ZAMBIA

mVAM Bulletin #13: September 2017

Dietary diversity declines and households resort more to negative coping

Key points:

- Average consumption falls from 8 to 7 food groups in Southern province in September

- Iron-rich foods are being consumed more by households headed by men than by those headed by women

- Maize prices rise markedly in Mazabuka (Southern), Sesheke (Western) and Chiengi (Luapula)

- Bean prices rise in Chiengi and Mansa (Luapula) and fall in Chipili (Luapula) and Katete (Eastern)

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Situation Update

The population identified by the 2017/18 Zambia Vulnerability Assessment is not receiving food support systematically due inadequate funding provided to the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) by central government. There are three response options: food, cash or a combination of food and cash depending on market functioning. The response is scheduled to begin in 16 districts in September and it will run until in April 2018.

Maize trading is slower than usual because of low local and regional demand. Although formal maize exports have resumed – mostly to Tanzania – levels are low despite the removal of the export ban and the 10 percent export duty. The limited regional market and the logistical challenges of exporting to Kenya may be contributing to the sluggishness of the maize trade. The recent appreciation of the local

Map 1: Areas surveyed
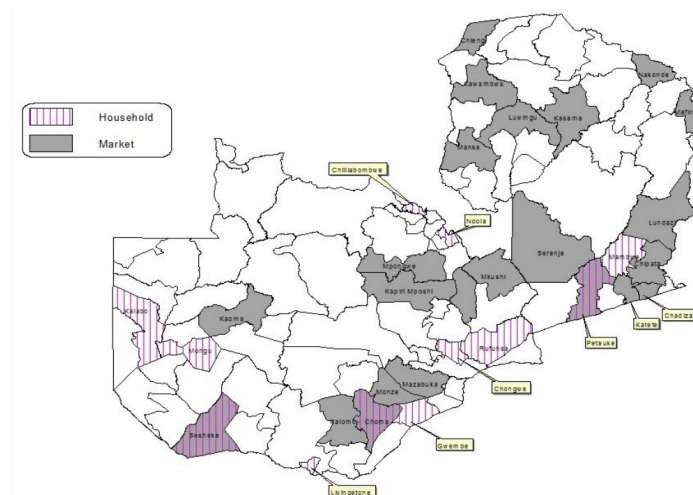
Household
Market

1,000 Interviewed households

Roof Types

Simple iron or asbestos: 81%

Thatched grass: 2%

Special iron or concrete: 11%

Head of Household

Male: 90%

Female: 10%

Wall Type

Concrete Blocks: 50%

Mud Blocks: 47%

Sticks and Mud: 3%

Dietary diversity drops in Southern province

In most monitored provinces, households continued to consume between 7 and 8 food groups, indicating fairly stable dietary diversity between August and September. However, households in Southern province reported a drop in the median number of food groups consumed from 8 in August to 7 in September. The percentage of Southern households with high dietary diversity fell from 40 percent in August to 30 percent in September (**Figure 1**), a trend likely to worsen with the start of the lean season in October. September is usually a transitional month when most households start employing conservative measures, such as consuming fewer food groups. Deteriorating dietary diversity was also seen in Lusaka as the share of households with high dietary diversity fell from 31 percent in August to 23 percent in September. Copperbelt continues to have the highest proportion of households with high dietary diversity and access to food. Even though dietary diversity has declined in Lusaka and Southern, these provinces continue to be better off than Eastern and Western provinces.

