

2003 POVERTY ASSESSMENT STUDY SURVEY FINDINGS

Selected Key Findings on Food Security and Agriculture

**Leonard Turugari
Assistant Resident Representative
UNDP Zimbabwe**

Poverty Trends Since 1995

- Poverty in Zimbabwe increased considerably between 1995 and 2003.
- The proportion of households below the Food Poverty Line (very poor) increased from 20 percent in 1995 to 48 percent in 2003.
- The proportion of households below the Total Consumption Poverty Line (very poor and poor) increased from 42 percent in 1995 to 63 percent in 2003.
- The proportion of people below the Food Poverty Line (very poor) increased from 29 percent in 1995 to 58 percent in 2003. The proportion of people below the Total Consumption Poverty Line (very poor and poor) increased from 55 percent in 1995 to 72 percent in 2003.

Figure 3.1: Percentage of households below the FPL by province, Zimbabwe, 1995 and 2003

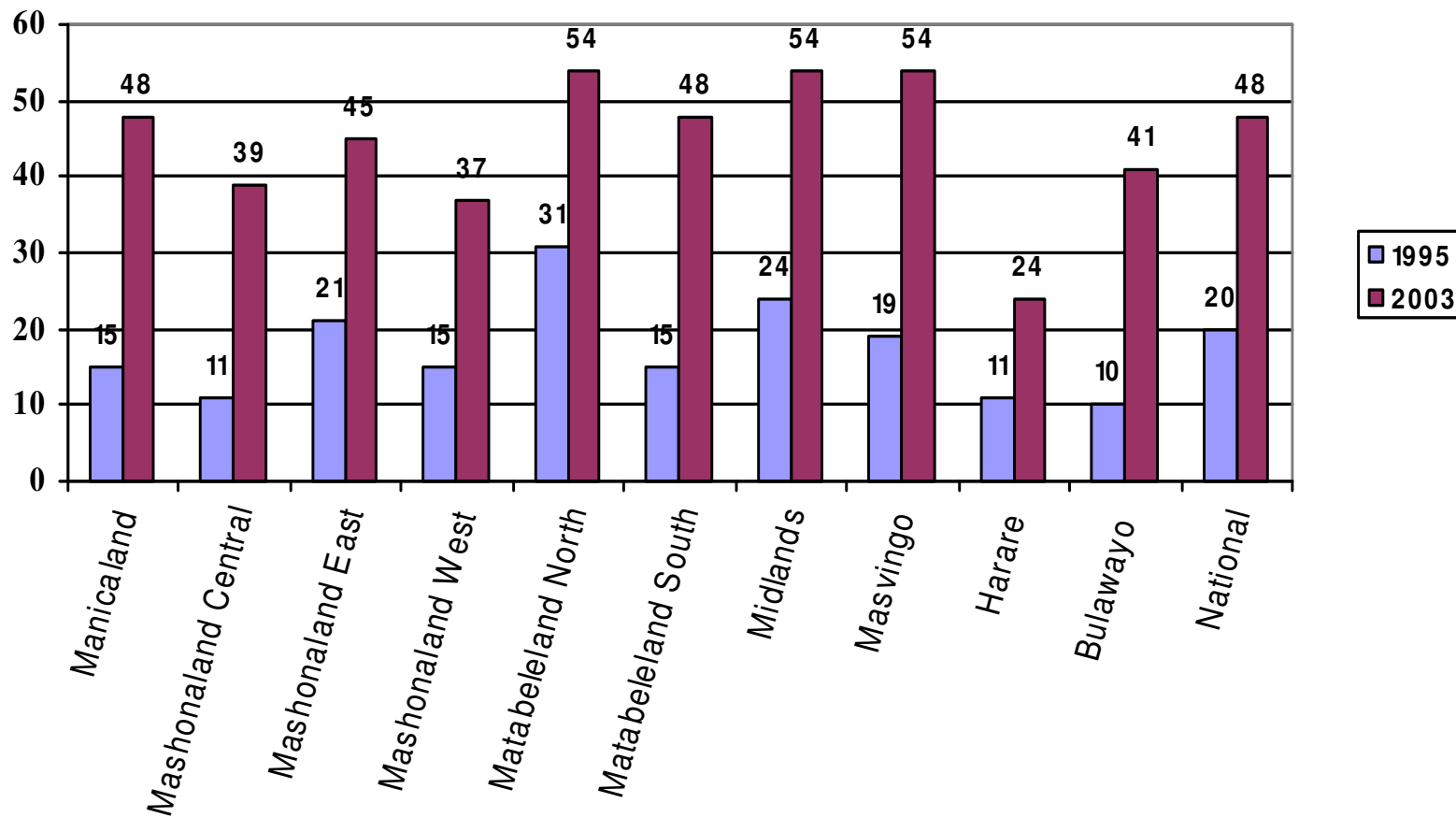
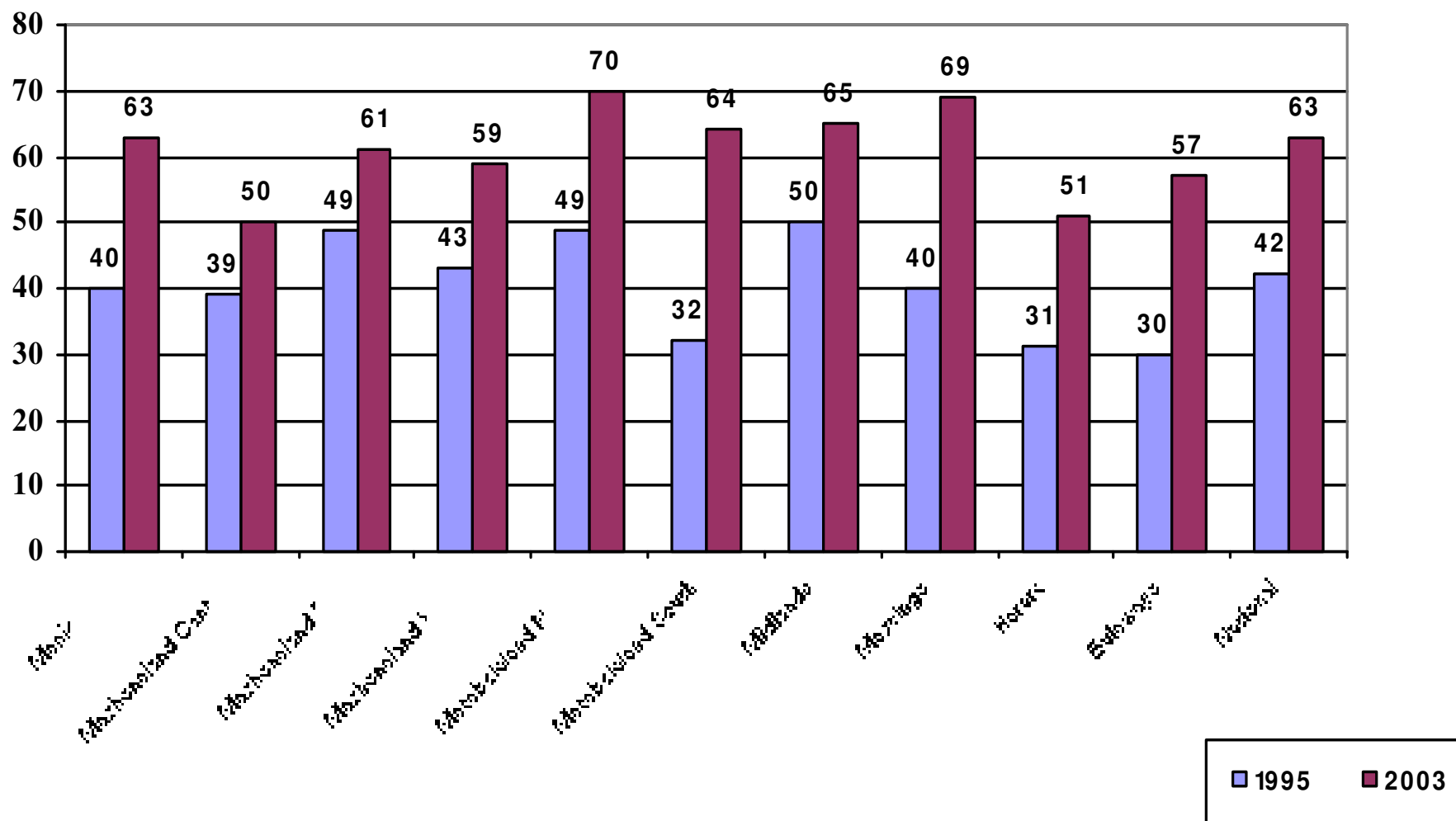
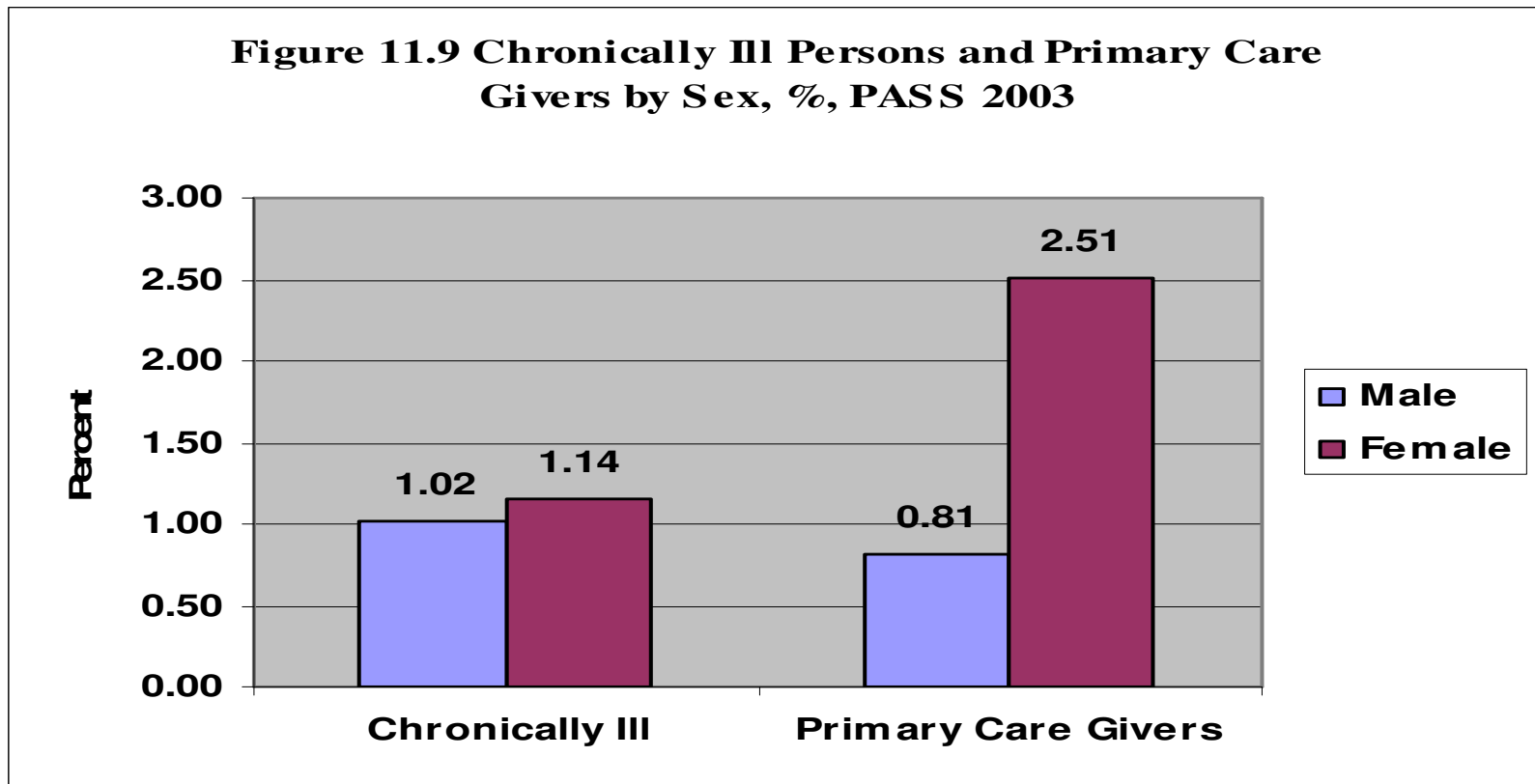


