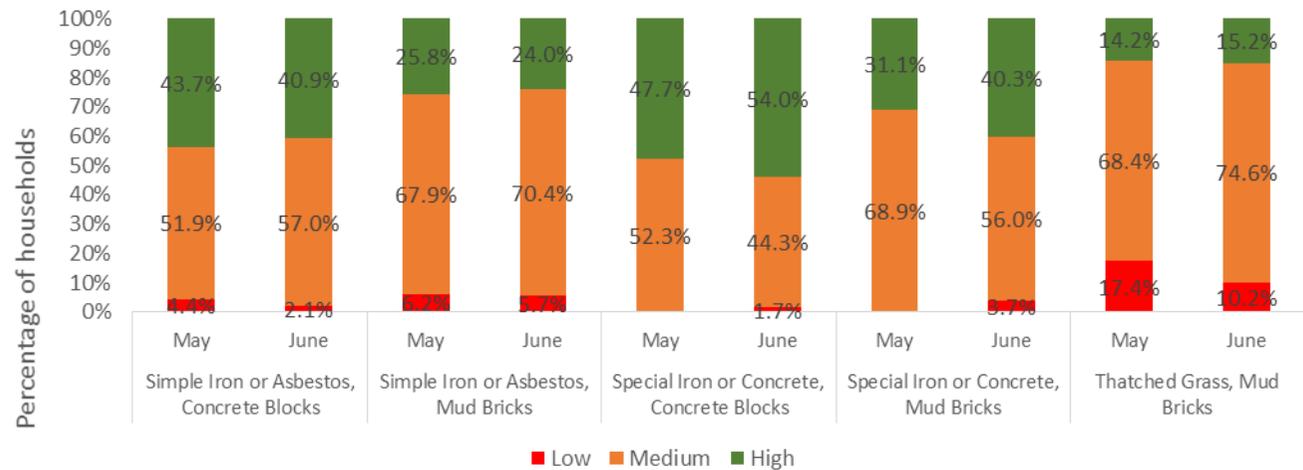




Dietary diversity improves for households in the middle wealth group

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



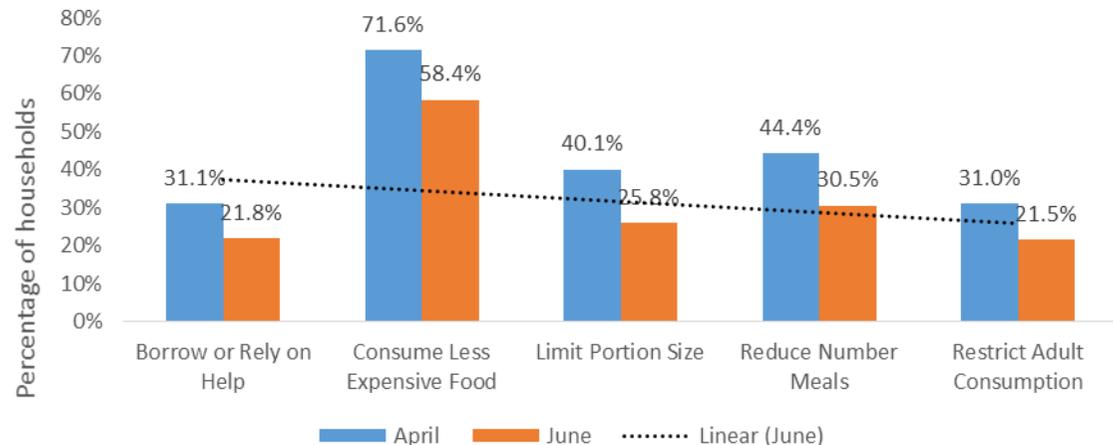
Source: mVAM, June 2017



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

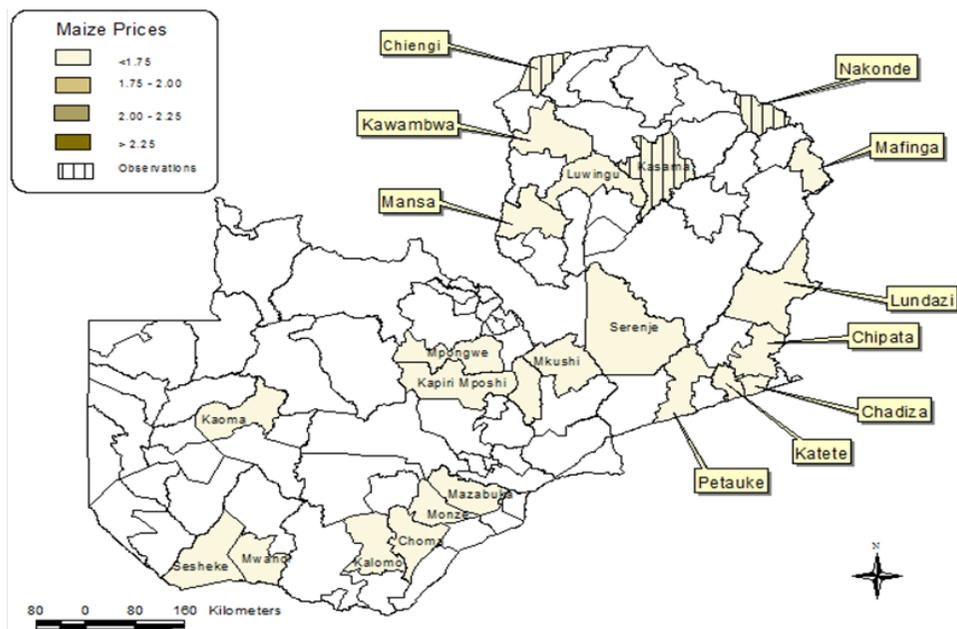