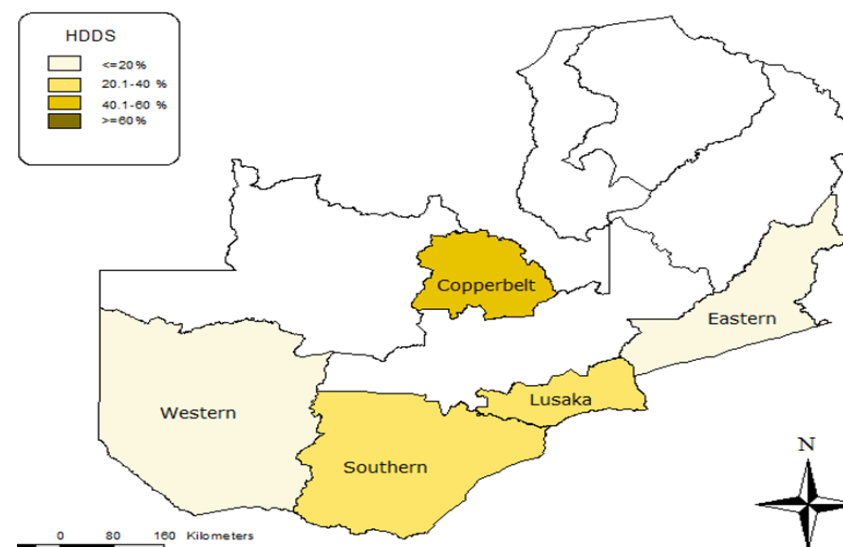Figure 1: Household dietary diversity by province, August and September 2017
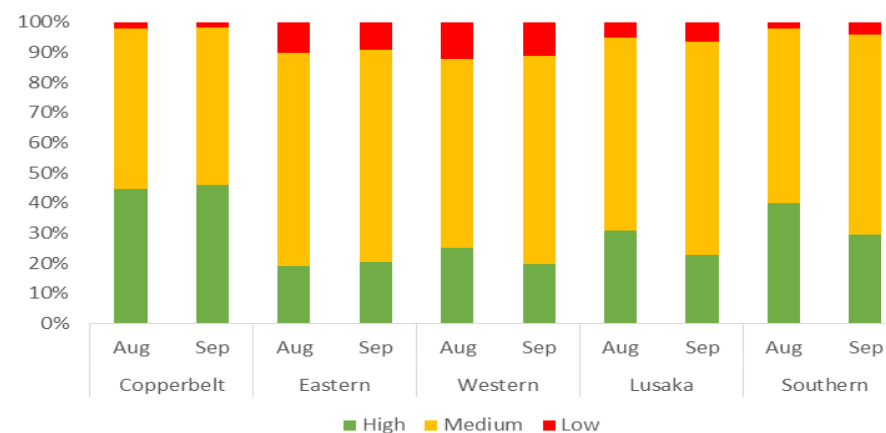
Source: mVAM, September 2017

Figure 2: Consumption of iron-rich foods by sex of household head
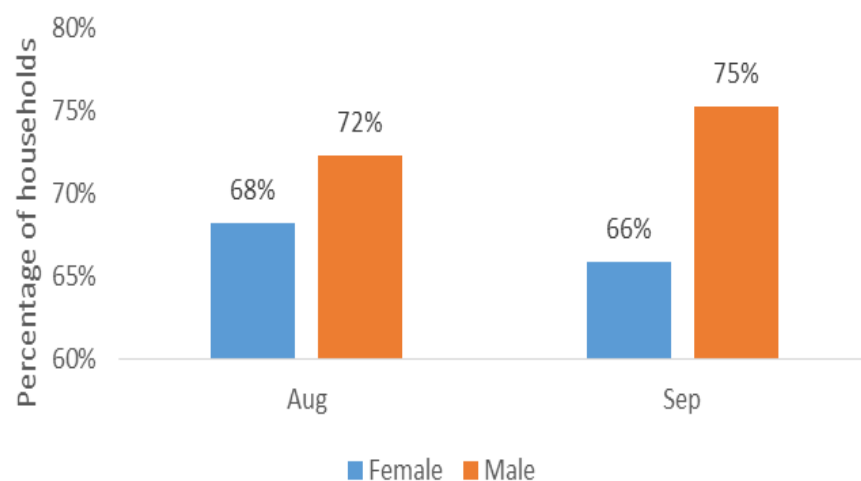
Source: mVAM, September 2017