Figure 3.2: Percentage of households below the TCPL by province, Zimbabwe, 1995 and 2003



HIV, AIDS AND CHRONIC ILLNESS

At national level 10 percent of households reported that they had members who were chronically ill in the past 24 months of the survey.



Ranking the shocks on households as a result of chronic illness or death shows that agricultural labour shortages (rural) was experienced by the highest proportion of households (49 percent), followed by sale of assets (41 percent), reduced area planted (rural) (39 percent), agricultural input shortages (rural) (37 percent), increased indebtedness (35 percent), failure to pay rent (urban) (33 percent), looking after orphans (20 percent), withdrawing children from school (18 percent) and loss of employment was the lowest with 10 percent of households.

Main Economic Activity

- **Nationally, 67 percent of the usually economically active population could not afford both food and non-food basic commodities. Communal/resettlement farmers constituted the highest proportion of those below the Total Consumption Poverty Line.**
- **Generally the main occupations of the usually employed population across all poverty categories were in the area of agriculture (61 percent), services (8 percent), mining and construction (4 percent) and manufacturing (3 percent).**

Labour force participation

Labour force participation was 71 percent in 2003. The Labour force participation rate of 41 percent in the age group 15-19 and 62 percent in the age group 65+ shows that the young who are supposed to be still in school and the old who are supposed to be retired are still participating in the labour force. This could be because of the increasing hardships exacerbated by the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Overall, there is no distinction in terms of labour force participation across poverty categories.

Unemployment rate

- **In 2003 the usual unemployment rate was 13 percent compared to 10 percent in 1995. Unemployment was highest among the 15-19 age group (27 percent) followed by the 20-24 age group (22 percent) in all categories. This is a manifestation of the youth unemployment and school leaver problem.**