Figure 5a: Maize prices (ZMK/kg) in monitored districts within Central, Copperbelt, Southern and Western

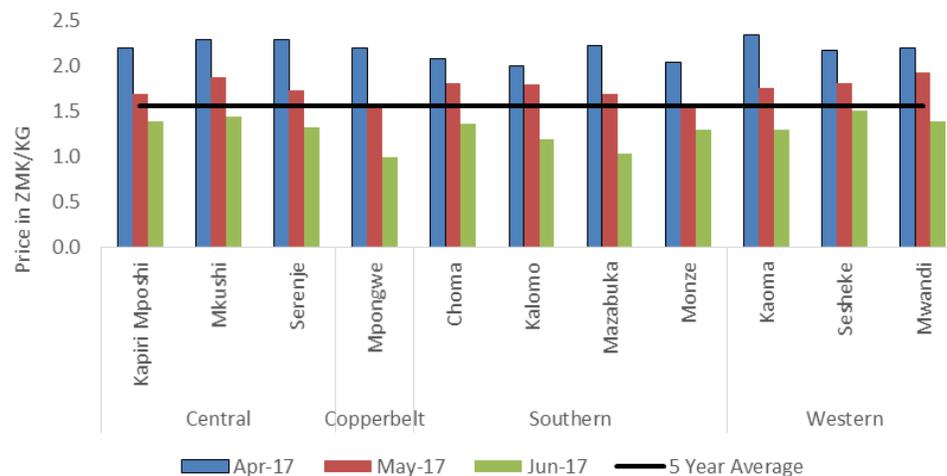
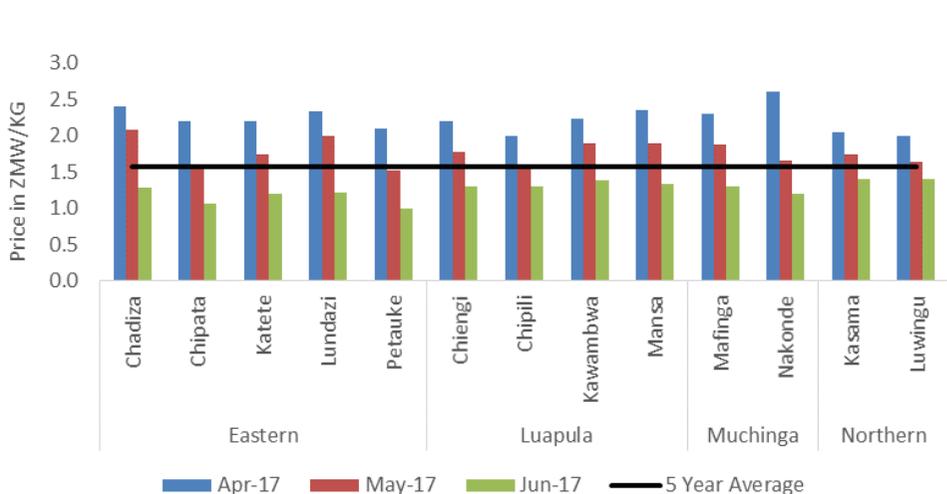


Figure 5b: Maize prices (ZMK/kg) in monitored districts in Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern provinces



Source: June mVAM 2017

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.