**Map 2**: Proportion of households with high dietary

Source: mVAM, September 2017

Dietary diversity falls for middle- and low-income households

Even though there was no significant difference in the number of food groups consumed by households headed by men and those led by women, there continues to be a large difference in the consumption of iron-rich foods. As seen in **Figure 2**, only two thirds of households headed by women were consuming iron-rich foods in September compared with three quarters of households headed by men. This shows a difference in diet quality between the two types of household.
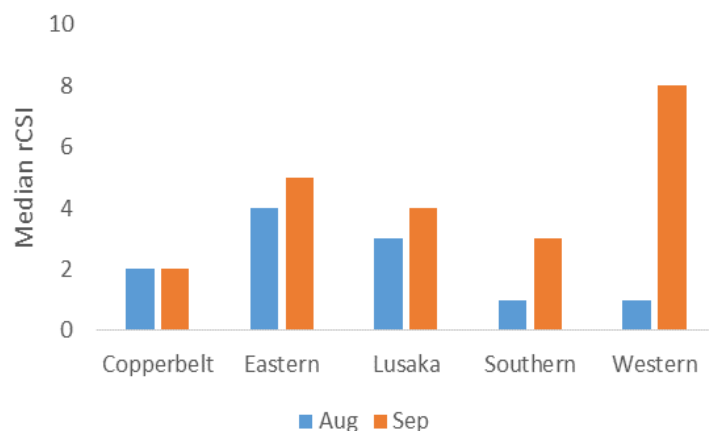
Figure 3: Dietary diversity by roof and wall type
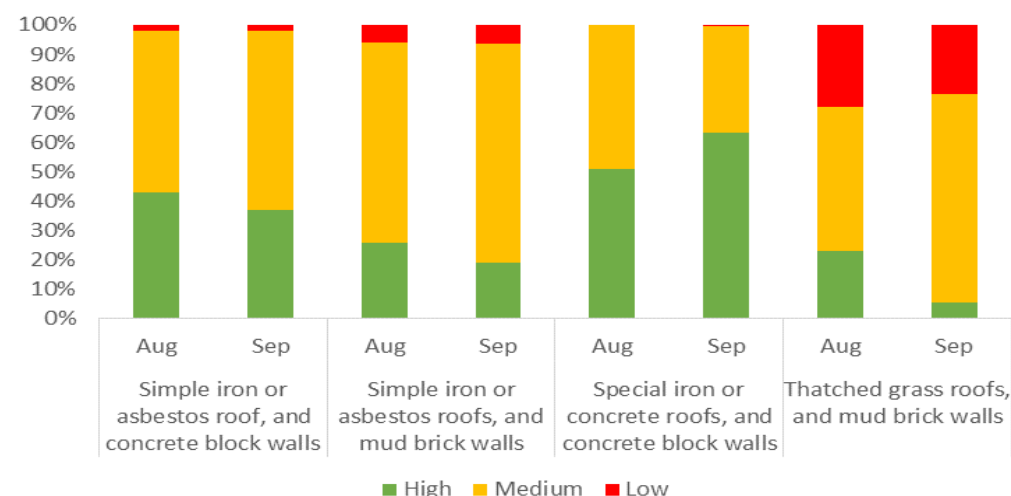
Source: mVAM, September 2017

Increased use of negative coping strategies in Western province

Figure 4: Median rCSI by province in September

The median reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) rose significantly in Lusaka and Southern provinces, but the highest rise was in Western province (**Figure 4**). The higher rCSI reflects diminishing access to seasonal foods other than maize grain because of poor or non-existent household food preservation techniques. Increased rCSI could also be a product of the conservative measures households are starting to apply ahead of the lean season. In Western province, the proportion of households who employed coping strategies was much higher in September (almost 90 percent) than in August (54 percent).

Maize prices rise markedly in Mazabuka (Southern), Sesheke (Western) and Chiengi (Luapula)

Maize prices varied cross the monitored districts in September. Notable yet seasonal price increases were seen in Mazabuka in Southern (25 percent), Sesheke in Western (13 percent) and Chiengi in Luapula (13 percent). However, on most markets, price rises have been tempered by stable supply. Maize became cheaper in some districts, especially in Katete, Eastern where prices dropped 12 percent from August 2017. Stable supply from the surplus production is expected to keep prices fairly depressed. Even so, marginal price increases are forecast in October as the lean period starts and markets become

the **main source of food** .

The combined average maize price for the 24 monitored districts was ZMK1.25/kg in September compared with ZMK1.22/kg in August – an increase of 2.4 percent. The September combined average was also 2.4 percent higher than the national five-year average maize price (September 2011 to September 2016) (source: FAO GIEWS).