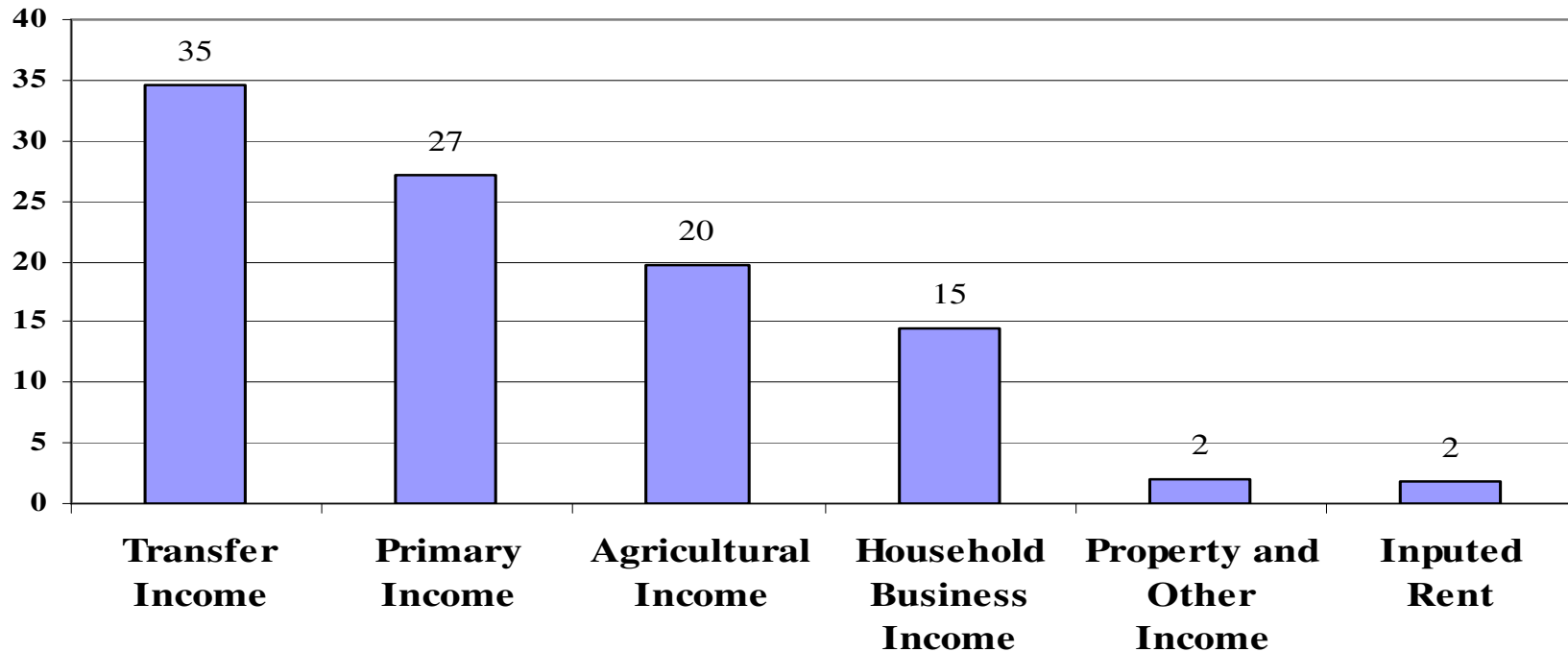
Structural Unemployment rate

- **The structural unemployment rate ranged from 57 to 63 percent in 2003. Structural unemployment is generally high across all age groups, but the school leaver phenomenon is standing out in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups.**
- **Structural unemployment is higher in rural (52 to 62 percent) than urban areas (33 to 35 percent). This is because the structurally displaced are mostly found in rural areas.**

SOURCES OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

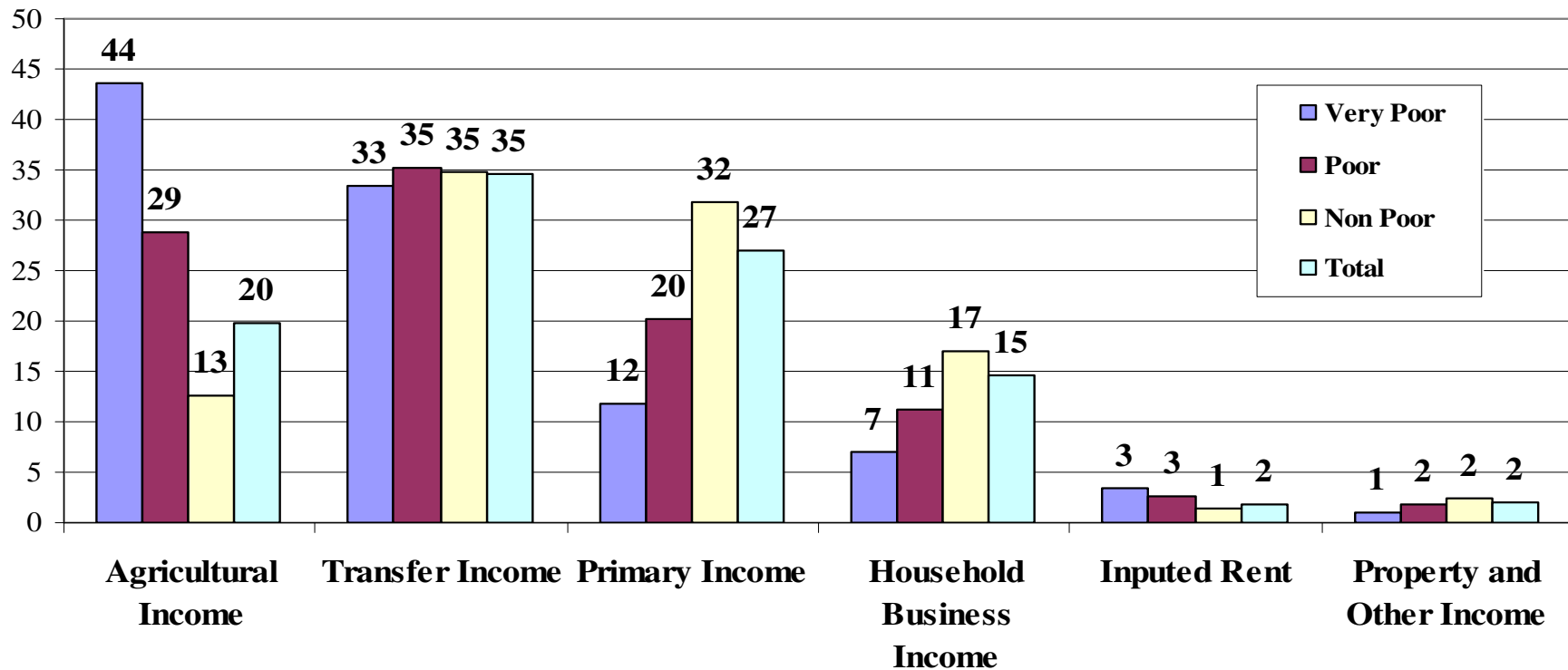
In 2003 nationally, on average, 62 percent of household income came from primary income (i.e. wages and salaries), agriculture and business income. Transfer income contributed 35 percent to household income.

Figure 15.1: Percentage contribution to household monthly income per capita, by type of income, PASS 2003



The major source of household income for the very poor was Agricultural income (44%) while primary income accounted for only 12%.

Figure 15.2: Percentage contribution to household monthly income per capita by type, percent contribution, PASS 2003