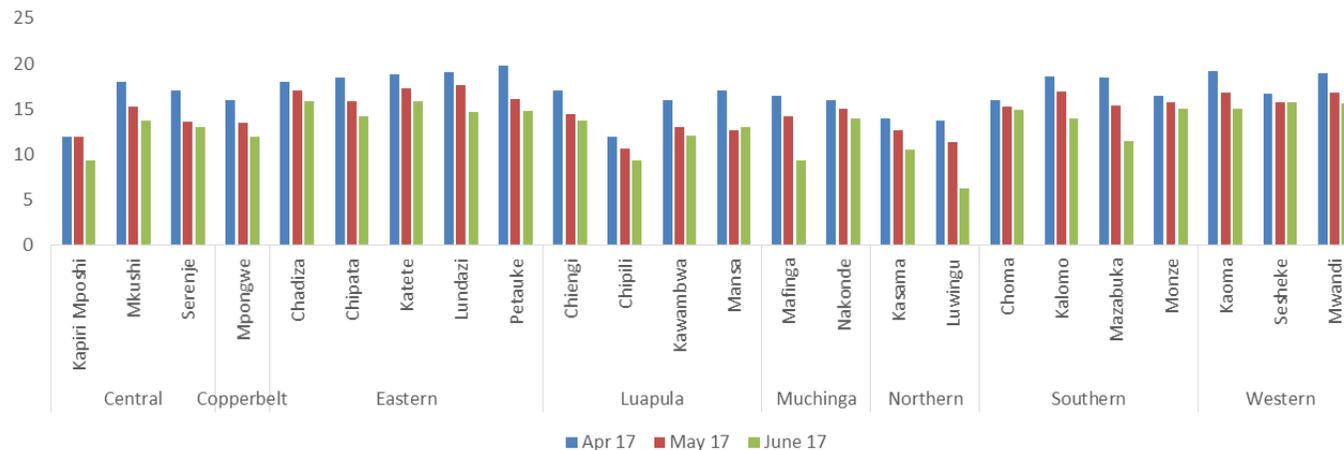
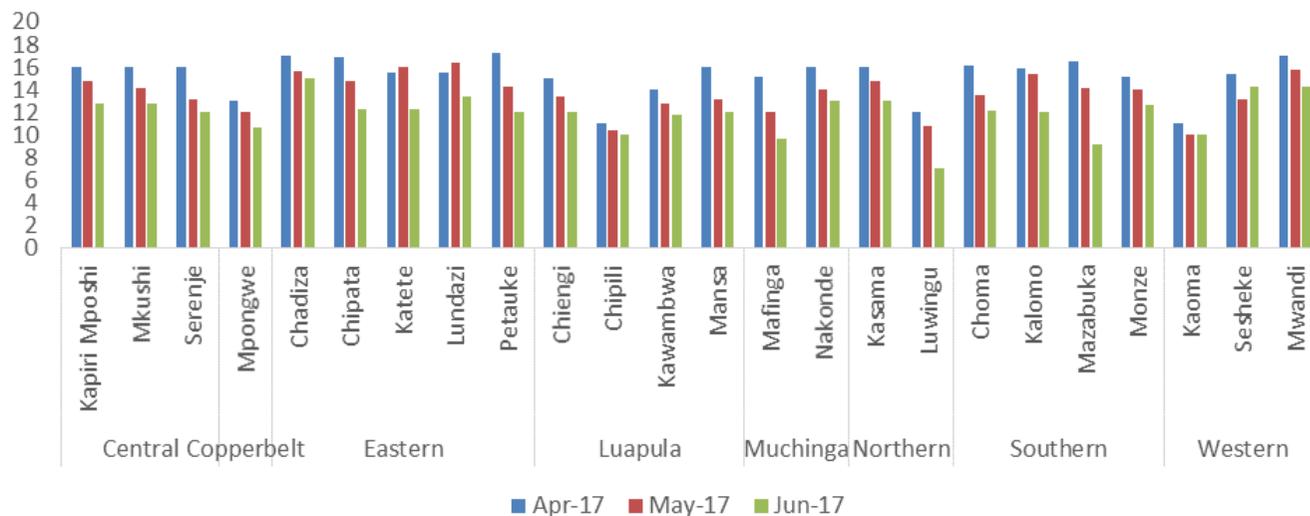


Figure 7: Groundnut prices by district (ZMK/ kg), April to June 2017

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

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/
Blog: mvam.org
Toolkit: <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>