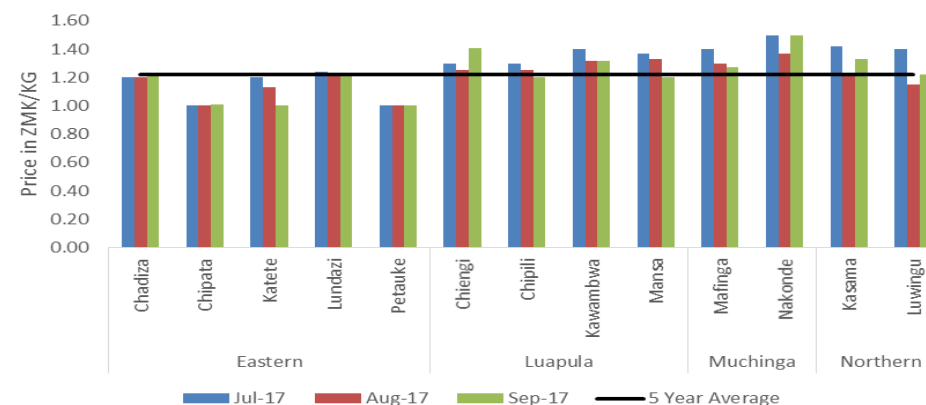Map 3: Maize prices by district (ZMK/kg), September 2017
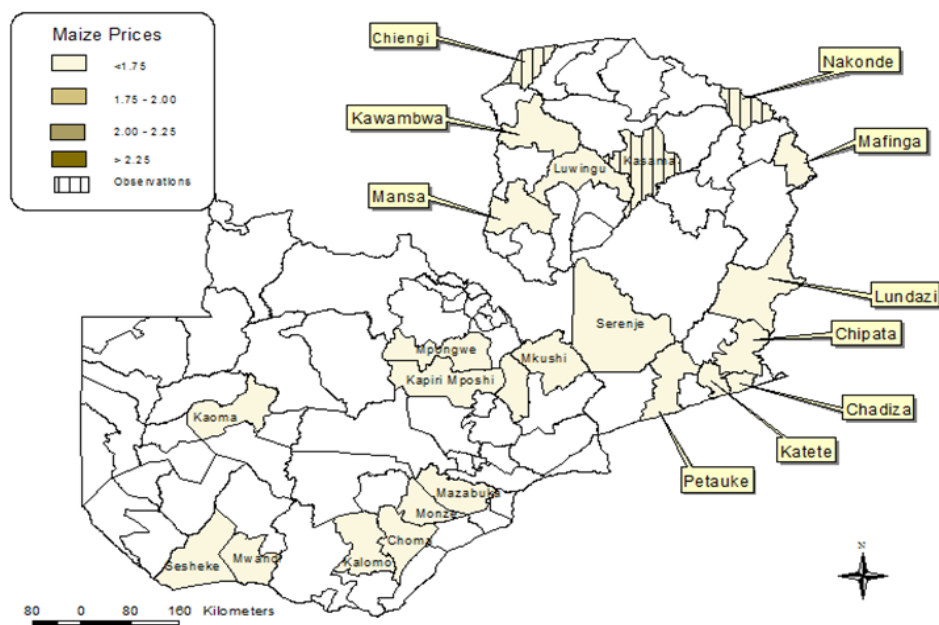
Source: September mVAM 2017

Figure 5a: Maize prices (ZMK/kg) in monitored districts in Central, Copperbelt, Southern and Western provinces
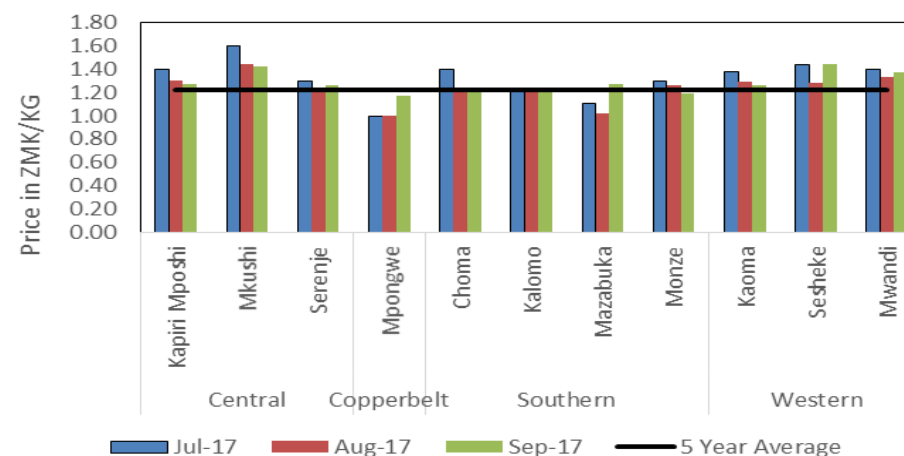
Source: mVAM, September 2017