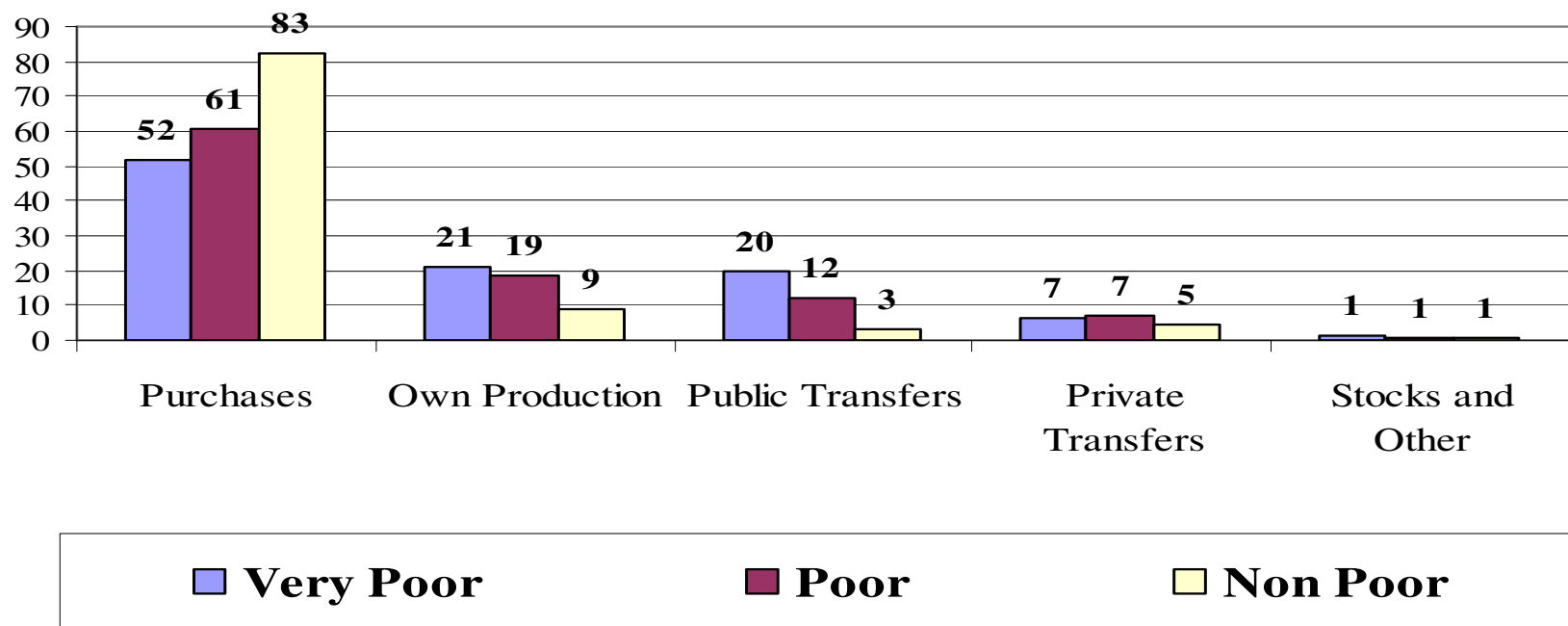


- ***Between 1995 ad 2003 the contribution of primary income fell from 69 to 27 percent, while agriculture income increased from 6 to 20 percent, household business income from 7 to 15 percent, property income from 3 to 4 percent and transfer income from 15 to 35 percent.***

HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

Due to successive droughts from 2000 to 2003, the main source of consumption was purchases as agricultural production was marginal. Seventy-six percent of household food consumption was from purchases followed by own production (12 percent) and public transfers (7 percent) and private transfers (5 percent). Purchases as source of consumption increased with decreasing poverty with the very poor having 52 percent, poor 61 percent and 83 percent for the non-poor.

Figure 16.2: Sources of household monthly food consumption by poverty category, percent contribution, PASS 2003



Food had the highest percentage share of the household mean monthly expenditure across all poverty categories. The percentage shares of food increased with increase in poverty: non-poor with 45 percent, poor 66 percent and very-poor 70 percent.

Table 16...: Food and non-food budget shares by poverty category, percent, Zimbabwe 2003

| Item | Very Poor | Poor | Non Poor | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Food | 70 | 66 | 45 | 50 |
| Non-food | 30 | 34 | 55 | 50 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Mean Monthly Expenditure | 16 061 | 36 535 | 153 726 | 69 949 |

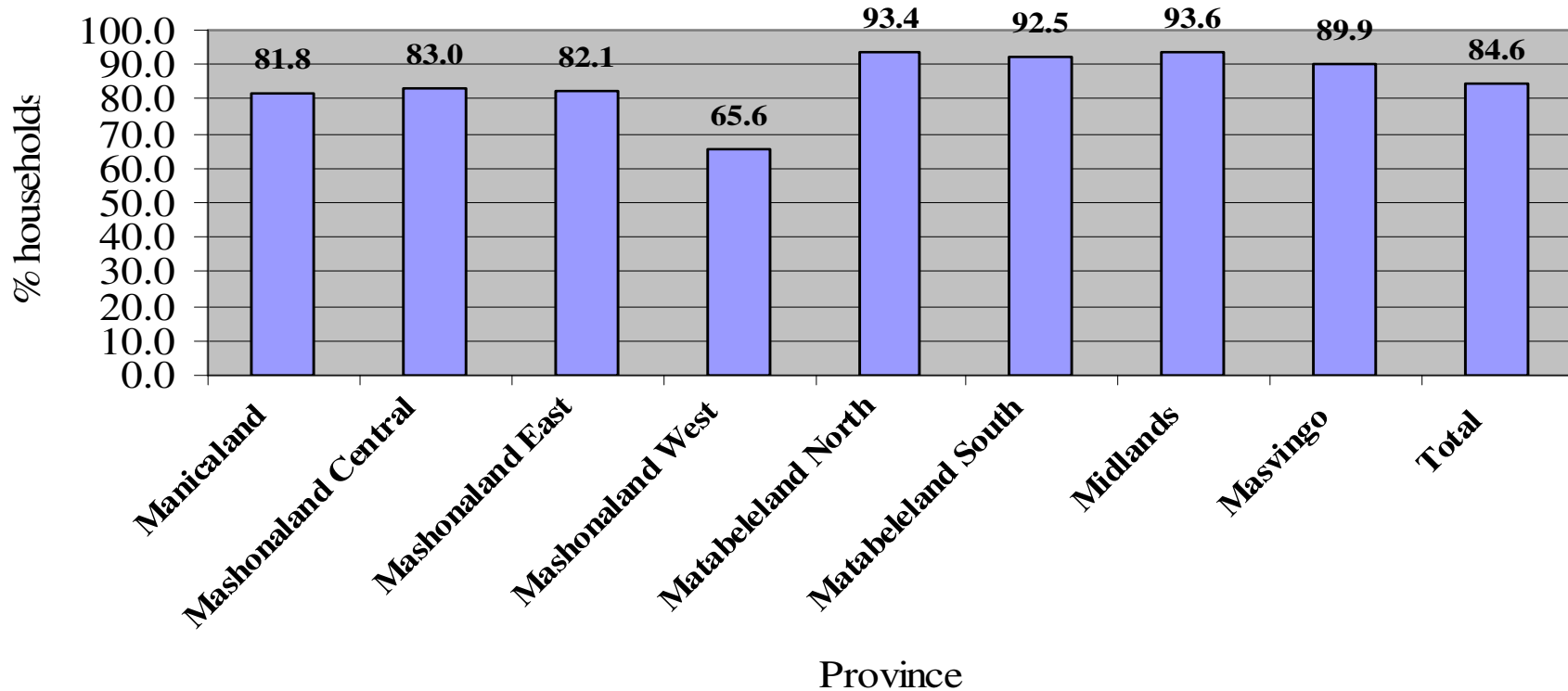
NUTRITION, CHILD HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY