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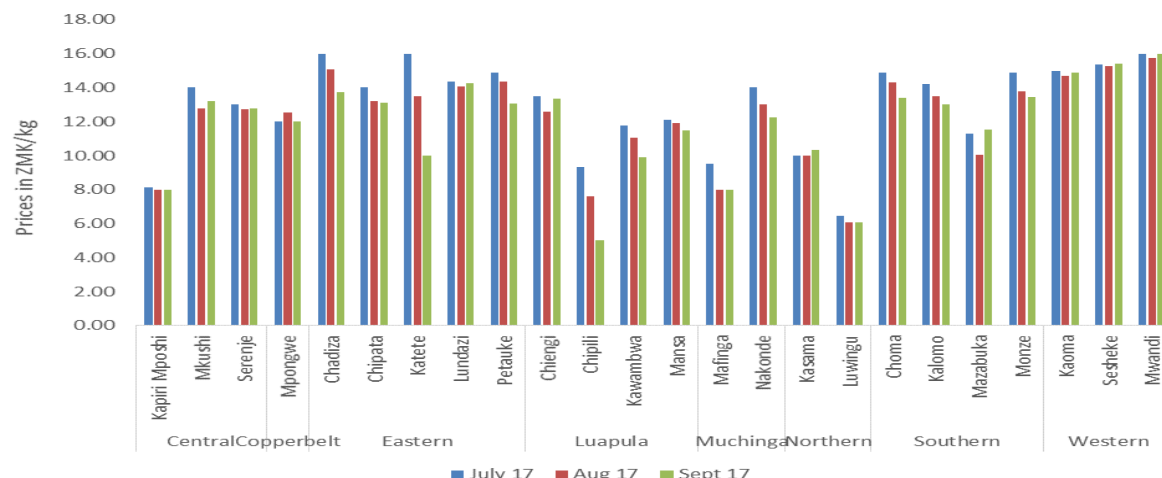

Source: mVAM, September 2017

Bean and groundnut prices fall

Figure 6: Bean prices by district (ZMK/kg), July to September 2017

Source: mVAM, September 2017

Bean prices varied in September across the monitored districts. Marked increases were recorded in Chiengi (75 percent) and Mansa (43 percent), both in Luapula province, largely triggered by increased demand from refugees who have temporarily settled in Nchelenge, Luapula. By contrast, large price drops were seen in Chipili, Luapula (55 percent) and in Katete, Eastern (25 percent) as shown in **Figure 7** and Table 1. Elsewhere prices have started to rise, albeit marginally.

Groundnut prices remained low in most monitored districts with prices falling in some areas in September compared with August. Marked reductions were observed in Chipili in Luapula (down 43 percent), Katete in Eastern (down 20 percent) and Kalomo in Southern (17 percent). Prices rose in other districts, particularly in Mazabuka in Southern (up 27 percent). Beans and groundnuts are expected to become more expensive with the arrival of the lean season.

Figure 7: Groundnut prices by district (ZMK/kg), July to September 2017
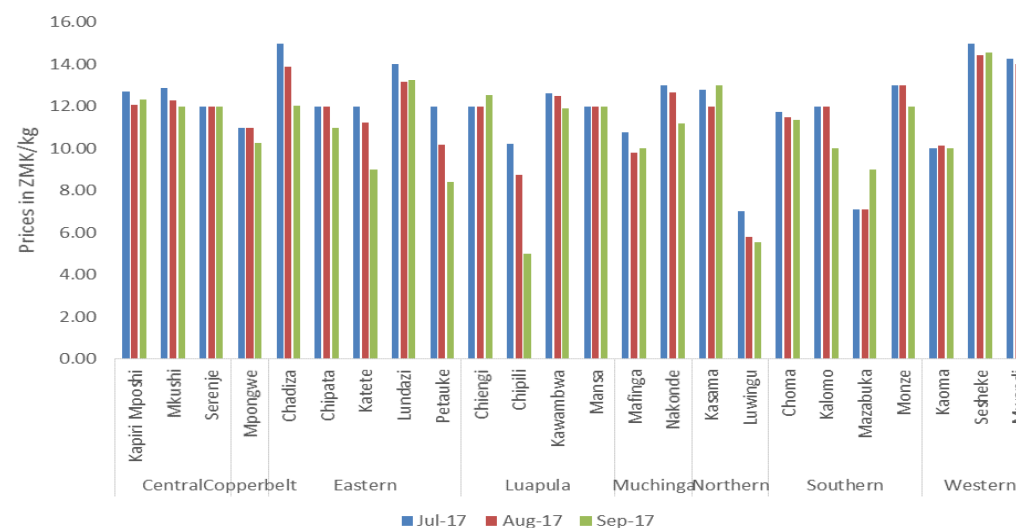
Source: mVAM, September 2017

Food supply and food access are stable

The sampled households continue to report good food access either through markets or own production, as supply has remained stable. However, they are concerned about managing post-harvest losses and preserving seasonal foods to guarantee sustained food security in the last quarter of the year.

Maize is available in my community, the problem is the lack of money.
Female respondent, Petauke, Eastern province

Food is available like beans and kapenta, which are cheap and affordable, unlike chicken and meat. **Female respondent, Chililabombwe, Copperbelt province**

The situation is moderate because some people did not have a good harvest due to too much rainfall in the area. **Male respondent, Choma, Southern province**

Food is available but the selling price of maize is too low. **Male respondent, Chongwe, Lusaka province**

Right now food is available, but as we are nearing the end of the year awaiting the next harvest, most households will start lacking Food. **Female respondent, Petauke, Eastern province**

Figure 8: Word cloud

Source: mVAM, September 2017

Methodology

In January 2017, household food security data collection began 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 September, 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.

Districts	Beans			Maize			Groundnuts		
	Sept '17	Aug '17	% Change	Sept '17	Aug '17	% Change	Sept '17	Aug '17	% Change
Kaoma	14.88	14.71	1.2	1.26	1.29	-2	10.00	10.00	0
Sesheke	15.42	15.29	0.9	1.45	1.28	13	14.58	14.43	1
Kapiri Mposhi	8.00	8.00	0.0	1.29	1.30	-1	12.32	12.09	2
Mkushi	13.20	12.80	3.1	1.42	1.45	-2	12.00	12.30	-2
Serenje	12.77	12.75	0.2	1.26	1.23	2	12.00	12.00	0
Chadiza	13.75	15.09	-8.9	1.21	1.20	1	12.03	13.91	-14
Chipata	13.10	13.22	-0.9	1.01	1.00	1	11.00	12.00	-8
Katete	10.00	13.50	-25.9	1.00	1.13	-12	9.00	11.25	-20
Lundazi	14.25	14.35	-0.7	1.23	1.21	2	13.25	13.18	1
Petauke	13.06	12.60	3.7	1.00	1.00	0	8.39	10.20	-18
Chiengi	13.33	7.63	74.7	1.41	1.25	13	12.03	12.00	0
Chipili	5.00	11.03	-54.7	1.20	1.25	-4	5.00	8.75	-43
Ka-wambwa	9.89	11.90	-16.9	1.32	1.32	0	11.89	12.51	-5
Mansa	11.47	8.00	43.4	1.20	1.33	0	12.00	12.00	0
Kasama	10.33	10.00	3.3	1.33	1.23	8	13.00	12.00	8
Luwingu	6.07	6.07	0	1.22	1.15	6	5.55	5.80	-4
Choma	13.40	14.29	-6.2	1.21	1.20	1	11.36	11.49	-1

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mVAM Resources:

Website: http://vam.wfp.org/sites mvam monitoring/

Blog: mvam.org

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