- ***Underweight was steadily increasing towards the high prevalence category (20 percent), as it increased from 13 percent in 1999 (DHS, 1999) to 18 percent in 2003. This indicates that the MDG target of reducing malnutrition amongst children under 5 to 7 percent by 2015 is a great challenge.***
- ***At national level 42 percent of households consumed three meals per day. The proportion of households who had consumed at least 3 meals during the preceding week decreased with an increase in poverty, being 57 percent in non-poor households compared to only 31 percent in very poor households. This pattern was repeated at all levels and by gender.***

AGRICULTURE

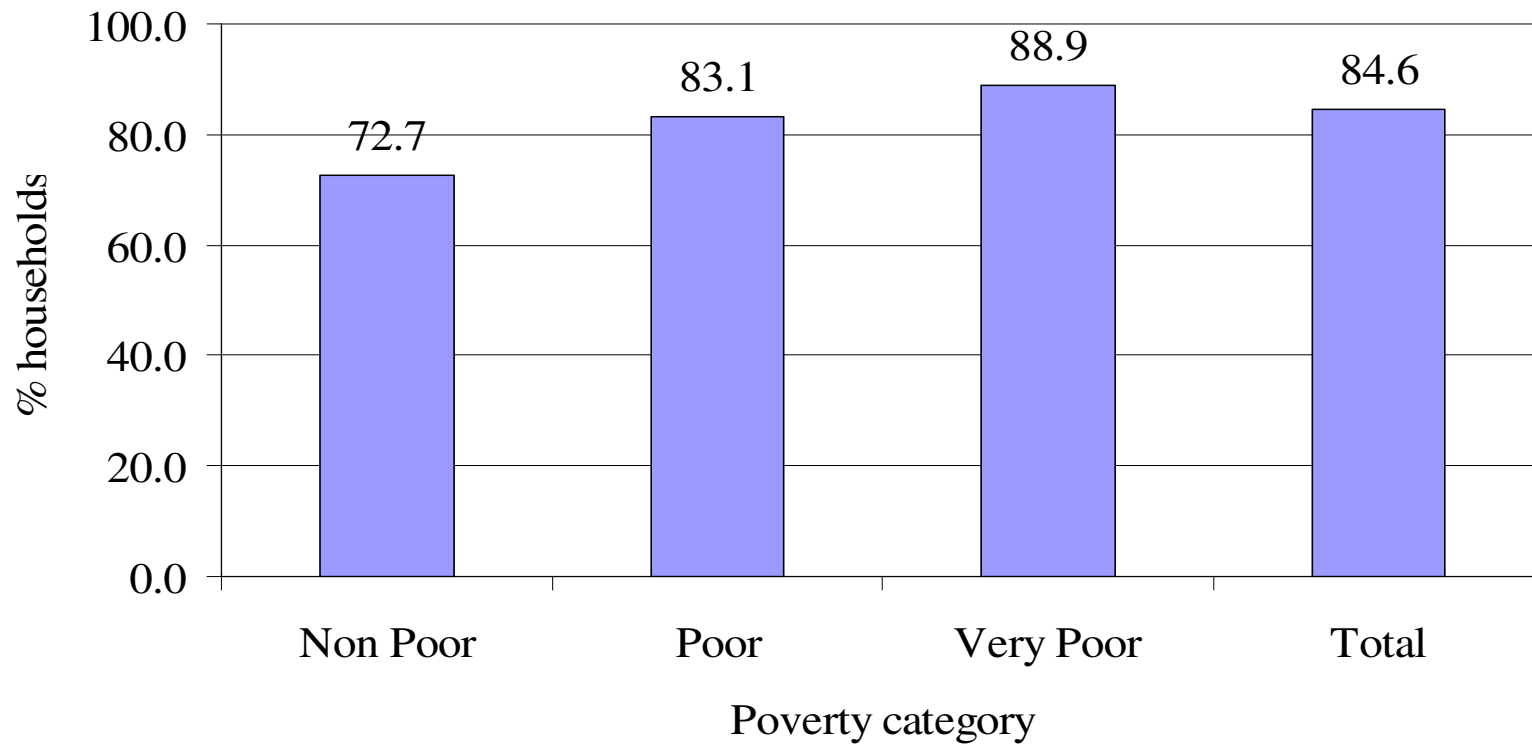
Eighty-five percent of the rural households had access to land for cultivation and that a higher proportion (89 percent) of the very poor households had access to land for cultivation compared to poor (83 percent) and the non-poor households (73 percent).

Figure 18.4: Access to land for cultivation by province, % households, PASS 2003.



Sixty-eight percent of rural households did not fully utilise their land. A higher proportion of the very poor households did not fully utilize the land compared to the non-poor households.

Figure 18.2: Access to land for cultivation by poverty category at national level, percent rural households, PASS 2003.



Drought (30 percent), no seed/no fertilizer (25 percent), no draught power (19 percent) and no ploughing implements (12 percent) were the major reasons for households not fully utilising land. These were also universal problems across all poverty categories, land use areas and provinces, as well as gender.

Table 18.8: Reasons given by households for not fully utilising land in 2002/2003 agricultural season by poverty category, percent households, Zimbabwe 2003.

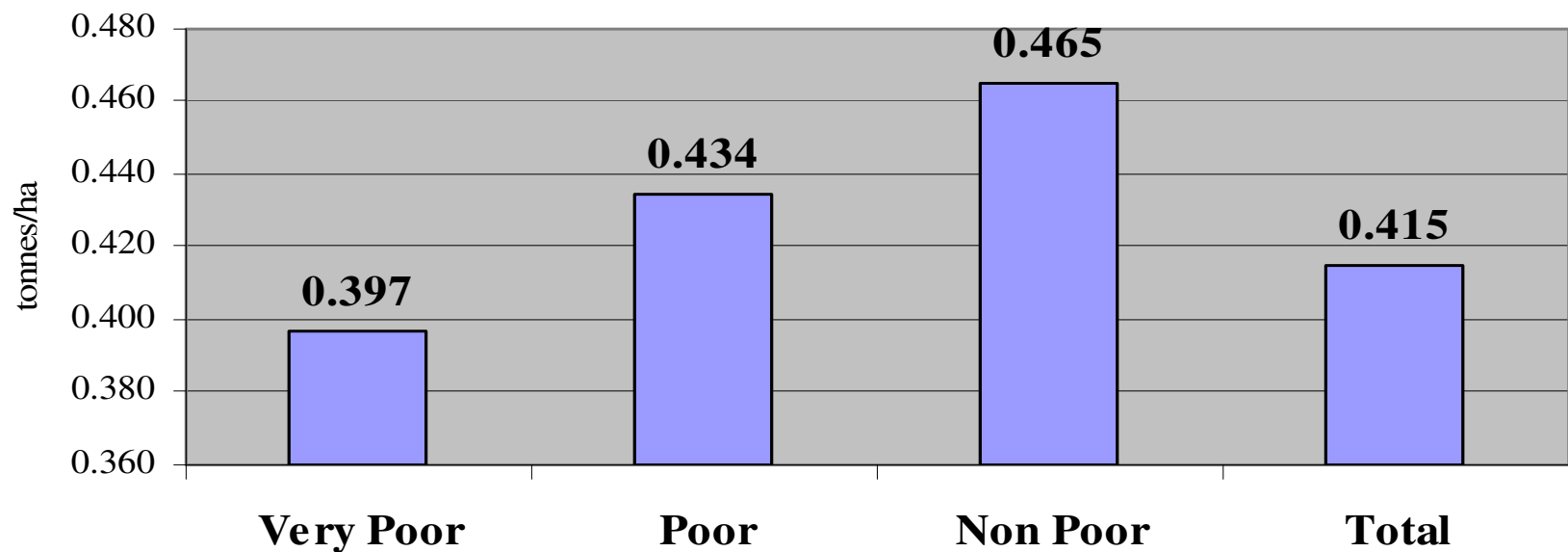
| | Very Poor | Poor | Non-poor | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|----------|-------|
| No draught power | 22 | 14.4 | 12.1 | 19.1 |
| No ploughing implements | 12 | 12.6 | 11.9 | 12 |
| Labour constraints | 6.8 | 9.9 | 12.8 | 8.3 |
| Drought | 28.9 | 32.9 | 30.8 | 29.8 |
| No seed and/or fertiliser | 25.6 | 24.8 | 24.3 | 25.3 |
| Illness | 2.4 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 2.5 |
| Other | 1.6 | 2.5 | 3.7 | 2.1 |
| Not Stated | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 0.9 |
| Total percent | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Total No | 8769 | 1916 | 2212 | 12897 |

Access to agricultural extension services, dip tanks and grazing scheme

- At national level 29 percent of rural communities had grazing schemes and 68 percent had no grazing scheme.
- About 30 percent of rural communities did not have access to dip tanks.
- About 47 percent of the communities had no access to veterinary services
- The majority of households (62 percent) at national level did not receive any extension services in the 2002/2003 agricultural season with higher percentages recorded in the very poor and poor households.
- Lack of extension services was generally high among the high poverty provinces with the highest percentage being recorded in Matabeleland North which is the poorest province. About 80 percent of the households in Matabeleland North did not receive extension services followed by Matabeleland South (75 percent) and Midlands (66 percent).

At the national level the average yield for maize in rural areas was 0.415 metric tonnes (mt) per hectare which is still far below the Millennium Development Goals national target of 3mt per hectare by year 2015. The average yield declined with an increase in poverty, being as low as 0.397mt amongst the very poor, and 0.465mt amongst the non-poor.

Figure 18.9 Average yield (kg/hectare) by poverty category, PASS 2003

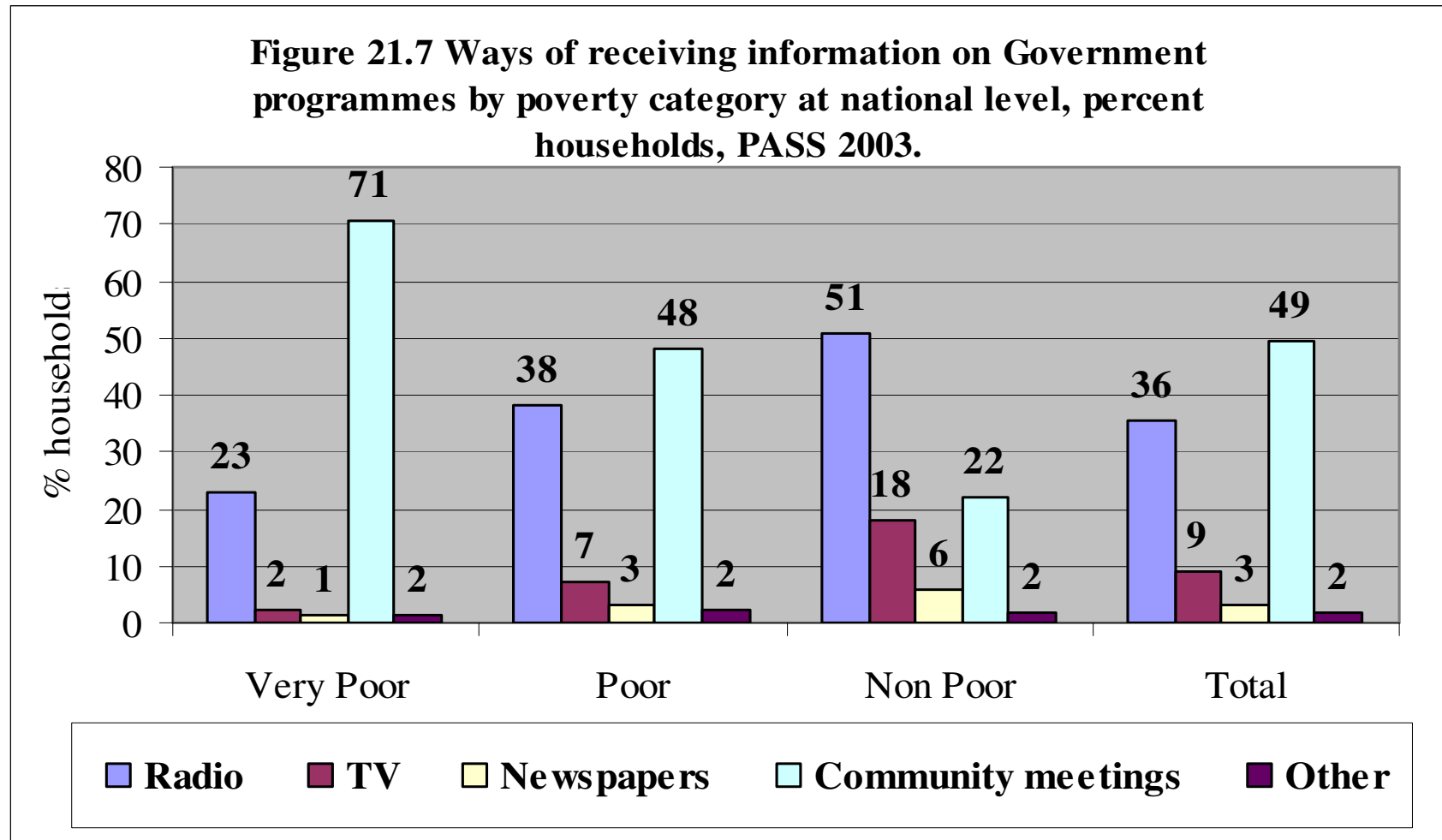


Nationally in rural areas 28 percent of households travel more than 50 kilometres to the nearest urban centre. Thirty percent of the very poor households, 29 percent of the poor and 24 percent of the non-poor households travelled more 50 km to nearest urban centre.

Table 21.6a Distance to the nearest growth point/urban centre by poverty category at national level (rural only), percent households, Zimbabwe 2003.

| | Less Than 20kms | 20-50kms | Above 50kms | Not Stated | Total percent | Total No |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Very Poor | 32.4 | 36.4 | 30.4 | 0.8 | 100 | 10849 |
| Poor | 36.1 | 33.8 | 29.3 | 0.8 | 100 | 3121 |
| Non Poor | 40.0 | 34.5 | 24.4 | 1.1 | 100 | 8234 |
| Total | 35.7 | 35.3 | 28.0 | 0.9 | 100 | 22204 |

Generally 49 percent of the households receive information on government programmes through community meetings, followed by radio (46 percent), TV (9 percent) and newspapers (3 percent).



TIME USE

- ***There are high levels of underemployment of about 50 percent at all levels and across all poverty categories in the country. While the hours for productive work remain relatively high in the time use analysis, they are still lower than the average of 8 hours expected in a normal working day.***
- ***The “busy-but-poor” rural development theory was validated. Rural people across all poverty categories and land use areas were generally spending more time on productive work (4.9 hours) than their urban counterparts (4.1 hours). Conversely the urbanites are spending twice as much time on leisure (2.2) hours than their rural counterparts.***
- ***Women dominate the care economy which is non-remunerating, while men dominate productive work. In 2003 females spent more time (4.1 hours) on reproductive work than males (0.6 hours). On the other hand, males spent more time in productive work (5.9 hours) than females (3.5 hours)***